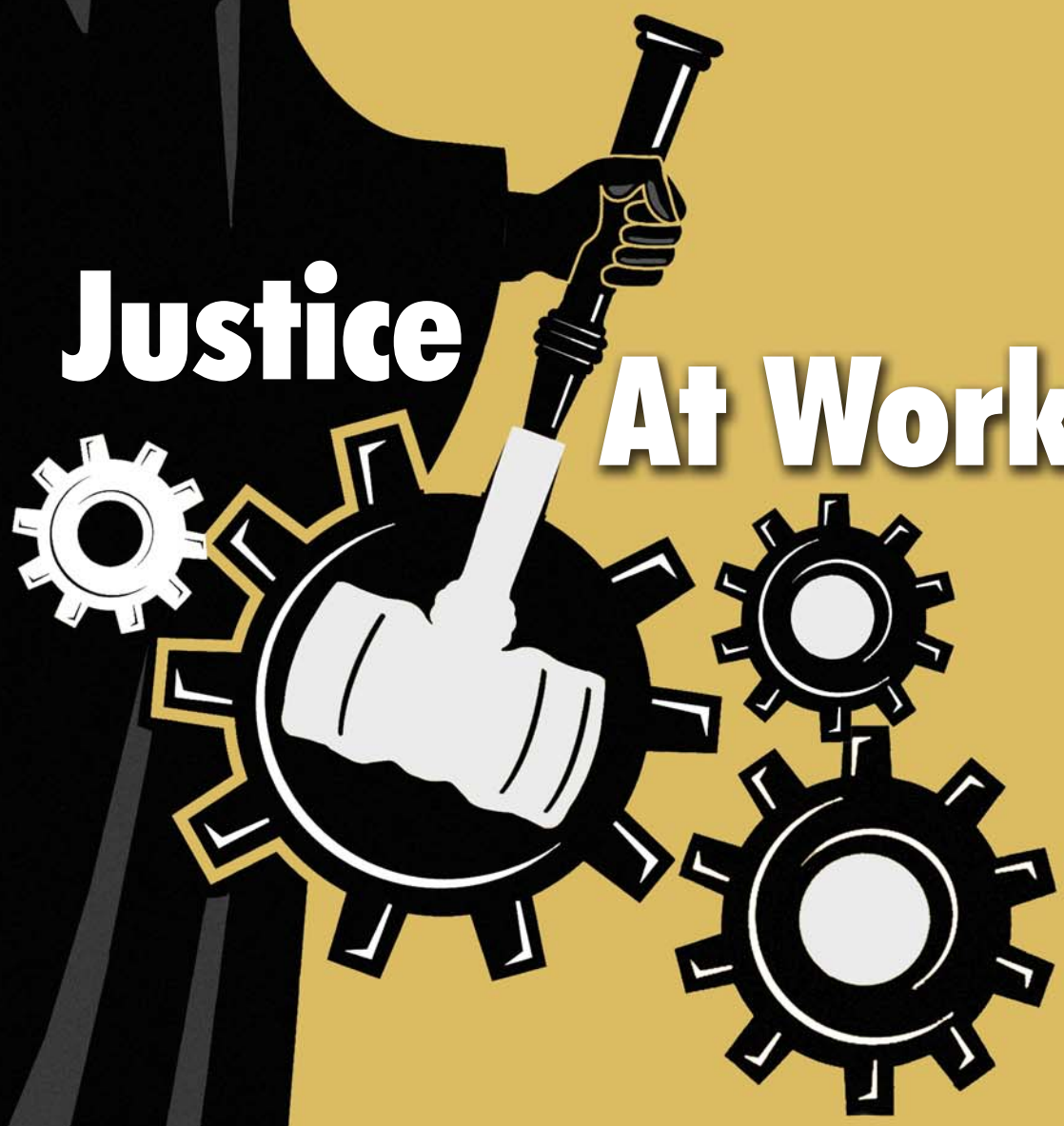


THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

2005
2006

The State of
Judicial Performance
in Louisiana

Justice At Work



FY 2005 – 2006
The State of Judicial Performance In Louisiana

Table Of Contents



A Message From The Judicial Administrator 2

The Storms and their Overall Effects on Louisiana..... 3

Performance of the Supreme Court 5

Performance Of The Courts Of Appeal..... 11

Performance Of The District Courts..... 18

Performance Of The City and Parish Courts..... 30

Lessons Learned from the Hurricanes 43

This document was published by the Judicial Administrator’s Office, 400 Royal Street, Suite 1190, New Orleans, LA, 70130 as the Annual Report on The State of Judicial Performance in Louisiana pursuant to the provisions of the Judicial Accountability Act of 1999 (R.S. 13:84).



The State Of Judicial Performance In Louisiana

The purpose of this special Justice at Work report is to document how the courts were affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and how they performed during and immediately after the devastation. There are many reasons for such a report. First, as a general point, the documentation may be useful for current and future historical analysis. Second, the issues raised in the report may motivate courts and other court-related functions within Louisiana and throughout the nation both now and in the future to be better prepared for coping with disasters and for maintaining continuity of operations.

It should be noted that the scope of this report is limited to the courts designated to be included in the performance reporting and budgeting system required under R.S. 1381. These courts include the Supreme Court and its agencies, the courts of appeal, the district courts, and the city and parish courts. The report does not include, except tangentially, the justice of the peace courts and the mayors' courts, as well as the rest of the justice system including clerks of court, sheriffs, city police departments, marshals, district attorneys, local prosecutors, indigent defenders, probation and correctional agencies, local detention facilities and services, coroners, crime laboratories, the state child protection agency, and numerous treatment providers, all of whom were also significantly affected by the hurricanes. There are several reasons for these exclusions. One is the limitation of scope provided in the statute as mentioned in the first sentence of this paragraph. Other reasons include the enormity of the task of including all justice agencies, particularly the potential difficulties of obtaining information from them on how they were collectively and individually affected by the storms.

The information used in this report is derived from three sources: a 2006 survey of courts of appeal, district courts, and city and parish courts; reports sent to the Supreme Court by various courts in 2005 - 2007; articles published in newspapers, journals, and the internet; and other reports.

This report is divided into four sections: (1) an introduction summarizing the general effects of the storms and their aftermaths on Louisiana; (2) an analysis, presentation, and summary of the survey results derived from each court; (3) information derived from other published materials about the courts; and (4) a conclusion summarizing the lessons learned.

Respectfully submitted,



Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.
Judicial Administrator



THE STORMS AND THEIR OVERALL EFFECTS ON LOUISIANA

INTRODUCTION

HURRICANE KATRINA

Hurricane Katrina may have been the fourth largest hurricane ever to hit the United States in recorded history. It formed as a tropical depression near the southeastern part of the Bahamas on August 23, 2005. The system was upgraded to a tropical storm on August 24, and two hours later it became a category one hurricane that made landfall in Florida on August 25. The storm initially weakened as it crossed part of Florida but then intensified as it entered the Gulf of Mexico, reaching category three intensity on August 27. Hurricane Katrina stayed in the Gulf of Mexico for three days. After three days, it doubled in size to category five status on August 28 with maximum sustained winds of 175 miles per hour. By the time Katrina hit Louisiana it was a category four at 145 mph. It struck the eastern part of Louisiana on August 29, 2005 with windspeeds of 125 miles per hour near Buras-Triumph in Plaquemines Parish on the Louisiana coastline and 120 mph in Orleans Parish.

HURRICANE KATRINA ON NEW ORLEANS

Because the greater New Orleans area is below sea level, the area is almost exclusively protected by a levee system. The entire coast of Louisiana including the New Orleans area is also affected by the continual loss of protective marshland.

EFFECTS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The winds created high storm surges throughout the southeastern part of the state. A 12-foot storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain hit the northern half of Orleans Parish along the lake contributing to the failure of three levees in Orleans along the 17th Street Canal, the New London Canal, and the Industrial Canal. The levee breaches resulted in the flooding of 80 percent of the city of New Orleans. In Jefferson Parish, flooding also occurred because the drainage pumps operators were evacuated and consequently the pumps were not turned on in a timely manner. Storm surge and wind more or less obliterated the lower half of Plaquemines and in St. Bernard the storm surge into the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet breached the parish levees, flooding virtually the entire parish. The combination of winds, rain, storm surge, levee breaches, and human miscalculations seriously damaged the parishes of Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, and the southeastern part of St. Tammany. Portions of St. Charles and St. John parishes were also damaged. Hurricane Katrina resulted in the evacuation of 90% of the residents of Louisiana. It also resulted in approximately 1,500 deaths. While the damage estimates are still being compiled, estimates as of 2006 placed the damages in excess of \$200 billion.

