



Parish Courts of Jamaica  
The Chief Justice's First Quarter Statistics  
Report for 2020 – Civil Matters

JANUARY TO MARCH

2020

Case Disposal Rate (%)	<b>43.55%</b>
Case Clearance Rate (%)	<b>107.55%</b>
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	<b>85.38%</b>
Average time to disposition	<b>7 months</b>

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## **Executive Summary**

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

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

Using an estimated 4652 new civil cases which were filed across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020, the Corporate Area Civil Court with 1221 or 26.25% accounted for the largest share of activity while the St. Catherine Parish Court with 919 or 19.75% ranks next, followed by the parish courts of St. Ann and Clarendon with 6.17% and 5.57% respectively. The parish courts of Portland and Hanover with 1.83% and 1.96% respectively of the estimated count accounts for the lowest shares. Big claims (\$50,000 - \$1Million in claim value) accounted for the largest share of new cases filed with an estimated 80.23% while small claims (under JMD\$50,000 in claim value) accounted for an estimated 19.70% of the new civil matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 and 0.07% were POCA matters. Among the most commonly occurring causes of action for civil cases filed across the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 were breach of contract, recovery of possession, negligence and rent owing. Males accounted for the largest proportion of the new cases filed, just ahead of females while registered companies and individuals trading under a business name round off the distribution, in that order.

The civil divisions of the parish courts experienced significant case delays due to various reasons for adjournment which impacted the progression of cases through the system, the rate of clearance and the average time taken to dispose of cases during the first quarter of 2020. Among the most common documented reasons for adjournment across the civil divisions of the parish courts in the first quarter of 2020 were the absenteeism of the defendant and absenteeism of the plaintiff individually as well as the collective absenteeism of both parties. Also featuring prominently were adjournments due to the reissuing of matters resulting from

non-service or short service of summonses. As far as case dispositions are concerned, matters disposed by being struck out, by oral admission, by default judgments and settlements featured most prominently across the courts.

In terms of vital statistical metrics of court performance, the overall estimated case clearance rate across the civil divisions of the parish courts was 107.55%, an indication that roughly 108 cases became disposed or inactive in the first quarter of 2020, for every 100 new cases filed. This rate satisfies the prescribed international standard of between 90%-110% per annum and is broadly comparable to the performance of the criminal division of the parish courts. The result is also roughly 17 percentage points higher than that of the figure as at the end of 2019, exceeding the 100% mark for the first time in recorded history. The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division was the top performer on this measurement for the first quarter of 2020 with a gross clearance rate of 192.30%, followed by the St. James Parish Court with 181.22% and the Portland Parish Court with 164.71%. As was the case in 2019, an impressive seven of the parish courts exceeded the 100% mark on this essential measurement. The civil courts performed much less impressive on the closely related measurement of the case disposal rate, which registered a weighted average rate of 43.55%, a significant decline when compared to the results for 2019. The wide spread between the case clearance and case disposal rates is an indication that civil cases may have a much lower likelihood of being disposed in the same quarter that they are filed. The Hanover Parish Court with an estimated gross case disposal rate of 80.22% ranked highest on this measure followed by the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division with a gross disposal rate of 72.32%.

Two other important indicators of performance which are presented in this annual report are the trial date certainty rate and the estimated average time taken to dispose of cases in 2019. The overall estimated average trial date certainty rate across the civil division of the parish courts was 85.38%, which though below the international standard of over 92%, shows good potential. This figure is 5.98 percentage points higher than the trial date certainty rate recorded in 2019 for the civil courts. The overall time taken to dispose of civil matters resolved in 2019 was roughly 7 months and there was a modest variance in the data points across the parish courts.

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

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

Parish Court	Gross case disposal rates (%)	Gross case clearance rates (%)	Trial date certainty rate (%)	Estimated average time taken to dispose of cases in the first quarter of 2020 (days)
Westmoreland	55.06	-	90.48	39.96
St. Catherine	30.47	59.41	92.71	459.13
Corporate Area- Civil	72.32	192.30	90.12	216.80
Trelawny	23.67	84.02	80.00	214.53
St. Ann	27.87	113.94	80.85	226.11
St. Mary	33.85	122.56	58.33	269.15
St. James	37.55	181.22	90.91	115.34
Hanover	80.22	136.26	66.67	100.32
Portland	34.12	164.71	84	229.61
St. Elizabeth	11.65	60.00	91.94	121.64
St. Thomas	23.71	89.18	75	222.66
Manchester	-	114.00	-	-
Clarendon	-	81.47	-	-
Weighted Averages	43.55	107.55	85.38	201.39

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

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

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

## **Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica**

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 4 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample case files in all parish courts and the Divisions of the Supreme Court on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and crosschecked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

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

## **Introduction**

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

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

## **The Corporate Area Court – Civil Division**

### **Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary**

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents sampling distributions and point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	338	27.68
Disposed	233	19.08
Inactive	650	53.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 1221 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 338 or 31.42% were still active, 233 were disposed and 650 were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 72.32% for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	1217	86.19
Small Claim	193	13.67
POCA	2	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1412 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the first quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of which 1217 or 86.19% were big claims, while 193 or 13.67% were small claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters account for 0.14% of the sample of claims filed.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	334	77.31
Bailiff	74	17.13
District Constable	24	5.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>100</b>

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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 334 or 77.31% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 74 or 17.13% and service by the district constable accounted for 24 or 5.56% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of contract	423	31.38
Recovery of Possession	196	14.54
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	127	9.42
Negligence	112	8.31
Rent Owing and Continuing	79	5.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>69.51</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 1348**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 423 or roughly 31.38% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 196 or 14.54% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 127 or 9.42% round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with negligence with 112 or 8.31% and rent owing and continuing with 79 or 5.86% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 69.51% of all the total sample of 1348 causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	633	42.77
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	611	41.28
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	183	12.36
Night Court (main courthouse)	52	3.51
OA - Gordon Town	1	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>1480*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 1292 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 1480 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 633 or 42.77% of the sample. However, 27 of the sample of matters that entered courtroom 1 initially, changed during the quarter to another courtroom. Courtroom 2 had 611 matters entered or 41.28% of the sample. However, 26 matters that entered courtroom 2 initially, changed during the quarter to another courtroom. Courtroom 4 had 183 matters or 12.36% of the sample. Of the 183 matters entered, 10 changed from courtroom 4 to another courtroom during the quarter. The night court had 52 matters entered or 3.51% of the sample and the outstation at Gordon Town accounted for 1 matter.

#### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	586	41.62
Female	510	36.22
Registered Company	293	20.81

Trading As	19	1.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>1408</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 1408 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 586 or 41.62%, followed by females with 510 or 36.22%. Registered companies accounted for 293 or 20.81% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 19 or 1.35%, accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	711	51.30
Female	574	41.41
Registered Company	81	5.84
Trading As	20	1.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 1386 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 711 or 51.30% of the sample, followed by females with 574 or 41.41%. Registered companies accounted for 81 or 5.84% of the total, while individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') accounted for the remaining 1.44% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to

enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which 15 were completed in the quarter as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	818	41.80
Default Date	443	22.64
Trial	381	19.47
Part-Heard Date	146	7.46
Hearing of Application	73	3.73
Judgment Date	54	2.76
Date for Order	42	2.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 1957 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 818 or 41.80% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 443 or 22.64%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial with 381 or 19.47% of matters. It is of note that 146 or 7.46% 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 for mention and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This result is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 9.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	369	24.36
Placed on Trial List	231	15.25
Defendant Absent	138	9.11
Both Parties Absent	136	8.98
Hearing of Application	26	1.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>59.41</b>

**(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1515)**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1515 incidence of adjournments in the first quarter of 2020. No return/re-issued with 369 or 24.36% of the sample, adjournments for placement on trial list with 231 or 15.25% and adjournments the absence of defendants with 138 or 9.11% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 136 or 8.98% of the sample and adjournments due hearing of applications with 26 or 1.72% rounds off the list. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above account for 59.41% of all the total sample of reasons for adjournments and continuances.

