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Legislative Brief

FY2008-2009 Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Study Update

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Introduction and Background

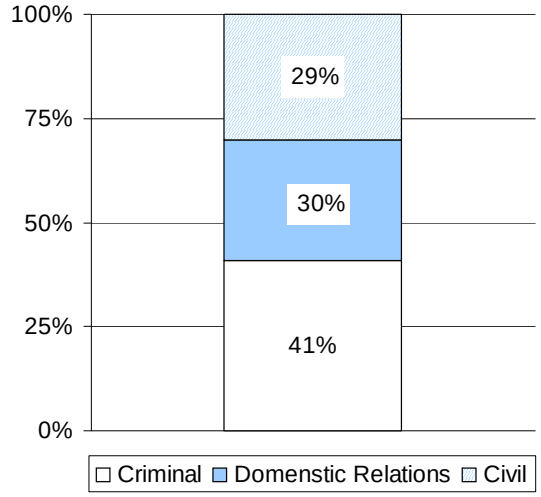
The 1997 appropriations bill[1] passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policymakers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources. The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 1998 to conduct a time study to determine the case weights that are used to calculate workload and full time equivalent judges (FTE judges) needed by each judicial district. In 2007, the Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center of State Courts to develop a revised weighted caseload model for Tennessee's general jurisdiction trial judges based on a new time study and case filings in FY 2006.[2] *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 FTE judges. This update provides estimates based on cases filed in FY 2009.

The 2007 model was adjusted in 2009 to better reflect the time required to handle complex appeals from administrative hearings in District 20 (Davidson County). A review by the Comptroller's Office of Research, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the National Center for State Courts, and the chancellors in Davidson County concluded that the case weight developed in the 2007 time study was not representative of the time required for handling complex appeals. District 20 has primary jurisdiction in the state for these complex cases. Based on available information and using a consensus approach, appeals from administrative hearing cases in Davidson County were divided between complex (35 percent) and routine (65 percent). Complex cases were estimated to average 30 hours per case and routine cases, four hours. Appeals from administrative hearings in other districts are included in the workload assessments as routine cases. Previously, these cases were accounted for only in non-case-related time. This update's estimated judicial needs reflect these adjustments to the case weights from FY2006 through FY 2009.

The estimated number of FTE judges 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 judges' annual availability for case-specific work.

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as availability of judicial support staff and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources. State officials should always consider these and other court-specific factors when assessing the need for judicial resources.

Exhibit 1: Filings by Case Type, FY 2009



Source: Chart produced by Office of Research staff with data provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

Analysis and Conclusions

Case Filings

In FY 2009, 200,902 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Criminal cases accounted for 41 percent of cases, followed by domestic relations cases at 30 percent and civil cases at 29 percent. (See Exhibit 1.)

Overall, filings increased from the previous year by 1,186 cases (less than one percent). Criminal cases decreased about two percent, civil cases increased by one-half percent, and domestic relations cases increased four percent. The number of major felony, DUI, other misdemeanor, probation violation, judicial hospitalization, medical malpractice, other general civil, real estate, divorce (with children), and other domestic relations cases decreased substantially. The number of contract/debt, child support (outside of divorce), and orders of protection cases increased substantially. Exhibit 2 shows the changes in case filings by type of case.

