



SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA  
2020 ANNUAL REPORT  
of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court



# THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA



Justice  
Jay B.  
McCallum



Justice  
James T.  
Genovese



Justice  
Jefferson D.  
Hughes III



Chief Justice  
John L.  
Weimer



Justice  
Scott J.  
Crichton



Justice  
William J.  
Crain



Justice  
Piper D.  
Griffin

## CHIEF 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.\*

Became Chief Justice January 1, 2021.

## JUSTICE WILLIAM J. CRAIN

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

## JUSTICE SCOTT J. CRICHTON

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

## JUSTICE JAMES T. GENOVESE

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

## JUSTICE JAY B. MCCALLUM

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.\*  
Term of office began November 13,  
2020.

## 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 PIPER D. GRIFFIN

Seventh Supreme Court District  
Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.\*  
Term of office began January 1, 2021.



Chief Justice Bernette  
Joshua Johnson, Seventh  
Supreme Court District.  
Retired December 31,  
2020.



Justice Marcus R.  
Clark, Fourth Supreme  
Court District. Retired  
June 30, 2020.

\* 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 2020 and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

## RESOURCES ON THE WEB AT [WWW.LASC.ORG](http://WWW.LASC.ORG)

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

The **2020 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/PressRoom](http://www.lasc.org/PressRoom).

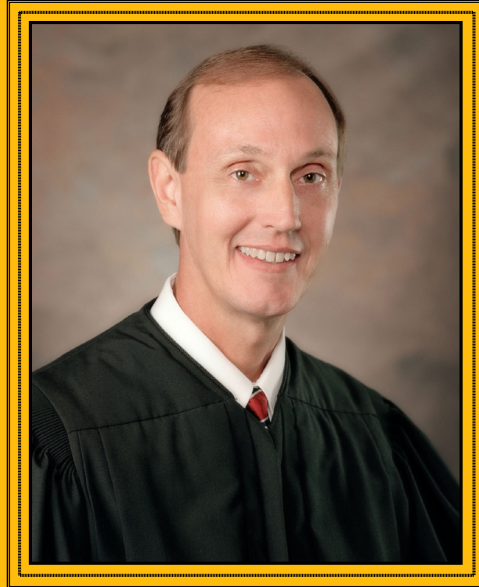
## 2020: A HISTORIC YEAR

I am pleased to present to you the 2020 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.

2020 was a challenging year. Yes, it was the year of the pandemic. But, it was the year of inflection regarding social issues and also the year an unprecedented number of hurricanes affected our citizens and our courts. It was a year that saw the retirement of two Louisiana Supreme Court justices, and the election of two new members of the Court. It was a year we learned to embrace technology. It was a year of new initiatives at the Court and substantive revisions of Supreme Court rules. It was a year we learned an entire new vocabulary, including words like COVID, coronavirus, PPE, safety protocols, social distancing, and Zoom hearings. And, through it all, I am proud to say, our judges never stopped working to maintain our citizens' access to our judicial system.

On March 16, 2020, the Louisiana Supreme Court issued the first of almost twenty Orders, addressing the pandemic emergency. In consideration of emergency proclamations and public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus and to slow its spread, while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana Courts, an immediate moratorium on jury trials was imposed; court proceedings were continued except for emergency and child welfare matters necessary to protect the health, safety, and liberty of individuals as determined by each court; and judges were encouraged to conduct matters remotely, with the use of telephone and video conferencing whenever possible. In response, our courts and our judicial leaders sprang into action to embrace the technology necessary to conduct remote proceedings. The Louisiana Supreme Court IT department provided courts with necessary equipment, and the Louisiana Judicial College and the Louisiana District Judges Association sponsored education sessions to teach the mechanics of zoom and other online platforms. When the Governor's Stay Home Order was lifted, the Louisiana District Judges Association drafted "Guidelines for Proceedings Post-Pandemic" to assist our courts with once again holding in-person proceedings. The moratorium on jury trials was in place from March 16, 2020, through June 30, 2020, and, despite the pandemic, 190 jury trials were held in 2020.

Here at the Supreme Court, the Justices met weekly in video conferences to handle administrative and adjudicative matters,



including handling writ applications and issuing opinions. Oral arguments were held virtually. Our staff worked remotely until access was safe for return to the Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. Courthouse, and then returned to the courthouse in staggered shifts, following safety protocols. Our Justices and staff were available to offer information and guidance to our courts on such matters as technology how-to's and managing a positive COVID exposure. During these months, the Court launched an updated website to improve communications with the public. The Court also adopted a Language Access Plan for Louisiana courts to address the needs of those users of the court system with limited

English proficiency. The Supreme Court also took an active leadership role in the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding, legislatively created in 2019 to study and determine optimal methods of supporting and funding the Louisiana court system. Further information on 2020 court initiatives is included in the pages of this Annual Report.

This year the Court passed important rules to increase transparency, public access, and public confidence in the judicial discipline process. Previously-closed hearings on allegations of judicial misconduct, and the record and result of such proceedings, will now be open and available to the public. The Judiciary Commission's webpage now provides the public with information regarding public hearings, public records, and public dispositions, as well as other helpful information, such as a list of the conduct warranting non-public resolutions, information regarding the judicial complaint process, and comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). The Judiciary Commission was able to implement these important rule changes, modernize its website, and continue its normal operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic through the tireless efforts of its volunteer Judiciary Commission members (which includes non-judicial, non-attorney public members) and the staff.

One of the most significant Court actions during 2020 was the creation of the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission. The pandemic catapulted technology to the forefront in our judicial system. To address these needs, the Supreme Court created a Technology Commission consisting

of 15 judges of all levels of court, and chaired by Judge Scott Schlegel, 24th Judicial District Court. In conjunction with Supreme Court IT staff, the Commission began immediately to standardize all district court websites throughout the state. The Technology Commission is also working to modernize many other court practices such as electronic filings, electronic data and record storage, and electronic service of pleadings, and is scheduled to launch an Online Dispute Resolution pilot program in 2021.

One of the greatest challenges during 2020 was to obtain and provide emergency funding to our lower courts. In the early months of the pandemic, the Court tasked the Court staff with assisting our courts as much as possible in obtaining computer hardware and software to assist with setting up remote proceeding capability, and grant funds were devoted to this endeavor, purchasing computer equipment for 23 courts. We then were given the opportunity to apply for Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funds from the Office of Justice Programs of the United States Department of Justice. Based on needs assessments submitted by our courts to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, the LCLE awarded \$866,965 in CESF funds – \$616,965 to 41 lower courts, including 28 district and juvenile courts and 13 city courts; and \$250,000 to the Supreme Court. Finally, we received \$2,000,000 in funding through the federal CARES Act from the Legislature. These funds were used in several ways, such as reimbursing the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal for PPE expenses, reimbursing drug courts for COVID expenditures, assisting CASA offices to operate remotely, and most importantly, to provide a technology upgrade for our courts. We surveyed our courts to determine their technological needs to enable them to efficiently conduct remote proceedings, and we were able to assist 23 courts and 45 judges by purchasing the necessary hardware and software.

In 2020, we bid farewell to Justice Marcus R. Clark of the Fourth Supreme Court District, who retired after eleven years of distinguished service. Justice Jay B. McCallum of Farmer-ville was elected to the seat and was sworn in on November 13, 2020. Justice Piper D. Griffin of New Orleans was elected from the Seventh Supreme Court District to succeed Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, who retired on December 31, 2020, after an impressive tenure of over three decades as a Louisiana state judge and 26 years on the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Johnson left an impressive legacy as a trailblazer, including serving as the first African-American Chief Justice. It was my honor to serve with Chief Justice Johnson for over two decades.

As the Supreme Court's 26th Chief Justice, I look forward to working with our Justices and our judges. Before becoming a judge, I was a teacher of law and ethics at Nicholls State University. From this experience, I came to the belief that as a judge I had an obligation to go out into the community from which I was elected, especially into our schools, to encourage personal responsibility and respect for the law, describe how our judicial system functions, extol the benefits of treating all people with dignity and respect, and that all must be treated equally in our courts. As Chief Justice, one of my primary initiatives will be to encourage our judges to share their time and insights with their local schools and students.

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 this Annual Report of the Supreme Court for 2020, 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 our judges, our judicial associations, our Judicial College, our courts' staffs, and all who were involved in our continuing efforts throughout 2020 to improve judicial administration despite ongoing challenges. I commend you for your efforts.



John L. Weimer  
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. The Judicial Council welcomed three new members in 2020: Honorable Franklin J. Foil, representing the Louisiana State Senate; Honorable Nicholas J. Muscarello, Jr., representing the Louisiana House of Representatives; and Mr. Barry H. Grodsky, Esq. representing the Louisiana State Bar Association. The Council also welcomed back six reappointed members: Judge John Michael Guidry, representing the Conference of Court of Appeal Judges; Judge Kim Stansbury and Judge Pamela Baker, representing the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Mr. Leo C. Hamilton, Esq., representing Louisiana State Law Institute; Honorable Scott M. Perrilloux, representing Louisiana District Attorneys Association; and Honorable David Dart, representing the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association.

During 2020, the Supreme Court wrapped up the Price of Justice grant. The grant was issued by the Department of Justice to support state-based efforts to reduce reliance on court costs, fines, and fees and reduce the impact on justice-involved individuals, including the use of confinement for people deemed unable to pay. Awarded to five states, the Louisiana application focused on the implementation of Judicial Council recommendations to improve the court cost assessment and collection system.

In early 2020, the recommendations made by the grant's advisory committee were presented to the Justices. Upon finalization of the advisory committee's report, the grant team began work on an implementation plan. Though hampered by pandemic-related court closures, the grant team found new ways to carry out the recommendations, especially those that increased access to justice via technological court innovations.

Supreme Court and grant staff continued to facilitate the work of a legislative committee, the Louisiana Commission on Justice System Funding, created to study court financing in light of the changes made by the 2017 Justice Reinvestment Initiative. During the 2020 legislative session the Commission was re-created for 2020-2022. Research & Development staff at the Supreme Court sit on the Commission and developed work groups to tackle tough questions regarding the cost of running the judicial system. The work groups will continue through 2021.

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 the calendar year prior to the year the request is to be introduced into the legislature. The Council considered no requests for new judgeships in 2020.

