ANNUAL REPORT 2014
of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court







THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

From left: Justice Marcus R. Clark, Justice John L. Weimer, Justice Jeffrey P. Victory, Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll, Justice Greg G. Guidry, Justice Jefferson D. Hughes, III.

CHIEF JUSTICE BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON

Seventh Supreme Court District *Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.**

JUSTICE GREG G. GUIDRY

First Supreme Court District Jefferson, Orleans, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes.*

JUSTICE JEFFREY P. VICTORY

Second Supreme Court District Allen, Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Evangeline, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, and Webster Parishes.* Retired December 31, 2014.

JUSTICE JEANNETTE THERIOT KNOLL

Third Supreme Court District Acadia, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion.*

JUSTICE MARCUS R. CLARK

Fourth Supreme Court District Bienville, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll, and Winn Parishes.*

JUSTICE JEFFERSON D. HUGHES, III

Fifth Supreme Court District Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes.*

JUSTICE JOHN L. WEIMER

Sixth Supreme Court District Assumption, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Parishes.*



Justice Scott J. Crichton, Second Supreme Court District. Term of office began January 1, 2015.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Supreme Court Annual Report is a useful guide to judicial personnel and contacts throughout the state, as well as an overview of the Court's progress in 2014, and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

RESOURCES ON THE WEB AT WWW.LASC.ORG

The **STATISTICAL DATA** section summarizes two-year activity trends in juvenile, civil, criminal and traffic categories for courts at all levels in the state.

The 2014 LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT and the GUIDE TO LOUISIANA

COURTS featuring a list of judges, clerks and administrators (complete with contact phone numbers) for the Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and City and Parish Courts statewide are now available on the Louisiana Supreme Court web site at www.lasc.org/press_room/publications.asp.

^{*} See Court District Maps on pages 12-13.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT

am pleased to present to you the 2014 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. This report demonstrates the hard work and dedication of the Louisiana state judiciary including: judges, clerks of court, court administrators, department managers and court staff.

The year 2014 marked the beginning of the third century of the Court, following the Bicentennial celebration of the Court in 2013, and heralded a year of significant accomplishments. It was a year of opportunity to build on the many strengths of the Louisiana judiciary and to review the areas which perhaps needed some further attention; and together we did the work.

We continued to make advances in the area of technology with the Court Modernization Project, designed to upgrade our case management system to the state-of-the-art level of integration and efficiency. We welcomed 64 newly-elected

judges to the state judiciary and introduced a new and improved New Judges Training program, providing them with three days of comprehensive, mandatory training to better prepare them for the bench. We bid farewell to many of our state judges who retired after long and distinguished careers. Additionally, to assist the Court in getting a handle on the myriad of court costs that increase the cost of litigation, we asked the Judicial Council, the Supreme Court's research arm, to inventory all of the varying fines, fees and court costs statewide. This is a work in progress and a final report on this effort is due in the fall of 2015.

Along with the accomplishments, 2014 also brought changes. Justice Jeffrey P. Victory retired from the Court after serving two decades as an Associate Justice from the

Supreme Court Second District, and

we looked forward to the addition of First Judicial District Court
Judge Scott J. Crichton who was elected his successor. We also welcomed attorney and long-time Supreme Court Executive Counsel Sandra A. Vujnovich as the Louisiana Supreme
Court Judicial Administrator, replacing Timo-

ator, replacing Timothy F. Averill who retired in early 2014. Attorney Angela White-Bazile, who previously served as my Law Clerk, was appointed Executive Counsel.

Finally, in 2014, through art we paid tribute to two distinguished African-American members of the bar by gracing the Supreme Court walls with their portraits: Fourth Judicial District Court Judge Benjamin Jones and the late attorney Alexander Pierre "A.P." Tureaud, Sr. The Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society held a courtroom ceremony honoring Judge Jones for his 22 years of service to the state judiciary, including service in 2009 as an Associate Justice pro tempore on the Louisiana Supreme Court. The unveiling ceremony of A.P. Tureaud's portrait, also hosted by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society, took place in the State Wing of the Court's Law Library where it is now permanently installed. A.P. Tureaud was the preeminent civil rights attorney in Louisiana from the mid-1920's until his death in 1972.

I have the distinct pleasure of submitting to the Supreme Court of Louisiana, to the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association, to the citizens of Louisiana, and to other interested parties the Annual Report of the Supreme Court of Louisiana for 2014, including the reports of the Judicial Council, the Judicial Administrator's Office, the Clerk of Court, the Law Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana Judicial College, and the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, as well as statistical information in the State judiciary reflecting the work of the past year. The report also includes information from the Committee on Bar Admissions and the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, entities that operate under the auspices of the Supreme Court.

All who were involved in our continuing efforts throughout 2014 to improve judicial administration are to be congratulated.

Bernette Joshua Johnson Chief Justice

Dennette & Johnson

Louisiana Supreme Court

2014: A YEAR IN REVIEW

This section highlights the initiatives of the Judicial Administrator's Office, the managerial arm of the Louisiana Supreme Court which serves as the staffing and fiscal agent for the Judicial Council and court-appointed task forces and committees. Program departments of the Judicial Administrator's Office include: Children & Families, Drug Courts, Louisiana Protective Order Registry and Community Relations.



This section also features an update of the work of the Law Library, the Judicial College, Committee on Bar Admissions, Clerk of Court's Office, Court Management Information Systems, Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Judiciary Commission.

DIVISIONS OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD Judicial Administrator

Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD General Counsel

Randy Certoma, CPA
Budget

Veronica Cheneau, PHR, CHRE Human Resources

Rose Marie DiVincenti, CCR, RPR

Court Reporter/Trial Reports

Royce Duplessis, JD

Research & Development

Clare Fiasconaro, JD

Judiciary Commission

Scott Griffith, JD, MPA

Research & Development

Kären Hallstrom, JD, MSW Children & Families Ramona Harris

Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR)

Kerry Lentini, JD

Supreme Court Drug Court Office

Darryl M. Schultz

Legislative Liaison

Terence Sims, CPA, CFE

Chief Financial Officer

Accounting Services

Mary Whitney, JD

Office of Special Counsel

Valerie Willard, JD

Community Relations

Richard Williams, JD

Trial Court Services/Court Interpreters

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

In 2014 key initiatives focused on ways to strengthen families who found themselves in the court system. The Court continued working to improve the quality and integration of services to address the needs of neglected and abused children in a comprehensive manner. Programs such as *Families in Need of Services* (FINS), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Louisiana Court Improvement Program (CIP) are the backbone of the Court's juvenile justice strategy.

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

CIP engaged in significant efforts to improve the quality of legal representation for children



and indigent parents in Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases, including specialized training, child welfare certification, provision of books/periodical and extensive web-based resources. The annual CIP "Together We Can" child welfare conference was very successful with record-breaking attendance in 2014.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE AS-SISTANCE PROGRAM

CASA facilitated increased statewide cohesiveness and uniformity among the CASA programs, including uniformity of data collection



and implementation of the case management system. In addition, although CASA programs already serve 53 parishes, the CASA Assistance Program also committed additional funding to serve two new parishes providing them with access to a high-quality CASA program.

FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES

FINS Assistance Program operated in 42 judicial districts organized into seven regions to address common areas of need in response to referrals for chronically misbehaving children. FINS programs engaged in regional meetings to help the juvenile justice professionals productively work together



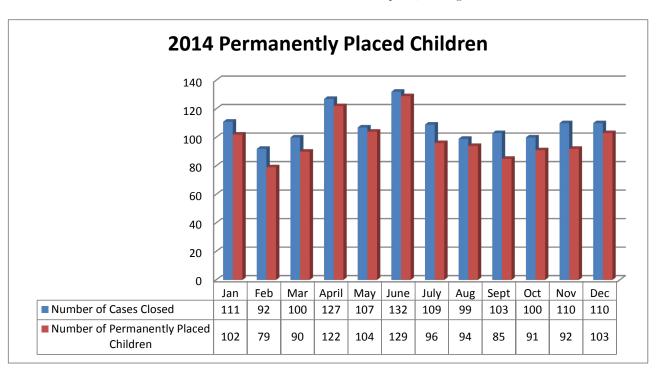
toward system improvement, share data to access the informal FINS process, and monitor, assess and modify state and local reforms. In response to juvenile justice reform recommendations, the FINS Assistance Program held a mandatory training for all FINS officers related to all phases of FINS processes.

Two new initiatives began in 2014: infrastructure development for Child Representation in accordance with 2014 legislation creating a statewide system of legal representation in CINC cases; and support for statewide juvenile detention reform efforts in conjunction with Louisiana's Juvenile Detention Alternative





Initiative (JDAI) "Going to Scale" initiative.



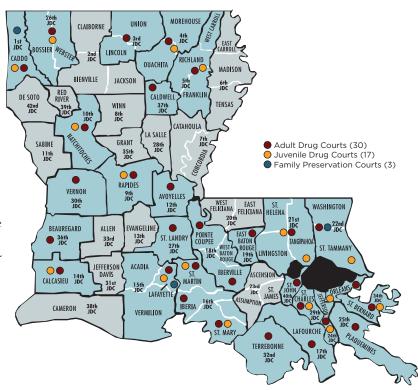
DRUG COURTS

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

In 2014 there were 50 operational drug court programs. Louisiana drug courts are demanding programs that require frequent and random drug testing, intensive treatment, judicial oversight and community supervision and support to assure the best possible outcomes for offenders with substance abuse problems.

