

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN
THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

**A REPORT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS
and
THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA
to
THE GOVERNOR
and
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



1962

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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Richmond
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Senate Joint Resolution No. 20, Acts of 1960, page 1090, reads as follows:

“Whereas, it appears that wide variations exist in the work load of the several courts of record of the counties and cities of this State, resulting in wide differences in the speed with which the administration of justice proceeds in different localities, and it is proper that these matters be dealt with on a State-wide basis rather than piecemeal; now, therefore be it

“Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, that the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia and the Judicial Council are requested to make a study of the work of the several courts of record of the counties and cities with a view to establishing the work loads of the courts, the variations between them, the jurisdiction and administrative duties of such courts, and whether, by administrative action or statutory changes, an equalization of such work loads may be accomplished with a view of increasing the efficiency of the administration of justice throughout the State. The Court and Council are further requested to make a report to the Governor and General Assembly prior to the next regular session of the General Assembly containing their recommendations for improvements in the judicial system.”

The statistics compiled by the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Appeals show that the courts of record have very unequal case loads. These statistics can disclose only the number of cases handled by and pending in each court. They cannot, standing by themselves, accurately measure the work loads because some cases take ten days and others take ten minutes. Furthermore, statistics do not intimate the causes of congestion. A backlog of cases can pile up in a court because there are too many cases, or because the judge is dilatory, or because the lawyers fail to push their cases to conclusion. A judge who holds a case “under advisement” for three months increases the quantity of his work without improving its quality and is unjust to the litigants.

The Rules of the Supreme Court of Appeals are designed to reduce dilatory tactics, their effectiveness depends on the diligence of the lawyers and the administrative ability and energy of the judges. The annual meetings of the Judicial Conference have been successful in promoting the willingness and ability of the judges to improve their administrative procedures. The remaining field in which there is room for improvement concerns the number of courts and the number of judges in each court.

EQUALIZATION OF CASELOADS

We think as of this moment if caseloads were equalized the 73 judges of courts of record now presiding could handle the state's judicial business. But a complete realignment of all the judicial circuits or a consolidation of all city courts at a certain moment is not possible or practicable. Such a reorganization if needed can be accomplished gradually. By amending § 17-122, Virginia Code of 1950, so that the section would apply to all courts when a vacancy occurs, the General Assembly could provide itself with information which might be used to effect an orderly process of equalization.

Code section 17-122 deals with the number of judicial circuits and forbids the Governor to fill a vacancy "until the necessity therefor be certified to him by the Supreme Court of Appeals. . . ."

The policy of this statute is obviously sound. The Court of Appeals is in a better position than anybody else to ascertain the relevant facts. Its only interest is in the prompt and orderly administration of justice, and it is not subject to importunity from the friends of candidates to fill the vacancy.

The statute requires the Court to make a study "to determine whether or not the business of that circuit can be so distributed as to render the filling of the vacancy unnecessary."

The object and purpose of § 17-122 apply with the same force to corporation courts as to circuit courts, and to elections by the General Assembly as to appointments by the Governor. We believe it would promote the aims of S. J. R. No. 20 if § 17-122 were amended to read as follows:

§ 17-122. When a vacancy occurs in the office of a circuit, corporation or city court judge, the vacancy shall not be filled until, after investigation, the Supreme Court of Appeals certifies that the filling of the vacancy is or is not necessary. If the Court certifies that the filling of the vacancy is not necessary, it shall recommend to the General Assembly the manner of distributing the work of the judge; and the Governor shall not fill the vacancy.

The General Assembly, of course, cannot tie its own hands, but the proposed amendment of § 17-122 would be a declaration of policy that succeeding General Assemblies would follow so long as they approved of it. We also think the General Assembly when faced with a decision concerning the creation of a judgeship might find of value the information relative to caseloads tabulated by the Judicial Council and the Supreme Court of Appeals.

We have appended to this report statistics and charts which summarize the condition of the dockets during recent years. A study of this material will indicate courts where the statistics show heavy and light caseloads. All statistical tables printed in the Appendix of this report are for calendar years. The charts are prepared from a tabulation of statistics for fiscal years 1942-1955 inclusive, and for calendar years 1956-1960 inclusive.

JUDICIAL DELAY

The problem of improving the efficiency of a judge who does not want to improve is difficult and delicate. We have all known judges who kept cases under advisement for years, but we believe that this particular failing is less common than it used to be. That a problem still exists in some

parts of the State is evidenced by the fact that bills are occasionally introduced in the General Assembly designed to overcome it, and we understand that the possible existence of this problem is one of the reasons for the passage of S. J. R. No. 20.

Complaints concerning some judges delaying decisions in matters taken under advisement reached the General Assembly of 1960. The House approved an amendment to § 8-86.1 which read as follows:

“The Supreme Court of Appeals may, from time to time, take such action as it may deem proper to expedite the trial and decision of cases in the trial courts.”

Other bills were prepared which were more drastic in nature but were not introduced. The amendment passed by the House finally died in the Senate Courts of Justice Committee. Because of this development we think we should make a suggestion to the General Assembly whereby some corrective influence by a proper authority could be exercised. We would attempt to do this without regimentation of the judiciary or the institution of punitive measures. It is believed the proper authority in this instance is the Supreme Court of Appeals.

The Judicial Council has received reports from administrative officers of courts in thirteen states relative to judicial delay regarding matters taken under advisement. Some states have constitutional provisions while others have statutes. The information we received from these states did indicate that the problem in Virginia has never reached the proportions evident in other jurisdictions.

We believe that a statute along the following lines would be helpful and might tend to remedy, or alleviate, the trouble:

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section to be designated as § 17-7.1 for the purpose of avoiding unreasonable delay in the decision of cases by courts of record.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia :

1. That the Code of Virginia be amended by adding a section to be designated as § 17-7.1 as follows:

§ 17-7.1. Whenever the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals has any reason to believe that a judge of any court of record may be holding one or more cases under advisement for more than a reasonable length of time, it shall be his duty to inquire into the matter, and if the Chief Justice finds that it is necessary in order to expedite the administration of justice, he shall designate a judge or a retired judge of a court of record to assist the regular judge in the performance of his duties.

The duties herein imposed on the Chief Justice may be performed by any Justice of the Court designated by the Chief Justice.

Complaints made under this section shall be absolutely privileged and the name of the complainant shall not be disclosed without his consent.

We believe that the proposed statute is a practical and realistic approach. In the absence of such a statute nobody is authorized officially to prod a dilatory judge. If a statute makes it the duty of the Chief Justice to act in the matter, the local judge will have no ground for criticism of the Chief Justice for acting.

If the statute makes complaints privileged and confidential, it will be an assurance to the members of the bar that the making of such complaints accords with the public policy of the state.

