



QUEENSLAND
COURTS

District Court of Queensland

Annual Report 2009–2010



The front cover shows Kenji Uranishi's Stream 2009 on Level 4 of the Ipswich Courthouse. This series of porcelain objects extends upon current studio techniques and an abstract concept of streaming – the stream of time, people, culture, history, connectivity and pattern that may occur simultaneously across the internal spaces of the building. The colour, process and materials are reminiscent of the limestone quarried historically in Ipswich.

The courthouse, one of the best examples of jury trial courthouses in the country, was opened on 6 March 2010.





**QUEENSLAND
COURTS**

CHAMBERS OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

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28 October 2010

The Honourable Cameron Dick MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations
State Law Building
50 Ann Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Attorney

Pursuant to s.130A(1) of the *District Court of Queensland Act 1967*, I enclose my report on the operation of the District Court of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 2010.

Yours sincerely

Chief Judge PM Wolfe

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Chief Judge's overview



Chief Judge Patricia Wolfe

Introduction

This is the court's 14th annual report, dealing with the organisation, operation and performance of the District Court of Queensland in 2009-2010.

The workload of this court is one of the largest, and busiest, of the higher courts in Australia according to the Commonwealth's 2010 *Report on Government Services* in relation to the 2008-09 year. However for much of the 2009-10 year the court lacked its full complement of 38 judges.

A significant impact upon the court's rates of disposition resulted from an increase in the number of criminal trials, some delay in replacing the six experienced judges who retired during the year and, since August 2009, one judge's unavailability for court duties due to her undertaking a full-time load at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Judge Kingham was appointed deputy president of QCAT on 31 July 2009.

Depending upon the lists, each year the judges sit at about 40 centres throughout Queensland—in Brisbane, the seven regional centres, 24 other centres where jury trials can be held, and the 15 remote or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including those in the Gulf, Cape and Torres Strait communities.

Judges of the District Court also constitute the Planning and Environment Court and the Childrens Court, and the court's resources are deployed to a considerable extent in discharging their functions. The judges with special responsibility for these entities during the year under review have prepared reports on their operations: Judge Rackemann on the Planning and Environment Court, this court's largest adjunct; and Judge Dick SC, the President of the Childrens Court of Queensland on that court.

Performance

The court's performance and workload are reflected in the statistics set out in this report. The court's statistical information accords with the method of reporting adopted by the Commonwealth Productivity Commission's *Annual Report on Government Services*.

Criminal

In the criminal jurisdiction, the workload is measured by the number of defendants. These statistics do not include Childrens Court matters, affected child witness hearings, pre-trial hearings or criminal appeals to the District Court. Some cases may take longer due to appeals and rehearings.

During the year 6,207 new cases were presented to the court and the court ended the year with 2,271 criminal outstanding cases having disposed of 5,996 matters (a 96.6 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 15.7 per cent were more than 12 months old from the date of presentation of the indictment, and 6.3 per cent were more than 24 months old. Some cases may take this long due to appeals and rehearings.

In Brisbane, 2,286 new cases were presented during the year and the court ended the year with 854 outstanding criminal cases having disposed of 2,259 matters (a 98.8 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 15.7 per cent were more than 12 months old from the date of presentation of the indictment, and 6.2 per cent were more than 24 months old.

In the regional centres where judges are based - Beenleigh, Cairns, Ipswich, Maroochydore, Rockhampton, Southport and Townsville - a total of 2,754 new cases were presented during the year and the regional courts ended the year having disposed in all of 2,481, with 1,079 outstanding criminal cases.

At the circuit centres, a total of 1,167 new cases were presented during the year and the circuit centres ended the year with the court having disposed of

1,256 criminal matters in those places, with 338 matters outstanding at the end of the year.

Civil

On the civil side, the court began the year with 4,160 cases. It ended the year with 4,465 outstanding cases, disposing of 5,006 matters, reflecting a 94.2 per cent clearance rate. Of the 4,465 active cases at the end of the year, 19.6 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 3.8 per cent were older than 24 months.

In Brisbane, the court began the year with 2,279 cases, ending the year with 2,492 outstanding cases, disposing of 2,798 matters, giving a 93.6 per cent clearance rate, with 20.7 per cent older than 12 months and 4.1 per cent older than 24 months.

During the year under review, 5,313 new civil matters were lodged in the court, (4,939 last year). The increase is partly explained from the rise in claims for criminal compensation prior to the expiry of the court-administered criminal compensation scheme under the *Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995* (COVA) and the *Criminal Code*.

These statistics do not include appeals to the District Court or the matters dealt with by the judges sitting in the Planning and Environment Court or the Health Practitioners Tribunal.

Appeals

During the year the court heard all appeals from the Magistrates Courts, as well as appeals from the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal and other tribunals and statutory bodies.

Criminal appeals

During the year, 399 criminal appeals were lodged in the court, with 488 cases finalised this year (452 last year), resulting in a creditable 122.3 per cent clearance rate (95.2 per cent last year). The percentage of active cases older than 12 months and less than 24 months has

increased from 4.6 per cent to 13.9 per cent, and those older than 24 months, at 0.4 percent this year, have remained steady.

In Brisbane there was a 13 per cent increase in the number of criminal appeals lodged, with 174 new appeals this year (154 last year), disposing of 173, and ending the year with 78 active cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 99.5 per cent, with 7.7 per cent older than 12 months and none older than 24 months.

Civil appeals

During the year, 103 civil appeals were lodged in the court, and 102 cases finalised giving a clearance rate of 99 per cent. The percentage of active cases older than 12 months and less than 24 months has increased from 10 per cent to 24.6 per cent, and those older than 24 months, from 1.4 per cent last year, to 2.9 percent this year.

In Brisbane the court disposed of 56 civil appeals and ended the year with 19 active cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 151.4 percent, with 36.8 per cent older than 12 months and 5.3 per cent older than 24 months.

Planning and Environment Court

The Planning and Environment Court, the longest standing court of its type in the nation, is structured as a de facto division of the District Court.

This year the court received high international recognition for its achievements. Noting the efficiency of its unique structure as an adjunct of the District Court, an authoritative and comprehensive survey of worldwide environmentalist courts and tribunals, found that this court is a world leader in individual case management. The survey emphasised especially the problem solving approach of the Planning and Environment Court judges; the court's alternative dispute resolution process; its efficient case management and management of expert evidence; its

regional service and the commitment of its judges to ongoing review and reform.

Overall, the current adverse financial climate was reflected in a sharp decrease in the number of lodgements this year. State-wide, 679 new cases were filed this year down from 760 last year (a 10.65 per cent decrease).

However the court achieved a clearance rate of 100.1 per cent (compared with 89.1 per cent last year) ending the year with 812 outstanding cases and disposing of 680 matters. Of the outstanding cases, 44.6 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of filing), and 12.8 per cent were more than 24 months old. Some cases may take this long due to the complexity of some matters and the number of parties involved in the hearings.

In Brisbane, where the longer cases are heard, the court ended the year with 615 outstanding cases and disposed of 508 matters (a 99.0 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 44.9 per cent were more than 12 months old and 13.2 per cent were more than 24 months old. The court in Brisbane carries 75 per cent of the planning workload.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court of Queensland is a specialist jurisdiction established under the *Childrens Court Act 1992*. A separate annual report of the Childrens Court of Queensland is prepared under the *Childrens Court Act* and further details of the Childrens Court can be found in that report.

Judge Dick SC is the president of the Childrens Court. Currently there are 23 other judges who also hold commissions under this Act.

Health Practitioners Tribunal

All District Court judges were members of this tribunal until 30 November 2009, hearing appeals from health professional disciplinary tribunals. The Health

1 "Greening Justice – creating and improving environmental courts and tribunals", Professor George Pring and Catherine Pring

Practitioners Tribunal was subsumed into QCAT on 30 November 2009.

In the five months prior, 12 new matters were lodged in HPT, 14 matters were disposed of (31 in 2008–09), and 17 matters were transferred to QCAT on 30 November. Judge O'Brien had day-to-day management of the HPT lists.

Regional centres

The lists in the seven regional centres at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Southport, Ipswich and Beenleigh have been well maintained by the regional judges based in those centres.

Circuits

Through its circuit load, the court is accessible to those in remote, rural and regional Queensland so that matters can be heard and decided in a timely fashion no matter in what part of the state. The efficient allocation of judicial resources through circuit allocations improves the overall functioning of the court and, by reference to the efficiency and quality of its output, produces more consistent decision-making.

Indigenous and remote circuits

The judges, as in previous years, visited the remote Aboriginal and Islander communities on circuit. Judges sat in the Gulf (Mornington Island, Doomadgee and Normanton), the Cape (Weipa/Napranum, Kowanyama, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Lockhart River), Thursday Island, Bamaga, Yarrabah, Cooktown, Palm Island, and Woorabinda and in Murgon to deal with Cherbourg matters.

Overall

The court's performance, in view of its workload in 2009–10, has been creditable.

Rules Committee

The Rules Committee, chaired by Mr Justice Muir, includes, from the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice and Justice Margaret Wilson, and from the District Court, Judge Robin QC and Judge McGill SC. The committee met at least weekly out of ordinary court hours.

Benchbook

The Supreme and District Courts Benchbook provides model directions for the judges conducting criminal trials, specifically designed to apply the *Criminal Code*, which in significant respects differs from the common law applied in some other states. It is a work of collegiate endeavour. During the year under report, Judge Shanahan, Judge Dick SC, Judge Rafter SC and Judge Martin SC were its District Court members. The committee works over extended periods updating and adding to this essential and important work.

