



THE JUDICIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

Message from the Chief Justice	1
Our Values:	2
Mission Statement:.....	3
Vision:.....	3
I. INTRODUCTION	5
II. THE COURTS: EFFICIENCY, QUALITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY	6
A. Supreme Court	7
B. High Court.....	11
1. Civil Cases (other than Probate Cases).....	12
2. Probate Cases	18
3. Criminal Cases	22
4. Juvenile Cases	26
5. Caseloads for Judges and Clerks.....	27
6. Selected Decisions	28
C. Traditional Rights Court.....	28
D. District Court.....	30
1. Traffic Cases (Majuro).....	30
2. Criminal Cases (Majuro).....	34
3. Juvenile Cases (Majuro)	37
4. Small Claims Cases (Majuro)	40
5. Caseload for Judges and Clerks (Majuro).....	43
6. Ebeye.....	43
E. Community Courts	44
F. Travel to the Neighboring Islands and Ebeye.....	44
G. Other Services: Births, Deaths, Marriages, Notarizations, etc.....	45
1. Majuro.....	45
2. Ebeye.....	45
H. Court Staff.....	46
I. Professional Development and Regional Conferences.....	46
J. Court Rules and Relevant Statutes	50

III. THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION: JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS	50
IV. ACCOUNTABILITY: CODES OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS	51
V. FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND LIBRARY.....	52
A. Facilities	52
B. Technology.....	52
C. Library.....	53
VI. ANNUAL BUDGET AND AUDIT REPORT	53
Appendix 1: Organization Chart.....	55
Appendix 2: Judiciary Personnel	56
Appendix 3: Access and Fairness User Survey	58



HIGH COURT
of the
Republic of the Marshall Islands

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Iokwe, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report for the Judiciary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As in recent years, this report reflects the dedication and hard work of the judges and staff who serve the Judiciary, the Government, and the people of the Marshall Islands. It is my pleasure and privilege to work with them.

On behalf of the Judiciary, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the President, the Minister of Justice, and the other members of the Cabinet for their support in 2022. Also, I wish to express our profound thanks to the Nitijela and the House of Iroij for their continuing support of our budgetary and legislative requests. We are committed to working with the Cabinet, the Nitijela, and the House of Iroij in the years to come to maintain an independent judiciary that is fair and efficient, assuring justice and the rule of law for all. Our shared goals mandate that we work together in a spirit of respect and cooperation.

Submitted with the 2022 Annual Report are our Values, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement. For more information about the Judiciary, please contact me or the Chief Clerk of the Courts at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

Carl B. Ingram
Chief Justice, High Court
Date: August 25, 2023



Our Values:

Tomak, Jenok, im Aurok Ko Ad:

The Marshall Islands Judiciary holds the following values, and desires to operate in a manner that is, and will be perceived as:

Jikin Ekajet ko an Marshall Islands rej debij im jermal wot iumin tomak, aurok eo, im konan eo non air jermal ilo wawein ko renaj koman bwe armej ren kalimjeklok ra eo an Jikin Ekajet bwe ej juon eo ej einwot in:

- accessible
- accountable
- competent
- consistent
- efficient
- fair and impartial
- independent
- respectful and
- service-oriented,
- valuing custom and tradition, as well as innovation.

*ebellok non aoleb armej
 etiljek, ekkeke, im maron uwak non jermal ko an
 ekakemooj im emmon an komane jermal eo an
 ej jokkin wot juon an komane jermal eo an
 ebolemen im tiljek ilo an kakke aikuij ko
 ej jermal jimwe ilo ejelok kalijeklok ak jeb
 ejenolok im jutaklok ian make
 ewor an kautiej armej im
 etiljek, jela nae, jela kunaan, im jela karejar
 iben armej,
 ej kaurok im kautiej manit im men ko bwinnid
 im ad jolet, ekoba lomnak im wawein jermal ko
 rekaal.*

These values form the basis for the Judiciary's Mission Statement and Vision.

Tomak im aurok kein rej ejaake bedbed eo non kottobar im ettonak kein ilal.

Mission Statement:

Kottobar Eo:

The mission of the courts of the Marshall Islands, the Judiciary, is to fairly, efficiently, and effectively resolve disputes properly brought before them, discharging their judicial duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution, laws, and customs of this unique island nation, for the benefit of those who use the courts' services.

Kottobar eo an Jikin Ekajet ko an Marshall Islands ej non jermal jimwe ilo ejelok kalijeklok, bolemen im tiljek ilo an kakke aikuij ko ilo aoleb abnono ko rej itok imaer, im non komane jermal in ekajet im edro ko aer ekkar non Jemen-Ei eo, kakien ko, im manit ko an ailon kein ad im jej jenolok kaki jen lal ko jet ikijien manit im men ko bwinnid im ad jolet, non emmanlok eo an ro rej bok jiban jen jikin ekajet eo.

Vision:

Ettonak Eo:

The Marshall Islands Judiciary will be an excellent small-island judiciary, deserving of public trust and confidence.

- The Judiciary will be fair and impartial.
- The Judiciary will treat court users and colleagues with dignity, courtesy, and respect, and will require the same in return.
- The Judiciary will provide affordable and accessible services to court users.
- The Judiciary will seek to resolve matters efficiently, while maintaining quality, consistency, and certainty.
- The Judiciary will be independent yet accountable, deciding matters based upon the facts before the courts and a conscientious understanding of the law and custom.
- The Judiciary will administer the courts in accordance with internationally recognized standards for leadership, management, and accountability.
- The Judiciary will seek and employ innovative practices and procedures to better serve court users, to identify users' needs, and to develop court personnel.
- The Judiciary will maintain adequate and safe courthouses and a supportive work environment.

Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo an Marshall Islands enaj juon eo ebolemen, im ebed liki im kojatdrikdrik an armij ro ie.

- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj jermal jimwe ilo ejelok an kalijeklok.*

- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj kile, kautej, im karejar ippen ro rej kojerbal im bukot jiban jen jikin ekajet eo, ekoba dri-jerbal ro mottam, im enaj kotmene bwe armij renaj ukot tok ilo ejja wawein kein wot.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj komman bwe en drik wonen, bidodo, im ejelok aban non ro rej kojerbal im bok jiban jen jikin ekajet eo.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj bukot kojkan bwe en mokaj, emman, im jejet wawein am bukot mejlan ailwaro im aikuj ko.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj komman jemlok non abnono ko, ilo an ejelok kibel jen ijoko jabrewot, bedbed wot ion menin kamol ko rej walok, im jen am melele kin kien im manit.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj kommani jerbal im eddro ko an court ekkar non jonak im wawein ko lal in ej kili im lori ikijen jerbal in tel, lolorjake, im bok eddro.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj bukot im kojerbal wawein im rebeltan jerbal ko rekaal bwe en emman lok am kake aikuj ko an ro rej kojerbal jikin ekajet eo, im bareinwot non am kolablok kabeel ibben dri-jerbal ro ilo jikin ekajet eo.*
- *Ra eo an jikin ekajet eo enaj lolorjake bwe jikin ekajet ko ren ainemmon im bolemeir, im bwe jitbon jerbal in ippen dron eo en wonmanlok wot.*

2022 REPORT OF THE JUDICIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

I. INTRODUCTION

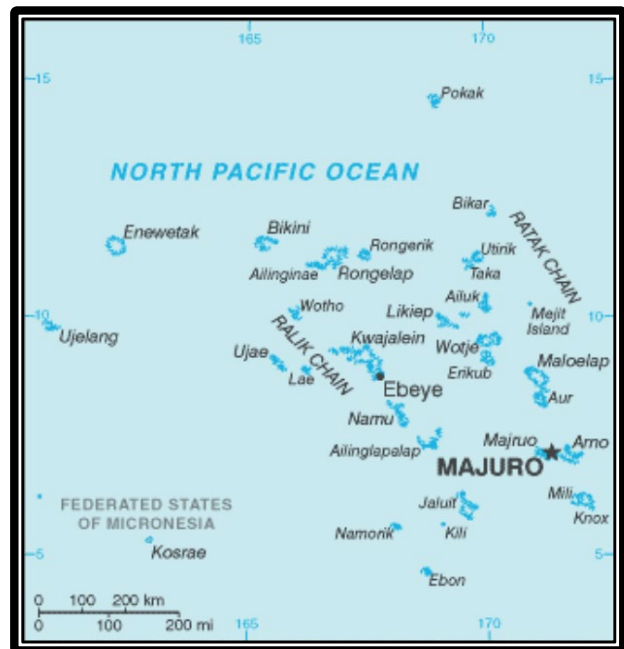
The Republic of the Marshall Islands consists of two nearly parallel island chains of 29 atolls and five separate islands—about 1,225 islets in all—located about half way between Hawaii and Australia. The Republic’s land mass totals approximately 70 square miles scattered over 822,784 square miles of the Pacific Ocean. As of July 2022, the estimated population of the Marshall Islands was approximately 42,782. However, estimates vary greatly.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a young nation. After more than three decades of United States administration under the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), the Marshall Islands commenced constitutional government on May 1, 1979, as part of a process toward self-government.

Seven and a half years later, on October 21, 1986, the Marshall Islands formally regained independence through an agreement with the United States, the Compact of Free Association. In 1992, the Marshall Islands became a member of the United Nations. The Marshall Islands is now fully self-governing under its own constitution.

Under the Constitution, the Marshall Islands has a Westminster-style government with a 33-member parliament called the Nitijela. At least every 4 years, after national elections, the Nitijela elects from its members a president, who in turn selects 8 to 10 other Nitijela members for his or her cabinet. The Constitution vests legislative authority in the Nitijela (the parliament) and the *Imon Iroij* (House of Chiefs), executive authority in the Cabinet, and judicial authority in the judiciary (“Judiciary”).

Article VI of the Constitution provides for a judiciary “independent of the legislative and executive powers.” The Judiciary comprises five levels of courts, as well as a Judicial Service Commission and court staff. The courts include the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Traditional Rights Court, the District Court, and the Community Courts. The Judiciary officially commenced operation on March 3, 1982, assuming judicial functions in the Marshall Islands,



which had been discharged by the High Court of the TTPI. An organizational chart of the Judiciary is attached as Appendix 1, and a listing of Judiciary personnel at the end of calendar year 2022 is attached as Appendix 2.

In the sections that follow, this report summarizes the Judiciary’s operations and accomplishments in calendar year 2022, as well as its challenges, including the need for financial support. These sections include the following:

- The Courts: Efficiency, Quality, and Accessibility;
- The Judicial Service Commission: Judicial Appointments;
- Accountability: Codes of Conduct and Complaints;
- Facilities, Technology, and Library; and
- Annual Budget and Audit Report.

II. THE COURTS: EFFICIENCY, QUALITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The goals of the Judiciary include to be efficient, to produce quality decisions, and to be accessible.

- The Judiciary’s **efficiency** can be measured by annual clearance rates, five-year clearance rates, time standards, the age of cleared cases, pending to disposal ratios (“PDR”) and the age of pending cases.
- The **quality** of decisions can be measured by appeals and cases overturned on appeal.
- **Accessibility** can be measured by fee waivers, lower fees for vulnerable litigants, cases heard on circuit, free legal counsel, the availability of forms, the accessibility of courthouses, appearance by contemporaneous transmission, and access for women and those with disabilities.

To these ends, the 2022 Annual Report reviews all five levels of the Judiciary—the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Traditional Rights Court, the District Court, and the Community Courts. The review includes the courts’ jurisdictions, staffing, and case statistics, as well as continuing professional development for judges and staff. The case statistics come from the Judiciary’s Case Tracking System (“CTS”) developed and enhanced through funding by New Zealand. This includes statistics regarding gender, disability, representation, remote proceedings, and fee waiver.

A. Supreme Court

The Supreme Court, the court of last resort, is a superior court of record having appellate jurisdiction with final authority to adjudicate all cases and controversies properly brought before it. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court:

- (i) as of right from a final decision of the High Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction;
- (ii) as of right from a final decision of the High Court in the exercise of its appellate jurisdiction, but only if the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation or effect of the Constitution; and
- (iii) at the discretion of the Supreme Court from any final decision of any court.

Also, the High Court may remove to the Supreme Court questions arising as to the interpretation or effect of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court consists of three justices: a chief justice and two associate justices. To date, all Supreme Court judges have been law-trained attorneys and most have been experienced judges. The current chief justice, Daniel N. Cadra, is a United States citizen appointed to his second 10-year term effective



September 2013. Generally, associate justices have been acting judges from other jurisdictions—the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States Federal District Courts within the Ninth Circuit, the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Canada. In 2022, the acting associate justices were two United States Federal Court judges from the Ninth Circuit: District Court Judge Michael Seabright from the District of Hawaii and Chief District Court Judge Richard Seeborg from the District of Northern California. The Chief Clerk of the Courts, Ingrid K. Kabua, serves as the clerk of the Supreme Court.

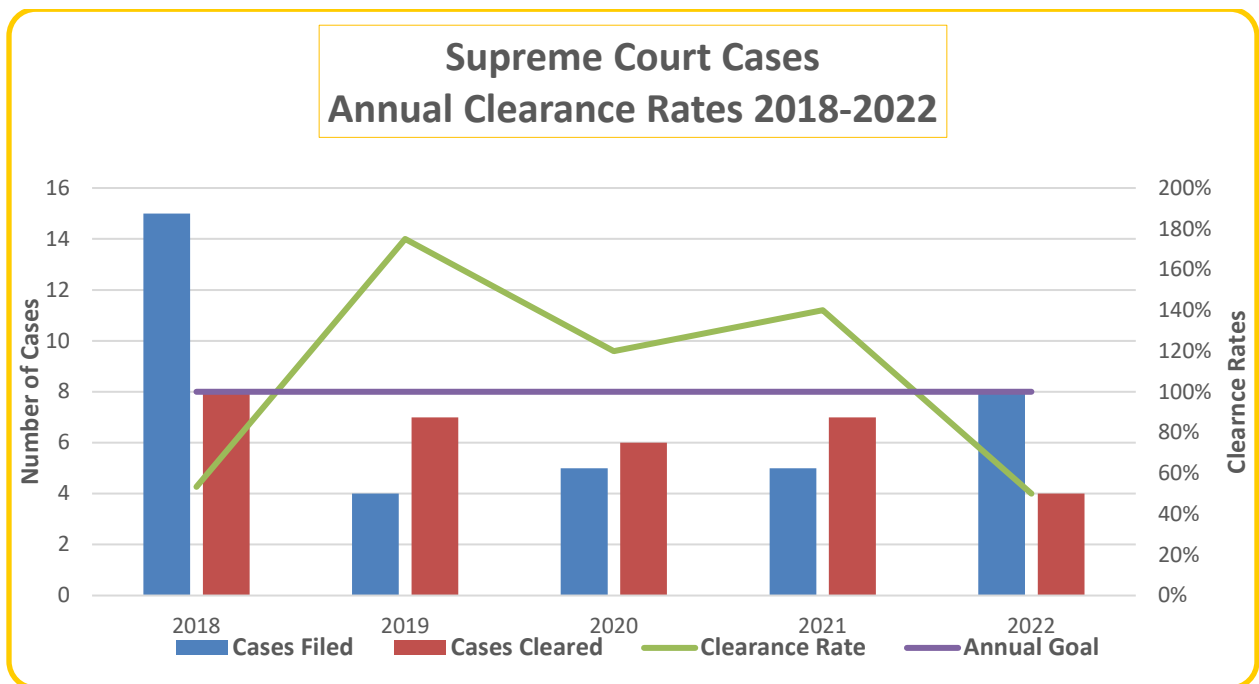
The Supreme Court's 2022 case and workload are summarized below, including annual clearance rates, the five-year clearance rate, the annual average age of cleared cases, and annual average age of pending cases. However, note that as the number of appeals each year is low, the annual performance indicators can fluctuate significantly.

At the beginning of 2022, there were seven matters pending before the Supreme Court. In 2022, another eight matters were filed and four matters were closed (four land cases). By the end of 2022, 11 cases remained.

Like the rest of the Judiciary, in 2022 the Supreme Court’s work was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government’s travel ban and quarantine. Due to the travel ban and quarantine, the Supreme Court cancelled its November 2022 in-person session and instead held the November session via Zoom hosted from the Majuro Courthouse. The Court heard three cases (two land cases and one wrongful death case). The decisions were issued early in 2023.

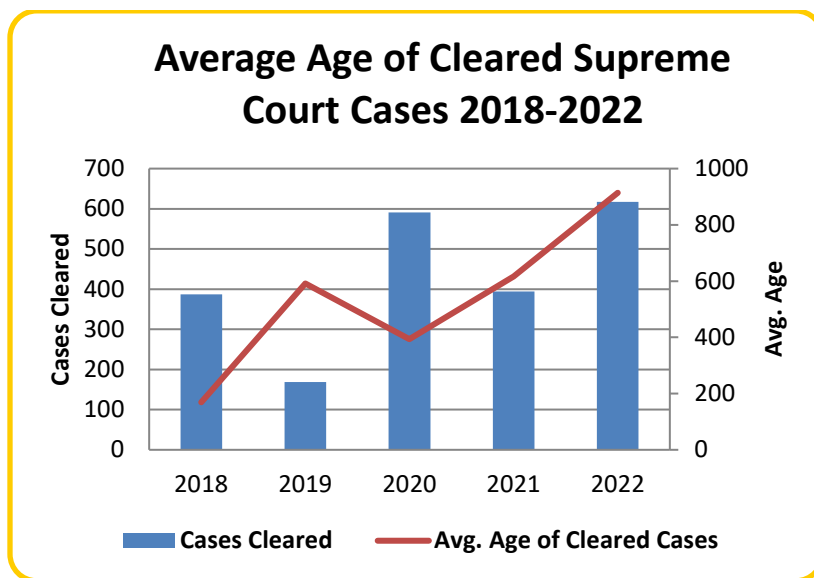
With respect to clearance rates, the Supreme Court’s goal is to achieve an annual clearance rate of 100%. In 2022, with eight cases filed and four cases cleared, the annual clearance rate was only 50% (4/8). The Supreme Court has only achieved an annual clearance rate of 100% in three of the past five years. The five-year clearance rate was 86% (32/37). The Judiciary anticipates that the Supreme Court’s annual clearance rate and five-year clearance rate will continue to fluctuate around 100%. To date in 2023, the Supreme Court has cleared eight of the 11 cases pending from 2022, and no new appeals have been filed.

Annual and 5-Year Clearance Rates for Supreme Court Cases 2018-2022						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year
Cases Filed	15	4	5	5	8	37
Cases Cleared	8	7	6	7	4	32
Clearance Rate	53%	175%	120%	140%	50%	86%
Annual Goal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



In addition to the clearance rate figures, the Judiciary tracks the average age of cleared Supreme Court cases. In 2022, the average age of the four cases cleared was 914 days. The five-year trend for the average age of cleared Supreme Court cases is set forth below in the table and chart. The age of cleared cases in 2022 increased by 594 days, 48%, over 2021's figure. The higher average age of cleared cases 2022 resulted from clearing three appeals from previous years.

Average Age of Cleared Supreme Court Cases 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cases Cleared	8	7	6	7	4
Avg. Age of Cleared Cases	169	591	394	617	914



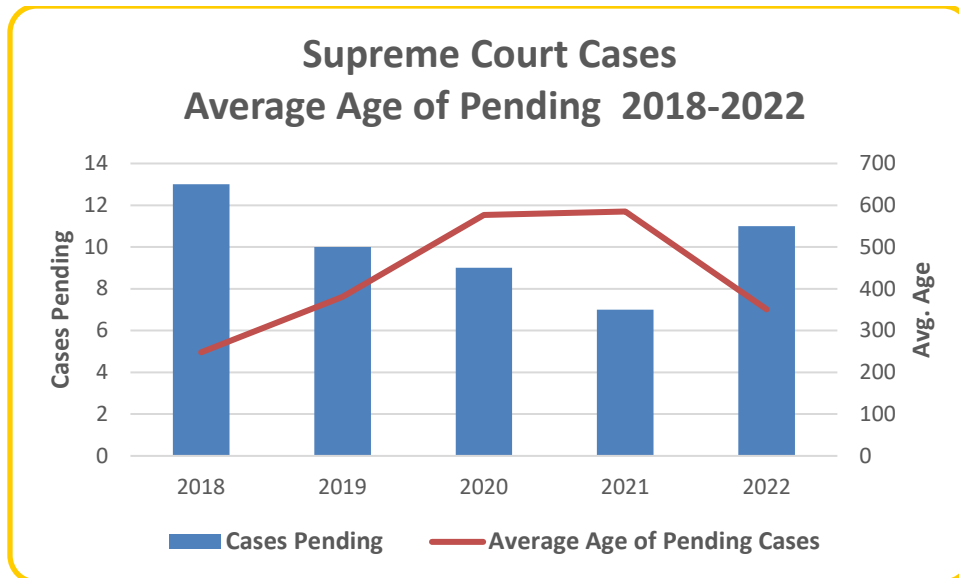
In addition to the annual clearance rate figure and average of cleared cases, the Judiciary tracks the pending to disposal ratio or PDR. This is the number of cases pending at the end the year divided by the number of cases disposed or cleared in the past 12 months. The PDR is a lead indicator. That is, a PDR consistently over 1.0 is likely to lead to a backlog. For 2022, the Supreme Court's PDR was 2.75 (11/4), suggesting a potential backlog. However, as noted above, to date in 2023 the Supreme Court has cleared eight of the 11 pending cases.

In addition to the disposal rate, to track the Supreme Court's efficiency the Judiciary also reviews the distribution and the average age of pending cases. At the end of 2022, there were 11 cases pending before the Supreme Court: one from 2020, two from 2021, and seven from 2022. This relatively short "tail" demonstrates that the Supreme Court is clearing its older cases.

Regarding the average age of pending cases, as the table below shows, at the end of 2022 the average age of the 11 pending Supreme Court cases was 351 days, down 234 days from 585 the

end of 2021. The five-year trend for the average age of pending Supreme Court cases is set forth below in the table and chart. The decrease in the age of pending cases is due to the low number of appeal cases filed in 2020 and 2021 and clearing older cases.

Average Age of Pending Supreme Court Cases 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pending Cases	13	10	9	7	11
Average Age of Pending Cases	248	381	577	585	351



Beyond being efficient, the Judiciary seeks to be accessible. With respect to the Supreme Court’s accessibility, the Judiciary has received no complaints.

- Low Filing Fees.** The filing fee for most appeals is low, only \$100, and the availability of fee waivers was, and continues to be, widely publicized. The filing fee for non-resident matters is higher. That is, the filing fee is \$1,000 for appeals involving a non-resident entity, a foreign entity, or a foreign maritime entity, or cases involving the enforcement of a foreign judgment, arbitration award, or the like.
- Fee Waivers.** Of the eight cases filed in 2022, fee waivers for the filing fee and transcript fee were only sought in the one criminal appeal. In that case, fee waivers were granted in the High Court, court appealed from.
- Legal Aid Services.** Of the eight cases filed in 2022, one criminal defendant and one civil plaintiff were represented by the Office of the Public Defender (“OPD”). In two civil cases the defendants were self-presented. The remainder of the parties were represented by private counsel.

- **Women’s Access to Justice.** In 2022, the Supreme Court tracked the gender of appellees and appellants on the Judiciary’s CTS. In the eight cases filed in 2022, six of the appellants and appellees were women, all in land cases.
- **Accommodation for Disabilities.** In 2022, the Supreme Court tracked via the CTS the disability status of litigants. In three appeal cases, the parties were seniors (over 60 years of age) and had multiple disabilities, including walking and hearing. However, no hearings were held in the matters, and the disabled parties usually are represented by other family members without disabilities.
- **Proceedings Heard by Contemporaneous Transmission.** As noted above, in 2022, the Supreme Court’s one session was conducted using contemporaneous transmission (i.e., Zoom). The justices and counsel were able to appear via Zoom and parties could observe the proceedings in the Majuro Courthouse and via Zoom.
- **Publication of Decisions.** All the Supreme Court’s decisions can be found on the Judiciary’s website, <http://rmicourts.org/>, under the heading Court Decisions and Digests.

Aside from the Supreme Court’s regular docket, Supreme Court Chief Justice Cadra, together with High Court Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram, admits new attorney to the practice of law in the Republic. In most years, one or two Marshallese law graduates will seek admission to practice law and around six attorneys from overseas will seek admission to represent clients with respect to non-resident litigation. However, in 2022 no Marshallese applied to practice law and due to the Government’s COVID-19 travel ban, the Judiciary did not offer the bar examination to overseas attorneys seeking admission. In 2023, the Judiciary scheduled a bar examination in July; however, no applicants appeared.

B. High Court

The High Court is the highest court at the trial level. It is a superior court of record having general jurisdiction over controversies of law and fact in the Marshall Islands. The High Court has original jurisdiction over all cases properly filed with it, appellate jurisdiction over cases originally filed in subordinate courts, and, unless otherwise provided by law, jurisdiction to review the legality of any final decision of a government agency.



In 2022, the High Court included a chief justice and three associate justices: Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram and Associate Justice Witten T. Philippo for the entire year and in the last part of the year Associate Justice Murnane. All are law-trained attorneys, as have been all prior High Court judges, and attend at least one professional development seminar or workshop each year. Chief Justice Ingram was appointed to his second ten-year term in October 2013. Although Chief Justice Ingram is a United States citizen, he has lived and worked in the Marshall Islands since 1979. In 2018, Associate Justice Philippo, as a citizen of the Republic was appointed until age 72 (January 31, 2030). In November 2022, the High Court added a third justice, Linda Murnane. Associate Justice Murnane was appointed to a two-year term commencing in November 2022, renewable for a second two-year term.



In addition to the three justices, the High Court is served by a chief clerk of the courts and four assistant clerks. The High Court’s 2022 case statistics for civil cases, probate cases, criminal cases, juvenile cases, and caseloads are set forth below.

1. Civil Cases (other than Probate Cases)

The High Court’s 2022 statistics for civil cases (include family and personal status cases, general civil case, land cases, and other civil matters, excluding probate cases) cover the following:

- the number and nature of cases filed;
- the annual clearance rate and the five-year clearance rate;
- the average age of cleared cases at the end of the year;
- the time standards: clear 70% of cases cleared within 120 days and 90% within 730 days (24 months);
- the pending to disposal ratio;
- the distribution of pending cases, i.e., the “tail”;
- the average age of pending cases at the end of the year and the five-year trend;
- the percentage of cleared cases appealed and the percentage of cases overturned on appeal; and

- affordability and accessibility in terms of fee waivers, low fees for vulnerable parties, cases heard on circuit, appearance by contemporaneous transmission, legal aid, forms, and access for women and those with disabilities.

a. Number and Nature of Cases Filed

In 2022, plaintiffs and petitioners filed 249 new civil cases in the High Court: 218 in Majuro and 31 in Ebeye. This is 28 more than the 221 cases filed in 2021. This increase may reflect petitioners seeking to confirm customary adoptions and guardianships prior to moving to the United States.

