

FSM SUPREME COURT



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	5
2	MESSAGE FROM ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE BEAULEEN CARL-WORSWICK.....	6
3	JUSTICES OF THE FSM SUPREME COURT.....	8
4	FSM SUPREME COURT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	9
5	STAFF OF THE FSM SUPREME COURT.....	10
5.1	POHNPEI STAFF.....	10
5.2	CHUUK STAFF	11
5.3	YAP STAFF.....	11
5.4	KOSRAE STAFF	11
6	THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	12
6.1	OUR VISION	13
6.2	OUR MISSION	13
6.3	STRATEGIC GOALS	13
7	ADMINISTRATION.....	14
7.1	ROLE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION.....	14
7.2	FSM JUDICIARY'S 4-YEAR BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS: FY 2020-2024	14
8	COOK ISLAND INDICATORS.....	15
8.1	INDICATOR 1: CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: CLEARANCE RATE	15
8.2	INDICATOR 2: CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: AVERAGE DURATION OF A CASE.....	16
8.3	INDICATOR 3: APPEALS: PERCENTAGE OF APPEALS.....	16
8.4	INDICATOR 4: APPEALS: OVERTURN RATE ON APPEALS	18
8.5	INDICATOR 5: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES THAT ARE GRANTED A COURT FEE WAIVER	18
8.6	INDICATOR 6: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES DISPOSED THROUGH A CIRCUIT OR ISLAND COURT	18
8.7	INDICATOR 7: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES WHERE A PARTY RECEIVES LEGAL AID	19
8.8	INDICATOR 8: COMPLAINTS: DOCUMENTED PROCESS FOR RECEIVING AND PROCESSING A COMPLAINT THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE	20
8.9	INDICATOR 9: COMPLAINTS: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED CONCERNING A JUDICIAL OFFICER	21
8.10	INDICATOR 10: COMPLAINTS: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED CONCERNING A COURT STAFF MEMBER	21
8.11	INDICATOR 11: HUMAN RESOURCES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CLOSED CASES PER JUDICIAL OFFICER.....	21



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

8.12	INDICATOR 12: HUMAN RESOURCES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CASES PER COURT STAFF	22
8.13	INDICATOR 13: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: COURT PRODUCES OR CONTRIBUTES TO AN ANNUAL REPORT THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR	22
8.14	INDICATOR 14: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: COURT SERVICES INFORMATION	23
8.15	INDICATOR 15: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: PUBLICATION OF COURT OPINIONS	25
8.16	INDICATOR 16: CASE MANAGEMENT: AVERAGE AGE OF THE PENDING CASELOAD	25
8.17	INDICATOR 17: CASE MANAGEMENT: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS THAT HAVE BEEN HANDLED WITHIN AN AGREED TIMEFRAME	26
8.18	INDICATOR 18: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLIMENTS AND POSITIVE FEEDBACK RECEIVED BY THE COURT	26
8.19	INDICATOR 19: HUMAN RESOURCES: THE RANGE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES	27
8.20	INDICATOR 20: HUMAN RESOURCES: THE PERCENTAGE USE OF COURTROOM	27
9	HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES	30
10	FSM NATIONAL LAW DAY 2025	31
11	CLERK of COURT DIVISION	34
12	JUSTICE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION	35
12.1	THE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION	35
12.2	TYPES OF OFFENCES BY STATES	37
13	FSM SUPREME COURT LIBRARY AND PUBLICATIONS	38
14	INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS	41
15	CONTACT US	43
16	APPENDICES	44
16.1	COOK ISLAND INDICATORS STATUS	44
16.2	DETAILED CASE ANALYSIS	45
16.3	2024 FSM SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE SURVEY	51



FIGURES & TABLES

Figure 1: Structure of the Court.....	9
Figure 2: Values	12
Figure 3: Monthly Staff Meeting.....	14
Figure 4: 5-year volumes and Clearance Rate.....	15
Figure 5: 5-year Timeliness	16
Figure 6: 5-year Appeal rate.....	16
Figure 7: 7-year Overturn rate	17
Figure 8: Appeal outcomes.....	18
Figure 9: Circuit workload	19
Figure 10: Legal Aid representation	19
Figure 11: Judicial Productivity.....	21
Figure 12: Staff Productivity	22
Figure 13: Notary services.....	24
Figure 14: Types of Notary services.....	24
Figure 15: Pending Workload.....	26
Figure 16: Courtroom days.....	28
Figure 17: Courtroom type.....	28
Figure 18: Court calendar.....	29
Figure 19: Human Trafficking #s	30
Figure 20: CTS	34
Figure 21: Ombudsman Supervision	35
Figure 22: Probationer Gender mix	36
Figure 23: Probationer Sentencing mix	36
Figure 24: Types of Offences	37
Figure 25: FSMSCLL Website 2024.....	39
Figure 26: FSMSCLL Website 2023.....	39
Figure 27: FSMSCLL Website 2024 v 2023.....	40
Table 1: Budget Appropriations.....	14
Table 2: Legal Volumes.....	25



1 INTRODUCTION

Article XI of the FSM Constitution created the judicial branch of the Federated States of Micronesia. The judicial power of the national government is vested in a Supreme Court and inferior courts established by statute. Art XI, Section 1.

The Supreme Court is a court of record and the highest court in the nation. It consists of the Chief Justice and not more than five associated justices. Each Justices is a member of the trial and appellate division. No justice may sit with the appellate division in a case he/she heard in the trial division. At least three justices shall hear and decide appeals. Decisions are made by a majority of those sitting. Art XI, Section 2.

The President appoints the Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court with the approval of 2/3 of Congress. Justices serve during good behavior. Art. XI, Section 3.

If the Chief Justice cannot to perform his duties, he shall appoint an associate justice to act in his stead. If the office is vacant, or the Chief Justice fails to make the appointment, the President shall appoint an associate justice to act as Chief Justice until the vacancy is filled or the Chief Justice resumes his duties. Art. XI, Section 4.

The qualifications and compensation of justices and other judges may be prescribed by statute. Compensation of judges may not be diminished during their terms of office unless all salaries prescribed by statute are reduced by a uniform percentage. Art. XI, Section 5.

The trial division of the Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in cases affecting officials of foreign governments, disputes between states, admiralty or maritime cases, and in cases in which the national government is a party except where an interest in land is at issue. Art. XI, Section 6.

The appellate division of the Supreme Court may review cases heard in the national courts and cases heard in state or local courts if they require interpretation of this Constitution, national law, or a treaty. If a state constitution permits, the appellate division of the Supreme Court may review other cases on appeal from the highest state court in which a decision may be held. Art. XI, Section 7. Since 1981, the FSM Supreme Court has worked to anticipate and respond to the court needs and to support the Federated States of Micronesia's judicial systems. Through leadership and service, national and state perspectives on court issues, and collaborative work with the Chief Justices of the State Courts and other state court leaders, the FSM Supreme Court plays a crucial role in advancing and building public trust and confidence in the national court system.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2 MESSAGE FROM ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE BEAULEEN CARL-WORSWICK



It is my pleasure to submit the 2024 Annual Report for the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia. This Report provides an overview of the Court's operations, important events and activities, and publishes its case management statistics for the year

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia is established by the Constitution as an independent branch of the national government. It is a court of record and the highest court of the nation. The Supreme Court has both a Trial Division and an Appellate Division, with the Trial Division further divided into four venues, one geographically located in each state.

The Trial Division has original and exclusive jurisdiction in cases affecting officials of foreign governments, disputes between states, admiralty or maritime cases, and in cases in which the national government is a party, except those in which land is at issue.

The Appellate Division has jurisdiction to review all cases heard in the national courts, and cases heard in the four state courts if they require interpretation of the Constitution, national law, or treaty. Further, if a state constitution permits, the Appellate Division has jurisdiction to review other final decisions from the highest state court.

The constitutional structure permits one Chief Justice and not more than five associate justices. Justices are appointed by the President and confirmed with approval of 2/3 of Congress. They serve during good behavior. Each justice is a member of the Trial Division and Appellate Division; however, no justice may sit with the Appellate Division in a case he or she presided over in the Trial Division.

Currently, the Supreme Court consists of three justices: Acting Chief Justice Carl-Worswick, Associate Justice Larry Wentworth and Associate Justice Chang B. William. Justice William was nominated by His Excellency, President Wesley W. Simina, and confirmed on April 11, 2024, by the 23d Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. On July 1, 2024, only two months later, the Court bid farewell to Associate Justice Dennis L. Belcourt, who had resigned from office.

The Court monitors its cases using the Case Tracking System (CTS) to expedite closure and prompt disposition of cases according to our timeline standards. This system was created in partnership with the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiative (PJSI), the Pacific Judicial Strengthening Partnership (PJSP) and other Pacific island judiciaries, including the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Through CTS, the Court monitors pretrial, trial, and appeal phases of its cases. The Court measures its performance using the Cook Island Indicators (CII), a regional standard developed by the participating judiciaries. The goal of the CII is to enable high-standard court performance, transparency, and accountability.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Statistically, 2024 was a productive year. Overall, the Court fully complied with and completed all indicators reflecting a high-standard of court performance. The Court saw a decrease in the number of cases filed, along with a decreased in the number of cases finalized. However, the number of cases finalized exceeded the number of new cases filed, achieving a clearance rate greater than 100%. This is a positive outcome for the Court, and I am optimistic that the number of pending cases will continue to decrease with active case management.

To this end, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the Justices and staff of the FSM Supreme Court for their hard work and contributions to the Supreme Court's accomplishments this year. I also wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the chief justices of the state courts, Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw of Yap State Court, Chief Justice Edmond Salik of Kosrae State Court, Chief Justice Jayson Robert of Chuuk State Supreme Court and Chief Justice Nelson Joseph of Pohnpei Supreme Court, for their undivided support to the FSM Supreme Court throughout the year.

Finally, I wish to also extend my sincere gratitude to the Pacific Judicial Council, the Pacific Justice Sector Program, and the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program for their continued support to the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Sincerely yours,

Beauleen Carl-Worswick

Acting Chief Justice, FSM Supreme Court



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

3 JUSTICES OF THE FSM SUPREME COURT



Honorable Beauleen Carl-
Worswick
Acting Chief Justice



Honorable Larry M.
Wentworth
Associate Justice



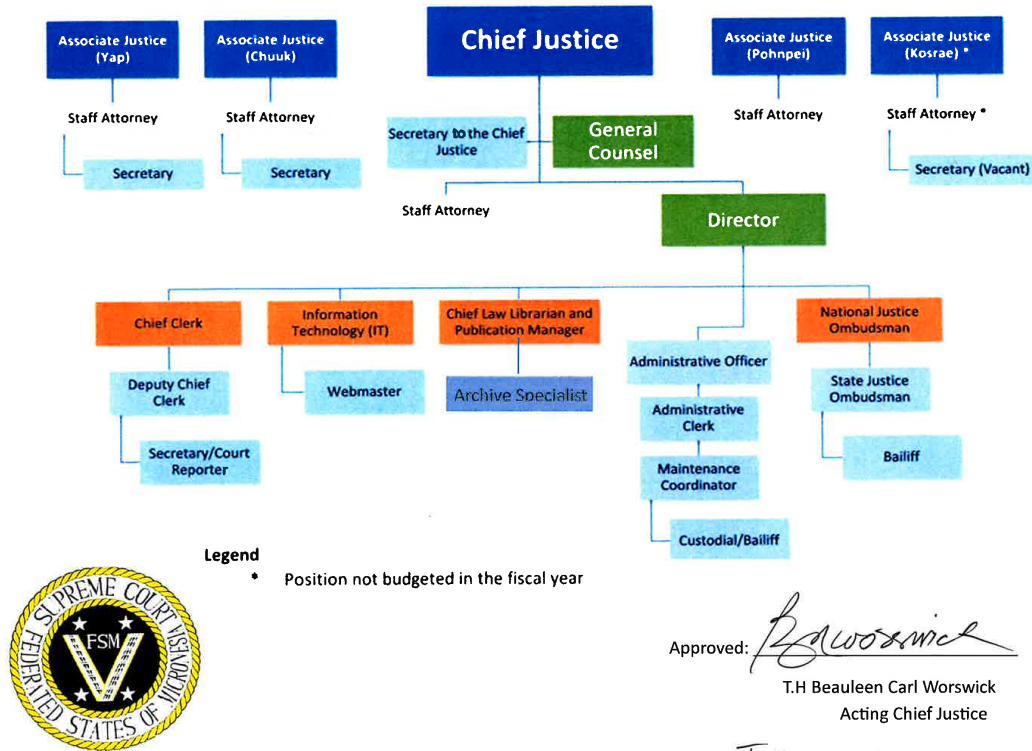
Honorable Chang William
Associate Justice



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

4 FSM SUPREME COURT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

FSM Supreme Court Organizational Structure



Approved: 
T.H. Beaulen Carl Worswick
Acting Chief Justice

Date: February 4, 2026

Figure 1: Structure of the Court



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

5 STAFF OF THE FSM SUPREME COURT

5.1 POHNPEI STAFF



Director of Court Administration-
Emeliana M. Carl



Chief Clerk of Court- Sandy Albert



National Justice Ombudsman-
Johnny Peter



Chief Law Librarian- Teddy Hasgiulbung



IT Manager - Jayvee Tamagginey



Staff Attorney-
David Johnson



Staff Attorney-
Carleila Edgar



Staff Attorney-
Marisha Jones



Secretary to Chief Justice-
Lorina Pernet



Administrative Officer- Pihna Sohl



Accountant-
Nikita Jackson



Deputy Chief Clerk-
Senda Helgen



Secretary /Court Reporter- Joyleen Wichap



Secretary /Court Reporter- Mayleen David



State Justice Ombudsman-
Brensen Penias



Bailiff- Keske Jacob



Archive and Record Specialist-
Lilyan Anson



Maintenance Coordinator-
Altrickson Anson



Custodial Worker-
Elimina Else



Webmaster-
Yondeaver Santos



Legal Intern-
Royce Predrick



Intern- Debra Sohs



Custodial Worker-
Carleen Johnny



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

5.2 CHUUK STAFF



**Secretary to the
Associate Justice-**
Atrina Soichy



Clerk of Court-
Lovelynn Berdon



Clerk of Court-
Melisa Petrus



**State Justice
Ombudsman-**
Jefferson Teruo



Bailiff-
Eric Berry



**Maintenance
Supervisor/Bailiff-**
Samuel Samuel



**Intern- Richella
Dois**



Custodial Worker-
Salome Nowell

5.3 YAP STAFF



**State Justice
Ombudsman-**
Peter Garangmau



**Secretary to the
Associate Justice-**
Emeliani T. Gilpong



**Bailiff- Gregory
Giltamag**



Custodial Worker-
Rita Ylememog

5.4 KOSRAE STAFF



**State Justice
Ombudsman-**
Linson Waguk



**Secretary/Court
Reporter- Mela J.
Sighra**



Bailiff-
Fred Sighra



Custodial Worker-
Notwe D. Abraham



6 THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

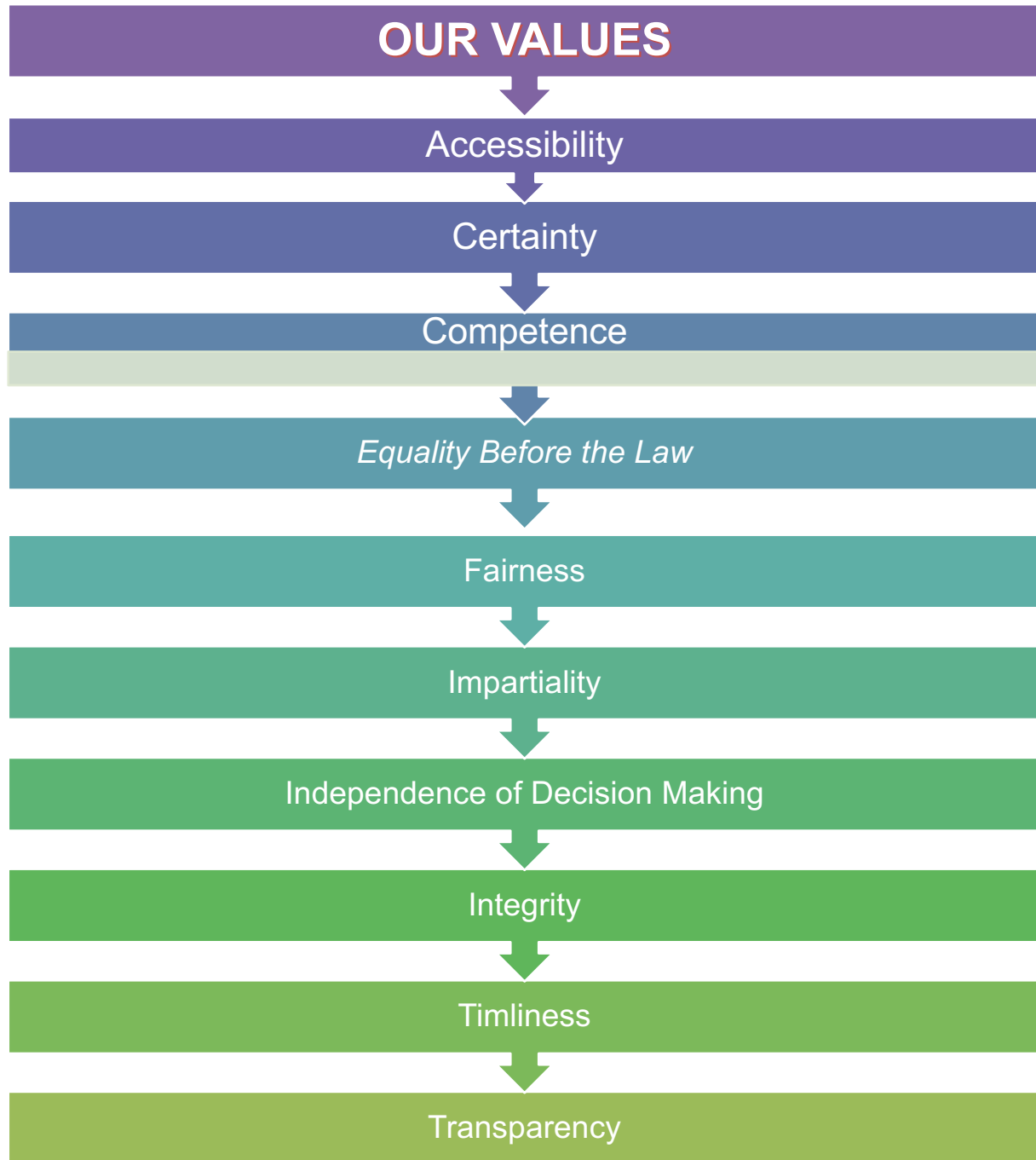


Figure 2: Values



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

6.1 OUR VISION

The FSM Supreme Court will conduct itself as an independent, fair, impartial, and properly managed co-equal branch of the FSM National Government in rendering justice to all.

6.2 OUR MISSION

The mission of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia is to serve the people through timely and fair administration of justice for all, by discharging its judicial duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution, laws, and customs and traditions of our unique Pacific-Island Nation.

6.3 STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic Goals had been previously developed for 2017-2021 and will be refreshed in 2026. Part of the reason for delay has been the lingering effect from COVID-19.



7 ADMINISTRATION

7.1 ROLE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

The primary role of the Court Administration is to facilitate the administrative functions of the court under the general guidance of the Chief Justice. The Court Administrator has a responsibility to identify and implement initiatives that increase the public's understanding of the judicial system and provide for equal access to justice for all. Administrators also ensure that the independence of the judiciary as the third and independent branch of government is maintained while cultivating relationships with other branches of the government.



Figure 3: Monthly Staff Meeting

7.2 FSM JUDICIARY'S 4-YEAR BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS: FY 2020-2024

Categories	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Personnel	\$1,026,561	\$1,067,561	\$1,343,038	\$1,343,038	\$1,520,185
Travel	\$ 185,974	\$ 55,793	\$185,978	\$185,978	\$64,277
Contract Services	\$ 213,100	\$ 237,300	\$394,300	\$478,200	\$11,200
Other Current Expenses	\$ 155,388	\$ 176,315	\$228,050	\$248,050	\$248,150
Fixed Assets	\$ 143,000	\$ 54,000	\$60,000	\$104,000	\$0
Total appropriation	\$1,724,023	\$1,590,969	\$2,211,366	\$2,359,266	\$2,43,712

Table 1: Budget Appropriations



8 COOK ISLAND INDICATORS

The Cook Island Indicators (CIIs) were developed some years ago in consultation with the Chief Justices of the Pacific, under the umbrella of the PJSI program. They serve as a guide to what should be measured and reported on in such a Report as this.