HURRICANE KATRINA ON THE COURTS

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the courts of Louisiana were severely damaged. During the storm, the employees of many courts were not able to work because they had to evacuate the southeastern area of Louisiana by Sunday, August 28, 2005. After Katrina, about 20 courthouses in the state were unusable, and many of the state's judges



were unable to be reached for several days.

HURRICANE RITA

Hurricane Rita originally came from the Turks and Caicos Islands, which are right below the Bahamas and Florida. Even though Rita did not cause as much damage as Katrina, it was still the strongest hurricane ever recorded. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita was a category three when it struck southwestern Louisiana and portions of east Texas causing further loss of property and life. Since many people knew about this storm, they had evacuated to the northern parts of Louisiana and Texas. In Louisiana, Hurricane Rita's winds were up to 120 mph and the rain and wind affected most of the southwestern parishes. In Cameron Parish, about 95 percent of the people living in the communities of Hackberry, Cameron, Creole, Grand Chenier, Holly Beach and Johnson's Bayou evacuated from their towns and cities. Almost all of Cameron Parish was heavily damaged or destroyed. Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parishes experienced extensive flooding. In Terrebonne Parish, virtually every levee was breached, also causing extensive flooding. Portions of Vermillion, Iberia, Lafayette, and Jefferson Davis Parishes were also seriously affected. Hurricane Rita also caused two levees in Orleans Parish, which had already been damaged by Katrina, to break anew, causing further flooding in the Lower Ninth Ward and other general areas of Orleans Parish.

EFFECTS OF HURRICANE RITA

Some small towns in Louisiana were so damaged by Rita that they no longer exist. Approximately 120 people were killed during Hurricane Rita and approximately 700,000 people lost power in their homes.

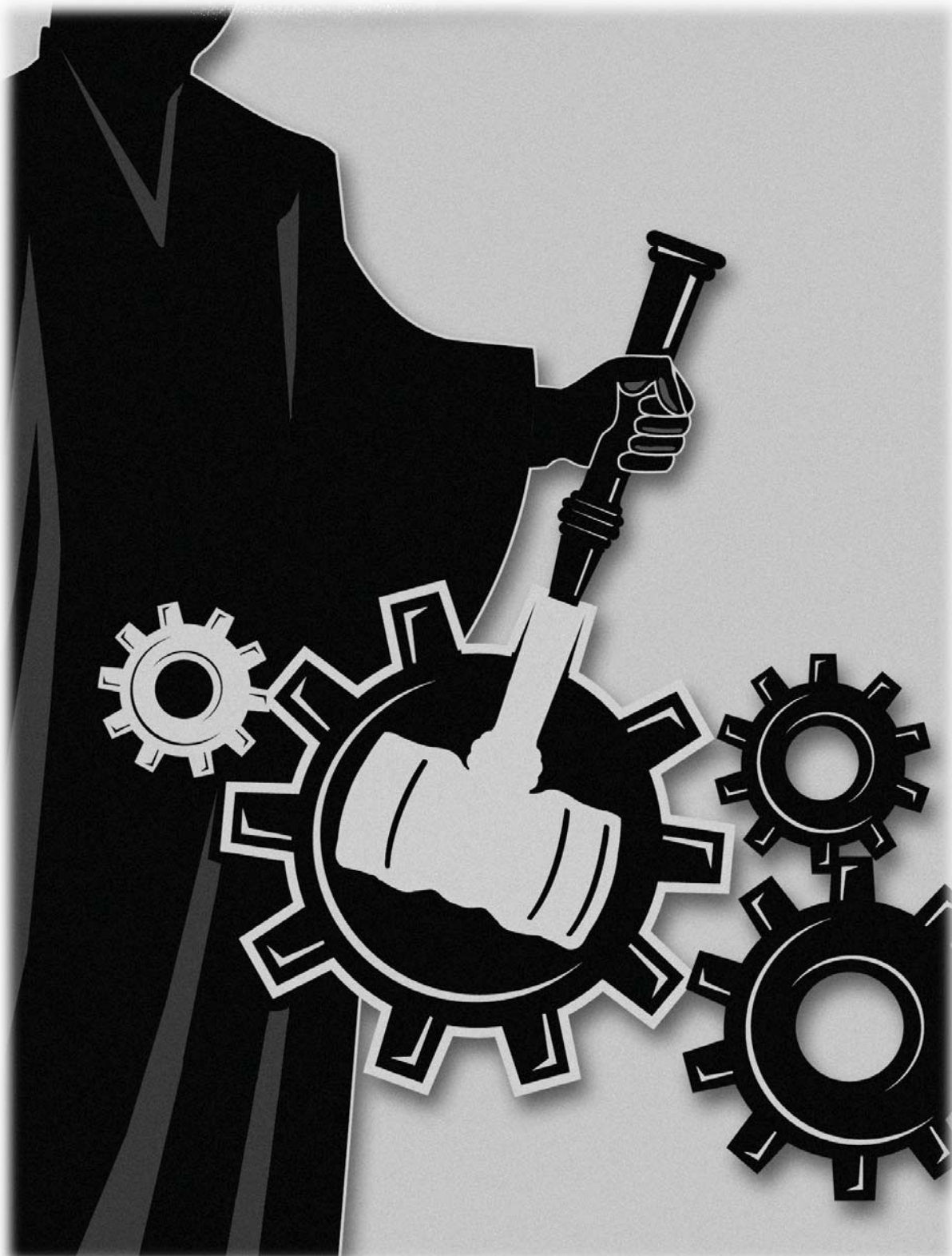
OVERALL EFFECTS OF BOTH HURRICANES

Throughout southern Louisiana, approximately 1,600 people were killed and approximately 200,000 homes sustained major or severe damage.

The devastation caused by the two storms and their aftermaths is very difficult to comprehend. The GulfGov Report of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government and the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana stated in their April 19, 2007 report that Louisiana was hit the hardest of all states damaged by the storms.

The most difficult point to make clear to those outside of the Gulf Coast Region is the magnitude of the damage and the amount of time and resources that will be needed to recover. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita did not flood a few streets or damage a few houses; both hurricanes devastated an area the size of Great Britain. Homes, businesses, infrastructure, municipal services – virtually all things that enable a community to function were badly damaged, destroyed, or simply washed away in the fury of the storms.





PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

**PERFORMANCE OF THE
SUPREME COURT**

JUSTICES OF THE LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT

INTRODUCTION

On Thursday, August 25, 2005, a tropical storm reached Category One hurricane strength, and two hours later made landfall near Miami. At that time, Hurricane Katrina appeared to be a typical small hurricane. However, it then reentered the Gulf of Mexico. On Friday, August 26, 2005, the reports in New Orleans were that while New Orleans was in the outer edge of the “cone of strike probability”, the hurricane was probably going to strike well to the east, and New Orleans would, once again, dodge the bullet. However, the Louisiana Supreme Court took its usual hurricane precautions of putting everyone on alert, and as employees left work on Friday afternoon, they were advised to watch their local news and to take the necessary steps to insure their personal safety, and to check the Court’s website for information on whether the Court would be open for business the following Monday. As the weekend progressed, the warnings became more ominous, and many began their evacuation treks.

By Sunday, August 28, Hurricane Katrina had become one of the largest and strongest storms in recorded history. After hearing predictions of a direct hit and reports of 216 mph wind gusts and 50 foot waves, over 1.2 million people evacuated from south Louisiana.

On Monday morning, the eye of Hurricane Katrina hit Plaquemines Parish, slightly east and a bit south of New Orleans, then moved northwest to Waveland, Mississippi. The entire Louisiana-Mississippi-Alabama coast suffered hurricane force winds and record-setting storm surges. While New Orleans was feeling lucky that it had been spared a direct hit, its feelings of good fortune were quickly deflated when, on Monday afternoon, breaches in the levees occurred in several places and the Mississippi River overtopped levees in St. Bernard Parish. Within 24 hours, 80% of New Orleans was underwater, and areas of the greater metropolitan New Orleans area and surrounding parishes were devastated. At least twenty courts were damaged and rendered inoperable in the first few days after the storm and subsequent torrential flooding. Many of Louisiana’s state judges were not heard from in the one or two weeks following Katrina.

In accordance with the mandatory evacuation order, Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. left his home and evacuated with his family to Houston, Texas on Saturday. By Monday afternoon, after the Hurricane had made landfall, it was obvious that the Supreme Court would not be returning to New Orleans anytime in the near future. The Chief began to make arrangements regarding continuity of the Court’s operations. After talking with the other Justices and key staffers, a decision was made to temporarily relocate the Louisiana Supreme Court from New Orleans to Baton Rouge at the First Circuit Court of Appeal building. Being able to relocate to another courthouse was a distinct advantage, as was the presence of Justice Kitty Kimball who lived right outside of Baton Rouge. Chief Justice Calogero appointed Justice Kimball to be the point Justice on the judicial system’s immediate recovery efforts and the Court’s interactions with FEMA.