Courthouses

The metropolitan Supreme and District courthouse

The generous commitment of Judge Griffin SC and Judge Andrews SC to facilitating appropriate accommodation in the new courthouse for all those involved in the justice system, be they litigants, supporters, staff, lawyers or judges, is noteworthy. During the year they represented the judges of this court in the consultations with the architects, builder and departmental officers.

Ipswich courthouse

The \$92 million Ipswich Courthouse for the District Court and the Magistrates Court, with its four District Court courtrooms, opened its doors in January 2010. It is the first Queensland courthouse to provide separate, secure passages for jurors to ensure their isolation from witnesses, lawyers and the public. Three judges

are based at Ipswich, including Judge Richards who has been the Ipswich judge since 1998.

On 6 March 2010 the courthouse was officially opened by the Attorney-General, the Hon Cameron Dick MP and the Transport Minister and member for Ipswich the Hon Rachel Nolan. The Attorney-General, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General are to be commended for actively facilitating the timely construction of this landmark courthouse designed by ABM Cox Rayner and Ainsley Bell and Murchison.

The courthouse houses exceptional artworks by local, national and international artists, the result of the Queensland government's Art Built-in policy, whereby a whole of site artwork strategy was developed by the curator, in consultation with the project team.

The works of eight Queensland artists, including three Ipswich artists, were installed. The artists include Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, Samuel Tupou and Kenji Uranishi whose work appears on the front cover of this report. The eight contemporary artworks were conceived in response to both the architectural spaces and the curatorial rationale exploring cultural and historical patterns.

The artists contemplate the idea that law, like culture, is changing, ongoing and growing. Their work reflects upon the transformative power of language, law and culture. It also raises questions about how we interact with each other, how we occupy public space and how we value our culture and identity.

Undoubtedly, the works inspire the user's imagination and enliven the court's public spaces reflecting abstract interpretations of the rich cultural, architectural and industrial history of Ipswich.

I express my gratitude to Mr Ian Murray, Principal Project Officer Capital Works, Mr Garry Robinson, Director of Property Services with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Mr Michael Rayner and Mr Jayson Blight, Design Director and Design Architect, Cox Rayner Architects, Mr David McCabe and Mr Clayton Bray,

Project Architects, Ainsley Bell and Murchison, Mr John Kirkwood, Mr David Vincenzino and Mr David Hay of Abigroup and Senior Project Managers Mr Don Hyslop and Mr Michael Byrne.

Chief Judge's calendar

This year as in previous years, I sat in the various jurisdictions of the court, both in and out of Brisbane: the criminal court (18 weeks), and in civil, planning, (six weeks), and in applications and appeals, and undertook sittings in the regional centres of Southport, Townsville, Maroochydore and Cairns.

I was absent from the court for some months as a result of an injury I sustained in the courthouse. As a consequence, at times during my absence Judge O'Brien's administrative workload was intense having regard to the effect of financial constraints on the court's resources, the retirements of experienced judges and a judge occupied fulltime with QCAT duties. I am most grateful, as are the judges, for the efficiency with which he discharged those duties.

During the year I met with the leaders and representatives of the many organisations principally involved in the justice system, such as the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Queensland, law school academics, Court Network for Humanity, the Public Defender and Protect All Children Today (PACT) and representatives of the College of Law Practical Legal Training (PLT) Program to advance the implementation of a specific associates' course, designed to enable associates to undertake the PLT for admission to the legal profession.

Aside from monthly judges' meetings, meetings of the judges' committees and the Supreme Court Library Committee, conferences and public events, I met regularly with the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Director-General of the Department of Justice and

Attorney-General and senior officers of the department, directors-general and officers of other departments, the Director of Courts and her deputies, the Sheriff, listings managers and Courts Information Technology staff and had regular meetings with leaders of the legal profession and justice system.

I attended two meetings of the Council of Chief Judges, projects and meetings involved in the organisation of the District Court and its registries, meetings of the Supreme Court Library committee, the Chief Justice's Focus Group, the Brisbane Supreme and District Courts metropolitan courthouse committee, the Moynihan Reform Implementation Reference Group and other conferences, seminars and forums that I attended, in Queensland and elsewhere.

Continuing judicial development

The Judges held their 15th consecutive Annual Seminar between 9 and 11 August 2009 which allowed the singular opportunity for the judges, 13 of whom were based outside Brisbane, to meet as a body for professional discussion.

Of interest was the session *Master class on Judgment Writing* presented by Professor Richard Chisholm, honorary Professor of Law, University of Sydney, visiting Fellow ANU College of Law, retired Family Court judge as well as that on *A Bill of Rights?*, presented by Rev Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, chair of the National Human Rights Consultation Committee.

There were sessions on developments in law and procedure: *Chatham House Rules and Accident* presented by Philip G Nase (retired District Court judge) and executive project consultant for the Queensland Law Reform Commission's report, "A review of the excuse of accident and the defence of provocation"; *Provocation and accident; defences available to abused persons* by Professor Geraldine Mackenzie, Dean Law School, Bond University.

Other papers presented covered topics such as money laundering; the litigant in person in the criminal trial; cyber crime; when custody is a likely outcome; the judge-alone trial and majority verdicts. Other sessions concerned more general topics, for example Work life balance presented by James Bell QC, John Britton, Legal Services Commissioner and Dr Chris Day psychologist, and *The Global Financial Crisis – how its impact affects Queensland* presented by Mr Phil Clarke, Deputy Director General, Justice Administration, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

During the year many of the judges spoke or presented papers at many important professional meetings and conferences, details of which appear in this report, as well as presiding over moots and speaking to schools and community groups.

International aspects

On 1 February 2010, a delegation of 24 judges from the Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court, Zhejiang Province, China, visited the District Court. Judge Rackemann spoke to the delegation about the Queensland court system and current issues concerning the courts.

On 25 August 2010, Judge Wolfgang Kerscher of the District Court of Deggendorf, Bavaria, Germany, visited the Supreme and District Courts at Brisbane. Judge Robin QC provided Judge Kerscher with a tour of the Court of Appeal, Supreme and District Courts, as well as the Supreme Court Library, the Lucinda display, display cabinets, rare books precinct and the Banco Court. He and Judge Robin also discussed common issues including the effectiveness of the internal court file database management systems.

Judicial appointments

On 20 July 2009 Brian Gerard Devereaux SC was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.

On 20 July 2009 Katherine Mary McGinness was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.

On 22 February 2010 Kiernan Damian Dorney QC was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.

On 22 February 2010 Richard Stephen Jones was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.

On 22 February 2010 Brian Anthony Harrison was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.

On 22 February 2010 David Andrew Reid was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland.



Judge Kiernan Dorney QC



Judge Brian Harrison



Judge Richard Jones



Judge David Reid

Judicial retirements

On 21 August 2009 Judge Michael William Forde, who was appointed to the District Court on 31 January 1995, retired.

On 22 October 2009 Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC, who was appointed on 24 May 2001, was appointed to the Supreme Court.

On 11 December 2009 Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker, who was appointed on 3 October 1983, retired.

On 31 December 2009 Judge Helen O'Sullivan who was appointed on 9 April 1991, retired.

On 11 January 2010 Judge Charles James Lennox Brabazon QC who was appointed on 27 November 1995, retired.

On 30 June 2010 Judge Robert Douglas Pack, who was appointed on 18 December 1997, retired.

Conclusion

I thank the judges, officers of the registry and the court's administrative staff for their dedication in carrying out the work of the court.

Profile of the District Court

Judges of the District Court

During the year under report the judges were:

Chief Judge

Her Honour Chief Judge Patricia Mary Wolfe

Judges

His Honour Judge Kerry John O'Brien

His Honour Senior Judge Gilbert Trafford-Walker (until 11 December 2009)

His Honour Judge Keith Stuart Dodds (Maroochydore)

His Honour Judge Hugh Wilfrid Harry Botting

His Honour Judge Michael John Noud

His Honour Judge Philip David Robin QC

His Honour Judge John Elwell Newton (Southport)

Her Honour Judge Helen O'Sullivan (until 31 December 2009)

His Honour Judge John Mervyn Robertson (Maroochydore)

His Honour Judge Michael William Forde (until 21 August 2009)

His Honour Judge Charles James Lennox Brabazon QC (until 11 January 2010)

His Honour Judge Douglas John McGill SC

His Honour Judge Clive Frederick Wall RFD QC (Southport)

His Honour Judge Robert Douglas Pack (Townsville) (until 30 June 2010)

His Honour Judge Nicholas Samios

His Honour Judge Grant Thomas Britton SC (Rockhampton)

Her Honour Judge Deborah Richards (Ipswich)

Her Honour Judge Sarah Bradley (Ipswich)

His Honour Judge Michael John Shanahan

Her Honour Judge Julie Maree Dick SC

His Honour Judge Alan Muir Wilson SC (until 22 October 2009)

His Honour Judge Marshall Philip Irwin

His Honour Judge Michael Edward Rackemann

His Honour Judge Walter Henry Tutt

His Honour Judge Milton James Griffin SC

Her Honour Judge Julie Ann Ryrie

His Honour Judge Ian Francis Macrae Dearden (Beenleigh)

Her Honour Judge Fleur Yvette Kingham (Southport)

His Honour Judge Stuart Gordon Durward SC (Townsville)

His Honour Judge Anthony John Rafter SC

His Honour Judge Terence Douglas Martin SC

His Honour Judge David Graham Searles

His Honour Judge Gregory John Koppenol (Ipswich)

His Honour Judge David Charles Andrews SC

Her Honour Judge Leanne Joy Clare SC

His Honour Judge William Garth Everson (Cairns)

His Honour Judge Brendan John Butler SC *

Judges

His Honour Judge Brian Gerard Devereaux SC (from 20 July 2009)

Her Honour Judge Katherine Mary McGinness (from 20 July 2009)
(Southport)

His Honour Judge Kiernan Damian Dorney QC (from 22 February 2010)

His Honour Judge Richard Stephen Jones (from 22 February 2010)

His Honour Judge Brian Anthony Harrison (from 22 February 2010)

His Honour Judge David Andrew Reid (from 22 February 2010)

* Judge Butler SC is unable to perform any of the duties or exercise any powers of a District Court judge as he holds the office of Chief Magistrate: s. 11 of the *Magistrates Act 1991*.

