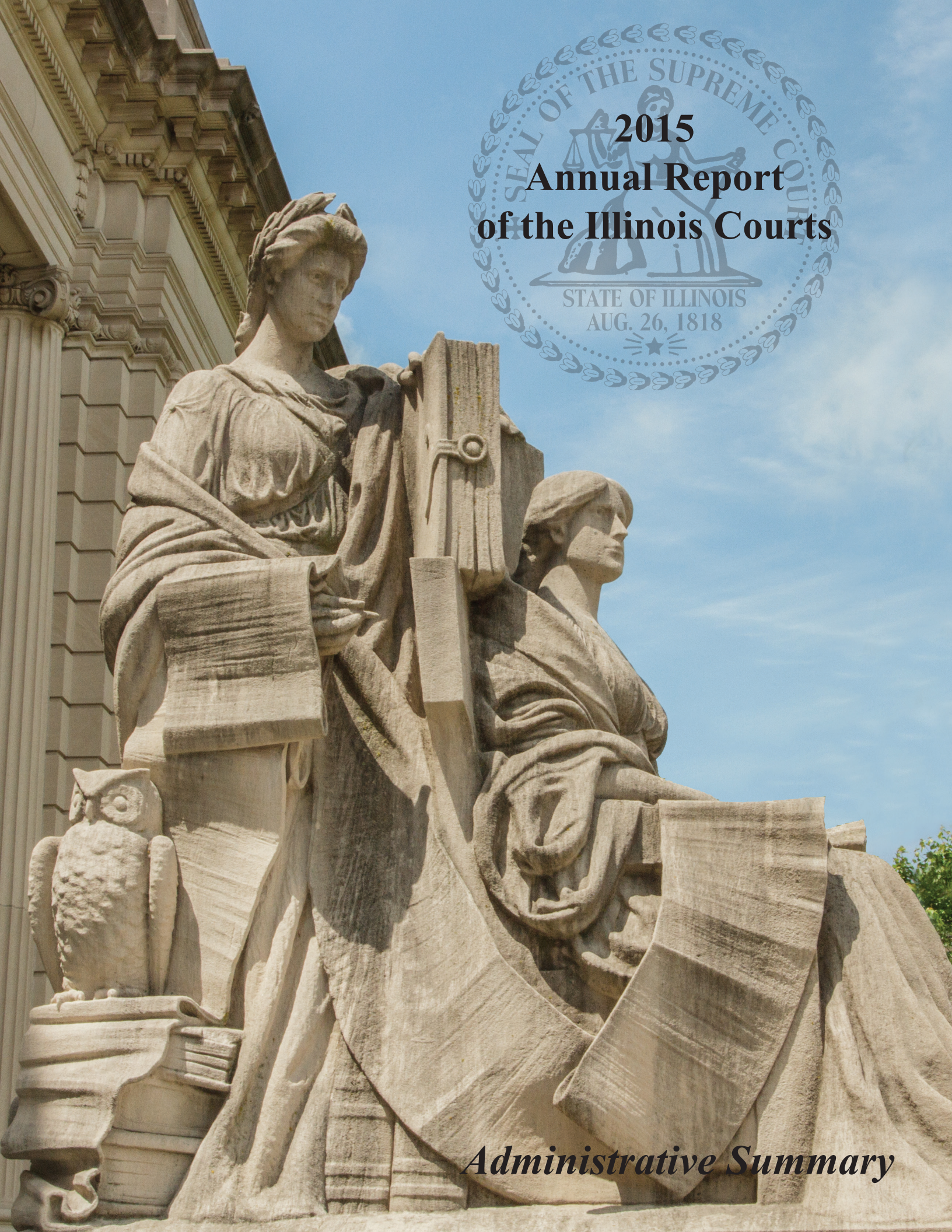




2015 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts



Administrative Summary

THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



Left to Right: Justice Anne M. Burke, Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, Justice Charles E. Freeman, Chief Justice Rita B. Garman, Justice Robert R. Thomas, Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, Justice Mary Jane Theis.

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Cover Design: “Law and Knowledge” — “Justice and Power” by Charles J. Mulligan (1866-1916) One of two statues face visitors as they enter the main (north) entrance of the Supreme Court Building in Springfield. The one on the right, “Law and Knowledge” [front cover] and the other statue to the left, [back cover] “Justice and Power” were completed sometime between 1908 and 1910. Sculptor Charles J. Mulligan was born in Ireland and arrived in Chicago in 1872 with his father James. His start as a sculptor began by modeling clay dug from the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and later as a marble-cutter in Chicago. He studied under Lorado Taft at the Art Institute of Chicago and Alexander Falguiere in Paris, France. He succeeded Taft as the head of the Department of Sculpture at the Institute and served in that role until his death. Some of his other works appear in Garfield Park, Chicago (Lincoln as a Railsplitter and the John F. Finnerty statues); Riverview Park, Quincy (General George Rogers Clark statue); and Rosemond Grove Cemetery, Rosemond (Lincoln the Orator statue).

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Michael J. Tardy
Director

It is my pleasure to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. As in past years, this Report provides a comprehensive summary of the day-to-day operations of the Illinois judiciary, including an overview of all three levels of our court system and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). Highlighted herein are many of the court projects undertaken and implemented by the Illinois judicial branch this past year. The Supreme Court and the dedicated employees of the Illinois court system have continued the important work of the courts this year with a strong commitment to equal access, fairness, and efficiency.

The Report contains two volumes: an Administrative Summary and a Statistical Summary. The Administrative Summary includes a message from Chief Justice Rita B. Garman and the 2015 Report to the Illinois General Assembly, as well as an overview of the state and local funding required for the operation of our courts. The Administrative Summary also provides information on the judicial officers who don the robes and the employees who “keep the trains running” in our court system.

A second volume, the Statistical Summary, includes statistical data on the court case loads at the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit court levels. The 2015 Statistical Summary report continues a recent expansion in data collection. Illinois courts have collaborated with the AOIC to enhance collection and reporting of case data that will support outcomes based on proven court performance measures. It is anticipated that reporting data on specific court activities will greatly assist court officials and stakeholders seeking to determine and follow best practices to address emerging trends.

The AOIC gratefully acknowledges the Clerks of the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts for their continued support, commitment and cooperation in compiling and providing the expanded data statistics published in this Report. In turn, I also wish to thank the AOIC staff for its steadfast assistance in the preparation and publication of this Report. On behalf of the Supreme Court, I extend my appreciation for the efforts and dedication of the honorable men and women who make up the Illinois Judiciary, as well as the non-judicial court employees and stakeholders who strive to achieve full and fair access to justice for all in Illinois.

I hope that this Report helps your understanding of the work that we do and the important role of our court system. Please visit the Illinois Supreme Court’s website at www.illinoiscourts.gov for the most current information concerning the Illinois courts and the judicial branch of government. I welcome your questions comments. Your feedback will help us provide the most current, reliable, and useful information to the people we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Tardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint, large watermark of the Illinois State Seal.

Michael J. Tardy, Director
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN

On behalf of the Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, it is my privilege to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. This two-volume effort, made possible by the contributions of many court stakeholders, provides an opportunity to reflect on the many initiatives undertaken by the Court in the past year. Consistent with the Illinois Supreme Court's constitutional administrative and supervisory authority over all of our state's courts, I take this occasion to both celebrate the many goals achieved and resolve anew to accomplish those tasks that remain.

I am pleased to report that our judiciary remains strong and independent. My colleagues and I on the Illinois Supreme Court, along with the able assistance of over 900 judges and capable and dedicated staff, work every day to foster excellence in the Judicial Branch and fulfill our core mission – to deliver equal justice to all and earn the trust of those we serve. As such, I am pleased, in my third and final message as Chief Justice, to inform Illinois citizens of our on-going efforts to promote efficiency, transparency, and fairness throughout our court system.

During 2015, the Court continued its active involvement in a wide range of efforts to improve the efficiency and transparency of

the judicial system, including the expanded use of technology and analysis of a statewide court user survey as discussed later in this message. This past year, the Court also focused on promoting equality and fairness at all levels of the judicial system through the creation of a Committee on Equality.

I am also proud to report that the Court invited Governor Rauner and the entire Illinois legislature to a special evening session to hear an oral argument. This special session was an opportunity for members of the General Assembly to observe first-hand the interaction of the functions of the three branches of government and the operation of the checks and balances essential to our system. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing our work to enhance the Illinois court system's relationships with the other branches of state government.

While, as always, there is more to be done, I am pleased to highlight some of the major accomplishments achieved by the judicial branch of state government in 2015.

Mandatory Statewide E-Filing in Civil Cases

In 2015, the Court continued its ongoing efforts toward mandatory e-filing in civil cases in the Supreme Court, the five districts of the Appellate Court, and in all circuit courts.

E-filing was first approved in Illinois in 2002, when the Court authorized the electronic filing of documents in select civil cases in several circuit courts on a pilot basis. The e-filing pilot program took effect January 1, 2003, and over the years has resulted in 15 counties having been granted approval for e-filing. A major barrier to e-filing in Illinois has been the operation of at least a dozen different case management software systems in the state's courts. During the past year, the Court requested that its e-Business Policy Advisory Board and Technical Committee, the Technology Committee of the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges, and staff from the Administrative office of the Illinois Courts address the technical aspects of e-filing. Our goal is to issue a statewide mandate for e-filing that streamlines the process for filing documents, conserves environmental resources and time, and generates long-term savings.

Court User Survey

In During Spring 2015, a detailed court user survey designed to measure public perceptions and experiences with trial courts was distributed in courthouses in all 24 circuits across the 102 counties in Illinois. The survey, developed by the Strategic Planning Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, asked court users to provide feedback on their personal experiences with their local court systems. The survey sought input from all courthouse users, including attorneys, visitors, litigants, students, media, and members of the general public. The purpose of the survey was to enable courts to measure and evaluate: (1) the quality of services provided by the court, (2) public perceptions of the court system, and (3) the efficiency and effectiveness of the court system.

The survey was conducted in English and, if requested by the circuit, was also made available in Spanish and Polish. This marked the first time the Illinois judicial branch had conducted such a survey, demonstrating the Court's ongoing effort to make the court

system more accessible and transparent. More than 12,300 completed surveys were returned and analyzed. While the results identified potential areas for improvement, the responses to the survey questions for each circuit were quite favorable and, overall, reflected positive views and experiences with Illinois trial courts.


Creation of Committee on Equality

In the summer of 2015, the Court announced the formation of a Committee on Equality, charged with promoting equality and fairness in all aspects of the administration of justice in the Illinois courts. The Committee consists of judges and attorneys who reflect the diversity of Illinois based on age, race, and gender, as well as geographic background and experiences that are urban, suburban, and rural. The Committee was given the mission to understand public perceptions of the judicial process and to propose innovative ways to make the judicial branch more understandable and responsive to the public. The Committee is to report to the Court on the presence, severity, and effects of any lingering bias in the court system on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, cultural or socioeconomic status, or any other trait. The Committee is also asked to make recommendations to the Court on ways to eliminate such biases if they are found.

Creation of Uniform Standards and a Certification Process for Illinois Problem-Solving Courts

In December 2015, the Court announced the creation of uniform standards and a certification process for problem-solving courts across the state. These courts, sometimes called "specialty courts," provide an alternative forum for certain individuals in the criminal justice system, including veterans and those with mental





illnesses. Problem-solving courts utilize a collaborative, therapeutic approach with justice professionals partnering with community treatment providers to address an individual's underlying behavioral health issues. The goal is that statewide standards will bring uniformity, accountability, and administrative oversight to problem-solving courts in Illinois. Currently, there are more than 100 problem-solving courts in operation and more are in the planning stages.

Creation of a Judicial College

In 2015, the Court announced the creation of a judicial college to provide comprehensive and multidisciplinary education programs and professional development training to the state's judges and judicial branch employees. In coordination with the Administrative Office, the Judicial College Board will be charged with drafting the College's bylaws, guiding educational principles, and policies and standards, including the identification of core competencies for Illinois' 950-plus judges. The Judicial College will build upon the work of numerous Supreme Court committees, particularly the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education. The Court identified the need to expand collaborative training already provided under the auspices of the Committee on Education that involve judges and non-judges learning together. In that regard, the Court will seek operational and educational guidelines for each of the College's six Standing Committees: Judicial Education, Probation Education, Trial Court Administrator Education, Circuit Clerk Education, Guardian *ad Litem* Education, and Judicial Branch Staff Education.

Recommendations to Improve Pretrial Services

The Court continues to monitor progress on recommendations contained in the 2014 report on the operational review of the Circuit Court of Cook County's Pretrial Services Program. The Administrative Office report proposed 40 recommendations

to improve pretrial management, pretrial and bond court processes, interviews and assessments, bond court governance, caseload processing and data exchange, and program performance and outcome measurement. Most of the recommendations are in process or have been implemented. In examining best practices, the Court anticipates continuing these operational reviews throughout the state with the goal of improving pretrial processes throughout Illinois.

The Court and the Administrative Office also partnered with the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to pilot a pretrial risk assessment tool to measure a detainee's risk of pretrial failure as it relates to reappearance in court, safety to the community, and the potential for new violent criminal activity. On July 1, 2015, Cook County began implementation of a Model Bond Court project using the defendant assessment procedures developed by the Arnold Foundation. The system currently being used in Cook County also will be implemented in Kane and McLean Counties as pilot projects and, if proven reliable, will serve as a template to improve the bail process in counties throughout the state.

Supreme Court Rule Amendments to Address Advances in Technology and Aid The Public

During 2015, the Court approved amendments to several rules in light of recent advances in technology, developments in legal practice, the risk of identity theft, and the goal of promoting public confidence in the administration of justice. Specifically, the Court adopted amendments to the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and Supreme Court Rules 705 and 716 to bring attorney ethics rules up to date with advances in technology and developments in global legal practices. The rules now reference electronic forms of communication and information, recognize an attorney's duty to keep abreast of technology changes, make explicit

the duty to safeguard confidential client information in an electronic age, and detail duties dealing with Internet advertising and solicitation. The amended rules also make it easier for attorneys authorized to practice in other jurisdictions to be admitted to the Illinois bar and to provide legal services as in-house counsel here, while ensuring they are qualified and familiar with Illinois' ethics rules.

The Court also adopted a new Rule 364 to protect against identity theft and the disclosure of personal information in cases before the state's reviewing courts. Rule 364 affects all documents and exhibits filed by paper or electronically in criminal and civil cases before the Illinois Appellate and Supreme Courts. The new rule aims to protect the privacy of persons whose information is included in court documents and lays out mechanisms for the redaction and confidential filing of personal identifiers. The Court also amended Rule 780 to promote public confidence in the administration of justice by allowing a client whose case is not completed due to the death or disability of his or her attorney, and who has made reasonable efforts to pursue civil remedies, to apply for reimbursement of unearned fees paid to the attorney.

Electronic Application Process for Associate Judgeships

During 2015, the Court adopted an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 39, effective September 1, 2015, that provides for submission of electronic applications for associate judgeship vacancies. This process allows applicants to electronically sign their applications and securely email them to the Administrative Office, which manages the process of filling associate judge vacancies. It also retains the current procedure of allowing applicants to submit paper copies of applications. This amendment is another step in the Court's continuing effort to utilize technology to make the judicial process more efficient and accessible to the public that we serve.

Conclusion

In an ever changing world, we are constantly confronted with new challenges to maintaining a fair, efficient, and responsive system of justice in our state. At the same time, our state faces financial challenges at a time when the legal needs of the population – and the parallel demands on our courts – are greater than ever.

The Illinois Supreme Court is committed to improving access to the Illinois courts and making sure we serve the public as effectively, efficiently, and expeditiously as possible. We continue to make great strides towards this goal. The accomplishments enumerated above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken and goals achieved by the Illinois courts in 2015. I invite you to review the entire 2015 Annual Report, which provides further information about the functions and activities of the judicial branch.

Finally, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to extend sincere appreciation to all of the individuals who helped make 2015 such a productive year. In particular, I would like to thank AOIC Director Michael J. Tardy, for his leadership in creating this report. On a broader scale, I thank Director Tardy for his careful stewardship of our court's resources and for his guidance in making so many of our court achievements possible.

Operating the Illinois court system so that it functions with the highest levels of integrity and efficiency requires a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work, and it would be impossible without the collective efforts and deep commitment of all judicial branch officers and employees. I look forward to another successful year of achievement in our courts.



Rita B. Garman
Chief Justice
Illinois Supreme Court



2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE HUNDREDTH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable John J. Cullerton
President of the Senate
State Senate
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Jim Durkin
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Christine Radogno
Minority Leader
State Senate
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am pleased to provide an Annual Report of the activities of the 2015 Illinois Judicial Conference in keeping with Article VI, Section 17, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970. Pursuant to this constitutional provision, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41 creates the Illinois Judicial Conference and charges the Judicial Conference with considering the work of the courts and suggesting improvements in the administration of justice. The past year has been a very productive one for the Judicial Conference.

The Judicial Conference consists of an Executive Committee and six standing committees that address issues of: (1) alternative dispute resolution, (2) civil justice, (3) criminal justice, (4) judicial education, (5) juvenile justice and (6) strategic planning. The annual meeting of the Judicial Conference was convened on October 22, 2015, with a theme of *Building and Sustaining the 21st Century Judiciary*. The format and agenda of the annual meeting were structured to promote active participation by all attendees in our effort to identify innovative and promising improvements in the administration of justice.

In further compliance with Article VI, Section 17 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, this report includes a summary of the work performed by each of the committees. Each of the six standing committees of the Judicial Conference provided a written report to the Supreme Court, summarizing initiatives undertaken during Conference Year 2015 and proposing projects for 2016.

The work of the Judicial Conference supports the Supreme Court's overall commitment to the efficient administration of justice and management of our court system, as well as the prudent stewardship of both human and financial resources. The Supreme Court will continue to set goals and develop plans to assure that the judiciary provides equal justice to all and upholds the rule of law.

This report also includes a summary of several Supreme Court decisions that are offered for the General Assembly's consideration. In offering these cases, the Court is mindful of the distinct roles of the General Assembly and the Court. While we intend no intrusion upon the prerogatives of the General Assembly in the exercise of its authority, we do respectfully offer these cases for your consideration and look forward to the General Assembly's continued responsiveness and support.

On behalf of the Court, I respectfully submit the Supreme Court's Annual Report to the Legislative Leaders of the General Assembly on the 2015 Illinois Judicial Conference. This report is also available to the members of the General Assembly on the Supreme Court's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov.

Respectfully,



Rita B. Garman
Chief Justice

Annual Report to the General Assembly on the 2015 Judicial Conference

Article VI, section 17, of the Illinois Constitution mandates that the Illinois Supreme Court convene an annual judicial conference to consider the work of the courts and to suggest improvements in the administration of justice. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41 implements this constitutional requirement by defining the duties and the membership of the Illinois Judicial Conference. The Conference is composed of judges from every level of the judiciary and represents Illinois' five judicial districts. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois presides over the Conference, and the other Justices serve as members.

Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41, an Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Conference when it is not in session. The Executive Committee consists of fourteen judges: six from the First Judicial District (Cook County) and two each from the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Judicial Districts. The Executive Committee previews the written reports of the Conference committees and submits an annual meeting agenda for the Supreme Court's approval.

Six standing committees carry out the work of the Conference throughout the year. These committees are: the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee, the Civil Justice Committee, the Criminal Justice Committee, the Committee on Education, the Juvenile Justice Committee, and the Committee on Strategic Planning. The committees' membership includes appellate, circuit, and associate judges, who also serve as members of the Judicial Conference. Their work is aided by judges, law professors, and attorneys appointed by the Supreme Court as advisors. Senior level staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts serves as liaisons to support the committees' activities.

On October 22, 2015, the Illinois Judicial Conference held its annual meeting in Lombard, Illinois. The meeting was concentrated into one full day to minimize the judges' time away from the bench and to reduce costs.

Chief Justice Rita B. Garman convened the meeting. In her opening remarks, Chief Justice Garman welcomed those in attendance, including the current Justices of the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Garman began her comments by noting the forward-looking theme of this year's conference: Building and Sustaining the Judiciary.

The Chief Justice stated that when she was sworn in as Chief Justice in 2013, one of the initiatives she announced was to increase the use of technology in Illinois' courthouses and courtrooms as a means of making the judicial process more efficient and transparent. Chief Justice Garman advised the conference that progress has been made in the use of technology. She highlighted the expansion of e-filing throughout the state, which has the courts well on the way towards the eventual goal of a paperless system. Nonetheless, she cautioned that challenges remain. For example, digital media, while durable and economical, are not truly permanent because these media may degrade over time. Another challenge is keeping up with rapid

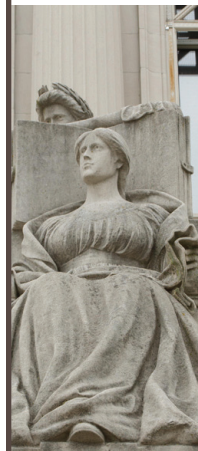
advances in technology, which may render records preserved in one medium obsolete. The Chief Justice emphasized that planning and implementation of new technology must recognize these issues and press forward to realize the full benefit of the efficiencies and economies that electronic records will provide and to adopt new technology to modernize our judicial system.

Chief Justice Garman also announced that the reviewing courts are nearing the final stages of designing and implementing a new electronic case management system that will allow tracking the progress of appeals from the case filing to the publication of the opinion. In addition, the record on appeal will be digitized, allowing justices, law clerks, and court staff to have access to electronic records. Chief Justice Garman added that the Court's website continues to expand and to include new content. She also stated that amendments to Supreme Court Rules and the Rules of Professional Conduct were promulgated to address the increasing importance of electronic communication and the challenge of maintaining client confidentiality in the digital age.

The Chief Justice next noted that the Circuit Courts have expanded the use of cameras in the courtrooms, a project that has been well-received by the media and the general public. The Chief Justice was pleased to announce that this innovation has been relatively free of controversy and that circuit court judges have reported no disruption or inconvenience as a result of the expanded media presence.

