

SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

2021 Annual Report



SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI
2021 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Structure of the Mississippi Judicial System | 1 |
| The Appellate Courts | 3 |
| Court Operations During the Pandemic | 7 |
| Leadership of Trial Court Conferences | 9 |
| Trial Court Statistics | 10 |
| Intervention Courts | 23 |
| Mississippi Electronic Courts | 27 |
| Funding and Administration of the Courts | 30 |
| Administrative Office of Courts | 33 |
| Court Interpreters | 34 |
| Indigent Parent Representation | 34 |
| The Resident Jurist..... | 35 |
| Commission on Continuing Legal Education..... | 35 |
| Board of Bar Admissions..... | 36 |
| Access to Justice Commission..... | 38 |
| Civil Legal Assistance Fund | 39 |
| Commission on Children’s Justice | 39 |

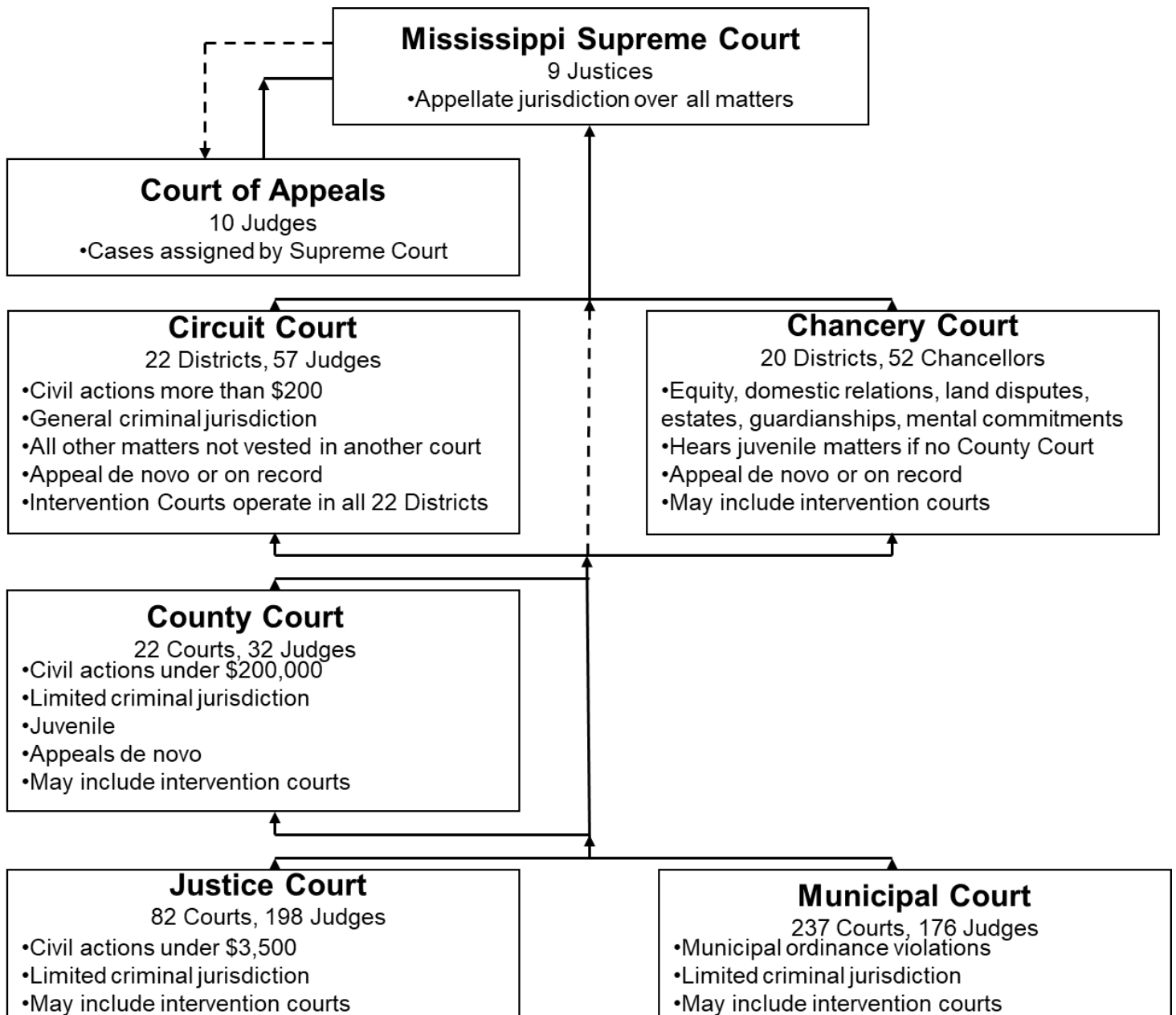
THE MISSISSIPPI JUDICIAL SYSTEM

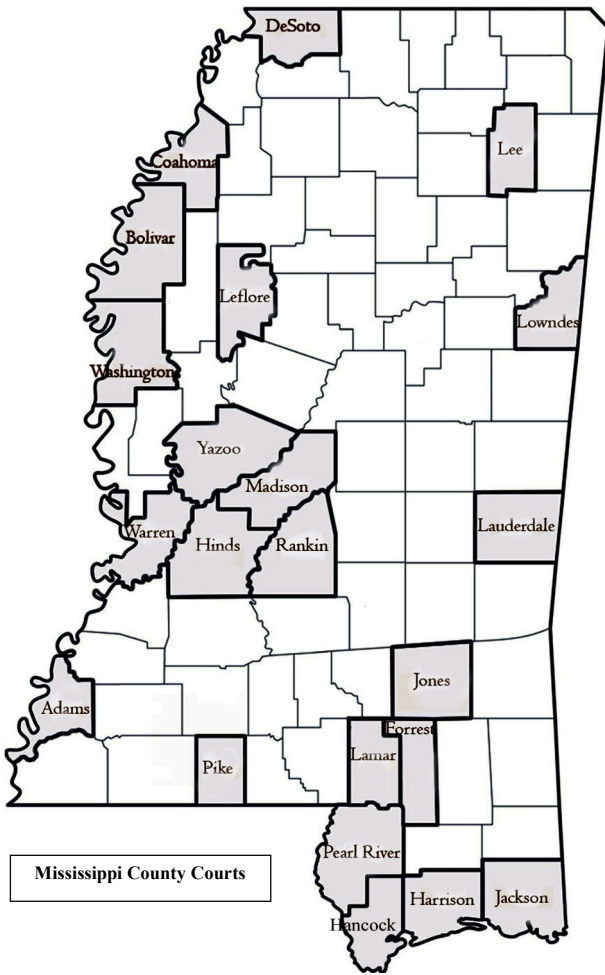
At the most basic level of the Judicial System, Justice Courts and Municipal Courts are where the largest number of people encounter the Judicial System. Trial courts of record are the County, Chancery, and Circuit Courts. The appellate system is made up of two appellate courts, the Court of Appeals of the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Supreme Court, which is Mississippi's court of last resort.

There are 82 Justice Courts with 198 judges. Justice Courts have jurisdiction over civil actions involving sums of \$3,500 or less and misdemeanors. They also hold preliminary hearings in felony cases. Appeals from the Justice Courts may be taken to Circuit Courts, or County Courts if available, and the cases appealed are tried de novo.

