



SUPREME
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OF
LOUISIANA

EDWARD DOUGLAS WHITE
CHIEF JUSTICE UNITED STATES
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THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
1907

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA
2019 ANNUAL REPORT
of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court



THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA

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

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.*
Retired June 21, 2019.

JUSTICE SCOTT J. CRICHTON

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

JUSTICE JAMES T. GENOVESE

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

JUSTICE MARCUS R. CLARK

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

JUSTICE JEFFERSON D. HUGHES III

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

JUSTICE JOHN L. WEIMER

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



Justice William J. Crain, First Supreme Court District. Term of office began November 26, 2019.

* 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 2019 and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

RESOURCES ON THE WEB AT WWW.LASC.ORG

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

The **2019 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 website at www.lasc.org/press_room/publications.asp.

WORKING FOR EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

I am pleased to present to you the 2019 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 our judges, court administrators, clerks of court, court staff, and everyone who contributes to the daily operations of the judicial branch of government.

2019 was a busy year at the Court. We welcomed a new justice as Justice William J. Crain was elected to fill the vacancy created upon Justice Greg Guidry's appointment to the federal bench in New Orleans. We also held a naming ceremony in accordance with legislation that was enacted to name the courthouse at 400 Royal Street the "Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. Courthouse" to honor the longest-serving Justice in the Court's history.

We expanded our Specialty Court office this year. Specialty Courts, which are presided over by dedicated judges who volunteer their time, have proven effective in keeping defendants out of jail. In 2014, we had 50 drug courts in Louisiana. In 2019, we had 75 specialty court programs in operation – 42 drug courts including seven Family Preservation courts, nine reentry courts, four behavioral health courts, eight Sobriety/DWI courts, four veterans' courts, a Swift and Certain Pilot Court, and others were in the planning stages.

We have also continued to make progress with both our CASA and FINS programs. On any given day in Louisiana, there are more than 4,000 children in the foster care system working with judges. Our CASA-Assistance Program provides funding and oversight to 17 local CASA programs and the Louisiana CASA State Association, providing services in 59 parishes to serve 3,559 children with 1,649 CASA volunteers. Funding from the legislature assists with FINS informal programs in 42 judicial districts, and three city courts. We need to ensure that adequate funding is available to continue these programs which are so critical to the children in our state.

We've also made progress in other areas, such as Human Trafficking and Language Access. Our Judicial College has continued to provide interesting and innovative educational programming for our judges, and the Louisiana Protective Order Registry posted almost 28,000 protective orders from courts across the state. Our Community Relations department conducted 69 courthouse tours for over 1,500 court visitors, and our Law Library held six continuing legal education seminars that were free and open to the public. The Price of Justice Grant Advisory Committee worked on developing recommendations to ensure that imposition and collection of court costs was fair, accountable and transparent. Yes, 2019 was a busy year at the Court and we accomplished much. But there is still work to be done.

First, as I have said on several occasions, the current statutory system of substantially funding the courts through fines and fees is no longer viable. Two recent federal court decisions pointed out that the problems with the current system of court system funding cannot be solved by improving the current funding structure. In *Cain v. White* and *Caliste v. Cantrell*, criminal defendants challenged various court practices for assessing eligibility for bail and the amount of bail, and assessing fines, court costs, and fees. The plaintiffs successfully argued that the current court financing structure is unconstitutional because certain bail fees, court costs, and other user fees are assessed by the judges and are also used to directly benefit the assessing court as the resulting revenue is used to fund court operations. The federal courts found that this dual role of the judges – assessor of funds as well as beneficiary of the funds – causes an unconstitutional conflict of interest. In both cases, the judges pointed out that the unconstitutional conflict of interest is due to the financing structure and lack of sufficient funding from state and local governments for the criminal justice system, rather than any personal bias on the part of the judges. We must develop a different method and funding source for the courts.

We must also continue to address Louisiana's over-incarceration problem. From my first day as the 25th Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 2013, I voiced my concern about the problem of mass incarceration in our state. Louisiana had long been the most incarcerated state in the most incarcerated nation in the world. Recognizing that an over-incarcerated state is not a healthy state or a wealthy state, our three branches of government—the legislature, executive, and judiciary—committed in 2016



to work together on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) to responsibly bring down the disproportionate number of Louisiana citizens in prison and to prevent them from returning.

The Supreme Court was a key part of that effort. JRI had four simple goals: (1) to focus prison beds on serious threats to public safety; (2) to strengthen community supervision; (3) to clear away barriers to successful re-entry; and (4) to reinvest the savings into recidivism reduction and crime victim support. The historic bipartisan Justice Reinvestment package consisted of ten new laws, designed to meet each of the four goals by increasing parole eligibility, reducing penalties for drug offenses, reducing habitual offender sentences, reducing the number of people on post-release supervision and eliminating some of the restrictions

on civic participation that a conviction traditionally imposed.

It worked. By 2018, we no longer had the highest incarceration rate in the nation. But despite our efforts, after briefly giving up our spot to Oklahoma, we have already resumed our position as the number one incarcerator in the world. We must not abandon this cause.

Finally, we need to increase resources for indigent defense. Fully-funded indigent defense is critical to our JRI promise to stop locking people up who pose no risk. Under-funded indigent defense means too few public defenders. Too few public defenders means overloaded public defenders. Overloaded public defenders means lawyers who do not have time to advocate against unnecessary pretrial detention or ask for reasonable individualized sentences when clients are convicted. This causes unnecessary over-incarceration. Fully funding public defense is our most important line of defense against convicting the innocent. And we should fund public defenders at the same rate we fund prosecutors. If we do not invest equal resources, we will not receive equal justice.

I have had the honor of serving the people of Louisiana as a judge since 1984: ten years as a trial court judge and 25 years as a Justice on the Louisiana Supreme Court. My judicial career will come to a close upon my retirement in December, 2020. I have seen many changes during my three and a half decades on the bench, some for the better, some not. We need to properly fund the judiciary. We need to ensure equal access to our judicial system. We need to truly ensure equal justice for all.

One thing has remained constant during my tenure on the bench, and that is the depth of dedication and commitment shown by the men and women who serve as our judges. I want to publicly thank our hardworking and diligent judges, who work every day to make the promise of justice a reality.

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 2019 which includes 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 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 which operate under the auspices of the Supreme Court. Thank you to all who were involved in our continuing efforts throughout 2019 to improve judicial administration, and I commend you for your efforts.

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*, established in 1950, serves as the research arm for the Supreme Court. It also 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 standing committees and the creation of ad hoc committees.

In 2019, the Supreme Court amended the Judicial Council rules to add a member of the criminal defense bar to the Council. The inaugural appointment was from the Indigent Defender Board. The Judicial Council welcomed four new members in 2019: Justice John Weimer, Supreme Court representative, Dr. Sarah Moody-Thomas, Citizen representative, Mr. Collin Melancon, LSBA Young Lawyers Division representative, and Hon. Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (ret.), Public Defender Board appointee.

During 2019, the Court continued to administer a grant from the Department of Justice to encourage and disseminate best practices for coordinated and appropriate justice system responses to justice-involved individuals' inability to pay fines, fees, and related charges, including eliminating unnecessary and unconstitutional confinement. The purpose of this grant is to assist in implementing the Judicial Council recommendations to improve the court cost assessment and collection system.

Significant grant activities in 2019 included developing recommendations to the Supreme Court, legislators, and others from each of four Advisory Committee subcommittees and holding a public meeting to receive public comments on the recommendations. The recommendations were modified after hearing from the public and put together into a single, comprehensive report. This report will be considered by the Court and an implementation plan will be developed in 2020. Supreme Court and grant staff also facilitated the work of a legislative committee, the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding, which was created to study court financing in light of the changes made by the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

The Council continued to gather information on diversion programs in Louisiana. The Council received a report from the Louisiana District Attorneys Association noting that the Association had developed diversion program standards, best practices, and compliance checklists and that individual programs would be audited in the future in accordance with these standards and practices.

The Standing Committee to Evaluate the Need for New Judgeships examines requests for new judgeships against set criteria and conducts a site visit to the requesting jurisdiction prior to making a recommendation to the Judicial Council. A request for a new judgeship must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year. The Council received no requests for new judgeships in 2019.

The Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for new Court Costs and Fees was created in 2003 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. Requests must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 15 of the year prior to the year the request is to be introduced into the legislature. The Council received one request, from the Louisiana City Marshals and City Constables Association, to increase fees for various services performed by marshals and constables. The request was favorably recommended to the legislature.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Honorable Bernette J. Johnson, Chair
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana
Honorable John L. Weimer
Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana
Honorable Marc E. Johnson
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
Honorable John Michael Guidry
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
Honorable Daniel Ellender
representing Louisiana District Judges Association
Honorable Ramona Emanuel
representing Louisiana District Judges Association
Honorable Roy Cascio
representing Louisiana City Judges Association
Honorable Kim Stansbury
representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
Honorable Pamela Baker (Non-voting)
representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Richard K. Leefe
representing Louisiana State Bar Association
Collin Melancon
representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA
Leo C. Hamilton
representing Louisiana State Law Institute
Honorable Dan Claitor
State Senator
Honorable Katrina R. Jackson
State Representative
Honorable Scott M. Perrilloux
representing Louisiana District Attorneys Assn.
Honorable Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (retired)
Appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board
Todd S. Clemons
representing the Louisiana State Bar Association appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court
Honorable David Dart
representing Louisiana Clerks of Court Assn.
Dr. Sarah Moody-Thomas
Citizen Representative

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Justice Marcus R. Clark
Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III
Justice Scott J. Crichton
Justice James T. Genovese
Justice William J. Crain

STAFF OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD
Judicial Administrator
Supreme Court of Louisiana
Julia C. Spear, JD
Deputy Judicial Administrator, Research & Development/
Judicial Council
Supreme Court of Louisiana

2019: 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 and Families, Drug and Specialty 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 Systems Division, Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana.

