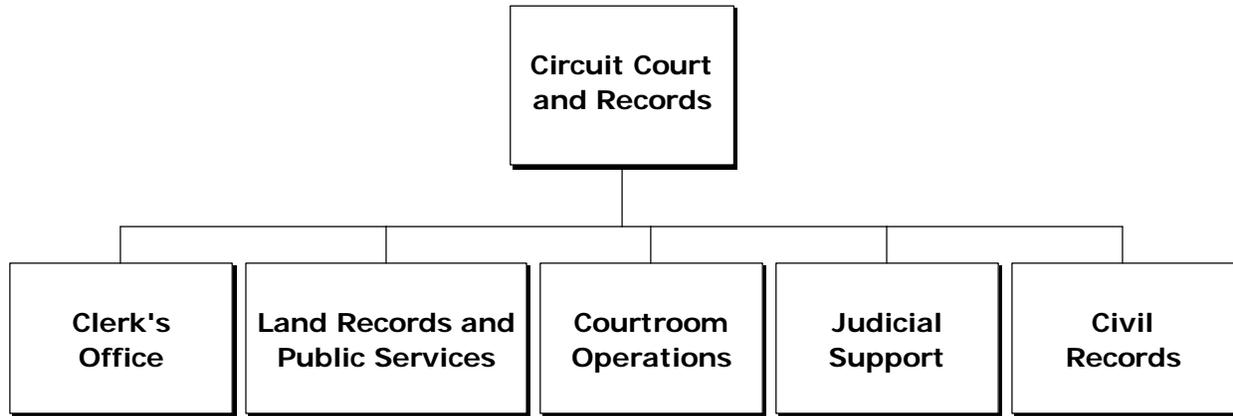


Circuit Court and Records



Mission

To provide administrative support to the 19th Judicial Circuit; to preserve, maintain and protect the public records; and to offer public services with equal access to all in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

AGENCY DASHBOARD			
Key Data	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1. Public Records Held	44,986,502	46,397,861	47,705,318
2. Criminal Cases ¹	7,057	7,908	6,978
3. Civil Cases	21,346	20,598	19,907
4. Probate Cases	2,201	2,452	2,437
5. Land Recordings	248,584	154,777	149,726
6. Marriage Licenses, Trade Names, Financing Statements, Notaries	12,964	13,197	13,222
7. Jurors called to court for cases	7,780	7,471	7,481

¹ While Circuit Court took in 1,440 felonies, 2,753 misdemeanor appeals and 92 juvenile criminal appeals, many crimes have multiple “counts” which is used to calculate criminal caseload for Virginia Supreme Court reporting purposes. For that reason, the Circuit Court actually had a criminal case count total of 6,978 for FY 2015.

Focus

The Fairfax Circuit Court is a Virginia “court of record” and has jurisdiction over Fairfax’s Criminal and Civil cases and has appellate review over several lower courts and tribunals. Fifteen judges constitute a full complement of the Circuit bench, and the Clerk’s Office supports these judges as they hear the over 25,000 new civil and criminal cases taken in each year. The Circuit Court also has original jurisdiction over other matters such as attachments, adoptions, divorce proceedings, disputes concerning wills, trusts and estates, election recounts, eminent domain and controversies involving personal and real property.

As custodian of the public record, the Clerk of Court also administers the land records for Fairfax, recording 150,000 land transactions every year. As such, the Fairfax Circuit Court is, by far, the busiest and most sophisticated court in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Circuit Court and Records

The Clerk of Court's mission is to serve the citizen, the bench and the bar, and to exceed their very high expectations of Virginia's largest Circuit Court, by keeping public records well-preserved and readily available. Simply stated, the Court's customers want the efficiency and accountability of a comprehensive, online court experience. They want 24-hour, remote access where possible; and a streamlined on-site court experience, when that is necessary. Fairfax citizens expect a highly-informed, knowledgeable, customer-oriented staff. The Clerk's Office drives the momentum toward a comprehensive, online court experience, by placing a budgetary emphasis on technology and personnel training, which includes: maintaining 24-hour customer access to land and business records through CPAN, implementing web-based case management, digitizing paper records for faster retrieval for the bench or the customer, offering online jury service software, accepting remote, online marriage pre-applications, and training staff to keep pace with these technologies, as well as best practices in courthouse customer service. Where possible and permissible, the Clerk's Office offers fillable forms for citizens filing ministerial petitions of the Court, aiming to make the citizens' court experience streamlined and efficient.

