

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

	JULY TO SEPTEMBER		
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	<b>115.69</b>	<b>97.51</b>	<b>81.51</b>
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	<b>91.91</b>	<b>90.36</b>	<b>79.75</b>
Average time to disposition	<b>15.20 months</b>	<b>11.50 months</b>	<b>9.80 months</b>

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## **Executive Summary**

After three years of strategic planning and execution, the Jamaican judiciary is currently among the most productive judiciaries in the Caribbean region. There is a dearth of adequately reported statistics in some countries in the region, however when compared to jurisdictions such as Trinidad and Tobago, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean State (OECS) and Belize, the overall case clearance rate in the Jamaican court system over the period in question is the highest. The Jamaican judiciary stands out on this metric particularly in the civil and criminal jurisdictions of the parish courts but is slightly outperformed by both Trinidad and Tobago and the OECS in the Supreme Court jurisdiction while the Jamaican Appeal Court leads is ahead of other territories mentioned.

This third quarter statistics report on the performance of the Civil Divisions of the Parish Courts demonstrates the continuation of improved productivity in the Jamaican court system. It affirms the general trends that civil cases are being disposed relatively quickly and that the probability of a new case falling into backlog is very low. These outcomes augur well for the current strength of the Jamaican judiciary and the pathway to becoming one of the most efficient in the world.

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continued their impressive run with the clearance rate metric for the third quarter of 2022, recording an overall figure of 115.69%, led by the Hanover Parish Court with an impressive 278.13%, and the Parish Courts of Westmoreland and St. Catherine with 191.77% and 117.86%. Six of the parish courts exceeded the 100% case clearance rate mark for civil cases in the third quarter of 2022.

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts also had strong returns on the overall trial date certainty rate in the period, recording a commendable overall rate of 91.91%, 1.55 percentage points higher than the corresponding period in 2021. The parish courts of Hanover, St. Ann, Trelawny and Westmoreland the leaders on this metric for the quarter. The overall average time taken to dispose a civil case in the third quarter of 2022 stood at 15.20 months which is roughly 3.7 months higher than the corresponding period in 2021. This was partly on account of an extensive focus on clearing lagging older cases across several cases during the period. The parish courts of Clarendon, Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary had the lowest average times to disposition for cases resolved during the quarter.

One of the most important findings from this report comes from the analysis of the backlog rates. As of the end of the third quarter of 2022, the estimated gross case backlog rate in the civil division of the parish courts was 12.61%, that is, an estimated 12.61% of combined active and inactive cases in these courts were over two years old. 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 the third quarter of 2022 is roughly 1.12%, an indication that roughly this proportion of active cases were over two years old at the end of the quarter. The Hanover, St. Mary and Westmoreland Parish Courts were again 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 the third quarter of 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, settlements, default judgments and by way of oral admissions.

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continue the trend of creditable performances and is well positioned as at the end of the third quarter of 2022 to make a significant contribution to the overall quantitative targets of the Jamaican judiciary. The parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary have already achieved the target of almost eliminating their civil case backlog.

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%)	Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
4193	472	4851	11.60	115.69	91.91	15.20

*Note: For the Corporate Area Civil Court, the gross case disposal rate was calculated only using the new big claims filed in the quarter*

With almost six years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an

efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Minimum Required Standard</b>
Case disposal rate	$\geq 75\%$
Case clearance rate	$\geq 95\%$
Case congestion rate	$\leq 115\%$
Trial Date Certainty Rate	$\geq 85\%$
Net case backlog rate	$\leq 5\%$
Gross case backlog rate	$\leq 10\%$
Average number of mentions per case	$\leq 3$

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence.

## **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 third quarter ended September 30, 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 for the third quarter of 2022.

## The Corporate Area Parish 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	907	97.95
Disposed	15	1.62
Inactive	4	0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 926 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 907 or 97.95% cases were still active, 15 were disposed and 4 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 2.05% for big claims for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	923	87.65
Small Claim	123	11.68
POCA	7	0.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1053 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of which 923 or 87.65% were big claims, while 123 or 11.68% were small claims and 7 or 0.66% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	44	55.00
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	9	11.25
Breach of Contract	8	10.00
Forfeiture Of Seized Cash	7	8.75
Rent Owing and Continuing	4	5.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>90.00</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 80**

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 the third quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was recovery of possession with 44 or roughly 55% of the sample. Rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession and breach of contract with 9 or 11.25% and 8 or 10% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by forfeiture of seized cash with 7 or 8.75% of the sample and rent owing and continuing with 4 or 5% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 90% of the total sample of 80 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	33	63.46
Bailiff	18	34.62
District Constable	1	1.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</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 33 or 63.46% of the sample followed by service by the bailiff with 18 or 34.62% and service by the District Constable with 1 or 1.92%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	380	57.66
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	277	42.03
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	2	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>659*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 656 cases**

The majority of a sample of 659 matters entered in the third quarter of 2022 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 380 or 57.66% of the sample. Courtroom 1 at the main courthouse had 277 matters entered or 42.03% of the sample, followed by courtroom 3 with 2 or 0.30%.

## Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	40	47.62
Female	33	39.29
Registered Company	11	13.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 84 matters entered in the third quarter of 2022 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 40 or 47.62% of the sample. Females accounted for 33 or 39.29% and registered companies accounted for 11 or 13.10% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	45	53.57
Female	36	42.86
Trading As	2	2.38
Registered Company	1	1.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 84 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 45 or 53.57% of the sample, followed by females with 36 or 42.86%. Individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") accounted for 2 or 2.38% and registered companies accounted for 1 or 1.19% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Default Judgment Date	222	36.04
Mention Date	189	30.68
Trial	143	23.21
Part-Heard Date	32	5.19
Date for Order	19	3.08
Hearing of Application	7	1.14
Final Judgment Date	4	0.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 616 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 222 or 36.04% were adjourned for default judgment dates, followed by 189 or 30.68%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 143 or 23.21% of sample. It is of note that 32 or 5.19% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Placed on Trial List	92	32.06
Defendant Absent	83	28.92
For Sentence/Order	8	2.79
At Counsel's Request	6	2.09
Document/Disclosure	4	1.39
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>67.25</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 287**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 287 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments for placement on trial list with 92 or 32.06% of the sample and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 83 or 28.92% rounds off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for sentence/ for order with 8 or 2.79% and adjournment at counsel's request with 6 or 2.09% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for document/ for disclosure with 4 or 1.39% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournments listed above account for 67.25% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	146
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 124 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 146 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 124 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	269	44.32
Consent	102	16.80
Withdrawal	49	8.07
Final Judgment	39	6.43
Default Judgment	34	5.60
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>81.22</b>

**Note: there were 607 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

A total of 607 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2022. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 493 or 81.22% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 269 or 44.32% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 102 or 16.80% and withdrawals with 49 or 8.07%. Matters disposed by final judgments and matters disposed by default judgments round

off the top five methods with 39 or 6.43% and 34 or 5.60% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the year	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
1049	1004	95.71

The above table shows 1049 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a gross figure of 622 cases were disposed, and 382 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2021. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 95.71%, which meets the international standard for this metric. This rate represents a 6.41 percentage points increase when compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

The estimated net case clearance rate is 59.29%, a 20.34 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	276
Mean	355.0036
Median	190.0000
Mode	154.00
Std. Deviation	425.40298
Skewness	2.968
Std. Error of Skewness	.147
Range	3084.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3087.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 276 civil matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2022 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 355 days or approximately 11.8 months, which is roughly 11 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2021. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 154 days. The standard deviation of roughly 425 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 quarter was 3087 days or roughly 8.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 3 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	43
Mean	451.3256
Median	426.0000
Mode	679.00
Std. Deviation	433.91165
Skewness	2.314
Std. Error of Skewness	.361
Range	2138.00
Minimum	42.00
Maximum	2180.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 43 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 451 days or roughly 15 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 2779 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 1032 days or 2.9 years.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1611
Mean	422.2489
Median	287.0000
Mode	8.00
Std. Deviation	460.16863
Skewness	2.491
Std. Error of Skewness	.061
Range	3938.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	3941.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1611 active civil matters as of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 422 days or roughly 14 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 8 days. The standard deviation of roughly 460 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 3941 days old or roughly 10.9 years, while the minimum time is 3 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	262
Mean	494.9008
Median	329.0000
Mode	238.00
Std. Deviation	450.73162
Skewness	1.201
Std. Error of Skewness	.150
Range	2085.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	2093.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 262 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 495 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 238 and the median age was 329 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 2093 days and the lowest was 8 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 15.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	84.22	225.83	8.33	41.40	NA	1.0

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the third quarter of 2022. 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 quarter was roughly 84.22%, which is an indication that on average roughly 84% of the available hours for court hearings in the third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	11	34.38
Disposed	12	37.50
Inactive	9	28.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>71.88</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 32 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 11 cases or 34.38% of these cases were still active, while 12 were disposed and 9 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.63%, which is 8.49 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	34	91.89
Small Claim	3	8.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 37 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of which 34 or 91.89% were big claims, while 3 or 8.11% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	6	31.58
Rent Due and Owing	6	31.58
Breach of Contract	2	10.53
Damages for Negligence	1	5.26
Goods sold on Credit	1	5.26
Money Owing	1	5.26
Money Owing for Breach of Contract	1	5.26
Trespass	1	5.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 quarter at the Hanover Parish Court was recovery of possession and rent due and owing with 6 or roughly 31.58% each of the sample. Breach of contract with 2 or 10.53% of the sample rank next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	18	48.65
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	11	29.73
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	4	10.81
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	3	8.11
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	2.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>37*</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 32 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 37 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 18 or 48.65% of the total sample. Courtroom number 1 at the Green Island Outstation accounted for 11 or 29.73% of the cases filed. Courtroom number 1 at the Sandy Bay outstation accounted for 4 or 10.81% and courtroom 2 at the Sandy Bay outstation accounted for 3 or 8.11% of the new cases heard.