OFFICE OF THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATOR



Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD
Judicial Administrator



Michelle Beaty, JD
Office of Special Counsel



O. Curtis Nelson, JD
Children and Families



David Becker, JD
Judiciary Commission Counsel



Darryl M. Schultz
Legislative Liaison



Veronica Cheneau, PHR, CHRE
Human Resources



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



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



Julia Spear, JD
Research and Development/Judicial Council



Robert Gunn
Community Relations



Brian Wiggins, JD
Language Access and Trial Court Services



Ramona Harris
Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR)



Bryan Wolff, CPA
Budget



Kerry Lentini, JD
Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office



Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD
*General Counsel
Legal Department*

DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

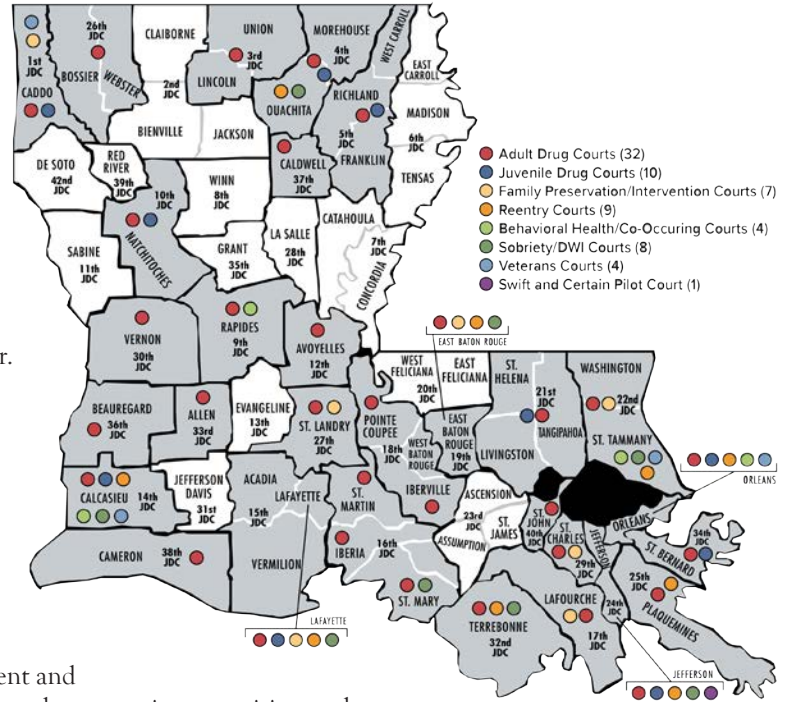
LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT OFFICE

In 2018, the Supreme Court Drug Court Office transitioned to the *Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office* (SCDSCO), with the aim of providing additional opportunities and ongoing support to all Louisiana specialty court judges and their staff. This will facilitate and promote the growth of these programs, which are proven alternatives to traditional criminal justice interventions.

Currently there are approximately 75 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 49 are drug courts. Of these 49 drug courts, 41 have been in operation 10 years or longer. Each drug court program is comprised of a team, which is led by a judge, and includes a coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor, public defender, law enforcement representatives, case manager, and/or 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 specialty 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 disorder.

Funds for Louisiana’s drug courts are appropriated by the Louisiana Legislature and administered by the Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office. The SCDSCO awards funds annually to programs statewide. Additionally, the SCDSCO closely monitors each program both fiscally and programmatically throughout the year.



2019 DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Individual Participants Served	3,994	413	298
Individuals Screened	2,187	363	400
New Participants Admitted	1,401	260	313
Treatment Hours Administered	414,045	10,494	18,908
Drug Tests Administered	128,412	6,398	9,534
Community Service Hours	23,336	980	132

2019 DRUG COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult	Juvenile	Family Preservation
Graduated/Satisfied Court Order	703	111	56
Average Months in Program	28	11	13

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

47	Drug-Free Babies in 2019	In 2019, 47 drug-free babies were born to drug court participants for an estimated cost savings of \$11,750,000 to the State of Louisiana, based on an estimated minimum cost of medical and related expenses of \$250,000* per baby in the first few years of life.
803	Total Drug-Free Babies Born	Since the inception of drug courts in Louisiana, 803 drug-free babies have been born to drug court participants, for an estimated total cost savings of \$200,750,000.*
6.7%	Drug Court Recidivism Rate	93.3% of participants who graduated in 2016 had no new convictions.
645	GED/Full-Time Employment	The number of participants who graduated in 2019, who earned their high school diploma or 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 database. The registry is a statewide repository for court orders issued to prevent harassing, threatening or violent acts against a spouse, intimate cohabitant, dating partner, family, or household member.

LPOR staff provide training seminars across the state to explain how the registry works, highlight relevant state and federal laws, and disseminate standardized protective order 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 2019, a total of 380 people attended LPOR training programs.

In 2019, 27,917 orders from courts across the state were added to the registry. Of those, 17,754 (64%) were civil orders and 10,163 (36%) were criminal orders. Since its inception through the close of 2019, more than 450,000 orders have been entered into the registry.

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). At year's end, 329,439 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the start of the program. This includes 24,825 qualifying orders transmitted during 2019.

Also during 2019, LPOR's on-call team responded to 180 requests for order verification submitted by examiners with NICS. This 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 order.

Additionally during 2019, LPOR responded to a total of 1,475 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement with requests for verification of orders of protection.

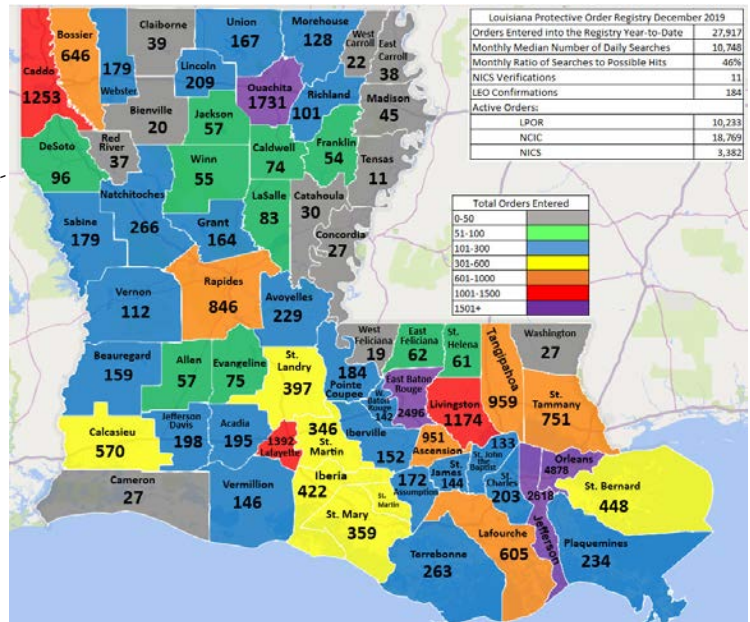


Table One: Civil Orders	1997-2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total (1997-2019)
Temporary Restraining Order	191,858	13,511	13,933	13,831	13,977	247,110
Protective Order	61,227	4,050	4,116	3,559	3,670	76,622
Preliminary Injunction	1,119	52	47	48	33	1,299
Permanent Injunction	1,636	57	71	77	74	1,915
Total Civil Orders	255,840	17,670	18,167	17,515	17,754	326,946

Table Two: Criminal Orders	1997-2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total (1997-2019)
Bail Restriction	54,445	7,035	9,194	8,631	9,077	88,382
Peace Bond	18,813	245	3	9	0	19,070
Combined Bail/Peace Bond	8,504	891	28	34	7	9,464
Combined Sentencing/Probation	8,424	1,181	1,035	978	1,079	12,697
Total Criminal Orders	90,186	9,352	10,260	9,652	10,163	129,613

Table Three: Totals by Year	1997-2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total (1997-2019)
Total Civil and Criminal Orders	346,026	27,022	28,427	27,167	27,917	456,559

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Angela White-Bazile
Executive Counsel
to the Chief Justice

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that occurs in every state. Louisiana is actively addressing the problem. The mandate to intervene early, identify victims, educate, train, and provide resources and funding to promote effective prevention is being voiced by Governor John Bel Edwards' Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission. Angela White-Bazile, Esq., Executive Counsel, Louisiana Supreme Court, serves as Secretary to the Commission and also serves as Judicial Liaison.

In 2019, several laws were enacted to combat human trafficking in Louisiana, such as a requirement to post information about the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline inside facilities which may be visited by human trafficking victims, such as bathrooms of massage parlors; spas; highway rest stops; airports; bus terminals; and railroad passenger stations. On March 01, 2019, Caddo Parish implemented STAR Court (Succeeding Through Achievement and Resiliency), and partnered with community organizations to develop innovative interventions for youth at-risk of falling victim to human trafficking. The STAR Court uses a phase system and incentives to encourage participants to follow the conditions of probation, make better choices and participate in long term treatment, support, and recovery.

The first anti-human trafficking summit was held in Louisiana on September 25, 2019 at the Governor's mansion. Key stakeholders such as judges, district attorneys, law enforcement officers, childcare service agencies personnel and human trafficking survivors shared current strategies, efforts, and best practices to end human trafficking in Louisiana. In October 2019 at the Fall Judges Conference, Louisiana judges heard from judges, an expert professor, and a human trafficking thriver (not just a survivor), who refused to allow his past experience to hinder his future success as an advocate for change. And Louisiana received a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime to improve outcomes for young victims of human trafficking.

Through the hard work and collaboration of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board, the judiciary, various local and state task forces, governmental agencies, and numerous stakeholders and nonprofit organizations, the message is clear: human trafficking will not be tolerated in Louisiana, and the judiciary will continue to play an important role in its eradication.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



During 2019, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice. The *Families in Need of Services* (FINS) Assistance Program provides funding for informal FINS offices in 41 judicial districts, including Hammond City Court, Morgan City Court and most recently Monroe City Court. FINS intake officers statewide processed 6,700 referrals and continue to provide program and case management strategies that help to increase alternatives to formal court involvement. Highlights in 2019 included collaboration with the Governor's Juvenile Justice Conference and the Louisiana FINS Association to provide statewide training on innovative treatment and services for the rehabilitation of status offenders. In October of 2019, FINS-AP and the Louisiana FINS Association sponsored a fall retreat that provided training on how to use evidence-based practices to treat status offenders. In April of 2019, the FINS-AP Database workgroup collectively gathered information to upgrade the FINS Case Management Information System (FINS-CMIS) that all FINS Officers are required to use throughout the State of Louisiana. The FINS-CMIS enhancement work was finalized in the Fall of 2019 with the official launching of the enhanced system occurring in January of 2020.

The *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA) Assistance Program administered funding for CASA programs in 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts. In 2019, CASA programs served 3,483 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children through the advocacy of 1,675 volunteer advocates. Closed cases resulted in 1,347 children being placed in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 536 new volunteer advocates. CASA programs continue to expand their use of the CASA case management software Optima. For the past 20 months, a core team of dedicated CASA staff from several programs worked to design Child Wellbeing Assessments integrated into Optima that all Louisiana CASA Programs will use. The Louisiana State Child Wellbeing Assessment Scale will allow programs to track outcomes and progress of our children in six critical areas: Education & Developmental Needs, Enhancing Family Capacity, Family Connections, Mental Health, Older Youth & Transitions, and Physical Health. These assessments completed by CASA advocates will provide objective information about improved outcomes for our children, and the impact and effectiveness of CASA advocates. Louisiana will be the first State in the country to have consistent Child Wellbeing measurements across all CASA programs.



The *Court Improvement Program* (CIP) through the Pelican Center for Children and Families provided both legal and interdisciplinary training and education programs designed to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of abused and neglected children in our state. During 2019, the Pelican Center offered 41 different online training opportunities and 45 live trainings or workshops, which resulted in 2,278 of CLE hours awarded to attorneys and judges. Attorneys and judges combined received 102 CLE credit hours for training in the areas of cultural competency and implicit racial bias. Other 2019 CIP activities focused on the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), which assesses safety, permanency and child well-being outcomes for the state as a whole. Additionally, the CIP collaborated with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services to help with the drafting of the state's Program Improvement Plan. The CIP continued its efforts with the development of management information systems for attorneys representing abused and neglected children to support management of those cases by the programs and to provide a mechanism to collect data in support of CIP work to improve permanency outcomes, the quality of legal representation for children and indigent parents. The CIP Judicial Fellow provided support to judges hearing Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases, and provided information and mentoring to new judges assuming CINC jurisdiction.