There are 237 Municipal Courts, 176 judges and 29 judges pro tempore. Some judges serve more than one local municipality. They have limited criminal jurisdiction and jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances. Appeals from the Municipal Courts may be taken to County or Circuit courts, and the cases appealed are tried de novo in the appellate court.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





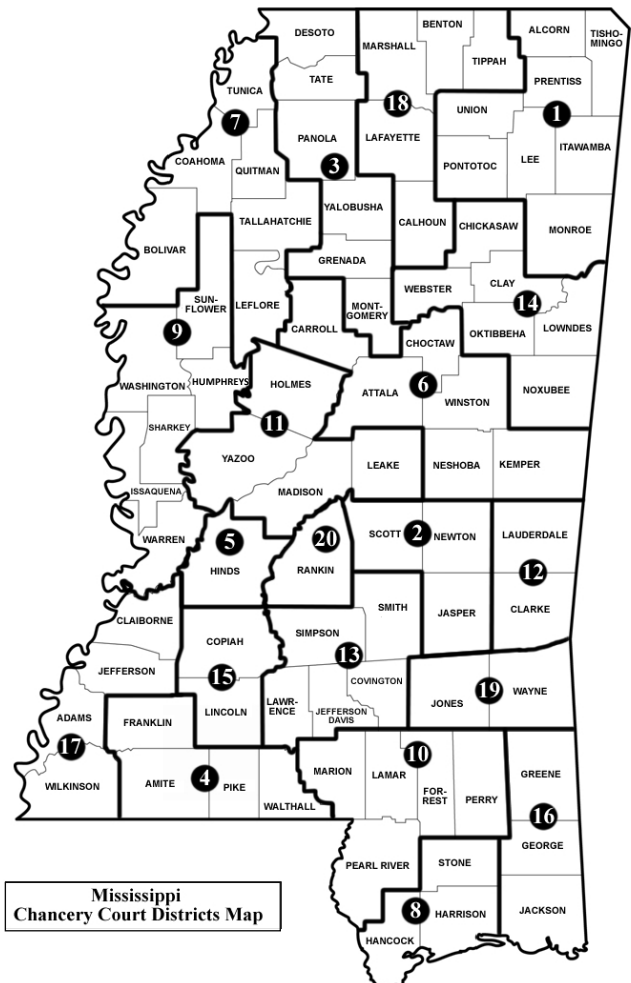
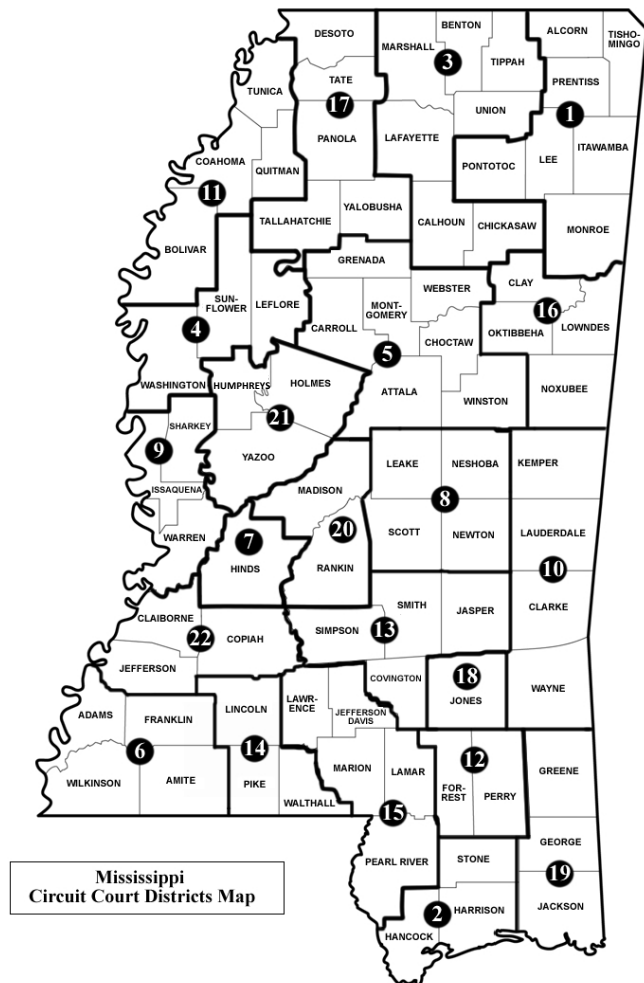
Mississippi has 22 County Courts with 32 judges. County Courts have concurrent civil jurisdiction with the Chancery and Circuit Courts in suits involving \$200,000 or less. They also have limited criminal jurisdiction and appellate jurisdiction from the Justice Courts and Municipal Courts. In counties with a County Court, the Youth Court functions as a division of the County Court handling juvenile matters.

The 82 Chancery Courts are organized into 20 districts with 52 chancellors. They have jurisdiction over matters of equity, domestic relations, land disputes, estates, guardianships and mental commitments. In counties without County Courts, the Chancery Courts handle Youth Court functions. They also receive appeals on the record from County Courts in matters over which the two courts have concurrent subject matter jurisdiction.

The Circuit Courts are the general jurisdiction trial courts in Mississippi. The 82 Circuit Courts are organized into 22 districts with 57 judges. They have jurisdiction of all civil actions at law seeking recovery in excess of \$200 and of all criminal cases under state law. They receive appeals de novo from the Justice Courts and on the record from County Courts.

There are nine justices on the Supreme Court and ten judges on the Court of Appeals. Three Supreme Court justices are elected from each of three districts, and two Court of Appeals judges are elected from each of five districts.

All appeals from Circuit, Chancery and Youth Courts come to the Supreme Court. Appeals from Justice Courts go to the Circuit Courts or to the County Courts where available. County Court appeals are to either the Circuit Courts, the Chancery Courts, or the Supreme Court, depending on the subject matter and type of case.





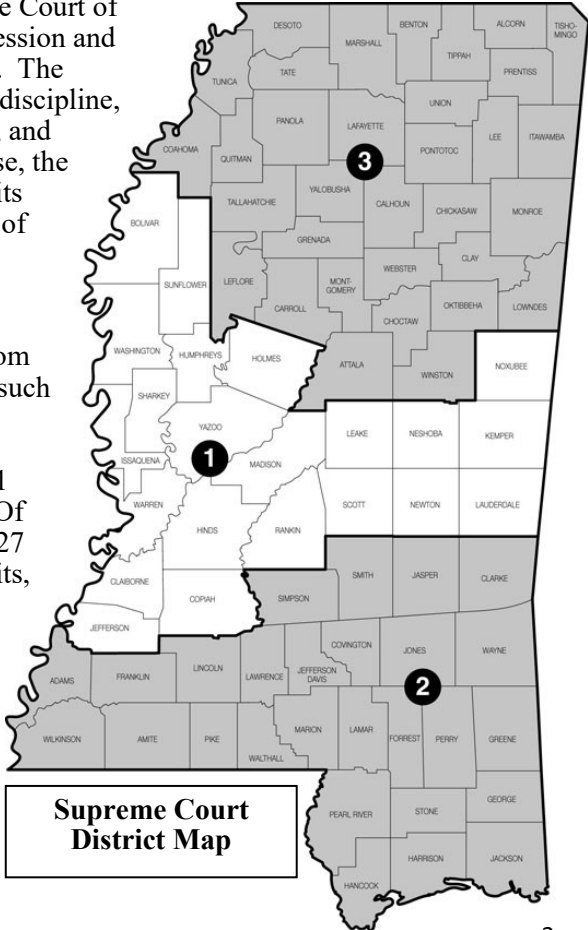
Members of the Mississippi Supreme Court are, seated, left to right, Presiding Justice James W. Kitchens, Chief Justice Michael K. Randolph, and Presiding Justice Leslie D. King. Standing are Justices Robert P. Chamberlin, T. Kenneth Griffis, David M. Ishee, Josiah D. Coleman, James D. Maxwell II, and Dawn H. Beam.

The Supreme Court may either retain an appeal or assign it to the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court retains cases involving issues of first impression and cases involving interpretation of the Constitution, statutes or regulations. The Supreme Court also retains appeals of death penalties, annexations, bar discipline, bond issues, election contests, judicial performance matters, utility rates, and certified questions from federal court. In deciding whether to retain a case, the Supreme Court considers the uniqueness of the case, the likelihood that its decision will be of important precedential value, whether it raises issues of first impression or interpretation, and the relative workloads of the two appellate courts.

In addition to its workload of retained cases, the Supreme Court decides all interlocutory appeals and all petitions for writ of certiorari from the Court of Appeals, and has significant administrative responsibilities such as rule making obligations ranging from rules of procedure to Bar admissions.

In 2021, the Supreme Court disposed of 299 cases. Of those, 131 cases were decided on the merits. The remaining cases were dismissed. Of the 109 appeals decided on the merits, 82 (75.2 percent) were civil, and 27 (24.8 percent) were criminal. Of the 82 civil appeals decided on the merits, 42 (51.2 percent) were affirmed, and 40 (48.8 percent) were reversed, vacated or remanded. Of the 27 criminal appeals decided on the merits, 21 (77.8 percent) were affirmed, and 6 (22.2 percent) were reversed.

The Supreme Court disposed of a total of 2,554 motions and petitions during 2021. This included 30 motions for rehearing, all of which were denied or dismissed. Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Court disposed of 123 petitions for interlocutory appeal. Of those, 78 (63.4 percent) were denied, 29 (23.6 percent) were granted, and 16 (13.0 percent) were dismissed or had other dispositions.





