



SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA  
2016 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. \*

### JUSTICE JEANNETTE THERIOT KNOLL

Third Supreme Court District  
Acadia, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion. \*  
Retired December 31, 2016.

### 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 James T. Genovese, Third Supreme Court District. Term of office began January 1, 2017.

\* 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 2016, 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](http://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 **2016 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](http://www.lasc.org/press_room/publications.asp).

## WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE OVER-INCARCERATION

I am pleased to present to you the 2016 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 2016 was one that saw a few milestones – the retirement of Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll after 20 years on the Supreme Court bench and her celebration of 34 years being a member of the Louisiana state judiciary. In the fall a new justice was elected. Justice James T. Genovese from the Third Supreme Court District joined the Supreme Court bench for a full 10-year term. It was also a year of challenges. In 2016, catastrophic flooding disrupted dockets and closed courthouses in several Louisiana parishes not once but twice; in March and August. This report demonstrates the hard work and dedication of the Louisiana state judiciary including: judges, court staff, court administrators, and clerks of court. In the best of times and the worst of times they got the work done.



In March I had the honor and privilege of presenting the State of the Judiciary Address to the joint session of the Louisiana legislature. At that time I shared my concerns about the costs of the mass incarceration rate in Louisiana. A bi-partisan effort to address the issues of mass incarceration is the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force. It is a state coalition chaired by Department of Public Safety & Corrections Secretary Jimmy LeBlanc and includes representatives from the judicial and law-enforcement communities as well as legislators and community leaders. The Task Force was tasked to develop a comprehensive set of data-driven recommendations designed to protect public safety while reducing the state's corrections population and costs. After a series of public town hall meetings and review of the best practices and best research in the field, the Task Force released its final recommendations on March 16, 2017.

A comprehensive solution to Louisiana's over-incarceration must include pretrial reform – how decisions are made at the point a defendant enters the criminal justice system. In 2016, the Supreme Court adopted an administrative order approving the operation of a pretrial services program that incorporates evidence-based practices, including validated risk assessments for the purpose of making better pretrial decisions, establishing pretrial release conditions and providing pretrial supervision. The order encourages magistrate and district court judges to utilize validated risk assessments. To that end the Supreme Court began discussions with the Laura and

John Arnold Foundation in order to utilize the foundation's Public Safety Assessment risk assessment tool for the pilot pretrial services program at Orleans Parish Criminal Court.

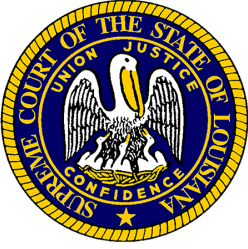
Finally, I would like to recognize all the work our specialty courts are doing that have a significant effect on reducing mass incarceration. In Louisiana, our specialty courts include Drug Courts and Re-entry Courts. In 2016, there were 49 operational drug court programs in Louisiana and we have eight statutorily created Re-entry Courts. We have also seen an increase in interest in specialty courts to address issues relating to veterans, those who suffer from mental illness, human trafficking, and

prostitution. Statistics show recidivism rates for participants in these specialty courts are far less than the average rates of recidivism. This should mean a dramatic savings and a decrease in crime over time. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our judges who preside over specialty courts in addition to maintaining their regular dockets.

I have the distinct pleasure of submitting to the Supreme Court of Louisiana, 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 2016 including reports of the Judicial Council, the Office of the Judicial Administrator, the Clerk of Court, the Law Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana Judicial College, and the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, as well as the statistical information of the state judiciary reflecting the work of the past year. The report also included information from the Committee on Bar Admissions and the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, entities which operate under the auspices of the Supreme Court.

All who were involved in our continuing efforts throughout 2016 to improve judicial administration are to be commended and thanked.

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 procedures and/or correcting shortcomings in the system are studied. Most of the work done is through various standing committees and the creation of ad hoc committees.

There is a Standing Committee to Evaluate the Need for New Judgeships. A request for new judgeships must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year. There were no new judgeships in 2016.

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.

In January of 2016, the Judicial Council welcomed three new members: Judge Marc E. Johnson, representing the Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; attorney Erin O. Braud, representing the Young Lawyers Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association; and attorney Todd S. Clemons, representing the Louisiana State Bar Association. In September of 2016, Judge Daniel Ellender, representing the Louisiana District Judges Association, was welcomed as a new member.

Also in 2016, the Louisiana Supreme Court was successfully awarded a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to develop strategies that promote appropriate justice system responses, including reducing unnecessary confinement for individuals who are unable to pay fines and fees. This will be combined with efforts from the \$50,000 State Justice Institute grant that was received in 2015 to assist in implementing the recommendations of the Judicial Council's Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for Court Costs and Fees.

The Judicial Council also adopted a motion seeking the temporary suspension of any new or increased court costs. The Louisiana Legislature passed HCR 133, calling for a limit on the adoption of any new increased court costs until 60 days after the end of the regular 2016 legislative session, absent exigent circumstances. HCR 133 also asks the Judicial Council to study and make recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature regarding the use of court costs and fees, and to develop and recommend best practices for the use and collection of court costs and fees.

### 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 Marc E. Johnson  
*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*  
 Erin O. Braud  
*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.*  
 Todd S. Clemons  
*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 III  
 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



## 2016: 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, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry and Community Relations.

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

### OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR



**Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD**  
*Judicial Administrator*



**Veronica Cheneau, PHR, CHRE**  
*Human Resources*



**Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD**  
*General Counsel*



**Rose Marie DiVincenti, CCR, RPR**  
*Court Reporter/Trial Reports*



**Darryl M. Schultz**  
*Legislative Liaison*



**Royce Duplessis, JD**  
*Research & Development*



**Terence Sims, CPA, CFE**  
*Chief Financial Officer/Accounting Services*



**Kären Hallstrom, JD, MSW**  
*Children & Families*



**Mary Whitney, JD**  
*Office of Special Counsel*



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



**Valerie Willard, JD**  
*Community Relations*



**Kelly McNeil Legier, JD**  
*Judiciary Commission*



**Richard Williams, JD**  
*Trial Court Services/Court Interpreters*



**Kerry Lentini, JD**  
*Supreme Court Drug Court Office*



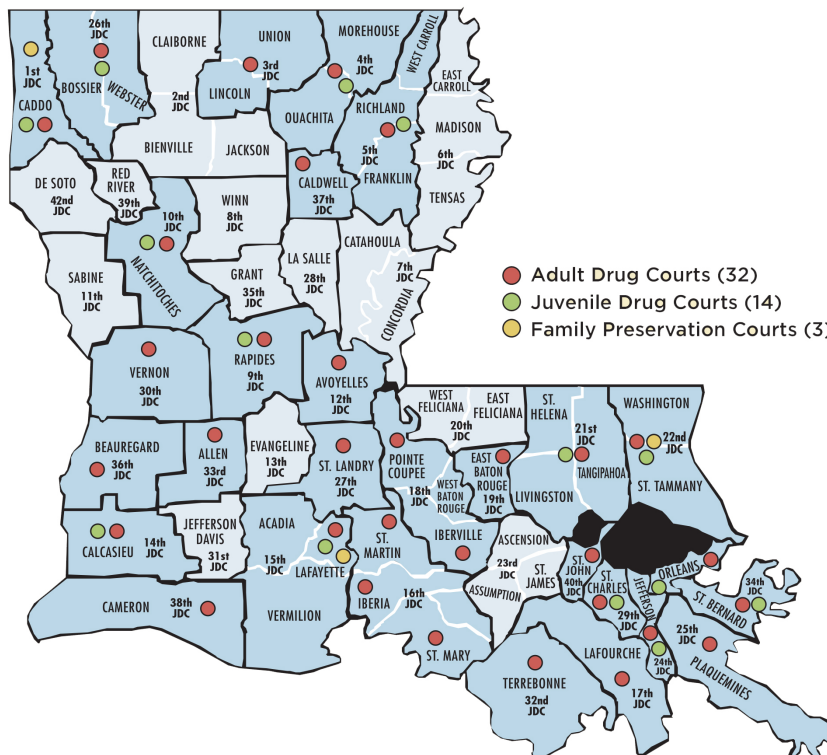
**Bryan Wolff, CPA**  
*Budget*

# DRUG COURTS

## LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

There were 49 operational drug court programs in Louisiana in 2016, comprised of 32 adult drug courts, 14 juvenile drug courts, and three family preservation courts. Of these 49 programs, 38 have been in operation ten years or longer. 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 effective 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 Louisiana Supreme Court Drug Court Office (SCDCO). The SCDCO awards funds annually to programs statewide. Additionally, the SCDCO closely monitors each program both fiscally and programmatically throughout the year.



