



State of Superior Court

2026

Mission & Values



Priority of the Judicial Branch:

- ▶ Access to Justice
- ▶ Perform Rule of Law Functions

Overview

- 56 Judges + 13 Commissioners
- 385 Employees
- \$168.5 Million Biennial Budget
- 4 Courthouses:
 - Seattle = 29 Judges + 8 Commissioners
 - CCJFC = 9 Judges
 - MRJC = 17 Judges + 4 Commissioners
 - Harborview = 1 Judge + 1 Commissioners
- 58,711 cases filed in 2025 requiring judicial action





Pictured: 40 King County Superior Court Judges 2024. (16 not pictured)

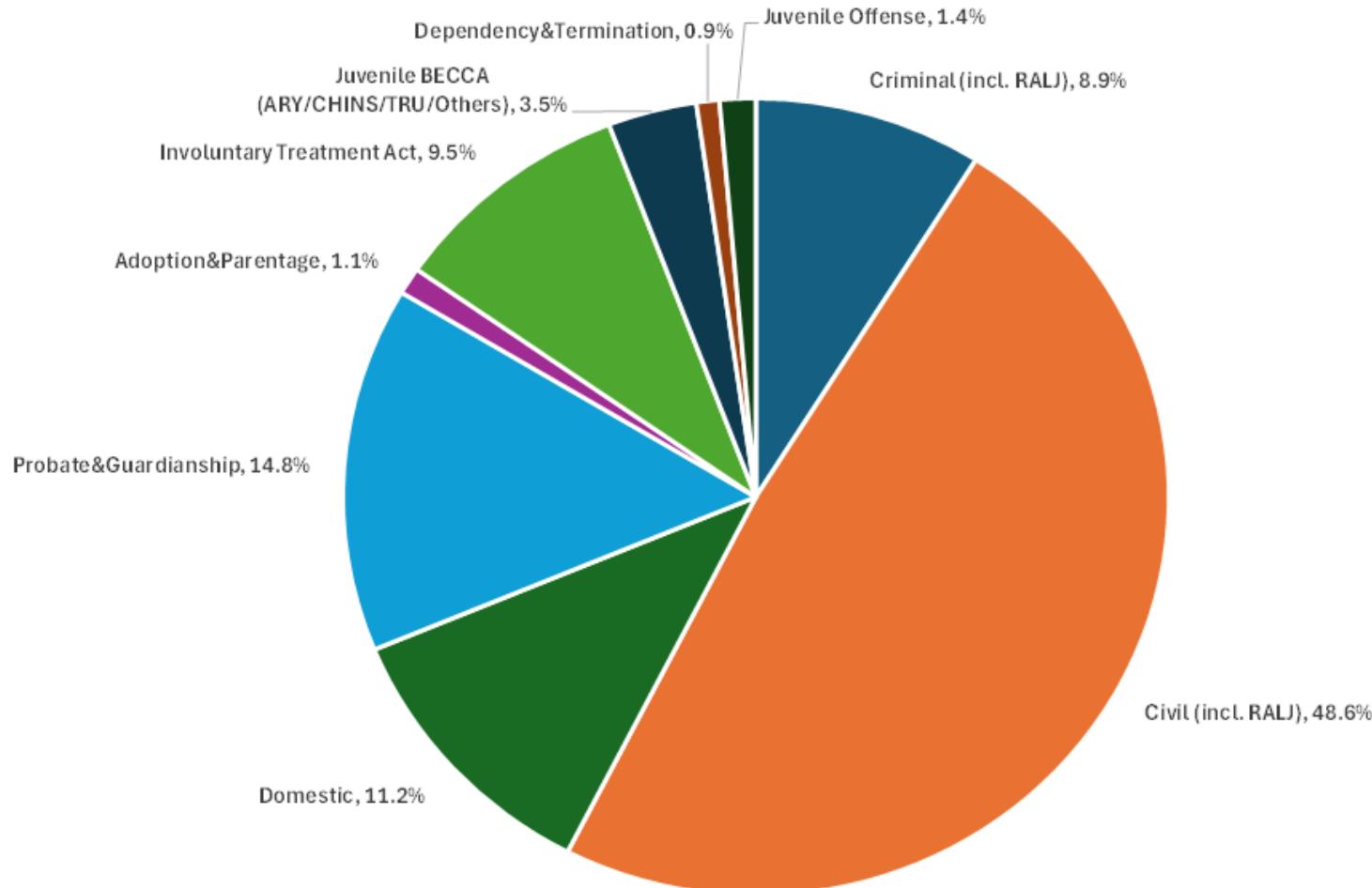
Filings by Departments

(excludes matters filed with the Clerk)

- Civil = 49%
- Probate/Guardianship = 15%
- Domestic = 11%
- ITA = 10%
- Criminal = 9%
- Becca = 4%
- Juvenile Offender = 1%
- Dependency = 1%



