

Parish Courts of Jamaica
The Chief Justice's Second Quarter Statistics
Report for 2023
(Civil Division)

| | APRIL TO JUNE | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
| Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) | 138.77 | 115.69 | 97.51 |
| Trial Date Certainty Rate (%) | 91.42 | 91.91 | 90.36 |
| Average time to disposition | 18.12 months | 11.96 months | 11.50 months |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| Methodology | 5 |
| Introduction..... | 6 |
| Corporate Area Court – Civil Division | 8 |
| Clarendon Parish Court..... | 21 |
| St. Catherine Parish Court | 31 |
| Trelawny Parish Court | 42 |
| St. Ann Parish Court..... | 52 |
| Brown’s Town Court..... | 65 |
| Westmoreland Parish Court..... | 73 |
| St. Mary Parish Court..... | 83 |
| Portland Parish Court..... | 93 |
| St. Thomas Parish Court..... | 101 |
| St. James Parish Court..... | 112 |
| Performance Summaries – Other Parish Courts..... | 120 |
| Aggregate case activity summaries – all Parish Courts..... | 120 |
| Conclusion..... | 144 |
| Glossary of Terms..... | 145 |

Executive Summary

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts has now been firmly established as one of the most productive entities in the Jamaican judiciary with consistently high case clearance rates and low net case backlog rates. As of the end of the third quarter of 2023, the overall net case backlog rate in the parish courts was 1.37% while a case clearance rate of 138.77% was achieved. Together these rates show decisive signs of an efficiently operated division. As with the previous quarter, three parish courts registered net case clearance rates of 0.16% or less, namely the parish courts of St. Mary, Hanover and Westmoreland. Eight parish courts recorded case clearance rates of over 100% during the quarter, with the overall rate rising by an impressive 23.08 percentage points when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The civil division of the parish courts continue to be challenged with its gross case backlog rate which is still currently over the maximum targeted value of 10%, largely on account of a relatively high incidence of matters adjourned reissued on application without a future date. Another positive outcome from this report is that the overall trial date certainty rate was over 90%, which is now parallel with the output from the criminal division of the parish courts and is an indication of commendable incremental progress over the past few years. See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate Gross Disposal rate (%) | Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%) | Approximate Gross trial date certainty rate (%) | Overall weighted average time to disposition (months) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 4305 | 841 | 5974 | 20.37 | 138.77 | 91.42 | 18.12 |

Note: For the Corporate Area Civil Court, the gross case disposal rate was calculated only using the new big claims filed in the quarter

With almost seven years of extensive data on criminal case activity on the parish courts of Jamaica, the Statistics Unit applied Lagrange multiplier techniques to determine that a successful court must meet the following minimum requirements in order to satisfy an efficiency threshold for the sustainable containment of case backlog and provide optimal service to the public. The required minimum annual parameters are summarized below:

| Parameter | Minimum Required Standard |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Case disposal rate | $\geq 75\%$ |
| Case clearance rate | $\geq 95\%$ |
| Case congestion rate | $\leq 115\%$ |
| Trial Date Certainty Rate | $\geq 85\%$ |
| Net case backlog rate | $\leq 5\%$ |
| Gross case backlog rate | $\leq 10\%$ |
| Average number of mentions per case | ≤ 3 |

The Statistics Unit has determined that if any court or jurisdiction can consistently achieve these rates, it will attain a high level of efficiency and service excellence.

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 five 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 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 which 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 the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. 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 date certainty rate 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 reliable 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. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

The report culminates with critical cumulative case active summaries for the civil courts as a whole for the second quarter of 2023.

The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Active | 987 | 95.73 |
| Disposed | 27 | 2.62 |
| Inactive | 17 | 1.65 |
| Total | 1031 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 1031 new big claims cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 987 or 95.73% cases were still active, 27 were disposed of and 17 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 4.27% for big claims for the quarter, which is 15.16 percentage points lower than the estimated disposal rate recorded for big claims in the corresponding second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Big Claim | 1092 | 85.98 |
| Small Claim | 176 | 13.86 |
| POCA | 2 | 0.16 |
| Total | 1270 | 100.00 |

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1270 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the second quarter of 2023. Big claims accounted for 1092 or 85.98% of the sample, small claims accounted for 176 or 13.86% and 2 or 0.16% were Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| Breach of Contract | 280 | 30.43 |
| Recovery of Possession | 195 | 21.20 |
| Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession | 87 | 9.46 |
| Damages for Negligence | 50 | 5.43 |
| Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) | 40 | 4.35 |
| Sub-total | 652 | 70.87 |

Total sample size of causes of action= 920

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 cases entered in the quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 280 or roughly 30.43% of the sample. Recovery of possession and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 195 or 21.20% and 87 or 9.46% respectively rank next. The top five causes of action were rounded off by damages for negligence with 50 or 5.43% and breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) with 40 or 4.35% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 70.87% of the total sample of 920 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Personal | 246 | 71.93 |
| Bailiff | 78 | 22.81 |
| District Constable | 18 | 5.26 |
| Total | 342 | 100.00 |

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, against whom a claim is made, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 246 or 71.93% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 78 or 22.81% and service by the District Constable with 18 or 5.26%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Courtroom #2 (main courthouse) | 556 | 50.92 |
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 536 | 49.08 |
| Total | 1092* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 1031 cases**

The majority of a sample of 1092 matters entered in the second quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 556 or 50.92% of the sample, followed by courtroom 1 with 536 or 49.08% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 368 | 40.00 |
| Female | 346 | 37.61 |
| Registered Company | 202 | 21.96 |
| Trading As | 4 | 0.43 |
| Total | 920 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 920 matters entered in the second quarter of 2023 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of plaintiffs with 368 or 40% of the sample. Females accounted for 346 or 37.61% and registered companies accounted for 202 or 21.96% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 4 or 0.43% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 499 | 54.77 |
| Female | 319 | 35.02 |
| Registered Company | 83 | 9.11 |
| Trading As | 10 | 1.10 |
| Total | 911 | 100.00 |

There were 911 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 499 or 54.77% of the sample, followed by females with 319 or 35.02%. Registered companies accounted for 83 or 9.11% of the

sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 10 or 1.10% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Flow Stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mention Date | 577 | 41.72 |
| Default Judgment Date | 486 | 35.14 |
| Trial | 233 | 16.85 |
| Hearing of Application | 34 | 2.46 |
| Part-Heard Date | 30 | 2.17 |
| Date for Order | 21 | 1.52 |
| Final Judgment Date | 2 | 0.14 |
| Total | 1383 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 1383 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 577 or 41.72% were adjourned for mention

dates, followed by 486 or 35.14%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 233 or 16.85% of sample. It is of note that 30 or 2.17% 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. The result on the high incidence of adjournments for mention court hearings is not however an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are fundamental and intrinsic to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons For Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Defendant Absent | 242 | 37.00 |
| Referred to Mediation | 26 | 3.98 |
| Parties in Discussion | 15 | 2.29 |
| Notice of Adjournment | 11 | 1.68 |
| Hearing of application | 10 | 1.53 |
| Sub-total | 304 | 46.48 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 654

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 654 incidences of adjournments heard in the second quarter of 2023. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 242 or 37% of the sample and referrals to mediation with 26 or 3.98% round off the top incidences in the sample. Adjournments for parties in discussion with 15 or 2.29% and notices of adjournment with 11 or 1.68% rank next. The list is completed by adjournments for the hearing of an application

with 10 or 1.53% of the sample. The top reasons for adjournments listed above account for 46.48% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 260 |
| Average Incidence | 1.2 |

Corresponding to 218 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 260 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 218 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 648 | 55.29 |
| Consent | 173 | 14.76 |
| Withdrawal | 101 | 8.62 |
| Oral Admission | 69 | 5.89 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 64 | 5.46 |
| Sub-total | 1055 | 90.02 |

NB there were 1172 matters were disposed of in the second quarter of 2023

A total of 1172 matters were disposed of at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the second quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 1055 or 90.02% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 648 or 55.29% of

the disposals, followed by matters disposed by consent with 173 or 14.76% and withdrawals with 101 or 8.62%. Matters disposed by oral admissions and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 69 or 5.89% and 64 or 5.46% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate gross clearance rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1207 | 1756 | 145.48 |

The above table shows 1207 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a gross figure of 1132 cases were disposed of, and 624 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 145.48%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric. This rate represents a 264.97 percentage points decrease when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

The estimated net case clearance rate is 93.79%, a 109.32 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 346 |
| Mean | 222.4046 |
| Median | 127.0000 |
| Mode | 119.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 268.21863 |
| Skewness | 3.414 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .131 |
| Range | 2083.00 |
| Minimum | 6.00 |
| Maximum | 2089.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on 346 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 222 days or approximately 7.4 months, which is roughly 7 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 119 days. The standard deviation of roughly 268 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were markedly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2089 days or roughly 5.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of observations | 43 |
| Mean | 219.8140 |
| Median | 171.0000 |
| Mode | 36.00 ^a |
| Std. Deviation | 166.41103 |
| Skewness | .572 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .361 |
| Range | 567.00 |
| Minimum | 12.00 |
| Maximum | 579.00 |

^aMultiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 43 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 220 days or roughly 7.3 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a small amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 124 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 46.60 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of observations | 2559 |
| Mean | 416.0989 |
| Median | 227.0000 |
| Mode | 15.00 ^a |
| Std. Deviation | 488.33351 |
| Skewness | 2.374 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .048 |
| Range | 4211.00 |
| Minimum | 3.00 |
| Maximum | 4214.00 |

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on a sample of 2559 active civil matters as of the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 416 days or roughly 14 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 15 days. The standard deviation of roughly 488 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4214 days old or roughly 11.7 years, while the minimum time is 3 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 72 |
| Mean | 222.5417 |
| Median | 78.0000 |
| Mode | 42.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 396.87572 |
| Skewness | 3.632 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .283 |
| Range | 2037.00 |
| Minimum | 8.00 |
| Maximum | 2045.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 72 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 223 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 42 days and the median age was 78 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large variation among the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 2045 days and the lowest was 8 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Table 15.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| 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 sittings (%) | Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Corporate Area Court-Civil Division | 87.44 | 136.11 | 2.78 | 24.64 | NA | 1.3 |

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the second quarter of 2023. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtrooms (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 allocated 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 the quarter was roughly 87.44%, which is an indication that on average roughly 87% of the available hours for court hearings in the second quarter of 2023. 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 sample size of days used to compute the rates for each court was sufficiently large and representative, though not the same for all courts. The margin of error of the courtroom utilization rates is a reliable $\pm 2.5\%$.

Clarendon Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Clarendon Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 222 | 72.55 |
| Disposed | 71 | 23.20 |
| Inactive | 13 | 4.25 |
| Total | 306 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 306 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 222 cases or 72.55% of these cases were still active, while 71 were disposed of and 13 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 27.45%, which is 6.28 percentage points above the gross disposal rate recorded in the previous second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 304 | 84.44 |
| Small Claim | 56 | 15.56 |
| Total | 360 | 100.00 |

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 360 civil claims filed at the Clarendon Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of which 304 or 84.44% were big claims, while 56 or 15.56% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Clarendon parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Breach of Contract | 147 | 41.18 |
| Recovery of Possession | 35 | 9.80 |
| Damages for Negligence | 28 | 7.84 |
| Recovery of Sum | 22 | 6.16 |
| Monies Owing | 12 | 3.36 |
| Sub-total | 244 | 68.35 |

Total sample size of causes of action= 357

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 cases filed in the quarter at the Clarendon Parish Court was breach of contract with 147 or roughly 41.18% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 35 or 9.80% and damages for negligence with 28 or 7.84% rank next. Recovery of sum with 22 or 6.16% and monies owing with 3.36% of the sample rounds off the causes of action in this representative sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 289 | 80.28 |
| Lionel Town Outstation | 33 | 9.17 |
| Chapleton Outstation | 27 | 7.50 |
| Frankfield Outstation | 10 | 2.78 |
| Courtroom #3 (main courthouse) | 1 | 0.28 |
| Total | 360* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 306 cases**

The majority of a sample of 360 new matters filed in the quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 289 or 80.28% of the total sample. The Lionel Town Outstation accounted for 33 or 9.17% of the cases filed. The Chapleton outstation accounted for 27 or 7.50% and the Frankfield outstation accounted for 10 or 2.78% of the new cases heard.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Male | 155 | 43.06 |
| Female | 133 | 36.94 |
| Registered Company | 44 | 12.22 |
| Trading As | 28 | 7.78 |
| Total | 360 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 360 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Clarendon Parish Court, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 155 or 43.06% of the sample, followed by females with 133 or 36.94%. Registered companies accounted for 44 or 12.22% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 28 or 7.78% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Male | 221 | 61.39 |
| Female | 116 | 32.22 |
| Registered Company | 15 | 4.17 |
| Trading As | 8 | 2.22 |
| Total | 360 | 100.00 |

There were 360 records on the gender of defendants for new matters entered in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 221 or 61.39% of the sample, followed by females with 116 or 32.22% and registered companies with 4.17% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 8 or 2.22% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Flow Stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mention Date | 120 | 36.70 |
| Trial | 115 | 35.17 |
| Default Judgment Date | 74 | 22.63 |
| Part-Heard Date | 16 | 4.89 |
| Hearing of Application | 2 | 0.61 |
| Total | 327 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 327 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 120 or 36.70% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a trial date with 115 or 35.17%, matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 74 or 22.63% and matters adjournment for a part-heard date with 4.89% of the sample.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons For Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| New Date | 86 | 51.50 |
| Parties in Discussion | 42 | 25.15 |
| Defendant Absent | 9 | 5.39 |
| Referred to mediation | 7 | 4.19 |
| At Counsel's Request | 6 | 3.59 |
| Sub-total | 150 | 89.82 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 167

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 167 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the second quarter of 2023. Adjournments for a new date to be set accounted for 86 or 51.50% of the sample and adjournments for parties in discussion accounted for 42 or 25.15% of the sample. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants accounted for 9 or 5.39% of the sample, referrals to mediation accounted for 7 or 4.19% and adjournment at counsel's request accounted for 3.59%.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 54 |
| Average Incidence | 1.3 |

