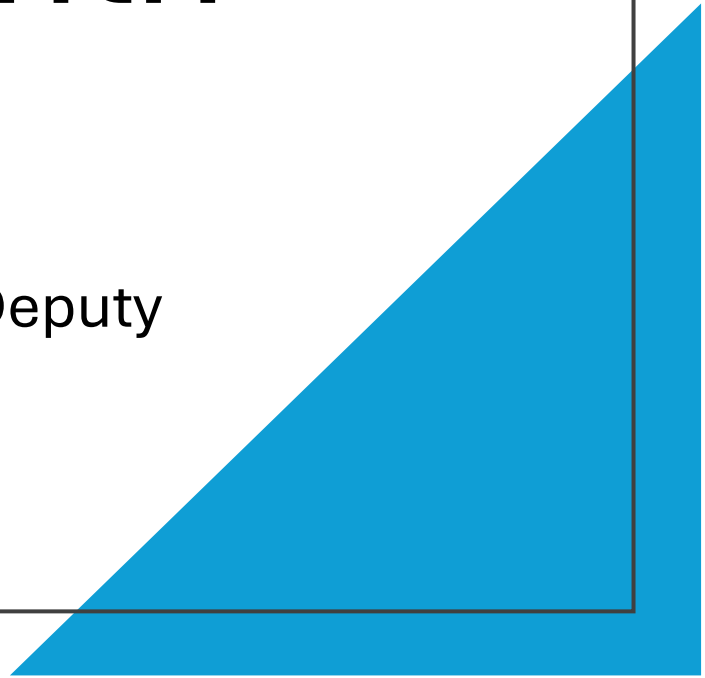




# Insider's Guide to the Ninth Circuit

Susan Gelmis - Chief Deputy  
Clerk, Operations



# Insider's Guide Overview

Operational Updates

Caseload Statistics

Appeals Process and Motions

Case Management and Assignment to Panels

Rules and Resources

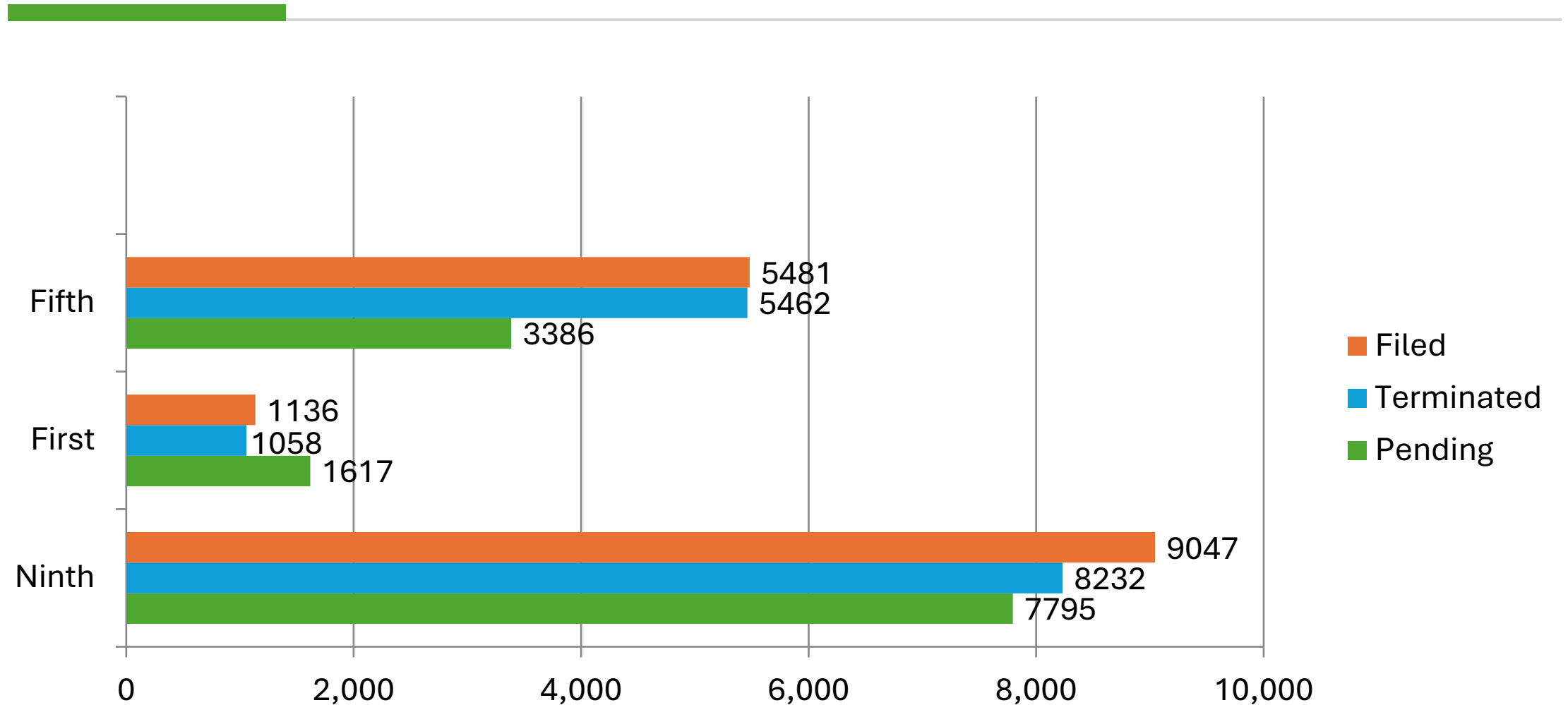
Tips and Common Errors

# COURT OPERATIONS UPDATES

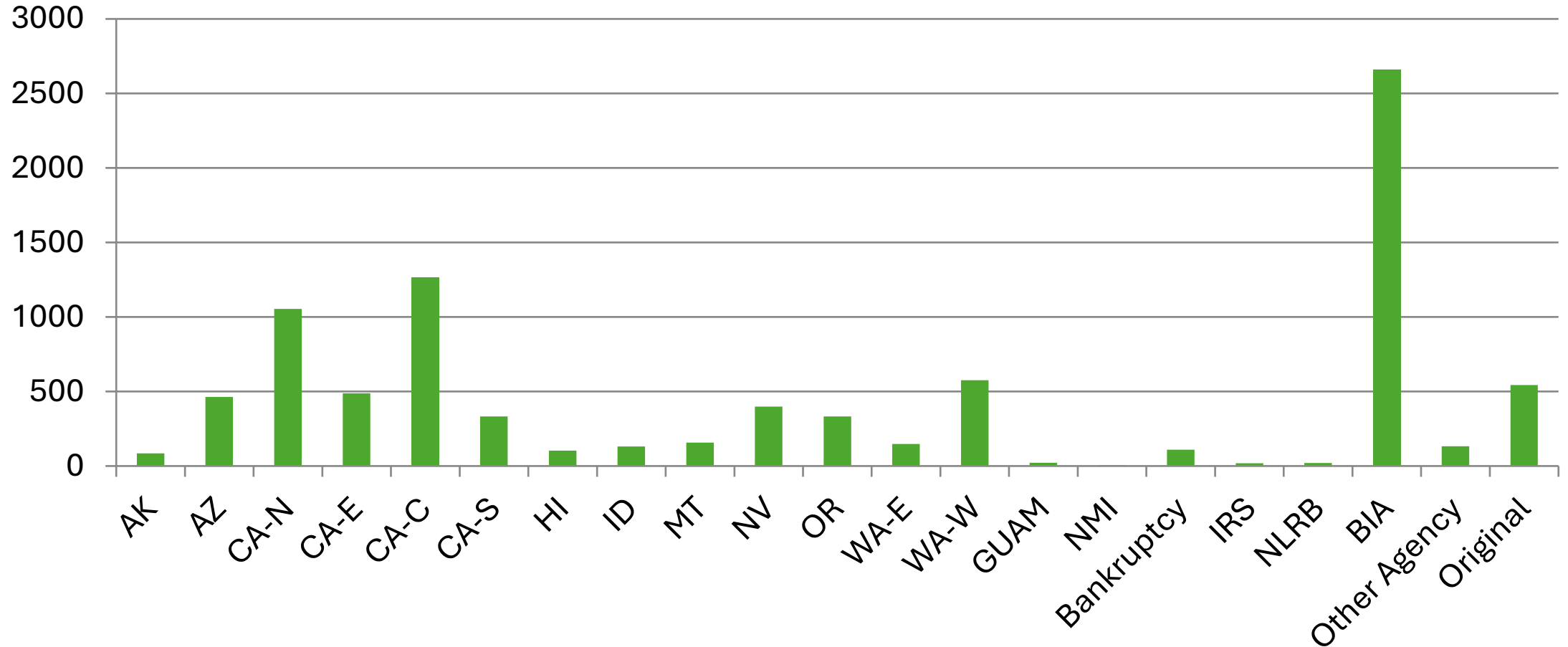
- Most hearings are in person, though counsel may file a motion to appear by video upon a showing of hardship. Some hearings are fully remote, most commonly those that are rescheduled or to address an emergency motion.
- Case filings nationally have decreased significantly over the last few years, exacerbated by the pandemic. They are on the way back up now, but are not yet where they once were.
