



ILLINOIS COURTS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

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

The background of the page features a large, faint, circular seal of the Supreme Court of Illinois. The seal depicts a central figure, likely a personification of Justice, holding a scale of justice and a sword. The text "THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS" is visible around the perimeter of the seal, along with the date "AUG 26, 1818".

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. The Report offers a snapshot of the day-to-day operations of the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Courts, highlighting the work of Illinois judges, court managers, the AOIC and other justice partners who, together, keep the trains running for our courts. Here are a few of the major initiatives undertaken and implemented in 2025.

Illinois continues to be a national leader in problem-solving courts – a vital alternative to traditional court. There are now 124 problem-solving courts in Illinois with 65 drug courts, 29 mental health courts, 20 veterans' courts, 3 DUI courts, 3 hybrid drug/DUI courts, 2 hybrid drug/veterans courts and 2 hybrid mental health/veterans courts. The AOIC certifies and recertifies these courts on a rolling basis to ensure adherence to uniform standards. Problem-solving courts increase public safety and save money by reducing re-arrest and incarceration for many defendants who, with the help of justice partner teams, get the assistance they need to be productive members of their communities.

The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ Commission) partnered

with the Second Judicial Circuit and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, Inc. to launch a two-year pilot program on remote court appearances in southern counties of Illinois. Land of Lincoln attorneys will appear remotely before Second Judicial Circuit judges and provide important data and information on these appearances so the ATJ Commission can learn more about the impact of remote court proceedings and how they can reduce barriers that rural communities experience in accessing justice.

The Judicial Branch's Court Interpreter Program saw a large increase in 2025 as Illinois courts provided 176,790 interpretation events – a 22.4% increase over 2024. Approximately 15% of these were conducted remotely through telephone or video interpreting services. Spanish remains

the most requested language at 91.2% and Russian surpassed Polish to become the second most requested language. Interpreter requests increased for nearly 10 other languages as well, underscoring the importance of maintaining interpreter resources across a wide range of languages.

The AOIC continued to buildout and improve our online data dashboards. Some of this data – previously published only in this annual report – is now updated more frequently and in a more visual and interactive format, thereby replacing the static PDF and spreadsheet reports from previous years. We invite you to try the dashboards out [here](#). You will also find an overview of the state and local funding required for the operation of our court system and current information on the judicial officers and employees who serve our court system. Additional court data is available [here](#).

Many thanks to the clerks of the Supreme, Appellate and Circuit Courts, without whom this report would not be possible. I also thank the AOIC staff, particularly the Court Services Division and the Office of Communications and Public Information, for the many hours

invested in this Report.

I hope this report is helpful to understand the work of our state's justice system. Please be sure to explore the Illinois Supreme Court [website](#) for the most current information on Illinois courts.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marcia M. Meis'.

Marcia M. Meis

Director, Administrative Office
of the Illinois Courts

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE P. SCOTT NEVILLE, JR.

I am honored to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Illinois Courts. I join with my colleagues on the Illinois Supreme Court to inform citizens about the Court's ongoing efforts to promote efficiency, fairness and transparency.

The Illinois Supreme Court, assisted by its justice partners, the dedicated staff of our Administrative Office and the judges and staff members serving our court system, works to uphold individual rights and liberties to promote the impartial interpretation of the law, and to deliver equal justice in all matters brought before our courts.

The Court and its justice partners are so proud of everything we were able to

accomplish in 2025. This included hearing oral arguments before a record crowd of over 800 students and members of the public during the Court's annual Riding the Circuit appearance at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Two major improvements in access to justice and transparency occurred with the elimination of fees in minor guardianship and small claims cases and with the approval of free remote access to reviewing court records.



EASY TO READ SUMMARIES OF ALL SUPREME COURT OPINIONS

The Supreme Court announced on November 20 that it will begin including Supreme and Appellate Court summaries with opinion releases to give the public a clear explanation of the rulings in plain language. The Court wants the public to be able to quickly understand what each opinion means, so these 2 summaries were created to make these important rulings more accessible to non-attorneys.

3 PROPOSALS IMPACTING THE PRACTICE OF LAW

Three proposals were made to amend and create new rules that will impact the practice of law and help address unmet legal needs in Illinois. The first proposal, Regulation of Intermediary Connecting Services, will regulate attorney participation in intermediary connecting service (ICS) entities. The second proposal, New Supreme Court Rule 300, will create a new Supreme Court Rule governing attorney's fee petitions. The third proposal, MCLE for Pro Bono Pilot Project, will create a two-year pilot project to allow MCLE credit for pro bono service.

FEES ELIMINATED IN MINOR GUARDIANSHIP AND SMALL CLAIMS CASES

The Illinois Supreme Court announced amendments to M.R. Order 29741 to eliminate filing and appearance fees in minor guardianship cases and appearance fees in small claim cases. The amended rules were effective October 1, 2025.

FREE ONLINE ACCESS TO REVIEWING COURT DOCUMENTS

For the first time, members of the media and public were granted free online access to reviewing court documents. The reviewing courts include the Illinois Supreme Court and the appellate courts in the five districts. This change furthers the Supreme Court's goal of providing statewide remote public access to nonconfidential court documents.



CONCLUSION

The accomplishments detailed above represent only a few of the initiatives undertaken by the Illinois Courts in 2025. I encourage you to review the 2025 Annual Report, which provides further information about the functions and activities of the judicial branch.

On a final note, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone in the judicial branch who helped make 2025 a productive year. It takes a lot of dedication and hard work to make the Illinois court system operate with a high level of integrity and efficiency. The Court and its justice partners look forward to another year of providing equal justice to all

the citizens in Illinois.

Handwritten signature of P. Scott Neville, Jr.

P. Scott Neville, Jr.

Chief Justice, *Illinois Supreme Court*



JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court; it also supervises and administers the state's judicial system. The state is divided into five judicial districts, with three justices elected from the first district (Cook County) and one justice elected from each of the other four districts. Justices are elected in partisan elections for 10 years and may be retained in office for additional terms of 10 years. A chief justice is elected by the other justices for a term of three years.

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



**CHIEF JUSTICE P.
SCOTT NEVILLE, JR.**

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

First District

EDUCATION:

Washington University School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2018, elected in 2020

NOTABLE:

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



**JUSTICE MARY JANE
THEIS**

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

First District

EDUCATION:

University of San Francisco School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2010, elected in 2012

NOTABLE:

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



**JUSTICE DAVID K.
OVERSTREET**

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Mt. Vernon

HOMETOWN:

Fifth District

EDUCATION:

University of Tennessee College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2020

NOTABLE:

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



**JUSTICE LISA
HOLDER WHITE**

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Decatur

HOMETOWN:

Fourth District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2022, elected in 2024

NOTABLE:

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

JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS



JUSTICE JOY V. CUNNINGHAM

PLACE OF BIRTH:

New York, New York

HOMETOWN:

First District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois Chicago School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Appointed in 2022, elected in 2024

NOTABLE:

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



JUSTICE ELIZABETH M. ROCHFORD

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Chicago

HOMETOWN:

Second District

EDUCATION:

Loyola University School of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2022

NOTABLE:

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



JUSTICE MARY K. O'BRIEN

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Kankakee

HOMETOWN:

Third District

EDUCATION:

University of Illinois College of Law

JOINED THE COURT:

Elected in 2022

NOTABLE:

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

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025



MARCH 17

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT VISITS FIFTH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

The Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court paid a visit to the historic Fifth District Appellate Courthouse in Mt. Vernon. Justice David Overstreet and Clerk Cortney Kuntze provided updates on recent improvements to the building, which was built in 1854.

MARCH 20

RIDING THE CIRCUIT AT SIU-CARBONDALE

The Illinois Supreme Court rode the circuit to hear oral arguments at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. A crowd of over 800 students and members of the public were in attendance to hear two cases, *People v. Hoffman* and *Hulsh v. Hulsh*. Local Circuit Judge Christy Solverson hosted a question-and-answer session with the audience following arguments.

APRIL 1

3 NEW PROPOSALS IMPACTING THE PRACTICE OF LAW

The Illinois Supreme Court announced the adoption of three proposals to amend and create new rules to address unmet legal needs in Illinois. Regulation of Intermediary Connecting Services will regulate attorney participation in intermediary connecting service (ICS) entities. New Supreme Court Rule 300 will create a new Supreme Court Rule governing attorney's fee petitions. MCLE for Pro Bono Pilot Project will create a two-year pilot project to allow MCLE credit for pro bono service.

APRIL 16

FEES ELIMINATED IN MINOR GUARDIANSHIP AND SMALL CLAIMS CASES

The Illinois Supreme Court announced amendments to M.R. Order 29741 to eliminate filing and appearance fees in minor guardianship cases and appearance fees in small claim cases. The amended rules are effective October 1, 2025.



YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

MAY 1

SUPREME COURT APPROVED FREE REMOTE ACCESS TO REVIEWING COURT DOCUMENTS

The Illinois Supreme Court entered an order allowing free remote public access to reviewing court documents. The reviewing courts include the Illinois Supreme Court and the five appellate courts. This order furthers the Supreme Court's goal of providing statewide remote public access to nonconfidential court documents.

MAY 14

HANDCRAFTED GAVEL INSTALLED AS OFFICIAL INSTRUMENT TO OPEN PROCEEDINGS

The Illinois Supreme Court during a brief ceremony installed an official handmade gavel, crafted by esteemed Judge Andreas "Andy" Matoesian, marking a tribute to judicial tradition and as an emblem for court proceedings.

MAY 15

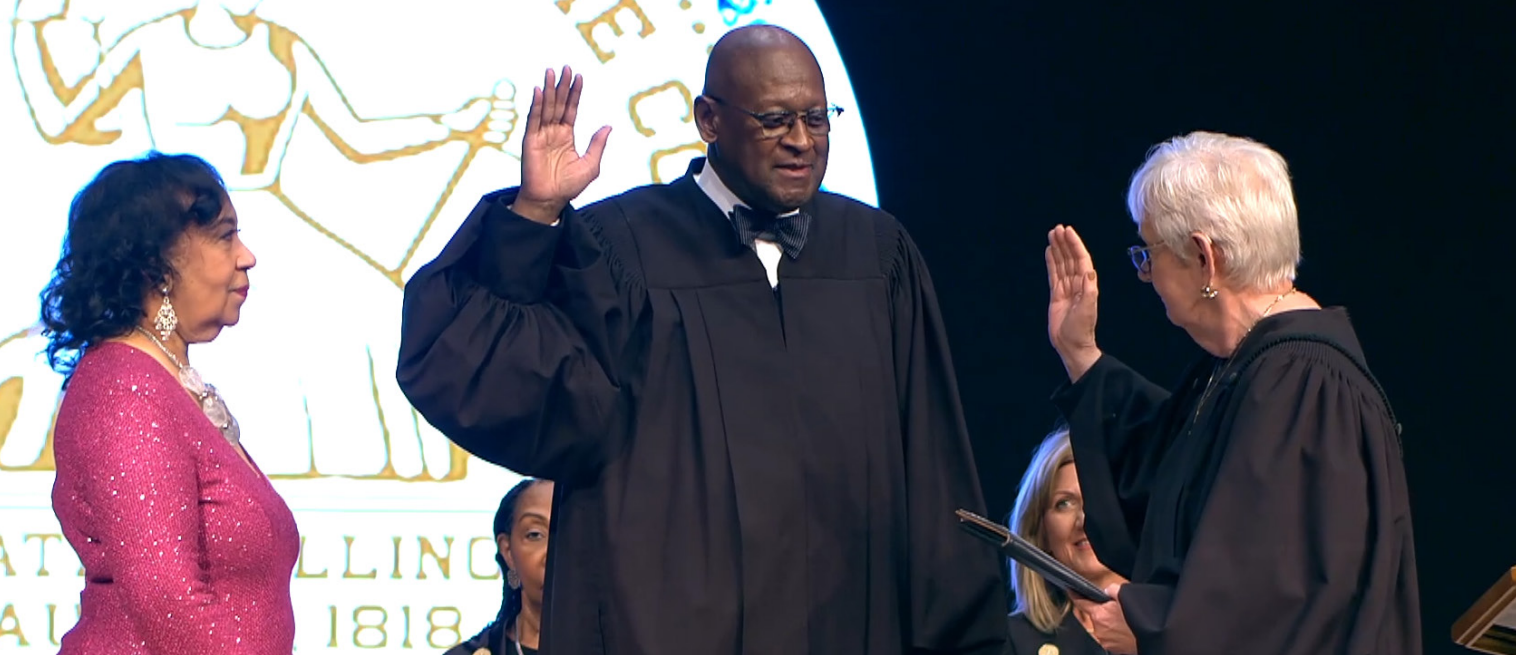
ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES FIRST ADMINISTRATION OF NEXTGEN UNIFORM BAR EXAM

Law school graduates will take a new bar examination starting in February 2028 to become licensed to practice law in Illinois, the Illinois Supreme Court and the Board of Admissions to the Bar announced. The NextGen Uniform Bar Examination will replace the current Uniform Bar Exam (UBE), which Illinois has used since 2019. The National Conference of Bar Examiners developed both the NextGen exam and the current UBE.

MAY 21

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT AMENDS RULE ON REJECTED FILINGS

The Illinois Supreme Court announced an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 9 which seeks to address the impact that a rejected filing can have on a filer if it were to delay a filing beyond a set deadline, such as those set by statute or rule. The new rule requires the trial and reviewing courts to allow a back-dated filing so long as the new filing corrects the old one and an application is made within 5 court days. Previously, Rule 9(d) allowed two avenues for those seeking to overcome a rejected filing and both required "good cause shown."



YEAR IN REVIEW, CONTINUED

JUNE 17

POLICY ON REMOTE COURT APPEARANCES AMENDED

The Illinois Supreme Court announced amendments to the Illinois Supreme Court Policy on Remote Court Appearances in Civil Proceedings (Policy) which are intended to give courts and justice partners concrete tools to enhance and improve their existing remote court practices. The amended Policy reaffirms the Court's commitment to remote court appearances in many different types of circuit court proceedings, particularly for non-evidentiary and uncontested matters, and the various benefits remote court appearances offer judges, court staff, lawyers, litigants, and other court users.

JULY 10

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES SECOND CIRCUIT REMOTE APPEARANCE PILOT PROGRAM

The Illinois Supreme Court's Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ Commission), partnering with the Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, Inc., announced the launch of a two-year pilot program on remote court appearances in southern counties of Illinois. Land of Lincoln attorneys will appear remotely before Second Judicial Circuit judges and provide important data and information on these appearances so the ATJ Commission can learn more about the impact of remote court proceedings and whether they can reduce barriers rural communities experience in accessing justice.

SEPTEMBER 9

JUSTICE P. SCOTT NEVILLE, JR. SELECTED AS NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

The Illinois Supreme Court selected Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr. as the 123rd Chief Justice. He is the second Black Chief Justice in Illinois history, following the late Justice Charles E. Freeman, who served from 1997 to 1999. His three-year term began on October 26, 2025, succeeding Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, who has led the Court since 2022.

SEPTEMBER 23

ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPROVES VISION FOR NEW COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORKER PROGRAM

Illinois Supreme Court announced the approval in concept of a new Community Justice Worker Program to allow for certified individuals who are not lawyers to provide limited legal assistance in designated high-need areas of law under the supervision of an Illinois-licensed attorney. The approved proposal will position trained and certified community justice workers in legal aid and other non-profit organizations to provide limited legal assistance in areas of law where there is a high unmet need.

ONLINE RESOURCES

INFORMATION FORMERLY IN THE ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ANYTIME ONLINE



Annual Report to the General Assembly

- [Annual Report to General Assembly on 2025 Judicial Conference](#)



Circuit Court Statistics

- [Circuit Court Quarterly Caseload Statistics updated throughout the year](#)
- [Interactive pretrial data dashboards](#)
- [Annual Report Dashboard](#)



Supreme Court Committees

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS COURTS

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

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

- [Executive Office](#)
- [Access to Justice Division](#)
- [Financial Division](#)
- [Office of Communications and Public Information](#)
- [Courts, Children and Families Division](#)
- [Court Services Division](#)
- [Human Resources Division](#)
- [Judicial College Division](#)
- [Judicial Management Information Services Division](#)
- [Probation Services Division](#)



STRATEGIC AGENDA

ILLINOIS JUDICIAL CONFERENCE THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC AGENDA CONTINUES

The *core values* of the branch are:

FAIRNESS

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

ACCOUNTABILITY

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

INTEGRITY

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

RESPECT

Treat all with dignity, courtesy, and understanding.

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

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

The *mission* of the branch is:

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

The *vision* of the branch is:

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



IJC 2025 Achievements

ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES IN LEGAL DESERTS

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

The Illinois Supreme Court, on recommendations from the Illinois Judicial Conference, made amendments to several Supreme Court Rules to address unmet legal needs in the state. The amendments to Rule 711 will extend the length of time a law graduate may qualify for a 711 license following graduation from law school by allowing a law graduate who does not pass the first bar examination administered following graduation to retain their 711 license through the next administered bar examination. Allowing these law graduates to retain their 711 licenses through the second bar exam will help legal aid and public defender offices to meet the needs of their clients and support the professional development of these law graduates. The amendments will also allow a law graduate to sit for either the Illinois bar examination or the Uniform Bar Examination in another jurisdiction, making it easier for law graduates to qualify for a 711 license. On a pilot basis, 711 licenses will additionally be expanded to law graduates affiliated with a private firm and practicing in the First, Thirteenth, Fifteenth or Twenty-third Judicial Circuits. This expansion is intended to encourage recent graduates to pursue employment in legal deserts and get hired sooner.