As a court of record, the Circuit Court has jurisdiction over appeals from General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court. Because all appeals from these lower courts are heard *de novo*, the cases are tried from the beginning; the citizen enjoys an altogether new hearing on the facts of the case. And, as opposed to lower courts, the parties in Circuit Court have a right to a jury trial. Citizens also can seek judicial review of administrative agency decisions in Circuit Court, and the Court hears appeals from the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Virginia Employment Commission and even the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In criminal cases, the Circuit Court has original

jurisdiction over the trial of all felonies (crimes that are punishable by more than one year in prison.) The Circuit Court also has jurisdiction over misdemeanor offenses (crimes carrying a penalty of 12 months or less) that are appealed from the General District Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court.

The Speed of Click: Maximizing Court Technology

Circuit Court staff maintains a high level of performance in spite of continued regional and national economic contractions. While all County agencies, including the Circuit Court, have been asked to cut budgets, citizens' needs and expectations have increased in the digital age. Additionally, the Court and the Clerk's Office are subject to more state mandates which are increasing administrative (and thus operational) burden; all in the face of reduced funding from the state. The Clerk is reconciling these contradictory forces by further streamlining business processes, training staff to maximize software tools, and encouraging an environment of critical-thinking and creative problem-solving. Now in the second year of integrated, web-based case management, the Court is using flexible, internal work queues and

Circuit Court and Records supports the following County Vision Elements:



Maintaining Safe and Caring Communities



Connecting People and Places



Maintaining Healthy Economies



Creating a Culture of Engagement



Exercising Corporate Stewardship

Circuit Court and Records

electronic documents to respond to changes in Virginia law¹. Technology is making it easier and quicker for the Clerk's Office to update forms and processes, when the Code of Virginia or Virginia trial-practice changes. With the Clerk's launch of the "E-Decree" program this year, citizen wait time has been substantially reduced for notification of a Final Decree or Final Order.

Technology: Maintaining Current Excellence

Technology investments in the Circuit Court provide customers with easier access to court resources and land records and can be understood in two phases: 1) innovations into new technologies that keep court functions cutting-edge and timely and 2) the maintenance of existing software and hardware. Keeping anchor systems fresh over time, through license updates and software upgrades, is a cost of keeping court administration current. In FY 2015, 46 percent of Circuit Court's operating expenses involved technology maintenance; an 8 percent increase from the previous fiscal year. The Clerk's Office expects this trend to continue to increase over time, as newer IT projects age and phase into maintenance status.

Having pioneered court technology since the 1980s, and as responsible steward of a complex court, the Clerk of Court monitors and updates software licenses and replaces aging hardware using industry standards and best practices. In FY 2015, the five most expensive Circuit Court operating expense outlays all involved technology or software maintenance. Circuit Court commits to IT maintenance as a form of responsible court administration and to advance momentum toward E-Adjudication, thereby offering superior IT solutions to the bench, the bar, and the citizen.

Court Public Access Network: CPAN

Court Public Access Network (CPAN) is the master, unified system that Circuit Court uses to publish the complete record of all land transactions and to offer the community access to an extract of all the civil and criminal cases before this Court. By virtue of §17.1-276 of the Code of Virginia, the Clerk offers this CPAN service to the community through a subscription agreement; the citizen-subscriber enjoys 24-hour, remote access to the digitized recorded history of Fairfax. The Clerk's office also makes CPAN available on-site at the courthouse on 35 computer terminals, so that the public may access CPAN at no cost. In the digital age, and as custodian of the public record, the Clerk of Court must keep safe all images of every real property transaction housed in CPAN. At the close of FY 2015, the Clerk was custodian of over 47,705,318 digital images, making Circuit Court's digital public record the largest Oracle database in Fairfax County. Because the servers that store these land document images make them available to the public on a 24-hour basis, without any interruption in access, the software system and hardware must be upgraded with regularity.