Each program is comprised of a drug court team which is led by a drug court judge and includes a drug court coordinator, treatment staff, a prosecutor, a public defender, law enforcement representatives, a case manager and others. The team works together to ensure that program operations conform to all applicable standards and policies to provide participants with the highest level of care possible.

Funds for Louisiana's drug courts are appropriated by the Louisiana legislature and administered by the Supreme Court Drug Court Office (SCDCO). The SCDCO awards funds annually to programs statewide and monitors each program throughout the year.



2014 DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Individual Participants Served	4,208	545	173
Individuals Screened	1,954	462	301
New Participants Admitted	1,491	261	121
Treatment Hours Administered	320,168	18,280	7,657
Drug Tests Administered	171,942	12,931	4,310
Community Service Hours	19,598	994	174

2014 DRUG COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Graduates/Satisfied Court Order	678	103	50
Average Months in Program	26	15	14

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

41	Drug Free Babies in 2014	In 2014, 41 drug-free babies were born to drug court clients for an estimated cost savings of \$10,250,000 to the State of Louisiana which is based on estimated medical and related expenses of \$250,000 per baby in the first year of life.*
544	Total Drug Free Babies Born	Since the inception of drug courts in Louisiana, 544 drug-free babies have been born to drug court clients, for an estimated total cost savings of \$136,000,000.*
9.40%	Drug Court Recidivism Rate	90.6% of the 2011 Drug Court graduates remained free of additional convictions 2 years after graduation.
419	GED/Full Time Employment	The number of clients who graduated in 2014, who earned their GED or are now employed full time after being unemployed or without a GED at the time of program admission.

^{*}The cost of care and treatment for each child born addicted to drugs is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 for the first year of life, Office of Justice Programs, 1997.

LPOR

LOUISIANA PROTECTIVE ORDER REGISTRY

The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR), which was established in 1997, is a statewide repository for court orders issued for the purpose of preventing harassing, threatening or violent acts against a spouse, intimate co-habitant, dating partner, family or household member. In addition to developing and maintaining the LPOR database, LPOR is also responsible for creating and disseminating standardized order forms that all courts are mandated to use.

In 2014 the registry facilitated eight multidisciplinary legal seminars throughout the state. The training program was approved for 4.25 continuing legal education credits and a total of 260 people attended the trainings. LPOR also developed a 12.5 hour standardized curriculum for the state judiciary on the topic of domestic abuse and violence with an emphasis on creating the electronic component of the training through online education modules. 75 judges participated in the training which was presented at the 2014 Juvenile, Family and City Court Judges Annual Conference.

LPOR also provided presentations and workshops at the request of other agencies and organizations. Two presentations and workshops were held in 2014 with a total of 80 people in attendance.

As of year's end, the registry had received and entered 22,454 orders from courts across the state. Of these, 15,426 (69%) were civil orders and 7,028 (31%) were criminal orders. From the pilot phase of the project through 2014, the registry received a total of 319,076 orders where 75% were civil orders and 25% were criminal orders.

Certain qualifying records from the registry are transmitted to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In 2014, 18,696 qualifying orders were transmitted to NCIC and the registry's on-call staff responded to 193 requests for order verification submitted by NICS examiners. In addition, the registry staff responded to 1,034 calls from local, state, other state and federal law enforcement with requests for order verification.

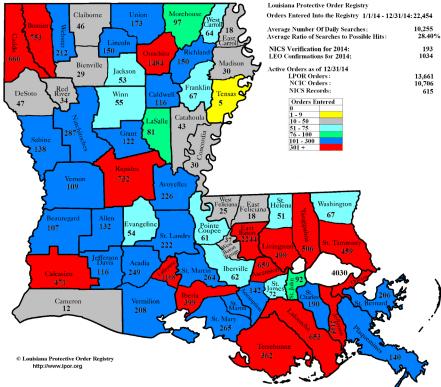


Table One: Civil Orders	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total (1997-2014)
Temporary Restraining Order	11,909	12,496	12,053	12,122	12,000	178,700
Protective Order	3,616	3,344	3,177	3,324	3,340	57,380
Preliminary Injunction	30	22	23	31	53	1,056
Permanent Injunction	41	42	48	39	33	1,586
Total Civil Orders	15,596	15,904	15,301	15,516	15,426	238,722

Table Two: Criminal Orders	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total (1997-2014)
Bail Restriction	4,314	4,795	3,721	3,704	4,912	47,712
Peace Bond	62	120	199	270	274	18,444
Combined Bail/ Peace Bond	332	238	643	669	706	7,314
Sentencing Order	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Sentencing/Probation	544	514	1,181	1,178	1,136	6,898
Total Criminal Orders	5,252	5,667	5,744	5,821	7,028	80,354

Table Three: Totals by Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total (1997-2014)
Total Civil and Criminal Orders	20,848	21,571	21,045	21,337	22,454	319,076

NEW JUDGESHIPS

NEW JUDGESHIPS

In 2014 there were no new judgeships.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Community Relations Department (CRD) is the outreach division of the Supreme Court that oversees public communications, meetings and events, courthouse tours and other public involvement, including: managing the court web site information and design (www.lasc. org), handling media relations, providing photographic and videographic support, and producing court publications such as the Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court. In all of these efforts, the CRD seeks to inform, educate and further public understanding of and trust and confidence in the Louisiana state judiciary.

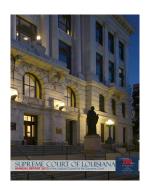
In 2014 the CRD designed and produced an expanded edition of the 2013 Annual Report in recognition of the 2013 Bicentennial year of the Supreme Court. Copies of the Annual Report were provided to all members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches; as well as all state colleges and universities; and all state, public and law libraries.



Law Day always presents an opportunity for the courts to reach out to the public. In 2014, the CRD assisted in a Law Day program initiated by 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Terri Love. In concert with the 2014 Law Day theme Why Every Vote Matters, Judge Love hosted public school students from Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School of Literature and Technology for a day at the court which included mock voting using real voting machines provided by the Louisiana Secretary of State Office. The CRD also prepared the submission to the American Bar Association Law Day 2014 Outstanding Activity Award contest for the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal Law Day program which ultimately placed as a nationwide semi-finalist.











SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA • Annual Report 2014

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The *Louisiana Judicial College* had an outstanding year in 2014, hosting over ten seminars around the state. The Judicial College educates all levels of the judiciary as well as some law clerks, and partnered with several groups such as the VERA Institute, Louisiana Department of Corrections, National Judicial College, Louisiana Association for Justice, Louisiana Association for Defense Counsel and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR).

The New Judge Training Program was held for the 64 newly-elected judges over three days in December 2014 in New Orleans. The program was a great success with assistance from the Judicial College, the Judicial Administrator's Office, LPOR and several other faculty who shared their experiences and advice with the newest members of the judiciary.

In 2014 the Judicial College rolled out a new and improved web site, www.lajudicialcollege.org, with a user-friendly structure and easy access to agendas, information and registration forms; and also hired a new Judicial Education Program Attorney.

The Judicial College looks forward to another great year in 2015, moving ahead with new staff, new seminars and new educational opportunities for Louisiana judges.

BAR ADMISSIONS

COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

The *Committee on Bar Admissions* is comprised of 19 active members of the Louisiana State Bar Association appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to administer the bar admissions system. It is the duty of the Committee to recommend for admission only those applicants who meet the eligibility requirements set forth in La. Sup. Ct. Rule XVII. During 2014, the Court expanded the Committee to allow for additional members of the Testing Committee. The role of the Testing Committee is to promote consistency, quality and fairness in the examination development and grading processes.

The Committee received and processed 1,262 bar examination applications, 367 law student registration forms, 41 A.D.A. applications for testing accommodations, 15 equivalency applications and 17 in-house counsel applications. Two written examinations were administered. Examiners developed examination questions and, with the assistance of more than 300 volunteer graders, scored test papers for 398 applicants who sat for the February examination and 762 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 47.74% in February and 69.95% in July.

In order to assure that each applicant recommended for admission possessed the requisite character and fitness, the Committee's Character and Fitness Department investigated and considered the backgrounds of all applicants. As part of the character and fitness screening process, 5 Commissioner hearings were held and 5 matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended 15 applicants be conditionally admitted and 13 applicants be denied admission.

COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

Lawrence J. Centola, Jr. Chairman Larry Feldman, Jr. Director of Character & Fitness Robert J. David, Jr. Testing Accommodations J. Patrick Beauchamp Director of Testing Hon. S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. Immediate Past Chair and Testing Accommodations Committee Hon. Bernadette G. D'Souza Character and Fitness Panel Member Celeste R. Coco-Ewing Character and Fitness Panel Member Richard A Goins Testing Committee Member

Hon. Piper D. Griffin Testing Committee Member L. David Cromwell Testing Committee Member C. Peck Hayne Examiner-Civil Code I Carlton "Trey" Jones, III Examiner–Civil Code II Robert P. Thibeaux Examiner-Civil Code III David R. Frohn Examiner-Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Jennifer W. Hilburn Examiner-Torts Ronald J. White Examiner-Business Entities & Nego tiable Instruments DeWayne L. Williams Examiner-Constitutional Lau

Todd S. Clemons
Examiner-Criminal Law, Procedure &
Evidence
S. Christopher Slatten
Examiner-Federal Jurisdiction &
Procedure

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

CHAIRS

Justice Jeffrey P. Victory Supreme Court of Louisiana Justice John L. Weimer Supreme Court of Louisiana

MEMBERS

Judge Roland Belsome Court of Appeal, 4th Circuit Judge Fredericka Wicker Court of Appeal, 5th Circuit Judge Alvin Turner 23rd Indicial District Court Judge John Michael Guidry Court of Appeal, 1st Circuit Judge William J. Crain 22nd Judicial District Court Judge Robin D. Pittman Orleans Criminal District Court Judge Michael Pitman 1st Iudicial District Court Judge Sharon Ingram Marchman 4th Judicial District Court Judge M'elise Trahan Crowley City Court Judge D. Milton Moore Conference of Court of Appeal Judges Judge Madeleine Landrieu Conference of Court of Appeal Judges Judge Guv Holdridge Louisiana District Judges Association Judge Scott I. Crichton Louisiana District Judges Association Judge John B. Slattery Louisiana City Judges Association Judge Lynette Y. Feucht Louisiana City Judges Association Iudge Patricia Koch Louisiana Juvenile Judges Association **Judge Shonda Stone** Louisiana Juvenile Judges Association

EX-OFFICIO

Elizabeth Murrill
Executive Counsel to the Governor
Joseph L. Shea
President, Louisiana State Bar Association
Walter Leger, III
(House Representative)
Dan Claitor
(Senate Representative)
Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux
Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
Judge Ray Childress
Louisiana District Judges Association
Judge Tom Wilson
Louisiana City Judges Association

Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cheney C. Joseph, Jr. *Baton Rouge* Phone (225) 578-8825 Fax (225) 578-8762

Judge David Matlock

JUDICIARY COMMISSION

JUDICIARY COMMISSION

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 495 complaints against judges and justices of the peace in 2014. There were 269 complaints pending from previous years as of January 1, 2014. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 202 requests for information.

Complaints are received from litigants, non-litigant citizens, attorneys, judges, non-judicial public officials and anonymous sources. Some complaints are referred to the Commission by the Attorney Disciplinary Board, and the Commission is authorized to review matters on its own motion, which may come from media reports of alleged judicial misconduct.

Of the 495 complaints filed in 2014, 327 were screened out as not within the jurisdiction of the Commission or failing to allege facts implicating a possible violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The remaining 168 cases were reviewed to consider the need for investigation. The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 68 cases, some as to complaints filed before January 1, 2014.

In 2014 the Commission filed formal charges against 11 judges and six justices of the peace. Two justices of the peace resigned after formal charges were filed and a hearing was set. The charges in one judicial discipline case and in three financial disclosure cases were dismissed by the Commission prior to a hearing being conducted. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled in 15 cases and conducted in seven cases.

The Judiciary Commission filed five recommendations for judicial discipline and two recommendations for the imposition of penalties in financial disclosure cases with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found no misconduct involving one judge. One judge was suspended for 30 days without pay. One justice of the peace was suspended for 60 days without pay. One justice of the peace was suspended for 12 months without pay, with six months deferred if certain conditions were met. As of December 31, 2014, there were three Judiciary Commission cases pending before the Supreme Court.

pending further investigation. One judge was disqualified from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings. The other interim disqualification recommendation was withdrawn by the Commission.

As of December 31, 2014, the Commission had 289 files pending, having disposed of 477 files in 2014.

THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF **LOUISIANA, CREATED IN 1968 BY AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX, CONSTI-TUTION OF 1921, IS CONTINUED IN EXISTENCE BY ARTICLE V, SECTION 25, CONSTITUTION OF 1974.**

2014 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Jerry Edwards, Esq., Chair Judge Jules D. Edwards, III, Vice Chair John T.M. Baldwin Harold M. Block, Esq. Dr. Michael S. Blue Judge J. Jay Caraway Mrs. Carol LeBlanc Judge Anthony J. "Tony" Marabella, Jr. Kenneth Michael Wright, Esq.

STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Sandra A. Vuinovich, ID Chief Executive Officer Clare Fiasconaro, JD Commission Legal Counsel

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

Mary Whitney, JD, Special Counsel

Also in 2014, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Supreme Court two recommendations for the interim disqualification of a judge

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

The year 2014 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Supreme Court's creation of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, designed to support the Court's Constitutional authority to regulate the practice of law in Louisiana. Found in Supreme Court Rule XIX, the Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel reflect the Court's adoption of the American Bar Association's Model Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement.

During 2014, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) received 3,011 written complaints of misconduct and fielded over 10,000 calls from members of the public, bench and bar seeking guidance and assistance. Of the written complaints, 1,741 were resolved without the need for a formal disciplinary investigation. The revised screening authority provided to the ODC by the Supreme Court allowed for the more efficient handling of non-meritorious complaints, the referral of matters to a more appropriate venue such as fee arbitration, and the opportunity

to focus the agency's resources on more meritorious matters that require a full investigative effort. As a consequence, over 100 public disciplinary cases were initiated in 2014 including both formal charges and consent discipline filings. Additionally, 13 formal admonitions were issued, a form of private discipline for minor ethical violations.

The primary mission of the ODC is to protect the public and increase public confidence in the legal profession. To this end in 2014 the Board and ODC:

- Sought to raise the awareness and importance of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the application of Rule XIX by conducting disciplinary hearings and appellate arguments in all four of Louisiana's law schools;
- Continued outreach to members of the bar, particularly solo practitioners and members of small firms, by offering free continuing legal education (CLE) programming around the state;
- Launched online CLE offerings to lawyers including the all new "True Attorney" video series; and
- For the first time, through the agency web site, provided members of the public, bench and bar a means to research the public disciplinary history of all Louisiana licensed attorneys.

Louisiana is regarded as having one of the most effective lawyer regulatory systems in the nation. In 2014, the ODC rededicated its efforts to maintain that leadership role and to sustain the disciplinary system to the highest standards of excellence.

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Edwin G. Preis, Jr., Chair R. Steven Tew, Vice-Chair Frank A. Fertitta (LSBA Member) Carl A. Butler Stephen F. Chiccarelli John T. Cox, Jr. George L. Crain Anderson O. Dotson, III Carrie LeBlanc Jones Ralph K. Lee, Jr. Kim Leija Tara L. Mason R. Lewis Smith, Ir. Linda P. Spain

LAW LIBRARY

LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

2014 was a busy year for the *Law Library of Louisiana*. The Library engaged in many activities to reach out to the Supreme Court staff, the legal community, and the public. The Library welcomed users who came to the library and worked hard to offer information beyond the library's walls by sponsoring free continuing legal education programs (CLEs), creating exhibits, and publishing online LibGuides, which is the Library's most recent educational endeavor.

In 2014 the Law Library sponsored five CLEs on a variety of subjects including: François Gény: A Louisiana Lawyer's Best Friend; 1973 Louisiana Constitutional Convention; The Rise and Fall of Judge Rice Garland; A.P. Tureaud Inn of Court End-of-Year Ethics & Professionalism; and Judicial Writing.

Exhibits were prepared for both the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum and the Law Library which included: Il Codice Civilie - the Italian Civil Code; Myra Clark Gaines; Louisiana Bar Admissions during the 1800's; History of Circuit Riding by the Louisiana Supreme Court; A.P. Tureaud; Codification in Louisiana; and Law Day 2014 - Every Vote Counts.

LibGuides are online pathfinders that present information in a user-friendly format. The library plans to complete guides about the Law Library's legal information resources, Louisiana's court system, and other practical topics. LibGuides are another way for the public to access legal information.

THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Georgia Chadwick, MLIS Director, Law Library of Louisiana

Miriam Childs, MLIS

Associate Director and Head of Technical Services

Catherine Lemann, JD, MLIS

Research Librarian

Fran Norton, JD, MLIS

Head of Public Services and Government Documents

Librarian

Jennifer Creevy, MLIS

Acquisitions and Serials Librarian

Sara Pic, JD, MLIS

Reference Librarian

Ruth Mahoney

Public Services Library Associate

Daphne Tassin

Technical Services Library Associate

Gail Bragg

Administrative Assistant

The Law Library's collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2014, the Library added 752 new titles, 1,991 new volumes, and 1,162 pieces of microfiche.

The staff of the Library continued to publish its newsletter *De Novo* to reach out to the library's users and provide them with useful information on legal topics and library resources.







CLERK OF COURT

CLERK OF COURT

In 2014 2,716 case were filed marking a 10% drop from the 3,017 cases filed in 2013. The Supreme Court disposed of 2,592 cases in 2014 for a clearance rate of 95%, which is an increase from 83% in 2013.

