



Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Annual Statistics
Report for 2019 – Civil Matters

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

2019

Case Disposal Rate (%)	77.29%
Case Clearance Rate (%)	90.73%
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	79.40%

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Executive Summary

This Annual Statistics Report for the Civil Divisions of the Parish Courts represents another important step in the ongoing efforts to consistently and adequately measure the performance of the Jamaican judicial system. The application of a range of mathematical tools to quantifying the size, capacity, productivity and output in the Jamaican courts is a crucial cog informing the pathway that is necessary to ensure that the Jamaican court system optimizes the use of public resources and deliver the highest standard of justice to the citizenry. Such is the high and aggressive standards which are being lead by the Honourable Chief Justice who has set out the objective of making the Jamaican court system the best in the Caribbean Region within three years and among the best in the World within 5-6 years. Several critical qualitative and quantitative targets have been set out in order to achieve this gargantuan feat. These targets are correlated in several ways but ultimately their accomplishment will be reflected in the strength of quantifiable performance metrics such as the case clearance rate and the trial date certainty rate. To this end, it has been scientifically determined, based on the multiple linear with other key metrics and output that a weighted average case clearance rate of 130% and a weighted average trial date certainty rate of 95% will reduce the net case backlog in the court system to under 5% over the next 5-6 years. Attaining these targets in a sustainable way would place the Jamaican court system in the upper echelons of productive judiciaries around the world. Several measures are being pursued as part of the strategic plan of the judiciary in an effort to realize the numerous quantitative and qualitative targets which will propel the progression towards the stated objectives. This extensive annual report on civil case activity across the Jamaican court system explores several facets of court productivity and identifies

areas of strength and weaknesses which will inform policy design and planning in the ensuing months and years.

Using an estimated 21545 new civil cases which were filed across the parish courts in 2019, the Corporate Area Civil Court with 6388 or 29.65% accounted for the largest share of activity while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 3720 or 17.27% ranks next, followed by the parish courts of St. Ann and St. James, each with 8.99% and 8.94% respectively. The parish courts of Portland and Hanover with 2% and 1.69% respectively of the estimated count accounts for the lowest shares. Big claims (\$50,000 - \$1Million in claim value) accounted for the largest share of new cases file with an estimated 66.33% while small claims (under JMD\$50,000 in claim value) accounted for an estimated 20.63% of the new civil matters filed in 2019 and 0.95% were POCA matters. Among the most commonly occurring causes of action for civil cases filed across the parish courts in 2019 were breach of contract, recovery of possession, negligence and rent owing. Males accounted for the largest proportion of the new cases filed, just ahead of females while registered companies and individuals trading under a business name round off the distribution, in that order.

The civil divisions of the parish courts experienced significant case delays due to various reasons for adjournment which impacted the progression of cases through the system, the rate of clearance and the average time taken to dispose of cases. Among the most common documented reasons for adjournment across the civil divisions of the parish courts in 2019 were the absenteeism of the defendant and absenteeism of the plaintiff individually as well as the collective absenteeism of both parties. Also featuring prominently were adjournments due to the reissuing of matters resulting from non-service or short service of summonses. As far as

case dispositions are concerned, matters disposed by being struck out, by oral admission, by default judgments and settlements featured most prominently across the courts.

In terms of vital statistical metrics of court performance, the overall estimated case clearance rate across the civil divisions of the parish courts was 90.73%, an indication that roughly 91 cases became disposed or inactive in 2019, for every 100 new cases filed. This rate marginally meets the lower limit of the prescribe international standard of between 90%-110% per annum but is just over 10 percentage points less than that of the criminal division of the parish courts over the same period. The Clarendon Parish Court with a case clearance rate of 132.11% was the top performer on this measurement for the year followed by the Hanover Parish Court with 127.20% and the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division with 123.64%. An impressive seven of the parish courts exceeded the 100% mark on this essential measurement. The closely related measurement of the case disposal rate also witnessed some commendable output across the courts with a weighted average rate of 77.29%, suggesting that roughly 77% of new civil cases file across the courts were either disposed or became inactive in 2019. This outcome was 3.54 percentage points more than that of the criminal division of the parish courts over the same period. The Hanover Parish Court with an estimated case disposal rate of 92.31% ranked highest followed by the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division and the Trelawny Parish Court with estimated rates of 88.54% and 88.39% respectively.

Two other important indicators of performance which are presented in this annual report are the trial date certainty rate and the estimated average time taken to dispose of cases in 2019. The overall estimated average trial date certainty rate across the civil division of the parish courts was 79.40%, which though below the international standard of over 90%, shows good

potential. This figure is 9.40 percentage points higher than the trial date certainty rate observed in the criminal divisions of the parish courts in 2019. Although none of the civil courts had a trial date certainty rate of over 90% in 2019, impressively, all courts reported rates of over 70% with St. Catherine, Portland, the Corporate Area Court- Civil Division, St. James and St. Elizabeth all eclipsing the 80% mark. The overall time taken to dispose of civil matters resolved in 2019 was roughly 6 months and there was a wide variance in the individual times across the parish courts.

The totality of the outcomes highlighted above show that there is still significant room for improvement in the general performance of the civil divisions of the parish courts however the results also show immense potential in several key areas. Such potential augurs well for the probable contribution of the civil courts to make an appreciably contribution to the realization of the qualitative and quantitative targets set out to improve judicial services and output.

Summary of performance key measurements across the civil divisions of the parish courts

Parish Court	Case disposal rates (%)	Case clearance rates (%)	Trial date certainty rate (%)	Estimated average time taken to dispose of cases in 2019 (days)
Westmoreland	80	-	77.08	39.44
Manchester	48.64	55.94	76.67	165.25
St. Catherine	71.56	102.24	83.42	151.93
Corporate Area-Civil	88.54	123.64	80.93	283.80
Trelawny	88.39	100.10	77.59	102.67
St. Ann	68.96	102.27	75.44	140.64

St. Mary	71.25	113.09	79.17	308.73
St. James	50.47	-	81.25	94.11
Hanover	92.31	127.20	79.63	158.28
Portland	61.16	88.37	81.81	272.95
St. Elizabeth	56.18	60.89	80.36	92.81
St. Thomas	72.95	91.22	79.41	229.15
Clarendon	-	132.11	-	-
Weighted Averages/Gross figures	77.29	90.73	79.40	170

Note 1: The data and metrics for some parishes represent point estimates of the population parameters.

Note 2: No extensive data is contained on the Clarendon Parish Court in this report due to reporting gaps.

Note 3: The margins of error of any applicable estimates vary between 1.5% and 4.8%

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 4 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish

court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

The Court Statistics Unit at the Supreme Court produces various Quarterly and Annual Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.

INTRODUCTION

This report details case activity in the Civil Division of the Parish Courts of Jamaica for year ended December 31, 2019. Among the key case activity areas reported on are new cases filed, cases disposed and inactive over the period as well as the common causes of action and applications. Other key areas reported on include the absolute number of reissue dates over the period as well as the dominant methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment. The report also highlights the number of matters, which go into various types of enforcements such as judgment summons, warrants of levy and warrants of attachment and are thus reactivated as well as the outcomes of matters that proceed along this path. Important efficiency measures such as the case clearance rate, case disposal rates, trial/hearing credibility ratio and case congestion and courtroom utilization rates are computed as measures of court performance, where sufficient data is available. These are important yardstick for assessing the courts in both an absolute and a relative way.

A full report is presented for each court and is subdivided into three main sections. The first section summarizes case flow activity and case demographics, the second section details case delay factors and dispositions as well as important performance metrics, and the third and final section summarizes case activity in the enforcement phase. The data produced for several of the courts rely on point estimates of the population parameters using a body of available representative data. This approach is however quite representative and preserves data integrity and validity. One limitation is that the starting points of the data sets for all courts are not homogenous and therefore not entirely comparable at this stage. The report also relies heavily on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the 2019 calendar year at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	732	11.46
Disposed	2550	39.92
Inactive	3106	48.62
Total	6388	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 6388 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 732 or 11.46% were still active, 2550 or 39.92% were disposed and 3106 or 48.62% were inactive. These results produce a disposal rate of 88.54% for the year. The gross number of active cases at the end of the year was 1173 cases, using reliable data dating back to late 2017.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	6764	86.58
Small Claim	1046	13.39
POCA	2	0.03
Total	7812	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 7812 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion of which 6764 or 86.58% were big claims, while 1046 or 13.39% were small claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters account for 0.23% of the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	2096	27.35
Recovery of Possession	1248	16.29
Negligence	827	10.79
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	540	7.05
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	450	5.87
Total	5161	67.35

Total sample size of causes of action= 7663

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the year at the Corporate Area Civil Court was a breach of contract with 2096 or roughly 27.35% of the sample. Recovery of

possession with 1248 or 16.29% and negligence with 827 or 10.79% round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) with 540 or 7.05% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 450 or 5.87% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above account for 67.35% of all the total sample of 7663 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1	3442	44.11
Courtroom #2	3277	41.99
Courtroom #4	1006	12.89
Night Court	49	0.63
Courtroom #3	30	0.38
Total	7804*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 6386 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 7804 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 3442 or 44.11% of the sample. However, 317 of the sample of matters that entered courtroom 1 initially, changed during the year to another courtroom. Courtroom 2 had 3277 matters entered or 41.99% of the sample. However, 330 matters that entered courtroom 2 initially, changed during the year to another courtroom. Courtroom 4 had 1006 matters or 12.89% of the sample. Of the 1006 matters entered, 16 changed from courtroom 4 to another courtroom during the year. The night court had 49 matters entered or 0.63% of the sample, with 1 matter changing courtrooms during the year. Courtroom #3 accounted for 30 matters or 0.38% of the total.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	63	29.17
Vary Court Order	60	27.78
Relist	43	19.91
Application for Court Order	27	12.50
File Affidavit of Debt Out of Time	10	4.63
Total	203	93.99

Total sample of applications (N) = 216

A sample of 216 applications filed during the 2019 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 63 or 29.17% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion applications filed, followed by vary court orders with 60 or 27.78% of the sample. Applications for relisting with 43 or 19.91%, applications for court orders with 27 or 12.5% and applications to file affidavit of debt out of time with 10 or 4.63% round off the leading applications filed during the year. The top five applications, which are listed above account for 93.99% of all the total sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	3030	39.05
Female	2666	34.36
Registered Company	1953	25.17
Trading As	111	1.43
Total	7760	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 7760 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 3030 or 39.05%, followed by females with 2666 or 34.36%. Registered companies accounted for 1953 or 25.17% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 111 or 1.43% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	3896	50.57
Female	3081	39.99
Registered Company	532	6.91
Trading As	195	2.53
Total	7704	100

There were 7704 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 3896 or 50.57% of the sample, followed by females with 3081 or 39.99%. Registered Companies accounted for 532 or 6.91% of the total while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') accounted for the remaining 2.53% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which

were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	1269	42.86
Default Judgment Date	921	31.10
Trial	456	15.40
Part-Heard Date	139	4.69
Hearing of Application	135	4.56
Date for Order	24	0.81
Final Judgement Date	17	0.57
Total	2961	100

The above table shows a sample of 2961 matters that went to court during the 2019 calendar year, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 1269 or 42.86% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 921 or 31.1%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial with 456 or 15.4% of matters. It is of note that 139 or 4.69% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This result is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant absent	288	23.08
For placement on trial list	262	20.99
Both Parties Absent	53	4.25
No Return/Re-Issued	40	3.21
Total	643	51.53

Number of adjournments sampled (N) = 1248

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1248 incidence of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. The absenteeism of defendants with 288 or 23.08% of the sample and adjournments for placement on the trial list with 262 or 20.99% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 53 or 4.25% of the sample and adjournments due to the no return or re-issued with 40 or 3.21% rounds off the list. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above account for 73.16% of all the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	1027
Average Incidence	1.51

Corresponding to 680 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 1027 incidence of reissued cases, corresponding to 680 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.51 reissues per

case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 15 reissued incidences.

Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	1640	29.05
Consent	1203	21.31
Default	815	14.43
Settlement	416	7.37
Withdrawal	400	7.08
Total	4474	79.24

NB there were 5646 matters were disposed in 2019

A total of 5646 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2019 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 4474 or 79.24% of the total. The list is led by matters struck out with 1640 or 29.05% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed of by consent with 1203 or 21.31% and default judgments with 815 or 14.43%. Matters disposed by settlements and withdrawals round off the top five methods with 416 or 7.37% and 400 or 7.08% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	1737	88.26
Settlement	207	10.52
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	23	1.17
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	1	0.05
Total	1968	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in 2019 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 1737 or 88.26% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion, while settlements with 207 account for 10.52%. Judgment in favour of defendants with 23 or 1.17% and judgment for ancillary defendant with 1 or 0.05% rounds off the list. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in 2019	Approximate case clearance rate (%)	Approximate case disposal rate (%)
6388	5656	7898	123.64	88.54

The above table shows 6388 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 2550 of these cases were disposed, and 3106 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 88.54%. A gross figure of 4362 cases was disposed, and 3536 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 123.64%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2019

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
215	41	80.93

N.B. Only 2019 cases that went to trial were included in the sample of matters that were used to compute the trial certainty rate.

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 215 trial dates set in the year of which 41 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 80.93%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 81% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100% but is above the court-wide average and shows potential.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	3914
Mean	283.804
Std. Error of Mean	5.706
Median	138
Mode	77
Std. Deviation	356.947
Skewness	2.302
Std. Error of Skewness	0.039
Range	3350
Minimum	3
Maximum	3353

The above table outlines summary data on 3914 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 284 days or 9.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 77 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 357 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores while the high positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall

average time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 3353 days or roughly 9.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1453
Mean	362.157
Std. Error of Mean	11.446
Median	201
Mode	33
Std. Deviation	436.295
Skewness	2.821
Std. Error of Skewness	0.064
Range	4976
Minimum	11
Maximum	4987

The above data is based on a sample of 1453 active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 362 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 201 days. The standard deviation of roughly 436 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4987 days old or roughly 13.67 years, while the minimum time taken is just 11 days.

Table 17.0: Descriptive statistics on the time interval between the reservation and delivery of judgements in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	16
Mean	18.375
Std. Error of Mean	3.495

Median	14
Mode	6
Std. Deviation	13.98
Skewness	1.033
Std. Error of Skewness	0.564
Range	46
Minimum	1
Maximum	47

The above data provides a sample summary of the estimated time interval between reserving and delivering judgements. It is seen that a sample of 16 judgements which were reserved in the 2019 calendar year took on average of 18 days to be delivered, while the most frequently occurring time taken to deliver judgements was 6 days. The standard deviation was moderately high, indicating that there is some variation among the individual scores. The high positive skewness is an indication that a larger proportion of the times between reserving and delivering a judgement fell below the mean time interval. The maximum time taken to deliver judgments reserved in the year was 47 days, while the minimum time taken was just a day.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court

system, the average age of cases in enforcement as well as some of the most commonly occurring bailiff reports on enforcement matters.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	141	94.0
Warrant of Possession	7	4.7
Warrant of Levy	2	1.3
Total	150	100.0

It is seen in the above sample of 150 civil cases, which went into enforcement during the year, the majority were judgement summonses with 141 or 94%, while warrants of possession with 7 or 4.7% and warrant of levy with 2 or 1.3% followed. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 19.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	141	215	1.52

The above table shows that the sample of 141 Judgment summonses filed which equated to exactly 215 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.52 court appearances per judgment summons matter. This result indicates that for every 100 Judgment summonses filed there were 152 appearances dates.

Table 20.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the year ended December 31, 2019

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court Sitzings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	71.51	229.17	2.67	32.62	62.83	1.29

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the 2019 calendar year. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocating for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in 2019 was 71.51%, which is an indication that on average roughly 72% of the available hours for court hearings were in 2019. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for Night Courts. An important part of the designation of Night Courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 62.83%, the Night Courts use 8.68 percentage points less of the available time than regular day court.

The sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court were sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Hanover Parish Court-Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	28	7.69
Disposed	223	61.26
Inactive	113	31.04
Total	364	100

Reactivated cases = 5

The above table presents a status distribution of 364 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 28 cases or 7.69% of these cases were

still active, while 223 were disposed and 113 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated case disposal rate of 92.31%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	337	80.24
Small Claim	81	19.29
POCA	2	0.48
Total	420	100

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 420 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion of which 337 or 80.24% were big claims, while 81 or 19.29% were small claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters accounted for the smallest proportion with 2 or 0.48%.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	95	42.04
Recovery of Possession	56	24.78
Damages for Negligence	22	9.73
Monies Due and Owing	20	8.85
Damages	11	4.87
Total	204	90.27

Total sample size of cause of action = 226

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the year at the Hanover Parish Court was breach of contract with 95 or roughly 42.04% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 56 or 24.78% and damages for negligence with 22 or 9.73% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The list is rounded off by monies due

and owing with 20 or 8.85% and damages with 11 or 4.87% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 90.27% of all the total sample of 226 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	194	47.20
Sandy Bay #1	88	21.41
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	65	15.82
Sandy Bay #2	23	5.60
Green Island #1	20	4.87
Green Island #2	8	1.95
Ramble #1	7	1.70
Ramble #2	6	1.46
Total	411*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 358 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 411 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main court, which accounted for 194 or 47.2% of the total. 88 or 21.41% of the cases filed were entered at the Sandy Bay outstation (courtroom #1), while courtroom number 2 at the main court accounted for 65 or 15.82% of the cases heard. The courtrooms at the outstations located at Green Island and Ramble collectively accounted for the remaining 9.98% of cases heard.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	174	41.73
Female	154	36.93
Trading As	52	12.47
Registered Company	37	8.87
Total	417	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 417 plaintiffs in the 2019 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court, 174 or 41.73% were males and 154 or 36.93% female while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 52 or 12.47% and registered companies with 37 or 8.87% round off the list.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	232	55.37
Female	173	41.29
Trading As	12	2.86
Registered Company	2	0.48
Total	419	100.0

There were 419 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. The majority of defendants were male with 232 or 55.37% of the sample, followed by females with 173 or 41.29% while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') accounted for 2.86% of the total and registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.48%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	22	55.0
Trial	15	37.5
Part-Heard Date	2	5.0
Final Judgment Date	1	2.5
Total	40	100.0

The above table shows a sample of 40 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 22 or 55%, were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 15 or 37.5%, which were adjourned for trial. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 2 or 5% of matters, which were adjourned at part-heard dates. Adjournment for a final judgment date accounted for 2.5% of the sample. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the

mention stage. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	104	79.39
Attorney Absent	12	9.16
Miscellaneous	4	3.05
Plaintiff Absent	4	3.05
Both Parties Absent	2	1.53
Defendant Absent	2	1.53
Part Heard	2	1.53
Transferred to Another Court	1	0.76
Total	131	100.0

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 131 incidences of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue with 104 or 79.39% of the sample and adjournments for the absenteeism of attorneys with 12 or 9.16% account for the two largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for miscellaneous reasons and plaintiff being absent with 3.05% each round off the top 4 reasons for adjournments during the year. The list is rounded off by both parties being absent, defendants being absent and matters adjourned part-heard with 2 or 1.53% each and transfer to another court with 0.76% of the sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	36
Average Incidence	1.2

Corresponding to 30 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 36 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 30 reissued cases. This result in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	84	21.93
Default Judgment	64	16.71
Consent	52	13.58
Struck Out	51	13.32
Final Judgment	40	10.44
Total	291	75.98

NB there were 383 matters were disposed in 2019

A total of 383 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 291 or 75.98% of the total. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admissions with 84 or 21.93% of the disposals, followed by disposed by default judgments with 64 or 16.71% and disposals by consent with 52 or 13.58%. Matters struck out and final judgments round off the top five methods with 13.32% and 10.44% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	163	81.09
Settlement	30	14.93
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	5	2.49
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	3	1.49
Total	201	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 163 or 81.09% of the sample of matters accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 30 or 14.93%, judgments in favour of defendants with 5 or 2.49% and judgments for ancillary plaintiff with 3 or 1.49% round off the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
54	11	79.63

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 54 trial dates were set in the year shows that 11 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 79.63%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 80%

chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This is well below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases(of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Case disposal rate (%)
364	336	463	127.20	92.31

The above table shows 364 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 223 of these cases were disposed and 113 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 92.31%. An approximate gross figure of 325 cases was disposed, and 138 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 127.20%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	269
Mean	158.283
Std. Error of Mean	15.215
Median	70
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	249.540
Skewness	3.708
Std. Error of Skewness	0.149
Range	2225
Minimum	1
Maximum	2226

The above table outlines sample data on 269 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 158 days or 5.3 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 250 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness suggests that most of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 2226 days or roughly 6.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	37
Mean	130.190
Std. Error of Mean	18.879
Median	85
Mode	29
Std. Deviation	114.366
Skewness	0.846
Std. Error of Skewness	0.388
Range	301
Minimum	29
Maximum	330

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 130 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The standard deviation of roughly 114 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the moderate positive skewness seen is an indication that there were slightly more scores in the data set

which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 330 days old, while the minimum time taken is just 29 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter is intended to highlight key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. Below is a summary of available data on case activity regarding judgment summonses at the Hanover Parish Court in 2019.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	33	100.0
Total	33	100.0

A sample of 33 civil cases that went into enforcement during the year shows that all were judgment summonses, a possible indication of the dominance of this type of enforcement at this court. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	33	38	1.15

The above table shows that the sample of 33 Judgment summonses filed equated to 38 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.15 appearances per judgment summons matter. This close 1:1 ratio is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

Manchester Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Sampling distribution of the case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	359	51.36
Disposed	285	40.77
Inactive	55	7.87
Total	699	100

Reactivated cases= 2

The above table shows a summary of a sample 699 new cases were filed at the Manchester Parish in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 359 cases or 51.36% of these cases were still active, while 285 were disposed and 55 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 48.64%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	431	52.69
Small Claim	387	47.31
Total	818	100

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 818 claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year, the largest proportion of which 431 or 52.69% were big claims, while 387 or 47.31% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the Manchester Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Arrears of Rent	82	14.77
Recovery of Possession	69	12.43
Breach of Contract	44	7.93
Money Owing	43	7.75
Monies Due & Owing	35	6.31
Total	273	49.19

Total sample size of causes of action =555

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the 2019 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court was arrears of rent with 82 or 14.77% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 69 or 12.43% and breach of contract with 44 or 7.93% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The list is completed by monies owing with 43 or 7.75% and monies due and owing with 35 or 6.31%. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 49.19% of sample.

