



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

	JULY TO SEPTEMBER
	<u>2020</u>
Gross Case Disposal rate (%)	22.21
Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	81.51
Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	79.75
Average time to disposition	9.8 months

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary 3

Methodology 6

Introduction.....7

Corporate Area Court – Civil Division.....9

Hanover Parish Court 23

Manchester Parish Court (Small Claims Court) 33

Portland Parish Court 40

St. Ann Parish Court 50

St. Catherine Parish Court.....60

Trelawny Parish Court 70

Westmoreland.....78

St. Elizabeth Parish Court.....87

St. Mary Parish Court.....98

St. Thomas Parish Court.....108

Summary of key performance metrics (Including Clarendon and St. James) 116

Conclusion.....117

Glossary of Terms.....119

Executive Summary

The Jamaican court system entered 2020 with a significant momentum, buoyed by record case clearance and case disposal rates over the previous eighteen months, a steady improvement in trial date certainty rates and strong and consistent reductions in the both the case congestion and case backlog rates. This progress placed the court system on the trajectory to reduce its net case backlog incidence to below 5% within the next 2-3 years, a feat that would make it one of the best performing courts in the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a reduction in court activity especially during the second and third quarters of 2020, however the civil division of the parish courts, like other divisions are showing immense resilience, despite losing ground on nearly all significant performance metrics. Despite these slides, this division registered a resilient showing in the third quarter of 2020, as stochastic probability analysis suggests that the declines recorded are not sufficient to warrant undue concern about the ability to meet the key quantitative targets in the judiciary's strategic plan at this time.

In a show of resilience, the civil division of the parish courts recorded an estimated case clearance rate of 81.51%, which is lower than that of the previous two quarters of 2020 and the 2019 annual figure but 3.20 percentage points higher than the criminal division of the parish courts for the third quarter of 2020. The cumulative decline has reversed some of the gains made over the past 12-18 months but there is no mathematical evidence to suggest that the civil courts have been thrown off course with respect to the key strategic targets. Several parish courts, namely the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division, the Westmoreland Parish Court, the Hanover Parish Court, the St. Thomas and Clarendon Parish Courts exceeded the minimum international prescription of 90% on this metric while several others had stable outcomes. The case disposal

rate netted out at a low 22.21% for the third quarter for the civil division of the parish courts but this was partly a result of the challenges experienced by the courts with new summonses. 64.18% of the new cases file in the third quarter of 2020 were small claims, with roughly 34.50% being big claims and the remaining proportion proceeds of crime (POCA) and miscellaneous matters. Among the most frequently occurring causes of action for the quarter are – breach of contract, recovery of possession, negligence and rent owing.

There was a general reduction in trial court activity throughout 2020, including the third quarter, however the civil division of the parish courts still managed to record an overall trial date certainty rate of 79.75%, broadly consistent with the usual output and 2.75 percentage points higher than the criminal division of the parish courts. Among the leading causes of delay in the progression of hearings, which were encountered across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2020 are adjournments due to the absence of defendants and plaintiffs respectively, the absence of both parties, matters reissued and adjournments pending settlements.

The civil division of the parish courts also fared reasonably well with respect to the average length of time taken to dispose of cases which were resolved in the third quarter of 2020. The estimated average time to dispose these cases was 9.8 months, an encouraging sign for the potential of these courts to reduce its net case backlog rate to below 5% within the next 2-3 years. Many of the numerical targets contained in the strategic plan of the judiciary are predictors of this outcome and if attained it will place the Jamaican courts among the best in the world.

There is still some way to go to creating the most efficient and productive civil courts in Jamaica, especially within the context of the current challenges. The speed of adaptation of the courts to the prevailing realities is crucial to consistently delivering the highest standard of justice. This effort will be greatly aided by the introduction of an advanced data capture and case management system called the Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) in 2021.

See below aggregate case activity summary:

Table 2.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the third quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate Gross Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)	Overall average time to disposition (months)
3343	2725	81.51	79.75	9.8

Methodology – Generating Court Statistics in Jamaica

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policymaking and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past 4 years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer (soon to be called Statistical Officers) in each court. These officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A 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 third quarter ended September 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 impacted by the downturn 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 9-12 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 third quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division as well the distribution of the associated causes of action. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of case activity at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. It is important to note that in many cases the data presented represents point estimates of the population parameters using the electronically available data at the time of reporting.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	86	58.90
Disposed	12	8.22
Inactive	48	32.88
Total	146	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 146 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 86 or 58.90% cases were still active, 12 were disposed and 48 were inactive at the end of the quarter. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 41.10% for the quarter.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Small Claim	124	82.67
Big Claim	24	16.00
Miscellaneous	2	1.33
Total	150	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 150 new claims filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court in the third quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of which 124 or 82.67% were small claims, while 24 or 16% were big claims. Miscellaneous matters account for the remaining 1.33% of the sample of claims filed.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Types of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	12	60.00
Bailiff	5	25.00
District Constable	2	10.00
Not served	1	5.00
Total	20	100.00

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 12 or 60% of the sample. Service by the bailiff accounted for 5 or 25%, service by the district constable accounted for 2 or 10% of the sample and 5% were not served.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Civil Division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	91	60.67
Recovery of Possession	10	6.67
Rent Owing, Continuing and Recovery of Possession	7	4.67
Utility Bill Owing	7	4.67
Rent Owing	5	3.33
Sub-total	120	80.00

Total sample size of causes of action= 150

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 third quarter at the Corporate Area Civil Court was breach of contract with 91 or roughly 60.67% of the sample. Recovery of possession with 10 or 6.67% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession, and utility bill owing with 7 or 4.67% each round off the top four causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action were rounded off with rent owing with 5 or 3.33% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 80% of all the total sample of 150 causes of action.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #4 (main courthouse)	120	80.00
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	20	13.33
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	10	6.67
Total	150	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 146 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 150 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 4 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 120 or 80% of the sample. Courtroom 2 at the main courthouse had 20 matters entered or 13.33% of the sample and courtroom 1 had 10 matters entered or 6.67%.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	87	58.78
Male	58	39.19
Trading As	3	2.03
Total	148	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 148 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Civil Court, females accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 87 or 58.78%, followed by males with 58 or 39.19% of the sample. Individuals trading under a business name ('trading as') with 3 or 2.03% accounted for the lowest proportion of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	79	54.11
Female	48	32.88
Registered Company	19	13.01
Total	146	100.00

There were 146 records on the gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 79 or 54.11% of the sample, followed by females with 48 or 32.88%. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 19 or 13.01% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	419	40.13
Default Judgment Date	222	21.26
Trial	217	20.79
Part-Heard Date	94	9.00
Hearing of Application	53	5.08
Date for Order	32	3.07

Judgment Date	7	0.67
Total	1044	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 1044 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, final judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date. The largest proportion, 419 or 40.13% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 222 or 21.26%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments in this sample were adjournments for trial dates with 217 or 20.79% of the sample of matters. It is of note that 94 or 9% of the matters in this sample were adjourned part heard. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention and that there is a notable incidence of adjournments for default judgments to be entered. This result is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	153	18.43
Placed on Trial List	137	16.51
No Return/Re-Issued	126	15.18
Both Parties Absent	74	8.92
Hearing of Application	22	2.65
Sub-total	512	61.69

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 830

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 830 incidence of adjournments in the third quarter of 2020. The absence of defendants with 153 or 18.43% of the sample, adjournments for placement on the trial list with 137 or 16.51% and adjournments for no return/re-issued with 126

or 15.18% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 74 or 8.92% of the sample and adjournments for the hearing of applications with 22 or 2.65% rounds off the list. The top five reasons for adjournment, which are listed above, account for 61.69% of all the total sample of reasons for adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	167	40.83
Default	67	16.38
Consent	63	15.40
Withdrawal	27	6.60
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	18	4.40
Sub-total	342	83.62

NB there were 409 matters were disposed in the third quarter of 2020

A total of 409 matters were disposed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 342 or 83.62% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 167 or 40.83% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgments with 67 or 16.38% and by consent with 63 or 15.40%. Matters disposed by withdrawals and by Notices of Discontinuance (NOD) round off the top five methods with 27 or 6.60% and 18 or 4.40% respectively of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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 (%)
146	60	814	557.53	41.10

The above table shows 146 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Civil Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 12 of these cases were disposed, and 48 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 41.10%. A gross figure of 529 cases were disposed, and 285 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to a gross case clearance rate of 557.53%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 12.24% and the estimated net clearance rate is 539.80%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
61	6	90.16

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 61 trial dates set in the third quarter revealed that 6 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial

date certainty rate of 90.16%. This is within the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 90% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	367
Mean	263.7003
Std. Error of Mean	12.72847
Median	201.0000
Mode	98.00
Std. Deviation	243.84239
Skewness	3.484
Std. Error of Skewness	.127
Range	2275.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	2280.00

The above table outlines summary data on 367 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Corporate Area Court – Civil Division. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 264 days or 8.8 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 98 days or 3.3 months. The standard deviation of roughly 244 days is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores, while the high positive skewness is seen as an indication that there were significantly more scores in the data set which fall below the overall average time. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 2280 days or roughly 6.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	15
Mean	24.0000
Std. Error of Mean	4.05674
Median	18.0000
Mode	18.00
Std. Deviation	15.71169
Skewness	1.570
Std. Error of Skewness	.580
Range	42.00
Minimum	12.00
Maximum	54.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 15 matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 24 days. The relatively high standard deviation is an indication that there was some amount of variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that the larger proportion of the scores in this data series fell below the overall average.