SUPREME COURT’S ACTIONS IN FIRST THREE MONTHS

The Louisiana Supreme Court operated out of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal in Baton Rouge for approximately three months, beginning just several days after Hurricane Katrina struck. During these three months,



the Court's efforts fell into several categories: the Court was operated on an emergency basis; the Court rendered assistance to employees; the Court rendered assistance to the damaged lower courts; the Louisiana Supreme Court building was secured; the Court was in daily communications with the Governor's office and the State Attorney General; the Court worked closely with the Louisiana State Bar Association and handled issues that arose with attorneys; and, finally, the Court had many discussions with FEMA.

THE COURT'S EMPLOYEES

The Court's first concern was for its employees. Even before Katrina made landfall, actions were taken on Saturday, August 27, 2005, to make certain the payroll for state judges and Court employees would be processed. After the hurricane, immediate efforts were made to locate all employees. The Court was relieved to learn that even though many employees had lost their homes and possessions, all employees were safe. However, all of the Court's employees (except for a handful of employees in satellite offices) were displaced, at least temporarily, because New Orleans and surrounding areas were under a mandatory evacuation order and residents were not allowed to return to their homes, which for the most part were uninhabitable, for several weeks.

The Court then set about finding office space for those employees who were fortunate enough to find housing in the Baton Rouge area and who would be available to report to work immediately. Several key employees were placed at the First Circuit Court of Appeal, and office space was leased for other employees, mostly from the Judicial Administrator's office. Two trailers were purchased and placed on the lawn of the First Circuit, serving as the Clerk of Court's office for the acceptance of filings, and providing office space for other employees. (Once the Court returned to New Orleans, the trailers were utilized for other purposes, such as providing space for the Orleans Criminal District Court located at Tulane Avenue and Broad Street, in the heart of New Orleans.)

During those three months, steps were taken to accommodate the Court's employees, such as continuing their salaries for sixty days before they were required to report

back to work, providing "Supreme Court logo" shirts for employees who were able to report to work but who had not evacuated with work attire, and instituting several generous leave and reimbursement policies in light of the emergency. In addition, several group counseling sessions were held for employees, many of whom had devastating property losses in addition to suffering, in some instances, deaths of family members and friends.

COMPUTERS

One area of immediate concern was the Court's computer system. Although the Court had just recently adopted a Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan, it had not yet been implemented. Fortunately, and because of the willingness of computer personnel to go to work immediately, server space was secured in Baton Rouge within days after the hurricane. One important lesson that was learned was that a Court cannot operate a computer system without servers, and the Court's servers were sitting in the middle of flooded New Orleans in the Courthouse. Justice Chet D. Traylor, a former state trooper, called on some of his old friends to assist the Court's IT staff in getting back into New Orleans only days after Katrina. Rumors had been circulating that the Courthouse had been overrun with looters and that gaining re-entry and taking out the servers might indeed be a dangerous operation. Nevertheless, without hesitation, the Court's IT staff, outfitted with bullet-proof vests and escorted by a small army of law enforcement, traveled to New Orleans, gained entry to the Courthouse, and recovered the computer equipment that was critical to resumption of the Supreme Court's operations. As it turned out, the courthouse had not been overrun by looters. In fact, the only person seen at the Courthouse was one of the Capitol Police force assigned to protect the building who rode out the storm and had been in the building for several days. Needless to say, after that experience, the Louisiana Supreme Court has taken the necessary steps to locate backup servers offsite and outside of New Orleans in the event of future disasters.

The Court's Website was of critical importance in communicating not only with employees, but with courts and attorneys throughout the State. The Website was brought back online almost immediately, and was updated daily with new information. As members of the



Bar and lower courts were desperate for information, a temporary e-mail address was created and advertised over television and radio. Questions and requests for information poured in, and Justice Kimball's staff promptly responded to every e-mail that was sent in the days immediately following the Hurricane.

HOUSING

One of the lessons that became apparent in the days after the hurricane was that the Court could not perform its essential operations without its employees. However, if employees had no place to live, they could not report to work. Initially, employees reported to work while staying in local hotels (if rooms were available), but as the days passed, more permanent housing was needed. The lack of available housing in the Baton Rouge area was a serious impediment to many Court employees being able to report to work. Many hours were spent with FEMA representatives trying to negotiate some type of housing for our employees such as trailers. However, that process dragged on, and it was decided to concentrate efforts on obtaining housing for employees in New Orleans. Much time and energy was expended in the frustrating task of trying to secure trailers as well as approval for trailer sites from FEMA for our employees. After meeting with no success, it was finally decided as a last resort to locate some employees in hotels, a situation which was not ideal, but which was workable and allowed the Court to reopen sooner rather than later. The Supreme Court was only able to open at full capacity as soon as it did, in early December, because its employees were back in New Orleans and willing to report to work, despite having their own personal losses to contend with.

DAILY OPERATIONS

In the first few days after Hurricane Katrina, Justice Kitty Kimball and court staffers who usually worked in Baton Rouge worked daily. Their initial efforts were focused on contacting employees, contacting judges of lower courts that had been damaged, and responding to questions and requests for information. Judges of the damaged lower courts were assisted in the preparation and execution of Orders closing their courts. Within a week after the storm, Chief Justice Calogero, Justice

Bernette Johnson and Justice John Weimer had established offices at the First Circuit. Daily briefings were held with Chief Justice Calogero, Justice Kimball, the Clerk of Court, the Judicial Administrator, and other key employees. Meetings were held several times each week with representatives of FEMA, and representatives of the lower courts were called to Baton Rouge to be briefed on the FEMA application process. In an attempt to simplify the process, it was decided that the Louisiana Supreme Court would serve as the applicant agency for all of the damaged lower courts. Meetings were also held with the Attorney General, and numerous discussions were held regarding the operations of the criminal justice system in New Orleans.

Within a few weeks, the entire seven Justice court resumed their weekly conferences, during which the Justices addressed the myriad emergency administrative matters involved in helping to restore order and functionality to the approximately twenty courts that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. (An additional half dozen courts were affected by Hurricane Rita, which followed a few weeks later). For example, ad hoc judges had to be appointed to handle the criminal matters arising out of New Orleans. Because of the voluminous administrative workload created by the emergency, the Court deferred the handling of writ applications until November 2005. The oral arguments originally scheduled for September 2005 were postponed and rescheduled for the last week of November. Although the Justices were working, the Supreme Court was closed to non-emergency filings from August 29, 2005 to December 5, 2005. The Governor issued several Executive Orders attempting to suspend legal deadlines for filing, with concerns about the running of prescription.

ASSISTANCE TO LOWER COURTS

Regarding the Supreme Court's assistance to the lower courts, efforts began immediately after Hurricane Katrina struck, and again after Rita, to contact the Chief Judge, or any judge, on the affected courts. About twenty courts sustained damage from Katrina and several more were affected by Rita, including courts in Cameron, Vermilion, Calcasieu and Jefferson Davis parishes. As the



lower courts made the decision to enter orders closing their courts temporarily, Supreme Court personnel prepared and processed the orders at the Supreme Court, and posted them on the Court's website, as well as on the Louisiana State Bar Association website. The damage to local courthouses was ascertained. Courthouses in St. Bernard and Cameron Parishes were about the only courthouses to remain structurally sound, and, in fact, several judges of the 34th JDC in St. Bernard lived in their Courthouse for several days following Katrina. Many courts experienced severe damage, especially the Orleans and Plaquemines Parish courts. While some courthouses may have remained structurally sound, there was still extensive damage due to flooding, resulting in loss of files and evidence. Of course, a court system cannot function without staff, attorneys, witnesses and jurors, all of whom were displaced.

INTERACTIONS WITH THE BAR

The Supreme Court immediately established contact with representatives of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and handled issues concerning attorneys and the practice of law. For example, at the request of the Louisiana State Bar Association, which moved quickly despite the loss of almost half of its staff to set up temporary offices in Lafayette, the Supreme Court waived the continuing legal education requirements for 2005. Further, a notice was circulated to all state courts, urging judges to relax the dress codes in their courtrooms in consideration of the many attorneys who lost their clothing along with their homes.

As 52% of active lawyers in Louisiana had offices in hurricane impacted areas, there was a pressing need for legal services. At the request of the LSBA, the Court adopted a rule allowing out of state attorneys to provide civil legal assistance by telephone on a pro bono basis. The rule was later expanded to allow out of state attorneys to handle these matters in Louisiana courts under the supervision of prescribed Louisiana attorneys. Subsequently, the Court also responded to the request of the LSBA to address the scarcity of criminal defense lawyers available, particularly indigent defense lawyers. The Court enacted a Temporary Emergency Pro Bono Criminal Legal Assistance Rule For Orleans Parish. Under this emergency rule, attorneys who in fact were not licensed

to practice in Louisiana were temporarily allowed to provide criminal legal assistance and representation of indigent clients, as long as they received no compensation by the defendants for their services.

