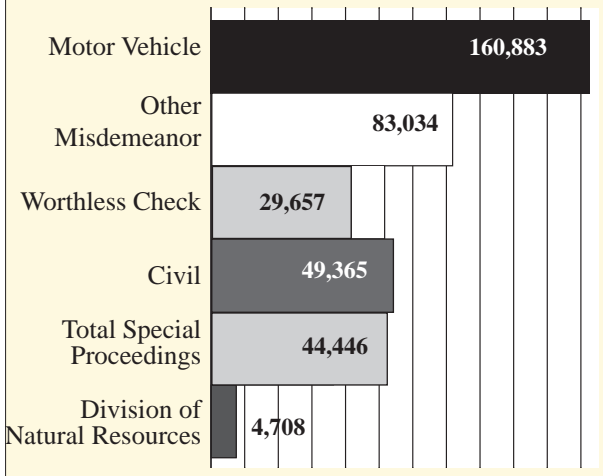


Magistrate Courts

Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There are 158 magistrates in West Virginia. There are at least two magistrates in every county and ten in the largest county, Kanawha County. Magistrates issue arrest and search warrants, hear misdemeanor cases, conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, and hear civil cases with \$5,000 or less in dispute. Magistrates also issue emergency protective orders in cases involving domestic violence. Circuit courts hear appeals of magistrate court cases.

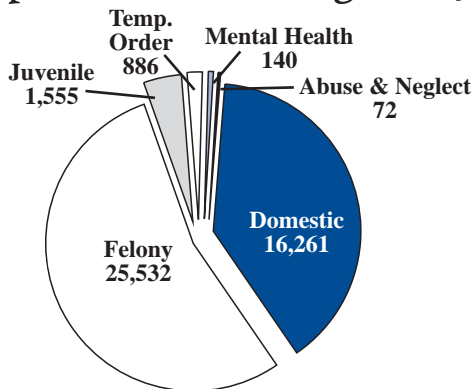
Magistrates run for four-year terms in partisan elections. They do not have to be lawyers.

Circuit judges appoint magistrates to fill vacancies. An appointee who wishes to remain in office must run in the next election.

A county-by-county list of magistrates in West Virginia, along with their office telephone numbers and FAX numbers, is available on the Supreme Court Web site at: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsc/magistrate.htm>

That Web site page also has a list of blank magistrate court forms that can be downloaded and printed for the public's use, rules governing media coverage of magistrate court proceedings, a copy of the "West Virginia Benchbook for Domestic Violence Proceedings," and a domestic violence brochure, among other information.

Magistrate Court Special Proceedings 2007



Magistrate Court Changes

Helen J. Echard was appointed to serve as a magistrate in Upshur County, effective March 28. She filled a vacancy left by the resignation of **Clarence "Charlie" McCourt, Jr.** Echard previously had served as a magistrate assistant in Upshur County for about thirty years.

McCourt resigned March 27, 2007, but he had been suspended without pay since April 11, 2006. McCourt was charged with first-degree sexual abuse, bribery in official and political matters, and battery. His March 2007 trial ended in a mistrial. He later pleaded no contest to misdemeanor battery and is required to register as a sex offender for ten years.

Kanawha County Magistrate **Janie Moore** announced her retirement, effective June 30, after serving as a magistrate for 24 years. She was Kanawha County's chief magistrate for fourteen years, including in 1998 when West Virginia began installing a closed-circuit video arraignment system. Magistrate Moore was the first magistrate to use it. She helped set up the system in other counties and trained others to use it, all on her own time. Magistrate Moore served on several law enforcement committees and the education committee for the state Supreme Court.

Former Kanawha County Magistrate **Traci Carper-Strickland** was appointed to fill Moore's unexpired term. Carper was sworn in on June 29. Carper previously was appointed to the post and then elected in 2000. She chose not to run for re-election in 2004.

Kanawha County Magistrate **Warren G. "McGoo" McGinnis** resigned August 9 because of illness. McGinnis had a series of surgeries and complications that left him largely unable to work since late 2006. Senior Status Magistrates Sharon Stone Rigglesman and Jack Pauley filled in for him during his absence. McGinnis was elected in 2004. He is a former Charleston police officer and served in the United States Marine Corps.

Jack Pauley was appointed August 10 to fill the vacancy. Pauley was elected magistrate in 1992 and re-elected twice. He ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in 1988 and 2004.

Cabell County Magistrate **Brenda Chapman** retired on October 16. Chapman, a Democrat, had been a magistrate in Cabell County for 23 years.

John H. McCallister was appointed to fill Magistrate Chapman's place on the bench beginning October 17. McCallister, a Democrat, had previously filed precandidacy papers to seek the office in 2008. He unsuccessfully ran for the office in 2004, after serving as a magistrate from February 1986 to December 1992, and from December 2000 to December 2004.