The 218 civil cases filed in Majuro in 2022 breakdown as follows:

- 126 (58%), involved family and personal status matters (including 66 customary adoptions, one legal adoption, one child custody and support case, seven citizenship cases, two civil confinement cases, five divorce cases with child custody and/or support, eight divorce cases without child custody and/or support, seven domestic violence cases seeking protection orders, 27 guardianships, one name-change case, and one personal representative);
- 70 (32%) commercial cases (61 collection cases, one contract case, four corporate cases, two declaratory relief cases, one enforcement of foreign judgments cases, and one maritime case);
- 13 (9%) land cases; and
- 9 (4%) other cases (two appeals; two election cases, two injunctive relief cases, and three tort cases).

Of the 218 civil cases filed in Majuro in 2022, 177 were cleared in 2021, leaving 41 civil cases filed in 2022 pending at the end of the year: one confirmation of customary adoption; four citizenship cases, one divorce case with child custody and/or support, one domestic violence cases seeking protection orders, and two guardianships; nine collection cases; one contract case; four corporate cases; two declaratory relief case; 13 land rights cases; and three tort cases.

As noted above, 31 civil cases were filed in Ebeye. Of the 31, 21 were family and personal status matters (17 confirmations of customary adoption, one legal adoption, one domestic violence case seeking a protection order, two guardianship cases). The remaining 10 cases were collection cases. All but two of the 31 Ebeye civil cases were cleared in 2022. Two collection cases remained open.

Also, with respect to the civil cases, the High Court tracks via its CTS the gender of the parties and other persons. Almost all child custody and support cases, divorce cases with child

custody and/or support, and domestic violence protection order cases are filed by women against men. Otherwise, the case numbers disaggregated by gender do not reveal any pattern or trend. Most Marshallese seeking divorces, child custody and support, and domestic violence protection orders are represented at no cost by the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (“MLSC”). However, every year or two, there will be a non-Marshallese couple seeking a divorce (e.g., Americans stationed at the United States missile range on Kwajalein Atoll). They are usually represented by private attorneys.

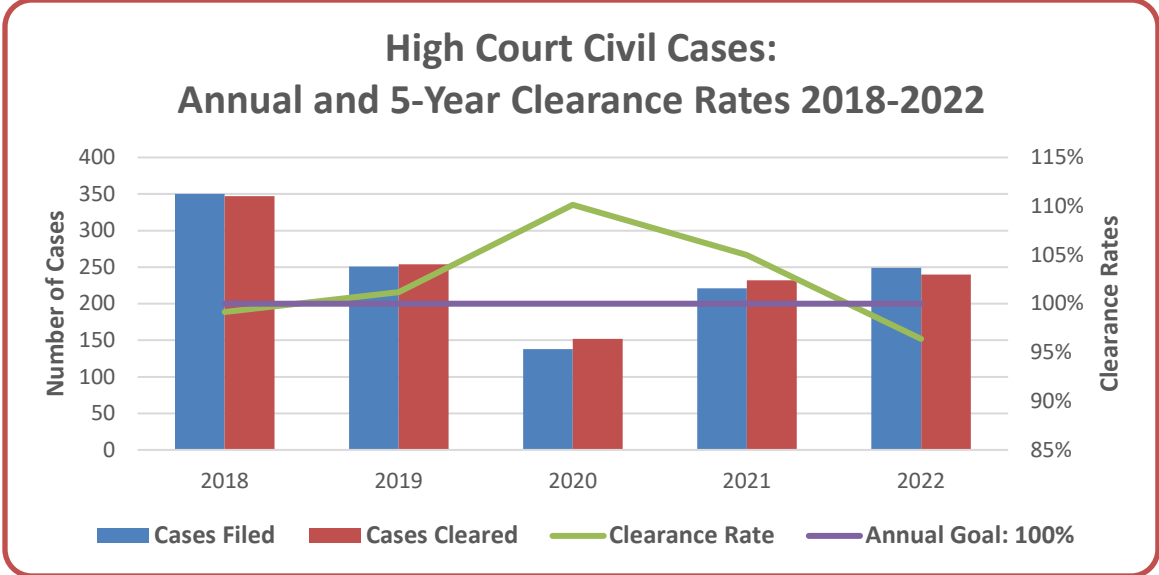
The High Court also tracks via the CTS the disability status of litigants. The most common disability is difficulty walking. When litigants, attorneys, or witnesses cannot easily climb stairs, their cases are heard in a ground-floor courtroom, and land rights cases, which involve older litigants and witnesses, are as a rule heard in a ground-floor courtroom. Also, witness depositions are used, particularly if the witness is home or hospital bound or lives overseas. Except as noted, disaggregation by disability status does not reveal any pattern.

Based upon this civil caseload, the High Court measures its efficiency in terms of the annual clearance rates, the five-year clearance rate, time standards, the age of cleared cases, disposed to pending ratio, distribution of pending cases, and the age of pending cases.

b. Annual Clearance Rate and the Five-Year Clearance Rate

With respect to clearance rates, the High Court’s clearance goals are to achieve a 100% clearance rate each year and 100% over five years. In 2022, the High Court only recorded an annual clearance rate of 96% for civil cases: 240 cases were cleared and 249 were filed. However, in 2022 the five-year clearance rate remained above 100% at 101% (1,225 cleared and 1,209 filed) – an excellent consistent level of performance. The High Court expects both the annual clearance rate and the five-year clearance rate to remain within 5% of the 100% goal.

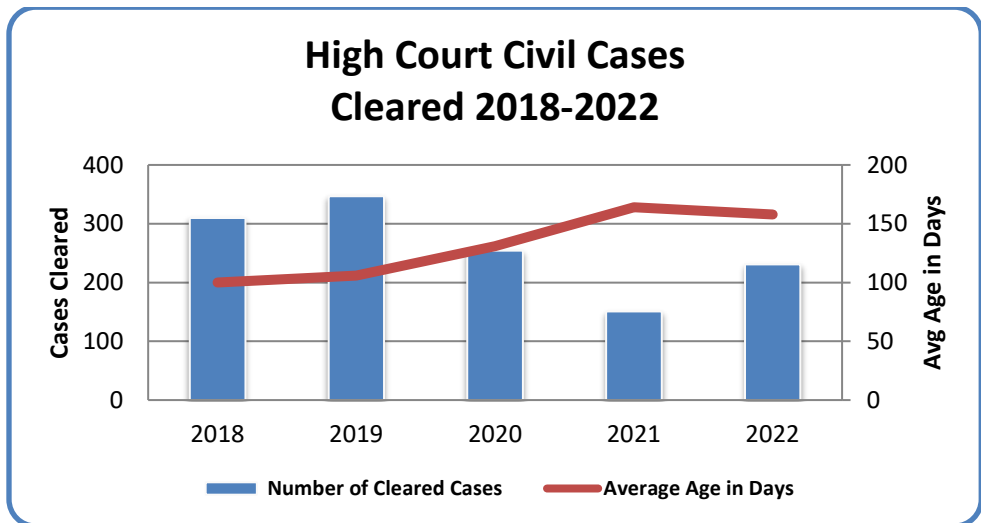
High Court Civil Cases: Annual and 5-Year Clearances Rates 2018 to 2022						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year
Cases Filed	350	251	138	221	249	1209
Cases Cleared	347	254	152	232	240	1225
Clearance Rate	99%	101%	110%	105%	96%	101%
Annual Goal: 100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



c. Average Age of Cleared Cases at the End of the Year and the Five-Year Trend

As the table below shows, in 2022 the average age of the 246 cleared High Court cases was 158 days, 6 days less than in 2021.

Average Age of High Court Civil Cases Cleared 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Cleared Cases	358	242	182	236	246
Average Age in Days	100	106	131	164	158



d. Time Standard: To Clear 70% of Cleared Cases Within 120 Days and 90% Within 730 Days (24 Months)

Each year the High Court seeks not only to meet its clearance goals, but also to meet its time standards. That is, to clear 70% of its cleared civil cases within 120 days and 90% within 730 days (i.e., 24 months). In 2022, the High Court met and surpassed its time standards for civil cases. The High Court cleared 70% of cases within only 81 days (39 days less than the 120-day standard) and 90% within only 544 days (186 days less than 730-day standard).

e. Pending to Disposal Ratio

In addition to the clearance rate goals, the average age of cleared cases, and time standards, and, as an indicator of efficiency, the High Court tracks the pending to disposal ratio (PDR) for civil cases. As noted above, the PDR is the number of cases pending at the end the year divided by the number of cases disposed or cleared in the past 12 months. The High Court’s goal is to maintain a PDR of 1.0 or less. For 2022, the High Court’s PDR for civil cases was very good at 0.43 (103/240).

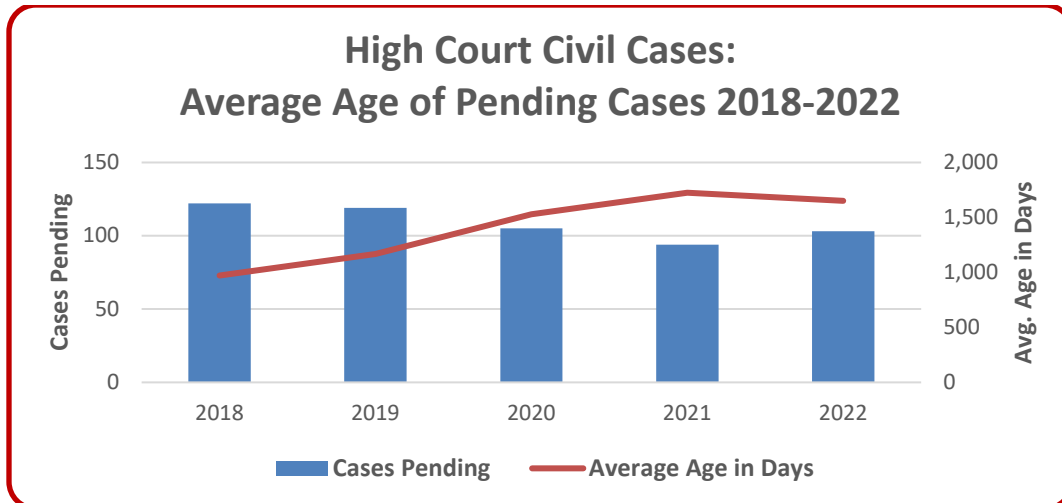
f. Distribution of Pending Cases, the “Tail”

In addition to the PDR, the High Court tracks the distribution of pending civil cases, the “tail.” At the end of 2022, there were 49 civil cases, a little less than have, pending from pre-2010 to 2020. This relatively long “tail.” Most of these cases are customary land cases, which take longer than must cases to resolve. The High Court and the Traditional Rights Court continue to work hard to resolve the customary land cases without undue delay while affording the parties an opportunity to be heard.

g. Average Age of Pending Cases at the End of the Year and the Five-Year Trend

With respect to pending cases, the High Court also tracks their average age, in 2022 the number of pending cases went up from 94 in 2021 to 103 in 2022. However, the average of pending cases went down: from 1,725 days in 2021 to 1,650 days in 2022. This is the result of clearing more recent cases in 2022 and in 2021.

Average Age of Pending High Court Cases 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Pending Cases	122	119	105	94	103
Average Age in Days	972	1,167	1,529	1,725	1,650



Of the 103 cases pending at the end of 2022, 54 cases or approximately 52% were land cases. This is a reduction of 6% over 2021. The High Court and the Traditional Rights Court continue to work hard to resolve the land cases without undue delay while affording the parties an opportunity to be heard.

h. Appeals

In addition to measuring efficiency, it is important to review the quality of judgments. Courts can measure the quality of their judgments in two ways: the percentage of cleared cases appealed and the percentage of cases overturned on appeal.

In 2022, appellants filed seven appeals from High Court civil decisions: one collection case, four land cases; one criminal case; and one maritime case. That is, there were seven appeals filed from High Court decisions versus 240 cases cleared in the High Court, or 2.9%. Below is a table and chart showing the number of cleared cases appealed versus cases not appealed over the past five years.

Cleared High Court Civil Cases Not Appealed v. Appealed 2018-2022						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Avg.
Cases Cleared	347	254	152	232	240	245
Cases Appealed	14	3	5	3	7	6
% of Cases Appealed	4.0%	1.2%	3.3%	1.3%	2.9%	2.6%
Cases Not Appealed	333	251	147	229	233	239
% of Cases Not Appealed	96.0%	98.8%	96.7%	98.7%	97.1%	97.4%

In 2022, no High Court civil cases from 2021, or from previous years, were overturned on appeal. The percentage of cases overturned on appeal was 0%.

i. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Cases Heard on Circuit; Appearances by Contemporaneous Transmission; Legal Aid; Forms; and Access for Women and Those with Disabilities

It is not enough that courts be efficient and that the quality of judgments be high. The courts must be affordable and accessible. Affordability and accessibility to justice may be measured in terms of the availability of fee waivers, lower fees for vulnerable parties, the number of cases heard on circuit, the availability of free legal service, and the availability of forms.

- **Fee Waivers.** By rule and statute, fee waivers are available upon a showing of need. In 2022, as in recent years, the High Court continued to aggressively publish fee waiver rules. However, no one requested a fee waiver in a High Court civil case.
- **Low Filing Fees.** The filing fee for most types of High Court civil cases remained low: only \$25. In 2016, the filing fee for child custody and support cases (usually filed by single mothers) was reduced from \$25 to \$5. To off-set the low fees for most users, fees for admiralty cases, enforcement of foreign judgments, non-resident corporate cases, international adoptions, and citizenship cases are substantially higher.
- **Cases Heard on Circuit.** As noted above, in 2022, 31 High Court cases were filed for the Ebeye circuit.
- **Proceeding Heard by Contemporaneous Transmission.** Also, in 2022 the CTS reveals that counsel, parties, or witnesses in civil cases appeared by contemporaneous transmission (i.e., via Zoom or Skype) in 118 out 529 conferences, hearings, or trials.
- **Legal Aid Services.** In 2022, the use of free legal services remained high. In the 249 civil cases filed in 2022, 189 parties were represented by MLSC or the OPD, both of which provide legal assistance for free. Also, in 2022, approximately 24 plaintiffs (or prospective plaintiffs) were assigned a free court-appointed attorney for their claims. In FY 2022, the Judiciary collected \$54,319 to pay court-appointed attorneys from private counsel who wished to opt-out of taking court-appointed cases.
- **Forms.** The Judiciary has long used forms in small claims cases, name-change petitions, and guardianship cases. Since 2013, the Judiciary has posted on its website and made available at courthouses forms for fee and cost waivers, confirmation of customary adoptions, guardianship petitions, divorce petitions, domestic-violence temporary protection orders, name-change petitions, and small claims cases.

2. Probate Cases

Set forth below are the High Court’s 2022 case statistics for probate cases, covering:

- the number of cases filed;

- the annual clearance rate and the five-year clearance rate;
- the average age of cleared cases at the end of the year and the five-year trend;
- the time standard: 90% of cases cleared to be cleared within 90 days;
- the pending to disposal ratio;
- the average age of pending cases at the end of the year and the five-year trend;
- the percentage of cleared cases appealed and the percentage of cases overturned on appeal; and
- affordability and accessibility in terms of fee waivers, low fees for smaller cases, cases heard on circuit, appearances by contemporaneous transmission, legal aid, and access for women and those with disabilities.

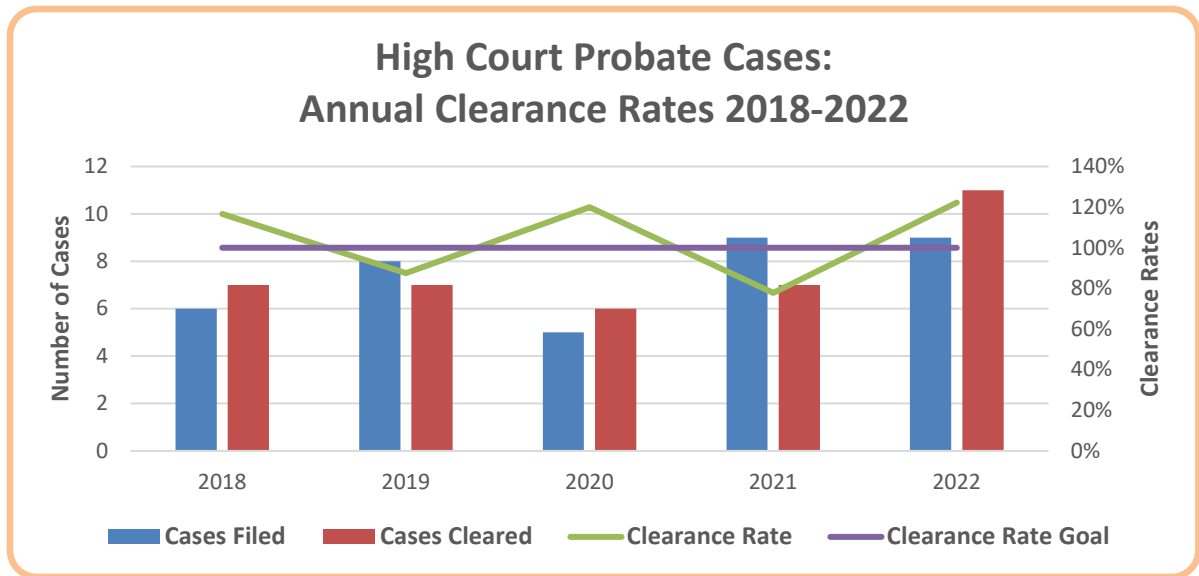
a. Number of Probate Cases

In 2022, nine probate cases were filed, the same as in 2021. All nine cases were filed in Majuro. None of the cases were filed in Ebeye. However, as noted below, one Ebeye probate case was pending from 2019.

b. Annual Clearance Rate and The Five-Year Clearance Rate

The High Court’s goals for probate cases are to achieve an annual clearance rate of 100% and a five-year clearance rate of 100%. In 2022, the High Court cleared 11 probate cases, all Majuro cases, for an annual clearance rate of 122% (11/9). The five-year clearance rate for probate cases was 103% (38/37). Given the relatively low number of probate cases filed each year, the annual clearance rate and five-year clearance rate should continue to fluctuate from around 80% to 120% as it has over the past five years.

High Court Probate Cases: Annual and 5-Year Clearance Rates 2018-2022						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year
Cases Filed	6	8	5	9	9	37
Cases Cleared	7	7	6	7	11	38
Clearance Rate	117%	88%	120%	78%	122%	103%
Clearance Rate Goal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



c. Average Age of Cleared Cases at the End of the Year

The average age of the 11 cases cleared in 2022 was 84 days, 28 days more than in 2021. This increase was due to one case filed on June 25, 2021, and pending until dismissed on February 28, 2022, for the failure to proceed.

d. Time Standard: To Clear 90% of Cleared Cases Within 90 Days of the Day Filed

In addition to the annual clearance rate goal of 100%, the High Court seeks annually to clear 90% of its cleared probate cases within 90 days. Of the 11 probate cases cleared in 2022, the High Court cleared 10 within 90 days, 91% (10/11). In 2022, the High Court met its time standard for probate cases.

e. Pending to disposal ratio

In addition to the clearance rate and time standard goals, as an indicator of efficiency, the High Court tracks the pending to disposal ratio for probate cases, i.e., the number of cases pending at the end the year divided by the number of cases disposed or cleared in the past 12 months. The High Court’s goal is to maintain a PDR of 1.0 or less. In 2022, the High Court’s PDR for probate cases was very good at 0.09 (1/11).

f. Average Age of Pending Cases at the End of the Year

Regarding pending probate cases at the end of 2022, there was only one, an Ebeye case filed in 2019 pending for 1,192 days. The Court had been waiting for objectors in the United States to file submissions. The case was cleared in 2023.

g. Appeals

In 2022, no probate cases were appealed, nor were any cases from previous years overturned on appeal. Accordingly, the percentage of probate cases appealed was 0%, and the percentage of appealed probate cases overturned on appeal was 0%. This has been the case for more than the past five years.

h. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Low Fees, Cases Heard on Circuit; Appearances by Contemporaneous Transmission; and Legal Aid

As noted above, affordability and accessibility to justice can be seen in the availability of fee waivers, low fees for smaller cases, the number of cases heard on circuit, appearances by contemporaneous transmission, the availability of free legal service, and access for women and persons with disabilities.

- **Fee Waivers.** As with other civil cases, fee waivers are available in probate cases. However, in 2022 (as in recent years) no one requested a fee waiver in a probate case. In 2022, the High Court widely published notice of the waivers, as it did in 2021.
- **Low Filing Fees.** In 2022, the fees for probate cases remained low. The filing fee for probate cases is \$25, \$100 for estates over \$7,000.
- **Cases Heard on Circuit.** Of the nine probate cases filed in 2022, none were filed for the Ebeye circuit. Of the 11 probate cases cleared in 2022, none were Ebeye cases.
- **Legal Aid Services.** In seven of the nine probate cases filed in 2022 (78%), the petitioner was represented by MLSC. Two probate cases were filed by private counsel. In most years, all but one or two probate petitioners are represented by MLSC.
- **Proceedings Hearing by Contemporaneous Transmission.** In 2022, none of counsel, parties, or witnesses in probate cases requested to appear by contemporaneous transmission (i.e., via Zoom).
- **Women's Access to Justice.** The 2022 probate statistics disaggregated by gender reveals that all of petitioners were women, widows, or daughters of the decedent. Usually, the petitioner will be the surviving spouse, the eldest surviving child, or, failing either, the most senior surviving child present in Majuro. In 2022, one of the probate petitioners was a disabled person, so the hearing was held in the ground-floor courtroom. The petitioner was able to enter the courtroom in using her walker. However, families usually select a representative who is both physically and mentally is good health to serve as the petitioner.

3. Criminal Cases

Set forth below are the High Court's 2022 case statistics for criminal cases. These statistics cover the following:

- the number and nature of criminal cases;
- the annual clearance rate and five-year clearance rate;
- the average age of cleared cases at the end of the year;
- the time standard: 90% percentage of cleared cases to be cleared within 550 days (18 months);
- the pending to disposal ratio;
- the distribution of pending cases, i.e., the tail;
- the average age of pending cases at the end of the year;
- the percentage of cleared cases appealed and the percentage of cleared cases overturned on appeal; and
- affordability and accessibility (low or no fees, fee waivers, cases heard on circuit, appearances by contemporaneous transmission, free legal representation, and access for women and those with disabilities).

a. Number and Nature of Cases

In 2022, the Office of the Attorney-General ("OAG") filed 29 criminal cases in the High Court. Of the 29 cases, 24 were filed in Majuro and five were filed in Ebeye. Also, the High Court heard and dismissed two appeals: one from a District Court decision and one from an Immigration deportation order.

In Majuro, the 24 criminal cases filed in 2022 included the following (by most serious offense charged in the case): one murder; one sexual assault in the 1st degree; one attempted murder; three aggravated assaults; four possessions of prohibited drugs; one burglary; three thefts and/or forgery; one bribery; two misconduct in public office (four defendants), two illegal importation of goods or smuggling (four defendants); one weapons violation; two employment of a non-resident employee; three overstayers.

In the 24 Majuro cases, seven of the defendants were women. Two were charged with employment of a non-resident worker. One was charged with a work permit violation. Two

were charged with the illegal importation of goods or smuggling. One was charged with overstaying her visa. One was charged with bribery.

Of the 24 Majuro cases, females were the victims in at least three cases: one woman was the victim of the sexual assault, one woman was a victim of theft/forgery, and one woman was the victim of burglary. Counseling for victims of domestic violence and sexual violence is available through NGOs and government agencies, including Youth-to-Youth in Health, Women United Together Marshall Islands, the Mental Health Clinic, and the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

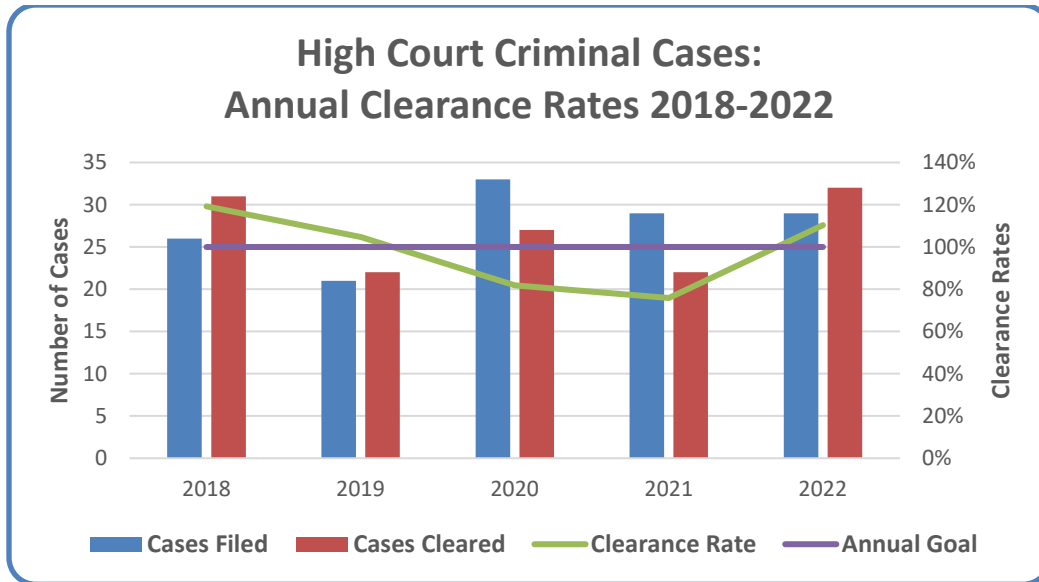
In Ebeye, the five criminal cases filed in 2022 included the following (by most serious offense charged in the case): one murder; one aggravated assault; two sexual assaults in the 2nd degree; and one possession of marijuana less than one ounce. All five defendants were men. The victims of the two sexual assaults were women.

Other than as noted above, the High Court’s criminal case statistics, disaggregated by gender or disability, do not reveal any pattern or trend.

b. Annual Clearance Rate and Five-Year Clearance Rate

The High Court’s clearance goals for criminal cases are an annual clearance rate of 100% and a five-year clearance rate of 100%. In 2022, the High Court cleared 32 criminal cases from all years, resulting in a 2022 clearance rate of 110% (32/29). However, in two of the past five years the annual clearance rate was lower than 100%. In 2022, the five-year clearance rate was only 97% (134/138). The high clearance rate in 2022, is a result of the OAG and OPD clearing prior age cases.

High Court Criminal Cases: Annual and 5-Year Clearance Rates 2018-2022						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	5-Year
Cases Filed	26	21	33	29	29	138
Cases Cleared	31	22	27	22	32	134
Clearance Rate	119%	105%	82%	76%	110%	97%
Annual Goal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



c. Average Age of Cleared Cases at the End of the Year

The average age of the 32 cases cleared High Court criminal cases in 2022 was 302 days. As the table below shows, this is an increase of 53 days over the 249 days in 2021. This increase was the of due to the OAG clear 50% more case, including older cases, in 2022 than in 2021.

Average Age of High Court Criminal Cases Cleared 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cases Cleared	31	22	27	22	32
Avg. Age of Cases Cleared	166	166	143	249	302

d. Time Standard: 90% of Cleared Cases Cleared Within 550 Days (18 Months)

In addition to the annual clearance rate, the High Court seeks to clear 90% of the cleared criminal cases within 550 days. In 2022, the High Court cleared 90% of the cleared cases in 555 days, five days over the target of 550 days. Three cases took more than 550 days to complete.

e. Pending to disposal ratio

In addition to the clearance rates and time standard goals, as an indicator of efficiency, the High Court tracks the pending to disposal ratio (PRD) for criminal cases, i.e., the number of cases pending at the end the year divided by the number of cases disposed or cleared in the past 12 months. The High Court’s goal is to maintain a PDR of 1.0 or less. In 2022, the High Court’s PDR for criminal cases was good at 0.56 (18/32).