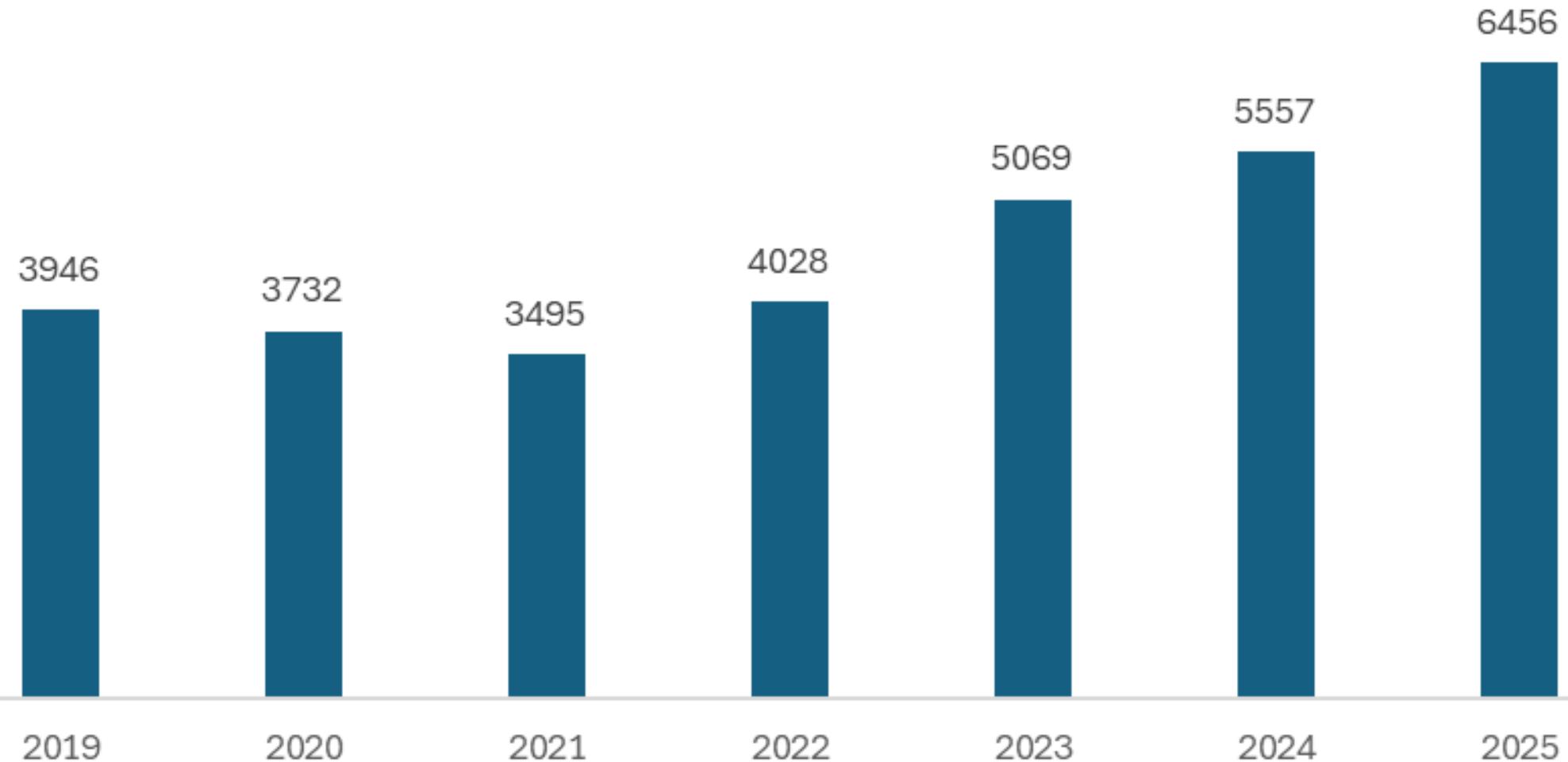
KCSC 2025 Judicial Filings by Category (excluding Matters Filed with Clerk)