Magistrate Court Case Filings

| County | Criminal & Civil | Special Proceedings | Total | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Barbour | 1,839 | 267 | 2,106 | 2,207 | 2,100 | 2,517 | 2,988 | 2,119 | 2,213 | 2,453 | 2,550 |
| Berkeley | 17,566 | 2,898 | 20,464 | 17,820 | 17,284 | 19,480 | 18,768 | 18,983 | 20,515 | 21,667 | 15,869 |
| Boone | 5,193 | 710 | 5,903 | 5,723 | 6,142 | 6,394 | 5,515 | 5,061 | 5,227 | 4,949 | 5,395 |
| Braxton | 3,334 | 377 | 3,711 | 3,894 | 3,944 | 4,072 | 3,901 | 5,004 | 4,579 | 4,469 | 4,287 |
| Brooke | 2,699 | 437 | 3,136 | 3,925 | 3,992 | 4,111 | 3,217 | 3,158 | 4,628 | 4,037 | 3,914 |
| Cabell | 17,457 | 2,898 | 20,355 | 20,169 | 21,333 | 23,391 | 21,150 | 19,624 | 19,164 | 21,481 | 22,795 |
| Calhoun | 677 | 88 | 765 | 773 | 958 | 926 | 839 | 1,079 | 933 | 1,085 | 869 |
| Clay | 2,299 | 235 | 2,534 | 2,526 | 2,352 | 2,500 | 2,027 | 1,951 | 2,628 | 2,817 | 3,158 |
| Doddridge | 1,875 | 98 | 1,973 | 1,276 | 1,097 | 1,376 | 1,346 | 1,198 | 1,479 | 1,801 | 1,603 |
| Fayette | 6,218 | 973 | 7,191 | 7,744 | 7,851 | 8,949 | 7,970 | 8,476 | 10,026 | 11,306 | 12,095 |
| Gilmer | 850 | 179 | 1,029 | 1,102 | 999 | 699 | 938 | 900 | 1,211 | 1,165 | 1,005 |
| Grant | 2,106 | 373 | 2,479 | 2,454 | 2,743 | 1,969 | 1,865 | 2,501 | 3,146 | 3,013 | 2,382 |
| Greenbrier | 4,546 | 507 | 5,053 | 6,699 | 6,085 | 6,715 | 6,055 | 6,542 | 6,560 | 6,867 | 7,411 |
| Hampshire | 5,277 | 501 | 5,778 | 6,079 | 5,808 | 5,233 | 4,598 | 3,807 | 3,573 | 3,959 | 3,254 |
| Hancock | 3,541 | 499 | 4,040 | 3,889 | 3,801 | 3,972 | 4,207 | 4,672 | 4,543 | 4,780 | 4,226 |
| Hardy | 2,996 | 238 | 3,234 | 4,038 | 4,364 | 4,473 | 3,668 | 3,730 | 4,319 | 4,248 | 2,943 |
| Harrison | 11,198 | 1,527 | 12,725 | 12,621 | 12,020 | 13,322 | 15,719 | 14,508 | 17,911 | 19,915 | 19,337 |
| Jackson | 3,878 | 605 | 4,483 | 4,528 | 4,754 | 5,118 | 4,116 | 3,585 | 3,890 | 4,740 | 5,803 |
| Jefferson | 9,088 | 1,443 | 10,531 | 15,734 | 10,962 | 10,578 | 9,545 | 8,227 | 10,985 | 9,498 | 10,189 |
| Kanawha | 44,099 | 6,378 | 50,477 | 39,710 | 41,920 | 40,458 | 34,955 | 39,289 | 43,690 | 50,598 | 46,573 |
| Lewis | 5,233 | 166 | 5,399 | 5,177 | 4,729 | 5,611 | 6,417 | 5,232 | 5,314 | 8,250 | 8,674 |
| Lincoln | 3,537 | 634 | 4,171 | 3,666 | 3,314 | 3,542 | 3,232 | 2,773 | 3,602 | 3,074 | 3,465 |
| Logan | 10,291 | 1,704 | 11,995 | 12,133 | 11,526 | 11,653 | 8,768 | 8,584 | 9,811 | 9,740 | 2,101 |
| Marion | 7,012 | 1,023 | 8,035 | 7,870 | 7,259 | 7,716 | 7,396 | 8,750 | 9,533 | 11,168 | 11,084 |
| Marshall | 4,528 | 625 | 5,153 | 5,052 | 4,972 | 4,751 | 4,691 | 6,854 | 5,915 | 6,537 | 6,351 |
| Mason | 4,989 | 429 | 5,418 | 4,530 | 4,194 | 5,222 | 4,005 | 4,853 | 5,795 | 5,729 | 4,541 |
| McDowell | 4,484 | 1,412 | 5,896 | 5,064 | 5,732 | 5,358 | 5,156 | 4,373 | 4,607 | 4,902 | 4,713 |