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 15th of the calendar year prior to the year the request is to be introduced into the legislature. The Council considered one request, from the 24th Judicial District Court, to increase one of the fees that support the three 24th JDC commissioners while decreasing the off-duty witness fee to make the impact of the fee revenue-neutral. 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

Barry H. Grodsky  
representing Louisiana State Bar Association  
Collin Melancon  
representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA  
Leo C. Hamilton  
representing Louisiana State Law Institute  
Honorable Franklin J. Foil  
State Senator  
Honorable Nicholas J. Muscarello, Jr.  
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

## 2020: 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*



**Otha Curtis Nelson, Jr., 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*



## 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, LPOR conducted only two (2) training programs in 2020; 159 people attended LPOR training programs. In 2020, LPOR entered 25,696 orders from courts across the state. Of those, 16,403 (64%) were civil orders and 9,293 (36%) were criminal orders. Since its inception through the close of 2020, more than 480,000 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, 351,121 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the start of the program. This includes 21,559 qualifying orders transmitted during 2020.

Also during 2020, LPOR's on-call team responded to 237 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 2020, LPOR responded to a total of 1,370 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement with requests for verification of orders of protection.

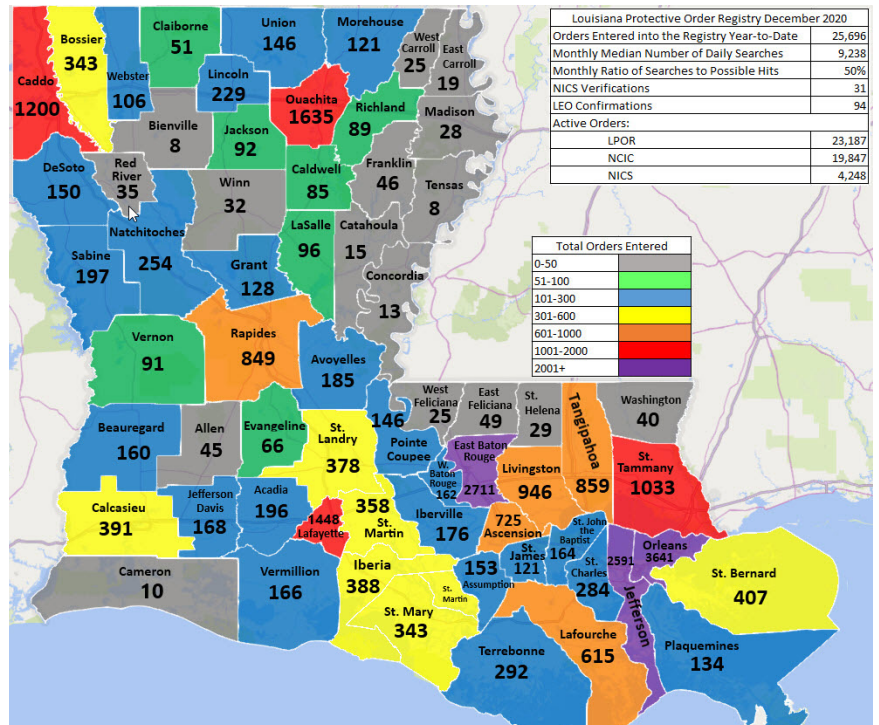


Table One: Civil Orders	1997- 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total (1997-2020)
Temporary Restraining Order	205,369	13,934	13,832	13,999	13,213	260,347
Protective Order	65,277	4,116	3,560	3,688	3,107	79,748
Preliminary Injunction	1,171	47	48	33	42	1,341
Permanent Injunction	1,693	71	77	74	41	1,956
<b>Total Civil Orders</b>	<b>273,456</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>17,517</b>	<b>17,794</b>	<b>16,403</b>	<b>343,392</b>

Table Two: Criminal Orders	1997- 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total (1997-2020)
Bail Restriction	61,480	9,194	8,631	9,159	8,536	97,000
Peace Bond	19,058	3	9	0	0	19,070
Combined Bail/ Peace Bond	9,395	28	34	7	1	9,465
Combined Sentencing/ Probation	9,605	1,035	978	1,084	756	13,458
<b>Total Criminal Orders</b>	<b>99,538</b>	<b>10,260</b>	<b>9,652</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>138,993</b>

Table Three: Totals by Year	1997- 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total (1997-2020)
<b>Total Civil and Criminal Orders</b>	<b>373,048</b>	<b>28,428</b>	<b>27,169</b>	<b>28,044</b>	<b>25,696</b>	<b>482,385</b>

## 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 75 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 49 are drug courts. Of these 49 drug courts, 18 have been in operation 20 years or longer, and 21 have been providing services to their communities for 10 years or more. Other Louisiana specialty courts are Reentry Courts, Veterans Courts, Family Preservation/Treatment Courts, Co-occurring/Behavioral Health Courts and Sobriety/DWI Courts. Each specialty 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. Specialty 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 specialty 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.

#### 2020 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT PARTICIPANTS

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Individual Participants Served	2,853	267	251	210	366	232	85	4,264
Individuals Screened	1,530	262	213	269	97	26	58	2,455
New Participants Admitted	869	154	123	97	90	23	29	1,385
Treatment Hours Administered	177,938	5,578	7,253	476	11,100	2,751	1,589	206,685
Drug Tests Administered	93,272	5,606	5,284	1,824	7,098	2,474	1,381	116,939

#### 2020 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM SUCCESSES

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Total Drug Free Babies	49	2	7	2	0	2	0	62
Obtained GED/HiSET	15	9	1	18	0	4	0	47
Obtained Employment	723	41	54	0	12	151	12	993
Obtained Secure Housing	294	2	29	9	15	155	16	520
Community Service Hours	19,137	415	513	222	9,406	723	494	30,910

Recidivism 10.80% (89.20% of participants who graduated in 2017 had no new convictions.)

\*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.

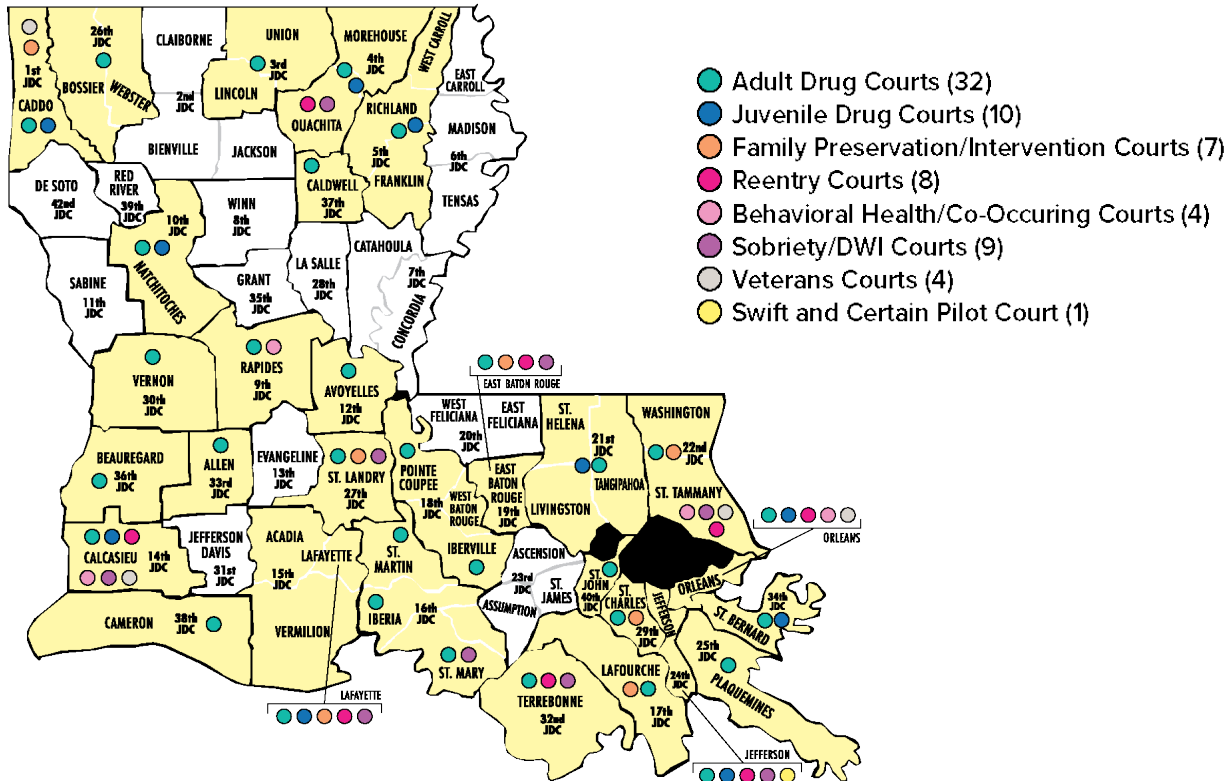
#### 2020 DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURT GRADUATE SUCCESSES

	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Graduated/Satisfied Court Order	614	88	58	29	94	14	26	923
Average Months in Program	25	11	14	20	22	20	20	18.86



## DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Angela White-Bazile  
Senior Special  
Counsel

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that occurs in every state. In Louisiana, it occurs in every parish and can affect anyone, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or gender. Certain factors such as unemployment and lack of education can put individuals at an even greater risk.

The outbreak of COVID-19 one year ago forced schools and businesses to close and increased internet usage, leading to increased human trafficking. Social distancing caused traffickers to rely on the Internet to find and further exploit victims. Traffickers capitalized on the pandemic and targeted individuals struggling with economic uncertainty and unstable living conditions. COVID-19 made already vulnerable individuals even more susceptible to trafficking.

Along with closures of physical locations, COVID-19 initially restricted the availability of resources that victims and survivors rely on. These resources include access to healthcare, social support services, childcare facilities, and safehouses. While some organizations were able to shift their services online (i.e., virtual counseling), many were forced to cease their operations.

The Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board were not deterred and quickly organized virtual meetings to continue to address this serious problem. In compliance with Act 409 of the 2019 Legislative Session requiring state agencies to develop a better system for coordinating victim services, the commission met to designate a single entity responsible for responding to human trafficking. One recommendation is to create a Statewide Office of Human Trafficking in the Governor's Office to oversee case management, coordinate services of multiple government agencies and volunteer and advocacy groups, and centralize data collection for evaluation purposes.