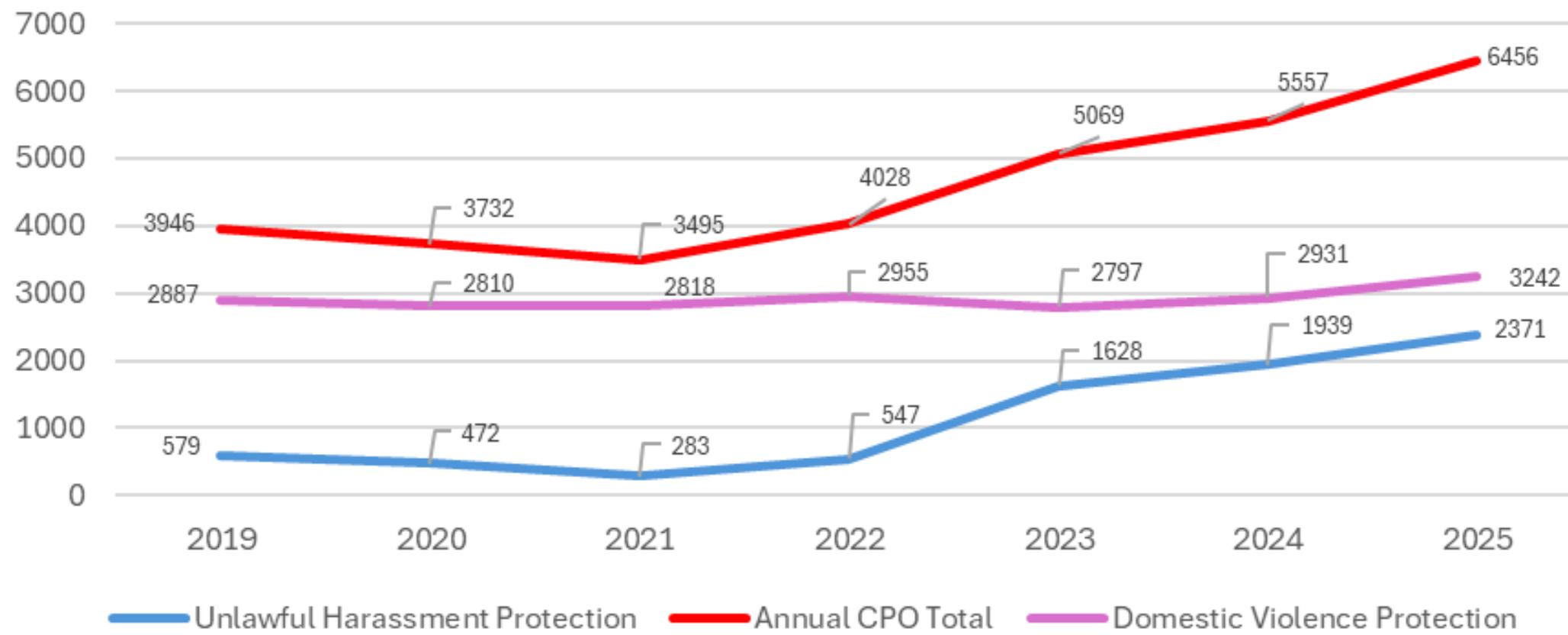
Civil Trends

- Civil Protection Orders have increased since pre-Covid and continue to rise from 2022 due to dramatic increase in anti-harassment petitions
- Law changes July 2021 RCW 7.105: exceptions for filing fee, additional grounds, lengthened hearing time, no wrong door
- 309% increase in Anti-Harassment Petitions since 2019
- New normal: High Filings of Unlawful Detainers
- Increase in Guardianship/Probate
- General Civil Trials are lowest statutory/Constitutional priority=wait for trial judges for lengthy trials

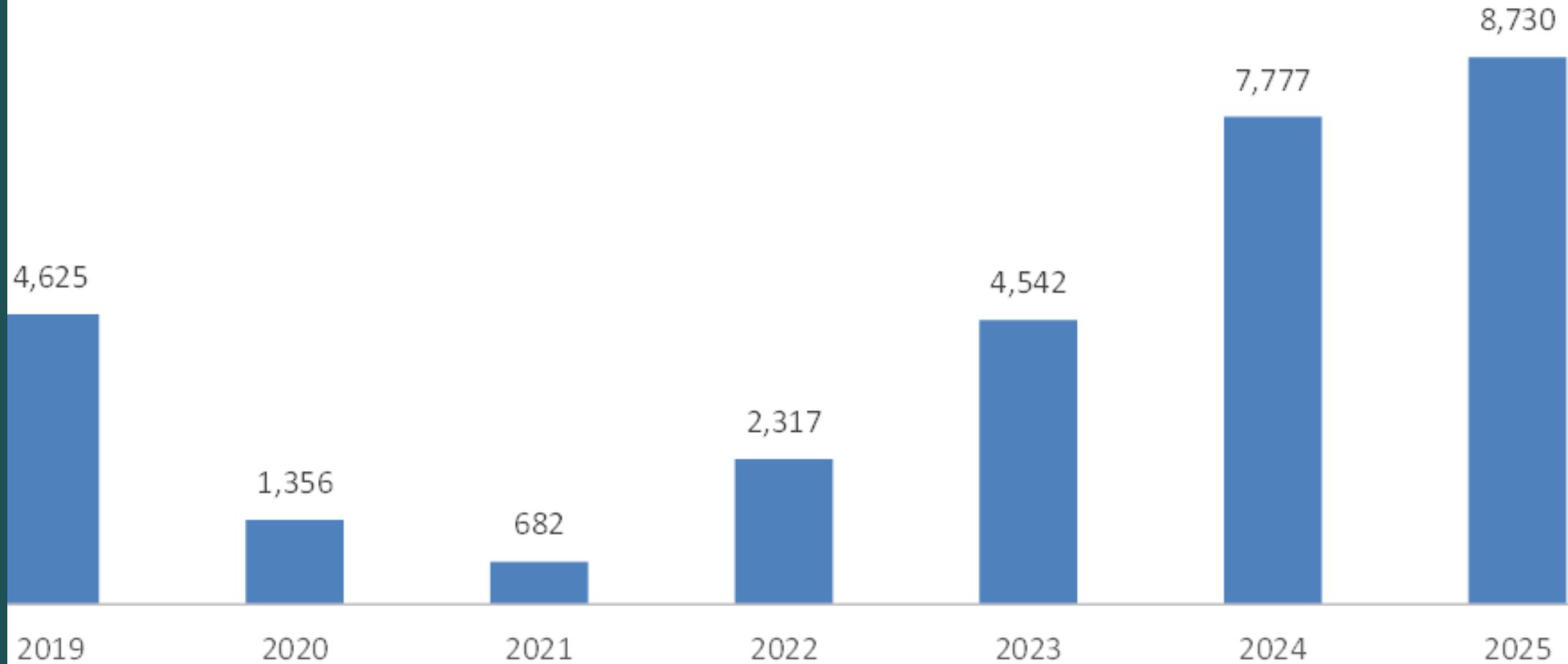
KCSC All CPO Filings (all civil protection orders)



