The seal of the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois is a circular emblem. It features a central figure of a woman holding a scale of justice and a sword. The words "SEAL OF THE SUPREME COURT" are inscribed around the top inner edge, and "STATE OF ILLINOIS" is at the bottom. Below the state name is the date "AUG. 26, 1818" and a small star.

2016 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts

A large stone statue of a man and a woman, likely representing Justice and Liberty, stands in front of a classical building. The man is on the left, holding a large book, and the woman is on the right, also holding a book. An owl is perched on a pedestal in the lower left corner.

Administrative Summary

THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



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

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

Photos provided by Artistic Portraits.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



Michael J. Tardy
Director

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. The Report contains a summary of the day-to-day operations of our court system and an overview of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. Highlighted in the Report are some of the many initiatives undertaken and implemented by the Illinois Judicial Branch this past year. The Supreme Court and the dedicated employees of the Illinois court system continued the important work of the courts with an emphasis on technology, transparency, juveniles and pretrial justice.

The Report contains two volumes: an Administrative Summary and a Statistical Summary. The Administrative Summary includes a message from Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier and the 2016 Report to the Illinois General Assembly, as well as an overview of the state and local funding required for the operation of our court system. The Administrative Summary also provides information on the judicial officers and employees, who maintain operations for our court system. A second volume, the Statistical Summary, includes statistical data on the court case loads at the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit court levels, as well as case clearance rates.

The Administrative Office gratefully acknowledges the Clerks of the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts for their continued support, commitment and cooperation in compiling and providing the expanded data statistics published in this Report. I also wish to thank the staff of the Administrative Office for their assistance in the preparation of this Report. On behalf of the Supreme Court, I wish to express my appreciation for the efforts and dedication of the honorable men and women who make up the Illinois Judiciary, as well as the non-judicial employees and court personnel 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 court system. I invite you to visit the Illinois Supreme Court's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov for the most current information concerning the Illinois court system and the judicial branch of government. The website is frequently updated in order to provide a current source of information to the citizens we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Tardy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE LLOYD A. KARMEIER

On behalf of my colleagues on the Illinois Supreme Court, I am honored to present the 2016 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts, outlining the initiatives undertaken during the past year. It is also my honor to inform the citizens of Illinois of the Court's on-going efforts to promote efficiency, fairness, and judicial transparency, and to make the resources of the judicial branch more readily available to all who need them. The Illinois Supreme Court, assisted by the dedicated staff of our Administrative Office and the judges and staff members serving our unified court system, works daily 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.

This Report is presented in two volumes. The Administrative Summary contains the Supreme Court's Report to the General Assembly on the activities of the Illinois Judicial Conference, informs on state and local funding for the courts and explains the operations of our unified court system. The Administrative Summary also serves to acquaint the public with the officers and employees of the Illinois Supreme, Appellate, and

Circuit Courts in order to promote a better understanding of the judicial branch and its role as the third branch of government. The second volume of this Report, the Statistical Summary, provides data on the numbers and types of cases filed and disposed of in the Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts during 2016.

During 2016, the Court continued its active involvement in efforts to enhance the judicial branch's relationship with the other branches of state government and with the public it serves. The Court for the second time invited Governor Rauner and the entire Illinois legislature to a special evening session of oral arguments. This special evening session was an opportunity for members of the General Assembly to observe first-hand the work that the Court performs for the citizens of Illinois. I am also pleased to report that the Court held a special session of oral arguments at Benedictine University for students and teachers from schools in DuPage County. This was the first time that Court arguments have been held at an educational institution. The goal of this initiative was to provide the public with greater transparency in the judicial process.

I will highlight below some of the major accomplishments achieved by the judicial branch of state government in 2016. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on ways to improve the Illinois court system.

Mandatory E-Filing in Civil Cases

In 2016, the Court announced the timeline for statewide, mandatory e-filing in civil cases in the Supreme Court, five districts of the Appellate Court, and in all circuit courts. Specifically, the Court ordered that electronic filing of documents in civil cases will be required in the Supreme Court and five districts of the Appellate Court effective July 1, 2017, and in all circuit courts effective January 1, 2018. The Court's announcement represented the latest step in the Court's ongoing effort to utilize technology to make the court system more efficient. Through the statewide e-filing initiative, the Court's goal is to provide a streamlined process for filing documents, conserve environmental resources and time, and generate long-term savings. Moreover, access to the court will be more convenient for its users since e-filing may be done at any hour and from any location.

In a related matter, a contract was executed with Tyler Technologies (Tyler) for the use of Tyler's Electronic Filing Manager (EFM) service in Illinois courts. The contract provides for the e-Filing of civil cases and documents in the reviewing and trial courts, and transmitting the record on appeal of all cases from the trial court through the EFM to their respective reviewing court.

Creation of New Rule on Juvenile Shackling

During 2016, the Court adopted new Supreme Court Rule 943 (Use of Restraints on a Minor in Delinquency Proceedings Arising Under the Juvenile Court Act), which provides that instruments of restraint shall not be used on a minor during a court proceeding unless the court finds, after a hearing, that such restraints are necessary to prevent physical harm to the minor or another; the minor has a history of disruptive behavior that presents a risk of harm; or there is a well-founded belief that the minor presents a substantial flight risk. Prior to its adoption, the proposed rule received overwhelming support at a public hearing from state and national juvenile advocacy organizations, the Illinois Attorney General, public guardians and public defenders. The goal of the new rule is to eliminate instances of indiscriminate shackling of minors in juvenile delinquency proceedings that have been occurring without any individualized judicial determination.

Policy for Cameras in the Courtroom

In 2016, the Court concluded its four-year pilot project permitting media cameras in the courtrooms and adopted a permanent Policy for Extended Media Coverage (EMC) in the circuit courts. The pilot project, which was launched by the Court in early 2012, allowed the use of media cameras in certain courtrooms on an experimental basis. Since that time, 15 judicial circuits were approved to implement EMC, and more than 450 media requests were made. The new





policy includes a standard application form to be submitted by the chief judge of a judicial circuit that has an interest in permitting news cameras in its courtrooms. The new application form is designed to make the application and review process more uniform, and to ensure consistency and efficiency in the process. The Court also created a new form for the submission of quarterly reports of EMC activity for the purpose of the Court monitoring the success of the program and addressing problems or concerns that may arise.

Certification of New Problem-Solving Courts

Problem-solving courts, also known as specialty or therapeutic courts, provide an alternative forum for certain individuals in the criminal justice system, such as those with mental illness or substance abuse disorders. This year the court certified three new problem-solving courts: the Kendall County Drug Court, the Peoria DUI Court and the Tazewell County Mental Health Court. These three courts are the first to go through the Court's application and certification process, which was established in 2015 to provide uniformity, accountability, and administrative oversight to problem-solving courts in Illinois. It is anticipated that the 100 or more problem-solving courts already in operation will also go through the process.

Advancements in Pretrial Services

In 2016, the Court announced that Illinois was chosen by the Pretrial Justice Institute for the "3DaysCount," a national campaign to make pretrial justice safer, fairer and more effective. The campaign will focus on examining pretrial justice laws and court rules, which are the crucial structures that support good criminal justice policies from the point of arrest to resolution of cases. Over several years, we will work with 3DaysCount representatives to restrict pretrial detention, after due process, to people who pose an unmanageable risk to public safety or of failing to appear in court; provide information and options for judges to help guide the pretrial release decision; and increase public safety.

The Court also announced that all 40 recommendations proposed in a report issued two years ago following a comprehensive review of pretrial services in Cook County have been addressed with the commitment of ensuring the sustainability of the changes. The report contained broad, systematic and targeted recommendations to improve pretrial service in Cook County. As part of the ongoing process in Cook County, the application and evaluation of Public Safety Assessment (PSA), a risk assessment tool, was considered. Under the direction of the Court, the Administrative Office worked with the circuit courts in Cook, Kane and McLean counties to participate in a pilot program to test the use of PSA.

Supreme Court Rule Amendments to Aid Self- Represented Litigants and Address New Legislation

During 2016, the Court approved amendment of its rules in light of simplifying court procedures for self-represented litigants and addressing a new state law that decriminalizes the possession of small amounts of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. Specifically, the Court adopted amendments to Rule 12 to allow persons other than attorneys to certify a proof of service instead of having their signatures notarized. The aim of the amendment was to allow greater access to justice by reducing barriers to obtaining notarization for self-represented litigants.

The Court also adopted six new rules to establish a regulatory framework for a new state law that decriminalizes the possession of small amounts of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. Specifically, the Court created Supreme Court Rules 585, 586, 587, 588, 589 and 590 in response to legislation whereby possession of up to 10 grams of cannabis or drug paraphernalia seized during the offense is characterized as a “civil law violation” and is punishable by a fine of between \$100 and \$200. In response, the Court adopted rules to establish procedures for the court system to follow when handling civil law violations. The new rules lay out the regulatory framework for civil law violations, including applicability, appearance date, notice to accused, fines, penalties and costs, uniform forms and processing, and the procedure if the accused fails to appear. Moreover,

Rule 588 allows for the resolution of a civil law violation without a court appearance. As such, persons cited for civil law violations can pay a \$120 fine, as set by Rule 586, by mail and without having to appear in court, similar to the process for minor traffic violations.

Conclusion

The accomplishments enumerated above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken by the Illinois courts in 2016. I invite you to review the 2016 Annual Report, which provides further information about the functions and activities of the judicial branch.

Finally, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the individuals in the judicial branch who helped make 2016 such a productive year. Operating the Illinois court system so that it functions with the highest levels of integrity and efficiency requires dedication and hard work by all judicial branch officers and employees. I look forward to another successful year of achievements and continued improvements in our courts.



Lloyd A. Karmeier
Chief Justice
Illinois Supreme Court



2016 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

January 31, 2017

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

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

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

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

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am pleased to provide an Annual Report of the activities of the 2016 Illinois Judicial Conference in keeping with Article VI, Section 17, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970. Pursuant to this constitutional provision, Illinois Supreme Court Rule 41 creates the Illinois Judicial Conference and charges the Judicial Conference with considering the work of the courts and suggesting improvements in the administration of justice. The past year has been a very productive one for the Judicial Conference.

The Judicial Conference consists of an Executive Committee and six standing committees that address issues of: (1) alternative dispute resolution, (2) civil justice, (3) criminal justice, (4) judicial education, (5) juvenile justice and (6) strategic planning. The annual meeting of the Judicial Conference was convened on October 27, 2016, with a theme of *Challenges and Changes to Illinois Justice*. The format and agenda of the annual meeting were structured to promote active participation by all attendees in our effort to identify innovative and promising improvements in the administration of justice.

In further compliance with Article VI, Section 17 of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, this report includes a summary of the work performed by each of the committees. Each of the six standing committees of the Judicial Conference provided a written report to the Supreme Court, summarizing initiatives undertaken during Conference Year 2016 and proposing projects for 2017.

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

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

On behalf of the Court, I respectfully submit the Supreme Court's Annual Report to the Legislative Leaders of the General Assembly on the 2016 Illinois Judicial Conference. This report is also available to the members of the General Assembly on the Supreme Court's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov.

Respectfully,



Lloyd A. Karmeier
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Illinois

Annual Report to the General Assembly on the 2016 Judicial Conference

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

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

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

On October 27, 2016, the Illinois Judicial Conference held its annual meeting in Lombard, Illinois. The meeting was concentrated into one full day to minimize the judges' time away from the bench and to reduce costs.

Former Chief Justice Rita B. Garman convened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Justice Garman then introduced Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier who had been sworn into the position of Chief Justice on October 26, 2016.

Chief Justice Karmeier began his remarks by acknowledging the work of Justice Garman over the last three years as Chief Justice. Chief Justice Karmeier stated he has had the good fortune to serve under several different Chief Justices and that all had done an outstanding job in leading the Court. Chief Justice Karmeier commented that Justice Garman had over the last three years served as Chief Justice with dignity, patience, and perseverance.

Chief Justice Karmeier then outlined his goals as Chief Justice: continue to expand access to justice, adopt a statewide electronic filing system and continue discussion on ways to improve pre-trial services.

The Chief Justice then stated that he has had the pleasure and privilege of attending several judicial conferences and that he is firmly convinced that the Illinois court system derives its strength from the diversity of the judiciary from the different parts of the state. He indicated that the entire structure of the Conference is premised on the notion that the court system needs to find ways to move forward faster and better, and the diversity and expertise of the Conference membership is certainly a strength to achieve that goal. Chief Justice Karmeier added that he was impressed by how many judges and attorneys were willing and able to serve on the Conference committees

and when called on to do so are not hesitant in accepting the task.

The Chief Justice concluded his remarks by again thanking former Chief Justice Garman for her outstanding service to the Court, not only for the last three years as chief justice, but for her entire tenure on the Court.

Former Chief Justice Garman began her address to the Conference by saying she was pleased to have the opportunity to speak to the members so she could say "thank you" to each and every person for their support and encouragement over the last three years.

Justice Garman stated that she had three goals when she became Chief Justice: an emphasis on civility and professionalism; greater efficiency and transparency in the judicial system; and expansion on the use of technology to create a more effective and responsive judicial system. Justice Garman then stated that great strides had been made in each of these areas.

With regard to improving civility and professionalism, Justice Garman stated that the formation of the Illinois Judicial College and the continuing efforts of the Commission on Professionalism have been helpful in achieving this goal. Justice Garman also credited the ambitious survey of court users which revealed a high level of satisfaction with the judicial system, while also revealing areas which require improvement. Justice Garman highlighted the Court's effort to improve civility and professionalism by reaching out to other branches of government, such as inviting members of the Illinois General Assembly to attend oral arguments, as well as offering in the near future a law school for legislators to share information with newly-elected members of the General Assembly about the structure and function of the judicial branch, including how it interacts with the other two branches of state government.

With regard to improving efficiency and transparency, Justice Garman discussed the Court's adoption of uniform standards and certification programs for therapeutic courts, the continuing efforts to improve pre-trial services, the creation of a Supreme Court Committee on Equality to promote equality and fairness in the administration of justice, and the creation of a certification program and registry of language interpreters. Justice Garman also emphasized that the Court's new public service information office will create a better flow of information to both the public and the legal community. She further added that the Court has held oral arguments in venues throughout the state so that more people can see how the Supreme Court functions.

With regard to technology, Justice Garman advised that e-filing in civil cases has been implemented state wide. Further, she noted that the use of cameras in the courtroom is now being utilized in all parts of Illinois. Justice Garman then stated that a new internal case information system called C-Track had recently went live in the Supreme Court. She indicated that while C-Track will have minimal impact on the public, it will bring improved efficiency to the internal communications in case processing and will be implemented in the Appellate Courts soon.

Justice Garman announced that this year's Conference placed a focus on social justice and addressed other cutting edge issues that have potential to significantly impact the Illinois judicial system. These issues include the report of the Statutory Court Fee Task Force and the report of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform. She commented that each report is highly relevant to the Court's efforts to



improve both access to justice and transparency to the judicial system.

In conclusion, Justice Garman indicated that her remarks were not an invitation to stroll down memory lane, but were intended to encourage the Conference to find ways to advance these goals and that the accomplishments of the last three years will serve as a call to action to find ways to improve the court system in Illinois. On behalf of the Illinois Supreme Court, she thanked the Conference members for their service on the various committees.

Justice Garman then introduced Mr. Vincent F. Cornelius, President of the Illinois State Bar Association, who addressed the Conference on the topic of social justice. Subsequent introductions from the former Chief Justice also included: Mr. Steven F. Pflaum, Chair of the Statutory Court Fee Task Force and Representative Elaine Nekritz, Member of the Statutory Court Fee Task Force, who both shared remarks about the Task Force Report; Mr. Rodger Heaton, Chairman of the Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform, who offered comments on the Commission's work; Mr. George H. Sheldon, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, who spoke about the implementation of Immersion Sites; and Chief Circuit Judge David A. Hylla, Chair of the Supreme Court's e-Business Policy Advisory Board, and Mr. Terry Derrick, Operations Director of Tyler Technologies, Inc., who both commented on implementation of mandatory e-filing of civil cases.

