



NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA

# OVERVIEW



## ***To the Orange and Osceola County Community:***

The mission of Florida's judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes. To support this mission, the Trial Court Budget Commission's 2020-21 Legislative Budget Requests seek additional resources related to the timely resolution of cases and the provision of court interpreting services.

Accelerated, sustained, long term growth in our region makes the pursuit of these issues a priority for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. Complex civil cases, like those involving businesses, guardians, family issues, and domestic violence injunctions, require a tremendous amount of time and resources. Additional judges are still needed. And, staff attorneys and case managers play a vital support role - multiplying the efforts of a presiding judge, increasing the number of cases the judge is able to handle, and assisting in the more timely resolution of those cases.

Central Florida's diverse population growth has also put a strain on court interpreting services. Our court users with limited English proficiency who struggle to speak the language or to understand fully their proceedings can only access justice via court interpreters. By law, the Court provides interpreters in multiple languages for our due process courts - criminal, juvenile, domestic violence, and mental health. Although the Ninth Judicial Circuit leads the state in use of technology to maximize interpretation services, additional resources are essential to serve our rapidly growing population.

Thank you for your support of the Ninth Judicial Circuit as we seek to better serve our community!



A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'Donald A. Myers, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**The Honorable Donald A. Myers, Jr.**

Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit

425 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2010  
Orlando, Florida 32801

☎ 407-836-0417    ✉ [ctajav1@ocnjcc.org](mailto:ctajav1@ocnjcc.org)

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*The mission of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.*

*Justice will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive, and accountable.*

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ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE



OSCEOLA COUNTY COURTHOUSE



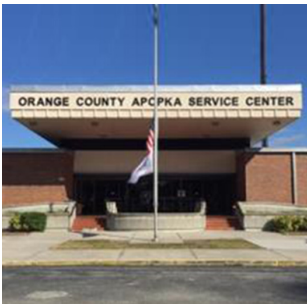
ORANGE COUNTY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
CENTER



