

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA 2015 ANNUAL REPORT of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court



#### THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

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

## 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 SCOTT J. CRICHTON

Second Supreme Court District Allen, Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Evangeline, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, and Webster Parishes.\* Took office January 1, 2015

#### JUSTICE JEANNETTE THERIOT KNOLL

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

#### \* See Court District Maps on pages 12-13.

#### **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 2015, and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

#### **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.\*

#### **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 2015 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.

#### FINDING COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO SYSTEM WIDE PROBLEMS

am pleased to present to you the 2015 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.

2015 marked a year of focus on evidenced-based criminal justice reform measures to develop a comprehensive set of solutions to address over-incarceration. To that end, in May the Supreme Court convened a meeting of over 50 criminal justice stakeholders to discuss evidenced-based solutions to over-incarceration. Led by Bill Hubbard, American Bar Association Immediate Past-President, the meeting addressed the importance of developing legislation and policy aimed at implementing alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders, reducing the length of sentences, and providing meaningful pathways back to work and society for returning citizens. Such legislative reforms have proven to reduce prison populations, save state dollars and influence reduction in violent crimes.

Further, research indicates that public safety is actually undermined when space and funds are unnecessarily allocated for imprisoning low-level offenders. Therefore, the Supreme Court focused attention on improving pretrial criminal justice services; specifically, a model which would provide judges with objective, data-driven assessments of a defendant's risk level and the most effective approach to public safety in each case. In November, a team from the Court traveled to Kentucky to gain first-hand knowledge of how the Kentucky Supreme Court runs its highly successful statewide pretrial services program.

In 2015, state of the art technology, aiSmartBench, was a solution implemented by several district judges to ensure well supported decision-making. aiSmartBench is a highly responsive, interactive system designed to retrieve, compile, and present critical information from a combination of case data, documents and related knowledge sources to help judges confidently make the best informed decisions in the shortest amount of time.

Additionally, we considered the problem that people without means to pay criminal fines and fees face disproportionate rates of incarceration. To address this concern, the Supreme Court was awarded a grant from the State Justice Institute to study the problem and provide solutions. This grant will assist us with a comprehensive statewide study of court fees and costs, which will be a starting point for making the system more fair and just for all citizens.

Finally, the Supreme Court made a concerted effort to review our various specialty courts which include: drug courts,



mental health courts, re-entry courts and veteran's courts. We continued to study national best practices of the specialty courts with an eye toward further improving upon their proven success and reduced rates of recidivism.

In 2015 we welcomed Justice Scott J. Crichton to the Supreme Court bench. Elected from the Second Supreme Court District he, along with Justice John Weimer, serves as a co-chair of the Louisiana Judicial College. The year however was not without its losses, with the untimely passing of two longtime members of the Supreme Court family – Louisiana State University Law Professor Cheney C. Joseph, Jr. and Louisiana Supreme Court Budget Director Randy Certoma. Professor

Joseph served as the Executive Director of the Louisiana Judicial College for 14 years while Randy served the Court for 20 years. Both gentlemen are dearly missed. We also said goodbye to Louisiana Law Library Director Georgia Chadwick and Supreme Court Central Staff Director Gregory Pechukas, both of whom retired in 2015.

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 for 2015 including 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 of 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 2015 to improve judicial administration are to be congratulated and thanked.

Bennette J. Johnson

Bernette Joshua Johnson Chief Justice Louisiana Supreme Court



## THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

The Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana was established in 1950 and serves as the research arm for the Supreme Court. It often acts as a resource center where ideas for simplifying and expediting judicial pro-

cedures and/or correcting shortcomings in the systems are studied. Most of this work done is through its various standing committees and the creation of ad hoc committees.

There are two standing committees to evaluate the need for new judgeships-the Appellate Judgeship Committee and the Trial Court Committee to Evaluate New Judgeships. A request for a new judgeship must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year. There were no new judgeships in 2015.

In 2003, a Court Cost/Fee Committee was created to guide the Judicial Council's process of reviewing and evaluating requests for new court costs, fees, and increases in existing court costs and fees. These requests must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by January 15th of each year.

After several years of work, the Family Court Rules Committee of the Judicial Council–with the assistance from the Supreme Court's District Court Rules Committee–created uniform rules for family law proceedings that took effect July 1, 2015. These new rules with their accompanying appendices are available on the Supreme Court website at <u>www.lasc.org</u>.

In 2015, the Judicial Council welcomed two new members: Judge John J. Molaison, Jr., representing the Louisiana District Judges Association and Judge Roy Cascio, representing the Louisiana City Judges Association.

Also, in 2015 the State Justice Institute awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Supreme Court in order to secure the services of the National Center for State Courts to assist in implementing the recommendations of the Judicial Council's standing committee to evaluate requests of court costs and fees. The initial recommendations include establishing an effective system for tracking assessed and collected fines and costs, the development of Louisiana-specific best practices, and supporting courts as they implement those best practices.

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

Honorable Bernette J. Johnson, Chair Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana Honorable Greg Gerard Guidry 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 John J. Molaison, Jr. representing Louisiana District Judges Association Honorable Roy Cascio 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

Richard K. Leefe representing Louisiana State Bar Association Claude "T-Claude" Devall representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA Monica T. Surprenant representing Louisiana State Law Institute Honorable Dan Claitor State Senator Honorable Franklin Foil State Representative Honorable Paul D. Connick, Jr. representing Louisiana District Attorneys Assn. William F. Dodd representing the Louisiana State Bar Association appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court Honorable H. Lynn Jones, II representing Louisiana Clerks of Court Assn. Mr. Charles C. Beard, Jr. Citizen Representative

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll Justice John L. Weimer Justice Marcus R. Clark Justice Jefferson D. Hughes Justice Scott J. Crichton

#### **STAFF OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD Judicial Administrator Supreme Court of Louisiana Royce Duplessis, JD Special Counsel, Research & Development Supreme Court of Louisiana

### 2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

his section highlights the initiatives of the Judicial Administrator's Office, the I 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.

#### OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR



Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD Judicial Administrator



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



Kären Hallstrom, JD, MSW Children & Families



**Ramona Harris** Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR)



Kerry Lentini, JD Supreme Court Drug Court Office



Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD General Counsel



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



Bryan Wolff, CPA Budget

#### IN MEMORIAM



Randy Certoma Louisiana Supreme Court Budget Director



Prof. Cheney Joseph Executive Director, Louisiana Judicial College

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## DRUG COURTS

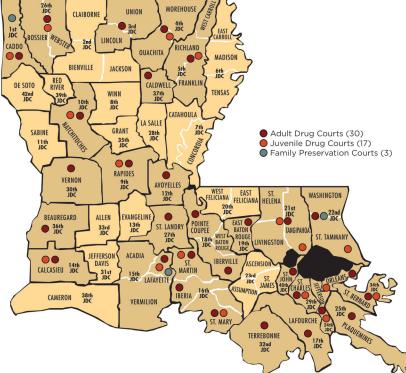
#### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

There were 50 operational drug court programs in Louisiana in 2015. Of the 50 programs, there were 30 adult drug courts, 17 juvenile drug courts, and 3 family preservation courts. 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 other stakeholders. Drug court teams use a non-adversarial approach to ensure that participants receive the highest level of care possible. Teams also work together to ensure program operations adhere to all applicable standards and policies.

As an alternative to incarceration, 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. 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. Additionally, the SCDCO closely monitors each program throughout the year.