Exhibit 2: Changes in Trial Court Case Filings by Case Type, FY 2007 – FY 2009

Case Type	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09	Change 08-09	Percent Change
Criminal	**81,865**	**83,904**	**82,451**	**-1,453**	**-1.7%**
Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	9,309	8,649	8,365	**-284**	-3.3%
Other Felony (C, D, E)	32,675	33,539	33,654	**115**	0.3%
DUI	4,047	4,409	4,159	**-250**	-5.7%
Drug Court	831	841	841	**0**	0.0%
Criminal Appeals (including juvenile delinquency)	542	551	558	**7**	1.3%
Other Misdemeanor	10,787	10,702	10,002	**-700**	-6.5%
Probation Violation	23,674	25,213	24,872	**-341**	-1.4%
Civil	**58,357**	**57,405**	**57,720**	**315**	**0.5%**
Administrative Hearings Routine	267	273	345	72	26.4%
Administrative Hearings Complex (Davidson County Only)	64	60	68	8	13.3%
Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	7,027	8,193	9,353	1,160	14.2%
Damages/Tort	11,399	10,634	10,659	25	0.2%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,188	2,308	2,352	44	1.9%
Judicial Hospitalization	753	826	628	-198	-24.0%
Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	204	260	247	-13	-5.0%
Medical Malpractice	584	537	426	-111	-20.7%
Probate/Trust	10,708	10,836	10,795	-41	-0.4%
Other General Civil	14,327	14,001	13,532	-469	-3.3%
Real Estate	2,178	1,986	1,741	-245	-12.3%
Workers Compensation	8,658	7,491	7,574	83	1.1%
Domestic Relations	**58,894**	**58,407**	**60,731**	**2,324**	**4.0%**
Child Support (outside of divorce)	11,127	12,026	13,885	1,859	15.5%
Divorce with Children	14,410	14,073	13,903	-170	-1.2%
Divorce without Children	17,513	17,003	17,055	52	0.3%
Protection of Children	4,035	4,073	4,005	-68	-1.7%
Orders of Protection	7,113	7,399	8,286	887	12.0%
Other Domestic Relations	4,696	3,833	3,597	-236	-6.2%
Total Filings	**199,116**	**199,716**	**200,902**	**1,186**	**0.6%**

Notes: (a) Beginning in FY 2008, the AOC added parental residential plans as original case filings under Child Support increasing these filings by 132 cases. (b) Administrative hearings complex are estimated at 35% of total administrative hearings for Davidson County only.
Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff based on data provided by the AOC.

Full Time Equivalent Judges

Based on FY 2009 case filing data and workload, the state has an estimated net excess of 1.71 FTE judges. (See Exhibit 3.) The decrease in more time-intensive cases, such as major felonies, medical malpractice, contracts, and divorce with children, resulted in an estimated 1.71 excess FTE judges compared to the 1.36 excess in FY 2008.

Exhibit 4 shows the estimated deficit or excess of FTE judges by district over time.[3,4] According to the weighted caseload model, four districts are under the estimated need for judges in FY 2009 by 0.8 FTE judge or more:

- District 20 (Davidson County) shows a need for 2.87 FTE judges for FY 2009 and has had a need for about two additional judges for the last four years.
- District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson counties) shows a need for 1.94 FTE judges in FY 2009 and over one judge for the last four years.
- District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne counties) shows a need for 0.89 FTE judge in FY 2009 and has had a need for about one additional judge for the last six years.
- District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson counties) shows a need for .87 FTE judge in FY 2009.

Four districts are over the estimated need for judges in FY 2009 by 0.8 FTE judge or more:

- District 30 (Shelby County) shows an excess of 2.47 FTE judges in FY 2009 compared to an excess of 1.66 in FY 2008 and .78 in FY 2007.
- District 11 (Hamilton County) shows an excess of 1.13 FTE judges in FY 2009 compared to an excess of 0.66 in FY 2008.
- District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane counties) shows an excess of .98 FTE judge in FY 2009 and has had an excess of about one judge for the last four years.
- District 14 (Coffee County) shows an excess of 0.86 FTE judge in FY 2009 compared to an excess of 0.81 in FY 2008.

Exhibit 3: Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)

State Net FTE Judges	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	Revised FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY 09
Total Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)	151.00	153.25	154.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00
Total Judicial Resources Needed (FTE Judges)	154.32	157.21	157.28	157.13	152.10	150.64	150.29
Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)	**-3.32**	**-3.96**	**-3.28**	**-5.13**	**-0.10**	**1.36**	**1.71**

Note: The estimates for FY 2006 through FY 2009 are based on the 2007 weighted caseload model revised to reflect a change in the case weights for Appeals from Administrative Hearings. Beginning in FY 2006, total judicial resources no longer include two locally-funded probate judges or their cases in District 30.
Source: Calculations by Office of Research staff based on data provided by the AOC.

