



ILLINOIS COURTS

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

Left to Right: Justice David K. Overstreet, Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., Justice Rita B. Garman, Chief Justice Anne M. Burke, Justice Mary Jane Theis, Justice Michael J. Burke, Justice Robert L. Carter

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



On behalf of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC), I am pleased to present the 2021 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 judges, court managers, committees, AOIC and other justice partners who carry out the work of the third branch of government. Also highlighted are some of the major initiatives undertaken and implemented in 2021.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the pandemic that continued throughout Calendar Year 2021, the Supreme Court - with the steadfast commitment of the judiciary, the dedicated employees of the Illinois court system, and other justice stakeholders - continued to respond to the needs of court users. Several innovative efforts were introduced to make the courts and court information more accessible.

These included the launch of Illinois Court Help which serves to connect people to the resources and information they need to attend a court proceeding, file a case, or

answer other justice system questions for Illinois state courts. It is the first statewide personalized court information service offered by the Illinois courts. Plans were also unveiled for a statewide operational structure for pretrial services to support the forthcoming requirements of the Pretrial Fairness Act, including the elimination of cash bail effective January 1, 2023. The AOIC also created the position of Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator to serve as a dedicated mental health resource at the intersection of local, state, and national behavioral health initiatives and our justice system.

The 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 people of Illinois with a court system that fairly and impartially administers justice and efficiently resolves disputes. The Report also contains court data charts regarding 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 at <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/reports/annual-report-illinois-courts/>.

The AOIC acknowledges with 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 countless hours that are invested in the preparation of this Report.

I hope that this Report serves as a valuable tool in understanding the work and function of our state's justice system. I invite you to explore the Illinois Supreme Court website - redesigned in 2021 - at <https://illinoiscourts.gov> for the most current information concerning the Illinois courts.

Sincerely,

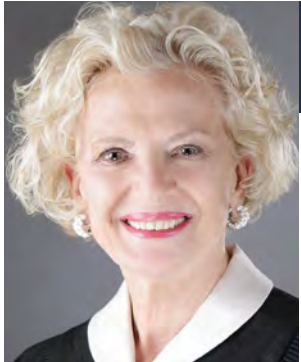


Marcia M. Meis

Director

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE ANNE M. BURKE



CHIEF JUSTICE
BURKE

I am honored to present the 2021 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 judicial 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 2021. We made it through another year of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to improve our courts in ways that would have been unthinkable in early 2019. The Court continued its regular meetings between leaders at the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit court levels. We also continued co-hosting Listening Tours with the Illinois State Bar Association that reached hundreds of court stakeholders and provided a chance to hear

what is and what is not working throughout the state.

The Legislature used its constitutional authority to redistrict our Appellate Court districts for the first time since 1964. This created a monumental undertaking to reallocate resources – especially in the new 4th District that stretches from just north of St. Louis to the Wisconsin border and the new 5th that stretches from Cairo to Champaign.

I will highlight below some of the judicial branch's major accomplishments in 2021. In the upcoming year, my colleagues and I will continue our pursuit of ways to improve the Illinois court system.



Gov. Pritzker and his wife, MK, visited the Supreme Court Building in Springfield on Sept. 22, 2021.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Illinois Court system continued to operate through the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of constant communication and collaboration among the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit courts and other justice partners. The Illinois Courts continued a major transition to remote and hybrid proceedings.

The Illinois Supreme Court, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges worked tirelessly to offer best practices to aid in the administration of justice while maintaining practices to mitigate risk of COVID-19 resurgence and protecting court personnel and the public in unprecedented times. The increasing use of remote hearings allows proceedings to continue while minimizing the number of people in courthouses and also improving access to justice.

The COVID-19 Task Force made a number of recommendations to ensure the courts continued to run smoothly despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

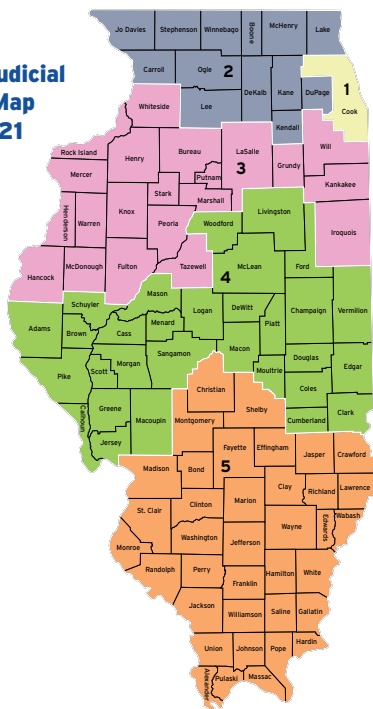
REDISTRICTING

On June 7, 2021, the Court entered M.R. 30858 to pause Public Act 102-0011 (Judicial Redistricting). The order references

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE, CONTINUED

Illinois Judicial District Map 1964-2021

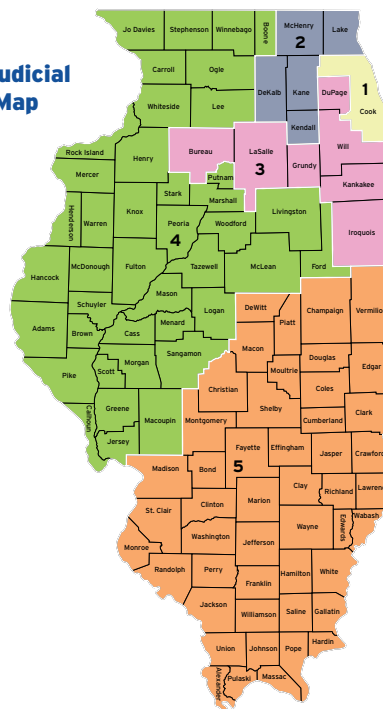
First District
Second District
Third District
Fourth District
Fifth District



Illinois Judicial District Map

Effective January 1, 2022

First District
Second District
Third District
Fourth District
Fifth District



the numerous operational adjustments needed to the processing of appeals and the administration of the justice system in Illinois necessitated by the new judicial district map, including changes to e-filing, case management systems, redistribution of staffing and judicial resources, training for judicial stakeholders, and education of the public and members of the bar.

On Dec. 8, 2021, the Court entered a second order vacating the pause effective Jan. 1, 2022. This was able to be accomplished due to the efforts of the Judicial Redistricting Task Force, led by 2nd District Appellate Justice Mary S. Schostok, 4th District Appellate Clerk Carla

Bender and ISBA Past President Dennis Orsey and supported by AOIC leadership staff. The Court is greatly appreciative of their efforts to lead the navigation of this historic change.

MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

Our incredible Mental Health Task Force continued to expand its great work with some significant developments in 2021. The first was the Supreme Court's hiring of Scott Block to become the first Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator. Scott will serve as the Illinois Judicial Branch's dedicated mental health voice and resource, committed to furthering local, state, and national behavioral health

and justice initiatives that affect the courts. In this capacity, he will act as the project director of the Mental Health Task Force and provide professional guidance on the Illinois Courts' response to behavioral health issues that intersect with the justice system.

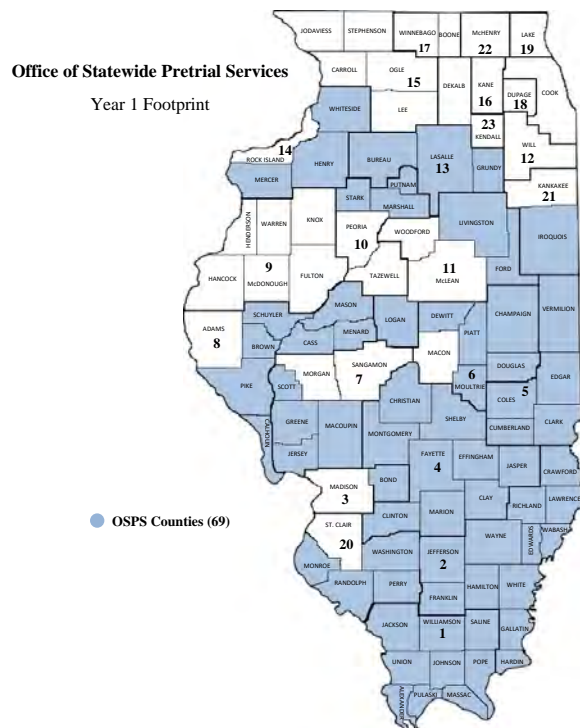
He previously served as the Executive Director of the McHenry County Mental Health Board and was the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court's Director of Special Projects prior to that. While working with the court, Block planned, designed, implemented, and led daily Problem-Solving Court operations. After building a solid foundation, the court's Mental Health



Court and Adult Drug Court programs were subsequently awarded AOIC certification, and the Adult Drug Court was recognized by the National Drug Court Institute with "Mentor Court" status.

We are so please to have Scott with us and know he will do incredible things.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE, CONTINUED



OFFICE OF STATEWIDE PRETRIAL SERVICES

The Illinois Supreme Court created the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services in August of 2021. Illinois has a long history of pretrial reform efforts. We became one of the first states to abolish bail bondsmen in 1963. The [Pretrial Services Act](#) became effective on July 1, 1987, providing the legal framework for the pretrial process in Illinois. While section 1 of the Act provides that “[e]ach circuit court shall establish a pretrial services agency,” this goal remains a work in progress.

In recent years, we have taken important steps to support pretrial reform in our state. The Court adopted a policy statement for pretrial services in April 2017, followed by the creation of the Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices in November 2017. The Commission studied best practices in use around the country, consulted pretrial reform experts, listened to stakeholders at public hearings throughout the state, and analyzed the myriad sources of academic and professional analysis of pretrial issues. The Commission’s thorough study, discussion and spirited debates over the past two years culminated with a [Final Report](#) issued in April 2020.

In February of 2021 the Illinois Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law, PA 101-0652 (The “SAFE-T Act”), which contained the Pretrial Fairness Act. In an effort to support these efforts the Illinois Supreme Court created the Office of Statewide Pretrial

Services (OSPS) to serve the People of Illinois by contributing to increased public safety and increasing equality in the pretrial stage of the criminal justice system.

Since its inception, the OSPS worked to establish quality pretrial services in counties where pretrial services did not exist. Presently, the OSPS is setting up services in 69 counties with a goal to be operational in those counties by the effective date of the Pretrial Fairness Act, January 1, 2023.

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments detailed above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken by the Illinois Courts in 2021. I encourage you to review the 2021 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 2021 a productive year despite incredibly trying circumstances. 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.

Anne M. Burke
Chief Justice
Illinois Supreme Court



Students from Chicago’s St. Ignatius College Prep visited the Supreme Court for oral arguments on Nov. 17, 2021.

STRATEGIC AGENDA

ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA CONTINUES

The Illinois Judicial Conference (IJC) unveiled its Strategic Agenda for the Illinois Judicial Branch (Branch) through the year 2022. The IJC has created a mission statement, vision statement and core values, along with strategic goals and the strategies designed to achieve them. The Strategic Agenda will serve as a guide for the future of the Branch throughout the implementation phase.

THE 29-MEMBER ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE UNVEILED
ITS 3-YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA IN 2019.



STRATEGIC AGENDA, CONTINUED

On October 2, 2019, the Illinois Judicial Conference (IJC) unveiled the Supreme Court's Strategic Agenda, which was developed by the IJC and approved by the Court. The Strategic Agenda identifies five strategic goals, which are detailed on Page 10 of this report. Work on these goals began in earnest with the start of implementation year one.

The IJC identified 15 new initiatives, which were assigned to existing Supreme Court Commissions, Boards, and Committees, as well as to eight newly created Task Forces. In June of 2020, the IJC created an additional Task Force to address the ongoing challenges with resuming court operations through the next phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Task Force was charged with analyzing and making recommendations regarding the continuing challenges for the administration of justice arising amidst the pandemic. More information on this new Task Force is available on Page 10.

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 & equal protection under the law.
- 2 Procedural fairness, timeliness, & operational efficiency.
- 3 Professionalism & accountability throughout the judicial branch.
- 4 Understanding of & confidence in the judicial branch.
- 5 Sufficient funding & effective use of judicial branch resources.

THE MISSION OF THE BRANCH WILL BE

"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."

STRATEGIC AGENDA, CONTINUED

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

A summary of key accomplishments for each initiative is detailed below.

Court Operations During a Pandemic—Strategic Goal 1

This initiative was created in response to challenges the judicial branch faced as it balanced the administration of justice with the safety of staff and court patrons. The Task Force assigned to this initiative suggested to the Supreme Court ways to address residential eviction proceedings and reduction of unnecessary in-person court appearances. A list of the orders that resulted can be found [here](#). The work of the Task Force is ongoing.

Court Data and Performance Measures—Strategic Goal 2

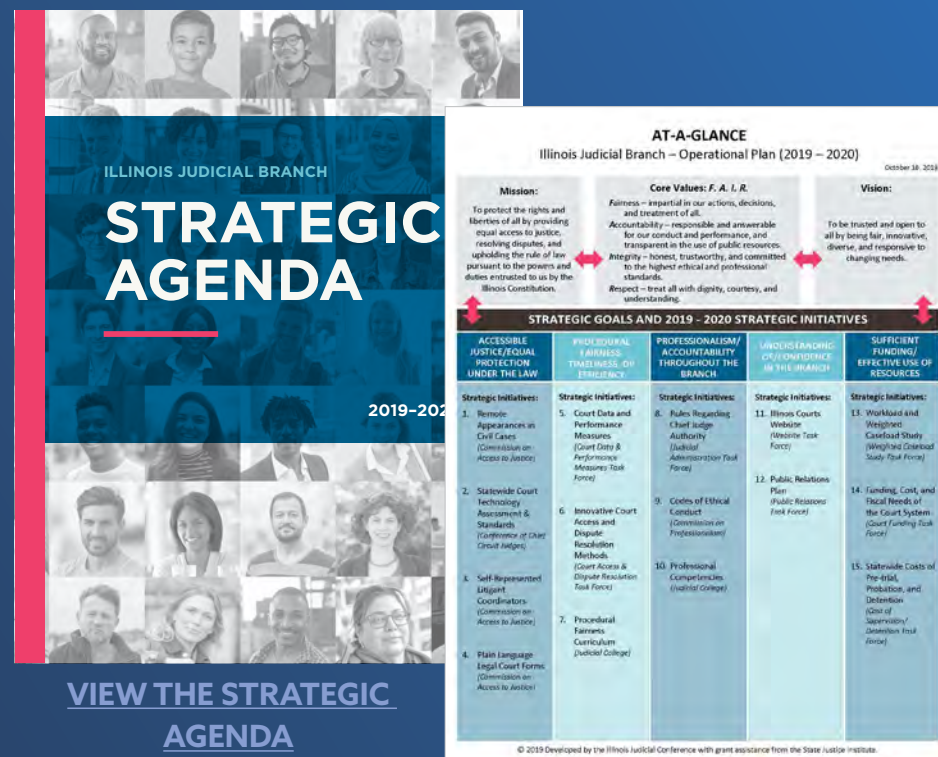
The purpose of this initiative, which was started in 2020 and was completed in 2021, was to study and make recommendations regarding time standards for case resolution in Illinois. It included reviewing and making a report to the IJC on time standards adopted in some Illinois circuits and other states, as well as national best practices (e.g., from organizations such as the ABA, NCSC, Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators, etc.) and recommendations for the Illinois Judicial Branch. The report was adopted by the IJC and submitted to the Supreme Court in November of 2021.

Codes of Professional Conduct—Strategic Goal 3

The purpose of this initiative was to promote and maintain high standards for professional conduct among all Judicial Branch employees and partners. Employee groups with existing codes of conduct were the focus of work in 2020. In 2021, the focus was on developing and recommending Codes of Professional Conduct for groups with no previously established code. The Task Force submitted a final report to the IJC in October of 2021 and it was adopted.

Illinois Courts Website—Strategic Goal 4

A new, modern, informative, and user-friendly Illinois Courts website



was launched in May of 2021 and can be found [here](https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/): <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/>.

Funding, Cost, and Fiscal Needs of the Court System—Strategic Goal 5

The purpose of this initiative was to explore and determine the complete cost of the court system and to identify and explain multiple sources of funding. The work on this initiative provided key information about court system funding, including current court system costs and funding sources. Using the data/information collected in 2020 and 2021, the Task Force summarized the costs of the court system and explained the sources of funding and the amount coming from each source. A comprehensive report was provided to the IJC in October of 2021.

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2021–DECEMBER 31, 2021



JANUARY 4

The Illinois Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts announced the hiring of Lisa Colpoys as the Supervising Senior Program Manager for Illinois Court Help, a new program within the Access to Justice Division. The program was developed to address new challenges courts are facing in providing meaningful services and assistance to court patrons, lawyers, and the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FEBRUARY 26

The Illinois Supreme Court announced the expansion of the Remote Access Policy for Illinois licensed attorneys and legal services providers. This will give Illinois attorneys expanded access to court information and documents in the 87 county courts integrated and certified through re:SearchIL. The expansion was effective March 1, 2021.

re:SearchIL



STATUTORY COURT FEE TASK FORCE

Illinois Court Assessments

Findings and Recommendations for Addressing Barriers to Access to Justice and Additional Issues Associated with Fees and Other Court Costs in Civil, Criminal, and Traffic Proceedings

June 1, 2016

MARCH 5

The Illinois Supreme Court announced an order for the creation of a new Supreme Court Statutory Court Fees Task Force to replace the original 15-member Task Force created under the Access to Justice Act. The new Task Force is charged with conducting a thorough review of the entire Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act, including the various statutory fees imposed or assessed on criminal defendants and civil litigants and the fiscal impact of the new civil and criminal fee schedules.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

MARCH 26

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts announced that it is receiving a \$100,000 grant from the National Center for State Courts as part of the Justice for All Project. This is the second \$100,000 grant that the Illinois Courts have received from the NCSC, with the first awarded in October 2019.

APRIL 26

The Illinois Supreme Court's Illinois Judicial Conference announced the release of a new jury orientation video which will serve as an introduction to jury service for all 24 Circuit Courts in Illinois. The video is available at: <https://youtu.be/uOZhGc1emjQ>. Jury orientation provides an important first impression of the court for prospective jurors. This orientation video helps prepare jurors for service and answers common questions in a systematic and consistent manner.



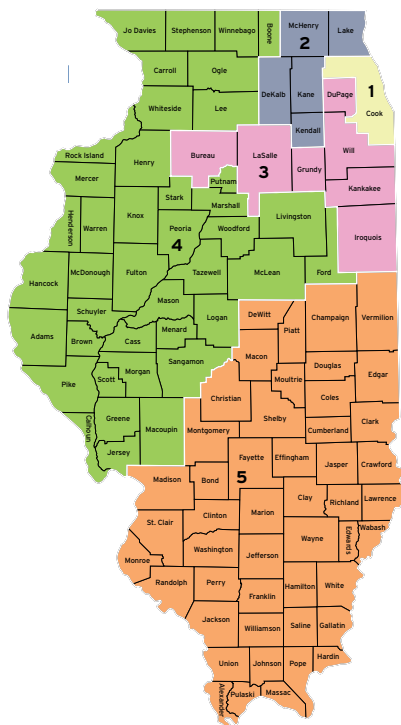
Your guide
through
the courts

MAY 17

Illinois Court Help was launched to connect people to the resources and information they need to go to court in Illinois. It is the first personalized court information service offered by the Illinois Courts and one of the latest innovations created during the COVID-19 pandemic to make the courts and information more accessible. People can call or text 833-411-1121 or submit a question on ilcourthelp.gov to connect with a trained court guide who can provide up-to-date Illinois court information and answers to specific questions about the court process.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2021–DECEMBER 31, 2021



JUNE 7

The Illinois Supreme Court issued an order regarding the judicial redistricting in Public Act 102-0011 which will give sufficient time to plan and implement the changes the Act requires. The Act has changed the judicial district boundaries for the first time since they were established in 1964. The order states that appeals and other matters will continue to be filed in the judicial districts as they existed on June 3, 2021, until further order of the Court.

JUNE 14

The Illinois Supreme Court announced amendments to Rule 756 and Rule 751, which will give \$10 from the attorney registration fee to the Illinois Lawyers Assistance Program and an additional \$10 allocation for the Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to provide funding for Illinois Court Help. The \$20 reallocation (\$10 for LAP, \$10 for Illinois Court Help) will not increase attorney registration fees. Instead, these amounts will be redirected from the ARDC's allocation, which is currently \$230 of the \$385 registration fee.

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE CHANGES



JULY 15

The Illinois Supreme Court announced an amendment to Order M.R. 30370 concerning residential evictions. Timed to coincide with the resumption of eviction filings effective August 1, 2021, the amended Order provides for a one-month period in which the judiciary will focus on referring newly filed cases to State programs providing financial assistance to landlords and tenants.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021



AUGUST 20

The Illinois Supreme Court announced a new operational structure for pretrial services which will place pretrial services under the authority of the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, including employment of pretrial officers. The AOIC will be tasked with the development and enforcement of pretrial standards throughout Illinois in order to support the implementation of the Criminal Justice Reform Act (SAFE-T Act). On August 27, the Court named Judge Cara LeFevour Smith as the Director and Wendy Venvertloh as Deputy Director to lead the new operational structure.

AUGUST 27

The Illinois Supreme Court has hired Scott Block to serve as the state's first Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator. Block will serve as the Illinois Judicial Branch's dedicated mental health voice and resource, committed to furthering local, state, and national behavioral health and justice initiatives that affect the courts.



Need Rental Assistance Help?



SEPTEMBER 13

The Illinois Supreme Court announced the launch of a \$60 million Court-Based Rental Assistance Program (CBRAP) available to tenants and landlords across the state (outside of Cook County). Cook County will be operating its own court-based rental assistance program slated to launch in early October with direct funding from the federal government.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2021-DECEMBER 31, 2021

SEPTEMBER 22

The Illinois Supreme Court hosted a memorial service in the Supreme Court Courtroom in honor of the late Justice James D. Heiple, who served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1990 to 2000. Justice Heiple was born in Peoria, Illinois on September 13, 1933.



OCTOBER 26

Illinois Supreme Court Clerk Carolyn Taft Grosboll, who led the transformation of the office from paper to digital and other important efforts since January 3, 2011, announced her retirement effective Nov. 30, 2021. Many of Clerk Taft Grosboll's numerous accomplishments came in technology upgrades.

DECEMBER 1

Cynthia A. Grant has been appointed as the new Clerk of the Supreme Court effective December 1, to replace the retiring Carolyn Taft Grosboll. Ms. Grant has served as the Assistant Clerk in the Supreme Court's Clerk's Office since 2013. She previously served for four years as legal counsel for various departments with the Illinois Secretary of State's office starting in 2009.



BJA

**Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice**

DECEMBER 16

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts announced it was awarded a \$550,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP). The JMHCP is a competitive grant program that supports innovative cross-system collaboration for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who encounter the justice system.

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.



CHIEF JUSTICE ANNE M. BURKE

Place of birth / Chicago

Hometown / 1st District

Education / Chicago Kent
College of Law

Joined the court / Appointed in
2006, elected in 2008

Notable / Founded the Special
Olympics in 1968 while working
for the Chicago Park District



JUSTICE RITA B. GARMAN

Place of birth / Aurora

Hometown / 4th District

Education / University of Iowa
College of Law

Joined the court / Appointed in
2001, elected in 2002

Notable / Has served at every
level of the judiciary – associate
judge, circuit judge, Appellate
Justice, Supreme Court Justice,
Supreme Court Chief Justice



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 CCBA,
he also started the "In Court
Referral Program" and established
the CCBA Hall of Fame



**JUSTICE MICHAEL
J. BURKE**

Place of birth / Chicago

Hometown / 2nd District

Education / UIC School of Law

Joined the court / Appointed in
2020

Notable / Has served in many capacities for the Judicial Branch, including on the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee and the Judicial Mentor Committee as a certified new judge mentor and certified peer judge mentor



**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 ROBERT L.
CARTER**

Place of birth / Springfield

Hometown / 3rd District

Education / University of Illinois
College of Law

Joined the court / Appointed
in 2020

Notable / Became a judge in 1979 and served as chief judge for 13 years including chair of Conference of Chief Judges. Served on the Appellate Court for 13 years. Is the only Illinois Supreme Court Justice to have served in the Vietnam War and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal

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 2021, approximately 85% 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

IN 2021, APPROXIMATELY

85%

OF LAW FIRM ENTITIES CHOSE TO
ELECTRONICALLY RENEW

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 2021.

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 SUPPORT STAFF, CONTINUED

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	FILED	DISPOSED
2021	1,821	1,935
2020	1,766	1,775
2019	1,942	2,075
2018	2,011	2,071
2017	2,208	2,320



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 102ND ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2022

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the activities for the 2021 Illinois Judicial Conference as required by Article VI, Section 17, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970. In keeping with this Constitutional Mandate, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41 creates the Illinois Judicial Conference and charges the Conference with considering the work of the courts and suggesting improvements regarding the administration of justice.

As we have reported previously, on October 2, 2019, the Illinois Judicial Conference (IJC) unveiled the Supreme Court's [Strategic Agenda](#), which was developed by the IJC and approved by the Court. The Strategic Agenda identifies five strategic goals listed below:

1. Accessible Justice and Equal Protection Under the Law
2. Procedural Fairness, Timeliness, and Operational Efficiency
3. Professionalism and Accountability throughout the Branch
4. Understanding of, and Confidence in, the Judicial Branch
5. Sufficient Funding and Effective Use of Judicial Branch Resources

Work on these strategic goals was the focus for implementation year one in 2020. Specifically, the IJC identified 15 new initiatives, which were assigned to existing Supreme Court Commissions, Boards, and Committees, as well as to newly created Task Forces. That work continued for implementation year two in 2021 with 11 new and

continuing initiatives.

