

Parish Courts of Jamaica  
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics  
Report for 2022  
(Civil Matters)

	JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 2021		
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	120.98	101.10	95.34
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	74.40	75.63	81.16
Average time to disposition	17.95 months	12.34 months	10.40 months

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## **Executive Summary**

In 2022, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts excelled on several vital performance metrics and has now fulfilled some of the key quantitative targets. The Honourable Chief Justice has set a targeted court-wide case clearance rate of 130%, a trial date certainty rate of 95% and an overall net case backlog rate of under 5% to be achieved by the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year. The results from this report shows great promise and consistency in the performance of the Civil Division of the Parish Courts which rivals the output of the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts on several key performance indicators. The report suggests that the net backlog rate of the civil division of the parish courts has fallen to 1.37%, which means that only this proportion of active cases are currently over 24 months old.

One of the most positive results from this annual report is the output on the vital measurement of the gross case clearance rates, with the civil division of the parish courts as a whole recording an unprecedented 120.98%, an increase of 19.88 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The St. Catherine Parish Court with 148.54%, the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division with 139.84% and the Hanover Parish Court with a case clearance rates of 131.93% were the leaders on this vital index. Cumulatively across the criminal and civil business lines, the Hanover parish court also now has one of the lowest case backlog rate of any court in the island, with a rate of well under 1% of active cases currently being in a backlog classification. The Portland and St. Thomas Parish Courts rounded off the top five on the case clearance rate measurement for 2022 with impressive rates of 119.01% and 114.90% respectively. Eight of the parish courts exceeded the 100% case clearance rate mark for civil cases in 2022. The closely related gross case disposal rate was also quite impressive, with the parish courts recording an

overall rate of 52.45%, led by the Hanover Parish Court with an outstanding 85.71%, followed by the Westmoreland Parish Court with a rate of 80.90%. The overall gross case disposal rate declined by 23.87 percentage points when compared to the previous year.

The civil division of the parish courts also had reasonable returns on the overall trial date certainty rate in the period, recording a commendable overall rate of 74.40%, a slight decline of 1.80 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. James and Trelawny were the leaders on this key metric in 2022.

The overall average time taken to dispose a civil case in of 2021 is roughly 370 days or approximately 17.95 months, an increase of 5.6 months when compared to 2021. As intimated earlier, one of the most profound findings from this report comes from the analysis of the backlog rates. As of the end of 2022, the estimated gross case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts was 11.61%, that is, an estimated 11.61% of combined active and inactive cases in these courts were over two years old, based on the last 5 years of case activity as a proxy. When inactive cases are deducted however to produce the net case backlog rate, it is revealed that the estimated case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts as at the end of 2022 is roughly 1.37%, an indication that roughly this proportion of active cases in the civil division of the parish courts were over two years old at the end of the quarter. The Hanover, St. Mary and Westmoreland Parish Courts were the very best positioned courts on this metric for the year, each with only a handful of active civil cases in a state of backlog.

The timely and efficient progression of cases in the civil courts is affected by several delays factors, among which in 2022 were the absence of defendants, no returns, the absence of both parties, the absence of the plaintiffs and attorney absenteeism, all of which were among the leading reasons for adjournment across the courts in the period. The dominant method of disposition for cases resolved were disposals by being struck out, by consent judgment, case transfers, through settlement and by way of final judgments and default judgments.

The civil division of the parish courts continue the trend of creditable performances and is well positioned as at the end of 2022 to make a profound contribution to the overall quantitative targets of the Jamaican judiciary as it strives to become the best in the region and one of the bests in the world over the coming few years. Remarkably, the parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary have now achieved the target of reducing their overall net case backlog rate to under 5%, joining the High Court Division of the Gun Court and the Revenue Court as other major courts confirmed to have attained this feat.

See below summary:

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
17057	8947	20635	52.45	120.98	74.40	17.95

*Note: For the Corporate Area Civil Court, the case disposal rate and case clearance rates were calculated only using the new big claims filed in the year*

## **Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica**

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past five years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

The Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various quarterly and annual court reports which are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

## **Introduction**

This report details case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for the year ended December 31, 2022. Among the key case activity areas reported on are new cases filed, cases disposed and inactive over the period as well as the common causes of action and applications. Other key areas reported on include the absolute number of reissue dates over the period as well as the dominant methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment. The report also highlights the number of matters, which go into various types of enforcements such as judgment summons, warrants of levy and warrants of attachment and are thus reactivated as well as the outcomes of matters that proceed along this path. Important efficiency measures such as the case clearance rate, case disposal rates; trial date certainty rate and case congestion and courtroom utilization rates are computed as measures of court performance, where sufficient data is available. These are important yardstick for assessing the courts in both an absolute and a relative way.

A full report is presented for each court and is subdivided into three main sections. The first section summarizes case flow activity and case demographics, the second section details case delay factors and dispositions as well as important performance metrics, and the third and final section summarizes case activity in the enforcement phase. The data produced for several of the courts rely on point estimates of the population parameters using a body of available representative data. This approach is however quite reliable and preserves data integrity and validity. One limitation is that the starting points of the data sets for all courts are not homogenous and therefore not entirely comparable at this stage. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The report culminates with critical cumulative case active summaries for the civil courts as a whole in 2022.

## The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1888	61.42
Disposed	843	27.42
Inactive	343	11.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>3074</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 3074 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1888 or 61.42% cases were still active, 843 were disposed and 343 were inactive at the end of the year. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 38.58% for big claims for the year, which is 10.79 percentage points higher than the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3272	99.33
POCA	22	0.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>3294</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 3294 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2022 calendar year. Big claims accounted for 3272 or 99.33% of the sample and 22 or 0.67% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	582	30.05
Breach of Contract	541	27.93
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	214	11.05
Damages for Negligence	115	5.94
Rent Owing	66	3.41
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>78.37</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 1937**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases entered in 2022 at the Corporate Area Civil Court was recovery of possession with 582 or roughly 30.05% of the sample. Breach of contract and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 541 or 27.93% and 214 or 11.05% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by damages for negligence with 115 or 5.94% of the sample and rent owing with 66 or 3.41% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 78.37% of the total sample of 1937 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	641	65.08
Bailiff	281	28.53
District Constable	63	6.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 641 or 65.08% of the sample followed by service by the bailiff with 281 or 28.53% and service by the District Constable with 63 or 6.40%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1608	51.21
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1482	47.20
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	46	1.46
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	4	0.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>3140*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 2922 cases**

The majority of a sample of 3140 matters entered in the 2022 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 1608 or 51.21% of the sample. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse had 1482 matters entered or 47.20% of the sample, followed by courtroom 3 with 46 or 1.46% and courtroom 4 with 4 or 0.13% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Application for Substituted Service	26	50.98
Application for Court Order	13	25.49
Relist	6	11.76
Vary Court Order	6	11.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100.00</b>

A sample of 51 applications filed during the 2022 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 26 or 50.98% of the sample accounted for the majority applications filed, followed by application for court order with 13 or 25.49% of the sample. Applications for relist and applications for vary court order with 11.76% each round off the applications filed during the year.

## Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022

**Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	901	45.57
Female	765	38.69
Registered Company	302	15.28
Trading As	9	0.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1977 matters entered in the 2022 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 901 or 45.57% of the sample. Females accounted for 765 or 38.69% and registered companies accounted for 302 or 15.28% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (trading As) accounted for 0.46% of the sample.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	922	48.53
Female	805	42.37
Registered Company	147	7.74
Trading As	26	1.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1900 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2022 calendar year. The highest proportion of defendants were male with 922 or 48.53% of the sample, followed by females with 805 or 42.37%. Registered companies accounted for 147 or 7.74% and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as") accounted for 26 or 1.37% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	893	36.58
Default Judgment Date	683	27.98
Trial	631	25.85
Part-Heard Date	138	5.65
Date for Order	68	2.79
Hearing of Application	15	0.61
Final Judgment Date	13	0.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>2441</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 2441 matters that went to court during the 2022 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 893 or 36.58% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 683 or 27.98%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 631 or 25.85% of sample. It is of note that 138 or 5.65% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable

incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. The result on the high incidence of adjournments for mention court hearings is not however an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Absent	224	24.48
At Counsel's Request	61	6.67
Pending Settlement	21	2.30
For Sentence/Order	20	2.19
Notice of Intention to be Filed and Served	15	1.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>37.27</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 915**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 915 incidences of adjournments heard in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 224 or 24.48% of the sample and adjournments at counsel’s request with 61 or 6.67% rounds off the top incidences in the sample. Pending settlements with 21 or 2.30% and adjournments for sentence/ for order with 20 or 2.19% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for notice of intention to be filed and served with 15 or 1.64% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournments listed above account for 37.27% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Overall Incidence	709
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 596 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 709 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 596 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	1089	38.74
Consent	537	19.10
Default Judgment	231	8.22
Withdrawal	229	8.15
Transferred	224	7.97
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2310</b>	<b>82.18</b>

**NB: there were 2811 matters were disposed of in 2022**

A total of 2811 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2022 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 2310 or 82.18% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 1089 or 38.74% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 537 or 19.10% and default judgments with 231 or 8.22%. Withdrawals and matters disposed by being transferred to another court round off the top five methods with 229 or 8.15% and 224 or 7.97% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	254	92.03
Settlement	22	7.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the sample distribution of 276 case outcomes for matters entered in the 2022 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 254 or 92.03% of the sample of matters account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 22 account for the remaining 7.97% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
3074	1186	4298	139.82	38.58

The above table shows 3074 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 843 of these cases were disposed and 343 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 38.58%, a 10.79 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 2650 big claims cases were disposed, and 1648 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 139.82% for big claims, which exceeds the international standard on this metric.

The estimated net case disposal rate for big claims for the year is 30.87% and the estimated net case clearance rate is 97.03%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1339
Mean	281.2883
Median	154.0000
Mode	67.00
Std. Deviation	359.21334
Skewness	3.196
Std. Error of Skewness	.067
Range	3086.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3087.00

The above table outlines summary data on 1339 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 281 days or approximately 9.4 months, which is roughly 118 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 67 days. The standard deviation of roughly 359 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall

average time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3087 days or roughly 8.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	158
Mean	358.7785
Median	190.5000
Mode	530.00
Std. Deviation	398.75877
Skewness	2.026
Std. Error of Skewness	.193
Range	2173.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2180.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 158 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 359 days or roughly a year. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 359 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 152.77 days.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1992
Mean	400.6898
Median	274.0000
Mode	43.00
Std. Deviation	463.10197
Skewness	2.481
Std. Error of Skewness	.055
Range	4024.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	4033.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1992 active civil matters as of the year ended December 31, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 401 days or roughly 13 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 43 days. The standard deviation of roughly 463 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4033 days old or roughly 11 years, while the minimum time is 9 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	205
Mean	303.5171
Median	205.0000
Mode	330.00
Std. Deviation	328.30890
Skewness	2.335
Std. Error of Skewness	.170
Range	1849.00
Minimum	15.00
Maximum	1864.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 205 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 304 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 330 days and the median age was 205 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 1864 days and the lowest was 15 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

**Table 17.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)</b>	<b>Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day</b>
<b>Corporate Area Court-Civil Division</b>	59.15	117.50	8.33	29.58	NA	1.1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2022 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocating for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the year was roughly 59.15%, which is an indication that on average roughly 59% of the available hours for court hearings in the 2022 calendar year. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable  $\pm 2.5\%$ .