## 2016 DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Individual Participants Served	3,937	672	275
Individuals Screened	1,958	597	379
New Participants Admitted	1,280	234	151
Treatment Hours Administered	273,673	12,549	12,631
Drug Tests Administered	167,629	10,913	7,190
Community Service Hours	28,242	1,214	796

## 2016 DRUG COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Graduated/Satisfied Court Order	759	141	67
Average Months in Program	25	12	14

## PROGRAM SUCCESSES

60	Drug-Free Babies in 2016	In 2016, 60 drug-free babies were born to drug court participants for an estimated savings of \$15,000,000 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.*
653	Total Drug-Free Babies Born	Since the inception of drug courts in Louisiana, 653 drug-free babies have been born to drug court clients, for an estimated total cost savings of \$163,250,000.*
10.7%	Drug Court Recidivism Rate	89.3% of 2013 Drug Court graduates remained free of additional convictions 3 years after graduation.
854	GED/Full-Time Employment	The number of participants who graduated in 2016, who earned their HiSET (GED) or are now employed full-time after being unemployed or without a HiSET (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

In 1997, legislation was passed which created the *Louisiana Protective Order Registry* (LPOR) and named the Judicial Administrator's Office of the Louisiana Supreme Court as the entity responsible for the development and maintenance of this computerized database. LPOR is a statewide repository for court orders issued for the purpose of preventing harassing, threatening or violent acts against a spouse, intimate cohabitant, dating partner, family, or household member.

LPOR provides training seminars across the state to explain how the registry works, highlight relevant state and federal laws, and disseminate standardized forms and interactive software. These seminars are designed for, but are not limited to, judges, magistrates, commissioners, hearing officers, judicial administrators, clerks of court, other court personnel, victim assistance providers, victim advocates, legal services providers, and attorneys. In 2016, a total 566 were served through LPOR training programs.

The registry received and entered 26,766 orders from courts across the state in 2016. Of these, 17,531 (65%) were civil orders and 9,235 (35%) were criminal orders. From the pilot phase of LPOR through the close of 2016, the registry received and entered a total of 372,731 orders.

Certain qualifying records from LPOR are transmitted to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). As of year's end, 255,410 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the start of the program. This includes 23,222 qualifying orders transmitted during 2016.

Also during 2016, the registry's on-call staff responded to 231 requests for order verification submitted by examiners with NICS. The federal program is designed to prevent the sale of firearms, ammunition, and explosives to those who are prohibited, including individuals who are the subject of a qualifying domestic violence restraining order.

Additionally during 2016, LPOR responded to a total of 1,608 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement with requests for verification of orders of protection.

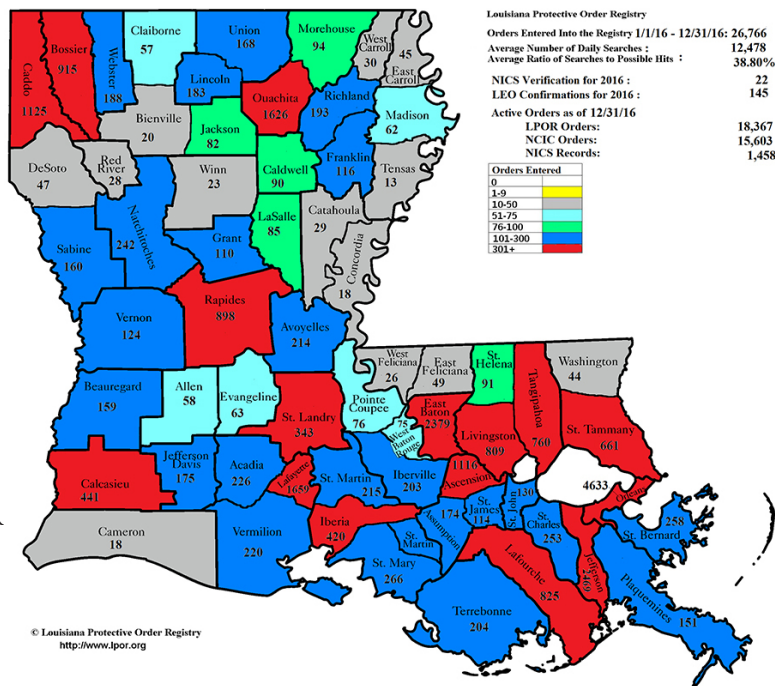


Table One: Civil Orders	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total (1997-2016)
Temporary Restraining Order	12,053	12,122	12,000	12,971	13,429	205,100
Protective Order	3,177	3,324	3,340	3,754	3,997	65,131
Preliminary Injunction	23	31	53	62	52	1,170
Permanent Injunction	48	39	33	49	53	1,688
<b>Total Civil Orders</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>15,516</b>	<b>15,426</b>	<b>16,836</b>	<b>17,531</b>	<b>273,089</b>

Table Two: Criminal Orders	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total (1997-2016)
Bail Restriction	3,721	3,704	4,912	6,583	6,939	61,234
Peace Bond	199	270	274	346	245	19,021
Combined Bail/ Peace Bond	643	669	706	1,098	889	9,301
Sentencing Order	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Combined Sentencing/ Probation	1,181	1,178	1,136	1,187	1,162	9,247
<b>Total Criminal Orders</b>	<b>5,744</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>9,214</b>	<b>9,235</b>	<b>98,803</b>

Table Three: Totals by Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total (1997-2016)
<b>Total Civil and Criminal Orders</b>	<b>21,045</b>	<b>21,337</b>	<b>22,454</b>	<b>26,050</b>	<b>26,766</b>	<b>371,892</b>

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Chief Justice initiated a *Human Trafficking Committee* to focus on the problem of trafficking of juveniles, particularly in the New Orleans area. The Supreme Court's Human Trafficking initiative is coordinated by Angela White-Bazile, Executive Counsel to the Chief Justice.



Angela White-Bazile  
Executive Counsel  
to the Chief Justice

In 2016, the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force was formed and staffed with a full-time coordinator. The task force brings together area law enforcement, the Department of Children and Family Services, local courts, local non-governmental service agencies, faith-based communities, and universities to train and combat human trafficking in the Greater New Orleans region. Also, under the leadership of Chief Judge Candice Bates Anderson, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court entered into a partnership agreement with the Children's Advocacy Center to become part of the multi-disciplinary team contributing to the investigation and case planning of juvenile cases of trafficking.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

During 2016, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice.



The *Families In Need of Services (FINS) Assistance Program* provided funding for informal FINS offices in 41 judicial districts. Highlights this year included providing professional development and regional training to allow FINS programs to share best practices and improve program quality and fidelity. Implementation of a standard statewide juvenile screening instrument was fully implemented in judicial districts. The creation of an updated report manager system has allowed for improved data analysis and aggregate reporting.


The *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Assistance Program* administered funding for CASA programs in 54 parishes and 37 judicial districts. In 2016, CASA programs served 3,241 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children. Closed cases resulted in 1,234 children being placed in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 487 new volunteers who are advocating for children. In 2016, two CASA programs expanded and began providing services in three additional parishes. Expanded use of the statewide case management system continues to enhance uniformity of data collection and analysis resulting in better advocacy and better outcomes for children.




The *Court Improvement Program (CIP)*, through the Pelican Center for Children & Families, engaged in efforts to improve the quality of legal representation for children and parents, provided multiple training and education events statewide on safety decision-making and best practices, implemented a uniform case management information system for children's attorneys, supported a CIP Judicial Fellow to be a resource to judges hearing Child in Need of Care cases, and improve compliance with relevant state and federal child welfare laws, and partnered with DCFS and the University Alliance in the Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy.



 The Supreme Court was officially included in the membership of the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative State-wide Leadership Collaborative by HCR 102, and participated in planning efforts for statewide implementation of JDAL.

 The Supreme Court also provided Child Representation System Oversight over the entities approved for representation of all children in child protection cases in designated jurisdictions statewide and facilitated meetings of the state Child Protection Representation Commission.

 With funding from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, creation of an automated application to export juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact data from six pilot courts to the Supreme Court was completed.

## 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 and currently includes court interpreter orientation classes around the state, oral exam preparation and advanced skills classes, and the administration of English proficiency exams, translation exams, and the court interpreter oral certification exam.

In 2016, the number of Certified and/or Registered court interpreters increased to approximately 125 in the languages of Amharic, Arabic, French, German, Haitian Creole, Italian, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and American Sign. The Supreme Court hosted the 2016 annual national conference of the Council for Language Access Coordinators. A current list of Registered and Certified court interpreters, information and registration for upcoming training opportunities and testing, the application for court interpreter reciprocity, and other information about the program is available on the Supreme Court website at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org).



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

The *Community Relations Department* (CRD) is the outreach division of the Louisiana 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](http://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 public trust and confidence in the Louisiana judiciary.

In 2016, the CRD assisted by handling media coverage when the Supreme Court “rode the circuit” – holding oral argument in a venue other than the Royal Street courthouse – at Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge and Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans. Law Day always presents an opportunity to reach out to students. In 2016, the Supreme Court hosted over 100 students from Lafayette, Livingston, and Orleans Parishes for Law Day court tours and presentations. Additionally in 2016, the CRD staff conducted 45 courthouse tours for 875 court visitors from across the state and country and from around the world.

Also of note, Judicial Administrator Sandra Vujnovich and CRD Director Valerie Willard joined to present a continuing legal education program for the Louisiana Judicial College’s Summer School on media relations and the ethical considerations for judges.

Finally, the CRD worked in concert with Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll’s staff to plan the October retirement ceremony and celebration for the associate justice as she closed her 34 year career as a Louisiana judge.



