



SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA
2022 ANNUAL REPORT
of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court

THE SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA



From left: 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. *

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. *

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. *

* See Court District Maps on pages 18-19.

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 2022 and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts.

RESOURCES ON THE WEB AT WWW.LASC.ORG

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

The **2022 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.

2022: NEVER JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL

I am pleased to present to you the 2022 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.

On behalf of myself, and with gratitude to my learned and respected colleagues, Justices Griffin, McCallum, Crain, Genovese, Crichton, and Hughes, (in reverse order of their seniority), I submit this report.

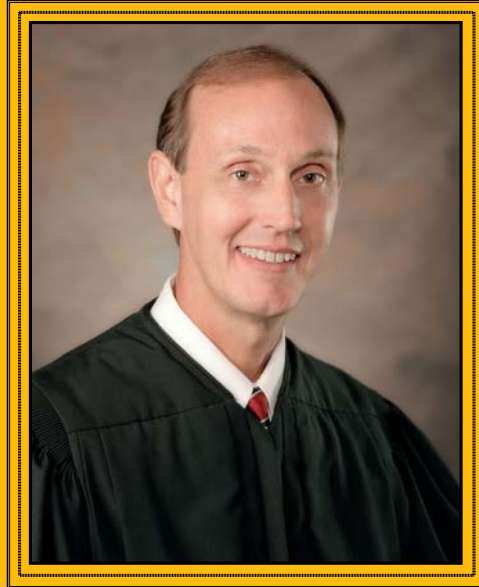
Compared to the preceding year, the year that was 2022 was marked by fewer widespread, precipitous and calamitous events. No major hurricanes waded upon our coast, and the COVID-19 pandemic trended toward lesser virulence. That is not to say our state saw no tragic weather and public health events in 2022. Tornadoes struck the northern and central areas of our state, and truly any loss of life from weather and the virus is heartbreaking. But during the year preceding, i.e., 2021, which was certainly worse in those aspects, I often heard people ask, “When will things get back to normal?” So, as I reflect on the general improvements that we saw in 2022, this begs a compound question: “Have we arrived... is this the new normal?”

Based on what I have seen in our judicial system in 2022, I actually think it is unnecessary and perhaps unhelpful to answer that question. As a Judiciary, we are better equipped to handle whatever comes our way. Having been schooled by the panoply of recent experiences, our judges, clerks, administrators, and employees have become more nimble and resilient in their mindset and in their work.

As but one example, courts throughout Louisiana continue to find new and creative uses for technology to assist the public. As of this writing, 21 of the 42 District Courts have launched uniform websites, and based on diligent work in 2022, another four districts courts are readying their websites to launch soon. These new websites are all equipped with similar drop-down menus where the public can access court information, dockets, and commonly-needed forms. An outgrowth largely born of the necessities of the pandemic, these websites provide direct links to remote court hearings – making the litigation process more efficient and accessible.

Other technological improvements are on the way, because we are a Judiciary that looks to the future, as we must.

It has been often said that time is the most precious of all resources. How time is spent, therefore, reflects the value placed upon those with whom we share our time. Louisi-



ana's judges invest heavily in our citizens and in many ways that are outside what immediately comes to mind when citizens think of the role of judging. For example, judges give of their time to serve in Drug & Specialty Courts, which serve as alternatives to incarceration for those who can successfully complete the rigors of rehabilitation.

In 2022, judges across Louisiana made another huge investment of time, with myriad benefits for the future. Over 100 judges took part in educational outreach initiatives as part of Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom program, thereby reaching nearly 11,500 students across the state. The Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Court-

room program was active in so many ways. Judges tailored their message to their audience, by reading inspirational books to the earliest grades, and providing civic education lessons to middle and high school students. As we have seen, judges are also uniquely positioned to provide poignant reasons for juveniles to have respect for the law and understand the consequences of inappropriate behavior. These are just some of the ways that judges invested their time and talent last year in the communities they serve.

These accomplishments were born from a public service mindset. In that same vein, I am pleased to report that a system-wide study in conjunction with the United States Department of Justice has yielded a number of steps to improve language access to court proceedings for non-English speakers. For instance, an interpreter program has been implemented to test and certify translation services for court proceedings.

Other developments on a national level were felt in Louisiana. In 2022, the results of the national decennial census were a major impetus for the Louisiana Legislature to create a Judicial Structure Task Force. As recounted in the legislative instrument creating this Task Force:

[T]he release of the detailed 2020 federal decennial census data on August 12, 2021, revealed serious population losses in some parts of the state and tremendous population growth in other parts of the state; and ... as population shifts from some areas of this state to others, it would be prudent to examine the caseload data from each court in the state of Louisiana to determine if the judicial resources are being

used in the most efficient manner possible.
H.R. 30 (2022 Reg. Session).

At my insistence, the participation of judges in this Task Force was expanded beyond the four judges initially contemplated by H.R. 30. Moreover, since I myself have been given a seat at the table, the cooperation I have witnessed from legislative colleagues includes giving every stakeholder in our judicial system an invitation into the unfolding dialogue, from the judges who serve, the legislators who write the laws we enforce, to the public that pays for and expects the government to provide justice in our state.

The Task Force is charged with reporting to the Legislature whether some areas are overserved with judicial resources, and whether some areas are underserved by judicial resources. To do so, the Task Force has contracted with the National Center for State Courts, which is the entity that the judges on the Task Force recommended for creating a workpoint study. Although the number of cases filed is one measure of a community's needs for judicial resources, that number hardly gives a full picture. The workpoint study is needed to fill in information on the complexity of the cases filed.

Wherever conditions of either overserving or underserving our communities exist, the Task Force is charged with recommending structural changes to remedy the situation. Any next steps would be taken by the Legislature, and it is important to recall that the constitutional framework of which the Judiciary is a part rightfully safeguards against abrupt changes that would interfere with judicial independence. Whether any geographic areas would be recommended for an increase or decrease in judicial resources, I firmly believe it will be everyone's responsibility to urge that the Legislature only do so in a manner that respects the rich diversity of our state. We cannot sacrifice diversity in the name of efficiency. Rather, I believe we must insist on both.

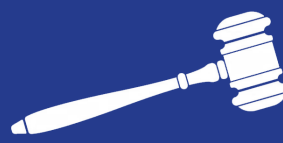
Although the three branches of our state's government are independent in their work, they cannot stand on their own. The three branches share the same roots, which are not simply the tax dollars collected to fund them. More importantly, the branches of government stand on the individual acts of trust placed in us by our citizens. For this reason, I invited our legislative colleagues to a session of the Fall Judges' Conference. Compared to just a decade ago, there are far fewer lawyers who are legislators. So, the Judges' Conference provided a valuable glimpse into what we do. Every day, judges and staff must create an environment of fairness, and every decision rendered must withstand scrutiny when measured under law and logic. That is how the Judiciary engenders trust on a daily basis, and I believe those legislators in attendance at the Judges' Conference left with a better understanding of the myriad ways the Judiciary serves our citizens. Complacency is not part of the equation.

To sum up, the Louisiana Judiciary is not engaged in "business as usual," if that expression refers to only perpetuating the past. Returning to the question I posed earlier, if 2022 was the start of a "new normal" chapter in Louisiana's history, throughout the year I witnessed that Louisiana's Judiciary learns from the challenges of the past, and seeks to provide the best service to the public now and in the future. The materials that you have available in this report reflect the dedicated service that judges and judicial employees rendered to Louisiana in 2022. I am immensely proud of the accomplishments reflected herein, and yet humbled to daily work alongside the creative and committed people responsible for these endeavors.



John L. Weimer
Chief Justice
Louisiana Supreme Court

JUDGES
in the **CLASSROOM**



STUDENTS
in the **COURTROOM**

The **Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom Program** is a unique educational partnership between the Louisiana Supreme Court and various stakeholders, such as the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education, and the Louisiana District Judges Association aimed at bolstering civics education among our state's students and assisting teachers in educating students on the workings of our government and judicial system by those engaged in that very system daily.

Judges participating in the "Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom" outreach initiative cover subject matter on a wide variety of topics in the area of civics and law related instruction, and guide their presentations as appropriate for elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education works closely between judges and schools to arrange these opportunities for enhanced civics education.

Additionally, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Scott J. Crichton developed a program titled, "Crime, Consequences, and the Power of Choice," which educates young people about criminal law and more significantly, the real-life consequences of violating the law. He has prepared this dynamic, in-depth presentation using examples of everyday life situations that can be derailed by bad choices.



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 studies ways to improve judicial procedures, increase efficiencies, and correct shortcomings. Most of the work is done through standing committees or *ad hoc* committees.

In response to legislation from the 2022 Regular Legislative Session, Supreme Court staff continues to work in concert with the **Judicial Structure Task Force**. This work aims to modernize the workpoint formula used to determine shortages and excesses in judicial resources.

The **Standing Committee to Evaluate the Need for New Judgeships** examines requests for new judgeships against set criteria and conducts a site visit to the requesting jurisdiction prior to making a recommendation to the Judicial Council. A request for a new judgeship must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year. This procedure may be altered somewhat based on the work of the Judicial Structure Task Force, which should be completed in early 2024. This year the Council considered a request from the 19th Judicial District Court to add two (2) new Commissioners compensated entirely through local funding.

The **Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for new Court Costs and Fees** reviews applications for new or increased court costs and makes recommendations to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Administrator's Office must receive such a request by October 15 of the year prior to the planned legislative introduction.

The Council considered three (3) requests to increase filing fees: East Baton Rouge Family Court; Ruston City Marshal; and Hammond City Court. After thorough review of all three requests, and based largely on deficiencies in local funding, the Committee recommended favorable passage of the increased fees. Additional legislative resolutions from the 2022 Regular Legislative Session directed the Judicial Council to study 1) the feasibility of a statewide criminal fee schedule (HCR 87) and 2) the number of open felony cases in all trial courts (HCR 101).

Through the work of Judicial Council staff and *ad hoc* committee members, the Judicial Council prepared reports responsive to both legislative resolutions. The Council will submit the reports to the legislature prior to the start of the 2023 legislative session.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Honorable John L. Weimer, Chair
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana
Honorable Piper D. Griffin
Justice, Supreme Court of Louisiana
Honorable Jeffrey L. Robinson
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
Honorable Shannon J. Gremillion
representing Conference of Court of Appeal Judges
Honorable Scott Schlegel
representing Louisiana District Judges Association
Honorable Ramona Emanuel
representing Louisiana District Judges Association
Honorable Kelli Terrell Temple
representing Louisiana City Judges Association
Honorable Pamela Baker
representing Louisiana Council of Juvenile
and Family Court Judges

Stephen I. Dwyer, Esq.
representing Louisiana State Bar Association
Collin Melancon, Esq.
representing Young Lawyers Section of the LSBA
Honorable Guy Holdridge
representing Louisiana State Law Institute
Honorable Franklin J. Foil
State Senator
Honorable Nicholas J. Muscarello, Jr.
State Representative
Honorable Perry M. Nicosia
representing Louisiana District Attorneys Assn.
Meghan M. Garvey
Appointed by the Louisiana Public Defender Board
Honorable Laurie Hulin
representing the Louisiana State Bar Association,
appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court
Honorable Melissa R. Henry
representing Louisiana Clerks of Court Assn.
Dr. Sarah Moody-Thomas
Citizen Representative, appointed by the Louisiana Supreme
Court

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III
Justice Scott J. Crichton
Justice James T. Genovese
Justice William J. Crain
Justice Jay B. McCallum

STAFF OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Sandra A. Vujnovich, JD
Judicial Administrator
Supreme Court of Louisiana
Jennifer Eagan, JD
Deputy Judicial Administrator, Research & Development/
Judicial Council
Supreme Court of Louisiana

2022: 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 divisions of the Judicial Administrator's Office include: Children and Families, Drug and Specialty Courts, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, Office of Language Access, 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



Johanna Braud
Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office



David Becker, JD
Judiciary Commission Counsel



Otha Curtis Nelson, Jr., JD
Children and Families



Veronica Cheneau, PHR, CHRE
Human Resources



Darryl M. Schultz
Legislative Liaison



Frank DiFulco
Case Management Information Systems



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)



Lauren McHugh Rocha, JD
*General Counsel
Legal Department*



Bryan Wolff, CPA, MBA
*Chief Financial Officer/
Accounting Services/Budget*

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.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, LPOR has conducted the LPOR Legal Seminar as a live webinar. Nine (9) webinars were conducted that reached 401 individuals in 2022.