Specific performance figures for each case type e.g. civil matters, are included in the Appendices as well as how the Court is progressing in its ability to report against the 20 CIIs.

8.1 INDICATOR 1: CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: CLEARANCE RATE



The following data has been extracted from our Case Tracking System (CTS) as at end December 2024. Some previous years' figures may have changed slightly with our continuing data clean-up program.

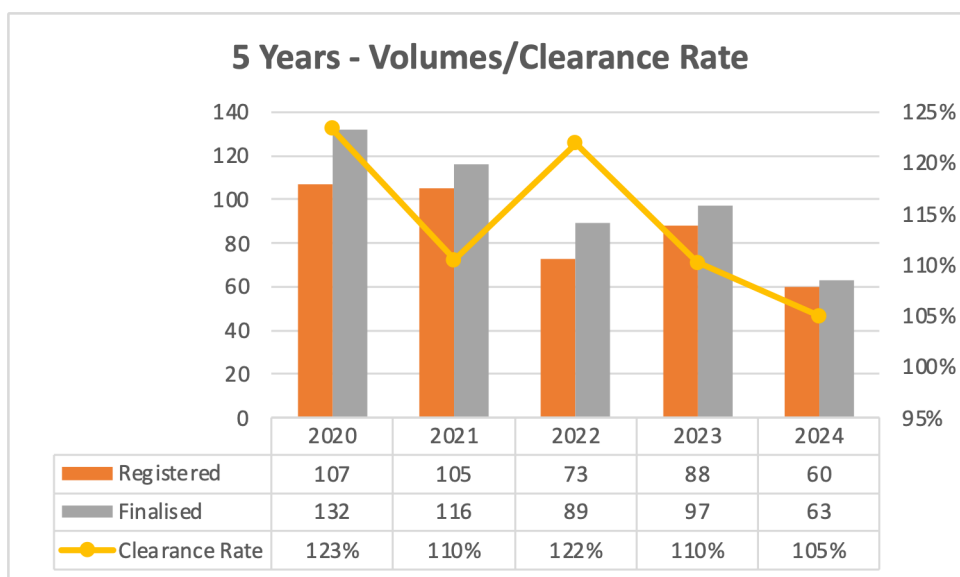


Figure 4: 5-year volumes and Clearance Rate

The 2024 calendar year saw a decrease in new/registered cases for the country, and finalizations also decreased, but still exceeding the number of new cases, thus Clearance Rate greater than 100%, and the number of pending cases continuing to reduce. This is a very positive outcome for the year, and across the last 5-years, a Clearance Rate of 115% is excellent.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

8.2 INDICATOR 2: CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION: AVERAGE DURATION OF A CASE

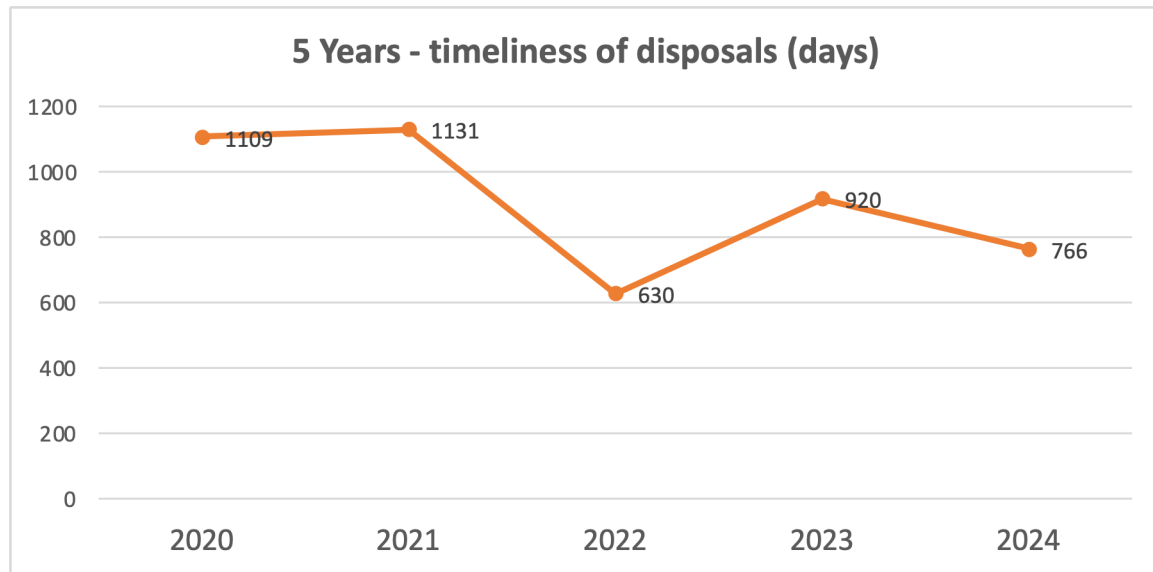


Figure 5: 5-year Timeliness

The average time taken to finalize matters in the Court (in days) has been declining over the last 5-years, and this is a very positive trend and result. There is still more to do with our active case management approach that we hope will further reduce the time taken to finalize matters.

8.3 INDICATOR 3: APPEALS: PERCENTAGE OF APPEALS

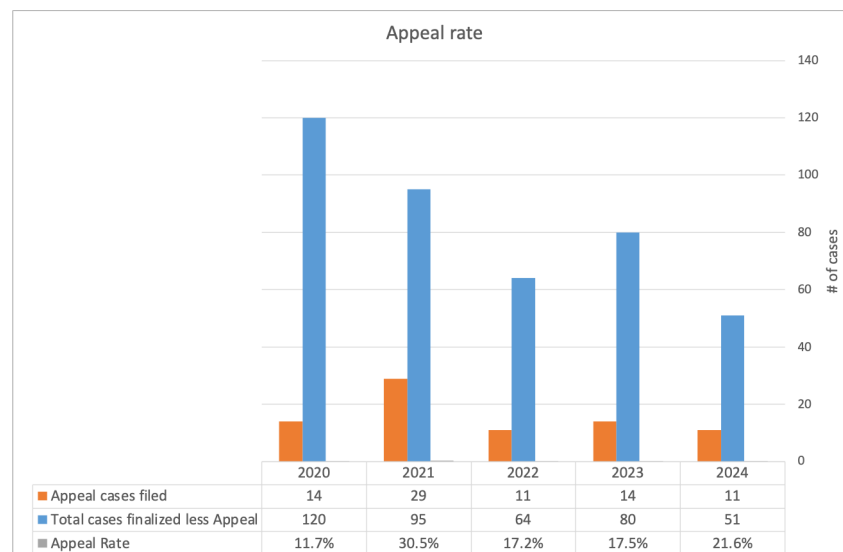


Figure 6: 5-year Appeal rate



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

In the past five years 19% cases, on average, were appealed from all types of finalized cases, from all jurisdictions including national and state courts.

Specific cases:

- Chuuk:
 - 1 case filed – appealed from FSMSC
- Pohnpei:
 - 7 cases filed - all appealed from FSMSC
- Yap:
 - 2 cases filed - both appealed from FSMSC
- Kosrae:
 - No cases filed

A total of 10 appeal cases filed in 2024 all from the FSM Supreme Court Trial Division

There is no change to the Figure below as a result.

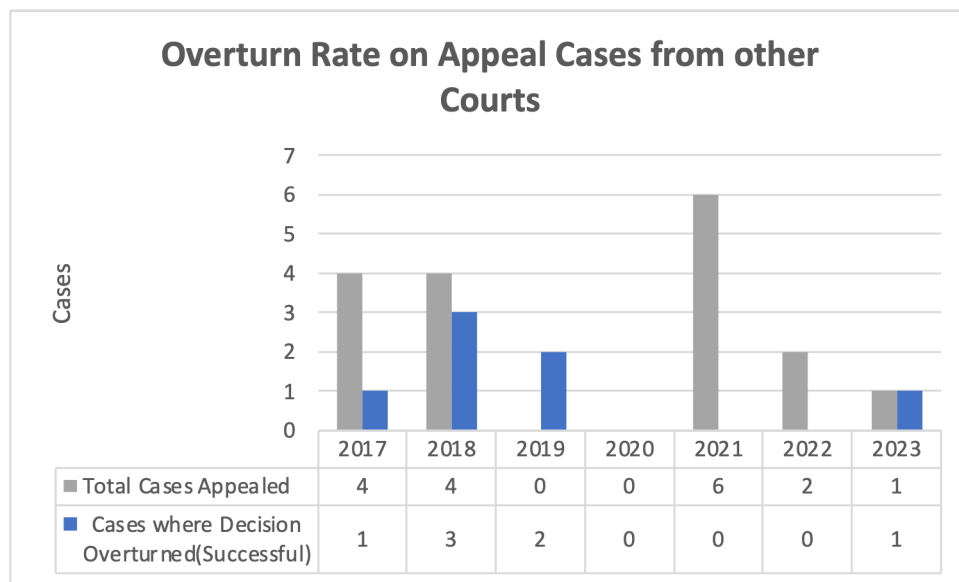
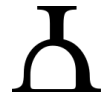


Figure 7: 7-year Overturn rate



8.4 INDICATOR 4: APPEALS: OVERTURN RATE ON APPEALS



There was one over-turned decision. CTS # 2021-00039 – overturned/reversed

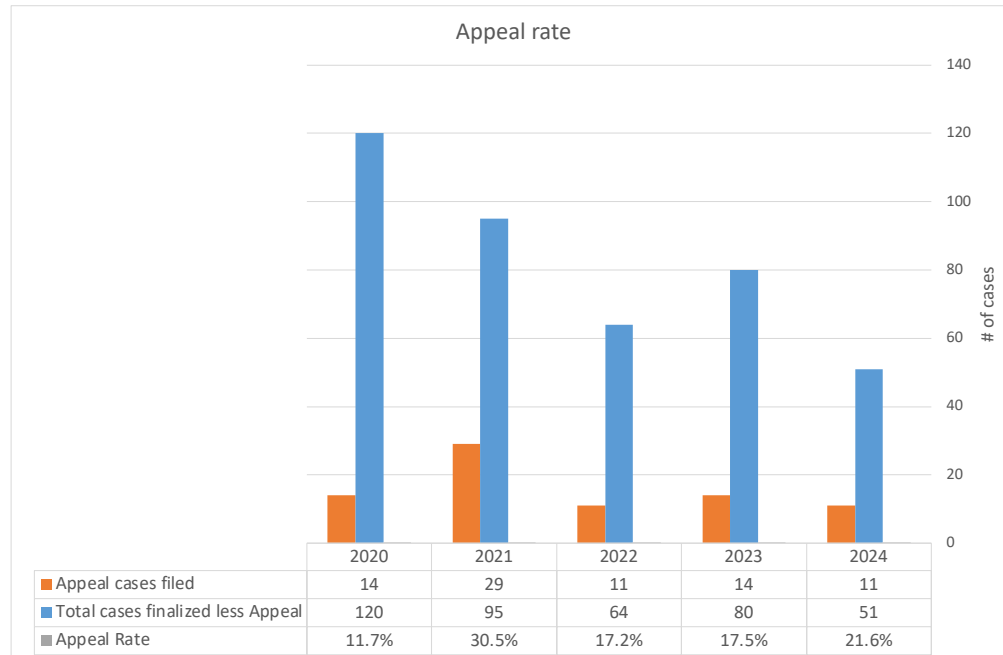


Figure 8: Appeal outcomes

8.4.1 OVERTURN RATE ON APPEAL CASES FROM OTHER COURTS

There were none.

8.5 INDICATOR 5: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES THAT ARE GRANTED A COURT FEE WAIVER



FSM Supreme Court does not impose filing fees; therefore, fee waivers do not apply to FSMSC cases.

8.6 INDICATOR 6: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES DISPOSED THROUGH A CIRCUIT OR ISLAND COURT



This Court does not run 'circuits' like many other jurisdictions/countries, but rather we track by State, where the cases are filed/disposed e.g. Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

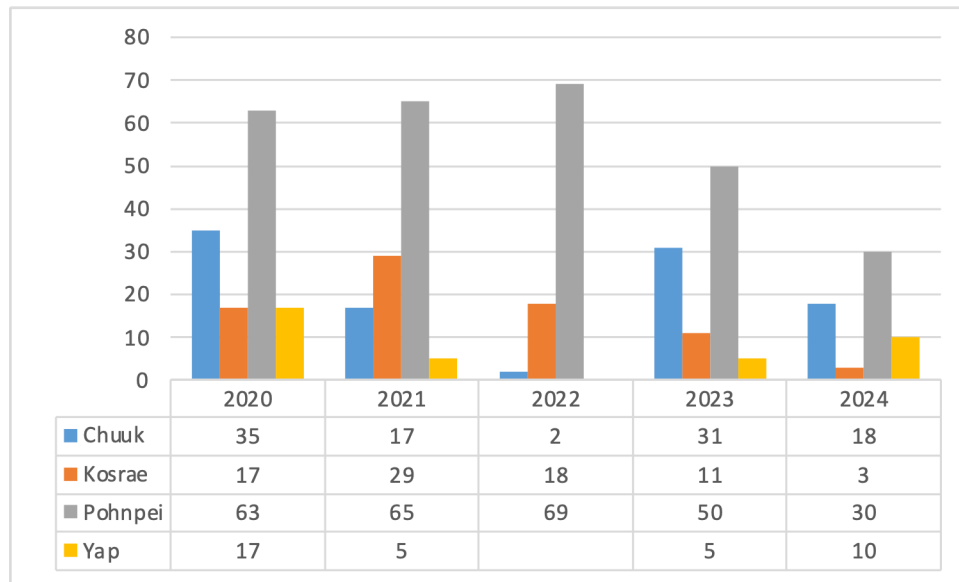


Figure 9: Circuit workload

8.7 INDICATOR 7: ACCESS: PERCENTAGE OF CASES WHERE A PARTY RECEIVES LEGAL AID

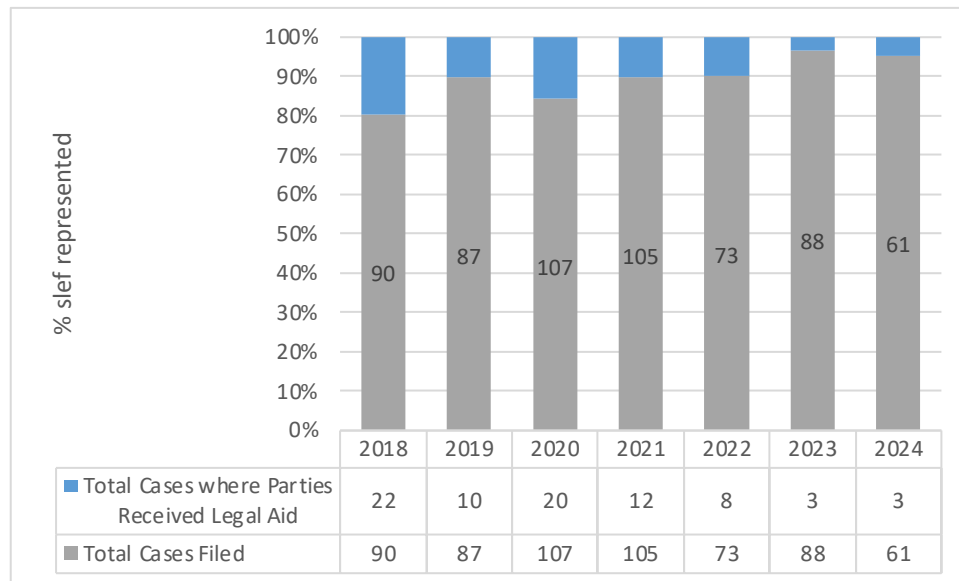
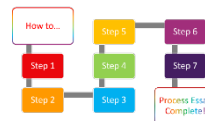


Figure 10: Legal Aid representation

In the past 7 years, just under 13% of the 611 cases filed, parties received legal aid. This has dropped to 4.9% in 2024.



8.8 INDICATOR 8: COMPLAINTS: DOCUMENTED PROCESS FOR RECEIVING AND PROCESSING A COMPLAINT THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE



THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

GENERAL COURT ORDER)

GCO No. 2017-001

Trial and Appellate Divisions)

TIMELINE STANDARDS FOR THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court in art. XI, sec. 9 of the Constitution and section 117 of title 4 of the Judiciary Act of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia (4 F.S.M.C. sec. 117) , and in conformity with

Action Item 1.2(b) and 1.6(a) and (d) of the Strategic Plan (2012 to 2017) of the FSM Supreme Court, which empowers the FSM Supreme Court to develop timelines and standards for management of all cases from filing to disposition, and to set specific limits on how long a legal matter may be left pending without justification.

In recognition of the need to dispose of cases in a timely and efficient manner, to ensure that the administration of justice to the public is not unduly delayed, to maintain a proficient and well-organized court docket, and after a survey of other judiciary timeline standards of jurisdictions in similarly situated Pacific-island nations, and after a two (2) year provisional period,

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the following Timeline Standards are HEREBY ADOPTED:

All of the FSM Supreme Court's Justices and staff shall adhere to the following Timeline Standards for matters pending before the Court.

TIMELINE STANDARDS FOR THE FSM SUPREME COURT (Promulgated April, 2017)

1. Definitions:

- (a) *Appeal case*: is a matter filed in the Appellate Division of the FSM Supreme Court, initiated by the filing of a Notice of Appeal until an Opinion is rendered by the Appellate Division.
- (b) *Attorney disciplinary case*: is a matter filed pursuant to the FSM Disciplinary Rules and Procedures, initiated by the filing of a complaint until a judgment or conviction is rendered by the court.
- (c) *Civil case*: is a civil dispute between parties initiated by the filing of a civil matter with Trial Division until judgment is rendered by the Trial Division of the court. The timeline for



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

8.9 INDICATOR 9: COMPLAINTS: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED CONCERNING A JUDICIAL OFFICER

In 2018, there were 5 complaints filed against a judicial officer, but none have been received since.



shutterstock - 1247492014

8.10 INDICATOR 10: COMPLAINTS: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED CONCERNING A COURT STAFF MEMBER

In the past five years no complaints were filed against a court officer or court staff.



8.11 INDICATOR 11: HUMAN RESOURCES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CLOSED CASES PER JUDICIAL OFFICER

This indicator reflects the productivity (output) per judicial officer and is very dependent on reflecting the true number of judicial officers available throughout the year. For example, with such a small # of permanent judges, should one be unavailable for say half of the year, this affects the %/# significantly.

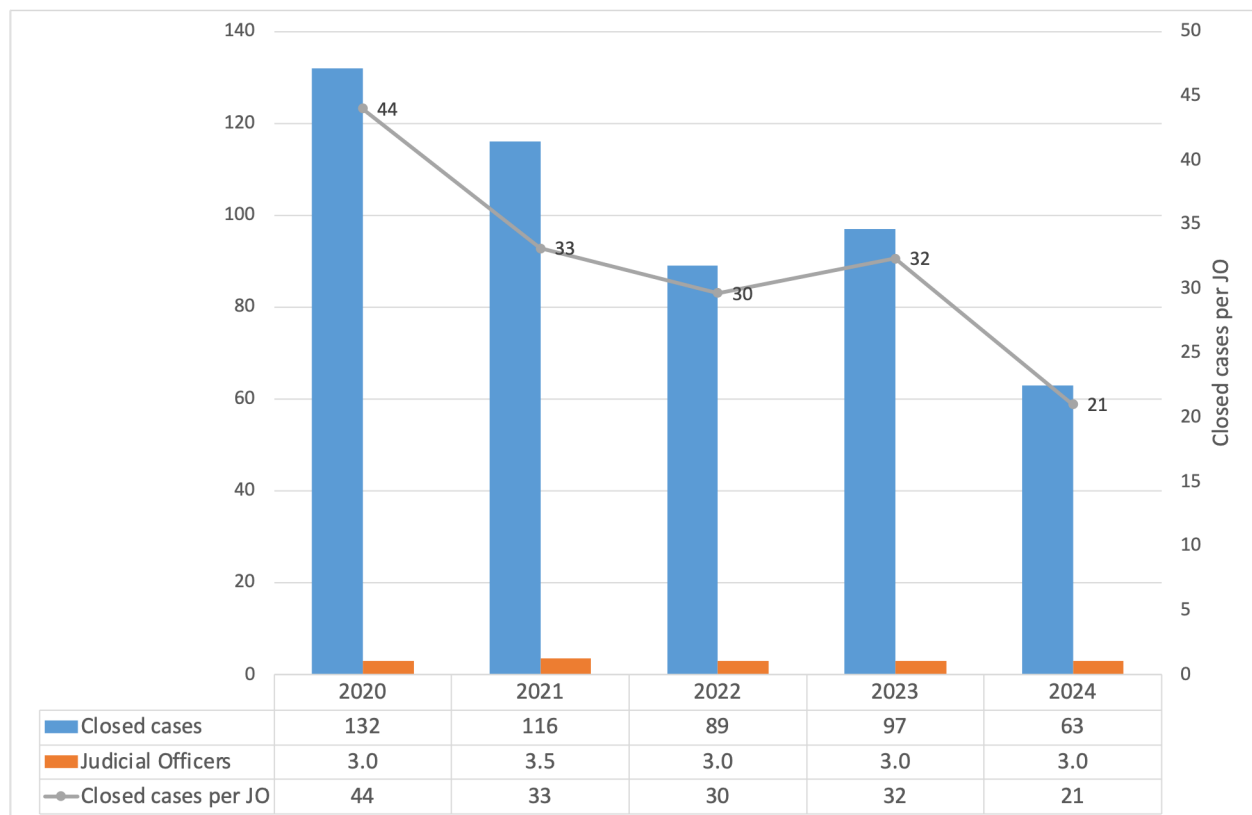


Figure 11: Judicial Productivity



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The average number of cases disposed per judicial officer reduced due to the transition with Justice Belcourt resigning and Justice Chang arriving in the 2nd half of the year.