Chief Justice Garman commented that judges are increasingly being required to adjudicate matters involving highly technical issues, intellectual property disputes involving computer hardware and software, defamation and other suits involving the use of social media, and both civil and criminal cases arising from hacking and other digital privacy concerns. In response, the Chief Justice emphasized that to prepare judges to adjudicate these technological issues, judicial education must keep pace with the way technology is used and abused so that judges have the knowledge necessary to understand the issues in dispute, including the admissibility of digital evidence such as an e-mail, Facebook page, an app, or entirely new forms of digital information that may emerge in the future.

According to the Chief Justice, another area impacted by technology is jury service. She informed the Conference that when technology is used in the courtroom to communicate information to jurors, the jurors have a better understanding of the information presented, and are more attentive, more engaged, and more likely to recall important information during their deliberations. Chief Justice Garman therefore advised that courthouses will need to be equipped to utilize technology to the fullest extent possible. The Chief Justice also commented that technology can impact jury service when jurors use the internet and social media during the trial and deliberation phases to seek information about the case or communicate with a party or counsel. She noted that the civil and criminal pattern jury instructions have been amended to instruct judges





to caution jurors about the use of the internet and social media. Judges are also urged to reinforce the message to jurors that an ongoing trial is not a proper subject for a Facebook post or tweet.

In closing, Chief Justice Garman indicated that ultimately technology is a means, and not an end in itself. She stated that the judicial process can be made more efficient and effective by wise adoptions of technologies that improve transparency and performance and that one way to build and sustain a judiciary in the 21st century is to train judges to be innovative and technologically adept. Chief Justice Garman hoped to use the conference, and the committees' meeting time at the conference to help the Court develop strategies for moving the court system forward in a responsible, efficient, and effective way.

Chief Justice Garman then introduced the Honorable John Broderick, former Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, who addressed the conference on the topic of where the Illinois court system stands in the first fifteen years of this century and where it needs redesign, and the Honorable Carol Pope, Appellate Judge, Fourth Judicial District and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, who informed the conference on the results of the 2015 Circuit Courts User Survey.

Each of the six standing committees of the Illinois Judicial Conference provided a written report to the Supreme Court. Their reports are briefly summarized below.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee monitors and assesses court-annexed mandatory arbitration and mediation programs approved by the Supreme Court. Along with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Committee tracks arbitration statistics to monitor program efficacy.

During this Conference year, the Committee examined Supreme Court Rule 99 (Mediation Programs) to determine if the rule needed expansion or clarification to standardize the process for requesting approval of a new mediation program and the day-to-day operations of an existing mediation program. To address this charge, the Committee proposed an amendment to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 99(b)(2)(x) that would confer authority upon the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to prescribe the manner and method of data collection from all mediation programs approved by the Supreme Court.

The Committee, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, assisted in the development of a uniform data collection instrument for use by mortgage foreclosure mediation programs throughout the state. Additionally, work has begun on the development of a uniform data collection instrument for use by other civil mediation programs.

The Committee continued to work to develop standardized forms for use in civil mediation. Analysis of the forms currently in use revealed

disparities among the programs in the contents of the forms. This topic requires further discussion by the Committee with eventual recommendations to the Court.

The Committee also discussed whether it was necessary to develop a litigant survey to assess their views and perceptions about mediation. After much debate and analysis, the Committee reached the conclusion that a robust amount of research is already available on the views of litigants, which is available from private entities that regularly collect, analyze, and publish such data.

The Committee also sought to facilitate the improvement and expansion of major civil case mediation programs by collaborating with the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to educate judges on the best practices of mediation and by meeting with the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges to encourage mediation.

Civil Justice Committee

The Civil Justice Committee was created to review, analyze, and examine emerging issues arising out of legislation and case law that impact any aspect of civil justice and to advise the Illinois Supreme Court on matters affecting civil justice. The Committee members were drawn from throughout the state, from both large and small communities, and possess significant trial experience. This is the Committee's inaugural year.

In Conference Year 2015, the Civil Justice Committee focused on two projects: (1) studying ways to improve the civil jury trial system, and (2) studying the impact of social media on jurors.

With regard to the civil jury system, the Committee considered the three surveys utilized by the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in its American Jury Project. Jurors, attorneys, and judges were asked to participate in the survey at the completion of a civil jury trial. Utilizing these surveys as a model, the Committee made modifications to more effectively elicit information regarding the comprehension, satisfaction, and efficiency of Illinois' civil jury trial system by jurors, attorneys, and judges. These surveys were designed to create a baseline to show how jury trials are experienced by parties engaged in them. If weaknesses are disclosed, the Committee will make recommendations for addressing those issues.

With respect to social media and juror conduct, the Committee first considered whether there are issues or potential issues with misconduct. The Committee researched what measures are being used to address social media use by jurors. The research included review of written materials and input from Illinois judges based on their personal experiences.

Criminal Justice Committee

During Conference Year 2015, the Criminal Justice Committee continued to consider amendments to Supreme Court Rules necessitated by court decisions. With respect to Supreme Court Rule 402(d), the Committee consensus was that a rule amendment would not assist in efforts to reduce claims of ineffective assistance of counsel based

on the United States Supreme Court decisions of *Missouri v. Frye*, 132 S. Ct. 1399 (2012), and *Lafler v. Cooper*, 132 S. Ct. 1376 (2012). Additionally, the Committee recommended amending Supreme Court Rule 604(d) to be consistent with the holding in *People v. Tousignant*, 2014 IL 115329, that a plea certification must contain both the plea and sentence.

The Committee also continued to discuss whether Supreme Court Rule 411 should be amended to require discovery prior to a defendant's appearance in bond court. The Committee was advised that in Cook County and other jurisdictions, defense counsel receives the defendant's arrest sheet and other available information prior to the defendant's appearance in bond court, which is best practice. As such, the Committee decided no rule amendment was needed.

At the request of the Supreme Court Rules Committee, the Committee considered a proposal to amend Rule 605 to require the court to advise a defendant of his or her appeal rights after being found unfit to enter a plea, stand trial, or be sentenced. After full discussion, the Committee agreed that the proposed amendments were not appropriate as such a ruling does not constitute a finding of guilt.

Consistent with its overall charge, the Committee began discussion on the need for and method of implementing sentencing flexibility, similar to that in the federal sentencing system which provides judges with greater discretion. A subcommittee has been formed to examine this issue, gather input from criminal court stakeholders, and report findings and make recommendations to the Court.

Finally, the Committee was also charged with coordinating with the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to develop training on Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) in sentencing. The training, titled "Evidence-Based Sentencing Practices: Applications & Outcomes," was presented in October 2015.

Committee on Education

The Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education was charged to sustain the design and delivery of critical continuing educational programs for Illinois judges, while also exploring a Judicial College model that would provide for the comprehensive professional development training and continuing education needs of judicial branch officers, employees, and those who aid the court in the administration of justice.

The Committee continues to consider and recommend topics and faculty for judicial education events as well as faculty development workshops and specialized training seminars. In addition, the Committee is responsible for the publication of the Illinois Judicial Benchbook series, a reference resource created for the benefit of Illinois judges.

Thus, in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and other Supreme Court Committees, the Education Committee completed the 2015 Illinois Judicial Conference Benchbook projects. In addition, the Committee planned,

delivered, and evaluated the February 2015 *New Judge Seminar*, the March 2015 *DUI/Traffic Seminar*, four *Faculty Development Workshops* (March, May, September and October), the June 2015 *Advanced Judicial Academy*, the October 2015 *Appellate Law Clerk and Legal Research Staff* training program, the October 2015 seminar on *Evidence-Based Sentencing: Policies, Principles and Practices*, and the December 2015 *New Judge Seminar*.

The Committee also recommended to the Supreme Court a governance model for the Illinois Judicial College that would address the Court's commitment to improving the administration of justice through comprehensive and multidisciplinary professional development and educational training programs for the entire Judicial Branch and its constituents. In response, the Court adopted an Illinois Judicial College structure and appointed a seven member Board of Trustees, effective January 1, 2016.

Juvenile Justice Committee

The Court requested that the Juvenile Justice Committee explore increasing the maximum age at which DCFS may be appointed guardian of an adjudicated juvenile delinquent due to a lack of options when the minor has no parental involvement. While DCFS did not take a position on increasing the maximum age in 2014, the Department has since experienced increased budget constraints and lawsuits regarding youths in residential placement. Due to the potential increase in caseload for DCFS and the lack of resources and placement options for this population, the Committee recommended not increasing the maximum age at which DCFS may be appointed guardian of an adjudicated juvenile delinquent.

The Committee was also charged with exploring the development of a web-based clearinghouse for programs created by juvenile judges that would act as a resource for all judges. The Administrative Office JMIS Division developed a section for juvenile programs under the Illinois Courts Judicial Links on the Judicial Portal. A sub-committee will be formed to determine the format, the name of the link, and criteria for including programs, etc. The sub-committee will develop a form that includes all relevant programs and contact information and distribute it to all judges and probation departments.

As a final project, the Committee was asked to collaborate with the IJC Committee on Education to create a biennial conference for juvenile court judges. Juvenile court judges deal with unique issues and, thus have the need for continuing education and networking opportunities with other juvenile court judges. The Committee Chair sent a letter to the Chair of the Education Committee requesting consideration of biennial conference for juvenile court judges. A joint workgroup has been formed consisting of members from both Committees to identify specific trends, possible speakers, and overall format of the conference.

Committee on Strategic Planning

During Conference Year 2015, the Committee on Strategic Planning continued its mission to assist the Supreme Court of Illinois in advancing the Court's goal of an impartial, accessible, and efficient



justice system. The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Supreme Court to assist in determining ways to ensure the Illinois court system is functioning in a just and efficient manner.

In collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the work of the Committee for the 2015 Conference Year centered primarily on implementing the court user survey, which was developed in Conference Year 2014. The design of the survey was to ask court users exiting the courthouse to complete a brief questionnaire regarding their experience in court and their opinion of the court system. This included users' views on how well they were treated, how easily they were able to obtain information, whether they felt they were heard in court, and whether they perceived the end result as fair.

Under the leadership of the Supreme Court, the Committee coordinated with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges to implement the survey statewide. With the assistance and cooperation of the circuit courts and the AOIC, the survey was conducted in every county circuit courthouse in Illinois from April 13, 2015, to May 1, 2015. The individuals surveyed included, but were not limited to, litigants and their families and friends, victims and witnesses, attorneys (including assistant state's attorneys and public defenders), law enforcement officers, jurors, individuals doing record searches or having other business at the clerk's office, and individuals conducting any other type of court business. Because the survey was designed to assess the views of the court's users, judges and court staff were excluded from the survey. Over 12,000 completed surveys were collected across the state. Faculty and students at Loyola University Chicago compiled the data from the surveys and conducted data analyses of the survey results. The statewide results of the court user survey showed that the majority of court users held positive views of the court.

Conclusion

As evidenced by these Committee summaries, the scope of work undertaken by the Judicial Conference in 2015 was broad and included recommendations on improving efficiency and transparency, whether through the use of technology, such as for data collection and information sharing, or through court user surveys providing feedback about the courts. Committee recommendations also included amendments to Supreme Court Rules, updating manuals and benchbooks, and offering suggestions on how to approach overall system improvement. Although many projects and initiatives were completed in the 2015 Conference Year, some will continue on into Conference Year 2016, and additional projects will be assigned in the coming year. Thus, the Judicial Conference will continue to honor its constitutional mandate and remain steadfast in its goal of improving the administration of justice in Illinois.

Supreme Court Decisions That the General Assembly May Wish to Consider

Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Illinois v. Judy Baar Topinka et al., 2015 IL 117083 (January 23, 2015).

The issue in this case was whether Section 5E-10 of the Illinois Public Aid Code (305 ILCS 5/5E-10) violated the uniformity clause of the Illinois Constitution (Ill. Const. 1970, art. IX, §2). The plaintiff, a non-profit organization and Illinois-licensed nursing home, does not apply for or accept government funding, including Medicaid. The circuit court held that the sole purpose of the bed fee was to fund Medicaid-related expenditures, and as such the bed fee was unconstitutional as applied to the plaintiff, who received no Medicaid funds.

The Supreme Court reversed the circuit court's decision, finding that the purpose of the bed fee was not solely to fund Medicaid reimbursement. Rather, the bed fee statute provides that all fees be collected and deposited into the Long-Term Care Provider Fund, which may be used to fund Medicaid reimbursement, administrative expenses of the Department of Public Aid, enforcement of nursing home standards, support of a nursing home ombudsman program, expansion of home and community-based services, and funding of Illinois' General Obligation Bond Retirement and Interest Fund. As such, there was a rational basis for the collection of the bed fee from every nursing home, even those not receiving Medicaid reimbursement. The plaintiff benefitted from operating within a regulated industry subject to uniform standards of quality and care, the enforcement and oversight of which was paid for in part by the Long-Term Care Provider Fund. However, the Court invited the legislature to reexamine the bed fee statute to assess fully whether the inclusion of enterprises such as the plaintiff within the applicable taxing classification is truly necessary and essential as a matter of public policy, in light of the benefits the plaintiff and similar organizations provide to indigent residents and Illinois taxpayers. *Reversed.*

People ex rel Madigan v. J.T. Einoder, Inc. et al., 2015 IL 117193 (March 19, 2015).

In 2000, the Attorney General filed a complaint in the circuit court of Cook County against the operators of a 40-acre landfill that had been in operation between 1995 and 2003. In 2005, the circuit court found in favor of the State and ordered mandatory injunctive relief in the form of waste-removal and assessed fines against various individual and corporate defendants. The mandatory injunctive relief was allowed under Section 42(e) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(e)), which had been amended in 2004 to allow courts to order any injunctive relief necessary to address violations of the Act; prior to the 2004 amendment, courts were limited to prohibitory injunctive relief to restrain future violations.

At issue before the Supreme Court was whether the amended Section 42(e) could be applied retroactively to address violations that occurred before it was passed. The Court could find no clear legislative directive as to the temporal reach of the amendment. Thus, it relied on Section 4 of the Statute on Statutes (5 ILCS 74/4), which had been previously determined to mean that legislative amendments that are procedural in nature may be applied retroactively, but those that are substantive may not. The Court held that the amendment at issue was substantive, as it created a new type of liability—a mandatory injunction—which was not available under the prior statute. As such, the Court concluded that mandatory injunctive relief pursuant to a 2004 legislative amendment to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act could not be applied retroactively to conduct which occurred under the prior statute. *Appellate court judgment affirmed in part and reversed in part.*

In re Parentage of Scarlett Z.-D., 2015 IL 117904 (March 19, 2015).

Scarlett Z.-D is the adopted daughter of Maria Z. James R.D. filed a petition seeking a declaration of parentage, custody, visitation, and child support. The circuit court dismissed James' claims brought under common law contract theories and denied his claims brought under functional parent theories. The appellate court affirmed with respect to the common law contract and functional parent theories, but remanded for further fact finding with reference to the doctrine of equitable adoption as recognized in *DeHart v. DeHart*, 2013 IL 114137.

The Supreme Court held that the doctrine of equitable adoption as recognized in *DeHart* does not apply to child custody proceedings. Rather, it is a probate concept to determine inheritance by allowing a person who was accepted and treated as a natural or adopted child, and as to whom adoption typically was promised or contemplated but never performed, to share in the inheritance of the foster or stepparent. The Court recognized that it is a limited remedial doctrine devised by courts using their equitable powers to permit such a child to inherit by intestate

succession from the child's putative equitably adopting parent(s). The Court also rejected the applicability of the functional parent doctrine, which Illinois does not recognize, constitutional arguments and contract claims. The Court, however, did note that legal change in this complex area must be the product of a policy debate that is sensitive not only to the evolving reality of "non-traditional" families and their needs, but also to parents' fundamental liberty interest embodied in the superior rights doctrine. *Appellate court judgment affirmed in part and reversed in part. Circuit court judgment affirmed.*

In re Pension Reform Litigation, 2015 IL 118585 (May 8, 2015).

In the fall of 2013, the General Assembly enacted Public Act 98-599, amending the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/1-101 *et seq.*) to reduce the retirement annuity benefits of individuals who first became members of several State-funded pension systems prior to January 1, 2011. P.A. 98-599 was challenged in five separate actions that were consolidated in the circuit court of Sangamon County. That court declared the statute unconstitutional in its entirety as a violation of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and enforcement of the statute was permanently enjoined.

On review, the Supreme Court agreed with the circuit court. The pension protection clause states that "[m]embership in any pension or retirement system of the State, any unit of local government or school district, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired" (Ill. Const. 1970 art. XIII, §5). If allowed to take effect, P.A. 98-599 would have directly reduced the value of retirement annuities, which is clearly a diminishment. The Court therefore held that P.A. 98-599, which amended the Illinois Pension Code to reduce retirement annuity benefits for members of five State-funded pension systems, was unconstitutional as it violated the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

Nonetheless, the State argued that, even though P.A. 98-599 was a diminishment, it was justified as an exercise of police power as a matter of reserved state sovereignty in light of the current financial emergencies of the State of Illinois. The Court rejected that argument, noting that the State's financial problems were also a concern when the Constitution of 1970 was enacted and, in fact, drove the inclusion of the pension protection clause at that time. Further, it could not be said that there were no other alternative remedies available to address the State's financial difficulties that did not violate the Illinois Constitution. For example, a temporary increase in the rate of income tax, allowing for additional revenue, had been recently allowed to lapse. No effort was made to distribute the financial burden evenly among Illinoisans. Instead, the General Assembly's actions would have unfairly forced retirees, alone, to bear public burdens in contravention of the Constitution, which, in all fairness and justice, should be borne by the public as a whole. *Affirmed.*

People v. Gaytan, 2015 IL 116223 (May 21, 2015).

The defendant was a passenger in a vehicle containing a ball-type trailer hitch mounted on the back bumper. Two Chenoa policemen in a patrol car stopped the vehicle because the hitch partially obscured the vehicle's license plate, and subsequently found cannabis. The defendant was charged with unlawful possession of cannabis with intent to deliver.

The defendant moved to suppress the cannabis evidence, claiming that the police had no reasonable, articulable suspicion that a crime was being committed when they initiated the traffic stop. At the time of the events in question, the Section 3-413(b) of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/3-413(b)) required registration plates to be clearly visible and maintained in a condition to be clearly legible and free from any materials that would obstruct the visibility of the plate. At issue was whether the purpose of Section 3-413(b) was to prohibit all objects that obstruct any view of the plate (as the State argued) or if it was intended to prohibit only items attached to the plate itself.

The Supreme Court found that the statute was ambiguous and that no clear legislative intent could be discerned from the statutory language. As such, the Court invoked the rule of lenity and construed the statute to prohibit only those objects that obstruct the visibility of the plate which are physically connected or attached to it. The Court then encouraged the legislature to revisit the statute to clarify to what extent, if any, equipment and accessories which are attached to a vehicle are prohibited. *Appellate court judgment reversed. Circuit court judgment affirmed.*

People v. Fiveash, 2015 IL 117669 (September 24, 2015).

In 2012, the defendant, then 23 years old, was indicted in the circuit court of Cook County for two counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault and two counts of criminal sexual assault occurring between January 1, 2003, and January 1, 2004, when he was 14 or 15 years old.

The circuit court dismissed the charges, holding that, because of his age, the defendant was beyond the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/1-1 *et seq.*), and that the Act's exclusive jurisdiction

provision barred his prosecution in criminal court. The appellate court reversed, finding that the circuit court did have jurisdiction to prosecute him in criminal court once he became 21 years of age.

The Supreme Court agreed with the appellate court that the intent of the legislature was clear and unambiguous. Although juvenile court jurisdiction is exclusive pursuant to Section 5-120 of the Act (705 ILCS 405/5-120), this does not mean that an offender who ages out of the juvenile system can no longer be charged. Here, the charges were brought well within the applicable limitation period, thus the criminal charges against the defendant were allowed. However, in recognizing the inherent tension and potential for perceived unfairness between juvenile dispositions and the comparatively harsh punishments defendants may face in criminal court for offenses allegedly committed as juveniles, the Court encouraged the legislature to reevaluate Section 5-120 in light of this decision. *Appellate court judgment affirmed. Cause remanded.*

McElwain v. The Office of the Illinois Secretary of State, 2015 IL 117170 (September 24, 2015).

The plaintiff was involved in a serious vehicle accident that resulted in a fatality. He was not ticketed or tested for impairment at the scene, but further investigation of his vehicle revealed evidence of cannabis. Two days later, he was issued a ticket for failure to yield and asked to take a chemical test for impairment, which he refused. His license to drive was then suspended by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 11-501.6 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-501.6), which provides that a driver who is arrested for a traffic violation related to a fatality or serious personal injury automatically consents to having his blood, breath or urine tested for the presence of alcohol or drugs. Refusal to submit results in automatic suspension of that person's driver's license. The statute contains no timeframe for when the test must be administered.

The circuit court held Section 11-501.6 unconstitutional as applied to the plaintiff as an unreasonable search in violation of the fourth amendment. The Illinois Supreme Court agreed. It agreed with the Secretary of State that law enforcement has a special need to determine whether drivers are chemically impaired and to suspend those drivers' licenses. In addition, a driver has a diminished expectation of privacy while at the scene of a serious accident, which lessens the intrusiveness of an automatic chemical impairment test. However, in this case, the police sought the test two days after the accident. At that time, the intrusiveness of the search was no longer lessened and test was no longer probative of whether the plaintiff was actually impaired at the time of the accident. Thus, the search was unreasonable.

The Supreme Court declined to establish a bright line as to how soon after an accident a chemical impairment test must be done under Section 11-501.6. That responsibility belongs to the legislature. Should the legislature choose to amend the statute to provide a timeframe, it will then be the Court's responsibility to determine if the line drawn by the legislature is constitutional. *Affirmed.*

In re M.A., 2015 IL 118049 (November 4, 2015).

Respondent was adjudicated delinquent of several offenses, and was ordered to register under the Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act (Violent Offender Act) (730 ILCS 154/1 *et seq.*). The appellate court rejected respondent's claim that the statute violated her right to substantive due process; however, it agreed that the registration provisions are unconstitutional because the provisions violate procedural due process and equal protection.