- Our case processing has been unaffected, resulting in a significantly reduced backlog (down 25% from 2021 to 2024). This has resulted in more expeditious resolution of appeals and the tightening of extensions and delays.
- We have been opening all new cases in our new case management system (ACMS) since October 2023. Cases previously opened in CM/ECF remain in that legacy system.
- We are regularly sitting at federal courthouses and law schools around the circuit, with new scheduled sittings in 2026 in Eastern Washington, Montana, and Reno.

# Caseload

## 12 Months Ending June 30, 2025



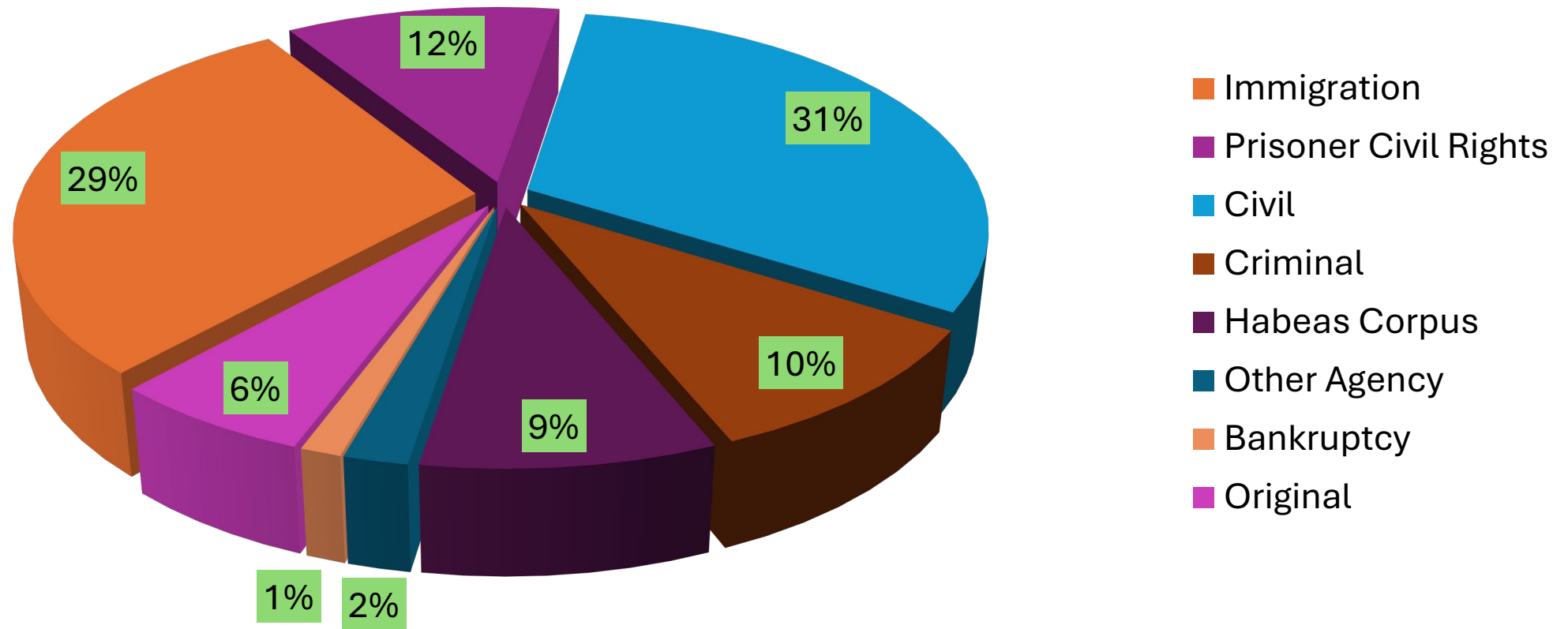
# Where Do our Appeals Come From?



