



ILLINOIS COURTS

2020

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 2020 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 2020.

The Supreme Court, the dedicated employees of the Illinois court system, along with the judicial and non-judicial stakeholders, worked tirelessly in responding to the effects of the pandemic on the court system and ensuring access to justice. Those efforts included issuance of orders and operational guidelines to help courts resume in-person operations and establish procedures for remote hearings; creation of a COVID-19 Task Force to make recommendations regarding continuing challenges resulting from the pandemic; adoption of a new rule for practice and procedure in eviction proceedings; and issuance of orders for remote jury selection

in civil matters and for remote proceedings in adult criminal matters. In addition to its response to the pandemic, other accomplishments in 2020 included release of a statement on racial justice and hiring of a Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer for the judicial branch; launch of a volunteer pro bono program to decrease the criminal appeals backlog; and expansion of the Remote Access Policy for Illinois licensed attorneys and legal service providers.

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. The Annual Report reflects the efforts and dedication of the individuals who comprise our judiciary, non-judicial staff and justice stakeholders who strive to advance fair, efficient, and affordable justice to all in Illinois.

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's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov for the most current information concerning the Illinois courts and court partners who comprise the judicial branch of government.

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 2020 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.

It is certainly true that 2020 was a year like no other in recent history. The Court began hosting regular meetings between stakeholders at the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit court levels. Going virtual via Zoom allowed us to quickly visit with colleagues from around the state without incurring the time and cost associated with travelling for in-person meetings.

I will highlight below some of the judicial branch's major accomplishments in 2020. In

the upcoming year, my colleagues and I will continue our pursuit of ways to improve the Illinois court system.

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. Quick and decisive action was taken to protect court staff and users while also keeping courts open for essential matters. The Illinois Courts also underwent a major transition to remote and hybrid proceedings. A look at the timeline of events from the frantic first three months of the pandemic provide a window into how we got to where we are now.

Timeline of the Court's Response to COVID-19:

March 9: Gov. Pritzker issues a [Disaster Proclamation](#) for Illinois.

March 10: Illinois Courts COVID-19 Information and Updates [page](#) goes live on the Supreme Court website to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for supreme, appellate and circuit court information related to the pandemic.

March 11: [Message](#) from Chief Justice Burke Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 on Judicial Branch Operations postponing in-person meetings, trainings and other scheduled events until further notice. Guidance is also issued for courts to review pandemic and emergency courthouse operations manuals.

March 13: President Trump declares a National Emergency.

March 13: Illinois Supreme Court issues initial [guidance](#) on procedures during COVID-19.

March 17: Illinois Supreme Court issues [order](#) with additional guidance for appellate and circuit courts to only hold essential proceedings in-person and to use remote hearings whenever possible.

March 20: Illinois Supreme Court issues [order](#) allowing continuance of trials. This order was later amended twice.

March 24: Illinois Supreme Court extends filing deadlines in the [Appellate](#) and Supreme courts.

April 17: Illinois Judicial College hosts first COVID-19 related webcast, "Conducting Remote Hearings in Child Protection Cases." Many more webcasts will be held in the ensuing months to provide necessary Judicial Branch training during the pandemic.

April 20: Illinois Supreme Court approves three-month MCLE [deadline extension](#) for

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE, CONTINUED

attorneys at no cost.

April 24: Illinois Supreme Court issues [order](#) limiting freezes on personal bank accounts to ensure compliance with CARES Act.

May 12-14: Illinois Supreme Court holds oral arguments [via Zoom](#) for the first time in history with a livestream for public viewing on [YouTube](#).

May 20: Illinois Supreme Court issues order and guidelines for expanding in-person court operations beginning June 1. This order and guidelines recognized that each jurisdiction is uniquely positioned to address COVID-19 challenges based on local conditions.

May 22: Illinois Supreme Court amended rules and guidelines to support the use of remote hearings via telephone or video conferencing in the courts and the official recording of these court proceedings. Cook, Lake and Kane counties establish or expand livestream directories for remote hearings.

May 22: Illinois Supreme Court issues temporary order to ensure there are no improper and unnecessary evictions and ensure proper CARES Act protections are followed.

June 1: In-person proceedings resume in most circuit courts.

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. In-person proceedings resumed June 1 in most circuits and our Access to Justice Division created guides in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for steps to take when going to the courthouse.

This pandemic was not the crisis that we asked for, but it may be the crisis we needed to bring about improvements in technology, access to justice and other areas. The Court realizes that the health crisis is not over, but we must continue to advance justice in a safe and organized manner.

SUPREME COURT/ISBA LISTENING TOUR

I conducted a Listening Tour in conjunction with the Illinois State Bar Association at 10 locations throughout the state as a key initiative during my term as Chief. The tour was scheduled to be held in person but was moved to a virtual format via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tour kicked off in early 2020 with the first session held in Madison County in the Metro East. This is the hometown of ISBA President Dennis Orsey, who served as moderator for all 10 sessions.

The Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a vision statement that strives for the judicial system to be “trusted and open to all by being fair, innovative, diverse and responsive to changing needs.” The public listening sessions fostered discussion on local systems of justice and provided the Court an opportunity to hear about local issues – both the struggles and the successes to meet those changing needs.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE, CONTINUED



The sessions will also provide an opportunity for local justice stakeholders to weigh in on the pandemic as well as the Illinois Judicial Conference Strategic Agenda and its stated goals for the judicial branch.

The ISBA hosted and coordinated the events in all five appellate districts in the state. The listening sessions were attended by justice stakeholders including local judges, attorneys, court administrators, sheriffs, state attorneys, public defenders, circuit clerks, and other interested individuals.

Lessons learned:

- The Zoom platform has been adopted throughout the state for court calls and most administrative hearings and government meetings.
- Virtual-platform participants no longer have to incur the time and expense associated with traveling to or from

courthouses. Lawyers and litigants can now participate in a variety of docket calls from their home or office and engage in other work while waiting to be called into courtrooms. This should result in cost savings to attorneys who can pass the savings on to their clients.

- Practical suggestions made at the Listening Tours have resulted in Supreme Court Rule changes, including an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 415, which changed how defense attorneys can share discovery documents with their criminal defendants.
- Courtrooms around the state have benefited from additional funding from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, which has provided technology and other assistance through various grants. In particular, rural parts of the state have benefited immensely.

Video from all the Listening Tour sessions is available at <https://www.isba.org/accesstojustice>

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments detailed above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken by the Illinois Courts in 2020. I encourage you to review the 2020 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 2020 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne M. Burke".

Anne M. Burke
Chief Justice
Illinois Supreme Court

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 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

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.

COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 TASK FORCE:

The Task Force is charged with analyzing and making recommendations regarding the continuing challenges for the administration of justice resultant from the pandemic.

The Task Force consider, among other matters: (1) how technology might appropriately be used for jury selection and trials; (2) use of remote proceedings in civil and criminal cases; and (3) logistics of maintaining safety for court personnel, litigants and the public. Recommendations were expeditiously vetted by the IJC and then forwarded to the Illinois Supreme Court for consideration.

The Chair of the Task Force is J. Timothy Eaton, Partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP.

The Vice Chair is the Hon. Eugene G. Doherty, Chief Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit.



[VIEW THE STRATEGIC AGENDA](#)

AT-A-GLANCE Illinois Judicial Branch – Operational Plan (2019 – 2020)				
Mission: 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.		Core Values: F. A. I. R. 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.		Vision: To be trusted and open to all by being fair, innovative, diverse, and responsive to changing needs.
STRATEGIC GOALS AND 2019 - 2020 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES				
ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE/EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW	PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS, TIMELINESS, OP EFFICIENCY	PROFESSIONALISM/ ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGHOUT THE BRANCH	UNDERSTANDING OF/CONFIDENCE IN THE BRANCH	SUFFICIENT FUNDING/ EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES
Strategic Initiatives: 1. Remote Appearances in Civil Cases (Commission on Access to Justice) 2. Statewide Court Technology Assessment & Standards (Conference of Chief Circuit Judges) 3. Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators (Commission on Access to Justice) 4. Plain Language Legal Court Forms (Commission on Access to Justice)	Strategic Initiatives: 5. Court Data and Performance Measures (Court Data & Performance Measures Task Force) 6. Innovative Court Access and Dispute Resolution Methods (Court Access & Dispute Resolution Task Force) 7. Procedural Fairness Curriculum (Judicial College)	Strategic Initiatives: 8. Rules Regarding Chief Judge Authority (Judicial Administration Task Force) 9. Codes of Ethical Conduct (Commission on Professionalism) 10. Professional Competencies (Judicial College)	Strategic Initiatives: 11. Illinois Courts Website (Website Task Force) 12. Public Relations Plan (Public Relations Task Force)	Strategic Initiatives: 13. Workload and Weighted Caseload Study (Weighted Caseload Study Task Force) 14. Funding, Cost, and Fiscal Needs of the Court System (Court Funding Task Force) 15. Statewide Costs of Pre-trial, Probation, and Detention (Cost of Supervision/ Detention Task Force)
© 2019 Developed by the Illinois Judicial Conference with grant assistance from the State Justice Institute.				

[VIEW THE OPERATIONAL PLAN](#)

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2020–DECEMBER 31, 2020

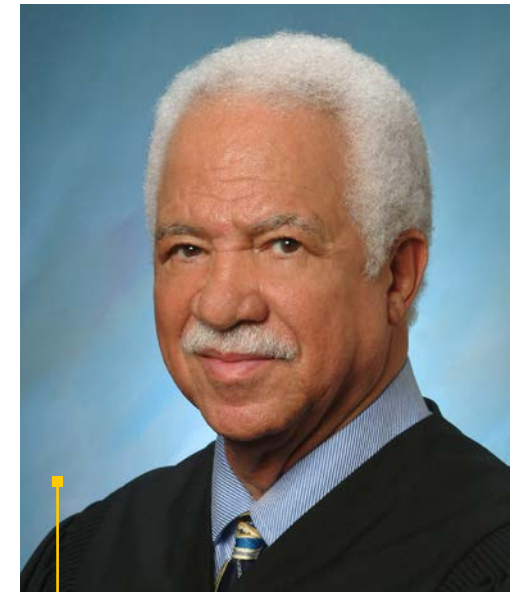


FEBRUARY 10

Justice Robert R. Thomas announced his retirement after 20 years on the Illinois Supreme Court. A former place kicker for the Chicago Bears, Justice Thomas served as Chief Justice from 2005-2008. One of his major accomplishments as Chief Justice was the establishment of the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. Second District Appellate Court Justice Michael Burke was appointed to replace Justice Thomas.

FEBRUARY 11

The Illinois Supreme Court announced a pilot program utilizing volunteer pro bono attorneys to reduce the backlog of criminal appeals that are currently pending with the Office of the State Appellate Defender (OSAD) across the state. In this six-month pilot program, pro bono attorneys will help reduce the backlog by substituting for OSAD in certain criminal appeals.



MARCH 2

Justice Charles E. Freeman, who had a long and distinguished career on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1990 to 2018 and was the first African American to serve on the Court and as Chief Justice, passed away. He was 86.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2020–DECEMBER 31, 2020



MARCH 13

The Illinois Supreme Court issued its first guidance on procedures due to COVID-19. Courts were encouraged to avoid non-essential in-person court proceedings and hold telephonic or remote video hearings when possible.

APRIL 2

The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices released its final report concerning pretrial reform in the Illinois criminal justice system. For two years, the Commission studied best practices in use around the country, consulted pretrial reform experts, listened to stakeholders throughout the state, and analyzed the myriad sources of academic and professional analysis of pretrial issues.



Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices
Final Report
April 2020

LAW DAY
2020



YOUR VOTE • YOUR VOICE
OUR DEMOCRACY
THE 19TH AMENDMENT AT 100

MAY 1

The Illinois Supreme Court proudly celebrated this year's Law Day theme: "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100." The women's suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for change and reform. Read the full Law Day statement by [clicking here.](#)

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2020–DECEMBER 31, 2020

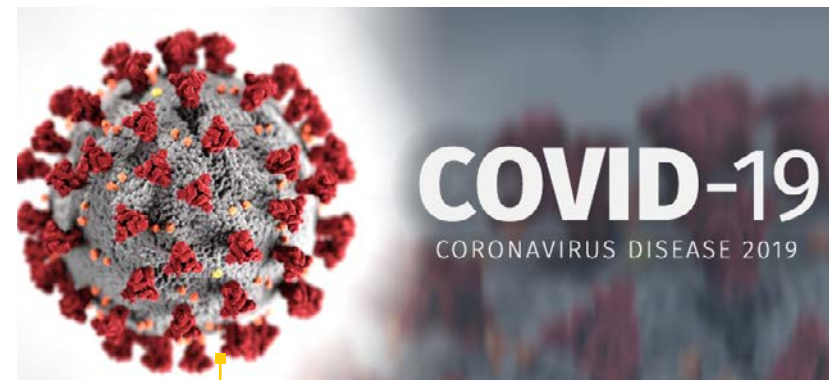


MAY 7

Chief Justice Anne M. Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court presided over a ceremony to administer the attorney's oath to 336 new attorneys via live video broadcast. Ceremonies would typically be held in each of the five judicial districts in Illinois, but this ceremony was conducted remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

MAY 12-14

The Illinois Supreme Court, for the first time in its history, held oral arguments via the Zoom videoconference platform. The Court did this to practice social distancing while still conducting court proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic. The public was able to view the oral arguments on a livestream through the Court's YouTube page.

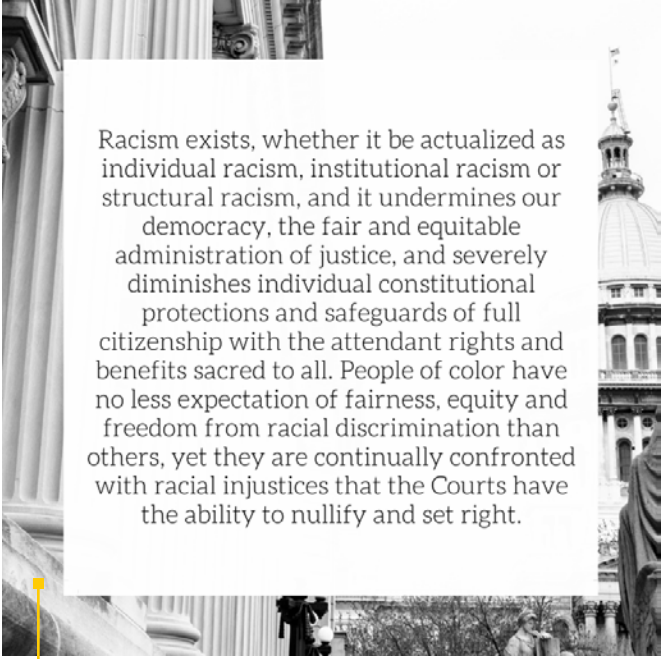


MAY 20

The Illinois Supreme Court issued an order and operational guidelines to help courts statewide resume in-person operations and establish procedures for remote hearings. The state's courts have been operating under precautionary measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to conduct emergency and essential matters.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2020–DECEMBER 31, 2020



Racism exists, whether it be actualized as individual racism, institutional racism or structural racism, and it undermines our democracy, the fair and equitable administration of justice, and severely diminishes individual constitutional protections and safeguards of full citizenship with the attendant rights and benefits sacred to all. People of color have no less expectation of fairness, equity and freedom from racial discrimination than others, yet they are continually confronted with racial injustices that the Courts have the ability to nullify and set right.

JUNE 22

The Illinois Supreme Court released a statement on racial justice and next steps for the Judicial Branch, including the hiring of a new Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer. The full statement is available by [clicking here](#).

JULY 2

Chief Justice Anne M. Burke and the Illinois Supreme Court announced the amendment of Rule 711(g), which temporarily expanded the class of employers eligible to supervise new law school graduates to include private law firms and other for-profit entities.



ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE CHANGES

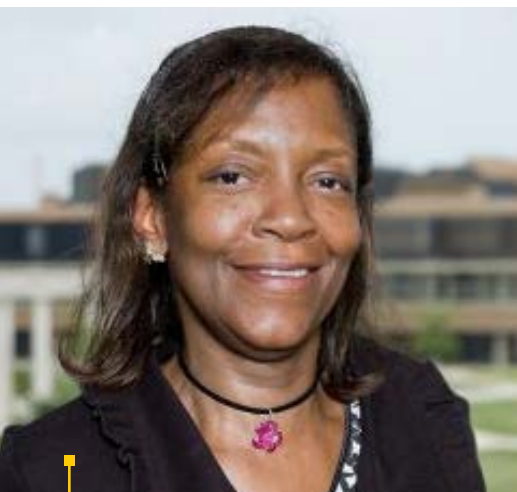


SEPTEMBER 1

Self-represented litigants in Illinois can now submit a question online about their civil appeal and receive an answer from a pro bono lawyer with the launch of Illinois Free Legal Answers for Civil Appeals, the first-ever legal help desk for appeals in Illinois. The program was created to address the pressing need to provide help to self-represented litigants, who account for 41% of civil appeals filed in the state.

YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JANUARY 1, 2020–DECEMBER 31, 2020

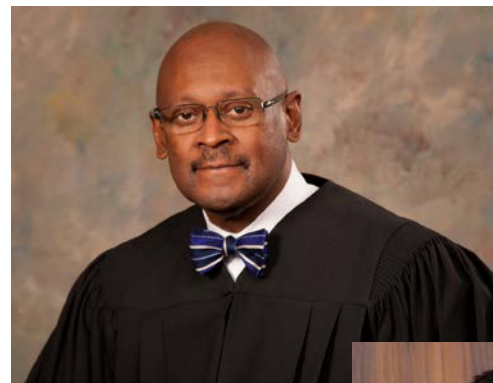


NOVEMBER 2

The Illinois Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts hired Deanie Brown as the Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer (CDIO). As the CDIO, Brown is responsible for the development and implementation of a results focused comprehensive strategy to foster diverse, equitable, and inclusive leadership and staffing for the Illinois Judicial Branch, including the hiring, retention and promotion of a diverse and inclusive workforce.

NOVEMBER 20

Chief Justice Anne M. Burke and the Illinois Supreme Court announced the amendment of Rule 23, which will allow litigants to cite unpublished opinions from the Illinois Appellate Courts for persuasive purposes. Amended Rule 23 is effective Jan. 1, 2021.



DECEMBER 4

Following the November 3, 2020 election, Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., the second African American to sit on the Illinois Supreme Court, and Justice David K. Overstreet were sworn-in to 10-year terms on the Illinois Supreme Court.



DECEMBER 8

Justice Robert L. Carter of the 3rd District Appellate Court was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court to fill the vacancy of Justice Thomas L. Kilbride. Justice Carter's appointment ends on December 5, 2022, when the seat will be filled by the November 2022 General Election.



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 CAROLYN TAFT GROSBOLL

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

In its case management capacity, the Clerk's Office maintains four distinct automated dockets, executing all associated processes, to ensure compliance with Supreme Court Rules and to ensure that cases are effectively monitored and scheduled, from initiation to issuance of mandates and final orders as appropriate. The general docket unit of the office supports the Court's primary docket. The miscellaneous record docket consists primarily of attorney matters. The miscellaneous docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by pro se incarcerated litigants and provides a forum without compromising standard filing requirements. The proposed rule docket was developed

and functions consistent with the mandate of Supreme Court Rule 3. E-filing of Court documents began in 2012 on a pilot basis 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 the seventh year of this e-initiative, approximately 84% of law firm entities chose to electronically renew. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for maintaining the roll of attorneys, which includes the licensing process, and issuance of law licenses; files judicial financial disclosure

IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THIS
E-INITIATIVE, APPROXIMATELY

84%

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 2020.

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
2020	1,766	1,775
2019	1,942	2,075
2018	2,011	2,071
2017	2,208	2,320
2016	2,244	2,379



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 102ND ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 29, 2021

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of the activities for the 2020 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.

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

In December 2019, 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.

For a high level overview of the initiatives undertaken over the last year, please see [At-A-Glance Illinois Judicial Branch—Operational Plan \(2019-2020\)](#).

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 2020 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.



Anne M. Burke
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Illinois

THE HONORABLE
EMANUEL C. WELCH
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Springfield, IL 62706

THE HONORABLE
JIM DURKIN
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Springfield, IL 62706

THE HONORABLE
DON HARMON
President of the Senate
State Senate
Springfield, IL 62706

THE HONORABLE
DAN MCCONCHIE
Minority Leader
State Senate
Springfield, IL 62706



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2020 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 in the administration of justice. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41 implements this constitutional requirement by defining the duties and the membership of the Illinois Judicial Conference.

During Conference Year 2020, the IJC was focused on completing 15 new 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 15 initiatives were assigned to either an existing Supreme Court Board, Committee, or Commission, or to a newly created Task Force whose sole objective was to complete its assigned initiative. The IJC met four 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. While the initial deadline for completion of initiatives was October of 2020, the deadline was extended to January of 2021 due to the pandemic.

1. Remote Appearances in Civil Cases— Strategic Goal 1

The purpose of this initiative was to promote the increased use of remote appearances in civil cases through improved rules, policy, and education. This initiative was assigned to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, and amendments to Supreme Court Rule 241, in addition to the creation of new Rule 45, were implemented as a result. Additionally, at the recommendation of the Commission, the Court approved its first remote appearances policy titled: [Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Remote Appearances in Civil Proceedings](#).

THE ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE WAS FOCUSED ON COMPLETING 15 NEW INITIATIVES

2. Statewide Court Technology Assessment and 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. This initiative was assigned to the Conference of Chief Judges, and they completed a statewide technology inventory in January of 2021. The inventory will guide initiative work in 2021.

3. Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators— Strategic Goal 1

This initiative enhanced personal services provided to self-represented litigants in courts across Illinois, making the courts more understandable, user-friendly, and accessible. The initiative was assigned to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, which identified a point person in each circuit to assist self-represented litigants and

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2020 ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED



developed and administered an educational program.

4. Plain Language Legal Court Forms — Strategic Goal 1

The purpose of this initiative was to expand the use of plain language legal forms to make the courts more understandable and accessible for litigants in small claims and eviction cases. This initiative was assigned to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, which led to the publication of a suite of standardized complaint forms for self-represented litigants in eviction and small claims cases, in addition to an examination of Rule 10-101, which governs the use of standardized forms.

Suggested amendments to Rule 10-101 have been approved by the IJC and are pending with the Court.

5. Court Data and Performance Measures— Strategic Goal 2

The purpose of this initiative was to strengthen and standardize court data across Illinois courts by adopting statewide definitions of terms for current data collected and identifying new data points that need to be captured in the future (such as: open/closed cases, case types, court performance measures, and data on self-represented litigants). This initiative was assigned to a new Task Force, which suggested amendments to the Manual on

Recordkeeping that both the IJC and the Court approved. The amendments will be effective on January 1, 2022.

6. 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 emerging ways to access the courts and resolve disputes. The two topics chosen by this new Task Force to examine were text messaging reminders and online dispute resolution. As a result of the Task Force's work, the Court adopted new Supreme Court Rule 14, which encourages the adoption of text messaging services. The AOIC has also committed staff resources to examine online dispute resolution programs and their relevance in Illinois in response to the Task Force's work.

7. Procedural Fairness Curriculum—Strategic Goal 2

The purpose of this initiative was to heighten awareness and strengthen the practices of judges and justice partners surrounding procedural fairness, in order to ensure fair and effective case handling and equitable treatment of litigants. To that end, the Illinois Judicial College adopted procedural fairness principles as professional competencies for judges and justice partners (including circuit clerks, trial court administrators, other court personnel) and is committed to incorporating procedural fairness principles into Judicial College curricula for judges and justice

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2020 ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED

partners.

8. Rules Regarding Chief Judge Authority— Strategic Goal 3

The purpose of this initiative was to maintain high levels of professionalism and accountability of judges throughout Illinois by clarifying the authority of chief circuit judges to address judicial performance and conduct. At the recommendation of the Task Force assigned to this initiative, the IJC approved proposed amendments to Supreme Court Rule 21 to clarify the authority of the chief circuit judge to regulate the conduct of judges subject to their supervision. The Court adopted the proposed amendments to Rule 21.

9. Ethics/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 by updating or developing Codes of Professional Conduct for each major judicial branch or court employee group in collaboration with each respective group. The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism was assigned this initiative and worked with court interpreters, judicial branch state employees, court reporters, and probation officers to update their existing Codes of Ethics or Professional Conduct. In 2021, the Commission on Professionalism will work to develop codes for court stakeholders who lack existing codes, such as mediators,

trial court administrators, clerks, etc.

10. Professional Competencies—Strategic Goal 3

This initiative was intended to enhance the knowledge, skills, abilities, and attitudes of judges, court employees, and justice partners on key topics, ensuring professionalism and accountability throughout the judicial branch. As such, the Illinois Judicial College developed timelines for courses on deliberative decision-making, mitigation of bias, procedural fairness, access to justice, courtroom management (including judicial temperament and sensitivity), harassment, and professionalism.

11. Illinois Courts Website—Strategic Goal 4

The development of a new Illinois Courts website is ongoing and will make important information available to judicial branch employees, other partners, and the general public through the development of a modern, informative, and user-friendly website. Launch of the website is expected in May of 2021.

12. 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. The Task Force assigned to this initiative developed the Public Relations Plan, and it was adopted by the IJC.

13. Workload and Weighted Caseload Study—

Strategic Goal 5

The purpose of this initiative was to explore and report on the feasibility (including options, methods, costs) of conducting a statewide judicial caseload and workload study that would weight cases, measure judge time, and provide recommendations for more effective allocation of judicial resources. Upon review of the Task Force's final report, the IJC and the Court approved the AOIC to pursue a contract to engage in a weighted caseload study in 2021.

14. 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. The Task Force assigned to this initiative provided a comprehensive report to the IJC at its January 2021 meeting.

15. 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,

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 2020 ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE, CONTINUED

pre-trial supervision, probation, and incarceration. A comprehensive report was provided to the IJC at its January 2021 meeting.

Added in June of 2020: 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 in light of the COVID- 19 Pandemic. Some of the initial topics evaluated by the Task Force included (1) how technology might appropriately be used for jury selection and trials; (2) use of remote proceedings in civil and criminal cases (particularly with regards to assurances of due process); and (3) logistics of maintaining safety for court personnel, litigants and the public. The work of the Task Force is ongoing.

As evidenced by the accomplishments under each initiative, the scope of work undertaken by the Judicial Conference will continue during 2021 with identifying and prioritizing new strategic initiatives. Justice S. Gene Schwarm (ret.), as Project Coordinator for the Judicial Conference Strategic Agenda, Dr. Brenda Wagenknecht-Ivy, as Strategic Agenda Project Consultant, and Alison Spanner, as Director of Strategic Planning, will continue to help guide the IJC throughout Conference Year 2021. 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

PEOPLE V. ASHLEY, 2020 IL 123989 (JANUARY 24, 2020, MODIFIED ON DENIAL OF REHEARING MARCH 23, 2020)

The defendant in this case was convicted of stalking under 720 ILCS 5/12-7.3(a)(2), (c)(1) (West 2014) and was sentenced to serve a prison term of one year and six months by the circuit court. On appeal, the defendant argued that subsection (a) of the stalking statute violated state and federal constitutional guarantees of (1) due process, because it lacks a *mens rea* requirement and is unduly vague, and (2) free speech, because it overbroadly criminalizes a substantial amount of protected speech. The appellate court acknowledged that there was conflicting precedent as to whether a true threat requires a showing of the speaker's subjective intent to threaten or an objective standard for statements that are reasonably understood to convey a threat, but the court determined that defendant's conviction could be sustained based on conduct that was otherwise prohibited by the stalking statute. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court, concluding that defendant's conviction for stalking did not rest on the invalid or overly broad portions of the stalking statute.

DYNAK V. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WOOD DALE SCHOOL DISTRICT 7, 2020 IL 125062 (APRIL 16, 2020)

At issue in this case is whether Section 24-6 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/24-6 (West 2016)) allows a teacher who gives birth at the end of the school year to use their accumulated paid sick leave at the start of the next school year. The school district in this case denied the plaintiff's request to use paid sick leave at the beginning of the school year following the birth of her child, allowing 1.5 sick days but not the additional 28.5 sick days requested. The plaintiff filed a complaint for declaratory judgment. The circuit court held in favor of the school district, and the appellate court affirmed. The Supreme Court affirmed the circuit court and appellate court, holding that the legislature's failure to explicitly state when sick leave for birth must first be taken or to limit such leave to a specific purpose does not leave Section 24-6 open to the teacher's discretion to use sick leave for birth whenever he or she chooses.



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

THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ET AL. V. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE IMRF, ET AL., 2020 IL 125330 (JUNE 4, 2020)

At issue in this case is whether section 7-137.2(a) of the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/7-137.2(a) (West 2016)), which alters the certification process and eligibility requirements for elected county board members' participation in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), violates the pension protection clause of article XIII, section 5, of the Illinois Constitution (Ill. Const. 1970, art. XIII, § 5). The three plaintiffs, who served on the Williamson County Board of Commissioners (Board), had their continued eligibility and participation in IMRF terminated after the Board failed to adopt a resolution within 90 days of the general election certifying that its members were expected to work at least 1,000 hours per year. This became required in 2016 after the General Assembly enacted Public Act 99- 900, which amended parts of section 7-137 of the Pension Code. In an administrative hearing, the Board of Trustees of the IMRF affirmed the termination of the plaintiffs' eligibility and participation. The circuit court reversed the IMRF, finding that section 7-137.2(a) of the Pension Code was unconstitutional because it violated the pension protection clause of article XIII, section 5, of the Illinois Constitution, and the IMRF appealed directly to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court affirmed the circuit court's judgment, determining that the legislature's unilateral

decision to create section 7-137.2(a) effectively imposed a new requirement for continued IMRF participation that did not exist when plaintiffs began their public employment and that because the newly created requirement in the Pension Code did not exist when plaintiffs began their public employment it cannot be constitutionally applied to the plaintiffs.

HERNANDEZ V. LIFELINE AMBULANCE, LLC, ET AL, 2020 IL 124610 (JUNE 18, 2020)

At issue in this case is whether section 3.150 of the Emergency Medical Services Systems Act (EMS Act) (210 ILCS 50/3.150 (West 2016)) provides immunity from liability to an ambulance owner and its driver, stemming from a motor-vehicle accident caused by the negligent operation of the ambulance while en route to pick up a patient for non-emergency transportation. The plaintiff filed a three-count, first amended complaint after a Lifeline employee ran a red light and collided with plaintiff's vehicle. The defendants moved to dismiss with prejudice two of the counts of both complaints based on the immunity provision of the EMS Act, claiming the ambulance was in the performance of non-emergency medical services at the time. The circuit court granted defendants' motion to dismiss claims grounded in negligence, finding that the EMS Act's immunity did apply when an ambulance has been "dispatched for non-emergency medical services and there is no patient in the vehicle." The plaintiff appealed

and the appellate court reversed the circuit court, finding that section 3.150 of the EMS Act fails to take into consideration the statutory definition of non-emergency medical services found in the EMS Act. The appellate court indicated that had the legislature intended to provide immunity for the negligence of an ambulance driver while en route to pick up a patient for transport as suggested by defendants, it could have included the activity within the definition of non-emergency medical services. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court, holding that the immunity provision of section 3.150(a) of the EMS Act did not apply under the circumstances of the case and remanded the cause to the circuit court for further proceedings.

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

PEOPLE V. LEGOO, 2020 IL 124965 (JUNE 18, 2020)

The defendant in this case was convicted of being a child sex offender in a public park in violation of section 11-9.4-1(b) of the Criminal Code of 2012 (Code) (720 ILCS 5/11-9.4-1(b) (West 2016)). On appeal, the defendant contended his conviction must be reversed because an exception to criminal liability contained in section 11-9.3(a-10) of the Code (720 ILCS 5/11-9.3(a-10) (West 2016)), allowing a child sex offender to be present in a public park when accompanied by his own child should be read into section 11-9.4-1(b), as the defendant established at trial that he was in the park only to tell his son to come home. The trial court rejected this defense, stating it was not applicable to these facts. On appeal, the appellate court acknowledged “overlap” in the statutes but rejected the defendant’s contention and affirmed his conviction. The Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court’s judgment, concluding that Section 11-9.4-1(b) completely bars certain sex offenders from being present in public parks.

SHARPE V. WESTMORELAND, 2020 IL 124863 (SEPTEMBER 24, 2020)

At issue in this case is whether a civil union partner is a “step-parent” as defined by the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act’s (Dissolution Act) (750 ILCS 5/101 et seq. (West 2016)) provisions that grant stepparents standing to seek visitation and parental responsibilities of their stepchildren. Matt Sharpe and Crystal Westmoreland had their marriage dissolved in 2013 and shared equal parenting time though the child’s primary residence was with Sharpe and his civil union partner Kris Fulkerson. When Sharpe died in 2017, Westmoreland no longer let the child live with or visit Fulkerson and Fulkerson’s children, so Fulkerson filed petitions seeking visitation and an allocation of parental responsibilities. The circuit court certified two questions: whether a party to a civil union has standing to request visitation with her deceased partner’s child as a stepparent and whether that party has standing to request parental responsibilities. The appellate court answered both questions in the negative and denied Fulkerson’s petition. The Supreme Court reversed the appellate court, finding that in enacting the Civil Union Act the General Assembly intended to create an alternative to marriage that was equal in all respects, and certified both questions in the affirmative.