This report also includes a summary of several Supreme Court decisions from the past year 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 2021 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,



Anne M. Burke
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Illinois

THE HONORABLE
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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2021 ILLINOIS 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 regarding 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 IJC).

During Conference Year 2021, the IJC was focused on completing 11 new and continuing initiatives that had been created to achieve the five Strategic Goals set forth in the [Strategic Agenda](#). The five goals are:

Goal 1: Accessible Justice and Equal Protection Under the Law

Goal 2: Procedural Fairness, Timeliness, and Operational Efficiency Goal 3: Professionalism and Accountability throughout the Branch

Goal 4: Understanding of, and Confidence in, the Judicial Branch

Goal 5: Sufficient Funding and Effective Use of Judicial Branch Resources

Each of the 11 initiatives were assigned to either an existing Supreme Court Board, Committee, or Commission, or to Task Forces whose sole objective was to complete its assigned initiative. The IJC met three times to receive reports back on each initiative and served as a clearing house for all reports, recommendations, memorandums, policies, or rule changes proposed as a result of work on each initiative. A summary of the accomplishments under each initiative is detailed below.

1. Statewide Court Technology Assessment & Standards — Strategic Goal 1

The purpose of this initiative was to strengthen the use of technology in courts across Illinois thereby enhancing remote access to services, court and case information, and court appearances and operational efficiency. A statewide technology survey of the circuits was completed in 2020. As a continuation of this work, in 2021, model technology standards were developed and recommended for all courts in the state. The standards focus on functional benchmarks, to promote remote access to court services, court and case information, and court appearances and operational efficiency. The standards were approved by the IJC in October 2021 and submitted to the Supreme Court. The Court adopted the standards in November 2021.

THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE WAS FOCUSED ON COMPLETING 11 NEW AND CONTINUING INITIATIVES

2. Successful Pandemic Practices and Modifications — Strategic Goal 1

The purpose of this initiative was to document and analyze how practices and services changed in courts across the state in response to the pandemic. This initiative included documenting and assessing new practices, and modifications to existing practices that were successfully utilized in the holding of court and in the operations of the court system during the pandemic. It involved gathering input from judicial officers, court employees, clerks, attorneys, probation, court security, and other stakeholders. A report was presented to the IJC with findings from the audit.

3. Court Operations During a Pandemic — Strategic Goal 1

This initiative was created in response to challenges the judicial branch faced as it balanced the administration of justice with the safety of staff and court patrons. The Task Force assigned to this initiative suggested

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2021 ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED



to the Supreme Court ways to address residential eviction proceedings, reduction of unnecessary in-person court appearances. A list of the orders that resulted can be found [here](#). The work of the Task Force is ongoing.

4. Court Data and Performance Measures — Strategic Goal 2

The purpose of this initiative, which was started in 2020 and was completed in 2021, was to study and make recommendations regarding time standards for case resolution in Illinois. It included reviewing and making a report to the IJC on time standards adopted in some Illinois circuits and other states, as well as national best practices (e.g., from

organizations such as the ABA, NCSC, Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators, etc.) and recommendations for the Illinois Judicial Branch. The report was adopted by the IJC and submitted to the Supreme Court in November of 2021.

5. Innovative Court Access and Dispute Resolution Methods — Strategic Goal 2

The purpose of this initiative was to explore, study, and recommend non-traditional, innovative, and/or emerging ways to access the courts and resolve disputes (e.g., online dispute resolution – ODR; restorative justice, etc.). For 2021, the Task Force focused on

the current state of mediation across Illinois and submitted a report which included a summary of the current state of mediation in Illinois (statutory requirements, barriers to accessing/using mediation, different models of mediation, costs of mediation services, etc.) and recommendations for improvement and expansion. The Task Force's final report made many recommendations including amending Supreme Court Rule 99 to make clear that assessment waivers apply to mediation program fees. The Court approved amending the Rule in November of 2021.

6. Codes of Professional Conduct — Strategic Goal 3

The purpose of this initiative was to promote and maintain high standards for professional conduct among all Judicial Branch employees and partners. Employee groups with existing codes of conduct were the focus of work in 2020. In 2021, the focus was on developing and recommending Codes of Professional Conduct for groups with no previously established code. This included: Clerks, Deputy Clerks, Clerk personnel (i.e., circuit, appellate, supreme court); Trial Court Administrators/other administrative staff in the Office of the Chief Circuit Judge; Judicial Branch State Paid Employees (non-judicial officers); Court Appointed Mediators; Guardian Ad Litem; Court Bailiffs/Court Security Officers; Public Defender's Officers; and Court Annexed Arbitrators. The Task Force submitted a final report to the IJC in October of 2021 and it was adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2021 ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED

7. Illinois Courts Website — Strategic Goal 4

A new, modern, informative, and user-friendly Illinois Courts website was launched in May of 2021 and can be found here: <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/>.

8. Public Relations Plan — Strategic Goal 4

The purpose of this initiative was to raise the profile of the Judicial Branch – share positive stories, educate about the Branch, etc. – through a comprehensive Public Relations Plan. As part of fulfilling the Public Relations Plan finalized in 2020, the Task Force completed the production and rollout of a Jury Orientation video. It also established a statewide PIO network in each circuit. A comprehensive report was provided to the IJC in October of 2021.

9. Workload and Weighted Caseload Study — Strategic Goal 5

The purpose of this initiative was to ensure the effective allocation of judicial resources across all Circuit Courts. In 2020, the focus was on exploring and reporting on the feasibility of conducting a statewide judicial caseload and workload study that weights cases, measures judge time, and provides recommendations for more effective allocation of judicial resources. In 2021, the focus was on overseeing and serving as a resource to/working with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in conducting the statewide study, which is expected to be completed in 2022.

10. Funding, Cost, and Fiscal Needs of the Court System — Strategic Goal 5

The purpose of this initiative was to explore and determine the complete cost of the court system and to identify and explain multiple sources of funding. The work on this initiative provided key information about court system funding, including current court system costs and funding sources. Using the data/information collected in 2020 and 2021, the Task Force summarized the costs of the court system and explained the sources of funding and the amount coming from each source. A comprehensive report was provided to the IJC in October of 2021.

11. Statewide Costs of Pre-Trial, Probation, & Detention — Strategic Goal 5

The purpose of this initiative was to better understand, explain, and answer questions about statewide costs of Pre-Trial, Probation, and Detention for adults and juveniles. The Task Force assigned to this initiative focused on collecting statewide information about costs, both by individual county and throughout the state, of pre-trial detention, pre-trial supervision, probation, and incarceration. A final report was provided to the IJC in October 2021.

As evidenced by the accomplishments under each initiative, the scope of work undertaken by the Judicial Conference will continue during 2022 with continuing and new strategic initiatives. Justice S. Gene Schwarm (ret.),

Project Coordinator for the Strategic Agenda, Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivy, Strategic Agenda Project Consultant, and Alison Spanner, Director of Strategic Planning, will continue to help guide the IJC throughout Conference Year 2022. As such, 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

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO ET AL. V. MOORE, 2021 IL 125785

(JANUARY 22, 2021)

At issue in this case is whether a 2011 amendment to section 34-85 of the School Code (Code) (105 ILCS 5/34-85 (West 2016)) allows for a suspension and reduction in back pay of a teacher or if once termination proceedings are initiated the Board can only dismiss or reinstate the teacher with full back pay. The Board initially suspended Moore without pay pending a dismissal hearing, the result of which was the hearing officer recommending Moore's reinstatement. The Board ultimately declined to dismiss Moore but issued a warning resolution, finding that misconduct warranted a 90-day time-served suspension with a deduction from her net back pay. Moore appealed and argued that the suspension and reduction in back pay were unauthorized by law. The appellate court agreed, holding that under section 34-85 of the Code once termination proceedings had been initiated the Board could only dismiss or reinstate Moore with full back pay. The Supreme Court reversed the appellate court's judgment and affirmed the Board's decision, determining that the amendment to section 34-85 of the Code does not diminish the Board's implied power and authority to issue a suspension once a determination is made that the conduct does not constitute cause

for dismissal and finding that the Board acted within the scope of its power.

PEOPLE V. BASS, 2021 IL 125434 (APRIL 15, 2021)

Defendant had his name run during a routine traffic stop and the name check returned an investigative alert issued by the Chicago Police Department for an alleged sexual assault. Defendant was arrested and subsequently made incriminating statements to investigators, which he sought to suppress prior to trial. Defendant argued that the Chicago Police exceeded their authority in stopping and questioning him, and that the police did not have an arrest warrant and instead relied on the investigative alert which the defense argued allowed them to "avoid constitutional protections and the court procedures." Defendant further argued that these actions violated the fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution as well as article I, section 6, of the Illinois Constitution. The trial court denied the motion to suppress the incriminating statements and found him guilty of criminal sexual assault in a bench trial. On appeal, the appellate court determined that, while the evidence was sufficient to convict, the traffic stop did violate the fourth amendment to the U.S. Constitution because it was unlawfully prolonged. The appellate court also found that the Illinois Constitution provides greater protections than the fourth

amendment and the motion to suppress should have been granted. The Court also determined that the State bore the burden of showing that the stop was not unlawfully prolonged and failed to meet that burden. The Court affirmed the reversal of defendant's conviction on these narrow grounds and remanded for a new trial, but vacated the portions of the appellate opinion related to limited lockstep analysis and investigatory alerts.

PEOPLE V. PALMER, 2021 IL 125621 (APRIL 15, 2021)

At issue in this case is whether the legislature intended section 2-702(g)(3) of the Code of Civil Procedure (Code) (735 ILCS 5/2-702 (g)(3) (West 2018)) to require a petitioner seeking a certificate of innocence to prove that he or she was innocent of the offense only as it was originally charged or innocent of every conceivable theory of criminal liability for that offense. The petitioner was found guilty of first-degree murder in 1998. In 2010 and 2014, the petitioner filed motions for forensic testing of previously untested evidence under section 116-3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 (725 ILCS 116-3 (West 2010)) and in both instances the petitioner's DNA was not found on the victim or evidence. Following a postconviction petition that sought a new forensic evidence in 2016, the circuit court ultimately vacated petitioner's conviction and

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

sentence after the State conceded that the new evidence warranted a new trial. The circuit court also entered an order that vacated and dismissed all charges against the petitioner. The petitioner filed an amended petition in 2018 seeking a certificate of innocence pursuant to section 2-702 of the Code. The circuit court denied the amended petition, rejecting the contention that the State was limited to arguing that the petitioner was guilty of first-degree murder as charged in his criminal trial, and the appellate court affirmed. The Supreme Court, however, concluded that subsection (g)(3) of the Code requires a petitioner to prove innocence only of the offense as it was charged in the underlying criminal proceeding. The Court therefore reversed the judgments of the appellate court and circuit court and remanded the cause to the circuit court with directions to issue the petitioner a certificate of innocence.

COOKE V. THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS ET AL., 2021 IL 125386 (MAY 20, 2021)

At issue in this case is a complaint against the Committee for Frank J. Mautino (Committee) filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections (Board). Cooke alleged that, in violation of the Election Code (Code), the Committee had filed inadequate expenditure reports and made expenditures that did not comply with section 9-8.10 of the Code (10 ILCS 5/9-8.10 (West 2014)). The Board held that the Committee willfully violated its order to amend its expenditure reports and imposed a \$5,000

fine against the Committee. Cooke appealed because the Board did not reach the merits of his complaint, namely, whether the Committee violated sections 9-8.10(a)(2) and 9-8.10(a)(9)(2) of the Code. The appellate court remanded the cause to the Board with directions to reach the merits and on remand the Board deadlocked in a 4-to-4 vote on both issues and found that Cooke had not met his burden in establishing violations of either section. Cooke appealed again and the appellate court reversed the Board's findings that Cooke had not met his burden in establishing violations of the sections. The Committee filed a petition for leave to appeal. The Supreme Court found that in making expenditures for gas and repairs for vehicles it neither owned nor leased, the Committee violated section 9-8.10(a)(9), but affirmed the Board's decision to decline to find a violation of section 9-8.10(a)(2). The Court remanded the cause to the Board for a determination of whether the Committee's violation thereof was knowing pursuant to section 9-8.10(b) of the Code.

PALOS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL V. HUMANA INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., 2021 IL 126008 (MAY 20, 2021)

At issue in this case is whether the "test the waters" doctrine constitutes a valid basis on which to deny a party's motion for substitution of judge as of right under section 2-1001(a)(2) of the Code of Civil Procedure (Code) (735 ILCS 5/2-1001 (a)(2) (West 2016)). In 2013, Palos Community Hospital alleged that it sustained roughly \$20 million in damages as

a result of Humana underpaying for medical services that Palos provided to members of its health insurance plans. Humana moved to dismiss the amended complaint under section 2-619.1 of the Code, arguing that Palos failed to state a claim for either common-law or constructive fraud because its complaint did not satisfy the strict requirements for pleading fraud and that Palos' breach of contract claim was time-barred. The trial court granted Humana's motion to dismiss the complaint with prejudice and Palos moved the court to reconsider. The trial court partially granted Palos' motion to reconsider and reinstated Palos' claim for breach of contract in 2014. Following the appointment of a retired judge as discovery master, Palos filed a motion in 2017 for substitution of a judge, citing section 2-1001(a)(2) of the Code. The trial court denied Palos' motion for substitution of judge as a matter of right and stated that a substitution motion can be denied when the party "had an opportunity to test the waters and form an opinion as to the court's disposition of an issue." In 2018, the jurors in the trial court found in favor of Humana. Among other post-trial motions, Palos filed a motion challenging the court's denial of its request for substitution of judge. The appellate court affirmed the trial court. The Supreme Court reversed the appellate court, holding that the "test the waters" doctrine is incompatible with the text of section 2-1001(a)(2) and that the trial court erred in denying Palos' motion for substitution of judge as of right because its motion satisfied the statutory criteria. The cause was remanded to the trial court with directions to vacate all

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

orders entered by the court after April 20, 2017, for further proceedings.

VALERIO ET AL. V. MOORE LANDSCAPES, LLC, 2021 IL 126139 (MAY 20, 2021)

Defendant was accused of violating section 11 of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (Act) (820 ILCS 130/11 (West 2018)) by failing to pay plaintiffs the prevailing rate of wages pursuant to its contract with the Chicago Park District. Plaintiffs sought backpay, statutory punitive damages, prejudgment interest, costs, and attorney fees for landscaping work. At issue is whether section 11 of the Act affords laborers a right of action against a contractor where the laborers were not paid a prevailing wage rate even though the contracts provided that the contractor “shall pay all persons employed by [it] prevailing wages where applicable.” The circuit court granted the defendant’s motion to dismiss, concluding that plaintiffs may not pursue a claim for damages pursuant to section 11 of the Act because the contracts contained no stipulation to pay the prevailing wage rate. The plaintiffs appealed and the appellate court reversed and remanded, finding that the circuit court erred in dismissing plaintiffs’ complaint and that the circuit court’s interpretation of section 11 improperly limited the right of action of any laborer, worker, or mechanic who had been denied a prevailing wage rate for his work on a public works project covered by the Act. The Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the appellate court and affirmed the judgment of the circuit court, concluding that by including the conditional

language “when applicable” in the contracts, the Chicago Park District and defendant did not clearly stipulate that defendant’s payment of prevailing wage rates was applicable to plaintiffs’ landscaping work.

WALKER ET AL. V. CHASTEEN, 2021 IL 126086 (JUNE 17, 2021)

At issue in this case is the constitutionality of section 15-1504.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Code) (735 ILCS 5/15-1504.1 (West 2012)), as well as sections 7.30 and 7.31 of the Illinois Housing Development Act (Act) (20 ILCS 3805/7.30, 7.31 (West 2012)), which involve a \$50 filing fee for a pair of residential mortgage foreclosure cases and programs funded by the fee. Plaintiff filed mortgage foreclosure complaints in Will County in 2012 and had to pay a \$50 “add on” filing fee under section 15-1504.1 of the Code. Plaintiff filed a class action complaint against the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Will County, challenging the constitutionality of section 15-1504.1. The trial court granted partial summary judgment in favor of the plaintiff, declaring the statute unconstitutional on its face. The Supreme Court in 2015 reversed and remanded the case, holding that circuit court clerks did not fall within the state constitutional provision prohibiting fee officers in the judicial system but did not address the other constitutional claims raised by plaintiff. Following remand, the plaintiffs’ counsel amended their complaints to add an additional named party and the plaintiffs filed a second amended complaint. The second amended complaint

asserted a putative class action against the circuit court clerks and sought, inter alia, a permanent injunction prohibiting enforcement of the statutes at issue and return of monies collected. The defendants maintained that the statutes are constitutional, and the parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment. The trial court determined that these statutes violate the free access, due process, equal protection, and uniformity clauses of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and entered a permanent injunction enjoining the circuit courts from enforcing and following the statutes at issue as they are currently enacted but stayed enforcement of the injunction to provide the Supreme Court an opportunity to review the case. The Attorney General, on behalf of the State of Illinois and the Cook and Will County circuit clerks, filed separate direct appeals which were consolidated. The Supreme Court affirmed the order of the circuit court, concluding that the statutes violate the free access clause because the \$50 fee unreasonably interferes with foreclosure litigants’ access to the courts, and remanded the case for further proceedings.

ROBERTS ET AL. V. ALEXANDRIA TRANSPORTATION, INC. ET AL., 2021 IL 126249 (JUNE 17, 2021)

Plaintiff filed a complaint for negligence under Illinois law in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois following an accident involving a tractor-trailer colliding with the plaintiff’s car. Defendants, Alexandria Transportation (Alex Parties),

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

subsequently filed a third-party complaint for contribution against several third-party defendants: Edwards-Kamalduski, LLC (E-K) the general contractor for the road construction project, and Safety International, LLC (Safety), the subcontractor E-K retained to manage (some disputed aspect of) the construction site's worker safety program. Defendants alleged that if they are liable to plaintiffs in negligence for the crash then the third-party defendants are also liable as joint tortfeasors because they failed to keep the construction site safe for travel. E-K settled with the plaintiffs for \$50,000 and Alex Parties settled with the plaintiffs, for \$1.85 million, leaving a jury trial for the Alex Parties' contribution claim against Safety, which had not settled with the plaintiffs. The district court ordered that Safety would pay Alex Parties only what the jury determined was Safety's portion of fault and that the Alex Parties would remain liable for E-K's entire share along with its own. The jury ultimately found E-K 75% liable, Alex Parties 15% liable, and Safety 10% liable, leaving Alex Parties accountable for 90% of the accident liability. Alex Parties filed a post-trial motion to alter the judgment and asked the court to revisit its determination of the reallocation issue. This motion was denied. Alex Parties filed an appeal, and the appellate court asked the Supreme Court to certify the question of "whether the obligation of a settling party is uncollectable pursuant to the Illinois Joint Tortfeasor Contribution Act" (Contribution Act) (740 ILCS 100/3 (West 2018)). The Court answered the question in the negative, determining that it would be inequitable to

require Safety to pay more than its pro rata share under the circumstances pursuant to the Contribution Act.

MUNICIPAL TRUST & SAVINGS BANK V. MORIARTY, 2021 IL 126290 (JUNE 17, 2021)

At issue in this case is the proper construction of section 2-202 of the Code of Civil Procedure (Code) (735 ILCS 5/2-202 (West 2016)) and whether a licensed or registered private detective may serve process in Cook County without special appointment in a case filed outside of Cook County. Plaintiff filed a complaint for mortgage foreclosure against the defendant in 2016 in Kankakee County, where the mortgaged commercial properties are located. An employee of the Diligent Detective Agency, Ltd., served the defendant in Cook County at Rush Hospital. Defendant never filed an answer to the complaint and in January 2017 the circuit court entered a judgment for foreclosure and sale. The circuit court found that the defendant was personally served with process and was in default by failing to answer the complaint or otherwise appear. A sheriff's sale was held on the property, and the plaintiff was the successful bidder and filed a motion for confirmation of the foreclosure sale. In July 2017, the defendant filed his appearance pro se and stated that he had not been aware of the sale, explaining that he did not receive notice. The circuit court granted the plaintiff's motion for confirmation, ruling that the plaintiff complied with the procedures necessary to obtain a confirmation of the foreclosure sale

and had no obligation to give the defendant notice of the public sale. The defendant filed a section 2-1401 petition arguing that the circuit court was without personal jurisdiction to enter the default judgment in the foreclosure proceeding and asserted that under section 2-202 of the Code, a private process server cannot serve process on a defendant in Cook County without first being appointed by the circuit court. The circuit court denied the defendant's petition and found that the detective was not required to be specially appointed under section 2-202 of the Code. The appellate court affirmed, holding that the circuit court had personal jurisdiction over the defendant to enter the default judgment of foreclosure and that under section 2-202 a private detective may serve process without special appointment anywhere in the state so long as the summons was issued from a county other than Cook County. The Supreme Court reversed the circuit and appellate courts, finding that for a private detective to serve process on a defendant in Cook County he or she must be appointed by the court and that the detective in this instance did not meet the requirement of section 2-202 of the Code. The cause was remanded to the circuit court for further proceedings.

PEOPLE V. DORSEY, 2021 IL 123010 (JULY 29, 2021)

At issue in this case is whether a good-conduct credit is relevant to the determination of what constitutes a de facto life sentence for a juvenile offender for purposes of applying the

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

principles enunciated in *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012). Defendant in this case was convicted of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted first degree murder as a 14-year-old for a 1996 shooting at a takeout restaurant where one teen was killed and two more teens were severely injured. At the sentencing hearing, the presentence investigation described the defendant as a good student who had a tumultuous childhood and joined a gang at age 13, while the prosecution sought a “more severe sentence” given the disregard for life in the shooting. The trial court sentenced defendant to consecutive terms of 40 years for the first-degree murder and 18 years each for the attempted first-degree murder of the two injured victims, a 76-year term of imprisonment. The defendant appealed, arguing that the sentence was excessive because the trial court failed to adequately consider his age and rehabilitative potential. The appellate court concluded that the trial court had properly considered the relevant factors to the sentence and had not abused its discretion in imposing it. In the ensuing years, the defendant filed several appeals under section 2-1401 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/2-1401 (West 2000)), which were all denied. In 2014, the defendant filed a petition for leave to file a successive petition for postconviction relief, along with the petition itself, which raised a claim that defendant’s aggregate sentence violated the eighth amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Miller*. Defendant argued that while his sentence was not a life sentence and would

see him released from prison at the age of 53, it still constituted a de facto life sentence and such a lengthy sentence imposed on a juvenile is sufficient to trigger *Miller*-type protections. The circuit court denied the petition for leave to file a successive postconviction petition, finding both of defendant’s claims to be frivolous. On appeal, the appellate court rejected the defendant’s argument and affirmed the circuit court’s denial of leave to file the successive postconviction petition. The Supreme Court allowed the defendant’s petition for leave to appeal and affirmed the judgment of the appellate court which had affirmed the decision of the trial court to deny defendant’s motion for leave to file a successive postconviction petition due to his failure to satisfy the cause and-prejudice test.

EVANS, JR. V. THE COOK COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY ET AL., 2021 IL 125513 (SEPTEMBER 2, 2021)

Petitioner, who has been convicted of several felonies, applied to the Illinois State Police (ISP) for a Firearm Owner’s Identification (FOID) card. The application was denied and the ISP’s letter explaining the decision stated that he was ineligible because of his felony convictions. Petitioner filed a petition for review with the Cook County circuit court, which was objected to by the Cook County State’s Attorney. The circuit court agreed with the State’s Attorney that federal law barred the petitioner from obtaining a FOID card and that he had not met his burden of showing that issuing him a FOID card would not be contrary

to the public interest. The appellate court affirmed but disagreed with the circuit court that issuing petitioner a FOID card would be contrary to the public interest. The appellate court held that the petitioner was barred from obtaining a FOID card because federal law prohibited him from possessing a firearm and that the petitioner was caught in a “statutory loop” between state and federal law that prohibited him from obtaining a FOID card. The Supreme Court disagreed with the appellate court regarding the “statutory loop” but determined that the petitioner failed to meet his burden of establishing to the circuit court’s satisfaction that granting him relief would not be contrary to the public interest. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court’s judgment and held that the trial court did not abuse its discretion.

HAAGE V. ZAVALA ET AL., 2021 IL 125918 (SEPTEMBER 23, 2021)

This case involved two automobile personal injury actions by plaintiffs who moved for entry of a qualified protective order (QPO) pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (Pub. L. No. 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936 (1996)) and its implementing regulations (45 C.F.R. pts. 160, 164 (2018)) (Privacy Rule). Plaintiffs proposed QPOs would allow protected health information (PHI) to be released, but subject to the following restrictions: nonlitigation use or disclosure of PHI is prohibited, and PHI must be returned or destroyed at the conclusion of the litigation. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

Company (State Farm), the liability insurer for the named defendants, intervened in each lawsuit and sought entry of its own protective order, which expressly allowed insurance companies to use, disclose, and maintain PHI for purposes beyond the litigation and exempted insurers from the “return or destroy” requirement. In both cases, the circuit court granted the plaintiffs’ motions, entered their QPOs, and denied State Farm’s motions. State Farm filed an interlocutory appeal in each case. The appellate court consolidated the two cases and affirmed the circuit court. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court, holding that the trial courts did not abuse their discretion in entering the QPOs pursuant to HIPAA and the Privacy Rule, and remanded the cases to the trial court for further proceedings.