12 Months Ending June 30, 2025

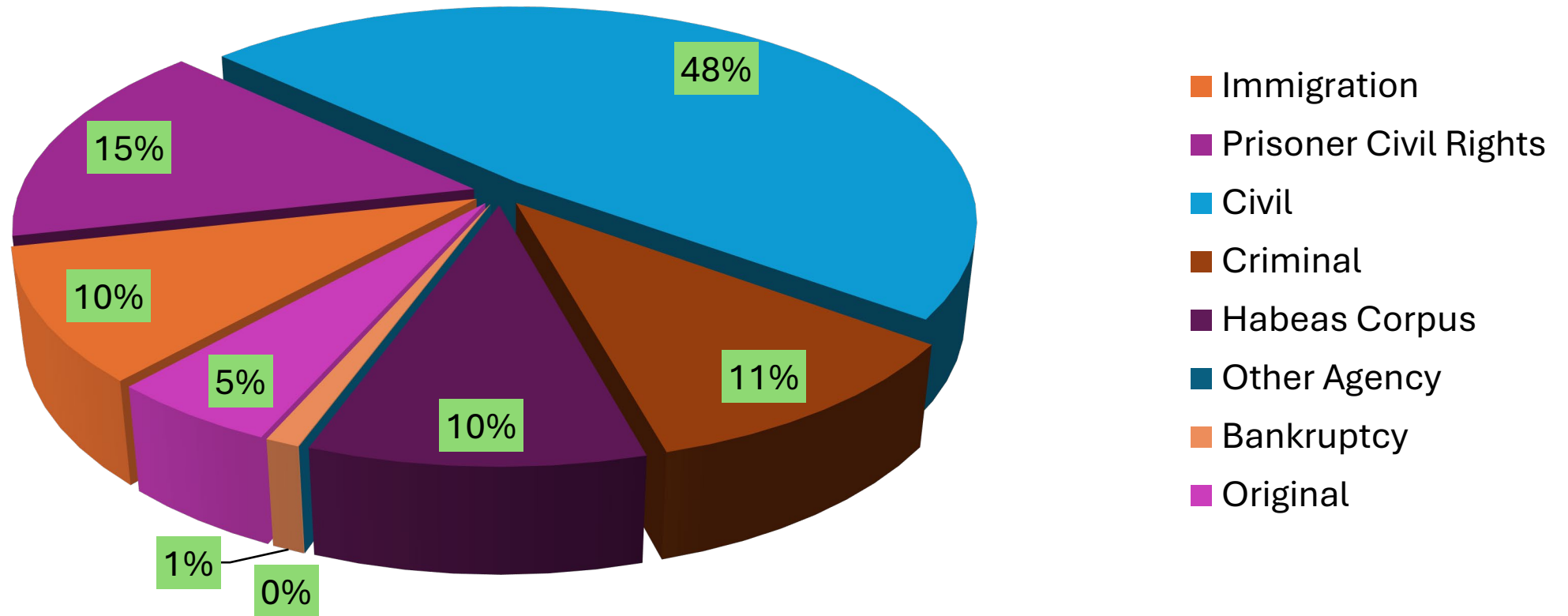
# Case Types – New Filings

## 12 Months Ending June 2025



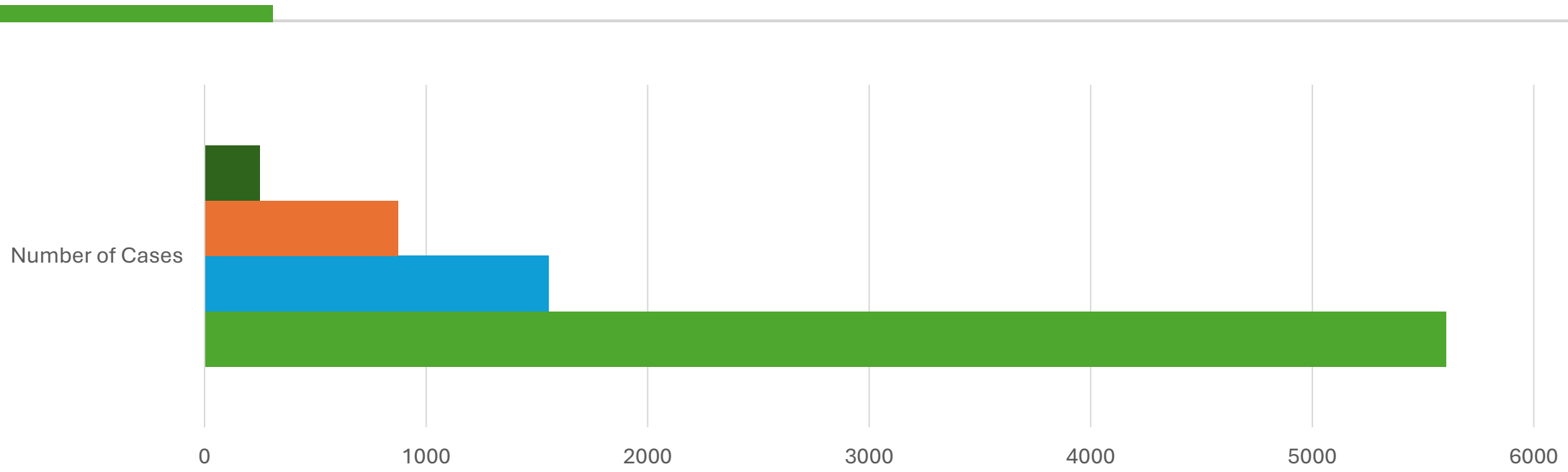
# Case Types Oregon

## 12 Months