POLICY ON TRANSPARENCY

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

The IJC Public Requests for Information Task Force was created in 2024 and charged with developing recommendations to improve judicial branch transparency. That came to fruition in 2025 when the Illinois Supreme Court announced the Judicial Branch's first Policy on Transparency, based on the Task Force's recommendations. Effective in 2026, this is a vital step toward providing the public with more of the essential data and information from the judicial branch. The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts will publish data from Circuit Clerk Offices, Court Services/ Probation, Juvenile Detention Centers, the Supreme and Appellate Courts, and the Office of Statewide Pretrial Services. The AOIC will also publish the Judicial Branch budget and identify the number of full-time employees with organizational charts.

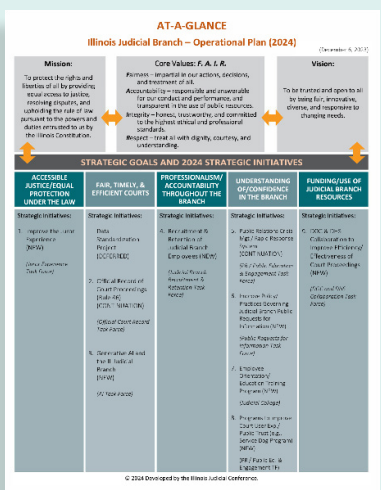
NEW AND IMPROVED EXTENDED MEDIA COVERAGE POLICY

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

The Illinois Supreme Court has approved a new policy for Extended Media Coverage (EMC) in the Illinois Courts including policies for the [circuit courts](#) and [appellate courts](#). This policy replaces the previous policy that has been in place since EMC became permanent in 2016. The EMC Program, also called Cameras in the Courts, began as a pilot in 2012 to bring increased transparency to Illinois Courts. This successful program is conducted in partnership with media outlets to open court proceedings to a broader audience. The updated policy was put together by the Illinois Judicial Conference's Public Education and Engagement Task Force with input from judges, trial court administrators, circuit clerks, attorneys, media and other court staff. The Task Force also created sets of fillable forms for both the circuit and appellate courts.



VIEW THE STRATEGIC AGENDA



VIEW THE OPERATIONAL PLAN

ILLINOIS COURT HELP

A TRUSTED STATEWIDE RESOURCE

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

Since its launch in May 2021, Illinois Court Help (ILCH) has served as a trusted resource for court users navigating the Illinois judicial system. ILCH provides free, step-by-step guidance via phone, text, email, and chatbot for court processes in every Illinois court—including circuit, appellate, and Supreme Court. While ILCH does not offer legal advice, its trained court guides connect users to legal and community resources to help resolve their issues.

As the program continues to mature, ILCH remains focused on delivering consistent, high-quality service to court users across all 102 Illinois counties. By emphasizing responsive customer service, statewide accessibility, and meaningful referrals, the program continues to help thousands of Illinois residents confidently navigate the court system each year.

In 2025, ILCH demonstrated significant impact, assisting **29,489 court users statewide** with a high satisfaction rate of **92.2%**. The program's continued statewide impact is reflected in the accompanying data:

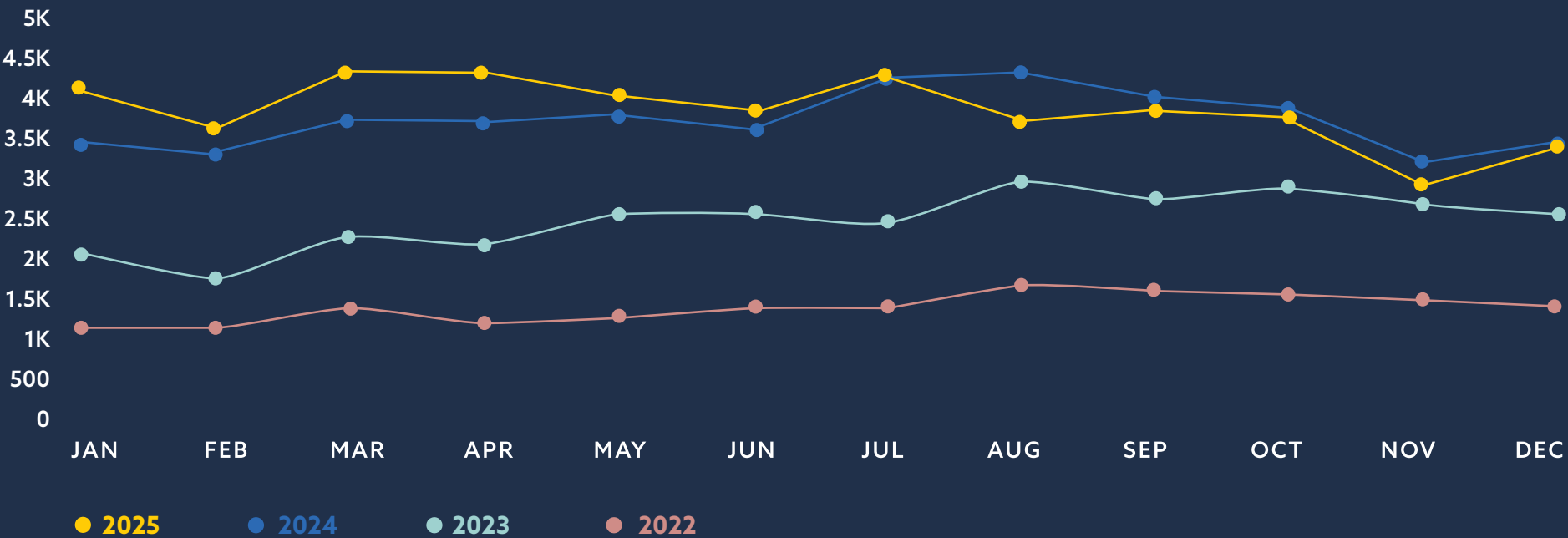


LOOKING AHEAD

Building on the strong foundation established over the past five years, 2026 is already bringing exciting opportunities, including the expansion of the ILCH team to serve even more court users. ILCH is also exploring opportunities to expand hotline hours, increasing access to assistance across the state. As the program continues to grow and innovate, ILCH remains committed to advancing access to justice by ensuring court users receive clear, reliable procedural guidance when they need it most.

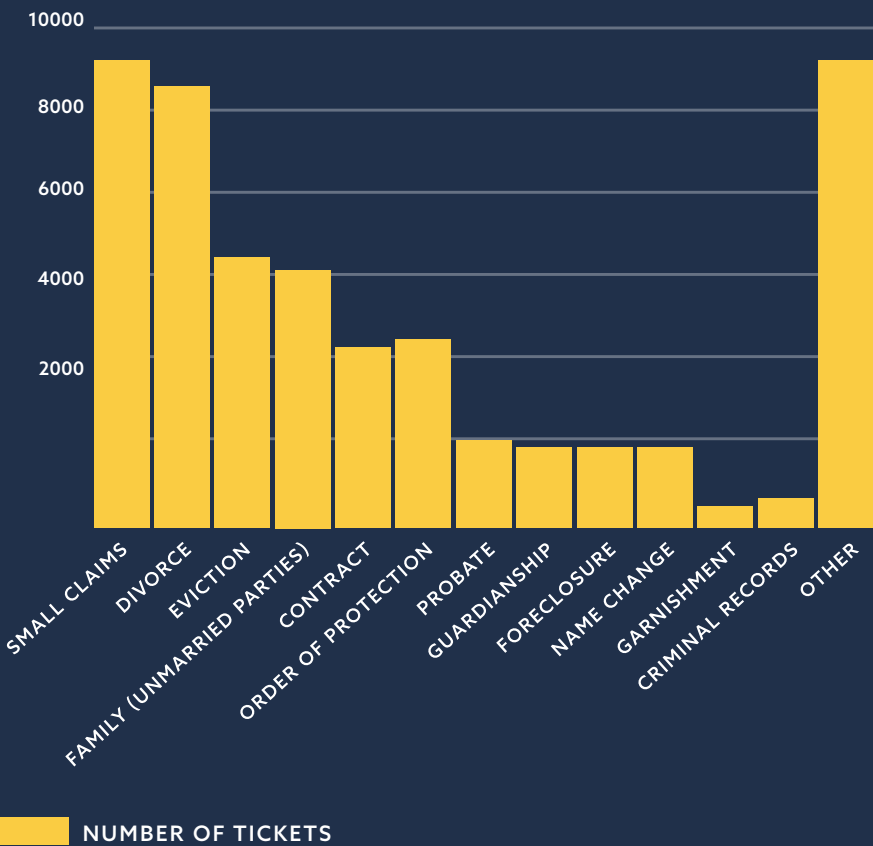
GROWTH OVER TIME

ILCH maintained consistently high-ticket volume throughout 2025, reflecting the program’s established role as a trusted statewide resource for Illinois court users.



TYPES OF CASES

Court users sought assistance across a broad range of case types, with small claims, divorce, and eviction matters among the most common.