The Division of Children and Families was actively involved on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Collaborative created by HCR 102. In 2019, the JDAI State Leadership Collaborative was instrumental with the implementation of Act 147 that requires the use of detention screening instruments for youth admitted into a secure detention or secure shelter. The division continued its support of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission created by Act. No. 571, the Child Protection Representation Commission created by Act 354, the Louisiana Children's Justice Task Force, the Children's Law Committee, and the Youth and Teen Court Community.



OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

LANGUAGE ACCESS AND TITLE VI COMPLIANCE

The Court Interpreter Training Program, which began in 2013, continues to hold orientation classes and add certified and registered interpreters to its roster. In 2019, the number of certified and registered interpreters rose from 165 to 174. All lower courts are encouraged to utilize, whenever possible, certified and registered interpreters. In addition, the Supreme Court continued its efforts to educate all recipients of federal grant monies of their obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, income level, or limited English proficiency. Once again, the Supreme Court published a Title VI Compliance Plan and required training for grant sub-recipients.

In 2019, the Supreme Court entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to work with lower courts in the Louisiana Judiciary to phase-in a language access program that will provide language assistance services at no cost to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in Louisiana. The MOA provides that the Supreme Court will develop a comprehensive phased-in language access plan to expand and improve language access services statewide. The plan, which is being developed by the court's Language Access Stakeholder Committee, will address how to provide LEP individuals with notice about interpreter services and create a process for language access complaints.

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. The Community Relations Department manages the court website's information and design (www.lasc.org), handles media relations, provides photographic and videographic support, and produces 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 2019, the CRD assisted with media coverage for a number of events including the District 6 National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Conference in Shreveport. Additionally, the department assisted in hosting Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards' Louisiana Governor's Fellows Program participants.

Law Day always presents an opportunity to reach out to students. In 2019, the Supreme Court hosted local students for Law Day court tours and presentations. Additionally in 2019, the CRD staff conducted 69 courthouse tours for 1,504 court visitors from across the state and country and from around the world, an increase of 578 visitors from 2018. These participants included students from each of the state's four law schools; students from several state colleges and universities; students and teachers taking part in programs and initiatives of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education; and lawyers and judges from China, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, France, Nigeria, Quebec, and The Hague.



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson meets with students from Walter L. Cohen College Prep High School in New Orleans, where she was valedictorian of her Cohen Senior High School class.

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, founded in 1838, contains over 150,000 physical volumes, in addition to a full array of online legal resources. In 2019 the Law Library sponsored or co-sponsored six continuing legal education programs that were free of charge and open to the public on a variety of topics of law. Two of the most popular programs included a day-long symposium on the reform of the French law of obligations, and a career retrospective of Professors Robert A. Pascal and Athanassios N. Yiannopoulos, two distinguished civil law scholars. The Law Library also prepared two display cases examining the 2019 Law Day theme, "Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society." All exhibits were free of charge and open to the public. The Law Library's collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2019 the library added 476 new titles, 1,211 new volumes, and 235 pieces of microfiche. Additionally, the Law Library provided responses to 185 prisoner mail requests. The staff of the Library continued to publish its newsletter, *De Novo*, as outreach to the judiciary, the bar, and the public to provide 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	Angela Reaux, MLIS Librarian
Sara Pic, JD, MLIS Head of Public Services	Ruth Mahoney Library Associate
Tara Cunningham, MLIS Head of Collection Services	Jenny Martin Library Associate
Francis Norton, JD, MLIS Research Lawyer/Librarian & Government Documents Librarian	Gail Bragg Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Jones, MA Librarian	

Taking part in the French Law Symposium in March 2019 were: left to right: Professor Mustapha Mekki, University of Paris XIII; Professor Emeritus Alain Levasseur, LSU Law Center; Professor Jean-Cristophe Roda, University of Lyon III; Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson; Professor Bernard Haftel, University of Paris XIII; Professor Michel Séjean, University of South Brittany; and Professor Randy Tahan, LSU Law Center



JUDICIAL COLLEGE

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Louisiana welcomed eleven new state judges in the class of 2019, and started the year off by providing New Judge Training in January. The *Louisiana Judicial College* continued its robust schedule of Continuing Legal Education (CLE), including the specialized *City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar* in January, the *Evidence and Procedure Seminar* with the Louisiana Association for Justice in March, *Spring Judges Conference* in April, *Summer School* with the Louisiana Bar Association in June, *Fall Judges Conference* in October, the *Rural Courts Seminar* in November, and the *Torts Seminar* with Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel in December.

This series of conferences represents over one hundred CLE credit hours available to state judges at all levels. Curriculum topics include ethics, professionalism, and a wide variety of subject area specializations. Each conference also provides opportunities for judges to receive updates on recent legislative and jurisprudential developments, and discussions on best practices for judicial administration.

New in 2019, was the College’s first statewide training for Louisiana Mayors’ Courts. Held in both Baton Rouge and Natchitoches, this training provided instruction and resources for mayors, constables, city attorneys, clerks, and others involved in the Mayors’ Courts system. The training will be offered again in 2020.

The College also continued its work on “benchbooks” to assist judges. The final product will be separate manuals in the following areas: civil law; juvenile law; family law; capital cases; and criminal law. Each manual has a team of experts writing, compiling, and editing the content. The benchbooks will be updated annually, and each book will be made available as an online resource which can be purchased as a bound book on demand.

The Judicial College staff is instrumental in supporting the College’s mission of providing “high quality, comprehensive, and relevant professional development and training in order to ensure the timely, fair, impartial, and efficient administration of justice for all citizens of Louisiana.” Judges and other court stakeholders are invited to contact Program Attorney Michael Schachtman with programming suggestions at MSchachtman@lasc.org. The rest of the staff includes Billie Bennett, Judicial Education Coordinator and Marion Armand, Administrative Assistant, in Baton Rouge; and Flora Williams, Judicial Education Coordinator in New Orleans.

BAR ADMISSIONS

COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

The *Committee on Bar Admissions* is comprised of 17 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 811 bar examination applications, 366 law student registration forms, 62 A.D.A. requests, 11 equivalency applications and 8 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 232 applicants who sat for the February examination and 503 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 57.33% in February and 68.39% in July.

In order to assure that each applicant recommended for admission possessed the requisite character and fitness, the Committee’s Character and Fitness Department investigated and considered the backgrounds of all applicants. As part of the character and fitness screening process, 5 Commissioner hearings were held and no matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee’s Character and Fitness Panel recommended 8 applicants be conditionally admitted and 6 applicants be denied admission.

COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

Larry Feldman, Jr.
Chairman
Celeste R. Coco-Ewing
Director of Character & Fitness
L. David Cromwell
Immediate Past Chair
Keith M. Pyburn, Jr.
Testing Accommodations
C. Peck Hayne
Director of Testing
Dow M. Edwards
Character and Fitness Panel Member
Jerry Edwards
Character and Fitness Panel Member
Hon. Piper D. Griffin
Testing Committee Member

Donna P. Currault
Examiner—Civil Code I
William C. Kalmbach III
Examiner—Civil Code II
Stacy Grove Butler
Examiner—Civil Code III
David R. Frohn
Examiner—Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
Lawrence J. Centola
Examiner—Torts
John C. Anjier
Examiner—Business Entities & Negotiable Instruments
Sandra Diggs-Miller
Examiner—Constitutional Law

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

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT CO-CHAIRS

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Allison H. Penzato (Chair)
1st Circuit Court of Appeal
Lori A. Landry (Vice-Chair)
16th Judicial District Court
Kirk Williams (Treasurer)
Baker City Court
Susan M. Chehardy (Secretary)
5th Circuit Court of Appeal
William J. Crain (Immediate Past President)
1st Circuit Court of Appeal

MEMBERS

Gerard A. Caswell
27th Judicial District Court
Tracey Flemings-Davillier
Orleans Criminal District Court
Jeanette G. Garrett
2nd Circuit Court of Appeal
Nakisha Ervin-Knott
Orleans Civil District Court
Lee V. Faulkner
24th Judicial District Court
Hunter Greene
East Baton Rouge Family Court
Laurie Hulin
15th Judicial District Court
Pammela Lattier
Shreveport City Court
C. Wendell Manning
4th Judicial District Court
Sharon Ingram Marchman
4th Judicial District Court
Brady O’Callaghan
1st Judicial District Court
Robin D. Pittman
Orleans Criminal District Court
Anastasia “Staci” Wiley
Winnfield City Court

EX-OFFICIO

Matthew F. Block
Executive Counsel to the Governor
Guy Bradberry
President, Louisiana District Judges Association;
14th Judicial District Court
Sen. Dan Claitor
Louisiana State Senate
Thomas Duplantier
President, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; 15th Judicial District Court
Jeff Joyce
President, Louisiana City Judges Association;
Monroe City Court
Bob Kutcher
President, Louisiana State Bar Association
Rep. Walter Leger, III
Louisiana House of Representatives
Felicia Toney Williams
Chair, Conference of Court of Appeal Judges;
2nd Circuit Court of Appeal

CLERK OF COURT



John Tarlton Olivier
Clerk of Court

CLERK OF COURT

The *Clerk of Court's Office* fulfilled the following key responsibilities or accomplished the following in 2019:

- Processed all filings and dispositions including dissemination of actions to the parties, courts, and the public via U.S. mail, e-mail, and the Internet.
- Scanned all filings and dispositions, which are available to staff via the Court's case management system.
- The Court went live in July with the Thomson Reuters' C-Track Case Management Software (CMS) which replaced the old CMS. This upgrade integrates the Clerk's office processes with the justices' offices and staff attorneys' offices. In the upcoming year, we will be developing, configuring and deploying the e-filing and public access modules of C-Track.
- The number of attorneys admitted to practice law in 2019 declined to 480 after remaining virtually the same in 2017 and 2018 when 546 and 543, respectively attorneys were admitted. To put this in perspective, 709 attorneys were admitted to the practice of law in 2014.
- Issued Certificates of Good Standing. After having reached a four year high of 2,359 in 2017, the number dropped to 2,274 in 2018, then rose slightly to 2,315 in 2019. As mentioned last year, the average number of Certificates issued in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was ~4,800. Following the July 1, 2013 implementation of a charge of \$20.00 for Certificates of Good Standing, requests for Certificates had dropped more than half. The requests appear to be leveling off with an average of 2,251 over the last five years. Note: Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Managed logistics for 272 events hosted by the Court. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings, and other meetings.
- Oversaw courthouse general maintenance and improvements. Completed the plumbing project, awarded contracts and began work on the kitchen ventilation projects, and guardhouse and Legal and Human Resource Departments' relocation and reconfiguration. The perimeter roof replacement, guardhouse, kitchen and work on the Legal and HR departments are schedule for completion in 2020.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

John Tarlton Olivier, JD
Clerk of Court
Katie Marjanovic, JD
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court
Theresa Barbier, JD
2nd Deputy Clerk of Court
Jerrod Jones
2nd Deputy Clerk
Ryan Chan
Deputy Clerk
Eddie Gonzales
Deputy Clerk—Records Manager & Property Manager
John White, CPA
Fiscal Manager
Tommy M. Anderson
Director of Security

CMIS



Norm Gobert
Director, CMIS

COURT CASE 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 552,692 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2019. Of those records, 151,184 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 53.6% over last year.

