

# Central District of California Annual Report of Caseload Statistics Fiscal Year 2016

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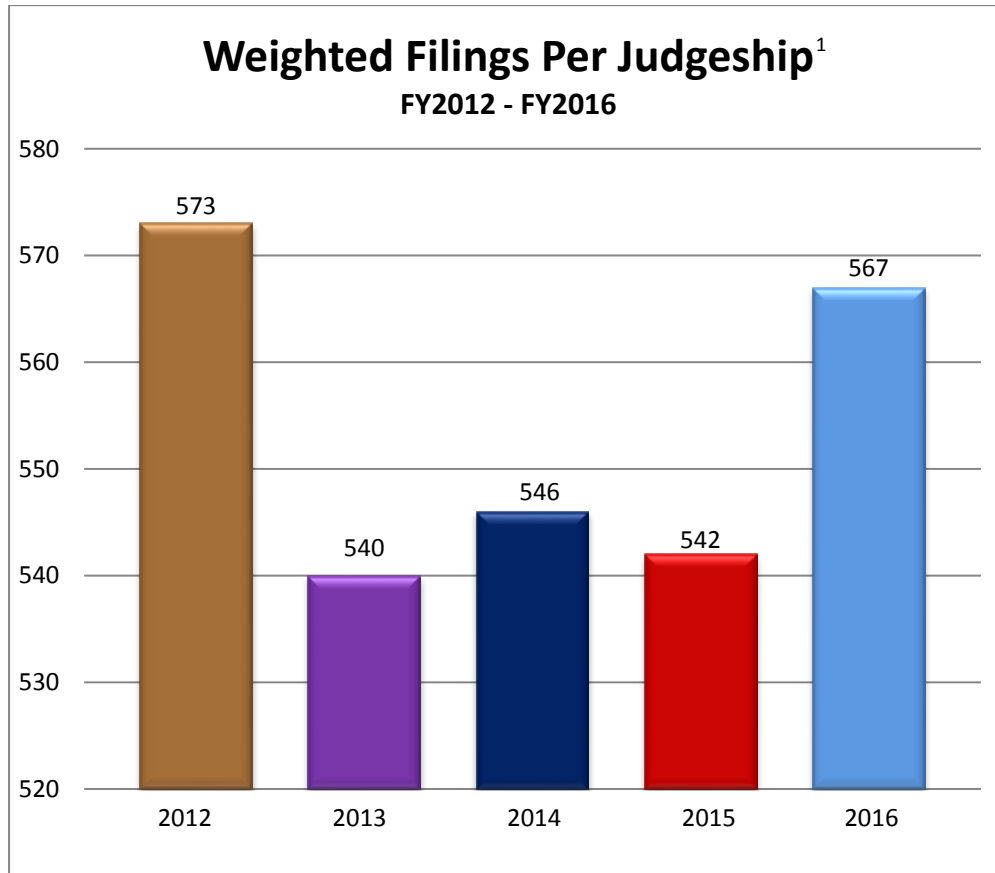


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## Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for the Central District of California remained high at 567 for fiscal year<sup>2</sup> (“FY”) 2016, an increase of 4.4 percent from 542 a year ago. The national average was 483 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation and third in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in fiscal year 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Case weights are based on the new district court case weighting system approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States at its March 2016 session.

<sup>2</sup> The fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30.

## District Caseload Measures

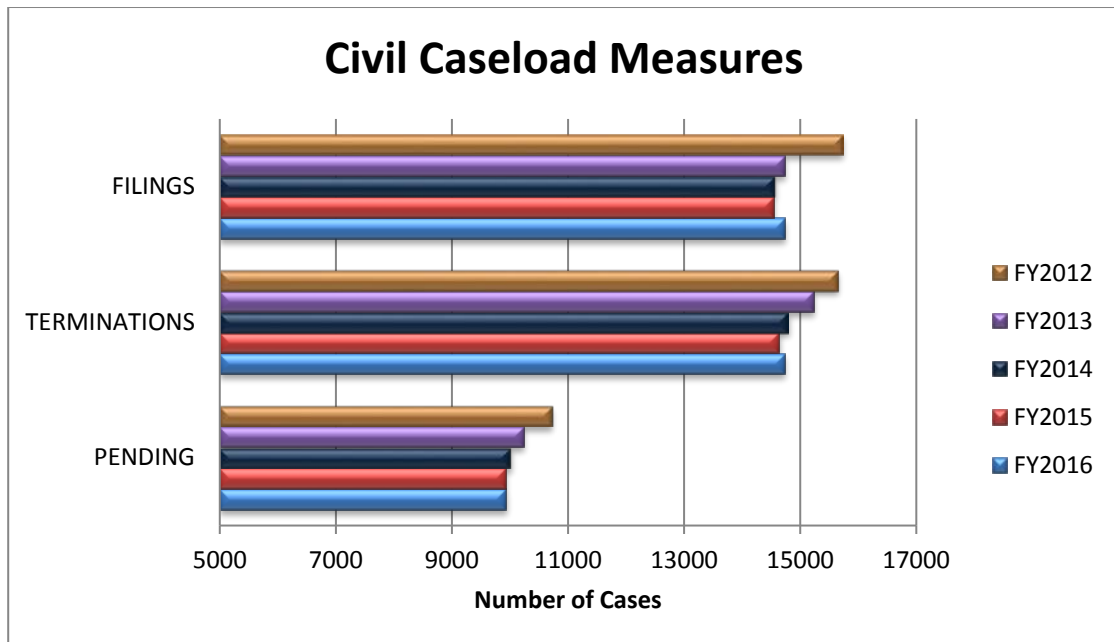
District Caseload Measures							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change (FY16/15)	% Change (FY16/12)
<b>FILINGS</b>							
Civil	15,739	14,733	14,567	14,549	14,731	1.3%	-6.4%
Criminal	1,347	1,065	823	692	860	24.3%	-36.2%
Total	17,086	15,798	15,390	15,241	15,591	2.3%	-8.7%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>							
Civil	15,653	15,232	14,799	14,641	14,741	0.7%	-5.8%
Criminal	1,333	1,161	896	726	688	-5.2%	-48.4%
Total	16,986	16,393	15,695	15,367	15,429	0.4%	-9.2%
<b>PENDING</b>							
Civil	10,728	10,240	10,024	9,932	9,941	0.1%	-7.3%
Criminal	2,128	2,028	1,935	1,858	2,020	8.7%	-5.1%
Total	12,856	12,268	11,959	11,790	11,961	1.5%	-7.0%