KCSC 2019-2025 DVP, Antiharassment, and Total CPO Filings

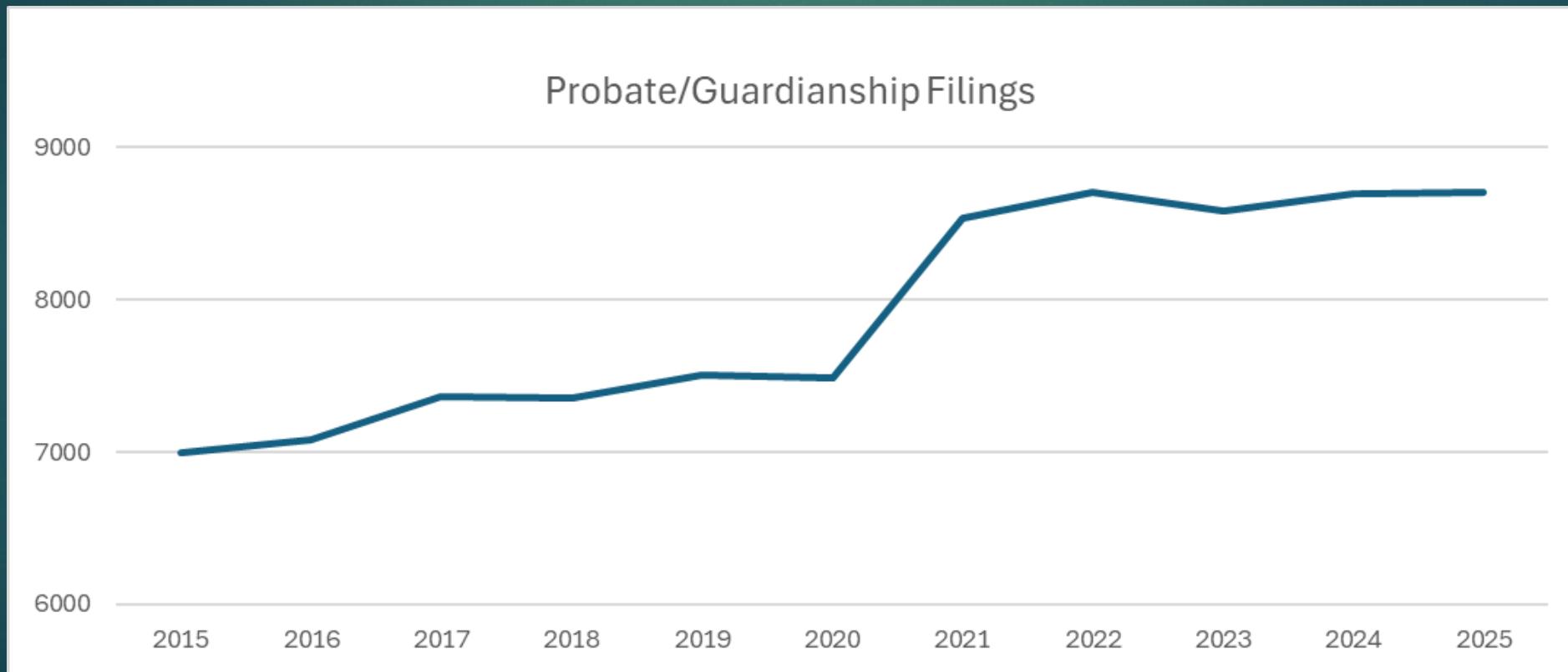


KCSC: Annual Unlawful Detainer Cases Filed (2019-2025)