Table 4.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	280	40.76
Small Claim Court #2 (Main courthouse)	167	24.31
Small Claim Court #3 (Main courthouse)	121	17.61
Christiana	33	4.80

Night Court	18	2.62
Spalding	18	2.62
Courtroom #3 (Main courthouse)	15	2.18
Porus	14	2.04
Cottage	9	1.31
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	6	.87
Cross Keys	6	.87
Total	687*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 617 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 687 new cases filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main court, which accounted for 280 or 40.76% of the total. 167 or 24.31% were entered in the small claims court number 2, while 121 or 17.61% were entered in the small claims court number 3. The Christiana outstation with 33 or 4.8% accounts for next largest share.

Table 5.0: Distribution of applications filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Court Order	802	99.9
Judgment Summons	1	.1
Total	803	100

The above details a sample of 803 applications made during the 2019 calendar year, of which 802 or 99.9% were applications for court order, suggesting a high relative incidence of these types of court orders. Judgement summonses accounted for the other 0.1% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	422	52.10
Female	316	39.01
Registered Company	71	8.77
Trading As	1	0.12
Total	810	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 810 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 422 or 52.1%, followed by females with 316 or 39.01%. Registered companies rank next accounted for 71 or 8.77% sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 1 or 0.12%.

Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	517	64.14
Female	259	32.13
Registered Company	30	3.72
Total	806	100

There were 104 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were males with 517 or 64.14% of the sample, followed by females with 259 or 32.13%. Registered Companies accounted for 30 or 3.72% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also seeks to highlight the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment Date	48	36.92
Mention Date	42	32.31
Trial	38	29.23
Hearing of Application	1	0.77
Part-Heard Date	1	0.77
Total	130	100

The above table shows a sample of 130 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned for either a default judgment to be entered, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 48 or 36.92% were adjourned for default judgments to be entered, followed by 42 or 32.31%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 38 or 29.23% of matters, which were adjourned for trial. Adjournments for the hearing of application and part-

heard date with 1 or 0.77% each complete the list. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 9.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	76	26.67
Both Parties Absent	72	25.26
Defendant Absent	64	22.46
Placed on Trial list	25	8.77
For Mention	13	4.56
Total	250	87.72

Number of adjournments sampled (N) =285

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 285 incidences of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments for no return/re-issued with 76 or 26.67% of the sample, the absenteeism of both parties with 72 or 25.26% and adjournments due to the absence of the defendants with 64 or 22.46 round off the top 3 reasons for adjournment for the year. The list is completed by adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 25 or 8.77% and adjournments for mention with 13 or 4.56%. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above, account for 87.72% of the entire total sample.

Table 10: Leading Incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	84
Average Incidence	1.1

Corresponding to 76 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or

short served. The above table draws on a sample of 84 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 76 cases, which were reissued. This result in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year which suggests that every 10 cases reissued had a total of 11 reissued incidences.

Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	187	67.03
Oral Admission	21	7.53
Default	21	7.53
Consent	11	3.94
Settlement	10	3.58
Total	250	89.61

NB there were 279 matters were disposed in 2019

This table represents a sample of 279 civil matters were disposed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 250 or 89.61% of the total. From this list, matters struck out with 187 incidences or roughly 67.03% was the leading method of disposal, while oral admissions and default with 21 or 7.53% each follow this. The list is completed by consent with 3.94% and settlements with 10 or 3.58%.

Table 12.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in favour of Plaintiff	36	90.0
Settlement	2	5.0
Judgment in favour of defendant	2	5.0
Total	40	100

The above table presents a sample distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 36 or 90.0% of the sample of matters, account for the largest proportion, while settlements and Judgments in favour of the defendants each with 5% rank next. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of cases disposed	Approximate Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Case disposal rate (%)
699	340	391	55.94	48.64

The above table summarizes activity surrounding a sample of 699 new cases which were filed at the Manchester Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 285 of these cases were disposed and 55 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated case disposal rate of 48.64%. A gross figure of 309 disposed cases and 82 inactive cases was taken, leading to an estimated case clearance rate of 55.94% but this has a sizeable margin of error of plus or minus 9.5%.

Table 14.0: Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
30	7	76.67

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 30 trial dates was set in the year of which 7 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 76.67% which suggests that during the year there was a roughly 77% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. The margin of error of this estimate is plus or minus 4%.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of cases for the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	59
Mean	165.254
Std. Error of Mean	22.823
Median	88
Mode	137
Std. Deviation	175.307
Skewness	1.827
Std. Error of Skewness	0.311
Range	735
Minimum	28
Maximum	763

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 59 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 166 days. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 137 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 175 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 763 days or roughly 2.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 28 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active cases as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	616
Mean	335.813
Std. Error of Mean	5.824
Median	288
Mode	242
Std. Deviation	144.556
Skewness	0.307
Std. Error of Skewness	0.098
Range	966
Minimum	15
Maximum	981

The above data is based on a sample of 616 active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 336 days or just over 11 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 242 days or 8.1 months. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 145 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the moderate positive skewness seen is an indication that there were some scores in the data set which fell below the mean. The oldest active case was 981 days old or roughly 2.69 years, while the minimum time taken is 15 days.

There was limited data on case activity in the enforcement stage at the Manchester Parish Court at the time of processing this report.

St. James Parish Court

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action at the St. James Parish Court. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	954	49.53
Disposed	402	20.87
Inactive	570	29.60
Total	1926	100

Reactivated cases =37

The above table presents a status distribution of 1926 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 954 cases or 49.53% of these cases were still active, while 402 were disposed and 570 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 50.47%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1308	60.53
Small Claim	839	38.82
POCA	14	0.65
Total	2161	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 2161 new claims filed at the St. James Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion of which 1308 or 60.53% were big claims, while 839 or 38.82% were small claims. POCA matters account for 0.65% of the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rent owing and continuing	138	9.17
Recovery of Possession	123	8.17
Money borrowed as a loan	95	6.31
Rent owing, continuing and recovery of Possession	88	5.85
Total	444	29.50

Total sample size of cause of action = 1505

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action for the year at the St. James Parish Court rent owing and continuing with 138 or 9.17%, recovery of possession with 123 or 8.17% of the sample and monies borrowed with 95 or 6.31%, rounding off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. This list is completed by rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 88 or 5.85% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 29.50% of all the total sample of 1505 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4	1228	99.8
Courtroom #1	1	0.1
Courtroom #3	1	0.1
Total	1230*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 1137 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1230 new matters filed in the year were entered in courtroom number 4, which accounted for 1228 or 99.8% of the total. Courtroom number 1 and courtroom number 3 each accounted for 0.1% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	788	38.35
Registered Company	658	32.02
Female	608	29.59
Trading As	1	0.05
Total	2055	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 2055 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 788 or 38.35%, followed by registered companies with 658 or 32.02%. Females accounted for 608 or 29.59% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 0.05% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1203	57.86
Female	764	36.75
Registered Company	112	5.39
Total	2079	100

There were 2079 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1203 or 57.86% of the

sample, followed by females with 764 or 36.75%. Registered Companies accounted for 5.39% of the total.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	156	41.94
Default Judgment Date	147	39.52
Trial	57	15.32
Part-Heard Date	10	2.69
Date for Order	1	.27
Hearing of Application	1	.27
Total	372	100.0

The above table shows a sample of 372 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 156 or 41.94% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 147 or 39.52%, which were adjourned for default judgements

dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 57 or 15.32% of matters, which were adjourned for Trial. It is of note that 10 or 2.69% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	194	36.06
Defendant absent	93	17.29
To be placed on trial list	49	9.11
Total	336	62.45

Number of adjournments sampled (N) = 538

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 538 incidences of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. No return/re-issued matters with 194 or 36.06% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 93 or 17.29% and adjournments for placement on trial list with 49 or 9.11% round off the top 3 reasons for adjournment in the sampling distribution for 2019. The top three reasons for adjournment listed above account for 62.45% of the total sample of adjournments for the year.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	120
Average Incidence	1.08

Corresponding to 111 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 120 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 111 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.08 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had a total of 11 reissued incidences.

Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Final Judgment	249	56.33
Struck Out	89	20.14
Settlement	47	10.63
Consent	22	4.98
Withdrawal	10	2.26
Total	417	94.34

Sample size =442

Using a sample of 442 civil matters which were disposed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year, the above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 417 or 94.34% of the sample. The list is led by matters disposed by final judgments with 249 or 56.33% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 89 or 20.14% and settlements with 47 or 10.63%. Matters disposed by consent and withdrawals round off the top five methods with 4.98% and 2.26% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	183	93.85
Settlement	10	5.13
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	2	1.03
Total	195	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 183 or 93.85% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 10 or 5.13%. Judgments for ancillary plaintiff account for the smallest proportion with 1.03% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of dates set for trial	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
48	9	81.25

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without date adjournments. A sample of 48 trial dates was set in the year of which 9 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial

date certainty rate of 81.25%. The output suggests that during the year there was an approximate 81% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases(of those originating in the year)	Approximate Case disposal rate (%)
1926	972	50.47

The above table shows 1926 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 402 of these cases were disposed and 570 cases became inactive leading to a case disposal rate of 50.47%.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	290
Mean	94.1069
Std. Error of Mean	5.19395
Median	67.0000
Mode	67.00
Std. Deviation	88.44981
Skewness	2.352
Std. Error of Skewness	.143
Range	547.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	550.00

The above table outlines summary data on 290 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. James Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 94 days or 3.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median

time to dispose was 67 days. The relatively high standard deviation of roughly 88 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 550 days or roughly 1.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1078
Mean	229.5733
Std. Error of Mean	3.97181
Median	223.0000
Mode	69.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	130.40595
Skewness	.196
Std. Error of Skewness	.075
Range	757.00
Minimum	48.00
Maximum	805.00

^aMultiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 230 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 69 days. The standard deviation of roughly 130 days suggests that there only a small dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The small positive skewness seen is an indication that there were only a few scores in the data set, which are below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 805 days old or roughly 2.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 48 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	51	96.23
Warrant of Commitment	1	1.89
Warrant of Possession	1	1.89
Total	53	100.0

A sample of 53 civil matters that went into enforcement during the year shows that 51 or 96.23% were judgment summonses, a possible indication of the dominance of this type of enforcement at this court. Warrants of commitment and warrants of possession with 1.89% each rounds off the list. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	51	57	1.1

The above table shows that the sample of 51 Judgment summonses filed equated to 57 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.1 appearances per judgment summons matter. This close 1:1 ratio is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	112	11.61
Disposed	486	50.36
Inactive	367	38.03
Total	965	100

Reactivated cases= 6

The above table presents a status distribution of 965 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 486 or 50.36% of these cases were disposed, 367 or 38.03% were inactive and 112 or 11.61% were still active at the end of the year. This produces a case disposal rate of 88.39%.

Table 2.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	142	14.00
Money Owing	157	15.48
Maintenance fees owing	70	6.90
Arrears of Rent	54	5.33

Total	423	41.71
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Total number of causes of action = 1014

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action in the year were recovery of possession with 142 or 14% and monies owing with 157 or 15.48%. Maintenance fees owing with 70 or 6.9% and arrears of rent with 54 or 5.33% close out the list. The top four causes of action, which are listed above, account for 41.71% of all the total sample of 1014 causes of action.

Table 3.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth (Night Court)	410	40.24
Falmouth	263	25.81
Ulster Spring	184	18.06
Clarks Town #1	135	13.25
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	27	2.65
Total	1019*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 965 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1019 new cases filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in the Night Court sittings in Falmouth, which accounted for 410 or 40.24% of the total. 263 or 25.81% that were entered at the outstation in Falmouth followed this, while court sittings in the Ulcer Spring outstation ranked next with 184 is 18.06%. Courtroom number 1 at the Clarks Town outstation accounted for 135 or 13.25% and courtroom number 1 in Duncans accounted for 27 or 2.65% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 4.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	408	40.12
Female	346	34.02
Registered Company	256	25.17
Trading As	7	0.69
Total	1017	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1017 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 408 or 40.12%, followed by females with 346 or 34.02%. Registered companies accounted for 256 or 25.17% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 7 or 0.69%.

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	632	62.14
Female	368	36.18
Trading As	11	1.08
Registered Company	6	0.59
Total	1017	100.0

There were 1017 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 632 or 62.14% of the sample, followed by females with 368 or 36.18%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 11 or 1.08% of the sample and registered companies accounted for 6 or 0.59%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. His section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 6.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment Date	171	47.63
Mention Date	150	41.78
Part-Heard Date	19	5.29
Trial	19	5.29
Total	359	100

The above table shows a sample of 359 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 171 or 47.63% were adjourned for default judgment dates, followed by 150 or 41.78%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date and those for trial both accounted for 19 or 5.29% of the sample of adjournments. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater

probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage, which is expected in civil and other case types.

Table 7.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	329	34.27
Defendant Absent	154	16.04
Both Parties Absent	40	4.17
Plaintiff Absent	22	2.29
Total	545	56.77

Number of adjournments (N) =960

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 960 incidence of adjournments/continuance in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments for reissue with 329 or 34.27% of the sample feature prominently on the list, while adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 154 or 16.04% and adjournments due to both parties being absent with 40 or 4.17% rounds off the top three. The list is completed by adjournments due to the plaintiff being absent with 22 or 2.29% of the total. The top five reasons for adjournment/continuance, which are listed above, account for 56.77% of the entire sample.

Table 8.0: Leading Incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	49
Average Incidence	1.07

Corresponding to 46 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A civil case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 49 incidences of reissued cases,

corresponding to 46 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.07 reissues per case file for the sample of new claims filed in the year, a good outcome by general standards.

Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default Judgment	154	25.84
Oral Admission	105	17.62
Settlement	90	15.10
Consent	65	10.91
Struck Out	55	9.23
Total	469	78.70

Total number of Dispositions (N) = 596

This table is computed using a sample of 596 civil matters, which were disposed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgements with 154 or 25.84% of the disposals, followed by oral admissions with 105 or 17.62% and disposals by settlements with 90 or 15.10% of the sample. The top five methods of disposal are completed by disposals by consent with 65 or 10.91% and matters struck out with 55 or 9.23%. These 5 methods of disposition listed above account for 78.7% of the sample.

Table 10.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended Dec.31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in favour of Plaintiff	301	69.04
Settlement	91	20.87
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	32	7.34
Judgment in favour of Defendant	12	2.75
Total	436	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the Trelawny Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 69.04% of the sample of matters accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements with 91 or 20.87% account for

the second highest proportion. Judgements for ancillary plaintiff with 32 or 7.34% and judgements in favour of defendants with 12 or 2.75% complete the list. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate case clearance rate (%)	Approximate case disposal rate (%)
965	853	966	100.1	88.39

The above table shows 965 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 486 of these cases were disposed and 367 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 88.39%. An approximate gross figure of 570 cases was disposed, and 396 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 100.1%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 12.0: Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
58	13	77.59

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 58 trial dates set in the year revealed that 13 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date

certainty rate of 77.59% which suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 78% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	375
Mean	102.67
Std. Error of Mean	6.09
Median	62.00
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	117.908
Skewness	2.179
Std. Error of Skewness	.126
Range	666
Minimum	2
Maximum	668

The above table is computed using a sample of 375 matters disposed. The average time taken to dispose of these cases is roughly 103 days or 3.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of roughly 118 days is an indication that there is wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness is an indication that more of the times to disposition fell below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 668 days or roughly 1.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active cases as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	107
Mean	227.28
Std. Error of Mean	18.90
Median	182
Mode	119
Std. Deviation	195.50
Skewness	0.835
Std. Error of Skewness	0.234
Range	654
Minimum	12
Maximum	666

The above data is based on a sample of 107 active civil cases at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average time taken to dispose of matters in the year was 227 days or roughly 7.6 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 119 days or 4 months. The relatively high standard deviation of roughly 195 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the moderate positive skewness seen is an indication that there were slightly more scores in the data set which fall above the overall mean time. The oldest active case was 666 days old or roughly 1.8 years, while the minimum time taken is 12 days.

Table 17: Descriptive Statistics on the time interval between the reservation and delivery of judgements for the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	15
Mean	25.90
Std. Error of Mean	4.31
Median	28.00
Mode	43
Std. Deviation	16.68
Skewness	0.178
Std. Error of Skewness	0.580
Range	50
Minimum	6
Maximum	56

The above data provides a descriptive summary of the time interval between reserving and delivering judgments. A sample of 15 judgments which were reserved during the year took on average 26 days to be delivered, while the most frequently occurring time taken to deliver judgements was 43 days. The standard deviation was moderate, indicating that there was some variation among the individual scores. The low positive skewness is an indication there were slightly more scores in the data set that were below the overall average times. The maximum time taken to deliver judgements in the year was 56 days, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

St. Ann Parish Court

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. With the exception the metrics outlined in Table 13.0, the data in this chapter excludes case activity at the Brown's Town Court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	601	31.04
Disposed	563	29.08
Inactive	772	39.88
Total	1936	100

Reactivated cases= 12

The above table presents a status distribution of 1936 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 601 cases or 31.04% of these cases were still active, while 563 were disposed and 772 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 68.96%.

Table 2.0: Distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claims	1575	70
Small Claims	673	30
Total	2248	100

The above table shows that from 2248 new claims filed in the 2019 calendar year, the largest proportion were big claims with 1575 or 70% while 673 or 30% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	725	45.31
Recovery of possession	131	8.19
Damages for Negligence	126	7.88
Money owing	108	6.75
Rent owing	76	4.75
Total	1166	72.88

Sample size (N) =1600

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table uses a sample of 1600 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the 2019 calendar year were breach of contract with 725 or roughly 45.31% of the sample and recovery of possession with 131 or 8.19%. Damages for negligence with 126 or 7.88%, monies owing with 108 or 6.75% and rent owing with 76 or 4.75% of the total rounds off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 72.88% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	1384	91.23
Claremont outstation	77	5.08
Night Court	56	3.69
Total	1517*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 1268 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1517 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 2, accounting for 1384 or 91.23% of the total. 77 or 5.08% that were entered in the outstation at Claremont followed this, while night court sittings with 56 or 3.69% account for the remaining proportion.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	761	43.61
Female	574	32.89
Registered Company	407	23.32
Trading As	3	0.17
Total	1745	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1745 new matters filed in the year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 761 or 43.61%, followed by females with 574 or 32.89% and registered companies with 407 or 23.32% of the total. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 3 or 0.17% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1081	62.06
Female	541	31.06
Registered Company	103	5.91
Trading As	17	0.98
Total	1742	100

There were 1742 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1081 or 62.06% of the total, followed by females with 541 or 31.06%. Registered companies accounted for 103 or 5.91% of the total, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 17 or 0.98% of the total.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	279	47.37
Default Judgment Date	222	37.69
Trial	74	12.56
Part-Heard Date	12	2.04
Date for Order	1	0.17
Hearing of Application	1	0.17
Total	589	100

The above table shows a sample of 589 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019 which were adjourned at a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or other related procedural adjournments. The largest proportion, 279 or 47.37% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 222 or 37.69%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 74 or 12.56% of matters, which were adjourned for Trial. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 12 or 2.04% of the total. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 8.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency of adjournments	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	442	43.16
Defendant Absent	228	22.27
Placed on trial list	79	7.71
Pending Settlement	57	5.57
Total	806	78.71

Sample size (N) =1024

The above table details a sample of 1024 reasons for adjournment in the 2019 calendar year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to no-return/reissue of matters with 442 or 43.16% of the total, the absenteeism of defendants with 228 or 22.27% and adjournments for mention with 169 or 16.5% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments for placement on the trial list with 79 or 7.71% and pending settlements with 57 or 5.57% of the

sample. These leading reasons for adjournment listed account for 78.71% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 9.0: Leading Incidence of reissued matters

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	142
Average Incidence	1.22

Corresponding to 117 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table details a sample of 142 reissued incidences corresponding to 117 cases. This results in an estimated sample average of roughly 12 reissue incidences for every 10 cases during the year.

Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Settlement	225	22.98
Struck Out	195	19.92
Consent	167	17.06
Default Judgment	153	15.63
Oral Admission	108	11.03
Total	848	86.62

NB: There were 979 matters disposed in 2019

A sample of 979 matters disposed during the year revealed that 225 or 22.98% were disposed by being settlement, 195 or 19.92% were struck out and 167 or 17.06% by consent. Disposal by default judgements with 153 or 15.63% and through oral admissions with 108 or 11.03% rounds off the top five methods of disposition in the year. The methods listed above account for 86.62% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the 2019 calendar year.

Table 11.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in favour of Plaintiff	44	84.62
Settlement	7	13.46
Judgment in favour of defendant	1	1.92
Total	52	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Ann Parish Court. Using a sample of 52 matters, it is shown that Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 44 or 84.62% of the sample, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 7 or 13.46% and judgments in favour of the defendant accounts for 1.92%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Case Disposal rate (%)
1936	1335	1980	102.27	68.96

The above table shows 1936 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 563 cases of these cases were disposed and 772 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 68.96%. An approximate gross figure of 1114 cases was disposed, and 866 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have

dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 102.27%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 13.0: Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
114	28	75.44

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 114 trial dates set in the year of which 28 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 75.44%. The output suggests that during the year, there was a roughly 75% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment which is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of Observations	912
Mean	140.64
Std. Error of Mean	6.57
Median	87
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	198.56
Skewness	6.725
Std. Error of Skewness	.081
Range	2444
Minimum	1
Maximum	2445

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 912 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 141 days or 4.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 199 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores while the high positive skewness suggests that there were markedly more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2445 days or roughly 6.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active cases for the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of Observations	663
Mean	266.25
Std. Error of Mean	10.28
Median	203
Mode	84
Std. Deviation	264.58
Skewness	3.216
Std. Error of Skewness	0.095
Range	1918
Minimum	12
Maximum	1930

The above data is based on sample of 663 active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 266 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 84 days. The standard deviation of roughly 265 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the

data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1930 days old or roughly 5.3 years while the minimum time taken is 12 days.

Table 18.0: Judgment summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total number of judgment summonses	Total number of judgment summonses court appearances	Average number of appearance
Judgment Summons	135	136	1.01

The above table shows that the sample of 135 Judgment summonses filed at the St. Ann parish Court in 2019 which equated to 136 court appearances in that year, producing a ratio of 1.01 appearance per judgment summons matter. This close 1:1 ratio is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	1000	26.88
Disposed	944	25.38
Inactive	1776	47.74
Total	3720	100

Reactivated cases= 219

The above table presents a status distribution of 3720 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 1000 cases or 26.88% of these cases were still active, while 944 were disposed and 1776 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 73.12%.

Table 2.0: Distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	3693	84.45
Small Claim	676	15.46
POCA	4	0.09
Total	4373	100

The above table shows that from a sample of 4373 claims filed in the 2019 calendar year, 3693 or 84.45% were big claims, 676 or 15.46% were small claims and 4 were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of contract	1735	40.71
Damages for Negligence	803	18.84
Recovery of possession	566	13.28
Rent Owing and Continuing	296	6.95
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	290	6.80
Total	3690	86.58

Sample size =4262

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The above table details a sample of 4262 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The leading cause of action shown in this sample were breach of a contract with 1735 or roughly 40.71% of the total, damages for negligence with 803 or 18.84% and recovery of possession with 566 or 13.28%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 296 or 6.95% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 290 or 6.80%.The causes of action which are listed above, account for 86.58% of all the causes of action.

Table 4.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	3101	71.95
Linstead #1	560	12.99
Portmore #1 (Night Court)	353	8.19
Old Harbour #1	265	6.15

Portmore #1	31	0.72
Total	4310*	100

*Note: Corresponding to 3661 cases

The largest proportion of the sample of 4310 new claims filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 3101 or 71.95% of the total. 560 or 12.99% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. The night court at Portmore accounted for 353 or 8.19% of the total, while courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 265 or 6.15% of the claims. The list is completed by courtroom 1 at the Portmore outstation with 31 or 0.72% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Distribution of applications filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Substituted Service	27	47.37
Application for Court Order	17	29.82
Extension of Time Under Section 250	9	15.79
Forfeiture Of Seized Cash	2	3.51
Relisting	1	1.75
Set Aside Default Judgment and to Stay Execution	1	1.75
Total	57	100

A sample of 57 applications filed during the 2019 calendar year revealed that applications for substituted service with 27 or 47.37% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion, followed by applications for court orders with 17 or 29.82%. This is followed by applications for extension of time under section 250 with 9 or 15.79% and application for the forfeiture of seized cash with 2 or 3.51%. Applications for relisting and applications to set aside default judgement and to stay execution with 1 or 1.75% each completes the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	2070	47.34
Female	1529	34.96
Registered Company	736	16.83
Trading As	38	0.87
Total	4373	100

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 2070 or 47.34%, followed by females with 1529 or 34.96% and registered companies with 736 or 16.83%. Individuals trading under a business name ("Trading As") with 38 or 0.87% complete the list.

Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	2624	60.59
Female	1577	36.41
Registered Company	124	2.86
Trading AS	6	0.14
Total	4331	100

There were 4331 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 2624 or 60.59% of the total, followed by females with 1577 or 36.41%. Registered Companies with 124 or 2.86% of the total and individuals trading as businesses ("Trading as") with 6 or 0.14% complete the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended Dec.31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delays factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	243	38.27
Trial Date	194	30.55
Default Judgment Date	184	28.98
Part-Heard Date	11	1.73
Hearing of Application	2	0.31
Judgment Date	1	0.16
Total	635	100.0

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 635 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned at a default, judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 243 or 38.27% were adjourned for a mention and 194 or 30.55% were adjourned for trial. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 184 or 28.98% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. It is of note that 1.73% of the matters were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a

matter will be adjourned or a mention date which is not atypical based on the procedures governing case flow in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
To be placed on trial list	154	23.91
Defendant absent	142	22.05
For mention	141	21.89
Pending Settlement	40	6.21
Parties in Discussion	27	4.19
Total	504	78.25

Number of adjournments (N) = 644

The above table details a sample of 644 adjournments for the year, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for placement on the trial lists with 154 or 23.91% of the total, adjournments for defendant being absent with 142 or 22.05% and adjournments for mention with 141 or 21.89% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the year. Adjournments due to pending settlements with 40 or 6.21% and adjournments for parties in discussion with 27 or 4.19% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 78.25% of the total sample.

Table 10: Leading Incidence of reissued matters

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	181
Average Incidence	1.29

Corresponding to 148 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 181 incidences of reissued cases,

corresponding to 148 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.22 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissued incidences.

Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	585	26.34
Struck Out	548	24.67
Oral Admission	277	12.47
Default	262	11.80
Settlement	237	10.67
Total	1909	85.95

Number of methods of dispositions (N) = 2221

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 2221 matters disposed during the year. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 585 or 26.34% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 548 or 24.67%, oral admissions with 277 or 12.47% and default judgments with 262 or 11.8%. Settlements account for 237 or 10.67% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 85.95% of the sample.

Table 12.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	804	86.36
Settlement	120	12.89
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	7	0.75
Total	931	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 931 matters in the 2019 calendar year. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 804 or 86.36% of the total,

accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements with 120 or 12.89% rank next. Judgements on favour of defendants with 7 or 0.75% rounds of the list. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Case disposal rate (%)
3720	2720	3660	98.39	73.12

The above table shows 3720 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 944 of these cases were disposed and 1776 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 73.12%. An approximate gross figure of 1500 cases was disposed and 2160 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 98.39%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 14.0: Trial certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
549	91	83.42%

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 549 combined

trial dates were set in the year, revealed that 91 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 83.42% which suggests that during the year there was a roughly 83% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	1247
Mean	151.933
Std. Error of Mean	3.638
Median	112
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	128.456
Skewness	1.292
Std. Error of Skewness	0.069
Range	631
Minimum	1
Maximum	632

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1247 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 152 days. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of 128.456, which is an indication that there is a wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. This skewness of 1.292 suggests that a large proportion of the scores that fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 632 days or roughly 1.7 years old, while the youngest was just a day old.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active cases as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	975
Mean	231.0051
Std. Error of Mean	5.99473
Median	183.0000
Mode	117.00
Std. Deviation	187.18548
Skewness	.731
Std. Error of Skewness	.078
Range	668.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	679.00

The above data is computed using a sample of 975 active matters at the end of the of 2019 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 231 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 117 days. The standard deviation of roughly 187 days suggests that there is a moderate dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the modest positive skewness seen is an indication that there were slightly more scores in the data set which fall below the mean age. The oldest active matter was 679 days old or roughly 1.9 years, while the youngest was 11 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly

examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as common outcomes of the bailiff reports.

Table 18.0: Distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment Summons	160	72.07
Warrant of Possession	47	21.17
Warrant of Levy	10	4.50
Warrant of Commitment	5	2.25
Total	222	100.0

The above table is generated based on a sample of 222 cases enforced out of the new cases filed during the year. Judgement summonses with 160 or 72.07% or the total accounts for most of the enforcements. Warrants of possession with 47 or 21.17% and warrants of levy with 10 or 4.50% follow this. The list is rounded off by warrant of commitment with 5 or 2.25%.

Table 19.0: Common details of bailiff report for the year ended December 31, 2019

Bailiff Report	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession Given	42	91.30
Debt Settled	2	4.35
Nulla Bona (Nothing Found)	1	2.17
Suitors' Money Collected	1	2.17
Total	46	100

The role of the bailiff in enforcement of court orders and recovery of civil claims in the parish courts is highly important. The above table summarises the outcomes of a sample of 46 matters enforced with the attention of the bailiff. Of 46 outcomes reported, the largest proportion,

91.30% were reported as possession given. Debt settled with 2 or 4.35%, Nulla Bona (nothing found) and suitors' money collected with 2.17% each rounds off the list.

Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	167	38.84
Disposed	209	48.60
Inactive	54	12.56
Total	430	100

Reactivated cases= 8

The above table presents a status distribution of 430 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 167 or 38.84% were still active, 209 or 48.6% were disposed and 54 or 12.56% were inactive. This data suggests that the estimated case disposal rate for the year was 61.16%.

