



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

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## **Executive Summary**

The Jamaican court system entered 2020, well poised to continue and end 2020 on a very strong note on all key performance indicators. The slowing down of court activity towards the end of the first quarter of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic did not prevent the courts from registering above average performances on all key metrics. With roughly two months of below 15% of normal activity and the third month of closer to normal but also below capacity court activity, the Jamaican courts experienced a generally sharp decline in most key performance metrics in the second quarter of 2020. The civil divisions of the parish courts were however able to maintain a weighted average case clearance rate of 105.83% however both the number of new cases file and cases resolved experienced comparably dramatic fall outs. Although this is not a result that should be used as a basis for generalization due to the disproportionate reductions in new cases filed and cases resolved and the wide variances in the output across he courts it is nonetheless a show of resilience. As some semblance of normalcy resumes in the last six months of 2020 and into 2021, the true picture will emerge and the court system will be better able to assess he medium term impact of the lower than normal third quarter case activity and the general downturn in 2020 as a whole. This third quarter report is however a useful part of pattern establishment and a functions as a partial measurement of the resilience of the court system amidst the unprecedented constraint brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jamaican court system will be challenged to remain on course with the key quantitative targets which are contained in the strategic targets for the judiciary over the next few years. Among these key targets is the attainment of a court-wide trial date certainty rate of 95%, a court-wide case clearance rate of 130% and a concomitant gross case backlog rate of under 10%.

If these targets are sustainably attained over the next 2-5 years, the Jamaican court system would become the best in the Caribbean region and among the bests in the world, in term of productivity. Remaining on course with these targets, in light of the general downturn in court activity resulting from the COVID-9 pandemic will require creativity in the use of technology and possibly legislative adjustments to support new ways of operating. The Chief Justice and the broader leadership of the courts are working on such adaptive resilience as a matter of priority so that the court system may not only survive the challenges of the times but possibly even emerge with further opportunities for gains in efficiency.

Below is a summary of the aggregate case activity in the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020.

**Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the second quarter of 2020	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
1613	1707	105.83%

## **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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020. 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. In some cases, the report also relies on the application of scientific sampling techniques to compensate for some data gaps.

Case activity across all courts in much of 2020 has been heavily impacted that the suspension of court activity due the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly all statistical measures used to quantify the performance of the courts therefore experienced were adversely affected. Great care should therefore be taken when using the statistics illustrated in this report for the purposes of generalization. The resilience of the Jamaican court system will be severely tested over the next few months as the judiciary seeks to recover ground lost in progressing towards the attainment of key numerical targets which are seen as necessary to become the best court system in the Caribbean Region over the next 2-3 years and among the bests in the world in the next 5-6 years.

#### **Disclaimer**

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summary in the annual report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods.

## 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 second 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 essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting. As with all courts, case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division was severely impacted during the second quarter of 2020 with only the month of June seeing any semblance of near normal court activity.

**Table 1.0: Case status summary for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	128	98.46
Disposed	2	1.54
Inactive	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 130 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 128 or 98.46% cases were still active and 2 were disposed. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 1.54% for the quarter.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Small Claim	91	64.54
Big Claim	49	34.75
POCA	1	0.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 141 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the second quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of which 91 or 64.54% were small claims, while 49 or 34.75% were big claims. Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) matters account for 0.71% of the sample of claims filed.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	71	51.08
Recovery of Possession	14	10.07
Negligence	10	7.19
Rent Owing	7	5.04
Damages for Negligence	6	4.32
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>77.70</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 139**

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 second quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 71 or roughly 51.08% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 14 or 10.07% and negligence with 10 or 7.19% round off the top three causes of

action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with rent owing with 7 or 5.04% and damages for negligence with 6 or 4.32% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 77.70% of all the total sample of 139 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	91	65.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	49	35.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>140*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 130 cases**

The larger proportion of a sample of 140 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 91 or 65% of the sample. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had 49 matters entered or 35% of the sample.

#### **Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender/Entity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	71	51.82
Female	64	46.72
Registered Company	2	1.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 137 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs

with 71 or 51.82%, followed by females with 64 or 46.72%. Registered companies with 2 or 1.46% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	79	56.43
Female	51	36.43
Registered Company	7	5.00
“Trading As”	3	2.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 140 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 79 or 56.43% of the sample, followed by females with 51 or 36.43%. Registered companies accounted for 7 or 5% of the sample, while individuals trading under a business name (‘trading as’) accounted for the remaining 2.14% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	681	49.35
Trial	348	25.22
Default Date	183	13.26
Part-Heard Date	96	6.96
Hearing of Application	43	3.12
Judgment Date	16	1.16
Date for Order	13	0.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 1380 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for procedural dates in the case flow continuum. Such adjournments are strictly speaking continuances. The largest proportion, 681 or 49.35% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 348 or 25.22%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for default judgment dates with 183 or 13.26% of matters. It is of note that 96 or 6.96% 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 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	393	29.57
No Return/Re-Issued	174	13.09
Placed on Trial List	161	12.11
Defendant Absent	89	6.70
Plaintiff Absent	25	1.88
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>63.36</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 1329**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 1329 incidence of adjournments in the second quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The absence of both parties with 393 or 29.57% of the sample, adjournments for no return/re-issued with 174 or 13.09% and adjournments for placement on the trial list with 161 or 12.11% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 89 or 6.70% of the sample and adjournments due absence of plaintiffs with 25 or 1.88% rounds off the list. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above, account for 63.36% of all the total sample of reasons for adjournments and continuances.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	131	52.61
Default Judgment	32	12.85
Consent	23	9.24
Withdrawal	17	6.83
Final Judgment	12	4.82

<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>86.35</b>
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**NB there were 249 matters were disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

A total of 249 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the second quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposal, which accounts for 215 or 86.35% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 131 or 52.61% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgments with 32 or 12.85% and by consent with 23 or 9.24%. Matters disposed by withdrawals and by final judgments round off the top five methods with 17 or 6.83% and 12 or 4.82% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
130	2	645	496.15	1.54

The above table shows 130 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, only of 2 of these cases were disposed, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 1.54%. This outcome was as a result of the significant downturn in court activity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and it is therefore not generalizable. A gross figure of 318 cases were disposed, and 327 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 496.15%, which far exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net clearance rate for the quarter was is 244.62%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

The unusually high net and gross case clearance rates are largely a result of the abnormal court activity during the quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Note on Trial Date Certainty Rate:** Due to the small sample size available as a result of the considerable downturn in court activity during the second quarter of 2020, no output on trial date certainty rate is reported for this court.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	232
Mean	249.3405
Std. Error of Mean	15.69925
Median	167.0000
Mode	102.00
Std. Deviation	239.12391
Skewness	3.138
Std. Error of Skewness	.160
Range	1752.00
Minimum	13.00
Maximum	1765.00

The above table outlines summary data on 232 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 249 days or 8.3 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 102 days or 3.4 months. The high standard deviation of roughly 239 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 1765 days or roughly 4.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 13 days.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1328
Mean	406.1905
Std. Error of Mean	11.99326
Median	232.0000
Mode	82.00
Std. Deviation	437.05522
Skewness	3.262
Std. Error of Skewness	.067
Range	5151.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	5169.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1328 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 406 days or roughly 13.5 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 82 days. The standard deviation of roughly 437 days suggests that there is a large dispersion in the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that most of the scores in the data set fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in the data set is 5169 days old or roughly 14 years, while lowest is 18 days.

**Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	19
Mean	73.6842
Std. Error of Mean	2.42315
Median	74.0000
Mode	74.00
Std. Deviation	10.56226
Skewness	-1.706
Std. Error of Skewness	.524
Range	41.00
Minimum	47.00
Maximum	88.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 19 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 74 days, while the most frequently occurring age also being 74 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was a small dispersion in the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that most of the ages were above the average. The highest age in the data set was 88 days and the lowest was 47 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 14.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the second quarter ended June 30, 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>	44.09	223.61	0.28	31.02	40.21	1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the second 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 roughly 44.09%, which is an indication that on average roughly 44% of the available hours for court hearings in the second quarter of 2020. 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 40.21%, the Night Courts use 3.88 percentage points less of the available time than regular day court.

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

## Hanover Parish Court-Civil Division

### Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

This chapter details a summary of case activity with a principal emphasis on the statuses of new cases filed 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	4	16.67
Disposed	8	33.33
Inactive	12	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>

**Reactivated cases= 2**

The above table presents a status distribution of 24 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 4 cases or 16.67% of these cases were still active, while 8 were disposed and 12 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 83.33%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	17	65.38
Small Claim	9	34.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 26 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 17 or 65.38% were big claims, while 9 or 34.62% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	19	79.17
Sandy Bay Outstation (Courtroom #1)	3	12.50
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	2	8.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>24*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 22 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 24 new matters filed in the second quarter were entered in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, which accounted for 19 or 79.17% of the total sample. 3 or 12.50% of the cases filed were entered at courtroom number one at the Sandy Bay outstation, while courtroom number one at the Green Island outstation accounted for 2 or 8.33% of the cases heard.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 4.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender/Entity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	12	48.00
Male	8	32.00
Trading As	5	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 25 plaintiffs in the second quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court, 12 or 48% were females and males accounted for 8 or 32% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 5 or 20% round off the list.

**Table 5.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender/Entity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	19	73.08
Female	7	26.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 26 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 19 or 73.08% of the sample, followed by females with 7 or 26.92%.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	69	67.65
Trial	15	14.71
Part-Heard Date	10	9.80
Default Date	4	3.92
Hearing of Application	3	2.94
Judgment Date	1	0.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 102 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 69 or 67.65% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a trial date accounted for 15 or 14.71% of the sample and matters adjourned for a part-heard date accounted for 10 or 9.80% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 4 or 3.92%, for the hearing of an application date with 3 or 2.94% and for a final judgment date with 0.98%. 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 7.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournments for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Both Parties Absent	16	25.40
No Return/Re-Issued	16	25.40
Attorney Absent	13	20.63
Plaintiff Absent	11	17.46
Defendant Absent	3	4.76
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>93.65</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 63**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 63 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue and both parties being absent with 16 or 25.40% each accounted for the largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for the absenteeism of attorneys and plaintiffs with 20.63% and 17.46% respectively rank next and adjournments due to the absence of defendants round off the top of reasons for adjournments

during the quarter with 4.76% of the sample. The reasons for adjournment listed above account for 93.65% of the total sample of adjournments/continuances.

**Table 8.0: Sampling Distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Final Judgment	8	23.53
Consent	7	20.59
Default Judgment	5	14.71
Settlement	5	14.71
Oral Admission	4	11.76
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>85.29</b>

**NB: There were 34 matters disposed for the second quarter of 2020**

A total of 34 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 29 or 85.29% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by final judgments with 8 or 23.53% of the disposals, followed by disposals by consent with 7 or 20.59% and default judgments and settlements with 5 or 14.71% each. Matters disposed by way of oral admissions with 4 or 11.76% round off the list.

**Table 9.0: Case flow performance metrics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

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 (%)
24	20	53	220.83	83.33

The above table shows 24 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 8 of these cases were disposed and 12 cases became

inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 83.33%. An approximate gross figure of 39 cases was disposed, and 14 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 220.83%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net case disposal rate for the quarter is 66.67% and the net case clearance rate is 325%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense in a given period. As with the other parish courts in the second quarter of 2020, the metrics reported are not reflective of usual outcomes and are therefore not good point estimates of general activity.

There was only limited trial court activity in the second quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court, thus no trial date certainty rate is reported over this period.

**Table 11.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	30
Mean	242.6000
Std. Error of Mean	67.17595
Median	120.5000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	367.93783
Skewness	3.711
Std. Error of Skewness	.427
Range	1911.00
Minimum	21.00
Maximum	1932.00

The above table outlines sample data on 30 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 243 days or 8.1 months and the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 368 days is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The high positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the data points in the data set fell below the overall average time to disposition. The oldest matter disposed in the sample was 1932 days or roughly 5.4 years, while the minimum time taken was 21 days.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	90
Mean	693.3556
Std. Error of Mean	93.18317
Median	424.5000
Mode	85.00
Std. Deviation	884.01317
Skewness	2.773
Std. Error of Skewness	.254
Range	4138.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	4165.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 694 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 85 days. The standard deviation of roughly 884 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, while the relatively high positive

skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in this data set is 4165 days old or 11.6 years, while the lowest is 27 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 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	16	100
Disposed	0	0
Inactive	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 16 new cases filed at the St. James Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, all new cases were still active, hence a disposal rate is not reportable.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	19	100
Small Claim	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 19 new claims filed at the St. James Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020, all of which were big claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. James Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	3	15.79
Damages for Negligence	2	10.53
Breach of Contract	1	5.26
Rent Owing	1	5.26
Rent Owing and Continuing	1	5.26
Rent Owing and Recovery of Possession	1	5.26
Other	10	52.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 second quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court is rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 3 or 15.79% and damages for negligence with 2 or 10.53% of the sample. Breach of contract, rent owing, rent owing and continuing, and rent owing and recovery of possession each accounted for 5.26% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4	19	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 16 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 19 new matters filed in the second quarter was entered in courtroom number 4, which accounted for 100% of the sample.

## Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	10	52.63
Male	9	47.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 19 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court, females accounted for the larger proportion with 10 or 52.63%, followed by males with 9 or 47.37% of the sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	11	57.89
Female	6	31.58
Registered Company	2	10.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 19 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in second quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 11 or 57.89% of the sample, followed by females with 6 or 31.58%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 10.53% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to

occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	160	61.30
Default Date	48	18.39
Trial	48	18.39
Part-Heard Date	4	1.53
Hearing of Application	1	0.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 261 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 160 or 61.30% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 48 or 18.39%, which were adjourned for default judgements dates and trial dates. It is of note that 4 or 1.53% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	164	53.25
No Return/Re-Issued	34	11.04
New Date	22	7.14
Defendant Absent	18	5.84
Not Reached	8	2.60

<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>79.87</b>
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**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 308**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 308 incidences of adjournments heard in the second quarter of 2020. The absence of both parties with 164 or 53.25% of the sample, no return/re-issued with 34 or 11.04% and adjournments for new dates with 22 or 7.14% round off the top 3 reasons for adjournment in the sampling distribution for the quarter. Matters adjourned due to the absence of both parties and matters not reached with 5.84% and 2.60% respectively round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. The top five reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 79.87% of the total sample of adjournments for the quarter.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Method of disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Final Judgment	54	67.50
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	11	13.75
Default Judgment	4	5.00
Consent	3	3.75
Struck Out	2	2.50
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>92.50</b>

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

Using a sample of 80 civil matters which were disposed at the St. James Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020, the above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 74 or 92.50% of the sample. The list is led by matters disposed by final judgments with 54 or 67.50% of the disposals, followed by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) with 11 or 13.75% and default judgments with 4 or 5% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent and

matters struck out round off the top five methods with 3.75% and 2.50% respectively complete the list of the top five methods of disposition.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)
19	85	447.37

The above table shows 19 new cases filed at the St. James Court during the second quarter of 2020. A gross figure of 82 cases were disposed, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 447.37%, which exceeds the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net clearance rate for the quarter is 431.58. The net disposal and net clearance rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed.

There was only minimal trial date activity in the second quarter of 2020, hence no trial date certainty rate is recorded for the period.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	72
Mean	161.8611
Std. Error of Mean	13.32569
Median	108.0000
Mode	101.00
Std. Deviation	113.07224

Skewness	.512
Std. Error of Skewness	.283
Range	443.00
Minimum	4.00
Maximum	447.00

The above table outlines summary data on 72 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. James Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 162 days or 5.4 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 101 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 quarter was 447 days or roughly 1.2 years, while the minimum time taken was just 4 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	837
Mean	301.4982
Std. Error of Mean	4.97269
Median	347.0000
Mode	456.00
Std. Deviation	143.86461
Skewness	-.336
Std. Error of Skewness	.085
Range	523.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	541.00

The above data is based on a sample of 837 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 301 days, while the most frequently

occurring age in the distribution was 456 days. The standard deviation of roughly 144 days suggests that there is a moderate dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The negative skewness suggests is that slightly more scores in the data set were above the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 541 days old or roughly 1.5 years, while the minimum is 18 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 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	73	92.41
Disposed	4	5.06
Inactive	2	2.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 79 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 73 or 92.41% of these cases were active, 4 were disposed and 2 became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces an estimated gross case disposal rate of 7.59%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	45	54.22
Small Claim	38	45.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 83 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, 45 or 54.22% were big claims, while 38 or 45.78% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Causes of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Money Owing	22	27.16
Recovery of Possession	13	16.05
Damages for Negligence	6	7.41
Outstanding Rent and Recovery of Possession	5	6.17
Breach of Contract	3	3.70
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>60.49</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action=81**

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 monies owing with 22 or 27.16% and recovery of possession with 13 or 16.05%. Damages for negligence with 6 or 7.41%, outstanding rent and recovery of possession with 6.17% and breach of contract with 3.70% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 60.49% of all the total sample of 81 causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Falmouth Outstation	46	55.42
Ulster Spring Outstation	17	20.48
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	13	15.66
Courtroom #1 (main Courthouse)	4	4.82
Falmouth Outstation (Night Court)	3	3.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>83*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 79 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 83 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in the Falmouth outstation, which accounted for 46 or 55.42% of the total sample. 17 or

20.48% that were entered at the Ulster Spring outstation followed this, while court sittings in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 13 is 15.66%. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse outstation accounted for 4 or 4.82% and night court sittings at the Falmouth outstation accounted for 3 or 3.61% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Gender Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	45	56.25
Female	35	43.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 80 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 45 or 56.25% of the sample, followed by females with 35 or 43.75%.

**Table 6.0: Gender Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	63	78.75
Female	17	21.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 80 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 63 or 78.75% of the sample, followed by females with 17 or 21.25%.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the June quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	62	67.39
Trial	15	16.30
Default Date	7	7.61
Part-Heard Date	7	7.61
Hearing of Application	1	1.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 92 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 62 or 67.39% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 15 or 16.30%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Matters adjourned for default judgment dates and part heard dates accounted for 7 or 7.61% each and matters adjourned for the hearing of an application accounted for the remaining 1.09%. 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/continuances for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Reasons for Adjournment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	26	19.70
Defendant Absent	14	10.61
Both Parties Absent	11	8.33
Placed on Trial List	11	8.33
For Mention (continuance)	11	8.33
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>55.30</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 132**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 132 incidence of adjournments/continuance heard in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to no return/re-issued with 26 or 19.70% and defendants being absent with 14 or 10.61% of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments due to both parties being absent and adjournments due to placement on trial list with 11 or 8.33% each rank next. Continuances for mention, which are adjournments which are intrinsic to the progression of a case, account for 11 or 8.33% of the sample. The top five reasons for adjournment and continuances, which are listed above, account for 55.30% of the entire sample.

**Table 9.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
79	6	16	20.25	7.59

The above table shows 79 new cases were filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 4 cases were disposed and 2 became inactive. This led to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 7.59%. An approximate gross figure of 13

cases were disposed, and 3 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 20.25%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 5.19% and the net clearance rate is 16.88%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the active cases which were disposed.

**Table 10.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	243
Mean	214.3333
Std. Error of Mean	11.71910
Median	145.0000
Mode	84.00
Std. Deviation	182.68274
Skewness	1.690
Std. Error of Skewness	.156
Range	847.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	875.00

The above data is computed using 243 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 214 days (7.3 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 84 days. The relatively high standard deviation of roughly 183 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 mean. The oldest active case in this sample is 875 days (2.4 years old), while the youngest is 28 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	193	97.97
Disposed	0	0.00
Inactive	4	1.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 197 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 193 cases or 97.97% of these cases were still active and 4 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 2.03%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	208	88.14
Small Claim	28	11.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from 236 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which were big claims with 208 or 88.14%, while 28 or 11.86% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court for second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	78	35.14
Damages for Negligence	62	27.93
Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons)	26	11.71
Recovery of Possession	20	9.01
Rent Owing	7	3.15
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>86.94</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action (N) =222**

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 222 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the second quarter of 2020 were breach of contract with 78 or roughly 35.14% of the sample and damages for negligence with 62 or 27.93%. Breach of contract under Section 146 (Pink Summons) with 26 or 11.71%, recovery of possession with 20 or 9.01% and rent owing with 7 or 3.15% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 86.94% of the sample of causes of action.