ORANGE COUNTY JAIL  
BOOKING AND RELEASE  
CENTER



OSCEOLA COUNTY  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE



APOPKA COURTHOUSE



OCOEE COURTHOUSE



WINTER PARK  
COURTHOUSE

**2,229**  
SQUARE MILES

**1.7M**  
POPULATION



# ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES



DONALD A. MYERS, JR.  
**CHIEF JUDGE**

## **CIRCUIT CRIMINAL DIVISION** *(Orange County)*



LETICIA  
MARQUES  
*Administrative Judge*



RENEE A. ROCHE  
*Associate  
Administrative Judge*



JOHN  
MARSHALL KEST  
*Administrative Judge*



LISA T. MUNYON  
*Associate  
Administrative Judge*

## **CIRCUIT JUVENILE DIVISION** *(Orange County)*



ROBERT J. EGAN  
*Administrative Judge*



PATRICIA A.  
DOHERTY  
*Associate  
Administrative Judge*



HEATHER L.  
HIGBEE  
*Administrative Judge*



ALICE L.  
BLACKWELL  
*Associate  
Administrative Judge*

## **CIRCUIT DOMESTIC DIVISION** *(Orange County)*



## **CIRCUIT & COUNTY COURTS**

*(Osceola County)*



**JON B.  
MORGAN**

*Administrative Judge*



**MARGARET H.  
SCHREIBER**

*Associate Administrative  
Judge of Circuit &  
County Courts*



**HEATHER PINDER  
RODRIGUEZ**

*Associate Administrative  
Judge of  
Domestic Courts*



**HAL C.  
EPPERSON, JR.**

*Associate Administrative  
Judge of County Court*

## **CIRCUIT APPELLATE DIVISION**

*Orange & Osceola Counties*



**KEVIN B. WEISS**

*Administrative Judge*

## **UNIFIED PROBLEM SOLVING COURT DIVISION**

*Orange & Osceola Counties*



**REGINALD K. WHITEHEAD**

*Administrative Judge*

## **COUNTY COURT**

*(Orange County)*



**MARTHA C. ADAMS**

*Administrative Judge*



**ERIC H. DUBOIS**

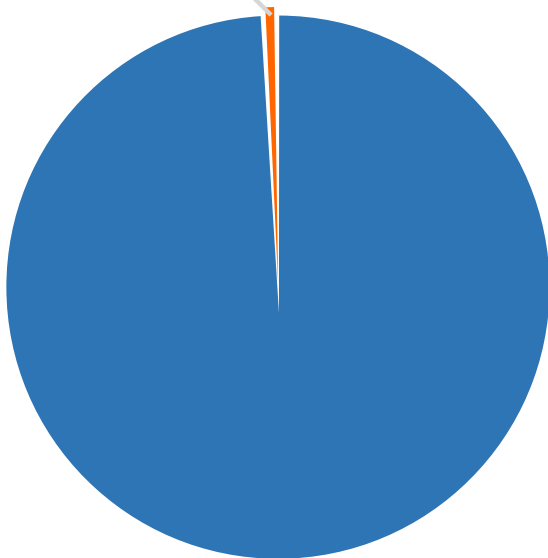
*Associate Administrative Judge*



# STATE BUDGET FY 2019-20

## APPROPRIATIONS

**JUDICIAL  
BRANCH** → **0.6% OF  
TOTAL BUDGET**



**NINTH CIRCUIT  
RESOURCES  
STILL NEEDED**

- *Judges*
- *Case Managers*
- *Staff Attorneys*
- *Interpreters*



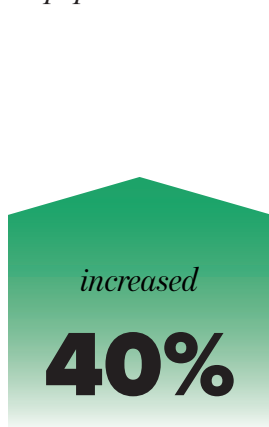
# POPULATION GROWTH

SINCE 2000

FLORIDA'S  
*population has*

ORANGE COUNTY'S  
*population has*

OSCEOLA COUNTY'S  
*population has*



*Source: United States Census Bureau, July 1, 2019 estimate*

## AGING DEMOGRAPHIC

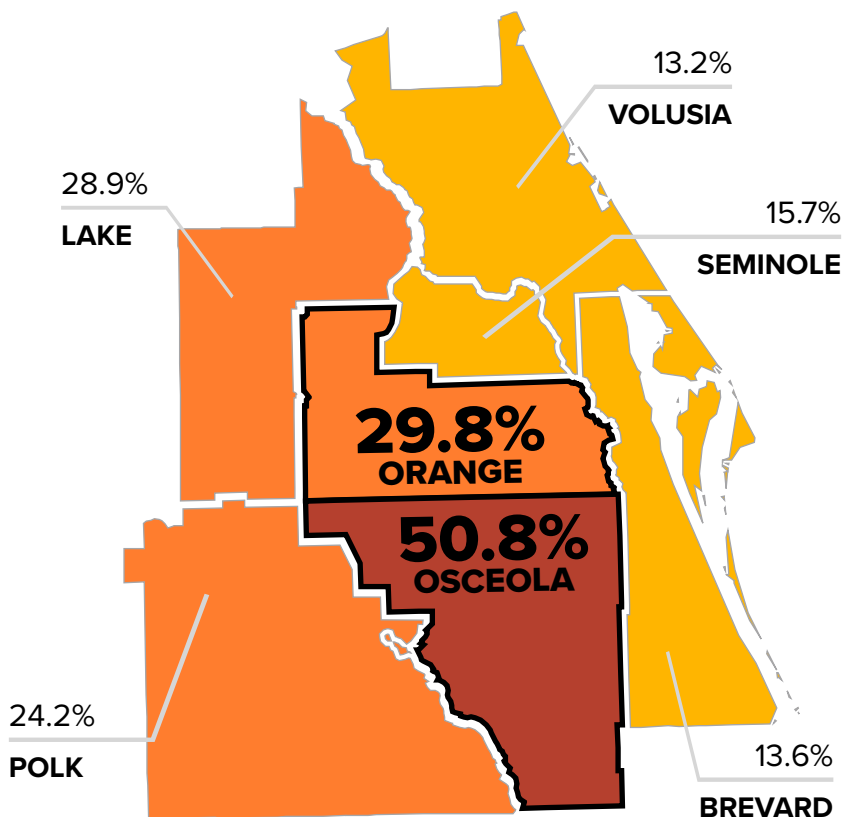
*between*  
**2025**  
*— and —*  
**2030**

The area's senior population will grow to over a million, outnumbering those aged 0-17.