**Case Demographics for the period quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	18	48.65
Male	16	43.24
Registered Company	3	8.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 37 plaintiffs in the third quarter of 2022 at the Hanover Parish Court, 18 or 48.65% were females and males accounted for 16 or 43.24% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 8.11% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	22	62.86
Female	13	37.14
Registered Company	2	5.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 35 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 22 or 62.86% of the sample, followed by females with 13 or 5.71%. Registered companies accounted for 2 or 5.71% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Trial	32	39.51
Mention Date	25	30.86
Part -Heard date	21	25.93
Default Judgment Date	3	3.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows a sample of 81 matters that went to court during the third ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 32 or 39.51% of the sample, was adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a mention date accounted for 25 or 30.86% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a part heard date with 21 or 25.93% of the sample.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	26	33.77
Plaintiff Absent	17	22.08
Defendant Absent	14	18.18
Attorney Absent	8	10.39
Both Parties Absent	6	7.79
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>92.21</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 77**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 77 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue accounted for 26 or 33.77% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs accounted for 17 or 22.08% of the sample and adjournments for due to the absence of defendants accounted for 14 or 18.18%. Adjournments due to the absence of attorneys with 8 or 10.39% and the absence of both parties with 6 or 7.79% round off the top of reasons for adjournments during the quarter. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 92.21% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	37
Average Incidence	1.03

**Corresponding to 36 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 37 incidences of reissue, corresponding to

36 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.03 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	13	17.81
Consent	12	16.44
Oral Admission	11	15.07
Default Judgment	10	13.70
Final Judgment	10	13.70
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>76.71</b>

**NB: There were 73 matters disposed of in the third quarter of 2022**

A total of 73 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 56 or 76.71% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 13 or 17.81% of the sample and matters disposed by consent with 12 or 16.44% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 11 or 15.07% rank next, followed by matters disposed by default judgments and final judgments with 10 or 13.70% each.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial dates certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
6	0	100.00

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 6 trial dates were set in the third quarter of 2022 shows that none was adjourned. This results in a

trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and it is 8.33 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
32	21	89	278.13	65.63

The above table shows 32 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 12 of these cases were disposed and 9 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.63%, an 8.49 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 70 cases was disposed, and 19 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 278.13%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric, and is a 113.05 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 52.17%, which is 25.14 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net case clearance rate is 304.35%, which is roughly 107.05 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 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	56
Mean	241.75
Std. Error of Mean	57.610
Median	70.00
Mode	42
Std. Deviation	431.114
Skewness	2.906
Std. Error of Skewness	.319
Range	1853
Minimum	16
Maximum	1869

The above table outlines sample data on 56 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 242 days or 8 months and is roughly 87 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2021. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 42 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 431 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 1869 days or roughly 5.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 16 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	77
Mean	372.34
Std. Error of Mean	40.232
Median	280.00
Mode	70
Std. Deviation	353.037
Skewness	2.153
Std. Error of Skewness	.274
Range	2082
Minimum	55
Maximum	2137

The above data is based on sample of 77 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 372 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 70 days. The standard deviation of roughly 353 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 2137 days old or roughly 5.9 years, while the minimum time taken is 55 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	233	78.19
Disposed	43	14.43
Inactive	22	7.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 298 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 233 cases or 78.19% of these cases were still active, while 43 were disposed and 22 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 21.81%, which is 8.29 percentage points below the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	290	82.15
Small Claim	63	17.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 353 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of which 290 or 82.15% were big claims, while 63 or 17.85% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	214	60.80
Damages for Negligence	42	11.93
Recovery of Possession	29	8.24
Rent Owing and Continuing	11	3.13
Negligence	9	2.56
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>86.65</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 352**

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 quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 214 or roughly 60.80% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 42 or 11.93% and recovery of possession with 29 or 8.24% rank next. Rent owing and continuing and negligence with 3.13% and 2.56% respectively of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	265	75.07
Lionel Town Outstation	37	10.48
Chapleton Outstation	28	7.93
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	10	2.83
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	1.98
Frankfield Outstation	6	1.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>353*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 298 cases**

The majority of a sample of 353 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 265 or 75.07% of the total sample. The Lionel Town Outstation accounted for 37 or 10.48% of the cases filed. The Chapleton outstation accounted for 28 or 7.93% and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 10 or 2.83% of the new cases heard.

### Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	189	55.43
Female	108	31.67
Registered Company	42	12.32
Trading As	2	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 341 plaintiffs in the third quarter of 2022 at the Clarendon Parish Court, 189 or 55.43% were males and females accounted for 108 or 31.67% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for 42 or 12.32% and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as") accounted for the remaining 0.59% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	231	65.63
Female	114	32.39
Trading As	4	1.14
Registered Company	3	0.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 352 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 231 or 65.63% of the sample, followed by females with 114 or 32.39%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 4 or 1.14% and registered companies account for 0.85% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	95	37.85
Trial	91	36.25
Default Judgment Date	62	24.70
Part-Heard Date	3	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 251 matters that went to court during the third ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or

similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 95 or 37.85% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 91 or 36.25% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 62 or 24.70% of the sample.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	40	38.46
New Date	29	27.88
Placed on Trial List	16	15.38
Referred to mediation	12	11.54
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>93.27</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 104**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 104 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments for no return or for reissue accounted for 40 or 38.46% of the sample and adjournment for a new date to be set accounted for 29 or 27.88% of the sample. Adjournments for placement on the trial list accounted for 16 or 15.38% of the sample and referrals to mediation accounted for 11.54%.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	46
Average Incidence	1.2

**Corresponding to 38 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 38 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	81	36.16
Settlement	35	15.63
Consent	31	13.84
Default Judgement	22	9.82
Oral Admission	22	9.82
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>85.27</b>

**Note: there were 224 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

A total of 224 civil matters were disposed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 191 or

85.27% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 81 or 36.16% and matters disposed by settlements with 35 or 15.63% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent with 31 or 13.84% of the sample ranked next and matters disposed by default judgments and by oral admissions round off the top methods of disposition with 9.82% each of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
50	1	98.00

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 50 trial dates were set in the third quarter of 2022 shows that 1 was adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 98%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 98% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and it is 73.61 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
298	65	264	88.59	21.81

The above table shows 298 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 43 of these cases were disposed and 22 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 21.81%, an 8.29 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 187 cases was disposed, and 77 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.59%, which is below the international standard on this metric, and is a 2.67 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 15.58%, which is 0.53 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net case clearance rate is 67.75%, which is roughly 28.43 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 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	117
Mean	139.2564
Median	119.0000
Mode	63.00
Std. Deviation	88.90872
Skewness	.967
Std. Error of Skewness	.224
Range	423.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	427.00

The above table outlines sample data on 117 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 139 days or 4.6 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of roughly 89 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 427 days or roughly 1.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 4 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	31
Mean	116.4516
Median	92.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	79.01006
Skewness	.841
Std. Error of Skewness	.421
Range	298.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	308.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 31 matters at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 116 days or roughly 3.9 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 105 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 307 days or 10.2 months.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	339
Mean	194.5693
Median	151.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	151.02818
Skewness	.805
Std. Error of Skewness	.132
Range	564.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	578.00

The above data is based on sample of 339 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 195 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 14 days. The standard deviation of roughly 151 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 578 days old or roughly 1.6 years, while the minimum time taken is 14 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	60
Mean	191.7500
Median	142.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	156.84815
Skewness	.623
Std. Error of Skewness	.309
Range	466.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	480.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 60 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 192 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 25 and the median age was 142 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large 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 480 days and the lowest was 14 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	655	89.85
Disposed	69	9.47
Inactive	5	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 729 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 655 cases or 89.85% of these cases were still active, while 69 were disposed and 5 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 10.15%, which is 3.11 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	820	90.41
Small Claim	87	9.59

<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100</b>
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The above table shows that from a sample of 907 claims filed in the third quarter of 2022, 820 or 90.41% were big claims and 87 or 9.59% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	335	37.51
Damages for Negligence	247	27.66
Recovery of possession	85	9.52
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	41	4.59
Negligence	38	4.26
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>83.54</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 893**

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 893 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 335 or roughly 37.51% of the sample, damages for negligence with 247 or 27.66% and recovery of possession with 85 or 9.52%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 41 or 4.59% and negligence with 38 or 4.26% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 83.54% of the total sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	75	52.08
Personal	52	36.11
District Constable	17	11.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</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 majority of the sample with 75 or 52.08% of the sample, personal service accounted for 52 or 36.11% and service by the district constable accounted for 17 or 11.81% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	688	76.27
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	146	16.19
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	68	7.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>902*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 724 cases**

The majority of the sample of 902 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2022 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 688 or 76.27% of the total sample. The 146 or 16.19% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 68 or 7.54% of the claims.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	401	44.21
Female	353	38.92
Registered Company	153	16.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the 907 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 401 or 44.21%, followed by females with 353 or 38.92% and registered companies with 153 or 16.87% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	569	63.43
Female	286	31.88
Registered Company	42	4.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 897 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 569 or 63.43% of the total sample, followed by females with 286 or 31.88%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 42 or 4.68% of the total sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	895	55.66
Trial	330	20.52
Default Judgment Date	287	17.85
Part-Heard Date	81	5.04
Hearing of Application	15	0.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>1608</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1608 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The majority of the sample, 895 or 55.66% were adjourned for a mention date and 330 or 20.52% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 287 or 17.85% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 81 or 5.04% of the sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	425	20.99
Defendant Absent	299	14.77
Placed on Trial List	170	8.40
Pending Settlement	142	7.01
Both Parties Absent	49	2.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>53.58</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 2025**

The above table details a sample of 2025 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 425 or 20.99% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 299 or 14.77% and adjournments for placement on the trial list with 170 or 8.40% and pending settlements with 142 or 7.01% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The absence of both parties with 49 or 2.42% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 53.58% of the total sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	38
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponding to 29 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 38 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 29 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	1199	73.78
Settlement	158	9.72
Consent	101	6.22
Withdrawal	45	2.77
Default Judgment	43	2.65
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1546</b>	<b>95.14</b>