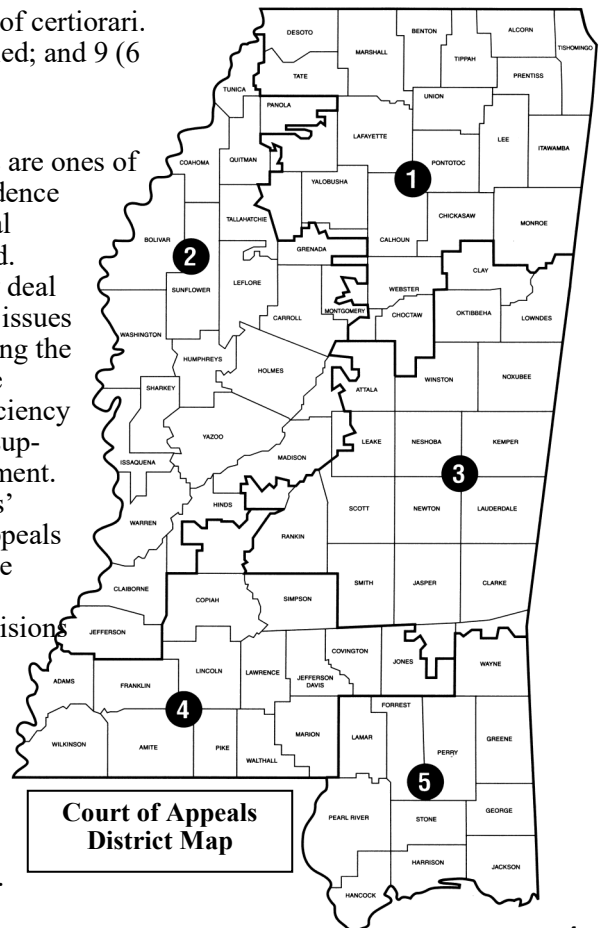
Members of the Court of Appeals of the State of Mississippi are, seated, left to right, Presiding Judge Virginia C. Carlton, Chief Judge Donna M. Barnes, and Presiding Judge Jack L. Wilson. Standing are Judges Joel Smith, Anthony N. Lawrence III, Latrice A. Westbrooks, Jim M. Greenlee, Deborah A. McDonald, David Neil McCarty, and John H. Emfinger.

In 2021, the Supreme Court disposed of 149 petitions for writ of certiorari. Of those, 23 (15.4 percent) were granted; 117 (78.5 percent) were denied; and 9 (6 percent) were dismissed or had other dispositions.

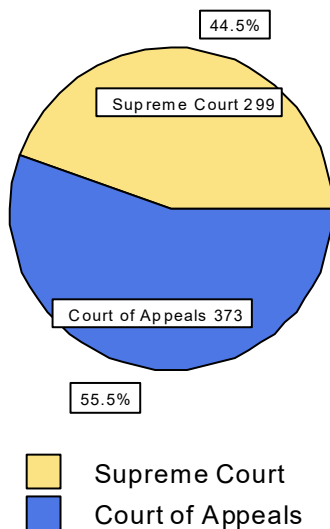
The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in 10 cases in 2021.

The Court of Appeals typically hears cases in which the issues are ones of error correction, such as whether the judgment is supported by the evidence or whether the judge correctly ruled on evidentiary challenges. Typical cases assigned to the Court are those in which the law is already settled.

These cases may deal with evidentiary issues which arose during the trial and with the weight and sufficiency of the evidence supporting the judgment. Also, all workers' compensation appeals are referred to the Court of Appeals. All decisions of the Court of Appeals are subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court on petition for writ of certiorari.



2021 Appellate Dispositions



Of 373 cases decided by the Court of Appeals in 2021, 314 were decided on the merits. The remaining cases were dismissed. Of those decided on the merits, 237 were civil and 77 were criminal. Of the 237 civil cases decided, 190 (80.2 percent) were affirmed and 47 (19.8 percent) were reversed or vacated. Of the 77 criminal appeals decided, 73 (94.8 percent) were affirmed and 4 (5.2 percent) were reversed. The Court of Appeals disposed of 1,194 motions and petitions. This included 147 motions for rehearing, of which 146 (99.3 percent) were denied or dismissed, and 1 (0.7 percent) was granted. The Court heard oral arguments in 25 cases in 2021. The Court was unable to continue the Court on the Road program on college campuses in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Appellate courts strive to decide cases within 270 days following completion of briefing, and in most cases, decisions are made more expeditiously. The Supreme Court's average time from end of briefing to case decision was 168 days during 2021, and the Court of Appeals' average time was 197 days. All petitions for writ of certiorari from the

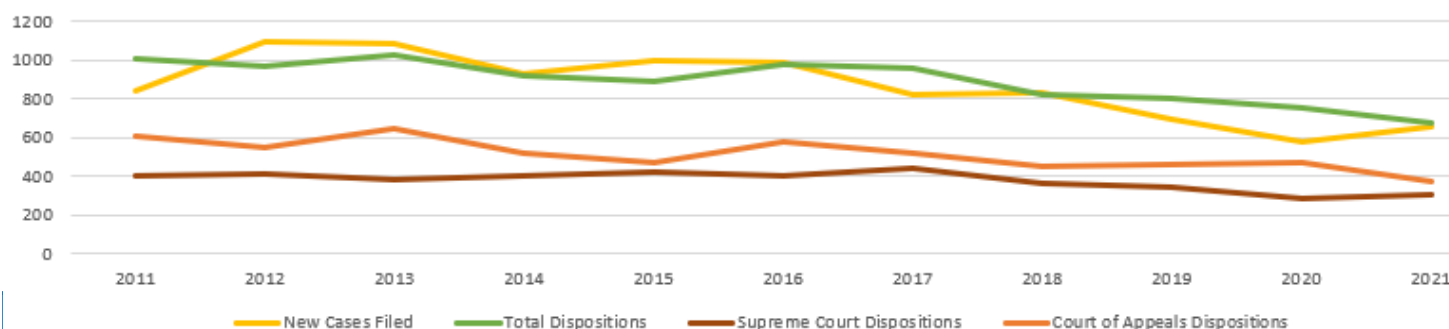
| Average days, final brief to decision | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Supreme Court | 200 | 192 | 200 | 174 | 187 | 168 |
| Court of Appeals | 228 | 213 | 211 | 211 | 206 | 197 |

Court of Appeals are either granted, denied or dismissed by the Supreme Court within 90 days following the filing of the responses to the petitions. Cases on review by certiorari must be decided within 180 days after the petitions are granted. The Supreme Court's average time was 89 days. Petitions for interlocutory appeal are usually granted, denied, or dismissed within 45 days after the responses are filed.

| 2019 — 2020 — 2021 Appellate Case Dispositions | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| | Supreme Court | | | Court of Appeals | | | Courts Combined | | |
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Dismissed by Clerk's Rule 2 Notice | 63 | 54 | 71 | 25 | 18 | 18 | 88 | 72 | 89 |
| Dismissed by Order of Court | 133 | 81 | 102 | 23 | 31 | 32 | 156 | 112 | 134 |
| Cert Petitions Dismissed after Grant | 1 | 2 | 1 | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Decided by Published Opinion | 142 | 147 | 121 | 413 | 417 | 322 | 655 | 564 | 443 |
| Per Curiam Affirmed | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Decided by Order | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Total Case Dispositions | 344 | 285 | 299 | 461 | 467 | 373 | 805 | 752 | 672 |

| 2019 — 2020 — 2021 Dispositions of Rehearing Motions, Interlocutory Appeals and Cert Petitions | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|------|------|------------------|------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| | Supreme Court | | | Court of Appeals | | | Courts Combined | | |
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Motions for Rehearing | 42 | 39 | 30 | 177 | 214 | 147 | 219 | 253 | 177 |
| Petitions for Interlocutory Appeal | 149 | 161 | 123 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 149 | 161 | 123 |
| Petitions for Certiorari | 148 | 154 | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 148 | 154 | 149 |