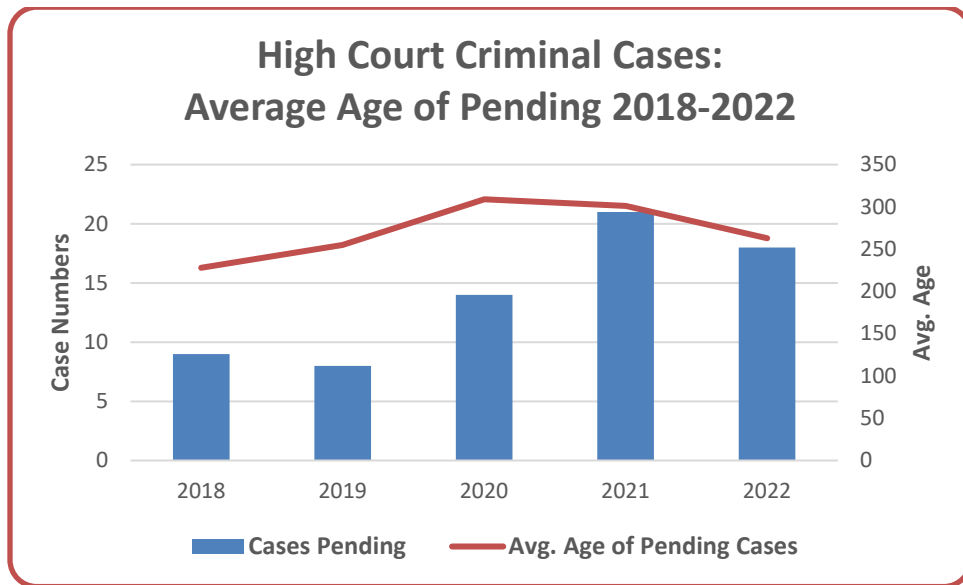
f. Distribution of Pending Cases, the “Tail”

In addition to the clearance rates and the pending to disposal ratio, to track the High Court also tracks the distribution of pending criminal cases, i.e., the “tail.” At the end of 2022, there were 18 criminal cases pending from 2022: 15 from 2022; two from 2021, and one from 2020. This is relatively short “tail.” To date in 2023, the High Court has closed nine cases from 2022 and one from 2021 cases. Only four cases remain from 2022 or before.

g. Average Age of Pending Cases

As the table below shows, by the end of 2022, 18 criminal cases remained pending, down three from 21 cases at the end of 2021. Also, the average age of the pending cases was 263 days, down 38 days from 301 at the end of 2021. The High Court continues to encourage prosecutors and defense counsel to resolve criminal cases, particularly older cases. At the end of 2022, of the remaining 18 cases, two cases were more than 550 days old and 10 cases were equal to or less than 365 days old.

Average Age of High Court Criminal Cases Pending 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cases Pending	9	8	14	21	18
Avg. Age of Pending Cases	228	255	309	301	263



h. Appeals

As a reflection of the quality of High Court criminal decisions, only one of the 32 High Court criminal cases cleared in 2022 was appealed. Accordingly, the percentage of cases appealed was 3% (1/32). In 2022, no criminal cases for other years were reversed on appeal.

i. Affordability and Accessibility: No Fee or Fee Waivers; Cases Heard on Circuit; Appearances by Contemporaneous Transmission; and Legal Aid

The Judiciary seeks to ensure its users affordability and accessible criminal justice through the absence of fees and the availability of fee waivers, circuit court sessions, and free legal representation.

Fee Waivers. That is, the Judiciary does not impose fees or court costs on criminal defendants at the trial level. On appeal, a defendant may apply for waiver of the filing fee and transcript costs. In the one 2022 criminal appeal, the High Court waived the cost of filing the notice of appeal and the transcript cost.

Cases Heard on Circuit. Usually, the High Court travels to Ebeye on circuit once a quarter to hear felony cases. In 2022, the High Court as held three in-court sessions in Ebeye. In 2023, the High Court is on track to conduct four in-person sessions in Ebeye

Cases Heard by Contemporaneous Transmission. In 2022, the CTS reveals that counsel, parties, or witnesses in criminal cases appeared by contemporaneous transmission (i.e., via Zoom or Skype) in 28 out 246 conferences, hearings, or trials.

Legal Aid Services. Finally, criminal defendants have access to free legal counsel if they cannot afford to retain counsel. In 2022, as in other years, all or most criminal defendants who appeared in Court were represented by the OPD, the MLSC, or by private counsel paid by the Legal Aid Fund (“LAF”). In the 29 cases filed in 2022, the defendants were represented by the OPD in 24 cases, and four defendants retained private counsel to represent them, and two defendants represented themselves in cases that were quickly dismissed. A few cases had more than one defendant.

4. Juvenile Cases

In 2022, the OAG did not file any juvenile cases in the High Court. Since 2006, when the Republic filed seven juvenile cases in Majuro, the Republic has filed no more than four High Court juvenile cases in a year. Most other juvenile cases (underage drinking) are heard by the District Court, a limited jurisdiction trial court. In recent years, all juvenile offenders were boys. None of the juveniles has been identified as disabled.

At the beginning of 2022, three juvenile cases filed in 2021 were pending before the High Court. The Court dismissed one case in July 2022, and the Republic refiled the case as an adult criminal case. Due an outbreak of COVID-19 and Government-imposed travel restrictions, the

remaining two of the cases were not cleared. At the end of 2022, the average age of the two cases was 577 days. Both cases were clear in January 2023.

The High Court's annual and five-year clearance goals for juvenile cases are 100%. However, this is very difficult to achieve as the number of High Court juvenile cases is so low. In 2022, the five-year clearance rate was 113% (9/8). The High Court also seeks to clear 80% of juvenile cases within 180 days of filing. This too is a very difficult goal to reach with the very low number of juvenile cases.

In 2022, no juvenile cases were appealed.

To ensure juvenile offenders' access to justice, the Judiciary does not impose fees or court costs on juvenile offenders at the trial level, and on appeal a juvenile offender may apply for and receive a waiver for the cost of the trial transcript. Almost all juvenile offenders are represented by the OPD or private counsel appointed by the court. Additionally, High Court juvenile cases are heard on the Ebeye circuit. If necessary, juvenile proceedings can be conducted using Zoom. However, in 2022, no juvenile proceedings required the appearance of the parties or counsel via Zoom.

5. Caseloads for Judges and Clerks

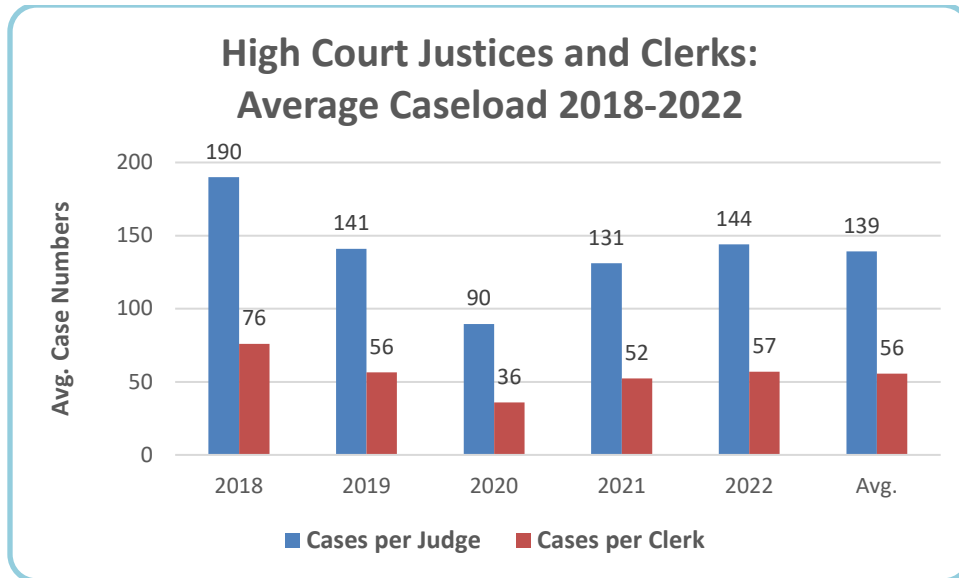
The total number of all High Court cases filed in 2022 was 287, 25 more than in 2021. For most of the year, the total number of High Court justices remained at two. At the end of the year, a third justice was added. Based upon two justices, the caseload was increased on average by 144 cases per justice.

As to case assignments, generally cases are assigned between the justices on a rotating basis, subject to the need to balance the caseloads (as occurred in 2022 and which has continued into 2023), conflicts, cases involving the same or related parties, and the absence of justice from country.

For the five clerks that regularly process High Court cases, their 2022 caseload included 57 new cases per clerk. As with the justices, the clerks' caseloads fluctuate from year-to-year within a limited range. In 2020 the number of new cases was low due in part to the Government's COVID-19 travel restrictions. In 2021 and 2022, the number of new cases has increased.

There is some specialization among the clerks, such as finance and interpretation; however, all clerks handle most functions, including customer service.

Below is a chart showing the five-year High Court caseload trend.



6. Selected Decisions

Selected High Court decisions can be found on the Judiciary’s website, <http://rmicourts.org/>, under the heading Court Decisions and Digests. The selected cases are the most noteworthy ones; ones that the Judiciary believes should be published for the benefit of the public and practitioners. The High Court will not publish a case unless it satisfies one or more of the following standards: (1) the opinion lays down a new rule of law, or alters, modifies an existing rule, or applies an established rule to a novel fact situation; (2) the opinion involves a legal issue of continuing public interest; (3) the opinion directs attention to the shortcomings of existing common law or inadequacies in statutes; (4) the opinion resolves an apparent conflict of authority. Most High Court decisions are routine in nature and generally are of interest only to the parties. The public can get copies of these decisions upon request to the Clerk of the Courts.

C. Traditional Rights Court

Assisting the High Court at the trial level is the Traditional Rights Court (“TRC”). The TRC is a special-jurisdiction court of record consisting of three or more judges appointed for terms of four to 10 years, but not to exceed age 72, and selected to include a fair representation of all classes of land rights: Irojilaplap (high chief); where applicable, Irojiedrik (lesser chief); Alap (head of commoner/worker clan); and Dri Jerbal (commoner/worker).

The jurisdiction of the TRC is limited to questions relating to titles to land rights or other legal interests depending wholly or partly on customary law and traditional practices. The jurisdiction of the TRC may be invoked as of right upon application by a party to a pending High Court proceeding, provided the High Court judge certifies that a substantial question has arisen within the jurisdiction of the TRC.

Customary law questions certified by the High Court are decided by the TRC panel and reported back to the High Court. Upon request by the TRC’s presiding judge, a party, or the referring High Court judge, the Chief Justice of the High Court may appoint a High Court or District Court judge to sit with the TRC to make procedural and evidentiary rulings. In such joint-hearing cases, the High Court or District Court judge does not participate with the TRC in deliberations on its opinion, but the High Court or District Court judge may, in the presence of the parties or their counsel, answer questions of law or procedure posed by the TRC. The TRC’s jurisdiction also includes rendering an opinion on whether compensation for the taking of land rights in eminent domain proceedings is just.



The Constitution states that the High Court is to give decisions of the TRC substantial weight, but TRC decisions are not binding unless the High Court concludes that justice so requires. The Supreme Court has held the High Court is to review and adopt the TRC’s findings unless the findings are clearly erroneous or contrary to law.



In January 2021, the Cabinet and Nitijela elevated Judge Leban (Dri Jerbal member) from associate judge to the chief judge. Her appointment was for a 10-year term. She had been an associate judge for more than 10 years. Associate Judge Nixon David (Iroij member) was reappointed for a third four-year term in 2021. In February 2021, the Cabinet appointed, and the Nitijela’s confirmed, another woman to the TRC bench, Claire T. Loeak. Judge Loeak (Alap member) is the first law-trained TRC judge. Her appointment was for 10 years. In 2022, all TRC judges attended judicial development training programs.

Although two of the three TRC judges are women, only four of the Judiciary’s approximately 30 judges were women: one High Court justice; two Traditional Rights Court judges; and one Community Court judge.



In 2022, the TRC issued seven decisions in five cases, one more decision than in 2021. At the end of 2022, approximately 20 cases were pending before the TRC and another eight were pending the outcome of other land cases.

The TRC’s decisions can be found on the Judiciary’s website, <http://rmicourts.org/>, under the heading Court Decisions and Digests.

D. District Court



In addition to the TRC, the District Court is below the High Court at the trial level. The District Court is a limited-jurisdiction court of record. It consists of a presiding judge and two associate judges appointed for 10-year terms, not to exceed age 72. In 2020, the 3 incumbent judges were Presiding Judge Ablos Tarry Paul, Associate Judge Caios Lucky, and Associate Judge Davidson T. Jajo (Ebeye). Their 10-year terms expire in 2028, 2027, and 2026, respectively.



The current District Court judges are lay judges who receive specialized training. The District Court has original jurisdiction concurrent with the High Court:

- (i) in civil cases where the amount claimed or the value of the property involved does not exceed \$10,000 (excluding matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court by Constitution or statute, such as land title cases and admiralty and maritime matters) and small claim cases not exceeding \$2,500.
- (ii) in criminal cases involving offenses for which the maximum penalty does not exceed a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment for a term of less than 3 years, or both.

The District Court also has appellate jurisdiction to review any decision of a Community Court.

The District Court's 2022 case statistics and case workload are set forth below.

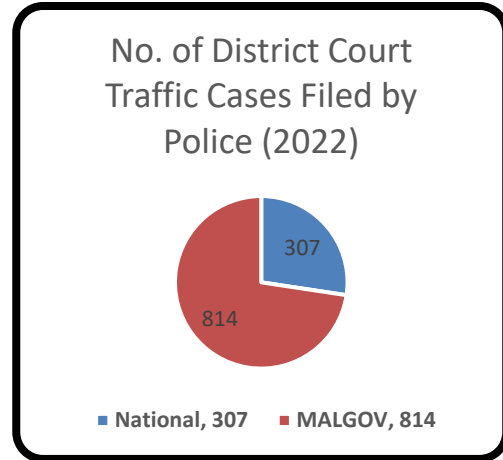
1. Traffic Cases (Majuro)

- the annual clearance rates for the most recent five years;
- the average duration of cleared cases for the most recent five years;
- the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal; and
- affordability and accessibility in terms of fee waivers, cases heard outside of Majuro (the Capital), legal aid, and forms.

a. Number and Nature of Cases Filed

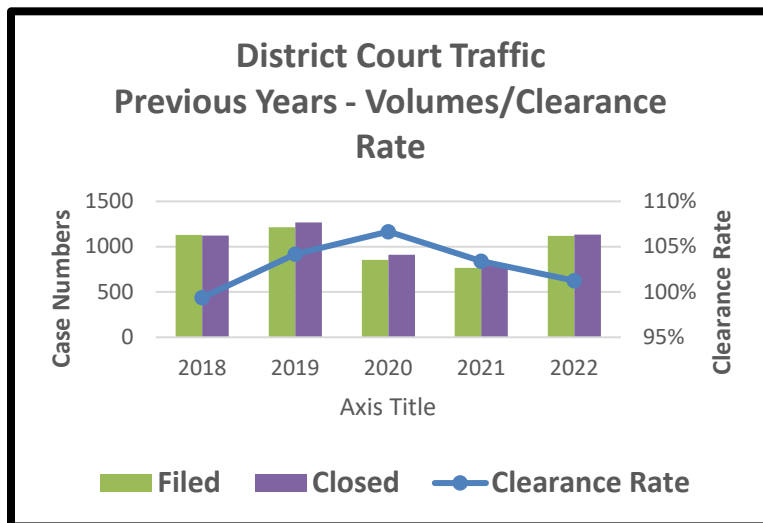
In 2022, the National Police and Majuro Atoll Local Government Police prosecutors filed in the District Court a total of 1,121 traffic cases in Majuro. A total of 142 cases involved DUI/Drunken Driving.

Of the 1,121 traffic cases filed in Majuro in 2022, 1081 cases were finalized in 2022, adding 40 cases to the pending workload at the end of the year. Cases are delayed because the defendants give false addresses or have fled the Republic for the United States or have fled Majuro for the neighboring islands.



b. Clearance Rates

The District Court’s efficiency can be measured by case clearance rates. The District Court’s 2022 annual clearance rate for traffic cases was 101% (finalized/filed). During 2022, the District Court, counsel, and parties finalized 1081 2022 cases and 54 cases from previous years (2020-2021). And as noted above, the government filed 1,121 new cases in 2022. The District Court’s goal is to maintain an annual clearance rate for traffic cases of 100% or better, for each year. Over the past five years, the District Court has achieved a total clearance rate of 103%



Previous Calendar Years	Filed	Closed	Clearance Rate
2018	1130	1123	99%
2019	1216	1267	104%

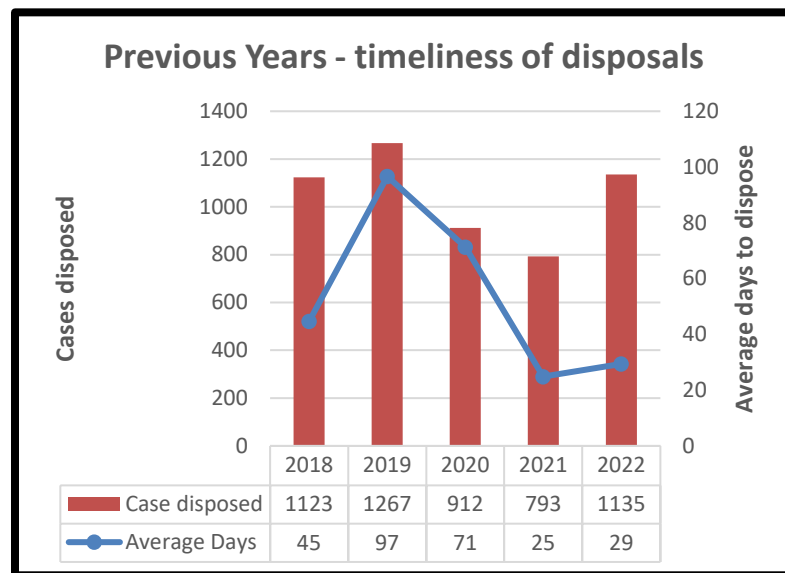
	2020	855	912	107%
	2021	767	793	103%
	2022	1121	1135	101%
	Total/clearance rate	5089	5230	103%

The District Court each month dismisses without prejudice abandoned cases that have been pending six months or more.

c. Average Duration of Traffic Cases Cleared

The average duration of District Court traffic cases cleared in 2022 was 29 days. A total of 1,081 2022 cases, 29 2021 cases, and 25 2020 cases were finalized in 2022.

For Majuro District Court traffic cases filed in the five years (2018-2022), the average durations of finalized cases in days are as follows:



d. Appeals

In addition to measuring efficiency, it is important to review the quality of judgments. The quality of judgments can be measured in two ways: the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal.

In 2022, none of the 1,135 District Court traffic cases cleared in 2022 was appealed to the High Court and remanded back to the District Court. Furthermore, from 2018 to 2021, only 2 traffic case was appealed to the High Court.

e. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Cases Heard Outside of Majuro; Legal Aid; and Forms

As noted earlier, it is not enough that courts be efficient and that the quality of judgment be high. The courts must be affordable and accessible. Affordability and accessibility to justice may be measured in terms of the availability of fee waivers, the number of cases heard outside of the capital Majuro, the availability of free legal service, and the availability of forms.

(i) Fee Waivers

As there are no filing fees for traffic cases, fee waivers are not applicable.

(ii) Cases Heard on Ebeye

A third District Court judge is stationed in Ebeye to handle District Court matters including traffic cases filed there.

(iii) Free Legal Services

At the District Court level, most traffic offenders are self-represented. Only in more serious cases, such as those involving DUI, do they seek legal assistance and representation by the MLSC or the OPD, which both provide free legal assistance. Of the 1,121 traffic cases filed in Majuro in 2022, only 53 defendants (4.7%) were represented by the OPD, 1067 represented themselves (95.2%), and 1 was represented by private counsel (0.1%).

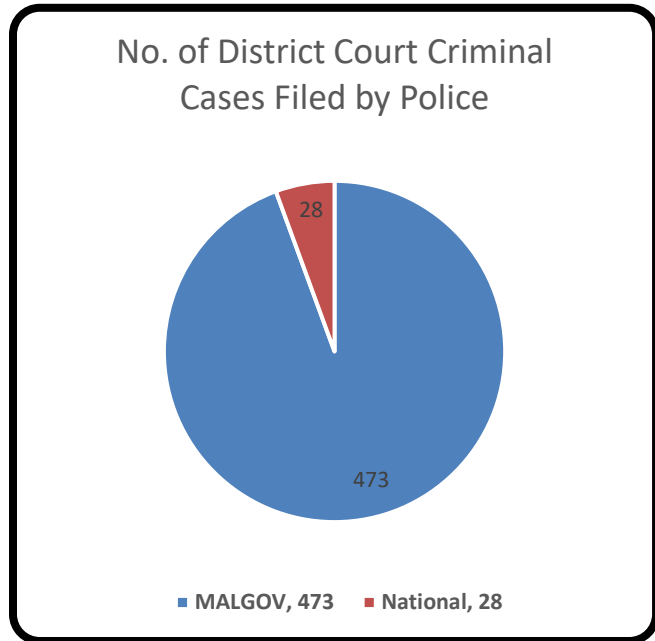
(iv) Forms

Consent judgment forms are available at the Clerk's Office for traffic offenders who wish to plead guilty and pay a fine. Those who use the form do not have to appear in court.

2. Criminal Cases (Majuro)

The District Court's 2022 statistics for Majuro criminal cases cover the following:

- the number and nature of cases filed and finalized in 2022;
- the annual clearance rates for the most recent five years;
- the average duration of cleared cases in the most recent five years;
- the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal; and
- accessibility in terms of fee waivers, cases heard outside of Majuro, legal aid, and forms.



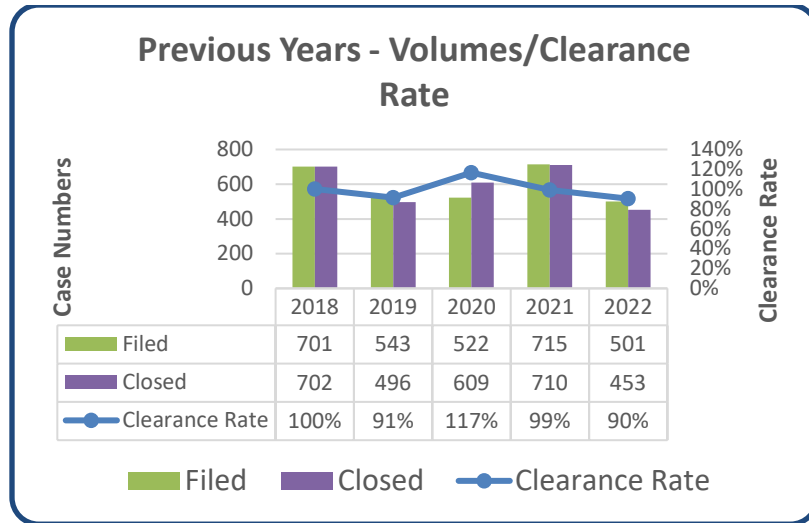
a. Number and Nature of Cases Filed

In 2022, the National Police and Majuro Atoll Local Government Police prosecutors filed in the District Court a total of 501 criminal cases in Majuro.

Of the 501 criminal cases, 453 were cleared in 2022, leaving 48 pending at the end of the year. The 48 cases remained pending due to serious nature, police having difficulty locating defendants who either relocated to the United States, or to the neighboring islands of the Republic, or gave false addresses.

b. Clearance Rates

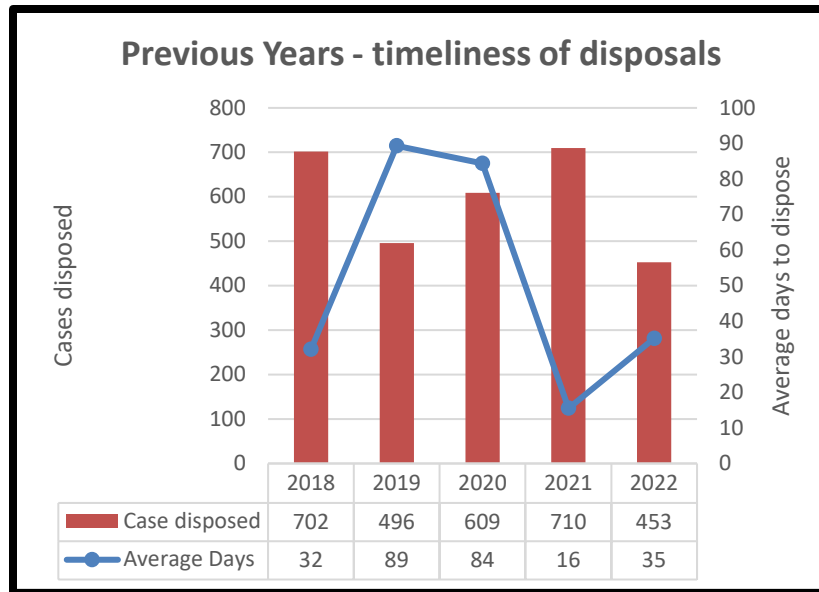
The District Court's goal is to maintain an annual clearance rate for criminal cases of 100%, and a five-year clearance rate of 100%. As noted above, in 2022 the government filed 501 new cases. During 2022, the District Court, counsel, and parties closed only a total of 453 cases, for an annual clearance rate was 90% (453 over 501 cases). However, the clearance rate over five years was 100 %, an excellent rate.



Previous Calendar Years	Filed	Closed	Clearance Rate
2018	701	702	100%
2019	543	496	91%
2020	522	609	117%
2021	715	710	99%
2022	501	453	90%
Total/clearance rate	2982	2970	100%

c. Average Duration of Cleared Criminal Cases

In addition to annual clearance rates, the efficiency of a case management system can be measured by the age of cleared cases. The average duration of District Court criminal cases cleared in 2022 was 35 days.



d. Appeals

In addition to measuring efficiency, it is important to review the quality of judgments. The quality of judgments can be measured in two ways: the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal.

In 2022, only one of the District Court criminal cases cleared in 2022 was appealed to the High Court. Similarly, from 2018 to 2021 one criminal case was appealed. Also, in 2022, there were two District Court criminal case or decisions from any years overturned.

e. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Cases Heard Outside of Majuro; Legal Aid; and Forms

The courts must be affordable and accessible. Affordability and accessibility to justice may be measured in terms of the availability of fee waivers, the number of cases heard outside of the capital Majuro, the availability of free legal service, and the availability of forms.

(i) Fee Waivers

As there are no filing fees for criminal cases, fee waivers are not applicable.