In 2022, LPOR entered 30,806 orders from courts across the state. Of those, 18,485 (60%) were civil orders and 12,321 (40%) were criminal orders. Since its inception through the close of 2022, more than 540,000 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, 395,048 Louisiana orders had been transmitted to NCIC since the start of the program. This includes 19,024 qualifying orders transmitted during 2022.

Also during 2022, LPOR's on-call team responded to 192 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 2022, LPOR responded to a total of 1,884 calls from local, state, other state, and federal law enforcement with requests for verification of orders of protection.

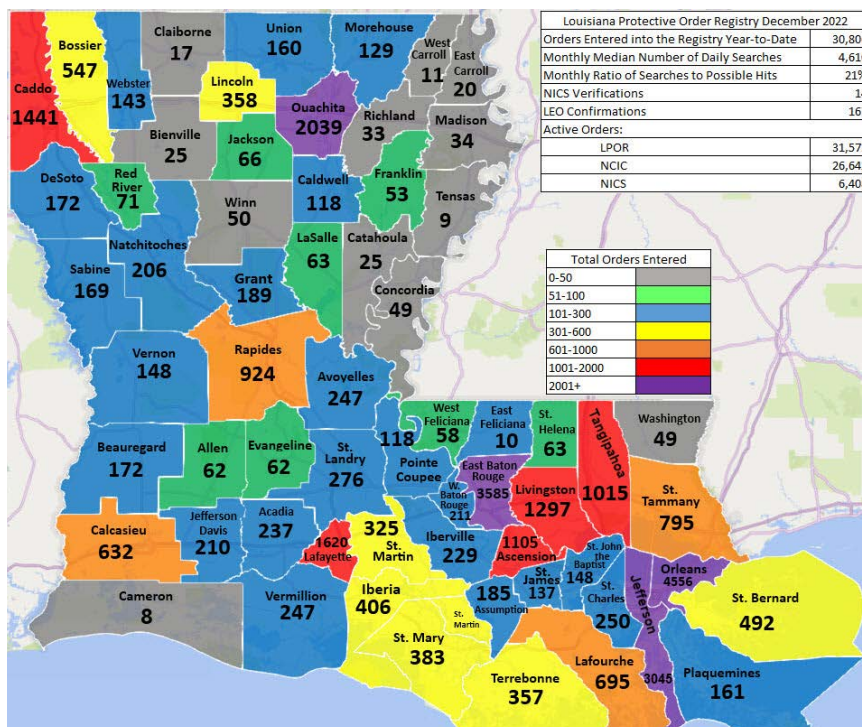


Table One: Civil Orders	1997-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total (1997-2022)
Temporary Restraining Order	233,144	13,999	13,444	14,084	14,809	289,480
Protective Order	72,958	3,689	3,152	3,473	3,639	86,911
Preliminary Injunction	1,266	33	42	16	8	1,365
Permanent Injunction	1,842	74	41	53	29	2,039
Total Civil Orders	309,210	17,795	16,679	17,626	18,485	379,795
Table Two: Criminal Orders	1997-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total (1997-2022)
Bail Restriction	79,312	9,159	8,738	11,007	10,502	118,718
Peace Bond	19,070	0	0	2	0	19,072
Combined Bail/ Peace Bond	9,457	7	1	2	188	9,655
Sentencing Order	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation Conditions	0	0	0	1	1	2
Combined Sentencing/ Probation	11,620	1,084	769	1,231	1,630	16,334
Total Criminal Orders	119,459	10,250	9,508	12,243	12,321	163,781
Table Three: Totals by Year	1997-2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total (1997-2022)
Total Civil and Criminal Orders	428,669	28,045	26,187	29,869	30,806	543,576

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 71 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 47 are drug courts. Of these 47 drug courts, 26 have been in operation 20 years or longer, and 10 have been providing services to their communities for 10 years or more. Other Louisiana specialty courts are Reentry Courts, Veterans Treatment 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.

2022 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	3,056	275	369	213	273	212	87	4,485
Individuals Screened	1,760	229	368	317	138	39	72	2,923
New Participants Admitted	1,293	158	210	98	109	31	45	1,944
Treatment Hours Administered	204,379	4,632	10,527	2,288	17,504	1,912	3,807	245,049
Drug Tests Administered	105,392	2,782	8,437	3,369	10,672	4,888	1,680	137,220

2022 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	26	0	17	3	0	0	0	46
Obtained GED/HiSET	7	7	1	0	0	2	0	17
Obtained Employment	677	71	69	14	0	30	8	869
Obtained Secure Housing	235	2	38	5	0	24	4	308
Community Service Hours	22,107	398	255	274	13,860	378	652	37,924

Recidivism 6% (94% of participants who graduated in 2018 had no new convictions.)

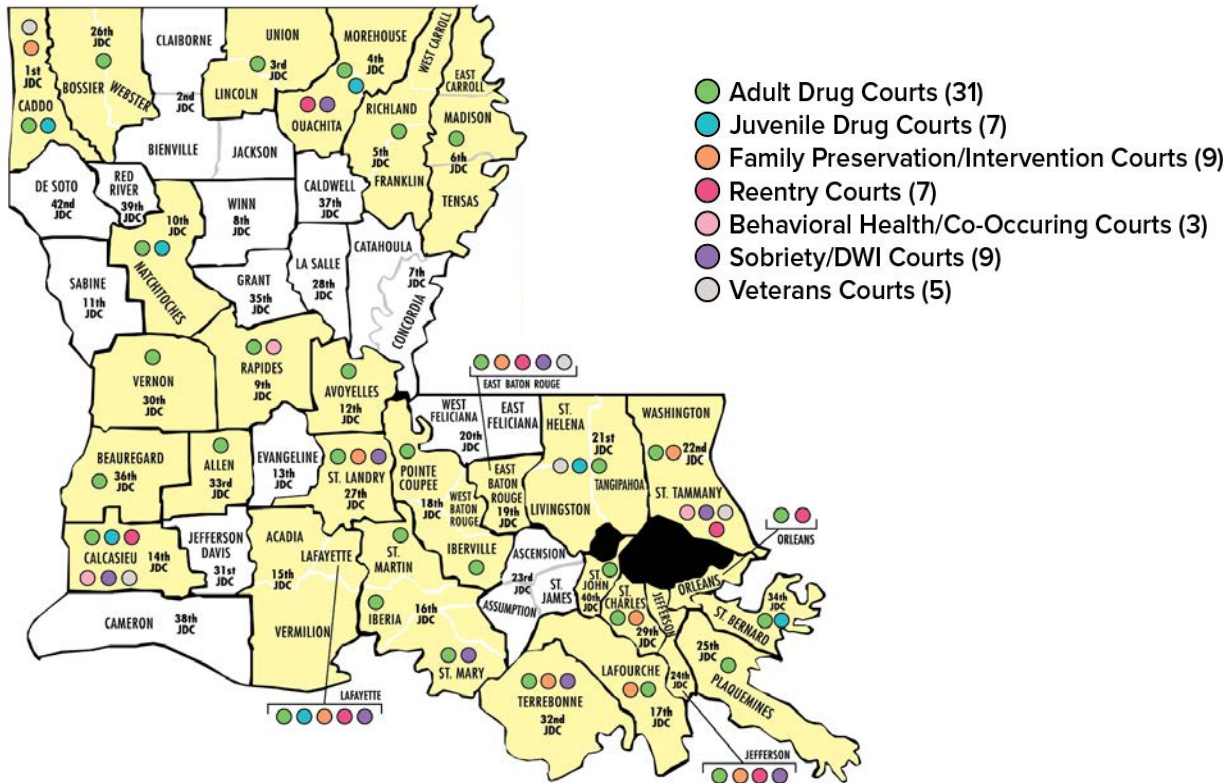
*The cost of care and treatment for each child born addicted to drugs is estimated to be approximately \$250,000 for the first year of life, Office of Justice Programs, 1997.

2022 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	474	73	72	36	76	32	25	788
Average Months in Program	25	12	17	18	25	32	21	21

DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS



OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

The *Office of Language Access* is now in the final year of the three year Statewide Language Access Plan to improve the state's approach to language access and the deployment of court interpreters to limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. This past year, there were many additions to the state's language access resources including:

- Online training modules for judges, clerks of court, attorneys, and all justice system partners;
- New Louisiana Supreme Court rules, applicable to all courts, mandating the appointment of a qualified interpreter in court proceedings and the availability of language access resources in court programs (both at no cost to the LEP individual);
- A free Continuing Legal Education course for attorneys, through the Law Library of Louisiana, on language access, court interpreters, and American Sign Language; and,
- A joint effort by the Language Access Stakeholder Committee and the Louisiana Law Institute to study and propose modifications to Louisiana law relative to court interpreter qualifications to ensure interpreter quality.

Now that the Language Access Plan is in its final year, the Language Access Stakeholder Committee will draft a new Language Access Plan for the next three-year period (2023-2025). For more information about Louisiana's language access resources, including signs, translated materials, and brochures, go to www.lasc.org/languageaccess.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

During 2022, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice.



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The *Court Appointed Special Advocates* (CASA) Assistance Program administers funding for CASA programs in 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts. The purpose of Court Appointed Special Advocates is to advocate for timely placement of children in permanent, safe, and stable homes. CASA Programs are appointed by a court to designate a volunteer for a child involved in certain proceedings before the court. CASA volunteers serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the court exercising juvenile jurisdiction. Volunteers have the special duty and responsibility to advocate for the best interests of the child to which he or she is assigned throughout the pendency of judicial proceedings.

In 2022, CASA programs served 2,880 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children through the advocacy of 1,274 volunteer advocates. Closed cases resulted in the placement of 1,114 children in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 341 new volunteer advocates.

Families in Need of Services (FINS)

The *Families in Need of Services* (FINS) Assistance Program (FINS-AP) administers funding for Informal FINS Offices in 45 courts across Louisiana. Informal FINS provides an alternative to formal justice system processing for status offenders. FINS intake officers statewide processed over 6,000 referrals in 2022, almost twice as much as the previous year. Officers continued implementing intensive case management strategies to coordinate needed intervention services for youth and families.



Highlights in 2022 include collaborating with Louisiana FINS Association in training FINS officers on new innovative ways to approach treatment and services. FINS-AP, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Office of Juvenile Justice worked with the Human Trafficking Office of Louisiana to develop a statewide model to bridge the gaps of services for trafficking victims. FINS-AP, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, continued receiving CDC opioid grant funding that allowed FINS-AP to provide a Fall Opioid Training in which participants learned the risk factors for opioid abuse and how to identify individuals with substance use disorder. FINS Officers were trained to use the CAGE and CRAFFT, two screening tools to help identify substance users and properly refer to treatment services, aiding in the prevention of overdose.