Additionally, 89,036 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, an increase of 39.06% over last year. Of the records posted to the NICS database, 65,117 were felony convictions, 4,845 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 12,719 drug convictions, 111 were not guilty by reason of insanity, 780 were incompetent to stand trial, 2,294 were probation restrictions, 589 were protection orders that posted to NICS, and 1,276 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions under C.Cr.P. Art. 320(B). Further, in 2019 52,575 felony indictments, 858 civil commitment orders, and 447 criminal orders as conditions of bond under 13:753(A) were posted to the NICS database. As of January 2, 2019 there are 696,058 active records at NICS submitted by the Louisiana Supreme Court on behalf of the State of Louisiana in compliance with LA R.S. 13:753. Also posted to the National Crime Information Center were 24,825 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

The increase in records posted and shared is 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-district attorney electronic 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 2019, 898,565 traffic records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information were received. Of those records, 220,846 were posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS received traffic data from 61 parishes, 25 city courts, and 10 mayor's courts.

CMIS Outreach

In 2019 CMIS committed more than \$1,890,614 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 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 the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS). Funds were also provided to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety to upgrade the Law Enforcement Messaging Switch and data fields utilized by the AFIS system to ensure continued transmission of state criminal justice information with other criminal justice agencies including the FBI NICS databases.

Federal Motor Carrier funding was provided to 3 city courts and 8 district courts for replacement or enhancement of case management systems, or to implement electronic data exchange programs in order to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of reporting traffic and DWI dispositions to CMIS for posting to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles driver history database and the National Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS).

Grant money was also used to help provide tools for judges. During 2019 the CMIS office continued to expand availability of an interface with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry for judges in order to provide access to protective orders while on the bench to improve the information available to a judge while adjudicating a case.

JUDICIARY COMMISSION

JUDICIARY COMMISSION

The *Judiciary Commission of Louisiana* is an independent, constitutionally created body charged with evaluating, investigating, and, where appropriate, formally litigating complaints of ethical misconduct against active state court judges and other judicial officers who are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission conducts investigations and hearings to determine whether there is good cause to believe that a judge has committed an ethical violation that may warrant a recommendation of public discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Judges are the only elected public officials that are governed by a separate disciplinary process and subject to a Code of Judicial Conduct specifically crafted to guide their behavior. The judicial disciplinary process, thus, provides an extra layer of protection to the public and allows judges to be disciplined in ways that are unavailable for other elected public officials (i.e., through, in appropriate cases, removal from office or suspension from office with or without pay).

Complaints against judges 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 Louisiana 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.

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 417 complaints against judges and justices of the peace in 2019. There were 197 complaints pending from previous years as of January 1, 2019. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 231 requests for complaint forms.

The Commission's Office of Special Counsel conducts an initial screening of all complaints received and will open a file and conduct an inquiry only if the alleged conduct, if assumed to be true, would constitute a possible violation of the ethical rules contained in the Code of Judicial Conduct or Article V, Section 25(C) of the Louisiana Constitution. Of the 417 complaints filed in 2019, 287 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 or Louisiana Constitution. The remaining 130 complaints were reviewed to consider the need for investigation.

During an investigation, the Office of Special Counsel may take sworn statements and obtain subpoenas to gather evidence that supports as well as refutes the allegations in the complaint. The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 48 complaints, some as to complaints filed before January 1, 2019.

If the Commission finds, after an investigation, that there is probable cause to believe the judge may have committed ethical violations that would warrant a recommendation of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Commission may authorize the filing of a Notice of Hearing against the judge and hold a hearing to determine whether there is clear and convincing evidence of the alleged violations. In 2019, the Commission filed eight notices of hearing against four judges, one magistrate judge, and three justices of the peace. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled in seven cases and conducted in five cases. Additionally, during the year, two judges and one justice of the peace personally appeared before the Commission for questioning after a hearing before a hearing officer. Some of this activity occurred in connection with notices of hearing filed before January 1, 2019.

Following a hearing before the Commission, if the Commission finds that the alleged misconduct is proven by clear and convincing evidence and is serious enough that the judge should be disciplined, the Commission may file a recommendation of public discipline with the Louisiana Supreme Court. Although hearings were scheduled in seven cases and conducted in five, none of these matters was ripe for filing a recommendation for judicial discipline by the end of 2019. As of December 31, 2019, there were no Judiciary Commission cases pending before the Louisiana Supreme Court.

The Commission resolves most complaints without sending them to the Louisiana Supreme Court with a recommendation for discipline. As demonstrated by the above statistics, most complaints are either screened out because they fail to allege judicial misconduct or closed because the allegations of misconduct are disproven or there is insufficient evidence to establish misconduct. The Commission can also close matters that do not warrant further proceedings with private counseling letters, which are used by the vast majority of states, and which expeditiously resolve complaints, provide judges with education and guidance to assist the judge in avoiding conduct or practices that may give rise to future violations, and allow judges to quickly alter problematic, but not yet serious or egregious, behavior.

Moreover, any time after a Notice of Hearing has been filed, the Commission may enter into a Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreement with a judge, in which the Commission defers making a recommendation of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court if the judge agrees to take specified remedial measures to address any harm caused by the judge's conduct and to prevent a recurrence of such conduct, such as by changing courtroom policies and procedures, obtaining additional education, and seeking the help of a mentor judge. Three Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreements were signed in 2019 with three judges, two in cases before a hearing was held and one in a case following a hearing before a hearing officer.

Additionally, a judicial officer may resign or retire before a recommendation of discipline is made with the Supreme Court, which causes the Commission to lose jurisdiction over the matter. In 2019, one judge and two justices of the peace retired or resigned after formal proceedings were initiated.

Finally, at any stage of the proceedings, the Commission may recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court that a judge be intermily disqualified, without loss of salary, from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings before the Judiciary Commission or the Supreme Court if (1) a judge has been indicted or charged with a serious crime or (2) upon receiving substantial, credible evidence which establishes probable cause that a judge may have committed ethical misconduct and may pose a substantial threat of serious harm to the public or the administration of justice. In 2019, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court two interim disqualifications against two justices of the peace, both of which were granted and one of which was later dissolved due to the criminal charges against the justice of the peace being subsequently dismissed.

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.

2019 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Mr. Philip B. Sherman, Esq., *Chair*
Mr. Edward J. Walters, Jr., Esq., *Vice Chair*
Mrs. Suzanne H. Stinson
Mr. Fred L. Herman, Esq.
Mrs. Sibal Suarez Holt
Judge Brady D. O'Callaghan
Mr. Lloyd J. Clark
Judge John J. Molaison, Jr.
Judge Sharon D. Wilson

STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD
Chief Executive Officer
David Becker, JD
Commission Legal Counsel

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

Michelle A. Beaty, JD, *Special Counsel*

Continued on next page

JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Continued from previous page

With the exception of recommendations of discipline to the Louisiana Supreme Court and interim disqualification recommendations that have been granted by the Court, proceedings before the Commission are largely confidential. The Commission has for several years been evaluating the rules governing Commission proceedings to ensure that the rules appropriately balance the public's interest in access and transparency and a judge's interest in a fair proceeding. In 2019, the Louisiana Supreme Court made significant revisions to the rules establishing confidentiality in Commission proceedings, and the Commission has recently proposed substantial further revisions to those rules. However, all fifty states require confidentiality during the judicial discipline process at some stage, and for good reason. Among other things, confidentiality protects complainants and witnesses, who may otherwise be reluctant to come forward for fear of public scrutiny, retaliation, or recrimination. Without such confidentiality, instances of judicial misconduct would no doubt go unreported, to the serious detriment of the public. Further, confidentiality is not absolute. The confidentiality rules have never prohibited anyone at any time from discussing the underlying facts or events that are the subject of a complaint, and anyone at any time can speak about misconduct that they observe on the part of a judge.

On September 4, 2019, after extensive review and deliberation and circulating the proposed rules for comment, the Louisiana Supreme Court adopted certain revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII, which included revisions to the confidentiality rule contained in Section 23. These revisions allow complainants, respondent judges, and testifying witnesses in Commission proceedings to disclose and discuss the proceedings either (1) once the Commission closes a file or (2) once a Notice of Hearing is filed. (While attention has centered on the fact that a complainant can now talk about Commission proceedings once a complaint is closed or once a Notice of Hearing is filed, this rule revision also applies to respondent judges.) Changes were also made to Supreme Court rules to provide that after the Supreme Court has intermly disqualified a judge, the pending judicial discipline proceedings are to be expedited.

In addition, in 2019, citizen member Suzanne Stinson completed a four-year term and was replaced by Rob Ackerman of Metairie; attorney Philip Sherman also completed a four-year term and was replaced by attorney VaRhonda Burrell of Monroe. Attorney Ed Walters of Baton Rouge was elected as Chairman of the Commission and Judge John Molaison of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal was elected as Vice-Chair, both to serve one-year terms. After serving nearly six years as Assistant Commission Counsel, David Becker was appointed Commission Counsel. Michelle Beaty continued to serve as Special Counsel.

As of December 31, 2019, the Commission had 137 files pending, having disposed of over 450 files in 2019.



David Becker
Commission Counsel
Judiciary Commission
of Louisiana



Michelle Beaty
Special Counsel
Office of Special
Counsel

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Almost 30 years ago, the justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court made the conscious decision to embark upon a new approach to regulating the legal profession in our state. As the first court in the nation to embrace the ABA Model Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement upon which to pattern Louisiana's new system, the Supreme Court selected transparency, fairness, and public participation to help elevate one of the last truly self-regulating professions in the nation. That decision made effective April 1, 1990 by the creation of the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and Office of Disciplinary Counsel soon catapulted Louisiana into the forefront of lawyer regulatory systems across the country where it remains a leader today.

Louisiana's attorney population has grown over those three decades to reach nearly 23,000 attorneys actively practicing law today. The composition of the attorney population has changed and become more diversified with more women, minorities, and senior members of the bar today than at any time in our profession's history. By far the single largest practice demographic is represented by those who practice in solo and small firm settings constituting nearly 55% of our total lawyer population. Senior lawyers age 65 and above are now 10% of our total bar population, over 2,300 attorneys.