Regional, Planning and Childrens Court judges

Regional judges

During the year under report the following judges were allocated to the regional centres as shown:

Maroochydore	Judge Dodds
	Judge Robertson
Southport	Judge Newton
	Judge Wall QC
	Judge Kingham (on QCAT duties since August 2009)
	Judge McGinness (from 15 February 2010)
Townsville	Judge Pack
	Judge Durward SC
Rockhampton	Judge Britton SC
Ipswich	Judge Richards
	Judge Bradley (from 1 January 2010)
	Judge Koppenol
Cairns	Judge Bradley (until 31 December 2009)
	Judge Everson
	Judge Harrison (from 22 February 2010)
Beenleigh	Judge Dearden

Planning and Environment Court

The Planning and Environment Court judges for 2009-10 are listed below:

Chief Judge Wolfe	Judge Griffin SC
Judge Dodds	Judge Kingham
Judge Robin QC	Judge Durward SC
Judge Newton	Judge Martin SC
Judge Robertson	Judge Searles
Judge Brabazon QC (<i>until 11 January 2010</i>)	Judge Andrews SC
Judge Wall QC	Judge Everson
Judge Pack	Judge Dorney QC (<i>from 15 April 2010</i>)
Judge Britton SC	Judge Harrison (<i>from 15 April 2010</i>)
Judge Wilson SC (<i>until 22 October 2009</i>)	Judge Jones (<i>from 15 April 2010</i>)
Judge Rackemann	Judge Reid (<i>from 15 April 2010</i>)

Childrens Court of Queensland

The Childrens Court judges during 2009-10 are listed below:

Judge Dick SC - President	Judge Tutt
Senior Judge Trafford-Walker (<i>until 11 December 2009</i>)	Judge Griffin SC
Judge O'Brien	Judge Dearden
Judge Newton	Judge Kingham
Judge Robertson	Judge Durward SC
Judge Wall QC	Judge Rafter SC
Judge Pack	Judge Martin SC
Judge Samios	Judge Clare SC
Judge Britton SC	Judge Everson
Judge Richards	Judge Devereaux SC
Judge Bradley	Judge McGinness
Judge Shanahan	Judge Harrison
Judge Wilson SC (<i>until 22 October 2009</i>)	Judge Reid



Judges of the District Court of Queensland

The courts

The work of the District Court

The work of the District Court is the hearing and determination of appeals and the conduct, trial and determination of matters commenced by indictment (criminal), claim (civil) or originating applications (civil). It also includes the determination of interlocutory applications, that is, applications in pending matters, whether commenced by claim, originating application or on indictment. The Chief Judge is responsible for the administration of the court.

The District Court is the principal court in Queensland for trials of persons charged with serious criminal offences. It deals with almost 80 per cent of all criminal matters that are prosecuted on indictment. The court exercises equitable and other jurisdiction within its civil monetary limit. Criminal trials are heard by a judge with a jury. Civil matters are normally heard by a single judge. The judges have adopted a protocol that, save in exceptional cases, judgments are to be delivered within three months of the conclusion of the hearing.

The District Court hears all appeals from the Magistrates Courts as well as from decisions of a number of tribunals and other statutory bodies. Many of the judges are also appointed to the Planning and Environment Court and to the Childrens Court of Queensland, and were members of the Health Practitioners Tribunal until 30 November 2009.

Many of the judges also serve on committees with responsibility for developing and implementing policies and procedures for the continual improvement of the functioning of the courts. These include:

- the Supreme and District Courts' Benchbook Committee
- the Supreme and District Courthouse Building Committee
- the Learning and Development Committee
- the Rules Committee
- the judges' committees.

Organisation of work

The work of the District Court judges was organised in terms of the following categories:

- Criminal
- Civil
- Appellate
- The Planning and Environment Court
- Health Practitioners Tribunal
- Childrens Court of Queensland

Criminal jurisdiction

In practice the court deals with all indictable matters other than homicides and serious drug offences. More than 80 per cent of all indictments are presented in the District Court. The court regularly conducts trials involving more than 24 offences attracting a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, as well as offences under the Corporations Law and against federal and state revenue laws. These may involve many millions of dollars.

During the year the Chief Judge and Judge O'Brien, with assistance from other judges, mainly Judge Shanahan and Judge Dick SC managed the criminal list in Brisbane. In the regions, the lists are managed by the resident judges.

For the larger circuit centres, Judge Dodds has special responsibility for the Bundaberg and Kingaroy lists, Judge Botting for Maryborough and Hervey Bay, Judge Shanahan for the remote communities, Judge Dick SC for the Mackay lists and Judge Dearden for the Mount Isa region.

Many of the cases are reviewed or managed by the judge before the review date, to ensure that the prosecution has provided the defence with all witness statements and particulars and that the defence has considered whether a s. 590AA hearing is required.

In smaller centres the court conducts a 'running list'. In this way the court in these centres deals with its criminal workload having regard to the effect on the list of 'late' pleas and nolle prosequi.

Disposal of work

In the criminal jurisdiction, the workload is measured by the number of defendants. These statistics do not include Childrens Court matters, affected child witness hearings, pre-trial hearings or criminal appeals to the District Court. Some cases may take longer due to appeals and rehearings.

During the year 6,207 new cases were presented to the court and the court ended the year with 2,271 outstanding cases having disposed of 5,996 matters (a 96.6 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 15.7 per cent were more than 12 months old from the date of presentation of the indictment, and 6.3 per cent were more than 24 months old. Some cases may take this long due to appeals and rehearings.

In Brisbane, 2,286 new cases were presented during the year and the court ended the year with 854 outstanding cases having disposed of 2,259 matters (a 98.8 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 15.7 per cent were more than 12 months old from the date of presentation of indictment, and 6.2 per cent were more than 24 months old.

In the regional centres where judges are based - Beenleigh, Cairns, Ipswich, Maroochydore, Rockhampton, Southport and Townsville - a total of 2,754 new cases were presented during the year and the regional courts ended the year having disposed in all of 2,481, with 1,079 outstanding cases.

At Cairns, the court ended the year with 218 outstanding cases and disposed of 557 matters (a 94.2 per cent clearance rate), with 17.9 per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and 6.4 per cent more than 24 months old. At Beenleigh, the court also ended the year with 218 outstanding matters, having disposed of 449 matters (a 94.9 per cent clearance rate), with 10.6

per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and 2.3 per cent more than 24 months old.

Ipswich had 105 outstanding cases having disposed of 421 criminal matters (a 96.8 per cent clearance rate) with 8.6 per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and only 1.0 per cent more than 24 months old. At Southport, the court ended the year with 260 outstanding criminal cases having disposed of 396 matters (an 87 per cent clearance rate) with 21.9 per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and 9.2 per cent more than 24 months old.

Townsville had 102 outstanding cases having disposed of 292 criminal matters (a 93.3 per cent clearance rate) with 10.8 per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and 2.9 per cent more than 24 months old. Maroochydore had 66 outstanding cases having disposed of 196 criminal matters (a 76.3 per cent clearance rate), with 15.2 per cent of the outstanding cases more than 12 months old and 9.1 per cent more than 24 months old. Rockhampton had 110 outstanding cases having disposed of 170 criminal matters (a 73.9 per cent clearance rate), 12.7 per cent were more than 12 months old and 2.7 per cent more than 24 months old.

At the circuit centres, a total of 1167 new cases were presented during the year and the circuit centres ended the year with the court having disposed of 1256 criminal matters in those places, with 338 matters outstanding at the end of the year.