THE HUMAN IMPACT

While data illustrates ILCH’s statewide impact, the experiences shared by court users best reflect the difference the program makes in people’s lives:

“Thank you for your time, assistance, and great service with this matter today. The Illinois Court Help Team is second to none. They are always pleasant, kind, patient, understanding, caring, passionate and helpful no matter how often I call. They are always willing to diligently look into whatever the scenario may be to make sure they are giving the most current and accurate information needed for my questions at that time. The Illinois Court Help Team are an amazing and phenomenal group of people that does a tremendous job.”

—Self-represented court user, Cook County
(PROBATE MATTER, AUGUST 2025)

“This is the best help I have come across that actually helps and answers direct questions. It takes the fear out of doing these things that many of us are sometimes afraid to do by ourselves.”

—Self-represented court user, Will County
(FAMILY LAW MATTER, JULY 2025)

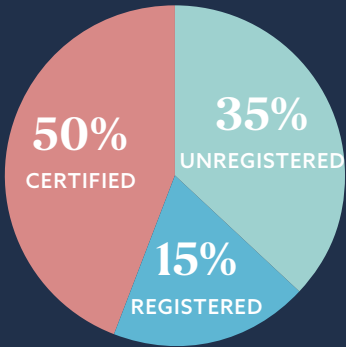
2025 LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAM REPORT: STATEWIDE

In 2025, Illinois courts provided 176,790 interpretation events, representing a 22.4% increase from the 144,414 interpretation events reported in 2024. Of these, 15.1% were conducted remotely through telephone or video interpreting services. Certified and registered interpreters from the AOIC Court Interpreter Registry handled 61.44% of all interpretation events in 2025, a slight increase from 61.08% in 2024, demonstrating continued reliance on qualified interpreters to meet language access needs across the state.

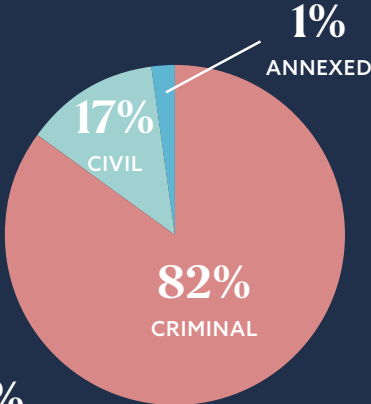
By case type, 82% of interpretation events occurred in criminal proceedings, 17% in civil proceedings, and 1% in court-annexed proceedings. Spanish remained the most requested language, accounting for approximately 91.2% of all interpretation events. Russian became the second most requested language at 1.2%, followed by Polish at 1.16%, reflecting shifting language needs among court users.

The "Other" category, representing 3% of all interpretation events in 2025, encompasses a broad range of languages beyond the most frequently requested languages. Illinois courts also reported significant demand for Arabic, Ukrainian, American Sign Language (ASL), Mandarin, French, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese, Swahili, Kekchi, Romanian, Gujarati, Lithuanian, Korean, and Tagalog/Filipino. Compared with 2024, requests increased for several languages, including Russian, Arabic, Ukrainian, Chinese, French, Urdu/Hindi, Gujarati, Lithuanian, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS). These trends reflect the growing linguistic diversity of Illinois court users and underscore the importance of maintaining interpreter resources across a wide range of languages to ensure meaningful access to justice statewide.

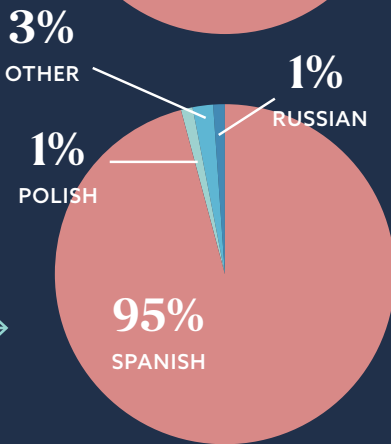
% of Interpretations
by Interpreter Type:



% of Interpretations
by Court Type:



Interpreted
Languages



CIRCUIT	% OF REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED INTERPRETERS
STATEWIDE	61.44%
1 ST	66.79%
2 ND	34.27%
3 RD	73.78%
4 TH	27.75%
5 TH	41.67%
6 TH	5.11%
7 TH	42.98%
8 TH	NA
9 TH	3.61%
10 TH	54.92%
11 TH	4.18%
12 TH	15.36%
13 TH	96.33%
14 TH	56.70%
15 TH	76.79%
16 TH	97.58%
17 TH	75.32%
18 TH	77.65%
19 TH	61.23%
20 TH	22.57%
21 ST	78.25%
22 ND	58.65%
23 RD	99.70%
24 TH	4.91%
COOK:	37.70%

SUPREME COURT SUPPORT STAFF

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

CYNTHIA A. GRANT

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

In its case management capacity, the Clerk's Office maintains four distinct automated dockets, executing all associated processes, to ensure compliance with Supreme Court Rules and to ensure that cases are effectively monitored and scheduled, from initiation to issuance of mandates and final orders as appropriate. The general docket unit of the office supports the Court's primary docket. The miscellaneous record docket consists primarily of attorney matters. The miscellaneous docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by pro se incarcerated litigants and provides a forum without compromising standard filing requirements. The proposed rule docket was developed and functions consistent with the mandate of Supreme Court Rule 3. E-filing of Court documents began in 2012 on a pilot basis and in July 2017, mandatory e-filing of civil cases was established through a single, centralized electronic filing manager (EFM), called eFileIL and included integration with the Court's case management system.

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

The Clerk's Office registers and renews professional service corporations and associations, and limited liability companies and partnerships engaged in the practice of law. In October 2012, the Supreme Court announced an e-renewal process that gave law firm entities the option

to electronically renew their annual registration and pay the \$40 renewal fee electronically. The Clerk's Office is also responsible for maintaining the roll of attorneys, which includes the licensing process, and issuance of law licenses; files judicial financial disclosure statements required of state court judges. Beginning in March 2019, state court judges were offered an electronic option to file their annual statement of economic interests. The office compiles, analyzes, and reports statistics on the Supreme Court's caseload and other activity.

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

MARSHAL OF THE SUPREME COURT

MAXIMINO ORTIZ

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

SUPREME COURT CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

JOHN BRACCO

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

SUPREME COURT RESEARCH DIRECTOR

JOHN ROBINSON

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

SUPREME COURT LIBRARIAN

GEOFFREY P. PELZEK

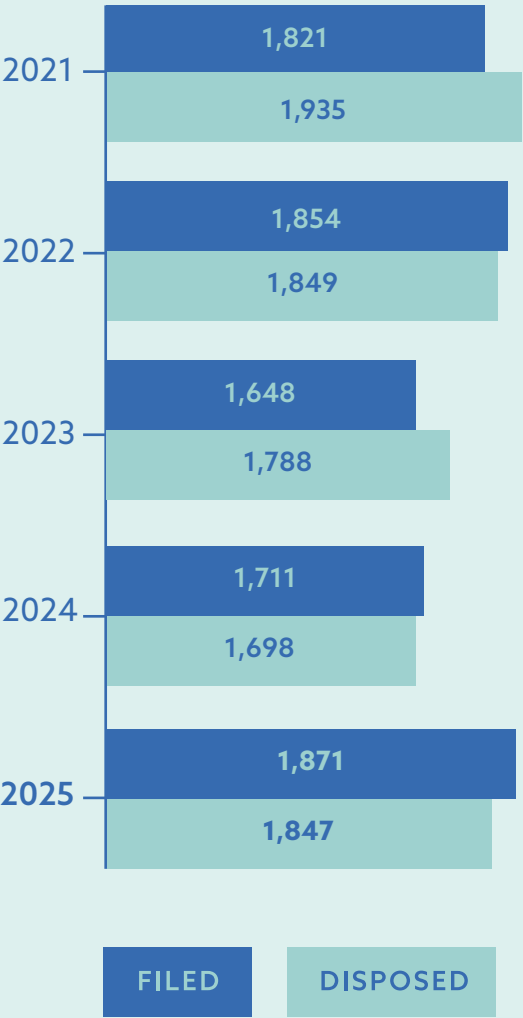
The Supreme Court Librarian directs a staff who provide legal reference services to the courts, state agencies, and citizens of the state. The Supreme Court libraries include a 100,000 volume public law library in Springfield, a 40,000 volume private branch library in Chicago, and four private judicial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