While Louisiana's attorney population has grown consistently over the last 30 years, the lawyer regulation and discipline system has made meaningful and hard fought progress in not only holding lawyers to greater levels of accountability, but also elevating their level of education and awareness of legal ethics principles by all lawyers in Louisiana. For the first time in nearly 30 years, the gross number of written complaints filed against lawyers have fallen year over year for the last 5 years in a row. That development is no accident and reflects the hard work and dedication of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

For the year 2019 the Office of Disciplinary Counsel initiated over 127 regulatory/disciplinary actions including 40 successful consent discipline submissions and 87 contested charge matters. With 14 Disciplinary Board members and nearly 150 Hearing Committee members—consisting of both lawyers and non-lawyers across the state, these volunteers are the foundational bedrock of Louisiana's lawyer regulatory system. They ensure that decisions are timely made and fairly rendered.

The unflinching support by the justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court over the last 30 years for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel reflects their commitment to their constitutional authority and responsibility of regulating the practice of law in our state for the benefit of the public, the profession and the administration of justice.

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Pamela W. Carter, *Chair*
Dominick Scandurro, Jr., *Vice-Chair*
Linda G. Bizzarro
Anderson O. Dotson, III
Wendy E. W. Giovingo (LSBA Member)
Laura Beth Hennen
Carrie LeBlanc Jones
Brian D. Landry
Sheila Elizabeth O'Leary
Markey W. Pierre
Danna Elizabeth Schwab
Evans C. Spiceland
Melissa L. Theriot
Charles Hamilton Williamson, Jr.

JUDICIAL BUDGET

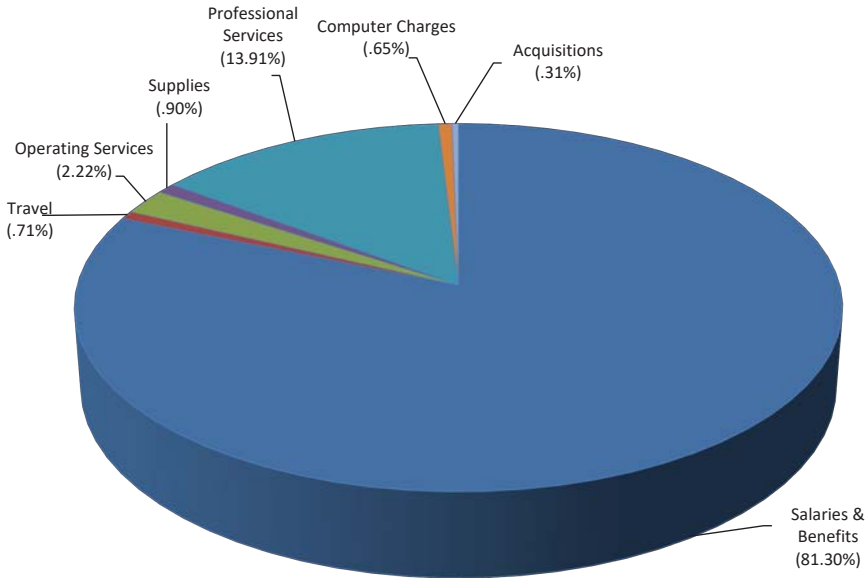
JUDICIAL BUDGET

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 2019-2020 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$171,093,866

In FY 2019-2020, state appropriated funds totaled \$171,093,866¹:

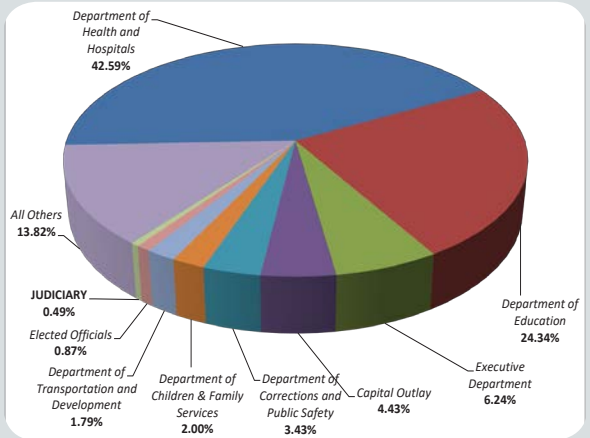
Salaries and Benefits ²	139,104,009	81.30% of total budget
Professional Services	23,802,088	13.91% of total budget
Operating Services	3,805,425	2.22% of total budget
Supplies	1,531,715	.90% of total budget
Travel	1,210,939	.71% of total budget
Computer charges	1,115,910	.65% of total budget
Acquisitions	523,780	.31% of total budget



¹In 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.

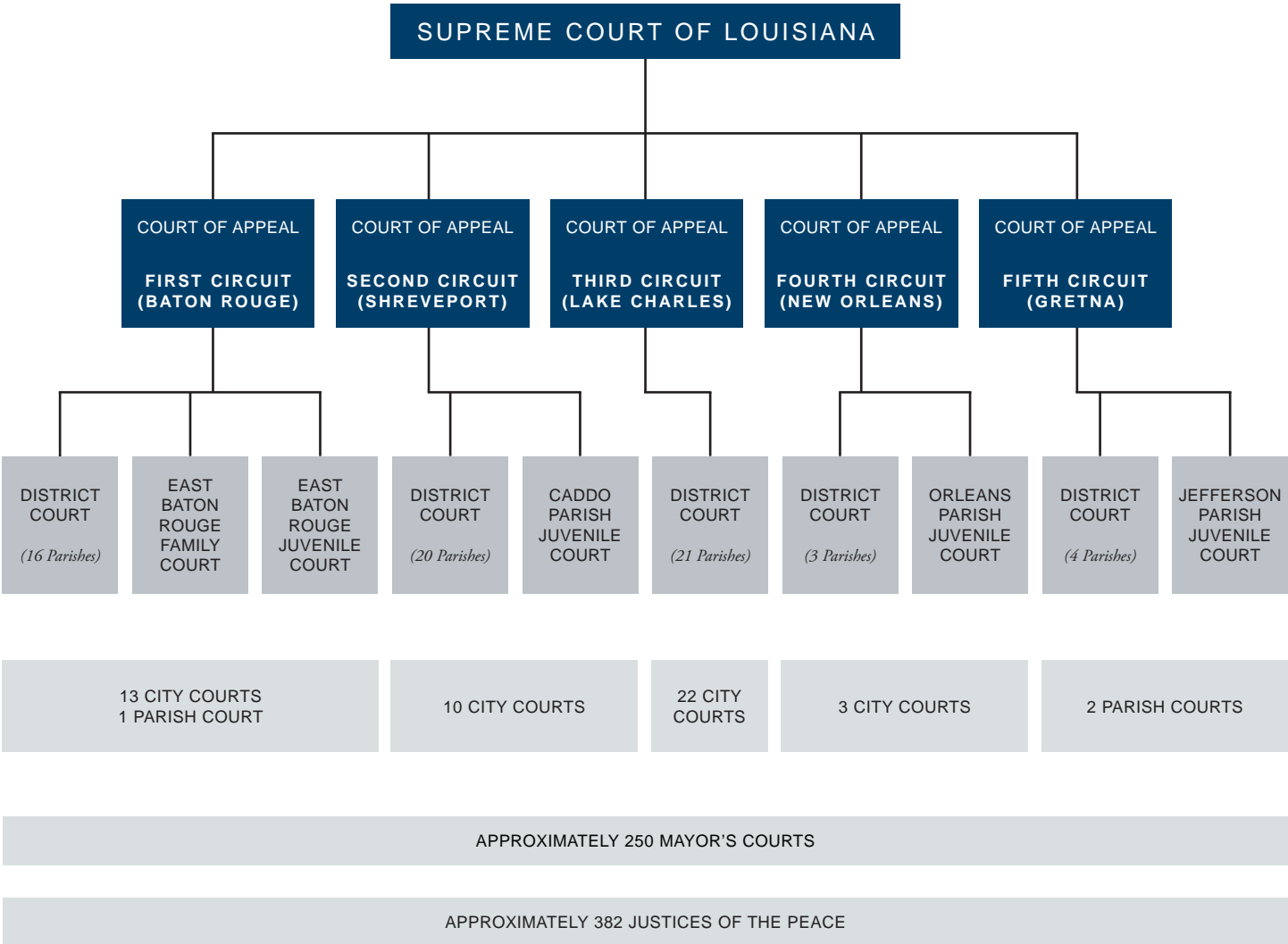
²Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 363 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 213 Supreme Court employees, 366 Courts of Appeal employees, 110 designated lower court employees, and 26 retired judges or widows in the Unfunded Pension system.

LOUISIANA STATE BUDGET 2019-2020



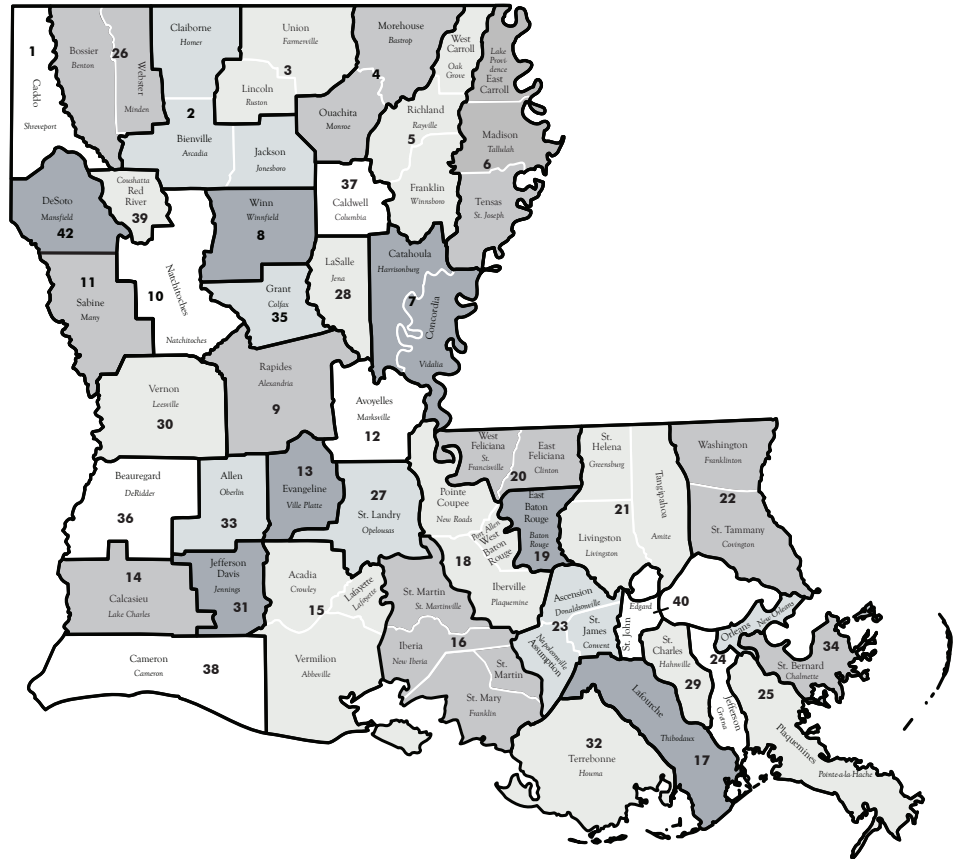
Total State Budget:
\$34,917,031,882
Judiciary Budget:
\$171,093,866

