

2022

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH
ANNUAL REPORT

www.NCCourts.gov

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North Carolina
Judicial Branch

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New Judicial Maps

On the cover: the 100 court houses of North Carolina.
Delivering justice without favor, denial, or delay.



TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE RIGHTS AND
LIBERTIES OF ALL THE PEOPLE AS GUARANTEED BY THE
CONSTITUTIONS AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND NORTH CAROLINA BY PROVIDING A FAIR,
INDEPENDENT, AND ACCESSIBLE FORUM
FOR THE JUST, TIMELY, AND ECONOMICAL
RESOLUTION OF THEIR LEGAL AFFAIRS



justice for all

Chief Justice Paul Newby

It has been an outstanding year for the North Carolina Judicial Branch. Thanks to the dedicated and talented people in our court system, we continue to make progress in several areas that have been a priority of mine since becoming Chief Justice. I continue to be grateful to the General Assembly and its generous support of our Branch and our dedicated employees.

We expanded the transition to our eCourts by adding 23 more counties, including Mecklenburg County. This was a major step. Plans call for adding an additional 46 counties over the next year, meaning more than half of North Carolina's counties will be using the eCourts services by the end of June 2025.

In May, we took another large step forward in modernizing our court system by installing eCourts kiosks in courthouses across the state. These ADA-compliant kiosks enable the general public to scan and print court documents and also make payments. Many of the services that would have required a visit to the Clerk's office are now available in a self-serve option.

In December, the Chief Justice's Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts issued its final report. The report memorializes the work of the ACEs Task Force and provides recommendations for further integration of trauma-informed care. The report is the product of collaborative work of a dedicated group of justice and allied professionals, diverse in every respect. I created the Task Force in March 2021 to address ACEs-Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Environments. The work of the Task Force and its advisory committee made the work relevant, scalable, and sustainable. Continuous training and monitoring of

outcomes, facilitated by the Bolch Institute at Duke Law School and UNC's School of Government, will ensure that the work of the Task Force outlives individual efforts. I continue to work with our state partners serving on the front lines with ACEs victims to identify ways to better utilize the information we have gleaned.

As I continue to travel across the state, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have such talented and dedicated individuals working in our courthouses. North Carolina is truly blessed to have them serving our state. Our local Judicial Branch employees are the faces of our courts in their areas. Together we continually strive to administer justice without favor, denial, or delay.



Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Newby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Justice Paul Newby
Supreme Court of North Carolina



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lady Justice stands tall on the Seal of the North Carolina Judicial Branch symbolizing the equal justice promised to all within our state. However, it takes the dedication of nearly 7,500 officials and staff to transform this promise into reality. Every member of the Judicial Branch has been hard at work over the past year to support the administration of justice throughout North Carolina.

The eCourts modernization effort has continued as we've implemented digital records management and access in nearly two dozen more counties. We remain on track to complete this long-needed digital conversion in October 2025. We've also introduced self-service eCourts kiosks to enhance customer service and accessibility in local courthouses. These kiosks are being piloted in select counties and we hope to expand into additional areas soon.

Despite our state's rapid growth, courts continue to swiftly adjudicate pending business. Case dispositions continue to outpace filings for the fourth straight year.

Behavioral health remains a focus throughout the Branch as we realize that our courts are often the entry point for those suffering from such issues. In October, we welcomed NCDHHS, law enforcement, and other stakeholders to a Behavioral Health Roundtable to discuss emerging issues and opportunities for collaboration. Out east, judicial leaders in District Two worked together to develop a behavioral health diversion program serving five counties. The Chief Justice's Task Force on ACEs-Informed Court released in final report in December outlining a variety of proposals for better addressing trauma within our courts. The launch of the Safe Baby Court pilot program met with early success, and we will continue exploring methods for expediting child permanency. We remain focused on these important issues armed with the knowledge that individuals with unmet mental health needs will likely appear in our courts as victims, defendants, or both.

We remain grateful for our partnership with the General Assembly this past legislative session. Our legislature again demonstrated its commitment to the Judicial Branch by investing in significant salary increases for all judicial groups, critical programs such as recovery court services and human trafficking grants, and by enacting legislation to make our courts more efficient.

The Judicial Branch is fortunate to have many dedicated individuals, and we were honored to recognize two of them, Howard Hand and Ella Wrenn, who received the Richard Caswell Award earlier this year for their 45 years of state service. We're thankful to every member of our Branch and grateful for the opportunity to serve our state by securing the guarantee of swift and impartial justice.



Director Ryan S. Boyce
North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts



BUDGET & OPERATIONS

Overseeing the Budgeting Services
for the State's Judicial Branch



2.53%

Judicial Branch budget as a percentage of the State General Fund

North Carolina’s court system is a unified statewide and state-operated system. The state pays the majority of operating expenses of the Judicial Branch. By state statute, G.S. 7A–302, counties and municipalities are responsible for the physical facilities occupied by court personnel across the state. G.S. 7A–343 sets forth the duties of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts Director (appointed by the Chief Justice), which include identifying staffing needs and managing and authorizing expenditures for the judicial budget. Detailed budget information is in the Budget Management and Financial Services Statistical and Operational Report at NCCourts.gov.

HOW THE BUDGET IS SPENT

90.9% SALARIES & BENEFITS

- ▶ 31% (\$212.1M) for elected judicial officials, magistrates, and appointed officials

9.1% OPERATIONS

- ▶ 34.1% local court operations
- ▶ 10.0% central administration
- ▶ 53.8% technology services, equipment, and statewide infrastructure
- ▶ 2.1% appellate courts, commissions, and passthrough appropriations

MONIES COLLECTED BY COURTS

<1% STAYS WITH COURT SYSTEM

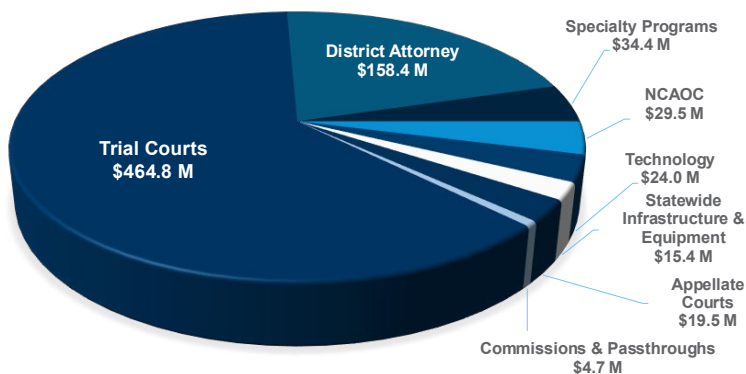
- ▶ (Fines, Fees, Forfeitures, Restitution, and Civil Judgments)

\$893.7M DISBURSED BY CLERKS

- ▶ 25.24% to state treasurer, state agencies, law enforcement retirement
- ▶ \$552.0 million to citizens
- ▶ \$225.6 million to State General Fund
- ▶ \$63.9 million to local governments
- ▶ \$47.3 million to other government entities
- ▶ \$4.9 million to select court operations

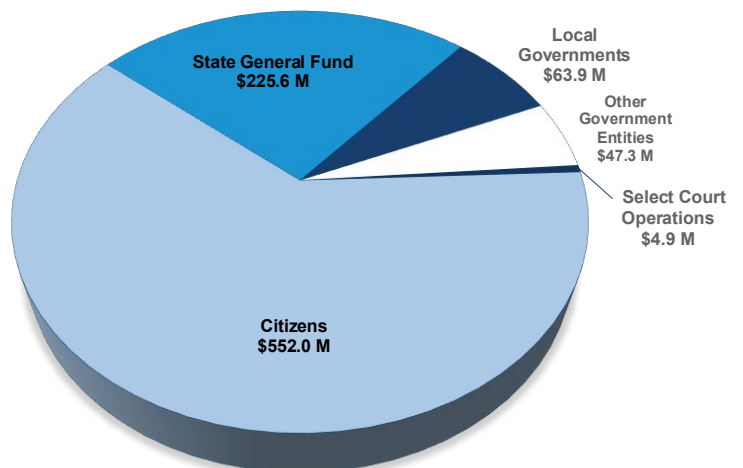
FY 2023 – 24 STATE GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

CERTIFIED BUDGET TOTAL: \$27.9B
JUDICIAL CERTIFIED: \$750.7M



FY 2023 – 24 CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT DISBURSEMENTS

\$893.7M TOTAL DISBURSED



Odyssey/Enterprise Justice includes investment amounts in the same account as the disbursements, affecting the distribution amount to citizens.

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

NCAOC partners with the National Center for State Courts to develop methodology that is used to determine staffing needs for district court judges, superior court judges, clerks of superior court staff, magistrates, assistant district attorneys, and legal assistants. Using the same case weight-based approach, NCAOC has conducted workload studies for family court case coordinators and custody mediators.

This information is used to advise the General Assembly about needs for staffing and other resources. Whenever the fiscal situation does not permit the filling of all vacancies, this information is the basis of the vacancy management system. In addition, the workload information is used to reassign vacant resources to needier offices throughout the state.

Certified Appropriations	Budget
Total certified appropriations, 2023 – 24	\$750,704,416
Percent increase from 2022 – 23	6.32%
Total certified appropriations as a percent of total state General Fund appropriations	2.53%

90.9%

**of the total budget pays employees.
Remaining funds are
for Judicial Branch operations.**

PERSONNEL (ALL FUNDING SOURCES)

Position	Total
JUSTICES AND JUDGES	
*Supreme Court Justices	7
*Court of Appeals Judges	15
*Superior Court Judges	121
*District Court Judges	285
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL	
*District Attorneys	42
Assistant District Attorneys	729
District Attorney Support Staff	695.25
*Clerks of Superior Court	100
Clerk Personnel	2,763.825
Guardian ad Litem Personnel	216
Magistrates	698.60
Indigent Defense Services Staff	748
Administrative Office of the Courts Staff	471
Court Support Staff	513.40
Court Reporters	90
Court Administrators	10
Foreign Language Court Interpreters	9
**Other	88.875
TOTAL	7,602.95

*Independently elected judicial officials; the North Carolina Judicial Branch has 570.