The Supreme Court held that the Violent Offender Act does not violate equal protection and procedural due process. The Court reasoned that the Violent Offender Act and the Sex Offender Registration Act (730 ILCS 150/1 *et seq.*) address qualitatively different types of offenders and qualitatively different types of offenses. Here, respondent was not similarly situated to a juvenile adjudicated delinquent under the Sex Offender Registration Act (Registration Act). As such, it is of no consequence that the registration provisions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent under the Registration Act differ from the registration provisions for juveniles adjudicated delinquent under the Violent Offender Act. With respect to procedural due process, the Court reasoned that the Violent Offender Act requires registration solely based upon the fact of conviction or adjudication, a fact that respondent had a procedurally safeguarded opportunity to contest during her juvenile adjudication proceedings. The Court further determined that the Violent Offender Act does not violate substantive due process given that there is a rational relationship between respondent registering and the protection of the public. Therefore, it found that the trial court properly required respondent to register under the Violent Offender Act. Four members of the Court specially concurred and invited the legislature to reexamine the Violent Offender Act, commenting that it is illogical to allow juveniles adjudicated delinquent of violent sexual offenses to petition for removal from sex offender registry while disallowing the same procedure for juveniles adjudicated delinquent of violent offenses which do not involve a sexual component. *Appellate court affirmed in part and reversed in part. Circuit court affirmed.*



STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE COURTS

Financing the state court system is a shared responsibility of the state and the 102 counties of the state. Revenue to provide court services to the people of the state comes from a variety of sources: the state income tax, county property taxes, case filing fees, court-imposed fines and assessments, and other fees.

State government pays for the salaries, benefits, and office expenses of supreme and appellate court judges, and salaries and benefits of circuit court judges. Effective July 1, 2015, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$220,873; appellate court judges, \$207,882; circuit court judges, \$190,758; and associate judges, \$181,220. The state also pays for support staff of supreme and appellate court judges, staff in other units of the supreme and appellate courts, a small number of other personnel in the circuit courts, and mandatory arbitration staff in several counties. Part of the cost of operating the mandatory arbitration program is offset by fees paid by participants in the program. During Calendar Year 2015, the arbitration filing and rejection fees collected amounted to \$4,592,399.88.

State funding for probation and court services departments covers approximately 3,100 probation and court services personnel, for which the counties receive partial salary reimbursement on a monthly basis. State funding provided about 88% of eligible funding reimbursement. Significant cuts would jeopardize the provision of core probation services, and for the past few years, many of the departments struggle to preserve basic services as a result of budget and staff reductions.

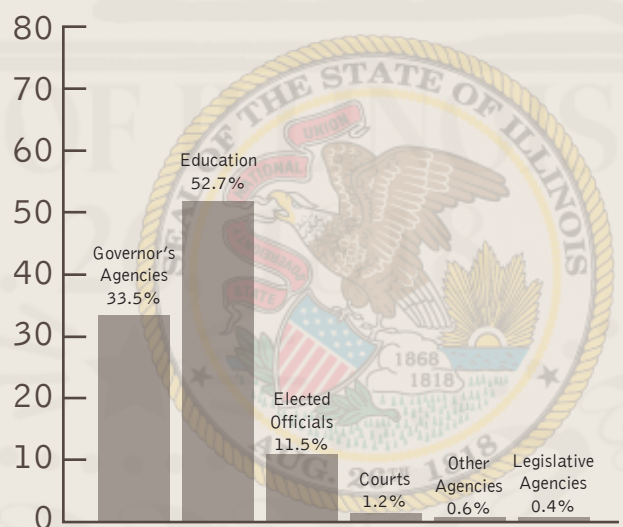
County governments pay part of the cost of financing circuit court operations. Counties provide office and courtroom space, maintenance, and support staff to assist the circuit court judges. Circuit clerks collect money to help pay for their operations and some court operations. They also collect and disburse revenues to help fund local and state government programs, as summarized on the next page.

State Funding

Appropriations for State Agencies Fiscal Year 2016

The graph to the right, shows the Supreme Court's share of the total appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). The total appropriation was \$30,341,720,000. The appropriation for the courts was \$375,413,000.

Source: Table I-A: Operating Appropriations
by Agency, Chapter 3
Governor's Budget Message to the
General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2017



* FY'16 figures may not properly reflect actual appropriated dollars as a result of the state's delayed budget process.

Local Funding

The circuit clerk's office in each county provides a variety of court recordkeeping and financial accounting services. Circuit clerks are elected for four-year terms by the voters in each county. Circuit clerks, with help from deputy clerks, attend sessions of the court, preserve court files and papers, and maintain complete records of all cases. Employees of the clerks' offices are appointed by and are accountable to the circuit clerk, with the county board having budgetary authority. During 2015, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 3,356, assisted by a total of 154 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$203,281,444 in 2015.

Revenue to pay for these court-related services comes primarily from property taxes, filing fees, and court-ordered fines and costs. Fines, fees and other costs collected by circuit clerks are governed primarily by statute and Supreme Court rule.

Revenue to Finance Local Improvements

Fees and court-ordered fines were collected in 2015 by circuit clerks and earmarked for improvements in the clerks' offices and to help defray the cost to the county of operating the courts at the local level.

Court Document Storage Fund: is used for any costs relative to the storage of court records.
\$22,413,065

Court Automation Fund: is used to establish and maintain automated systems for keeping court records.
\$22,718,628

County Law Library Fund: helps defray the costs of maintaining a law library in the county for judges, attorneys, and the public.
\$8,896,900

County Fund To Finance the Court System: is available from fees collected by circuit clerks to help finance the court system in the county.
\$5,914,820

Circuit Court Clerk Operations and Administrative Fund: is used to offset costs incurred for collection and disbursement of State and local funds.
\$3,588,894

Uncollected Claims

The Administrative Office, the Supreme Court Clerk, the Supreme Court Library, and the Clerks of the five Appellate Districts are responsible for collecting certain fees. Outstanding accounts receivable are normally collected by the unit to which the account is owed. Additionally, a small number of accounts receivable are turned over to the State Comptroller's offset system. At the end of FY15, there were 15 claims due and payable, totaling \$5,965.51.

Revenue to Finance Other Programs

In addition to collecting fees for local improvements, circuit clerks receive, account for, and distribute millions of dollars to county governments, various local governmental entities, and various state funds. Some of the programs and dollars collected in 2015 by circuit clerks are listed below:

Child Support and Maintenance: Court ordered payments collected and distributed by Circuit Clerks and the State Disbursement Unit.

\$1,190,274,711

Drug Treatment Fund: Court ordered drug assessments are used to pay for treatment programs for people addicted to alcohol, cannabis, or controlled substances.
\$3,363,251

Violent Crime Victims Assistance: Court ordered penalties in criminal and certain traffic cases are used to support victim and witness assistance centers throughout the state.

\$7,517,940

Trauma Center Fund: Fees collected in certain traffic, DUI, and criminal cases are used to support Illinois hospitals that are designated as trauma centers.

\$3,333,974

Traffic and Criminal Conviction Surcharge: An additional penalty imposed in traffic and criminal cases is used for training of law enforcement and correctional officers.
\$2,075,836

Drivers Education Fund: Penalties and forfeitures in offenses reportable to the Secretary of State are used for driver education programs in high schools.
\$3,937,210



CASEFLOW

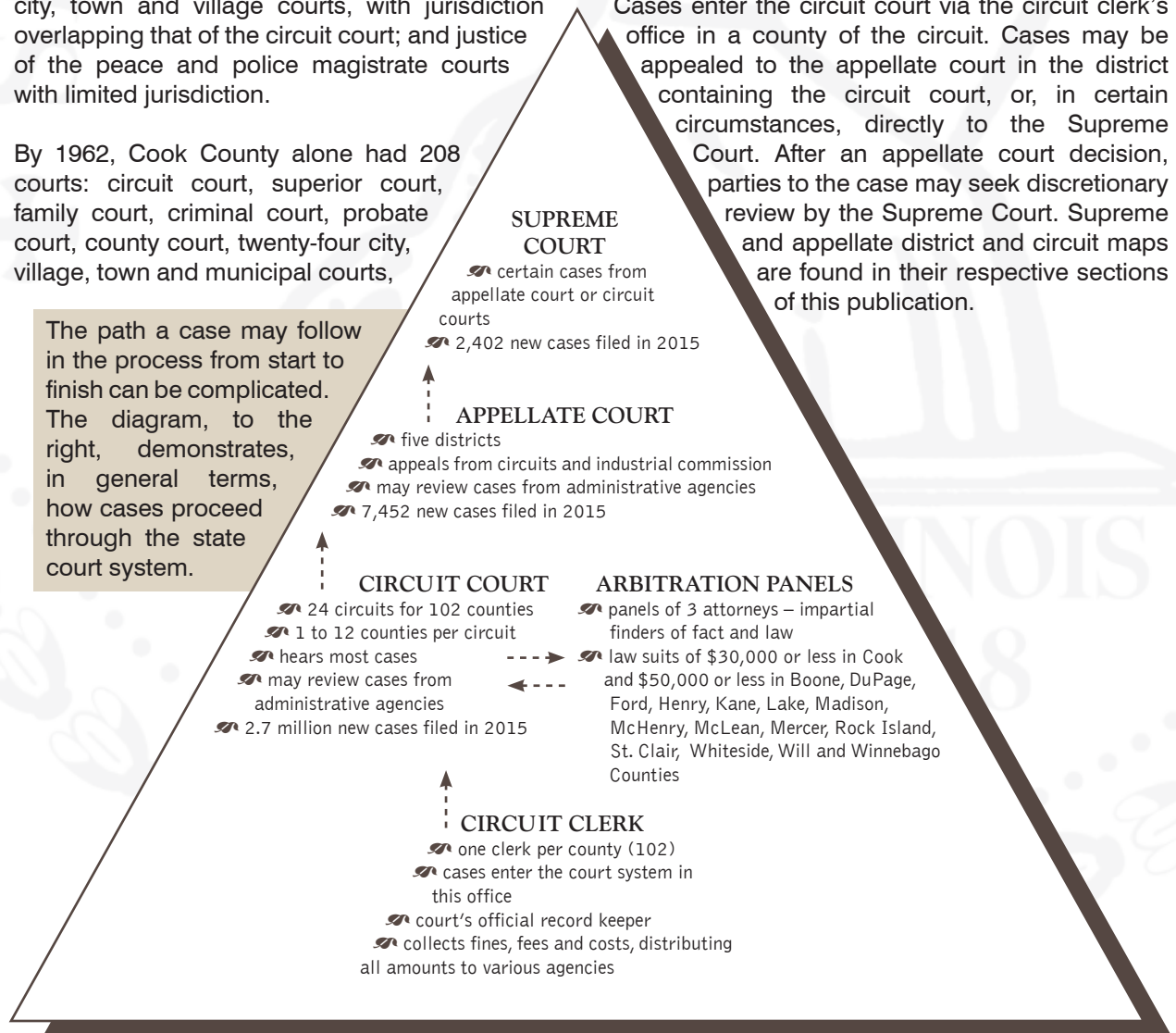
Illinois has had a unified court system since 1964. In that year, voters approved an amendment to the 1870 Constitution which made major changes in the system.

Prior to 1964, the court system was fragmented. The courts of original jurisdiction had some concurrent and overlapping jurisdiction, and each court operated independently of the others. The old system had a circuit court with statewide original jurisdiction in all cases and some appellate jurisdiction; a Superior Court of Cook County having concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court of Cook County; the Criminal Court of Cook County also having concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court of Cook County but limited to criminal cases; a county court in each county with special jurisdiction that partially overlapped that of the circuit court; a probate court in certain counties with special jurisdiction; statutory municipal, city, town and village courts, with jurisdiction overlapping that of the circuit court; and justice of the peace and police magistrate courts with limited jurisdiction.

By 1962, Cook County alone had 208 courts: circuit court, superior court, family court, criminal court, probate court, county court, twenty-four city, village, town and municipal courts,

seventy-five justice of the peace courts, and 103 police magistrate courts. In addition, there were seven supreme court districts numbered from south to north and four appellate court districts numbered from north to south. For example, the First Supreme Court District was in a part of the Fourth Appellate Court District and the Seventh Supreme Court District was in a part of the First Appellate Court District. In today's system, as shown below, there are three levels of courts: circuit, appellate, and supreme, all operating within clearly defined geographical boundaries. The circuit court is a court of original jurisdiction which is divided into twenty-four circuits. Each circuit is located in one of five appellate court districts. Cases enter the circuit court via the circuit clerk's office in a county of the circuit. Cases may be appealed to the appellate court in the district containing the circuit court, or, in certain circumstances, directly to the Supreme Court. After an appellate court decision, parties to the case may seek discretionary review by the Supreme Court. Supreme and appellate district and circuit maps are found in their respective sections of this publication.

The path a case may follow in the process from start to finish can be complicated. The diagram, to the right, demonstrates, in general terms, how cases proceed through the state court system.



JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATION

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of Illinois, in addition to being the state's highest court, is responsible for the state's unified trial court, one appellate court with five districts, and several supporting units. General administrative and supervisory authority over the court system is vested in the Supreme Court. Several advisory bodies assist with this mission by making recommendations to the court. These include the Judicial Conference of Illinois and the various committees of the court. More information about committees can be found in the following sections. The Supreme Court also makes appointments to other committees, commissions, and boards as listed at the right. The chief justice is responsible for exercising the court's general administrative and supervisory authority in accordance with the court's rules. The Supreme Court appoints an administrative director to assist the chief justice in her duties. The staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts supports this function. Key support personnel exist at each level of the court to assist judges with the administration of justice. At the Supreme Court level, this includes the clerk, research director, marshal, librarian and their staffs. Each support unit is described on page nineteen.

Appellate Court

At the appellate court level, the presiding judge and judges of each appellate district are assisted by a clerk of the appellate court and research director and their staffs appointed by the appellate judges. Appeals enter the clerk's office, where deputy clerks assign them filing schedules and actively monitor and review cases as they progress through record preparation, motions, briefing, and oral arguments. Problems such as late filings, jurisdictional defects, inadequate records or noncompliant briefs are referred to the court. After the court has heard an appeal, the clerk's office issues the court's decision and tracks all post-decision activity. The clerk's office also manages the court's computerized and manual recordkeeping systems and oversees the maintenance of physical facilities. The clerk responds to requests and questions concerning the court's cases and procedures. The research director oversees a staff of attorneys and secretaries providing centralized legal research services to judges.

Circuit Court

Each circuit is administered by a chief judge who is selected by the circuit court judges of the circuit. The chief judge is assisted by an administrative assistant and/or trial court administrator and other support staff. The number of counties in each circuit currently ranges from one to twelve. In each county, voters elect a circuit clerk for a four-year term. Circuit clerks, with help from deputy clerks hired by the circuit clerk, attend sessions of the court, preserve court files and documents, maintain complete records of all cases, and maintain records of money received and disbursed.

Judicial Inquiry Board

The Supreme Court appoints two circuit judges to the Board, the governor also appoints four non-lawyers and three lawyers, which receives and investigates complaints against judges and prosecutes the validated complaint before the Illinois Courts Commission.

Illinois Courts Commission

The Commission consists of a supreme court justice, two circuit judges selected by the Supreme Court, two appellate court judges selected by the appellate court, and two citizen members selected by the governor. The Commission hears complaints brought by the Judicial Inquiry Board and can discipline a judge or remove a judge from office.

Board of Admissions to the Bar

The Supreme Court establishes rules and standards for the education, testing, and admission of law school graduates to the practice of law in the state and appoints seven attorneys to sit on the Board. The Board oversees the process of admitting law school graduates to the practice of law.

Committee on Character and Fitness

The Supreme Court appoints attorneys to a committee in each of the five judicial districts to evaluate the moral character and general fitness of applicants to practice law.

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

The Supreme Court establishes rules for the registration and discipline of attorneys and appoints four lawyers and three non-lawyers to the Commission which oversees the registration and disciplinary process.

State Appellate Defender

The Supreme Court appoints the State Appellate Defender and two members to the State Appellate Defender Commission. Each appellate court district appoints one member to the Commission and the governor appoints two members.

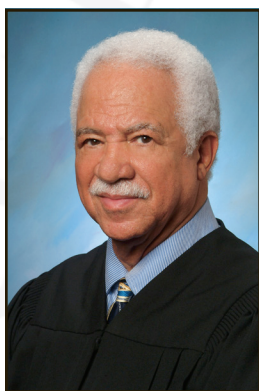
Board of Trustees of the Judges Retirement System

The Supreme Court appoints three judges to the Board of Trustees of the Judges Retirement System and the chief justice is an *ex-officio* member, as is the state treasurer.



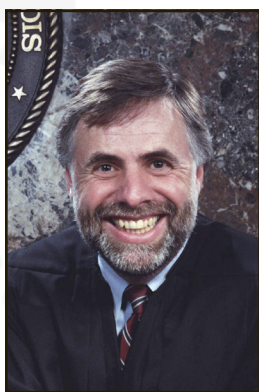
THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court; it also supervises and administers the state's judicial system. The state is divided into five judicial districts, with three justices elected from the first district (Cook County) and one justice elected from each of the other four districts. Justices are elected in partisan elections for ten years and may be retained in office for additional terms of ten years. A chief justice is elected by the other justices for a term of three years.



Charles E. Freeman

Justice Freeman received a Juris Doctor degree from The John Marshall Law School, Chicago. Early in his career he served as an Assistant Attorney General, Assistant State's Attorney, and an attorney for the Board of Election Commissioners. He served as a commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission from 1973 to 1976. He was in the private practice of law from 1962 to 1976. In 1976, he was elected a Circuit Judge in Cook County where he served for ten years. He was elected to the Appellate Court in 1986 and to the Illinois Supreme Court on November 6, 1990, as the first African-American to serve on the Court. On May 12, 1997, he was selected as Chief Justice and served in that capacity until January 1, 2000.



Robert R. Thomas

Justice Thomas was born on August 7, 1952, in Rochester, NY. He received his B.A. degree in Government from the University of Notre Dame in 1974, and was named an Academic All-American in that same year. He received his J.D. degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1981. He was elected Circuit Court Judge in DuPage County in 1988. There, he presided over civil jury trials and was the Acting Chief Judge from 1989 to 1994. In 1994, Justice Thomas was elected to the Appellate Court Second District. On December 4, 2000, Justice Thomas was sworn in as the Illinois Supreme Court Justice for the Second District. In April 1996, Justice Thomas was inducted into the Academic All-American Hall of Fame, and in January 1999, he received the prestigious NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. Justice Thomas is a member of the DuPage County Bar Association. He was selected as Chief Justice during the 2005 September Term of the Supreme Court and served in that capacity until September 5, 2008.



Thomas L. Kilbride

Justice Kilbride received his law degree from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., in 1981. He practiced law for 20 years in Rock Island, engaging in the general practice of law, including appeals, environmental law, labor law, employment matters, and other general civil and criminal matters. He was admitted to practice in the United States District Court of Central Illinois and the United States Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Justice Kilbride was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois for the Third District in 2000 and selected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in October 2010. Justice Kilbride served as Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court from October 2010 until October 2013.



Rita B. Garman
Chief Justice

Chief Justice Garman received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1968. She was an Assistant State's Attorney in Vermilion County from 1969 to 1973. She then engaged in private practice with Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen & Garman and was an Associate Judge for 12 years. She served as Circuit Judge in the Fifth Judicial Circuit (1986-95) and Presiding Circuit Judge (1987-95). She was assigned to the Appellate Court, Fourth District, in July 1995, and was elected to the position in November 1996. Chief Justice Garman was appointed to the Supreme Court on February 1, 2001 and subsequently elected to the Supreme Court on December 2, 2002. She was selected as the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court in October 2013.

Justice Karmeier received his law degree from the University of Illinois. From 1964 through 1986, he engaged in private law practice, clerked for Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House and United States District Court Judge James L. Foreman, and served as Washington County State's Attorney. Justice Karmeier has served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, presiding as Chair of the Committee from 2003 to 2004. He served as Resident Circuit Judge of Washington County from 1986 through 2004 when he was elected to the Supreme Court.



Lloyd A. Karmeier

Justice Burke was born on Feb. 3, 1944, in Chicago. She received her B.A. degree in education from DePaul University in 1976 and her J.D. degree from IIT/Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1983. She was admitted to the Federal Court, Northern District of Illinois, in 1983, the United States Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 1985, and certified for the Trial Bar, Federal District Court in 1987. In August 1995, she was appointed to the Appellate Court, First District. In 1996, she was elected to the Appellate Court, First District, for a full term. Justice Burke, the third woman to sit on the state's highest tribunal, was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court for the First District on July 6, 2006.



Anne M. Burke

Justice Theis, born February 27, 1949, in Chicago, graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 1971 and the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1974. During her career she served as an Assistant Public Defender, Associate Judge and Circuit Judge in Cook County until her appointment to the Appellate Court in 1993. Justice Theis has chaired both the Committee on Education and the Committee on Judicial Conduct of the Illinois Judicial Conference; served as a member of the Supreme Court Rules Committee; served as President of the Appellate Lawyers Association and the Illinois Judges Association; and has served as a member of various Bar Associations. She is the recipient of multiple awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award, Catholic Lawyer of the Year, Celtic Lawyer of the Year, the Mary Heftel Hooten Award and the Access to Justice Award. After her 17 years of service on the First District Appellate Court, Justice Theis was appointed to the Supreme Court of Illinois on October 26, 2010.



Mary Jane Theis



SUPREME COURT SUPPORT STAFF



There are several support units which assist the Supreme Court with its work as the state's highest court. These units are located in Springfield and Chicago.

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Carolyn Taft Grosboll

The Clerk of the Supreme Court is appointed by the Court, reports to the Court and serves at the Court's pleasure. The Clerk is the Court's principal case processing and records manager who operates the office through a staff of specialized deputies, and by planning, developing, and implementing policies and procedures necessary to execute the responsibilities of the office. The office has existed since circa 1818 and supports the Court in the exercise of its statewide jurisdiction, authority to regulate the practice of law in Illinois, and supervisory authority over the courts in the state.

