



# The Courts of Denmark

Presentation for the Estonian  
delegation

5. October 2026

# Study visit program

## 5 October

- 10.00 – 11.30: Danish Court Administration
- 11.30 – 12.30: *Lunch*
- 13.00 – 14.30: The Danish Appeals Board
- 15.00 – 17.00: The Supreme Court

## 6 October

- 10.00 – 12.00: The Danish Ombudsman's Office
- 12.00 – 14.00: *Lunch and free time*
- 14.00 – 16.00: Copenhagen City Court

# Agenda – The Danish Court Administration

10.00 – 10.20: Introduction to the Danish Courts and Court Administration



10.20 – 10.40: Funding of the court system and Case management



10.40 – 11.00: The use of technology at the Danish Courts



11.00 – 11.10: Assessing the quality of the judiciary's work



11.10 – 11.30: Q&A

# Introduction to the Danish Courts



# The independent judiciary

- The Danish Constitution
- The division of power
- Transparency and openness



# The Courts of Denmark – Organisation and metrics

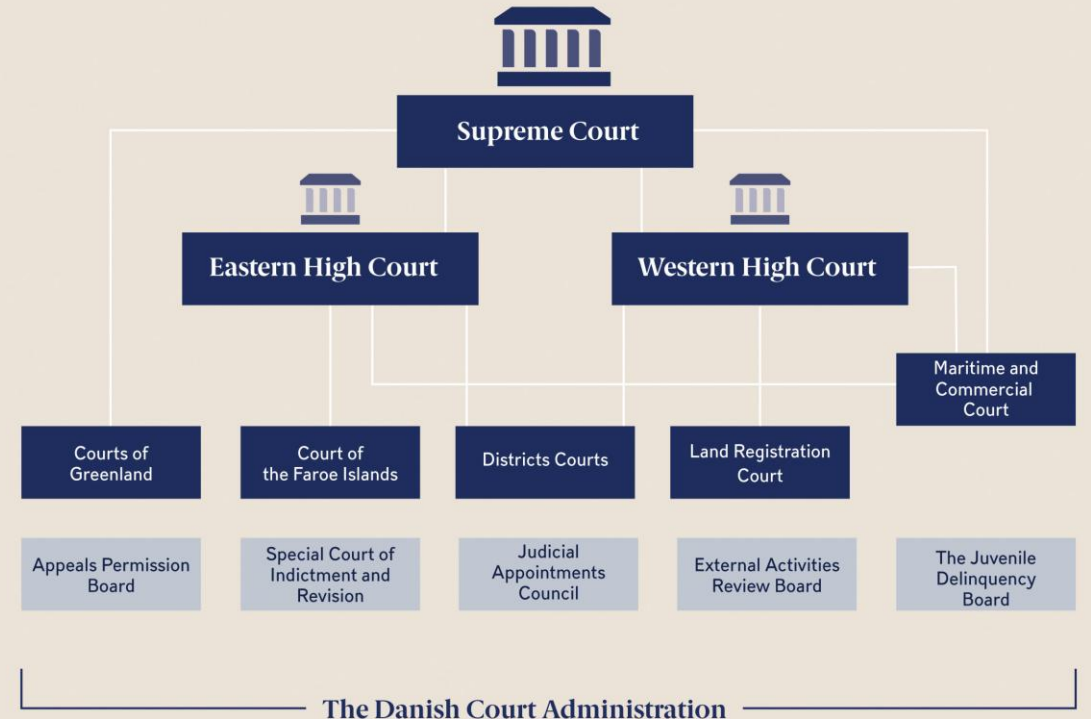
## Organisation

- 2603 employees
- 395 judges
- 331 deputy judges

## Key metrics

- Annual budget DKK 2.8 billion (2026)
- Disposed cases 890.000 (2025)

## The Courts of Denmark - Organisational chart





# Our vision

“

The Danish Courts must maintain and strengthen its role as guarantor of the rule of law and as society's central conflict resolver.

It requires us to develop in step with the outside world and our users' needs, so that we can meet them on their own and today's terms and maintain the high level of trust in the Danish judiciary. We must solve cases quickly, uniformly and with high quality.

Through insight into society's needs, we will continue to develop the courts' services, both in terms of content and technology, and communicate up-to-date with the users.



# Values of the Danish Courts

The courts are built upon strong values that we do our best to live up to every day and in all contexts, both externally and internally:

- Accountability
- Respectful treatment
- Credibility
- Openness and receptiveness

# Strategic objectives

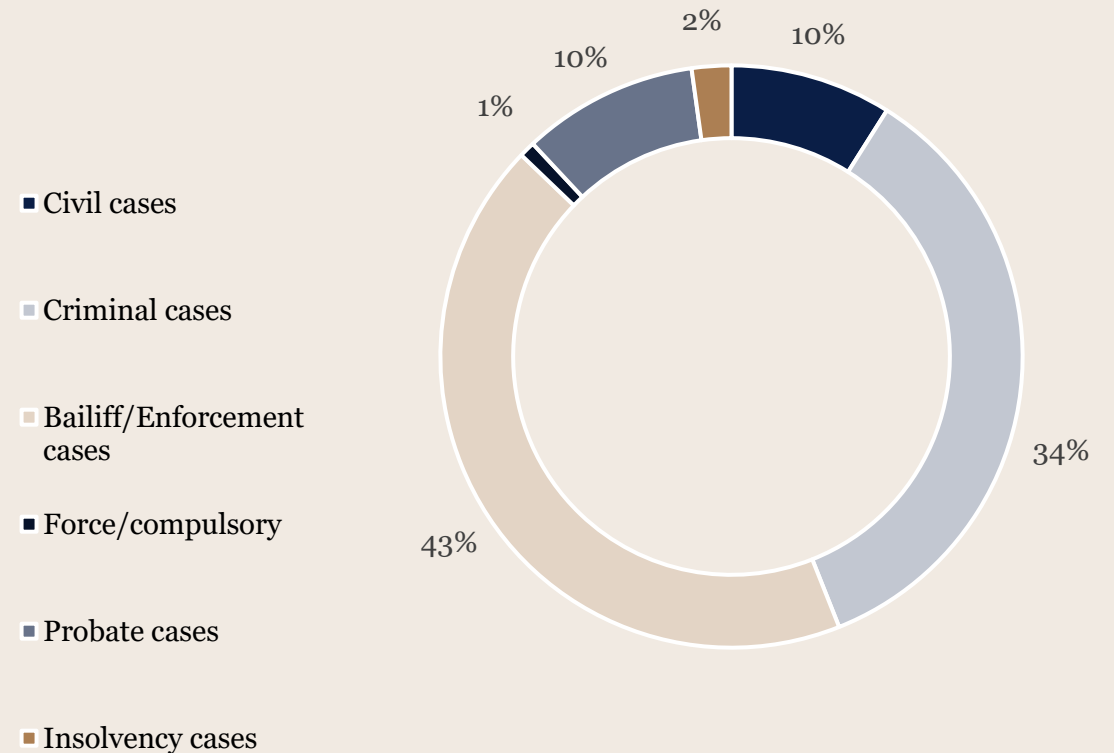
- Focus on the user
- Short case-processing times
- Consistency
- Quality and efficiency



