

FY 2004-2005 Tennessee Weighted Caseload Study Update



**John G. Morgan
Comptroller of the Treasury
Office of Research
January 2006**



STATE OF TENNESSEE

COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY

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January 30, 2006

The Honorable John S. Wilder
Speaker of the Senate
The Honorable Jimmy Naifeh
Speaker of the House of Representatives
and
Members of the General Assembly
State Capitol
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Transmitted herewith is the 2004-05 Judges' Weighted Caseload Study Update, a special study prepared by the Office of Research as required by Tennessee Code Annotated, §16-2-513. The study compiles and analyzes the filings, workload, and Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) for each judicial district and the state as a whole. The report discusses the lack of inclusion of drug court reviews and plans to update the judges' time study in 2007. I hope you find this information helpful in your policy making process.

Sincerely,

John G. Morgan
Comptroller of the Treasury

FY 2004-2005 Tennessee Weighted Caseload Study Update



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Executive Summary

The 1997 appropriations bill passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policy makers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources. The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 1998 to conduct a time study to determine the case weights now used to calculate workload and full time equivalents (FTEs) needed by each judicial district.¹

Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-513, requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually. The estimated number of FTEs needed is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judge year.

The quantitative weighted caseload model approximates judicial workload and provides a foundation for policymakers to assess the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. The state should consider other qualitative court-specific factors, in addition to workload, when assessing the need for judicial resources.²

The 103rd General Assembly passed Public Chapter 216 of 2003 creating three new judgeships in Davidson County. The new judges took office approximately one third of the way through the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2003, and were included as .75 FTE each (or 2.25 total) for estimating the District 20 workloads during the 2003-04 fiscal year. For this year's update, these judges counted as three FTEs for District 20.

In FY 2005, 198,982 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Domestic relations cases accounted for the largest portion at 35 percent followed by civil cases (26 percent) and felonies (19 percent). Overall filings increased minimally over the previous year with a net increase of 1,867 or less than one percent. The largest increase in filings for FY 04-05 are "criminal other" followed by "domestic" cases. The numbers of probate and misdemeanor cases have remained constant, while civil and felony cases have decreased somewhat this year. For the most part, between FY 2000-2004, felony cases increased steadily before dipping about three percent in 2005.

Corresponding with the minimal increase in filings and workload, and the creation of three additional judgeships in District 20 in FY 2004, the deficit of judicial resources has remained relatively constant the last three years. For the second year in a row, in all but three districts (12, 22, and 30), current judicial resources come within one FTE of 2005 needs according to the weighted caseload model. Districts 12 and 22 appear to need just over one additional judge, while District 30 has an excess of just over 3.5 FTEs, about the same as the previous year.

Additional judges in District 20 have enabled the district to keep pace with a rise in caseloads for 2005. The three new judges were in office for all of FY 2004-05. Overall filings increased by 1.73 percent in District 20 and the district shows a slight excess of approximately .5 FTE for the year.

Current case definitions and reporting standards do not accurately capture time spent on cases in Tennessee's 12 drug courts operating in 31 counties. Consideration of all drug court activities would increase the accuracy of calculations of resource needs in those districts. In accordance with recommendations by the National Center for State Courts, the AOC and the Comptroller's Office have agreed to update the time study in FY 2006-07. The new study will reflect drug court activity as well as other needed adjustments.

¹ See Appendix A for complete explanation of the study methodology and formulas.

² See Appendix B for more complete explanation of qualitative issues cited from the original study.

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Introduction and Background

The 1997 appropriations bill passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policy makers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources. The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 1998 to conduct a time study to determine the case weights that are now used to calculate workload and full time equivalents (FTEs) needed by each judicial district.¹ *Tennessee Code Annotated (T.C.A.)* 16-2-513 requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to assess the workload and need for judicial resources, or Full Time Equivalents (FTEs). The estimated number of FTEs that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judge year.

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. The study provides qualitative information that affects the workload of judges such as the number of child support referees and clerks and masters. The state should always consider these and other court-specific factors when assessing the need for judicial resources.²

The 103rd General Assembly passed Public Chapter 216 of 2003 creating three new judgeships in Davidson County. The new judges took office approximately one third of the way through the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2003, and were included as .75 FTE each (or 2.25 total) for estimating the District 20 workloads during the 2003-04 fiscal year. For this year's update, these judges counted as three FTEs for District 20.

Analysis and Conclusions

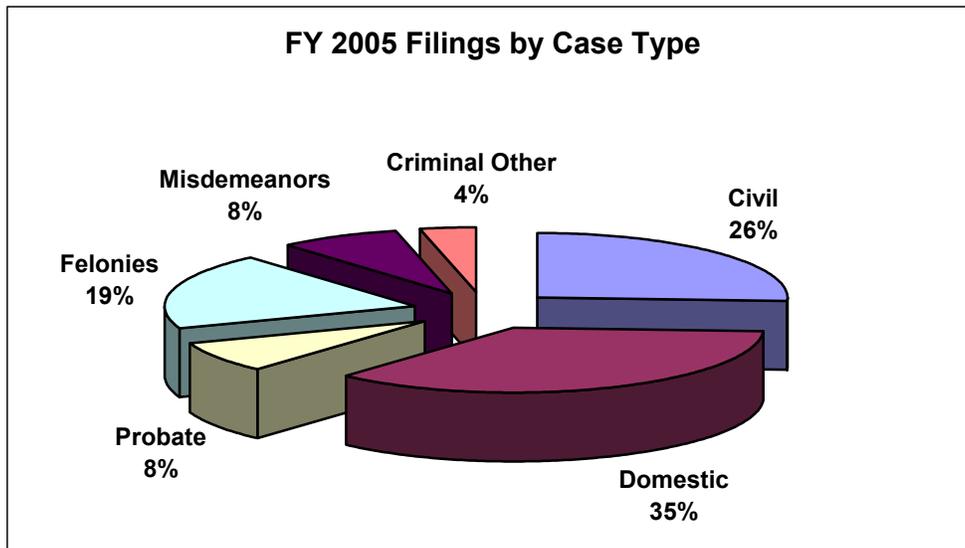
Filings

In FY 2005, 198,982 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Domestic relations cases accounted for the largest portion (35 percent) followed by civil cases (26 percent) and felonies (19 percent).

¹ See Appendix A for complete explanation of the study methodology and formulas.

² See Appendix B for more complete explanation of qualitative issues from the original study.

Exhibit 1



Source: Chart produced by Office of Research Staff with data from the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Overall filings increased minimally over the previous year with a net increase of 1,867 or less than one percent. However, some case type filings decreased while others increased significantly. (See Exhibit 2.)