A problem arose with the bar exam which had been administered in July 2005. Several of the bar examiners, and thus the bar exams themselves, could not be located. Once the examiners were located, it was learned that numerous bar exams had been destroyed by flood waters. The Court took the unprecedented step of allowing prospective admittees to retake the portions of the bar exam that had been destroyed. Fortunately, every applicant who had to retake a portion of the bar exam passed. To accommodate the new admittees to the Bar, two bar admission ceremonies were held in Baton Rouge (they are usually held in New Orleans), one in October 2005 and one in November 2005.

THE COURT'S RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS

After two decades of restoration efforts, the newly renovated Louisiana Supreme Court building, located in the French Quarter in New Orleans, was dedicated on October 2, 2004. Less than a year later, it was visited by Hurricane Katrina. Fortunately, damage to the Courthouse, as well as the French Quarter, was minimal. While the building did not flood, damage was suffered by the building's electrical and mechanical systems from water rising from the water table beneath the building because the sump pumps became inoperative when fuel for the generators ran out. Some non-critical court records located in the basement were damaged by water, but they are in the process of being restored. The damage to the electrical and mechanical systems could possibly have been corrected within a week or two. However, the massive destruction in south Louisiana, especially to state-controlled properties, did not permit the State's Division of Administration to repair the Courthouse right away. On December 5, 2005, the Louisiana Supreme Court resumed operations in New Orleans, with about 95% of its pre-Katrina workforce, losing only a few employees who chose to relocate outside of the New Orleans area.



TODAY

The Louisiana Supreme Court resumed full operations upon its return to New Orleans including resumption of oral arguments and weekly writ conferences with full dockets, but the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita continued for many months thereafter. Justice Kimball updated the Court on a regular basis on progress with FEMA's assistance to lower courts. One example of an ongoing initiative begun in the aftermath of the Hurricanes is the Southeast Louisiana Task Force on Criminal Justice. Several months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Vice-Admiral Thad Allen, Chief of Staff - U.S. Coast Guard established a federal Task Force specifically designed to assist in the recovery of the area's criminal justice system. The Southeast Louisiana Task Force on Criminal Justice had three committees - one composed of law enforcement officials, one composed of district attorneys, and one composed of representatives of the judicial branch including judges, clerks of court, and indigent defenders from the areas affected by the storm. Justice Kimball was asked to chair the judicial committee, and has done a superb job in that role.

Through the Task Force, an opportunity for dialogue was established among criminal justice agencies in the greater New Orleans area, eventually including judges, the Clerk of Court, indigent defenders, the District Attorney, the Police Chief, the Criminal Sheriff, the Attorney General, the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and FEMA. Chief Justice Calogero and Justice Johnson participated with Justice Kimball in many of these informal meetings.

In its early stages, the judicial committee of the Task Force provided assistance in obtaining grant money, brought in experts from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to study and make recommendations about the indigent defender system, and provided assistance with FEMA transactions. Over time, the Task Force discussions turned to examinations of ongoing problems and an exchange of ideas, offering a unique opportunity for frank and candid dialogue.

For example, it became evident during such discussions that local criminal justice agencies are sorely lacking in resources, including personnel to provide support services,

such as secretaries, transcribers, and even translators. In response, the Louisiana Supreme Court sought, and obtained, a grant from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement of \$950,000 to establish an Orleans Parish Criminal Justice Recovery Resource Center to provide much needed resources such as temporary support staffing and consultant services technical assistance, and investigation of additional funding or grant opportunities. The Center should be operational by January 2008.

In conclusion, the Louisiana Supreme Court weathered the hurricanes of 2005. The Court's success and its continued operation were the result of the dedication and determination of the seven justices of the Court, judges of the affected courts who continued to carry out their judicial responsibilities as elected judges of the state, and committed court staffers. The Louisiana Supreme Court also owes a debt of gratitude to Chief Judge Burrell Carter and all of the judges and staff of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal for their unfailing courtesies and assistance during the Louisiana Supreme Court's temporary relocation.





PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

**PERFORMANCE OF THE
COURTS OF APPEAL**

The Performance of the Courts of Appeal, the District, City and Parish Courts are provided in the survey results shown below.

ANALYSIS OF THE 2006 SURVEY RESULTS

In early December 2006, the Judicial Administrator mailed a survey form to the chief judges and key staff of the courts of appeal, district courts, and city and parish courts requesting information on the effects of the storms on their respective courts. The results of the returned surveys were organized into the tables shown below.

Tables A1 – A5 – Courts of Appeal.

- **1st Circuit Court of Appeal.** The 1st Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court was not damaged, had some reduction in operating revenues, had some reduction in court personnel, and some reduction or disruption of court proceedings.
- **2nd Circuit Court of Appeal.** The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court was not damaged, had no reduction in personnel, and some reduction or disruption of court proceedings.
- **3rd Circuit Court of Appeal.** The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court sustained minor damage, had some reduction in operating revenues, had no reduction in personnel, and some reduction or disruption of court proceedings.
- **4th Circuit Court of Appeal.** The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court sustained minor damage, had some equipment and supplies damaged or destroyed, some of its court records were either damaged or destroyed, had significant reduction in operating revenues, had no reduction in personnel, and had significant reduction or disruption of court proceedings;
- **5th Circuit Court of Appeal.** The 5th Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court had sustained significant damage, had some equipment and supplies damaged or destroyed, had significant reduction in operating revenues, had no reduction in personnel, and had some reduction or disruption of court proceedings.

To see the results of the Courts of Appeal, see Tables A1 through A5.



TABLE A1
Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

	Courthouse sustained significant damage	Courthouse sustained minor damage	Courthouse not damaged at all	Equipment damaged or destroyed	Supplies damaged or destroyed	Court records damaged or destroyed	Significant reduction in operating revenues	Some reduction in operating revenues	No reduction in operating revenues	Significant reduction in personnel	Some reduction in personnel	No reduction in personnel	Significant disruption of court proceedings	Some reduction/disruption of court proceedings	No reduction/disruption of court proceedings
APPELLATE COURT															
1			✓					✓			✓			✓	
2			✓									✓		✓	
3		✓						✓				✓		✓	
4		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		
5	✓			✓	✓		✓					✓		✓	
TOTALS	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	4	1	4	0



TABLE A2
Evacuation and/or Temporary Relocation of Operations

	If your court had to evacuate and temporarily relocate its operations during the emergency period of the hurricanes and their aftermath, to which court(s) or area(s) did you relocate?
APPELLATE COURT	
1	The courthouse in Baton Rouge was fine and had power on August 31st when the court reopened. Six of the eight judges' parish offices had electricity restored between August 31st and September 2nd (Greensburg, Ponchatoula, Thibodaux, and Houma). Two of the eight judges' parish offices were in Covington and Mandeville and because of logistical issues associated with lack of power, road blockages, gasoline shortages, damage to these judges' and their employees' homes, and communication problems, the affected judges and their staffs worked out of the Baton Rouge courthouse for three to four weeks. Their efforts were also hampered by the unavoidable delay in being able to retrieve court records located in these parish offices.
2	N/A
3	The courthouse in Lake Charles was closed for approximately three weeks due to loss of electricity. The court by order established the satellite office in Opelousas as the location to mail and receive filings from attorneys. Several of our servers were set up at that location to run the daily operations of the court such as paying bills and payroll. Emergency panels were convened and met either in Opelousas or Lafayette to render decisions on emergency writs. Judges also convened in these two locations to discuss operational issues and damage assessment.
4	University of Southeastern Louisiana in Hammond. Satellite Office - Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, New Orleans.
5	On September 12, 2005, the Fifth Circuit issued an order re-establishing court operations from a satellite location in LaPlace, Louisiana. The Fifth Circuit conducted operations from that satellite location until September 26, 2005, when the Court resumed regular operations at its courthouse in Gretna, Louisiana.