## 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 over 150,000 volumes in print, microform, and online.

In 2016, the Law Library sponsored or co-sponsored five 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 exhibits highlighting: the 1975 commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Civil Code; lawyers who fought beside General Jackson during the Battle of New Orleans; the Law Day theme, “*Miranda: More than Words*,” and the life of Louisiana Judge Israel M. Augustine.

Also of note in 2016, longtime Law Library Director Georgia Chadwick retired in January. Miriam D. Childs became the Law Library’s Director in May after serving as Acting Director February - April. Law Library staff assisted with the planning and execution of the inaugural Supreme Court Law Clerks reception, held in January, honoring all previous Supreme Court law clerks.

The Law Library’s collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2016, the library added 1,374 new volumes, 456 new titles, and 417 pieces of microfiche. The staff of the Library continued to publish its newsletter *De Novo* as outreach to the judiciary, the bar, and the public to provide them with useful information on legal topics and library resources.



Miriam Childs  
Director



#### THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Miriam Childs, MLIS  
Director, *Law Library of Louisiana*  
Francis Norton, JD, MLIS  
Research Lawyer/Librarian and Government Documents Librarian  
Sara Pic, JD, MLIS  
Assistant Librarian  
Cynthia Jones, MA  
Assistant Librarian

Brandon Wright, JD  
Assistant Librarian  
Catherine Lemann, JD, MLIS  
Research Librarian  
Calissa Folse  
Library Associate  
Ruth Mahoney  
Library Associate  
Gail Bragg  
Administrative Assistant

## JUDICIAL COLLEGE

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The *Louisiana Judicial College* provides judicial education for Louisiana's judges, and in 2016 it offered ten seminars. In addition to its usual Summer School, Fall Conference, and Spring Conference, the College sponsored regional and thematic learning events. Seminars included Evidence and Procedure, Torts, Rural Courts, Family Law, North Louisiana, City and Juvenile Judges, and Criminal Court, which provided numerous educational opportunities across the state in Natchitoches, Baton Rouge, Choudrant, Marksville, and New Orleans.

In 2016, Professor William Corbett rejoined the College as the Faculty Advisor. Strategic planning concluded and implementation commenced in order to continue to improve the quality of College programming for the purpose of providing justice for the citizens of Louisiana.

For 2017, the College looks forward to hiring a new Executive Director and providing excellent educational opportunities through both in-person seminars as well as other best practices to meet the needs of the Louisiana 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 1,024 bar examination applications, 327 law student registration forms, 37 A.D.A requests, 17 equivalency applications and 11 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 328 applicants who sat for the February examination and 611 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 66.16% in February and 65.10% 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 three matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended five applicants be conditionally admitted and eight applicants be denied admission.

#### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

J. Patrick Beauchamp  
Chairman  
Lawrence J. Centola, Jr.  
Past Chairman  
Larry Feldman, Jr.  
Director of Character & Fitness  
Celeste R. Coco-Ewing  
Character and Fitness Panel Member  
Dow M. Edwards  
Character and Fitness Panel Member  
Hon. S. Maurice Hicks, Jr.  
Testing Accommodations  
Keith M. Pyburn, Jr.  
Testing Accommodations  
Leland David Cromwell  
Director of Testing  
Richard A. Goins  
Testing Committee Member

Hon. Piper D. Griffin  
Testing Committee Member  
C. Peck Hayne  
Testing Committee Member  
Donna P. Currault  
Examiner—Civil Code I  
William C. Kalmbach, III  
Examiner—Civil Code II  
Robert P. Thibaux  
Examiner—Civil Code III  
David R. Frohn  
Examiner—Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure  
Jennifer W. Hilburn  
Examiner—Torts  
John C. Anjier  
Examiner—Business Entities & Negotiable Instruments  
DeWayne L. Williams  
Examiner—Constitutional Law

Todd S. Clemons  
Examiner—Criminal Law, Procedure & Evidence  
Glenn L. Langley  
Examiner—Federal Jurisdiction & Procedure

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### CHAIRS

Justice John L. Weimer  
*Supreme Court of Louisiana*  
Justice Scott J. Crichton  
*Supreme Court of Louisiana*

#### MEMBERS

Judge Roland Belsome  
*Court of Appeal, 4th Circuit*  
Judge William J. Crain  
*Court of Appeal, 1st Circuit*  
Judge Jules D. Edwards  
*15th Judicial District Court*  
Judge Guy Holdridge  
*Court of Appeal, 1st Circuit*  
Judge Patricia Koch  
*9th Judicial District Court*  
Judge Madeleine Landrieu  
*Court of Appeal, 4th Circuit*  
Judge Lori A. Landry  
*16th Judicial District Court*  
Judge Sharon Ingram Marchman  
*4th Judicial District Court*  
Judge D. Milton Moore  
*Court of Appeal, 2nd Circuit*  
Judge Allison Penzato  
*22nd Judicial District Court*  
Judge Michael Pitman  
*1st Judicial District Court*  
Judge Robin D. Pittman  
*Orleans Criminal District Court*  
Judge Douglas J. Saloom  
*Lafayette City Court*  
Judge John B. Slattery  
*Springhill City Court*  
Judge Shonda Stone  
*Caddo Parish Juvenile Court*  
Judge Fredericka Wicker  
*Court of Appeal, 5th Circuit*  
Judge Kirk Williams  
*Baker City Court*

#### EX-OFFICIO

Judge Susan Chehardy  
Chair, Conference of Court of Appeal Judges  
Judge Marilyn Castle  
President, Louisiana District Judges Association  
Judge Desiree Charbonnet  
President, Louisiana City Judges Association  
Judge Anastasia Wiley  
President, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Vacant  
Executive Counsel to the Governor  
Darrel Papillion  
President, Louisiana State Bar Association  
Walter Leger, III  
House Representative  
Dan Claitor  
Senate Representative



## JUDICIARY COMMISSION

### JUDICIARY COMMISSION

In Louisiana, judges are governed by the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Louisiana Constitution. Under the Louisiana Constitution, the *Judiciary Commission of Louisiana* is charged with receiving and investigating complaints of judicial misconduct and recommending discipline, where appropriate, to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 545 complaints against judges and justices of the peace in 2016. There were 215 complaints pending from previous years as of January 1, 2016. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 288 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 545 complaints filed in 2016, 420 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 125 complaints were reviewed to consider the need for investigation. The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 71 complaints, some as to complaints filed before January 1, 2016.

In 2016, the Commission filed formal charges against two judges and three justices of the peace. Two judges resigned or retired after formal charges had been filed in the previous year and a hearing was held; one justice of the peace resigned or retired after a notice of hearing was filed but before a hearing was held. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled and conducted in three cases. A Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreement was signed in one case, in which the hearing was held in 2015. Some of this activity occurred in connection with formal charges filed before January 1, 2016.

Also during 2016, four judges and no justices of the peace personally appeared before the Commission for questioning after a hearing before a hearing officer.

In 2016, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Supreme Court four recommendations for judicial discipline and no recommendation for the imposition of penalties in financial disclosure cases arising under Supreme Court Rule 39. Regarding matters filed before and during 2016, the Supreme Court suspended one judge for fifteen days without pay, suspended one judge for a year without pay, and removed three justices of the peace. As of December 31, 2016, there was only one Judiciary Commission case pending before the Supreme Court.

In 2016, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Supreme Court one recommendation for the interim disqualification of a judge pending further proceedings. That judge was disqualified from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings.

As of December 31, 2016, the Commission had 177 files pending, having disposed of 582 files in 2016.

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

### 2016 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Judge Timothy E. Kelley, *Chair*  
 Judge Felicia Toney Williams, *Vice Chair*  
 Mr. John T.M. Baldwin  
 Judge Jules D. Edwards, III  
 Mr. Kenneth Michael Wright  
 Mrs. Suzanne H. Stinson  
 Mr. Philip B. Sherman  
 Mr. Fred L. Herman  
 Mrs. Ashley Higginbotham

### STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
 Kelly McNeil Legier, JD  
*Commission Legal Counsel*

### STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

Mary Whitney, JD, *Special Counsel*

## ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

### ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Regulation of the practice of law in Louisiana is a critically important responsibility resting upon the inherent and constitutionally grounded authority of the Supreme Court. Through the Court's dedicated efforts, the lawyer regulation system ensures that the conduct of Louisiana's nearly 23,500 attorneys comports with the ethical standards reflected in the Rules of Professional Conduct that are designed to protect the interests of the public, the bar members, and the courts.

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) is the investigative and prosecutorial arm of the *Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board* (LADB), a unified agency created by the Supreme Court effective April 1, 1990. In the exercise of a 'firm but fair' approach to attorney discipline, the ODC has aggressively pursued serious misconduct by lawyers filing a combined 127 formal charges and consent discipline pleadings during the year. Over the last two decades the number of written complaints against attorneys fell consistently between 3,000 and 3,200 annually with approximately half resulting in formal disciplinary investigations. However, a downward trend of recent years continued in 2016 where written complaints against attorneys dropped to 2,898.

In 2016, the Supreme Court received the final report of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility consultation team composed of experts in lawyer regulation from across the country whose onsite review of the LADB and ODC was conducted in October 2015. The consultation was designed to assess the Louisiana disciplinary system and to provide recommendations for improvement to further ensure fairness and efficiency. It is expected the final report will provide a basis for enhancements to Louisiana's lawyer regulation system which is already considered one of the premier in the nation. In 2016, the LADB was the recipient of the AI Legal Award from AI Global Media, Ltd.

### LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Carl A. Butler, *Chair*  
 Carrie LeBlanc Jones, *Vice-Chair*  
 Linda G. Bizzarro  
 Pamela W. Carter  
 George L. Crain  
 Anderson O. Dotson, III  
 Laura Beth Hennen  
 Jeffrey L. Little (LSBA Member)  
 Dominick Scandurro, Jr.  
 R. Lewis Smith, Jr.  
 Evans C. Spiceland  
 Melissa L. Theriot  
 Walter D. White  
 Charles Hamilton Williamson, Jr.

## CLERK OF COURT

### CLERK OF COURT

In addition to processing all filings and dispositions and disseminating the actions of the Supreme Court to the parties, courts and the public via mail, email, and the Internet, other key responsibilities fulfilled by Supreme Court *Clerk of Court Office* in 2016 included:

- Admitting 635 new attorneys to the practice of law, only one less than in 2015 but a decrease of 10% from the 709 in 2014.
- Issuing Certificates of Good Standing. The demand for issuance of Certificates of Good Standing appears to have leveled off with only a 1.8% increase over the 1,988 certificates processed in 2015. Following the July 1, 2013 implementation of a charge of \$20.00 for Certificates of Good Standing requests for Certificates have dropped more than half. Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Continuing to develop and configure the Thomas Reuters' C-Track case management software which, besides replacing the current CMS and e-filing systems, integrates with the justices and staff attorneys' offices.
- Processing and maintaining minute book entries and orders. The number of minute entries and orders issued dropped to 1,699 from the high of 2,584 in 2015. These orders are primarily orders of appointment of judges to sit in lower courts and do not include orders relating to cases before the Supreme Court.
- Managing logistics for 227 events hosted by the Supreme Court. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings, and other meetings.
- Overseeing courthouse general maintenance and improvements involving roof repairs, a conference room, and the exterior waterproofing and interior repairs of damages resulting from Hurricane Isaac.



John Tarlton Olivier  
*Clerk of Court*

### 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*  
John White, CPA  
*Fiscal Manager*  
Tommy M. Anderson  
*Director of Security*

## CMIS

### COURT CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The *Court Case Management Information System (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.



Michael Evanson  
*Chief Information Officer*

#### Criminal Records

The Criminal Records Project received 345,807 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2016. Of those records, 73,022 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. This is an increase of 13% over last year.

Additionally, 46,098 disposition records were posted to the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database. NICS is a national system that checks available records of persons who may be disqualified from receiving firearms; this is an increase of 28% over last year. Of the records posted to the NICS database, 38,579 were felony convictions; 3,688 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence; 96 were not guilty by reason of insanity; 465 were incompetent to stand trial; 2,111 were probation restrictions; 1,125 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions under 13:753A(5); and 34 were other dispositions. Further in 2016, 4,612 felony indictments, 911 civil commitment orders, and 332 criminal orders as conditions of bond under 13:753(A) were posted to the NICS database. Also posted to the National Crime Information Center were 23,222 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

The increase in records posted and shared are attributable to continued training efforts by CMIS and collaborative partners to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data required for posting to state and federal databases, upgrades to case management systems, and the implementation of clerk data exchanges in some jurisdictions, among other efforts.

#### Traffic Records

The Traffic Records Project sends final disposition information on traffic cases to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) for inclusion in the state driver's history database. In 2016 843,662 traffic records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information were received. Of those records 239,459 were posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS received traffic data from 61 parishes, 16 city courts, and 12 mayor's courts.

#### CMIS Outreach

In 2016 CMIS committed more than \$1,759,432 in federal and CMIS grants to district and city courts throughout the state to enhance security, to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of disposition reporting and to enhance overall data quality. In addition to efforts by CMIS staff, funds were also provided to the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association through a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative training and assistance with the identification of causes for incomplete or missing information necessary for posting to the Louisiana Criminal History database and NICS.

Federal Motor Carrier funding was provided to 11 city courts and 10 district courts for replacement or enhancement of case management systems, or to implement a data exchange program in order 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 help provide tools for judges. During 2016 the CMIS Division has been working to develop an interface for judges with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry in order to provide judges access to protective orders while on the bench to improve the information available to a judge while adjudicating a case. It is anticipated that this tool will be available by mid-2017.



## JUDICIAL BUDGET

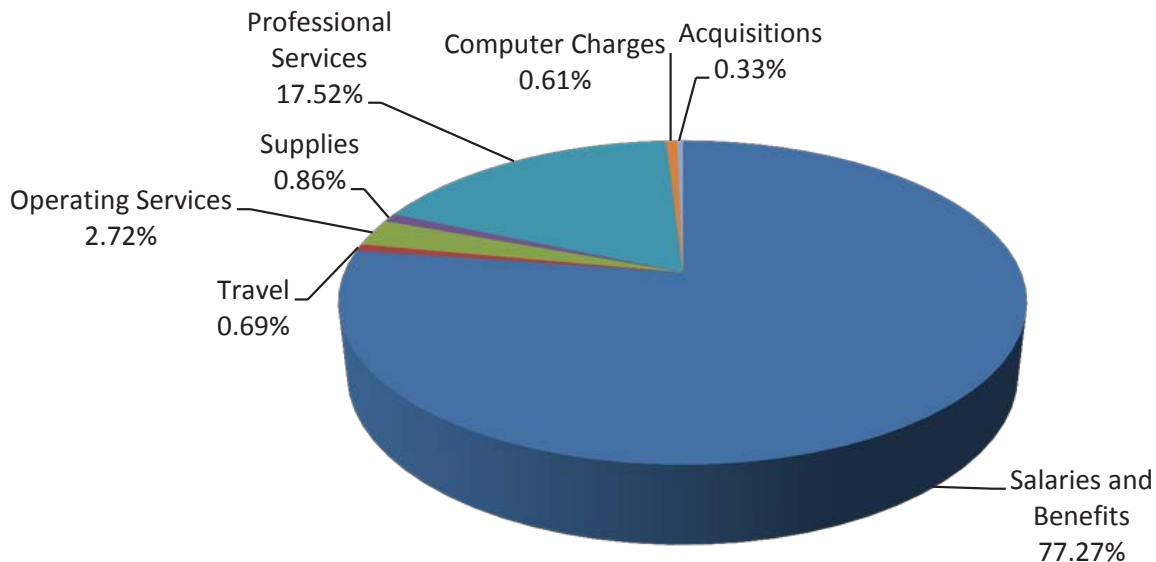
### JUDICIAL BUDGET

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 2016-2017 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$171,331,279

In FY 2016-2017, state appropriated funds totaled \$171,331,279<sup>1</sup>:

Salaries and Benefits <sup>2</sup>	132,403,460	77.27% of total budget
Professional Services	30,014,513	17.52% of total budget
Operating Services	4,658,717	2.72% of total budget
Supplies	1,471,150	.86% of total budget
Travel	1,177,366	.69% of total budget
Computer charges	1,045,158	.61% of total budget
Acquisitions	560,915	.33% of total budget



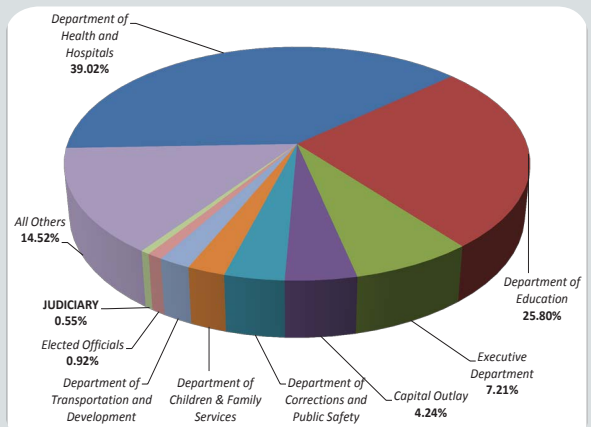
<sup>1</sup>In accordance with La. R.S. 24:513, the Louisiana Supreme Court is audited regularly by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and the audit report is available on the Legislative Auditor's website at [www.la.state.la.us](http://www.la.state.la.us).

<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.