PEOPLE V. MCCAIVITT, 2021 IL 125550 (OCTOBER 21, 2021)

Defendant was a Peoria police officer against whom the State Police obtained warrants to seize and search a personal computer for evidence of two unrelated incidents: aggravated criminal sexual assault and unauthorized video filming of women using his bathroom. Defendant was acquitted of the alleged sexual assault in March 2014 and following the verdict the defense counsel orally requested the return of defendant’s personal property. Counsel specifically mentioned “collector guns” but did not ask for the computer. A motion by the defendant to have his property returned was never fully resolved, and defendant’s computer was

not returned. Following the acquittal, the Peoria Police Department initiated a formal investigation of defendant. The Peoria Police Department acquired and searched a copy of the computer’s hard drive (the EnCase file), uncovering evidence of the unauthorized video recording as well as child pornography, which was not mentioned in the warrant. Based on what was found on the EnCase file, the defendant was charged with two counts of unauthorized video recording and several counts of child pornography. Defendant filed a motion to suppress and argued that the detective for the case had no authority to obtain and examine the contents of the EnCase file in March 2014 and that it was a warrantless search in violation of the fourth amendment because no criminal charges were pending at the time of the search. The detective testified at the suppression hearing that as soon as he discovered the two pornographic images, he stopped to apply for a search warrant and said he did not believe he needed a search warrant or other court order to obtain and search the EnCase file since the defendant’s computer was previously seized “[p]ursuant to a lawful search warrant.” The trial court denied the defendant’s motion to suppress. A jury found the defendant guilty of 15 of the 17 counts of child pornography and his posttrial motions were denied. The trial court sentenced the defendant on one count of Class 3 felony to five years’ imprisonment followed by mandatory supervised release of three years to life and imposed a sentence of 48 months’ probation on the remaining 10 counts,

to be served consecutively to the prison sentence. On appeal, the defendant argued that the trial court erroneously denied his motion to suppress, stating that the “search of his EnCase file eight months after the initial warrant was issued and following his acquittal of sexual assault charges violated his fourth amendment rights.” The appellate court agreed and reversed the convictions, concluding that although the EnCase file was created lawfully the detective had violated defendant’s right to privacy. The appellate court held that once the defendant’s sexual assault trial ended the police were not entitled to retain any portion of the EnCase file and found that the initial search following the sexual assault acquittal violated the defendant’s fourth amendment rights. The State petitioned for leave to appeal. The Supreme Court affirmed the circuit court’s order denying the defendant’s motion to suppress the images and reversed the appellate court, holding that the search was reasonable under the fourth amendment and resulted in the lawful discovery of child pornography in plain view.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER, CONTINUED

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY V. THE ILLINOIS EDUCATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD ET AL., 2021 IL 126082 (OCTOBER 21, 2021)

The Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (Board) found that Western Illinois University (University) committed an unfair labor practice in violation of section 14(a)(8) and, derivatively, section 14(a)(1) of the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act (Act) (115 ILCS 5/14 (a)(1), (8) (West 2016)), which governs labor relations between public education employers and employees, by failing to comply with two arbitration awards. Ten professors who were laid off by the University were represented by their union when they filed grievances. The Union alleged that the University had not followed the proper procedures outlined in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for layoffs. An arbitrator found that the University violated the CBA and awarded arbitration, stating that he “shall retain jurisdiction for no less than 90 days to resolve any issues regarding the implementation of this Award,” and the arbitrator later issued a supplemental award. The University argued that the arbitrator lacked statutory authority to determine compliance because the Board was vested with exclusive primary jurisdiction over such review by the Act. The Board concluded that the University had violated section 14(a)(8) and section 14(a)(1) of the Act by refusing to comply with both arbitration awards. The Board also determined that the arbitrator did not exceed his statutory authority. The appellate court held that the

arbitrator did exceed his statutory authority in issuing the supplemental award because the exercise of remedy jurisdiction to review a party’s compliance conflicted with the Board’s exclusive primary jurisdiction over compliance review. The appellate court vacated the Board’s opinion and remanded with directions that the Board consider all evidence relevant to whether the University complied with the original award. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court, determining that the arbitrator exceeded his authority by conducting a review in contravention of the Act and as a result the supplemental award he issued is not binding and the University did not commit an unfair labor practice in refusing to comply with it. The Court remanded the cause to the Board with directions to consider all evidence relevant to whether the University violated section 14(a)(8) of the Act by refusing to comply with the original award.

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COURT AND CHAIRPERSONS DURING 2021

Appellate Court

Administrative Committee

Appellate Justice Bertina E. Lampkin, *Chair*
Justice Michael J. Burke, *liaison officer*

Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission

David F. Rolewick, Esq., *Chair*
Timothy L. Bertschy, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice Rita B. Garman, *liaison officer*
Review Board – R. Michael Henderson, Esq.,
Chair
Timothy Eaton, Esq., *Vice-Chair*

Board of Admissions to the Bar

Andrew M. Raucci, Esq., *President*
Suzanne J. Schmitz, Esq., *Vice President*
Chief Justice Anne M. Burke, *liaison officer*

Committee on Character and Fitness

Eileen L. Furey, Esq., *Chair*
Terrence P. LeFevour, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
(First Judicial District)
John J. Pcolinski, Jr., Esq., *Chair*
Peter Baroni, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
(Second Judicial District)
Robert H. Alvine, Esq., *Chair*
Kelly A. Tebo, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
(Third Judicial District)
A. Clay Cox, Esq., *Chair*
Elizabeth A. Robb, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
(Fourth Judicial District)
David L. Piercy, Esq., *Chair*
Beth A. Bauer, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
(Fifth Judicial District)
Justice David K. Overstreet, *liaison officer*

Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases

Adrian E. Harless, Esq., *Chair*
Sandra J. Wortham, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Professor Nancy S. Marder, *Reporter*
Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., *liaison officer*

Committee on Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases

Robert A. Loeb, Esq., *Chair*
Judge Daniel B. Shanes, *Vice-Chair*
Professor John F. Erbes, *Professor-Reporter*
Justice Robert L. Carter, *liaison officer*

Committee on Professional Responsibility

Michael A. Scodro, Esq., *Chair*
Karen K. DeGrand, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Chief Justice Anne M. Burke, *liaison officer*

Judicial Mentor Committee

Judge Michael A. Kramer, *Status Member*
(Chairperson of Chief Judges' Conference)
Judge David L. Vancil, *Status Member*
(Vice -Chairperson of Chief Judges' Conference)
Justice Mary Jane Theis, *liaison officer*

Legislative Committee of the Supreme Court of Illinois

Judge James P. Flannery, Jr., *Chair*
Appellate Justice Mary K. O'Brien, *Vice-Chair*
Justice Mary Jane Theis, *liaison officer*

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COURT AND CHAIRPERSONS DURING 2021

Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board

Michele M. Jochner, Esq., *Chair*
Patrick B. Mathis, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., *liaison officer*

Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning

Appellate Justice Kathryn E. Zenoff, *Chair*
Justice Michael J. Burke, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts

Judge Andrea M. Buford, *Chair*
Justice Rita B. Garman, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice

Appellate Justice Mary K. Rochford, *Chair*
Justice David K. Overstreet, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism

Martin V. Sinclair, *Chair*
James L. DeAno, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice Mary Jane Theis, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Committee on Equality

Judge Joseph G. McGraw, *Chair*
Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Committee on Illinois Evidence

Warren D. Wolfson, Esq., *Chair*
Heidi Ladd, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., *liaison officer*

Supreme Court e-Business Policy Advisory Board

Judge David Hylla, *Chair*
Justice David K. Overstreet, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court e-Business Technical Committee

Judge Val Gunnarsson, *Chair*

Supreme Court Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee

Appellate Justice Barry Vaughan, *Chair*
Justice Michael J. Burke, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Language Access Advisory Board

Supreme Court Probation Policy Advisory Board

Avik Das, Esq., *Chair*
Lisa Aust, Esq., *Vice-Chair*

Supreme Court Rules Committee

James A. Hansen, Esq., *Chair*
Michael I. Rothstein, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Professor Keith H. Beyler, Esq., *Reporter*
Justice Rita B. Garman, *liaison officer*

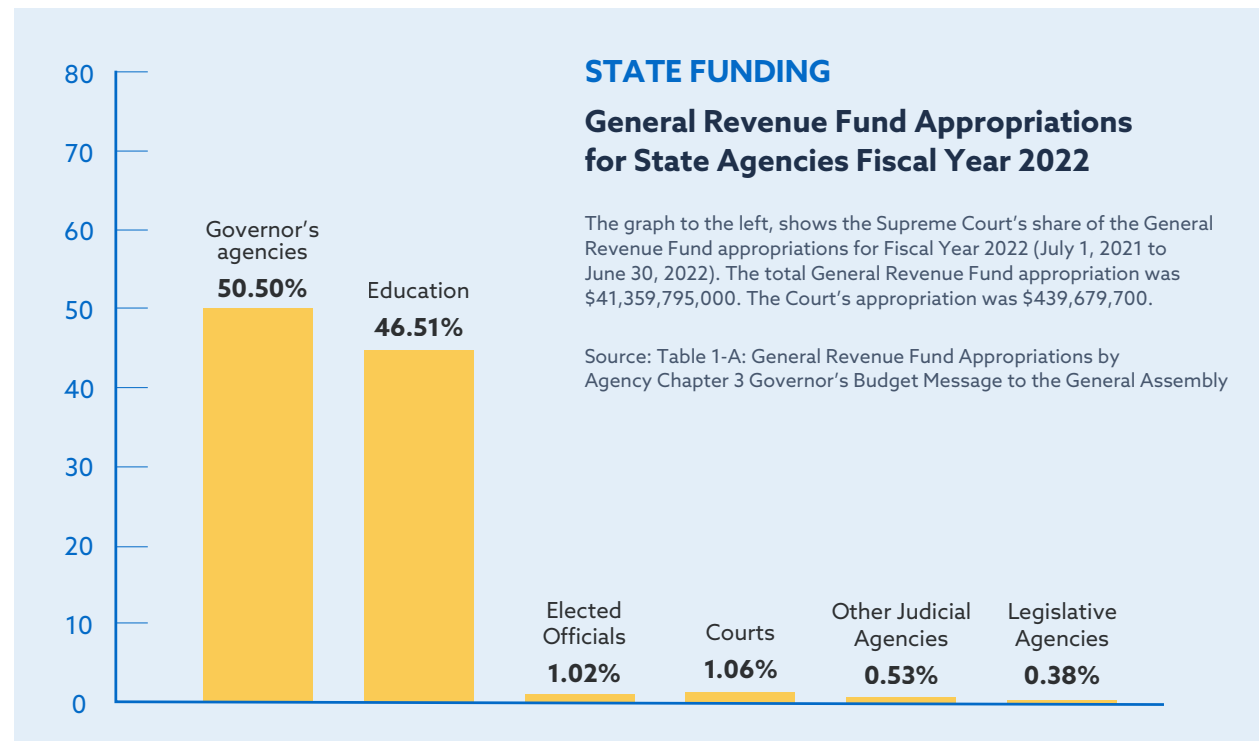
STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE COURTS

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, 2021, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$250,442; appellate court judges, \$235,713; circuit court judges, \$216,297; and associate judges, \$205,482. 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 2021, the arbitration filing and rejection fees collected amounted to \$2,977,076.05.

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 fund local and state government programs, as summarized on the next page.



STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE COURTS, CONTINUED

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 2021, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 3,167, assisted by a total of 120 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$211,133,994 in 2021.

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 2021 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.

\$20,593,841

Court Automation Fund: is used to establish and maintain automated systems for keeping court records.

\$21,568,157

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

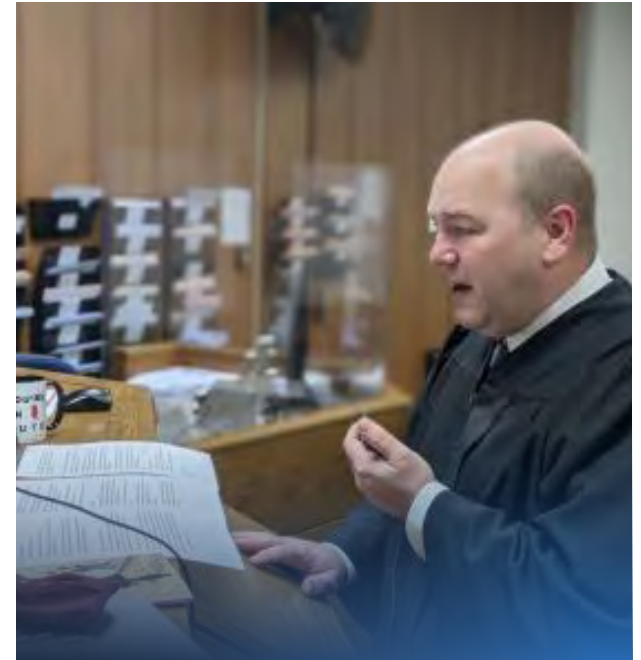
\$7,495,687

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

\$5,463,749

Circuit Court Clerk Operations and Administrative Fund: is used to offset costs incurred for collection and disbursement of State and local funds.

\$7,243,347



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 FY20, there were 7 claims due and payable, totaling \$4,616.07.

STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE COURTS, CONTINUED



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 2021 by circuit clerks are listed below:

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

\$967,746,279

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

\$3,953,870

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.

\$5,336,369

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

\$1,777,937

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

\$6,144,680

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

\$2,092,749

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.

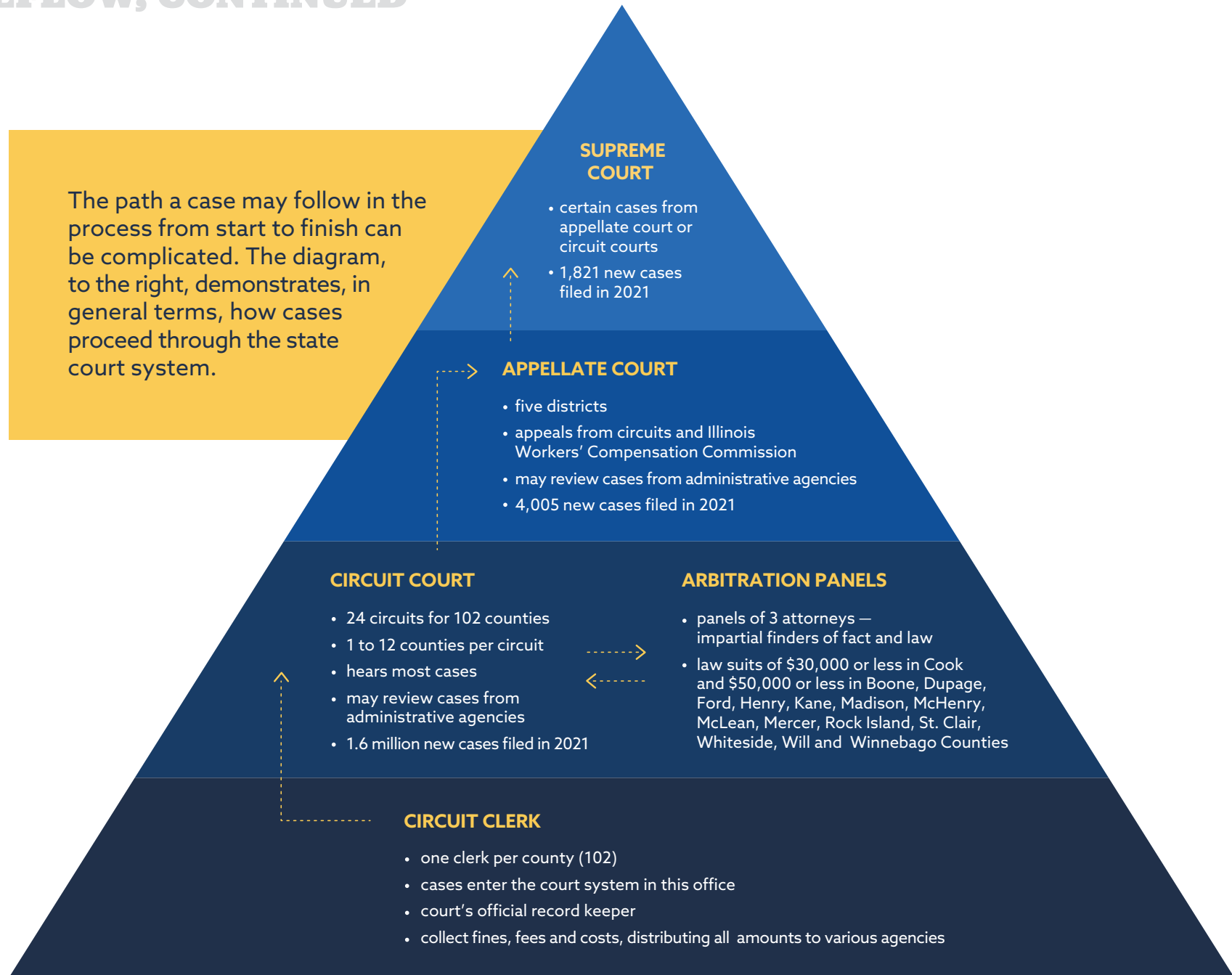


By 1962, Cook County alone had 208 courts: circuit court, superior court, family court, criminal court, probate court, county court, twenty-four city, village, town and municipal courts, seventy-five justice of the peace courts, and 103 police magistrate courts. In addition, there were seven supreme 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.

CASEFLOW, CONTINUED

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 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 as listed to 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 their 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, 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.

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.

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.

JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATION, CONTINUED

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.



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.

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 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
2021	2,193	2,232	1,812	2,879
2020	1,966	2,608	1,693	2,841
2019	3,239	3,219	2,546	2,884
2018	3,113	3,378	2,563	2,787
2017	3,410	3,490	2,812	2,810

TOTAL CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	FILED	DISPOSED
2021	4,005	5,111
2020	3,659	5,449
2019	5,785	6,103
2018	5,676	6,165
2017	6,222	6,300

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

*Totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

APPELLATE COURTS, CONTINUED

APPELLATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Annual Meeting: The Appellate Court held its annual meeting on October 14, 2021 with the Honorable Mary W. McDade (Third District Appellate Court) serving as the Honorary Chair of the 2021 Annual Meeting. Fifty-four appellate justices were in attendance. The Honorable Nathaniel Howse, Jr. (First District Appellate Court) was elected to serve as Honorary Chair of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court to be held April 4, 2022.

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 2021 Conference was held on October 14-19, 2021 virtually via Zoom. Fifty-four justices were in attendance along with 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. Approximately 189 participants attended over the four days of the Conference. The Conference address was delivered by the Honorable Michael J. Burke, Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Conference topics included presentations on *Disparities in the Justice System*, *Trending Issues and District Splits in Civil and Criminal Law*, *Three Stages of Post-Conviction Hearings*,



Judging and Emotions, Statutory Construction, Procedural & Substantive Due Process, Conflicts of Interest & Social Media, COVID & Speedy Trial Implications, and Legal Opinion Writing. The Honorable Bertina E. Lampkin (First District Appellate Court) serves as Chair of the Appellate Court Administrative Committee. The Honorable Michael J. Burke, Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois, serves as the Supreme Court liaison to the Appellate Court Administrative Committee.

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIRST DISTRICT — CHICAGO MICHAEL A. BILANDIC BUILDING

(Formerly State of Illinois 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: 5,173,146

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED**	CIVIL DISPOSED**	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2021	926	974	709	1,239
2020	843	1,225	559	1,238
2019	1,637	1,740	976	1,357
2018	1,644	1,853	1,054	1,290
2017	1,844	1,953	1,320	1,445

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2021	2,812
2020	3,362
2019	4,388
2018	4,777
2017	5,160

*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

DIVISION I

Michael B. Hyman, Presiding Judge
 Mary Ellen Coghlan*
 Aurelia Pucinski*
 Carl A. Walker*

DIVISION IV

Jesse G. Reyes, Presiding Judge
 Bertina E. Lampkin
 Leroy K. Martin, Jr.*
 Mary K. Rochford

DIVISION II

James G. Fitzgerald Smith, Presiding Judge
 Cynthia Y. Cobbs*
 Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr.
 Terrence J. Lavin

DIVISION V

Mathias W. Delort, Presiding Judge
 Maureen E. Connors
 Joy V. Cunningham
 Thomas E. Hoffman

DIVISION VI

Daniel J. Pierce, Presiding Judge
 Sheldon A. Harris
 Sharon O. Johnson
 Mary L. Mikva*

DIVISION III

Robert E. Gordon, Presiding Judge
 Eileen O'Neill Burke
 David W. Ellis
 Margaret S. McBride

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

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT



SECOND DISTRICT — ELGIN

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

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

District Population: 3,201,549

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED**	CIVIL DISPOSED**	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2021	418	424	330	528
2020	409	510	331	500
2019	599	558	484	453
2018	546	522	441	461
2017	524	512	445	393

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2021	680
2020	871
2019	1,070
2018	1,165
2017	1,167

*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

48 IL COURTS ANNUAL REPORT 2021



*Circuit judge assigned to appellate court

23rd (DeKalb & Kendall)

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT



THIRD DISTRICT — OTTAWA

1004 Columbus Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 434-5050

Matthew G. Butler, *Clerk*
Zachary A. Hooper, *Research Director*

District Population: 1,770,124

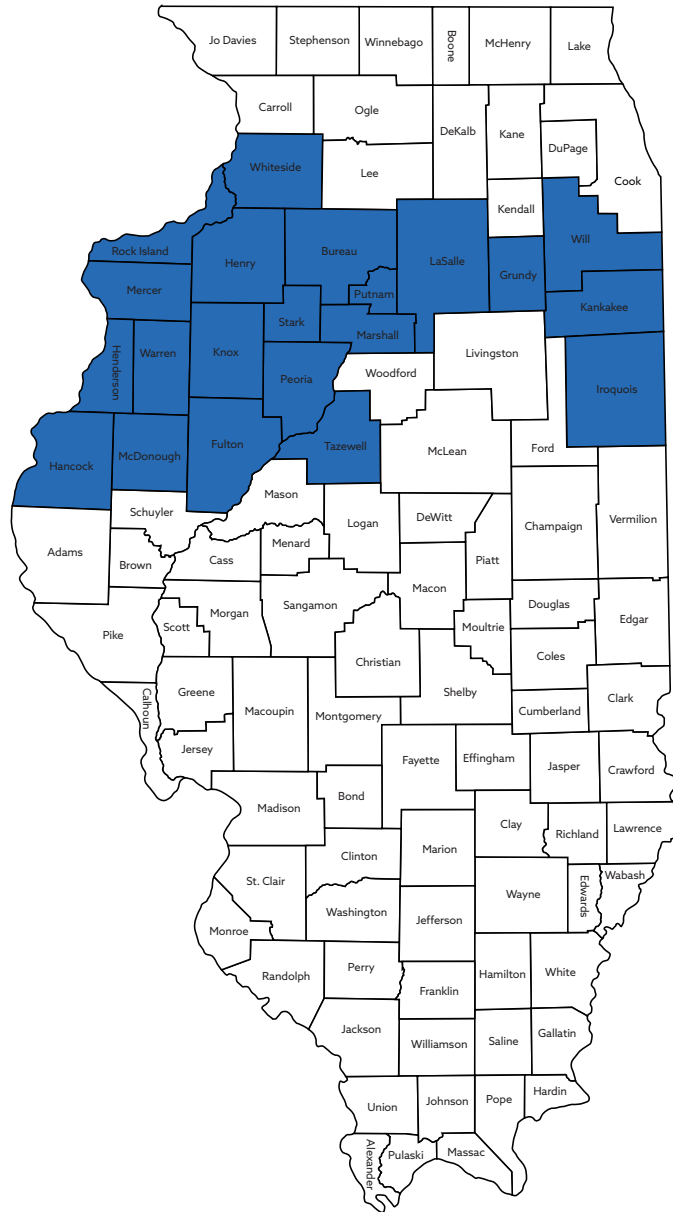
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED**	CIVIL DISPOSED**	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2021	302	311	253	353
2020	235	338	273	351
2019	361	301	385	383
2018	386	386	377	377
2017	425	374	363	354

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2021	664
2020	787
2019	968
2018	902
2017	938

*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

Mary W. McDade, Presiding Judge
 Eugene P. Daugherty
 John L. Hauptman
 William E. Holdridge
 Tom M. Lytton
 Mary K. O'Brien
 Daniel L. Schmidt

CIRCUITS

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)

FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FOURTH DISTRICT — SPRINGFIELD

