

# Magistrate Courts

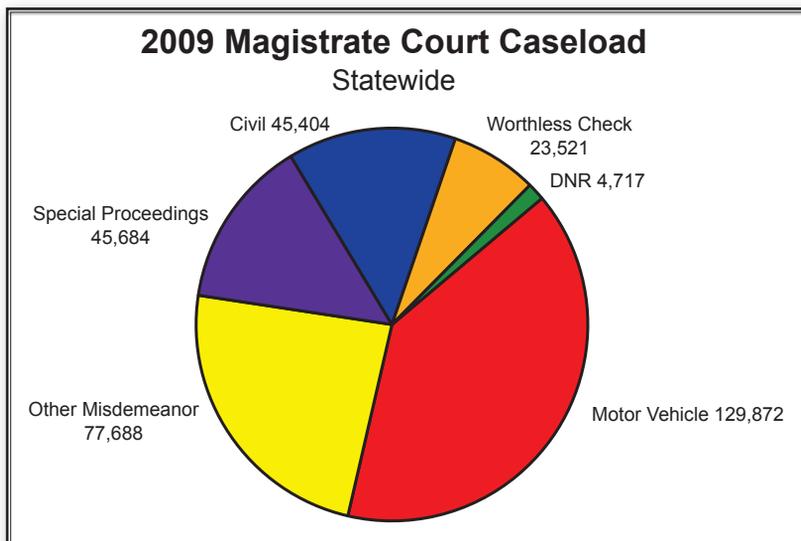
There are 158 magistrates in West Virginia. There are at least two magistrates in every county, and ten in the largest county, Kanawha County. Magistrates issue arrest and search warrants, hear misdemeanor cases, conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, and hear civil cases with \$5,000 or less in dispute. Magistrates also issue emergency protective orders in cases involving domestic violence. Circuit courts hear appeals of magistrate court cases.

Magistrates run for four-year terms in partisan elections. The West Virginia Constitution prohibits requiring magistrates to be lawyers.

Circuit judges appoint magistrates to fill vacancies. An appointee who wishes to remain in office must run in the next election.

A county-by-county list of magistrates in West Virginia, along with their office telephone numbers and fax numbers, is available on the Supreme Court website at [www.state.wv.us/wvsca/maginfo.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/maginfo.htm).

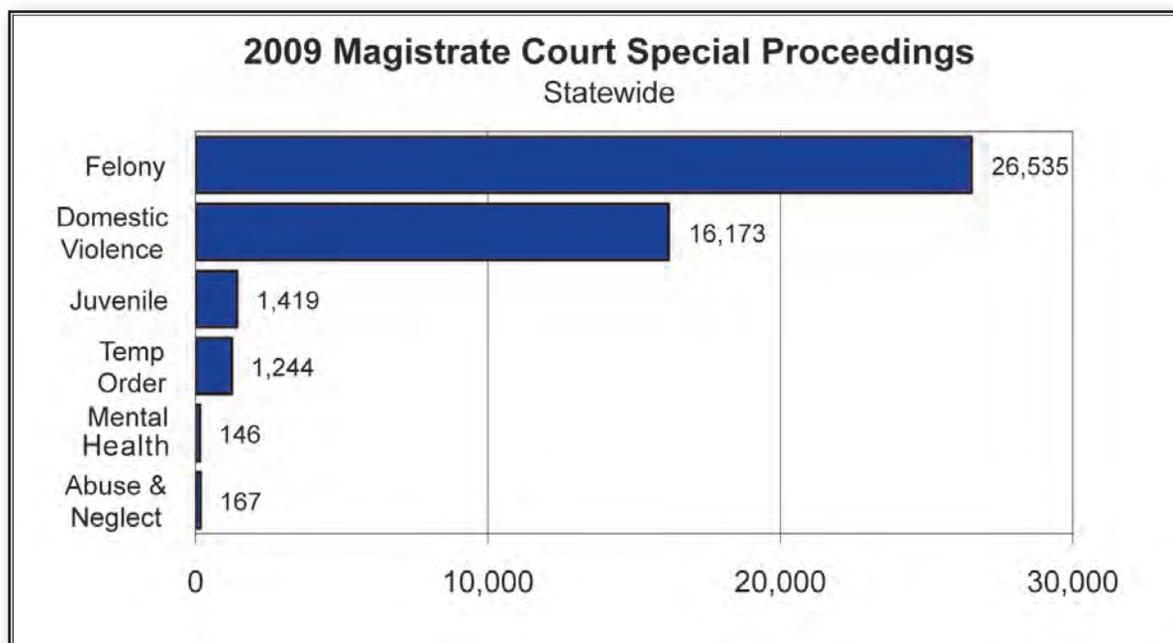
That website page also has a list of blank magistrate court forms