In its case management capacity, the Clerk's Office maintains four distinct automated dockets, executing all associated processes, to ensure compliance with Supreme Court Rules and to ensure that cases are effectively monitored and scheduled, from initiation to issuance of mandates and final orders as appropriate. The general docket unit of the office supports the Court's primary docket. The miscellaneous record docket consists primarily of attorney matters. The miscellaneous docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by pro se incarcerated litigants and provides a forum without compromising standard filing requirements. The proposed rule docket was developed and functions consistent with the mandate of Supreme Court Rule 3. E-filing of Court documents began in 2012 on a pilot basis for certain cases on the general docket and was expanded in 2013 to permit e-filing in all cases on the Court's general and miscellaneous record dockets. While e-filing is not mandatory, the number of attorneys and pro se litigants using the Court's e-filing system grew in 2015.

In its record management capacity, the Clerk's Office maintains the Court's active and closed files and permanent records, dating to 1818, including historically significant documents which are housed and preserved in the State Archives by agreement, and through an agreement with State Archives oversees the conversion of paper documents to microfilm, a more stable medium.

The Clerk's Office registers and renews professional service corporations and associations, and limited liability companies and partnerships engaged in the practice of law. In October 2012, the Supreme Court announced an e-renewal process beginning with the 2013 renewal year, that gave law firm entities the option to electronically renew their annual registration and pay the \$40 renewal fee electronically. In the third year of this e-initiative, approximately 60% of law firm entities chose to electronically renew. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for maintaining the roll of attorneys, which includes the licensing process, and issuance of law licenses; files judicial financial disclosure statements required of state court judges. The office compiles, analyzes, and reports statistics on the Supreme Court's caseload and other activity, as reflected in the accompanying statistical summary and narrative for 2015.

The Clerk's Office provides information to the public at large and the practicing bar and has working relationships with other courts and judicial branch offices, Supreme Court agencies, and state and county departments.

SUPREME COURT DIRECTORY

Springfield (62701)

Supreme Court Building
TDD (217) 524-8132
Clerk (217) 782-2035
Librarian (217) 782-2424
Marshal (217) 782-7821

Springfield (62702)

301 N. 2nd Street
Reporter of Decisions
(217) 557-2823
FAX (217) 557-0260

Chicago (60601)

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle Street
TDD (312) 793-6185
Clerk (312) 793-1332

Marshal of the Supreme Court
Jim Cimarossa

The Marshal attends all sessions of the Court held in September, November, January, March, and May. In addition, the Marshal directs a staff which maintains the Supreme Court Building and grounds, provides security for justices and employees, and conducts tours of the building.

Supreme Court Chief Internal Auditor
John Bracco

The Supreme Court Chief Internal Auditor and staff perform audits of the state-funded activities of the judicial branch. In addition, the Internal Auditor annually assesses the adequacy of internal controls for state-funded activities.

Supreme Court Research Director
John Robinson

The Supreme Court Research Director supervises a staff of attorneys who provide legal research and writing assistance to the Court.

Supreme Court Librarian
Geoffrey P. Pelzek

The Supreme Court Librarian directs a staff who provide legal reference services to the courts, state agencies, and citizens of the state. The Supreme Court libraries include a 100,000 volume public law library in Springfield, a 40,000 volume private branch library in Chicago, and four private judicial libraries across the state. The Librarian oversees all aspects of library administration including budget and program planning, materials and equipment acquisition, cataloging and collection development, and library reference and research services.

Reporter of Decisions
Amy Tomaszewski

The Reporter of Decisions directs a staff that publishes opinions of the supreme and appellate courts in the Official Reports. Employees verify case citations, compose attorney lines, and edit opinions for style and grammar. The Reporter is also responsible for publication of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules and preparation of the Style Manual for the Supreme and Appellate Courts.

Supreme Court Caseload	Filed	Disposed
2015	2,402	2,443
2014	2,429	2,443
2013	2,671	2,627
2012	2,697	2,793
2011	2,906	3,104



SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

Standing committees of the Court and chairpersons during 2015

- **Appellate Court Administrative Committee**
Justice Mary Jane Theis, liaison officer.
- **Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission**
Joan M. Eagle, Esq., Chair; James R. Mendillo, Esq., Vice-Chair; Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, liaison officer.
Review Board – Gordon B. Nash, Jr., Esq., Chair.
- **Board of Admissions to the Bar**
Lawrence N. Hill, Esq., President; Justice Anne M. Burke, liaison officer.
- **Committee on Character and Fitness**
Philip L. Bronstein, Esq., Chair; Jennifer E. Bae, Esq., Vice-Chair (First Judicial District); Bradley N. Pollock, Esq., Chair; Robert L. Smith, Esq., Vice-Chair (Second Judicial District); Jodi K. Obrecht Fisk, Esq., Chair (Third Judicial District); Frederick H. Underhill, Jr., Esq., Chair; Homer A. Yow, Esq., Vice-Chair (Fourth Judicial District); Mark C. Scoggins, Esq., Chair; David L. Piercy, Esq., Vice-Chair (Fifth Judicial District); Justice Robert R. Thomas, liaison officer.
- **Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases**
John P. Goggin, Esq., Chair; Brent D. Holmes, Esq., Vice-Chair; Professor Nancy S. Marder, Reporter; Justice Mary Jane Theis, liaison officer.
- **Committee on Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases**
Judge Kathleen Pantle, Chair; Judge Joseph M. Leberman, Vice-Chair; Professor John F. Erbes, Professor-Reporter; Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, liaison officer.
- **Committee on Professional Responsibility**
Judge Cheryl D. Cesario, Esq., Chair; Anne E. Thar, Esq., Vice-Chair; Professor Vivien C. Gross, Professor-Reporter; Justice Anne M. Burke, liaison officer.
- **Judicial Mentor Committee**
Judge Joseph G. McGraw, Status Member (Chairperson of Chief Judges' Conference); Judge David A. Hylla, Status Member (Vice-Chairperson of Chief Judges' Conference).
- **Legislative Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court**
Judge S. Gene Schwarm, Chair.
- **Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board**
Patrick M. Kinnally, Esq., Chair; James A. Rapp, Esq., Vice-Chair; Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, liaison officer.
- **Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning**
Appellate Judge Kathryn E. Zenoff, Chair.
- **Special Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues**
Judge Robert J. Anderson and Judge Moshe Jacobius, Co-Chairs; Chief Justice Rita B. Garman, liaison officer.
- **Special Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Conduct**
- **Supreme Court Committee Language Access Advisory Board**
- **Supreme Court e-Business Policy Advisory Board**
Judge David A. Hylla, Chair.
- **Supreme Court Committee on Illinois Evidence**
Judge Donald C. Hudson, Chair; Judge Warren D. Wolfson, Vice-Chair; Professor Ralph Ruebner, Professor-Reporter; Justice Mary Jane Theis, liaison officer.
- **Supreme Court Commission for Access to Justice**
Judge Mary K. Rochford, Chair.
- **Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism**
Judge Debra B. Walker, Chair; Judge Richard L. Tognarelli, Vice-Chair. Justice Robert R. Thomas, liaison officer.
- **Supreme Court e-Business Technical Committee**
Judge Val Gunnarsson, Chair.
- **Supreme Court Committee on Equality**
Judge Joseph G. McGraw, Chair.
- **Supreme Court Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee**
Judge Paula A. Gomora, Chair; Justice Anne M. Burke, liaison officer.
- **Supreme Court Probation Policy Advisory Board**
David VanLandegan, Esq., Chair; Rosemarie Gray, Esq., Vice-Chair.
- **Supreme Court Rules Committee**
James R. Figliuolo, Esq., Chair; Judge John C. Anderson, Vice-Chair; Professor Keith H. Beyler, Esq., Reporter; Professor Jo Desha Lucas, Esq., Emeritus; Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, liaison officer.



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Judicial Conference of Illinois, consisting of eighty-two judges, is responsible for suggesting improvements in the administration of justice in Illinois. The Executive Committee, composed of the chief justice and fourteen members of the Judicial Conference, reviews recommendations of the various committees and makes recommendations to the Supreme Court, resolves questions of committee jurisdiction, acts on behalf of the Judicial Conference between annual meetings, and performs other duties delegated by the Supreme Court. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts serves as Secretary of the Conference.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Coordinating Committee

*Judge Mark S. Goodwin, Chair
Fifth Judicial Circuit*

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee monitors and assesses court-annexed mandatory arbitration and civil mediation programs approved by the Supreme Court. Along with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Committee tracks mandatory arbitration statistics to monitor program efficacy and trends, and also reviews related Supreme Court Rules for recommends any amendments that may be deemed appropriate.

During this Conference year, the Committee examined Supreme Court Rule 99 (Mediation Programs) to determine if the rule needs expansion or clarification to standardize the formulation of requesting a new mediation program and for the the operations of an existing mediation program. To address this charge, the Committee proffered a proposed amendment to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 99(b)(2)(x), which was approved and adopted by the Court in October 2015. The amended rule confers authority upon the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to proscribe the manner and method of data collection from all mediation programs approved by the Supreme Court.

The Committee, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, assisted in the development of a uniform data collection instrument for use by mortgage foreclosure mediation programs throughout the state of Illinois. Additionally work has begun in the development of a uniform data collection instrument for use by other civil mediation programs. The Committee also continues to develop standardized forms for use in civil mediation. Analysis of the forms currently in use revealed disparities in the types and content of the forms. This topic requires further discussion by the Committee with resulting recommendations to the Court.

Civil Justice Committee

*Judge Barbara N. Petrunaro and
Judge Dinah J. Archambeault, Co-Chairs
12th Judicial Circuit*

The Civil Justice Committee launched its inaugural year to advise the Illinois Judicial Conference and the Illinois Supreme Court in matters affecting civil justice. The Committee's charge was to review and make recommendations on matters affecting civil justice. The Committee was to review, analyze and examine new issues arising out of legislation and case law that impact civil law and procedures and any aspect of civil justice. The Committee members possess significant trial experience, from various jurisdictions, both large and small.

The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Illinois Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure that the Illinois civil justice system is functioning effectively. In Conference Year 2015, the Civil Justice Committee focused on two projects: (1) studying ways to improve the civil jury trial system including consideration of the Sedona project for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit to application in Illinois, and (2) studying the impact of social media on jurors.

As it concerned the Sedona project, the Committee considered the three surveys for jurors, attorneys and judges that were distributed at the completion of a civil jury trial by the Sedona project. Utilizing these surveys as a model for the Committee, modifications were made to more effectively elicit information regarding the comprehension, satisfaction and efficiency of the civil jury trial system by jurors, attorneys and judges. If these surveys are approved by the Illinois Supreme Court and the Committee is allowed to distribute them at civil jury trials across the State next year, these surveys would create a baseline to show where how jury trials are experienced by parties engaged in them. If weaknesses are disclosed, the Committee would thereafter make recommendations for addressing those issues.



With respect to social media and juror conduct, the Committee first considered whether there were issues or potential issues with misconduct. The Committee researched what measures were being used to address social media use by jurors. Finally, the Committee made recommendations to best address use of social media at this time. The research included review of written materials and input from Illinois judges based on their personal experiences. Additional information will be considered if the aforementioned Sedona project surveys are utilized.

Criminal Justice Committee
Judge William H. Hooks, Chair
Cook County Circuit Court

In 2015, the Committee began discussion on the need, manner and method to implement sentencing flexibility similar to the federal sentencing system. The Committee believes that Illinois' mandatory minimum and maximum sentencing structure tie judges' hands when sentencing a defendant because there are no mechanisms to deviate either downward or upward, as opposed to a federal district court judge's ability to do so within the federal sentencing guidelines. A subcommittee has been formed to examine this issue, with a goal of being able to recommend whether or not implementation of sentencing guidelines similar to the federal law is feasible; to gather input from criminal court stakeholders and to make recommendations to the Court regarding the subcommittee's work. The Committee will continue discussion of this charge and will report its findings and recommendations to the Court.

The Committee continued discussion on whether Supreme Court Rule 604(d) should be amended due to the holding in the case of *People v. Tousignant*, 2014 IL 115329. That decision reversed a plea agreement because the plea certification did not contain both the plea and the sentence. After debate on whether this decision would negatively impact the court process, the Committee has recommended amending Supreme Court Rule 604(d) to be consistent with the ruling in *Tousignant* by changing the word "or" to "and." On December 3, 2015, the Court adopted this recommendation and amended Rule 604(d).

The Committee was also charged to coordinate with the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to develop training on evidence-based practices in sentencing. A committee member agreed to be the representative to the Evidence-Based Practice Training Team formed by the Education Committee. The training, titled "Evidence-Based Sentencing Practices: Applications & Outcomes" was presented on October 21, 2015.

At the request of the Rules Committee, the Committee discussed Rule Proposal 14-09 which seeks to amend Rule 605 to incorporate an appeal litany for those found unfit to plea, stand trial or be sentenced. After full discussion, the Committee reached the consensus that the proposed amendments to Rule 605 are not appropriate to be included in the appeal admonishments for those defendants who have been found unfit to stand trial, as that ruling does not constitute a finding of guilt.

Finally, the Committee began discussion of a definition of the term "Reasonable Doubt" based on the holding in the case of *People v. Downs*, 2015 IL 117934, which reiterated the long standing case law that reasonable doubt is a term which needs no elaboration and it is futile to attempt to define it. After research and discussion, the Committee presented the Court with it's report.

Committee on Education
Judge Thomas M. Donnelly, Chair
Cook County Circuit Court

The Supreme Court of Illinois charged the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education, in coordination with the Administrative Office, with the task of developing and sustaining continuing educational programs for Illinois judges, while also exploring a Judicial College model for the oversight and delivery of comprehensive education for the Illinois Judicial Branch and its stakeholders. The Illinois Judicial College will provide for the comprehensive professional development of judges and stakeholders who aid the court in the administration of justice. As continuing education under the auspices of the Supreme Court moves from a Committee model to a College model, seminars and workshops will continue to be offered for the primary benefit of Illinois judges, although many events will also encourage participation from judicial stakeholders. The Court, through the Administrative Office Judicial Education Division, continues to support two required judicial education events - *New Judge Seminar and Education Conference*, in addition to elective events and seminars specifically focused on a specific subject matter. In addition, the Committee together with the Administrative Office draft and publish a Judicial Benchbook series, a bench reference created for the benefit of Illinois judges.

Consistent with its overall charge, the Committee completed the 2015 Illinois Judicial Conference Benchbook projects; planned, delivered and evaluated the *February 2015 New Judge Seminar*, *March 2015 DUI/Traffic Seminar*, *2015 Faculty Development Workshops (March, May, September and October)*, *June 2015 Advanced Judicial Academy*, *October 2015 Appellate Law Clerk and Legal Research Staff training*, *October 2015 Evidence-Based Sentencing: Polices, Principles and Practices training*, and the *December 2015 New Judge Seminar*.

Committee on Strategic Planning

Judge M. Carol Pope, Chair
4th District Appellate Court

During Conference Year 2015, the Committee on Strategic Planning continued its mission to assist the Supreme Court of Illinois in advancing the Court's goal of an impartial, accessible and efficient justice system. The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure the Illinois court system is functioning in a just and efficient manner.

In collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), the work of the Committee for the 2015 Conference Year centered primarily on implementing the court-user survey which was developed in Conference Year 2014. The design of the survey was to ask court-users exiting the courthouse to complete a brief questionnaire regarding their experience in court and their opinion of the court system. This included users' views on how well they were treated, how easily they were able to obtain information, whether they felt they were heard in court, and whether they perceived the end result as fair.

Under the leadership of the Supreme Court, the Committee coordinated with the AOIC and the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges to implement the survey statewide. With the assistance and cooperation of the circuit courts and the AOIC, the survey was conducted in every county circuit courthouse in Illinois from April 13, 2015 to May 1, 2015. The individuals surveyed included but were not limited to litigants and their families and friends, victims and witnesses, attorneys (including assistant state's attorneys and public defenders), law enforcement officers, jurors, individuals doing record searches or having other business at the clerk's office and individuals conducting any other type of court business. Because the survey was designed to assess the views of the court's users, judges and court staff were excluded from the survey. Over 12,000 completed surveys were collected across the state. Faculty and students at Loyola University Chicago compiled the data from the surveys and conducted data analyses of the survey results. The statewide results of the survey were released to the public via press release on November 5, 2015. The statewide survey results showed that the majority of court-users held positive views of the court.

Juvenile Justice Committee

Judge Jennifer H. Bauknecht, Chair
11th Judicial Circuit

During Conference Year 2015, the Committee explored increasing the maximum age at which DCFS can be appointed guardian of an adjudicated juvenile delinquent due to a lack of options when the minor has no parental involvement. Due to the potential increase in caseload for DCFS, budget constraints, and lack of resources and placement options for this population, the Committee recommended not increasing the maximum age at which DCFS can be appointed guardian of an adjudicated juvenile delinquent.

The Committee developed the concept of a web-based clearinghouse located under the Illinois Courts Judicial Links application on the Court's website for programs created by juvenile judges and juvenile probation departments that would act as a resource for all judges. A sub-committee will be determining format, criteria for including programs and reviewing those programs submitted before being uploaded to the Illinois Courts Judicial Links.

As a final matter, the Committee collaborated with the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to create a bi-annual conference for juvenile court judges. Juvenile court judges have unique issues, as well as the need for continuing education and networking opportunities with other juvenile judges. A small workgroup will be convened in 2016 consisting of members from both committees to identify specific trends, possible speakers and overall format of the conference.



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Members of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference During 2015

Chief Justice Rita B. Garman, Chair

Michael J. Tardy, Secretary

James J. Allen, Circuit Judge, 12th Circuit
Mark H. Clarke, Circuit Judge, 1st Circuit
Mary Ellen Coghlan, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Neil H. Cohen, Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Lynn M. Egan, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Timothy C. Evans, Chief Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Robert G. Gibson, Associate Judge, 18th Circuit

Shelvin Louise Hall, Appellate Judge, 1st District
William H. Hooks, Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Julie K. Katz, Associate Judge, 20th Circuit
Diane M. Lagoski, Chief Circuit Judge, 8th District
Christopher C. Starck, Circuit Judge, 19th Circuit
Linnea E. Thompson, Circuit Judge, 14th Circuit
Lisa Holder White, Appellate Judge, 4th District

APPELLATE COURT

Except for those cases appealed directly to the Supreme Court, a person has the right to request a review of a circuit court judge's decision by the Appellate Court.

The Appellate Court is organized into five districts. The first meets in Chicago, second in Elgin, third in Ottawa, fourth in Springfield, and the fifth in Mt. Vernon.

Each district can have one or more divisions. There are six divisions in the first district and one in each of the other four. The Supreme Court assigns judges to the various divisions. The presiding judge of each division assigns judges to panels of three to hear appeals.

The number of appellate court judgeships, currently fifty-four, is determined by the legislature. The Supreme Court can assign additional circuit, appellate

or retired judges temporarily to any district. Judges are elected by voters in each district for ten-year terms, and may be retained for additional ten-year terms. Each judge has a support staff of two law clerks and a secretary.

Each district manages its own operations, subject to the overall authority of the Supreme Court. In the first district (Cook County), an executive committee exercises general administrative authority. This committee elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson for one year. In the other districts, judges select one of their members to serve as presiding judge for one year.

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	4,002	4,253	3,311	3,214
2014	4,173	4,238	3,721	3,425
2013	4,153	4,370	3,788	3,384
2012	4,273	4,180	3,635	3,740
2011	4,067	4,376	3,614	3,731

**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Total Caseload*	Filed	Disposed
2015	7,452	7,609
2014	8,015	7,816
2013	8,134	7,954
2012	8,079	8,062
2011	7,826	7,286

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

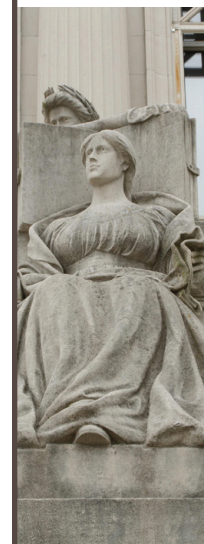
Appellate Court Administrative Matters

Annual Meeting: The Appellate Court held its annual meeting on April 13, 2015 with the Honorable Donald C. Hudson, Second District Appellate Court, serving on behalf of the Honorable Stuart E. Palmer, who was elected as the honorary chair. Forty-nine appellate justices were in attendance. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 15(e) of the Illinois Constitution, the Illinois Appellate Court selects two appellate justices to serve as regular members and three appellate justices to serve as alternative members of the Illinois Courts Commission. The Honorable Margaret Stanton McBride (First District Appellate Court) and the Honorable Richard P. Goldenhersh (Fifth District Appellate Court) will continue to serve as regular members, with the Honorable Mary S. Schostok (Second District Appellate Court), the Honorable Mary K. O'Brien (Third District Appellate Court) and the Honorable Thomas R. Appleton (Fourth District Appellate Court) to serve as alternate members to the Commission, for a one year term ending December 31, 2016. The Honorable Tom M. Lytton (Third Appellate District) was elected to serve as Chair of the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court to be held April 4, 2016.

Administrative Committee: The Appellate Court Administrative Committee was created to study and recommend improvements to the Illinois Appellate Court. Additionally, the Committee plans the Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court and develops the curriculum for the annual Appellate Court Conference. The 2015 Conference was held April 13-14, 2015 in Springfield at the Administrative Office and hosted forty-nine appellate justices, five Legal Research Directors and each of the Clerks of the Appellate Court. The Conference address was delivered by the Honorable Rita B. Garman, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois. Conference presentations included *Standards of Review*, *Appellate Review of Unbriefed Issues*, *the Judicial Privacy Act* and *Criminal and Civil Updates*. The Honorable Donald C. Hudson (Second District Appellate Court) serves as Chair of the Appellate Court Administrative Committee. The Honorable Mary Jane Theis, Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois, serves as the Supreme Court liaison to the Appellate Court Administrative Committee.