REPORTER OF DECISIONS

JACOB JOST

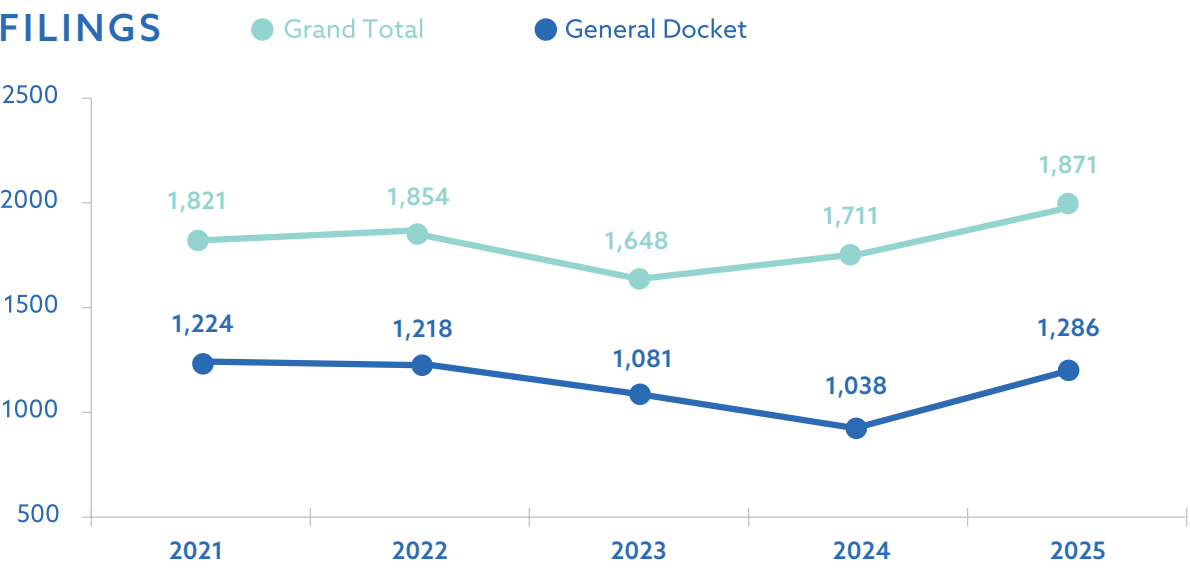
The Reporter of Decisions directs a staff that publishes opinions of the supreme and appellate courts in the Official Reports. Employees verify case citations, compose attorney lines, and edit opinions for style and grammar. The Reporter is also responsible for publication of the Illinois Supreme Court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

Supreme Court Filed:

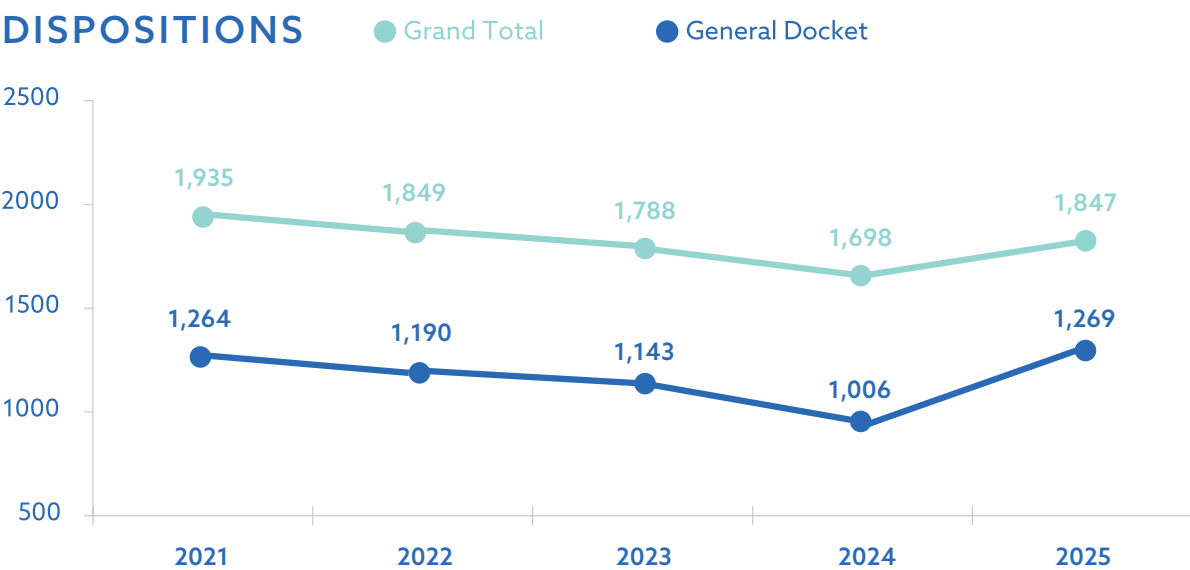


SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS FIVE-YEAR TRENDS

FILINGS



DISPOSITIONS



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.

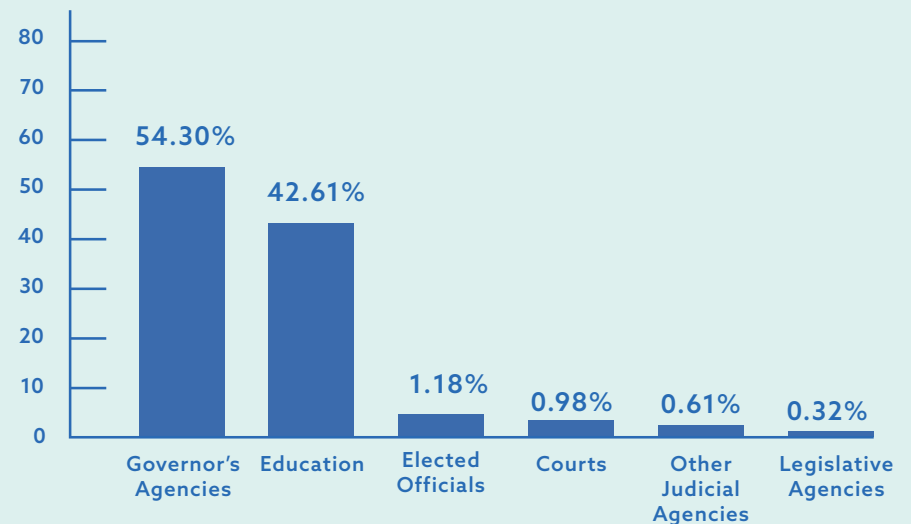
State government pays for the salaries, benefits, and office expenses of supreme and appellate court judges, and salaries and benefits of circuit court judges. Effective July 1, 2025, judicial salaries, as determined by the legislature, were: Supreme Court justices, \$298,910; appellate court judges, \$281,331; circuit court judges, \$258,158; and associate judges, \$245,250. 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 2025, the arbitration filing and rejection fees collected amounted to \$4,252,448.22.

State funding for probation and court services departments covers approximately 3,100 probation and court services personnel, for which the counties receive full and partial salary reimbursement on a monthly basis. The statutorily mandated full funding level was appropriated to fund eligible probation services positions. The state Judicial Branch appropriation also supports other operational and program expenses. County governments pay part of the cost of financing circuit court operations. Counties provide office and courtroom space, maintenance, and support staff to assist the circuit court judges. Circuit clerks collect money to help pay for their operations and some court operations. They also collect and disburse revenues to help fund local and state government programs, as summarized on the next page.

STATE FUNDING

General Revenue Fund Appropriations for State Agencies *Fiscal Year 2026*

This graph shows the Supreme Court's share of the General Revenue Fund appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026). The total General Revenue Fund appropriation for the entire state was \$53,948,768,000. The Court's appropriation was \$531,668,000.



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

LOCAL FUNDING

The circuit clerk's office in each county provides a variety of court recordkeeping and financial accounting services. Circuit clerks are elected for four-year terms by the voters in each county. Circuit clerks, with help from deputy clerks, attend sessions of the court, preserve court files and papers, and maintain complete records of all cases. Employees of the clerks' offices are appointed by and are accountable to the circuit clerk, with the county board having budgetary authority.

During 2025, the total number of full-time employees in all 102 circuit clerk offices was 3,055, assisted by a total of 112 part-time employees. The cost of operating all circuit clerks' offices totaled \$249,685,359 in 2025.

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 2025 by circuit clerks and earmarked for improvements in the clerks' offices and to help defray the cost to the county of operating the courts at the local level.

\$21,941,862

Court Document Storage Fund

Used for any costs relative to the storage of court records.

\$21,194,351

Court Automation Fund

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

\$9,904,999

County Law Library Fund

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

\$5,350,896

County Fund To Finance the
Court System

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

\$7,846,981

Circuit Court Clerk Operations
and Administrative Fund

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

REVENUE TO FINANCE
OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to collecting fees for local improvements, circuit clerks receive, account for, and distribute millions of dollars to county governments, various local governmental entities, and various state funds. Some of the programs and dollars collected in 2025 by circuit clerks are listed below:

\$890,276,163

Child Support and Maintenance

Court ordered payments collected and distributed by circuit clerks and the State Disbursement Unit.