New laws also became effective on August 01, 2020. La. R.S. § 15:539.1 requires the forfeiture, seizure, and sale of personal property used in the commission of a human trafficking-related offense. La. R.S. § 15:539.3 requires mandatory restitution to the victim with the proceeds from the forfeited property. La. R.S. § 15:574.4.2 prohibits an offender from going to the victim's residence or household, school, and place of employment or contacting the victim in any manner whatsoever. Communicating by electronic communication, in writing, or orally with the victim or the victim's immediate family members is also prohibited as a condition of parole. La. R.S. § 46:1846 prohibits a person charged with a felony human trafficking-related offense from communicating by electronic communication, in writing, or orally with the victim or the victim's immediate family members. A person who has been sentenced or found not guilty by reason of insanity for any felony human trafficking-related offense is also prohibited from communicating with the victim or the victim's immediate family members.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

During 2020, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice.



#### Families in Need of Services (FINS)

The *Families in Need of Services* (FINS) Assistance Program administered funding for the Informal FINS Offices in 42 judicial districts and 3 city courts (Hammond, Morgan City and Monroe). FINS Intake Officers statewide processed over 4,700 referrals and continued to provide intensive case management strategies and service coordination to provide alternatives to formal FINS adjudications. Highlights for 2020 include collaboration with the Louisiana FINS Association to provide training on innovative approaches to treatment and services for the status offenders. Pursuant to Act 409 of the 2019 Regular Session, FINS-AP partnered with the Louisiana Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers and the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board to create a model to bridge the gap of services to help victims of human trafficking. State FINS Officers received training on screening tools to assist in the identification of victims of human trafficking. In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, FINS-AP received CDC opioid grant funding that afforded the opportunity to conduct two statewide opioid related trainings in the spring and fall of 2020. Lastly, using both CDC grant funds and CARES Act Relief funds, FINS-AP provided multiple Intake FINS Offices with technological support to allow those offices the ability to work remotely and stay connected with their clients during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the 2020 hurricane season.

#### Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA) Assistance Program administered funding for CASA programs in 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts. In 2020, CASA programs served 3,134 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children through the advocacy of 1,411 volunteer advocates. Closed cases resulted in the ability to place 1,183 children in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 368 new volunteer advocates. CASA programs continued to expand their use of the CASA case management software Optima. Full implementation of the Child Wellbeing Assessments occurred in 2020. The Louisiana State Child Wellbeing Assessment Scale allows 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, provide objective information about improved outcomes for our children and the impact and effectiveness of CASA advocates.



#### Court Improvement Program (CIP)

The *Court Improvement Program* (CIP) in partnership with the Pelican Center for Children and Families provided legal and interdisciplinary training designed to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of abused and neglected children in our state. During 2020, the Pelican Center offered online training opportunities and live trainings, which resulted in 1834 of CLE hours for attorneys and judges. Other 2020 CIP activities involved participation with the state's Program Improvement Plan deliverables in accordance with the federal Child and Family Services Review to assess safety, permanency and child well-being outcomes for the state as a whole. One major PIP accomplishment that received favorable recognition from the federal Children's Bureau involved the implementation of the My Community Cares initiative in Caddo, Rapides, East Baton Rouge and Livingston Parishes. My Community Cares provides judicial involved collaboration, coordination, and communication around services and resources in communities on a parish level to connect families to services and supports needed to create safe and stable homes. The CIP continued its efforts around implementation of case management information systems for attorneys representing abused and neglected children to manage those cases; and, to provide a mechanism for the collection of data in support of CIP work to improve permanency outcomes and quality legal representation for children and indigent parents. The CIP Judicial Fellow continued to provide support to judges hearing Child In Need of Care cases.



The Division of Children and Families continued to support on behalf of the court the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Collaborative, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission, the Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee, the Child Protection Representation Commission, the Louisiana Children's Justice Task Force, the Children's Law Committee, and the Teen Court Community.



## OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

### OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

The Office of Language Access continues its mission to provide quality interpreters to Louisiana courts. In 2020, the program conducted two virtual orientation sessions with 25 attendees. The program administered the court interpreter examinations in small groups (with appropriate physical distancing and masks). As a result, the court's interpreter pool grew to 164 registered and certified interpreters.

Improving language access in all courts, including providing language services to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals, continues to be a core focus of the Supreme Court. In 2020, the Court approved Louisiana's first-ever statewide Language Access Plan (LAP). The LAP, developed with the input of judges, judicial administrators, language access advocates, and many others, phases-in language assistance improvements over the course of a three-year period concentrating first on the parishes with the largest LEP populations.

#### Language Access Plan Phases:

- **Phase 1 MOA Compliance (2021)** ensures that all courts are providing court interpreters to LEP individuals in all civil, criminal, and juvenile cases, free of charge, and includes posting translated signs and brochures in publically accessible areas.
- **Phase 2 Moving beyond compliance to meaningful access (2022)** includes developing and promulgating court rules and state laws, implementing training programs, and adopting policies and procedures in court programs to ensure access to language assistance services.
- **Phase 3: Framework for the future (2023)** contemplates creating systems for future success in Louisiana by centralizing language services for courts, whenever possible.

In preparation for expanded services for LEP individuals, the Office of Language Access conducted virtual training sessions for all Louisiana courts before the Phase 1 deadline of September 1, 2021.

To read Louisiana's new LAP, go to [www.lasc.org/language\\_access](http://www.lasc.org/language_access).

## 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](http://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 2020, the CRD joined with the IT staff of the Supreme Court in the redesign and relaunch of the website of the Supreme Court. The website of the Supreme Court became the main repository for information for courts and the public on the coronavirus and its impact on the court system. The CRD issued 50 press releases in 2020, reaching over 11,800 recipients. Many of these releases contained information related to COVID-19. By comparison, 14 press releases were issued in 2019.

In 2020, the CRD assisted with media coverage for a number of events including the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Conference in New Orleans, the Court's "riding circuit" at Tulane University School of Law, and the naming of the "Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Supreme Court Museum," located in the lobby of the courthouse at 400 Royal Street.

In 2020, the CRD staff conducted 13 courthouse tours for 250 guests, sharply down from the 69 courthouse tours for 1,504 court visitors in 2019. These tours are conducted for guests from across the state and country, and from around the world.



*Louisiana Supreme Court Justice John L. Weimer met with students from Louisiana State University Law School in early 2020, prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Justice Weimer became the Court's 26th Chief Justice January 1, 2021.*

## 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 455,664 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2020. Of those records, 88,925 contained information that was shared with the Louisiana Department of Public Safety for inclusion in a computerized criminal history database that is accessible to law enforcement and the courts to help enhance public safety. This is a decrease of -18% over last year for records provided by the courts to CMIS and decrease in -41% in dispositions reported to computerized criminal history database. This decrease can be attributed to the court closures which occurred in 2020.

The FBI National Instant Check System (NICS) database is a national system that checks available records on persons who may be disqualified from receiving firearms. The Supreme Court is required by LA R.S. 13:753 to provide court records to the NICS. From the records provided by Louisiana courts: 57,847 records were posted to the NICS database, a decrease of -35% over last year. This decrease can be attributed to the court closures which occurred in 2020. Of the records posted to the NICS database, 42,585 were felony convictions, 3,198 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, 8,296 drug convictions, 85 were not guilty by reason of insanity, 642 were incompetent to stand trial, 1,495 were probation restrictions, 1,117 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions under C.Cr.P. Art. 320(B) and 429 civil judicial commitment orders. Further, in 2020, 58,982 felony indictments were posted to the NICS database. As of January 4, 2021, there were 742,322 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 as of January 4, 2021 there were 19,734 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry active in the National Crime Information Center.

The continued success 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 2020, 713,252 traffic records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information were received. Of those records, 154,623 were posted to the OMV database by the end of the year. CMIS received traffic data from 61 parishes, 23 city courts, and 9 mayor's courts.

**CMIS Outreach**

In 2020 CMIS committed more than \$1,476,066 in federal and CMIS grants to district and city courts throughout the state to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. In collaboration with the Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) CMIS staff was able to secure emergency funding to be used to address COVID-19 relief efforts like teleconferencing equipment and supplies.

Additionally CMIS leveraged other funding sources like the (NCHIP) National Criminal History Improvement Program and {NARIP} NICS Act Records Improvement Program funds from stalled programs due to COVID-19's impact, into emergency relief funds to address teleconferencing and remote workstations enabling judges, clerks and other justice partners to schedule alternate work schedules and conduct virtual court proceedings with camera enabled laptops and tablets.

CMIS continues to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of disposition reporting, and provides funds 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).

Federal Motor Carrier funding is provided to city courts and 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 2020 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.

## JUDICIAL COLLEGE

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

As the judicial education branch of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the *Louisiana Judicial College* is charged with providing quality continuing legal education for Louisiana's judges. As lawyers, judges are required to attend a minimum of 12.5 hours of continued legal education every year — 1 hour of which must be on legal ethics and 1 hour on professional responsibility. According to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXX, Part H, Rule 3(f), effective January 1, 2013, of those 12.5 hours, judges must obtain 5 from the Louisiana Judicial College.

The College normally sponsors three major conferences per year: Spring Judges Conference, Fall Judges Conference, and Summer School for Judges. These are augmented through the year with the several seminars, including the City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar; Evidence and Procedure Seminar; North Louisiana Seminar; Rural Courts Seminar; and Torts Seminar. In addition, in response to COVID-19, the College now offers on-line webinars and recorded on-demand courses for CLE credit.

Louisiana welcomed 11 new state judges to the bench in 2020, and started the year off by providing "New Judge Training" in January, featuring a robust curriculum and judicial mentorship program. Soon after, the College hosted the *City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar*, which provides specialized content to judges with relevant jurisdiction. The Evidence and Procedure Seminar with Louisiana Association for Justice was held in March, the last "live" event prior to the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the Spring Judges' Conference scheduled for April, Summer School with the Louisiana State Bar Association scheduled for June, and the Rural Courts Seminar scheduled for the spring, were all postponed, causing a pivot in delivery method. For the first time, a broad curriculum was offered online, including the 2020 "Virtual Fall Judges Conference."

The College closed out the year by co-hosting the "Torts Seminar" with the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel in December, and also provided "New Judge Training" for 75 newly elected judges getting ready to take the bench in 2021.

This series of conferences represents over 100 "Continuing Legal Education" (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.

The College also continued its work with the Louisiana Municipal Association by providing the annual "Virtual Mayors' Courts Training" for mayors, city attorneys, clerks of court, and others involved in the administration of Mayors' Court throughout the state.

In addition to training sessions, the College provides a number of important resources to judges including "benchbooks," sample forms or local materials that may provide a template for other jurisdictions; and national resources.