Table 1: The activity of the District Court criminal list

	Number of Defendants			Clearance Rate *	Backlog Indicator **	
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		% > 12 mths	% > 24 mths
Brisbane	2286	2259	854	98.8%	15.7%	6.2%
Regional centres						
Beenleigh	473	449	218	94.9%	10.6%	2.3%
Cairns	591	557	218	94.2%	17.9%	6.4%
Ipswich	435	421	105	96.8%	8.6%	1.0%
Maroochydore	257	196	66	76.3%	15.2%	9.1%
Rockhampton	230	170	110	73.9%	12.7%	2.7%
Southport	455	396	260	87.0%	21.9%	9.2%
Townsville	313	292	102	93.3%	10.8%	2.9%
Total for regional centres	2,754	2,481	1,079			
Total for Brisbane and regional centres	5,040	4,740	1,933			
Circuit centres						
Bowen	16	26	2	162.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Bundaberg	107	111	53	103.7%	20.8%	5.7%
Charleville	11	14	10	127.3%	10.0%	10.0%
Charters Towers	0	2	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Clermont	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cloncurry	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cunnamulla	2	3	2	150.00%	50.0%	50.0%
Dalby	23	33	7	143.5%	14.3%	14.3%
Emerald	21	25	8	119.0%	25.0%	12.5%
Gladstone	49	56	11	114.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Goondiwindi	24	36	6	150.0%	50.0%	33.3%
Gympie	30	37	12	123.3%	25.0%	16.7%
Hervey Bay	193	190	42	98.4%	4.8%	4.8%
Hughenden	1	1	0	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Innisfail	20	42	9	210.0%	22.2%	22.2%
Kingaroy	48	54	12	112.5%	33.3%	33.3%
Longreach	4	9	5	225.0%	60.0%	40.0%
Mackay	91	91	25	100.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Maryborough	103	111	30	107.8%	10.0%	0.0%

Table 2: The activity of the District Court criminal list (continues)

	Number of Defendants			Clearance Rate *	Backlog Indicator **	
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		% > 12 mths	% > 24 mths
Mt Isa	106	137	35	129.2%	25.7%	14.3%
Roma	13	16	4	123.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Stanthorpe	1	2	0	200.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Toowoomba	279	219	52	78.5%	17.3%	7.7%
Warwick	25	41	13	164.0%	15.4%	0.0%
Total for circuit centres	1,167	1,256	338			
State total	6,207	5,996	2,271	96.6%	15.7%	6.3%

Data extracted from QWIC for reporting purposes on 19/07/10

* Clearance rate - finalisations/lodgements

** Backlog indicator - the number of active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.

Time is measured from date of lodgement to the end of the reporting period.

Civil jurisdiction

The ambit of the District Court's civil jurisdiction is described in s. 68 of the *District Court of Queensland Act 1967*. The court has an extensive general jurisdiction enabling it to deal with:

- all personal claims and any equitable claim or demand up to the monetary limit of \$250 000
- any claim (without monetary limit) referred to the court by the Supreme Court for assessment
- any claim where the parties consent to increase the monetary jurisdiction of the court
- actions to enforce by delivery of possession any mortgage
- actions to grant relief from mistake and for rectification
- actions seeking declarations and consequential orders arising from partnership disputes
- administration of estates where the estate does not exceed in value the monetary limit of the court
- family provision pursuant to the *Succession Act 1981*
- construction of deeds and other documents.

Some matters are disposed of by judges dealing with interlocutory applications in actions commenced by claims. The more complex matters are case managed by the judges, leading to their early disposition.

The *Report on Government Services* unit of measurement for the civil jurisdiction is a case. Secondary processes, such as interlocutory applications, are excluded. RoGS files include all claims and originating applications.

A civil case is considered active if it has not been finalised by adjudication, transfer to another court, and settlement by mediation, default judgment, notification that parties have discontinued, or else is deemed to be resolved as, for example, where there has been no activity for 12 months.

Table 3: Clearance rate in civil cases

	RoGS Non Appeal Cases			Clearance Rate *	Backlog Indicator ** % > 12 mths	Backlog Indicator ** % > 24 mths
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		From filing date	
Brisbane	2,989	2,798	2,492	93.6%	20.7%	4.1%
State Total#	5,313	5,006	4,465	94.2%	19.6%	3.8%

* Clearance rate - finalisations/lodgements

** Backlog indicator - the number of active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.
Time is measured from date of lodgement to the end of the reporting period.

Applications court

The *Uniform Civil Procedure Rules* provide for a proceeding to be commenced in some circumstances by an application, and also provide for an application to be made to the court in the course of a proceeding that will ultimately be dealt with fully at a trial or hearing.

Interlocutory and originating applications were dealt with quickly and efficiently by the court. There was no great delay for reasons associated with the court in hearing either type of application, at any centre where there is at least one resident judge.

Appellate jurisdiction

During the year this court heard and determined all criminal and civil appeals from the Magistrates Court and from various tribunals and other statutory bodies, such as the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal that, in the latter part of the year, was subsumed into QCAT.

Case management of appeals to the District Court continued with regular reviews of outstanding appeals throughout the year. Intervention notices are generated by the registry for the parties to assist them in adhering to predetermined timeframes in accordance with Practice Direction 5 of 2001.

Table 4: Clearance rate in criminal and civil appeals

	RoGS Appeal			Clearance Rate *	Backlog Indicator ** % > 12 mths	Backlog Indicator** % > 24 mths
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		From filing date	
Criminal						
Brisbane	174	173	78	99.4%	7.7%	0.0%
State Total	399	488	237	122.3%	13.9%	0.4%
Civil						
Brisbane	37	56	19	151.4%	36.8%	5.3%
State Total	103	102	69	99.0%	24.6%	2.9%

* Clearance rate - finalisations/lodgements

** Backlog indicator - the number of active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.
Time is measured from date of lodgement to the end of the reporting period.

The Planning and Environment Court

The court is constituted by a District Court judge appointed to it. Judges who may constitute the court are based in Brisbane and, with the exception of Beenleigh, in each regional centre that has a District Court judge.

The court has been an adjunct of the District Court for 44 years. It was first constituted in 1966 as the Local Government Court, then renamed in 1991 pursuant to the *Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990*, and then pursuant to the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* and now, pursuant to the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA).

Following the commencement of SPA, the Planning and Environment Court Rules 2010 (PECRs 2010) came into effect. A new practice direction (PD 1 of 2010) was also issued. The new rules include express provision that the rules are to be applied with the objective of avoiding undue delay, expense and technicality and facilitating the purpose of the rules - the just and expeditious resolution of the real issues in proceedings at a minimum of expense.

Judges also travel to circuit courthouses where there is no resident District Court judge. Where appropriate, the judges also travel to other places and sit at venues other than courthouses, so that matters may be heard at a place close to the site or development, and the community that it affects.

The court exercises jurisdiction over a myriad of planning and/or environmental disputes. Matters are often complex and have significant environmental, social and economic consequences. The court has unlimited monetary jurisdiction. It may:

- make declarations and other orders
- make interim enforcement orders and final enforcement orders
- conduct full merits reviews of decisions of local governments and government entities
- hear claims for compensation
- punish for contempt.

The judges continue to manage and dispose of the court's caseload efficiently. There was a slight increase in the number of cases finalised with 680 this year (compared with 677 last year), ending the year with 812 active matters, while achieving a clearance rate of 100.1 per cent. The majority of matters in the regional centres of Cairns, Maroochydore, Rockhampton and Southport were finalised within 12 months.

In addition to taking account of the introduction of the SPA, the PECRs 2010 introduced further changes including:

- express provision that the rules are to be applied with the objective of avoiding undue delay, expense and technicality and facilitating the purpose of the rules, which is the just and expeditious resolution of the real issues in proceedings at a minimum of expense
- broader powers as to the sanctions which the court may impose for non-compliance with the Rules
- provision for an individual to be exempted from the obligation to pay court fees, where, having regard to the individual's financial position, it is clearly in the interests of justice to do so.

Judge Rackemann has responsibility for management of the court's lists and for its day to day operation. A commitment to dispute resolution, active list supervision and flexible individual case management by judges, through directions hearings, reviews and pre-callover reviews, mark the practice and procedure of the court.

The court's commitment to providing cost-free dispute resolution, active list supervision and flexible individual case management by judges, mark the practice and procedure of the court. In March 2010, John Taylor was appointed the P&E Court's ADR Registrar. In addition to his duties as Registrar, ADR Registrar conducts mediations; convenes and chairs without prejudice meetings; convenes and chairs meetings of experts; convenes and chairs case management conferences;

deals with applications for adjournments on the papers and lists matters for reviews, or for further review, by a judge.

On 10-11 August 2009, the judges held their annual seminar allowing the rare opportunity for the judges to hear from Professor George (Rock) Pring and Catherine (Kitty) Pring, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, who provided by CCTV from Denver an overview of their survey, "Greening Justice – creating and improving environmental courts and tribunals". The work, which surveys environmentalist courts and tribunals internationally, drew attention to the Planning and Environment Court of Queensland for:

- the "problem solving" approach of its judges
- the efficiency of its unique structure
- its regional service, including by travelling to circuit centres ("flying Judges" as the publication describes it)
- its efficient case management (the court is identified as a leader in individual case management)
- its management of expert evidence
- its alternative dispute resolution process
- the commitment of its judges to ongoing review and reform.

The judges of the court continue to engage with those interested in the jurisdiction. Judge Rackemann addressed seminars and conferences for the Bar Association of Queensland and for the Queensland Environmental Law Association. Further, the judges are consulted by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

Table 5: Clearance rate in planning cases

Planning and Environment Court 2009-10						
				Clearance Rate *	Backlog Indicator ** % > 12 mths	Backlog Indicator ** % > 24 mths
	Lodged	Finalised	Active		From filing date	
Brisbane	513	508	615	99.0%	44.9%	13.2%
State Total	679	680	812	100.1%	44.6%	12.8%

* Clearance rate - finalisations/lodgements

** Backlog indicator - the number of active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time. Time is measured from date of lodgement to the end of the reporting period.

Childrens Court of Queensland

The District Court judges appointed to the Childrens Court of Queensland determine some of the serious criminal charges brought against children. They also provide speedy access for the hearing of bail applications and sentence reviews, especially for young children being held on remand.

The Childrens Court of Queensland is a specialist jurisdiction established under the *Childrens Court Act Queensland 1992*. The President of the Court is Judge Dick SC and there are presently 21 judges of the court holding commissions under the Act available to sit as Childrens Court judges.

The administration of the President, Judge Dick SC has contributed to the efficiency and productivity of the Childrens Court.

A separate annual report of the Childrens Court of Queensland is prepared under the *Childrens Court Act Queensland 1992* and further details of the Childrens Court can be found in that report.