Exhibit 2

Case Type	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Change 04-05	Percent Change
Civil	52,598	52,445	52,842	54,240	53,265	51,616	-1,649	-3.10%
Domestic	68,517	67,718	66,306	65,769	67,384	70,860	3,476	5.16%
Probate	13,208	13,940	12,888	12,869	15,433	15,644	211	1.37%
Felonies	32,311	32,243	35,134	36,310	39,297	38,039	-1,258	-3.20%
Misdemeanors	13,578	13,800	13,244	14,727	15,614	15,837	223	1.43%
Criminal Other	6,768	6,910	7,539	9,642	6,122	6,986	864	14.11%
Totals	186,980	187,056	187,953	193,557	197,115	198,982	1,867	0.95%

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

The largest increases in filings for FY 04-05 are “criminal other” followed by “domestic” cases. The numbers of probate and misdemeanor cases have remained constant, while civil and felony cases have decreased somewhat this year. For the most part, between FY 2000-2004, felony cases increased steadily before dipping about three percent in 2005.

Exhibit 3 shows the total filings for each case type from all districts for each year for the period July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2005, along with the change in number and percent for each year, and total change from FY 2000-05. (See Appendix C for spreadsheets with trends and ranking by total filings, and felony, misdemeanor, and criminal other filings for all districts.)

Exhibit 3

Total State Filings by Case Type and Year										Number and Percent Change in Case Filings by Year									
Case Type	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 00 to FY 01	FY 01 to FY 02	FY 02 to FY 03	FY 03 to FY 04	FY 04 to FY 05	FY 00 to FY 05							
	#	#	#	#	#	#	%	%	%	%	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Civil	52,598	52,445	52,842	54,240	53,265	51,616	-0.29%	0.76%	2.65%	-1.80%	-3.10%	-982	-1.87%	-1,649	-3.10%	-982	-1.87%		
Domestic	68,517	67,718	66,306	65,769	67,384	70,860	-1.17%	-2.09%	-0.81%	2.46%	5.16%	2,343	3.42%	3,476	5.16%	2,343	3.42%		
Probate	13,208	13,940	12,888	12,869	15,433	15,644	5.54%	-7.55%	-0.15%	19.92%	1.37%	2,436	18.44%	211	1.37%	2,436	18.44%		
Felonies	32,311	32,243	35,134	36,310	39,297	38,039	-0.21%	8.97%	3.35%	8.23%	-3.20%	5,728	17.73%	-1,258	-3.20%	5,728	17.73%		
Misdemeanors	13,578	13,800	13,244	14,727	15,614	15,837	1.63%	-4.03%	11.20%	6.02%	1.43%	2,259	16.64%	223	1.43%	2,259	16.64%		
Criminal Other	6,768	6,910	7,539	9,642	6,122	6,986	2.10%	9.10%	27.89%	-36.51%	14.11%	218	3.22%	864	14.11%	218	3.22%		
Total	186,980	187,056	187,953	193,557	197,115	198,982	0.04%	0.48%	2.98%	1.84%	0.95%	12,002	6.42%	1,867	0.95%	12,002	6.42%		

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff based on data provided by the AOC, 2005.

Full Time Equivalent

Based on FY 2005 case filing data and workload, the state has a net deficit of -3.28 FTEs. (See Exhibit 4.)

Exhibit 4

Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (FTEs)						
State Net FTEs	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Total Judicial Resources (FTEs)	151	151	151	151	153.75	154
Total Judicial Resources Needed (FTEs)	147.74	148.1	149.78	154.32	157.21	157.28
Net (excess or deficit in Judicial Resources)	3.26	2.90	1.22	-3.32	-3.96	-3.28

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff based on data provided by the AOC, 2005.

Corresponding with the minimal increase in filings and workload, and the creation of three additional judgeships in District 20 in FY 2004, the deficit of judicial resources has remained relatively constant the last three years. For the second year in a row, in all but three districts (12, 22, and 30), current judicial resources come within one FTE of 2005 needs according to the weighted caseload model. Districts 12 and 22 appear to need just over one additional judge, while District 30 has an excess of just over 3.5 FTEs.

Exhibit 5

Difference Between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) and Need for FTEs by District for FY 00 to FY 05						
Judicial Districts (Counties)	Year					
	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	0.91	1.08	0.63	0.21	0.07	0.33
District 2 (Sullivan)	0.45	0.41	0.17	-0.15	-0.32	-0.41
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)	0.05	0.01	-0.03	0.02	-0.12	-0.57
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.08	-0.02	0.09	-0.27	-0.74	-0.72
District 5 (Blount)	-0.11	-0.22	-0.16	0.33	0.47	0.27
District 6 (Knox)	-1.04	-0.85	-0.47	-0.77	-0.59	0.06
District 7 (Anderson)	-0.15	-0.29	-0.17	-0.25	-0.46	-0.28
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.05	-0.09	-0.18	-0.24	-0.39	-0.54
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	1.35	1.20	0.93	1.01	0.79	0.76
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	0.33	-0.02	0.08	-0.76	-0.45	-0.64
District 11 (Hamilton)	0.30	0.59	0.37	-0.07	-0.52	-0.05
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-0.56	-0.39	-0.64	-0.91	-1.07	-1.06
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	1.19	0.31	0.84	0.53	0.02	0.03
District 14 (Coffee)	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.30	0.21	0.32
District 15 (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	0.60	0.48	0.21	-0.15	-0.38	-0.22
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	0.43	0.31	0.02	-0.03	-0.02	-0.04
District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	0.02	-0.07	-0.20	-0.30	-0.48	-0.88
District 18 (Sumner)	-0.26	-0.45	-0.46	-0.71	-0.62	-0.77
District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	0.04	0.04	0.05	-0.03	-0.14	-0.29
District 20 (Davidson)	-1.81	-2.42	-3.02	-4.52	0.11	0.57
District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	0.63	0.40	0.21	0.20	0.13	0.05
District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-1.15	-0.39	-0.59	-0.92	-1.36	-1.62
District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.21	-0.16	-0.41	-0.44	-0.83	-0.83
District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.07	0.25	0.14	0.29	0.35	0.60
District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	-0.08	0.12	-0.19	-0.06	-0.16	0.03
District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.28	0.37	0.38	0.38	-0.07	0.07
District 27 (Obion and Weakley)	-0.06	-0.28	-0.17	-0.30	-0.30	-0.35
District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)	-0.11	-0.25	-0.20	-0.32	-0.43	-0.51
District 29 (Dyer and Lake)	0.37	0.31	0.33	0.35	0.16	0.19
District 30 (Shelby County)	1.49	2.77	3.64	4.56	3.54	3.65
District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)	-0.30	-0.47	-0.46	-0.31	-0.33	-0.43
Total Excess or Deficit FTEs	3.26	2.90	1.22	-3.32	-3.96	-3.28

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff based on data provided by the AOC, 2005.