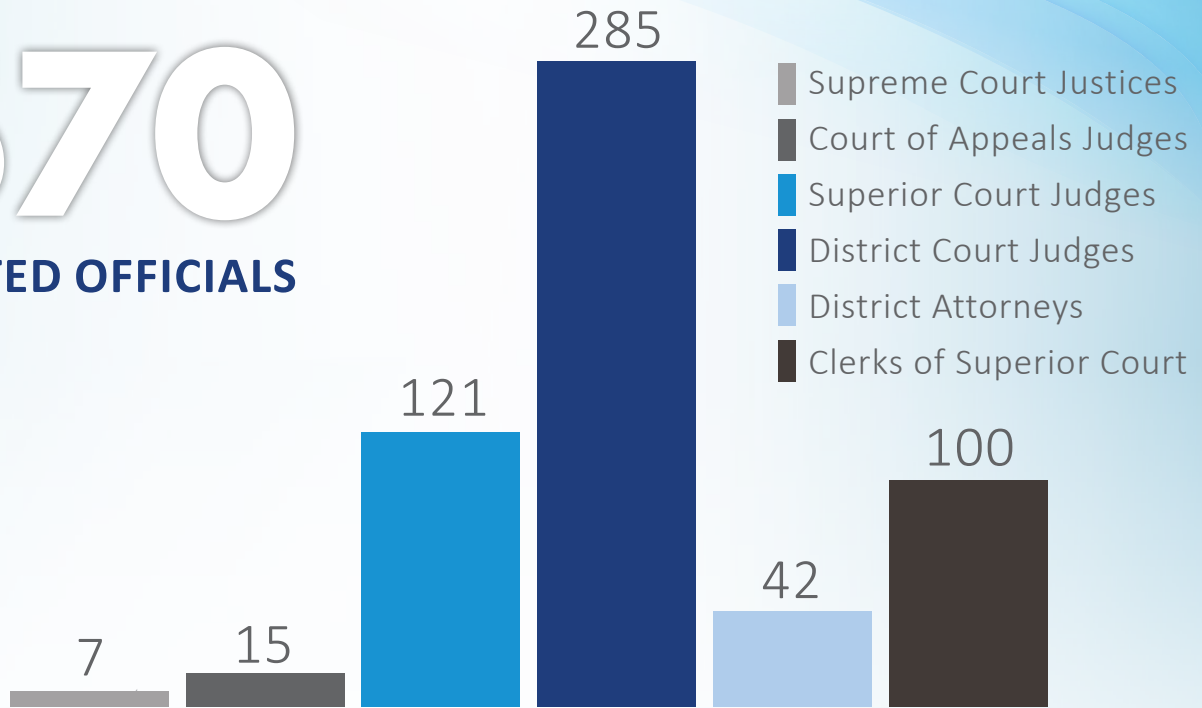
**Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, Conference of District Attorneys, Dispute Resolution Commission, Equal Access to Justice Commission, Human Trafficking Commission, Innocence Inquiry Commission, Judicial Standards Commission, Pro Bono Resource Center, and Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

EXPANSION NEEDS

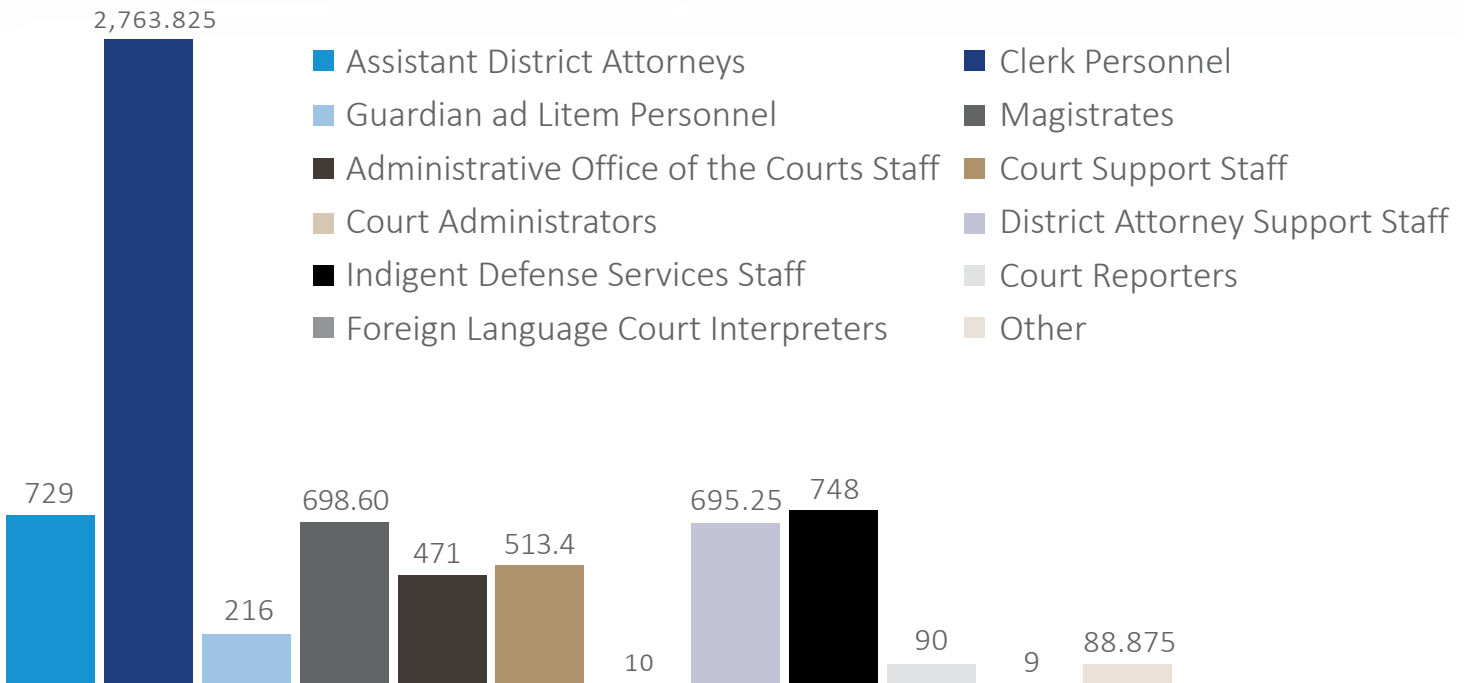
The Judicial Branch continues to have core services (including foreign language access, juror and witness fees, and technology advancements) that are unfunded or underfunded as determined by workload formulas. Per the expansion budget summary, the total number of new positions needed for the Judicial Branch to address workload needs is 520.725.



570
ELECTED OFFICIALS



7,602.95 TOTAL PERSONNEL

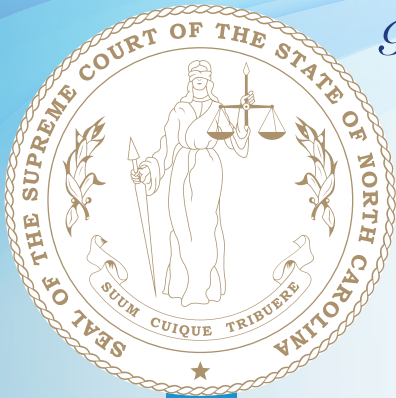


THE COURTS

Protecting and Preserving the Rights
and Liberties of All People

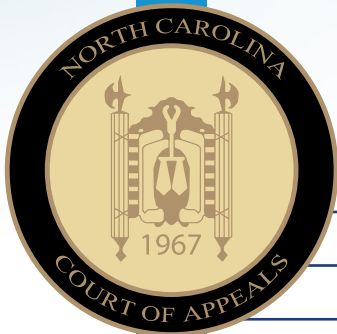


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND ROUTES OF APPEAL



Role of the SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

- Highest court in state
- Final word on whether state government action violates the North Carolina Constitution
- Discretionary review of unanimously decided criminal and civil cases from the Court of Appeals
- Mandatory review, if appealed, of criminal and civil cases from the Court of Appeals where there was a dissenting opinion
- Mandatory and exclusive appellate review of first-degree murder cases tried by the Superior Court where the defendant received a death sentence
- Mandatory and exclusive appellate review of trial court decisions by the North Carolina Business Court
- Mandatory review, if appealed, of cases from the Court of Appeals involving a substantial question under the United States or North Carolina constitutions



Role of the NORTH CAROLINA COURT OF APPEALS

- Mandatory and exclusive
- Mandatory, if substantial constitutional issue
- Discretionary, if no dissent
- Mandatory, if dissent



SUPERIOR COURT

Superior courts hear civil and criminal cases, including felony cases and civil cases over \$25k.

Death Penalty Cases

Business Court Cases



Mandatory and exclusive

DISTRICT COURT

District courts hear cases involving civil, criminal, juvenile, and magistrate matters.

All Other Civil and Criminal Cases

SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA



1819

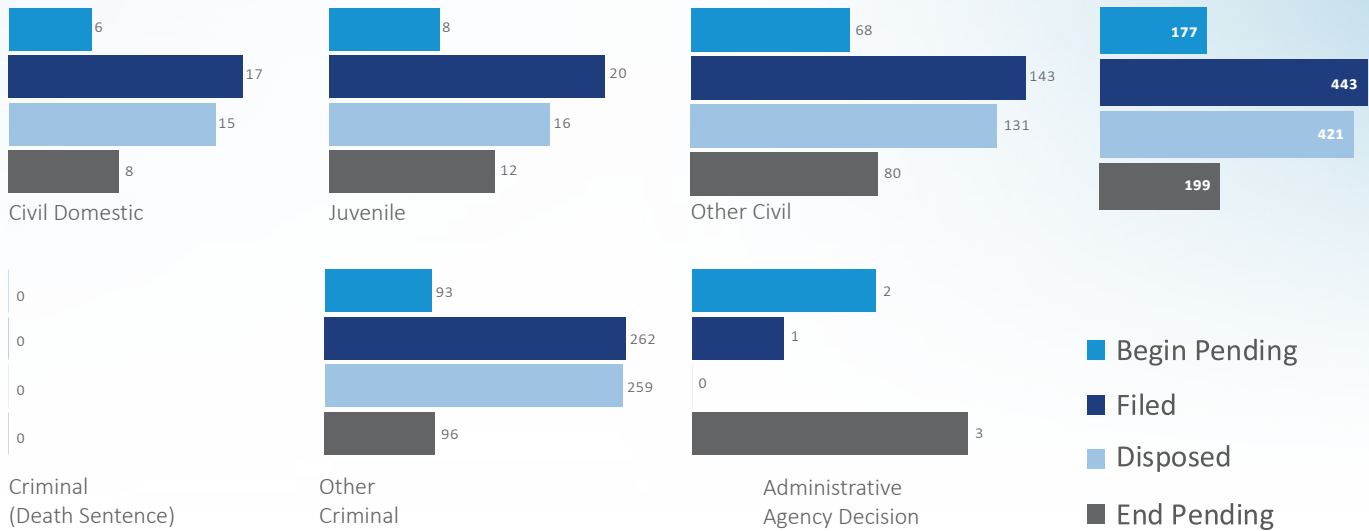
The year the Supreme Court of North Carolina, located in Raleigh, was established

7
justices who serve eight-year terms

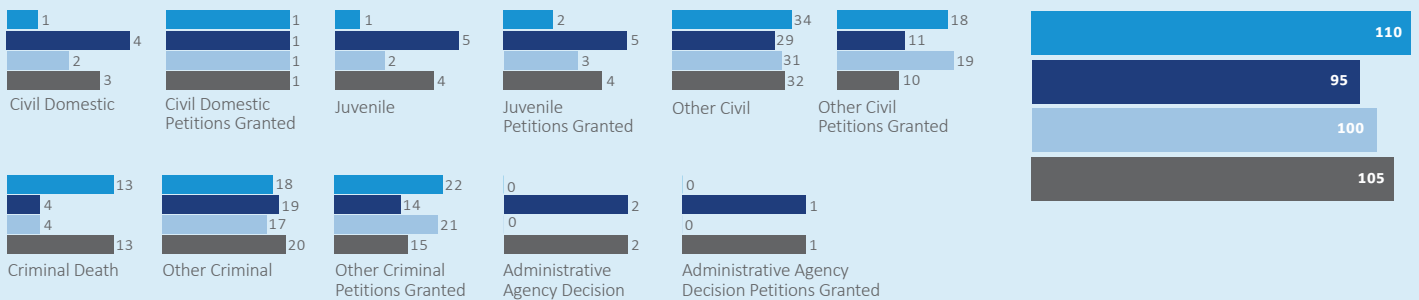
- 95 appeals docketed
- 100 appeals disposed
- 443 petitions docketed
- 421 petitions disposed

The Supreme Court of North Carolina is the state's highest court, and there is no further appeal from its decisions on matters of state law. The Supreme Court has no jury and makes no determinations of fact. It considers whether error occurred at trial or in judicial interpretation of the law. The court consists of the Chief Justice, who also serves as the head of the Judicial Branch, and six associate justices. Each justice serves an eight-year term.