**Table 4.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	24	39.34
Courtroom #2 main courthouse)	21	34.43
Claremont Outstation	16	26.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>61*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 58 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 61 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, accounting for 24 or 39.34% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 21 or 34.43% and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 16 or 26.23%.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	99	41.95
Registered Company	69	29.24
Female	66	27.97
Trading As	2	0.85
<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 second quarter, males accounted for the largest proportion with 99 or 41.95%, followed by registered companies with 69 or 29.24% and females with 66 or 27.97% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 2 or 0.85% accounted for the smallest proportion of the total sample.

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	151	64.26
Female	67	28.51
Registered Company	13	5.53
Trading As	4	1.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 235 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 151 or 64.26% of the total sample, followed by females with 67 or 28.51%. Registered companies accounted for 13 or 5.53% of the sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 4 or 1.70% of the total sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	312	50.57
Trial	150	24.31
Default Date	104	16.86
Part-Heard Date	43	6.97
Hearing of Application	8	1.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 617 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 312 or 50.57%,

followed by 150 or 24.31%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 104 or 16.86% of matters, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 43 or 6.97% of the sample, while adjournments for the hearing of applications accounted for the remaining 1.30% of the sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

**Table 8.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Reasons for Adjournments</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No Return/Re-Issued	138	34.24
Both Parties Absent	67	16.63
Defendant Absent	36	8.93
Pending Settlement	21	5.21
Placed on Trial List	17	4.22
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>69.23</b>

**(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 403)**

The above table details a sample of 403 reasons for adjournment for matters that went to court in the second quarter of 2020, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to no return/re-issued with 138 or 34.24% of the sample, adjournments due to both parties being absent with 67 or 16.63% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 36 or 8.93% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments for pending settlements with 21 or 5.21% and placement on the trial list with 17 or 4.22% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 69.23% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Oral Admission	14	36.84
Settlement	10	26.32
Withdrawal	7	18.42
Consent	2	5.26
Default Judgment	2	5.26
Struck Out	2	5.26
Final Judgment	1	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**NB: There were 38 matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

A sample of 38 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2020 revealed that 14 or 36.84% were disposed by oral admissions, 10 or 26.32% were disposed by settlements and 7 or 18.42% were withdrawals. Matters disposed by consent, default judgments and matters struck out all accounted for 5.26% of the total sample of disposals. Final judgment accounted for the remaining proportion of disposals with 2.63% of the sample. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the second quarter of 2020.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 (%)
197	4	126	63.96	2.06

The above table shows 197 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 4 cases of these cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 2.06%. An approximate gross figure of 26 cases were disposed, and 100 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin

predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 63.96%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net clearance rate for the quarter is 13.47%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

There was limited trial activity in the quarter at the St. Ann Parish Court, therefore no trial date certainty rate is reported for this quarter.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	13
Mean	261.0769
Std. Error of Mean	98.25428
Median	113.0000
Mode	54.00
Std. Deviation	354.26084
Skewness	2.393
Std. Error of Skewness	.616
Range	1265.00
Minimum	25.00
Maximum	1290.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 13 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters

is roughly 261 days or 8.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 54 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 354 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the relatively 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 1290 days or roughly 3.6 years old, while the minimum time taken was 25 days.

**Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	946
Mean	521.2347
Std. Error of Mean	19.15579
Median	348.0000
Mode	131.00
Std. Deviation	589.17684
Skewness	3.399
Std. Error of Skewness	.080
Range	5553.00
Minimum	40.00
Maximum	5593.00

The above data is based on sample of 946 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 521 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 131 days. The standard deviation of roughly 589 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 is 5593 days old or roughly 15.54 years while the minimum age is 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 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	535	99.26
Disposed	3	0.56
Inactive	1	0.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 539 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 535 cases or 99.26% of these cases were still active, while 3 were disposed and 1 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 0.74%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	659	92.30
Small Claim	54	7.56
POCA	1	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from a sample of 714 claims filed in the second quarter of 2020, 659 or 92.30% were big claims, 54 or 7.56% were small claims and 1 or 0.14% was a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claim.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	73	65.18
Bailiff	21	18.75
District Constable	18	16.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 73 or 65.18% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 21 or 18.75% and service by the district constable accounted for 18 or 16.07% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Damages for negligence	353	50.57
Breach of Contract	182	26.07
Recovery of possession	41	5.87
Rent owing and continuing	38	5.44
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	37	5.30
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>93.27</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action=698**

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 698 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during second quarter of 2020. The leading cause of action shown in this sample were damages for negligence with 353 or roughly 50.57% of the sample, breach of a contract with 182 or 26.07%

and recovery of possession with 41 or 5.87%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 38 or 5.44% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 37 or 5.30% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 93.27% of the total sample of causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	578	81.07
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	111	15.57
Old Harbour Outstation (courtroom #1)	24	3.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>713*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 539 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 713 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 578 or 81.07% of the claims. The 111 or 15.57% 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 24 or 3.37% of the claims.

### **Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	360	50.56
Female	276	38.76
Registered company	76	10.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020, males accounted for the largest proportion with 360 or 50.56%, followed by females with 276 or 38.76% and registered companies with 76 or 10.67% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	439	61.83
Female	211	29.72
Registered Company	60	8.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 710 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 439 or 61.83% of the total sample, followed by females with 211 or 29.72%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 60 or 8.45% of the total sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	163	48.95
Trial	90	27.03
Default Judgment Date	46	13.81
Part-Heard Date	24	7.21
Hearing of Application	6	1.80
Final Judgment Date	4	1.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 333 matters that went to court during the second quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 163 or 48.95% were adjourned for a mention date and 90 or 27.03% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 46 or 13.81% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 24 or 7.21% of the sample. As with most other courts, this data decisively suggests that there is a greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention date, though this is again not an unsurprising result given that mention court stings are intrinsic to the progression of civil and other cases.

**Table 9.0a Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placement on Trial List	65	19.40
Both Parties Absent	47	14.03
Defendant Absent	28	8.36
Pending Settlement	28	8.36
Referred to Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)	18	5.37
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>55.52</b>

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 335)

The above table details a sample of 335 adjournments or continuances heard in the quarter, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments for placement on the trial list with 65 or 19.40% of the total sample, adjournments due to both parties being absent with 47 or 14.03% and adjournments due to defendants being absent and pending settlements with 28 or 8.36% each round off the top reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to referrals to Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) with 5.37% complete the top five reasons for adjournment in the quarter. The top 5 reasons for adjournment listed above account for 55.52% of the total sample.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Method of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Struck Out	21	25.00
Transferred	16	19.05
Settlement	15	17.86
Consent	11	13.10
Withdrawal	8	9.52
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>84.52</b>

**NB: There were 84 matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 84 matters disposed during the second quarter of 2020. The list is led by matters struck out with 21 or 25% of the disposals, followed by matters transferred to another court with 16 or 19.05%, settlements with 15 or 17.86% and disposals by consent with 11 or 13.10%. Withdrawals accounted for 8 or 9.52% of the sample of disposals. The top 5 methods of disposition listed account for 84.52% of the sample of disposals.

**Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 (%)
539	4	447	82.93	0.74

The above table shows 539 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 3 of these cases were disposed and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 0.74%. An approximate gross figure of 61 cases were disposed and 386 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 82.93%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 0.56%, while the net clearance is 11.34%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed in the period.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

No trial date certainty rate is reported for the quarter due to a much smaller than usual incidence of trial hearings.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	74
Mean	675.7162
Std. Error of Mean	66.82321
Median	546.0000
Mode	606.00
Std. Deviation	574.83495
Skewness	.955
Std. Error of Skewness	.279
Range	2408.00
Minimum	35.00
Maximum	2443.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 74 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 676 days or 22.5 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 606 days. There is a moderate standard deviation of 574, which is an indication that there is some a relatively wide variation of the scores around the overall mean. The positive skewness suggests that proportionately more of the scores fall below the overall average time to disposal. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2443 days or roughly 6.8 years old, while the minimum time taken was 35 days.

**Table 15.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	1740
Mean	612.5667
Std. Error of Mean	13.35139
Median	406.0000
Mode	105.00
Std. Deviation	556.93050
Skewness	1.350
Std. Error of Skewness	.059
Range	4469.00
Minimum	18.00
Maximum	4487.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1740 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 613 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 105 days. The standard deviation of roughly 557 days suggests that there is some variation 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 4487 days old or roughly 12.5 years, while the minimum age is 18 days.

**Table 16.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	37
Mean	71.8919
Std. Error of Mean	3.64938
Median	76.0000
Mode	89.00
Std. Deviation	22.19833
Skewness	-1.830

Std. Error of Skewness	.388
Range	78.00
Minimum	11.00
Maximum	89.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 37 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The average age of these matters at the end of the quarter roughly 72 days, while the most frequently occurring age being 89 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that proportionately more of the data points were above the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 89 days and the lowest is 11 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 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	36	100
Disposed	0	0
Inactive	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 36 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, all new cases were still active, hence, a disposal rate is not reportable.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	38	95.00
Small Claim	2	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows that from the 40 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion of which 38 or 95% were big claims, while 2 or 5% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	19	67.86
Bailiff	9	32.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</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, personal service accounted for the higher proportion with 19 or 67.86% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 9 or 32.14%.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court for second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	9	25.00
Rent Owing and Continuing	7	19.44
Breach of Contract	6	16.67
Monies Owing	6	16.67
Breach of quiet enjoyment	2	5.56
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>83.33</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action =36**

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 36 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were recovery of possession with 9 or roughly 25% of the total sample, rent owing and continuing with 7 or 19.44% rank next and breach of contract and monies owing with 6 or 16.67% each of the sample followed. Breach of quiet enjoyment rounds off the top five causes of action for the quarter with 5.56%. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 83.33% of the sample.

## Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

**Table 5.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Participant	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	18	45.00
Male	17	42.50
Registered Company	4	10.00
Trading As	1	2.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 40 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020, females accounted for the largest proportion with 18 or 45%, followed by males with 17 or 42.50% and registered companies with 4 or 10% of the sample. Individuals trading as businesses (“Trading as”) accounted for the smallest proportion with 2.50% of the sample

**Table 6.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Participant	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	23	57.50
Female	17	42.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 40 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the quarter. The majority of defendants were male with 23 or 57.50% of the sample, followed by females with 17 or 42.50% of the sample.

## Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	212	63.47
Trial	76	22.75
Default Date	21	6.29
Part-Heard Date	21	6.29
Hearing of Application	2	0.60
Date for Order	1	0.30
Judgment Date	1	0.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 334 matters that were heard during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020 which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 212 or 63.47% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 76 or 22.75%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates and for part heard dates with 21 or 6.29% each accounted for the third largest proportions. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the second quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

**Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	39	16.88
No Return/Re-Issued	28	12.12
Both Parties Absent	25	10.82
Plaintiff Absent	22	9.52
Pending Settlement	7	3.03
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>52.38</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) =231**

The above data is computed from a sample of 231 reasons for adjournment heard in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 39 or 16.88% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by no return/re-issued matters with 28 or 12.12%. The absence of both parties with 25 or 10.82% account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by matters adjourned due to the absence of plaintiffs with 22 or 9.52% of the sample and pending settlements with 7 or 3.03%. The reasons for adjournment listed account for 52.38% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments/continuances.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Settlement	7	35.00
Consent	5	25.00
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	4	20.00
Struck Out	3	15.00
Withdrawal	1	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**NB: There were 20 matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

A total of 20 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. The distribution is led by dispositions by settlements with 7 or 35%, followed by disposals by consent with 5 or 25% and notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 4 or 20%. Matters struck out with 3 or 15% and withdrawals with 5% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter.

**Table 10.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate Gross Case Clearance rate (%)
36	49	136.11

The above table shows 36 new cases were filed at the Portland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 33 cases were disposed, and 16 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 136.11%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net clearance rate for the quarter is 91.67%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of active cases which were disposed in a given period. No case disposal rate is recorded as none of the new cases filed in the quarter were disposed.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

Due to an abnormally low incidence of trials in the second quarter, no trial date certainty rate is reported for the period.

**Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	20
Mean	256.2500
Std. Error of Mean	52.25055
Median	238.0000
Mode	366.00
Std. Deviation	233.67158
Skewness	1.841
Std. Error of Skewness	.512
Range	959.00
Minimum	56.00
Maximum	1015.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 20 civil matters disposed in second quarter of 2020 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 256 days (8.5 months). However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 366 days. There is a moderately high standard deviation of roughly 234 days, which is an indication that there is some amount of 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 quarter was 1015 days or roughly 2.8 years old, while the minimum time was 56 days.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	435
Mean	820.1770
Std. Error of Mean	35.02964
Median	666.0000
Mode	1268.00
Std. Deviation	730.60100
Skewness	1.802
Std. Error of Skewness	.117
Range	4319.00
Minimum	29.00
Maximum	4348.00

The above data is computed using 435 active cases at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 820 days (2.3years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1268 days (3.5 years). The standard deviation of roughly 731 days suggests that there is some 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 is 4348 days (12.1 years), while the minimum age is 29 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 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	81	100
Disposed	0	0
Inactive	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 81 civil new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, all new cases were still active, hence a disposal rate is not reportable.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	72	76.60
Small Claim	22	23.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 94 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 72 or 76.60% of the total sample, while 22 or 23.40% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of services in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	78	82.98
Bailiff	16	17.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.00</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 78 or 82.98%, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 16 or 17.02% of the sample.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Mary Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Money Owing	13	34.21
Recovery of Possession	13	34.21
Damages for Negligence	5	13.16
Arrears of Rent	4	10.53
Breach of Contract	1	2.63
Nuisance	1	2.63
Specific Performance	1	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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 38 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court were monies owing, and recovery of possession with 13 or roughly 34.21% each of the total sample of causes of action. Damages for negligence with 5 or 13.16% and arrears of rent with 4 or 10.53% rank next. The top causes of action in this sample are rounded off by breach of contract, nuisance and specific performance with 2.63% each of the sample.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	63	67.02
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	15	15.96
Annotto Bay Outstation	7	7.45
Richmond Outstation	6	6.38
Gayle Outstation	3	3.19
<b>Total</b>	<b>94*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 81 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 94 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 63 or 67.02% of the sample. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 15 or 15.96% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with 7 or 7.45% of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is complete by the Richmond outstation with 6 or 6.38%, and the Gayle outstation with 3 or 3.19% of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	50	53.19
Female	32	34.04
Registered Company	12	12.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 94 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the largest proportion of