PEOPLE V. CASLER, 2020 IL 125117 (OCTOBER 28, 2020)

The defendant in this case was convicted of obstructing justice by furnishing false information (720 ILCS 5/31-4(a)(1) (West 2014)) in the trial court after giving a false name during an arrest. The defendant maintained that the evidence was insufficient to prove that he had the requisite intent to prevent his apprehension, but the appellate court affirmed the judgment of conviction. The defendant alternatively argued that the evidence was insufficient to support his conviction of obstructing justice because his giving of the false name did not materially impede the administration of justice, citing *People v. Taylor*, 2012 IL App (2d) 110222, which in turn relied on the decision in *People v. Comage*, 241 Ill. 2d 139 (2011). The appellate court held that the State was not required to prove that the false name furnished by defendant materially impeded his arrest. The Supreme Court however determined on appeal that the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that (1) the defendant knowingly furnished false information, (2) the defendant did so with the intent to prevent the apprehension of any person, and (3) the false information must have materially impeded the administration of justice. For that reason, the Supreme Court reversed the judgments of the appellate court and the circuit court and remanded the case to the circuit court for further proceedings.

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COURT AND CHAIRPERSONS DURING 2020

Appellate Court Administrative Committee

Appellate Justice Donald C. Hudson, *Chair*
Justice Mary Jane Theis, *liaison officer*

Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission

David F. Rolewick, Esq., *Chair*
Timothy L. Bertschy, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, *liaison officer*
Review Board – R. Michael Henderson, Esq.,
Chair
Jill W. Landsberg, 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

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John R. Storino, 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 Michael J. Burke, *liaison officer*

Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases

Adrian E. Harless, Esq., *Chair*
Elizabeth A. Kaveny, 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 Lloyd A. Karmeier, *liaison officer*

Committee on Professional Responsibility

Michael A. Scodro, Esq., *Chair*
Raylene DeWitte Grischow, 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)

Legislative Committee of the Supreme Court of Illinois

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

SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COURT AND CHAIRPERSONS DURING 2020

Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board

Michele M. Jochner, Esq., *Chair*
Patrick B. Mathis, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, *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*

Special Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Conduct

Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice

Appellate Justice Mary K. Rochford, *Chair*
Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, *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*

Supreme Court Committee on Illinois Evidence

Warren D. Wolfson, Esq., *Chair*
Appellate Justice Robert L. Carter, *Vice-Chair*
Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., *liaison officer*

Supreme Court e-Business Policy Advisory Board

Judge David Hylla, *Chair*

Supreme Court e-Business Technical Committee

Judge Val Gunnarsson, *Chair*

Supreme Court Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee

Appellate Justice Barry Vaughan, *Chair*
Justice Mary Jane Theis, *liaison officer*

Supreme Court Language Access Advisory Board

Supreme Court Probation Policy Advisory Board

Kevin Johnson, Esq., *Chair*
Avik Das, Esq., *Vice-Chair*

Supreme Court Rules Committee

Antonio M. Romanucci, *Chair*
James D. Green, Esq., *Vice-Chair*
Professor Keith H. Beyler, Esq., *Reporter*
Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, *liaison officer*

STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE COURTS

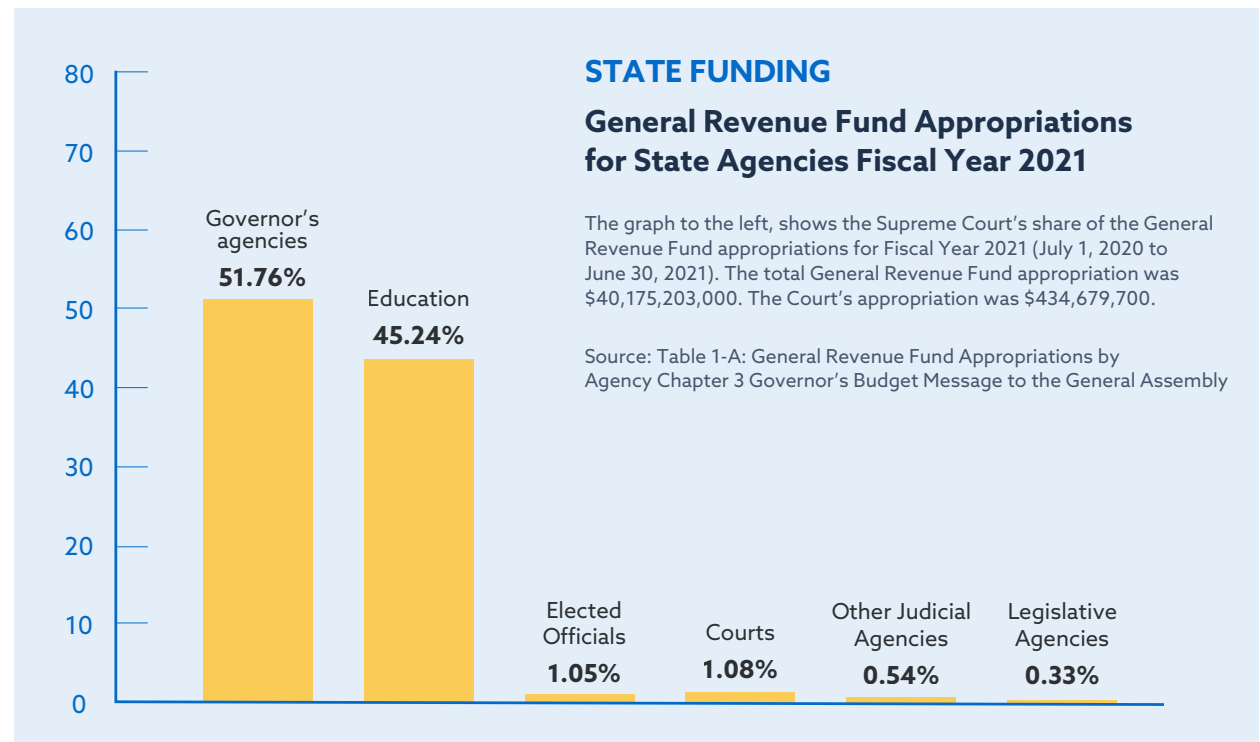
Financing the state court system is a shared responsibility of the state and the 102 counties of the state. Revenue to provide court services to the people of the state comes from a variety of sources: the state income tax, county property taxes, case filing fees, court-imposed fines and assessments, 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, 2020, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$246,256; appellate court judges, \$231,773; circuit court judges, \$212,681; and associate judges, \$202,047. 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 2020, the arbitration filing and rejection fees collected amounted to \$3,041,132.20. State funding for

probation and court services departments covers approximately 3,113 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.

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 2020, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 2,865, assisted by a total of 135 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$217,740,244 in 2020.

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 2020 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.

\$20,200,630

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

\$20,914,402

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

\$7,033,932

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

\$5,202,499

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

\$5,464,746



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 2020 by circuit clerks are listed below:

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

\$1,073,134,283

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

\$2,710,171

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.

\$5,055,771

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

\$1,725,399

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

\$5,181,062

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

\$2,363,273

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.

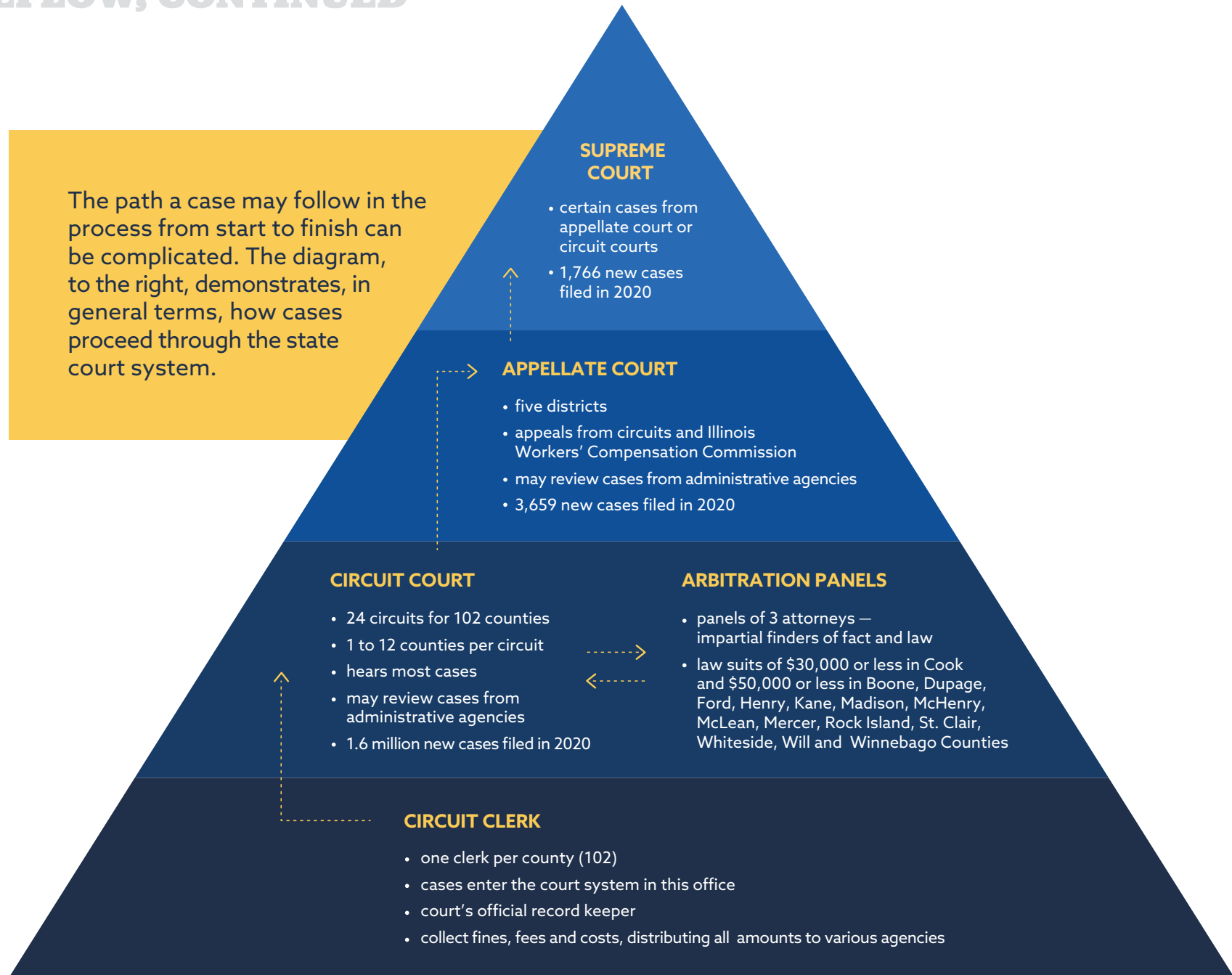


By 1962, Cook County alone had 208 courts: circuit court, superior court, family court, criminal court, probate court, county court, twenty-four city, village, town and municipal courts, seventy-five justice of the peace courts, and 103 police magistrate courts. In addition, there were seven supreme 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 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 prosecutors 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
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
2016	3,586	3,890	3,125	3,078

TOTAL CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	FILED	DISPOSED
2020	3,659	5,449
2019	5,785	6,103
2018	5,676	6,165
2017	6,222	6,300
2016	6,835	7,120

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

*Beginning in 2017, 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 28, 2020 with the Honorable Susan F. Hutchinson (Second District Appellate Court) serving as the Honorary Chair of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Fifty-four appellate justices were in attendance. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 15(e) of the Illinois Constitution, the Illinois Appellate Court selects two appellate justices to serve as regular members and three appellate justices to serve as alternative members of the Illinois Courts Commission. For the remainder of 2020, the Honorable Margaret Stanton McBride (First District Appellate Court) and the Honorable Mary K. O'Brien (Third District Appellate Court) continued their terms as Regular Members of the Commission. Additionally, the Honorable Mary S. Schostok (Second District Appellate Court), the Honorable Thomas M. Harris (Fourth District Appellate Court), and the Honorable James R. Moore (Fifth District Appellate Court) were approved to continue their service as Alternate Members. The Honorable Mary McDade (Third District Appellate Court) was elected to serve as Honorary Chair of the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court.

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 2020 Conference was held virtually on October 28-29, 2020 via Zoom. Fifty-four justices were in attendance along with the Clerks and Legal Research Directors of the Supreme and Appellate Courts. A total of 90 participants attended over the two days of the Conference. The Conference address was delivered by the Honorable Anne M. Burke, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Conference topics included presentations on

Civil and Criminal Law Updates, Implicit Bias, and Best Practices for Conducting Remote Oral Arguments. The Honorable Bertina 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*
Kathleen Warnick, *Research Director*

Circuit Court of Cook County
District Population: 5,108,284

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL DISPOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
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
2016	1,811	2,079	1,562	1,486

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

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2020	3,362
2019	4,388
2018	4,777
2017	5,160
2016	5,285

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

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

DIVISION I

Carl A. Walker*, Presiding Judge
Mary Ellen Coghlan*
Michael B. Hyman
Daniel J. Pierce*

DIVISION IV

Robert E. Gordon, Presiding Judge
Bertina E. Lampkin
Jesse G. Reyes

DIVISION II

James G. Fitzgerald Smith, Presiding Judge
Cynthia Y. Cobbs*
Terrence J. Lavin
Aurelia Pucinski

DIVISION V

Mathias W. Delort, Presiding Judge
Joy V. Cunningham
Thomas E. Hoffman
Mary K. Rochford+

DIVISION VI

Mary L. Mikva*, Presiding Judge
Maureen E. Connors
Sheldon A. Harris
Sharon O. Johnson

DIVISION III

Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr., Presiding Judge
David W. Ellis
Eileen O'Neill Burke
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: 3,180,437

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL DISPOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2020	409	510	331	500
2019	599	558	484	453
2018	546	522	441	461
2017	524	512	445	393
2016	623	636	480	485

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

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2020	871
2019	1,070
2018	1,165
2017	1,167
2016	1,321

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

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

George Bridges, Presiding Judge

Joseph E. Birkett

Liam C. Brennan*

Donald C. Hudson*

Susan Fayette Hutchinson

Ann Brackley Jorgensen

Robert D. McLaren

Mary S. Schostok

Kathryn E. Zenoff*

*Circuit judge assigned to appellate court

CIRCUITS

15th (Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle
& Stephenson)

16th (Kane)

17th (Boone & Winnebago)

18th (DuPage)

19th (Lake)

22nd (McHenry)

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: 1,757,504

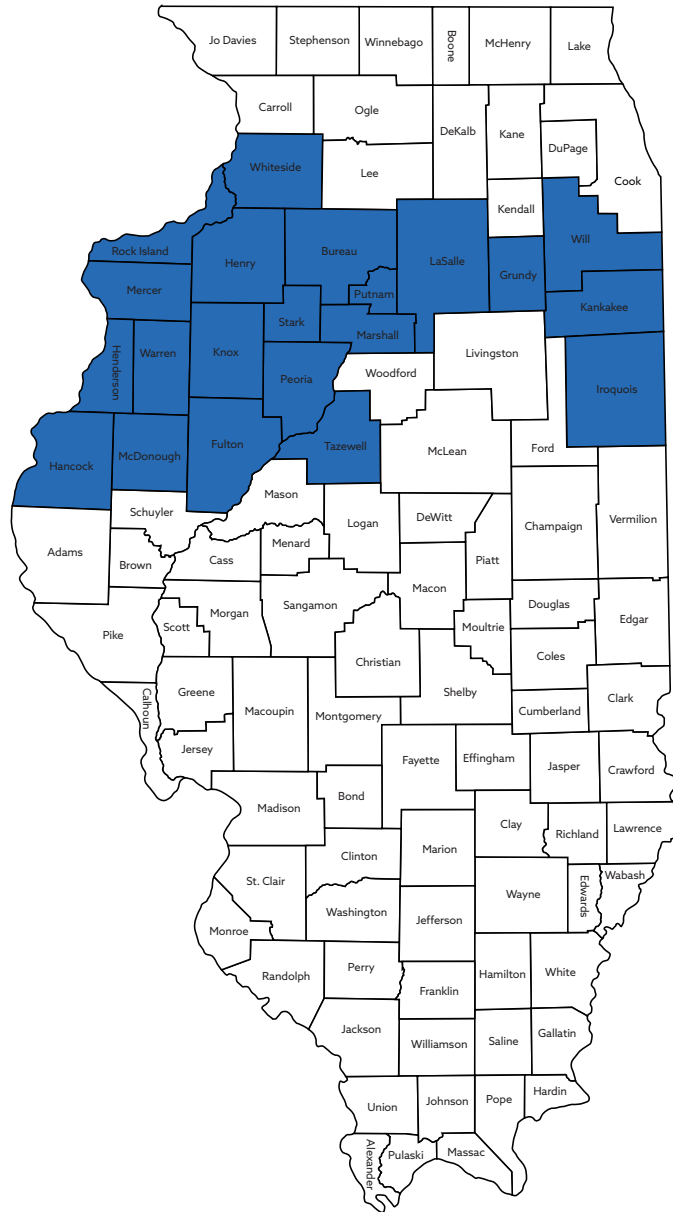
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL DISPOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2020	235	338	273	351
2019	361	301	385	383
2018	386	386	377	377
2017	425	374	363	354
2016	399	427	381	426