Ending June 2025



# AGE OF PENDING CASES

## As of September 16, 2025



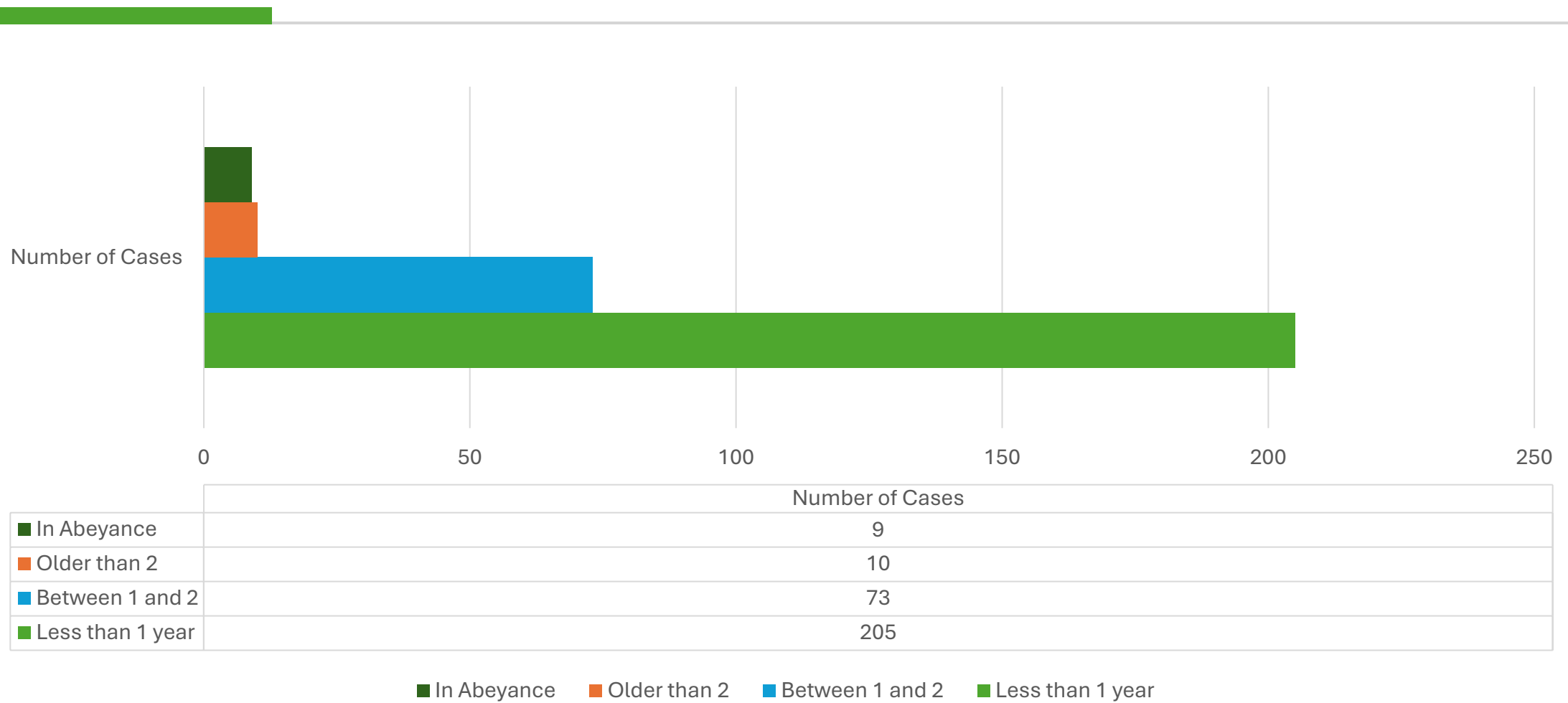
	Number of Cases
In Abeyance	248
Older than 2	871
Between 1 and 2	1554
Less than 1 year	5602