**Note: There were 1625 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 1625 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2022. The list is led by matters struck out with 1199 or 73.78% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 158 or 9.72%, matters disposed by consent with 101 or 6.22% and matters disposed by withdrawals with 45 or 2.77%. Matters disposed by default judgments account for 43 or 2.65% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 95.14% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
97	3	96.91

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 97 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 3 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 96.91%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 97% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%. This result is also 0.80 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%)
729	74	1398	191.77	10.15

The above table shows 729 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 69 of these cases were disposed and 5 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 10.15%, which is 3.11 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 1308 cases were disposed, and 90 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 191.77%, which exceeds the

international standard for the case clearance rate and is 117.30 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 9.53%, which is 1.46 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance for the quarter is 180.66%, which is 118.03 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1262
Mean	574.9818
Median	513.0000
Mode	497.00
Std. Deviation	399.05573
Skewness	2.866
Std. Error of Skewness	.069
Range	4851.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	4854.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1262 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 575 days or 19.2 months, which is roughly 47 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 497 days. There is a relatively low standard deviation of 399 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 quarter was 4854 days or roughly 13.5 years old, while the youngest was 3 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	103
Mean	435.0680
Median	345.0000
Mode	345.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	349.75252
Skewness	3.011
Std. Error of Skewness	.238
Range	2623.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	2651.00

<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 103 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 435 days or roughly 14.5 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 102 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 849 days or 2.4 years.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	2717
Mean	627.3478
Median	393.0000
Mode	10.00
Std. Deviation	630.65742
Skewness	1.659
Std. Error of Skewness	.047
Range	5302.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	5309.00

The above data is based on a sample of 2717 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 627 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 10 days. The standard deviation of roughly 631 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 5309 days old or roughly 14.7 years, while the minimum time taken is just 7 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	609
Mean	453.8342
Median	330.0000
Mode	298.00
Std. Deviation	394.62361
Skewness	2.434
Std. Error of Skewness	.099
Range	2700.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	2710.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 609 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 454 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 298 and the median age was 330 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 2710 days and the lowest was 10 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.

## 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	97	75.19
Disposed	18	13.95
Inactive	14	10.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 129 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 97 or 75.19% of these cases were active, and 18 or 13.95% were disposed and 14 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 24.81% for the quarter, a 1.17 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	115	79.31
Small Claim	30	20.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 145 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of which 115 or 79.31% were big claims, while 30 or 20.69% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	22	15.17
Money Owing	12	8.28
Arrears of Rent	11	7.59
Damages for Trespass	7	4.83
Negligence	7	4.83
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>40.69</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action =145**

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 quarter were recovery of possession with 22 or 15.17% and monies owing with 12 or 8.28%. Arrears of rent with 11 or 7.59%, damages for trespass and negligence with 7 or 4.83% of the sample close out the list. The

top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 40.69% of all the total sample of 145 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	117	81.25
Bailiff	27	18.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100</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 117 or 81.25% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 27 or 18.75% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	93	64.14
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	30	20.69
Ulster Spring Outstation	17	11.72
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	5	3.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>145*</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Note: Corresponding to 129 cases

The majority of a sample of 145 new matters filed in 64.14% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 30 or 20.69% 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 17 or 11.72% of the accommodations. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse accounted for 3.45% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	86	59.31
Female	58	40.00
Registered Company	1	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 145 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 86 or 59.31%, followed by females with 58 or 40%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.69% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	87	60.84
Female	52	36.36
Registered Company	4	2.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 143 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 87 or 60.84% of the sample, followed by females with 52 or 36.36% and registered companies with 2.80%.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	90	40.36
Trial	58	26.01
Default Judgment Date	37	16.59
Part-Heard Date	36	16.14
Final Judgment Date	2	0.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 223 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 90 or 40.36% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 58 or 26.01%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned default judgment dates with 37 or 16.59% and for part heard dates with 36 or 16.14% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	47	29.94
Defendant Absent	31	19.75
Both Parties Absent	27	17.20
Plaintiff Absent	23	14.65
Attorney Absent	11	7.01
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>88.54</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) =157**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 157 incidence of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 47 or 29.94% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 31 or 19.75% and the absence of both parties with 27 or 17.20% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for the absence of plaintiffs and the absence of attorneys with 23 or 14.65% and 11 or 7.01% respectively of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 88.54% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Consent	39	32.77
Struck Out	17	14.29
Default Judgment	16	13.45
Final Judgment	13	10.92
Withdrawal	9	7.56
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>78.99</b>

**Note: There were 119 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 119 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2022. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 39 or 32.77% of the dispositions, followed by matters struck out with 17 or 14.29% and matters disposed by default judgments with 16 or 13.45% of the sample. Matters disposed by final judgments account for 13 or 10.92% of the sample and disposals by withdrawals account for 9 or 7.56% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 78.99% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
23	0	100.00

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 23 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 100% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome met the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%)
129	32	141	109.30	24.81

The above table shows 129 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 18 of these cases were disposed and 14 cases became

inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 24.81%, which is 1.17 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 103 cases were disposed and 38 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 109.30%, which meets the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 10.51 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.65%, which is 8.98 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance for the quarter is 89.57%, which is 9.57 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	80
Mean	275.4375
Median	122.5000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	487.1127
	2
Skewness	3.622
Std. Error of Skewness	.269
Range	2704.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	2710.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 80 civil cases disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 275 days or 9.2 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days

and the median time was 122.50 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 487 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 quarter was 2710 days or roughly 7.5 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 6 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	347
Mean	504.1326
Median	361.0000
Mode	24.00
Std. Deviation	382.16154
Skewness	.878
Std. Error of Skewness	.131
Range	2018.00
Minimum	15.00
Maximum	2033.00

The above data is computed using 347 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these cases was roughly 504 days (1.4 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 24 days. The standard deviation of roughly 382 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 2033 days (5.6 years old), while the youngest is 15 days.

## 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	399	90.68
Disposed	18	4.09
Inactive	23	5.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 440 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 399 cases or 90.68% of these cases were still active, 18 were disposed and 23 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 9.32%, which is a 1.51 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	427	77.08
Small Claim	126	22.74
POCA	1	0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from 554 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2022, the majority of which were big claims with 427 or 77.08%, while 126 or 22.74% were small claims. There was 1 Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claim.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	163	35.67
Damages for Negligence	53	11.60
Recovery of Possession	46	10.07
Monies Owing	38	8.32
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	29	6.35
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>71.99</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) =457**

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 457 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2022 was breach of contract with 163 or roughly 35.67% of the sample and damages for negligence with 53 or 11.60% of the sample. Recovery of Possession with 46 or 10.07% and money owing with 38 or 8.32% of the sample rank next. Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) with 29 or 6.35% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 71.99% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	39	52.00
District Constable	27	36.00
Personal	9	12.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</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 majority of the sample with 39 or 52% of the sample. Service by District Constable accounted for 27 or 36%, personal service with 9 or 12% of the sample rank next.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	135	67.84
Claremont Outstation	40	20.10
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	24	12.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>199*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 164 cases**

The majority of a sample of 199 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 135 or 67.84% of the total sample. Claremont Outstation accounted for 40 or 20.10% and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 24 or 12.06% of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	218	39.64
Female	205	37.27
Registered Company	111	20.18
Trading As	16	2.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 550 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 218 or 39.64%, followed by females with

205 or 37.27% and registered companies with 111 or 20.18% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2.91% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	333	60.77
Female	160	29.20
Registered Company	49	8.94
Trading As	6	1.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 548 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 333 or 60.77% of the total sample, followed by females with 160 or 29.20%. Registered companies accounted for 49 or 8.94% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 6 or 1.09% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	415	52.80
Default Judgment Date	164	20.87
Trial	119	15.14
Part-Heard Date	60	7.63
Hearing of Application	28	3.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 786 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 415 or 52.80% of the sample, followed by 164 or 20.87%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates accounted for 119 or 15.14% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 60 or 7.63% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No return/Re-Issued	212	21.39
Defendant Absent	180	18.16
Placed on Trial List	75	7.57
Both Parties Absent	55	5.55
Referred for Mediation	42	4.24
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>56.91</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 991**

The above table details a sample of 991 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2022, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 212 or 21.39% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 180 or 18.16% and adjournments for placement on the trial list with 75 or 7.57% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 55 or 5.55% and referrals to mediation with 42 or 4.24% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 56.91% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	75
Average Incidence	1.3

**Corresponds to 59 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 75 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 59 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Consent	101	25.19
Struck Out	68	16.96
Settlement	46	11.47
Default Judgment	40	9.98
Oral Admission	35	8.73
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>72.32</b>

**NB: There were 401 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

A sample of 401 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2022 revealed that 101 or 25.19% of matters were disposed by consent, 68 or 16.96% were disposed by being stuck out and 46 or 11.47% of the sample were disposed by settlements. Matters disposed by default judgments with 40 or 9.98% and oral admissions with 35 or 8.73% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 72.32% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
29	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 trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 29 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
440	41	459	104.32	9.32

The above table shows 440 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 18 cases were disposed and 23 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 9.32%, an increase of 1.51 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 295 cases were disposed, and 164 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating

2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 104.32%, which meets the international standard for this metric and represents a 28.93 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 4.32%, an improvement of 0.64 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 70.74%, a decline of 14.79 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	257
Mean	468.5292
Median	216.0000
Mode	91.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	712.09625
Skewness	3.002
Std. Error of Skewness	.152
Range	3972.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	3977.00

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

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 257 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 469 days or 15.6 months, which is roughly 100 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2021. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 712 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 quarter was 3977 days or roughly 11 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	39
Mean	537.7179
Median	280.0000
Mode	511.00
Std. Deviation	849.31090
Skewness	3.291
Std. Error of Skewness	.378
Range	3830.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	3851.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 39 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 538 days or roughly 18 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 348 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 637 days or 1.8 years.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	1229
Mean	558.5411
Median	325.0000
Mode	17.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	704.7324
	4
Skewness	2.871
Std. Error of Skewness	.070
Range	5291.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	5293.00

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

The above data is based on sample of 1229 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 559 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 17 days. The standard deviation of roughly 705 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 5293 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum age is 2 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	179
Mean	681.7430
Median	346.0000
Mode	15.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	891.30247
Skewness	2.341
Std. Error of Skewness	.182
Range	4093.00
Minimum	10.00
Maximum	4103.00

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

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 179 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022.