Appellate Filings and Dispositions 2011-2021



| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| New Cases Filed | 844 | 1,091 | 1,084 | 926 | 995 | 983 | 824 | 830 | 697 | 579 | 657 |
| Total Dispositions | 1,006 | 964 | 1,030 | 916 | 890 | 980 | 958 | 819 | 805 | 752 | 672 |
| Supreme Court Dispositions | 396 | 412 | 386 | 400 | 419 | 401 | 441 | 365 | 344 | 285 | 299 |
| Court of Appeals | 610 | 552 | 644 | 516 | 471 | 579 | 521 | 454 | 461 | 467 | 373 |

| Appellate Case Filings | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Notices of Appeal, General | 863 | 732 | 770 | 637 | 492 | 576 |
| Death Penalty Direct Appeal | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Death Penalty PCR Applications | 7 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Bar Discipline Cases | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| Bar Discipline Appeals | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bar Reinstatement Cases | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Judicial Performance Cases | 4 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Annexation Cases | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Election Contests | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| Interlocutory Appeals Granted | 44 | 37 | 22 | 29 | 43 | 26 |
| Certiorari Petitions Granted | 27 | 40 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 23 |
| Workers' Compensation Appeals | 24 | 27 | 25 | 17 | 17 | 14 |
| Utility Rate Cases | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federally Certified Questions | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total New Cases Filed | 983 | 824 | 830 | 697 | 579 | 657 |

Office of the Clerk of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

The Office of the Clerk is maintained within the framework of statutes enacted by the Legislature, rules, regulations, and orders promulgated by the Mississippi Supreme Court. The office consists of 12 full-time staff members, with Jeremy Whitmire serving as the Clerk of Court since July 2018. The Office of the Clerk serves both the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Mississippi Court of Appeals. It is tasked with providing numerous administrative and other court-related services which encompass essential and critical functions in organizing, promoting, managing, and maintaining the effective operations of the state's appellate judiciary.



The Clerk's Office is the point of contact for attorneys, litigants, and the general public with respect to all case-related matters, and is the primary repository for appellate cases and other matters before each Court. The office continues to be the hub for the State's Judiciary, working closely with the Administrative Office of Courts, Mississippi Electronic Courts, the Information Technology Department, and Court Administration to suggest and implement enhancements to our existing systems as the needs of trial courts, appellate courts, attorneys, litigants, and the public evolve. The synergy between the departments ensures the coordination of court processes and resources to provide the most effective flow and management of a large volume of appellate and other matters.

The Clerk's office continues to be involved in the design and implementation of a new appellate case management system. This exciting project is designed to update and streamline the Court's existing database platform to better support the needs of the appellate courts. The goal of this project is to improve upon the existing system, update notifications, and improve processing time and efficiency, all while increasing productivity and reporting to continue to ensure that all appellate matters are handled as expeditiously as possible.

In 2021, the Clerk's office processed 505 appellate records, 3,867 motions, 547 responses, and addressed 1,695 procedural motions. The office processed 1,353 briefs, 2,415 orders, and 669 mandates issued from both appellate courts. At present, the Clerk's office is responsible for approximately 876 open and active case files.

The Clerk's office in 2021 welcomed five new members to the team to replace staff who retired or advanced to other positions within the Court. In the second year of COVID-19, all members of the Clerk's office were resilient in their flexibility to quickly adapt to cover for teammates affected by the pandemic. Many operations of the office were revamped to meet ever-changing needs of the appellate courts, state courts, the Bar, and the public to ensure smooth day-to-day operations of the office and to make sure matters were addressed without delay. The challenges caused by the pandemic were met with the strength and versatility of the innovative members of our state's judicial system.

The Clerk's office continued to serve as a liaison between the trial courts, the Bar, the public and the appellate courts to address the needs of the state as they arose.

COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Mississippi courts in 2021 continued to experience the challenges that began with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Court operations continued to be a balancing act of meeting the constitutional mandate of keeping courts open while protecting the health and safety of the judiciary and the public.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Randolph at the outset reminded judges of the mandate of Article 3, Section 24 of the Mississippi Constitution: “All courts shall be open; and every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.” Chief Justice Randolph during the year 2021 issued seven Emergency Administrative Orders addressing out-of-state travel, continuing legal education requirements, temporary amendments to court rules and safety precautions for conducting court proceedings.



The Chief Justice followed the evolving guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control and the State Health Officer. While declining numbers of COVID-19 cases allowed the Court to relax some of the emergency provisions in May 2021, late summer brought a new wave of illness driven by the Delta variant of COVID-19. The Chief Justice issued Emergency Administrative Order 21 on Aug. 5, 2021. He said, “Unfortunately, circumstances have precipitously deteriorated, especially with respect to the Delta variant of COVID-19. On today's date, State Epidemiologist Dr. Paul Byers reported to the Court that the Delta variant is much more contagious and spreading three times faster than other strains. As of August 2, 2021, there were 1,574 new COVID-19 confirmed infections in Mississippi. Two days later, on August 4, 2021, the number of new confirmed infections had more than doubled to 3,164.

These new cases are dominated by the Delta variant and a growing number of infections are found in individuals aged 40 or younger. COVID-19-related hospitalizations and ICU occupancy are rapidly rising to levels seen during the worst days of the pandemic in Mississippi, with multiple hospitals throughout the state at maximum capacity. Unvaccinated Mississippians account for the overwhelming majority of confirmed infections, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. Dr. Byers further stated that between June 1 and August 1, 2021, unvaccinated individuals accounted for 97% of COVID-19 cases, 89% of hospitalizations, and 82% of deaths. The latest guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to encourage eligible individuals to ‘get a COVID-19 vaccination’ and recommends ‘wearing a mask in all indoor public settings, even if you are vaccinated.’ Similarly, ‘to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others,’ federal health authorities now recommend ‘wearing a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.’ According to Dr. Byers, every county in Mississippi presently constitutes ‘an area of substantial or high transmission.’”

The Aug. 5, 2021, order called for use of teleconferencing, videoconferencing and electronic filing to limit in-person contact in courts. The order reimplemented use of interactive audiovisual equipment to conduct proceedings remotely for felony plea hearings, felony sentencing hearings and probation violation hearings. Chief Justice Randolph in Emergency Administrative Order 21 said, “If not otherwise prohibited, all courts are urged to limit in-person, courtroom contact as much as possible by utilizing available technologies, including electronic filing, teleconferencing, and videoconferencing.” The order said, “Any in-person proceedings shall be limited to attorneys, parties, witnesses, security officers, members of the press, and other necessary persons, as determined by the trial judge.” Safety procedures were extended four more times in emergency administrative orders issued in September, October, November and December 2021.

Throughout the pandemic, individual judges were given discretion to control their dockets in a manner that took into consideration local conditions. Trial judges were authorized to exercise their sound discretion in extending deadlines, rescheduling hearings and trials and any other matters by case specific actions or by general orders. Many jury trials were delayed. Many trial judges continued to use larger alternative locations for jury selection, temporarily designating civic centers, coliseums, arenas and gymnasiums as courthouses so that large numbers of people summoned for jury service could adequately socially distance themselves.

Delays caused by COVID-19 continued to create a backlog for many trial courts. Chief Justice Randolph appointed special judges to the courts in which trial judges indicated that they needed help with a backlog. Chief Justice



Randolph began appointing special judges in July 2020 to assist trial courts with their backlogs, and extended special judge appointments in 2021. Fourteen senior status judges were appointed to assist 10 trial courts with their case backlogs in 2021. Special judge appointments included:

- Judge James D. Bell and Judge Jess H. Dickinson, Hinds County Court;
- Judge Jaye Bradley, 12th Chancery and 16th Chancery;
- Judge Barry W. Ford, 21st Circuit Court
- Judge John S. Grant III, 2nd Chancery and 15th Chancery;
- Judge John N. Hudson, Hinds County Youth Court;
- Judge David A. Chandler, Judge Jess H. Dickinson, Judge Isadore W. Patrick, Judge Betty W. Sanders, and Judge Stephen B. Simpson, Hinds Circuit Court;
- Judge Michael H. Ward and Judge Larry T. Wilson, Harrison County Youth Court;
- Judge William H. Singletary and Judge Patricia D. Wise, Hinds Chancery Court.