# The District Courts

- 24 District Courts
- Processes most cases in Denmark
- Many different types of cases (2025)

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| • Civil cases               | 54.555  |
| • Criminal cases            | 212.950 |
| • Bailiff/Enforcement cases | 262.770 |
| • Force/compulsory          | 5.363   |
| • Probate cases             | 59.389  |
| • Insolvency cases          | 13.347  |

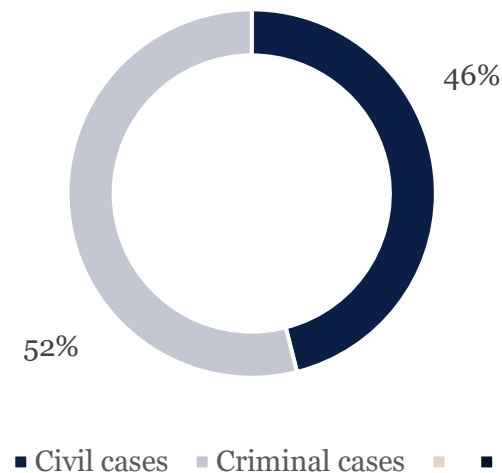


# The High Courts

- Second instance
- Eastern High Court (light green) and Western High Court (dark green)

Received cases 2025:

- Appeal civil proceedings – 5.251 cases
- Appeal criminal proceedings – 6.153 cases



# The Supreme Court

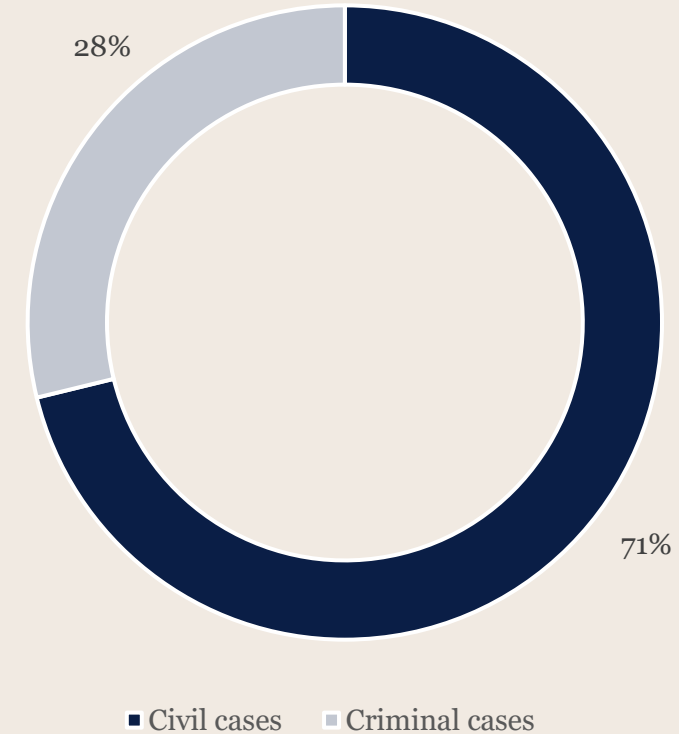
- There are 18 Supreme Court Judges in Denmark

The Supreme Court mainly decides:

- Legal positions and guidelines on how the courts should handle similar cases in the future
- Interpretation of the law
- Is Court of Appeal to the High Courts
- Handles third instance appeals
- Does not decide guilt/innocence in criminal cases

Received cases in 2025:

- Civil cases: 173
- Criminal cases: 70



# Specialised courts

## Maritime and Commercial Court

- Only handles certain types of cases, such as:
  - International commercial cases
  - Competition cases
  - Cases about patents, design or trademarks
- **Received cases in 2025:** 8.147



## Land Registration Court

- Registration of property involves the registration of rights to real property and other assets
- Land registration happens digitally
- Majority of cases are processed in less than 5 seconds
- **Received cases in 2025:** 2.027.448





# The Courts of Denmark – Lay Judges

- The district courts hear around 17.000 criminal cases a year involving lay judges and 186 criminal cases involving jurors.
- There are about 15.000 lay judges in Denmark



# The Danish Court Administration



# The Danish Court Administration



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Was established in 1999 as an independent state institution.



Neither the Ministry of Justice nor the Ombudsman of the Danish Parliament has instructional powers over the Danish Courts Administration