In fiscal year 2016, the Central District of California saw a 2.3 percent increase in combined civil and criminal case filings, from 15,241 cases in 2015 to 15,591 cases filed in 2016. Total case terminations were 15,429, an increase of .4 percent from 15,367 in 2015. Pending cases totaled 11,961, an increase of 1.5 percent from 11,790 in 2015. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2016, total civil and criminal case filings decreased by 8.7 percent from 17,086 to 15,591; total terminations declined by 9.2 percent from 16,986 to 15,429; and total pending cases dropped by 7 percent from 12,856 to 11,961.

## Civil Caseload Measures

Civil Caseload Measures							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change (FY16/15)	% Change (FY16/12)
<b>FILINGS</b>	15,739	14,733	14,567	14,549	14,731	1.3%	-6.4%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>	15,653	15,232	14,799	14,641	14,741	0.7%	-5.8%
<b>PENDING</b>	10,728	10,240	10,024	9,932	9,941	0.1%	-7.3%

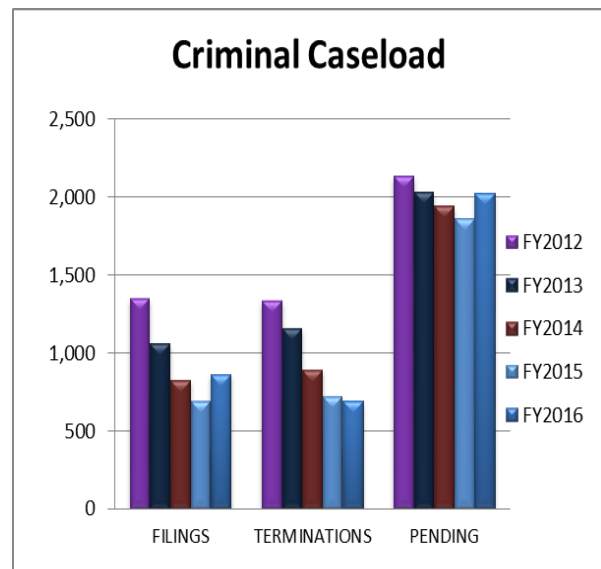
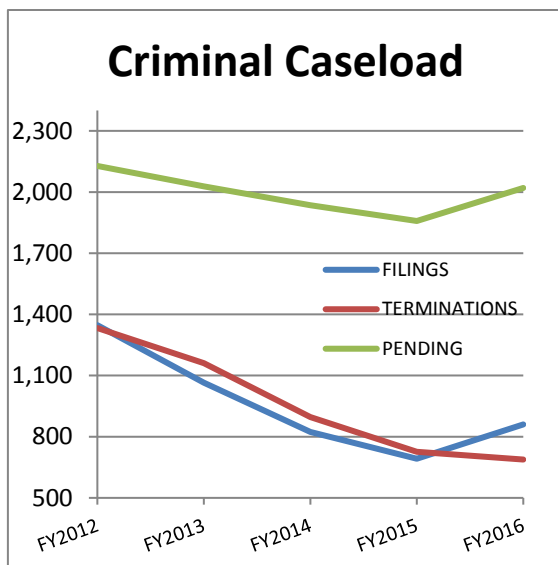
A total of 14,731 civil cases were filed in fiscal year 2016, an increase of 1.3 percent from the 14,549 filings in fiscal year 2015. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2016, civil case filings, terminations, and pending civil cases were at their highest in 2012. From 2012 to 2016, civil filings decreased overall by 6.4 percent from 15,739 to 14,731; civil terminations decreased by 5.8 percent from 15,653 to 14,741; and pending civil cases decreased by 7.3 percent from 10,728 to 9,941.