The mere passage of this statute will remind all judges that justice delayed is justice denied, and will have a tendency to make judges less dilatory.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. EGGLESTON

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of Appeals and
Chairman of the Judicial Council

S T A T I S T I C S
S U M M A R Y O F
C A S E S C O M M E N C E D

—————
1953-1960
N O T E

In studying these statistics for the purpose of determining the case loads of individual judges attention is called to the fact that the following listed circuits or courts have more than one judge.

Third Circuit	Two judges
Tenth Circuit	Two judges
Sixteenth Circuit	Three judges
Twenty-Seventh Circuit	Two judges
Twenty-Eighth Circuit	Two judges
Thirty-Second Circuit	Two judges
Thirty-Fifth Circuit	Three judges
Law and Chancery Court of the City of Norfolk....	Two judges
Law and Equity Court of the City of Richmond....	Three judges
Hustings Court of the City of Richmond	Two judges
Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria.....	Two judges

The reporting of an unusually large number of cases concluded during a year may indicate removal of old cases from the active docket as is authorized by § 8-154, Virginia Code of 1950.

SUMMARY OF CASES COMMENCED
IN COURTS OF RECORD
1953-1960 INCLUSIVE

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
1st Circuit								
Norfolk Co.	1,624	1,603	951	1,026	1,012	1,088	1,104	845
2nd Circuit								
Nansemond	333	368	345	404	408	442	507	386
Southampton	365	336	323	323	271	313	319	346
Suffolk City	256	286	282	286	323	321	298	252
Total	954	990	950	1,013	1,002	1,076	1,124	984
3rd Circuit								
Brunswick	225	216	246	210	218	194	215	221
Greensville	175	160	180	197	223	228	211	249
Prince George	140	114	133	103	113	182	133	170
Surry	47	49	49	78	67	64	78	59
Sussex	143	174	165	246	167	162	139	175
Hopewell City	242	166	180	177	199	246	253	276
Total	972	879	953	1,011	987	1,076	1,029	1,150
4th Circuit								
Amelia	64	55	60	53	58	55	76	54
Chesterfield A	423	420	533	A	A	A	A	A
Dinwiddie	141	154	162	141	188	192	165	160
Nottoway	148	106	90	97	118	115	93	97
Powhatan	74	48	72	56	68	55	43	79
Petersburg City	0	0	0	8	7	3	11	8
Total	850	783	917	355	439	420	388	398
5th Circuit								
Appomattox	110	188	174	135	130	188	133	115
Buckingham	63	78	70	67	98	90	71	71
Charlotte	93	118	127	111	118	106	113	140
Cumberland	91	118	95	168	76	77	94	94
Prince Edward	145	131	162	117	116	112	105	111
Total	502	633	628	598	538	573	516	531
6th Circuit								
Bedford	235	234	218	232	195	341	303	323
Campbell	198	224	174	254	262	323	374	377
Lynchburg City	118	119	109	138	141	165	198	233
Total	551	577	501	624	598	829	875	933

A Chesterfield became the 37th Judicial Circuit in February 1956.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
7th Circuit								
Henry	474	555	789	621	817	878	878	898
Patrick	212	148	191	183	201	201	209	241
Pittsylvania A	452	511	495	A	A	A	A	A
Martinsville City	457	465	526	586	781	948	800	881
Total	1,595	1,679	2,001	1,390	1,799	2,027	1,887	2,020
8th Circuit								
Albemarle	324	224	243	253	224	268	272	264
Fluvanna B	B	B	B	58	51	68	45	50
Greene	37	32	35	56	24	45	35	35
Madison	38	41	74	57	50	46	70	55
Total	399	297	352	424	349	427	422	404
9th Circuit								
Culpeper	110	175	122	151	145	142	136	192
Goochland	99	76	57	93	125	91	93	103
Louisa	123	117	124	140	118	131	129	135
Orange	132	117	112	113	110	119	104	90
Total	464	485	415	497	498	483	462	520
10th Circuit								
Henrico	703	746	810	987	1,115	1,313	1,146	1,228
Richmond City	1,471	1,098	710	648	640	736	798	757
Total	2,174	1,844	1,520	1,635	1,755	2,049	1,944	1,985
11th Circuit								
Hampton City	989	883	816	970	1,237	1,042	1,078	1,163
Newport News City	133	97	92	89	97	162	221	250
Total	1,122	980	908	1,059	1,334	1,204	1,299	1,413
12th Circuit								
Essex	58	71	50	87	71	76	46	90
Lancaster	59	66	61	81	109	67	79	129
Northumberland	92	70	75	95	120	85	117	103
Richmond County	45	39	43	90	69	69	71	77
Westmoreland	115	161	109	96	125	127	156	151
Total	369	407	338	449	494	424	469	550

A Pittsylvania was placed in the 30th Judicial Circuit February 1956.

B Fluvanna became part of the 8th Judicial Circuit February 1956.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
13th Circuit								
Gloucester	146	122	87	86	116	138	100	160
King and Queen	60	52	51	43	33	47	46	59
King William	62	52	56	75	78	70	51	62
Mathews	51	41	50	29	40	28	34	42
Middlesex	84	111	104	129	116	76	98	86
Total	403	378	348	362	383	359	329	409
14th Circuit								
Charles City Co.	40	45	57	56	55	42	35	55
New Kent	59	59	52	54	44	38	71	50
York	104	134	124	132	137	131	134	185
Warwick	467	457	467	455	488	614A	688A	B
Williamsburg and James City Co.	132	148	103	136	139	194	189	208
Total	802	843	803	833	863	1,019	1,117	498
15th Circuit								
Caroline	122	160	130	186	226	210	214	177
Hanover	213	233	449	450	475	437	413	367
King George	50	74	73	91	62	92	76	56
Spotsylvania	108	108	116	112	106	97	101	108
Stafford	124	123	97	98	117	141	124	160
Fredericksburg City	99	160	168	169	173	180	205	208
Total	716	858	1,033	1,106	1,159	1,157	1,133	1,076
16th Circuit								
Fairfax	1,258	1,207	1,517	1,764	2,022	2,181	2,459	2,685
Prince William	274	313	359	381	410	413	428	508
Alexandria City	238	178	194	139	139	151	134	146
Total	1,770	1,698	2,070	2,284	2,571	2,745	3,021	3,339
17th Circuit								
Clarke	59	58	104	99	75	100	78	125
Frederick	205	198	212	225	296	275	259	264
Shenandoah	190	172	166	163	178	189	192	171
Warren	197	186	164	143	162	164	149	162
Winchester City c	125	145	137	148	237	144	170	168
Total	776	759	783	778	948	872	848	890

A This court became Newport News Circuit Court, Part Two, in 1958.

B This court was removed from the 14th Circuit in 1960 and became Corporation Court, Part Two, of the City of Newport News.