8.12 INDICATOR 12: HUMAN RESOURCES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF CASES PER COURT STAFF

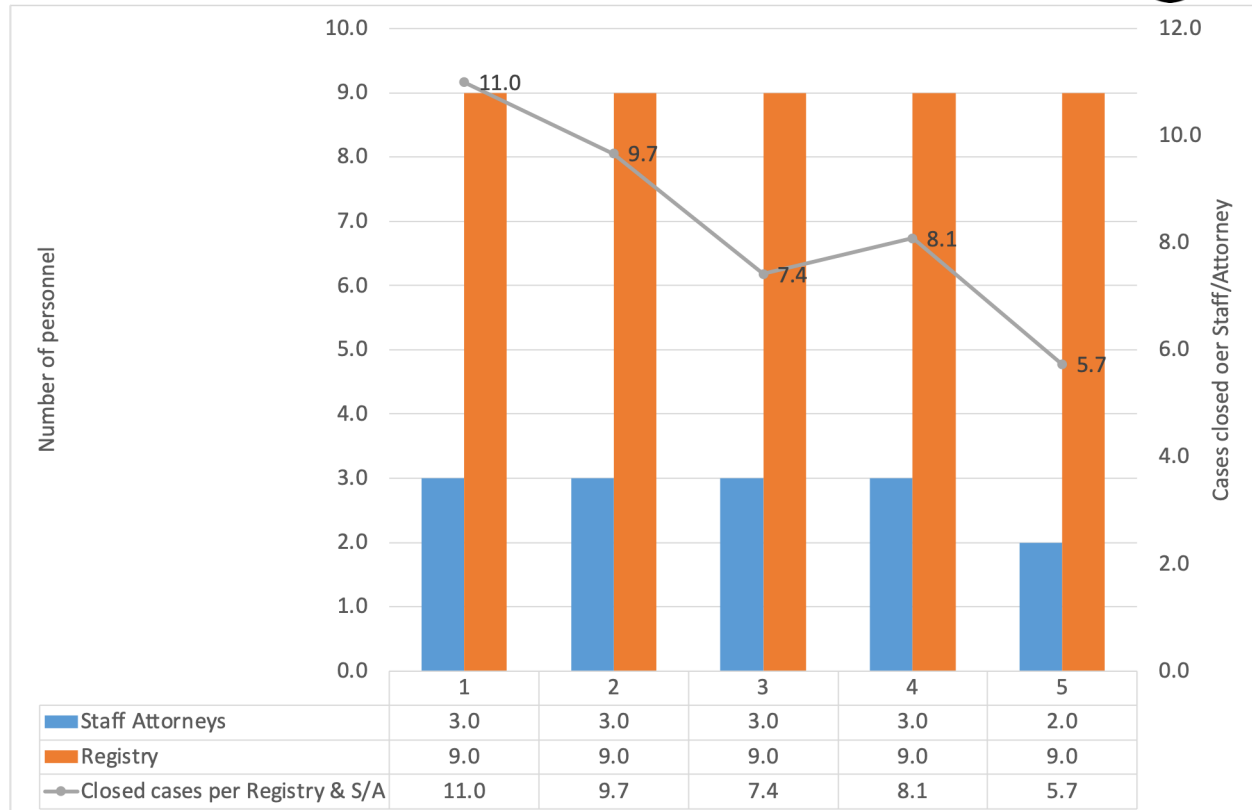


Figure 12: Staff Productivity

In 2023, an average of just over 8 cases closed per staff attorney/staff member and has been fairly consistent over the last 5-years.

8.13 INDICATOR 13: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: COURT PRODUCES OR CONTRIBUTES TO AN ANNUAL REPORT THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR



The FSM Supreme Court Annual Reports are produced annually and available on the Court's website: fsm-supremecourt.org.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



8.14 INDICATOR 14: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: COURT SERVICES INFORMATION

Court services is publicly available on the FSM Supreme Court website.

SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH NOTARY PUBLIC IN 2023

In 2023, the Clerk's office provided 12,780 notary public services.

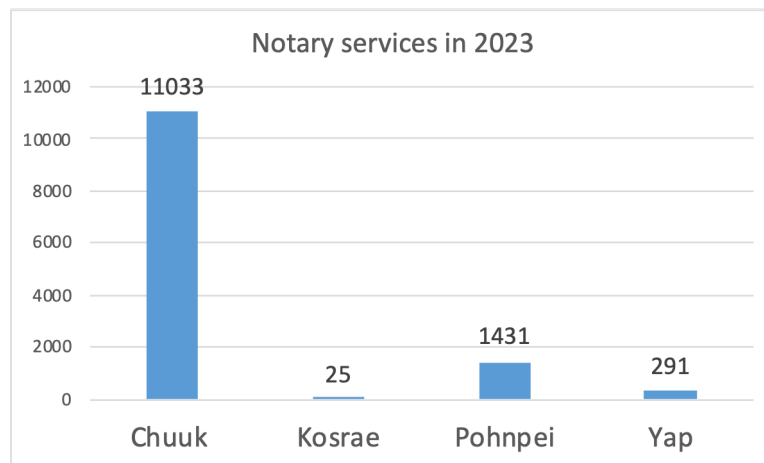


Figure 13: Notary services

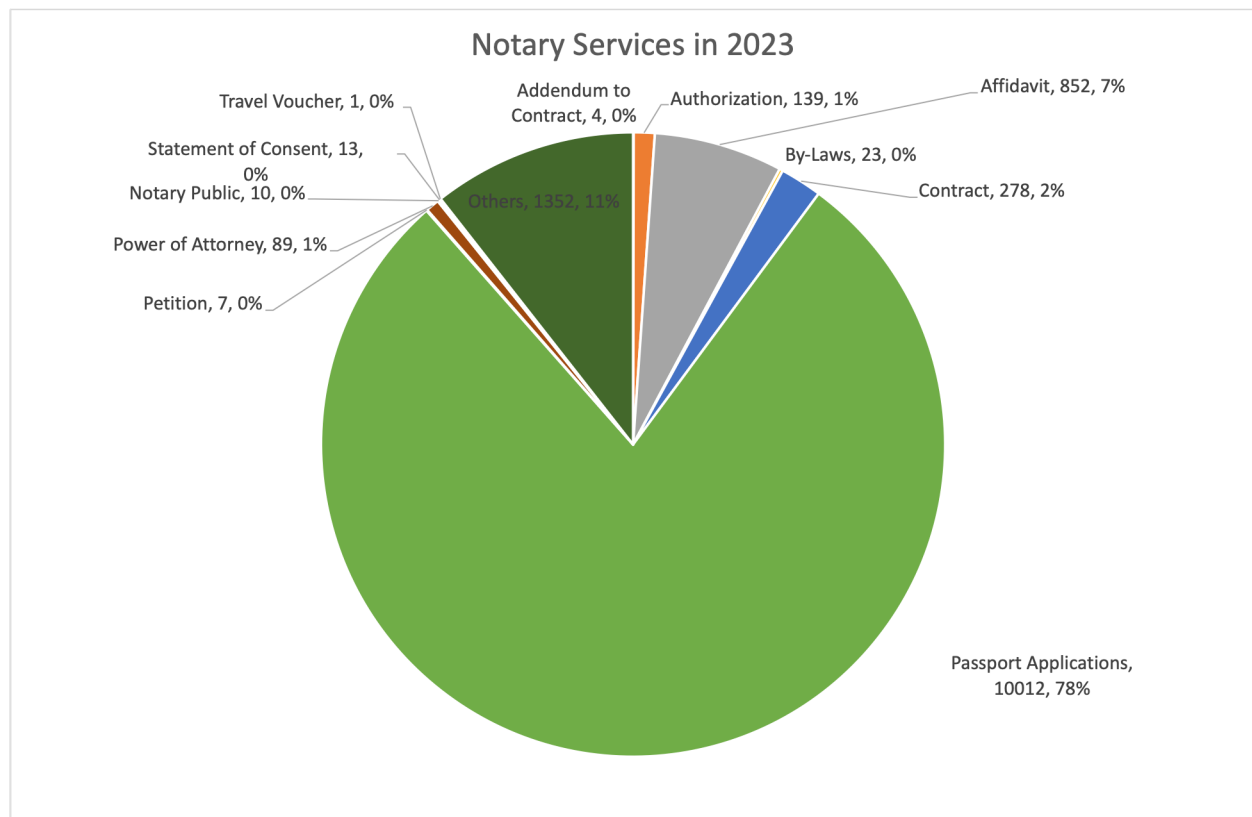


Figure 14: Types of Notary services



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

8.15 INDICATOR 15: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: PUBLICATION OF COURT OPINIONS

FSM SUPREME COURT INTERIM REPORTERS

AVAILABLE ONLINE

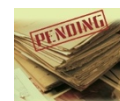
The FSM Supreme Court Interim Reporters are available on the Court's website: <http://fsmLaw.org/fsm/decisions/index.htm> known as the FSM Legal information System. The Reporters now available from Volumes 1 through 23.

The following table shows the Reporters, the Volumes and the years they correspond.

Volume 1	Volume 2	Volume 3	Volume 4	Volume 5
1981 -1984	1985 - 1986	1986 - 1988	1989 - 1990	1991 - 1992
Volume 6	Volume 7	Volume 8	Volume 9	Volume 10
1993 -1994	1995 - 1996	1997 - 1998	1999 - 2000	2001 - 2002
Volume 11	Volume 12	Volume 13	Volume 14	Volume 15
2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008
Volume 16	Volume 17	Volume 18	Volume 19	Volume 20
2008 -2009	2010 -2011	2011 - 2013	2013 - 2015	2015 - 2016
Volume 21	Volume 22	Volume 23		
2016 -2018	2018 -2019	2020-2022		

Table 2: Legal Volumes

8.16 INDICATOR 16: CASE MANAGEMENT: AVERAGE AGE OF THE PENDING CASELOAD



The Pending workload as detailed below is as at the time of the production of this Annual Report i.e. February 2025.

The number of pending cases sits at 182. The cases have an average age of 1,472 days, or approximately 4 years. This is very much due to some very old, very complex matters that have been with court for many years.

At the current rate of disposing cases (finalizations per year), the Pending to Disposal Ratio is just over 4 – at 4.1, reflecting just over 4 years-worth of work on hand – at the current rate of finalizations. This number can vary quite significantly based on the finalization rate of cases by the Court.



Pending Workload

Current Pending	178	CASES
Average Age of Pending	1463	DAYS
Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR)	3.8	

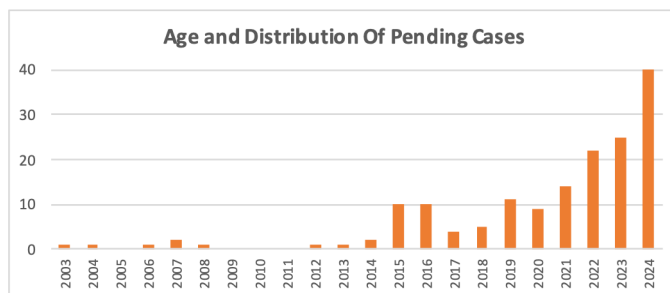


Figure 15: Pending Workload

8.17 INDICATOR 17: CASE MANAGEMENT: PERCENTAGE OF COMPLAINTS THAT HAVE BEEN HANDLED WITHIN AN AGREED TIMEFRAME

See GCO on Time Standard under Indicator 8

8.18 INDICATOR 18: JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY: TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLIMENTS AND POSITIVE FEEDBACK RECEIVED BY THE COURT

Survey undertaken in 2024.

Please see the end of this Report for detailed answers.





FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

8.19 INDICATOR 19: HUMAN RESOURCES: THE RANGE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

8.19.1 TRAININGS/EVENTS PARTICIPATED IN 2024

Details for 2024 are:

Month	Type of Training	Place	Sponsor
March	Access To Justice-International Women's Day	Pohnpei	FSM Judiciary
April-May	Probation Officers Training	Guam	PJC
May	Investiture Of Associate Justice William	Kosrae	FSM Judiciary
June	Court Administration Academy for Presiding Judges and Judges at all Levels	South Carolina	NJC/PJC
June	Probation Officers Training	Guam	PJC
June-July	PIC Evidence Workshop	Chuuk	PJC
July	National Law Day Debate	Chuuk	FSM Judiciary
August	FSM Judicial Conference	Pohnpei	FSM Judiciary
September	PIC Biennial Conference	Guam	PJC
September-October	Managing Complex Litigation	Nashville, Tn	NJC/PJC
October	Environmental Law Conference	Palau	PJC
November	Judicial Training on Cyber Crime and Electronic Evidence	Nandi, Fiji	PJSP
November-December 2024	Case-flow Management Training	Saipan	PJC

8.20 INDICATOR 20: HUMAN RESOURCES: THE PERCENTAGE USE OF COURTROOM

This is a difficult indicator to measure as intended, i.e. the % use of a courtroom throughout the day/week/month/year. The Court schedules matters as needed and makes use of video conferencing as much as possible to reduce the cost and inconvenience for both the parties and the court itself.

Clerks are responsible for the recordings of all proceeding. In 2023, a total of 398 hearings were held throughout the 4 States. Other proceedings which utilize the FSM Supreme Courtrooms were State debates, FSM Law Day, Depositions, FSM Bar Exam, and Special proceedings for new FSM Bar Members.

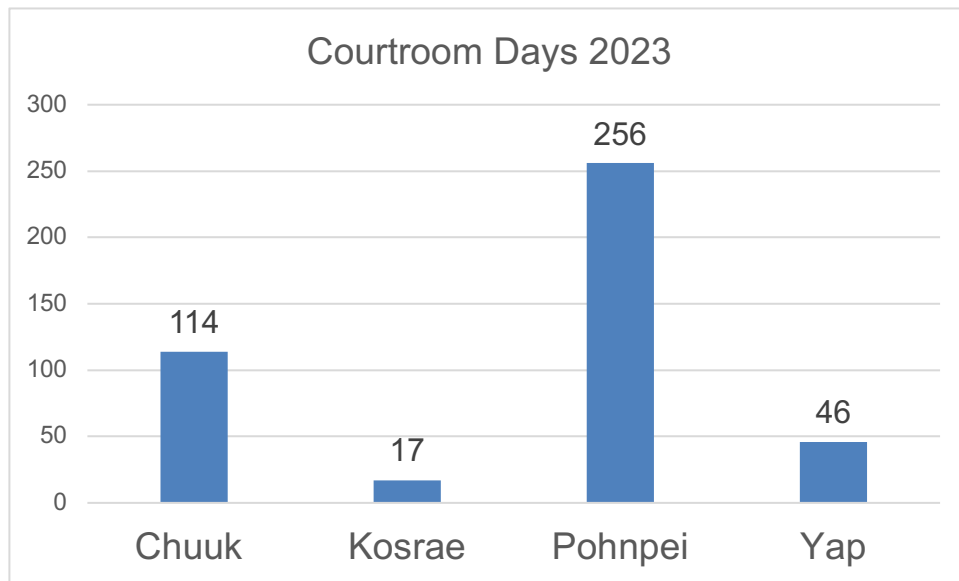


Figure 16: Courtroom days

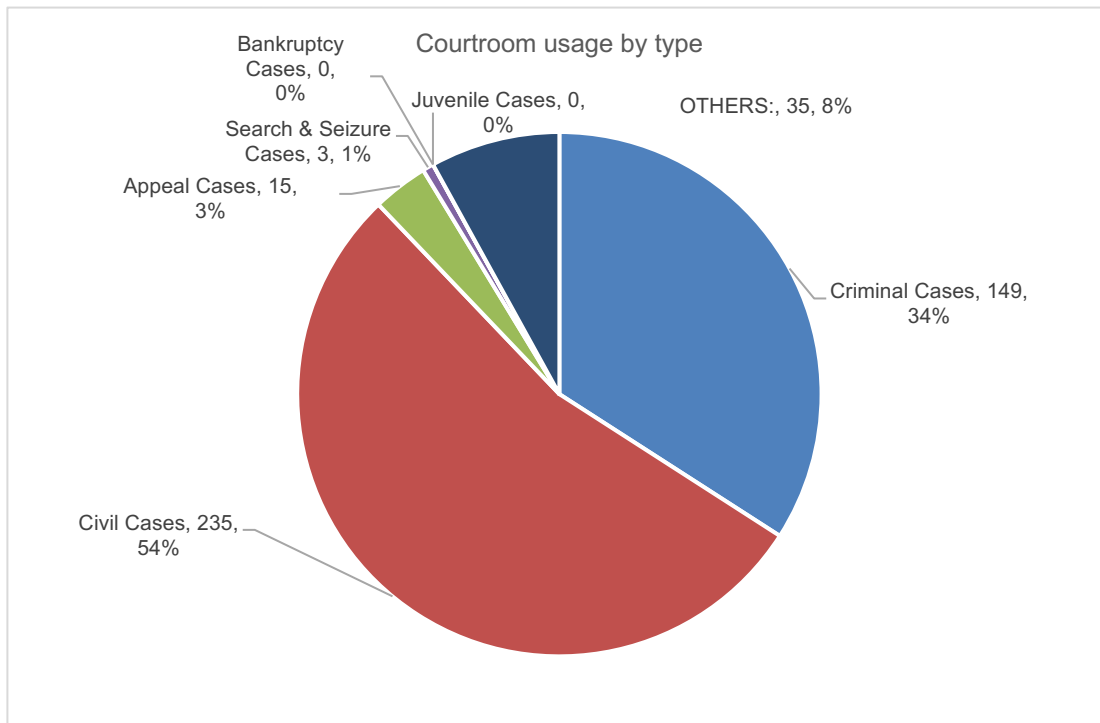


Figure 17: Courtroom type

FSM Supreme Court website shows a master court calendar of scheduled cases that is accessible in all four states. Clerks in each state are responsible for updating the online calendar on a weekly basis.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

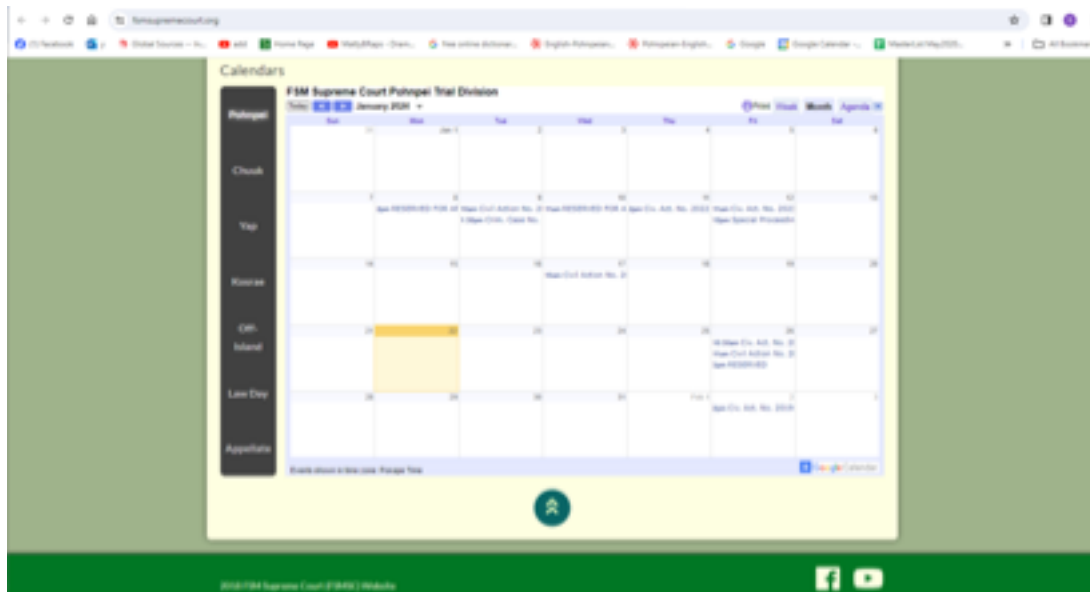


Figure 18: Court calendar



9 HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

For the year 2024, similar to 2023, no Human Trafficking cases were filed.