TABLE A3
Date Court Returned to Normal Operations In Its Original Location

	On what date did your court return to normal operations in its original location?
APPELLATE COURT	
1	The First Circuit continued normal operations as much as possible beginning August 31st. However, because a significant number of trial courts, attorneys, and parties who had business with the First Circuit were in hurricane devastated areas, the Court instituted an approximate two week delay in issuing actions and decisions so that notices issued by the clerk's office could be effectively delivered. The clerk's office used a variety of means to locate displaced persons and to relax operational requirements for address changes and, as a result, the Court experienced limited disruption to its normal operations. The Court was also lenient in granting continuances for oral argument and extensions for briefing for affected attorneys and pro se litigants.
2	N/A
3	October 13, 2005
4	Central staff only returned (November 8, 2005) Rest of Court returned (December 5, 2005)
5	September 26, 2005



TABLE A4
Assistance to Hurricane-Devastated Courts

	Provided Office Space	Provided Equipment	Provided Supplies	Provided Judges to Hear Cases	Provided Technical Assistance	Provided Other Assistance	Specify Other Assistance	What Courts Did You Assist?
APPELLATE COURT								
1	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	The most significant post-Katrina issue was the disruption of communications within the judicial branch. The First Circuit assumed the role of messenger to insure that orders issued by the Supreme Court were effectively distributed to the parish clerks of court and the judicial administrators for the entire state by e-mailings and postings to the Court's website as soon as possible.	The Louisiana Supreme Court, the Third, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeal, and all affected district, specialty and city courts in the hurricane devastated areas who used the courthouse for various meetings while displaced.
2	✓		✓		✓	✓	Acted as clearing house for telephone and e-mail contacts from judges and employees of impacted appellate courts collecting relocation information and how to contact.	3rd, 4th, 5th Circuit Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court
3	✓	✓	✓		✓		N/A	Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal
4							N/A	
5	✓	✓	✓	✓			N/A	First and Fourth Circuit Courts of Appeal and 24th JDC
TOTALS	4	3	4	1	3	2		



TABLE A5
Court's Most Important Needs Regarding Court Continuity

	Remote Back-up Location for Computer Databases	An Arrangement to Locate Court Operations at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	An Arrangement to Locate Manual Files at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	Scanners to Scan Active and Historical Files	Automated Case Management System	Technical Assistance
APPELLATE COURT						
1	✓			✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓			
3	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5				✓		
TOTALS	4	3	3	4	2	2





PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

**PERFORMANCE OF THE
DISTRICT COURTS**

Tables B1 – B5 – District Courts.

- The following courts reported that no damage was sustained:

2nd JDC, 3rd JDC, 4th JDC, 5th JDC, 6th JDC, 7th JDC, 8th JDC, 10th JDC, 11th JDC, 12th JDC, 13th JDC, 15th JDC, 16th JDC, 17th JDC, 18th JDC, 19th JDC, 20th JDC, 21st JDC, 22nd JDC, 23rd JDC, 26th JDC, 27th JDC, 28th JDC, 36th JDC, 37th JDC, 39th JDC, Caddo Parish Juvenile Court, East Baton Rouge Parish Juvenile Court, and the East Baton Rouge Family Court.

- The following courts reported that minor damage was sustained:

9th JDC, 14th JDC, 29th JDC, 30th JDC, 31st JDC, 32nd JDC, 33rd JDC, 34th JDC, 35th JDC, 40th JDC, and the Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court.

- The following courts reported that significant damage was sustained:

24th JDC, 25th JDC, 38th JDC, Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, and the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court.

To see the results of the District Courts, see Tables B1 through B5.



TABLE B1
Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

	Courthouse sustained significant damage	Courthouse sustained minor damage	Courthouse not damaged at all	Equipment damaged or destroyed	Supplies damaged or destroyed	Court records damaged or destroyed	Significant reduction in operating revenues	Some reduction in operating revenues	No reduction in operating revenues	Significant reduction in personnel	Some reduction in personnel	No reduction in personnel	Significant disruption of court proceedings	Some reduction of court proceedings	No reduction of court proceedings
DISTRICT COURT															
1			✓												✓
2			✓						✓			✓			✓
3			✓						✓			✓			✓
4			✓						✓			✓			✓
5			✓						✓			✓			✓
6			✓					✓				✓		✓	
7			✓						✓						✓
8			✓						✓			✓			✓
9		✓						✓				✓		✓	
10			✓						✓			✓			✓
11			✓					✓				✓		✓	
12			✓												
13			✓						✓			✓			✓
14		✓							✓				✓	✓	
15			✓	✓					✓			✓			✓
16			✓					✓				✓		✓	
17			✓				✓							✓	
18			✓					✓				✓		✓	
19			✓					✓				✓		✓	
20			✓						✓			✓			✓
21			✓					✓				✓		✓	
22			✓					✓		✓			✓	✓	
23			✓						✓					✓	
24	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓			✓		
25	✓				✓				✓			✓		✓	
26			✓						✓			✓			✓



TABLE B1
Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

	Courthouse sustained significant damage	Courthouse sustained minor damage	Courthouse not damaged at all	Equipment damaged or destroyed	Supplies damaged or destroyed	Court records damaged or destroyed	Significant reduction in operating revenues	Some reduction in operating revenues	No reduction in operating revenues	Significant reduction in personnel	Some reduction in personnel	No reduction in personnel	Significant disruption of court proceedings	Some reduction of court proceedings	No reduction of court proceedings
DISTRICT COURT															
27			✓						✓			✓			✓
28															✓
29		✓		✓	✓			✓							✓
30		✓											✓		
31		✓							✓			✓			✓
32		✓			✓			✓				✓		✓	
33		✓						✓				✓		✓	
34	✓														
35		✓													✓
36			✓						✓			✓		✓	
37			✓					✓				✓		✓	
38	✓			✓		✓							✓		
39			✓						✓						✓
40		✓		✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	
Orleans Criminal	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Orleans Civil	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
Orleans Juvenile															
Caddo Juvenile			✓												
Jefferson Juvenile		✓						✓		✓				✓	
East Baton Rouge Juvenile			✓						✓					✓	
East Baton Rouge Family			✓						✓			✓			✓
TOTALS	6	10	29	7	6	4	5	13	20	2	4	25	7	19	19



TABLE B2
Evacuation and/or Temporary Relocation of Operations

	If your court had to evacuate and temporarily relocate its operations during the emergency period of the hurricanes and their aftermath, to which court(s) or area(s) did you relocate?
DISTRICT COURT	
1	N/A
2	N/A
3	N/A
4	N/A
5	N/A
6	N/A
7	N/A
8	N/A
9	N/A
10	N/A
11	N/A
12	N/A
13	N/A
14	Our parish was closed from September 26th. We did not relocate our operations. The chief judge returned to parish and handled all matters for all judges from our Police Jury offices. The chief judge also went out to the jail and handled matters there as well. Court administration was located in Texas with laptop and handled correspondence and contact with all other judges and employees. The Court reopened for limited proceedings on October 11th through November 25, 2005.
15	N/A
16	The 16th JDC closed for evacuation one day for Hurricane Katrina and two and a half days for Hurricane Rita. This court sustained no damage from either hurricane and therefore did not need to relocate.
17	N/A
18	N/A
19	N/A
20	N/A
21	N/A
22	N/A
23	The Court did not have to relocate; however, due to power failures, downed trees and lack of telephone service, the Court was unable to operate for one week following Hurricane Katrina.
24	Evacuated, but relocated in original courthouse on October 11, 2005. Had to relocate four divisions of court from destroyed building.
25	N/A



TABLE B2
Evacuation and/or Temporary Relocation of Operations

	If your court had to evacuate and temporarily relocate its operations during the emergency period of the hurricanes and their aftermath, to which court(s) or area(s) did you relocate?
DISTRICT COURT	
26	N/A
27	N/A
28	N/A
29	N/A
30	The courthouse was closed because of a lack of electricity from September 26th to September 30, 2005.
31	The Court was not required to relocate. Operations resumed as soon as electrical power was restored.
32	N/A
33	N/A
34	Remained in courthouse (used 2nd floor areas). Also had judges traveling to Penal Institutions to handle matters involving 34th JDC inmates being housed by other agencies for the 34th JDC.
35	N/A
36	N/A
37	N/A
38	14th JDC (Calcasieu Parish) Lake Charles, LA
39	N/A
40	N/A
Orleans Criminal	Southern University (Baton Rouge), Hunt Correctional and numerous facilities statewide. Federal court in New Orleans, LA using two courtrooms only.
Orleans Civil	Gonzales, La - First and Second City Courts (Oct, 2005-Dec, 2005); Gonzales, La. Covington, LA-Civil District Court (Oct, 2005-Dec, 2005)
Orleans Juvenile	N/A
Caddo Juvenile	N/A
Jefferson Juvenile	In the past, our juveniles in detention relocated to Calcasieu Detention Center. In the future, if needed, the Court will relocate to Natchitoches or St. Charles Parish or 24th JDC in Gretna.
East Baton Rouge Juvenile	N/A
East Baton Rouge Family	N/A



