

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

All Kansans deserve and must have access to quality justice.

In December 2010, the Kansas Supreme Court, recognizing the need to continually assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Judicial Branch operations, initiated what has become known as the Pegasus Project. Understanding that any comprehensive review of the Judicial Branch would require an accurate assessment of the staffing needs of the courts, the Supreme Court contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct a “weighted caseload study” (WCLS). This type of study has been recommended since at least 1944 in previous studies of court operations in Kansas.

Case filing data is not an accurate measure of the workload of the courts. Case weights recognize that different types of cases take different amounts of time to process effectively. The WCLS utilized by the NCSC is the recognized model for calculation of judicial officer and court clerk workload. A WCLS provides accurate information from which staffing needs may be considered.

The Kansas Supreme Court appointed a Judicial Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) and a Staff Needs Assessment Committee (SNAC) to assist the NCSC in conducting the WCLS. Membership on these committees represented a broad cross-section of judicial officers and staff who are regularly involved in the processing of cases.

RESULTS

1. Kansas now has a definitive measure of judicial officer and court clerk workload for the district courts of Kansas.
2. The Kansas Judicial Branch is not overstaffed.
3. The reallocation of some personnel may be appropriate.
4. There is a need for a substantial number of additional court clerk positions statewide.
5. An empirical view of workload data indicates no net need for additional judges but does indicate a reallocation should be considered. Current statutory limitations preclude the reallocation of judicial resources.
6. The objective measure of workload is only the beginning point for consideration of judicial and clerical staff needs. Qualitative factors such as efficiencies of high-volume courts, travel time, available physical facilities, composition of district and magistrate judges, and local legal culture, among others, must be considered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct an annual review to determine the effect of changes, such as new legislation and e-filing, on case weights and judicial officer and clerk staffing needs.
2. Conduct a WCLS every 5-7 years.
3. Develop procedures and strategies to help judicial districts cope with extreme and unusual circumstances not accounted for in the WCLS.
4. Establish a base level of court clerk staffing.
5. Study the impact of self-represented litigants and non-English-speaking participants on the workload of the courts.
6. Examine the potential impact on case weights and workloads if e-filing is fully implemented statewide.

CONCLUSION

All Kansans deserve and must have access to quality justice.

Time, expense and other factors did not permit a WCLS for all personnel necessary to conduct the operations of the Judicial Branch. Only judicial officer and court clerk staff needs were considered in this study; it did not include work performed by personnel such as court services officers, court administrators, administrative assistants, secretaries, transcriptionists, and court reporters, except to the extent they performed court clerk duties.

The judicial and court clerk personnel needs described in this report are based upon case weights that represent an average amount of time it takes to process a case to conclusion. In implementing any changes, the WCLS results must be used in conjunction with qualitative factors. These qualitative factors include: reasonable access to justice, local legal culture, economies of scale, the effective use of available technology, caseload trends, assistance to courts handling complex cases, the appropriate base level in each court for clerk staff, and increased case processing time for non-English-speaking court participants and self-represented litigants.

No change in the staffing of the Judicial Branch should unreasonably sacrifice access to quality justice in Kansas.