Table 2.0: Distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	380	78.84
Small Claim	102	21.16
Total	482	100

The above table shows that from the 482 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion of which 380 of 78.84% were big claims, while 102 or 21.16% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	221	48.36
Recovery of Possession	65	14.22
Monies Owing	33	7.22
Negligence	26	5.69
Rent Owing and Continuing	18	3.94
Total	363	79.43

Total number of causes of action =457

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 457 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were breach of contract with 221 or roughly 48.36% of the total, recovery of possession with 65 or 14.22% and monies owing with 33 or 7.22%. Negligence and rent owing and continuing rounds off the top five causes of action for the year with 5.69% and 3.94% respectively. These top five causes of action account for 79.43% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	116	34.42
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	85	25.22
Courtroom #3 (main	50	14.84

courthouse)		
Night Court (main courthouse)	7	2.08
Buff Bay courtroom #1	50	14.84
Buff Bay courtroom #2	2	0.59
Manchioneal	27	8.01
Total	337*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 301 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 337 new matters filed in the year was entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 116 or 34.42% of the total. 85 or 25.22% that were entered in courtroom number 2 followed this, while the 50 matters or 14.84% entered in courtroom number 3 rounds off the top three in the distribution over the year.

Table 5.0: Distribution of applications filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment Summons	6	60.0
Injunction (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties)	3	30.0
Application for Court Order	1	10.0
Total	10	100.0

A sample of 10 applications filed during the year revealed that applications for judgement summons with 6 or 60% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion, followed by applications for injunctions (Ex Parte or inter-parties) with 3 or 30%. Applications for court orders with 1 or 10% round off the sample.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	197	40.96
Female	179	37.21
Registered Company	99	20.58
Trading As	6	1.25
Total	481	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 481 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year, males accounted for the largest proportion with 197 or 40.96%, followed by females with 179 or 37.21% and Registered Companies with 99 or 20.58%. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) accounted for the smallest proportion with 6 with 1.25% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	278	58.40
Female	192	40.34
Registered Company	6	1.26
Total	476	100

There were 476 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 278 or 58.40% of the sample followed by females with 192 or 40.34%. Registered Companies only accounted for 1.26%, rounding off the list.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantity of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the

reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	86	60.99
Trial Date	31	21.99
Default Judgment Date	19	13.48
Date for Order	2	1.42
Part-Heard Date	2	1.42
Hearing of Application	1	0.71
Total	141	100

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 141 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019 which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 86 or 60.99% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 31 or 21.99%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 19 or 13.48% accounted for the third largest proportion. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the year at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-issued	56	36.36
Miscellaneous	38	24.68
Defendant Absent	17	11.04

Plaintiff Absent	5	3.25
File Incomplete	5	3.25
Both parties absent	5	3.25
Total	126	81.81

Number of observations (N) =154

The above data is computed from a sample of 154 reasons for adjournment in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments due to matters reissued with 56 or 36.36% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by miscellaneous reasons with 38 or 24.68%. The absence of defendants with 17 or 11.04% account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by plaintiffs being absent, incomplete files and both parties being absent with or 3.25% each. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 81.81% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments.

Table 10: Leading Incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	38
Average Incidence	1.58

Corresponding to 24 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 38 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 24 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.58 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 16 reissued incidences.

Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	68	30.09
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	33	14.60
Settlement	32	14.16
Final Judgment	29	12.83
Struck Out	25	11.06
Total	187	82.74

NB: There were 226 matters disposed in 2019

A total of 226 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The distribution is led by dispositions by consent with 68 or 30.09%, followed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 33 or 14.60% and settlements with 32 or 14.16%. Matters disposed by final judgements with 29 or 12.83% and matters struck out with 25 or 11.06% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the year.

Table 12.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	49	94.23
Settlement	2	3.85
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	1.92
Total	52	100.0

A sample of 52 judgments handed down in the 2019 calendar year revealed that the majority, 49 or 94.23% were judgments in favour of the plaintiff, while settlements accounted for 2 or 3.85% of the sample. Judgment in favour of ancillary plaintiff account for the remaining proportion with 1 or 1.92%.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin)	Approximate Case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate Case disposal rate (%)
430	263	380	88.37	61.16

The above table shows 430 new cases were filed at the Portland Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 209 of these cases were disposed and 54 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 61.16%. An approximate gross figure of 301 cases was disposed, and 79 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 88.37%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 14.0: Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
44	8	81.81%

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 44 trial dates set in the year revealed that 8 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 81.81%. This suggests that during the year there was a roughly 82% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	170
Mean	272.95
Std. Error of Mean	24.69
Median	154
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	321.87
Skewness	2.642
Std. Error of Skewness	0.186
Range	1848
Minimum	14
Maximum	1862

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 170 civil matters disposed in 2019 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 272 days (9.1 months). However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 321, is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The relatively high positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1862 days or roughly 5.1 years old, while the youngest was 14 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active cases as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	416
Mean	728.15
Std. Error of Mean	34.49
Median	575
Mode	1086
Std. Deviation	703.58

Skewness	1.903
Std. Error of Skewness	0.120
Range	4154
Minimum	12
Maximum	4166

The above data is computed using 416 active cases at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these cases was roughly 728 days (24.3 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1086 days (4.3 months). The high standard deviation of roughly 123 suggests that there is a fairly wide dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 724 days (1.98 years old) or just over 2.0 months while the youngest 11 days old.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system and the average age of cases in enforcement.

Table 17.0: Distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment Summons	29	93.55
Warrant of Possession	1	3.23
Other	1	3.23
Total	31	100

A sample of 31 civil cases that went into enforcement during the year shows that the majority were Judgment summonses with 29 or 93.55%, a possible indication of the dominance of this type of enforcement at this court. Warrant of possession and other enforcements with 1 or 3.23% each complete the list. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 18.0: Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total number of judgment summonses	Total number of judgment summonses court appearances	Average number of appearance
Judgment Summons	29	36	1.24

The above table shows that the sample of 29 Judgment summonses filed equated to exactly 36 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.24 appearances per judgment summons matter. This relatively low ratio is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

Table 19.0: Descriptive summary statistics on the age of cases in enforcement as at December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	31
Mean	106.74
Std. Error of Mean	22.917
Median	63.00
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	127.594
Skewness	2.291
Std. Error of Skewness	.421
Range	551
Minimum	2
Maximum	553

The above table details a sample of 31 matters which were active in the enforcement stage at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 107 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 63 days. The standard deviation of roughly 128 days suggests that there was a large dispersion of the scores around the mean. The high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active enforcement matter in the sample was 553 days old or 1.5 years, while the minimum time taken is 2 days.

St. Mary Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	224	28.75
Disposed	421	54.04
Inactive	134	17.20
Total	779	100

Reactivated cases =34

The above table presents a status distribution of 779 civil new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 224 or 28.75% were still active, 421 or 54.04% were disposed and 134 or 17.2% were inactive. These results produce a disposal rate of 71.25% for the year.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	664	72.41
Small Claim	253	27.59
Total	917	100

The above table shows that from the 917 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 664 or 72.41% of the total while 253 or 27.59% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	62	27.80
Damages for Negligence	52	23.32
Money Owing	34	15.25
Breach of Contract	24	10.76
Negligence	16	7.17
Total	188	84.30

Total sample of causes of action= 223

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 223 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the 2019 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court were recovery of possession with 62 or roughly 27.80% of the total number of causes of action, damages for negligence with 52 or 23.32% and money owing with 34 or 15.25%. The top five causes of action in this sample are rounded off by breach of contract with 24 or 10.76% and negligence with 16 or 7.17%. The sample of causes of action enumerated above accounts for 84.3% of the total causes of action in the year. There were 223 causes of action entered before the St. Mary Parish Court during the year.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	414	45.15
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	169	18.43
Night Court (main court)	111	12.10
Annotto Bay	80	8.72
Richmond	72	7.85
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	48	5.23
Gayle	23	2.51
Total	917*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 779 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 917 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 414 or 45.15% of the total. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 169 or 18.43% of the sample and the night court with for 111 or 12.1% of the total rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is complete by the Annotto Bay outstation with 80 or 8.72%, courtroom number 2 with 48 or 5.23% and the Gayle outstation with 23 or 2.51%.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	446	48.64
Female	327	35.66
Registered Company	144	15.70
Total	917	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 917 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 446 or 48.64%, followed by females with 327 or 35.66%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 144 or 15.7% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	592	64.70
Female	295	32.24
Registered Company	28	3.06
Total	915	100.0

There were 915 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 592 or 64.7% of the sample, followed by females with 295 or 32.24%. Registered companies accounted for 28 or 3.06% of the total.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	72	56.69
Default Judgment Date	31	24.41
Trial Date	13	10.24
Part-Heard Date	8	6.30
Hearing of Application	3	2.36
Total	127	100.0

The above table shows a sample of 127 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned at a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 72 or 56.69% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 31 or 24.41%, which were adjourned for default judgments. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 13 or 10.24% of matters, which were adjourned at Trial. It is of note that 8 or 6.3% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not abnormal as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	95
Average Incidence	1.28

Corresponding to 74 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. During the 2019 calendar year, there were 95 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 74 cases. This results in an average of roughly 13 reissues for every 10 cases.

Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	184	21.57
Consent	159	18.64
Default	99	11.61
Settlement	59	6.92
Total	501	58.73

NB: There were 853 matters disposed in the 2019

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 853 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. It is shown that matters struck out with 184 or 21.57% and consent with 159 or 18.64% are the two leading methods of disposal in the sample. Disposals by default judgement with 99 or 11.61% and those by way of settlement with 59 or 6.92% round off the sample. The listed methods of disposition listed account for 58.73 of the total sample of matters disposed during the year.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	108	81.82
Settlement	17	12.88
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	7	5.30

Total	132	100.0
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The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 108 or 81.82% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 17 or 12.88%. Judgement in favour of defendant accounts for 7 or 5.3% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate case clearance rate (%)	Approximate case disposal rate (%)
779	555	881	113.09	71.25

The above table shows 779 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 421 of these cases were disposed and 134 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 71.25%. An approximate gross figure of 648 cases was disposed, and 233 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 113.09%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Sample of Trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
24	5	79.17%

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using A sample of 24 trial dates set in the year, it is seen that five were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 79.17%. The output suggests that during the year there was a 79% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of observations	599
Mean	308.725
Std. Error of Mean	19.271
Median	100
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	471.654
Skewness	2.639
Std. Error of Skewness	0.100
Range	3219
Minimum	1
Maximum	3220

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 599 civil cases disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 309 days or 10 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to

disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 472 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the relatively high positive skewness of 2.639 is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the year was 3220 days or roughly 8.8 years old, while there were matters disposed within a day. The maximum time to disposition represents an outlier in the data set and skewed the mean upwards.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	262
Mean	388.23
Std. Error of Mean	35.178
Median	164.50
Mode	120
Std. Deviation	569.403
Skewness	3.150
Std. Error of Skewness	0.150
Range	4671
Minimum	12
Maximum	4683

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 388 days (or roughly 13 ninths), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 120 days. The standard deviation of roughly 569.403 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4683 days old while the minimum time taken is just 12 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the incidence of judgments summonses and judgment summons appearances.