In addition to the processing of all incoming filings, court actions and opinions, other key responsibilities fulfilled by the Supreme Court Clerk of Court Office in 2014 included:

- Admitted 709 new attorneys to the practice of law, an increase of 31% from 542 admitted in 2013;
- Issued Certificates of Good Standing. The demand for issuance of Certificates of Good Standing continued to fall. In 2014, 2,295 certificates were issued compared to 3,441 in 2013;
- Tweaked the voluntary e-filing system, which went statewide in 2012. Also issued an RFP for a new case management system to integrate with the justices' and staff attorneys' offices;
- Managed logistics for 287 events hosted by the Court. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings and other meetings;
- Oversaw general courthouse maintenance and improvements involving roof repairs, basement waterproofing and the refurbishing of the chillers; and
- Participated in the Enterprise Resource Planning implementation of an integrated computerbased system designed to manage financial resources, materials and human resources.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

John Tarlton Olivier, JD
Clerk of Court
Okyeame Haley, JD, LLM
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court
Katie Marjanovic, JD
2nd Deputy Clerk of Court
Robin Burras
Deputy Clerk–Front Office
Carmen B. Young
Deputy Clerk–Opinions & Filings
Eddie Gonzales

Deputy Clerk-Records Manager & Property Manager

CMIS

COURT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Court Management Information Systems (CMIS) office works to collect, analyze and disseminate information to external agencies regarding case filings, dispositions and sentencing information from Louisiana's district courts, city courts and some mayor's courts.

Criminal Records

The Criminal Records Project received 354,663 criminal records containing filing, disposition and sentencing information in 2014. Of those records, 46,286 contained information that was shared with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety for inclusion in a computerized history database that is accessible to law enforcement and the courts to help enhance public safety.

Additionally, 35,784 disposition records were posted to the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS) database. NICS is a national system that checks available records on persons who may be disqualified from receiving firearms. The 2014 records included: 30,974 felony convictions, 2,583 misdemeanor domestic violence, 166 "incompetent to stand trial," 75 "guilty by reason of insanity," 336 Court Ordered Firearms Prohibitions, 889 C.Cr.P. 895 A(6) Probation Firearm Prohibition and 761 Civil Orders of Judicial Commitment. Currently CMIS receives criminal data from 64 of 64 judicial districts.

Traffic Records

The *Traffic Records Project* sends final disposition information on traffic cases to Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) for inclusion in the state driver's history database. In 2014, 755,125 traffic records containing filing, disposition and sentencing information were received. Of those records 244,978 were posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS receives traffic data from 59 district courts, 15 city courts and 9 mayor's courts.

CMIS Outreach

CMIS provides grant funds to judicial districts for the acquisition and installation of criminal case management systems to collect and report criminal filing and disposition data. In 2014, CMIS dispersed \$331,120 in federal and CMIS grants to District Court Clerks of Court offices for this purpose. Finally, CMIS provides training to clerks of court and their staff and works with district attorneys statewide to enhance the quality of information collected and transmitted to these external agencies. During the year, 34 site visits were conducted by CMIS staff to familiarize and assist courts with the proper methods for reporting filing and disposition information.

JUDICIAL BUDGET

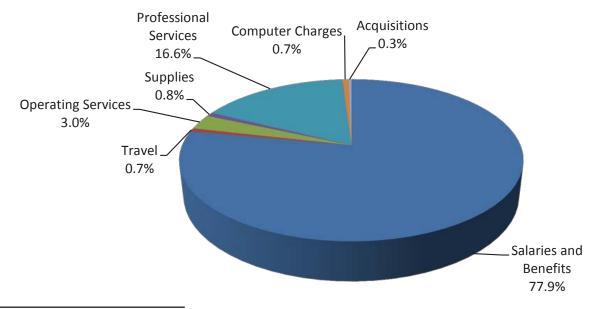
JUDICIAL BUDGET

Louisiana does not have a unified state court funding system. Operations of district, parish and city courts are primarily funded by local governments. An annual state legislative appropriation funds the operations of the Louisiana Supreme Court and the five courts of appeal, as well as the salaries of all state court judges. The state also funds a portion of the salaries of parish and city court judges, and the compensation of retired and *ad hoc* judges.

FY 2014-2015 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$175,998,230

In FY 2014-2015, state appropriated funds totaled \$175,998,2301:

Salaries and Benefits ²	137,076,350	77.9% of total budget
Professional Services	29,168,247	16.6% of total budget
Operating Services	5,102,278	3% of total budget
Supplies	1,500,563	.8% of total budget
Travel	1,317,454	.7% of total budget
Computer charges	1,235,728	.7% of total budget
Acquisitions	597,610	.3% of total budget

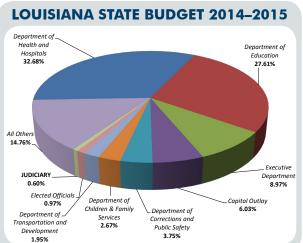


¹The Louisiana Supreme Court's expenditures are audited by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor every two years, and the audit report is available on the Legislative Auditor's website at www.lla.state.la.us. These reports contain comparisons of budget to actual revenues and expenditures, as well as a summary of revenues and expenses by categories, and the Court's financial data.

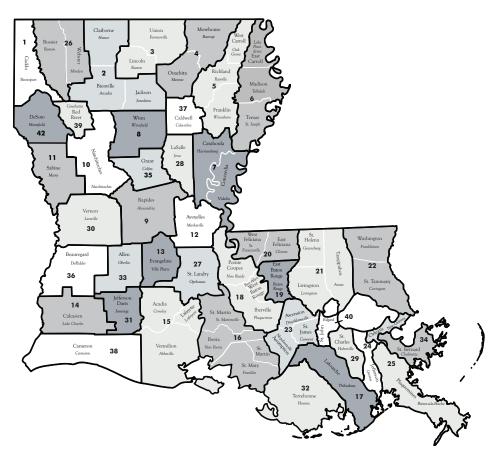
²Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 365 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 233 Supreme Court employees, 369 Courts of Appeal employees, 118 designated lower court employees, and 38 retired judges or widows in Unfunded Pension system.



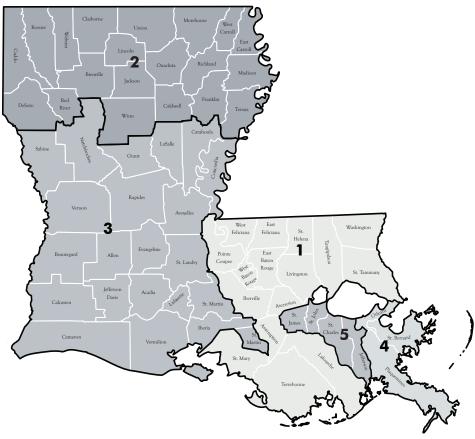
In FY 2014-2015, .6% of the state's general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

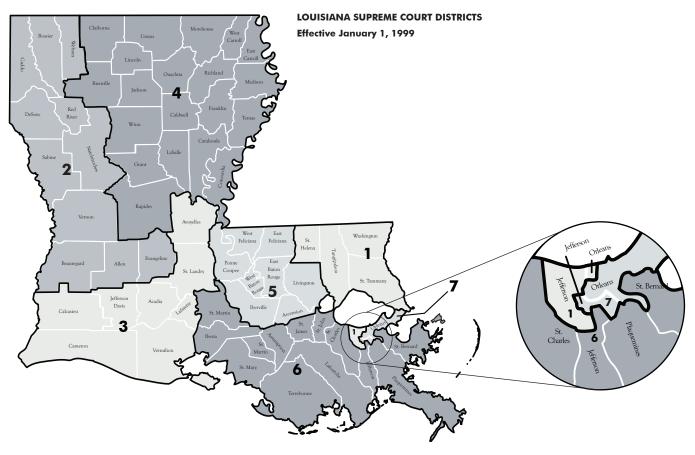


LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



LOUISIANA COURTS
OF APPEAL CIRCUITS





*Districts 1, 6 & 7 Detail:

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-H through 9-H; 1-K through 35-K; 1 through 46; 51 through 108; 115 through 138; 150 through 155; 157A; 157B; 158; 170; 186; 198 and 199.

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the Sixth Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-G1; 1-LA, l-LB; 2-L; 182 through 185; 189 through 197; and 246A through 250.

Jefferson Parish Precincts in the Seventh Louisiana Supreme Court District are 1-G; 2-G through 11-G; 1-W through 9-W; 156; 171 through 181; 187; 188; 210 through 217; and 225 through 238.

Orleans Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 3-20; 4-8 through 4-11; 4-14 through 4-23; 5-13 through 5-18; and 17-17 through 17-21.

 $The \ remainder \ of \ Orleans \ Parish \ Precincts \ are \ in \ the \ Seventh \ Louisiana \ Supreme \ Court \ District.$

1 Ways Justice works for you



1. Financial Disclosure

In concert with the executive and legislative branches of government, the judiciary enacted a financial disclosure rule for state court judges and justices of the peace in an effort to raise the standard of government transparency.