Corresponding to 43 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 54 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 43 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.3 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 136 | 50.94 |
| Consent | 43 | 16.10 |
| Settlement | 21 | 7.87 |
| Oral Admission | 14 | 5.24 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 13 | 4.87 |
| Sub-total | 227 | 85.02 |

NB: there were 267 matters were disposed of in the second quarter of 2023

A total of 267 civil matters were disposed of at the Clarendon Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which account for 227 or 85.02% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 136 or 50.94% and matters disposed by consent with 43 or 16.10% of the sample. Matters disposed by settlements with 21 or 7.87% of the sample ranked next and matters disposed by oral admissions with 14 or 5.24% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top methods of disposition with 4.87% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Sample of trial dates set | Number of trial dates adjourned | Trial date certainty rate (%) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 32 | 1 | 96.88 |

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 32 trial dates were set in the quarter, of which 1 was adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 96.88%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly

97% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 24 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate gross clearance rate (%) | Approximate gross case disposal rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 306 | 84 | 256 | 83.66 | 27.45 |

The above table shows 306 new cases filed at the Clarendon Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 71 of these cases were disposed of and 13 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 27.45%, a 6.28 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 233 cases were disposed of and 23 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 83.66%, which is below the international standard on this metric, and is an 18.59 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 24.23%, which is 14.44 percentage points above the net disposal rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net case clearance rate is 79.52%, which is roughly 9.42 percentage points above the rate recorded in 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 94 |
| Mean | 234.0106 |
| Median | 193.0000 |
| Mode | 193.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 173.62297 |
| Skewness | .975 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .249 |
| Range | 728.00 |
| Minimum | 35.00 |
| Maximum | 763.00 |

The above table outlines sample data on 94 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Clarendon Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 234 days or 7.8 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 193 days. The standard deviation of roughly 174 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that a higher proportion of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 763 days or roughly 2.1 years old, while the minimum time taken was 35 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 454 |
| Mean | 232.6564 |
| Median | 161.0000 |
| Mode | 14.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 208.33008 |
| Skewness | 1.221 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .115 |
| Range | 841.00 |
| Minimum | 10.00 |
| Maximum | 851.00 |

The above data is based on sample of 454 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 233 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 14 days. The standard deviation of roughly 208 days suggests that there is some variation in the individual scores around the average, while the 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 851 days old or roughly 2.4 years, while the minimum time taken is 10 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 110 |
| Mean | 195.9818 |
| Median | 144.0000 |
| Mode | 144.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 180.41842 |
| Skewness | 1.475 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .230 |
| Range | 797.00 |
| Minimum | 4.00 |
| Maximum | 801.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 110 active reissued matters at the Clarendon Civil Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 196 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 144 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a large dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 801 days and the lowest was 4 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Catherine Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 623 | 88.24 |
| Disposed | 80 | 11.33 |
| Inactive | 3 | 0.42 |
| Total | 706 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 706 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 623 cases or 88.24% of these cases were still active, while 80 were disposed of and 3 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 11.76%, which is 4.12 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 820 | 91.01 |
| Small Claim | 81 | 8.99 |
| Total | 901 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that from a sample of 901 claims filed in the second quarter of 2023, 820 or 91.01% were big claims and 81 or 8.99% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Breach of Contract | 284 | 34.47 |
| Damages for Negligence | 139 | 16.87 |
| Recovery of Possession | 104 | 12.62 |
| Negligence | 42 | 5.10 |
| Rent Owing and Continuing | 42 | 5.10 |
| Sub-total | 611 | 74.15 |

Total sample size of causes of action= 824

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 824 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. The leading cause of action shown in this sample was breach of contract with 284 or roughly 34.47% of the sample, damages for negligence with 139 or 16.87% and recovery of possession with 104 or 12.62%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by negligence and rent owing and continuing with 42 or 5.10% each of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 74.15% of the total sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Bailiff | 72 | 49.66 |
| District Constable | 45 | 31.03 |
| Personal | 28 | 19.31 |
| Total | 145 | 100.00 |

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 72 or 49.66% of the sample, service by the district

constable accounted for 45 or 31.03% and personal service accounted for 28 or 19.31% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 696 | 84.77 |
| Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1) | 78 | 9.50 |
| Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1) | 47 | 5.72 |
| Total | 821* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 693 cases**

The majority of the sample of 821 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 696 or 84.77% of the total sample. The 78 or 9.50% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for 47 or 5.72% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 359 | 44.05 |
| Female | 336 | 41.23 |
| Registered Company | 120 | 14.72 |
| Total | 815 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the 815 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 359 or 44.05%, followed by females with 336 or 41.023% and registered companies with 120 or 14.72% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 452 | 57.00 |
| Female | 315 | 39.72 |
| Registered Company | 26 | 3.28 |
| Total | 793 | 100.00 |

There were 793 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 452 or 57% of the total sample, followed by females with 315 or 39.72%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 26 or 3.28% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Flow Stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mention Date | 789 | 43.88 |
| Trial | 470 | 26.14 |
| Default Judgment Date | 378 | 21.02 |
| Part-Heard Date | 131 | 7.29 |
| Hearing of Application | 30 | 1.67 |
| Total | 1798 | 100.00 |

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1798 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The highest proportion of the sample, 789 or 43.88% were adjourned for a mention date and 470 or 26.14% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 378 or 21.02% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Matters adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 131 or 7.29% of the sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons for Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 545 | 23.25 |
| Defendant Absent | 397 | 16.94 |
| Parties in Discussion | 176 | 7.51 |
| Both Parties Absent | 132 | 5.63 |
| Pending Settlement | 79 | 3.37 |
| Sub-total | 1329 | 56.70 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled= 2344

The above table details a sample of 2344 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for reissue with 545 or 23.25% of the total sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 397 or 16.94% and parties in discussion with 176 or 7.51% and adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 132 or 5.63% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments for pending settlements with 79 or 3.37% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 56.70% of the total sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 17 |
| Average Incidence | 1.1 |

Corresponding to 15 cases

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance of cases 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 17 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 15 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 11 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 984 | 70.29 |
| Settlement | 101 | 7.21 |
| Consent | 87 | 6.21 |
| Default Judgment | 58 | 4.14 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 57 | 4.07 |
| Sub-total | 1287 | 91.93 |

NB: There were 1400 matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 1400 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2023. The list is led by matters struck out with 984 or 70.29% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 101 or 7.21%, matters disposed by consent with 87 or 6.21% and matters disposed by default judgments with 58 or 4.14%. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) account for 57 or 4.07% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 91.93% of the sample.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Outcome | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff | 28 | 84.85 |
| Settlement | 3 | 9.09 |
| Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff | 2 | 6.06 |
| Total | 33 | 100.00 |

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 33 matters in the second quarter of 2023. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 28 or 84.85% of the total sample, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 3 or 9.09% and judgment for ancillary plaintiff with 2 or 6.06% account for the remaining proportion. 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: Sampling distribution of Trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 207 | 21 | 89.86 |

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 207 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 21 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 89.86%, suggesting that during the quarter, there was a roughly 90% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 5.32 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Estimated gross Case clearance rate (%) | Estimated gross Case disposal rate (%) |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 706 | 83 | 1191 | 168.70 | 11.76 |

The above table shows 706 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 80 of these cases were disposed of and 3 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 11.76%, which is 4.12 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 1,126 cases were disposed of, and 65 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 168.70%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 146.19 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.38%, which is 4.97 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance for the quarter is 160.17%, which is 150.38 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 1157 |
| Mean | 911.8418 |
| Median | 891.0000 |
| Mode | 1646.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 648.97807 |
| Skewness | .136 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .072 |
| Range | 3240.00 |
| Minimum | 1.00 |
| Maximum | 3241.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 1157 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 912 days or 30.4 months, which is roughly 181 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 1646 days. There is moderate standard deviation of 649 days, which is an indication that there is a small dispersion of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores are clustered around the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3241 days or roughly 9 years old, while the youngest was 1 day.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 106 |
| Mean | 823.2642 |
| Median | 720.0000 |
| Mode | 1567.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 526.15110 |
| Skewness | .205 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .235 |
| Range | 1579.00 |
| Minimum | 4.00 |
| Maximum | 1583.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 106 matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 823 days or roughly 27 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series are clustered around the overall average.

Table 16.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 3024 |
| Mean | 593.9659 |
| Median | 358.0000 |
| Mode | 85.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 653.31919 |
| Skewness | 1.817 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .045 |
| Range | 5578.00 |
| Minimum | 4.00 |
| Maximum | 5582.00 |

The above data is based on a sample of 3024 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 594 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 85 days. The standard deviation of roughly 653 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5582 days old or roughly 15.5 years, while the minimum time taken is 4 days.

Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 388 |
| Mean | 627.9923 |
| Median | 575.0000 |
| Mode | 647.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 410.05411 |
| Skewness | 2.429 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .124 |
| Range | 2973.00 |
| Minimum | 10.00 |
| Maximum | 2983.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 388 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Parish Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 628 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 647 days and the median age was 575 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were below the overall average. The highest age in the data set was 2983 days and the lowest was 10 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 110 | 80.29 |
| Disposed | 14 | 10.22 |
| Inactive | 13 | 9.49 |
| Total | 137 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 137 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 110 or 80.29% of these cases were active, and 14 or 10.22% were disposed of and 13 cases became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 19.71% for the quarter, a 1.44 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 128 | 84.77 |
| Small Claim | 23 | 15.23 |
| Total | 151 | 100.00 |

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 151 civil claims filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of which 128 or 84.77% were big claims, while 23 or 15.23% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Recovery of Possession | 28 | 18.54 |
| Damages for Negligence | 17 | 11.26 |
| Money Owing | 16 | 10.60 |
| Return of Cash | 10 | 6.62 |
| Breach of Contract | 9 | 5.96 |
| Sub-total | 80 | 52.98 |

Total sample size of causes of action = 151

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 quarter were recovery of possession with 28 or 18.84% and damages for negligence with 17 or 11.26% of the sample. Money owing with 16 or 10.60%, return of cash with 10 or 6.62% and breach of contract with 9 or 5.96% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 52.98% of all the total sample of 151 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Personal | 133 | 89.26 |
| Bailiff | 16 | 10.74 |
| Total | 149 | 100.00 |

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants whom a claim is made against are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 133 or 89.26% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 16 or 10.74% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Falmouth Outstation | 95 | 62.91 |
| Clarks Town Outstation (Courthouse #1) | 33 | 21.85 |
| Ulster Spring Outstation | 23 | 15.23 |
| Total | 151* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 137 cases**

The majority of a sample of 151 new matters filed in 62.91% of the accommodations was entered in the Falmouth outstation. The 33 or 21.85% matters that were entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Ulster Spring outstation ranked next with 23 or 15.23% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 97 | 64.67 |
| Female | 46 | 30.67 |
| Registered Company | 7 | 4.67 |
| Total | 150 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 150 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 97 or 64.67%, followed by females with 46 or 30.67%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 4.67% of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 100 | 67.11 |
| Female | 47 | 31.54 |
| Registered Company | 2 | 1.34 |
| Total | 149 | 100.00 |

There were 149 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 100 or 67.11% of the sample, followed by females with 47 or 31.54% and registered companies with 1.34%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mention Date | 84 | 38.01 |
| Default Judgment Date | 49 | 22.17 |
| Trial | 47 | 21.27 |
| Part-Heard Date | 38 | 17.19 |
| Judgment Date | 3 | 1.36 |
| Total | 221 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 221 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 84 or 38.01% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 49 or 22.17%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned trial dates with 47 or 21.27% and for part heard dates with 38 or 17.19% rank next. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention dates which is expected in civil and most other case types.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons for Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 75 | 31.78 |
| Both Parties Absent | 44 | 18.64 |
| Defendant Absent | 30 | 12.71 |
| Plaintiff Absent | 30 | 12.71 |
| Referred to Mediation | 6 | 2.54 |
| Sub-total | 185 | 78.39 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 236

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 236 incidence of adjournments heard in the second quarter of 2023. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 75 or 31.78% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 44 or 18.64% and the absence of defendants and the absence of plaintiffs with 30 or 12.71% each of the sample feature prominently on the list. Referrals to mediation with 6 or 2.54% of the sample respectively close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournments, which are listed above, account for 78.39% of the entire sample.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 38 |
| Average Incidence | 1.1 |

Corresponds to 35 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 reissue, corresponding to 35 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.1 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 11 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Default Judgement | 27 | 20.93 |
| Consent | 25 | 19.38 |
| Oral Admission | 22 | 17.05 |
| Struck Out | 17 | 13.18 |
| Settlement | 10 | 7.75 |
| Sub-total | 101 | 78.29 |

NB: There were 129 matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 129 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2023. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgments with 27 or 20.93% of the dispositions, followed by matters disposed by consent with 25 or 19.38% and oral admissions with 22 or 17.05% of the sample. Matters struck out account for 17 or 13.18% of the sample and disposals by settlement account for 10 or 7.75% of the sample. The top five methods of dispositions enumerated above accounted for 78.29% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 26 | 5 | 80.77 |

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 26 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 5 were adjourned. This results in an overall estimated trial date certainty rate of 80.77% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 81% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This outcome falls below the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100% and is 19.23 percentage points below the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Estimated Gross Case clearance rate (%) | Estimated Gross case disposal rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 137 | 27 | 180 | 131.39 | 19.71 |

The above table shows 137 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 14 of these cases were disposed of and 13 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 19.71%, which is 1.44 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 114 cases were disposed of and 66 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 131.39%, which exceeds

the international standard for the case clearance rate and is 6.11 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.29%, which is 2.85 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance for the quarter is 91.94%, which is 16.14 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 92 |
| Mean | 146.7500 |
| Median | 60.5000 |
| Mode | 80.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 240.05263 |
| Skewness | 3.128 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .251 |
| Range | 1188.00 |
| Minimum | 2.00 |
| Maximum | 1190.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 92 civil cases disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 147 days or 4.9 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 80 days and the median time was 60.50 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 240 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the

overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 1190 days or roughly 3.3 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 2 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 188 |
| Mean | 608.5160 |
| Median | 421.5000 |
| Mode | 87.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 520.29631 |
| Skewness | .632 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .177 |
| Range | 1918.00 |
| Minimum | 24.00 |
| Maximum | 1942.00 |

The above data is computed using 188 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these cases was roughly 609 days (1.7 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 87 days. The standard deviation of roughly 520 days suggests that there is a small amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the overall mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 1942 days (5.4 years old), while the youngest is 24 days.