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

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2020	787
2019	968
2018	902
2017	938
2016	756

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

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

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

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: 1,262,730

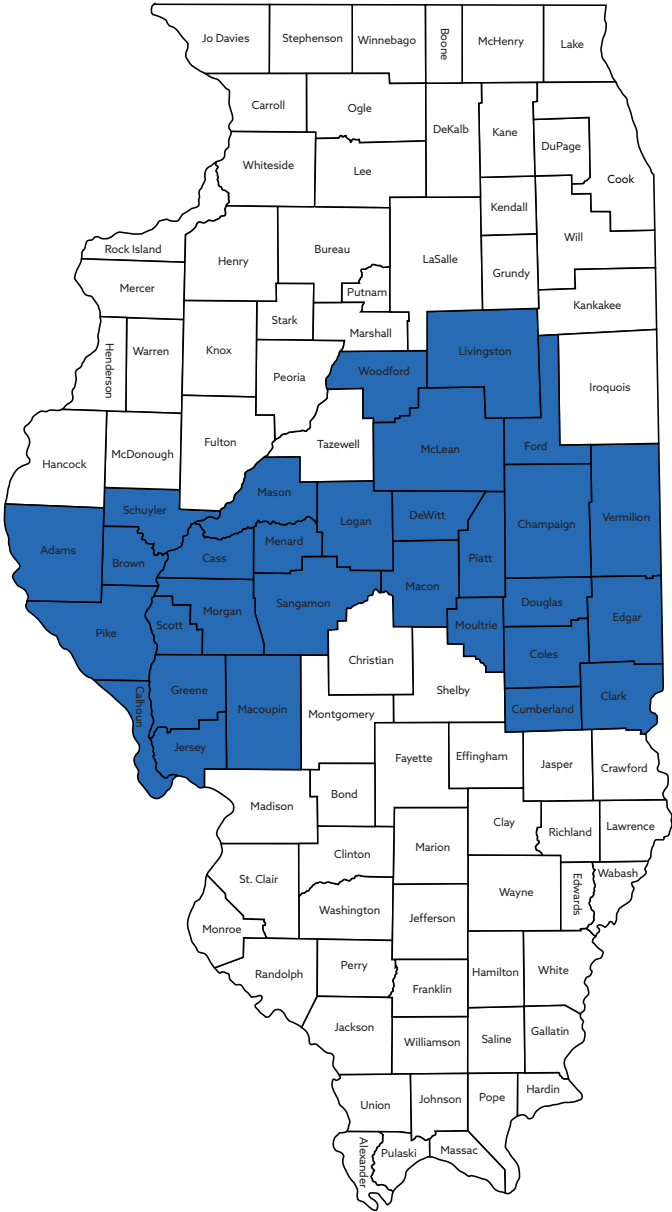
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL DISPOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2020	257	303	346	535
2019	371	315	471	472
2018	314	338	470	418
2017	363	374	471	455
2016	422	442	503	496

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

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2020	692
2019	959
2018	924
2017	931
2016	1,062

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

FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, CONTINUED



APPELLATE JUDGES

Robert J. Steigmann, Presiding Judge
Peter C. Cavanagh
Craig H. DeArmond*
Thomas M. Harris
James A. Knecht
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: 1,263,207

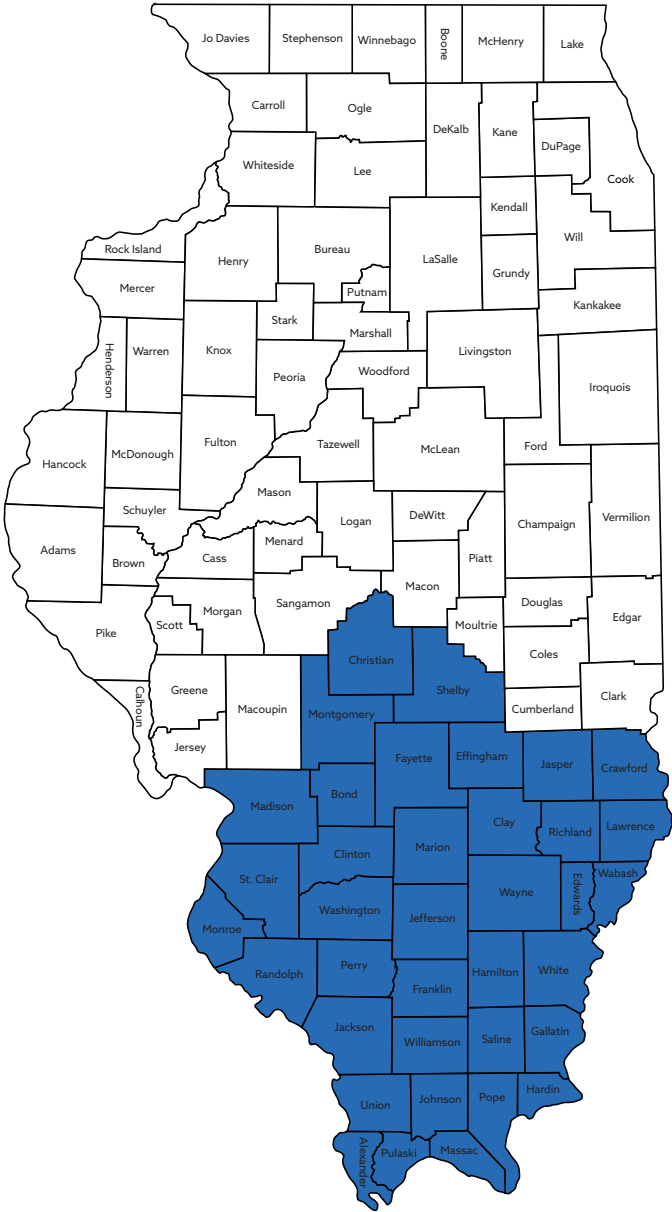
CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL DISPOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL DISPOSED
2020	222	232	184	217
2019	271	305	230	219
2018	271	249	221	241
2017	254	277	213	163
2016	331	306	199	185

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

TOTAL PENDING CASELOAD* ALL CASE CATEGORIES	PENDING
2020	660
2019	704
2018	726
2017	720
2016	765

**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
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 2020 include the Article V Committee; Associate Judge Vacancy Committee; Children and Families Committee; Criminal Procedure Committee; Evidenced-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. With the challenges posed during 2020, the Pandemic Benchbook Revision Committee was formed.

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 five new Chief Circuit Judges with information and tools to help guide them in their new administrative role. The Associate Judge Vacancy Committee began gathering

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



information related to individual circuit's associate judge application and qualification process. The Criminal Procedure Committee provided input on various orders and processes, including practices arising out of the Criminal Traffic and Assessment Act. The Evidence-based Pretrial Practices Committee worked closely with the Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices, including the implementation of final recommendations made by the Commission's report in March. 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 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. The Technology Committee was involved in the development, circulation and analysis of the statewide Technology Survey,

which inventoried hardware, software and capabilities throughout the branch. Lastly, with the difficulties that 2020 brought to all of us, the Pandemic Benchbook Revision Committee was formed, to review and revise 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: 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. The necessity of meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic allowed even greater participation from judicial branch stakeholders. For example, the Chair of the Judicial Administration Task Force through the Illinois Judicial Conference presented regarding proposed amendments to Rules 21 and 56 concerning Chief Judge authority, the Chair of the Illinois Judges Association discussed new initiatives designed to provide greater insight to the public on the work of the judicial branch in Illinois, and heard from Administrative Office staff regarding the transfer of juvenile defendants from local detention facilities to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

Additionally, the Conference of Chief Judges was fortunate to participate throughout 2020 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

For several years, one of the growing challenges in courts across the country 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 to make courts more user-friendly. 2020 was a challenging year for courts and litigants alike and many adjustments had to be made.

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 many 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.

The 2020 data collection showed a decrease in cases filed and disposed of due to the pandemic (particularly for SRLs starting cases):

- » Overall, there was an 18% decrease in civil cases started at the Circuit Court level, but a 25% decrease in cases started by SRLs.
- » The total number of civil cases that were disposed of in 2020 was 27% lower than in 2019.
- » Civil appeal filings were down 38% overall and 45% for SRLs in comparison to 2019 filings.

In the Circuit Court:

- » Approximately 66,000 new cases were filed by SRLs, most commonly in Orders of Protection, Family/Dissolution, Miscellaneous Remedy, and Law Magistrate.
- » 52% of new cases filed by SRLs were filed through the e-filing system and 48% by traditional means with an e-filing exemption.
- » Over 80,000 cases were closed in 2020 with at least one SRL appearing, most frequently

in Orders of Protection, Family/Dissolution, Miscellaneous Remedy, Law Magistrate, and Small Claims cases.

- » Both the plaintiff and defendant were self-represented in over 20,000 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.

Below are the percentage of civil appeals filed by SRLs in each Appellate District:

- » 33% in the First Appellate District
- » 43% in the Second Appellate District
- » 37% in the Third Appellate District
- » 37% in the Fourth Appellate District
- » 37% in the Fifth Appellate District

COURT INTERPRETER AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT LITIGANTS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

TOTAL INTERPRETATIONS: **38,155**

% OF INT BY REG. OR CERT. INTERPRETER: **50.22%**

% OF INT BY PHONE OR VIDEO: **30.8%**

COURT TYPE SUMMARY

CRIMINAL COURT: **30,013**

CIVIL COURT: **6,330**

ANNEXED COURT: **1,812**

CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
STATEWIDE	50.22%
1ST	16%
2ND	NA
3RD	0%
4TH	27%
5TH	16%
6TH	1%
7TH	42%
8TH	16%
9TH	4%
10TH	30%
11TH	9%
12TH	8%

CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
13TH	89%
14TH	0%
15TH	65%
16TH	100%
17TH	25%
18TH	76%
19TH	65%
20TH	4%
21ST	0%
22ND	66%
23RD	NA
COOK	35%

As COVID-19 changed the workplace landscape and court system throughout the state of Illinois, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) continued to collect data on interpreter usage in circuit courts in civil, criminal and court-annexed proceedings.

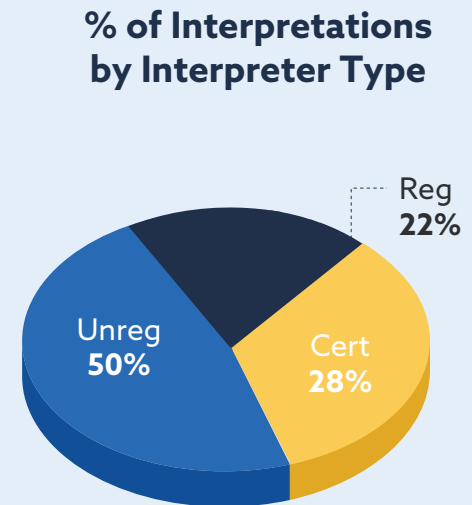
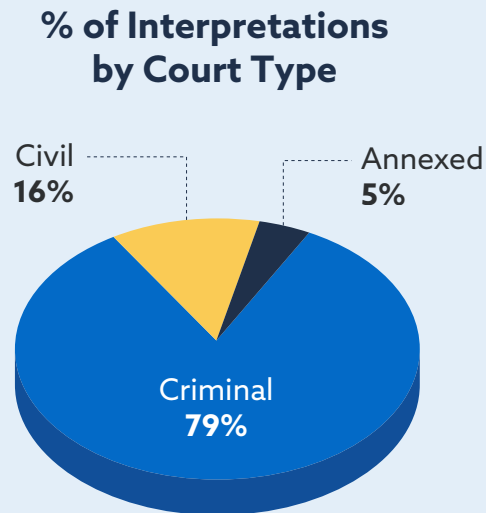
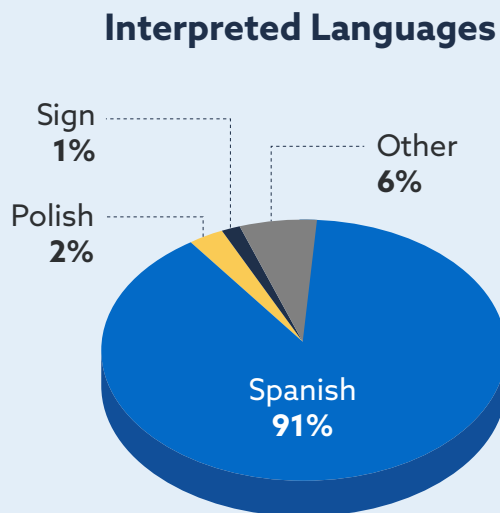
When the pandemic began in March 2020, many circuit courts quickly shifted to remote proceedings and other courts with limited availability of interpreters in more rural areas of the state increased remote hearings. A big takeaway from the findings is the need for more remote proceedings for interpretation services and increased use of registered and certified interpreters on the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry. For 2020, the total amount of interpretations decreased drastically from 2019.

In 2020, circuit courts there were a total of 38,155 interpretations and 50 percent of these events were performed by a registered or certified interpreter. The majority (79 percent) were performed for criminal proceedings and 16 percent were for a civil proceeding. State-wide, Spanish interpretations consisted of 91 percent of interpretation proceedings (34,782), followed by Polish at 2 percent, Arabic at 1

COURT INTERPRETER AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT LITIGANTS, CONTINUED

percent, and American Sign Language at 1 percent. The AOIC also experienced a rise in Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) providers for court patrons who are hard of hearing but may not fully understand American Sign Language. 31 percent of total interpretations were conducted by phone or video device.

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)



CATEGORY	CASELOAD STATISTICS	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
CIVIL	Filed	313,852	413,418	415,504	444,288	429,649
	Reinstated	17,318	16,005	17,822	26,534	24,162
	Disposed	293,220	407,763	422,038	441,541	576,457
	Clearance Rate %	88.5%	95.0%	97.4%	93.8%	127.0%
	End Pending	659,561	628,456	627,913	614,766	590,596
DOMESTIC RELATIONS	Filed	103,804	120,461	121,789	130,368	140,416
	Reinstated	918	1,220	1,242	1,237	1,287
	Disposed	91,878	120,859	117,327	114,893	133,708
	Clearance Rate %	87.7%	99.3%	95.4%	87.3%	94.4%
	End Pending	120,316	108,806	127,839	123,282	111,621
JUVENILE	Filed	16,594	19,019	17,500	19,029	19,943
	Reinstated	127	176	226	201	177
	Disposed	12,092	15,562	16,377	19,716	20,914
	Clearance Rate %	72.3%	81.1%	92.4%	102.5%	103.9%
	End Pending	56,196	52,850	49,863	49,835	50,991
CRIMINAL	Filed	206,100	272,657	263,118	263,513	280,385
	Reinstated	4,614	6,192	5,821	5,209	6,182
	Disposed	151,883	219,116	210,900	216,452	272,060
	Clearance Rate %	72.1%	78.6%	78.4%	80.5%	94.9%
	End Pending	448,061	393,608	327,951	270,178	219,204
QUASI-CRIMINAL	Filed	983,433	1,493,472	1,586,864	1,671,314	1,661,619
	Reinstated	11,206	17,449	17,892	17,161	17,282
	Disposed	818,665	1,335,810	1,401,695	1,581,583	1,624,848
	Clearance Rate %	82.3%	88.4%	87.3%	93.7%	96.8%
	End Pending	1,963,023	1,814,882	1,639,547	1,433,934	1,337,169
STATEWIDE TOTALS	Filed	1,623,783	2,319,027	2,404,775	2,528,512	2,532,012
	Reinstated	34,183	41,042	43,003	50,342	49,090
	Disposed	1,367,738	2,099,110	2,168,337	2,374,185	2,627,987
	Clearance Rate %	82.5%	89.2%	88.6%	92.1%	101.8%
	End Pending	3,247,157	2,998,602	2,773,113	2,491,995	2,309,581

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: 5,108,284

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	1,015,097	20,926	1,077,686	104.0%	1,158,072

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
Margaret A. 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
Jeanne R. Cleveland
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
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 G. Gamrath
Vincent M. Gaughan
Aleksandra Gillespie
Megan E. Goldish
Peter Gonzalez
Ieshia Gray
Jonathan C. Green
Susanne M. Groebner

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, CONTINUED

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

CIRCUIT JUDGES CONT.

