



ILLINOIS COURTS

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford, Justice Lisa Holder White, Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, Justice David K. Overstreet, Justice Joy V. Cunningham, Justice Mary K. O'Brien

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

On behalf of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), I am pleased to offer the 2024 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. The Report contains a summary of the day-to-day operations of the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Court, and highlights the work of Illinois judges, court managers, committees, AOIC and other justice partners who keep the trains running for the third branch of government. Here are just a few of the major initiatives undertaken and implemented in 2024.

Illinois justice partner teams continued to support problem-solving courts throughout the state. The AOIC receives vital grant funds for those courts, including a \$2.9 million grant award to operationalize a replicable structure to support statutorily created civil outpatient pathways to mental health care, also referred to as Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) in Cook and McLean Counties. This form of civil commitment authorizes the judicial system to commit eligible individuals with severe psychiatric disorders to mental health intervention in the community for the health, safety and welfare of both the individuals and the public.

The Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice partnered with the First Judicial Circuit and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid on a successful 2-year Remote Appearance Pilot Project. As Land of Lincoln attorneys appeared remotely before First Judicial Circuit judges, the

attorneys and judges in these cases provided important data and information on these appearances to the ATJ Commission. This helped to measure the impact of remote court proceedings on the goals of reducing barriers that rural communities often experience in accessing the justice system. Over the course of the pilot program, Land of Lincoln lawyers appeared remotely for 467 proceedings in the First Judicial Circuit - saving the agency 633.5 hours of travel time to various courthouses and 18,432 miles of driving.

On the data front, the Supreme Court created the Data Task Force charged with identifying court events relating to pretrial decisions and generating a set of those court events to be captured on each circuit or county's orders entered in conjunction with pretrial hearings. After the court events are identified, the Task Force will work with individual circuits/counties to ensure their local orders are

consistent with these requirements.

The Office of Statewide Pretrial Services continued to expand under the steadfast leadership of OSPS Director Cara LeFevour Smith. During 2024, OSPS provided pretrial services to well over 70 counties - many of which previously had no pretrial services. In support to local judges, OSPS pretrial officers conducted nearly 24,000 investigations - 14,330 felony and 9,500 misdemeanor.

Consistent with prior reports, this Report contains an overview of the state and local funding required for the operation of our court system and current information on the judicial officers and employees who provide the residents of Illinois with a court system that fairly and impartially administers justice and efficiently resolves disputes. The Report also contains data dashboards on the more frequently requested/viewed statistics from the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Courts. Additional court data from each appellate district, circuit and county is available [here](#).

The AOIC acknowledges with deep appreciation the clerks of the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Courts for their continued support, commitment and cooperation in compiling and providing the data published in this Report. I also thank the AOIC staff, particularly the Court Services

Division and the Office of Communications and Public Information, for the many hours invested in this Report.

I hope you find this information valuable to your understanding of the work and function of our state's justice system. I invite you to explore the Illinois Supreme Court [website](#) for the most current information on our Illinois courts.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcia M. Meis".

Marcia M. Meis
Director, *Administrative Office*
of the Illinois Courts



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS

I am honored to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. I join with my colleagues on the Illinois Supreme Court to inform citizens of the Court's ongoing efforts to promote efficiency, fairness and transparency. The Illinois Supreme Court, assisted by the dedicated staff of our Administrative Office and the judges and staff members serving our court system, works to uphold individual rights and liberties, to promote the impartial interpretation of the law, and to deliver equal justice in all matters brought before our courts.

We are so proud of everything we were able to accomplish in 2024. This included the new Supreme Court Policy on Artificial Intelligence (AI) that puts the Illinois Courts on the leading edge of this national issue. The Court also introduced rule changes to handle a deluge of appeals stemming from the Pretrial Fairness Act that were inundating our appellate courts, which faced a staggering 25,000% increase in these types of cases. The Court looked at a pillar of our judicial system – juries – to review how juries operate and recommend changes and improvements to our jury system.

On a lighter note, the Illinois Supreme Court Learning Center in Springfield celebrated its one-year anniversary. Located in the former Fourth District Appellate Court conference room on the second floor of the Illinois Supreme Court Building, the Learning Center is designed to enhance the visitor experience at the Supreme Court. The Center has increased visits to the Supreme Court by more than 50% and has seen student visitors from Italy, China, Nigeria, Brazil, and Belarus.



POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI has already permeated many aspects of our lives, and it is doing the same to the legal profession. AI's role in the practice of law, however, raises new concerns, which the Illinois Supreme Court recognizes. The Court, through its Judicial Conference, created an AI Task Force to research, deliberate and build consensus for guidelines around this technology. The Task Force sought to set forth principles to guide the responsible use of AI into the practice of law, ensuring both innovation and adherence to ethical

standards. Here is one prominent Legal Tech bloggers take on the new policy, "The Illinois Supreme Court's new AI policy offers a thoughtful, balanced approach to AI adoption in our profession. The court wisely rejects outright bans and unnecessary disclosure mandates, while acknowledging the inevitability of AI adoption."

PFA APPEALS RULE CHANGES A SUCCESS

In the ten years before the Pretrial Fairness Act abolished cash bail, there were 171 appeals of bond decisions under Supreme Court Rule 604(c). In the first three months after the Act became effective, there

were 1,899 appeals of pretrial release and detention decisions under Supreme Court Rule 604(h). In light of that staggering increase, the Supreme Court created a Pretrial Release Appeals Task Force of five appellate justices—one from each of the five districts. The Task Force was directed to formulate "a comprehensive plan to address this matter with urgency," after consulting with various stakeholders. On March 1, 2024, the Task Force submitted its report and recommendations to the Court. In the five months following the rule changes, the number of PFA appeals was about 88% lower than the number in the preceding five-month period.

JUROR EXPERIENCE TASK FORCE

The right to a jury trial is enshrined in both the United States and Illinois Constitutions. That right, however, does not exist in the abstract. Juries are comprised of our peers — the people of the State of Illinois — and their experiences are central to their essential task. Recently, the Illinois Judicial Conference appointed a Juror Experience Task Force to review how juries operate across the state and to recommend changes and improvements to our jury system. The Task Force identified three priorities: increasing juror pool diversity; reducing the burdens of



jury service; and providing public education about the benefits of jury service. The Task Force recognized that the juror experience may be different in each of Illinois' 102 counties, so its recommendations largely take the form of what constitutes best practices, allowing for local variations where appropriate. The work of improving the juror experience in Illinois is not done. It must be an ongoing effort undertaken at all levels of the Judicial Branch, with the support of the General Assembly and county boards.

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments detailed above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken by the Illinois Courts in 2024. I

encourage you to review the 2024 Annual Report, which provides further information about the functions and activities of the judicial branch.