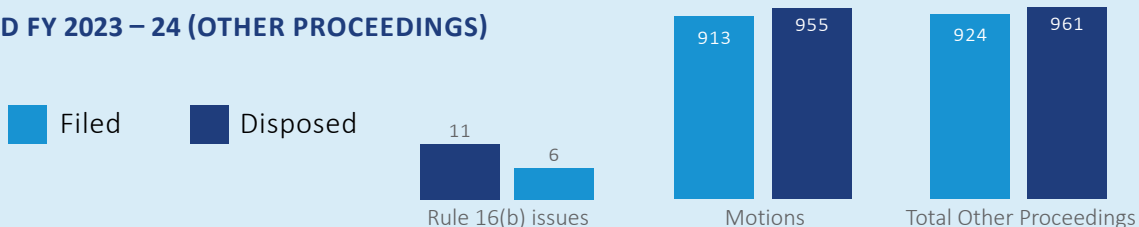
CASELOAD FY 2023 – 24 (PETITIONS)



CASELOAD FY 2023 – 24 (APPEALS)



CASELOAD FY 2023 – 24 (OTHER PROCEEDINGS)





15 Judges who serve eight-year terms

Hears cases in panels of

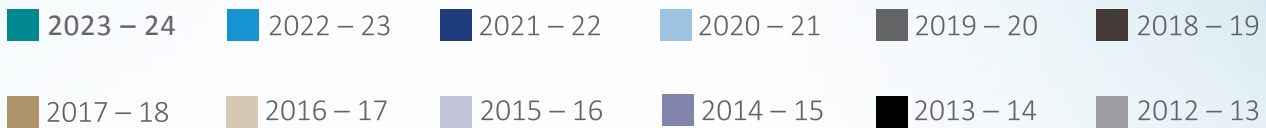
3

1,935 appeals / petitions filed

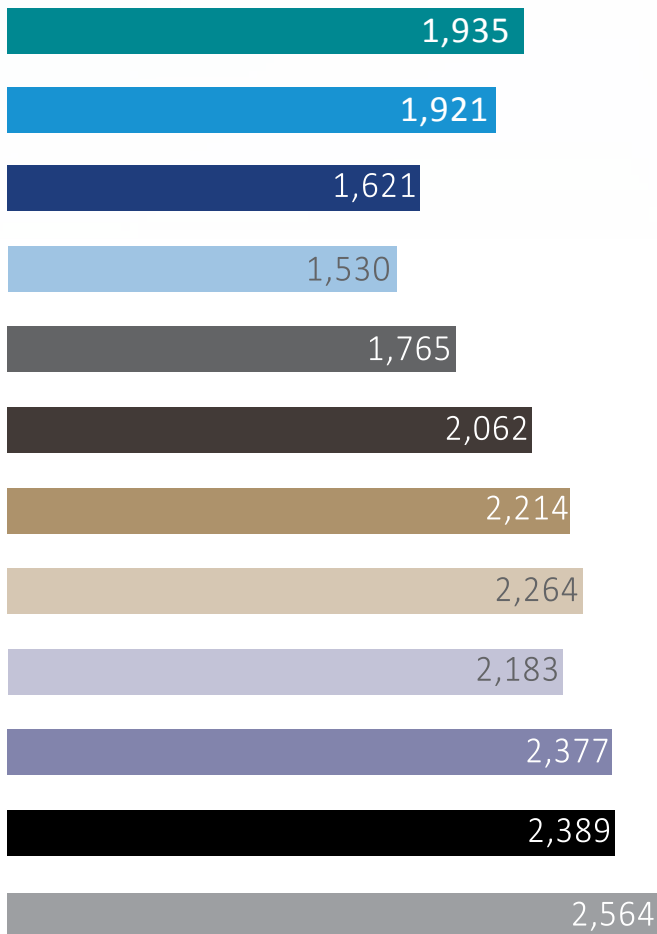
1,995 appeals / petitions disposed

Established in 1967, the North Carolina Court of Appeals is the state's intermediate appellate court. The court is led by a chief judge, who is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. The Court of Appeals reviews the proceedings that occurred in the trial courts for errors of law or legal procedure; it decides only questions of law—not questions of fact. The court decides if the trial court correctly applied the law, or if there was prejudicial error in the conduct of the trial.

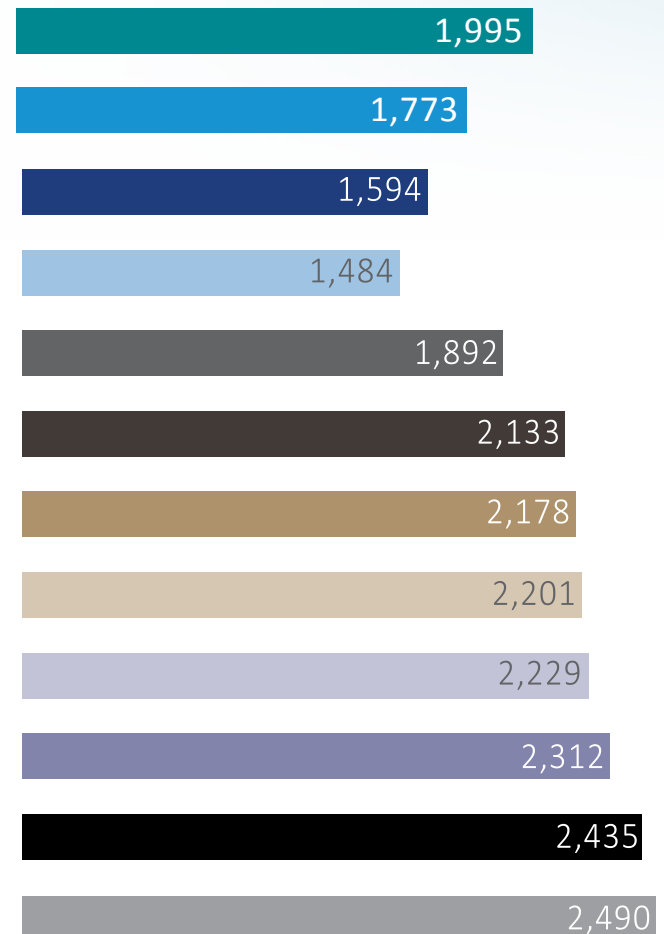
CASELOAD FY 2023 – 24



APPEALS / PETITIONS FILED



APPEALS / PETITIONS DISPOSED



SUPERIOR COURTS

121

JUDGES

100

CLERKS OF SUPERIOR COURT

Established in 1777 and North Carolina's oldest courts, the superior court division hears civil cases involving more than \$25,000, all felony criminal cases, and misdemeanor and infraction appeals from the district court. Superior court is divided into five divisions and 48 districts across the state.

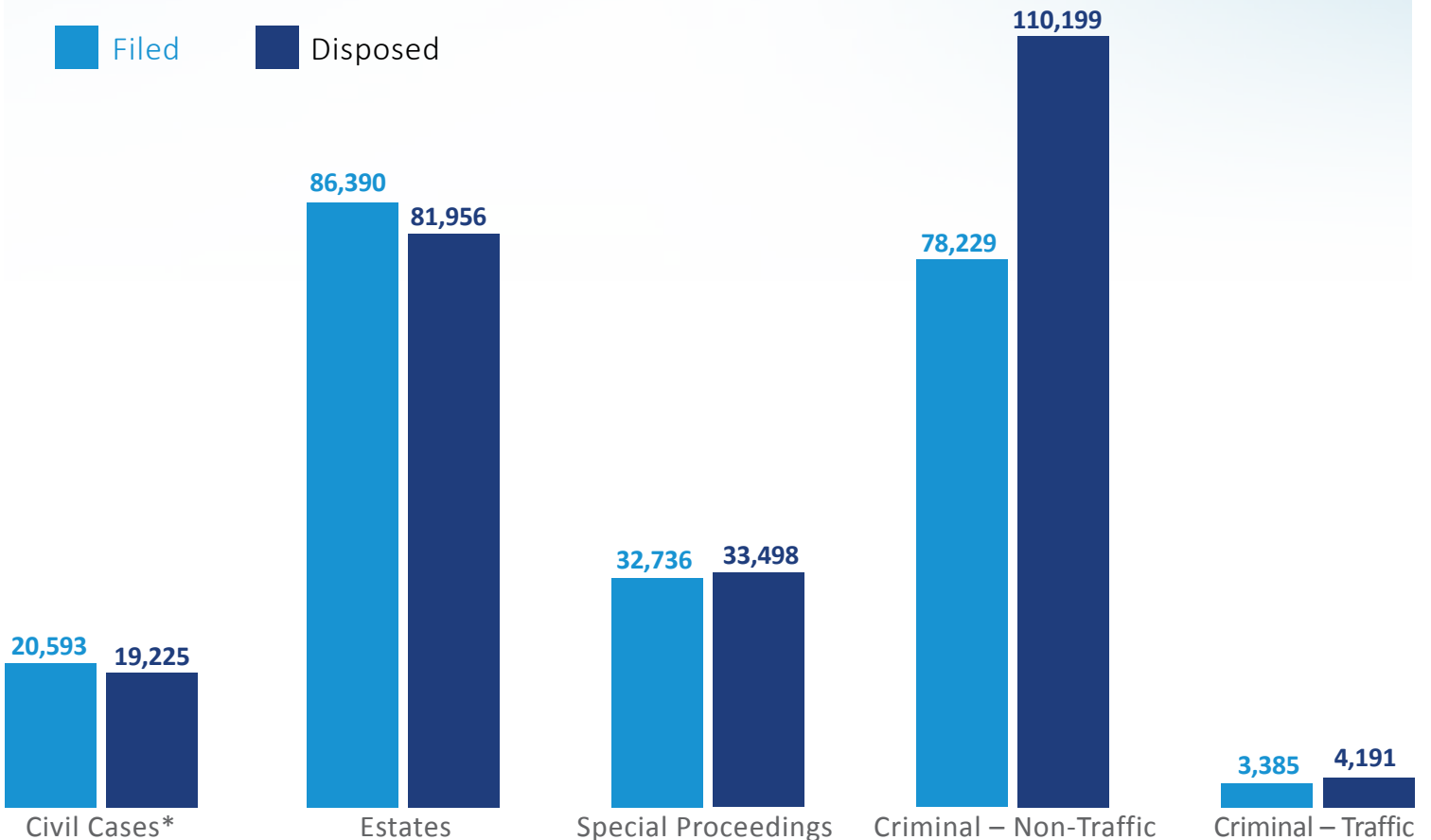
Judges rotate every six months among the districts within their divisions. The senior resident superior court judge manages the administrative duties of the court. The clerk of superior court is responsible for all clerical and record keeping functions and serves as the judge of probate.

