

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-2025

SUPERIOR COURT OF QUÉBEC



175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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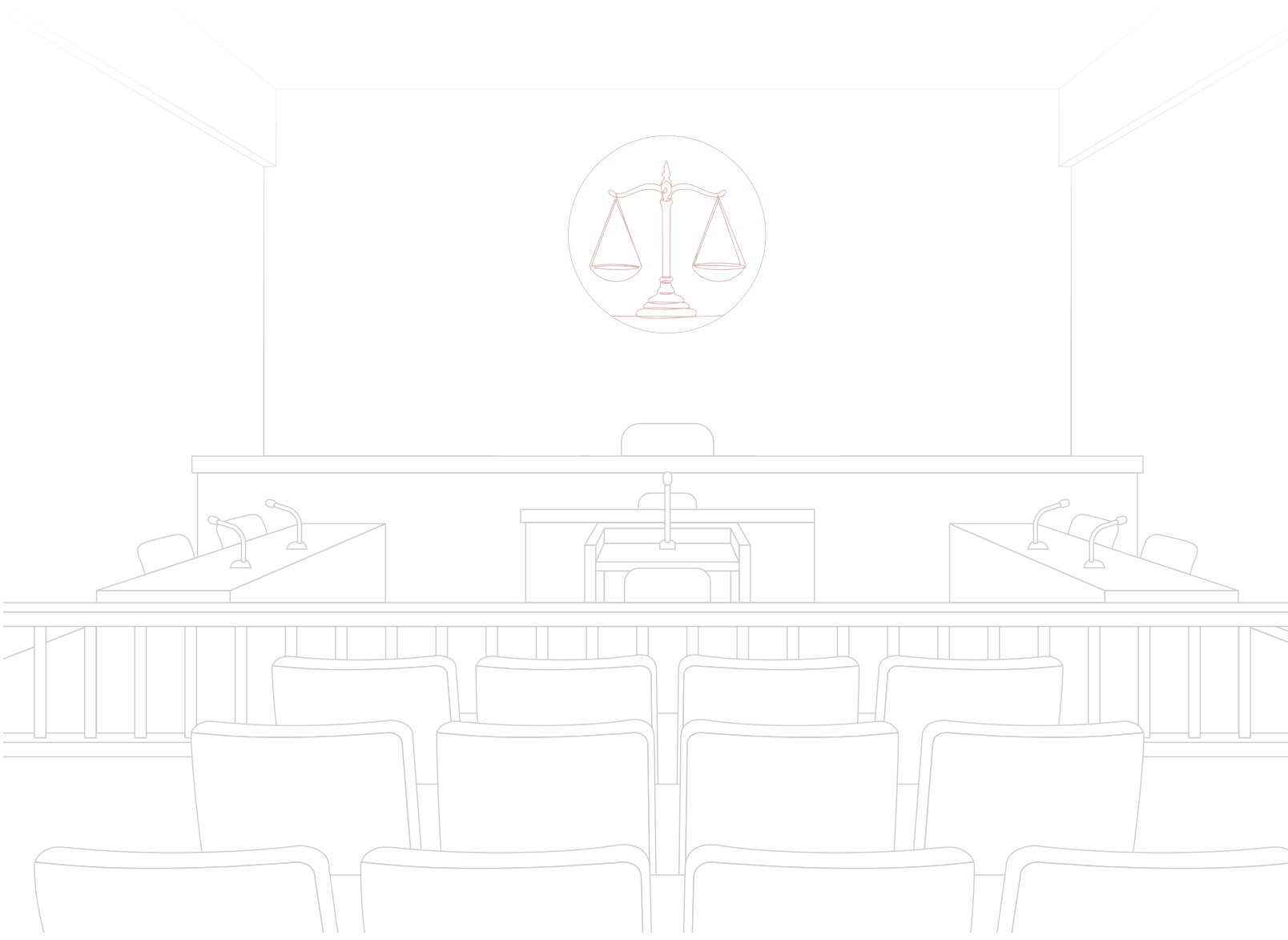
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# 1. Message from the Chief Justices

Transparency leads to trust.

We are therefore pleased to present this report of the Superior Court of Québec summarizing its activities from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025.

The past year marked a milestone in the Court's modernization. The publication, in June 2024, of our first Strategic Plan (covering 2024–2029)<sup>1</sup> confirmed the Court's commitment to consolidating its management around a clear vision: that of an institution focused on the needs of those it serves.

Over the course of its 175 years of history, the Court has remained faithful to its mission and the role conferred upon it by the Canadian Constitution. It has established itself as a pillar of democracy, safeguarding judicial independence and the rule of law.

The pursuit for sustainable solutions to improve access to justice and the unwavering commitment to strengthening public confidence in the Court and its judges are at the heart of our concerns.

This report forms part of a process for continuous improvement and transparent communication with the public. It highlights the concrete actions taken over the past year to achieve our strategic priorities.

Enjoy your reading



**Marie-Anne Paquette**  
Chief Justice



**Daniel Dumais**  
Senior Associate  
Chief Justice



**Jean-François Michaud**  
Associate Chief Justice

<sup>1</sup> Superior Court of Québec, Strategic plan 2024–2029, Québec, 2025, online: [https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A\\_propos/Plan\\_strategique\\_Cour\\_superieure\\_2024-2029\\_EN.pdf](https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A_propos/Plan_strategique_Cour_superieure_2024-2029_EN.pdf) (Strategic Plan).

## 2. Mission, Vision, Values and Guiding Principles

As the only court of original general jurisdiction in Québec, the Superior Court ensures the resolution of disputes in all areas of law that are not formally and exclusively assigned by law to another court or administrative authority. This extensive jurisdiction provides the Court with a global perspective on legal issues, thereby ensuring overall coherence of the judicial system.

The Court is also vested with a general power of judicial review, and as such, is responsible for determining the legality of the acts of public bodies, as well as decisions rendered by other judicial and administrative tribunals.

It actively contributes to the respect of fundamental rights and the upholding of the rule of law in our democracy, both in Québec and in Canada.

Thus, in first instance, the Court constitutes the cornerstone of the Québec judicial system.

Present throughout the territory of Québec, it ensures that all have access to high-quality justice in a reasonable timeframe within Québec.

The Court's judges perform their judicial duties with rigour, impartiality and competence. They adjudicate complex disputes having a significant impact on people's lives.

The Court is modernizing its practices to better address their needs by increasing its agility, rigour, and transparency, through the simplification of its processes and the judicious use of technology, and creative solutions.

The vision that guides the Court is that of a benchmark institution both rooted in tradition and aiming towards the future: a Court capable of rendering judgments within a reasonable timeframe, maintaining and enhancing public trust, and embodying, on a daily basis, the stability and integrity of the judicial system.



## 3. Profile of the Court

### 3.1. Territory Served

The Court exercises its jurisdiction throughout Québec in 43 courthouses and 19 service points, spread over 36 judicial districts. Its presence in these districts ensures comprehensive judicial coverage, allowing people to access justice near their place of residence.

The Québec judicial network rests upon close cooperation between districts and secondary service points, where hearings are held according to the needs of the population and the nature of the cases. This structure guarantees proximity, accessibility, and efficiency, while taking into account the specific geographical and demographic characteristics of each region of Québec.

### 3.2. Number of Positions

The judge positions at the Court stem from a division of powers between two levels of government. The government of Québec determines the number of authorized positions for the Court. The Government of Canada then proceeds to recognize such authorized positions and to appoint judges, in accordance with its constitutional responsibilities<sup>2</sup>.

Five positions determined and authorized by the Québec government are still pending recognition from the Government of Canada, hence the discrepancy in the figures below.

More specifically, the *Courts of Justice Act*<sup>3</sup>, adopted by the Assemblée Nationale du Québec, provides that the Court is composed of a maximum of 164 judges, including a Chief Justice, a Senior Associate Chief Justice and an Associate Chief Justice.

Moreover, the number of judge positions recognized by the federal government is indicated in the *Judges Act*<sup>4</sup>, with the addition of such other positions recognized in various particular and budgetary statutes, for a total of 156 puisne (regular) judge positions.

---

<sup>2</sup> *Constitution Act, 1867 (U.K.)* 30 & 31 Vict., c. 3, s. 96.

<sup>3</sup> CQLR c. T-16.

<sup>4</sup> RSC 1985, c. J-1.

### 3.3. Appointments

Between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025, the Minister of Justice of Canada appointed 14 new judges, to replace judges who opted for supernumerary status or retirement, or to fill those positions that were newly recognized in 2024.

They are the Honourable:

- Lysane Cree > 2024-09-20 (Montréal)
- Horia Bundaru > 2024-09-20 (Montréal)
- Mathieu Piché-Messier > 2024-09-20 (Montréal)
- Pierre Soucy > 2024-10-11 (Trois-Rivières)
- Simon Chamberland > 2024-10-30 (Montréal)
- Jean-François Roberge > 2024-11-08 (Montréal)
- Sophie Leblanc > 2024-12-05 (Gatineau)
- Élif Oral > 2024-12-17 (Québec)
- Alain Trudel > 2025-01-23 (Saint-Maurice)
- Robert Leckey > 2025-01-23 (Montréal)
- Fany O'Bomsawin > 2025-02-28 (Saint-François)
- Steve Baribeau > 2025-02-28 (Laval)<sup>5</sup>
- Bruno Guillot-Hurtubise > 2025-03-07 (Longueuil)<sup>6</sup>
- Patrick Girard > 2025-03-07 (Montréal)

The high quality of these recent appointments demonstrates the competence, experience, and professionalism of those new judges.

The diversity of professional and personal backgrounds within the judiciary also reflects the plurality of Québec's society served by the Court.

This diversity enriches perspectives and exchanges within the judiciary, promotes a more nuanced understanding of the social, economic, and human realities underlying the cases brought before the Court, and ensures that judges are aligned with the realities experienced by Québec's diverse society.

<sup>5</sup> New position recognized in 2024.

<sup>6</sup> New position recognized in 2024.

## 3.4. Supernumerary Judges

By definition, supernumerary judges are members of the judiciary who have reached the required number of years of service for retirement but decided to continue their commitment to the Court for a maximum of 10 additional years. This status allows them to continue contributing to the Court's work, while benefiting from a lighter workload (50% of a puisne judge's workload).

Under the *Judges Act*, a judge may elect to become a supernumerary judge:

- once he or she has held judicial office for at least 15 years, provided his or her combined age and number of years in office is not less than 80; or
- upon reaching the age of 70 years, provided that judge has held judicial office for at least 10 years.

It should be noted that a judge's position becomes vacant when the judge opts for supernumerary status or retires. When a judge elects to hold office as a supernumerary judge, the Court benefits from the services of the equivalent of one and a half judges for the entire period during which the supernumerary judge remains in office while his or her replacement is appointed.

Over the past year, 12 judges elected to hold office as supernumerary judges, rather than retire.

They are the Honourable:

- Étienne Parent > 2024-09-01 (Saint-Maurice)
- Jocelyn Geoffroy > 2024-09-03 (Trois-Rivières)
- Danielle Turcotte > 2024-09-09 (Terrebonne)
- France Bergeron > 2024-10-01 (Québec)
- Thomas M. Davis > 2024-10-06 (Montréal)
- Serge Francoeur > 2024-10-09 (Baie-Comeau)
- David R. Collier > 2025-03-24 (Montréal)
- Marc Paradis > 2025-04-14 (Québec)
- Pierre Nollet > 2025-04-23 (Montréal)
- Johanne April > 2025-05-20 (Québec)
- Alain Michaud > 2025-05-20 (Québec)
- Guylène Beaugé > 2025-06-18 (Montréal)

The Court expresses its gratitude to the supernumerary judges who generously agreed to extend their commitment to the service of justice. Owing to their dedication and wealth of experience, they make a decisive contribution to the continuity of the Court's activities.

## 3.5. Retirements

Between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025, 10 judges retired, either because they reached the mandatory age of 75 or because they announced their retirement.

They are the Honourable:

- France Charbonneau > 2024-10-01 (Montréal)
- Pierre Ouellet > 2024-10-08 (Québec)
- Carl Lachance > 2024-10-15 (Chicoutimi)
- Micheline Perrault > 2024-12-31 (Montréal)
- André Vincent > 2024-12-31 (Montréal)
- Benoît Moulin > 2025-04-19 (Québec)
- Jean-Yves Lalonde > 2025-04-30 (Montréal)
- Robert Castiglio > 2025-07-18 (Montréal)
- Louis-Joseph Gouin > 2025-08-17 (Montréal)
- Michèle Lacroix > 2025-08-26 (Québec)

The Court thanks the aforementioned judges for their valuable contribution to the Court's mission, and for their commitment and dedication to public service throughout their careers.

## 3.6. Current State of Affairs

As of August 31, 2025, the Court was composed of 150 puisne judges and 43 supernumerary judges, for a total of 193 judges, including a Chief Justice, a Senior Associate Chief Justice and an Associate Chief Justice. A complete list of these judges can be found in Schedule 1.

As of August 31, 2025, there were 8 vacant positions while 5 positions were added to the *Courts of Justice Act* by the provincial government, which are still pending recognition by the federal government.

For the 2024–2025 judicial year, these 8 vacant positions resulted in litigants being deprived of approximately 900 hearing days, in addition to causing an excessive workload for the judges of the Court.

The Court reiterates the importance of promptly filling all vacant positions, in order to ensure the continuity and efficiency of judicial activity throughout Québec.

This is all the more important as the contribution of supernumerary judges is declining. Indeed, despite the addition of positions to meet additional needs recognized by both levels of government, the corresponding number of full-time judges serving for the Court remains stable.

For example, in 2016–2017, the Court’s total capacity, including the contribution of puisne and supernumerary judges, represented the equivalent of 168 full-time judges. In 2024–2025, despite the addition of 4 new positions, the Court had the equivalent of 170 full-time judges.

## 4. Statistical Methodology and Analysis Limitations

The Court relies on statistical and administrative data compiled from the information systems of the Ministère de la Justice du Québec (MJQ). These data, deriving mainly from the court docket (*plumitif*) and digital recording systems in the courtrooms, are processed by the MJQ’s analyst teams who, upon request, prepare statistical tables and targeted extracts for the Court.

Unfortunately, the Court currently has no direct access to the docket databases, or to the raw data used by the MJQ to perform its own analyses, nor is the Court in a position to verify the validity thereof.

It should also be noted that the data was extracted after a four-week maturation period. Delays in data processing may result in a temporary underestimation of certain volumes in this report; subsequent adjustments are therefore likely to cause discrepancies from one judicial year to the next.

These constraints should be kept in mind while reading this report.

Unless otherwise indicated, all data and graphics presented in the following pages cover the 2024–2025 judicial year, that is, from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. Previous years mentioned for comparison purposes refer to previous complete judicial periods.

The earliest reference period used in this report corresponds to the 2016–2017 judicial year, which is the first full year following the coming into force of the new *Code of Civil Procedure*.

Finally, unless otherwise indicated, the data presented cover the whole province. Please note that all tables used to generate these charts will be made available on our website at the time of publication of this report.