On a final note, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone in the judicial branch who helped make 2024 a productive year. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make the Illinois court system operate with a high level of integrity and efficiency. I look forward to another year of achievement and improvements in our courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Mary Jane Theis in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Mary Jane Theis
Chief Justice, Illinois Supreme Court



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 10 years and may be retained in office for additional terms of 10 years. A chief justice is elected by the other justices for a term of three years.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



CHIEF JUSTICE MARY JANE THEIS

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

1st District

EDUCATION:

University of San Francisco School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2010, elected in 2012

NOTABLE:

Has a passion for judicial education and has served as chair of both the Committee on Judicial Education and Committee on Judicial Conduct and is the Supreme Court Liaison to the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Judicial College.



JUSTICE P. SCOTT NEVILLE, JR.

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

1st District

EDUCATION:

Washington University School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2018, elected in 2020

NOTABLE:

Co-founded the Alliance of Bar Associations, a group dedicated to promoting diversity, equality, and fairness in judicial evaluations. During his tenure as President of the Cook County Bar Association, he also started the "In Court Referral Program" and established the CCBA Hall of Fame.



JUSTICE DAVID K. OVERSTREET

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Mt. Vernon

HOMETOWN:

5th District

EDUCATION:

University of Tennessee College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2020

NOTABLE:

Serves on the Illinois Judicial Conference and is Vice-Chair of the Public Relations Task Force.



JUSTICE LISA HOLDER WHITE

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Decatur

HOMETOWN:

4th District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2022, elected in 2024

NOTABLE:

The first Black female justice on the Illinois Supreme Court and the first Black justice on the Fourth District Appellate Court.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



JUSTICE JOY V. CUNNINGHAM

PLACE OF BIRTH:

New York, New York

HOMETOWN:

1st District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2022, elected in 2024

NOTABLE:

Began her career as a nurse and rose to become Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for the Northwestern Memorial Healthcare System.



JUSTICE ELIZABETH M. ROCHFORD

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

2nd District

EDUCATION:

Loyola University School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2022

NOTABLE:

Developed a family law courtroom dedicated to serving self-represented litigants as an associate judge in Lake County.



JUSTICE MARY K. O'BRIEN

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Kankakee

HOMETOWN:

3rd District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2022

NOTABLE:

Served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1996-2003. Also served on the Appellate Court from 2003-2022.

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2024 – DECEMBER 31, 2024



JANUARY 5

CORTNEY KUNTZE SWORN-IN AS 5TH DISTRICT APPELLATE CLERK

Cortney E. Kuntze was sworn-in as the new 5th District Appellate Court Clerk in a ceremony at the courthouse in Mt. Vernon. Kuntze joined the Fifth District Appellate Court in 2010 serving both as a research attorney and later as an appellate attorney prior to this appointment. She replaced Jack Flood, who retired after 39 years with the 5th District Appellate Court.

FEBRUARY 23

1ST CIRCUIT REMOTE APPEARANCE PROJECT SUCCESS

The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice partnered with the 1st Judicial Circuit and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid on a successful 2-year Remote Appearance Pilot Project. The project saved Land of Lincoln attorneys 633.5 hours traveling to court resulting in a cost savings of \$11,626.83. The report can be found [here](#).

FEBRUARY 25

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE BEN MILLER PASSES AWAY

Springfield native and former Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Benjamin K. Miller passed away at age 87. Justice Miller was appointed as a circuit judge in 1976 and became Chief Judge of the 7th Circuit in 1981. He served on the Court from 1984-2001 and as Chief Justice from 1991-1993. His full obituary is available [here](#).

MARCH 15

PRETRIAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

The Pretrial Release Appeals Task Force issued a report and recommendations to reduce a deluge of appeals in the appellate courts since the implementation of the Pretrial Fairness Act. The pretrial appeals went from an average of 17 annual bond appeals to a projected 4,557 under the PFA – a 268-fold increase. The report and recommendations can be found [here](#).



YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

MARCH 21

RIDING THE CIRCUIT AT NIU

The Illinois Supreme Court rode the circuit to hear oral arguments at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. A crowd of over 700 students and members of the public were in attendance to hear arguments in two cases, *People v. Flournoy* and *Andrew W. Levenfeld and Assoc. v. O'Brien*. Local attorneys and judges hosted a question-and-answer session with the audience following arguments.

MAY 29

NEW BAR EXAM FOR 2028

Law school graduates will take a new bar examination starting in 2028 to become licensed to practice law in Illinois, after the Illinois Supreme Court and the Board of Admissions to the Bar announced the adoption of the NextGen bar exam. The NextGen exam replaces the Uniform Bar Exam, which Illinois has used since 2019.

MAY 30

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AMENDED

The Illinois Supreme Court announced amendments to the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC). Changes to the RPC include addressing sexual harassment, providing general definitions of harassment and discrimination, imposing a “know” or “reasonably should know” standard on attorneys for harassing or discriminatory acts, and eliminating the requirement of a prior adjudication with a final judgment with no further rights of judicial review as a precondition for an attorney to be disciplined for harassment or discrimination, as well as additional clarifications.

JULY 9

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL JUSTICE FORMED

The Supreme Court Committee on Equality has been reconstituted as the Committee on Equal Justice. A new charge for the renamed Committee is to “strengthen and advance the ideals of fairness, equity, and diversity in the entire Illinois legal system; identify and work to dismantle inequalities, disparities, and biases in the Illinois legal system; foster and develop a high level of public confidence; and extend respect and dignity to all.”



YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER 19

AOIC RECEIVES \$3 MILLION MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

The Administrative Offices of Illinois Courts announced a grant award to partner with several justice partners to operationalize a replicable and effective structure to increase the utilization of statutorily-created civil outpatient pathways to mental health care, also referred to as Assisted Outpatient Treatment, in Cook and McLean Counties. This form of civil commitment authorizes the judicial system to commit eligible individuals with severe psychiatric disorders to mental health intervention in the community to improve the health, safety and welfare of both individuals and the public.

NOVEMBER 6

BAR ADMISSION CEREMONIES

The Illinois Supreme Court swore in 1,604 new attorneys at seven ceremonies across the state. Cook County Justices Mary Jane Theis, P. Scott Neville, Jr. and Joy V. Cunningham administered the oath at two ceremonies in Chicago. Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford hosted a ceremony in Elgin, Justice Mary K. O'Brien hosted a ceremony in Joliet, and Justice Lisa Holder White hosted two ceremonies in Springfield. Justice David K. Overstreet hosted a ceremony in Carbondale.

DECEMBER 3

DATA TASK FORCE

As part of continuing its mission to capture accurate and consistent court data from all 102 counties, the Illinois Supreme Court announced the creation of a Data Task Force. The Task Force is charged with identifying court events relating to pretrial decisions and generating a set of those court events to be captured on each circuit or county's order(s) entered in conjunction with pretrial hearings.

DECEMBER 18

POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Illinois Supreme Court announced the release of its policy on Artificial Intelligence in the courts, following the approval of a report submitted by the Illinois Judicial Conference Task Force on Artificial Intelligence. The Illinois Supreme Court remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest ethical standards in the administration of justice, and understanding the capabilities and limitations of AI technology is essential for the Illinois Judicial Branch. The full policy can be found [here](#).

