

RHODE ISLAND BAR ASSOCIATION

Federal Bench/Bar Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
Jury Assembly Room**

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

Pat Rocha welcomed members to the February, 2015 meeting.

II. Litigation Academy

Chief Judge Smith and Brooks Magratten reported on the inaugural Deposition Skills Training Program that took place on November 13-15, 2014, presented jointly by the Court, the Roger Williams University School of Law, and the Federal Bar Association. Both reported that the program was well received by all, including the participants and faculty. Brooks Magratten reported that the training session was reasonably priced and included a good cross-section of participants from big firms and small firms, as well as the public sector. Another Deposition Skills Training Program is scheduled for May 7-9, 2015 and applicants who were not chosen for the November session will be given priority.

III. Pro Bono Subcommittee

Magistrate Judge Sullivan reported that due to the frequent snow storms, the *Pro Bono* Subcommittee had not yet met, but meetings were scheduled for the near future and the subcommittee will report at the next Federal Bench/Bar Committee meeting.

IV. Hope Court

Magistrate Judge Sullivan and Steve Dambruch discussed the H.O.P.E. Court, which provides a re-entry court program, helping offenders prepare for re-entry for certain individuals on federal post-conviction supervision. Magistrate Judge Sullivan reported that the program is going well and meets every other Thursday. Applicants must agree to participate and must be accepted into the program. The program lasts at least one year and successful completion results in a one-year reduction of the term of supervision with the approval of the sentencing judge.

V. Social Media Subcommittee

Professor Niki Kuckes and Matt Parker reported on the Social Media Subcommittee, which is working on a report to submit to the Court proposing overriding principles regarding social media. The subcommittee hopes to have the report available for the next Federal

Bench/Bar Committee meeting. Professor Kuckes also reported that David DiMarzio and his team gave a very informative presentation on the use of Social Media by the Court.

VI. Local Rules

On December 5, 2014, the Court issued a General Order approving amendments to the Local Rules effective December 15, 2014. Matt Oliverio reported that a meeting of the Local Rules Committee is scheduled for March 24, 2015 with a target date of June 30, 2015 to make recommendations concerning any additional amendments. Anyone with proposed amendments to the Rules may submit them by the end of the first week of March.

VII. ESI Subcommittee

Steve Richard reported that the subcommittee had a kick-off meeting and wants to take a broader look at e-discovery and is going to undertake a survey of e-discovery issues in other jurisdictions. The subcommittee would like to keep a timetable consistent with the Local Rules Committee and hopes to submit a report with proposed suggestions by the end of June. The subcommittee welcomes any and all comments.

VIII. Operations Update

Frank Perry confirmed that as of December 5, 2014, electronic filing is mandatory for civil complaints and notices of removal. Mr. Perry also reported that beginning January 15, 2015, the Court will permit the Social Security Administration to submit the certified administrative record in Social Security Act Benefits actions electronically using the CM/ECF system. Likewise, in actions removed from Rhode Island state courts, the Clerk of the state court will electronically submit the certified record after receiving a copy of the required written notice by the defendant to all adverse parties in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d). Mr. Perry reported that several actions had been removed and the administrative record was successfully transmitted electronically by the state court. Mr. Perry announced that in addition to *pro hac vice* motions, bar membership renewal, civil complaints, notices of removal and notices of appeal in civil cases, the Court expects to expand the pay.gov electronic filing fee system to the filing of certificates of good standing.

IX. Statistical Report

David DiMarzio reviewed case statistics for civil and criminal case filings for the period 2001 through 2014 and jury and non-jury trials for the period 2006 through 2014 as set forth in the attached handout.