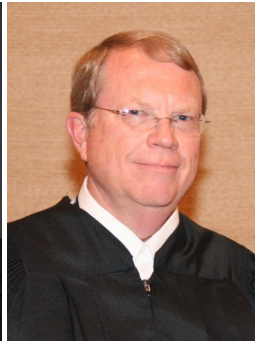
Special judges made the largest impact in Hinds County. More than 49,500 cases were identified and dealt with in Hinds County. In addition to the recent backlog, Judges Dickinson and Bell identified and dealt with a volume of stale cases. Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann in February 2021 arranged for the Legislative Budget hearing room in the Woolfolk State Office Building to be made available to the Hinds County special judges, and Judge Dickinson conducted mass docket calls there.

Total cases closed by Special Hinds County judges included:

- Hinds County Court: 42,352;
- Hinds Circuit Court: 6,876;
- Hinds Chancery Court: 303.

MISSISSIPPI TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD

Judicial Conference Leadership



The Conference of Circuit Court Judges elected officers on April 28, 2021, during the Spring Trial and Appellate Judges Conference in Biloxi. Circuit Judge Kelly Luther of Ripley was elected chair of the Conference. Circuit Judge Tony Mozingo of Oak Grove was elected vice-chair, and Circuit Judge Dal Williamson of Laurel was elected secretary-treasurer.

Judge Luther previously served as Conference vice-chair. He has served as a Third District Circuit Judge since January 2015. The Third Circuit District includes Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lafayette, Marshall, Tippah and Union counties. Judge Mozingo previously served as secretary-treasurer of the Conference. He has served as a Circuit Judge of the Fifteenth Circuit Court since January 2011. The district includes Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion and Pearl River counties. Judge Williamson has served since January 2015 as Circuit Judge of the Eighteenth District of Jones County.



Chancery Court Judges elected officers on Oct. 28, 2021, during the Fall Trial and Appellate Judges Conference in Jackson. Chancellor Robert G. Clark III of Lexington was elected chair of the Conference of Chancery Court Judges. Chancellor Gerald Martin of Raleigh was elected vice-chair, and Chancellor Larry Little of Oxford was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

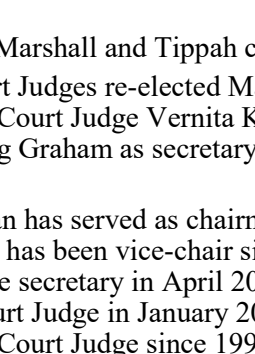
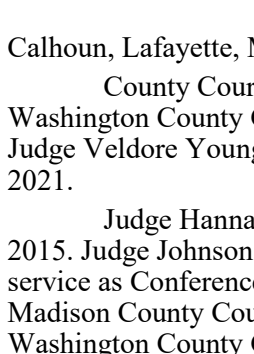
Judge Clark previously served as vice-chair of the Conference. He has served on the bench of the 11th Chancery District since January 2015. The district includes Holmes, Leake, Madison and Yazoo counties. Judge Martin has served on the 13th Chancery Court since January 2015. The district includes Covington, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Simpson and Smith counties. Judge Little took office in January 2019 in the 18th Chancery Court, which includes Benton,



Calhoun, Lafayette, Marshall and Tippah counties.

County Court Judges re-elected Madison County Court Judge Edwin Hannan as chairman, Washington County Court Judge Vernita King Johnson as vice-chair, and Lauderdale County Court Judge Veldore Young Graham as secretary of the Conference of County Court Judges on Oct. 28, 2021.

Judge Hannan has served as chairman of the Conference of County Court Judges since 2015. Judge Johnson has been vice-chair since October 2004. Judge Young Graham began her service as Conference secretary in April 2012. Judge Hannan, of Madison, began his service as Madison County Court Judge in January 2007. Judge Johnson, of Greenville, has served as Washington County Court Judge since 1999. Judge Young Graham, of Meridian, has served on the Lauderdale County Court bench since January 2007.



Rankin County and Youth Court Judge Thomas Broome is chair of the Council of Youth Court Judges, a position which he has held since September 2011. Judge Broome has served as Youth Court Judge of Rankin County since January 2003. Tishomingo County Youth Court Referee Joey Cobb has served as vice-chair since September 2011. Lauderdale County Youth Court Judge Veldore Young Graham has served as secretary-treasurer since September 2017.



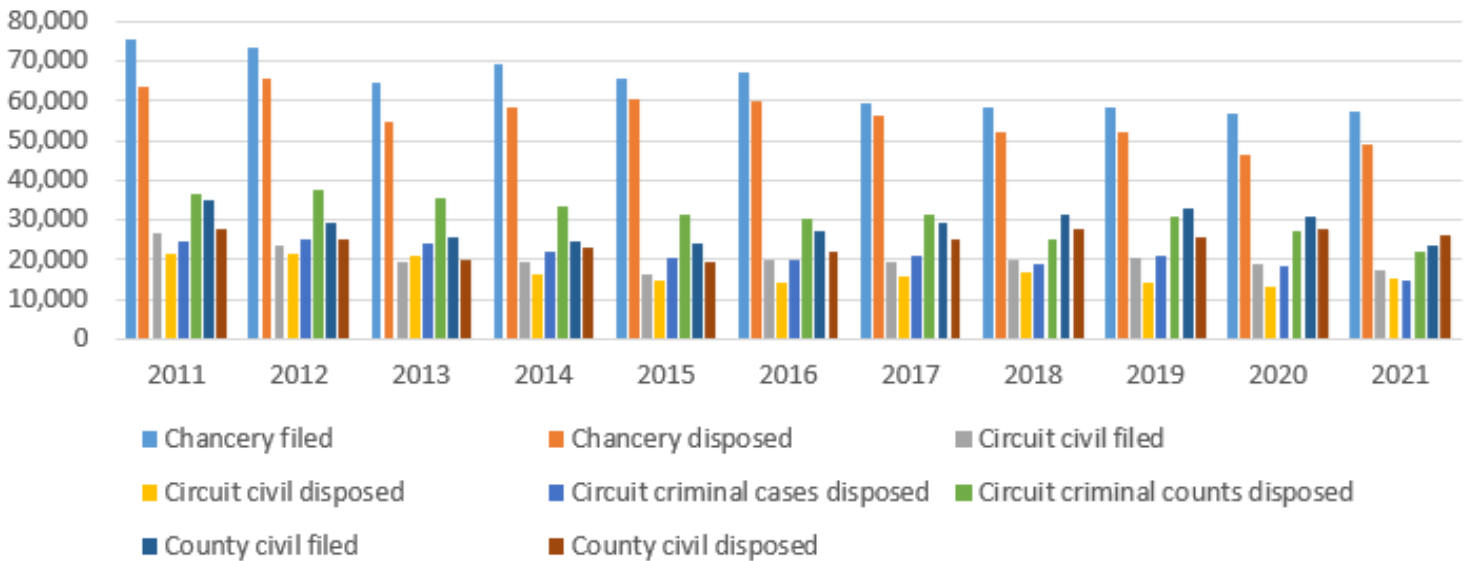
The Conference of Senior Status Judges elected officers at the Spring Trial and Appellate Judges Conference. Retired Court of Appeals Judge Joe Lee of Brandon is chairman of the Conference. Retired Chancellor Patricia Wise of Jackson is vice-chair, and retired Circuit Judge Steve Simpson of Gulfport is secretary-treasurer.

Judge Lee served on the Mississippi Court of Appeals 1999-2018. He was Chief Judge 2011-2018. Judge Wise served as a Hinds Chancery Judge 1989-2018. Judge Simpson was a 2nd Circuit judge 2000-2008.

In December 2021, Senior Status judges included 66 retired judges. Senior Status judges serve a critical function, hearing cases by appointment of the Supreme Court when all judges in a district recuse themselves. In 2021, the Supreme Court made 322 special judge appointments. Only 11 of those were not Senior Status judges.



