



SALLY HOLEWA
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

State of North Dakota
OFFICE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

July 7, 2021

20210177
FILED JULY 8, 2021
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
SUPREME COURT
Judicial Wing, 1st Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 180
Bismarck, ND 58505-0530
701: (701) 328-4216
Fax: (701) 328-2092

TO: Sally Holewa
FROM: Don Wolf
SUBJECT: 2020/2021 Annualized Weighted Caseload Study

Attached is the weighted caseload (WCL) statistics report based on the average filings for 2021 and 2020. The 2021 filings are based on the six month period ending June 30, 2021 annualized to project the total for calendar year 2021.

Highlights of the WCL include:

The total case filings are projected to be **160,382** for 2021 as compared to 154,231 for 2020, or an increase of 6,151 cases. Based on the estimated 2021 case filings, there will be overall increases in felonies (261 cases), contract collection (636 cases) and administrative traffic (5,327 cases). However, case filings are projected to **decrease** in small claims (454 cases) and forcible detainer (320 cases). The following charts summarize the WCL trends per district.

TOTAL JUDICIAL OFFICER NEED – 3 YEAR TREND			
District	2019 WCL	2020 WCL	2021 WCL
NEJD	5.61	5.24	5.65
NECJD	6.76	6.15	6.33
SEJD	6.51	6.33	5.93
ECJD	13.15	13.38	13.28
SCJD	12.76	12.26	12.84
SWJD	3.52	3.32	3.14
NWJD	6.38	5.63	5.82
NCJD	7.16	6.80	6.41
Total	61.85	59.11	59.40

Districts Showing a Judicial Officer Shortage			
District	2019/2020 (Shortage)	2020/2021 (Shortage)	Net Change to Previous Study
NECJD	(1.45)	(1.24)	Decreased need of 0.21
ECJD	(2.27)	(2.33)	Increased need of 0.06
<i>SCJD</i>	<i>(0.51)</i>	<i>(0.55)</i>	<i>Increased need of 0.04</i>
NCJD	(0.98)	(0.61)	Decreased need of 0.37

Districts Showing a Judicial Officer Overage			
District	2019/2020 Overage	2020/2021 Overage	Net Change to Previous Study
NEJD	0.58	0.55	Increased need of 0.03
SEJD	0.58	0.87	Decreased need of 0.29
SWJD	0.58	0.77	Decreased need of 0.19
NWJD	(0.00)	0.28	Decreased need of 0.28

2020/2021 Net Judicial Officer Shortage 2.25
2019/2020 Net Judicial Officer Shortage 3.47

SCJD – The total filings for the SCJD are estimated to **increase** by 1,632 from 2020 to 2021, primarily due to an increase in felonies (176 cases), administrative traffic (1,269) and misdemeanors (265 cases). The net result is an anticipated increase in the one-year judge need of 0.58.

JUDICIAL OFFICER WEIGHTED CASELOAD STUDY
BASED ON AVERAGE OF 2020 and 2021 CASE FILINGS (Annualized cases as of June 30, 2021)