The average age of these matters was roughly 682 days, with the most frequently occurring age was 15 days and the median age was 346 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large of amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were clustered around the series average. The highest age in the data set was 4103 days or 11.4 and the lowest was 10 days.

## Brown's 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	93	92.08
Disposed	3	2.97
Inactive	5	4.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 101 new cases filed at the Brown's Town Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 93 cases or 92.08% of these cases were still active, 3 were disposed and 5 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 7.92% for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	96	73.28%
Small Claim	35	26.72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The above table shows that from 131 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2022, the majority of which were big claims with 96 or 73.28%, while 35 or 26.72% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Browns Town Outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	60	54.55
Monies Owing	20	18.18
Recovery of possession	6	5.45
Rent Owing and Continuing	4	3.64
Specific Performance	4	3.64
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>85.45</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 110**

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 110 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the third quarter of 2022 was breach of contract with 60 or roughly 54.55% of the sample and monies owing with 20 or 18.18% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 6 or 5.45% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing and specific performance with 4 or 3.64% each of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 85.45% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	47	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>47*</b>	<b>100</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 40 cases**

All of a sample of 47 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	41	31.78
Registered Company	41	31.78
Male	35	27.13
Trading As	12	9.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 129 new matters filed in the quarter, females and registered companies accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 41 or 31.78% each, followed by males with 35 or 27.13% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 9.30%.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	87	69.05
Female	37	29.37
Registered Company	1	0.79
Trading as	1	0.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 126 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 87 or 69.05% of the total sample, followed by females with 37 or 29.37%. Registered companies and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.79% each.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	141	53.41
Default Judgment Date	58	21.97
Trial	46	17.42
Part-Heard Date	18	6.82
Hearing of Application	1	0.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 264 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 141 or 53.41% of the sample, followed by 58 or 21.97%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters disposed for trial dates accounted for 46 or 17.42% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 18 or 6.82% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Reasons for Adjournments</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Absent	73	27.44
Placed on Trial List	39	14.66
Plaintiff absent	7	2.63
Both parties absent	6	2.26
No Return/Re-Issued	6	2.26
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>49.25</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=266**

The above table details a sample of 266 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2022, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 73 or 27.44% of the sample, adjournments for placement on the trial list with 39 or 14.66% and the absence of plaintiffs with 7 or 2.63% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of both parties and for no return/for re-issue with 6 or 2.26% each of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 49.25% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Consent	33	28.70
Oral Admission	18	15.65
Final Judgment	15	13.04
Struck Out	14	12.17
Settlement	12	10.43
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>80.00</b>

**NB: There were 115 matters disposed for the third quarter**

A sample of 115 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2022 revealed that 33 or 28.70% of matters were disposed by consent and 18 or 15.65% were disposed by oral admissions. Matters disposed by final judgments with 15 or 13.04% and matters struck out with 14 or 12.17% rank next. Settlements with 12 or 10.43% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 80% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2022.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
101	8	94	93.07	7.92

The above table shows 101 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 3 cases was disposed and 5 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 7.92%. An approximate gross figure of 82 cases were disposed, and 12 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 93.07%, which meets the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 3.13% and the estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 85.42%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	70
Mean	228.8000
Median	187.5000
Mode	582.00
Std. Deviation	190.80156
Skewness	.826
Std. Error of Skewness	.287
Range	602.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	611.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 70 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Brown's Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 229 days or 7.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 582 days and the median time was 187.50 days. The standard deviation of roughly 191 days is an indication that there is some 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 quarter was 611 days or roughly 1.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 9 days.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	412
Mean	372.8350
Median	331.0000
Mode	240.00
Std. Deviation	256.6045
	1
Skewness	.523
Std. Error of Skewness	.120
Range	977.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	998.00

The above data is based on sample of 412 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 373 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 240 days. The standard deviation of roughly 257 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 998 days old or roughly 2.8 years, while the minimum age is 21 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	32	34.78
Disposed	43	46.74
Inactive	17	18.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 92 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 32 cases or 34.78% of these cases were still active, while 43 or 46.74% were disposed and 17 or 18.48% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 65.22%, which is a 11.27 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	100	86.96
Small Claim	15	13.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 115 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022, the majority of which 100 or 86.96% were big claims, while 15 or 13.04% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	35	30.43
Recovery of Possession	25	21.74
Goods Sold and Delivered	11	9.57
Negligence	9	7.83
Damages to Property	6	5.22
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>74.78</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action=115**

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 third quarter of 2022 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract with 35 or roughly 30.43% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 25 or 21.74%, goods sold and delivered with 11 or 9.57%, negligence with 9 or 7.83% and damages to property with 6 or 5.22% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 74.78% of the sample of 115 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Bailiff	57	50.00
Personal	57	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</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 and personal service accounted for 57 or 50% each of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	58	50.43
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	50	43.48
Whithorn Outstation	4	3.48
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	2.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>115*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponds to 92 cases**

The majority of a sample of 115 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 58 or 50.43% of the sample. The 50 or 43.48% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the main courthouse followed this. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for 4 or 3.48% and courtroom 2 at the main courthouse accounted for the remaining 2.61% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	65	58.04
Female	34	30.36
Registered Company	13	11.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 112 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 65

or 58.04%, followed by females with 34 or 30.36%. Registered companies accounted for 13 or 11.61% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	72	62.61
Female	35	30.43
Registered Company	6	5.22
Trading As	2	1.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were 115 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 72 or 62.61% of the sample, followed by females with 35 or 30.43%. Registered companies account for 5.22% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 2 or 1.74%.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	126	47.91
Mention Date	102	38.78
Final Judgment Date	21	7.98
Part-Heard Date	14	5.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows a sample of 263 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The highest proportion, 126 or 47.91% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 102 or 38.78%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 21 or 7.98% of matters, which were adjourned for final judgment 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	77	38.12
For Judgment	39	19.31
No Return/Re-Issued	29	14.36
Pending Settlement	5	2.48
Defendant Absent	3	1.49
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>75.74</b>

Number of adjournments sample (n) = 202

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 202 incidences of adjournments for matters heard in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments for placement on the trial list account for the largest proportion of the sample with 77 or 38.12%, while adjournments for judgment rank next with 39 or 19.31% of the sample. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue accounted for 29 or 14.36% of the sample and pending settlements with 5 or 2.48% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 1.49% the sample completes the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment enumerated above account for 75.74% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances heard in the quarter.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	65
Average Incidence	1.4

**Corresponds to 48 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 48 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	32	22.22
Consent	28	19.44
Struck Out	28	19.44
Settlement	13	9.03
Final Judgment	12	8.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>78.47</b>

**NB: There were 144 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

A total of 144 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 78.47% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 32 or 22.22% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out and matters disposed by consent with 28 or 19.44% each of the sample. Settlements with 13 or 9.03% and matters disposed by final judgments with 12 or 8.33% round off the top five methods dispositions.

**Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	25	96.15
Settlement	1	3.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of 26 case outcomes in the third quarter of 2022 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 25 or 96.15% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 3.85%. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
38	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 adjournment. A sample of 38 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
92	60	181	196.74	65.22

The above table shows 92 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 43 of these cases were disposed, and 17 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 65.22%, an increase of 11.27 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. A gross figure of 137 cases

were disposed, and 44 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 196.74%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 9.90 percentage points above the third quarter of 2021 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 57.33%, which is 24.64 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 182.67%, which is 25.02 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	69
Mean	155.70
Std. Error of Mean	23.818
Median	83.00
Mode	35
Std. Deviation	197.846
Skewness	2.244
Std. Error of Skewness	.289
Range	916
Minimum	7
Maximum	923

The above table outlines summary data on 69 civil matters disposed in the third quarter at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 156 days or 5.2 months, which is roughly 5 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third

quarter of 2021. 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 quarter was 923 days or roughly 2.6 years, while the minimum time taken was just 7 days.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	322
Mean	489.91
Std. Error of Mean	21.791
Median	362.00
Mode	1286
Std. Deviation	391.023
Skewness	0.694
Range	1281
Minimum	54
Maximum	1335

The above data is based on sample of 322 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 490 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1286 days. The standard deviation of roughly 391 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 1335 days or 3.7 years, and the youngest time is 54 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	72
Mean	331.6250
Median	239.0000
Mode	86.00
Std. Deviation	275.64978
Skewness	.643
Std. Error of Skewness	.283
Range	952.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	968.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 72 active reissued matters at the Westmoreland Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 332 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 86 and the median age was 239 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some amount of 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 968 days and the lowest was 16 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. 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	129	81.13
Disposed	29	18.24
Inactive	1	0.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 159 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 129 or 81.13% were still active, 29 or 18.24% were disposed and 1 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 18.87% for the quarter, which is a 19.69 percentage points decline when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	135	72.58
Small Claim	51	27.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 186 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 135 or 72.58% of the total sample, while 51 or 27.42% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	79	71.95
Recovery of Possession	39	18.29
Negligence and Damages	1	1.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 119 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 79 or roughly 71.95% of the sample and recovery of possession with 39 or 18.29% of the total sample of causes of action. Negligence and damages with 1 or 1.22% rank next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	170	91.40
Bailiff	16	8.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</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 170 or 91.40% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 16 or 8.60% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	107	57.53
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	32	17.20
Annotto Bay Outstation	20	10.75
Richmond Outstation	18	9.68
Gayle Outstation	8	4.30
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	0.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>186*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 159 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 186 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 107 or 57.53% of the sample. Sittings at the courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with 32 or 17.20% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with 20 or 10.75% of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Richmond outstation with 18 or 9.68% of the sample, sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 8 or 4.30% and courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 0.54%.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	93	50.00
Female	75	40.32
Registered Company	18	9.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 186 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the highest proportion of

plaintiffs with 93 or 50%, followed by females with 75 or 40.32%. Registered companies with 9.68% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	120	64.52
Female	62	33.33
Registered Company	4	2.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were 186 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were males with 120 or 64.52%, followed by females with 62 or 33.33% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 2.15% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	38	46.34
Mention Date	24	29.27
Default Judgment Date	17	20.73
Part-Heard Date	3	3.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 82 matters that went to court during the third ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 38 or 46.34% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 24 or 29.27%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were the 17 or 20.73% 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 top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	46	26.29
Consent	27	15.43
Settlement	23	13.14
Final Judgment	20	11.43
Default Judgment	13	7.43
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>73.71</b>