## Hanover Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Hanover Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	34	14.29
Disposed	169	71.01
Inactive	35	14.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 238 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 34 cases or 14.29% of these cases were still active, while 169 were disposed and 35 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 85.71%, which is 0.86 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	235	85.14
Small Claim	40	14.49
POCA	1	0.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 276 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of which 235 or 85.14% were big claims, while 40 or 14.49% were small claims and 0.36 were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	50	31.45
Breach of Contract	32	20.13
Rent Due and Owing	16	10.06
Damages for Negligence	11	6.92
Monies Loaned	7	4.40
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>72.96</b>

**Sample size= 159**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the year at the Hanover Parish Court recovery of possession with 50 or roughly 31.45% of the sample. Breach of contract with 32 or 20.13%, rent due and owing with 10.06% and damages for negligence with 6.92% rank next. Monies loaned with 4.40% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Bailiff	47	47.96
District Constable	35	35.71
Personal	16	16.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion with 47 or 47.96% of the sample. Service by District Constable with 35 or 35.71% and personal service with 16 or 16.33% of the sample rank next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	141	51.09
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	59	21.38
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #2)	29	10.51
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	22	7.97
Ramble Outstation (courtroom #1)	11	3.99
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	11	3.99
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	3	1.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>276*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 238 cases**

The majority of a sample of 276 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 141 or 51.09% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay Outstation accounted for 59 or 21.38% of the cases filed. Courtroom number 2 at the Green Island outstation accounted for 29 or 10.51% and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 22 or 7.97% of the new cases heard.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	139	50.36
Female	99	35.87
Registered Company	38	13.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 276 plaintiffs in the 2022 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court, 139 or 50.36% were males and females accounted for 99 or 35.87% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 13.77% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	182	65.94
Female	92	33.33
Registered Company	2	0.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 276 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 182 or 65.94% of the sample, followed by females with 92 or 33.33%. Registered companies accounted for 2 or 0.72% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Part-Heard Date	27	31.76
Trial	27	31.76
Mention Date	25	29.41
Default Judgment Date	6	7.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 85 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or

similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 27 or 31.76% of the sample, was adjourned for trial dates and part heard dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date accounted for 25 or 29.41% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 6 or 7.06% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Reasons for Adjournments</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	76	54.29
Plaintiff Absent	18	12.86
Both Parties Absent	13	9.29
Defendant Absent	11	7.86
Attorney Absent	8	5.71
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>90.00</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 140**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 140 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue accounted for 76 or 54.29% of the sample and the absence of plaintiffs accounted for 18 or 12.86% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absenteeism of both parties accounted for 9.29% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 11 or 7.86%. Adjournments due to the absence of attorneys round off the top of reasons for adjournments during the year with 5.71% of the sample. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 90% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	65
Average Incidence	1.02

**Corresponding to 64 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 65 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 64 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.02 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	61	20.61
Consent	60	20.27
Oral Admission	46	15.54
Final Judgment	33	11.15
Settlement	27	9.12
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>76.69</b>

**NB: There were 296 matters disposed of in 2022**

A total of 296 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 227 or 76.69% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 61 or 20.61% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 60 or 20.27%. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 46 or 15.54% rank next, followed by matters disposed by final judgment with 33 or 11.15%. Matters disposed by settlements round off the top methods of disposition with 9.12% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	98	82.35
Settlement	17	14.29
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	3.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 98 or 82.35% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for 14.29% of the sample and judgment in favour of defendants account for the remaining 3.36% of the total sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial dates certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
46	9	80.43

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 46 trial dates were set in the 2022 calendar year shows that 9 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 80.43%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 80% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 2.11 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross Case disposal rate (%)</b>
238	204	314	131.93	85.71

The above table shows 238 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 169 of these cases were disposed and 35 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 85.71%, a 0.86 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 269 cases was disposed, and 45 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 131.93%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 4.10 percentage points decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 83.25%, which is 2.90 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 132.51%, which is roughly 6.35 percentage points below the rate recorded in 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	202
Mean	278.0594
Median	77.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	455.49291
Skewness	2.551
Std. Error of Skewness	.171
Range	2606.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2608.00

The above table outlines sample data on 202 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 278 days or 9.3 months and is roughly 47 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 455 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 2608 days or roughly 7 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 2 days.

**Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	82
Mean	391.0366
Median	312.0000
Mode	54.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	358.78665
Skewness	2.041
Std. Error of Skewness	.266
Range	2149.00
Minimum	33.00
Maximum	2182.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on sample of 82 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year.

The average age of these matters was roughly 391 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 54 days. The standard deviation of roughly 359 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2182 days old or roughly 6 years, while the minimum time taken is 33 days.

## Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	377	35.60
Disposed	491	46.36
Inactive	191	18.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1059 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 377 cases or 35.60% of these cases were still active, while 491 were disposed and 191 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 64.40%, which is 22.88 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1067	82.71
Small Claim	223	17.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 1290 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of which 1067 or 82.71% were big claims, while 223 or 17.29% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	628	49.88
Damages for Negligence	139	11.04
Recovery of Possession	132	10.48
Negligence	47	3.73
Rent Owing and Continuing	34	2.70
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>77.84</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 1259**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for cases filed in the year at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 628 or roughly 49.88% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 139 or 11.04% and recovery of possession with 132 or 10.48% rank next. Negligence and rent owing and continuing with 3.73% and 2.70% respectively of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
District Constable	253	49.03
Bailiff	197	38.18
Personal	66	12.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 253 or 49.03% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 197 or 38.18% and personal service accounted for 66 or 12.79% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	870	67.44
Chapleton Outstation	137	10.62
Lionel Town Outstation	117	9.07
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	90	6.98
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	48	3.72
Frankfield Outstation	28	2.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1290*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1059 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1290 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 870 or 67.44% of the total sample. The Chapleton Outstation accounted for 137 or 10.62% of the cases filed. The Lionel Town outstation accounted for 117 or 9.07% and courtroom 3 at the main courthouse accounted for 90 or 6.98% of the new cases heard.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	611	48.84
Female	535	42.77
Registered Company	103	8.23
Trading As	2	0.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1251 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 611 or 48.84% of the sample, followed by females with 535 or 42.77%. Registered

companies accounted for 103 or 8.23% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 2 or 0.16% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	818	63.61
Female	430	33.44
Trading As	23	1.79
Registered Company	15	1.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1286 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 818 or 63.61% of the sample, followed by females with 430 or 33.44%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 23 or 1.79% and registered companies account for 1.17% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	137	40.65
Mention Date	120	35.61
Default Judgment Date	77	22.85
Part-Heard Date	3	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 337 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 137 or 40.65% of the sample, were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a mention date with 120 or 35.61%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 77 or 22.85% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 0.89% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
New Date	43	34.96
No Return/Re-Issued	38	30.89
Parties in Discussion	13	10.57
Referred to Mediation	8	6.50
Notice of Adjournment	8	6.50
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>89.43</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 123**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 123 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments for a new date to be set accounted for 43 or 34.96% of the sample and adjournment for no return or for reissue accounted for 38 or 30.89% of the sample. Adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 13 or 10.57% of the sample and referrals to mediation and notices of adjournment accounted for 6.50% each.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	177
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponding to 138 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 177 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 138 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	265	32.80
Consent	124	15.35
Settlement	115	14.23
Oral Admission	75	9.28
Default Judgement	71	8.79
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>80.45</b>

**NB: there were 808 matters were disposed of in 2022**

A total of 808 civil matters were disposed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 650 or 80.45% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 265 or 32.80% and matters disposed by consent with 124 or 15.35% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 115 or 14.23% of the sample ranked next and matters disposed by oral admissions with 75 or 9.28% and matters disposed by default judgments round off the top methods of disposition with 8.79% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	193	72.83
Settlement	69	26.04
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of 265 case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 193 or 72.83% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 69 or 26.04%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.13% of the sample of outcomes. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Sample of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of trial dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)</b>
219	97	55.71

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 219 trial dates was set in the year, of which 97 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 55.71%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 56% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 10.90 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
1059	682	934	88.20	64.40

The above table shows 1059 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 491 of these cases were disposed and 191 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 64.40%, a 22.88 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 686 cases were disposed, and 248 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.20%, which is below the international standard on this metric, and is a 2.31 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the year is 56.57%, which is 36.89 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net case clearance rate is 79.03%, which is roughly 35.23 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	442
Mean	151.1629
Median	126.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	110.01118
Skewness	1.441
Std. Error of Skewness	.116
Range	572.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	576.00

The above table outlines sample data on 442 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 151 days or 5 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of roughly 110 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 576 days or roughly 1.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	75
Mean	161.0000
Median	119.0000
Mode	91.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	137.62562
Skewness	1.536
Std. Error of Skewness	.277
Range	527.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	541.00

<sup>a</sup>.Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 75 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 161 days or roughly 5.4 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 35 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 227 days or 7.6 months.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	389
Mean	202.2596
Median	169.0000
Mode	26.00
Std. Deviation	173.41651
Skewness	.937
Std. Error of Skewness	.124
Range	659.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	670.00

The above data is based on sample of 389 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 202 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 26 days. The standard deviation of roughly 173 days suggests that there is not a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 670 days old or roughly 1.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	66
Mean	164.5909
Median	169.0000
Mode	117.00
Std. Deviation	100.77026
Skewness	.384
Std. Error of Skewness	.295
Range	319.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	344.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 66 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 165 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 117 and the median age was 169 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a small dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 344 days and the lowest was 25 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

## St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well as the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1465	34.98
Disposed	2554	60.98
Inactive	169	4.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>4188</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 4188 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1465 cases or 34.98% of these cases were still active, while 2554 were disposed and 169 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.02%, which is 19.35 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3187	64.59
Small Claim	1745	35.37
POCA	2	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>4934</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 4934 claims filed in the 2022 calendar year, 3187 or 64.59% were big claims, 1745 or 35.37% were small claims and 2 or 0.04% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach Of Contract	1237	35.78
Damages for Negligence	746	21.58
Recovery Of Possession	389	11.25
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	217	6.28
Negligence	178	5.15
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2767</b>	<b>80.04</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 3457**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 3457 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 1237 or roughly 35.78% of the sample, damages for negligence with 746 or 21.58% and recovery of possession with 389 or 11.25%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 217 or 6.28% and negligence with 178 or 5.15% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 80.04% of the total sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	510	47.31
Personal	430	39.89
District Constable	138	12.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 510 or 47.31% of the sample, personal service

accounted for 430 or 39.89% and service by the district constable accounted for 138 or 12.80% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2748	78.20
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	494	14.06
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	236	6.72
Portmore Outstation (courtroom #1)	36	1.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>3514*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 2831 cases**

The majority of the sample of 3514 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 2748 or 78.20% of the total sample. The 494 or 14.06% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 236 or 6.72% of the claims and courtroom number 1 at the Portmore outstation accounted for 1.02% of the sample.