X. Open Discussion

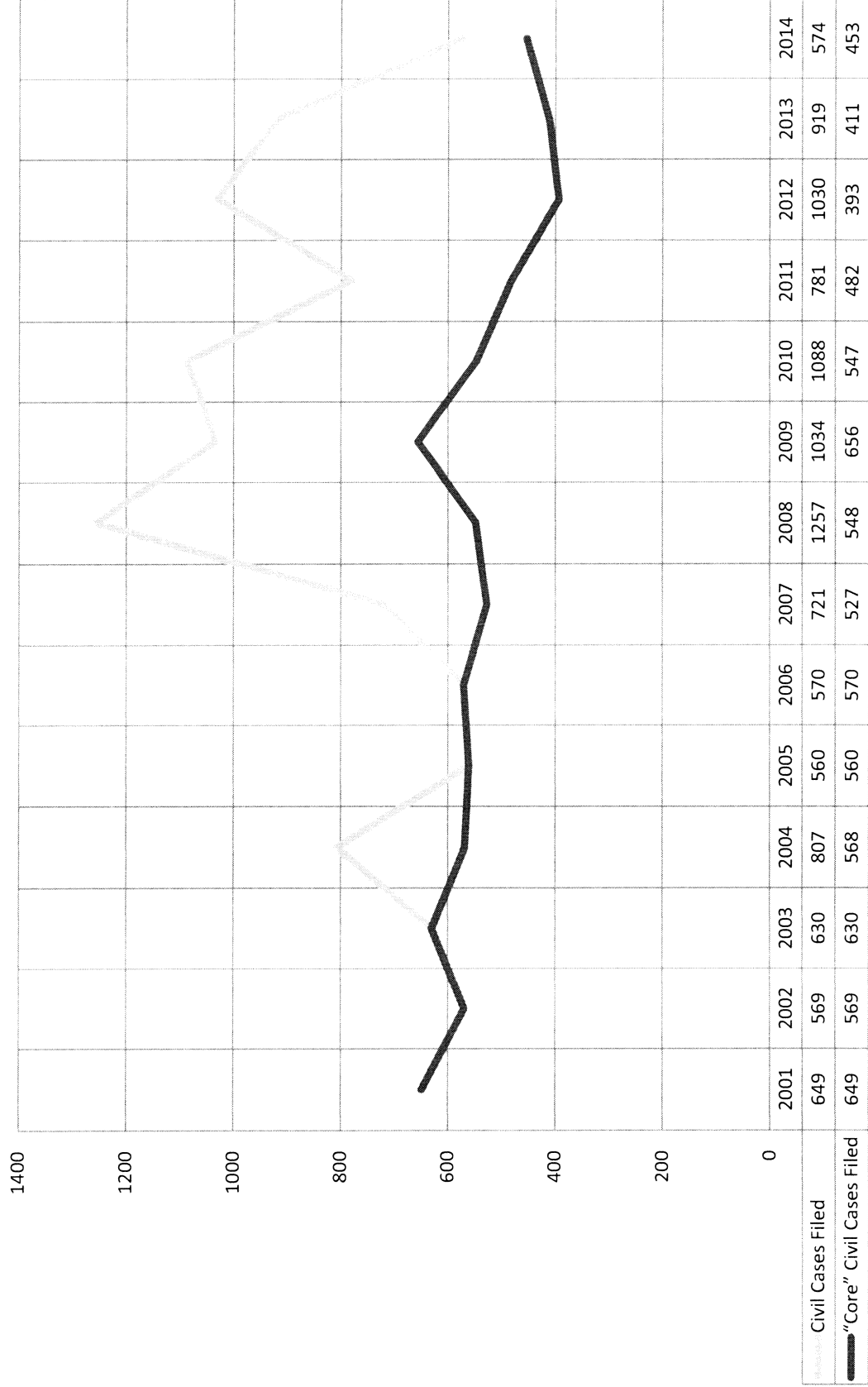
Chief Judge Smith and David DiMarzio reported that the Court is celebrating its 225th Anniversary on June 23, 2015 and the Court is in the process of planning a celebratory event. Any members with proposed ideas are invited to contact Chief Judge Smith or David DiMarzio. Chief Judge Smith also announced that the District Court Conference will be held in

2016 and the co-chairs are Nicole Benjamin and Tim Bliss. Finally, Chief Judge Smith reported that Judge Mary Lisi is taking senior status effective October 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

