

**Economies-of-Scale at the
Vermont Judiciary Trial Level
August, 2009**

Recognizing that the Chittenden courts handle by far the largest caseload in every type of jurisdiction, this study measures the “Chittenden equivalents,” the number of courts comparably staffed, that would be required to handle the entire State on a regional basis, based on the Court Administrator’s FY2008 annual “cases added” statistics.

No attempt is made to account for the factors that would be present in a “real” consolidation and absent in a “virtual” consolidation (travel costs, for example).

This study does not attempt to prioritize economies of scale with other goals of the judicial system (access to justice, for example).

		<u>Total Regional Courts</u>
Superior Court	Court/jury	4.53
	Appeals	4.49
	Small claims	4.67
District Court	Felony	3.41
	Misdemeanor	3.58
	Civil susp.	3.54
	Traffic/F&G	5.45
Family	Domestic	4.45
	Juvenile	3.69
	Mental health	3.54
	Child support	5.45
	RFA	5.37
Probate	Estates/trusts	5.65
	Guardianships	6.09
	Adoptions	3.52

Superior Court	Total	Total	cost
	cases added	budget	per case
Addison	927	\$396,268	\$427
Bennington	1359	\$419,336	\$309
Caledonia	965	\$393,015	\$407
Chittenden	4274	\$1,249,528	\$292
Essex	182	\$168,318	\$925
Franklin	1372	\$488,878	\$356
Grand Isle	215	\$201,988	\$939
Lamoille	846	\$371,309	\$439
Orange	769	\$378,044	\$492
Orleans	961	\$251,835	\$262
Rutland	2382	\$610,976	\$256
Washington	1937	\$604,135	\$312
Windham	1668	\$362,264	\$217
Windsor	1853	\$660,869	\$357
Total	19710	\$6,556,763	\$333
Windham model		\$4,280,709	\$217
Consolid sav.		\$2,276,054	\$115

Windham Model		
Extrapolated x		
11.82		
clerical staff	3	35.45
judge time	0.5	5.91
personnel	\$274,284	\$3,241,077
operating	\$87,980	\$1,039,616
total	\$362,264	\$4,280,693

Family & District Court	Total	Total	cost
	cases added	budget	per case
Addison	1913	662,412	\$346
Bennington	2981	935,400	\$314
Caledonia	2300	805,009	\$350
Chittenden	10753	3,641,244	\$339
Essex	318	265,539	\$835
Franklin	3632	1,057,309	\$291
Grand Isle	350	216,099	\$617
Lamoille	1841	397,513	\$216
Orange	1468	428,775	\$292
Orleans	2025	689,671	\$341
Rutland	4656	1,373,741	\$295
Washington	4318	1,069,990	\$248
Windham	3552	1,034,845	\$291
Windsor	3745	1,007,310	\$269
Total	43852	13,584,857	\$310
Lamoille model		\$9,468,626	\$216
Consolid sav.		\$4,116,231	\$94

Lamoille Model		
Extrapolated x		
23.82		
clerical staff	5.4	128.63
judge time	0.8	19.06
magistrate time	0.2	4.76
personnel	\$362,513	\$8,635,060
operating	\$35,000	\$833,700
total	\$397,513	\$9,468,760

Probate Court	Total	Total	cost
	cases added	budget	per case
Addison	225	\$232,127	\$1,032
Bennington	323	\$291,380	\$902
Caledonia	212	\$226,780	\$1,070
Chittenden	727	\$329,988	\$454
Essex	45	\$93,781	\$2,084
Franklin	231	\$188,931	\$818
Grand Isle	42	\$54,201	\$1,291
Lamoille	131	\$135,314	\$1,033
Orange	187	\$136,285	\$729
Orleans	212	\$135,596	\$640
Rutland	426	\$388,945	\$913
Washington	396	\$215,212	\$543
Windham	312	\$314,679	\$1,009
Windsor	458	\$359,057	\$784
Total	3927	\$3,102,276	\$790
Chittenden model		\$1,782,480	\$454
Consolid sav.		\$1,319,796	\$336

Chittenden Model		
Extrapolated x		
5.40		
clerical staff	3	16.20
judge time	1	5.40
personnel	\$306,646	\$1,655,888
operating	\$23,342	\$126,047
total	\$329,988	\$1,781,935