Civil Trends Cont'd

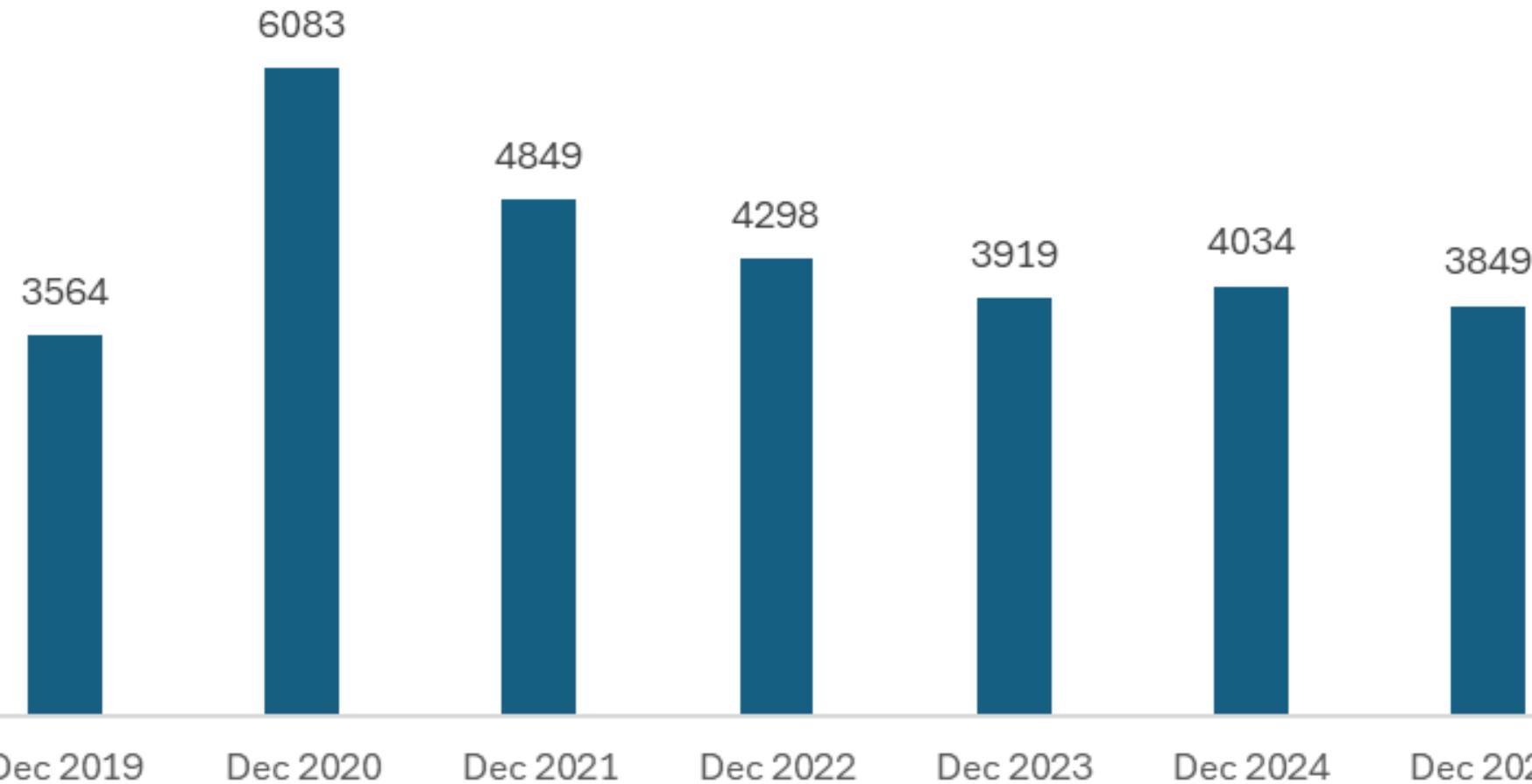
- Probate/Guardianship increase during pandemic