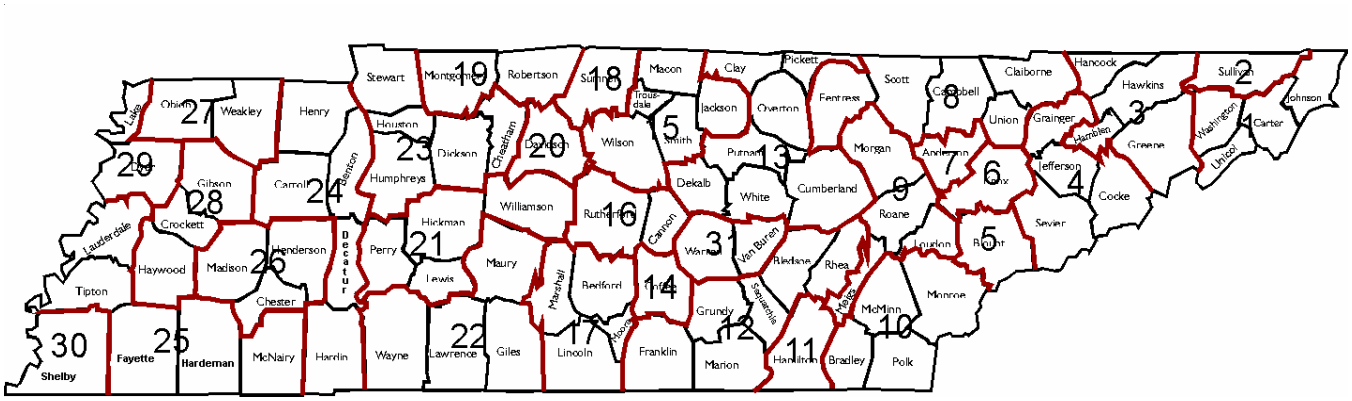
Exhibit 4: Difference between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Judges and Need for FTE Judges by District, FY 2005 – FY 2009

Judicial District (Counties)	FY 2005	New Model FY 2006 (a)	New Model FY 2007	New Model FY 2008	New Model FY 2009
District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	0.33	-0.49	-0.04	0.34	0.48
District 2 (Sullivan)	-0.41	0.55	0.26	0.40	0.56
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock,and Hawkins)	-0.57	0.53	0.61	0.62	0.63
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.72	0.36	0.04	-0.15	-0.48
District 5 (Blount)	0.27	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.21
District 6 (Knox)	0.06	-0.18	0.12	0.10	0.00
District 7 (Anderson)	-0.28	0.41	0.37	0.10	0.11
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.54	-0.32	-0.29	-0.33	-0.19
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	0.76	0.96	1.19	1.11	0.98
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	-0.64	-0.49	-0.18	0.01	-0.16
District 11 (Hamilton)	-0.05	-0.61	0.16	0.66	1.13
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-1.06	-0.73	-0.47	-0.15	-0.23
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	0.03	0.38	0.55	-0.09	0.03
District 14 (Coffee)	0.32	0.59	0.62	0.81	0.86
District 15 (Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	-0.22	-0.35	0.08	0.00	0.15
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	-0.04	-0.58	-0.32	-0.18	-0.58
District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	-0.88	0.14	0.06	0.48	0.55
District 18 (Sumner)	-0.77	-0.91	-0.59	-0.52	-0.55
District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	-0.29	-1.46	-1.78	-1.81	-1.94
District 20 (Davidson)	0.57	-2.73	-1.93	-1.87	-2.87
District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	0.05	-0.39	-0.49	-0.70	-0.87
District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-1.62	-1.04	-1.01	-1.03	-0.89
District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.83	-0.43	-0.27	-0.43	-0.33
District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.60	0.60	0.46	0.58	0.77
District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	0.03	0.17	0.37	-0.09	-0.02
District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.07	0.18	0.39	0.37	0.23
District 27 (Obion and Weakley)	-0.35	0.31	0.43	0.45	0.53
District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)	-0.51	0.09	0.15	0.44	0.55
District 29 (Dyer and Lake)	0.19	0.41	0.44	0.33	0.62
District 30 (Shelby) (b)	3.65	-0.15	0.78	1.66	2.47
District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)	-0.43	-0.18	-0.08	-0.02	-0.05
Statewide Excess or Deficit FTE Judges	**-3.28**	**-5.13**	**-0.10**	**1.36**	**1.71**

Notes: (a) FY 2006 through FY 2009 based on 2007 weighted caseload model adjusted for case weight changes for Appeals from Administrative Hearings in 2009; prior years based on 1999 model. (b) The estimates for FY 2006 through FY 2009 exclude two locally-funded probate judges and their cases.

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

Appendix A: 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

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts, 2006.