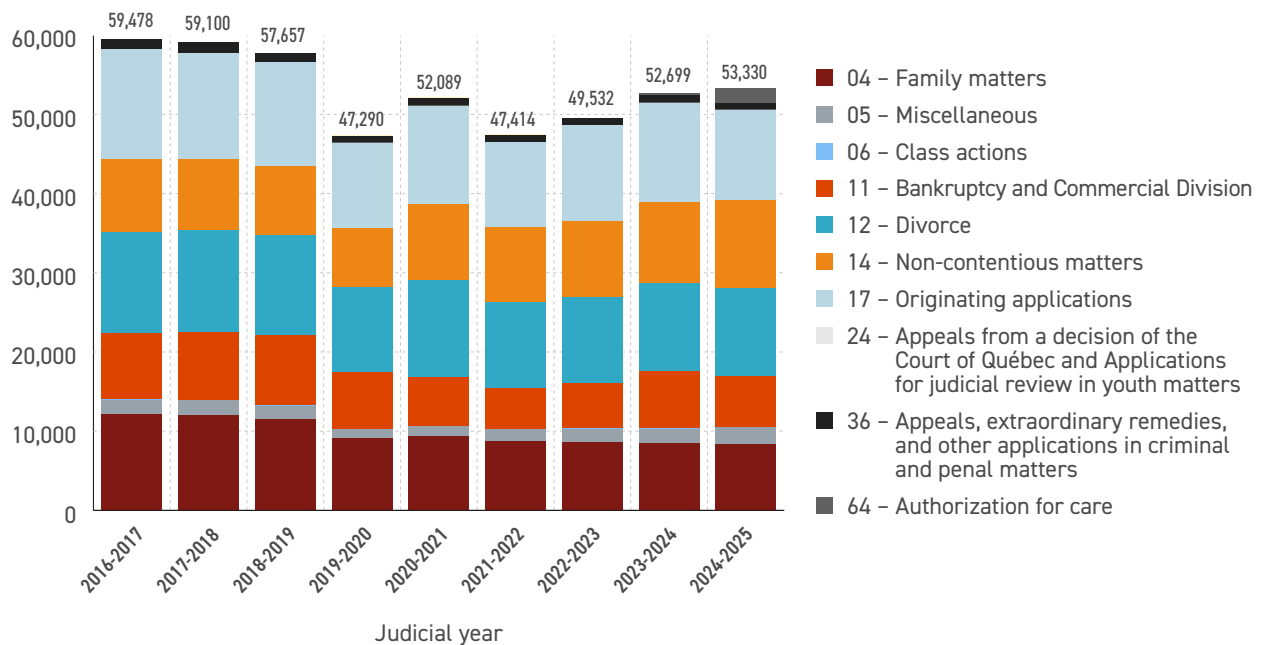
## 5. Volumes and Overall Trends

The 2024–2025 judicial year confirms the progressive stabilization of the Court’s volume of activity after the period of disruption caused by the pandemic.

### 5.1. Annual Variation in the Volume of Court Files Opened

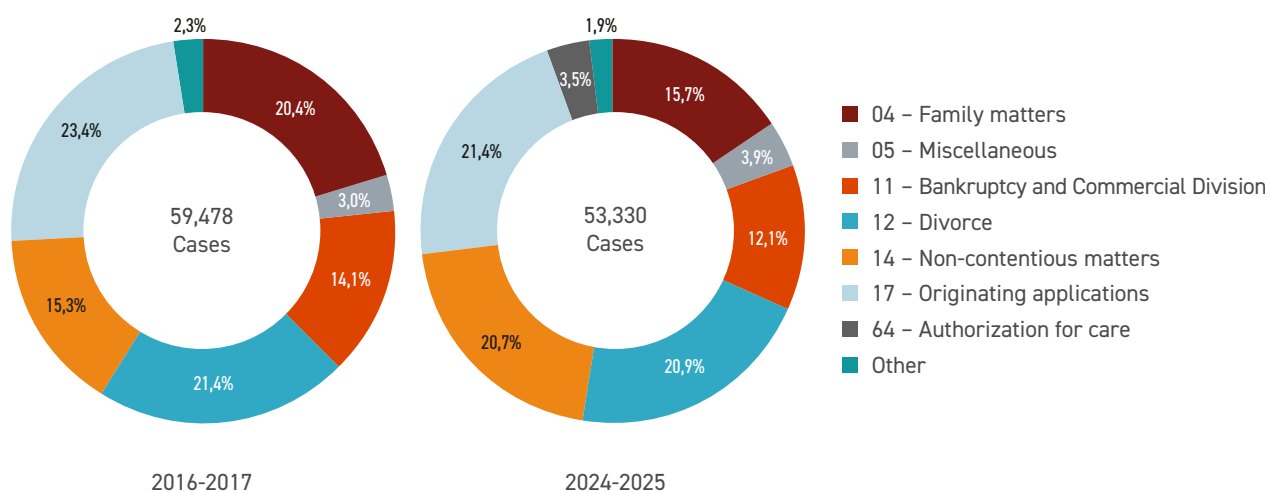
The following graph illustrates the variation in the volume of files opened over nearly a decade. There is a period of strong stability between 2016 and 2019, with a peak of approximately 59,000 files opened per year, followed by a sharp drop in 2019–2020 corresponding to the period of interruption of hearings and the slowdown in the filings during the pandemic. Since 2021–2022, the volume of new files has picked up steadily rising above 53,000 files, which is close to the pre-pandemic average.

**Files opened by subject matter (2016-2025)**



The following graph shows the distribution of file openings according to the main subject matters<sup>7</sup>. The Court's activity profile is relatively stable, although there have been some significant shifts in the distribution of subject matters over time.

### Comparison of cases opened, by subject matter – 2016-2017 and 2024-2025



More specifically, family matters (code 04: unmarried couples and code 12: married couples) remain predominant, accounting for nearly 37% of all files opened in 2024–2025, down slightly from 2016–2017, when they accounted for about 41% of the total. Divorce cases (code 12) remain almost constant at around 21%.

Cases in civil matters (code 17) account for 21.4% of the files opened in 2024–2025, down from 23.4% in 2016–2017, reflecting the increased diversification of cases brought before the Court, particularly in non-contentious matters.

Non-contentious matters (code 14) show a marked increase, rising from 15.3% to 20.7% of the total files opened. This increase reflects a rise in applications relating to protective supervision. This stems from the aging of the population and the growing complexity of the need for protection for adults.

Commercial and bankruptcy cases (code 11) remain relatively stable at around 12%.

Finally, the other categories, including authorizations for care (code 64), miscellaneous matters (code 05), extraordinary remedies and other applications, and appeals in criminal or penal matters or youth matters (codes 36 and 24), together represent less than 6% of the total, but concern essential legal issues, often of social or institutional significance.

<sup>7</sup> Subject-matter codes are defined in [Schedule 2](#) of this report.

The table below shows the number of files opened, by subject matter and judicial district, for the 2024-2025 judicial year.

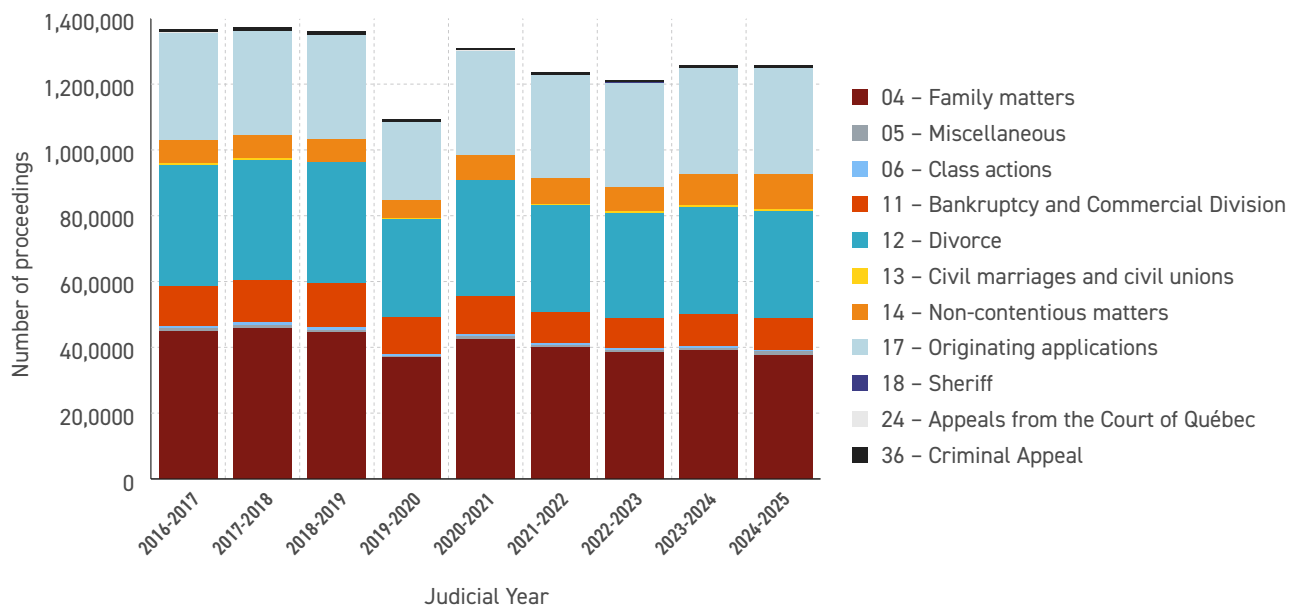
### Open files 2024-2025 by region and matter

| Region  | 04 - Family | 05 - Miscellaneous | 11 - Bankruptcy & Commercial Division | 12 - Divorce | 17 - Originating applications |
|---|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Abitibi - Rouyn-Noranda -<br>Témiscamingue                                    | 200         | 21                 | 143                                   | 154          | 176                           |
| Alma - Roberval   | 132         | 17                 | 84                                    | 101          | 104                           |
| Baie-Comeau - Mingan  | 164         | 36                 | 48                                    | 73           | 91                            |
| Beauharnois - Iberville   | 563         | 200                | 304                                   | 630          | 531                           |
| Chicoutimi  | 194         | 33                 | 159                                   | 163          | 203                           |
| Drummond  | 210         | 33                 | 112                                   | 155          | 106                           |
| Gaspé - Bonaventure   | 104         | 34                 | 54                                    | 86           | 99                            |
| Gatineau - Pontiac - Labelle  | 504         | 161                | 396                                   | 630          | 621                           |
| Joliette  | 677         | 248                | 358                                   | 521          | 546                           |
| Laval   | 267         | 57                 | 324                                   | 702          | 521                           |
| Longueuil   | 508         | 101                | 476                                   | 888          | 661                           |
| Montréal  | 1,221       | 435                | 1,551                                 | 3,442        | 3 965                         |
| Beauce, Frontenac, Montmagny, Québec,<br>Kamouraska, Arthabaska et Charlevoix | 1,219       | 268                | 1,006                                 | 1,391        | 1,701                         |
| Richelieu - St-Hyacinthe  | 378         | 43                 | 198                                   | 305          | 287                           |
| Rimouski  | 89          | 20                 | 68                                    | 101          | 93                            |
| St-François - Bedford - Mégantic  | 631         | 83                 | 348                                   | 575          | 582                           |
| St-Maurice  | 141         | 47                 | 73                                    | 90           | 118                           |
| Terrebonne  | 839         | 220                | 611                                   | 926          | 950                           |
| Trois-Rivières  | 323         | 43                 | 166                                   | 221          | 261                           |

## 5.2. Number of Proceedings by Subject Matter

According to the data captured by subject matter by the court office, the distribution of the Court’s activities has remained relatively stable for nearly a decade, with the exception of the 2019–2020 judicial year, which was heavily affected by the pandemic.

### Annual Evolution by Subject Matter (2016-2025)



The total number of proceedings recorded in 2024–2025 is 1,256,270.

Family matters (codes 04 and 12) form the core of the Court’s judicial activity. They constitute the largest category, representing 55.8% of all proceedings recorded in 2024–2025, reflecting the growing importance of family disputes in daily judicial life.

Family matters alone (code 04) represent nearly a third of the proceedings filed during the 2024–2025 year, clearly outnumbering civil matters (code 17).

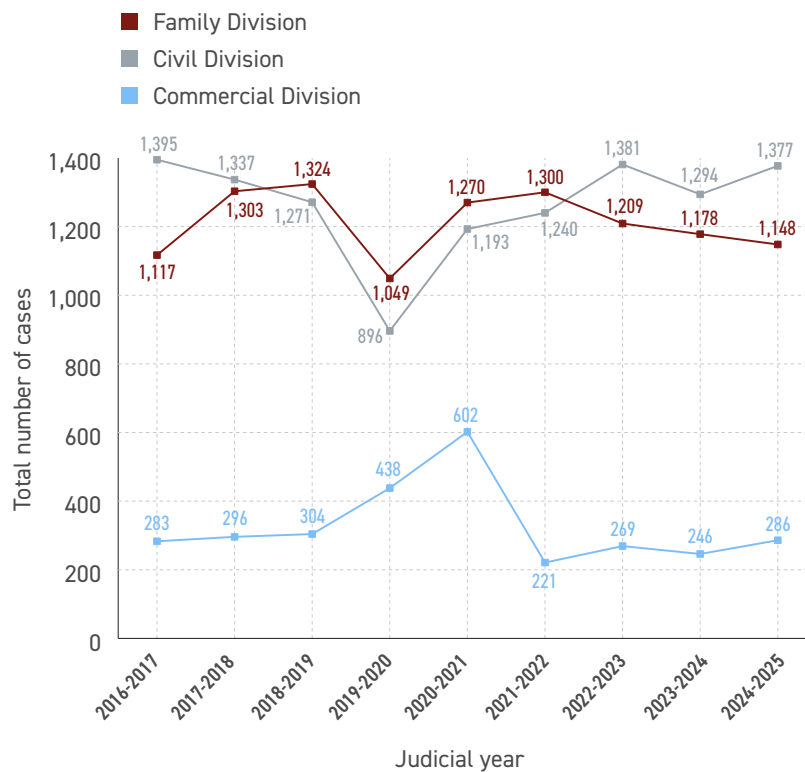
Commercial and bankruptcy matters (code 11) as well as non-contentious matters (code 14) form a second important group, but at a significantly lower volume, accounting for a combined total of around 20% of total activity.

Non-contentious matters, in particular the protective supervision of adults and authorizations for care, showed a marked upturn, reflection significant demographic changes and the resumption of hospital activities.

### 5.3. Inter-Division Comparison – Hearings on the Merits and in the Practice Division

An analysis of the hearings entered on the Court’s rolls highlights significant differences between divisions in terms of volume and evolution of hearing time. The following graphs illustrate these trends for hearings on the merits and hearings in the practice division between 2016 and 2025.

#### Inter-Division Comparison – Cases heard on the merits by judges (2016-2025)



Overall, the Court has regained a post-pandemic balance in hearing cases on the merits. The volume of hearings remained stable in all three divisions, despite constant pressure on resources and the growing complexity of cases.