- 221,333 total cases filed
- 249,069 total cases disposed

CASELOAD FY 2023 – 24

■ Filed

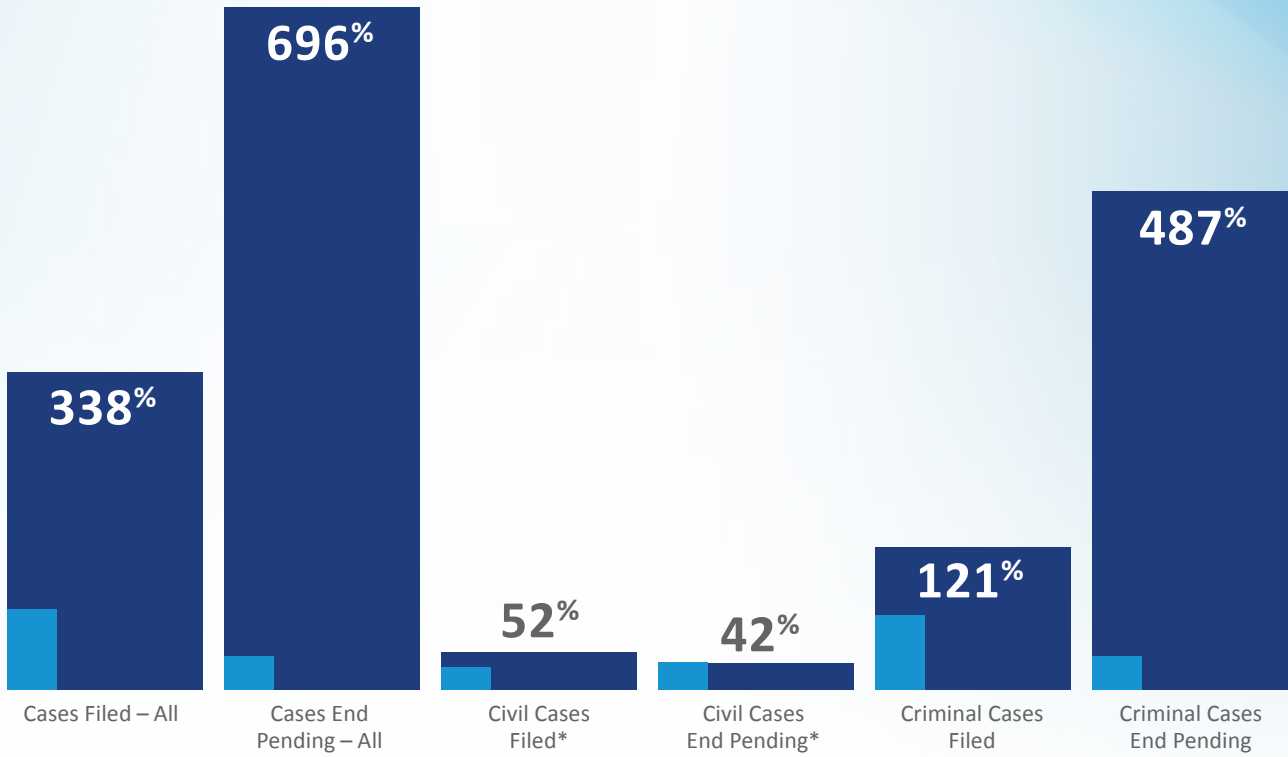
■ Disposed



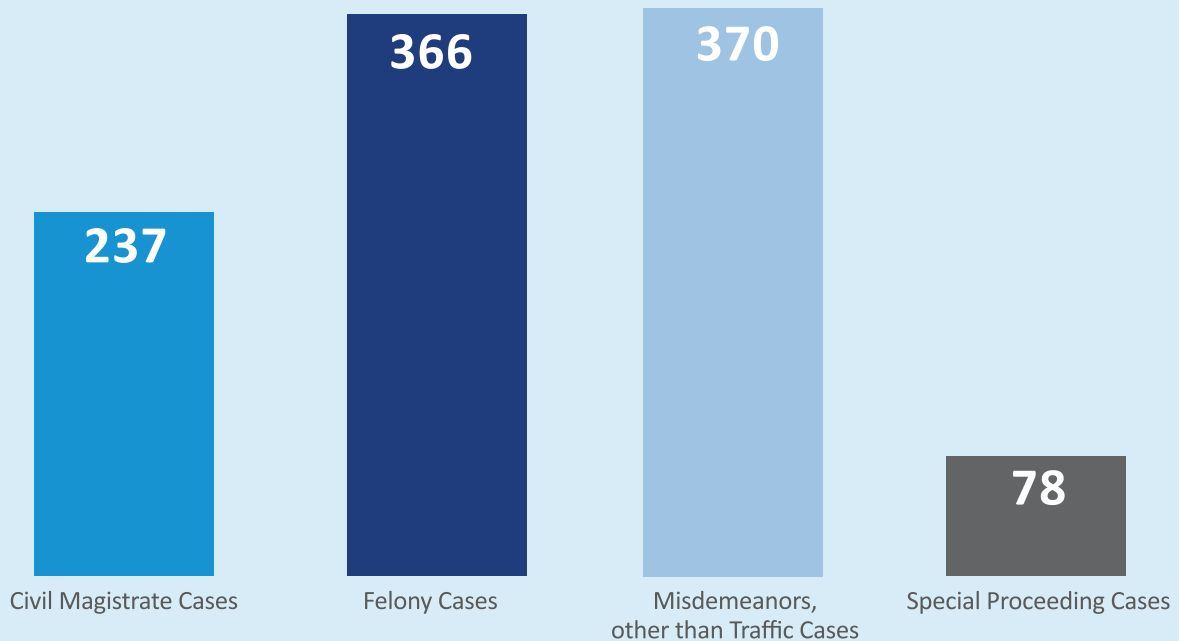
*"Civil" Cases includes cases heard by Business Court

- 1970 Judicial Branch Annual Report
- FY 2023-24 Statistical & Operational Report

*1970 figure based off appropriations bill SL1969-807 for FY 1969-1970.
 **1970 only says "Civil" - FY 2021 combines civil, estates, and SP non-confidential



SUPERIOR COURT – MEDIAN DAYS TO DISPOSITION FY 2023 – 24



DISTRICT COURTS

285
JUDGES

698.6
MAGISTRATES

42
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

26
PUBLIC DEFENDERS

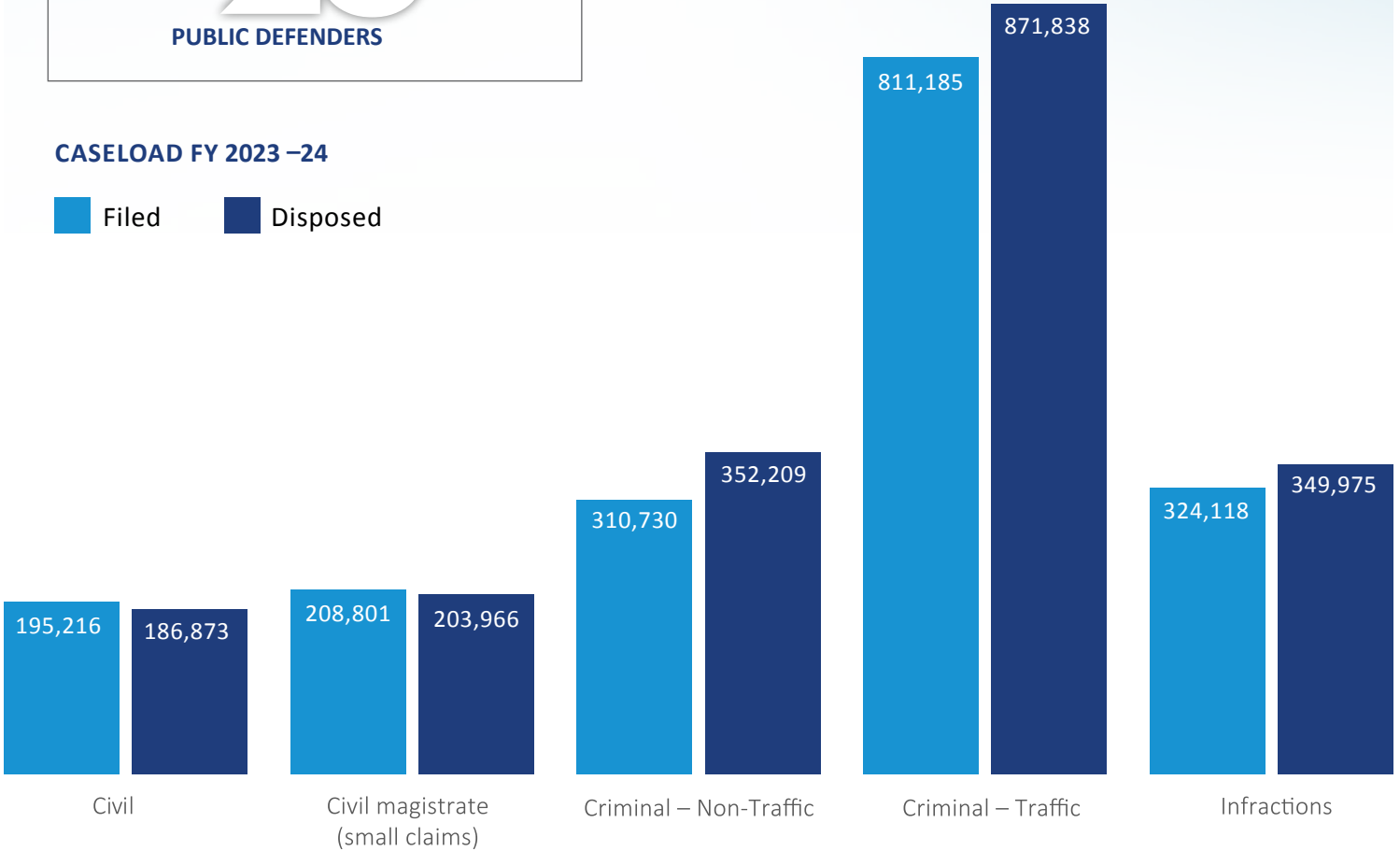
Established in 1966, district courts hear civil and criminal cases including all matters of family law, as well as all infractions and misdemeanors. District courts are divided into 43 districts across the state, but not grouped into larger judicial divisions. District courts sit in the county seat of each county.

The chief district court judge manages the administrative duties of the court. Magistrates perform numerous duties in both civil and criminal matters, issuing warrants and presiding over small claims cases.