**NB: There were 175 matters disposed for the third quarter**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 175 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. Matters struck out with 46 or 26.29%, matters disposed by consent with 27 or 15.43% and matters disposed by settlements with 23 or 13.14% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by final judgments with 11.43% of the sample rank next followed by disposals by default judgments with 7.43% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 73.71% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
20	13	35.00

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 20 trial dates were set in the third quarter of 2022 shows that 13 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 35%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 35% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)</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>
159	30	146	91.82	18.87

The above table shows 159 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 29 of these cases were disposed, and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 18.87%, a decrease of 19.69 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. A gross figure of 144 cases were disposed, and 2 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 91.82%, which meets the international standard for this metric and is 10.14 percentage points below the third quarter of 2021 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 18.35%, which is 10.44 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 91.14%, which is 0.53 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	106
Mean	184.1415
Median	93.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	334.33663
Skewness	6.783
Std. Error of Skewness	.235
Range	3118.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	3124.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 106 civil cases disposed in the third quarter of 2022 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 184 days or 6 months, which is roughly 80 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2021. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 93 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 334 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 quarter was 3124 days or roughly 8.7 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 6 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	232
Mean	590.5216
Median	389.0000
Mode	25.00
Std. Deviation	615.07364
Skewness	2.038
Std. Error of Skewness	.160
Range	3327.00
Minimum	16.00
Maximum	3343.00

The above data is based on sample of 232 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2021. The average age of these matters was roughly 591 days (or roughly 19.7 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 25 days. The standard deviation of roughly 615 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 3343 days old or roughly 9 years, while the minimum age was 16 days.

## 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	43	76.79
Disposed	13	23.21
Inactive	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 56 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 43 or 76.79% were still active and 13 or 23.21% were disposed. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 23.21% for the quarter, which is 8.92 percentage points above the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	74	85.06
Small Claim	13	14.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 87 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which 74 or 85.06% were big claims, while 13 or 14.94% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Causes of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	29	46.03
Recovery of Possession	23	36.51
Special Damages	8	12.70
Rent Owing	1	1.59
Rent Owing and Continuing	1	1.59
Utility Owing	1	1.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 63 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 29 or roughly 46.03% of the total sample and recovery of possession with 23 or 36.51%. Special damages with 8 or 12.70% rank next, followed by rent owing, rent owing and continuing and utility owing with 1.59% each.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	51	58.62
Bailiff	36	41.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</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 51 or 58.62% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 36 or 41.38%.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	20	45.45
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	14	31.82
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	5	11.36
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	3	6.82
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	1	2.27
Manchioneal Outstation	1	2.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 29 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 44 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 20 or 45.45% of the sample of accommodations. The 14 or 31.82% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 5 matters that entered in courtroom 1 at the Buff Bay outstation rank next. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse account for 3 or 6.82% and courtroom 2 at the Buff Bay outstation and the Manchioneal outstation account for 2.57% each of the accommodations.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	38	44.19
Female	37	43.02
Registered Company	11	12.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 86 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022, males accounted for the largest proportion with 38 or 44.19%, followed by females with

37 or 43.02%. Registered companies with 11 or 12.79% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	55	63.22
Female	32	36.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 87 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022.

The majority of defendants were male with 55 or 63.22% of the sample, followed by females with 32 or 36.78% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	132	40.62
Trial	91	28.00
Part-Heard Date	78	24.00
Default Judgment Date	22	6.77
Hearing of application	2	0.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 325 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 132 or 40.62% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 91 or 28%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 78 or 24% and for default judgment dates with 22 or 6.77% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Consent	15	17.65
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	11	12.94
Settlement	11	12.94
Struck Out	11	12.94
Default Judgment	7	8.24
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>64.71</b>

**NB: There were 85 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

A total of 85 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. The distribution is led by disposals by consent with 15 or 17.65% of the sample, followed by notices of discontinuance (NOD), matters disposed by settlements and matters struck out with 11 or 12.94% each. Matters disposed by default judgment with 7 or 8.24% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 64.71% of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%)
28	5	82.14

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 28 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 5 was adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 82.14% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 82% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The 2022 result is 17.86 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2021.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate net Case disposal rate (%)
56	13	66	117.86	23.21

The above table shows 56 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 13 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 23.21%, an improvement of 8.92 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. An approximate gross figure of 64 cases were disposed,

and 2 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 117.86%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 25.42 percentage points less than the third quarter of 2021.

The estimated net clearance rate is 114.29%, a 22.62 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	64
Mean	319.30
Std. Error of Mean	59.707
Median	98.00
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	477.660
Skewness	2.512
Std. Error of Skewness	.299
Range	2133
Minimum	4
Maximum	2137

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 64 civil matters disposed in third quarter of 2022 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 319 days (10.6 months), which is roughly 113 more days than it took to dispose of matters

in the third quarter of 2021. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time to disposition was 98 days. The standard deviation of roughly 478 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 quarter was 2137 days or roughly 5.9 years old, while the youngest was 4 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive statistics (in days)**

Number of observations	462
Mean	855.8355
Median	578.0000
Mode	88.00
Std. Deviation	835.71215
Skewness	1.037
Std. Error of Skewness	.114
Range	4191.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	4208.00

The above data is computed using 462 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these cases was roughly 856 days (2.4 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 88 days (2.9 months). The standard deviation of roughly 836 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4208 days (11.7 years), while the youngest 17 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 third quarter of 2022.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	104	71.72
Disposed	19	13.10
Inactive	22	15.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 145 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, 104 cases or 71.72% of these cases were still active, while 19 were disposed and 22 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 28.28%, which is a 6.31 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	111	65.29
Small Claim	59	34.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 170 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2022, the majority of which 111 or 65.29% were big claims, while 59 or 34.71% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	54	32.53
Monies Owing	36	21.69
Recovery of Possession	26	15.66
Damages for Negligence	8	4.82
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	8	4.82
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>79.52</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 166**

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 third quarter of 2022 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 54 or roughly 32.53% of the sample. Monies owing with 36 or 21.69% and recovery of possession with 26 or 15.66% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 8 or 4.82% each of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 79.52% of all the total sample of 166 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
District Constable	25	65.79
Bailiff	13	34.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</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 25 or 65.79% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 13 or 34.21% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	130	76.47
Yallahs Outstation	38	22.35
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	2	1.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>170*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 145 cases**

The majority of a sample of 170 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 130 or 76.47% of the sample. Sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 38 or 22.35% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 2 or 1.18% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	83	48.82
Female	82	48.24
Registered Company	4	2.35
Trading As	1	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 170 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 83 or 48.82%, followed by females with 82 or 48.24%. Registered companies accounted for 4 or 2.35% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 0.59% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	106	62.72
Female	59	34.91
Registered Company	4	2.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 169 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2022. The majority of defendants were male with 106 or 62.72% of the sample, followed by females with 59 or 34.91% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 2.37% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 30, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Date for Order	95	40.60
Mention Date	57	24.36
Trial	45	19.23
Default Judgment Date	21	8.97
Part-Heard Date	16	6.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of 234 cases adjourned during the third quarter of 2022. The highest proportion, 95 or 40.60% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 57 or 24.36% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 45 or 19.23% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 21 or 8.97% of the sample rank next.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Reasons For Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Defendant Absent	36	23.23
Placed on Trial List	18	11.61
Attorney Absent	9	5.81
Referred to Mediation	7	4.52
Not Reached	4	2.58
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>47.74</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 155**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 155 incidences of adjournments in the third quarter of 2022. Adjournments due to absence of defendants with 36 or 23.23% of the sample, adjournments for placement on the trial list with 18 or 11.61% and adjournments due to absence of attorneys with 9 or 5.81% rounds off the top three. Adjournments for referrals to mediation with 4.52% and for parties not reached with 4 or 2.58% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 47.74% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	24
Average Incidence	1.04

**Corresponding to 23 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 24 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 23 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.04 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	28	29.17
Default Judgment	18	18.75
Oral Admission	16	16.67
Struck Out	9	9.38
Withdrawal	8	8.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>82.29</b>

**NB there were 96 matters disposed of in the third quarter**

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 96 matters. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 28 or 29.17% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments and matters disposed by oral admissions with 18 or 18.75% and 16 or 16.67% respectively rank next. Matters struck out with 9 or 9.38% and withdrawals with 8 or 8.33% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 82.29% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
18	3	83.33

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 18 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 3 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 83.33%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 16.67 percentage points below the rate recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
145	41	125	86.21	28.28

The above table shows 145 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the third quarter of 2022. At the end of the quarter, a total of 19 cases were disposed and 22 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 28.28%, an increase of 6.31 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021. A gross figure of 79 cases were disposed, and 46 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated gross case

clearance rate of 86.21%, which falls short of the international standard for this metric and represents an increase of 3.63 percentage points when compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.45%, a 3.48 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 64.23%, a 9.53 percentage points increase when compared to third quarter of 2021. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	51
Mean	377.6471
Median	279.0000
Mode	322.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	486.15478
Skewness	2.672
Std. Error of Skewness	.333
Range	2365.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	2379.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 51 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022 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 57 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the third quarter of 2021. However, the most frequently occurring time to

disposition was 322 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 486 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 quarter was 2379 days or roughly 6.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 14 days.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	317
Mean	964.9401
Median	633.0000
Mode	2733.00
Std. Deviation	976.00557
Skewness	.976
Std. Error of Skewness	.137
Range	2722.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	2733.00

The above data is based on sample of 317 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 965 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2733 days or 7.6 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 976 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 2733 days or 7.6 years, while the youngest case was 11 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	85
Mean	518.2471
Median	605.0000
Mode	605.00
Std. Deviation	419.02793
Skewness	.948
Std. Error of Skewness	.261
Range	1812.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	1823.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 85 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The average age of these matters was roughly 518 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 605 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 1823 days and the lowest was 11 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.