Perpetual access comes at a cost; and the cost in FY 2015 was \$687,548. As set out in the Code of Virginia, CPAN subscriptions establish 'trusted partners' for the Clerk's Office; a system which protects *secure* remote access to all Fairfax public documents. While many of these CPAN subscribers are title companies that do a high volume of business in the Land Records Division of Circuit Court, the total also includes many Fairfax citizens who want to tap the CPAN case summary function, which allows the public to review basic information on the over 25,000 cases Circuit Court takes in every year. For every interaction or bit of research the citizen can do remotely, CPAN saves them a trip to the courthouse and reduces court traffic, as well as automobile traffic, in Fairfax. Increasingly, Fairfax citizens expect to be able to do court business online, and CPAN is an important part of the Clerk's momentum toward a comprehensive online court experience.

¹ While the General Assembly convenes and passes legislative bills in the winter, *most* of these legislative changes are written to take effect July 1st.

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The Requirement for a Modern Court: Web-Based Case Management

Another example of the Clerk's need for better technology and greater efficiency is a web-based case management system that Circuit Court launched last year. Now one year into the upgraded system, staff is beginning to maximize the software's many tools and use its various applications for courtroom operations. In FY 2015, the Court took in a total of 26,629² new cases, once again making the Fairfax Circuit Court the busiest Circuit in Virginia. A docket this large requires a comprehensive case management system that allows the Clerk's staff to manage the complex case hearings schedule, set trials, notify parties, conform to state Code timelines, and execute orders of the Court. More robust, web-based platforms can allow for workflow improvements.

Agile programming (a recent advancement among many case management systems in the court management industry) is creating more robust platforms for courts. Across the country, courts are using systems that allow the public (*pro se* litigants) to prepare and e-file their own court documents. In addition, new systems can offer the Clerk's Office better efficiency with integrated document generation capabilities and electronic service of process and e-summons functionalities. As case management technology improves, the Clerk's Office will be able to better integrate our processes with the Sheriff's technology and other Virginia agencies' platforms, streamlining information coming out of the Circuit Court, and flowing in real-time to other public safety agencies who use that critical information.

Deferred-disposition dockets, such as the Fairfax Veterans Docket initiated in FY 2015, have presented a new procedure for certain qualifying cases in Circuit Court which will have to track these new dockets. The Center for State Courts refers to these types of deferred-disposition dockets as "problem solving courts," and the trend among some states is to create Drug Case Dockets and Mental Health Dockets. As these new trends and emerging problem-solving dockets are initiated by Fairfax, the Clerk's web-based case management system and its hearing management tools will be at the heart of efficient court administration.

Court Digital Audio Recording: CDAR Project Matures to Perpetuation

Court Digital Audio Recording is the sound system hardware that currently allows five of our courtrooms to provide near real-time streaming of the court proceedings. While not part of the official public record or transcript, these digital audio files are an incredible tool for internal administrative and judicial efficiency, allowing deputy clerks to queue-up portions of hearings where the judge directed certain actions, set certain dates for future court appearances, and issued other bench orders that must be memorialized into the case management system by staff.

Born Digital: Electronic Filing is Expanding Remote Submission

So much of the story of the Circuit Court Clerk's current technology is a function of what Virginia practitioners understand as the two wings of the Circuit Court. There is the "court-side" which includes Fairfax's 15 Circuit judges and the criminal and civil cases they hear. Secondly, is the Land Records division of the Clerk's office, which is not adjudicative, but more administrative in nature. While the Virginia Supreme Court and Code of Virginia controls the procedures and practice of the court-side, the General Assembly controls the land records more directly through legislation. In 1999, the Clerk's Office launched its "Electronic Filing System" and "Court Automated Recording System," (EFS and CARS) which allow attorneys, title and mortgage companies, lenders, and other trusted partners to present a document for recordation remotely from their work or home computer. Currently, EFS technology requires certain of the closing documents to be scanned first and then sent electronically by the law office or lender. In FY 2015, the Clerk's office expanded its EFS reach to three of the Nation's largest e-file companies, SimpliFile, E-Recording Partners, and Computer Sciences Corporation. These real estate

² The Circuit Court's total caseload count, when accounting for criminal cases with multiple charges, was 29,322 for FY 2015.