Qualitative Issues

Additional judges in District 20 have enabled the district to keep pace with a rise in caseloads for 2005. The three new judges were in office for all of FY 2004-05. Overall filings increased by 1.73 percent in District 20 and the district shows a slight excess of approximately .5 FTE for the year.

Current case definitions and reporting standards do not accurately capture time spent on cases in Tennessee's Drug Courts. Tennessee has 12 drug courts covering 31 counties. As a part of the special program in those courts for nonviolent drug offenders, judges review progress

frequently over a period of 12-24 months. All drug court judges require weekly appearances for the first few months to a year and then decrease court appearances going from every two weeks to every third week and then to once a month. Annual filing numbers include cases handled in these courts the same as other cases filed in state criminal courts. However, caseload data and current case weights do not accurately reflect the additional judicial time and resources required by this enhanced program after the cases are transferred to a drug court. AOC officials estimate that judges handled over 14,000 of these labor-intensive drug court cases in FY 2004-05.

Evaluations of drug courts in Shelby and Davidson Counties showed these programs' effectiveness in reducing recidivism among program graduates. Further analysis indicates that the operational costs of these courts are less than incarceration for drug court-eligible individuals.³

Recommendations

Alternatives

The General Assembly may wish to consider amending T.C.A. 16-1-117 to specify treatment of drug court case reviews in annual caseload calculations. Consideration of all drug court activities would increase the accuracy of calculations of resource needs in those districts.

The Administrative Office of the Courts should work with the Comptroller's Office to update the judges' time study. The AOC expressed a desire to fund an update of the judges' time study in FY 2006-07 to address issues such as the inclusion of drug court cases into the workload measures for use in future resource calculations. Replicating the time study would require not only funds but also time and cooperation from the judges. As the time study is seven years old, an updated time study would likely increase the validity of the case weights, workload measures, and the weighted caseload model as a whole. The National Center for State Courts, who produced the original judicial weighted caseload model for Tennessee, recommends that states update the time studies every five years if possible.

³ Comptroller of the Treasury, *Tennessee's Court System: Is Reform Needed?*, January 2004, p. 21.

Appendix A: History and Methodology to Conduct the Time Study and Calculate Case Weights For the Original Judges' Weighted Caseload Study in 1998¹

History

In 1997, House Amendment 940 to the appropriations bill directed the Comptroller of the Treasury to conduct a study of the state judicial system. The Comptroller contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in May of 1998 to conduct a weighted caseload study.

The weighted caseload model requires a time study whereby judges track time spent on various case types during a specified time period. The NCSC consultants then used time study information with disposition data for the same time period to construct a "case weight" for each case type. The weights are designed to consider the varying levels of complex cases a court may experience.

For the judge, public defender, and district attorney studies, the state established a steering committee to assist and make decisions in conjunction with the three consultant groups. The steering committee was composed of the AOC Director, members of the judiciary from the 13th, 16th, 30th Districts, the Executive Director of the District Attorneys General Conference, District Attorneys General from the 2nd, 8th, and 20th Districts, the Executive Director of the District Public Defenders Conference, Public Defenders from the 5th, 24th, and 26th Districts, the Deputy Executive Director of the Tennessee Bar Association, a state representative, a state senator, and representatives from Lt. Gov. John Wilder's Office, Speaker Jimmy Naifeh's Office, and the Comptroller's Office.

Methodology

The study includes calculations of case weights, workload, judge year, adjusted judge year, full time equivalents, and case filings. Case types have to be established and a time study has to be conducted.

Case Types

The circuit, criminal, and chancery courts in Tennessee report 43 case types to the AOC. Together with the consultant groups, the steering committee collapsed the 43 case types into six to ensure enough data in each category to avoid sampling error and ensure valid conclusions. The consultants included enough case types to develop realistic and reasonable weights. The Steering Committee then grouped cases by similar type and complexity into the following categories²:

1. Civil (includes civil appeals)
2. Domestic
3. Probate
4. Felonies
5. Misdemeanors
6. Criminal Other (includes criminal appeals)

¹ National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Model, Final Report*, May 1999. Original study and all subsequent updates can be found on the internet at <http://www.comptroller.state.tn.us/orea/reports/index.htm>.

² National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Model Final Report*, May 1999, p. 14.

Categories of Case Events³

The steering committee also decided case events:

1. Pre-Trial Hearings/Motions
2. Bench Trial/Juvenile Adjudication
3. Jury Trial
4. Adjudication/Non-Trial Disposition Hearings
5. Post-Trial/Adjudication/Disposition Hearings
6. Case-Related Administration
7. Non-Case Administration
8. Travel

Disposition Count

The AOC provided disposition data for the study. Although courts may count filings and dispositions differently, based on a statistical analysis done by the AOC, in a majority of cases, charges filed on a given date for a defendant had the same disposition date. Analysis of FY 97-98 found that “98% of statewide criminal dispositions for FY 97-98 that were filed on the same date for a defendant were disposed on the same date.”⁴ Furthermore, this analysis showed that “95% of statewide criminal dispositions for FY 97-98 that were disposed on the same date for a defendant were filed on the same date.”⁵ Given this, all charges against one defendant for one incident were classified as one filing, thus one disposition.

Construction of Case Weights

A case weight represents the average number of minutes required to process each case type. The case weight does not include the time expended on non-case related work or travel time. These two categories are used, however, to calculate the judge year. The consultants constructed the case weights by taking the total number of minutes for each case type and then dividing by the number of dispositions for each case type. (See Exhibit 1.)

Exhibit 1

Case types	Case weights ⁶
Civil	92
Domestic	46
Probate	71
Felonies	73
Misdemeanors	34
Criminal-Other	61

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1999.

For example, the average civil case takes approximately 92 minutes of judicial time; the average domestic case takes approximately 46 minutes.

The consultants also calculated case weights for the urban, rural, and transitional districts. From these weights, the consultants determined that it took longer to process civil, domestic, felony, and misdemeanor cases in rural districts than in urban. The consultants opined that the higher

³ Ibid, p. 15.

⁴ Ibid., p. 18.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Case Weights as amended by NCSC Review in December 6, 2001.

volume of the urban districts allowed them to aggregate some procedures and process cases faster. They also found that urban districts are specialized into civil and criminal divisions that could permit them to process cases faster. Urban districts took longer to process probate cases, and the consultants suggested that urban districts' probate cases could be more complex.