Total State Budget:  
**\$31,202,191,706**  
Judiciary Budget:  
**\$171,331,279**

In FY 2016-2017, .55% of the state's general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

### LOUISIANA STATE BUDGET 2016-2017



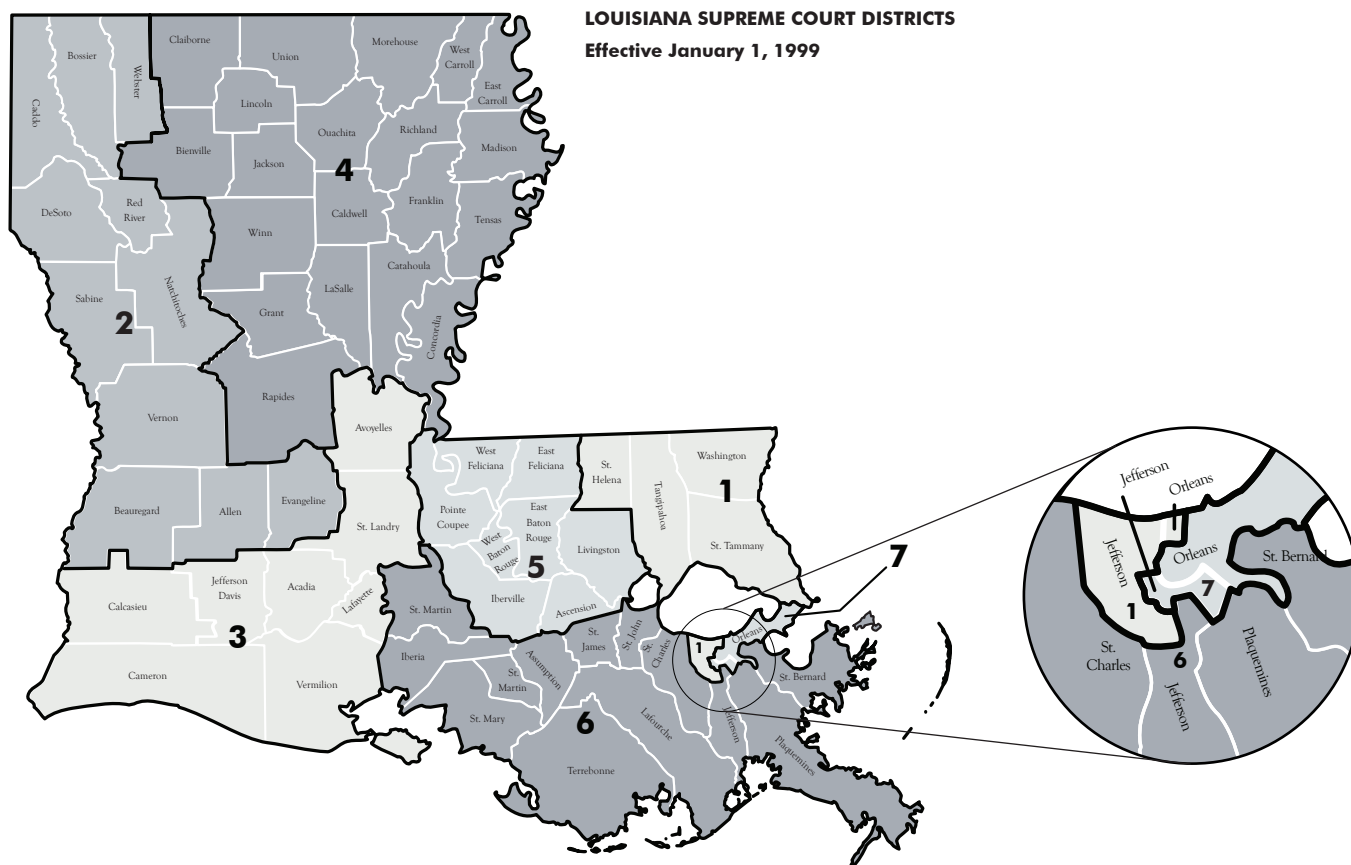
Map of Louisiana showing the 42 parishes, numbered 1 through 42. The map includes the following parishes and their names:

- 1: Calcasieu
- 2: Bienville
- 3: Lincoln
- 4: Ouachita
- 5: Richland
- 6: Madison
- 7: West Carroll
- 8: Winn
- 9: Rapides
- 10: Natchitoches
- 11: Sabine
- 12: Avoyelles
- 13: Evangeline
- 14: Calcasieu
- 15: Vermilion
- 16: Iberia
- 17: Terrebonne
- 18: Pointe Coupee
- 19: Iberville
- 20: West Feliciana
- 21: St. Helena
- 22: Washington
- 23: Ascension
- 24: St. Charles
- 25: St. Bernard
- 26: Bossier
- 27: St. Landry
- 28: LaSalle
- 29: Lafourcade
- 30: Vernon
- 31: Jefferson
- 32: Terrebonne
- 33: Allen
- 34: St. Martin
- 35: Grant
- 36: Beauregard
- 37: Caldwell
- 38: Cameron
- 39: Red River
- 40: St. James
- 41: St. Louis
- 42: DeSoto

A map of Louisiana showing its 64 parishes. The parishes are divided into five distinct regions, each highlighted with a different shade of gray and labeled with a number:

- Region 1 (Lightest Gray):** Located in the southeast, including parishes such as West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Livingston, West Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Ascension, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.
- Region 2 (Light Gray):** Located in the north-central part, including parishes such as Bossier, Claiborne, Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Bienville, Jackson, Winn, Caldwell, Franklin, Tensas, DeSoto, Red River, Sabine, LaSalle, Carahoula, Concordia, Grant, and Rapides.
- Region 3 (Medium Gray):** Located in the west-central part, including parishes such as Vernon, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Vermilion, Cameron, and Iberville.
- Region 4 (Dark Gray):** Located in the south-central part, including parishes such as St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Jean Lafitte.
- Region 5 (Darkest Gray):** Located in the south, including parishes such as St. James, St. John, St. Charles, and Iberville.

The map also shows the Gulf of Mexico to the south and the Mississippi River to the east. The numbers 1 through 5 are placed within their respective regions.



**\*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, 1-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.



# 10 ways Justice works for you



## 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 website 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 website for anyone, anywhere to see.



## 3. Outreach to Schools

Using the *Judges in the Classroom* handbook developed by the Louisiana District 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

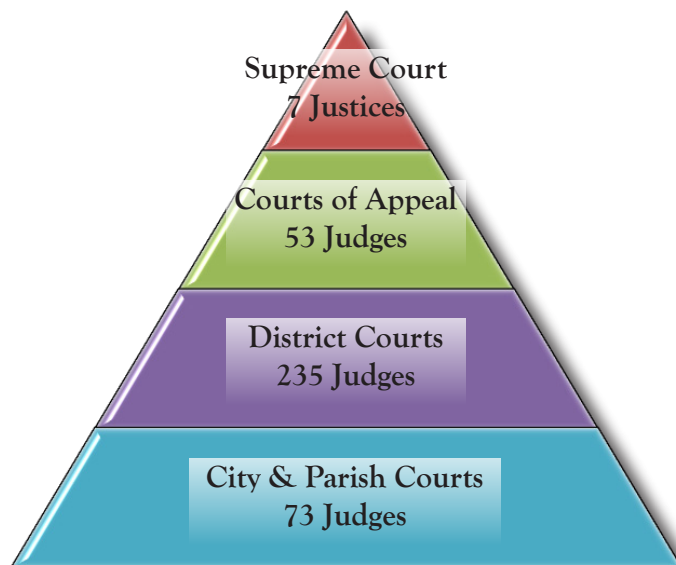
Several judges and court administrators serve in leadership positions on national organizations including: the American Judges Association; the American Bar Association; the National Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; the National Association for Court Management; the Conference of State Court Administrators;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



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## 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 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

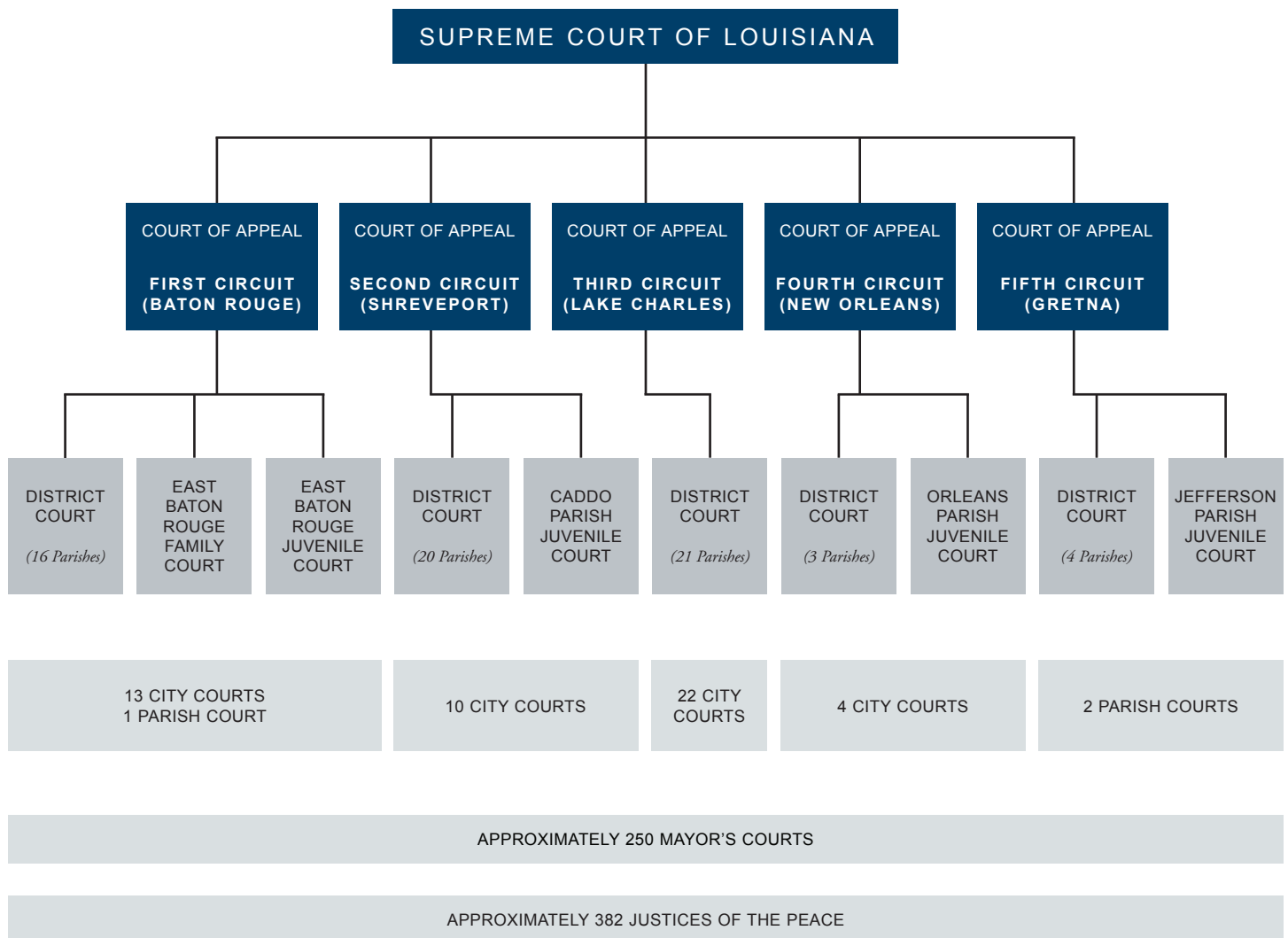
- 235 judges, six or eight year terms
- 43 judicial districts
- 4 juvenile courts
- 1 family court
- Number of judges in each court based on caseload and other factors
- Judges preside individually, not in panels