A sample of 265 reissued matters in an inactive state at the end of the quarter reveals an average age in that status of approximately 28 days.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1130
Mean	537.6805
Std. Error of Mean	14.59188
Median	370.0000
Mode	265.00
Std. Deviation	490.51303
Skewness	2.998
Std. Error of Skewness	.073
Range	5256.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	5261.00

The above data is based on a sample of 1130 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 538 days or roughly 17.9 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 265 days. The standard deviation of roughly 491 days suggests that there is some dispersion in the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 5261 days old or roughly 15 years, while the minimum time taken is 5 days.

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

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	85
Mean	23.8000
Std. Error of Mean	1.91345
Median	20.0000
Mode	20.00
Std. Deviation	17.64113
Skewness	2.496
Std. Error of Skewness	.261
Range	85.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	90.00

The above table outlines summary data on the average age of a sample of 85 active reissued matters at the Corporate Area Civil Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 24 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age were both 20 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were below the average. The highest age in the data set was 90 days and the lowest was 5 days. Cases which are reissued for a specific date are considered as active as distinct from cases reissued on application (R.I.A) which are classified as inactive cases.

Table 15.0: Distribution of courtroom utilization rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Parish Court	Average overall Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Highest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Lowest Recorded Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Standard Deviation of the Courtroom Utilization Rate (%)	Average Courtroom Utilization Rate for Night Court sittings (%)	Average Number of Courtroom Adjournments Per Day
Corporate Area Court-Civil Division	62.73	221.67	6.94	35.28	51.70	1

The above table details the courtroom utilization rate for the Corporate Area Court for the third 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 62.73%, which is an indication that on average roughly 63% of the available hours for court hearings in the third 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 51.70%, the night courts use 11.03 percentage points less of the available time than the overall average utilization rate.

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 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	15	29.41
Disposed	24	47.06
Inactive	12	23.53
Total	51	76.47

The above table presents a status distribution of 51 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 15 cases or 29.41% of these cases were still active, while 24 were disposed and 12 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross case disposal rate of 70.59%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of claim	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	50	83.33
Small Claim	10	16.67
Total	60	100

The above table represents a sampling distribution of 60 civil claims filed at the Hanover Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 50 or 83.33% were big claims, while 10 or 16.67% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service in the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Types of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
District Constable	19	47.50
Bailiff	15	37.50
Personal	6	15.00
Total	40	100

Methods of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the district constable accounted for the highest proportion with 19 or 47.50% of the sample. Service by the bailiff with 15 or 37.50% and personal service with 6 or 15% of the sample ran next.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Hanover Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	9	32.14
Breach of Contract	6	21.43
Damages	6	21.43
Damages for Negligence	2	7.14
Arrears of Rent	1	3.57
Damages for Breach of Contract	1	3.57
Damages for Slander	1	3.57
Rent Owing	1	3.57
Specific Performance	1	3.57
Total	28	100

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 third quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court was recovery of possession with 9 or roughly 32.14% of the sample. Breach of

contract and damages with 6 or 21.43% each of the sample round off the top three causes of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence with 2 or 7.14% rank next. Arrears of rent, damages for breach of contract, damages for slander, rent owing and specific performance each accounted for 3.57% of the sample.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	27	45.00
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	16	26.67
Sandy Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	11	18.33
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	4	6.67
Green Island Outstation (courtroom #1)	2	3.33
Total	60*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 51 cases**

The largest proportions of a sample of 60 new matters filed in the third quarter were entered in courtroom number one at the main courthouse, which accounted for 27 or 45% of the total sample. There were 16 or 26.67% of the matters entered at courtroom number one at the Green Island outstation, while courtroom number one at the Sandy Bay outstation accounted for 11 or 18.33% of the matters heard. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 4 matters entered and courtroom number 1 at the Green Island outstation accounted for the remaining 3.33% of the sample of courtroom accommodations.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	32	53.33
Female	27	45.00
Registered Company	1	1.67
Total	60	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 60 plaintiffs in the third quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court, 32 or 53.33% were males and females accounted for 27 or 45% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 1.67% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	46	76.67
Female	14	23.33
Total	60	100

There were 60 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male 46 with or 76.67% of the sample, followed by females with 14 or 23.33% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay Factors and Case Disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency of adjournments	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	40	50.00
Trial	31	38.75
Part-Heard Date	6	7.50
Default Date	3	3.75
Total	80	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 80 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a judgment, mention, part heard, trial date or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 40 or 50% of the sample, were adjourned for mention dates. Matters adjourned for a trial date accounted for 31 or 38.75% of the sample and matters adjourned for a part-heard date accounted for 6 or 7.50% of the sample. Rounding off the incidences of procedural adjournments were matters adjourned for a default judgment date with 3 or 3.75% of the sample. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for mention. This is however not an abnormal outcome given that mention court hearings are central to the case flow process in the civil courts.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for Adjournments/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No Return/Re-Issued	27	32.14
Attorney Absent	14	16.67
Defendant Absent	13	15.48
Both Parties Absent	12	14.29
Plaintiff Absent	9	10.71
Sub-total	75	89.29

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 84

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 84 incidences of adjournments and continuances in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to no return/for reissue accounted for 27 or 32.14% of the sample and attorneys being absent with 14 or 16.67% accounted for the largest proportion of the sample. Adjournments for the absenteeism of defendants accounted for 13 or 15.48% of the sample and the absence of both parties with 12 or 14.29% rank next. Adjournments due to the absence of plaintiffs round off the top of reasons for adjournments during the quarter with 10.71% of the sample. The reasons for adjournments enumerated above account for 89.29% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	18	18.75
Consent	15	15.63
Default Judgment	14	14.58
Settlement	11	11.46
Oral Admission	10	10.42
Sub-total	68	70.83

NB: There were 96 matters disposed of in the third quarter

A total of 96 civil matters were disposed at the Hanover Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. The above table details the top five methods of disposition, which accounts for 68 or 70.83% of the total sample. The list is led by matters struck out with 18 or 18.75% of the disposals, followed by disposals by consent with 15 or 15.63% and default judgments with 14 or 14.58% of the sample. Settlements with 11 or 11.46% and oral admissions account for the remaining 10.42% of the sample of disposals.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	12	70.59
Settlement	5	29.41
Total	17	100

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 12 or 70.59% of the sample of matters, accounts for the larger proportion, while settlements account for the remaining 29.41% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
51	36	98	192.16	70.59

The above table shows 51 new cases filed at the Hanover Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 24 of these cases were disposed and 12 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 70.59%. An approximate gross figure of 82 cases was 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 192.16%, which exceeds the international standard on this metric.

The estimated net case disposal rate for the quarter is 61.54% and the estimated net case clearance rate is 210.26%. 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.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
16	6	62.50

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 16 trial dates were set in the third quarter shows that 6 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 62.50%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 63% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	66
Mean	319.73
Std. Error of Mean	77.958
Median	91.00
Mode	91
Std. Deviation	633.336
Skewness	3.981
Std. Error of Skewness	.295
Range	3505
Minimum	7
Maximum	3512

The above table outlines sample data on 66 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Hanover Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 320 days or 10.1 months and the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 91 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 633 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 3512 days or roughly 9.8 years, while the minimum time taken was 7 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	89
Mean	711.73
Std. Error of Mean	99.424
Median	358.00
Mode	358
Std. Deviation	937.961
Skewness	2.652
Std. Error of Skewness	.255
Range	4271
Minimum	41
Maximum	4312

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 712 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age in the distribution were both 358 days. The standard deviation of roughly 938 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion in the individual scores around the average, and the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were proportionately more scores in the

data set which fell below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter in this data set is 4312 days old or roughly 12 years, while the lowest is 41 days.

Manchester 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 small claims filed in the third quarter of 2020 as well the distribution of the associated causes of action at the Manchester Parish Court. This section also outlines the incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants. The data used in this section, largely represents the results of representative samples taken of small claims case activity at the court.

Table 1.0: Small claims case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	41	100.00
Disposed	0	0.00
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	41	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 16 new small claim cases filed at the Manchester Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, all of these small claims were still active, hence a disposal rate is not reportable.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action for small claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Arrears of Rent	9	21.95
Monies Due & Owing	4	9.76
Monies Owing	1	2.44
Vacation Pay Owing	1	2.44
Other	26	63.41
Total	41	100.00

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Apart from the causes of action pooled under “other”, it is shown in the above sample data, among the leading causes of action for small claims matters in the third quarter of 2020 at the Manchester Parish Court is arrears of rent with 9 or 21.95% of the sample, followed by monies due and owing with 4 or 9.76% of the sample. Monies owing and vacation pay owing each accounted for 2.44% of the sample.

Table 3.0: Sampling Distribution of new small claims matters filed by courtroom and outstation for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Small claim court #2	21	51.22
Small claim court #3	20	48.78
Total	41*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 41 cases**

The larger proportion of a sample of 41 new small claims matters filed in the third quarter was entered in courtroom number 2 at the small claims court, which accounted for 21 or 51.22% of the total sample. Courtroom number 3 at the small claims court accounted for the remaining 48.78% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 4.0: Distribution of small claims plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	21	51.22
Female	20	48.79
Total	41	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 41 new small claims filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Manchester Parish Court, males accounted for the larger proportion with 21 or

51.22% of the sample, followed by females with 20 or 48.79% of the sample.

Table 5.0: Distribution of small claims defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Female	27	65.85
Male	14	34.15
Total	41	100

There were 41 records on gender of defendants for new small claims filed in the third quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were female with 27 or 65.85% of the sample, followed by males with 14 or 34.15% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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, the stages of matters at which adjournments are most likely to occur and the incidence of reissued cases emanating from the non-service or short service of summonses. This section also seeks to address the average time that it took to dispose of small claims matters, which were completed in the third quarter as well as the average time between the reservation and delivery of judgments.