C Not in the 17th Circuit but Judge Marshall presides in this court.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
18th Circuit								
Augusta	288	271	246	279	266	320	324	299
Highland	33	31	30	10	12	16	15	27
Rockbridge	204	205	269	272	223	296	412	371
Buena Vista City	115	102	138	76	96	85	104	105
Total	640	609	683	637	597	717	855	802
19th Circuit								
Alleghany	242	237	201	220	252	246	240	254
Bath	61	52	47	75	66	97	60	49
Botetourt	163	187	135	140	158	176	161	208
Craig	37	25	23	32	38	24	17	15
Clifton Forge City	40	47	38	47	49	34	55	64
Total	543	548	444	514	563	577	533	590
20th Circuit								
Floyd	103	81	96	A	A	A	A	A
Montgomery	313	297	273	A	A	A	A	A
Roanoke County	379	861	393	457	476	669	522	554
Roanoke City	33	53	24	46	72	123	120	128
Radford Corp. B	120	107	82	A	A	A	A	A
Total	948	1,399	868	503	548	792	642	682
21st Circuit								
Carroll	232	183	214	240	245	430	359	290
Grayson	174	159	160	159	173	153	184	202
Pulaski	295	360	384	326	460	418	338	378
Wythe	249	277	226	254	251	302	275	260
Total	950	979	984	979	1,129	1,303	1,156	1,130
22nd Circuit								
Bland	51	40	40	39	61	42	47	31
Giles	280	280	243	209	231	188	268	223
Tazewell	330	374	373	312	336	289	348	288
Total	661	694	656	560	628	519	663	542
23rd Circuit								
Smyth	214	263	214	204	195	213	188	239
Washington	297	240	251	246	240	294	264	256
Bristol City	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	1
Total	511	503	465	450	435	507	452	496

A Placed in 36th Circuit in 1956.

B Not in 20th Circuit, but Judge Hoback designated to preside.

c Filed with records of Bristol Corporation Court.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
24th Circuit								
Lee	A	A	A	A	A	367	286	292
Russell	292	242	259	314	341	E	E	E
Scott	135	221	194	200	212	235	213	196
Total	427	463	453	514	553	602	499	488
25th Circuit								
Page	111	91	86	87	100	98	129	131
Rockingham	278	318	325	295	279	367	337	315
Total	389	409	411	382	379	465	466	446
26th Circuit								
Fauquier	200	181	215	202	182	183	205	206
Loudoun	272	311	289	328	424	432	374	408
Rappahannock	41	38	50	60	39	49	42	77
Total	513	530	554	590	645	664	621	691
27th Circuit								
Buchanan	492	619	522	582	521	519	520	422
Dickenson	349	375	321	248	345	388	307	365
Russell B	B	B	B	B	B	407	359	360
Total	841	994	843	830	866	1,314	1,186	1,147
28th Circuit								
Isle of Wight	126	155	202	196	173	224	196	207
Princess Anne	932	1,042	1,214	1,281	1,560	1,755	1,422	1,542
Portsmouth City F	1,314	1,085	1,120	1,113	998	973	1,015	F
Total	2,372	2,282	2,536	2,590	2,731	2,952	2,633	1,749
29th Circuit								
Amherst	163	190	129	204	188	236	195	246
Fluvanna	49	52	53	D	D	D	D	D
Nelson	64	68	99	99	96	121	98	126
Waynesboro City	c	c	c	237	187	198	153	192
Total	276	310	281	540	471	555	446	564

A Included in 33rd Circuit.

B Included in 24th Circuit until 1958.

C Was a corporation court until 1956 when it was placed in the 29th Circuit.

D Placed in 8th Judicial Circuit.

E Placed in 27th Judicial Circuit in 1958.

F Established as a separate city court (38th Circuit) in 1960.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
30th Circuit								
Franklin	294	302	302	332	392	579	418	486
Pittsylvania	A	A	A	494	564	586	551	630
Total	294	302	302	826	956	1,165	969	1,116
31st Circuit								
Accomack	256	211	206	223	218	257	217	222
Northampton	130	138	140	122	108	108	147	113
Total	386	349	346	345	326	365	364	335
32nd Circuit								
Norfolk City	1,544	1,299	1,477	1,658	1,547	1,582	2,160	2,431
33rd Circuit								
Lee	282	276	240	237	271	B	B	B
Wise	583	658	640	658	523	678	663	580
Total	865	934	880	895	794	678	663	580
34th Circuit								
Halifax	400	434	378	418	468	428	446	462
Lunenburg	154	142	89	123	122	108	92	81
Mecklenburg	240	303	311	259	282	290	243	270
Total	794	879	778	800	872	826	781	813
35th Circuit								
Arlington	1,405	1,318	1,315	1,446	1,383	1,355	1,512	1,479
36th Circuit								
Floyd	C	C	C	90	79	95	120	103
Montgomery	C	C	C	274	366	375	330	343
Radford City	C	C	C	94	87	96	106	111
Total	....	....	....	458	532	566	556	557
37th Circuit								
Chesterfield	D	D	D	684	636	699	835	879
38th Circuit								
Portsmouth City	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	1,178

A Included in 7th Circuit until 1956.

B Included in 33rd Circuit until 1958 when placed in 24th Circuit.

C Included in 20th Circuit until 1956.

D Included in 4th Circuit until 1956.

E Included in 28th Circuit until 1960.

	<u>1953</u>	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Alexandria Corporation	740	878	906	862	800	907	1,005	889
Bristol Corporation	335	246	241	201	214	297	286	308
Charlottesville Corporation	300	268	248	349	305	304	367	314
Danville Corporation	949	1,018	1,149	1,074	1,071	1,168	1,412	1,433
Lynchburg Corporation	447	518	520	515	584	538	567	647
Newport News Corporation	1,453	1,147	881	1,021	1,285	1,308	988	1,206
Newport News Corporation, Part Two	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	741
Norfolk Corporation	767	724	669	946	886	1,132	1,074	1,028
Norfolk Corporation Part Two	614	610	540	728	721	798	867	837
Norfolk Law and Chancery	844	976	1,222	1,324	1,264	1,322	1,617	1,461
Petersburg Hustings	624	620	607	633	708	652	760	748
Portsmouth Hustings	665	631	559	577	696	761	782	923
Richmond Chancery	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Richmond Hustings	1,492	1,768	2,197	2,110	2,060	2,515	1,960	1,953
Richmond Hustings, Part Two	640	706	749	798	833	909	987	1,006

A Included in 14th Circuit until 1960.

B See special statistics appended at end of this report.

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Richmond Law and Equity	516	928	1,371	1,533	1,653	4,999	1,728	1,829
Richmond Law and Equity, Part Two	424	348A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Roanoke Hustings	893	939	961	1,046	1,030	1,245	1,494	1,164
Roanoke Law and Chancery	562	499	474	499	472	464	462	426
South Norfolk Corporation	300	280	318	285	337	294	290	331
Staunton Corporation	200	183	178	188	177	179	166B	164c
Waynesboro Corporation	202	196	190	D	D	D	D	D
GRAND TOTALS	43,461	43,977	42,816	46,334	48,416	52,323	52,771	54,048

A Court abolished August 1, 1954. Statistics after that date tabulated under Richmond Law and Equity Court.