ONLINE RESOURCES

INFORMATION FORMERLY IN THE ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ANYTIME ONLINE



Annual Report to the General Assembly

- [Annual Report to General Assembly on 2024 Judicial Conference](#)



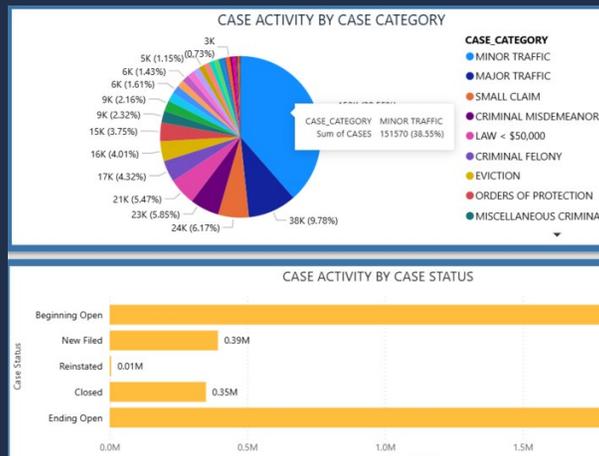
Circuit Court Statistics

- [Quarterly Circuit Court Statistics updated throughout the year](#)



Supreme Court Committees

- [Leadership, Rosters and Charges for Committees and Commissions](#)



Coming Soon

- [Interactive data dashboards at IllinoisCourts.gov](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS COURTS

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) was created pursuant to Article VI, Section 16 of the Illinois Constitution to assist the Supreme Court with its general administrative and supervisory authority over all Illinois courts. Appointed by the Supreme Court, the Administrative Director leads the AOIC and its staff.

The AOIC provides support and programming to courts statewide through its offices and divisions:

- [Executive Office](#)
- [Access to Justice Division](#)
- [Administrative Services Division](#)
- [Communications Division](#)
- [Courts, Children and Family Division](#)
- [Court Services Division](#)
- [Human Resources Division](#)
- [Judicial College Division](#)
- [Judicial Management Information Services Division](#)
- [Probation Services Division](#)
- [Office of Statewide Pretrial Services](#)



STRATEGIC AGENDA

ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA CONTINUES

The *core values* of the branch are:

FAIRNESS

Impartial in our actions, decisions, and treatment of all.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Responsible and answerable for our conduct and performance, and transparent in the use of public resources.

INTEGRITY

Honest, trustworthy, and committed to the highest ethical and professional standards.

RESPECT

Treat all with dignity, courtesy, and understanding.

The strategic *goals* of the branch are to provide:

- 1 Accessible justice and equal protection under the law.
- 2 Fair, timely, and efficient courts.
- 3 Professionalism and accountability throughout the judicial branch.
- 4 Understanding of, and confidence in, the judicial branch.
- 5 Funding and use of judicial branch resources.

The *mission* of the branch is:

"To protect the rights and liberties of all by providing equal access to justice, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law pursuant to the powers and duties entrusted to us by the Illinois Constitution."

The *vision* of the branch is:

"To be trusted and open to all by being fair, innovative, diverse, and responsive to changing needs."



IJC 2024 Achievements

IMPROVE THE JUROR EXPERIENCE STRATEGIC GOAL 1

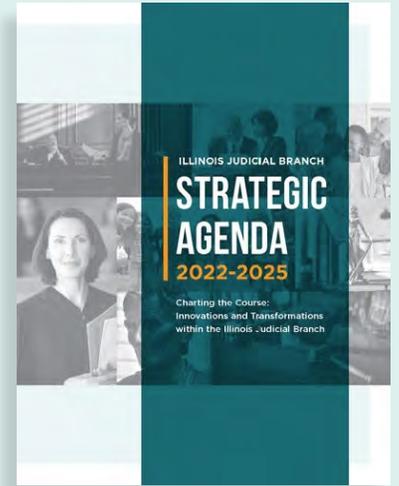
The IJC Juror Experience Task Force was charged with studying and recommending ways to improve the juror experience in Illinois. The Task Force chose to focus its work on three areas it identified as high priority, high impact, and accomplishable during the Task Force year: increasing jury pool diversity, reducing the burdens of jury service, and providing public education about the benefits of jury service. While the Task Force was particularly focused on the petit juror experience, many of the recommendations also apply to grand jurors. The Task Forces updated handbooks for grand and petit juries to provide prospective jurors with information on what to expect before arriving at the courthouse. The Task Force also created a list of recommendations to recognize jurors for their service and provide them with additional resources after their service is complete.

POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGIC GOAL 2

The IJC AI Task Force was charged with recommending how the Illinois Judicial Branch should regulate and use AI. The Task Force, co-chaired by Williamson County Judge Jeffrey A. Goffinet and 17th Judicial Circuit Trial Court Administrator Thomas R. Jake-way, included judges, attorneys, court staff, and other stakeholders. The Task Force also reviewed court rules to determine whether amendments were warranted on account of the intersect of AI and the practice of law. It created the well-received policy on [Artificial Intelligence in the Courts](#), one of the first by a state court. A [judicial reference sheet](#) was also created to assist judges with challenges created by the use of AI.

COURTS CAN BE RUFF SERVICE DOG PROGRAM STRATEGIC GOAL 4

The IJC's Public Education and Engagement Task Force developed the guidebook, [Court Can Be Ruff: A Guide for Facility and Therapy Dogs](#). This guide provides resources for courts seeking to implement a facility or therapy dog program. It includes documentation on the benefits of such programs, descriptions of different program models, types of dogs to use, considerations when implementing a program, best practices/lessons learned, and appendices detailing case law summaries and statutes from similar court programs around the country.



[VIEW THE STRATEGIC AGENDA](#)

AT-A-GLANCE
Illinois Judicial Branch – Operational Plan (2024) (November 4, 2023)

<p>Mission: To protect the rights and liberties of all by providing equal access to justice, ensuring fairness, and upholding the rule of law, as required for the protection and duties entrusted to us by the Illinois Constitution.</p>	<p>Core Values: F.A.I.E.R. Fairness – integral to our actions, decisions, and treatment of all. Accountability – responsible and answerable for our conduct and performance, and transparent in the use of public resources. Integrity – honest, trustworthy, and committed to the highest ethical and professional standards. Respect – treat all with dignity, courtesy, and understanding.</p>	<p>Vision: To be trusted and open to all by being fair, accessible, diverse, and responsive to changing needs.</p>		
STRATEGIC GOALS AND 2024 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES				
ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE/EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW	FAIR, TIMELY & EFFICIENT COURTS	PROFESSIONALISM/ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGHOUT THE BRANCH	UNDERSTANDING OF/CONFIDENCE IN THE BRANCH	FUNDING/USE OF JUDICIAL BRANCH RESOURCES
<p>Strategic Initiatives: 1. Support the Local Superiority Jurors (Local Superiority Task Force)</p>	<p>Strategic Initiatives: 1. Reduce the Burden of Court Proceedings (RAC, HCS, WATC) 2. Increase Efficiency of Court Proceedings (RAC, HCS, WATC) 3. Develop and Assess the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC)</p>	<p>Strategic Initiatives: 1. Reduce the Burden of Court Proceedings (RAC, HCS, WATC) 2. Increase Efficiency of Court Proceedings (RAC, HCS, WATC) 3. Develop and Assess the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC)</p>	<p>Strategic Initiatives: 1. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC) 2. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC) 3. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC)</p>	<p>Strategic Initiatives: 1. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC) 2. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC) 3. Increase the Use of AI in the Branch (RAC, HCS, WATC)</p>