plaintiffs with 50 or 53.19%, followed by females with 32 or 34.04%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 12 or 12.77% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	57	61.29
Female	32	34.41
Registered Company	4	4.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 93 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 57 or 61.29%, followed by females with 32 or 34.41% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 4 or 4.30% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Flow Stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	98	65.77
Part-Heard Date	33	22.15
Trial	9	6.04
Default Date	7	4.70
Hearing of Application	2	1.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 149 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 98 or 65.77% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 33 or 22.15%, which were adjourned for a part heard date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 9 or 6.04% of matters, which were adjourned for trial dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not 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 leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (continuance)	87	57.62
For Judgment (continuance)	7	4.64
Part Heard (continuance)	3	1.99
Both Parties Absent	2	1.32
No Return/Re-Issued	2	1.32
Other	50	33.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 151**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 151 incidences of adjournments or continuances for matters heard in the second quarter of 2020. Continuances, which are adjournments intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention account for the largest proportion of the sample with 87 or 57.62% and continuances for judgment and part heard with 4.64% and 1.99% respectively rank next. Adjournments due to both parties being absent and no return/re-issued with 1.32% each follow this.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Settlement	16	25.40
Default Judgment	13	20.63
Struck Out	13	20.63
Consent	6	9.52
Final Judgment	1	1.59
Withdrawal	1	1.59
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>79.37</b>

**NB there were 63 matters were disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 63 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. It is shown that settlements with 16 or 25.40%, default judgments and matters struck out with 13 or 20.63% each are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by consent with 6 or 9.52%, those disposed by way of final judgements and withdrawals with 1.59% each round off the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 79.37% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>
81	99	122.22

The above table shows 81 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. An approximate gross figure of 57 cases were disposed, and 42 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which having dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 122.22%, which satisfies the international standard for the case clearance rate. The net clearance rate for the quarter is 70.37%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

No trial date certainty rate is reported for the quarter due to a much smaller than usual incidence of trial hearings.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	57
Mean	152.7895
Std. Error of Mean	24.17411
Median	84.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	182.51054
Skewness	3.997
Std. Error of Skewness	.316
Range	1204.00
Minimum	28.00
Maximum	1232.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 57 civil cases disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 153 days or 5.1 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 56 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 183 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the relatively high positive skewness of 3.997 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 1232 days or roughly 3.4 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 28 days. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the center of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	226
Mean	478.6239
Std. Error of Mean	38.12135
Median	256.5000
Mode	85.00
Std. Deviation	573.08956
Skewness	2.170
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	2492.00
Minimum	29.00
Maximum	2521.00

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

The average age of these matters was roughly 479 days (or roughly 16 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 85 days. The standard deviation of roughly 573 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 in the data set is 2521 days old while the minimum age was 29 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 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	23
Mean	40.8696
Std. Error of Mean	3.99174
Median	43.0000
Mode	43.00
Std. Deviation	19.14373
Skewness	-.562
Std. Error of Skewness	.481
Range	65.00
Minimum	6.00
Maximum	71.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 23 active reissued matters at the St. Mary Parish Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2020.

The average age of these matters was roughly 41 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age are both 43 days. The moderate standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that most of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 71 days and the lowest was 6 days.

## 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 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	69	94.52
Disposed	0	0.00
Inactive	4	5.48
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 73 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 69 cases or 94.52% of these cases were still active, while 4 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 5.48%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	65	75.58
Small Claim	21	24.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from the 86 new claims filed in the second quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which 65 or 75.58% were big claims, while 21 or 24.42% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Personal	79	91.86
Bailiff	4	4.65
District Constable	3	3.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</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, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 79 or 91.86% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 4 or 4.65% and service by the district constable with 3 or 3.49% rank next.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Thomas parish court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Breach of Contract	28	35.90
Recovery of Possession	16	20.51
Damages for Negligence	8	10.26
Rent Owing	5	6.41
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	4	5.13
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>78.21</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 78**

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 was breach of contract with 28 or roughly 35.90% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 16 or 20.51% and damages for negligence with 8 or 10.26% of the sample round off the top three cause of action in this representative sample. Rent owing with 5 or 6.41% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 4 or 5.13% of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 78.21% of all the total sample of 78 causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	47	54.65
Yallahs Outstation	25	29.07
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	14	16.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>86*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 73 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 86 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 47 or 54.65% of the sample. The Yallahs outstation accounted for 25 or 29.07% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 14 or 16.28% accounted for third largest share of the sample.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	40	46.51
Female	38	44.19
Registered Company	8	9.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 86 new matters filed in the second quarter at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 40 or 46.51%, followed by females with 38 or 44.19%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 8 or 9.30% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participants</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	53	61.63
Female	30	34.88
Registered Company	2	2.33
Trading As	1	1.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 216 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 53 or 61.63% of the sample, followed by females with 30 or 34.88%. Registered companies accounted for the 2 or 2.33% of the sample and individuals trading as a business (“Trading As”) accounted for the remaining 1.16% of the sample.

## **Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	144	45.43
Mention Date	83	26.18
Date for Order	33	10.41
Part-Heard Date	33	10.41
Default Date	23	7.26
Hearing of Application	1	0.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table is computed based on a sample of cases adjourned during the second quarter of 2020 for procedural reasons. The largest proportion, 144 or 45.43% were adjourned for a trial date, followed by 83 or 26.18% which were adjourned for a mention date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 33 or 10.41% each of matters, which were adjourned for a date for order and part-heard date. Matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 23 or 7.26%, and for the hearing of an application date with 0.32% complete the list.

**Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	84	29.58
Placed on Trial List	32	11.27
Defendant Absent	30	10.56
Both Parties Absent	27	9.51
Plaintiff Absent	13	4.58
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>65.49</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 284**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 284 incidences of adjournments in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments for the absence of attorneys with 84 or 29.58% of the sample, adjournments due to placement on trial list with 32 or 11.27% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 30 or 10.56% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 27 or 9.51% and adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 4.58% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 65.49% of the total sample of 284 adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Methods of Disposition</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Oral Admission	7	20.59
Non-Suited	6	17.65
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	6	17.65
Default Judgment	5	14.71
Struck Out	4	11.76
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>82.35</b>

**NB there were 34 matters were disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

The above table details the top five methods of disposal computed from a sample of 34 matters. The list is led by oral admissions with 7 or 20.59% of the sample. Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) and Non-Suited matters with 6 or 17.65% each rank next. Default judgments with 5 or 14.71% and matters struck out with 4 or 11.76% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 82.35% of the sample.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Approximate number of new cases filed</b>	<b>Approximate number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)</b>	<b>Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter</b>	<b>Approximate gross clearance rate (%)</b>	<b>Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)</b>
73	4	80	109.59	5.48

The above table shows 73 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 4 of these became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 5.48%. A gross figure of 30 cases were disposed, and 50 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 109.59%, which is above the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net clearance rate for the quarter is 43.48%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

No trial date certainty rate is reported for the quarter due to a much smaller than usual incidence of trial hearings.

**Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	33
Mean	485.5758
Std. Error of Mean	93.32022
Median	184.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	536.08383
Skewness	1.231
Std. Error of Skewness	.409
Range	1639.00
Minimum	56.00
Maximum	1695.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 33 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 486 days or 16.2 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. There is a high standard deviation which is an indication that there is a large variation in the distribution of the scores. The 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 1695 days or roughly 4.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 56 days.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	382
Mean	677.2435
Std. Error of Mean	33.05219
Median	423.0000
Mode	1911.00
Std. Deviation	645.99903
Skewness	1.136
Std. Error of Skewness	.125
Range	2255.00
Minimum	27.00
Maximum	2282.00

The above data is based on sample of 382 active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 677 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 1911 days or 5.3 years. The high standard deviation of roughly 646 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 in the data set is 2282 days or 6.3 years, while the minimum age is 27 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 second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	154	100
Disposed	0	0
Inactive	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 154 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, all new cases were still active, hence, a disposal rate is not reportable.

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

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	89	52.35
Small Claim	81	47.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that from 170 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 89, or 52.35% of the sample, while 81 or 47.65% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Cause of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Goods Sold and Delivered	23	23.47
Monies Owing	20	20.41
Recovery of Possession	16	16.33
Rent Owing	7	7.14
Damages	5	5.10
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72.45</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 98**

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 98 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 23 or roughly 23.47% of the sample. Monies owing with 20 or 20.41% and recovery of possession with 16 or 16.33% of the sample rounds off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by

rent owing with 7 or 7.14% and damages with 5 or 5.10% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 72.45% of all the total sample of 98 causes of action.

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

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Santa Cruz Outstation (courtroom #1)	92	54.12
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	77	45.29
Balaclava Outstation (courtroom #1)	1	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>170*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 154 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 170 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 92 or 54.12% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 77 or 45.29%, while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) with 0.59% of the sample rounds off the list.

**Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Order for Personal Service	169	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A sample of 169 applications filed during the second quarter of 2020 revealed that applications for order for personal service accounted for the entire sample.

**Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	106	62.35
Female	62	36.47
Trading As	2	1.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 170 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 106 or 62.35% of the sample, followed by females with 62 or 36.47%. Individuals trading under a business name (“Trading As”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 2 or 1.18% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	118	69.41
Female	49	28.82
Registered Company	2	1.18
Trading As	1	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 170 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 118 or 69.41% of the sample, followed by females with 49 or 28.82%. Registered companies accounted for 1.18% of the sample and individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) account for the remaining 0.59% of the sample.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

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

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	52	46.43
Trial	49	43.75
Default Date	10	8.93
Part-Heard Date	1	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 112 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 52 or 46.43% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 49 or 43.75%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 10 or 8.93% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date and 1 or 0.89% which was adjourned for a part heard date.

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

<b>Reasons For Adjournment/continuance</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Both Parties Absent	33	29.46
Defendant Absent	23	20.54
Plaintiff Absent	15	13.39
Placed on Trial List	14	12.50
Judge Absent/Ill	11	9.82
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>85.71</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 112**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 112 incidences of adjournments heard in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 33 or 29.46% of the sample, adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 23 or 20.54% and adjournments due to absence of plaintiffs with 15 or 13.39% of the sample rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 12.50% of the sample and the judge being absent or ill with 9.82% complete the list. The top reasons of adjournment listed above accounts for 85.71% of the total sample of adjournments.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Settlement	6	30.00
Default Judgment	5	25.00
Final Judgment	4	20.00
Oral Admission	3	15.00
Consent	2	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**NB there were 20 matters were disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

A total of 20 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020 and the above table details the methods of disposal. The list is led by settlements with 6 or 30% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgements with 5 or 25% and by final judgments with 4 or 20%. Oral admissions and matters disposed by consent round off the top five methods with 15% and 10% respectively of the total dispositions.

**Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the quarter	Approximate net clearance rate (%)
154	18	11.69

The above table shows 154 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, an approximate gross figure of 18 cases were disposed, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated net case clearance rate of 11.69 for the quarter.

The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the active cases which were disposed in the period.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

No trial date certainty rate is reported for the quarter due to a much smaller than usual incidence of trial hearings.

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

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	16
Mean	100.3750
Std. Error of Mean	15.17753
Median	85.5000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	60.71010
Skewness	2.140
Std. Error of Skewness	.564
Range	224.00
Minimum	56.00
Maximum	280.00

The above table outlines summary data on 16 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth 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 56 days. The moderately high standard deviation of roughly 61 days is an indication that there is some amount 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 280 days or roughly 9.3 months old, while the minimum time taken was 56 days.

**Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters for the second quarter ended June 31, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	1014
Mean	249.9793
Std. Error of Mean	5.42647
Median	211.0000
Mode	84.00
Std. Deviation	172.79707
Skewness	1.219
Std. Error of Skewness	.077
Range	865.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	873.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 250 days or 8.3 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 84 days. The standard deviation of roughly 173 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 in the data set is 873 days old or roughly 2.4 years, while the minimum is 8 days.

**Table 14.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters reissued as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Descriptive Statistics (days)**

Number of observations	76
Mean	20.4342
Std. Error of Mean	1.08924
Median	25.0000
Mode	29.00
Std. Deviation	9.49573
Skewness	-.502
Std. Error of Skewness	.276
Range	21.00
Minimum	8.00
Maximum	29.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 76 active reissued matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court as at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 20 days, with the most frequently occurring age being 29 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the negative skewness indicating that most of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 29 days and the lowest was 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 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. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Active	94	72.31
Disposed	21	16.15
Inactive	15	11.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table presents a status distribution of 130 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 94 cases or 72.31% of these cases were still active, while 21 or 16.15% were disposed and 15 or 11.54% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 27.69%.

**Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Claim Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Big Claim	141	85.98
Small Claim	23	14.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 164 new claims filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the second quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 141 or 85.98% were big claims, while 23 or 14.02% were small claims.

**Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of services in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Bailiff	106	64.63
Personal	58	35.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</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 106 or 64.63% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 58 or 35.37%.

**Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading cause of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Causes of Action</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Recovery of Possession	22	13.50
Negligence	19	11.66
Money Owing	12	7.36
Breach of Contract	9	5.52
Rent Owing and Continuing	4	2.45
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>40.49</b>

**Total sample size of causes of action= 163**

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 second quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court were recovery of possession with 22 or roughly 13.50% of the sample. Negligence with 19 or 11.66%, monies owing with 12 or 7.36%, breach of contract with 9 or 5.52% and rent owing and continuing with 4 or 2.45% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 40.49% of the sample of 163 causes of action.