#### **2015 DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS**

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Individual Participants Served	4,110	571	218
Individuals Screened	1,936	484	380
New Participants Admitted	1,378	272	133
Treatment Hours Administered	306,551	15,152	9,109
Drug Tests Administered	180,394	13,043	4,380
Community Service Hours	23,158	1,357	325



#### 2015 DRUG COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Graduates/Satisfied Court Order	734	160	35
Average Months in Program	24	11	8

#### **PROGRAM SUCCESSES**

49	Drug Free Babies in 2015	In 2015, 49 drug-free babies were born to drug court clients for an estimated cost savings of \$12,250,000 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.*
593	Total Drug Free Babies Born	Since the inception of drug courts in Louisiana, 593 drug-free babies have been born to drug court clients, for an estimated total cost savings of \$148,250,000.*
10.20%	Drug Court Recidivism Rate	89.8% of the 2012 Drug Court graduates remained free of additional convictions 3 years after graduation.
707	GED/Full Time Employment	The number of clients who graduated in 2015, 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.

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## 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 2015 the registry facilitated eight multi-disciplinary legal seminars throughout the state. The training program is approved for 4.25 continuing legal education credits and a total of 345 stakeholders attended the trainings. Additionally, LPOR has developed an electronic component to the 12.5 hour training curriculum for the state judiciary on the topic of domestic abuse and dating violence. The curriculum was presented to 71 judges at the 2015 Louisiana State Bar Association/Judges Summer School.

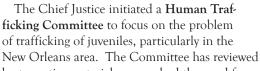
LPOR also provided four presentations and workshops at the request of other agencies and organizations in 2015, with a total of 239 people in attendance.

At year's end, the registry received and entered 26,050 orders from courts across the state. Of these, 16,836 (65%) were civil orders and 9,214 (35%) were criminal orders. From the pilot phase of the project through the close of 2015, the registry received and entered 345,126 orders. Of these, 255,558 (74%) were civil and 89,568 (26%) were criminal orders.

Certain qualifying records from the registry are transmitted to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Background Check System (NICS). In 2015, 22,047 qualifying orders were transmitted to NCIC and the registry's on-call staff responded to 249 requests for order verification submitted by the NICS examiners. In addition, the registry staff responded to 1,360 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement calls with requests for order verification.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



best practice materials; researched the need for *to the Chief Justice* and availability of services; brought together state, regional, and local trafficking experts to facilitate integrated work; and participated in the National Summit on Human Trafficking and the State Courts. The Supreme Court's Human Trafficking initiative is coordinated by Angela White-Bazile, Executive Counsel to the Chief Justice.

Angela White-Bazile

Executive Counsel

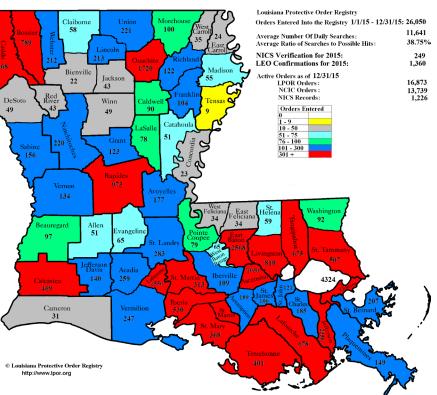


Table One: Civil Orders	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total (1997-2015)
Temporary Restraining Order	12,496	12,053	12,122	12,000	12,971	191,671
Protective Order	3,344	3,177	3,324	3,340	3,754	61,134
Preliminary Injunction	22	23	31	53	62	1,118
Permanent Injunction	42	48	39	33	49	1,635
Total Civil Orders	15,904	15,301	15,516	15,426	16,836	255,558

Table Two: Criminal Orders	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total (1997-2015)
Bail Restriction	4,795	3,721	3,704	4,912	6,583	54,295
Peace Bond	120	199	270	274	346	18,776
Combined Bail/ Peace Bond	238	643	669	706	1,098	8,412
Sentencing Order	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Sentenc- ing/Probation	514	1,181	1,178	1,136	1,187	8,085
Total Criminal Orders	5,667	5,744	5,821	7,028	9,214	89,568

Table Three: Totals by Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total (1997-2015)
Total Civil and Criminal Orders	21,571	21,045	21,337	2,454	26,050	345,126

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## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

#### **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

In 2015, the Court expanded its scope of work to further improve the administration of juvenile justice. In addition to the established **FINS Assistance Program**, the **CASA Assistance Program**, the **Court Improvement Program**, and **JDAI** partnership, the Court began implementation of a **Child Representation System Oversight** program, a juvenile data grant, and a child trafficking initiative.



The **FINS** Assistance Program provided funding for informal FINS offices in 41 judicial districts. Highlights this year included coordinating an annual retreat that allowed FINS programs to share best practices and improve program quality assurance and fidelity, implementation of a standard statewide juvenile screening instrument, improved data analysis and reporting which facilitated completion of an annual performance indicator report by parish and judicial district, and performance-based funding allocations.

The **CASA Assistance Program** administered funding for CASA programs in 57 parishes and facilitated the development of a program-to-program support and technical assistance network allowing CASA programs to share best practices with fellow programs. The expanded use of the new state-wide case management system continues to enhance uniformity of data collection and reporting.





Key **Court Improvement Program** initiatives, now managed by the Pelican Center for Children & Families, included recommendations for oversight of children's representation by the Court, promulgation of *Indicators of Quality Representation* in child protection cases, and the development of a comprehensive, interdisciplinary curriculum and materials on Safety Decision-making for judges, attorneys, and collateral stakeholders.

Court participation in the **State JDAI** (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) **Scale Collaborative** provides judicial input into planning for a research-based process of statewide juvenile detention reform in Louisiana.

Formal Child Representation System oversight of the programs representing over 5,500 children in child protection cases was initiated. The Mental Health Advocacy Service Child Advocacy Program and the Louisiana Services Corporations (administered by the Louisiana Bar Foundation) were approved for continuation of legal services to children in their respective jurisdictions. In addition, the first meeting of the state Child Protection Representation Commission was organized and hosted by the Court.



Work began toward development of a **standardized statewide juvenile data reporting system** pursuant to a grant from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement. The project is designed to collect uniform delinquency data from local courts' existing case management systems and will be piloted in select courts in early 2016.

## COURT INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM

#### COURT INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2013, the Supreme Court established the *Louisiana Court Interpreter Training Program*. It was developed to serve litigants of limited English proficiency in the Louisiana court system by enhancing access to justice through quality interpreting services. The Supreme Court adopted the *Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters* and adopted policies that established a two-tier interpreter qualification and testing program consisting of "Registered" and "Certified" court interpreters. The program was initially funded in part by a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI).

In 2015, the program was expanded to include advanced skills classes and the first administration of the court interpreter oral certification examination. Louisiana's first certified court interpreters were sworn in, and the number of certified and/or registered court interpreters increased to 103 in the languages of Arabic, French, Italian, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and American Sign.

In addition to orientation, testing, and skills classes around the state, Louisiana co-hosted an advanced court interpreting regional seminar with the Supreme Courts of Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Louisiana also participated in a grant from SJI to specifically focus on the uses and implementation of video remote interpreting in the courts.

A current list of registered and certified court interpreters, upcoming training opportunities, and the application for court interpreter reciprocity is available on the Supreme Court website at <u>www.lasc.org</u>.

## **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 website 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 Louisiana Supreme Court. In all of these endeavors, the CRD aims to inform, educate, and further public understanding of and trust and confidence in the Louisiana judiciary.

In 2015, the CRD assisted in planning and coordinating a working retreat for the Supreme Court justices. The four-day retreat took place in central Louisiana and provided a fresh environment for the justices to review cases, discuss administrative issues and, with the help of a facilitator, participate in team-building exercises to promote collegiality.



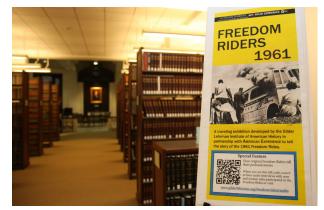
Law Day always presents an opportunity for courts to reach out to the public. 2015 was no exception as the Supreme Court hosted nearly 300 students for court tours and mock trials during the week of May 1st. The CRD kicked-off a new Supreme Court outreach tradition in recognition of Constitution Day, September 17th, by inviting citizens to tour the courthouse Law Museum and Law Library and receive a free pocket edition of the U.S. Constitution. Over 250 U.S. Constitutions were given away to visitors on Constitution Day and the event was featured in the metro New Orleans television news.