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third-party “submitters” package “born-digital” closing documents and present them for recordation, making the Court’s EFS even easier to use, and used by more customers. Since the partnering with the three submitters in late FY 2015, e-filed land transactions have doubled, making up 35 percent of all recordings received. December 2015 was the first month where the number of recordings filed electronically was over 50 percent of the total number of recordings, with 54 percent e-filed for the month.

Not Just Remote Access, but Meaningful, Equal Access

Circuit Court is always improving the ease and convenience of doing Court business for Fairfax residents; often by offering remote, electronic means. Access to the court needs to not only be convenient but must also be meaningful. Nearly one in five Americans speaks a language other than English at home and in Fairfax County that number is higher. Circuit Court provides a very high quality of service to ensure equal access to the judicial system for all people, regardless of their command of the English language. Circuit Court employs many multilingual administrative staff in the Civil, Criminal, and Public Service Divisions, who answer procedural questions and provide basic court information. Multilingual Circuit Court employees staff the main courthouse information desk, directing thousands of court-users who flow through the courthouse each week.

In all criminal cases and in some civil cases, the Circuit Court is obligated by law to provide language interpreters, if a language barrier exists. To ensure meaningful and equal access justice, the Clerk’s office provides interpreters for over 30 different languages. The Virginia Supreme Court certifies all of the Court’s Spanish language interpreters, and the Court uses approved, trained and qualified interpreters for all other languages. In addition, the Clerk’s office provides sign language interpreters for both civil and criminal cases through the Virginia Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

As the Clerk’s Office further increases its online services, Fairfax citizens are responding enthusiastically to remote access. This past court term, almost half of all potential jurors opted to fill out the Jury Service Questionnaire through the web-based Juror System, significantly reducing the time required to meet their civic duty. Making jury service easier, faster and more efficient for the customer, makes the jury experience better, and supports a strong system of justice.

Emerging Court Leaders: Continuity of Experience, Continuum of Skillsets

Like many other agencies in Fairfax County responding to large numbers of retirements among senior leadership ranks, the Circuit Court is putting an emphasis on staff training and development. Change management theory, best practices on effective communication, and human resource management, coupled with fostering an environment for critical-thinking and creative problem-solving, ensures that emerging court leaders are armed to succeed. However unlike other agencies in the County, the Circuit Court staff has to be well-versed in the Code of Virginia’s over 800 state mandates of the Clerk’s Office, as well as keeping abreast of any changes to the Rules of the Supreme Court, and the Virginia and U.S. Constitutions. Many best practices for state courts are established by national court associations and land records industry groups, and so the Clerk’s Office regularly sends staff to be trained on these legal practice standards and larger industry trends. We also send staff to various Virginia Supreme Court trainings, offered by the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Moreover, with the launch of the “E-Decree” program in FY 2015 (which leverages web-based document management system to immediately e-mail final orders and final decrees directly to the parties in a case,) staff is being trained on the technology’s various functionalities. By keeping staff skillset current with the office’s new technology, the Circuit Court maximizes the efficiencies software systems offer. The citizens of Fairfax rightly expect an efficient and accountable court. In order to meet and exceed their

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expectations, the Court believes in responsibly developing entry-level staff and new hires, as they rise up through their career with the Circuit Court. Arming emerging court leaders with supervisory and management training offered locally by the County, as well as the commensurate legal training offered state-wide and nationally, helps accomplish the Court's forward-looking mission.

Budget and Staff Resources

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
FUNDING				
Expenditures:				
Personnel Services	\$8,387,671	\$8,851,819	\$8,851,819	\$9,151,513
Operating Expenses	2,182,971	1,985,826	2,018,112	1,985,826
Capital Equipment	0	0	6,300	0
Total Expenditures	\$10,570,642	\$10,837,645	\$10,876,231	\$11,137,339
Income:				
Land Transfer Fees	\$23,899	\$23,663	\$23,663	\$23,663
Courthouse Maintenance Fees	31,440	32,475	32,475	32,475
Circuit Court Fines and Penalties	159,569	166,319	156,504	156,504
Copy Machine Revenue	70,756	71,436	71,436	71,436
County Clerk Fees	4,479,493	4,258,254	4,479,494	4,524,289
City of Fairfax Contract	205,017	196,170	237,270	244,388
Recovered Costs - Circuit Court	25	200	25	25
CPAN	324,140	333,500	333,500	333,500
State Shared Retirement - Circuit Court	174,600	176,465	176,465	176,465
Total Income	\$5,468,939	\$5,258,482	\$5,510,832	\$5,562,745
NET COST TO THE COUNTY	\$5,101,703	\$5,579,163	\$5,365,399	\$5,574,594
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	139 / 139	139 / 139	139 / 139	139 / 139
Exempt	24 / 24	24 / 24	24 / 24	24 / 24
State	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15

FY 2017 Funding Adjustments

The following funding adjustments from the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan are necessary to support the FY 2017 program.