Table 6.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for small claim heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	18	52.94
Default Date	9	26.47
Mention Date	6	17.65
Part-Heard Date	1	2.94
Total	34	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 34 small claims that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 18 or 52.94% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 9 or 26.47%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 6 or 17.65% of matters, which were adjourned for a mention date and 2.94% of the sample which was adjourned for a trial date.

Table 7.0: Sampling distribution Reasons for adjournments/continuance for small claims heard in the third quarter ended September 30,2020

Reasons for adjournments/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Both Parties Absent	10	21.28
Defendant Absent	7	14.89
Placed on Trial List	5	10.64
Hearing of Application	3	6.38
No Return/Re-Issued	3	6.38
Sub-total	28	59.57

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 47

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 47 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 10 or 21.28% of the sample, adjournments due to absence of defendants with 7 or 14.89% and adjournments due to placement on the trial list with 5 or 10.64% of the sample rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments for the hearing of applications and no return/re-issued with 6.38% each of the sample. The top reasons of adjournment listed above account for 59.57% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for small claims heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	13	52.00
Final Judgment	7	28.00
Settlement	3	12.00
Withdrawal	2	8.00
Total	25	100

NB there were 25 matters were disposed in the third quarter of 2020

A total of 20 small claims were disposed at the Manchester Court during the third quarter of 2020 and the above table details the methods of disposition. The list is led by matter struck out with 13 or 52% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by final judgements with 7 or 28% and by settlements with 3 or 12%. Withdrawals round off the methods with 8% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 9.0: Case flow performance metrics for small claims in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)
41	23	56.10

The above table shows 41 new small claims filed at the Manchester Parish Court third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, an approximate gross figure of 23 cases were either disposed or inactive, many of which have dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 56.10% for the quarter.

The overall gross case clearance rate (big and small claims combined) at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter was 25.74%.

Table 10.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of small claims in the third quarter ended September 30 ,2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	13
Mean	229.4615
Std. Error of Mean	23.64552
Median	203.0000
Mode	203.00
Std. Deviation	85.25512
Skewness	1.844
Std. Error of Skewness	.616
Range	336.00
Minimum	126.00
Maximum	462.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 13 small claims disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Manchester Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 230 days or 7.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 203 days. The standard deviation of roughly 85 days is an indication that there is some variation in the distribution of the scores, while the positive skewness suggests that there were more scores in the data set that fell below the overall average scores. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 462 days or roughly 1.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 126 days.

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

Table 11.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active small claims as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	259
Mean	458.39
Std. Error of Mean	22.268
Median	379.00
Mode	834
Std. Deviation	358.377
Skewness	4.148
Std. Error of Skewness	.151
Range	4086
Minimum	8
Maximum	4094

The above data is based on sample of 259 active small claims at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 458 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 834 days. The standard deviation of roughly 358 days suggests that there is some amount of 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 4094 days old or roughly 11.4 years while the minimum age is 8 days.

Portland 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	72	93.51
Disposed	4	5.19
Inactive	1	1.30
Total	77	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 77 new cases filed at the Portland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 72 or 93.51% were still active, 4 cases were disposed and 1 was rendered inactive. This data suggests that the estimated gross case disposal rate for the quarter was 6.49%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	81	81.82
Small Claim	18	18.18
Total	99	100

The above table shows that from the 99 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion of which 81 or 81.82% were big claims, while 18 or 18.18% were small claims.

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

Types of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	64	66.67
Bailiff	32	33.33
Total	96	100

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 64 or 66.67% of the sample, while service by the bailiff accounted for 32 or 33.33% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Portland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Causes of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	22	23.16
Breach of Contract	21	22.11
Damages	11	11.58
Special Damages	8	8.42
Damages for Trespass	7	7.37
Sub-total	69	72.63

Total number of causes of action sampled=95

A cause of action refers to the substantive reason that a claim is made in the civil courts. Using a sample of 95 matters filed, the data reveals that the leading causes of action were recovery of possession with 22 or roughly 23.16% of the total sample, breach of contract with 21 or 22.11% rank next and damages with 11 or 11.58% of the sample followed. Special damages with 8 or 8.42% and damages for trespass with 7 or 7.37% of the sample rounds off the top five causes of

action for the quarter. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 72.63% of the sample.

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

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	8	27.59
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	7	24.14
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #1)	6	20.69
Manchioneal Outstation	4	13.79
Buff Bay Outstation (courtroom #2)	3	10.34
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	1	3.45
Total	29*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 26 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 29 new matters filed in the quarter was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 8 or 27.59% of the sample of accommodations. 7 or 24.14% that were entered in courtroom number 3 followed this, while the 6 matters that entered in courtroom number 1 at the Buff Bay outstation rounds off the top three accommodations in the distribution over the quarter.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	51	54.84
Female	39	41.94
Registered Company	3	3.23
Total	93	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 93 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020, males accounted for the largest proportion with 51 or 54.84% of the sample, followed by females with 39 or 41.94% and registered companies with 3 or 3.23% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	63	64.95
Female	32	32.99
Registered Company	2	2.06
Total	97	100.0

There were 97 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the quarter. The majority of defendants were male with 63 or 64.95% of the sample, followed by females with 32 or 32.99% of the sample and registered companies with 2 or 2.06%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	194	55.75
Trial	108	31.03
Default Date	22	6.32
Part-Heard Date	21	6.03
Hearing of Application	2	0.57
Date for Order	1	0.29
Total	348	100.00

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 348 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020 which were adjourned for a default, mention, part heard, trial or other similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 194 or 55.75% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 108 or 31.03%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Adjournments for default judgment dates with 22 or 6.32% and for part heard dates with 21 or 6.03% accounted for the largest proportions. This data provides insights into the distribution of the stages of adjournment during the third quarter at the Portland Parish Court.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For new date to be set	49	17.50
Both Parties Absent	40	14.29
Defendant Absent	32	11.43
No Return/Re-Issued	20	7.14
Pending Settlement	19	6.79
Sub-total	160	57.14

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)= 280

The above data is computed from a sample of 280 reasons for adjournment heard in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments for new dates to be set with 49 or 17.50% account for the highest share of the adjournments, followed by the absence of both parties with 40 or 14.29%. The absence of defendants with 32 or 11.43% of the sample account for the third highest share of the reasons for adjournment. The list is completed by matters adjourned due to no return/re-issued with 20 or 7.14% of the sample and pending settlements with 19 or 6.79%. The reasons

for adjournment listed account for 57.14% of the total sample of reasons for adjournments/continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	14	23.73
Notice of Discontinuance (NOD)	11	18.64
Settlement	9	15.25
Withdrawal	8	13.56
Final Judgment	6	10.17
Sub-total	48	81.36

There were 59 matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020

A total of 59 civil matters were disposed at the Portland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. The distribution is led by dispositions by consent with 14 or 23.73%, followed by notices of discontinuance (NOD) with 11 or 18.64% and settlements with 9 or 15.25%. Withdrawals with 8 or 13.56% and matters disposed by final judgments with 6 or 10.17% complete the top 5 methods of disposition for the quarter. The top 5 methods of dispositions enumerated above account for 81.36% of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
77	5	65	84.42	6.49

The above table shows 77 new cases filed at the Portland Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 4 of these cases were disposed and 1 case became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 6.49%. An approximate gross figure of 60 cases were

disposed, and 5 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which having dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 84.42%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 5.26% and the estimated net clearance rate is 78.95%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
13	2	84.62

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. Using A sample of 13 trial dates set in the quarter, it is seen that 2 were adjourned for reasons other than procedural factors. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 84.62%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was roughly an 85% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	47
Mean	395.15
Std. Error of Mean	52.630
Median	238.00
Mode	833
Std. Deviation	360.812
Skewness	1.466
Std. Error of Skewness	.347
Range	1780
Minimum	7
Maximum	1787

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 47 civil matters disposed in third quarter of 2020 at the Portland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 395 days (1.1 months). However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 833 days. There is a high standard deviation of roughly 361 days, which is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores around the series mean. 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 1787 days or roughly 5 years old, while the minimum time was 7 days.

Table 13.0b: Descriptive statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters reissued in the period ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	14
Mean	115.14
Std. Error of Mean	33.145
Median	66.50
Mode	0
Std. Deviation	124.016
Skewness	.994
Std. Error of Skewness	.597
Range	377
Minimum	0
Maximum	377

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 14 matters at the Portland Parish Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 115 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there was a wide variation in the distribution of the scores and the positive skewness suggests that a larger proportion of the scores in the series fell below the overall average. The highest time in the data set is 377 days.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	539
Mean	757.05
Std. Error of Mean	32.837
Median	512.00
Mode	22
Std. Deviation	762.353
Skewness	1.712
Std. Error of Skewness	.105
Range	4475
Minimum	20
Maximum	4495

The above data is computed using 539 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 757 days (2.1 years), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 22 days. The standard deviation of roughly 762 days suggests that there is a wide dispersion of the individual scores from the mean, 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 4495 days (12.5 years), while the minimum age is 20 days.