St. Ann Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 269 | 74.10 |
| Disposed | 49 | 13.50 |
| Inactive | 45 | 12.40 |
| Total | 363 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 363 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 269 cases or 74.10% of these cases were still active, 49 were disposed of and 45 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 25.90%, which is a 12.38 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big | 411 | 85.80 |
| Small | 66 | 13.78 |
| POCA | 2 | 0.42 |
| Total | 479 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that from 479 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2023, the majority of which were big claims with 411 or 85.80%, while 66 or 13.78% were small claims and 2 or 0.42% were Proceeds of Crime (POCA) claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Breach of Contract | 122 | 25.74 |
| Recovery of Possession | 49 | 10.34 |
| Damages for Negligence | 47 | 9.92 |
| Rent owing | 26 | 5.49 |
| Money Owing | 21 | 4.43 |
| Sub-total | 265 | 55.91 |

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 474

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 474 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the second quarter of 2023 was breach of contract with 122 or roughly 25.74% of the sample and recovery of possession with 49 or 10.34% of the sample. Damages for negligence with 47 or 9.92% of the sample rank next. Rent owing with 26 or 5.49% and money owing with 21 or 4.43% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 55.91% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Bailiff | 35 | 53.03 |
| District constable | 23 | 34.85 |
| Personal | 8 | 12.12 |
| Total | 66 | 100.00 |

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the majority of the sample with 35 or 53.03% of the sample. Service by the district constable accounted for 23 or 34.85% and personal service with 8 or 12.12% of the sample rank next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 144 | 67.29 |
| Courtroom #2 (main courthouse) | 39 | 18.22 |
| Claremont Outstation | 30 | 14.02 |
| Church Hall | 1 | 0.47 |
| Total | 214* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 172 cases**

The majority of a sample of 214 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 144 or 67.29% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 39 or 18.22% and the Claremont Outstation accounted for 30 or 14.02% of the accommodations. The Church Hall accounted for the remaining 0.47% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 227 | 48.82 |
| Female | 169 | 36.34 |
| Registered Company | 62 | 13.33 |
| Trading As | 7 | 1.51 |
| Total | 465 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 465 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 227 or 48.82%, followed by females with 169 or 36.34% and registered companies with 62 or 13.33% of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 1.51% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 272 | 57.02 |
| Female | 156 | 32.70 |
| Registered Company | 47 | 9.85 |
| Trading As | 2 | 0.42 |
| Total | 477 | 100.00 |

There were 477 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 272 or 57.02% of the total sample, followed by females with 156 or 32.70%. Registered companies accounted for 47 or 9.85% of the total sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 2 or 0.42% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Mention Date | 374 | 48.89 |
| Trial | 132 | 17.25 |
| Default Judgment Date | 131 | 17.12 |
| Part-Heard Date | 112 | 14.64 |
| Hearing of Application | 13 | 1.70 |
| Judgment Date | 3 | 0.39 |
| Total | 765 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 765 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 374 or 48.89% of the sample, followed by 132 or 17.25%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates accounted for 131 or 17.12% and matters adjourned for a part heard date account for 112 or 14.64% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date,

though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons for Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 262 | 25.56 |
| Defendant Absent | 126 | 12.29 |
| Referred to mediation | 55 | 5.37 |
| Both Parties Absent | 43 | 4.20 |
| Pending Settlement | 32 | 3.12 |
| Sub-total | 518 | 50.54 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1025

The above table details a sample of 1025 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the second quarter of 2023, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 262 or 25.56% of the sample, adjournments due to defendants being absent with 126 or 12.29% and referrals to mediation with 55 or 5.37% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to both parties being absent with 43 or 4.20% and pending settlements with 32 or 3.12% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 50.54% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 90 |
| Average Incidence | 1.2 |

Corresponds 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. The above table draws on a sample of 90 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 74 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.2 reissues per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Consent | 174 | 34.25 |
| Struck Out | 73 | 14.37 |
| Settlement | 64 | 12.60 |
| Default Judgment | 63 | 12.40 |
| Oral Admission | 41 | 8.07 |
| Sub-total | 415 | 81.69 |

NB: There were 508 matters disposed of in the quarter

A sample of 508 matters disposed of during the second quarter of 2023 revealed that 174 or 34.25% of matters were disposed by consent, 73 or 14.37% were disposed by being stuck out and 64 or 12.60% of the sample were disposed by settlements. Matters disposed by default judgments with 63 or 12.40% and oral admissions with 41 or 8.07% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 81.69% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Outcome | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff | 35 | 85.37 |
| Settlement | 6 | 14.63 |
| Total | 41 | 100.00 |

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 35 or 85.37% of the sample of matters, account for the majority of the sample, while settlements with 6 or 14.63% of the sample account for the remaining proportion. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 52 | 0 | 100 |

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 52 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This meets the prescribed international benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation) | Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%) | Approximate gross case disposal rate (%) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 363 | 94 | 629 | 173.28 | 25.90 |

The above table shows 363 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 49 cases were disposed of and 45 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 25.90%, an increase of 12.38 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 406 cases were disposed of, and 223 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 173.28%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents a 30.74 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.41%, an improvement of 6.51 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 127.67%, an improvement of 35.98 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 311 |
| Mean | 342.5113 |
| Median | 107.0000 |
| Mode | 63.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 576.54450 |
| Skewness | 3.561 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .138 |
| Range | 3975.00 |
| Minimum | 2.00 |
| Maximum | 3977.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 311 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 343 days or 11.4 months, which is roughly 129 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. The standard deviation of roughly 577 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 3977 days or roughly 11 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Number of observations | 26 |
| Mean | 673.1923 |
| Median | 78.0000 |
| Mode | 63.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 1191.18355 |
| Skewness | 1.946 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .456 |
| Range | 3838.00 |
| Minimum | 13.00 |
| Maximum | 3851.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 26 matters at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 673 days or roughly 22.4 months. The standard deviation suggests that there was a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the majority of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average. A sample of 69 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 366 days or 12 months.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 1196 |
| Mean | 605.5870 |
| Median | 379.0000 |
| Mode | 108.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 716.77759 |
| Skewness | 2.860 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .071 |
| Range | 5564.00 |
| Minimum | 2.00 |
| Maximum | 5566.00 |

The above data is based on sample of 1196 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 606 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 108 days. The standard deviation of roughly 717 days suggests that there is a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the 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 is 5566 days old or roughly 15.5 years, while the minimum age is 2 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 86 |
| Mean | 540.1977 |
| Median | 288.0000 |
| Mode | 288.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 584.55636 |
| Skewness | 1.189 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .260 |
| Range | 2044.00 |
| Minimum | 10.00 |
| Maximum | 2054.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 86 active reissued matters at the St. Ann Parish Court as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 540 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 288 days. The high standard deviation indicates that there was a large amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of cases. The highest age in the data set was 2054 days and the lowest was 10 days.

Browns Town’s Outstation –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the Brown’s Town outstation in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Active | 38 | 64.41 |
| Disposed | 8 | 13.56 |
| Inactive | 13 | 22.03 |
| Total | 59 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 59 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 38 cases or 64.41% of these cases were still active, 8 were disposed of and 13 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 35.59% for the quarter, which is a 22.89 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Brown’s Town Outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Breach of Contract | 44 | 53.66 |
| Recovery of Possession | 10 | 12.20 |
| Money Owing | 8 | 9.76 |
| Rent Owing and Continuing | 4 | 4.88 |
| Rent Owing and Recovery of Possession | 3 | 3.66 |
| Sub-total | 69 | 84.15 |

Total sample size of causes of action (N) = 82

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 82 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the

second quarter of 2023 was breach of contract with 44 or roughly 53.66% of the sample and recovery of possession with 10 or 12.20% of the sample. Money owing with 8 or 9.76% of the sample rank next. Rent owing and continuing with 4 or 4.88% and rent owing and recovery of possession with 3 or 3.66% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 84.15% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 82 | 100.0 |
| Total | 82* | 100 |

***Note: Corresponds to 59 cases**

All of a sample of 82 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 4.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Registered Company | 28 | 34.57 |
| Female | 23 | 28.40 |
| Male | 23 | 28.40 |
| Trading As | 7 | 8.64 |
| Total | 81 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 81 new matters filed in the quarter, registered companies accounted for the highest proportion of the sample with 28 or 34.57% of the sample, followed by females and males with 23 or 28.40% each of the total sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 8.64%.

Table 5.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 47 | 57.32 |
| Female | 33 | 40.24 |
| Registered Company | 2 | 2.44 |
| Total | 82 | 100.00 |

There were 82 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 47 or 57.32% of the total sample, followed by females with 33 or 40.24%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 2.44%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mention Date | 129 | 50.39 |
| Trial | 48 | 18.75 |
| Default Judgment Date | 38 | 14.84 |
| Part-Heard Date | 36 | 14.06 |
| Hearing of Application | 5 | 1.95 |
| Total | 256 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 256 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 129 or 50.39% of the sample, followed by 48 or 18.75%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters disposed for default judgment dates accounted for 38 or 14.84% and matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 36 or 14.06% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons for Adjournments | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Defendant Absent | 50 | 16.67 |
| No Return/Re-Issued | 42 | 14.00 |
| Referred to Mediation | 20 | 6.67 |
| Pending Settlement | 13 | 4.33 |
| Attorney Absent | 3 | 1.00 |
| Sub-total | 128 | 42.67 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 300

The above table details a sample of 300 reasons for adjournment or continuances for matters that went to court in the second quarter of 2023, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 50 or 16.67% of the sample, adjournments for no return/for re-issue with 42 or 14% and referrals to mediation with 20 or 6.67% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by pending settlements with 13 or 4.33% and the absence of

attorneys with 3 or 1.00% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 42.67% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 13 |
| Average Incidence | 1.0 |

Corresponds to 13 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 13 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 13 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1 reissue per case reissued in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Default Judgment | 17 | 20.73 |
| Consent | 14 | 17.07 |
| Struck out | 13 | 15.85 |
| Oral Admission | 11 | 13.41 |
| Settlement | 10 | 12.20 |
| Sub-total | 65 | 79.27 |

NB: There were 82 matters disposed of in the quarter

A sample of 82 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2023 revealed that 17 or 20.73% of matters were disposed by default judgments and 14 or 17.07% were disposed by consent. Matters struck out with 13 or 15.85% rank next. Oral admissions with 11 or 13.41% and settlements with 10 or 12.20% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 79.27% of the total

sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in second quarter of 2023.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 7 | 0 | 100 |

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 7 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that none were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate gross Case clearance rate (%) | Approximate gross case disposal rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 59 | 21 | 116 | 196.61 | 35.59 |

The above table shows 59 new cases filed at the Brown’s Town Outstation during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 8 cases were disposed of and 13 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 35.59%, an increase of 22.89 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 71 cases were disposed of, and 45 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 196.61%,

which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents an 80.74 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 17.39%, an improvement of 15.60 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 154.35%, an improvement of 79.35 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 58 |
| Mean | 223.8966 |
| Median | 113.0000 |
| Mode | 63.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 279.65792 |
| Skewness | 2.007 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .314 |
| Range | 1185.00 |
| Minimum | 14.00 |
| Maximum | 1199.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 58 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023 at the Brown’s Town Outstation. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 223 days or 7.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days and the median time was 113 days. The standard deviation of roughly 280 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall

average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1199 days or roughly 3.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 14 days.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 477 |
| Mean | 493.3124 |
| Median | 450.0000 |
| Mode | 205.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 319.50698 |
| Skewness | .477 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .112 |
| Range | 1250.00 |
| Minimum | 21.00 |
| Maximum | 1271.00 |

The above data is based on sample of 477 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 493 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 205 days. The standard deviation of roughly 320 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 1271 days old or roughly 3.5 years, while the minimum age is 21 days.

Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 137 | 70.98 |
| Disposed | 41 | 21.24 |
| Inactive | 15 | 7.77 |
| Total | 193 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 193 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 137 cases or 70.98% of these cases were still active, while 41 or 21.24% were disposed of and 15 or 7.77% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 29.02%, which is a 21.57 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2023.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 222 | 84.41 |
| Small Claim | 41 | 15.59 |
| Total | 263 | 100.00 |

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 263 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023, the majority of which 222 or 84.41% were big claims, while 41 or 15.59% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Breach of Contract | 81 | 31.03 |
| Recovery of Possession | 51 | 19.54 |
| Monies Owing | 15 | 5.75 |
| Negligence | 10 | 3.83 |
| Cattle Trespass | 8 | 3.07 |
| Sub-total | 165 | 63.22 |

Total sample size of causes of action = 261

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 filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court was breach of contract and recovery of possession with 81 or roughly 31.03% and 51 or 19.54% respectively of the sample. Monies owing with 15 or 5.75%, negligence with 10 or 3.83% and cattle trespass with 8 or 3.07% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 63.22% of the sample of 261 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Bailiff | 146 | 58.87 |
| Personal | 102 | 41.13 |
| Total | 248 | 100.00 |

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for 146 or 58.87% and personal service accounted for 102 or 41.13% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 124 | 48.63 |
| Courtroom #3 (main courthouse) | 116 | 45.49 |
| Whithorn Outstation | 15 | 5.88 |
| Total | 255* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponds to 187 cases**

The highest proportion of a sample of 255 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 124 or 48.63% of the sample. The 116 or 45.49% that were entered in courtroom 3 at the main courthouse followed this. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 5.88% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 148 | 56.27 |
| Female | 97 | 36.88 |
| Trading As | 13 | 4.94 |
| Registered Company | 5 | 1.90 |
| Total | 263 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 263 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 148 or 56.27%, followed by females with 97 or 36.88%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 13 or 4.94% and registered companies accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 1.90%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 164 | 62.60 |
| Female | 83 | 31.68 |
| Trading As | 8 | 3.05 |
| Registered Company | 7 | 2.67 |
| Total | 262 | 100.00 |