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

Carla L. Bender, *Clerk*
Cynthia Laudeman, *Research Director*

District Population: 1,252,447

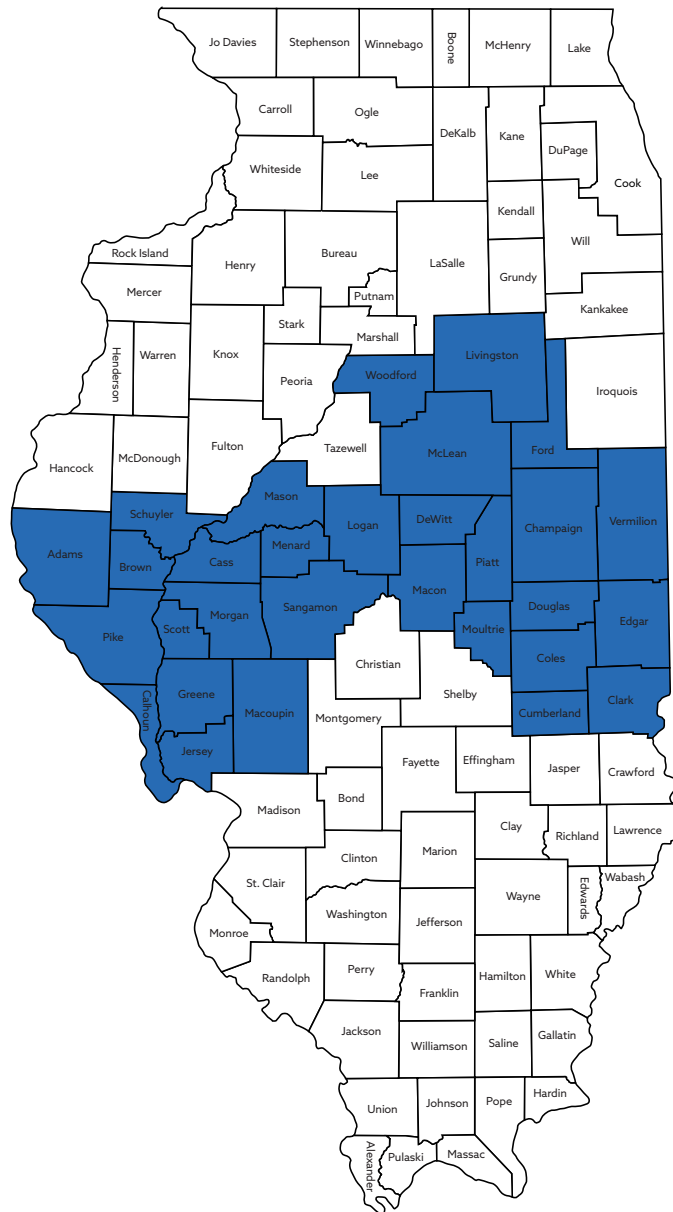
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED**	CIVIL DISPOSED**	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2021	313	311	379	491
2020	257	303	346	535
2019	371	315	471	472
2018	314	338	470	418
2017	363	374	471	455

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2021	571
2020	692
2019	959
2018	924
2017	931

*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

James A. Knecht, Presiding Judge
 Peter C. Cavanagh
 Craig H. DeArmond*
 Thomas M. Harris
 Robert J. Steigmann
 John W. Turner
 Lisa Holder White

CIRCUITS

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)

**Circuit judge assigned to appellate court*

FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIFTH DISTRICT — MT. VERNON

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

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

District Population: 1,258,862

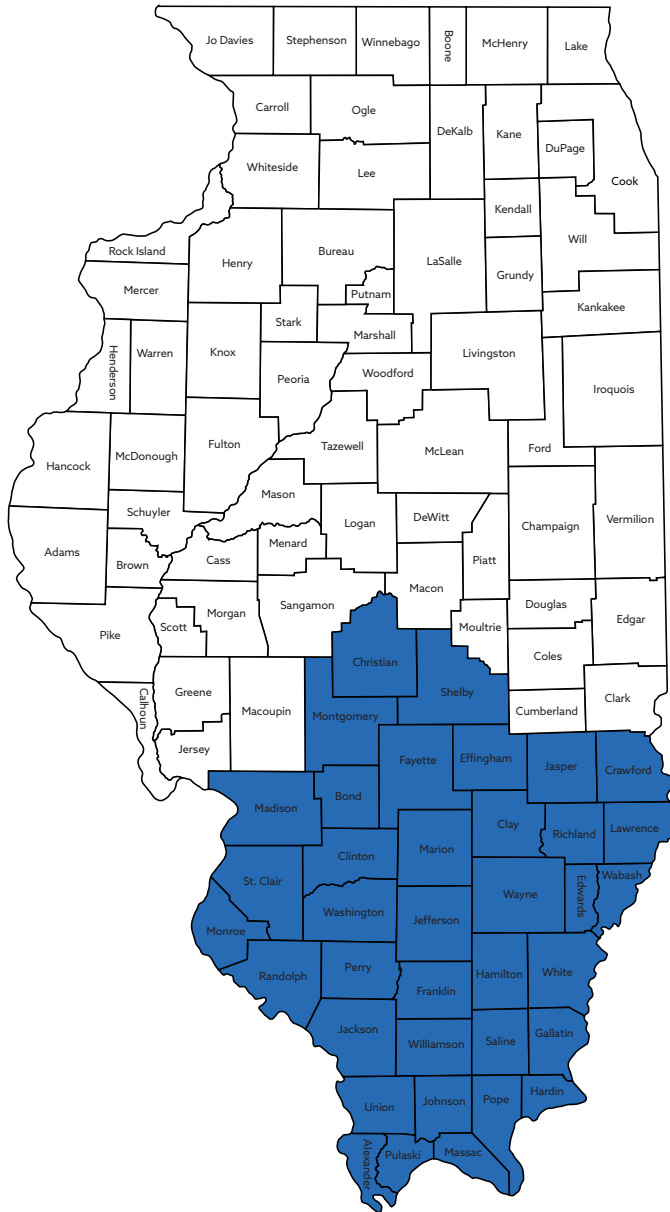
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED**	CIVIL DISPOSED**	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2021	234	212	141	268
2020	222	232	184	217
2019	271	305	230	219
2018	271	249	221	241
2017	254	277	213	163

**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2021	554
2020	660
2019	704
2018	726
2017	720

*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Worker's Compensation Commission Cases

FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

Mark M. Boie, Presiding Judge

John B. Barberis, Jr.

Judy Lynn Cates

James R. Moore

Barry L. Vaughan*

Thomas M. Welch

Milton S. Wharton

CIRCUITS

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)

**Circuit judge assigned to appellate court*

CIRCUIT COURTS

In Illinois, the circuit court is the court of original jurisdiction. There are twenty-four judicial 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,

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF JUDGES IN THE CIRCUIT COURT: CIRCUIT JUDGES AND ASSOCIATE JUDGES

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.

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Conference of Chief Circuit Judges is comprised of the chief circuit judges from the twenty-four judicial circuits. Since May 2019, Judge Michael D. Kramer, Chief Judge of the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit, served as Chair of the Conference, with Judge David Vancil, Jr. of the 9th Judicial Circuit serving as Vice-Chair since December, 2019. 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 2021 include the Article V Committee; Associate Judge Vacancy Committee; Children and Families Committee; Criminal Procedure Committee; Evidence-Based Pretrial Practices Committee; Executive Committee and the Orientation 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 along with the reconstituted Pandemic Benchbook Revision Committee.

These committees of the Conference considered topics in several areas. Early in the year, the Orientation Committee, along with staff from the Administrative Office, met with and provided six new Chief Circuit Judges with information and tools to help guide them in their new administrative role. The Associate Judge Vacancy Committee began

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



gathering information related to individual circuit's associate judge application and qualification process. The Criminal Procedure Committee provided input on various orders and processes, including revising financial and Department of Corrections sentencing orders. The Evidence-based Pretrial Practices Committee worked closely with the Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices, including the massive undertaking of eliminating cash bail under the auspices of the Pretrial Fairness Act. Throughout the year, the Committee to Review Standardized Forms sought review of many draft standardized court forms developed for use by the

Commission on Access to Justice designed to aid self-represented litigants navigating the justice system. The Article V Committee continued to review and recommend amendments to several Article V rules as a result of new legislation and to conform to the Criminal and Traffic Assessment Act. The committee also proposed piloting a program placing a QR code on citations in order to improve the resolution process for self-represented litigants and Circuit Clerks. The Executive Committee worked to review policies, issues and budget related to Court Reporting Services; while the Children and Families Committee studied the effects of

policy changes at the state level and their effect on Juvenile Abuse and Neglect case filings, including inviting Director Smith from DCFS to present to the Conference. The Technology Committee was involved during 2021 with developing Minimum Courtroom Technology Standards, which were developed in conjunction with the Judicial Conference. Lastly, the Pandemic Benchbook Revision Committee was busy developing, gathering and analyzing a Lessons Learned from the Pandemic survey from stakeholders around Illinois. This was in addition to the committee's review and revision of the existing Pandemic Benchbook first adopted in 2009. All of the many Conference committees continued to monitor and analyze new legislation, Supreme Court rules and policies relevant to the committee's focus and the administration of justice in the trial courts as it is introduced and adopted.

Presentations to the Conference: While meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued at the beginning of 2021, in June, the Conference began to meet in person once more. In the interest of furthering the knowledge and skills of its members, the Conference hosted a variety of guest presentations focused on judicial and trial court issues. For example, Dr. Diana Uchiyama with the Lawyer Assistance Program met with the Conference, as well as Dr. Marc Smith, Director of the Department of Children and Family Services. Judge Jorge Ortiz presented

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

multiple times to apprise the Chief Judges of the work being done toward the Weighted Caseload Study, Justice Barry Vaughan, Chair and member Scott Szala of the Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee presented on proposed rule changes affecting the Chief Judges, and AOIC staff presented to the Conference subjects ranging from probation data collection to the recent updates in the Manual on Recordkeeping.

Additionally, the Conference of Chief Judges was fortunate to participate throughout 2021 with the COVID-19 Leadership Meetings and special councils with the Supreme Court that have been invaluable at maintaining lines of communication during the crisis, and passing along information helpful in keeping the courts operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.



SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

One of the challenges courts across the country are facing is the number of self-represented litigants (SRLs).

As the courts continue to encounter SRLs, courts are responding by improving processes and establishing innovative programs that enhance access to justice, like the Illinois Court Help statewide hotline.

Starting in 2015, the AOIC began seeking court case data from Circuit Courts on the number of SRL individuals involved in trial-level civil cases. In 2017, the AOIC changed the measure and asked for the number of cases involving SRLs rather than the total number of SRL individuals. These measures were taken at two points: the filing of a new case and the disposition of a case. In 2019, the AOIC started collecting SRL data in civil cases in the Appellate Courts at the time of filing a Notice of Appeal. We understand during the life of any case, at any level, that some litigants may become represented by counsel, while others' counsel may withdraw.

There are barriers to receiving accurate data at the Circuit Court level. For instance, individual counties submit reports based off their particular Case Management System and there is a lack of uniformity in how they

respectively classify cases. Multiple counties across Illinois reported having zero or very few SRLs involved in cases, yet anecdotally report seeing SRLs frequently. We believe the overall data is inaccurate and Circuit Court numbers should be read as the minimum number of SRL-involved cases across the state.

In the Circuit Courts:

- » Approximately 72,000 new cases were filed by SRLs, most commonly in Orders of Protection and Family/Dissolution cases.
- » Over 90,000 cases were closed with at least one SRL appearing, most frequently in Orders of Protection, Family/Dissolution, and Miscellaneous Remedy.
 - » Both the plaintiff and defendant were self-represented in about 23,000 cases, most frequently in Order of Protection and Family/Dissolution cases.

In the Appellate Courts:

- » 37% of civil appeals filed statewide are filed by SRLs.



COURT INTERPRETER AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT LITIGANTS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

TOTAL INTERPRETATIONS: **44,917**

% OF INT BY REG. OR CERT. INTERPRETER: **52.86%**

% OF INT BY PHONE OR VIDEO: **60.4%**

COURT TYPE SUMMARY

CRIMINAL COURT: **36,033**

CIVIL COURT: **6,492**

ANNEXED COURT: **2,392**

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect courts across the state of Illinois.

With many hearings still using remote services, the total number of interpretations across the state was still lower than previous years, but higher than 2020. In 2021, the number of interpretations was 44,917 compared to 38,155 in 2020. 52.86% of interpretations utilized certified or registered interpreters from the AOIC registry.

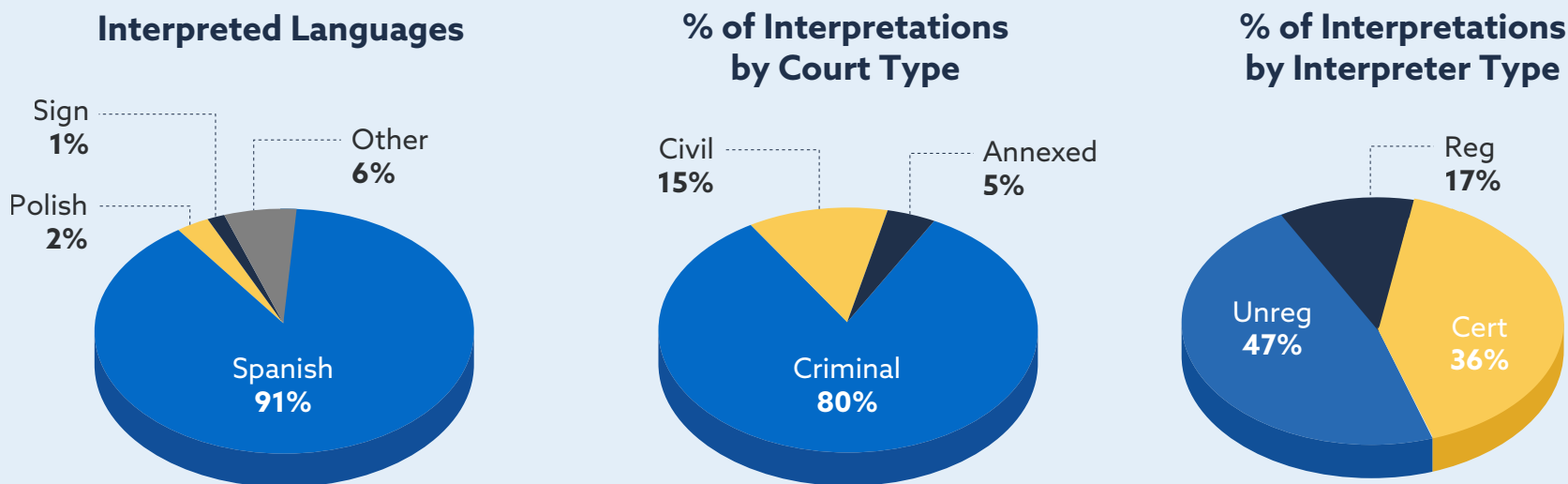
CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
STATEWIDE	52.86%
1ST	26%
2ND	NA
3RD	NA
4TH	94%
5TH	17%
6TH	3%
7TH	53%
8TH	NA
9TH	4%
10TH	42%
11TH	16%
12TH	2%

CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
13TH	83%
14TH	0%
15TH	78%
16TH	88%
17TH	27%
18TH	96%
19TH	98%
20TH	11%
21ST	1%
22ND	74%
23RD	NA
COOK	15%

COURT INTERPRETER AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT LITIGANTS, CONTINUED

80% of all interpretations were criminal and 15% civil proceedings. Spanish was the most common language need at 92%. Polish was the second most requested language at 2%. Smaller languages in Cook County, such as Mandarin, Arabic, French, Vietnamese, Ukrainian and Russian were also prevalent. American Sign Language was also noted in the interpretation statistics as well.

FIGURE 1



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, firearms restraining 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

Traffic (excluding parking tickets), **Conservation, Ordinance, and Civil Law**.

JUVENILE

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



2021 CIRCUIT COURT CASE CHART

CATEGORY	CASELOAD STATISTICS	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
CIVIL	Filed	325,057	313,852	413,418	415,504	444,288
	Reinstated	17,946	17,318	16,005	17,822	26,534
	Disposed	333,993	293,220	407,763	422,038	441,541
	Clearance Rate %	97.4%	88.5%	95.0%	97.4%	93.8%
	End Pending	663,560	659,561	628,456	627,913	614,766
DOMESTIC RELATIONS	Filed	113,835	103,804	120,461	121,789	130,368
	Reinstated	1,175	918	1,220	1,242	1,237
	Disposed	104,703	91,878	120,859	117,327	114,893
	Clearance Rate %	91.0%	87.7%	99.3%	95.4%	87.3%
	End Pending	133,104	120,316	108,806	127,839	123,282
JUVENILE	Filed	14,271	16,594	19,019	17,500	19,029
	Reinstated	142	127	176	226	201
	Disposed	13,777	12,092	15,562	16,377	19,716
	Clearance Rate %	95.6%	72.3%	81.1%	92.4%	102.5%
	End Pending	55,837	56,196	52,850	49,863	49,835
CRIMINAL	Filed	200,631	206,100	272,657	263,118	263,513
	Reinstated	5,509	4,614	6,192	5,821	5,209
	Disposed	213,389	151,883	219,116	210,900	216,452
	Clearance Rate %	103.5%	72.1%	78.6%	78.4%	80.5%
	End Pending	442,568	448,061	393,608	327,951	270,178
QUASI-CRIMINAL	Filed	981,034	983,433	1,493,472	1,586,864	1,671,314
	Reinstated	16,970	11,206	17,449	17,892	17,161
	Disposed	962,979	818,665	1,335,810	1,401,695	1,581,583
	Clearance Rate %	96.5%	82.3%	88.4%	87.3%	93.7%
	End Pending	1,994,218	1,963,023	1,814,882	1,639,547	1,433,934
STATEWIDE TOTALS	Filed	1,634,828	1,623,783	2,319,027	2,404,775	2,528,512
	Reinstated	41,742	34,183	41,042	43,003	50,342
	Disposed	1,628,841	1,367,738	2,099,110	2,168,337	2,374,185
	Clearance Rate %	97.2%	82.5%	89.2%	88.6%	92.1%
	End Pending	3,289,287	3,247,157	2,998,602	2,773,113	2,491,995

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT



RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER

Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 5,173,146

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	522,927	15,453	462,760	86.0%	1,880,868
2020	551,051	14,408	418,903	74.1%	1,804,492
2019	853,539	12,223	671,821	77.6%	1,657,936
2018	940,753	13,581	737,147	77.2%	1,463,995
2017	1,004,474	22,332	885,632	86.3%	1,105,634

CIRCUIT JUDGES

Martin S. Agran
Julie B. Aimen
James L. Allegretti
John M. Allegretti
Erin H. Antonietti
Edward A. Arce
Laura Ayala-Gonzalez
Robert Balanoff
Michael B. Barrett
Ronald F. Bartkowicz
Steven James Bernstein
Samuel J. Betar III
Tiana S. Blakely
Carl B. Boyd
Daniel P. Brennan
Tommy Brewer
Janet Adams Brosnahan
Mary M. Brosnahan
Andrea M. Buford
Kathleen Marie Burke
Charles Burns
Krista D. Butler
Thomas J. Byrne
John P. Callahan, Jr.
Thomas J. Carroll
Joel Chupack
Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza
Michael R. Clancy
Bonita Coleman
H. Yvonne Coleman
Ann Finley Collins
Ann Collins-Dole
Alison C. Conlon
Donna L. Cooper
Patrick K. Coughlin
Kevin P. Cunningham

John J. Curry, Jr.
Thomas M. Cushing
Paula M. Daleo
Colleen Daly
Adrienne E. Davis
Eulalia De La Rosa
Daniel R. Degnan
Kent Delgado
Anna Helen Demacopoulos
Maire A. Dempsey
Sondra N. Denmark
Grace G. Dickler
Jamie G. Dickler
Thomas M. Donnelly
Daniel P. Duffy
John H. Ehrlich
Jerry A. Esrig
Patricia M. Fallon
Peter A. Felice
Rossana P. Fernandez
Kathy M. Flanagan
James P. Flannery, Jr.
Ellen L. Flannigan
Michael A. Forti
Beatriz Frausto-Sandoval
Carolyn J. Gallagher
Daniel J. Gallagher
John T. Gallagher
William Gamboney
Celia Gamrath
Vincent M. Gaughan
Aleksandra Gillespie
Megan E. Goldish
Peter Gonzalez
Ieshia Gray
Jonathan C. Green
Susanne M. Groebner
Ruth I. Gudino
Catherine M. Haberkorn

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, CONTINUED

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

CIRCUIT JUDGES CONT.

Jack J. Hagerty
Sophia H. Hall
Maureen O. Hannon
Anjana M.J. Hansen
Edward Harmening
Robert F. Harris
Toya T. Harvey
Elizabeth M. Hayes
Sheree D. Henry
William H. Hooks
Cecilia A. Horan
Carol M. Howard
Arnette R. Hubbard
Lindsay Huge
Cheyrl D. Ingram
Doretha Renee Jackson
Moshe Jacobius
Lionel Jean-Baptiste
Daryl J. Jones
Linzey D. Jones
Preston Jones, Jr.
Paul A. Karkula
Martin C. Kelley
Thomas J. Kelley
David L. Kelly
Kerry M. Kennedy
Susan L. Kennedy
Diana L. Kenworthy
Edward J. King
John P. Kirby
Steven A. Kozicki
Daniel J. Kubasiak
Geary W. Kull
Robert D. Kuzas
Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
Kathaleen T. Lanahan
Casandra Lewis
Kimberly D. Lewis
Matthew Link
Anna M. Loftus
Pamela E. Loza

Stuart F. Lubin
John F. Lyke, Jr.
Freddrenna M. Lyle
Thomas V. Lyons II
Aicha MacCarthy
Terence F. MacCarthy
John J. Mahoney
Daniel B. Malone
Daniel E. Maloney
Edward M. Maloney
Marcia Maras
Lisa A. Marino
Jill Cerone Marisie
Diann K. Marsalek
Maritza Martinez
Mary C. Marubio
Celestia L. Mays
Kelly Marie McCarthy
Terrence J. McGuire
Thomas F. McGuire
Michael B. McHale
Mary K. McHugh Ranke
Scott McKenna
Clare E. McWilliams
Regina A. Mescall
Pamela McLean Meyerson
Bridget A. Mitchell
Raymond W. Mitchell
Teresa Molina
Caroline K. Moreland
Michael T. Mullen
John G. Mulroe
James P. Murphy
Lorraine Mary Murphy
Patrick T. Murphy
Thomas W. Murphy
Timothy P. Murphy
Leonard Murray
David R. Navarro
Lewis Nixon
Brendan A. O'Brien
Eileen M. O'Connor

Kevin M. O'Donnell
James N. O'Hara
Karen L. O'Malley
Shannon P. O'Malley
Ramon Ocasio III
Erika Orr
Susana L. Ortiz
Jesse Outlaw
Nichole C. Patton
Paul S. Pavlus
Linda Perez
Marian E. Perkins
James P. Pieczonka
Tracie Porter
Joan E. Powell
Patrick J. Powers
Lorna E. Propes
Jill R. Quinn
Marguerite Quinn
Clare J. Quish
Willaim B. Raines
Cynthia Ramirez
Sandra G. Ramos
Pamela Reaves-Harris
Erica L. Reddick
Eve M. Reilly
Judith Rice
Kristal R. Rivers
Mary Colleen Roberts
Abbey Fishman Romanek
Joanne F. Rosado
Diana Rosario
Dominique C. Ross
James Ryan
Kristyna C. Ryan
Stephanie D. Saltouros
Beatriz Santiago
Regina A. Scannicchio
Andrea M. Schleifer
Catherine A. Schneider
Debra A. Seaton
James A. Shapiro

Patricia O'Brien Sheahan
Diane M. Shelley
Patrick J. Sherlock
Athanasios S. Sianis
Rosa M. Silva
Maura Slattery Boyle
Levander Smith, Jr.
Tiesha Smith
Irwin J. Solganick
Patricia S. Spratt
Christ S. Stacey
Ketki Shroff Steffen
Laura M. Sullivan
William B. Sullivan
Carrie H. Sussman
Shelley Sutker-Dermer
Sanjay T. Tailor
Perla Tirado
Michael P. Toomin
Gerardo Tristan, Jr.
Kathryn M. Vahey
Rena M. Van Tine
James M. Varga
Raul Vega
Kenneth J. Wadas
Debra B. Walker
Ursula Walowski
Elizabeth A. Walsh
Tyria B. Walton
Maureen Ward Kirby
Steven G. Watkins
Lynn Weaver-Boyle
Andrea M. Webber
Arthur Wesley Willis
John W. Wilson
Thaddeus L. Wilson
Gregory J. Wojkowski
Jeanne Marie Wrenn
E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.
Maura McMahon Zeller

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Carmen K. Aguilar
Gregory E. Ahern, Jr.
Maryan Ahmad
Amee Alonso
Marina E. Ammendola
Frank J. Andreou
Sophia Atcherson
David B. Atkins
Callie L. Baird
Patrice Ball-Reed
Fredrick H. Bates
Charles S. Beach, II
Laura Bertucci Smith
Shauna L. Boliker
Darron E. Bowden
Karen J. Bowes
William Stewart Boyd
Lloyd J. Brooks
Elizabeth M. Budzinski
Joel Buikema
Clarence Lewis Burch
Anthony J. Calabrese
George L. Canellis, Jr.
Matthew J. Carmody
John Thomas Carr
James R. Carroll
Joseph M. Cataldo
Peggy Chiampas
Vincenzo Chimera
Jeffery G. Chrones
Joseph M. Claps
LaGuina Clay-Herron
Gerald V. Cleary
Jean M. Coccozza
Neil H. Cohen
Thomas J. Condon
Barbara Dawkins
James Thomas Derico Jr.
Israel A. Desierto
Geraldine A. D'Souza

Melissa A. Durkin
Sabra L. Ebersole
Lauren Gottainer Edidin
Carl L. Evans Jr.
William N. Fahy
John A. Fairman
Brian K. Flaherty
Lawrence E. Flood
Barbara N. Flores
Mohammed M. Ghouse
Mitchell B. Goldberg
Jean M. Golden
Renee Goldfarb
Sanju Oomen Green
Joel L. Greenblatt
Maxwell Griffin, Jr.
James E. Hanlon, Jr.
David E. Haracz
Donald R. Havis
Patrick J. Heneghan
Thomas J. Hennelly
Jasmine V. Hernandez
Stanley L. Hill
Michael Hogan, Jr.
Michael J. Hood
John L. Huff
Bridget J. Hughes
Matthew W. Jannusch
Martha-Victoria Jimenez
Lana C. Johnson
Moira Susan Johnson
Robert W. Johnson
Timothy J. Joyce
Michael J. Kane
Demetrios G. Kottaras
Maria Kuriakos Ciesil
Kevin T. Lee
James B. Linn
Diana E. Lopez
Mark J. Lopez
Myron F. Mackoff
Alfredo Maldonado

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, CONTINUED

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

ASSOCIATE JUDGES CONT.