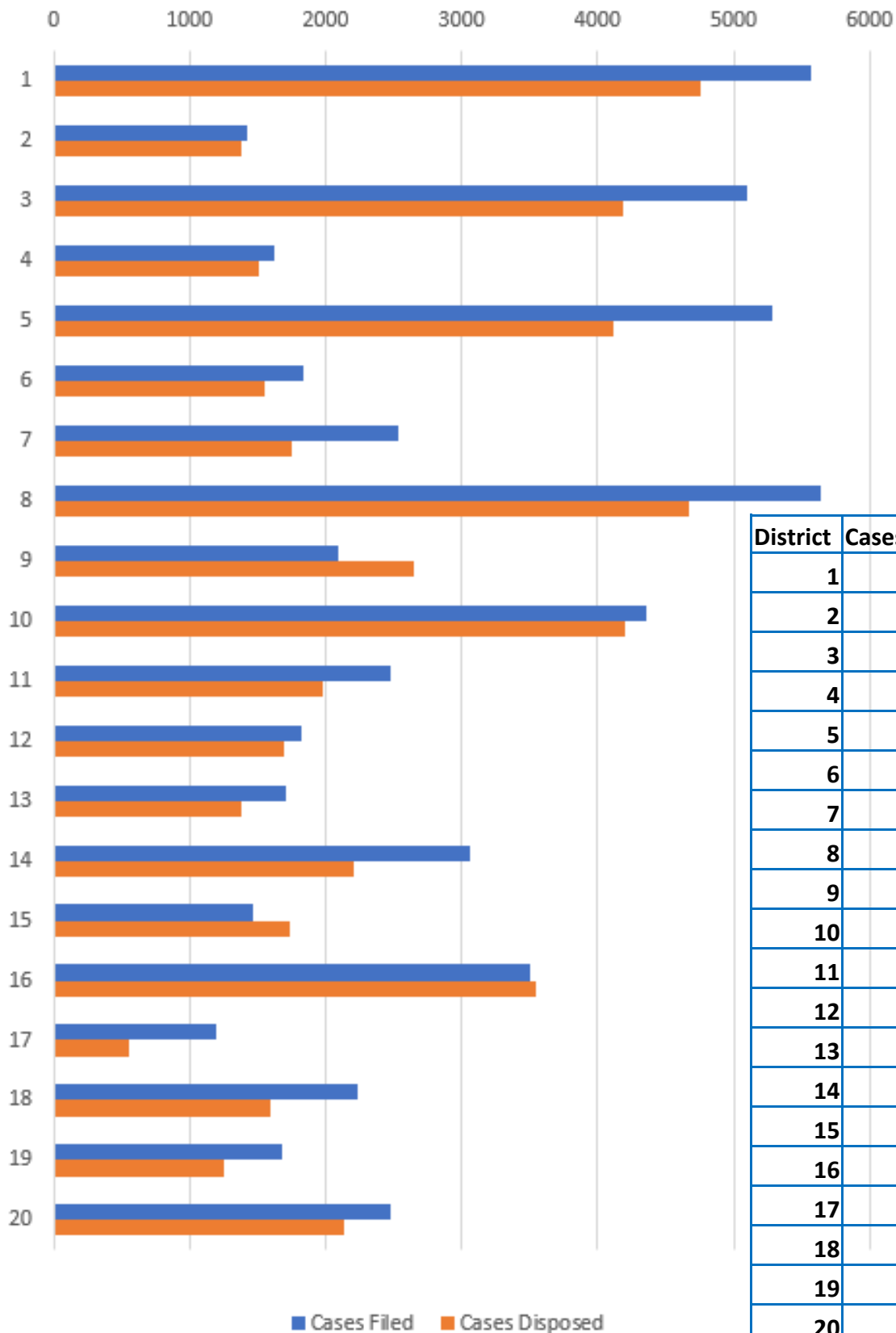
Trial Court Filings & Dispositions FY 2011-2021



| FISCAL YEAR | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chancery filed | 75,558 | 73,268 | 64,515 | 69,100 | 65,589 | 66,999 | 59,221 | 58,346 | 58,099 | 56,754 | 57,050 |
| Chancery disposed | 63,349 | 65,782 | 54,817 | 58,573 | 60,192 | 59,780 | 56,079 | 52,132 | 52,042 | 46,621 | 48,852 |
| Circuit civil filed | 26,862 | 23,553 | 19,429 | 19,305 | 16,236 | 19,907 | 19,328 | 19,789 | 20,235 | 18,984 | 17,561 |
| Circuit civil disposed | 21,687 | 21,441 | 21,003 | 16,123 | 14,874 | 14,467 | 15,557 | 16,974 | 14,288 | 13,340 | 15,529 |
| Circuit criminal cases disposed | 24,371 | 24,917 | 23,851 | 22,229 | 20,703 | 20,188 | 21,182 | 19,000 | 21,171 | 18,581 | 14,781 |
| Circuit criminal counts disposed | 36,561 | 37,366 | 35,437 | 33,322 | 31,174 | 30,284 | 31,361 | 25,009 | 30,644 | 27,367 | 22,212 |
| County civil filed | 35,254 | 29,177 | 25,761 | 24,793 | 24,055 | 27,366 | 29,417 | 31,307 | 32,915 | 30,791 | 23,696 |
| County civil disposed | 27,606 | 24,930 | 20,038 | 23,187 | 19,552 | 21,861 | 24,933 | 27,602 | 25,665 | 27,581 | 26,120 |