In FY 2019-2020, .49% of the state’s general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

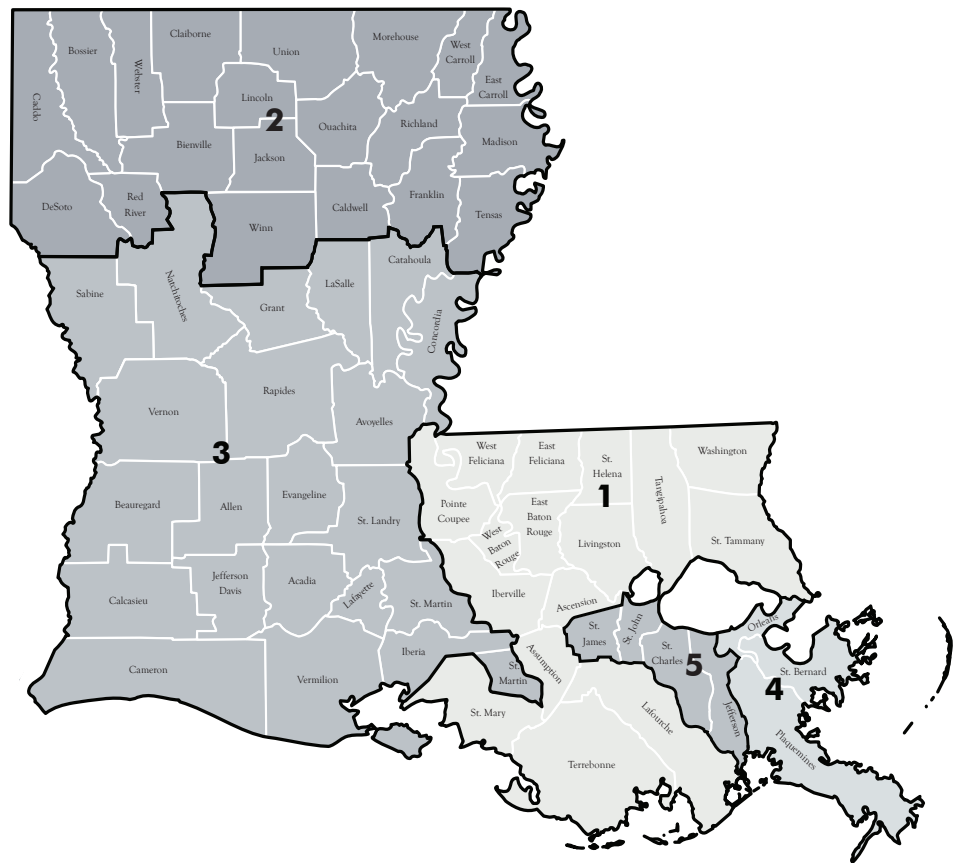


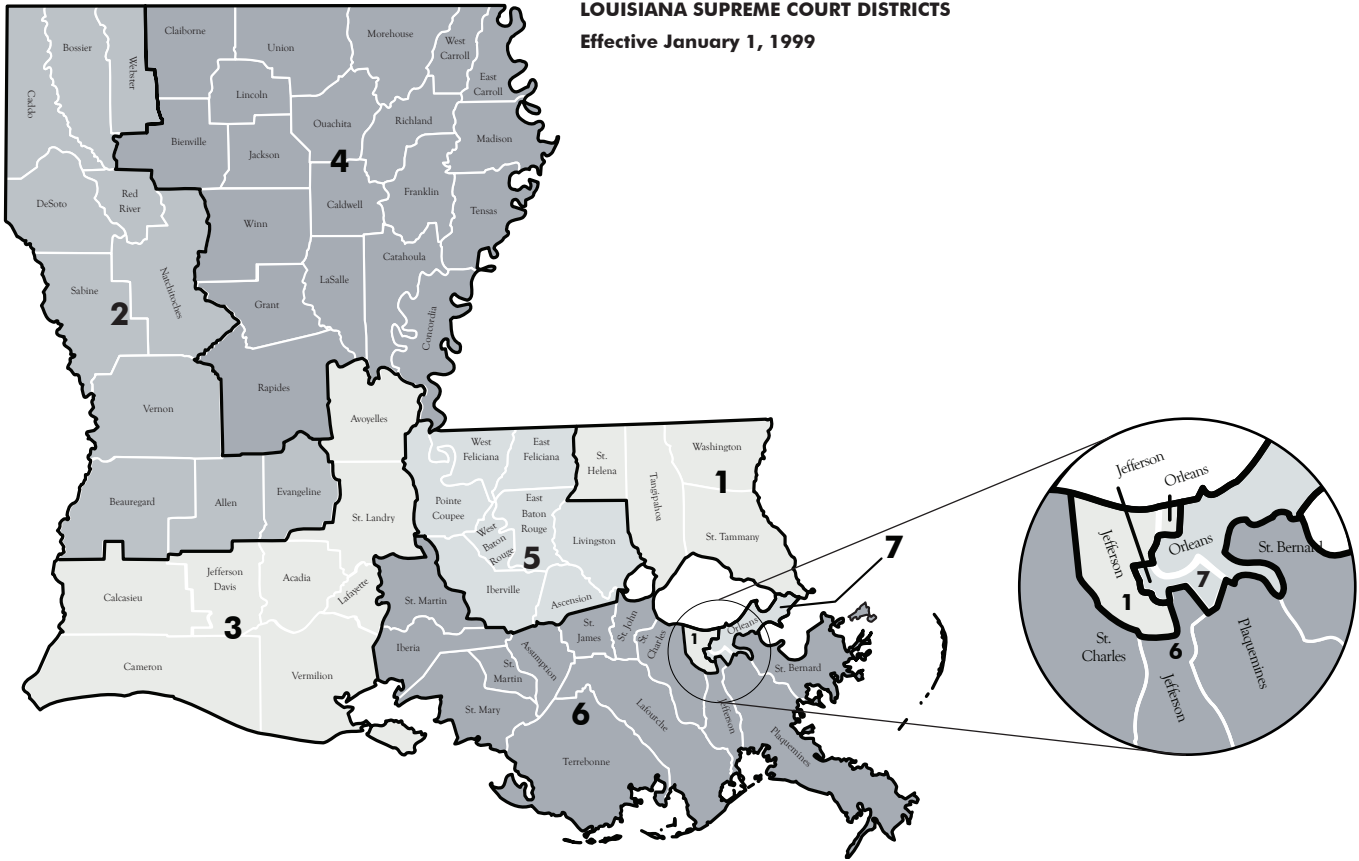
Number of Justices and Judges:	7	Supreme Court
	53	Courts of Appeal
	235	District, Family and Juvenile
	72	City and Parish Courts
	367	Total

**LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS**



**LOUISIANA COURTS
OF APPEAL CIRCUITS**





LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DISTRICTS
Effective January 1, 1999

***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.

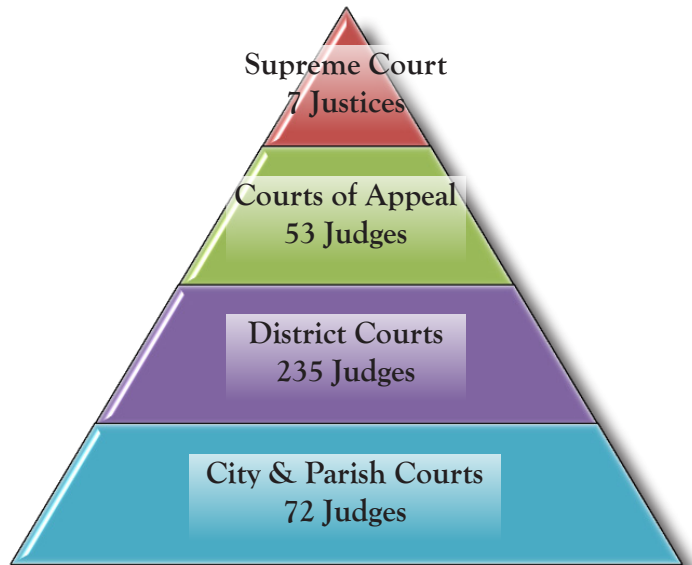
Orleans Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 3-20; 4-8 through 4-11; 4-14 through 4-23; 5-13 through 5-18; and 17-17 through 17-21.

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



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, 48 city courts, and 3 parish courts. A total of 367 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

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



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 October, 2019, the Louisiana Supreme Court held oral arguments at Loyola Law School as part of an ongoing effort to provide law students, university students, faculty, and the general public a first-hand experience of how the court operates. This tradition, known as “riding the circuit,” dates back to the court’s early history before transportation made it possible to travel easily to New Orleans. The Supreme Court has continued this outreach initiative over the past 20 years.

2019 Supreme Court Stats

For the sixth year in a row, filings (case initiations) with the Clerk of Court have declined, although at a lesser rate this year. In 2013, 3,017 cases were filed compared to the 2,096 in 2019, with filings at 2,716 in 2014, 2,365 in 2015, 2,283 in 2016, 2,181 in 2017, and 2,117 in 2018. All together, the filings have dropped 30.5% since 2013. The all-time filing high occurred in 1999 when there were 3,652 filings. Since this high, filings have dropped a total of 42.6%. Although there has been a decline in the total number of filings, it should be noted that there continues to be a large 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. In 2017 that number settled in at 182 and remained stable at 172 in 2018. Due to a change in the Case Management System mid-2019, the data was not available for this year. These cases interrupt the normal processing of work and are labor intensive requiring immediate attention.



In December, 2019, the Louisiana Supreme Court held a building naming ceremony honoring former Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr., the longest-serving justice in the history of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Louisiana Supreme Court

CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2018 Total	2019 Total	2019 Civil	2019 Criminal
APPEALS				
Filed	6	5	1	4
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	6	5	2	3
Per curiams	1	0	0	0
WRITS				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,180	1,174	731	443
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	745	732	28	704
Granted	130	160	71	89
To be argued	28	45	26	19
With orders & transferred	105	115	45	70
Dismissed	0	4	2	2
Not Considered	226	142	18	124
Denied	1,807	1,766	676	1,090
Opinions Rendered	34	31	18	13
REHEARINGS				
Applied for	16	13	8	5
Granted	5	3	3	0
Denied/Dismissed	27	18	11	7
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION				
Petitions Filed	185	185	185	0
Opinions Rendered	10	9	9	0
Other Actions	176	81	81	0
OTHER MATTERS				
Filed	1	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered	0	1	1	0
Other Actions	1	0	0	0
OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED	636	512	132	380
TOTAL FILINGS	2,117	2,096	945	1,151
Per Justice	302	299	135	164
TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED	50	45	29	16

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 10 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 slight drop in overall filings of writs and appeals of 2.05% from 5,172 in 2018 to 5,066 in 2019. Filings of appeals decreased by 6.8% from 1,827 in 2018 to 1,702 in 2019, and the number of writs filed increased by 0.6% from 3,345 in 2018 to 3,364. The total number of opinions rendered by the courts of appeal decreased by 13.7% from 1,685 in 2018 to 1,454 in 2019.