**Table 9.0b: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for continuance for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention	247	16.30
Part Heard	49	3.23
For Judgment	8	0.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>20.07</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 1515)

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for ‘continuance.’ As seen in the above table, adjournments for mention and part heard matters featured most prominently among such reasons. Continuances for mention in particular, accounted for 16.30% of the total incidence of adjournments/continuance sampled.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Measure	Frequency
Overall incident	129
Average incident	1.23

**Corresponding to 105 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 129 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 105 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.23 reissues per

case file for new claims filed in the quarter. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 12 reissued incidences.

**Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	363	28.56
Struck Out	248	19.51
Default judgment	196	15.42
Settlement	122	9.60
Withdrawal	119	9.36
<b>Total</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>82.45</b>

**NB there were 1271 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

A total of 1271 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 1048 or 82.45% of the total. The list is led by matters disposed of by consent with 363 or 28.56% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 248 or 19.51% and default judgments with 196 or 15.42%. Matters disposed by settlements and withdrawals round off the top five methods with 122 or 9.60% and 119 or 9.36% respectively of the total dispositions.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	182	93.33
Settlement	13	6.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 182 or 93.33% of the sample of matters, account for the larger proportion, while settlements with 13 or 6.67% 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 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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 disposal rate (%)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)
1221	883	2348	72.32	192.30

The above table shows 1221 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 233 of these cases were disposed, and 650 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 72.32%. A gross figure of 1285 cases was disposed, and 1063 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 192.30%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 40.81% and the net clearance rate is 225.04%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these

metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
253	25	90.12

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 253 trial dates set in the first quarter revealed that 25 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 90.12%. This is within the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100% but is above the court-wide average however the margin of error of the estimate is plus or 5%, potentially taking the rate below the international benchmark.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	889
Mean	216.7987
Std. Error of Mean	9.77551
Median	95.0000
Mode	745.00
Std. Deviation	291.46765
Skewness	2.524
Std. Error of Skewness	.082
Range	1633.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	1637.00

The above table outlines summary data on 889 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 217 days or 7.23 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 745 days or 2.07 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 291 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores, while the relatively high positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 1637 days or roughly 4.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 4 days.

**Table 15.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	71
Mean	11.4930
Std. Error of Mean	2.18674
Std. Deviation	18.42582
Skewness	1.380
Std. Error of Skewness	.285

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 71 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 11 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a wide variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores fell below the overall average. A sample of 414 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 36 days.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1303
Mean	323.5165
Std. Error of Mean	11.07381
Median	159.0000
Mode	82.00
Std. Deviation	399.73244
Skewness	2.780
Std. Error of Skewness	.068
Range	3948.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	3952.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1303 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 324 days or roughly 11 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 82 days. The standard deviation of roughly 400 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 3952 days old or roughly 11 years, while the minimum time taken is just 4 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters in a reissued state as at first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	98
Mean	33.2347
Std. Error of Mean	2.35319
Median	25.0000
Mode	19.00
Std. Deviation	23.29541
Skewness	1.040
Std. Error of Skewness	.244

Range	83.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	88.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 98 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 33 days, while the most frequently occurring age being 19 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages fell below the average. The highest age in the data set was 88 days and the lowest was 5 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (RIA) which are classified as inactive cases.

**Table 17.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)</b>	<b>Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)</b>	<b>Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day</b>
<b>Corporate Area Court-Civil Division</b>	74.71	131.67	7.00	30.97	64.82	1.05

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the first quarter of 2020. The courtroom utilization rate provides a measurement of the proportion of available hours for open court hearings in all courtroom (including outstations) which are utilized. If the usage of any courtroom exceeds the available hours, then the utilization rate will

exceed 100% and the rate will fall below 100% if less than the available hours are utilized. The prescribed international standard for the courtroom utilization rate is 100%, which means that all hours allocating for court hearings in any court, on any given day should be utilized. The overall average courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Civil Court in the quarter was 74.71%, which is an indication that on average roughly 75% of the available hours for court hearings in the first quarter of 2020 were utilized. The standard deviation of the courtroom utilization rates is moderate, suggesting that on average the rates did not vary widely from the overall mean. The data also isolates the courtroom utilization rate for Night Courts. An important part of the designation of Night Courts is to bolster the capacity of the courts to hear and dispose more cases in a timely manner. At an overall courtroom utilization rate of 64.82%, the Night Courts use 9.89 percentage points less of the available time than regular day court.

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

## Hanover Parish Court-Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	18	19.78
Disposed	29	31.87
Inactive	44	48.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Reactivated cases= 5**

The above table presents a status distribution of 91 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 18 cases or 19.78% of these cases were still active, while 29 were disposed and 44 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 80.22%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	88	87.13
Small Claim	13	12.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 101 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 88 or 87.13% were big claims, while 13 or 12.87% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	15	65.22
District Constable	8	34.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 higher proportion with 15 or 65.22% of the sample, with personal service accounting for the remaining 8 or 34.78% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	26	57.78
Recovery of Possession	12	26.67
Damages for Negligence	4	8.89
Money Owing	2	4.44
Defamation of Character	1	2.22

<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>
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A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter at the Hanover Parish Court was breach of contract with 26 or roughly 57.78% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 12 or 26.67% and damages for negligence with 4 or 8.89% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The list is rounded off by monies owing with 4.44% and defamation of character with 2.22% of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	45	44.55
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	32	31.68
Sandy Bay #1	14	13.86
Ramble #1	6	5.94
Green Island #1	4	3.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>101*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 91 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 101 new matters filed in the first quarter were entered in courtroom number 1 at the main court, which accounted for 45 or 44.55% of the total. 32 or 31.68% of the cases filed were entered at courtroom number 2 at the main court, while courtroom number one at the Sandy Bay outstation accounted for 14 or 13.86% of the cases heard. The courtrooms at the outstations located at Green Island and Ramble collectively accounted for the remaining 9.90% of cases heard.

## Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	46	45.54
Trading As	28	27.72
Female	27	26.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 101 plaintiffs in the first quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court, 46 or 45.54% were males and individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') accounted for 28 or 27.72%. Females with 27 or 26.73% of the sample round off the list.

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	57	56.44
Female	42	41.58
Registered Company	2	1.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 101 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 57 or 56.44% of the sample, followed by females with 42 or 41.58%, while registered companies accounted for the remaining 1.98%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

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

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	33	71.74
Part-Heard Date	4	8.70
Trial	4	8.70
Default Judgment Date	3	6.52
Final Judgment Date	2	4.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table shows a sample of 46 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 33 or 84.62%, were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date and for a trial date accounted for 4 or 8.70% each of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date and a final judgment date with 6.52% and 4.35% respectively. This data decisively suggests

that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 9.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	34	72.34
Both Parties Absent	9	19.15
Defendant Absent	2	4.26
Plaintiff Absent	2	4.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 47 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue with 34 or 72.34% of the sample and adjournments for the absenteeism of both parties with 9 or 19.15% account for the two largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for the absenteeism of defendants and plaintiffs with 4.26% each round off the sample of reasons for adjournments during the quarter.

**Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	24	30.00
Consent	17	21.25
Settlement	9	11.25
Default judgment	8	10.00
Final Judgment	8	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>82.50</b>

***NB: There were 80 matters disposed for the first quarter of 2020***

A total of 80 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 66 or

82.50% of the total. The list is led by matters disposed by oral admission with 24 or 30% of the disposals, followed by disposals by consent with 17 or 21.25% and settlements with 9 or 11.25%. Default judgments and final judgments with 10% each round off the list.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	14	82.35
Settlement	3	17.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 14 or 82.35% of the sample of matters account for the larger proportion, while settlements account for the remaining 17.65%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance metrics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
91	73	124	136.26	80.22

The above table shows 91 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 29 of these cases were disposed and 44 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 80.22%. An approximate gross figure of

81 cases was disposed, and 43 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 136.26%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 61.70%, and net clearance rate is 172.34%.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio(%)
12	4	66.67

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 12 trial dates were set in the first quarter shows that 4 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 66.67%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 67% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of cases for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	47
Mean	100.3191
Std. Error of Mean	27.05299
Median	36.0000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	185.46594
Skewness	3.327
Std. Error of Skewness	.347
Range	854.00
Minimum	1.00

Maximum	855.00
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<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines sample data on 47 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 100 days or 3.3 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 185 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness suggests that most of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 855 days or roughly 2.4 years, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	84
Mean	694.2976
Std. Error of Mean	97.43569
Median	419.5000
Mode	29.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	893.01281
Skewness	2.659
Std. Error of Skewness	.263
Range	4045.00
Minimum	29.00
Maximum	4074.00

<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 694 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 29 days. The standard deviation of roughly 893 days suggests that

there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4074 days old or 11.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 29 days.

## St. James Parish Court

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	153	62.45
Disposed	11	4.49
Inactive	81	33.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 245 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 153 cases or 62.45% of these cases were still active, while 11 were disposed and 81 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 37.55%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	211	70.81
Small Claim	87	29.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 298 new claims filed at the St. James Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 211 or 70.81% were big claims, while 87 or 29.19% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	57	11.95
Breach of Contract	26	5.45
Monies Owing	23	4.82
Rent Owing and Continuing	22	4.61
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	17	3.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>30.40</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action = 477**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action for the first quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court is recovery of possession with 57 or 11.95%, breach of contract with 26 or 5.45% of the sample and monies owing with 23 or 4.82%, rounding off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. This list is completed by rent owing and continuing with 22 or 4.61% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 17 or 3.56% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 30.40% of all the total sample of 477 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	476	99.79
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>477*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 245 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 477 new matters filed in the first quarter was entered in courtroom number 4, which accounted for 476 or 99.79% of the total. Courtroom number 2 accounted for the remaining 0.21%.

#### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Registered Company	175	36.84
Male	167	35.16
Female	133	28.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 475 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court, registered companies accounted for the largest proportion with 175 or 36.84%, followed by males with 167 or 35.16%. Females accounted for the remaining 133 or 28% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	280	58.82
Female	174	36.55
Registered Company	22	4.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were 476 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in first quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 280 or 58.82% of the sample, followed by females with 174 or 36.55%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 4.62% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	141	44.90
Default Date	99	31.53
Trial	67	21.34
Part-Heard Date	7	2.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 314 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 141 or 44.90% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 99 or 31.53%, which were adjourned for default judgements dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 67 or 21.34% of matters, which were adjourned for trial. It is of note that 7 or 2.23% 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 for mention and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	84	25.69
Both Parties Absent	75	22.94
Placed on Trial List	41	12.54
Referred to Mediation	16	4.89
Parties in Discussion	13	3.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>70.03</b>

**Number of adjournments sampled (N) = 327**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 327 incidences of adjournments heard in the first quarter of 2020. The absence of defendants with 84 or 25.69% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 75 or 22.94% and adjournments for placement on trial list with 41 or 12.54% round off the top 3 reasons for adjournment in the sampling distribution for the quarter. Matters referred to mediation and parties in discussion with 4.89% and 3.98% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment listed above account for 70.03% of the total sample of adjournments for the quarter.

**Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Final Judgment	142	63.39
Struck Out	48	21.43
Consent	19	8.48
Default Judgment	5	2.23
Settlement	5	2.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>97.77</b>

**NB: There were 224 matters disposed for the quarter of 2020**

Using a sample of 224 civil matters which were disposed at the St. James Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020, the above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 219 or 97.77% of the sample. The list is led by matters disposed by final judgments with 142 or 63.39% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 48 or 21.43% and disposals by consent with 19 or 8.48%. Matters disposed by default judgments and settlements round off the top five methods with 2.23% each of the total dispositions.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
245	92	444	181.22	37.55

The above table shows 245 new cases filed at the St. James Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 11 of these cases were disposed, and 81 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 37.55%. A gross figure of 235 cases was disposed, and 209 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of

origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 181.22%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 6.71% and the net clearance rate is 143.29%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
33	3	90.91

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without date adjournments. A sample of 33 trial dates was set in the first quarter of which 3 were adjourned. This results in an estimated trial date certainty rate of 90.91%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was an approximate 91% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 12.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	149
Mean	115.34
Std. Error of Mean	6.713
Median	108.00
Mode	34
Std. Deviation	81.938
Skewness	1.262
Std. Error of Skewness	.199
Range	418
Minimum	3
Maximum	421

The above table outlines summary data on 149 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 115 days or 3.8 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 34 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there is some 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 year was 421 days or roughly 1.2 years, while the minimum time taken was just 3 days.

**Table 12.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	35
Mean	45.2857
Std. Error of Mean	8.11157
Median	45.0000
Std. Deviation	47.98871
Skewness	1.168
Std. Error of Skewness	.398
Range	179.00
Maximum	179.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 35 matters at the St. James Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 45 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a wide variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores fell below the overall average. There were 35 reissued matters

in an inactive state at the end of the quarter with the average age of those matters being approximately 37.89 days.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	797
Mean	229.6826
Std. Error of Mean	4.57391
Median	256.0000
Mode	365.00
Std. Deviation	129.12686
Skewness	-.364
Std. Error of Skewness	.087
Range	439.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	450.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 230 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 365 days. The standard deviation of roughly 130 days suggests that there only a small dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The negative skewness seen is an indication that there were only a few scores in the data set, which are above the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 450 days old or roughly 1.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 11 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	27
Mean	27.74
Std. Error of Mean	2.403
Median	29.00
Mode	29
Std. Deviation	12.489
Skewness	2.033
Std. Error of Skewness	.448
Range	63
Minimum	11
Maximum	74

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 27 active reissued matters at the St. James Parish Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 28 days, while the most frequently occurring age being 29 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages fell below the series average. The highest age in the data set was 74 days and the lowest was 11 days.

## **Trelawny Parish Court –Civil Division**

### **Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary**

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	129	76.33
Disposed	16	9.47
Inactive	24	14.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 169 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 129 or 76.33% of these cases were active, 16 or 9.47% were inactive and 24 or 14.20% were inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces a gross case disposal rate of 23.67%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency
Claims Filed	180

The above table shows that from the 180 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	29	16.38
Money Owing	27	15.25
Arrears of Rent	19	10.73
Breach of Contract	9	5.08
Money Borrowed As loan	9	5.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>52.52</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action=177**

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 29 or 16.38% and monies owing with 27 or 15.25%. Arrears of rent with 19 or 10.73%, breach of contract and money borrowed as loan with 5.08% each of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 52.52% of all the total sample of 177 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth	63	35.00
Falmouth (Night Court)	55	30.56
Ulster Spring	36	20.00
Clarks Town #1	22	12.22
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	4	2.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>180*</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 169 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 180 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in the Falmouth outstation, which accounted for 63 or 35% of the total. 55 or 30.56% that were entered at the night court sittings in Falmouth followed this, while court sittings in the Ulcer Spring outstation ranked next with 36 is 20%. Courtroom number 1 at the Clarks Town outstation accounted for 22 or 12.22% and courtroom number 1 in Duncans accounted for 4 or 2.22% of the sample.

### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	81	50.31
Male	79	49.07
Registered Company	1	0.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 161 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, females accounted for the largest proportion with 81 or 50.31%, followed by males with 79 or 49.07%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 0.62% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	133	75.14
Female	44	24.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were 177 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 133 or 75.14% of the sample, followed by females with 44 or 24.86%.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	87	60.42
Default Date	25	17.36
Trial	17	11.81
Part-Heard Date	14	9.72
Hearing of Application	1	0.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 144 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 87 or 60.42% were adjourned for mention

dates, followed by 25 or 17.36%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates accounted for 17 or 11.81% and matters adjourned for part heard dates accounted for 14 or 9.72% of the sample. 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 other case types.

**Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	30	15.00
Defendant Absent	26	13.00
Both Parties Absent	24	12.00
Placed on Trial List	16	8.00
Plaintiff Absent	9	4.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>52.50</b>

**Number of adjournments (N) =200**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 200 incidence of adjournments/continuance heard in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to no return/re-issued with 30 or 15% and defendant being absent with 26 or 13% feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for both parties being absent with 24 or 12% and adjournments for placement on trial list with 16 or 8% ranks next. The list is completed by adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 9 or 4.50% of the total. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above, account for 52.50% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	42	58.33
Settlement	8	11.11
Withdrawal	7	9.72
Consent	5	6.94
Default judgment	4	5.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>91.66</b>

**NB: There were 72 matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

This table is computed using a sample of 72 civil matters, which were disposed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. The list is led by matters struck out with 42 or 58.33% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 8 or 11.11% and withdrawals with 7 or 9.72% of the sample. The top five methods of disposal are completed by disposals by consent with 5 or 6.94% and matters disposed by default judgments with 4 or 5.56%. The top five methods of disposition listed above, account for 91.66% of the total sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	19	95.0
Judgment for Ancillary Plaintiff	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, using a sample of 20 cases on which judgments were handed down. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 95% of the sample of matters account for the larger proportion, while judgment for ancillary plaintiff with 1 or 5% account for the remaining proportion.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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 (%)
169	40	142	84.02	23.67

The above table shows 169 new cases were filed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 16 of these cases were disposed and 24 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 23.67%. An approximate gross figure of 64 cases was disposed, and 78 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 84.02%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.03% and the net clearance rate is 44.14%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
15	3	80%

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 15 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that three were adjourned. This results in an overall

estimated trial date certainty rate of 80% which suggests that during the quarter, there was an 80% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	40
Mean	214.5250
Std. Error of Mean	34.65280
Median	128.0000
Mode	35.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	219.16356
Skewness	1.161
Std. Error of Skewness	.374
Range	693.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	700.00

<sup>a</sup>Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table is computed using a sample of 40 matters disposed. The average time taken to dispose of these cases is roughly 215 days or 7.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 35 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of roughly 219 days is an indication that there is wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness is an indication that more of the times to disposition fell below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 700 days or roughly 1.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	224
Mean	162.5313
Std. Error of Mean	12.43120
Median	63.5000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	186.05322
Skewness	1.574
Std. Error of Skewness	.163
Range	778.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	784.00

The above data is computed using 224 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 162 days (5.4 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 186 suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 784 days (2.2 years old), while the youngest 6 days.

## St. Ann Parish Court

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	207	72.13
Disposed	14	4.88
Inactive	66	23.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 287 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 207 cases or 72.13% of these cases were still active, while 14 were disposed and 66 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated disposal rate of 27.87%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	319	83.51
Small Claim	63	16.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from 382 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which were big claims with 319 or 83.51%, while 63 or 16.49% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	178	53.78
Money owing	21	6.34
Recovery of possession	19	5.74
Damages for Negligence	15	4.53
Negligence and Damages	14	4.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>74.62</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) =331**

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 331 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the first quarter of 2020 were breach of contract with 178 or roughly 53.78% of the sample and money owing with 21 or 6.34%. Recovery of possession with 19 or 5.74%, damages for negligence with 15 or 4.53% and negligence and damages with 14 or 4.23% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 74.62% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	377	98.69
Claremont Outstation	5	1.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>382*</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 287 cases**

The larger proportion of a sample of 382 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse, accounting for 377 or 98.69% of the total. 5 or 1.31% that were entered in the outstation at Claremont account for the remaining proportion.

### Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended Mar 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	147	38.68
Female	117	30.79
Registered Company	111	29.21
Trading As	5	1.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100.0</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 380 new matters filed in the first quarter, males accounted for the largest proportion with 147 or 38.68%, followed by females with 117 or 30.79% and registered companies with 111 or 29.21% of the total. Individuals trading under a business name ("trading as") with 5 or 1.32% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	239	62.89
Female	107	28.16
Registered Company	31	8.16
Trading As	3	0.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100.0</b>

There were 380 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 239 or 62.89% of the total, followed by females with 107 or 28.16%. Registered companies accounted for 31 or 8.16% of the total, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 3 or 0.79% of the total sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	353	50.50
Default Date	173	24.75
Trial	130	18.60
Part-Heard Date	40	5.72
Hearing of Application	3	0.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 699 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part 50.50%

were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 173 or 24.75%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 130 or 18.60% of matters, which were adjourned for Trial. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 40 or 5.72% of the total, while hearing of applications accounted for the remaining 0.43%. 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 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for Adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	181	21.07
No Return/Re-Issued	158	18.39
Placed on Trial List	117	13.62
Pending Settlement	72	8.38
Both Parties Absent	49	5.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>67.17</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 859)

The above table details a sample of 859 reasons for adjournment in the first quarter of 2020, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 181 or 21.07% of the total, no return/re-issued matters with 158 or 18.39% and adjournments due to placement on trial list with 117 or 13.62% rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments for pending settlements with 72 or 8.38% and the absence of both parties with 49 or 5.70% of the sample. These leading reasons for adjournment listed account for 67.17% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended Mar.31, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	91	31.06
Settlement	74	25.26
Default Judgment	42	14.33
Oral Admission	28	9.56
Consent	24	8.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>88.40</b>

**NB: There were 293 matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

A sample of 293 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2020 revealed that 91 or 31.06% were struck out, 74 or 25.26% were disposed by settlements and 42 or 14.33% by default judgments. Oral admissions with 28 or 9.56% and disposals by consent with 24 or 8.19% round off the top five methods of disposition in the quarter. The methods listed above account for 88.40% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the first quarter of 2020.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of cases disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate gross case Clearance Rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
287	80	327	113.94	27.87

The above table shows 287 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 14 cases of these cases were disposed and 66 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 27.87%. An approximate gross figure of 175 cases was disposed, and 152 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 113.94%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 6.33% and the net clearance rate is 79.19%. %. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
45	7	80.85

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 45 trial dates set in the quarter of which seven were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 80.85%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was an 80.85% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 12.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of adjournments	199
Mean	226.1106
Std. Error of Mean	22.44765
Median	126.0000
Mode	366.00
Std. Deviation	316.66307
Skewness	4.442
Std. Error of Skewness	.172
Range	2254.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	2256.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 199 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 226 days or 7.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 366 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 317 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the high positive skewness suggests that there were markedly more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2256 days or roughly 6.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 2 days.

**Table 12.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	28
Mean	117.96
Std. Error of Mean	22.536
Median	91.00
Std. Deviation	119.252
Skewness	.960
Std. Error of Skewness	.441
Range	431
Maximum	431

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 28 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 118 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a wide variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores fell below the overall average. The Average age of reissued matters which are currently in an inactive state is 254.97 days.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	780
Mean	266.3628
Std. Error of Mean	9.15695
Median	203.0000
Mode	6.00
Std. Deviation	255.73979
Skewness	2.306
Std. Error of Skewness	.088
Range	1863.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	1868.00

The above data is based on sample of 780 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 266 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 6 days. The standard deviation of roughly 256 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores around the average, while the large positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 1868 days old or roughly 5.2 years while the minimum time taken is 5 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	24
Mean	198.2083
Std. Error of Mean	19.35041
Median	194.0000
Mode	175.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	94.79726
Skewness	.061

Std. Error of Skewness	.472
Range	364.00
Minimum	40.00
Maximum	404.00

Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown<sub>a</sub>

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 24 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 198 days with the most frequently occurring age being 175 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the small positive skewness indicating that some of the ages fell below the average. The highest age in the data set was 404 days and the lowest was 40 days.