(ii) Cases Heard on Ebeye

A third District Court judge is stationed in Ebeye to handle District Court matters including criminal cases filed there.

(iii) Free Legal Services

At the District Court level, most defendants are self-represented. Only in more serious cases, such as those involving selling alcohol to minors and assault and battery, do defendants seek legal assistance and representation by the MLSC or the OPD, which both provide free legal assistance. Of the 501 criminal cases filed in 2022, there were 503 defendants. Of the 503 defendants 22 (4.4%) were represented by the OPD, 479 represented themselves (95.2%), and 2 were represented by private counsel (0.4%).

(iv) Forms

Consent judgment forms are available at the Clerk's Office for defendants who wish to plead guilty and pay a fine. Those who use the form do not have to appear in court.

3. Juvenile Cases (Majuro)

The District Court's 2022 statistics for juvenile cases cover the following:

- the number and nature of cases filed and finalized in 2022;
- the annual clearance rates for the most recent five years;
- the average duration of cleared cases;
- the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of cases overturned on appeal; and
- accessibility in terms of fee waivers, cases heard outside of Majuro, legal aid, and forms.

a. Number and Nature of Cases Filed

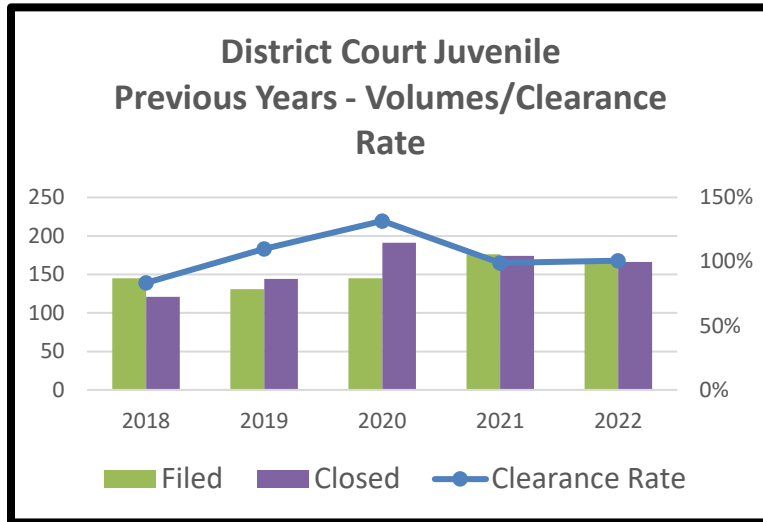
In 2022, the Majuro Atoll Local Government Police prosecutors filed in the District Court a total of 45 juvenile cases in Majuro. No juvenile cases were filed by the National Police. Of the 45 juvenile cases filed, 11 involved underage drinking and alcohol related charges, 24 cases involved curfew violations, and 10 cases involved traffic related charges.

The 45 juvenile cases filed in Majuro in 2022 were all cleared in 2022, leaving no pending cases at the end of the year.

b. Clearance Rates

The District Court's efficiency in handling juvenile cases can be measured by case clearance rates. The District Court's 2022 annual clearance rate for juvenile cases was 104%. During 2022, the District Court, counsel, and parties closed 47 cases, 45 cases from 2022, and 2 case

from 2021. And as noted below, 45 new cases were filed in 2022. The District Court’s goal is to maintain an annual clearance rate for juvenile cases of 100% or better, for each year.

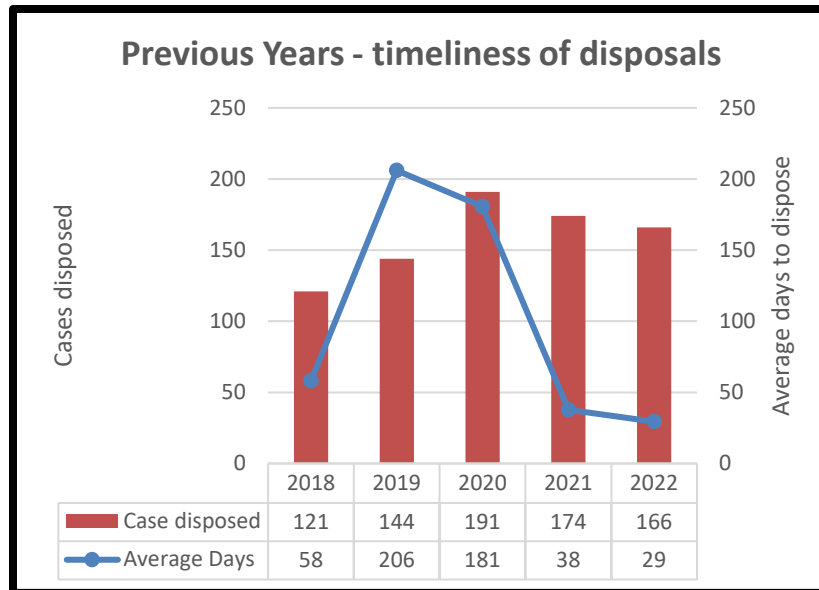


Previous Calendar Years	Filed	Closed	Clearance Rate
2018	111	126	114%
2019	103	125	121%
2020	91	102	112%
2021	38	37	97%
2022	45	47	104%
Total/clearance rate	388	437	113%

The District Court each month dismisses without prejudice abandoned cases that have been pending six months or more.

c. Average Duration of Cleared Juvenile Cases

In addition to annual clearance rates, the efficiency of a case management system can be measured by the age of cleared cases. The average duration of District Court juvenile cases cleared in 2022 was 7 days.



d. Appeals

The quality of judgments can be measured in two ways: the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal.

In 2022, none of the 47 District Court juvenile cases cleared in 2022 were appealed to the High Court. Similarly, from 2013 to 2021 no juvenile cases were appealed.

Furthermore, in 2022, there were no District Court juvenile cases or decisions from earlier years overturned on appeal.

e. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Cases Heard Outside of Majuro; Legal Aid; and Forms

The courts must be affordable and accessible. Affordability and accessibility to justice may be measured in terms of the availability of fee waivers, the number of cases heard outside of the capital Majuro, the availability of free legal service, and the availability of forms.

(i) Fee Waivers

As there are no filing fees for juvenile cases, fee waivers are not applicable.

(ii) Cases Heard on Ebeye

A third District Court judge is stationed in Ebeye to handle District Court matters including juvenile cases filed there.

(iii) Free Legal Services

At the District Court level, most juvenile offenders are self-represented. Only in more serious cases do they seek legal assistance and representation by the MLSC or the OPD, which both provide free legal assistance. Of the 45 juvenile cases filed in 2022, all 45 represented themselves (100%). Similarly, in previous years, the number of juvenile offenders represented by the OPD or by private counsel has been very low.

(iv) Forms

Although consent judgment forms are available at the Clerk's Office for offenders who wish to plead guilty and pay a fine, these forms are not applicable for juvenile matters as juvenile cases are treated differently. It is a requirement that all juvenile offenders must attend Court with the presence of a parent and counsel.

4. Small Claims Cases (Majuro)

The District Court's 2022 statistics for Majuro small claims cases cover the following:

- the number and nature of cases filed and finalized in 2022;
- the annual clearance rates for the most recent five years;
- the average duration of cleared cases;
- the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of cases overturned on appeal; and
- affordability and accessibility in terms of fee waivers, cases heard outside of Majuro, legal aid, and forms.

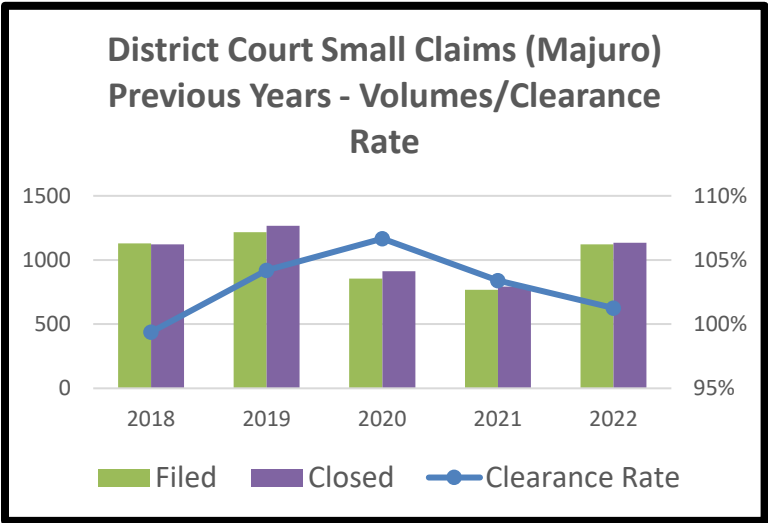
a. Number of Cases Filed

In 2022, a total of 162 small claims cases were filed in Majuro.

All 162 small claims cases filed in Majuro in 2022 were cleared in 2022, leaving no pending cases at the end of the year.

b. Clearance Rates

The District Court's 2022 annual clearance rate for small claims cases was 100%. During 2022, the District Court, counsel, and parties closed 162 2022 cases. And as noted in the chart below, 162 new cases were filed in 2022. The District Court's goal is to maintain an annual clearance rate for small claims cases of 100% or better, for each year.



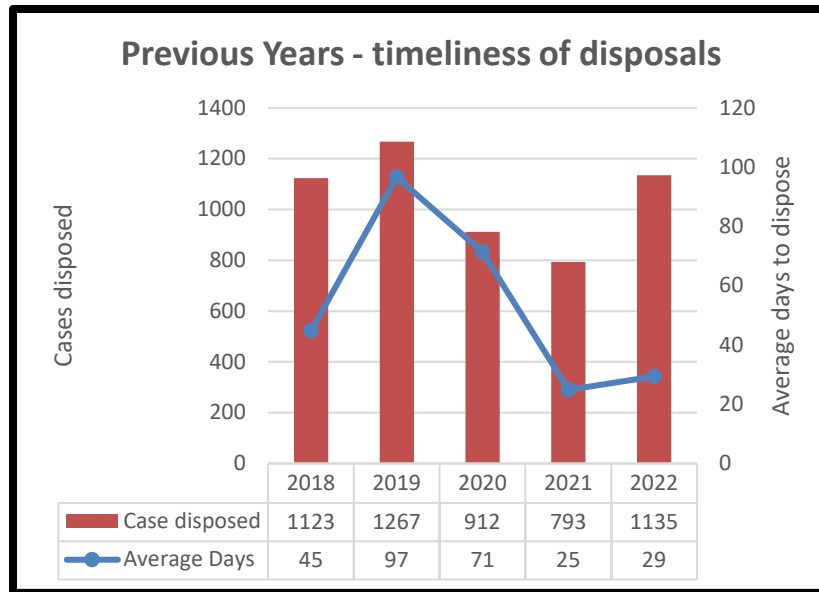
Previous Calendar Years	Filed	Closed	Clearance Rate
2018	145	120	83%
2019	129	143	111%
2020	139	185	133%
2021	175	173	99%
2022	162	162	100%
Total/clearance rate	750	783	104%

c. Average Duration of Cleared Small Claims Cases

In addition to annual clearance rates, the efficiency of a case management system can be measured by the age of cleared cases.

The average duration of District Court small claims cases cleared in 2022 was 29 days.

For Majuro District Court small claims cases cleared in the past five years (2017-2021), the average duration of cleared cases in days were as follows:



d. Appeals

In addition to measuring efficiency, it is important to review the quality of judgments. The quality of judgments can be measured in two ways: the percentage of cases appealed and the percentage of appealed cases overturned on appeal.

In 2022, none of the 162 District Court small claims cases cleared in 2022 were appealed to the High Court. Similarly, from 2013 to 2021 no small claims cases were appealed.

Furthermore, in 2022, there were no District Court small claims cases or decisions from any years overturned on appeal.

e. Affordability and Accessibility: Fee Waivers; Cases Heard Outside of Majuro; Legal Aid; and Forms

It is not enough that courts be efficient and that the quality of judgment be high. The courts must be affordable and accessible. Affordability and accessibility to justice may be measured in terms of the availability of fee waivers, the number of cases heard outside of the capital Majuro, the availability of free legal service, and the availability of forms.

(i) Fee Waivers

Although, by rule and statute, fee waivers are available upon a showing of need, plaintiffs did not request a fee waiver in any of the 2022 District Court small claims cases. The filing fee for small claims cases remains low at only \$5 dollars.

(ii) Cases Heard on Ebeye

A third District Court judge is stationed in Ebeye to handle District Court matters including small claims cases filed there.

(iii) Free Legal Services

At the District Court level, most plaintiffs and defendants in small claims cases are self-represented. Only in a few cases do defendants seek legal assistance and representation by the MLSC or the OPD, which both provide free legal assistance. Of the 162 small claims cases filed in 2022, six of the defendants (3.7%) were represented by the OPD. All others appeared *pro se* (96.3%).

(iv) Forms

Small claims forms are available on the court's website (www.rmicourts.org) or at the Clerk's Office.

In summary, a total of 1,836 cases were filed in the Majuro District Court: 1,121 traffic cases; 501 criminal and local government ordinance cases; 45 juvenile cases; 162 small claims cases; and 7 other civil case.

5. Caseload for Judges and Clerks (Majuro)

In 2022, the average number of new cases heard by the two District Court judges in Majuro was 918 cases, and the average number of new cases per court clerk was the same.

6. Ebeye

In 2022 on Ebeye, 335 cases were filed in the District Court:

- 34 traffic cases (33 cleared and 1 pending);
- 64 criminal & local government ordinance cases (59 cleared and 5 pending);
- 210 juvenile cases (187 cleared and 23 pending); and
- 27 small claim cases (24 cleared and 3 pending).

The average number of cases heard per District Court judge in Ebeye was 335, and the average number of cases per court clerk was 335 (one Judiciary clerk and one Kwajalein Atoll Local Government court clerk).

No 2022 Ebeye District Court cases were appealed or overturned on appeal.

In all Ebeye District Court small claims cases, traffic cases, criminal and local government ordinance cases, the parties were self-represented.

E. Community Courts

On the neighboring islands (excluding Kwajalein Atoll, which has a District Court), the Judiciary has Community Courts. A Community Court is a limited-jurisdiction court of record for a local government area, of which there are 22. Each Community Court consists of a presiding judge and such number of associate judges, if any, as the Judicial Service Commission may appoint. Appointments are made for terms of up to six years, but not to exceed age 72. Community Court judges are lay judges with limited training. A Community Court has original jurisdiction concurrent with the High Court and the District Court within its local government area:

(i) in all civil cases where the amount claimed or the value of the property involved does not exceed \$1,000 (excluding matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of the High Court by Constitution or statute, such as land title cases and admiralty and maritime matters) and

(ii) in all criminal cases involving offenses for which the maximum penalty does not exceed a fine of \$400 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or both.

At the end of 2022, there were 24 serving Community Court judges and only six vacancies. At the date of this report, there are eight vacancies for which the Commission is waiting recommendations from local government councils: Arno; Enewetak; Jaluit; Lib; Mili; Rongelap; Wotje; and unallocated.

Community court judges receive training when they come to Majuro for biennial summer conferences and on other occasions. The Judiciary encourages all Community Court judges who are in Majuro for other business to stop by the courthouse and arrange for training opportunities with the District Court judges. The Judiciary intends to continue providing such trainings for Community Court judges.

F. Travel to the Neighboring Islands and Ebeye

The Judiciary also travels to the neighboring islands on an as-needed basis.

If the OAG, the OPD, and the MLSC were to station attorneys on Ebeye full time, the Ebeye caseload would increase as in the past providing greater access to justice.

If the Government cannot afford to station attorneys full-time on Ebeye, the Judiciary would request that at the very least the Office of the OAG and OPD receive funding to employ trial assistants on Ebeye. This was the practice until relatively recently. Defendants brought before the District Court on Ebeye on criminal charges have a constitutional right to legal counsel.

G. Other Services: Births, Deaths, Marriages, Notarizations, etc.

In addition to deciding cases, the courts help the people through confirming delayed registrations of births and death, performing marriages, notarizing, and certifying documents, and issuing record checks. The courts offer these services on no or little notice. However, couples usually schedule marriages one to three days in advance. Marriages by non-citizens must first be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



1. Majuro. In 2022 on Majuro, the High Court and the District Court processed 189 delayed registrations of birth, 3 delayed registrations of death, and performed 28 marriages. The clerks notarized 672 documents, of which 24 were notarized off site to accommodate disabled persons. Upon request, clerks will go to the hospital or homes to notarize documents for those who cannot travel to the courthouses. Also, the clerks issued 6 apostilles, certified 194 documents, 40 criminal record checks, no civil record checks, and 188 corporate litigation checks.

2. Ebeye. In 2022 on Ebeye, the District Court processed 80 delayed registrations of birth, no delayed registrations of death, and performed 8 marriages. The Ebeye clerks also notarized 240 documents, of which 25 were notarized off site at a chief's home/meeting or to accommodate disabled/sick persons.

The five-year totals for birth, deaths, marriages, and notarizations are as shown below.

Birth, Deaths, Etc. 2018-2022					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Births	350	319	270	248	269
Deaths	3	3	3	4	3
Marriages	40	42	38	29	36
Notarizations	1,314	1,041	1,449	1,552	912
Apostille Cert's	11	3	19	5	6
Criminal Checks	36	35	28	29	40
Corporate Checks	151	202	146	304	188

H. Court Staff



In 2022, the Judiciary’s staff included the following: a chief clerk of the courts, seven assistant clerks (one in Ebeye), three bailiffs (seconded from the National Police), and two maintenance workers. The chief clerk and four of the seven assistant clerks were women. A listing of the judiciary personnel at the end of the year is attached as Appendix 2.

In addition to their administrative responsibilities, the clerks also serve as interpreters from Marshallese to English and English to Marshallese. The clerks also assist unrepresented court-users in completing forms.



The Office of the Clerk of the Courts is open 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. In case of emergencies, the courts will open on weekends and holidays. The contact information for the Majuro and the Ebeye Courthouses is as follows:

Majuro Courthouse
P.O. Box B
Majuro, MH 96960
Tel.: (011-692) 625-3201/3297
Email: Marshall.Islands.Judiciary@gmail.com

The Majuro Courthouse is located in Uliga Village, Majuro Atoll, across from the Uliga Dock.

Ebeye Courthouse
P.O. Box 5944
Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll, MH 96970
Tel.: (011-692) 329-4032
Email: ebeyecourthouse@gmail.com

The Ebeye Courthouse is located behind the Police Station on the Oceanside.

I. Professional Development and Regional Conferences

Managing the Judiciary’s personnel in accordance with sound leadership and management practices is the fourth goal of the Judiciary’s 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. In most years, all permanent justices and judges of the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Traditional Rights

Court, the District Court, and court clerks attend at least one workshop and conference each year to further develop their knowledge and skills. However, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Judiciary in 2022 was not able to organize and facilitate as many professional development opportunities for both judges and court staff. Funding for such programs come from the Judiciary's annual operating budget, the Compact of Free Association, New Zealand, and Australia. The Judiciary's 2022 professional development activities are set forth below.

Commencing in January 28 – March 11, 2022, High Court Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram attended the National Judicial Colleges web-based course Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge. The course required three to four hours of preparation each week and included six weekly hour-long web conferences. Participants of the Court learned the following: to identify areas of professional and personal isolation resulting from service on a rural bench; to analyze the role as judge on the adjudicator and agent-of-change continuum; to identify and analyze provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct addressing issues of particular challenge to the well-known rural judge; to identify the ethics pitfalls in dealing with disruptive defendants and litigants; to analyze how a rural judge can remain involved in his or her community within the context of proper judicial conduct; to identify ethical issues posed by the dual roles of judge and lawyer and to comply with the ethical rules applicable to those issues; to recognize the threats to judicial independence resulting; to identify the purpose and limits of the inherent power of the court and how to effectively deal with other branches of government; to create a plan to deal with threats and emergencies; to describe the relationship of childhood trauma to delinquency; to identify signs of traumatic stress in children; and to recognize the phenomena of implicit bias.

From January 24 – February 25, 2022 Traditional Rights Court Associate Judge Associate Judge Claire T. Loeak attended the National Judicial College's "Taking the Bench" online course (weekly web conferences) which provides education for judges who have been recently elected or appointed. In the course, four weeks in length, judges learned to ascertain how to address issues that judges face in transitioning from the bar to the bench; describe what new judges can expect to experience in their courtroom; identify what judges do in chambers that even trial lawyers would not necessarily be aware of; and define what judges should and should not do in relating to their communities.

Traditional Rights Court Chief Judge Grace L. Leban and Associate Judge Claire T. Loeak attended the National Judicial College's "Fundamentals of Evidence" online course from February 28 – April 15, 2022 (weekly web conferences). The course was designed to provide judges with a practical framework for ruling on evidence. The principles of the Federal Rules of Evidence were introduced, with a focus on using the rules to decide evidentiary issues. The following topics were also covered: Relevancy; Competency and Privileges; Burdens of Proof; Judicial Notice and Presumptions; Impeachment and Rehabilitation; Constitutional limitations on the admissibility of Evidence; Hearsay and Hearsay Exceptions; Documentary and Demonstrative Evidence; Child Witnesses; and Expert and lay witness testimony.

From April 4 – 7, 2022 Traditional Rights Court Associate Judge Claire T. Loeak attended the National Judicial College (online) Judicial Writing Course. During the course, judges

learned to diagnose and revise difficult and unclear writing; identify the audience and styles of judicial writing; master three levels of style necessary to strong judicial work; define the relationship between writing and decision-making; and master a series of tasks necessary to writing complete, effective, and efficient judicial documents.

From July 18 – 21, 2022 Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel N. Cadra attended the Ninth Circuit Conference at Big Sky, Montana. The courses attended at this conference included: Supreme Court review; AI and Private Speech Regulation; Ethics, Conflicts and Recusals; Conflict Screenings for Judges; Online Harm vs. Free Expression; Innovations in Law School Teaching; Foreign Courts, U.S. Internet Companies and Global Takedown Orders; Virtual Proceedings-The Impact of COVID 19; Climate Litigation; Writing Course; Social Media & Democracy. Chief Justice Cadra also attended the Pacific Islands Committee Meeting as the representative of the RMI. This conference also afforded an in-person meeting of the RMI Supreme Court Judges (including Judges Seabright and Seeborg, as well as chief Justice Cadra) to discuss pending cases. Due to Covid 19, this was the first in-person meeting in two and a half years.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel N. Cadra in September 2022 attended the Pacific Judicial Council (PJC), District of Guam, and CNMI Joint Training Session held in Saipan and in later in Guam. This conference was a joint presentation of the Federal Court system and Pacific Judicial Conference. The conference in Saipan included the dedication of the U.S. Federal District Courthouse attended by Senior Judge Munson who is presently a senior status U.S. District Judge and former judge for the CNMI and former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, including the RMI. Courses included judicial writing and linguistics, update on appellate law developments and other topics with an emphasis on the Pacific Islands region. The conference was unique in providing an opportunity for judges within the region encompassing the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to discuss problems and exchange ideas.

From September 26 – 29, 2022 Traditional Rights Court Chief Judge Grace L. Leban attended the National Judicial College (online) Judicial Writing Course. During the course, judges learned to diagnose and revise difficult and unclear writing; identify the audience and styles of judicial writing; master three levels of style necessary to strong judicial work; define the relationship between writing and decision-making; and master a series of tasks necessary to writing complete, effective, and efficient judicial documents.

Traditional Rights Court Associate Judge Claire T. Loeak attended the Special Considerations for the Rural Court Judge online course from October 31 – December 16, 2022. In this course judges learned to identify areas of professional and personal isolation resulting from your service on a rural bench; analyze their role as judge on the adjudicator and agent-of-change continuum; identify and analyze provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct addressing issues of particular challenge to the well-known rural judge; identify the ethics pitfalls in dealing with disruptive defendants and litigants; analyze how the rural judge can remain involved in his or her community within the context of proper judicial conduct; identify ethical issues posed by the dual roles of judge and lawyer and to comply with the ethical rules applicable to those issues;

recognize the threats to judicial independence resulting from recent efforts to inject politics and social or economic agendas into court decisions; identify the purpose and limits of the inherent power of the court and how to effectively deal with other branches of government; create a plan to deal with threats and emergencies; describe the relationship of childhood trauma to delinquency; identify signs of traumatic stress in children by age group; and recognize the phenomena of implicit bias.

From November 10-14, 2022, Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel N. Cadra attended the Appellate Judges Education Institute, National Judicial College, ABA Judicial Division Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The courses Chief Justice Cadra attended at this conference included: Supreme Court Review; Legislative Redistricting after *Rucho v. Common Cause*; Law & Linguistics; The Doctrine of Stare Decisis after *Dobbs*; Leadership course; Judicial Writing for Clarity; Public Confidence in the Courts-Rule of Law; Conflicts in Jurisdiction-The Reign of Three Sovereigns in Indian Country; Supreme Court update-Civil; Supreme Court update-Criminal; Qualified Immunity; Court Security; The New Digital Language and the Law; Bias, Discrimination and Harassment-Rules for Judges and Lawyers. Because this was a national, not regional, conference of the ABA, NJC, it was very well attended and gave the opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with judges from across the nation, not just Ninth Circuit or Pacific region.

From November 16 – 17, 2022 High Court Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram attended the (virtual) 18th Conference of Chief Justices of Asia and the Pacific. The four main discussion topics: Facing criticisms from the outside and engaging with the public; Case management in a contemporary context; Greater prominence for family courts; and Judicial Education. At this conference Chief Justice Ingram delivered a short presentation – “Looking at Judicial Stress and Well-Being: The Perspective of a Small Pacific Island Country.”



High Court Associate Justice Witten T. Philippo from November 28 – December 2, 2022 attended the Pacific Judicial Integrity Program (PJIP) Judicial Officers’ Fraud and Corruption Workshop in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The objectives of the workshop are for participating Judicial Officers to share, exchange, and develop professional competence in generally applicable principles, standards and approaches; understand, accurately interpret and apply domestic law and due process; identify the elements of these offences and the evidence required to prove them; detail the rationale for their decisions including the application of appropriate criminal penalties; and strengthen judicial identity and continue to build the region’s professional network.

From November 28 – December 9, 2022 the Pacific Justice Sector Program (PJSP) sponsored a Human Rights Workshop in Majuro facilitated by Dr. Carolyn Graydon. The judges and court staff attended a five-day workshop focusing on the application of human rights and access to justice to the work of courts. Five shorter tailored workshops were also conducted with other justice actors, including representatives from the Attorney General’s



Office, Police, Public Defender, Micronesia Legal Services Corporation, Disability civil society group MIDPO and Government Department responsible for providing services to seniors and people with disabilities, Women’s civil society organization (Women United Together Marshall Islands), Government Departments responsible for advancing child protection and gender equality. Dr. Graydon together with High Court Justices visited the Marshall Islands prison to inspect conditions.

J. Court Rules and Relevant Statutes

To enhance access to justice, the Judiciary regularly reviews and amends or seeks amendments of its rules of procedure, Evidence Act, and other statutes.