#### 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

JANUARY 1, 2017



Number of Justices and Judges:

<b>7</b>	Supreme Court
<b>53</b>	Courts of Appeal
<b>235</b>	District, Family and Juvenile
<b>73</b>	City and Parish Courts
<b>368</b>	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 seven 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.

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 they 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*.



In 2016, the Louisiana Supreme Court “rode the circuit” – holding oral argument in a venue other than the Royal Street courthouse – at Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans (l) and at Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge (r).

## 2016 Supreme Court Stats

For the third year in a row, filings with the Clerk of Court have declined. In 2013, 3,017 cases were filed with the Clerk of Court compared to the 2,283 in 2016. The rate of decline in filings has slowed from 10% between 2013 and 2014, 13% between 2014 and 2015, to only 3.5% between 2015 and 2016. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in the number of cases being filed where expedited consideration has been requested. In 2015, 166 such cases were filed, but that number jumped to 221 in 2016. These cases interrupt the normal processing of work and are labor intensive requiring immediate attention.

# Louisiana Supreme Court

## CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2015 Total	2016 Total	2016 Civil	2016 Criminal
<b>APPEALS</b>				
Filed	6	9	5	4
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	3	11	5	6
Per curiams	2	2	2	0
<b>WRITS</b>				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,277	1,305	852	453
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	895	788	13	775
Granted	201	166	70	96
To be argued	56	43	26	17
With orders & transferred	145	123	44	79
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Not Considered	114	211	21	190
Denied	2,002	1,587	736	851
Opinions Rendered	31	49	37	12
<b>REHEARINGS</b>				
Applied for	40	45	29	16
Granted	1	2	2	0
Denied/Dismissed	48	35	23	12
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
<b>ORIGINAL JURISDICTION</b>				
Petitions Filed	185	181	181	0
Opinions Rendered	3	5	5	0
Other Actions	182	183	183	0
<b>OTHER MATTERS</b>				
Filed	2	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered	3	0	0	0
Other Actions	4	2	0	2
<b>OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>TOTAL FILINGS</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>1,232</b>
Per Justice	338	326	150	176
<b>TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18</b>

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 courts and the Supreme Court. The work of the intermediate appellate courts is divided among five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Gretna. The First Circuit (Baton Rouge) has twelve judges, the Second Circuit (Shreveport) has nine, the Third Circuit (Lake Charles) has twelve, the Fourth Circuit (New Orleans) has twelve, and the Fifth Circuit (Gretna) has eight. The majority are elected from districts, with a few judges being elected at large within their circuits. Court of appeal judges are elected for ten-year terms. The judge oldest in point of service on each court of appeal is the chief judge and administers the court subject to rules adopted by it.

Each court of appeal has appellate jurisdiction over all civil matters, all matters appealed from family and juvenile courts, and all criminal cases triable by a jury which arise within its circuit, except for those cases appealable directly to the Supreme Court or to the district courts.

Each court sits in panels of at least three judges selected according to rules adopted by the court. A majority of the judges sitting in a case must concur to render judgment. However, in civil matters only, when a judgment of a district court or an administrative agency determination in a workers' compensation claim is to be modified or reversed and one judge dissents, the case must be reargued before a panel of at least five judges prior to rendition of judgment, and a majority must concur to render judgment.

Except as limited to questions of law by the Louisiana Constitution, or as provided by law in the review of administrative agency decisions, the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of appeal extends to both law and facts. However, in criminal matters, the appellate jurisdiction extends only to questions of law. The supervisory jurisdiction of each circuit court of appeal extends to all cases arising within its circuit, subject to the general supervisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

In keeping with the nationwide trend of declining caseloads, there was a drop in filings between 2015 and 2016. While filings of writs and appeals dropped 10.6% from 6,101 in 2015 to 5,453 in 2016, it appears that the substantive complexity of the supervisory writ practice at the appellate level steadily increased, due in part to changes in the law. The total number of opinions rendered by the courts of appeal increased 0.8% from 1,705 in 2015 to 1,719 during 2016.

## 2016 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 41 in First Circuit Court of Appeal, 29 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 31 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 30 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 30 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.



LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2015 Total	2016 Total	2016 Civil	2016 Criminal
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	698	578	450	128
Motions Filed	35	38	29	9
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	633	600	445	155
Writs Refused*	474	451	308	143
Writs Granted	128	148	118	30
Pro Se Writs Filed	615	480	93	387
Pro Se Writs Refused*	564	445	75	370
Pro Se Writs Granted	52	57	22	35
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	85	89	82	7
Consolidated Opinions	17	31	31	0
Opinions Rendered **	526	495	375	120
Rehearings Acted Upon***	97	115	105	10
Appeals Pending	396	344	288	56
Argued But Not Decided	51	65	63	2
To Be Argued	345	279	225	54
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	44	41	31	10
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	344	245	146	99
Motions Filed	6	9	6	3
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	197	203	134	69
Writs Refused*	157	154	103	51
Writs Granted	46	59	36	23
Pro Se Writs Filed	275	264	5	259
Pro Se Writs Refused*	214	197	4	193
Pro Se Writs Granted	70	76	1	75
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	27	23	18	5
Consolidated Opinions	19	16	9	7
Opinions Rendered **	269	258	167	91
Rehearings Acted Upon***	48	61	56	5
Appeals Pending	175	139	79	60
Argued But Not Decided	46	29	20	9
To Be Argued	129	110	59	51
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	30	29	19	10
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	404	354	267	87
Motions Filed	16	16	15	1
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	340	369	279	90
Writs Refused*	243	258	185	73
Writs Granted	65	71	48	23
Pro Se Writs Filed	449	327	15	312
Pro Se Writs Refused*	395	274	18	256
Pro Se Writs Granted	77	57	1	56
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	34	35	28	7
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	391	368	278	90
Rehearings Acted Upon***	51	54	47	7
Appeals Pending	165	140	101	39
Argued But Not Decided	22	16	11	5
To Be Argued	143	124	90	34
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	33	31	23	8

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2015 Total	2016 Total	2016 Civil	2016 Criminal
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	355	334	271	63
Motions Filed	22	10	4	6
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	628	672	302	370
Writs Refused*	465	463	223	240
Writs Granted	138	126	32	94
Pro Se Writs Filed	385	300	3	297
Pro Se Writs Refused*	223	256	2	254
Pro Se Writs Granted	146	55	2	53
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	37	46	39	7
Consolidated Opinions	3	3	3	0
Opinions Rendered **	268	360	248	112
Rehearings Acted Upon***	31	48	37	11
Appeals Pending	243	170	145	25
Argued But Not Decided	74	14	10	4
To Be Argued	169	156	135	21
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	22	30	21	9
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	252	272	183	89
Motions Filed	36	25	9	16
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	251	237	145	92
Writs Refused*	165	167	95	72
Writs Granted	64	69	45	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	275	218	10	208
Pro Se Writs Refused*	239	206	5	201
Pro Se Writs Granted	26	32	4	28
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	20	16	13	3
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	251	238	161	77
Rehearings Acted Upon***	60	31	13	18
Appeals Pending	93	123	81	42
Argued But Not Decided	5	4	4	0
To Be Argued	88	119	77	42
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	31	30	20	10
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS</b>				
Appeals Filed	2,053	1,783	1,317	466
Motions Filed	115	98	63	35
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	2,049	2,081	1,305	776
Writs Refused*	1,504	1,493	914	579
Writs Granted	441	473	279	194
Pro Se Writs Filed	1,999	1,589	126	1,463
Pro Se Writs Refused*	1,635	1,378	104	1,274
Pro Se Writs Granted	371	277	30	247
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	203	209	180	29
Consolidated Opinions	39	50	43	7
Opinions Rendered **	1,705	1,719	1,229	490
Rehearings Acted Upon***	287	309	258	51
Appeals Pending	1,072	916	694	222
Argued But Not Decided	198	128	108	20
To Be Argued	874	788	586	202
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	32	32	23	9

\* 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. Examples 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
- Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics
- Judicial Compensation Committee
- Judiciary Commission
- Uniform Rules Committee of the Louisiana Courts of Appeal
- Louisiana Bar Foundation
- Louisiana Judicial College
- Louisiana Sentencing Commission
- 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
- Justice Reinvestment Initiative Task Force
- Child Protection Representation Commission
- Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission

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, Re-entry 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. 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. Judges handle specialty or problem-solving court dockets on a volunteer basis.