The Civil Division (codes 05, 06, 14, 17 and 64) maintains the highest volume of hearings on the merits, with approximately 1,377 cases heard by judges in 2024–2025.

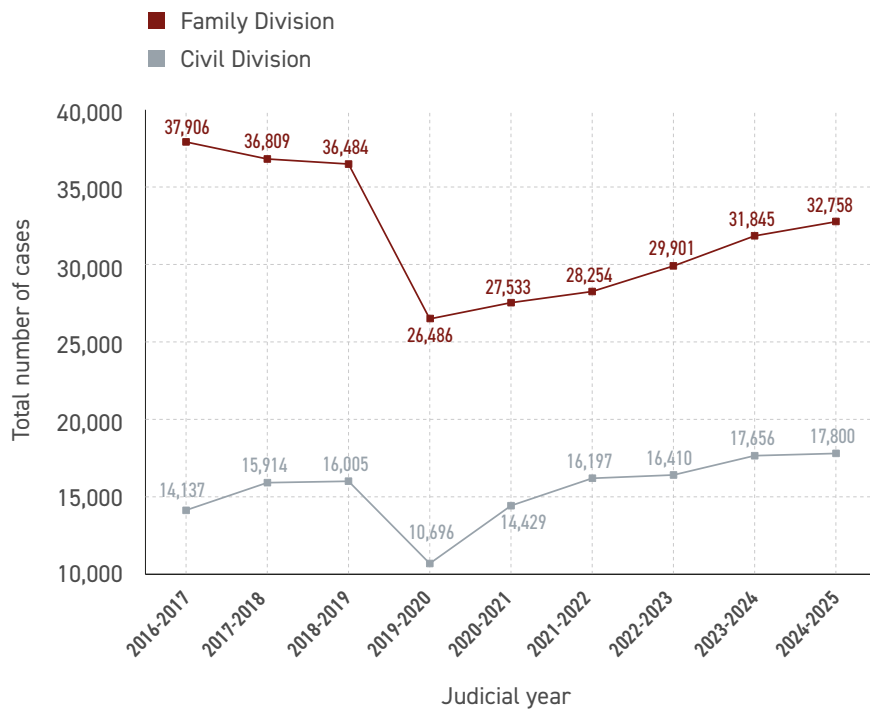
The Family Division (codes 04, 12 and 24) recorded a steady volume but has been gradually declining over the past 5 years. In 2024–2025 however, it held 1,148 hearings on the merits, returning to 2016–2017 levels.

The volume of the Commercial Division (code 11) was lower but shows remarkable stability and constant productivity, despite economic volatility, with the exception of an increase during the pandemic.

With respect to the Commercial Division, it has maintained a smaller but steady caseload throughout the period. It is characterized by the technical—and often urgent—nature of the cases it handles, which frequently require targeted and immediate intervention rather than numerous formal hearings.

Hearings in the Practice Division, which include preliminary motions, case management conferences, and follow-up hearings, reveal much greater disparities between divisions.

### Inter-Division Comparison – Cases heard by judges in the Practice Division (2016-2025)



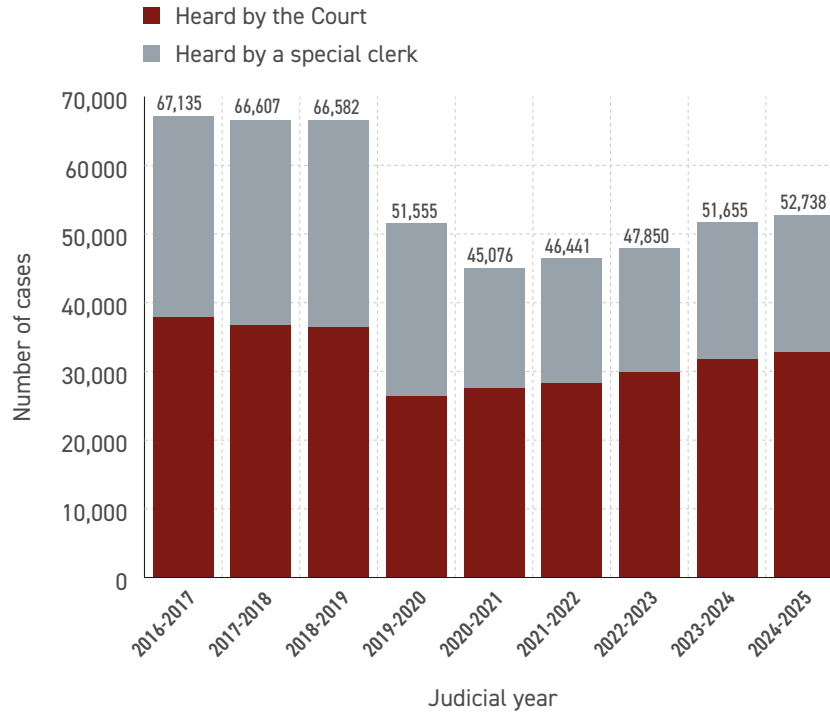
The Family Division dominates by far with 32,758 hearings<sup>8</sup> held by judges in Practice Division in 2024–2025, a number that has been rising steadily since 2019–2020 but that remains well below the pre-pandemic volume (nearly 37,906 in 2016–2017). This decline might be explained by a reduction in the number of files opened annually and the greater recourse to alternative dispute resolution methods.

The proportion of cases heard by a judge or a special clerk remains stable at levels similar to previous years.

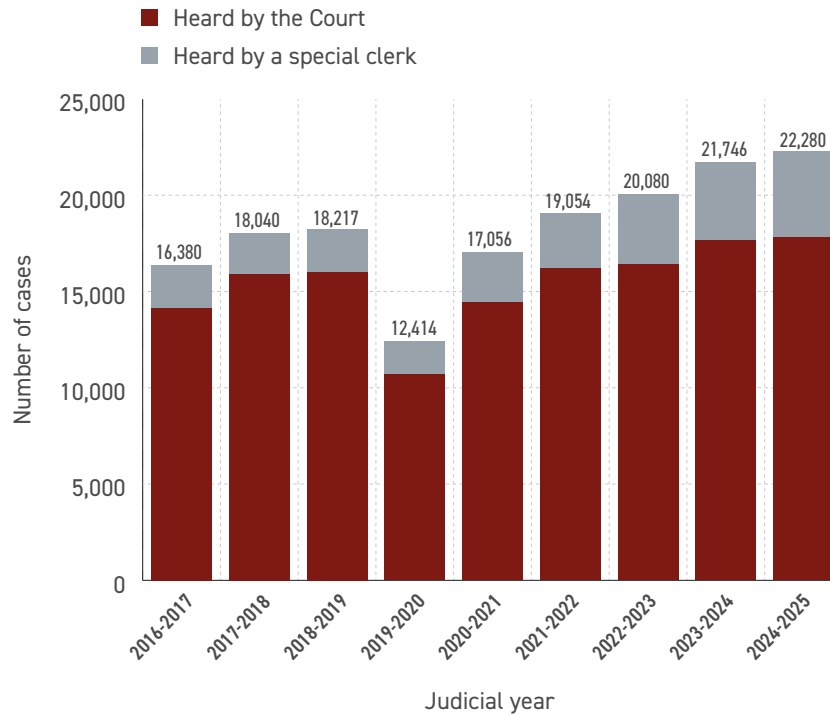
Unfortunately, the Court does not have access to the MJQ’s analyses or data regarding hearings held by the Commercial Practice Division.

<sup>8</sup> Case addressed by a judge in a courtroom, regardless of the duration of the hearing.

### Family Division – Cases heard by the Practice Division (2016-2025)



### Civil Division – Cases heard by the Practice Division (2016-2025)

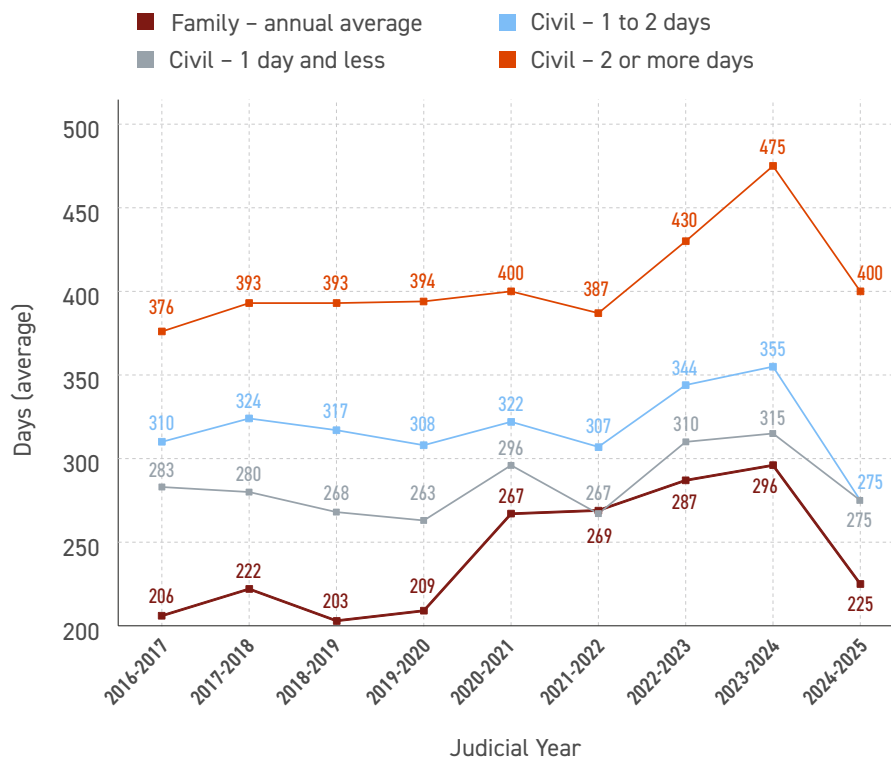


## 5.4. Changes in the Time for Setting Down Based on the Duration of Cases

A key indicator of the balance between the Court’s capacity to hear cases and the demands of the public is the time required to schedule a hearing date, once a file is ready to be heard. It directly correlates between available judicial resources, the complexity of cases, and the volume of cases to be managed.

The following graph illustrates the evolution in the average time, in days, required for setting down cases in the Civil Division, based on the estimated duration of the hearing, as well as the trend observed in the Family Division from 2016 to 2025.

**Changes in the average time for setting down cases – Civil and Family Divisions (2016-2025)**



Thus, in 2024–2025, civil cases lasting one day or less were generally heard within 260 to 310 days, while those lasting one to two days required an average of 300 to 350 days before hearing.

Cases lasting two days or more remain the most demanding in terms of planning, with lead times approaching 400 days.

Family law cases follow a parallel trajectory, although the delays are slightly shorter, with an annual average of 225 days in 2024–2025, indicating a gradual recovery in the pace of processing times and greater stability of the rolls.

Overall, these trends reflect the judicial system’s resilience to the varying availability of judges and complexity of cases. The Court is continuing its efforts to reduce times for setting down and improve access to justice.

## 5.5. Profile of Litigants and Emerging Trends

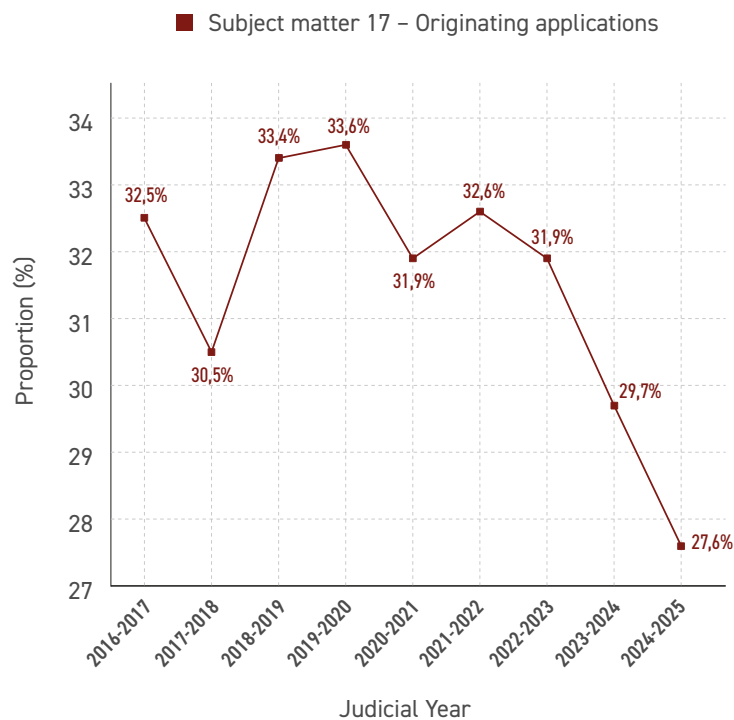
Beyond case volumes and performance indicators, two major human and institutional realities influence the workload of judges: the growing presence of self-represented individuals, and the steady increase in abusive procedural behaviour.

### 5.5.1. Self-Representation

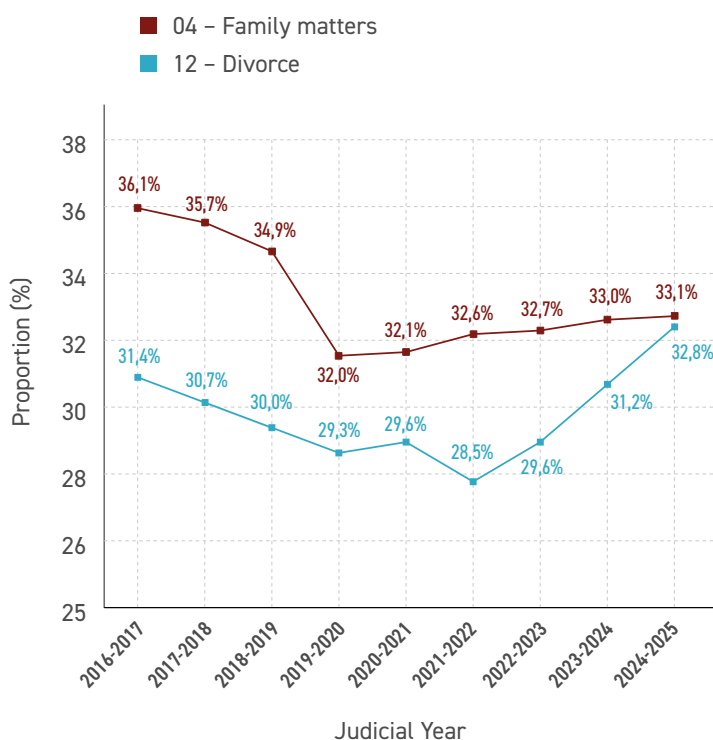
Self-representation remains a significant phenomenon in today's judicial system that has not failed to impact the Court.

The following graphs illustrate the evolution, over the last decade, of the proportion of people without legal representation throughout their case. This depiction only partially represents the phenomenon, as it is not uncommon for people to be represented by counsel at one stage or another of their case.