FIRST DISTRICT



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APPELLATE JUDGES

DIVISION I

Laura C. Liu,
Presiding Judge*
Maureen E. Connors
Joy V. Cunningham
Sheldon A. Harris

DIVISION IV

Margaret S. McBride,
Presiding Judge
Cynthia Y. Cobbs *
David W. Ellis
Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. ++

DIVISION II

Daniel J. Pierce,
Presiding Judge*
Michael B. Hyman *
P. Scott Neville, Jr.
John B. Simon

DIVISION V

Jesse G. Reyes,
Presiding Judge
Robert E. Gordon *+
Bertina E. Lampkin *
Stuart E. Palmer *

DIVISION III

Mary Anne Mason,
Presiding Judge*
Terrence J. Lavin
Aurelia Pucinski
James Fitzgerald Smith

DIVISION VI

Mary K. Rochford,
Presiding Judge
Mathias W. Delort
Shelvin Louise Marie Hall
Thomas E. Hoffman

+ Chair: Executive Committee; ++ Vice-Chair;
* circuit judge assigned to appellate court

First District - Chicago

Michael A. Bilandic Building
(Formerly State of Illinois Building)
Completed in 1924; Remodeled in 1992;
Renamed in 2003
(Holabird & Root/CDB photo)
160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 793-5600

Steven M. Ravid, Clerk
Kathleen Warnick, Research Director

Circuit:

Circuit Court of Cook County

District Population:
5,238,216 (2015 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	2,043	2,182	1,564	1,534
2014	2,122	2,120	1,799	1,674
2013	2,119	2,292	1,850	1,543
2012	2,142	2,037	1,622	1,627
2011	2,095	2,338	1,683	1,724

**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

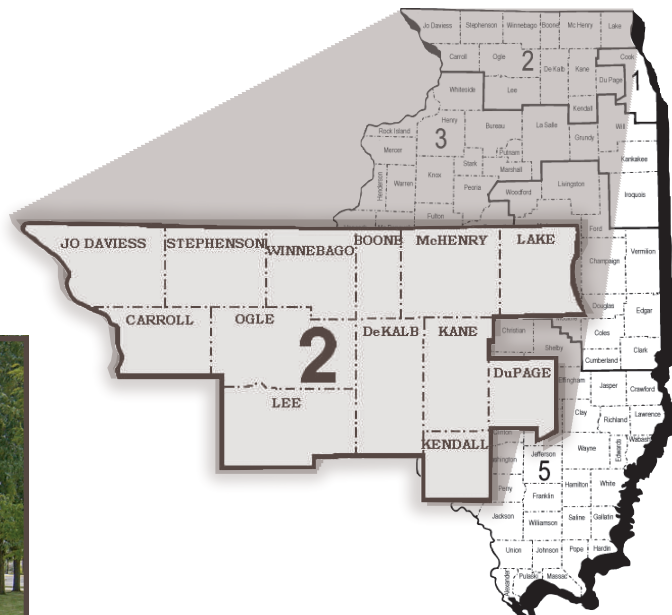
Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2015	5,307
2014	5,201
2013	4,841
2012	4,453
2011	6,092

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

SECOND DISTRICT



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Second District Courthouse - Elgin
Completed in 1966 (Second District Photo)
55 Symphony Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 695-3750

Robert J. Mangan, Clerk
Jeffrey H. Kaplan, Research Director

Circuits (Counties):
15th (Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle & Stephenson)
16th (Kane)
17th (Boone & Winnebago)
18th (DuPage)
19th (Lake)
22nd (McHenry)
23rd (DeKalb & Kendall)

District Population: 3,212,900 (2015 est.)

APPELLATE JUDGES

Mary S. Schostok, Presiding Judge*

Joseph E. Birkett
Michael J. Burke
Donald C. Hudson*
Susan Fayette Hutchinson
Ann Brackley Jorgensen
Robert D. McLaren
Robert B. Spence*
Kathryn E. Zenoff*

*circuit judge assigned to appellate court

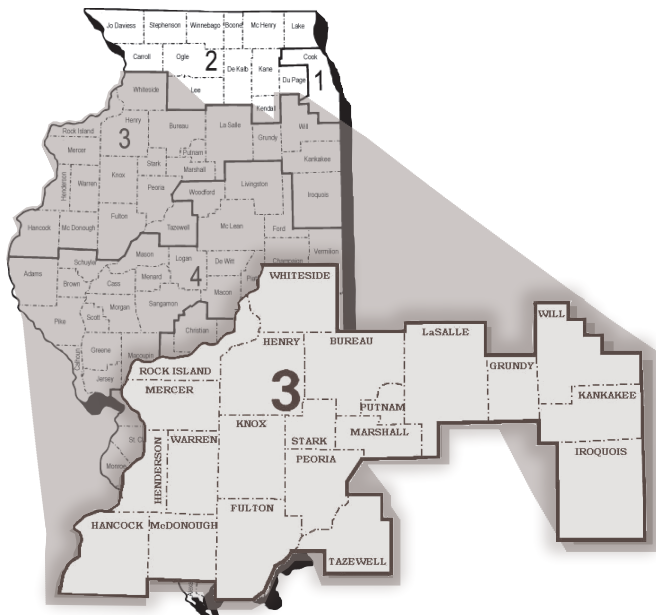
Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	702	754	577	514
2014	702	765	569	581
2013	717	703	596	590
2012	743	708	662	695
2011	661	720	646	703

**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2015	1,299
2014	1,250
2013	1,309
2012	1,236
2011	1,583

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

THIRD DISTRICT



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APPELLATE JUDGES

Mary W. McDade, Presiding Judge

Robert L. Carter
William E. Holdridge
Thomas M. Lytton
Mary K. O'Brien
Daniel L. Schmidt
Vicki Wright

Third District Courthouse - Ottawa
Completed in 1860 (Gist Fleshman Photo)
1004 Columbus Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-5050

Barbara A. Trumbo, Clerk
Matthew G. Butler, Research Director

Circuits (Counties):

9th (Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough & Warren)
10th (Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark & Tazewell)
12th (Will)
13th (Bureau, Grundy & LaSalle)
14th (Henry, Mercer, Rock Island & Whiteside)
21st (Iroquois & Kankakee)

District Population: 1,796,807 (2015 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	434	501	434	492
2014	478	470	521	483
2013	461	485	507	554
2012	502	498	537	535
2011	482	484	444	544

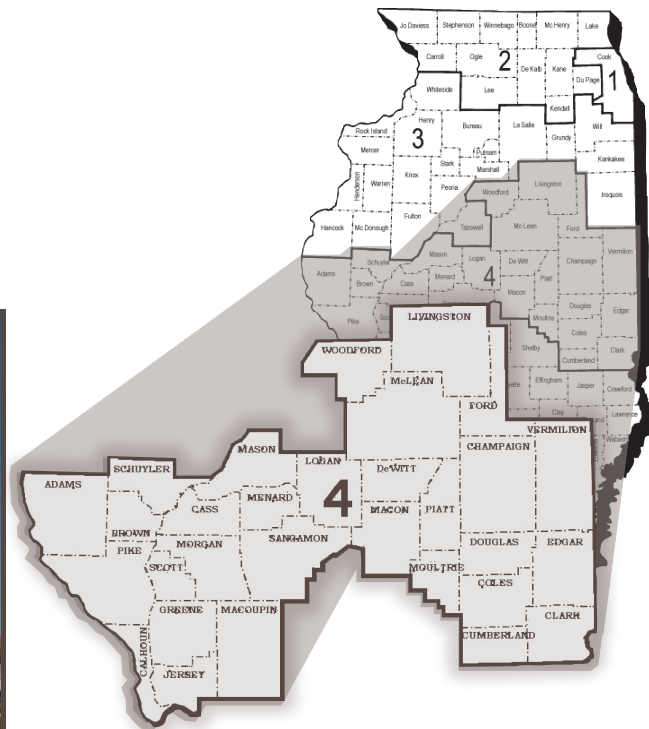
**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2015	834
2014	940
2013	889
2012	861
2011	851

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Appellate Court

FOURTH DISTRICT



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Fourth District Courthouse - Springfield

Waterways Building

Renovated in 2001

(Photo by Terry Farmer Photography, Inc.)

201 West Monroe Street

Springfield, IL 62708

(217) 782-2586

Carla L. Bender, Clerk

Shirley K. Wilgenbusch, Research Director

Circuits (Counties):

5th (Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar & Vermilion)

6th (Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie & Piatt)

7th (Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)

8th (Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Mason, Menard, Pike & Schuyler)

11th (Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean & Woodford)

District Population: 1,313,234 (2015 est.)

APPELLATE JUDGES

James A. Knecht, Presiding Judge

Thomas R. Appleton

Thomas M. Harris, Jr.*

M. Carol Pope

Robert J. Steigmann

John W. Turner

Lisa Holder White

*circuit judge assigned to appellate court

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	510	504	498	477
2014	530	527	571	461
2013	515	546	596	589
2012	565	566	578	631
2011	515	476	602	521

**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2015	1,099
2014	1,043
2013	922
2012	956
2011	1,001

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

FIFTH DISTRICT



Fifth District Courthouse - Mt. Vernon
 Completed in 1857 (J. Huddleston Photo)
 14th & Main Street
 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
 (618) 242-3120

APPELLATE JUDGES

S. Gene Schwarm, Presiding Judge

Judy Lynn Cates
 Melissa A. Chapman
 Richard P. Goldenhersh
 James R. Moore*
 Bruce D. Stewart
 Thomas M. Welch

*circuit judge assigned to appellate court

John J. Flood, Clerk
Michael D. Greathouse, Research Director

Circuits (Counties):

- 1st** (Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union & Williamson)
2nd (Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne & White)
3rd (Bond & Madison)
4th (Christian, Clay, Clinton, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Marion, Montgomery & Shelby)
20th (Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair & Washington)

District Population: 1,298,838 (2015 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2015	313	312	238	197
2014	341	356	261	226
2013	341	344	239	208
2012	321	371	236	252
2011	314	358	239	239

**Totals do not include Industrial Commission Division Cases

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2015	717
2014	676
2013	647
2012	637
2011	692

*Totals include Industrial Commission Division Cases

CIRCUIT COURTS

The court of “original jurisdiction” is the circuit court. Effective December 3, 2012, as a result of Public Act 97-0585, Illinois is now divided into twenty-four circuits, six of which are single county circuits (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will). The remaining eighteen circuits contain two to twelve counties per circuit.

In Illinois, the circuit court is the court of original jurisdiction. There are twenty-four circuits in the state. Six are single county circuits (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will) and the remaining eighteen circuits comprise as few as two and as many as twelve counties each. Except for redistricting of the general assembly and ruling on the ability of the governor to serve or resume office, the circuit court has jurisdiction for all matters properly brought before it. The circuit court shares jurisdiction with the Supreme Court to hear cases relating to revenue, mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus. If the Supreme Court chooses to exercise its authority in a case of these types, the circuit court loses jurisdiction. The circuit court is also the reviewing court for certain state agency administrative orders. There are two types of judges in the circuit court: circuit judges and associate judges. Circuit judges are elected for a six year term and may be retained by voters for additional six year terms. They can hear any circuit court case. Circuit judges are initially elected either circuit-wide, from the county where they reside or from a sub-circuit within a circuit, depending on the type of vacancy they are filling. Associate judges are appointed by circuit judges of that circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, for four-year terms. An associate judge can hear any case, including criminal cases punishable by a prison term of one year or more (felonies) if the associate judge receives special authorization by the Supreme Court. Circuit judges in a circuit elect one of their members to serve as chief

circuit court judge. The chief circuit judge has general administrative authority in the circuit, subject to the overall administrative authority of the Supreme Court. The chief judge can assign cases to general or specialized divisions within the circuit.

Circuit Court Administrative Matters

Conference of Chief Circuit Judges: The Conference of Chief Circuit Judges is comprised of the chief circuit judges from the twenty-four Illinois judicial circuits. In 2015, and due to the retirement of former Conference Chairperson Judge Elizabeth A. Robb, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, in December, 2014, Judge Joseph G. McGraw, Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit and former vice-chairman of the Conference, was elected to serve as chairperson of the Conference in January. Judge David A. Hylla, Chief Judge of the Third Judicial Circuit, was elected to serve as the new vice-chairperson. The Conference meets regularly to discuss issues related to the administration of justice in the circuit courts and other matters referred to the Conference by the Supreme Court. The Administrative Office serves as secretary to the Conference.

Conference Committees and Activities: The Conference has several established committees which address particular issues, and provide information and recommendations. Conference Committees active during 2015 include the Article V Committee; Chief Circuit



Judges Manual Committee; Executive Committee; Orientation Committee; and the Technology Committee. From time to time, the Conference may establish an *ad hoc* or special committee convened to study specific short-term subject matter such as the Conference's Special Committee on Extended Media Coverage to address issues related to the Supreme Court's *Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois*, or the Jury Representation Committee to study whether any issues exist that relate to the disproportionate minority representation in jury pools.

During 2015, the committees of the Conference considered topics in several areas. The Article V Committee developed and studied multiple proposals that could impact Supreme Court Rule 529 and the bond amount, total assessment and the percentage distribution of monies that result from these minor traffic and conservation cases resolved without a court appearance. The Article V Committee also recommended the Conference approve numerous electronic citation programs in counties throughout the state. The Special Committee on Extended Media Coverage made recommendations on notice provisions in the Supreme Court's *Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois*. The Jury Representation Committee continued to collect and analyze data related to the minority representation in jury pools from the most diverse counties in the state, and also consulted with an expert from the Center for Jury Studies at the NCSC as it continues to study this issue for possible recommendations to the Conference and Court in the next year. The Executive Committee continued to review policies and issues related to court reporting services and a shortfall within the Court Reporting Services budget; while the Chief Circuit Judges Manual Committee continued with revisions and updates to the *Chief Circuit Judge Manual*. The Technology Committee provided updates on the work of the Supreme Court's

e-Business Policy Advisory Board and Technical Committee, which address policy and technical issues related to electronic business programs utilized in the courts, including the consideration of mandatory e-filing of civil cases. The Orientation Committee, along with staff from the Administrative Office, met with and provided all new Chief Circuit Judges with information and tools to help guide them in their new administrative role. Ongoing throughout the year, the Special Committee on Standardized Forms disseminated and reviewed many court forms developed for use by the Commission on Access to Justice, including forms and orders related to the expungement and sealing of cases, civil protection orders, mortgage foreclosure, and court interpreter requests. All of the many Conference committees continued to monitor and analyze new legislation, Supreme Court rules, policy and forms relevant to the committee's focus and the administration of justice in the trial courts as it is introduced and adopted.

In the interest of furthering the knowledge and skills of its members, the Conference hosted a variety of presentations focused on judicial and trial court issues. For example, the Supreme Court Committee on Strategic Planning requested the Conference's assistance in implementing a Court User Survey in each courthouse, and later reported on the results of the survey. The Special Supreme Court Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning presented the Problem-Solving Court Certification Standards for the Conference's review and feedback. The Access to Justice Commission spoke about the genesis of Illinois standardized forms and Rule 10-101; while the Civil Justice Division explained the Court Interpreter Registry, Testing and Certification Program. Lastly, the Director of Illinois DCFS informed the Conference about Child Sex Trafficking and the role for the courts.



Performance Measures

In 2014, the Administrative Office included summary information about case clearance rates. The 2015 Annual Report Administrative Summary continues to offer statewide case clearance rates, which are presented on Page 33. In addition, the 2015 Annual Report Statistical Summary includes a section titled “Clearance Rates by Circuit.” (See page 16 in the 2015 Annual Report Statistical Summary.)

Clearance rates measure whether the court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate is calculated by taking the number of outgoing cases (e.g. disposed cases) as a percentage of the number of incoming cases (e.g. new filings and reinstated cases). If cases are not disposed in a timely manner, the pending caseload will increase. This measure is a single number that can be compared within the court for any and all case types, on a monthly or yearly basis, or between one county or circuit and another. Knowledge of clearance rates by case type or category can help a court pinpoint emerging problems and indicate where adjustments in resources or processes may need to occur.

The Report includes the identification of the clearance rate for cases grouped into one of five court categories: Civil, Domestic Relations, Juvenile, Criminal, and Quasi-Criminal. These categories should allow for greater comparison across Illinois’ courts and with other states.

The Administrative Office continues to review how implementing additional *CourTools* by the National Center for State Courts may benefit court managers and the public. More information about *CourTools* may be obtained by visiting www.ncsconline.org.

Court Interpreter and Limited English Proficient Litigants

Starting in 2015, the AOIC began collecting data on interpreter usage in circuit courts by the number of “court events” and by the type of interpreter used in civil, criminal, and court-annexed proceedings. The type of interpreters include: sign language, certified or registered foreign language interpreters listed on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry (“Registry”); unregistered interpreters; or remote interpreters present via phone or video conference. To be listed on the Registry, interpreters must complete training and pass exams testing language proficiency and interpreting skills.

The statewide report (figure 1) illustrates the 2015 data on interpreter usage. Spanish is by far the language of highest need, with 93% of interpreted proceedings in Spanish. The other most frequently requested languages are Polish (3%), Sign Language (1%), Arabic (0.42%), Russian (0.32%), Chinese (0.32%) and Korean (0.21%). In 2015, 85% of interpreters were assigned for criminal cases, while 12% were assigned for civil cases. Court-annexed proceedings, which include arbitration, mediation, and probation contacts, comprised 3% of interpreted proceedings.

Despite the availability of over 250 interpreters in 22 languages statewide on the Registry, only 25% of interpreters used in court appear on the Registry.

Due to limited availability of interpreters in certain parts of the state, or availability of interpreters for certain languages, several courts use remote interpreting services and technology to increase access to interpreters. In 2015, 1247 court events utilized a remote telephonic interpreter, while 147 court events used a remote video interpreter. In 2015, the AOIC has provided remote video technology to five counties – Cook, DeKalb, Kendall, McLean and Champaign– to pilot its use and examine whether technology can improve access to interpreters across the state.

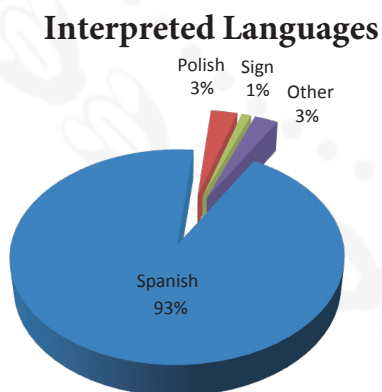


Figure 1

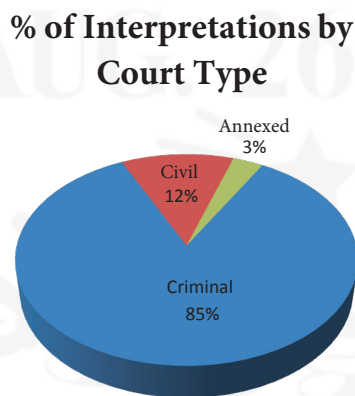


Figure 2

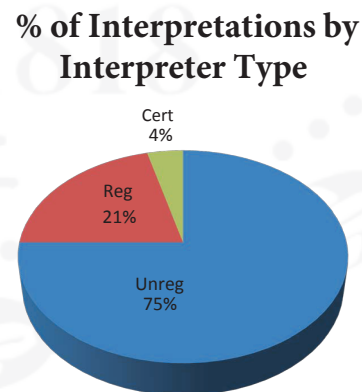


Figure 3

CASE CATEGORIES

CIVIL: Law and Law Magistrate for monetary damages over \$10,000; **Arbitration**; **Small Claims**; **Chancery** (e.g., title to real property and injunctions); **Miscellaneous Remedy** (e.g., review of decisions of administrative bodies, habeas corpus matters, and demolition); **Mental Health** (e.g., commitment and discharge from mental facilities); **Probate** (e.g., estates of deceased persons and guardianships); **Eminent Domain** (e.g., compensation when property is taken for public use); **Municipal Corporation** and **Tax** (e.g., matters pertaining to the organization of municipalities and collection of taxes at the local level).

DOMESTIC RELATIONS: **Adoption** and **Family** (e.g., proceedings to establish parent-child relationship and actions relating to child support); **Dissolution** (e.g., divorce, separate maintenance, and annulment); **Order of Protection** (petition for order of protection, civil no contact order, and stalking no contact order filed separately from an existing case).

CRIMINAL: **Felony** (e.g., penalty of at least one year in prison); **Misdemeanor** and **DUI** (Driving Under the Influence).

QUASI-CRIMINAL: **Ordinance**, **Conservation**, and **Traffic** (excluding parking tickets).

JUVENILE: **Abuse and Neglect**, **Delinquency**, and **Other** (e.g., a minor who requires authoritative intervention).

Category	Caseload Statistics	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Civil	Filed	436,175	457,444	513,928	554,747	555,088
	Reinstated	22,060	22,930	24,002	24,293	25,961
	Disposed	453,313	504,800	555,648	576,071	591,474
	Clearance Rate %	98.9%	105.1%	103.3%	99.5%	101.8%
	End Pending	731,149	731,953	759,914	778,519	778,898
Domestic Relations	Filed	144,284	133,641	136,549	147,804	148,924
	Reinstated	1,398	1,354	1,467	1,798	2,371
	Disposed	140,137	133,585	132,010	144,705	143,228
	Clearance Rate %	96.2%	99.0%	95.7%	96.7%	94.7%
	End Pending	107,942	105,197	106,754	102,126	99,497
Juvenile	Filed	21,862	22,058	23,293	26,648	29,991
	Reinstated	559	213	204	1,255	208
	Disposed	22,966	21,766	23,535	25,290	25,011
	Clearance Rate %	102.4%	97.7%	100.2%	90.6%	82.8%
	End Pending	53,538	54,998	55,444	56,308	54,785
Criminal	Filed	320,653	338,313	377,393	387,348	392,684
	Reinstated	5,539	6,876	8,408	8,481	8,752
	Disposed	326,579	345,684	377,209	400,254	398,324
	Clearance Rate %	100.1%	100.1%	97.8%	101.1%	99.2%
	End Pending	206,219	207,713	209,349	202,078	207,937
Quasi-Criminal	Filed	1,784,440	1,979,530	2,122,981	2,164,553	2,253,825
	Reinstated	19,545	22,981	20,921	40,647	24,756
	Disposed	1,765,419	1,922,845	2,076,351	2,197,592	2,258,560
	Clearance Rate %	97.9%	96.0%	96.8%	99.7%	99.1%
	End Pending	1,291,507	1,258,257	1,165,262	1,100,278	1,091,781
Statewide Totals	Filed	2,707,414	2,930,986	3,174,144	3,281,100	3,380,512
	Reinstated	49,101	54,354	55,002	76,474	62,048
	Disposed	2,708,414	2,928,680	3,164,753	3,343,918	3,416,597
	Clearance Rate %	98.3%	98.1%	98.0%	99.6%	99.2%
	End Pending	2,390,355	2,358,118	2,296,723	2,239,542	2,236,737





Richard J. Daley Center

(Photo courtesy of the
Chicago Architecture Foundation)

Timothy C. Evans,
Chief Judge

50 W. Washington St., Suite 2600
Chicago, IL 60602

Circuit Population:
5,238,216
(2015 est.)