### **Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	1649	46.70
Female	1361	38.54
Registered Company	521	14.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>3531</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the 3531 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1649 or 46.70%, followed by females with 1361 or 38.54% and registered companies with 521 or 14.76% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	2146	61.24
Female	1217	34.73
Registered Company	141	4.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>3504</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 3504 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 2146 or 61.24% of the total sample, followed by females with 1217 or 34.73%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 141 or 4.02% of the total sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	1006	42.59
Trial	752	31.84
Default Judgment Date	431	18.25
Part-Heard Date	123	5.21
Hearing of Application	50	2.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>2362</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 2362 matters that went to court during the 2022 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 1006 or 42.59% were adjourned for a mention date and 752 or 31.84% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 431 or 18.25% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 123 or 5.21% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	656	21.77
Defendant Absent	433	14.37
Pending Settlement	139	4.61
Both Parties Absent	51	1.69
Hearing of Application	33	1.10
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>43.54</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled = 3013**

The above table details a sample of 3013 adjournments or continuances heard in the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 656 or 21.77% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 433 or 14.37% and pending settlements with 139 or 4.61% and the absence of both parties with 51 or 1.69% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the year. The hearing of applications with 33 or 1.10% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 43.54% of the total sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	344
Average Incidence	1.5

**Corresponding to 230 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance of cases in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 344 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 230 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.5 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 15 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	5305	75.00
Settlement	546	7.72
Consent	441	6.23
Default Judgment	235	3.32
Withdrawal	193	2.73
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6720</b>	<b>95.01</b>

**NB: There were 7073 matters disposed of in 2022**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 7073 matters disposed during the 2022 calendar year. The list is led by matters struck out with 5305 or 75% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 546 or 7.72%, matters disposed by consent with 441 or 6.23% and matters disposed by default judgments with 235 or 3.32%. Matters disposed by withdrawals account for 193 or 2.73% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 95.01% of the sample.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	422	80.08
Settlement	100	18.98
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	0.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 527 matters in the 2022 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 422 or 80.08% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 100 or 18.98% and judgment in favour of defendants with 5 or 0.95% account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
733	195	73.40

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 733 trial dates were set in the year shows that 195 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 73.40%, suggesting that during the year, there was a roughly 73% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 0.43 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
4188	2723	6221	148.54	65.02

The above table shows 4188 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 2554 of these cases were disposed and 169 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 65.02%, which is 19.35 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 5974 cases were disposed, and 247 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 148.54%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 55.07 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 63.55%, which is 27.42 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 148.64%, which is 70.60 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	5761
Mean	765.2637
Median	791.0000
Mode	652.00
Std. Deviation	453.37576
Skewness	.586
Std. Error of Skewness	.032
Range	4851.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	4854.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 5761 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 765 days or 25.5 months, which is roughly 318 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 652 days. There is a relatively low standard deviation of 453 days, which is an indication that there is a small variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores that are clustered around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 4854 days or roughly 13.5 years old, while the youngest was 3 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	411
Mean	524.5109
Median	360.0000
Mode	155.00
Std. Deviation	425.33106
Skewness	1.162
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	2648.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2651.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 411 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 525 days or roughly 17.5 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 32 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 556 days or 1.5 years.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	2939
Mean	588.5519
Median	390.0000
Mode	30.00
Std. Deviation	641.87915
Skewness	1.738
Std. Error of Skewness	.045
Range	5386.00
Minimum	15.00
Maximum	5401.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2939 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 589 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 30 days. The standard deviation of roughly 642 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5401 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum time taken is 15 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	567
Mean	504.7954
Median	418.0000
Mode	466.00
Std. Deviation	391.79831
Skewness	2.526
Std. Error of Skewness	.103
Range	2780.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	2802.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 567 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 505 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 466 and the median age was 418 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2802 days and the lowest was 22 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

### Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	56	72.73
Warrant of Possession	15	19.48
Warrant of Levy	5	6.49
Warrant of Commitment	1	1.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 77 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 56 or 72.73%, while warrants of possession with 15 or 19.48%, warrant of levy with 5 or 6.49% and warrant of commitment with 1.30% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total sample of judgement summonses filed</b>	<b>Total number of judgement summonses court appearances</b>	<b>Average number of appearances</b>
Judgement summons	56	63	1.1

The above table shows that the sample of 56 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 63 court appearances in the 2022 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were roughly 11 appearances dates.

## Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	180	34.42
Disposed	223	42.64
Inactive	120	22.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 523 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 180 or 34.42% of these cases were active, and 223 or 42.64% were disposed and 120 cases became inactive at the end of the year. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 65.58% for the year, a 7.93 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	430	74.91
Small Claim	144	25.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 574 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of which 430 or 74.91% were big claims, while 144 or 25.09% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	111	19.68
Money Owing	66	11.70
Arrears of Rent	22	3.90
Breach of Contract	16	2.84
Monies Due & Owing	16	2.84
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>40.96</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 564**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the year were recovery of possession with 111 or 19.68% and monies owing with 66 or 11.70%. Arrears of rent with 22 or 3.90%, breach of contract and monies due and owing with 16 or 2.84% each of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 40.96% of all the total sample of 564 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	466	81.90
Bailiff	103	18.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 466 or 81.90% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 103 or 18.10% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Falmouth Outstation	342	59.69
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	108	18.85
Ulster Spring Outstation	103	17.98
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	20	3.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>573*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 523 cases**

The majority of a sample of 573 new matters filed in 59.69% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 108 or 18.85% matters that were entered in the courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with 103 or 17.98% of the accommodations. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse accounted for 3.49% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	308	54.04
Female	246	43.16
Registered Company	16	2.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 570 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 308 or 54.04%, followed by females with 246 or 43.16%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 2.81% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	365	64.72
Female	180	31.91
Registered Company	19	3.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 564 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 365 or 64.72% of the sample, followed by females with 180 or 31.91% and registered companies with 3.37%.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	156	34.21
Trial	117	25.66
Default Judgment Date	104	22.81
Part-Heard Date	73	16.01
Hearing of Application	3	0.66
Final Judgment Date	3	0.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 456 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 156 or 34.21% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 117 or 25.66%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned default judgment dates with 104 or 22.81% and for part heard dates with 73 or 16.01% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	183	44.20
Both Parties Absent	80	19.32
Defendant Absent	76	18.36
Plaintiff Absent	29	7.00
Attorney Absent	11	2.66
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>91.55</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 414**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 414 incidence of adjournments heard in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 183 or 44.20% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 80 or 19.32% and the absence of defendants with 76 or 18.36% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for the absence of plaintiffs and the absence of attorneys with 29 or 7% and 11 or 2.66% respectively of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 91.55% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	46
Average Incidence	1.02

**Corresponds to 45 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 46 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 45 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.02 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	114	24.46
Default Judgment	78	16.74
Struck Out	63	13.52
Final Judgment	52	11.16
Oral Admission	45	9.66
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>75.54</b>

**NB: There were 466 matters disposed of in 2022**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 466 matters disposed during the 2022 calendar year. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 114 or 24.46% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by default judgments with 78 or 16.74% and matters struck out with 63 or 13.52% of the sample. Matters disposed by final judgments account for 52 or 11.16% of the sample and disposals by oral admissions account for 45 or 9.66% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 75.54% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)</b>
80	1	98.75

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 80 trial dates set in the year revealed that 1 was adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 98.75% which suggests that during the year there was roughly a 99% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome met the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 2.39 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
523	343	580	110.90	65.58

The above table shows 523 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 223 of these cases were disposed and 120 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 65.58%, which is 7.93 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 422 cases were disposed and 158 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 110.90%, which meets the international

standard for the case clearance rate and is 21.75 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

The net disposal rate for the year is 55.33%, which is 4.05 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance for the year is 104.71%, which is 17.87 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	278
Mean	245.5683
Median	122.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	312.07004
Skewness	2.150
Std. Error of Skewness	.146
Range	1668.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	1674.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 278 civil cases disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 246 days or 8.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 122 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 312 days

suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the year was 1674 days or roughly 4.7 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 6 days.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	338
Mean	525.0769
Median	439.5000
Mode	389.00
Std. Deviation	384.86886
Skewness	.649
Std. Error of Skewness	.133
Range	1736.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	1761.00

The above data is computed using 338 active cases at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 525 days (1.5 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 389 days. The standard deviation of roughly 385 days suggests that there is a small amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 1761 days (4.9 years old), while the youngest is 25 days.

### Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	31	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 31 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses.

**Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	31	45	1.5

The above table shows that the sample of 31 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 45 court appearances in the 2022 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.5 court appearance

per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were 15 appearances dates.

## St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	835	48.27
Disposed	515	29.77
Inactive	380	21.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1730 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 835 cases or 48.27% of these cases were still active, 515 were disposed and 380 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 51.73%, which is a 0.84 percentage points decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1700	78.59
Small Claim	461	21.31
POCA	2	0.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>2163</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 2163 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1700 or 78.59%, while 461 or 21.31% were small claims. There were 2 Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	613	35.54
Recovery of Possession	221	12.80
Monies Owing	186	10.78
Damages for Negligence	159	9.22
Rent Owing and Continuing	101	5.86
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>74.20</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 1725**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 1725 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2022 calendar year was breach of contract with 613 or roughly 35.54% of the sample and recovery of possession with 221 or 12.80% of the sample. Monies owing with 186 or 10.78% and damages for negligence with 159 or 9.22% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 101 or 5.86% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.20% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	195	41.05
District Constable	194	40.84
Personal	86	18.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 195 or 41.05% of the sample. Service by District Constable accounted for 194 or 40.84%, personal service with 86 or 18.11% of the sample rank next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1128	72.26
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	285	18.26
Claremont Outstation	148	9.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1561*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1247 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1561 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 1128 or 72.26% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 285 or 18.26% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 148 or 9.48% of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	1018	47.37
Female	822	38.25
Registered Company	274	12.75
Trading As	35	1.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 2149 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 1018 or 47.37%, followed by females with 822 or 38.25% and registered companies with 274 or 12.75% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 1.63% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	1339	62.66
Female	620	29.01
Registered Company	156	7.30
Trading as	22	1.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>2137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 2137 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 1339 or 62.66% of the total sample, followed by females with 620 or 29.01%. Registered companies accounted for 156 or 7.30% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 22 or 1.03% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	505	39.45
Default Judgment Date	317	24.77
Trial	299	23.36
Part-Heard Date	124	9.69
Hearing of Application	35	2.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 1280 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 505 or 39.45% of the sample, followed by 317 or 24.77%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates accounted for 299 or 23.36% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 124 or 9.69% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	764	37.99
Defendant Absent	304	15.12
Both Parties Absent	118	5.87
Referred for Mediation	54	2.69
Plaintiff Absent	43	2.14
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>63.80</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 2011**

The above table details a sample of 2011 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2022 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 764 or 37.99% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 304 or 15.12% and adjournments due to both parties being absent with 118 or 5.87% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 54 or 2.69% and the

absence of plaintiffs with 43 or 2.14% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 63.80% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	262
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 202 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 262 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 202 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	377	24.95
Struck Out	284	18.80
Settlement	195	12.91
Default Judgment	159	10.52
Oral Admission	129	8.54
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>75.71</b>

**NB: There were 1511 matters disposed of in 2022**

A sample of 1511 matters disposed during the 2022 calendar year revealed that 377 or 24.95% of matters were disposed by consent, 284 or 18.80% were disposed by being stuck out and 195 or 12.91% of the sample were disposed by settlements. Matters disposed by default judgments with 159 or 10.52% and oral admissions with 129 or 8.54% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above,

account for 75.71% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	268	82.21
Settlement	55	16.87
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	0.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 268 or 82.21% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 55 or 16.87% and judgments in favour of the defendant with 0.92% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
139	11	92.09

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 139 trial dates set in the year revealed that 11 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 92.09%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 92%

chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and 5.75 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
1730	895	1840	106.36	51.73

The above table shows 1730 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2022 calendar. At the end of the year, a total of 515 cases were disposed and 380 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 51.73%, a decrease of 0.84 percentage points compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of 1198 cases were disposed, and 642 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 106.36%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 14.46 percentage points decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 38.15%, an improvement of 3.08 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 88.74%, a decline of 13.18 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1000
Mean	465.7420
Median	216.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	653.76342
Skewness	2.761
Std. Error of Skewness	.077
Range	3976.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3977.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1000 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 466 days or 15.5 months, which is roughly 77 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 654 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3977 days or roughly 11 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	125
Mean	420.8640
Median	250.0000
Mode	511.00
Std. Deviation	583.50619
Skewness	3.908
Std. Error of Skewness	.217
Range	3834.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	3851.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 125 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 421 days or roughly 14 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 145 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 244 days or 8.1 months.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1338
Mean	550.2945
Median	332.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	691.53953
Skewness	2.933
Std. Error of Skewness	.067
Range	5369.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	5385.00

The above data is based on sample of 1338 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 550 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 692 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 5385 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum age is 16 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	151
Mean	837.1126
Median	486.0000
Mode	653.00
Std. Deviation	946.07257
Skewness	2.096
Std. Error of Skewness	.197
Range	4177.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	4195.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 151 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the year ended December 31, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 837 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 653 days and the median age was 486 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 4195 days and the lowest was 18 days.