B Does not include 43 Habeas Corpus proceedings commenced.

C Does not include 56 Habeas Corpus proceedings commenced.

D Changed to a circuit court and placed in 29th Circuit in 1956.

SPECIAL STATISTICS: CHANCERY COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Final orders in other civil cases and statutory matters disposed of	325	406	556	538	553	545	537	528
Qualifications of fiduciaries	906	857	882	892	891	901	970	887
Chancery Causes and orders—total number of decrees and orders of all types entered	1,977	1,956	2,018	2,014	2,066	2,131	2,162	2,047

CASES CONCLUDED

SUMMARY 1953-1960 (Inclusive)

Circuits	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
First Circuit	1,935	1,336	1,156	973	1,014	969	1,104	848
Second Circuit	1,114	973	981	949	984	1,068	1,110	1,006
Third Circuit	1,063	1,023	1,079	935	963	1,120	1,129	1,055
Fourth Circuit	722A	748A	779A	371	379	435	461	337
Fifth Circuit	533	574	722	619	539	551	496	576
Sixth Circuit	540	616	667	684	571	827	838	854
Seventh Circuit	1,642B	1,676B	1,893B	1,366	1,781	1,909	1,883	1,940
Eighth Circuit	371C	323C	303C	384	405	385	391	360
Ninth Circuit	450	484	373	448	506	532	697	503
Tenth Circuit	2,030	1,968	1,577	1,859	2,863	2,743	2,138	2,113
Eleventh Circuit	1,132	1,039	941	1,038	1,282	1,123	1,204	1,229
Twelfth Circuit	389	353	379	731	534	444	479	529
Thirteenth Circuit	529	382	325	336	356	426	332	477
Fourteenth Circuit	848D	890D	748E	821D	846D	1,018D	1,082D	485
Fifteenth Circuit	669E	755E	901E	976E	1,106E	1,094E	1,072E	1,013E
Sixteenth Circuit	1,518	1,538	1,643	1,779	1,735	1,870	2,458	2,982
Seventeenth Circuit	716	774	831	851	822	841	803	883
Eighteenth Circuit	615	627	630	569	518	705	746	717

A Includes Chesterfield County.

B Includes Pittsylvania County.

C Does not include Fluvanna County.

D Includes Warwick City or Newport News Circuit Court, Part Two.

E Circuit composed of Caroline, Hanover, King George, Spottsylvania, Stafford, and the City of Fredericksburg.

Circuits	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Nineteenth Circuit	591	699	676	544	563	540	490	546
Twentieth Circuit	979A	1,150A	1,696A	543	558	815	662	705
Twenty-First Circuit	896	1,590	1,079	1,044	1,092	1,338	1,155	1,133
Twenty-Second Circuit	677	813	707	588	626	537	650	564
Twenty-Third Circuit	528	599	488	408	440	480	477	439
Twenty-Fourth Circuit	423B	413B	551B	474B	536B	585	408	604
Twenty-Fifth Circuit	408	735	416	383	352	391	437	446
Twenty-Sixth Circuit	500	471	543	518	558	611	636	764
Twenty-Seventh Circuit	878C	967C	993C	824C	1,057C	1,350	1,196	1,268
Twenty-Eighth Circuit	2,109D	2,154D	2,327D	2,394D	2,408D	2,667D	2,634D	1,482
Twenty-Ninth Circuit	277E	292E	424E	604	628	671	508	649
Thirtieth Circuit	266F	295F	277F	684	1,221	1,140	935	1,098
Thirty-First Circuit	421	380	338	319	277	586	323	375
Thirty-Second Circuit	1,692	1,514	1,344	1,561	1,479	1,557	1,813	2,027
Thirty-Third Circuit	922G	894G	1,203G	929G	734G	564	659	516
Thirty-Fourth Circuit	812	832	755	738	895	752	740	829
Thirty-Fifth Circuit	1,187	1,277	1,277	1,457	1,480	1,394	1,180	1,392
Thirty-Sixth Circuit	H	H	H	579	565	640	517	602
Thirty-Seventh Circuit	H	H	H	618	572	575	753	842
Thirty-Eighth Circuit	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	1,025

A Circuit composed of Floyd, Montgomery, Roanoke Co., Roanoke City; judge designated to preside in Radford.

B Circuit composed of Russell and Scott.

C Circuit composed of Buchanan and Dickenson.

D Includes Circuit Court of the City of Portsmouth.

E Includes Fluvanna County but does not include City of Waynesboro.

F Circuit includes Franklin County only.

G Circuit composed of Lee and Wise.

H Circuit had not been established.

Cities	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Alexandria Corporation	723	837	796	850	842	871	909	819
Bristol Corporation	270	250	241	221	244	306	284	308
Charlottesville Corporation	318	266	285	282	336	315	342	262
Danville Corporation	978	1,003	1,132	1,111	1,064	1,154	1,359	1,396
Lynchburg Corporation	523	573	543	511	559	558	564	600
Newport News Corporation	1,590	1,206	850	1,015	1,301	1,152	925	1,208
Newport News Corporation Pt. II	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	744
Norfolk Corporation	683	696	687	968	847	1,092	1,040	1,101
Norfolk Corporation Pt. II	627	615	565	745	715	786	878	852
Norfolk Law and Chancery	757	930	1,082	1,262	1,221	1,360	1,462	1,450
Petersburg Hustings	743	858	838	791	700	677	732	730
Portsmouth Hustings	634	598	572	542	722	731	748	814
Richmond Chancery	See summary of cases commenced for special statistics of this court.							
Richmond Hustings	1,539	1,800	2,105	2,160	2,093	2,428	1,981	2,007
Richmond Hustings Pt. II	688	757	706	784	904	841	929	1,249
Richmond Law and Equity	421	1,305	1,767	1,275	1,346	1,572	1,513	2,151
Richmond Law and Equity Pt. II	467	234	B	B	B	B	B	B
Roanoke Hustings	832	839	1,146	1,023	952	1,290	1,351	1,359
Roanoke Law and Chancery	437	685	413	485	683	375	591	457
South Norfolk Corporation	207	279	277	315	313	404	304	266
Staunton Corporation	150	167	175	147	165	173	263c	167c
Waynesboro Corporation	194	158	207	D	D	D	D	D
GRAND TOTALS	43,235	45,210	44,633	45,383	48,252	51,338	50,771	53,153

A Court had not been established.

B Court abolished August 1955. Seven months statistics included in Law and Equity Court.

C Does not include 37 Habeas Corpus proceedings.

D Court changed to circuit court 1956 and placed in 29th Circuit.

E Does not include 53 Habeas Corpus proceedings.