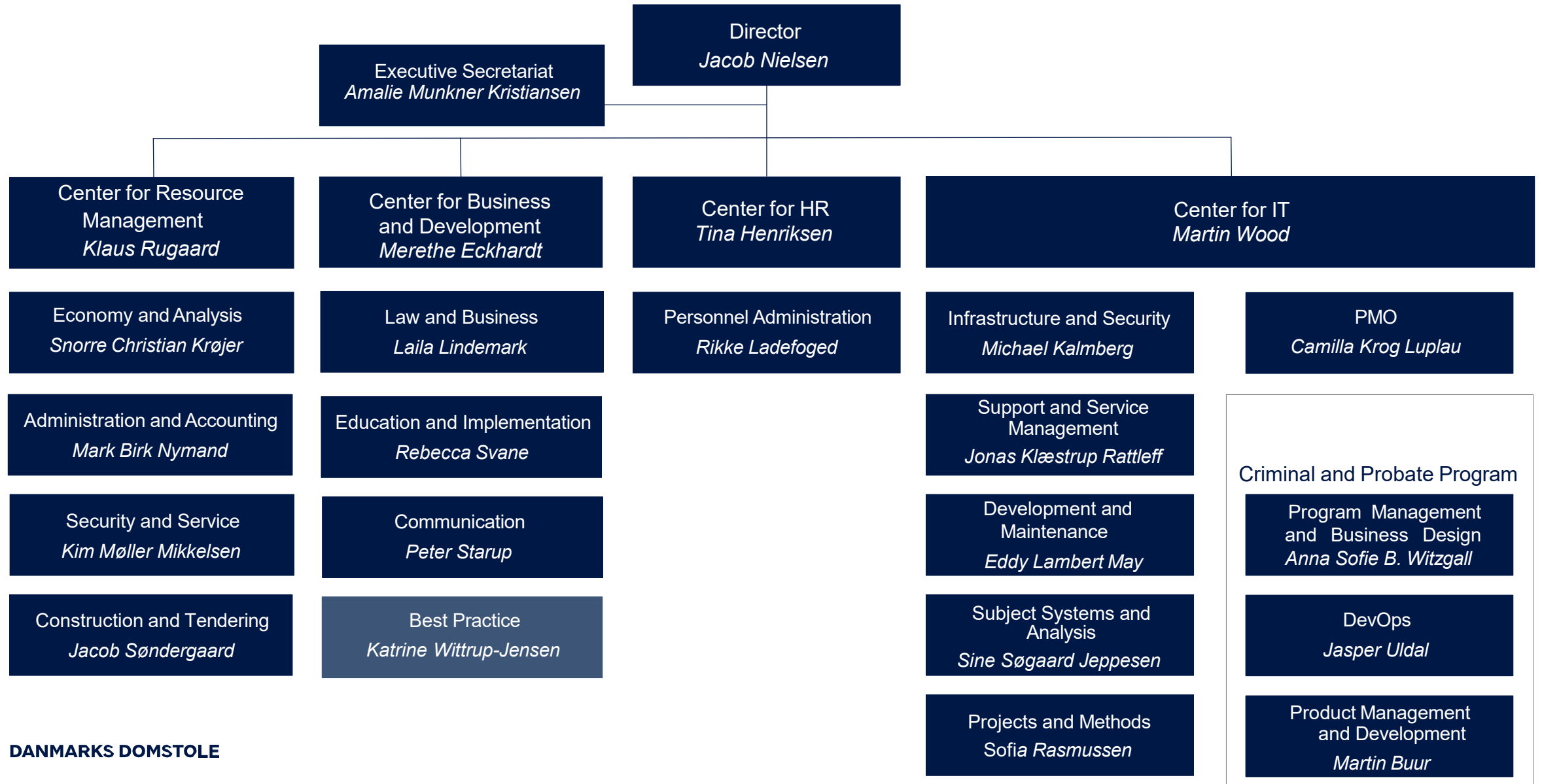


The Danish Court Administration is run by a Board of Directors and a Director



Responsible for the administrative, budgetary and developmental affairs of the courts.

# Organization of the Danish Court Administration



# Main Tasks of the Danish Court Administration



# The multi-year agreement 2024-2027

- The agreement funds initiatives on:
  - Cyber- and information security
  - Increased courtroom capacity
  - Levelling of the City Courts processing times
  - 12 more judges can be hired
  - Increase of court room capacity

Economic agreement  
between the Courts  
and the Danish  
Parliament

DKK 2,3 billion to  
support continuous  
development of the  
Danish Courts

# The Danish Courts in a European Context



## Continuous training of judges, lawyers and administrative staff in the EU

- European Judicial Training Network (EJTN)
- Academy of European Law (ERA)
- Nordic Cooperation (SEND)



## Network and cooperation

- CEPEJ (European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice)
- ENCJ (European Network of Councils for the Judiciary)
- ELI (European Law Institute)



## Studies, rapports and evaluations of the Danish legal system

- EU Justice Scoreboard
- World Justice Project
- CEPEJ Evaluation Report

# Funding of the court system



# Legal basis



- The main legal instruments are:
  - The Constitution of Denmark (especially provisions on the independence and irremovability of judges).
  - The Act on the Danish Court Administration.
  - Multi-year political agreements for the judiciary.
  - The annual Finance Act (state budget law).
  - General budgetary rules applicable to all state institutions.

# Multi-year political agreements



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Sets overall financial framework for a four-year period

Long term political priorities

Provides stability

The annual financial act is the implementation of the multi-year agreement

Role of Judges and Court Presidents

Yearly budget negotiations between the Danish Court Administration and the Ministry of Justice

Once finance act is approved, the Danish Court Administration allocates and manages resources independently

# The multi-year agreement from 2024-2027

## Why was it needed?

- Increasing backlogs and processing times
- More complex cases
- Need for stronger long-term financial stability

## Key investments:

- Reduced case processing times
- Additional judges and court staff
- Increased courtroom capacity
- IT and cybersecurity

## What was agreed?

- DKK 2.3 billion allocated to the courts
- DKK 1.0 billion secured existing funding
- DKK 1.3 billion allocated to new initiatives
- More than DKK 200 million extra annually compared with 2023
- 95% of funding allocated directly to the courts

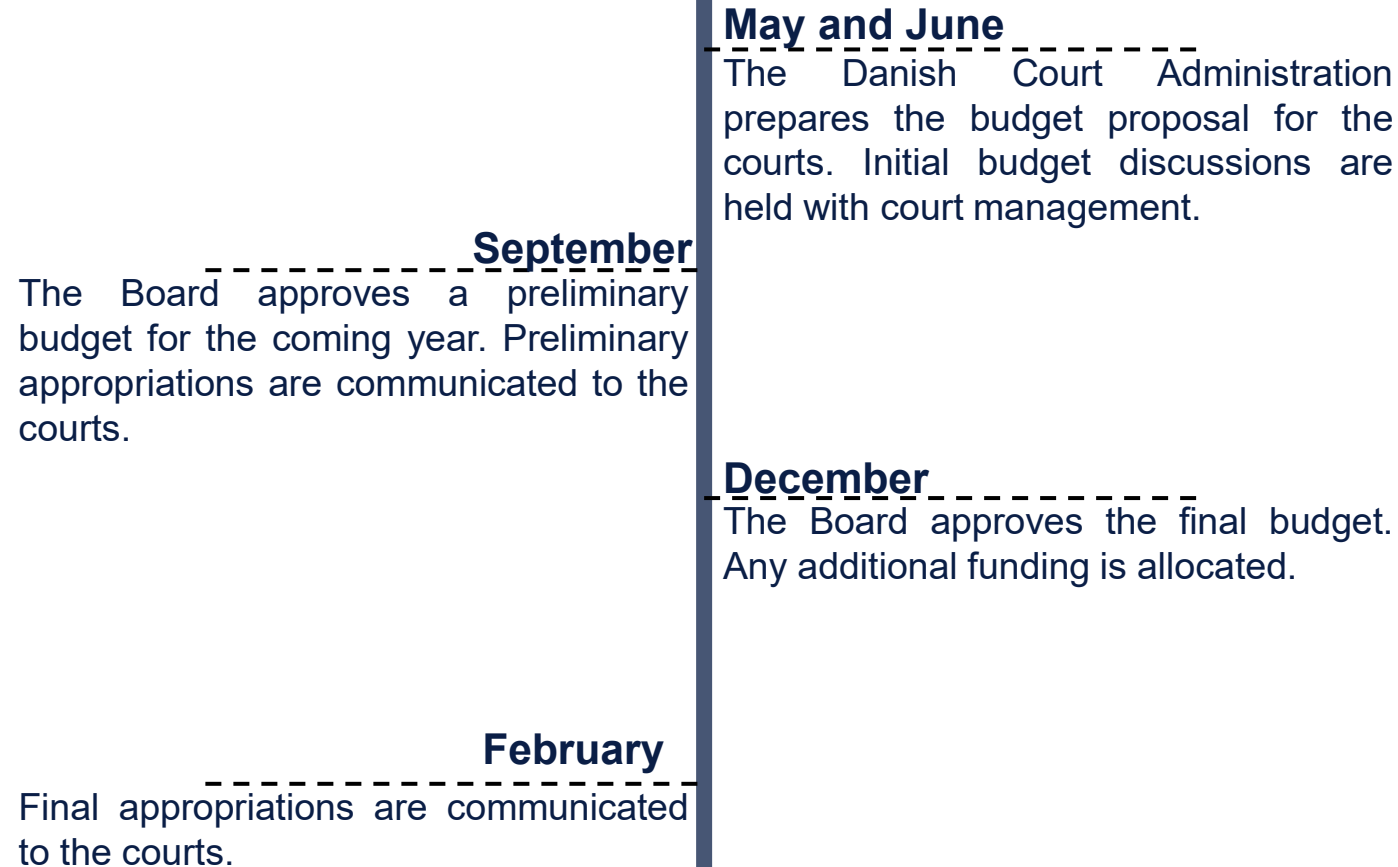
# Participation of the judiciary in preparation and consideration of the draft budget

Judicial participation occurs mainly through the Danish Court Administration and its Board.