## 2016 District Court Stats

During 2016 there were 665,826 filings in the district courts, an increase of 0.4% compared with 2015. In 2016, civil filings decreased by 146 filings, a decrease of 0.1%, and criminal filings decreased by 1,365 filings, a decrease of 0.9%. Traffic filings rose by 5,385, an increase of 1.5%.



# 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. Act 501 of 2016 expanded juvenile court jurisdiction to include a child who commits a non-violent act and is under the age of 18 (effective July 1, 2018), and a child who commits any delinquent act and is under the age of 18 (effective July 1, 2020).

## 2016 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts increased by 3.8% from 10,915 in 2015 to 11,331 in 2016.

## LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2015 Total Filed	2016 Juvenile Filed	2016 Civil Filed	2016 Criminal Filed	2016 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2016 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
DISTRICT	PARISH							Civil	Criminal
1	Caddo <sup>1</sup>	20,756	396	6,632	8,240	4,384	19,652	6	40
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>20,756</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>6,632</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>19,652</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>
2	Bienville	5,804	24	453	386	6,001	6,864	0	1
	Claiborne	2,606	104	356	413	2,151	3,024	0	2
	Jackson	2,124	265	471	720	876	2,332	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>10,534</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>9,028</b>	<b>12,220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
3	Lincoln <sup>3</sup>	7,253	443	709	1,381	6,496	9,029	3	5
	Union	2,946	154	567	1,281	1,045	3,047	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>10,199</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>2,662</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>12,076</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
4	Morehouse	7,299	251	498	1,261	5,349	7,359	1	3
	Ouachita	34,401	1,609	3,907	7,101	24,314	36,931	1	13
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>41,700</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>4,405</b>	<b>8,362</b>	<b>29,663</b>	<b>44,290</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>
5	Franklin	2,647	234	777	741	1,136	2,888	0	3
	Richland	4,435	140	506	1,267	3,487	5,400	1	1
	West Carroll	1,475	87	264	476	605	1,432	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,557</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>1,547</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>5,228</b>	<b>9,720</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
6	East Carroll	4,045	65	187	349	6,104	6,705	0	0
	Madison	5,322	85	313	877	3,131	4,406	0	1
	Tensas	1,807	34	148	395	1,043	1,620	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>10,278</b>	<b>12,731</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
7	Catahoula	2,111	4	355	1,227	944	2,530	0	0
	Concordia	3,399	134	569	1,505	2,447	4,655	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,510</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>3,391</b>	<b>7,185</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
8	Winn	2,082	39	392	540	1,251	2,222	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
9	Rapides	16,289	1,241	3,226	4,415	7,416	16,298	5	6
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>16,289</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>7,416</b>	<b>16,298</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
10	Natchitoches	14,289	1,139	1,021	1,475	7,801	11,436	1	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>14,289</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>11,436</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
11	Sabine	3,390	121	542	941	1,414	3,018	1	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
12	Avoyelles	8,543	319	1,558	2,373	4,681	8,931	3	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,543</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>4,681</b>	<b>8,931</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
13	Evangeline	7,728	526	790	1,167	3,611	6,094	1	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>7,728</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>3,611</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
14	Calcasieu	30,461	2,230	5,664	14,539	5,856	28,289	6	17
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>30,461</b>	<b>2,230</b>	<b>5,664</b>	<b>14,539</b>	<b>5,856</b>	<b>28,289</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
15	Acadia	6,343	247	1,380	1,573	2,187	5,387	1	1
	Lafayette	18,637	1,687	6,917	5,220	5,741	19,565	15	6
	Vermilion	6,721	187	1,494	2,111	1,802	5,594	2	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>31,701</b>	<b>2,121</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>8,904</b>	<b>9,730</b>	<b>30,546</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>
16	Iberia	8,762	437	2,285	1,722	7,073	11,517	3	5
	St. Martin	8,828	241	1,528	1,087	5,660	8,516	3	0
	St. Mary	7,033	324	1,437	2,221	1,408	5,390	2	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>24,623</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>5,250</b>	<b>5,030</b>	<b>14,141</b>	<b>25,423</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
17	Lafourche	15,331	491	2,522	4,344	8,102	15,459	5	14
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>15,331</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>8,102</b>	<b>15,459</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>
18	Iberville	4,674	177	1,189	1,425	1,471	4,262	4	2
	Pointe Coupee	7,182	93	555	569	1,662	2,879	0	1
	West Baton Rouge	2,983	54	866	990	1,466	3,376	5	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>14,839</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>2,984</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>10,517</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>
19	East Baton Rouge <sup>1</sup>	54,481	0	9,592	10,613	27,513	47,718	30	39
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>54,481</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,592</b>	<b>10,613</b>	<b>27,513</b>	<b>47,718</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>
20	East Feliciana	3,077	227	1,075	1,052	1,164	3,518	0	4
	West Feliciana	1,176	12	246	611	406	1,275	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,253</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS *Two Year Trend in Activity*

DISTRICT	PARISH	2015 Total Filed	2016 Juvenile Filed	2016 Civil Filed	2016 Criminal Filed	2016 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2016 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
								Civil	Criminal
21	Livingston	20,407	671	3,186	4,187	9,281	17,325	2	2
	St. Helena	2,674	77	365	521	2,098	3,061	0	1
	Tangipahoa	26,912	735	3,459	3,524	20,152	27,870	5	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>49,993</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>8,232</b>	<b>31,531</b>	<b>48,256</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
22	St. Tammany	37,315	1,190	6,379	6,001	25,859	39,429	12	37
	Washington <sup>3</sup>	4,257	321	1,183	998	2,859	5,361	0	13
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>41,572</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>7,562</b>	<b>6,999</b>	<b>28,718</b>	<b>44,790</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>
23	Ascension <sup>1</sup>	5,478	452	3,306	1,381	0	5,139	7	12
	Assumption	3,098	150	531	807	1,393	2,881	0	0
	St. James	3,324	132	610	711	1,925	3,378	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>4,447</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>11,398</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>
24	Jefferson <sup>1</sup>	19,208	0	10,945	8,334	0	19,279	17	54
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>19,208</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,945</b>	<b>8,334</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,279</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>
25	Plaquemines	4,661	71	692	975	2,211	3,949	4	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,661</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
26	Bossier	15,593	969	2,971	6,225	4,341	14,506	3	5
	Webster	5,337	157	1,006	1,534	3,096	5,793	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>20,930</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>3,977</b>	<b>7,759</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>20,299</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
27	St. Landry	26,138	429	2,508	2,422	24,607	29,966	4	10
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>26,138</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>2,508</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>24,607</b>	<b>29,966</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
28	LaSalle	2,878	84	502	531	2,542	3,659	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>3,659</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
29	St. Charles	24,648	380	1,794	1,576	25,286	29,036	5	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>24,648</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,794</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>25,286</b>	<b>29,036</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
30	Vernon	9,139	214	1,206	1,765	10,155	13,340	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>10,155</b>	<b>13,340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
31	Jefferson Davis	7,801	126	855	808	5,325	7,114	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>7,801</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>7,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
32	Terrebonne	23,618	677	2,853	4,886	21,044	29,460	9	18
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>23,618</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>2,853</b>	<b>4,886</b>	<b>21,044</b>	<b>29,460</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18</b>
33	Allen	4,593	207	551	940	1,902	3,600	0	8
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,593</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
34	St. Bernard	8,475	271	1,663	1,869	3,325	7,128	2	6
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>8,475</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>7,128</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
35	Grant	4,970	170	536	1,191	3,533	5,430	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>3,533</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
36	Beauregard	5,553	229	866	959	3,896	5,950	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,553</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
37	Caldwell	2,049	66	308	728	831	1,933	1	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
38	Cameron	2,589	74	252	559	3,249	4,134	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>3,249</b>	<b>4,134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
39	Red River	1,769	69	270	433	846	1,618	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,769</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
40	St. John the Baptist	23,882	318	1,584	1,919	16,129	19,950	2	9
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>23,882</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>16,129</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
42	DeSoto	13,765	140	940	1,155	8,689	10,924	2	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>13,765</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>8,689</b>	<b>10,924</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	Orleans Civil <sup>1</sup>	11,913	0	11,966	0	0	11,966	40	0
	Orleans Criminal <sup>1</sup>	4,679	0	0	4,029	0	4,029	0	76
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>16,592</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,966</b>	<b>4,029</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,995</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>76</b>
	<b>Statewide Totals:</b>	<b>663,163</b>	<b>22,200</b>	<b>124,278</b>	<b>147,576</b>	<b>371,772</b>	<b>665,826</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>472</b>

**2016 Report of the Total Amount of Funds Distributed for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment\***

In 2016, the total amount paid on judgments for wrongful convictions, imprisonments and loss of life opportunities was \$251,478.72.