#### Evolution of the rate of self-representation – Civil Division (2016-2025)



## Variation in the rate of self-representation – Family Division (2016-2025)



Over the last decade, the rate of self-representation in the subject matters presented has fluctuated between 36.1% and 27.6%. In 2024–2025, self-representation reached higher levels in family law matters, exceeding 33% of cases.

This can be explained by the intimate and personal nature of family disputes, the financial challenge that obtaining full representation for the whole duration of a case presents, and the perception that the process has become more accessible thanks to simplified forms and legal information services.

These trends have a direct impact on the management of hearings and the drafting of judgments.

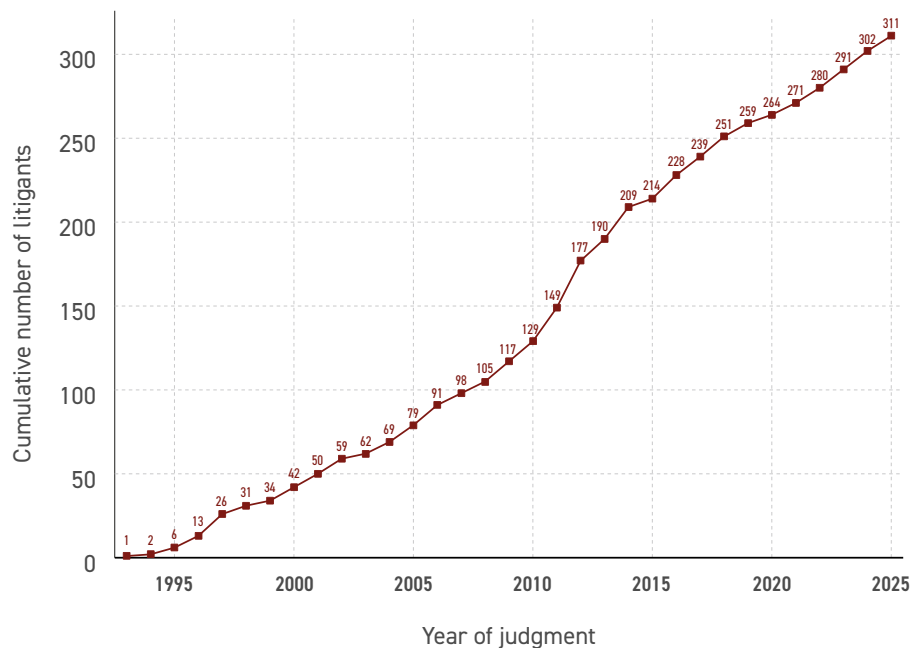
Judges, court offices, and judicial reception services have adapted to this reality with professionalism. Local initiatives to support unrepresented individuals, combined with the use of technological tools, have limited the impact of the phenomenon on delays and the quality of the Court's decisions.

The Court notes, however, that cases involving unrepresented parties generally require more hearing time, more sustained involvement of the judge to manage the case, and greater pedagogical effort in formulating judgments.

## 5.5.2. Litigants Subject to Authorization (Quarrelsomeness)

For the period considered, the number of litigants subject to authorization, that is, persons declared quarrelsome within the meaning of article 55 of the *Code of Civil Procedure*, has been constantly increasing, reaching 311 litigants in 2025 compared with 302 in 2024 and 264 in 2020.

### Cumulative change in the number of litigants subject to authorization



This change reflects both better detection of abusive behaviour and a more uniform application of legal provisions by judges.

It also translates a broader social phenomenon: the judicialization of conflicts, where some people make excessive use of the legal process to express personal or ideological claims.

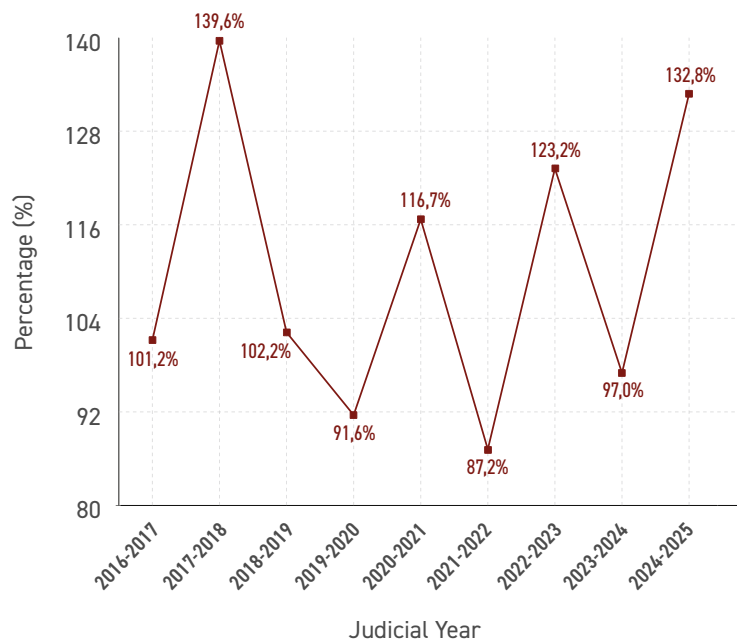
The Court remains particularly vigilant and proactive in the face of these situations, which disproportionately mobilize resources and undermine the efficiency of the judicial system.

## 5.6. Criminal Division

The Criminal Division occupies a central place both in the Québec and Canadian judicial system, ruling on the most serious offences under the *Criminal Code*. Statistics for the 2024–2025 judicial year confirm a full resumption of jury trials, after several years of adaptation to health restrictions.

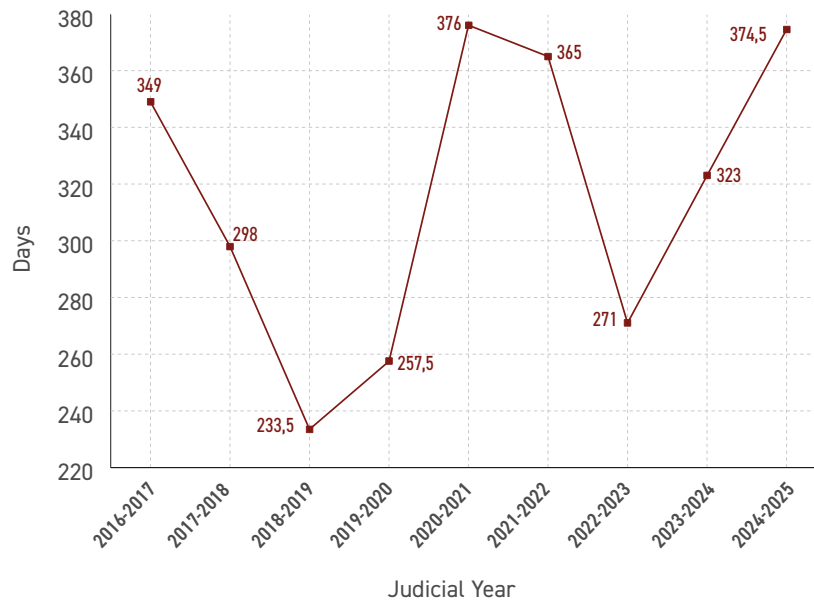
The clearance rate reached 132.8%, representing the best result since 2017–2018, conveying a sustained capacity to process and finalize cases, despite the inherent procedural complexity of criminal cases.

### Closing rate – Criminal matter



The average time required to transfer files from the Court of Québec to the Superior Court is 374 days, a significant increase compared with 2022–2023 (271 days). This trend shows a post-pandemic return to normal, but also the cumbersome nature of the pre-trial stages in the Superior Court, notably preliminary inquiries.

**Average time before a case is transferred to the Superior Court (in days) – Criminal matter**

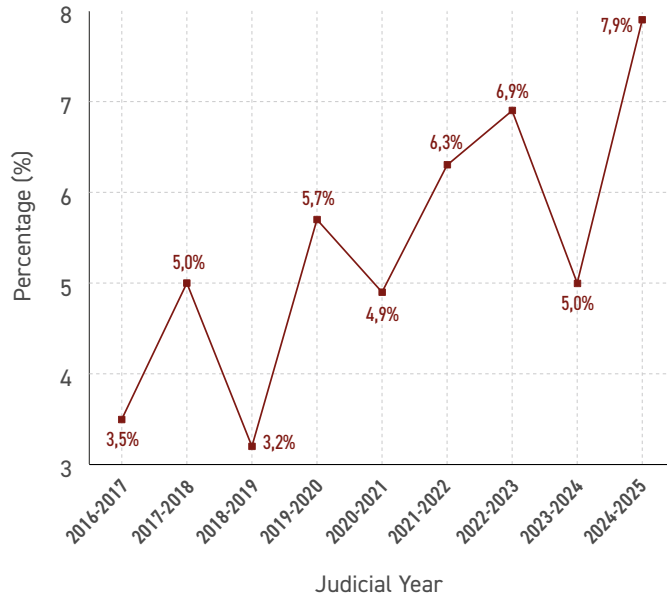


In light of the 30-month ceiling set by *Jordan* for jury trials to be held, this increase in transfer time reduces the margin available for scheduling hearings and managing the Superior Court’s rolls.

The rate of self-representation remains low, at 7.9% of closed cases, but has been rising steadily since 2022. This increase is particularly noticeable in remote districts where access to legal representation is more limited. Self-representation in criminal matters, given the strong procedural safeguards and the high stakes, can significantly complicate and prolong trials.

Here too, the available data only partially represent the phenomenon, since such data only lists those files where the accused are unrepresented throughout the file. However, it is not uncommon for an accused to be represented by counsel only at one stage or another of the case.

### Proportion of self-represented accused among the closed cases – Criminal matter



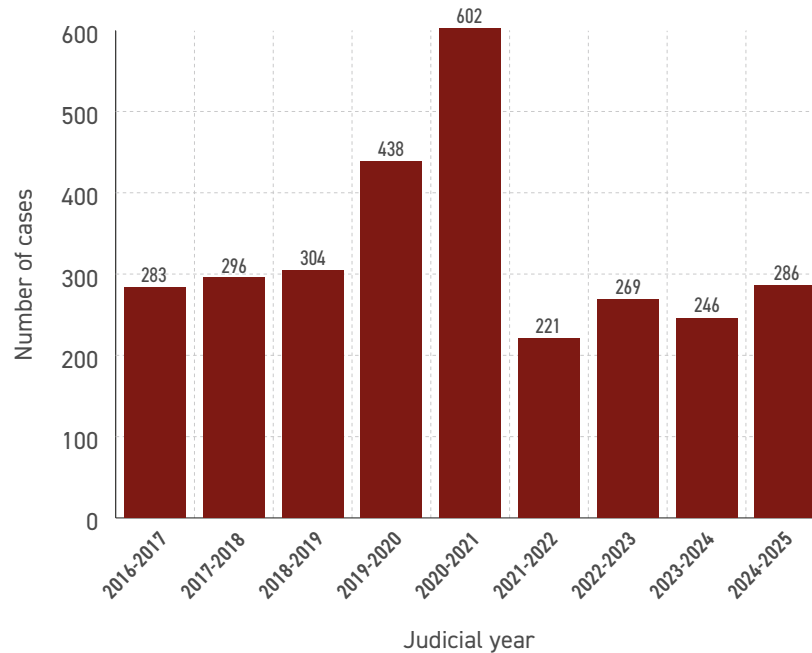
Despite these constraints, the Criminal Division’s productivity remains exemplary.

Collaboration between judges, prosecutors, counsels, and numerous partners ensures the rigorous monitoring of cases and compliance with the time limits prescribed by *Jordan*.

## 5.7. Commercial Division

The Commercial Division, which also deals with bankruptcy cases, maintains a stable volume of activity, fluctuating between 250 to 300 cases heard on the merits per judicial year.

### Commercial Division – Cases on the merits (2016-2025).



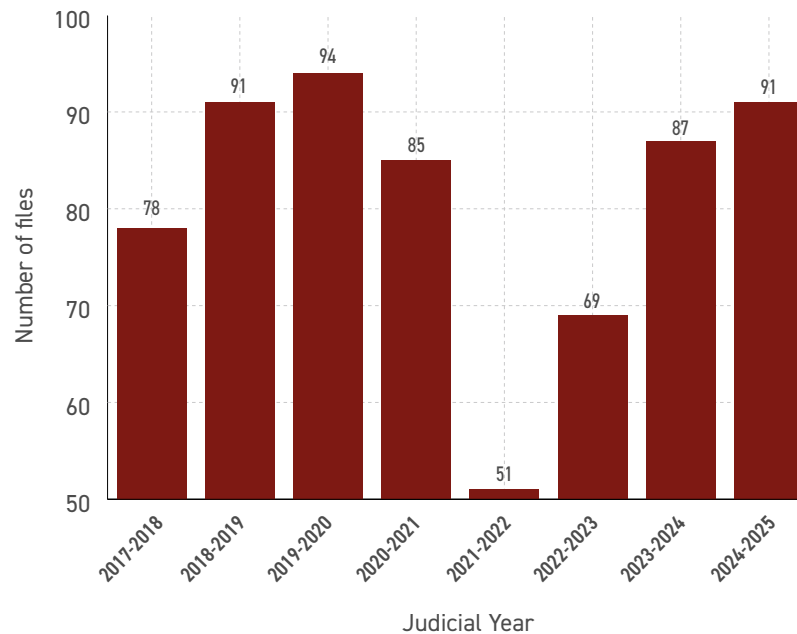
After a sharp increase between 2019 and 2021, attributable mainly to the increase in financial restructuring cases during the pandemic, the volume of cases has stabilized in the last few years.

Unfortunately, the Court does not have access to analyses or data from the MJQ regarding hearings held in the Practice Division of the Commercial Division. Since incidental hearings, particularly in connection with restructuring and bankruptcy cases, represent a significant part of the Commercial Division's activity, the data made available to the Court only provides a partial picture.

## 5.8. Class Action Division

Generally, the number of applications for authorization to bring a class action has remained relatively stable, with the exception of 2021–2022.

### Number of files (2016-2025)



The vast majority of these applications are filed in the District of Montréal. For example, for the 2024–2025 judicial year, 87 out of the 91 applications were filed in Montréal. Consequently, the Court set up a team of 13 judges who handle applications for authorization and other incidental matters, representing over 330 days of hearing. This team is currently managing some 430 active cases. These highly complex cases require a significant amount of hearing time.