Over the past 10 years, the Judiciary has proposed more than 37 amendments to Acts. In 2022, the Judiciary was able to secure an amendment of the Judicial Compensation Act to increase the salary for District Court judges. Also in 2022, the Judiciary was able to secure an amendment to the Judiciary Act 1983 to correct the definition of “judges.” In 2023 the Judiciary will seek an amendment to the Domestic Relations Act to expressly provide that the High Court may confirm customary marriages, as well as annulments, divorces, and adoptions, to confirm the validity thereof and to avoid serious embarrassment to or affect the rights of the parties or their children.

The Judiciary also regularly updates rules of civil procedure and criminal procedure. The Judiciary last updated both rules in 2021 to make court proceedings accessible to the parties and public by contemporaneous transmission.

III. THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION: JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

Along with the courts, the Constitution provides for a Judicial Service Commission (“JSC”), which consists of the Chief Justice of the High Court, as chair, the Attorney-General, and a private citizen selected by the Cabinet. The private member is Jennifer Hawley. The JSC nominates to the Cabinet candidates for appointment to the Supreme Court, High Court and Traditional Rights Court, and the Commission appoints judges to the District Court and the Community Courts. In appointing Community Court judges, the Commission takes into consideration the wishes of the local communities as expressed through their local government councils. The Commission also may make recommendations to the Nitijela regarding the

qualifications of judges. In the exercise of its functions and powers, the Commission does not receive any direction from the Cabinet or from any other authority or person but acts independently. The Commission may make rules for regulating its procedures and generally for the better performance of its functions. The Commission also reviews complaint against judges.

In 2022, the Commission nominated to the Cabinet for appointment a third High Court justice. Also, the Commission appointed acting TRC judges for three cases where a member of the permanent TRC panel had a conflict, and the Commission appointed Community Court judges for Ailinglaplap Atoll, Aur Atoll, and Jabat Island.

IV. ACCOUNTABILITY: CODES OF CONDUCT AND COMPLAINTS

The third goal of the Judiciary’s Strategic Plan includes “*to be accountable.*” To enhance its transparency and accountability, the Judiciary has adopted internationally recognized standards for judicial conduct and attorney conduct. These standards are available to the public as are the procedures for lodging complaints against judges, attorneys, and court staff.

With respect to judicial conduct, the Judiciary has adopted the Marshall Islands Code of Judicial Conduct 2008 (revised August 20, 2019). The Code is based principally upon the Bangalore Principles and the American Bar Association Model Code of Judicial Conduct. A copy of the Judiciary’s code can be found on its website, www.rmicourts.org/ under the heading “The Marshall Islands and Its Judiciary.” The provisions for lodging and processing complaints against judges start on page 12 of the code. In 2022, there were two complaints lodged against judges: one a District Court judge and the other a Community Court judge. The complaint against the District Court judge was received from a local government police officer with respect to the judge requesting that the police release his brother from jail without first posting bond. The judge received counseling from the head of the District Court and was required to attend courses on judicial ethics. The complaint against the Community Court judge was received from a landowner. The landowner accused the judge of ordering a couple the landowner had placed on his land to leave, as ordered by the landowner’s older sister. The Clerk of the Courts is seeking feedback from the complainant and the judge on the facts gathered by an assistant clerk.

With respect to attorney conduct, the Judiciary has adopted the American Bar Association’s Rules of Professional Conduct. Provisions for lodging and processing complaints against attorneys can be found on the Judiciary’s website under the heading “Rules of Admission and Practice.” The Supreme Court and High Court have appointed an attorney-committee to hear complaints. In 2022, no complaints were lodged or pending against attorneys.

With respect to court staff, the Judiciary maintains a complaint box at the courthouses. In 2022, no complaints were lodged against court staff. Also in 2022, the court staff conducted its biennial Access and Fairness Survey at the Majuro and Ebeye courthouse, Appendix 3.

V. FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND LIBRARY

Administering the Judiciary’s buildings and equipment in accordance with sound management practices is the fifth goal of the Judiciary’s Strategic Plan.

A. Facilities



Over the past decade, the Judiciary, with funding from court fees and from the Cabinet, the Nitijela, and the Republic of China (Taiwan), has renovated the Majuro Courthouse and the Ebeye Courthouse to make them safe, secure, and accessible. The projects have included renovating the Ebeye Courthouse, adding a ground-floor courtroom at the Majuro Courthouse, renovating of the chambers of the Traditional Rights Court in Majuro, repainting the Majuro Courthouse and replacing the roof, installing a 100KVA backup generator for the Majuro Courthouse, and

constructing a police substation next to the Majuro Courthouse.

Also, since 2017, the Judiciary has sought funding for a new courthouse on Ebeye. The Ebeye Courthouse building has deteriorated to the point where it needs to be replaced. It is in very bad condition and cannot be expanded to meet the Judiciary’s and Kwajalein community’s needs. Fortunately, in 2021, the Judiciary received \$800,000 of the \$1.2 million needed for this vital project. In 2022 and 2023, the Judiciary will seek the remaining \$400,000.



B. Technology

The courthouses on Majuro and Ebeye are equipped with computers, printers, and photocopiers and have Internet access at around 40-100 Mbps depending on the international connections. However, the Judiciary urges visiting counsel to purchase Internet access from the local telecommunications company, the National Telecommunications Authority (“NTA”). Also, the courts permit the filing and service of documents via email attachment. The computers in Majuro are linked together in a network, and the Majuro Courthouse has five scanners with OSC software permitting the courts to scan documents and send them almost anywhere in the world.

Currently, the High Court permits off-island counsel to attend status and scheduling conferences via telephone, Skype, and Zoom. Occasionally, evidence in uncontested matters is taken via Skype or Zoom. While COVID-19 restrictions were in place, the Judiciary also heard contested non-evidentiary proceedings via Zoom.



C. Library

The Judiciary has a small, but functional, law library. However, the Judiciary relies upon WestLaw for up-to-date access to United States case law and secondary sources.

VI. ANNUAL BUDGET AND AUDIT REPORT

Managing the Judiciary’s financial resources in accordance with sound financial practices is the sixth goal of the Judiciary’s Strategic Plan. This is evidenced not only by the work of the courts, but also by the Judiciary’s management of the funds made available to it.

For FY 2022, the Nitijela appropriated \$1,186,253 for the Judiciary: \$939,675 for salaries and wages and \$237,162 for all others. Less audit expenses of \$9,416 paid out by the Ministry of Finance, a total of \$237,162 was paid to the Judiciary for its operational funds.

Of the \$939,675 appropriated for personnel in FY 2022, the Judiciary only expended \$793,279 due to unexpended Community Court judge salaries and an unexpended High Court justice salary resulting from COVID travel restrictions and quarantines. The unspent personnel funds from FY 2022, \$200,395 remained in the General Fund with the Ministry of Finance.

Of the \$237,162 appropriated in FY 2022 for all other expenses, \$9,416 was retained by the Ministry of Finance for audit expenses and the Judiciary expended or obligated the remaining \$237,162.

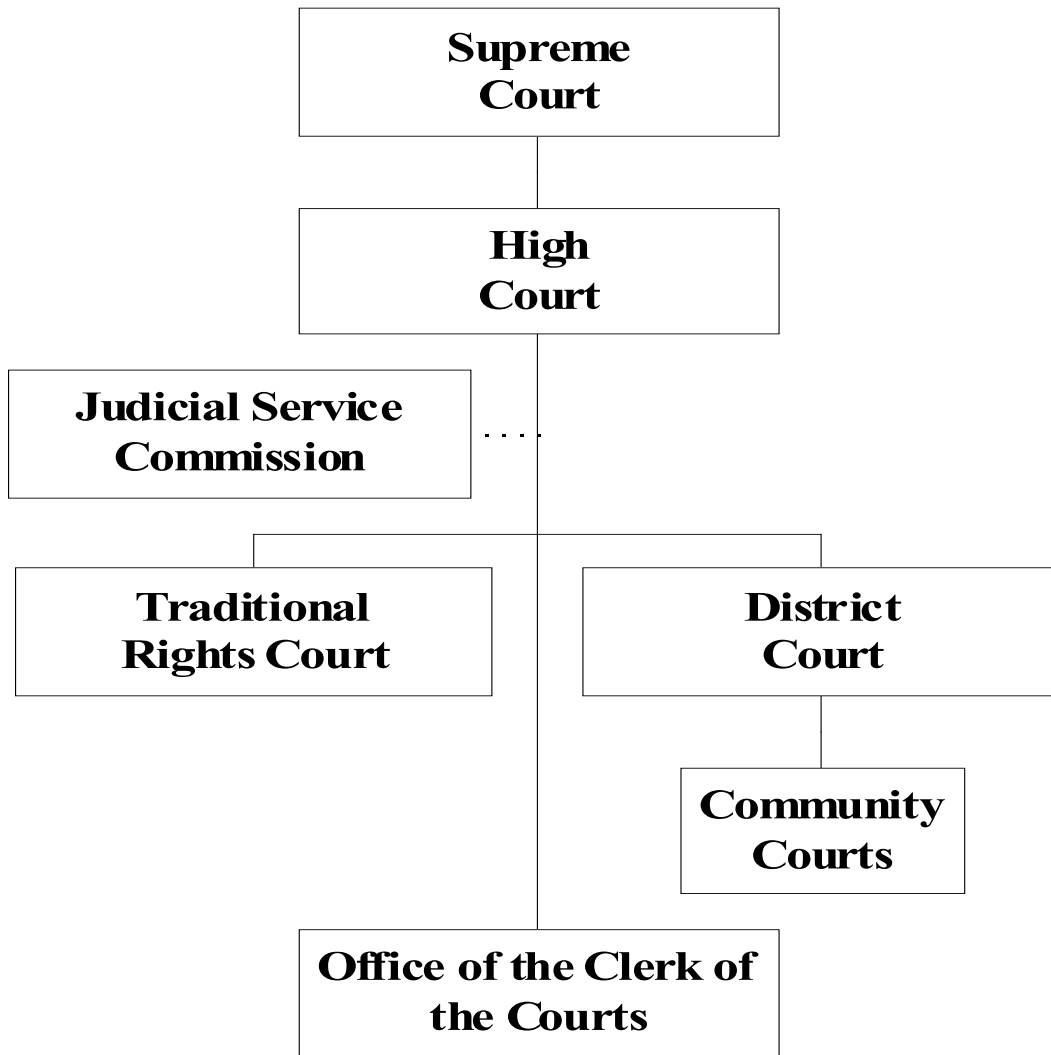
From operations funds, the Judiciary has segregated moneys the collected from annual attorney fees for the Legal Aid Fund (“LAF”). As of September 30, 2022, the Judiciary had \$196,758.10 in its LAF account, much of which had been obligated for payment to attorneys to represent those who cannot offer an attorney and cannot be represented by the Micronesian Legal Aid Services Corporation and the OPD.

Apart from Nitijela appropriations, the Judiciary by Act has its own special revenue fund (“Judiciary Fund”). Court fines and fees (excluding national criminal fines and local government fines) collected by the Office of the Clerk of the Courts are deposited into this fund, as are funds from other sources. Collections by the Office of the Clerk of the Courts and deposited into the Judiciary Fund in FY 2022 totaled \$77,862.73. The fund balance at the end of FY 2022, \$11,694.44 and monies collected in FY 2023 will be reserved for furnishing the new Ebeye courthouse. The Ebeye Courthouse project is in the planning stage and most certainly will need much more additional funding.

For FY 2022, the Judiciary has contracted with Ernest and Young to audit the Marshall Islands Judiciary Fund and LAF. As of August 22, 2023, the audit has not been completed. When the audit is completed, the Judiciary will amend the 2022 Annual Reports to include the results of the audit.



**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
FOR THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS JUDICIARY**



JUDICIARY PERSONNEL

Justices and Judges

Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel N. Cadra (09/21/13-09/20/23)

High Court Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram (10/05/13-10/04/23)

High Court Associate Justice Witten T. Philippo (10/29/17-01/31/30)

High Court Associate Justice Linda S. Murnane (11/02/22-11/02/24)

Traditional Rights Court Chief Judge Grace L. Leban (02/30/20-12/30/30)

Traditional Rights Court Associate Justice Nixon David (04/07/21-04/06/25)

Traditional Rights Court Associate Justice Claire T. Loeak (05/17/21-05/16/31)

Presiding District Court Judge A. Tarry Paul (12/26/18-12/25/28)

Associate District Court Judge Davidson T. Jajo (Ebeye) (04/18/16-04/17/26)

Associate District Court Judge Caios Lucky (01/20/19-08/28/27)

Ailinglaplap Community Court Presiding Judge Canover Katol (05/04/18-05/03/24)

Ailinglaplap Community Court Associate Judge Mannu Rakin (07/13/18-07/12/24)

Ailinglaplap Community Court Associate Judge Lawday Kelen (12/12/22-12/11/28)

Ailuk Community Court Presiding Judge Tilly Menuna (02/25/18-02/24/24)

Arno Community Court Presiding Judge Batle Latdrik (08/05/18-08/04/24)

Arno Community Court Associate Judge (vacant)

Arno Community Court Associate Judge Benjinej Kawe (08/05/18-08/04/24)

Aur Community Court Presiding Judge Benty Jikrok (03/03/17-03/02/23) (03/03/23-03/02/29)

Bikini and Kili Community Court Presiding Judge Swinton Jakeo (03/09/20-03/08/26)

Ebon Community Court Presiding Judge Jurelon Alik (09/17/17-09/16/23)

Enewetak and Ujelang Community Court Presiding Judge (vacant)

Jabat Community Court Presiding Judge Tari Jamodre (08/07/22-08/06/28)

Jaluit Community Court Presiding Judge Hertina Mejjena (12/03/18-12/02/24)

Jaluit Community Court Associate Judge Junior Helmi Morris (01/22/17-01/21/23)

Lae Community Court Presiding Judge Island Langbata (12/03/18-12/02/24)

Lib Community Court Presiding Judge (vacant)

Likiep Community Court Presiding Judge Riton Erakdrik (07/25/22-07/24/28)

Maloelap Community Court Presiding Judge Elji Lelwoj (02/25/18-02/24/24)

Maloelap Community Court Associate Judge Jobo Lauror (02/25/18-02/24/24)

Mejit Community Court Presiding Judge David Boyce (01/20/19-01/19/25)

Mili Community Court Presiding Judge Jiton John (01/22/17-01/21/23)

Namdrik Community Court Presiding Judge Reio Lolin (08/26/18-08/25/24)

Namu Community Court Presiding Judge Liston Albious (03/09/20-03/08/26)

Rongelap Community Court Presiding Judge (vacant)
Ujae Community Court Presiding Judge Area Jibbwa (08/26/18-08/25/24)
Utrik Community Court Presiding Judge Kobobo Kios (03/12/20-03/11/26)
Wotho Community Court Presiding Judge Carlmai Antibas (09/23/22-09/22/28)
Wotje Community Court Presiding Judge Anjain Helbi, (05/27/18-05/26/24)
Wotje Community Court Associate Judge (vacant)
Unallocated (vacant)

Judicial Service Commission

High Court Chief Justice Carl B. Ingram, Chair
Attorney-General Bernard Adiniwin, Member
Jenifer Hawley, Member Representing the Public

Staff

Chief Clerk of the Courts Ingrid K. Kabua
IT Officer Bobby Andrew
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Hainrick Moore
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Armen Bolkeim (Ebeye)
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Tanya Lomae
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Kristen Kaminaga
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Kaiboke Iseia
Assistant Clerk of the Courts Melissa Joe
Assistant Clerk of the Court James Reimers
Maintenance James Milne
Part-time Custodian Bersina Stephen
Bailiff Carlson Jacklick, Lieutenant
Bailiff Moses Lautiej, Police Officer II
Bailiff Clay Mielson, Officer II
Bailiff Noland Tash, Policer Officer I
Part-time Security Guard Henry Hiram
Part-time Security Guard Dial Gideon, Jr.

Appendix 3

2022 Access & Fairness Survey-Majuro Atoll Courthouse

Thursday, April 27, 2023

21

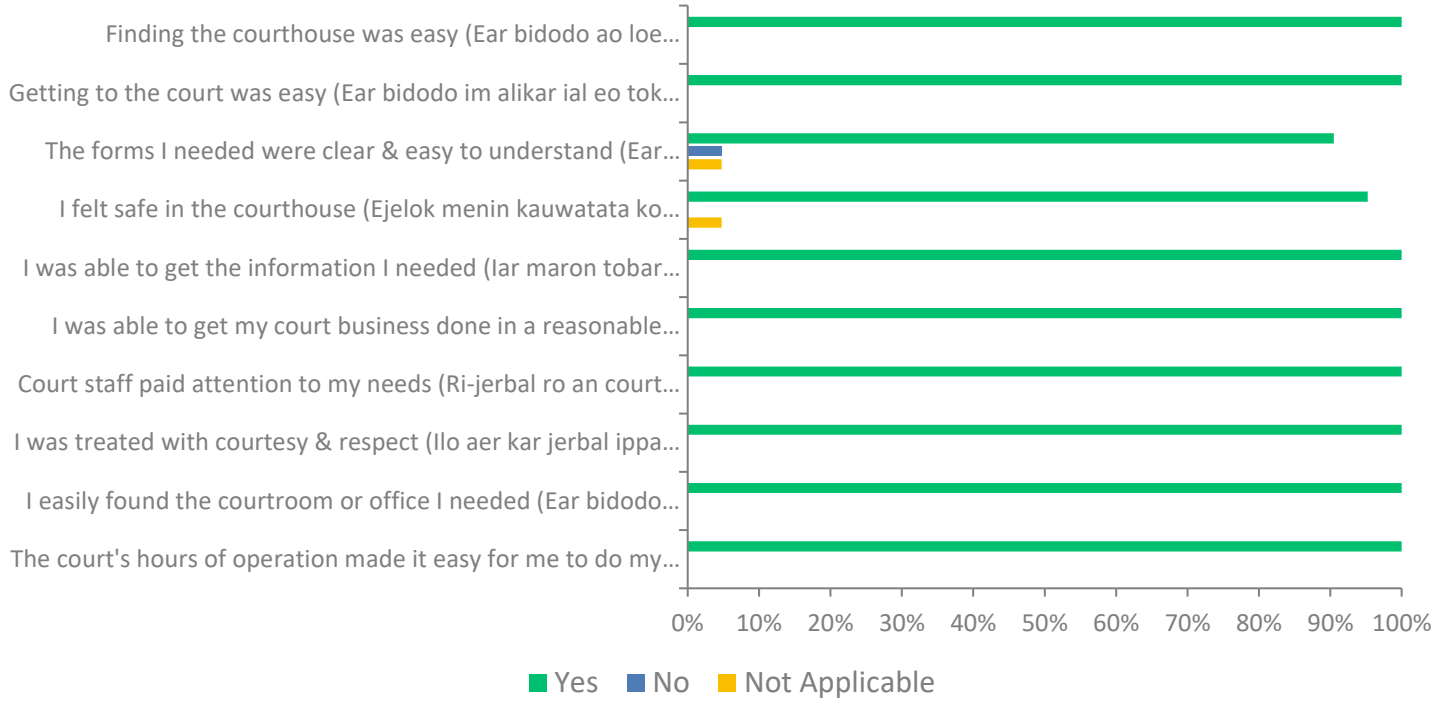
Total Responses

Date Created: Thursday, March 30, 2023

Complete Responses: 21

Q1: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0



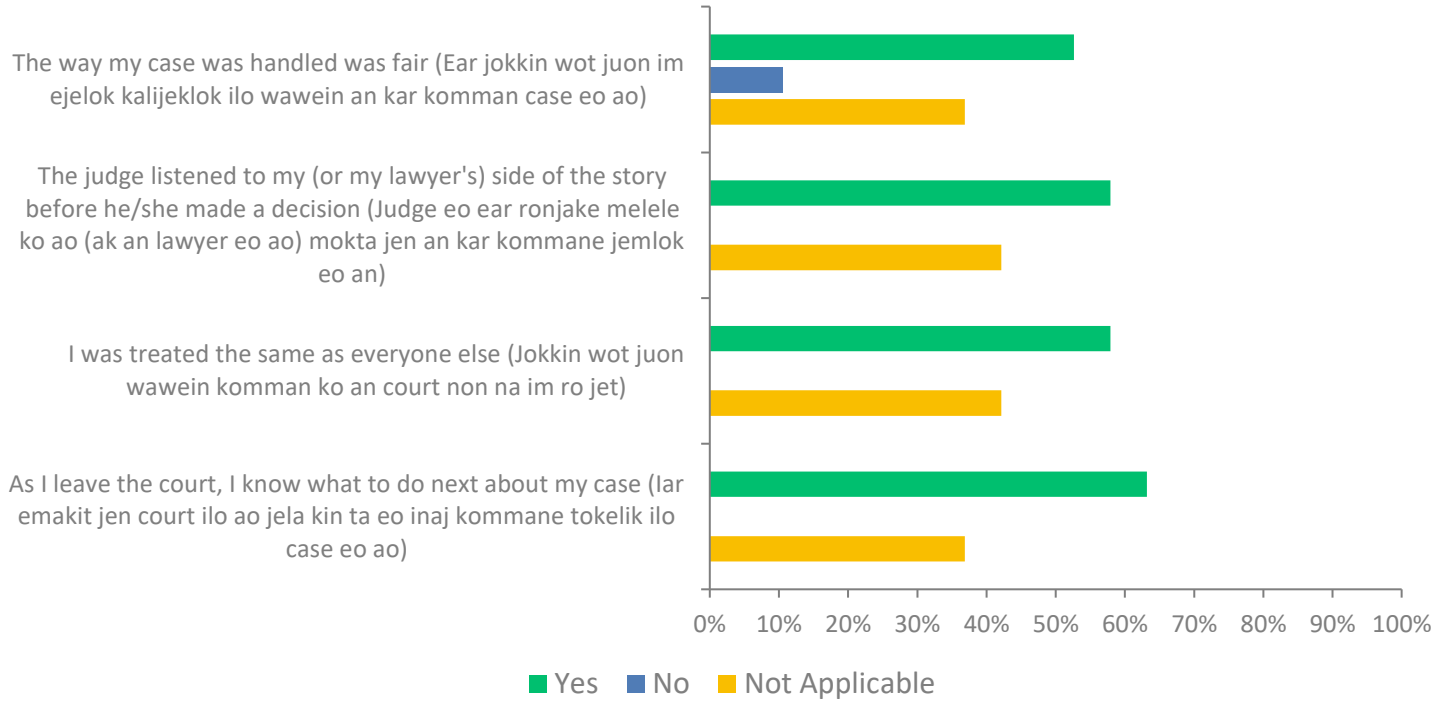
Q1: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 21 Skipped: 0

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Finding the courthouse was easy (Ear bidodo ao loe courthouse/im on ekajet eo)	100% 21	0% 0	0% 0	21	1
Getting to the court was easy (Ear bidodo im alikar ial eo tok non courthouse ak imon ekajet eo)	100% 21	0% 0	0% 0	21	1
The forms I needed were	90.48% 19	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	21	1

Q2: If you saw a judge today (Ne kwar lo ak jede imaan juon judge/ri-ekajet rainin):

Answered: 19 Skipped: 2



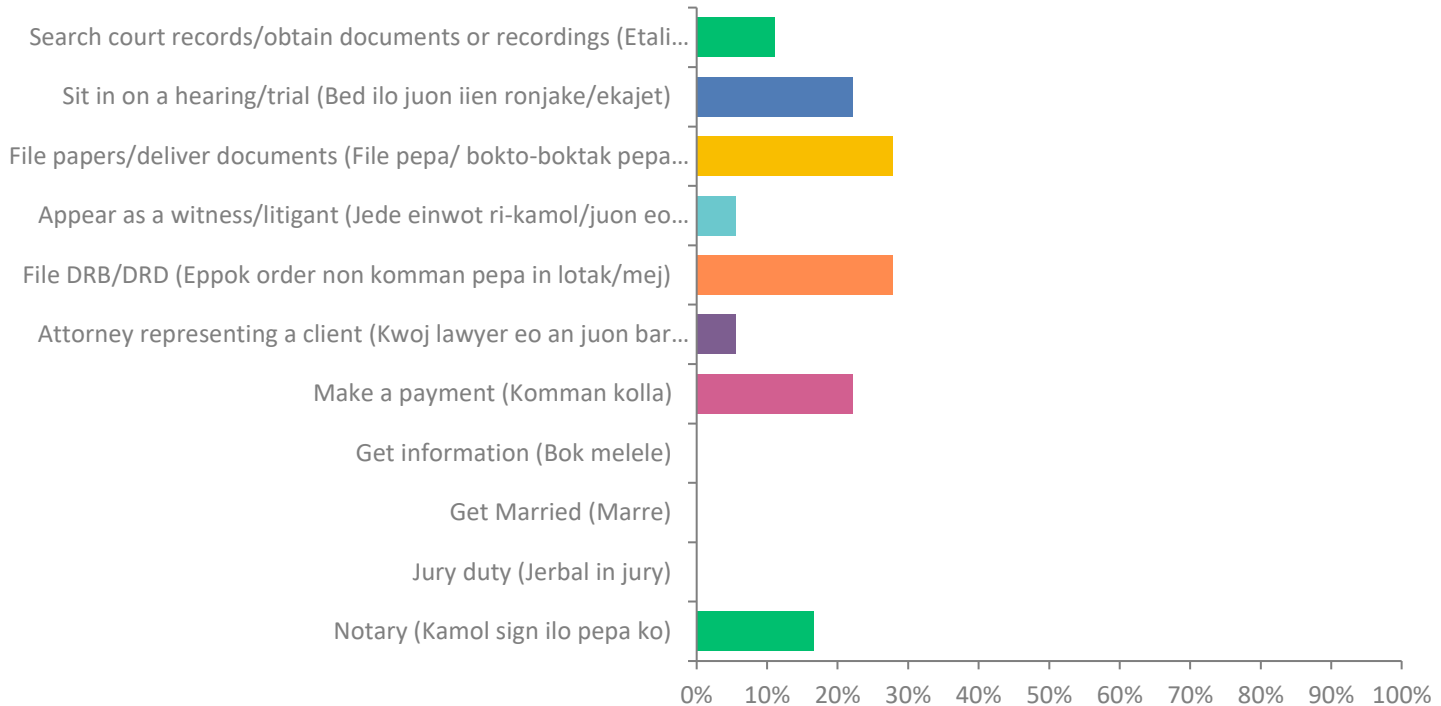
Q2: If you saw a judge today (Ne kwar lo ak jede imaan juon judge/ri-ekajet rainin):

Answered: 19 Skipped: 2

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The way my case was handled was fair (Ear jokkin wot juon im ejelok kalijeklok ilo wawein an kar komman case eo ao)	52.63% 10	10.53% 2	36.84% 7	19	1
The judge listened to my (or my lawyer's) side of the story before he/she	57.89% 11	0% 0	42.11% 8	19	1

Q3: What did you do at the court today? (Ta eo kwar kommane ilo court rainin?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3



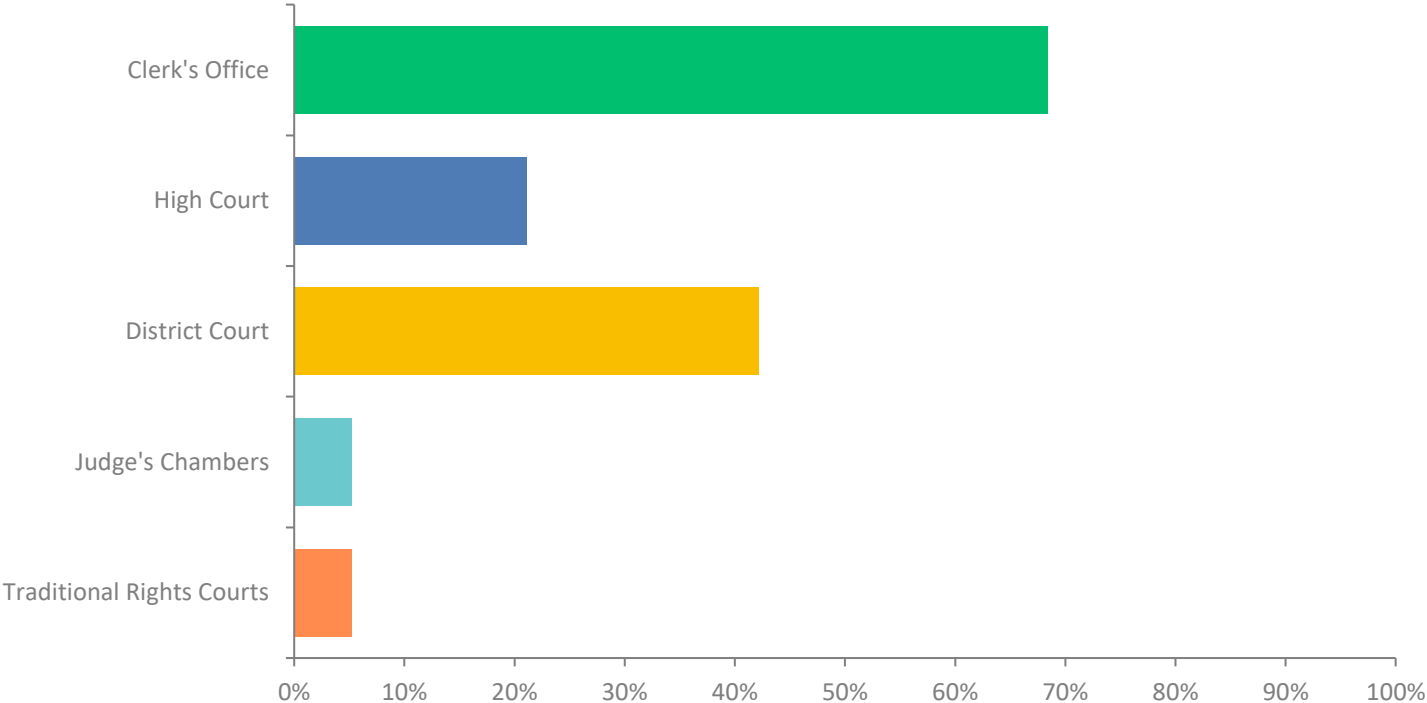
Q3: What did you do at the court today? (Ta eo kwar kommane ilo court rainin?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Search court records/obtain documents or recordings (Etali record ak eppok pepa ko jen court)	11.11%	2
Sit in on a hearing/trial (Bed ilo juon iien ronjake/ekajet)	22.22%	4
File papers/deliver documents (File pepa/ bokto-boktak pepa ko)	27.78%	5
Appear as a witness/litigant (Jede einwot ri-kamol/juon eo ewor an case)	5.56%	1
File DRB/DRD (Eppok order non komman pepa in lotak/mej)	27.78%	5
Attorney representing a client (Kwoj lawyer eo an juon bar an mej)	5.56%	1

Q4: Where did you go today? (la eo kwar etal non e rainin?)