Court Improvement Program (CIP)

The *Louisiana Court Improvement Program* (CIP) is coordinated by the Pelican Center, under a sub-grant agreement with the Louisiana Supreme Court. During 2022, the CIP provided legal and interdisciplinary resources and trainings designed to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of abused and neglected children in our state. The CIP provided 186 training opportunities, allowing 809 professionals to receive training resulting in over 2,564 CLE hours earned by attorneys and judges. In 2022, the CIP was recognized as a model program in the nation by Associate Commissioner of the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Aysha Schomburg. For more information on all the highlights of this past year, visit the Court Improvement Program's page at the Louisiana Supreme Court website: https://www.lasc.org/Children_Families?p=CIP



Division of Children and Families

In 2022, Storm Ehlers became the new Deputy Judicial Administrator of the Division. The Division of Children and Families provided staff support on behalf of the court for representation on the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Collaborative, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission, the Child Protection Representation Commission, the Louisiana Children's Justice Task Force, and the Children's Law Committee.

LAW LIBRARY

LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

Located in the Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. Courthouse 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 100,000 physical volumes, in addition to a full array of online legal resources.

The Law Library reopened to the public on March 14, 2022 after being open by appointment only due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic. Librarians maintained a virtual reference desk and provided uninterrupted service, responding to over 1,600 inquiries throughout the year. The Law Library sponsored 5 CLE webinars: “Writ NOT Denied: Navigating the Louisiana Supreme Court’s Rule X,” co-sponsored by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society; “Reflections on *Buck v. Bell*: What Have We Learned?,” “What Lawyers Should Know about Louisiana’s Language Access Plan,” “A Lie Will Suffice: A Family’s Criminal Law History (1921-1935),” and the annual A.P. Tureaud American Inn of Court End-of-the-Year Ethics & Professionalism CLE programs, also co-sponsored by the Historical Society. The Law Library also prepared two display cases examining the 2022 Law Day theme, “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.” The Law Library and the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Access to Justice Department hosted two Legal Education and Assistance Program (LEAP) training webinars for public librarians on March 31 and May 3.

The Law Library’s collection of books and other materials is continually updated. In 2022 the library added 968 new titles and 1,305 new volumes. Additionally, the Law Library provided responses to 102 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



Law Library of Louisiana Director Miriam Childs speaks with students from the St. Landry Parish Interact Club about the Law Library’s resources and collections available to its patrons.

THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA STAFF

Miriam Childs, MLIS
Director, Law Library of Louisiana
Sara Pic, JD, MLIS
Head of Public Services
Tara Cunningham, MLIS
Head of Collection Services
Francis Norton, JD, MLIS
Research Lawyer/Librarian & Government Documents Coordinator

Cynthia Jones, MA
Librarian
Angela Reaux, MLIS
Librarian
Sebastian Fernandez
Library Associate
Cody Goin
Library Associate

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The *Community Relations Division* (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 Division manages the court website’s information and design (www.lasc.org), handles media relations, provides photographic and videographic support, and produces court publications such as the *Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Louisiana Supreme Court* and the *Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom* newsletter. 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.

The CRD issued 45 media and press releases in 2022, reaching over 14,000 recipients.

In 2022, the CRD assisted with media coverage for a number of events including the 2022 State of the Judiciary Address by Chief Justice John L. Weimer to the Joint Session of the House and Senate in Baton Rouge; the presentation of the ABA’s Mark Hardin award to retired Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge Ernestine S. Gray; the *Judges in the Classroom/Students in the Courtroom* educational initiative; Law Day, Constitution Day, and Black History Month outreach initiatives; and the 70th Annual Red Mass.

In 2022, the CRD staff conducted 47 courthouse tours for 753 visitors, standing in contrast to the seven courthouse tours for 276 guests in 2021 and 13 courthouse tours for 250 court visitors in 2020. These tours are conducted for students and other visitors from across the state and country, and from around the world.



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Piper D. Griffin speaks with a delegation of judicial, anticorruption, and prosecutorial officials from the Republic of Uzbekistan. The 15-person delegatoin included the Deputy Chairman and members of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan Supreme Court. Justice Griffin discussed the jurisdiction and caseload of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the role of the Court in providing guidance to lower state courts, and training and education programs for Louisiana’s judges.

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 462,259 criminal records containing filing, disposition, and sentencing information in 2022. Of those records, 116,367 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, the courts and criminal justice agencies to help enhance public safety. This is a decrease of -9% over last year for records provided by the courts to CMIS and there was an increase of 2% in dispositions reported to the computerized criminal history database.

NICS is a National Instant Check System hosted by the FBI that searches available records on persons who are disqualified from receiving or purchasing 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: 65,956 disposition records were posted to the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS) database, an increase of 2% over last year. Of the records posted to the NICS database: 46,192 were felony convictions; 4,532 were misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence; 9,918 drug convictions; 96 were not guilty by reason of insanity; 1,184 were incompetent to stand trial; 1,560 were probation restrictions; 1,454 were court-ordered firearm prohibitions under C.Cr.P. Art. 320(B) and 1,020 civil judicial commitment orders. CMIS was also able to provide to NICS 52,937 felony indictments in 2022. As of January 3, 2023, there were 846,553 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 3, 2023, there were 25,510 criminal and civil protection orders from the Louisiana Protective Order Registry active in the National Crime Information Center and 6,262 were active in the NICS database.

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. This is accomplished by upgrades to case management systems, the implementation of clerk-district attorney electronic data exchanges in some jurisdictions, and upgrading computer equipment.

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 2022 651,840 traffic records were received from lower courts. Among those records 130,879 qualifying convictions were accepted by OMV. CMIS received traffic data from 64 parishes, 27 city courts, and 9 mayor's courts.

CMIS Outreach

In 2022, CMIS committed more than \$2,229,780 in federal grants to Louisiana courts and criminal justice agencies throughout the state to support the reporting of qualifying records to the FBI NICS database and the Louisiana Criminal History database. Federal grant funds were secured in collaboration with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). The grant funds allowed the courts to improve document management, data processing and data availability.

CMIS continues to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of disposition reporting, and by working with the Louisiana District Attorneys Association (LDAA) through a Memorandum of Understanding. CMIS and LDAA work to identify collaborative training programs and 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. This allows the courts 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).

CMIS has also begun efforts to improve data sharing throughout the state by partnering with the state's criminal justice agencies, offices and associations through the Louisiana Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS). The ICJIS Policy Board has the statutory directive to provide for common standards which ensure communications among the ICJIS systems, and a common forum for the discussion of issues affecting the agencies involved.

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE

As the judicial education branch of the Louisiana Supreme Court, the *Louisiana Judicial College's* mission is to “provide judges with high quality, comprehensive, and relevant professional development and training, in order to ensure the timely, fair, impartial, and efficient administration of justice for all citizens of Louisiana.”

As lawyers, judges are required to attend a minimum of 12.5 hours of continuing legal education every year — 1 hour of which must be on legal ethics and 1 hour on professional responsibility. Per Louisiana Supreme Court Rule XXX, Part H, Rule 3(f), effective January 1, 2013, judges must obtain 5 of those 12.5 hours from the Louisiana Judicial College.

The College coordinates three major conferences per year: Spring Judges Conference, Summer School, and Fall Judges Conference. These are supplemented by other seminars with specialized content including New Judge Training; Evidence and Procedure Seminar; City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar; Rural Courts Seminar; Torts Seminar; and other trainings coordinated in partnership with Supreme Court departments. Judges are also able to access lessons online and on-demand.

Louisiana welcomed four new state judges in 2022, who started the year off by completing “New Judge Training” (which began in December 2021). This includes a wide-ranging curriculum to help new judges transition, and also a judicial mentorship program. Soon after, the College provided the “Evidence and Procedure Seminar” with the Louisiana Association for Justice in March, and the Spring Judges Conference in April.

Summer School, held in partnership with the Louisiana State Bar Association in June, provided more CLE programming (over 100 hours) than any other conference throughout the year.

In August, the College hosted the “City, Family, and Juvenile Judges Seminar,” which provided specialized trainings for judges with these specific jurisdictions.

Fall Conference was held in October in New Orleans, with traditional educational and collegial activities, including a joint program on intergovernmental relations with state legislators. The Rural Courts Conference was held in Pineville, LA at Camp Beauregard.

The College closed out the year by co-hosting the “Torts Seminar” with the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel in December.

By year's end, the College also tallied hundreds of hours of participation in the College's on-demand online CLE offerings.

The College's curriculum represents over 200 annual “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 program also provides opportunities for judges to receive updates on recent legislative and jurisprudential developments, and discussions on best practices for judicial administration.

In addition to training, the College provides a number of important resources for judges including “Bench Books,” sample forms, model rules, and other template materials; and national resources.

The College also continued its work with the Louisiana Municipal Association by providing training and resources for mayors, magistrates, city attorneys, clerks of court, and others involved in the administration of Mayor's Courts throughout the state.

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 Executive Director Michael Schachtman at MSchachtman@lasc.org. The rest of the staff includes Billie Bennett, Judicial Education Coordinator, and Marion Armand, Administrative Assistant, in Baton Rouge; and Flora Williams, Judicial Education Coordinator in New Orleans.

LOUISIANA JUDICIAL COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT CO-CHAIRS

Justice Scott J. Crichton, Chair
Supreme Court of Louisiana
Justice William J. Crain, Vice-Chair
Supreme Court of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kirk Williams (President)
Baker City Court
C. Wendell Manning (Vice President)
4th Judicial District Court
Nakisha Ervin-Knott (Secretary)
Orleans Civil District Court
Anastasia “Staci” Wiley (Treasurer)
8th Judicial District Court
Susan M. Chehardy (Immediate Past President)
5th Circuit Court of Appeal

MEMBERS

Tiffany Chase
4th Circuit Court of Appeal
Michael Clement
25th Judicial District Court
Gregory J. Doucet
27th Judicial District Court
Daniel “Danny” Ellender
4th Judicial District Court
Lee V. Faulkner
24th Judicial District Court
Tracey Flemings-Davillier
Orleans Criminal District Court
Hunter Greene
East Baton Rouge Family Court
Laurie Hulin
15th Judicial District Court
Jefferson Joyce
Monroe City Court
Brady O'Callaghan
1st Judicial District Court
Martha Ann O'Neal
36th Judicial District Court
Francis Pitman
2nd Circuit Court of Appeal

EX-OFFICIO

Raylyn Reine Beevers
President, Louisiana City Judges Association;
2nd Parish Court of Jefferson
Matthew F. Block
Executive Counsel to the Governor
Blair Downing Edwards
President, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family
Court Judges; 21st Judicial District Court
Vanessa Guidry-Whipple
Conference of Court of Appeal Judges;
1st Circuit Court of Appeal
Rep. Tanner D. Magee
Louisiana House of Representatives
Stephen I. Dwyer, Esq.
President, Louisiana State Bar Association
Scott Schlegel
President, Louisiana District Judges Association;
24th Judicial District Court
Sen. Gary Smith
Louisiana State Senate

CLERK OF COURT

CLERK OF COURT

The Clerk of Court's Office fulfilled the following key responsibilities and accomplished the following in 2022:

- Processed all filings and dispositions, including dissemination of actions to the parties, courts, and the public via U.S. mail, electronic-mail, and the Internet.
- Scanned all filings and dispositions, which are available to Court personnel via the Court's case management system.
- Continued to fine-tune the Court's Thomson Reuters' C-Track Case Management Software for a more efficient and expeditious processing of case matters.
- Commenced a reorganization of the Court's records rooms, and continued efforts in preparation for the electronic scanning of all case files.
- Implemented electronic submission of documentation and payment for bar admission and certificates of good standing.
- Continued concerted efforts to promote within the Court and the legal community the electronic submission of all documents, filings, and records, which proved to be invaluable during the Supreme Court Building's closure for the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of several weather events as the Clerk's Office was able to maintain through advanced remote capabilities the uninterrupted processing of filings and dispositions.
- Bar Admissions. In 2022, 410 candidates were admitted to the practice of law, evidencing the lowest admission number in the last several years. The decline is attributed to the re-institution of the customary bar examination protocols since the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the Court's 2020 admission of 643 bar candidates, who were subject of a bar examination waiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 555 individuals were admitted in 2021 after the administering of a modified bar examination. The 2021 admission number was considerably higher than 2019 when 480 candidates were admitted, and was virtually the same number for those admitted in 2017 and 2018. To put the overall bar admission rate in perspective, 750 attorneys were admitted to the practice of law over a decade ago in 2011.
- Issued Certificates of Good Standing. The number of certificates of good standing issued on an annual basis continues to rise. In 2022, 2,107 certificates were issued, an increase from the 1,974 issued in 2021, and the 1,903 issued in 2020. Note: Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Managed logistics for events held in the building, which included fifteen days of oral argument sittings, thirty-three in-person court conference days, eighteen Judiciary Commission hearing and meeting days, seven Law Institute meeting days, thirty bar admission swearing-in ceremonies, three health clinics, and in excess of forty other law-related events. The total number of events for 2022 is higher than the forty-one events conducted in 2020.
- Oversaw courthouse general maintenance and improvements. Assisted with the final logistics for the reconfiguration and construction of office space to accommodate relocated Judicial Administrator's Office staff to the Royal Street Courthouse from leased commercial office space. Assisted in necessary renovations to a justice's chambers. Through the Division of Administration, assisted with the resolution of outstanding Hurricane Ida insurance claims for repairs to damaged areas of the building, including the roof, Courtroom and Law Library. Ongoing assistance in the development of a plan for a major exterior waterproofing, window refurbishing, and vestibule construction project, as well as continued repairs to the remainder of the roof.
- 2022 was a year of transition for the Clerk's Office as Veronica Odinet Koclanes, a long-term court attorney, transitioned to the appointed position of Clerk of Court. Koclanes assumed the role upon the retirement of John Tarlton Olivier, who served in the position for more than twenty-five years during his thirty-six year court tenure.



Veronica O. Koclanes
Clerk of Court

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Veronica Koclanes, JD
Clerk of Court
Katie Marjanovic, JD
Chief Deputy Clerk of Court
Theresa McCarthy, JD
2nd Deputy Clerk of Court
Ryan Chan
Deputy Clerk
Eddie Gonzales
Deputy Clerk-Records Manager
John White, CPA
Fiscal Manager
Tommy M. Anderson
Director of Security



Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court Veronica Odinet Koclanes' Investiture Ceremony (l-r) Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Veronica O. Koclanes, Dr. George Koclanes, Isabella Koclanes, and Helena Koclanes.



Louisiana Supreme Court Clerk of Court Veronica Odinet Koclanes administers the oath to those newly-admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana.

JUDICIAL BUDGET

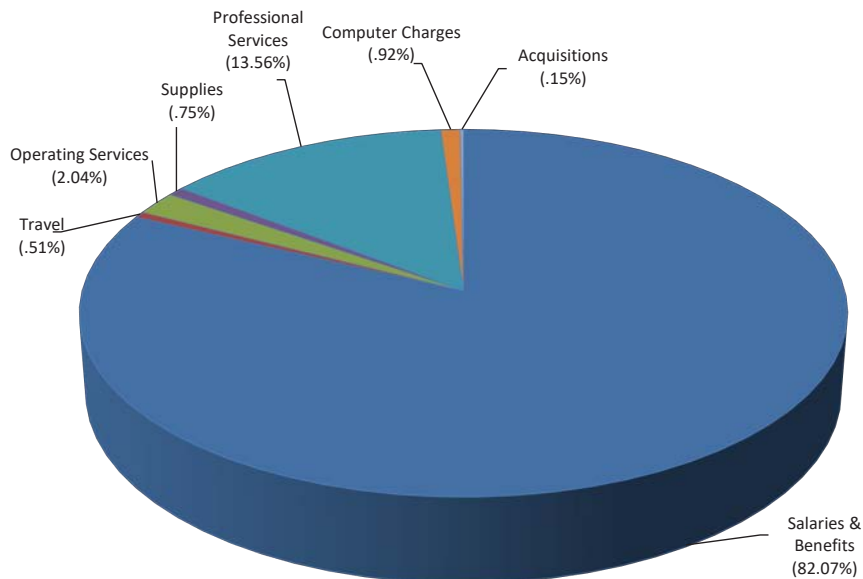
JUDICIAL BUDGET

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 2022-2023 Approved Judicial Appropriation - \$194,211,441

In FY 2022-2023, state appropriated funds totaled \$194,211,441¹:

Salaries and Benefits ²	159,383,021	82.07% of total budget
Professional Services	26,332,054	13.56% of total budget
Operating Services	3,971,131	2.04% of total budget
Computer charges	1,779,416	.92% of total budget
Supplies	1,461,635	.75% of total budget
Travel	991,946	.51% of total budget
Acquisitions	292,238	.15% of total budget



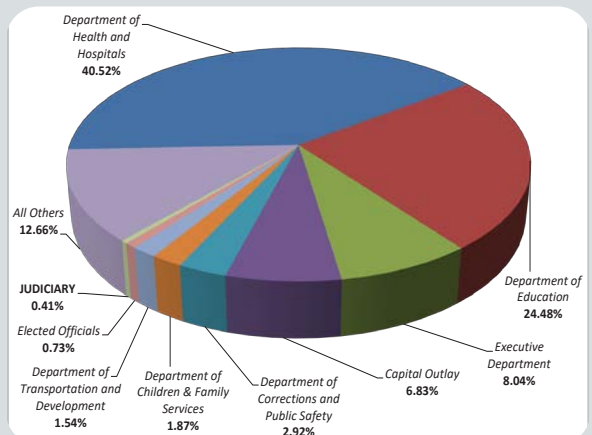
¹In accordance with La. R.S. 24:513, the Louisiana Supreme Court is audited regularly by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and the audit report is available on the Legislative Auditor's website at www.la.state.la.us.

²Includes Salaries and/or Benefits for 364 state Judges, 7 Commissioners, 196 Supreme Court employees, 362 Courts of Appeal employees, 111 designated lower court employees, and 19 retired judges or widows in the Unfunded Pension system.

Total State Budget:
\$47,028,489,936
Judiciary Budget:
\$194,211,441

In FY 2022-2023, .41% of the state's general fund was appropriated to the state judiciary.

LOUISIANA STATE BUDGET 2022-2023



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 2022, the Committee transitioned back to an in-person administration of the February and July bar examinations. The Committee received and processed 723 bar examination applications, 349 law student registration forms, 59 A.D.A. requests, 7 equivalency applications and 14 in-house counsel applications. The bar examination was administered on February 21, 23, 25, 2022 and July 25, 27, 29, 2022. Examiners developed examination questions and, with the assistance of more than 300 volunteer graders, scored test papers for 129 applicants who sat for the February examination, and 487 applicants who sat for the July examination. The pass rate was 41.09% in February, and 69.82% for July.

In order to assure that each applicant recommended for admission possessed the requisite character and fitness, the Committee's Character and Fitness Department investigated and considered the backgrounds of all applicants. As part of the character and fitness screening process, 11 Commissioner hearings were held and no matters were argued before the Supreme Court. The Committee's Character and Fitness Panel recommended 5 applicants be conditionally admitted and 14 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
Timothy H. Scott
Testing Accommodations
C. Peck Hayne, Jr.
Director of Testing

Stephanie A. Finley
Testing Committee Member
Magistrate Donna P. Currault
Testing Committee Member
Thomas P. Owen, Jr.
Examiner—Civil Code I
William C. Kalmbach III
Examiner—Civil Code II
Stacy Grove Butler
Examiner—Civil Code III
Erin Wedge Latuso
Examiner—Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure

Zita M. Andrus
Examiner—Torts
Mark J. Fernandez
Examiner—Business Entities
Kathryn Weatherly Munson
Examiner—Constitutional Law
Adam P. Johnson
Examiner—Criminal Law, Procedure & Evidence
Glenn L. Langley
Examiner—Federal Jurisdiction & Procedure

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

Louisiana Supreme Court
www.lasc.org

Committee on Bar Admissions
www.lascba.org

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

Louisiana Center for Law & Civic Education
www.lalce.org

Louisiana State Bar Association
www.lsba.org

Judiciary Commission of Louisiana
<https://judiciarycommissionla.org/>

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

Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board
www.ladb.org

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

In 2022, the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and its Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) observed its 32nd year since the unitary agency's creation on April 1, 1990. Over the many years since, the Louisiana lawyer discipline system envisioned by the justices of that Court matured into one of the premier state regulatory agencies in the country. Developing a balance between education and exacting enforcement of the Rules of Professional Conduct, over the years the Disciplinary Board has validated the wisdom of the Court's decision giving birth to its creation.

With the lifting of COVID restrictions across the state, for the first time in more than two years the Board was able to resume its goal to provide free, in-person statewide continuing legal education offerings to help lawyers including presentations in Baton Rouge, Pineville, Lafayette, and in the Greater New Orleans area. The effort generated over 2500 hours of free CLE credit for the attorneys who attended. In further support of the education component of the mission, the Disciplinary Counsel and several deputies volunteered to present at dozens of CLE offerings including the LSBA Ethics School, Bridging the Gap, 29th Annual Admiralty Seminar, Orleans Criminal Court Professionalism Seminar, Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Conference, Ethics Presentation to 19th JDC Prosecutors, Louisiana Bankers Association and many, many others. Central to these efforts is the steadfast belief that quality education and instruction is an important regulatory component that can lead to a meaningful reduction in ethical violations by lawyers and fewer complaints against them.

Equally important is the "firm but fair" enforcement of the Rules of Professional Conduct. Towards that end, the ODC reports that in 2022 sixty-three (63) disciplinary matters or reinstatement/readmission were filed with the Disciplinary Board; forty-two (42) matters were concluded by Supreme Court approved joint consent discipline petitions; and thirty-three (33) complaints were resolved through private discipline orders of the Board known as admonitions for a total of 138 disciplinary cases processed. At the request of ODC, the Court issued 14 interim suspensions; there were 8 public reprimands; 51 orders imposing suspension of lawyer licenses; 7 disbarments; 1 permanent disbarment; and 7 permanent resignations in lieu of discipline.

Cooperation with other components of the Court's legal regulatory system and with sister organizations is an integral part of the Disciplinary Board and ODC efforts. Substance use disorders and mental health concerns continue to feature in far too many instances of serious lawyer misconduct. The ODC has maintained its long-standing policy of referring attorneys to the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program for evaluation, treatment referrals, and support through monitoring with peer involvement. The ODC provides monitoring oversight for new lawyers who have gained entry to the legal profession by way of an order of conditional admission following character review by the Supreme Court's Committee on Bar Admissions. Finally, the lawyer discipline system recognizes the important work of the LSBA which includes a robust diversion program for lawyers with no prior disciplinary record and who had minor infractions of the rules with little or no harm, and after a determination that the misconduct is not likely to reoccur.

As the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel enter into a 4th decade of work, the unitary agency continues its mission of supporting the Supreme Court's constitutional authority to regulate the practice of law for the protection of the public and maintaining high ethical standards of Louisiana's legal profession.