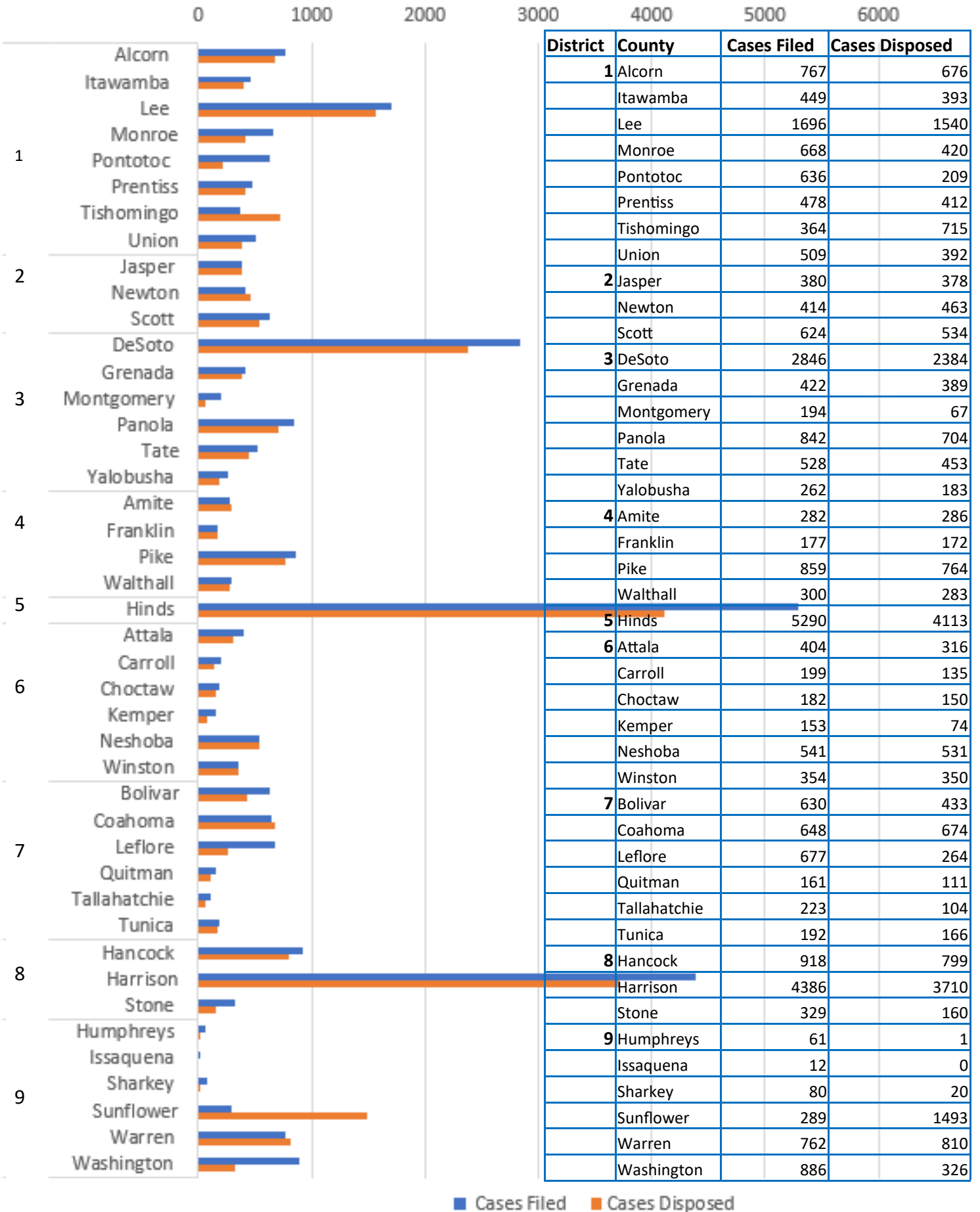
CHANCERY COURTS

Chancery Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021

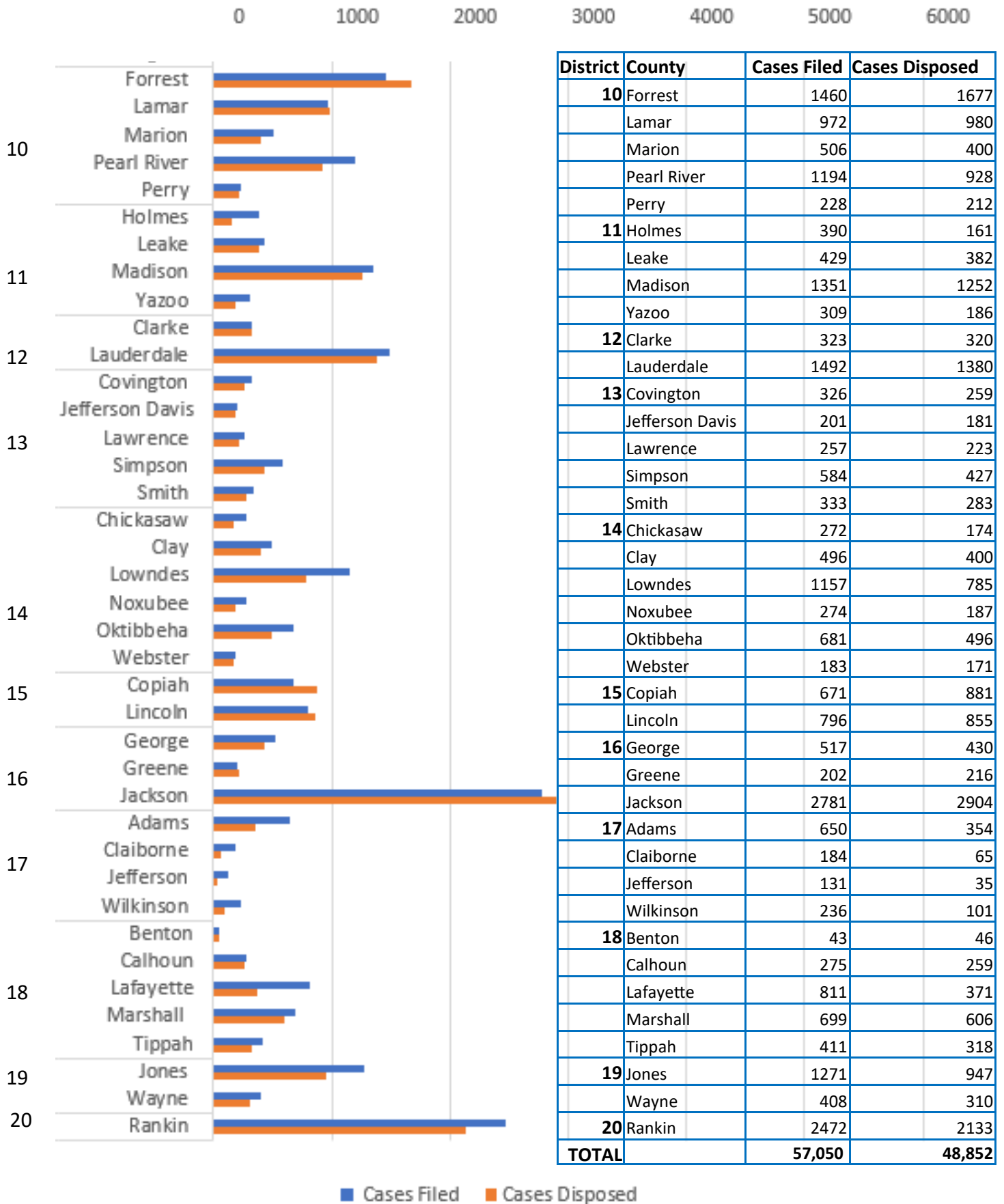


| District | Cases Filed | Cases Disposed |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | 5567 | 4757 |
| 2 | 1418 | 1375 |
| 3 | 5094 | 4180 |
| 4 | 1618 | 1505 |
| 5 | 5290 | 4113 |
| 6 | 1833 | 1556 |
| 7 | 2531 | 1752 |
| 8 | 5633 | 4669 |
| 9 | 2090 | 2650 |
| 10 | 4360 | 4197 |
| 11 | 2479 | 1981 |
| 12 | 1815 | 1700 |
| 13 | 1701 | 1373 |
| 14 | 3063 | 2213 |
| 15 | 1467 | 1736 |
| 16 | 3500 | 3550 |
| 17 | 1201 | 555 |
| 18 | 2239 | 1600 |
| 19 | 1679 | 1257 |
| 20 | 2472 | 2133 |
| TOTAL | 57050 | 48852 |