that can be downloaded and printed for the public's use, rules governing media coverage of magistrate court proceedings, a copy of the *West Virginia Benchbook for Domestic Violence Proceedings*, and a domestic violence brochure, among other information.

Former Chief Kanawha County Magistrate Janie Moore became Director of Magistrate Court

Services in March. During her twenty-five years as a magistrate, she achieved state-wide prominence, especially in her pioneering work with videoconferencing. "The Court wanted a former magistrate in this position. I can easily discuss procedures with magistrates because I have been where they are," she said.



# Magistrate Court Case Filings

	2009		Total	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
	Criminal and Civil	Special Proceedings											
Barbour	1,850	223	2,073	2,144	2,106	2,207	2,100	2,517	2,988	2,119	2,213	2,453	2,550
Berkeley	15,907	2,687	18,594	22,086	20,464	17,820	17,284	19,480	18,768	18,983	20,515	21,667	15,869
Boone	4,119	968	5,087	5,309	5,903	5,723	6,142	6,394	5,515	5,061	5,227	4,949	5,395
Braxton	2,500	355	2,855	3,188	3,711	3,894	3,944	4,072	3,901	5,004	4,579	4,469	4,287
Brooke	2,733	429	3,162	2,948	3,136	3,925	3,992	4,111	3,217	3,158	4,628	4,037	3,914
Cabell	15,478	2,892	18,370	18,488	20,355	20,169	21,333	23,391	21,150	19,624	19,164	21,481	22,795
Calhoun	844	95	939	922	765	773	958	926	839	1,079	933	1,085	869
Clay	1,494	220	1,714	1,713	2,534	2,526	2,352	2,500	2,027	1,951	2,628	2,817	3,158
Doddridge	1,107	162	1,269	1,105	1,973	1,276	1,097	1,376	1,346	1,198	1,479	1,801	1,603
Fayette	7,208	1,289	8,497	8,118	7,191	7,744	7,851	8,949	7,970	8,476	10,026	11,306	12,095
Gilmer	798	211	1,009	803	1,029	1,102	999	699	938	900	1,211	1,165	1,005
Grant	1,778	358	2,136	2,385	2,479	2,454	2,743	1,969	1,865	2,501	3,146	3,013	2,382
Greenbrier	3,952	479	4,431	4,963	5,053	6,699	6,085	6,715	6,055	6,542	6,560	6,867	7,411
Hampshire	4,256	430	4,686	4,765	5,778	6,079	5,808	5,233	4,598	3,807	3,573	3,959	3,254
Hancock	3,440	685	4,125	4,014	4,040	3,889	3,801	3,972	4,207	4,672	4,543	4,780	4,226
Hardy	3,020	360	3,380	3,483	3,234	4,038	4,364	4,473	3,668	3,730	4,319	4,248	2,943
Harrison	9,751	1,966	11,717	12,350	12,725	12,621	12,020	13,322	15,719	14,508	17,911	19,915	19,337
Jackson	3,297	583	3,880	3,990	4,483	4,528	4,754	5,118	4,116	3,585	3,890	4,740	5,803
Jefferson	8,257	984	9,241	7,740	10,531	15,734	10,962	10,578	9,545	8,227	10,985	9,498	10,189
Kanawha	33,436	5,222	38,658	44,802	50,477	39,710	41,920	40,458	34,955	39,289	43,690	50,598	46,573
Lewis	4,099	225	4,324	4,306	5,399	5,177	4,729	5,611	6,417	5,232	5,314	8,250	8,674
Lincoln	4,005	622	4,627	4,695	4,171	3,666	3,314	3,542	3,232	2,773	3,602	3,074	3,465
Logan	7,752	1,622	9,374	10,349	11,995	12,133	11,526	11,653	8,768	8,584	9,811	9,740	2,101
Marion	7,798	1,210	9,008	7,428	8,035	7,870	7,259	7,716	7,396	8,750	9,533	11,168	11,084