For the previous years, the number of cases was as below.

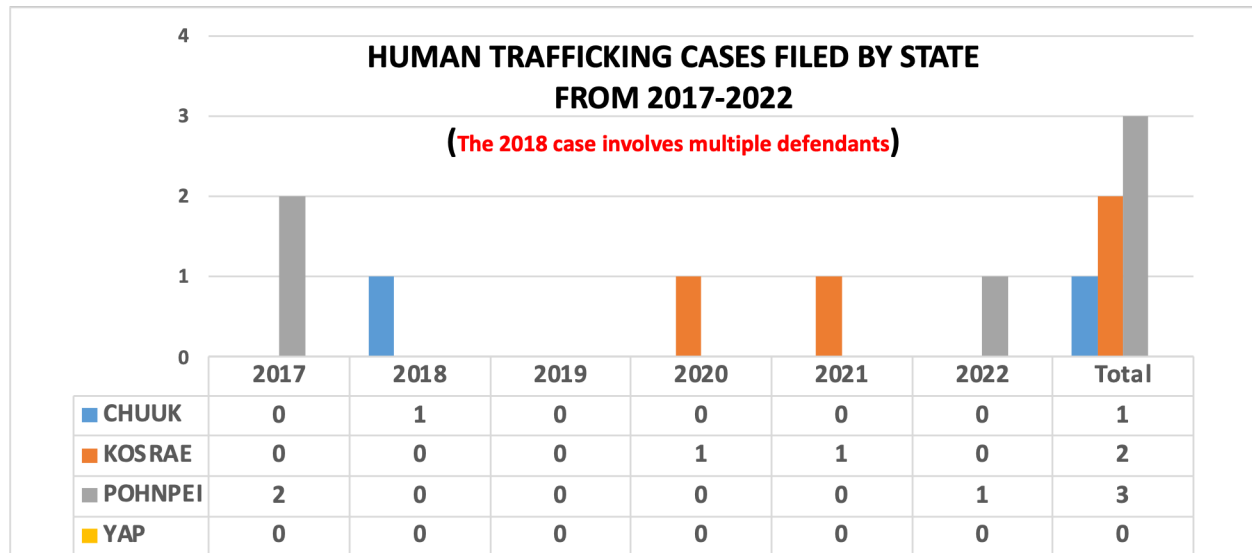


Figure 19: Human Trafficking #s

Case details:

- There were a total of 6 human trafficking cases filed with the Court since 2017-2022. The 2018 case involved multiple defendants and multiple victims.
- Three of the human trafficking cases filed are CLOSED. Defendants were convicted and sentenced with jail terms. One case was acquitted, and two cases pending.

Defendant details:

- All 7 defendants are over the age of 18.
- Six of the defendants were males and one female.
- Four of the defendants are FSM citizens, and the other three are from outside of the FSM.

Victim details:

- All 8 victims are females.
- All victims age ranges between 14 and 18.
- All 8 victims are from the FSM.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

10 FSM NATIONAL LAW DAY 2025

The FSM Supreme Court commemorates the anniversary of its establishment as the highest court of the Nation on July 12, 1981. To celebrate this day, the Court sponsors the annual national law day debate among the high schools in the FSM. The annual debate has become a tradition whereby the students are given the opportunity to debate topics of significant importance to the nation. This year's national law-day theme is:

"NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Federated States of Micronesia shall restrict access to all online social media platforms for minor children under the age of 18, including, but not limited to, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube".

Schools that competed in this year's national law day debate are: Chuuk Xavier High School, Saramen Chuuk High School, Yap Catholic High School, Kosrae SDA High School, Pohnpei Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School and Pohnpei SDA High School. Prior to the national law day debate, each State conducted debates among its high schools. Winners of the state debates are elevated to compete at the national debate. Any state with five or more schools competing at the state level is allowed to have two teams compete at the national debate.

The President of the FSM issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring July 12 as the National Law Day. In the keynote address given by FSM Congress member, Honorable Johnson Asher, he congratulated the FSM Judiciary for its commitment in continuing the annual national law day debate, an important event to engage the younger generation who might be interested in becoming future lawyers and judges. The debates are available on YouTube: FSM Supreme Court – National Law Day 2025.

FSM Supreme Court Associate Justice Chang William gave the welcoming remarks and thanked President Simina and the FSM Congress for their continued support of the Court. Justice William thanked the Kosrae Leadership for hosting this year's debate. Justice William gave special recognition to all debaters and coaches and extended his best wishes and good luck to all teams.

All teams are required to debate both sides of the proposition. After two days of debate, the judges rated the overall scores as follows:

1. Team Pohnpei Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, with a total of 661 points
2. Team Yap Catholic High School, with a total of 659 points
3. Team Pohnpei SDA High School, with a total of 658 points
4. Team Chuuk Xavier High School, with a total of 609 points
5. Team Chuuk Saramen High School, with a total of 604 points
6. Team Kosrae SDA High School, with a total of 579 points

Representing the States and the high schools are:



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

POHNPEI DEBATE TEAM II (Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School)

From Left to right: Jasmae Rose Ringlen, debater, Karishma Paul, debater and Jessilyn Kiana Lebehn Pelep, alternate

Coach: Ben Russell Figueras



YAP DEBATE TEAM (Yap Catholic High School)

From left to right: Martin Edilyong, debater; Aryn Southwick, alternate; and Anthony Rutmag, debater

Coach: Saralyn Wuyoch



POHNPEI DEBATE TEAM I (Pohnpei Seventh-Day Adventist High School)

From left to right: Tony Pretrick, debater; Sjann Overhoff, debater; and Noaha Panuelo, alterate

Coach: Leighton S. Edward



CHUUK DEBATE TEAM II (Chuuk Xavier School)

From left to right: Trinity Ilisouroam, alternate; Ha'anni Ynez Pangelinan Boichan, debater; and Miyah Mioko Yasu, debater

Coach: Chrispino Houmarek





FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CHUUK DEBATE TEAM I (Saramen Chuuk High School)

From left or right: Nyla Kealoha Yleizah, debater; Summer Mori, debater; and Mayumi Lomongo, alternate

Coach: Micheal Kanas



KOSRAE DEBATE TEAM (Kosrae SDA High School)

Left to right: Vitalina Selina Masitubua, debater; Oleander Kinere, alternate; and Preeya Aiko Ned, debater

Coach: Lyna George



The FSM Supreme Court would like to thank the FSM President's Office, the FSM Congress, the State Departments of Education, all the high schools in the FSM, Senator Johnson Asher Kosrae State Leadership, Kosrae State Legislature, Kosrae State Judiciary, Kosrae State Governor Palik, Lt. Governor Nena, Speaker and Pastor Semeon J. Phill, Kosrae Chief Justice Edmond Salik, Pastor Eden Skilling, FSM National Police, the judges for this year's debate, all debaters and coaches, the Funene sisters, the National Law Day Committee and FSM Supreme Court staff for making this year's national law day possible.

The 2026 FSM National Law Day Debate will be held in the State of Yap.



11 CLERK OF COURT DIVISION

The Clerk's Office is the official keeper of the records for the FSM Supreme Court, including the Trial and Appellate cases. It is the custodian and protector of all property records in the judicial system. Additional duties include but are not limited to:

- managing trial and appellate cases;
- entering and processing of orders;
- court filings;
- notary public;
- recording and transcription of court proceedings;
- managing court scheduling on the website calendar;
- updating status of cases on CTS;
- scanning and upload filings and Orders onto CTS on a daily basis; and
- maintaining records of all members of the FSM Supreme Court Bar.

By the end of 2024 there were a total of 2,072 cases uploaded into CTS, with these cases dating back to the 1980s.

The last clerk's training on CTS was held in Pohnpei on October 30th to November 3rd of 2023.

The screenshot displays the CTS interface with a sidebar on the left containing search and administration options. The main content area shows 'Case Information' for Case No. 2022-00078 SCAIP/PI. The case details include Sub-Case Type (N/A), Case Title (Erick Paul v. Auser Lambert, Election Director of Government of Federated States of Micronesia, Esmond Moses), Location (Pohnpei), and Date Filed (12/23/2022). The Final Outcome is a Mandate, and the Date Disposed is 03/06/2023. The Status is 'Completed in 73 days'. Below this, the 'Judicial Officers' section lists four officers: Bealeem Carl-Worwick (Associate Justice), Larry Wentworth (Associate Justice), Cyprian Manmaw (Temporary Justice), and Craig D. Reither (Staff Attorney), each with their respective dates on case.

Case Information			
Case No.	2022-00078 SCAIP/PI	Jurisdiction	FSM Supreme Court
Case Type	Appeal	Sub-Case Type	N/A
Case Title	Erick Paul v. Auser Lambert, Election Director of Government of Federated States of Micronesia, Esmond Moses		
Location	Pohnpei	Village	N/A
Case Complexity	N/A	Case Description	N/A
Date Filed	12/23/2022	Final Outcome	Mandate
Date Disposed	03/06/2023	Stage	Case Closed
Status	Completed in 73 days	Date Due	06/15/2024
		Time Standards	640 days
Comments	N/A		
Judicial Officers			
1	Judicial Officer	Bealeem Carl-Worwick	Title Associate Justice
2	Judicial Officer	Larry Wentworth	Title Associate Justice
3	Judicial Officer	Cyprian Manmaw	Title Temporary Justice
4	Judicial Officer	Craig D. Reither	Title Staff Attorney

Figure 20: CTS



12 JUSTICE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION

12.1 THE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION

The Justice Ombudsmen serve as Probation Officers, Court Marshals, and Court Interpreters. The Ombudsmen are tasked with supervising all defendants released on probation and/or on suspended sentence and under pre-trial releases. Such supervisions encompass a range of responsibilities including:

1. Scheduling and meeting with offenders;
2. Monitoring of offenders' compliance to terms and conditions of release/suspended sentences;
3. Prepare pre-sentence investigation reports to assist with determining proper sentences for offenders;
4. Prepare and submit to the Court revocation requests when probationers or pretrial release defendants have violated conditions of releases; and.
5. Maintain and secure statements and other records of probationers under supervision.

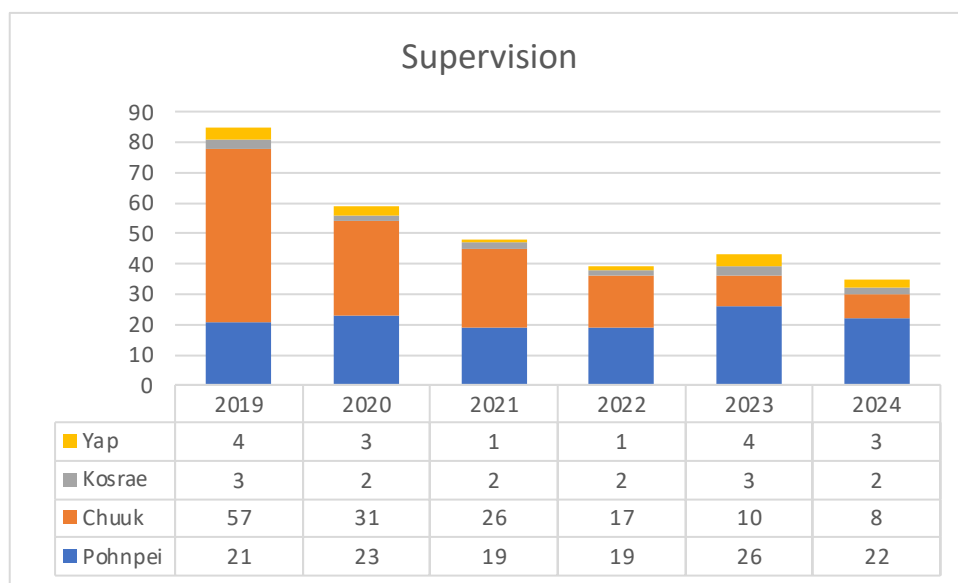


Figure 21: Ombudsman Supervision

In 2024, the Ombudsman Office supervised 35 probationers, a slight decrease from 2023.

24 of the 35 probationers under the supervision of the Ombudsmen are males in 2024.

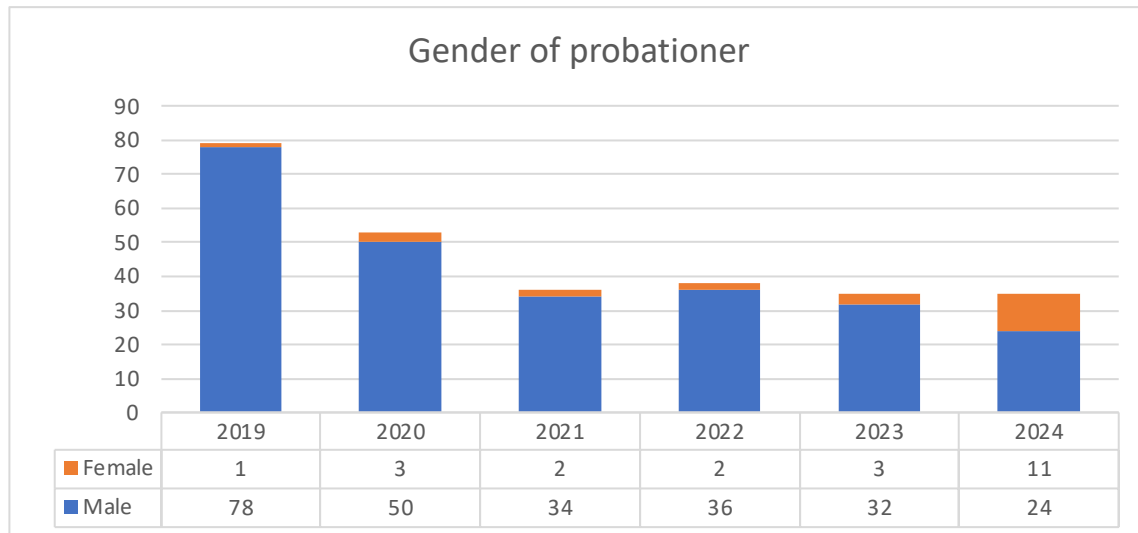


Figure 22: Probationer Gender mix

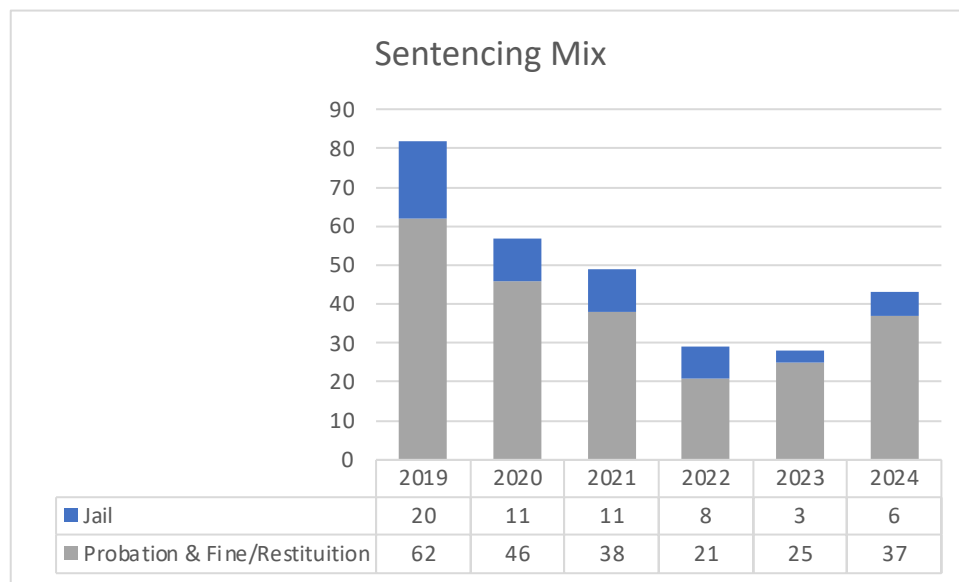


Figure 23: Probationer Sentencing mix



12.2 TYPES OF OFFENCES BY STATES

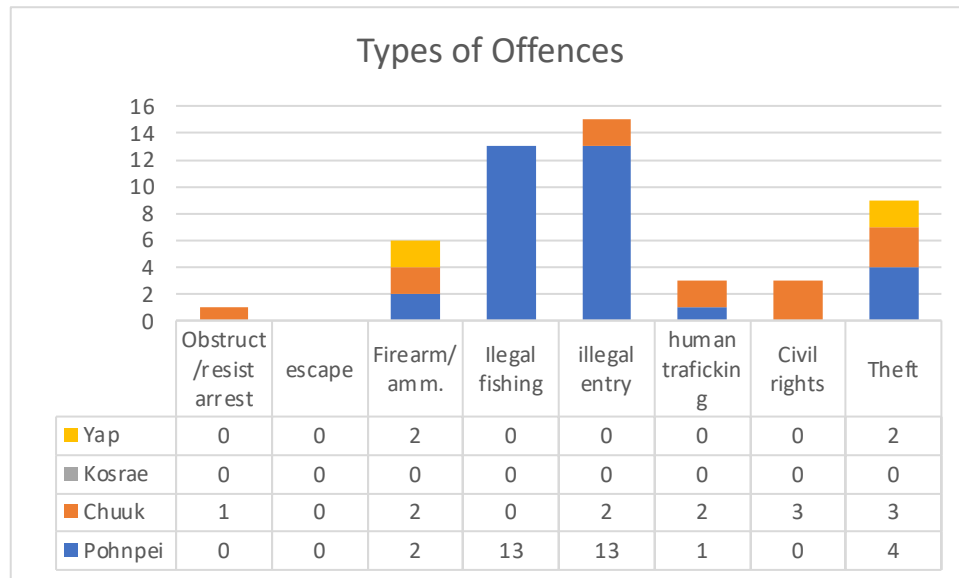


Figure 24: Types of Offences



13 FSM SUPREME COURT LIBRARY AND PUBLICATIONS

Mission:

To ensure that the FSMSCLL provide current and Comprehensive Legal Reference and Information Services to the Judiciary, Bar Members and the General Public throughout the four FSM States.

Vision:

To assume the leading role in supporting the Legal Research Activities of the Judiciary, Bar Members, Staff and its Large Community by:

1. Creating Access to Local, State, National and International Legal Information;
2. Developing and Publishing Electronic and other Legal Information products for benefit of Judges, Bar Members, Staff and the Community;
3. Designing Information and Communication Systems linking the FSM Supreme Court Website(s) to State, National, Regional and International Sources;
4. Providing assistance to the Trial Counselors' Program and others in the process of Legal Research and Information retrieval while utilizing a variety of methods and formats; and
5. Serving as the Legal Information Resource Center for the citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia

13.1.1 PUBLICATIONS

The FSMSCLL continued its publications of the FSM Reports. The soft copies of this Reporters can be accessed on the research website, fsmLaw.org, and hard copies of these Reports are available in the FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries in all the four States, Yap, Chuuk Pohnpei and Kosrae. This Reports are publish in volumes starting from Volume 1 to Volume 23.

13.1.2 SUBSCRIPTION TO WESTLAW (ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH DATABASE)

The FSMSCLL continued its subscription with Westlaw on an annual bases and its purpose is to provide access to legal treatises and secondary sources, legal formats, legal news, U.S. federal and state case law and other legal resources.

This subscription supplements the library's existing collection of over 20,000 volumes in paper format in all the four (4) FSMSCLL branches and the Judiciary's online legal searchable case law database. The online research database for Westlaw is available to judges, staff attorneys, and staff of the FSM Supreme Court.

13.1.3 MEMBERSHIP

The FSMSCLL continued its membership with the other Library Organizations including Libraries, Archives and Museum of Pohnpei (LAMP), International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) and Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA).



13.1.4 WEBSITE

The FSMSCLL continued its collection of available legal resources such as laws and other legal materials from the National to States government, and other jurisdictions to make it available/accessible on the FSMSCLL Website for the general public to use.

The three graphs below show the online information access in FY 2024 and FY 2023, which the third graph shows the comparison between these two years by each total of visitors based on Return Visitors vs. New Visitors.