SUMMARY OF CASES PENDING

on January 1st of Years Indicated

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
1st Circuit								
Norfolk Co.	3,306	3,587	3,382	3,335	3,436	3,557	3,559	3,585
2nd Circuit								
Nansemond	538	515	504	553	566	569	604	289
Southampton	229	245	240	232	261	243	253	267
Suffolk City	88	111	129	140	125	153	127	128
Total	855	871	873	925	952	965	984	684
3rd Circuit								
Brunswick	39	110	138	184	138	128	77	54
Greensville	216	190	206	189	228	245	237	259
Prince George	146	152	191	166	194	161	145	157
Surry	51	59	58	73	69	55	53	56
Sussex	243	253	158	204	206	185	133	136
Hopewell City	435	358	234	238	274	294	351	434
Total	1,130	1,122	985	1,054	1,109	1,068	996	1,096
4th Circuit								
Amelia	97	107	104	125	123	118	124	128
Chesterfield	604	639	761	A	A	A	A	A
Dinwiddie	247	282	278	258	288	281	161	162
Nottoway	537	535	528	523	548	539	563	571
Powhatan	127	118	152	152	51	56	56	105
Petersburg City	24	20	12	17	19	16	22	21
Total	1,636	1,701	1,835	1,075	1,029	1,010	926	987
5th Circuit								
Appomattox	156	175	125	91	127	147	132	132
Buckingham	254	275	273	284	291	290	292	302
Charlotte	114	96	124	103	123	116	119	113
Cumberland	72	106	113	143	102	102	108	112
Prince Edward	130	130	132	139	129	136	148	161
Total	726	782	767	760	772	791	799	820
6th Circuit								
Bedford	268	267	265	161	185	208	220	200
Campbell	148	108	73	109	147	118	144	199
Lynchburg City	251	265	121	121	114	123	123	165
Total	667	640	459	391	446	449	487	564

A Chesterfield became the 37th Judicial Circuit in February 1956.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
7th Circuit								
Henry	114	94	201	213	194	237	275	321
Patrick	64	74	75	75	90	104	104	134
Pittsylvania	86	131	97	A	A	A	A	A
Martinsville City	167	182	212	207	209	294	262	276
Total	431	481	585	495	493	635	641	731
8th Circuit								
Albemarle	140	129	154	166	123	156	171	181
Fluvanna	B	B	B	207	216	229	230	246
Greene	67	64	71	92	91	98	105	109
Madison	31	30	43	47	40	34	42	57
Total	238	223	268	512	470	517	548	593
9th Circuit								
Culpeper	163	198	207	229	218	215	120	131
Goochland	89	93	96	112	113	90	81	95
Louisa	225	230	257	273	278	255	177	176
Orange	325	290	300	300	302	301	250	244
Total	802	811	860	914	911	861	628	646
10th Circuit								
Henrico	1,587	1,662	1,701	1,643	1,720	1,405	1,498	1,606
Richmond City	3,196	2,965	2,849	2,715	1,530	1,152	865	623
Total	4,783	4,627	4,550	4,358	3,250	2,557	2,363	2,229
11th Circuit								
Hampton City	440	398	371	384	422	460	499	622
Newport News	99	91	91	99	113	157	213	274
Total	539	489	462	483	535	617	712	896
12th Circuit								
Essex	19	15	21	31	27	41	35	54
Lancaster	58	69	50	71	63	44	43	41
Northumberland	135	144	144	65	71	57	53	56
Richmond Co.	50	54	42	35	19	33	27	33
Westmoreland	201	239	220	70	57	67	76	76
Total	463	521	477	272	237	242	234	260

A Pittsylvania was placed in the 30th Judicial Circuit February 1956.

B Fluvanna became part of the 8th Judicial Circuit February 1956.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
13th Circuit								
Gloucester	142	169	168	184	185	208	209	238
King and Queen	97	115	110	113	116	117	129	119
King William	134	63	82	88	83	80	72	79
Mathews	32	32	35	36	36	32	40	46
Middlesex	206	229	231	230	258	173	162	120
Total	611	608	626	651	678	610	612	602
14th Circuit								
Charles City Co.	31	33	40	41	40	34	36	36
New Kent	37	20	43	26	30	28	53	54
Warwick City	577	515	568	588	595	582A	564A	B
York	82	83	78	90	76	77	76	83
Williamsburg and James City Co.	114	100	80	82	104	134	180	179
Total	841	751	809	827	845	855	909	352
15th Circuit								
Caroline	195	240	170	246	287	265	287	291
Hanover	244	275	304	375	287	300	323	367
King George	73	88	95	91	81	111	76	76
Spotsylvania	119	145	169	166	157	160	171	152
Stafford	95	103	101	108	116	131	146	173
Fredericksburg City	211	247	258	283	315	353	383	389
Total	937	1,098	1,097	1,269	1,243	1,320	1,386	1,448
16th Circuit								
Fairfax	1,792	1,907	2,264	2,661	3,455	4,315	4,936	5,183
Prince William	408	459	501	585	654	753	746	822
Alexandria City	386	395	423	407	396	413	425	456
Total	2,586	2,761	3,188	3,653	4,505	5,481	6,107	6,461
17th Circuit								
Clarke	129	133	154	126	130	136	59	76
Frederick	221	239	187	166	209	226	245	255
Shenandoah	185	160	166	132	143	163	158	164
Warren	98	86	79	75	83	93	81	66
Winchester City c	44	53	69	84	129	125	166	173
Total	677	671	655	583	694	743	709	734

A This court became Newport News Circuit Court, Part Two in 1958.

B This court was removed from the 14th Circuit in 1960, and became Corporation Court, Part Two, of the City of Newport News.

c Not in the 17th Circuit but Judge Marshall presides in this court.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
18th Circuit								
Augusta	637	600	602	638	683	739	768	812
Highland	102	101	99	97	101	101	105	112
Rockbridge	170	184	243	209	214	194	383	412
Buena Vista City	89	100	104	101	129	114	138	161
Total	998	985	1,048	1,045	1,127	1,148	1,394	1,497
19th Circuit								
Alleghany	692	653	453	364	374	377	389	419
Bath	127	127	124	136	135	150	151	162
Botetourt	209	194	153	177	155	191	212	213
Craig	45	45	49	58	69	52	45	45
Clifton Forge City	165	59	63	65	87	92	112	111
Total	1,238	1,078	842	800	820	862	909	950
20th Circuit								
Floyd	74	76	89	A	A	A	A	A
Montgomery	711	712	427	A	A	A	A	A
Roanoke County	129	449	421	371	342	375	389	423
Roanoke City	85	47	42	50	69	117	114	149
Radford Corporation B	47	82	78	A	A	A	A	A
Total	1,046	1,366	1,057	421	411	492	503	572
21st Circuit								
Carroll	286	125	98	78	77	110	69	94
Grayson	194	72	80	61	69	45	41	58
Pulaski	329	210	166	121	132	78	93	94
Wythe	244	135	91	107	95	106	121	76
Total	1,053	542	435	367	373	339	324	322
22nd Circuit								
Bland	79	74	69	62	75	80	79	65
Giles	300	190	172	155	173	173	186	153
Tazewell	147	145	136	135	111	97	90	117
Total	526	409	377	352	359	350	355	335
23rd Circuit								
Smyth	176	158	136	152	158	152	158	181
Washington	119	168	165	186	173	199	170	193
Bristol City	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	4
Total	295	326	301	338	331	351	328	378

A Placed in the 36th Judicial Circuit in 1956.