Since 1 July 2009 12 new matters were lodged in the tribunal, 14 were finalised leaving 17 active matters. One hearing that had begun before a judge prior to 1 December 2009, was completed during the year under review.

The Health Practitioners Tribunal

Until 1 December 2009 all District Court judges were members of this tribunal under the *Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999*. The tribunal hears appeals from disciplinary tribunals in respect of and is the ultimate disciplinary body for most health professional groups, including medical practitioners.

The Chief Judge, as chairperson of the tribunal, nominates a judge as the constituting member for a particular hearing. During the year Judge O'Brien coordinated the tribunal's lists, with Judge Wall QC, Judge Richards, Judge Dick SC and Judge Griffin SC also acting as constituting members.

Regional centres

The court sits in Brisbane and the seven regional centres where 11 of the judges are based:

- Cairns
- Southport
- Rockhampton
- Ipswich
- Townsville
- Beenleigh
- Maroochydore

Judges also travel on circuit to other centres throughout the state. At most circuit centres and at some regional centres the judges rely on such registry support as is available from staff of the Magistrates Courts' service.

Cairns

Judiciary

Judge Bradley (to December 2009)

Judge Everson

Judge Harrison (from 19 February 2010)

During 2009-10, Judge Bradley, Judge Everson and Judge Harrison were the resident judges in Cairns and managed the court's lists there. This centre is also served by the Supreme Court's Far Northern Judge. The region includes Innisfail and Cape York. Both judges held commissions in the Childrens Court and Judge Everson and Judge Harrison held commissions in the Planning and Environment Court. All the judges undertook circuits in the Cairns region and elsewhere in the state. Some assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres.

In Cairns, the court ended the year with 218 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 557 matters (a 94.2 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 17.9 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of

presentation of indictment), and 6.4 per cent were more than 24 months old. In its appellate criminal jurisdiction, the court at Cairns began the year with 13 cases. It ended the year with 10 outstanding criminal appeals, disposing of 32 appeals, reflecting a 110.3 per cent clearance rate.

On the civil side, 315 new cases were lodged at the court at Cairns. The court ended the year with 267 outstanding cases, disposing of 244 matters, reflecting a 77.5 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 12.7 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 1.9 per cent were older than 24 months.

On the planning jurisdiction side, 32 new cases began in the court at Cairns. It ended the year with 36 outstanding cases, disposing of 42 matters, reflecting a 131.3 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 38.9 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 5.6 per cent were older than 24 months.

Rockhampton

Judiciary

Judge Britton SC

The resident judge in Rockhampton, Judge Britton SC, who also holds commissions in the Planning and Environment Court and the Childrens Court of Queensland, manages the court's Rockhampton lists. Rockhampton is also served by the Supreme Court's Central Judge. Judge Britton undertakes circuits in the region and elsewhere in the state.

In Rockhampton, the court ended the year with 110 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 170 matters (a 73.9 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 12.7 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 2.7 per cent were more than 24 months old.

On the civil side, 85 new cases were lodged, ending the year with 56 outstanding cases, disposing of 101 matters, reflecting a 118.8 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 14.3 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 5.4 per cent were older than 24 months. The court disposed of 12 criminal appeals during the year.

On the planning side, six new cases began in the court in Rockhampton. It ended the year with 6 outstanding cases, disposing of nine matters, reflecting a 150.0 per cent clearance rate.

Some assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres.

Townsville

Judiciary

Judge Pack

Judge Durward SC

Judge Pack and Judge Durward SC were the resident judges during the year. Townsville is also served by the Supreme Court's Northern Judge. Judge Pack and Judge Durward SC held commissions in the Childrens Court and the Planning and Environment Court and they also undertake circuits in their region, which includes Palm Island. Some assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres, although the reduction in the number of circuit judges available to assist Townsville had an impact on the Townsville criminal and planning lists.

In Townsville, the court ended the year with 102 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 292 matters (a 93.3 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 10.8 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 2.9 per cent were more than 24 months old.

In its appellate criminal jurisdiction, the court at Townsville ended the year with 15 outstanding criminal

appeals, disposing of 145 appeals, reflecting a 690.5 per cent clearance rate.

On the civil side, 229 new cases were lodged. The court ended the year with 163 outstanding cases, disposing of 221 matters, reflecting a 96.5 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 12.3 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 2.5 per cent were older than 24 months.

On the planning side, 20 new cases began in the court at Townsville. The court ended the year with 33 outstanding cases, disposing of 14 matters, reflecting a 70.0 per cent clearance rate.

Maroochydore

Judiciary

Judge Dodds

Judge Robertson

Most of the work of the court at Maroochydore is undertaken by the resident judges, with some assistance from other judges who visit on circuit. In addition to the usual work within the jurisdiction of the District Court, each of the resident judges sits as a Childrens Court judge and also deals with proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court.

In Maroochydore, the court ended the year with 66 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 196 matters (a 76.3 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 15.2 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 9.1 per cent were more than 24 months old.

On the civil side, 253 new cases were lodged in the court at Maroochydore. The court ended the year with 196 outstanding cases, disposing of 268 matters, reflecting a 105.9 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 18.4 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 3.6 per cent were older than 24 months.

In the planning jurisdiction, 50 new cases began in the court at Maroochydore. The court ended the year with 71 outstanding cases, disposing of 57 matters, reflecting a 114.0 per cent clearance rate.

In its appellate civil jurisdiction, the court at Maroochydore ended the year with three outstanding civil appeals, disposing of eight appeals, reflecting a 133.3 per cent clearance rate.

The Maroochydore-based judges undertake much of the circuit work at Gympie (achieving a 123.3 per cent clearance rate) and Kingaroy with 112.5 per cent. The Kingaroy district includes the largely indigenous community of Cherbourg and the judges visit the nearby town of Murgon on circuit. Judge Dodds also has responsibility for the Bundaberg circuit lists and has achieved a 103.7 per cent clearance rate in Bundaberg. Both judges undertake circuit work elsewhere in the state.

Southport

Judiciary

Judge Newton

Judge Wall QC

Judge Kingham

Judge McGinness

In addition to the usual District Court work of the resident judges, Childrens Court and Planning and Environment Court cases were disposed of in Southport and each of the judges performed circuit work at centres elsewhere in the state. (Judge Kingham has been unavailable for regular Southport sittings since her appointment to QCAT). Judge McGinness was appointed to Southport from February 2010.

In Southport, the court ended the year with 260 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 396 matters (an 87.0 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 21.9 per cent were more than 12 months old (from

date of presentation of indictment), and 9.2 per cent were more than 24 months old.

On the civil side, 605 new cases were lodged at Southport. The court ended the year with 519 outstanding cases, disposing of 638 matters, reflecting a 105.5 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 24.5 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 6.4 per cent were older than 24 months.

In its appellate criminal jurisdiction, the court at Southport ended the year with 34 outstanding criminal appeals, disposing of 45 appeals, reflecting a 102.3 per cent clearance rate.

In its appellate civil jurisdiction, the court at Southport ended the year with 14 outstanding civil appeals, disposing of 11 appeals, reflecting a 64.7 per cent clearance rate.

On the planning side, 26 new cases began in the court at Southport. It ended the year with 34 outstanding cases, disposing of 35 matters, reflecting a 134.6 per cent clearance rate. Of the active cases at the end of the year, 41.2 per cent were older than 12 months (from filing date) and 20.6 per cent were older than 24 months.

Other judges on circuit provide considerable assistance to the court at Southport.

Ipswich

Judiciary

Judge Richards

Judge Bradley

Judge Koppenol

Judge Richards, Judge Bradley and Judge Koppenol were assisted by circuit judges in dealing with the Ipswich caseload. Judge Richards and Judge Bradley hold a commission in the Childrens Court of Queensland, and Judge Richards manages the Ipswich lists. All three judges undertook circuits in centres throughout the state.

In Ipswich, the court ended the year with 105 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 421 matters (a 96.8 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, only 8.6 per cent were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 1.0 per cent were more than 24 months old.

In its appellate criminal jurisdiction, the court at Ipswich ended the year with 20 outstanding appeals, disposing of 10 appeals, reflecting a 47.6 per cent clearance rate.

Beenleigh

Judiciary

Judge Dearden

Judge Dearden, the resident judge, also holds a commission in the Childrens Court of Queensland and manages the Beenleigh and Mount Isa lists. The judge also conducted circuits in Mount Isa and other centres. Considerable assistance was provided by judges on circuit from other centres.

In Beenleigh, the court ended the year with 218 outstanding criminal cases and disposed of 449 matters (a 94.9 per cent clearance rate). Of the outstanding cases, 10.6 per cent were more than 12 months old (from

date of presentation of indictment), and 2.3 per cent were more than 24 months old.

In its appellate criminal jurisdiction, the court at Beenleigh ended the year with 12 outstanding appeals, disposing of 12 appeals, reflecting an 85.7 per cent clearance rate.

Circuit centres

Depending upon caseload, District Court jury trials may be held in 24 circuit centres (excluding those with a resident judge), and the judges also travel to the 15 remote or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout the state, for sentencing and some civil matters.

Judges sit in the court's appellate, criminal, civil and applications jurisdictions, as well as in the Planning and Environment Court and the Childrens Court of Queensland while on circuit.