TABLE B3
Date Court Returned to Normal Operations In Its Original Location

	On what date did your court return to normal operations in its original location?
DISTRICT COURT	
1	N/A
2	N/A
3	N/A
4	N/A
5	N/A
6	N/A
7	N/A
8	N/A
9	N/A
10	N/A
11	N/A
12	N/A
13	N/A
14	November 28, 2005
15	Acadia - 9/29/05; Vermilion - 10/3/05; Lafayette - 9/26/05.
16	Immediately following each hurricane: on August 30, 2005 following Hurricane Katrina and on September 27, 2005 following Hurricane Rita.
17	N/A
18	N/A
19	The 19th JDC was closed from August 29th through September 2nd due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina. There was some additional cutting short of courthouse hours immediately after these dates due to logistics/complications arising from the 7,000+ evacuees who were housed for many weeks in the River Center which is adjacent to the courthouse. Criminal Court was curtailed on several days as the E.B.R. Sheriff's Office which provides the 19th JDC's security was unavailable while serving as a primary force in the evacuation of jails and prisons in many of the affected parishes.
20	September 1, 2005
21	September 6, 2005
22	N/A
23	Full operations resumed on August 29, 2005
24	January 1, 2006
25	October 3, 2005



TABLE B3
Date Court Returned to Normal Operations In Its Original Location

	On what date did your court return to normal operations in its original location?
DISTRICT COURT	
26	N/A
27	N/A
28	N/A
29	September 12, 2005
30	October 3, 2005
31	October 3, 2005
32	September 1, 2005
33	September 28, 2005
34	October 11, 2005
35	N/A
36	N/A
37	N/A
38	April 3, 2006
39	N/A
40	September 6, 2005
Orleans Criminal	Returned to court on June, 2006 utilizing only six courtrooms. Normal operation began in November, 2006.
Orleans Civil	January 3, 2006
Orleans Juvenile	N/A
Caddo Juvenile	Operations did not cease.
Jefferson Juvenile	October 3, 2005
East Baton Rouge Juvenile	N/A
East Baton Rouge Family	N/A



TABLE B4
Assistance to Hurricane-Devastated Courts

	Provided Office Space	Provided Equipment	Provided Supplies	Provided Judges to Hear Cases	Provided Technical Assistance	Provided Other Assistance	Specify Other Assistance	What Courts Did You Assist?
DISTRICT COURT								
1						✓	Review prisoner records with local jail staff regarding Orleans prisoners, officers, court space, etc.	Orleans
2	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	My husband and I housed Deputy Judicial Administrator Tony Gagliano and his family for about two weeks, during which time I made my office, staff and equipment fully available to him for the Supreme Court.	Louisiana Supreme Court
3							N/A	N/A
4						✓	The Court conducted 72-hour hearings on Orleans Parish prisoners who were transferred to Monroe in order to protect their rights.	N/A
5							N/A	N/A
6							N/A	N/A
7						✓	Prisoners were evacuated to parish correctional facilities. Judges handled habeas corpus cases and other matters that could be handled here.	N/A
8							The CCA prison housed some prisoners and some court functions were handled by phone.	N/A
9	✓			✓		✓	Helped with communication to other court personnel in damaged areas	Jefferson & Orleans
10							N/A	N/A
11							Offered Assistance	None Directly
12	✓						Two motion hearings with Orleans Inmates.	Orleans Criminal District Court
13							N/A	N/A
14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Housed juveniles from affected areas.	Cameron Parish Court, after our court opened for limited matters; and Jefferson Juvenile Court.
15							Provided office space and computer for Orleans Criminal Court to do payroll. One of our judges housed a fellow judge and family. Helped displaced court reporters and law clerks to find work in other jurisdictions.	Offered space to the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals.
16							N/A	N/A
17							N/A	N/A
18							N/A	N/A
19	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	N/A	N/A
20							N/A	N/A
21						✓	Office space for administrative personnel.	Supreme Court
22	✓				✓		N/A	Civil District Court, Orleans Parish, and St. Bernard Parish Courts



TABLE B4
Assistance to Hurricane-Devastated Courts

23	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Conferred with judges and clerk of Orleans District Court; arranged meeting places and other assistance.	N/A
24							N/A	N/A
25							N/A	N/A
26						✓	This jurisdiction housed several hundred of Orleans Criminal District Court prisoners and maintained lines of communication open with that court on determining status of prisoners. The court administrator was appointed to serve on the District Judges Association's Disaster Recover Planning Committee to aid other courts in developing a disaster recovery plan. The court administrator also chaired the National Association for Court Management's Disaster Relief ad hoc committee to bridge gaps between entities lending assistance and courts affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.	N/A
27							N/A	N/A
28						✓	Provided courtroom and personnel for habeas hearings of displaced prisoners.	34th JDC
29						✓	Offered office space.	N/A
30						✓	The Court accepted a drug court defendant from Washington Parish into its drug court.	22nd JDC, Washington Parish
31							N/A	N/A
32							N/A	N/A
33							N/A	N/A
34							N/A	N/A
35							N/A	N/A
36							N/A	N/A
37							Provided phone, fax, etc. to Jefferson Parish judge.	N/A
38							N/A	N/A
39							N/A	N/A
40							Offered courtroom space and to receive filings, but no takers	N/A
Orleans Criminal							N/A	N/A
Orleans Civil		✓			✓	✓	Provided jury pool space, gave computers to Criminal District Court and provided assistance in getting out their jury notices. Also provided courtrooms for at least one criminal trial.	Criminal District Court
Orleans Juvenile							N/A	N/A
Caddo Juvenile						✓	Provided housing for juveniles from south Louisiana in our detention center.	Orleans Parish Juvenile court and Calcasieu Parish Juvenile Court.
Jefferson Juvenile	✓	✓	✓		✓		N/A	St. Bernard; Louisiana Supreme Court (Tony Gagliano and Secretary)
East Baton Rouge Juvenile	✓	✓	✓			✓	Provided space and necessary court personnel for Orleans Parish Juvenile court to hear their cases.	Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
East Baton Rouge Family							No assistance was requested.	N/A
TOTALS	9	7	6	2	7	16		



TABLE B5
Court's Most Important Needs Regarding Court Continuity

	Remote Backup Location for Computer Databases	An Arrangement to Locate Court Operations at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	An Arrangement to Locate Manual Files at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	Scanners to Scan Active and Historical Files	Automated Case Management System	Technical Assistance
DISTRICT COURT						
1		✓				
2		✓				
3	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4			✓		✓	
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	✓			✓		
7	✓		✓	✓		
8		✓	✓			
9	✓		✓			
10				✓		
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12		✓				
13				✓		
14		✓			✓	
15	✓	✓		✓		
16	✓	✓	✓	✓		
17	✓					
18						
19	✓			✓		
20		✓	✓			
21	✓					
22	✓					
23	✓				✓	
24	✓	✓				
25					✓	✓



TABLE B5
Court's Most Important Needs Regarding Court Continuity

	Remote Backup Location for Computer Databases	An Arrangement to Locate Court Operations at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	An Arrangement to Locate Manual Files at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	Scanners to Scan Active and Historical Files	Automated Case Management System	Technical Assistance
DISTRICT COURT						
26	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
27		✓	✓			
28	✓					
29		✓	✓		✓	
30						✓
31			✓	✓		
32	✓					
33						
34	✓	✓				
35	✓	✓		✓	✓	
36						
37		✓				
38	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
39						
40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Orleans Criminal	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Orleans Civil	✓	✓				
Orleans Juvenile						
Caddo Juvenile	✓					
Jefferson Juvenile	✓			✓		
East Baton Rouge Juvenile		✓	✓			
East Baton Rouge Family	✓	✓		✓		
TOTALS	26	24	16	15	13	8





PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

**PERFORMANCE OF THE
CITY & PARISH COURTS**

Tables C1 – C5 – City and Parish Courts.

- The following courts reported that no damage was sustained:

Alexandria, Ascension, Bastrop, Baton Rouge, Bossier, Breaux Bridge, Bunkie, Crowley, Denham Springs, Franklin, Houma, Jeanerette, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Leesville, Marksville, Minden, Monroe, Morgan City, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Oakdale, Pineville, Plaquemines, Rayne, Ruston, Shreveport, Thibodaux, Vidalia, Ville Platte, Winnfield, Winnsboro, and Zachary City Courts.
- The following courts reported that minor damage was sustained:

1st Parish, 2nd Parish, and Kaplan City Courts.
- The following courts reported that significant damage was sustained:

1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Municipal, N.O. Traffic, Slidell City, and Sulphur City Courts.
- The following courts reported that equipment was damaged or destroyed:

2nd Parish, 1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Municipal, N.O. Traffic, and the Slidell City Courts.
- The following courts reported that supplies were damaged or destroyed:

2nd Parish, 1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Traffic, Slidell, and the Sulphur City Courts.
- The following courts reported that court records were damaged or destroyed:

2nd Parish, 1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Municipal, N.O. Traffic, Slidell, and the Sulphur City Courts.
- The following courts reported that no reduction in operating revenues:

Alexandria, Bastrop, Baton Rouge, Bossier, Breaux Bridge, Bunkie, Crowley, Eunice, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Marksville, Minden, Monroe, Morgan City, Oakdale, Pineville, Plaquemine, Rayne, Ruston, Shreveport, Vidalia, Ville Platte, Winnfield, and the Zachary City Courts.
- The following courts reported some reduction in operating revenues:

Denham Springs, Hammond, 1st Parish, 2nd Parish, Kaplan, Leesville, New Iberia, N.O. Traffic, Sulphur, and the Thibodaux City Courts.
- The following courts reported significant reduction in operating revenues:

Jeanerette, Jennings, 1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Municipal, and the Slidell City Courts.
- The following courts reported no reduction in personnel:

Alexandria, Bastrop, Baton Rouge, Bossier, Breaux Bridge, Bunkie, Crowley, Denham Springs, Eunice,



Franklin, Hammond, Houma, Jennings, Kaplan, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Leesville, Minden, Monroe, Morgan City, Natchitoches, New Iberia, Oakdale, Pineville, Plaquemine, Rayne, Ruston, Shreveport, Sulphur, Thibodaux, Vidalia, Ville Platte, Winnfield, Winnsboro, and the Zachary City Courts.