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

Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee

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

During Conference Year 2016, the Committee, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, continued to develop uniform methods of statistical reporting for court annexed mediation programs authorized pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 99 and 99.1. Due to the varied nature of court annexed mediation programs, this project needs additional time to be completed.

The Committee also continued to work to develop standardized forms for use in civil mediation. Analysis of forms currently in use by existing programs revealed disparities in the types of forms and content. This topic requires further discussion by the Committee with resulting recommendations to the Court.

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

The Committee made a recommendation to the Supreme Court to amend Supreme Court Rule 92 by incorporating a new subparagraph (e) which authorizes arbitration panels to assess costs. The Court adopted the Committee's recommendation, and the amendment to the rule was filed on December 5, 2016, with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

The Committee also discussed whether or not Supreme

Court Rule 86 should be amended to mandate mandatory court annexed arbitration programs in all 24 judicial circuits and whether to expand the maximum case value to include cases with a value in excess of \$50,000.00. The Committee recommended that Rule 86 not be amended for either suggestion, as each Chief Circuit Judge currently has the discretion to request a court annexed mandatory arbitration program and is in the best position to determine each circuit's caseload and needs. As such, the Committee concluded that the *status quo* should remain.

Finally, the Committee examined Supreme Court Rule 93 to assess whether some types of court annexed mandatory arbitration case awards should be binding with no right of rejection. The Committee collected and reviewed statewide data on the frequency of rejections and reached a consensus that rejection of arbitration awards was not significant enough to warrant modification of rejection rules. Concern also existed that by removing the right of rejection a person's constitutional right to a trial by jury in civil cases guaranteed by Article 1, Section 13 of the Illinois Constitution and by the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution would be violated.

Civil Justice Committee

The Civil Justice Committee has an overarching mandate to advise the Judicial Conference and the Supreme Court in matters affecting civil justice. The Committee's charge for Conference Year 2016 was to review and make recommendations on matters affecting civil justice. The Committee was to review, analyze and examine new issues arising out of legislation and case law that impact civil law and procedures and any aspect of civil justice. The Committee members possess significant trial experience, from various jurisdictions, both large and small.

The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure that the Illinois civil justice system is functioning effectively. In Conference Year 2016, the Civil Justice Committee focused on three projects:

- A. Distributing questionnaires to attorneys, jurors and judges to assess ways to improve the juror deliberative process and to evaluate the use and effectiveness of jury instructions before, during and after the presentation of evidence.
- B. Studying the elimination of expert depositions.
- C. Studying discovery rules to consider (a) adopting a mandatory disclosure requirement similar to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 and (b) eliminating the discovery deposition.

In Conference Year 2017, the Civil Justice Committee hopes to use the results of the civil jury trial questionnaires to assess ways to improve juror deliberative process and evaluate the use and effectiveness of jury instructions before, during and after the presentation of evidence. The Civil Justice Committee did not recommend the elimination of expert depositions. The Civil Justice Committee continues to study discovery rules to consider adopting a mandatory disclosure requirement and eliminating the discovery deposition and thus, was not ready to make any final recommendations during this conference year.

Criminal Justice Committee

During Conference Year 2016, the Criminal Justice Committee explored ways of assisting in the implementation, utilization, and evaluation of evidence based practices in sentencing by the Illinois judiciary, including coordinating with the Judicial Conference

Committee on Education and the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. These efforts resulted in regional trainings on evidence based practices.

Further, the Committee discussed a request from the Supreme Rules Committee to comment on a proposal to amend Supreme Court Rule 415(c) to remove the requirement that materials furnished to an attorney remain in his or her exclusive custody. The proposal also sought to amend Rule 415(d) to provide that the court may order that specified disclosures be restricted, conditioned upon compliance with protective measures; and that the material/information is disclosed in sufficient time for counsel to make beneficial use of the disclosure. The Committee reached a consensus that the proposal could provide to criminal defendants sensitive information about victims, witnesses, police officers and jury members, which could possibly be used for inappropriate purposes. The Committee also agreed that even if the sensitive information were to be redacted, the proposed language would require additional discussion and arguments regarding the need to redact the information, thereby causing cases to move through the system more slowly.

The Committee continued to discuss ways of implementing sentencing flexibility similar to the federal sentencing guidelines. The Committee, however, was advised that the Illinois General Assembly had begun to address this issue legislatively and decided to defer discussion on this issue pending legislative action.

The Committee also examined drafting a best practices guide for criminal trial court judges in coordination with the Committee on Education. The Committee's goal is to identify recurring issues in the criminal court system and for suggesting solutions, which would then be placed in a best practices guide to hopefully reduce the need for new rules and/or amending existing rules. To further discussion, the Committee is preparing to send a survey to appellate judges to solicit their input on common issues seen on appeal in criminal cases. These responses will serve as a foundation for drafting the best practices guide.

Committee on Education

The Committee on Education, in Conference Year 2016, has continued its charge to design and sustain the delivery of continuing education programs for Illinois judges while the Illinois Judicial College, established by the Supreme Court effective January 1, 2016, becomes operational. When fully operational, the Committee on Education will serve as one of the six standing Committees of the Illinois Judicial College. The College will expand continuing education beyond the judiciary to include non-judicial branch officers, employees, and others who aid the court in the administration of justice, providing increased opportunity for comprehensive professional development and multi-disciplinary continuing education. Faculty Development Workshops offered by the Committee continue to provide new and experienced faculty with the opportunity to become more effective facilitators and design learning activities focused on the adult learner.

The Judicial Benchbook project is also managed by the Committee on Education collaboratively with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and oversees the publication of Illinois Judicial Benchbooks and Manuals on a range of substantive areas of the law. These benchbooks and manuals are resources created for the benefit of Illinois judges, but are not citable as legal authority. In coordination with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and other Supreme Court Committees, the Committee released the 2016 Benchbooks and Manuals in hard copy and CD in the fall of 2016. In addition, the Committee planned, delivered, and

evaluated the February and April 2016 Judicial Education Conferences, May 2016 DUI Seminar, October 2016 Access to Justice Seminar, November 4th Appellate District and 5th Appellate District regional seminars on Effective Pretrial Practices, while concurrently planning for the January 2017 New Judge Seminar and other education events scheduled for 2017.

Juvenile Justice Committee

During Conference Year 2016, the Court requested that the Juvenile Justice Committee develop a biennial conference for juvenile court judges in collaboration with the Committee on Education. A subcommittee was formed to develop the conference consisting of members from the Committee on Education and Juvenile Justice Committee. The subcommittee has begun planning the two day conference scheduled for 2017, with an emphasis on trauma-informed juvenile courts. In addition to having experts from the respective fields present on relevant topics, educational tools and networking opportunities will be implemented and include youth speakers, small group discussions and a sharing of program ideas.

The Committee was also tasked with developing a web-based clearinghouse to identify programs created by juvenile court judges throughout the state and be available to all judges as a resource guide. The Committee worked with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to develop a location on the Court's website for the clearinghouse. A program submission form was created, made available to judges online, and is to be submitted to the Committee for consideration of placement on the clearinghouse. It is anticipated that all submissions will be vetted by the Committee and that the clearinghouse will be reviewed at least annually to confirm information is current and accurate.

The Committee was further asked to explore mandatory minimal education requirements for attorneys' assigned juvenile abuse and neglect cases. The Committee reviewed research on the topic and discussed the pros and cons of requiring minimum educational requirements, including the availability for educational opportunities and the manner in which this could be monitored. The Committee learned that 17 states require some type of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for Child Welfare Attorneys and/or Guardian Ad Litem. Minimum requirements ranged from 2 hours per year (Alabama) and up to 8 hours per year (Wisconsin), a one-time training, or a one-time training and CLE. The Committee also reviewed current Supreme Court Rules to determine what rules, if any, may already apply and what impact minimum requirements would have on current CLE requirements. After careful consideration and discussion about the unique nature of abuse and neglect proceedings, the evolving research on development and behavior, the court rules and procedures specific to these cases, and the impact that turnover in attorneys, caseworkers and judges has on a juvenile's success, the Committee unanimously agreed that it is vitally important that any attorney assigned this type of proceeding have at least some on-going legal education specific to juvenile law and research. Such a requirement would be consistent with national trends and ensure the best outcome for children involved in abuse and neglect proceedings.

Lastly, the Committee explored the issue of shackling youth in court, including current standards and trends, and whether it is appropriate to make any recommendations in regards to the shackling of youth in court. The Committee reviewed research on juvenile shackling practices and reform trends across the country, shackling practices within Illinois, and considered a proposal submitted to the Supreme Court Rules Committee by the Illinois Justice Project. In addition, the Committee reached out to Illinois judges who are currently assigned a juvenile



court call to determine what impact, if any, such a rule would have on their court and whether there was a need for such a rule. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the proposed rule at length, considered the objectives of the rule, and discussed the appropriate location for such a rule. Ultimately, the Committee agreed to modifying language of the proposed rule to ensure judicial discretion in the use of shackles and placing the proposed rule in Article IX of the Supreme Court Rules, and adding a committee comment for clarification of the rule. The modified proposed rule was approved by the Committee and the Illinois Judicial Project, and then referred back to the Supreme Court's Rules Committee. A public hearing on the proposed rule was held on July 8, 2016. Supreme Court Rule 943, addressing the shackling of juveniles during court proceedings, became effective November 1, 2016.

Committee on Strategic Planning

During Conference Year 2016, the Committee on Strategic Planning continued its mission to assist the Supreme Court in advancing the Court's goal of an impartial, accessible and efficient justice system. The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure the Illinois court system is functioning in a just and efficient manner. The Committee has established communications with the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges and other Supreme Court Committees and Commissions in order to keep abreast of developments related to strategic planning and to collaborate where possible.

In 2016, the Committee discussed court efficiency and fairness obstacles pertaining to a wide array of court functions, processes and overall organization. The Committee provided the Supreme Court with an interim report which contained expressions of the Committee's support for specific court programs and support for the Court's progress and initiatives related to e-business. The Committee's interim report also contained proposals for short term and long term initiatives all related to court efficiency and fairness. The Supreme Court has forwarded several of the Committee's proposals to other relevant Supreme Court Committees and Commissions who have subject matter expertise and can further explore these ideas. The Committee also explored the idea of a statewide survey for court staff. The goal of the survey would be to measure court efficiencies from the perspective of the court staff and allow court staff to suggest ideas for improving court efficiencies. The Committee will continue these discussions in 2017.

Conclusion

As evidenced by these Committee summaries, the scope of work undertaken by the Judicial Conference in 2016 was broad and included recommendations on improving efficiency through the continuing use and expansion of technology and alternative dispute resolution programs. Committees also focused on developing judicial education programs, continuing legal education requirements for practitioners, and presenting training on evidenced based practices. Several amendments to Supreme Court Rules were offered, as well as recommendations on how to enhance access, fairness, transparency and diversity in the administration of justice.

Although many projects and initiatives were completed in the 2016 Conference Year, some will continue on into Conference Year 2017, and additional projects will be assigned in the coming year. Thus, the Judicial Conference will continue to honor its constitutional mandate and remain steadfast in its goal of improving the administration of justice in Illinois.

Supreme Court Decisions That the General Assembly May Wish to Consider

People v. Williams, Case No. 2016 IL 118375 (January 22, 2016).

Defendant pleaded guilty to unlawful delivery of a controlled substance in exchange for a sentencing cap of 25 years' imprisonment. He later moved to withdraw his plea, claiming he had been improperly admonished regarding the maximum sentence he faced. The trial court had stated, several times, that he faced a maximum sentence of 60 years' imprisonment because a prior conviction made him eligible for Class X sentencing (6-30 years) and his prior drug offense doubled the maximum to 60 years. Defendant was subsequently sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment, in accordance with the plea agreement.

The appellate court reversed and remanded, concluding that defendant was improperly admonished. On review, the Supreme Court considered whether Section 408(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (720 ILCS 570/408(a)) should have been applied to double defendants' potential maximum sentence of 30 years. Defendant argued that Section 408(a) should only be applied to offenses committed in violation of the Controlled Substances Act, while the State argued it may be applied to double defendant's enhanced Class X maximum of 30 years to 60 years. The Court, after examining the plain language of the statute, concluded that the language of Section 408(a) was ambiguous, and thus it was unable to determine with certainty that the legislature had intended Section 408(a) to apply to offenses such as defendant's. Accordingly, the Court invoked the rule of lenity to determine that Section 408 could not be applied to double defendant's enhanced Class X potential maximum sentence. The Court also encouraged the General Assembly to revisit Section 408(a) to clarify to what extent, if any, the statute may apply to offenses other than those committed in violation of the Controlled Substances Act. *Appellate court judgment affirmed.*

State of Illinois v. AFSCME Council 31, 2016 IL 118422 (March 24, 2016).

At issue in this case was a 2008 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the State and AFSCME, a bargaining unit representing approximately 40,000 state employees, which called for a 4% wage increase for state employees to take effect on July 1, 2011. Thereafter in 2010, in recognition of the ongoing fiscal crisis then facing the State, the parties entered into two cost savings agreements that included a partial deferral of the scheduled increase, amounting to a 2% increase to take effect on July 1, 2011, with the remaining 2% to be implemented on February 1, 2012. In his FY2012 budget proposal, Governor Pat Quinn included a request for appropriations to fully fund the increases reflected in these agreements. However, the General Assembly did not appropriate sufficient funding to increase all employees' salaries, and 14 agencies were unable to fully fund the raises.

AFSCME filed a grievance under the CBA and demanded arbitration to resolve the dispute. Before the arbitrator, the State relied heavily upon Section 21 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/21), which provides that all collective bargaining agreements between public employers and unions are "subject to the appropriation power of the employer..." According to the State, Section 21 mandates that any expenditures by the executive branch pursuant to a CBA must be contingent on appropriations of the funds by the General Assembly, and that the Appropriations Clause of the Illinois Constitution contains the same mandate. The State also argued that Section 21 was incorporated into its CBA with AFSCME. Conversely, AFSCME argued that Section 21 should not be read to make collective bargaining agreements subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

The arbitrator sided with AFSCME, finding that the State violated its contractual obligation to pay the salary increases. The trial court ruled in favor of AFSCME and upheld the arbitrator's award. On appeal, the appellate court likewise affirmed the arbitrator's award and rejected the State's argument that the CBA was subject to the appropriation.

Reversing the arbitrator and both reviewing courts, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State and ultimately vacated the award, finding that enforcement of the CBA would have violated public policy. Although the State may enter into multi-year collective bargaining agreements covering wage and salary terms for state employees, such agreements are ultimately subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. The Court cited both the Appropriations Clause and Section 21 of the IPLRA in holding that, although the State had the authority to bargain over wages with its employees and to sign a multi-year CBA, public policy gives the power to appropriate for the expenditure of public funds to the General Assembly alone. In light of this public policy, the Court vacated the arbitration award. *Judgments reversed.*

Jones v. Municipal Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago, 2016 IL 119618 (March 24, 2016).

At issue in this case was whether Public Act 98-641, which amended the Illinois Pension Code for certain pension funds for employees of the City of Chicago, violated the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution. The City of Chicago Pension Funds in question ("Funds") provide traditional defined benefit plans under which members receive specified annuities upon retirement. Prior to the enactment of PA 98-641, annuity payments for employees hired before January 1, 2011 were subject to a compounded 3% automatic annual increase. For employees hired after January 1, 2011, annuity adjustments were tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). All employees contributed 8.5% of their salary annually, and the City contributed an amount based on a fixed multiplier as provided in the Pension Code.

PA 98-641 was intended to address a funding crisis that threatened the solvency and sustainability of the Funds. It increased the City's contributions to the Funds in order to bring them up to a 90% funding ratio, and increased employee contributions on an incremental basis. PA 98-641 also limited the amount of the annual increase for all employees to the lesser of a flat 3% increase, or half the annual unadjusted percentage increase in the

CPI. PA 98-641 also eliminated compounding of the annual increases, and eliminated the increases entirely for some years.