Marshall	4,073	694	4,767	4,347	5,153	5,052	4,972	4,751	4,691	6,854	5,915	6,537	6,351
Mason	3,958	1,314	5,272	4,735	5,418	4,530	4,194	5,222	4,005	4,853	5,795	5,729	4,541
McDowell	3,674	1,251	4,925	6,034	5,896	5,064	5,732	5,358	5,156	4,373	4,607	4,902	4,713
Mercer	11,721	2,422	14,143	14,755	16,942	18,628	20,545	18,802	17,442	21,585	18,232	19,466	18,863
Mineral	4,515	461	4,976	4,638	4,574	4,860	4,896	4,824	3,992	3,160	3,437	4,005	3,808
Mingo	4,999	1,302	6,301	7,483	7,204	6,061	6,561	5,384	4,363	5,529	5,229	5,598	4,626
Monongalia	9,985	1,230	11,215	13,509	13,889	12,970	11,919	13,048	12,298	12,660	14,244	14,800	13,799
Monroe	1,138	224	1,362	1,355	1,340	1,334	1,263	1,362	1,499	1,425	1,572	1,736	1,307
Morgan	3,565	193	3,758	3,312	3,236	3,221	4,141	3,946	3,670	3,731	3,897	3,008	3,400
Nicholas	6,679	1,208	7,887	7,268	6,775	7,657	7,665	7,112	6,409	7,618	8,022	8,683	8,448
Ohio	6,784	782	7,566	6,726	7,742	8,862	8,596	10,376	9,861	9,024	9,469	10,715	13,571
Pendleton	802	63	865	901	727	1,082	1,200	1,279	1,347	1,607	1,921	1,714	1,659
Pleasants	1,056	113	1,169	1,257	1,407	1,340	1,195	1,369	1,523	1,438	1,366	1,395	1,147
Pocahontas	1,789	200	1,989	1,490	1,950	2,592	1,444	2,159	1,849	1,929	2,445	2,321	2,186
Preston	4,105	486	4,591	5,621	5,392	5,909	5,788	5,288	5,481	6,605	5,699	6,409	5,833
Putnam	7,224	886	8,110	8,733	8,696	9,641	9,428	10,545	9,557	9,121	9,254	9,544	9,467
Raleigh	13,302	2,243	15,545	17,108	18,680	19,937	19,490	21,827	20,676	24,312	24,923	25,121	27,721
Randolph	5,375	594	5,969	6,899	6,591	5,845	6,877	7,069	7,592	6,943	8,139	8,390	7,742
Ritchie	2,218	211	2,429	3,168	3,850	3,665	3,477	3,287	2,548	2,731	3,386	2,917	2,041
Roane	2,054	565	2,619	3,069	3,507	3,518	3,310	3,393	2,683	2,940	3,939	4,340	4,679
Summers	1,507	275	1,782	1,788	2,053	1,904	1,780	1,786	1,606	2,140	2,365	2,332	1,798
Taylor	1,580	220	1,800	2,121	2,378	2,173	1,866	1,852	1,955	2,243	2,235	2,616	2,753
Tucker	1,002	78	1,080	996	1,138	1,141	1,395	1,469	1,275	1,311	1,549	1,601	1,419
Tyler	860	112	972	1,041	1,024	1,138	1,034	1,148	1,003	1,186	1,035	1,135	1,082
Upshur	4,919	391	5,310	4,368	5,159	5,235	5,771	6,087	6,758	5,705	5,752	7,381	6,320
Wayne	4,391	764	5,155	5,705	5,264	5,894	6,983	9,298	7,956	5,815	5,623	6,398	5,362
Webster	1,082	281	1,363	1,614	1,559	1,533	1,297	1,666	1,589	1,222	1,363	1,477	1,106
Wetzel	1,813	192	2,005	1,946	1,576	1,861	1,884	1,434	1,601	1,684	1,620	1,476	1,734
Wirt	1,181	63	1,244	1,054	959	1,176	917	1,021	998	805	1,108	1,278	1,128
Wood	12,676	1,586	14,262	19,666	20,873	17,835	16,001	14,068	12,622	13,338	12,671	11,843	12,504
Wyoming	2,296	1,003	3,299	3,475	3,574	3,667	3,987	3,917	3,889	4,362	4,616	3,832	3,769
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281,202</b>	<b>45,684</b>	<b>326,886</b>	<b>348,276</b>	<b>372,093</b>	<b>367,082</b>	<b>362,945</b>	<b>374,922</b>	<b>347,094</b>	<b>358,002</b>	<b>380,908</b>	<b>405,779</b>	<b>385,859</b>