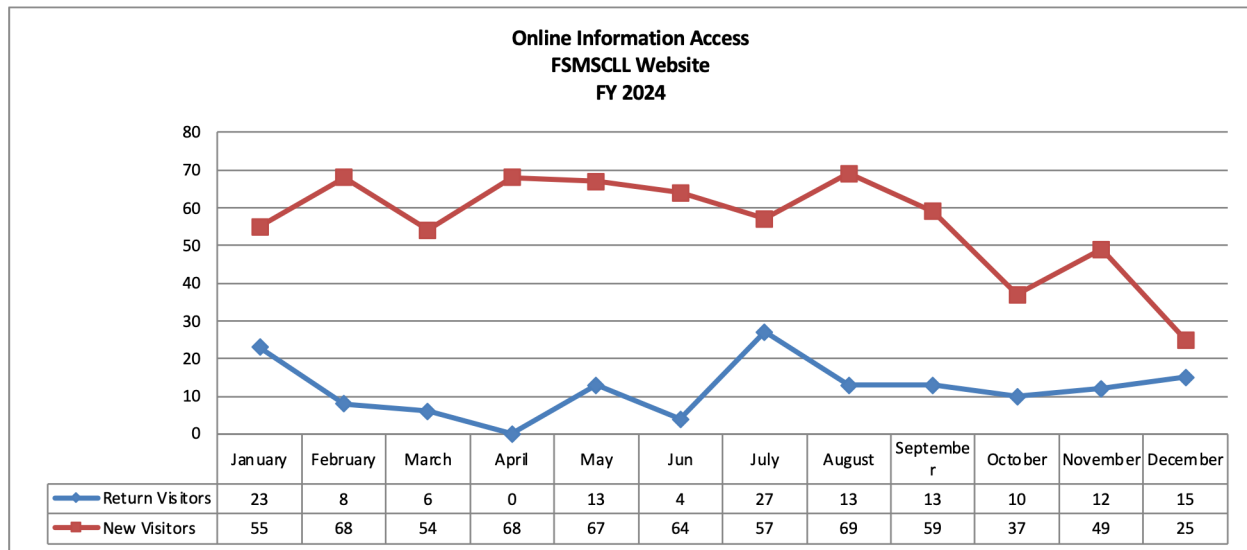


Figure 25: FSMSCLL Website 2024

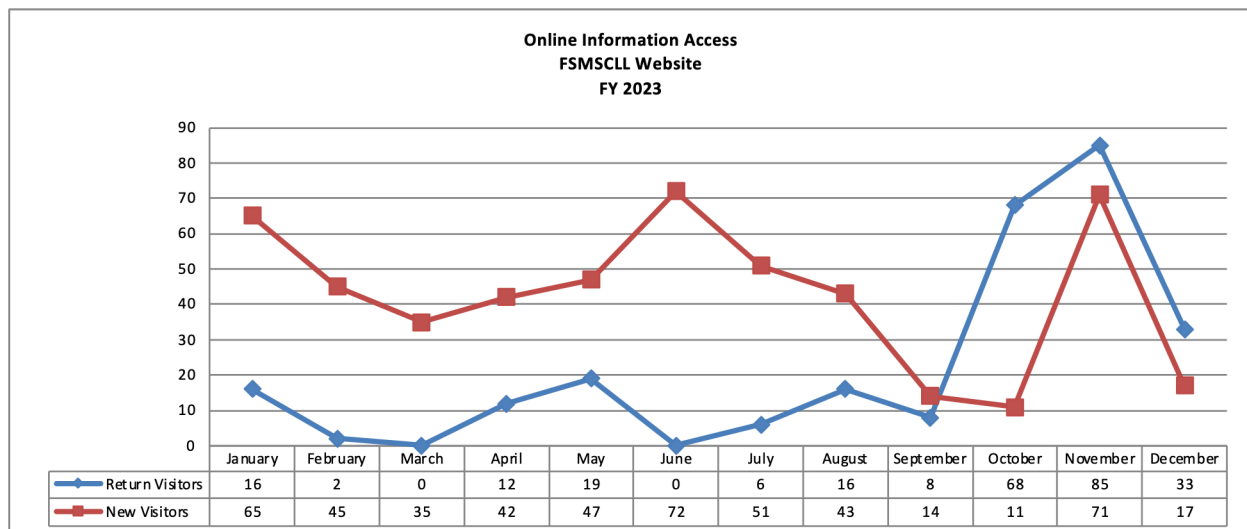


Figure 26: FSMSCLL Website 2023



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

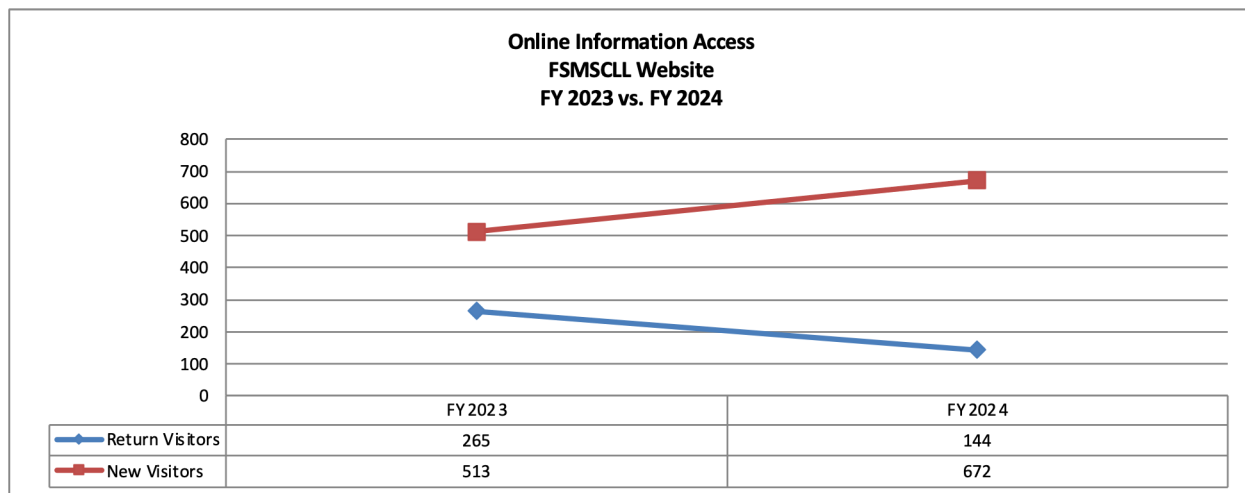


Figure 27: FSMSCLL Website 2024 v 2023

Chuuk Office

Tel: (691) 330-2397/2908

Email: lawlibrary@fmsupremecourt.org

**Mailing Address: P.O.Box 601 Weno,
Chuuk FSM 96942**

Kosrae Office

Tel: (691) 370-3185

Email: lawlibrary@fmsupremecourt.org

**Mailing Address: P.O.Box J Tofol,
Kosrae, FSM 96944**

Pohnpei, Palikir Office

Tel: (691) 320-2763/2764

Email: lawlibrary@fmsupremecourt.org

**Mailing Address: P.O.Box PS-J Palikir,
Pohnpei, FSM 96941**

Yap Office

Tel: (691) 350-2159/3419

Email: lawlibrary@fmsupremecourt.org

**Mailing Address: P.O.Box 546 Colonia,
Yap, FSM 96943**



14 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

14.1.1 CHUUK FENCING





14.1.2 KOSRAE PROJECT





FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

15 CONTACT US

Pohnpei Office:
Phone: (691) 320-2357/2763/2764
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box PS-J
Palikir, FM 96941

Chuuk Office
Phone: (691) 330-2397
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 601 Weno, Chuuk, FM 96942

Yap Office
• Phone: (691) 350-2159
• Mailing Address
P.O. Box 546
• Colonia, Yap FM 96943

For additional queries or feedback,
email:
webmaster@fsm-supremecourt.org

Kosrae Office
• Phone: (691) 370-3185
• Mailing Address
P.O. Box J Tofol, Kosrae, FSM
96944



16 APPENDICES

16.1 COOK ISLAND INDICATORS STATUS

The Court has invested significant effort in being able to report on the Cook Island Indicators is proud of the green lights showing.

- **Green** – Fully Completed
- **Orange** – Partially completed
- **Red** – Incomplete

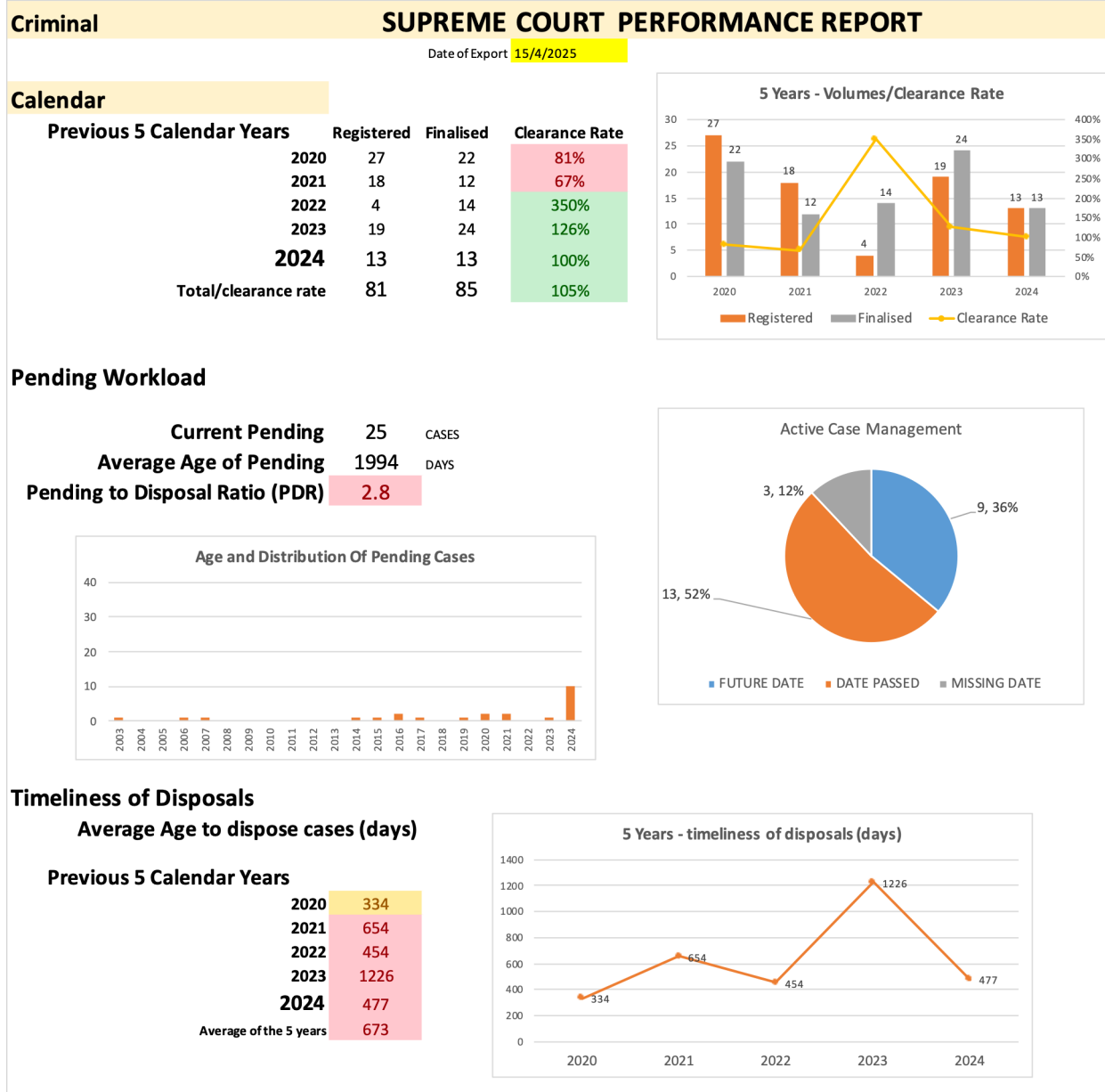
	Indicator	Description	2024
1	Case Management Information	Case finalization clearance rate	●
2	Case Management Information	Average duration of a case	●
3	Appeals	The percentage of appeals	●
4	Appeals	Overturn rate on appeal	●
5	Access	Percentage of cases that are granted a court fee waiver	●
6	Access	Percentage of cases disposed through a court circuit	●
7	Access	Percentage of cases where party receives legal aid	●
8	Complaints	Documented process for receiving and processing a complaint that is publicly available	●
9	Complaints	Percentage of complaint received concerning a judicial officer	●
10	Complaints	Percentage of complaints receiving concerning a court staff member	●
11	Human Resources	Average number of cases per judicial officer	●
12	Human Resources	Average number of cases per court staff	●
13	Judicial Transparency	Court produces or contributes to an Annual Report that is publicly available	●
14	Judicial Transparency	Information on Court services is publicly available	●
15	Judicial Transparency	Judgments on PacLII	●
16	Case Management Information	Average Age of Pending Caseload	●
17	Case Management Information	Percentage of complaints that have been handled within an agreed timeframe	●
18	Judicial Transparency	Total number of compliments and positive feedback received by the court	●
19	Human Resources	The range of training and development opportunities	●
20	Human Resources	The percentage use rate of courtrooms	●



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

16.2 DETAILED CASE ANALYSIS

16.2.1 CRIMINAL CASES





FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

16.2.2 CIVIL CASES

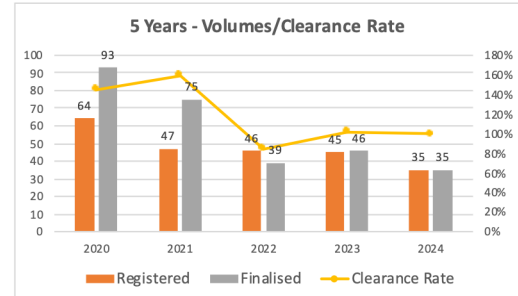
Civil

SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date of Export 15/4/2025

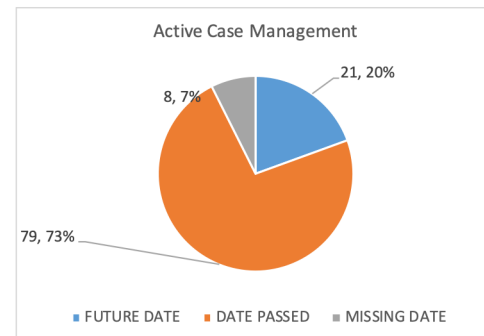
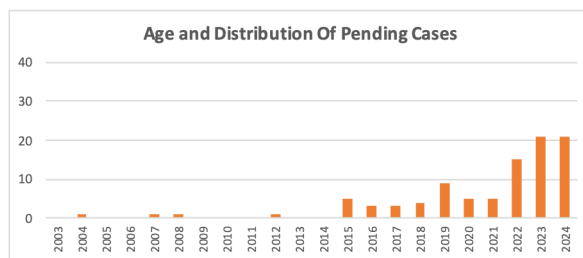
Calendar

Previous 5 Calendar Years	Registered	Finalised	Clearance Rate
2020	64	93	145%
2021	47	75	160%
2022	46	39	85%
2023	45	46	102%
2024	35	35	100%
Total/clearance rate	237	288	122%



Pending Workload

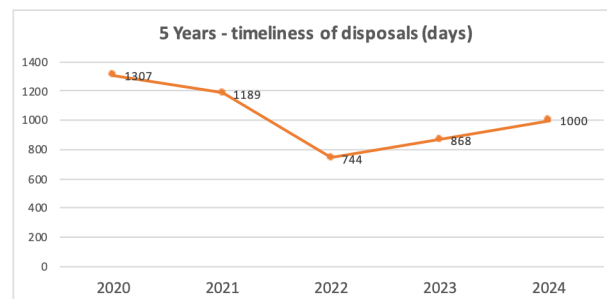
Current Pending	108	CASES
Average Age of Pending	1310	DAYS
Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR)	4.0	



Timeliness of Disposals

Average Age to dispose cases (days)

Previous 5 Calendar Years	
2020	1307
2021	1189
2022	744
2023	868
2024	1000
Average of the 5 years	1092



Commentary:

The number of civil matters filed in 2024 reduced slightly with previous years, while finalizing #s slightly lower to the previous year, thus Pending caseload remaining relative stable at 108 matters. The average age of these cases is of concern, as is the PDR at 4.0 (equates to approximately 4 years of work on hand), and action will be taken in 2025 to further address this delay, plus the # of matters without a future court action/appearance. Time to finalize civil matters still remains on the higher than desired side, and again, reflects the complexity of the matters before the Court, but has been declining over recent years, a positive trend.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

16.2.3 APPEAL CASES

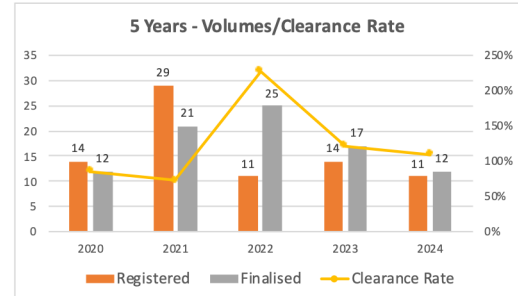
Appeal

SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date of Export 15/4/2025

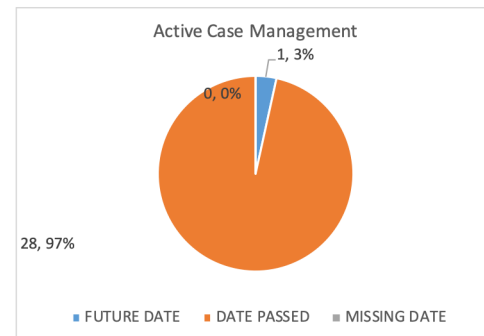
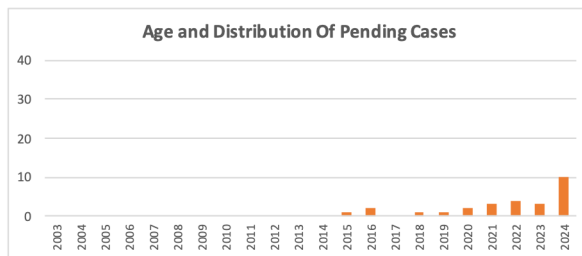
Calendar

Previous 5 Calendar Years	Registered	Finalised	Clearance Rate
2020	14	12	86%
2021	29	21	72%
2022	11	25	227%
2023	14	17	121%
2024	11	12	109%
Total/clearance rate	79	87	110%



Pending Workload

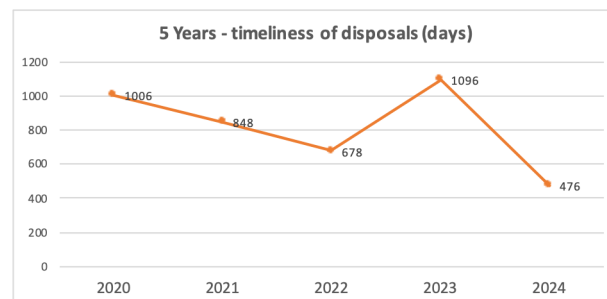
Current Pending	29	CASES
Average Age of Pending	1094	DAYS
Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR)	3.6	



Timeliness of Disposals

Average Age to dispose cases (days)

Previous 5 Calendar Years	
2020	1006
2021	848
2022	678
2023	1096
2024	476
Average of the 5 years	818



Commentary:

The number of appeal matters filed in 2024 reduced slightly, while still finalizing slightly fewer #s to the previous year, Pending caseload increased to 29 matters. The average age of these cases is of concern, and action will be taken in 2025 to address this delay, plus the # of matters without a future court action/appearance. The PDR of 3.6 reflects approximately four years-worth of work on hand – higher than desired. Time to finalize appeal matters reduced back to previous years levels, and again, reflects the complexity of the appeals before the Court.