## 5.9. Settlement Conference Division

The overall volume of requests for a settlement conference (SC) has remained high over the past five judicial years, fluctuating between 1,100 and 1,200 applications until 2022–2023, before declining in 2023–2024 (709), followed by a notable upturn to 900 in 2024–2025. The decrease from the 2023–2024 judicial year onwards is mainly due to the end of the mediation program presided over by retired judges.

| INDICATOR                               | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| A. Requests for a settlement conference | 1,102     | 1,207     | 1,106     | 709       | 900       |
| B. Cancellations                        | 133       | 94        | 56        | 42        | 42        |
| C. Conferences held                     | 911       | 998       | 826       | 591       | 723       |
| D. Successes                            | 722       | 817       | 652       | 474       | 623       |
| E. Failures                             | 190       | 181       | 174       | 117       | 101       |
| F. Success rate                         | 79%       | 82%       | 79%       | 80%       | 86%       |
| G. Scheduled trial days (success)       | 3,487     | 2,730     | 2,141     | 2,867     | 3,034     |
| H. Days of SC (success)                 | 727       | 817       | 652       | 517       | 623       |
| I. Days of SC (failures)                | 190       | 181       | 174       | 118       | 101       |
| J. Net gain (G - H - I)                 | 2,570     | 1,732     | 1,315     | 2,232     | 2,310     |

The overall success rate remains high and is rising steadily, from 79% in 2020–2021 to nearly 86% in 2024–2025. The number of settlement conferences actually held is around 900 per year, while the proportion of cancellations continues to decrease, reflecting the greater stability of the process and the sustained commitment of participants.

Settlement conferences also contribute to avoiding a significant number of hearings and appearances before the court. By 2024–2025, settled cases represented approximately 2,310 days of hearing time as originally scheduled. It is, however, important to emphasize that this refers to the estimated number of hearing days before the settlement conferences were held, and that it is not possible to assert with any certainty whether all of these cases would have actually required a full hearing. This figure nevertheless illustrates the scope of potential efficiency associated with settlement agreements before the Court.

## 6. Judicial Performance

Judicial performance reflects the ability of judges and their teams to hear, deliberate, and adjudicate disputes efficiently, while maintaining the quality, rigour, and independence that characterize the Court.

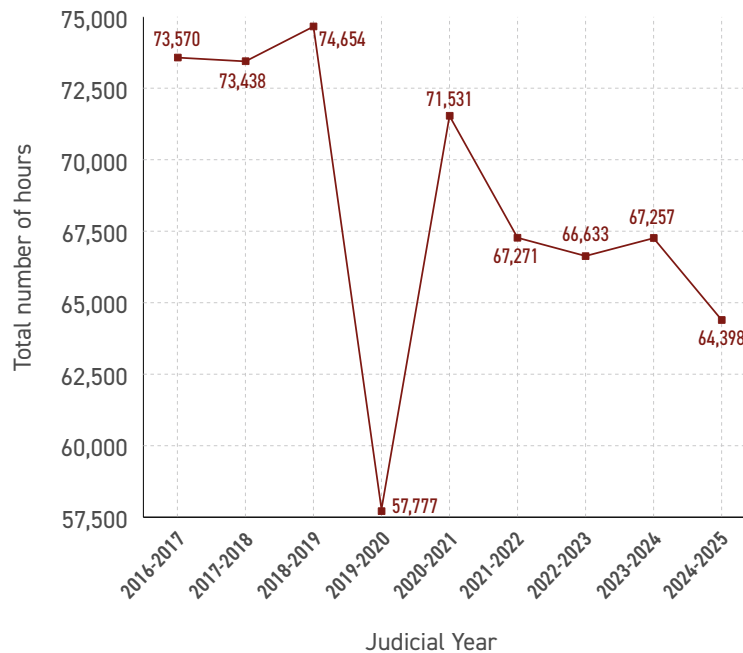
However, measuring judicial performance remains a complex exercise, given the inherent constraints in the governance of judicial data and the fundamental respect for the independence of the courts. As a result, current measurement tools may not allow for quantifying the substantial work accomplished outside the courtroom, including drafting judgments, preparing cases or settlement conferences.

### 6.1. Hearing Time

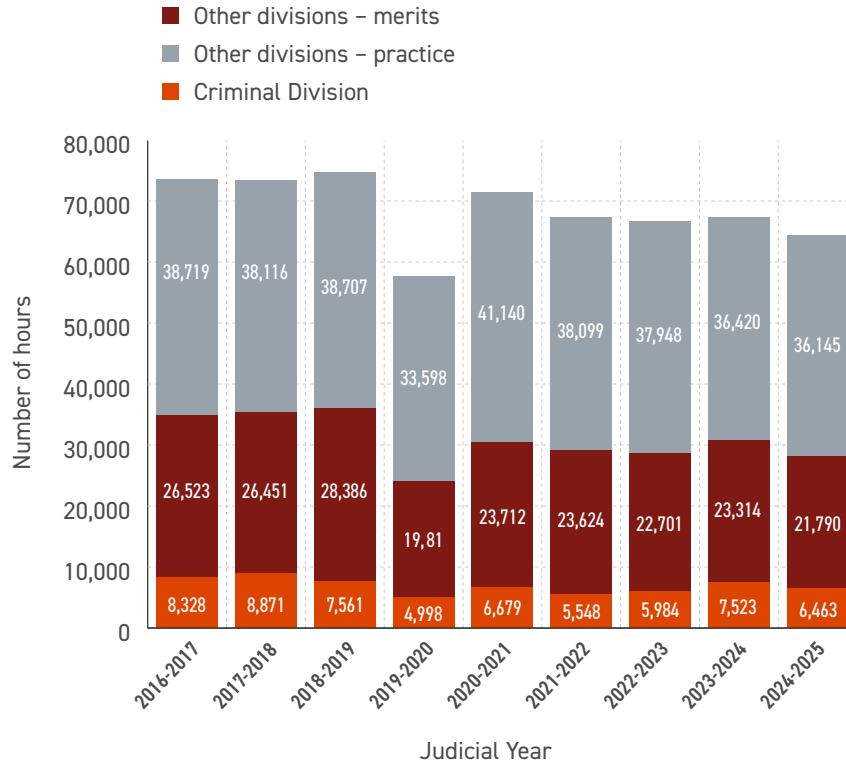
Monitoring hearing time remains an essential indicator of judicial activity and productivity.

According to data from the MJQ's management information system, the Court devoted 64,398 hours to hearings during the 2024–2025 judicial year, all divisions combined, including the criminal Division.

#### Changes in total number of hearing hours (2016-2025)



### Number of hearing hours per division and judicial year (2016-2025)



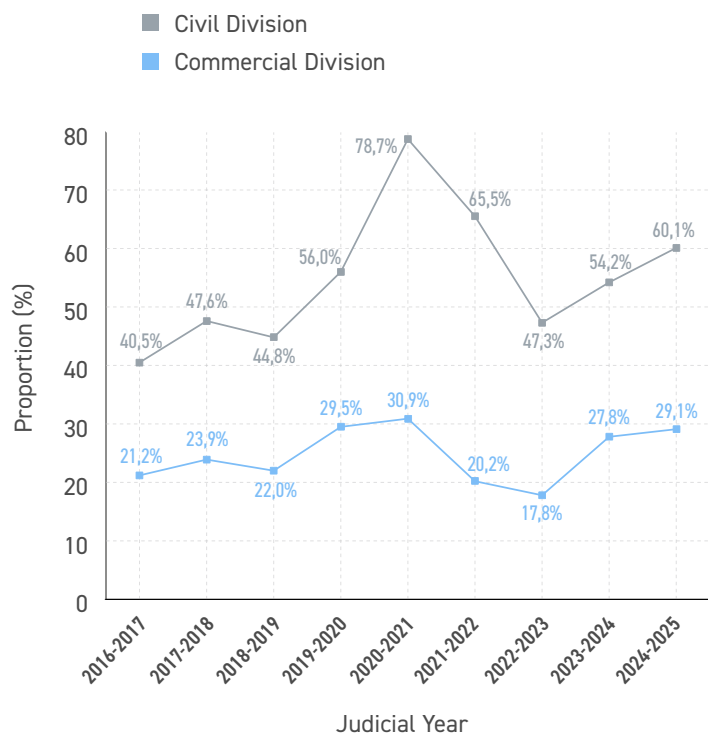
Note that the “other divisions” categories, illustrated in this graph, includes the Civil Division, the Family Division, and the Commercial Division, as defined in section 5.3.

There is a clear preponderance of Practice Division cases, representing approximately 56% of total hearing hours. This result reflects the growing importance of case management hearings, pre-trial conferences, and applications in the daily dynamics of the Court. Cases on the merits account for around 34%, while the Criminal Division accounts for around 10%, that has remained relatively stable over time.

## 6.2. Proportion of Cases Taken Under Advisement

The proportion of judgments rendered after being taken under advisement, both on the merits and in the practice division, has seen a marked increase, rising from approximately 40% pre-2020 to nearly 60% in 2024–2025. This increase reflects both the growing complexity of civil disputes and the will of judges to produce more detailed, reasoned, and structured judgments, often intended for publication. Judgments delivered from the bench remain commonplace, but their relative proportion is in constant decline.

### Proportion of judgments after they are taken under advisement (2016-2025)



The Commercial Division, for its part, maintained a lower, but constant volume throughout the period. It is characterized by the technical and often urgent nature of its cases, which frequently require targeted and immediate interventions rather than a large number of formal hearings.

It is noteworthy that these data are not available for the Family Division.

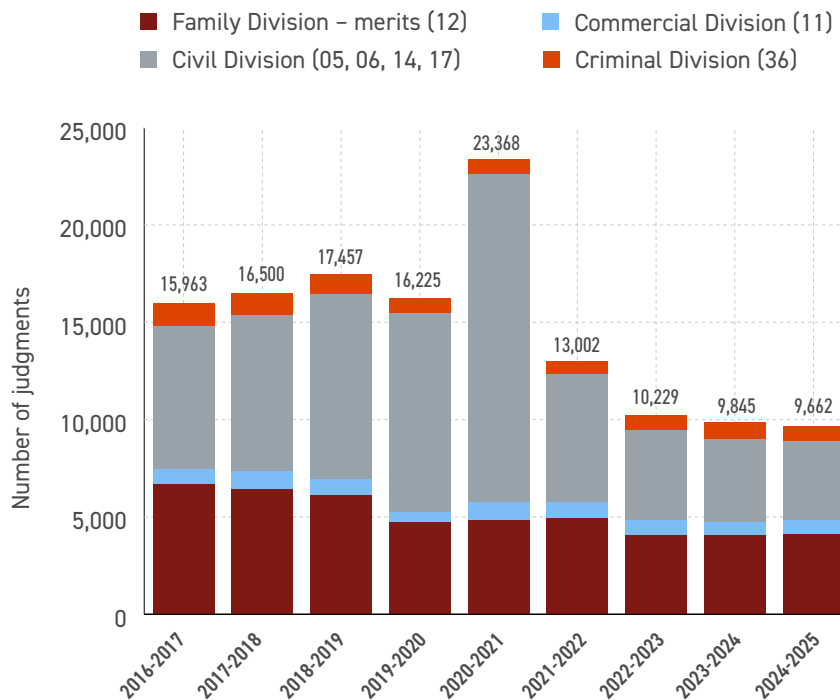
### 6.3. Volume of Judgments Rendered on the Merits

The total volume of judgments rendered on the merits by the Court in the 2024–2025 judicial year amounts to approximately 9,662 judgments on the merits. These data do not include criminal matters (code 01), as these were not available.

In addition, in family law matters (04), the MJQ is unable to distinguish between judgments rendered on the merits from judgments rendered on applications, making it impossible to compare them with the other subject matters in the graph.

It must be emphasized that the total number of judgments rendered on the merits may differ from the number of cases heard on the merits, as reported elsewhere in this report. This discrepancy arises because the number of cases heard on the merits is calculated based on the monthly trial rolls, which reflect cases scheduled for trial. By contrast, a number of decisions on the merits may be rendered by the Practice Division in cases involving brief hearings that do not appear on those rolls. In addition, all of the relevant data for such decisions are entered and compiled manually, a factor that may further accentuate any observed discrepancies.

#### Distribution of total number of judgments rendered by Division 2016-2025



Divorces (code 12) alone account for nearly 43% of all judgments considered in this analysis. It is important to note that joint divorce applications were voluntarily excluded, since they require minimal intervention by judges.

This proportion has been increasing for nearly five years but has remained relatively stable in number since 2016–2017. This consistency illustrates the Court’s central role in resolving family disputes, which directly affect people’s daily lives and mobilize a considerable proportion of judicial resources.

For its part, the Civil Division has maintained a steady and stable volume of judgments on the merits for the past three judicial years, although their number has decreased since 2016–2017.

Together, the Family and Civil Divisions account for over 90% of all judgments rendered, confirming their preponderance in all first-instance litigation.

## 6.4. Delays for Judgments

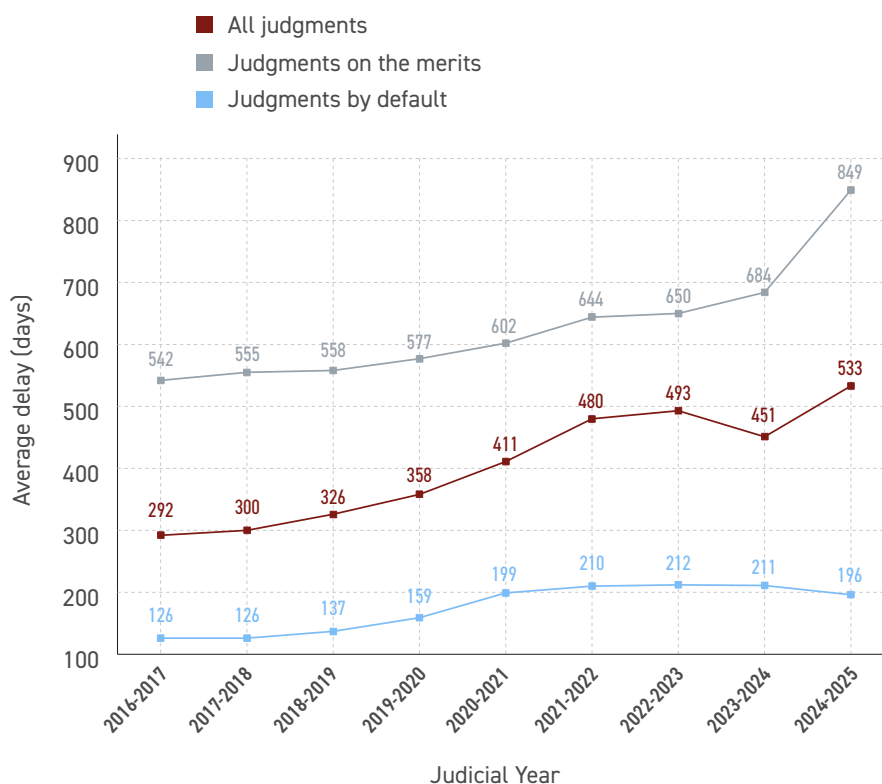
This indicator measures the time between the date the file is opened and the date of the final judgment.

The data presented below relates solely to cases in civil matters (code 17), for which a judgment on the merits has been rendered. Currently, this is the only subject matter and the only judgments for which delays are systematically compiled.

For the 2024–2025 judicial year, the average delay is 849 days, which illustrates that cases are becoming increasingly complex and require more time from judges.