**Performance Summaries-Other Parish Courts**

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

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)</b>	<b>Net Case Clearance Rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>	<b>Net Case Disposal Rate (%)</b>	<b>Trial Date certainty Rate (%)</b>
Manchester PC	-	112.03	-	-	-
St. Elizabeth PC	-	73.05	-	24.68	-
St. James PC	90.68	46.59	-	-	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Manchester, St. Elizabeth and St. James shows that the civil division of the Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated net case clearance rate of 112.03% in the third quarter of 2022. The estimated case gross clearance rate for the St. James Parish Court in the quarter was 90.68% and the net clearance rate was 46.59%. The St. Elizabeth Parish Court recorded an estimated net clearance rate of 73.05% and an estimated net disposal rate of 24.68% for the quarter.

**Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts**

**Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Approximate number of new cases</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%)</b>
4193	4851	115.69

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2022. It shows that a total of 4193 new cases were filed over

the quarter, while 4851 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 115.69%. This is a 28.18 percentage points improvement when compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

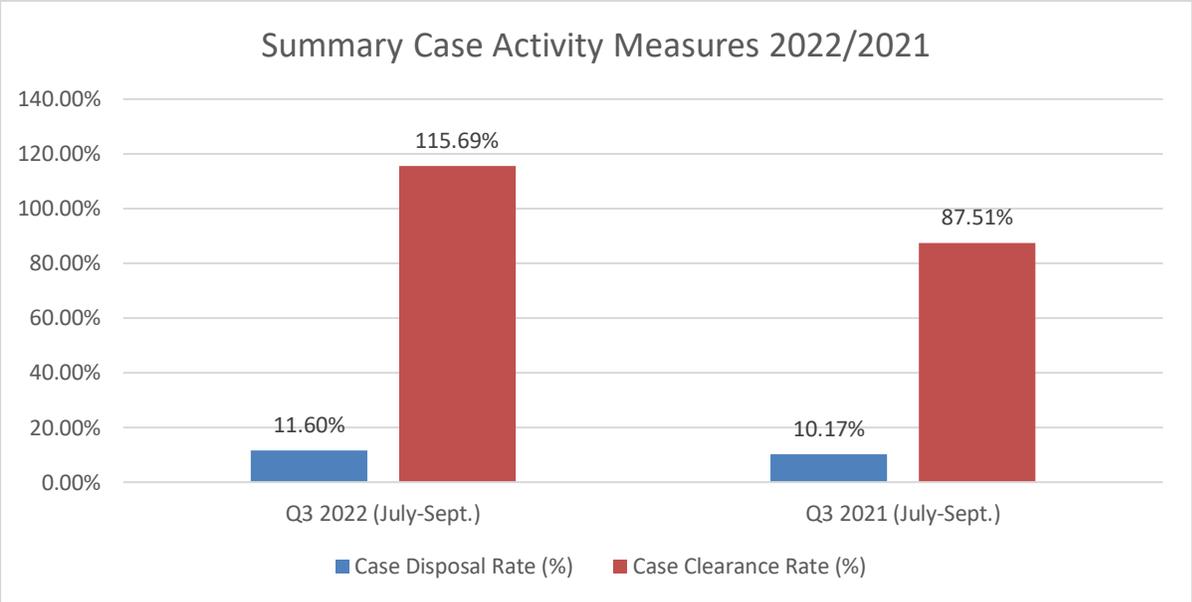
**Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Parish Court	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2022	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3 2021	Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2022	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3 2021	Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)
St. Thomas	28.28	21.97	6.31	86.21	82.58	3.63
Corporate Area- Civil	2.05	-	-	95.71	89.3	6.41
St. Elizabeth	-	10.59	-	-	52.97	-
Hanover	65.63	57.14	8.49	278.13	165.08	113.05
Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portland	-	19.4	-	117.86	143.28	-25.42
St. Ann	9.32	7.81	1.51	104.32	133.25	-28.93
St. Catherine	10.15	13.26	-3.11	191.77	74.47	117.3
St. Mary	18.87	38.56	-19.69	91.82	101.96	-10.14
Trelawny	24.81	23.64	1.17	109.3	98.79	10.51
St. James	-	-	-	90.68	-	-
Clarendon	21.81	30.1	-8.29	88.59	91.26	-2.67
Westmoreland	65.22	53.95	11.27	196.74	186.84	9.9
<b>Average /Weighted Average</b>	<b>11.60</b>	<b>10.17</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>115.69</b>	<b>87.51</b>	<b>28.18</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>23.10</b>	<b>17.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62.63</b>	<b>41.01</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>-</b>

*Note: Q3- Refers to quarter one (July to Sept. of 2022 and 2021 respectively)*

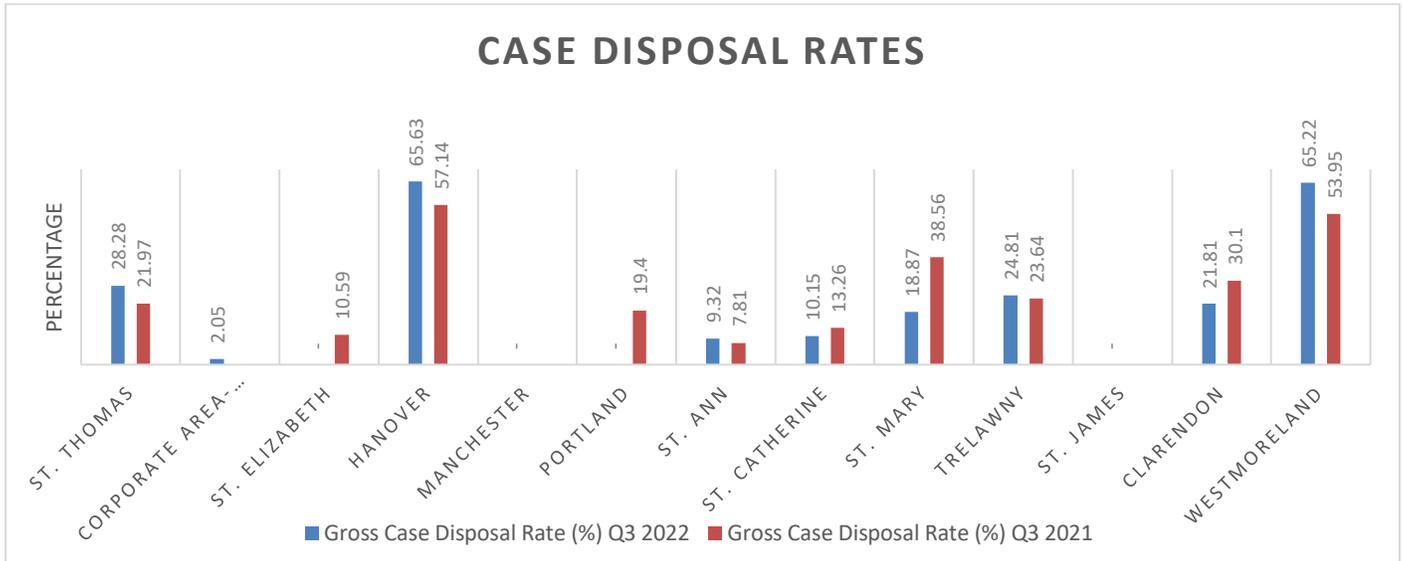
The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the third quarters of 2022 and 2021. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the third quarter of 2022 was 11.60%, which was a 1.43 percentage points improvement when compared to the third quarter of 2021 weighted average rate of 10.17%. The gross case clearance rate of 115.69% for the third quarter of 2022 was 28.18 percentage points above the 87.51% recorded in the third quarter of 2021.

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

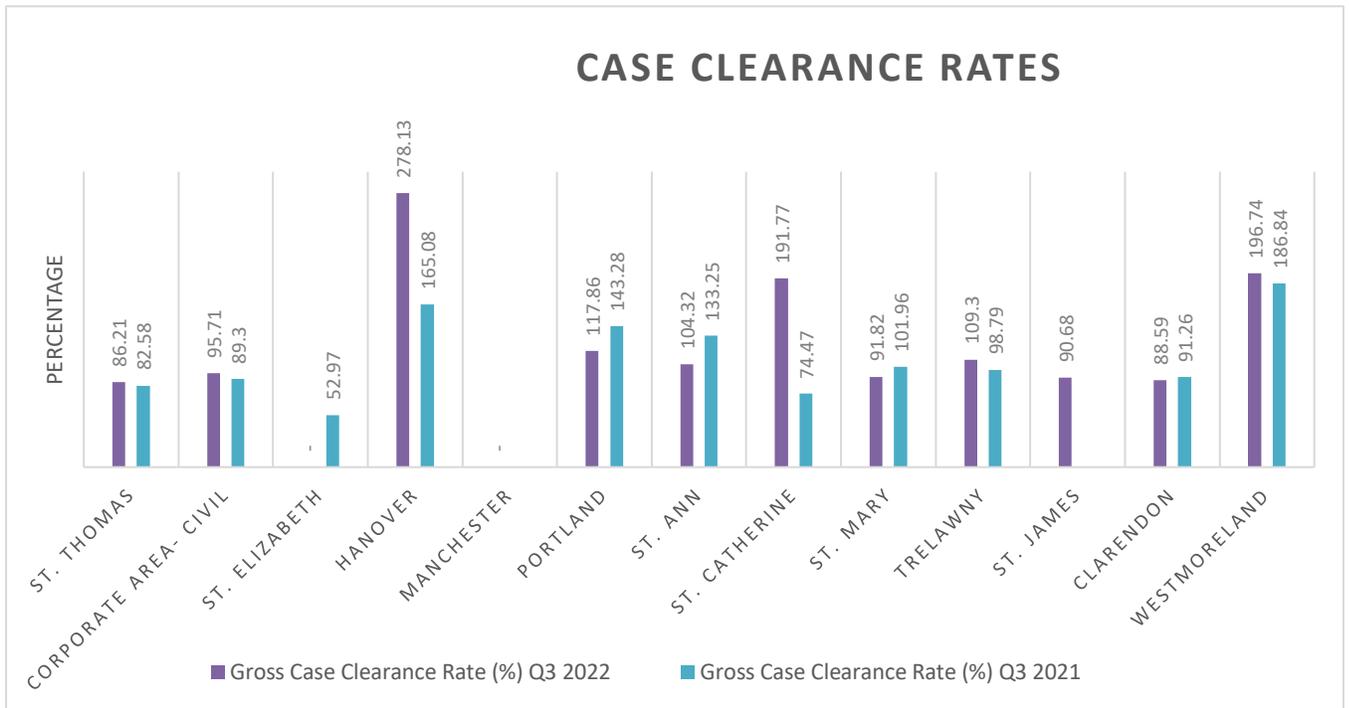


The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the third quarters of 2022 and 2021. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross disposal rate and in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 87.51% in the third quarter of 2021 to 115.69% in the third quarter of 2022. The disposal rate moved from 10.17% in the third quarter of 2021 to 11.60% in the third quarter of 2022, an increase of 1.43 percentage points.