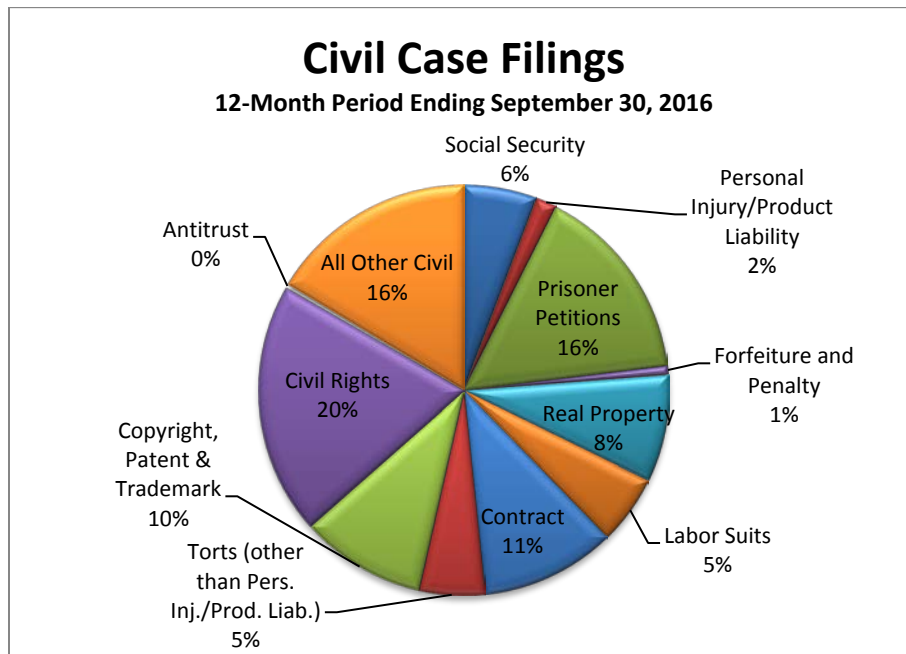
## Criminal Caseload Measures

Criminal Caseload Measures							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change (FY16/15)	% Change (FY16/12)
<b>FILINGS</b>							
Cases	1,347	1,065	823	692	860	24.3%	-36.2%
Defendants	2,023	1,652	1,324	1,087	1,248	14.8%	-38.3%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>							
Cases	1,333	1,161	896	726	688	-5.2%	-48.4%
Defendants	2,032	1,881	1,404	1,196	1,130	-5.5%	-44.4%
<b>PENDING</b>							
Cases	2,128	2,028	1,935	1,858	2,020	8.7%	-5.1%
Defendants	3,527	3,231	3,067	2,883	3,038	5.4%	-13.9%

Between fiscal year 2012 and 2015, the total number of criminal case filings and criminal defendant filings in the Central District of California had declined. In fiscal year 2016, criminal case filings in the district increased 24.3 percent from 692 to 860 and filings for criminal defendants increased 14.8 percent from 1087 to 1248.