**The Danish Court Administration:** Prepares the Courts annual budget proposal. We assess and prioritizes needs and resources.

**The Board:** Sets overall priorities, approves budget proposal and guarantees judicial involvement.

# Budget process within the Danish Court Administration



# Judicial staffing



For detailed insights on staffing needs and recruitment challenges, the visiting delegation may wish to ask the individual courts directly.



Once allocations are distributed, individual courts manage their own payroll budgets and can largely decide on staffing levels and resource allocation

Staffing decisions are made based on local workload and operational need

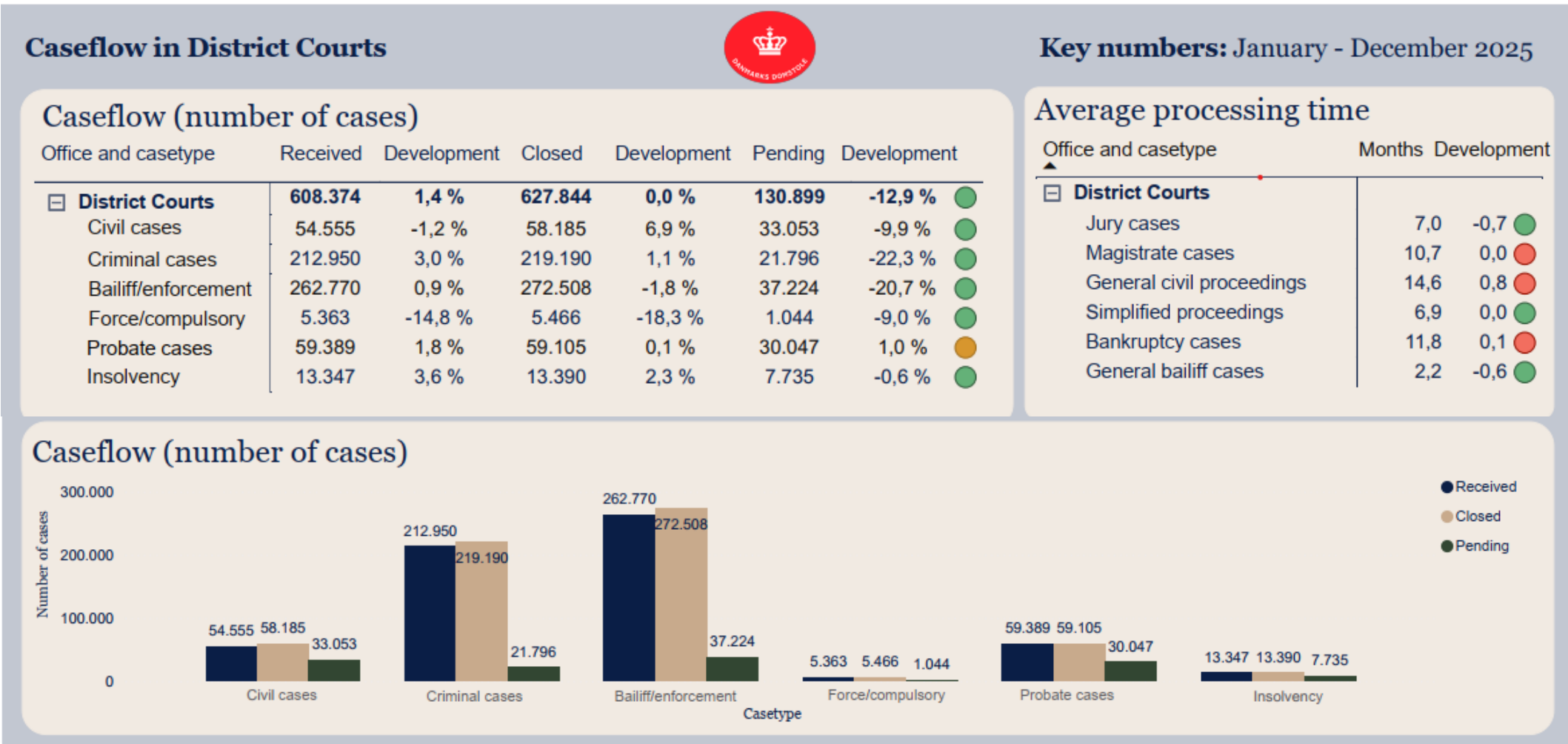
The 2024-2027 agreement provides additional resources for judges and court staff

Individual courts may differ in staffing challenges and priorities.

# Case management



# Caseflow in the District Courts



# Caseflow in the Maritime and Commercial Court

## Martime and Commercial Court



Key numbers: January - December 2025

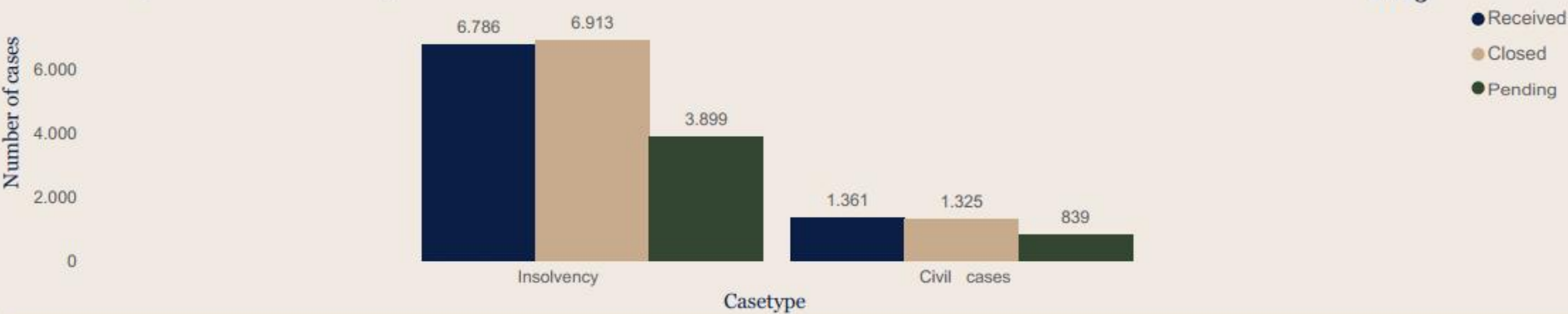
### Caseflow (number of cases)

| Office and casetype                                 | Received | Development | Closed | Development | Pending | Development |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------------|---------|-------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime & Com. | 8.147    | -0,1 %      | 8.238  | -1,5 %      | 4.738   | -1,9 %      | ● |
| Civil cases                                         | 1.361    | 3,3 %       | 1.325  | 11,8 %      | 839     | 4,5 %       | ● |
| Insolvency                                          | 6.786    | -0,8 %      | 6.913  | -3,7 %      | 3.899   | -3,2 %      | ● |

### Average processing time

| Office and casetype                                       | Months | Development |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maritime & Com. Court |        |             |
| Bankruptcy quaran. cases                                  | 5,5    | 0,2 ●       |
| §§ 225 and 227-cases                                      | 15,0   | 2,7 ●       |