**Table 5.0: Sampling Distribution of new matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Courtroom/Outstation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Courtroom #3 (Main courthouse)	81	53.29
Courtroom #2 (Main courthouse)	40	26.32
Whithorn Outstation	15	9.87
Night Court (Main courthouse)	14	9.21
Courtroom #1 (Main courthouse)	2	1.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>152*</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**\*Note: Corresponding to 119 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 152 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouses, which accounted for 81 or 53.29% of the sample. The 40 or 26.32% that were entered in courtroom 2 followed this, while sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for roughly 9.87% of the incidence. Night court stings at the main courthouse with 9.21% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse with 1.32% accounted for the remaining proportion of the sample.

## Case Demographics for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020

**Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>percentage(%)</b>
Male	87	53.05
Female	61	37.20
Registered Company	16	9.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100.00</b>

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 164 new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 87 or 53.05%, followed by females with 61 or 37.20%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 16 or 9.76% of the sample.

**Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case Participant</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	103	62.80
Female	50	30.49
Trading As	9	5.49
Registered Company	2	1.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 164 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the second quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 103 or 62.80% of the sample, followed by females with 50 or 30.49%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 5.49% of the sample, while registered companies accounted for 1.22%.

**Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the second quarter ended June 30, 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 and the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur. This section also highlights the average time that it took to dispose of cases, which were completed in the quarter, as well as other essential metrics.

**Table 8.0: Distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

<b>Case flow stage</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Mention Date	64	83.12
Trial	8	10.39
Default Date	5	6.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows a sample of 77 matters that went to court during the second quarter ended June 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a procedural date. The largest proportion, 64 or 83.12% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 8 or 10.39%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 5 or 6.49% 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Reasons for Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage(%)
Placed on Trial List	6	6.82
Defendant Absent	5	5.68
File Incomplete	5	5.68
For Mention (continuance)	4	4.55
Compensation	3	3.41
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26.14</b>

**Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) =88**

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 88 incidence of adjournments/continuance in the second quarter of 2020. Adjournments for placement on trial list with 6 or 6.82% of the sample feature prominently on the list, while adjournments due to the absence of defendants and incomplete files with 5 or 5.68% each round off the top three. The list is completed by continuances, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention with 4 or 4.55% and compensation with 3 or 3.41%. The top five reasons for adjournment/continuance, which are listed above, account for 26.14% of the entire sample.

**Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	9	18.75
Oral Admission	8	16.67
Default Judgment	6	12.50
Settlement	6	12.50
Final Judgment	5	10.42
Withdrawal	5	10.42
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>81.25</b>

**NB: There were 48 matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020**

A total of 48 civil matters were disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 81.25% of the total sample. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 9 or 18.75% of the

disposals, followed by oral admissions with 8 or 16.67% and disposals by default judgments and settlements with 6 or 12.50% each. Matters disposed by final judgments and withdrawals round off the top five methods with 10.42% of the total dispositions each.

**Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	45	91.84
Settlement	3	6.12
Judgment in Favour of Defendant	1	2.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the second quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 45 or 91.84% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account for 6.12%. Judgements in favour of defendants account for the smallest share with 2.04%. 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 second quarter ended June 30, 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 (%)
130	36	91	70	27.69

The above table shows 130 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the second quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 21 of these cases were disposed, and 15

cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 27.69%. A gross figure of 50 cases was disposed, and 41 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 70%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The net disposal rate for the quarter is 18.26% and the net clearance rate is 43.48%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

The case disposal and case clearance rates reported here are not reflective of the typical trends and should therefore not be used for generalizations.

No trial date certainty rate is reported for the quarter due to a much smaller than usual incidence of trial hearings.

**Table 14.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	38
Mean	75.9474
Std. Error of Mean	7.17441
Median	71.5000
Mode	70.00
Std. Deviation	44.22605
Skewness	.164
Std. Error of Skewness	.383
Range	182.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	183.00

The above table outlines summary data on 38 civil matters disposed in the second quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 76 days or 2.5 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 70 days. The moderately high standard deviation is an indication that there is some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the small positive skewness is an indication that slightly more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 183 days or roughly 6.1 months, while the minimum time taken was just 1 day.

**Table 15.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

**Summary measures (in days)**

Number of observations	125
Mean	217.9120
Std. Error of Mean	13.57935
Median	146.0000
Mode	90.00
Std. Deviation	151.82173
Skewness	.590
Std. Error of Skewness	.217
Range	488.00
Minimum	22.00
Maximum	510.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the second quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 218 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 90 days. The standard deviation of roughly 152 days suggests that there only a small dispersion of the individual scores around the average. The positive skewness seen is an indication that slightly more scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The

oldest active matter in the data set is 510 days old or roughly 1.4 years, while the minimum time taken is 22 days.

The above table provides a summary of the percentile rank of the various parish courts with regards to their performances on the trial date certainty rates for 2020. The parish courts of Clarendon, St. Catherine, Hanover, and Portland all performed well on this measure by ranking and performing higher than all other parish courts. The Westmoreland St. Mary parish courts had the lowest trial date certainty rate for the quarter.

**Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2020**

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the second quarter of 2020	Approximate gross clearance rate (%)
1613	1707	105.83%

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the second quarter of 2020. It shows that a total of 1613 new cases were filed over the period while 1707 became inactive or were disposed, leading to a gross clearance rate of 105.83%. Both the number of new cases filed and the number of cases resolved are substantially below normal pattern and therefore these results should not be used as the basis for any generalization. They however provide interesting insights into the potential resilience of the civil divisions of the parish courts.

## **Conclusion**

The civil division of the Parish Courts, like the rest of the court system was adversely impacted by the significantly lower than normal court activity in the second quarter of 2020 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the peculiarities of the civil courts, some key performance metrics were unreportable and others reported, did not in many cases form the basis for generalization. Up to the end of the first quarter of 2020, the civil courts were making considerable strides on all key performance metrics, in some instances exceeding their counterparts in the criminal division of the parish courts. Stochastic analysis carried out suggests that the disruptions in productivity resulting from COVID-19 has slowed down the progress towards the realization of key strategic targets set out by the Chief Justice over the next few years, however the courts remain generally on course. The volume of case activity and total productivity over the second half of the year will be a crucial determinant of the extent of the impact on the attainment of the key quantitative goals which are embedded in the strategic plan which seeks to position the Jamaican court system as the best in the Caribbean Region in the next 2-3 years and among the bests in the world in the next 5-6 years. Accomplishing these objectives require the attainment of a gross case backlog rate of under 10% across the court system and the satisfying of other key predictor conditions including a minimum average trial date certainty rate of 95% and a case clearance rate of roughly 130%.

The Jamaican court system will be challenged to find creative solutions aimed at maintaining a high volume of case activity in order to stay on course with these key goals.

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

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

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

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

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

Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed

300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

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

*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.