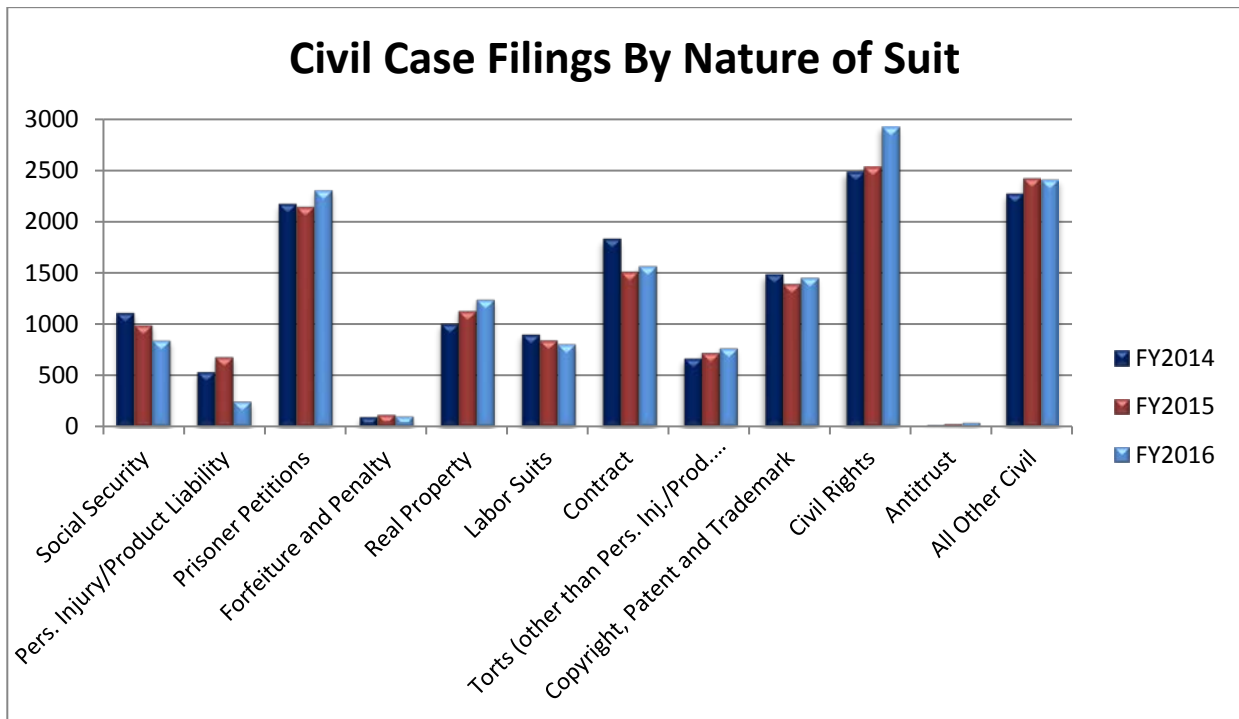
## Civil Case Filings



Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 20 percent in fiscal year 2016. Fewer personal injury/product liability, forfeiture and penalty, and Social Security cases were filed; however, there were more civil rights, antitrust, and real property cases filed compared to the previous fiscal year. In fiscal year 2016, copyright, patent, and trademark cases increased 4.7 percent from 1,392 to 1,457.

Civil Case Filings	
Civil Rights	2,931
All Other Civil	2,414
Prisoner Petitions	2,310
Contract	1,569
Copyright, Patent & Trademark	1,457
Real Property	1,242
Social Security	844
Labor Suits	808
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	768
Personal Injury/Product Liability	247
Forfeiture and Penalty	102
Antitrust	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,731</b>

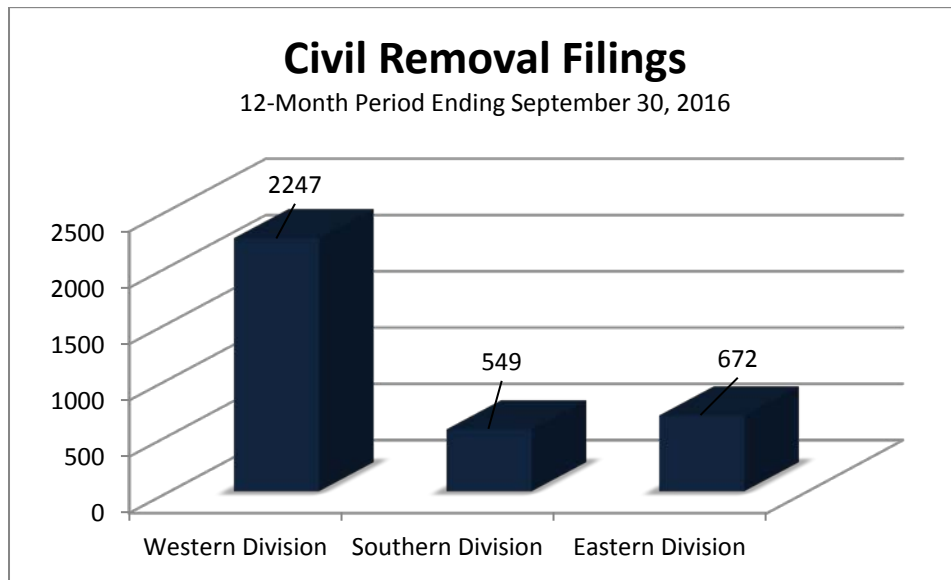
## Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit



Civil Case Categories	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	%Change FY16/15	% Change FY16/14
Social Security	1112	995	844	-15.2%	-24.1%
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	534	684	247	-63.9%	-53.7%
Prisoner Petitions	2171	2147	2310	7.6%	6.4%
Forfeiture and Penalty	95	119	102	-14.3%	7.4%
Real Property	1004	1134	1242	9.5%	23.7%
Labor Suits	899	848	808	-4.7%	-10.1%
Contract	1830	1513	1569	3.7%	-14.3%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	665	725	768	5.9%	15.5%
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1484	1392	1457	4.7%	-1.8%
Civil Rights	2486	2539	2931	15.4%	17.9%
Antitrust	15	28	39	39.3%	160.0%
All Other Civil	2272	2425	2414	-0.5%	6.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14567</b>	<b>14549</b>	<b>14731</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