Appendix B: Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Update, FY 2009, Case Filings per Judicial District

			Case Filings per Judicial District				
	Case Type	Case Weight	1	2	3	4	5
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	159	164	160	210	30
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,018	931	1,260	1,342	497
	DUI	74	93	25	89	156	22
	Drug Court	140					30
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	78	2	8	20	10
	Other Misdemeanor	24	234	140	269	504	93
	Probation Violation	17	1,111	796	466	1,020	463
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	4	1	5	2	
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	0
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	169	166	158	657	149
	Damages/Tort	82	270	205	282	357	188
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	75	36	74	36	22
	Judicial Hospitalization	17	5	23	3	1	8
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35	5	7	12	14	
	Medical Malpractice	679	18	22	2	1	
	Probate/Trust	20	514	526	673	165	1
	Other General Civil	42	450	360	386	300	207
	Real Estate	180	50	41	57	91	49
	Workers Compensation	41	68	44	99	98	59
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	412	453	1,160	701	240
	Divorce with Children	94	538	382	490	452	168
	Divorce without Children	32	718	521	654	603	184
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	138	98	239	180	112
	Orders of Protection	18	56	185	342	582	21
	Other Domestic Relations	6	153	17	272	275	5
	Total Filings		**6,336**	**5,145**	**7,160**	**7,767**	**2,558**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**300,906**	**249,631**	**309,355**	**382,767**	**130,565**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		8,094.26	2,149.00	3,906.50	4,863.64	1,680.00
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**66,610**	**72,555**	**70,797**	**69,840**	**73,024**
	# Judges		5	4	5	5	2
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		4.52	3.44	4.37	5.48	1.79
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**0.48**	**0.56**	**0.63**	**-0.48**	**0.21**
	Criminal Judges Needed		1.66	1.26	1.52	2.02	0.61
	Civil Judges Needed		1.49	1.22	1.30	2.07	0.73
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		1.36	0.96	1.55	1.39	0.44
	Child Support Magistrate		No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

	Case Type	Case Weight	Case Filings per Judicial District 6	7	8	9	10
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	336	57	97	51	196
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,509	351	989	494	1,333
	DUI	74	324	33	65	46	93
	Drug Court	140	80	30	30		30
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	1	44	2	3	
	Other Misdemeanor	24	360	181	118	55	198
	Probation Violation	17	1,136	188	950	204	1,065
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	6	1	12	2	3
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	0
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	750	69	214	168	254
	Damages/Tort	82	1,078	170	251	202	356
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	562	41	34	19	49
	Judicial Hospitalization	17	90				
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35	43	44	2	3	
	Medical Malpractice	679	41	8	2	4	4
	Probate/Trust	20	1,228	249	335	70	343
	Other General Civil	42	1,261	242	110	143	358
	Real Estate	180	62	12	100	75	85
	Workers Compensation	41	536	240	109	104	166
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	635	391	394	633	829
	Divorce with Children	94	1,013	140	238	69	564
	Divorce without Children	32	1,335	190	212	102	713
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	246	168	67	117	158
	Orders of Protection	18	2,673	114	3		481
	Other Domestic Relations	6	55	517	132	255	106
	Total Filings		**15,360**	**3,480**	**4,466**	**2,819**	**7,384**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**745,116**	**141,066**	**217,126**	**135,095**	**348,197**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		218.46	218.46	6,705.85	7,804.27	7,173.87
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**74,485**	**74,485**	**67,998**	**66,900**	**67,530**
	# Judges		10	2	3	3	5
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		10.00	1.89	3.19	2.02	5.16
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**0.00**	**0.11**	**-0.19**	**0.98**	**-0.16**
	Criminal Judges Needed		2.59	0.57	1.34	0.60	1.93
	Civil Judges Needed		4.59	0.78	1.25	0.97	1.60
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		2.83	0.54	0.61	0.45	1.62
	Child Support Magistrate		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