In Abeyance Older than 2 Between 1 and 2 Less than 1 year



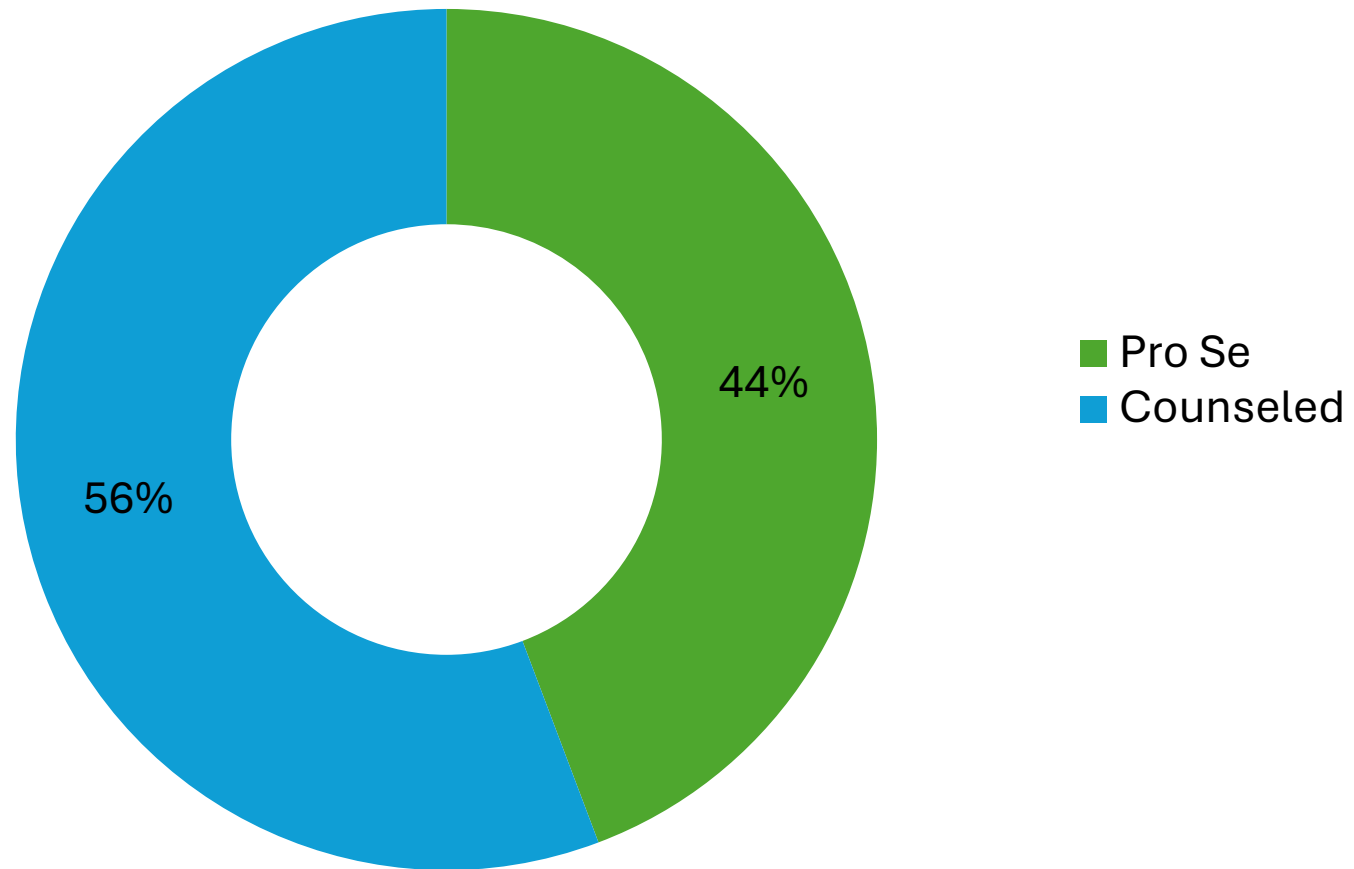
# AGE OF PENDING CASES FROM OREGON

## As of September 16, 2025



# Pro Se Cases

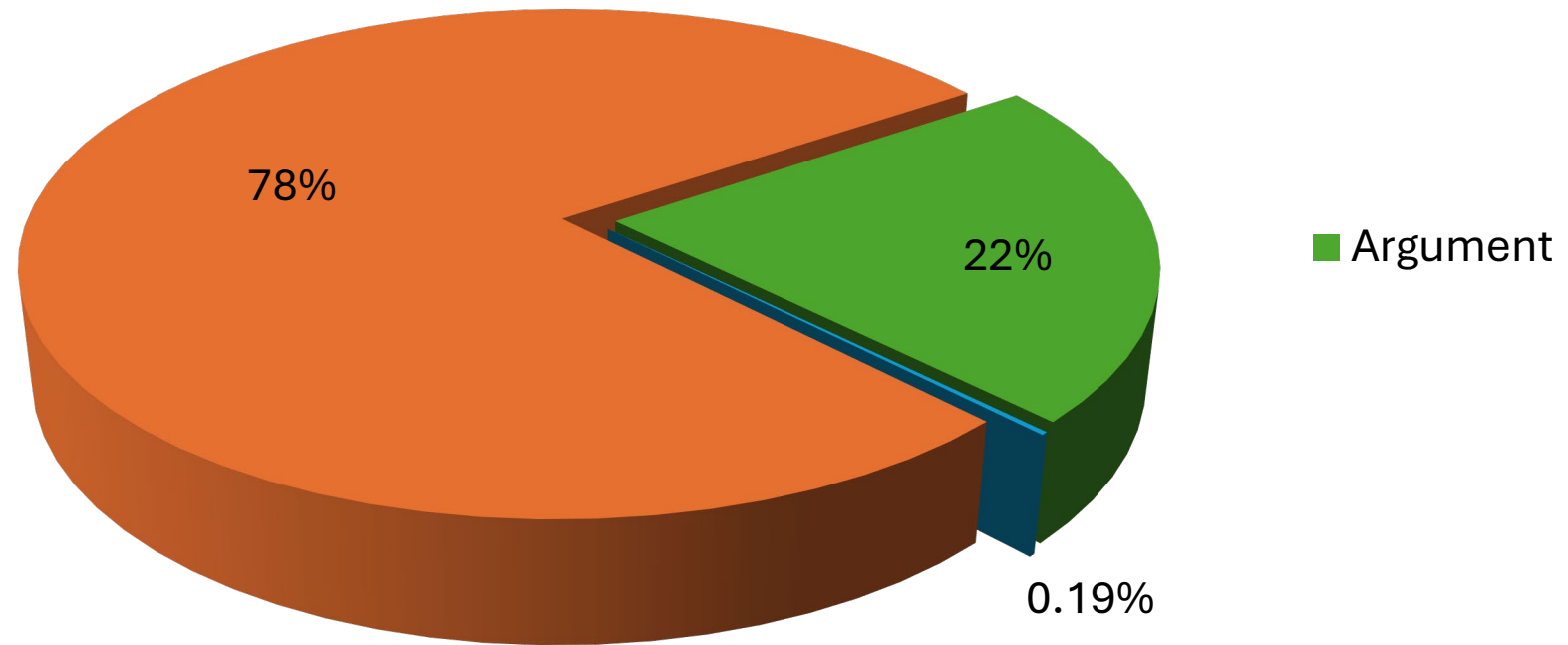
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Filings for 12 Month Period Ending June 30, 2025