Table 15.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	102	100.0
Total	102	100.0

A sample of 102 civil cases that went into enforcement during the 2019 calendar year shows that all were Judgment summonses, a possible indication of the dominance of this type of enforcement at this court. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	102	165	1.62

The above table shows that the sample of 102 Judgment summonses filed equated to exactly 165 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.60 appearances per judgment summons matter.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	231	27.05
Disposed	304	35.60
Inactive	319	37.35
Total	854	100

Reactivated cases =16

The above table presents a status distribution of 854 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 231 cases or 27.05% of these cases were still active while 304 were disposed and 319 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 72.95%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	557	59.38
Small Claim	381	40.62
Total	938	100

The above table shows that from the 938 new claims filed in the 2019 calendar year, the largest proportion of which 557 or 59.38% were big claims, while 381 or 40.62% were big claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	228	25.31
Money Owing	186	20.64
Recovery of Possession	129	14.32
Cattle Trespass	43	4.77
Rent Owing and Continuing	41	4.55
Total	627	69.59

Total sample size of causes of action= 901

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the 2019 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court were breach of contract with 228 or roughly 25.31% of the sample. Money owing with 186 or 20.64% and recovery of possession with 129 or 14.32% of the sample rounding off the top three cause of action in this representative sample. Cattle trespass with 43 or 4.77% and rent owing and continuing with 41 or 4.55% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above account for 69.59% of all the total sample of 901 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	321	34.22
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	303	32.30
OA-Yallahs	252	26.87
Night Court (main courthouse)	62	6.61
Total	938*	100

***Note: Corresponding 854 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 938 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 2, which accounted for 321 or 34.22% of the total. Courtroom

number 1 accounted for 303 or 32.3% of the total. The Yallahs outstation with 252 or 26.87% accounted for third largest share. Night Court activity accounted for 62 or 6.61% of the incidence.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	441	47.01
Female	393	41.90
Trading As	71	7.57
Registered Company	33	3.52
Total	938	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 938 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 441 or 47.01%, followed by females with 393 or 41.9%. Individuals trading as a business ("Trading As") accounted for 71 or 7.57% of the sample while registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 33 or 3.52% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	586	62.47
Female	337	35.93
Trading As	14	1.49
Registered Company	1	0.11
Total	938	100

There were 938 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 586 or 62.47% of the sample, followed by females with 337 or 35.93%. Individuals trading as a business ("Trading

As”) accounted for 14 or 1.49% of the sample while registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 1 or 0.11%% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Date for Order	348	66.16
Trial Date	73	13.88
Mention Date	56	10.65
Default Judgment Date	37	7.03
Part-Heard Date	12	2.28
Total	526	100

The above table is computed based on a sample of cases adjourned during the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion, 348 or 66.16% were adjourned for an order date, followed by 73 or 13.88%, which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 56 or 10.65% of matters, which were adjourned for a mention date. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 37 or 7.03% and for a part-heard date with 12 or 2.28% of the sample complete the list.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	40	22.99
Defendant Absent	34	19.54
Plaintiff Absent	13	7.47
Both Parties Absent	12	6.90
Total	99	56.90

Number of adjournments sampled: 174

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 174 incidences of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments for placement on the trial list with 40 or 22.99% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 34 or 19.54% and adjournments due to the absence of the plaintiff with 13 or 7.47% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments resulting from the absence of both parties with 12 or 6.9% rounds off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 56.90% of the total sample of 174 adjournments.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	91
Average Incidence	1.17

Corresponding to 78 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 91 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 78 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.17 reissues per

case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissued incidences.

Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	128	20.95
Consent	123	20.13
Oral Admission	123	20.13
Default	82	13.42
Settlement	65	10.64
Total	521	85.27

N.B: There were 611 matters disposed in 2019

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 611 matters. The list is led by matters struck out with 128 or 20.95% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent and by oral admission with 123 or 20.13% each. Matters disposed by default judgements and settlements round off the top five methods with 13.42% and 10.64% respectively of the total dispositions. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 85.27% of the sample.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	226	94.96
Settlement	9	3.78
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	1.26
Total	238	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 226 or 94.96% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 9 or 3.78% and judgements in favour of defendants account for 3 or 1.26%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
170	35	79.41

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 170 trial dates set in the year, of which 29 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 79.41%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 79% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate case clearance rate (%)	Approximate case disposal rate (%)
854	623	779	91.22	72.95

The above table shows 854 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 304 of these cases were disposed and 319 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 72.95%. A gross figure of 377 cases was disposed, and 402 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to a case clearance rate of 91.22%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	432
Mean	229.148
Std. Error of Mean	14.326
Median	122.500
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	297.752
Skewness	2.849
Std. Error of Skewness	0.117
Range	2277
Minimum	1
Maximum	2278

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 432 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 229 days or 7.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a very high standard deviation of roughly 298 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness of 2.849 suggests that there were more scores falling below the overall average time

taken to disposed of cases. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 2278 days or roughly 6.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	352
Mean	617.026
Std. Error of Mean	33.737
Median	315
Mode	1729
Std. Deviation	632.96
Skewness	0.985
Std. Error of Skewness	0.130
Range	2294
Minimum	15
Maximum	2309

The above data is based on sample of 352 active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 617 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1729 days or 4.7 years. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 94.785 days suggests that there may be at least a few times to disposition, which is inconsistent with most scores. The low positive skewness seen is an indication that there were only a few scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 330 days, while the youngest case was just 15 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants

of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system, the average age of cases in enforcement as well as some of the most commonly occurring bailiff reports on enforcement matters.

Table 16.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	63	95.5
Warrant of Possession	3	4.5
Total	66	100.0

A sample of 66 civil cases that went into enforcement during the 2019 calendar year. Of these cases, 63 or 95.5% were judgement summonses and 3 or 4.5% were warrants of possession.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	63	65	1.03

The above table shows that the sample of 63 Judgment summonses filed equated to 65 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.03 appearances per judgment summons matter. This close to 1:1 ratio is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

Table 18.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of cases in enforcement for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	14
Mean	127.143
Std. Error of Mean	32.357
Median	91
Mode	91
Std. Deviation	121.070
Skewness	2.900
Std. Error of Skewness	0.597
Range	490
Minimum	28
Maximum	518

Using a sample of 14 matters which were active in the enforcement stage at the end of the 2019 calendar year, it is seen that the average age of these matters at this stage at the end of the year was 32 days, while the most frequently occurring age at this stage is 91 days. The high positive skewness suggests that majority of the scores were below the average age of cases in enforcement. The oldest active matter was 518 days or 1.4 years, while the youngest case was 28 days.

Table 19.0: Common details of bailiff report in the year ended December 31, 2019

Bailiff Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Possession Given	3	60.0
Suitors Money Collected	2	40.0
Total	5	100.0

The role of the bailiff in enforcement of court orders and recovery of civil claims in the parish courts is highly important. The above table summarizes the outcomes of a sample of 5 matters enforced with the attention of the bailiff. Of 5 outcomes reported, the largest proportion, 60% were reported as possession given, and suitors money collected with 40%.

St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the year as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the court. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	688	43.82
Disposed	760	48.41
Inactive	122	7.77
Total	1570	100

Reactivated cases =118

The above table presents a status distribution of 1570 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 688 cases or 43.82% of these cases were still active, while 760 were disposed and 122 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 56.18%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	1039	60.55
Small Claim	677	39.45
Total	1716	100

The above table shows that from 1716 new claims filed in the year, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 1039, or 60.5% of the total, while 677 or 39.5% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	294	31.78
Monies Owing	243	26.27
Recovery of Possession	89	9.62
Rent Owing	83	8.97
Breach of Contract	72	7.78
Total	781	84.43

Total sample size of causes of action= 925

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. The data in the above table is computed using a sample of 925 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the 2019 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 294 or roughly 31.78% of the sample. Monies owing with 243 or 26.27% and recovery of possession with 89 or 9.62% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing with 83 or 8.97% and breach of contract with 72 or 7.78% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 84.43% of all the total sample of 925 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz courtroom 1	886	64.34
Courtroom #1 (main court house)	375	27.23
Balaclava courtroom #1	70	5.08
Santa Cruz courtroom 2	46	3.34
Total	1377*	100.0

***Note: Responding to 1260 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1377 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 886 or 64.34% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 accounted for 375 or 27.23% while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) with 70 or 5.08% of the total and the Santa Cruz outstation (Courtroom2) with 46 or 3.34% rounds off the list.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Application for Personal Service	1627	94.92
Formal Order	79	4.61
Injunction (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties)	3	0.18
Extension of Time to File Notice to Defend	2	0.12
Continued Detention of Seized Cash	1	0.06
Release of Seized Cash	1	0.06
Set Aside Default Judgment	1	0.06
Total	1714	100.0

A sample of 1714 applications filed during the 2019 calendar year revealed that applications for personal service with 1627 or 94.92% of the sample accounted for the highest proportion of applications filed, followed by applications for formal orders with 79 or 4.61%. Applications for injunctions (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties) with 3 or 0.18% follow this. This list is completed with applications for extension of time to file notice to defend with 0.12%, continued detention of seized cash, release of seized cash and to set aside default judgment with 0.06% each.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	840	48.98
Female	636	37.08
Registered Company	221	12.89
Trading As	18	1.05
Total	1715	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1715 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 840 or 48.98% of the sample, followed by females with 636 or 37.08%. Registered companies accounted for the 221 or 12.89% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading As”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 18 or 1.05% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	1140	66.71
Female	480	28.09
Registered Company	67	3.92
Trading As	22	1.29
Total	1709	100

There were 1709 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 1140 or 66.71% of the sample, followed by females with 480 or 28.09%. Registered Companies accounted for 3.92% of the total while individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) account for the remaining 1.29%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the year as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial Date	54	46.96
Mention Date	30	26.09
Default Judgment Date	23	20.0
Final Judgment Date	5	4.35
Part-Heard Date	2	1.74
Hearing of Application	1	0.87
Total	115	100.0

The above table shows a sample of 115 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 54 or 46.96% were adjourned for trial, followed by 30 or 26.09%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 23 or 20% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. This is followed by adjournments for a final judgement date with 5 or 4.35%. It is of note that 2 or 1.74% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the mention stage and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the year ended December 31, 2019

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	38	37.25
Defendant Absent	30	29.41
Plaintiff Absent	10	9.80
Total	78	76.47

Total number of adjournments sampled= 102

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 102 incidences of adjournments in the 2019 calendar year. Adjournments for placement on the trial list with 38 or 37.25% of the sample, adjournments due to the absenteeism of defendants with 30 or 29.41% and adjournments due to the absence of the plaintiff with 10 or 9.80% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The listed reasons for adjournments account for 76.47% of the sample.