\$2,167,260

Drug Treatment Fund

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

\$3,733,218

Violent Crime Victims Assistance

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

\$1,413,235

Trauma Center Fund

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

\$6,403,344

Traffic and Criminal Conviction
Surcharge

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

\$1,636,986

Drivers Education Fund

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

CASEFLOW

Illinois has had a unified court system since 1964. In that year, voters approved an amendment to the 1870 Constitution which made major changes in the system. Prior to 1964, the court system was fragmented. The courts of original jurisdiction had some concurrent and overlapping jurisdiction, and each court operated independently of the others.

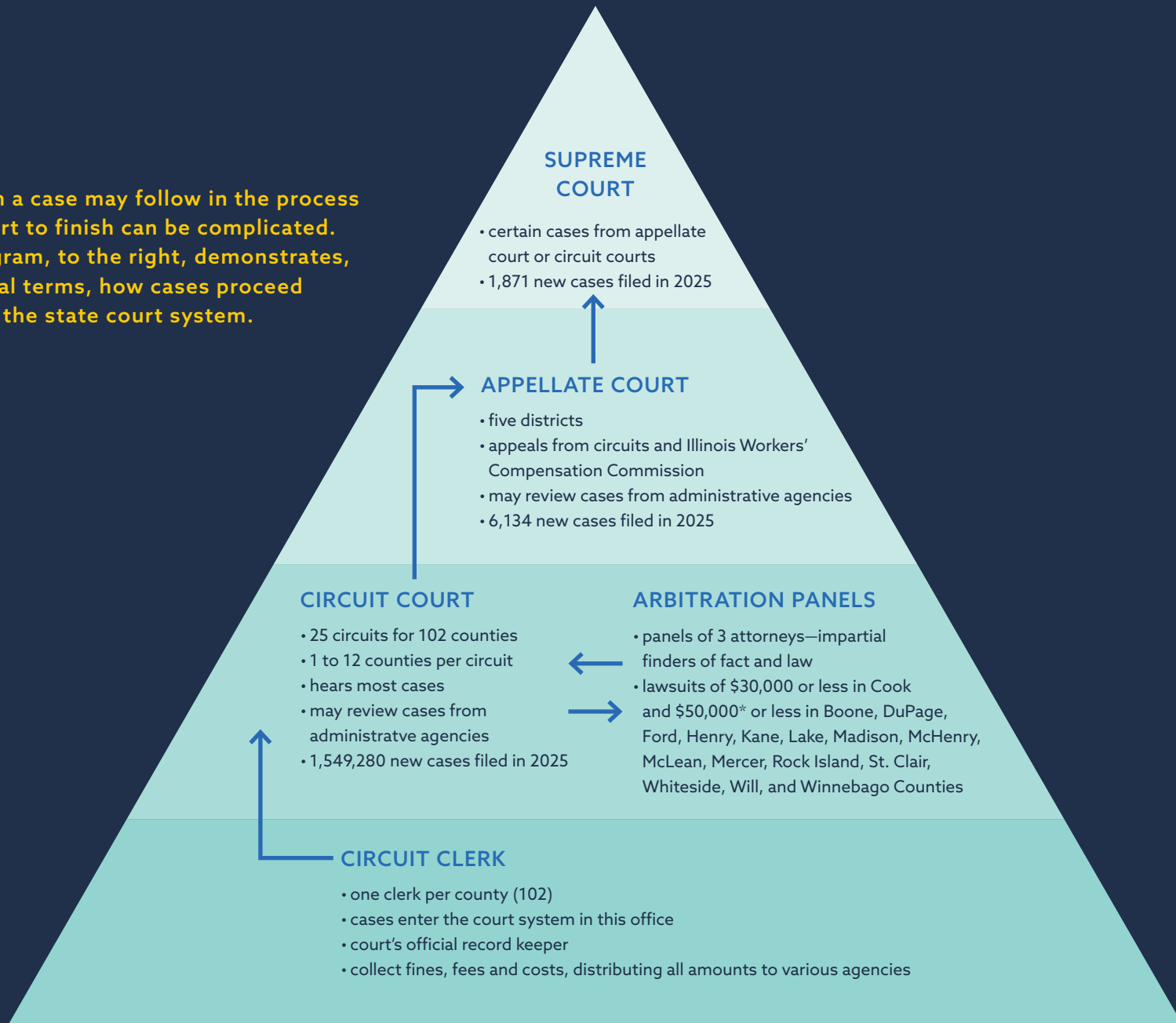
The old system had a circuit court with statewide original jurisdiction in all cases and some appellate jurisdiction; a Superior Court of Cook County having concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court of Cook County; the Criminal Court of Cook County also having concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit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

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

and four appellate court districts numbered from north to south. For example, the First Supreme Court District was in a part of the Fourth Appellate Court District and the Seventh Supreme Court District was in a part of the First Appellate Court District. In today's system, as shown on Page 28, 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-five 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. Interactive maps of the appellate and circuit courts are available on the Illinois Courts website.



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.



* Certain judicial circuits may have authorization for limits up to \$75,000

JUDICIAL BRANCH ADMINISTRATION



SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Illinois, in addition to being the state's highest Court, is responsible for the state's trial courts, one appellate court with five districts, and several supporting units. General administrative and supervisory authority over the court system is vested in the Supreme Court. Several advisory bodies assist with this mission by making recommendations to the Court. These include the Judicial Conference of Illinois, the Conference of Chief Judges and the various committees of the Court. More information about these committees can be found within this report. The Supreme Court also makes appointments to other committees, commissions, and boards available here. The Chief Justice is responsible for exercising the Court's general administrative and supervisory authority in accordance with the Court's rules. The Supreme Court appoints an Administrative Director to assist the Chief Justice in those duties. The staff of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts support this function. Key support personnel exist at each level of the courts to assist judges with the administration of justice. At the Supreme Court level, this includes the clerk, research director, marshal, librarian, reporter of decisions and their staffs. Each support unit is described within this report.

APPELLATE COURT

At the appellate court level, the presiding judge and judges of each appellate district are assisted by a clerk of the appellate court and a research director and their staffs appointed by

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

CIRCUIT COURT

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

JUDICIAL INQUIRY BOARD

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

ILLINOIS COURTS COMMISSION

The Commission consists of a supreme court justice, two circuit judges selected by the Supreme Court, two appellate court judges selected by the appellate court, and two citizen members selected by the governor. The Commission hears complaints brought by the Judicial Inquiry Board and can discipline a judge or remove a judge from office. An Executive Director/General Counsel serves the Commission in their duties.

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR

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

Committee on Character and Fitness

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

Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission

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

State Appellate Defender

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

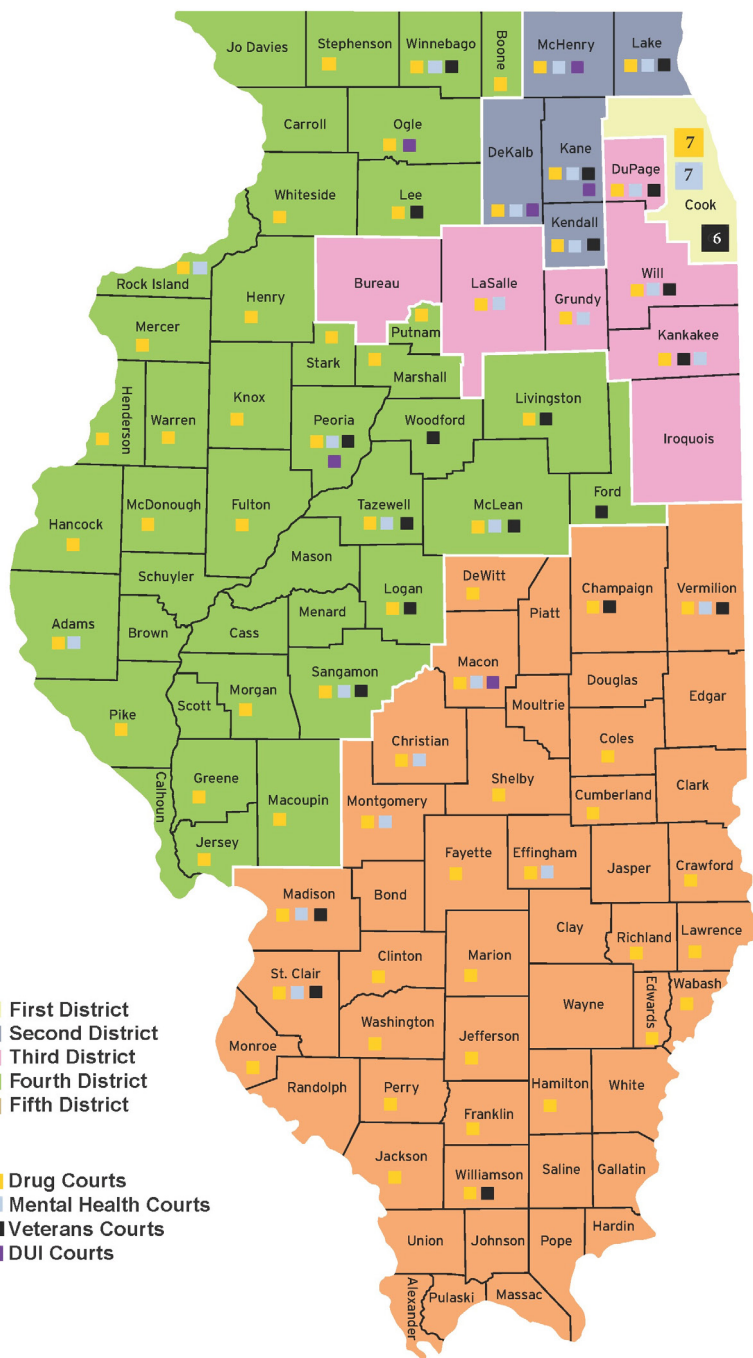
Board of Trustees of the Judges Retirement System