# 2009 Magistrate Court Case Filings

	Total	Civil	DNR	Motor Vehicle	Other Misdemeanor	Worthless Check
Barbour	1,850	189	169	819	398	275
Berkeley	15,907	5,195	129	6,839	3,154	590
Boone	4,119	273	51	1,823	1,877	95
Braxton	2,500	233	101	1,417	571	178
Brooke	2,733	299	51	1,661	545	177
Cabell	15,478	3,613	43	6,796	4,316	710
Calhoun	844	107	48	405	183	101
Clay	1,494	145	59	554	446	290
Doddridge	1,107	112	14	712	155	114
Fayette	7,208	906	79	3,951	1,678	594
Gilmer	798	160	49	294	201	94
Grant	1,778	220	96	761	359	342
Greenbrier	3,952	923	86	1,083	825	1,035
Hampshire	4,256	968	151	1,877	818	442
Hancock	3,440	523	25	1,416	1,382	94
Hardy	3,020	432	119	1,104	678	687
Harrison	9,751	2,145	121	3,595	2,731	1,159
Jackson	3,297	511	162	1,213	954	457
Jefferson	8,257	1,519	227	2,770	3,381	360
Kanawha	33,436	4,313	268	17,026	10,952	877
Lewis	4,099	776	122	2,068	437	696
Lincoln	4,005	186	31	2,110	1,554	124
Logan	7,752	541	115	3,984	2,888	224
Marion	7,798	1,443	172	3,955	1,517	711
Marshall	4,073	759	29	1,689	1,256	340
Mason	3,958	286	134	2,287	932	319
McDowell	3,674	287	80	541	2,724	42
Mercer	11,721	2,587	65	4,964	3,214	891
Mineral	4,515	341	40	2,918	1,009	207
Mingo	4,999	293	124	2,569	1,960	53
Monongalia	9,985	2,078	70	5,444	1,817	576
Monroe	1,138	197	66	277	481	117
Morgan	3,565	718	35	1,563	1,060	189
Nicholas	6,679	544	179	2,385	2,031	1,540
Ohio	6,784	799	13	3,555	2,035	382
Pendleton	802	101	29	420	119	133
Pleasants	1,056	121	45	509	167	214
Pocahontas	1,789	202	66	694	368	459
Preston	4,105	708	151	1,848	660	738
Putnam	7,224	893	64	3,709	1,912	646
Raleigh	13,302	1,659	71	6,391	4,021	1,160
Randolph	5,375	720	111	1,693	821	2,030
Ritchie	2,218	145	40	1,625	240	168
Roane	2,054	237	90	834	727	166
Summers	1,507	165	93	560	421	268
Taylor	1,580	314	56	863	231	116
Tucker	1,002	254	41	415	123	169
Tyler	860	118	34	408	213	87
Upshur	4,919	1,234	79	2,181	752	673
Wayne	4,391	579	89	2,635	783	305
Webster	1,082	136	103	302	347	194
Wetzel	1,813	229	39	860	531	154
Wirt	1,181	103	37	741	211	89
Wood	12,676	2,579	118	6,059	3,493	427
Wyoming	2,296	286	38	700	1,029	243
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281,202</b>	<b>45,404</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>129,872</b>	<b>77,688</b>	<b>23,521</b>