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



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



**Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Big Claims</b>	<b>Small Claims</b>	<b>POCA</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>Total</b>
Corporate area	923	123	7	-	1053
Hanover	34	3	-	-	37
Manchester	285	31	-	-	316
Portland	74	13	-	-	87
St. Ann	427	126	1	-	554
St. Catherine	820	87	-	-	907
St. Mary	135	51	-	-	186
St. Thomas	111	59	-	-	170
Trelawny	115	30	-	-	145
Westmoreland	100	15	-	-	115
St. James	311	129	-	-	440
Clarendon	290	63	-	-	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>3625</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4363</b>

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2022. The sample of 4363 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2022 reveals that 3625 or 83.09% were big claims, while 16.73% were small claims and 0.18% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. 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 quarter, while the St. James Parish Court, St. Ann Parish Court and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division 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 third quarter of 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	32	69,533	5
St. Catherine	729	516,218	14
Westmoreland	92	144,103	6
St. Mary	159	113,615	14
Clarendon	298	245,103	12
Portland	56	81,744	7
St. Elizabeth	308	150,205	21
Corporate Area	1049	662,426	16
St. Thomas	145	93,902	15
St. James	440	183,811	24
St. Ann	440	172,362	26
Trelawny	129	75,164	17
Manchester	316	189,797	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>4193</b>	<b>2697983</b>	<b>16</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 third quarter of 2022. 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 third quarter of 2022. St. James, which is mid-range in population size, but among the courts with the larger 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 quarter and is the Parish with the lowest population size and lowest caseload in the quarter. The Westmoreland parish court had the second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population for the quarter, followed by the Portland Parish court.

**Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Reasons for Adjournment	Count	Percentage (%)
No return/Re-Issued	835	18.71
Defendant Absent	646	14.48
Placed on Trial List	458	10.26
Pending Settlement	160	3.59
Both Parties Absent	140	3.14
Plaintiff Absent	83	1.86
Referred to Mediation	82	1.84
Parties in Discussion	69	1.55
Hearing of application	53	1.19
Attorney Absent	47	1.05
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2573</b>	<b>57.66</b>

*(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (4462)*

*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 4,462 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter of 2022 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (18.71%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 14.48% and adjournments for placement on the trial list with 10.26% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments for pending settlements with 3.59% and adjournments due to the

absence of both parties with 3.14% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 57.66% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the third quarter ended September 30, 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	4141 (35.6%)	2469 (21.2%)	1326 (11.4%)	974 (8.4%)	1130 (9.7%)	612 (5.3%)	986 (8.5%)	11638 (100%)
St. Catherine	1720 (17.7%)	1270 (13.0%)	769 (7.9%)	650 (6.7%)	1146 (11.8%)	780 (8.0%)	3409 (35.0%)	9744 (100%)
Clarendon	219 (42.9%)	180 (35.2%)	75 (14.7%)	31 (6.1%)	6 (1.2%)	-	-	511 (100%)
Westmoreland	599 (57.2%)	199 (19.0%)	94 (9.0%)	66 (6.3%)	60 (5.7%)	19 (1.8%)	10 (1.0%)	1047 (100%)
St. Ann	832 (28.9%)	677 (23.5%)	361 (12.5%)	235 (8.2%)	292 (10.1%)	157 (5.4%)	327 (11.4%)	2881 (100%)
St. Thomas	524 (34.5%)	347 (22.8%)	175 (11.5%)	116 (7.6%)	142 (9.3%)	78 (5.1%)	137 (9.0%)	1519 (100%)
Portland	171 (24.8%)	84 (12.2%)	55 (8.0%)	55 (8.0%)	66 (9.6%)	69 (10%)	189 (27.4%)	689 (100%)
St. Mary	1120 (53.4%)	384 (18.3%)	166 (7.9%)	106 (5.1%)	157 (7.5%)	66 (3.1%)	98 (4.7%)	2097 (100%)
Trelawny	749 (56.8%)	245 (18.6%)	101 (7.7%)	65 (4.9%)	80 (6.1%)	28 (2.1%)	51 (3.9%)	1319 (100%)
Hanover	515 (55.9%)	151 (16.4%)	73 (7.9%)	46 (5.0%)	43 (4.7%)	29 (3.1%)	64 (6.9%)	921 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>32.72</b>	<b>18.56</b>	<b>9.87</b>	<b>7.24</b>	<b>9.65</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>16.29</b>	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>1059.00</b>	<b>600.60</b>	<b>319.50</b>	<b>234.40</b>	<b>312.20</b>	<b>204.22</b>	<b>585.67</b>	<b>3236.60</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1172.60</b>	<b>744.59</b>	<b>415.04</b>	<b>319.09</b>	<b>442.45</b>	<b>284.92</b>	<b>1100.24</b>	<b>4014.66</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.89</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>1.71</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 32,366*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 57 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2022. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 57-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 32.72% 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 68.39% 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 16.29% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil	260.52	27	144	301.97	2.28	1	2459	11638
St. Catherine	548.54	91	446	453.07	0.65	1	2246	9744
Clarendon	120.39	63	98	83.69	1.03	4	428	511
Westmoreland	132.15	35	76	155.30	2.32	1	1112	1047
St. Ann	312.60	91	163	382.56	2.30	1	2197	2881
St. Thomas	262.05	28	141	312.89	2.42	1	2379	1519
Portland	489.49	28	336	468.83	1.08	4	2137	689
St. Mary	176.50	28	77	242.40	2.49	1	1634	2097
Trelawny	160.19	28	69	231.36	3.07	1	1680	1319
Hanover	196.12	28	72	310.80	3.05	1	1997	921
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>339.08</b>	<b>44.70</b>	<b>162.20</b>	<b>294.29</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1826.90</b>	<b>3236.60</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>147.27</b>	<b>26.72</b>	<b>127.87</b>	<b>122.23</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>638.48</b>	<b>4014.66</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>-0.18</b>	<b>-0.64</b>	<b>1.78</b>	<b>-1.35</b>	<b>1.71</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 32,366*

*Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 57 months across the parish courts*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2022. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 57-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 339 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 (120 days), Westmoreland (132 days) and Trelawny (160 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose

of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (549 days), Portland (489 days) and St. Ann (313 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 147.27. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.60 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 428 days (14.3 months/1.2 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 2459 days (82 months/6.8 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 32,366 matters.

**Table 7.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the third quarter ended September 30, 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	66 (23.9%)	67 (24.3%)	21 (7.6%)	32 (11.6%)	38 (13.8%)	22 (8.0%)	30 (10.9%)	276 (100%)
St. Catherine	68 (5.4%)	73 (5.8%)	40 (3.2%)	123 (9.7%)	459 (36.4%)	265 (21.0%)	234 (18.5%)	1262 (100%)
Clarendon	37 (31.6%)	48 (41.0%)	22 (18.8%)	8 (6.8%)	2 (1.7%)	-	-	117 (100%)
Westmoreland	41 (59.4%)	12 (17.4%)	5 (7.2%)	3 (4.3%)	3 (4.3%)	4 (5.8%)	1 (1.4%)	69 (100%)
St. Ann	58 (22.6%)	46 (17.9%)	44 (17.1%)	21 (8.2%)	27 (10.5%)	24 (9.3%)	37 (14.4%)	257 (100%)
St. Thomas	13 (25.5%)	8 (15.7%)	3 (5.9%)	11 (21.6%)	7 (13.7%)	4 (7.8%)	5 (9.8%)	51 (100%)
Portland	26 (40.6%)	14 (21.9%)	2 (3.1%)	6 (9.4%)	6 (9.4%)	1 (1.6%)	9 (14.1%)	64 (100%)
St. Mary	51 (48.1%)	20 (18.9%)	13 (12.3%)	8 (7.5%)	9 (8.5%)	2 (1.9%)	3 (2.8%)	106 (100%)
Trelawny	37 (46.3%)	16 (20.0%)	6 (7.5%)	6 (7.5%)	5 (6.3%)	3 (3.8%)	7 (8.8%)	80 (100%)
Hanover	35 (62.5%)	8 (14.3%)	2 (3.6%)	1 (1.8%)	2 (3.6%)	2 (3.6%)	6 (10.7%)	56 (100%)
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>18.48</b>	<b>13.34</b>	<b>6.76</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>23.87</b>	<b>13.99</b>	<b>14.20</b>	-
<b>Average</b>	<b>43.20</b>	<b>31.20</b>	<b>15.80</b>	<b>21.90</b>	<b>55.80</b>	<b>36.33</b>	<b>36.89</b>	<b>233.80</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>17.55</b>	<b>25.01</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>36.71</b>	<b>142.18</b>	<b>86.21</b>	<b>74.98</b>	<b>370.31</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>-0.07</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>2.82</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>2.84</b>	<b>2.90</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 2338*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The results shown suggest that only 18.48% 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. Ann and St. Mary are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days.

