

KEY FINDINGS

1. In 2023, there were a total of 1,007 individuals sentenced in 1,046 cases, consisting of 1,473 unique felony counts. The number of counts, cases, and individuals sentenced in 2023 have slightly declined from 2022, which strongly suggests that the Superior Court Criminal Division has returned to its pre-pandemic operating status. *See* page 21.
2. Superior Court Criminal Rule 11(c)(1)(C) pleas represented 12% (128 cases) of all felony cases sentenced in 2023, representing a 2.5% decline from 2022 and the first substantial decrease in Rule 11(c)(1)(C) pleas in the last 10 years. *See* page 24.
3. 2023 marks the greatest proportion of felony prison sentences (62% of cases) and the lowest proportion of felony probation sentences (19% of cases) imposed since 2014. Prison sentences increased by 10% from 2022, which was offset by a decrease in probation sentences of a similar magnitude (12%). Short split sentences have remained consistent across both years, accounting for 19% of all felony cases sentenced in 2023 and 18% of all felony cases sentenced in 2022. *See* page 28.
4. In 2023, 40% (393 cases) of all non-Drug felony cases fell into a probation eligible box on the Master Grid, however probation sentences were imposed for only 37% of this subset of 393 felony cases. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the felony cases in probation eligible boxes received prison sentences, while 34% received a short split sentence. *See* page 28.
5. Drug offenses have been steadily declining since 2017, reaching an all-time low in 2023 where they accounted for only 5% of the 1,473 felony counts sentenced. Probation sentences were imposed in only 40% of all felony Drug convictions in 2023, marking the lowest proportion of probation sentences for Drug offenses in the last ten years. *See* pages 30 and 31.
6. Consistent with historical trends, offenses ranked in Master Group 8 represented the majority (57%) of all 2023 felony sentences imposed. Sixty percent (60%) of M8 convictions resulted in a prison sentence, demonstrating a 13-percentage-point increase from the previous year; in 2022 just under half (47%) of M8 offenses received a prison sentence. *See* page 31.
7. Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence (PFCOV) sentences nearly doubled in 2023, from 34 sentences in 2022 to 59 sentences in 2023, attributing to a 3.4% increase in the number of M5 sentences. *See* page 33.
8. Violent and Non-Violent offenses have seen substantial increases since 2020, with Non-Violent offenses increasing at a faster rate than Violent offenses (61% vs. 46%). However, rates of change slowed in 2023 as convictions for Violent offenses only increased by 4% and convictions for Non-Violent offenses *decreased* by 4% when compared to 2022. *See* page 35.
9. Consistent with previous years, Carrying a Pistol without a License (CPWL) and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm – Prior Conviction (UPF-PF) constituted the majority (76%) of the Weapon offenses sentenced. Similarly, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (ADW) and

Robbery were the two most frequently sentenced Violent offenses, representing 67% of the offenses in the Violent offense category. *See* pages 40 and 42.

10. In 2023, male defendants had an average CH score of 1.9 and female defendants had an average CH score of 0.6. This was the lowest average CH score for female defendants within the last ten years. *See* page 48.
11. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of all defendants sentenced to prison in 2023 were under the age of 41, where 37% of all defendants were between the ages of 22 and 30 at the time of the offense. *See* page 50.
12. In 2023, there was a total of 5,319 adult felony arrests made in the District of Columbia. Sixty-six percent (66%) of these arrests were sent to court for prosecution, a 12% increase from the papering rate observed in 2022, and the first increase in papering rates observed between 2018 and 2023. *See* pages 54 and 55.
13. The 3,506 papered felony arrests generated a total of 3,489 non-fugitive cases in D.C. Superior Court. As of January 10, 2024, approximately one-third (32%) of those cases resulted in a finding of guilt (for any criminal offense). Twenty percent (20%) of cases were closed without conviction, while the remaining 48% are still pending disposition. *See* page 53.
14. Consistent with previous years, the overwhelming majority (98.6%) of all felony counts sentenced were determined to be Compliant with the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines. Approximately 94% of all felony sentences imposed in 2023 were ruled Compliant in the box, meaning that the sentence type and sentence length both fell within the Guidelines recommendation. This in the box Compliance rate was the greatest rate observed in the last nine years. *See* pages 64 and 66.