The trial court declared PA 98-641 to be unconstitutional under the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution (Ill. Const. 1970, art. XII, §5). The Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's ruling, finding that under the clause, a public employee's membership in a pension system is an enforceable contractual relationship, and the employee has a constitutionally protected right to the benefits of that contractual relationship. The constitutional protections attach at the time the individual begins employment and becomes a member of the public pension system. Thus, the General Assembly may not unilaterally reduce or eliminate pension benefits conferred by membership in that pension system.

The Court rejected defendants' argument that PA 98-641, when read as a whole, did not diminish or impair pension benefits, because it provided a "net-benefit" to members by rescuing the Funds from insolvency. The pension protection clause guarantees members the right to receive their pension benefits. The purported "offsetting benefit" of actuarially sound funding and solvency in the Funds merely offered members in those systems what they were already entitled to. The Court held that the promise of solvency could not be "netted" against an unconstitutional diminishment of benefits.

Defendants also argued that PA 98-641 was not the product of unconstitutional unilateral action, but was instead a bargained-for exchange between the City and the unions representing the Funds' participants. The Court also rejected this argument, holding that, as a matter of law, members of the Funds did not bargain away their constitutional rights, as the Unions in question were not acting as authorized agents within the collective bargaining process, but were engaging

in legislative advocacy when they agreed to the changes in PA 98-641. Public Act 98-641 was therefore declared unconstitutional in its entirety, under the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution. *Affirmed*.

Matthews v. Chicago Transit Authority, 2016 IL 117638 (May 5, 2016).

At issue in this case was the enforceability of plaintiffs' rights to retiree health care benefits as set forth in a 2004 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and the labor unions (Unions) representing CTA's bus and rail employees.

Beginning in 1949, the CTA and its unions incorporated a Retirement Plan Agreement into their CBAs, which contained provisions for retiree health care. The 2004 Retirement Plan Agreement included a provision requiring the Retirement Plan to pay "an amount sufficient to provide insurance coverage for all retirees" under the Group Plan. The 2004 Agreement also specified that the retiree health care benefit would terminate when the retiree reached age 65.

In 2006, the Unions and CTA were unable to negotiate an extension of the 2004 CBA, and the dispute was subject to an interest arbitration proceeding. The interest award deleted the prior health care provision and created a separate trust (funded through bonds, and contingent upon enactment of necessary legislation) to pay for retiree health care benefits. The award also required current employees to pay a "payroll tax" equal to 3% of compensation, and retirees were to contribute up to 45% of the total cost of their health care. These terms were incorporated into the CBA covering the period from 2007-2011, and enacting legislation amending the Pension Code and the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act was passed in 2008 as Public Act 95-708.

Two classes of current and former employees filed challenges to the retiree health care changes contained in PA 95-708, claiming violations of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution (Ill. Const. 1970, art. XII, §5), as well as breach of contract, promissory estoppel and breach of fiduciary duty. The circuit court dismissed the lawsuit in its entirety, finding that current employees did not have standing to challenge modification of their benefits, and that the provisions in the CBA allowing for modification of the CBA meant that health care benefits were subject to modification and thus were not vested. The appellate court affirmed the finding that current employees did not have standing, but held that the retirees had a vested right to receive the health care benefits in the 2004 CBA, based on the "Yard-Man" presumption in favor of vesting, originally adopted in *UAW v. Yard-Man, Inc.*, 716 F.2d 1476 (6th Cir. 1983). In 2015, after the appellate court issued its decision, the United States Supreme Court issued *M&G Polymers USA, LLC v. Tackett*, 135 S. Ct. 926 (2015) rejecting the "Yard-Man" principle.

The Illinois Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court's ruling that plaintiffs who retired before the effective date of the 2007 CBA had standing, and then analyzed whether the pension protection clause entitled plaintiffs to continuation of the 2004 CBA retiree health care benefits. The Court rejected plaintiffs' argument that the pension protection clause automatically vested the retirement benefits provided in a CBA. The Court held that the pension protection clause protects a contractual relationship, and thus is governed by the actual terms of the contract or pension plan in effect at the time the employee becomes a member of the retirement system. The Court, acknowledging the overruling of *Yard-Man*, held that the question of whether the CBA provided a right to retiree health care benefits beyond the expiration date of the agreement must be decided by application of "ordinary contract principles" and without any presumption in favor of vesting.

The Court then went on to consider whether, under traditional rules of contract interpretation, the terms of the 2004 CBA evidenced an intention by the CTA and the Unions to vest retiree health care benefits; that is, whether the parties to the 2004 CBA intended the retiree health care benefits to remain enforceable after the termination of the 2004 CBA. The Court concluded that they did, based on the sentence in the 2004 CBA stating that the retiree health care benefits would terminate when the retiree attains age 65. This provision demonstrated that the right to retiree health care benefits was intended to extend beyond the expiration of the 2004 CBA. Thus, a class of employees who had retired prior to the expiration of the 2004 CBA had an enforceable, vested right to the health care provisions contained in the 2004 CBA. Failure to honor that right constituted not only a breach of contract but a violation of the pension protection clause. Therefore, a specific class of plaintiffs who retired from the CTA prior to the effective date of Public Act 95-708, had successfully stated a cause of action for breach of contract and for violation of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution. *Appellate court judgment affirmed in part and reversed in part. Cause remanded.*

Moline School District v. Quinn, 2016 IL 119704 (June 16, 2016).

At issue in this case was the constitutionality of Public Act 97-1161, which amended the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/1-1) to create an exemption from property taxes on leasehold interests and improvements on real estate owned by the Metropolitan Airport Authority of Rock Island County and used by a fixed base operator (FBO) to provide aeronautical services to the public. When the law was enacted, Elliott Aviation, Inc. was the only FBO leasing land from the Authority. The law was specifically designed to provide a financial incentive for Elliott to expand its operations at the Authority's facilities rather than its operations in Des Moines, Iowa, which were not subject to property tax.

The Moline School District faced losing more than \$150,000 per year in tax revenue as a result of the exemption. It filed suit, asserting that PA 97-1161 violated the Illinois Constitution's prohibition on "special legislation" (Ill. Const. 1970, art. IV, §13). The trial court rejected the District's argument, and upheld the Public Act. The appellate court reversed and Supreme Court affirmed the appellate court.

The Supreme Court agreed with the appellate court that PA 97-1161 clearly discriminated in favor of one specific group. By its terms, it only provided property tax relief for FBOs providing services at the MAA's Quad City Airport. No other FBO providing services to the public at any other Illinois airport was given similar treatment, and, under the law, no other FBO at any other Illinois airport would have the opportunity to obtain such tax treatment. The Court went on to find that the Act's classification granting preferential tax treatment for Elliott was not rationally related to a legitimate state interest. The stated justification in PA 97-1161 was to induce Elliott to undertake its contemplated expansion in Illinois rather than in Iowa, with the hope that the expansion would create additional jobs and thereby boost the local Rock Island economy. However, the Court found that there was no reasonable justification for limiting the preferential tax treatment to only those FBOs operating at the Quad City airport, rather than the numerous other FBOs at other Illinois airports or, from the other Illinois businesses that operate on the state's borders or compete with companies in neighboring states. On the contrary, PA 97-1161 was an arbitrary legislative classification not founded on any substantial difference of situation or condition, and thus violated the Illinois Constitution. As such, Public Act 97-1161, which provided property tax relief for a single fixed-base operator providing aeronautical services at a single Illinois airport violated the Illinois Constitutional prohibition against special legislation, and was thus invalidated in its entirety. *Affirmed*.

Moon v. Rhode, 2016 IL 119572 (September 22, 2016).

On May 18, 2009, plaintiff's 90-year-old mother, Kathryn Moon, was admitted to Peoria's Proctor Hospital for a rectal prolapse. During her hospitalization, plaintiff's mother experienced numerous complications, culminating with her death on May 29, 2009. On February 28, 2013, the decedent's CT scans were reviewed upon plaintiff's request with the reviewing doctor, Dr. Dachman, opining that defendant's actions caused or contributed to Kathryn's death. In March 2013, plaintiff filed suit under the Wrongful Death Act (740 ILCS 180/1) and the Survival Act (755 ILCS 5/27-8), claiming medical malpractice against Dr. Rhode.

At issue was whether Section 13-212(a) of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/13-212(a)) or Section 2(c) of the Wrongful Death Act (740 ILCS 180/2(c)) would dictate the proper statute of limitations on the plaintiff's claims. Section 13-212(a) states that a complaint for medical malpractice must be filed "2 years after the date on which the claimant knew, or the use of reasonable diligence should have known...of the existence of the injury or death," while Section 2(c) of the Wrongful Death Act states that any such action for wrongful death "shall be commenced within 2 years after the death of such person."

Defendants argued that, under either provision, the statute of limitations began running on the date plaintiff knew of his mother's death, and the suit was thus untimely. Plaintiff invoked the common law "discovery rule" arguing that the statute of limitations, as provided in Section 13-212(a) of the Code, began only after he received Dr. Dachman's report indicating that his mother's death was the result of negligence. The trial court dismissed the complaint with prejudice. A divided appellate court affirmed, reasoning that the discovery rule had no application to wrongful death or survival actions because both causes of action were legislatively created and not found at common law and that, even if that rule were applied, plaintiff's complaint would be untimely.

The Supreme Court reversed, finding the discovery rule applicable. It concluded that when both a general and a more specific statutory provision relate to the same subject, the Court must presume the legislature intended the more specific one to govern. Here the Court presumed that the legislature intended Section 13-212(a) to control, requiring a factual analysis to determine when the statute of limitations began to run. Plaintiff filed his lawsuit less than two years after receiving the initial verbal medical expert report and within the four-year statute of repose. Therefore, the common law "discovery rule" applies to Section 13-212(a) of the Code of Civil Procedure, tolling the statute of limitations on a medical malpractice wrongful death action until the plaintiff knows, or should have known, that the death was caused by the defendant's actions. *Judgments reversed. Cause remanded.*

Kakos v. Butler, 2016 IL 120377 (September 22, 2016).

Plaintiffs filed a complaint alleging medical negligence and loss of consortium against defendants, who were doctors and medical providers. Defendants moved for leave to file a 12-person jury demand and "to declare Public Act 98-1132, which amended 735 ILCS 5/2-1105(b), as unconstitutional." Public Act 98-1132 amended two statutes to limit the size of a civil jury to six persons and also increase the amount paid per day to jurors across the state.

The circuit court found the provision regarding jury size to be facially unconstitutional based on Article I, Section 13, of the Illinois Constitution, which protects the right of trial by jury "as heretofore enjoyed." The Supreme Court affirmed, finding that "as heretofore enjoyed," means the right as it was enjoyed at the time the constitution was drafted. Transcripts from the 1970 Constitutional Convention debates reveal that the drafters of the 1970 Constitution did not believe the legislature had the authority to reduce the size of a jury below 12 members. As such, the drafters did not act to give the legislature such power. Further, since the jury size provision could not be severed from the remainder of the Public Act, which addressed juror pay, the Act was held entirely invalid. Therefore, Public Act 98-1132, which reduced civil juries from 12 persons to six persons was declared unconstitutional on its face and was invalidated in its entirety. *Affirmed and remanded.*



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, 2016, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$224,628; appellate court judges, \$211,416; circuit court judges, \$194,001; and associate judges, \$184,301. 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 2016, the arbitration filing and rejection fees collected amounted to \$4,436,432.52.

State funding for probation and court services departments covers approximately 3,100 probation and court services personnel, for which the counties receive partial salary reimbursement on a monthly basis. State funding provided about 85% of eligible funding reimbursement. Additional cuts would jeopardize the provision of core probation services, and for the past few years, many of the departments struggle to preserve basic services as a result of budget and staff reductions.

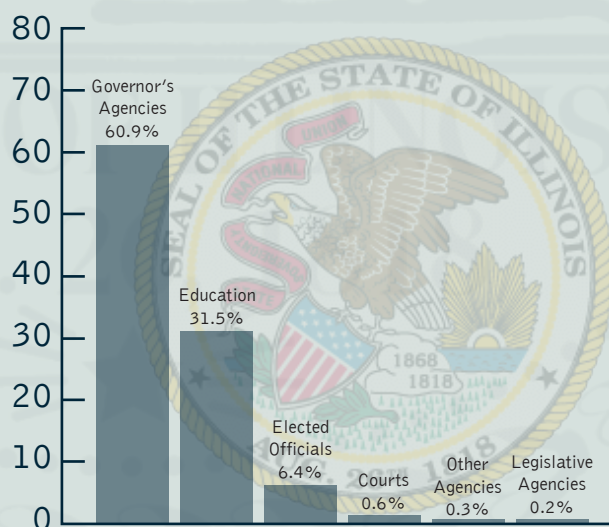
County governments pay part of the cost of financing circuit court operations. Counties provide office and courtroom space, maintenance, and support staff to assist the circuit court judges. Circuit clerks collect money to help pay for their operations and some court operations. They also collect and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

State Funding

Appropriations for State Agencies Fiscal Year 2017

The graph to the right, shows the Supreme Court's share of the total appropriations for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). The total appropriation was \$58,169,015,000. The appropriation for the courts was \$375,413,000.

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



FY'17 figures may not properly reflect actual appropriated dollars as a result of the state's delayed budget process; however, inclusion of special appropriations to the state's total appropriation as identified in Footnotes A and I in Table I-A, resulted in a lowering of the Court's percentage of appropriations to pre-FY'16 levels.

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 2016, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 3,236, assisted by a total of 148 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$209,021,673 in 2016.

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 2016 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.
\$24,775,596

Court Automation Fund: is used to establish and maintain automated systems for keeping court records.
\$24,819,859

County Law Library Fund: helps defray the costs of maintaining a law library in the county for judges, attorneys, and the public.
\$8,738,350

County Fund To Finance the Court System: is available from fees collected by circuit clerks to help finance the court system in the county.
\$5,492,397

Circuit Court Clerk Operations and Administrative Fund: is used to offset costs incurred for collection and disbursement of State and local funds.
\$3,578,523

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 FY16, there were 21 claims due and payable, totaling \$44,490.20.