- 1,850,050 total cases filed
- 1,964,861 total cases disposed

CASELOAD FY 2023 –24

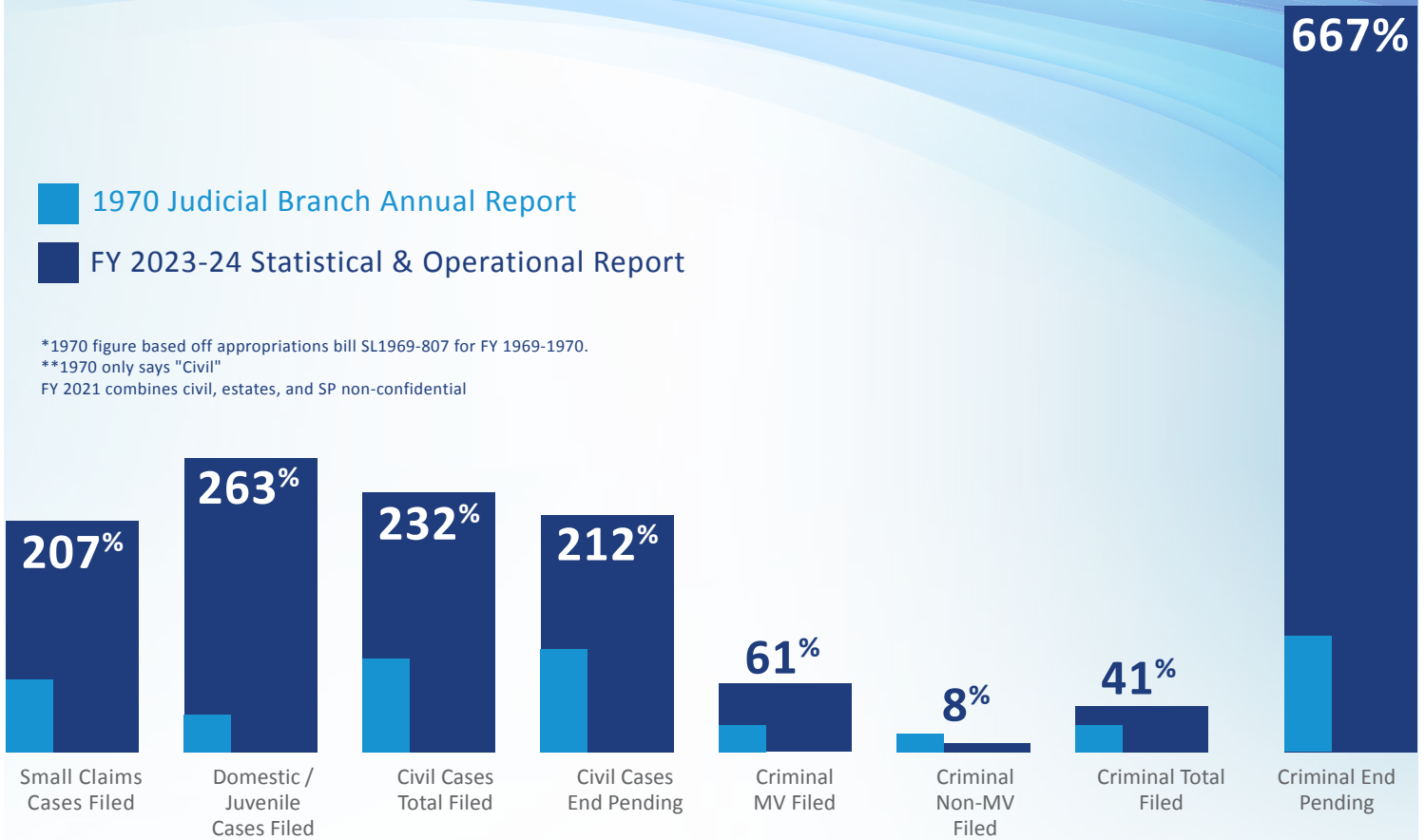
■ Filed ■ Disposed



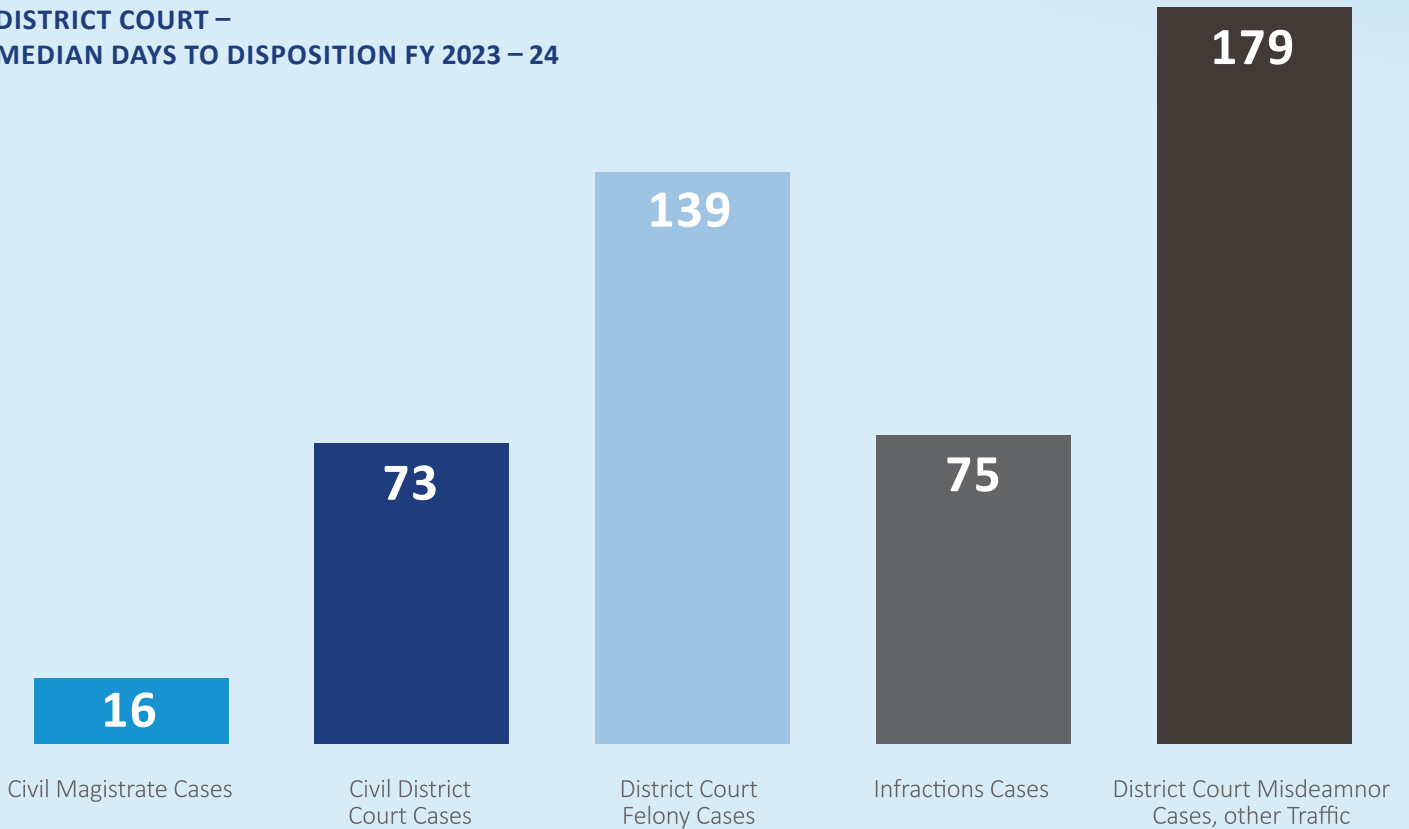
DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD

■ 1970 Judicial Branch Annual Report
■ FY 2023-24 Statistical & Operational Report

*1970 figure based off appropriations bill SL1969-807 for FY 1969-1970.
 **1970 only says "Civil"
 FY 2021 combines civil, estates, and SP non-confidential



DISTRICT COURT – MEDIAN DAYS TO DISPOSITION FY 2023 – 24



BUSINESS COURT

Established in 1996, the North Carolina Business Court is a specialized forum of the superior court division. Cases involving complex and significant issues of corporate and commercial law in our state are designated by the Chief Justice as mandatory complex business cases for assignment to a Business Court judge.

Appeals from Business Court decisions go directly to the Supreme Court. The Business Court has four locations across the state in Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem. The chief Business Court judge manages the administrative duties of the court and a full caseload.

For more information, please see the Business Court’s annual reports found at: www.NCcourts.gov/courts/business-court.

4
LOCATIONS

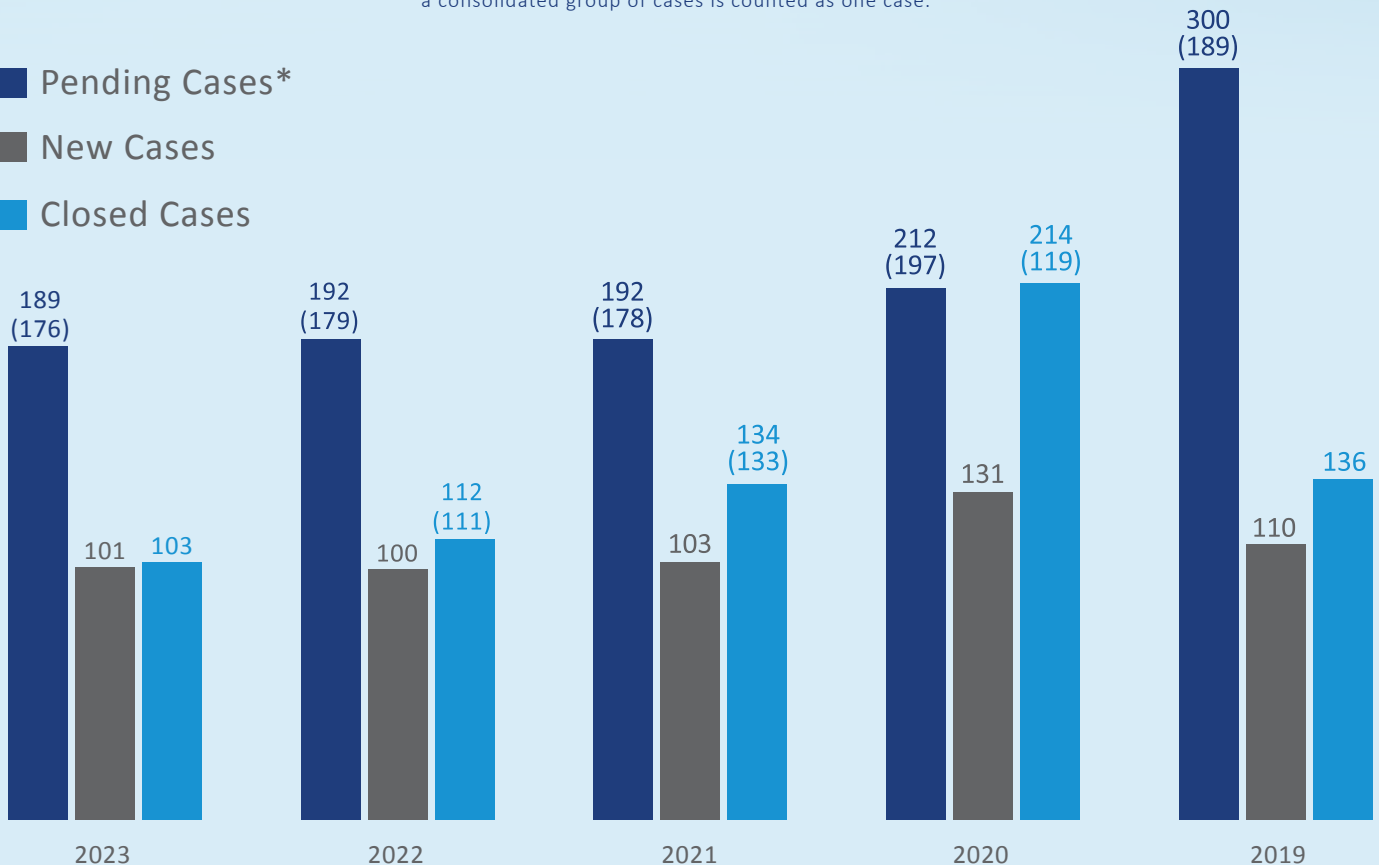
5
JUDGES

FREQUENCY OF CASE TYPES FROM JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024	
58	Corporations, Partnerships, LLCs
20	Trade Secrets
18	Intellectual Property
16	Contract Dispute over \$1M
12	Controversy over \$5M
10	Securities
3	General Receiver
3	Antitrust
2	Trademark
1	Contested Tax Case

*NOTE — A party’s Notice of Designation may indicate more than one dispute type.