St. Ann 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	452	88.45
Disposed	26	5.09
Inactive	33	6.46
Total	511	93.54

The above table presents a status distribution of 511 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 452 cases or 88.45% of these cases were still active, 26 were disposed and 33 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 11.55%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Small Claim	495	79.97
Big Claim	124	20.03
Total	619	100

The above table shows that from 619 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which were small claims with 495 or 79.97%, while 124 or 20.03% were big claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types service in the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Bailiff	50	56.18
Personal	20	22.47
District Constable	19	21.35
Total	89	100.0

Types of service as used in the above table refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, service by the bailiff accounted for the highest proportion with 50 or 56.18% of the sample. Personal service accounted for 20 or 22.47% and service by the district constable accounted for the remaining 19 or 21.35% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Ann Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	147	28.77
Recovery of Possession	96	18.79
Damages for Negligence	81	15.85
Money Owing	44	8.61
Rent Owing and Recovery of possession	33	6.46
Sub-total	401	78.47

Total sample size of cause of action (N) =511

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 511 matters, from which the leading causes of action for the third

quarter of 2020 was breach of contract with 147 or roughly 28.77% of the sample and recovery of possession with 96 or 18.79%. Damages for negligence with 81 or 15.85%, monies owing with 44 or 8.61% and rent owing and recovery of possession with 33 or 6.46% of the total sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 78.47% of the sample of causes of action.

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

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1	191	50.00
Courtroom #2	84	21.99
Claremont Outstation	48	12.57
Total	382*	100.0

***Note: Corresponding to 282 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 382 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 were entered in courtroom number 1, accounting for 191 or 50% of the total sample. Courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse accounted for 84 or 21.99% and the Claremont outstation accounted for the remaining 48 or 12.57% of the accommodations.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	257	41.65
Female	250	40.52
Registered Company	110	17.83
Total	617	100.0

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 617 new matters filed in the third quarter, males accounted for the largest proportion with 257 or 41.65% of the sample, followed by females with 250 or 40.52% and registered companies with 110 or 17.83% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	356	62.02
Female	178	31.01
Registered Company	36	6.27
Trading As	4	0.70
Total	574	100

There were 574 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 356 or 62.02% of the total sample, followed by females with 178 or 31.01%. Registered companies accounted for 36 or 6.27% of the sample, followed by individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) with 4 or 0.70% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	242	40.74
Trial	149	25.08
Default Date	126	21.21
Part-Heard Date	70	11.78
Hearing of Application	6	1.01
Judgment Date	1	0.17
Total	594	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 594 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard dates and similar procedural dates. Adjournments for mention dates accounted for 242 or 40.74% of the sample, followed by 149 or 25.08%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 126 or 21.21% of matters, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for a part-heard date account for 70 or 11.78% 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 9.0a: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for adjournments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	139	21.72
Both Parties Absent	78	12.19
Pending Settlement	75	11.72
No Return/Re-Issued	69	10.78
Placed on Trial List	52	8.13
Sub-total	413	64.53

Sample size for reasons of adjournments/continuance = 640

The above table details a sample of 640 reasons for adjournment for matters that went to court in the third quarter of 2020, the top five of which are enumerated in the above table. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 139 or 21.72% of the sample, adjournments due to both parties being absent with 78 or 12.19% and pending settlements with 75 or 11.72% of the sample rounds off the top three reasons for adjournment for the quarter in this sample. The list is completed by adjournments for no return/re-issued with 69 or 10.78% and placement on the trial list with 52 or 8.13% of the sample. The leading reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 64.53% of the total sample of adjournments and continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Methods of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	86	32.95
Settlement	46	17.62
Consent	45	17.24
Default Judgment	29	11.11
Withdrawal	15	5.75
Sub-total	221	84.67

NB. There were 261 matters that were disposed in the third quarter of 2020

A sample of 261 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2020 revealed that 86 or 32.95% of matters were struck out, 46 or 17.62% were disposed by settlements and 45 or 17.24% of the sample were disposed by consent. Matters disposed by default judgments with 29 or 11.11% and withdrawals 15 or 5.75% of the total sample of disposals complete the top five for the quarter. The top 5 methods of disposition enumerated above, account for 84.67% of the total sample of dispositions. This data provides insights into the overall distribution of the methods of disposition in the third quarter of 2020.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	15	71.43
Settlement	6	28.57
Total	21	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Ann Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 15 or 71.43% of the sample of matters, account for the larger proportion, while settlements with 6 or 28.57% account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
511	59	266	52.05	11.55

The above table shows 511 new cases filed at the St. Ann Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 26 cases were disposed and 33 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 11.55%. An approximate gross figure of 201 cases were disposed, and 65 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 52.05%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 5.44% the quarter and the estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 42.05%. 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.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
43	3	93.02

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 43 trial dates set in the third quarter revealed that 3 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 93.02%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 93% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This is within the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	177
Mean	348.49
Std. Error of Mean	37.099
Median	154.00
Mode	119
Std. Deviation	493.566
Skewness	2.488
Std. Error of Skewness	.183
Range	2113
Minimum	6
Maximum	2119

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 177 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Ann Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 348 days or 11.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 119 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 494 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 2119 days or roughly 5.9 years old, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	1188
Mean	328.91
Std. Error of Mean	7.786
Median	285.00
Mode	27
Std. Deviation	268.369
Skewness	.605
Std. Error of Skewness	.071
Range	983
Minimum	12
Maximum	995

The above data is based on sample of 1188 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 329 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 27 days. The standard deviation of roughly 268 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series average, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were slightly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter is 995 days old or roughly 2.8 years, while the minimum age is 12 days.

St. Catherine 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	789	87.67
Disposed	44	4.89
Inactive	67	7.44
Total	900	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 900 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 789 cases or 87.67% of these cases were still active, while 44 were disposed and 67 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 12.33%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	964	89.84
Small Claim	108	10.07
POCA	1	0.09
Total	1073	100

The above table shows that from a sample of 1073 claims filed in the third quarter of 2020, 964 or 89.84% were big claims, 108 or 10.07% were small claims and 1 or 0.14% was a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) claim.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	128	46.38
Bailiff	111	40.22
District Constable	37	13.41
Total	276	100

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 128 or 46.38% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 111 or 40.22% and service by the district constable accounted for 37 or 13.41% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the St. Catherine Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	332	31.83
Damages for negligence	327	31.35
Recovery of possession	137	13.14
Rent owing and continuing	77	7.38
Rent Owing, Continuing and recovery of possession	76	7.29
Sub-total	949	90.99

Total number of causes of action sampled (N) =1043

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 1043 causes of action entered before the St. Catherine Parish Court during third quarter of 2020. The leading cause of action shown in this sample were breach of contract with 332 or roughly 31.83% of the sample, damages for negligence with 327 or 31.35%

and recovery of possession with 137 or 13.14%, which rounds off the top three. The top five causes of action are rounded off by rent owing and continuing with 77 or 7.38% and rent owing, continuing and recovery of possession with 76 or 7.29% of the sample. The causes of action which are listed above, account for 90.99% of the total sample of causes of action.

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

courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	826	77.63
Linstead Outstation (courtroom #1)	151	14.19
Old Harbour Outstation (courthouse #1)	87	8.18
Total	1064*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 786 cases**

The largest proportion of the sample of 1064 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 826 or 77.63% of the sample of claims. The 151 or 14.19% that were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Linstead outstation followed this and courtroom number 1 at the Old Harbour outstation accounted for the remaining 87 or 8.18% of the claims.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	552	51.73
Female	403	37.77
Registered company	112	10.50
Total	1067	100

It is seen in the above table that of the new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020, males accounted for the largest proportion with 552 or 51.73% of the sample, followed by females with 403 or 37.77% and registered companies with 112 or 10.50% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	681	63.82
Female	348	32.61
Registered Company	38	3.56
Total	1067	100

There were 1067 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 681 or 63.82% of the total sample, followed by females with 348 or 32.61%. Registered companies account for the remaining proportion with 38 or 3.56% of the total sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	448	42.22
Trial	292	27.52
Default Judgment Date	194	18.28
Part-Heard Date	92	8.67
Hearing of Application	23	2.17
Final Judgment Date	12	1.13
Total	1061	100.00

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 1061 matters that went to court during the third quarter of 2020, which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, or trial date or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 448 or 42.22% were adjourned for a mention date and 292 or 27.52% were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 194 or 18.28% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment date. Adjournment for part heard dates accounted for 92 or 8.67% 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Placed on Trial List	171	16.04
Defendant Absent	158	14.82
Both Parties Absent	109	10.23
Pending Settlement	60	5.63
Hearing of Application	21	1.97
Sub-total	519	48.69

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N)=1066

The above table details a sample of 1066 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 171 or 16.04% of the total sample, adjournments due to the defendant being absent with 158 or 14.82% and adjournments due to both parties being absent with 109 or 10.23% and pending settlements with 60 or 5.63% of the sample rank next. Adjournments for the hearing of applications with 1.97% of the sample complete the top five reasons for adjournment in the quarter. The top 5 reasons for adjournment listed above, account for 48.69% of the total sample of adjournments/continuances.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	85	24.71
Struck Out	58	16.86
Settlement	55	15.99
Default	33	9.59
Oral Admission	28	8.14
Sub-total	259	75.29

There were 344 matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020

The above table details the sampling distribution of the five leading methods of disposition using a sample of 344 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2020. The list is led by matters disposed by consent with 85 or 24.71% of the disposals, followed by matters struck out with 58 or 16.86%, settlements with 55 or 15.99% and default judgments with 33 or 9.59% of the sample. Oral admissions complete the list with 28 or 8.14% of the sample of disposals. The top 5 methods of disposition listed above account for 75.29% of the sample of disposals.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	35	97.22
Settlement	1	2.78
Total	36	100

The above table summarizes the sampling distribution of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. Judgments in favour of the plaintiff with 35 or 97.22% of the sample of matters, account for the larger proportion, while settlements with 2.78% account for the remaining proportion. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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 case	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
900	111	361	40.11	12.33

The above table shows 900 new cases filed at the St. Catherine Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 44 of these cases were disposed and 67 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 12.33%. An approximate gross figure of 288 cases were disposed and 73 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 40.11%, which is below the international standard for the case clearance rate.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 5.28%, while the estimated net clearance is 34.57%. 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.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
110	15	86.36

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without date adjournment. A sample of 110 trial dates were set in the third quarter shows that 15 were adjourned. This results in a trial date certainty rate of 86.36%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 86% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment. This rate is below the prescribed International benchmark of between 90% and 100%.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	234
Mean	469.82
Std. Error of Mean	35.622
Median	262.00
Mode	154
Std. Deviation	544.914
Skewness	2.126
Std. Error of Skewness	.159

Range	3117
Minimum	6
Maximum	3123

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 234 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 470 days or 15.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 154 days. There is a high standard deviation of 545, which is an indication that there is a 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 3123 days or roughly 8.7 years old, while the minimum time taken was 6 days.