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

(First Appellate District)

Circuit Judges:

Martin S. Agran
Maryam Ahmad
John M. Allegretti
Thomas R. Allen
Mauricio Araujo
Edward A. Arce
Larry Axelrood
Robert Balanoff
Patricia Banks
Ronald F. Bartkowicz
Fredrick H. Bates
Carole K. Bellows
Steven James Bernstein
Robert W. Bertucci
Carl B. Boyd
Daniel P. Brennan
Margaret Ann Brennan
Eileen Mary Brewer
Tommy Brewer
Rodney Hughes Brooks
Janet Adams Brosnahan
Mary M. Brosnahan
James R. Brown
Andrea M. Buford
Kathleen Marie Burke
Charles Burns
Thomas J. Byrne
John P. Callahan, Jr.
Diane Gordon Cannon
Thomas J. Carroll
Gloria Chevere
Michael R. Clancy
Evelyn B. Clay
Gerald V. Cleary III
Jeanne Cleveland
Jean M. Cocozza
Mary Ellen Coghlan
Matthew E. Coghlan
Bonita Coleman
Ann Finley Collins
Ann Collins-Dole
Alison C. Conlon
Donna L. Cooper
Patrick K. Coughlin
Clayton J. Crane
John J. Curry, Jr.
Paula M. Daleo
Thomas M. Davy
Daniel R. Degnan

Maureen F. Delehanty
Anna Helen Demacopoulos
Grace G. Dickler
Deborah M. Dooling
Daniel P. Duffy
Laurence J. Dunford
Loretta Eadie-Daniels
Lynn Marie Egan
John H. Ehrlich
Jerry A. Esrig
Candace J. Fabri
Roger G. Fein
Peter A. Felice
Rossana P. Fernandez
Denise K. Filan
Kathy M. Flanagan
Thomas E. Flanagan
James P. Flannery, Jr.
Ellen L. Flannigan
John J. Fleming
Peter Flynn
Nicholas R. Ford
Raymond Funderburk
Daniel J. Gallagher
John T. Gallagher
William G. Gamboney
Celia G. Gamrath
Rodolfo Garcia
Vincent M. Gaughan
James J. Gavin
Aleksandra Gillespie
Megan E. Goldish
John C. Griffin
Deborah J. Gubin
Catherine M. Haberkorn
Sophia H. Hall
Orville E. Hambright, Jr.
Kay M. Hanlon
Anjana M.J. Hansen
Edward Harmening
Russell W. Hartigan
Elizabeth M. Hayes
William H. Hooks
Carol M. Howard
Arnette R. Hubbard
Cheyrl D. Ingram
Marianne Jackson
Moshe Jacobius
Raymond L. Jagielski
Lionel Jean-Baptiste
Sharon O. Johnson

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	1,082,598	19,952	1,053,244	95.5%	1,158,072
2014	1,201,403	20,361	1,184,095	96.9%	1,108,254
2013	1,361,166	22,761	1,322,748	95.6%	1,069,752
2012	1,351,808	22,236	1,354,690	98.6%	1,006,847
2011	1,385,896	23,859	1,381,427	98.0%	986,611

Linzey D. Jones
 Rickey Jones
 Michelle D. Jordán
 James L. Kaplan
 Paul A. Karkula
 Joseph G. Kazmierski, Jr.
 Martin C. Kelley
 Thomas J. Kelley
 Kathleen G. Kennedy
 Kerry M. Kennedy
 Susan L. Kennedy
 Diana L. Kenworthy
 Edward J. King
 John P. Kirby
 Daniel J. Kubasiak
 Geary W. Kull
 Margarita Kulyš Hoffman
 Robert D. Kuzas
 Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
 William G. Lacy
 Diane Joan Larsen
 Christopher E. Lawler
 Jeffrey Lawrence
 Marjorie C. Laws
 Pamela Leeming
 Casandra Lewis
 Kimberly D. Lewis
 Thomas J. Lipscomb
 Anna M. Loftus
 Robert Lopez Cepero
 Pamela E. Loza
 Stuart F. Lubin
 Marvin P. Luckman
 John F. Lyke, Jr.
 Freddrenna M. Lyle
 Daniel Joseph Lynch
 Thomas V. Lyons II
 Aicha MacCarthy
 Terence MacCarthy
 John J. Mahoney
 William O. Maki
 Daniel B. Malone
 Edward M. Maloney
 Marcia Maras
 Lisa Ann Marino
 Jill Cerone Marisie
 Diann K. Marsalek
 LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
 Marc W. Martin
 Patricia Martin
 Maritza Martinez
 Veronica B. Mathein
 James P. McCarthy
 James M. McGing
 Sheila McGinnis
 Dennis M. McGuire
 Terrence J. McGuire
 Kathleen M. McGury
 Michael B. McHale
 Clare E. McWilliams
 Pamela McLean Meyerson
 Mary Lane Mikva
 Bridget A. Mitchell
 Raymond W. Mitchell
 Caroline K. Moreland
 Michael T. Mullen
 Allen F. Murphy
 James P. Murphy
 Patrick T. Murphy
 Thomas W. Murphy
 Timothy P. Murphy
 Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman
 Marya Nega
 Lewis Nixon
 Jessica A. O'Brien

Joan Margaret O'Brien
 William Timothy O'Brien
 Ann O'Donnell
 James N. O'Hara
 Karen L. O'Malley
 Eileen O'Neill Burke
 Ramon Ocasio III
 Kathleen M. Pantle
 Sebastian T. Patti
 Paul S. Pavlus
 Sheryl A. Pethers
 James P. Pieczonka
 Edmund Ponce de Leon
 Jackie M. Portman
 Joan E. Powell
 Lorna E. Propes
 William B. Raines
 Cynthia Ramirez
 Sandra G. Ramos
 Erica L. Reddick
 Eve M. Reilly
 James L. Rhodes
 Judith C. Rice
 James G. Riley
 Kristal R. Rivers
 Mary Colleen Roberts
 Patrick T. Rogers
 Abbey Fishman Romanek
 Diana Rosario
 Dominique C. Ross
 Thomas D. Roti
 James Ryan
 Kristyna C. Ryan
 Beatriz Santiago
 Regina A. Scannicchio
 Andrea M. Schleifer
 Devlin J. Schoop
 George Scully, Jr.
 Patricia O'Brien Sheahan
 Colleen F. Sheehan
 Kevin M. Sheehan
 Diane M. Shelley
 Patrick J. Sherlock
 Robin D. Shoffner
 Anthony E. Simpkins
 Maura Slattery Boyle
 Irwin J. Solganick
 Patricia S. Spratt
 Ketki Shroff Steffen
 Laura M. Sullivan
 Sharon M. Sullivan
 William B. Sullivan
 Donald J. Suriano
 Carrie H. Sussman
 Shelley Sutker-Dermer
 Michael P. Toomin
 John D. Turner, Jr.
 Valarie Turner
 James M. Varga
 Raul Vega
 Kenneth J. Wadas
 Carl Anthony Walker
 Debra B. Walker
 Ursula Walowski
 Maureen Ward Kirby
 Edward Washington II
 Steven G. Watkins
 Alexander P. White
 Camille E. Willis
 Thaddeus L. Wilson
 Gregory J. Wojkowski
 E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.
 Frank G. Zelezinski

Associate Judges:

Carmen K. Aguilar
 Gregory E. Ahern, Jr.
 David B. Atkins
 Callie L. Baird
 Patrice Ball-Reed
 Mark J. Ballard
 Helaine L. Berger
 Laura Bertucci Smith
 Samuel J. Betar III
 Shauna L. Boliker
 Adam D. Bourgeois, Jr.
 Yolande M. Bourgeois
 Darron E. Bowden
 Karen J. Bowes
 William Stewart Boyd
 Elizabeth M. Budzinski
 Clarence Lewis Burch
 Anthony J. Calabrese
 Matthew J. Carmody
 John Thomas Carr
 James R. Carroll
 Joseph M. Cataldo
 Timothy J. Chambers
 Peggy Chiampas
 Joseph M. Claps
 LaGuina Clay-Herron
 Robert J. Clifford
 Neil H. Cohen
 Susan M. Coleman
 Thomas J. Condon
 Stephen J. Connolly
 Lisa R. Curcio
 Israel A. Desierto
 Thomas M. Donnelly
 Melissa A. Durkin
 Lauren Gottainer Edidin
 Fe' Fernandez
 Brian K. Flaherty
 Lawrence E. Flood
 Thomas V. Gainer, Jr.
 Nicholas Geanopoulos
 Daniel T. Gillespie
 Pamela Hughes Gillespie
 Susan Fox Gillis
 Gregory R. Ginex
 Steven J. Goebel
 Renee G. Goldfarb
 William E. Gomolinski
 Joel L. Greenblatt
 Maxwell Griffin, Jr.
 David E. Haracz
 Donald R. Havis
 Thomas J. Hennelly
 Arthur F. Hill, Jr.
 Stanley L. Hill
 Earl B. Hoffenberg
 Michael J. Hood
 John L. Huff
 Bridget J. Hughes
 Colleen A. Hyland
 John J. Hynes
 William R. Jackson, Jr.
 Lana C. Johnson
 Moira Susan Johnson
 Timothy J. Joyce
 Michael J. Kane
 James N. Karahalios
 Nancy J. Katz

Stuart P. Katz
 Carol A. Kipperman
 Demetrios G. Kottaras
 Joan M. Kubalanza
 Maria Kuriakos Ciesil
 Kevin Thomas Lee
 Alfred L. Levinson
 Neil J. Linehan
 James B. Linn
 Patricia M. Logue
 Mark J. Lopez
 Patrick F. Lustig
 Thaddeus S. Machnik
 Alfredo Maldonado
 Ellen Beth Mandeltort
 Brigid Mary McGrath
 Patricia Mendoza
 Mary R. Minella
 Martin P. Moltz
 Thomas R. Mulroy
 Leonard Murray
 Raymond Myles
 Rita M. Novak
 Thomas J. O'Hara
 James M. Obbish
 Marcia B. Orr
 Michael F. Otto
 Donald D. Panarese, Jr.
 Joseph D. Panarese
 Luciano Panici
 Kathleen Ann Panozzo
 Linda J. Pael
 Alfred J. Paul
 Angela M. Petrone
 Michele M. Pitman
 Dennis J. Porter
 Carolyn Quinn
 Marguerite Quinn
 Jeanne M. Reynolds
 Hyman Rieberman
 Elizabeth Loreda Rivera
 Steven Jay Rosenblum
 Stanley J. Sacks
 Bernard J. Sarley
 Naomi H. Schuster
 Richard D. Schwind
 Joseph M. Sconza
 Robert E. Senechalle, Jr.
 Terrence V. Sharkey
 Darryl B. Simko
 David A. Skryd
 James E. Snyder
 Domenica A. Stephenson
 Richard A. Stevens
 Sanjay T. Tailor
 Sybil C. Thomas
 Elmer J. Tolmaire III
 Mary S. Trew
 Franklin U. Valderrama
 Rena M. Van Tine
 Gregory P. Vazquez
 Peter J. Vilkelis
 Steven M. Wagner
 Allen P. Walker
 Neera Walsh
 Jeffrey L. Warnick
 Lori M. Wolfson
 Leon Wool
 James A. Zafiratos



FIRST CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Johnson County Courthouse, Vienna

James R. Williamson, Chief Judge

Williamson County Courthouse
200 W. Jefferson Street, Ste. 260,
Marion, IL 62959

Circuit Population: 212,996 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Alexander (Cairo)	Pulaski (Mound City)
Jackson (Murphysboro)	Saline (Harrisburg)
Johnson (Vienna)	Union (Jonesboro)
Massac (Metropolis)	Williamson (Marion)
Pope (Golconda)	

SECOND CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Lawrence County Courthouse, Lawrenceville

Thomas Joseph Tedeschi, Chief Judge

Jefferson County Justice Center
911 Casey Avenue, Suite HI-05
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Circuit Population: 196,198 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Crawford (Robinson)	Jefferson (Mount Vernon)
Edwards (Albion)	Lawrence (Lawrenceville)
Franklin (Benton)	Richland (Olney)
Gallatin (Shawneetown)	Wabash (Mount Carmel)
Hamilton (McLeansboro)	Wayne (Fairfield)
Hardin (Elizabethtown)	White (Carmi)

THIRD CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Bond County Courthouse, Greenville

David A. Hylla, Chief Judge

Madison County Courthouse
155 North Main, #405
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Circuit Population: 283,159 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Bond (Greenville)
Madison (Edwardsville)

Circuit Judges: Brad K. Bleyer, Mark M. Boie, Mark H. Clarke, Jeffery B. Farris, W. Charles Grace, Joseph Jay Jackson, Joseph M. Leberman, Walden E. Morris, Phillip G. Palmer, Sr., William G. Schwartz, Carolyn B. Smoot, William J. Thurston

Associate Judges: Ralph R. Bloodworth, III, Charles Clayton Cavaness, Kimberly L. Dahlen, Jeffery A. Goffinet, Todd D. Lambert, Brian D. Lewis, Christy W. Solverson

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	74,349	85	70,601	94.9%	129,527
2014	78,983	56	74,402	94.1%	128,301
2013	84,512	72	78,846	93.2%	106,244
2012	87,306	108	83,852	95.9%	101,561
2011	85,656	112	80,448	93.8%	99,631

Circuit Judges: Eric J. Dirnbeck, Larry D. Dunn, Thomas J. Foster, David K. Frankland, Robert M. Hopkins, William C. Hudson, Paul W. Lamar, Michael J. Molt, Melissa A. Morgan, David K. Overstreet, Barry L. Vaughan, T. Scott Webb, Christopher L. Weber, Johannah B. Weber

Associate Judges: Jerry Crisel, Thomas J. Dinn, III, Kimbara G. Harrell, Timothy R. Neubauer, Mark Shaner, Mark R. Stanley

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	38,063	13	37,300	98.0%	45,128
2014	37,547	14	36,889	98.2%	45,905
2013	40,581	18	39,580	97.5%	46,013
2012	45,672	9	43,846	96.0%	46,047
2011	46,618	54	47,480	101.7%	44,791

Circuit Judges: John B. Barberis, Jr., Barbara L. Crowder, John Knight, A. Andreas Matoesian, William A. Mudge, Kyle Napp, Dennis R. Ruth, Richard L. Tognarelli

Associate Judges: Philip B. Alfeld, Thomas Chapman, Donald M. Flack, Clarence W. Harrison, II, Jennifer L. Hightower, Janet R. Heflin, Martin J. Mengarelli, Neil T. Schroeder, Maureen D. Schuette, Luther Simmons, Ronald R. Slemer, Sarah D. Smith, Stephen A. Stobbs

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	79,712	851	77,234	95.9%	62,616
2014	80,914	608	80,591	98.9%	59,129
2013	87,289	611	88,711	100.9%	58,122
2012	97,096	351	95,745	98.3%	59,051
2011	95,905	363	98,565	102.4%	57,363



FOURTH CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville

Michael D. McHaney, Chief Judge

Fayette County Courthouse
221 S. 7th St.
Vandalia, IL 62471

Circuit Population: 239,889 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Christian (Taylorville)	Jasper (Newton)
Clay (Louisville)	Marion (Salem)
Clinton (Carlyle)	Montgomery (Hillsboro)
Effingham (Effingham)	Shelby (Shelbyville)
Fayette (Vandalia)	

FIFTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Coles County Courthouse, Charleston

Craig H. DeArmond, Chief Judge

Cumberland County Courthouse
P.O. Box 145
Toledo, IL 62468

Circuit Population: 176,344 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Clark (Marshall)
Coles (Charleston)
Cumberland (Toledo)
Edgar (Paris)
Vermilion (Danville)

SIXTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana

Dan L. Flannell, Chief Judge

Moultrie County Courthouse
10 South Main Street, Ste. 12
Sullivan, IL 61951

Circuit Population: 383,552 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Champaign (Urbana)
DeWitt (Clinton)
Douglas (Tuscola)
Macon (Decatur)
Moultrie (Sullivan)
Piatt (Monticello)

Circuit Judges: Allen F. Bennett, Stanley Brandmeyer, Daniel E. Hartigan, Douglas L. Jarman, Kimberly G. Koester, James L. Roberts, M. Don Sheafor, Jr., Martin W. Siemer, Ronald D. Spears, Mark W. Stedelin, Wm. Robin Todd

Associate Judges: William J. Becker, James J. Eder, Jeffrey Marc Kelly, Allan F. Lolie, Jr., Bradley T. Paisley, Kevin S. Parker, Ericka Sanders

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	48,403	75	45,610	94.1%	37,133
2014	45,607	61	44,865	98.2%	34,844
2013	48,169	67	50,155	104.0%	35,088
2012	52,893	81	51,088	96.4%	37,596
2011	54,911	70	53,862	98.0%	36,383

Circuit Judges: Claudia J. Anderson, Millard S. Everhart, Nancy S. Fahey, Steven L. Garst, James R. Glenn, Brien J. O'Brien, Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Tracy W. Resch, Teresa K. Righter, Mitchell K. Shick, Matthew L. Sullivan

Associate Judges: Mark E. Bovard, Derek Girton, Mark S. Goodwin, David W. Lewis, Karen E. Wall

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	32,595	4	29,441	90.3%	50,755
2014	33,280	4	29,857	89.7%	49,862
2013	28,197	0	25,339	89.9%	48,569
2012	36,184	6	33,494	92.6%	46,794
2011	38,264	3	37,453	97.9%	46,404

Circuit Judges: Arnold F. Blockman, Robert C. Bollinger, Richard L. Broch, Jr., Harry E. Clem, Thomas J. Difanis, William Hugh Finson, Jeffrey B. Ford, Thomas E. Griffith, Jr., Michael Q. Jones, Karle E. Koritz, Heidi Ladd, Timothy J. Steadman, Albert G. Webber

Associate Judges: Phoebe S. Bowers, Holly F. Clemons, James R. Coryell, Scott B. Diamond, Jeffrey S. Geisler, Ronda D. Holliman, John R. Kennedy, Thomas E. Little, Brian L. McPheters, Brett Olmstead, Roger B. Webber

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	67,626	977	68,434	99.8%	67,122
2014	67,594	432	66,590	97.9%	68,654
2013	73,732	372	72,703	98.1%	68,295
2012	75,849	375	76,124	99.9%	67,826
2011	81,135	341	79,687	97.8%	70,550



SEVENTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Scott County Courthouse, Winchester

Kenneth R. Deihl, Chief Judge

Sangamon County Complex
200 S. 9th Street, Room 530
Springfield, IL 62701

Circuit Population: 320,290 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Greene (Carrollton)
Jersey (Jerseyville)
Macoupin (Carlinville)
Morgan (Jacksonville)
Sangamon (Springfield)
Scott (Winchester)

EIGHTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Menard County Courthouse, Petersburg

Diane M. Lagoski, Chief Judge

Adams County Courthouse
521 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Circuit Population: 140,754 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Adams (Quincy)	Mason (Havana)
Brown (Mount Sterling)	Menard (Petersburg)
Calhoun (Hardin)	Pike (Pittsfield)
Cass (Virginia)	Schuyler (Rushville)

NINTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



McDonough County Courthouse, Macomb

David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge

130 S. Lafayette Street, Suite 30
Macomb, IL 61455

Circuit Population: 161,538 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Fulton (Lewistown)
Hancock (Carthage)
Henderson (Oquawka)
Knox (Galesburg)
McDonough (Macomb)
Warren (Monmouth)

Circuit Judges: John Belz, Peter C. Cavanagh, David R. Cherry, James W. Day, Leslie J. Graves, Patrick W. Kelley, John M. Madonia, Eric S. Pistorius, Christopher E. Reif, John Schmidt, April G. Troemper

Associate Judges: Rudolph M. Braud, Jr., Jack D. Davis II, Matthew J. Mauer, Joshua A. Meyer, Steven H. Nardulli, Brian T. Otwell, Chris Perrin, Esteban F. Sanchez, Karen S. Tharp, Jeffery E. Tobin

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	76,510	48	77,395	101.1%	88,376
2014	78,697	60	77,476	98.4%	93,187
2013	78,948	72	78,677	99.6%	92,612
2012	81,387	143	79,292	97.3%	92,174
2011	87,419	127	69,570	79.5%	84,687

Circuit Judges: Robert K. Adrian, Michael L. Atterberry, Charles H. W. Burch, Scott J. Butler, Mark A. Drummond, Bobby G. Hardwick, Scott D. Larson, William O. Mays, Jr., John Frank McCartney, Alan D. Tucker,

Associate Judges: Thomas Brannan, Jerry J. Hooker, Chet W. Vahle, Debra L. Wellborn, John C. Wooleyhan

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	28,356	23	28,301	99.7%	19,438
2014	29,455	14	29,322	99.5%	19,751
2013	31,808	20	30,982	97.3%	20,139
2012	33,187	34	32,727	98.5%	19,409
2011	31,759	56	31,421	98.8%	18,970

Circuit Judges: Rodney G. Clark, William C. Davis, Thomas B. Ewing, Paul L. Mangieri, Stephen C. Mathers, William E. Poncin, Scott Shipplett, James R. Standard, Anthony W. Vaupel

Associate Judges: Heidi A. Benson, Raymond A. Cavanaugh, Richard H. Gambrell, Dwayne I. Morrison, Patricia Anne VanderMeulen-Walton

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	30,636	15	29,378	95.8%	25,379
2014	32,152	9	30,613	95.2%	22,292
2013	31,963	7	32,091	100.4%	20,474
2012	33,205	54	33,805	101.6%	20,538
2011	34,862	21	35,896	102.9%	23,432

TENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Peoria County Courthouse, Peoria

Stephen Kouri, Chief Judge

Peoria County Courthouse

324 Main Street, #215

Peoria, IL 61602

Circuit Population: 344,435 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Marshall (Lacon)

Peoria (Peoria)

Putnam (Hennepin)

Stark (Toulon)

Tazewell (Pekin)

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Ford County Courthouse, Paxton

Kevin P. Fitzgerald, Chief Judge

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front Street, Room 511

Bloomington, IL 61701

Circuit Population: 292,294 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Ford (Paxton)

Livingston (Pontiac)

Logan (Lincoln)

McLean (Bloomington)

Woodford (Eureka)

TWELFTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Will County Courthouse, Joliet

Richard C. Schoenstedt, Chief Judge

Will County Courthouse

14 W. Jefferson, #439

Joliet, IL 60432

Circuit Population: 687,263 (2015 est.)

