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## Message from the State Courts Administrator

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January 2009

Dear Friends:



Information released in the eighth annual edition of the *Statistical Reference Guide to Florida's Trial Courts* is a compilation of data regarding filings, dispositions, reopenings, and other statistics. The Office of the State Courts Administrator is committed to providing the highest quality data and making court data readily available to court managers, policy makers, the legislature, our justice system partners, and the public. The courts handle millions of matters including felony, civil, family court, probate, misdemeanor, and traffic. The statistics collected are

used as an analysis and planning resource for the Florida Judiciary. This reference guide provides statistical information on cases handled by Florida's circuit and county courts during the period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

This edition includes clearance rate data for all divisions. Clearance rates are a useful measure of the responsiveness of a court to the demand for services, and are nationally recognized as a measure of court performance.

The production of this Guide is the result of effective collaboration among justice system partners and I wish to extend my appreciation to those who diligently worked with us to make this report a precise and reliable accounting of Florida's trial court activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth H. Goodner".

Elisabeth H. Goodner  
State Courts Administrator

Cover Design by Xiaoyuan Zhu  
Front Cover: Drawing of Polk County Historical Courthouse (artist unknown)

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