Although larger courts may have faster average processing times for cases than smaller courts, the Final Report of the Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Model recommends, based on Guideline 9 in *Assessing the Need for Judges and Court Support Staff*, that a single set of case weights for judges within a state is preferable to multiple weights. However, one should evaluate differences in time requirements or case mix across courts of different sizes to determine if separate weights are needed. Another way to deal with differences engendered by economies of scale is to adjust the workloads of the districts to correct for the differences and use a single case weight.⁷

Filings Count

The AOC provided the annual filings data for the original study, the NCSC review, and ongoing weighted caseload study updates. The consultants used the filings for the previous year to validate their model for the original study. They also substantiated the accuracy of the case weights by comparing the current filings count to existing judicial resources.⁸

Calculation of the Workload

Workload is defined as the number of minutes required for a judicial district to process its caseload annually. To calculate the workload, multiply the number of filings per case type by the corresponding case weight for that case type (See Table 1). For example, using FY 99-00 data for District 1, the workload is 346,146.

Table 1: How to Calculate Workload

Case Type	Case weights ⁹ (average number of minutes per case)	District 1 FY 2000 Filings ¹⁰ (case filings)	Workload (in minutes) (case weights x filings)
Civil	92	1,343	123,556
Domestic	46	2,455	112,930
Probate	71	235	16,685
Felonies	73	1,057	77,161
Misdemeanors	34	257	8,738
Criminal-Other	61	116	7,076
Total for District 1		5,463	346,146

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff from data provided by NCSC and the AOC.

Adjusted Workload

The consultants determined that the rural judicial districts had higher case weights than the statewide case weight “because of factors intrinsic to the size of the court.” The consultants subsequently increased the workload values by 15 percent for all rural judicial districts.

⁷V.E. Flango and B. J. Ostrom, *Assessing the Need for Judges and Court Support Staff*, National Center for State Courts, p. ix, 1996.

⁸ This was revalidated in the review conducted by the NCSC in 2001.

⁹ Based on revised case weights per the NCSC Review December 6, 2001.

¹⁰ Based on updated filings for FY 2000 provided by the AOC, 2001.

Therefore, the adjusted workload is calculated by multiplying the workload by .15 and then adding that to the original workload.

Table 2: How to Calculate Adjusted Workload

Calculating Adjusted Workload in Minutes - Example District 3 FY 2000		
Original Workload (filings x case weights)	Rural Adjustment (workload x 15)	Adjusted Workload (workload + rural adjustment)
364,424	54,664	419,088

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff from data provided by NCSC and the AOC.

Judge Year Value

The judge year value is an estimate of the time an average judge has available to process his or her workload in a year. The steering committee, with input from NCSC, estimated that a judge had eight hours per day and 217 days a year. The eight hours *does not* include time for lunch, breaks, or other interruptions. However, the judge year value must be adjusted to account for travel time and non-case related work. The consultants determined travel times by calculating the average minutes of travel per judge day and then characterizing districts by the number of courthouses, resulting in the following three categories: high travel (5-7 courthouses), medium travel (2-4 courthouses), and low travel (1 courthouse). Non-case related work is time not available for processing cases and must also be subtracted from the judge year value.

Judicial Resource Count

The AOC provided information regarding the number of judges and judicial officers per district. Judicial resources include judges and chancellors.¹¹ Clerks and Masters and Child Support Referees are included in the study as a *qualitative* measure.

Calculating Resource Needs/Full Time Equivalents

To determine the number of judicial resources needed or full time equivalents (FTEs) for a particular judicial district, the adjusted workload is divided by the adjusted judge year value. Using District 1 as an example:

Table 3: How to Calculate FTEs from Judge Year

Calculation of Judicial Resource Needs/FTEs Example for District 1 - FY 2000		
Adjusted Workload (in minutes)	Adjusted Judge Year (in minutes)	Judicial Resources Needed (Adjusted Workload ÷ Adjusted Judge Year)
346,146	84,692	4.09

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff from data provided by NCSC and the AOC.

Comparison of Actual and Needed Judicial Resources

To determine if a district has an excess or deficit of judicial resources, subtract the judicial resources needed from the actual judicial resources. For example, District 1 had five judicial resources (FTEs). The district needed only 4.08 FTEs. Five minus 4.08 equals .92. Thus, District 1 had .92 more FTE than its workload required.

¹¹ Note: Child Support Referees are no longer included in the quantitative calculation of judicial resources as they were in the original study as a result of the 2001 NCSC Review.

Table 4: How to Calculate a District's Need for FTEs

Calculation of FTE's Over or Under for District 1 (total resources – resources needed)	
Total Judicial Resources of District 1	5
Judicial Resources Needed	4.08
FTE's Over or Under	0.92

Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff from data provided by NCSC and the AOC.

The weighted caseload study model updates calculate each of these figures based on the current years total and district filings.

Appendix B: Qualitative Factors Affecting the Determination of Judicial Resources¹

Qualitative factors also can affect judicial resource needs. There can be legal *cultural* differences that result in some case types taking longer in some districts within a single state. For example, the practice styles of local attorneys often have a significant impact on case processing times. What might be considered an efficient presentation to a court in a larger city might be considered too rushed in a less pressured environment. The dynamics of local scheduling practices can also influence the interpretation of the model. In a smaller court, something as trivial as one defendant who fails to appear may waste a good part of a judge's morning if there is not other court business that can be dealt with while the judge is waiting.

Another qualitative factor to consider when interpreting the model is that the more rural areas may require additional FTEs than the model estimates to provide reasonable access to judicial services. Another qualitative factor that needs to be considered is the economies of scale that may affect the interpretation of the model. Usually in the more populated districts and larger urban courts there exists economy of scale effects that are reflected in faster processing times and the ability to process more cases in a judge year because these larger courts have the ability to work more efficiently. For example, a larger court can have a judicial division of labor that leads to specialization. This economy of scale effect is not that pronounced in the Tennessee model. There is not much difference in case processing times between the urban courts and the transitional courts. This is a different phenomenon than has been seen in other similar weighted caseload studies where the urban districts have a significant economy of scale, i.e., an ability to process a greater number of cases per judge.

While a weighted caseload model provides a baseline from which to establish the need for judges, no set of statistical criteria will be so complete that it encompasses all contingencies. In addition to the statistical information, individual characteristics of the courts must be examined before any changes to a court's judicial complement are recommended. The outline below describes a general procedure that can be undertaken if the weighted caseload estimates indicate a particular court is over- or underjudged.

1. Determine whether the judges and administrative staff of the particular court believe they need additional judicial resources through a systematic procedure to solicit local opinion. Input also should be sought from the state or local court administrator, members of the bar, and other local leaders. A procedure should be established to obtain local input in writing.
2. Examine caseload trends over time to determine whether caseloads are increasing, decreasing, or remaining steady. Attention also should be paid to whether the court has an unusual caseload mix.

¹ National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Model Final Report*, May 1999, pp. 28-29.