A list of the 37 centres (excluding those with a resident judge) where judges sat on circuit during the year is set out below:

• Aurukun	• Goondiwindi	• Normanton
• Bamaga	• Gympie	• Palm Island
• Bowen	• Hervey Bay	• Pormpuraaw
• Bundaberg	• Innisfail	• Roma
• Charleville	• Kingaroy	• Stanthorpe
• Charters Towers	• Kowanyama	• Toowoomba
• Cloncurry	• Lockhart River	• Thursday Island
• Cooktown	• Longreach	• Warwick
• Cunnamulla	• Mackay	• Weipa/ Napranum
• Dalby	• Maryborough	• Woorabinda
• Doomadgee	• Mornington Island	• Yarrabah
• Emerald	• Mount Isa	
• Gladstone	• Murgon	

Committees

The membership of the judges' committees as at 30 June 2010, with the Chief Judge an ex officio member of each committee, was as follows:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Convenor:	Judge Bradley
Members:	Judge Shanahan
	Judge Dearden
	Judge Everson
	Judge McGinness

Civil Procedure

Convenor:	Judge Robin QC
Members:	Judge McGill SC
	Judge Rackemann
	Judge Andrews SC

Cultural Awareness

Convenor:	Judge Martin SC
Members:	Judge Richards
	Judge Bradley
	Judge Shanahan
	Judge Dick SC

Judicial Professional Development

Convenor:	Judge Dick SC
Members:	Judge Griffin SC
	Judge Dearden
	Judge Martin SC

Criminal Law

Convenor:	Judge Shanahan
Members:	Judge Robertson
	Judge Dick SC
	Judge Dearden
	Judge Rafter SC
	Judge Martin SC
	Judge Clare SC
	Judge McGinness

Court Planning

Convenor:	Judge Searles
Members:	Judge Griffin SC
	Judge Durward SC
	Judge Andrews SC

Salaries and Entitlements

Convenor:	Judge Rackemann
Members:	Judge Durward SC
	Judge Devereaux SC

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committee

The committee's goals are to deal with matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders referred to the committee; to liaise with representatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about matters affecting the court and members of those communities, other than decisions of individual judges; to recommend appropriate speakers on these topics at judges' conferences; to develop and improve the relationship and understanding between the court and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to keep judges and the community informed of such improvements and developments.

Between 5-7 August 2009 Judge Shanahan attended the AIJA Indigenous Courts Conference in Rockhampton. He was a member of the organising committee for the conference. On 13 August 2009 the Chief Judge

and Judge Shanahan met with a representative from the Crime and Misconduct Commission in relation to the Commission's project on policing in indigenous communities.

On 21 August 2009 Dr Mark Lauchs of QUT consulted the Chief Judge and Judge Shanahan about a his research project: "review of Aboriginal English in the Court's Handbook", in respect of which judges took part later in the year.

On 18 March 2010 Judge Shanahan attended the meeting of the state-wide Community Justice Reference Group in Brisbane, where a review of progress of the Action Plan was considered. Judge Bradley and Judge Shanahan met participants at the Community Justice Reference Group's meeting.

On 5 May 2010 the Chief Judge responded to a request for comment by the Director, Courts Innovation Programmes, Department of Justice and Attorney-General in relation to whether community justice groups should have access to police QP9s (court briefs).

During circuits to indigenous communities on Cape York, in the Torres Strait and in the Gulf of Carpentaria, as well as at other centres around the state, judges continue to meet with community justice groups to discuss matters relating to the particular communities and the courts generally. Community justice groups continue on occasion to assist in the sentencing process by providing oral or written pre-sentence reports regarding members of their communities who are appearing before the court.

Judge Bradley continues as a member of the National Judicial College of Australia's Indigenous Justice Committee and Judge Shanahan as a member of the NJCA Queensland Subcommittee chaired by Justice Atkinson and the AIJA Indigenous Justice Committee.

Civil procedure committee

The members of the committee have relevant expertise, which they place at the disposal of the judges generally to resort to as required. They are available as a source of expeditious assistance and advice which the Chief Judge might request in connection with presenting the court's view about changes proposed to the legislative framework in which its civil jurisdiction is exercised or the laws administered by the court if proposals bode to impact on the court's standing, responsibilities and workload. Topics of concern arise internally as well when it appears that the efficient exercise of the court's civil jurisdiction can be enhanced by amendments to legislation or general rules of court, which may be proposed to relevant authorities, or by new practice directions promulgated by the Chief Judge.

In the last year, the implications of the "Moynihan Reforms" which are likely to result in increases in the court's civil jurisdiction if legislation in preparation (which at the end of last year was the *Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2009*) comes into effect have occasioned considerable activity by the Committee, which continues to work informally, typically by email communications, which generate a convenient record. Examples of subjects dealt with are the establishment of a commercial list (requested by the Bar), arrangements for transfer of proceedings between courts to the more appropriate one, encouragement of use of consent orders to be made by the Registrar and suitable amendments to the *District Court of Queensland Act 1967*.

Other references to the committee have concerned matters as diverse as streamlining Government decision-making processes in relation, for example, to appointments to officers in the court which should not really require action by the Governor-in-Council, issues affecting the judiciary under the *Constitutional and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009* implementing the recommendations of the Legal Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee, (LCARC Report 36)

and the publication and recording of decisions of the Queensland Industrial Relations Committee and the proposed Rules of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Liaison with the Chief Justice's Rules Committee established under the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991* is furthered by the continued service thereon of two members of this committee.

Court planning committee

Judge Searles is the convenor of the committee. Judges Griffin SC, Durward SC, and Andrews SC were its members.

During the year, the committee acted, primarily to assist the Chief Judge (who attended its meetings) in addressing planning and strategic matters arising in the course of her administration of the court. As in past years those matters often required prompt attention from available committee members who, for that reason, met informally rather than by pre-arrangement.

The committee's work included discussion of the implementation of a commercial list in the District Court of Queensland and assisting the Chief Judge with advice in relation to a range of administrative matters.

Criminal law committee

The Criminal Law committee advised the Chief Judge with respect to numerous law reform initiatives including the Moynihan Report *Review of the civil and criminal justice system in Queensland* and the consequent *Civil and Criminal Justice Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2010*, the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009*, proposed amendments to chapter 22A *Criminal Code* and the *Consultation Draft-Evidence Working Group* in relation to issues concerning the disclosure of sexual assault counselling communications in legal proceedings.

The committee also provided advice to the Rules Committee in relation to proposed amendments to the Indictment Forms in the *Criminal Practice Rules*.


On 22 July 2009 the Chief Judge and Judges Shanahan and Devereaux SC met with officers of the Queensland Law Reform Commission in relation to the Commission's Jury Directions Research Project.

On 27 November 2009 the Chief Judge and Judge Shanahan met with Professor Susan Hayes AO PhD FIASSID, Professor of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Sydney about issues arising when a victim of crime has an intellectual disability.

On 29 January 2010 Judges O'Brien and Dick SC met with representatives of Protect All Children Today (PACT) with respect to the support role played by PACT volunteers in the prerecording of affected child witnesses evidence under Division 4A Evidence Act 1977.

Professional development committee

The continuing professional development of the judges was actively pursued during this year. The Judges' 15th Annual Conference was held at Marcoola on 9-11 August 2009. The conference provides a forum for professional discussion and an enhancement of collegiality, most particularly with regional judges. Speakers at the 15th Annual Conference included Professor Richard Chisholm on *A Masterclass on Judgment Writing*, Father Frank Brennan SJ on the Bill of Rights, Mr Philip Nase on *Provocation and Accident – Defences Available to Abused Persons*. Other papers included topics such as cyber crime, the judge alone trial, money laundering, majority verdicts and the litigant in person in the criminal trial.



Judges attended workshops or conferences throughout the year:

- Judge Devereaux SC and Judge McGinness attended the NJCA's Judicial Orientation Programme, which was held in Glenelg, South Australia in November 2009.
- Judge Dorney QC, Judge Harrison and Judge Reid attended the NJCA's Judicial Orientation Programme on the Gold Coast in April 2010.

Judges also presented papers or participated in seminars or conferences during the year:

- Judge Richards was a presenter at the Phoenix Magistrates Programme in August 2009.
- Judge Devereaux SC was a presenter at the Medico-legal Society Conference in August 2009.
- Judge Dick SC was a presenter at the Protect All Children Today Inc. (PACT) Annual General Meeting in September 2009.
- Judge Wilson SC was a presenter at the NJCA Judgment Writing Program, Fremantle WA.
- In October 2009 Judge Dearden was a presenter at the Central Queensland Law Association Conference.
- In March 2010 Judge Dick SC took part in a panel discussion at the Bar Association Symposium.
- Judge Dick SC was interviewed on ABC radio during Law Week in May 2010.
- In June 2010 Judge Dick SC participated in the Queensland Law Society Inc and Bar Association of Queensland Seminar on the Practical Implementation of the *Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill of 2010*.

Court administration

Overview

2009–10 was again a busy year for the court.

- The Court Network volunteer service again expanded and developed during its third year of operation. The volunteers provided emotional and practical support to litigants and those accompanying individuals to hearings, helping to eliminate the anxiety and confusion experienced by many court users. The work of the Court Network volunteers helps to maintain the dignity of all court users and facilitates access to justice for all in the community.
- A Business Improvement Team was established to focus on the development of policy and procedures and the identification of business improvement opportunities generally.
- The registry continues to invest considerable time and effort in strategies to manage the challenge of increased workloads including additional training and review of business processes.
- The eTrial strategy provided an online technology solution to manage documentation electronically during trials. This was tested in a selection of civil and criminal trials. Legal practitioners, litigants and judges involved in these trials consistently reported that eTrials was easy to use and generated real time and cost savings. A Team Leader (Electronic Trials) has been appointed to develop the eTrials framework, promote the benefits to relevant stakeholders and to oversee further implementation.
- Improvements to the digital recording solution have continued apace in 2009-10, delivering a robust, reliable and stable system.
- The State Reporting Bureau has continued to improve processes and standardisation of processes across the state.