2. State of the Art Web Site

The Louisiana Supreme Court web site includes a language translation tool which translates 31 languages, a news release alert service and live online tech support. Additionally, Louisiana Supreme Court oral arguments are streamed live on the court web site for anyone, anywhere to see.



3. Outreach to Schools

Using the *Judges in the Classroom* handbook developed by the Louisiana District Court Judges Association, judges across the state reach out to schools by participating in civics classes and by encouraging students to become future lawyers, probation officers or judges rather than defendants.



4. Ride-Alongs

Through the Supreme Court Ride-Along Program, state judges host legislators for a "day on the bench" allowing legislators to experience firsthand the complexity and volume of cases handled day-to-day by a judge. Drug Court Ride-Alongs have been a particularly successful outreach effort.



5. Law Museum

The Louisiana Supreme Court building houses a free and open to the public Law Museum which features, among other things, the Louisiana Supreme Court documents from the historically significant *Plessy v. Ferguson* case.



6. Women in Law

In recognition of March being designated National Women's History Month, the Louisiana Law Museum features an exhibit honoring the women judges of Louisiana and a historical time line exhibit of women in the law.



7. Campaign Oversight

During the qualifying period for state court elections, the Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee conducts free, educational seminars throughout the state focusing on Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Louisiana Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.



8. Law Day

In recognition of Law Day – May 1st, the Louisiana Supreme Court issues a resolution urging all Louisiana state court judges to dedicate the month of May to reaching out to schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of judges and the court system from members of the judiciary.



9. U.S. State Department Partnership

The U.S. Department of State launched its first state-level partnership by partnering with the Louisiana Supreme Court. The agreement paves the way for the State Department to leverage the expertise of the nation's only state court system that relies on civil law to adjudicate non-criminal disputes.



10. Leadership

Several judges and court administrators serve in leadership positions on national organizations including: the American Judges Association; the American Bar Association; the National Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; the National Association for Court Management; the Conference of State Court Administrators; the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks; and the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.



LOUISIANA'S JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

The judicial power of Louisiana, which is the power to interpret the Constitution and the laws of the state, is vested in the Judicial Branch of Government, made up of a supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, city courts, and other courts authorized by the Constitution. In Louisiana judges are elected. The court structure consists of: 1 supreme court, 5 courts of appeal, 43 district courts, 5 juvenile or family courts, 49 city courts and 3 parish courts. A total of 369 judges preside over the Louisiana state courts.



Appellate Courts

Supreme Court

- Seven justices, 10 year terms
- Sits in New Orleans
- Chief Justice is the most tenured in office
- Justices preside *en banc* (full court)

Circuit Courts of Appeal

- 53 judges, 10 year terms
- Five circuits:

1st Circuit: Baton Rouge, 12 judges 2nd Circuit: Shreveport, 9 judges 3rd Circuit: Lake Charles, 12 judges 4th Circuit: New Orleans, 12 judges 5th Circuit: Gretna, 8 judges

• Cases generally reviewed by three-judge panels

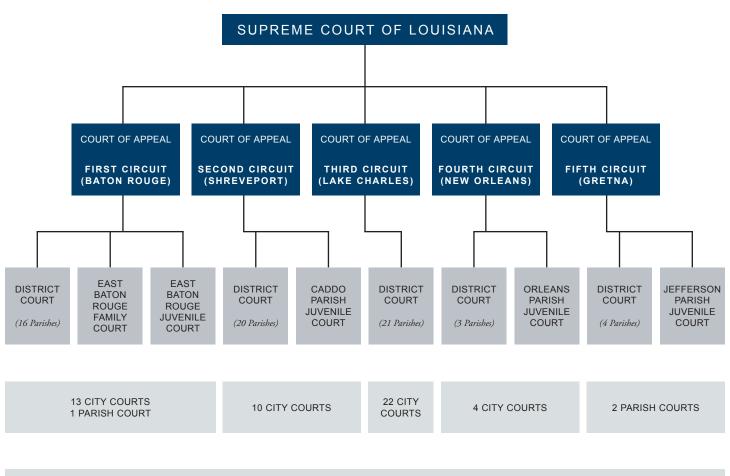
Trial Courts

District, Juvenile and Family

- 236 judges, six or eight year terms
- 43 judicial districts
- 4 juvenile courts
- 1 family court
- Number of judges in each court based on caseload and other factors
- Judges preside individually, not in panels

City and Parish Courts

- 68 city court judges, six year terms
- 5 parish court judges, six year terms
- 49 city courts
- 3 parish courts
- Judges preside individually, not in panels



APPROXIMATELY 250 MAYOR'S COURTS

APPROXIMATELY 382 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Number of Justices and Judges: 7 Supreme Court 53 Courts of Appeal

District, Family and Juvenile

73 City and Parish Courts

369 Total

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Louisiana's highest court and is domiciled in the City of New Orleans.

Under the Constitution of 1974, the Louisiana Supreme Court is composed of 7 justices elected from districts throughout Louisiana. The justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court serve 10 year terms of office. The senior justice in point of service is the Chief Justice, who is the chief administrative officer of the judicial system.

2014 Supreme Court Stats

There was a major drop in filings between 2013 and 2014. Filings dropped 10% from 3,017 to 2,716. In 2014, the Court disposed of 2,592 cases for a clearance rate of 95 percent, an increase from 83 percent in 2013.

The Supreme Court has *exclusive jurisdiction* in cases involving disciplinary action against lawyers and judges. These cases cannot be heard by any other state court – only the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has *appellate jurisdiction* in cases in which a law or ordinance has been declared unconstitutional and in capital cases where the death penalty has been imposed. These cases originate in the trial court, but bypass review by the intermediate courts of appeal in order to be heard directly by the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has *supervisory jurisdiction* over all state courts. Cases from courts reach the Supreme Court after the have been heard by a lower court; however, the Supreme Court does not automatically hear these cases. A party must first convince the Court in a special application that its case merits high court review because an error occurred in the opinion, judgment or ruling of the lower court. This procedure is known as *applying for writs*.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The *Judicial Council* of the Supreme Court of Louisiana was established in 1950 and received its first funding through the state legislature in 1954. Through its various standing committees and the creation of *ad hoc* committees, the Judicial Council serves as the research arm for the Supreme Court. It often acts as a resource center where ideas for simplifying and expediting judicial procedures and/or correcting shortcomings in the systems are studied. Additionally, the Judicial Council publishes an Annual Report which chronicles the activities of the Council, the Judicial College, the Judiciary Commission, the Law Library and the Judicial Administrator's Office. It also contains a compilation of statistics from the various courts in the state.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Hon. Bernette J. Johnson, Chair Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana Hon, Marcus R. Clark Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana Honorable John Michael Guidry representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges Honorable Terri Love representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges Honorable Tiffany Chase representing Louisiana District Judges Association Honorable Raymond S. Childress representing Louisiana District Judges Association Honorable George Murray representing Louisiana City Judges Association Honorable Grace Gasaway representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Honorable Paul Young (Non-voting) representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

representing Louisiana State Bar Association Claude "T-Claude" Devall, Esq. representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA Monica T. Surprenant, Esq. representing Louisiana State Law Institute Honorable Dan Claitor State Senator Honorable Franklin Foil State Representative Honorable Paul D. Connick, Jr. representing Louisiana District Attorneys Association William F. Dodd, Esq. representing the Louisiana State Bar Association appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court Honorable H. Lynn Iones, II representing Louisiana Clerks of Court Association

Richard K. Leefe, Esq.

Mr. Charles C. Beard, Jr.

Citizen Representative

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Justice Jeffrey P. Victory Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll Justice John L. Weimer Justice Greg G. Guidry Justice Jefferson D. Hughes

STAFF OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Timothy F. Averill, JD, MPA Judicial Administrator Supreme Court of Louisiana Scott Griffith, JD, MPA Deputy Judicial Administrator Supreme Court of Louisiana

Louisiana Supreme Court

CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA Two Year Trend in Activity

	2013 Total	2014 Total	2014 Civil	2014 Criminal
APPEALS				
Filed	18	12	6	6
Dismissed	0	3	0	3
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	10	8	4	4
Per curiams	2	2	2	0
WRITS				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,517	1,383	924	459
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	1,271	1,113	42	1,071
Granted	195	204	112	92
To be argued	51	56	41	15
With orders & transferred	144	148	71	77
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Not Considered	35	41	31	10
Denied	2,064	2,139	774	1,365
Opinions Rendered	43	48	36	12
REHEARINGS				
Applied for	41	48	40	8
Granted	0	3	2	1
Denied/Dismissed	49	53	45	8
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION				
Petitions Filed	207	206	206	0
Opinions Rendered	2	3	3	0
Other Actions	172	172	172	0
OTHER MATTERS				
Filed	4	2	2	0
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
Other Actions	6	6	4	2
OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED	200	211	169	42
CHICKE IN COMPANY OF THE COMPANY OF				
TOTAL FILINGS	3,017	2,716	1,180	1,536
Per Justice	431	388	169	219
Tel judice				

The Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in cases involving disciplinary actions against lawyers and judges, appellate jurisdiction in capital cases where the death penalty has been imposed and in cases in which a law or ordinance has been declared unconstitutional, as well as supervisory jurisdiction over all courts.