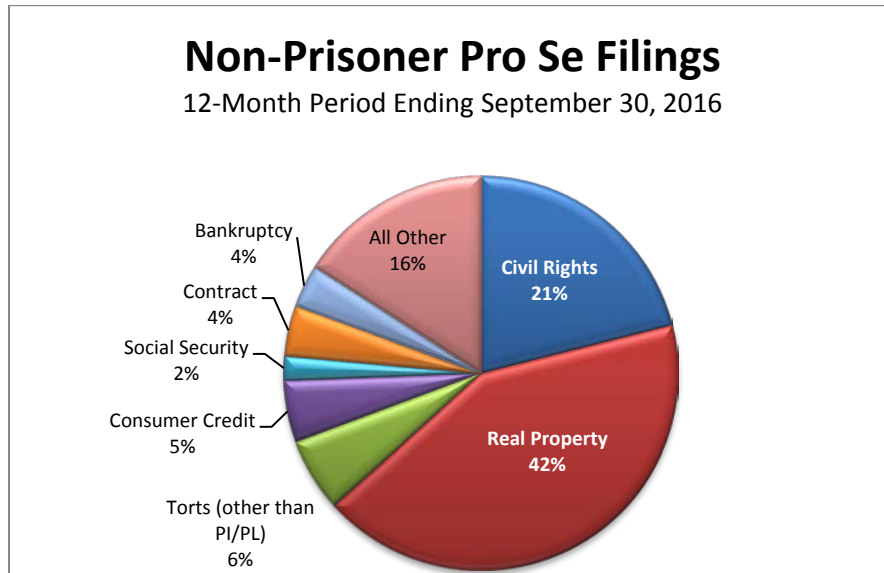


## Civil Removal Filings



Civil removal filings represented 24 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California. 65 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 16 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and 19 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were real property cases (32 percent) and civil rights cases (17 percent).

## Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings

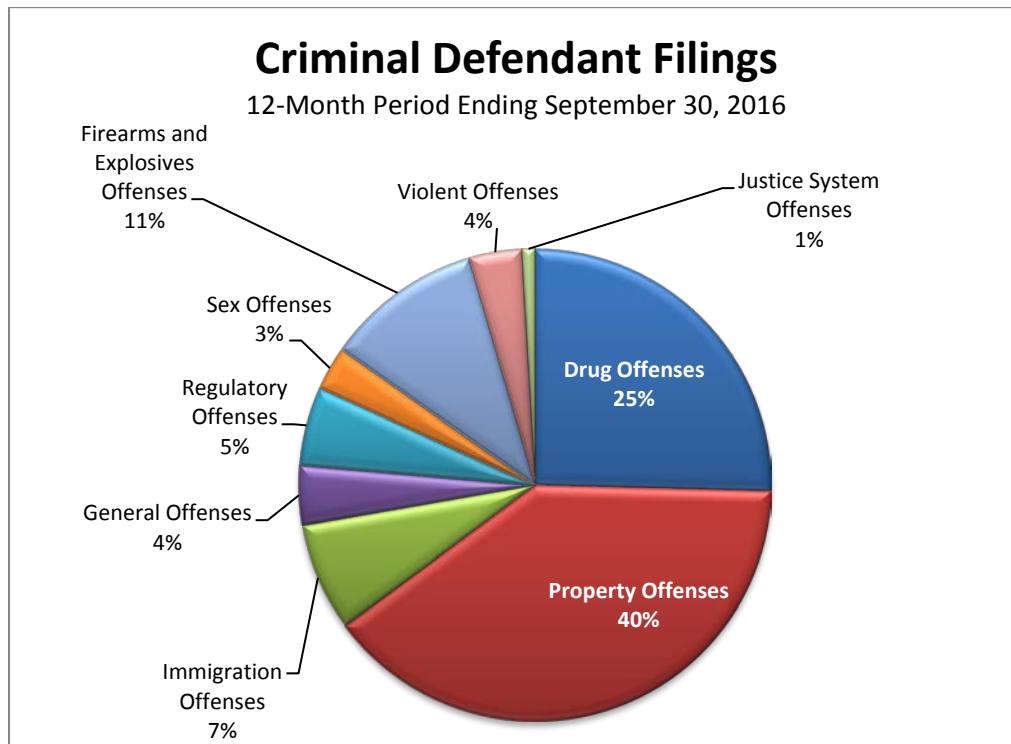


Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings	
Real Property	842
Civil Rights	419
Torts (other than PI/PL)	119
Consumer Credit	100
Social Security	40
Contract	82
Bankruptcy	70
All Other	317
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>1989</b>

14 percent (1,989) of the 14,731 total civil cases filed in fiscal year 2016 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.<sup>3</sup> Of these, 63 percent were civil rights and real property cases. 8.3 percent (1,219) of non-prisoner pro se filings had at least one pro se plaintiff. 5.7 percent (839) had at least one pro se defendant, of which 883 were removal cases.

<sup>3</sup> The number of non-prisoner pro se filings is based on data in the Central District of California's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System and reflects non-prisoner cases filed in fiscal year 2016 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of March 20, 2017.