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 2015 figures received after the publication of the 2015 Annual Report.

\*Pursuant to R.S. 15:572.8, Act 262, Regular Session 2007.

## Louisiana Juvenile Courts

## JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS – CALENDAR YEAR 2016

	CADD0				E. BATON ROUGE			
	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>		Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	
Formal FINS	659	659	659		83	212	83	
Juvenile Traffic	288	299	215		205	324	205	
Juvenile Delinquency	1,211	1,482	1,211		1,446	2,709	1,446	
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	292	292	0		291	291	291	
Child in Need of Care Cases	208		208		181		310	
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	20		20		40		51	
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	18		18		8		12	
Surrender of Parental Rights	12		12		95		80	
Adoption	74		74		54		69	
Child Support	549		0		0		0	
Mental Health	231		231		8		8	
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	9		9		57		0	
Minor Marriages	2		0		0		0	
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0		0		0	
Domestic Abuse	182		0		8		8	
Other	11		11		50		58	
Subtotal	3,766	2,732	2,668		2,526	3,536	2,621	

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

## FAMILY COURT FILINGS - 2016

EBR FAMILY COURT			
New Cases Filed	4,700	Payment Determination	2,212
Community Property	146	QDRO	150
Contempt State	1,691	Review (non-support)	849
Deferred Execution	836	Rule to Establish Medical Support	*
Deferred Sentencing	408	Rule to Set Arrears	**
Dismissals	148	Rules	4,428
Divorces	3,412	State Rules	1,165
DVC's	3,187	Stipulated Judgments	1,054
Ex-Parte Custody	147	Suspension Revocation	
Income Assignments	410	UISA	545
Joint Custody	*	Disavowals	*
Modification	869	Annulments	*
Paternity	*		

\* Included in Stipulated Judgements

\*\* Rules to Set Arrears is included in Contempt State



JEFFERSON			ORLEANS			GRAND TOTAL		
Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>
128	141	134	22	22	22	892	1,034	898
310	447	310	117	176	117	920	1,246	847
677	1,091	661	457	825	457	3,791	6,107	3,775
38	38	19	0	0	0	38	38	19
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
212	212	212	0	0	0	795	795	503
196		195	56		56	641		769
183		183	19		19	262		273
57		57	6		6	89		93
21		18	4		4	132		114
162		160	57		68	347		371
1,628		0	0		0	2,177		0
0		0	0		0	239		239
0		0	0		0	66		9
0		0	0		0	2		0
0		0	0		0	0		0
0		0	3		3	193		11
461		461	225		225	747		755
4,073	1,929	2,410	966	1,023	977	11,331	9,220	8,676

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.



# 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 three 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.

## 2016 City & Parish Court Stats

Filings in Louisiana city and parish Courts decreased by 7.8% from 723,773 filings in 2015 to 667,071 in 2016.

LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2016

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
CITY	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDINGS**	
Abbeville	560	472	836	679	2,289	1,869	137	117	3,822	3,137	0	0
Alexandria	3,830	2,039	10,066	7,524	10,291	10,032	0	0	24,187	19,595	0	0
Ascension	645	268	2,953	2,971	10,749	11,073	168	386	14,515	14,698	0	0
Baker	291	307	306	181	1,150	1,381	0	0	1,747	1,869	0	0
Bastrop	865	657	853	661	959	890	23	20	2,700	2,228	0	0
Baton Rouge*	10,838	10,320	18,063	15,488	72,247	76,514	0	0	101,148	102,322	37,186	44,469
Bogalusa	376	843	1,761	1,064	1,799	1,729	275	402	4,211	4,038	0	0
Bossier City	2,560	2,054	1,897	1,871	6,698	7,846	888	774	12,043	12,545	196	168
Breaux Bridge	503	320	907	810	705	583	145	50	2,260	1,763	111	133
Bunkie	83	79	71	71	372	372	16	17	542	539	0	0
Crowley	677	562	1,383	1,187	1,220	1,054	92	105	3,372	2,908	0	0
Denham Springs**	1,418	1,026	0	0	8,092	0	109	0	9,619	1,026	0	0
Eunice	615	415	809	830	2,384	1,454	203	209	4,011	2,908	0	0
Franklin	359	143	639	561	700	655	129	100	1,827	1,459	0	0
Hammond	2,435	2,554	1,872	882	8,808	4,373	919	410	14,034	8,219	0	0
Houma***	4,535	2,050	2,628	2,005	6,128	5,469	793	845	14,084	10,369	1,411	1,221
Jeanerette	100	154	268	290	5,174	3,267	131	123	5,673	3,834	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	2,978	1,837	4,014	9,444	49,989	87,739	0	0	56,981	99,020	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	3,800	6,900	2,449	8,289	31,693	76,282	0	0	37,942	91,471	0	0
Jennings	387	346	776	347	1,763	1,126	35	33	2,961	1,852	0	0
Kaplan	56	45	126	129	501	451	48	45	731	670	0	0
Lafayette	4,281	4,592	3,905	4,093	24,025	23,196	484	570	32,695	32,451	916	916
Lake Charles	4,230	3,254	4,498	5,308	9,554	7,238	58	38	18,340	15,838	0	0
Leesville	124	33	669	501	2,427	2,321	62	19	3,282	2,874	0	0
Marksville	535	527	499	489	1,182	1,006	83	77	2,299	2,099	0	0
Minden	429	365	824	453	697	565	126	81	2,076	1,464	2	2
Monroe	4,362	4,153	4,275	6,452	10,279	10,801	330	197	19,246	21,603	0	0
Morgan City	523	436	1,086	1,443	1,189	1,255	186	187	2,984	3,321	0	0
Natchitoches	553	263	909	1,069	4,236	2,719	230	188	5,928	4,239	115	115
New Iberia	1,180	1,154	1,068	1,076	2,940	3,091	219	197	5,407	5,518	352	288
N.O. 1st City Ct.	9,223	5,273	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,223	5,273	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,566	1,427	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,566	1,427	0	0
N.O. Municipal	0	0	23,577	21,499	0	0	0	0	23,577	21,499	0	0
N.O. Traffic	0	0	1,757	1,243	86,284	61,334	0	0	88,041	62,577	0	0
Oakdale	237	208	177	275	2,340	1,949	110	44	2,864	2,476	0	0
Opelousas	909	896	1,230	878	2,075	2,270	319	331	4,533	4,375	0	0
Pineville	649	727	5,044	2,309	5,301	4,509	0	0	10,994	7,545	119	0
Plaquemine	286	209	326	130	499	291	34	25	1,145	655	0	0
Port Allen	197	109	275	222	8,125	6,105	16	13	8,613	6,449	0	0
Rayne	513	473	137	195	1,782	2,654	35	42	2,467	3,364	0	0
Ruston	1,494	1,212	712	566	5,891	4,257	0	0	8,097	6,035	1,532	354
Shreveport	11,012	9,089	6,198	6,496	32,217	33,136	0	0	49,427	48,721	35,508	0
Slidell	1,942	1,628	1,487	1,278	4,929	3,603	446	417	8,804	6,926	1,458	1,458
Springhill	447	372	888	583	698	698	236	169	2,269	1,822	135	47
Sulphur	977	790	2,939	3,273	5,898	7,591	112	100	9,926	11,754	375	269
Thibodaux	820	260	2,492	2,110	3,763	3,355	181	131	7,256	5,856	0	0
Vidalia	33	21	169	129	1,568	1,247	39	31	1,809	1,428	0	0
Ville Platte	611	458	1,067	1,040	784	675	94	94	2,556	2,267	0	0
West Monroe	1,992	1,979	2,097	1,941	4,084	4,341	98	84	8,271	8,345	439	439
Winnfield	65	34	577	436	726	515	0	0	1,368	985	0	0
Winnsboro	345	17	436	428	663	570	71	65	1,515	1,080	0	0
Zachary	455	299	474	409	1,154	1,095	0	0	2,083	1,803	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS:</b>	<b>87,901</b>	<b>73,649</b>	<b>122,469</b>	<b>121,608</b>	<b>449,021</b>	<b>486,546</b>	<b>7,680</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>667,071</b>	<b>688,539</b>	<b>79,855</b>	<b>49,879</b>

\* counts are per charge

\*\* Due to the flood in August 2016 and destruction of case files, the court was unable to provide full case details or separate traffic and criminal filings and therefore these numbers are considered an estimate.

\*\*\* In August 2016 the city of Houma switched to a new case management system software for adult criminal, traffic and juvenile cases. With the conversion of data as part of the new system, the city feels some numbers are not accurate. At the time of publication Houma City court was continuing to work with its vendor to correct problems due to the data conversion.

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