



State of South Dakota
Unified Judicial System
Office of the State Court Administrator



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The enclosed Annual Report highlights the workload and other activities undertaken by the Unified Judicial System for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Among the many notable achievements during this time period two major accomplishments are worth special notice, the implementation of a new case management system (called Odyssey), and the enhancement of drug and DUI court programs across South Dakota. I'm proud to include particular information about those two efforts in this Report, as well as a further listing of the progress toward our Strategic Plan.

In light of the budget reductions imposed in FY 2012, we continue to emphasize cost containment, strive to be environmentally friendly, and utilize many technological advancements. With that in mind, we invite you to check out our website at <http://ujis.sd.gov>, where you will find detailed reports on specific case categories that used to be published in this Report. The printed version of this Annual Report has been restricted to statistics regarding the core operations and caseload of the Supreme Court, circuit courts, and magistrate courts, as well as an overview of our expenditures, revenues, programs and services.

Case filing numbers fluctuate from year to year, and from case type to case type, but the complexity of the issues that come to the courts for resolution continues to increase. A new section of this Annual Report, JUSTICE IN THE BALANCE, is a summary of what these cases mean and offers a different perspective on the role the courts serve for the public. South Dakota's trial courts received over 76,000 civil and over 163,000 new criminal cases last fiscal year, which is an 8.1% increase from the prior year. We also exercised fiduciary responsibilities for receipts of almost \$43 million (a 17.5% increase) and disbursements of nearly \$40 million (a 7.3% increase).

I hope this report and our website are valuable resources for you and tell a meaningful story about our court system and the women and men who diligently work every day to bring justice to the citizens of South Dakota. Should information you seek about the courts not be found in this Report nor on our website, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Duggan".

Patricia Duggan
State Court Administrator

***Our Mission:** Justice for All*
***Our Vision:** We are stewards of an open, effective, and accessible court system, worthy of the public's trust and confidence.*