COURTS OF APPEAL

Louisiana has established the intermediate courts of appeal between the district court and the supreme court. These courts guarantee the right to have almost any trial court decision reviewed by a higher court. Their appellate jurisdiction extends to virtually all civil and criminal cases triable by a jury, except for those few which are directly appealable to the Supreme Court.

There was a drop in filings between 2013 and 2014. Filings of writs and appeals dropped 13.3% from 7,355 in 2013 to 6,375 in 2014. In total 2,109 opinions were rendered during 2014, a decrease of 7.3% as compared to 2013.

The Courts of Appeal use a variety of technology to assist them in their work. Funding for technology projects and maintenance is typically built into each circuit's annual budget request.

E-filing is being planned in several circuits. E-notification, a system provided for in law which allows attorneys to receive commu-

nications from the clerk of court by e-mail, is in use in three circuits. Video conferencing is also used in several

to access the court servers and networks. All of the circuits use an electronic case management system to monitor case activity from intake/docketing through disposition. All circuits also report to the Supreme Court annually, using uniform reporting criteria and

circuits, and remote access is provided in most of the circuits to allow judges and staff working in satellite offices

2014 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 54 in First Circuit Court of Appeal, 29 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 45 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 30 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 39 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

categories, on filings, opinions rendered, appeals pending and other actions. Other uses of technology in the circuits included the ability for attorneys to pay fees and/or costs online and by credit card; the streaming of court hearings over the Internet; and electronic document management capabilities involving the scanning and storage of case documents, exhibits and other case-related items.

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL Two Year Trend in Activity

	2013	2014	2014	2014
	Total	Total	Civil	Criminal
FIRST CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	796	605	441	164
Motions Filed	27	28	21	7
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	619	551	426	125
Writs Refused*	430	420	298	122
Writs Granted	144	154	133	21
Pro Se Writs Filed	833	709	131	578
Pro Se Writs Refused*	612	778	114	664
Pro Se Writs Granted	66	56	26	30
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	120	84	67	17
Consolidated Opinions	25	46	44	2
Opinions Rendered **	690	650	464	186
Rehearings Acted Upon***	128	149	121	28
Appeals Pending	528	356	275	81
Argued But Not Decided	91	66	59	7
To Be Argued	437	290	216	74
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	58	54	39	16
SECOND CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	300	295	191	104
Appeals Filed Motions Filed	11	5	191	4
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	237	205	143	62
Writs Refused*	196	146	105	41
Writs Granted	64	54	41	13
Pro Se Writs Filed	435	336	18	318
Pro Se Writs Refused*	353	249	12	237
Pro Se Writs Granted	108	65	5	60
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	20	22	21	1
Consolidated Opinions	23	25	21	4
Opinions Rendered **	300	257	171	86
Rehearings Acted Upon***	78	36	31	5
Appeals Pending	145	150	86	64
Argued But Not Decided	44	36	26	10
To Be Argued	101	114	60	54
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	33	29	19	10
THIRD CIRCUIT			_	
Appeals Filed	548	470	348	122
Motions Filed	14	19	13	6
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	401	376	256	120
Writs Refused*	317	276	202	74
Writs Granted	112	74	44	30
Pro Se Writs Filed	493	479	24	455
Pro Se Writs Refused*	474	370	23	347
Pro Se Writs Granted	56	77	5	72
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	95	46	40	6
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	511	535	376	159
Rehearings Acted Upon***	65	77	71	6
Appeals Pending	263	198	154	44
Argued But Not Decided	27	20	17	3
To Be Argued	236	178	137	41
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	43	45	31	13

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL Two Year Trend in Activity

	2013 Total	2014 Total	2014 Civil	2014 Criminal
FOURTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	407	366	259	107
Motions Filed	14	18	12	6
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	794	646	370	276
Writs Refused*	581	462	262	200
Writs Granted	216	154	84	70
Pro Se Writs Filed	486	387	3	384
Pro Se Writs Refused*	342	230	2	228
Pro Se Writs Granted	180	156	1	155
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	51	40	28	12
Consolidated Opinions	51	4	4	0
Opinions Rendered **	436	358	203	155
Rehearings Acted Upon***	72	73	57	16
Appeals Pending	246	199	148	51
Argued But Not Decided	78	72	52	20
To Be Argued	168	127	96	31
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	36	30	17	13
FIFTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	331	314	194	120
Motions Filed	16	16	9	7
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	262	249	163	86
Writs Refused*	205	183	126	57
Writs Granted	54	66	41	25
Pro Se Writs Filed	413	387	9	378
Pro Se Writs Refused*	375	328	10	318
Pro Se Writs Granted	50	57	1	56
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	40	37	30	7
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	339	309	193	116
Rehearings Acted Upon***	60	59	26	33
Appeals Pending	150	118	66	52
Argued But Not Decided	4	3	2	1
To Be Argued	146	115	64	51
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	42	39	24	15
TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS				
Appeals Filed	2,382	2,050	1,433	617
Motions Filed	82	86	56	30
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	2,313	2,027	1,358	669
Writs Refused*	1,729	1,487	993	494
Writs Granted	590	502	343	159
Pro Se Writs Filed	2,660	2,298	185	2,113
Pro Se Writs Refused*	2,156	1,955	161	1,794
Pro Se Writs Granted	460	411	38	373
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	326	229	186	43
Consolidated Opinions	99	75	69	6
Opinions Rendered **	2,276	2,109	1,407	702
Rehearings Acted Upon***	403	394	306	88
Appeals Pending	1,332	1,021	729	292
Argued But Not Decided	244	197	156	41
To Be Argued	1,088	824	573	251
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	43	40	27	13

 $^{^{\}star}$ $\,$ Includes writs denied, writs not considered, writs dismissed and transferred

^{**} Includes opinions on appeals, writs, rehearings & supplemental opinions
*** Includes rehearings on writs

AN ACTIVE JUDICIARY

Judges at all levels of court are active partners in justice reform initiatives. Judges at all levels participate on a variety of boards, committees, task forces and other statewide bodies. These include:

- Judicial Budgetary Control Board
- Judicial Council
- Judicial Council Trial Court Committee on Judgeships
- Judicial Council Committee to Review Requests for Court Costs and Fees
- Judicial Ethics Committee
- Judicial Compensation Committee
- Judiciary Commission
- Uniform Rules Committee of the Louisiana Courts of Appeal
- Louisiana Bar Foundation
- Louisiana Judicial College
- Louisiana Sentencing Commission
- Supreme Court Standing Committee on Court Security
- Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court for Revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct
- Louisiana State Law Institute
- Supreme Court Self-Represented Litigant Task Force
- Supreme Court Uniform Rules Committee
- Louisiana Children's Cabinet
- Child Support Review Committee
- Interagency Coalition on Domestic Violence
- Louisiana Diversity Awards Nominating Committee
- Sexual Assault Task Force
- Uniform Forms Committee for the City and Parish Courts
- DWI Task Force

Needs in other areas of particular importance to the courts are addressed through the involvement of judges working on committees of court organizations such as the:

- Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
- Louisiana District Court Judges Association
- Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- Louisiana City Judges Association

DISTRICT COURTS

The trial court of general jurisdiction in Louisiana is the district court. District courts generally have authority to handle all civil and criminal cases.

Civil cases involve actions to enforce, correct or protect private rights. In general, civil cases include all types of actions that are not criminal proceedings.

In a criminal proceeding, a person is charged with a crime and brought to trial and either found guilty or not guilty. The purpose of a criminal case is to punish the person who violates criminal laws.

District Courts are typically the level of court where judicial branch innovations find their broadest application. Drug Courts and other problem-solving courts are currently the most widespread examples of such innovations. There are 69 problem-solving courts spread throughout the state, with approximately 70 judges taking an active role in their operation.

2014 District Court Stats

During 2014, there were 677,802 filings in the district courts, a decrease of 7.7% compared with 2013. In 2014 Civil filings decreased by 5,917, a decrease of 4.6%, and criminal filings decreased by 6,314 filings, a decrease of 4.0%.

These programs require intensive judicial oversight of program participants in mandatory treatment, drug testing, employment and educational activities and involve weekly staffing and court proceedings outside of a judge's regular court duties.

JUVENILE COURTS

The juvenile courts have exclusive jurisdiction over delinquency cases involving persons under 17 years of age, with the exception of felony offenses for which 15 or 16 year olds can be bound over to the district courts. Juvenile courts also handle adoption proceedings of children under the age of 17. Similarly, family courts have jurisdiction over all family matters ranging from delinquency proceedings to divorce and child custody proceedings.