Criminal Filings and Completion Trends

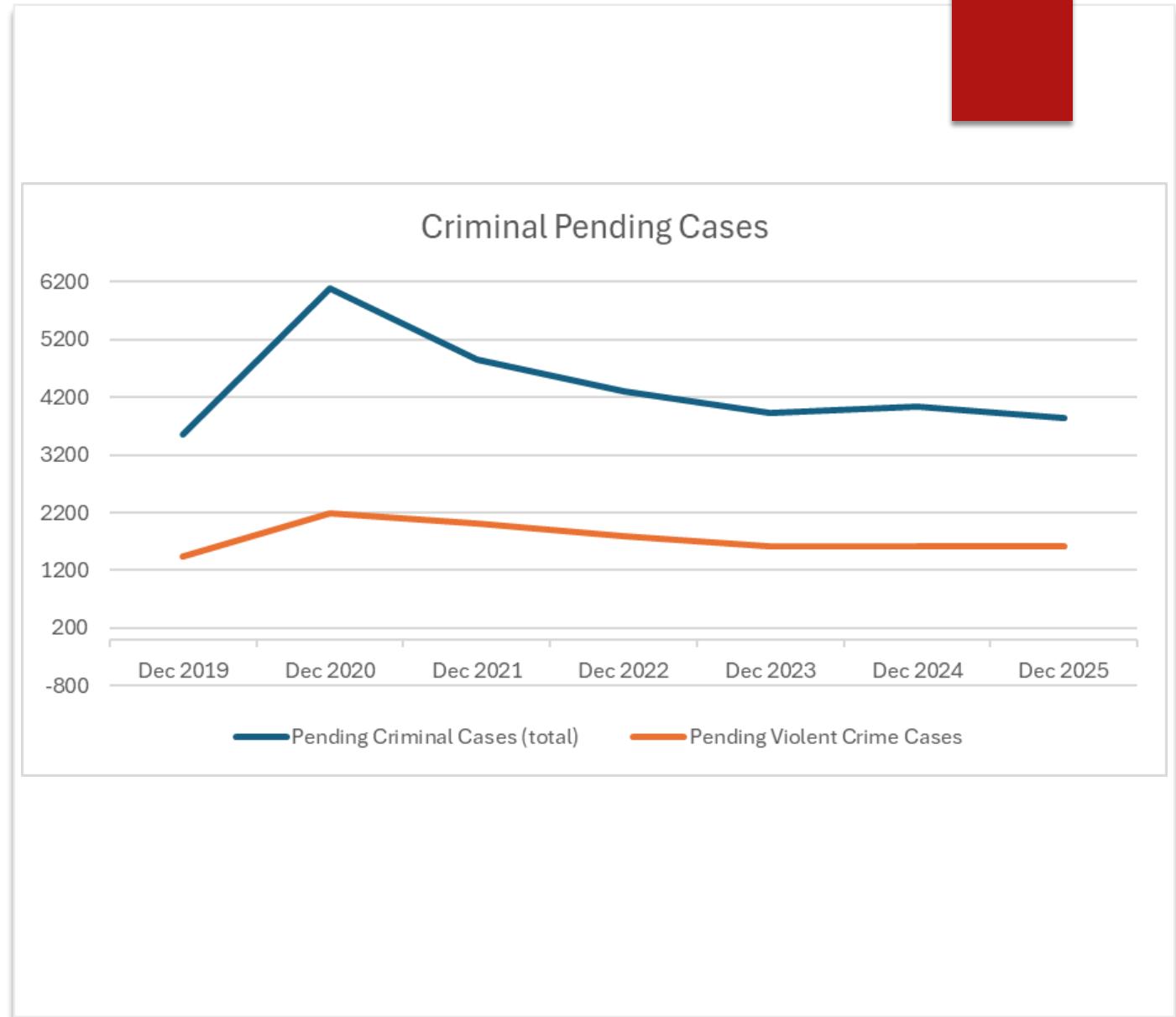
- Cleared pandemic backlog generally
- Complex and serious felonies (murder, sex offenses) have the longest time to resolution
- Juvenile resolutions up and filings slightly down in 2025

Year-end Pending Criminal Cases (total)