16.2.4 BANKRUPTCY CASES

There have been no Bankruptcy matters in the last 4 years.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

16.2.5 DISCIPLINARY CASES

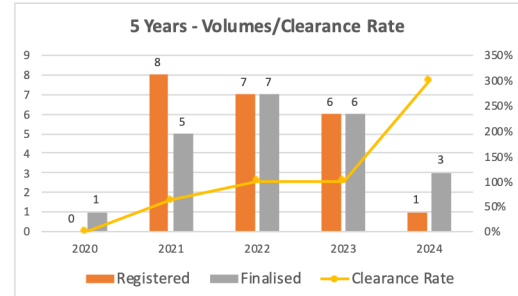
Disciplinary

SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date of Export 15/4/2025

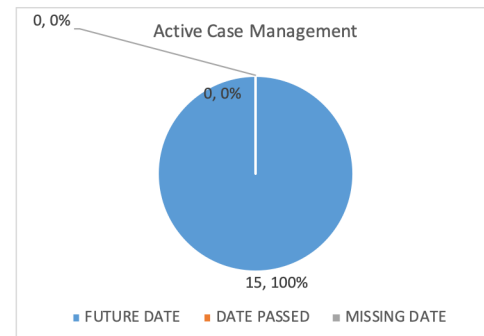
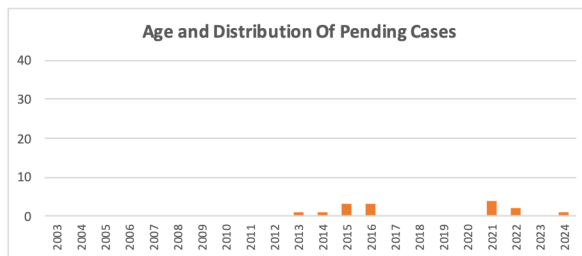
Calendar

Previous 5 Calendar Years	Registered	Finalised	Clearance Rate
2020	0	1	
2021	8	5	63%
2022	7	7	100%
2023	6	6	100%
2024	1	3	300%
Total/clearance rate	22	22	100%



Pending Workload

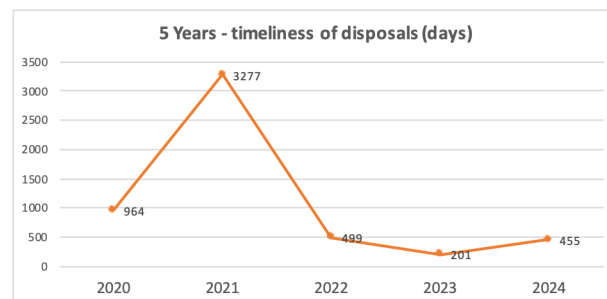
Current Pending	15	CASES
Average Age of Pending	2424	DAYS
Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR)	5.0	



Timeliness of Disposals

Average Age to dispose cases (days)

Previous 5 Calendar Years	
2020	964
2021	3277
2022	499
2023	201
2024	455
Average of the 5 years	1064



Commentary:

The number of disciplinary matters filed in 2024 was just one case. There are a number of pending matters from many years ago and these will be investigated for their true status.

Caution must be taken when attempting to analyze such low numbers.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

16.2.6 SEARCH WARRANTS

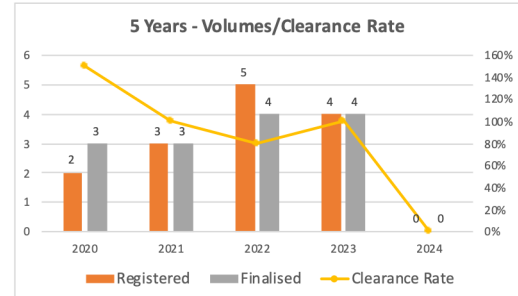
Search Warrant

SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Date of Export 3/3/2025

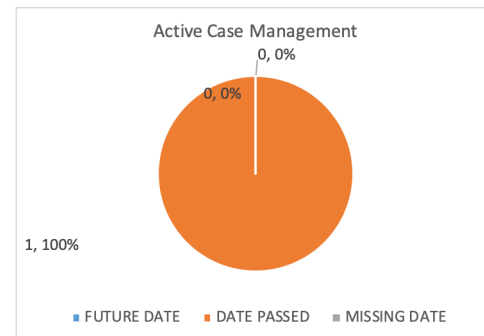
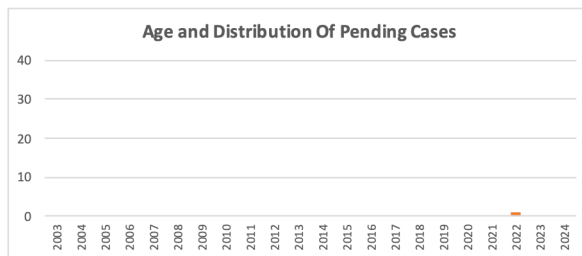
Calendar

Previous 5 Calendar Years	Registered	Finalised	Clearance Rate
2020	2	3	150%
2021	3	3	100%
2022	5	4	80%
2023	4	4	100%
2024	0	0	
Total/clearance rate	14	14	100%



Pending Workload

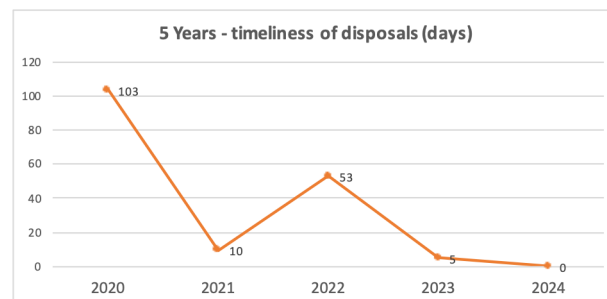
Current Pending 1 CASES
Average Age of Pending 937 DAYS
Pending to Disposal Ratio (PDR)



Timeliness of Disposals

Average Age to dispose cases (days)

Previous 5 Calendar Years	Average Age to dispose cases (days)
2020	103
2021	10
2022	53
2023	5
2024	
Average of the 5 years	



Commentary:

There were no search warrants handled in 2024.

Caution must be taken when attempting to analyze such low numbers.



FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

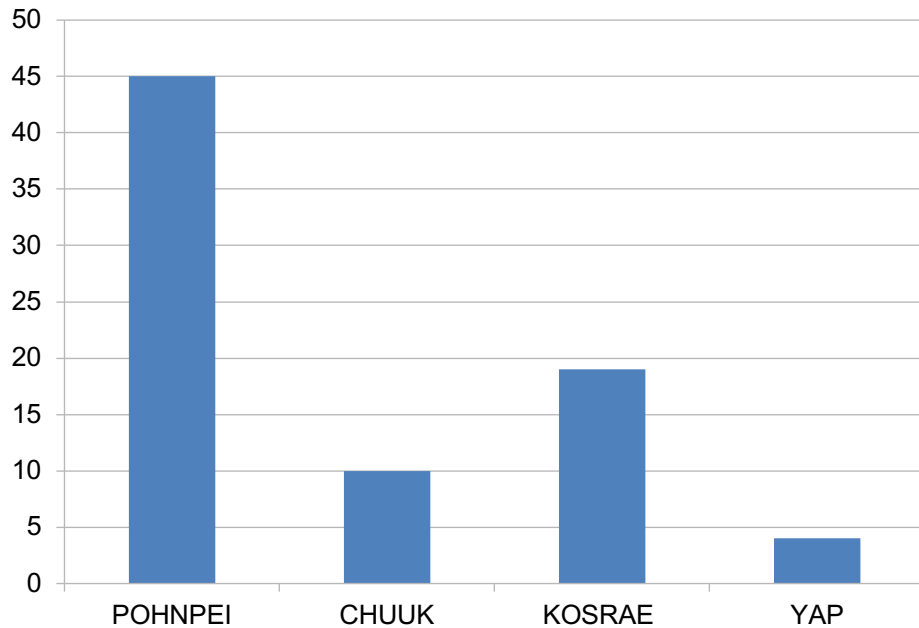
16.3 2024 FSM SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE SURVEY

The Survey was conducted in 2024 and is the first Survey since 2021.

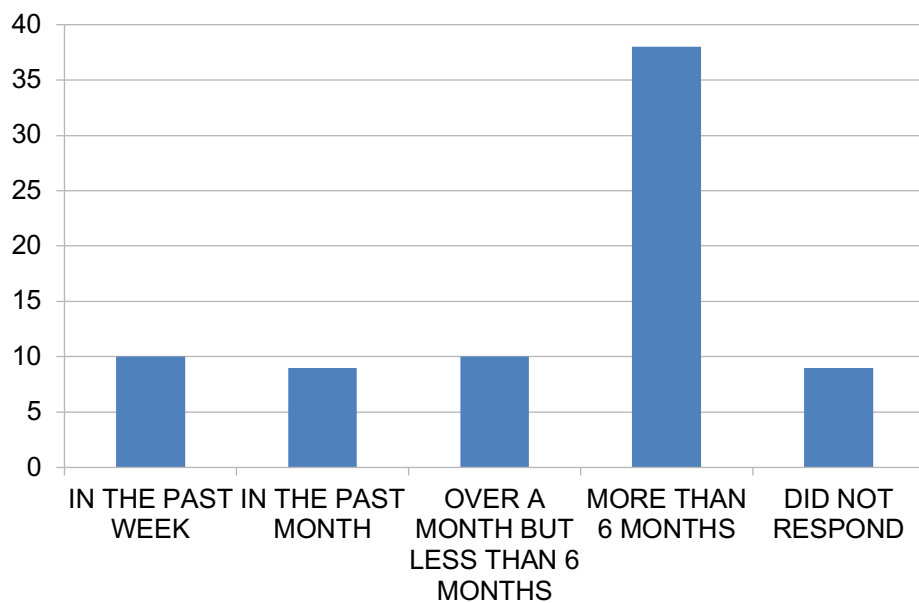


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

1. PLEASE TELL US THE COURT LOCATION FOR WHICH YOU ARE PROVIDING FEEDBACK:



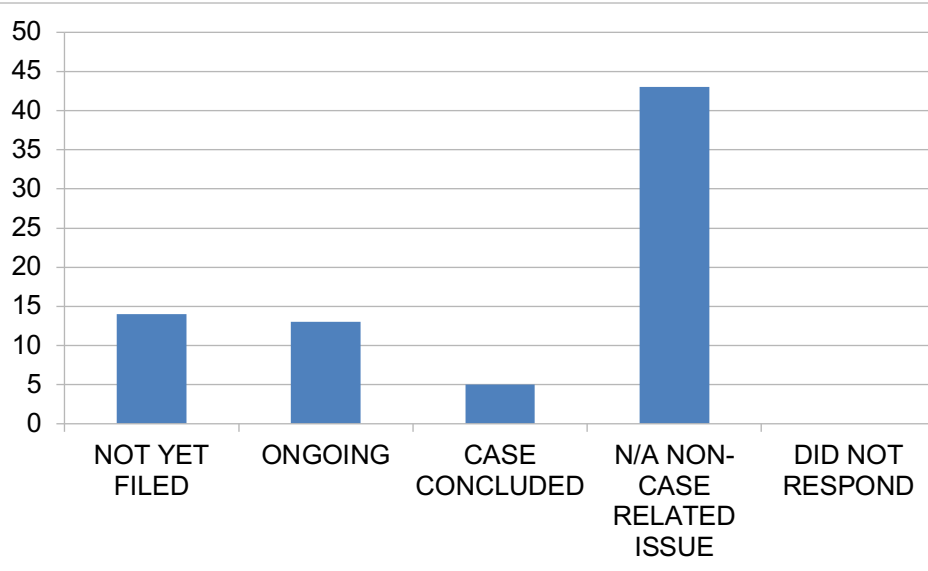
2. HOW RECENT WAS YOUR COURT EXPERIENCE?