LOUISIANA ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Danna Elizabeth Schwab, *Chair*
 Brian D. Landry, *Vice-Chair*
 Valerie Briggs Bargas (LSBA Member)
 R. Alan Breithaupt
 Paula H. Clayton
 Todd Samuels Clemons
 Susan Perret DesOrmeaux
 Alfreda Sellers Diamond
 Dr. Valerie S. Fields
 Markey W. Pierre
 Aldric "Ric" C. Poirier Jr.
 M. Todd Richard
 Erica Johnson Rose
 Lori Allen Waters



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).

In 2022, the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana received and docketed 453 complaints against judges and justices of the peace, and 162 complaints were pending from previous years. The Commission's Office of Special Counsel also received and responded to 193 requests for complaint forms. As of December 31, 2022, the Commission had 125 files pending, having disposed of over 480 files in 2022.

In 2022, 296 complaints 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. 147 complaints were reviewed to consider the need for investigation.

The Commission authorized in-depth investigations in 32 complaints, including some complaints filed before January 1, 2022.

In 2022, the Commission filed notices of hearing against three judges and three justices of the peace. A hearing before a randomly appointed hearing officer was scheduled in one case but was not conducted. 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 one justice of the peace personally appeared before the Commission for questioning, one prior to formal proceedings and two after entering into stipulations in lieu of a hearing before a hearing officer.

In 2022, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court one recommendation for judicial discipline and one joint motion for discipline by consent. The Supreme Court imposed the following discipline in 2022:

- The Court suspended one judge from office for four months without pay for engaging in repeated improper *ex parte* communications with several individuals in connection with a child-in-need-of-care proceeding, including a grandmother who attempted to intervene and obtain custody in the case; failing to recuse himself from the matter, despite such communications and despite having become emotionally involved with the grandmother's position, appearing to act as her advocate, and giving her legal advice to file suit in another court; and for taking a series of actions to get the suit back to his court after the grandmother and her attorney followed his advice, including *ex parte* communications with attorneys and misrepresentations to the presiding judge. *In re Denton*, 2021-1801 (La. 3/25/22), 339 So. 3d 574.
- The Court suspended one judge for 180 days without pay for abusing her contempt power by improperly issuing a bench warrant for the arrest of a woman, whose husband was involved in a visitation dispute with his child's grandparents and who failed to appear in court to sign a notice for a new hearing date, after the judge instructed the attorney of record for her husband (who the judge knew had recently been discharged) to tell the woman to so appear. *In re Day*, 2022-0886 (La. 10/21/22), 352 So. 3d 50.
- In one matter, the Court determined that no judicial discipline was warranted after a judge assumed judicial office past the mandatory retirement age, when the judge had properly qualified for office and the election was delayed due to the pandemic and subsequent proclamations of the Governor. *In re Matthews*, 2021-1078 (La. 1/28/22), 333 So. 3d 422.

One case remained pending before the Court at the end of the year.

In 2022, two justices of the peace resigned after formal proceedings. In 2022, the Judiciary Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court one interim disqualification against a judge and one against a justice of the peace, which were granted based on the judicial officers having been charged with serious crimes. The Commission filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court a third interim disqualification against a justice of the peace, which was dismissed after the justice of the peace resigned from judicial office.

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.

2022 JUDICIARY COMMISSION

Judge Brady O'Callaghan, *Chair*
Mr. Christopher Ieyoub, *Vice Chair*
Mr. Lloyd J. Clark
Judge John J. Molaison, Jr.
Mr. Robert P. Ackerman
Ms. VaRhonda E. Burrell, Esq.
Judge Robin D. Pittman
Mrs. Suzanne H. Stinson
Mr. John D. Fitzmorris, Jr., 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*

Continued on next page

JUDICIARY COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA

Continued from previous page

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. In 2022, the Commission admonished seven judicial officers for the following conduct:



David Becker
Commission Counsel
Judiciary Commission
of Louisiana



Michelle Beaty
Special Counsel
Office of Special
Counsel

- Admonishment issued for loss of temper and use of language that made litigant feel pressure to settle.
- Admonishment issued for using the prestige of judicial office to improperly intervene in a private dispute and advocate on behalf of a friend.
- Public admonishment issued for improper campaign advertisements/statements, which undermined the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the judiciary, publicly commented on a pending case, publicly endorsed another candidate for public office, and constituted speech on behalf of a political organization or a candidate for public office.
- Admonishment issued for loss of composure with an attorney and use of inappropriate language that gave the appearance that the judge had prejudged the case before the presentation of all the evidence.
- Admonishment issued for rendering an eviction judgment when the subject property was not within the court's territorial jurisdiction and for soliciting financial institutions to use his/her court.
- Admonishment issued for conducting independent fact-finding prior to hearing, appearing to prejudge the case based on evidence discovered, and failing to subsequently self-recuse; being rude and demeaning towards a witness, including telling the witness to "shut up"; and issuing a confusing and inadequate written judgment.
- Admonishment issued for failure to follow required procedures and for imposing an unauthorized sentence when holding an attorney in direct contempt of court.

The Commission cautioned ten judicial officers for the following conduct:

- Caution issued for failure to follow law regarding restrictions on bail.
- Caution issued for failure to self-recuse when recusal was mandated by law, mitigated by the fact that the parties consented to proceed after the judge disclosed the disqualifying relationship.
- Caution issued for use of inappropriate and discourteous language towards a litigant.
- Caution issued for public statement of support for both remaining candidates for a public office.
- Caution issued for display of an item representative of the judge's heritage in the courtroom because the courtroom is a uniquely public space and should not feature personal items that could diminish public confidence in the judge's impartiality.
- Caution issued for failing to process claim in a timely manner.
- Caution issued for use of judicial title and prestige of judicial office in conjunction with promotion of the judicial officer's private law practice.
- Caution issued for participating in an impermissible ex parte communication that influenced the judge's decision to voluntarily recuse without a sufficient basis.
- Caution issued for participating in activity that lent itself to an appearance of improper campaign tactics.
- Caution issued for making a public comment on a case pending in a Louisiana state court that could reasonably be expected to affect the outcome or impair the fairness of the proceeding.

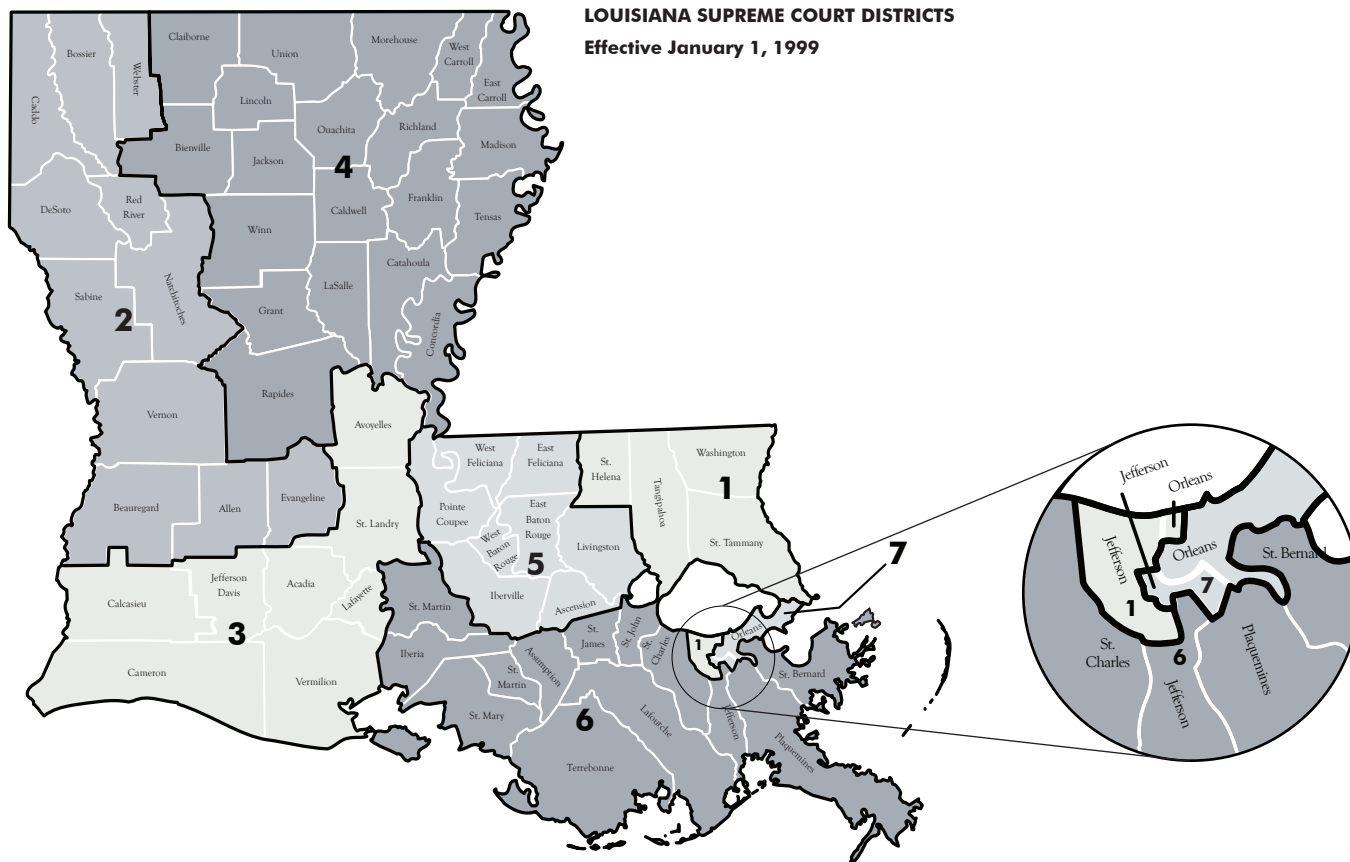
The Commission entered into one DRDA in 2022 for the following conduct:

- DRDA entered into based upon the failure to properly account for and distribute filing fees to constable and to separately retain filing fees charged for clerk of court, as required by applicable statutes, and the failure to adequately communicate and cooperate with constable concerning accounting and fee sharing practices.

Regarding the nine-member volunteer membership of the Commission, in 2022, Judge John J. Molaison, Jr., completed a four-year term and was replaced by Judge Sharon Darville Wilson of the Third Circuit Court of Appeal; Judge Brady O'Callaghan completed a four-year term and was replaced by Judge Bruce Hampton of the Third Judicial District Court; citizen member Lloyd Clark completed a four-year term and was replaced by Judith Rozier of Baton Rouge. Attorney Christopher Ieyoub of Lake Charles was elected as Chairman of the Commission, succeeding Judge Brady O'Callaghan of the First Judicial District Court. Judge Robin Pittman of the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court was elected as Vice-Chair.

A map of Louisiana showing its 64 parishes. The parishes are labeled with their names. Five regions are highlighted with numbers 1 through 5:

- Region 1:** West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Livingston, Ascension, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Orleans, Iberville, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and Lafourde.
- Region 2:** Bossier, Claiborne, Union, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Jackson, Caldwell, Franklin, Tensas, and Winn.
- Region 3:** Sabine, Red River, DeSoto, Bienville, Grant, LaSalle, Carahoula, Rapides, Vernon, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Acadiana, Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion, and Iberia.
- Region 4:** St. Bernard, Orleans, Iberville, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourde, and Plaquemine.
- Region 5:** St. James, St. John, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Orleans, Iberville, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourde, and Plaquemine.