There were 262 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 164 or 62.60% of the sample, followed by females with 83 or 31.68%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) account for 3.05% of the sample and registered companies accounted for 7 or 2.67%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Trial | 212 | 62.17 |
| Mention Date | 103 | 30.21 |
| Part-Heard Date | 22 | 6.45 |
| Final Judgment Date | 4 | 1.17 |
| Total | 341 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 341 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The majority, 212 or 62.17% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 103 or 30.21%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 22 or 6.45% of matters, which were adjourned for part heard dates and 4 or 1.17% which were adjourned for final judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an unusual 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 for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons For Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 63 | 71.59 |
| Pending Settlement | 2 | 2.27 |
| Notice of Intention to be Filed and Served | 1 | 1.14 |
| Refer to Surveyor | 1 | 1.14 |
| Referred to Mediation | 1 | 1.14 |
| Sub-total | 68 | 77.27 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 88

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 88 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2023. Adjournments for no return/ for re-issue with 63 or 71.59% of the sample and pending settlements with 2 or 2.27% account for the top reasons for adjournment in the quarter. Adjournments for Notice of Intention to be Filed and Served, referrals to surveyor and referrals to mediation with 1.14% each of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 77.27% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 49 |
| Average Incidence | 1.4 |

Corresponds to 35 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 49 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 35 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.4 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 14 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 66 | 27.97 |
| Default Judgment | 34 | 14.41 |
| Consent | 31 | 13.14 |
| Oral Admission | 30 | 12.71 |
| Settlement | 23 | 9.75 |
| Sub-total | 184 | 77.97 |

NB: There were 236 matters disposed of in the quarter

A total of 236 civil matters were disposed of at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which account for 77.97% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 66 or 27.97% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgments with 34 or 14.41% of the sample and matters disposed by consent with 31 or 13.14% of the sample. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 30 or 12.71% and settlements with 23 or 9.75% round off the top five methods dispositions.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Outcome | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff | 26 | 76.47 |
| Settlement | 8 | 23.53 |
| Total | 34 | 100.00 |

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 26 or 76.47% of the sample of matters, accounts for the majority of the sample, while settlements account for 8 or 23.53%.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 80 | 0 | 100 |

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 80 trial dates were set in the quarter; of which none was adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 100% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate Number of new cases filed | Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate gross case clearance rate (%) | Approximate gross case disposal rate (%) |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 193 | 56 | 239 | 123.83 | 29.02 |

The above table shows 193 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 41 of these cases were disposed of, and 15 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 29.02%, a decrease of 21.57 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 180 cases were disposed of, and 59 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 123.83%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 90.29 percentage points below the second quarter of 2022 rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 23.03%, which is 22.42 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 101.12%, which is 102.78 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 153 |
| Mean | 126.8366 |
| Median | 69.0000 |
| Mode | 111.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 146.33898 |
| Skewness | 2.074 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .196 |
| Range | 679.00 |
| Minimum | 7.00 |
| Maximum | 686.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on 153 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is approximately 127 days or 4.2 months, which is roughly 7 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 111 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 686 days or roughly 1.9 years, while the minimum time taken was just 7 days.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 372 |
| Mean | 554.6613 |
| Median | 359.0000 |
| Mode | 1521.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 506.51954 |
| Skewness | .606 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .126 |
| Range | 1710.00 |
| Minimum | 16.00 |
| Maximum | 1726.00 |

The above data is based on sample of 372 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 555 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1521 days. The standard deviation of roughly 507 days suggests that there is some variation of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest age of active cases was 1726 days or 4.5 years, and the youngest time is 16 days.

St. Mary Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Mary Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 92 | 67.15 |
| Disposed | 45 | 32.85 |
| Inactive | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total | 137 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 137 new civil cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 92 or 67.15% were still active and 45 or 32.85% were disposed of. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 32.85% for the quarter, which is an 8.04 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 127 | 78.88 |
| Small Claim | 34 | 21.12 |
| Total | 161 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that of the 161 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which were big claims, which accounted for 127 or 78.88% of the total sample, while 34 or 21.12% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Breach of Contract | 44 | 27.50 |
| Recovery of Possession | 15 | 9.38 |
| Monies Owing | 13 | 8.13 |
| Damages | 8 | 5.00 |
| Damages for Negligence | 8 | 5.00 |
| Sub-total | 88 | 55.00 |

Total sample size of causes of action = 160

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 160 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the quarter at the St. Mary Parish Court were breach of contract with 44 or roughly 27.50% of the sample and recovery of possession with 15 or 9.38% of the total sample of causes of action. Monies owing with 13 or 8.13% and damages for negligence and damages with 8 or 5% rank next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Personal | 95 | 59.38 |
| District Constable | 35 | 21.88 |
| Bailiff | 30 | 18.75 |
| Total | 160 | 100.00 |

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority of the sample with 95 or 59.38% of the sample, with service by the district constable accounting for 35 or 21.88% and service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 30 or 18.75% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 100 | 62.50 |
| Courtroom #3 (main courthouse) | 23 | 14.38 |
| Richmond Outstation | 20 | 12.50 |
| Annotto Bay Outstation | 12 | 7.50 |
| Gayle Outstation | 5 | 3.13 |
| Total | 160* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 136 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 160 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 100 or 62.50% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom 3 at the main courthouse with 23 or 14.38% of the sample and the Richmond outstation with 20 or 12.50% and the Annotto Bay Outstation with 12 or 7.50% of the sample rounds off the top accommodations. The list is completed by sittings at the Gayle Outstation with 5 or 3.13%.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 93 | 58.13 |
| Female | 62 | 38.75 |
| Registered Company | 5 | 3.13 |
| Total | 160 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 160 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the majority of plaintiffs with 93 or 58.13%, followed by females with 62 or 38.75%. Registered companies with 3.13% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 112 | 70.00 |
| Female | 47 | 29.38 |
| Registered Company | 1 | 0.63 |
| Total | 160 | 100.00 |

There were 160 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were males with 112 or 70%, followed by females with 47 or 29.38% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.63% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Trial | 34 | 34.00 |
| Mention Date | 25 | 25.00 |
| Part-Heard Date | 23 | 23.00 |
| Default Date | 18 | 18.00 |
| Total | 100 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 100 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention,

part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 34 or 34%, were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 25 or 25%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 23 or 23% of the matters which were adjourned for part heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not unusual as this stage is intrinsic to case management and case preparation and to the overall case process flow.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons For Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 28 | 20.29 |
| For Process Server to Attend | 8 | 5.80 |
| Defendant Absent | 7 | 5.07 |
| Attorney for Defendant Absent | 4 | 2.90 |
| Plaintiff Absent | 4 | 2.90 |
| Sub-total | 51 | 36.96 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 138

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 138 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2023. Adjournments for no return/ for reissue with 28 or 20.29% of the sample, adjournments for process server to attend with 8 or 5.80% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 7 or 5.07% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to absence of the attorney for the defendant and due to absence of plaintiffs with 4 or 2.90% each of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 36.96% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the leading incidence of reissued matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 38 |
| Average Incidence | 1.2 |

Corresponds to 31 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 reissue, corresponding to 31 reissued cases. This resulted in an average of 1.2 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 86 | 40.00 |
| Consent | 40 | 18.60 |
| Oral Admission | 35 | 16.28 |
| Default Judgment | 19 | 8.84 |
| Withdrawal | 15 | 6.98 |
| Sub-total | 195 | 90.70 |

NB: There were 215 matters disposed of in the quarter

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 215 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. Matters struck out with 86 or 40%, matters disposed by consent with 40 or 18.60% and matters disposed by oral admissions with 35 or 16.28% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 19 or 8.84% of the sample rank next followed by withdrawals with 15 or 6.98% of the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 90.70% of the total sample of matters disposed of during the quarter.

Table 12: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Outcome | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff | 31 | 96.88 |
| Judgment in Favour of Defendant | 1 | 3.13 |
| Total | 32 | 100.00 |

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff account for 31 or 96.88% of the sample, while judgements in favour of the defendants account for 3.13% 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 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of trial dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 34 | 9 | 73.53 |

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 34 trial dates were set in the second quarter of 2023, shows that 9 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 73.53%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 74% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate combined number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation) | Approximate net case clearance rate (%) | Approximate net case disposal rate (%) |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 137 | 45 | 172 | 125.55 | 32.85 |

The above table shows 137 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 45 of these cases were disposed of, leading to an estimated net case disposal rate of 32.85%, an improvement of 8.04 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 172 cases were disposed of during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2022. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 125.55%, which meets the international standard for this metric, and is 21.04 percentage points above than the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of observations | 120 |
| Mean | 166.2083 |
| Median | 44.0000 |
| Mode | 28.00 ^a |
| Std. Deviation | 410.38279 |
| Skewness | 5.554 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .221 |
| Range | 3521.00 |
| Minimum | 7.00 |
| Maximum | 3528.00 |

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 120 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 166 days or 5.5 months, which is roughly 135 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days and the median time was 44 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 410 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 3528 days or roughly 9.8 years old, while minimum time taken to dispose of cases was 7 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 16.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 280 |
| Mean | 579.8429 |
| Median | 297.5000 |
| Mode | 25.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 683.59048 |
| Skewness | 1.923 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .146 |
| Range | 3608.00 |
| Minimum | 8.00 |
| Maximum | 3616.00 |

The above data is based on sample of 280 active civil matters at the end of second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 580 days (or roughly 19.3 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 25 days. The standard deviation of roughly 684 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the 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 in the data set is 3616 days old or roughly 10 years, while the minimum age was 8 days.

Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Active | 60 | 80.00 |
| Disposed | 11 | 14.67 |
| Inactive | 4 | 5.33 |
| Total | 75 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 75 new civil cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 60 or 80% were still active, 11 or 14.67% were disposed of and 4 were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 20% for the quarter, which is 6.87 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 85 | 83.33 |
| Small Claim | 17 | 16.67 |
| Total | 102 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that from the 102 new claims filed in the quarter, the majority of which 85 or 83.33% were big claims, while 17 or 16.67% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Breach of Contract | 31 | 29.25 |
| Recovery of Possession | 18 | 16.98 |
| Negligence- General & Special Damages | 8 | 7.55 |
| Rent Owing | 6 | 5.66 |
| Breach of Contract (Monies Owing) | 5 | 4.72 |
| Sub-total | 68 | 64.15 |

Total sample size of causes of action = 106

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 106 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action filed were breach of contract with 31 or roughly 29.25% of the total sample, recovery of possession with 18 or 16.98%, and negligence-general and special damages with 8 or 7.55%. Rent owing with 6 or 5.66% and breach of contract (monies owing) with 5 or 4.72% round off the top five causes of action for the quarter. The top causes of action, which are listed above, account for 64.15% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of types of cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Type of Service | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Personal | 80 | 75.47 |
| Bailiff | 26 | 24.53 |
| Total | 106 | 100.00 |

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the majority with 80 or 75.47% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 26 or 24.53%.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #1 (main courthouse) | 21 | 29.17 |
| Courtroom #2 (main courthouse) | 15 | 20.83 |
| Courtroom #3 (main courthouse) | 15 | 20.83 |
| Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1) | 16 | 22.22 |
| Manchioneal Outstation | 5 | 6.94 |
| Total | 72* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 57 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 72 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 21 or 29.17% of the sample of accommodations. The 15 or 20.83% that were entered in courtroom number 3 and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse followed this, while the 16 matters that entered in the courtroom 1 at the Buff Bay outstation rank next. Sittings at the Manchioneal Outstation account for 5 or 6.94%.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 56 | 52.34 |
| Female | 32 | 29.91 |
| Registered Company | 18 | 16.82 |
| Trading As | 1 | 0.93 |
| Total | 107 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 107 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023, males accounted for the majority with 56 or 52.34%, followed by females with 32 or 29.91%. Registered companies account for 18 or 16.82% of the sample and individuals trading

under a business name (“trading as”) with 0.93% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 62 | 58.49 |
| Female | 43 | 40.57 |
| Registered Company | 1 | 0.94 |
| Total | 106 | 100.00 |

There were 106 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 62 or 58.49% of the sample, followed by females with 43 or 40.57% of the sample. Registered companies with 0.94% account for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Mention Date | 115 | 44.92 |
| Trial | 110 | 42.97 |
| Part-Heard Date | 23 | 8.98 |
| Default Judgment Date | 8 | 3.13 |
| Total | 256 | 100.00 |

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 256 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The highest proportion, 115 or 44.92% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 110 or 42.97%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 23 or 8.98% and for default judgment dates with 8 or 3.13% rank next. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Consent | 21 | 25.30 |
| Settlement | 9 | 10.84 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 8 | 9.64 |
| Default Judgments | 5 | 6.02 |
| Withdrawal | 4 | 4.82 |
| Sub-total | 47 | 56.63 |

NB: There were 83 matters disposed of in the quarter

A total of 83 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. The distribution is led by disposals by consent with 21 or 25.30% of the sample, followed by settlements with 9 or 10.84%, matters disposed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 8 or 9.64% and matters disposed by default judgments with 5 or 6.02%. Withdrawals with 4 or 4.82% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 56.63% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 12 | 3 | 75.00 |

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 12 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 3 was adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 75% which suggests that during the quarter there was roughly a 75% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without

adjournment. The 2023 result is 5.43 percentage points above the figure registered in the corresponding period in 2022.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate Number of new cases filed | Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation) | Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%) | Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%) |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 75 | 15 | 74 | 98.67 | 20.00 |

The above table shows 75 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 11 of these cases were disposed of and 4 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 20%, an improvement of 6.87 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. An approximate gross figure of 56 cases were disposed of, and 18 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 98.67%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric, and is 8.77 percentage points more than the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.49%, a 4.15 percentage point improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate is 78.87%, a 3.6 percentage point decline when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 61 |
| Mean | 334.1803 |
| Median | 182.0000 |
| Mode | 47.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 375.37015 |
| Skewness | 1.893 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .306 |
| Range | 1743.00 |
| Minimum | 11.00 |
| Maximum | 1754.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 61 civil matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 334 days (11.1 months), which is roughly 333 less days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 47 days and the median time to disposition was 182 days. The standard deviation of roughly 375 days is an indication that there is a wide dispersion in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series were clustered around the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1754 days or roughly 4.9 years old, while the youngest was 11 days.