Court Clerk Staff Personnel Needs by County

DISTRICT	COUNTY	CLERK STAFF PERSONNEL NEED (After Rounding at County Level)	ALLOCATED CLERK STAFF FTE POSITIONS	NET CLERK STAFF PERSONNEL NEEDS (After Rounding at County Level)	DISTRICT	COUNTY	CLERK STAFF PERSONNEL NEED (After Rounding at County Level)	ALLOCATED CLERK STAFF FTE POSITIONS	NET CLERK STAFF PERSONNEL NEEDS (After Rounding at County Level)
1	AT	6.0	6.0	0.0	17	NT	2.0	3.0	-1.0
1	LV	8.0	14.0	4.0	17	OB	1.5	2.0	-0.5
2	JA	5.0	3.5	1.5	17	PL	2.0	2.0	0.0
2	JF	4.0	3.0	1.0	17	SM	1.0	2.0	-1.0
2	PT	5.5	3.0	2.5	18	SG	124.0	102.0	22.0
2	WB	2.5	3.0	-0.5	19	CL	13.0	9.0	4.0
3	SN	65.5	51.0	14.5	20	BT	9.0	10.0	-1.0
4	AN	3.0	3.0	0.0	20	EW	3.0	3.5	-0.5
4	CF	3.5	4.0	-0.5	20	RC	3.0	4.0	-1.0
4	FR	7.0	6.0	1.0	20	RS	3.0	4.5	-1.5
4	OS	5.0	4.0	1.0	20	SF	1.5	3.0	-1.5
5	CS	1.5	2.0	-0.5	21	CY	2.5	2.0	0.5
5	LY	12.0	12.0	0.0	21	RL	15.0	12.5	2.5
6	BB	6.0	4.0	2.0	22	BR	4.0	4.5	-0.5
6	LN	4.5	3.0	1.5	22	DP	2.0	3.0	-1.0
6	MI	7.5	7.0	0.5	22	MS	3.0	3.8	-0.8
7	DG	22.0	14.5	7.5	22	NM	3.0	3.0	0.0
8	DK	6.5	6.0	0.5	23	EL	8.0	6.5	1.5
8	GE	17.0	13.0	4.0	23	GO	1.5	1.5	0.0
8	MN	2.5	3.5	-1.0	23	RO	2.0	2.0	0.0
8	MR	2.0	2.5	-0.5	23	TR	2.0	2.0	0.0
9	HV	9.0	6.5	2.5	24	ED	1.5	2.0	-0.5
9	MP	6.5	5.0	1.5	24	HG	1.0	1.5	-0.5
10	JO	115.0	57.5	44.0	24	LE	1.0	1.5	-0.5
11	CK	6.0	3.5	2.5	24	NS	1.5	2.0	-0.5
11	CR	10.5	7.5	3.0	24	PN	3.5	3.0	0.5
11	LB	7.0	5.0	2.0	24	RH	1.5	2.0	-0.5
12	CD	4.0	4.0	0.0	25	FI	15.0	14.5	0.5
12	JW	1.0	1.5	-0.5	25	GL	1.0	1.5	-0.5
12	LC	1.5	1.5	0.0	25	HM	1.5	1.5	0.0
12	MC	2.0	2.0	0.0	25	KE	2.0	2.0	0.0
12	RP	2.0	2.0	0.0	25	SC	2.0	2.0	0.0
12	WS	1.5	2.0	-0.5	25	WH	1.0	1.5	-0.5
13	BU	14.0	11.0	3.0	26	GT	2.5	2.5	0.0
13	EK	1.5	2.0	-0.5	26	HS	2.0	2.0	0.0
13	GW	2.5	3.0	-0.5	26	MT	1.5	1.5	0.0
14	CQ	2.0	2.0	0.0	26	ST	1.0	1.5	-0.5
14	MG	11.0	9.0	2.0	26	SV	2.0	2.0	0.0
15	CN	1.0	1.5	-0.5	26	SW	10.0	8.0	2.0
15	LG	1.5	1.5	0.0	27	RN	20.5	14.5	6.0
15	RA	1.0	1.5	-0.5	28	OT	2.0	2.0	0.0
15	SD	1.0	2.5	-1.5	28	SA	21.5	16.0	5.5
15	SH	3.5	3.5	0.0	29	WY	52.5	55.5	-3.0
15	TH	3.5	3.0	0.5	30	BA	2.5	3.0	-0.5
15	WA	1.0	1.5	-0.5	30	HP	2.5	3.0	-0.5
16	CA	1.0	1.5	-0.5	30	KM	3.0	3.0	0.0
16	CM	1.0	1.5	-0.5	30	PR	4.5	4.5	0.0
16	FO	11.5	9.0	2.5	30	SU	8.0	7.0	1.0
16	GY	2.0	2.0	0.0	31	AL	5.0	4.0	1.0
16	KW	2.0	2.0	0.0	31	NO	4.5	4.5	0.0
16	ME	1.5	2.0	-0.5	31	WL	4.0	3.5	0.5
17	DC	1.5	2.0	-0.5	31	WO	1.5	1.5	0.0
17	GH	1.5	2.0	-0.5	STATE TOTAL		814.0	690.3	123.7