***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.

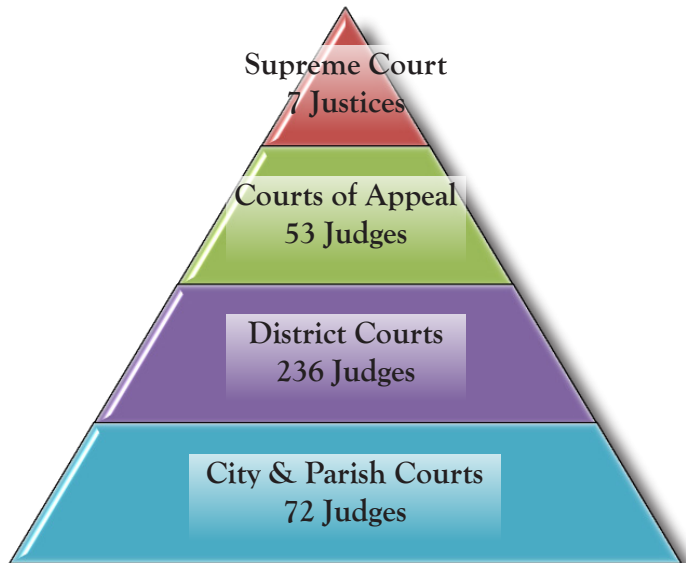
Orleans Parish Precincts in the First Louisiana Supreme Court District are 3-20; 4-8 through 4-11; 4-14 through 4-23; 5-13 through 5-18; and 17-17 through 17-21.

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*.



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John L. Weimer hosted nearly 70 students and teachers from Thibodaux High School, Central Lafourche High School, South Lafourche High School, and E.D. White Catholic High School for a tour at the Louisiana Supreme Court.

2022 Supreme Court Stats

In 2022, there were 1,889 filings (case initiations) filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court. This number is 105 less than the 1,994 cases filed in 2021, and 384 more than the 1,505 cases filed in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the last three years represent a fluctuation in filings, the number dropped annually after 2013, which year had 3,017 filings. Case submissions were 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. The all-time filing high occurred in 1999 when there were 3,652 filings, which is 48.3% higher than 2022, and 45.4% higher than 2021. Although there has been a general decline in the total number of filings, there continues to be an increase in the number of cases being submitted where expedited consideration is requested. In 2022, priority consideration was sought in 181 cases, compared to the 149 cases in 2021, and the 124 in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Since these cases interrupt the normal processing of work and are labor intensive, requiring immediate attention by the justices, their staff, and the Clerk of Court's Office, the Rules of the Supreme Court were amended in 2022 to institute procedural limitations for the filing of cases seeking expedited consideration.



In February 2022, the Louisiana Supreme Court hosted 2nd-grade students from Homer Plessy Community School for a book reading on Thurgood Marshall as part of the Court's Black History Month outreach initiatives. Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Justice James T. Genovese, Justice William J. Crain, Justice Jay B. McCallum, and Justice Piper D. Griffin all took part in the event.

Louisiana Supreme Court

CASE FILING BY TYPE

SUPREME COURT OF LOUISIANA *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2021 Total	2022 Total	2022 Civil	2022 Criminal
APPEALS				
Filed	3	2	2	0
Dismissed	1	1	1	0
Opinions Rendered				
With written opinions	2	3	2	1
Per curiams	0	0	0	0
WRITS				
Applications Filed (Except Prisoner Pro Se)	1,208	1,073	689	384
Prisoner Pro Se Writs	613	608	45	563
Granted	139	122	76	46
To be argued	43	39	28	11
With orders & transferred	96	83	48	35
Dismissed	73	30	24	6
Not Considered	159	174	16	158
Denied	1,164	1,121	584	537
Opinions Rendered	29	48	38	10
REHEARINGS				
Applied for	36	30	27	3
Granted	2	1	1	0
Denied/Dismissed	13	27	24	3
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION				
Petitions Filed	168	206	206	0
Opinions Rendered	10	13	13	0
Other Actions (GwO-Dism)	73	171	171	0
OTHER MATTERS				
Filed	2	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered	0	0	0	0
Other Actions	1	0	0	0
OTHER PER CURIAM OPINIONS RENDERED	227	173	50	123
TOTAL FILINGS	1,994	1,889	942	947
Per Justice	285	270	135	135
TOTAL OPINIONS RENDERED	41	64	53	11

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



COURTS OF APPEAL

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

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

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

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

There was a decrease in overall filings of writs and appeals for 2022. Total filings of writs and appeals decreased -8% from 4,490 in 2021 to 4,145. Filings of appeals increased by 8% from 1,322 to 1,430 due to an increase in criminal appeals filed, rising from 220 in 2021 to 337 in 2022, while civil appeals filed declined from 1,102 in 2021 to 1,093 in 2022. The number of writs filed declined by -14% from 3,168 in 2021 to 2,715 in 2022. The total number of opinions rendered by the courts of appeal increased by +9% from 1,189 in 2021 to 1,296 in 2022.

2022 Courts of Appeal Stats

The number of opinions rendered per judge totaled 34 in the First Circuit Court of Appeal, 20 in the Second Circuit Court of Appeal, 24 in the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, 22 in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal, and 18 in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2021 Total	2022 Total	2022 Civil	2022 Criminal
FIRST CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	490	492	406	86
Motions Filed	48	36	29	7
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	728	553	400	153
Writs Refused*	524	418	276	142
Writs Granted	164	168	134	34
Pro Se Writs Filed	375	326	39	287
Pro Se Writs Refused*	305	312	28	284
Pro Se Writs Granted	39	46	16	30
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	93	64	57	7
Consolidated Opinions	48	29	27	2
Opinions Rendered **	430	412	352	60
Rehearings Acted Upon***	91	88	80	8
Appeals Pending	265	256	214	42
Argued But Not Decided	24	64	59	5
To Be Argued	241	192	155	37
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	36	34	29	5
SECOND CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	207	200	127	73
Motions Filed	7	9	5	4
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	243	166	92	74
Writs Refused*	182	140	74	66
Writs Granted	42	47	29	18
Pro Se Writs Filed	167	166	6	160
Pro Se Writs Refused*	144	145	4	141
Pro Se Writs Granted	26	24	1	23
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	20	19	18	1
Consolidated Opinions	3	11	10	1
Opinions Rendered **	164	181	132	49
Rehearings Acted Upon***	25	28	21	7
Appeals Pending	107	100	45	55
Argued But Not Decided	14	30	14	16
To Be Argued	93	70	31	39
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	18	20	15	5
THIRD CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	270	324	225	99
Motions Filed	8	10	9	1
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	379	308	226	82
Writs Refused*	271	252	162	90
Writs Granted	63	54	30	24
Pro Se Writs Filed	167	186	3	183
Pro Se Writs Refused*	174	167	1	166
Pro Se Writs Granted	19	21	2	19
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	32	32	31	1
Consolidated Opinions	0	7	4	3
Opinions Rendered **	251	293	222	71
Rehearings Acted Upon***	38	48	34	14
Appeals Pending	146	149	98	51
Argued But Not Decided	18	15	12	3
To Be Argued	128	134	86	48
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	21	24	19	6

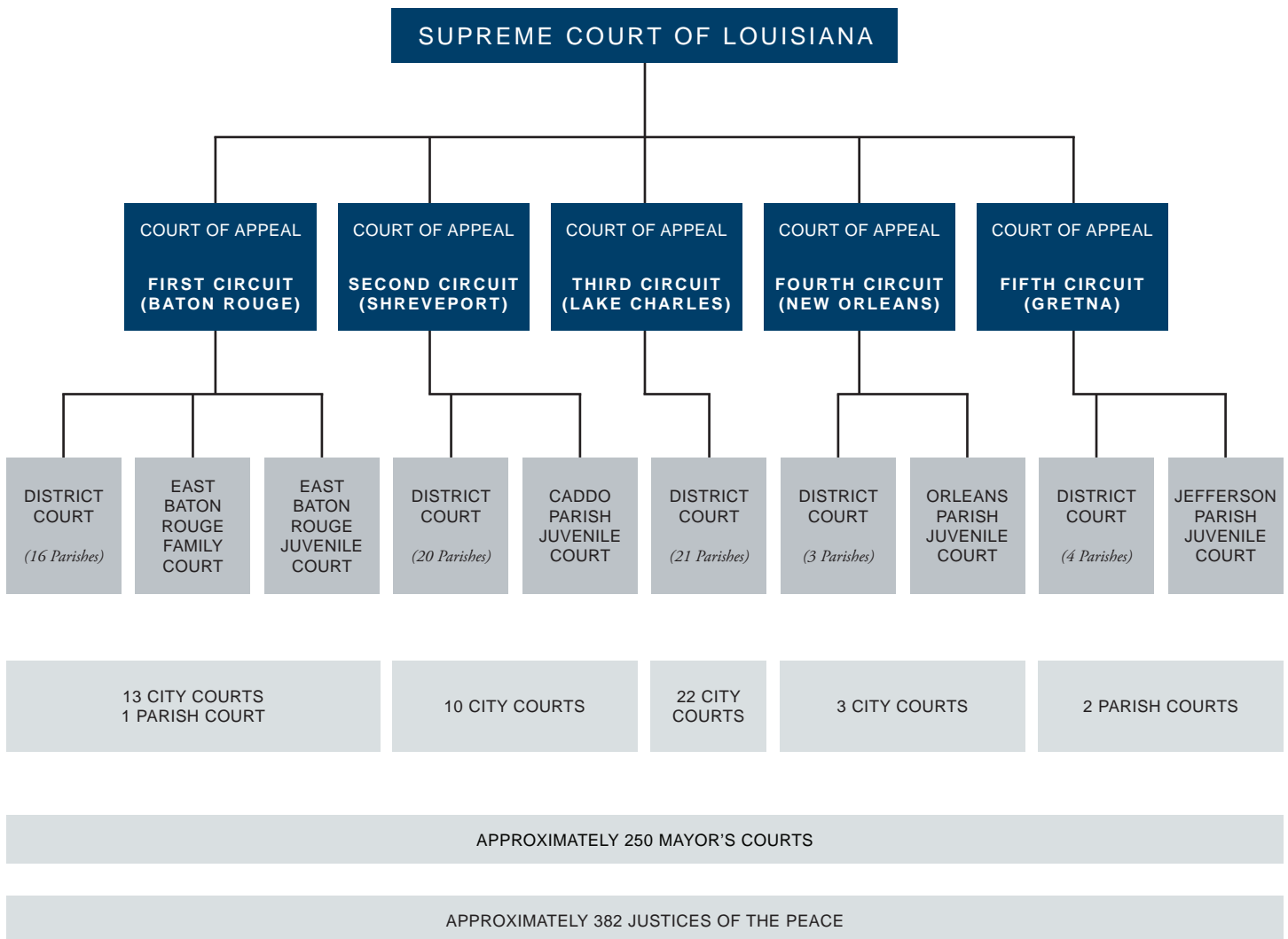
LOUISIANA COURTS OF APPEAL *Two Year Trend in Activity*