## LAW LIBRARY

#### LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

Located in the Supreme Court building in New Orleans, the *Law Library of Louisiana* provides valuable services and resources for the judiciary, the bar, and the public throughout the state and beyond. The Law Library, which was founded in 1838, now contains nearly 150,000 volumes in print, microform, and online.

In 2015 the Law Library sponsored six continuing legal education programs that were free and open to the public on a variety of topics of law. Exhibits were prepared for both the Law Library and the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum which included: one on Justice Jeannette T. Knoll; Early Louisiana Codes; the Italian Code Civil; and one on the 2015 Law Day Theme of the Magna Carta. Additionally, the Law Library hosted the *"Freedom Riders*" exhibit, which was on loan from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.



Also notable in 2015, Director Georgia Chadwick received the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service given by the State, Court, and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.

The Law Library's collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2015 the Library added 461 new titles, 1,831 new volumes, and 731 pieces of microfiche. The staff of the Library continued to publish its newsletter *De Novo* to reach out to library users and provide them with useful information on legal topics and library resources.

#### THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Georgia Chadwick, MLIS Director, Law Library of Louisiana Miriam Childs, MLIS Associate Director Francis Norton, JD, MLIS Research Lawyer/Librarian and Government Documents Librarian Sara Pic, JD, MLIS Assistant Librarian Jennifer Creevy, MLIS Assistant Librarian Catherine Lemann, JD, MLIS Research Librarian Ruth Mahoney Library Associate Daphne Tassin Library Associate Gail Bragg Administrative Assistant

## JUDICIAL COLLEGE

#### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

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The *Louisiana Judicial College* provides legal education for Louisiana's judges, and in 2015 it offered ten seminars for the judiciary and justice partners. In addition to its usual Summer School, Fall Conference, and Spring Conference, the College sponsored regional and thematic learning events. Seminars including Evidence and Procedure, Torts, Rural Courts, Family Law, North Louisiana, City and Juvenile Judges, and Criminal Court provided numerous educational opportunities.

In 2015 the College began the process of strategic planning in order to improve the quality of its programming for the purpose of providing justice for the citizens of Louisiana. A new program attorney and judicial education coordinator were hired to support the College's mission.

As the Judicial College begins implementation of the strategic plan in 2016, it looks forward to providing excellent educational opportunities through both in-person seminars as well as other best practices to meet the needs of Louisiana's judiciary.

## **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.

The Committee received and processed 1,122 bar examination applications, 336 law student registration forms, 35 A.D.A. requests, eight equivalency applications, and 16 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 302 applicants who sat for the February examination as well as 698 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 65.56% in February and 62.03% 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, eight Commissioner hearings were held and two matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended 11 applicants be conditionally admitted and 20 applicants be denied admission.

#### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

Lawrence J. Centola, Jr. Chairman Larry Feldman, Jr. Director of Character & Fitness Hon. S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. Testing Accommodations & Immediate Past Chair J. Patrick Beauchamp Director of Testing Dow M. Edwards 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 William C. Kalmbach, 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 & Negotiable Instruments DeWayne L. Williams Examiner-Constitutional Lau

Todd S. Clemons Examiner–Criminal Law, Procedure & Evidence Glenn L. Langley Examiner–Federal Jurisdiction & Procedure Supreme Court of Louisiana Justice Scott J. Crichton Supreme Court of Louisiana **MEMBERS** 

Justice John L. Weimer

**CHAIRS** 

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Judge Roland Belsome Court of Appeal, 4th Circuit Judge Fredericka Wicker Court of Appeal, 5th Circuit Judge Lori A. Landry 16th Judicial 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 Judicial 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 Guy Holdridge Louisiana District Judges Association Judge Allison Penzato Louisiana District Judges Association Judge John B. Slattery Louisiana City Judges Association Judge Douglas J. Saloom Louisiana City Judges Association Judge Patricia Koch Louisiana Juvenile Judges Association Judge Shonda Stone Louisiana Juvenile Judges Association

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

Vacant Executive Counsel to the Governor Mark Cunningham President, Louisiana State Bar Association Walter Leger, III House Representative Dan Claitor Senate Representative Judge James McKay Conference of Court of Appeal Judges Judge Jules Edwards Louisiana District Judges Association Judge Kirk Williams Louisiana City Judges Association Judge Guy Bradberry Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

## JUDICIARY COMMISSION

#### JUDICIARY COMMISSION

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 529 complaints against judges and justices of the peace in 2015. There were 289 complaints pending from previous years as of January 1, 2015. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 291 requests for complaint forms.

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 529 complaints filed in 2015, 369 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 160 cases were reviewed to consider the need for investigation. The Commission authorized in-depth investigation in 47 cases, some as to complaints filed before January 1, 2015.

In 2015, the Commission filed formal charges against six judges and no justices of the peace. Two judges and one justice of the peace resigned or retired after formal charges that had been filed in previous years; one judge retired after formal charges were filed in 2015 and a hearing was held. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled in 11 cases and conducted in nine. A motion to dispense with a hearing officer was granted in two cases in which stipulations were reached. A Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreement was signed in two cases before a hearing was held. Some of this activity occurred in connection with formal charges filed before January 1, 2015.

Also during 2015, six judges and two justices of the peace personally appeared before the

### Mary Whitney, JD, Special Counsel Commission for questioning after a hearing before a hearing officer or after entering into stipulations in lieu of a hearing.

#### 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.**

THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF

#### **2015 JUDICIARY COMMISSION**

Judge Jules D. Edwards, III, Chair Mrs. Carol LeBlanc, Vice Chair Jerry Edwards Harold M. Block John T.M. Baldwin Kenneth Michael Wright Dr. Michael S. Blue Judge Timothy E. Kelley Judge Felicia Toney Williams

#### **STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION**

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

#### **STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

In 2015, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Supreme Court two recommendations for judicial discipline and no recommendation for the imposition of penalties in financial disclosure cases arising under Supreme Court Rule 39. As of December 31, 2015, there were two Judiciary Commission cases pending before the Supreme Court.

In 2015, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Supreme Court one recommendation for the interim disgualification of a judge pending further proceedings. That judge was disqualified from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings. As of December 31, 2015, the Commission had 215 files pending, having disposed of 601 files in 2015.

## ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

#### ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

April 1, 2015, marked the 25th year anniversary of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board's creation by the Louisiana Supreme Court. Over that span the Court has appointed 81 lawyers and non-lawyers to serve as Disciplinary Board members, all of whom served as volunteers without compensation, to uphold the high standards of Louisiana's legal profession. Hundreds of other lawyers have served as hearing committee members and probation monitors to support a lawyer regulation system that is patterned after the ABA Model Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement and is considered one of the premier disciplinary agencies in the country.

In 2015, at the request of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel, the justices of the Supreme Court invited a consultation team of the ABA's Center for Professional Responsibility to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire Louisiana disciplinary system with a view toward recommending any changes that would result in an improved lawyer regulatory agency. The Supreme Court anticipates receipt of the product of that review in the spring of 2016.

While the lawyer population in Louisiana has grown to nearly 22,000 attorneys, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) reports that the number of written complaints alleging misconduct is down at 2,955. Less than half, or 1,410 complaints, were opened for formal disciplinary investigation. The remaining complaints were resolved informally by ODC, referred to the Louisiana State Bar Association's alternatives to discipline, or dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Effective April, 2015, the Supreme Court amended the Rules of Professional Conduct to formally mandate that attorneys subject their client trust accounts to a reconciliation process on a not less than quarterly basis. As a result of that rule change, the ODC witnessed a dramatic reduction in the number of overdraft notifications on trust accounts resulting in the need for fewer disciplinary audits and corrective action while ensuring that client and third party funds were best protected.

#### LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

R Steven Tew Chair Carl A. Butler, Vice-Chair Stephen F. Chiccarelli George L. Crain Anderson O. Dotson, III Carrie LeBlanc Jones Kim Leija Jeffrey L. Little (LSBA Member) Pamela W. Carter Edwin G. Preis, Jr. Dominick Scandurro, Jr. R. Lewis Smith, Jr. Evans C. Spiceland Walter D. White

## **CLERK OF COURT**

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

Filings continued to drop in 2015 hitting 2,365—an all-time low for the past 30 years. In addition to processing all incoming filings, court actions and opinions, other key responsibilities fulfilled by the *Supreme Court Clerk of Court Office* in 2015 included:

- Admitting 636 new attorneys to the practice of law, a decrease of 10% from 709 in 2014 but still more than the 542 admitted in 2013;
- Issuing Certificates of Good Standing. The demand for issuance of Certificates of Good Standing continued to fall. Following the 2013 implementation of a charge of \$20.00 the requests for Certificates have continued to drop and in 2015 only 1,988 Certificates were issued;
- Awarding a contract for CTrack, a new case management system which, besides replacing the case management and e-filing systems, integrates with the justices' and staff attorneys' offices;
- Managing logistics for 266 events hosted by the Court. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings, and other meetings;
- Overseeing courthouse general maintenance and improvements involving roof repairs, basement waterproofing, and the refurbishing of the chillers. The State entered into a contract to repair damage resulting from Hurricane Isaac. The exterior waterproofing and the interior repairs should be completed by 2016; and,
- Continued to participate in the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation of an integrated, computer-based system designed to manage financial resources, materials, and human resources.

## CMIS

#### **COURT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

The Court Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division collects, analyzes and disseminates information to external agencies regarding case filings, dispositions and sentencing information from Louisiana's district courts, city courts, and some mayor's courts. CMIS worked with courts and associated agencies throughout the state to provide training assistance, on-site visits, and grant opportunities to enhance the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data collected for criminal and traffic dispositions.

#### **Criminal Records**

The *Criminal Records Project* received 350,767 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2015. Of those records, 64,601 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, 36,043 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. Of these records, 28,848 were felony convictions, 3,989 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 80 were not guilty by reason of insanity, 519 were incompetent to stand trial, 1,680 were probation restrictions, and 927 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions.

In 2015, five criminal commitment orders, 1,074 civil commitment orders, and 25 criminal orders under La.R.S.13:753(A) were posted to the NICS database. Also posted were 22,047 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

#### **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 history database. In 2015, 851,283 traffic records containing filing, disposition and sentencing information were received. Of those records 255,876 were posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS receives traffic data from 61 parishes, 16 city courts, and 11 mayor courts.

#### **CMIS** Outreach

In 2015, CMIS disbursed \$1,224,025 in federal and CMIS grants to 18 district, city, and parish courts to enhance security, disposition reporting, and data quality. Funds were provided to 1st and 2nd Parish Courts in Jefferson Parish for enhanced electronic reporting of criminal dispositions for posting to the Louisiana Criminal History database and NICS.

Federal Motor Carrier funding was provided to six city courts for replacement or enhancement of case management systems to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of reporting traffic and DWI dispositions to CMIS for posting to the OMV driver history database and the National Commercial Driver's License Information System.

Grant money was also used to provide tools for judges. An "electronic bench" system built on aiSmartBench was funded for implementation in Orleans Parish Municipal Court and in Calcasieu Parish. The system is an electronic dashboard that integrates information from a case management system and other sources to improve the information available to judges on the bench.

#### **OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

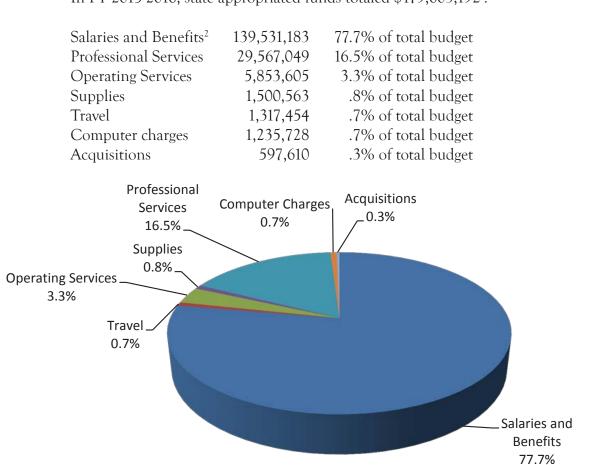
John Tarlton Olivier, JD Clerk of Court Okyeame Haley, JD, LLM Chief Deputy Clerk of Court Katie Marjanovic, JD 2nd Deputy Clerk of Court Robin Burras Deputy Clerk–Front Office Carmen B. Young Deputy Clerk–Opinions & Filings Eddie Gonzales Deputy Clerk–Records Manager & Property Manager

## 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 2015-2016 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$179,603,192



Total State Budget:

Judiciary Budget:

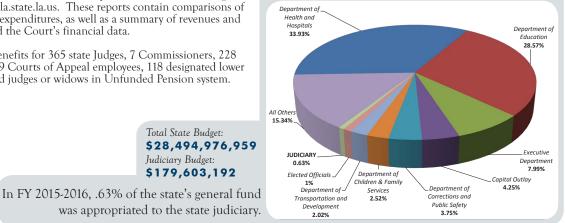
\$179,603,192

In FY 2015-2016, state appropriated funds totaled \$179,603,192<sup>1</sup>:

<sup>1</sup>The 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 expenditures by categories, and the Court's financial data.

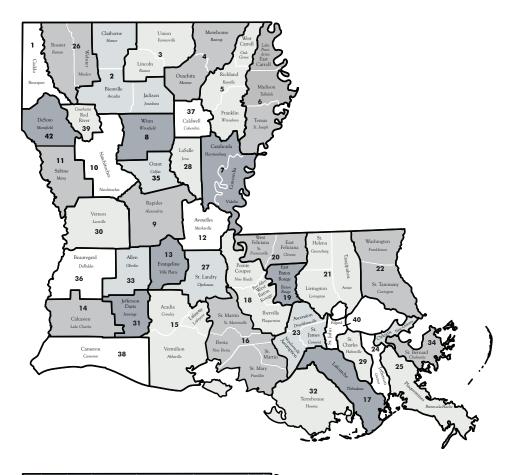
<sup>2</sup>Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 365 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 228 Supreme Court employees, 369 Courts of Appeal employees, 118 designated lower court employees, and 39 retired judges or widows in Unfunded Pension system.



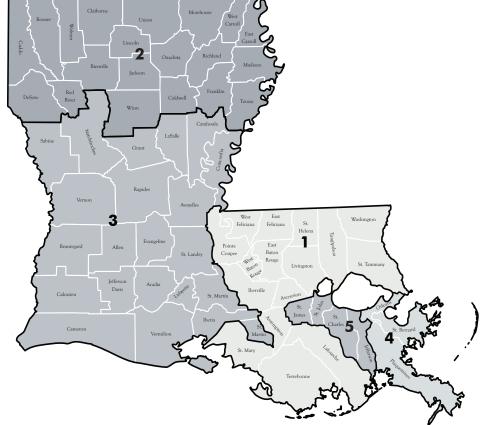


#### Annual Report 2015 • SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

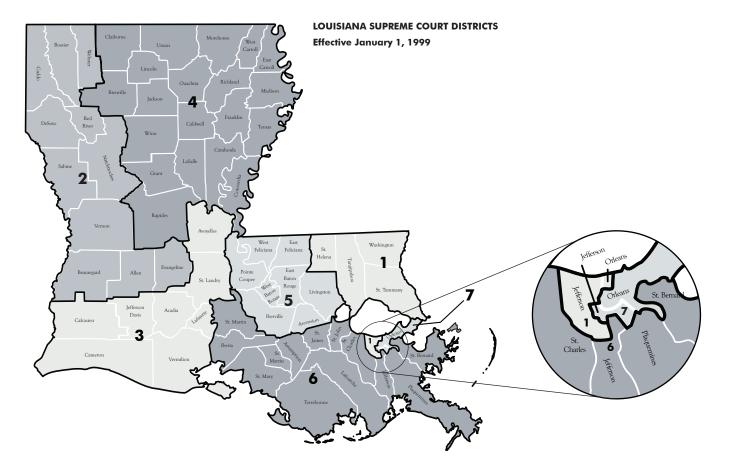
LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL CIRCUITS



#### **MAPS OF JUDICIAL DISTRICTS**



\*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, I-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. Access to Justice

An Access to Justice Commission has been established in collaboration with the Louisiana State Bar Association and the civil justice community with the goal to ensure that all Louisiana citizens have access to equal justice under the law.