B Not in the 20th Circuit, but Judge Hoback designated to preside.

C Filed with records of Bristol Corporation Court.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
24th Circuit								
Lee	A	A	A	A	A	243	277	273
Russell	295	292	313	361	400	B	B	B
Scott	506	548	431	427	389	370	424	323
Total	801	840	744	788	789	613	701	596
25th Circuit								
Page	243	224	216	215	228	237	253	249
Rockingham	538	237	251	252	267	332	346	350
Total	781	461	467	467	495	569	599	599
26th Circuit								
Fauquier	150	155	141	163	162	175	169	166
Loudoun	375	436	473	523	584	634	659	387
Rappahannock	51	52	46	56	64	58	57	63
Total	576	643	660	742	810	867	885	616
27th Circuit								
Buchanan	344	384	274	318	293	248	325	309
Dickenson	223	203	219	191	195	226	229	239
Russell	c	c	c	c	c	351	257	262
Total	567	587	493	509	488	825	811	810
28th Circuit								
Isle of Wight	39	55	50	67	59	84	56	65
Princess Anne	791	796	923	1,099	1,373	1,646	1,518	1,776
Portsmouth City	1,856	1,951	2,048	2,048	2,089	2,064	2,192	D
Total	2,686	2,802	3,021	3,214	3,521	3,794	3,766	1,841
29th Circuit								
Amherst	519	517	451	424	361	402	393	334
Fluvanna	181	192	193	E	E	E	E	E
Nelson	963	965	891	838	723	604	538	494
Waynesboro City	F	F	F	151	168	144	148	169
Total	1,663	1,674	1,535	1,413	1,252	1,150	1,079	997
30th Circuit								
Franklin	375	398	423	493	262	258	275	269
Pittsylvania	G	G	G	169	147	175	188	213
Total	375	398	423	662	409	433	463	482

A Included in 33rd Circuit.

B Placed in 27th Judicial Circuit in 1958.

c Included in 24th Circuit until 1958.

D Established as a separate city court (38th Circuit) in 1960.

E Placed in 8th Judicial Circuit.

F Was a corporation court until 1956 when placed in 29th Circuit.

G Included in 7th Circuit until 1956.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
31st Circuit								
Accomack	605	610	619	649	689	460	477	497
Northampton	266	251	271	273	282	295	323	260
Total	871	861	890	922	971	755	800	757
32nd Circuit								
Norfolk City	2,177	1,960	2,093	2,190	2,258	2,258	2,609	2,977
33rd Circuit								
Lee	528	537	222	219	247	A	A	A
Wise	503	535	513	505	543	668	667	730
Total	1,031	1,072	735	724	790	668	667	730
34th Circuit								
Halifax	527	520	542	576	536	468	511	503
Lunenburg	61	68	57	59	55	78	70	68
Mecklenburg	493	556	569	588	593	602	613	607
Total	1,081	1,144	1,168	1,223	1,184	1,148	1,194	1,178
35th Circuit								
Arlington	1,719	1,717	1,755	1,722	1,638	1,625	1,980	2,067
36th Circuit								
Floyd	B	B	B	82	37	47	63	66
Montgomery	B	B	B	337	334	244	264	228
Radford City	B	B	B	52	51	58	61	46
Total	....	....	....	471	433	349	388	340
37th Circuit								
Chesterfield	c	c	c	827	891	1,015	1,097	1,134
38th Circuit								
Portsmouth City	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	2,345

A Included in 33rd Circuit until 1958 when placed in 24th Circuit.

B Included in 20th Circuit until 1956.

C Included in 4th Circuit until 1956.

D Included in 28th Circuit until 1960.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Alexandria Corporation	647	703	810	822	767	803	899	969
Bristol Corporation	134	130	130	110	97	82	84	98
Charlottesville Corporation	316	319	308	381	350	333	357	409
Danville Corporation	131	139	157	143	150	157	208	269
Lynchburg Corporation	78	35	23	37	62	42	46	82
Newport News Corporation	665	604	636	655	648	804	877	872
Newport News Corporation, Part Two	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	565
Norfolk Corporation	161	189	171	167	206	246	278	205
Norfolk Corporation, Part Two	26	52	49	55	54	59	28	66
Norfolk Law and Chancery	748	782	922	984	1,027	989	1,144	1,155
Petersburg Hustings	913	675	444	285	295	270	298	316
Portsmouth Hustings	345	387	364	400	374	402	436	545
Richmond Chancery	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
Richmond Hustings	185	147	261	210	165	252	231	177
Richmond Hustings, Part Two	526	468	526	543	472	543	601	365