Office of Director of Courts

The Office of Director of Courts coordinates and oversees registry, court reporting, information management and technology, and corporate administration to provide essential support to the District Court throughout the state. This office also coordinates and manages consultation in relation to legislation and policy changes.

The current Executive Director and Principal Registrar, Ms Robyn Anne Hill has been on long service leave for much of 2010. Julie Steel has acted in the position, and is supported by executive, administrative staff and registry staff throughout Queensland.

As Principal Registrar, Ms Steel is an ex-officio member of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting and of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. Ms Steel also attends at meetings of the Rules Committee.

Registry services

The registries are responsible for:

- receiving documents for filing
- providing information about the general court process and the progress of particular matters
- sealing documents for service (such as subpoenas)
- maintaining court records
- ensuring that documents are created and distributed to give effect to orders of the court
- organising resources to enable matters to progress through the system and hearings to proceed
- performing all necessary administrative work associated with the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the court.

There are permanent District Court registries in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Beenleigh, Ipswich, Maroochydore and Southport have resident

judges who are supported by staff employed within the Magistrates Courts registry. Other centres are visited on circuit, and the local Magistrates Court registry generally performs the registry role in those centres.

eTrials

The 2008-09 Annual Report highlighted the development and pilot of an electronic trials (eTrials) capability. In 2009-10, a civil courtroom and a criminal courtroom in the Brisbane Law Courts were fitted out with equipment to run an eTrial. Additionally, a portable system has been developed which can be installed in any courtroom throughout the state.

The new Brisbane Supreme and District Court building will include 14 courtrooms capable of supporting eTrials.

eFiles

eFiles refers to the strategy of making all documents filed in the registry available online. This concept is being trialled in the Planning and Environment jurisdiction of the District Court. It has proven popular, with an average of more than 140 occasions of documents consulted online per day. Judges and parties to proceedings have all reported that the ability to access court documents when convenient to them provides genuine benefits.

New approaches

The registry has invested considerable time and effort in developing strategies to best manage increasing demands and provide appropriate levels of service within existing resources.

The Brisbane registry underwent a realignment that saw the amalgamation of several areas resulting in the streamlining of registry services to clients.

Future directions

The registry is committed to innovation to improve service levels by focussing on staff, as well as the development of policy and procedures to ensure best practice is achieved and a consistent level of service is provided to client and stakeholders alike.

Acknowledgements

The workload and changes to processes have been admirably met by registry staff across the state, which is a testament to the commitment and professionalism of all registry staff. The ongoing support and assistance of legal practitioners and judges when matters have not proceeded smoothly was greatly appreciated, as has been their willingness to engage with the registry in developing new approaches.

State Reporting Bureau

The State Reporting Bureau (SRB) provides recording and transcription services for the Supreme Court, District Court, Magistrates Court, Industrial Court and Industrial Relations Commission. SRB also provides reporting services for the Medical Assessment Tribunal, Mental Health Court, Industrial Court, Land Appeal Court and Legal Practice Tribunal. Services are provided in Brisbane and at 35 regional and circuit centres in Queensland.

During 2009-10, SRB endeavoured to improve its services and service delivery. It introduced the use of voice recognition technology in the production of court transcripts. The software allows audio voice to be converted into text with only minimal use of the keyboard. It also allows staff with injuries to return to work using this method of transcription.

SRB developed an electronic workflow system to streamline the transcript production process and enhance service delivery. The workflow system will be connected to an eCommerce system, to permit court

users to obtain, have delivered and pay for transcripts from one central location.

The Australian Business Excellence Framework is used for measuring and improving the quality of services. A Business Improvement Plan was developed. Key areas identified for improvement included the need for improved communication and the requirement for a quality focus, both procedurally and from a quality work output perspective.

SRB's Quality Team is focussed on business improvement. It made progress on the identification and development of procedures for documentation in its development of standardised processes across the state, which will contribute to a consistent approach to the production of transcript.

The in-house training program to train current audio reporters as Computer Assisted Transcription (CAT) reporters continues, with some CAT trainees now utilising their specialised training in the production of transcripts.

Courts information services

The Courts Information Services Branch (CISB) incorporates five teams:

- operations—provides user support and day-to-day administration for court-related applications as well as service desk support to judicial officers
- systems—manages and enhances court related applications
- audio visual—manages, supports and extends the audio and visual systems installed throughout the state
- Queensland Sentencing Information Service (Q SIS)—provides a comprehensive collection of sentencing information to assist decision makers on, and before, the Bench
- Queensland Courts Communications (QCC)—develops and manages the communication materials used by the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts throughout Queensland.

Operations

The Operations team provides an efficient support service to courts, judicial officers and staff during business hours and to courts operating on weekends and public holidays.

The operations team consolidated two independent help desks to form the Service Desk. The Service desk increases efficiency by providing clients with a single point of contact and access to a greater range of support skills.

The team also developed and deployed a new email tool to assist in support requests and delivered training so that new clients, including judicial officers and associates, can use the tool to its best effect.

Service officers assisted in upgrades to digital recording systems in courtrooms across the state and desktop replacements for judicial officers and staff.

Digital recording

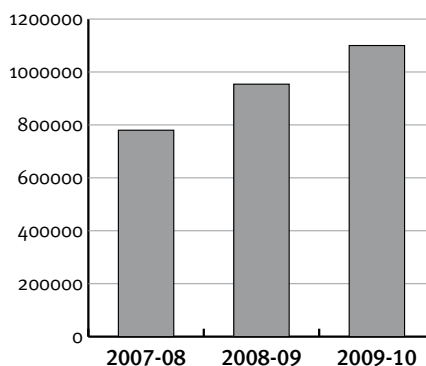
CISB has maintained a stable digital recording system in 203 individual court and hearing rooms around the state. Software application upgrades, a regular program of computer hardware replacement and improvement to the core network infrastructure around the state have enhanced the reliability of the system.

Civil systems

The CIMS Lite system, which is used to manage civil files in the registry, has been enhanced to better manage and decrease the resolution time of probate applications. All Supreme and District Court civil files are managed within CIMS Lite and can be searched online using the eSearch facility on the Queensland Courts website.


Use of the eSearch program continues to increase, with more than 1,100,000 online searches performed in 2009–10. This compares with 780,000 such searches in 2007–08, and 954,000 in 2008–09.

eSearch queries



Audio visual

During 2009–10, videoconferencing systems were installed in Gladstone, Bundaberg, and Gympie courthouses. The team now supports 149 videoconferencing sites throughout Queensland, including 32 Supreme and District Courts, 37 remote



witness rooms (one which is a portable system for use in remote areas) and 19 Correctional Centres.

For 2010-11 existing facilities at Cairns, Beenleigh, Hervey Bay, Rockhampton and Southport will be upgraded. The audio visual team is also involved in audio visual design works for the new metropolitan courts.

Queensland Courts communications

The Queensland Courts communications team delivers marketing and communication services to the Queensland Courts Services Executive, business units and the judiciary.

The team's responsibilities include maintaining the Queensland Courts website and publication of printed materials, including annual reports.

Related organisations

The Supreme Court Library

The Supreme Court of Queensland Library (SCQL) provides the primary legal information service for the Courts, legal profession and the Queensland community.

Its legal reference and research service is backed by a content-rich collection of local, national and international materials, which includes more than 150,000 print volumes. The Library also fulfils a secondary charter by preserving Queensland's unique legal history. It does this through the acquisition, preservation and dissemination of original and interesting items pertaining to Queensland's legal heritage.

The Library is governed by a committee comprising representatives of each of its stakeholder bodies: the judiciary, Queensland Law Society, Bar Association of Queensland, and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. In 2009-10, the Supreme Court Library Committee was chaired by the Honourable Justice Hugh Fraser. His appointment in September 2009 followed the sudden and tragic death of the Honourable Justice Peter Dutney, who had served as Chair of the Library Committee since January 2008.

Highlights

This year the Library focused on expanding content available through its online collections and strengthening services and alliances in preparation for the relocation to the new Supreme and District Courts building in 2011-12.

Significant achievements include:

- integration and provision of library services for the Queensland Magistrates Courts;
- provision of library services for tribunal members following the establishment of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) in December 2009;

- successful negotiations with the legal publishers, conducted by the Librarian on behalf of the Department of Justice (JAG) library portfolio, yielding significant savings and licensing concessions for the next three-year subscription term;
- effective delivery of library services for Queensland Law Society members, which, in the past two and a half years, has generated a five fold increase in the number of document requests filled by Information Services staff;
- more than 3.7 million registered hits through SCQL's online gateways, incorporating the website, online catalogue and Judicial Virtual Library;
- compilation and launch of a new database of Criminal Codes appellate decisions, available via the SCQL website; and
- publication of the fifth volume in the Supreme Court History Program Yearbook series and a collection of papers from the Q150 conference, hosted by the SCQL in 2009 in conjunction with the Centre for International and Comparative Law at the University of Queensland.

Information Services

SCQL provides a consolidated law library service for the Courts, legal profession and the Queensland community, incorporating:

- reference, research and document request service;
- judicial current awareness service, which circulated 5834 articles and speeches to Queensland judges and magistrates this year;
- online judgment bulletins and indices, which this year published 489 District Court judgments and 137 decisions of the Planning and Environment Court;
- legal research and product training for judges, associates, legal practitioners and court staff;

- quarterly publication of the *Review of Books*, featuring original reviews by members of the judiciary and legal profession; and
- collections of biographical materials on members of the judiciary.