2019 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 35 in the First Circuit Court of Appeal, 25 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 31 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 20 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 25 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal

STATISTICAL DATA

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2018 Total	2019 Total	2019 Civil	2019 Criminal
FIRST CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	614	597	494	103
Motions Filed	34	39	28	11
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	633	627	483	144
Writs Refused*	499	469	351	118
Writs Granted	147	158	127	31
Pro Se Writs Filed	541	448	67	381
Pro Se Writs Refused*	448	422	52	370
Pro Se Writs Granted	57	59	23	36
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	89	91	78	13
Consolidated Opinions	32	43	43	0
Opinions Rendered **	496	425	337	88
Rehearings Acted Upon ***	117	127	121	6
Appeals Pending	350	402	357	45
Argued But Not Decided	69	81	77	4
To Be Argued	281	321	280	41
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	41	35	28	7
SECOND CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	244	237	153	84
Motions Filed	6	5	3	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	190	173	113	60
Writs Refused*	158	122	82	40
Writs Granted	44	54	29	25
Pro Se Writs Filed	152	387	11	376
Pro Se Writs Refused*	114	317	8	309
Pro Se Writs Granted	37	75	3	72
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	34	21	19	2
Consolidated Opinions	12	14	10	4
Opinions Rendered **	221	222	146	76
Rehearings Acted Upon ***	39	39	32	7
Appeals Pending	119	96	50	46
Argued But Not Decided	27	29	12	17
To Be Argued	92	67	38	29
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	25	25	16	8
THIRD CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	395	359	253	106
Motions Filed	15	6	4	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	334	335	225	110
Writs Refused*	268	204	157	47
Writs Granted	55	65	41	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	271	220	11	209
Pro Se Writs Refused*	215	164	8	156
Pro Se Writs Granted	38	28	1	27
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	32	49	44	5
Consolidated Opinions	54	14	10	4
Opinions Rendered **	398	371	263	108
Rehearings Acted Upon ***	56	38	28	10
Appeals Pending	206	170	119	51
Argued But Not Decided	21	18	12	6
To Be Argued	185	152	107	45
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	33	31	22	9

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL Two Year Trend in Activity

	2018 Total	2019 Total	2019 Civil	2019 Criminal
FOURTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	310	302	240	62
Motions Filed	23	12	10	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	524	557	286	271
Writs Refused*	381	437	229	208
Writs Granted	79	81	32	49
Pro Se Writs Filed	238	236	7	229
Pro Se Writs Refused*	165	162	4	158
Pro Se Writs Granted	77	78	3	75
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	37	30	29	1
Consolidated Opinions	48	11	8	3
Opinions Rendered **	310	239	170	69
Rehearings Acted Upon***	60	67	53	14
Appeals Pending	113	167	135	32
Argued But Not Decided	20	24	15	9
To Be Argued	93	143	120	23
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	26	20	14	6
FIFTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	264	207	139	68
Motions Filed	20	28	8	20
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	247	198	131	67
Writs Refused*	173	148	94	54
Writs Granted	42	37	19	18
Pro Se Writs Filed	215	183	8	175
Pro Se Writs Refused*	164	164	4	160
Pro Se Writs Granted	34	27	3	24
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	23	31	26	5
Consolidated Opinions	1	6	6	0
Opinions Rendered **	260	197	123	74
Rehearings Acted Upon***	25	49	34	15
Appeals Pending	112	94	54	40
Argued But Not Decided	16	15	10	5
To Be Argued	96	79	44	35
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	33	25	15	9
TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS				
Appeals Filed	1,827	1,702	1,279	423
Motions Filed	98	90	53	37
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	1,928	1,890	1,238	652
Writs Refused*	1,479	1,380	913	467
Writs Granted	367	395	248	147
Pro Se Writs Filed	1,417	1,474	104	1,370
Pro Se Writs Refused*	1,106	1,229	76	1,153
Pro Se Writs Granted	243	267	33	234
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	215	222	196	26
Consolidated Opinions	147	88	77	11
Opinions Rendered **	1,685	1,454	1,039	415
Rehearings Acted Upon***	297	320	268	52
Appeals Pending	900	929	715	214
Argued But Not Decided	153	167	126	41
To Be Argued	747	762	589	173
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	32	27	20	8

* 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 Court Rules Committee
- Louisiana Children's Cabinet
- Child Support Review Committee
- Child Protection Representation Commission
- Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission
- Louisiana Domestic Violence Prevention Commission
- Louisiana Protective Order Registry Steering Committee
- Louisiana Access to Justice Commission
- Human Trafficking Commission
- Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement
- Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education

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 specialty courts are currently the most widespread examples of such innovations. In 2019, there were 75 operational specialty courts in Louisiana. These include Drug Courts, Family Preservation/Intervention Courts, Reentry Courts, Behavioral Health Courts, Sobriety/DWI Courts, Veterans Courts, and a Swift and Certain Pilot Court. All of these courts are led by a judge who works with a team of experts to ensure that they operate according to appropriate standards and policies. Judges handle specialty dockets on a volunteer basis, in addition to their ongoing, regular dockets.

2019 District Court Stats

During 2019 there were 648,768 filings in the district courts, an increase of 0.3% compared with 2018. In 2019, there were 4,813 additional civil filings, an increase of 3.5%, an additional 414 juvenile filings, an increase of 1.8%, there were 2,530 fewer criminal filings, a decrease of 1.7%, and 676 fewer traffic filings, a decrease of 0.2%.



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 654 passed during the 2018 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature went into effect in March 2019 and expanded juvenile court jurisdiction to include a child who commits a non-violent act and is under the age of 18, and a child who commits any delinquent act and is under the age of 18 (effective July 1, 2020).

2019 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts increased by 4.9% from 10,609 in 2018 to 11,130 in 2019.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

DISTRICT	PARISH	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019 ²	2019	JURY TRIALS	
		Total Filed	Juvenile Filed	Civil Filed	Criminal Filed	Traffic Filed	Total Filed	Civil	Criminal
1	Caddo ¹	21,190	743	6,951	9,415	4,816	21,925	3	45
	District Totals:	21,190	743	6,951	9,415	4,816	21,925	3	45
2	Bienville	6,491	17	396	578	5,107	6,098	0	0
	Claiborne	3,347	96	361	359	2,419	3,235	0	0
	Jackson	2,218	380	412	770	515	2,077	0	0
	District Totals:	12,056	493	1,169	1,707	8,041	11,410	0	0
3	Lincoln	7,371	432	735	1,487	4,717	7,371	1	5
	Union	2,802	204	757	1,119	769	2,849	1	8
	District Totals:	10,173	636	1,492	2,606	5,486	10,220	2	13
4	Morehouse	7,768	300	534	1,022	4,377	6,233	2	9
	Ouachita	30,924	1,930	3,748	2,260	21,636	29,574	6	22
	District Totals:	38,692	2,230	4,282	3,282	26,013	35,807	8	31
5	Franklin	2,345	256	699	748	518	2,221	1	1
	Richland	7,243	95	653	1,158	6,548	8,454	0	1
	West Carroll	1,371	94	263	384	552	1,293	0	0
	District Totals:	10,959	445	1,615	2,290	7,618	11,968	1	2
6	East Carroll	4,022	38	170	305	3,861	4,374	0	0
	Madison	6,206	79	253	819	4,896	6,047	0	0
	Tensas	1,289	32	107	597	399	1,135	0	0
	District Totals:	11,517	149	530	1,721	9,156	11,556	0	0
7	Catahoula	2,146	1	343	863	698	1,905	0	3
	Concordia	3,881	189	638	1,132	1,715	3,674	0	3
	District Totals:	6,027	190	981	1,995	2,413	5,579	0	6
8	Winn	1,666	56	282	527	661	1,526	0	1
	District Totals:	1,666	56	282	527	661	1,526	0	1
9	Rapides	18,030	931	3,494	4,442	9,002	17,869	3	14
	District Totals:	18,030	931	3,494	4,442	9,002	17,869	3	14
10	Natchitoches	12,152	997	1,014	1,790	10,626	14,427	0	0
	District Totals:	12,152	997	1,014	1,790	10,626	14,427	0	0
11	Sabine	3,883	128	687	1,316	1,310	3,441	0	1
	District Totals:	3,883	128	687	1,316	1,310	3,441	0	1
12	Avoyelles	9,498	340	1,651	3,608	4,482	10,081	0	2
	District Totals:	9,498	340	1,651	3,608	4,482	10,081	0	2
13	Evangeline	6,153	669	774	1,780	3,078	6,301	2	2
	District Totals:	6,153	669	774	1,780	3,078	6,301	2	2
14	Calcasieu	28,910	2,068	6,435	15,614	5,708	29,825	10	15
	District Totals:	28,910	2,068	6,435	15,614	5,708	29,825	10	15
15	Acadia	7,051	270	1,309	1,495	4,628	7,702	1	5
	Lafayette	23,989	2,029	8,030	5,740	9,202	25,001	9	9
	Vermilion	6,502	354	1,665	2,051	2,606	6,676	1	7
	District Totals:	37,542	2,653	11,004	9,286	16,436	39,379	11	21
16	Iberia	8,578	229	2,318	1,368	4,791	8,706	5	4
	St. Martin	8,522	245	1,636	1,112	4,754	7,747	4	4
	St. Mary	5,499	315	1,403	2,274	1,245	5,237	4	4
	District Totals:	22,599	789	5,357	4,754	10,790	21,690	13	12
17	Lafourche	14,685	501	2,685	4,221	7,516	14,923	3	16
	District Totals:	14,685	501	2,685	4,221	7,516	14,923	3	16
18	Iberville	3,909	174	1,243	1,319	1,260	3,996	3	4
	Pointe Coupee	6,135	112	599	774	5,181	6,666	2	0
	West Baton Rouge	2,498	107	925	990	663	2,685	1	1
	District Totals:	12,542	393	2,767	3,083	7,104	13,347	6	5
19	East Baton Rouge ¹	44,991	0	15,678	8,289	21,770	45,737	19	24
	District Totals:	44,991	0	15,678	8,289	21,770	45,737	19	24
20	East Feliciana	2,791	238	1,172	649	803	2,862	0	3
	West Feliciana	1,354	22	365	856	548	1,791	0	2
	District Totals:	4,145	260	1,537	1,505	1,351	4,653	0	5