Kerrie Maloney Laytin
Ellen Beth Mandeltort
Marc W. Martin
Patricia Mendoza
Stephanie K. Miller
Mary R. Minella
Lisette Catherine Mojica
Martin P. Moltz
Thomas A. Morrissey
Thomas R. Mulroy
James B. Novy
James M. Obbish
Margaret M. Ogarek
Michael Otto
Donald D. Panarese, Jr.
Joseph D. Panarese
Luciano Panici
Linda J. Pael
Alfred J. Paul
Jennifer J. Payne
Angela M. Petrone
Diane M. Pezanoski
Michele M. Pitman
Carolyn Quinn
Jeanne M. Reynolds
Elizabeth Loreda Rivera
Edward Robles
Lori Rosen
Geri Pinzur Rosenberg
Steven Jay Rosenblum
Stanley J. Sacks
Bernard J. Sarley
Eric M. Saucedo

Naomi H. Schuster
Joseph M. Sconza
Robert E. Senechalle, Jr.
Rouhy J. Shalabi
Terrence V. Sharkey
John A. Simon
David A. Skryd
Theresa M. Smith Conyers
James E. Snyder
Ankur Srivastara
Patrick T. Stanton
Domenica A. Stephenson
Pamela J. Stratigakis
Marita C. Sullivan
Anthony C. Swanagan
Sybil C. Thomas
Daniel O. Tiernan
Daniel A. Trevino
Mary S. Trew
Andreana A. Turano
Gregory P. Vazquez
Peter J. Vilkelis
Steven M. Wagner
Allen P. Walker
Neera Walsh
Jeffrey L. Warnick
James A. Wright
William Yu



CIRCUIT COURTS



Massac County Courthouse

FIRST CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

Williamson County Courthouse
William J. Thurston, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 200,984

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

Photo provided by Michele Longworth



Lawrence County Courthouse

SECOND CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

Jefferson County Justice Center
Thomas Joseph Tedeschi, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 187,414

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

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock



Bond County Courthouse

THIRD CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

Madison County Courthouse
William A. Mudge, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 281,086

Bond (Greenville)
Madison (Edwardsville)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGES

Steven M. J. Bast, Timothy D. Denny, Jeffery B. Farris, Carey C. Gill, Amanda B. Gott, W. Charles Grace, Stephen Green, Joseph Leberman, Walden E. Morris, John W. Sanders, Christy Solverson, Sarah K. Tripp, Cord Z. Wittig

FIRST CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Ralph R. Bloodworth, III, Tyler R. Edmonds, Michael A. Fiello, Jeffrey A. Goffinet, Todd D. Lambert, Michelle M. Schafer, Ella York

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	58,790	67	60,361	102.6%	140,810
2020	57,583	61	55,443	96.2%	144,443
2019	66,348	78	60,045	90.4%	143,585
2018	64,166	98	59,587	92.7%	139,311
2017	69,558	73	64,359	92.4%	136,396

SECOND CIRCUIT JUDGES

Eric J. Dirnbeck, Thomas J. Foster, Matthew J. Hartrich, Robert M. Hopkins, William C. Hudson, Michael J. Molt, Melissa Morgan, Michael J. Valentine, Ray W. Vaughn, Tara R. Wallace, T. Scott Webb, Christopher L. Weber, Johannah B. Weber

SECOND CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Jerry Crisel, Thomas J. Dinn, III, Kimbara G. Harrell, Sonja L. Ligon, Evan Lee Owens, Mark L. Shaner

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	26,511	38	25,948	97.7%	51,034
2020	24,997	30	21,798	87.1%	51,563
2019	32,422	41	29,669	91.4%	49,262
2018	33,217	20	31,141	93.7%	47,311
2017	37,140	16	35,034	94.3%	46,119

THIRD CIRCUIT JUDGES

Christopher Bauer, Amy Maher, Kyle Napp, Dennis R. Ruth, Sarah D. Smith, Amy Sholar, Stephen A. Stobbs, Christopher P. Threlkeld

THIRD CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Philip B. Alfeld, Veronica Armouti, Thomas W. Chapman, Angela P. Donohoo, Ronald J. Foster, Jr., Janet Heflin, Anthony R. Jumper, Martin J. Mengarelli, Ronald S. Motil, Neil T. Schroeder, Maureen D. Schuette, Ronald R. Slemer

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	54,306	640	59,138	107.6%	82,124
2020	49,030	500	41,286	83.4%	85,661
2019	74,228	530	69,087	92.4%	77,481
2018	75,198	490	71,693	94.7%	74,133
2017	76,042	431	72,569	94.9%	68,929

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Jasper County Courthouse

FOURTH CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

Fayette County Courthouse
Douglas L. Jarman, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 234,868

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

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock



Edgar County Courthouse

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

Coles County Courthouse
Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 162,025

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

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock



Champaign County Courthouse

SIXTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

Moultrie County Courthouse
Randall B. Rosenbaum, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 359,360

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

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

FOURTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Amanda S. Ade-Harlow, Stanley Brandmeyer, Daniel E. Hartigan, Michael D. McHaney, Bradley T. Paisley, Joel J.C. Powless, James L. Roberts, M. Don Sheafor, Jr., Martin W. Siemer, Mark W. Stedelin

FOURTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Jeffrey A. DeLong, Douglas C. Gruenke, Jeffrey Marc Kelly, Allan F. Lolie, Jr., Christopher W. Matoush, Kevin S. Parker, Ericka Sanders

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	36,325	66	35,210	96.8%	43,137
2020	33,958	76	28,236	83.0%	42,577
2019	43,908	171	42,398	96.2%	37,346
2018	43,562	304	43,905	100.1%	37,585
2017	50,135	112	47,513	94.6%	38,729

FIFTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Mark E. Bovard, Jonathan T. Braden, Nancy S. Fahey, Steven L. Garst, James R. Glenn, Charles C. Hall, Brien J. O'Brien, Tracy W. Resch, Mitchell Shick, Matthew L. Sullivan

FIFTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Brian L. Bower, Derek Girton, Mark S. Goodwin, David W. Lewis, Charles D. Mockbee IV, Karen E. Wall

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	26,466	181	22,698	85.2%	72,206
2020	24,365	117	16,972	69.3%	68,777
2019	30,808	66	24,396	79.0%	62,428
2018	29,544	2	23,339	79.0%	58,072
2017	31,085	5	26,192	84.2%	53,884

SIXTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Jason M. Bohm, Robert C. Bollinger, Richard L. Broch, Jr., Benjamin W. Dyer, Jeffrey S. Geisler, Thomas E. Griffith, Jr., Karle E. Koritz, Sam A. Limentato, Thomas E. Little, Dana Rhoades, Jeremy Richey, Ramona M. Sullivan, Roger B. Webber

SIXTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Anna M. Benjamin, Phoebe S. Bowers, James R. Coryell, Adam M. Dill, Rodney S. Forbes, Ronda D. Holliman, Erick F. Hubbard, Matthew D. Lee, Brett Olmstead, Lindsey A. Shelton, Gary Webber

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	45,488	649	42,258	91.6%	59,709
2020	48,692	840	43,719	88.3%	74,799
2019	63,786	1,331	60,536	93.0%	72,253
2018	63,725	1,258	60,869	93.7%	68,945
2017	59,498	1,143	56,122	92.5%	66,578

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Morgan County Courthouse

SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

Sangamon County Complex
John M. Madonia, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 309,758

Greene (Carrollton)
Jersey (Jerseyville)
Macoupin (Carlinville)

Morgan (Jacksonville)
Sangamon (Springfield)
Scott (Winchester)



Brown County Courthouse

EIGHTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

Adams County Courthouse
John Frank McCartney, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 135,023

Adams (Quincy)
Brown (Mount Sterling)
Calhoun (Hardin)
Cass (Virginia)

Mason (Havana)
Menard (Petersburg)
Pike (Pittsfield)
Schuyler (Rushville)



McDonough County Courthouse

NINTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

McDonough County Courthouse
David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 149,536

Fulton (Lewistown)
Hancock (Carthage)
Henderson (Oquawka)

Knox (Galesburg)
McDonough (Macomb)
Warren (Monmouth)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Ryan M. Cadagin, David Cherry, Kenneth R. Deihl, Adam Giganti, Raylene Grischow, Allison Lorton, Gail L. Noll, Christopher Reif, Zachary Schmidt, April G. Troemper

SEVENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Jennifer M. Ascher, Rudolph M. Braud, Jr., Jack D. Davis II, Dwayne A. Gab, Colleen R. Lawless, Matthew J. Maurer, Joshua A. Meyer, Chris Perrin, Karen S. Tharp, Jeffery E. Tobin

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	58,440	22	78,388	134.1%	101,829
2020	56,985	12	60,599	106.3%	101,160
2019	71,635	51	83,092	115.9%	90,700
2018	75,641	51	88,113	116.4%	86,583
2017	77,151	32	82,957	107.5%	81,937

EIGHTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Robert Adrian, Michael L. Atterberry, Talmadge G. Brenner, Charles H. W. Burch, Ramon M. Escapa, Jerry J. Hooker, Amy C. Lannerd, Scott D. Larson, Alan D. Tucker, Timothy J. Wessel

EIGHTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Holly J. Henze, Roger B. Thomson, Kevin D. Tippey, Debra L. Wellborn, John C. Wooleyhan

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	21,669	38	22,236	102.4%	22,843
2020	21,427	36	19,488	90.8%	24,215
2019	27,492	24	26,024	94.6%	22,563
2018	28,509	23	27,396	96.0%	21,597
2017	28,676	10	27,457	95.7%	20,695

NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Bruce C. Beal, Heidi A. Benson, Raymond A. Cavanaugh, Rodney G. Clark, Andrew J. Doyle, Thomas B. Ewing, Richard H. Gambrell, William E. Poncin, James R. Standard

NINTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

James G. Baber, Nigel D. Graham, Curtis S. Lane, William A. Rasmussen

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	24,897	7	24,750	99.4%	29,640
2020	23,581	10	22,166	94.0%	28,092
2019	29,022	12	28,580	98.4%	26,465
2018	30,006	5	30,494	98.3%	26,043
2017	32,881	5	31,280	95.1%	25,605

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Stark County Courthouse

TENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Peoria County Courthouse

Katherine S. Gorman, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 332,368

Marshall (Lacon)

Peoria (Peoria)

Putnam (Hennepin)

Stark (Toulon)

Tazewell (Pekin)



Livingston County Courthouse

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

McLean County Law & Justice Center

Mark A. Fellheimer, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 286,281

Ford (Paxton)

Livingston (Pontiac)

Logan (Lincoln)

McLean (Bloomington)

Woodford (Eureka)



Will County Courthouse

TWELFTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Will County Courthouse

Daniel L. Kennedy, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 697,252

Will (Joliet)

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

TENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Paul E. Bauer, Christopher R. Doscotch, Bruce P. Fehrenbacher, Paul P. Gilfillan, Stephen Kouri, Kevin W. Lyons, James A. Mack, Michael D. Risinger, John P. Vespa

TENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Derek G. Asbury, David A. Brown, Daniel Cordis, Timothy Cusack, Sean W. Donahue, Mark E. Gilles, Frank W. Ierulli, Suzanne L. Patton, Albert L. Purham, Jr., Alicia N. Washington, Lisa Y. Wilson

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	45,420	317	41,522	90.8%	54,856
2020	45,985	395	39,542	85.3%	54,493
2019	61,704	519	60,447	97.1%	46,521
2018	59,119	289	58,334	98.2%	45,514
2017	68,134	46	65,671	96.3%	45,098

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Carla E. Barnes, Jennifer H. Bauknecht, J. Jason Chambers, John Casey Costigan, Scott Drazewski, Charles M. Feeney, III, Matthew J. Fitton, Rebecca S. Foley, Paul G. Lawrence, Jonathan C. Wright, William A. Yoder

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Scott J. Black, Sarah R. Duffy, Pablo Eves, Thomas W. Funk, John Brian Goldrick, Scott Kording, Amy L. McFarland, Michael Stroh, Robert M. Travers, William Gordon Workman

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	42,885	759	42,247	96.8%	37,943
2020	40,591	989	39,076	94.0%	38,882
2019	51,388	1,307	53,224	101.0%	39,908
2018	55,975	1,179	56,857	99.5%	41,689
2017	60,379	900	59,550	97.2%	42,597

TWELFTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

James Jeffrey Allen, John C. Anderson, Dinah J. Archambeault, Amy Bertani-Tomczak, David M. Carlson, Vincent F. Cornelius, David Garcia, Paula A. Gomora, Carmen Julia Goodman, Sarah-Marie F. Jones, Susan T. O'Leary, Barbara N. Petrungaro, Michael J. Powers, Daniel D. Rippy, Raymond E. Rossi

TWELFTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Brian Barrett, Matthew Bertani, Bennett J. Braun, Victoria R. Breslan, Edward A. Burmila, Jr., M. Thomas Carney, Jessica Colon-Sayre, Donald W. DeWilkins, Derek W. Ewanic, Chrystel L. Gavlin, Sherri Hale, Frederick V. Harvey, Elizabeth D. Hoskins Dow, Theodore J. Jarz, Victoria McKay Kennison, Cory D. Lund, Raymond A. Nash, Domenica A. Osterberger, John Pavich, Roger D. Rickmon, Arkadiusz Z. Smigielski, Kenneth L. Zelazo

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	106,375	3,601	111,324	101.2%	95,657
2020	95,532	3,137	89,476	90.7%	96,936
2019	103,251	3,892	131,007	97.7%	87,765
2018	122,330	3,654	125,755	99.8%	81,942
2017	126,660	3,757	129,993	99.7%	81,322

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



LaSalle County Courthouse

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

LaSalle County Courthouse
Howard C. Ryan, Jr., Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 194,837

Bureau (Princeton)
Grundy (Morris)
LaSalle (Ottawa)



Henry County Courthouse

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Rock Island County Courthouse
Frank Fuhr, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 262,703

Henry (Cambridge)
Mercer (Aledo)
Rock Island (Rock Island)
Whiteside (Morrison)



Ogle County Courthouse

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Ogle County Courthouse
Jacquelyn D. Ackert, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 167,156

Carroll (Mount Carroll)
Jo Daviess (Galena)
Lee (Dixon)
Ogle (Oregon)
Stephenson (Freeport)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Marc Bernabei, Christina M. Cantlin-VanWiggeren, Joseph P. Hettel, Troy D. Holland, Lance R. Peterson, Cynthia M. Raccuglia, Sheldon R. Sobol

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

James A. Andreoni, Scott M. Belt, Karen C. Eiten, Michael C. Jansz, Michelle Ann Vescogni

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	29,824	629	29,678	97.5%	22,243
2020	28,762	515	27,288	93.2%	22,171
2019	33,763	800	33,191	96.0%	20,355
2018	35,295	856	35,384	97.9%	19,375
2017	36,345	890	36,958	99.3%	19,055

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Peter Church, James G. Conway, Jr., Clarence M. Darrow, John L. McGehee, Dana McReynolds, Kathleen Mesich, Terence M. Patton, Carol Pentuic, Patricia A. Senneff, Stanley B. Steines, Linnea E. Thompson

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

James J. Cosby, Daniel Dalton, MW Durbin, Michelle S. Fitzsimmons, Derek L. Hancks, James F. Heuerman, Norma Kauzlarich, Theodore G. Kutsunis, Clayton R. Lee, Richard A. Zimmer

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	41,106	11	38,341	93.2%	63,606
2020	38,850	6	35,007	90.1%	62,014
2019	52,886	12	50,045	94.6%	60,406
2018	47,032	20	45,425	96.5%	60,520
2017	52,875	14	48,340	91.4%	60,956

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Michael P. Bald, James M. Hauser, John J. Kane, Douglas E. Lee, John B. Roe, IV, Kevin J. Ward

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Scott Brinkmeier, Theresa M. Friel Draper, John Hay, Matthew Klahn, Clayton L. Lindsey, David M. Olson, John C. Redington, Glenn R. Schorsch

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	27,435	6	27,763	101.2%	30,728
2020	27,356	16	24,386	89.1%	31,636
2019	34,403	14	32,875	95.5%	29,217
2018	35,058	4	33,605	95.8%	27,994
2017	37,405	1	35,264	94.3%	27,201

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Kane County Courthouse

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Kane County Judicial Center
Thomas Clinton Hull, III, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 515,588

Kane (Geneva)



Boone County Courthouse

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Winnebago County Courthouse
Eugene Doherty, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 336,278

Boone (Belvidere)
Winnebago (Rockford)



DuPage County Courthouse

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

DuPage County Courthouse
Kenneth L. Popejoy, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 924,885

DuPage (Wheaton)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

John A. Barsanti, Susan Clancy Boles, Kevin T. Busch, B. Camargo, René Cruz, John Dalton, Elizabeth Flood, Joseph M. Grady, M. Noland, John A. Noverini, Donald M. Tegeler, Robert K. Villa

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Reginald N. Campbell, Bradley P. David, Christine A. Downs, Keith A. Johnson, Kathryn Karayannis, David P. Kliment, Marmarie J. Kostelny, Salvatore LoPiccolo, Jr., Sandra T. Parga, William Parkhurst, Charles E. Petersen, Mark Pheanis, Divya K. Sarang, Todd B. Tarter, Alice C. Tracy, Julio Valdez, Julia A. Yetter

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	57,994	112	57,844	99.5%	102,422
2020	64,308	79	28,415	44.1%	102,258
2019	102,151	1,143	73,652	71.3%	66,286
2018	89,521	1,403	50,555	55.6%	118,521
2017	84,075	1,237	56,153	65.8%	78,152

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Joseph P. Bruscato, Lisa R. Fabiano, Gwyn Gulley, Janet R. Holmgren, John S. Lowry, Brendan A. Maher, Joseph G. McGraw, Curtis R. Tobin, III, Ronald J. White

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Stephen E. Balogh, Ronald A. Barch, Joseph J. Bruce, Jennifer J. Clifford, John T. Gibbons, Mary Linn Green, Donna R. Honzel, Francis M. Martinez, Philip J. Nicolosi, Steven L. Nordquist, Debra D. Schafer, Donald P. Shriver, Ryan Swift, Robert R. Wilt, John H. Young

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	56,575	138	58,440	103.0%	82,290
2020	49,704	152	50,615	101.5%	84,173
2019	71,288	291	70,210	98.1%	85,359
2018	74,839	283	74,367	99.0%	88,639
2017	77,380	362	77,983	100.3%	90,997

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Linda E. Davenport, Richard D. Felice, Paul M. Fullerton, Daniel P. Guerin, John Kinsella, Robert G. Kleeman, Margaret M. O'Connell, Monique O'Toole, Michael W. Reidy, Brian F. Telander, Ann Celine O'Hallaren Walsh, Bonnie M. Wheaton, K. Wilson

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Susan Alvarado, Louis B. Aranda, Kavita Athanikar, Craig Belford, Leah M. Bendik, Joseph T. Bugos, Neal W. Cerne, Bryan S. Chapman, Anthony V. Coco, Christine T. Cody, Brian J. Diamond, Joshua J. Dieden, Robert E. Douglas, Maureen R. Dunsing, Thomas A. Else, Michael W. Fleming, George A. Ford, Robert G. Gibson, Anne T. Hayes, Brian W. Jacobs, Angelo J. Kappas, Jeffrey S. MacKay, Paul A. Marchese, James F. McCluskey, Alexander F. McGimpsey, Timothy McJoynt, Robert A. Miller, James D. Orel, Demetrios N. Panoushis, Robert William Rohm, David E. Schwartz, Elizabeth W. Sexton, Kenton J. Skarin

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	129,010	12,594	156,719	110.7%	59,190
2020	118,433	7,447	103,904	82.5%	74,590
2019	178,304	10,819	190,204	100.6%	52,615
2018	179,328	11,696	192,933	101.0%	53,702
2017	186,033	11,316	195,655	99.1%	55,617

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Lake County Courthouse

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Lake County Courthouse
Diane E. Winter, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 711,239

Lake (Waukegan)



Washington County Courthouse

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

St. Clair County Building
Andrew J. Gleeson, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 354,510

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



Kankakee County Courthouse

TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Kankakee County Courthouse
Michael D. Kramer, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 133,428

Iroquois (Watseka)
Kankakee (Kankakee)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Christen L. Bishop, James Booras, Mitchell L. Hoffman, Mark L. Levitt, Reginald Mathews, Michael G. Nerheim, Jorge L. Ortiz, Victoria A. Rossetti, Joseph V. Salvi, Daniel B. Shanes, Marnie M. Slavin, Charles W. Smith, Patricia Sowinski Fix, Christopher Stride

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Luis A. Berrones, Michael B. Betar, David Brodsky, Rhonda K. Bruno, Janelle Christensen, Raymond Collins, Patricia L. Cornell, Stephen M. DeRue, Ari Fisz, Bolling W. Haxall, III, Daniel Jasica, Charles D. Johnson, Christopher M. Kennedy, D. Christopher Lombardo, Jacquelyn D. Melius, Christopher B. Morozin, Paul B. Novak, Veronica O'Malley, Theodore S. Potkonjak, Elizabeth M. Rochford, Helen S. Rozenberg, Stacey L. Seneczko, J. Simonian, George D. Strickland, Donna-Jo R. Vorderstrasse

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Richard A. Brown, James W. Campanella, Zina Renea Cruse, Daniel Emge, Robert Haida, Christopher E. Hitzemann, Christopher T. Kolker, L. Dominic Kujawa, John J. O'Gara, Heinz M. Rudolf, William D. Stiehl

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

S. Campbell, Thomas B. Cannady, William G. Clay IV, Patrick R. Foley, Julia R. Gomric, Eugene Gross, Kevin T. Hoerner, Julie K. Katz, Patricia H. Kievlan, Elaine L. LeChien, Alana I. Mejias, Tameeka Purchase, Jeffrey K. Watson

TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGES

Adrienne W. Albrecht, Kathy Bradshaw Elliott, Thomas W. Cunningham, William S. Dickenson, Lindsay Parkhurst, Michael Sabol

TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Kara M. Bartucci, Brenda L. Claudio, JoAnn Imani Drew, Nancy A. Nicholson, Scott Sliwinski

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	83,598	3,735	89,355	102.3%	37,937
2020	80,802	2,944	81,242	97.0%	40,047
2019	123,015	4,208	128,433	101.0%	37,538
2018	127,130	4,118	131,524	100.0%	38,743
2017	135,107	4,172	137,986	99.1%	39,016

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	51,806	277	56,202	107.9%	136,013
2020	54,805	449	51,028	92.4%	134,906
2019	76,113	735	74,471	96.9%	123,261
2018	75,783	590	75,229	98.5%	71,136
2017	79,397	300	83,722	105.1%	70,425

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	24,522	1	16,221	66.1%	43,569
2020	23,703	0	10,874	45.9%	35,343
2019	27,324	0	18,868	69.1%	72,666
2018	27,607	1	21,014	76.1%	64,429
2017	28,601	0	24,882	87.0%	58,605

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



McHenry County Courthouse

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

McHenry County Government Center

James S. Cowlin, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 311,122

McHenry (Woodstock)



DeKalb County Courthouse

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Kendall County Courthouse

Bradley J. Waller, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 235,281

DeKalb (Sycamore)

Kendall (Yorkville)

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT JUDGES

Michael J. Chmiel, Tiffany E. Davis, Michael W. Feetterer, Mark R. Gerhardt, David R. Gervais, Justin M. Hansen, Robert A. Wilbrandt, Jr.

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Joel D. Berg, Michael E. Coppedge, Kevin G. Costello, Mark R. Facchini, Christopher M. Harmon, Jeffrey L. Hirsch, Jennifer L. Johnson, Suzanne C. Mangiamele, Thomas A. Meyer, Mary H. Nader, Robert J. Zalud

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	41,509	1,628	44,990	104.3%	16,864
2020	40,176	1,566	39,096	93.7%	18,796
2019	54,357	2,069	57,598	102.1%	16,040
2018	58,229	2,050	60,156	99.8%	17,067
2017	55,913	1,964	58,214	100.6%	16,730

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT JUDGES

Melissa S. Barnhart, Marcy L. Buick, Thomas L. Doherty, Jody P. Gleason, Stephen L. Krentz, Robert P. Pilmer

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

John McAdams, Stephanie P. Klein, Philip G. Montgomery, Joseph C. Pedersen, Joseph R. Voiland

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
2021	20,950	773	24,448	112.5%	21,769
2020	23,107	398	19,179	81.6%	25,133
2019	28,892	706	29,237	98.8%	20,646
2018	32,208	1,028	33,515	100.8%	20,267
2017	33,568	1,224	34,699	99.7%	20,544

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The **AOIC Executive Office** is comprised of the Administrative Director, Deputy Director, Chief Legal Counsel, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator, and other legal and administrative staff. Under the Administrative Director's leadership, the Executive Office is responsible for reviewing, approving, coordinating, and guiding operations of the Administrative Office's 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 Boards, Commissions, Committees, Task Forces, and the Illinois Judicial Conference. Effective October 1, 2018, the Judicial Conference was reconstituted to focus on strategic planning for the judicial branch. Specifically, the Judicial Conference was reconstituted as a smaller, more active body to create and implement a long-term statewide Strategic Agenda for the judicial branch. On October 2, 2019, the Judicial Conference unveiled the Supreme Court's Strategic Agenda, which was developed by the Judicial Conference and approved by the

Court. The Strategic Agenda will serve as a guide for the future of the Illinois Judicial Branch. The Judicial Conference began the implementation phase of the Strategic Agenda in 2020 by assigning 15 strategic initiatives to newly created task forces and to existing committees, boards, and commissions. In 2021, the Judicial Conference focused on 11 new and continuing initiatives. The Administrative Director assigns senior level staff to assist the Judicial Conference with its mandate. The recommendations flowing from the Judicial Conference to the Supreme Court will relate to the improvement of the

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administration of justice in Illinois.