#### 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

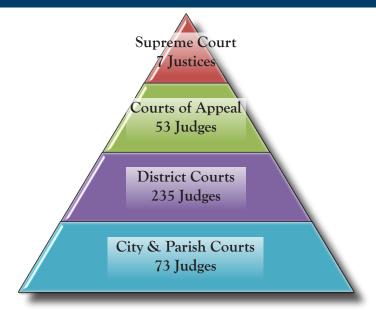
The U.S. Department of State launched its first state-level partnership by partnering with the Louisiana Supreme Court. The agreement paves the way for the State Department to leverage the expertise of the nation's only state court system that relies on civil law to adjudicate non-criminal disputes.

#### 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 368 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**

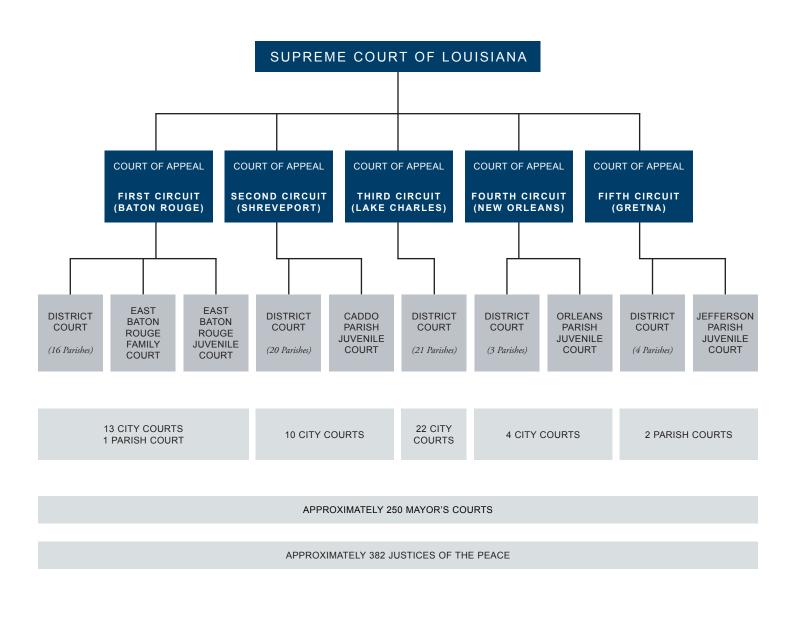
#### District, Juvenile and Family

- 235 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

#### LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE



Number of Justices	and Judges:
--------------------	-------------

7	Supreme Court
53	Courts of Appeal
235	District, Family and Juvenile
73	City and Parish Courts
368	Total

## UISIANA 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.

## 2015 Supreme Court Stats

In 2013, 3,017 cases were filed with the Clerk of Court, an increase of nine percent from the 2,769 cases filed in 2012. There was a major drop in filings between 2013 and 2014. Filings

cannot be heard by any other state court - only the Supreme Court.

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.

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.



## Louisiana Supreme Court

#### CASE FILING BY TYPE

#### SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA Two Year Trend in Activity

	2014 Total	2015 Total	2015 Civil	2015 Criminal
APPEALS				
Filed	12	6	4	2
Dismissed	3	0	<del></del> 0	0
Opinions Rendered		0	0	
With written opinions	8	3	2	1
Per curiams	2	2	2	0
WRITS				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,383	1,277	841	436
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	1,113	895	15	880
Granted	204	201	111	90
To be argued	56	56	38	18
With orders & transferred	148	145	73	72
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Not Considered	41	114	31	83
Denied	2,139	2,002	818	1,184
Opinions Rendered	48	31	24	7
REHEARINGS				
Applied for	48	40	24	16
Granted	3	1	0	1
Denied/Dismissed	53	48	28	20
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION				
Petitions Filed	206	185	185	0
Opinions Rendered	3	3	3	0
Other Actions	172	182	182	0
OTHER MATTERS				
Filed	2	2	2	0
Opinions Rendered	0	3	3	0
Other Actions	6	4	2	2
OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED	211	365	167	198
OTHER PER CORIAM OPINIONS RENDERED	211	305	107	198
TOTAL FILINGS	2,716	2,365	1,047	1,318
Per Justice	388	338	150	188
TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED	59	40	32	8

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.

#### SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA • Annual Report 2015

# 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.

Filings of writs and appeals dropped 4.3% from 6,375 in 2014 to 6,101 in 2015. In total the number of opinions rendered dropped 19.1% from 2,109 opinions in 2014 to 1,705 during 2015.

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 communications from the clerk of court by

## 2015 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 44 in First Circuit Court of Appeal, 30 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 33 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 22 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 31 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

e-mail, is in use in three circuits. Video conferencing is also used in several circuits, and remote access is provided in most of the circuits to allow judges and staff working in satellite offices 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 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.

#### **STATISTICAL DATA**

#### LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL Two Ye

Two Year Trend in Activity

	2014 Total	2015 Total	2015 Civil	2015 Criminal
FIRST CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	605	698	547	151
Motions Filed	28	35	30	5
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	551	633	471	162
Writs Refused*	420	474	352	122
Writs Granted	154	128	100	28
Pro Se Writs Filed	709	615	128	487
Pro Se Writs Refused*	778	564	103	461
Pro Se Writs Granted	56	52	27	25
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	84	85	79	6
Consolidated Opinions	46	17	16	1
Opinions Rendered **	650	526	360	166
Rehearings Acted Upon***	149	97	86	11
Appeals Pending	356	396	335	61
Argued But Not Decided	66	51	44	7
To Be Argued	290	345	291	54
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	54	44	30	14
SECOND CIRCUIT	_			
Appeals Filed	295	344	222	122
Motions Filed	5	6	2	4
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	205	197	133	64
Writs Refused*	146	157	106	51
Writs Granted	54	46	22	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	336	275	8	267
Pro Se Writs Refused*	249	214	8	206
Pro Se Writs Granted	65	70	1	69
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	22	27	24	3
Consolidated Opinions	25	19	11	8
Opinions Rendered **	257	269	160	109
Rehearings Acted Upon***	36	48	43	5
Appeals Pending	150	175	112	63
Argued But Not Decided	36	46	37	9
To Be Argued	114	129	75	54
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	29	30	18	12
THIRD CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	470	404	299	105
Motions Filed	19	16	15	1
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	376	340	240	100
Writs Refused*	276	243	182	61
Writs Granted	74	65	38	27
Pro Se Writs Filed	479	449	23	426
Pro Se Writs Refused*	370	395	14	381
Pro Se Writs Granted	77	77	2	75
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	46	34	31	3
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	535	391	298	93
Rehearings Acted Upon***	77	51	43	8
Appeals Pending	198	165	117	48
Argued But Not Decided	20	22	16	6
To Be Argued	178	143	101	42
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	45	33	25	8

#### LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL

Two Year Trend in Activity

	2014 Total	2015 Total	2015 Civil	2015 Criminal
FOURTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	366	355	251	104
Motions Filed	18	22	18	4
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	646	628	299	329
Writs Refused*	462	465	235	230
Writs Granted	154	138	57	81
Pro Se Writs Filed	387	385	8	377
Pro Se Writs Refused*	230	223	4	219
Pro Se Writs Granted	156	146	1	145
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	40	37	23	14
Consolidated Opinions	4	3	3	0
Opinions Rendered **	358	268	185	83
Rehearings Acted Upon***	73	31	20	11
Appeals Pending	199 72	243	185 55	58 19
Argued But Not Decided	127	74 169		
To Be Argued Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	30	22	130	39
	30	LL	15	(
FIFTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	314	252	176	76
Motions Filed	16	36	28	8
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	249	251	156	95
Writs Refused*	183	165	101	64
Writs Granted	66	64	35	29
Pro Se Writs Filed	387	275	16	259
Pro Se Writs Refused*	328	239	10	229
Pro Se Writs Granted	57	26	6	20
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	37	20	19	1
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	309	251	153	98
Rehearings Acted Upon***	59	60	36	24
Appeals Pending	118	93	66	27
Argued But Not Decided	3	5	5	0
To Be Argued	115	88	61	27
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	39	31	19	12
TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS				
Appeals Filed	2,050	2,053	1,495	558
Motions Filed	86	115	93	22
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	2,027	2,049	1,299	750
Writs Refused*	1,487	1,504	976	528
Writs Granted	502	441	252	189
Pro Se Writs Filed	2,298	1,999	183	1,816
Pro Se Writs Refused*	1,955	1,635	139	1,496
Pro Se Writs Granted	411	371	37	334
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	229	203	176	27
Consolidated Opinions	75	39	30	9
Opinions Rendered **	2,109	1,705	1,156	549
Rehearings Acted Upon***	394	287	228	59
Appeals Pending	1,021	1,072	815	257
	107	100	157	41
Argued But Not Decided	197	198		41
Argued But Not Decided To Be Argued Opinions Rendered Per Judge	197 824 40	874 32	658 22	$\frac{41}{216}$

<sup>\*</sup> Includes writs denied, writs not considered, writs dismissed and transferred

\*\*\* Includes rehearings on writs

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes opinions on appeals, writs, rehearings & supplemental opinions

# AN ACTIVE JUDICIARY

udges 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 Evaluate 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.

## **2015 District Court Stats**

During 2015 there were 663,118 filings in the district courts, a decrease of 2.2% compared with 2014. In 2015 Civil filings increased by 1,280, an increase of 1.0%, and criminal filings decreased by 4,085 filings, a decrease of 2.7%.

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 15-16 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.

## 2015 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts decreased by 15.5% from 12,921 in 2014 to 10,915 in 2015.

#### **STATISTICAL DATA**

#### LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2014	2015	2015	2015	2015 <sup>2</sup>	2015	JURY	TRIALS
		Total Filed	Juvenile Filed	Civil Filed	Criminal Filed	Traffic Filed	Total Filed	Civil	Criminal
DISTRICT	PARISH								
1	Caddo <sup>1</sup> District Totals:	22,063 <b>22,063</b>	258 <b>258</b>	7,180 <b>7,180</b>	8,396 <b>8,396</b>	4,922 <b>4,922</b>	20,756 <b>20,756</b>	6 <b>6</b>	29 <b>29</b>
2	Bienville	4,794	42	461	490	4,811	5,804	0	1
	Claiborne	2,930	114	349	382	1,761	2,606	0	0
	Jackson	1,639	205	479	654	786	2,124	1	1
	District Totals:	9,363	361	1,289	1,526	7,358	10,534	1	2
3	Lincoln Union	5,049 2,524	375 275	727 508	1,205 1,182	4,951 981	7,258 2,946	1	2 2
	District Totals:	7,573	650	1,235	2,387	5,932	10,204	2	<b>4</b>
4	Morehouse	7,243	327	519	1,068	5,385	7,299	2	4
	Ouachita District Totals:	39,118	1,681	4,382	7,204	21,134	34,401	7	12
5	Franklin	<b>46,361</b> 2,613	<b>2,008</b> 153	<b>4,901</b> 635	<b>8,272</b> 832	<b>26,519</b> 1,027	<b>41,700</b> 2,647	<b>9</b> 0	<b>16</b> 2
)	Richland	5,420	155	498	1,107	2,648	4,435	0	2
	West Carroll	1,643	99	248	504	624	1,475	0	1
	District Totals:	9,676	434	1,381	2,443	4,299	8,557	0	5
6	East Carroll	3,197	42	142	316	3,545	4,045	1	0
	Madison Tensas	5,538 2,020	81 21	250 135	866 430	4,125 1,221	5,322 1,807	0 0	1 0
	District Totals:	10,755	144	<b>527</b>	<b>1,612</b>	8,891	1,007 11,174	1	1
7	Catahoula	2,871	9	295	747	1,060	2,111	0	1
	Concordia	3,792	137	555	1,296	1,411	3,399	0	1
	District Totals:	6,663	146	850	2,043	2,471	5,510	0	2
8	Winn District Totals:	2,282 <b>2,282</b>	53 <b>53</b>	365 <b>365</b>	542 <b>542</b>	1,122 1,122	2,082 <b>2,082</b>	0 0	0
9	Rapides District Totals:	20,349 <b>20,349</b>	868 <b>868</b>	3,175 <b>3,175</b>	4,172 <b>4,172</b>	8,074 <b>8,074</b>	16,289 <b>16,289</b>	6 <b>6</b>	6 6
10	Natchitoches District Totals:	13,319 <b>13,319</b>	1,447 1 <b>,447</b>	949 <b>949</b>	1,598 1 <b>,598</b>	10,295 <b>10,295</b>	14,289 <b>14,289</b>	1 1	1 1
11	Sabine District Totals:	4,009 <b>4,009</b>	284 <b>284</b>	638 <b>638</b>	1,013 <b>1,013</b>	1,455 <b>1,455</b>	3,390 <b>3,390</b>	0	6 <b>6</b>
12	Avoyelles District Totals:	8,718 <b>8,718</b>	337 <b>337</b>	1,648 <b>1,648</b>	2,554 <b>2,554</b>	4,004 <b>4,004</b>	8,543 <b>8,543</b>	1	4 <b>4</b>
13	Evangeline District Totals:	7,674 <b>7,674</b>	689 <b>689</b>	897 <b>897</b>	1,918 <b>1,918</b>	4,224 <b>4,224</b>	7,728 <b>7,728</b>	1	2
14	Calcasieu	31,045	2,162	5,619	14,789	7,891	30,461	15 15	17 17
15	District Totals: Acadia	<b>31,045</b> 5,937	<b>2,162</b> 185	<b>5,619</b> 1,364	<b>14,789</b> 1,678	<b>7,891</b> 3,116	<b>30,461</b> 6,343	1	2
15	Lafayette	19,333	1,548	6,856	5,069	5,164	18,637	10	19
	Vermilion	5,775	229	1,575	2,528	2,389	6,721	1	7
	District Totals:	31,045	1,962	9,795	9,275	10,669	31,701	12	28
16	Iberia	7,506	509	2,268	1,865	4,120	8,762	4	4
	St. Martin St. Mary	10,544 6,659	235 293	1,452 1,492	1,450 2,480	5,691 2,768	8,828 7,033	3	1
	District Totals:	<b>24,709</b>	1,037	5,212	<b>5,795</b>	12,700 12,579	<b>24,623</b>	8	6
17	Lafourche District Totals:	14,205 <b>14,205</b>	579 <b>579</b>	2,405 <b>2,405</b>	3,987 <b>3,987</b>	8,360 <b>8,360</b>	15,331 <b>15,331</b>	3 <b>3</b>	9 9
18	Iberville	5,209	249	1,591	1,411	1,423	4,674	2	2
	Pointe Coupee	5,225	118	530	596	5,938	7,182	0	2
	West Baton Rouge District Totals:	2,974	55	869	1,079	980 8 <b>241</b>	2,983	1	0
19	East Baton Rouge <sup>1</sup>	<b>13,408</b> 53,843	<b>422</b> 0	<b>2,990</b> 9,017	<b>3,086</b> 11,201	<b>8,341</b> 34,263	<b>14,839</b> 54,481	<b>3</b> 47	<b>4</b> 46
	District Totals:	53,843	0	9,017	11,201	34,263	54,481	47	46
20	East Feliciana Waat Faliciana	2,226	201	1,121	834	921 365	3,077	1	2
	West Feliciana District Totals:	1,028 <b>3,254</b>	5 <b>206</b>	249 <b>1,370</b>	557 1 <b>,391</b>	365 <b>1,286</b>	1,176 <b>4,253</b>	1 2	0 2

#### LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2014 Total	2015 Juvenile	2015 Civil	2015 Criminal	2015 <sup>2</sup> Traffic	2015 Total	JURY TRIALS	
		Filed	Filed	Filed	Filed	Filed	Filed	Civil	Crimina
DISTRICT	PARISH								
21	Livingston	16,632	768	3,327	4,415	11,897	20,407	3	6
	St. Helena	2,125	66	345	661	1,602	2,674	0	1
	Tangipahoa District Totals:	28,666 <b>47,423</b>	769 <b>1,603</b>	3,666 <b>7,338</b>	3,502 <b>8,578</b>	18,975 <b>32,474</b>	26,912 <b>49,993</b>	2 5	12 19
22	St. Tammany	42,217	1,319	6,178	5,051	24,767	37,315	10	42
	Washington <sup>3</sup>	4,641	328	1,093	929	1,857	4,207	1	21
	District Totals:	46,858	1,647	7,271	5,980	26,624	41,522	11	63
23	Ascension <sup>1</sup>	5,048	440	3,350	1,688	0	5,478	4	14
	Assumption	2,851	319	565	770	1,444	3,098	0	4
	St. James District Totals:	3,004 <b>10,903</b>	223 <b>982</b>	665 <b>4,580</b>	552 <b>3,010</b>	1,884 <b>3,328</b>	3,324 <b>11,900</b>	2 6	1 19
24	Iefferson <sup>1</sup>	18,923	0	10,963	8,245	0	19,208	30	44
	District Totals:	18,923	Ő	10,963	8,245	0	19,208	30	44
25	Plaquemines District Totals:	4,204 <b>4,204</b>	57 <b>57</b>	736 <b>736</b>	1,199 <b>1,199</b>	2,669 <b>2,669</b>	4,661 <b>4,661</b>	3 3	3 3
26	Bossier	14,616	1,132	2,879	6,728	4,854	15,593	0	4
20	Webster	6,027	230	2,879	1,114	3,189	5,337	0	7
	District Totals:	20,643	1,362	3,683	<b>7,842</b>	8,043	20,930	Ŏ	11
27	St. Landry District Totals:	28,538 <b>28,538</b>	563 <b>563</b>	2,405 <b>2,405</b>	2,396 <b>2,396</b>	20,774 <b>20,774</b>	26,138 <b>26,138</b>	3 <b>3</b>	17 17
28	LaSalle	3,299	110	413	536	1,819	2,878	0	3
	District Totals:	3,299	110	413	536	1,819	2,878	0	3
29	St. Charles District Totals:	33,698 <b>33,698</b>	531 <b>531</b>	1,898 <b>1,898</b>	1,369 1,369	20,850 <b>20,850</b>	24,648 <b>24,648</b>	2 <b>2</b>	2 2
30	Vernon District Totals:	10,051 <b>10,051</b>	274 <b>274</b>	1,346 1 <b>,346</b>	1,490 1,490	6,029 <b>6,029</b>	9,139 <b>9,139</b>	0 0	3 <b>3</b>
31	Jefferson Davis District Totals:	8,877 <b>8,877</b>	99 <b>99</b>	881 <b>881</b>	730 <b>730</b>	6,091 <b>6,091</b>	7,801 <b>7,801</b>	1 1	3 <b>3</b>
32	Terrebonne	20,522	652	2,565	4,565	15,836	23,618	3	16
	District Totals:	20,522	652	2,565	4,565	15,836	23,618	3	16
33	Allen District Totals:	5,365 <b>5,365</b>	216 <b>216</b>	538 <b>538</b>	1,001 <b>1,001</b>	2,838 <b>2,838</b>	4,593 <b>4,593</b>	0 0	9 9
34	St. Bernard District Totals:	12,551 <b>12,551</b>	192 <b>192</b>	1,772 1,772	2,619 <b>2,619</b>	3,892 <b>3,892</b>	8,475 <b>8,475</b>	0	6 <b>6</b>
35	Grant	4,187	185	450	1,125	3,210	4,970	0	2
	District Totals:	4,187	185	450	1,125	3,210	4,970	0	2
36	Beauregard District Totals:	7,234 <b>7,234</b>	248 <b>248</b>	900 <b>900</b>	872 872	3,533 <b>3,533</b>	5,553 <b>5,553</b>	1 1	1
37	Caldwell District Totals:	1,870 <b>1,870</b>	50 50	328 <b>328</b>	642 642	1,029 <b>1,029</b>	2,049 <b>2,049</b>	2	1
38	Cameron	2,924	49	191	440	1,909	2,589	0	1
	District Totals:	2,924	49	191	440	1,909	2,589	0	1
39	Red River District Totals:	1,595 1, <b>595</b>	18 <b>18</b>	266 <b>266</b>	546 <b>546</b>	939 <b>939</b>	1,769 1,769	0 0	2 <b>2</b>
40	St. John the Baptist <b>District Totals:</b>	20,529 <b>20,529</b>	363 <b>363</b>	1,662 1,662	2,054 <b>2,054</b>	19,803 <b>19,803</b>	23,882 <b>23,882</b>	2 <b>2</b>	5 <b>5</b>
42	DeSoto District Totals:	10,991 <b>10,991</b>	163 163	832 <b>832</b>	1,028 1,028	11,742 <b>11,742</b>	13,765 <b>13,765</b>	1	7 7
	Orleans Civil <sup>1</sup>	12,199	0	11,913	0	0	11,913	42	0
	Orleans Criminal <sup>1</sup>	4,331	0	0	4,679	0	4,679	0	110
	District Totals:	16,530	0	11,913	4,679	0	16,592	42	110
	Statewide Totals:	678,029	23,411	124,374	148,946	366,387	663,118	230	537

2015 Report of the Total Number of Awards and the Total Amount of Funds Distributed for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment' In 2015 the number of new judgments for wrongful convictions, imprisonment, or loss of life opportunities: 1 Total amount paid on new and prior judgments in calendar year 2015 = \$568,546.50

Violations of Traffic, Misdemeanors, and/or Juvenile/Family Laws are Processed by Parish, City, and/or Juvenile/Family Courts.
 DWI is included in the criminal totals beginning in 1990.
 Reflects updated figures received after the publication of the 2014 Annual Report.
 \*Pursuant to R.S. 15:572.8, Act 262, Regular Session 2007.

## Louisiana Juvenile Courts

#### JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS - CALENDAR YEAR 2015

		CADDO		E. B	ATON RC	DUGE
	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>
Formal FINS	785	785	785	33	136	33
Juvenile Traffic	138	190	138	241	375	241
Juvenile Delinquency	1,275	1,494	1,275	1,576	2,914	1,576
Mental Incapacity to Proceed <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interstate compact for Juveniles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contempt of Court	317	317	0	211	211	211
Child in Need of Care Cases	243		243	201		342
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	29		29	49		57
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	23		23	17		23
Surrender of Parental Rights	10		10	94		79
Adoption	44		44	62		71
Child Support	253		0	0		0
Mental Health	153		153	21		21
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	5		5	54		0
Minor Marriages	0		0	0		0
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0	1		1
Domestic Abuse	164		164	0		0
Other	13		13	56		64
Subtotal	3,452	2,786	2,882	2,616	3,636	2,719

1. The category of Children denotes the number of children listed in filed petitions for each case type.

2. 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.