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[VIEW THE OPERATIONAL PLAN](#)



OFFICE OF STATEWIDE PRETRIAL SERVICES

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



The Office of Statewide Pretrial Services (OSPS or Office) was created in August of 2021 to promote pretrial justice and community safety throughout Illinois. The mission of OSPS is to assist in the administration of justice and promote community safety by ensuring fairness and equity in the pretrial process.

3,402,088 POPULATION SERVED

41,568

SQUARE MILES

217,958

CRIMINAL COUNTS RECORDED

23,910

PRETRIAL INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED

16,873

SUPERVISED INDIVIDUALS

166,102

CRIMINAL HISTORY CASES

31,393

NON-ILLINOIS CRIMINAL CASES

ILLINOIS COURT HELP

EMPOWERING COURT USERS ACROSS ILLINOIS

Illinois Court Help (ILCH) continues to expand its reach and impact as a trusted resource for self-represented litigants and others navigating the Illinois court system.

Since its launch in 2021, ILCH has provided free, step-by-step guidance via phone, text, or email for court processes in every Illinois court—including circuit, appellate, and Supreme Court. While ILCH does not offer legal advice, its trained court guides connect users to legal and community resources to help resolve their issues.

Building on its momentum, ILCH expanded its team by 30%, enhancing our ability to deliver timely, personalized assistance. This growth strengthened our statewide reach and ensured more users could connect with trained court guides for support.

In 2024, ILCH demonstrated significant impact, assisting over 29,000 court users statewide with a high satisfaction rate of 92.3%. The program's steady growth in service delivery is highlighted in the accompanying data:



LOOKING AHEAD

As ILCH continues to grow, our mission remains clear: to empower Illinois court users to navigate legal processes with confidence and dignity. In 2025, ILCH will build on its progress by launching Lex (a chatbot), expanding access to guidance beyond phone, text, and email. This innovation, along with ongoing service enhancements, will ensure that even more court users can connect with the trusted support they need.

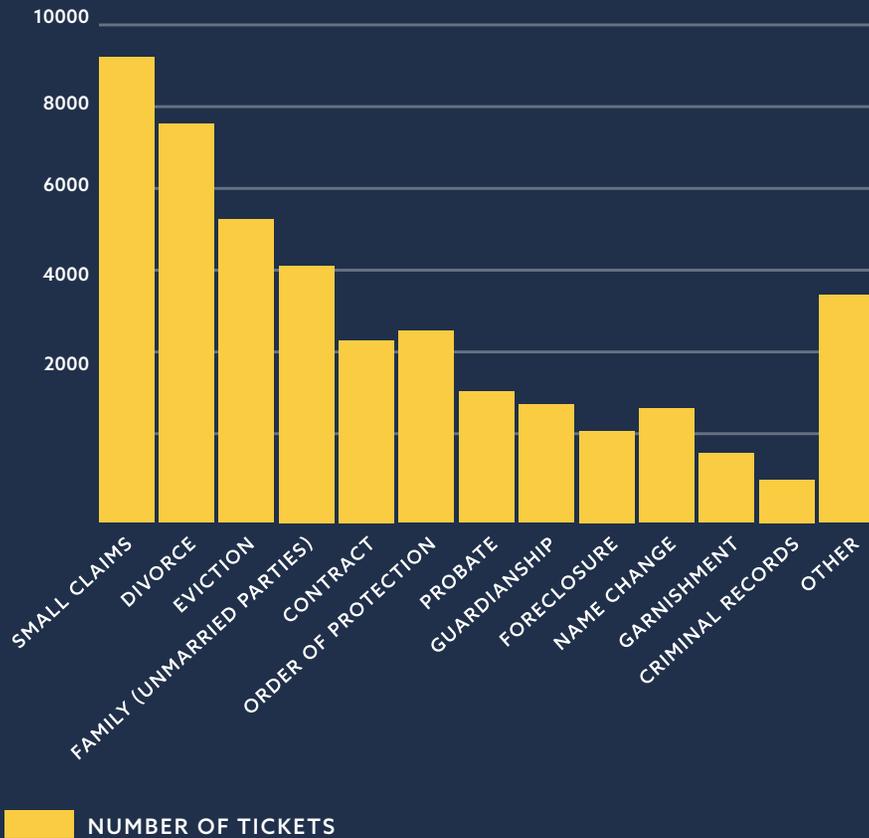
GROWTH OVER TIME

ILCH's ticket volume increased significantly compared to prior years, reflecting the program's growing visibility and the critical need for its services.



TYPES OF CASES

ILCH addressed a wide range of legal challenges, with small claims, divorce, and eviction cases among the most common.



THE HUMAN IMPACT

Behind the data are powerful stories of individuals who reached out to ILCH:

“The court guide beyond what I was expecting to help me out prepare me for my case. I’m so thankful and grateful for her time and energy. I really appreciate all her help. She listened to my questions very carefully and was very thoughtful to email me all the documents that I needed to support my case. Thanks for your time and effort.”

—Self-represented court user, Kane County
(CIVIL MATTER, SEPTEMBER 2024)

“The rep was very nice, informative and helpful through my phone process. I couldn’t have done this without the assistance of Illinois Court Help. If you never been through anything of lawsuits this place will get you the right forms and help you need to start the process and start it the right way.”

—Self-represented court user, Cook County
(CONTRACT MATTER, NOVEMBER 2024)

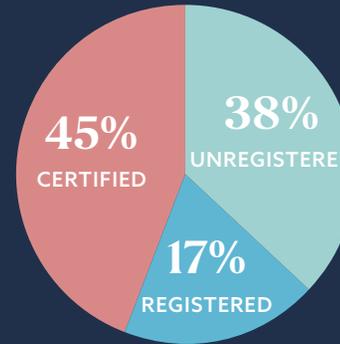
2024 LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT: STATEWIDE

In 2024, Illinois courts provided 144,414 interpretations, up from 117,113 in 2023. Of these, 23.4% were conducted remotely by phone or video. Certified and registered interpreters from the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry handled 61.08% of the 2024 cases, a slight decrease of 1% from the previous year.