	Case Type	Case Weight	Case Filings per Judicial District 11	12	13	14	15
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	488	148	276	44	150
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,563	758	1,188	287	932
	DUI	74	270	150	328	28	123
	Drug Court	140	30	25			25
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	92	8	14		13
	Other Misdemeanor	24	966	262	863	69	466
	Probation Violation	17	1,355	807	1,344	187	549
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	11	4	5		4
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	0
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	511	166	216	45	225
	Damages/Tort	82	644	223	296	127	227
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	315	51	82	11	35
	Judicial Hospitalization	17	131	1	4		3
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35		17	8	1	2
	Medical Malpractice	679	8	7	4	1	8
	Probate/Trust	20	718	225	212	169	205
	Other General Civil	42	926	229	245	186	242
	Real Estate	180	57	65	120	4	64
	Workers Compensation	41	508	125	183	68	132
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	229	939	323	186	215
	Divorce with Children	94	711	368	401	146	396
	Divorce without Children	32	967	444	481	181	528
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	291	164	137	36	117
	Orders of Protection	18	767	182	3	2	47
	Other Domestic Relations	6	212	577	24	9	33
	Total Filings		**11,770**	**5,945**	**6,757**	**1,787**	**4,741**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**586,052**	**256,086**	**339,998**	**84,735**	**252,491**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		218.46	14,172.68	6,309.21	218.46	9,104.51
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**74,485**	**60,531**	**68,395**	**74,485**	**65,599**
	# Judges		9	4	5	2	4
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		7.87	4.23	4.97	1.14	3.85
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**1.13**	**-0.23**	**0.03**	**0.86**	**0.15**
	Criminal Judges Needed		3.16	1.60	2.53	0.38	1.58
	Civil Judges Needed		2.95	1.27	1.47	0.42	1.28
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		1.76	1.36	0.97	0.34	0.99
	Child Support Magistrate		No	Yes	No	No	No

	Case Type	Case Weight	Case Filings per Judicial District 16	17	18	19	20
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	281	132	101	339	1,752
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	927	409	762	1,117	3,622
	DUI	74	132	9	84	214	550
	Drug Court	140	50		100		150
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	9	5	16	32	43
	Other Misdemeanor	24	412	29	128	511	699
	Probation Violation	17	969	107	647	940	3,477
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	10	3	3	5	127
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	68
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	327	83	238	158	1,351
	Damages/Tort	82	460	131	215	325	1,384
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	25	32	64	41	249
	Judicial Hospitalization	17	7	1	1		232
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35	9		7	8	14
	Medical Malpractice	679	13		3	4	110
	Probate/Trust	20	26	354	381	431	1,528
	Other General Civil	42	847	258	575	403	1,523
	Real Estate	180	82	41	60	79	46
	Workers Compensation	41	258	144	81	118	2,981
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	455	412	439	629	908
	Divorce with Children	94	776	329	424	909	967
	Divorce without Children	32	780	358	458	947	1,376
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	136	67	159	186	147
	Orders of Protection	18	679	62	446	11	1,019
	Other Domestic Relations	6	57	41	42	10	332
	Total Filings		**7,727**	**3,007**	**5,434**	**7,417**	**24,655**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**413,061**	**155,188**	**264,415**	**391,841**	**1,541,761**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		721.71	11,465.78	218.46	8,695.76	831.35
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**73,982**	**63,238**	**74,485**	**66,008**	**73,873**
	# Judges		5	3	3	4	18
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		5.58	2.45	3.55	5.94	20.87
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**-0.58**	**0.55**	**-0.55**	**-1.94**	**-2.87**
	Criminal Judges Needed		1.85	0.73	1.18	2.40	8.45
	Civil Judges Needed		2.02	0.85	1.30	1.45	9.97
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		1.71	0.88	1.06	2.09	2.45
	Child Support Magistrate		Yes	No	No	Yes	No