CASELOAD (CALENDAR YEAR) * Parenthetical figures represent when a consolidated group of cases is counted as one case.

■ Pending Cases*
■ New Cases
■ Closed Cases



213

judicial sites,
2 appellate courts,
100 counties, and an
Administrative Office
of the Courts

570

elected officials
(more than the Executive Branch
and the Legislative Branch
combined)

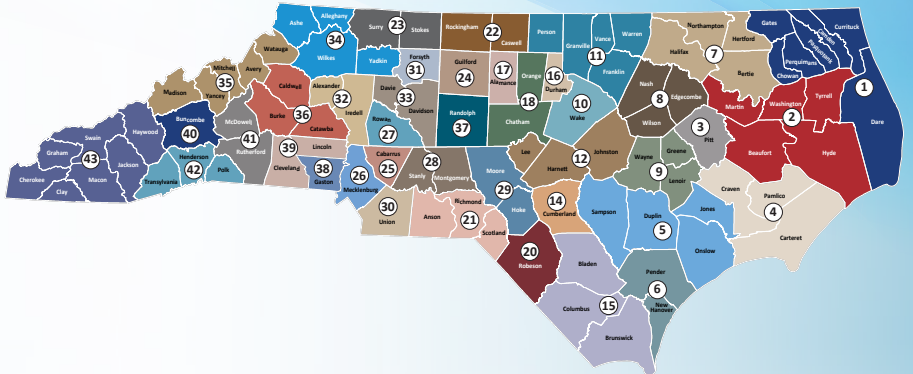
7,603

public servants

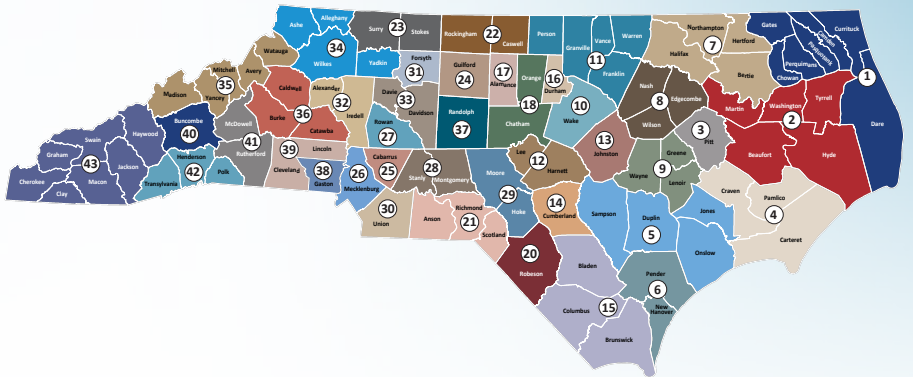
<1%

monies collected and
received by the courts
stays with the courts

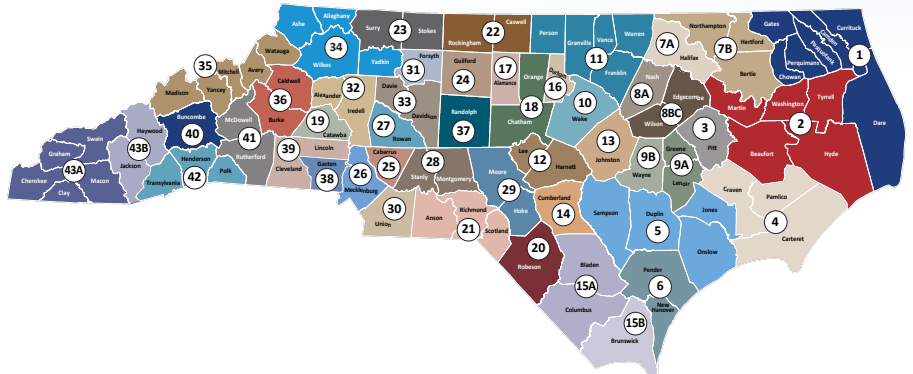
DISTRICT COURT DISTRICTS



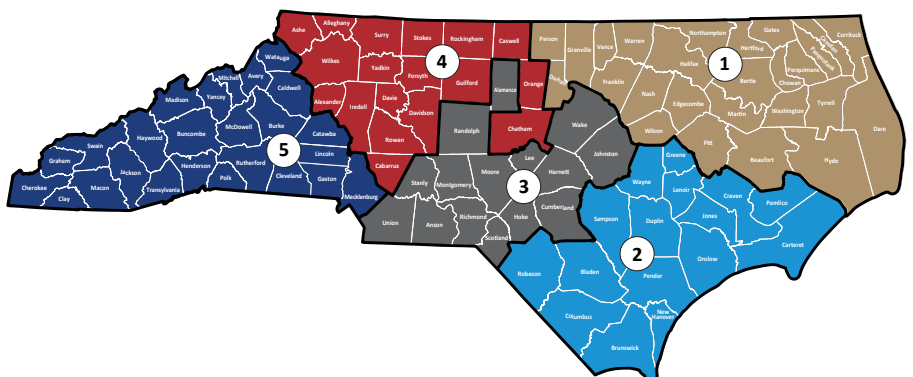
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICTS



SUPERIOR COURT DISTRICTS



SUPERIOR COURT DIVISIONS



COURT PROGRAMS

Providing Information, Advice,
Support, and Solutions



INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

5,543

district court cases settled in mediation and arbitration

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

Helps parties resolve disputes outside of court. ADR services include family financial settlement, court-ordered arbitration, mediated settlement conferences, and the clerk's mediation program, all of which offer a less adversarial, more expeditious process for settling legal disputes.

8,653

child custody cases mediated

CHILD CUSTODY MEDIATION

Offers a "family-friendly" way to resolve custody and visitation actions filed with the district court. Mediators provide neutral, non-adversarial court-ordered services in cases involving custody and visitation of minor children, including preparing parenting agreements. Custody mediation creates an opportunity for parents to focus on the best interests and needs of their children.

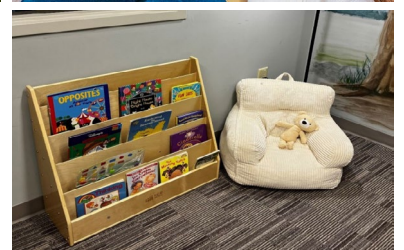
17,071

children represented by the NCGAL Program

NC GUARDIAN AD LITEM (GAL) PROGRAM

Provides attorney advocates, staff and trained child advocate volunteers to represent the best interests of children in abuse and neglect cases in every North Carolina county. They represent the children in trial and appellate courts to ensure their rights are protected and their voices are heard. They strive to identify safe, permanent homes for abused and neglected children in accordance with applicable case law and statutory requirements.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!
North Carolina
GUARDIAN AD LITEM
A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT
1-800-982-4041
www.volunteerforgal.org
BE A VOICE FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY



During FY2023-2024, the NCGAL Program used a Children's Justice Act grant through the NC Governor's Crime Commission to create spaces for NCGAL child-clients to use when they visit the office or attend court.

COURT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

TOP MOST REQUESTED LANGUAGES FOR COURT INTERPRETERS:

- Spanish
- Arabic
- Vietnamese
- Russian
- Burmese

JUVENILE COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

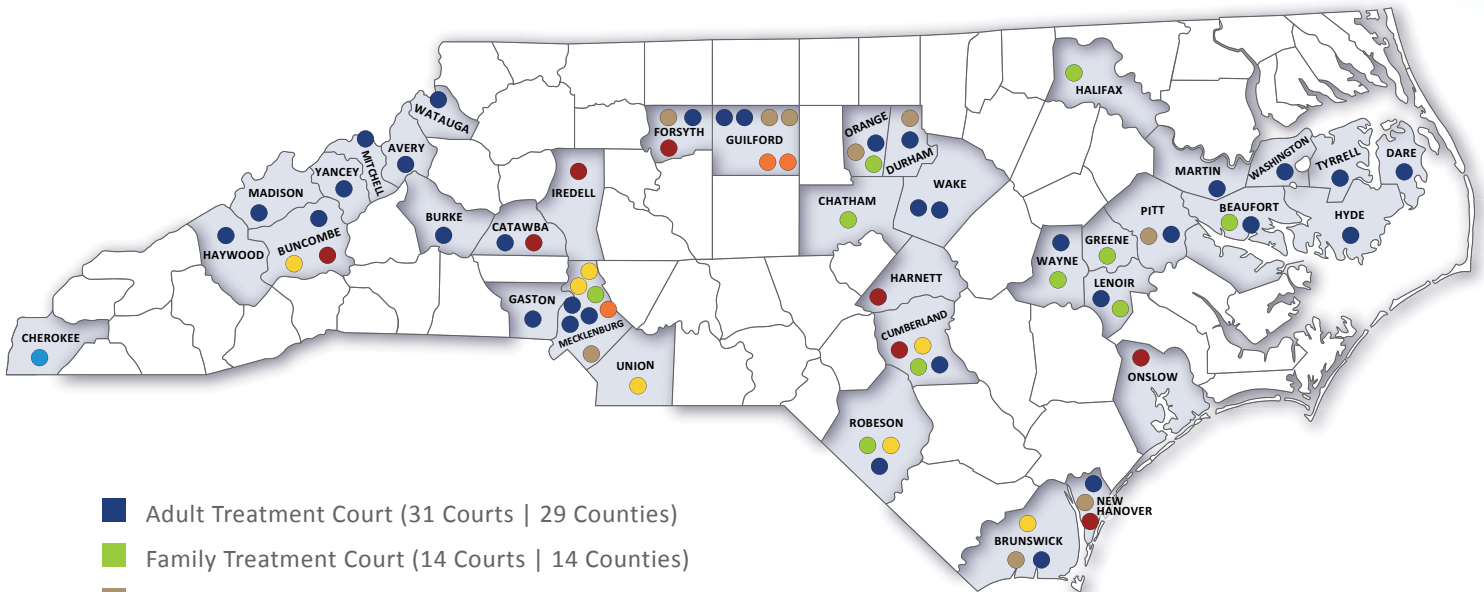
works to improve the performance of North Carolina's juvenile courts in abuse and neglect cases so that safety, permanence, and well-being for each child are achieved in a fair and timely manner.

The work of this program helps ensure children are placed in permanent homes within one year, each family receives the individual attention necessary to make effective decisions for the child, and each child and each parent are afforded due process and effective legal representation.

LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES provide court interpreters for more than 83 different languages. Court interpreters are an essential public service, assuring due process for limited English proficient individuals.