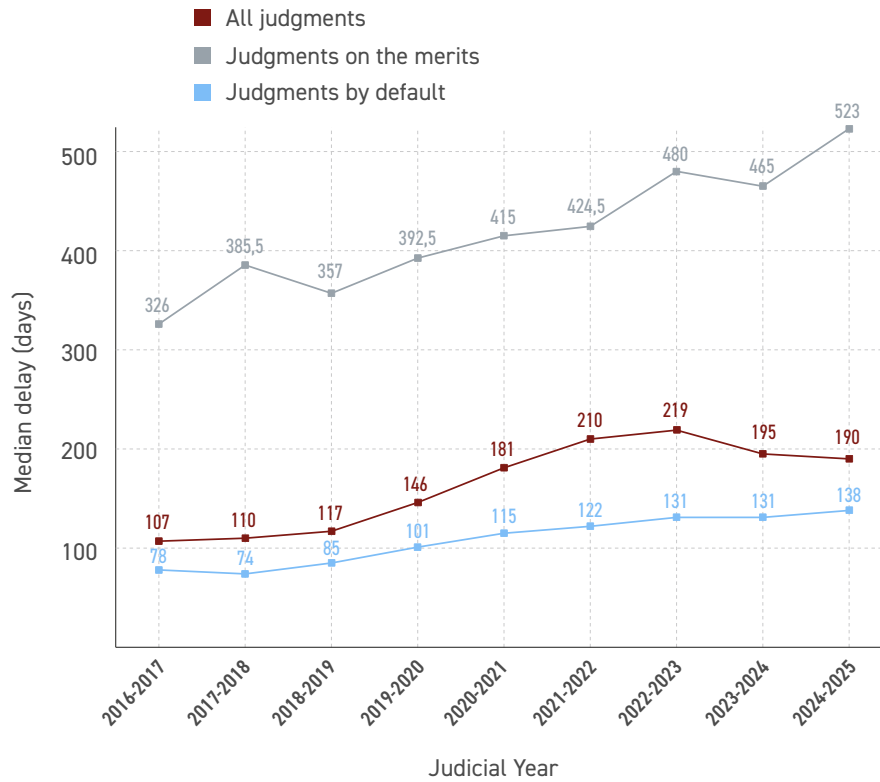
Despite this, active management initiatives and settlement mechanisms contribute to containing the growth in delays for most cases in civil matters.

### Changes in the average delay per type of judgment (2016-2025)



It should be noted that the analysis of the median delay reveals a value significantly lower than the average, which stands at 523 days for judgments on the merits. This difference can be explained by the highly asymmetrical length of cases. Indeed, a small number of particularly complex cases spanning several months, or even years, push up the average.

### Evolution of the median delay (50th percentile) per type of judgment (2016-2025)

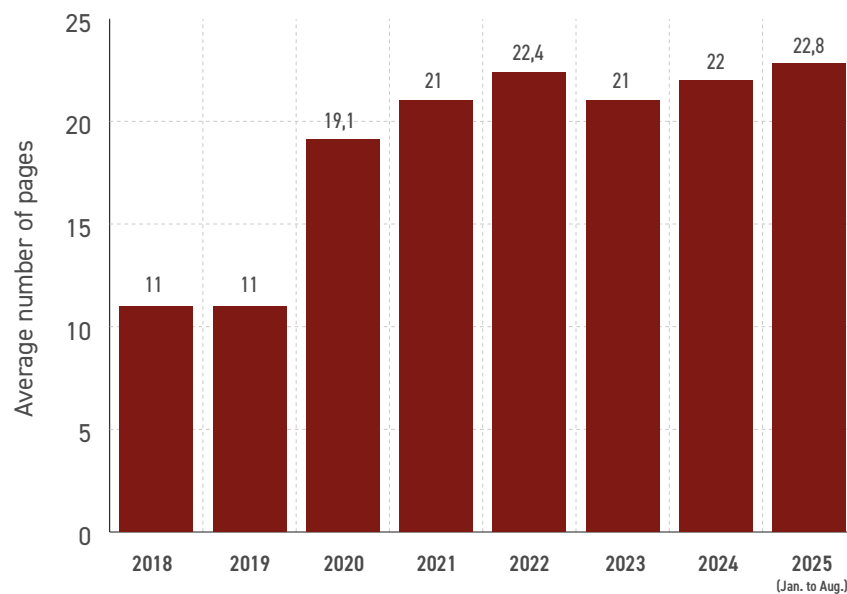


## 6.5. Average Length of Judgments

Data from the Société québécoise d'information juridique (SOQUIJ) show a steady increase in the average length of judgments.

While a typical judgment was approximately 11 pages long in 2019, the average is now around 22.8 pages.

### Average number of pages

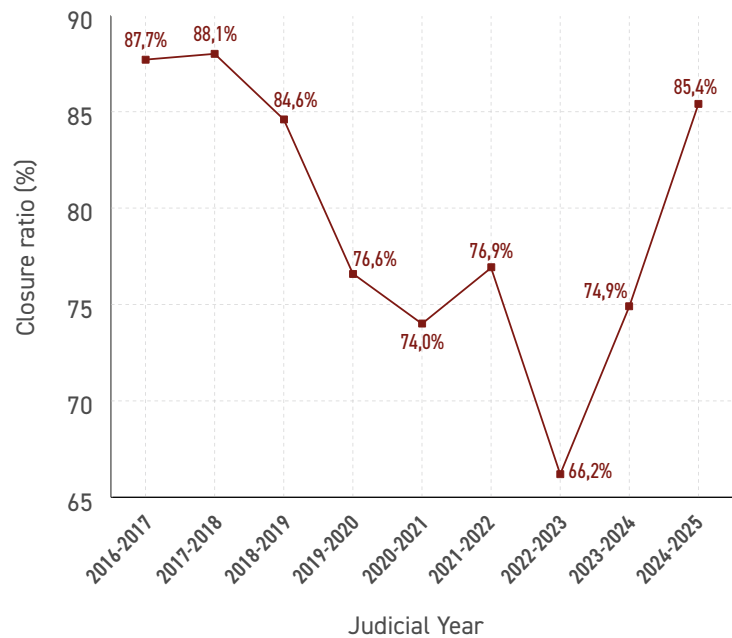


This trend reveals an increase in the growing complexity of cases heard, greater sophistication in legal reasoning, and a concern for pedagogy, all of which have the effect of increasing the workload of judges and lengthening case processing times.

## 6.6. File Clearance Rate

The analysis of the file clearance rate in civil matters (code 17) demonstrates a return to pre-pandemic levels. Unfortunately, this is the only subject matter, along with criminal files<sup>9</sup>, for which we currently have a clearance rate.

### Clearance Rate (subject 17) per judicial year



In 2024–2025, the clearance rate has recovered to reach 85%. This improvement stems in particular from post-pandemic recovery, the resumption of regular hearings, and a stabilization in the number of judges.

The Court would like to achieve a rate above 100%, in order to avoid a backlog of cases that remain pending, year after year, resulting in systemic overload.

<sup>9</sup> See [section 5.6](#) of this report.

## 7. Translation of Judgments

Section 10 of the *Charter of the French Language* stipulates that a “French version shall be attached immediately and without delay to any judgment rendered in writing in English by a court of justice where the judgment terminates a proceeding or is of public interest”<sup>10</sup>.

This obligation is not incumbent on the judges themselves. Thus, the translations are neither official nor reviewed by the judges.

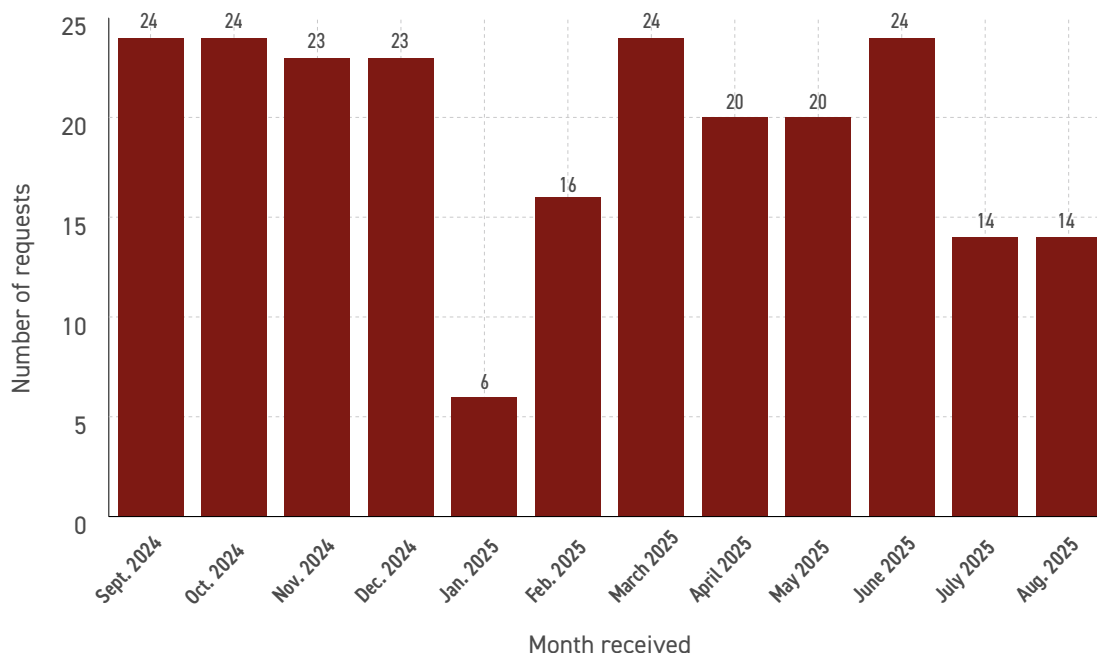
The responsibility for translating judgments as set out under section 10 lies with the government, which, through the MJQ, assumes the operating and support costs required to this purpose.

The Court now has a judicial translation department, whose members perform their duties under the authority of the Chief Justice. They are responsible for translating the draft judgments submitted, in accordance with section 10. This department has four translators, two of whom are jurilinguists.

However, when the judge believes that the interest of the parties or other circumstances require that the judgment be rendered in English without awaiting the French translation, the translation is done by SOQUIJ. Indeed, in these circumstances, the issue of deliberative secrecy does not arise, and the translation can be done externally.

During the 2024–2025 judicial year, the Court’s internal department received 232 translation requests.

### Monthly volume of translation requests – Judicial Year 2024-2025



<sup>10</sup> *Charter of the French Language*, CQLR, c. C-11, s. 10.

For the 2024–2025 judicial year, the average processing time for translation requests<sup>11</sup> handled by the Court’s internal department was 12 days and 50% of translations were finalized within 8 days or less.

The monthly analysis (see graph below) highlights an increase in average delays starting in spring 2025, a period during which the department experienced a temporary reduction in staff. This situation quickly led to an increase in processing times. Adjustments made during the summer of 2025 nevertheless made it possible to restore the department’s normal capacity, and available indicators reveal a significant improvement in delays since early autumn 2025.

### Average processing time for translations - Judicial year (2024-2025)



<sup>11</sup> The processing time runs from the date a judgment is received for translation to the date the translation is finalized. The translation is counted in the month the request was received.

## 8. Impact of the Unified Family Tribunal

### 8.1. Context and Scope of the Reform

The Unified Family Tribunal (UFT) within the Court of Québec came into effect on June 30, 2025, following the adoption of the *Act respecting family law reform and establishing the parental union regime*<sup>12</sup> (May 30, 2024) and of the *Act establishing the Unified Family Tribunal within the Court of Québec*<sup>13</sup> (April 10, 2025).

This reform extensively redefines the judicial handling of family disputes in Québec, mainly for unmarried couples with children – that is, cases currently classified under code 04.

The transfer of jurisdiction to the Court of Québec thus marks a major transformation of the family judicial landscape in Québec, the impacts of which will be felt gradually by the Superior Court starting in 2025-2026.

The UFT's jurisdiction extends to:

- disputes related to parental unions, namely unmarried couples who have cohabited and have a child born or adopted after June 30, 2025;
- disputes arising from civil unions;
- disputes involving surrogacy.

This statute provides for a gradual implementation of the various aspects of the reform, with the last one coming into force in October 2025.

Existing cases, as well as those concerning children born before June 30, 2025, remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

Divorces and matters based on the *Divorce Act*<sup>14</sup> remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

Thus, for several years, or even decades, the Québec system will function under a mixed regime, combining the jurisdictions of the Superior Court and the Court of Québec in family matters.

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<sup>12</sup> S.Q. 2024, c. 29.

<sup>13</sup> S.Q. 2025, c. 9.

<sup>14</sup> SRC 1985, c. 3.

## 8.2. Volume of Cases

Family disputes involving unmarried couples fall under code 04.

These files represent nearly a third of all proceedings filed with the court office<sup>15</sup>.

This preponderance reflects the fundamental role it plays in the daily judicial work of the Court.

Cases involving custody, child support, parenting time, parental authority, and interim relief are the core of this activity. Each year, they mobilize a large number of judges, special clerks, and administrative resources.

During the 2024–2025 judicial year, the Court maintained a high level of activity in family matters (code 04), with 8,364 new cases opened and nearly 376,593 new proceedings filed, representing approximately 30% of the total 1,256,270 proceedings filed in the Court record.

Based on the regional volumes reported above<sup>16</sup>, here is the breakdown of files in family matters, codes 04 and 12, by district, in relation with the total of other subject matters measured.

| REGION   | 04 - FAMILY (%) | 12 - DIVORCE (%) |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Abitibi - Rouyn-Noranda - Témiscamingue  | 28,8            | 22,2             |
| Alma - Roberval  | 30,1            | 23,1             |
| Baie-Comeau - Mingan   | 39,8            | 17,7             |
| Beauharnois - Iberville  | 25,3            | 28,3             |
| Chicoutimi   | 25,8            | 21,7             |
| Drummond   | 34,1            | 25,2             |
| Gaspé - Bonaventure  | 27,4            | 23,4             |
| Gatineau - Pontiac - Labelle   | 21,9            | 27,0             |
| Joliette   | 28,5            | 23,0             |
| Laval  | 15,8            | 30,8             |
| Longueuil  | 21,1            | 27,5             |
| Montréal   | 11,5            | 32,4             |
| Beauce - Frontenac - Montmagny - Québec - Kamouraska - Arthabaska - Charlevoix | 21,8            | 24,9             |
| Richelieu - Saint-Hyacinthe  | 31,7            | 24,1             |
| Rimouski   | 24,5            | 25,6             |

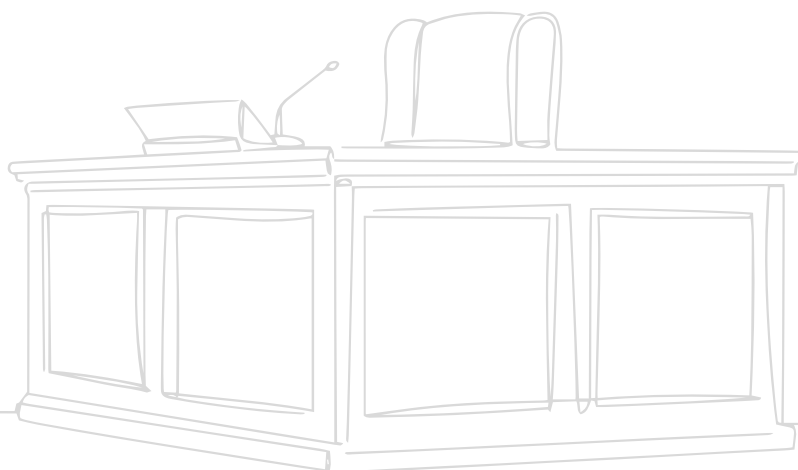
<sup>15</sup> See [section 5.2](#) of this report.

