

YOUR JP4 STATE OF THE COURT REPORT

CASE FILING STATISTICS

FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR ENDING 9/30/2017:

Case filing statistics show the number of cases filed in all 8 Tarrant County JP Courts to be a total of 60,856 cases, of which 8363 (13.7%) were filed in your JP4 Court.

The fee schedule report shows all 8 Tarrant County JP Courts handled payment transactions totaling \$6,603,055. Your JP4 court's portion was \$913,300. (13.8%)

In addition, your JP4 Court has no backlog other than that which is created by the time frames which are defined by the Texas Rules of Court for due process.

To assure no unnecessary delays occur, I run both a pretrial and a DWOP docket. (DWOP=Dismiss Without Prejudice).

At a pretrial, I create the opportunity for the parties to mediate their disputes if they so want, and inform both parties of the due process procedures and timeframes. Many of our JP4 litigants are pro-se (they are representing themselves) and I've found over the years that the more they know about court procedures, the better. It also allows us to schedule cases without any unnecessary continuances.

A DWOP docket forces the plaintiffs to either proceed with their lawsuit, or forget about it. In other words....."we turn the inventory" so as to not have any unnecessary backlog.

Update Jan. 25th, 2018:

For calendar year 2017 there were 8525 cases filed in your JP4 Court. That is an increase of about 400 cases in the workload, over calendar year 2016.

But, with the increases in our population, and the number of new apartment complexes being built, we expect a sizeable increase in the caseload for calendar year 2018.

All 8 JP courts in Tarrant County, in calendar year 2017, generated revenue of \$6,699,075. The JP4's fiscal responsibility for that same time frame totals \$924,423.97.

Your JP4 Court Judge continues to strive towards even better levels of customer service:

Electronic filing is the next big project. We got the hardware in November and the software in December. We are still struggling with some interface issues. Our interface must mesh with not only Tarrant County's information technology systems, but those of the State of Texas as well. Once we are all connected, and testing has been completed, we will be ready to begin the electronic filings.

In the meantime, since JP4 has some clerks who will be retiring in the next few years, it is imperative that extensive cross training take place. It takes about two years to fully train a Justice Court clerk (because of the diversity of the court), so we're looking ahead to make sure that your JP4 Court does not get caught short handed in the not too distant future.

Update April 30, 2018:

If you live in Tarrant County, you are probably aware of the theft of county money that occurred in precinct six and resulted in the indictment of a county employee. It stunned us all because we thought our system of checks and balances was airtight. I suppose that where there's a way, there's a will.

To assure that no other possible missing money cases were out there, the county auditor's office ran a report on all "aged" cases. As a result, of that audit, I'm happy to say once again what I've been saying all along. Your JP4 Court has -0- backlog, and -0- money management issues, regardless of what some might want you to believe.

My training as a CPIM, from the American Production and Inventory Control Society, has paid off well. Thank you APICS.