

# Nevada Supreme Court

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Specialty Court Review

Chief Justice Michael Douglas



# Overview

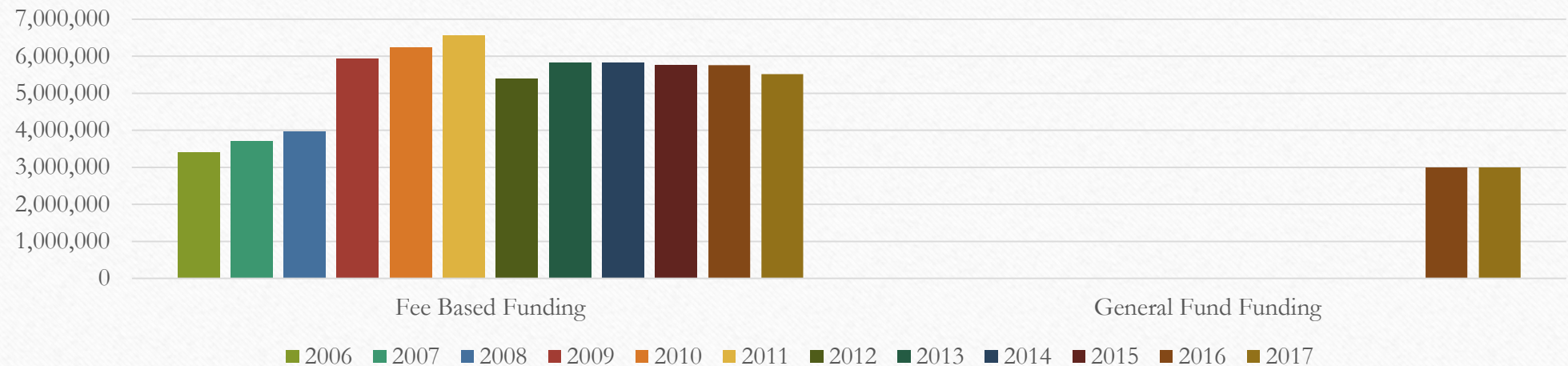
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- Nevada's First Drug Court founded by District Judge Lack Lehman was the nation's fifth in 1992. Judge Peter Breen Created the first drug court in Northern Nevada shortly thereafter.
- Nevada has had more than 13,500 participants, with more than 9,300 graduates since the inception of the programs.
- Over 700 babies in Nevada have been born drug free because of the drug court programs.
- Estimated savings to the justice within Nevada by the establishment of drug courts over the last twenty years is more than \$40 Million.
- The National Association of Drug Courts (NADCP) has studies that have shown the benefit range is approximately for every \$1.00 spent up to \$27 is saved from reduced victimization and health care utilization.

# Specialty Court Funding History

- Fee Based Funding 2006-2017

- General Fund Funding 2016-2017



From the beginning the fee based funding has been the primary funding source for the specialty court programs. In 2015 *new* General Fund Funding was appropriate by the Legislature for the upcoming biennium upon the advice of the ACAJ to support specialty courts statewide to increase the number of participants.



# Funding

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- **Funding Received to Provide Services**

- **Fee Funding- AB29 \$5.7 m**
  - 34 Programs
    - 15 programs in Clark County
    - 9 programs in Washoe County
    - 10 programs in Rural Nevada
  - Amount spent in FY 2017 actually spent by the courts - \$5,721,184.00

Fee Based Funding has been the primary funding source for the specialty courts throughout the State. These funds are a less-than-stable funding source due to the fact it is dependent upon fees being paid to the limited jurisdiction courts in a timely manner. The fees submitted for use by the Specialty Courts has been from \$350,000 for two courts to now funding \$5,760,000 and over 30 courts.

# Funding (cont.)

The distribution of the Legislative appropriated General Fund Funding was approved by the JCSN in Fiscal Year 2015 for distribution beginning Fiscal Year 2016 to increase the number of participants being served.

- General Fund Funding - \$3.0 m
  - 34 Programs
    - 14 programs in Clark County
    - 7 programs in Washoe County
    - 13 programs in Rural Nevada
    - 2,567 participants funded by the General Fund.
    - The approval by the Legislature for the use of General Funds allowed the addition of 22 new programs.
  - General Funds Actually spent in FY 2017 by the courts - \$3,417,264.00

In Fiscal Year 2017 with \$8,7000,000 total funding we still turn away new courts, program enhancements and new clients because there is more demand than there are funds available. Our courts spent last year more than \$8,542,660 in the programs and only \$18,559.40 on training our court staffers. These numbers do not reflect the fourteen specialty courts that are not funded by the AOC. Federal funding accounts for \$1,456,224 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Adult Drug Court and \$354,852 divided between five courts in the Las Vegas Municipal Court.



# Programs Provides

## Specialty Courts addresses these issues:

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- Drug Dependency
  - Top 5 Drug of Choice
    - Methamphetamine – 32%
    - Alcohol – 29%
    - Heroin/Marijuana – 13%
    - Opioids – 3%
- Veteran's issues
- Alcohol abuse
- Mental illness
- Family related matters- Custody/Child Support/Family/Mother's Dependency and Women in Need

# Fiscal Year 2017

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- Demographics:

- 65.6% Caucasian
- 15.8% Hispanic/Latino
- 10.7% African American
- 2.7 Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2.7% Native American
- 1.7% Multi Racial
- .4% Alaska Native
- .82% Other

- Gender participation

- 65% Males
- 34% Female



# Fiscal Year 2017

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- Nevada admitted 2,975 individuals
- During this period there were 797 graduates
- There were 9 drug free babies born
- The graduation rate was 65%



# Drug Abuse History

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- Previous Substance Abuse

- 78% acknowledge previous abuse
- 21.4% no previous drug abuse

- Prior Treatment

- 37.45% have had treatment
- 63% have not been treated

During the initial evaluation 78% (or 10,624) participants acknowledged they had previous substance abuse history. 21.4% (or 2,901) participants stated they had not abused drugs prior to this sentencing.

The number of participants that had been to a previous treatment program was 5,065 with 8,460 acknowledging they had not attended any type of treatment program.

# Adjudication

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Participant data since the inception of the program shows:

- 69% are discharged from the court's jurisdiction with 6,447 graduating
- 13% continued on probation by discharge (does not mean they completed program).
- 19% had other types of supervision that are not itemized within the system.