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



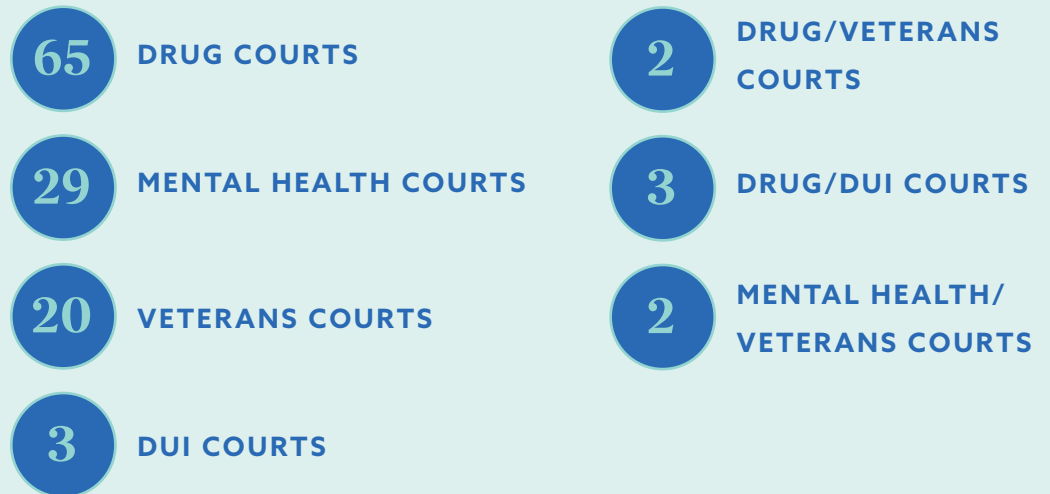
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS ORDERED BY THE SUPREME COURT IN 2025





PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Also known as specialty or therapeutic courts, problem-solving courts provide an alternative forum for certain individuals in the criminal justice system, such as veterans and those with mental illness or substance abuse disorders, among others. In 2025, Illinois had 124 problem-solving courts, covering 63% of Illinois counties.



To date, 104 courts have been recertified with 45 of them being recertified for a second time.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED EACH YEAR:

930 IN DRUG COURTS

450 IN MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

300 IN VETERANS COURTS

150 IN REMAINING COURTS

1,830
TOTAL SERVED

APPELLATE COURTS

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

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

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

The number of appellate court judgeships,

currently 57, is determined by the legislature. The Supreme Court can assign additional circuit, appellate or retired judges temporarily to any district. Judges are elected by voters in each district for 10-year terms, and may be retained for additional 10-year terms. Each judge has a support staff of two law clerks and a secretary.

Each district manages its own operations, subject to the overall authority of the Supreme Court. In the first district (Cook County), an executive committee exercises

general administrative authority. This committee elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson for one year. In the other districts, judges select one of their members to serve as presiding judge for one year.

APPELLATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Annual Meeting: The Appellate Court held its annual meeting on April 7, 2025, with the Honorable William E. Holdridge (Third District Appellate Court) serving as the Honorary Chair of the 2025 Annual Meeting. Over 50 appellate justices were in attendance.

The Honorable Mary K. Rochford (First District Appellate Court) will serve as Honorary Chair of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court.

Administrative Committee:

The Appellate Court Administrative Committee was established to study and recommend improvements to the Illinois Appellate Court. Additionally, the Committee plans the Annual Meeting of the Appellate Court and develops the curriculum for the annual Appellate Court Conference. In addition to the appellate justices in attendance were the Legal Research Directors of the Supreme and Appellate Courts.

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	3,324	3,016	2,810	2,777
2024	2,934	2,894	3,763	4,049
2023	2,871	2,611	3,610	2,696
2022	2,640	2,726	1,981	2,374
2021	2,193	2,232	1,812	2,879

TOTAL CASELOAD	FILED	CLOSED
2025	6,134	5,793
2024	6,697	6,943
2023	6,481	5,307
2022	4,621	5,100
2021	4,005	5,111

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIRST DISTRICT — CHICAGO MICHAEL A. BILANDIC BUILDING

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

Thomas D. Palella, Clerk
Alice Withaar, Research Director

Circuit Court of Cook County

DISTRICT POPULATION: 5,194,625

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	1,646	1,398	1,033	977
2024	1,405	1,418	1,185	1,075
2023	1,370	1,147	1,124	800
2022	1,203	1,242	740	807
2021	926	974	709	1,239

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2025	3,856
2024	3,496
2023	3,342
2022	2,753
2021	2,812

SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT



SECOND DISTRICT — ELGIN 2ND DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

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

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

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,810,152

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	277	250	282	289
2024	279	234	455	513
2023	224	251	367	289
2022	247	386	200	430
2021	418	424	330	528

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2025	401
2024	388
2023	396
2022	338
2021	680

THIRD APPELLATE DISTRICT



THIRD DISTRICT – OTTAWA 3RD DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

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

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

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,972,561

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	347	323	329	267
2024	313	326	392	542
2023	337	356	436	378
2022	333	313	188	346
2021	302	311	253	353

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2025	511
2024	421
2023	578
2022	252
2021	664

FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FOURTH DISTRICT — SPRINGFIELD 4TH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

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

Carla L. Bender, Clerk
John Gabala, Research Director

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,963,058

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	581	552	688	694
2024	491	501	914	991
2023	514	506	857	669
2022	473	441	488	530
2021	313	311	379	491

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2025	676
2024	669
2023	742
2022	549
2021	571

FIFTH APPELLATE DISTRICT



FIFTH DISTRICT — MT. VERNON 5TH DISTRICT APPELLATE COURTHOUSE

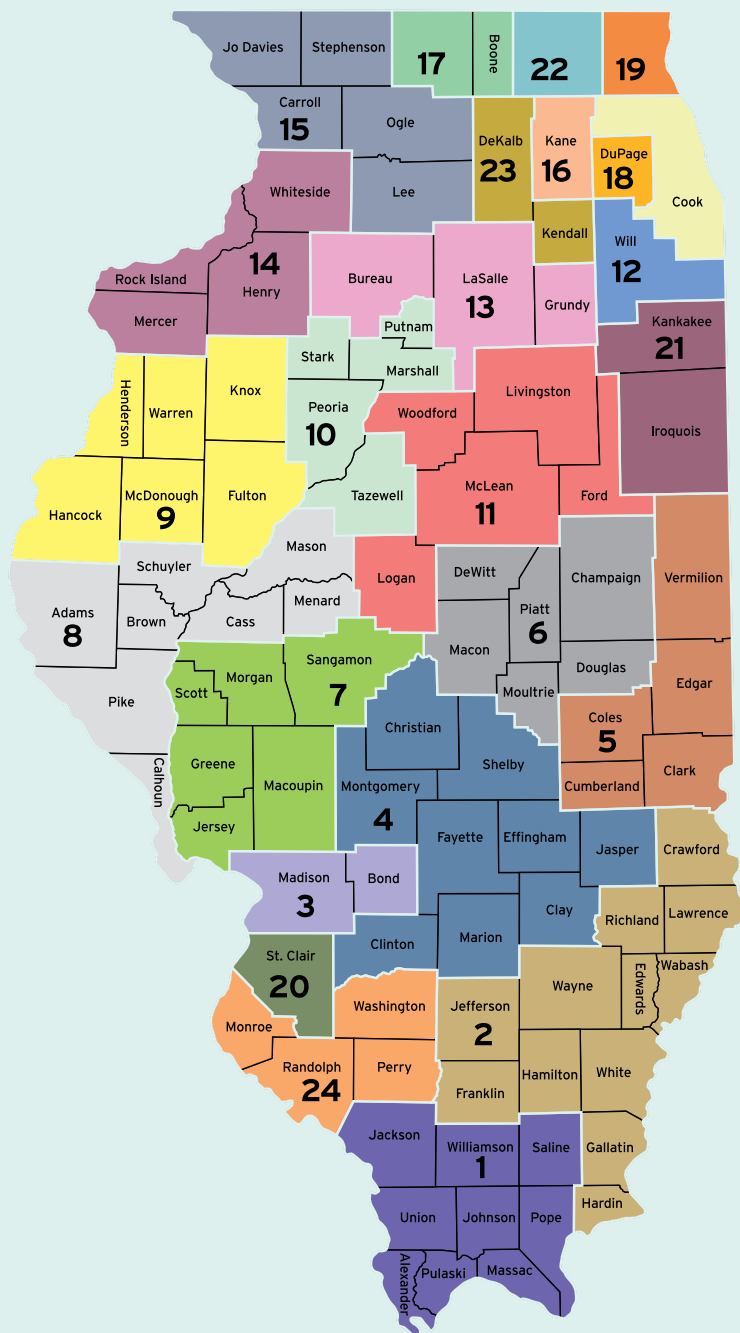
14th & Main Street
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
(618) 242-3120