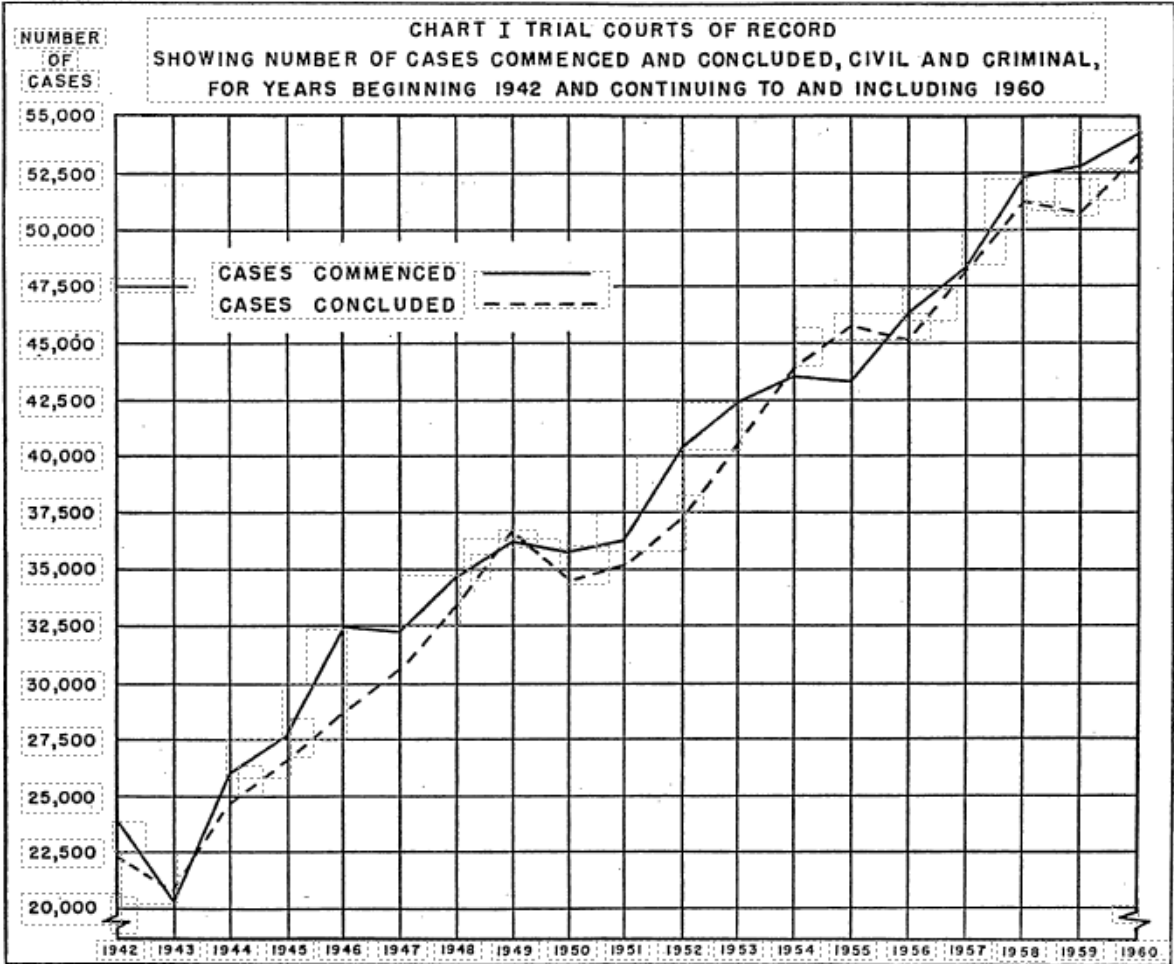
A Included in 14th Circuit until 1960.

B See special statistics appended at end of Summary of Cases Commenced.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Richmond Law and Equity	2,600	3,302	2,906	3,164	3,522	3,449	3,664	3,842
Richmond Law and Equity, Part Two	965	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Roanoke Hustings	528	609	424	447	524	478	623	430
Roanoke Law and Chancery	949	763	824	838	627	716	587	556
South Norfolk Corporation	499	521	578	537	561	461	447	512
Staunton Corporation	289	305	309	350	362	368	271	268
Waynesboro Corporation	111	145	130	B	B	B	B	B
GRAND TOTALS	<u>52,651</u>	<u>50,884</u>	<u>48,059</u>	<u>50,882</u>	<u>51,218</u>	<u>52,343</u>	<u>54,531</u>	<u>55,412</u>

A Court abolished August 1, 1954. Statistics after that date tabulated under Richmond Law and Equity Court.

B Changed to a circuit court and placed in 29th Circuit in 1956.



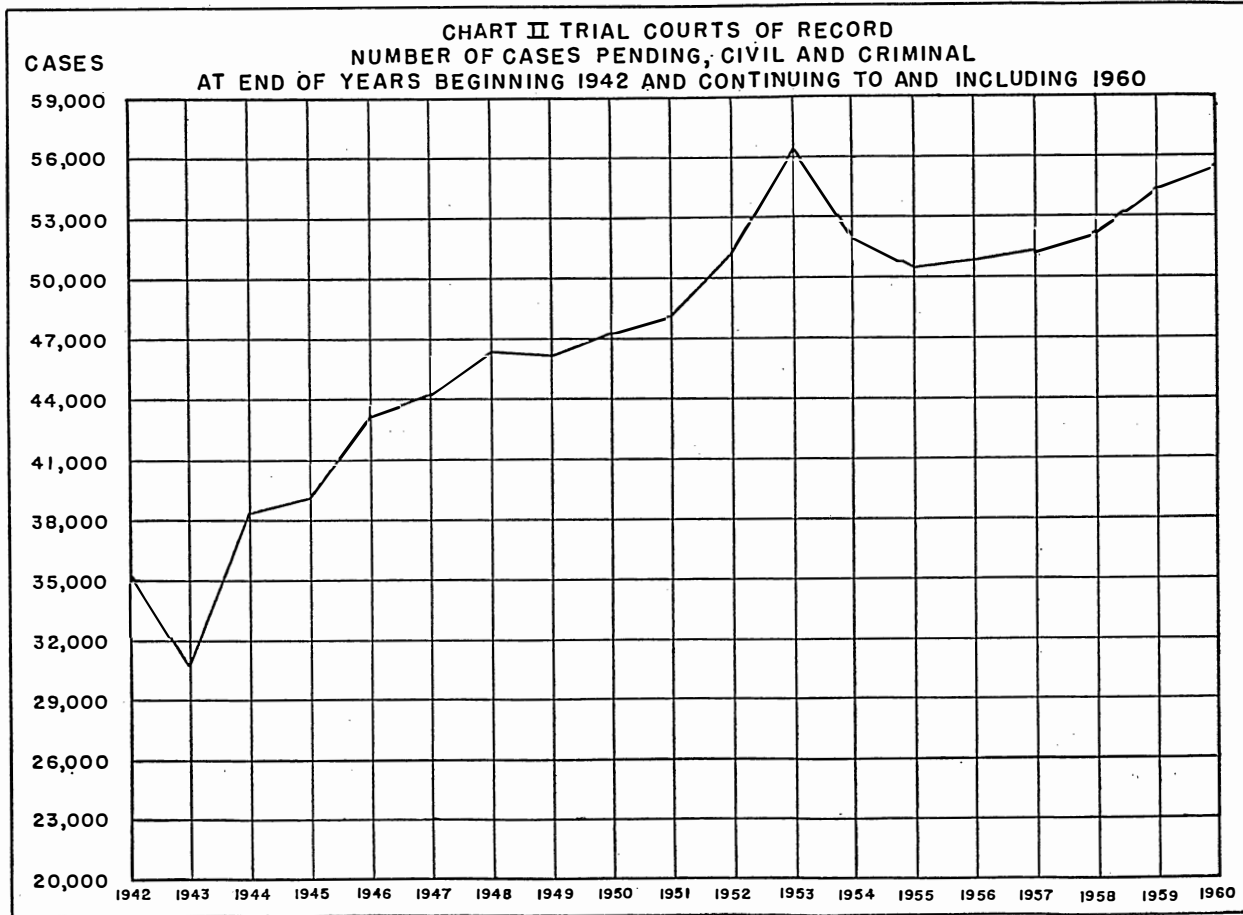


CHART III TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD
CASES COMMENCED PER JUDGESHIP FOR
YEARS COMMENCING 1943 TO AND INCLUDING YEAR 1960