Answered: 19 Skipped: 2



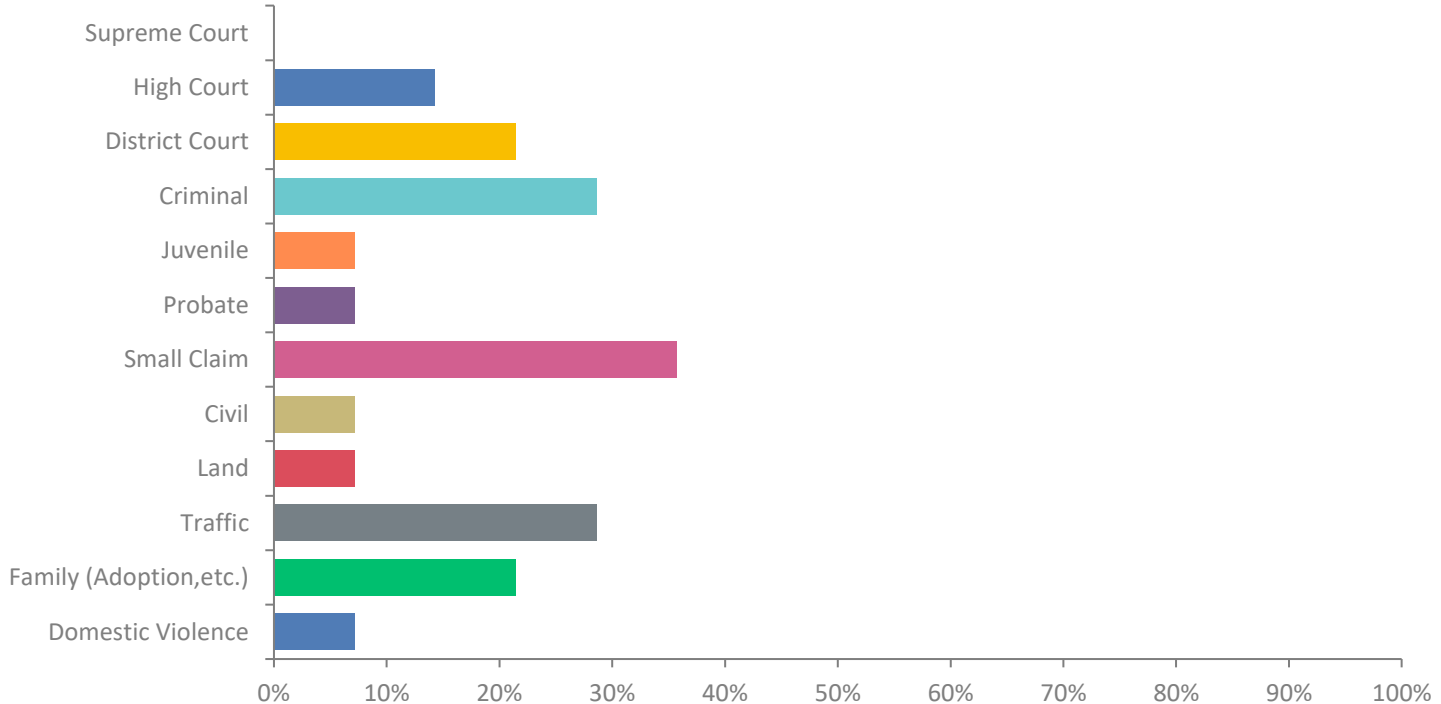
Q4: Where did you go today? (la eo kwar etal non e rainin?)

Answered: 19 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Clerk's Office	68.42%	13
High Court	21.05%	4
District Court	42.11%	8
Judge's Chambers	5.26%	1
Traditional Rights Courts	5.26%	1
TOTAL		27

Q5: If you were in Court today for a case, what type of case were you here for? (Elane kwar bed ilo court rainin, kain case rot eo kwar itok nan e?)

Answered: 14 Skipped: 7



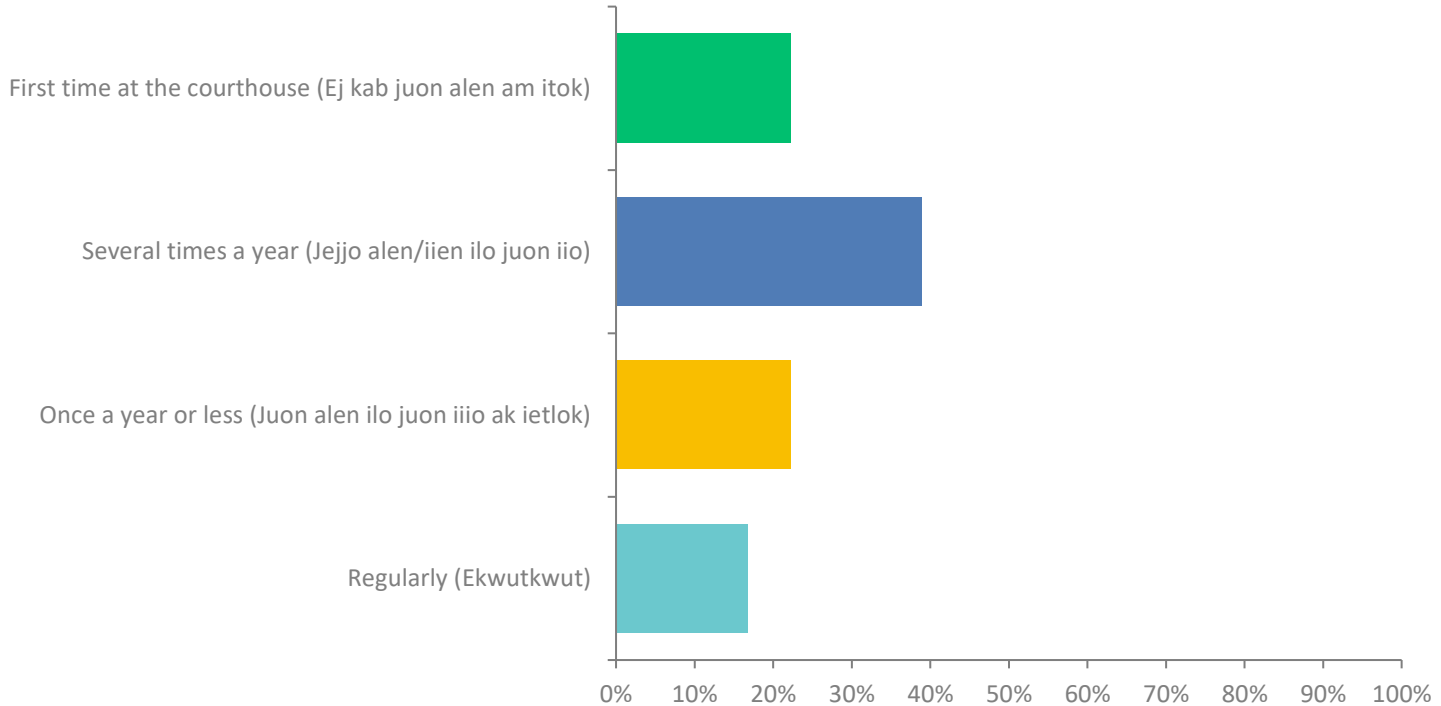
Q5: If you were in Court today for a case, what type of case were you here for? (Elane kwar bed ilo court rainin, kain case rot eo kwar itok nan e?)

Answered: 14 Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Supreme Court	0%	0
High Court	14.29%	2
District Court	21.43%	3
Criminal	28.57%	4
Juvenile	7.14%	1
Probate	7.14%	1
Small Claim	35.71%	5
Civil	7.14%	1
Land	7.14%	1
Traffic	28.57%	4

Q6: How often are you at the Courthouse? (Ewi jonan an ikwutkwut in am itok non Courthouse?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3



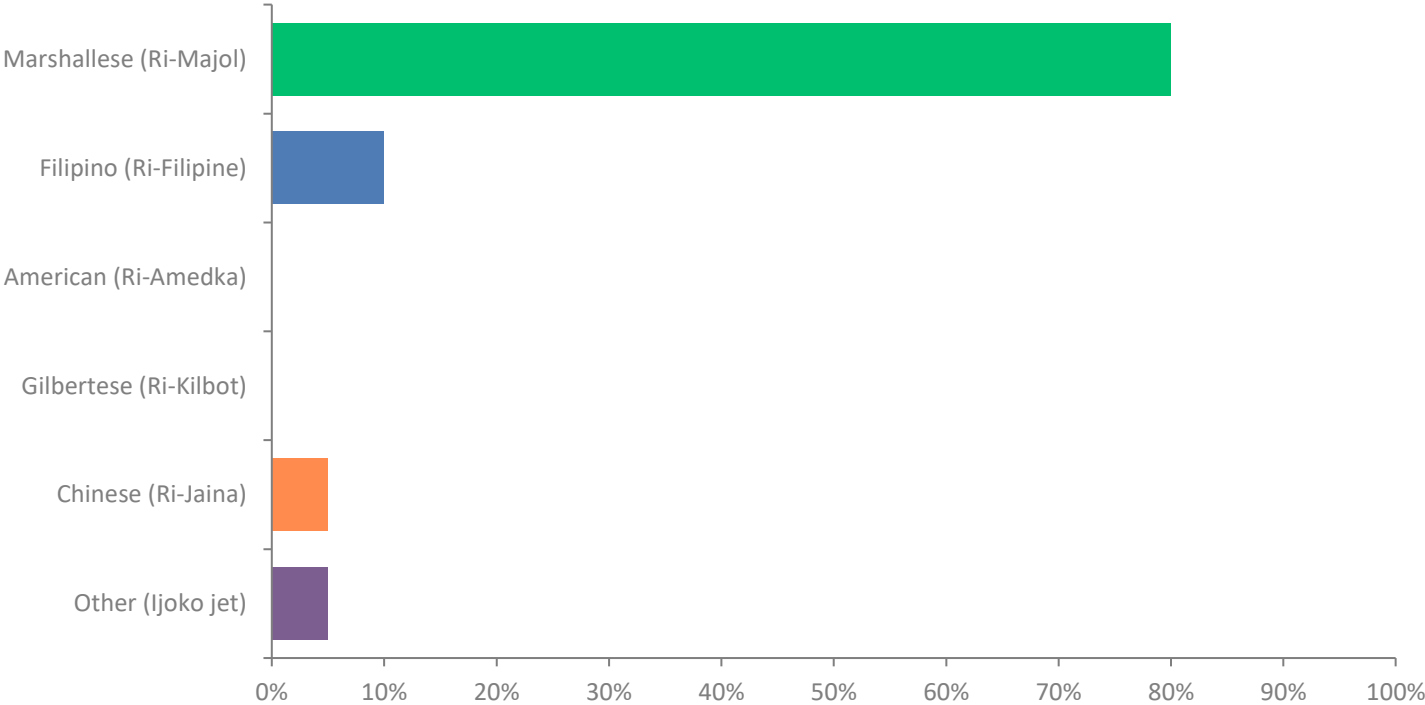
Q6: How often are you at the Courthouse? (Ewi jonan an ikwutkwut in am itok non Courthouse?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
First time at the courthouse (Ej kab juon alen am itok)	22.22%	4
Several times a year (Jejjo alen/iien ilo juon iio)	38.89%	7
Once a year or less (Juon alen ilo juon iio ak ietlok)	22.22%	4
Regularly (Ekwutkwut)	16.67%	3
TOTAL		18

Q7: How do you identify yourself? (Kwe ri-ia ak kwoj jen ia?)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 1



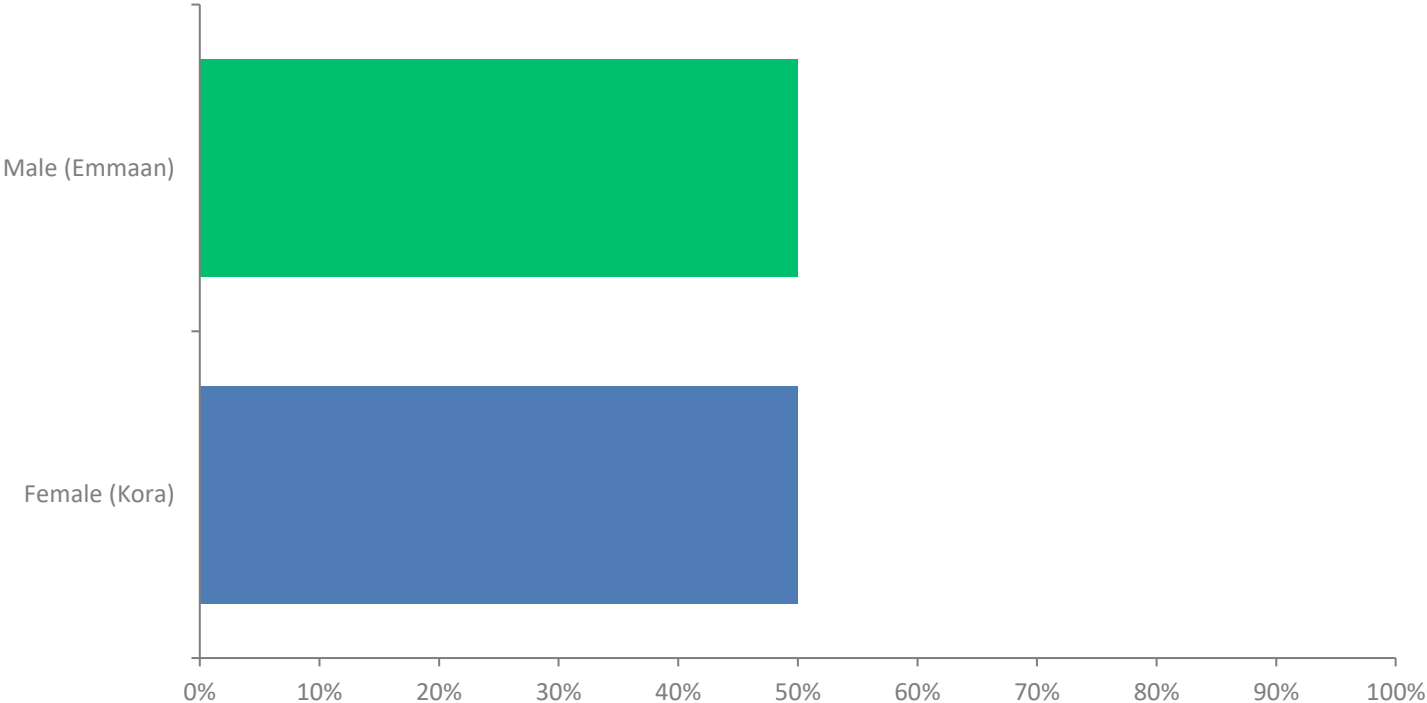
Q7: How do you identify yourself? (Kwe ri-ia ak kwoj jen ia?)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Marshallese (Ri-Majol)	80.0%	16
Filipino (Ri-Filipine)	10.0%	2
American (Ri-Amedka)	0%	0
Gilbertese (Ri-Kilbot)	0%	0
Chinese (Ri-Jaina)	5.00%	1
Other (Ijoko jet)	5.00%	1
TOTAL		20

Q8: What is your gender? (Kwe kora ke ak emmaan?)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 1



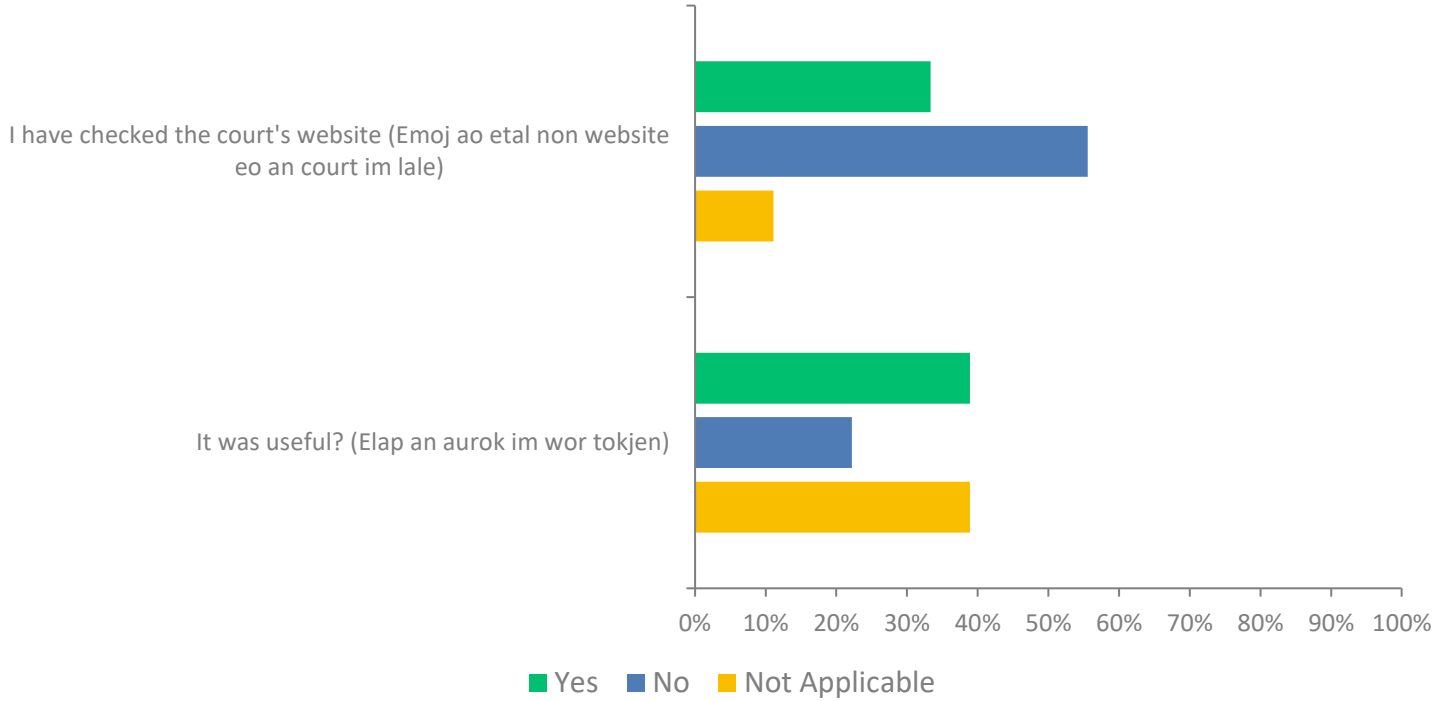
Q8: What is your gender? (Kwe kora ke ak emmaan?)

Answered: 20 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male (Emmaan)	50.0%	10
Female (Kora)	50.0%	10
TOTAL		20

Q10: Court's website

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3



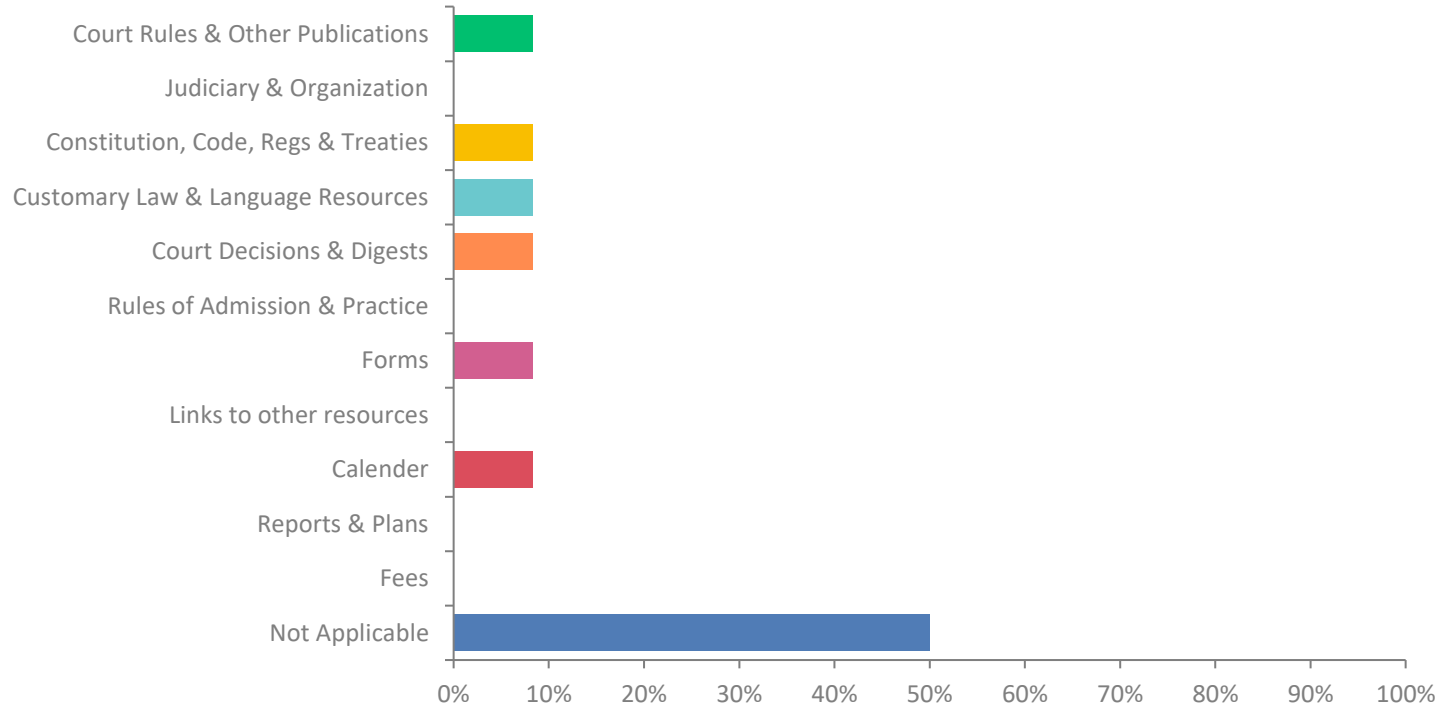
Q10: Court's website

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I have checked the court's website (Emoj ao etal non website eo an court im lale)	33.33% 6	55.56% 10	11.11% 2	18	1
It was useful? (Elap an aurok im wor tokjen)	38.89% 7	22.22% 4	38.89% 7	18	1

Q11: Where did you go on the website?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 9