Cumulatively, 47.95% 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 14.20% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

Parishes	Time to disposition (days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Sample size (N)
Corporate Area Civil Division	355.00	154	190	425.40	2.97	3	3087	276
St. Catherine	574.98	497	513	399.06	2.87	3	4854	1262
Clarendon	139.26	63	119	88.91	0.97	4	427	117
Westmoreland	155.70	35	83	197.85	2.24	7	923	69
St. Ann	468.53	91	216	712.10	3.00	5	3977	257
St. Thomas	377.65	322	279	486.15	2.67	14	2379	51
Portland	319.30	63	98	477.66	2.51	4	2137	64
St. Mary	184.14	28	93	334.34	6.78	6	3124	106
Trelawny	275.44	28	122.50	487.11	3.62	6	2710	80
Hanover	241.75	42	70	431.11	2.91	16	1869	56
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>455.88</b>	<b>132.30</b>	<b>178.35</b>	<b>403.97</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>6.80</b>	<b>2548.70</b>	<b>233.80</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>140.11</b>	<b>156.40</b>	<b>135.35</b>	<b>170.57</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>4.54</b>	<b>1325.23</b>	<b>370.31</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>-0.27</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.47</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>2.90</b>

*Number of charges sampled (N) = 2338*

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2022. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 456 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 0.63, suggesting a cluster of scores around the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (139 days), Westmoreland (156 days) and St. Mary (184 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (575 days), St. Ann (469 days) and St. Thomas (378 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 140.11. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 6.8 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 427 days (14.2 months/1.2 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 0.08, 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 2,338 matters.

**Table 7.0c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Struck Out</b>	<b>Consent</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Default Judgment</b>	<b>Oral Admission</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
St. Catherine	1199	101	158	43	12	45	29	38	1625
Corporate Area Civil	269	102	20	34	17	49	31	85	607
Westmoreland	28	28	13	11	32	6	4	22	144
Clarendon	81	31	35	22	22	16	5	12	224
Trelawny	17	39	6	16	8	9	-	24	119
Hanover	13	12	9	10	11	3	-	15	73
Portland	11	15	11	7	6	1	11	23	85
St. Mary	46	27	23	13	13	13	6	34	175
St. Thomas	9	28	7	18	16	8	6	4	96
St. Ann	68	101	46	40	35	25	28	58	401
<b>Total</b>	<b>1741</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3549</b>
<b>Percentage of total</b>	<b>49.06</b>	<b>13.64</b>	<b>9.24</b>	<b>6.03</b>	<b>4.85</b>	<b>4.93</b>	<b>3.38</b>	<b>8.88</b>	<b>-</b>

***Number of charges sampled (N): 3549***

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the third quarter of 2022. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 49.06% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 13.64%, settlements with 9.24% and dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 8.88% of the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 6.03% and withdrawals with 4.93% rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 4.85% and matters disposed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 3.38% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

**Table 8.0: Net and gross case backlog as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Net case backlog rate (%)</b>	<b>Gross case backlog rate (%)</b>
Clarendon	0.41	10.12
Corporate area	2.16	17.39
Hanover	0.10	3.83
Manchester	2.13	16.29
Portland	1.85	8.19
St. Ann	3.31	27.84
St. Catherine	0.50	10.16
St. James	0.57	9.76
St. Mary	0.08	9.87
St. Thomas	2.57	8.88
Trelawny	1.61	10.41
Westmoreland	0.10	7.34
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>12.61</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>6.24</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 of the parish courts is 1.30% (with a standard deviation of 1.12%) which is satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 12.61% (with a standard deviation of 6.24%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 2.61 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 St. Mary with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.08%, Westmoreland and Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.10% each and Clarendon with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.41% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (3.31%), St. Thomas (2.57%) and Corporate Area Court (2.16%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (3.83%), Westmoreland (7.34%) and Portland (8.19%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (27.84%), and Corporate Area Court (17.39%) and Manchester (16.29%) 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

**Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the third quarter ended September 30, 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	52.18	187.10	121.29
Corporate Area-Civil Division	186.62	352.14	456.14
Hanover	40.23	195.24	562.60
Portland	58.09	859.28	281.17
St. Ann	108.16	579.93	825.21
St. Catherine	95.93	462.04	372.23
St. Mary	50.76	281.54	185.61
St. Thomas	47.41	352.30	496.19
Trelawny	54.02	279.63	356.18
Westmoreland	32.42	113.91	180.32
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>87.09</b>	<b>439.61</b>	<b>407.73</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>46.61</b>	<b>181.68</b>	<b>212.32</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 2.9 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 14.7 months or 440 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 13.6 months or 408 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 third quarter ended September 30, 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	635	106	16.69
Corporate Area	2140	127	5.93
Hanover	144	32	22.22
Portland	297	97	32.66
St. Ann	1409	147	10.43
St. Catherine	3269	446	13.64
St. Mary	317	45	14.20
St. Thomas	328	78	23.78
Trelawny	335	71	21.19
Westmoreland	334	80	23.95
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>9208</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>13.35</b>

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the third quarter of 2022 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 9208 civil cases

heard across the parish courts in the third quarter of 2022, 1229 or 13.35% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Corporate Area (5.93%), St. Ann (10.43%) and St. Catherine (13.64%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (32.66%), Westmoreland (23.95%) and St. Thomas (23.78%) had the highest proportion.

**Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	68	19.88
Consent	47	13.74
Final Judgment	39	11.40
Trial	39	11.40
Settlement	33	9.65
Default	28	8.19
Transferred	24	7.02
Withdrawal	22	6.43
Non-Suited	16	4.68
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	12	3.51
Oral Admission	4	1.17
By Consent - Mediated Settlement	3	0.88
Other	3	0.88
Application For Plaintiff Denied	2	0.58
Order	2	0.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>342</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 19.88% of the cases disposed, matters disposed by consent with 47 or 13.74% and matters disposed by final judgments and by trial with 39 or 11.40% each account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

**Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the third quarter ended September 30, 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	2.62	2.07	1.57	10	1
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.29	2.72	4.03	35	1
Hanover	5.85	7.73	2.79	40	1
Portland	6.09	4.72	1.18	21	1
St. Ann	4.55	5.98	3.01	40	1
St. Catherine	2.68	2.44	1.97	18	1
St. Mary	3.69	4.38	2.49	28	1
St. Thomas	4.35	4.72	2.12	31	1
Trelawny	2.85	3.24	3.80	29	1
Westmoreland	3.20	3.37	2.06	18	1
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>3.20</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>1.35</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>0.72</b>	-	-	-	-

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the third quarter of 2022, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 32, or roughly 3 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 1.35 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 0.72. 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 the third quarter of 2022 are the Portland (6.09), Hanover (5.85) and St. Ann (4.55) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area-Civil Division (2.29), Clarendon (2.62) and St. Catherine (2.28) 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2022**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average number of appearances per case</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Clarendon	1.98	1.05
Corporate Area-Civil Division	2.87	3.12
Hanover	4.90	8.17
Portland	4.29	3.45
St. Ann	3.70	4.85
St. Catherine	1.79	1.86
St. Mary	3.52	3.94
St. Thomas	3.33	4.60
Trelawny	2.44	2.81
Westmoreland	2.35	2.65
<b>Weighted Average</b>	<b>2.53</b>	-

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed in the third quarter of 2022. The overall average observed is roughly 25 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 Clarendon, St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the quarter, 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 third quarter of 2022**

Parish Court	Approximate number of new cases	Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	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	145	41	125	28.28	86.21	83.33	12.59
Corporate Area-Civil	1049	19	1004	2.05	95.71	-	11.83
St. Elizabeth	308	76	225	-	-	-	-
Hanover	32	21	89	65.63	278.13	100.00	8.06
Manchester	316	-	354	-	-	-	-
Portland	56	13	66	-	117.86	82.14	10.64
St. Ann	440	41	459	9.32	104.32	100.00	15.62
St. Catherine	729	74	1398	10.15	191.77	96.91	19.17
St. Mary	159	30	146	18.87	91.82	35.00	6.14
Trelawny	129	32	141	24.81	109.30	100.00	9.18
St. James	440	-	399	-	90.68	-	-
Clarendon	298	65	264	21.81	88.59	98.00	4.64
Westmoreland	92	60	181	65.22	196.74	100.00	5.19
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>4193</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>4851</b>	<b>11.60</b>	<b>115.69</b>	<b>91.91</b>	<b>15.20</b>
<b>Skewness</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>-2.42</b>	<b>0.63</b>
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>292.37</b>	<b>22.54</b>	<b>394.72</b>	<b>23.10</b>	<b>62.63</b>	<b>21.27</b>	<b>4.67</b>

*Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division gross and net disposal rates was calculated using only new big claims filed in the quarter.*

*Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2022 is 7.92% and the net case disposal rate is 3.13%. Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the third quarter of 2022 is 93.07% and the net case clearance rate is 85.42%*

## **Conclusion**

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continue to make impressive strides in clearing a higher volume and proportion of cases faster, while guaranteeing a high quality of justice. At the end of the third quarter of 2022, the Civil Division of the Parish Courts had a net case backlog rate of roughly 1.12% which is an indication that only 11 in every 1000 active cases before the civil courts are currently in a state of backlog. The overall backlog rate when inactive cases are included is stands at a substantially higher 12.61% of the combined active and inactive cases at the end of the quarter, with wide variances across the courts. These results are reinforced by strong overall average case clearance rate of 115.69% with six courts exceeding the 100% mark as well as the fairly strong trial date certainty rate of 91.91%. Collectively these results imply that the likelihood of a trial proceeding on schedule and of civil cases filed being disposed of within reasonable time is quite high.

It is expected that these results will continue to improve over the course of the coming months and that the net case backlog rate in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts will tend towards nil by the end of the current fiscal year. Such projections augur well for the current thrust to make Jamaica into one of the most efficient judiciaries in the world within the foreseeable future.

## 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>

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