County (seat):

Will (Joliet)

Circuit Judges: Paul P. Gilfillan, Jodi M. Hoos, Katherine Gorman Hubler, Thomas A. Keith, Kevin W. Lyons, James A. Mack, Michael P. McCuskey, Michael D. Risinger, John P. Vespa

Associate Judges: David A. Brown, Timothy Cusack, David J. Dubicki, Mark E. Gilles, Kim L. Kelley, Jerelyn D. Maher, Richard D. McCoy, Albert L. Purham, Jr., Kirk D. Schoenbein, Lisa Y. Wilson

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	80,195	33	82,060	102.3%	51,739
2014	82,325	79	73,752	89.5%	53,925
2013	80,924	148	79,046	97.5%	45,647
2012	89,563	140	90,079	100.4%	43,835
2011	89,266	241	87,982	98.3%	44,535

Circuit Judges: Jennifer H. Bauknecht, John Casey Costigan, Scott D. Drazewski, Charles M. Feeney, III, Matthew J. Fitton, Rebecca S. Foley, Robert L. Freitag, Paul G. Lawrence, Charles G. Reynard

Associate Judges: David W. Butler, Pablo Eves, Mark A. Fellheimer, Thomas W. Funk, John Brian Goldrick, Lee Ann S. Hill, Michael Stroh, Robert M. Travers, William Gordon Workman, William A. Yoder

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	59,479	924	59,485	98.5%	43,868
2014	65,872	990	66,079	98.8%	45,068
2013	68,518	840	68,982	99.5%	43,954
2012	71,371	735	70,777	98.2%	44,317
2011	73,862	946	84,590	113.1%	37,008

Circuit Judges: James Jeffrey Allen, John C. Anderson, Amy M. Bertani-Tomczak, David M. Carlson, Paula A. Gomora, Carmen Julia Goodman, Sarah-Marie F. Jones, Daniel L. Kennedy, Susan T. O'Leary, Barbara N. Petrungaro, Carla J. Alessio Policandriotes, Michael J. Powers, Daniel D. Rippey, Raymond E. Rossi, Daniel J. Rozak

Associate Judges: Dinah J. Archambeault, Brian Barrett, Matthew G. Bertani, Bennett J. Braun, Robert P. Brumund, Edward A. Burmila, Jr., M. Thomas Carney, Jessica Colon-Sayre, Elizabeth D. Hoskins Dow, David Garcia, Chrystel L. Gavlin, Theodore J. Jarz, Victoria McKay Kennison, Cory D. Lund, Rick A. Mason, Raymond A. Nash, Domenica A. Osterberger, Roger D. Rickmon, Arkadiusz Z. Smigielski, Kenneth L. Zelazo

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	137,637	4,361	143,809	101.53%	83,742
2014	150,724	4,399	157,430	101.5%	85,556
2013	150,905	4,143	159,531	102.9%	87,929
2012	158,734	4,747	168,479	103.1%	92,411
2011	164,945	5,525	170,080	99.8%	97,409



THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Grundy County Courthouse, Morris

Howard C. Ryan, Jr., Chief Judge

LaSalle County Courthouse

119 W. Madison, #202

Ottawa, IL 61350

Circuit Population: 195,461 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Bureau (Princeton)

Grundy (Morris)

LaSalle (Ottawa)

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Rock Island County Courthouse, Rock Island

Walter D. Braud, Chief Judge

Rock Island County Courthouse

210 15th Street, #408

Rock Island, IL 61201

Circuit Population: 268,559 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Henry (Cambridge)

Mercer (Aledo)

Rock Island (Rock Island)

Whiteside (Morrison)

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Stephenson County Courthouse, Freeport

Ronald M. Jacobson, Chief Judge

Ogle County Courthouse

106 S. Fifth Street, #306A

Oregon, IL 61061

Circuit Population: 168,694 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Carroll (Mount Carroll)

Jo Daviess (Galena)

Lee (Dixon)

Ogle (Oregon)

Stephenson (Freeport)

Circuit Judges: Marc Bernabei, Eugene P. Daugherty, Joseph P. Hettel, Troy D. Holland, Robert C. Marsaglia, Lance R. Peterson, Cynthia M. Raccuglia

Associate Judges: Daniel J. Bute, Karen C. Eiten, Cornelius J. Hollerich, Michael C. Jansz, Sheldon R. Sobol

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	40,123	661	39,756	97.5%	19,862
2014	40,344	651	41,271	100.7%	18,949
2013	41,543	896	45,052	106.2%	19,799
2012	46,745	778	47,163	99.2%	22,702
2011	46,708	854	46,806	98.4%	22,611

Circuit Judges: James G. Conway, Jr., Clarence M. Darrow, Frank R. Fuhr, John L. Hauptman, Lori R. Lefstein, Jeffrey W. O'Connor, Terence M. Patton, Stanley B. Steines, Linnea E. Thompson, Mark A. VandeWiele

Associate Judges: Michael R. Albert, Thomas C. Berglund, Gregory George Chickris, Peter Church, Norma Kauzlarich, Theodore G. Kutsunis, W. S. McNeal, Dana R. McReynolds, Carol Pentuic, Richard A. Zimmer

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	55,730	30	51,896	93.1%	56,507
2014	54,585	20	52,879	96.8%	53,574
2013	55,562	35	55,259	99.4%	54,865
2012	60,948	45	59,017	96.8%	55,903
2011	61,570	73	60,429	98.0%	54,783

Circuit Judges: Michael P. Bald, Daniel A. Fish, Val Gunnarsson, Robert T. Hanson, David L. Jeffrey, William A. Kelly, John B. Roe, IV

Associate Judges: Jacquelyn D. Ackert, Charles T. Beckman, James M. Hauser, John F. Joyce, Kathleen O. Kauffmann, John C. Redington, Glen R. Schorsch, Kevin J. Ward

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	35,001	16	33,733	96.3%	24,260
2014	35,097	22	35,262	100.4%	23,331
2013	42,445	17	42,541	100.2%	24,079
2012	45,257	27	45,073	99.5%	107,969
2011	45,530	255	44,455	97.1%	110,176



SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Kane County Courthouse, Geneva

Susan Clancy Boles, Chief Judge

Kane County Judicial Center
37W777 Rte. 38, #400A
St. Charles, IL 60175

Circuit Population: 530,847 (2015 est.)

County (seat):

Kane (Geneva)

* Effective December 3, 2012 Public Act 97-0585 created a new 23rd Judicial Circuit, separating Kendall and DeKalb counties from the 16th Judicial Circuit. For trend reporting purposes, the five year trend reports provided for the 16th and 23rd Judicial Circuit charts reflect totals for Kane County in the 16th Judicial Circuit and the combined totals for Kendall and DeKalb counties in the 23rd Judicial Circuit.

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Winnebago County Courthouse, Rockford

Joseph G. McGraw, Chief Judge

Winnebago County Courthouse
400 West State Street, #215
Rockford, IL 61101

Circuit Population: 340,663 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

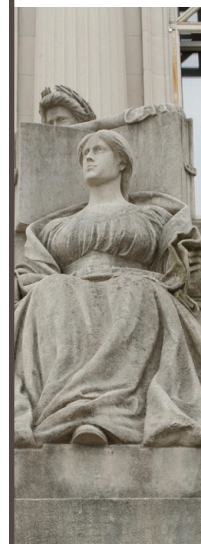
Boone (Belvidere)

Winnebago (Rockford)

Circuit Judges: David R. Akemann, John A. Barsanti, Judith M. Brawka, Kevin T. Busch, John G. Dalton, Joseph M. Grady, James C. Hallock, Thomas E. Mueller, James R. Murphy, John A. Noverini, Donald M. Tegeler

Associate Judges: Linda Abrahamson Baurle, René Cruz, Christine A. Downs, Elizabeth Flood, Thomas C. Hull, III, Kathryn Karayannis, David P. Kliment, Marmarie J. Kostelny, Mary Katherine Moran, Robert J. Morrow, William J. Parkhurst, Mark A. Pheanis, Divya K. Sarang, Edward C. Schreiber, Thomas J. Stanfa, Alice C. Tracy, Robert K. Villa

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	93,970	825	95,181	100.4%	56,764
2014	101,495	935	102,635	100.2%	57,070
2013	109,434	939	110,278	99.9%	57,090
2012	117,882	1,345	127,883	107.3%	56,995
2011	116,522	1,422	117,980	100.0%	65,651



Circuit Judges: Rosemary Collins, Eugene G. Doherty, Lisa R. Fabiano, Gwyn Gulley, Janet R. Holmgren, Brendan A. Maher, J. Edward Prochaska, Curtis R. Tobin, III, Ronald J. White

Associate Judges: Ronald A. Barch, Joseph J. Bruce, Fernando L. Engelsma, Donna R. Honzel, Mary Linn Green, John S. Lowry, Francis M. Martinez, Philip J. Nicolosi, Steven L. Nordquist, Brian Dean Shore, John R. Truitt, Robert R. Wilt, K. Patrick Yarbrough, John H. Young

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	81,589	137	79,911	97.8%	94,879
2014	90,946	287	89,251	97.8%	93,950
2013	93,015	144	88,783	95.3%	95,098
2012	94,773	277	95,452	100.4%	91,316
2011	98,612	266	101,735	102.9%	95,279

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



DuPage County Courthouse, Wheaton

Kathryn E. Creswell, Chief Judge

DuPage County Courthouse
505 N. County Farm Rd., #2015
Wheaton, IL 60187

Circuit Population: 933,736 (2015 est.)

County (seat):

DuPage (Wheaton)

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Lake County Courthouse, Waukegan

Jorge L. Ortiz, Chief Judge

Lake County Courthouse
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

Circuit Population: 703,910 (2015 est.)

County (seat):

Lake (Waukegan)

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Washington County Courthouse, Nashville

C. John Baricevic, Chief Judge

St. Clair County Building
10 Public Square
Belleville, IL 62220

Circuit Population: 366,596 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Monroe (Waterloo)
Perry (Pinckneyville)
Randolph (Chester)
St. Clair (Belleville)
Washington (Nashville)

Circuit Judges: Robert J. Anderson, George J. Bakalis, Liam C. Brennan, Blanche Hill Fawell, Paul M. Fullerton, Daniel P. Guerin, John Kinsella, Robert G. Kleeman, Dorothy French Mallen, Patrick J. O'Shea, Kenneth Popejoy, Ronald D. Sutter, Brian F. Telander, Bonnie M. Wheaton

Associate Judges: Joseph T. Bugos, Neal W. Cerne, Anthony V. Coco, Linda E. Davenport, John W. Demling, Brian J. Diamond, Robert E. Douglas, Thomas A. Else, William I. Ferguson, Robert G. Gibson, Anne T. Hayes, Bruce R. Kelsey, James J. Konetski, Jeffrey S. MacKay, Paul A. Marchese, Alexander F. McGimpsey, Timothy J. McJoynt, Brian R. McKillip, Robert A. Miller, Jane Hird Mitton, Mary E. O'Connor, James D. Orel, Peter W. Ostling, Robert William Rohm, Richard D. Russo, Elizabeth W. Sexton, Terence M. Sheen, Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh, Karen M. Wilson, Michael A. Wolfe

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	198,184	11,262	211,437	101.0%	55,685
2014	224,313	11,653	238,416	101.0%	57,682
2013	232,808	12,395	249,756	101.9%	60,141
2012	252,356	30,764	286,625	101.2%	64,693
2011	268,720	14,099	290,944	102.9%	68,203

Circuit Judges: James K. Booras, George Bridges, Valerie Boettke Ceckowski, Mitchell L. Hoffman, Mark L. Levitt, Margaret J. Mullen, Jorge L. Ortiz, Victoria A. Rossetti, Thomas M. Schippers, Daniel B. Shanes, Patricia Sowinski Fix, Christopher C. Starck, Jay W. Ukena, Diane E. Winter

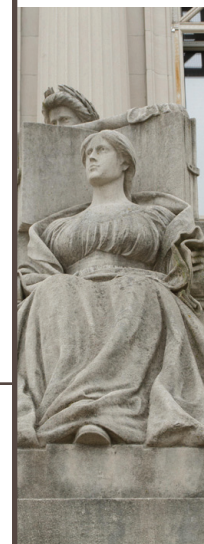
Associate Judges: Luis A. Berrones, Michael B. Betar, Christen L. Bishop, David P. Brodsky, Raymond Collins, Michael J. Fusz, Brian P. Hughes, Daniel Jasica, Charles D. Johnson, Sarah P. Lessman, D. Christopher Lombardo, Margaret A. Marcouiller, Christopher B. Morozin, Veronica M. O'Malley, Theodore S. Potkonjak, Elizabeth M. Rochford, Helen Rozenberg, Joseph V. Salvi, John J. Scully, James Simonian, George D. Strickland, Christopher Stride, Donna-Jo Vorderstrasse, Nancy S. Waites

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	149,127	5,134	156,097	101.2%	41,345
2014	163,101	10,149	175,139	101.1%	43,173
2013	178,926	7,005	190,925	102.7%	45,059
2012	184,349	9,005	195,321	101.0%	50,052
2011	197,576	7,774	207,291	100.9%	52,011

Circuit Judges: Richard A. Brown, James W. Campanella, Zina Renea Cruse, Dennis B. Doyle, Daniel J. Emge, Jan V. Fiss, Andrew J. Gleeson, Robert B. Haida, Robert P. LeChien, Vincent J. Lopinot, Stephen P. McGlynn

Associate Judges: Richard Aguirre, Walter C. Brandon, Jr., Thomas B. Cannady, William G. Clay IV, Ellen A. Dauber, Julia R. Gomric, Eugene E. Gross, Julie K. Katz, Randall W. Kelley, Patricia H. Kievlan, Christopher T. Kolker, Stephen R. Rice, Heinz M. Rudolf

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	91,583	239	106,780	116.3%	82,610
2014	99,537	219	100,858	101.1%	97,787
2013	104,927	305	101,684	96.6%	99,122
2012	107,442	278	109,389	101.5%	12,561
2011	112,039	193	118,846	105.9%	19,279



TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Iroquois County Courthouse, Watseka

Michael J. Kick, Chief Judge

Kankakee County Courthouse

450 East Court Street

Kankakee, IL 60901

Circuit Population: 139,551 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

Iroquois (Watsika)

Kankakee (Kankakee)

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



McHenry County Government Center, Woodstock

Michael J. Sullivan, Chief Judge

McHenry County Government Center

2200 N. Seminary Ave.

Woodstock, IL 60098

Circuit Population: 307,343 (2015 est.)

County (seat):

McHenry (Woodstock)

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Kendall County Courthouse, Yorkville

Robbin J. Stuckert, Chief Judge

DeKalb County Courthouse

133 West State Street

Sycamore, IL 60178

Circuit Population: 227,707 (2015 est.)

Counties (seats):

DeKalb (Sycamore)

Kendall (Yorkville)

* Effective December 3, 2012 Public Act 97-0585 created a new 23rd Judicial Circuit, separating Kendall and DeKalb counties from the 16th Judicial Circuit. For trend reporting purposes, the five year trend reports provided for the 16th and 23rd Judicial Circuit charts reflect totals for Kane County in the 16th Judicial Circuit and the combined totals for Kendall and DeKalb counties in the 23rd Judicial Circuit.

Circuit Judges: Adrienne W. Albrecht, Kathy Bradshaw Elliott, Clark E. Erickson, Gordon Lee Lustfeldt, Susan Sumner Tungate

Associate Judges: Thomas W. Cunnington, Ronald J. Gerts, James B. Kinzer, Michael D. Kramer, Kenneth Leshen

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	28,375	0	28,896	101.8%	56,670
2014	31,794	0	30,259	95.2%	57,683
2013	33,823	1	31,484	93.1%	56,337
2012	33,630	0	32,423	96.4%	54,143
2011	34,327	0	35,033	102.1%	53,009

Circuit Judges: Michael T. Caldwell, Michael J. Chmiel, James S. Cowlin, Michael W. Feetterer, Maureen P. McIntyre, Sharon Prather, Charles P. Weech

Associate Judges: Joel D. Berg, John D. Bolger, Michael E. Coppedge, Kevin G. Costello, Mark R. Gerhardt, Christopher M. Harmon, Jeffrey L. Hirsch, Suzanne C. Mangiamale, Thomas A. Meyer, Mary H. Nader, Robert A. Wilbrandt, Jr.

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	59,374	2,116	62,049	100.9%	17,260
2014	64,089	2,173	67,975	102.6%	17,708
2013	72,312	2,546	76,393	102.1%	19,328
2012	77,204	3,223	82,986	103.2%	20,859
2011	81,003	3,568	84,710	100.2%	23,402

Circuit Judges: Melissa S. Barnhart, Thomas L. Doherty, Stephen L. Krentz, Timothy J. McCann, R. Matekaitis, Robert P. Pilmer, Bradley J. Waller

Associate Judges: William P. Brady, Marcy L. Buick, John McAdams, Philip G. Montgomery, Joseph R. Voiland

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2015	38,199	1,320	40,386	102.2%	21,618
2014	41,132	1,158	42,774	101.1%	22,483
2013	42,637	1,588	45,207	102.2%	22,967
2012	46,259	1,713	48,588	101.3%	23,943
2011	47,407	1,826	49,907	101.4%	24,559

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The **AOIC Executive Office** is comprised of the Administrative Director, Deputy Director, Chief Legal Counsel, and other legal and administrative staff. Under the Administrative Director's leadership, the Executive Office is responsible for coordinating and guiding operations of the Administrative Office's six divisions and serves as a central resource for a wide range of operational issues that impact the administration of the Illinois judicial branch.



The *Executive Office*, on behalf of the Supreme Court, manages and coordinates communications with court stakeholders, as well as state officials and agencies, on matters that impact the Illinois Courts and the justice system. One of the major duties performed for the Supreme Court is the consideration of non-routine administrative matters presented during each Court term. The Administrative Director prepares and presents agenda issues to the Court for discussion and deliberation to assure that the business of the judicial branch is thoroughly and timely managed. Agenda items approved by the Court for action are then implemented by the Director through the Executive Office.

The Executive Office plans and coordinates Administrative Office staff support for Supreme Court Committees and the Committees of the Illinois Judicial Conference. In that regard, the Judicial Conference committees are charged with examining and making recommendations on matters of judicial branch policy. The reports and recommendations which flow from each Judicial Conference committee to the Supreme Court relate to the improvement of the administration of justice in Illinois. As such, the Court assigned new and on-going tasks and projects to Judicial Conference committees in 2016. The Administrative Director assigns senior level staff with subject matter expertise to serve as liaisons to assist each committee in its assignments.

In its administration of Supreme Court Rule 39 (Appointment of Associate Judges), the Executive Office conducted the election of 40 associate judges in 14 of Illinois' 24 judicial circuits during 2015. Also, as provided by Rule 39, the Executive Office managed the 2015 quadrennial reappointment process for Illinois' more than 300 associate judges. The Executive Office additionally

processes applications filed under Supreme Court Rule 295, which authorizes the assignment of associate judges to hear felony matters. Other matters administered through the Executive Office include applications for licenses issued to law students seeking to provide limited legal representation under Supreme Court Rule 711.

The Executive Office's activities and responsibilities include securing and tracking legal representation through the Office of the Attorney General for members of the judicial branch named in a civil case or controversy arising out of the performance of their official judicial duties. Executive Office staff also negotiates, prepares, and manages office leases and contracts for the Supreme and Appellate Courts, mandatory arbitration programs, and the Administrative Office. All vendor contracts generated by the Administrative Office and state judicial branch managers for use in securing goods and services are reviewed and approved by the Executive Office. Written summaries of recent Supreme Court opinions are prepared by legal staff within the Executive Office for distribution to all Illinois judges.

The Executive Office also oversees the Human Resource Unit and the Labor Relations Unit. The Human Resource Unit provides personnel services to state-paid judicial branch employees and managers; maintains comprehensive attendance and leave records for all judicial branch personnel covered by the Supreme Court's Leave of Absence Policies; and assists individuals with questions regarding the Supreme Court's leave and personnel policies. The Human Resource Unit also works with judicial branch employees and managers in administering the judicial branch's classification and compensation plan, as well as assisting judicial branch managers in their recruitment and selection process. Additionally, the Human Resource Unit is responsible for

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Michael J. Tardy, Director

Marcia Meis, Deputy Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIVISIONS

Administrative Services Division - Kathleen L. O'Hara, Assistant Director

Civil Justice Division - Danielle Hirsch, Assistant Director

Court Services Division - Todd Schroeder, Assistant Director

Judicial Education Division - Cyrana Mott, Assistant Director

Judicial Management Information Services (JMIS) - Skip Robertson, Assistant Director

Probation Services Division - Margie Groot, Assistant Director

Administrative Office - Chicago

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Chicago, IL 60601

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Administrative Office - Springfield

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EEOC reporting and dissemination of economic interest statements required under Supreme Court Rule 68.

The Labor Relations Unit negotiates collective bargaining agreements on behalf of chief circuit judges and circuit clerks. In this regard, the Labor Relations Unit has frequently been called upon to offer advice relative to personnel matters to assure appropriate actions that are just and in compliance with the negotiated agreements, common law rules of the workplace, and federal and state statutes.