# Merit Terminations

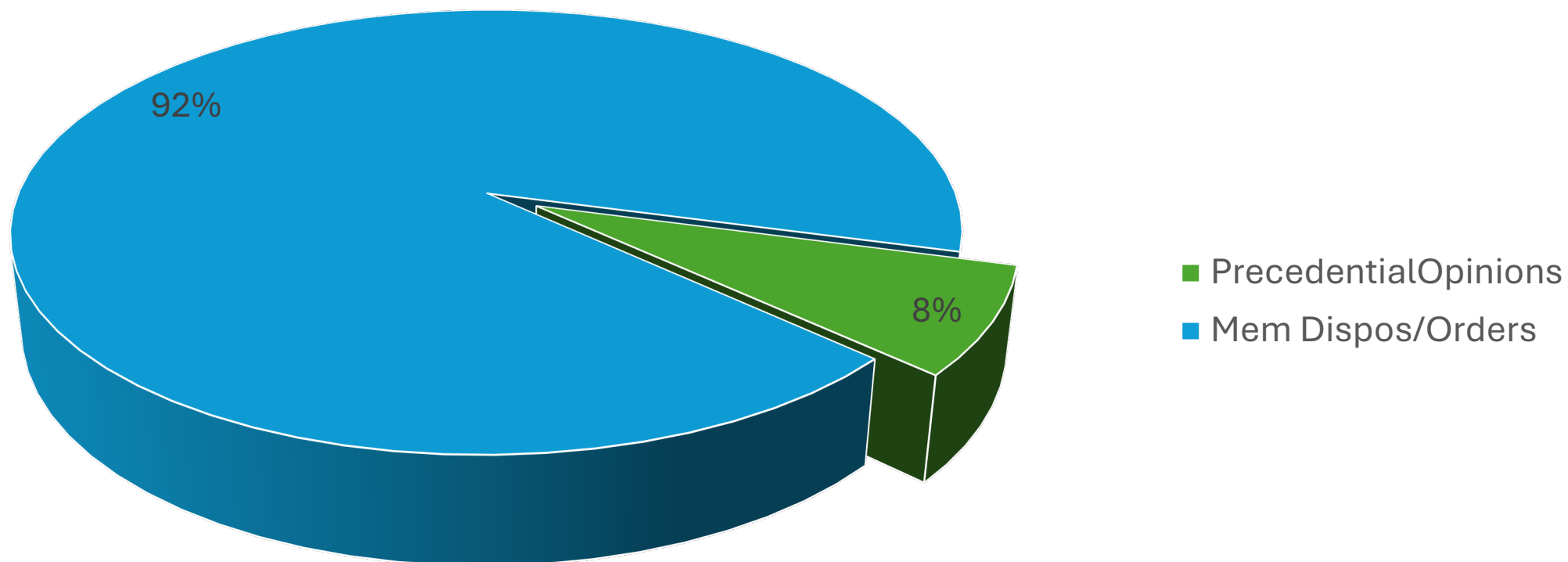
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12 Month Period Ending June 30, 2025