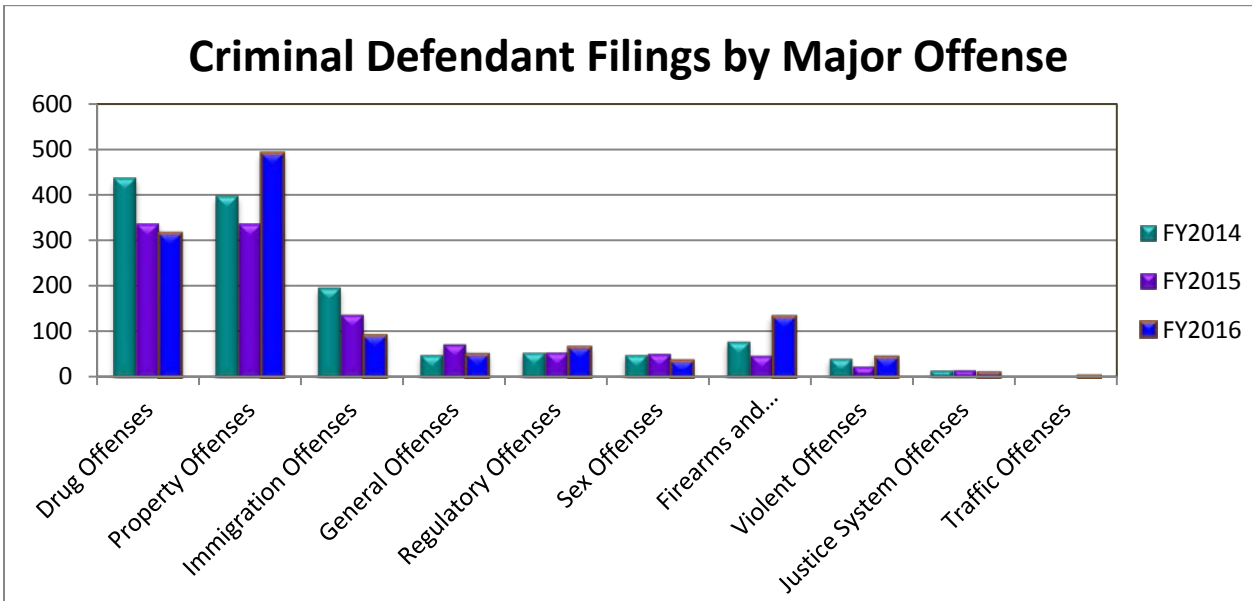
## Criminal Defendant Filings



In fiscal year 2016, criminal defendant filings increased 14.8 percent from fiscal year 2015. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in fiscal year 2016 were property offenses (40 percent), drug offenses (25 percent), and firearms and explosives offenses (11 percent). The number of defendants charged with property offenses increased by 45.7 percent from 337 to 491, the number of defendants charged with drug offenses decreased by 6.2 percent from 337 to 316, and the number of defendants charged with immigration offenses decreased by 33.8 percent from 139 to 92.

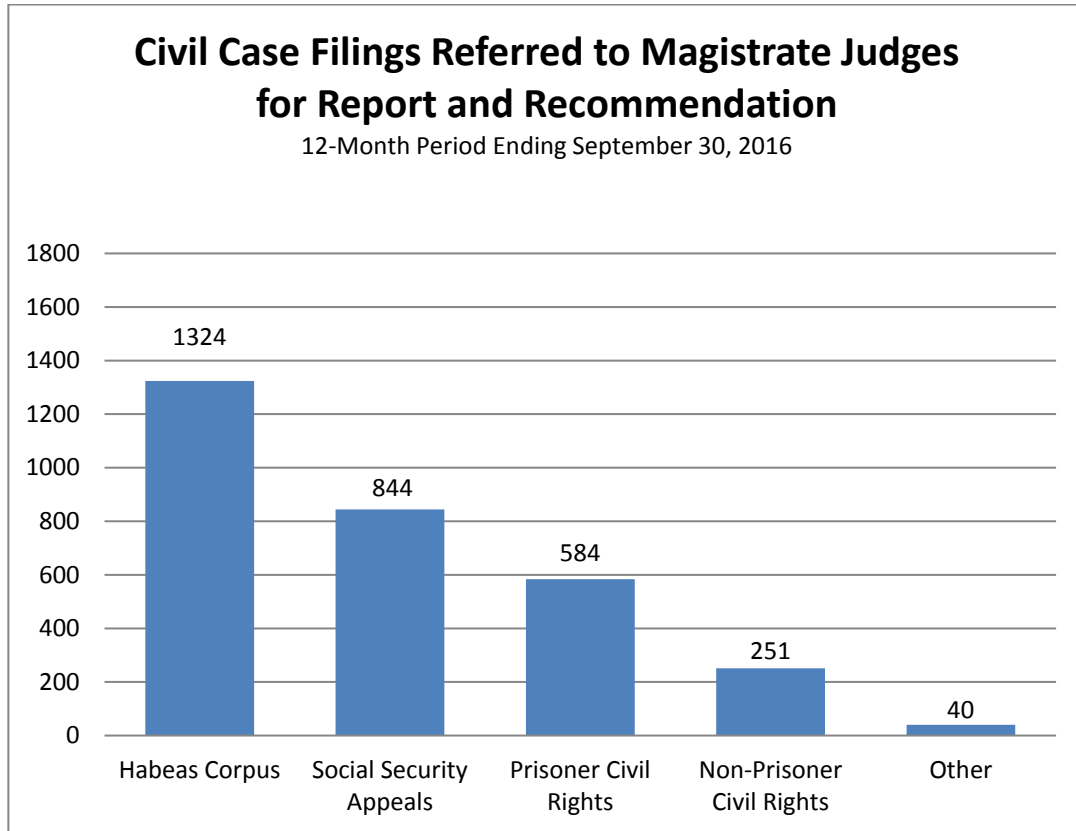
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense	
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants
Property Offenses	491
Drug Offenses	316
Immigration Offenses	92
General Offenses	51
Regulatory Offenses	67
Sex Offenses	37
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	134
Violent Offenses	45
Justice System Offenses	11
Traffic Offenses	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1248</b>

## Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense



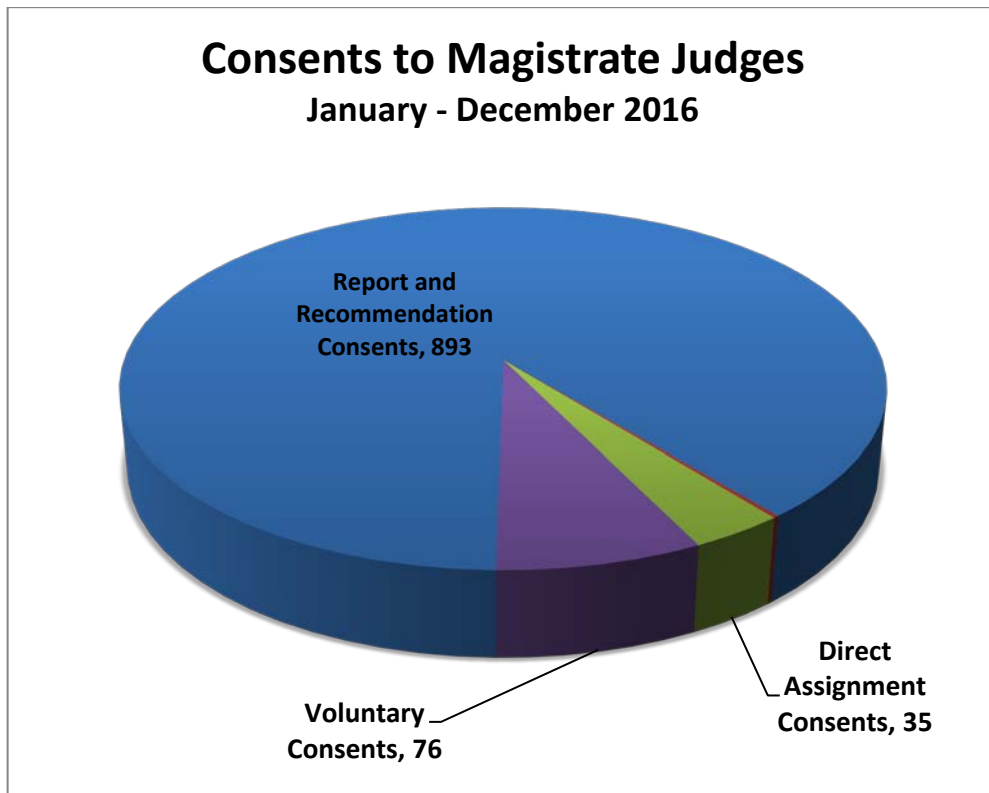
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense						
Major Offense Category	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	% Change 16/15	% Change 16/14	
Drug Offenses	437	337	316	-6.2%	-27.7%	
Property Offenses	398	337	491	45.7%	23.4%	
Immigration Offenses	197	139	92	-33.8%	-53.3%	
General Offenses	50	74	51	-31.1%	2.0%	
Regulatory Offenses	55	56	67	19.6%	21.8%	
Sex Offenses	50	53	37	-30.2%	-26.0%	
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	79	49	134	173.5%	69.6%	
Violent Offenses	42	25	45	80.0%	7.1%	
Justice System Offenses	16	17	11	-35.3%	-31.3%	
Traffic Offenses	0	0	4	100.0%	100.0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1324</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>	

## Civil Case Filings Referred to Magistrate Judges for Report and Recommendation



In fiscal year 2016, 21 percent of the total civil filings were referred to magistrate judges for report and recommendations. Of the 3,043 cases referred for report and recommendations, 43.5 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 27.7 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 19.2 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, approximately 8 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1 percent were other cases referred for report and recommendations.