Table 10: Sampling distribution of the Incidence of reissued matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	139
Average Incidence	1.16

Corresponding to 120 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 139 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 120 cases, which were reissued. This result in an average of 1.16 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the year which suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissued incidences.

Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default	213	21.47
Consent	207	20.87
Oral Admission	202	20.36
Settlement	134	13.51
Struck Out	112	11.29
Total	868	87.5

N.B 992 cases were disposed in 2019

A total of 992 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 868 or 87.50% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgements with 213 or 21.47% of the disposals, followed by dispositions by consent with 207 or 20.87% and by oral admissions with 202 or 20.36%. Matters disposed by settlements and matters struck out round off the top five methods with 13.51% and 11.29% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	514	84.12
Settlement	93	15.22
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	4	0.65
Total	611	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 514 or 84.12% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 93 or 15.22%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for 4 or just 0.65% of the sample of outcomes. This

probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of cases disposed or inactive (of those originating in the year)	Approximate gross number of cases disposed	Approximate case clearance rate (%)	Approximate case disposal rate (%)
1570	882	956	60.89	56.18

The above table shows 1570 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 760 of these cases were disposed and 122 cases became inactive, leading to a case disposal rate of 56.18%. An approximate gross figure of 762 cases was disposed, and 194 cases became inactive during the year, many of which have dates of origin predating 2019. This led to an estimated case clearance rate of 60.90%.

Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the year ended December 31, 2019

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
224	44	80.36

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 224 trial dates was set in the year of which 44 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 80.36%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 80% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

Number of observations	591
Mean	92.809
Std. Error of Mean	4.009
Median	63
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	97.450
Skewness	3.019
Std. Error of Skewness	0.101
Range	739
Minimum	1
Maximum	740

The above table outlines summary data on 591 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 93 days or 3.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 97 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores and the sizeable positive skewness suggests that a large majority of the ages in the sample were below the average. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 740 days or roughly 2.03 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	721
Mean	197.0000
Std. Error of Mean	6.26785
Median	146.0000
Mode	19.00
Std. Deviation	168.30070
Skewness	1.263
Std. Error of Skewness	.091
Range	713.00
Minimum	14.00
Maximum	727.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 197 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 19 days. The standard deviation of roughly 168.30 days suggests that there is a fairly wide dispersion of the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 727 days old or roughly 2 years, while the minimum time taken is just 14 days.

Chapter 3.0: Case activity in enforcement

This chapter highlights key events in case activity measures in the enforcement stage of matters. The enforcement stage of a matter becomes relevant if an order or judgement is laid down by the court, with which there is non-compliance. Such occurrences trigger an application for an enforcement, which could take various forms such as judgement summonses, warrants

of attachment, warrants of possession and warrants of levy. This section will particularly examine the frequency distribution of the types of enforcements entered as well as the average number of judgment summons court appearances which is a potential delay factor in the court system and the average age of cases in enforcement.

Table 17.0: Sampling distribution of enforcements filed during the year ended December 31, 2019

Type of Enforcement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgement Summons	137	100.0
Total	137	100.0

A sample of 137 civil cases that went into enforcement during the 2019 calendar year shows that all were Judgment summonses, a possible indication of the dominance of this type of enforcement at this court. Enforcement matters represent an important facet of total case activity in the civil courts.

Table 18.0: Sampling distribution of Judgement summons court appearances for the year ended December 31, 2019

Description	Total sample of judgement summonses filed	Total number of judgement summons court appearances	Average number of appearances
Judgement summons	137	183	1.34

The above table shows that the sample of 137 Judgment summonses filed equated to exactly 183 court appearances in the 2019 calendar year, producing a ratio of 1.34 appearances per judgment summons matter. A target ratio of 1:1 is an indication of efficiency in optimizing the use of judicial time.

Table 19.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of cases in enforcement for the year ended December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	41
Mean	239.195
Std. Error of Mean	56.389
Median	244
Mode	244
Std. Deviation	361.067
Skewness	4.668
Std. Error of Skewness	0.369
Range	2268
Minimum	8
Maximum	2276

The above data is computed using a sample of 41 matters which were active in the enforcement stage at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 239 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 244 days. The standard deviation of roughly 361 days suggests that there was a large variation of the individual scores around the mean. The acutely high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2276 days old or 6.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 8 days.

Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed for the period as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	143	20.0
Disposed	266	37.2
Inactive	306	42.8
Total	715	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 715 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, 143 cases or 20% of these cases were still active, while 266 were disposed and 306 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 80%. There were no reactivated cases for the year.

Table 2.0: Distribution of types of claims filed for the year ended December 31, 2019

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	765	88.85
Small Claim	96	11.15
Total	861	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 861 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the 2019 calendar year. The largest proportion of which 765 or 88.85% were big claims, while 96 or 11.15% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the year ended December 31, 2019

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	241	27.99
Recovery of Possession	127	14.75
Monies Due & Owing	64	7.43
Rent Owing and Continuing	45	5.23
Total	477	55.40

Total number of causes of action =861

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the 2019 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court were breach of contract with 241 or roughly 27.99% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 127 or 14.75%, monies due and owing with 64 or 7.43% and rent owing and continuing with 45 or 5.23% rounds off the sample. These five leading causes of action account for 55.40% of the sample of 861 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the year ended December 31, 2019

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	449	84.72
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	56	10.57
Whithorn	22	4.15
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	3	0.56
Total	530	100.0

The largest proportion of a sample of 530 new cases filed in the 2019 calendar year were entered in courtroom number 2, which accounted for 449 or 84.72% of the sample. 56 or 10.57% that were entered in courtroom 3 followed this while sittings at the outstation in Whithorn accounted for roughly 4.15% of the incidence. Courtroom number 1 accounted for the remaining 0.56% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	358	41.58
Female	276	32.06
Registered Company	212	24.62
Trading As	15	1.74
Total	861	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 861 new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 358 or 41.58%, followed by females with 276 or 32.06%. Registered companies accounted for 212 or 24.62% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 15 or 1.74%.

Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the year ended December 31, 2019

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	572	66.43
Female	246	28.57
Trading As	24	2.79
Registered Company	19	2.21
Total	861	100.0

There were 861 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the 2019 calendar year. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 572 or 66.43% of the sample, followed by females with 246 or 28.57%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 2.79% of the total, while registered companies accounts for the remaining 2.21%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed during the year.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial Date	68	41.72
Mention Date	56	34.36
Part-Heard Date	16	9.82
Judgment Date	12	7.36
Default Date	11	6.75
Total	163	100

The above table shows a sample of 163 matters that went to court during the year ended December 31, 2019, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The largest proportion, 68 or 41.72% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 56 or 34.36%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 16 or 9.82% of matters, which were adjourned part-heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned at the trial or mention court

stages. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

As far as the actual reasons for adjournment are concerned, matters adjourned for placement on the trial list and due to no return or reissue feature most prominently in the same taken from the Westmoreland Parish Court for 2019.

Table 9.0: Leading Incidence of reissued matters for the year ended December 31, 2019

Measure	Frequency
Overall Incidence	40
Average Incidence	1

Corresponding to 40 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. The above table draws on a sample of 40 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 40 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1 reissue per case file for new claims filed in the year. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissued incidences.

Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the year ended December 31, 2019

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment	65	21.04
Settlement	62	20.06
Consent	49	15.86
Struck Out	42	13.59
Oral Admission	41	13.27
Total	259	84

NB: 309 matters were disposed in 2019

A total of 309 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 84% of the total. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgements with 65 or 21.04% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 62 or 20.06% and disposals by consent with 49 or 15.86%. Matters struck out and oral admissions round off the top five methods with 13.59% and 13.27% respectively of the total dispositions.

Table 11.0: Distribution of case outcomes for the year ended December 31, 2019

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	101	77.69
Settlement	26	20.00
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	3	2.31
Total	130	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the 2019 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 101 or 77.69% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 26 or 20%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 3 or 2.31%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Trial date certainty for the year ended December 31, 2019

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
96	22	77.08

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 96 trial dates was set in year of which 22 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 77.08%. The output suggests that during the year there was a roughly 77% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the year ended December 31, 2019

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the year)	Approximate Case disposal rate
715	572	80%

The above table shows 715 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the 2019 calendar year. At the end of the year, a total of 266 of these cases were disposed and 306 cases became inactive during the year, leading to a case disposal rate of 80%.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of cases in the year ended December 31, 2019

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	111
Mean	39.44
Std. Error of Mean	4.311
Median	26.00
Mode	35
Std. Deviation	45.418
Skewness	2.254
Std. Error of Skewness	.229
Range	247
Minimum	1
Maximum	248

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 111 civil matters disposed in the 2019 calendar year at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 39 days and the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 45 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores and the relatively large skewness suggests that most scores in the data set fell below the overage average time taken to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 248 days, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at December 31, 2019

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	155
Mean	117.23
Std. Error of Mean	7.541
Median	89.00
Mode	56
Std. Deviation	93.885
Skewness	1.420
Std. Error of Skewness	.195
Range	382
Minimum	10
Maximum	392

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the 2019 calendar year. The average age of these matters was roughly 117 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 86 days. The standard deviation of roughly 94 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set, which

fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 392 days old or roughly, while the minimum time taken is just 10 days.

Conclusion

This annual statistics report has afforded the Jamaican courts the opportunity to establish its first comprehensive profile of operations in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Performance outcomes, though short of the international standards in some cases, show great potential and have in fact revealed that the civil courts are doing better than was initially thought. With an overall case clearance rate of 90.73% which meets the lower end of the international standard, an overall trial date certainty rate of 79.40%, a weighted case disposal rate of 77.29% the civil divisions of the parish courts are fairing as well and in some senses eclipsing the performance of the criminal division of the parish courts. As with the criminal divisions of the parish courts, it is quite notable that some of the larger courts, such as the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court are among the most productive. The civil division of the parish courts are indeed poised to make a profound contribution to the vision and mission set out by Chief Justice Sykes as the court system works aggressively to improve trust and confidence and accountability and to delivering a high standard of justice to the Jamaican citizens.

Glossary of Terms

Sampling Distribution: A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

Clearance rate: The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is 110/100 or 110%.

Note: The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.ⁱ

Disposal rate: As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

Note: A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.ⁱⁱ

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

Courtroom utilization rate: The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

Case congestion rate: The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

Case File Integrity Rate: Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time, impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%

Standard deviation: This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are **around** the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

Outlier: An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

Skewness: This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

ⁱ *Source:*

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

Weighted Average: Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups, and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance rate than a smaller court.

A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

Continuance and Adjournment: In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment'. Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as

defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.