# POPULATION TRENDS

*projected population growth (2017-2030)*



*Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research*

*for the next*

**11**

*— years —*

Metro Orlando is projected to attract more than 1,000 net new residents per week, eventually reaching a population of 5.2 million.



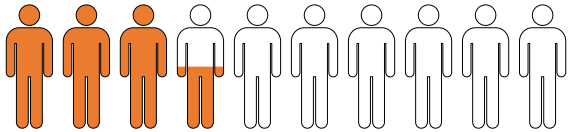
# LANGUAGE

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The number of residents ages 5 years and older who speak a language besides English at home, and speak English with limited proficiency:

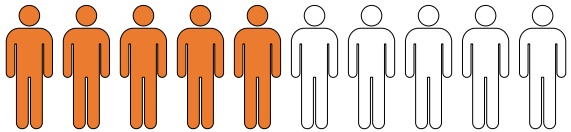
**ORANGE COUNTY**

*3.5 of 10*



**OSCEOLA COUNTY**

*5 of 10*



## INTERPRETER DEMAND

*between*  
**2015**  
*— and —*  
**2019**  
*we have seen an*

**14%**

*increase*

interpreter events  
criminal dockets

**12%**

*increase*

interpreter events  
DV injunction  
return dockets

**16,305**

*total annual  
events through late  
December 2019*

**1,359**

*average  
per month*

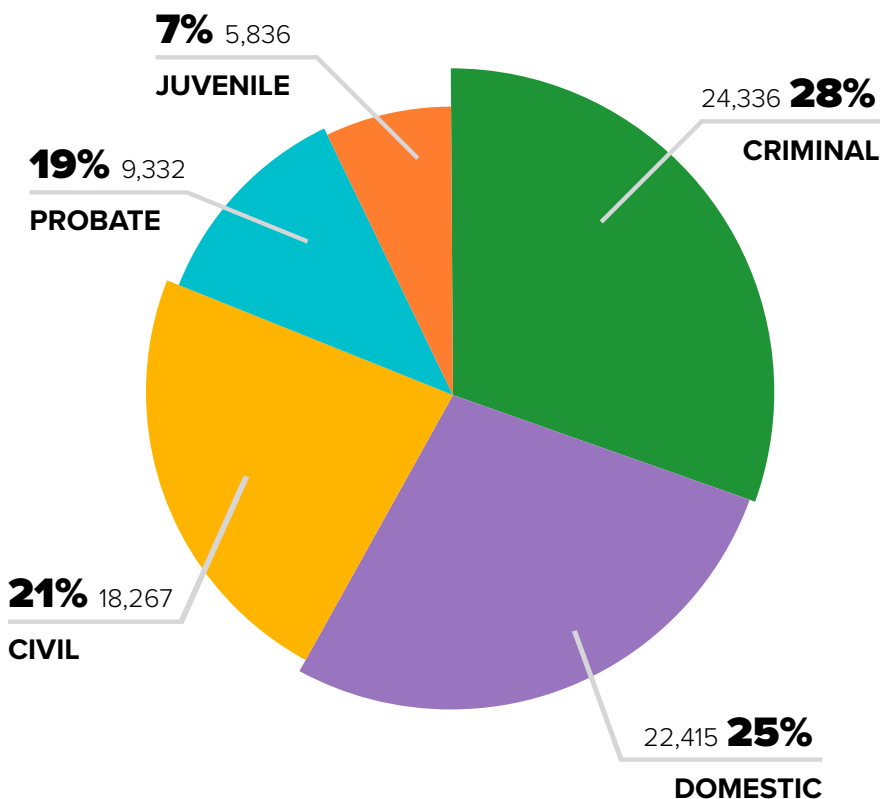
**45%**

*estimated  
On-Demand VRI  