3. Review court organization to ensure that the court is structured and managed to make the most effective use of additional resources.
4. Explore options that will address concern over judicial workload without increasing the number of permanent, full-time judges. Options include (a) making greater use of judicial officers, (b) hiring retired judges on a part-time or contractual basis, (c) using alternative dispute resolution, and (d) simplifying the procedures for less complex cases.
5. Keep in mind that judicial productivity, and hence the need for new judges, also depends on the effectiveness of court staff and the available technology. Without the proper type and level of support, judges may be performing some tasks that could be delegated to qualified staff or perhaps new court technology could support more efficient administrative procedures (e.g., case screening, case clustering, and case tracking).

The weighted caseload approach provides an objective measure of the judicial resources needed to resolve cases effectively and efficiently. Like any model, it is most effective as a *guide* to workloads, not a rigid formula. The numbers need to be tempered by a qualitative assessment that must be an integral part of any judicial workload assessment.

Appendix C

District		Misdemeanor Filings By District and Year																
		Ranked from highest to lowest increases and lowest to highest decreases																
		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2000-2005						
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%			
9	189	233	172	151	106	227	44	23.28%	-61	-26.18%	-21	-12.21%	-45	-29.80%	121	114.15%	38	20.11%
17	22	31	28	37	54	99	9	40.91%	-3	-9.68%	9	32.14%	17	45.95%	45	83.33%	77	350.00%
28	96	124	156	153	243	347	28	29.17%	32	25.81%	-3	-1.92%	90	58.82%	104	42.80%	251	261.46%
29	71	74	83	76	65	90	3	4.23%	9	12.16%	-7	-8.43%	-11	-14.47%	25	38.46%	19	26.76%
4	267	203	184	194	262	355	-64	-23.97%	-19	-9.36%	10	5.43%	68	35.05%	93	35.50%	88	32.96%
3	122	108	121	114	164	210	-14	-11.48%	13	12.04%	-7	-5.79%	50	43.86%	46	28.05%	88	72.13%
19	369	350	276	335	427	517	-19	-5.15%	-74	-21.14%	59	21.38%	92	27.46%	90	21.08%	148	40.11%
1	257	205	386	384	311	374	-52	-20.23%	181	88.29%	-2	-0.52%	-73	-19.01%	63	20.26%	117	45.53%
5	119	74	73	163	94	113	-45	-37.82%	-1	-1.35%	90	123.29%	-69	-42.33%	19	20.21%	-6	-5.04%
6	803	618	663	674	659	769	-185	-23.04%	45	7.28%	11	1.66%	-15	-2.23%	110	16.69%	-34	-4.23%
31	96	140	107	142	152	174	44	45.83%	-33	-23.57%	35	32.71%	10	7.04%	22	14.47%	78	81.25%
22	619	536	564	768	709	801	-83	-13.41%	28	5.22%	204	36.17%	-59	-7.68%	92	12.98%	182	29.40%
15	541	609	632	711	661	740	68	12.57%	23	3.78%	79	12.50%	-50	-7.03%	79	11.95%	199	36.78%
16	643	702	628	644	596	667	59	9.18%	-74	-10.54%	16	2.55%	-48	-7.45%	71	11.91%	24	3.73%
2	174	121	116	188	175	189	-53	-30.46%	-5	-4.13%	72	62.07%	-13	-6.91%	14	8.00%	15	8.62%
30	3,391	3,795	3,683	3,487	3,335	3,500	404	11.91%	-112	-2.95%	-196	-5.32%	-152	-4.36%	165	4.95%	109	3.21%
10	201	230	238	379	292	301	29	14.43%	8	3.48%	141	59.24%	-87	-22.96%	9	3.08%	100	49.75%
23	367	353	289	279	422	434	-14	-3.81%	-64	-18.13%	-10	-3.46%	143	51.25%	12	2.84%	67	18.26%
21	300	254	231	327	356	352	-46	-15.33%	-23	-9.06%	96	41.56%	29	8.87%	-4	-1.12%	52	17.33%
13	833	920	822	1,007	1,202	1,180	87	10.44%	-98	-10.65%	185	22.51%	195	19.36%	-22	-1.83%	347	41.66%
24	47	44	46	74	40	39	-3	-6.38%	2	4.55%	28	60.87%	-34	-45.95%	-1	-2.50%	-8	-17.02%
18	226	208	237	225	209	202	-18	-7.96%	29	13.94%	-12	-5.06%	-16	-7.11%	-7	-3.35%	-24	-10.62%
12	626	612	553	653	662	575	-14	-2.24%	-59	-9.64%	100	18.08%	9	1.38%	-87	-13.14%	-51	-8.15%
11	1,244	1,293	1,174	1,644	2,166	1,852	49	3.94%	-119	-9.20%	470	40.03%	522	31.75%	-314	-14.50%	608	48.87%
8	331	341	319	334	468	395	10	3.02%	-22	-6.45%	15	4.70%	134	40.12%	-73	-15.60%	64	19.34%
20	799	842	782	879	932	748	43	5.38%	-60	-7.13%	97	12.40%	53	6.03%	-184	-19.74%	-51	-6.38%
25	172	120	142	129	138	103	-52	-30.23%	22	18.33%	-13	-9.15%	9	6.98%	-35	-25.36%	-69	-40.12%
27	45	49	27	35	56	41	4	8.89%	-22	-44.90%	8	29.63%	21	60.00%	-15	-26.79%	-4	-8.89%
7	184	150	190	153	227	164	-34	-18.48%	40	26.67%	-37	-19.47%	74	48.37%	-63	-27.75%	-20	-10.87%
14	56	92	88	137	111	73	36	64.29%	-4	-4.35%	49	55.68%	-26	-18.98%	-38	-34.23%	17	30.36%
26	368	369	234	251	320	206	1	0.27%	-135	-36.59%	17	7.26%	69	27.49%	-114	-35.63%	-162	-44.02%