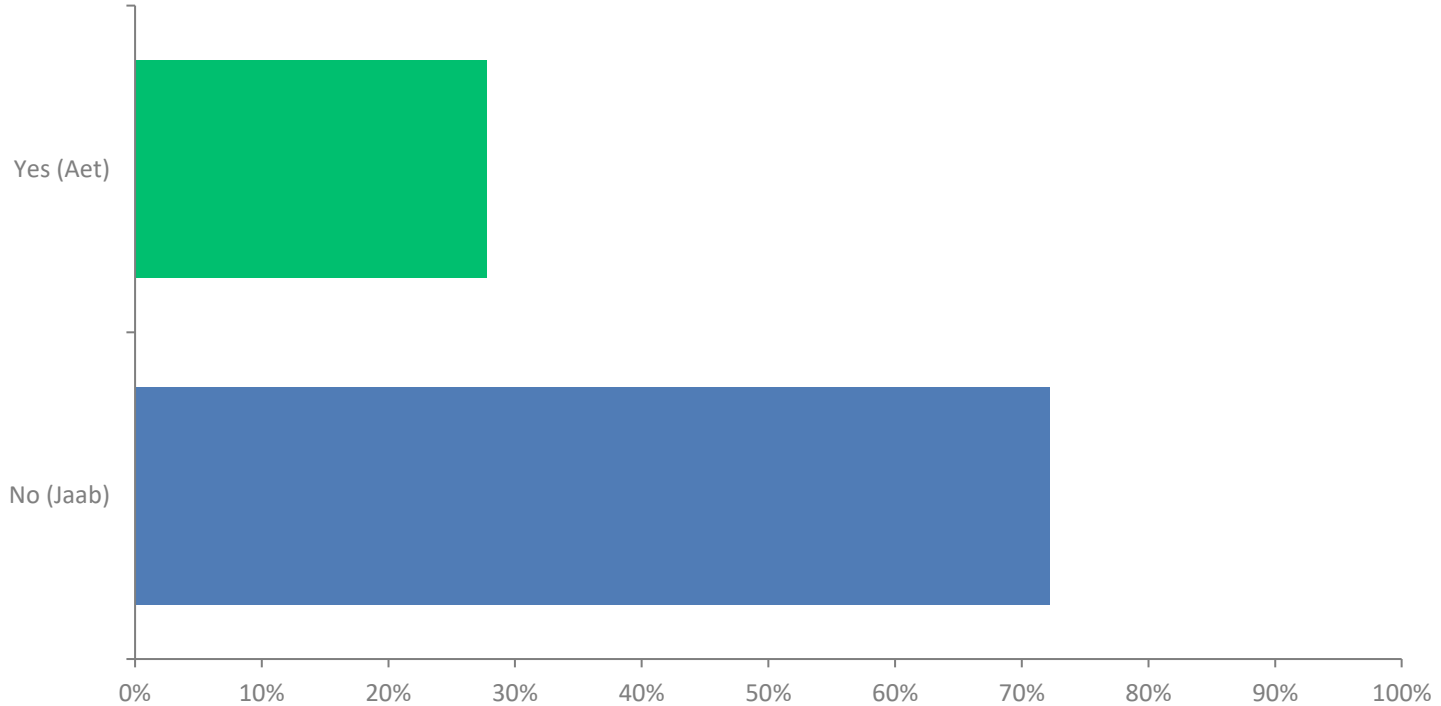
Q11: Where did you go on the website?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Court Rules & Other Publications	8.33%	1
Judiciary & Organization	0%	0
Constitution, Code, Regs & Treaties	8.33%	1
Customary Law & Language Resources	8.33%	1
Court Decisions & Digests	8.33%	1
Rules of Admission & Practice	0%	0
Forms	8.33%	1
Links to other resources	0%	0
	8.33%	1

maron in kajitok bwe court en jolok woneen ko an ikijien civil ak case ko an baamle elane kwoj jab maron in kolla woneen?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3



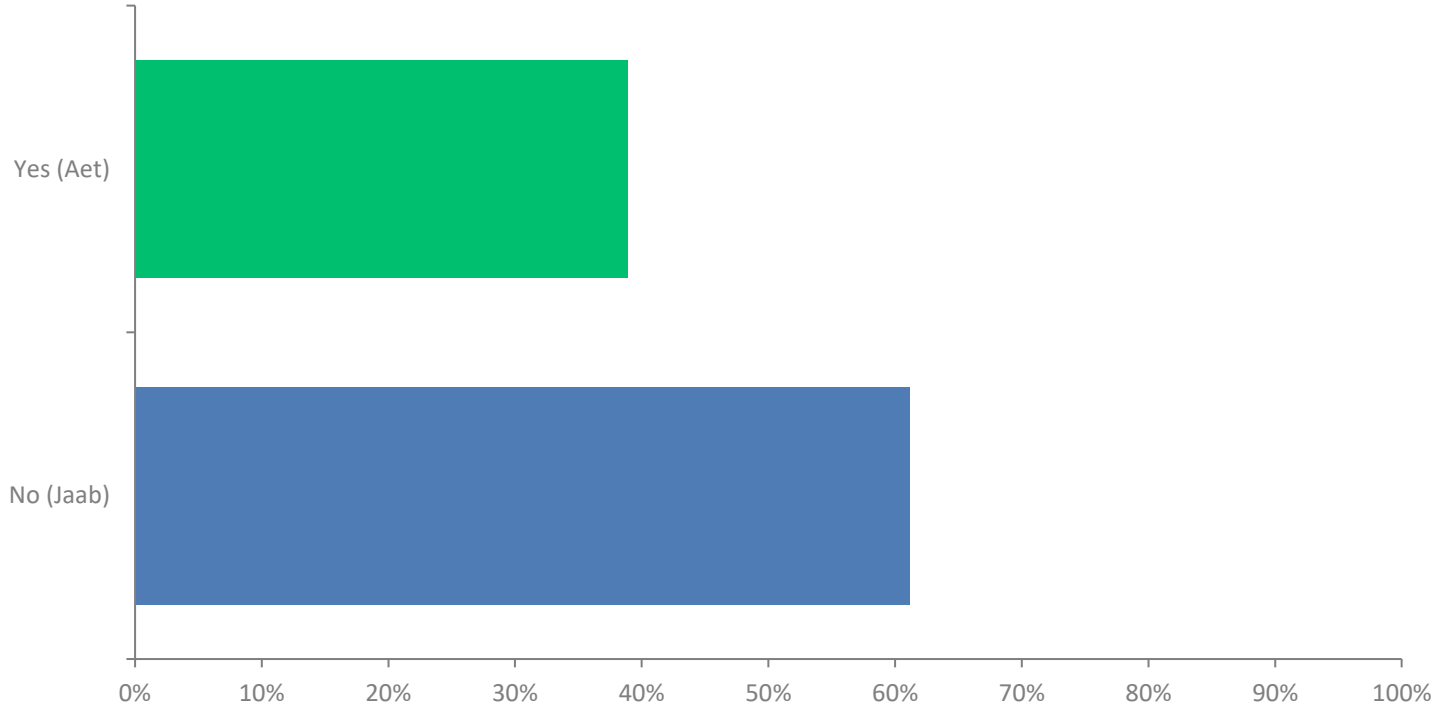
maron in kajitok bwe court en jolok woneen ko an ikijien civil ak case ko an baamle elane kwoj jab maron in kolla woneen?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (Aet)	27.78%	5
No (Jaab)	72.22%	13
TOTAL		18

Court ak Ra eo an Jikin Ekajet eo ikijjen wawein aer kar komman non kwe?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3



Court ak Ra eo an Jikin Ekajet eo ikijjen wawein aer kar komman non kwe?)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (Aet)	38.89%	7
No (Jaab)	61.11%	11
TOTAL		18

2022 Access & Fairness Survey-Ebeye Courthouse

Thursday, April 27, 2023

15

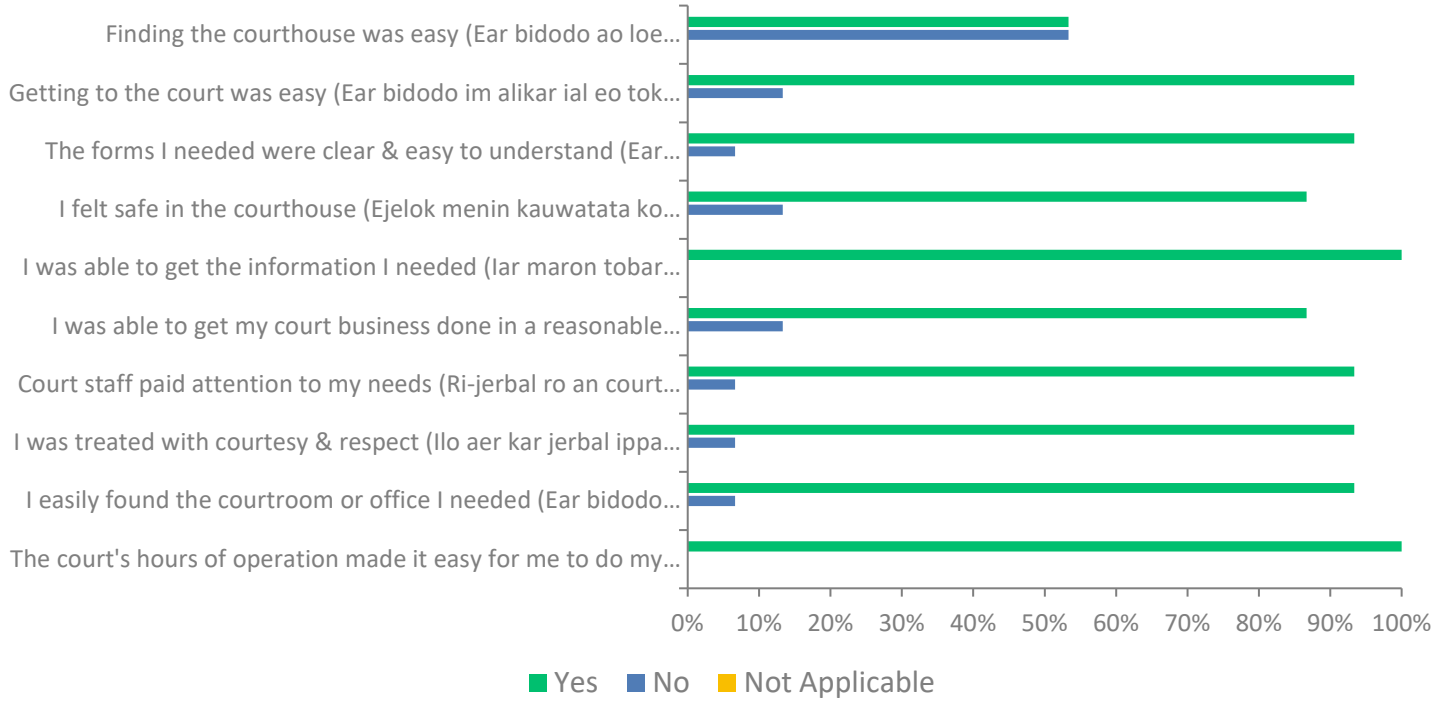
Total Responses

Date Created: Friday, February 17, 2023

Complete Responses: 15

Q1: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



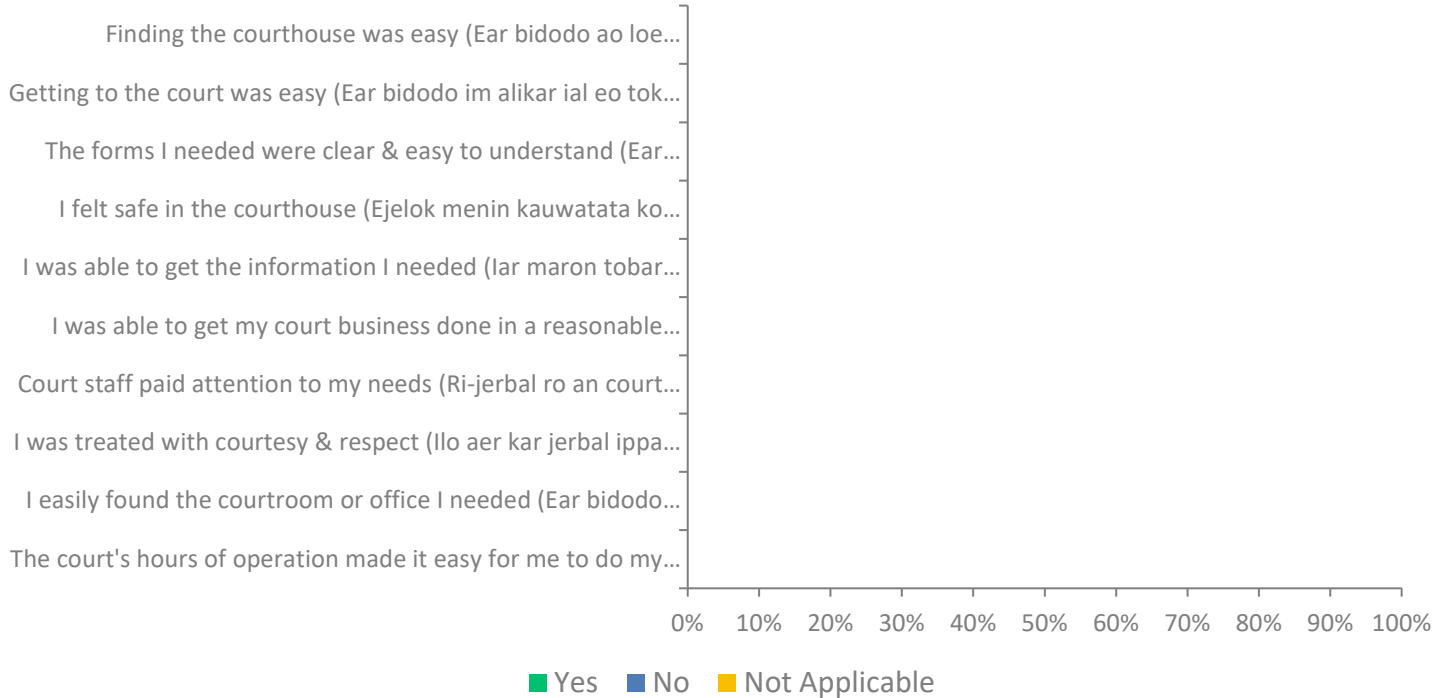
Q1: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Finding the courthouse was easy (Ear bidodo ao loe courthouse/im on ekajet eo)	53.33% 8	53.33% 8	0% 0	15	1
Getting to the court was easy (Ear bidodo im alikar ial eo tok non courthouse ak imon ekajet eo)	93.33% 14	13.33% 2	0% 0	15	1
The forms I needed were	93.33% 14	6.67% 1	0% 0	15	1

Q2: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 0 Skipped: 15



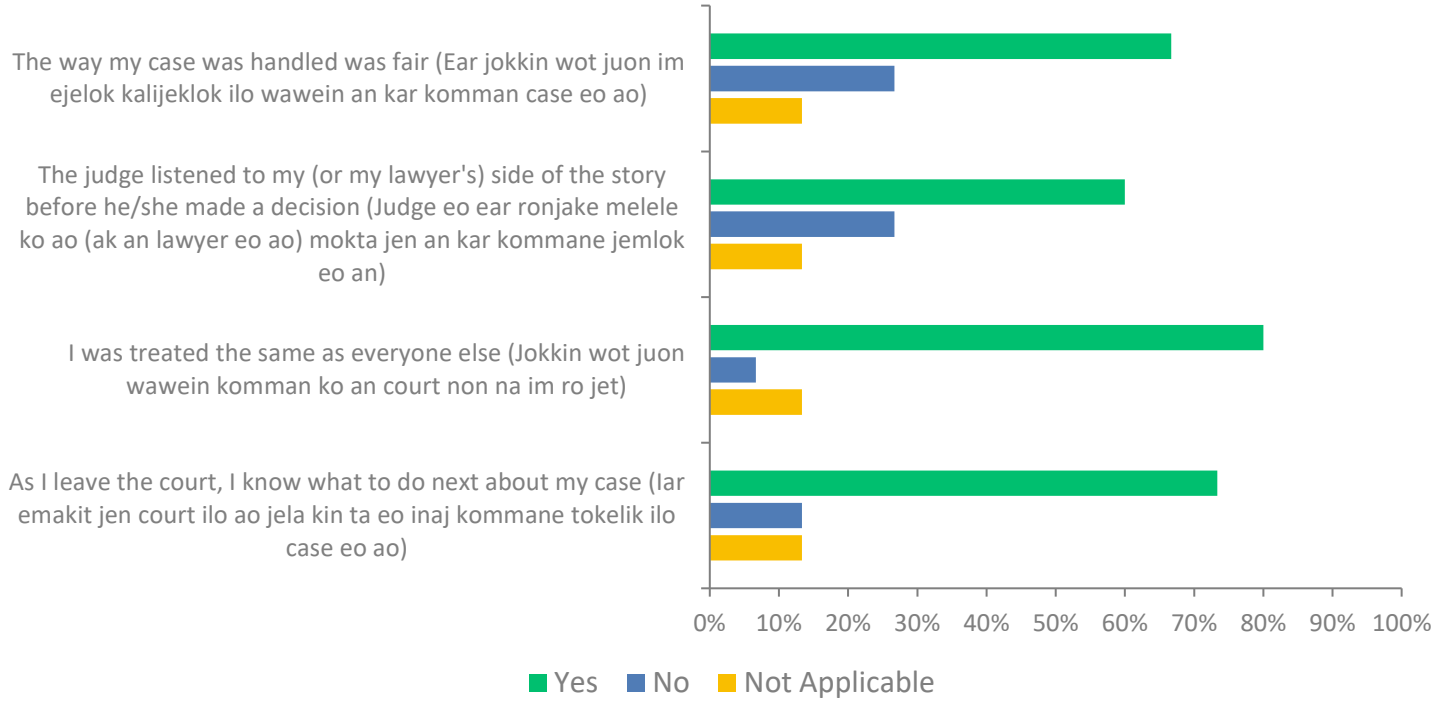
Q2: When you came to the court today: (Ke kwar itok non Imon Ekajet ak Courthouse eo rainin)

Answered: 0 Skipped: 15

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Finding the courthouse was easy (Ear bidodo ao loe courthouse/im on ekajet eo)	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0	0
Getting to the court was easy (Ear bidodo im alikar ial eo tok non courthouse ak imon ekajet eo)	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0	0
The forms I needed were	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0	0

Q3: If you saw a judge today (Ne kwar lo ak jede imaan juon judge/ri-ekajet rainin):

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



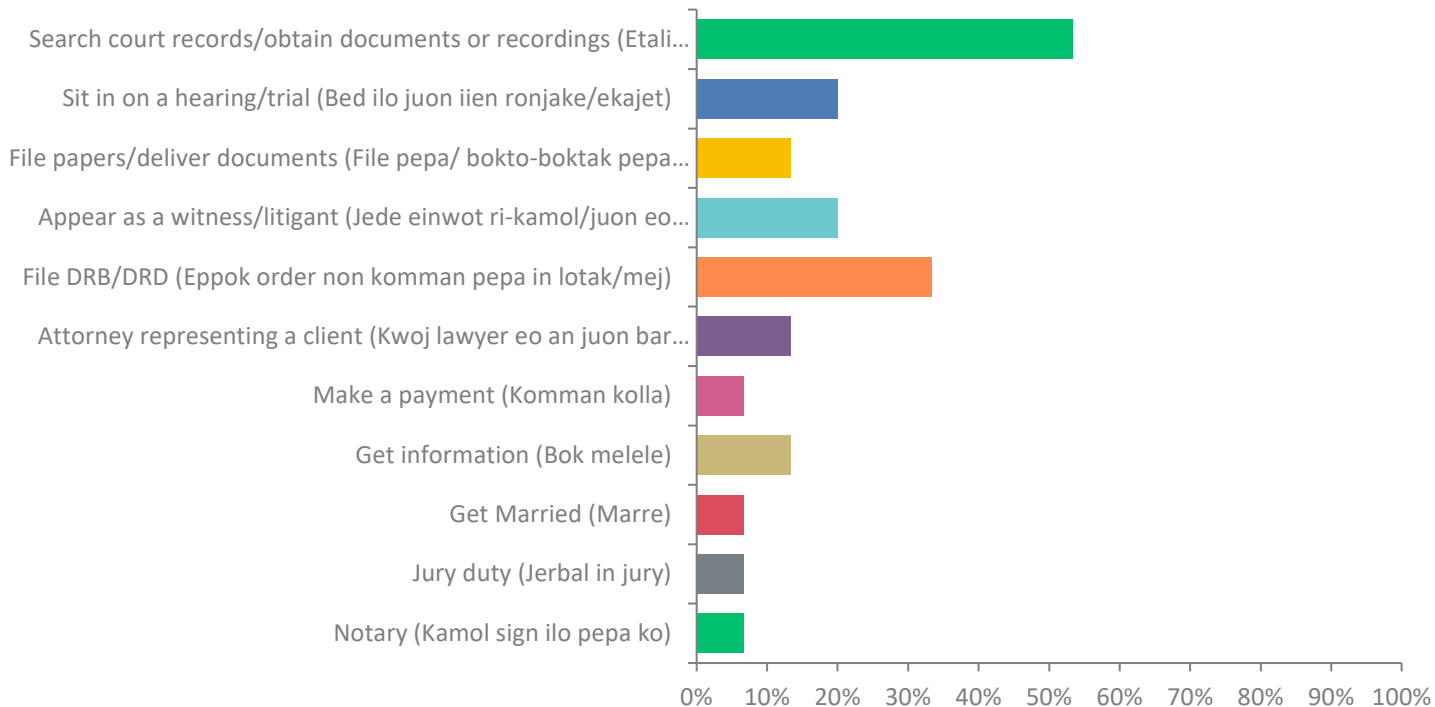
Q3: If you saw a judge today (Ne kwar lo ak jede imaan juon judge/ri-ekajet rainin):

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The way my case was handled was fair (Ear jokkin wot juon im ejelok kalijeklok ilo wawein an kar komman case eo ao)	66.67% 10	26.67% 4	13.33% 2	15	1
The judge listened to my (or my lawyer's) side of the story before he/she	60.0% 9	26.67% 4	13.33% 2	15	1

Q4: What did you do at the court today? (Ta eo kwar kommane ilo court rainin?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



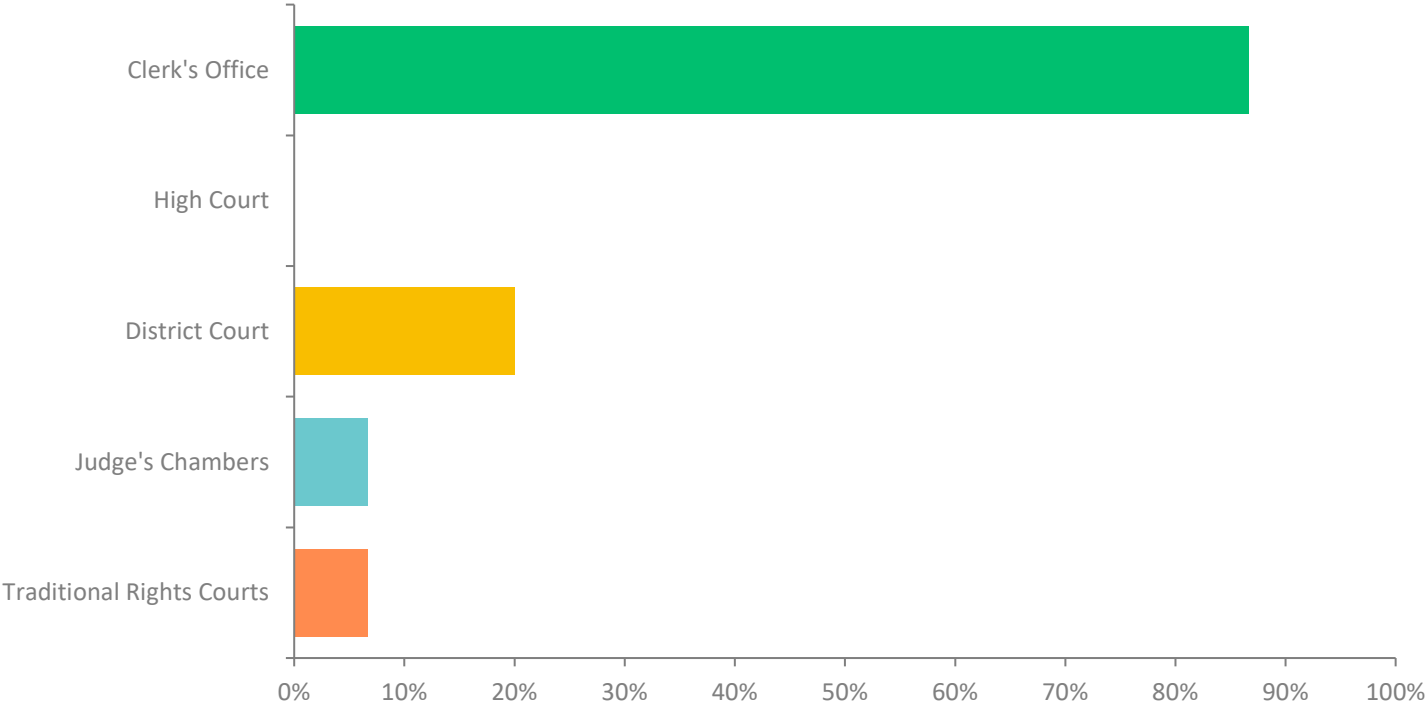
Q4: What did you do at the court today? (Ta eo kwar kommane ilo court rainin?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Search court records/obtain documents or recordings (Etali record ak eppok pepa ko jen court)	53.33%	8
Sit in on a hearing/trial (Bed ilo juon iien ronjake/ekajet)	20.0%	3
File papers/deliver documents (File pepa/ bokto-boktak pepa ko)	13.33%	2
Appear as a witness/litigant (Jede einwot ri-kamol/juon eo ewor an case)	20.0%	3
File DRB/DRD (Eppok order non komman pepa in lotak/mej)	33.33%	5
Attorney representing a client (Kwoj lawyer eo an juon bar an mej)	13.33%	2

Q5: Where did you go today? (la eo kwar etal non e rainin?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



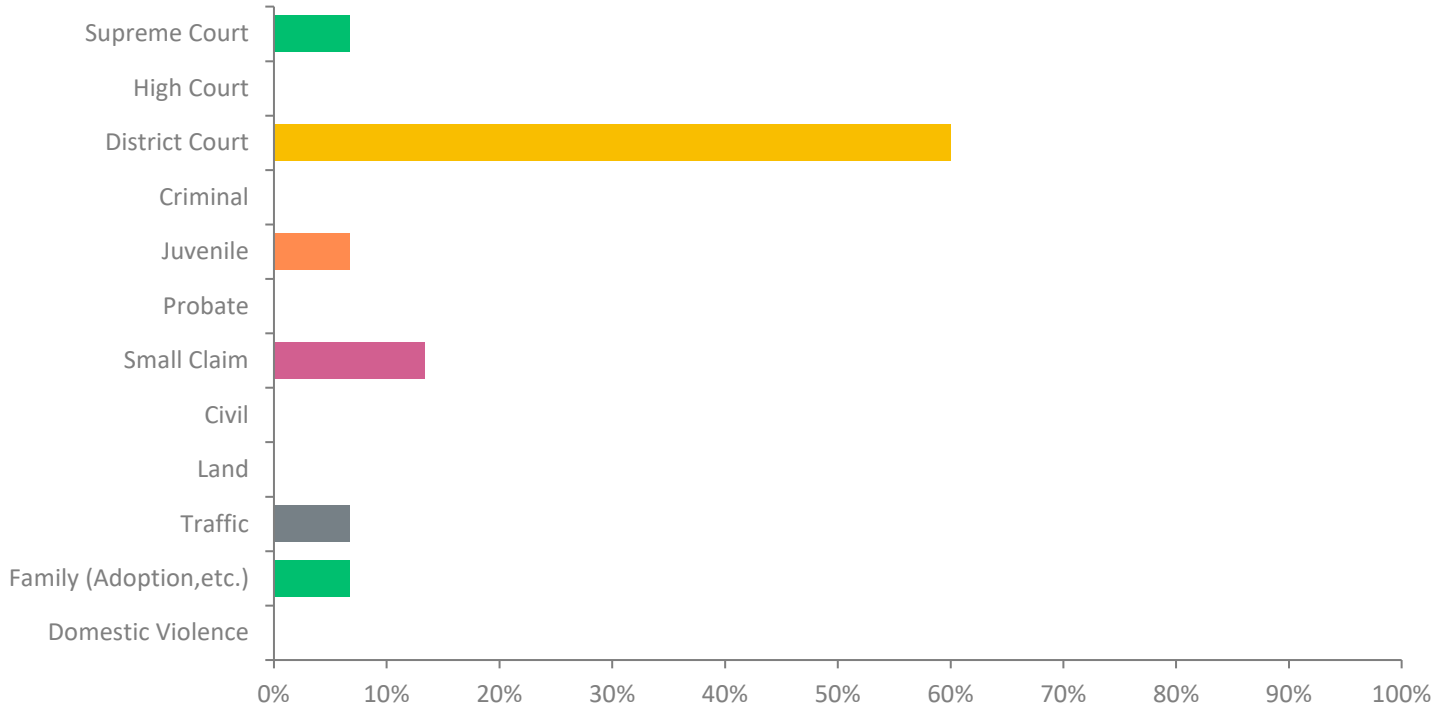
Q5: Where did you go today? (la eo kwar etal non e rainin?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Clerk's Office	86.67%	13
High Court	0%	0
District Court	20.0%	3
Judge's Chambers	6.67%	1
Traditional Rights Courts	6.67%	1
TOTAL		18