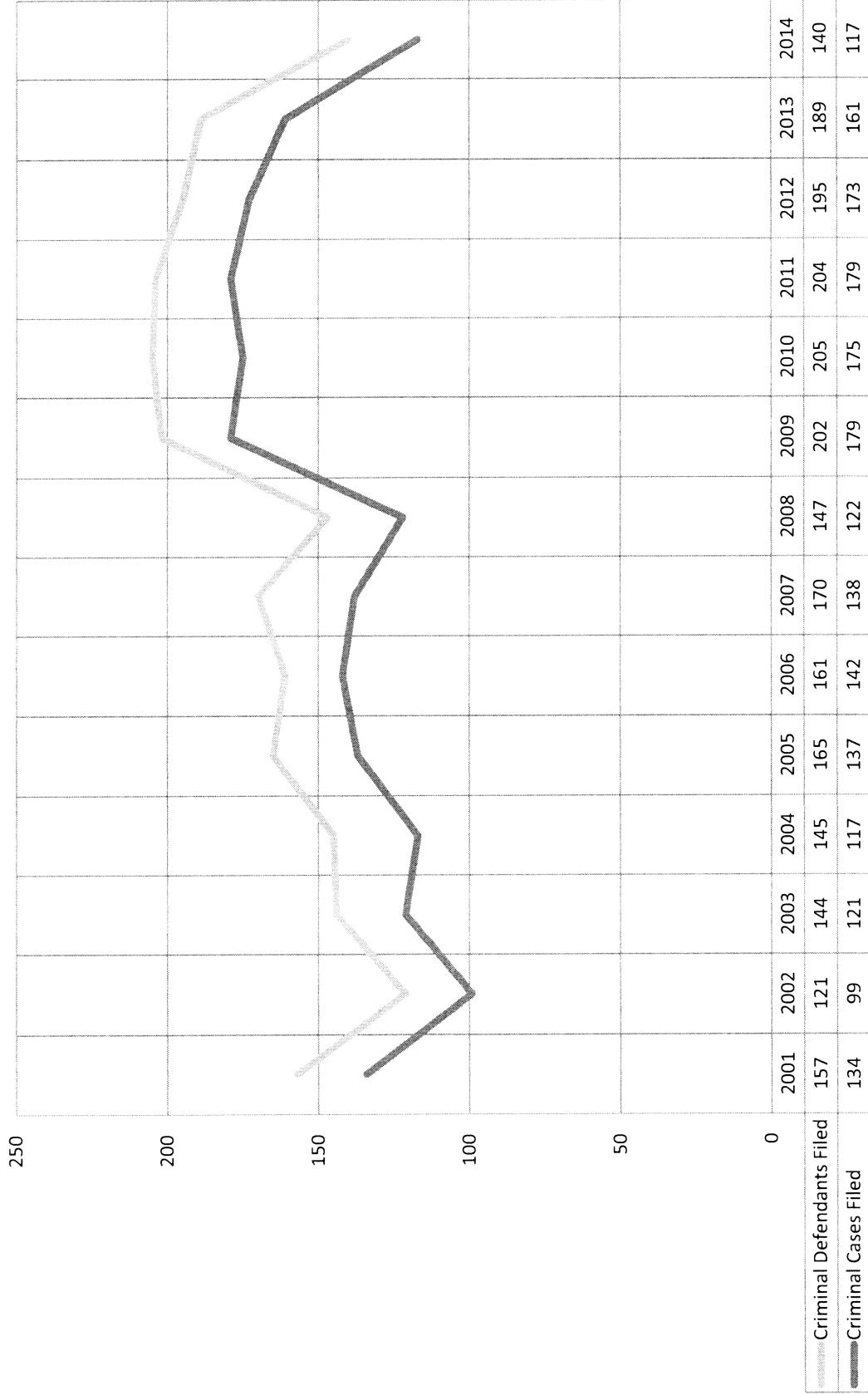
Patricia K. Rocha
Chair

United States District Court, District of Rhode Island Civil Cases Filed, 2001-2014