In its administration of Supreme Court Rule 39 (Appointment of Associate Judges), the Executive Office conducted the election of 39 associate judges in 12 of Illinois' 24 judicial circuits during 2021. Also, as provided by Rule 39, the Executive Office is responsible for managing the quadrennial reappointment process for Illinois' more than 400 associate judges, which will be held in 2023. 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; and negotiating collective bargaining agreements state-wide on behalf of chief circuit judges and circuit clerks. 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.

On June 22, 2020, the Supreme Court released a statement on racial justice and began

its recruitment for a new Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer for the judicial branch. The Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer became part of the Executive Office on November 2, 2020, and is tasked with working with the Supreme Court, the Administrative Director and court leaders throughout the judicial branch to achieve the Supreme Court's strategic goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

On August 27, 2021, the Supreme Court announced that it hired the state's first Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator, who became part of the Executive Office. This administrator will serve as the Illinois Judicial Branch's dedicated mental health voice and resource, committed to furthering local, state, and national behavioral health and justice initiatives that affect the courts. In this capacity, the administrator will act as the project director of the Illinois Supreme Court Mental Health Task Force and provide professional guidance on the Illinois Courts' response to behavioral health issues that intersect with the justice system.

The Executive Office also oversees the Logistics/Property Control Unit. This unit serves as the central distribution and shipping center for the Administrative Office; produces print quality manuals, brochures, and publications; maintains inventories of office supplies; and coordinates the transfer of equipment and furniture among judicial branch offices. Finally, it is responsible for maintaining the physical inventory of all state-owned

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Marcia M. Meis, *Director*
Jan B. Zekich, *Deputy Director*
Amy Bowne, *Chief Legal Counsel*
Deanie Brown, *Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer*
Scott A. Block, *Statewide Behavioral Health Administrator*

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Cyran Mott, *Director*

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Christopher Bonjean, *Director*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIVISIONS

Administrative Services Division
Kara McCaffrey, *Assistant Director*

Access to Justice Division
Alison D. Spanner, *Assistant Director*

Courts, Children and Families Division
Heather Dorsey, *Assistant Director*

Court Services Division
Nathan Jensen, *Assistant Director*

Human Resources Division
Christina Webb, *Assistant Director*

Judicial Education Division
Jerome Galang, *Assistant Director*

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

Probation Services Division
Daniel Hunt, *Assistant Director*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

judicial branch property and ensures that judicial branch property is accurately recorded and bears the proper identification tag.

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The Supreme Court of Illinois Judicial College was established January 1, 2016. The Illinois Supreme Court (Court) established the Judicial College as the entity charged with the design of comprehensive, competency-based curricula and courses intended to meet the

continuing education needs of Illinois judges and Judicial Branch professionals. The Court established a Board of Trustees to govern the affairs of the Judicial College, and appointed seven judges, both trial and appellate, to serve as voting members of the Board of Trustees, along with two ex-officio members - a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Director. The Court also appointed approximately 100 judges and justice partners from across the State of Illinois, representing essential Illinois Judicial Branch professions, to serve on the

six Judicial College Standing Committees, namely, the *Committee on Circuit Court Clerk Education (CCCE)*, the *Committee on Judicial Education (COJE)*, the *Committee on Probation Education (COPE)*, the *Committee on Guardian ad Litem Education (GALE)*, the *Committee on Judicial Branch Staff Education (JBSE)*, and the *Committee on Trial Court Administrator Education (TCAE)*. The Board of Trustees convenes the six Judicial College Standing Committees annually to engage in the strategic review of the Judicial College mission, goal, purpose, and effectiveness as a provider of continuing education and professional development.

The **Judicial College Division** of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts was established May 1, 2019 to facilitate the operations of the Judicial College and the Board of Trustees. Additional staff from Divisions of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts provide invaluable support, guidance and subject matter expertise to the six Standing Committees and the Board of Trustees. Today, Judicial College Committees continue the work that began in 2017 with the initial determination of educational need for a vast array of judicial branch stakeholders. Committees and Committee Workgroups design and deliver hundreds of courses in person and via eLearning, while continually evaluating the impact of course and course content on the judiciary and justice system. The Judicial College is committed to the ongoing assessment of educational need, course effectiveness, and the design of



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competency-based courses. The work of the Judicial College benefits greatly from the scores of judges and justice partners serving as Standing Committee members and Committee Workgroup members, as well as the corps of Judicial College faculty who devote their time and expertise to the preparation and delivery of Judicial College courses. The collective collaborative effort of all has resulted in a substantial catalog of eLearning and in-person courses for the benefit of thousands of Judicial Branch professionals.

Current members of the Illinois Judicial College Board of Trustees and the Illinois Judicial College Director are: Chair, Honorable Daniel B. Shanes, 19th Judicial Circuit; Vice Chair, Honorable Christy W. Solverson, 1st Judicial Circuit; Honorable Cynthia Y. Cobbs, 1st Appellate District; Honorable Thomas M. Donnelly, Circuit Court of Cook County; Honorable Robert F. Harris, Circuit Court of Cook County; Honorable Ronda D. Holliman, 6th Judicial Circuit; Honorable Lisa Y. Wilson, 10th Judicial Circuit. *Ex officio*: Honorable Mary Jane Theis, Justice, Illinois Supreme Court; Marcia M. Meis, Director, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; Director, Illinois Judicial College, Cyra L. Mott, Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, Judicial College Division.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC INFORMATION

The **Office of Communications and Public Information** manages internal and external communications, including media relations

and public information, for the Illinois Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

The Office coordinates the Court's social media communications and responds to media inquiries, issues press releases regarding the Court's adjudicative and administrative actions, and serves as a resource for trial courts implementing the Court's Policy for Extended Media Coverage. The Office also coordinates with the Illinois Supreme Court's Boards and Commissions, the Illinois Judicial College, and other entities to advance outreach efforts.

The Office produced two newsletters. The **Media Monitor** is sent out each morning (Monday-Friday) to all judges and key judicial branch staff. It is a summary of relevant media clips intended to keep readers informed about Court-related news. **Illinois Courts Connect** is published the last Wednesday of each month. It goes out to a broader audience, including the media and public, and contains Court news for that particular month. Current and past issues are available online at illinoiscourts.gov/media/media-news

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The **Administrative Services Division** provides technical and administrative support services to the judicial branch through its three operational units; the Payroll/Benefits Unit, the Accounting Unit, and the Budget 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 the Comptroller's Office to reconcile payment 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

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implementation of the annual judicial branch budget.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE DIVISION

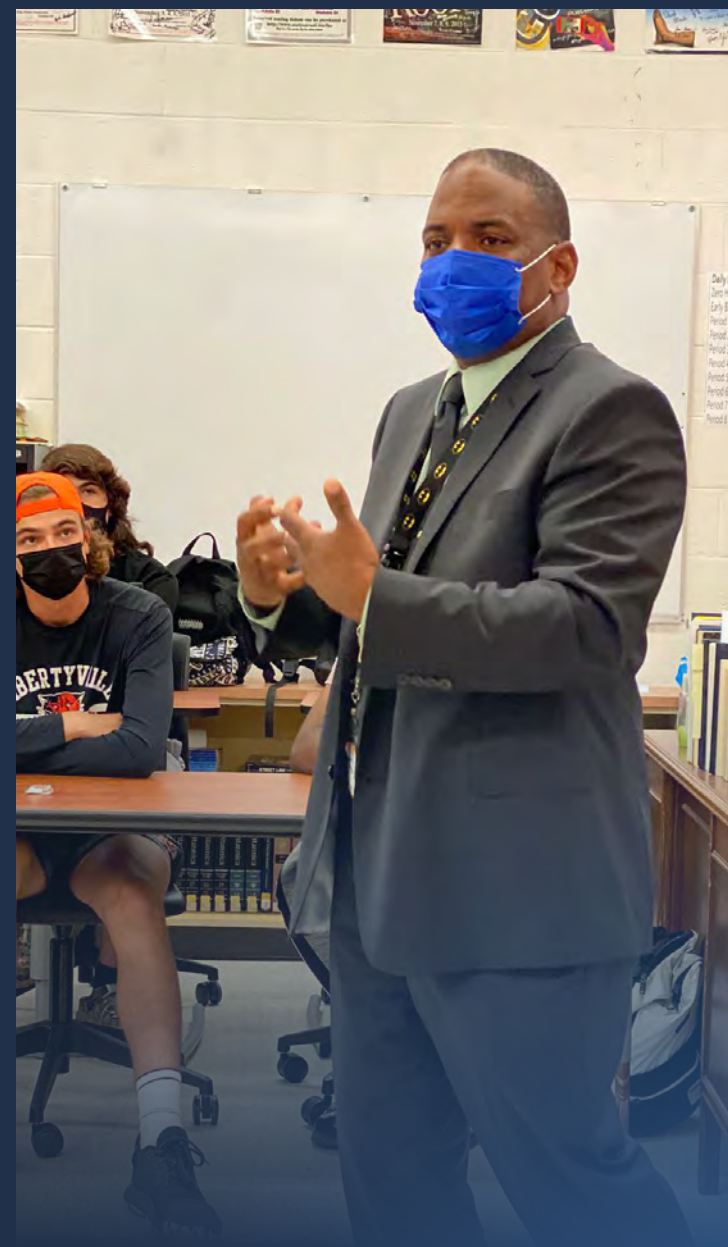
The **Access to Justice Division** was established in January 2014 to help the legal system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all court users, particularly to those who are low-income and vulnerable. The Access to Justice Division also supports the work of the Illinois Supreme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

The Access to 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; (4) developing statewide appellate resources for self-represented litigants; and (5) expanding statewide collaboration, 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.

Illinois Court Help: In 2020, the Access to Justice Division partnered with the ATJ Commission to develop a new service that increased access to court and procedural information. Illinois Court Help launched in May 2021 as a free service that connects people to the information and resources they need to go to court. Trained court guides provide step-by-step instructions by phone, text, or email about the court process in all Illinois courts – circuit, appellate, and Supreme Court – including how to e-file and how to appear in court via Zoom. The service does not provide legal advice but can connect people to legal assistance and community resources that can help them resolve their problem.

Standardized Forms: The Access to Justice Division partners with the ATJ Commission's 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,



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the Division is supporting the work of 13 subcommittees developing forms in appellate, criminal records relief for adults and juveniles, family law, eviction, mortgage foreclosure, name change, orders of protection, small claims, civil asset forfeiture, civil procedures, criminal procedures, and guardianship. 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 Access to 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 ATJ Commission 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 Access to Justice Division administers a robust interpreter certification program. Foreign language and sign language interpreters that complete certification

requirements are listed on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry, which currently has 282 interpreters in 33 languages.

Training Materials and Educational Programs:

The Access to Justice Division works with the ATJ Commission Court Guidance and Training Committee (Court Guidance and Training Committee) to develop and maintain training materials and educational programs on access to justice issues. In 2021, the Access to Justice Division conducted training for clerks, court staff, and justice partners like public libraries in many individual counties focusing on the distinction between legal information and legal advice. During each of these trainings, there was additional discussion of how assisting with e-filing information falls on that spectrum.

Appellate Resource Program: The Access to Justice Division's Appellate Resource Program seeks to assist self-represented litigants in civil appeals throughout the state. Since the AOIC hired a Senior Program Manager in 2017 to oversee the initiative, the division has worked with the ATJ Commission Appellate Committee, Appellate Court Administrative Committee, as well as appellate clerks and research directors from all appellate districts to develop self-help materials. A dedicated self-help page was launched on the Illinois Courts' website. It features detailed resources to assist self-represented litigants in civil appeals, such as a comprehensive FAQ section, e-filing manuals, a simplified process overview, and

links to resources throughout the state to help litigants navigate an appeal. Also, the program partnered with the Public Interest Law Initiative to launch a virtual help desk for civil appeals. Low-income litigants with a legal problem can submit their questions through the website and have them answered by a lawyer. This is the first-ever appellate help desk for self-represented litigants in Illinois and it launched in September 2020.

Statewide Collaboration: The Access to Justice Commission seeks to create, maintain, and support a statewide network of court partners focused on serving self-represented litigants. This endeavor started with Illinois JusticeCorps, which was first piloted in 2009 and expanded to cover more jurisdictions. Currently, the program serves in 11 judicial circuits. In 2017, we launched the Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator grant program. In 2020, we combined these two programs and added additional representatives to an umbrella group, Court Navigator Network. Network members serve as a bridge, linking their courthouses with others throughout the state to share ideas, develop new resources, and establish programs for assisting self-represented and limited English proficient litigants.

COURTS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DIVISION

The **Courts, Children and Families Division (CCFD)** was created, effective May 1, 2020.

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The Division is a successor to the Courts, Children and Families Unit within the Court Services Division. The Supreme Court of Illinois supported the creation of the Division to expand its work to critical court matters related to children and families.

The CCFD oversees the administration of the federally funded Illinois Court Improvement Program (CIP). The Division 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 by managing the programmatic and fiscal components of the CIP grant award. As Juvenile Abuse and Neglect case filings increased again in 2021, the CCFD continued to develop the foundation and infrastructure for improved court practices in child protection cases by concentrating its efforts on addressing timely permanency in Illinois, continuing the Child Protection Data Courts Project, collaborating with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and providing training and resources for juvenile court judges and attorneys assigned to child protection cases.

In addition to providing continuation funding for long-term projects, including the Family Advocacy Clinic at the University of Illinois School of Law and the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Southern Illinois University, the CIP funded new projects aimed at enhancing representation for children. In 2021, the Illinois CIP received COVID-19 related funding which was granted to counties to assist with

case backlog and enhancing remote hearing capabilities. The CCFD received a grant from the National Center for State Courts to conduct the Dual Status Youth Initiative. The CCFD serves as staff and advisor to the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Guardians ad Litem Education (GALE) and the Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts.

Child Protection Data Courts Project (CPDC): Through the CPDC Project, the CCFD collects and analyzes child protection court performance measures, demographic information and case characteristics in child abuse and neglect cases. Currently, eight 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 the collected performance measure data that includes a project initiative with goals, action items, responsibilities, timelines, and outcome measures.

Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (IDCFS): In 2021, the CCFD continued its' working relationship with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) by continuing to implement the court related strategies included in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and providing training to judges and attorneys assigned to child protection cases on the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and the

Qualified Residential Placement Programs (QRTP) provisions contained in the Act. CCFD staff continues to participate on various DCFS committees and several representatives of IDCFS are members of the Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee.

Dual Status Youth Initiative: The term "dual status" refers to children and youth who come into contact with both the child protection and juvenile justice systems. Through partnership with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center and their multidisciplinary framework, the AOIC seeks to develop strategies for early identification of dual status youth to improve system communication and coordination of services to improve outcomes, with a special focus on those subjected to commercial sexual exploitation.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION

The **Court Services Division** in 2021, composed of the Special Programs Unit, the Recordkeeping and Technology Unit and those efforts directly under the Assistant Director continued their vital work 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 or boards, the Judicial Conference, and the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges. The Division also serves as the primary liaison for

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

the Supreme Court's Peer Judge Mentoring Program, Judicial Performance Evaluation Program; and processes court requests for a judicial assignment outside the original court jurisdiction, as well as requests for the reimbursement of claims for persons subject to the Sexually Violent Person's Commitment Act. Staff within Court Services frequently interacts and collaborates with several other divisions at the Administrative Office on a wide array of topics of interest to the operations of the Illinois courts, including serving as staff on multiple Standing Committees of the Illinois Judicial College. In 2021 Court Services Division assisted in moving forward three charges under the Strategic Agenda from the Illinois Judicial Conference; first was the development of statewide technology standards; second was facilitating the development of time standards through the Court Data and Performance Measures Task Force, and lastly, helping push forward the Weighted Caseload Study scheduled to take place in early 2022.

Throughout 2021, the **Special Programs Unit [SPU]** staff continued to host monthly meetings and assist the Illinois Judicial College's Trial Court Administrator Education [TCAE] Committee with development, coordination, and presentation of several professional development webinars for all Trial Court Administrators [TCAs] and other justice stakeholders statewide. The 2021 menu consisted of: Seating a Representative Jury; Media & the Courts; Assisting the Self-Represented Litigant; the updated Recordkeeping Manual; and Administrative

Issues & Speedy Trials. Additionally, staff attended the Illinois Judicial College Virtual Annual Meeting which provided opportunities for continued strategic review and facilitated discussions of the Committee's charge, comprehensive education plan, and curriculum. Finally, since the TCAE Committee decided against hosting an in-person Court Administration Leadership [CAL] Academy in 2021, the planning began during the last quarter for the upcoming 2022 event.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still posing a threat, SPU continued to host various committee, commissions, and other meetings virtually. Staff hosted highly beneficial monthly meetings and provided guidance and technical assistance to the Mandatory Arbitration Administrators and their staff (11 centers across the state). All of the Administrators look forward to an in-person Annual Meeting soon. Monthly Statewide TCA Meetings continued with at least 38 participants at each meeting. Staff also continued to host the TCA listservs dedicated to TCAs, Deputy TCAs, and any other court staff that play the role of a court administrator, to allow for the exchange of ideas, suggestions, and information.

SPU staff was invited to join the Illinois Judicial Conference Court Access & Dispute Resolution Task Force since the unit has oversight over all mediation and mandatory arbitration programs. The Task Force was charged with examining dispute resolution programs statewide and offering suggestions to improve the programs in a report to the Supreme

Court. In addition, staff was involved in assisting the Court's COVID-19 Task Force with establishment of eviction mediation programs across the state. Meetings were held with all of the statewide organizations that were charged with dissemination of the funds provided by the federal government to all states.

The **Recordkeeping & Technology Unit (RTU)** provided an array of guidance and technical support services to courts and circuit clerks in 2021. RTU staff, as members of the Illinois Association of Court Clerk's (IACC) Oversight Board, continued to work with the IACC in development of educational programs for circuit clerks and their staff, as well as coordinating the New Circuit Clerk Mentor Program. RTU further served as staff and advisors to the Illinois Judicial College Standing Committee on Circuit Court Clerk Education (CCCE). In 2021, the CCCE planned, created, and presented multiple education sessions related to recordkeeping, implicit bias, and human resources to circuit court clerks and staff.

The Manual on Fines and Fees, maintained by the RTU, includes more than 300 statutory citations and Supreme Court Rule references regarding the collection and distribution of fines, fees, penalties, restitution, assessments, surcharges, and costs which may be applied to cases in Illinois. RTU staff also serves as liaison to the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges Ad Hoc Committee on Article V Rules, which provides recommendations of updates

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

to the Article V Rules, Uniform Citation Forms, and Electronic Citation Forms, as may be necessary.

The RTU continue to provide guidance to courts as electronic filing was expanded to criminal and juvenile cases via eFileIL, the Supreme Court's Electronic Filing Manager (EFM), that took effect on January 1, 2018.

In addition, the Supreme Court's statewide system called re:SearchIL effective July 1, 2018, a document repository where users can remotely access case information in a single place, across jurisdictions, regardless of which case management system used. RTU staff assist with providing guidance to courts regarding the Remote Access Policy (RAP) which governs document access over the Internet. The RTU further continues to assist local circuit courts with implementation, facilitates information sharing, and provides detailed and subject matter expertise for all other electronic business programs.

RTU continues to provide training, assistance, and oversight regarding the Supreme Court's General Administrative Order on Recordkeeping in the Circuit Courts and instructions in the Manual on Recordkeeping (RKM). The updated RKM, effective January 1, 2022, was released in 2021. The updates include revised statistical reporting, new and revised case types, regrouping of case categories, and defining security access to records based on party types. The updates will improve guidelines for collecting

standardized court data with a focus on judicial performance, accurate recording of post-judgment activity, increase transparency, and improve overall court efficiency.

The RTU continued to manage and update the Offense Code Table (OFT), which contains the coded listing of all criminal offenses reportable to four recipient state agencies through the Automated Disposition Reporting (ADR) Program. Additionally, RTU staff collected, compiled, and published quarterly and annual statistical information for the 2021 Statistical Summary by the Clerks of the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts, and other divisions of the Supreme Court and Administrative Office.

Annually, the RTU monitors the filing of the circuit clerks' financial audits. The Unit compiled and distributed the Applicable Legal Requirements to auditors for their compliance testing and disseminated updated auditing guidelines to county boards and circuit clerks; and provided certified merged jury lists and Petit and Grand Juror Handbooks to all 102 counties, as requested.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

The **Human Resources Division** provides employee relations support to state-paid judicial branch employees and managers. Among other duties, Division staff maintain comprehensive attendance and leave records

for all judicial branch personnel covered by the Supreme Court's Leave of Absence Policies and assist individuals with questions regarding the Supreme Court's personnel policies. Staff also work with judicial branch employees and managers in administering the judicial branch's classification and compensation plan, as well as assisting judicial branch managers in the recruitment and selection process. Additionally, the Division is responsible for EEOC reporting and dissemination of economic interest statements required under Supreme Court Rule 68.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION DIVISION

The **Judicial Education Division** identifies, coordinates, designs and develops judicial education curricula and resources for the benefit of Illinois judges. The Division, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Illinois, aids the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Judicial Education in the development of judicial education programs and resources. The Division also assists the Committee on Judicial Education in its collaborative efforts with the Judicial College Committees on Probation Education, Circuit Court Clerk Education, Trial Court Administrator Education, Guardian *ad Litem* Education and Judicial Branch Staff Education; the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning; Judicial Mentor Committee; Appellate Court Administrative Committee; Access to Justice Commission; Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism; and

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

the Supreme Court Committee on Equality in the development of competency-based, multi-disciplinary courses intended to embrace ethical, substantive, decision making and leadership competencies desired of the profession.

In 2021, elective and mandatory programs were offered to Illinois judges via online courses, including *New Judge Orientation* and webinars on a myriad of legal topics. Each newly elected or appointed judge is required to participate in the online and in-person requirements of *New Judge Orientation* following election or appointment to the bench. The Division also manages the logistics of the *New Judge Mentoring* program in coordination with the Judicial Mentor Committee, facilitating the pairing of experienced new judge mentors with new associate and circuit judges, and minimum contacts between mentors and mentees throughout the one-year mentoring assignment.

The Judicial Education Division facilitates judicial access to resources designed exclusively for judges, and manages the annual peer review, editing and publication of *Illinois Judicial Benchbooks*. Benchbook production is a collaborative effort of the Judicial Education Division and the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Judicial Education Benchbook Editorial Board and the individual benchbook teams of law school professors, judicial editors and judicial peer reviewers who serve on the writing teams. The 2021 Benchbook series

included: *Civil Law and Procedure; Criminal Law and Procedure; DUI/Traffic; Domestic Violence; Evidence; Family Law and Procedure; Juvenile Law; Mortgage Foreclosure and the Illinois Manual on Complex Civil Litigation* and the *Illinois Manual on Complex Criminal Litigation*.

JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES (JMIS) DIVISION

The **Judicial Management Information Services (JMIS)** division is one of ten 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 Court and five Appellate Court Districts, all divisions within the AOIC, and mandatory arbitration offices. JMIS also supports Supreme Court technology initiatives in the circuit courts, including remote hearings and digital recording systems, which provides an audio or video recording of court hearings and is currently installed in 439 trial court courtrooms.

JMIS works with judges and courts to support their remote hearing needs as the Supreme Court's technology initiatives encourage courthouse and courtroom technologies to aid in efficiencies and remote hearing capabilities. Digital recording systems are enhanced to integrate evidence presentation systems, remote hearing technologies, and other courtroom technologies.

JMIS also provides technical insight and leadership in supporting the Supreme Court's statewide e-filing initiative where all Illinois courts accept civil filings (approximately 500,000 filings per month) and approximately 72 counties and the reviewing courts accept criminal filings through a central e-filing hub (EFM). In addition, JMIS staff are working with judges and courts on the Supreme Court's statewide data and online reporting initiative. Divisions in the AOIC are identifying data needs and integration processes to connect case management systems and other data sources directly with a central online reporting platform for real-time, caseload data, case specific statistical, and financial reports.

JMIS is staffed by 25 professionals consisting of six groups skilled in specific IT professions and able to respond to Supreme Court initiatives, employee needs and technology initiatives. JMIS' IT Security group manages the Courts' statewide infrastructure and cybersecurity systems. The Hardware / Software group manages server applications, desktop and laptop computers, peripherals, and productivity software. The Hardware / Software group is also the primary group responsible for the installation and support of the digital recording systems in the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, and Circuit Courts. JMIS' Internet Services group is responsible for the design and upkeep of the Supreme Court's public website (www.illinoiscourts.gov) and other websites developed for use within the branch. The User Services group staffs JMIS' Help Desk, supports telecommunication ↑

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

services and phone systems, and manages assets, tracking their location throughout the judicial branch. The Application Group is responsible for the design and enhancements to sixteen Oracle enterprise database applications. JMIS' Data and Online Reporting group is responsible for the technologies and reporting needed to support the Court's online reporting initiative. Remaining JMIS staff provide critical services, skills, and manage technologies and infrastructures for the judicial branch.