	2021 Total	2022 Total	2022 Civil	2022 Criminal
FOURTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	216	244	221	23
Motions Filed	22	23	19	4
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	339	409	293	116
Writs Refused*	267	312	232	80
Writs Granted	44	29	19	10
Pro Se Writs Filed	187	195	8	187
Pro Se Writs Refused*	99	135	2	133
Pro Se Writs Granted	87	45	5	40
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	32	22	20	2
Consolidated Opinions	17	1	1	0
Opinions Rendered **	207	264	229	35
Rehearings Acted Upon***	39	46	43	3
Appeals Pending	99	126	115	11
Argued But Not Decided	13	5	5	0
To Be Argued	86	121	110	11
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	17	22	19	3
FIFTH CIRCUIT				
Appeals Filed	139	170	114	56
Motions Filed	24	30	16	14
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	377	253	142	111
Writs Refused*	308	156	91	65
Writs Granted	62	71	35	36
Pro Se Writs Filed	206	153	3	150
Pro Se Writs Refused*	184	141	3	138
Pro Se Writs Granted	24	15	0	15
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	11	16	14	2
Consolidated Opinions	0	0	0	0
Opinions Rendered **	137	146	118	28
Rehearings Acted Upon***	25	26	16	10
Appeals Pending	82	112	74	38
Argued But Not Decided	3	3	3	0
To Be Argued	79	109	71	38
Opinions Rendered Per Judge by Circuit	17	18	15	4
TOTAL FOR ALL CIRCUITS				
Appeals Filed	1,322	1,430	1,093	337
Motions Filed	109	108	78	30
Writs Filed (except Pro Se)	2,066	1,689	1,153	536
Writs Refused*	1,552	1,278	835	443
Writs Granted	375	369	247	122
Pro Se Writs Filed	1,102	1,026	59	967
Pro Se Writs Refused*	906	900	38	862
Pro Se Writs Granted	195	151	24	127
Appeals Dismissed/Transferred	188	153	140	13
Consolidated Opinions	68	48	42	6
Opinions Rendered **	1,189	1,296	1,053	243
Rehearings Acted Upon***	218	236	194	42
Appeals Pending	699	743	546	197
Argued But Not Decided	72	117	93	24
To Be Argued	627	626	453	173
Opinions Rendered Per Judge	22	24	20	5

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

** Includes opinions on appeals, writs, rehearings & supplemental opinions

*** Includes rehearings on writs



Number of Justices and Judges:

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



2022 ANNUAL REPORT 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, Reentry Courts and other problem-solving courts are currently the most widespread examples of such innovations. There are 71 problem-solving courts spread throughout the state, with approximately 70 judges taking an active role in their operation. These programs require intensive judicial oversight of program participants in mandatory treatment, drug testing, employment, and educational activities and involve weekly staffing and court proceedings outside of a judge's regular court duties. Judges handle specialty or problem-solving court dockets on a volunteer basis.

2022 District Court Stats

Louisiana District Courts reported a +2.88% increase in total filing for 2022, increasing from 493,291 total filings in 2021 to 507,494 total filings in 2022. Criminal filings decreased -1.68% from 2021, while juvenile filings increased by +8.07%, civil filings increased by +7.96% and traffic filings increased by +2.16% in 2022. Jury trials have reached pre-COVID levels, with civil jury trials going from 101 to 160 in 2022 and criminal jury trials going from 276 to 495 jury trials in 2022.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT 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).

2022 Juvenile Court Stats

Juvenile filings in Louisiana's four specialized juvenile courts increased by +28.60% from 8,863 in 2021 to 11,398 in 2022.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS Two Year Trend in Activity

		2021 Total Filed	2022 Juvenile Filed	2022 Civil Filed	2022 Criminal Filed	2022 ² Traffic Filed	2022 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
DISTRICT	PARISH							Civil	Criminal
1	Caddo ¹	15,606	343	6,305	6,107	1,169	13,924	4	51
	District Totals:	15,606	343	6,305	6,107	1,169	13,924	4	51
2	Bienville	5,108	45	297	521	3,337	4,200	0	1
	Claiborne	2,076	85	341	485	1,168	2,079	2	1
	Jackson	1,871	106	396	369	296	1,167	0	0
	District Totals:	9,055	236	1,034	1,375	4,801	7,446	2	2
3	Lincoln	6,730	443	615	1,469	4,514	7,041	3	3
	Union	2,935	166	636	956	745	2,503	0	0
	District Totals:	9,665	609	1,251	2,425	5,259	9,544	3	3
4	Morehouse	7,180	236	522	1,212	4,167	6,137	2	1
	Ouachita	20,569	2,222	5,944	1,839	16,109	26,114	2	8
	District Totals:	27,749	2,458	6,466	3,051	20,276	32,251	4	9
5	Franklin	2,447	318	642	799	555	2,314	1	2
	Richland	4,813	83	466	649	3,485	4,683	0	2
	West Carroll	1,062	73	230	365	522	1,190	0	0
	District Totals:	8,322	474	1,338	1,813	4,562	8,187	1	4
6	East Carroll	2,586	44	121	349	1,922	2,436	1	0
	Madison	3,117	86	194	1,416	5,313	7,009	0	2
	Tensas	1,607	18	98	489	1,534	2,139	0	1
	District Totals:	7,310	148	413	2,254	8,769	11,584	1	3
7	Catahoula	1,532	0	232	693	249	1,174	0	0
	Concordia	2,406	165	472	1,163	1,123	2,923	0	1
	District Totals:	3,938	165	704	1,856	1,372	4,097	0	1
8	Winn	1,150	52	270	485	350	1,157	0	4
	District Totals:	1,150	52	270	485	350	1,157	0	4
9	Rapides	10,683	848	3,373	2,926	3,292	10,439	3	17
	District Totals:	10,683	848	3,373	2,926	3,292	10,439	3	17
10	Natchitoches	7,757	781	861	965	3,940	6,547	2	4
	District Totals:	7,757	781	861	965	3,940	6,547	2	4
11	Sabine	2,697	189	499	963	737	2,388	0	1
	District Totals:	2,697	189	499	963	737	2,388	0	1
12	Avoyelles	9,348	289	1,286	2,444	2,452	6,471	1	7
	District Totals:	9,348	289	1,286	2,444	2,452	6,471	1	7
13	Evangeline	11,301	246	756	1,590	11,102	13,694	0	2
	District Totals:	11,301	246	756	1,590	11,102	13,694	0	2
14	Calcasieu	27,355	1,709	7,829	11,630	3,596	24,764	10	13
	District Totals:	27,355	1,709	7,829	11,630	3,596	24,764	10	13
15	Acadia	5,134	267	1,349	1,621	1,454	4,691	2	5
	Lafayette	18,147	1,628	6,942	3,894	5,301	17,765	9	7
	Vermilion	5,007	402	1,372	1,969	1,568	5,311	5	6
	District Totals:	28,288	2,297	9,663	7,484	8,323	27,767	16	18
16	Iberia	5,873	167	1,969	1,099	2,710	5,945	3	0
	St. Martin	6,786	248	1,280	1,687	4,575	7,790	1	2
	St. Mary	5,139	283	1,002	1,750	4,432	7,467	2	7
	District Totals:	17,798	698	4,251	4,536	11,717	21,202	6	9
17	Lafourche	10,735	410	2,339	4,733	5,005	12,487	2	15
	District Totals:	10,735	410	2,339	4,733	5,005	12,487	2	15
18	Iberville	4,055	181	1,750	953	1,337	4,221	0	5
	Pointe Coupee	2,433	80	491	464	1,042	2,077	0	3
	West Baton Rouge	4,320	90	917	1,057	1,782	3,846	1	3
	District Totals:	10,808	351	3,158	2,474	4,161	10,144	1	11
19	East Baton Rouge ¹	30,780	0	14,666	6,146	10,472	31,284	19	18
	District Totals:	30,780	0	14,666	6,146	10,472	31,284	19	18
20	East Feliciana	2,798	138	1,158	933	582	2,811	0	3
	West Feliciana	1,596	14	337	558	684	1,593	0	3
	District Totals:	4,394	152	1,495	1,491	1,266	4,404	0	6

LOUISIANA DISTRICT COURTS *Two Year Trend in Activity*

DISTRICT	PARISH	2021 Total Filed	2022 Juvenile Filed	2022 Civil Filed	2022 Criminal Filed	2022 ² Traffic Filed	2022 Total Filed	JURY TRIALS	
								Civil	Criminal
21	Livingston	13,669	750	3,659	3,760	7,066	15,235	0	6
	St. Helena	1,139	65	280	390	908	1,643	2	1
	Tangipahoa	19,228	791	4,259	2,817	8,480	16,347	3	7
	District Totals:	34,036	1,606	8,198	6,967	16,454	33,225	5	14
22	St. Tammany	25,229	1,008	7,493	6,269	13,886	28,656	11	18
	Washington	3,520	316	1,112	1,436	1,073	3,937	1	15
	District Totals:	28,749	1,324	8,605	7,705	14,959	32,593	12	33
23	Ascension ¹	5,260	584	3,365	1,538	0	5,487	2	6
	Assumption	1,969	263	513	561	495	1,832	0	4
	St. James	3,116	134	651	556	1,559	2,900	0	1
	District Totals:	10,345	981	4,529	2,655	2,054	10,219	2	11
24	Jefferson ¹	18,264	0	12,428	7,460	0	19,888	23	93
	District Totals:	18,264	0	12,428	7,460	0	19,888	23	93
25	Plaquemines	3,893	93	624	789	3,703	5,209	0	3
	District Totals:	3,893	93	624	789	3,703	5,209	0	3
26	Bossier	16,641	649	3,111	7,954	7,188	18,902	3	3
	Webster	3,449	150	815	767	1,233	2,965	2	5
	District Totals:	20,090	799	3,926	8,721	8,421	21,867	5	8
27	St. Landry	19,622	629	1,853	1,945	14,727	19,154	2	8
	District Totals:	19,622	629	1,853	1,945	14,727	19,154	2	8
28	LaSalle	1,857	167	371	531	305	1,374	1	8
	District Totals:	1,857	167	371	531	305	1,374	1	8
29	St. Charles	22,915	417	1,988	996	18,107	21,508	2	2
	District Totals:	22,915	417	1,988	996	18,107	21,508	2	2
30	Vernon	6,973	202	1,221	843	4,069	6,335	0	5
	District Totals:	6,973	202	1,221	843	4,069	6,335	0	5
31	Jefferson Davis	3,362	114	822	1,068	1,696	3,700	0	1
	District Totals:	3,362	114	822	1,068	1,696	3,700	0	1
32	Terrebonne	15,597	372	3,190	3,832	10,096	17,490	4	11
	District Totals:	15,597	372	3,190	3,832	10,096	17,490	4	11
33	Allen	2,539	206	590	978	1,356	3,130	2	4
	District Totals:	2,539	206	590	978	1,356	3,130	2	4
34	St. Bernard	6,009	190	1,528	1,092	3,040	5,850	1	1
	District Totals:	6,009	190	1,528	1,092	3,040	5,850	1	1
35	Grant	3,091	123	698	1,191	1,739	3,751	0	4
	District Totals:	3,091	123	698	1,191	1,739	3,751	0	4
36	Beauregard	5,031	184	976	1,224	2,695	5,079	1	4
	District Totals:	5,031	184	976	1,224	2,695	5,079	1	4
37	Caldwell	1,843	49	309	738	428	1,524	0	0
	District Totals:	1,843	49	309	738	428	1,524	0	0
38	Cameron	6,014	66	165	825	5,919	6,975	0	2
	District Totals:	6,014	66	165	825	5,919	6,975	0	2
39	Red River	810	37	277	441	305	1,060	0	1
	District Totals:	810	37	277	441	305	1,060	0	1
40	St. John the Baptist	12,225	299	2,146	1,640	5,785	9,870	0	6
	District Totals:	12,225	299	2,146	1,640	5,785	9,870	0	6
42	DeSoto	3,679	93	914	451	1,746	3,204	0	10
	District Totals:	3,679	93	914	451	1,746	3,204	0	10
	Orleans Civil ¹	9,801	0	11,012	0	0	11,012	25	0
	Orleans Criminal ¹	1,807	0	0	3,696	0	3,696	0	68
	District Totals:	11,608	0	11,012	3,696	0	14,708	25	68
	Statewide Totals:	493,291	20,406	134,327	122,536	230,225	507,494	160	495

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.