Appendix C

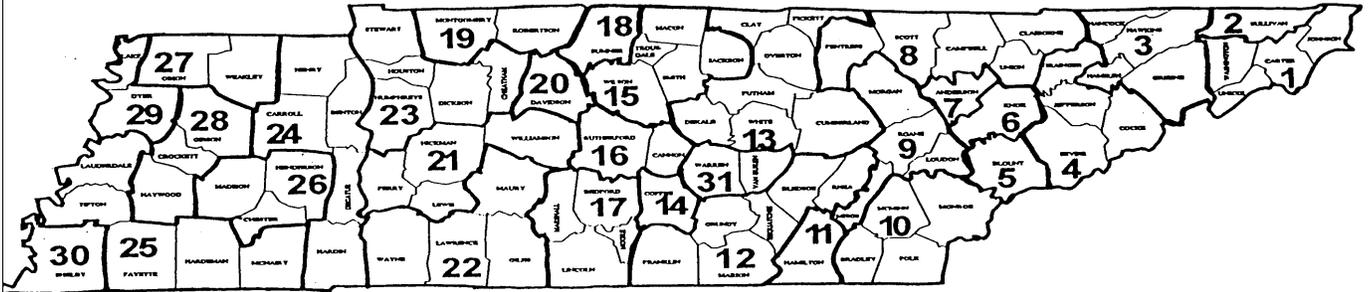
District		Criminal Other Filings By District and Year																
		Ranked from highest to lowest increases and lowest to highest decreases																
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2000-2005
#	#	#	#	#	#	#	%	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
5	19	17	24	16	8	26	-2	-10.53%	7	41.18%	-8	-33.33%	-8	-50.00%	18	225.00%	7	36.84%
31	7	12	2	4	3	8	5	71.43%	-10	-83.33%	2	100.00%	-1	-25.00%	5	166.67%	1	14.29%
20	1,430	2,053	2,970	4,828	740	1,564	623	43.57%	917	44.67%	1,858	62.56%	-4,088	-84.67%	824	111.35%	134	9.37%
26	38	42	86	43	57	93	4	10.53%	44	104.76%	-43	-50.00%	14	32.56%	36	63.16%	55	144.74%
19	40	31	57	62	79	120	-9	-22.50%	26	83.87%	5	8.77%	17	27.42%	41	51.90%	80	200.00%
12	32	10	48	43	47	64	-22	-68.75%	38	380.00%	-5	-10.42%	4	9.30%	17	36.17%	32	100.00%
15	10	5	11	16	34	43	-5	-50.00%	6	120.00%	5	45.45%	18	112.50%	9	26.47%	33	330.00%
3	53	55	42	40	64	77	2	3.77%	-13	-23.64%	-2	-4.76%	24	60.00%	13	20.31%	24	45.28%
21	42	43	200	190	124	149	1	2.38%	157	365.12%	-10	-5.00%	-66	-34.74%	25	20.16%	107	254.76%
10	38	107	143	232	114	127	69	181.58%	36	33.64%	89	62.24%	-118	-50.86%	13	11.40%	89	234.21%
30	2,875	2,657	1,720	1,643	2,024	2,228	-218	-7.58%	-937	-35.27%	-77	-4.48%	381	23.19%	204	10.08%	-647	-22.50%
2	287	326	381	438	477	504	39	13.59%	55	16.87%	57	14.96%	39	8.90%	27	5.66%	217	75.61%
6	139	95	129	125	118	121	-44	-31.65%	34	35.79%	-4	-3.10%	-7	-5.60%	3	2.54%	-18	-12.95%
17	98	89	111	162	230	229	-9	-9.18%	22	24.72%	51	45.95%	68	41.98%	-1	-0.43%	131	133.67%
1	116	53	205	306	236	234	-63	-54.31%	152	286.79%	101	49.27%	-70	-22.88%	-2	-0.85%	118	101.72%
24	159	93	94	63	90	88	-66	-41.51%	1	1.08%	-31	-32.98%	27	42.86%	-2	-2.22%	-71	-44.65%
4	461	359	312	336	323	303	-102	-22.13%	-47	-13.09%	24	7.69%	-13	-3.87%	-20	-6.19%	-158	-34.27%
13	37	21	21	95	196	173	-16	-43.24%	0	0.00%	74	352.38%	101	106.32%	-23	-11.73%	136	367.57%
11	213	160	250	214	120	100	-53	-24.88%	90	56.25%	-36	-14.40%	-94	-43.93%	-20	-16.67%	-113	-53.05%
23	167	110	99	196	215	178	-57	-34.13%	-11	-10.00%	97	97.98%	19	9.69%	-37	-17.21%	11	6.59%
8	54	44	52	32	48	38	-10	-18.52%	8	18.18%	-20	-38.46%	16	50.00%	-10	-20.83%	-16	-29.63%
22	160	206	193	195	347	270	46	28.75%	-13	-6.31%	2	1.04%	152	77.95%	-77	-22.19%	110	68.75%
16	41	61	38	38	47	34	20	48.78%	-23	-37.70%	0	0.00%	9	23.68%	-13	-27.66%	-7	-17.07%
18	61	50	73	71	92	64	-11	-18.03%	23	46.00%	-2	-2.74%	21	29.58%	-28	-30.43%	3	4.92%
9	20	18	40	30	35	22	-2	-10.00%	22	122.22%	-10	-25.00%	5	16.67%	-13	-37.14%	2	10.00%
29	13	19	17	13	58	36	6	46.15%	-2	-10.53%	-4	-23.53%	45	346.15%	-22	-37.93%	23	176.92%
7	58	62	64	61	54	33	4	6.90%	2	3.23%	-3	-4.69%	-7	-11.48%	-21	-38.89%	-25	-43.10%
28	22	34	67	85	70	36	12	54.55%	33	97.06%	18	26.87%	-15	-17.65%	-34	-48.57%	14	63.64%
27	6	3	2	4	18	9	-3	-50.00%	-1	-33.33%	2	100.00%	14	350.00%	-9	-50.00%	3	50.00%
25	56	42	45	57	26	8	-14	-25.00%	3	7.14%	12	26.67%	-31	-54.39%	-18	-69.23%	-48	-85.71%
14	16	33	43	4	28	7	17	106.25%	10	30.30%	-39	-90.70%	24	600.00%	-21	-75.00%	-9	-56.25%