The Judicial College Staff are instrumental in providing a continued high level of service and support to the College's mission. Judges and other court stakeholders are invited to contact Judicial College Administrator Michael Schachtman at [MSchachtman@lasc.org](mailto: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.

### LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT CO-CHAIRS

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

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lori A. Landry (President)  
*16th Judicial District Court*  
Susan M. Chehardy (Vice President)  
*5th Circuit Court of Appeal*  
Kirk Williams (Secretary)  
*Baker City Court*  
Pammela Lattier (Treasurer)  
*Shreveport City Court*  
Allison H. Penzato (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*  
C. Wendell Manning  
*4th Judicial District Court*  
Sharon Ingram Marchman  
*4th Judicial District Court*  
Brady O'Callaghan  
*1st Judicial 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*  
Alainna R. Mire  
*President, Louisiana State Bar Association*  
Rep. Tanner D. Magee  
*Louisiana House of Representatives*  
Felicia Toney Williams  
*Chair, Conference of Court of Appeal Judges;*  
*2nd Circuit Court of Appeal*



## CLERK OF COURT

### CLERK OF COURT



John Tarlton Olivier  
Clerk of Court

The Clerk of Court's Office fulfilled the following key responsibilities or accomplished the following in 2020:

- 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 hard copy filings and dispositions and saved and linked efiled documents, which are available to staff via the Court's case management system.
- Continued to monitor and tweak the new Thomson Reuters' C-Track Case Management Software (CMS) which replaced the old CMS in July 2019. This upgrade, integrated the Clerk's office processes with the justices' 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 2020 increased to 643, primarily due to the Court waiving the bar exam due to COVID-19 which resulted in 402 candidates being admitted without having to take and pass the exam. Admissions had declined in 2019 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 of certificates dropped to 1,903 in 2020, nearly 400 fewer than the prior two year average. 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 appeared to have been leveling off with an average of 2,251 over the prior five years and may return to this level when the effects of COVID on the judiciary are less pronounced. Note: Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Managed logistics for 41 events hosted by the Court prior to March 13, 2020 when access to the building was restricted due to COVID-19. This was down from 237 the prior year. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings, and other meetings.
- Oversaw courthouse general maintenance and improvements. Completed the kitchen and guardhouse construction projects and Legal and Human Resource Departments' relocation and reconfiguration. The perimeter roof replacement is scheduled for completion in 2021.

### 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  
Jerrold Jones  
2nd Deputy Clerk  
Ryan Chan  
Deputy Clerk  
Eddie Gonzales  
Deputy Clerk-Records Manager  
John White, CPA  
Fiscal Manager  
Tommy M. Anderson  
Director of Security

## 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 March 2020 the Law Library closed its doors to the public due to the coronavirus pandemic. Librarians established a virtual reference desk to continue uninterrupted service, responding to over 900 inquiries over the past year. The Law Library co-sponsored, along with the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society, the annual A. P. Tureaud American Inns of Court End-of-the-Year Professionalism and Ethics CLE for a Cause, a virtual event that attracted nearly 300 participants. The professionalism presentation examined the life of New Orleans civil rights attorney A. P. Tureaud. The Law Library also prepared two display cases examining the 2020 Law Day theme, "Your Vote - Your Voice - Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." The Law Library's collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2020 the library added 95 new titles, 1,238 new volumes, and 120 pieces of microfiche. Additionally, the Law Library provided responses to 92 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



Miriam Childs, Director of the Law Library of Louisiana, details one of the rare books in the Law Library's collection to students from St. Amant High School. The visit by the students took place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Miriam Childs, MLIS Director, Law Library of Louisiana	Francis Norton, JD, MLIS Research Lawyer/Librarian & Government Documents Librarian	Ruth Mahoney Library Associate
Sara Pic, JD, MLIS Head of Public Services	Cynthia Jones, MA Librarian	Jenny Martin Library Associate
Tara Cunningham, MLIS Head of Collection Services	Angela Reaux, MLIS Librarian	Gail Bragg Administrative Assistant

## JUDICIAL BUDGET

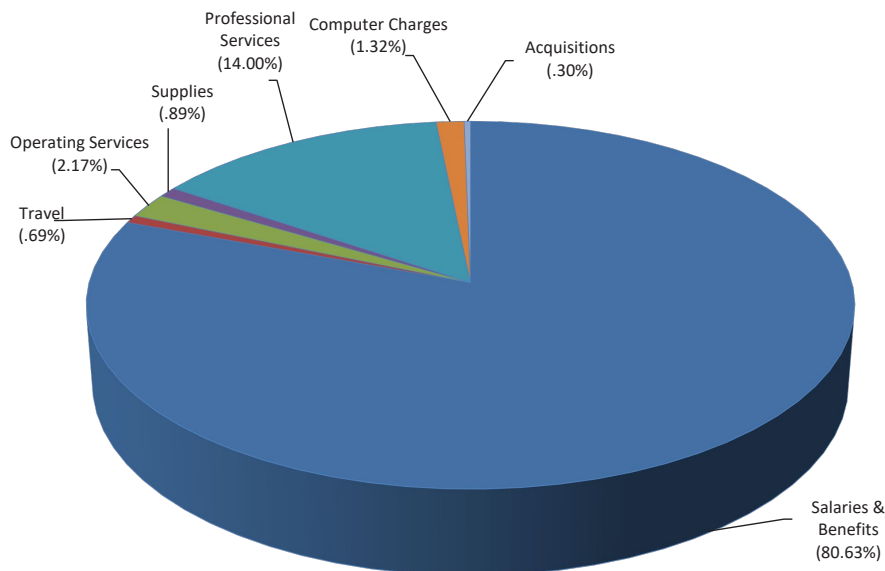
### JUDICIAL BUDGET

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 2020-2021 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$175,801,729

In FY 2020-2021, state appropriated funds totaled \$175,801,729<sup>1</sup>:

Salaries and Benefits <sup>2</sup>	141,756,501	80.63% of total budget
Professional Services	24,621,022	14.00% of total budget
Operating Services	3,805,425	2.17% of total budget
Supplies	1,556,848	.89% of total budget
Travel	1,210,939	.69% of total budget
Computer charges	2,327,214	1.32% of total budget
Acquisitions	523,780	.30% of total budget



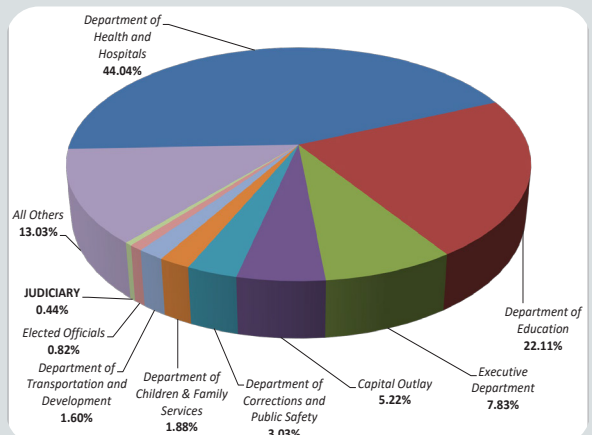
<sup>1</sup>In accordance with La. R.S. 24:513, the Louisiana Supreme Court is audited regularly by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and the audit report is available on the Legislative Auditor's website at [www.la.state.la.us](http://www.la.state.la.us).

<sup>2</sup>Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 364 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 210 Supreme Court employees, 365 Courts of Appeal employees, 111 designated lower court employees, and 22 retired judges or widows in the Unfunded Pension system.

Total State Budget:  
**\$40,140,499,303**  
Judiciary Budget:  
**\$175,801,729**

In FY 2020-2021, .44% of the state's general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

### LOUISIANA STATE BUDGET 2020-2021



## BAR ADMISSIONS

### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

The *Committee on Bar Admissions* is comprised of 18 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.

In 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee faced unprecedented challenges to administer the bar examination. As health and safety issues arose, it became apparent that administering an in-person bar examination was not feasible. The court issued orders in May and July which outlined significant changes to the remaining 2020 bar examination including administration, scope and scoring. In accordance with the court's orders, no in-person bar examinations were administered for the remainder of 2020. The remaining exams were administered in August and October as a one (1) day remote exam. Perhaps most notable was the granting of the "Emergency Admission of Qualified Candidates" who met certain criteria set forth by the court's July order.

The Committee received and processed 974 bar examination applications, 352 law student registration forms, 33 A.D.A. requests, 8 equivalency applications and 3 in-house counsel applications. The bar examination was administered in February, August and October. Examiners developed examination questions and, with the assistance of more than 300 volunteer graders, scored test papers for 251 applicants who sat for the February examination, 95 applicants who sat for the August examination and 195 applicants who sat for the October examination. The pass rate was 56.54% in February, 79.79% in August and 40.91% for October.

Based upon criteria set forth by the court, the Committee determined that 429 applicants met the criteria to be considered "Qualified Candidates". Of that number 409 have met all requirements necessary for admission to the practice of law.

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, 6 Commissioner hearings were held and 0 matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended 7 applicants be conditionally admitted and 19 applicants be denied admission.

### COMMITTEE ON BAR ADMISSIONS

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

Hon. Piper D. Griffin  
Testing Committee Member  
Stephanie A. Finley  
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

## RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Louisiana Supreme Court  
[www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)

Law Library of Louisiana  
<https://lasc.libguides.com>

Louisiana State Bar Association  
[www.lsba.org](http://www.lsba.org)

Louisiana Judicial College  
<https://lajudicialcollege.org>

Committee on Bar Admissions  
[www.lascba.org](http://www.lascba.org)

Louisiana Center for Law & Civic Education  
[www.lalce.org](http://www.lalce.org)

Judiciary Commission of Louisiana  
[www.judiciarycommissionla.org](http://www.judiciarycommissionla.org)

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board  
[www.ladb.org](http://www.ladb.org)



# LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

## LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

While 2020 started out with great promise, like everyone, Louisiana's lawyer regulatory system was forced to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shortly after the March 9th announcement of the first reported case of coronavirus in Louisiana, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) initiated a work from home protocol designed to protect our counsel and staff while striving to move forward with our mission of regulating the bar membership and protecting the public. Through exceptional technology support supplied by the Disciplinary Board Administrator's office, security protections were put in place to ensure that sensitive and confidential information was secure while work proceeded apace.