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Number of observations | 363 |
| Mean | 874.2287 |
| Median | 543.0000 |
| Mode | 144.00 ^a |
| Std. Deviation | 838.73769 |
| Skewness | 1.208 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .128 |
| Range | 4105.00 |
| Minimum | 1.00 |
| Maximum | 4106.00 |

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is computed using 363 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these cases was roughly 874 days (2.4 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 144 days (4.8 months). The standard deviation of roughly 839 days suggests that there is some dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4106 days (11.4 years), while the youngest was 1 day.

St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. Thomas Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 75 | 57.25 |
| Disposed | 15 | 11.45 |
| Inactive | 41 | 31.30 |
| Total | 131 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 131 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 75 cases or 57.25% of these cases were still active, while 15 were disposed of and 41 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 42.75%, which is a 3.69 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 114 | 78.62 |
| Small Claim | 31 | 21.38 |
| Total | 145 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that from a sample of 145 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2023, the majority of which 114 or 78.62% were big claims, while 31 or 21.38% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| Breach of Contract | 33 | 23.08 |
| Defamation of Character | 14 | 9.79 |
| Recovery of Possession | 13 | 9.09 |
| Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession | 11 | 7.69 |
| Rent Owing and Continuing | 10 | 6.99 |
| Sub-total | 81 | 56.64 |

Total sample size of causes of action= 143

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 filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 33 or roughly 23.08% of the sample. Defamation of character with 14 or 9.79% and recovery of possession with 13 or 9.09% of the sample rounds off the top causes of action in this representative sample. Rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 11 or 7.69% and rent owing and continuing with 10 or 6.99% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 56.64% of all the total sample of 143 causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| District Constable | 22 | 70.97 |
| Bailiff | 6 | 19.35 |
| Personal | 3 | 9.68 |
| Total | 31 | 100.00 |

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the

majority with 22 or 70.97% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 6 or 19.35% and personal service with 3 or 9.68% ran next.

Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Courtroom #2 (main courthouse) | 113 | 77.93 |
| Yallahs Outstation | 32 | 22.07 |
| Total | 145* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 131 cases**

The majority of a sample of 145 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 113 or 77.93% of the sample, while sittings at the Yallahs outstation accounted for 32 or 22.07% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 73 | 50.69 |
| Female | 66 | 45.83 |
| Registered Company | 3 | 2.08 |
| Trading As | 2 | 1.39 |
| Total | 144 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 144 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the majority of the sample with 73 or 50.69%, followed by females with 66 or 45.83%. Registered companies accounted for 3 or 2.08% and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 1.39% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 86 | 60.14 |
| Female | 54 | 37.76 |
| Trading As | 3 | 2.10 |
| Total | 143 | 100.00 |

There were 143 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 86 or 60.14% of the sample, followed by females with 54 or 37.76% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 2.10% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Flow Stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Date for Order | 130 | 44.83 |
| Mention Date | 78 | 26.90 |
| Trial | 46 | 15.86 |
| Default Judgment Date | 22 | 7.59 |
| Part-Heard Date | 13 | 4.48 |
| Hearing of Application | 1 | 0.34 |
| Total | 290 | 100.00 |

The above table is computed based on a sample of 290 cases adjourned during the second quarter of 2023. The highest proportion, 130 or 44.83% were adjourned for an order to be handed down, followed by 78 or 26.90% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 46 or 15.86% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 22 or 7.59% and matters adjourned for a part heard date with 13 or 4.48% of the sample rank next.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons For Adjournment | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Parties in Discussion | 61 | 24.70 |
| Defendant Absent | 42 | 17.00 |
| Attorney Absent | 26 | 10.53 |
| Both Parties Absent | 15 | 6.07 |
| Plaintiff Absent | 7 | 2.83 |
| Sub-total | 151 | 61.13 |

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 247

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 247 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2023. Parties in discussion with 61 or 24.70% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of defendants with 42 or 17% and adjournments due to absence of attorneys with 26 or 10.53% rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to absence of both parties with 15 or 6.07% and the absence of plaintiffs with 7 or 2.83% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 61.13% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of incidence of reissued matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Measure | Frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Overall Incidence | 34 |
| Average Incidence | 1.03 |

Corresponding to 33 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 34 incidences of reissue, corresponding to 33 reissued cases. This results in an average of 1.03 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter, suggesting that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 10 reissue incidences.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Consent | 35 | 27.13 |
| Struck Out | 23 | 17.83 |
| Oral Admission | 19 | 14.73 |
| Default Judgment | 14 | 10.85 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 13 | 10.08 |
| Sub-total | 104 | 80.62 |

NB: there were 129 matters were disposed of in the quarter

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 129 matters. The list is led by matters disposed of by consent with 35 or 27.13% of the sample. Matters struck out with 23 or 17.83% rank next. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 19 or 14.73% and by default judgments with 14 or 10.85% and Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 13 or 10.08% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 80.62% of the sample.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Sample of trial dates set | Number of trial dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty rate (%) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 25 | 3 | 88.00 |

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 25 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 3 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 88%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 88% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment and is 5.62 percentage points below the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases filed | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate gross clearance rate (%) | Approximate gross case disposal rate (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 131 | 56 | 169 | 129.01 | 42.75 |

The above table shows 131 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 15 cases were disposed of and 41 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 42.75%, an increase of 3.69 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022. A gross figure of 109 cases were disposed of, and 60 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of

origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 129.01%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and represents a decrease of 10.05 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 16.67%, a 3.74 percentage points decline when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 121.11%, a 4.78 percentage points increase when compared to second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 93 |
| Mean | 520.5161 |
| Median | 217.0000 |
| Mode | 63.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 699.27703 |
| Skewness | 2.127 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .250 |
| Range | 2941.00 |
| Minimum | 14.00 |
| Maximum | 2955.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 93 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 521 days or 17.4 months, which is roughly 99 more days than it took to dispose of matters in the second quarter of 2022. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 63 days. There is a standard deviation of roughly 699 days is an indication that

there is a large amount of variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness suggests that there were proportionately more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2955 days or roughly 8.2 years old, while the minimum time taken was 14 days.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive Statistics (days)

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Number of observations | 240 |
| Mean | 1152.5042 |
| Median | 759.0000 |
| Mode | 3006.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 1152.29433 |
| Skewness | .784 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .157 |
| Range | 2991.00 |
| Minimum | 15.00 |
| Maximum | 3006.00 |

The above data is based on a sample of 240 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 1153 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 3006 days or 8.4 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 1152 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that proportionately more of the scores in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 3006 days or 8.4 years, while the youngest case was 15 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on age of active matters reissued as at second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 40 |
| Mean | 648.4750 |
| Median | 878.0000 |
| Mode | 878.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 393.71974 |
| Skewness | -.468 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .374 |
| Range | 1385.00 |
| Minimum | 11.00 |
| Maximum | 1396.00 |

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 40 active reissued matters at the St. Thomas Parish Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2023.

The average age of these matters was roughly 648 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 878 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some variation among the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that a larger proportion of the ages were above the overall series average. The highest age in the data set was 1396 days and the lowest was 11 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

St. James Parish Court –Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of civil case activity and supporting demographics in the St. James Parish Court for the second quarter of 2023.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case Status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Active | 239 | 65.84 |
| Disposed | 33 | 9.09 |
| Inactive | 91 | 25.07 |
| Total | 363 | 100.00 |

The above table presents a status distribution of 363 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, 239 cases or 65.84% of these cases were still active, 33 were disposed of and 91 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 34.16% for the quarter.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Claim Type | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------|----------------|
| Big Claim | 211 | 52.36 |
| Small Claim | 192 | 47.64 |
| Total | 403 | 100.00 |

The above table shows that from 403 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2023, the majority of which were big claims with 211 or 52.36%, while 192 or 47.61% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court-Civil division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Cause of Action | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Recovery of Possession | 60 | 15.67 |
| Breach of Contract | 33 | 8.62 |
| Rent Owing and Continuing | 28 | 7.31 |
| Monies Owing | 21 | 5.48 |
| Monies Loaned | 19 | 4.96 |
| Sub-total | 161 | 42.04 |

Total sample size of causes of action = 383

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 383 matters, from which the leading causes of action filed in the second quarter of 2023 were recovery of possession with 60 or roughly 15.67% of the sample and breach of contract with 33 or 8.62% of the sample. Rent owing and continuing with 28 or 7.31% and monies owing with 21 or 5.48% of the sample rank next. Monies loaned with 19 or 4.96% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 42.04% of the sample of causes of action.

Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Courtroom/Outstation | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Cambridge Outstation | 220 | 60.44 |
| Courtroom #4 (main courthouse) | 141 | 38.74 |
| Courtroom #2 (main courthouse) | 3 | 0.82 |
| Total | 364* | 100.00 |

***Note: Corresponding to 332 cases**

The majority of a sample of 364 matters entered in the second quarter of 2023 were entered in the Cambridge outstation, which accounted for 220 or 60.44% of the sample. Sittings at courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse had 141 matters entered or 38.74% of the sample, followed by courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 3 or 0.82%.

Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 183 | 45.52 |
| Female | 157 | 39.05 |
| Registered Company | 62 | 15.42 |
| Total | 402 | 100.00 |

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 402 new matters filed in the quarter, males accounted for the highest proportions of the sample with 183 or 45.52% of the sample, followed by females with 157 or 39.05% of the total sample. Registered companies with 62 or 15.42% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Gender | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 133 | 56.60 |
| Female | 78 | 33.19 |
| Registered Company | 23 | 9.79 |
| Trading As | 1 | 0.43 |
| Total | 235 | 100.00 |

There were 235 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2023. The majority of defendants were male with 133 or 56.60% of the total sample, followed by females with 78 or 33.19%. Registered companies accounted for 23 or 9.79% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample with 0.43%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Case flow stage | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Trial | 100 | 45.25 |
| Mention Date | 71 | 32.13 |
| Part-Heard Date | 18 | 8.14 |
| Default Judgment Date | 17 | 7.69 |
| Final Judgment Date | 12 | 5.43 |
| Hearing of Application | 3 | 1.36 |
| Total | 221 | 100.00 |

The above table shows a sample of 221 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for trial dates accounted for 100 or 45.25% of the sample, followed by 71 or 32.13%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Matters disposed for part heard dates accounted for 18 or 8.14% and matters adjourned for a default judgment date account for 17 or 7.69% of the total sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date,

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: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Method of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Withdrawal | 163 | 43.24 |
| Default Judgment | 66 | 17.51 |
| Oral Admission | 46 | 12.20 |
| Struck Out | 40 | 10.61 |
| Consent | 17 | 4.51 |
| Sub-total | 332 | 88.06 |

NB: There were 377 matters disposed of in the quarter

A sample of 377 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2023 revealed that 163 or 43.24% of matters were disposed of by withdrawals and 66 or 17.51% were disposed by default judgments. Matters disposed by oral admissions with 46 or 12.20% and matters struck out with 40 or 10.61% rank next. Matters were disposed of by consent with 17 or 4.51% of the total sample of disposals completing the top five for the quarter. The top five methods of disposition enumerated above account for 88.06% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2023.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of trial dates set | Number of dates adjourned | Estimated trial date certainty ratio (%) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 45 | 2 | 95.56 |

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 45 trial dates were set in the quarter shows that 2 were adjourned. This results in an estimated

trial date certainty rate of 95.56%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an estimated 96% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate Number of new cases filed | Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation) | Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%) | Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%) |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 363 | 124 | 437 | 120.39 | 34.16 |

The above table shows 363 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court during the second quarter of 2023. At the end of the quarter, a total of 33 cases were disposed of and 91 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 34.16%. An approximate gross figure of 238 cases were disposed of, and 199 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2023. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 120.39%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric and is 39.05 percentage points above the rate recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.13% and the estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 87.50%, a 45.87 percentage points improvement when compared to the second quarter of 2022. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics.

Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of observations | 178 |
| Mean | 189.3876 |
| Median | 68.0000 |
| Mode | 7.00 ^a |
| Std. Deviation | 254.38676 |
| Skewness | 1.861 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .182 |
| Range | 1198.00 |
| Minimum | 2.00 |
| Maximum | 1200.00 |

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 178 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2023 at the St. James Parish court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 189 days or 6.3 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 7 days and the median time was 68 days. The standard deviation of roughly 254 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1200 days or roughly 3.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 2 days.

Table 12.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Descriptive statistics (in days)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Number of observations | 431 |
| Mean | 559.0348 |
| Median | 451.0000 |
| Mode | 879.00 |
| Std. Deviation | 447.93198 |
| Skewness | 1.119 |
| Std. Error of Skewness | .118 |
| Range | 2965.00 |
| Minimum | 14.00 |
| Maximum | 2979.00 |

The above data is based on a sample of 431 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2023. The average age of these matters was roughly 559 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 879 days. The standard deviation of roughly 448 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 2979 days old or roughly 8.3 years, while the minimum age is 14 days.

Performance Summaries-Other Parish Court

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the Manchester, St. Elizabeth and St. James Parish Courts for the second quarter of 2023

| Parish Court | Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) | Net Case Clearance Rate (%) | Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) | Net Case Disposal Rate (%) | Trial Date certainty Rate (%) |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Manchester PC | - | 153.57 | - | - | - |
| St. Elizabeth PC | - | 83.44 | - | 33.74 | - |
| Hanover PC | 194.50 | 194.68 | 94.50 | 93.62 | - |

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Hanover shows that the civil division of the Manchester Parish Court recorded an estimated net case clearance rate of 153.57% in the second quarter of 2023. The estimated net case clearance rate for the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the quarter was 83.44% and the estimated net case disposal rate was 33.74%. The Hanover Parish Court recorded an estimated gross clearance rate of 194.50% and an estimated net clearance rate of 194.68%. The Hanover Parish Court also recorded an estimated gross disposal rate of 94.50% and an estimated net disposal rate of 93.62% for the quarter.