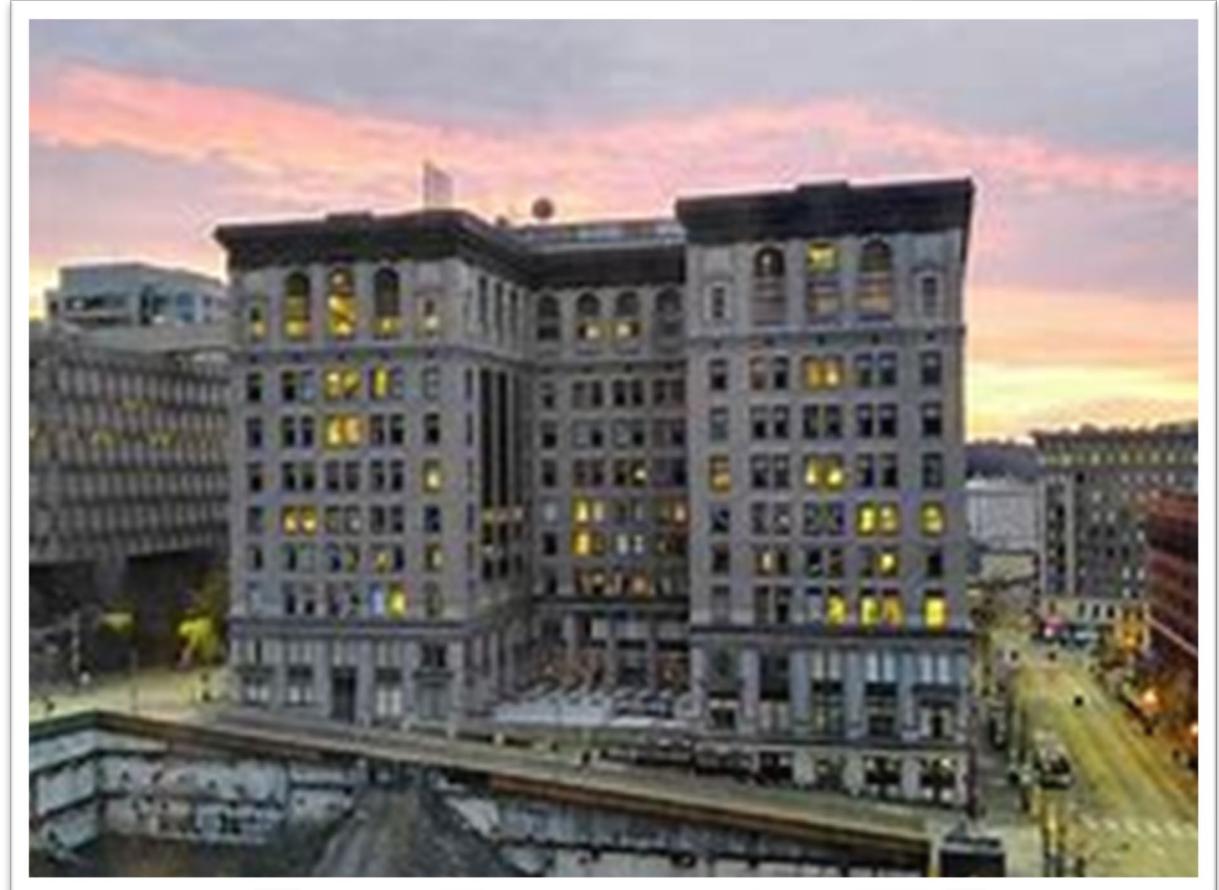
Criminal Trends

Criminal backlog has reduced thanks to Council support



Capitalized on Covid Funds for Modernization

- ▶ Increased access to our court through remote proceedings
- ▶ Remote jury selection/\$ savings and coverage
- ▶ Ability to utilize judges throughout courthouses



Superior Court Operational IT Support

Technical Environment

75 Video Enabled Courtrooms.
12 Video Enabled ITA Hospitals.
350 Teams Handsets.
700 Laptops.
162 Printers/Copiers.

Courtroom Operations

Over 3800 networked pieces of technology requiring 100% up time Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30.
Enable remote jury selection and participation by parties and witnesses.
Secure display of documents, images, and videos in courtroom from any device via an HDMI connection.

KCIT

KCIT remediation projects/4500 required actions (patching/updating software and firmware vulnerabilities).
KCIT does not have access to Superior Court equipment =Superior Court IT staff.

Sustainability

Improve ratio of IT Staff to maintenance needs.



Metric	Recommended Benchmark	Current Efficiency
Endpoints per IT technician	200–350	475
IT Staff per Employee	1:27 (average)	1:50