By May 15th, strict return to work protocols were implemented to allow for the return of all employees to full work week hours within the ODC offices. Assistance from our facilities partners ensured periodic sanitizing of our offices and all common areas within the building. While entry into the office complex was strictly regulated, in person meetings and investigative statements resumed safely. Investigative statements, pre-hearing conferences and Board panel oral arguments were conducted via Zoom. Hearings were recommenced with the cooperation of courthouse facilities across the state but always with safety as our highest priority, including mandatory spacing and masking obligations in place.

As a result of these efforts, the ODC was able to initiate 46 consent discipline resolutions coupled with 62 formal charges and contested filings bringing the year's production totals to 108 public disciplinary and regulatory cases for 2020. An additional 28 admonitions brought the total to 136 dispositions for the year.

The ODC is also tasked with the evaluation and screening of pro hac vice applications filed by out of state attorneys who seek permission to temporarily practice in our state on case-specific matters. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Ramos mandating unanimous juries in all criminal cases, a flood of out of state pro bono attorneys filed pro hac vice applications in 2020 in an effort to assist in what is to be otherwise overwhelming remedial efforts.

Finally, the year 2020 brought to a close the historic judicial career of Chief Justice Bernette Johnson and ushered in the investiture of Justice John Weimer as the Court's newest Chief Justice. Joining him on the court in 2020 were Justice Jay McCallum from the 4th Supreme Court District and Justice Piper Griffin from the 7th Supreme Court District. With their arrival, five of the current seven justices have begun their service on our high court within the last six years. Like their predecessors, each has demonstrated a commitment to the Constitutional authority entrusted to them by the citizens of Louisiana to the firm but fair regulation of the practice of law.

## LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Dominick Scandurro, Jr., *Chair*  
 Linda G. Bizzarro, *Vice-Chair*  
 Pamela W. Carter  
 Paula H. Clayton  
 Susan Perret DesOrmeaux  
 Alfreda Sellers Diamond  
 Wendy E. W. Giovingo (LSBA Member)  
 Laura Beth Hennen  
 Brian D. Landry  
 Markey W. Pierre  
 Danna Elizabeth Schwab  
 Evans C. Spiceland  
 Melissa L. Theriot  
 Charles Hamilton Williamson, Jr.



# JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

## JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

The *Judiciary Commission of Louisiana* (Commission) is an independent, constitutionally created body charged with receiving and evaluating complaints of ethical misconduct against active state court judges and other judicial officers. 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 governed by a Code of Judicial Conduct and the Louisiana Constitution. Even though judges are elected, they are subject to a separate disciplinary process that may result in removal from office. This disciplinary process 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 can be received from anyone: citizens, litigants, 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 also authorized to review matters on its own motion, which may come from media reports of alleged judicial misconduct.

In 2020, the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 358 complaints against judges and justices of the peace, and 137 complaints were pending from previous years. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 63 requests for complaint forms. As of December 31, 2020, the Commission had 110 files pending, having disposed of over 350 files in 2020. Moreover, as further outlined below, during this year, substantive changes were made to Commission rules to increase transparency, public access, and public confidence in the judicial discipline process.

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 (*i.e.*, "for willful misconduct relating to his official duty, willful and persistent failure to perform his duty, persistent and public conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute, conduct while in office which would constitute a felony, or conviction of a felony"). Of the 358 complaints filed in 2020, 219 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 139 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 or refutes the allegations in the complaint. The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 23 complaints, including some complaints filed before January 1, 2020.

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 2020, the Commission filed notices of hearing against one judge, one magistrate judge, and three justices of the peace. Hearings before a randomly appointed hearing officer were scheduled in seven cases and conducted in three cases, one of which was a public hearing under the May 1, 2020, revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII. A motion to dispense with a hearing before a hearing officer was granted in one case in which stipulations were reached. Additionally, during the year, two judges and two justices of the peace personally appeared before the Commission for questioning after a hearing before a hearing officer or after entering into stipulations in lieu of a hearing.

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. In 2020, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court two recommendations for judicial discipline. The Supreme Court removed one justice of the peace from office, and one case remained pending before the Court at the end of the year.

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 2020, two judges and one justice of the peace resigned or retired after formal proceedings were initiated.

At any stage of the proceedings, the Commission may recommend to the Louisiana Supreme Court that a judge be interimly disqualified, without loss of salary, from exercising any judicial function pending further proceedings before the 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

*Continued on next page*

**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.**

### 2020 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Mr. Edward J. Walters, Jr., Esq., *Chair*  
 Judge John J. Molaison, Jr., *Vice Chair*  
 Mrs. Sibal Suarez Holt  
 Judge Brady D. O'Callaghan  
 Mr. Lloyd J. Clark  
 Judge Sharon D. Wilson  
 Mr. Robert P. Ackerman  
 Ms. VaRhonda E. Burrell, Esq.  
 Mr. Christopher Ieyoub, Esq.

### 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*

# JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

*Continued from previous page*

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 2020, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court two interim disqualifications against two judges, one of which was granted and one of which was pending before the Louisiana Supreme Court as of December 31, 2020.

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 there is insufficient evidence to establish misconduct or the allegations of misconduct are disproven. The Commission can also close matters that do not warrant further proceedings with a private counseling letter (such as a reminder, caution, or admonishment). Private counseling letters are used by the vast majority of states and 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 behavior which is problematic, but not yet serious or egregious. Moreover, any time after a Notice of Hearing has been filed, the Commission may enter into a Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreement (DRDA) 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/or seeking the help of a mentor judge.

Pursuant to the May 1, 2020, revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII, the Commission may publish and report the number of cautions, admonishments, and DRDAs issued during a year and a general description of the underlying conduct without identifying the respondent judges involved. After the May 1, 2020, effective date of this revision, the Commission cautioned six judicial officers for the following conduct:

- Decisional delay regarding a child support issue and for failing to report the matter on his/her cases under advisement report;
- Inappropriate statements in a campaign advertisement;
- Decisional delay in ruling on a motion to recuse the judge;
- Failure to follow proper notarial practices;
- Improper modification of a jury verdict, which was rectified on appeal; and
- Improper solicitation of charitable donations, which was quickly rectified by the judge prior to Commission action.

After May 1, 2020, the Commission admonished two judicial officers for the following conduct:

- Failure to ensure proper service of notice of court dates and for failure to follow proper recusal procedures; and
- Failure to follow proper recusal procedures and for inaccurate statements in an opinion.

The Commission also entered into one DRDA with a justice of the peace, which is a matter of public record pursuant to the 2020 rule revisions, based upon failure to follow proper procedures governing evictions, garnishments, and amendment of judgments in one case; temporary unresponsiveness and unavailability to the public; and failure to fully cooperate in the Commission's investigation of the matter.

As mentioned above, on May 1, 2020, after extensive review and deliberation, the Louisiana Supreme Court adopted certain revisions to Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXIII, which included substantial changes to the confidentiality rule contained in Section 23 to increase transparency in and public access to judicial discipline proceedings. In addition to the revisions previously discussed, previously-closed hearings on allegations of judicial misconduct that have been investigated will now be open. The record and result of the formal proceedings (including counseling letters and Deferred Recommendation of Discipline Agreements) will also be available to the public. Changes were also made to Supreme Court rules to ensure that, after a judge receives one confidential admonishment, any subsequent admonishments within a judge's term of office (ten years for appellate court judges and six years for district and other judges) will be public.

Confidentiality, however, still remains during the Commission's initial consideration of a complaint and during any investigation of a complaint, but for good reason. Among other things, confidentiality primarily 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. Confidentiality during the early investigation also protects our system of justice from frivolous complaints and protects the public at large by ensuring the integrity of the investigatory process. These same principles underlie the confidentiality rules in the judicial discipline proceedings of all fifty states, all of which require confidentiality at some stage of the proceedings. 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.

Regarding the nine-member volunteer membership of the Commission, in 2020, attorney Fred Herman completed a four-year term and was replaced by Christopher Ieyoub of Lake Charles. Judge John Molaison of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal was elected as Chairman of the Commission, succeeding attorney Ed Walters of Baton Rouge. Judge Brady O'Callaghan of the First Judicial District Court was elected as Vice-Chair. David Becker, Commission Counsel, and Michelle Beaty, Special Counsel, continued their dedicated service to the Commission.