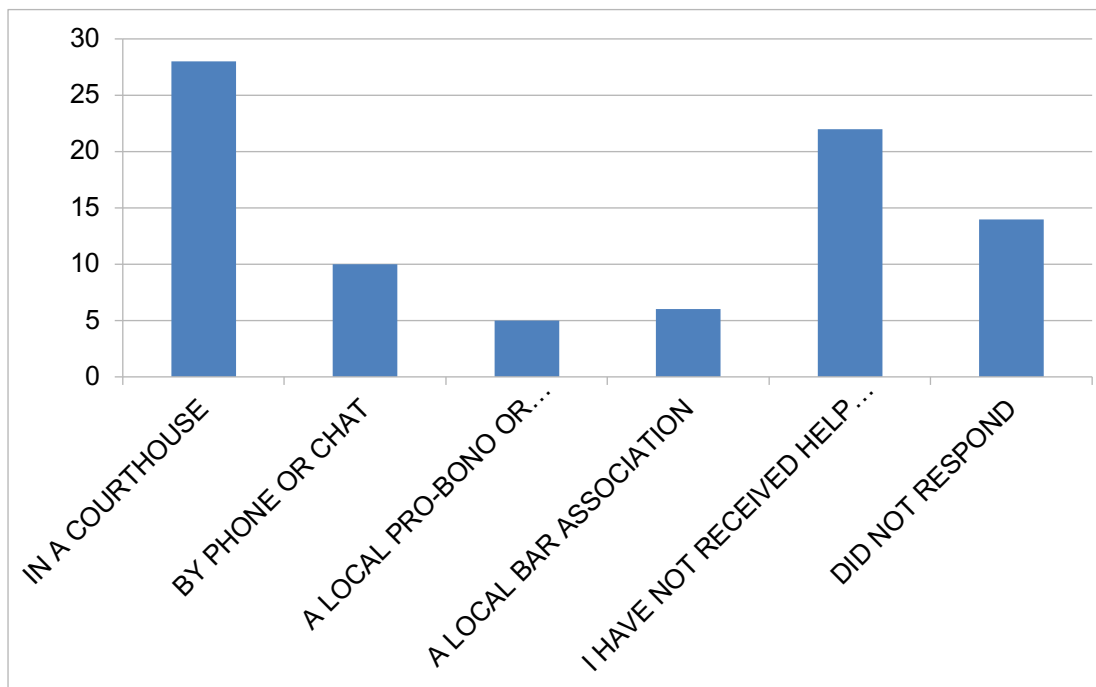


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

3. WHAT'S THE STATUS OF YOUR CASE?

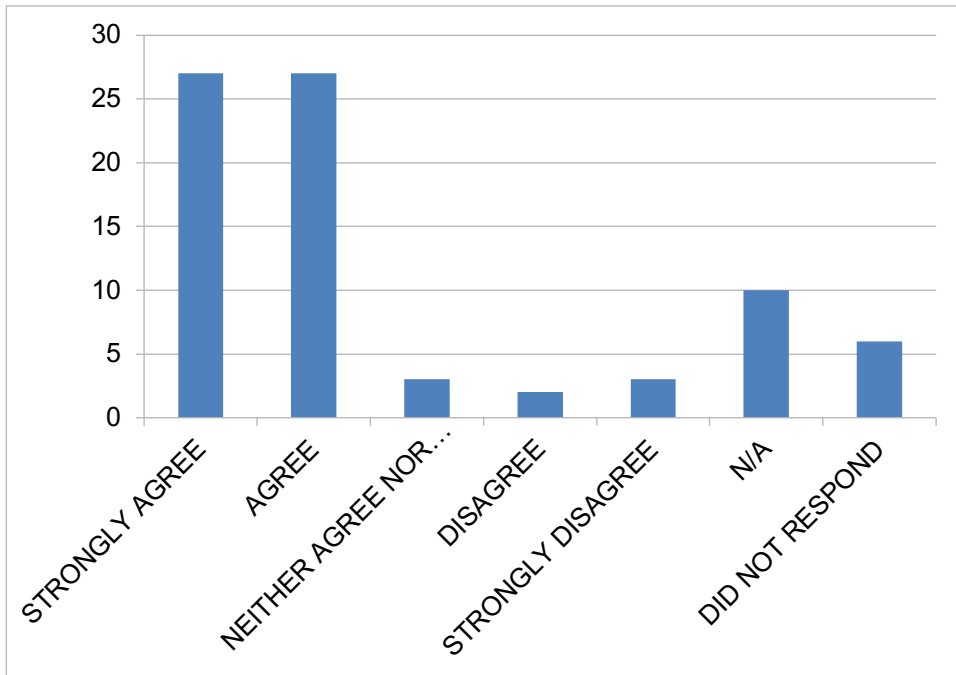


4. DID YOU GET HELP WITH YOUR MOST RECENT COURT ISSUE FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

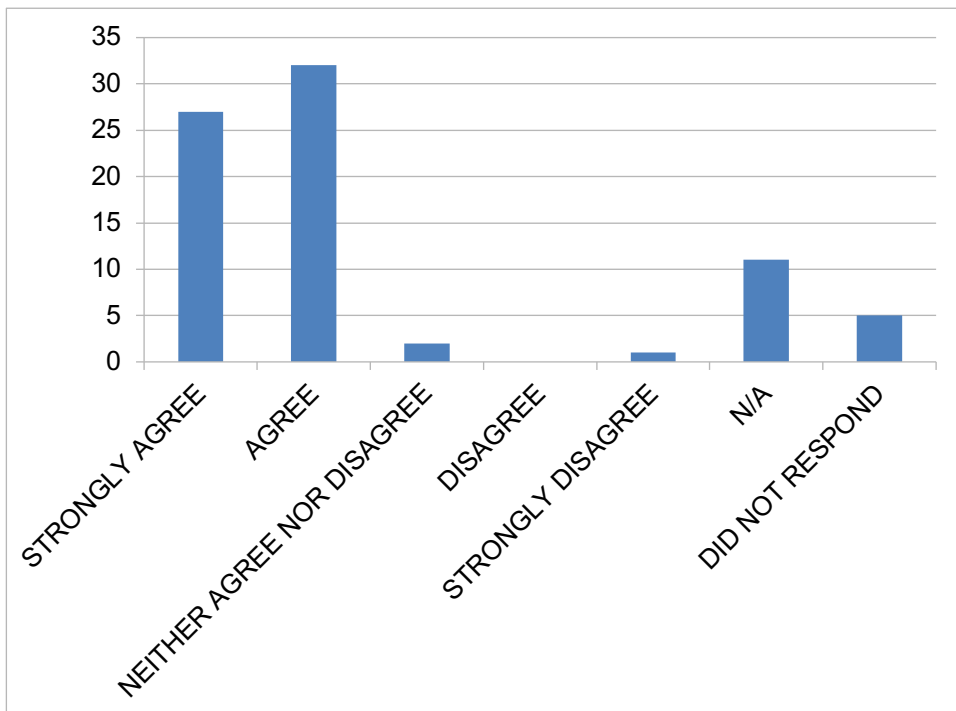




5. ACCESS TO THE COURT: PLEASE RATE YOUR MOST RECENT EXPERIENCE ACCESSING THE COURT



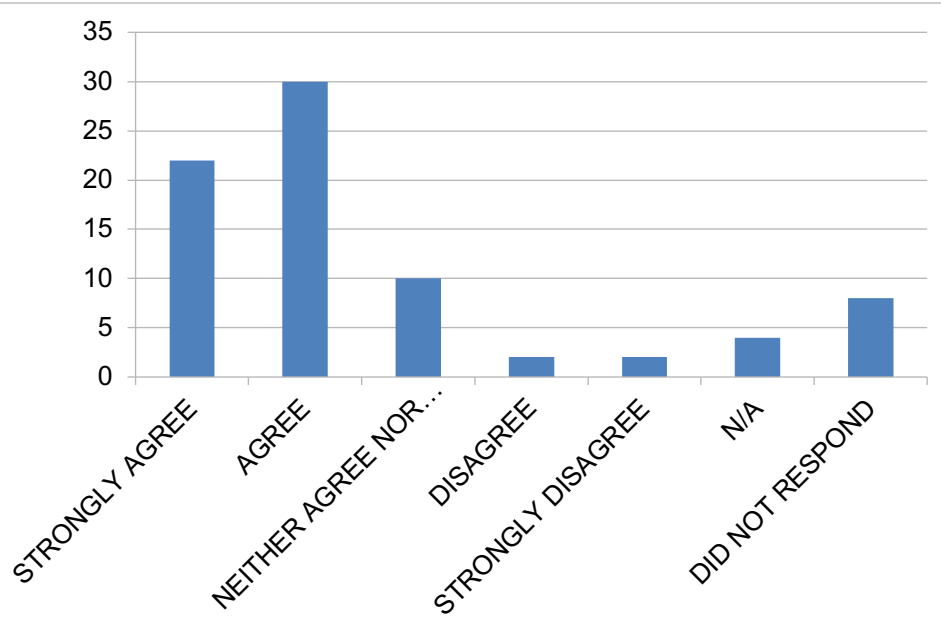
6. FINDING THE COURTHOUSE WAS HELPFUL



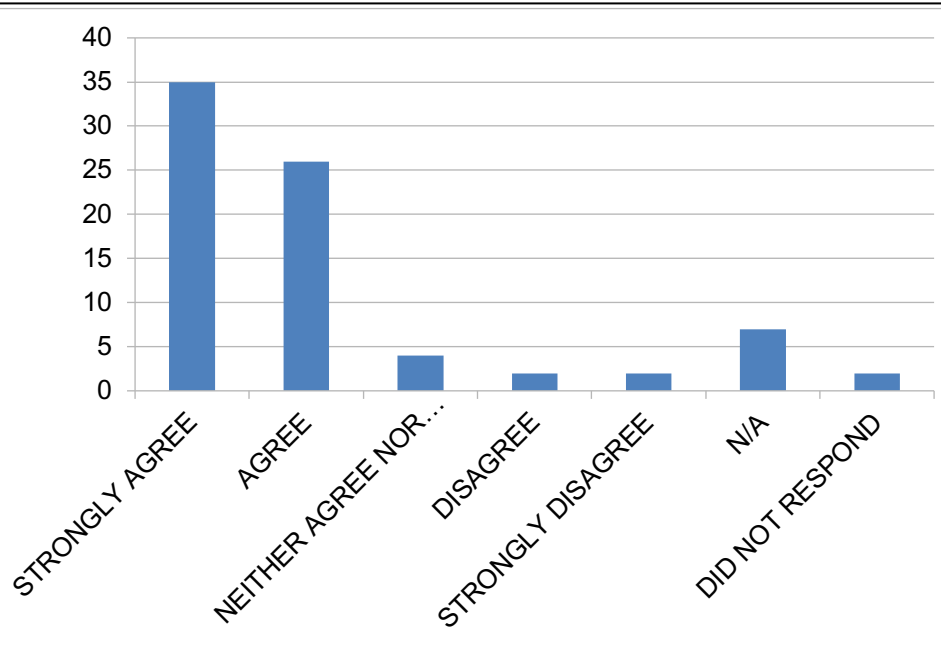


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

7. THE FORMS I NEEDED WERE CLEAR AND EASY TO



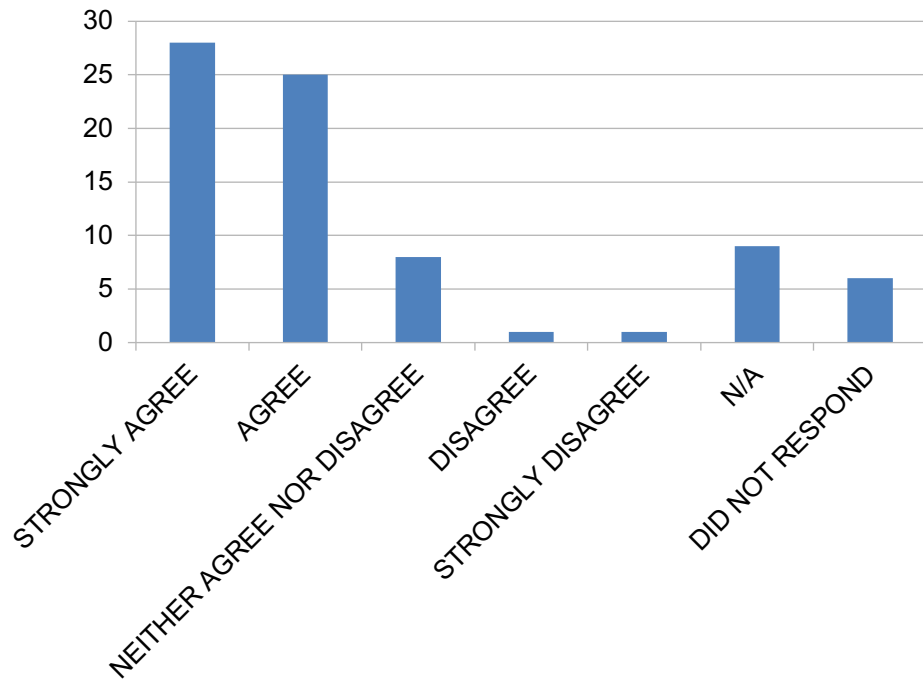
8. I FELT SAFE IN THE COURTHOUSE



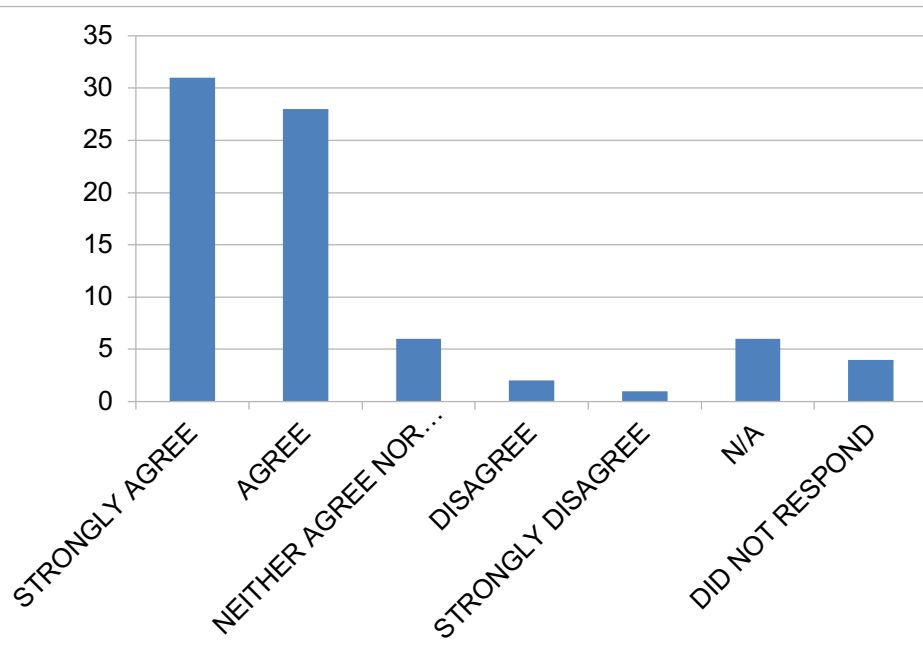


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

9. THE COURT MAKES REASONABLE EFFORTS TO REMOVE PHYSICAL AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS TO SERVICE



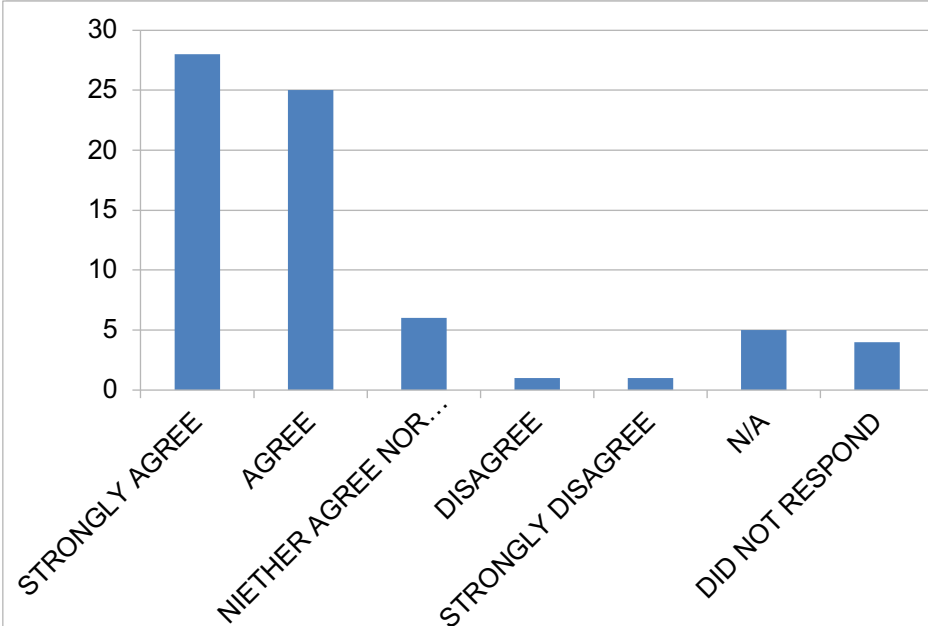
10. I WAS TREATED WITH RESPECT AND COURTESY



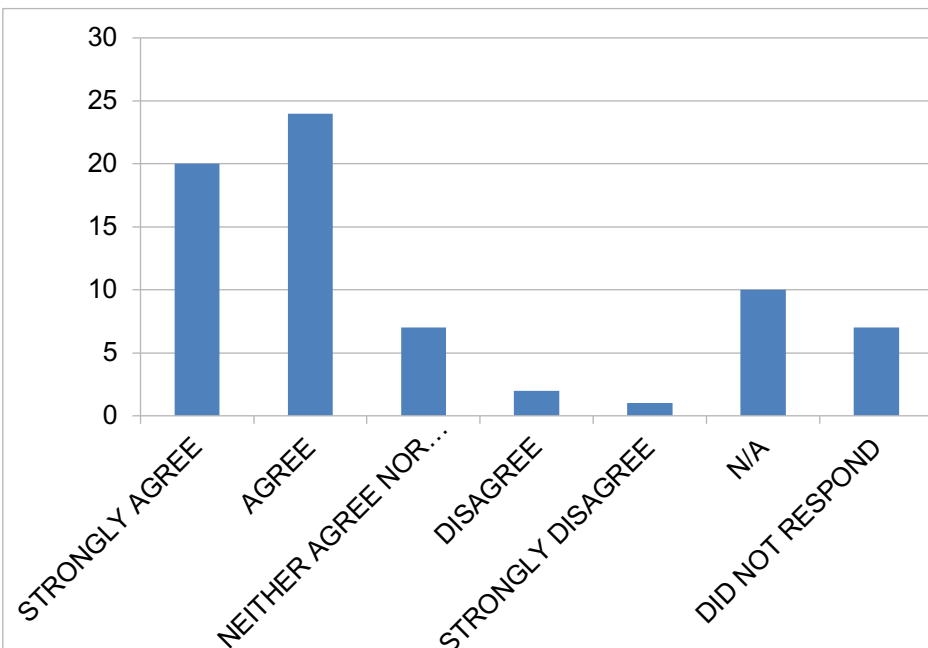


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

11. COURT STAFF PAID ATTENDTION TO MY NEEDS



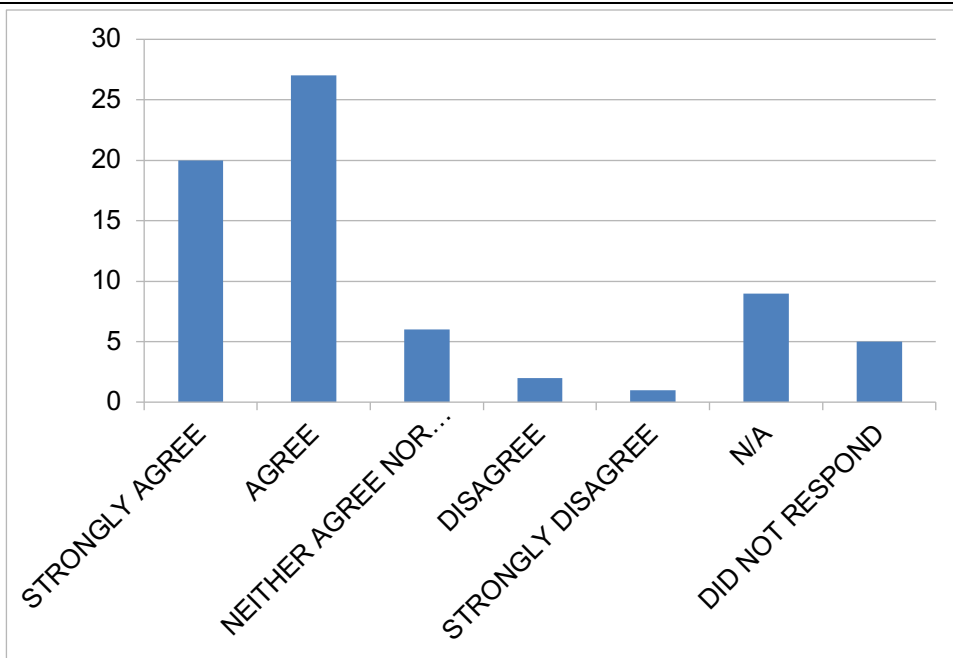
12. THE COURT WEBSITE WAS USEFUL



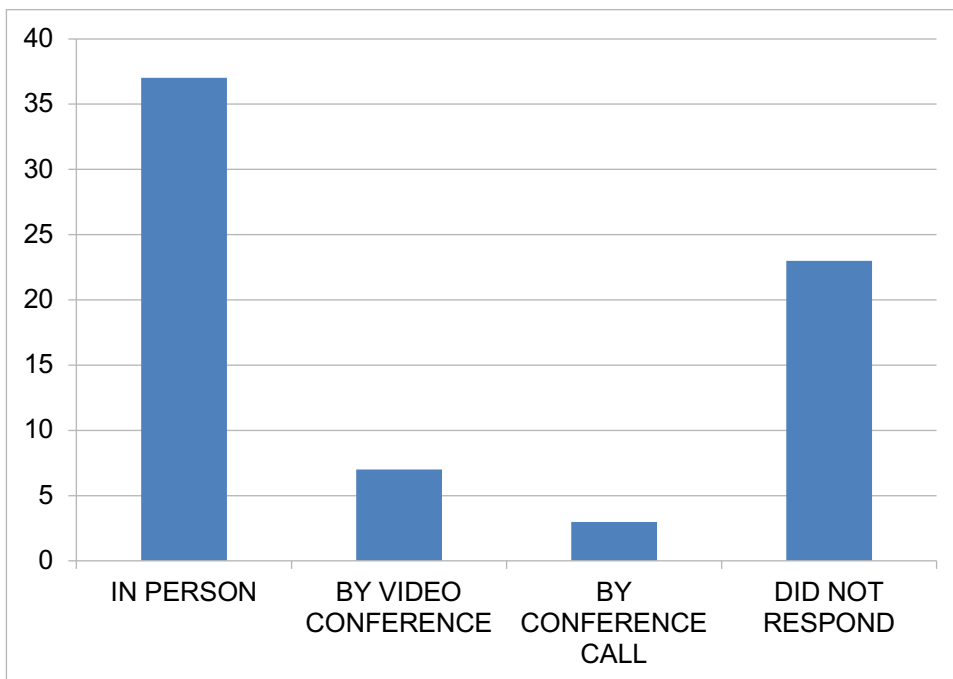


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

13. THE COURT'S HOURS OF OPERATION MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO DO MY BUSINESS



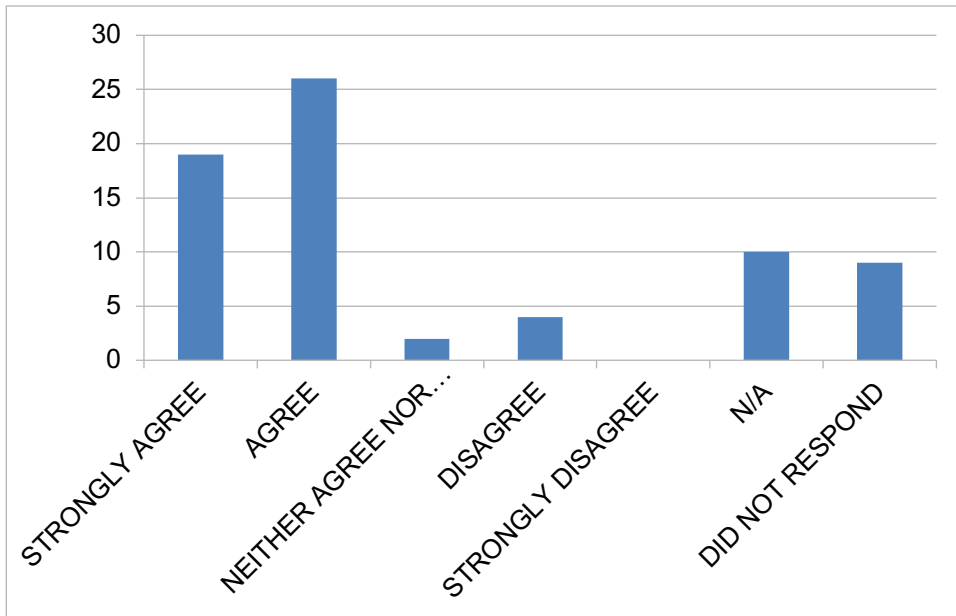
14. HOW WAS THE MOST RECENT HEARING OR TRIAL HELD?



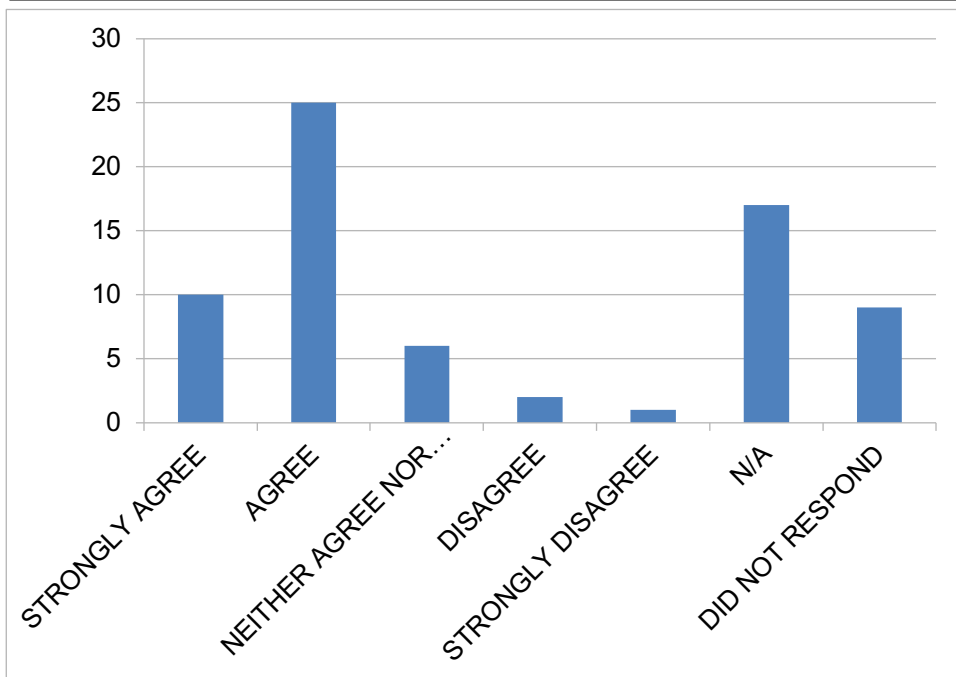


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

15. FAIRNESS: PLEASE RATE YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE FAIRNESS OF YOUR MOST RECENT HEARING OR TRIAL



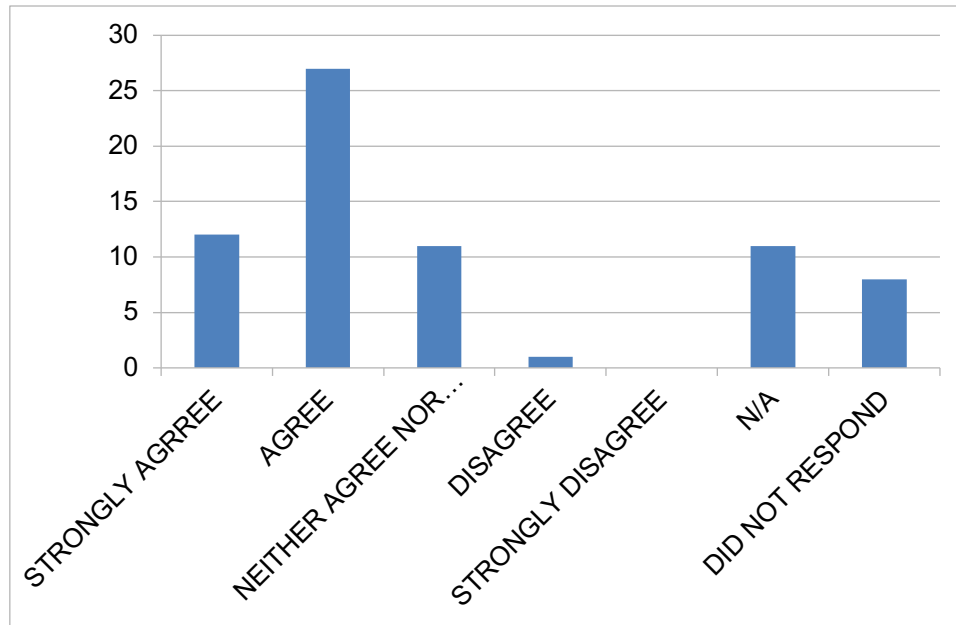
16. THE WAY MY CASE WAS HANDLED WAS FAIR