	Case Type	Case Weight	Case Filings per Judicial District 21	22	23	24	25	26
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	119	346	163	119	190	181
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	665	1,182	865	454	758	596
	DUI	74	137	212	142	43	99	71
	Drug Court	140	75		35			60
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	11	44	47	16	2	3
	Other Misdemeanor	24	195	611	359	31	60	164
	Probation Violation	17	532	993	675	443	595	562
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	27	20	1	1	2	4
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	545	163	154	101	437	280
	Damages/Tort	82	318	192	132	153	209	305
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	116	61	17	26	111	23
	Judicial Hospitalization	17	1	1		1	113	1
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35	8	11	2	2	4	
	Medical Malpractice	679	2	7	6	11	3	8
	Probate/Trust	20	474	465	131	251	330	125
	Other General Civil	42	531	331	274	164	250	516
	Real Estate	180	93	39	42	39	57	29
	Workers Compensation	41	94	187	57	141	77	161
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	468	697	368	158	124	191
	Divorce with Children	94	527	406	359	212	378	544
	Divorce without Children	32	460	466	453	192	787	865
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	118	126	194	54	71	76
	Orders of Protection	18	5	231	56	3	55	5
	Other Domestic Relations	6	103	105	25	11	25	12
	Total Filings		**5,624**	**6,896**	**4,557**	**2,626**	**4,737**	**4,782**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**321,640**	**329,531**	**230,940**	**144,571**	**263,597**	**275,064**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		8,629.71	7,268.07	5,362.22	9,760.73	9,213.92	1,655.21
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**66,074**	**67,436**	**69,342**	**64,943**	**65,490**	**73,049**
	# Judges		4	4	3	3	4	4
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		4.87	4.89	3.33	2.23	4.02	3.77
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**-0.87**	**-0.89**	**-0.33**	**0.77**	**-0.02**	**0.23**
	Criminal Judges Needed		1.32	2.47	1.54	0.84	1.35	1.20
	Civil Judges Needed		2.34	1.26	0.83	0.89	1.64	1.38
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		1.21	1.16	0.95	0.49	1.04	1.19
	Child Support Magistrate		No	No	Yes	No	No	No

	Case Type	Case Weight	27	28	29	30	31	Totals
			Case Filings per Judicial District					
Criminal	Major Felony (A, B, capital cases)	182	66	62	116	1,782	50	8,365
	Other Felony (C, D, E)	45	216	325	434	6,600	270	33,654
	DUI	74	7	28	17	531	38	4,159
	Drug Court	140	40		26		25	841
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	50	4	7	6	13	5	558
	Other Misdemeanor	24	26	65	67	1,720	147	10,002
	Probation Violation	17	130	274	195	2,455	237	24,872
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings Routine	240	1	4	1	76	0	345
	Administrative Hearings-Complex-Davidson Co.	1800	0	0	0	0	0	68
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	115	42	74	33	1,402	48	9,353
	Damages/Tort	82	73	103	62	1,675	46	10,659
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	41	34	80	9	3	19	2,352
	Judicial Hospitalization	17					1	628
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	35		4		20		247
	Medical Malpractice	679	3		10	114	2	426
	Probate/Trust	20	197	251	86	4	128	10,795
	Other General Civil	42	150	147	81	1,752	85	13,532
	Real Estate	180	45	22	11	104	20	1,741
	Workers Compensation	41	310	48	37	304	37	7,574
Domestic Relations	Child Support (outside of divorce)	20	148	399	349	272	128	13,885
	Divorce with Children	94	145	150	128	1,472	101	13,903
	Divorce without Children	32	180	148	171	1,515	66	17,055
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR)	47	45	26	19	271	42	4,005
	Orders of Protection	18		2	51	6	197	8,286
	Other Domestic Relations	6	61	10	5	89	27	3,597
	Total Filings		**1,923**	**2,229**	**1,914**	**22,180**	**1,719**	**200,902**
	Workload (Weights x Filings)		**101,501**	**101,734**	**102,469**	**1,454,604**	**78,146**	**10,649,250**
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 7.5 hrs per day)		94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500	94,500
	Average District Travel per year		5,620.91	4,508.05	625.94	215.19	362.25	3,836
	Non-case related Time (1.57 hrs/day)		19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796	19,796
	Availability for Case-Specific Work		**69,083**	**70,196**	**74,078**	**74,489**	**74,342**	**70,868**
	# Judges		2	2	2	22	1	152
	Total Jud. Off. Demand		1.47	1.45	1.38	19.53	1.05	150.29
	FTE Deficit or Excess		**0.53**	**0.55**	**0.62**	**2.47**	**-0.05**	**1.71**
	Criminal Judges Needed		0.45	0.50	0.69	10.03	0.48	58.82
	Civil Judges Needed		0.66	0.55	0.34	6.72	0.31	55.90
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed		0.36	0.40	0.36	2.77	0.27	35.57
	Child Support Magistrate		No	No	No	No	No	

Source: Model developed by National Center of State Courts in 2007 with a revision to case weights for Administrative Hearings in 2009. Data for FY 2009 filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

Endnotes

[1] Public Chapter 552 (1997), Section 12, Item 35.

[2] National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2007, www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/RA_RE/ORreports.asp. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.

[3] See Appendix A for a map of Tennessee Judicial Districts.

[4] See Appendix B for the detailed calculations of judicial resource need statewide and by judicial district.

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