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 2016 by circuit clerks are listed below:

Child Support and Maintenance: Court ordered payments collected and distributed by Circuit Clerks and the State Disbursement Unit.
\$1,216,106,017

Drug Treatment Fund: Court ordered drug assessments are used to pay for treatment programs for people addicted to alcohol, cannabis, or controlled substances.
\$3,241,719

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.
\$6,976,303

Trauma Center Fund: Fees collected in certain traffic, DUI, and criminal cases are used to support Illinois hospitals that are designated as trauma centers.
\$3,108,301

Traffic and Criminal Conviction Surcharge: An additional penalty imposed in traffic and criminal cases is used for training of law enforcement and correctional officers.
\$1,841,258

Drivers Education Fund: Penalties and forfeitures in offenses reportable to the Secretary of State are used for driver education programs in high schools.
\$3,495,832



CASEFLOW

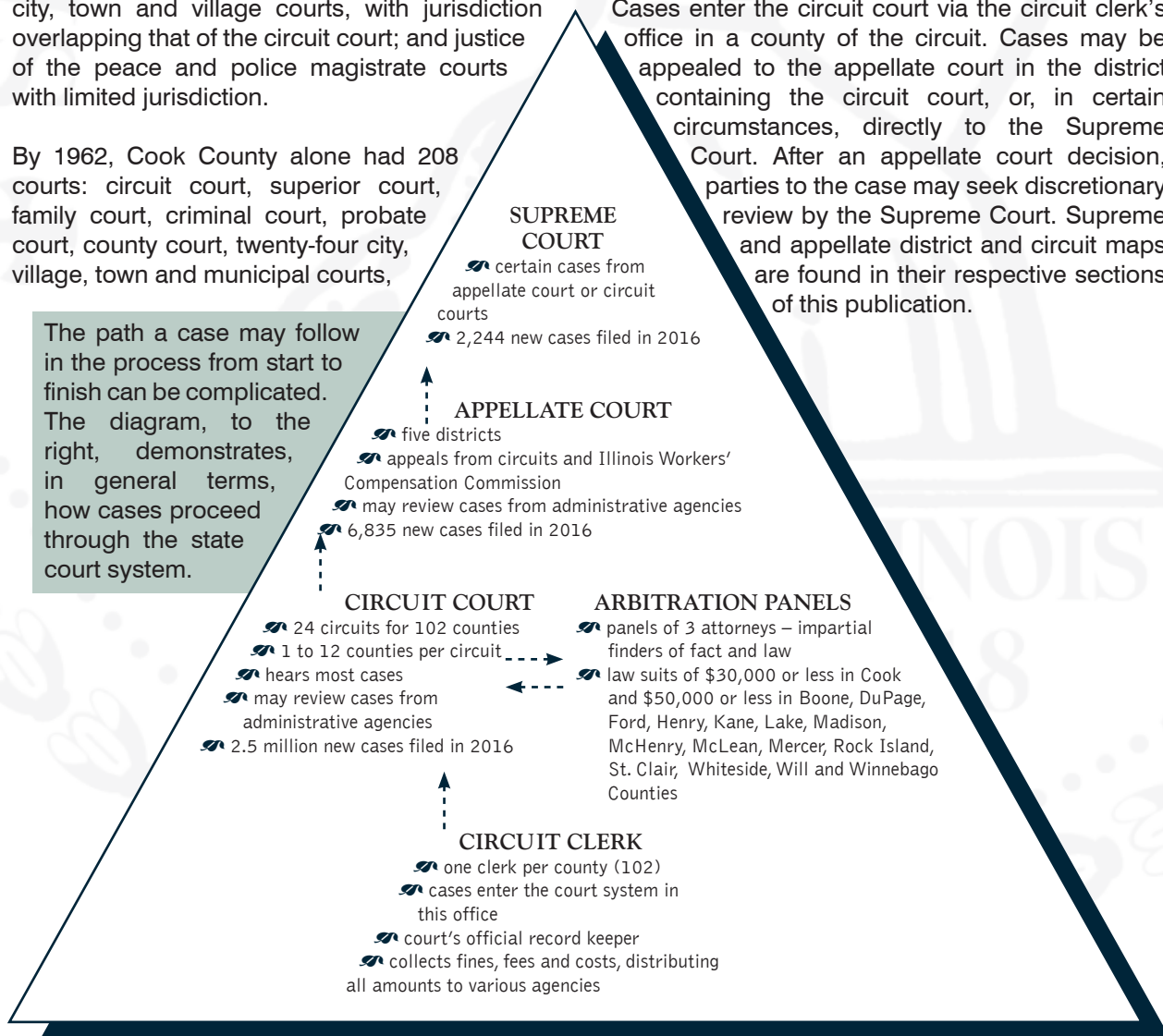
Illinois has had a unified court system since 1964. In that year, voters approved an amendment to the 1870 Constitution which made major changes in the system.

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

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

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

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



JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATION

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of Illinois, in addition to being the state's highest court, is responsible for the state's unified trial court, one appellate court with five districts, and several supporting units. General administrative and supervisory authority over the court system is vested in the Supreme Court. Several advisory bodies assist with this mission by making recommendations to the court. These include the Judicial Conference of Illinois and the various committees of the court. More information about committees can be found in the following sections. The Supreme Court also makes appointments to other committees, commissions, and boards as listed 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 his duties. The staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts supports this function. Key support personnel exist at each level of the court to assist judges with the administration of justice. At the Supreme Court level, this includes the clerk, research director, marshal, librarian and their staffs. Each support unit is described on pages 18 and 19.

Appellate Court

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

Circuit Court

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

Judicial Inquiry Board

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

Illinois Courts Commission

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

Board of Admissions to the Bar

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

Committee on Character and Fitness

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

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

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

State Appellate Defender

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

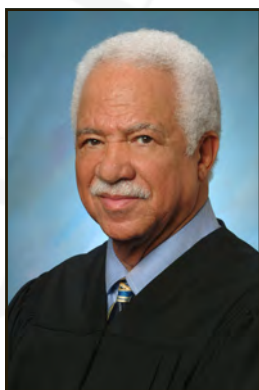
Board of Trustees of the Judges Retirement System

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



THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

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



Charles E. Freeman

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



Robert R. Thomas

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



Thomas L. Kilbride

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



Lloyd A. Karmeier
Chief Justice

Chief Justice Karmeier received his law degree from the University of Illinois. From 1964 through 1986, he engaged in private law practice, clerked for Illinois Supreme Court Justice Byron O. House and United States District Court Judge James L. Foreman, and served as Washington County State's Attorney. Chief Justice Karmeier has served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instruction in Criminal Cases, presiding as Chair of the Committee from 2003 to 2004. He served as Resident Circuit Judge of Washington County from 1986 through 2004 when he was elected to the Supreme Court. He was selected as the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court in October 2016.

Justice Garman received a Juris Doctor degree from the University Of Iowa College Of Law in 1968. She was an Assistant State's Attorney in Vermillion County from 1969 to 1973. She then engaged in private practice with Sebat, Swanson, Banks, Lessen & Garman and was an Associate Judge for 12 years. She served as Circuit Judge in the Fifth Judicial Circuit (1986-95) and Presiding Circuit Judge (1987-95). She was assigned to the Appellate Court, Fourth District, in July 1995, and was elected to the position in November 1996. Justice Garman was appointed to the Supreme Court on February 1, 2001 and subsequently elected to the Supreme Court on December 2, 2002. She served as Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court from October 2013 to October 2016.



Rita B. Garman

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



Anne M. Burke

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



Mary Jane Theis



SUPREME COURT SUPPORT STAFF



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

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Carolyn Taft Grosboll

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

In its case management capacity, the Clerk's Office maintains four distinct automated dockets, executing all associated processes, to ensure compliance with Supreme Court Rules and to ensure that cases are effectively monitored and scheduled, from initiation to issuance of mandates and final orders as appropriate. The general docket unit of the office supports the Court's primary docket. The miscellaneous record docket consists primarily of attorney matters. The miscellaneous docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by pro se incarcerated litigants and provides a forum without compromising standard filing requirements. The proposed rule docket was developed and functions consistent with the mandate of Supreme Court Rule 3. E-filing of Court documents began in 2012 on a pilot basis for certain cases on the general docket and was expanded in 2013 to permit e-filing in all cases on the Court's general and miscellaneous record dockets. While e-filing is not mandatory, the number of attorneys and pro se litigants using the Court's e-filing system grew in 2016.

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

The Clerk's Office registers and renews professional service corporations and associations, and limited liability companies and partnerships engaged in the practice of law. In October 2012, the Supreme Court announced an e-renewal process beginning with the 2013 renewal year, that gave law firm entities the option to electronically renew their annual registration and pay the \$40 renewal fee electronically. In the fourth year of this e-initiative, approximately 67% of law firm entities chose to electronically renew. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for maintaining the roll of attorneys, which includes the licensing process, and issuance of law licenses; files judicial financial disclosure statements required of state court judges. The office compiles, analyzes, and reports statistics on the Supreme Court's caseload and other activity, as reflected in the accompanying statistical summary and narrative for 2016.

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

SUPREME COURT DIRECTORY

Springfield (62701)

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

Springfield (62702)

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

Chicago (60601)

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

Marshal of the Supreme Court
Jim Cimarossa

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

Supreme Court Chief Internal Auditor
John Bracco

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

Supreme Court Research Director
John Robinson

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

Supreme Court Librarian
Geoffrey P. Pelzek

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

Reporter of Decisions
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 Caseload	Filed	Disposed
2016	2,244	2,379
2015	2,402	2,443
2014	2,429	2,443
2013	2,671	2,627
2012	2,697	2,793



SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES

Standing committees of the Court and chairpersons during 2016

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



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

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

Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee *Judge Mark S. Goodwin, Chair 5th Judicial Circuit*

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Coordinating Committee monitors and assesses court-annexed mandatory arbitration and civil mediation programs approved by the Supreme Court. Along with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Committee tracks statistics for each ADR program to monitor program effectiveness and trends. The Committee also makes recommendations for new or amended Supreme Court Rules that improve each program's process and performance.

During this Conference year, the Committee was tasked with developing a uniform methodology of statistical reporting for all civil mediation programs consistent with Rule 99. In collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Committee began work on developing a uniform data collection instrument for use by all mandatory mediation programs. The Committee also began work to develop standardized forms for reporting mediator decisions to the referring court with the goals of providing the referring court with clear and concise information regarding the result of the mediation session(s) and to assist the trial judge with docket management. This work will continue into next year.

Additionally, the Committee was tasked with facilitating the improvement and expansion of major civil case mediation programs by collaborating with the Committee on Education to educate judges on the benefits of mediation. The Committee reached a consensus on what topics it thought should be presented at judicial trainings and forwarded those findings onto the Committee on Education for its consideration. The Committee Chair also made a presentation to the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges detailing how mediation is a viable method of alternative dispute resolution.

The Committee also examined mandatory arbitration rules to clarify the nature and extent of the arbitration panel's role in and/or ability to assess costs. Based on research and input from stakeholders, the Committee concluded that arbitration panels should have the authority to assess requested costs. The Committee then presented to the Court a proposed amendment to Rule 92 which would add subparagraph (e),

specifically granting the arbitration panel the authority to assess requested costs, which was approved by the Court and made effective January 1, 2017.

The Committee examined Supreme Court Rule 86 to determine the feasibility of having mandatory arbitration programs in all circuits and whether to expand the cases to include those with a value in excess of \$50,000.00. The Committee concluded that it was not feasible to have mandatory arbitration programs in each circuit, but rather the decision should remain with each circuit's Chief Judge who would be most familiar with the circuit's need. The Committee also concluded that there was no need to expand arbitration rules to include cases with values in excess of \$50,000.00 because the existing language of Rule 86 provides a chief circuit judge with the flexibility and discretion to seek such authority from the Supreme Court.

The Committee examined Supreme Court Rule 93 to ascertain whether some types of mandatory arbitration cases should be binding with no right of rejection. The Committee collected and reviewed statewide data on the frequency of rejections through approved programs and then reached a consensus that arbitration award rejection was not significant enough to warrant modification of Rule 93.

The Committee also explored how to promote court-supervised ADR systems to the public and to increase diversity in the ADR process. The Committee will continue to monitor arbitration and mediation programs to insure that all litigants are treated fairly and with respect regardless of the participants' race, creed, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation and/or ethnic heritage and will continue to insure that arbitrators, mediators, and staff reflect the various segments of society so that the process reflects the same diversity as the body of participants engaged in it.

Finally, the Committee continued discussion from 2015 regarding the possibility of amending Rule 93 to raise arbitration award rejection fees from \$200.00 to \$300.00 and to consider recommending an amendment to the mandatory arbitration rules to mandate the rejecting party pay the legal expenses of the opposing party if the rejecting party fails to obtain a better result at trial. After examining data from each mandatory arbitration program, it was revealed that the number of arbitration award rejections was not as numerous as thought and that the rejecting party in a majority of the cases improved their position from the arbitration award so no amendment to Rule 93 was required.





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

The purpose of the Illinois Judicial Conference Civil Justice Committee (“Committee”) is to advise the Illinois Judicial Conference and the Illinois Supreme Court in matters affecting civil justice. The general charge of the Committee was to review and make recommendations on matters affecting civil justice. The Committee was to review, analyze and examine new issues arising out of legislation and case law that impact civil law and procedures and any aspect of civil justice. This Committee was newly formed in 2015.

The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Illinois Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure that the Illinois civil justice system is functioning effectively. In Conference Year 2016, the Civil Justice Committee focused on two projects: a) executing a statewide survey of civil jury trials to elicit information regarding the comprehension, satisfaction and efficiency of the civil jury trial system wherein judges, attorneys and jurors fill out surveys at the completion of a civil jury trial and b) beginning to examine Illinois’ discovery rules to consider whether to adopt a mandatory disclosure requirement similar to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 or whether to recommend the elimination of the discovery deposition. The Committee also would like to thank Daniel Wolfe and Andrea Krebel from DecisionQuest for their *pro bono* assistance in analyzing the completed civil jury questionnaires that will be studied and reviewed in FY 2017.

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

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

The Criminal Justice Committee shall review and make recommendations on matters affecting criminal justice and review, analyze, and examine new issues arising out of legislation and case law that impact criminal justice procedures.

The Committee was charged to explore ways of assisting to implement, utilize, and evaluate the use of evidence-based practices in sentencing by the Illinois judiciary. In response to this charge, the Committee coordinated with the Education Committee which resulted in regional trainings on evidence-based practices for the judiciary.

The Committee also discussed a request from the Rules Committee to comment on Rule Proposal 16-

02. Proposal 16-02 sought to amend Illinois Supreme Court Rule 415(c) to remove the requirement that materials furnished to an attorney remain in his or her exclusive custody; as well as amending Rule 415(d) to provide that the court may order that specified disclosures be restricted, conditioned upon compliance with protective measures and that the material/information is disclosed in sufficient time for counsel to make beneficial use of the disclosure. The Committee reached a consensus that the proposed amendments would put sensitive information about a victim or victims, witnesses, police officers and jury members into the hands of a criminal defendant and may require additional discussion and arguments regarding redaction, which causes cases to be resolved more slowly and increase judicial workload.

The Committee continued working towards drafting a best practices guide for criminal trial court judges to identify recurring issues in the criminal court system. A survey is being prepared to send to appellate judges soliciting their input on common issues seen on appeal in criminal cases which will serve as a foundation for drafting the best practices guide.

Finally, the Committee discussed establishing a pilot project where judges assigned to criminal calls would be encouraged to visit county jails and/or IDOC facilities as part of their orientation process. Cook County judges visited the county jail throughout 2016 and in August of 2016, several Committee members toured the Dixon Correctional Center.

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

The Supreme Court of Illinois charged the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education, in coordination with the Administrative Office with the task of developing and sustaining continuing educational programs for Illinois judges, while also exploring a Judicial College model for the oversight and delivery of comprehensive education for the Illinois Judicial Branch and its stakeholders. Effective January 1, 2016, the Supreme Court established the Illinois Judicial College pursuant to MR 27781, and appointed a seven member Board of Trustees comprised of Illinois judges to recommend the governance model, and standards and guidelines for the Judicial College. Eventually, the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education will become the Illinois Judicial College Committee on Judicial Education and will serve as one of the six standing Committees of the Judicial College. The College will expand the offering of continuing education beyond the judiciary to probation officers, circuit court clerks, court administrators, guardians *ad litem*, and non-judicial branch officers and provide comprehensive professional development and needs-based continuing education. The Court and the Administrative Office continue to support two required judicial education events - *New Judge Seminar* and *Education Conference*, in addition to elective educational events specifically focused on specific subject matters, such as multi-stakeholder regional *Effective Pretrial Practices Conferences*, *DUI/Traffic judicial seminar*, *State and Federal Jury*

Representation, and the biennial *Advanced Judicial Academy*. In addition, the Committee together with the Administrative Office publish an annual update of a series of Judicial Benchbooks, namely, Criminal, Civil, Domestic Violence, DUI/Traffic, Evidence, Family, Juvenile and Mortgage Foreclosure.

Consistent with its charge from the Court, the Committee completed the 2016 Illinois Judicial Conference Benchbook projects; planned, delivered and evaluated the February and April 2016 sessions of Education Conference, May 2016 DUI Seminar, October 2016 Access to Justice Seminar, *December 2016 New Judge Seminar*, and plans for fall 2016 and spring 2017 multi-stakeholder regional seminars on effective pretrial practices and bail reform. Participants will include local prosecutors, public defenders, probation and pretrial services officers, law enforcement and judges.

Committee on Strategic Planning
Appellate Judge M. Carol Pope, Chair
4th District Appellate Court

During Conference Year 2016, the Committee on Strategic Planning continued its mission to assist the Supreme Court of Illinois in advancing the Court's goal of an impartial, accessible and efficient justice system. The Committee has undertaken projects designed to provide valuable information to the Supreme Court to assist it in determining ways to ensure the Illinois court system is functioning in a just and efficient manner. The Committee has established communications with the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges and other Supreme Court committees and commissions in order to keep abreast of developments related to strategic planning and to collaborate where possible.