- ◆ **Employee Compensation** **\$299,694**
 An increase of \$299,694 in Personnel Services includes \$117,579 for a 1.33 percent market rate adjustment (MRA) for all employees and \$173,043 for performance-based and longevity increases for non-uniformed merit employees, both effective July 2016. In addition, an increase of \$9,072 is included to adjust the pay supplement for Constitutional Officers as approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 12, 2016.

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Changes to FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan

The following funding adjustments reflect all approved changes in the FY 2016 Revised Budget Plan since passage of the FY 2016 Adopted Budget Plan. Included are all adjustments made as part of the FY 2015 Carryover Review, and all other approved changes through December 31, 2015.

- ◆ **Carryover Adjustments** **\$38,586**
 As part of the FY 2015 Carryover Review, the Board of Supervisors approved encumbered funding of \$33,712 primarily for office equipment and furniture, and computer services. In addition, unencumbered funding of \$4,874 was approved as part of the Incentive Reinvestment Initiative that allowed agencies to identify savings and efficiencies in FY 2015 and have a portion returned to reinvest in employees.

Cost Centers

The Circuit Court and Records has five cost centers including Land Records and Public Services, Courtroom Operations, the Clerk’s Office, Judicial Support and Civil Records.

Land Records and Public Services

This cost center exists to record, preserve, safeguard and provide access to all recorded documents and instruments pertaining to land, property and judgments. The Clerk’s Probate division administers wills and qualifies fiduciaries for estate, trust, and guardianship matters. The Public Services division issues marriage licenses and processes notary public commissions and trade names. Due to increased attempted fraud on the Court by participants in the self-described “sovereign citizen” movement, the Public Services staff is increasing its oversight of such attempted transactions.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$2,439,590	\$2,788,070	\$2,814,994	\$2,865,941
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	36 / 36	36 / 36	35 / 35	35 / 35
1 Management Analyst II	3	Administrative Assistants IV	1	Assistant Archivist
3 Legal Records/Services Managers	18	Administrative Assistants III	1	Archives Technician
2 Administrative Assistants V	6	Administrative Associates		
TOTAL POSITIONS				
35 Positions / 35.0 FTE				

Courtroom Operations

The Courtroom Operations cost center provides full administrative and paraprofessional support to the 19th Judicial Court in order to accomplish the efficient and prompt resolution of all cases and jury functions according to the Code of Virginia.

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Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$1,958,586	\$2,169,897	\$2,169,897	\$2,230,021
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	38 / 38	38 / 38	38 / 38	38 / 38
1 Management Analyst II	17	Administrative Assistants V	16	Administrative Assistants III
1 Administrative Associate	1	Administrative Assistant IV	2	Legal Records/Services Managers
TOTAL POSITIONS				
38 Positions / 38.0 FTE				

Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office cost center provides effective management of technical support and other agencywide components to produce efficient and effective service to the bench, the bar, and the citizens of Fairfax.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$3,208,307	\$2,699,446	\$2,704,319	\$2,757,523
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	16 / 16	16 / 16	17 / 17	17 / 17
Exempt	9 / 9	9 / 9	9 / 9	9 / 9
1 Management Analyst IV	1	Info. Tech. Technician II	1	County Clerk (Elected) E
1 Human Resources Generalist II	2	Info. Tech. Technicians I	1	Deputy County Clerk E
1 Programmer Analyst IV	1	Business Analyst IV	1	Administrative Assistant V E
1 Programmer Analyst II	1	Financial Specialist II	2	Management Analysts III E
1 Info. Tech. Program Mgr. I	1	Financial Specialist I	1	Management Analyst II E
1 Network/Telecom. Analyst III	4	Administrative Assistants IV	1	Administrative Assistant IV E
1 Info. Tech. Technician III	1		2	Administrative Assistants III E
TOTAL POSITIONS				
26 Positions / 26.0 FTE				