events*



# CIRCUIT COURT CASE FILINGS 2019

ORANGE / OSCEOLA



*Case filings are estimated through November 2019*



# CIRCUIT COURT GROWTH TRENDS

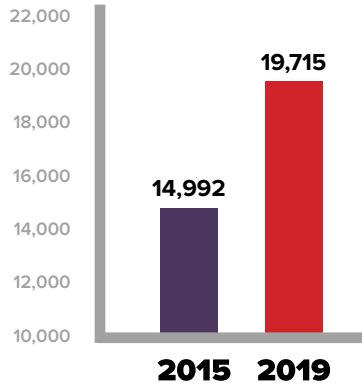
2015 - 2019

## CIRCUIT CIVIL FILINGS

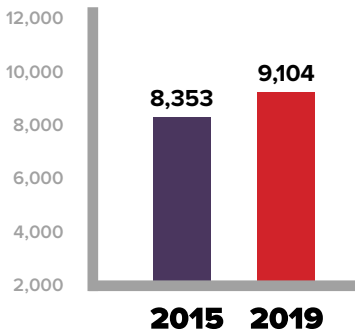
**32%**

*increase  
between*

**2015  
and  
2019**



## PROBATE GUARDIANSHIP MENTAL HEALTH FILINGS



**9%**

*increase  
between*

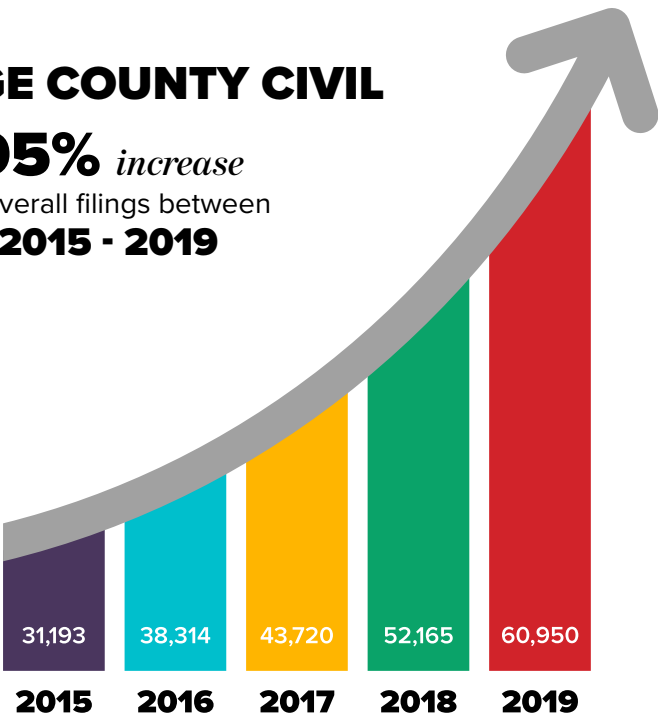
**2015  
and  
2019\***

*\*Plus approximately 3,100 guardianship cases under court supervision*



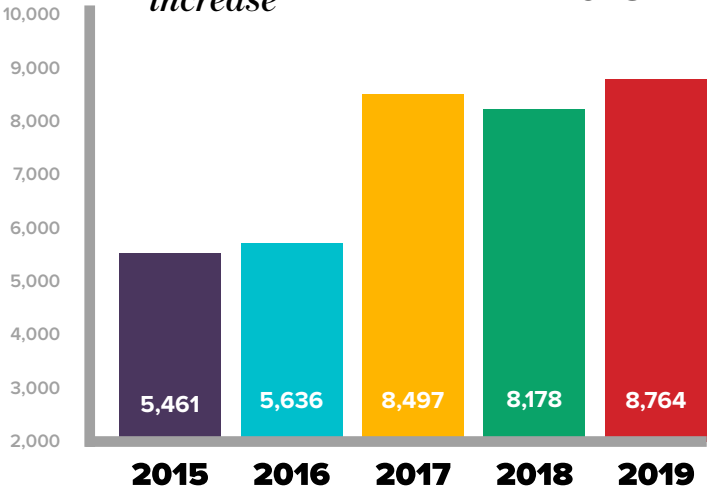
# ORANGE COUNTY CIVIL

**95% increase**  
in overall filings between  
**2015 - 2019**



# OSCEOLA COUNTY CIVIL

**60% increase** in overall filings *between* **2015 - 2019**



*Case filings are estimated through June 2019*



# JUDICIAL CERTIFICATION

Article V of the Florida Constitution requires the Supreme Court to certify to the Legislature its findings and recommendations for the need to increase the number of judges in the Ninth Circuit and throughout the state.