| Mercer | 14,429 | 2,513 | 16,942 | 18,628 | 20,545 | 18,802 | 17,442 | 21,585 | 18,232 | 19,466 | 18,863 |
| Mineral | 4,100 | 474 | 4,574 | 4,860 | 4,896 | 4,824 | 3,992 | 3,160 | 3,437 | 4,005 | 3,808 |
| Mingo | 5,979 | 1,225 | 7,204 | 6,061 | 6,561 | 5,384 | 4,363 | 5,529 | 5,229 | 5,598 | 4,626 |
| Monongalia | 12,446 | 1,443 | 13,889 | 12,970 | 11,919 | 13,048 | 12,298 | 12,660 | 14,244 | 14,800 | 13,799 |
| Monroe | 995 | 345 | 1,340 | 1,334 | 1,263 | 1,362 | 1,499 | 1,425 | 1,572 | 1,736 | 1,307 |
| Morgan | 3,063 | 173 | 3,236 | 3,221 | 4,141 | 3,946 | 3,670 | 3,731 | 3,897 | 3,008 | 3,400 |
| Nicholas | 5,852 | 923 | 6,775 | 7,657 | 7,665 | 7,112 | 6,409 | 7,618 | 8,022 | 8,683 | 8,448 |
| Ohio | 7,010 | 732 | 7,742 | 8,862 | 8,596 | 10,376 | 9,861 | 9,024 | 9,469 | 10,715 | 13,571 |
| Pendleton | 667 | 60 | 727 | 1,082 | 1,200 | 1,279 | 1,347 | 1,607 | 1,921 | 1,714 | 1,659 |
| Pleasants | 1,267 | 140 | 1,407 | 1,340 | 1,195 | 1,369 | 1,523 | 1,438 | 1,366 | 1,395 | 1,147 |
| Pocahontas | 1,792 | 158 | 1,950 | 2,592 | 1,444 | 2,159 | 1,849 | 1,929 | 2,445 | 2,321 | 2,186 |
| Preston | 4,971 | 421 | 5,392 | 5,909 | 5,788 | 5,288 | 5,481 | 6,605 | 5,699 | 6,409 | 5,833 |
| Putnam | 7,851 | 845 | 8,696 | 9,641 | 9,428 | 10,545 | 9,557 | 9,121 | 9,254 | 9,544 | 9,467 |
| Raleigh | 16,310 | 2,370 | 18,680 | 19,937 | 19,490 | 21,827 | 20,676 | 24,312 | 24,923 | 25,121 | 27,721 |
| Randolph | 6,113 | 478 | 6,591 | 5,845 | 6,877 | 7,069 | 7,592 | 6,943 | 8,139 | 8,390 | 7,742 |
| Ritchie | 3,652 | 198 | 3,850 | 3,665 | 3,477 | 3,287 | 2,548 | 2,731 | 3,386 | 2,917 | 2,041 |
| Roane | 3,048 | 459 | 3,507 | 3,518 | 3,310 | 3,393 | 2,683 | 2,940 | 3,939 | 4,340 | 4,679 |
| Summers | 1,815 | 238 | 2,053 | 1,904 | 1,780 | 1,786 | 1,606 | 2,140 | 2,365 | 2,332 | 1,798 |
| Taylor | 2,104 | 274 | 2,378 | 2,173 | 1,866 | 1,852 | 1,955 | 2,243 | 2,235 | 2,616 | 2,753 |
| Tucker | 1,071 | 67 | 1,138 | 1,141 | 1,395 | 1,469 | 1,275 | 1,311 | 1,549 | 1,601 | 1,419 |
| Tyler | 936 | 88 | 1,024 | 1,138 | 1,034 | 1,148 | 1,003 | 1,186 | 1,035 | 1,135 | 1,082 |
| Upshur | 4,902 | 257 | 5,159 | 5,235 | 5,771 | 6,087 | 6,758 | 5,705 | 5,752 | 7,381 | 6,320 |
| Wayne | 4,567 | 697 | 5,264 | 5,894 | 6,983 | 9,298 | 7,956 | 5,815 | 5,623 | 6,398 | 5,362 |
| Webster | 1,352 | 207 | 1,559 | 1,533 | 1,297 | 1,666 | 1,589 | 1,222 | 1,363 | 1,477 | 1,106 |
| Wetzel | 1,405 | 171 | 1,576 | 1,861 | 1,884 | 1,434 | 1,601 | 1,684 | 1,620 | 1,476 | 1,734 |
| Wirt | 897 | 62 | 959 | 1,176 | 917 | 1,021 | 998 | 805 | 1,108 | 1,278 | 1,128 |
| Wood | 19,553 | 1,320 | 20,873 | 17,835 | 16,001 | 14,068 | 12,622 | 13,338 | 12,671 | 11,843 | 12,504 |
| Wyoming | 2,690 | 884 | 3,574 | 3,667 | 3,987 | 3,917 | 3,889 | 4,362 | 4,616 | 3,832 | 3,769 |
| TOTAL | 327,647 | 44,446 | 372,093 | 367,082 | 362,945 | 374,922 | 347,094 | 358,002 | 380,908 | 405,779 | 385,859 |