<sup>16</sup> See [section 5.1](#) of this report.

| REGION                              | 04 - FAMILY (%) | 12 - DIVORCE (%) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Saint-François - Bedford - Mégantic | 28,3            | 26,1             |
| Saint-Maurice                       | 28,4            | 23,7             |
| Terrebonne                          | 23,5            | 26,6             |
| Trois-Rivières                      | 30,6            | 24,8             |

This level of activity reflects the full historical scope of the Court's jurisdiction in parental and conjugal disputes outside of divorce.

As of June 30, 2025, this landscape began to change.



### 8.3. Gradual Transfer and Quantitative Impact

The 2024–2025 judicial year constitutes the last full period before the implementation of the UFT.

The transfer of jurisdiction to the UFT will be gradual and cumulative, as families newly formed after this date fall under the new parental union regime.

Thus, the first statistical consequences will manifest only in 2025–2026 and will then increase.

According to the MJQ's projections, based on data from the Institut de la statistique du Québec<sup>17</sup> regarding births and separation rates after the birth of a first child (drawn from the work of the Ministère de la Famille)<sup>18</sup>, the number of parental unions targeted by the reform will increase rapidly:

| JUDICIAL YEAR | COUPLES FORMING PARENTAL UNIONS (CUMULATIVE) | ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL SEPARATIONS |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 2025-2026     | 38,229                                       | 382                            |
| 2026-2027     | 88,993                                       | 1,780                          |
| 2027-2028     | 131,090                                      | 3,004                          |
| 2028-2029     | 165,671                                      | 3,439                          |
| 2029-2030     | 196,228                                      | 4,602                          |
| 2030-2031     | 224,420                                      | 5,811                          |

These figures reflect the gradual growth of the pool of couples covered by the new regime and, consequently, the rise in the number of separations that will henceforth fall under the UFT rather than the Superior Court.

17 Statistique Québec, *Naissances et fécondité : bilan démographique*, Québec, 2025, online : <https://statistique.quebec.ca/fr/produit/publication/naissances-fecondite-bilan-demographique>. (in French only)

18 Ministère de la famille, *La séparation parentale après l'arrivée d'un premier enfant : quelques tendances démographiques au fil du temps et des générations au Québec, Quelle famille?*, vol. 10, No 1, Winter 2023, online : [https://www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/DepotNumerique\\_v2/AffichageFichier.aspx?idf=289253](https://www.bibliotheque.assnat.qc.ca/DepotNumerique_v2/AffichageFichier.aspx?idf=289253).

## 8.4. Institutional Consequences

In the short term, the Court's workload relating to these files (code 04) will not be significantly reduced, since new files will represent a small proportion of the overall volume.

However, as the pool of parental unions expands, the reduction in the number of these files will become significant, leading to:

- a gradual reduction in the number of new cases in jurisdiction 04, which could ultimately have a significant impact on the Court's activities in certain districts;
- an aging of the family roll in Superior Court, with a concentration of divorce cases;
- an opportunity to reallocate judicial resources to other subject matters.

Unfortunately, the Court does not have access to sufficiently reliable data to accurately estimate the rate of judicialization of the 5,811 separations projected by 2030–2031. It is, however, reasonable to anticipate that their transfer to the UFT will have a significant impact on the Court's workload, since these cases (code 04) represented approximately 30% of the total proceedings filed in the Court record in 2024–2025, that is, 8,364 new files.

## 9. Strategic Planning Exercise and Priorities

In June 2024, the Court published its first Strategic Plan<sup>19</sup>. This was the result of a forward-looking, thorough, and structured process, for which the Court was supported by the HEC Montréal team of seasoned experts in management and innovation.

Developing the Strategic Plan provided the Court with a unique opportunity for exchanges with its stakeholders and partners.

This approach reflects the Court's determination to be an open and responsive institution, committed to building a justice system that is accessible, efficient, and humane.

The strategic priorities identified by the Court at the end of this exercise are as follows:

1. Simplify and harmonize administrative processes to maintain a high standard of justice and reduce judicial delays for legal cases;
2. Optimize the use of technology to support its activities;
3. Provide the judges with the support and guidance they need to carry out their judicial functions with confidence;
4. Raise awareness of its areas of activity and operating methods to improve access to justice.
5. Strengthen its communications and visual identity.

These priorities allow the Court to focus and direct its actions in the search for implementation, improvement, modernization and innovation initiatives to better respond to the people's needs.

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<sup>19</sup> Superior Court of Québec, Strategic Plan 2024–2029, Québec, 2025, online: [https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A\\_propos/Plan\\_strategique\\_Cour\\_superieure\\_2024-2029\\_EN.pdf](https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A_propos/Plan_strategique_Cour_superieure_2024-2029_EN.pdf)

## 10. Key Priority Projects and Progress of Work

In its Strategic Plan, the Court has identified five key priority projects that reflect its determination to modernize its operations, increase its efficiency, and better meet the needs of those it serves:

1. Review and improvement of organizational processes, starting with its various rules of practice and directives;
2. Use of evidence-based data for responsible management;
3. Reasoned use of new technologies and artificial intelligence;
4. Ensure the quality of the work environment;
5. Review communications and visual identity.

The following subsections describe the work of the various groups and committees that have contributed to the progress of these strategic projects.

### 10.1. Improvement, Simplification, and Harmonization of Organizational and Administrative Processes

#### 10.1.1. Rules of Practice and Directives of the Court

Consultations on the Strategic Plan continued over the past year. A clear consensus has emerged among the Court's partners that it is essential to simplify and harmonize procedures, starting with a review of the Court's rules of practice and directives.

In civil matters, some forms have been revised to ensure their uniform application in all judicial districts. This is particularly the case for the case protocol and the request for setting down for trial and judgment, which previously differed from one district to another. These adjustments contributed to reinforce the uniformity and consistency of judicial practices, with the aim to simplify the procedures for both counsels and unrepresented parties.

In criminal matters, the Court achieved a major milestone on June 30, 2025, with the coming into force of the new *Rules of the Superior Court of Québec in Criminal Matters*. It modernizes and harmonizes the applicable rules, replacing previous versions and integrating best practices.

Harmonization work will continue over the coming year, including a review of the *Rules of Practice of the Superior Court of Québec in Penal Matters* and other initiatives concerning civil matters.

## 10.1.2. Assignments

The Court also implemented a work group studying ways of improving its assignment process. This initiative aims to optimize the use of judicial resources for the people's benefit.

Discussions on this subject are ongoing and may result in more detailed findings and conclusions in the next annual report.

## 10.2. Management Informed by Evidence-Based Data

The Court reaffirms its commitment to base its management decisions on reliable, objective, and verifiable data. In a context where judicial needs are rapidly evolving, this approach aims to provide a finer, rigorous vision of the Court's activities, both in terms of workload and resource allocation.

In 2024–2025, the Court undertook to modernize its monitoring and performance metrics. It aimed to develop reliable, reproducible, and transparent indicators, enabling it to track judicial activity on an ongoing basis and to support strategic decision-making, whether in terms of resource planning, roll management, or assessment of emerging needs.

This evidence-based management approach reveals a clear desire to align the Court's governance with the best practices observed in major public institutions. It is an essential lever for strengthening the efficiency of the judicial system, improving accountability, and supporting the modernization efforts already underway, particularly those relating to digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

More fundamentally, the Court is currently pushing for direct access to the data emanating from the judicial system and a business intelligence resource, in order to advance this priority project while respecting judicial independence.

## 10.3. Reasoned Use of New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

The year 2024–2025 marked a milestone in the modernization of the Court’s work tools with the launch of an artificial intelligence (AI) pilot project designed to support judges in their duties, while respecting the principles of judicial independence, confidentiality, and information security.

Led by the Court’s management, this project is part of a responsible innovation and progressive digital transformation approach. It aims to evaluate, in a controlled environment, the real benefits that AI technologies might bring to the exercise of judicial functions, without ever encroaching on the decision-making role of the judge<sup>20</sup>.

The pilot project is based on a structured experimental approach, founded on the development of targeted proofs of concept, in particular, for:

- document retrieval;
- legislative and regulatory research;
- translation and writing support;
- first-level technical support.

These prototypes will allow for a concrete exploration of the added value AI could bring to judicial work while ensuring complete control over the data used and applying strict governance and security protocols.

The results of the pilot project will be published during the winter of 2026.

At the same time, the MJQ has continued to modernize judicial information systems, in particular through the gradual deployment of Lexius, the new integrated platform for managing court cases. Ultimately, this initiative will facilitate the dematerialization of processes, strengthen administrative efficiency, and support a more accessible and transparent justice system.

## 10.4. Quality of the Work Environment

The psychological health of judges ensures the serenity in which the judicial process unfolds. Aware of the heavy workload that judges take on and the difficult circumstances they may face, the Court has established a committee on the health and well-being of judges. This committee’s initiatives include the implementation of a peer support program (*Programme de pairs aidants*). The objective is to foster a caring organizational culture and raise awareness among all judges of the importance of psychological health in the workplace.

This program aims to train certain judges to act as resource persons for their colleagues. These peer supporters will be able to provide a supportive assistance within the organization, listen attentively and discreetly, and direct colleagues going through difficult times to appropriate resources.

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20 Cour supérieure du Québec, Artificial intelligence governance framework, Montréal, September 2025, online : [https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A\\_propos/2025-09\\_Artificial\\_intelligence\\_governance\\_framework\\_Superior\\_Court\\_of\\_Quebec.pdf](https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/fileadmin/cour-superieure/A_propos/2025-09_Artificial_intelligence_governance_framework_Superior_Court_of_Quebec.pdf).

In fact, the Court would like to thank the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs for its support in implementing this initiative.

The peer support program complements existing resources, such as the employee assistance program (*Programme d'aide aux employés*), which allows any judge seeking psychological support to access it confidentially.

In parallel, additional measures have been put in place to bolster the sense of belonging within the judiciary and to create an environment conducive to collaboration, collegiality, and solidarity among judges, in order to better serve people who address themselves to the Court.

## 10.5. Communications and Visual Identity

### 10.5.1. Creation of a Coat of Arms

The Court has undertaken to renew its visual identity. This action is in line with a desire to better raise awareness of the role it plays in our rule of law and to underline its institutional independence.

One of the central elements of this project is the adoption of heraldic emblems specific to the Court and representative of its history, fundamental values, and role in Québec's judicial system.

A subcommittee has been tasked with developing this coat of arms with the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Based on many discussions, the subcommittee has developed the broad orientations for the symbols, colours, and overall visual appearance of the coat of arms. The herald, in charge of the project, is currently working on developing the concept that will be submitted for the Court's approval. A heraldic artist will then be commissioned to create its visual representation.

This coat of arms will be at the heart of a coherent and modern visual identity, destined to be used on all the Court's communication media.

### 10.5.2. Redesign of the Court's Website

The central objective of this initiative is to render available information more accessible by making web browsing more intuitive for people.

A subcommittee has undertaken a review of the currently available content to assess its relevance, clarity, and accessibility. This work will make it possible to identify the principles that should guide the development of the Court's website, primarily with regard to its architecture, the clarity of its content from a user perspective, its ease of browsing on computers and mobile devices, and its accessibility for all users.

The subcommittee has thus agreed on the general structure that it will propose as the basis for the new site, a structure that will be adapted to reflect a service-oriented approach to the site's users, mainly litigants and counsels.

### 10.5.3. Video Presenting the Court’s History and its Judges

As part of the celebrations marking the Court’s 175th anniversary, a short institutional video was produced to present the Court’s history, mission, and essential role within the Québec judicial system to the public.

Produced in collaboration with the Jurisvision team, whom the Court would like to warmly thank for their professionalism and creativity, this video highlights the richness and depth of the work accomplished by its judges on a daily basis.

This initiative is in line with the Court’s strategic priority of better raising public awareness of its areas of activity and role. By presenting in an accessible manner the functioning of a court of original general jurisdiction and the importance it plays in a free and democratic society, this video contributes to strengthening the understanding, trust, and a sense of proximity between the Court and the people it serves.

This video can be [viewed here](#)<sup>21</sup>.

### 10.5.4. Visits to Schools

On the occasion of the Court’s 175th anniversary and in accordance with its strategic priority of raising public awareness of its role and areas of activity, many judges of the Court took part in visits to high schools across Québec.

In the past year, more than 36 workshops were held in various schools, reaching over 1,000 students from both public and private schools, located in a variety of settings.

These encounters allowed the judges to meet young people directly, explain the court’s role and its operation, demystify what judges do, and answer their many questions in an open and transparent manner.

The goal of these rewarding exchanges is to help strengthen public confidence in the judiciary and foster a better understanding of the Québec judicial system. They also allowed young people to see the concrete role of justice in society and to contribute to developing informed civic thinking on the fundamental values that underpin it.

Given the success of this initiative, the Court will continue such workshops over the next year, so that students from all judicial districts can benefit from them.

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21 Superior Court of Québec, Video of 175th anniversary, Montréal, online: <https://coursuperieureduquebec.ca/>.

### 10.5.5. Citizen Collaboration Committee – District of Montréal

The Court has also undertaken an innovative approach aimed at strengthening the bond of trust between the judiciary and the public: the creation of the citizen collaboration committee in the judicial district of Montréal (*Comité collaboratif citoyen du district judiciaire de Montréal*).

This committee is a first in the history of the Court. It aims to better understand the needs, expectations, and experiences of those who interact with the judicial system.

Through direct dialogue with the public and the organizations that represent them, the Court hopes to gather concrete perspectives on how to improve the accessibility, quality, and efficiency of justice throughout Québec.

Comprised of citizens, representatives of community and professional organizations, experts and judges of the Court, the citizen collaboration committee embodies a participatory and inclusive approach.

By actively listening to people, the Court hopes not only to adapt its practices, but also to strengthen public confidence in the judicial institution.

The findings of this committee, currently limited to the District of Montréal, will be used to take similar initiatives in other judicial districts, so that the spin-offs of this innovative initiative extend to all people who address themselves to the Court.



# 11. Acknowledgement and Thanks

The Court thanks all its partners and stakeholders — including Bar sections, counsels, and the organizations consulted — for their constructive comments and suggestions. Their contribution helped enrich the Court's reflection and better adapt its actions to the real needs of litigants.

The Court also extends its most sincere thanks to all the judges for their commitment to the Strategic Plan and their daily dedication to delivering high-quality justice characterized by rigour, integrity, and humanity.