## Family Court

The Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish was originally established by the Louisiana Legislature under LA Acts 1990, No. 158 and is the only stand-alone family court in the state of Louisiana. The court consists of four judges who preside over matters including, but not limited to: divorces, community property division, spousal support, child visitation, child custody, child support, garnishments for spousal and child support, and domestic violence in the parish of East Baton Rouge. In 2015, 5,289 new cases were filed with the East Baton Rouge family court.

	IEFFERSO	N		ORLEAN	S	G	RAND TO	TAL
Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>
176	201	188	22	49	22	1,016	1,171	1,028
298	427	297	130	249	130	807	1,241	806
660	991	633	455	806	455	3,966	6,205	3,939
30	30	17	0	0	0	30	30	17
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
251	251	251	0	0	0	779	779	462
285		232	101		101	830		918
192		147	33		33	303		266
72		50	0		0	112		96
26		15	9		9	139		113
172		170	60		63	338		348
1,696		0	1		1	1,950		1
0		0	0		0	174		174
0		0	0		0	59		5
0		0	0		0	0		0
0		0	0		0	1		1
0		0	0		0	164		164
0		0	178		178	247		255
3,858	1,900	2,000	989	1,104	992	10,915	9,426	8,593

## 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.

## 2015 City & Parish Court Stats

Filings in Louisiana city and parish Courts decreased by 4.3%, from 756,353 filings in 2014 to 723,773 filings in 2015.

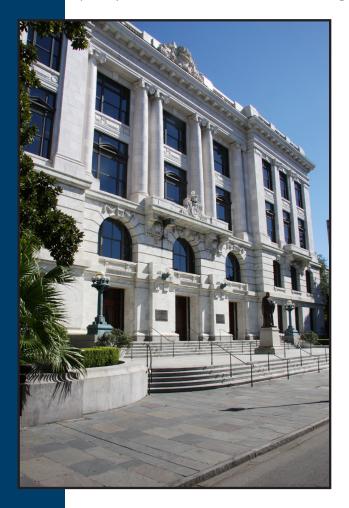
#### **STATISTICAL DATA**

#### LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2015

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
СІТҮ	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDING	
Abbeville	493	410	801	613	2,194	1,849	152	158	3,640	3,030	0	0
Alexandria	3,491	1,980	8,832	6,479	12,023	11,491	0	0	24,346	19,950	0	0
Ascension	612	222	2,542	2,879	10,577	11,735	163	288	13,894	15,124	0	0
Baker	434	341	551	537	6,744	3,949	0	0	7,729	4,827	0	0
Bastrop	869	698	673	596	662	591	12	5	2,216	1,890	0	0
Baton Rouge	11,405	10,643	18,618	16,949	90,814	88,165	0	0	120,837	115,757	39,418	49,227
Bogalusa	331	294	1,559	1,043	1,764	1,589	227	309	3,881	3,235	3,080	3,068
Bossier City	2,527	1,876	2,189	2,100	6,615	7,344	882	900	12,213	12,220	219	200
Breaux Bridge	502	284	981	307	1,016	182	140	35	2,639	808	379	232
Bunkie	86	89	114	113	485	486	110	17	703	705	0	0
Crowley	647	490	1,306	1,064	1,112	1,046	127	107	3,192	2,707	0	0
Denham Springs	2,338	1,848	1,391	1,718	15,343	13,363	471	500	19,543	17,429	163	163
Eunice	463	297	849	1,718	1,202	839	172	230	2,686	2,404	0	0
Franklin	313	128	482	262	641	645	87	61	1,523	1,096	36	14
Hammond	2,483	2,389	2,331	4,946	7,191	10,365	869	286	1,525	17,986	0	0
	4,214	2,389	2,331	2,733	5,494	5,976	869	861	12,874	11,986	1,647	1,389
Houma		197		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,					1,647	1,389
eanerette	135		583	604	6,201	4,040		47	7,018	4,883		
leff. 1st Parish Ct.	2,315	4,781	3,520	9,138	49,806	92,880	0	0	55,641	106,799	0	0
eff. 2nd Parish Ct.	3,958	6,824	2,832	8,538	37,799	81,812	0	0	44,589	97,174	0	0
ennings	430	418	623	287	800	499	19	24	1,872	1,228	0	0
Kaplan	70	63	188	194	566	550	59	75	883	882	0	0
afayette	4,274	3,873	4,643	4,369	23,159	22,648	493	714	32,569	31,604	764	764
Lake Charles	4,041	2,863	7,446	5,832	6,155	6,387	18	15	17,660	15,097	0	0
Leesville	185	40	906	553	2,796	2,309	74	37	3,961	2,939	0	0
Marksville	479	427	579	532	785	755	105	100	1,948	1,814	0	0
Minden	463	382	743	379	854	691	128	57	2,188	1,509	1	1
Monroe	4,520	3,267	3,377	4,405	11,520	8,791	236	191	19,653	16,654	0	0
Morgan City	505	391	1,034	1,435	1,965	1,782	192	192	3,696	3,800	0	0
Natchitoches	606	287	1,045	952	3,428	3,194	182	190	5,261	4,623	93	93
New Iberia	1,387	1,113	1,324	1,520	2,736	3,043	178	171	5,625	5,847	374	203
N.O. 1st City Ct.	9,022	5,076	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,022	5,076	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,427	1,332	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,427	1,332	0	0
N.O. Municipal	0	0	25,174	21,986	0	0	0	0	25,174	21,986	0	0
N.O. Traffic	0	0	1,243	1,994	104,737	113,386	0	0	105,980	115,380	0	0
Oakdale	242	208	302	391	2,075	1,808	92	56	2,711	2,463	0	0
Opelousas	735	737	2,168	1,722	3,978	3,776	318	325	7,199	6,560	0	0
Pineville	675	870	5,359	3,400	4,501	4,350	0	0	10,535	8,620	98	0
Plaquemine	353	259	378	123	717	375	40	29	1,488	786	0	0
Port Allen	247	160	375	248	5,705	5,350	33	14	6,360	5,772	0	0
Rayne	544	507	310	300	1,835	1,970	89	97	2,778	2,874	0	0
Ruston	1,596	837	895	661	1,507	1,526	0	0	3,998	3,024	1,742	721
Shreveport	11,180	10,120	7,255	7,518	36,063	37,121	0	0	54,498	54,759	33,598	0
Slidell	1,954	1,761	1,683	1,469	4,085	3,534	404	309	8,126	7,073	1,551	1,551
Springhill	362	319	1,064	652	1,220	1,210	149	110	2,795	2,291	125	58
Sulphur	994	717	2,903	2,940	6,508	6,787	81	86	10,486	10,530	272	215
Thibodaux	759	336	1,823	1,748	1,795	1,624	263	147	4,640	3,855	0	0
Vidalia	19	14	188	148	1,490	1,612	33	21	1,730	1,795	0	0
Ville Platte	566	405	1,091	982	807	643	102	99	2,566	2,129	0	0
West Monroe	1,830	1,783	2,005	2,044	3,900	3,900	112	116	7,847	7,843	396	396
Winnfield	84	34	634	483	901	604	0	0	1,619	1,121	0	0
Winnsboro	932	27	594	504	906	786	51	51	2,483	1,368	0	0
Zachary	600	409	490	474	1,699	1,795	0	0	2,789	2,678	0	0
	_								2,709	,		
STATE TOTALS:	88,697	75,018	130,450	131,902	496,876	581,153	7,750	7,030	723,773	795,103	83,956	58,295

\* 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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