In 2009-10, the Library responded to 13,100 requests for information and documents. Despite a continued decline in reference desk enquiries, as driven by the availability of information online, the Library has met an escalating demand for document delivery requests since the transfer of Queensland Law Society library services to SCQL in 2008.

This year the Library also resumed responsibility for providing services to the Queensland Magistrates Court and assumed services for the newly formed Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. These developments importantly fulfil the Library's charter of providing information services for the Queensland Courts and judiciary.

Current Awareness Services

In today's sophisticated digital environment, the Library continues to seek opportunities to provide convenient and relevant information services that meet the needs of users. The judicial current awareness service, which began as a newspaper clippings service in 1984, was, this year, developed into an online, email and RSS feed tool that users are able to customise by subject and material type preferences. Users are surveyed annually to ensure sustainability and, in 2009-10, the service achieved a user satisfaction rating of 4.5 from District Court judges (ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest). The SCQL *Review of Books*, which is also circulated to members of the judiciary and court, achieved a rating of 4.43 from the District Court. To date, these results have been a key determinant in attracting and maintaining annual sponsorship for these services.

Another current awareness initiative this year was the compilation and publication of a database of Criminal Codes Appellate Decisions on the Library website.

The service is the first of its kind and offers users a convenient and searchable database of selected High Court and intermediate appeal court judgments relating to the Criminal Codes in Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Legal Collections

SCQL provides access to a content rich collection of online and print resources. The SCQL Online project, incorporating the Library website and *Judicial Virtual Library*, delivers a central, accessible model for the efficient delivery of the online component, offering in excess of 150 databases and an estimated 60,000 individual full-text titles. In 2009-10, the Library further expanded current content with products such as:

- *Oxford Reference Library*
- *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History*
- *Hein Online World Trials Library*
- *American Law Institute Library*

For the first time this year, the Librarian negotiated subscription renewals with Thomson Reuters, LexisNexis and CCH on behalf of both the SCQL and JAG portfolio of library services (incorporating the Higher Courts chamber collections, Supreme Court Judges Library, Magistrates' chamber collections and the Magistrates Library). As anticipated, the centralised model for purchasing delivered significant savings for both the Library and the JAG portfolio for the three year renewal period. Favourable licensing arrangements were also a priority to ensure that users enjoy seamless access to content via the Library website and its *Judicial Virtual Library* platform. These platforms now offer users unified content through a single, convenient access point.

This year's external *Review of Government Libraries* further highlighted the benefits of providing a centralised online law library, with SCQL well positioned to deliver a broad range of content through its online portals. It is expected that future consolidation will

continue to deliver cost-effective subscription solutions from publishers and will enrich the already extensive collections available to SCQL users.

Scholarly publishing

The Supreme Court Library Publishing Program preserves Queensland's legal heritage by producing original works on unique aspects of our legal history. Over the past decade, more than 20 titles have been published by the Library, including the acclaimed Yearbook series, now in its fifth year.

In 2009-10, SCQL published *Queensland's Constitution: Past, Present and Future*, which contains a collection of scholarly papers presented at the Q150 Conference, hosted by SCQL and the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law of the TC Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland in May 2009. The publication explores the establishment and development of Queensland's founding document, with facsimiles and transcripts of previously unpublished documents relating to Queensland's early constitutional history.

Work towards a commemorative book to mark the 150th anniversary of the Supreme Court has also commenced, with publication scheduled to coincide with the occasion in 2011.

Legal Heritage and Community Programs

The Library conducts the Supreme Court History Program and affiliated activities to preserve and promote Queensland's legal history. Offerings include:

- Continuing research, exhibition and lecture series, which this year featured a presentation by Professor WA Lee on 27 November 2009, entitled *The Log Book of HMS Minerva 1794*;
- Schools education program, which provided legal research classes and educational tours for 7435 student visitors to the Courts;
- Oral history program, which collected four original interviews with members of the Queensland judiciary and legal profession and an 89-page memoir by former Chief Judge of the District Court, the Hon JP Shanahan AO RFD ED;
- Digitisation of historical documents (10,798 pages in 2009-10), including significant donations such as the records of the Bar Association of Queensland and Feez Ruthning Opinion Books; and
- Collection and preservation of legal memorabilia and photographs relating to Queensland and court history.

Over the past decade, SCQL has developed these programs to foster interest and participation in the preservation of our legal heritage. The Schools Education Program is one such activity attracting large numbers of visitors to the Courts annually and the Library remains committed to developing services and programs for students. A new educational resource was published on the Library website this year providing an introduction to the activities, procedures and personnel within the Courts.

Future Directions

The priority in the coming year will be continuing preparations for the relocation of the Library to the new Courts building to ensure that SCQL is well positioned, both physically and strategically, to deliver contemporary information services for the Courts, the Department and the Queensland legal profession.

Other significant activities will include:

- *The creation of Queensland's first legal heritage museum, planned to occupy a central position on the ground floor of the new Courts building.*

This project represents an exciting opportunity to showcase the work of the Supreme Court History Program over the past decade and to display precious items of legal heritage for the benefit of the Queensland community. The inaugural

exhibition will provide an inclusive history of the law in Queensland over the past 150 years by featuring influential events and personalities in the Courts, Queensland Law Society, Bar Association of Queensland, Crown Law, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Incorporated Council of Law Reporting, the University of Queensland law school and the Supreme Court Library.

- *Development of SCQL Online as the central gateway for web-based legal content and information services.*

This year's cooperative purchasing arrangement with the Department delivered an effective model for the acquisition of content and sustainable online collections. The Library will continue to seek opportunities for further collaboration to ensure that the SCQL online infrastructure is used as a central platform for the delivery of legal content and information services.

- *Strengthening alliances with other libraries and affiliated bodies.*

Since 2007, the Librarian has held concurrent appointments as a member of the National Archives Advisory Council and Library Board of Queensland. His appointment this year, as an Industry Fellow of the University of Queensland Library, cements the importance of professional alliances and, it is hoped, will prove equally beneficial in terms of developing current services and future initiatives. In 2010-11, SCQL will continue to build external alliances and strengthen internal systems to deliver a contemporary library service in the new Courts building.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Practice Directions

The following Practice Directions were issued by the Chief Judge during the year and are available on the Queensland Courts website, www.courts.qld.gov.au.

District Court

Table 6: District Court practice directions

Number	Description	Date issued
2009/02	Designation of Court Holidays	19 November 2009
2209/03	Notice of Address for Service	15 December 2009
2010/01	Interpreters: District Court	11 June 2010
2010/02	Consent Orders of the Registrar	16 June 2010

Planning and Environment Court

Table 7: Planning and Environment Court

Number	Description	Date issued
2009/01	Notice of Address for Service	15 December 2009
2210/01	Case Management Procedures	16 April 2010
2010/02	Consent Orders of the Registrar	16 June 2010

Appendix 2: District Court associates as at 30 June 2010

Juliet Davis	Associate to Her Honour Chief Judge PM Wolfe
Maree Griffiths	Associate to His Honour Judge KJ O'Brien
Samantha Watkins	Associate to His Honour Judge KS Dodds (Maroochydore)
Lachlan Crombie	Associate to His Honour Judge HWH Botting
William Mair	Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Noud
Myles O'Sullivan	Associate to His Honour Judge PD Robin QC
Chris Curtis	Associate to His Honour Judge JE Newton (Southport)
Dean Jones	Associate to His Honour Judge JM Robertson (Maroochydore)
Jacinta Ricketts	Associate to His Honour Judge DJ McGill SC
Sarah McDonald	Associate to His Honour Judge CF Wall QC (Southport)
Callan Lloyd	Associate to His Honour Judge N Samios
Gordon Roberts	Associate to His Honour Judge GT Britton SC (Rockhampton)
Leticia Brown	Associate to Her Honour Judge D Richards (Ipswich)
Krista Mahoney	Associate to Her Honour Judge S Bradley (Cairns)
Jack Gardiner	Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Shanahan
Naraya Lamart	Associate to Her Honour Judge JM Dick SC
Stephanie Bashford	Associate to His Honour Judge ME Rackemann
Patrick Ritchie	Associate to His Honour Judge WH Tutt
Andrew Poulton	Associate to His Honour Judge MJ Griffin SC
Michael Bonasia	Associate to Her Honour Judge JA Ryrie
Anna Woodall	Associate to His Honour Judge IFM Dearden (Beenleigh)
Anabel Juste-Constant	Associate to Her Honour Judge FY Kingham (Southport)
Katherine Cooper	Associate to His Honour Judge SG Durward SC (Townsville)
Nathan Colless	Associate to His Honour Judge AJ Rafter SC
Dominic Ferraro	Associate to His Honour Judge TD Martin SC
Jake Elsworthy	Associate to His Honour Judge DG Searles
Kaitlin Mahon	Associate to His Honour Judge GJ Koppenol (Ipswich)
Clare Rowe	Associate to His Honour Judge DC Andrews SC
Leah Ferris	Associate to Her Honour Judge LJ Clare SC
Emma Fogerty	Associate to His Honour Judge WG Everson
Laura Allen	Associate to His Honour Judge BG Devereaux SC
Laura Frisby	Associate to Her Honour Judge KM McGinness
James Bishop	Associate to His Honour Judge KD Dorney QC
Halley Robertson	Associate to His Honour Judge RS Jones
Erin Kay	Associate to His Honour Judge BA Harrison
William Hickey	Associate to His Honour Judge DA Reid

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