Table 15.0a: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	2068
Mean	287.80
Std. Error of Mean	5.808
Median	244.00
Mode	15
Std. Deviation	264.135
Skewness	.923
Std. Error of Skewness	.054
Range	980
Minimum	15
Maximum	995

The above data is based on a sample of 2068 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 288 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 15 days. The standard deviation of roughly 264 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 995 days old or roughly 2.8 years, while the minimum age is 15 days.

Table 15.0b: Descriptive statistics on the age of active matters during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	76
Mean	30.47
Std. Error of Mean	2.978
Median	21.00
Mode	15
Std. Deviation	25.963
Skewness	1.620
Std. Error of Skewness	.276
Range	81
Minimum	9
Maximum	90

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 76 active reissued matters at the St. Catherine Court as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The average age of these matters at the end of the quarter roughly 30 days, while the most frequently occurring age was 15 days. The modest standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the positive skewness indicating that proportionately more of the data points were below the average. The highest age of active reissued cases in the sample set is 90 days and the lowest is 9 days.

Trelawny 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	90	56.60
Disposed	57	35.85
Inactive	12	7.55
Total	159	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 159 new cases filed at the Trelawny Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 90 or 56.60% of these cases were active, 57 were disposed and 12 became inactive at the end of the quarter. This produces an estimated gross case disposal rate of 43.40%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	128	76.65
Small Claim	39	23.35
Total	167	100

The above table shows that from the 167 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, 128 or 76.65% were big claims, while 39 or 23.35% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	23	46.94
Bailiff	15	30.61
District Constable	11	22.45
Total	49	100.0

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 23 or 46.94% of the sample, service by the bailiff accounted for 15 or 30.61% and service by the district constable accounted for 11 or 22.45% of the sample.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Trelawny Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	33	19.88
Money Owing	22	13.25
Arrears of Rent	18	10.84
Monies Due & Owing	10	6.02
Damages for Negligence	9	5.42
Sub- Total	92	55.42

Total sample size of cause of action =166

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 was recovery of possession with 33 or 19.88% of the sample and monies owing with 22 or 13.25%. Arrears of rent with 18 or 10.84%, monies due and owing with 10 or 6.02% and damages for negligence with

5.42% of the sample close out the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 55.42% of all the total sample of 166 causes of action.

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

Courtroom/outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Falmouth Outstation	118	70.66
Clarks Town Outstation (courtroom #1)	26	15.57
Ulster Spring Outstation	16	9.58
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	7	4.19
Total	167*	100

***Note: Corresponding to 159 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 167 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 was entered in the Falmouth outstation, which accounted for 118 or 70.66% of the accommodations. 26 or 15.57% that were entered in courtroom 1 at the Clarks Town outstation followed this, while court sittings at the Clarks Town outstation ranked next with 16 is 9.58%. Courtroom number 1 at main courthouse outstation accounted for 7 or 4.19% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	90	60.40
Female	59	39.60
Total	149	100

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 149 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court, males accounted for the larger proportion with 90 or 60.40% of the sample, followed by females with 59 or 39.60%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	108	67.50
Female	52	32.50
Total	160	100.0

There were 160 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were male with 108 or 67.50% of the sample, followed by females with 52 or 32.50%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	45	52.94
Default Date	18	21.18
Trial	12	14.12
Part-Heard Date	8	9.41
Judgment Date	2	2.35
Total	85	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 85 matters that were heard during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020 which were adjourned for a default judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 45 or 52.94% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 18 or 21.18%, which were adjourned for default judgment dates. Matters adjourned for trial dates with 12 or 14.12% and for part heard dates with 8 or 9.41% rank next. Matters adjourned for the hearing of an application accounted for the remaining 2.35%. 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 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for adjournment/continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	18	20.45
Both Parties Absent	14	15.91
Referred for other Mediation	14	15.91
No Return/Re-Issued	13	14.77
Placed on Trial List	5	5.68
Sub-total	64	72.73

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) =88

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 88 incidence of adjournments/continuance heard in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments due absence of defendants with 18 or 20.45% of the sample and both parties being absent and referrals to mediation with 14 or 15.91% each of the sample feature prominently on the list. Adjournments for no return/re-issued with 13 or 14.77% and adjournments due to placement on trial list with 5 or 5.68% of the sample close out the list. The top five reasons for adjournment and continuances, which are listed above, account for 72.73% of the entire sample.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	67	87.01
Non-Suited	2	2.60
Withdrawal	2	2.60
Application for Defendant Denied	1	1.30
Consent	1	1.30
Default	1	1.30
Oral Admission	1	1.30
Settlement	1	1.30
Trial	1	1.30
Total	77	100

NB: There were 77 matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020

The above table details the sampling distribution of the leading methods of disposition using a sample of 77 matters disposed during the third quarter of 2020. The list is led by matters struck out with 67 or 87.01% of the disposals, followed by withdrawals and matters non-suited with 2 or 2.60% each of the sample. Application for defendant denied, disposal by consent, default judgments, oral admissions, settlements and trial each accounted for 1.30% of the sample.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate number of cases disposed cases (of those originating in quarter)	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases (regardless of date of case initiation)	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
159	69	114	71.70	43.40

The above table shows 159 new cases were filed at the Trelawny Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 57 cases were disposed and 12 became inactive. This led to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 43.40%. An approximate gross figure of 75 cases were disposed, and 39 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 71.70%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 38.78% and the net clearance rate is 51.02%.

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.

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

Table 13.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	32
Mean	138.13
Std. Error of Mean	27.131
Median	119.00
Mode	119 ^a
Std. Deviation	153.477
Skewness	1.936
Std. Error of Skewness	.414
Range	579
Minimum	1
Maximum	580

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 32 civil cases disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 138 days or 4.6 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition and the median time were both 119 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 153 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the

relatively high positive skewness is an indication that a greater proportion of times to disposition fell below the overall average time. The oldest case disposed in the quarter was 580 days or roughly 1.6 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 1 day. The wide dispersion of the highest score from the centre of the data set suggests that there were outlying values in the distribution.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	272
Mean	242.83
Std. Error of Mean	12.358
Median	234.00
Mode	28
Std. Deviation	203.810
Skewness	1.203
Std. Error of Skewness	.148
Range	921
Minimum	22
Maximum	943

The above data is computed using 272 active cases at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these cases was roughly 243 days (8.1 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The moderate standard deviation of roughly 204 days suggests that there is some amount of 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 943 days (2.6 years old), while the youngest is 22 days.

Westmoreland 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	57	40.71
Disposed	55	39.29
Inactive	28	20.00
Total	140	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 140 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 57 cases or 40.71% of these cases were still active, while 55 or 39.29% were disposed and 28 or 20% rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 59.29%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	127	77.91
Small Claim	36	22.09
Total	163	100

The above table shows the sampling distribution of 163 new claims filed at the Westmoreland

Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. The larger proportion of which 127 or 77.91% were big claims, while 36 or 22.09% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of types of service for the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	percentage (%)
Bailiff	87	51.79
Personal	81	48.21
Total	168	100

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 87 or 51.79% of the sample, while personal service accounted for 81 or 48.21%.

Table 4.0: Sampling distribution of the leading causes of action at the Westmoreland Parish Court-Civil division for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Cause of action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	27	16.56
Breach of Contract	18	11.04
monies owing	12	7.36
Negligence	11	6.75
Damages for Negligence	4	2.45
Sub-total	72	44.17

Total number of causes of action sampled =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 third quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court were recovery of possession with 27 or roughly 16.56% of the sample. Breach of contract with 18 or 11.04%, monies owing with 12 or 7.36%, negligence with 11 or 6.75% and damages for negligence 4 or 2.45% round off the list. These five leading causes of action account for 44.17% of the sample of 163 causes of action.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	104	63.80
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	34	20.86
Night Court (main courthouse)	15	9.20
Whithorn Outstation	9	5.52
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	1	.61
Total	163	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 140 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 163 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 104 or 63.80% of the sample. The 34 or 20.86% that were entered in courtroom 2 followed this, while night court sittings accounted for roughly 9.20% of the incidences. Sittings at the Whithorn outstation accounted for 9 or 5.52% and courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 0.61% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	percentage (%)
Male	104	64.20
Female	39	24.07
Registered Company	14	8.64
Trading As	5	3.09
Total	162	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 162 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 104 or 64.20% of the sample, followed by females with 39 or 24.07%. Registered companies accounted

for 14 or 8.64% of the sample and individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 3.09%.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	97	59.51
Female	52	31.90
Trading As	8	4.91
Registered Company	6	3.68
Total	163	100.00

There were 164 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 97 or 59.51% of the sample, followed by females with 52 or 31.90%. Individuals trading under a business name (“trading as”) accounted for 4.91% of the sample, while registered companies accounted for 3.68%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case flow stage	Frequency	percentage (%)
Mention Date	125	72.25
Trial	23	13.29