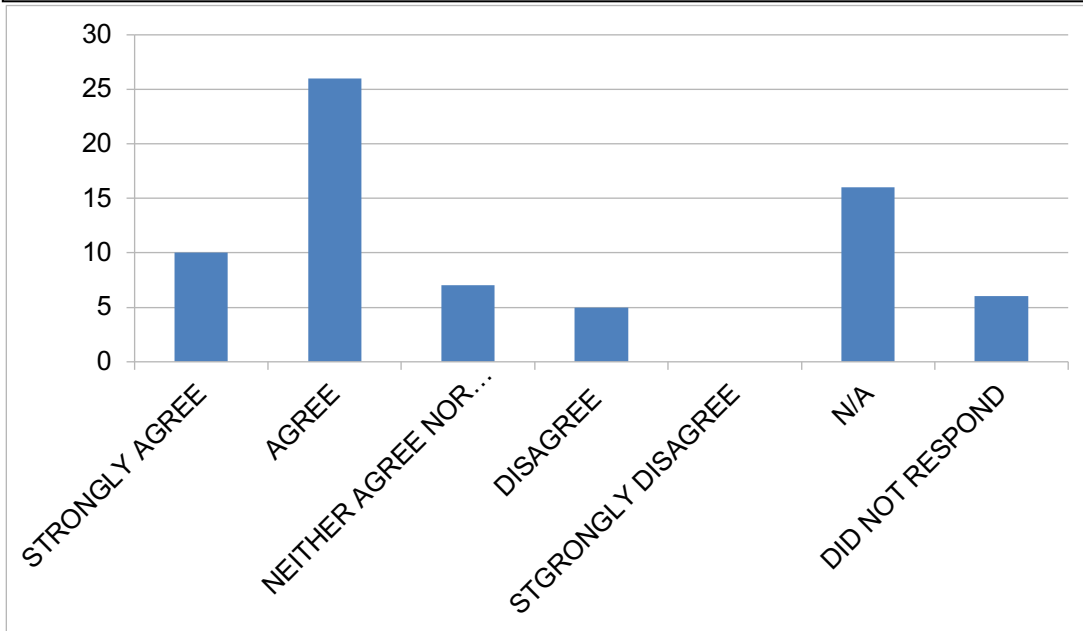


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

17. I UNDERSTOOD WHAT TO DO AT THE HEARING OR TRIAL



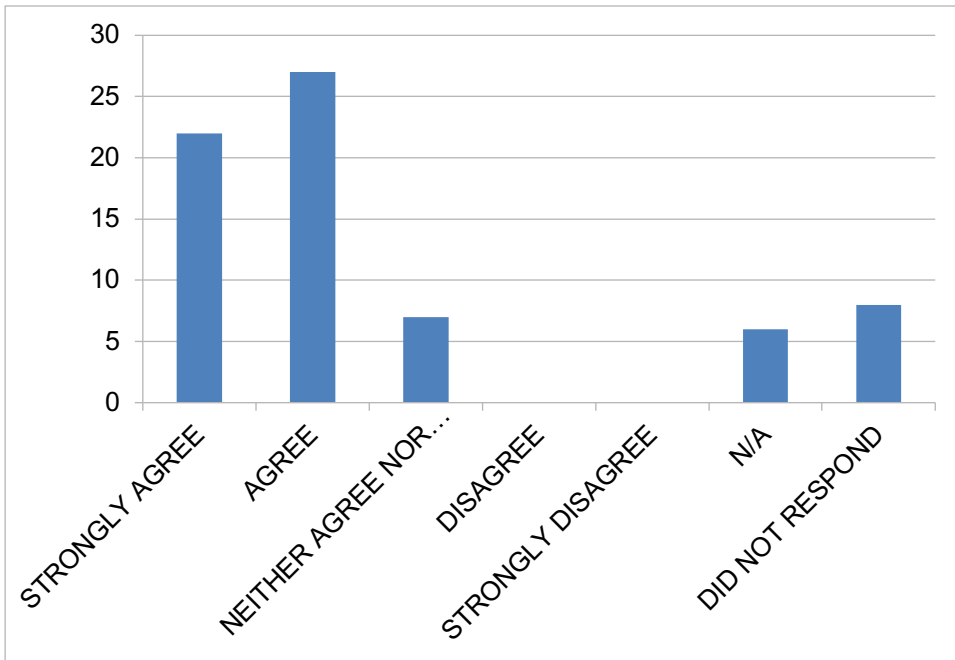
18. THE JUDGE HAD THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS ABOUT MY CASE



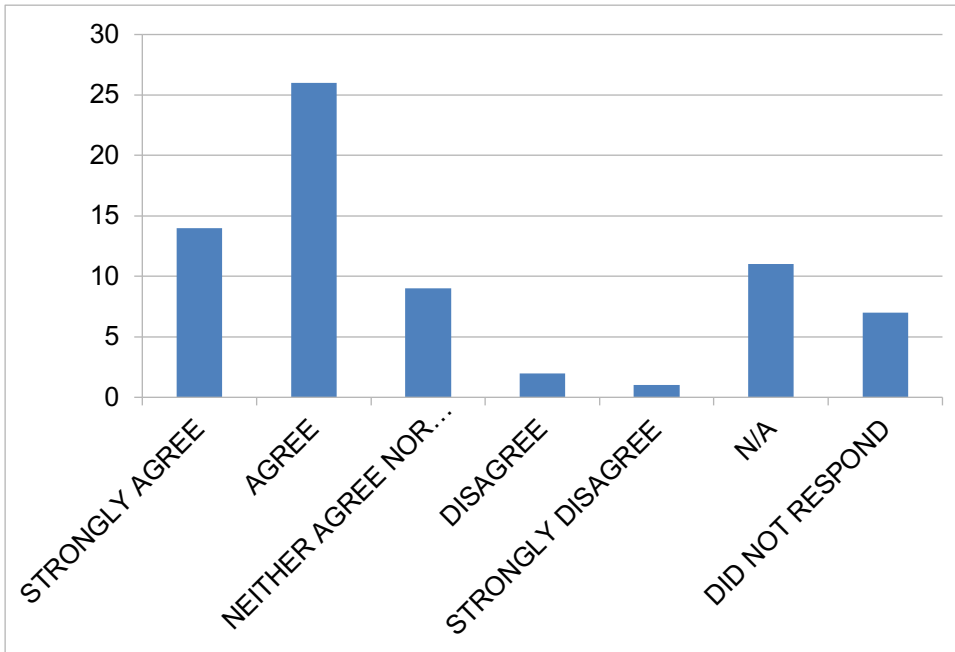


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

19. I WAS TREATED THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE



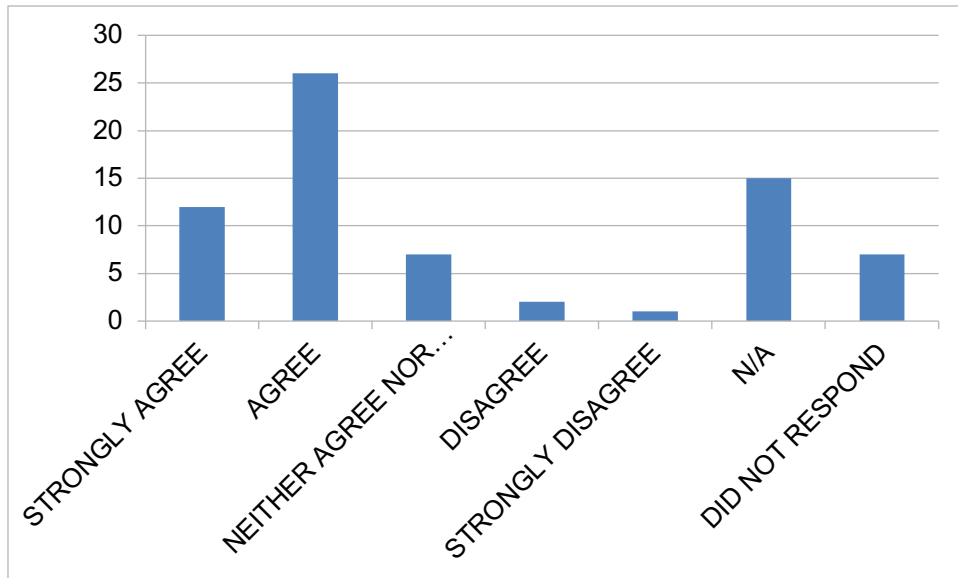
20. MY MATTER TOOK THE AMOUNT OF TIME I WAS EXPECTING



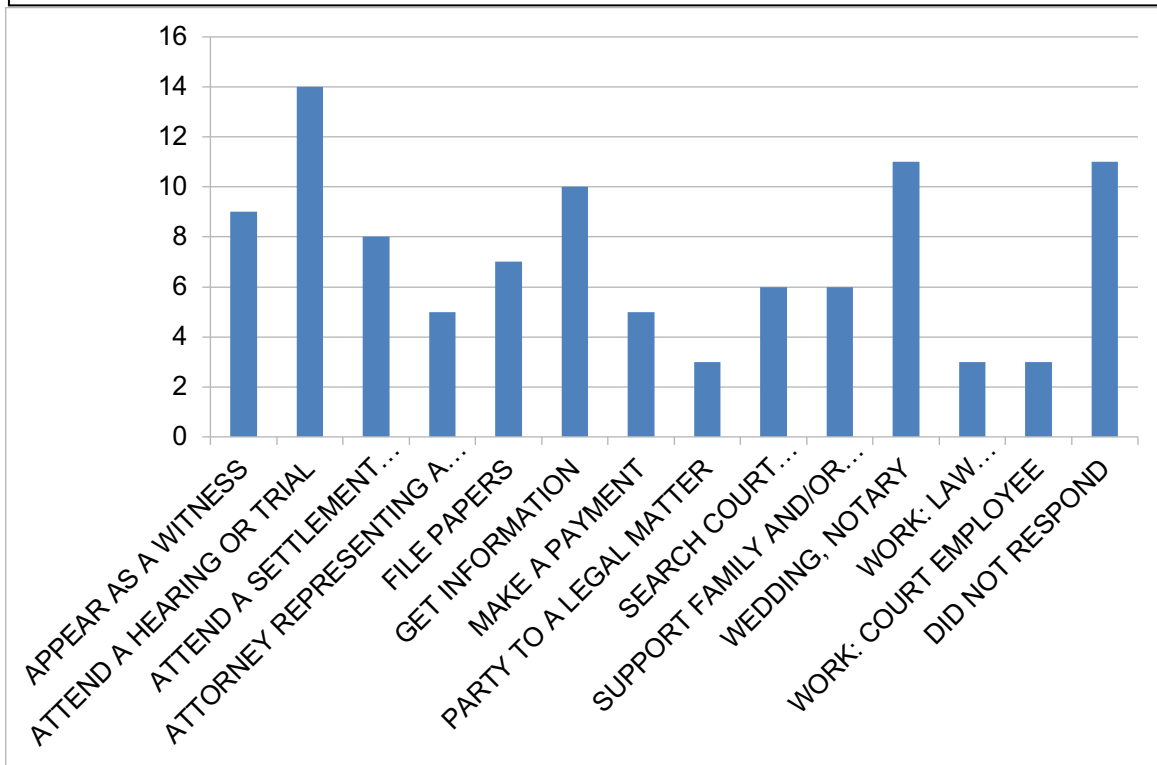


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

21. AS I LEFT THE COURT, I KNEW WHAT TO DO NEXT ABOUT



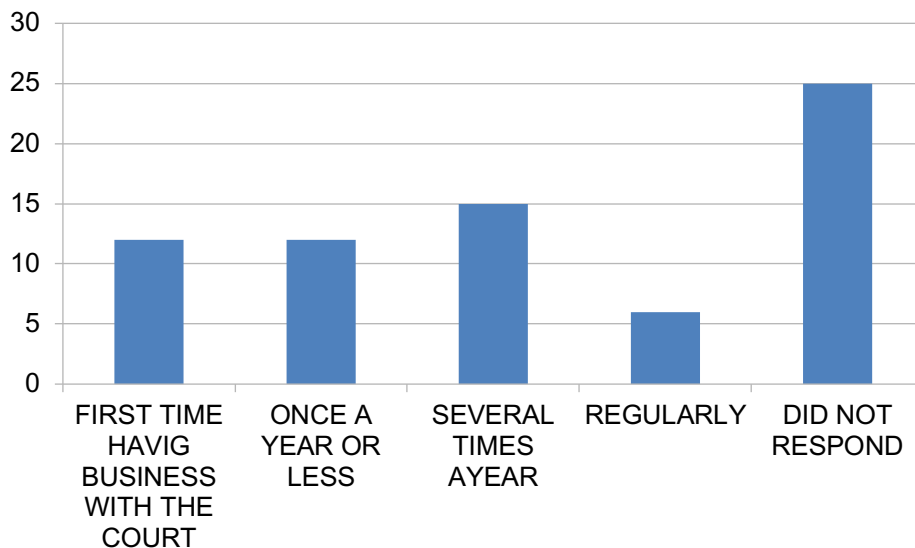
22. WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE COURT ON YOUR MOST RECENT VISIT?



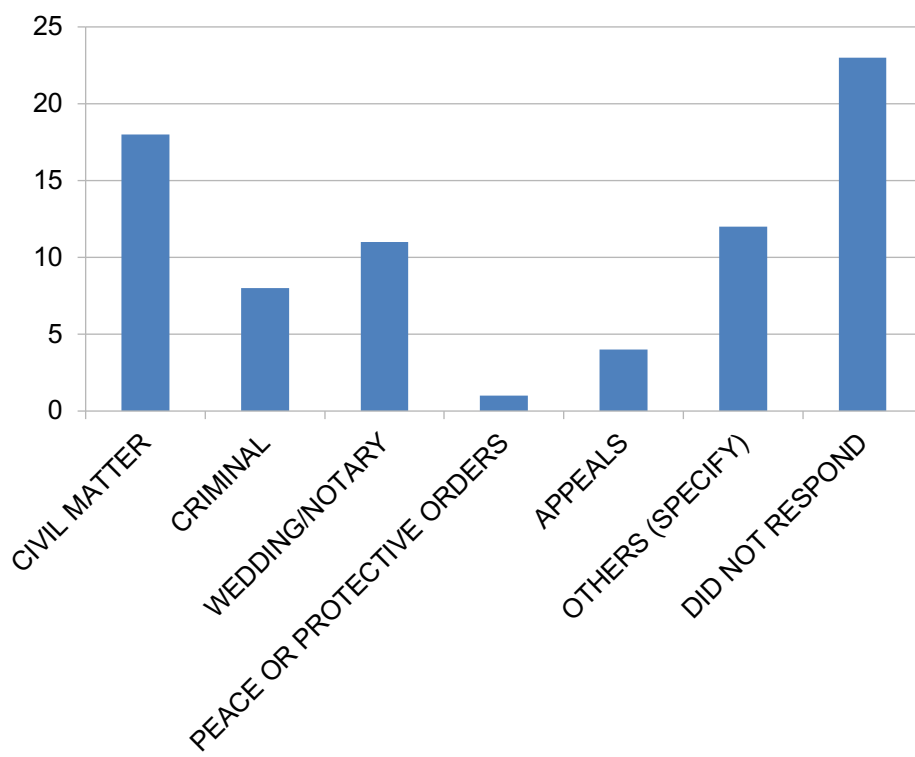


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

23. HOW OFTEN DO YOU TYPICALLY HAVE BUSINESS BEFORE THE COURT?



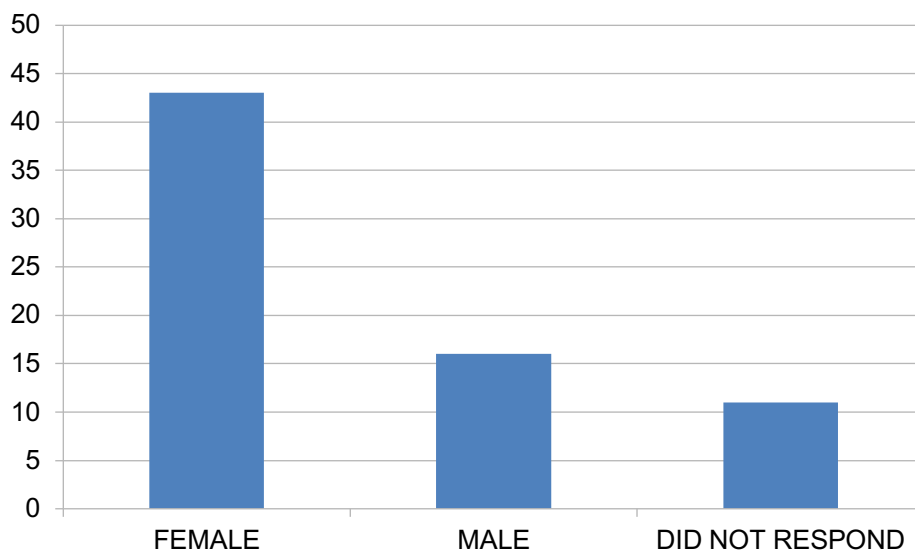
24. WHAT TYPE OF MATTER BROUGHT YOU TO THE COURT?



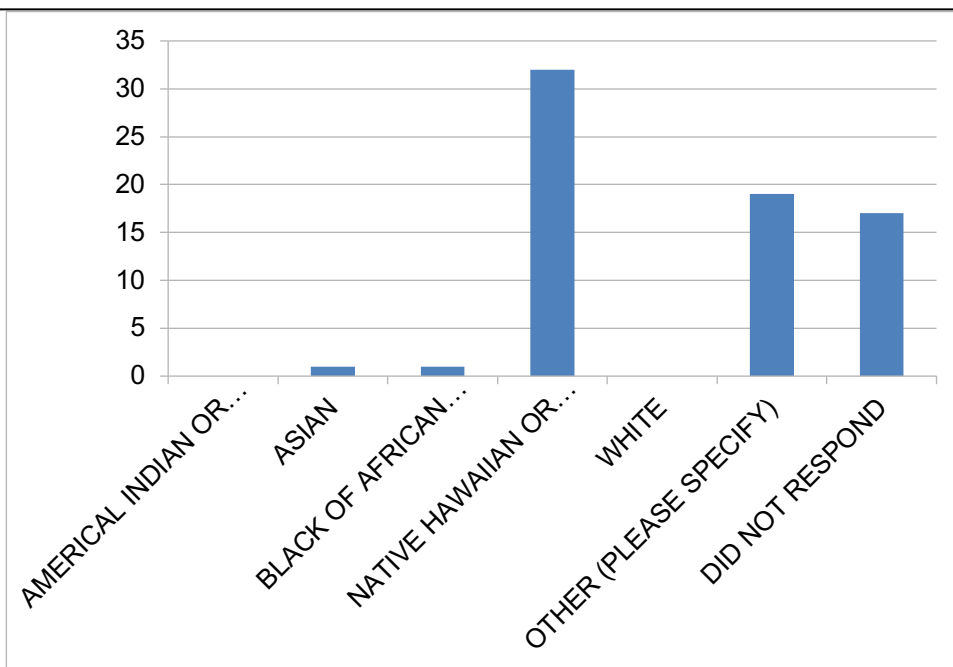


FSM SUPREME COURT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

25. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER?

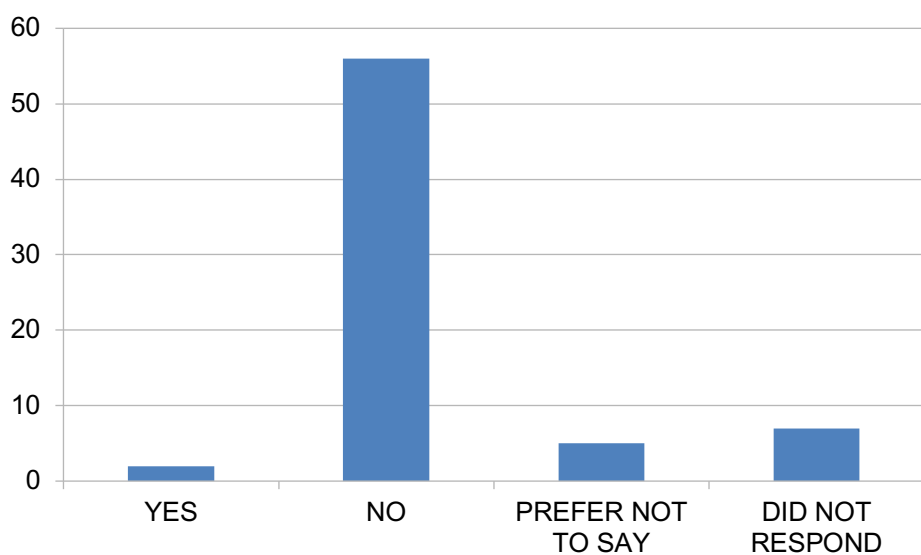


26. HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF?





27. DO YOU HAVE A DISABILITY?



28. WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