David Becker  
Commission Counsel  
Judiciary Commission  
of Louisiana

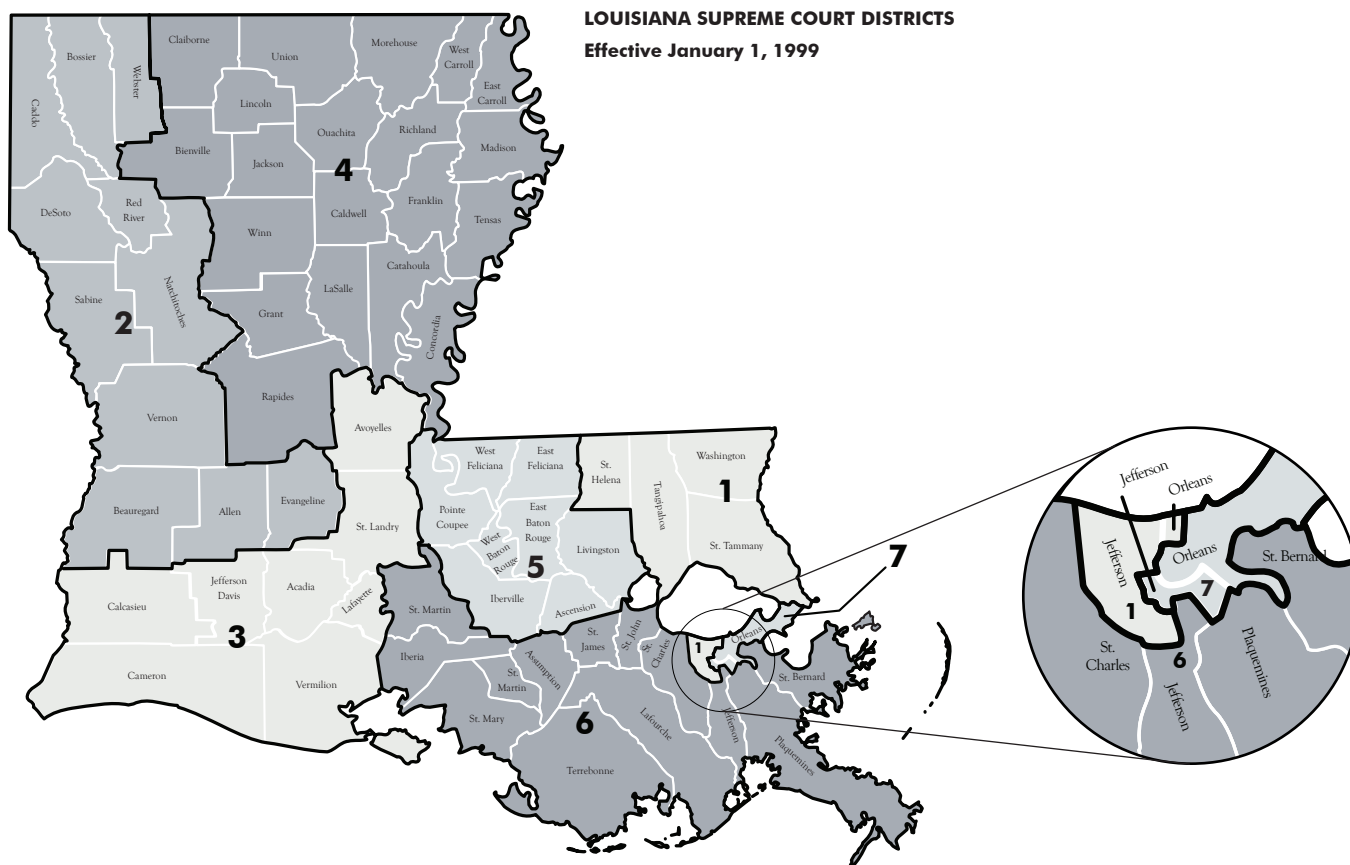


Michelle Beaty  
Special Counsel  
Office of Special  
Counsel



A map of Louisiana showing its 64 parishes. The parishes are labeled with their names. Five regions are highlighted with numbers in black boxes:

- Region 1:** West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Livingston, West Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Avoyelles, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Orleans, Lafourcade, Terrebonne, and Plaquemines.
- Region 2:** Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Bienville, Jackson, Winn, Caldwell, Franklin, Tensas, DeSoto, Red River, Caraboula, LaSalle, Grant, Sabine, and Natchitoches.
- Region 3:** Vernon, Rapides, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lafayette, Iberia, Vermilion, Cameron, and St. Mary.
- Region 4:** St. Bernard, Orleans, Lafourcade, Terrebonne, and Plaquemines.
- Region 5:** St. James, St. John, St. Charles, and St. Bernard.



**\*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.

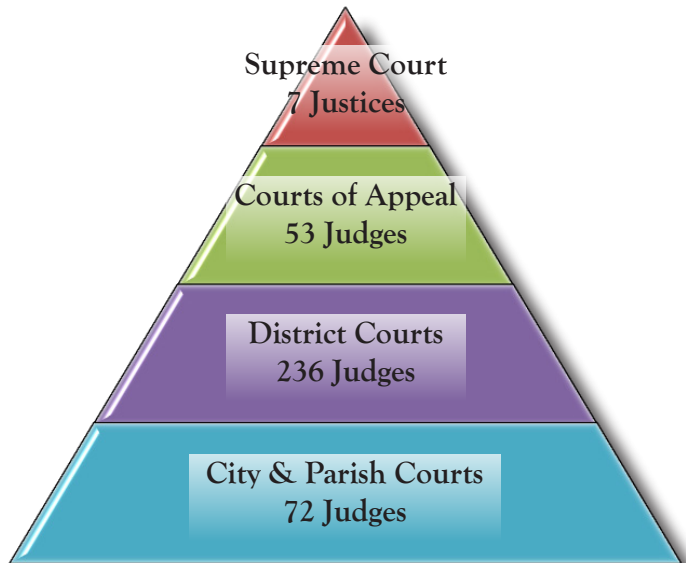
Orleans Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 3-20; 4-8 through 4-11; 4-14 through 4-23; 5-13 through 5-18; and 17-17 through 17-21.

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 368 judges preside over Louisiana state courts.



## Appellate Courts

### Supreme Court

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

### Circuit Courts of Appeal

- 53 judges, 10 year terms
- Five circuits:
  - 1st Circuit: Baton Rouge, 12 judges
  - 2nd Circuit: Shreveport, 9 judges
  - 3rd Circuit: Lake Charles, 12 judges
  - 4th Circuit: New Orleans, 12 judges
  - 5th Circuit: Gretna, 8 judges
- Cases generally reviewed by three-judge panels

## Trial Courts

### District, Juvenile and Family

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

### City and Parish Courts

- 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 January 2020, the Louisiana Supreme Court held oral arguments at Tulane 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.

## 2020 Supreme Court Stats

For the seventh year in a row, filings (case initiations) with the Clerk of Court have declined, in part this year to COVID-19 and the moratorium of jury trials and restrictions on in person proceedings. In 2013, 3,017 cases were filed compared to the 1505 in 2020, with filings at 2,716 in 2014, 2,365 in 2015, 2,283 in 2016, 2,181 in 2017, 2,117 in 2018 and 2,096 in 2019. All together, the filings have dropped 50.1% 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 58.8%. Although there has been a decline in the total number of filings, it should be noted that that there continues to be a large number of cases being filed where expedited consideration has been requested. Even with COVID-19 reductions the number of priorities only dropped by 10 to 124 in 2020 compared to 134 in 2019. 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. These cases interrupt the normal processing of work and are labor intensive requiring immediate attention.



In January 2021, Justice John L. Weimer took the oath as the 26th Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Pictured with Chief Justice Weimer is his wife, Penny, and daughters Jacqueline, Katherine, and Emily. Administering the oath is Thibodaux attorney Daniel Cavell.

# Louisiana Supreme Court

## CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2019 Total	2020 Total	2020 Civil	2020 Criminal
<b>APPEALS</b>				
Filed	5	4	3	1
Dismissed	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	5	6	2	4
Per curiams	0	0	0	0
<b>WRITS</b>				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,174	898	604	294
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	732	402	23	379
Granted	160	195	75	120
To be argued	45	41	24	17
With orders & transferred	115	154	51	103
Dismissed	4	7	7	0
Not Considered	142	50	12	38
Denied	1,766	1,323	501	822
Opinions Rendered	31	38	20	18
<b>REHEARINGS</b>				
Applied for	13	15	11	4
Granted	3	2	1	1
Denied/Dismissed	18	12	8	4
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
<b>ORIGINAL JURISDICTION</b>				
Petitions Filed	185	201	201	0
Opinions Rendered	9	9	9	0
Other Actions	81	121	121	0
<b>OTHER MATTERS</b>				
Filed	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered	1	0	0	0
Other Actions	0	0	0	0
<b>OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>TOTAL FILINGS</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>674</b>
Per Justice	299	215	119	96
<b>TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>22</b>

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



# COURTS OF APPEAL

Louisiana has established the intermediate courts of appeal between the district courts and the Supreme Court. The work of the intermediate appellate courts is divided among five courts of appeal, domiciled in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lake Charles, New Orleans, and Gretna. The First Circuit (Baton Rouge) has twelve judges, the Second Circuit (Shreveport) has nine, the Third Circuit (Lake Charles) has twelve, the Fourth Circuit (New Orleans) has twelve, and the Fifth Circuit (Gretna) has eight. The majority are elected from districts, with a few judges being elected at large within their circuits. Court of appeal judges are elected for 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 due to COVID-19, there was a drop in overall filings of writs and appeals of 29.83% from 5,066 in 2019 to 3,555 in 2020. Filings of appeals decreased by -30.02% from 1,702 in 2019 to 1,191 in 2020, and the number of writs filed decreased by 29.73% from 3,364 in 2019 to 2,364 in 2020. The total number of opinions rendered by the courts of appeal decreased by 13.69% from 1,454 in 2019 to 1,255 in 2020.

## 2020 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 38 in the First Circuit Court of Appeal, 14 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 22 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 19 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 22 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.



LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2019 Total	2020 Total	2020 Civil	2020 Criminal
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	597	484	379	105
Motions Filed	39	31	23	8
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	627	533	404	129
Writs Refused*	469	403	301	102
Writs Granted	158	132	108	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	448	330	28	302
Pro Se Writs Refused*	422	296	19	277
Pro Se Writs Granted	59	53	9	44
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	91	83	73	10
Consolidated Opinions	43	32	32	0
Opinions Rendered **	425	458	377	81
Rehearings Acted Upon***	127	87	80	7
Appeals Pending	402	333	271	62
Argued But Not Decided	81	52	52	0
To Be Argued	321	281	219	62
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	35	38	31	7
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	237	131	86	45
Motions Filed	5	2	0	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	173	133	91	42
Writs Refused*	122	111	79	32
Writs Granted	54	23	13	10
Pro Se Writs Filed	387	172	1	171
Pro Se Writs Refused*	317	142	1	141
Pro Se Writs Granted	75	40	1	39
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	21	18	17	1
Consolidated Opinions	14	11	7	4
Opinions Rendered **	222	129	67	62
Rehearings Acted Upon***	39	39	29	10
Appeals Pending	96	83	50	33
Argued But Not Decided	29	21	11	10
To Be Argued	67	62	39	23
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	25	14	7	7
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	359	233	183	50
Motions Filed	6	13	11	2
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	335	275	187	88
Writs Refused*	204	142	103	39
Writs Granted	65	43	28	15
Pro Se Writs Filed	220	122	4	118
Pro Se Writs Refused*	164	144	3	141
Pro Se Writs Granted	28	12	1	11
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	49	20	18	2
Consolidated Opinions	14	11	11	0
Opinions Rendered **	371	265	185	80
Rehearings Acted Upon***	38	33	22	11
Appeals Pending	170	133	99	34
Argued But Not Decided	18	6	6	0
To Be Argued	152	127	93	34
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	31	22	15	7