In 2016, the Committee discussed court efficiency and fairness obstacles pertaining to a wide array of court functions, processes and overall organization. The Committee provided the Supreme Court with an interim report which contained expressions of the Committee's support for specific court programs and support for the Court's progress and initiatives related to e-business. The Committee's interim report also contained proposals for short term and long term

initiatives all related to court efficiency and fairness. The Supreme Court has forwarded several of the Committee's proposals to other relevant Supreme Court Committees and Commissions who have subject matter expertise and can further explore these ideas. The Committee also explored the idea of a statewide survey for court staff. The goal of the survey would be to measure court efficiencies from the perspective of the court staff and allow court staff to suggest ideas for improving court efficiencies. The Committee will continue these discussions in Conference Year 2017.

Juvenile Justice Committee
Judge Jennifer H. Bauknecht, Chair
11th Judicial Circuit

During Conference Year 2016, the Committee collaborated with the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Education to create a bi-annual conference for juvenile court judges scheduled for September 2017. Juvenile court judges have unique issues, as well as the need for continuing education and networking opportunities with other juvenile judges. A small workgroup was convened, consisting of members from both committees to identify specific trends, content and overall format for the conference.

The Committee developed a web based clearinghouse housed under the Illinois Courts Judicial Links on the Judicial Portal for programs created by juvenile judges and juvenile probation departments that would act as a resource for all judges. The Committee created a submission form, criteria for including programs and a review process for programs before being uploaded to the Illinois Courts Judicial Links.

The Committee was charged with exploring the issue of shackling youth in court, including current standards and trends. The Committee considered a proposal submitted to the Supreme Court Rules Committee by the Illinois Justice Project and after working closely with the Rules Committee and the Illinois Justice Project to make modifications, the Committee approved the Rule. After public hearing and approval of the Supreme Court, **Rule 943 Use of Restraints on a Minor in Delinquency Proceedings Arising Under the Juvenile Court Act**, became effective November 1, 2016.



Members of the Executive Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference During 2016
Justice Rita B. Garman, Chair **Michael J. Tardy, Secretary**

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

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

APPELLATE COURT

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

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

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

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

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

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

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	3,586	3,890	3,125	3,078
2015	4,002	4,253	3,311	3,425
2014	4,173	4,238	3,721	3,384
2013	4,153	4,370	3,788	3,740
2012	4,273	4,180	3,635	3,731

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

Total Caseload*	Filed	Disposed
2016	6,835	7,120
2015	7,452	7,609
2014	8,015	7,816
2013	8,134	7,954
2012	8,079	8,062

*Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

Appellate Court Administrative Matters

Annual Meeting: The Appellate Court held its annual meeting on April 4, 2016 with the Honorable Thomas Lytton, Third District Appellate Court serving as the Honorary Chair of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Fifty-two 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 2016, the Honorable Margaret Stanton McBride (First District Appellate Court) and the Honorable Richard P. Goldenhersh (Fifth District Appellate Court) will continue to serve as regular members, with the Honorable Mary S. Schostok (Second District Appellate Court), the Honorable Mary K. O'Brien (Third District Appellate Court) and the Honorable Thomas R. Appleton (Fifth District Appellate Court) to serve as alternate members to the Commission, for a one year term ending December 31, 2016. The Honorable James A. Knecht (Fourth District Appellate) was elected to serve as Chair of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court to be held May 22, 2017.

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 2016 Conference was held April 4, 2016 in Lombard during Education Conference and hosted fifty-two appellate justices, and each of the five Legal Research Directors and Clerks of the Appellate Court. The Conference address was delivered by the Honorable Rita B. Garman, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois. Conference topics included presentations on *E-Records*, *Paperless Courts*, *Judicial Writing*, and *Criminal and Civil Updates*. The Honorable Donald C. Hudson (Second District Appellate Court) serves as Chair of the Appellate Court Administrative Committee. The Honorable Mary Jane Theis, Justice, Supreme Court of Illinois, serves as the Supreme Court liaison to the Appellate Court Administrative Committee.



FIRST DISTRICT



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APPELLATE JUDGES

DIVISION I

Maureen E. Connors,
Presiding Judge

Sheldon A. Harris
Mary L. Mikva*
John B. Simon

DIVISION IV

David W. Ellis,
Presiding Judge

Nathaniel R. Howse, Jr. +
Margaret S. McBride
Eileen O'Neill Burke

DIVISION II

Michael B. Hyman,
Presiding Judge*

Mary Anne Mason *
P. Scott Neville, Jr.
Daniel J. Pierce*

DIVISION V

Robert E. Gordon,
Presiding Judge*

Shelvin Louise Marie Hall
Bertina E. Lampkin
Jesse G. Reyes

DIVISION III

James Fitzgerald Smith,
Presiding Judge

Cynthia Y. Cobbs *
Terrence J. Lavin
Aurelia Pucinski

DIVISION VI

Thomas E. Hoffman,
Presiding Judge

Joy V. Cunningham
Mathias W. Delort
Mary K. Rochford++

+ Chair: Executive Committee; ++ Vice-Chair;

* circuit judge assigned to appellate court

First District - Chicago

Michael A. Bilandic Building
(Formerly State of Illinois Building)

Completed in 1924; Remodeled in 1992;
Renamed in 2003
(Holabird & Root/CDB photo)

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

Steven M. Ravid, Clerk

Kathleen Warnick, Research Director

Circuit:

Circuit Court of Cook County

District Population:

5,203,499 (2016 est.)

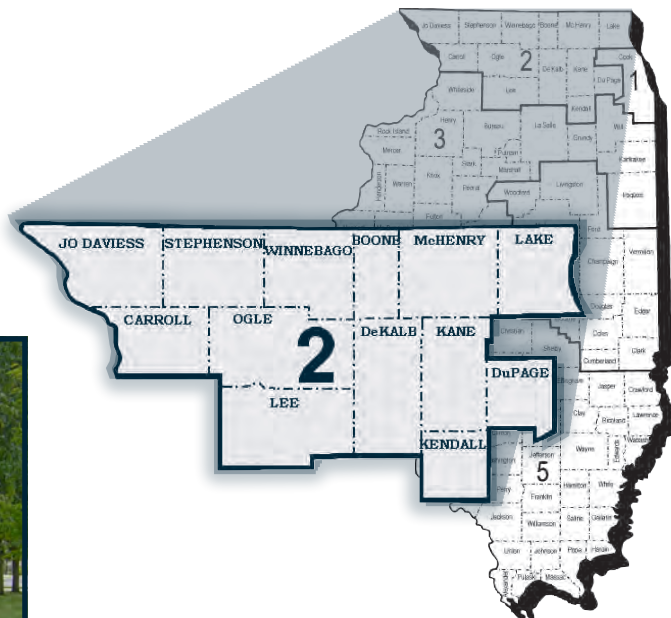
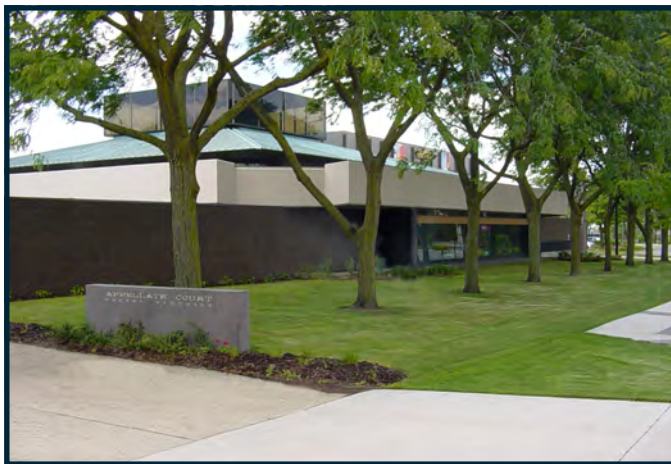
Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	1,811	2,079	1,562	1,486
2015	2,043	2,182	1,564	1,534
2014	2,122	2,120	1,799	1,674
2013	2,119	2,292	1,850	1,543
2012	2,142	2,037	1,622	1,627

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

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2016	5,285
2015	5,307
2014	5,201
2013	4,841
2012	4,453

* Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

SECOND DISTRICT



26

Second District Courthouse - Elgin
Completed in 1966 (Second District Photo)

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

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

Circuits (Counties):

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

District Population: 3,207,190 (2016 est.)

APPELLATE JUDGES

Donald C. Hudson, Presiding Judge*

Joseph E. Birkett
Michael J. Burke
Susan Fayette Hutchinson
Ann Brackley Jorgensen
Robert D. McLaren
Mary S. Schostok
Robert B. Spence*
Kathryn E. Zenoff*

*circuit judge assigned to appellate court

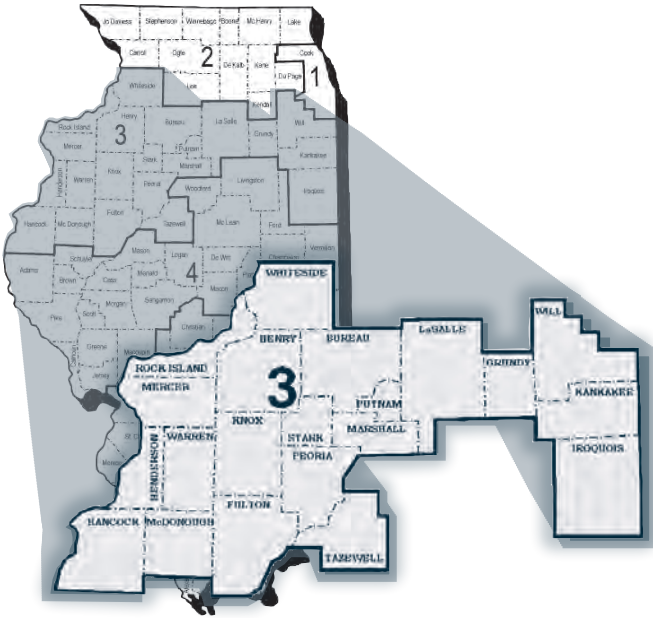
Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	623	636	480	485
2015	702	754	577	514
2014	702	765	569	581
2013	717	703	596	590
2012	743	708	662	695

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

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2016	1,321
2015	1,299
2014	1,250
2013	1,309
2012	1,236

*Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

THIRD DISTRICT



27

APPELLATE JUDGES

Mary K. O'Brien, Presiding Judge

Robert L. Carter
William E. Holdridge
Thomas M. Lytton
Mary W. McDade
Daniel L. Schmidt
Vicki Wright

Third District Courthouse - Ottawa
Completed in 1860 (Gist Freshman Photo)

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

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

Circuits (Counties):

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

District Population: 1,791,581 (2016 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	399	427	381	426
2015	434	501	434	492
2014	478	470	521	483
2013	461	485	507	554
2012	502	498	537	535

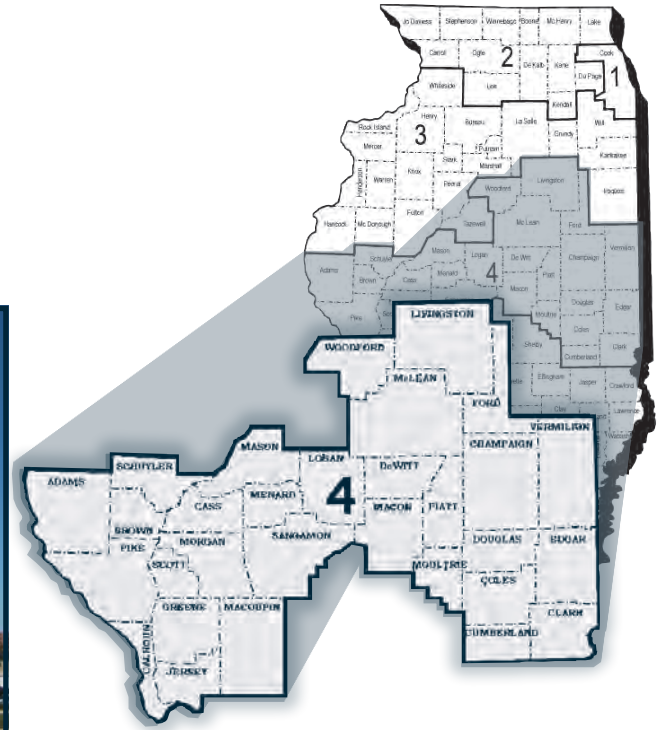
**Totals do not include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2016	756
2015	834
2014	940
2013	889
2012	861

*Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

Appellate Court

FOURTH DISTRICT



28

Fourth District Courthouse - Springfield
Waterways Building
 Renovated in 2001
 (Photo by Terry Farmer Photography, Inc.)
 201 West Monroe Street
 Springfield, IL 62704
 (217) 782-2586

Carla L. Bender, Clerk
Shirley K. Wilgenbusch, Research Director

Circuits (Counties):

- 5th** (Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Edgar & Vermilion)
- 6th** (Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Macon, Moultrie & Piatt)
- 7th** (Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Sangamon & Scott)
- 8th** (Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Mason, Menard, Pike & Schuyler)
- 11th** (Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean & Woodford)

District Population: 1,305,875 (2016 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	422	442	503	496
2015	510	504	498	477
2014	530	527	571	461
2013	515	546	596	589
2012	565	566	578	631

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

APPELLATE JUDGES

James A. Knecht, Presiding Judge

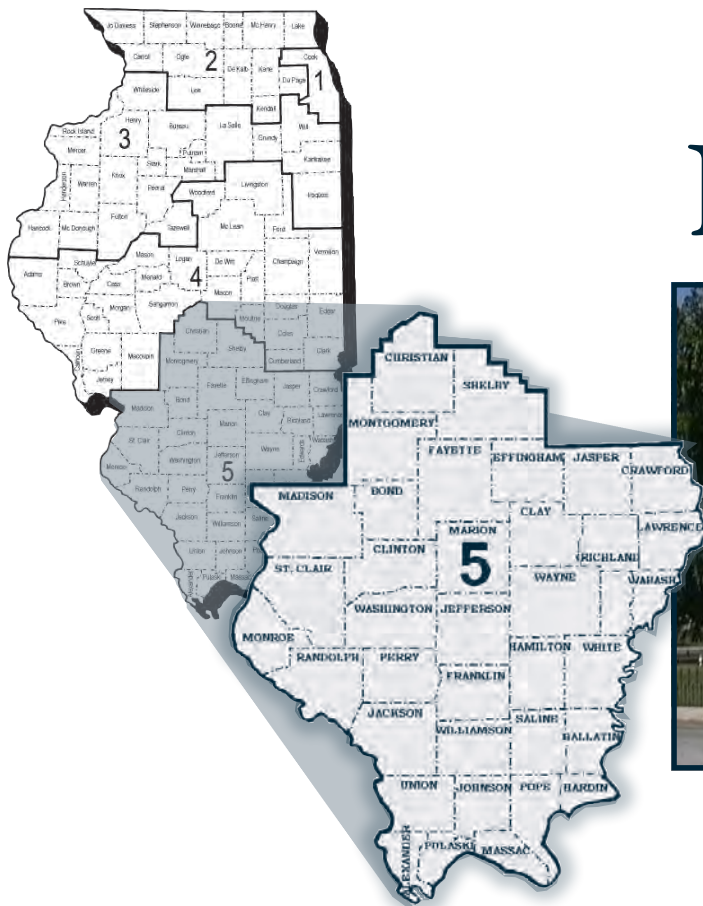
Thomas R. Appleton
 Thomas M. Harris*
 M. Carol Pope
 Robert J. Steigmann
 John W. Turner
 Lisa Holder White

*circuit judge assigned to appellate court

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2016	1,062
2015	1,099
2014	1,043
2013	922
2012	956

*Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

FIFTH DISTRICT



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

APPELLATE JUDGES

James R. Moore, Presiding Judge

John B. Barberis, Jr.
 Judy Lynn Cates
 Melissa A. Chapman
 Richard P. Goldenhersh
 Thomas M. Welch

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

Circuits (Counties):

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

District Population: 1,293,394 (2016 est.)