Additionally, the Executive Office provides secretariat services to the Illinois Courts Commission, which includes filing and preservation of Commission records, distributing the Official Illinois Courts Commission Reports, and performing all other duties typically executed by a clerk of a court of record. Finally, Executive Office staff prepares and executes grants which provide for programming funded through the Lawyers' Assistance Program Act.

The **Administrative Services Division** provides technical and administrative support services to the judicial branch through its four operational units; the Payroll/Benefits Unit, the Accounting Unit, the Budget Unit, and the Logistics Unit.

The Payroll/Benefits Unit maintains all payroll records for current state-paid judicial branch employees as well as records for all previous judicial branch offices and employees. Staff of this unit work with the Office of the

Comptroller to produce both monthly and semi-monthly payrolls for over 1,500 current judicial branch employees. Payroll/Benefits Unit staff interact with representatives of both the Judges' Retirement System and the State Employees' Retirement System to ensure continued benefits for judicial branch officers and employees. Payroll/Benefits Unit staff also coordinate the state's varied employee benefit programs, including health, dental, and life insurance.

The Accounting Unit consistently and accurately processes all payment vouchers for the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court, the state paid functions of the circuit courts, and the Administrative Office. The Accounting Unit also maintains all financial records for the expenditure of resources appropriated by the General Assembly. Staff of this unit work closely with staff of the Comptroller's Office to reconcile payment information and provide that office any additional information needed to facilitate the payment of judicial branch bills.

In addition to overseeing procurement activities, the Budget Unit produces highly technical and analytical financial reports used by judicial branch managers and the Administrative Director. These reports track daily spending, contractual obligations, and projected spending needs. This unit also prepares the comprehensive documentation utilized in the development and implementation of the annual judicial branch budget. The Budget Unit also monitors the number of authorized judicial and non-judicial positions within the judicial branch.





The Logistics Unit oversees the distribution of mail and parcel services for the Administrative Office. Acting as its own print shop, staff of this unit review materials presented for copying and determine the best method to replicate the originals. In many instances, the Unit produces print quality manuals, brochures, and publications. The Logistics Unit also serves as the central distribution and shipping center for the Administrative Office. Finally, the Logistics Unit is responsible for maintaining sufficient inventories of office supplies and coordinating the transfer of equipment and furniture among judicial branch offices.

The **Civil Justice Division** is the newest Division, established in January 2014. The Civil Justice Division's objective is to help the legal system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all court users, particularly to those who are low-income and vulnerable. The Civil Justice Division also supports the work of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, and works collaboratively with the Commission and its subcommittees to promote access to justice within the Illinois courts. Moreover, Civil Justice Division staff work closely with the other Divisions of the Administrative Office and with other civil justice system stakeholders to improve the justice delivery systems that serve low-income, limited English proficient, self-represented and vulnerable litigants.

The Civil Justice Division's current priorities include: (1) developing statewide standardized forms for simpler civil legal problems and basic procedural functions; (2) providing language access services and support to assist state courts in addressing language barriers and improving interpreter services; (3) developing training materials and education programs for courts, clerks and other judicial stakeholders to assist with interacting with self-represented litigants and limited English proficient parties and witnesses; and (4) expanding statewide civil justice data collection, research and analysis to aid in the development of innovative strategies to close the gap between the need for and the availability of quality legal assistance.

Standardized Forms. The Civil Justice Division partners with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Forms Committee (Forms Committee) and its various subcommittees to develop standardized, simplified forms that—once promulgated by the Forms Committee—must be accepted by state courts. Litigants who use the statewide standardized forms will be able to solve basic legal problems without the assistance of an attorney. At present, the Division is supporting the work of eight subcommittees developing forms in appellate, divorce, eviction, expungement/sealing, mortgage foreclosure, name change, orders of protection and procedural forms. Before finalizing any forms, drafts are sent to public user testing, reviewed by both the substantive subcommittee and the full Forms Committee, posted on the Court's website for public comment, shared with chief circuit judges for feedback and notice is provided to circuit and appellate court clerks and bar associations statewide.

Language Access. The Civil Justice Division's language access efforts seek to promote initiatives and reforms to serve the growing number of people with limited English proficiency (LEP) participating in legal proceedings in state court. The Division also works with the Illinois

Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Language Access Committee to develop statewide standards and policies for courts and judges, and resources for LEP litigants. In 2014, the Court adopted the Illinois Supreme Court Language Access Policy and Code of Interpreter Ethics, which state that Illinois courts should provide interpreters for LEP litigants and witnesses in all civil and criminal proceedings and court-annexed proceedings. In support of the Court's Language Access Policy, the Civil Justice Division administers a robust interpreter certification program that requires foreign and sign language interpreters to attend an orientation and pass interpreting exams offered by the National Center for State Courts. Orientation and testing sessions are offered twice each year in both Chicago and Springfield. Foreign language and sign language interpreters that complete certification requirements are listed on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry, which currently includes over 250 interpreters in 28 languages. The Court's policies also provide standard procedures for determining the need for an interpreter, and support the development of circuit-specific Language Access Plans. All circuits are now in the process of implementing their Language Access Plan, which details the circuit's commitment to language access, their population's language needs and outlines available language assistance resources in the circuit.

Training Materials and Educational Programs. The Civil Justice Division works with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Court Guidance and Training Committee (Court Guidance and Training Committee) to develop and maintain training materials and educational programs on access to justice issues.

Data Collection. The Civil Justice Division is involved in efforts to begin collecting, compiling and analyzing access to justice data, including both the numbers of self-represented litigants involved in civil legal proceedings, by case type and party, and the numbers of interpreters provided in legal proceedings, by case type and the type of interpreter provided.

The **Court Services Division** is organized into three working groups (the Courts, Children and Families Unit; the Program Unit; and the Recordkeeping and Technology Unit) and is involved in a diverse and wide range of activities and projects affecting judges, circuit clerks, court administrators and other components of the judicial branch of government. The Division is responsible for staffing a variety of Supreme Court committees, Judicial Conference committees, and the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges. The Division also serves as the primary liaison for the Supreme Court's Peer Judge Mentoring, Judicial Performance Evaluation Program; and processes circuit court requests for a judicial assignment outside the circuit, as well as requests for the reimbursement of claims for persons subject to the Sexually Violent Person's Commitment Act.

Program Unit staff met with representatives of all the current residential mortgage foreclosure mediation programs to discuss data definitions and address reporting of program data in early 2015; subsequently resulting in a revised data collection instrument. The development of the revised data collection instrument also allowed unit staff to thoroughly assess each program's financial sustainability. As a result, unit staff conducted individual meetings with representatives of these programs to assist with the specifics of reporting and ensuring the program

can sustain itself given its current program revenue and expenditures. Program Unit staff continues to monitor these programs and provide updates to the Court as requested.

Program Unit also assists the trial courts with meeting the *Minimum Courtroom Standards of the State of Illinois* when there is new construction or renovation of courtrooms. Assistance is provided in obtaining Court-approved waivers from the *Standards* or temporary waivers during construction or emergency situations. Additionally, this unit serves as the liaison to the circuit courts' court disability coordinators. In various instances, unit staff works in consultation with the Illinois Attorney General's Disability Rights Bureau to assist with ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for all court users.

On a regular basis, the Program Unit continues to monitor each circuit's submission of child custody and visitation mediation program statistics pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 905; track and receive annual updates to Circuit Court's Emergency Preparedness Plans; and offer staff to support to the Civil Justice Division on the development of Standardized Forms by the Access to Justice Commission.

The Courts, Children and Families Unit (CCFU) The Courts, Children and Families Unit (CCFU) manage the programmatic and fiscal components of three (Basic, Data and Training) grant awards included in the federally-funded statewide Court Improvement Program (CIP). The CCFU works to support the mission, vision, and core values of Illinois' CIP of ensuring safety and stability for children and families involved in child abuse and neglect proceedings. In 2015, the CCFU continued to develop the foundation and infrastructure for improved court practices in child protection cases by concentrating its efforts on the six pillars of Illinois CIP and programming: the Statewide Legal Representation Initiative; Judicial Training; The Child Protection Data Courts Project; Child Protection Circuit Teams; Child-Wellbeing and Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Statewide Legal Representation Initiative: The CCFU has focused efforts on improving outcomes by enhancing the effectiveness of legal representation in child abuse and neglect cases. Projects funded under the Legal

Representation Initiative in 2015 include: the Family Advocacy Clinic at the University of Illinois School of Law for the representation of parents and children in juvenile abuse and neglect cases in Champaign County, the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Southern Illinois University providing guardian ad litem services for minors in juvenile abuse and neglect cases in Jackson County, the *Winnebago County Guardians ad Litem Project*, a project, aimed at quality enhancement and development of best practice models in GAL representation. The CCFU offered the following training for attorneys: *Red Book II – Advanced Practice for Child Welfare Attorneys*. This skills-based training, designed for GAL's, parent attorneys and prosecutors in child welfare cases, builds upon *The Red Book* training course and teaches participants how to engage in advanced legal advocacy skills both in and out of court. The training included differentiated instruction, including breakout sessions and problem-based learning.

Judicial Training: The CCFU is committed to developing and maintaining an effective system of training and technical assistance for judges that preside over child abuse and neglect cases. CIP Training funds were used to provide scholarships for two juvenile judges respectively to attend the annual National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute*. Additionally, the AOIC was approached by the NCJFCJ to host the first Multi-disciplinary *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute* due to the foundation of collaboration already established in Illinois. Ten county based teams, consisting of representatives of the judiciary, guardians ad litem, parent attorneys, prosecutors and DCFS from around the state attended the three day event.

Child Protection Data Courts Project (CPDC): Through the CPDC Project, the CCFU continued to collect and analyze child protection court performance measures, demographic information and case characteristics in child abuse and neglect cases. Currently, nine counties collect CPDC Project data. The CPDC project sites track case demographic information as well as 18 of 30 nationally recognized child protection court performance measures. The project sites are implementing action plans developed by each county based on performance measure data and include a project initiative with goals, action items, responsibilities and timelines, and outcome measures.

Child Protection Circuit Teams (CPCTs): The CCFU is involved in a multi-year engagement strategy to engage Child Protection Circuit Teams (CPCTs), to promote local coordination between courts and child protection stakeholders. The CCFU continues to fund projects and trainings developed by CPCTs.

Child Well-Being: CCFU staff continues to fund projects aimed at improving child well-being specifically focusing on trauma, educational issues, LGBTQ youth in care and substance abuse.

Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (IDCFS): In 2015, the CCFU continued its' working relationship with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services by



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participating in federal site visits and providing training for IDCFS attorneys.

The Recordkeeping and Technology Unit (RTU) provides an array of guidance and technical support services to circuit clerks and their staff. RTU staff continues to work with the Illinois Association of Court Clerks in developing educational programs for circuit clerks and their staff, as well as coordinating the Circuit Clerk Mentor Program. The RTU also monitored the filing of the circuit clerks' annual financial audits, updated the Applicable Legal Requirements, and distributed the Requirements upon request.

E-Business programs in Illinois continue to expand throughout 2015. Three additional counties were approved to accept electronic filings in civil cases under the Court's discretionary e-filing program (bringing the total to 14), four counties were approved for electronic filing in criminal cases; all included requests for electronic filing of citations. In 2015, two more counties were approved for e-Record and to maintain the official court record electronically. Five additional counties were approved to accept electronic pleas of guilty in accordance with the Standards for Accepting Pleas of Guilty in Minor Traffic and Conservation Offenses Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 529, bringing the total to 40 counties of 102 in the state. The RTU assisted the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges with the approval of nine counties who requested the use of electronic citations.

The RTU provided merged jury lists to 100 counties in 2015 and Petit and Grand Jury Handbooks were supplied to counties as requested. The unit continues to manage the Offense Code Table (OFT), which identifies offenses reported to four state entities through the Automated Disposition Reporting (ADR) Program. A complete, updated version of the OFT was issued in April 2015. The RTU also is responsible for the publication of this two-volume Annual Report through the collection and compilation of quarterly caseload statistics and annual reports submitted by the clerks of the circuit, appellate, and supreme courts, and other divisions of the administrative office. The 2014 Annual Report redefined case categories and was expanded to include clearance rates for each circuit.

During the past year, the RTU continued to assist the Civil Justice Division with the data collection related to Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs), parties with Limited English Proficiencies (LEPs), and the Statutory Court Fines and Fees Task Force.

The **Judicial Education Division** coordinates and develops judicial education resources and curricula for the benefit of Illinois judges. In this regard, the Division, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Illinois, partners with, and provides curriculum development and administrative support to the Illinois Judicial Conference Committees, the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning, the Judicial Mentor Committee, the Appellate Court Administrative Committee, the Access to Justice Commission, the Committee on Equality, and other entities as determined by the Court and the Administrative Director.

Pursuant to the *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges*, the Illinois Supreme Court requires

all newly elected or appointed judges to attend *New Judge Seminar*, and each member of the Illinois judiciary, regardless of years on the bench, to attend the Court's biennial *Education Conference*. *Education Conference* features a flexible schedule of 80 - 100 substantive sessions on a variety of criminal, civil, family, and ethics and professional development topics. The 2015-2016 calendar of judicial education events include the following seminars, conferences and workshops for new and experienced judges and judicial branch staff: Fall 2015 Faculty Development Workshops, October 2015 seminar for Supreme and Appellate Law Clerks and Legal Research Staff, October 2015 seminar on Evidence-Based Sentencing Practices, February 2015 and December 2015 New Judge Seminar, the February and April 2016 Education Conference, April 2015 and April 2016 Appellate Court Conference, and May 2015 DUI/Traffic Seminar.

The Judicial Education Division also provides administrative oversight of the *New Judge Mentoring Program*. Administration of the *New Judge Mentoring program* is managed in coordination with Judicial Mentor Committee, under the leadership of the Chair of the Conference of Chief Judges. The *New Judge Mentoring program* pairs new associate and circuit judges with an experienced judge for a period of one year during the first year of transition from the bar to the bench.

In addition, the Division coordinates the annual production, printing, and distribution of the judicial Benchbook series. Judicial Benchbooks are a collaborative effort of the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education and the Judicial Education Division of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Active and retired members of the Illinois judiciary, and in some instances law professors, serve as authors, topic editors and peer reviewers for the following judicial Benchbooks and manuals: *Civil Law and Procedure*; *Criminal Law and Procedure*; *Domestic Violence*; *DUI/Traffic*; *Evidence*; *Family Law and Procedure*; and the *Juvenile Law Benchbooks*.

The **Judicial Management Information Services (JMIS)** division is one of six divisions in the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC). At the direction of the Supreme Court and Administrative Director, JMIS provides technology to the offices and staff of the Illinois Supreme and Appellate Courts, Supreme Court supporting units and all divisions within the AOIC. JMIS also facilitates the Court's digital recording initiative, which provides digital audio recording systems in the circuit courts used for the preparation of paper transcripts.

JMIS is staffed by 21 professionals consisting of five groups organized to apply technology to initiatives and unique court applications. JMIS' IT Security group manages the Courts' data center, local and wide area networks, numerous firewalls, security systems, and network servers installed in more than 30 offices throughout the state. The Hardware / Software group manages server applications, desktop and laptop computers, peripherals, and productivity software. The Hardware / Software group is also responsible for the installation and support of the digital recording systems in the Supreme Court (2 courtrooms), Appellate Court (6 courtrooms) and Trial Courts (341 courtrooms). JMIS' Internet Services group is responsible for the design and upkeep of the Court's website (www.illinoiscourts.gov),



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where approximately 45,000 visitors access the website each month. The Internet Services group also administers the Court's social media Twitter account (@illinoiscourts), which broadcasts updates to the Court's website, announcements and court activities to approximately 5,000 followers. The User Services group staffs JMIS' Help Desk, supports telecommunication services and phones (land line and mobile), and coordinates asset tracking of the Court's technology equipment. The Application Group is responsible for the design and enhancements to approximately twenty enterprise database applications written in the Oracle or Progress database and programming languages.

The **Probation Services Division** provides services to the Chief Judges and their probation staff in Illinois' 24 Judicial Circuits. The Probation and Probation Officer's Act, at 730 ILCS 110/15(1) states: *"The Supreme Court of Illinois may establish a Division of Probation Services whose purpose shall be the development, establishment, promulgation, and enforcement of uniform standards for probation services in the State, and otherwise carry out the intent of this Act."*

Consistent with its statutory responsibility, the mission of the Probation Services Division is to enhance the capacity of the community corrections system in order to reduce offender recidivism and create safer communities. In carrying out this mission, the Division's training, monitoring, standards setting, and technical assistance activities extend to all aspects of the administration and operation of the 67 local probation departments or districts that serve Illinois' 102 counties. All sixteen juvenile detention centers are also now administered by the circuit courts with the transfer of the governance of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) to the Circuit Court of Cook County on May 20, 2015.

As the primary communication link between the Division and probation and court services departments, Division employees play an integral role in achieving its mission and statutory mandates through teamwork, adopting a solution focused approach, and demonstrating professionalism. The Division is currently staffed by 22 employees (plus 5 vacancies right now), with office sites in Springfield and Chicago, and is comprised of four operational units: Field Operations; Training and

Juvenile Justice; Data, Eligibles, and Reimbursement Vouchering; and Interstate Compact/Intrastate Transfer. Additionally, there are two specialized program coordinator positions, one for Problem-Solving Courts and one for Pretrial Services.

Pursuant to statute, Division responsibilities include the administration of state salary reimbursement to counties for probation and detention services; review and approval of local departments' annual probation plans; collection and analysis of statewide probation data; administration of probation employment and compensation standards; employment eligibility lists; development and implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP); monitoring and evaluation of probation programs and operations; administration of the interstate compact for adult and juvenile probationers transferring into and out of the state; design and delivery of basic and advanced training for probation and detention personnel; and staff support to circuit courts to improve the administration and operation of probation services in Illinois.

During 2015 staff reviewed 2,408 applications for eligibility for employment/promotion. Of those reviewed, 1,804 were determined as meeting the eligibility requirements for employment or promotion as a probation/detention officer in Illinois. Additionally, Division staff review, compile and analyze monthly statistical data submitted by probation and court services departments to assist in policy and decision-making. Quality assurance, validity and reliability, and outcome measures continue to be Division priorities with particular emphasis on risk assessment, case planning and supervision, and targeted interventions for higher risk offenders.

In 2015, five major projects/priorities continued to guide the work of the Division personnel: 1) Establishment and promulgation of problem-solving court operational and certification standards; 2) Intensive technical support to the Circuit Court of Cook County Pretrial Services in the implementation of a Model Bond Court; 3) Piloting of the Public Safety Assessment-Court (PSA-C) in three Illinois probation and court services departments which were providing full-time pretrial services; 4) Modification and implementation of adult and juvenile probation data collection tools and processes; and 5) Substantive updates to adult probation services standards.

Division staff, with the guidance and assistance of the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning, created Problem-Solving Court Standards and a certification process for Illinois' 103 problem-solving courts. Collaborative efforts with local problem-solving court teams will concentrate on the certification process during 2016. Division staff will continue conducting site visits to local problem-solving courts to offer technical assistance and support to these teams. Future multi-disciplinary training for problem-solving court team members will remain a priority. The Division, in its continuing efforts to promote effective administration of pretrial justice/services, collaborated



with the Supreme Court, other divisions of the AOIC, Circuit Court of Cook County personnel, and an elected officials' stakeholders group to launch the Cook County Model Bond Court on July 1, 2015. Additionally, in August of 2015, the Division began the piloting of the PSA-Court in the three Illinois jurisdictions of McLean, Kane and Cook Counties with the assistance of the John and Laura Arnold Foundation and Luminosity, Inc. The PSA-Court is a validated pretrial risk assessment tool that measures for the failure to appear, new criminal activity, and new violent criminal activity.

The modification and implementation of juvenile probation data collection tools continued during 2015 and will be a goal for Division staff to complete during 2016. Through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, the AOIC and Measures for Justice have developed performance measures to assess the key processes of the Illinois criminal justice system. Work will continue with five Illinois jurisdictions to develop a performance measurement framework during 2016 that will include process and outcome data elements for problem-solving courts, pretrial services and juvenile detention with the goal to extend this effort statewide beginning in 2017.

Division staff also will continue the ongoing implementation of EBP through interaction with departments to develop basic and advanced knowledge through skill-based training for adult and juvenile probation officers, juvenile detention officers, supervisors and department managers. Follow-up training and technical assistance on both adult and juvenile offender risk assessment and effective case management strategies will also continue throughout the state. In 2015 Division staff worked, in concert with circuit probation staff, to deliver 54 regional and departmental training events to approximately 1,262 participants. In addition to seven 40-hour basic training sessions for 136 adult, juvenile and juvenile detention officers, other events enhanced coaching and supervisory skills, addressed legal liability issues and mental health needs of juveniles in probation and detention, and broadened pretrial supervision skills.

The Division's Interstate Compact Unit staff oversees the transfer of adult felony and qualifying misdemeanor probation cases and juvenile probation cases between states consistent with the national rules set forth by the Interstate Commission on Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) and the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ). As of December 31, 2015, a total of 5,469 (2,103 outgoing; 3,366 incoming) adult probation compact cases were under active supervision. The Compact Unit's staff also coordinated the transfer of 514 juvenile probation cases. Besides oversight of adult and juvenile transfers, the Compact Unit's staff continuously provides extra information and support to probation officers regarding ICAOS and ICJ through training and responses to email queries addressing questions about the transfer process.

Throughout 2015, the Division convened several planning and special focus committees and workgroups comprised of probation and court services officers, supervisors or managers. The purpose of these committees and workgroups is to collaborate with probation and juvenile detention personnel in the design and implementation of training events, or to provide expertise and practical application feedback on programming, policy and standards development, and other initiatives.

Division staff also continued to serve as liaison to the Supreme Court Probation Policy Advisory Board with the purpose of: 1) Advising the AOIC on policy matters and programming in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of Illinois' probation and court services departments; 2) Providing a formal venue for communication, review, analysis and exchange of information; and 3) Identifying opportunities, resources and strategies to advance the probation profession's mission. Membership of the Board is comprised of probation and court services managers representing all five of Illinois' appellate court districts. Advisement was provided on myriad policies, including Probation Compensation Standards, Probation Supervision Fees, Intrastate Standards, and Legislation.



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