## St. Catherine Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	639	69.53
Disposed	82	8.92
Inactive	198	21.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 919 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 639 cases or 69.53% of these cases were still active, while 82 were disposed and 198 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 30.47%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	943	86.04
Small Claim	152	13.87
POCA	1	0.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 1096 claims filed in the first quarter of 2020, 943 or 86.04% were big claims, 152 or 13.87% were small claims and 1 was Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claim.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	136	48.57
Bailiff	102	36.43
District Constable	42	15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 136 or 48.57% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 102 or 36.43% and service by the district constable accounted for 42 or 15% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	389	36.25
Damages for negligence	328	30.57
Recovery of possession under section 89	140	13.05
Rent owing and continuing	80	7.46
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	52	4.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>92.17</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action=1073**

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 1073 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during first quarter of 2020. The leading cause of action shown in this sample were

breach of a contract with 389 or roughly 36.25% of the total, damages for negligence with 328 or 30.57% and recovery of possession under section 89 with 140 or 13.05%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 80 or 7.46% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 52 or 4.85%. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 92.17% of all the causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	827	75.46
Linstead Courtroom #1	174	15.88
Old Harbour Courtroom #1	95	8.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>1096*</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 919 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 1096 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 827 or 75.46% of the total. 174 or 15.88% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this. Courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for the remaining 95 or 8.67% of the claims.

### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	597	54.47
Female	411	37.50
Registered company	88	8.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>100</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020, males accounted for the largest proportion with 597 or 54.47%, followed by females with 411 or 37.50% and registered companies with 88 or 8.03%.

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	664	60.97
Female	376	34.53
Registered Company	49	4.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1089</b>	<b>100</b>

There were 1089 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 664 or 60.97% of the total, followed by females with 376 or 34.53%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 49 or 4.50% of the total sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	374	46.52
Part-Heard Date	106	13.18
Default Judgment Date	95	11.82
Final Judgment Date	19	2.36
Hearing of Application	18	2.24
<b>Trial</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>23.88</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 192 matters that went to court during the first quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 374 or 46.52% were adjourned for a mention date and 106 or 13.18% were adjourned for a part-heard date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 95 or 11.82% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Final judgment date and hearing of application accounted for 2.36% and 2.24% respectively of the list.

**Table 9.0a Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	80	10.88
Both Parties Absent	75	10.20
Defendant Absent	69	9.39
Pending Settlement	56	7.62
Plaintiff Absent	13	1.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>39.86</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 735)

The above table details a sample of 735 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Placement on the trial list with 80 or

10.88% of the total, adjournments for both parties being absent with 75 or 10.20% and adjournments for defendants being absent with 69 or 9.39% and pending settlements with 56 or 7.62% round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs with 1.77% complete the list. The top 5 reasons for adjournment account for 39.86% of the total sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Measure	Frequency
Overall incident	17
Average incident	1.31

**Corresponding 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 17 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 13 cases, which were reissued. This results in an average of 1.36 reissues per case file for new claims filed in the quarter. This suggests that every 10 cases reissued had roughly 13 reissued incidences.

**Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	80	20.36
Settlement	78	19.85
Default judgment	64	16.28
Consent	58	14.76
Withdrawal	32	8.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>79.39</b>

**NB: There were 393 matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 393 matters disposed during the first quarter of 2020. The list is led by matters struck out with 80 or 20.36% of the disposals, followed by settlements with 78 or 19.85%, default judgments with 64 or 16.287% and disposals by consent with 58 or 14.76%. Withdrawals account for 32 or 8.14% of the sample. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 79.39% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	57	89.06
Settlement	7	10.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes using a sample of 57 matters in the first quarter of 2020. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 57 or 89.06% of the total, accounts for the larger proportion, while settlements with 7 or 10.94% rank next. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
919	280	546	59.41	30.47

The above table shows 919 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 82 of these cases were disposed and 198 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 30.47%. An approximate gross figure of 311 cases was disposed and 235 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 59.41%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 11.37%, while the net clearance is 43.13%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of trial dates Adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
96	7	92.71

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 96 combined trial dates were set in the quarter, revealed that 7 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 92.71% which suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	279
Mean	459.1254
Std. Error of Mean	28.02444
Median	264.0000
Mode	162.00
Std. Deviation	468.10044
Skewness	1.658
Std. Error of Skewness	.146
Range	2081.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	2092.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 279 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 459 days or 15.30 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 162 days. There is a relatively high standard deviation of 468, which is an indication that there is a wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that a large proportion of the scores that fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2092 days or roughly 5.73 years old, while the youngest was 11 days.

**Table 15.0b Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of observations	46
Mean	120.11
Std. Error of Mean	12.084
Median	126.00
Std. Deviation	81.960
Skewness	.659
Std. Error of Skewness	.350

Range	355
Maximum	355

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 46 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 120 days. The standard deviation is an indication that there was some variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most of the scores fell below the overall average. The highest time taken was 355 days with the lowest being less than a day.

**Table 16.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	966
Mean	619.4369
Std. Error of Mean	18.83741
Median	393.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	585.47687
Skewness	1.244
Std. Error of Skewness	.079
Range	4392.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	4396.00

The above data is based on a sample of 966 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 619 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 14 days. The standard deviation of roughly 585 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of

the active cases. The oldest active matter was 4396 days old or roughly 12.2 years, while the minimum time taken is just 4 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of observations	35
Mean	232.17
Std. Error of Mean	15.937
Median	213.00
Mode	178
Std. Deviation	94.285
Skewness	2.660
Std. Error of Skewness	.398
Range	522
Minimum	130
Maximum	652

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 35 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Court as at the end of the first quarter ended March 31, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 232 days, while the most frequently occurring age being 178 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the data points fell below the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set was 652 days and the lowest was 130 days.

## Portland Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	56	65.88
Disposed	18	21.18
Inactive	11	12.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 85 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 56 or 65.88% were still active, 18 or 21.18% were disposed and 11 or 12.94% were inactive. This data suggests that the estimated gross case disposal rate for the quarter was 34.12%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	78	75.00
Small Claim	26	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 104 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion of which 78 or 75% were big claims, while 26 or 25% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Causes of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	72	71.29
Recovery of Possession	10	9.90
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	5	4.95
Negligence	4	3.96
Monies Owing	3	2.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>93.07</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action =101**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 101 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were breach of contract with 72 or roughly 71.29% of the total, recovery of possession with 10 or 9.90% and breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) with 5 or 4.95%. Negligence and monies owing round off the top five causes of action for the year with 3.96% and 2.97% respectively. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 93.07% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	19	38.00
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	13	26.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	12	24.00
Buff Bay courtroom #1	4	8.00
Manchioneal	2	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>50*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 41 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 50 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1, which accounted for 19 or 38% of the total. 13 or 26% that were entered

in courtroom number 2 followed this, while the 12 matters or 24% entered in courtroom number 3 rounds off the top three in the distribution over the year.

### Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	35	33.65
Female	29	27.88
Registered Company	28	26.92
Trading As	12	11.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 104 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020, males accounted for the largest proportion with 35 or 33.65%, followed by females with 29 or 27.88% and registered companies with 28 or 26.92%. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading as”) accounted for the smallest proportion with 12 with 11.54% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	61	58.65
Female	43	41.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 104 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the quarter. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 61 or 58.65% of the sample, followed by females with 43 or 41.35%.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	169	50.15
Trial	130	38.58
Part-Heard Date	16	4.75
Default Date	15	4.45
Date for Order	4	1.19
Hearing of Application	2	0.59
Judgment Date	1	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 337 matters that were heard during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020 which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 169 or 50.15% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 130 or 38.58%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for part heard dates with 16 or 4.75% accounted for the third largest proportion. This data

provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the first quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	41	14.04
To File Notice	41	14.04
Defendant Absent	30	10.27
Plaintiff Absent	20	6.85
No Return/Re-Issued	19	6.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>51.71</b>

**Number of observations (N) =292**

The above data is computed from a sample of 292 reasons for adjournment heard in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties and to file notice with 41 or 14.04% each account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by the absence of defendants with 30 or 10.27%. The absence of plaintiffs with 20 or 6.85% account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by matters adjourned for reissue with 19 or 6.51% of the sample. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 51.71% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments.

**Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	23	28.75
Notice of Discontinuance	11	13.75
Oral Admission	10	12.50
Final Judgment	9	11.25
Settlement	7	8.75
Withdrawal	7	8.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>84</b>

**NB: There were 80 matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

A total of 80 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. The distribution is led by dispositions by consent with 23 or 28.75%, followed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 11 or 13.75% and oral admissions with 10 or 12.50%. Matters disposed by final judgements with 9 or 11.25% and matters struck out and withdrawals with 8.75% each complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
85	29	140	164.71	34.12

The above table shows 85 new cases were filed at the Portland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 18 of these cases were disposed and 11 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 34.12%. An approximate gross figure of 120 cases was disposed, and 20 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 164.71%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 24.32% and the net clearance rate is 162.16%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
25	4	84

Another important performance metric is the trial date certainty which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 25 trial dates set in the quarter revealed that 4 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 84%. This suggests that during the year there was a roughly 84% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	74
Mean	229.61
Std. Error of Mean	32.692
Median	93.50
Mode	63
Std. Deviation	281.230
Skewness	1.996
Std. Error of Skewness	.279
Range	1393
Minimum	7
Maximum	1400

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 74 civil matters disposed in first quarter of 2020 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 230 days (7.7 months). However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was

63 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 281 days, is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores. The positive skewness observed is an indication that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fall below the overall mean. The oldest matter disposed in the year was 1400 days or roughly 3.9 years old, while the youngest was 7 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	456
Mean	727.5921
Std. Error of Mean	33.57557
Median	547.0000
Mode	1177.00
Std. Deviation	716.97797
Skewness	1.865
Std. Error of Skewness	.114
Range	4251.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	4257.00

The above data is computed using 456 active cases at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 728 days (2years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1177 days (3.3years). The standard deviation of roughly 717 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most scores in the data set fall below the mean. The oldest active case in this sample was 4257 days (11.83 years), while the youngest 6 days.

## **St. Mary Parish Court – Civil Division**

### **Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary**

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	129	66.15
Disposed	52	26.67
Inactive	14	7.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 195 civil new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 129 or 66.15% were still active, 52 or 26.67% were disposed and 14 or 7.18% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 33.85% for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	157	66.53
Small Claim	79	33.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 236 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 157 or 66.53% of the total, while 79 or 33.47% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of services in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	206	87.29
Bailiff	30	12.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 higher proportion with 206 or 87.29% of the sample, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 30 or 12.71%.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Money Owing	26	35.62
Recovery of Possession	17	23.29
Damages for Negligence	14	19.18
Breach of Contract	5	6.85
Arrears of Rent	2	2.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>87.67</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 73**

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 73 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court were monies owing with 26 or roughly 35.62% of the total number of causes of action, recovery of possession with 17 or 23.29% and damages for negligence with 14 or 19.18%. The top five causes of action in this sample are rounded off by breach of contract with 5 or 6.85% and arrears of rent with 2 or 2.74%. The sample of causes of action enumerated above accounts for 87.67% of the total causes of action in the quarter.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1(main courthouse)	128	54.24
Courtroom #3(main courthouse)	46	19.49
Annotto Bay	19	8.05
Richmond	18	7.63
Night Court(main courthouse)	10	4.24
Courtroom #2(main courthouse)	9	3.81
Gayle	6	2.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>236*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 195 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 236 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 128 or 54.24% of the total. However, 15 of the sample of matters that entered courtroom 1 initially, changed during the quarter to another courtroom. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 46 or 19.49% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with for 19 or 8.05% of the total rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is complete by the Richmond outstation with 18 or 7.63%, night court with 10 or 4.24%, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 9 or 3.81 and the Gayle outstation with 6 or 2.54%.

### Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 30, 2020

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	90	38.14
Male	87	36.86
Registered Company	59	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 236 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, females accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 90 or 38.14%, followed by males with 87 or 36.86%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 159 or 25% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	139	58.90
Female	93	39.41
Registered Company	4	1.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 236 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 139 or 64.7% of the sample, followed by females with 93 or 39.41%. Registered companies accounted for 4 or 1.69% of the total.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	99	61.49
Part-Heard Date	32	19.88
Trial	16	9.94
Default Date	10	6.21
Hearing of Application	4	2.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 161 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 99 or 61.49% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 32 or 19.88%, which were adjourned part heard. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 16 or 9.94% of matters, which were adjourned for trial. 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 abnormal 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 incidence of reissued matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Measure	Frequency
Overall incident	13
Average incident	1.08

**Corresponding to 12 cases**

The number of times that matters are reissued has a profound impact on the rate of disposition and clearance in the civil courts. A case is typically reissued when summonses are not served or short served. During the first quarter of 2020, there were 13 incidences of reissued cases, corresponding to 12 cases. This results in an average of roughly 11 reissues for every 10 cases.

**Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	64	26.67
Struck Out	34	14.17
Settlement	20	8.33
Default judgment	14	5.83
Withdrawal	12	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>60.00</b>

**NB there were 240 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 240 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. It is shown that matters

disposed by consent with 64 or 26.67% and matters struck out with 34 or 14.17% are the two leading methods of disposition in the sample. Disposals by settlements with 20 or 8.33%, those disposed by way of default judgements with 14 or 5.83% and withdrawals with 12 or 5% round off the sample. The listed methods of disposition listed account for 60% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	28	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The sample reveals that all 28 outcomes were judgments in favour of the plaintiff. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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 (%)
195	66	239	122.56	33.85

The above table shows 195 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 52 of these cases were disposed and 14 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 33.85%. An approximate gross figure of 203 cases were disposed, and 36 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which having dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 122.56%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 28.73% and the net clearance rate is 112.15%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
72	30	58.33

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 72 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 30 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 58.33%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a 58 chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	165
Mean	269.1515
Std. Error of Mean	34.16687
Median	91.0000
Mode	14.00
Std. Deviation	438.88140
Skewness	2.830
Std. Error of Skewness	.189
Range	2216.00
Minimum	3.00
Maximum	2219.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 165 civil cases disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 269 days or 9 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 14 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 439 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the relatively high positive skewness of 2.83 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 2219 days or roughly 6.2 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 3 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 as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	225
Mean	387.4756
Std. Error of Mean	32.97601
Median	211.0000
Mode	211.00
Std. Deviation	494.64017
Skewness	2.384
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	2377.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	2402.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020.