Civil & Criminal Caseloads	Civil** Filed	Civil** Disposed	Criminal Filed	Criminal Disposed
2016	331	306	199	185
2015	313	312	238	197
2014	341	356	261	226
2013	341	344	239	208
2012	321	371	236	252

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

Total Pending Caseload* All Case Categories	Pending
2016	765
2015	717
2014	676
2013	647
2012	637

* Totals include Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Cases

CIRCUIT COURTS

In Illinois, the circuit court is the court of original jurisdiction. There are twenty-four circuits in the state. Six are single county circuits (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will) and the remaining eighteen circuits comprise as few as two and as many as twelve counties each. Except for redistricting of the general assembly and ruling on the ability of the governor to serve or resume office, the circuit court has jurisdiction for all matters properly brought before it. The circuit court shares jurisdiction with the Supreme Court to hear cases relating to revenue, mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus. If the Supreme Court chooses to exercise its authority in a case of these types, the circuit court loses jurisdiction. The circuit court is also the reviewing court for certain state agency administrative orders.

There are two types of judges in the circuit court: circuit judges and associate judges. Circuit judges are elected for a six year term and may be retained by voters for additional six year terms. They can hear any circuit court case. Circuit judges are initially elected either circuit-wide, from the county where they reside or from a sub-circuit within a circuit, depending on the type of vacancy they are filling. Associate judges are appointed by circuit judges of that circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, for four-year terms. An associate judge can hear any case, including criminal cases punishable by a prison term of one year or more (felonies) if the associate judge receives special authorization by the Supreme Court. Circuit judges in a circuit elect one of their members to serve as chief circuit court judge. The chief circuit judge has general administrative authority in the circuit, subject to the overall administrative authority of the Supreme Court.

The chief judge can assign cases to general or specialized divisions within the circuit.

Circuit Court Administrative Matters

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

Conference Committees and Activities: The Conference has several established committees which address particular issues, and provide information and recommendations. Conference Committees active during 2016 include the Article V Committee; Chief Circuit Judges Manual Committee; Executive Committee; Orientation Committee; and the Technology Committee. From time to time, the Conference may establish an *ad hoc* or special committee convened to study specific short-term subject matter such as the Conference's Special Committee on Extended Media Coverage to address issues related to the Supreme Court's *Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois*, or the Jury Representation Committee to study whether any issues exist that



relate to the disproportionate minority representation in jury pools. Also in 2016, the Conference also established the Court Performance Metrics Committee to review what additional court performance measures and data may benefit chief circuit judges with their responsibilities; the Associate Judge Vacancy Committee to review possible amendments to Rule 39 regarding the balloting process for the selection of associate judges; and the Evidenced-Based Pretrial Practices Committee to review and recommend best practices of pretrial assessment and bail practices.

These committees of the Conference considered topics in several areas. The Article V Committee considered and recommended approval of a statewide e-Citation program offered by the Illinois State Police, as well as numerous local electronic citation programs in counties throughout the state. The Article V Committee was also asked to develop and recommend rules to the Conference that relate to the court processing and management of a newly created Civil Law Violation related to the enactment of Public Act 99-0697 and the decriminalization of less than 10 grams of cannabis and drug paraphernalia. As a result, Supreme Court Rules 585 through 590 were adopted. The Special Committee on Extended Media Coverage made recommendations to the Supreme Court's *Policy for Extended Media Coverage in the Circuit Courts of Illinois* providing for notice to the media when court dates are added or rescheduled. The Jury Representation Committee recommended a proposal for a pilot program in multiple counties designed to improve the minority representation in jury pools from the most diverse counties in the state through an alternative summoning procedure. The Executive Committee continued to review policies and issues related to court reporting services; while the Chief Circuit Judges Manual Committee distributed an updated *Chief Circuit Judge Manual* to all members of the Conference. The Technology

Committee provided updates on the work of the Supreme Court's e-Business Policy Advisory Board and Technical Committee, including the Court's January 2016 Order mandating the electronic filing of civil cases in all courts by future dates certain. The Orientation Committee, along with staff from the Administrative Office, met with and provided all new Chief Circuit Judges with information and tools to help guide them in their new administrative role. Ongoing throughout the year, the Special Committee on Standardized Forms disseminated and reviewed many court forms developed for use by the Commission on Access to Justice designed to aid self-represented litigants navigate the justice system. All of the many Conference committees continued to monitor and analyze new legislation, Supreme Court rules, policy and forms relevant to the committee's focus and the administration of justice in the trial courts as it is introduced and adopted.

In the interest of furthering the knowledge and skills of its members, the Conference hosted a variety of presentations focused on judicial and trial court issues. For example, the Illinois Judicial Conference Civil Justice Committee requested the Conference's assistance in implementing a Civil Juries survey on methods to improve the jurors' deliberative process and the effectiveness of jury instructions. The Special Supreme Court Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning presented proposed involuntary admission orders designed to assist judges not as familiar with the process and also sought feedback on a survey regarding the convening juries for mental health cases per statutory provisions. The Illinois Judicial Conference Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee presented to the Conference the status of civil mediation programs in the state. Lastly, the Conference conducted its own survey regarding the current rules and practices pertaining to cell phones and other mobile devices in the courthouses.



Self-Represented Litigants

For several years, one of the growing challenges in courts across the country, including in Illinois, is the increasing number of self-represented litigants (SRLs). A 2015 survey conducted by the Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice found that 98% of circuit clerks and 88% of trial court judges statewide find that the presence of self-represented litigants makes their jobs more challenging. As the number of persons choosing to represent themselves in civil cases continues to grow, courts are responding by improving processes and establishing innovative programs that enhance access to justice and make courts more user-friendly. Some innovations in Illinois include: legal self-help centers located inside courthouses, simplifying and standardizing court forms, developing guides and instructions on how to navigate the court system, using internet technologies to increase access and make legal information available to SRLs, and development of a policy to assist court clerks and court staff on the types of guidance that they are able to offer to SRLs.

Starting in 2015, the Administrative Office began seeking court case data from circuit courts to help identify the prevalence of SRLs utilizing Illinois courts, and in which types of civil cases is SRL participation the greatest. Identification of these factors helps the Administrative Office to better tailor its resources and services to this population in our state. While courts are still refining the SRL data collection practices, preliminary data collection revealed the following:

- At least one SRL appears most frequently in Orders of Protection, Small Claims, Dissolution, and Law Magistrate (Landlord-Tenant disputes) cases;
- Both the plaintiff and defendant are self-represented most frequently in Order of Protection and Dissolution cases; and
- Defendants are more frequently self-represented than plaintiffs.

As this data continues to be collected and analyzed, additional creative initiatives will be developed to assist the courts in meeting this growing trend while also improving access to justice for all.

Court Interpreter and Limited English Proficient Litigants

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

The charts below illustrate the 2016 statewide data on interpreter usage. Spanish is by far the language of highest need, with 94% of interpreted proceedings in Spanish (139,445 court events). The other most frequently requested languages are Polish (2%), Sign Language (1%), Arabic (0.57%), Russian (0.32%), Chinese (0.32%) and Korean (0.23%). In 2016, 82% of interpreters were assigned for criminal and traffic cases, while 13% were assigned for civil cases. Court-annexed proceedings, which include arbitration, mediation, and probation contacts, comprised 5% of interpreted proceedings.

Despite the availability of over 300 interpreters in 27 languages statewide on the Registry, only 37% of interpreters used in court appear on the Registry. Interpreters that do not appear on the Registry have not been assessed for language proficiency or interpreting skills.

Due to limited availability of interpreters in certain parts of the state, or availability of interpreters for certain languages, several courts use remote interpreting services and technology to increase access to interpreters. In 2016, 4,437 court events utilized a remote telephonic interpreter, while 52 court events used a remote video interpreter. The AOIC is exploring the use of remote video technology in five counties – Cook, DeKalb, Kendall, McLean and Champaign– to pilot its use and examine whether technology can improve access to interpreters across the state.

Interpreted Languages



Figure 1

% of Interpretations by Court Type

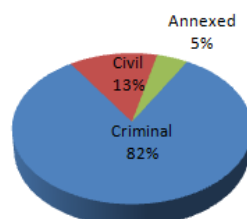


Figure 2

% of Interpretations by Interpreter Type

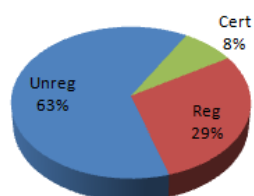


Figure 3

CASE CATEGORIES

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

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

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

QUASI-CRIMINAL: **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	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Civil	Filed	429,649	436,175	457,444	513,928	554,747
	Reinstated	24,162	22,060	22,930	24,002	24,293
	Disposed	576,457	453,313	504,800	555,648	576,071
	Clearance Rate %	127.0%	98.9%	105.1%	103.3%	99.5%
	End Pending	590,596	731,149	731,953	759,914	778,519
Domestic Relations	Filed	140,416	144,284	133,641	136,549	147,804
	Reinstated	1,287	1,398	1,354	1,467	1,798
	Disposed	133,708	140,137	133,585	132,010	144,705
	Clearance Rate %	94.4%	96.2%	99.0%	95.7%	96.7%
	End Pending	111,621	107,942	105,197	106,754	102,126
Juvenile	Filed	19,943	21,862	22,058	23,293	26,648
	Reinstated	177	559	213	204	1255
	Disposed	20,914	22,966	21,766	23,535	25,290
	Clearance Rate %	103.9%	102.4%	97.7%	100.2%	90.6%
	End Pending	50,991	53,538	54,998	55,444	56,308
Criminal	Filed	280,385	320,653	338,313	377,393	387,348
	Reinstated	6,182	5,539	6,876	8,408	8,481
	Disposed	272,060	326,579	345,684	377,209	400,254
	Clearance Rate %	94.9%	100.1%	100.1%	97.8%	101.1%
	End Pending	219,204	206,219	207,713	209,349	202,078
Quasi-Criminal	Filed	1,661,619	1,784,440	1,979,530	2,122,981	2,164,553
	Reinstated	17,282	19,545	22,981	20,921	40,647
	Disposed	1,624,848	1,765,419	1,922,845	2,076,351	2,197,592
	Clearance Rate %	96.8%	97.9%	96.0%	96.8%	99.7%
	End Pending	1,337,169	1,291,507	1,258,257	1,165,262	1,100,278
Statewide Totals	Filed	2,532,012	2,707,414	2,930,986	3,174,144	3,281,100
	Reinstated	49,090	49,101	54,354	55,002	76,474
	Disposed	2,627,987	2,708,414	2,928,680	3,164,753	3,343,918
	Clearance Rate %	101.8%	98.3%	98.1%	98.0%	99.6%
	End Pending	2,309,581	2,390,355	2,358,118	2,296,723	2,239,542



Richard J. Daley Center

(Photo courtesy of the
Chicago Architecture Foundation)

Timothy C. Evans,
Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population:
5,203,499
(2016 est.)

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

(First Appellate District)

Circuit Judges:

Martin S. Agran	Daniel P. Duffy
James L. Allegretti	Laurence J. Dunford
John M. Allegretti	Lynn Marie Egan
Thomas R. Allen	John H. Ehrlich
Mauricio Araujo	Diana L. Embil
Edward A. Arce	Jerry A. Esrig
Larry Axelrood	Peter A. Felice
Robert Balanoff	Rossana P. Fernandez
Patricia Banks	Denise K. Filan
Ronald F. Bartkowicz	Kathy M. Flanagan
Fredrick H. Bates	Thomas E. Flanagan
Carole K. Bellows	James P. Flannery, Jr.
Steven James Bernstein	Ellen L. Flannigan
Robert W. Bertucci	John J. Fleming
Carl B. Boyd	Peter Flynn
Daniel P. Brennan	Nicholas R. Ford
Margaret Ann Brennan	Michael A. Forti
Tommy Brewer	Raymond Funderburk
Rodney Hughes Brooks	Carolyn J. Gallagher
Janet Adams Brosnahan	Daniel J. Gallagher
Mary M. Brosnahan	John T. Gallagher
James R. Brown	William G. Gamboney
Andrea M. Buford	Celia G. Gamrath
Kathleen Marie Burke	Rodolfo Garcia
Charles Burns	Vincent M. Gaughan
Thomas J. Byrne	James J. Gavin
John P. Callahan, Jr.	Michael P. Gerber
Diane Gordon Cannon	Aleksandra Gillespie
Thomas J. Carroll	Megan E. Goldish
Michael R. Clancy	John C. Griffin
Evelyn B. Clay	Deborah J. Gubin
Gerald V. Cleary III	Catherine M. Haberkorn
Jeanne Cleveland	Sophia H. Hall
Mary Ellen Coghlan	Orville E. Hambright, Jr.
Matthew E. Coghlan	Kay M. Hanlon
Bonita Coleman	Maureen O. Hannon
Ann Finley Collins	Anjana M.J. Hansen
Ann Collins-Dole	Edward Harmening
Alison C. Conlon	Russell W. Hartigan
Richard C. Cooke	Elizabeth M. Hayes
Donna L. Cooper	William H. Hooks
Patrick K. Coughlin	Carol M. Howard
John J. Curry, Jr.	Arnette R. Hubbard
Paula M. Daleo	Cheyrl D. Ingram
Daniel R. Degnan	Doretha Renee Jackson
Eulalia De La Rosa	Marianne Jackson
Anna Helen Demacopoulos	Moshe Jacobius
Grace G. Dickler	Raymond L. Jagielski
Deborah M. Dooling	Lionel Jean-Baptiste
	Sharon O. Johnson
	Daryl J. Jones

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	1,015,097	20,926	1,077,686	104.0%	1,105,634
2015	1,082,598	19,952	1,053,244	95.5%	1,158,072
2014	1,201,403	20,361	1,184,095	96.9%	1,108,254
2013	1,361,166	22,761	1,322,748	95.6%	1,069,752
2012	1,351,808	22,236	1,354,690	98.6%	1,006,847

Linzey D. Jones
 Rickey Jones
 Elizabeth A. Karkula
 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. Kozicki
 Daniel J. Kubasiak
 Geary W. Kull
 Margarita Kuly's Hoffman
 Robert D. Kuzas
 Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
 William G. Lacy
 Diane Joan Larsen
 Christopher E. Lawler
 Marjorie C. Laws
 Pamela Leeming
 Casandra Lewis
 Kimberly D. Lewis
 Matthew Link
 Thomas J. Lipscomb
 Anna M. Loftus
 Pamela E. Loza
 Stuart F. Lubin
 Marvin P. Luckman
 John F. Lyke, Jr.
 Freddrenna M. Lyle
 Daniel Joseph Lynch
 Thomas V. Lyons II
 Aicha MacCarthy
 Terence MacCarthy
 Myron F. Mackoff
 John J. Mahoney
 William O. Maki
 Daniel B. Malone
 Edward M. Maloney
 Marcia Maras
 Lisa Ann Marino
 Jill Cerone Marisie
 Diann K. Marsalek
 LeRoy K. Martin, Jr.
 Patricia Martin
 Maritza Martinez
 James P. McCarthy
 James M. McGing
 Dennis M. McGuire
 Terrence J. McGuire
 Kathleen M. McGury
 Michael B. McHale
 Mary McHugh Ranke
 Clare E. McWilliams
 Pamela McLean Meyerson
 Bridget A. Mitchell
 Raymond W. Mitchell
 Caroline K. Moreland
 Michael T. Mullen
 Allen F. Murphy
 James P. Murphy
 Patrick T. Murphy
 Thomas W. Murphy
 Timothy P. Murphy
 Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman
 Leonard Murray
 Marya Nega
 Lewis Nixon
 Brendan A. O'Brien
 Jessica A. O'Brien
 Joan Margaret O'Brien