### Caseflow (number of cases)



# Caseflow in The High Courts

## The High Courts



## Key numbers January - December 2025

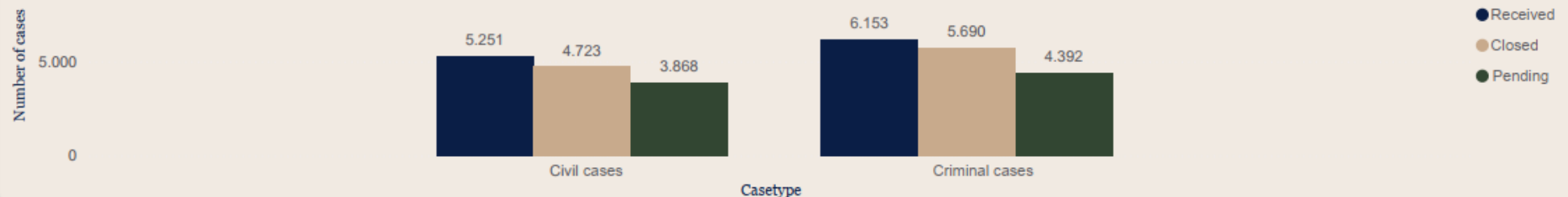
### Caseflow (number of cases)

| Office and casetype                                        | Received      | Development   | Closed        | Development   | Pending      | Development   |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>The High Courts</b> | <b>11.404</b> | <b>-3,9 %</b> | <b>10.413</b> | <b>-9,4 %</b> | <b>8.260</b> | <b>13,6 %</b> | ● |
| Civil cases                                                | 5.251         | -9,8 %        | 4.723         | -18,5 %       | 3.868        | 15,8 %        | ● |
| Criminal cases                                             | 6.153         | 1,8 %         | 5.690         | -0,2 %        | 4.392        | 11,8 %        | ● |

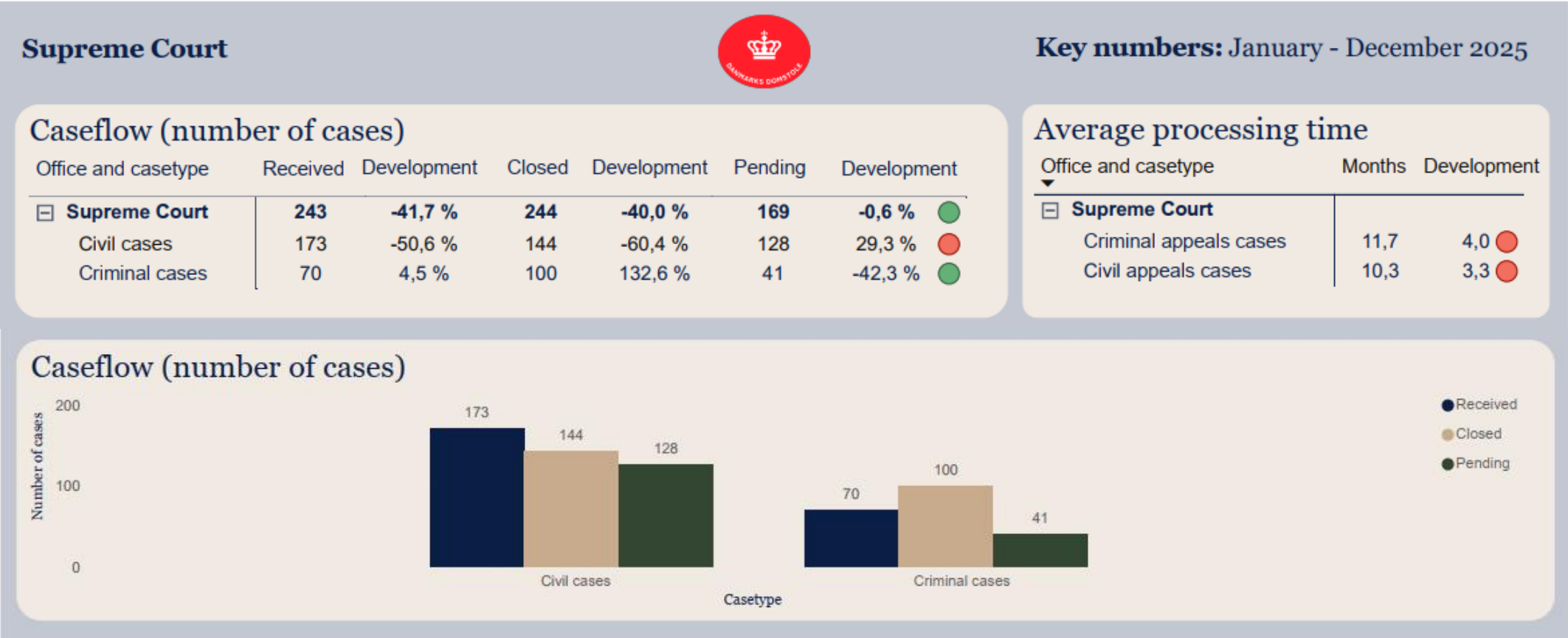
### Average processing time

| Office and casetype                                        | Months | Development |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>The High Courts</b> |        |             |
| Civil appeals cases                                        | 11,8   | 1,9 ●       |
| Criminal appeals cases                                     | 11,5   | 0,5 ●       |
| Civil 1. instance cases                                    | 36,3   | -8,3 ●      |

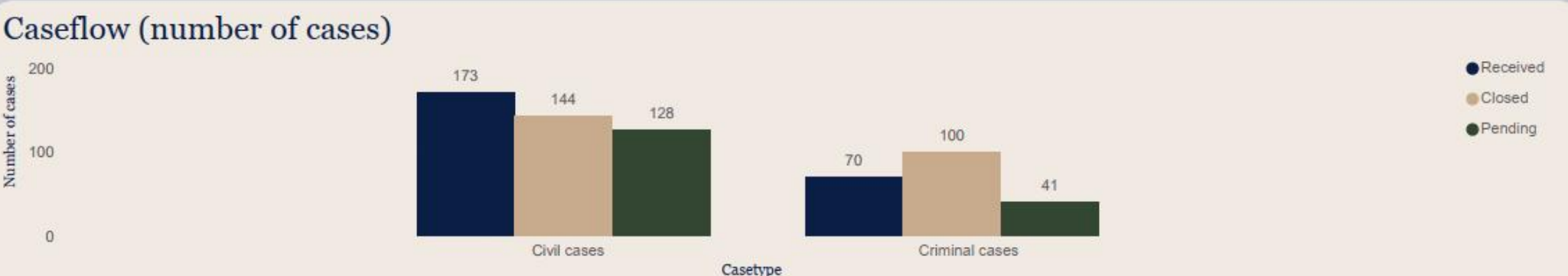
### Caseflow (number of cases)



# Caseflow in The Supreme Court



Caseflow (number of cases)



Number of cases

Casetype

Received  
Closed  
Pending

| Casetype       | Received | Closed | Pending |
|----------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Civil cases    | 173      | 144    | 128     |
| Criminal cases | 70       | 100    | 41      |