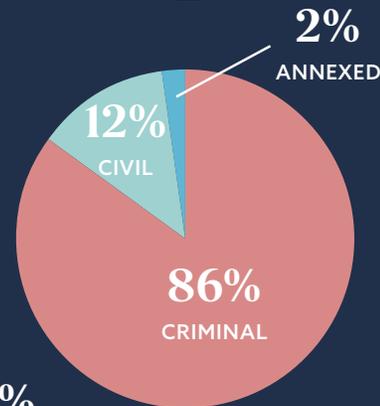
By case type, 86% of interpretations occurred in criminal proceedings, 12% in civil proceedings, and 2% in court-annexed proceedings. Spanish continues to be the most common language need, representing 95% of all requests. Polish remained the second most requested language (2%), followed by Russian (1%). Notably, Russian requests nearly doubled from 2023 to 2024, and Ukrainian requests showed a similar increase. Romanian also saw significant growth.

The "Other" category at 2% includes languages beyond the most common ones, such as Arabic, American Sign Language (ASL), Korean, Chinese, Urdu, Vietnamese, Gujarati, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS), Tagalog, Lithuanian, and Romanian. Additional languages observed across Illinois courts include Mandarin, French, and Hindi/Urdu, reflecting a growing diversity in language needs.

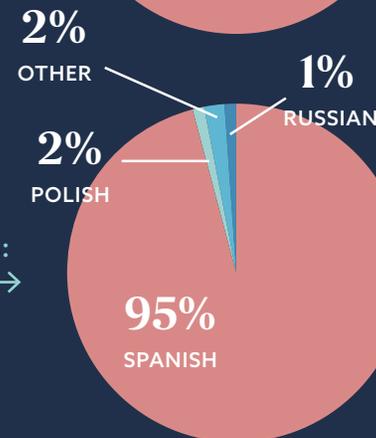
% of Interpretations by Interpreter Type:



% of Interpretations by Court Type:



Interpreted Languages:



CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
STATEWIDE	61.98%
1 ST	72.12%
2 ND	NA
3 RD	62.71%
4 TH	20.14%
5 TH	36.70%
6 TH	42.81%
7 TH	45.95%
8 TH	NA
9 TH	0.63%
10 TH	64.16%
11 TH	7.44%
12 TH	5.78%
13 TH	97.13%
14 TH	0.73%
15 TH	71.78%
16 TH	97.76%
17 TH	53.27%
18 TH	76.73%
19 TH	55.01%
20 TH	22.86%
21 ST	82.15%
22 ND	37.38%
23 RD	100.00%
24 TH	6.00%
COOK:	35.78%

SUPREME COURT SUPPORT STAFF

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

CYNTHIA A. GRANT

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 and in July 2017, mandatory e-filing of civil cases was established through a single, centralized electronic filing manager (EFM), called eFileIL and included integration with the Court's case management system.

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 that gave law firm entities the option to

electronically renew their annual registration and pay the \$40 renewal fee electronically. In 2023, approximately 77% of law firm entities chose to electronically renew their registration. 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. Beginning in March 2019, state court judges were offered an electronic option to file their annual statement of economic interests. 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 2024.

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.

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

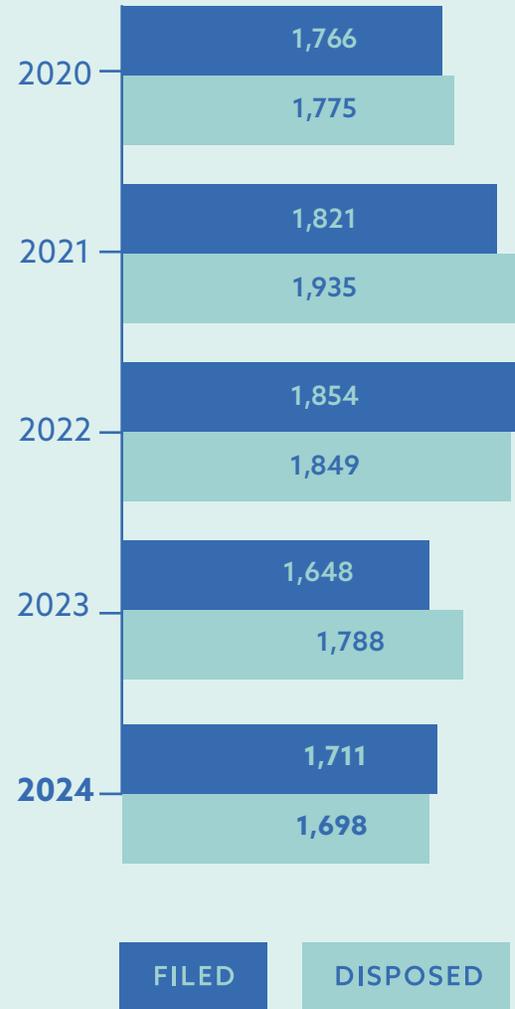
The Supreme Court Librarian directs a staff who provide legal reference services to the courts, state agencies, and citizens of the state. The Supreme Court libraries include a 100,000 volume public law library in Springfield, a 40,000 volume private branch library in Chicago, and four private judicial 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

JACOB JOST

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.

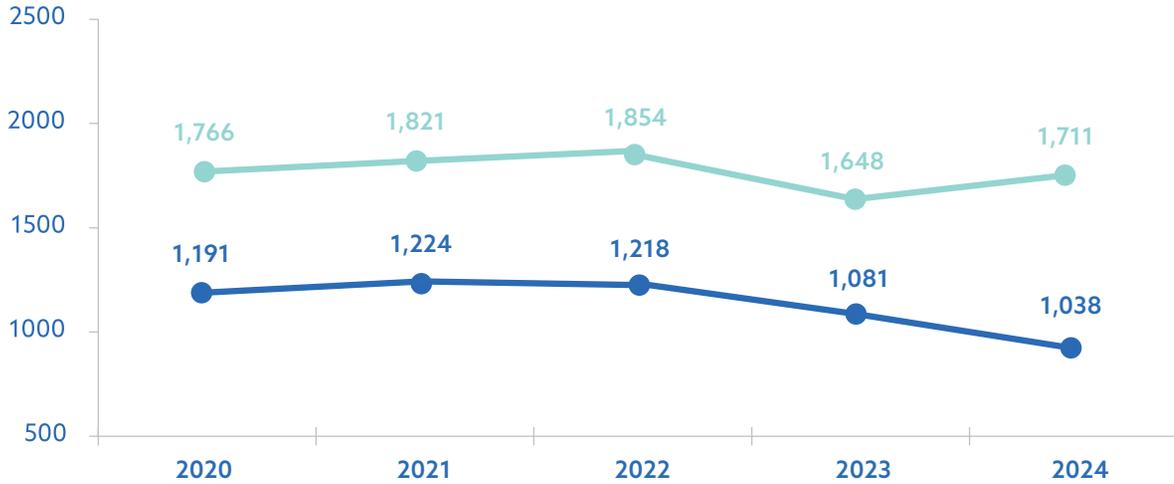
Supreme Court Filed:



SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

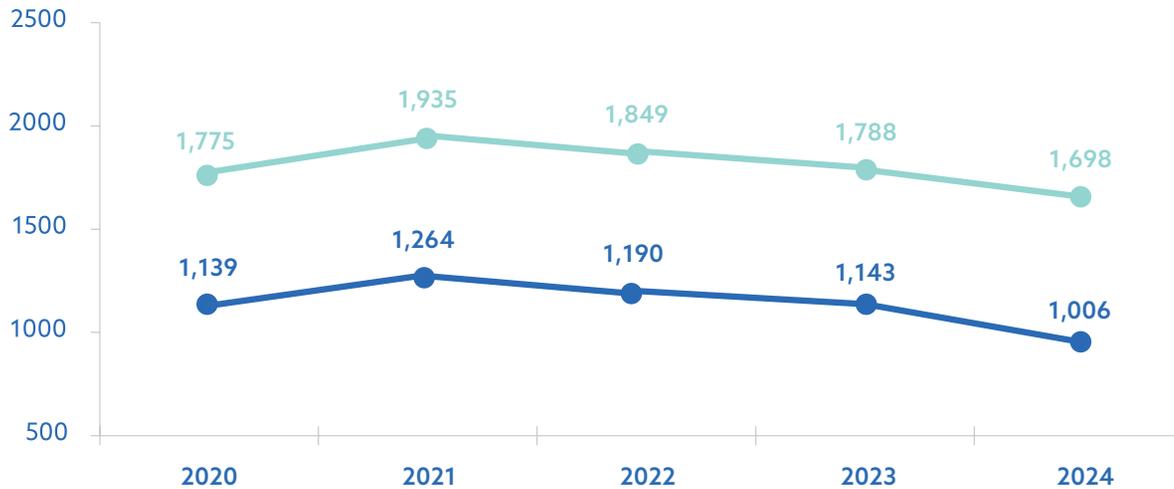
FILINGS

● Grand Total ● General Docket



DISPOSITIONS

● Grand Total ● General Docket



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, 2024, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$284,948; appellate court judges, \$268,190; circuit court judges, \$246,099; and associate judges, \$233,794. 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 2024, the arbitration filing and rejection

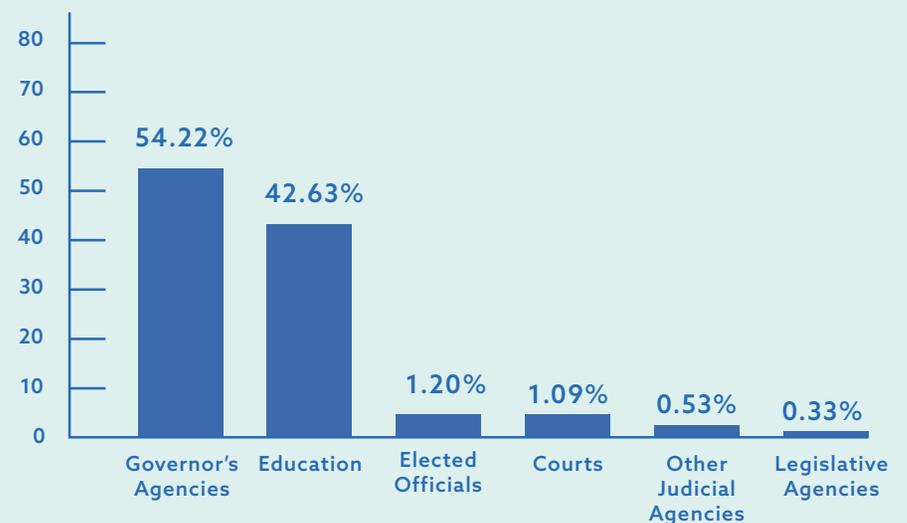
fees collected amounted to \$4,486,536.11.

State funding for probation and court services departments covers approximately 3,100 probation and court services personnel, for which the counties receive full and partial salary reimbursement on a monthly basis. The statutorily mandated full funding level was appropriated to fund eligible probation services positions. The state Judicial Branch appropriation also supports other operational and program expenses. 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

STATE FUNDING

General Revenue Fund Appropriations for State Agencies Fiscal Year 2025

This graph shows the Supreme Court's share of the General Revenue Fund appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). The total General Revenue Fund appropriation for the entire state was \$52,052,946,000. The Court's appropriation was \$569,192,800.



SOURCE: Table 1-A: General Revenue Fund Appropriations by Agency Chapter 3 Governor's Budget Message to the General Assembly

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 2024, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 3,098, assisted by a total of 123 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$240,058,421 in 2024.

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 2024 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.

\$21,229,123

Court Document Storage Fund

is used for any costs relative to the storage of court records.

\$21,817,367

Court Automation Fund

Used to establish and maintain automated systems for keeping court records.

\$9,093,540

County Law Library Fund

Helps defray the costs of maintaining a law library in the county for judges, attorneys, and the public.

\$5,294,895

County Fund To Finance the Court System

Available from fees collected by circuit clerks to help finance the court system in the county.

\$7,003,758

Circuit Court Clerk Operations and Administrative Fund

Used to offset costs incurred for collection and disbursement of State and local funds.

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 2024 by circuit clerks are listed below:

\$914,691,164

Child Support and Maintenance

Court ordered payments collected and distributed by Circuit Clerks and the State Disbursement Unit.

\$3,049,166

Drug Treatment Fund

Court ordered drug assessments are used to pay for treatment programs for people addicted to alcohol, cannabis, or controlled substances.

\$4,085,712

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.

\$1,531,645

Trauma Center Fund

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

\$6,280,172

Traffic and Criminal Conviction Surcharge

An additional penalty imposed in traffic and criminal cases is used for training of law enforcement and correctional officers.

\$1,611,807

Drivers Education Fund

Penalties and forfeitures in offenses reportable to the Secretary of State are used for driver education programs in high schools.

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 on Page 35, 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 trial courts, 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, the Conference of Chief Judges and the various committees of the Court. More information about these committees can be found within this report. The Supreme Court also makes appointments to other committees, commissions, and boards available here. 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 those duties. The staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts support this function. Key support personnel exist at each level of the courts to assist judges with the administration of justice. At the Supreme Court level, this includes the clerk, research director, marshal, librarian, reporter of decisions and their staffs. Each support unit is described within this report.

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 a research director and their staffs appointed by

the appellate judges. Appeals enter the clerk's office, where deputy clerks assign each 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 elected by vote of the circuit court judges of that circuit. The chief circuit 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 related to these cases.

JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD

The Supreme Court appoints two judges to the Board, the governor also appoints four non-lawyers and three lawyers, which receives and investigates complaints against judges and brings 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. An Executive Director/General Counsel serves the Commission in their duties.