William Timothy O'Brien
 Ann O'Donnell
 Kevin M. O'Donnell
 James N. O'Hara
 Karen L. O'Malley
 John A. O'Meara
 Ramon Ocasio III
 Susana L. Ortiz
 Jesse Outlaw
 Kathleen M. Pantle
 Sebastian T. Patti
 Paul S. Pavlus
 Litricia Payne
 James P. Pieczonka
 Jackie M. Portman
 Joan E. Powell
 Patrick J. Powers
 Lorna E. Propes
 Marguerite Quinn
 Clare J. Quish
 Willaim B. Raines
 Cynthia Ramirez
 Sandra G. Ramos
 Erica L. Reddick
 Eve M. Reilly
 Judith C. Rice
 Kristal R. Rivers
 Mary Colleen Roberts
 Patrick T. Rogers
 Abbey Fishman Romanek
 Diana Rosario
 Dominique C. Ross
 Thomas D. Roti
 James Ryan
 Kristyna C. Ryan
 Stephanie D. Saltouros
 Beatriz Santiago
 Regina A. Scannicchio
 Andrea M. Schleifer
 Catherine A. Schneider
 Patricia O'Brien Sheahan
 Colleen F. Sheehan
 Kevin M. Sheehan
 Diane M. Shelley
 Patrick J. Sherlock
 Robin D. Shoffner
 Maura Slattery Boyle
 Irwin J. Solganick
 Patricia S. Spratt
 Laura M. Sullivan
 Sharon M. Sullivan
 William B. Sullivan
 Carrie H. Sussman
 Shelley Sutker-Dermer
 Michael P. Toomin
 John D. Turner, Jr.
 Valarie Turner
 James M. Varga
 Raul Vega
 Kenneth J. Wadas
 Carl Anthony Walker
 Debra B. Walker
 Ursula Walowski
 Maureen Ward Kirby
 Edward Washington II
 Steven G. Watkins
 Alexander P. White
 Camille E. Willis
 Thaddeus L. Wilson
 Gregory J. Wojkowski
 E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.
 Frank G. Zelezinski

Associate Judges:

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

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



FIRST CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Pope County Courthouse, Golconda

James R. Williamson, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 211,763 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

SECOND CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Richland County Courthouse, Olney

Thomas Joseph Tedeschi, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 195,231 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

THIRD CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville

David A. Hylla, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 282,583 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

Bond (Greenville)
Madison (Edwardsville)

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	68,696	58	63,315	92.1%	133,769
2015	74,349	85	70,601	94.9%	129,527
2014	78,983	56	74,402	94.1%	128,301
2013	84,512	72	78,846	93.2%	106,244
2012	87,306	108	83,852	95.9%	101,561

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	36,568	16	35,063	95.8%	45,040
2015	38,063	13	37,300	98.0%	45,128
2014	37,547	14	36,889	98.2%	45,905
2013	40,581	18	39,580	97.5%	46,013
2012	45,672	9	43,846	96.0%	46,047

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	75,704	1,262	73,388	95.4%	65,592
2015	79,712	851	77,234	95.9%	62,616
2014	80,914	608	80,591	98.9%	59,129
2013	87,289	611	88,711	100.9%	58,122
2012	97,096	351	95,745	98.3%	59,051



FOURTH CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Effingham County Courthouse, Effingham

Michael D. McHaney, Chief Judge

Fayette County Courthouse

221 S. 7th St.

Vandalia, IL 62471

Circuit Population: 238,858 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

FIFTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Clark County Courthouse, Marshall

Craig H. DeArmond, Chief Judge

Vermilion County Courthouse

7 N. Vermilion St.

Danville, IL 61832

Circuit Population: 174,816 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

SIXTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



DeWitt County Courthouse, Clinton

Dan L. Flannell, Chief Judge

Moultrie County Courthouse

10 South Main Street, Ste. 12

Sullivan, IL 61951

Circuit Population: 382,212 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

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

Associate Judges: Amanda S. Ade-Harlow, William J. Becker, James J. Eder, Jeffrey Marc Kelly, Allan F. Lolie, Jr., Kevin S. Parker, Ericka Sanders

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	47,440	86	46,236	97.3%	36,903
2015	48,403	75	45,610	94.1%	37,133
2014	45,607	61	44,865	98.2%	34,844
2013	48,169	67	50,155	104.0%	35,088
2012	52,893	81	51,088	96.4%	37,596

Circuit Judges: Jonathan T. Braden, Nancy S. Fahey, Steven L. Garst, James R. Glenn, Brien J. O'Brien, Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Tracy W. Resch, Teresa K. Righter, Mitchell K. Shick, Matthew L. Sullivan

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	32,994	0	29,272	88.7%	50,945
2015	32,595	4	29,441	90.3%	50,755
2014	33,280	4	29,857	89.7%	49,862
2013	28,197	0	25,339	89.9%	48,569
2012	36,184	6	33,494	92.6%	46,794

Circuit Judges: Robert C. Bollinger, Richard L. Broch, Jr., Thomas J. Difanis, William Hugh Finson, Jeffrey B. Ford, Thomas E. Griffith, Jr., Michael Q. Jones, Karle E. Koritz, Heidi Ladd, Thomas E. Little, Randall B. Rosenbaum, Albert G. Webber, Roger B. Webber

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	64,140	935	64,806	99.6%	63,826
2015	67,626	977	68,434	99.8%	67,122
2014	67,594	432	66,590	97.9%	68,654
2013	73,732	372	72,703	98.1%	68,295
2012	75,849	375	76,124	99.9%	67,826



SEVENTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield

John Belz, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 317,855 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

EIGHTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Schuyler County Courthouse, Rushville

Diane M. Lagoski, Chief Judge

Adams County Courthouse
521 Vermont Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Circuit Population: 139,806 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

NINTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Warren County Courthouse, Monmouth

David L. Vancil, Jr., Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 160,225 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	75,513	43	77,602	102.7%	82,993
2015	76,510	48	77,395	101.1%	88,376
2014	78,697	60	77,476	98.4%	93,187
2013	78,948	72	78,677	99.6%	92,612
2012	81,387	143	79,292	97.3%	92,174

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

Associate Judges: Thomas Brannan, Holly J. Henze, Jerry J. Hooker, Debra L. Wellborn, John C. Wooleyhan

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	28,239	14	27,906	98.8%	19,689
2015	28,356	23	28,301	99.7%	19,438
2014	29,455	14	29,322	99.5%	19,751
2013	31,808	20	30,982	97.3%	20,139
2012	33,187	34	32,727	98.5%	19,409

Circuit Judges: Bruce C. Beal, Heidi A. Benson, Raymond A. Cavanaugh, Rodney G. Clark, Thomas B. Ewing, Paul L. Mangieri, William E. Poncin, Scott Shipplett, James R. Standard

Associate Judges: Richard H. Gambrell, Patricia Anne VanderMeulen-Walton

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	30,675	32	31,528	102.7%	24,827
2015	30,636	15	29,378	95.8%	25,379
2014	32,152	9	30,613	95.2%	22,292
2013	31,963	7	32,091	100.4%	20,474
2012	33,205	54	33,805	101.6%	20,538



TENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Stark County Courthouse, Toulon

Stephen Kouri, Chief Judge

Peoria County Courthouse

324 Main Street, #215

Peoria, IL 61602

Circuit Population: 342,717 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

Marshall (Lacon)

Peoria (Peoria)

Putnam (Hennepin)

Stark (Toulon)

Tazewell (Pekin)

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

(Fourth Appellate District)



Logan County Courthouse, Lincoln

Kevin P. Fitzgerald, Chief Judge

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front Street, Room 511

Bloomington, IL 61701

Circuit Population: 291,186 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

Ford (Paxton)

Livingston (Pontiac)

Logan (Lincoln)

McLean (Bloomington)

Woodford (Eureka)

TWELFTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Will County Courthouse, Joliet

Richard C. Schoenstedt, Chief Judge

Will County Courthouse

14 W. Jefferson, #439

Joliet, IL 60432

Circuit Population: 689,529 (2016 est.)

County (seat):

Will (Joliet)

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

Associate Judges: David A. Brown, Timothy Cusack, Mark E. Gilles, Frank W. Ierulli, Kim L. Kelley, Richard D. McCoy, Albert L. Purham, Jr., Suzanne L. Rezac, Kirk D. Schoenbein, Alicia N. Washington, Lisa Y. Wilson

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	70,781	24	69,675	98.4%	52,190
2015	80,195	33	82,060	102.3%	51,739
2014	82,325	79	73,752	89.5%	53,925
2013	80,924	148	79,046	97.5%	45,647
2012	89,563	140	90,079	100.4%	43,835

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	57,406	1067	59,496	101.7%	41,226
2015	59,479	924	59,485	98.5%	43,868
2014	65,872	990	66,079	98.8%	45,068
2013	68,518	840	68,982	99.5%	43,954
2012	71,371	735	70,777	98.2%	44,317

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	126,054	3,743	132,385	102.0%	80,886
2015	137,637	4,361	143,809	101.53%	83,742
2014	150,724	4,399	157,430	101.5%	85,556
2013	150,905	4,143	159,531	102.9%	87,929
2012	158,734	4,747	168,479	103.1%	92,411



THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



LaSalle County Courthouse, Ottawa

Howard C. Ryan, Jr., Chief Judge

LaSalle County Courthouse
119 W. Madison, #202
Ottawa, IL 61350

Circuit Population: 194,438 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Mercer County Courthouse, Aledo

Walter D. Braud, Chief Judge

Rock Island County Courthouse
210 15th Street, #408
Rock Island, IL 61201

Circuit Population: 266,330 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Lee County Courthouse, Dixon

Ronald M. Jacobson, Chief Judge

Ogle County Courthouse
106 S. Fifth Street, #306A
Oregon, IL 61061

Circuit Population: 167,457 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

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

Associate Judges: Karen C. Eiten, Cornelius J. Hollerich, Michael C. Jansz, Sheldon R. Sobol, Michelle Ann Vescogni

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	38,326	735	38,197	97.8%	19,815
2015	40,123	661	39,756	97.5%	19,862
2014	40,344	651	41,271	100.7%	18,949
2013	41,543	896	45,052	106.2%	19,799
2012	46,745	778	47,163	99.2%	22,702

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	52,628	82	49,797	94.5%	58,001
2015	55,730	30	51,896	93.1%	56,507
2014	54,585	20	52,879	96.8%	53,574
2013	55,562	35	55,259	99.4%	54,865
2012	60,948	45	59,017	96.8%	55,903

Circuit Judges: Michael P. Bald, Daniel A. Fish, Val Gunnarsson, Robert T. Hanson, James M. Hauser, William A. Kelly, John B. Roe, IV

Associate Judges: Jacquelyn D. Ackert, Charles T. Beckman, John F. Joyce, Clayton L. Lindsey, David M. Olson, John C. Redington, Glen R. Schorsch, Kevin J. Ward

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	37,289	14	36,704	98.4%	25,438
2015	35,001	16	33,733	96.3%	24,260
2014	35,097	22	35,262	100.4%	23,331
2013	42,445	17	42,541	100.2%	24,079
2012	45,257	27	45,073	99.5%	107,969



SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Kane County Courthouse, Geneva

Susan Clancy Boles, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 531,715 (2016 est.)

County (seat):

Kane (Geneva)

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

SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Boone County Courthouse, Belvidere

Joseph G. McGraw, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 339,376 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

Boone (Belvidere)

Winnebago (Rockford)

Circuit Judges: David R. Akemann, John A. Barsanti, Kevin T. Busch, René Cruz, John G. Dalton, Joseph M. Grady, James C. Hallock, Thomas Clinton Hull, III, James R. Murphy, John A. Noverini, Donald M. Tegeler

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	75,848	787	84,406	110.1%	48,993
2015	93,970	825	95,181	100.4%	56,764
2014	101,495	935	102,635	100.2%	57,070
2013	109,434	939	110,278	99.9%	57,090
2012	117,882	1,345	127,883	107.3%	56,995



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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	77,367	220	75,666	97.5%	93,946
2015	81,589	137	79,911	97.8%	94,879
2014	90,946	287	89,251	97.8%	93,950
2013	93,015	144	88,783	95.3%	95,098
2012	94,773	277	95,452	100.4%	91,316

EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



DuPage County Courthouse, Wheaton

Kathryn E. Creswell, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 929,368 (2016 est.)

County (seat):

DuPage (Wheaton)

NINETEENTH CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



Lake County Courthouse, Waukegan

Jorge L. Ortiz, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 703,047 (2016 est.)

County (seat):

Lake (Waukegan)

TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

(Fifth Appellate District)



Monroe County Courthouse, Waterloo

Andrew J. Gleeson, Chief Judge

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

Circuit Population: 364,959 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

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

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	185,905	10,750	198,414	100.9%	53,923
2015	198,184	11,262	211,437	101.0%	55,685
2014	224,313	11,653	238,416	101.0%	57,682
2013	232,808	12,395	249,756	101.9%	60,141
2012	252,356	30,764	286,625	101.2%	64,693

Circuit Judges: Christen L. Bishop, James K. Booras, Valerie Boettke Ceckowski, Mitchell L. Hoffman, Mark L. Levitt, Margaret J. Mullen, Victoria A. Rossetti, Thomas M. Schippers, Daniel B. Shanes, Charles W. Smith, Patricia Sowinski Fix, Christopher Stride, Jay W. Ukena, Diane E. Winter

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	134,203	4,919	142,748	102.6%	37,721
2015	149,127	5,134	156,097	101.2%	41,345
2014	163,101	10,149	175,139	101.1%	43,173
2013	178,926	7,005	190,925	102.7%	45,059
2012	184,349	9,005	195,321	101.0%	50,052

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

Associate Judges: Walter C. Brandon, Jr., Thomas B. Cannady, William G. Clay IV, Julia R. Gomric, Eugene E. Gross, Janet M. Hornberg, Julie K. Katz, Randall W. Kelley, Patricia H. Kievlan, Christopher T. Kolker, John J. O'Gara, Stephen R. Rice, Heinz M. Rudolf

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	81,178	239	88,697	108.9%	75,051
2015	91,583	239	106,780	116.3%	82,610
2014	99,537	219	100,858	101.1%	97,787
2013	104,927	305	101,684	96.6%	99,122
2012	107,442	278	109,389	101.5%	12,561



TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

(Third Appellate District)



Kankakee County Courthouse, Kankakee

Michael D. Kramer, Chief Judge

Kankakee County Courthouse

450 East Court Street

Kankakee, IL 60901

Circuit Population: 138,342 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

Iroquois (Watseka)

Kankakee (Kankakee)

TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



McHenry County Government Center, Woodstock

Michael J. Sullivan, Chief Judge

McHenry County Government Center

2200 N. Seminary Ave.

Woodstock, IL 60098

Circuit Population: 307,004 (2016 est.)

County (seat):

McHenry (Woodstock)

TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT

(Second Appellate District)



DeKalb County Courthouse, Sycamore

Robbin J. Stuckert, Chief Judge

DeKalb County Courthouse

133 West State Street

Sycamore, IL 60178

Circuit Population: 229,223 (2016 est.)

Counties (seats):

DeKalb (Sycamore)

Kendall (Yorkville)

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

Circuit Judges: Adrienne W. Albrecht, Kathy Bradshaw Elliott, Clark E. Erickson, James B. Kinzer, Michael J. Kick, Susan Sumner Tungate

Associate Judges: Thomas W. Cunningham, JoAnn Imani Drew, Ronald J. Gerts, Kenneth Leshen, Michael Sabol

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	27,668	1	27,903	100.8%	55,827
2015	28,375	0	28,896	101.8%	56,670
2014	31,794	0	30,259	95.2%	57,683
2013	33,823	1	31,484	93.1%	56,337
2012	33,630	0	32,423	96.4%	54,143

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	57,576	1,921	59,997	100.8%	16,895
2015	59,374	2,116	62,049	100.9%	17,260
2014	64,089	2,173	67,975	102.6%	17,708
2013	72,312	2,546	76,393	102.1%	19,328
2012	77,204	3,223	82,986	103.2%	20,859

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

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

Year	Filed	Reinstated	Disposed	Clearance Rate %	Pending
2016	34,717	1,216	37,100	103.2%	20,451
2015	38,199	1,320	40,386	102.2%	21,618
2014	41,132	1,158	42,774	101.1%	22,483
2013	42,637	1,588	45,207	102.2%	22,967
2012	46,259	1,713	48,588	101.3%	23,943

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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



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

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

In its administration of Supreme Court Rule 39 (Appointment of Associate Judges), the Executive Office conducted the election of 36 associate judges in 16 of Illinois' 24 judicial circuits during 2016. Also, as provided by Rule 39, the Executive Office will manage the 2019 quadrennial reappointment process for Illinois' more than 400 associate judges. The Executive Office additionally processes applications filed under Supreme Court Rule 295, which authorizes the assignment of associate judges

to hear felony matters. Other matters administered through the Executive Office include applications for licenses issued to law students seeking to provide limited legal representation under Supreme Court Rule 711.