Judgment Date	21	12.14
Part-Heard Date	3	1.73
Default Date	1	.58
Total	173	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 173 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a procedural date. The largest proportion, 125 or 72.25% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 23 or 13.29%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 21 or 12.14% of matters, which were adjourned for final judgment dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for trial or mention court hearings. This is, however, not an 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons for adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (continuance)	8	10.53
File Incomplete	4	5.26
Placed on Trial List	4	5.26
Part Heard (continuance)	3	3.95
Defendant Absent	2	2.63
Sub-total	21	27.63

Number of adjournments/continuances sample (N)=76

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 76 incidences of adjournments or continuances for matters heard in the third 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 8 or 10.53% and continuances for part heard matters accounted for 3 or 3.95%. Adjournments for incomplete files and placement on the trial list accounted for

5.26% each of the sample. The absence of defendants with 2 or 2.63% of the sample complete the top five reasons for adjournment or continuance for the quarter.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Method of disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	38	26.57
Oral Admission	29	20.28
Consent	26	18.18
Settlement	11	7.69
Trial	9	6.29
Withdrawal	9	6.29
Sub-Total	122	85.31

NB: There were 143 matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 143 civil matters disposed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that matters struck out with 38 or 26.57%, oral admissions with 29 or 20.28% and matters disposed by consent with 26 or 18.18% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Settlements accounted for 11 or 7.69% and withdrawals trials with 9 or 6.29% each round off the sample. The listed methods of disposition account for 85.31% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

Table 11: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	26	74.29
Settlement	8	22.86
Judgment for Ancillary Defendant	1	2.86
Total	35	100.0

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of case outcomes in the third quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 26 or 74.29% of the sample of matters, accounts for the largest proportion, while settlements account

for 22.86%. Judgements in favour of ancillary defendants account for the smallest share with 2.86% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate Number of new cases filed	Approximate Combined number of disposed and inactive cases (of those originating in the quarter)	Approximate Gross number of disposed and inactive cases	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)	Approximate gross case disposal rate (%)
140	83	181	129.29	59.29

The above table shows 140 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 55 of these cases were disposed, and 28 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 59.29%. A gross figure of 126 cases was disposed, and 55 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 129.29%, which exceeds the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 49.11% and the estimated net clearance rate is 112.50%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Number of trial dates set	Number of dates adjourned	Trial date certainty ratio (%)
40	7	82.50

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for a trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 40 trial dates was set in quarter, of which 7 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 82.50%. The output suggests that during the quarter there was a roughly 83% chance that a date set for a trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 14.0: Descriptive statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	60
Mean	118.02
Std. Error of Mean	16.502
Median	73.00
Mode	12 ^a
Std. Deviation	127.823
Skewness	1.928
Std. Error of Skewness	.309
Range	569
Minimum	5
Maximum	574

a. Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on 60 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 118 days or 3.9 months. The most frequently occurring time to disposition was 12 days. The high standard deviation is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores around the mean time and the positive skewness is an indication that most scores in the scores in the data set fell below the mean. The oldest matter disposed in the quarter was 574 days or roughly 1.6 years, while the minimum time taken was just 5 days.

Table 15.0: Descriptive statistics on the age of active cases as at the quarter ended September 30, 2020

Summary measures (in days)

Number of observations	203
Mean	251.29
Std. Error of Mean	12.281
Median	239.00
Mode	113
Std. Deviation	174.979
Skewness	.947
Std. Error of Skewness	.171
Range	530
Minimum	73
Maximum	603

The above data is based on sample of 203 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 251 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 113 days. The standard deviation of roughly 175 days suggests that there some 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 age of active cases was 603 days or 1.7 years and the youngest time is 73 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	345	99.42
Disposed	2	0.58
Inactive	0	0.00
Total	347	100

The above table presents a status distribution of 347 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 345 cases or 99.42% of these cases were still active, while 2 were disposed and 0 rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated net disposal rate of 0.58%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	257	65.06
Small Claim	138	34.94
Total	395	100.00

The above table shows that from 395 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 257, or 62.06% of the sample, while 138 or 34.94% were small claims.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Goods Sold and Delivered	72	28.80
Monies Owing	41	16.40
Recovery of Possession	22	8.80
Rent Owing	22	8.80
Damages for Negligence	15	6.00
Sub-total	172	68.80

Total sample size of causes of action= 250

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 250 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading cause of action for the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court were goods sold and delivered with 72 or roughly 28.80% of the sample. Monies owing with 41 or 16.40% and recovery of possession and rent owing with 22 or 8.80% each of the sample rounds off the top four causes of action in this representative sample. The top five causes of action are rounded off by damages for negligence with 15 or 6% of the sample. The top five causes of action, which is listed above, accounts for 68.80% of all the total sample of 250 causes of action.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (courthouse #1)	253	63.90
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	119	30.10
Balaclava Outstation (courthouse #1)	24	6.10
Total	396	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 347 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 396 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 were entered in courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation, which accounted for 253 or 63.90% of the sample. Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse accounted for 119 or 30.10%, while the Balaclava outstation (courtroom #1) with 6.10% of the sample rounds off the list.

Table 5.0: Sampling distribution of applications filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of Application	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Order for Personal Service	389	98.23
Injunction (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties)	4	1.01
Application for Court Order	2	.51
Application for Substituted Service	1	.25
Total	396	100.00

A sample of 396 applications filed during the third quarter of 2020 revealed that applications for order for personal service accounted for 389 or 98.23% of the sample. Applications for Injunction (Ex Parte or Inter-Parties) accounted for 4 or 1.01% of the sample and applications for court order accounted for 0.51%. Application for substituted service accounted for the remaining 0.25% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	181	45.94
Female	166	42.13
Registered Company	32	8.12
Trading As	15	3.81
Total	394	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 394 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 181 or 45.94% of the sample, followed by females with 166 or 42.13%. Registered companies accounted for 32 or 8.12% and individuals trading under a business name (“Trading As”) accounted for the lowest proportion with 15 or 3.81% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	251	64.03
Female	135	34.44
Registered Company	3	0.77
Trading As	3	0.77
Total	392	100.00

There were 392 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 251 or 64.03% of the sample, followed by females with 135 or 34.44%. Registered companies and individuals trading as businesses (“Trading As”) each accounted for 0.77% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and Case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Trial	142	43.16
Mention Date	106	32.22
Default Date	66	20.06
Part-Heard Date	13	3.95
Hearing of Application	2	0.61
Total	329	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 329 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural dates. The largest proportion, 142 or 43.16% were adjourned for trial dates, followed by 106 or 32.22%, which were adjourned for mention dates. Rounding off the top incidences of procedural adjournments were 66 or 20.06% of matters, which were adjourned for a default judgment dates, 13 or 3.95% which were adjourned for a part heard date and 0.61% which were adjourned for the hearing of an application date.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Defendant Absent	66	31.88
Placed on Trial List	34	16.43
Both Parties Absent	26	12.56
Referred to Mediation	11	5.31
Plaintiff Absent	9	4.35
Sub-total	146	70.53

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 207

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 207 incidences of adjournments heard in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 66 or 31.88% of the sample, adjournments due placement on the trial list with 34 or 16.43% and adjournments due to absence of both parties with 26 or 12.56% rounds off the top three incidences in the sample. The list is completed by adjournments due to referrals to mediation with 11 or 5.31% of the sample and the absence of plaintiffs with 4.35% of the sample. The top reasons of adjournment listed above accounts for 70.53% of the total sample of adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution on the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	41	22.53
Default	29	15.93
Oral Admission	26	14.29
Consent	22	12.09
Judgment	22	12.09
Sub-total	140	76.92

NB there were 182 matters were disposed in the third quarter of 2020

A total of 182 civil matters were disposed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020 and the above table details the methods of disposal. The list is led by matters struck out

with 41 or 22.53% of the disposals, followed by matters disposed by default judgements with 29 or 15.93% and by oral admissions with 26 or 14.29%. Matters disposed by consent and by final judgments round off the top five methods with 12.09% each of the total sample of dispositions.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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 net case disposal rate (%)
347	2	166	47.84	0.58

The above table shows 347 new cases filed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 2 of these cases were disposed leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 0.58%. A gross figure of 161 cases was disposed, and 5 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 47.84%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net clearance rate is 46.40%. The net clearance and disposal rates isolate and exclude inactive cases from the calculation of these metrics, focusing only on the proportion of the cases which did not become inactive which were disposed in the strictest of sense.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of trial date certainty rate for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Sample of trial dates set	Number of trial dates adjourned	Trial date certainty rate (%)
61	10	83.61

One of the most important performance metrics is the trial date certainty rate, which measures the likelihood that a date that is set for trial will proceed without adjournment. A sample of 61 trial dates was set in the quarter of which 10 were adjourned. This results in an overall trial date certainty rate of 83.61%. The output suggests that during the quarter, there was a roughly 84% chance that a date set for trial would proceed without adjournment.

Table 13.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	141
Mean	191.3546
Std. Error of Mean	11.80232
Median	168.0000
Mode	91.00
Std. Deviation	140.14483
Skewness	2.182
Std. Error of Skewness	.204
Range	854.00
Minimum	5.00
Maximum	859.00

The above table outlines summary data on 141 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 191 days or 6.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 91 days. The standard deviation of roughly 140 days is an indication that there is some 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 859 days or roughly 2.4 years old, while the minimum time taken was 5 days.

Table 13.0b: Descriptive Statistics on the time between reissue and disposal of matters resolved in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive statistics (days)

Number of observations	21
Mean	44.7619
Std. Error of Mean	3.34942
Median	49.0000
Mode	56.00
Std. Deviation	15.34896
Skewness	-.359
Std. Error of Skewness	.501
Range	46.00
Minimum	17.00
Maximum	63.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time between the reissue and disposal of a sample of 15 matters at the St. Elizabeth Civil Court. The average time between the reissue date and date of disposition is 45 days. The relatively low standard deviation is an indication that there was no dramatic variation in the distribution of the scores and the modest negative skewness suggests that slightly more of the scores were above the overall average.