The average age of these matters was roughly 387 days (or roughly 13 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 211 days. The standard deviation of roughly 494 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2402 days old while the minimum time taken is 25 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

## **St. Thomas Parish Court – Civil Division**

### **Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary**

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	148	76.29
Disposed	27	13.92
Inactive	19	9.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 194 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 148 cases or 76.29% of these cases were still active, while 27 were disposed and 19 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 23.71%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	149	68.35
Small Claim	69	31.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 218 new claims filed in the first quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which 149 or 68.35% were big claims, while 69 or 31.65% were big claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	138	63.89
District Constable	54	25.00
Bailiff	24	11.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 highest proportion with 138 or 63.89% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 54 or 25% and service by the bailiff with 24 or 11.11% rant next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	66	32.35
Money Owing	30	14.71
Damages for Negligence	20	9.80
Recovery of Possession	18	8.82
Goods Sold and Delivered	13	6.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>72.06</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 204**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court were breach of contract with 66 or roughly 32.35% of the sample. Money owing with 30 or 14.71% and damages for negligence with 20 or 9.80% of the sample round off the top three cause of action in this representative sample. Recovery of possession with 18 or 8.82% and goods sold and delivered with 13 or 6.37% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above account for 72.06% of all the total sample of 204 causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	111	50.92
Yallahs outstation	58	26.61
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	40	18.35
Night Court (main courthouse)	9	4.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>218*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 194 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 218 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 111 or 50.92% of the total. The Yallahs outstation accounted for 58 or 26.61% of the total. Courtroom number 2 with 40 or 18.35% accounted for third largest share. Night Court activity accounted for 9 or 4.13% of the incidence.

### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	114	52.29
Female	82	37.61
Trading As	17	7.80
Registered Company	5	2.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 218 new matters filed in the first quarter at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 114 or 52.29%, followed by females with 82 or 37.61%. Individuals trading as a business (“Trading As”) accounted for 17 or 7.80% of the sample, while registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 5 or 2.29% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	147	68.06
Female	61	28.24
Trading As	5	2.31
Registered Company	3	1.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 216 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 147 or 68.06% of the sample, followed by females with 61 or 28.24%. Individuals trading as a business (“Trading As”) accounted for 5 or 2.31% of the sample, while registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 3 or 1.39% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

This chapter of the report highlights delay factors, which potentially inhibit the efficient progression of cases towards disposition as well as the quantum of cases disposed prior to enforcement and the methods of disposition. Among the primary delay factors explored are the reasons for adjournment, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur

and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	157	34.97
Date for Order	136	30.29
Mention Date	87	19.38
Part-Heard Date	41	9.13
Default Date	27	6.01
Hearing of Application	1	0.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of cases adjourned during the first quarter of 2020. The largest proportion, 157 or 34.97% were adjourned for a trial date, followed by 136 or 30.29% which were adjourned for an order date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 87 or 19.38% of matters, which were adjourned for a mention date. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 12 or 15%, for a part-heard date with 1 or 1.25% and for the hearing of an application with 0.22% of the sample complete the list.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	109	35.05
Placed on Trial List	38	12.22
Defendant Absent	34	10.93
Both Parties Absent	11	3.54
Notice of Intention to be Filed and Served	10	3.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>64.95</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 311**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 311 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments for absence of attorney with 109 or 35.05% of the sample, adjournments due to placement on trial list with 38 or 12.22% and adjournments due to the absence of the defendant with 34 or 10.93% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 11 or 3.54% and adjournments due to notice of intention to be filed and served with 3.22% round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 64.95% of the total sample of 311 adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	27	19.85
Struck Out	27	19.85
Default judgments	23	16.91
Consent	19	13.97
Settlement	10	7.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>77.94</b>

***NB there were 136 matters were disposed in the first quarter of 2020***

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 136 matters. The list is led by matters struck out and oral admissions with 27 or 19.85% of the disposals each. Matters disposed by default judgements with 23 or 16.91%, disposals by consent with 19 or 13.97% and settlements with 10 or 7.35 round off the top five methods of dispositions. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 77.94% of the sample.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	18	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The sample reveals that all 18 outcomes were judgments in favour of the plaintiff. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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 (%)
194	46	173	89.18	23.71

The above table shows 194 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 21 of these cases were disposed and 25 cases became inactive, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 23.71%. A gross figure of 125 cases was disposed, and 48 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a case clearance rate of 89.18%, which falls marginally below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 15.43% and the net clearance rate is 71.43%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
36	9	75

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 36 trial dates set in the quarter, of which 9 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 75%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a 75% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	92
Mean	222.6630
Std. Error of Mean	31.45544
Median	137.0000
Mode	28.00 <sup>a</sup>
Std. Deviation	301.70994
Skewness	4.750
Std. Error of Skewness	.251
Range	2364.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2365.00

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 92 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. 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 28 days. There is a very high standard deviation of roughly 302 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The very high positive skewness suggests that there were significantly more scores falling below the overall average time taken to dispose of the cases. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2365 days or roughly 6.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	410
Mean	576.9195
Std. Error of Mean	31.63591
Median	329.0000
Mode	1820.00
Std. Deviation	640.57833
Skewness	1.143
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	2179.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	2191.00

The above data is based on sample of 410 active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 577 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1820 days or 5.1 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 641 days suggests that there is wide dispersion in the individual scores in the data set while the positive skewness seen is an indication that most in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2191 days or 6.1 years, while the youngest case was just 12 days.

## St. Elizabeth Parish Court – Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	349	88.35
Disposed	46	11.65
Inactive	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 395 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 349 cases or 88.35% of these cases were still active, while 46 were disposed and 0 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 11.65%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	281	61.62
Small Claim	175	38.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from 456 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 281, or 61.62% of the total, while 175 or 38.38% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
District Constable	63	87.50
Bailiff	5	6.94
Personal	4	5.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 highest proportion with 63 or 87.50% of the sample, followed by service by the bailiff with 5 or 6.94% and personal service with 4 or 5.56% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Monies Owing	72	26.37
Goods Sold and Delivered	50	18.32
Negligence	35	12.82
Recovery of Possession	24	8.79
Breach of Contract	20	7.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>73.63</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 273**

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 273 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were monies owing with 72 or roughly 26.37% of the sample. Goods sold and delivered with 50 or 18.32% and negligence with 35 or 12.82% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by recovery of possession with 24 or 8.79% and breach of contract with 20 or 7.33% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 73.63% of all the total sample of 273 causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Santa Cruz Courtroom #1	278	61.23
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	148	32.60
Balaclava Courtroom #1	24	5.29
Santa Cruz (Night Court)	4	0.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>454*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 394 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 454 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 278 or 61.23% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 accounted for 148 or 32.60%, while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) with 24 or 5.29% of the total and the Santa Cruz outstation (night court) with 0.88% rounds off the list.

**Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Order for Personal Service	454	99.56
Formal Order	2	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100</b>

A sample of 456 applications filed during the first quarter of 2020 revealed that applications for order for personal service accounted for 454 or 99.56% of the sample and formal orders accounted for the remaining 0.44% of the sample.

### Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 30, 2020

**Table 7.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	240	52.63
Female	185	40.57
Registered Company	28	6.14
Trading As	3	0.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 456 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 240 or 52.63% of the sample, followed by females with 185 or 40.57%. Registered companies accounted for the 28 or 6.14% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading As”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 3 or 0.66% of the sample.

**Table 8.0: Gender Distribution of defendants in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	298	65.49
Female	141	30.99
Registered Company	8	1.76
Trading As	8	1.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 455 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 298 or 65.49% of the sample, followed by females with 141 or 30.99%. Registered companies accounted for 1.76% of the total and individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) also account for the 1.76%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended March 31, 2020

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

**Table 9.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	115	55.29
Mention Date	61	29.33
Default Date	25	12.02
Part-Heard Date	7	3.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 208 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 115 or 55.29% were adjourned for trial, followed by 61 or 29.33%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 25 or 12.02% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date and 7 or 3.37% which were adjourned part heard.

**Table 10.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	76	35.51
Defendant Absent	43	20.09
Plaintiff Absent	14	6.54
Referred to Mediation	11	5.14
Attorney Absent	8	3.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>71.03</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 214**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 214 incidences of adjournments in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to placement on trial list with 76 or 35.51% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 43 or 20.59% and adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 14 or 6.54% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by referrals to mediation with 5.14% of the sample and the absence of the attorney with 3.74%.