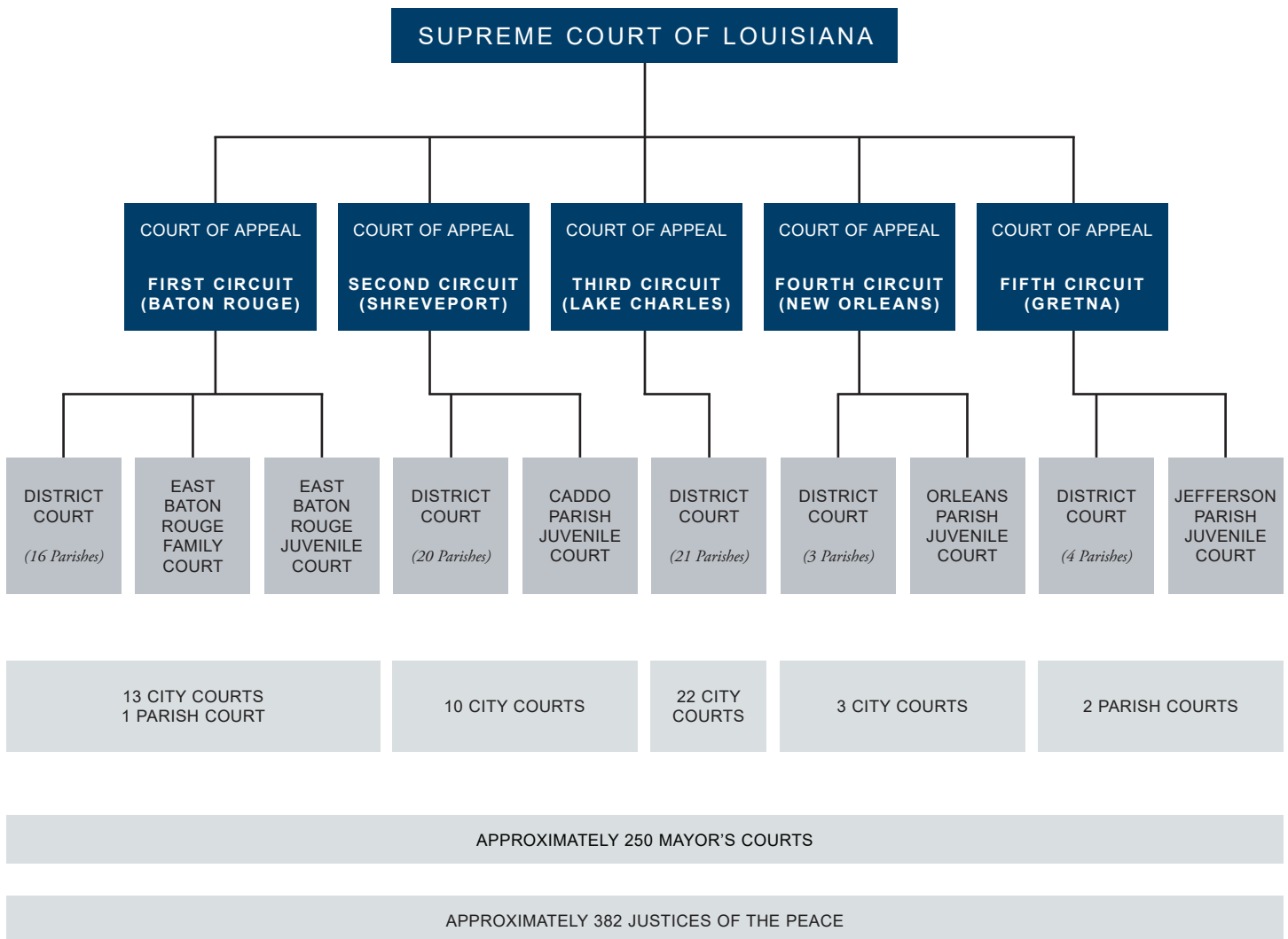
LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2019 Total	2020 Total	2020 Civil	2020 Criminal
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	302	212	179	33
Motions Filed	12	14	5	9
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	557	355	273	82
Writs Refused*	437	278	215	63
Writs Granted	81	61	42	19
Pro Se Writs Filed	236	115	3	112
Pro Se Writs Refused*	162	58	0	58
Pro Se Writs Granted	78	58	3	55
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	30	20	17	3
Consolidated Opinions	11	1	1	0
Opinions Rendered **	239	229	159	70
Rehearings Acted Upon***	67	41	35	6
Appeals Pending	167	156	145	11
Argued But Not Decided	24	11	11	0
To Be Argued	143	145	134	11
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	20	19	13	6
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>				
Appeals Filed	207	131	85	46
Motions Filed	28	15	10	5
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	198	203	138	65
Writs Refused*	148	134	91	43
Writs Granted	37	44	28	16
Pro Se Writs Filed	183	126	7	119
Pro Se Writs Refused*	164	105	7	98
Pro Se Writs Granted	27	19	1	18
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	31	17	14	3
Consolidated Opinions	6	4	4	0
Opinions Rendered **	197	174	97	77
Rehearings Acted Upon***	49	30	15	15
Appeals Pending	94	61	41	20
Argued But Not Decided	15	8	7	1
To Be Argued	79	53	34	19
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	25	22	12	10
<b>TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS</b>				
Appeals Filed	1,702	1,191	912	279
Motions Filed	90	75	49	26
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	1,890	1,499	1,093	406
Writs Refused*	1,380	1,068	789	279
Writs Granted	395	303	219	84
Pro Se Writs Filed	1,474	865	43	822
Pro Se Writs Refused*	1,229	745	30	715
Pro Se Writs Granted	267	182	15	167
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	222	158	139	19
Consolidated Opinions	88	59	55	4
Opinions Rendered **	1,454	1,255	885	370
Rehearings Acted Upon***	320	230	181	49
Appeals Pending	929	766	606	160
Argued But Not Decided	167	98	87	11
To Be Argued	762	668	519	149
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	27	24	17	7

\* Includes writs denied, writs not considered, writs dismissed and transferred

\*\* Includes opinions on appeals, writs, rehearings &amp; supplemental opinions

\*\*\* Includes rehearings on writs



Number of Justices and Judges:	<b>7</b>	Supreme Court
	<b>53</b>	Courts of Appeal
	<b>236</b>	District, Family and Juvenile
	<b>72</b>	City and Parish Courts
	<b>368</b>	Total





# 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.

## 2020 District Court Stats

In keeping with the nationwide trend of declining caseloads due to COVID-19, there was a decrease in filings in Louisiana district courts to 507,236, a decrease of -21.82% when compared with 2019. In 2020, there decreased filings in all reporting categories with decrease in: civil filings by -16.77%, criminal filings by -16.85%, juvenile filings by -22.56%, traffic filings by -25.93%, civil jury trials by -78.41% and criminal jury trials by -65.84%.



# 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).

## 2020 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts decreased by -22.36% from 11,130 in 2019 to 8,641 in 2020.

## LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2019 Total Filed	2020 Juvenile Filed	2020 Civil Filed	2020 Criminal Filed	2020 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2020 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
DISTRICT	PARISH							Civil	Criminal
1	Caddo <sup>1</sup>	21,925	674	5,702	7,119	3,434	16,929	3	29
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>21,925</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>3,434</b>	<b>16,929</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>
2	Bienville	6,098	39	336	399	5,697	6,471	0	0
	Claiborne	3,235	94	350	339	1,930	2,713	0	0
	Jackson	2,077	164	352	595	382	1,493	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,410</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>8,009</b>	<b>10,677</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
3	Lincoln	7,371	343	630	1,219	3,931	6,123	2	1
	Union	2,849	185	554	1,095	598	2,432	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>10,220</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>8,555</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
4	Morehouse	6,233	245	361	1,004	3,191	4,801	0	2
	Ouachita	29,574	1,645	3,679	1,878	14,063	21,265	1	6
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>35,807</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>4,040</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>17,254</b>	<b>26,066</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
5	Franklin	2,221	176	651	670	601	2,098	0	1
	Richland	8,454	71	519	766	4,236	5,592	0	0
	West Carroll	1,293	52	257	330	488	1,127	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,968</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1,427</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>8,817</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
6	East Carroll	4,374	34	151	466	2,056	2,707	0	0
	Madison	6,047	71	199	871	3,478	4,619	0	0
	Tensas	1,135	31	85	269	497	882	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,556</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>6,031</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
7	Catahoula	1,905	6	250	927	500	1,683	0	1
	Concordia	3,674	153	515	979	1,213	2,860	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,579</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
8	Winn	1,526	34	198	440	524	1,196	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
9	Rapides	17,869	667	2,891	3,929	5,669	13,156	1	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>17,869</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>3,929</b>	<b>5,669</b>	<b>13,156</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
10	Natchitoches	14,427	755	845	1,430	8,670	11,700	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>14,427</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
11	Sabine	3,441	130	566	1,287	706	2,689	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
12	Avoyelles	10,081	231	1,475	2,817	3,255	7,778	1	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>10,081</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
13	Evangeline	6,301	391	609	1,476	3,553	6,029	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>3,553</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
14	Calcasieu	29,825	1,475	4,868	10,511	4,866	21,720	1	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>29,825</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>4,868</b>	<b>10,511</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>21,720</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
15	Acadia	7,702	266	1,069	1,611	2,358	5,304	0	1
	Lafayette	25,001	1,422	6,607	4,241	5,860	18,130	3	3
	Vermilion	6,676	300	1,272	1,622	2,134	5,328	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>39,379</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>8,948</b>	<b>7,474</b>	<b>10,352</b>	<b>28,762</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
16	Iberia	8,706	181	1,736	1,161	2,575	5,653	0	2
	St. Martin	7,747	231	1,306	1,098	4,116	6,751	0	0
	St. Mary	5,237	372	1,081	2,131	1,613	5,197	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>21,690</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>4,390</b>	<b>8,304</b>	<b>17,601</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
17	Lafourche	14,923	383	2,130	3,228	5,913	11,654	1	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>11,654</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
18	Iberville	3,996	123	997	1,020	1,245	3,385	0	0
	Pointe Coupee	6,666	79	521	585	2,136	3,321	1	0
	West Baton Rouge	2,685	63	796	1,011	1,247	3,117	0	2
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>13,347</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>9,823</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
19	East Baton Rouge <sup>1</sup>	45,737	0	12,769	6,416	9,717	28,902	5	14
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>45,737</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,769</b>	<b>6,416</b>	<b>9,717</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>
20	East Feliciana	2,862	153	941	688	573	2,355	0	1
	West Feliciana	1,791	73	322	882	297	1,574	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>3,929</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS *Two Year Trend in Activity*