## Consents to Magistrate Judges



Parties consented to proceed before magistrate judges in a total of 1006 cases in calendar year 2016, a 14.7 percent decrease from 1154 cases in 2015. Of this total, all parties consented in 893 cases that were referred to a magistrate judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented in 35 cases assigned to magistrate judges through the Direct Assignment of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges program; and all parties consented to proceed before magistrate judges in 76 cases through the Voluntary Consent List of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program.

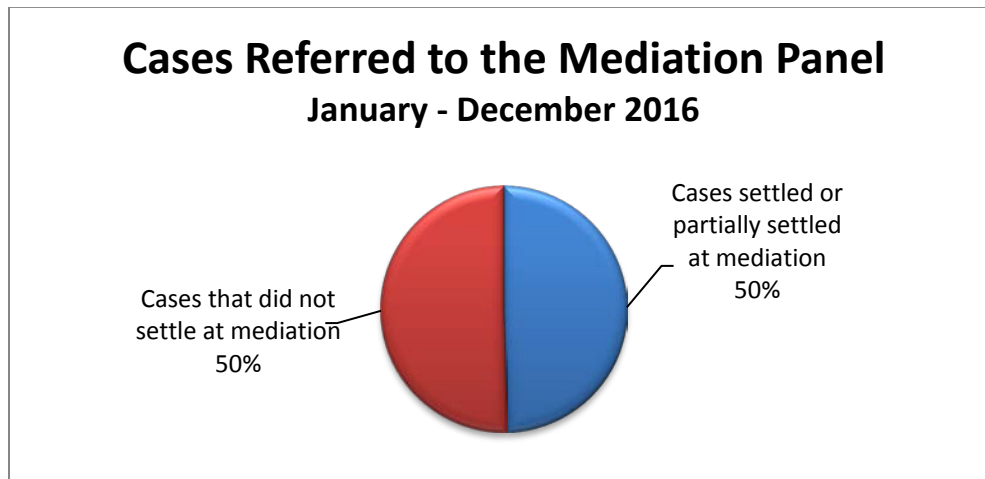
## Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics January - December 2016	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by magistrate judges	339
Number of settlement conferences conducted by magistrate judges	386
Number of cases settled	187
Percent of cases settled	55.2%

In calendar year 2016, magistrate judges held 386 settlement conferences in 339 cases. Of these, the magistrate judges settled 187 cases, for a 55.2 percent settlement rate. The magistrate judges spent a total of 2200.05 hours, equivalent to 275 days, working on settling these cases.

## Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Statistics January - December 2016	
<b>Total number of cases ordered to ADR</b>	<b>2887</b>
Cases referred to magistrate judges	418
Cases referred to the mediation panel	1373
Cases referred to private mediation	1096
<b>Total number of cases mediated by panel mediators</b>	<b>682</b>
Cases settled or partially settled at mediation	338
Cases that did not settle at mediation	344
<b>Total number of cases settled before mediation</b>	<b>352</b>



In calendar year 2016, 2,887 cases were referred to ADR. The Central District of California’s Mediation Panel is composed of 231 panel members who collectively possess substantive experience in 24 areas of law. Panel mediators conducted mediation sessions in 682 cases. Of these, 338 cases were resolved or partially resolved, resulting in a settlement rate of 50 percent for cases mediated by the Panel. As of February 2017, twenty-seven District Judges in the Central District participate in the Court Directed ADR Program.

The Prisoner Settlement Program provides for the referral of certain prisoner civil rights cases to Magistrate Judge Victor E. Bianchini, recalled Magistrate Judge to the Central and Southern Districts of California, for settlement proceedings at various California state prisons. In 2016, Judge Bianchini mediated 34 cases in the Central District of California and settled 30 cases, resulting in a settlement rate of 88 percent.



## Patent Pilot Program

Patent Pilot Program 9/19/2011 - 12/31/2016								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	% Change 15/16
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	268	273	1885	2%
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Pilot Program Judges	18	55	44	47	45	47	256	4%
Patent Cases Ordered Transferred to the Patent Pilot Program by Non-Participating Judges	5	52	81	76	74	64	352	-14%
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Pilot Program Judges as a Result of Related Case Transfer, Self-Recusal, Return by Senior Judge, etc.	7	140	115	109	67	61	499	-9%
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to the Patent Pilot Program	30	247	240	232	186	172	1107	-8%
Patent Cases Transferred out of the Patent Pilot Program	1	14	10	5	11	1	42	-91%
Percentage of Patent Cases Assigned or Transferred to Patent Pilot Program Judges out of the Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	27%	48%	58%	78%	69%	63%	59%	-9%

In calendar year 2016, six judges participated in the Patent Pilot Program in the Central District of California. In 2016, the judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 172 patent cases, of which 47 were initially assigned to them, 64 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating judges, and 61 cases were transferred to the program as a result of related case transfers or other reasons. The number of patent cases filed in calendar year 2016 increased by 1.9 percent, but the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating judges declined by 14 percent from 2015. The percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to patent pilot program judges was 63 percent in 2016. Since the program started in September of 2011, a total of 1107 patent cases had been included in the program by the end of 2016.