Table 14.0a: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	1061
Mean	301.6051
Std. Error of Mean	6.23972
Median	293.0000
Mode	28.00
Std. Deviation	203.24646
Skewness	.706
Std. Error of Skewness	.075
Range	963.00
Minimum	2.00

Maximum	965.00
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The above data is based on sample of 1061 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 302 days or 10.1 months, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 28 days. The standard deviation of roughly 203 days suggests that there is some amount of dispersion of the individual scores, while the positive skewness seen is an indication that there were more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 965 days old or roughly 2.7 years, while the minimum time taken is 2 days.

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

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	52
Mean	62.1538
Std. Error of Mean	4.45265
Median	83.0000
Mode	83.00
Std. Deviation	32.10851
Skewness	-.778
Std. Error of Skewness	.330
Range	89.00
Minimum	2.00
Maximum	91.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 52 active reissued matters at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 62 days, with the most frequently occurring age and the median age being 83 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some

amount of dispersion of the individual scores around the series mean, with the negative skewness indicating that most of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 91 days and the lowest was 2 days.

St. Mary Parish Court – Civil Division

Chapter 1.0: Case Activity Summary

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

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	151	76.65
Disposed	25	12.69
Inactive	21	10.66
Total	197	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 197 civil new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court in the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 151 or 76.65% were still active, 25 or 12.69% were disposed and 21 or 10.66% were inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 23.35% for the quarter.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	207	79.62
Small Claim	53	20.38
Total	260	100.00

The above table shows that from the 260 new claims filed in the quarter, the larger proportion were big claims, which accounted for 207 or 79.62% of the total sample, while 53 or 20.38% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of services for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	241	92.70
Bailiff	19	7.30
Total	260	100.00

Types of service as used above refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the higher proportion with 241 or 92.70%, with service by the bailiff accounting for the remaining 19 or 7.30% of the sample.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Recovery of Possession	35	35.00
Money Owing	20	20.00
Damages	14	14.00
Damages for Negligence	11	11.00
Breach of Contract	9	9.00
Sub-total	89	89.00

Total sample size of causes of action = 100

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 100 causes of action. As shown in the above table, the leading causes of action for the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court were recovery of possession with 35 or roughly 35% and money owing with 20 or 20% of the total sample of causes of action. Damages with 14 or 14% and damages for negligence with 11 or 11%

rank next. The top causes of action in this sample are rounded off by breach of contract with 9% of the sample. The sample of causes of action enumerated above accounts for 89% of the total causes of action in the quarter.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	178	68.46
Courtroom #3 (main courthouse)	33	12.69
Annotto Bay Outstation	21	8.08
Richmond Outstation	14	5.38
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	10	3.85
Galve Outstation	4	1.54
Total	260*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 197 cases**

The above data is computed using a sample of 260 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. The largest proportion of this sample was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 178 or 68.46% of the sample. Courtroom number 3 at the main courthouse with 33 or 12.69% of the sample and the Annotto Bay outstation with 21 or 8.08% of the sample rounds off the top 3 accommodations. The list is complete by the Richmond outstation with 14 or 5.38%, courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse with 10 or 3.85% and the Galve outstation with 4 or 1.54% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	135	51.90
Female	96	36.90
Registered Company	29	11.20
Total	260	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 260 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court-Civil Division, males accounted for the largest proportion of plaintiffs with 135 or 51.90%, followed by females with 96 or 36.90%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 29 or 11.20% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	162	62.55
Female	87	33.59
Registered Company	10	3.86
Total	259	100.00

There were 259 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. The majority of defendants were males with 162 or 62.55%, followed by females with 87 or 33.59% of the sample. Registered companies accounted for the remaining 10 or 3.86% of the sample.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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.

Table 8.0: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	89	59.33
Trial	32	21.33
Part-Heard Date	16	10.67
Default Date	11	7.33
Hearing of Application	2	1.33
Total	150	100.00

The above table shows a sample of 150 matters that went to court during the third quarter ended September 30, 2020, which were adjourned for a default, judgment, mention, part heard, trial or similar procedural date. The largest proportion, 89 or 59.33% were adjourned for mention dates, followed by 32 or 21.33%, which were adjourned for trial dates. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 16 or 10.67% of matters, which were adjourned for part-heard dates. This data decisively suggests that there is a markedly greater probability that a matter will be adjourned for a mention hearing and that a notable proportion of the adjournments are for default judgments. The high frequency of adjournments associated with default judgments is not 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
For Mention (Continuance)	80	52.63
For Judgment (Continuance)	11	7.24
Both Parties Absent	2	1.32
Other	59	38.82
Total	152	100.00

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 152

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 152 incidences of adjournments or continuances for matters heard in the third quarter of 2020. Continuances, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case, for mention account for the largest proportion of the sample with 80 or 52.53% and continuances for judgment with 7.24% of the sample rank next. Adjournments due to both parties being absent with 1.32% follow this.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Consent	41	26.11
Struck Out	32	20.38
Settlement	18	11.46
Default Judgment	8	5.10
Final Judgment	7	4.46
Sub-total	106	67.52

NB there were 157 matters were disposed in the third quarter of 2020

The above table details the leading methods of disposition for a sample of 157 civil matters disposed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. It is shown that matters disposed by consent with 41 or 26.11%, matters struck out with 32 or 20.38% and settlements with 18 or 11.46% are the leading methods of disposition in the sample. Matters disposed by default judgments with 8 or 5.10% and those disposed by way of final judgements with 4.46% of

the sample round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for 67.52% of the total sample of matters disposed during the quarter.

Table 11.0: Sampling distribution of case outcomes for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case outcome	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Judgment in Favour of Plaintiff	14	73.68
Settlement	5	26.32
Total	19	100.00

The above table summarizes the distribution of a sample of nineteen case outcomes in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court. Judgements in favour of the plaintiff with 14 or 91.84% of the sample of matters, accounts for the larger proportion, while settlements account for the remaining 26.32% of the sample. This probability distribution provides important insights into the results of cases and the likelihood of matters being awarded in favour of the various party types, which may be involved in a case.

Table 12.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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 (%)
197	46	175	88.83	23.35

The above table shows 195 new cases filed at the St. Mary Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 25 of these cases were disposed and 21 cases became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 23.35%. An approximate gross figure of 129 cases were disposed, and 46 cases became inactive during the quarter, many of which

having dates of origin predating 2020. This led to an estimated gross case clearance rate of 88.83%, which is below the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 14.20% and the estimated net clearance rate is 73.30%. 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.

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

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	110
Mean	402.0545
Std. Error of Mean	52.72232
Median	200.0000
Mode	21.00
Std. Deviation	552.95639
Skewness	2.346
Std. Error of Skewness	.230
Range	2247.00
Minimum	7.00
Maximum	2254.00

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 110 civil cases disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Mary Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of this sample of cases is roughly 402 days or 13.4 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to disposition was 21 days. The high standard deviation of roughly 553 days suggests that the times taken to disposition were spread out over a large range of values and the relatively high positive

skewness of 2.346 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 2254 days or roughly 6.3 years old, while minimum time taken to disposed of cases was 7 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	227
Mean	394.7753
Std. Error of Mean	34.22809
Median	240.0000
Mode	23.00
Std. Deviation	515.69821
Skewness	2.551
Std. Error of Skewness	.162
Range	2612.00
Minimum	1.00
Maximum	2613.00

The above data is based on sample active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 395 days (or roughly 13 months), while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 23 days. The standard deviation of roughly 516 days suggests that there is a large dispersion of the individual scores, while the high positive skewness seen is an indication that there were decidedly more scores in the data set, which fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2613 days old or roughly 7.3 years, while the minimum time is 1 day. 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 third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive statistics (in days)

Number of observations	20
Mean	31.0000
Std. Error of Mean	3.31821
Median	28.0000
Mode	23.00
Std. Deviation	14.83949
Skewness	3.598
Std. Error of Skewness	.512
Range	67.00
Minimum	23.00
Maximum	90.00

The above table outlines summary data on the time average age of a sample of 20 active reissued matters at the St. Mary Parish Court as at the end of the third quarter ended September 30, 2020.

The average age of these matters was roughly 31 days, while the most frequently occurring age and the median age are both 23 days. The standard deviation indicates that there was some dispersion in the individual scores, with the high positive skewness indicating that most of the ages were above the series average. The highest age in the data set was 90 days and the lowest was 23 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 incidence and types of relief sought by way of applications made throughout the life of a case as well as essential demographic measures such as gender and age of the claimants and defendants.

Table 1.0: Case status summary for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Active	69	89.61
Disposed	2	2.60
Inactive	6	7.79
Total	77	100.00

The above table presents a status distribution of 77 new cases was filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court in third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, 69 cases or 89.61% of these cases were still active, while 2 were disposed and 6 were rendered as inactive. These results produce an estimated gross disposal rate of 10.39%.

Table 2.0: Sampling distribution of types of claims filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Claim Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Big Claim	46	54.76
Small Claim	38	45.24
Total	84	100.00

The above table shows that from the 84 new claims filed in the third quarter of 2020, the larger proportion of which 46 or 54.76% were big claims, while 38 or 45.24% were small claims.

Table 3.0: Sampling distribution of the types of service for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Type of Service	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Personal	66	84.62
District Constable	10	12.82
Bailiff	2	2.56
Total	78	100.00

Types of service refer to the formal way in which defendants, whom a claim is made against, are summoned to court. In the table above, personal service accounted for the highest proportion with 66 or 84.62% of the sample. Service by the district constable with 10 or 12.82% and service by the bailiff with 2 or 2.56% ran next.