Appendix C

District		Felon Filings By District and Year																
		Ranked from highest to lowest increases and lowest to highest decreases																
		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2000-2005						
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%						
9	256	300	301	254	267	501	44	17.19%	1	0.33%	-47	-15.61%	13	5.12%	234	87.64%	245	95.70%
3	455	444	537	530	783	962	-11	-2.42%	93	20.95%	-7	-1.30%	253	47.74%	179	22.86%	507	111.43%
31	216	265	412	307	310	369	49	22.69%	147	55.47%	-105	-25.49%	3	0.98%	59	19.03%	153	70.83%
17	325	334	385	500	568	674	9	2.77%	51	15.27%	115	29.87%	68	13.60%	106	18.66%	349	107.38%
19	847	972	846	892	1,011	1,193	125	14.76%	-126	-12.96%	46	5.44%	119	13.34%	182	18.00%	346	40.85%
2	684	661	782	749	992	1,148	-23	-3.36%	121	18.31%	-33	-4.22%	243	32.44%	156	15.73%	464	67.84%
23	666	654	937	807	1,013	1,153	-12	-1.80%	283	43.27%	-130	-13.87%	206	25.53%	140	13.82%	487	73.12%
28	380	448	441	476	584	636	68	17.89%	-7	-1.56%	35	7.94%	108	22.69%	52	8.90%	256	67.37%
22	865	943	1,124	1,136	1,264	1,365	78	9.02%	181	19.19%	12	1.07%	128	11.27%	101	7.99%	500	57.80%
7	186	185	141	170	191	197	-1	-0.54%	-44	-23.78%	29	20.57%	21	12.35%	6	3.14%	11	5.91%
13	849	867	979	924	1,204	1,233	18	2.12%	112	12.92%	-55	-5.62%	280	30.30%	29	2.41%	384	45.23%
29	440	460	608	499	580	590	20	4.55%	148	32.17%	-109	-17.93%	81	16.23%	10	1.72%	150	34.09%
25	682	566	707	683	724	723	-116	-17.01%	141	24.91%	-24	-3.39%	41	6.00%	-1	-0.14%	41	6.01%
15	695	694	846	975	1,122	1,116	-1	-0.14%	152	21.90%	129	15.25%	147	15.08%	-6	-0.53%	421	60.58%
21	588	640	648	776	757	737	52	8.84%	8	1.25%	128	19.75%	-19	-2.45%	-20	-2.64%	149	25.34%
10	754	832	928	1,384	1,302	1,260	78	10.34%	96	11.54%	456	49.14%	-82	-5.92%	-42	-3.23%	506	67.11%
30	9,440	8,853	9,531	7,857	7,841	7,506	-587	-6.22%	678	7.66%	-1,674	-17.56%	-16	-0.20%	-335	-4.27%	-1,934	-20.49%
1	1,057	1,020	1,293	1,629	1,615	1,528	-37	-3.50%	273	26.76%	336	25.99%	-14	-0.86%	-87	-5.39%	471	44.56%
6	1,199	1,285	1,281	1,739	1,446	1,336	86	7.17%	-4	-0.31%	458	35.75%	-293	-16.85%	-110	-7.61%	137	11.43%
5	246	175	257	373	324	298	-71	-28.86%	82	46.86%	116	45.14%	-49	-13.14%	-26	-8.02%	52	21.14%
16	1,102	1,014	1,260	1,321	1,181	1,080	-88	-7.99%	246	24.26%	61	4.84%	-140	-10.60%	-101	-8.55%	-22	-2.00%
24	396	419	518	486	474	433	23	5.81%	99	23.63%	-32	-6.18%	-12	-2.47%	-41	-8.65%	37	9.34%
18	714	774	746	772	881	797	60	8.40%	-28	-3.62%	26	3.49%	109	14.12%	-84	-9.53%	83	11.62%
11	1,524	1,573	1,604	2,164	2,817	2,535	49	3.22%	31	1.97%	560	34.91%	653	30.18%	-282	-10.01%	1,011	66.34%
20	3,810	4,075	4,061	4,605	4,772	4,242	265	6.96%	-14	-0.34%	544	13.40%	167	3.63%	-530	-11.11%	432	11.34%
4	670	693	681	883	1,164	1,019	23	3.43%	-12	-1.73%	202	29.66%	281	31.82%	-145	-12.46%	349	52.09%
8	669	636	651	744	948	801	-33	-4.93%	15	2.36%	93	14.29%	204	27.42%	-147	-15.51%	132	19.73%
26	937	909	845	804	963	807	-28	-2.99%	-64	-7.04%	-41	-4.85%	159	19.78%	-156	-16.20%	-130	-13.87%
12	1,078	967	1,076	1,107	1,241	1,023	-111	-10.30%	109	11.27%	31	2.88%	134	12.10%	-218	-17.57%	-55	-5.10%
14	259	259	378	424	523	430	0	0.00%	119	45.95%	46	12.17%	99	23.35%	-93	-17.78%	171	66.02%
27	322	326	330	340	435	347	4	1.24%	4	1.23%	10	3.03%	95	27.94%	-88	-20.23%	25	7.76%

Appendix D

TENNESSEE JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



- District 1 - Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties
- District 2 - Sullivan County
- District 3 - Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties
- District 4 - Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties
- District 5 - Blount County
- District 6 - Knox County
- District 7 - Anderson County
- District 8 - Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties
- District 9 - Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane Counties
- District 10 - Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties
- District 11 - Hamilton County
- District 12 - Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties
- District 13 - Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties
- District 14 - Coffee County
- District 15 - Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties
- District 16 - Cannon and Rutherford Counties
- District 17 - Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties
- District 18 - Sumner County
- District 19 - Montgomery and Robertson Counties
- District 20 - Davidson County
- District 21 - Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties
- District 22 - Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties
- District 23 - Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties
- District 24 - Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Henry Counties
- District 25 - Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton Counties
- District 26 - Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties
- District 27 - Obion and Weakley Counties
- District 28 - Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood Counties
- District 29 - Dyer and Lake Counties
- District 30 - Shelby County
- District 31 - Van Buren and Warren Counties

Appendix E

FY 2004-2005 Tennessee Weighted Caseload Model for State Court Judges

Row	Casetype	District	District	District	District										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Case Filings per District			
1	Civil	1,241	1,031	1,244	1,668	810	4,103	943	1,094	821	1,284				
2	Domestic	2,760	2,305	3,883	3,017	869	5,757	1,091	1,107	822	3,457				
3	Probate	221	728	494	231	35	1,803	288	367	84	397				
4	Felonies	1,528	1,148	962	1,019	298	1,336	197	801	501	1,260				
5	Misdemeanor	374	189	210	355	113	769	164	395	227	301				
6	Criminal Other	234	504	77	303	26	121	33	38	22	127				
7	Total Filings	6,358	5,905	6,870	6,593	2,151	13,889	2,716	3,802	2,477	6,826				
8	Workload	395,357	373,544	410,203	413,579	144,161	901,366	179,360	251,848	164,941	415,298				
9	Rural Adjustment (+)			61,530	62,037	21,624		26,904	37,777	24,741	62,295				
10	Adjusted Workload	395,357	373,544	471,733	475,616	165,785	901,366	206,264	289,625	189,682	477,593				
11	Judge Year	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160				
12	Travel Adjustment (-)**	6,225	6,225	6,225	6,225	280	280	280	9,154	6,225	6,225				
13	Non-Casework Adj. (-)	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243				
14	Adjusted Judge Yr.	84,692	84,692	84,692	84,692	90,637	90,637	90,637	81,763	84,692	84,692				
15	Total # of Judges	5	4	5	4.9	2.1	10	2	3	3	5				
16	Judicial Res. Needed	4.67	4.41	5.57	5.62	1.83	9.94	2.28	3.54	2.24	5.64				
17	FTE Deficit or Excess	0.33	-0.41	-0.57	-0.72	0.27	0.06	-0.28	-0.54	0.76	-0.64				
18	Child Support Referee	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes				
20	Category***	T	T	R	R	R	U	R	R	R	R				
21	Civil Resources Needed	3.03	2.98	4.46	4.19	1.48	8.50	2.00	2.50	1.62	4.15				
22	Criminal Resources Needed	1.64	1.43	1.11	1.42	0.34	1.45	0.28	1.04	0.62	1.49				
**	Travel adjusted based on High (9,154) Medium (6225), and Low (280) average travel time.														
***	U = Urban (established economic center), T = Transitional (significant population gains and/or regional economic center), R = Rural.														