Catherine M. Haberkorn
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
Raymond L. Jagielski
Lionel Jean-Baptiste
Daryl J. Jones
Linzey D. Jones
Preston Jones, Jr.
Paul A. Karkula
Martin C. Kelley
Thomas J. Kelley
Kerry M. Kennedy
Susan L. Kennedy
Diana L. Kenworthy
Edward J. King
John P. Kirby
Steven A. Kozycki
Daniel J. Kubasiak
Geary W. Kull
Robert D. Kuzas
Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
Kathaleen T. Lanahan
Christopher E. Lawler
Pamela Leeming
Casandra Lewis
Kimberly D. Lewis

Matthew Link
Anna M. Loftus
Pamela E. Loza
Stuart F. Lubin
John F. Lyke, Jr.
Freddrenna M. Lyle
Daniel Lynch
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
LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
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
Joan Margaret 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
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
Cara L. Smith
Levander Smith, Jr.
Tiesha Smith
Irwin J. Solganick
Patricia S. Spratt
Christ S. Stacey
Ketki Shroff Steffen
Laura M. Sullivan
Sharon M. Sullivan
William B. Sullivan
Carrie H. Sussman
Shelley Sutker-Dermer
Perla Tirado
Michael P. Toomin
Gerardo Tristan, Jr.
Kathryn M. Vahey
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
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.
Amea 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
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
Timothy J. Chambers
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
Stephen J. Connolly
Israel A. Desierto
Thomas M. Donnelly
Geraldine A. D'Souza
Melissa A. Durkin
Lauren Gottainer Edidin

John A. Fairman
Brian K. Flaherty
Lawrence E. Flood
Nicholas Geanopoulos
Mohammed M. Ghouse
Daniel T. Gillespie
Steven J. Goebel
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
Arthur F. Hill, Jr.
Stanley L. Hill
Earl B. Hoffenberg
Michael Hogan, Jr.
Michael J. Hood
John L. Huff
Bridget J. Hughes
Colleen A. Hyland
Lana C. Johnson
Moiria Susan Johnson
Robert W. Johnson
Timothy J. Joyce
Michael J. Kane
James L. Kaplan
Demetrios G. Kottaras
Joan M. Kubalanza
Maria Kuriakos Ciesil
Kevin T. Lee
James B. Linn
Mark J. Lopez
Myron F. Mackoff
Alfredo Maldonado
Ellen Beth Mandeltort
Marc W. Martin
Patricia Mendoza
Stephanie K. Miller

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, CONTINUED

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

ASSOCIATE JUDGES CONT.

Mary R. Minella
Lisette Catherine Mojica
Martin P. Moltz
Thomas R. Mulroy
James M. Obbish
Margaret M. Ogarek
Michael Otto
Donald D. Panarese, Jr.
Joseph D. Panarese
Luciano Panici
Kathleen Ann Panozzo
Linda J. Pael
Alfred J. Paul
Jennifer J. Payne
Angela M. Petrone
Diane M. Pezanoski
Michele M. Pitman
Dennis J. Porter
Carolyn Quinn
Jeanne M. Reynolds
Elizabeth Loreda Rivera
Edward Robles
Lori Rosen
Geri Pinzur Rosenberg
Steven Jay Rosenblum
Stanley J. Sacks
Bernard J. Sarley
Naomi H. Schuster
Joseph M. Sconza
Robert E. Senechalle, Jr.
Rouhy J. Shalabi
Terrence V. Sharkey
Darryl B. Simko

John A. Simon
David A. Skryd
James E. Snyder
Patrick T. Stanton
Domenica A. Stephenson
Marita C. Sullivan
Sanjay T. Tailor
Sybil C. Thomas
Daniel O. Tiernan
Daniel A. Trevino
Mary S. Trew
Rena M. Van Tine
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: 203,604

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: 188,407

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: 278,897

Bond (Greenville)
Madison (Edwardsville)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

FIRST CIRCUIT JUDGES

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
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
2016	68,696	58	63,315	92.1%	133,769

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, Barry L. Vaughan, 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
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
2016	36,568	16	35,063	95.8%	45,040

THIRD CIRCUIT JUDGES

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

THIRD CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Philip B. Alfeld, Veronica Armouti, Thomas W. Chapman, Ronald J. Foster, Jr., Clarence W. Harrison, II, Janet Heflin, Anthony R. Jumper, Martin J. Mengarelli, Neil T. Schroeder, Maureen D. Schuette, Ronald R. Slemmer

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	75,704	1,262	73,388	95.4%	65,592

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Jasper County Courthouse

FOURTH CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

Fayette County Courthouse
Douglas L. Jarman, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 233,735

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
Mitchell Shick, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 168,013

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
Karle E. Koritz, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 362,419

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, James J. Eder, Jeffrey Marc Kelly, Allan F. Lolie, Jr., Christopher W. Matoush, Kevin S. Parker, Ericka Sanders

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	47,440	86	46,236	97.3%	36,903

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, Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Tracy W. Resch, 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
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
2016	32,994	0	29,272	88.7%	50,945

SIXTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Jason M. Bohm, Robert C. Bollinger, Richard L. Broch, Jr., Benjamin W. Dyer, Jeffrey S. Geisler, Thomas E. Griffith, Jr., Sam A. Limentato, Thomas E. Little, Dana Rhoades, Jeremy Richey, Randall B. Rosenbaum, 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, John Kennedy, Brett Olmstead, Gary Webber

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	64,140	935	64,806	99.6%	63,826

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Morgan County Courthouse

SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Fourth Appellate District

Sangamon County Complex
John M. Madonia, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 311,117

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: 135,088

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: 152,691

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

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

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

John Belz, Ryan M. Cadagin, David R. Cherry, Kenneth R. Deihl, Adam Giganti, Raylene Grischow, Allison S. 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
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
2016	75,513	43	77,602	102.7%	82,993

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
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
2016	28,239	14	27,906	98.8%	19,689

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
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
2016	30,657	32	31,528	102.7%	24,827

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Stark County Courthouse

TENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Peoria County Courthouse
Paul P. Gilfillan, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 330,716

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: 286,093

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: 688,726

Will (Joliet)

**THE NEW WILL COUNTY
COURTHOUSE OPENED IN
2020.**

Photo provided by Amy Dawn Whitlock

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

TENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Paul E. Bauer, Christopher R. Doscotch, Bruce P. Fehrenbacher, Katherine S. Gorman, 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, Albert L. Purham, Jr., Suzanne L. Rezac, Alicia N. Washington, Lisa Y. Wilson

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	70,781	24	69,675	98.4%	52,190

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

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
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
2016	57,406	1,067	59,496	101.7%	41,226

TWELFTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

James Jeffrey Allen, John C. Anderson, 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, Richard C. Schoenstedt

TWELFTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Dinah J. Archambeault, 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, Chrystal L. Gavlin, 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
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
2016	126,054	43,743	132,385	102.0%	80,886

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



LaSalle County Courthouse

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

LaSalle County Courthouse
Howard C. Ryan, Jr., Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 190,867

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



Henry County Courthouse

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

Third Appellate District

Rock Island County Courthouse
Frank R. Fuhr, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 259,199

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



Ogle County Courthouse

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Ogle County Courthouse
Robert T. Hanson, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 163,264

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

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

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

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Karen C. Eiten, Cornelius J. Hollerich, Michael C. Jansz, Michelle Ann Vescogni

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	38,326	735	38,197	97.8%	19,815

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

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

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Gregory G. Chickris, James J. Cosby, Daniel Dalton, James F. Heuerman, Norma Kauzlarich, Theodore G. Kutsunis, Clayton R. Lee, Carol Pentuic, Richard A. Zimmer

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	52,628	82	49,797	94.5%	58,001

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

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

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

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

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	37,289	14	36,704	98.4%	25,438

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Kane County Courthouse

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Kane County Judicial Center
Thomas Clinton Hull, III, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 531,010

Kane (Geneva)



Boone County Courthouse

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Winnebago County Courthouse
Eugene Doherty, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 334,072

Boone (Belvidere)
Winnebago (Rockford)



DuPage County Courthouse

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

DuPage County Courthouse
Kenneth L. Popejoy, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 917,481

DuPage (Wheaton)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

John A. Barsanti, Susan Clancy Boles, Kevin T. Busch, René Cruz, John Dalton, Elizabeth Flood, Joseph M. Grady, James R. Murphy, 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
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
2016	75,848	787	84,406	110.1%	48,993

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
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
2016	77,367	220	75,666	97.5%	93,946

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 L. Alvarado, Louis B. Aranda, Kavita Athanikar, Craig Belford, 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
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
2016	185,905	10,750	198,414	100.9%	53,923

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



Lake County Courthouse

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Lake County Courthouse
Diane E. Winter, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 693,593

Lake (Waukegan)



Washington County Courthouse

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

Fifth Appellate District

St. Clair County Building
Andrew J. Gleeson, Chief Judge
Circuit Population: 358,564

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: 135,305

Iroquois (Watseka)
Kankakee (Kankakee)

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Christen L. Bishop, James Booras, Valerie Boettke Ceckowski, Mitchell L. Hoffman, Mark L. Levitt, Reginald Mathews, 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

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	134,203	4,919	142,748	102.6%	37,721

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT JUDGES

Richard A. Brown, James W. Campanella, Zina Renea Cruse, Daniel J. 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 L. Purchase, Jeffrey K. Watson

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	81,178	239	88,697	108.9%	75,051

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, JoAnn Imani Drew, Ronald J. Gerts, Scott Sliwinski

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	27,668	1	27,903	100.8%	55,827

CIRCUIT COURTS, CONTINUED



McHenry County Courthouse

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

McHenry County Government Center

James S. Cowlin, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 305,888

McHenry (Woodstock)



DeKalb County Courthouse

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT

Second Appellate District

Kendall County Courthouse

Robert P. Pilmer, Chief Judge

Circuit Population: 235,129

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
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
2016	57,576	1,921	59,997	100.8%	16,895

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT JUDGES

Melissa S. Barnhart, Thomas L. Doherty, Jody P. Gleason, Stephen L. Krentz, R. Matekaitis, Robert P. Pilmer, Robbin J. Stuckert, Bradley J. Waller

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Marcy L. Buick, John McAdams, Philip G. Montgomery, Joseph C. Pedersen, Joseph R. Voiland

YEAR	FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	CLEARANCE RATE %	PENDING
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
2016	34,717	1,216	37,100	103.2%	20,451

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The **AOIC Executive Office** is comprised of the Administrative Director, Deputy Director, Chief Legal Counsel, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, 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 eight divisions and serves as a central resource for a wide range of operational issues that impact the administration of the Illinois judicial branch.

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

The Executive Office plans and coordinates Administrative Office staff support for



Supreme Court Committees and the 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. 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 administration of justice in Illinois.

In its administration of Supreme Court Rule 39 (Appointment of Associate Judges), the

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

Executive Office conducted the election of 15 associate judges in 10 of Illinois' 24 judicial circuits during 2020. 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 & 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.

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

The Executive Office provides secretarial services to the Illinois Courts Commission, which includes filing and preservation of Commission records, distributing the Official Illinois Courts Commission Reports, and performing all other duties typically executed by a clerk of a court of record.

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

The Supreme Court of Illinois Judicial College was established January 1, 2016. The Court established the Judicial College as the entity to design a comprehensive, competency-based curriculum to meet the continuing education needs of Illinois judges and Judicial Branch professionals.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Marcia M. Meis, *Director*
Jan B. Zekich, *Deputy Director*

JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Cyrana 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

The Judicial College was established on the foundation of excellence achieved in judicial education and in recognition of the benefit of collaborative multidisciplinary professional education to Judicial Branch professionals and the administration of justice. Soon after the establishment of the Judicial College, the Court appointed seven judges, both trial and appellate, to serve as voting members of the Board of Trustees along with two ex-officio members, a Supreme Court justice and the State Court Administrative Director. By July 1, 2017, approximately 100 judges and Judicial

Branch professionals, referred to as justice partners, from key stakeholder professions, were appointed to serve on one of the six Standing Committees of the Judicial College - *Committee on Circuit Court Clerk Education (CCCE)*, *Committee on Guardian ad Litem Education (GALE)*, *Committee on Judicial Branch Staff Education (JBSE)*, *Committee on Judicial Education (COJE)*, *Committee on Probation Education (COPE)*, and the *Committee on Trial Court Administrator Education (TCAE)*. Finally, effective May 1, 2019, with Court approval, the State Court

Administrative Director established the Judicial College Division within the Administrative Office to facilitate the mission and purpose of the Illinois Judicial College and its Board of Trustees.

The Judicial College is governed by the Board of Trustees charged with oversight of the six Standing Committees and the affairs of the Judicial College, in accordance with the *Bylaws and Standing Committee Educational Standards and Guidelines*, adopted by the Court. Staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts provide invaluable guidance and support to the six Standing Committees and the Board of Trustees, and in some instances serve as Advisors and ex-officio members. The work of the Judicial College also benefits greatly from the scores of judges and justice partners from across the state who serve on an ad hoc basis, with Board of Trustee approval, on Standing Committee Workgroups, as well as the hundreds of faculty presenters who devote their time and expertise to the delivery of Judicial College courses.

The Illinois Judicial College meets annually. The Convocation and first Annual Meeting of the Illinois Judicial College was held October 4 - 5, 2017 in Springfield. Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, the Board of Trustees, staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, appointed members of the six Illinois Judicial College Committees, and invited guests, judicial educators from across the United States, were convened to launch the Illinois Judicial College and outline its strategic focus.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

The facilitated strategic planning discussions that began in the fall of 2017 eventually led to a comprehensive educational assessment of the continuing education and professional development needs of judges and justice partners, the identification of professional competencies for judges and justice partners, the development of comprehensive curricula and competency-based courses, and guiding comprehensive education plans for judges and justice partners.

Notwithstanding years of strategic planning and focus, 2020 presented unanticipated and unprecedented challenges that would have disrupted the provision of continuing education but for the support of the Supreme Court of Illinois and the dedicated efforts of the six Standing Committees and their supportive Workgroups, staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Board of Trustees and the faculty presenters who contributed to the viability of courses throughout the pandemic. This collaborative and collective effort led to development and delivery of over 100 eLearning courses during the pandemic covering a range of substantive topics from the planned curriculum supplemented with courses specifically related to the pandemic and its impact on court services and operations.

Going forward, the Illinois Judicial College remains committed to the ongoing assessment of educational needs and the development of relevant, competency-based curricula and courses that will promote the fair

and effective administration of justice and the professional competencies of Judicial Branch employees.

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/enews/default.asp

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

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 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.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

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. It will be 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 new service does not provide legal advice but can connect people to legal assistance and community resources that can help them resolve their problem. It is expected to launch in early 2021.

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, 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 2020, the Access to Justice Division conducted training 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. We developed and then distributed a desk card for clerks and court staff and a bench card for judges about the changes to the fee waiver statute creating partial fee waivers and a waiver option for criminal assessments. The Access to Justice Division was also involved in planning several multi-disciplinary access to justice trainings for the 2020 Judicial Education Conference on language access, self-represented litigants, and fee waivers.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

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 13 courthouses in 11 judicial circuits. In 2017, we launched the Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator (Coordinator) grant program. In 2020, we combined these two programs and added additional representatives to an umbrella group, Court Navigator Network (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. In 2020, we had named representatives from all 24 judicial circuits participate in the Network.

COURTS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DIVISION

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts created the **Courts, Children and Families Division (CCFD)** effective May 1, 2020. The new 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. Due to the pandemic, the CCFD pivoted its focus to providing support to juvenile courts by hosting frequent meetings for juvenile court judges hearing child protection related cases, providing training and resources on remote hearings, and shifting funding to provide assistance for courts to facilitate remote hearings.

CCFD oversees the administration of the federally funded statewide 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 three grant awards (Basic, Data and Training). In the past year, 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, and collaborating with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services on the Child and

Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan and implementation of the Family First Prevention and Services Act. 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. The CCFD also serves as staff and an advisor to the Illinois Judicial College Standing 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 continued to collect and analyze child protection court performance measures, demographic information and case characteristics in child abuse and neglect cases. Currently, nine counties collect CPDC Project data. The CPDC Project sites track case demographic information as well as 18 of 30 nationally recognized child protection court performance measures. The project sites are implementing action plans developed, by each county, based on 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 2020, the CCFD continued its' working relationship with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) by assisting with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

Improvement Plan (PIP) development. The PIP, containing court related interventions, was approved by the federal government in 2020. Additionally, several representatives of IDCFS are members of the Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Implementation: FFPSA, enacted in February 2018, shifts the focus of child protection to include prevention services. Beginning Oct. 1, 2019, Title IV-E funding can be used for evidence-based prevention services if doing so allows the child to remain safely in the home. In addition, FFPSA seeks to curtail the use of congregate or group care for children, and instead places a new emphasis on family foster homes. Reimbursement will only occur for Qualified Residential Placement Programs (QRTP). Justice partners created forms for the court to use when making required findings approving or disapproving of placement in the QRTP. The CCFD continues to participate on the FFPSA Steering Committee and will be providing training for judges and attorneys in 2021.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION

The **Court Services Division** experienced a significant change in May 2020 as the Courts, Children and Families Unit became its own division within AOIC. The Special Programs Unit and the Recordkeeping and Technology Unit 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 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 2020 particularly, Court Services Division assisted in moving forward three charges under the Strategic Agenda from the Illinois Judicial Conference; first was the development, distribution and analysis of a statewide technology survey; second was facilitating an overhaul of the Manual on Recordkeeping under the auspices of the Court Data and Performance Measures Task Force, and lastly, staffing the Weighted Caseload Study Task Force. The division has also been heavily involved with a variety of research efforts, from calculating case backlogs to gauging adoption of remote hearings throughout the state.