PROBATION SERVICES DIVISION

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 improve probation, detention and pretrial in Illinois through leadership, assistance, and training. 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 69 local probation departments or districts that serve Illinois' 102

counties. All 16 juvenile detention centers are administered by the circuit courts.

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 25 employees (plus 3 vacant positions), with office sites in Springfield and Chicago, and is comprised of office operational units: Field Operations; Program Operations; Data, Eligibles, and Reimbursement Vouchering Program; Interstate Compact/Intrastate Transfer; Pretrial Operations and Problem-Solving Court Operations.

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



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to improve the administration and operation of probation services in Illinois. During 2021, staff reviewed 996 applications for eligibility for employment/promotion. Of those reviewed, 884 were determined as meeting the eligibility requirements for employment or promotion as a probation/detention officer in Illinois. Additionally, statistical data is submitted electronically by probation and court services departments for compilation, review, and analysis 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 2021 four major projects/priorities continued to guide the work of the Division personnel: 1) Initial certification and recertification reviews of problem-solving courts operational standards; 2) Conduct Operational Reviews of local probation departments and detention centers in a continuing effort to enhance policy, practice, and service provisions; 3) Continue implementation and training over 2,500 adult and juvenile probation officers in Core Correctional Practices; 4) Develop a statewide juvenile detention screening assessment tool.

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 in 2015. This was expanded in 2019 when the Standards were revised and a recertification

process for Illinois Problem-Solving Courts was established. Collaborative efforts with local problem-solving court teams concentrated on this process during 2021. Fifteen problem-solving courts were reviewed for certification and twenty-five problem-solving courts were reviewed for recertification by the division staff, the Justice and Mental Health Planning Committee and were approved by the Illinois Supreme Court over the course of the year. At the end of 2021, 114 of the 119 operational PSC courts in the state were certified. Division staff will continue conducting site visits to local problem-solving courts to offer technical assistance and support to these teams. All problem-solving courts will be certified in 2022 and staff will continue to review recertification applications. Multi-disciplinary training for problem-solving court team members will remain a priority. The Problem-Solving Court curricula and train-the-trainer for these courses will be completed in 2022.

Calendar year 2021 continued to see immense strides in pretrial practices reform within the Judicial Branch. Members of the Division served as liaisons to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission Pretrial Practices Implementation Task Force (Task Force), which began meeting in the summer of 2020 and continues regular, active meetings to date. As part of building a foundation for pretrial reform in Illinois, the Illinois Supreme Court created the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services (OSPS) in September 2021. The OSPS will oversee pretrial operations moving forward. During the year, the Task Force and AOIC pretrial staff

continued to make positive progress toward goals related to data, legislation, pretrial risk assessments and understanding current pretrial practices in the State.

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. Additionally, in 2021 Division staff worked with the Judicial College and the COPE committee to develop standardized training for all probation and court services staff.

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, 2021, a total of 5,643 (2,124 outgoing; 3,519 incoming) adult probation compact cases were under active supervision. The Interstate Compact Unit also continued to support the transfer of juvenile cases and helped train and roll out the new federal data system in the state in 2021. 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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED



questions about the transfer process.

Throughout 2021, 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 and projects, including Core Correctional Practices Standards, Juvenile Detention Screening Assessment, and data collection.

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES & TRENDS

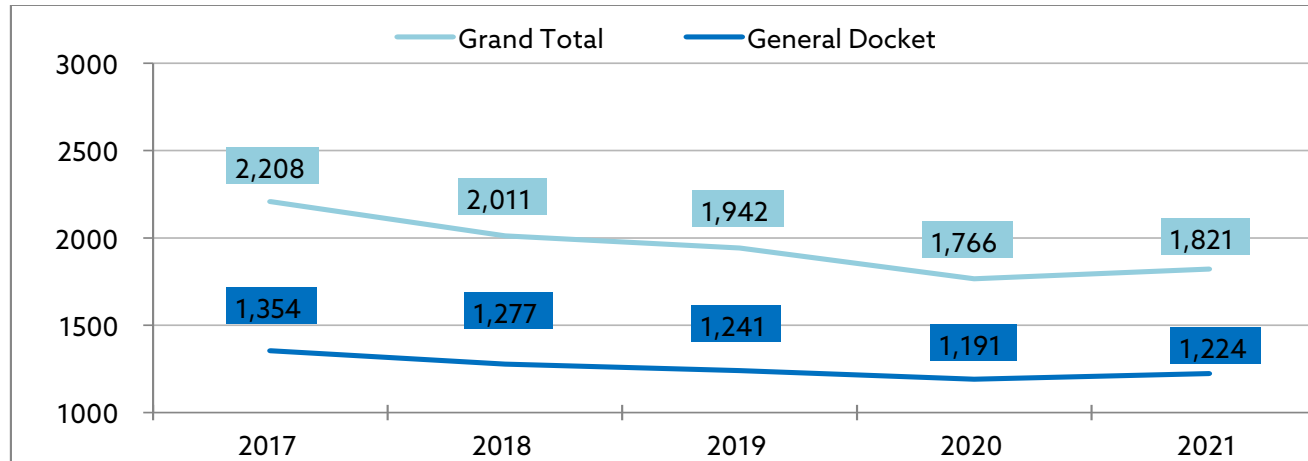
OF THE

SUPREME, APPELLATE & CIRCUIT COURTS

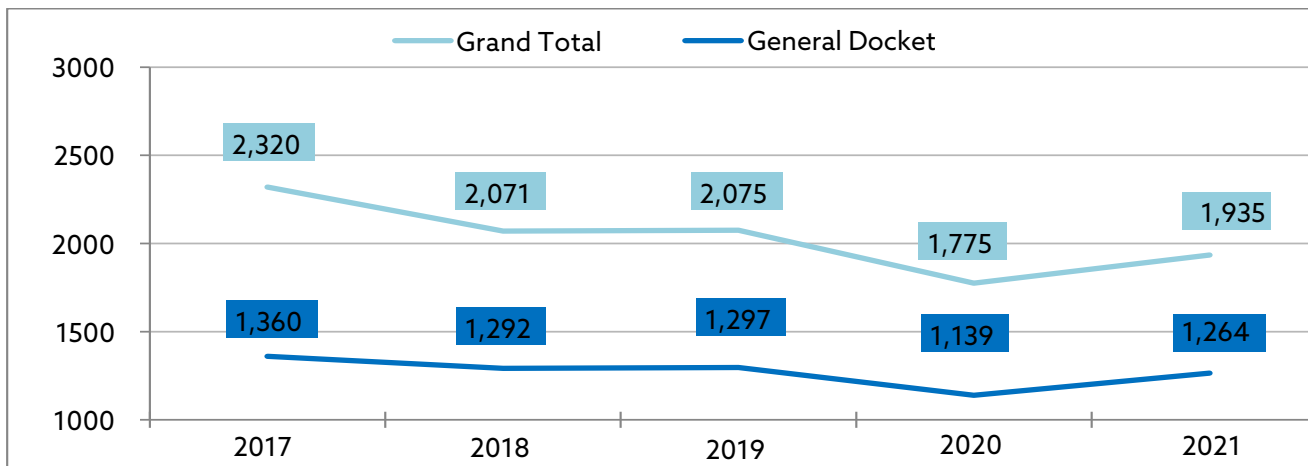


SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

FILINGS



DISPOSITIONS



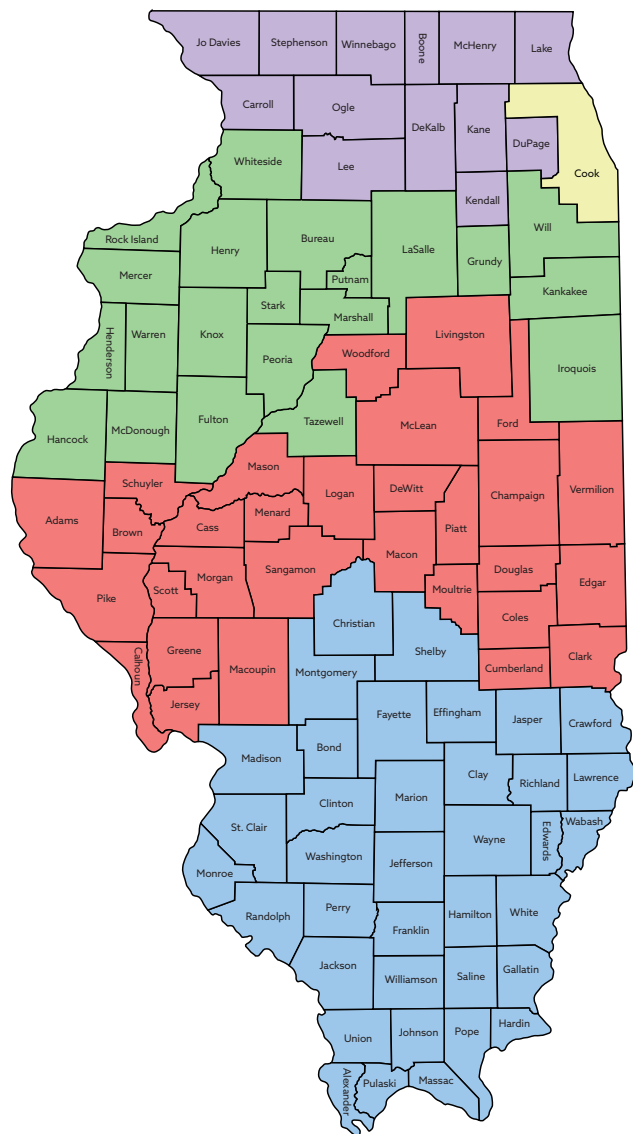
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

TABLE 1: Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions / Supreme Court of Illinois / 2017-2021

FILINGS	GRAND TOTAL	TOTAL GENERAL DOCKET	DIRECT APPEALS BY RIGHT (A)	CERTIFICATES OF IMPORTANCE (B)	DIRECT APPEALS BY PERMISSION (C)	PETITIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL (D)	ORIGINAL ACTION MOTIONS (C)	ATTORNEY DISC. CASES ON GENERAL DOCKET	OTHER GENERAL DOCKET (F)	TOTAL MISC. RECORD (G)	TOTAL MISC. DOCKET (H)
2017	2,208	1,354	45	0	7	1,221	79	0	2	657	197
2018	2,011	1,277	6	0	5	1,175	89	0	2	538	196
2019	1,942	1,241	2	0	4	1,112	116	0	5	522	179
2020	1,766	1,191	5	0	1	1,057	121	0	3	421	154
2021	1,821	1,224	4	0	2	1,104	111	0	2	468	129
DISPOSITIONS											
2017	2,320	1,360	3	1	7	1,254	92	0	3	749	211
2018	2,071	1,292	44	0	4	1,155	87	0	2	576	203
2019	2,075	1,297	6	0	4	1,177	106	0	3	576	202
2020	1,775	1,139	6	0	1	1,006	122	0	4	482	154
2021	1,935	1,264	3	0	2	1,140	117	0	2	535	136

(a) Appeals directly from the circuit court: Statutes held invalid (Rules 302(a) and 603). (b) Certification of case by Appellate Court under Rule 316. (c) Rule 302(b) motions "Dispositions" do not include motions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (d) "Dispositions" do not include petitions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (e) Motions filed under Rule 381 (mandamus, prohibition, habeas corpus), Rule 382 (legislative redistricting/ability of governor to serve or resume office), Rule 383 (supervisory authority) Rule 384 (motions to transfer & consolidate multicircuit actions). "Dispositions" do not include motions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (f) "Filings" include, for example, motions for appeal bond, motions to stay (Rule 305), certification of questions of state law from certain federal courts (Rule 20). Beginning year 2017 Rule 384 filings and dispositions are reported in column "Original Action Motions". "Dispositions" also may include allowed petitions for leave to appeal which were not completely disposed of in the year in which the petition was filed (see footnote (d)), including dismissals. (g) The Miscellaneous Record consists primarily of attorney matters, including disciplinary cases, motions for restoration to active status (Rule 759), petitions to change name on roll of attorneys, bar admission motions, and law firms seeking leave to register/renew under Rule 721. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules.

MAP OF APPELLATE AND SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



APPELLATE COURT DIRECTORY

1 FIRST DISTRICT

160 North LaSalle
Room S 1400
Chicago, IL 60601
312-793-5484
Thomas D. Palella, *Clerk*

2 SECOND DISTRICT

Appellate Court Building
55 Symphony Way
Elgin, IL 60120
847-695-3750
Jeffrey Kaplan, *Clerk*

3 THIRD DISTRICT

1004 Columbus Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-434-5050
Matthew Butler, *Clerk*

4 FOURTH DISTRICT

201 W. Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62704
217-782-2586
Carla Bender, *Clerk*

5 FIFTH DISTRICT

14th & Main Street Mt.
Vernon, IL 62864
618-242-3120
John J. Flood, *Clerk*

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY DISTRICT

APPELLATE COURT - CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Appellate District	Type of Case	Number of Cases Pending January 1, 2021 *	Number of Cases Filed During 2021	Number of Cases Reinstated	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Cases Disposed by Majority Opinion	Number of Cases Disposed by Rule 23 Order	Number of Cases Disposed By Summary Order	Number of Cases Disposed Without Opinion, R23 or Sum. Ord.	Number of Cases Pending December 31, 2021 *	Inventory Increase/ Decrease
First	Civil	1,388	926	25	974	174	356	62	382	1,365	-23
	Criminal	1,974	709	3	1,239	134	602	285	218	1,447	-527
Second	Civil	284	418	1	424	61	141	54	168	283	-1
	Criminal	587	330	1	528	59	223	119	127	397	-190
Third	Civil	237	302	1	311	35	139	13	124	229	-8
	Criminal	531	253	2	353	33	201	18	101	435	-96
Fourth	Civil	157	313	1	311	19	156	24	112	163	6
	Criminal	521	379	4	491	31	260	54	146	408	-113
Fifth	Civil	229	234	2	212	23	143	14	88	196	-33
	Criminal	425	141	3	268	14	118	43	37	358	-67
TOTALS	Civil	2,295	2,193	30	2,232	312	935	167	874	2,236	-59
	Criminal	4,038	1,812	13	2,879	271	1,404	519	629	3,045	-993

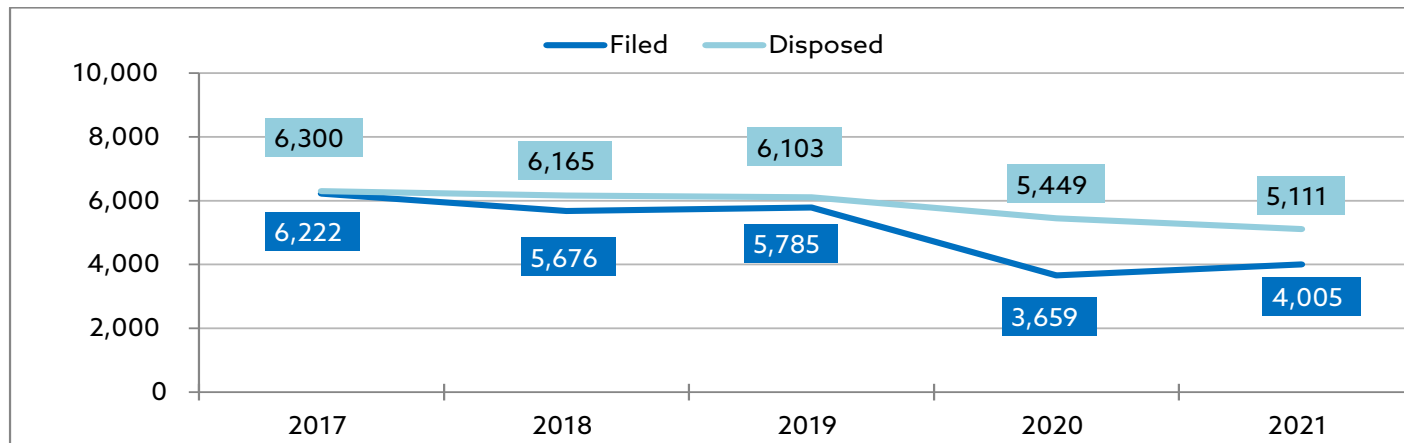
Note: Beginning in 2017, Illinois Workers' Compensation case statistics are no longer referenced.

* Due to reporting software computations; there are small variances in the number of cases pending on January 1, 2020 when compared to the number of cases pending on December 31, 2019, as well as, minor reconciliation differences in the number of cases pending on December 31, 2020.

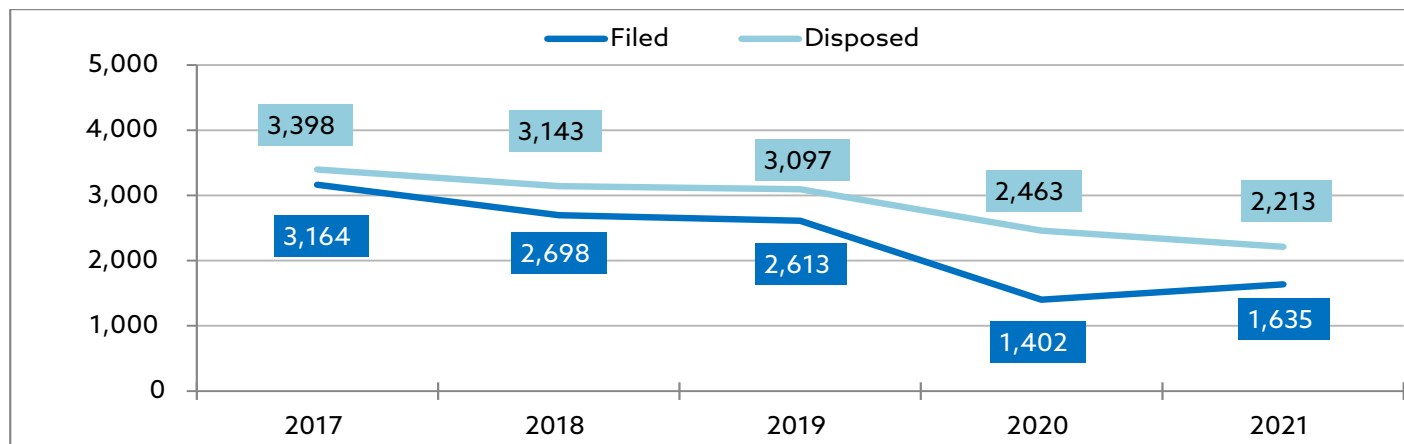
APPELLATE COURTS OF ILLINOIS

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

TOTAL CASELOAD - TOTAL CASES*



FIRST DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**

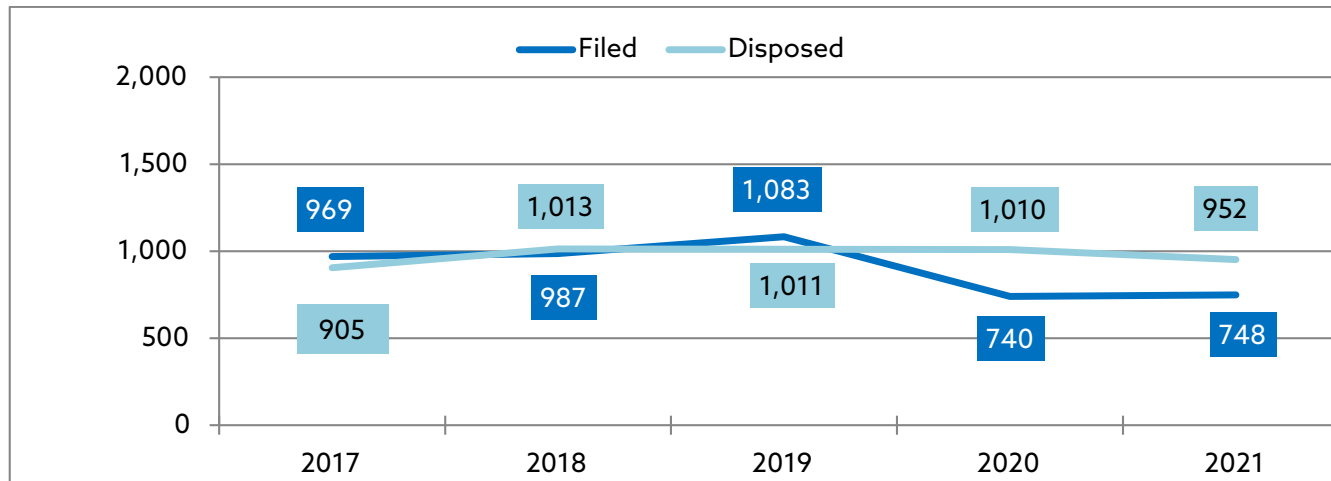


*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

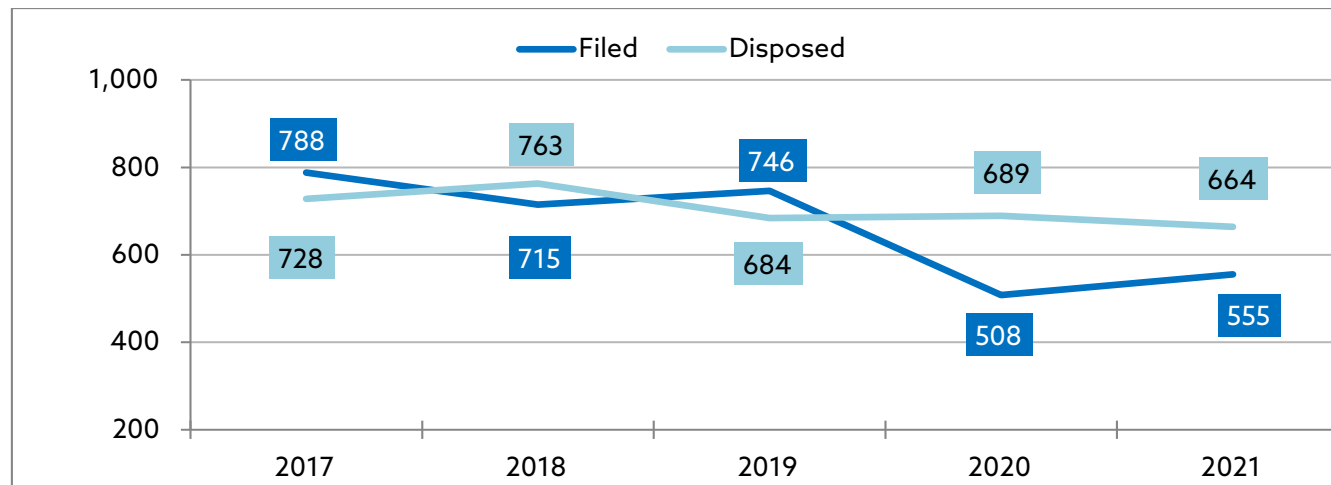
**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

APPELLATE COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

SECOND DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



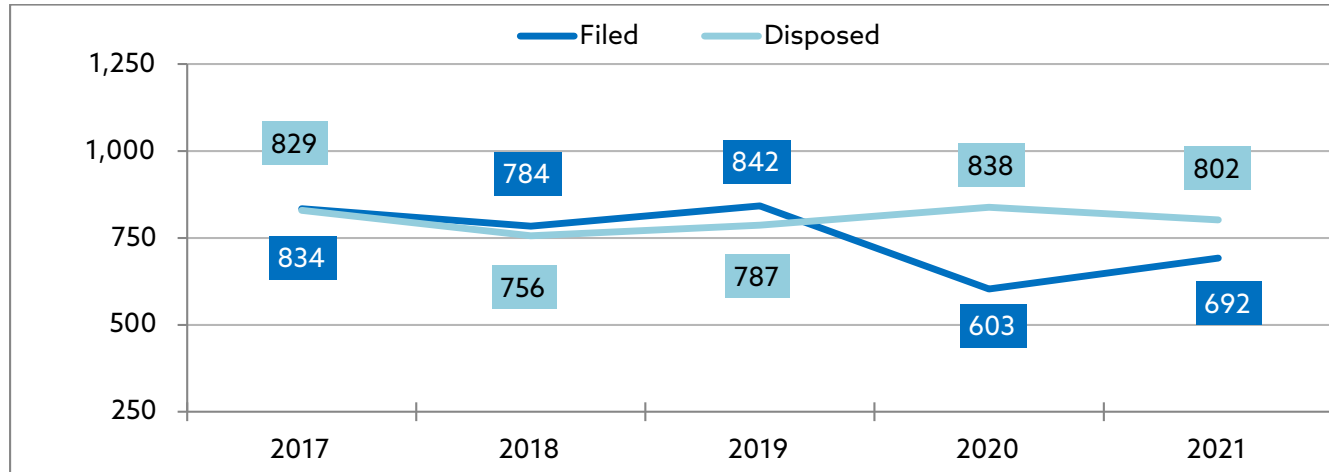
THIRD DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