Louisiana Juvenile Courts

JUVENILE JUDICIAL ACTIVITY: FORMAL PROCESS – CALENDAR YEAR 2022

	CADD0				E. BATON ROUGE			
	Filings	Charges	Children ¹		Filings	Charges	Children ¹	
Formal FINS	677	677	677		215	253	215	
Juvenile Traffic	272	423	272		552	822	552	
Juvenile Delinquency	817	817	817		687	1,712	687	
Mental Incapacity to Proceed ²	0	0	0		1	4	1	
Interstate compact for Juveniles	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Contempt of Court	100	158	100		245	245	245	
Child in Need of Care Cases	135		135		258		421	
Voluntary Transfer of Custody	14		14		38		52	
Jud. Certification of Children for Adoption Cases	11		14		24		43	
Surrender of Parental Rights	0		0		33		31	
Adoption	30		30		56		66	
Child Support	645		825		0		0	
Mental Health	19		19		8		8	
Misdemeanor Prosecution of Adults /Other	0		0		87		120	
Minor Marriages	1		1		0		0	
Protection of Terminally Ill Children	0		0		0		0	
Domestic Abuse	140		140		11		11	
Other	758		758		98		124	
Subtotal	3,619	2,075	3,883		2,313	3,036	2,576	

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

2. Mental Incapacity to Proceed is a subset of the category of Delinquency. The event is enumerated separately as it is considered a significant delinquency event.

Family Court

FAMILY COURT FILINGS

EBR FAMILY COURT - 2022		EBR FAMILY COURT - 2021	
AN - Annulment	1	AN - Annulment	5
CU - Custody	570	CU - Custody	595
DA - Disavowal	8	DA - Disavowal	14
DV - Divorce	2,469	DV - Divorce	2,844
FC - F/Community Property Partition	18	FC - F/Community Property Partition	21
FCS - Family Child Support	12	FCS - Family Child Support	22
FP - Family Paternity	346	FP - Family Paternity	338
FR - Family Visitation Rights	18	FR - Family Visitation Rights	15
FS - Family Separation	14	FS - Family Separation	14
FV - Family Violence	1,498	FV - Family Violence	1,486
FX - Foreign Judgment Made Executor	31	FX - Foreign Judgment Made Executor	29
JN - Juv/Criminal Non-Support	75	JN - Juv/Criminal Non-Support	84
NS - Non Support/Juvenile to Family	428	NS - Non Support/Juvenile to Family	478
		NA - Converted Validation Codes	1
Total New Case Filings	5,488	Total New Case Filings	5,946

JEFFERSON			ORLEANS			GRAND TOTAL		
Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹	Filings	Charges	Children ¹
123	133	121	19	19	19	1,034	1,082	1,032
772	1,223	772	133	229	133	1,729	2,697	1,729
501	1,017	500	1,123	3,709	1,228	3,128	7,255	3,232
26	26	26	0	0	0	27	30	27
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
95	95	95	0	0	0	440	498	440
175		175	189		189	757		1,001
81		81	10		10	143		157
39		39	0		0	74		96
3		3	5		5	41		39
93		93	51		51	230		240
917		0	0		0	1,562		825
0		0	0		0	27		27
0		0	0		0	87		120
0		0	0		0	1		1
0		0	0		0	0		0
0		0	1		1	151		151
860		860	251		251	1,967		1,993
3,685	2,494	2,765	1,781	3,957	1,886	11,398	11,562	11,110

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



CITY AND PARISH COURTS

The city courts are courts of record. This means that their decisions are reviewed on appeal on the record, as opposed to being tried anew in a higher court. City courts generally exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil cases where the amount in controversy cannot exceed \$50,000. In criminal matters, they generally have jurisdiction over ordinance violations and misdemeanor violations of state law. City judges also handle a large number of traffic cases.

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

2022 City & Parish Court Stats

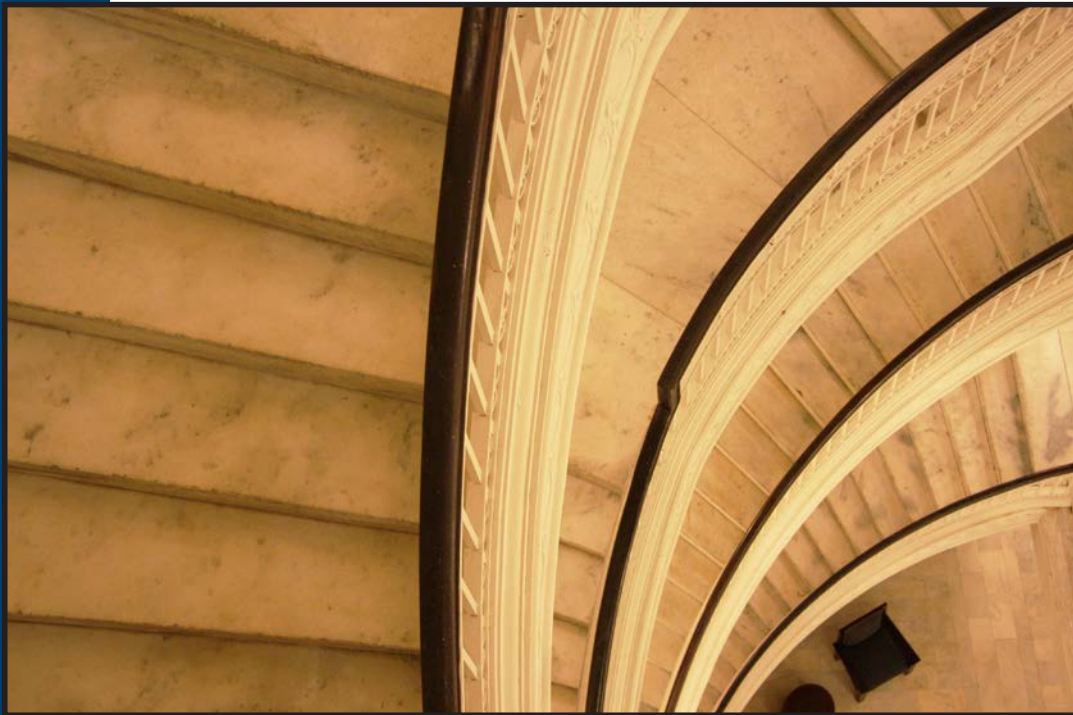
Louisiana city and parish Courts filings increased by 7.41% from 377,030 filings in 2021 to 404,966. In 2022, civil filings increased by +39.48%, criminal filings decreased by -4.52%, juvenile filings increased by +13.49% and traffic filings by +3.37%.

LOUISIANA CITY AND PARISH COURTS Cases Processed Report Year 2022

	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.	Filed	Term.
CITY	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		TRAFFIC*		JUVENILE		TOTAL CASES		OTHER PROCEEDINGS	
Abbeville	406	165	1,057	732	1,719	1,088	77	95	3,259	2,080	0	0
Alexandria	2,854	1,734	4,755	5,489	6,501	6,013	0	0	14,110	13,236	0	0
Ascension	643	286	2,587	2,939	5,700	5,979	443	403	9,373	9,607	0	0
Baker	510	778	366	169	2,386	1,171	0	0	3,262	2,118	0	0
Bastrop	574	335	472	405	1,470	1,104	0	0	2,516	1,844	0	0
Baton Rouge	5,514	4,842	6,763	7,012	52,304	46,776	0	0	64,581	58,630	16,427	19,095
Bogalusa	346	238	1,185	763	1,345	1,360	211	204	3,087	2,565	2,074	2,129
Bossier City	1,987	1,467	1,662	1,379	5,603	6,049	376	393	9,628	9,288	246	141
Breaux Bridge	352	257	218	243	226	238	81	42	877	780	117	103
Bunkie	63	63	74	73	619	619	8	8	764	763	0	0
Crowley	618	710	635	675	3,002	2,488	196	187	4,451	4,060	0	0
Denham Springs	2,686	1,848	1,008	624	5,211	3,386	191	191	9,096	6,049	0	0
East St. Tammany	1,709	1,700	3,069	2,622	4,102	3,132	712	589	9,592	8,043	1,927	1,927
Eunice	377	200	356	369	373	492	158	150	1,264	1,211	0	0
Franklin	231	208	351	288	338	366	65	41	985	903	0	0
Hammond	3,017	2,785	1,617	1,553	7,922	7,048	633	231	13,189	11,617	0	0
Houma	3,598	1,677	1,526	961	3,075	2,776	1,391	1,131	9,590	6,545	1,429	347
Jeanerette	55	87	149	123	5,114	5,083	134	98	5,452	5,391	0	0
Jeff. 1st Parish Ct.	5,433	3,873	2,735	2,123	31,959	28,965	0	0	40,127	34,961	0	0
Jeff. 2nd Parish Ct.	4,611	5,090	1,595	1,563	12,735	11,997	0	0	18,941	18,650	0	0
Jennings	389	289	533	218	4,649	3,557	20	20	5,591	4,084	0	0
Kaplan	66	60	377	487	277	314	71	48	791	909	0	0
Lafayette	4,044	3,994	2,373	2,411	13,403	12,346	700	639	20,520	19,390	801	801
Lake Charles	2,656	2,120	1,765	3,465	6,070	5,330	133	65	10,624	10,980	0	0
Leesville	182	76	452	244	1,497	1,474	150	103	2,281	1,897	0	0
Marksville	404	373	223	205	83	81	8	5	718	664	0	0
Minden	3,528	2,624	516	304	486	304	393	242	4,923	3,474	2	2
Monroe	2,113	2,087	2,042	1,507	4,203	5,032	263	220	8,621	8,846	0	0
Morgan City	342	223	1,050	1,521	3,693	2,609	331	286	5,416	4,639	0	0
Natchitoches	553	261	992	703	1,808	1,530	212	167	3,565	2,661	118	118
New Iberia	984	978	703	698	1,742	1,646	427	306	3,856	3,628	228	49
N.O. 1st City Ct.	8,250	5,174	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,250	5,174	0	0
N.O. 2nd City Ct.	1,650	1,249	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,650	1,249	0	0
N.O. Municipal & Traffic	0	0	3,503	5,138	11,765	16,417	0	0	15,268	21,555	0	0
Oakdale	183	180	178	158	2,875	2,874	131	114	3,367	3,926	0	0
Opelousas	884	814	1,376	1,239	3,385	3,173	607	362	6,252	5,588	0	0
Pineville	533	605	3,667	884	3,315	3,388	0	0	7,515	4,877	114	0
Plaquemine	200	6	186	150	499	362	33	26	918	544	0	0
Port Allen	318	118	85	56	3,985	3,771	0	0	4,388	3,945	0	0
Rayne	368	368	17	41	1,692	2,348	52	61	2,129	2,818	0	0
Ruston	1,081	800	800	725	4,513	3,790	0	0	6,394	5,315	719	417
Shreveport	7,248	5,286	3,467	3,098	19,646	13,756	0	0	30,361	22,140	22,797	0
Springhill	205	135	348	185	518	518	109	65	1,180	903	58	21
Sulphur	847	334	1,425	4,464	5,337	8,757	67	88	7,676	13,643	66	61
Thibodaux	485	1,117	957	1,003	1,784	1,654	167	307	3,393	4,081	0	0
Vidalia	18	18	80	43	929	504	22	15	1,049	580	0	0
Ville Platte	318	228	653	460	3,305	2,376	55	24	4,331	3,088	0	0
West Monroe	1,439	1,366	1,487	1,159	1,035	392	120	91	4,081	3,008	0	0
Winnfield	53	73	98	53	1,273	1,100	0	0	1,424	1,226	0	0
Winnsboro	152	122	384	254	587	330	60	30	1,183	736	0	0
Zachary	509	269	237	192	2,361	1,570	0	0	3,107	2,031	0	0
STATE TOTALS:	75,586	59,690	62,154	61,170	258,419	237,433	8,807	7,047	404,966	365,340	47,123	25,211

1. Counts are per charge.

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