Aggregate data summaries – all Parish Courts

Table 1.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Approximate number of new cases | Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter | Approximate Gross Clearance rate (%) |
|--|---|---|
| 4305 | 5974 | 138.77 |

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. It shows that a total of 4,305 new cases were filed over the quarter, while 5,974 became inactive or were disposed of, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 138.77%. This is a 50.20 percentage points decline when compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

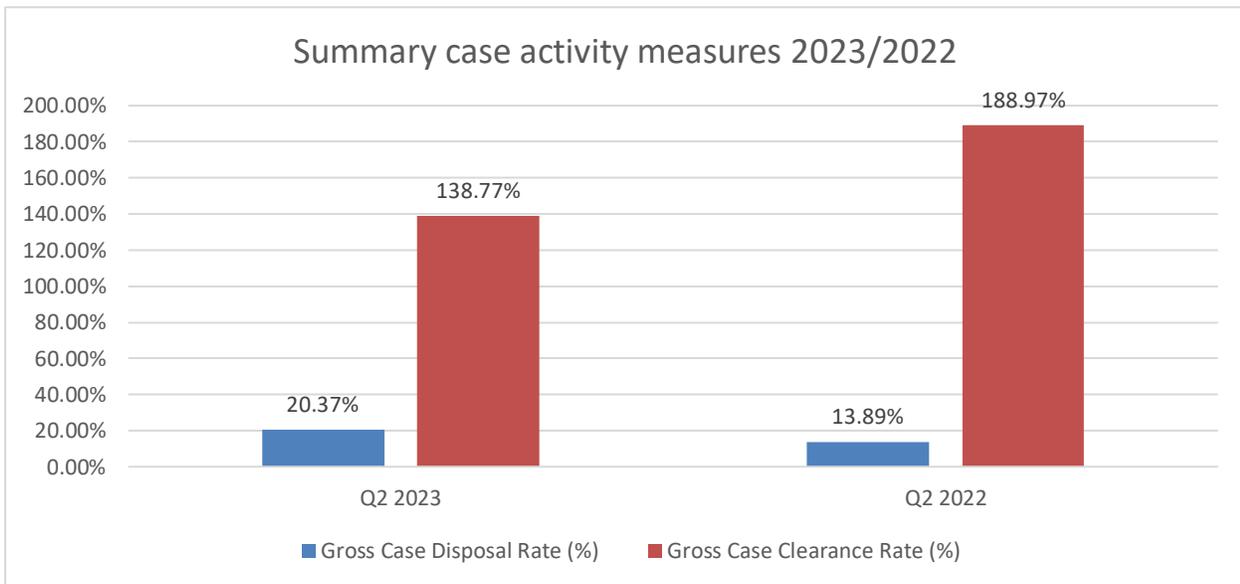
Table 2.0: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2023 | Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2 2022 | Change in the Gross Case Disposal Rate (%) | Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2023 | Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2 2022 | Change in the Gross Case Clearance Rate (%) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| St. Thomas | 42.75 | 39.06 | 3.69 | 129.01 | 139.06 | -10.05 |
| Corporate Area- Civil | 4.27 | 19.43 | -15.16 | 145.48 | 410.45 | -264.97 |
| St. Elizabeth | | | | | | |
| Hanover | 94.50 | 65.31 | 29.19 | 194.50 | 214.29 | -19.79 |
| Manchester | | | | | | |
| Portland | 20.00 | 13.13 | 6.87 | 98.67 | 89.90 | 8.77 |
| St. Ann | 25.90 | 13.52 | 12.38 | 173.28 | 142.54 | 30.74 |
| St. Catherine | 11.76 | 7.64 | 4.12 | 168.70 | 314.89 | -146.19 |
| St. Mary | | | | | | |
| Trelawny | 19.71 | 18.27 | 1.44 | 131.39 | 137.50 | -6.11 |
| St. James | 34.16 | | | 120.39 | 81.34 | 39.05 |
| Clarendon | 27.45 | 21.17 | 6.28 | 83.66 | 102.25 | -18.59 |
| Westmoreland | 29.02 | 50.59 | -21.57 | 123.83 | 214.12 | -90.29 |
| Average /Weighted Average | 20.37 | 13.89 | 6.48 | 138.77 | 188.97 | -50.20 |
| Standard Deviation | 24.85 | 19.63 | | 34.25 | 106.57 | |
| Skewness | 2.08 | 1.11 | | 0.20 | 1.26 | |

The table above provides a comparison of the case disposal rate and the case clearance rate and for the second quarter of 2023 and 2022. The weighted average gross case disposal rate for the second quarter of 2023 was 20.37%, which was a 6.48 percentage points improvement when

compared to the second quarter of 2022 weighted average rate of 13.89%. The gross case clearance rate of 138.778% for the second quarter of 2023 was 50.20 percentage points below the 188.97% recorded in the second quarter of 2022.

Chart 1.0: Aggregate summary of case activity metrics for second quarter of 2022 and 2023



The above graph provides a summary of the progression of the overall case disposal and case clearance for the second quarter of 2023 and 2022. It is seen that there has been an improvement in the gross case disposal rate and a decrease in the gross case clearance rate over the comparative period. The case clearance rate moved from 188.97% in the second quarter of 2022 to 138.77% in the second quarter of 2023. The case disposal rate moved from 13.89% in the second quarter of 2022 to 20.37% in the second quarter of 2023, an increase of 6.48 percentage points.

Chart 2.0a: Comparison of case disposal rates across the parish courts for the second quarter of 2022 and 2023

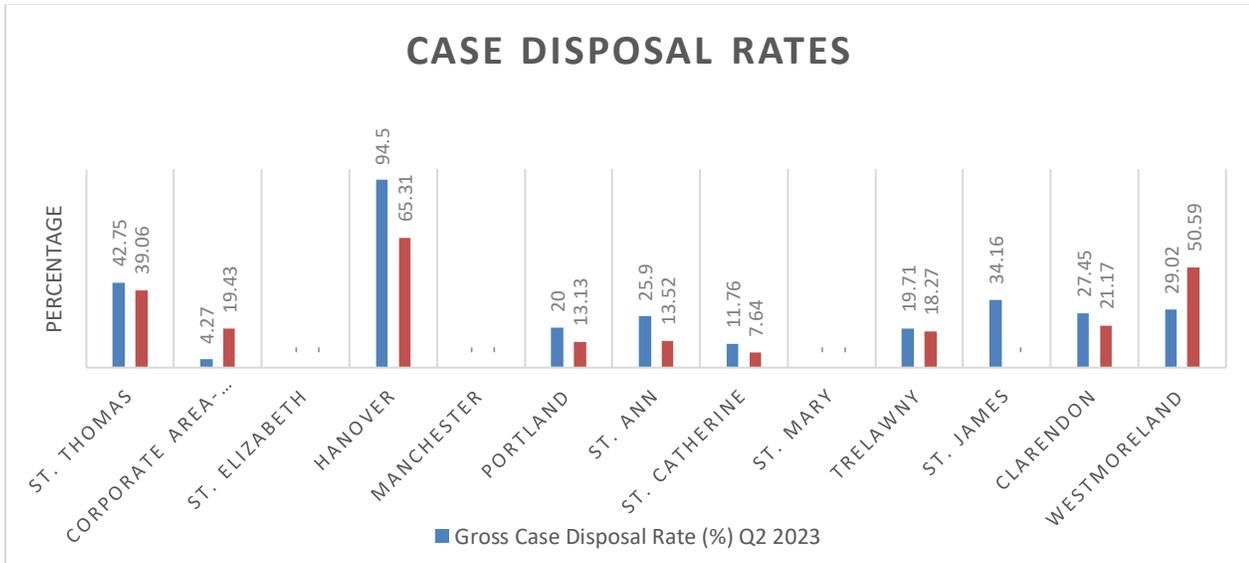


Chart 2.0b: Comparison of case clearance rates across the parish courts for second quarter of 2022 and 2023

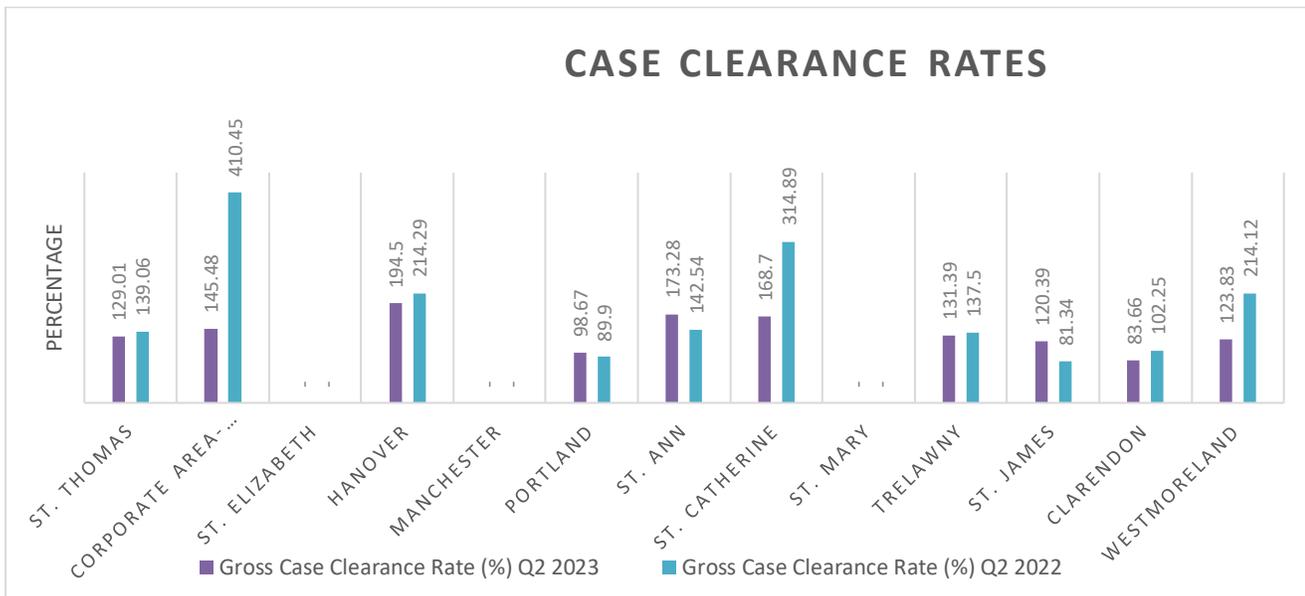


Table 3: Sampling distribution of claims filed during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Big Claims | Small Claims | POCA | Miscellaneous | Total |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Corporate area | 1092 | 176 | 2 | - | 1270 |
| Portland | 85 | 17 | - | - | 102 |
| St. Ann | 411 | 66 | 2 | - | 479 |
| St. Catherine | 820 | 81 | - | - | 901 |
| St. Mary | 127 | 34 | - | - | 161 |
| St. Thomas | 114 | 31 | - | - | 145 |
| Trelawny | 128 | 23 | - | - | 151 |
| Westmoreland | 222 | 41 | - | - | 263 |
| St. James | 211 | 192 | - | - | 403 |
| Clarendon | 304 | 56 | - | - | 360 |
| Total | 3514 | 717 | 4 | 0 | 4235 |

The above table provides an overall summary of the claims files across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023. The sample of 4,235 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2023 reveals that 3,514 or 82.98% were big claims, while 16.93% were small claims and 0.09% were POCA matters. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine Parish Court, and the St. Ann Parish Court account for the largest share of new complaints filed in the quarter. The Corporate Area Court-Civil Division, the St. Catherine, and the St. Ann Parish Courts account for the largest share of big claims filed in the quarter, while the St. James Parish Court, Corporate Area Court-Civil Division and the St. Catherine Parish Court account for the largest shares of small claims filed.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of new cases filed per 10,000 in the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Number of new cases filed | Population size in parish | Case per 10,000 population |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hanover | 109 | 69,533 | 16 |
| St. Catherine | 706 | 516,218 | 14 |
| Westmoreland | 193 | 144,103 | 13 |
| St. Mary | 137 | 113,615 | 12 |
| Clarendon | 306 | 245,103 | 12 |
| Portland | 75 | 81,744 | 9 |
| St. Elizabeth | 326 | 150,205 | 22 |
| Corporate Area Civil | 1207 | 662,426 | 18 |
| St. Thomas | 131 | 93,902 | 14 |
| St. James | 363 | 183,811 | 20 |
| St. Ann | 363 | 172,362 | 21 |
| Trelawny | 137 | 75,164 | 18 |
| Manchester | 252 | 189,797 | 13 |
| Total | 4305 | 2697983 | 16 |

The above table provides an outline of the number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the parish courts (civil division) in the second quarter of 2023. The population sizes used are based on the last national population census in 2011 and therefore the data does not have full current value. Nevertheless, this kind of data provides interesting insights into the demand for civil adjudication in the various parishes. It is seen that the parish of St. Elizabeth, which is mid-range in caseloads and population size, registered the largest number of new civil cases filed per 10,000 population in the second quarter of 2023. St. Ann, which is among the courts with the larger caseloads and midrange in population size, ranked second. Equally interesting is the result that the parish of the Portland had the smallest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population in the quarter and is among the parishes with a smaller population size and the parish with the smallest caseload in the quarter. The St. Mary and Clarendon Parish Courts jointly recorded the

second lowest number of new cases filed per 10,000 population, followed by the Westmoreland and Manchester Parish Courts.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Reasons for Adjournment | Count | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| No Return/Re-Issued | 998 | 19.10 |
| Defendant Absent | 854 | 16.35 |
| Parties in Discussion | 308 | 5.90 |
| Both Parties Absent | 238 | 4.56 |
| Referred to Mediation | 150 | 2.87 |
| Plaintiff Absent | 149 | 2.85 |
| Pending Settlement | 121 | 2.32 |
| New Date | 87 | 1.67 |
| Attorney Absent | 77 | 1.47 |
| Hearing of Application | 67 | 1.28 |
| Sub-total | 3049 | 58.37 |

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = (5,224)

Note: DNA means that the accused ‘did not appear’