Cortney Kuntze, Clerk
Michael D. Greathouse, Research Director

DISTRICT POPULATION: 1,778,745

CIVIL & CRIMINAL CASELOADS	CIVIL FILED	CIVIL CLOSED	CRIMINAL FILED	CRIMINAL CLOSED
2025	473	493	478	550
2024	446	415	817	928
2023	426	351	826	560
2022	384	344	365	261
2021	234	212	141	268

TOTAL OPEN CASELOAD ALL CASE CATEGORIES	OPEN
2025	827
2024	932
2023	1,005
2022	698
2021	554



CIRCUIT COURTS

In Illinois, the circuit court is the court of original jurisdiction. There are twenty-five judicial circuits in the state. Seven are single county circuits (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, St. Clair, and Will) and the remaining eighteen circuits comprise as few as two and as many as twelve counties each.

Except for redistricting of the general assembly and ruling on the ability of the governor to serve or resume office, the circuit court has jurisdiction for all matters properly brought before it. The circuit court shares jurisdiction with the Supreme Court to hear cases relating to revenue, mandamus, prohibition, and habeas corpus. If the Supreme Court chooses to exercise its authority in a case of these types, the circuit court loses jurisdiction. The circuit court is also the reviewing court for certain state agency administrative orders. There are two types of judges in the circuit court: circuit judges and associate judges. Circuit judges are elected for a six-year term and may be retained by voters for additional six-year terms. They can hear any circuit court case. Circuit judges are initially elected either circuit-wide, from the county where they reside or from a subcircuit within a circuit, depending on the type of vacancy they are filling. Associate judges are appointed by circuit judges of that circuit, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 39, for four-year terms. An associate judge can hear any matters deemed suitable by the chief judge or designated circuit judge. Circuit judges in a circuit elect one of their members to serve as chief circuit court judge. The chief circuit judge has general administrative authority in the circuit, subject to the overall administrative authority of the Supreme Court. The chief judge can assign cases to general or specialized divisions within the circuit.

of the chief circuit judges from the twenty-five judicial circuits. Beginning in December 2023, Judge Katherine D. Gorman, Chief Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, served as Chair of the Conference, with Judge William J. Thurston of the First Judicial Circuit serving as Vice-Chair. The Conference meets regularly to discuss issues related to the administration of justice in the circuit courts and other matters referred to the Conference by the Supreme Court. The Administrative Office serves as secretary to the Conference.

Conference Committees and Activities:

The Conference has several established committees which address particular issues and provide information and recommendations. Conference Committees active during 2025 included the Article V Committee; Associate Judge Vacancy Committee; Chief Judge Manual Committee; Children and Families Committee; Criminal Procedure Committee; Evidence-Based Pretrial Practices Committee; Executive Committee; Juvenile Courts Committee, Orientation Committee; Open Records Committee, Probation and Public Defender Committee; and 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 Special Committee to Review CDL Masking, Special Committee to Review Standardized Forms, or the Remote Hearings Security Committee.

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Conference of Chief Circuit Judges is comprised

2025 CIRCUIT COURT CASE CHART

CATEGORY	CASELOAD STATISTICS	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
CIVIL (1)	New Filed	410,395	390,887	342,439	324,247	325,057
	Reinstated	7,335	5,782	4,997	12,633	17,946
	Closed	369,531	347,683	337,424	285,271	333,993
	Clearance Rate %	88.5%	87.7%	97.1%	84.7%	97.4%
	Ending Open	508,954	474,626	432,758	429,473	663,560
FAMILY (2)	New Filed	58,056	58,679	59,380	55,578	113,835
	Reinstated	616	541	492	596	1,175
	Closed	51,350	49,507	50,002	57,536	104,703
	Clearance Rate %	87.5%	83.6%	83.5%	102.4%	91.0%
	Ending Open	90,341	85,246	76,272	68,669	133,104
CRIMINAL (3)	New Filed	233,504	232,537	220,464	212,187	200,631
	Reinstated	1,646	2,462	2,873	27,851	5,509
	Closed	225,464	208,146	206,831	225,690	213,389
	Clearance Rate %	95.9%	88.6%	92.6%	94.0%	103.5%
	Ending Open	374,424	368,815	446,631	314,301	442,568
CONSERVATION AND TRAFFIC (4)	New Filed	809,395	810,563	773,841	737,334	981,034
	Reinstated	16,400	11,876	11,223	40,739	16,970
	Closed	677,661	699,674	633,884	795,373	962,979
	Clearance Rate %	82.1%	85.1%	80.7%	102.2%	96.5%
	Ending Open	1,293,945	1,133,821	1,398,218	842,988	1,994,218
JUVENILE	New Filed	20,319	27,127	24,825	15,427	14,271
	Reinstated	118	98	135	164	142
	Closed	19,915	24,944	23,645	14,790	13,777
	Clearance Rate %	97.4%	91.6%	94.7%	94.9%	95.6%
	Ending Open	38,584	39,190	41,515	39,146	55,837
OTHER (5)	New Filed	96,732	94,793	84,903	83,728	0
	Reinstated	379	600	534	318	0
	Closed	88,662	87,763	75,437	66,383	0
	Clearance Rate %	91.3%	92.0%	88.3%	79.0%	0.0%
	Ending Open	40,453	34,968	29,116	27,491	0
STATEWIDE TOTALS	New Filed	1,628,401	1,614,586	1,505,852	1,428,501	1,634,828
	Reinstated	26,494	21,359	20,254	82,301	41,742
	Closed	1,432,583	1,417,717	1,327,223	1,445,043	1,628,841
	Clearance Rate %	86.6%	86.7%	87.0%	95.6%	97.2%
	Ending Open	2,346,701	2,136,666	2,424,510	1,722,068	3,289,287

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

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

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

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

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

Due to a system change, Kankakee County did not report statistics for 2025.

CASELOAD SUMMARIES BY CIRCUIT CALENDAR YEAR 2025

CIRCUIT	BEGINNING OPEN	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	CLOSED	ENDING OPEN	INCREASE/ DECREASE % OF 2025 OPEN CASES
1 ST	120,029	45,869	166	46,925	118,611	-1.2
2 ND	42,522	27,429	29	26,623	41,995	-1.2
3 RD	63,377	45,470	230	49,972	58,503	-7.7
4 TH	35,927	34,123	47	33,330	36,331	1.1
5 TH	58,288	25,802	154	26,106	54,705	-6.1
6 TH	222,408	54,226	303	51,119	225,196	1.3
7 TH	103,206	50,053	5	49,028	106,047	2.8
8 TH	20,179	18,399	24	17,497	19,992	-0.9
9 TH	34,974	20,792	11	19,943	35,682	2.0
10 TH	60,635	49,498	251	46,684	63,498	4.7
11 TH	33,834	46,271	712	44,537	35,287	4.3
12 TH	75,801	100,897	2,650	102,816	76,605	1.1
13 TH	18,314	25,407	396	25,350	18,086	-1.2
14 TH	52,988	37,038	26	36,220	52,600	-0.7

CIRCUIT	BEGINNING OPEN	NEW FILED	REINSTATED	CLOSED	ENDING OPEN	INCREASE/ DECREASE % OF 2025 OPEN CASES
15 TH	24,045	25,876	6	25,700	23,873	-0.7
16 TH	50,025	69,431	2,295	69,021	51,921	3.8
17 TH	70,155	58,572	152	60,742	67,353	-4.0
18 TH	100,128	126,310	1,136	126,553	101,021	0.9
19 TH	64,104	79,121	2,494	80,650	63,809	-0.5
20 TH	101,739	39,635	94	39,136	140,108	37.7
21 ST	9,082	3,049	0	6,223	5,711	-37.1
22 ND	14,914	46,248	1,356	47,362	15,189	1.8
23 RD	15,178	29,834	363	31,280	15,818	4.2
24 TH	11,751	11,362	7	10,767	11,929	1.5
DOWNSSTATE	1,403,603	1,070,712	12,907	1,073,584	1,439,870	2.6
COOK COUNTY	694,554	557,689	13,587	358,999	906,831	30.6
STATE TOTAL	2,098,157	1,628,401	26,494	1,432,583	2,346,701	11.8

Due to a system change, Kankakee County did not report statistics for 2025.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT

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