# The use of technology at the Danish Courts



# Strategy for digitalisation 2024-2027 – 6 guiding principles



**Efficient case processing  
with a user-centric approach**



**Resolution of legacy and  
management of technical debt**



**Enhanced cyber- and  
information security**



**Efficient exchange and  
management of data**



**Digital strengthening of the  
North Atlantic courts**



**Digital well-being and  
sustainability**

**Modernisation principle: IT support must be easier to adapt to new business needs and integrate with other systems through replacement of legacy solutions with sustainable, maintainable technologies.**

# Why we invest in new IT systems

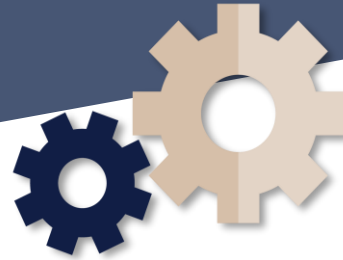
Current  
systems are  
outdated



Must  
comply with  
legislation



Faster  
workflows



Future-proof  
solutions



# Digitalisation Strategy 2024-2027

## Probate System



## Civil Case Management System



## Criminal Justice System



## Enforcement Court System (Bailiff's Court System)



# The portal ”minretssag.dk”

- Since 2018, all Danish courts have adopted digital case processing for civil matters through the platform minretssag.dk
- Citizens can file and manage civil lawsuits electronically

The portal is used for:

- Starting a civil court case
- Uploading all case documents (summons, defence, other pleadings and appendices etc.)
- Appeals are also conducted here
- The ordinary correspondence with the court

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## Vejledninger

- › Om digital behandling af civile sager
- › Spørgsmål og svar
- › Om rettighedsstyring

## Aktuelt

På grund af en teknisk opdatering  
tirsdag den 23. september fra  
Domstolsstyrelsen skal beklage

På grund af travlhed har teknisk  
lukker derfor for opkald kl. 12.  
kontaktformular. 37

Info til erhvervsbrugere af Vis



Tryk på  ikonerne for hjælp  
Tryk [her](#) for yderligere vejledning

Søg i sager...



Sager (99+) 



Åbn



Indlæs sager



Ny sag



**BS-4968/2024-RBX** 

Eget j. nr.: Økonomistyrelsen v/Charlotte Henriksen j. nr.

Boligretssag i den forenklede proces

Sagsøger Palle Hansen

Sagsøgte Økonomistyrelsen v/Charlotte Henriksen m.fl.

Rolle: Sagsøgte

Seneste aktivitet: 26-07-2024 Sag genåbnet

**BS-5498/2024-RBX** 

Eget j. nr.: Økonomistyrelsen v/Charlotte Henriksen j. nr.

Sag i den forenklede proces

Sagsøger Palle Hansen m.fl.

Sagsøgte Adam Jacobsen m.fl.

Rolle: Sagsøgte

Seneste aktivitet: 19-07-2024 Sagsoprettelse godkendt

**BS-4967/2024-RBX** 

Eget j. nr.: Økonomistyrelsen v/Charlotte Henriksen j. nr.

Almindelig civil sag

Sagsøger Palle Hansen m.fl.

Sagsøgte Niels Holm m.fl.

Rolle: Sagsøgte

Frister og Retsmøder (33) 



Håndter frist



Åbn sag

**Påstandsdokument 16-05-2017** 

+2652

BS-2717/2017-HJR

Eget j. nr.:

**Påstandsdokument 23-11-2017** 

+2461

BS-2717/2017-HJR

Eget j. nr.:

**Processkrift 01-12-2017** 

+2453

BS-4418/2017-HJR

Eget j. nr.:

**Forkyndelse 01-12-2017** 

+2453

BS-4418/2017-HJR

Eget j. nr.:

**Kvittering for modtagelse 09-08-2018** 

+2202

BS-4430/2018-RBX

Eget j. nr.:

**Kvittering for modtagelse 23-08-2018** 

+2188

BS-4882/2018-ROX

Eget j. nr.:

Kladder - Slettes efter 60 dage (1) 



Fortsæt



Slet

**Appel** 

Eget j. nr.: 000-Dom

Senest redigeret 02-08-2024 kl. 09.30

Retsafgift (7) 



Betal



Markér alle

**BS-5949/2018-ROX** 

Eget j. nr.:

Beløb: 750,00 kr. til betaling senest 08-10-2018

Rolle: Appellant

**BS-7214/2018-ROX** 

Eget j. nr.:

Beløb: 400,00 kr. til betaling senest 21-12-2018

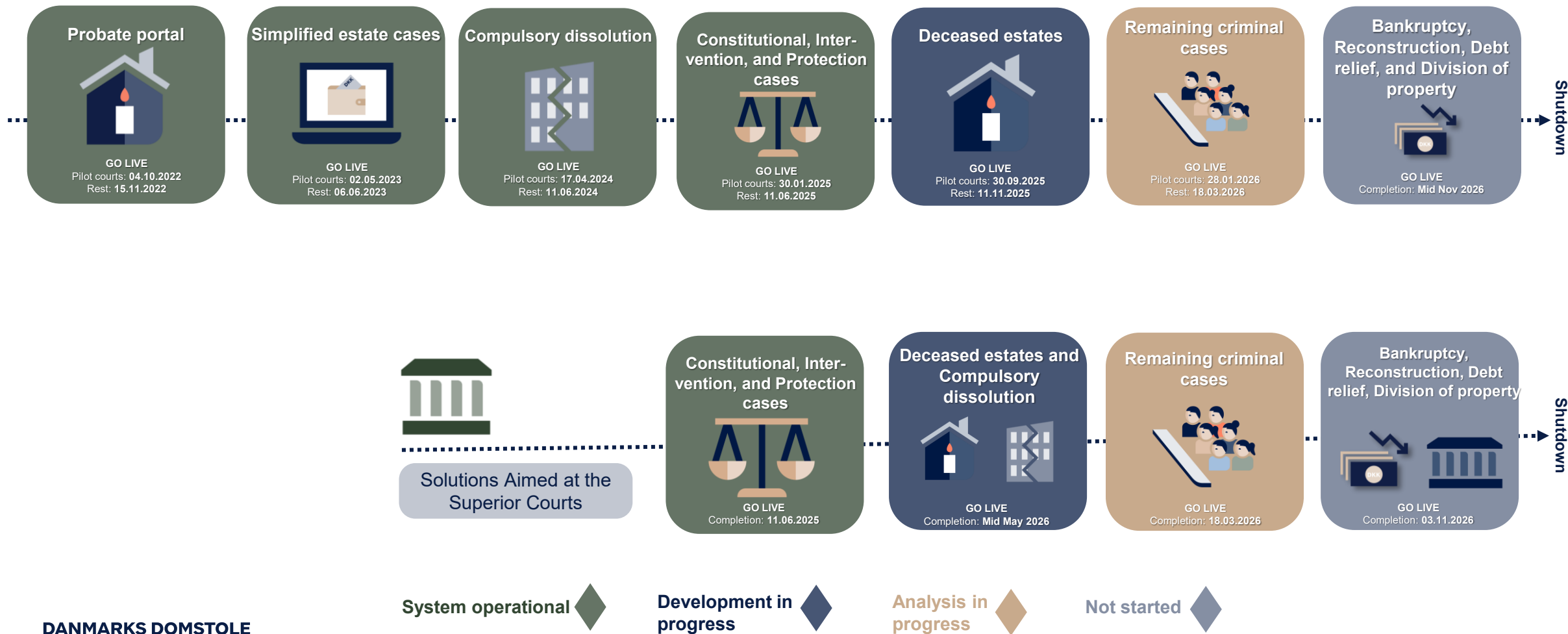
Rolle: Kærende

# The Criminal and Probate Case Handling System



- Ongoing a large-scale digital transformation of criminal and probate case handling
- Development of new IT systems
- The new platform will digitize approximately one-third of all criminal proceedings handled by the district courts.
- **Objectives:**
  - Enhance transparency
  - Improve user-friendliness
  - Ensure faster and more efficient case processing