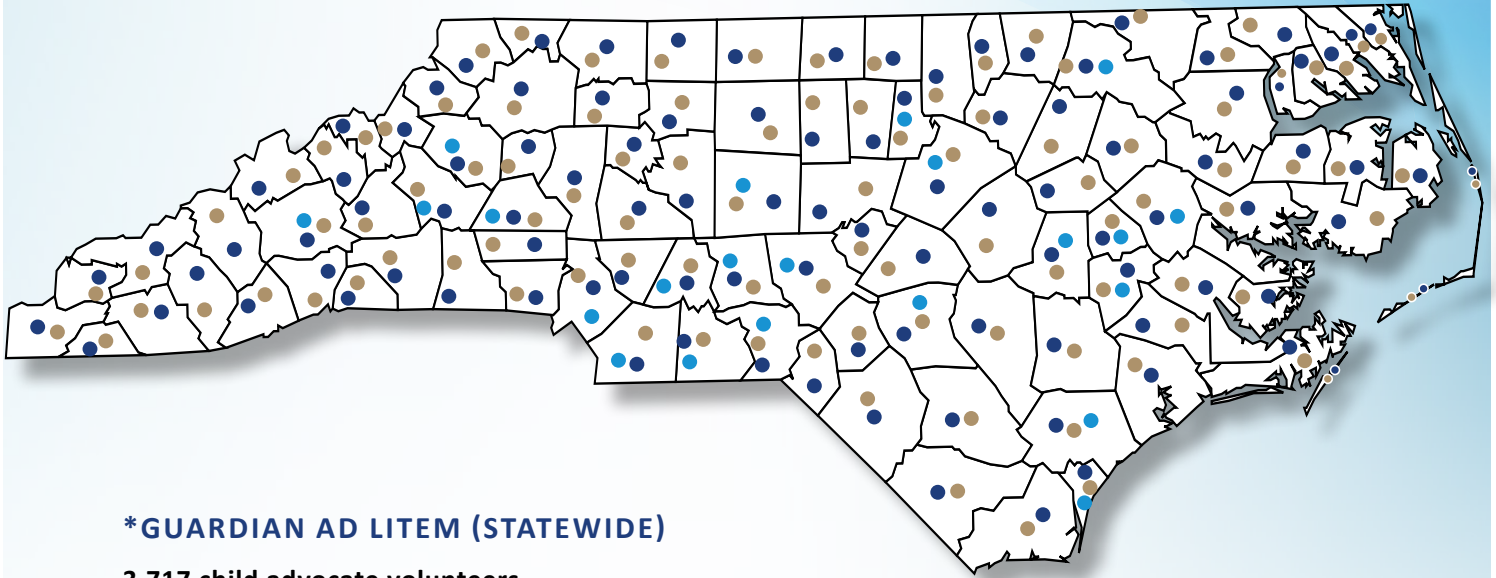
RECOVERY COURTS AVAILABLE IN NORTH CAROLINA

78 COURTS
42 COUNTIES



- Adult Treatment Court (31 Courts | 29 Counties)
- Family Treatment Court (14 Courts | 14 Counties)
- Mental Health Court (9 Courts | 8 Counties)
- DWI Court (6 Courts | 6 Counties)
- Veterans Treatment Court (15 Courts | 15 Counties)
- Youth Treatment Court (3 Court | 3 Counties)

COURT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE BY COUNTY



*GUARDIAN AD LITEM (STATEWIDE)

3,717 child advocate volunteers

50,667 child abuse and neglect hearings and conferences held

17,071 children received legal representation

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

2,022 family financial cases completed
 4,829 arbitration cases completed
 5,543 mediated settlement cases completed

CHILD CUSTODY MEDIATION (Statewide)

18,013 people attended orientation
 8,653 child custody cases mediated
 9,265 mediation sessions held
 3,967 parenting agreements drafted

NOT ALL PROGRAMS ARE
 AVAILABLE IN EACH COUNTY

LANGUAGE ACCESS INTERPRETERS

Spanish	76	Hmong	3
Russian	11	Polish	2
Vietnamese	10	Tagalog	2
Mandarin	9	Lao	2
Arabic	8	Bosnian /Serbian / Croatian	2
French	7	Somali	1
Portuguese	6	Turkish	1
Korean	4	Khmer	1
Haitian Creole	4	*Includes certified and conditionally qualified interpreters available from in and out of state.	
Cantonese	4		

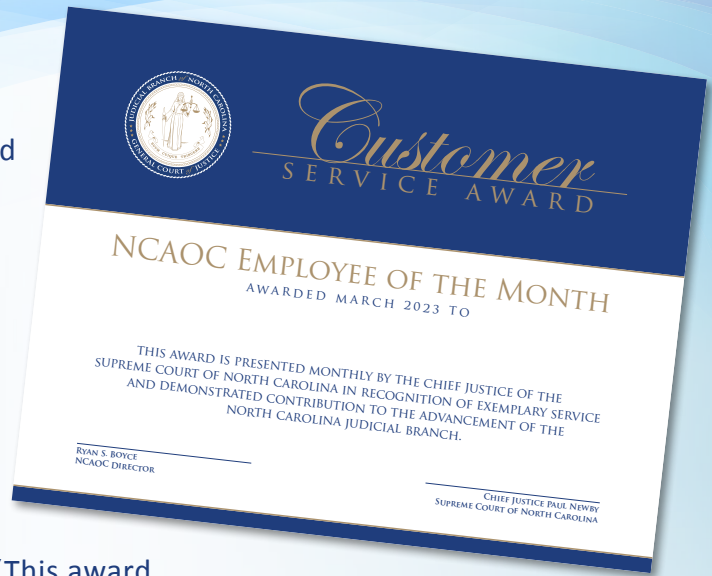
The North Carolina Judicial Branch needs funding to expand these programs and services statewide.

JUDICIAL BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS



The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) Customer Service Award was launched in January 2021 by Chief Justice Paul Newby. Each month an NCAOC employee who demonstrates outstanding performance and exemplifies excellent customer service while performing work for the courts is honored and recognized.

“Chief Justice Newby has always stressed service and how important it is to serve the needs of the North Carolina court system,” said NCAOC Director Ryan Boyce. “This award is one way to recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their service.”



Recipients are recognized in the following ways:

- Presented a certificate of recognition by the NCOAC Director
- Name and photo displayed in the lobby area of the North Carolina Judicial Center
- Congratulated with an article in a staff-wide email and employee intranet.

This fiscal year the following were recognized for their service with the award: **Darian Rebb, Julianna Kirschner, Sean Callan, Lawson Seropian, Sarvani Jami, Brian Mackey, Heide Rumble, Ba Thien Nguyen, Mike Nelms, Aaron Davison, and Paulette L. Gallegos**

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients.



JUDICIAL BRANCH PODCAST NCCOURTS.GOV/PODCAST

All Things Judicial

All Things Judicial is a podcast about the important role of the North Carolina Judicial Branch in state government. With each episode, you'll hear interviews from recognizable figures in our judicial communities and learn about topics you may not have realized were related to what we do every day — human trafficking prevention, civics education, and the modernization of our courts, just to name a few.



eCourts

EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The eCourts transition for North Carolina courts expanded across the state with electronic filing and online search for court records in 2023-24:

eCourts launched in Mecklenburg County in October 2023, bringing the total to five counties along with Harnett, Johnston, Lee, and Wake.

In February 2024, eCourts went live in twelve (12) additional counties along the coast: Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Martin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

eCourts launched in ten (10) additional counties in April 2024: Alamance, Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Orange, Person, Vance, and Warren.

With these additions, eCourts became available across 27 counties, including the state's three largest metropolitan regions, and provides electronic access to justice for more than 4.5 million North Carolinians. The eCourts transition empowers the public by converting paper court records previously accessible only at the courthouse, with an online, cloud-hosted court records system that enables electronic filing and allows free, online access to search case documents and information. Learn more at NCCourts.gov/eCourts.



eCOURTS KIOSKS DEPLOYED TO N.C. COURTHOUSES

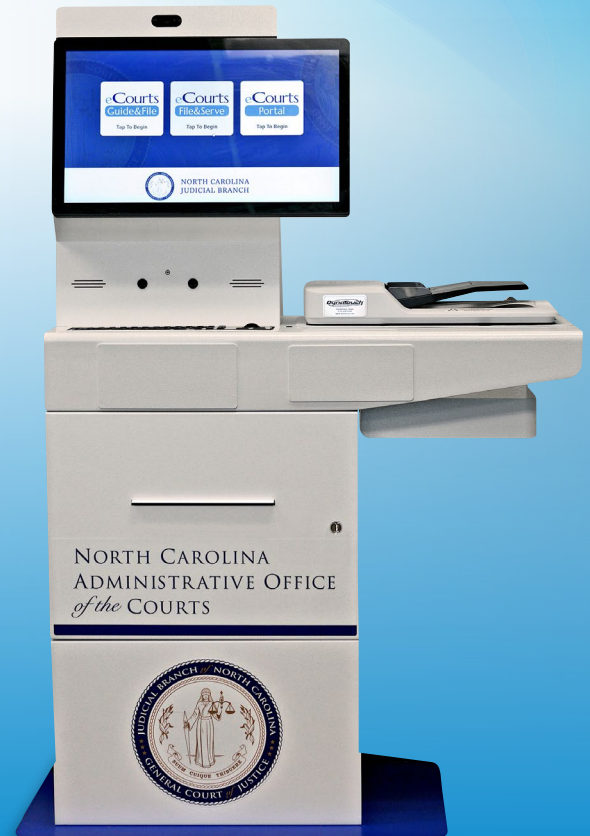


New eCourts kiosks became available in North Carolina courthouses in June. The kiosks allow the public to more easily engage with the court system by providing on-site access to search court dates and case events, file documents electronically, make payments, and use a scanner, printer, or other services available through the Judicial Branch's digital case management system that serves nearly half the state's population.

The kiosk deployment began with an initial testing phase in June 2024 to distribute approximately 20 devices to the earliest adopters of eCourts in North Carolina, including courthouses in Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties.

In addition to printers, scanners, and payment services, the kiosks provide public access to eCourts' primary applications for search (Portal), filing (File & Serve), and user-assisted interviews to help create common legal filings (Guide and File).

Prior to eCourts, most North Carolinians could only access court records and case events at a clerk's office or at public computer terminals located inside courthouses. In the 27 counties using eCourts today, the public can file and access court records and make payments online from anywhere with an internet connection.



"As eCourts propels our state forward into the 21st century with digital access to justice for millions of North Carolinians, these all-in-one kiosks help meet the needs of folks who may not have connected devices or internet access."

- NCAOC Director Ryan S. Boyce

N.C. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS HOSTS FIRST TECH FAIR TO SHOWCASE COURT TECHNOLOGY



Attendees at the Tech Fair learn about available court technology.

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) Technology Services Division (TSD) partnered with the N.C. Conference of Clerks of Superior Court to host a first-of-its-kind Tech Fair at the North Carolina Judicial Center (NCJC). Elected clerks of superior court were invited to attend and send available personnel from their offices for demonstrations of various court support technology currently being utilized in courthouses and courtrooms across North Carolina.

Over 200 people, representing 38 counties, joined during the 2-day event. The educational sessions were the same each day. Eleven topics were presented by TSD managers over the course of both days with a question-and-answer session at the end of each session. This format allowed participants to rotate to each classroom throughout the day to observe all demonstrations and allowed offices an opportunity to send more staff to attend.