In the beginning of 2020, the **Special Programs Unit [SPU]** staff assisted with development, coordination, and implementation of the inaugural Court Administration Leadership [CAL] Academy at the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts in Springfield, Illinois. The CAL Academy was birthed under the Illinois Judicial College's Trial Court Administrator Education [TCAE] Committee with the goal of providing a three-day, in-person learning opportunity for Illinois' trial court administrators [TCAs] and chief judges. This was the first time that continuing education was designed specifically for TCAs in all 24 judicial circuits. The courses offered for the first CAL Academy were: The Role of Court Administration and Leadership; Human Resources for Court Managers; Fundamentals of Trial Court Performance Measures and Caseload Management; Introduction to Budgeting and Fiscal Management; and Quality Customer Service. TCAs from each judicial circuit attended along with several chief judges. Overall, the program was well-received and highly anticipated for a 2nd CAL Academy in 2021.

With the COVID-19 pandemic raging globally, the SPU was forced to go one-hundred percent remote and had to figure out new ways of working with other justice partners across the state. Instead of hosting in-person meetings, the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Evidence met virtually several times via Zoom. Since mostly all in-person hearings and mediations were brought to a screeching halt, SPU staff met with Mandatory Arbitration [↑](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

Administrators via Zoom to learn about the issues they face with the onset of the pandemic. As a result, SPU staff coordinated to get the technology each center needed to continue remote hearings. In addition, monthly meetings were held to learn tips for using the new technology.

As a result of the pandemic, many courts began to review and update their Emergency Preparedness – Continuity of Operations [EP-COOP] Plans. In the interest of convenience for the counties, SPU staff began to explore alternative formats for creating and updating these plans. Sampling and testing continue with several pilot circuits.

The **Recordkeeping & Technology Unit (RTU)** provided an array of guidance and technical support services to courts and circuit clerks in 2020. 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 2020, the CCCE planned, created and presented multiple education sessions related to electronic business programs 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 to the Article V Rules, Uniform Citation Forms, and Electronic Citation Forms, as may be necessary.

The Illinois Supreme Court's Order directing statewide mandatory electronic filing in civil cases took effect on January 1, 2018, and via eFileIL, the Supreme Court's Electronic Filing Manager (EFM), the RTU continued to provide guidance to courts as electronic filing is expanded to criminal and juvenile cases. In addition, the Supreme Court implemented a 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.

The Unit continues to provide assistance and oversight in regards to the Supreme Court's General Administrative Order on

Recordkeeping in the Circuit Courts and instructions in the Manual on Recordkeeping (RKM). In 2020, the Supreme Court released comprehensive updates to the RKM, which included multiple new case categories and updates to recordkeeping procedures. RTU staff were instrumental in the development and drafting of the updates which take effect January 1, 2022. As 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 2020 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, 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 and labor relations support to state-paid judicial branch employees and managers.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

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 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 2020, elective and mandatory programs were offered to Illinois judges, including the biennial *Education Conference*, the *Joint State & Federal Courts Series*, and over 50 live webinar programs. Each newly elected or appointed judge is required to attend the first available *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 2020 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 division (JMIS / IT)** is one of ten divisions / offices in the [Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts \(AOIC\)](#). At the direction of the Supreme Court and Administrative Director, JMIS provides technology to the Illinois Supreme Court, Appellate Courts, Circuit Courts, reviewing court supporting units, and the AOIC. JMIS coordinates the Court's statewide digital recording initiative, providing digital audio and video recording systems, remote hearing capabilities, and integration with existing courtroom technologies in the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts.

JMIS is organized in five groups, consisting of 25 professionals which implement new technologies and services, respond to specific technology needs, and support for Court IT initiatives throughout the judicial branch. JMIS's IT Security group manages cybersecurity systems, firewall and security equipment, policies, and account administration in the Illinois reviewing courts and digital recording courthouses. The Hardware / Software group

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

manages server applications, desktop and laptop computers, printers and peripherals, and productivity software for the Supreme Court, Appellate Court, and AOIC offices. The Hardware / Software group is also responsible for the installation and support of the digital recording systems in the Supreme Court (2 courtrooms), Appellate Court (6 courtrooms) and Circuit Courts where there are more than 420 courtrooms capable of digital recording. JMIS's Internet services group works with Judicial Branch offices to post content and maintain a [feature-rich modern website](#) for the Supreme Court. The User Services group staffs JMIS' Help Desk, coordinates telecommunication services, phones (land and cellular lines), and manages asset tracking of all technology equipment. The Application Group is responsible for designing enhancements to approximately fifteen existing Oracle enterprise database applications and works closely with court users and partners to support three 'Commercial off the Shelf' applications, providing mission critical services.

In addition, JMIS collaborates with other AOIC divisions on the enhancements, testing, and implementation of numerous SaaS services supporting the Supreme Court's statewide technology initiatives. [eFileIL](#) is the Court's statewide e-filing initiative that was successfully implemented allowing civil e-filing in all 102 circuit courts and 6 courts of review and [permissive e-filing of criminal cases in 67 circuit courts](#). eFileIL processes approximately 500,000 filings per month allowing attorneys

and SRLs the ability to file court documents 7 x 24 hours a day. The AOIC is exploring the possibility to expand e-filing to include Criminal and Quasi-Criminal e-filing through eFileIL.

JMIS staff have also collaborated in the implementation, testing, and enhancements to the Court's statewide document repository, [called re:SearchIL](#). The AOIC has worked with court offices and policy boards to bridge technology and policy to develop the [Supreme Court's Remote Access Policy](#), which governs access to court documents through the re:SearchIL repository. In addition, the AOIC is exploring a statewide, data and online reporting initiative that will provide a robust statistical reporting tool that can integrate directly with record keeping systems, probation case management systems, and other data sources to allow detail reporting services.

The recent global COVID-19 pandemic introduced an urgent need for judges, attorneys, clerks, and court staff across the state of Illinois to alter procedures and support remote work and court hearings. In response, technologies were assessed to integrated remote hearings with court operations, such as Zoom, mobile carts, and digital video recording systems. The Supreme Court's website became a [hub of information](#) with access to notices, links to Supreme Court Orders, local court rules, Covid-19 announcements from all Illinois courts, including remote hearing information.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

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 enhance the capacity of the community corrections system to reduce offender recidivism and create safer communities. In carrying out this mission, the Division's training, monitoring, standards setting, and technical assistance activities extend to all aspects of the administration and operation of the 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 28 employees (plus 1 vacancy), 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 to improve the administration and operation of probation services in Illinois. During 2020, staff reviewed 920 applications for eligibility for employment/promotion. Of those reviewed, 801 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 2020 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) Work with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices and the Illinois Supreme Court Pretrial Practices Implementation Task Force 3) Implement and begin to train over 2,500 adult and juvenile probation officers in Core Correctional Practices; 4) Developing Juvenile Detention Standards.

Division staff, with the guidance and assistance of the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning, created Problem-Solving Court Standards and a certification process for Illinois 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 2020. Twenty-three problem-solving courts were reviewed by 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 2020, 97 of the 120 operational PSC courts in the state were certified. Division staff will continue conducting site visits to local problem-solving

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, CONTINUED

courts to offer technical assistance and support to these teams. All problem-solving courts will be certified in 2021 and staff will continue to review recertification applications. Future multi-disciplinary training for problem-solving court team members will remain a priority.

Calendar year 2020 saw immense strides in pretrial practices reform within the Judicial Branch. Members of the Division served as liaisons to the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices (Commission), who aided the Commission in completing and publishing its Final Report in April 2020. Based upon recommendations contained in the report, the Illinois Supreme Court formed the 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 AOIC hired two pretrial professionals in the summer of 2020. These two staff members provided direct support to the Task Force as well as individual counties in Illinois. During the year, the Task Force and AOIC pretrial staff made positive progress toward goals related to data, legislation, pretrial risk assessments and understanding current pretrial practices in the State. Moving into 2021, the work is ongoing and dynamic, which will aid further reform in pretrial practices.

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 2020 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, 2020, a total of 5,399 (3,426 outgoing; 1,973 incoming) adult probation compact cases were under active supervision. The Compact Unit's staff also coordinated the transfer of 733 juvenile probation cases. Besides oversight of adult and juvenile transfers, the Compact Unit's staff continuously provides extra information and support to probation officers regarding ICAOS and ICJ through training and responses to email queries addressing questions about the transfer process.

Throughout 2020, the Division convened several planning and special focus committees and workgroups comprised of probation and court services officers, supervisors or managers. The purpose of these committees and workgroups is to collaborate with

probation and juvenile detention personnel in the design and implementation of training events, or to provide expertise and practical application feedback on programming, policy and standards development, and other initiatives.

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

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES & TRENDS

OF THE

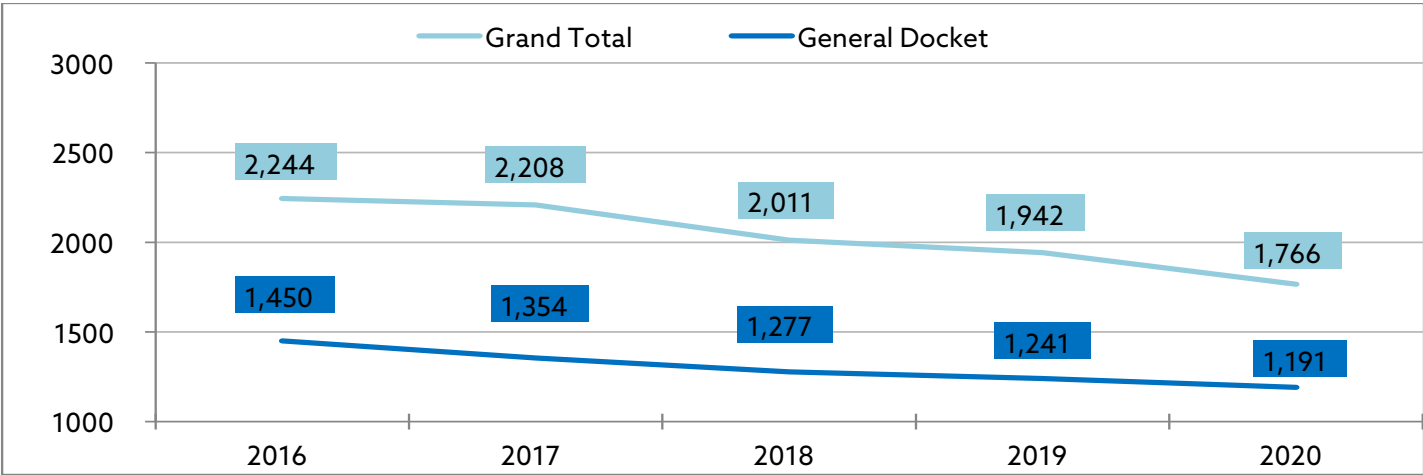
SUPREME, APPELLATE & CIRCUIT COURTS



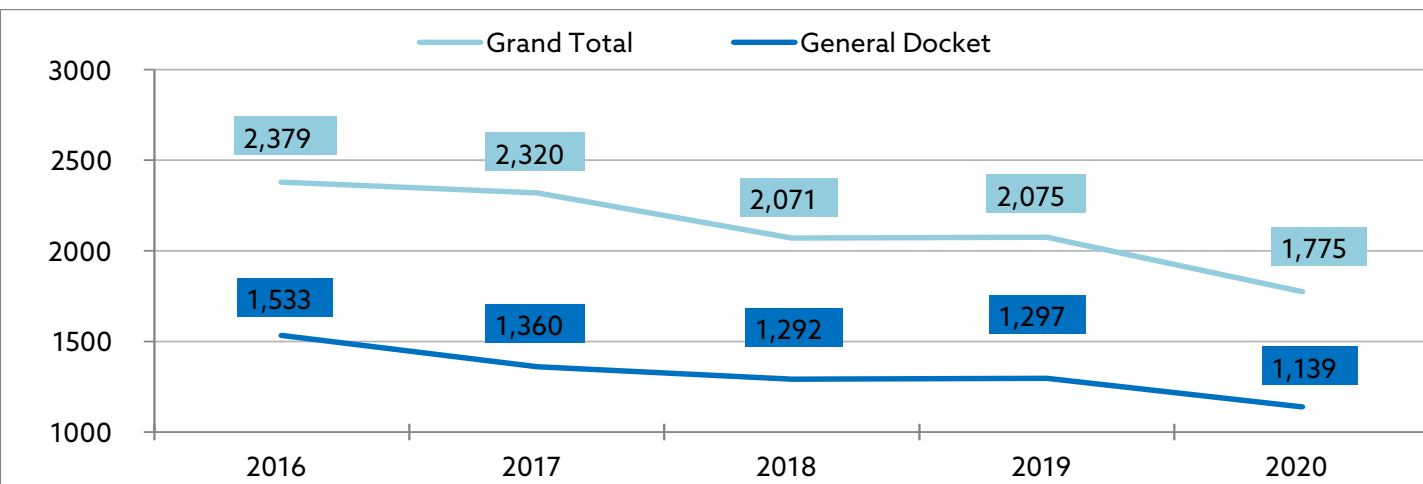
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

FILINGS



DISPOSITIONS



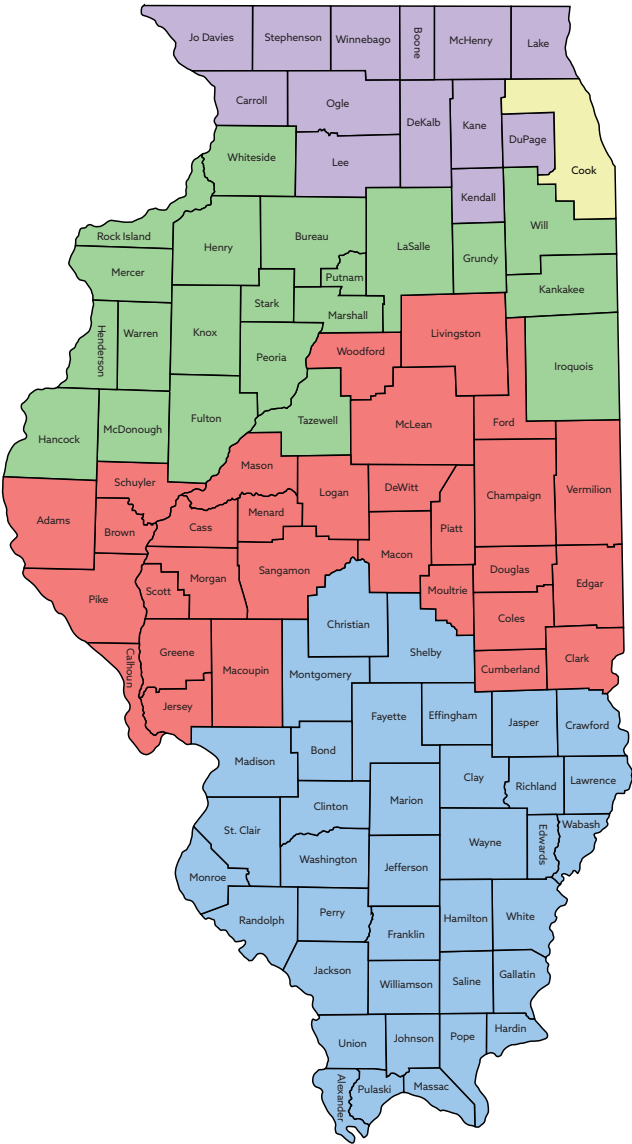
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

TABLE 1: Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions / Supreme Court of Illinois / 2016-2020

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)
2016	2,244	1,450	4	2	8	1,361	66	0	5	628	166
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
DISPOSITIONS											
2016	2,379	1,533	13	6	7	1,395	56	0	26	691	155
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

(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 60601
312-793-5484
Thomas D. Palella, *Clerk*

2 SECOND DISTRICT

160 North LaSalle
55 Symphony Way
Elgin 60120
847-695-3750
Jeffrey Kaplan, *Clerk*

3 THIRD DISTRICT

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

4 FOURTH DISTRICT

Waterways Building
201 W. Monroe Street
Springfield 62794
217-782-2586
Carla Bender, *Clerk*