2014 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts decreased by 7.5% from 13,962 in 2013 to 12,921 in 2014.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2013	2014	2014	2014	2014 ²	2014	JUR	TRIALS
		Total Filed	Juvenile Filed	Civil Filed	Criminal Filed	Traffic Filed	Total Filed	Civil	Criminal
DISTRICT	PARISH								
1	Caddo ¹ District Totals:	21,792 21,792	370 370	7,048 7,048	8,566 8,566	6,079 6,079	22,063 22,063	4 4	39 39
2	Bienville	3,339	26	464	494	3,810	4,794	0	0
	Claiborne Iackson	3,706 1,596	166 298	359 369	344 633	2,061 339	2,930 1,639	0	0
	District Totals:	8,641	490	1,192	1,471	6,210	9,363	0	1
3	Lincoln	4,989	245	765	1,389	2,650	5,049	3	2
	Union District Totals:	2,426 7,415	181 426	523 1,288	1,034 2,423	786 3,436	2,524 7,573	1 4	0
4	Ouachita	41,420	1,300	3,905	7,907	26,006	39,118	3	18
	Morehouse	7,337	269	545	1,359	5,070	7,243	Ő	5
_	District Totals:	48,757	1,569	4,450	9,266	31,076	46,361	3	23
5	Franklin Richland	2,674 6,183	180 227	599 544	888 1,286	946 3,363	2,613 5,420	0	1 3
	West Carroll	1,968	123	257	490	773	1,643	0	1
	District Totals:	10,825	530	1,400	2,664	5,082	9,676	ĭ	5
6	East Carroll	2,859	78	189	515	2,415	3,197	1	0
	Madison³ Tensas	8,108 2,388	81 19	246 152	668 660	4,543 1,189	5,538 2,020	0	0
	District Totals:	13,355	178	587	1,843	8,147	10,755	1	<u> </u>
7	Catahoula	2,294	18	323	878	1,652	2,871	1	2
	Concordia District Totals:	3,292 5,586	174 192	560 883	1,636 2,514	1,422 3,074	3,792 6,663	0	1 3
8	Winn	2,603	55	444	643	1,140	2,282	1	1
	District Totals:	2,603	55	444	643	1,140	2,282	1	1
9	Rapides District Totals:	20,376 20,376	989 989	3,075 3,075	4,059 4,059	12,226 12,226	20,349 20,349	2 2	9 9
10	Natchitoches District Totals:	16,203 16,203	1,383 1,383	965 965	1,473 1,473	9,498 9,498	13,319 13,319	1	3 3
11	Sabine	3,728	198	540	1,334	1,937	4,009	0	0
12	District Totals:	3,728	198	1 451	1,334	1,937	4,009	0	11
12	Avoyelles District Totals:	9,054 9,054	353 353	1,451 1,451	2,526 2,526	4,388 4,388	8,718 8,718	7 7	11 11
13	Evangeline District Totals:	7,972 7,972	662 662	817 817	1,612 1,612	4,583 4,583	7,674 7,674	0	3 3
14	Calcasieu	33,435	1,856	5,569	14,450	9,170	31,045	14	16
15	District Totals: Acadia	33,435 5,387	1,856 253	5,569 1,260	14,450 1,414	9,170 3,010	31,045 5,937	14	16 1
13	Lafayette	18,405	1,141	6,862	4,854	6,476	19,333	10	16
	Vermilion	6,198	241	1,537	1,837	2,160	5,775	5	10
16	District Totals: Iberia	29,990 11,363	1,635 613	9,659 1,956	8,105 1,753	11,646 3,184	31,045 7,506	15	27 5
10	St. Martin	13,964	368	1,284	1,373	7,519	10,544	2	1
	St. Mary	6,491	396	1,287	2,439	2,537	6,659	5	7
17	District Totals: Lafourche	31,818 14,268	1,377 547	4,527 2,205	5,565 3,861	13,240 7,592	24,709 14,205	10 2	13 4
17	District Totals:	14,268	547	2,205	3,861	7,592	14,205	2	4
18	Iberville	11,623	294	1,368	1,143	2,404	5,209	0	1
	Pointe Coupee	6,587 3,363	141	522 849	607 896	3,955 1,168	5,225 2,974	2	1
	West Baton Rouge District Totals:	21,573	61 496	2,739	2,646	7,527	13,408	4 6	6 8
19	East Baton Rouge ¹ District Totals:	54,627 54,627	0	10,169 10,169	12,301 12,301	31,373 31,373	53,843 53,843	36 36	40 40
20	East Feliciana	3,048	219	1,091	688	228	2,226	0	1
	West Feliciana	1,076	20	246	410	352	1,028	0	0
	District Totals:	4,124	239	1,337	1,098	580	3,254	0	1

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2013	2014	2014	2014	2014 ²	2014	JUR	Y TRIALS
		Total Filed	Juvenile Filed	Civil Filed	Criminal Filed	Traffic Filed	Total Filed	Civil	Criminal
DISTRICT	PARISH								
21	Livingston	16,150	886	3,150	4,092	8,504	16,632	1	1
	St. Helena	2,252	80	293	586	1,166	2,125	1	0
	Tangipahoa District Totals:	31,563 49,965	812 1,778	3,457 6,900	3,508 8,186	20,889 30,559	28,666 47,423	6 8	10 11
22	St. Tammany	40,792	1,346	6,825	6,206	27,840	42,217	12	72
	Washington	5,517	606	990	1,027	1,791	4,414	2	22
	District Totals:	46,309	1,952	7,815	7,233	29,631	46,631	14	94
23	Ascension ¹	5,550	503	3,201	1,344	1 412	5,048	5	18
	Assumption St. James	3,647 3,561	207 151	564 497	667 492	1,413 1,864	2,851 3,004	0 2	0
	District Totals:	12,758	861	4,262	2,503	3,277	10,903	7	18
24	Jefferson ¹	18,620	0	11,038	7,885	0	18,923	30	60
	District Totals:	18,620	0	11,038	7,885	0	18,923	30	60
25	Plaquemines District Totals:	6,602 6,602	62 62	762 762	1,406 1,406	1,974 1,974	4,204 4,204	2 2	3 3
26	Bossier	14,891	1,406	2,499	5,843	4,868	14,616	5	7
	Webster	7,137	288	867	1,474	3,398	6,027	0	3
	District Totals:	22,028	1,694	3,366	7,317	8,266	20,643	5	10
27	St. Landry District Totals:	30,716 30,716	579 579	2,450 2,450	2,461 2,461	23,048 23,048	28,538 28,538	2 2	5 5
28	LaSalle District Totals:	2,829 2,829	163 163	399 399	669 669	2,068 2,068	3,299 3,299	1 1	0
29	St. Charles	43,306	545	1,839	1,611	29,703	33,698	3	3
	District Totals:	43,306	545	1,839	1,611	29,703	33,698	3	3
30	Vernon District Totals:	12,317 12,317	318 318	1,180 1,180	1,556 1,556	6,997 6,997	10,051 10,051	3 3	2 2
31	Jefferson Davis District Totals:	12,511 12,511	94 94	894 894	716 716	7,173 7,173	8,877 8,877	1 1	2 2
32	Terrebonne District Totals:	23,410 23,410	726 726	2,461 2,461	4,221 4,221	13,114 13,114	20,522 20,522	6 6	13 13
33	Allen	4,948	200	590	1,347	3,228	5,365	0	4
	District Totals:	4,948	200	590	1,347	3,228	5,365	0	4
34	St. Bernard District Totals:	13,881 13,881	399 399	1,908 1,908	6,218 6,218	4,026 4,026	12,551 12,551	5 5	1 1
35	Grant ³	4,231	247	410	1,235	2,295	4,187	0	1
2.6	District Totals:	4,231	247	410	1,235	2,295	4,187	0	1
36	Beauregard District Totals:	7,713 7,713	214 214	867 867	721 721	5,432 5,432	7,234 7,234	1 1	2 2
37	Caldwell District Totals:	1,706 1,706	77 77	293 293	934 934	566 566	1,870 1,870	1	0
38	Cameron District Totals:	2,609 2,609	43 43	164 164	624 624	2,093 2,093	2,924 2,924	0	0
39	Red River District Totals:	2,146 2,146	61 61	264 264	315 315	955 955	1,595 1,595	1	0
40	St. John the Baptist District Totals:	21,992 21,992	328 328	1,636 1,636	1,990 1,990	16,575 16,575	20,529 20,529	3 3	5 5
42	DeSoto District Totals:	12,052 12,052	203 203	822 822	1,155 1,155	8,811 8,811	10,991	0	4
	Orleans Civil ¹	11,973	0	12,199	0	0	12,199	38	0
	Orleans Criminal ¹	3,376	0	0	4,331	0	4,331	0	84
	District Totals:	15,349	0	12,199	4,331	0	16,530	38	84
	Statewide Totals:	734,140	24,089	122,864	153,054	377,795	677,802	239	531

2014 Report of the Total Number of Awards and the Total Amount of Funds Distributed for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment

In 2014 the number of new judgments for wrongful convictions or loss of life opportunities: 2 Total amount paid on new and prior judgments in calendar year: \$498,424.00

^{1.} Violations of Traffic, Misdemeanors, and/or Juvenile/Family Laws are Processed by Parish, City, and/or Juvenile/Family Courts.

2. DWI is included in the criminal totals beginning in 1990.

3. Reflects updated figures received after the publication of the 2013 Annual Report. *Pursuant to R.S. 15:572.8, Act 262, Regular Session 2007. The 2013 Bicentennial Edition of the annual report listed 22 judgments. These were all the judgments from 2008-2013 and were not all new judgments.