E Denotes Exempt Positions

Judicial Support

The Judicial Support cost center provides full administrative and professional support to the Judges of Virginia's 19th Judicial Circuit to ensure appropriate and prompt resolution of cases.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$1,005,241	\$1,367,259	\$1,373,830	\$1,411,404
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	2 / 2	2 / 2	2 / 2	2 / 2
Exempt	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15
State	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15	15 / 15

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1 Chief Judge S	1 Administrative Assistant V
14 Judges S	1 Administrative Assistant IV
15 Judicial Law Clerks E	

TOTAL POSITIONS
32 Positions / 32.0 FTE

E Denotes Exempt Positions
S Denotes State Positions

Civil Records

The Civil Records cost center is responsible for records management and the coordination of the retention and archiving of cases. It also processes the filing of new civil cases and subsequent documents to ensure efficient and timely resolution of civil cases brought before the Judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit.

Category	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Advertised
EXPENDITURES				
Total Expenditures	\$1,958,918	\$1,812,973	\$1,813,191	\$1,872,450
AUTHORIZED POSITIONS/FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)				
Regular	47 / 47	47 / 47	47 / 47	47 / 47

1 Management Analyst II	4 Administrative Assistants IV
2 Legal Records/Services Managers	27 Administrative Assistants III
3 Administrative Assistants V	10 Administrative Assistants II

TOTAL POSITIONS
47 Positions / 47.0 FTE

Key Performance Measures

Indicator	Prior Year Actuals			Current Estimate	Future Estimate
	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate/Actual	FY 2016	FY 2017
Land Records and Public Services					
Percent change in time to return documents	28%	(94%)	0%/400%	(25%)	(33%)
Percent change of CPAN connections	4.0%	1.0%	0.0%/(0.4%)	0.0%	0.0%
Percent change in waiting time	31.8%	27.6%	0.0%/(78.4%)	0.0%	0.0%
Courtroom Operations					
Percentage point change in juror utilization rate	2	(2)	1/0	1	0
Clerk's Office					
Percentage change in number of requests (phone & email) received	(6%)	1%	0%/3%	0%	0%
Civil Records					
Percentage point change of DCTP Law caseload concluded within one year	(4)	(1)	0/1	0	0
Percentage point change of DCTP Domestic caseload concluded within 15 months of initial filing	(1)	1	0/0	0	0

A complete list of performance measures can be viewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/advertised/pm/80.pdf

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Performance Measurement Results

As a Virginia Constitutional Officer, the Clerk of Court to the 19th Judicial Circuit serves all residents of the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County. Court users include litigants, attorneys, jurors, title companies and members of the public who are seeking a marriage license, to record real estate deeds, to probate a will, or to become a notary.

Fairfax Circuit Court is the busiest and largest Circuit in the Commonwealth of Virginia. While the ongoing economic situation continues to force a culture of hiring austerity, the Circuit Court has still been able to meet performance objectives. With over 1.3 million residents in Fairfax City and the County of Fairfax, the court took in approximately 3,700 divorce cases in FY 2015. Ninety-eight percent of these divorce cases are finalized within 15 months of the suit being filed. In spite of the fact that Fairfax has such a high volume of domestic cases, the Court exceeds the Commonwealth's goal of 90 percent completed in that time period.

Jury service is a civic right and civic duty, and it is administered by the Clerk of Court. The Court has worked hard to make the jury service experience as convenient as possible for citizens. In addition to submitting their jury questionnaires online, once they are chosen to serve, they enjoy access to Wi-Fi while they wait in the jury assembly room. The jury assembly room also has a refrigerator for jurors with special dietary needs or medicine that needs refrigeration. Customer service always remains a priority, especially when residents are exercising their civic rights and civic duties.

Having increased the number of daily appointments in the Probate Division in FY 2015, the Court saw a marked reduction in the wait-time for probate appointments. Now citizens trying to probate a loved-one's will are getting an appointment within five days. During such a difficult time for a family, a smooth and efficient court appointment is a real benefit.

In spite of Fairfax's large volume of caseload, and continued calls for budget austerity, the Circuit Court provides exceptional and expeditious service to the citizens of Fairfax.