# 2009 Magistrate Court Special Proceedings

	Total	Abuse & Neglect	Domestic Violence	Felony	Juvenile	Mental Health	Temp Protective Order
Barbour	223	0	79	76	33	3	32
Berkeley	2,687	3	623	1,531	68	0	462
Boone	968	0	289	613	0	0	66
Braxton	355	0	86	258	10	1	0
Brooke	429	0	101	278	49	0	1
Cabell	2,892	0	1,348	1,538	0	0	6
Calhoun	95	0	42	53	0	0	0
Clay	220	4	113	85	14	4	0
Doddridge	162	7	58	64	26	5	2
Fayette	1,289	0	367	921	0	0	1
Gilmer	211	0	54	103	0	0	54
Grant	358	29	105	139	83	1	1
Greenbrier	479	0	312	166	0	0	1
Hampshire	430	0	75	355	0	0	0
Hancock	685	0	226	416	41	0	2
Hardy	360	4	90	236	27	1	2
Harrison	1,966	0	787	857	178	0	144
Jackson	583	0	244	317	22	0	0
Jefferson	984	0	0	578	61	0	345
Kanawha	5,222	0	2,028	3,194	0	0	0
Lewis	225	0	78	135	0	0	12
Lincoln	622	0	212	269	129	10	2
Logan	1,622	0	589	1,009	20	1	3
Marion	1,210	0	445	763	0	0	2
Marshall	694	0	276	415	0	1	2
Mason	1,314	0	252	1,062	0	0	0
McDowell	1,251	0	203	1,034	7	7	0
Mercer	2,422	0	837	1,530	54	1	0
Mineral	461	0	118	339	2	0	2
Mingo	1,302	13	432	733	121	0	3
Monongalia	1,230	0	602	624	0	0	4
Monroe	224	0	157	64	2	0	1
Morgan	193	0	48	45	33	0	67
Nicholas	1,208	0	281	829	80	18	0
Ohio	782	0	279	455	44	0	4
Pendleton	63	1	22	31	9	0	0
Pleasants	113	15	44	38	13	1	2
Pocahontas	200	0	81	118	1	0	0
Preston	486	36	279	152	1	17	1
Putnam	886	0	446	439	0	0	1
Raleigh	2,243	11	821	1,345	0	56	10
Randolph	594	0	319	275	0	0	0
Ritchie	211	13	84	94	19	1	0
Roane	565	2	108	428	21	2	4
Summers	275	0	86	183	2	2	2
Taylor	220	0	65	110	42	3	0
Tucker	78	0	46	30	2	0	0
Tyler	112	1	68	38	5	0	0
Upshur	391	17	147	179	45	2	1
Wayne	764	0	234	530	0	0	0
Webster	281	4	100	155	13	9	0
Wetzel	192	0	98	93	0	0	1
Wirt	63	0	44	19	0	0	0
Wood	1,586	4	879	681	22	0	0
Wyoming	1,003	3	366	513	120	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,684</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>16,173</b>	<b>26,535</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1,244</b>