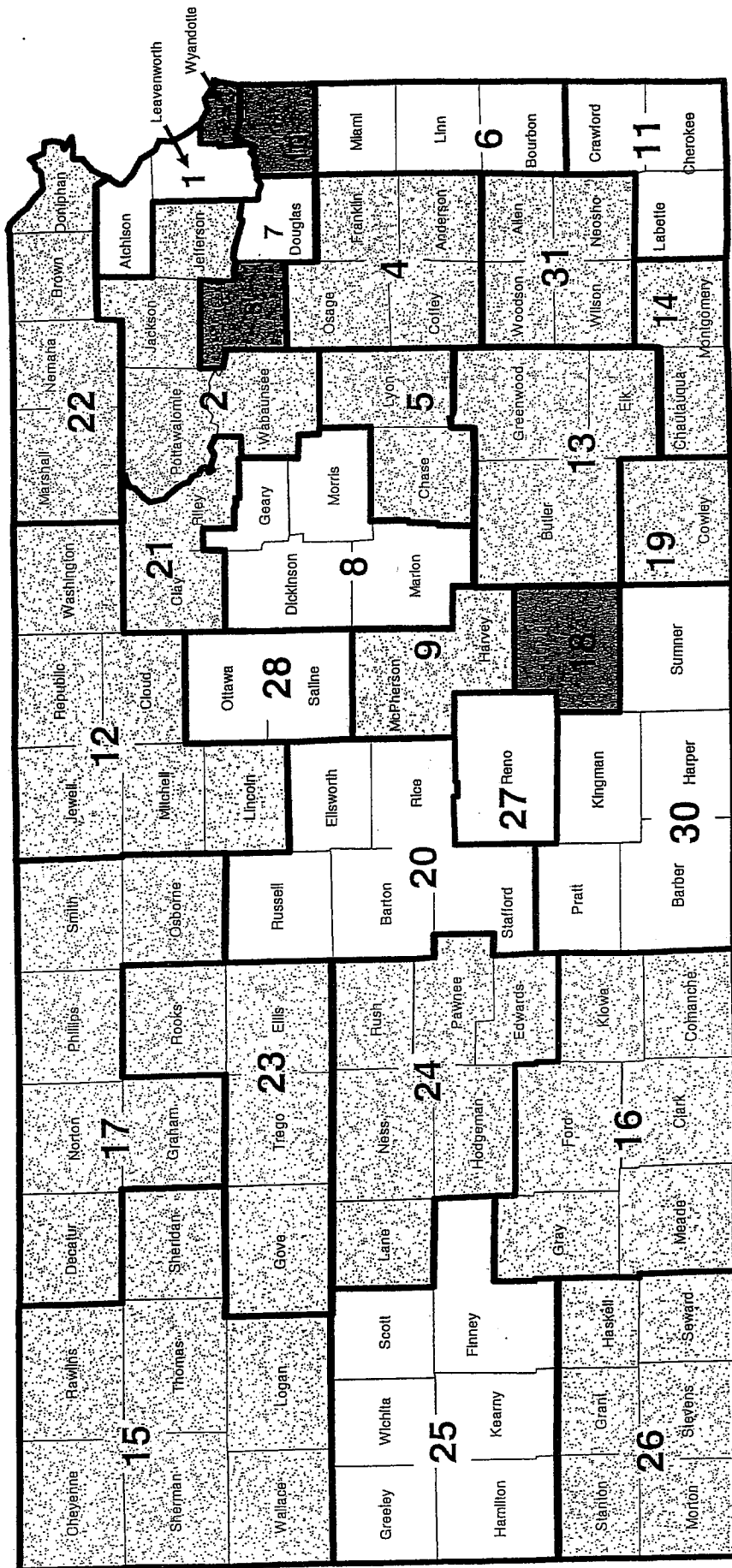
The above tables show judicial and court clerk staff personnel needs on a statewide basis. How existing personnel are allocated around the state is also an important factor in evaluating the workload of the Kansas district courts. The following tables show the judicial personnel needs by judicial district and court clerk staff personnel needs by county:




Judicial Personnel Needs by Judicial District

DISTRICT	JUDICIAL PERSONNEL NEED (After Rounding at District Level)	ALLOCATED JUDICIAL FTE POSITIONS	NET JUDICIAL PERSONNEL NEEDS (After Rounding at District Level)
1	7	6	1
2	6	6	0
3	17	15	2
4	5	5	0
5	4	4	0
6	6	5	1
7	7	6	1
8	8	8	0
9	4	4	0
10	29	23	6
11	7	7	0
12	4	7	-3
13	6	6	0
14	4	4	0
15	4	8	-4
16	6	8	-2
17	3	7	-4
18	36	28	8
19	4	3	1
20	6	7	-1
21	6	5	1
22	4	5	-1
23	4	5	-1
24	3	7	-4
25	7	11	-4
26	7	8	-1
27	7	5	2
28	8	5	3
29	15	16	-1
30	6	7	-1
31	5	5	0
STATE	245	246	-1

Judicial District Map

District Groupings



-  Urban Districts (3, 10, 18, 29)
-  Non-Urban District Group 1 (1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 20, 25, 27, 28, 30)
-  Non-Urban District Group 2 (2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 31)