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 for the practice of 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.



ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN 2024

LAWYERS SANCTIONED IN 2024

17 DISBARMENTS

25 SUSPENSIONS

11 PROBATIONS

5 CENSURES

2 REPRIMANDS

60 TOTAL SANCTIONS

22% IL LAWYERS LOCATED OUT OF STATE

37% 30+ YEARS IN PRACTICE

38% 60+ YEARS OF AGE

60% SOLO PRACTITIONER

23% RECIDIVIST

CLIENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

\$1,442,273

PAYMENTS MADE ON 65 APPROVED CLAIMS

APPELLATE COURTS

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 54, 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 10-year terms, and may be retained for additional 10-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.

APPELLATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Annual Meeting: The Appellate Court held its annual meeting on April 8, 2024, with the Honorable Bertina E. Lampkin (First District Appellate Court) serving as the Honorary Chair of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Over 50 appellate justices were in attendance. The Honorable William E. Holdridge (Third District Appellate Court) was elected to serve as Honorary Chair of the 2025 Annual Meeting

of the Appellate Court to be held April 7, 2025.

Administrative Committee:

The Appellate Court Administrative Committee was established 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. In addition to the appellate justices in attendance were the Clerks and Legal Research Directors of the Supreme and Appellate Courts, appellate court law clerks and legal staff, and the Office of the Reporter of Decisions.

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	2,934	2,894	3,763	4,049
2023	2,871	2,611	3,610	2,696
2022	2,640	2,726	1,981	2,374
2021	2,193	2,232	1,812	2,879
2020	1,966	2,608	1,693	2,841

TOTAL CASELOAD	FILED	CLOSED
2024	6,697	6,943
2023	6,481	5,307
2022	4,621	5,100
2021	4,005	5,111
2020	3,659	5,449

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIRST DISTRICT – CHICAGO MICHAEL A. BILANDIC BUILDING

160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 793-5600

Thomas D. Palella, Clerk
Alice Withaar, Research Director

Circuit Court of Cook County
DISTRICT POPULATION: 5,182,617

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	1,405	1,418	1,185	1,075
2023	1,370	1,147	1,124	800
2022	1,203	1,242	740	807
2021	926	974	709	1,239
2020	843	1,225	559	1,238

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2024	3,496
2023	3,342
2022	2,753
2021	2,812
2020	3,362

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT



SECOND DISTRICT — ELGIN 2ND DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

55 Symphony Way
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 695-3750

Jeffrey H Kaplan, Clerk
Michael M. Kessler, Research Director

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,800,066

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	279	234	455	513
2023	224	251	367	289
2022	247	386	200	430
2021	418	424	330	528
2020	409	510	331	500

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2024	388
2023	396
2022	338
2021	680
2020	871

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT



THIRD DISTRICT – OTTAWA 3RD DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

1004 Columbus Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 435-5050

Zachary A. Hooper, Clerk
Hailey Rehberg Witt, Research Director

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,972,913

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	313	326	392	542
2023	337	356	436	378
2022	333	313	188	346
2021	302	311	253	353
2020	235	338	273	351

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2024	421
2023	578
2022	252
2021	664
2020	787

FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FOURTH DISTRICT — SPRINGFIELD 4TH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

201 West Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 782-2586

Carla L. Bender, Clerk
John Gabala, Research Director

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,969,853

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	491	501	914	991
2023	514	506	857	669
2022	473	441	488	530
2021	313	311	379	491
2020	257	303	346	535

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2024	669
2023	742
2022	549
2021	571
2020	692

FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIFTH DISTRICT — MT. VERNON 5TH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

14th & Main Street
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 242-3120

Cortney Kuntze, Clerk
Michael D. Greathouse, Research Director

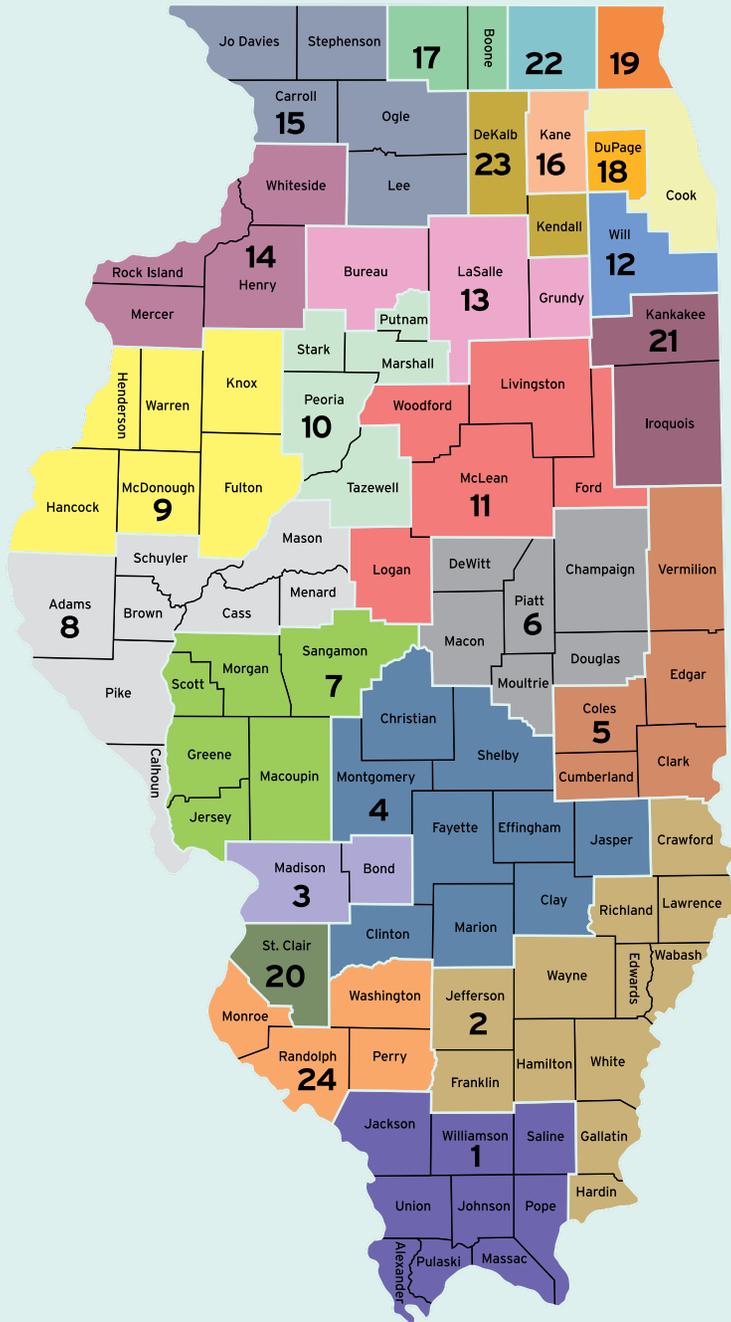
DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,784,709