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

Cause of Action	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Breach of Contract	25	29.76
Monies Owed	22	26.19
Recovery of Possession	9	10.71
Cattle Trespass	4	4.76
Damages for Negligence	4	4.76
Sub-total	64	76.19

Total sample size of causes of action= 84

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 third quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court was breach of contract with 25 or roughly 29.76% of the sample. Monies owed with 22 or 26.19% and recovery of possession with 9 or 10.71% of the sample round off the top three cause of action in this representative sample. Damages for negligence and cattle

trespass with 4 or 4.76% each of the sample round off the list. The top five causes of action, which are listed above, account for 76.19% of all the total sample of 84 causes of action.

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

Courtroom/Outstation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Courtroom #1 (main courthouse)	59	71.08
Yallahs Outstation	12	14.46
Courtroom #2 (main courthouse)	12	14.16
Total	83*	100.00

***Note: Corresponding to 77 cases**

The largest proportion of a sample of 83 new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020 was entered in courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse, which accounted for 59 or 71.08% of the sample. The Yallahs outstation and courtroom number 2 at the main courthouse each accounted for 12 or 14.46% of the sample.

Case Demographics for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Table 6.0: Distribution of plaintiffs in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender/Entity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	34	40.50
Female	30	35.70
Registered Company	20	23.80
Total	84	100.00

It is seen in the above table that of the sample of 84 new matters filed in the third quarter at the St. Thomas Parish Court, males accounted for the largest proportion with 34 or 40.50%, followed by females with 30 or 35.70%. Registered companies accounted for the lowest proportion with 20 or 23.80% of the sample.

Table 7.0: Distribution of defendants in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	55	66.27
Female	28	33.73
Total	83	100.00

There were 83 records on gender of defendants for new matters filed in the third quarter of 2020. As with the claimants, the majority of defendants were male with 55 or 66.27% of the sample, followed by females with 28 or 33.73%.

Chapter 2.0: Delay factors and case disposition stages for the third quarter ended September 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: Sampling distribution of adjournment stages for matters heard in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Case Flow Stage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Mention Date	140	37.63
Trial	112	30.11
Date for Order	41	11.02
Default Date	41	11.02
Part-Heard Date	38	10.22
Total	372	100.00

The above table is computed based on a sample of cases adjourned during the third quarter of 2020. The largest proportion, 140 or 37.63% were adjourned for a mention date, followed by 112 or 30.11% which were adjourned for a trial date. Rounding off the top three incidences of procedural adjournments were 41 or 11.02% each of matters, which were adjourned for a date for order and a default judgment date. Matters adjourned for a part heard date with 38 or 10.22% complete the list.

Table 9.0: Sampling distribution of the leading reasons for adjournment/continuance for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Reasons For Adjournment/Continuance	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Attorney Absent	83	25.70
Placed on Trial List	46	14.24
Defendant Absent	33	10.22
Both Parties Absent	31	9.60
Judge Absent/Ill	14	4.33
Sub-total	207	64.09

Number of adjournments/continuances sampled (N) = 323

The above table shows the distribution of a sample of 323 incidences of adjournments in the third quarter of 2020. Adjournments for the absence of attorneys with 83 or 25.70% of the sample, adjournments due to placement on trial list with 46 or 14.24% and adjournments due to the absence of defendants with 33 or 10.22% of the adjournments rounds off the top three. Adjournments due to the absence of both parties with 31 or 9.60% and adjournments due to the judge being absent or ill with 4.33% of the sample round off this list. The listed reasons for adjournment account for 64.09% of the total sample of 323 adjournments.

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the top five methods of disposition for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Methods of Disposition	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Struck Out	26	32.91
Consent	17	21.52
Oral Admission	13	16.46
Settlement	7	8.86
Non-Suited	5	6.33
Sub-total	68	86.08

NB there were 79 matters were disposed in the third 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 matters struck out with 26 or 32.91% of the sample. Matters disposed by consent with 17 or 21.52% rank next. Oral admissions with 13 or 16.46%, settlements with 7 or 8.86% and non-suited with 5 or 6.33% round off the list. The listed methods of disposition account for roughly 86.08% of the sample.

Table 11.0: Case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 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 (%)
77	8	104	135.06	10.39

The above table shows 77 new cases filed at the St. Thomas Parish Court during the third quarter of 2020. At the end of the quarter, a total of 2 cases were disposed and 6 became inactive, leading to an estimated gross case disposal rate of 10.39%. A gross figure of 78 cases were disposed, and 26 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 135.06%, which is above the international standard for this metric.

The estimated net disposal rate for the quarter is 2.82% The estimated net clearance rate for the quarter is 109.86%. 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.

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

Table 12.0: Descriptive Statistics on the time taken to dispose of matters in the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	65
Mean	351.4308
Std. Error of Mean	45.84641
Median	210.0000
Mode	119.00 ^a
Std. Deviation	369.62561
Skewness	2.590
Std. Error of Skewness	.297
Range	1855.00
Minimum	42.00
Maximum	1897.00

^a Multiple modes exist. The smallest value is shown

The above table outlines summary data on a sample of 65 civil matters disposed in the third quarter of 2020 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The average time taken to dispose of these matters is roughly 351 days or 11.7 months. However, the most frequently occurring time to

disposition was 119 days. There is a high standard deviation which is an indication that there is a wide variation in the distribution of the scores in the series. 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 1897 days or roughly 5.3 years old, while the minimum time taken was 42 days.

Table 13.0: Descriptive Statistics on the age of active matters as at the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Descriptive Statistics (days)

Number of observations	409
Mean	671.8337
Std. Error of Mean	33.11247
Median	456.0000
Mode	2003.00
Std. Deviation	669.65821
Skewness	1.169
Std. Error of Skewness	.121
Range	2365.00
Minimum	9.00
Maximum	2374.00

The above data is based on sample of 409 active civil matters at the end of the third quarter of 2020. The average age of these matters was roughly 672 days, while the most frequently occurring age in the distribution was 2003 days or roughly 5.6 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 proportionately more in the data set fall below the overall average age of the active cases. The oldest active matter was 2374 days or 6.6 years, while the youngest case was 9 days.

Key Performance Summaries

Table 1.0: Key Performance Indicators for the Civil Divisions of the St. James and Clarendon Parish Courts for the third quarter of 2020

Parish Court	Gross Case Clearance Rate (%)	Gross Case Disposal Rate (%)	Trial Date Certainty Rate (%)
Clarendon PC	91.43	51.02	55.26
St. James PC	32.53	-	-

The summary of key performance metrics for the parish courts of Clarendon and St. James shows that the civil division of the parish courts recorded an estimated case clearance rate of 91.43% in the third quarter of 2020, while also recording an estimated case disposal rate of 51.02% and an approximate trial date certainty rate of 55.26%. The estimated case clearance rate for the St. James Parish Court in the quarter was 32.53%.

Table 2.0: Aggregate case flow performance estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2020

Approximate number of new cases filed	Approximate gross number of disposed and inactive cases in the third quarter	Approximate gross case clearance rate (%)
3343	2725	81.51

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the civil division of the parish courts in the third quarter of 2020. It shows that a total of 3343 new cases were filed over the period, while 2725 became inactive or were disposed, leading to an estimated gross clearance rate of 81.51%.

Conclusion

The civil division of the parish courts continued to show great resilience during the third quarter of 2020 and despite an overall decline in output in all areas of measurement, the courts remain broadly on course to achieving key numerical targets outlined in the strategic plan of the judiciary for the next few years. This resilience is seen in the overall weighted average case clearance rate of 81.51% which was recorded in the civil courts for the third quarter of 2020, a result that is lower than that of the previous two quarters of 2020 but interestingly 3.20 percentage points higher than the criminal division of the parish courts over the same period. The weighted average case disposal rate of 22.21% in the civil divisions of the parish courts is however well below that of the criminal division over the same period, but this partly due to a general reduction in the number of summonses administered over the period due to practical challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite a generally smaller than usual number of trials during the period, the civil division of the parish courts recorded an overall trial date certainty rate of 79.75% which is broadly consistent with performance in more normal times. The rate is superior to that of the abbreviated second quarter of 2020 but is 5.63 percentage points lower than that recorded in the first quarter of 2020. Notably it is also better than the criminal division of the parish courts by 2.75 percentage points over the same period. Although these specific findings do not constitute the basis for generalizations, it has become clear over several reports that the civil division of the parish courts may be at least as productive as the criminal division, a finding which affirms previously posited hypotheses suggesting that the parish courts are currently doing a resilient job in resolving cases and keeping the case backlog under reasonably good control. As a whole, the civil division of the parish courts took 9.8 months to dispose of the cases resolved during the

third quarter of 2020, 2.8 months longer than that of the first quarter of 2020 and similar to the figure recorded in the second quarter. This result is also an encouraging sign as the Jamaican court system continues on the journey to reducing its net case backlog rate below 5% over the coming two years.

Despite the show of resilience, the downturn in case activity in the civil courts due to the Covid-19 pandemic has compounded the challenge that the Jamaican court system will face in meeting all its strategic targets over the coming 2-3 years. The manner in which the courts navigate the next three quarters will be a decisive determinant in this regard.

Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trial/hearing date certainty: This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are

adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

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

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

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

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

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

Skewness: This is 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.

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 Adjourment: 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 adjourment. 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 ‘adjourment’. Here, ‘continuance’ is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and ‘adjournments’ is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as ‘continuance’ but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as ‘adjournments’. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.

Source:

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

ⁱ *Source:*

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