Technology sessions included the following:

- **ECOURTNET** - Integral to eCourts and the transition to the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) implementation, a major network redesign effort was rolled out statewide. This project supports the ongoing effort to modernize the courts with functionality that enables employees to stay connected anytime, anywhere, securely by: replacing end-of-life network infrastructure in court facilities across the state, implementing a network design supporting cloud technologies, expanding network capacity and speed, and further securing the courts network and infrastructure.
- **SOFTPHONE**- To assist with business continuity when weather conditions or other situations arise that may alter normal operations, NCAOC offers various technology connectivity / unified communications solutions that may prove beneficial including telephone capabilities via Webex using a laptop.
- **WAVE** [Wireless Access for Virtual Enhancement] Initiative

- **CRAVE** [Courtroom Audio / Visual Experience]
- **REMOTE HEARING SCHEDULER** - Provide means for NCAOC staff (Clerks, Judges, DAs) to use an intuitive, simple, central scheduling application for remote hearings
- **IDWEB**- Hiring Authorities no longer need to fill out a form for new personnel and they can now add / update / separate accounts via the internet based IDWeb system.
- **ENCRYPTED FILE TRANSFER | LIQUIDFILES** - Judicial Branch staff use Encryption Email or LiquidFiles when transmitting Confidential or Highly Confidential information internally to other Judicial Branch staff or externally to individuals outside the Judicial Branch.
- **O365**- Furthering the NCAOC eCourts initiative, the upgrade of all Judicial Branch computers to Microsoft Office 365, MS Teams, and Windows 10 was foundational and helped to continue modernizing the courts with features that enable employees to stay connected anytime, anywhere. Rollout of Office 365 and Windows 10 to all counties was completed in 2019.
- **WEBEX VS MS TEAMS**- Offers remote meeting and other remote capabilities for staff.
- **LAPTOP USE AS TABLET** - Employee laptops can be used a tablet for easier portability, note taking, and working throughout the courthouse.
- **PAPERCUT** - This system allows for copy / pay to print services within court facilities (replaced HECON) that ensures better security than previous technology.

“We are pleased to offer this unique event to showcase our court technology. The AOC continues to offer technology that enhances access to justice for the public and provides greater efficiency in our court offices and courtrooms across the state.”

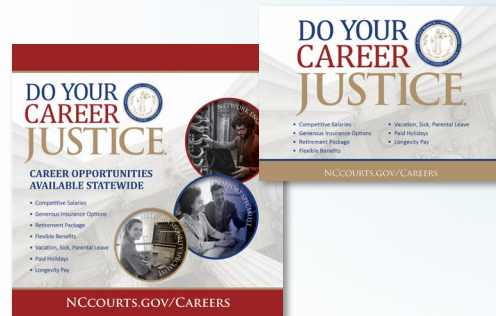
- NCAOC Director Ryan S. Boyce

NCAOC COMMUNICATIONS WINS NATIONAL COMMUNICATOR AWARD



The NCAOC Communications Office was the recipient of a 2024 National Communicator Award for its recruiting campaign for the NCAOC Human Resources Division. The campaign entitled “Do Your Career Justice,” consisted of a full range of recruitment materials including posters, post cards, business cards, audio commercials, and other marketing materials. NCAOC HR used the materials at job fairs and other recruiting events with great success. The award was in the category of Campaign: Identity Program Campaign.

The Communicator Awards are presented nationally by the Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts. This was the 30th year for the awards program.



FORSYTH COUNTY NEW COURTHOUSE

The new Forsyth County Courthouse is located at 175 N. Chestnut Street in Winston-Salem and opened October 23, 2023. It covers 250,000 square feet and replaces the existing and smaller 48-year-old courthouse. The new courthouse spans six floors and has 17 courtrooms, three hearing rooms, two escalators, and four public elevators. In comparison, there are currently 16 courtrooms in the Forsyth County Hall of Justice. The new courthouse is about 2½ times larger than the existing courthouse on North Main Street.

JIMBO PERRY APPOINTMENT TO CJCP

James “Jimbo” S. Perry was named executive director of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism (CJCP) beginning January 1, 2024. Perry replaced former Executive Director Melvin Wright who served in that capacity since November 1999.

Perry is an attorney with Perry, Perry, & Perry in Kinston. Perry studied at the University of North Carolina School of Law where he graduated in 1980. Immediately after graduation, he worked in private practice then transitioned into the role of assistant United States attorney in the United States Attorney’s Office in Raleigh until 1985. From there, Perry moved back to his hometown of Kinston to work with his father, mother, sister, and uncle in private practice after founding the firm Perry, Perry, & Perry where he continues to work today.

Perry has served as a member of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism and is the recipient of the Citizen Lawyer Award, John B. McMillan Distinguished Service Award, Tommy Jarrett Service Award, QC Honors Recognition, Southern Star Recognition, and the 2021 Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award.



HARNETT COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT CELEBRATES A DECADE OF SERVICE

In November 2023, Harnett County’s Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) marked a major milestone: its 10-year anniversary. As the first court of its kind in North Carolina, the VTC has become a lifeline for veterans across the state, drawing participants from communities as far-reaching as Morehead City, Jacksonville, Hillsborough, and Cary.

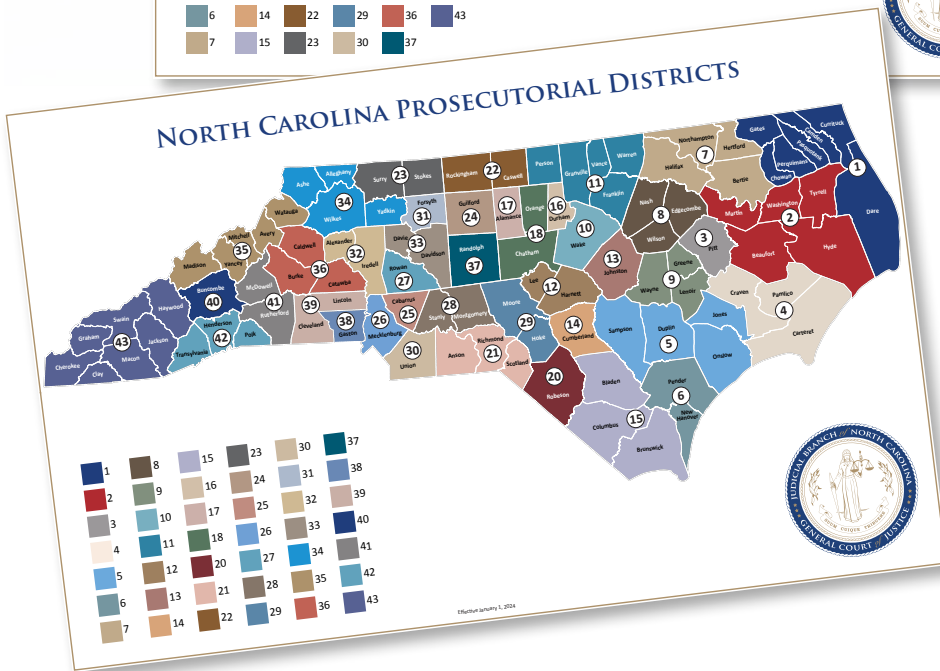
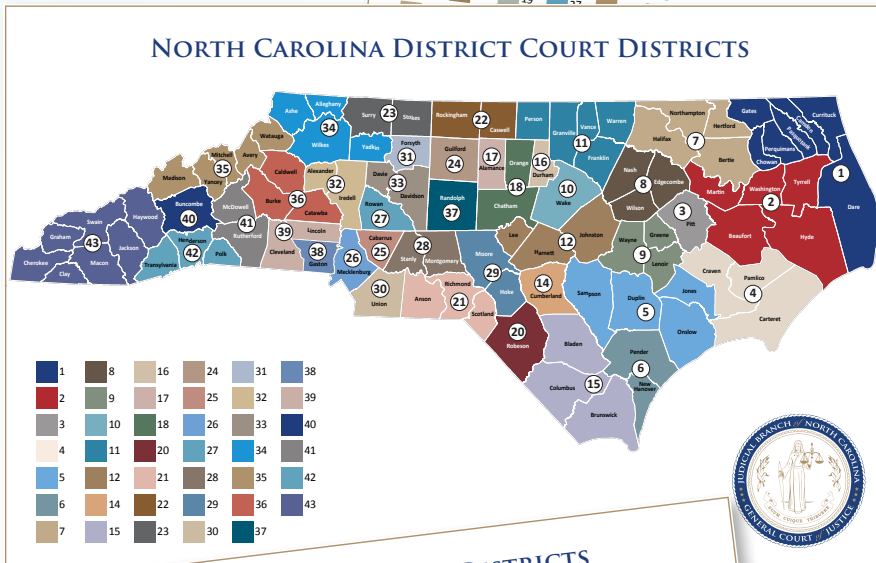
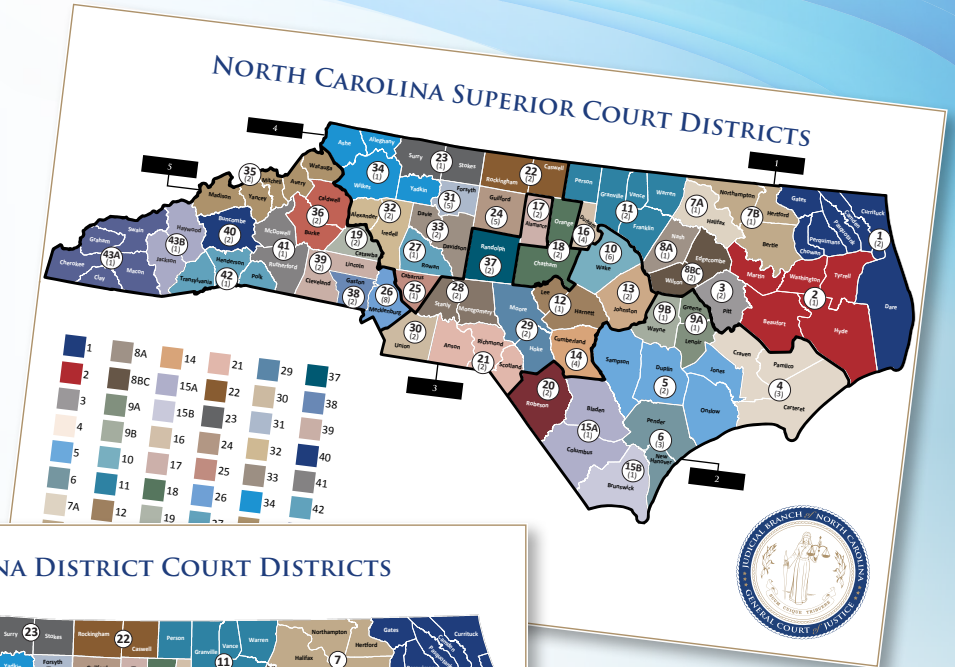
Modeled after other recovery courts, such as drug treatment courts, the VTC

operates under the jurisdiction of the district court and is designed to address the unique challenges faced by veterans. The program focuses on providing a pathway to recovery and rehabilitation rather than traditional punitive measures, offering specialized support tailored to the needs of those who have served.

The success of Harnett County’s VTC is a testament to the power of collaboration. It is made possible through the dedicated efforts of Chief District Court Judge Frank Wood Jr., District Attorney Suzanne Matthews, Clerk of Superior Court Renee Whittenton, and a wide network of partners. These include the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefit Administration, Harnett County Veterans Services, Central Carolina Community College, and numerous veterans’ service organizations and community partners.

As it celebrates a decade of impact, the Harnett County Veterans Treatment Court stands as a pioneering example of how communities can come together to honor, support, and uplift those who have served our nation.





On January 1, 2024, changes to North Carolina’s district court, superior court, and prosecutorial district numbers became effective. These changes align district court and superior court district numbers with their respective prosecutorial district numbers.





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Administrative Office of the Courts

PO Box 2448
Raleigh, NC 27602
919-890-1000

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