Based on Total Judicial Officers as of December 31, 2020

Case Type	Case Weight	Unit 1		Unit 2		Unit 3		Unit 4		ALL
		NE	NEC	SE	EC	SC	SW	NW	NC	
Criminal Major	181.29	577	774	524	1,997	2,046	296	677	826	7,716
Criminal Minor	26.48	2,700	1,969	2,227	3,486	4,038	1,591	2,586	1,818	20,414
Criminal Summary	0.37	9,429	9,803	13,928	13,663	16,797	9,301	11,344	11,281	95,545
Civil Major	671.05	24	36	38	128	85	28	62	39	438
Civil Minor	54.86	697	1,006	963	1,849	1,361	408	733	841	7,857
Civil Summary	6.65	888	1,489	1,177	2,480	2,517	804	1,336	1,537	12,226
Family Major	152.14	186	265	279	706	535	219	252	405	2,844
Family Minor	53.63	244	258	266	521	508	124	262	325	2,506
Family Summary	46.44	25	65	42	98	83	23	42	36	413
Probate Major	228.76	33	40	80	96	98	27	64	60	497
Probate Minor	32.02	91	135	224	337	231	86	151	135	1,389
Probate Summary	9.93	374	163	449	381	524	300	596	396	3,181
Juvenile Delinquency	106.60	64	132	45	266	149	20	33	29	737
Juvenile Dependency	239.18	127	182	70	214	198	64	92	182	1,127
Juvenile - Other	30.00	34	37	52	124	64	21	32	59	421
Total Filings		15,491	16,350	20,360	26,345	29,230	13,308	18,259	17,966	157,307
Weighted Filings		334,165	415,611	356,579	922,505	844,581	216,177	392,169	435,348	3,917,136
Presiding judge time at 47.14 min/day		9,664	9,664	9,664	9,664	9,664	9,664	9,664	9,664	77,310
Total workload		343,829	425,275	366,243	932,169	854,245	225,840	401,833	445,012	3,994,445
Judge Year (Minutes) 205 Days		86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	86,100	
Avg. Non-Case time for all judicial FTEs 54.29 min/day		11,130	11,130	11,130	11,130	11,130	11,130	11,130	11,130	
Adjusted Judge Year (judge year less non case time)		74,970	74,970	74,970	74,970	74,970	74,970	74,970	74,970	
Travel Adjustment		-10,250	-2,116	-11,070	-2,888	-5,426	-4,979	-4,774	-4,774	
Adjusted min available after travel and non-case		64,720	72,854	63,900	72,082	69,544	69,991	70,196	70,196	
Number of Judges & Refs total		6.00	5.00	7.00	11.00	12.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	57.00
Judge Minutes Available		388,320	364,270	447,300	792,897	834,524	279,962	421,173	421,173	3,949,620
Workload compared to Resources (in minutes)		-44,491	61,005	-81,057	139,272	19,721	-54,122	-19,340	23,839	44,826
Weighted Case Filing Judicial Officer Need		5.31	5.84	5.73	12.93	12.28	3.23	5.72	6.34	57.39
Treatment Court Need		0.133	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.266			0.266	1.862
Total Judicial Officer Need		5.45	6.24	6.13	13.33	12.55	3.23	5.72	6.61	59.25
Current Total Judges/Referees		6.00	5.00	7.00	11.00	12.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	57.00
2020/2021 Excess (Shortage) of Judicial FTE		0.55	(1.24)	0.87	(2.33)	(0.55)	0.77	0.28	(0.61)	(2.25)
2020/21 Percent Excess (Shortage) of Judicial FTE		9.2%	-24.7%	12.4%	-21.2%	-4.6%	19.3%	4.6%	-10.1%	-3.9%
2019/20 Excess (Shortage) of Judicial FTE		0.58	(1.45)	0.58	(2.27)	(0.51)	0.58	0.00	(0.98)	(3.48)

Total Judicial Officer Need Comparison

Year	NE	NEC	SE	EC	SC	SW	NW	NC	Total
2020/21	5.45	6.24	6.13	13.33	12.55	3.23	5.72	6.61	59.25
2019/20	5.42	6.45	6.42	13.27	12.51	3.42	6.00	6.98	60.47
2018/19	5.57	6.48	6.81	12.91	13.03	3.59	6.60	6.95	61.94
2017/18	5.59	6.39	7.07	12.79	13.60	3.76	6.51	7.22	62.94
2016/17	5.78	6.42	7.03	12.77	14.06	3.92	6.53	7.80	64.31
2015/16	6.27	6.17	7.15	12.28	14.11	4.27	7.42	8.25	65.92
2014/15	6.53	6.27	7.27	11.87	13.31	4.60	8.27	8.20	66.32

Treatment Courts:

Northeast:

Devils Lake - juvenile (started in March 2009) **0.133**

Northeast Central:

Grand Forks - adult (started in August 2008) 0.133

Grand Forks - domestic violence (started in August 2018) 0.133

Grand Forks - juvenile (2000) 0.133

0.399

Southeast:

Jamestown/Valley City - juvenile (started October 2013) 0.133

Jamestown/Valley City - adult (Started August 2019) 0.133

Richland County - adult/DUI (Started in January 2019) 0.133

0.399

East Central:

Fargo - adult (started in 2003) 0.133

Fargo - adult (started in December 2007) 0.133

Fargo - juvenile (2000) 0.133

0.399

South Central:

Bismarck - adult (started in 2001) 0.133

Bismarck - juvenile (2002) 0.133

0.266

North Central:

Minot - adult (started in Jan 2009) 0.133

Minot - juvenile (2007) 0.133

0.266

Northwest:

Williston - juvenile (started in Jan 2008- currently inactive) 0

0.000

Total treatment court need 1.862

Judicial officers as of December 31, 2020

	NE	NEC	SE	EC	SC	SW	NW	NC	Total
Referees	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.00
Judges	6.00	5.00	7.00	9.00	10.00	4.00	6.00	5.00	52.00
Total	6.00	5.00	7.00	11.00	12.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	57.00