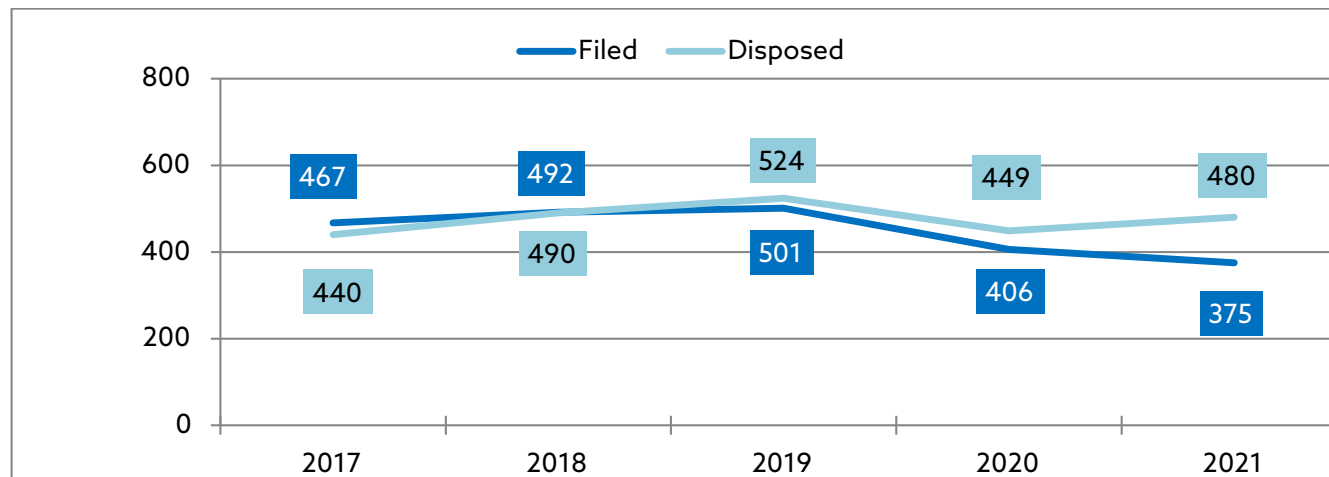
**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

APPELLATE COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

FOURTH DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**

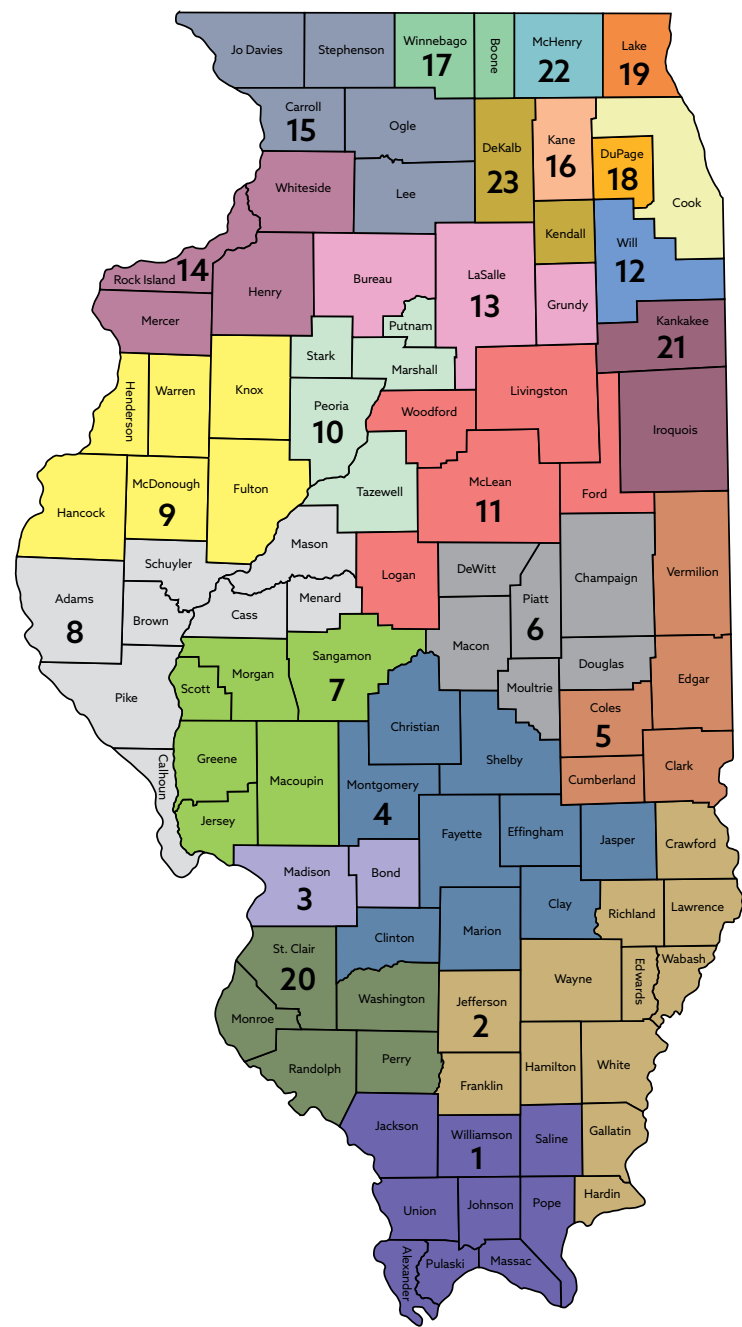


FIFTH DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

MAP OF JUDICIAL CIRCUITS OF ILLINOIS



DEFINITION OF CASE CATEGORIES

CIVIL CATEGORY

AR

An Arbitration case number shall be assigned to every arbitration-eligible case at the time it is filed. NOTE: This case category shall be used only by counties that have initiated Mandatory Arbitration as defined by Supreme Court Rules 86 through 95.

CH

A Chancery case number shall be assigned to a complaint for equitable relief in matters such as foreclosures, trusts, and title to real property.

ED

An Eminent Domain case number shall be assigned to proceedings involving compensation to an owner for property taken for public use.

L

A Law case number shall be assigned to tort, contract, and a variety of other actions in which the damages sought are greater than \$50,000.

LM

A Law Magistrate case number shall be assigned to tort, contract, and a variety of other actions in which the damages sought are \$50,000 or less.

MC

Each Municipal Corporation shall have one permanent case number and file folder for routine matters to be considered by the court. This file will contain such matters as organization, appointment of officers, approval of bonds, and routine orders confirming annexation.

MH

A Mental Health case number shall be assigned to proceedings involving commitment, discharge, or restoration to legal status.

MR

A Miscellaneous Remedy case number shall be assigned to complaints seeking review of administrative decisions (other than of a tax commission) and a variety of other actions that include change of name, habeas corpus, and extradition.

P

A Probate case number shall be assigned to estates of decedents and guardianship matters.

SC

A Small Claim case number shall be assigned to "... a civil action based on either tort or contract for money not in excess of \$10,000, exclusive of interest and costs, or for the collection of taxes not in excess of that amount" (Supreme Court Rule 281.)

TX

A Tax case number shall be assigned to the annual tax sale and a variety of other actions relating to the collection of taxes. Petitions for tax deeds and objections are part of the annual tax sale proceeding and will be assigned sub-numbers of the annual tax sale case number.

DEFINITION OF CASE CATEGORIES, CONTINUED

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CATEGORY

AD

An Adoption case number shall be assigned to every adoption case.

D

A Dissolution case number shall be assigned to a complaint for dissolution of marriage, annulment, or separate maintenance.

F

A Family case number shall be assigned to a variety of matters including proceedings to establish the parent-child relationship, notice to putative fathers, and certain actions relating to child support. NOTE: Petitions for orders of protection filed as separate cases are filed under the OP category.

OP

An Order of Protection case number shall be assigned to any petition for an order of protection, civil no contact order, firearms restraining order, and stalking no contact order that is filed separately from an existing case. NOTE: If it is the practice of a county or circuit not to file orders of protection in existing criminal or civil cases, that practice may be continued and all petitions for orders of protection should be given an OP number.

JUVENILE CATEGORY

J

A Juvenile case number shall be assigned to any proceeding initiated under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/1-1 et. seq.) except those defined by the JA and JD categories below.

JA

A Juvenile Abuse and Neglect case number shall be assigned to all cases involving a neglected or abused minor as defined by the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/2-3(1) and (2)).

JD

A Juvenile Delinquency case number shall be assigned to all cases involving a delinquent minor as defined by the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/5-105).

DEFINITION OF CASE CATEGORIES, CONTINUED

CRIMINAL CATEGORY

CF

A Felony case number shall be assigned when a complaint, information or indictment is filed in which at least one count charges a felony.

CM

A Misdemeanor case number shall be assigned when a case is filed in which the most serious charge carries a penalty of less than one year imprisonment.

DT

A Driving Under the Influence case number shall be assigned to any case charging a violation of a statute, ordinance, or regulation governing driving under the influence of alcohol, other drug, or combination thereof.

QUASI-CRIMINAL CATEGORY

TR

A Traffic case number shall be assigned to any case defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(f), except DUI cases. Note that a violation of a traffic ordinance as defined by Rule 501(f) is given a TR number.

CV

A Conservation case number shall be assigned to any case defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(c).

OV

An Ordinance Violation case number shall be assigned to any case in which violation of a local ordinance is charged. However, violation of a traffic ordinance as defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(f) shall be given a TR or DT number, as appropriate.

CL

A Civil Law case number shall be assigned to all cases for civil law violations charged under paragraph (a), Section 4 of the Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550/4(a)), or Paragraph (c), Section 3.5 of the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act (720 ILCS 600/3.5(c)). In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 589, each Uniform Civil Law Citation form shall be assigned a separate case number.

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY CIRCUIT

CALENDAR YEAR 2021

CIRCUIT	BEGINNING PENDING	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	END PENDING	INCREASE/DECREASE % OF 2021 PENDING CASES
1st	144,443	58,790	67	60,361	140,810	-2.5
2nd	51,563	26,511	38	25,948	51,034	-1.0
3rd	85,661	54,306	640	59,138	82,124	-4.1
4th	42,577	36,325	66	35,210	43,137	1.3
5th	68,777	26,466	181	22,698	72,206	5.0
6th	74,799	45,488	649	42,258	59,709	-20.2
7th	101,160	58,440	22	78,388	101,829	0.7
8th	24,215	21,669	38	22,236	22,843	-5.7
9th	28,092	24,897	7	24,750	29,640	5.5
10th	54,493	45,420	317	41,522	54,856	0.7
11th	38,882	42,885	759	42,247	37,943	-2.4
12th	96,936	106,375	3,601	111,324	95,657	-1.3
13th	22,171	29,824	629	29,678	22,243	0.3
14th	62,014	41,106	11	38,341	63,606	2.6
15th	31,636	27,435	6	27,763	30,728	-2.9
16th	102,258	57,994	112	57,844	102,422	0.2
17th	84,173	56,575	138	58,440	82,290	-2.2
18th	74,590	129,010	12,594	156,719	59,190	-20.6
19th	40,047	83,598	3,735	89,355	37,937	-5.3
20th	134,906	51,806	277	56,202	136,013	0.8
21st	35,343	24,522	1	16,221	43,569	23.3
22nd	18,796	41,509	1,628	44,990	16,864	-10.3
23rd	25,133	20,950	773	24,448	21,769	-13.4
DOWNSTATE TOTAL	1,442,665	1,111,901	26,289	1,166,081	1,408,419	-2.4
COOK COUNTY	1,804,492	522,927	15,453	462,760	1,880,868	4.2
STATE TOTAL	3,247,157	1,634,828	41,742	1,628,841	3,289,287	1.3

CASE FILING RATIO: JUDGE/POPULATION CIRCUIT COURTS - CALENDAR YEAR 2021

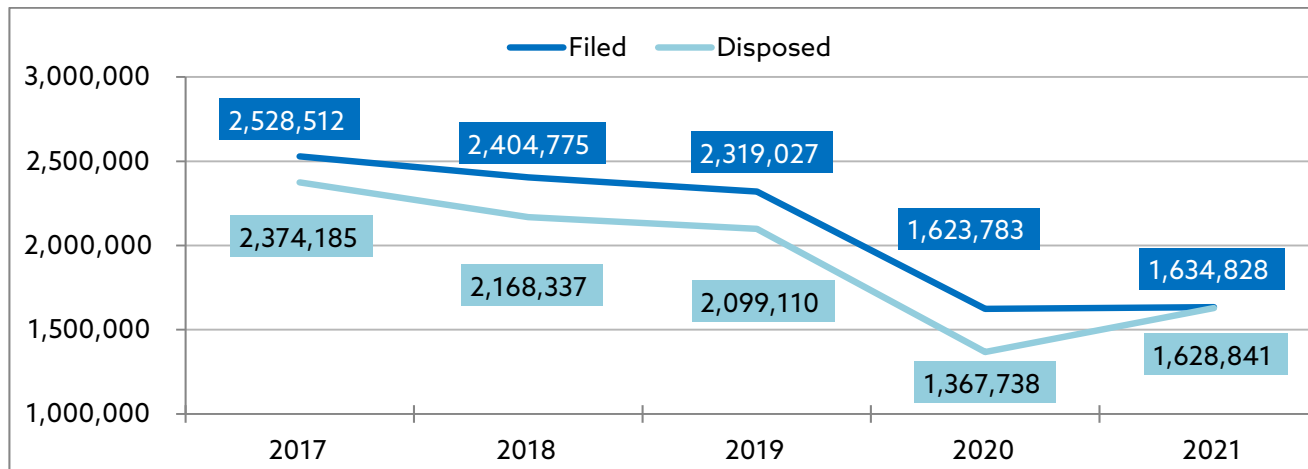
Circuit	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	2021 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED DURING 2021 **	NUMBER OF JUDGES			NUMBER OF CASES FILED PER JUDGE	NUMBER OF CASES FILED PER 1000 POPULATION
				CIRCUIT	ASSOCIATE	TOTAL *		
1st	9	203,604	58,790	13	7	20	2,940	288.7
2nd	12	188,407	26,511	15	6	21	1,262	140.7
3rd	2	278,897	54,306	8	13	21	2,586	194.7
4th	9	233,735	36,325	12	7	19	1,912	155.4
5th	5	168,013	26,466	11	5	16	1,654	157.5
6th	6	362,419	45,488	14	11	25	1,820	125.5
7th	6	311,117	58,440	12	10	22	2,656	187.8
8th	8	135,088	21,669	11	5	16	1,354	160.4
9th	6	152,691	24,897	10	4	14	1,778	163.1
10th	5	330,716	45,420	10	11	21	2,163	137.3
11th	5	286,093	42,885	11	10	21	2,042	149.9
12th	1	688,726	106,375	16	21	37	2,875	154.5
13th	3	190,867	29,824	8	5	13	2,294	156.3
14th	4	259,199	41,106	12	10	22	1,868	158.6
15th	5	163,264	27,435	8	8	16	1,715	168.0
16th	1	531,010	57,994	13	17	30	1,933	109.2
17th	2	334,072	56,575	10	15	25	2,263	169.3
18th	1	917,481	129,010	14	30	44	2,932	140.6
19th	1	693,593	83,598	14	25	39	2,144	120.5
20th	5	358,564	51,806	11	13	24	2,159	144.5
21st	2	135,305	24,522	6	5	11	2,229	181.2
22nd	1	305,888	41,509	8	11	19	2,185	135.7
23rd	2	235,129	20,950	8	5	13	1,612	89.1
DOWNSTATE TOTAL	101	7,463,878	1,111,901	255	254	509	2,184	149.0
COOK COUNTY	1	5,108,284	522,927	237	143	380	1,376	102.4
STATE TOTAL	102	12,572,162	1,634,828	492	397	889	1,839	130.0

* Average number of sitting Circuit Judges

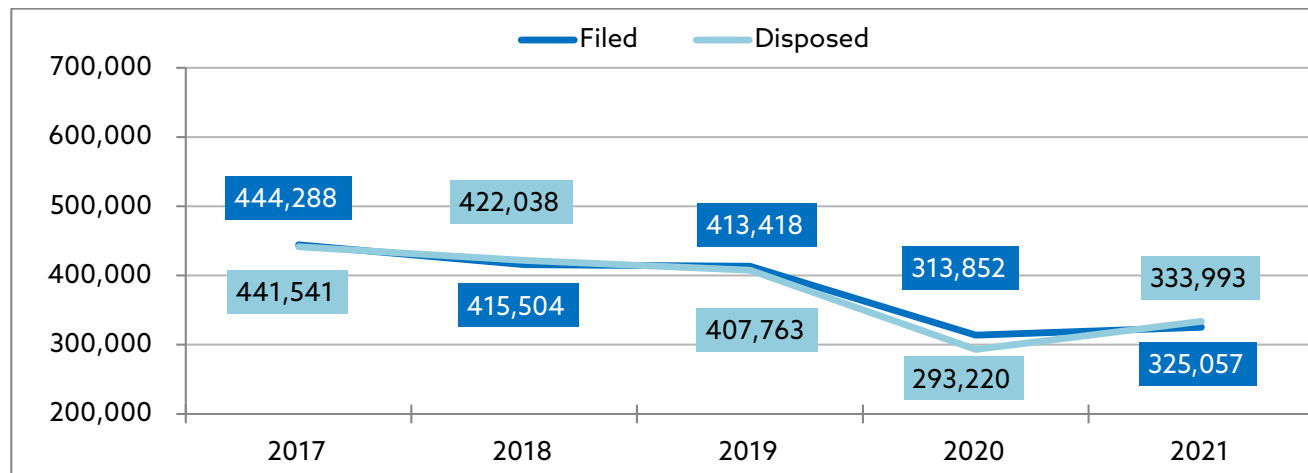
** Total of all cases in all categories: Civil; Domestic Relations; Criminal; Quasi-Criminal ; and Juvenile.

CIRCUIT COURTS OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

TOTAL CASELOAD - TOTAL CASES

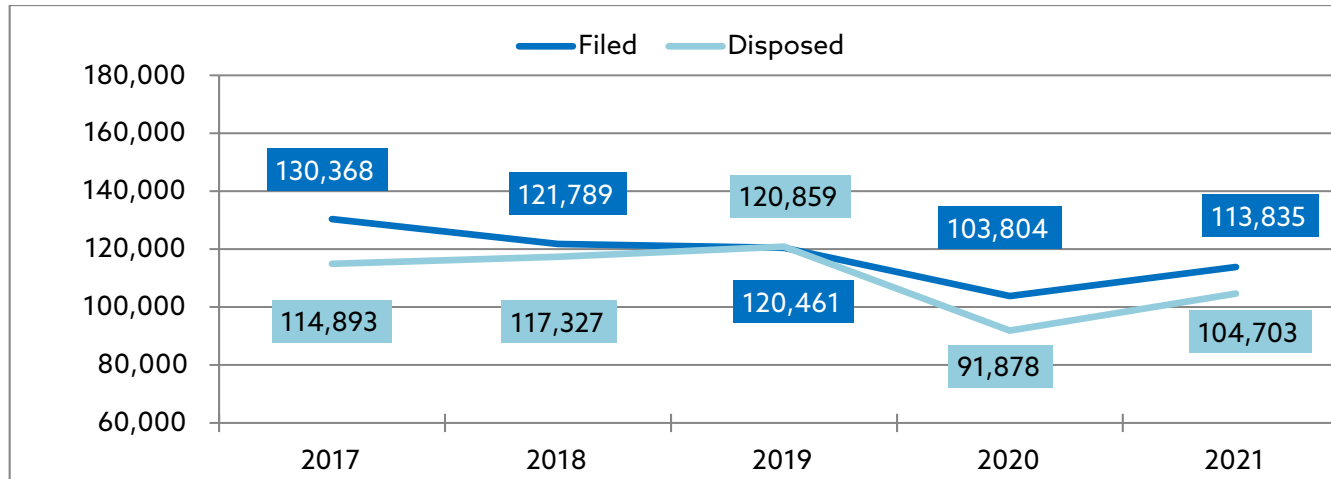


CIVIL CATEGORY - ALL CASES

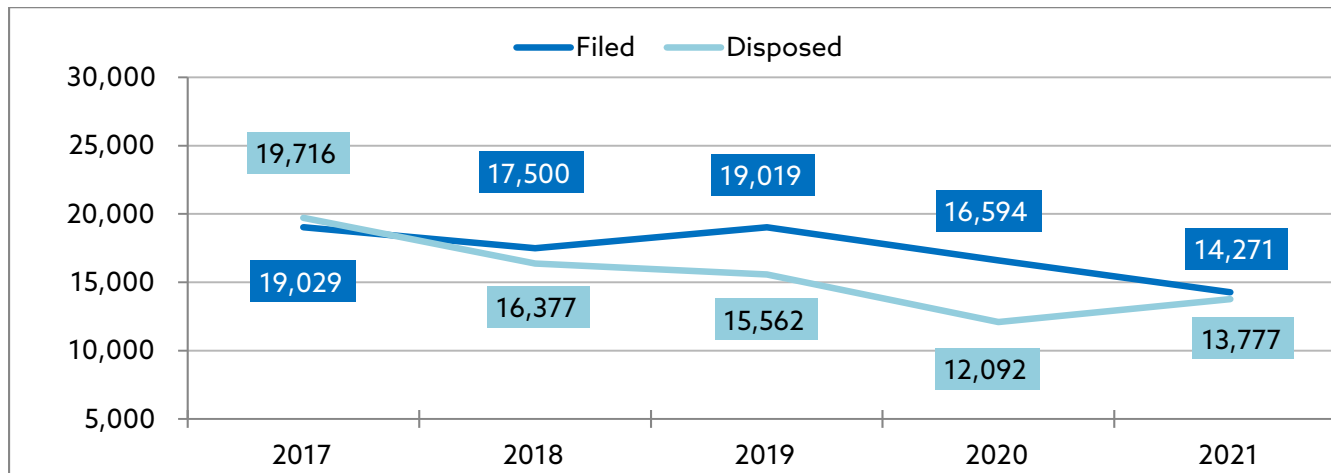


CIRCUIT COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CATEGORY - ALL CASES

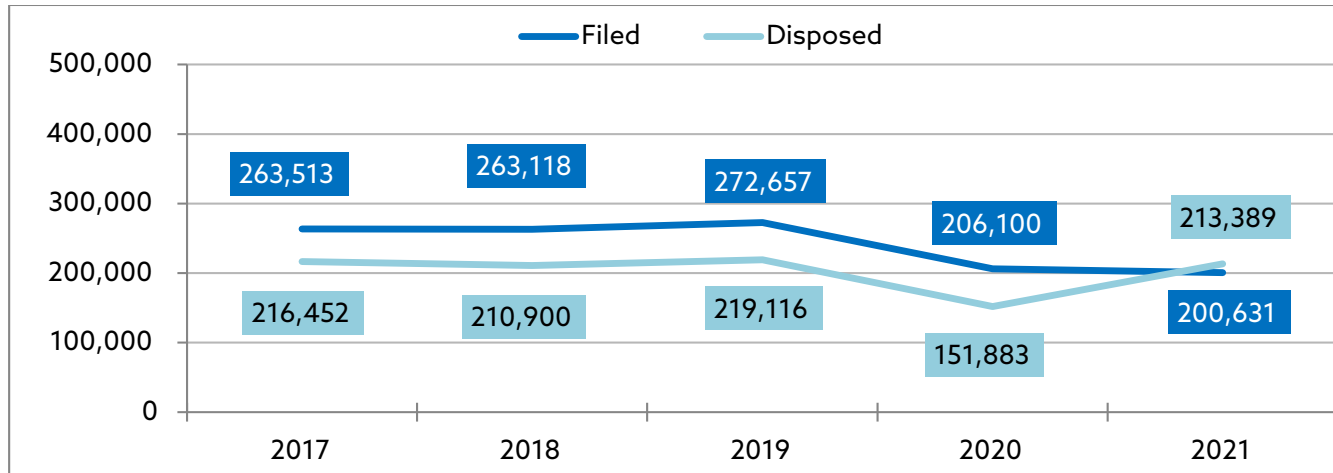


JUVENILE CATEGORY - ALL CASES

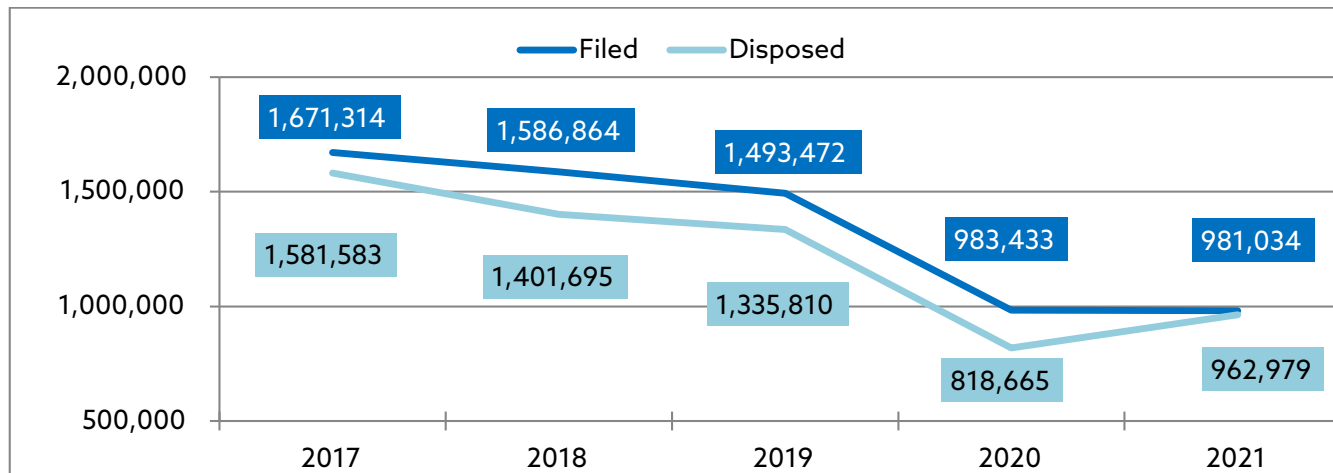


CIRCUIT COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

CRIMINAL CATEGORY - ALL CASES



QUASI-CRIMINAL CATEGORY - ALL CASES





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

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