**Table 11.0: Top five methods of disposition for the quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Default judgment	56	22.22
Consent	53	21.03
Oral Admission	52	20.63
Struck Out	44	17.46
Settlement	30	11.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>93.25</b>

**NB there were 252 matters were disposed in the first quarter**

A total of 252 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 235 or 93.25% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by default judgements with 56 or 22.22% of the disposals, followed by dispositions by consent with 53 or 21.03% and by oral admissions with 52 or 20.63%. Matters struck out and matters disposed by settlements round off the top five methods with 17.46% and 11.90% respectively of the total dispositions.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case Outcome</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	34	79.07
Settlement	9	20.93
<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff account for 34 or 79.07% of the sample, while settlements account for the remaining 9 or 20.93%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 13.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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 net clearance rate (%)	Approximate net case disposal rate (%)
395	46	237	60	11.65

The above table shows 395 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 46 of these cases were disposed and 0 cases became inactive, leading to a net case disposal rate of 11.65%. An approximate gross figure of 237 cases was disposed, and 0 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 60%.

**Table 14.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
62	5	91.94

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 62 trial dates was set in the quarter of which 5 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 91.94%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 92% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	165
Mean	121.6424
Std. Error of Mean	9.20001
Median	91.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	118.17628
Skewness	1.691
Std. Error of Skewness	.189
Range	554.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	555.00

The above table outlines summary data on 165 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 122 days or 4.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 28 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 119 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that a majority of the ages in the sample were below the average. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 555 days or roughly 1.5 years old, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 16.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	876
Mean	208.9669
Std. Error of Mean	5.81993
Median	173.0000
Mode	110.00
Std. Deviation	172.25422
Skewness	1.295

Std. Error of Skewness	.083
Range	810.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	818.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 209 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 110 days. The standard deviation of roughly 172 days suggests that there is a fairly wide dispersion of the individual scores, 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 was 818 days old or roughly 2.3 years, while the minimum time taken is 8 days.

## Westmoreland Parish Court –Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	80	44.94
Disposed	50	28.09
Inactive	48	26.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 178 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 80 cases or 44.94% of these cases were still active, while 50 or 28.09% were disposed and 48 or 26.97% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 55.06%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	171	78.08
Small Claim	48	21.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 219 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the first quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 171 or 78.08% were big claims, while 48 or 21.92% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of services in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	126	56.00
Personal	99	44.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 the higher proportion with 126 or 56% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 99 or 44%.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading cause of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	59	26.46
Breach of Contract	21	9.42
Monies Owing	9	4.04
Damages to Motor Vehicle	8	3.59
Rent Owing	8	3.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>47.09</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 223**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. As shown in the above sample data, the leading cause of action for the first quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court were recovery of possession with 59 or roughly 26.46% of the sample. Breach of contract with 21 or 9.42%, monies owing with 9 or 4.04% and damages to

motor vehicle and rent owning with 3.59% each round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 47.09% of the sample of 223 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	84	38.89
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	62	28.70
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	57	26.39
Whithorn Outstation	13	6.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>216*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 176 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 216 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 2, which accounted for 84 or 38.89% of the sample. 62 or 28.70% that were entered in courtroom 3 followed this, while Courtroom number 1 accounted for roughly 26.39% of the incidence. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for the remaining 6.02% of the sample.

#### **Case Demographics for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage(%)</b>
Male	138	61.06
Female	78	34.51
Registered Company	9	3.98
Trading As	1	0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 226 new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 138 or

61.06%, followed by females with 78 or 34.51%. Registered companies accounted for 9 or 3.98% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 0.44%.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	136	60.44
Female	83	36.89
Registered Company	4	1.78
Trading As	2	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 225 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the first quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 136 or 60.44% of the sample, followed by females with 83 or 36.89%. Registered companies account for 1.78%, while individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for the remaining 0.89% of the total.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

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

summonses. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed during the quarter.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	93	80.87
Trial	14	12.17
Default Date	6	5.22
Judgment Date	1	0.87
Part-Heard Date	1	0.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 115 matters that went to court during the first quarter ended March 31, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, a final judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural adjournment. The largest proportion, 93 or 80.87% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 14 or 12.17%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 6 or 5.22% of matters, which were adjourned for default 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 abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

**Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Placed on Trial List	9	21.43
Defendant Absent	6	14.29
Plaintiff Absent	5	11.90
Transferred to Another Court	3	7.14
Both Parties Absent	3	7.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>61.90</b>

**Number of adjournments (N) =42**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 42 incidence of adjournments/continuance in the first quarter of 2020. Adjournments for placement on trial list with 9 or 21.43% of the sample feature prominently on the list, while adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 6 or 14.29% and adjournments due the absence of plaintiffs with 5 or 11.90% rounds off the top three. The list is completed by adjournments due to transfer to another court and both parties being absent with 7.14% each. The top five reasons for adjournment/continuance, which are listed above, account for 61.90% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Top five methods of disposition for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	15	22.06
Oral Admission	13	19.12
Struck Out	12	17.65
Final Judgment	6	8.82
Settlement	6	8.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>76.47</b>

**NB: There were 68 matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020**

A total of 68 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for

76.47% of the total. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 15 or 22.06% of the disposals, followed by oral admissions with 13 or 19.12% and matters struck out with 12 or 17.65%. Matters disposed by final judgments and settlements round off the top five methods with 8.82% of the total dispositions each.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	39	79.59
Settlement	8	16.33
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	2	4.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the first quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 39 or 79.59% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 16.33%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 4.08%. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross Case disposal rate (%)
178	98	55.06

The above table shows 178 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the first quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 50 of these cases were disposed and 48 cases became inactive during the quarter, leading to a gross case disposal rate of 55.06%.

The net disposal rate for the quarter was 38.46%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focussing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

**Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio(%)
42	4	90.48

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 42 trial dates was set in quarter, of which 4 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 90.48%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 90% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	25
Mean	39.96
Std. Error of Mean	8.487
Median	18.00
Mode	15
Std. Deviation	42.434
Skewness	1.297

Std. Error of Skewness	.464
Range	145
Minimum	1
Maximum	146

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 25 civil matters disposed in the first quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 40 days and the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 15 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 42 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that most scores in the data set fell below the overage average time taken to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 146 days, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the first quarter ended March 31, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	184
Mean	144.3261
Std. Error of Mean	8.11298
Median	113.0000
Mode	83.00
Std. Deviation	110.04978
Skewness	1.094
Std. Error of Skewness	.179
Range	397.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	419.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the first quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 144 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 83 days. The standard deviation suggests that there is a dispersion of

the individual scores around the average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 419 days old or roughly 1.2 years, while the minimum time taken is 22 days.

## **Conclusion**

The civil divisions of the parish court continue to show potential on several key performance measurements. For the first time in recorded history, the civil division of the parish courts exceeded the 100% case clearance rate mark, joining several other key areas of the Jamaican court system which are on average clearing more cases than the number of cases being filed. This is a fundamental requirement for eliminating the case backlog across the courts, an important part of the quantitative targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice Bryan Sykes. The overall trial date certainty rate of just over 85% and average time to disposition of roughly 7 months registered in the first quarter of 2020 in the civil courts show immense promise in the ability of the Jamaican courts to expedite the timely delivery of justice. The case disposal rate recorded in the first quarter of 2020 in these civil courts is considerably lower than that of the overall gross case clearance rate which means that given the natural correlation between both rates, any significant increase in the resolution of new cases filed is likely to have a large positive impact on the gross case clearance rate.

Continuous efforts to strengthen case management and to foster efficient case handling will bolster productivity in the civil courts going forward, positioning this vital business line to make an appreciable contribution to meeting the key quantitative performance targets set out by the Honourable Chief Justice for the judiciary over the next 5 years.

## Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Source:*

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

<sup>i</sup> *Source:*

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

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

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

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

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