5 FIFTH DISTRICT

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

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY DISTRICT

APPELLATE COURT - CALENDAR YEAR 2020

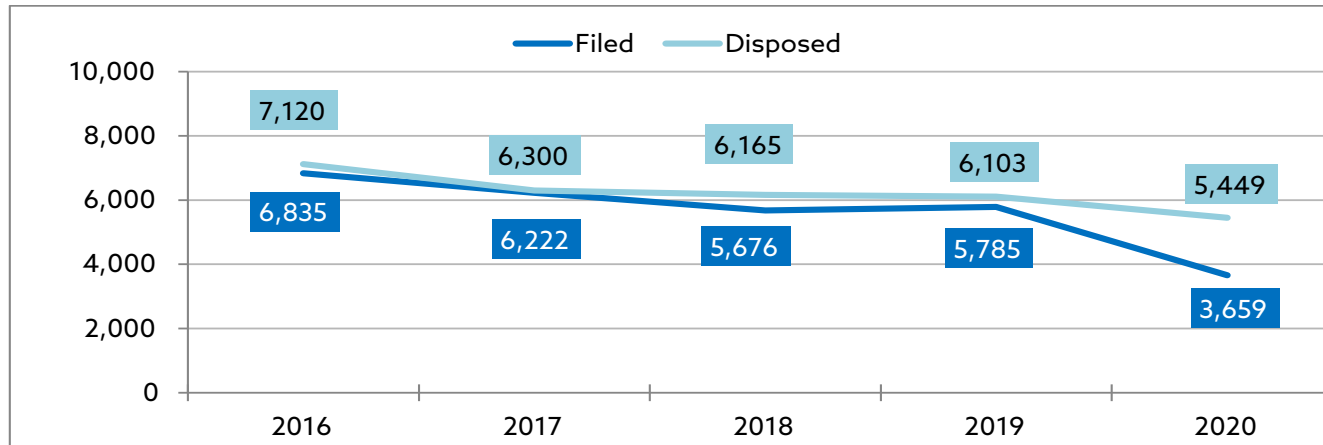
Appellate District	Type of Case	Number of Cases Pending January 1, 2020 *	Number of Cases Filed During 2020	Number of Cases Reinstated	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Cases Disposed by Majority Opinion	Number of Cases Disposed by Rule 23 Order	Number of Cases Disposed By Summary Order	Number of Cases Disposed Without Opinion, R23 or Sum. Ord.	Number of Cases Pending December 31, 2020 *	Inventory Increase/ Decrease
First	Civil	1,740	843	30	1,225	195	415	113	502	1,388	-352
	Criminal	2,648	559	5	1,238	154	584	307	193	1,974	-674
Second	Civil	336	409	1	510	71	157	63	219	284	-52
	Criminal	729	331	6	500	68	202	108	122	587	-142
Third	Civil	331	235	2	338	62	116	26	134	236	-95
	Criminal	619	273	5	351	64	154	14	119	551	-68
Fourth	Civil	199	257	0	303	17	164	20	102	158	-41
	Criminal	718	346	10	535	27	296	46	166	534	-184
Fifth	Civil	236	222	0	232	34	94	12	92	230	-6
	Criminal	464	184	1	217	13	109	47	48	430	-34
TOTALS	Civil	2,842	1,966	33	2,608	379	946	234	1,049	2,296	-546
	Criminal	5,178	1,693	27	2,841	326	1,345	522	648	4,076	-1,102

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

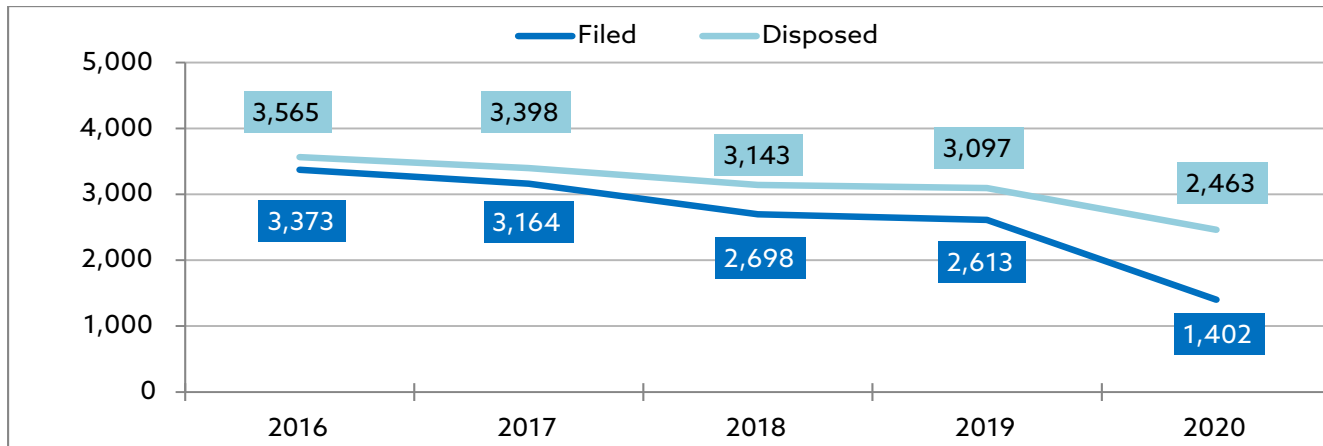
* Due to reporting software computations; there are small variances in the number of cases pending on January 1, 2020 when compared to the number of cases pending on December 31, 2019, as well as, minor reconciliation differences in the number of cases pending on December 31, 2020.

APPELLATE COURTS OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

TOTAL CASELOAD - TOTAL CASES*



FIRST DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**

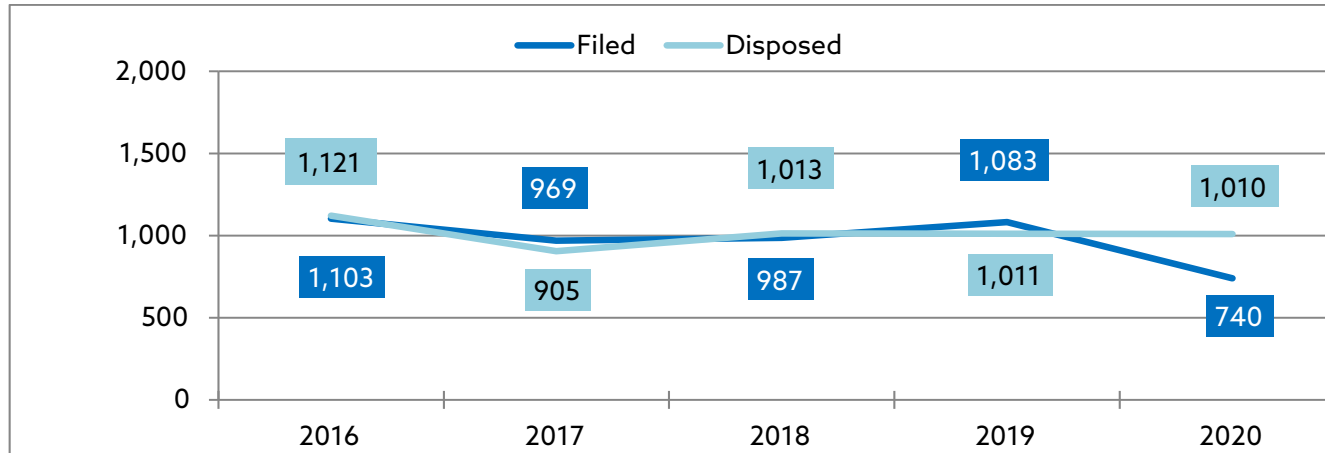


*Beginning in 2017, totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

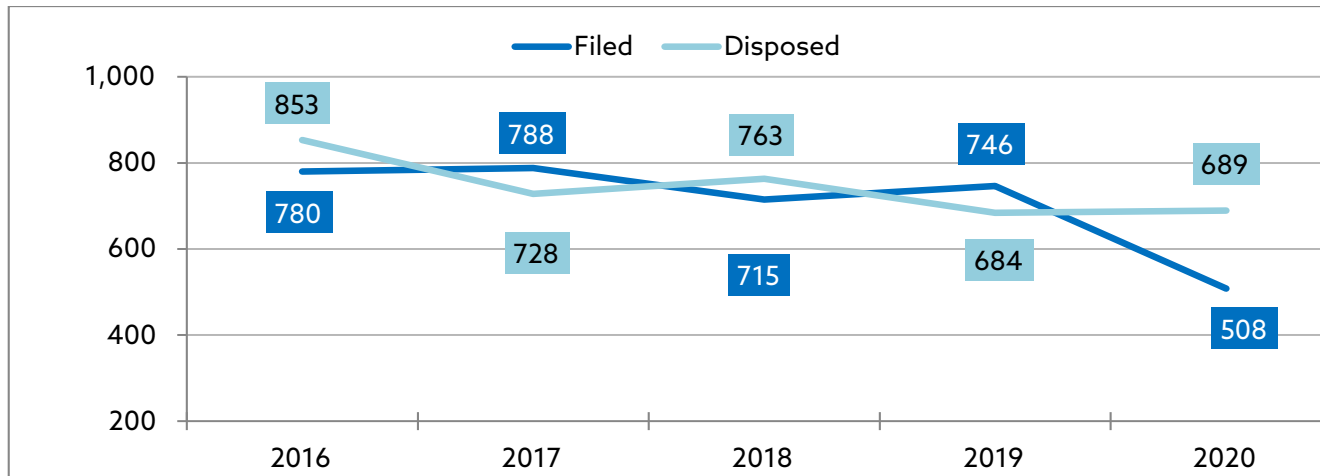
**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

APPELLATE COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

SECOND DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



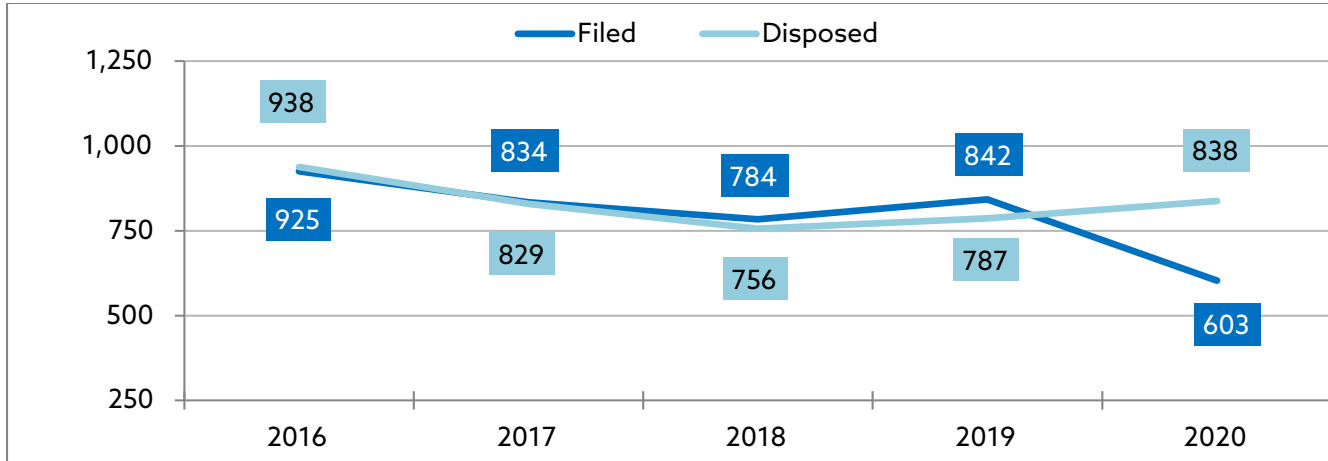
THIRD DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



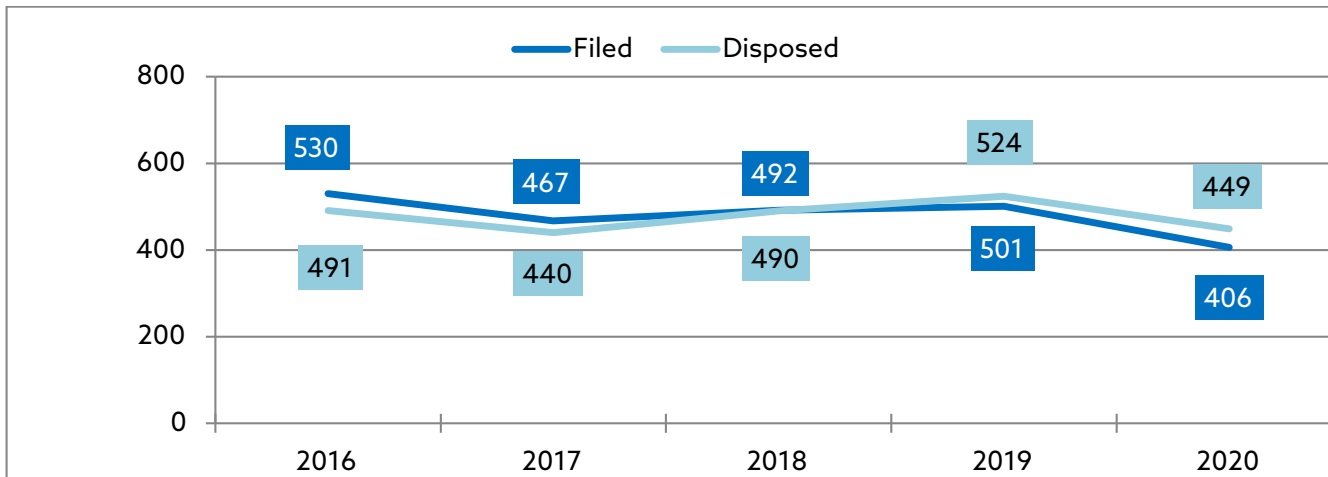
**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases.

APPELLATE COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

FOURTH DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**

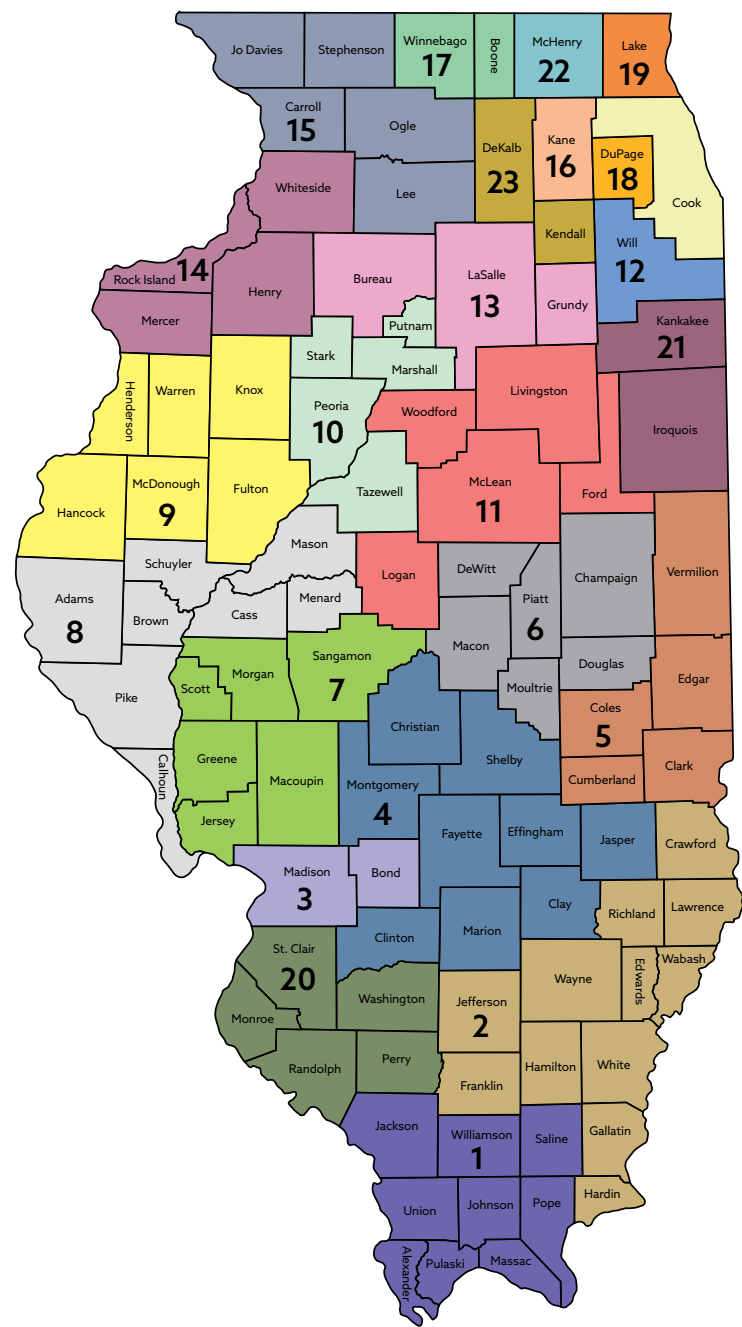


FIFTH DISTRICT - TOTAL CASES**



**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 2020

CIRCUIT	BEGIN PENDING	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	DISPOSED	END PENDING
1st	143,585	57,583	61	55,443	144,443
2nd	49,262	24,997	30	21,798	51,563
3rd	77,481	49,030	500	41,286	85,661
4th	37,346	33,958	76	28,236	42,577
5th	62,428	24,365	117	16,972	68,777
6th	72,253	48,692	840	43,719	74,799
7th	90,700	56,985	12	60,599	101,160
8th	22,563	21,427	36	19,488	24,215
9th	26,465	23,581	10	22,166	28,092
10th	46,521	45,985	395	39,542	54,493
11th	39,908	40,591	989	39,076	38,882
12th	87,765	95,532	3,137	89,476	96,936
13th	20,355	28,762	515	27,288	22,171
14th	60,406	38,850	6	35,007	62,014
15th	29,217	27,356	16	24,386	31,636
16th	66,286	64,308	79	28,415	102,258
17th	85,359	49,704	152	50,615	84,173
18th	52,615	118,433	7,447	103,904	74,590
19th	37,538	80,802	2,944	81,242	40,047
20th	123,261	54,805	449	51,028	134,906
21st	72,666	23,703	0	10,874	35,343
22nd	16,040	40,176	1,566	39,096	18,796
23rd	20,646	23,107	398	19,179	25,133
DOWNSTATE TOTAL	1,340,666	1,072,732	19,775	948,835	1,442,665
COOK COUNTY	1,657,936	551,051	14,408	418,903	1,804,492
STATE TOTAL	2,998,602	1,623,783	34,183	1,367,738	3,247,157