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

The Executive Office also oversees the Human Resource Unit, the Labor Relations Unit and the Logistics/Property Control Unit. The Human Resource Unit provides personnel services to state-paid judicial branch employees and managers; maintains comprehensive attendance and leave records for all judicial branch personnel covered by the Supreme Court's Leave of Absence Policies; and assists individuals with questions regarding the Supreme Court's leave and personnel policies. The Human Resource Unit also works with judicial branch employees and managers in administering the judicial branch's classification and compensation plan, as well as assisting judicial branch managers in their recruitment and selection process. Additionally, the Human Resource Unit is responsible for EEOC reporting and dissemination of economic interest statements required under Supreme Court Rule 68.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIRECTORY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Michael J. Tardy, Director

Marcia Meis, Deputy Director

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Christopher Bonjean, Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DIVISIONS

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

Civil Justice Division - Danielle Hirsch, Assistant Director

Court Services Division - Todd Schroeder, Assistant Director

Judicial Education Division - Cyrana Mott, Assistant Director

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

Probation Services Division - Richard Adkins, Assistant Director

Administrative Office - Chicago

222 North LaSalle Street, 13th Floor

Chicago, IL 60601

(312) 793-3250

FAX: (312) 793-1335

Administrative Office - Springfield

3101 Old Jacksonville Road

Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 558-4490

FAX: (217) 785-3905

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

The Logistics/Property Control 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.

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

The ***Office of Communications and Public Information*** was formed in October 2016 and 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 developing Illinois Judicial College, and other entities to advance outreach efforts.

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

The Payroll/Benefits Unit maintains all payroll records for current state-paid judicial branch employees as well as records for all previous judicial branch offices and employees. Staff of this unit work with the Office of the Comptroller to produce both monthly and semi-monthly payrolls for over 1,500 current judicial branch employees. Payroll/Benefits Unit staff interact with representatives

of both the Judges' Retirement System and the State Employees' Retirement System to ensure continued benefits for judicial branch officers and employees. Payroll/Benefits Unit staff also coordinate the state's varied employee benefit programs, including health, dental, and life insurance.

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

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

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

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

Standardized Forms. The Civil Justice Division partners with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Forms Committee (Forms Committee) and its various subcommittees to develop standardized, simplified forms that—once promulgated by the Forms Committee—must be accepted by state courts. Litigants who use the statewide standardized forms will be able to solve basic legal problems without the assistance of an attorney. At present, the Division is supporting the work of nine subcommittees developing forms in appellate, certificates, divorce, eviction, expungement/sealing, mortgage foreclosure, name change, orders of protection

and procedural forms. Before finalizing any forms, drafts are sent to public user testing, reviewed by both the substantive subcommittee and the full Forms Committee, posted on the Court's website for public comment, shared with chief circuit judges for feedback and notice is provided to circuit and appellate court clerks and bar associations statewide.

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

Training Materials and Educational Programs. The Civil Justice Division works with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Court Guidance and Training Committee (Court Guidance and Training Committee) to develop and maintain training materials and educational programs on access to justice issues. In addition, the Civil Justice Division and Court Guidance and Training Committee developed a series of guidelines and training materials for circuit clerks, court staff and court volunteers to shed light on the distinction between legal information and legal advice. For judges, circuit clerks and court staff, the Civil Justice Division planned a multi-disciplinary access to justice training on procedural fairness, poverty and implicit bias, together with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Equality. The Civil Justice Division and the Court Guidance and Training Committee conducted two trainings for the Illinois Association of Court Clerks and at access to justice regional meetings held throughout the state in 2016. In addition, the Civil Justice Division conducted several training sessions for individual counties at the invitation of circuit clerks and court administrators.

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

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

In 2016, **Program Unit** staff assisted the First Judicial Circuit and Macon County in the 6th Circuit in developing and implementing a Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program, pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 99 and 99.1. On a regular basis, staff continue to monitor all courts' submission(s) of mediation program data, statistics, or financial sustainability plans and respond to all requests submitted regarding mediation programs. Oversight and support of all Mandatory Arbitration Programs, including the guidance and collection of arbitration program statistics, also continues to rest within the Program Unit responsibilities.

Since 2009, the unit has assisted each of the 23 circuits with the development and annual updates of Emergency Preparedness-Continuity of Operations [EP-COOP] Plans for each county, to safeguard the court record, preserve access to justice, and ensure the safety of court users and staff in the event of a catastrophe or disruption. In 2016, the Supreme Court mandated each of the five districts comprising the Illinois Appellate Court to submit EP-COOP plans. Program Unit staff assisted each appellate district with the drafting and development of each plan, which have been approved by the Court.

The Program Unit continued to maintain the list of Court Disability Coordinators for all circuit courts in the state and serve as a liaison to the Illinois Attorney General's Office with regard to circuit court inquiries about disabilities and accommodations. Additionally, unit staff was invited to

work with the State of Illinois Capital Development Board in amending and updating the Illinois Accessibility Code, which ensures that state facilities, including courthouses, are safe and readily accessible to, and usable by, environmentally limited persons. Lastly in 2016, the unit reviewed a request for a waiver from the Supreme Court's *Minimum Courtroom Standards* regarding courthouse construction in the First Judicial Circuit.

The **Courts, Children and Families Unit (CCFU)** manage the programmatic and fiscal components of three grant awards (Basic, Data and Training) included in the federally-funded statewide Court Improvement Program (CIP). The CCFU works to support the mission, vision, and core values of Illinois' CIP of ensuring safety and stability for children and families involved in child abuse and neglect proceedings. In 2016, the CCFU continued to develop the foundation and infrastructure for improved court practices in child protection cases by concentrating its efforts on the six pillars of Illinois CIP and programming: the Statewide Legal Representation Initiative; Judicial Training; The Child Protection Data Courts Project; Child Protection Circuit Teams; Child-Wellbeing and Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Also in 2016, the National Center for State Courts approached the AOIC about participating in a four state initiative called the *Reimagining Dependency Courts Project* with the goal of improving time to permanency for children placed in foster care. The AOIC participated in an assessment phase in five pilot court sites and now has moved to the planning phase, developing action steps to address barriers to timely permanency in Illinois.

Statewide Legal Representation Initiative: The CCFU has focused efforts on improving outcomes by enhancing the effectiveness of legal representation in child abuse and neglect cases. Projects funded under the Legal Representation Initiative in 2016 include: the Family Advocacy Clinic at the University of Illinois School of Law for the representation of parents and children in juvenile abuse and neglect cases in Champaign County, the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Southern Illinois University providing guardian ad litem services for minors in juvenile abuse and neglect cases in Jackson County, the *Winnebago County Guardians ad Litem Project*, a project, aimed at quality enhancement and development of best practice models in GAL representation.

Judicial Training: The CCFU is committed to developing and maintaining an effective system of training and technical assistance for judges that preside over child abuse and neglect cases. CIP Training funds were used to provide scholarships for five juvenile judges respectively to attend the annual National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute*. Additionally, the CCFU assisted in the development of juvenile related session during the 2016 Judicial Education Conference, including a full-day seminar on the effects of trauma on youth in the child welfare system.



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

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

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

Collaboration with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (IDCFS): In 2016, the CCFU continued its' working relationship with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services by assisting with the title IV-E federal review and the first annual IDCFS Transformation Summit. In addition, the AOIC works closely with IDCFS on several initiatives aimed at improving time to permanent placement for youth in care.

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

E-Business programs in Illinois continued to expand throughout 2016. In anticipation of mandatory e-Filing, effective January 1, 2018, approximately thirty-two counties joined eFileIL during 2016. This included four counties previously approved in 2016 to implement civil e-Filing under the existing Standards, and two counties who had been approved prior to 2016. Eight additional counties were approved to accept electronic filings in criminal cases under the Court's discretionary e-filing program per the Standards, and all of which included requests and approvals for electronic filing of citations. Fifteen counties were approved to accept electronic pleas of guilty in accordance with the Standards for Accepting Pleas of Guilty in Minor Traffic and Conservation Offenses Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 529, bringing the total to 55 counties of 102 in the state. The RTU continued to assist the Conference of Chief Circuit Judges with the approval of three counties who requested and were approved to use electronic citations.

The RTU provided merged jury lists and Petit and Grand Jury Handbooks to all 102 counties, as requested. The unit

continued to manage the Offense Code Table (OFT), which identifies offenses reported to four state entities through the Automated Disposition Reporting (ADR) Program. An updated version of the OFT was issued in May 2016. The RTU also completed and published the two-volume 2015 Annual Report from the collection and compilation of quarterly caseload statistics and annual reports submitted by the clerks of the circuit, appellate, and supreme courts, and other divisions of the administrative office. In the compilation of these reports, the RTU facilitates, collects and manages quarterly case statistics from all court clerks in the state.

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

The **Judicial Education Division** coordinates, designs and develops judicial education resources and curricula for the benefit of Illinois judges and those that aid the court in the administration of justice. In this regard, the Division, on behalf of the Supreme Court of Illinois, partners with, and provides curriculum development and administrative support to the Illinois Judicial Conference Committees, the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Justice and Mental Health Planning, the Judicial Mentor Committee, the Appellate Court Administrative Committee, the Access to Justice Commission, and the Committee on Equality, and other entities as determined by the Court and the Administrative Director. The Division will support the efforts of the Illinois Judicial College and its Board of Trustees in the development of the governance structure, the guidelines and standards of the Judicial College standing Committees, the assessment of education need and the development of a multi-stakeholder Comprehensive Education Plan. The Supreme Court established the Illinois Judicial College January 1, 2016.

Pursuant to the current *Comprehensive Judicial Education Plan for Illinois Judges*, the Illinois Supreme Court requires all newly elected or appointed judges to attend *New Judge Seminar*, and each member of the Illinois judiciary, regardless of years on the bench, to attend the Court's biennial *Education Conference*. *Education Conference* features a flexible schedule of 80 - 100 substantive sessions on a variety of criminal, civil, family and ethics and professional development topics. The 2016-2017 calendar of judicial education events include the following: the February and April 2016 sessions of Education Conference, May 2016 DUI Seminar, October 2016 Access to Justice Seminar, December 2016 New Judge Seminar, and four fall 2016 and spring 2017 multi-stakeholder regional seminars on effective pretrial practices and bail reform. Participants will include local prosecutors, public defenders, probation and pretrial services officers, law enforcement and judges.

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



Inside the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts - Springfield

the Supreme Court's Twitter account (@illinoiscourts) to broadcast announcements, events, and content updates on the Court's website to more than 5,800 followers. The User Services group staffs JMIS' Help Desk, supports telecommunication services and phones (land line and mobile), and coordinates asset tracking of the Court's technology equipment. The Application Group is responsible for the design and enhancements to approximately twenty enterprise database applications written in the Oracle or Progress database and programming languages.

year of transition from the bar to the bench.

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

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

JMIS is staffed by 21 professionals organized in five groups responsible for key disciplines in Information Technology (IT). JMIS' IT Security group manages the Courts' data center, local and wide area networks, firewall and security systems, and network servers installed in more than 30 offices throughout the state. The Hardware / Software group manages server applications, desktop and laptop computers, peripherals, and productivity software. The Hardware / Software group is also responsible for the installation and support of the digital recording systems in the Supreme Court (2 courtrooms), Appellate Court (6 courtrooms) and Trial Courts (341 courtrooms). JMIS' Internet Services group is responsible for the design and upkeep of the Court's website (www.illinoiscourts.gov), where approximately 45,000 visitors access the website each month. The Internet Services group uses

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

Consistent with its statutory responsibility, the mission of the Probation Services Division is to enhance the capacity of the community corrections system in order to reduce offender recidivism and create safer communities. In carrying out this mission, the Division's training, monitoring, standards setting, and technical assistance activities extend to all aspects of the administration and operation of the 71 local probation departments or districts that serve Illinois' 102 counties. All sixteen 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 24 employees (plus 4 vacancies right now), with office sites in Springfield and Chicago, and is comprised of four operational units: Field Operations; Training and Juvenile Justice; Data, Eligibles, and Reimbursement Vouchering; and Interstate Compact/Intrastate Transfer. Additionally, there are two specialized program coordinator positions, one for Problem-Solving Courts and one for Pretrial Services.

Pursuant to statute, Division responsibilities include the administration of state salary reimbursement to counties for probation and detention services; review and approval of local departments' annual probation plans; collection and analysis of statewide probation data; administration of probation employment and compensation standards; employment eligibility lists; development and implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP); monitoring and evaluation of probation programs and operations; administration of the interstate compact for adult and juvenile probationers transferring into and out



of the state; design and delivery of basic and advanced training for probation and detention personnel; and staff support to circuit courts to improve the administration and operation of probation services in Illinois.

During 2016 staff reviewed 2,216 applications for eligibility for employment/promotion. Of those reviewed, 1,469 were determined as meeting the eligibility requirements for employment or promotion as a probation/detention officer in Illinois. Additionally, Division staff review, compile and analyze monthly statistical data submitted by probation and court services departments to assist in policy and decision-making. Quality assurance, validity and reliability, and outcome measures continue to be Division priorities with particular emphasis on risk assessment, case planning and supervision, and targeted interventions for higher risk offenders.

In 2016 five major projects/priorities continued to guide the work of the Division personnel: 1) Training and certification reviews of problem-solving court operational and certification standards; 2) Intensive technical support to the Circuit Court of Cook County Pretrial Services in the implementation of a Model Bond Court; 3) Piloting of the Public Safety Assessment-Court (PSA-C) in three Illinois probation and court services departments which were providing full-time pretrial services; and 4) Substantive updates to adult probation services standards.

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

The Division, in its continuing efforts to promote effective administration of pretrial justice/services, collaborated to continue the work of pretrial reform. In March of 2016, the Division began the piloting of the PSA-Court in the three Illinois jurisdictions of McLean, Kane and Cook Counties with the assistance of the John and Laura Arnold Foundation and Luminosity, Inc. The PSA-Court is a validated pretrial risk assessment tool that measures for failure to appear, new criminal activity, and new violent criminal activity.

Division staff also will continue the ongoing implementation of EBP through interaction with departments to develop basic and advanced knowledge through skill-based training for adult and juvenile probation officers, juvenile detention officers, supervisors and department managers. Follow-up training and technical assistance on both adult and juvenile offender risk assessment and effective case management strategies will also continue throughout the state. In 2016 Division staff worked, in concert with circuit probation staff, to deliver 42 regional and departmental training events to 1,188 participants. In addition to seven 40-hour basic training sessions for 180 adult, juvenile and juvenile detention officers, other events enhanced coaching and supervisory skills, addressed legal liability issues and mental health needs of juveniles in probation and detention, and broadened pretrial supervision skills.

The Division's Interstate Compact Unit staff oversees the transfer of adult felony and qualifying misdemeanor probation cases and juvenile probation cases between states consistent with the national rules set forth by the Interstate Commission on Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) and the Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ). As of December 31, 2016, a total of 4,835 (3,027 outgoing; 1,808 incoming) adult probation compact cases were under active supervision. The Compact Unit's staff also coordinated the transfer of 557 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 2016, the Division convened several planning and special focus committees and workgroups comprised of probation and court services officers, supervisors or managers. The purpose of these committees and workgroups is to collaborate with probation and juvenile detention personnel in the design and implementation of training events, or to provide expertise and practical application feedback on programming, policy and standards development, and other initiatives.

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



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