Appendix E

FY 2004-2005 Tennessee Weighted Caseload Model for State Court Judges

	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	District	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Case Filings per District							
Casetype																			
1 Civil	3,399	1,049	1,528	530	1,075	1,922	818	1,536	1,254	7,819	1,250								
2 Domestic	3,725	3,209	1,182	789	1,627	3,098	2,536	2,160	2,328	6,336	2,246								
3 Probate	1,156	247	245	184	243	51	386	448	412	1,955	581								
4 Felonies	2,535	1,023	1,233	430	1,116	1,080	674	797	1,193	4,242	737								
5 Misdemeanors	1,852	575	1,180	73	740	667	99	202	517	748	352								
6 Criminal Other	100	64	173	7	43	34	229	64	120	1,564	149								
7 Total Filings	12,767	6,167	5,541	2,013	4,844	6,852	4,742	5,207	5,824	22,664	5,315								
8 Workload	820,257	359,792	353,025	132,417	300,246	426,545	285,855	341,433	363,695	1,580,111	334,425								
9 Rural Adjustment (+)		53,969	52,954	19,863	45,037		42,878												
10 Adjusted Workload	820,257	413,761	405,979	152,280	345,283	426,545	328,733	341,433	363,695	1,580,111	334,425								
11 Judge Year	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160								
12 Travel Adjustment (-)**	280	9,154	9,154	280	9,154	6,225	6,225	280	6,225	280	6,225								
13 Non-Case Work Adjustment (-)	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243								
14 Adjusted Judge Year	90,637	81,763	81,763	90,637	81,763	84,692	84,692	90,637	84,692	90,637	84,692								
15 # Judges	9	4	5	2	4	5	3	3	4	18	4								
16 Judicial Resources Needed	9.05	5.06	4.97	1.68	4.22	5.04	3.88	3.77	4.29	17.43	3.95								
17 FTE Deficit or Excess	-0.05	-1.06	0.03	0.32	-0.22	-0.04	-0.88	-0.77	-0.29	0.57	0.05								
18 Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No															
20 Category***	U	R	R	R	R	T	R	T	T	U	T								
21 Civil Resources Needed	6.25	3.68	2.99	1.24	2.69	3.81	2.98	3.01	2.97	12.68	3.06								
22 Criminal Resources Needed	2.80	1.38	1.98	0.44	1.54	1.22	0.90	0.76	1.32	4.75	0.88								
**	Travel adjusted based on High (9,154) Medium (6225), and Low (280) average travel time.																		
***	U = Urban (established economic center), T = Transitional (significant population gains and/or regional economic center), R = Rural.																		

Appendix E

FY 2004-2005 Tennessee Weighted Caseload Model for State Court Judges

	District 22	District 23	District 24	District 25	District 26	District 27	District 28	District 29	District 30	District 31	Totals
Casetype	Case Filings per District										
1 Civil	1,353	704	772	1,048	1,771	793	657	560	7,203	336	51,616
2 Domestic	2,194	1,884	859	1,806	1,993	1,233	891	692	4,395	609	70,860
3 Probate	635	161	302	649	88	224	329	27	2,488	185	15,644
4 Felonies	1,365	1,153	433	723	807	347	636	590	7,506	369	38,039
5 Misdemeanors	801	434	39	103	206	41	347	90	3,500	174	15,837
6 Criminal Other	270	178	88	8	93	9	36	36	2,228	8	6,986
7 Total Filings	6,618	4,514	2,493	4,337	4,958	2,647	2,896	1,995	27,320	1,681	198,982
8 Workload	413,834	272,646	170,283	282,340	332,446	172,852	185,211	133,595	1,844,340	105,402	
9 Rural Adjustment (+)	62,075	40,897	25,542	42,351		25,928	27,782	20,039		15,810	
10 Adjusted Workload	475,909	313,543	195,825	324,691	332,446	198,780	212,993	153,634	1,844,340	121,212	
11 Judge Year	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	104,160	
12 Travel Adjustment (-)**	6,225	9,154	9,154	9,154	6,225	6,225	6,225	6,225	280	6225	
13 Non-Casework Adjustment (-)	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	13,243	
14 Adjusted Judge Year	84,692	81,763	81,763	81,763	84,692	84,692	84,692	84,692	90,637	84,692	
15 # Judges	4	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	24	1	154.00
16 Judicial Resources Needed	5.62	3.83	2.40	3.97	3.93	2.35	2.51	1.81	20.35	1.43	157.28
17 FTE Deficit or Excess	-1.62	-0.83	0.60	0.03	0.07	-0.35	-0.51	0.19	3.65	-0.43	-3.28
18 Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No							
20 Category***	R	R	R	R	T	R	R	R	U	R	
21 Civil Resources Needed	3.67	2.29	1.86	3.17	3.08	1.98	1.69	1.16	11.49	0.98	111.64
22 Criminal Resources Needed	1.95	1.54	0.54	0.80	0.85	0.37	0.82	0.66	8.86	0.45	45.64

** Travel adjusted based on High (9,154) Medium (6225), and Low (280) average travel time.

*** U = Urban (established economic center), T = Transitional (significant population gains and/or regional economic center), R = Rural.

Appendix F: Agency Response



Administrative Office of the Courts

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RANDY C. CAMP
Director

ELIZABETH A. SYKES
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ethel Detch

**FROM: Randy C. Camp
Director**

DATE: January 17, 2005

RE: 2005 Judicial Weighted Caseload Update Comments



We have reviewed the draft 2005 weighted caseload study update received from the Comptroller's Office, and the data presented is an accurate reflection of what we collected and compiled for 2005. In reviewing the summary and the analysis we would like to offer the following comments:

Our only comments concern the recommendations section on page 6. This section recommends that we work with your office to update the judges' time study. We wholeheartedly support this recommendation and, as we indicated in our January 11th meeting, we will be happy to provide the support and assistance to make this new time study efficient and accurate. The National Center for State courts recommends that time studies be updated every 5 years. Our time study is now 7 years old and there are many things that have changed in the business of the courts that were not accounted for at all in the current study. Some examples are drug court case reviews, the child support income shares calculations that became effective last January, and the over 21,000 probation violations for the last fiscal year that are not effectively counted in the current model. These are just a few instances where the current time study is outdated and these issues can only be corrected by conducting a new, updated time study. We appreciate the Comptroller's Office's support of this important update to the judges' time study.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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