- The following courts reported some reduction in personnel:

1st Parish, 2nd Parish, and the Slidell City Courts.

- The following courts reported significant reduction in personnel:

1st City, 2nd City, N.O. Municipal, and the N.O. Traffic Courts.

- The following courts reported no reduction of court proceedings:

Alexandria, Bossier, Bunkie, Crowley, Eunice, Franklin, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Marksville, Minden, Monroe, Morgan City, Natchitoches, Oakdale, Pineville, Plaquemine, Ruston, Shreveport, Springhill, Vidalia, Ville Platte, Winnfield, Winnsboro, and the Zachary City Courts.

- The following courts reported some reduction of court proceedings:

Bastrop, Breaux Bridge, Denham Springs, Hammond, 1st Parish, 2nd Parish, Jennings, Kaplan, Leesville, New Iberia, N.O. Traffic, Rayne, Slidell, Sulphur, and the Thibodaux City Courts.

- The following courts reported significant disruption of court proceedings:

Jeanerette, 1st City, 2nd City, and the N.O. Municipal Courts.

To see the results of the City and Parish Courts, see Tables C1 through C5.



TABLE C1
Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

CITY/PARISH COURT	Courthouse sustained significant damage	Courthouse sustained minor damage	Courthouse not damaged at all	Equipment damaged or destroyed	Supplies damaged or destroyed	Court records damaged or destroyed	Significant reduction in operating revenues	Some reduction in operating revenues	No reduction in operating revenues	Significant reduction in personnel	Some reduction in personnel	No reduction in personnel	Significant disruption of court proceedings	Some reduction of court proceedings	No reduction of court proceedings
Abbeville															
Alexandria			✓						✓			✓			✓
Ascension			✓												
Baker															
Bastrop			✓						✓			✓		✓	
Baton Rouge			✓						✓			✓			
Bogalusa															
Bossier City			✓						✓			✓			✓
Breaux Bridge			✓						✓			✓		✓	
Bunkie			✓						✓			✓			✓
Crowley			✓						✓			✓			✓
Denham Springs			✓					✓				✓		✓	
Eunice									✓			✓			✓
Franklin			✓									✓			✓
Hammond								✓				✓		✓	
Houma			✓						✓			✓			✓
Jeanerette			✓				✓						✓		
Jefferson - 1st Parish Ct		✓						✓			✓			✓	
Jefferson - 2nd Parish Ct		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	
Jennings			✓				✓					✓		✓	
Kaplan		✓						✓				✓		✓	
Lafayette			✓						✓			✓			✓
Lake Charles			✓						✓			✓			✓
Leesville			✓					✓				✓		✓	
Marksville			✓						✓						✓
Minden			✓						✓			✓			✓
Monroe			✓						✓			✓			✓
Morgan City			✓						✓			✓			✓



TABLE C1
Effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

	Courthouse sustained significant damage	Courthouse sustained minor damage	Courthouse not damaged at all	Equipment damaged or destroyed	Supplies damaged or destroyed	Court records damaged or destroyed	Significant reduction in operating revenues	Some reduction in operating revenues	No reduction in operating revenues	Significant reduction in personnel	Some reduction in personnel	No reduction in personnel	Significant disruption of court proceedings	Some reduction of court proceedings	No reduction of court proceedings
CITY/PARISH COURT															
Natchitoches			✓									✓			✓
New Iberia			✓					✓				✓		✓	
N.O. - 1st City Ct	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
N.O. - 2nd City Ct	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓		
N.O. - Municipal Ct	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓			✓		
N.O. - Traffic Ct	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓	
Oakdale			✓						✓			✓			✓
Opelousas															
Pineville			✓						✓			✓			✓
Plaquemine			✓						✓			✓			✓
Port Allen															
Rayne			✓						✓			✓		✓	
Ruston			✓						✓			✓			✓
Shreveport			✓						✓			✓			✓
Slidell	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	
Springhill															✓
Sulphur	✓				✓	✓		✓				✓		✓	
Thibodaux			✓					✓				✓		✓	
Vidalia			✓						✓			✓			✓
Ville Platte			✓						✓			✓			✓
West Monroe															
Winnfield			✓						✓			✓			✓
Winnsboro			✓									✓			✓
Zachary			✓						✓			✓			✓
TOTALS	6	3	34	6	6	7	6	10	25	4	3	35	4	15	25



TABLE C2
Evacuation and/or Temporary Relocation of Operations

CITY/PARISH COURT	If your court had to evacuate and temporarily relocate its operations during the emergency period of the hurricanes and their aftermath, to which court(s) or area(s) did you relocate?
Abbeville	N/A
Alexandria	N/A
Ascension	N/A
Baker	N/A
Bastrop	N/A
Baton Rouge	N/A. However, the courthouse building was closed August 29, 2005 through September 2, 2005.
Bogalusa	N/A
Bossier City	N/A
Breaux Bridge	N/A
Bunkie	N/A
Crowley	N/A
Denham Springs	Due to the power being out they conducted Juvenile Court on 8/31/05 in the conference room at the police department which had a generator.
Eunice	N/A
Franklin	N/A
Hammond	N/A
Houma	N/A
Jeanerette	N/A
Jefferson - 1st Parish Ct	No relocation necessary.
Jefferson - 2nd Parish Ct	The Court did not relocate, but was closed from 8/29/05-10/3/05.
Jennings	N/A
Kaplan	N/A
Lafayette	N/A
Lake Charles	N/A
Leesville	N/A
Marksville	N/A
Minden	N/A
Monroe	N/A
Morgan City	N/A



TABLE C2
Evacuation and/or Temporary Relocation of Operations

	If your court had to evacuate and temporarily relocate its operations during the emergency period of the hurricanes and their aftermath, to which court(s) or area(s) did you relocate?
CITY/PARISH COURT	
Natchitoches	N/A
New Iberia	N/A
N.O. - 1st City Ct	Gonzales, LA - 1st & 2nd City Courts (10/05 - 12/05)
N.O. - 2nd City Ct	Gonzales, LA - 1st & 2nd City Courts (10/05 - 12/05)
N.O. - Municipal Ct	Court is attempting to coordinate with OPCS for relocation of court in case of emergency. Court is researching viability of St. Francisville, LA area.
N.O. - Traffic Ct	Algiers Courthouse, 225 Morgan Street
Oakdale	N/A
Opelousas	N/A
Pineville	N/A
Plaquemine	N/A
Port Allen	N/A
Rayne	N/A
Ruston	N/A
Shreveport	N/A
Slidell	N/A
Springhill	N/A
Sulphur	N/A
Thibodaux	N/A
Vidalia	N/A
Ville Platte	N/A
West Monroe	N/A
Winnfield	N/A
Winnsboro	N/A
Zachary	N/A



TABLE C3
Date Court Returned to Normal Operations In Its Original Location

CITY/PARISH COURT	On what date did your court return to normal operations in its original location?
Abbeville	N/A
Alexandria	N/A
Ascension	N/A
Baker	N/A
Bastrop	N/A
Baton Rouge	September 5, 2005
Bogalusa	N/A
Bossier City	N/A
Breaux Bridge	N/A
Bunkie	N/A
Crowley	N/A
Denham Springs	September 1, 2005
Eunice	N/A
Franklin	N/A
Hammond	September 6, 2005
Houma	N/A
Jeanerette	N/A
Jefferson - 1st Parish Ct	All employees returned on 9/26/05. Court opened to the public on 10/3/05.
Jefferson - 2nd Parish Ct	October 3, 2005
Jennings	October 3, 2005
Kaplan	N/A
Lafayette	N/A
Lake Charles	October 9, 2005
Leesville	N/A
Marksville	N/A
Minden	N/A
Monroe	N/A
Morgan City	N/A