***Referral to mediation encompasses referrals to Probation and to the Dispute Resolution Foundation**

The above table is derived using a sample of 5,224 reasons for adjournments/continuance for matters heard in the second quarter of 2023 across all of the parish courts (civil division). The largest proportion (19.10%) was for no return/ for reissue. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 16.35% and for parties in discussion with 5.90% round out the top three reasons for adjournment across the parish courts. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 4.56% and referrals to mediation with 2.87% round of the top five reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above account for 58.37% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 6.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parishes | Time interval in days | | | | | | | Sample size (n) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | 0-89 days | 90-179 days | 180-269 days | 270-364 days | 365 -547 days | 548-729 days | 730 days and over | |
| Corporate Area Civil | 4519 (35.3%) | 2858 (22.4%) | 1429 (11.2%) | 1054 (8.2%) | 1239 (9.7%) | 646 (5.1%) | 1039 (8.1%) | 12784 (100%) |
| St. Catherine | 2000 1(6.7%) | 1619 (13.5%) | 940 (7.8%) | 764 (6.4%) | 1323 (11.0%) | 935 (7.8%) | 4429 (36.9%) | 12010 (100%) |
| St. James | 457 (43.4%) | 179 (17.0%) | 79 (7.5%) | 66 (6.3%) | 110 (10.4%) | 66 (6.3%) | 96 (9.1%) | 1053 (100%) |
| Clarendon | 328 (37.2%) | 287 (32.6%) | 148 (16.8%) | 54 (6.1%) | 43 (4.9%) | 20 (2.3%) | 1 (0.1%) | 881 (100%) |
| Westmoreland | 818 (56.8%) | 279 (19.4%) | 117 (8.1%) | 87 (6.0%) | 80 (5.6%) | 34 (2.4%) | 24 (1.7%) | 1439 (100%) |
| St. Ann | 1292 (31.4%) | 947 (23.0%) | 495 (12.0%) | 331 (8.0%) | 431 (10.5%) | 216 (5.2%) | 407 (9.9%) | 4119 (100%) |
| St. Thomas | 617 (34.4%) | 399 (22.3%) | 203 (11.3%) | 132 (7.4%) | 164 (9.2%) | 97 (5.4%) | 180 (10.0%) | 1792 (100%) |
| Portland | 212 (29.4%) | 154 (21.4%) | 75 (10.4%) | 55 (7.6%) | 85 (11.8%) | 15 (2.1%) | 125 (17.3%) | 721 (100%) |
| St. Mary | 1380 (55.1%) | 444 (17.7%) | 196 (7.8%) | 118 (4.7%) | 173 (6.9%) | 74 (3.0%) | 118 (4.7%) | 2503 (100%) |
| Trelawny | 853 (55.4%) | 284 (18.5%) | 121 (7.9%) | 77 (5.0%) | 96 (6.2%) | 40 (2.6%) | 68 (4.4%) | 1539 (100%) |
| % of Total | 32.12 | 19.18 | 9.79 | 7.05 | 9.64 | 5.52 | 16.70 | - |
| Average | 1247.60 | 745.00 | 380.30 | 273.80 | 374.40 | 214.30 | 648.70 | 3884.10 |
| Standard Deviation | 1272.30 | 868.51 | 455.35 | 351.13 | 490.25 | 316.50 | 1363.39 | 4595.83 |
| Skewness | 2.20 | 1.98 | 1.79 | 1.74 | 1.60 | 1.84 | 2.89 | 1.60 |

Number of charges sampled (N) = 38,841

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 66 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 66-month period. The results shown suggest decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 32.12% of the

disposals. The Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Mary and St. Ann are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed of under 90 days. Cumulatively 68.14% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year, a positive indicator of the potential effectiveness of the courts in increasing overall productivity and realizing the objective of becoming the best in the Caribbean region in three years and among the best in the world in 3-5 years. From the data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 16.70% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court, and St. Ann had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are all relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 6.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parishes | Time to disposition (days) | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Average | Mode | Median | Standard Deviation | Skewness | Minimum | Maximum | Sample size (N) |
| Corporate Area Civil | 258.20 | 34 | 138 | 306.56 | 2.52 | 1 | 2791 | 12784 |
| St. Catherine | 591.09 | 28 | 468 | 500.56 | 0.71 | 1 | 2630 | 12010 |
| St. James | 247.08 | 28 | 107 | 303.99 | 2.08 | 1 | 2405 | 1053 |
| Clarendon | 151.31 | 63 | 118 | 125.77 | 1.66 | 3 | 763 | 881 |
| Westmoreland | 138.96 | 35 | 75 | 167.03 | 2.25 | 1 | 1112 | 1439 |
| St. Ann | 296.48 | 63 | 154 | 375.84 | 2.52 | 1 | 2625 | 4119 |
| St. Thomas | 277.71 | 28 | 146 | 338.05 | 2.28 | 1 | 2379 | 1792 |
| Portland | 414.58 | 2251 | 177 | 571.15 | 2.16 | 3 | 2251 | 721 |
| St. Mary | 171.20 | 28 | 71 | 240.01 | 2.54 | 1 | 1634 | 2503 |
| Trelawny | 172.00 | 28 | 72 | 250.91 | 3.04 | 1 | 2080 | 1539 |
| Total/Weighted Average | 352.83 | 258.60 | 152.60 | 317.99 | 2.18 | 1.40 | 2067.00 | 3884.10 |
| Standard Deviation | 139.85 | 700.20 | 116.80 | 138.17 | 0.63 | 0.84 | 682.97 | 4595.83 |
| Skewness | 1.49 | 3.16 | 2.59 | 0.59 | -1.40 | 1.78 | -1.03 | 1.60 |

Number of charges sampled (N) = 38,841

Note: The data in this table covers case activity for at least the last 66 months across the parish courts

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at June 30, 2023. For each parish court, the estimates cover case activity for at least a 66-month period. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 353 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive figure, suggesting that most of these times fell below the overall mean. For matters disposed in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (139 days), Clarendon (151 days) and St. Mary (171 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (591 days), Portland (415 days) and St. Ann (296 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the

period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 139.85. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 1.4 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 763 days (25.4 months/2.1 years) in the Clarendon Parish Court, to a high of 2,791 days (93 months/7.8 years) in the Corporate Area Civil Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a negative value, which is an indication that a larger proportion of the maximum times to disposition were above the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 38,841 matters.

Table 7.0a: Sampling distribution of the times to disposition in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parishes | Time interval in days | | | | | | | Sample size (n) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | 0-89 days | 90-179 days | 180-269 days | 270-364 days | 365 -547 days | 548-729 days | 730 days and over | |
| Corporate Area Civil | 98 (28.3%) | 126 (36.4%) | 50 (14.5%) | 13 (3.8%) | 30 (8.7%) | 12 (3.5%) | 17 (4.9%) | 346 (100%) |
| St. Catherine | 122 (10.5%) | 129 (11.1%) | 82 (7.1%) | 40 (3.5%) | 54 (4.7%) | 87 (7.5%) | 643 (55.6%) | 1157 (100%) |
| St. James | 94 (52.8%) | 28 (15.7%) | 16 (9.0%) | 7 (3.9%) | 13 (7.3%) | 5 (2.8%) | 15 (8.4%) | 178 (100%) |
| Clarendon | 20 (21.3%) | 23 (24.5%) | 22 (23.4%) | 6 (6.4%) | 17 (18.1%) | 5 (5.3%) | 1 (1.1%) | 94 (100%) |
| Westmoreland | 90 (58.8%) | 33 (21.6%) | 9 (5.9%) | 7 (4.6%) | 7 (4.6%) | 7 (4.6%) | NA | 153 (100%) |
| St. Ann | 128 (41.2%) | 54 (17.4%) | 24 (7.7%) | 18 (5.8%) | 34 (10.9%) | 20 (6.4%) | 33 (10.6%) | 311 (100%) |
| St. Thomas | 31 (33.3%) | 13 (14.0%) | 5 (5.4%) | 8 (8.6%) | 8 (8.6%) | 8 (8.6%) | 20 (21.5%) | 93 (100%) |
| Portland | 18 (29.5%) | 11 (18.0%) | 4 (6.6%) | 9 (14.8%) | 10 (16.4%) | 1 (1.6%) | 8 (13.1%) | 61 (100%) |
| St. Mary | 86 (71.7%) | 16 (13.3%) | 6 (5.0%) | 1 (0.8%) | 2 (1.7%) | NA | 9 (7.5%) | 120 (100%) |
| Trelawny | 61 (66.3%) | 13 (14.1%) | 8 (8.7%) | NA | 4 (4.3%) | 2 (2.2%) | 4 (4.3%) | 92 (100%) |
| % of Total | 28.71 | 17.12 | 8.68 | 4.18 | 6.87 | 5.64 | 28.79 | - |
| Average | 74.80 | 44.60 | 22.60 | 12.11 | 17.90 | 16.33 | 83.33 | 260.50 |
| Standard Deviation | 40.36 | 45.53 | 25.07 | 11.47 | 16.53 | 27.11 | 210.09 | 329.25 |
| Skewness | -0.33 | 1.47 | 1.83 | 2.12 | 1.34 | 2.76 | 2.99 | 2.70 |

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,605

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The results shown suggest that only 28.71% of the charges disposed of in the period took less than 90 days. The St. Ann parish court along with the parish courts of St. Catherine, Corporate Area Parish Court-Civil Division and St. James are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases disposed under 90 days. Cumulatively, 58.69% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year. From the

data set, the parish courts (civil division) of St. Catherine, St. Ann and Corporate Area Parish Court had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than a year. The data set also shows that roughly 28.79% of the matters disposed over the period took over 730 days or over 2 years. The parish courts civil division of the St. Catherine, St. Ann and Corporate Area Parish Court had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking more than 2 years. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters in this sample are mostly relatively high, indicating that in each case a larger proportion of the scores fell below the applicable series mean.

Table 7.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parishes | Time to disposition (days) | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Average | Mode | Median | Standard Deviation | Skewness | Minimum | Maximum | Sample size (N) |
| Corporate Area Civil Division | 222.40 | 119 | 127 | 268.22 | 3.41 | 6 | 2089 | 346 |
| St. Catherine | 911.84 | 1646 | 891 | 648.98 | 0.14 | 1 | 3241 | 1157 |
| St. James | 189.39 | 7 | 68 | 254.39 | 1.86 | 2 | 1200 | 178 |
| Clarendon | 234.01 | 193 | 193 | 173.62 | 0.97 | 35 | 763 | 94 |
| Westmoreland | 126.84 | 111 | 69 | 146.34 | 2.07 | 7 | 686 | 153 |
| St. Ann | 342.51 | 63 | 107 | 576.54 | 3.56 | 2 | 3977 | 311 |
| St. Thomas | 520.52 | 63 | 217 | 699.28 | 2.13 | 14 | 2955 | 93 |
| Portland | 334.18 | 47 | 182 | 375.37 | 1.89 | 11 | 1754 | 61 |
| St. Mary | 166.21 | 28 | 44 | 410.38 | 5.55 | 7 | 3528 | 120 |
| Trelawny | 146.75 | 80 | 60.50 | 240.05 | 3.13 | 2 | 1190 | 92 |
| Total/Weighted Average | 543.50 | 235.70 | 195.85 | 379.32 | 2.47 | 8.70 | 2138.30 | 260.50 |
| Standard Deviation | 239.48 | 498.32 | 251.73 | 199.70 | 1.51 | 10.18 | 1207.64 | 329.25 |
| Skewness | 1.99 | 3.10 | 2.83 | 0.57 | 0.60 | 2.24 | 0.27 | 2.70 |

Number of charges sampled (N) = 2,605

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023. The output produces an estimated overall weighted average time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Civil Division) of approximately 544 days. The skewness of these times to disposition is a positive 1.99, suggesting that most of the scores were below the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Westmoreland (127 days), Trelawny (147 days) and St. Mary (166 days) took the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Catherine (912 days), St. Thomas (521 days) and St. Ann (343 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed over the period of analysis. The average variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts is shown to be modest, as conferred by the standard deviation of 239.48. The average minimum time taken to dispose of matters across all parish courts was 8.70 days; however, the average maximum times are substantially larger. These results are both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the relative strength of case management across the various parish courts. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 686 days (22.9 months/1.9 years) in the Westmoreland Parish Court, to a high of 3,977 days (132.6 months/11 years) in the St. Ann Parish Court. The overall skewness of the maximum times to disposition is a positive 0.27, which is an indication that most of the maximum times to disposition were clustered the series mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was a substantial and representative 2,605 matters.

Table 7.0c: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Struck Out | Consent | Settlement | Default Judgment | Oral Admission | Withdrawal | Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | Other | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| St. Catherine | 984 | 87 | 101 | 58 | 6 | 54 | 57 | 53 | 1400 |
| Corporate Area Civil | 648 | 173 | 9 | 42 | 69 | 101 | 64 | 66 | 1172 |
| Westmoreland | 66 | 31 | 23 | 34 | 30 | 17 | 12 | 23 | 236 |
| Clarendon | 136 | 43 | 21 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 13 | 20 | 267 |
| Trelawny | 17 | 25 | 10 | 27 | 22 | 9 | 2 | 17 | 129 |
| Portland | 3 | 21 | 9 | 5 | - | 4 | 8 | 33 | 83 |
| St. Mary | 86 | 40 | 7 | 19 | 35 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 215 |
| St. Thomas | 23 | 35 | 4 | 14 | 19 | - | 13 | 21 | 129 |
| St. Ann | 73 | 174 | 64 | 63 | 41 | 32 | 29 | 32 | 508 |
| St. James | 40 | 17 | 7 | 66 | 46 | 163 | 9 | 29 | 377 |
| Total | 2076 | 646 | 255 | 340 | 282 | 403 | 211 | 303 | 4516 |
| Percentage of total | 45.97 | 14.30 | 5.65 | 7.53 | 6.24 | 8.92 | 4.67 | 6.71 | - |

Number of charges sampled (N): 4,516

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts-civil division for the second quarter of 2023. From the sample, it is observed that the highest proportion of matters disposed of during the quarter were by being struck out with 45.97% of the sample, followed by matters disposed by consent with 14.30%, withdrawals with 8.92% and matters disposed by default judgments with 7.53% of the sample. Dispositions grouped under the category, “other methods” with 6.71% and oral admissions with 6.24% rank next. Settlements with 5.65% and matters disposed of by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 4.67% account for the remaining disposals in the quarter.