DISTRICT	PARISH	2019 Total Filed	2020 Juvenile Filed	2020 Civil Filed	2020 Criminal Filed	2020 <sup>2</sup> Traffic Filed	2020 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
								Civil	Criminal
21	Livingston	19,550	671	3,209	3,905	6,851	14,636	0	3
	St. Helena	2,799	66	261	309	923	1,559	0	0
	Tangipahoa	32,349	769	3,330	2,883	22,353	29,335	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>54,698</b>	<b>1,506</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>7,097</b>	<b>30,127</b>	<b>45,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
22	St. Tammany	35,071	814	6,730	6,292	15,908	29,744	2	6
	Washington	4,650	194	1,058	887	1,859	3,998	0	4
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>39,721</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>7,788</b>	<b>7,179</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>33,742</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
23	Ascension <sup>1</sup>	6,071	402	2,984	1,488	0	4,874	0	1
	Assumption	2,215	36	495	626	721	1,878	0	0
	St. James	3,769	110	602	494	3,109	4,315	1	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>2,608</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
24	Jefferson <sup>1</sup>	20,326	0	10,777	7,827	0	18,604	2	9
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>20,326</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,777</b>	<b>7,827</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,604</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
25	Plaquemines	3,041	70	665	920	1,543	3,198	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>3,198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
26	Bossier	20,821	564	2,715	6,294	5,719	15,292	0	3
	Webster	4,832	113	707	830	1,703	3,353	0	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>25,653</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>7,124</b>	<b>7,422</b>	<b>18,645</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
27	St. Landry	20,788	472	2,129	1,962	13,593	18,156	0	5
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>20,788</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>13,593</b>	<b>18,156</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
28	LaSalle	1,983	74	337	458	497	1,366	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
29	St. Charles	24,530	380	1,678	1,462	13,750	17,270	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>24,530</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>13,750</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
30	Vernon	11,973	232	958	965	5,736	7,891	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>11,973</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>5,736</b>	<b>7,891</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
31	Jefferson Davis	9,255	118	744	883	2,967	4,712	1	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>9,255</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>2,967</b>	<b>4,712</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
32	Terrebonne	23,442	400	2,600	3,317	12,800	19,117	4	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>23,442</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>3,317</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>19,117</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
33	Allen	3,893	200	488	625	970	2,283	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
34	St. Bernard	5,967	157	1,374	1,115	2,584	5,230	3	3
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,967</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>2,584</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
35	Grant	4,103	146	626	765	1,669	3,206	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>4,103</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
36	Beauregard	7,554	168	795	1,127	4,128	6,218	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>7,554</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>4,128</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
37	Caldwell	2,274	57	278	757	683	1,775	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
38	Cameron	3,496	42	167	643	2,014	2,866	0	1
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>2,866</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
39	Red River	1,601	35	211	528	1,707	2,481	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
40	St. John the Baptist	18,497	242	2,074	1,443	13,348	17,107	0	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>18,497</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>13,348</b>	<b>17,107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
42	DeSoto	5,830	71	789	683	2,452	3,995	1	0
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>5,830</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>3,995</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
	Orleans Civil <sup>1</sup>	12,536	0	10,796	0	0	10,796	5	0
	Orleans Criminal <sup>1</sup>	3,888	0	0	3,247	0	3,247	0	14
	<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>16,424</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,796</b>	<b>3,247</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,043</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Statewide Totals:</b>	<b>648,768</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>117,167</b>	<b>119,245</b>	<b>252,909</b>	<b>507,236</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>152</b>

**2020 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 \$590,000.00.

1. Violations of Traffic, Misdemeanors, and/or Juvenile/Family Laws are Processed by Parish, City, and/or Juvenile/Family Courts. 2. DWI is included in the criminal totals beginning in 1990.

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



# Louisiana Juvenile Courts

## JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS – CALENDAR YEAR 2020

	CADD0				E. BATON ROUGE			
	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>		Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	
Formal FINS	272	272	272		136	209	136	
Juvenile Traffic	276	276	276		448	652	448	
Juvenile Delinquency	964	0	964		562	1,638	562	
Mental Incapacity to Proceed <sup>2</sup>	3	0	3		1	12	1	
Interstate compact for Juveniles	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Contempt of Court	22	0	22		128	128	128	
Child in Need of Care Cases	106		106		112		176	
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	3		3		23		26	
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	16		16		9		11	
Surrender of Parental Rights	6		6		41		38	
Adoption	37		37		66		76	
Child Support	968		0		0		0	
Mental Health	60		60		10		10	
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	1		1		60		60	
Minor Marriages	0		0		0		0	
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0		1		1	
Domestic Abuse	137		137		7		7	
Other	10		10		36		45	
Subtotal	2,881	548	1,913		1,640	2,639	1,725	

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 <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>	Filings	Charges	Children <sup>1</sup>
83	86	83	1	1	1	492	568	492
661	999	661	138	142	139	1,523	2,069	1,524
611	1,211	610	699	1,677	722	2,836	4,436	2,858
11	11	11	0	0	0	15	23	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
98	98	98	0	0	0	248	226	248
123		123	122		123	463		528
59		59	12		12	97		100
43		43	0		0	68		70
7		7	0		0	54		51
112		112	50		51	265		276
831		0	0		0	1,799		0
0		0	1		1	71		71
0		0	0		0	61		61
0		0	2		2	2		2
0		0	0		0	1		1
0		0	5		5	149		149
337		337	114		114	497		506
2,976	2,315	2,144	1,144	1,820	1,170	8,641	7,322	6,952



# 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.

## 2020 City & Parish Court Stats

In keeping with the nationwide trend of declining caseloads due to COVID-19, there was a decrease in filings in Louisiana city and parish Courts, filings decreased by -24.20% from 502,029 filings in 2019 to 380,524. In 2020, there were decreased filings in all reporting categories with decreases in: civil filings by -38.89%, criminal filings by -11.77%, juvenile filings by -16.76% and traffic filings by -23.31%.



LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2020

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
CITY	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDINGS	
Abbeville	292	188	1,454	959	1,919	1,846	142	166	3,807	3,159	0	0
Alexandria	1,848	1,405	5,959	5,584	6,374	6,339	0	0	14,181	13,328	0	0
Ascension	430	292	2,820	2,787	5,974	6,198	127	235	9,351	9,512	0	0
Baker	367	558	324	212	1,183	897	0	0	1,874	1,667	0	0
Bastrop	454	273	638	533	706	622	0	0	1,798	1,428	0	0
Baton Rouge <sup>1</sup>	5,072	4,913	8,955	8,427	42,533	49,276	0	0	56,560	62,616	21,197	27,133
Bogalusa	264	172	1,606	813	1,917	1,328	80	95	3,867	2,408	2,822	2,588
Bossier City	1,347	1,600	1,539	1,254	5,143	5,720	542	651	8,571	9,225	143	121
Breaux Bridge	306	257	611	212	312	88	58	17	1,287	574	117	92
Bunkie	43	42	115	113	1,025	1,025	16	16	1,199	1,196	0	0
Crowley	456	595	604	587	2,104	1,841	185	146	3,349	3,169	0	0
Denham Springs	1,672	1,140	1,376	632	4,590	4,496	304	269	7,942	6,537	0	0
East St. Tammany	1,529	1,395	3,098	2,377	4,052	3,537	760	682	9,439	7,991	2,048	2,048
Eunice	337	225	373	290	572	672	161	153	1,443	1,340	0	0
Franklin	197	153	392	286	471	323	30	29	1,090	791	0	0
Hammond	2,000	1,976	1,665	1,899	9,196	7,486	675	252	13,536	11,613	0	0
Houma	3,301	1,704	1,403	1,508	3,476	3,590	794	657	8,974	7,459	1,454	498
Jeanerette	52	185	207	241	4,664	4,259	103	90	5,026	4,775	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	3,273	5,955	2,808	1,447	32,963	26,173	0	0	39,044	33,575	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	3,291	11,379	2,087	765	14,316	11,395	0	0	19,694	23,539	0	0
Jennings	243	237	933	258	4,243	2,383	35	37	5,454	2,915	0	0
Kaplan	59	38	384	399	429	473	64	62	936	972	0	0
Lafayette	2,333	2,746	2,744	1,752	14,419	11,889	641	470	20,137	16,857	817	817
Lake Charles	2,160	1,772	901	2,553	4,817	4,276	128	46	8,006	8,647	0	0
Leesville	142	49	397	292	931	803	52	24	1,522	1,168	0	0
Marksville	355	344	67	67	221	221	11	11	654	643	0	0
Minden	312	333	435	320	1,132	785	173	130	2,052	1,568	2	2
Monroe	2,423	2,540	1,623	1,284	4,324	6,375	294	113	8,664	10,312	0	0
Morgan City	301	233	579	1,028	825	842	120	124	1,825	2,227	0	0
Natchitoches	405	278	1,204	858	2,147	888	196	131	3,952	2,155	113	113
New Iberia	691	699	911	793	2,527	1,988	174	114	4,303	3,594	171	67
N.O. 1st City Ct.	6,380	2,216	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,380	2,216	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,222	1,453	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,222	1,453	0	0
N.O. Municipal & Traffic	0	0	8,343	6,749	18,390	24,695	0	0	26,733	31,444	0	0
Oakdale	73	83	172	118	1,559	1,108	57	42	1,861	1,351	0	0
Opelousas	715	740	900	314	1,018	1,018	401	228	3,034	2,300	0	0
Pineville	490	588	2,458	666	2,698	2,819	0	0	5,646	4,073	83	0
Plaquemine	173	10	284	101	1,317	895	46	37	1,820	1,043	0	0
Port Allen	179	41	130	66	5,076	4,101	8	8	5,393	4,216	0	0
Rayne	285	298	33	58	2,625	4,127	46	46	2,989	4,529	0	0
Ruston	771	718	636	520	3,877	3,433	0	0	5,284	4,671	891	354
Shreveport	5,844	4,913	3,489	2,893	19,059	19,125	0	0	28,392	26,931	25,469	0
Springhill	158	158	715	345	305	311	116	99	1,294	913	35	25
Sulphur	607	364	2,784	2,581	2,173	2,716	129	159	5,693	5,820	66	44
Thibodaux	514	292	732	604	1,324	1,662	233	139	2,803	2,697	0	0
Vidalia	39	19	114	66	463	304	16	14	632	403	0	0
Ville Platte	301	231	554	383	479	329	51	32	1,385	975	0	0
West Monroe	2,421	2,028	1,431	968	2,023	2,212	74	58	5,949	5,266	545	545
Winnfield	34	10	449	259	690	449	0	0	1,173	718	0	0
Winnsboro	153	3	338	276	384	291	89	37	964	607	0	0
Zachary	418	294	334	123	1,588	1,427	0	0	2,340	1,844	0	0
<b>STATE TOTALS:</b>	<b>56,732</b>	<b>58,135</b>	<b>72,108</b>	<b>57,620</b>	<b>244,553</b>	<b>239,056</b>	<b>7,131</b>	<b>5,619</b>	<b>380,524</b>	<b>360,430</b>	<b>55,973</b>	<b>34,447</b>

1. Counts are per charge.

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