# The Criminal- and Probate case handling system – release plan



# Agile development vs. Denmark's legislative programme

*Two fundamentally incompatible rhythms of change*

## AGILE DEVELOPMENT

- Sprints of 4-6 weeks, shipped continuously
- Scope evolves as the team learns
- Releases incrementally, many times a year
- Changes direction based on user feedback



## DANISH LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME

- Fixed annual timetable



The Danish Court Administration has developed four legislative packages that have enabled the digitalisation of probate and criminal cases

# Audio Recordings in court



## Audio Recording Usage

- Used in 25 district courts.
- Each courtroom has a dedicated computer configured for 24/7 operation to ensure recording reliability.



## Legal Basis for Recordings

The Administration of Justice Act permits audio recordings as a valid legal alternative to written testimonies.



## Archiving and Usage

Recordings are archived with case files and used for transcriptions or appellate reviews within the legal process.



## Restricted Access and Compliance

Access to recordings is limited and controlled to ensure GDPR compliance and secure data management.



# Use of Video4 in Courts

## Remote Court Hearings

- Videolink is permitted for pre-trial, main proceedings, and appeals under specific legal conditions.
- Supports remote involvement of defendants, attorneys, witnesses, and interpreters from various secure locations.
- The Danish Court Administration can authorize public authorities and individuals to provide communication equipment for such hearings.

## Technical Integration

- Uses HDMI, VGA, and DisplayPort interfaces controlled from judge's panel for secure content display.

## Physical Presence Requirements

- Judges and lay judges must be physically present, and personal attendance is mandatory in constitutional hearings.

## Legal Framework

- The Danish Administration of Justice Act provides the legal basis for video use in judicial hearings.



# Machine learning, RPA and AI

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## Domsdatabasen

Her kan du finde udvalgte afgørelser fra Danmarks Domstole

emneord, sagsnummer, paragraf m.m.

### NYHEDER

14-04-2023

Søgning på navne i  
Domsdatabasen

06-01-2022

Pseudonymisering af  
afgørelser

## What are we already doing?

In 2022, the Danish Court Administration launched the Case Law Database (Domsdatabasen), which currently contains more than 8,400 published decisions. These cover both civil and criminal cases and include decisions from all levels of the court system and courts across the country.

The anonymization of judgments published in the Case Law Database is carried out partly through the use of machine learning.

# Judgement Database (Domsdatabasen)

## Open Access to Court Decisions

- The database enables public access to civil and selected criminal case decisions, promoting transparency in justice.

## Data Protection and Pseudonymisation

- Judgments are pseudonymized (partly using AI) to protect personal data while allowing meaningful legal analysis and discussion.

## User-Centered Development

- Legal professionals, researchers, and policymakers were involved in the development to ensure the database meets user needs.

## Advanced Technical Features

- Includes search functionality, summaries, and potential API integration for commercial and academic uses.





# Domsdatabasen

Her kan du finde udvalgte afgørelser fra Danmarks Domstole

Søg på emneord, sagsnummer, paragraf m.m.



Tilføj filtre

## NYHEDER

14-04-2023

### Afgørelserne i Domsdatabasen

I Domsdatabasen finder du pr. 8. august 2024 over 5.500 afgørelser, der er fordelt på både civile sager og straffesager med repræsentation fra alle instan...

14-04-2023

### Søgning på navne i Domsdatabasen

Afgørelserne i Domsdatabasen er pseudonymiserede. Det betyder bl.a., at du ikke kan finde en afgørelse ved at søge på navnene på parterne i sagen.

06-01-2022

### Pseudonymisering af afgørelser

Afgørelser i Domsdatabasen pseudonymiseres for at beskytte de involverede parter i overensstemmelse med gældende lovgivning.

14-04-2023

### Status på Domsdatabasen

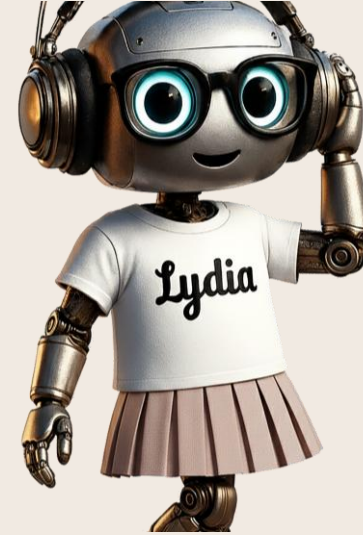
Domsdatabasen har været i drift i lidt over et år og har siden lanceringen offentliggjort over 2.900 afgørelser.

# RPA

(Robotics Process Automation)

## Since 2024

- Lydia Lyd - Creates metadata to soundfiles prior to court meetings (criminal cases).
- Palle Påkrav - Pulls data from e-mails on to cases, checks deadlines and creates reports (order for payment cases).
- Tina Tæller – records printer meter readings (administrative).
- Lasse Landbrug - Pulls data from a list of companies that has received financially agricultural help from EU (Civil case system).
- Ole Opråb - Communicates with the other robots if a robot must not, or cannot, run (service robot).



# The Courts of Denmark's AI strategy 2026–2029

*”The Courts of Denmark intend to use AI as a tool to strategically and responsibly strengthen the quality, efficiency and consistency of the courts’ processing of cases whilst safeguarding the courts’ expertise and independence.”*

## Three strategic objectives

### **Shorter and more consistent case processing times**

The capacity of AI to enhance productivity can reduce the time required for written communication and the preparation of case summaries, judgments and other court documents.

### **Enhanced quality and efficiency**

AI offers considerable potential to improve high quality and efficiency pertaining to administrative and IT development tasks.

### **Enhanced user focus**

AI improves the accessibility and quality of the Courts of Denmark’s services, for example through more user-friendly self-service solutions, improved telephone guidance and similar initiatives.

### **Phase 1 (current)**

Knowledge, skills development, training and small-scale pilot projects.

### **Phase 2 (2028 and onwards)**

Implementation of specific and high value AI tools - depends of the forthcoming multi-year agreements for the court’s finance.

# AI strategy – identified potential

## 1. General productivity tools

Ex. Support drafting, search for information, and document summarization.

## 2. Specialized chatbots

These systems can be designed to support specific work processes with access to relevant case management systems. One example is a chatbot that can answer common questions about case processing or assist in identifying relevant case law.

## 3. Speech-to-text services

Transcribing statements from court hearings, either through transcription alone or in combination with a summarization function.

## 4. Translation services

# Principles

1. The use of AI solely as a support tool for employees rather than as a replacement for them.
2. The responsible and secure processing of sensitive data.
3. A general approach to data processing that entails a limited risk to individuals and their rights.