CASE FILING RATIO: JUDGE/POPULATION CIRCUIT COURTS - CALENDAR YEAR 2020

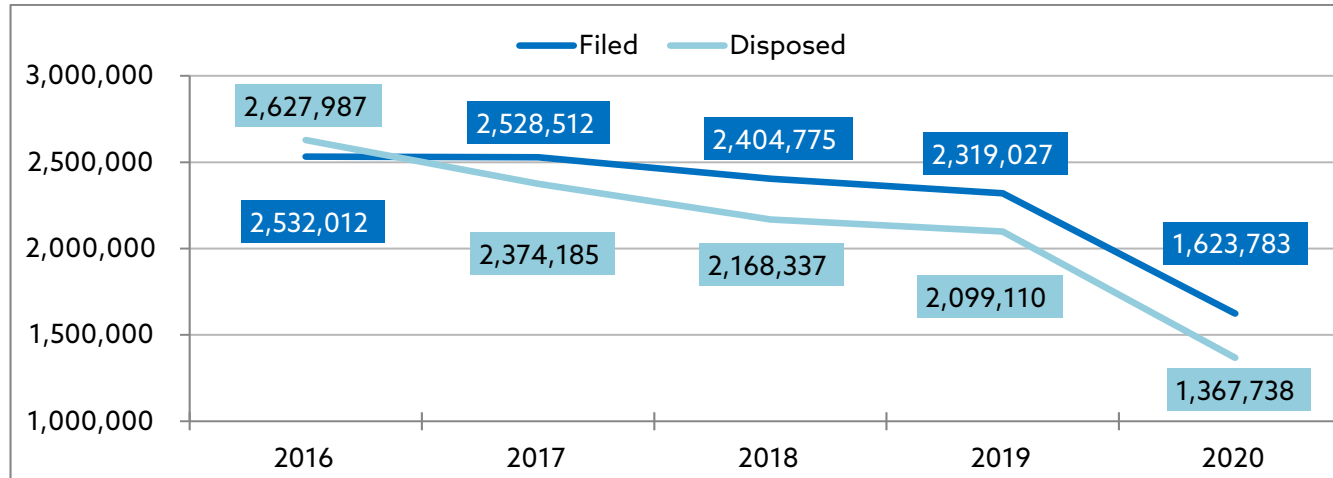
Circuit	NUMBER OF COUNTIES	2020 CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES FILED DURING 2020 **	NUMBER OF JUDGES			NUMBER OF CASES FILED PER JUDGE	NUMBER OF CASES FILED PER 1000 POPULATION
				CIRCUIT	ASSOCIATE	TOTAL *		
1st	9	203,604	57,583	13	7	20	2,879	282.8
2nd	12	188,407	24,997	15	6	21	1,190	132.7
3rd	2	278,897	49,030	8	13	21	2,335	175.8
4th	9	233,735	33,958	12	7	19	1,787	145.3
5th	5	168,013	24,365	11	5	16	1,523	145.0
6th	6	362,419	48,692	14	11	25	1,948	134.4
7th	6	311,117	56,985	12	10	22	2,590	183.2
8th	8	135,088	21,427	11	5	16	1,339	158.6
9th	6	152,691	23,581	10	4	14	1,684	154.4
10th	5	330,716	45,985	10	11	21	2,190	139.0
11th	5	286,093	40,591	11	10	21	1,933	141.9
12th	1	688,726	95,532	16	21	37	2,582	138.7
13th	3	190,867	28,762	8	5	13	2,212	150.7
14th	4	259,199	38,850	12	10	22	1,766	149.9
15th	5	163,264	27,356	8	8	16	1,710	167.6
16th	1	531,010	64,308	13	17	30	2,144	121.1
17th	2	334,072	49,704	10	15	25	1,988	148.8
18th	1	917,481	118,433	14	30	44	2,692	129.1
19th	1	693,593	80,802	14	25	39	2,072	116.5
20th	5	358,564	54,805	11	13	24	2,284	152.8
21st	2	135,305	23,703	6	5	11	2,155	175.2
22nd	1	305,888	40,176	8	11	19	2,115	131.3
23rd	2	235,129	23,107	8	5	13	1,777	98.3
DOWNSTATE TOTAL	101	7,463,878	1,072,732	255	254	509	2,108	143.7
COOK COUNTY	1	5,108,284	551,051	237	143	380	1,450	107.9
STATE TOTAL	102	12,572,162	1,623,783	492	397	889	1,827	129.2

* Average number of sitting Circuit Judges

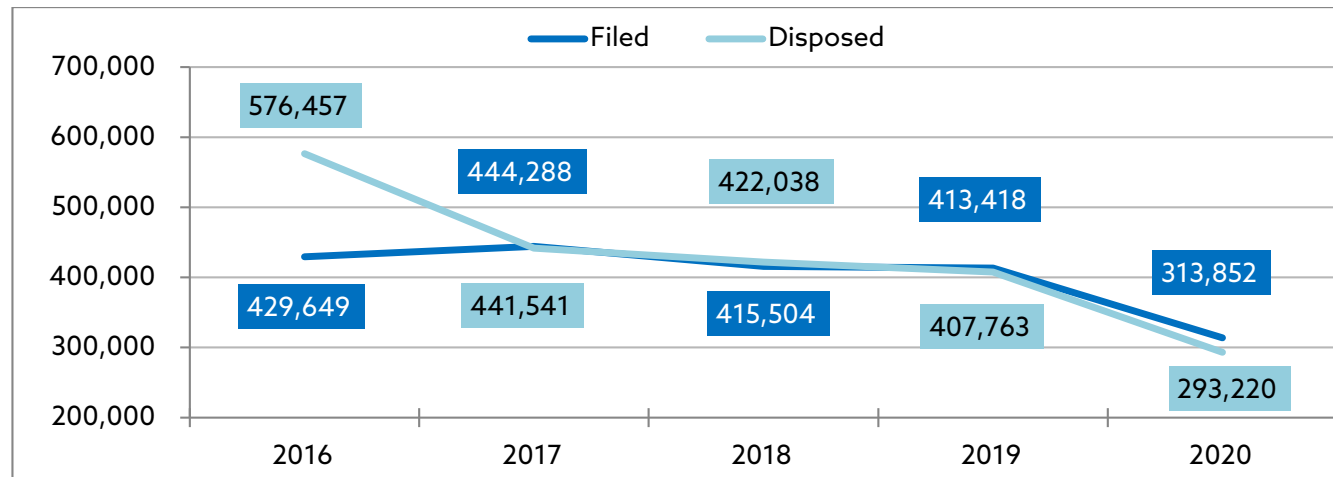
** Total of all cases in all categories: Civil; Domestic Relations; Criminal; Quasi-Criminal ; and Juvenile.

CIRCUIT COURTS OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

TOTAL CASELOAD - TOTAL CASES



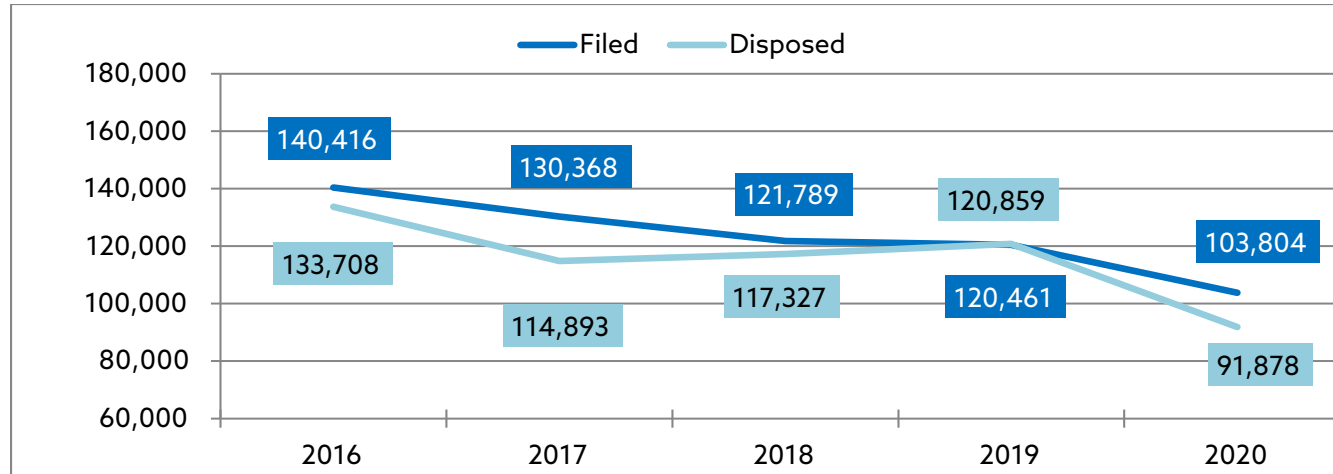
CIVIL CATEGORY - ALL CASES



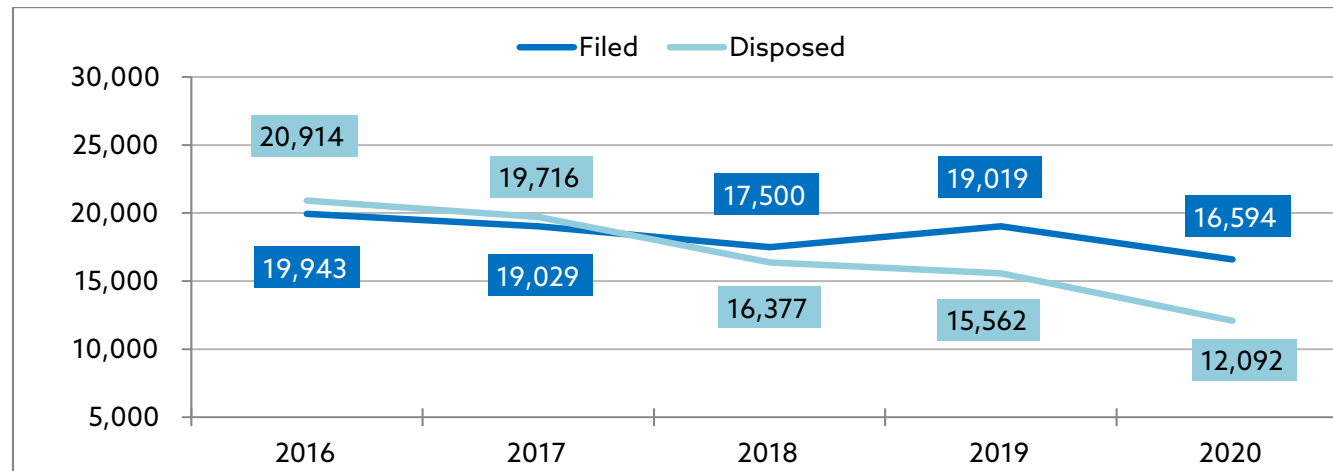
The 2016 spike in civil case closures is due to a mass closure of over 208,703 Law Non-Jury < \$50,000 cases in Cook County in 2016, which is approximately 100,000 more cases than the prior year's average of total case closures for this specific case type.

CIRCUIT COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CATEGORY - ALL CASES

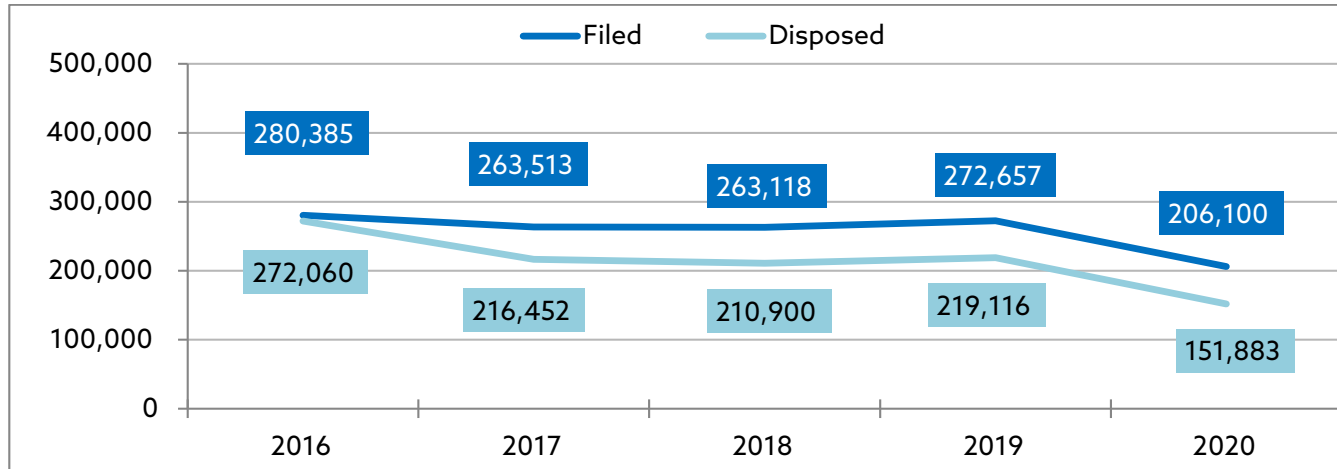


JUVENILE CATEGORY - ALL CASES

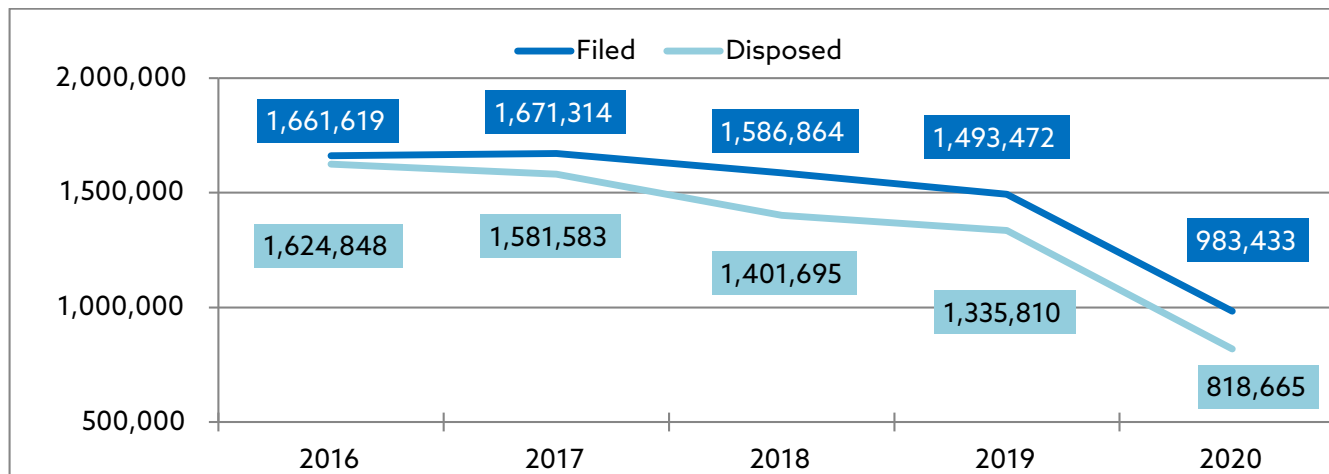


CIRCUIT COURTS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS, CONTINUED

CRIMINAL CATEGORY - ALL CASES



QUASI-CRIMINAL CATEGORY - ALL CASES





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

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