15.0c: Net and gross case backlog as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Net case backlog rate (%) | Gross case backlog rate (%) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Clarendon | 0.44 | 11.10 |
| Corporate area | 2.84 | 19.31 |
| Hanover | 0.11 | 4.34 |
| Manchester | 1.82 | 15.80 |
| Portland | 1.47 | 8.54 |
| St. Ann | 2.46 | 22.67 |
| St. Catherine | 0.48 | 7.97 |
| St. James | 0.36 | 10.53 |
| St. Mary | 0.16 | 9.98 |
| St. Thomas | 2.36 | 8.96 |
| Trelawny | 1.00 | 10.27 |
| Westmoreland | 0.09 | 7.56 |
| Weighted Average | 1.37 | 13.03 |
| Standard Deviation | 1.02 | 5.25 |

Note: The net backlog for the Brown's Town Outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 7.09% and the gross backlog is 27.56%

The net and gross case backlog rates provide one of the most decisive indicators of court performance as they are strongly influenced by most of the other critical court performance metrics such as the case clearance, case disposal, trial and hearing date certainty rates and are also directly correlated with the case congestion rate. The estimated gross case backlog rate provides a measurement of the proportion of cases filed for a given period (of over two years) which are either active or inactive (i.e. are unresolved) and are over two years old at the date of reporting. The closely related estimated net case backlog rate is the proportion of all cases filed

for a given period (of over two years) which are still active and exceeding two years old at the time of reporting. The estimated net case backlog rate therefore excludes inactive cases which are unresolved. Based on international best practices an estimated gross case backlog rate of under 10% is desirable, while an estimated net case backlog rate of under 5% is prescribed. The results revealed are quite outstanding, revealing a net case backlog rate (weighted average) in the parish courts is 1.37 (with a standard deviation of 1.02%) which satisfies than the international standard. The estimated gross case backlog rate also stands at a commendable 13.03% (with a standard deviation of 5.25%), an indication that there are a large number of inactive unresolved cases in the parish courts. This rate is only 3.03 percentage points higher than the prescribed rate of 10%, but seemingly has the potential to meet this standard relatively soon with the application of more aggressive case management practices and reduction in the incidence of delays in the courts. Although the time series used for this computation is only 6 years' worth of cases, the sample set is large and representative of the current direction of the court system. The parish courts of Westmoreland with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.09%, Hanover with an estimated net backlog rate of 0.11% and St. Mary with an estimated net case backlog rate of 0.16% have the lowest (best) estimated net case backlog rate in the time series, while the parish courts of Corporate Area (2.84%), St. Ann (2.46%) and St. Thomas (2.36%) have the highest rates. As for the estimated gross backlog rate, the parish courts of Hanover (4.34%), Westmoreland (7.56%) and St. Catherine 7.97%) have the lowest (best) estimated gross backlog rates in the series, while the parish courts of St. Ann (22.67%), Corporate Area Court (19.31%) and Manchester (15.80%) have the highest rates. Taken together, these are quite impressive returns for the court system in Jamaica and augur well for future prospects.

Trial court activity summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

Table 1.0a: Time interval between major events for cases that had a trial date in the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Average time between filing and first court appearance | Average time between first court appearance and trial | Average time between trial and disposition |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Clarendon | 50.73 | 196.90 | 131.22 |
| Corporate Area-Civil Division | 151.68 | 241.64 | 232.25 |
| Portland | 57.61 | 724.02 | 344.90 |
| St. Ann | 96.51 | 499.89 | 901.89 |
| St. Catherine | 94.20 | 506.35 | 387.95 |
| St. James | 53.07 | 417.09 | 98.38 |
| St. Mary | 81.72 | 158.07 | 318.21 |
| St. Thomas | 45.06 | 613.86 | 746.26 |
| Trelawny | 49.38 | 285.25 | 197.23 |
| Westmoreland | 36.44 | 81.83 | 84.65 |
| Weighted Average | 82.20 | 422.21 | 409.69 |
| Standard Deviation | 35.05 | 211.87 | 275.39 |

Tracking the times between the occurrence of major hearing events along the case flow continuum is important to establishing precise points of possible delay in case progression. The above table provides a summary of the average times between filing a case and the first court appearance. The average time between first court appearance and the first date of trial and the average duration between the first trial date and disposition. Overall, it is seen that the average time between filing a civil case and the first court appearance is roughly 2.7 months, while the

overall average time between first appearance of a civil matter in the parish courts and the first trial date is, however, much longer at roughly 14.1 months or 422 days. The average duration between the first trial date set and the date of disposition is roughly 13.7 months or 410 days. These findings indicate that there may be imprecisions in the science of scheduling trial dates which may at times face long delays after a first date set is postponed. Since less than a quarter of civil cases filed in the parish courts will proceed to trial, these findings may not have a dramatic impact on the overall time to disposition of civil cases.

Table 1.0b: Trial court activity summary during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Number of cases heard | Number of cases with a trial date set | Percentage of cases heard which had a trial date set |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Clarendon | 714 | 148 | 20.73 |
| Corporate Area | 3387 | 182 | 5.37 |
| Portland | 271 | 97 | 35.79 |
| St. Ann | 1381 | 210 | 15.21 |
| St. Catherine | 3234 | 612 | 18.92 |
| St. James | 821 | 70 | 8.53 |
| St. Mary | 333 | 66 | 19.82 |
| St. Thomas | 327 | 90 | 27.52 |
| Trelawny | 387 | 68 | 17.57 |
| Westmoreland | 467 | 149 | 31.91 |
| Total/Weighted Average | 11322 | 1692 | 14.94 |

The above table provides a summary of number of cases heard in the second quarter of 2023 in the civil divisions of the parish courts. Using a sampling distribution, it is seen that of 11,322 civil

cases heard across the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023, 1,692 or 14.94% proceeded to trial. The parish courts of the Corporate Area (5.37%), St. James (8.53%) and St. Ann (15.21%) had the lowest proportion of cases proceeding to trial, while the parish courts of Portland (35.79%), Westmoreland (31.91%) and St. Thomas (27.52%) had the highest proportion.

Table 1.0c: Distribution of methods of disposition for matters set for trial during the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Methods of Disposition | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Struck Out | 123 | 23.25 |
| Consent | 73 | 13.80 |
| Default Judgement | 55 | 10.40 |
| Transferred | 54 | 10.21 |
| Settlement | 46 | 8.70 |
| Notice of Discontinuance (NOD) | 40 | 7.56 |
| Judgment | 29 | 5.48 |
| Withdrawal | 29 | 5.48 |
| Trial | 28 | 5.29 |
| Non-Suited | 15 | 2.84 |
| Oral Admission | 12 | 2.27 |
| Other | 12 | 2.27 |
| Not Guilty Plea - Mediated Settlement | 11 | 2.08 |
| Dismissal | 2 | 0.38 |
| Total | 529 | 100.00 |

The above table summarizes the common methods of disposition for a sample of cases proceeding to trial. It is seen that matters struck out with 23.25% of the cases disposed of, matters disposed by consent with 73 or 13.80% and matters disposed by default judgments with 55 or 10.40% account for the three leading methods of disposition in the sample.

Table 1.0d: Summary of case appearance frequency for the second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Average number of appearances per case | Standard Deviation of the number appearances per case | Skewness of the number of appearances per case | Maximum number of appearances per case | Minimum number of appearances per case |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| Clarendon | 2.66 | 1.98 | 1.89 | 11 | 1 |
| Corporate Area-Civil Division | 1.69 | 1.72 | 4.18 | 17 | 1 |
| Portland | 7.78 | 6.25 | 0.99 | 26 | 1 |
| St. Ann | 4.86 | 6.27 | 2.85 | 40 | 1 |
| St. Catherine | 4.45 | 3.04 | 1.30 | 19 | 1 |
| St. James | 2.12 | 1.66 | 1.96 | 12 | 1 |
| St. Mary | 3.62 | 4.25 | 3.61 | 37 | 1 |
| St. Thomas | 10.39 | 11.27 | 0.95 | 37 | 1 |
| Trelawny | 3.73 | 3.85 | 2.15 | 19 | 1 |
| Westmoreland | 2.90 | 3.38 | 3.18 | 30 | 1 |
| Total/Weighted Average | 3.51 | - | - | 24.80 | 1.00 |
| Standard Deviation | 2.72 | - | - | 10.75 | 0.00 |
| Skewness | 1.45 | - | - | 0.19 | 0.00 |

The above table summarizes the number of appearances per case heard in the second quarter of 2023, which have at least one mention court appearance. The overall average number of appearances per 10 cases mentioned is 35, or roughly 4 appearances per case with a standard deviation of 2.72 across the courts sampled and a skewness of 1.45. Together, these results suggest that the average number of court appearances per case is within the prescribed

international standard, that a slightly larger proportion of cases have less than the overall average number of appearances and that there isn't on average a wide variation in the number of appearances per case across the courts. Among the parish courts with the highest number of appearances per cases for matters heard in second quarter of 2023 are the St. Thomas (10.39), Portland (7.78) and St. Ann (4.86) Parish Courts, while Corporate Area-Civil Division (1.69), St. James (2.12) and Clarendon (2.66) were among the courts with the lowest mean case appearance incidence.

Table 1.0e: Summary of the average court appearance frequency for cases disposed in second quarter ended June 30, 2023

| Parish Court | Average number of appearances per case | Standard Deviation |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Clarendon | 2.78 | 1.65 |
| Corporate Area-Civil Division | 1.86 | 1.92 |
| Portland | 5.98 | 5.95 |
| St. Ann | 3.46 | 4.62 |
| St. Catherine | 3.74 | 2.70 |
| St. James | 2.56 | 1.73 |
| St. Mary | 3.11 | 4.42 |
| St. Thomas | 4.82 | 6.73 |
| Trelawny | 2.88 | 2.53 |
| Westmoreland | 2.76 | 2.52 |
| Weighted Average | 2.91 | - |

The above summary specifically addresses the number of appearances per case for matters disposed of in the second quarter of 2023. The overall average observed is roughly 29 appearances for every 10 cases disposed, not dissimilar to the findings from the previous table which provided a descriptive summary of appearances for all cases disposed. The Corporate Area-Civil Division, St. James and Westmoreland Parish Courts were among those with the lowest incidence of appearance per disposed case in the quarter, while the parish courts of Portland, St. Thomas and St. Catherine were among the locations with the highest incidence.

Table 9.0: Critical performance summaries for the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2023

| Parish Court | Approximate number of new cases | Approximate number of Disposed cases and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter) | Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of year of origin) | Gross Disposal rate (%) | Gross Clearance rate (%) | Approximate trial date certainty rate (%) | Overall weighted average time to disposition (months) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| St. Thomas | 131 | 56 | 169 | 42.75 | 129.01 | 88.00 | 17.35 |
| Corporate Area-Civil | 1207 | 44 | 1756 | 4.27 | 145.48 | NA | 7.41 |
| St. Elizabeth | 326 | 110 | 272 | NA | NA | NA | - |
| Hanover | 109 | 103 | 212 | 94.50 | 194.50 | NA | - |
| Manchester | 252 | NA | 387 | NA | 153.53* | NA | - |
| Portland | 75 | 15 | 74 | 20.00 | 98.67 | 75.00 | 11.14 |
| St. Ann | 363 | 94 | 629 | 25.90 | 173.28 | 100.00 | 11.42 |
| St. Catherine | 706 | 83 | 1191 | 11.76 | 168.70 | 89.86 | 30.39 |
| St. Mary | 137 | 45 | 172 | NA | NA | 73.53 | 5.54 |
| Trelawny | 137 | 27 | 180 | 19.71 | 131.39 | 80.77 | 4.89 |
| St. James | 363 | 124 | 437 | 34.16 | 120.39 | 95.56 | 6.31 |
| Clarendon | 306 | 84 | 256 | 27.45 | 83.66 | 96.88 | 7.80 |
| Westmoreland | 193 | 56 | 239 | 29.02 | 123.83 | 100.00 | 4.23 |
| Total/Weighted Average | 4305 | 841 | 5974 | 20.37 | 138.77 | 91.42 | 18.12 |
| Skewness | 2.18 | -0.03 | 2.07 | 2.08 | 0.20 | -0.46 | 1.70 |
| Standard Deviation | 311.73 | 34.53 | 485.69 | 24.85 | 34.25 | 43.50 | 8.34 |

Note 1: Corporate Area Court-Civil division gross and net disposal rates were calculated using only new big claims filed in the quarter.

Note 2: The gross case disposal rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 35.59% and the net case disposal rate is 17.39%. Note 3: The gross case clearance rate for the Brown's Town outstation in St. Ann for the second quarter of 2023 is 196.61% and the net case clearance rate is 154.35%.

****Net case clearance rate.***

Conclusion

The Civil Division of the Parish Courts continue to be a shining representation of the accomplishments of the Jamaican court system over the past five years. Most of the parish courts now routinely register case clearance rates exceeding the 100% mark and the overall net case backlog rate in the civil division of the Parish Courts is a mere 1.37%, with all courts falling below the desired 5% mark. The civil division of the parish courts of Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Mary have the lowest net case backlog rates and can be statistically classified as backlog free courts. It is however important to note that the gross case backlog rate for the civil division of the parish courts is 13.03%, 3.03 percentage points above the maximum desired level. In this regard the most backlogged courts are the parish courts of St. Ann, Manchester and the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division, however some courts satisfy the standard of falling below the maximum desired 10% gross case clearance, including the Hanover, St. Catherine and Westmoreland Parish Courts which have the lowest rates. The Hanover Parish Court – Civil Division is the only Parish Court which has a gross case backlog rate of under 5%. The overall gross case clearance rate across all courts is 138.77%, led by the Hanover Parish Court with 194.50%, the St. Ann Parish Court with 173.28% and the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division with 145.48%. The civil division of the parish court further recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 91.42%, with all courts exceeding the 70% mark.

Overall, the direction of the civil division of the parish courts is extremely positive. Along with the criminal division of the parish courts, the civil division is a shining light in what having a data driven system of court operation in which the leadership of the courts are highly motivated and strategic can achieve.

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case clearance rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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.¹

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%. A distinction is sometimes made between the gross and net case disposal rates. The simple difference is that the net rate completely excludes inactive cases from its computation while the gross rate does not.

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 a 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.

Case backlog: A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition. The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years. The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

Percentile Rank: This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile.

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

Difference between percentage and percentile changes: The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

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.

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>