## Browns Town Outstation –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown’s Town outstation in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	226	54.33
Disposed	125	30.05
Inactive	65	15.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 416 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 226 cases or 54.33% of these cases were still active, 125 were disposed and 65 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 45.67% for the year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	387	73.85
Small Claim	137	26.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 524 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 387 or 73.85%, while 137 or 26.15% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	127	29.13
Monies Owing	121	27.75
Recovery of possession	54	12.39
Rent Owing and Continuing	27	6.19
Rent owing	16	3.67
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>79.13</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 436**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 436 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2022 calendar year was breach of contract with 127 or roughly 29.13% of the sample and monies owing with 121 or 27.75% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 54 or 12.39% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 27 or 6.19% and rent owing with 16 or 3.67% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 79.13% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	522	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>522*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 415 cases**

All of a sample of 522 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

## Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	255	49.51
Female	186	36.12
Registered Company	47	9.13
Trading As	27	5.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 515 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 255 or 49.51% of the sample, followed by females with 186 or 36.12% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for 47 or 9.13% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 5.24%.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	344	67.85
Female	150	29.59
Registered Company	10	1.97
Trading As	3	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 507 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 344 or 67.85% of the total sample, followed by females with 150 or 29.59%. Registered companies accounted for 10 or 1.97% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.59%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	230	44.57
Default Judgment Date	117	22.67
Trial	109	21.12
Part-Heard Date	59	11.43
Hearing of Application	1	0.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 516 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 230 or 44.57% of the sample, followed by 117 or 22.67%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates accounted for 109 or 21.12% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 59 or 11.43% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	134	21.61
No Return/Re-Issued	113	18.23
Both Parties Absent	25	4.03
Referred for Mediation	17	2.74
Judge absent/ill	11	1.77
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>48.39</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 620**

The above table details a sample of 620 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2022 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 134 or 21.61% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 113 or 18.23% and the absence of both parties with 25 or 4.03% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 17 or 2.74% and judge absent/ill with 11 or 1.77% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 48.39% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	23
Average Incidence	1.05

**Corresponds to 22 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 23 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

22 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.05 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Consent	77	22.65
Struck Out	49	14.41
Oral Admission	46	13.53
Default Judgment	44	12.94
Settlement	43	12.65
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>76.18</b>

**NB: There were 340 matters disposed of in 2022**

A sample of 340 matters disposed during the 2022 calendar year revealed that 77 or 22.65% of matters were disposed by consent and 49 or 14.41% were struck out. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 46 or 13.53% and matters disposed by default judgment with 44 or 12.94% rank next. Settlements with 43 or 12.65% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 76.18% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	35	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the Brown's Town oustation. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff accounted for 100% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the

likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
16	0	100

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 16 trial dates were set in the year shows that none were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
416	190	349	83.89	45.67

The above table shows 416 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town outstation during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 125 cases was disposed and 65 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 45.67%. An approximate gross figure of 249 cases were disposed, and 100 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 83.89%, which meets the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 35.61% and the estimated net clearance rate for the year is 70.94%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	204
Mean	245.3333
Median	177.0000
Mode	245.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	219.78993
Skewness	1.088
Std. Error of Skewness	.170
Range	973.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	974.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 204 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 245 days or 8.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 245 days and the median time was 177 days. The standard deviation of roughly 220 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 974 days or roughly 2.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	511
Mean	368.5871
Median	332.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	286.59141
Skewness	.588
Std. Error of Skewness	.108
Range	1068.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	1090.00

The above data is based on sample of 511 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 369 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 287 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1090 days old or roughly 3 years, while the minimum age is 22 days.

## Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	127	19.10
Disposed	421	63.31
Inactive	117	17.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 665 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 127 cases or 19.10% of these cases were still active, while 421 or 63.31% were disposed and 117 or 17.59% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 80.90%, which is a 4.67 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	707	81.64
Small Claim	159	18.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 866 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year, the majority of which 707 or 81.64% were big claims, while 159 or 18.36% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	209	24.27
Recovery of Possession	158	18.35
Negligence	67	7.78
Damages to Property	28	3.25
Monies Owing	27	3.14
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>56.79</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 861**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the 2022 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 209 or roughly 24.27% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 158 or 18.35%, negligence with 67 or 7.78%, damages to property with 28 or 3.25% and monies owing with 27 or 3.14% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 56.79% of the sample of 861 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	444	53.05
Personal	393	46.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>100</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 444 or 53.05% and personal service accounted for 393 or 46.95% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	439	51.89
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	263	31.09
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	80	9.46
Whithorn Outstation	64	7.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>846*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 650 cases**

The majority of a sample of 846 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 439 or 51.89% of the sample. The 263 or 31.09% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 80 or 9.46% and sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 7.57% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment Summons	40	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A sample of 40 applications filed during the 2022 calendar year revealed that applications for judgment summonses accounted for 100% of the applications filed.

## Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022

**Table 7.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	483	56.10
Female	309	35.89
Registered Company	66	7.67
Trading As	3	0.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 861 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 483 or 56.10%, followed by females with 309 or 35.89%. Registered companies accounted for 66 or 7.67% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.35%.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	523	61.03
Female	284	33.14
Registered Company	31	3.62
Trading As	19	2.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 857 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 523 or 61.03% of the sample, followed by females with 284 or 33.14%. Registered companies account for 3.62% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 19 or 2.22%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	233	52.48
Mention Date	134	30.18
Final Judgment Date	58	13.06
Part-Heard Date	19	4.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 444 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 233 or 52.48% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 134 or 30.18%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 58 or 13.06% of matters, which were adjourned for final judgment dates and 19 or 4.28% which were adjourned for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	74	22.36
For Judgment	69	20.85
Defendant Absent	8	2.42
Pending Settlement	4	1.21
Referred to Mediation	4	1.21
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>48.04</b>

**Number of adjournments sampled (n) = 331**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 331 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue account for the largest proportion of the sample with 74 or 22.36%, while adjournments for judgment rank next with 69 or 20.85% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 8 or 2.42% of the sample and pending settlements and referrals to mediation with 1.21% each the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the year. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 48.04% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the year.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	167
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 125 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 167 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

125 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.3 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Oral Admission	159	19.78
Consent	135	16.79
Struck Out	130	16.17
Default Judgment	90	11.19
Final Judgment	74	9.20
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>73.13</b>

**NB: There were 804 matters disposed of in 2022**

A total of 804 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during 2022 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 73.13% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 159 or 19.78% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 135 or 16.79% of the sample and matters struck out with 130 or 16.17% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 90 or 11.19% and matters disposed by final judgments with 74 or 9.20% round off the top five methods dispositions.

**Table 13: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	327	85.38
Settlement	48	12.53
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	8	2.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 327 or 85.38%

of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 48 or 12.53%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 2.09% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
237	2	99.16

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 237 trial dates were set in the year; of which 2 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 99.16%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 99% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment and is 0.44 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 15.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
665	538	617	92.78	80.90

The above table shows 665 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 421 of these cases were disposed, and 117 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 80.90%, an increase of 4.67

percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. A gross figure of 493 cases were disposed, and 124 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 92.78%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 22.50 percentage points below the 2021 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 76.82%, which is 5.39 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 89.96%, which is 25.07 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	464
Mean	156.5237
Median	82.0000
Mode	35.00
Std. Deviation	192.16461
Skewness	2.160
Std. Error of Skewness	.113
Range	1110.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	1112.00

The above table outlines summary data on 464 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 157 days or 5.2 months, which is roughly 14 less days than it took to dispose of

matters in the 2021 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1112 days or roughly 3.1 years, while the minimum time taken was just 2 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	50
Mean	88.1200
Median	48.5000
Mode	7.00
Std. Deviation	100.06644
Skewness	2.091
Std. Error of Skewness	.337
Range	473.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	475.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 50 matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 88 days or roughly 2.9 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 42 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the year reveals an average age in that status of approximately 159.36 days.

**Table 17.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	335
Mean	451.6030
Median	332.0000
Mode	1340.00
Std. Deviation	425.30677
Skewness	.834
Std. Error of Skewness	.133
Range	1372.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	1389.00

The above data is based on sample of 335 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 452 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1340 days. The standard deviation of roughly 425 days suggests that there some dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 1389 days or 3.9 years, and the youngest time is 17 days.

**Table 17.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	46
Mean	194.0870
Median	178.0000
Mode	178.00
Std. Deviation	122.46738
Skewness	.472
Std. Error of Skewness	.350
Range	523.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	542.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 46 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2022.

The average age of these matters was roughly 194 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 178 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 542 days and the lowest was 19 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

### Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	40	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 40 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses.

**Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	40	47	1.2

The above table shows that the sample of 40 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 47 court appearances in the 2022 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.2 court appearance

per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were roughly 12 appearances dates.

## St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	193	30.83
Disposed	427	68.21
Inactive	6	0.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 626 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 193 or 30.83% were still active, 427 or 68.21% were disposed and 6 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 69.17% for the year, which is a 6.04 percentage points decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	575	78.13
Small Claim	161	21.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 736 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 575 or 78.13% of the total sample, while 161 or 21.88% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	294	69.50
Recovery of Possession	98	23.17
Damages for Negligence	9	2.13
Damages to Cultivation	8	1.89
Arrears of Rent	6	1.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>98.11</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 423**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 423 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the year at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 294 or roughly 69.50% of the sample and recovery of possession with 98 or 23.17% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 9 or 2.13%, damages to cultivation with 8 or 1.89% and arrears of rent with 6 or 1.42% rank next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	665	90.35
Bailiff	71	9.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 665 or 90.35% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 71 or 9.65% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	421	57.20
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	106	14.40
Annotto Bay Outstation	69	9.38
Richmond Outstation	69	9.38
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	42	5.71
Gayle Outstation	29	3.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>736*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 626 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 736 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 421 or 57.20% of the sample. Sittings at the courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with 106 or 14.40% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation and the Richmond outstation with 69 or 9.38% each of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 42 or 5.71% of the sample and sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 29 or 3.94%.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	411	55.84
Female	276	37.50
Registered Company	49	6.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 736 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 411

or 55.84%, followed by females with 276 or 37.50%. Registered companies with 6.66% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	502	68.30
Female	221	30.07
Registered Company	12	1.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 735 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were males with 502 or 68.30%, followed by females with 221 or 30.07% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 1.63% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Trial	60	52.63
Mention Date	30	26.32
Default Judgment Date	23	20.18
Part-Heard Date	1	0.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 114 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The majority, 60 or 52.63% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 30 or 26.32%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 23 or 20.18% of the matters which were adjourned for default judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	65
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponds to 58 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 65 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 58 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	211	28.86
Consent	140	19.15
Oral Admission	77	10.53
Settlement	76	10.40
Default Judgment	67	9.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>78.11</b>

**NB: There were 731 matters disposed of in 2022**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 731 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. Matters struck out with 211 or 28.86%, matters disposed by consent with 140 or 19.15% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 77 or 10.53% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 10.40% of the sample rank next followed by disposals by default judgments with 9.17% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 78.11% of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
96	58	39.58

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 96 trial dates were set in the 2022 calendar year shows that 58 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 39.58%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 40% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
626	433	647	103.35	69.17

The above table shows 626 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 427 of these cases were disposed, and 6 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 69.17%, a decrease of 6.04 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. A gross figure of 634 cases were disposed, and 13 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 103.35%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 3.49 percentage points below the 2021 calendar year rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 68.87%, which is 2.42 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 102.26%, which is 2.20 percentage points below the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	485
Mean	205.9485
Median	65.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	306.34166
Skewness	3.379
Std. Error of Skewness	.111
Range	3123.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	3124.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 485 civil cases disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 206 days or 6.9 months, which is roughly 27 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 14 days and the median time was 65 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 306 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the year was 3124 days or roughly 8.7 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	257
Mean	544.5058
Median	327.0000
Mode	26.00
Std. Deviation	643.65373
Skewness	2.021
Std. Error of Skewness	.152
Range	3416.00
Minimum	19.00
Maximum	3435.00

The above data is based on sample of 257 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 545 days (or roughly 18.2 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 26 days. The standard deviation of roughly 644 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 3435 days old or roughly 9.5 years, while the minimum age was 19 days.

### Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	45	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 45 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, all of which were judgement summonses.

**Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summonses court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	45	76	1.7

The above table shows that the sample of 45 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 76 court appearances in the 2022 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.7 court appearance

per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were roughly 17 appearances dates.

## Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	117	41.20
Disposed	142	50.00
Inactive	25	8.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 284 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 117 or 41.20% were still active 142 or 50% were disposed and 25 were inactive. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 58.80% for the year, which is 4.39 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	333	83.67
Small Claim	65	16.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 398 new claims filed in the year, the majority of which 333 or 83.67% were big claims, while 65 or 16.33% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	96	45.28
Recovery of Possession	89	41.98
Rent Owing	8	3.77
Special Damages	8	3.77
Damages for Trespass	3	1.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>96.23</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 212**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 212 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 96 or roughly 45.28% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 89 or 41.98%, and rent owing and special damages with 8 or 3.77% each. Damages for trespass with 3 or 1.42% round off the top five causes of action for the year. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 96.23% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	252	63.32
Bailiff	146	36.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 252 or 63.32% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 146 or 36.68%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	144	38.61
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	89	23.86
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	69	18.50
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	35	9.38
Manchioneal Outstation	29	7.77
Buff Bay Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	7	1.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>373*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 267 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 373 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 144 or 38.61% of the sample of accommodations. The 89 or 23.86% that were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 69 matters that entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse rank next. Courtroom number 1 at the Buff Bay outstation account for 35 or 9.38%, the Manchioneal outstation accounted for 29 or 7.77% and courtroom number 2 at the Buff Bay outstation account for 1.88% of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	186	46.97
Female	150	37.88
Registered Company	56	14.14
Trading As	4	1.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 396 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 186 or 46.97%, followed by females with

150 or 37.88%. Registered companies account for 56 or 14.14% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 4 or 1.01% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	237	59.55
Female	147	36.93
Registered Company	13	3.27
Trading As	1	0.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 398 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 237 or 59.55% of the sample, followed by females with 147 or 36.93% of the sample and registered companies with 13 or 3.27%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.25% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	119	36.39
Trial	109	33.33
Part-Heard Date	73	22.32
Default Judgment Date	25	7.65
Hearing of Application	1	0.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 327 matters that were heard during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 119 or 36.39% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 109 or 33.33%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 73 or 22.32% and for default judgment dates with 25 or 7.65% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	82	19.11
Consent	78	18.18
Struck Out	66	15.38
Settlement	57	13.29
Default Judgment	41	9.56
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>75.52</b>

**NB: There were 429 matters disposed of in 2022**

A total of 429 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. The distribution is led by disposals by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 82 or 19.11% of the sample, followed by disposals by consent with 78 or 18.18%, matters struck out with 66 or 15.38% and settlements with 57 or 13.29%. Matters disposed by default judgment with 41 or 9.56% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 75.52% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 10: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	42	51.22
Settlement	36	43.90
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	4.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 42 or 51.22% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for 43.90% of the sample and judgment in favour of defendants account for the remaining 4.88% of the total sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the

likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
173	82	52.60

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using a sample of 173 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that 82 was adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 52.60% which suggests that during the year there was roughly an 53% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2022 result is 23.59 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
284	167	338	119.01	58.80

The above table shows 284 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 142 of these cases were disposed and 25 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 58.80%, an improvement of 4.39 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. An approximate gross figure of

307 cases were disposed, and 31 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 119.01%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 9.30 percentage points less than the 2021 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 54.83%, a 7.37 percentage point improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate is 118.53%, a 3.08 percentage point decline when compared to the 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	339
Mean	503.0914
Median	209.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	670.62621
Skewness	2.318
Std. Error of Skewness	.132
Range	4089.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	4092.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 339 civil matters disposed in 2022 calendar year at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 503 days (16.8 months), which is roughly 7 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time to disposition was 209 days. The standard deviation of roughly 671 days, is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The

positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 4092 days or roughly 11.4 years old, while the youngest was 3 days.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	416
Mean	947.8486
Median	670.0000
Mode	2182.00
Std. Deviation	851.48383
Skewness	.926
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	4276.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	4300.00

The above data is computed using 416 active cases at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 948 days (2.6 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2182 days (6.1 years). The standard deviation of roughly 851 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4300 days (11.9 years), while the youngest 24 days.

## St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	151	27.11
Disposed	250	44.88
Inactive	156	28.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 557 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 151 cases or 27.11% of these cases were still active, while 250 were disposed and 156 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 72.89%, which is a 9.24 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	389	62.54
Small Claim	233	37.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 622 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year, the majority of which 389 or 62.54% were big claims, while 233 or 37.46% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	200	32.95
Monies Owing	81	13.34
Recovery of Possession	81	13.34
Cattle Trespass	27	4.45
Goods Sold and Delivered	23	3.79
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>67.87</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 607**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action filed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 200 or roughly 32.95% of the sample. Recovery of possession and monies owing with 81 or 13.34% each and cattle trespass with 27 or 4.45% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Goods sold and delivered with 23 or 3.79% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 67.87% of all the total sample of 607 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
District Constable	218	62.11
Bailiff	115	32.76
Personal	18	5.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the majority with 218 or 62.11% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 115 or 32.76% and personal service with 18 or 5.13% ran next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	409	67.27
Yallahs outstation	155	25.49
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	44	7.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>608*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 545 cases**

The majority of a sample of 608 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 409 or 67.27% of the sample. Sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 155 or 25.49% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 44 or 7.24% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	337	54.27
Female	276	44.44
Registered Company	4	0.64
Trading As	4	0.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 621 new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 337 or 54.27%, followed by females with 276 or 44.44%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.64% each of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	412	66.34
Female	201	32.37
Registered Company	5	0.81
Trading As	3	0.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 621 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 412 or 66.34% of the sample, followed by females with 201 or 32.37% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for 5 or 0.81% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.48% of the sample.

#### **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Date for Order	533	67.81
Trial	89	11.32
Part-Heard Date	81	10.31
Mention Date	61	7.76
Default Judgment Date	22	2.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of 786 cases adjourned during the 2022 calendar year. The majority, 533 or 67.81% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 89 or 11.32% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 81 or 10.31% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date with 61 or 7.76% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 22 or 2.80% of the sample rank next.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Absent	44	10.97
Both Parties Absent	43	10.72
Not Reached	33	8.23
Plaintiff Absent	21	5.24
To Settle Legal Representation	18	4.49
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>39.65</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 401**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 401 incidences of adjournments in the 2022 calendar year. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 44 or 10.97% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of both parties with 43 or 10.72% and adjournments for parties not reached with 33 or 8.23% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 5.24% and to settle legal representation with 18 or 4.49% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 39.65% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	121
Average Incidence	1.1

**Corresponding to 113 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 121 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 113 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	108	20.11
Struck Out	106	19.74
Default Judgment	77	14.34
Oral Admission	64	11.92
Settlement	60	11.17
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>77.28</b>

**NB: there were 537 matters were disposed of in 2022**

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 537 matters. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 108 or 20.11% of the sample. Matters struck out and matters disposed by default judgments with 106 or 19.74% and 77 or 14.34% respectively rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 64 or 11.92% and settlements with 60 or 11.17% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 77.28% of the sample.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	165	82.91
Settlement	29	14.57
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	4	2.01
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	0.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 165 or 82.91% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample. Settlements account for 29 or 14.57% of the total sample. Judgment for ancillary plaintiff account for 4 or 2.01% and judgment in favour of defendant account for 0.50% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Sample of trial dates set</b>	<b>Number of trial dates adjourned</b>	<b>Estimated trial date certainty rate (%)</b>
118	25	78.81

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 118 trial dates were set in the year shows that 25 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 78.81%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 79% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 15.33 percentage points above the rate recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
557	406	640	114.90	72.89

The above table shows 557 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 250 cases were disposed and 156 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 72.89%, an increase of 9.24 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year. A gross figure of 459 cases were disposed, and 181 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 114.90%, which exceeds of the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 1.91 percentage points when compared to the 2021 calendar year.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 62.34%, a 16.55 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year. The estimated net clearance rate for the year is 114.46%, an 8 percentage points increase when compared to 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	360
Mean	378.3500
Median	230.5000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	429.92612
Skewness	1.817
Std. Error of Skewness	.129
Range	2372.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2379.00

Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown<sub>a</sub>

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 360 civil matters disposed in 2022 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 378 days or 12.6 months, which is roughly 43 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the 2021 calendar year. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 430 days is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2379 days or roughly 6.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	83
Mean	278.6386
Median	154.0000
Mode	42.00
Std. Deviation	338.36243
Skewness	2.128
Std. Error of Skewness	.264
Range	1577.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	1583.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 83 matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 279 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores were below the overall average. The oldest time was 1583 days, and the minimum was 6 days.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	293
Mean	1035.3993
Median	709.0000
Mode	2825.00
Std. Deviation	1040.62307
Skewness	.861
Std. Error of Skewness	.142
Range	2801.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	2825.00

The above data is based on sample of 293 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 1035 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2825 days or 7.8 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 1041 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2825 days or 7.8 years, while the youngest case was 24 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	68
Mean	640.7059
Median	697.0000
Mode	697.00
Std. Deviation	459.53546
Skewness	.658
Std. Error of Skewness	.291
Range	1891.00
Minimum	24.00
Maximum	1915.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 68 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the year ended December 31, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 641 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 697 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 1915 days and the lowest was 24 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

## St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St.

James Parish Court.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	387	26.78
Disposed	501	34.67
Inactive	557	38.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1445 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, 387 cases or 26.78% of these cases were still active, 501 were disposed and 557 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 73.22% for the year.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1167	67.69
Small Claim	557	32.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 1724 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year, the majority of which were big claims with 1167 or 67.69%, while 557 or 32.31% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	224	27.86
Rent Owing and Continuing	123	15.30
Breach of Contract	121	15.05
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	77	9.58
Damages for Negligence	73	9.08
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>76.87</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 804**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 804 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the 2022 calendar year was recovery of possession with 224 or roughly 27.86% of the sample and rent owing and continuing with 123 or 15.30% of the sample. Breach of contract with 121 or 15.05% of the sample rank next. Rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 77 or 9.58% and damages for negligence with 73 or 9.08% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.87% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Bailiff	149	47.60
Personal	108	34.50
District Constable	56	17.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest

proportion of the sample with 149 or 47.60% of the sample followed by personal service with 108 or 34.50% and service by the District Constable with 56 or 17.89%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #4 (Main courthouse)	568	54.93
Cambridge Outstation	465	44.97
Courtroom #3 (Main courthouse)	1	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1034*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 860 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1034 matters entered in the 2022 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 568 or 54.93% of the sample. Sittings at the Cambridge outstation had 465 matters entered or 44.97% of the sample, followed by courtroom 3 with 1 or 0.10%.

**Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	757	48.28
Female	527	33.61
Registered Company	276	17.60
Trading As	8	0.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>1568</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1568 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 757 or 48.28% of the sample, followed by females with 527 or 33.61% of the total sample. Registered companies accounted for 276 or 17.60% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.51%.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	922	54.69
Female	607	36.00
Registered Company	151	8.96
Trading As	6	0.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1686</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1686 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2022 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 922 or 54.69% of the total sample, followed by females with 607 or 36%. Registered companies accounted for 151 or 8.96% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.36%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2022

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	232	52.85
Trial	114	25.97
Final Judgment Date	45	10.25
Part-Heard Date	31	7.06
Default Judgment Date	12	2.73
Hearing of Application	4	0.91
Date for Order	1	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 439 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 232 or 52.85% of the sample, followed by 114 or 25.97%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for final judgment dates accounted for 45 or 10.25% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 31 or 7.06% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date,

though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Referred for Mediation	47	71.21
Defendant Absent	7	10.61
Plaintiff Absent	6	9.09
Attorney Absent	4	6.06
For Judgment	2	3.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 66**

The above table details a sample of 66 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the 2022 calendar year. Referrals to mediation with 47 or 71.21% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 7 or 10.61% and the absence of plaintiffs with 6 or 9.09% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by absence of attorneys with 4 or 6.06% and adjournments for judgment with 2 or 3.03% of the sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	41
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 34 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 41 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

34 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	248	26.44
Consent	184	19.62
Struck Out	157	16.74
Application For Plaintiff Granted	60	6.40
Final Judgment	50	5.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>74.52</b>

**NB: There were 938 matters disposed of in 2022**

A sample of 938 matters disposed during the 2022 calendar year revealed that 248 or 26.44% of matters were disposed by default judgments and 184 or 19.62% were disposed by consent. Matters struck out with 157 or 16.74% and application for plaintiff granted with 60 or 6.40% rank next. Matters were disposed by final judgments with 50 or 5.33% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the year. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 74.52% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2022 calendar year.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	243	82.37
Settlement	25	8.47
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	17	5.76
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	6	2.03
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	4	1.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of 295 case outcomes in the 2022 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 243 or

82.37% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority, while settlements account for 25 or 8.47% of the sample and judgments on favour of defendants account for 5.76% of the sample. Judgment for ancillary plaintiff accounted for 2.03% and judgment for ancillary defendant accounted for the remaining proportion with 1.36% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
46	3	93.48

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 46 trial dates were set in the year shows that 3 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 93.48%. The output suggests that during the year, there was an estimated 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
1445	1058	1436	99.38	73.22

The above table shows 1445 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2022 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 501 cases were disposed and 557 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 73.22%. An approximate gross figure

of 788 cases were disposed, and 648 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 99.38%, which meets the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the year is 56.42% and the estimated net clearance rate for the year is 88.74%, a 4.21 percentage points increase when compared to 2021 calendar year. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	603
Mean	245.5970
Median	119.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	277.72860
Skewness	1.478
Std. Error of Skewness	.100
Range	1242.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	1243.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 603 civil matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 246 days or 8.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition

was 28 days and the median time was 119 days. The standard deviation of roughly 278 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1243 days or roughly 3.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was 1 day.

**Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	472
Mean	440.0890
Median	400.0000
Mode	698.00
Std. Deviation	341.36531
Skewness	.588
Std. Error of Skewness	.112
Range	1386.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	1394.00

The above data is based on sample of 472 active civil matters at the end of the 2022 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 440 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 698 days. The standard deviation of roughly 341 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall

below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1394 days old or roughly 3.9 years, while the minimum age is 8 days.

**Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement**

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system.

**Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	51	91.07
Warrant of Commitment	4	7.14
Other	1	1.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above sample of 56 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority of which were judgement summonses with 51 or 91.07%, while warrants of commitment with 4 or 7.14% and the category “other” with 1 or 1.79% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

**Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summonses court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Total sample of judgement summonses filed</b>	<b>Total number of judgement summonses court appearances</b>	<b>Average number of appearances</b>
Judgement summons	51	51	1.0

The above table shows that the sample of 51 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 51 court appearances in the 2022 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1 court appearance per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 10 Judgment summonses filed, there were exactly 10 appearances dates.

**Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts**

**Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Manchester and St. Elizabeth Parish Courts for 2022**

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Net Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Net Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date certainty Rate (%)
Manchester PC	-	118.53	-	-	-
St. Elizabeth PC	87.51	87.11	-	24.66	-

**Note: A 3-point moving average using first, second and third quarter date is used to calculate the number of new cases, cases disposed and inactive cases for the fourth quarter at The Manchester Parish court**

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Manchester and St. Elizabeth shows that the civil division of the Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated net case clearance rate of 118.53% in the 2022 calendar year. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court recorded an estimated net disposal rate is 24.66% as well as an estimated gross clearance rate of 87.51% and an estimated net clearance rate of 87.11% for the year.

**Aggregate case activity summaries – all Parish Courts**

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)
17057	20635	120.98

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. It shows that a total of 17,057 new cases were filed over the year, while 20,635 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance

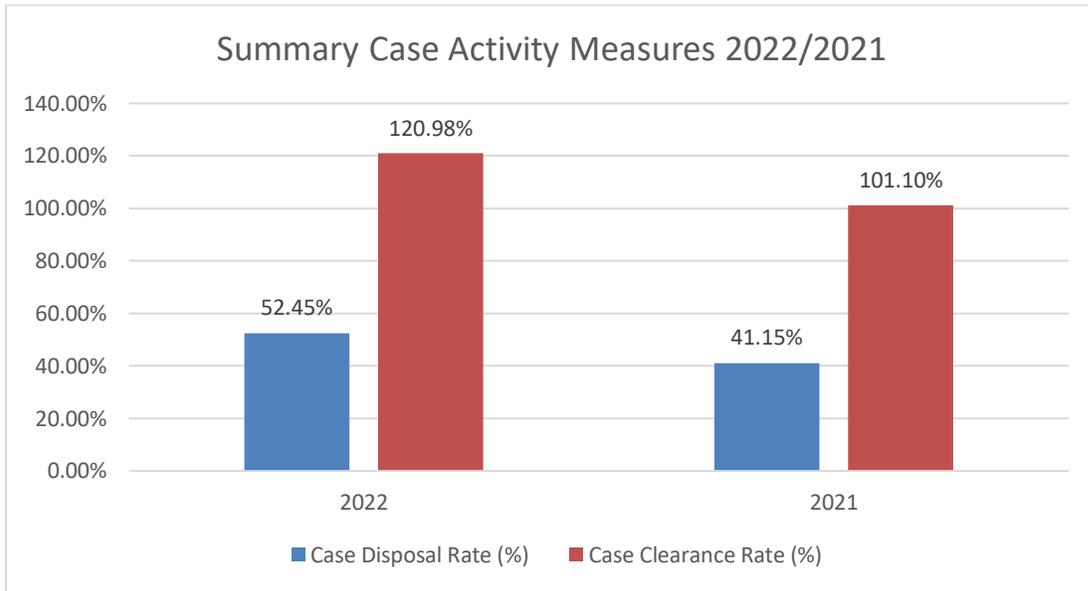
rate of 120.98%. This is a 19.88 percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2022	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) 2021	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2022	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) 2021	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	72.89	63.65	9.24	114.9	112.99	1.91
Corporate Area- Civil	38.58	27.79	10.79	NA	107.71	NA
St. Elizabeth	NA	41.25	NA	87.51	74.75	12.76
Hanover	85.71	84.85	0.86	131.93	136.03	-4.1
Manchester	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland	58.8	54.41	4.39	119.01	128.31	-9.3
St. Ann	51.73	52.57	-0.84	106.36	120.82	-14.46
St. Catherine	65.02	45.67	19.35	148.54	93.47	55.07
St. Mary	69.17	75.21	-6.04	103.35	106.84	-3.49
Trelawny	65.58	57.65	7.93	110.9	89.15	21.75
St. James	73.22	NA	NA	99.38	NA	NA
Clarendon	64.4	41.52	22.88	88.2	85.89	2.31
Westmoreland	80.9	76.23	4.67	92.78	115.28	-22.5
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>52.45</b>	<b>41.15</b>	<b>11.30</b>	<b>120.98</b>	<b>101.10</b>	<b>19.88</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>13.16</b>	<b>17.36</b>	-	<b>18.75</b>	<b>18.91</b>	-
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.65</b>	<b>0.14</b>	-	<b>0.87</b>	<b>-0.14</b>	-

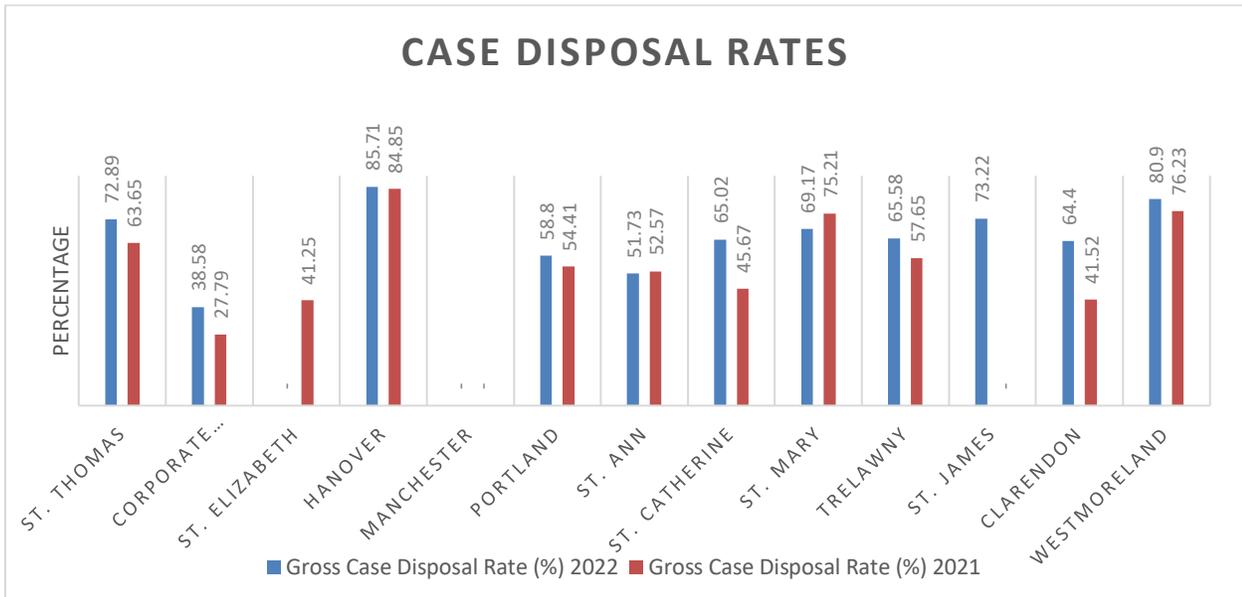
The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the 2022 and 2021 calendar years. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the 2022 calendar year was 52.45%, which was a 11.30 percentage points improvement when compared to the 2021 calendar year weighted average rate of 41.15%. The gross case clearance rate of 120.98% for the 2022 calendar year was 19.88 percentage points above the 101.10% recorded in the 2021 calendar year.

**Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for 2021 and 2022**

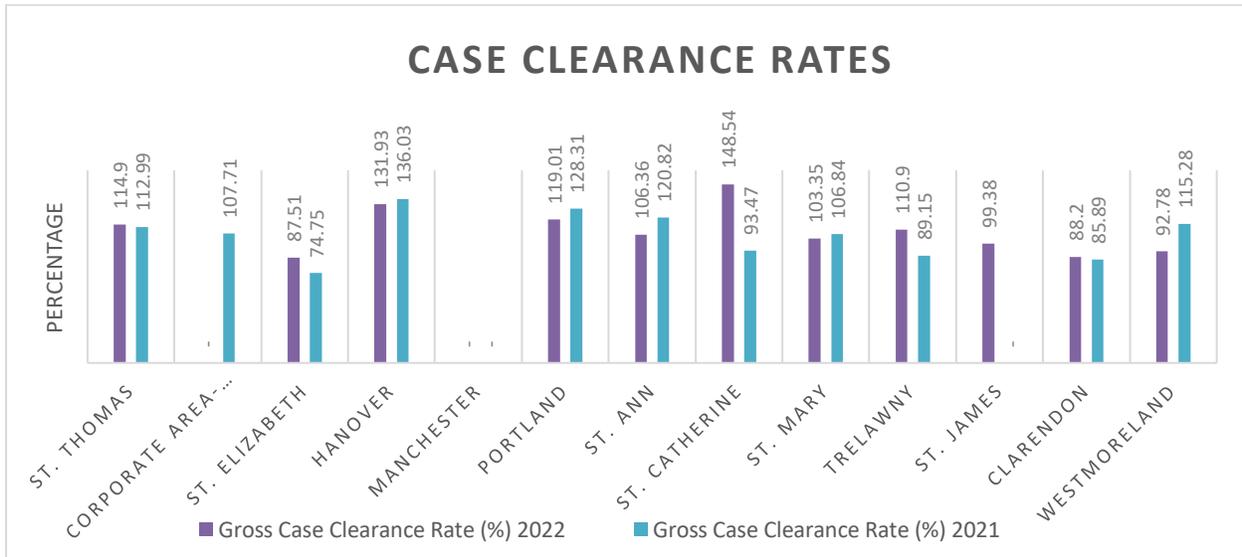


The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the 2022 and 2021 calendar year. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross disposal rate and in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 101.10% in the 2021 calendar year to 120.98% in the 2022 calendar year. The disposal rate moved from 41.15% in the 2021 calendar year to 52.45% in the 2022 calendar year, an increase of 11.30 percentage points.

**Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for 2021 and 2022**



**Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for 2021 and 2022**



**Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Big Claims</b>	<b>Small Claims</b>	<b>POCA</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Total</b>
Corporate area	3272	-	22	-	3294
Hanover	235	40	1	-	276
Manchester	1232	171	-	-	1403
Portland	333	65	-	-	398
St. Ann	1700	461	2	-	2163
St. Catherine	3187	1745	2	-	4934
St. Mary	575	161	-	-	736
St. Thomas	389	233	-	-	622
Trelawny	430	144	-	-	574
Westmoreland	707	159	-	-	866
St. James	1167	557	-	-	1724
Clarendon	1067	223		-	1290
<b>Total</b>	<b>14294</b>	<b>3959</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18280</b>

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year. The sample of 18,280 new claims filed in the 2022 calendar year reveals that 14,294 or 78.19% were big claims, while 21.66% were small claims and 0.15% were POCA matters. The St. Catherine Parish Court, the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the year. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine and St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the year, while the St. Catherine Parish Court, St. James Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Population size in parish</b>	<b>Case per 10,000 population</b>
Hanover	238	69,533	34
St. Catherine	4188	516,218	81
Westmoreland	665	144,103	46
St. Mary	626	113,615	55
Clarendon	1059	245,103	43
Portland	284	81,744	35
St. Elizabeth	1265	150,205	84
Corporate Area	3074	662,426	46
St. Thomas	557	93,902	59
St. James	1445	183,811	79
St. Ann	1730	172,362	100
Trelawny	523	75,164	70
Manchester	1403	189,797	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>17057</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>63</b>

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the 2022 calendar year. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for the civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. Ann, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and mid-range population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the 2022 calendar year. St. Elizabeth, which is midrange in population size and caseloads, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that

the parish of Hanover had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the year and is the Parish with the lowest population size and lowest caseload in the year. The Portland Parish Court recorded the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the Clarendon Parish Court.

**Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	1870	23.50
Defendant Absent	1107	13.91
Both Parties Absent	312	3.92
Pending Settlement	190	2.39
Referred to Mediation	179	2.25
Plaintiff Absent	139	1.75
Hearing of Application	74	0.93
Attorney Absent	73	0.92
Parties in Discussion	66	0.83
At Counsel's Request	65	0.82
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4075</b>	<b>51.21</b>

*(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (7,958))*

*Note: DNA means that the accused 'did not appear'*

*\*Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation*

The above table is derived using a sample of 7,958 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the 2022 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (23.50%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 13.91% and the absence of both parties with 3.92% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for pending settlements with 2.39% and referrals to mediation with 2.25% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the year.

The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 51.21% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	4199 (35.5%)	2509 (21.2%)	1323 (11.2%)	976 (8.3%)	1135 (9.6%)	638 (5.4%)	1036 (8.8%)	11816 (100%)
St. Catherine	1775 (17.4%)	1340 (13.1%)	796 (7.8%)	693 (6.8%)	1222 (12.0%)	815 (8.0%)	3558 (34.9%)	10199 (100%)
Clarendon	264 (40.6%)	221 (33.9%)	107 (16.4%)	37 (5.7%)	15 (2.3%)	7 (1.1%)	-	651 (100%)
Westmoreland	657 (56.2%)	229 (19.6%)	99 (8.5%)	72 (6.2%)	65 (5.6%)	25 (2.1%)	22 (1.9%)	1169 (100%)
St. Ann	1069 (30.3%)	831 (23.6%)	438 (12.4%)	286 (8.1%)	350 (9.9%)	175 (5.0%)	379 (10.7%)	3528 (100%)
St. Thomas	557 (34.2%)	370 (22.7%)	192 (11.8%)	118 (7.3%)	152 (9.3%)	87 (5.3%)	151 (9.3%)	1627 (100%)
Portland	347 (28.9%)	221 (18.4%)	119 (9.9%)	95 (7.9%)	122 (10.2%)	73 (6.1%)	224 (18.7%)	1201 (100%)
St. Mary	1218 (53.4%)	401 (17.6%)	179 (7.9%)	111 (4.9%)	164 (7.2%)	78 (3.4%)	128 (5.6%)	2279 (100%)
Trelawny	772 (56.4%)	253 (18.5%)	102 (7.5%)	71 (5.2%)	87 (6.4%)	33 (2.4%)	50 (3.7%)	1368 (100%)
Hanover	534 (56.4%)	155 (16.4%)	74 (7.8%)	47 (5.0%)	42 (4.4%)	29 (3.1%)	66 (7.0%)	947 (100%)
St. James	247 (40.3%)	120 (19.6%)	35 (5.7%)	48 (7.8%)	69 (11.3%)	39 (6.4%)	55 (9.0%)	613 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>32.88</b>	<b>18.79</b>	<b>9.79</b>	<b>7.22</b>	<b>9.67</b>	<b>5.65</b>	<b>16.02</b>	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>1058.09</b>	<b>604.55</b>	<b>314.91</b>	<b>232.18</b>	<b>311.18</b>	<b>181.73</b>	<b>566.90</b>	<b>3218.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1138.75</b>	<b>728.78</b>	<b>400.79</b>	<b>311.93</b>	<b>438.44</b>	<b>275.99</b>	<b>1093.53</b>	<b>3954.63</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 35,398*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 60 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2022. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 60-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 32.88% of the disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively 68.68% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of Corporate Area Parish Court, St. Catherine and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 16.02% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the Corporate Area Parish Court, St. Catherine, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

**Table 6.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	264.61	27	144	310.12	2.33	1	2566	11816
St. Catherine	551.55	28	444	458.45	0.70	1	2246	10199
Clarendon	133.13	63	106	101.79	1.58	1	576	651
Westmoreland	139.78	35	76	168.64	2.27	1	1112	1169
St. Ann	307.22	91	155	393.36	2.45	1	2508	3528
St. Thomas	266.21	28	146	315.89	2.29	1	2379	1627
Portland	382.77	28	210	429.21	1.65	3	2325	1201
St. Mary	185.22	14	77	258.13	2.40	1	1634	2279
Trelawny	160.38	28	69	222.93	2.81	1	1674	1368
Hanover	194.01	28	71	309.26	3.06	1	1997	947
St. James	244.08	28	119	276.26	1.49	1	1243	613
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>337.69</b>	<b>36.18</b>	<b>147.00</b>	<b>294.91</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>1841.82</b>	<b>3218.00</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>123.67</b>	<b>21.69</b>	<b>107.94</b>	<b>107.46</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>651.35</b>	<b>3954.63</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>-0.19</b>	<b>-0.71</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>-0.72</b>	<b>1.78</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 35,398*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 60 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at December 31, 2022. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 60-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 338 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive figure, suggesting that most of these times fell below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (133 days), Westmoreland (140 days) and Trelawny (160 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (552 days), Portland (383 days) and

St. Ann (307 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 123.67. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.18 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 576 days (19.2 months/1.6 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 2566 days (85.5 months/7.1 years) in the Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were above the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 35,398 matters.

**Table 7.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time interval in days							Sample size (n)
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 -547 days	548-729 days	730 days and over	
Corporate Area Civil	414 (30.9%)	327 (24.4%)	163 (12.2%)	124 (9.3%)	140 (10.5%)	57 (4.3%)	114 (8.5%)	1339 (100%)
St. Catherine	355 (6.2%)	356 (6.2%)	223 (3.9%)	300 (5.2%)	792 (13.7%)	596 (10.3%)	3139 (54.5%)	5761 (100%)
Clarendon	146 (33.0%)	155 (35.1%)	90 (20.4%)	29 (6.6%)	15 (3.4%)	7 (1.6%)	-	442 (100%)
Westmoreland	252 (54.3%)	91 (19.6%)	41 (8.8%)	27 (5.8%)	22 (4.7%)	14 (3.0%)	17 (3.7%)	464 (100%)
St. Ann	190 (19.0%)	242 (24.2%)	128 (12.8%)	99 (9.9%)	107 (10.7%)	57 (5.7%)	177 (17.7%)	1000 (100%)
St. Thomas	105 (29.2%)	61 (16.9%)	35 (9.7%)	25 (6.9%)	52 (14.4%)	23 (6.4%)	59 (16.4%)	360 (100%)
Portland	96 (28.3%)	68 (20.1%)	28 (8.3%)	22 (6.5%)	29 (8.6%)	6 (1.8%)	90 (26.5%)	339 (100%)
St. Mary	271 (55.9%)	58 (12.0%)	32 (6.6%)	28 (5.8%)	39 (8.0%)	27 (5.6%)	30 (6.2%)	485 (100%)
Trelawny	117 (42.1%)	57 (20.5%)	22 (7.9%)	22 (7.9%)	27 (9.7%)	12 (4.3%)	21 (7.6%)	278 (100%)
Hanover	116 (57.4%)	26 (12.9%)	8 (4.0%)	11 (5.4%)	9 (4.5%)	5 (2.5%)	27 (13.4%)	202 (100%)
St. James	244 (40.5%)	115 (19.1%)	35 (5.8%)	47 (7.8%)	68 (11.3%)	39 (6.5%)	55 (9.1%)	603 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>20.46</b>	<b>13.80</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>6.51</b>	<b>11.53</b>	<b>7.48</b>	<b>33.08</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>209.64</b>	<b>141.45</b>	<b>73.18</b>	<b>66.73</b>	<b>118.18</b>	<b>76.64</b>	<b>372.90</b>	<b>1024.82</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>107.37</b>	<b>115.45</b>	<b>69.54</b>	<b>85.13</b>	<b>227.13</b>	<b>173.30</b>	<b>973.20</b>	<b>1606.28</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>3.13</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>3.07</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 11, 273*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2022. The results shown suggest that only 20.46% of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Catherine parish court along with the parish courts of Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division, St. Catherine and St. Mary

are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 47.91% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Corporate Area Parish Court had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 33.08% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, St. Ann and the Corporate Area had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

**Table 7.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	281.29	67	154	359.21	3.20	1	3087	1339
St. Catherine	765.26	652	791	453.38	0.59	3	4854	5761
Clarendon	151.16	63	126	110.01	1.44	4	576	442
Westmoreland	156.52	35	82	192.16	2.16	2	1112	464
St. Ann	465.74	91	216	653.76	2.76	1	3977	1000
St. Thomas	378.35	28	230.50	429.93	1.82	7	2379	360
Portland	503.09	28	209	670.63	2.32	3	4092	339
St. Mary	205.95	14	65	306.34	3.38	1	3124	485
Trelawny	245.57	63	122	312.07	2.15	6	1674	278
Hanover	278.06	28	77.50	455.49	2.55	2	2608	202
St. James	245.60	28	119	277.73	1.48	1	1243	603
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>538.42</b>	<b>99.73</b>	<b>199.27</b>	<b>383.70</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>2611.45</b>	<b>1024.82</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>183.51</b>	<b>184.65</b>	<b>204.43</b>	<b>173.77</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>1370.09</b>	<b>1606.28</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>3.07</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 11, 273*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the year ended December 31, 2022. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 538 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.42, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (151 days), Westmoreland (157 days) and St. Mary (206 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (765 days), Portland (503 days) and St. Ann (466 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to

disposition across the parish courts is showed to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 183.51. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 2.82 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 576 days (19.2 months/1.6 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 4854 days (161.8 months/13.5 years) in the St. Catherine Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.10, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered around the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 11,273 matters.