# Types of Merits Decisions

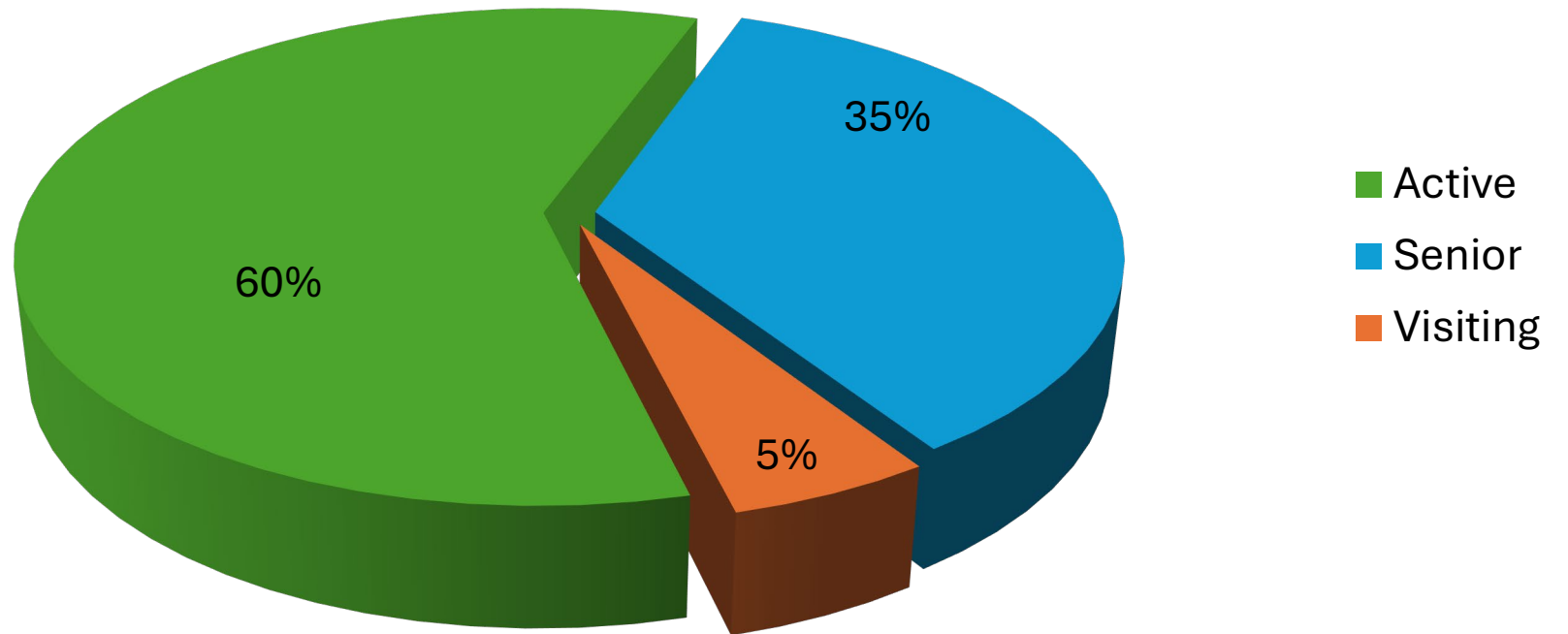
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12 Month Period Ending June 30, 2025

# Senior & Visiting Judges

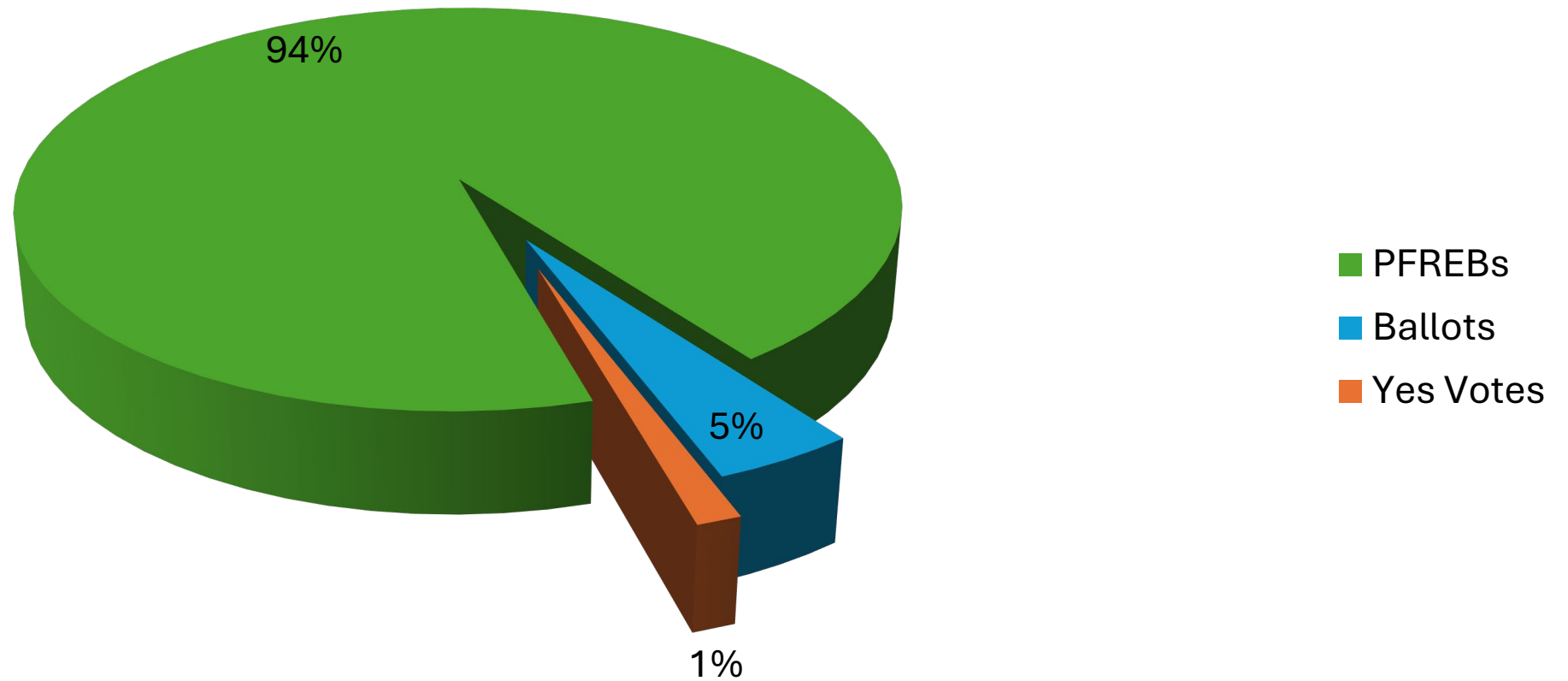
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12 Month Period Ending June 30, 2025