A special thank you is extended to the Honourable Catherine La Rosa, who served as Associate Chief Justice until October 6, 2025. Her contribution and involvement in the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan deserve to be recognized and praised. The Court also thanks the Honourable Jean-François Émond, who acted as Interim Associate Chief Justice until the appointment of the new Associate Chief Justice on November 7, 2025.

The Court would also like to thank the judges who have agreed to preside over committees related to its priority projects, as well as all the members actively taking part in the work of these committees, and the coordinating judges, who contribute to the harmonization and simplification effort. Their contribution is essential in achieving strategic priorities and implementing priority projects.

The Court wishes to highlight the work of its support staff, coordinating and executive assistants, counsels, special constables, special clerks, bailiffs, paralegals, registrars, translators, and the staff of the court offices and judicial services, whose collaboration is indispensable for its activities to function properly on a daily basis.

Finally, the Court thanks the MJQ for its financial contribution to the development of its first Strategic Plan.

This support has enabled the Court to lay foundations for a structuring approach focused on the needs of litigants.

The Court reaffirms the importance of the sustained support from the MJQ to enable it to fully implement its strategic priorities and achieve its objectives for the benefit of the population.

## 12. Schedule 1

### Judges of the Superior Court as of August 31, 2025

| JUDGE                        | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)                     |
|------------------------------|--|
| Paquette, Marie-Anne         | Chief Justice                                      |
| La Rosa, Catherine           | Senior Associate Chief Justice                     |
| Michaud, Jean-François       | Associate Chief Justice                            |
| Armstrong, Marie-Claude      | Puisne   |
| Aylwin, Antoine              | Puisne   |
| Baribeau, Steve              | Puisne   |
| Barin, Babak                 | Puisne   |
| Beaulieu, Daniel             | Coordinating Judge, District of Rimouski           |
| Bédard, Marie-Josée          | Puisne   |
| Bélanger, Marie-Eve          | Puisne   |
| Béliveau, Pierre A.          | Puisne   |
| Bellavance, Pierre C.        | Puisne   |
| Bergeron, Lise               | Coordinating Judge, Districts of La Malbaie        |
| Bien-Aimé Bastien, Alexandre | Puisne   |
| Bienvenu, Charles            | Puisne   |
| Bisson, Donald               | Puisne   |
| Blanchard, Jacques           | Coordinating Judge, District of Beauce             |
| Boctor, Audrey               | Puisne   |
| Boillat, Isabelle            | Puisne   |
| Bolduc, Alain                | Coordinating Judge, District of Trois-Rivières     |
| Bonsaint, Nancy              | Coordinating Judge, Class Action Division – Québec |
| Bouchard, Jacques G.         | Puisne   |
| Bouchard, Sandra             | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Alma and Roberval |

| JUDGE                          | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)                      |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Boucher, Alexandre             | Puisne  |
| Breault, Annie                 | Puisne  |
| Breton, Isabelle               | Coordinating Judge, District of Abitibi (Amos)      |
| Brochu, Gabrielle              | Puisne  |
| Brodeur, Johanne               | Puisne  |
| Brossard, Christian J.         | Puisne  |
| Buchholz, Patrick              | Coordinating Judge, District of Longueuil           |
| Bundaru, Horia                 | Puisne  |
| Cantin, Philippe               | Coordinating Judge, District of Arthabaska          |
| Chamberland, Simon             | Puisne  |
| Charette, Louis                | Puisne  |
| Chatelain, Chantal             | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Laval and Joliette |
| Conte, Silvana                 | Puisne  |
| Cossette, Marie                | Puisne  |
| Coulombe, Jonathan             | Puisne  |
| Courchesne, Suzanne            | Puisne  |
| Cree, Lysane                   | Puisne  |
| Dadour, François               | Puisne  |
| Dagenais, Catherine            | Puisne  |
| Daigle, Danye                  | Puisne  |
| Dallaire, Claude               | Puisne  |
| de Blois, Guy                  | Puisne  |
| Décarie, Lyne                  | Coordinating Judge, Criminal Division - Montréal    |
| Demers, Ian                    | Puisne  |
| Desfossés, Katheryne Alexandra | Coordinating Judge, District of Drummond            |
| Di Donato, Tiziana             | Puisne  |
| Di Salvo, Hélène               | Puisne  |

| JUDGE                    | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)                                     |
|--------------------------|--|
| Dionne, Louis            | Puisne   |
| Downs, Éric              | Puisne   |
| Dubé, Marie-Hélène       | Puisne   |
| Dufour, Éric             | Puisne   |
| Dufresne, Robert         | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Rouyn-Noranda and Témiscamingue   |
| Dugré, Gérard            | Puisne   |
| Dulude, France           | Coordinating Judge, Settlement Conference Division – Montréal      |
| Dumais, Daniel           | Coordinating Judge, lengthy cases - Québec                         |
| Duplessis, Guylaine      | Puisne   |
| Duprat, François P.      | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Beauharnois and Iberville         |
| Edwards, Jeffrey         | Puisne   |
| Emond, Annie             | Puisne   |
| Émond, Jean-François     | Coordinating Judge, Commercial Division- Québec                    |
| Faullem, Jean            | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Gatineau, Labelle and Pontiac     |
| Ferland, Patrick         | Puisne   |
| Finn, Shaun E.           | Puisne   |
| Forlini, Enrico          | Puisne   |
| Frappier, Jérôme         | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Richelieu and Saint-Hyacinthe     |
| Gagnon, Anne-France      | Puisne   |
| Gagnon, Marie-Paule      | Coordinating Judge, District of Québec and Civil Division - Québec |
| Garin, Andres            | Puisne   |
| Gaudet, Serge            | Puisne   |
| Germain, Isabelle        | Puisne   |
| Girard, Patrick          | Puisne   |
| Granosik, Lukasz         | Coordinating Judge, Case Management Division - Montréal            |
| Guillot-Hurtubise, Bruno | Puisne   |
| Hébert, Simon            | Coordinating Judge, District of Montmagny                          |

| JUDGE                  | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)                            |
|------------------------|---|
| Hivon, Marie-Christine | Puisne  |
| Huot, François         | Puisne  |
| Hussain, Azimuddin     | Puisne  |
| Jacob, Anne            | Puisne  |
| Jolin, Bernard         | Puisne  |
| Labrie, Pierre         | Puisne  |
| Lacoste, Stéphane      | Puisne  |
| Lalande, Marie-Claude  | Puisne  |
| Lamarche, Chantal      | Puisne  |
| Larocque, Bernard      | Puisne  |
| Lavoie, Manon          | Puisne  |
| Leblanc, Sophie        | Puisne  |
| Leckey, Robert         | Puisne  |
| Legendre, Céline       | Puisne  |
| Lemay, Jean-Louis      | Coordinating Judge, District of Frontenac                 |
| Longpré, Mario         | Puisne  |
| Lucas, Florence        | Puisne  |
| Lussier, Sylvain       | Puisne  |
| Mandeville, Catherine  | Puisne  |
| Marquis, Louis         | Puisne  |
| Martel, Catherine      | Puisne  |
| Masse Chantal          | Puisne  |
| Michelin, Janet        | Puisne  |
| Montminy, Marie-Hélène | Coordinating Judge, SCs/CCVs/Management - Québec Division |
| Moore, Gregory         | Puisne  |
| Morin, Luc             | Puisne  |
| Narang, Geeta          | Puisne  |

| JUDGE                  | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)   |
|------------------------|--|
| Nolin, Pascale         | Puisne   |
| O'Bomsawin, Fany       | Puisne   |
| Oral, Élif             | Puisne   |
| Ouellet, Patrick       | Puisne   |
| Pelletier, Nathalie    | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Abitibi (Chibougamau and Val d'Or)    |
| Pennou, Michel         | Puisne   |
| Pérodeau, Frédéric     | Coordinating Judge, District of Montréal and Civil Division - Montréal |
| Perreault, Catherine   | Puisne   |
| Perreault, Éliane B.   | Puisne   |
| Perreault, Janick      | Puisne   |
| Phillips, Mark         | Puisne   |
| Picard, Sophie         | Puisne   |
| Piché, Catherine       | Puisne   |
| Piché-Messier, Mathieu | Puisne   |
| Pierre-Roy, Sébastien  | Puisne   |
| Pilote, Jocelyn        | Puisne   |
| Pless, Alexander       | Puisne   |
| Poisson, Élise         | Coordinating Judge, District of Terrebonne                             |
| Poulin, Dominique      | Puisne   |
| Poulin, Yvan           | Puisne   |
| Prémont, Claudia P.    | Puisne   |
| Provencher, Sylvain    | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Bedford, Mégantic and Saint-François  |
| Quach, Aline U. K.     | Puisne   |
| Rigaud, Marie-Claude   | Puisne   |
| Roberge, David E.      | Puisne   |
| Roberge, Jean-François | Puisne   |
| Roberge, Justin        | Puisne   |

| JUDGE                        | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)                         |
|------------------------------|--|
| Rogers, Karen M.             | Coordinating Judge, Commercial Division – Montréal     |
| Roy, Maxime                  | Coordinating Judge, Authorizations for care – Québec   |
| Royer, Daniel                | Puisne   |
| Samson, Clément              | Puisne   |
| Sheehan, Martin F.           | Coordinating Judge, Class Action Division – Montréal   |
| Soucy, Pierre                | Puisne   |
| St-Onge, Damien              | Coordinating Judge, Districts of Bonaventure and Gaspé |
| Synnott, Bernard             | Puisne   |
| Thériault, Renée             | Puisne   |
| Therrien, Carole             | Puisne   |
| Thibault, Carl               | Coordinating Judge, Criminal Division – Québec         |
| Tremblay, Bernard            | Puisne   |
| Tremblay, Chantal            | Puisne   |
| Tremblay, Nicole             | Coordinating Judge, District of Chicoutimi             |
| Trudel, Alain                | Coordinating Judge, District of Saint-Maurice          |
| Urbas, Daniel                | Puisne   |
| Vaillancourt, Jean-Sébastien | Coordinating Judge, Family Division – Montréal         |
| Villeneuve, Claude           | Coordinating Judge, Districts of the Eastern Townships |
| Vincent, Marie-France        | Coordinating Judge, Family Division – Québec           |
| Yiannakis, Eleni             | Puisne   |

| JUDGE                 | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)  |
|-----------------------|---|
| April, Johanne        | Coordinating Judge, District of Kamouraska                              |
| Aclair, Claude        | Supernumerary   |
| Beaugé, Guylène       | Supernumerary   |
| Bergeron, France      | Supernumerary   |
| Blanchard, Marc-André | Supernumerary   |
| Bouchard, Claude      | Supernumerary   |
| Brunton, James L.     | Supernumerary   |
| Bureau, Martin        | Supernumerary   |
| Castonguay, Martin    | Supernumerary   |
| Cohen, Carol          | Supernumerary   |
| Collier, David R.     | Outgoing Coordinating Judge of the Commercial Division – Montréal       |
| Corriveau, Chantal    | Supernumerary   |
| Dallaire, Martin      | Supernumerary   |
| David, Marc           | Supernumerary   |
| Davis, Thomas M.      | Supernumerary   |
| Dumas, Gaétan         | Supernumerary   |
| Emery, Benoît         | Supernumerary   |
| Francoeur, Serge      | Supernumerary – Coordinating Judge, Districts of Baie-Comeau and Mingan |
| Gaudreau, Marie       | Supernumerary   |
| Geoffroy, Jocelyn     | Supernumerary   |
| Godbout, Bernard      | Supernumerary   |
| Jacques, Denis        | Supernumerary   |
| Kear Jodoin, Karen    | Supernumerary   |
| Labelle, Pierre       | Supernumerary   |
| Lacoursière, Louis    | Supernumerary   |
| Mainville, Johanne    | Supernumerary   |
| Mayer, Paul           | Supernumerary   |

| JUDGE                  | STATUS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2025)  |
|------------------------|---|
| Michaud, Alain         | Supernumerary – Outgoing Coordinating Judge of the district of Québec and for Lengthy Cases |
| Monast, Michèle        | Supernumerary   |
| Morrison, Gary D. D.   | Supernumerary   |
| Nollet, Pierre         | Supernumerary   |
| Ouellet, Suzanne       | Supernumerary   |
| Paradis, Marc          | Supernumerary   |
| Parent, Étienne        | Supernumerary   |
| Pinsonnault, Michel A. | Supernumerary   |
| Pronovost, Raymond W.  | Supernumerary   |
| Reimnitz, Steve J.     | Supernumerary   |
| Samoisette, Line       | Supernumerary   |
| Soldevila, Alicia      | Supernumerary   |
| St-Pierre, Marc        | Supernumerary   |
| Tessier, Suzanne       | Supernumerary   |
| Turcotte, Danielle     | Supernumerary   |
|                        |   |

## 13. Schedule 2

### Summary of Subject-Matter Codes –Superior Court of Québec

#### 04 – Family matters

Groups together remedies arising from Book II of the *Civil Code*, in particular, filiation, alimony, nullity or dissolution of marriage or civil union, separation from bed and board or as to property, child custody, compensatory allowances, and parental authority. It also includes applications relating to marriage contracts, oppositions to marriage or civil union, and reciprocal enforcement of support orders. It excludes divorce applications (code 12).

#### 05 – Miscellaneous

Covers any pleadings that do not fall under another jurisdiction: administrative certificates, filing of decisions from administrative tribunals, habeas corpus briefs, applications for contempt of court, sales for unpaid taxes, expropriation, etc.

#### 06 – Class actions

Groups together the class actions brought under the *Code of Civil Procedure*.

#### 11 – Bankruptcy and Commercial Division

Includes proceedings governed by federal or provincial commercial statutes: bankruptcy, insolvency, creditors arrangements, liquidation, commercial arbitration and securities. It also includes applications for homologation or the recognition of arbitral awards and any other commercial proceedings designated by the Chief Justice.

#### 12 – Divorce

Includes proceedings relating to divorce, except applications to vary corollary relief fixed in another district (code 04).

#### 13 – Civil marriages and civil unions

Groups together the acts related to the celebration of a civil marriage or a civil union.

#### 14 – Non-contentious matters

Concerns applications based on Book VI of the *Code of Civil Procedure*: tutorships, curatorships, homologation of protection mandates, probate of wills, declaratory judgments of death, sales of property belonging to minors or protected adults, etc.

#### 17 – Originating applications

Groups together applications in first instance concerning non-family matters: cancellation of contract, claims for fees, abandonment, civil liability, and other general civil remedies.

### **18 – Sheriff**

Contains the sheriff's cases relating to proceedings concerning immovables.

### **24 – Appeals from decisions of the Court of Québec and extraordinary remedies in youth matters**

Groups together appeals from the judgments of the Youth Division and extraordinary remedies involving minors.

### **36 – Appeals, extraordinary remedies, and other applications in criminal and penal matters**

Includes appeals in the Criminal Division, extraordinary remedies (certiorari, habeas corpus, mandamus, etc.) and applications related to the *Criminal Code* (bail review, extension of time limits, etc.).

### **64 – Authorizations for care**

New subject matter grouping applications for judicial authorization for care, including judicial authorizations for treatment or hospitalization under applicable laws.