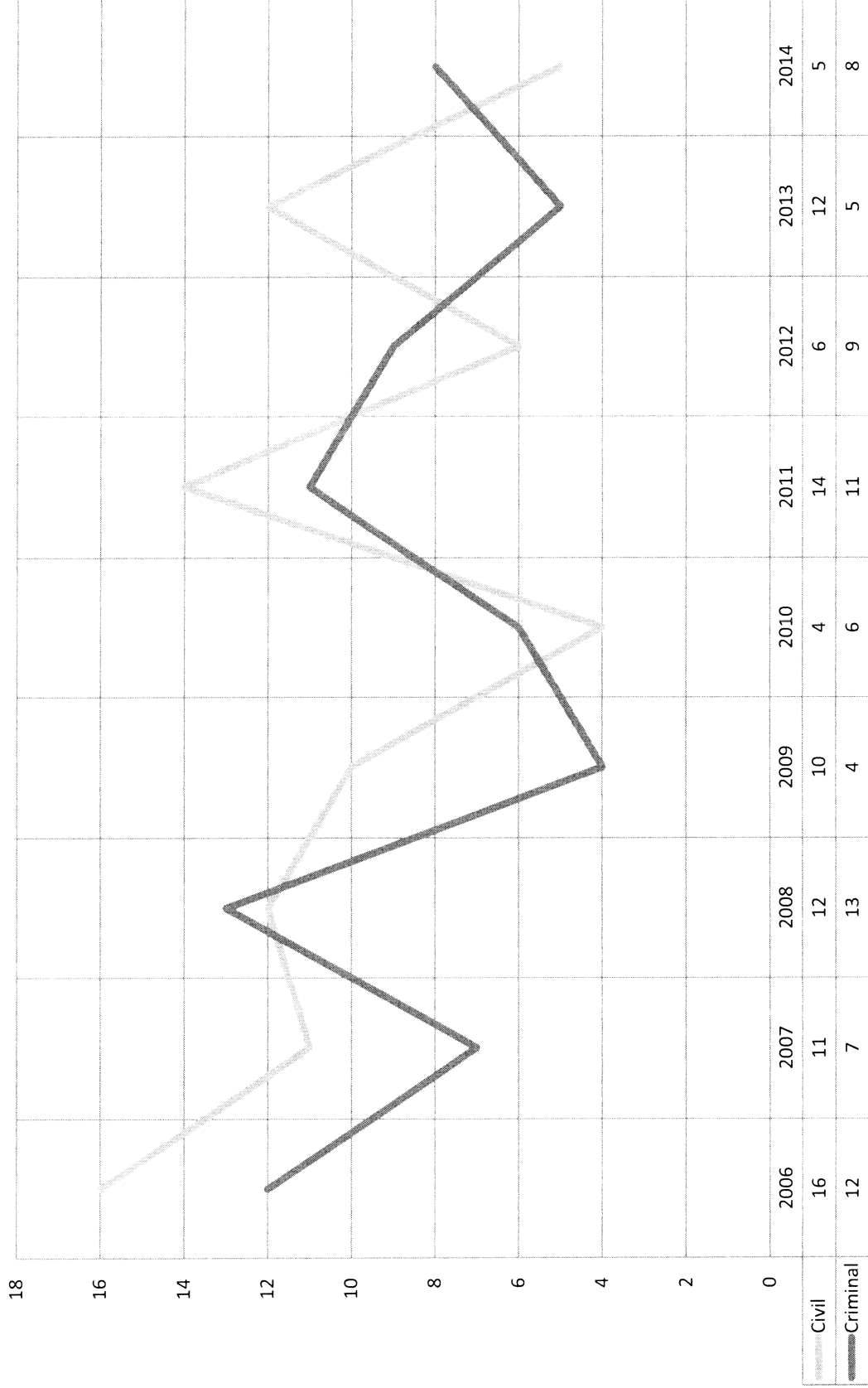
*Note: The number of core cases excludes: MDL transfers; special cases (Station Fire, MERS); and Prisoner/Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings.

United States District Court, District of Rhode Island Criminal Filings, 2001-2014



○ Criminal Defendants Filed ■ Criminal Cases Filed

United States District Court, District of Rhode Island Jury & Non-Jury Trials, 2006-2014



Civil Criminal