Q6: If you were in Court today for a case, what type of case were you here for? (Elane kwar bed ilo court rainin, kain case rot eo kwar itok nan e?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



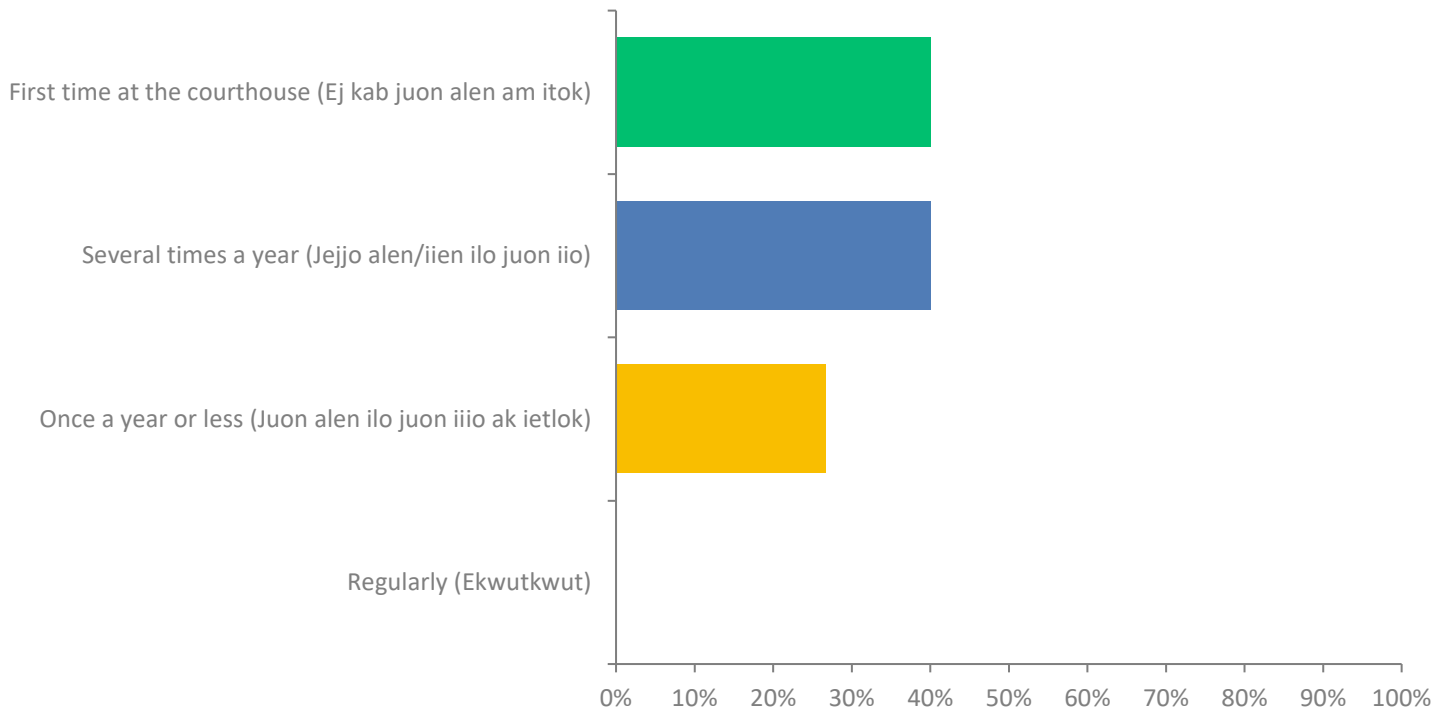
Q6: If you were in Court today for a case, what type of case were you here for? (Elane kwar bed ilo court rainin, kain case rot eo kwar itok nan e?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Supreme Court	6.67%	1
High Court	0%	0
District Court	60.0%	9
Criminal	0%	0
Juvenile	6.67%	1
Probate	0%	0
Small Claim	13.33%	2
Civil	0%	0
Land	0%	0

Q7: How often are you at the Courthouse? (Ewi jonan an ikwutkwut in am itok non Courthouse?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



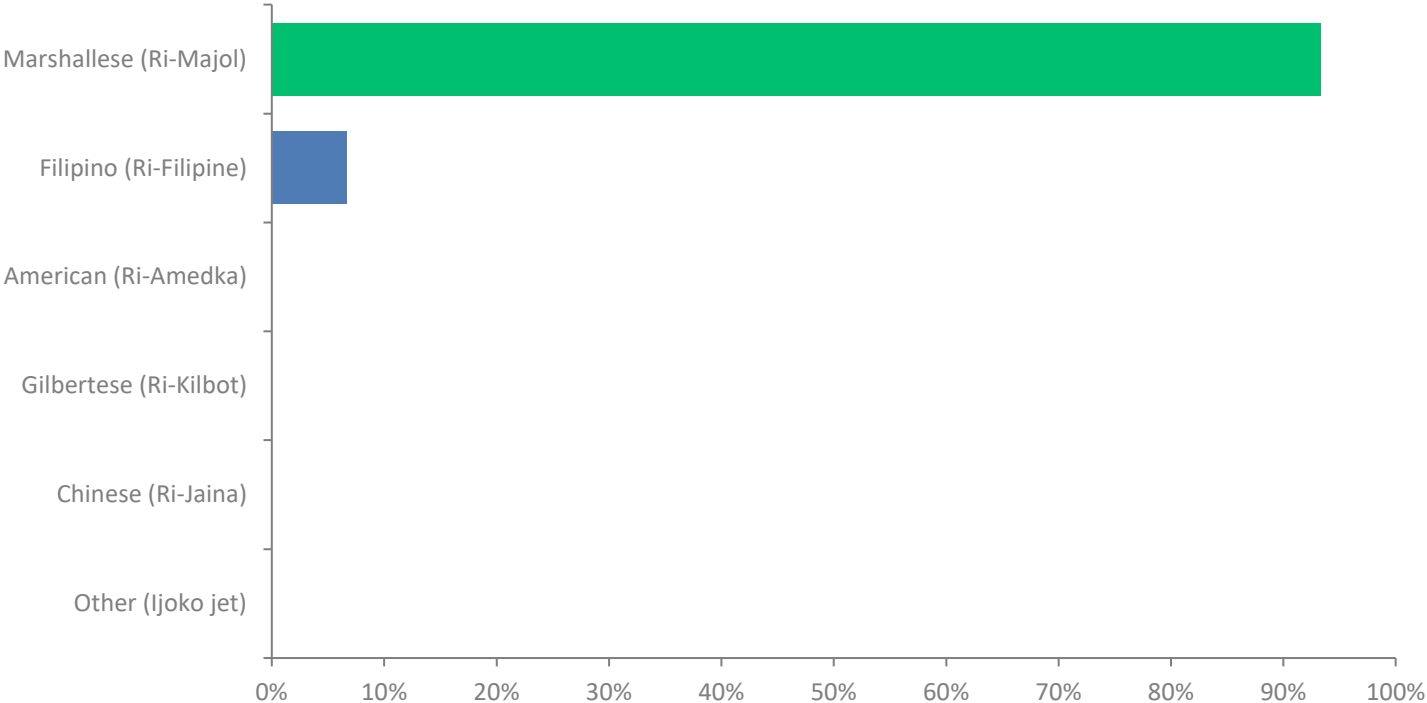
Q7: How often are you at the Courthouse? (Ewi jonan an ikwutkwut in am itok non Courthouse?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
First time at the courthouse (Ej kab juon alen am itok)	40.0%	6
Several times a year (Jejjo alen/iien ilo juon iio)	40.0%	6
Once a year or less (Juon alen ilo juon iio ak ietlok)	26.67%	4
Regularly (Ekwutkwut)	0%	0
TOTAL		16

Q8: How do you identify yourself? (Kwe ri-ia ak kwoj jen ia?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



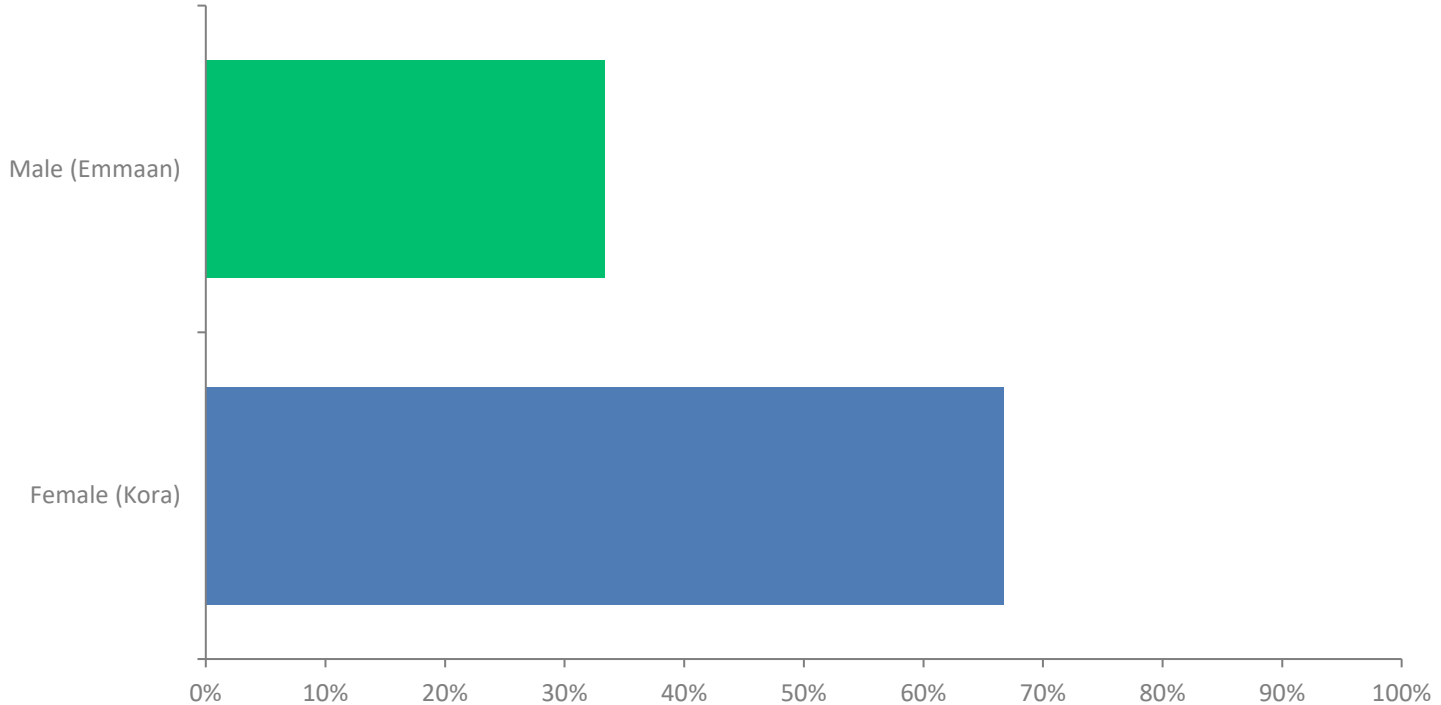
Q8: How do you identify yourself? (Kwe ri-ia ak kwoj jen ia?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Marshallese (Ri-Majol)	93.33%	14
Filipino (Ri-Filipine)	6.67%	1
American (Ri-Amedka)	0%	0
Gilbertese (Ri-Kilbot)	0%	0
Chinese (Ri-Jaina)	0%	0
Other (Ijoko jet)	0%	0
TOTAL		15

Q9: What is your gender? (Kwe kora ke ak emmaan?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



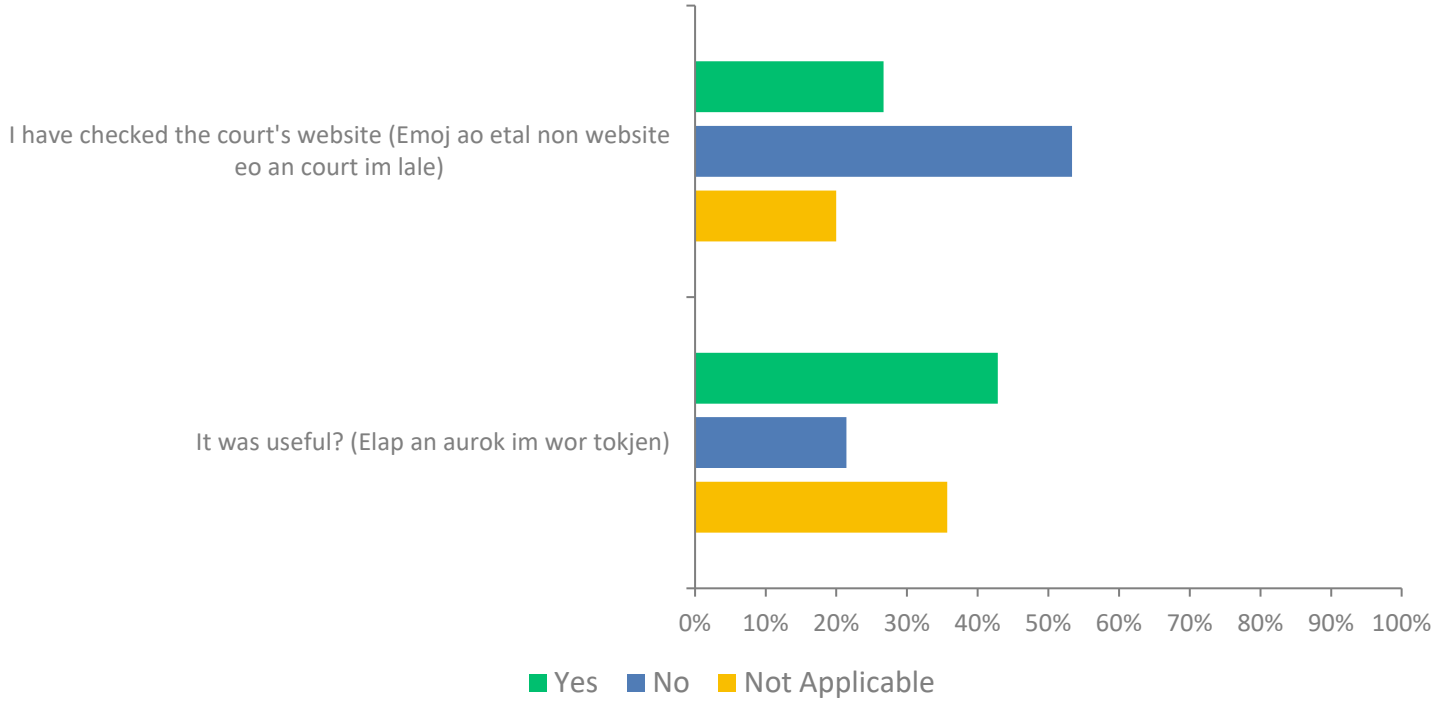
Q9: What is your gender? (Kwe kora ke ak emmaan?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male (Emmaan)	33.33%	5
Female (Kora)	66.67%	10
TOTAL		15

Q11: Court's website

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



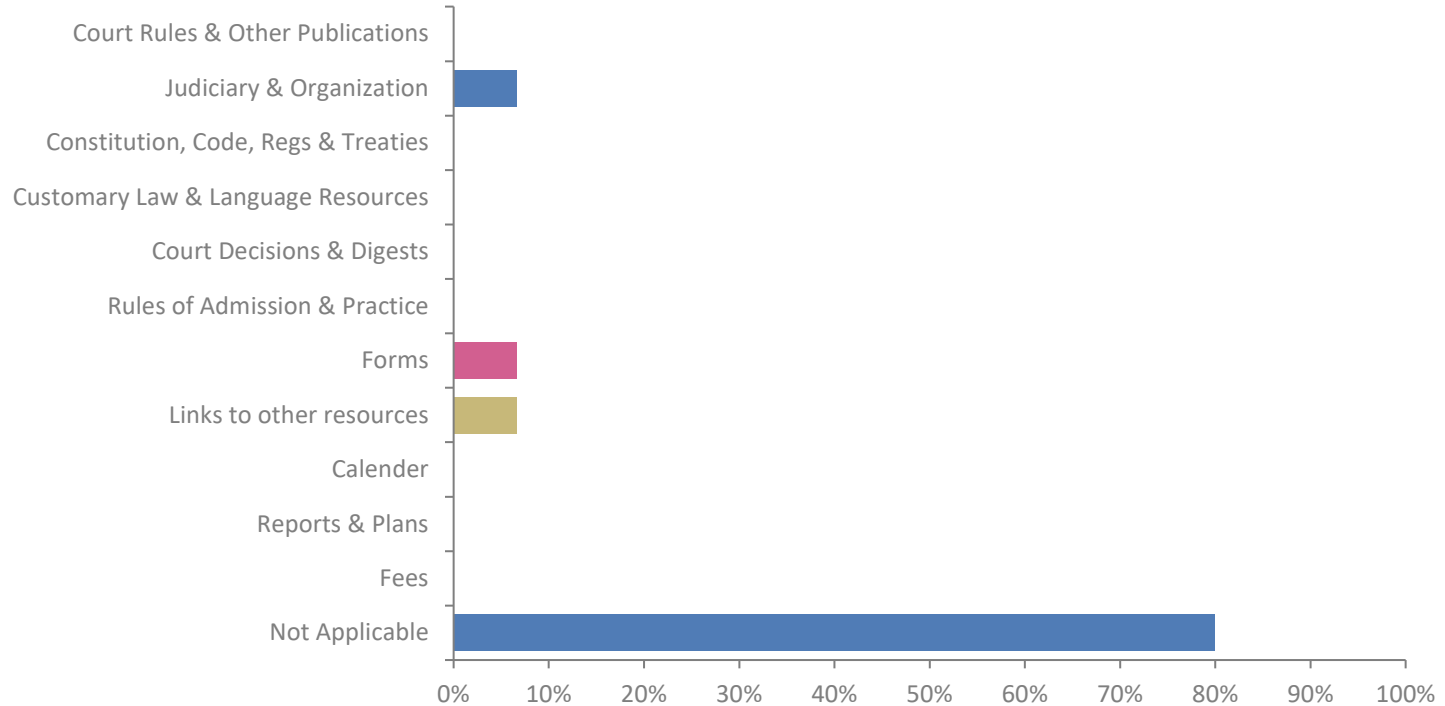
Q11: Court's website

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

	YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
I have checked the court's website (Emojao etal non website eo an court im lale)	26.67% 4	53.33% 8	20.0% 3	15	1
It was useful? (Elap an aurok im wor tokjen)	42.86% 6	21.43% 3	35.71% 5	14	1

Q12: Where did you go on the website?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



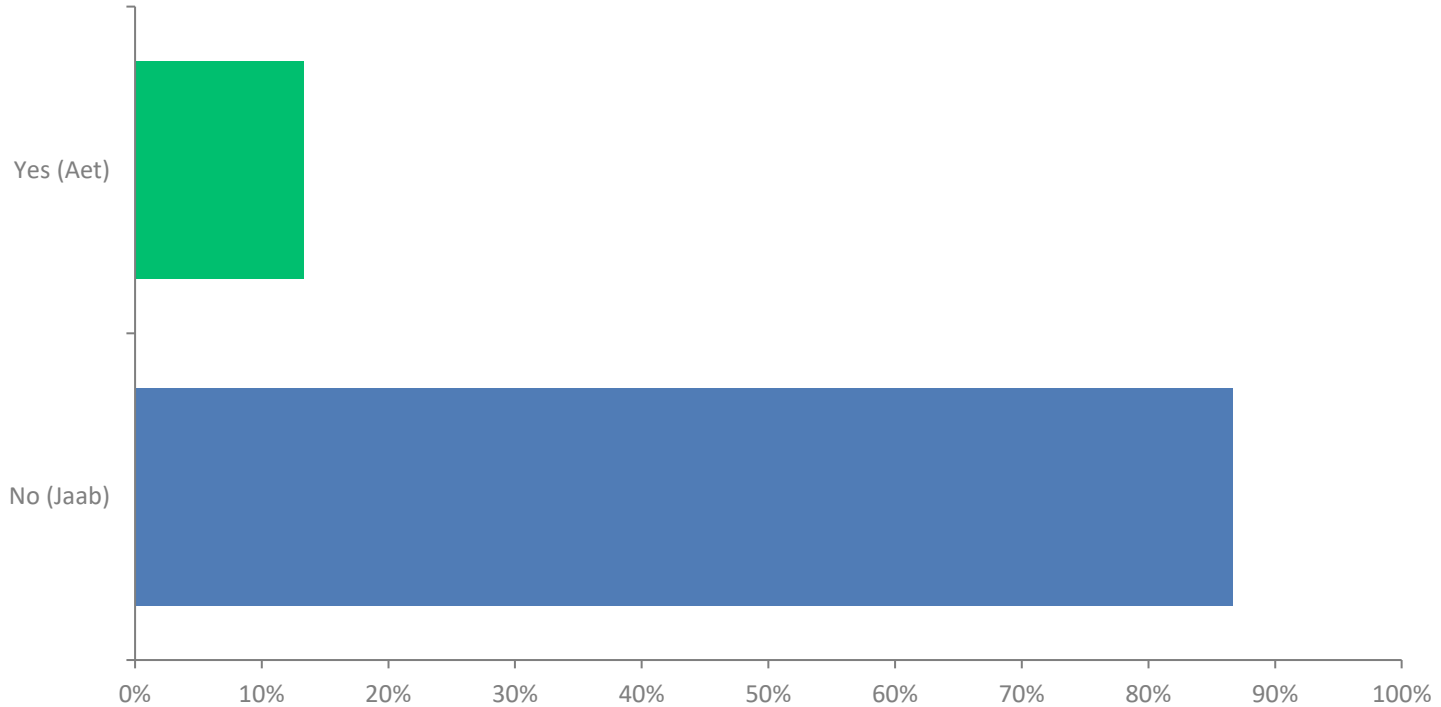
Q12: Where did you go on the website?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Court Rules & Other Publications	0%	0
Judiciary & Organization	6.67%	1
Constitution, Code, Regs & Treaties	0%	0
Customary Law & Language Resources	0%	0
Court Decisions & Digests	0%	0
Rules of Admission & Practice	0%	0
Forms	6.67%	1
Links to other resources	6.67%	1
	0%	0

maron in kajitok bwe court en jolok woneen ko an ikijien civil ak case ko an baamle elane kwoj jab maron in kolla woneen?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



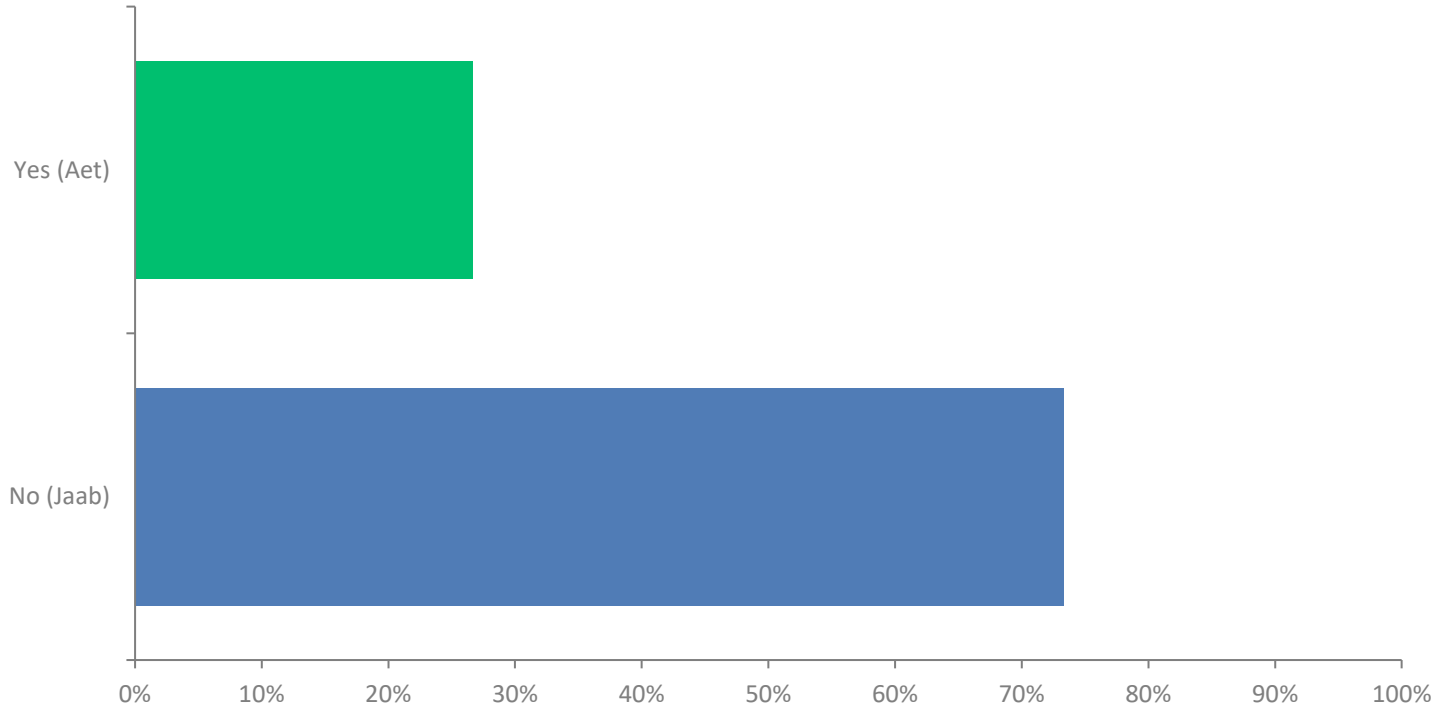
maron in kajitok bwe court en jolok woneen ko an ikijien civil ak case ko an baamle elane kwoj jab maron in kolla woneen?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (Aet)	13.33%	2
No (Jaab)	86.67%	13
TOTAL		15

Court ak Ra eo an Jikin Ekajet eo ikijjen wawein aer kar komman non kwe?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Court ak Ra eo an Jikin Ekajet eo ikijjen wawein aer kar komman non kwe?)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (Aet)	26.67%	4
No (Jaab)	73.33%	11
TOTAL		15