Louisiana Juvenile Courts

JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS - CALENDAR YEAR 2014

	CADDO			E. BATON ROUGE		
	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹
Formal FINS	396	396	396	42	107	42
Juvenile Traffic	233	364	233	251	400	251
Juvenile Delinquency	1,324	1,542	1,324	1,456	2,426	1,456
Mental Incapacity to Proceed ²	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interstate compact for Juveniles	1	0	1	0	0	0
Contempt of Court	197	197	197	312	312	312
Child in Need of Care Cases	219		219	119		177
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	23		23	66		77
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	12		12	16		14
Surrender of Parental Rights	20		20	99		84
Adoption	52		52	69		75
Child Support	820		0	0		0
Mental Health	212		212	19		19
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	1		1	10		0
Minor Marriages	0		0	0		0
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0	0		0
Domestic Abuse	271		271	1		2
Other	11		11	2		2
Subtotal	3,792	2,499	2,972	2,462	3,245	2,511

The category of Children denotes the number of children listed in filed petitions for each case type.
 Mental Incapacity to Proceed is a subset of the category of Delinquency. The event is enumerated separately as it is considered a significant delinquency event.

J	IEFFERSO	N	ORLEANS			Gl	RAND TO	ID TOTAL	
Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	
236	278	236	50	49	46	724	830	720	
289	421	286	136	227	136	909	1,412	906	
745	1139	703	607	836	609	4,132	5,943	4,092	
53	53	19	33	35	33	86	88	52	
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
244	244	244	26	27	26	779	780	779	
243		373	118		118	699		887	
199		176	26		27	314		303	
79		66	16		16	123		108	
31		22	19		19	169		145	
167		146	61		61	349		334	
3,055		0	0		0	3,875		0	
0		0	0		0	231		231	
0		0	0		0	11		1	
0		0	0		0	0		0	
0		0	0		0	0		0	
0		0	 0		0	272		273	
0		0	234		234	247		247	
5,341	2,135	2,271	1,326	1,174	1,325	12,921	9,053	9,079	

CITY AND PARISH COURTS

The city courts are courts of record. This means that their decisions are reviewed on appeal on the record, as opposed to being tried anew in a higher court. City courts generally exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil cases where the amount in controversy cannot exceed \$50,000. In criminal matters, they

generally have jurisdiction over ordinance violations and misdemeanor violations of state law. City judges also handle a large number of traffic cases.

Louisiana's 3 parish courts are distinguishable from city courts only in that they are always staffed by full-time judges and their jurisdiction is a bit broader. Parish courts exercise jurisdiction in civil cases worth up to \$20,000 and criminal cases punishable by fines of \$1,000 or less, imprisonment of six months or less, or both. Cases are appealable from the parish courts directly to the courts of appeal.

2014 City & Parish Court Stats

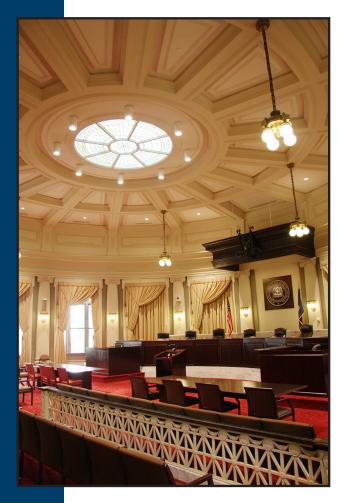
Filings in Louisiana city and parish Courts decreased by 9.9%, from 838,923 filings in 2013 to 756,353 filings in 2014.

LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2014

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
CITY	CIV	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		CASES	OTHER PR	ROCEEDINGS
Abbeville	486	332	568	574	818	957	222	241	2,094	2,104	0	0
Alexandria	3,620	1,780	9,144	6,620	13,038	12,650	0	0	25,802	21,050	0	0
Ascension	626	209	3,336	4,429	12,043	14,596	188	365	16,193	19,599	0	0
Baker	396	299	499	421	3,784	3,644	0	0	4,679	4,364	0	0
Bastrop	968	815	969	792	1,349	1,306	19	18	3,305	2,931	0	0
Baton Rouge	12,010	11,100	19,605	18,233	95,296	94,344	0	0	126,911	123,677	48,074	51,385
	298	168		939			169					
Bogalusa			1,231		1,151	1,160		171	2,849	2,438	3,043	2,945
Bossier City	2,410	1,612	2,319	2,208	5,943	6,871	1,032	769	11,704	11,460	258	167
Breaux Bridge	624	441	775	473	681	427	106	85	2,186	1,426	132	126
Bunkie	59	59	150	149	764	772	32	32	1,005	1,012	0	0
Crowley	528	395	1,556	1,377	2,004	1,970	148	130	4,236	3,872	0	0
Denham Springs	2,155	1,738	1,712	2,094	17,106	14,942	511	528	21,484	19,302	191	191
Eunice	354	179	1,127	1,370	1,832	1,694	194	200	3,507	3,443	0	0
Franklin	357	237	475	342	677	689	115	126	1,624	1,394	83	49
Hammond	2,597	2,365	2,337	1,037	9,763	5,474	631	193	15,328	9,069	0	0
Houma	3,956	2,592	2,729	2,822	7,097	6,871	1,284	1,163	15,066	13,448	1,590	1,354
Jeanerette	146	166	523	456	6,149	5,151	89	97	6,907	5,870	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	2,237	3,545	3,588	11,258	47,899	87,433	0	0	53,724	102,236	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	3,591	5,658	2,899	10,314	37,304	80,520	0	0	43,794	96,492	0	0
Jennings	459	371	643	452	753	779	13	7	1,868	1,609	0	0
Kaplan	63	49	198	194	379	345	114	96	754	684	0	0
Lafayette	3,724	3,618	4,497	5,100	21,572	20,535	636	620	30,429	29,873	694	694
Lake Charles	3,707	2,656	5,926	4,829	11,010	9,733	31	20	20,674	17,238	0	0
Leesville	207	26	871	474	2,372	2,109	62	31	3,512	2,640	0	0
Marksville	524	496	509	449	829	787	87	85	1,949	1,817	0	0
Minden	418	428	670	408	937	728	116	52	2,141	1,616	6	6
Monroe	4,339	3,490	6,606	5,130	11,076	8,718	358	184	22,379	17,522	0	0
Morgan City	578	441	994	1,295	1,566	1,521	208	219	3,346	3,476	0	0
Natchitoches	493	218	1,098	1,084	3,016	2,717	214	176	4,821	4,195	89	89
New Iberia	1,214	1,190	1,534	1,640	3,565	3,506	244	248	6,557	6,584	303	293
N.O. 1st City Ct.	8,630	5,010	0	0	0,505	0	0	0	8,630	5,010	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,225	1,070	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,225	1,070	0	0
N.O. Municipal	0	0	25,689	23,262	0	0	0	0	25,689	23,262	0	0
N.O. Traffic	0	0	1,584	1,485	110,085	115,326	0	0	111,669		0	0
Oakdale	301	230	440	427		1,945	126	93	3,006	116,811 2,695	0	0
					2,139					- '		
Opelousas D: : :!!	709	672	2,532	1,883	4,917	4,624	296	288	8,454	7,467	0	0
Pineville	698	822	3,714	2,870	4,901	4,268	0	0	9,313	7,960	115	0
Plaquemine	355	274	425	166	877	555	48	47	1,705	1,042	0	0
Port Allen	298	196	215	165	6,280	6,120	21	14	6,814	6,495	0	0
Rayne	631	571	338	346	2,560	2,267	68	71	3,597	3,255	0	0
Ruston	1,445	802	1,064	636	2,014	1,846	0	0	4,523	3,284	1,208	158
Shreveport	9,678	9,202	8,538	8,892	47,208	47,032	0	0	65,424	65,126	163,016	0
Slidell	1,894	1,641	1,556	1,462	4,397	3,898	382	299	8,229	7,300	2,530	2,530
Springhill	339	297	919	638	819	804	182	152	2,259	1,891	98	100
Sulphur	982	652	2,699	2,869	6,915	7,094	113	90	10,709	10,705	241	185
Thibodaux	816	281	1,919	1,990	1,532	1,684	276	179	4,543	4,134	0	0
Vidalia	17	14	138	106	1,911	1,130	31	26	2,097	1,276	0	0
Ville Platte	541	326	814	941	637	503	113	113	2,105	1,883	0	0
West Monroe	1,801	1,766	2,118	1,949	3,900	3,860	91	67	7,910	7,642	401	401
Winnfield	84	27	493	434	677	436	0	0	1,254	897	0	0
Winnsboro	751	21	625	424	726	532	72	30	2,174	1,007	0	0
Zachary	536	395	664	508	2,996	2,510	0	0	4,196	3,413	0	0
STATE TOTALS:	84,875	70,942	135,572	138,416	527,264	599,383	8,642	7,325	756,353	816,066	222,072	60,673

^{*} DWI is included in the Criminal Column
** Other proceedings include actions not considered cases, such as post-conviction remedy, preliminary hearings, sentence review and extraordinary writs.

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