

Justice in Kansas

Talking Points—

Kansas District Court Cases by the Numbers:

- Statistically, a new case is filed every four minutes each work week in your courts.
- That's nearly 500,000 new cases each year.
- To keep pace, judges must bring a like number to closure at the same rate. A check of recent caseload statistics shows our state's are keeping pace, with a clearance rate of 101.5 percent for civil cases and 96.4 percent for criminal cases.
- To help meet this daily responsibility of administering justice in a fair and timely manner, the courts in Kansas have adopted Time Standards for Reducing Delay.
- The time standards set guidelines for the number of days designated as the median time for closing cases in five major categories of cases.
- The guidelines call for the resolution of felony cases within 120 days from the date of first appearance;
- Misdemeanors, within a media time of 60 days;
- Traffic cases, within a median time of 30 days;
- Domestic relations cases, including divorces, within 120 days from the date of filing;
- Limited actions civil cases within 60 days;
- All other non-domestic civil cases, within 180 days from the date of filing.
- The media age of terminated cases in all five categories of major cases—regular civil, limited action, domestic, felony and misdemeanor—are meeting the time standards.
- Adoption and implementation of these standards has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the length of time required for litigation in Kansas.
- For example, only 1 percent of the civil cases pending statewide are two years or older, a remarkable achievement when compared to civil caseloads in numerous other states. The same picture is presented in criminal cases. Statewide criminal cases pending for one year or more is only 4 percent.