Restoration/Right-sizing thanks to Council Action

Juvenile Probation

Restoration of 8 Juvenile Probation Counselors over the last two budget cycles

Unlawful Detainer

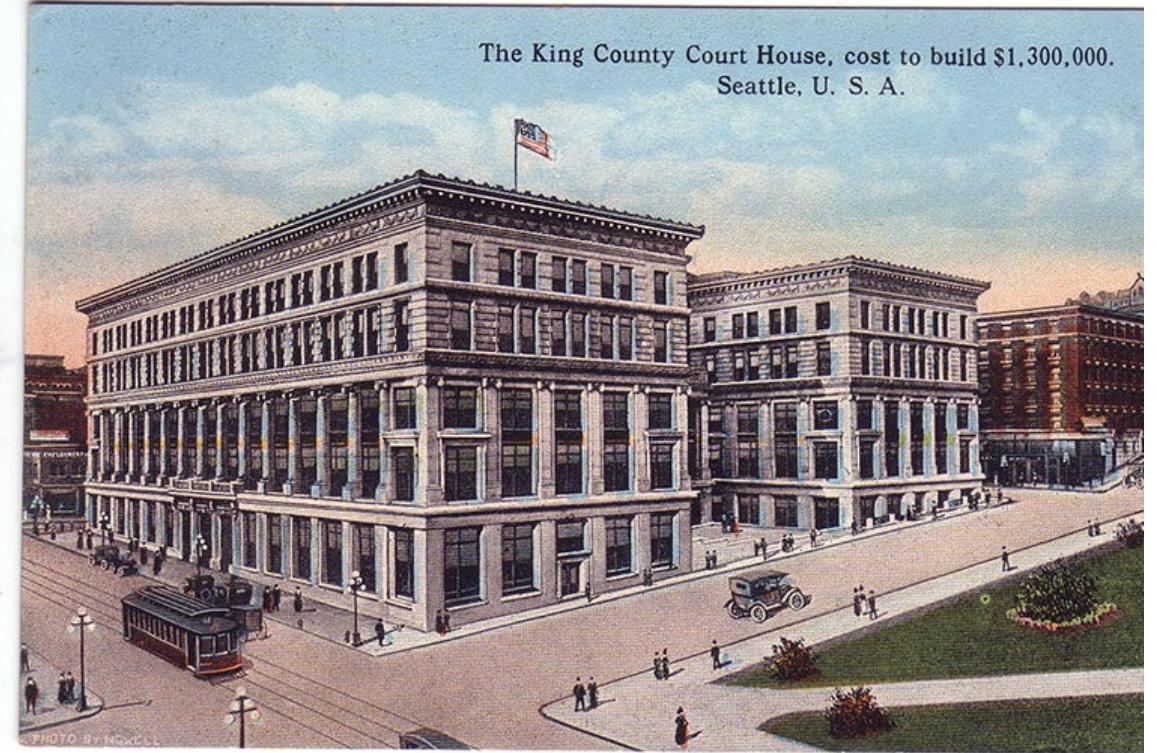
2 new judges
1 new housing commissioner

CPO Resources

2 commissioners added; now funded by County

2024-2028 Strategic Focus Areas

- Enhance the Court User Experience
- Enrich the Employee Experience
- Improve Court Facilities, Safety, and Security
- Be an Adaptive, Innovative, and Responsive Court



Continuous Improvement Efforts

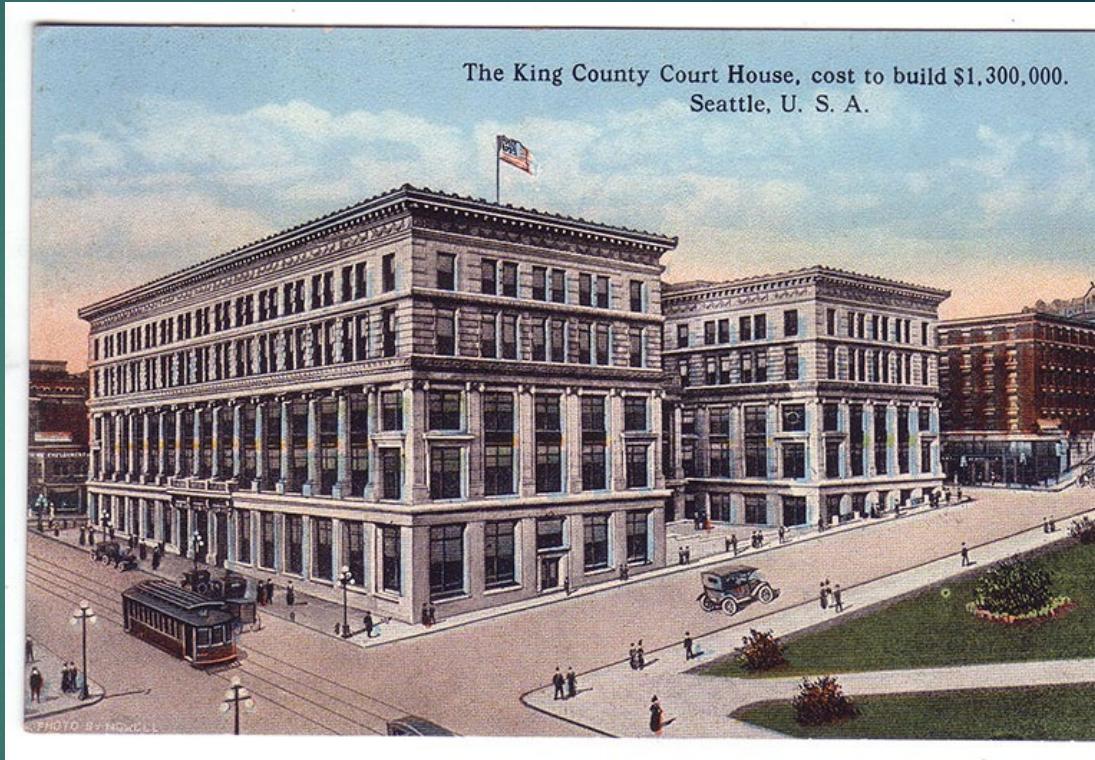
Strategic Plan implementation: Strides in 2025

- Integrated Procedural Fairness Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Confidence
- Provided DEI Training for Staff; Evaluated HR Practices
- Began ADA Assessment/Improvements
- Updated Continuity of Operations Plans re Cybersecurity
- Prepared Policy Guidance/Training for Use of AI in the Court in Anticipation of County Rollout

Future Challenges

Need Long-Term Planning of Courthouse/DAJD Facilities

- Critical Priority: Adequate infrastructure for King County's justice system
- Deferred maintenance in King County Courthouse and Maleng Regional Justice Center
- Antiquated physical layouts: safety and efficiency challenges
- Losing opportunities as land is sold and development takes place in the County
- Prioritize courthouse spaces for access and as centers of civic engagement
- Health of the courthouse buildings is a sign of the value society places on work of the courthouse



Challenges

Safety, Security and Maintenance of Physical Locations: Access to justice

Meet continued demand for timely service: Unlawful detainees, protection orders, probate/guardianships, and civil trials

AI: How do we incorporate AI into our practices?

IT infrastructure: support expanded remote proceedings/services and cybersecurity that provide increased access



We join the Council in our shared mission to collaborate and serve the people of King County.