## 2019

**SUPREME COURT  
RECOMMENDED**

**2** *circuit judges*

**LEGISLATURE  
ALLOCATED**

**1** *circuit judge*

## 2020

**SUPREME COURT  
RECOMMENDED**

**2** *circuit judges*      **1** *county judge*

**LEGISLATURE  
ALLOCATES?**

*Session Begins*

**JANUARY 14, 2020**

*Ends*

**MARCH 13, 2020**



# CIRCUIT HIGHLIGHTS

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

## PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

*New convictions recidivism rate of graduates in problem solving courts*

### 12 MONTH GRADUATE

*Recidivism Rate average*

**4%**

### 24 MONTH GRADUATE

*Recidivism Rate average*

**10%**

## CASELOAD

*Total number of cases filed across the circuit in 2019 approximately*

**175,000**

*Does not include approximately 305,000 civil traffic infractions*

## BUSINESS COURT

*Business court reopened in October 2019 after the legislative allocation of funds for an additional judge in the 2019-2020 budget session. Cases are being heard at the Thomas S. Kirk Juvenile Justice Center until construction of the dedicated courtroom at the Orange County Courthouse is complete.*

## JURY

*Trial days by county*

**ORANGE**

**OSCEOLA**

**968**

**280**

*Reporting jurors by county*

**ORANGE**

**OSCEOLA**

**24,780 11,626**



## **CIRCUIT JUDGES**

DONALD A. MYERS, JR., CHIEF JUDGE

GAIL A. ADAMS  
CHAD K. ALVARO  
ALAN S. APTE  
JEFFREY L. ASHTON  
ELAINE A. BARBOUR  
DENISE KIM BEAMER  
ALICE L. BLACKWELL  
MARK S. BLECHMAN  
LUIS F. CALDERON  
KEITH A. CARSTEN  
VINCENT S. CHIU  
A. JAMES CRANER  
PATRICIA A. DOHERTY  
ROBERT J. EGAN  
JENIFER M. HARRIS  
HEATHER L. HIGBEE  
JOHN E. JORDAN  
JOHN MARSHALL KEST  
MICHAEL S. KRAYNICK  
ALICIA L. LATIMORE  
BOB LEBLANC

DIEGO M. MADRIGAL, III  
LETICIA MARQUES  
JON B. MORGAN  
LISA T. MUNYON  
MICHAEL MURPHY  
JULIE H. O'KANE  
RENEE A. ROCHE  
HEATHER PINDER RODRIGUEZ  
MARGARET H. SCHREIBER  
LAURA SHAFFER  
TIM SHEA  
PATRICIA L. STROWBRIDGE  
DIANA M. TENNIS  
JANET C. THORPE  
GREG A. TYNAN  
KEVIN B. WEISS  
KEITH F. WHITE  
REGINALD K. WHITEHEAD  
TANYA DAVIS WILSON  
WAYNE C. WOOTEN  
TOM YOUNG

## **COUNTY JUDGES**

MARTHA C. ADAMS  
FAYE L. ALLEN  
CHRISTINE E. ARENDAS  
MAUREEN BELL  
JEANETTE DEJURAS BIGNEY  
ANDREW L. CAMERON  
TINA CARABALLO  
AMY J. CARTER  
NANCY L. CLARK  
ERIC H. DUBOIS  
BRIAN F. DUCKWORTH

HAL C. EPPERSON, JR.  
STEFANIA C. JANCEWICZ  
EVELLEN JEWETT  
STEVE JEWETT  
DAVID P. JOHNSON  
GISELA T. LAURENT  
ADAM MCGINNIS  
GABRIELLE N. SANDERS-MORENCY  
WAYNE SHOEMAKER  
ELIZABETH STARR  
CARLY S. WISH



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*Revised January 2020*