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COMPLETED

# Copilot Enablement Programme



## Responsible Copilot Adoption

Focus not only on deployment, but also on ensuring responsible use through training, reflection and verification



## E-learning Program Developed

Mandatory e-learning course



## Guidelines Established

Secure Handling of personal and business data



## Competency Development



Responsible, competent use of AI

# Legal challenges of AI



Ensure reliability and transparency



Ensure compliance with fundamental rights and principles of law



Ensure handling of complex legal issues

# AI-Enabled Publication of Greenlandic Court Decisions

IN PROGRESS

## AMBITION

The Danish Court Administration will use AI to make Greenlandic court decisions **available in Domsdatabasen** (Case Law Database) in **both Greenlandic and Danish**.

### Track 1 – AI translation

- Develop and test AI translation between Greenlandic and Danish in a legal context
- Use Greenlandic-speaking interpreters to quality-check and improve the model

### Track 2 - pseudonymization

- Publish more decisions in Greenlandic
- Pseudonymisation, search functionality and user interface in Greenlandic



# Use of AI in courts around the world



- **Norway and Iceland - Copilot**
- **Sweden** – AI “red line” - never make judicial decisions or replace a judge’s legal assessment
- **Estonia** - "Salme" - an AI-powered speech-to-text solution used nationwide across all courts
- **Europe and China** - translation and speech-to-text – e.g. **UK’s** Justice Transcribe
- **Brazil's "Victor"** - assists court officials and judges but does not make judicial decisions
- **China –Smart Courts** - summarises facts and disputes, drafts questions for judges to ask, and prepares draft judgments
- **Singapore’s Small Claims Tribunal** - helps litigants by guiding them through claims processes
- **US** - Algorithmic tools that provide risk assessments or sentencing recommendations

# High level of public trust in the Danish Courts

## PARADIGM SHIFT

- Requires careful consideration
- Enormous potential
- AI for case management may lead to faster proceedings and lower costs
- Must pay close attention to whether the work actually improves



What **opportunities** do new technologies create?



Where are the **limitations**?



And how do we ensure that efficiency and innovation go hand in hand with **trust, quality and legal certainty**?

## RISKS TO MANAGE

- Can also be used incorrectly
- Errors related to AI could cause delays and potentially result in unfair outcomes
- Need to learn how to use AI properly
- Requires training for all stakeholders

# Assessing the quality of the judiciary's work



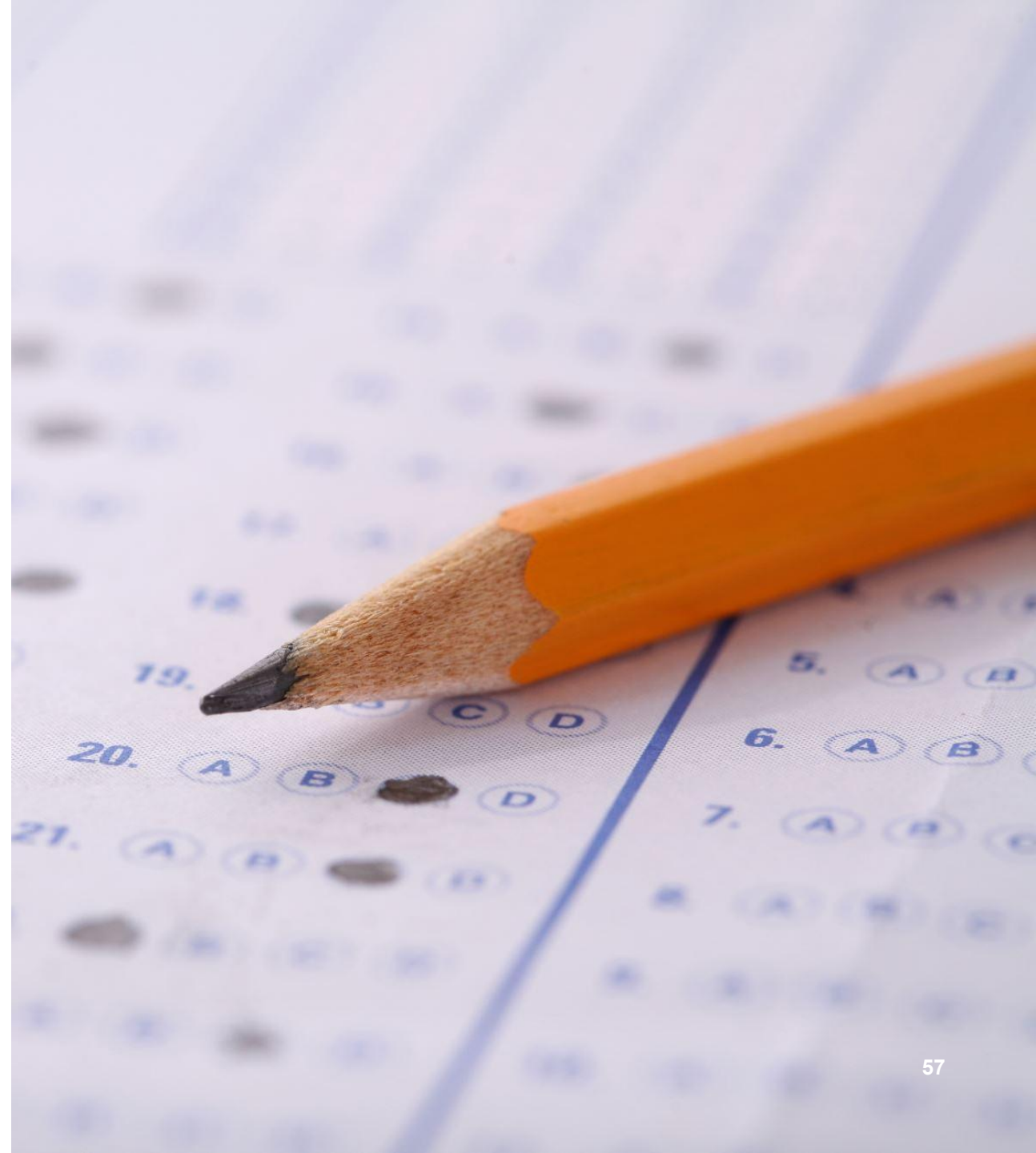
# No standardized quality management

## Quality Assurance and User Satisfaction

- The Danish Courts do not use standardized quality management systems such as ISO 9001 for case handling.
- Court performance is monitored through targets for case processing times.
- These targets are defined in the Annual Plan and reported on in the Annual Report.

## User Satisfaction

- No permanent benchmark currently exists for measuring user satisfaction across the courts.
- Customer satisfaction surveys have nevertheless been conducted periodically.
- Surveys were carried out in 2009, 2013, and 2020.
- The surveys provide valuable insights into users' experiences and expectations of the courts.



# Use of international reports

- International reports provide an external assessment of court performance and judicial independence.
- They enable comparison between Denmark and other countries.
- Results are used to identify strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement.
- International benchmarks support strategic planning and reforms within the court system.
- They contribute to ensuring transparency, accountability, and public trust in the judiciary.
- Examples of reports:
  - EU Justice Scoreboard
  - Rule of Law Reports
  - CEPEJ Reports





# Questions?