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2024	446	415	817	928
2023	426	351	826	560
2022	384	344	365	261
2021	234	212	141	268
2020	222	232	184	217

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2024	932
2023	1,005
2022	698
2021	554
2020	660

CIRCUIT COURTS

In Illinois, the circuit court is the court of original jurisdiction. There are twenty-five judicial circuits in the state. Seven are single county circuits (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, St. Clair 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 subcircuit 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 matters deemed suitable by the chief judge or designated circuit judge. 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.

of the chief circuit judges from the twenty-five judicial circuits. Beginning in December 2023, Judge Katherine D. Gorman, Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, served as Chair of the Conference, with Judge William J. Thurston of the First Judicial Circuit serving as Vice-Chair. 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 2024 included the Article V Committee; Associate Judge Vacancy Committee; Children and Families Committee; Criminal Procedure Committee; Evidence-Based Pretrial Practices Committee; Executive Committee; Orientation Committee; Probation and Public Defender Committee; Technology Committee; as well as the Juvenile Courts 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 Special Committee to Review Standardized Forms, or the Remote Hearings Security Committee.

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Conference of Chief Circuit Judges is comprised

2024 CIRCUIT COURT CASE CHART

CATEGORY	CASELOAD STATISTICS	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
CIVIL (1)	New Filed	390,887	342,439	324,247	325,057	313,852
	Reinstated	5,782	4,997	12,633	17,946	17,318
	Closed	347,683	337,424	285,271	333,993	293,220
	Clearance Rate %	87.7%	97.1%	84.7%	97.4%	88.5%
	Ending Open	474,626	432,758	429,473	663,560	659,561
FAMILY (2)	New Filed	58,679	59,380	55,578	113,835	103,804
	Reinstated	541	492	596	1,175	918
	Closed	49,507	50,002	57,536	104,703	91,878
	Clearance Rate %	83.6%	83.5%	102.4%	91.0%	87.7%
	Ending Open	85,246	76,272	68,669	133,104	120,316
CRIMINAL (3)	New Filed	232,537	220,464	212,187	200,631	206,100
	Reinstated	2,462	2,873	27,851	5,509	4,614
	Closed	208,146	206,831	225,690	213,389	151,883
	Clearance Rate %	88.6%	92.6%	94.0%	103.5%	72.1%
	Ending Open	368,815	446,631	314,301	442,568	448,061
CONSERVATION AND TRAFFIC (4)	New Filed	810,563	773,841	737,334	981,034	983,433
	Reinstated	11,876	11,223	40,739	16,970	11,206
	Closed	699,674	633,884	795,373	962,979	818,665
	Clearance Rate %	85.1%	80.7%	102.2%	96.5%	82.3%
	Ending Open	1,133,821	1,398,218	842,988	1,994,218	1,963,023
JUVENILE	New Filed	27,127	24,825	15,427	14,271	16,594
	Reinstated	98	135	164	142	127
	Closed	24,944	23,645	14,790	13,777	12,092
	Clearance Rate %	91.6%	94.7%	94.9%	95.6%	72.3%
	Ending Open	39,190	41,515	39,146	55,837	56,196
OTHER (5)	New Filed	94,793	84,903	83,728	0	0
	Reinstated	600	534	318	0	0
	Closed	87,763	75,437	66,383	0	0
	Clearance Rate %	92.0%	88.3%	79.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Ending Open	34,968	29,116	27,491	0	0
STATEWIDE TOTALS	New Filed	1,614,586	1,505,852	1,428,501	1,634,828	1,623,783
	Reinstated	21,359	20,254	82,301	41,742	34,183
	Closed	1,417,717	1,327,223	1,445,043	1,628,841	1,367,738
	Clearance Rate %	86.7%	87.0%	95.6%	97.2%	82.5%
	Ending Open	2,136,666	2,424,510	1,722,068	3,289,287	3,247,157

(1)Prior to 2022, Civil included Arbitration, Chancery, Eminent Domain, Law, Law Magistrate, Municipal Corporation, Mental Health, Miscellaneous Remedy, Probate, Small Claims, and Tax.

(2)Prior to 2022, Family was called Domestic Relations and included case types of Adoption, Dissolution of Marriage, Family, and Order of Protection.

(3)Prior to 2022, Criminal included case types of Felony, Misdemeanor, and DUI.

(4)Prior to 2022, Conservation and Traffic was called Quasi-Criminal and included Civil Law Violation, Conservation, Ordinance Violation, and Traffic.

(5)Prior to 2022, Other did not exist.

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY CIRCUIT CALENDAR YEAR 2024

CIRCUIT	BEGINNING OPEN	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	CLOSED	ENDING OPEN	INCREASE/ DECREASE % OF 2024 OPEN CASES
1 ST	123,565	47,255	74	49,391	120,029	-2.9
2 ND	42,210	26,955	29	26,021	42,522	0.7
3 RD	63,385	43,750	231	43,937	63,377	0.0
4 TH	36,164	32,194	40	31,568	35,927	-0.7
5 TH	56,792	25,443	118	21,037	58,288	2.6
6 TH	219,903	52,892	306	50,576	222,408	1.1
7 TH	99,236	52,125	6	49,075	103,206	4.0
8 TH	20,998	19,030	16	18,332	20,179	-3.9
9 TH	33,490	21,332	14	19,218	34,974	4.4
10 TH	53,753	49,039	327	44,313	60,635	12.8
11 TH	34,261	44,010	657	44,257	33,834	-1.2
12 TH	75,497	98,953	2,853	101,571	75,801	0.4
13 TH	17,586	26,383	518	25,951	18,314	4.1
14 TH	54,208	35,415	19	35,180	52,988	-2.3

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY CIRCUIT, CONTINUED

CIRCUIT	BEGINNING OPEN	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	CLOSED	ENDING OPEN	INCREASE/ DECREASE % OF 2024 OPEN CASES
15 TH	24,514	24,579	7	23,973	24,045	-1.9
16 TH	51,221	65,344	3,190	66,699	50,025	-2.3
17 TH	72,698	57,801	154	58,009	70,155	-3.5
18 TH	101,244	121,803	835	123,755	100,128	-1.1
19 TH	62,019	78,869	3,669	80,226	64,104	3.4
20 TH	100,994	36,624	62	39,197	101,739	0.7
21 ST	45,222	31,608	0	28,731	47,591	5.2
22 ND	15,420	43,612	1,441	45,759	14,914	-3.3
23 RD	17,873	26,709	278	28,386	15,178	-15.1
24 TH	11,312	11,593	7	10,955	11,751	3.9
DOWNSSTATE	1,433,565	1,073,318	14,851	1,066,117	1,442,112	0.6
COOK COUNTY	498,378	541,268	6,508	351,600	694,554	39.4
STATE TOTAL	1,931,943	1,614,586	21,359	1,417,717	2,136,666	10.6



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

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