TABLE C3
Date Court Returned to Normal Operations In Its Original Location

CITY/PARISH COURT	On what date did your court return to normal operations in its original location?
Natchitoches	N/A
New Iberia	Immediately
N.O. - 1st City Ct	January 3, 2006
N.O. - 2nd City Ct	January 3, 2006
N.O. - Municipal Ct	October 3, 2005
N.O. - Traffic Ct	Have not yet returned as of 12/06.
Oakdale	N/A
Opelousas	N/A
Pineville	N/A
Plaquemine	N/A
Port Allen	N/A
Rayne	N/A
Ruston	N/A
Shreveport	N/A
Slidell	September 12, 2005
Springhill	N/A
Sulphur	October 15, 2005
Thibodaux	N/A
Vidalia	N/A
Ville Platte	N/A
West Monroe	N/A
Winnfield	N/A
Winnsboro	N/A
Zachary	N/A



TABLE C4
Assistance to Hurricane-Devastated Courts

	Provided Office Space	Provided Equipment	Provided Supplies	Provided Judges to Hear Cases	Provided Technical Assistance	Provided Other Assistance	Specify Other Assistance	What Courts Did You Assist?
CITY/PARISH COURT								
Abbeville							N/A	N/A
Alexandria							N/A	N/A
Ascension						✓	Arranged for judges to use our courtrooms (along with 23rd JDC judges).	Orleans
Baker							N/A	N/A
Bastrop							Only advised attorneys in affected parishes of the extension of delays.	No specific court.
Baton Rouge	✓	✓	✓		✓		N/A	City of New Orleans Traffic Court from 9/20/05 thru 5/12/06, its administrative offices located here.
Bogalusa							N/A	N/A
Bossier City							N/A	N/A
Breaux Bridge							N/A	N/A
Bunkie							N/A	N/A
Crowley							Its courtroom was used by the National Guard	N/A
Denham Springs							N/A	N/A
Eunice							No assistance requested.	N/A
Franklin							N/A	N/A
Hammond							Offered assistance with labor - made one visit to consult.	Slidell
Houma							N/A	N/A
Jeanerette							N/A	N/A
Jefferson - 1st Parish Ct	✓	✓	✓		✓		N/A	N.O. Juvenile Court and still assisting Louisiana State Division of Administrative Law.
Jefferson - 2nd Parish Ct	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Second Parish Court provided support and assistance to the judges and their staff in the use of our facility.	24th Judicial District Court
Jennings							N/A	N/A
Kaplan							No assistance was actually provided, but was available to provide assistance if needed.	N/A
Lafayette							Set up computers with internet access for displaced judges and attorney	N/A
Lake Charles							N/A	N/A
Leesville							N/A	N/A



TABLE C4
Assistance to Hurricane-Devastated Courts

Marksville						✓	The clerks' office was used as a distribution point for items donated to victims.	N/A
Minden							N/A	N/A
Monroe							N/A	N/A
Morgan City							N/A	N/A
Natchitoches							N/A	N/A
New Iberia							N/A	N/A
N.O. - 1st City Ct		✓			✓	✓	Provided jury pool space, gave computers to Criminal District court and provided assistance in getting out its jury notices. Also provided courtrooms for at least 1 criminal trial.	Criminal District Court
N.O. - 2nd City Ct		✓			✓	✓	Provided jury pool space, gave computers to Criminal District court and provided assistance in getting out its jury notices. Also provided courtrooms for at least 1 criminal trial.	Criminal District Court
N.O. - Municipal Ct							Shared House of Detention and Amtrak Station facilities with Magistrate Court.	Orleans Parish Magistrate Court
N.O. - Traffic Ct							N/A	N/A
Oakdale							None, but we offered assistance to courts in the New Orleans area.	N/A
Opelousas							N/A	N/A
Pineville							N/A	N/A
Plaquemine							N/A	N/A
Port Allen							N/A	N/A
Rayne					✓		Interpretation of Governor Blanco's Executive Order and application of various civil and criminal procedures.	Discussions were had with many city courts throughout the state.
Ruston							N/A	N/A
Shreveport							Assisted with some evacuees.	N/A
Slidell						✓	Shared information with other courts relative to available resources and contact information concerning document salvage and restoration	N/A
Springhill							N/A	N/A
Sulphur							Offered assistance.	N/A
Thibodaux							N/A	N/A
Vidalia							Offered assistance.	N/A
Ville Platte							N/A	N/A
West Monroe							N/A	N/A
Winnfield							N/A	N/A
Winnsboro							N/A	N/A
Zachary							Offered assistance.	N/A
TOTALS	3	5	3	0	6	6		



TABLE C5
Court's Most Important Needs Regarding Court Continuity

	Remote Backup Location for Computer Data Bases	An Arrangement to Locate Court Operations at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	An Arrangement to Locate Manual Files at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	Scanners to Scan Active and Historical Files	Automated Case Management System	Technical Assistance
CITY/PARISH COURT						
Abbeville						
Alexandria	✓	✓				✓
Ascension	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Baker						
Bastrop	✓					
Baton Rouge		✓		✓		
Bogalusa						
Bossier City						
Breaux Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunkie						
Crowley		✓	✓			
Denham Springs						
Eunice				✓		✓
Franklin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hammond						
Houma	✓	✓	✓			✓
Jeanerette	✓			✓		
Jefferson - 1st Parish Ct	✓	✓		✓		
Jefferson - 2nd Parish Ct	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Jennings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kaplan	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Lafayette				✓		
Lake Charles		✓				
Leesville						
Marksville						✓
Minden						
Monroe	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Morgan City	✓			✓		✓



TABLE C5
Court's Most Important Needs Regarding Court Continuity

	Remote Backup Location for Computer Data Bases	An Arrangement to Locate Court Operations at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	An Arrangement to Locate Manual Files at a Remote Site in the Event of an Emergency	Scanners to Scan Active and Historical Files	Automated Case Management System	Technical Assistance
CITY/PARISH COURT						
Natchitoches	✓					
New Iberia		✓				
N.O. - 1st City Ct		✓	✓			
N.O. - 2nd City Ct		✓	✓			
N.O. - Municipal Ct	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
N.O. - Traffic Ct	✓	✓				✓
Oakdale					✓	✓
Opelousas						
Pineville			✓			
Plaquemine						
Port Allen						
Rayne			✓			
Ruston						
Shreveport	✓	✓		✓		
Slidell					✓	
Springhill	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sulphur	✓					
Thibodaux						
Vidalia		✓				
Ville Platte	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Monroe						
Winnfield		✓				
Winnsboro				✓		
Zachary				✓		
TOTALS	20	23	15	18	10	15



LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE HURRICANES

In South Louisiana, particularly in the parishes of Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Cameron, St. Tammany, and Jefferson, the judicial system was devastated by wind and water damage, causing in many areas losses in physical facilities, resources, personnel, revenues and records. Many other interruptions in service had been particularly hard hitting. The effort to rebuild or renovate the facilities in which many of the components of the system are located is estimated to cost millions of dollars.

In North Louisiana, many parishes were affected by the movement and temporary and permanent resettlement of evacuees from the southern parts of Louisiana, causing to varying extents burdens on law enforcement, prosecution and courts.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE HURRICANES

Many lessons were learned by courts and court-related agencies as a result of the hurricanes. In the survey of chief judges of the appellate, district, city and parish courts, the following lessons were learned:

Courts of Appeal (See Table A5)

- The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal. The 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court has created an Emergency Preparedness Plan to help facilitate continued court operations in time of emergency.
- The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court has established a remote Hot Site in the 2nd Circuit's court facilities in Shreveport. The Hot Site consists of multiple servers, switches and computers that completely replicate all 5th Circuit data generated at the 5th Circuit courthouse in Gretna. In the event of an evacuation, the 5th Circuit can operate by remote access to the Hot Site from any satellite location. Additionally, the 5th Circuit has established a toll-free number for all court personnel to check in and receive court information during an evacuation.
- The 5th Circuit Court of Appeal. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeal reported that its court has addressed the major issues required to facilitate its continuity of operations.

District Courts (See Table B5)

- The 10th JDC. The 10th JDC reported that its court was in the process of having all civil records scanned and stored at a remote site.
- The 19th JDC. The 19th JDC reported that its court has provided for continuity of operations for the court in all areas except for accessibility of its records in the custody of the Clerk of Court – a remote, back-up location for those data bases is a vital and immediate need which must be addressed before the next emergency occurs.
- The Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court. The Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court reported that its clerk's office, in conjunction with Juvenile Court, is purchasing scanners to scan active and historical files.



City and Parish Courts (See Table C5)

- The 1st and 2nd City Courts. The 1st and 2nd City Courts reported that a remote location was selected by the courts in July 2006 for computer databases and an automated case management system was already in place.





THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

**JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
400 ROYAL STREET, SUITE 1190
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130-8101
504-310-2550 | WWW.LASC.ORG**