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

DISTRICT	PARISH	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019 ²	2019	JURY TRIALS	
		Total Filed	Juvenile Filed	Civil Filed	Criminal Filed	Traffic Filed	Total Filed	Civil	Criminal
21	Livingston	18,666	962	3,618	4,986	9,984	19,550	2	10
	St. Helena	2,757	89	355	543	1,812	2,799	0	0
	Tangipahoa	30,061	909	4,094	3,484	23,862	32,349	6	3
	District Totals:	51,484	1,960	8,067	9,013	35,658	54,698	8	13
22	St. Tammany	43,530	1,186	7,792	6,056	20,037	35,071	7	34
	Washington	4,861	297	1,274	1,012	2,067	4,650	0	12
	District Totals:	48,391	1,483	9,066	7,068	22,104	39,721	7	46
23	Ascension ¹	5,929	544	3,868	1,659	0	6,071	4	6
	Assumption	2,455	159	654	667	735	2,215	0	2
	St. James	3,540	154	657	600	2,358	3,769	1	2
	District Totals:	11,924	857	5,179	2,926	3,093	12,055	5	10
24	Jefferson ¹	20,383	0	11,833	8,493	0	20,326	23	50
	District Totals:	20,383	0	11,833	8,493	0	20,326	23	50
25	Plaquemines	4,105	75	726	893	1,347	3,041	1	2
	District Totals:	4,105	75	726	893	1,347	3,041	1	2
26	Bossier	18,245	825	3,250	6,597	10,149	20,821	1	5
	Webster	4,873	155	908	1,138	2,631	4,832	1	1
	District Totals:	23,118	980	4,158	7,735	12,780	25,653	2	6
27	St. Landry	22,652	591	2,523	2,222	15,452	20,788	6	3
	District Totals:	22,652	591	2,523	2,222	15,452	20,788	6	3
28	LaSalle	2,527	104	482	565	832	1,983	0	4
	District Totals:	2,527	104	482	565	832	1,983	0	4
29	St. Charles	23,742	283	2,102	1,241	20,904	24,530	1	5
	District Totals:	23,742	283	2,102	1,241	20,904	24,530	1	5
30	Vernon	12,489	221	1,145	1,320	9,287	11,973	0	2
	District Totals:	12,489	221	1,145	1,320	9,287	11,973	0	2
31	Jefferson Davis	4,681	118	882	891	7,364	9,255	5	2
	District Totals:	4,681	118	882	891	7,364	9,255	5	2
32	Terrebonne	20,102	522	3,244	4,277	15,399	23,442	3	7
	District Totals:	20,102	522	3,244	4,277	15,399	23,442	3	7
33	Allen	4,718	223	657	1,003	2,010	3,893	0	3
	District Totals:	4,718	223	657	1,003	2,010	3,893	0	3
34	St. Bernard	5,952	197	1,839	1,796	2,135	5,967	3	6
	District Totals:	5,952	197	1,839	1,796	2,135	5,967	3	6
35	Grant	4,184	175	769	1,079	2,080	4,103	0	5
	District Totals:	4,184	175	769	1,079	2,080	4,103	0	5
36	Beauregard	7,009	123	1,047	1,116	5,268	7,554	1	4
	District Totals:	7,009	123	1,047	1,116	5,268	7,554	1	4
37	Caldwell	1,836	103	318	1,000	853	2,274	0	3
	District Totals:	1,836	103	318	1,000	853	2,274	0	3
38	Cameron	4,111	54	228	608	2,606	3,496	0	1
	District Totals:	4,111	54	228	608	2,606	3,496	0	1
39	Red River	1,526	16	281	508	796	1,601	0	1
	District Totals:	1,526	16	281	508	796	1,601	0	1
40	St. John the Baptist	21,041	298	2,318	1,834	14,047	18,497	1	6
	District Totals:	21,041	298	2,318	1,834	14,047	18,497	1	6
42	DeSoto	6,467	80	996	694	4,060	5,830	0	3
	Orleans Civil ¹	12,152	0	12,536	0	0	12,536	29	0
	Orleans Criminal ¹	4,743	0	0	3,888	0	3,888	0	48
District Totals:	16,895	0	12,536	3,888	0	16,424	29	48	
Statewide Totals:		646,747	23,134	140,781	143,401	341,452	648,768	176	445

2019 Report of the Total Amount of Funds Distributed for Wrongful Conviction and Imprisonment*

According to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the total amount paid on judgments for wrongful convictions, imprisonment and loss of life opportunities was \$842,988.63.

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.

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

Louisiana Juvenile Courts

JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS – CALENDAR YEAR 2019

	CADD0			E. BATON ROUGE		
	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹
Formal FINS	347	347	347	51	171	51
Juvenile Traffic	480	480	480	493	725	493
Juvenile Delinquency	1,109	0	1,109	766	1,656	766
Mental Incapacity to Proceed ²	32	0	32	0	0	0
Interstate compact for Juveniles	2	0	2	0	0	0
Contempt of Court	41	0	41	236	236	236
Child in Need of Care Cases	184		184	141		240
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	15		15	42		48
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	35		35	16		22
Surrender of Parental Rights	35		35	47		42
Adoption	63		63	62		74
Child Support	1,142		0	0		0
Mental Health	281		281	12		12
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	3		0	21		21
Minor Marriages	1		1	0		0
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0	0		0
Domestic Abuse	217		0	6		6
Other	7		7	41		51
Subtotal	3,994	827	2,632	1,934	2,788	2,062

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.

JEFFERSON			ORLEANS			GRAND TOTAL		
Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹
141	148	141	2	2	2	541	668	541
671	1,004	671	165	197	157	1,809	2,406	1,801
709	1,316	706	736	1,720	400	3,320	4,692	2,981
25	25	25	0	0	0	57	25	57
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
135	135	135	0	0	0	412	371	412
152		152	85		85	562		661
136		136	16		16	209		215
50		53	0		0	101		110
17		14	4		4	103		95
152		151	49		49	326		337
1,426		0	0		0	2,568		0
0		0	0		0	293		293
0		0	0		0	24		21
0		0	0		0	1		1
0		0	0		0	0		0
0		0	2		2	225		8
397		397	132		132	577		587
4,011	2,628	2,581	1,191	1,919	847	11,130	8,162	8,122

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.

2019 City & Parish Court Stats

Reported filings in Louisiana city and parish Courts decreased by 9.5% from 554,871 filings in 2018 to 502,029 filings in 2019. However, the 2019 statistics do not include the New Orleans Municipal and Traffic Court filings due to the cyber-attack on the City of New Orleans which prevented the court from providing information in time for this publication. In 2018, the New Orleans Municipal and Traffic Court reported 58,462 filings.

LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2019

CITY	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDINGS	
	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
Abbeville	504	412	1,273	987	2,225	2,036	143	119	4,145	3,554	0	0
Alexandria	3,664	1,928	9,365	5,989	8,665	6,201	0	0	21,694	14,118	0	0
Ascension	531	296	3,187	3,139	7,700	8,019	169	324	11,587	11,778	0	0
Baker	559	459	414	338	1,290	1,184	0	0	2,263	1,981	0	0
Bastrop	715	416	624	557	660	614	1	1	2,000	1,588	0	0
Baton Rouge ¹	7,475	7,229	10,960	10,804	63,250	63,286	0	0	81,685	81,319	28,891	32,380
Bogalusa	351	164	1,999	1,108	2,017	1,818	180	165	4,547	3,255	3,816	3,332
Bossier City	2,312	2,325	1,437	1,229	5,585	6,502	823	754	10,157	10,810	225	155
Breaux Bridge	470	385	535	281	318	55	130	118	1,453	839	142	99
Bunkie	63	64	264	264	2,058	2,058	7	7	2,392	2,393	0	0
Crowley	664	609	839	887	3,075	2,246	227	158	4,805	3,900	0	0
Denham Springs	2,011	704	622	150	6,977	4,755	181	157	9,791	5,766	0	0
Eunice	495	312	584	348	911	445	174	171	2,164	1,276	0	0
Franklin	292	313	459	321	626	594	59	31	1,436	1,259	0	0
Hammond	2,906	2,535	2,093	2,259	11,539	8,554	1,385	808	17,923	14,156	0	0
Houma	4,458	1,822	1,699	1,283	5,437	5,349	918	722	12,512	9,176	1,749	501
Jeanerette	96	118	185	179	3,866	3,204	82	58	4,229	3,559	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	5,696	7,050	3,366	2,381	47,878	40,727	0	0	56,940	50,158	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	7,817	4,800	2,826	2,143	23,491	21,812	0	0	34,134	28,755	31	119
Jennings	422	358	637	302	1,024	899	25	15	2,108	1,574	0	0
Kaplan	132	112	184	664	1,268	1,318	61	69	1,645	2,163	0	0
Lafayette	3,784	4,009	2,496	2,491	13,894	13,210	506	532	20,680	20,242	983	983
Lake Charles	4,310	3,195	3,074	3,470	9,318	7,269	162	87	16,864	14,021	0	0
Leesville	181	72	567	518	1,610	1,455	106	76	2,464	2,121	0	0
Marksville	673	617	109	106	410	410	29	29	1,221	1,162	0	0
Minden	528	465	724	579	776	607	191	110	2,219	1,761	2	2
Monroe	4,791	4,708	3,088	2,751	10,177	10,267	186	129	18,242	17,855	0	0
Morgan City	464	307	1,030	2,009	1,127	1,239	184	190	2,805	3,745	0	0
Natchitoches	612	438	1,369	1,200	2,536	1,466	214	195	4,731	3,299	121	121
New Iberia	1,026	799	1,199	1,183	2,934	2,771	136	169	5,295	4,922	233	300
N.O. 1st City Ct.	10,547	5,261	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,547	5,261	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	2,055	2,353	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,055	2,353	0	0
N.O. Municipal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Oakdale	205	204	271	199	2,153	2,015	131	72	2,760	2,490	0	0
Opelousas	852	816	817	294	1,675	1,675	431	321	3,775	3,106	0	0
Pineville	679	674	4,402	985	4,596	4,637	0	0	9,677	6,296	129	0
Plaquemine	313	156	321	129	1,280	882	61	55	1,975	1,222	0	0
Port Allen	285	128	157	130	3,704	3,635	8	8	4,154	3,901	0	0
Rayne	529	526	52	69	3,174	2,784	72	72	3,827	3,451	0	0
Ruston	1,208	1,048	848	740	5,405	5,432	0	0	7,461	7,220	1,344	403
Shreveport	9,857	7,598	5,255	5,071	31,997	30,433	0	0	47,109	43,102	36,599	0
Slidell	2,343	1,879	2,247	1,544	5,579	3,990	603	562	10,772	7,975	2,543	2,543
Springhill	249	216	861	506	795	795	144	112	2,049	1,629	72	44
Sulphur	860	588	4,072	4,734	5,888	8,117	189	146	11,009	13,585	201	152
Thibodaux	717	280	1,392	1,989	2,955	2,828	210	181	5,274	5,278	0	0
Vidalia	39	19	113	83	642	430	33	10	827	542	0	0
Ville Platte	401	286	629	625	345	297	68	19	1,443	1,227	0	0
West Monroe	2,680	2,232	1,781	1,704	2,605	2,864	98	87	7,164	6,887	627	627
Winnfield	90	37	317	243	864	594	0	0	1,271	874	0	0
Winnsboro	359	5	536	387	716	630	240	153	1,851	1,175	0	0
Zachary	571	317	448	270	1,879	1,170	0	0	2,898	1,757	0	0
STATE TOTALS:	92,841	71,644	81,727	69,622	318,894	293,578	8,567	6,992	502,029	441,836	77,708	41,761

1. Counts are per charge.

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