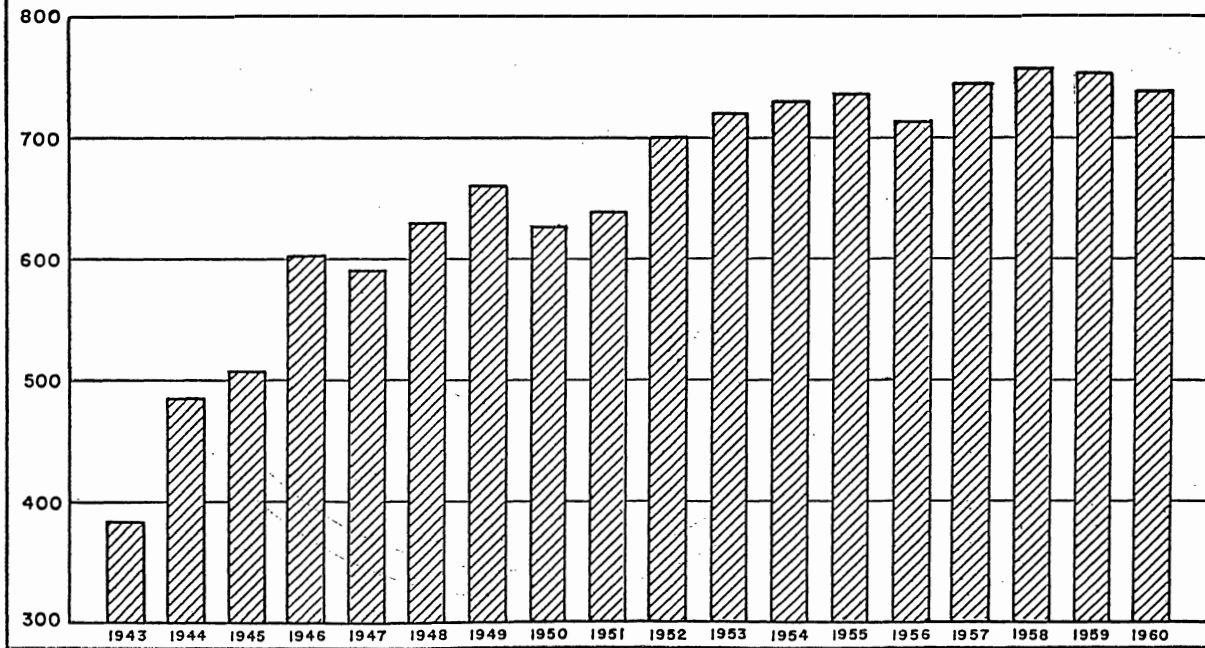


CHART IV
PERCENTAGE OF TYPES OF CASES COMMENCED IN
TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD
1960

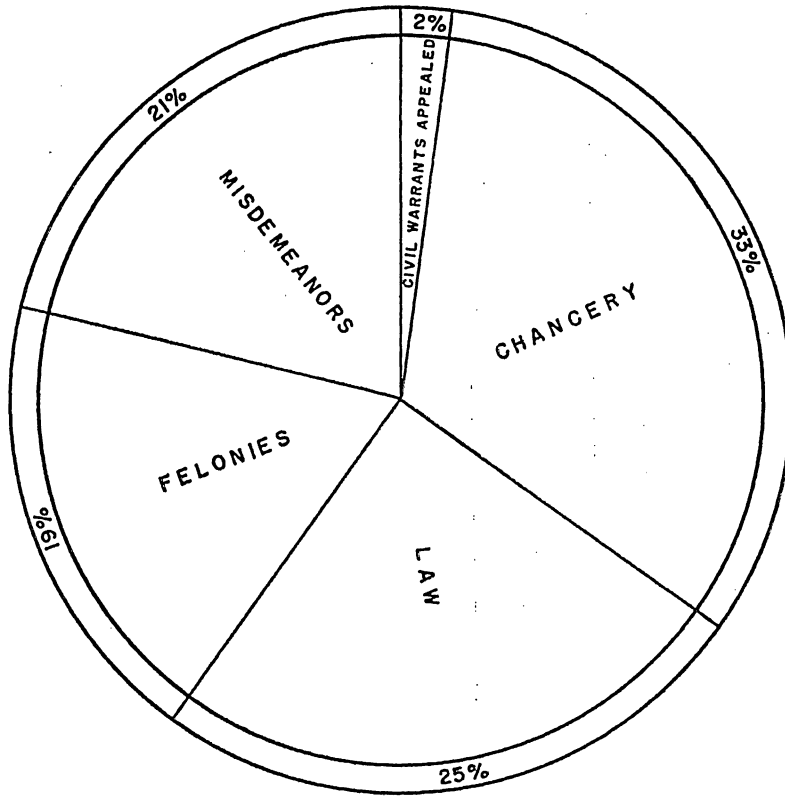


CHART V
PERCENTAGE OF TYPES OF CASES CONCLUDED IN
TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD
1960

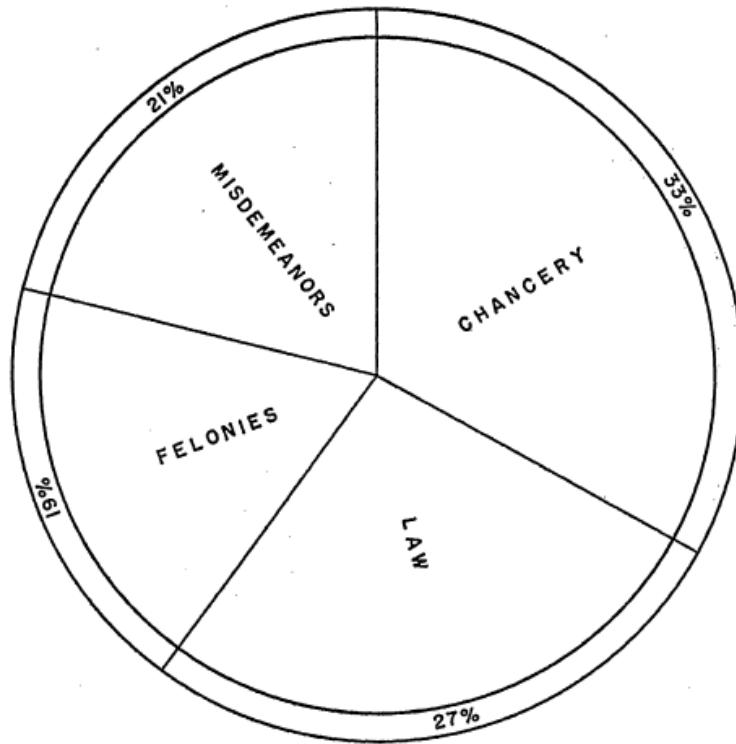


CHART VI
PERCENTAGE OF TYPES OF CASES PENDING
TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD
JANUARY 1, 1961