# En Bancs 2024

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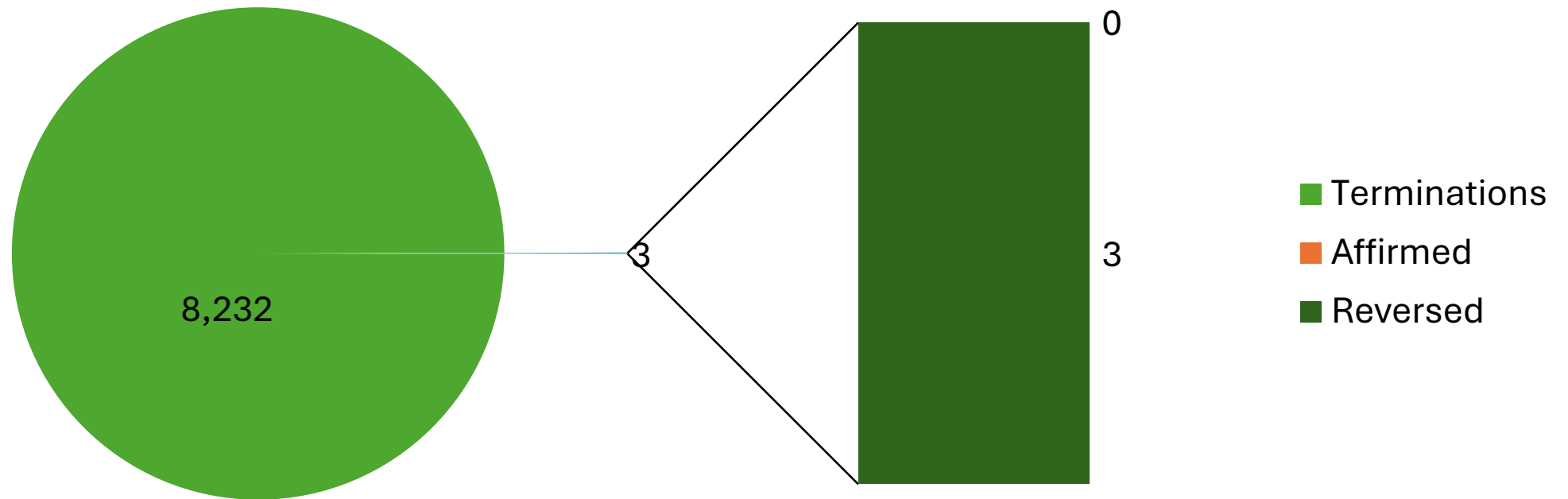


(calendar year 2024)

# Reversals by supreme court

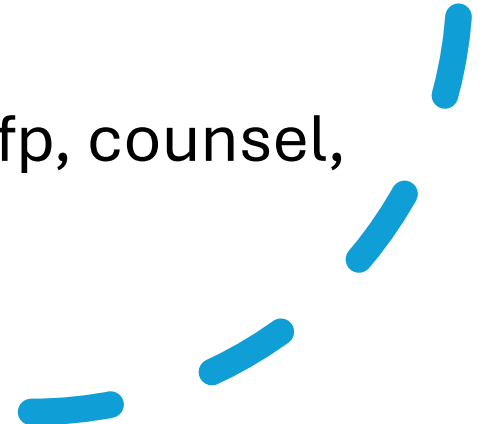
## 2024-2025 Term

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# Processing Appeals: Initial Case Management

- All new appeals and petitions are referred to staff attorneys' office
- Civil Counseled Appeals also go to Mediation
- Jurisdictional review
- Case management issues – filing fees, counsel status
- Certificates of Appealability
- Original proceedings (mandamus, SOS)
- Permissive Appeals
- Orders to show cause
- Initial motions (stay of removal, ifp, counsel, bail)





# Case Management and Assignment to Merits Panels

- Case management and inventory process
- Screening vs Argument Track
- Oral and written screening process
- Calendaring process and timing





# Rules and Resources

## Recent/Pending Rule Changes

- Archived rule changes (and pending when any) in redline version and administrative orders are available at [http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view.php?pk\\_id=0000000682](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view.php?pk_id=0000000682)
- ACMS now in use for all new cases opened as of October 1, 2023. Find information and training videos [here](#)
- Recent Rule Changes – Bail pending appeal (June 2024), Petitions for Rehearing, Deadlines, Electronic Filing, Corporate Disclosure (Dec 2024)
- New and Revised Forms, Instructions, Case information packets

# Rules and Resources

## Ninth Circuit Website

- Appellate Practice Guide, Shell Brief, Sample Excerpts  
<http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/uploads/guides/AppellatePracticeGuide.pdf>
- Other guides and legal outlines
- Court sponsored CLE program materials and video  
[https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view.php?pk\\_id=0000000887](https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/content/view.php?pk_id=0000000887)
- Mentor Program  
[http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/general/2013/03/22/ninth\\_circuit\\_applt\\_lawyer\\_rep\\_mentoring\\_project.pdf](http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/general/2013/03/22/ninth_circuit_applt_lawyer_rep_mentoring_project.pdf)
- CM/ECF and ACMS issues/problems – [efilerhelp@ca9.uscourts.gov](mailto:efilerhelp@ca9.uscourts.gov)
- Feel free to call or email me if you are not sure who to ask



# Filing Tips and Common Errors

- Filing original proceedings and petitions for review electronically
- Filing briefs and motions – use correct events in each system
- Filing types that don't need forms or other attachments
- Notice of Appearance Issues
- Document descriptions of briefs and excerpts and related documents in CM/ECF
- Filing sealed documents – service and timing and basis
- Updating Pacer account and email
- Physical and documentary trial exhibits – submit by separate motion if not PDF
- CM/ECF Help Guide is very useful and informative, how-to videos
- ACMS Help, videos, and Instructions now available



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Questions?