**Table 7.0c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Struck Out	Consent	Settlement	Default Judgment	Oral Admission	Withdrawal	Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	Other	Total
St. Catherine	5305	441	546	235	46	193	148	159	7073
Corporate Area Civil	1089	537	151	231	90	229	151	333	2811
Westmoreland	130	135	73	90	159	63	20	134	804
Clarendon	265	124	115	71	75	35	35	88	808
Trelawny	63	114	42	78	45	36	3	85	466
Hanover	61	60	27	20	46	24	-	58	296
Portland	66	78	57	41	9	9	82	87	429
St. Mary	211	140	76	67	77	32	38	90	731
St. Thomas	106	108	60	77	64	16	38	68	537
St. Ann	284	377	195	159	129	121	105	141	1511
St. James	157	184	45	248	37	37	42	188	938
<b>Total</b>	<b>7737</b>	<b>2298</b>	<b>1387</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>16404</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>47.17</b>	<b>14.01</b>	<b>8.46</b>	<b>8.03</b>	<b>4.74</b>	<b>4.85</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>8.72</b>	<b>100</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N): 16,404*

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the 2022 calendar year. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the year were by being struck out with 47.17% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 14.01%, settlements with 8.46% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.72% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 8.03% and withdrawals with 4.85% rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 4.74% and matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 4.04% account for the remaining disposals in the year.

## 8.0: Net and gross case backlog as at the year ended December 31, 2022

Parish Court	Net case backlog rate (%)	Gross case backlog rate (%)
Clarendon	0.37	10.35
Corporate area	2.38	17.76
Hanover	0.10	4.08
Manchester	1.98	16.04
Portland	1.54	7.97
St. Ann	3.84	12.26
St. Catherine	0.62	8.81
St. James	0.43	9.80
St. Mary	0.10	9.95
St. Thomas	2.71	8.98
Trelawny	1.44	10.50
Westmoreland	0.15	5.64
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>11.61</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>3.84</b>

*Note 1: These backlog rates relate only to cases filed since January 2017 and are therefore proxies.*

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed

for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding as using a 5 years' time series, the net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the parish courts is 1.37 (with a standard deviation of 1.22%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 11.61% (with a standard deviation of 3.84%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 1.61 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 5 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Hanover and St. Mary with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.10% each, Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.15% and Clarendon with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.37% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (3.84%), St. Thomas (2.71%) and Corporate Area (2.38%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.08%), Westmoreland (5.64%) and Portland (7.97%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area Court (17.76%), Manchester (16.04%) and St. Ann (12.26%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

**Trial court activity summary for the year ended December 31, 2022**

**Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average time between filing and first court appearance</b>	<b>Average time between first court appearance and trial</b>	<b>Average time between trial and disposition</b>
Clarendon	49.86	165.91	98.63
Corporate Area-Civil Division	178.87	353.66	351.51
Hanover	37.95	177.53	571.71
Portland	57.39	762.16	281.56
St. Ann	100.13	550.07	935.96
St. Catherine	96.56	448.96	389.24
St. James	61.95	290.03	61.25
St. Mary	49.88	234.66	206.57
St. Thomas	53.99	445.06	496.33
Trelawny	56.69	236.72	326.25
Westmoreland	37.57	70.52	53.61
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>95.22</b>	<b>407.69</b>	<b>404.53</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>41.23</b>	<b>199.76</b>	<b>259.84</b>

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case and the first court appearance is roughly 3.2 months, while the overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 13.6 months or 408 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 13.5 months or 405 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates

which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

**Table 1.0b: Trial court activity summary during the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Number of cases heard</b>	<b>Number of cases with a trial date set</b>	<b>Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set</b>
Clarendon	1370	238	17.37
Corporate Area	6909	577	8.35
Hanover	374	66	17.65
Portland	565	182	32.21
St. Ann	3181	365	11.47
St. Catherine	8741	1041	11.91
St. James	1983	59	2.98
St. Mary	859	106	12.34
St. Thomas	881	222	25.20
Trelawny	830	144	17.35
Westmoreland	747	157	21.02
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>26440</b>	<b>3157</b>	<b>11.94</b>

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the 2022 calendar year in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 26,440 civil cases heard across the parish courts in the 2022 calendar year, 3157 or 11.94% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of St. James (2.98%), Corporate Area (8.35%) and St. Ann (11.47%) had

the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (32.21%), St. Thomas (25.20%) and Westmoreland (21.02%) had the highest proportion.

**Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the year ended December 31, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	368	18.97
Consent	272	14.02
Transferred	267	13.76
Settlement	196	10.10
Judgment	155	7.99
Default	154	7.94
Trial	139	7.16
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	117	6.03
Withdrawal	112	5.77
Non Suited	65	3.35
Oral Admission	33	1.70
Other	27	1.39
Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement	22	1.13
Dismissal	6	0.31
Order	4	0.21
Application For Plaintiff Denied	2	0.10
Application For Plaintiff Granted	1	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 18.97% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by consent with 272 or 14.02% and matters disposed by transferred to another court with 267 or 13.76% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

**Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case</b>	<b>Skewness of the number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Maximum number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Minimum number of appearances per case</b>
Clarendon	2.51	1.87	1.96	10	1
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.27	2.64	3.95	35	1
Hanover	5.54	8.05	2.77	40	1
Portland	6.25	5.04	1.23	24	1
St. Ann	4.27	5.66	3.29	40	1
St. Catherine	2.47	2.28	2.14	20	1
St. James	1.94	1.07	1.24	7	1
St. Mary	3.80	4.48	2.63	34	1
St. Thomas	5.82	7.63	1.94	34	1
Trelawny	2.94	3.33	3.29	30	1
Westmoreland	1.86	1.37	2.46	12	1
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.94</b>	-	-	<b>26.00</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.63</b>	-	-	<b>12.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.60</b>	-	-	<b>-0.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the 2022 calendar year, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 29, or roughly 3 appearances per case with a standard

deviation of 1.63 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.60. Together, these results suggest that the average number of court appearances per case is within the prescribed international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in 2022 calendar year are the Portland (6.25), St. Thomas (5.82) and Hanover (5.54) Parish Courts, while Westmoreland (1.86), St. James (1.94) and Corporate Area-Civil Division (2.27) were among the courts with the lowest mean case appearance incidence.

**Table 1.0e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in year ended December 31, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Clarendon	2.35	1.74
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.90	3.20
Hanover	5.17	8.31
Portland	5.43	4.71
St. Ann	4.13	5.27
St. Catherine	1.95	1.85
St. James	1.90	1.01
St. Mary	3.75	4.36
St. Thomas	3.48	4.19
Trelawny	3.47	4.22
Westmoreland	1.86	1.16
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.77</b>	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed in the 2022 calendar year. The overall average observed is roughly 28 appearances for

every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The Westmoreland, St. James and St. Catherine Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the year, while the parish courts of Hanover, Portland and St. Ann were among the locations with the highest incidence.

**Table 9.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the year ended December 31, 2022**

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Gross Disposal rate (%)	Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
St. Thomas	557	406	640	72.89	114.90	78.81	12.61
Corporate Area-Civil	3074	1186	4298	38.58	139.82	NA	9.38
St. Elizabeth	1265	312	1107	NA	87.51	NA	NA
Hanover	238	204	314	85.71	131.93	80.43	9.27
Manchester	1403	NA	1663	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland	284	167	338	58.80	119.01	52.60	16.77
St. Ann	1730	895	1840	51.73	106.36	92.09	15.52
St. Catherine	4188	2723	6221	65.02	148.54	73.40	25.51
St. Mary	626	433	647	69.17	103.35	39.58	6.87
Trelawny	523	343	580	65.58	110.90	98.75	8.19
St. James	1445	1058	1436	73.22	99.38	93.48	8.19
Clarendon	1059	682	934	64.40	88.20	55.71	5.04
Westmoreland	665	538	617	80.90	92.78	99.16	5.22
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>17057</b>	<b>8947</b>	<b>20635</b>	<b>52.45</b>	<b>120.98</b>	<b>74.40</b>	<b>17.95</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>-0.65</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>-0.61</b>	<b>1.42</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1152.35</b>	<b>704.68</b>	<b>1743.77</b>	<b>13.16</b>	<b>19.92</b>	<b>20.91</b>	<b>6.12</b>

*Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division disposal rates and clearance rates were calculated using only new big claims filed in the year.*

***Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the 2022 calendar year is 45.67% and the net case disposal rate is 35.61%.***

***Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Browns Town outstation in St. Ann for the 2022 calendar year is 83.89% and the net case clearance rate is 70.94%***

## **Conclusion**

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continued to make enormous strides in 2022, reinforcing several of the strong output produced in 2021 and rivalling the overall performance of the Criminal Division of the Parish Courts. There are several significant highlights from this annual report, among which is the attainment of a gross case clearance rate of 120.98% which represents an improvement of 19.88 percentage points when compared to the previous year. The St. Catherine Parish Court, the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division and the Hanover Parish Court were the leaders on this metric. The civil division of the parish courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 74.40%, a decline of 1.23 percentage points when compared to 2021 but still a fairly resilient result. Overall, these courts took an average of 17.95 months to dispose of the cases that were resolved in 2022, an increase of 5.61 months over the previous year. One of the most instructive findings emerging from the report is that only 1.37% of all active cases filed in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts are in state of backlog (net backlog rate) and 11.61% of active and inactive cases combined (gross backlog) fall into this classification. These are quite positive results, which suggest that the parish courts as a whole have now realized some of the key quantitative targets set out by the Chief Justice as part of the judiciary's strategic plan, thus positioning the court system for continuous gains in efficiency in the coming years. There continues to be some challenges particularly with the relatively high incidence of avoidable

adjournments and reissued matters in many courts but these can be curbed through more aggressive and efficient case management which are essential facets of the judiciary's strategic plan for the next few years.

## Glossary of Terms

**Sampling Distribution:** A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

**Clearance rate:** The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is  $110/100$  or 110%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

**Note:** The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.<sup>1</sup>

**Disposal rate:** As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example, if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

**Note:** A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.<sup>ii</sup>

**Trial/hearing date certainty:** This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

**Courtroom utilization rate:** The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

**Case congestion rate:** The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

**Case File Integrity Rate:** Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%

**Standard deviation:** This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are **around** the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of

the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

**Outlier:** An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

**Skewness:** This is a measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

**Range:** This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

**Case backlog:** A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

**Case backlog:** A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years. The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

**Percentile Rank:** This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

**Difference between percentage and percentile changes:** The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

**Weighted Average:** Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups, and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the

clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

**Continuance and Adjournment:** In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms ‘continuance’ and ‘adjournment’. Here, ‘continuance’ is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and ‘adjournments’ is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as ‘continuance’ but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as ‘adjournments’. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.

*Source:*

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

<sup>i</sup> *Source:*

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