Chancery Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021

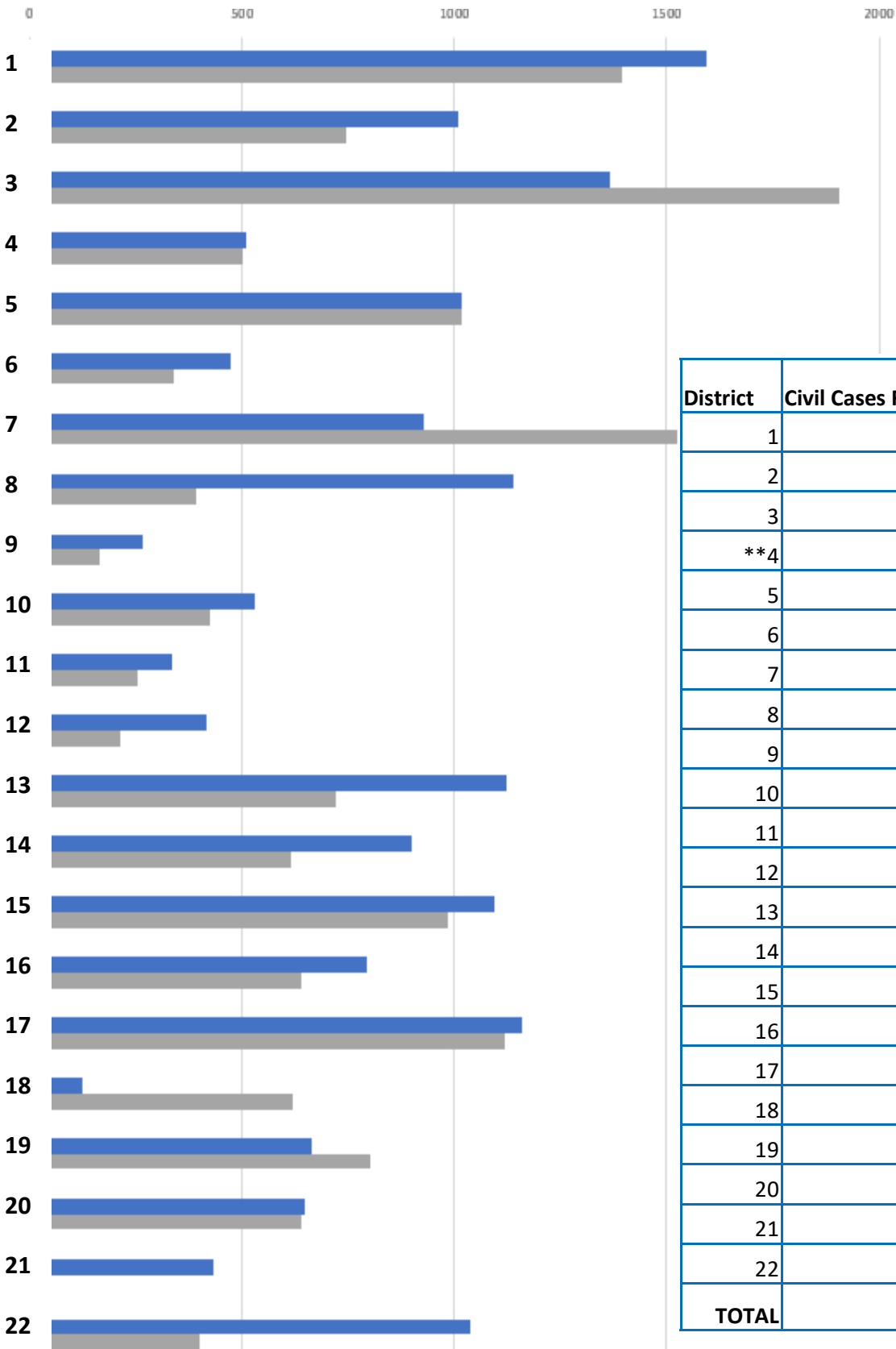


Chancery Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021



CIRCUIT COURTS

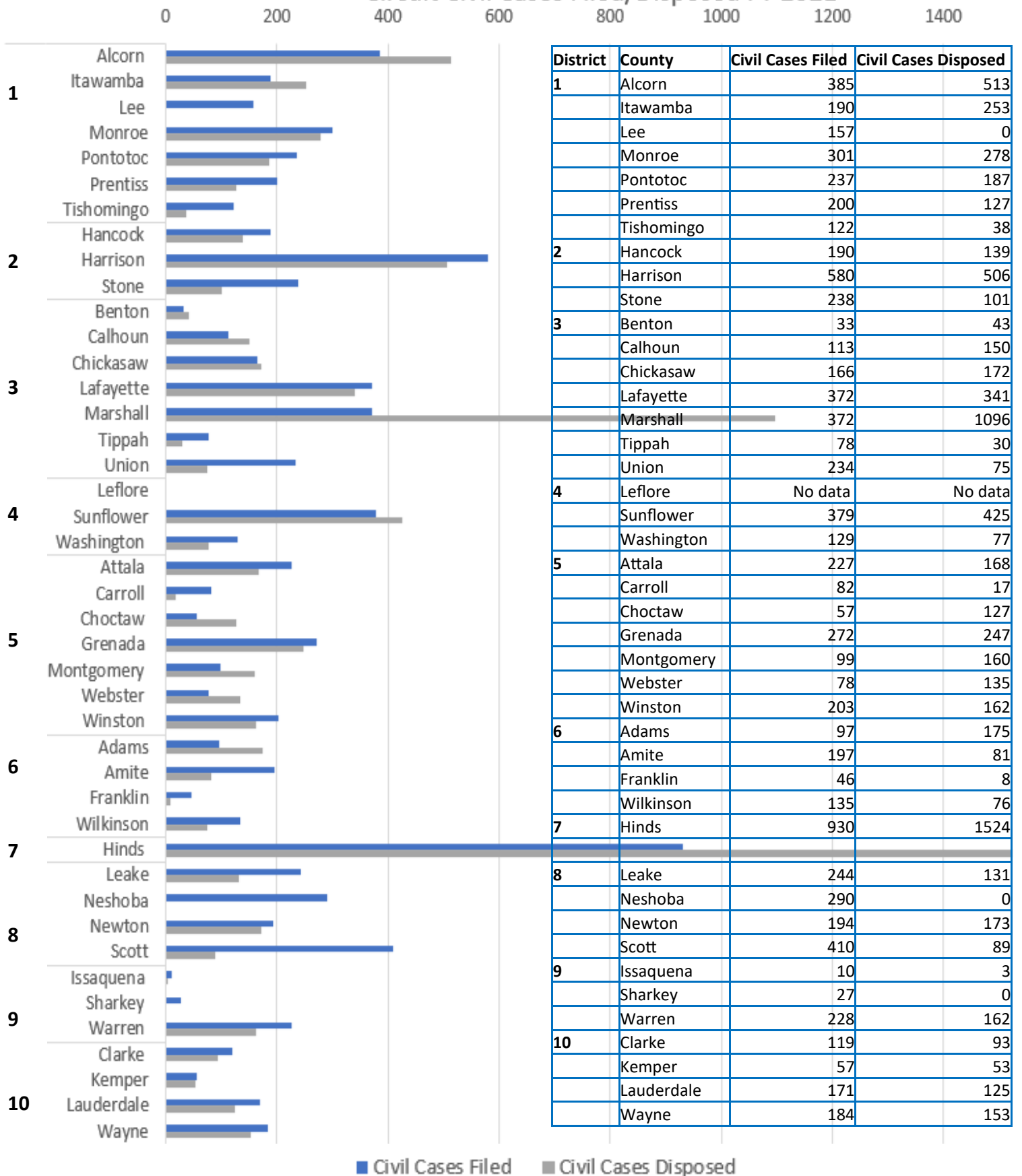
Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021



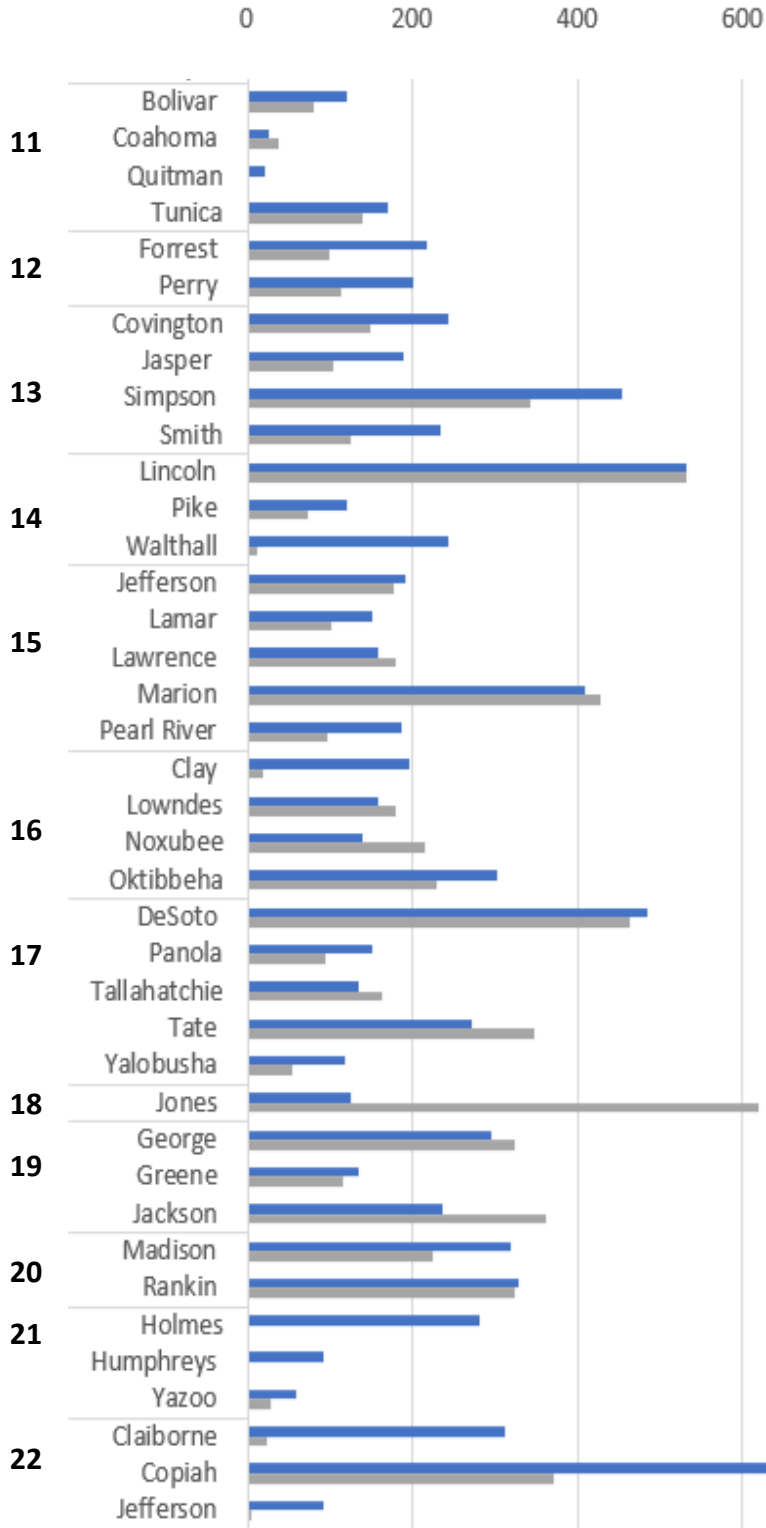
**No data provided by Leflore County Circuit Court.

■ Civil Cases Filed ■ Civil Cases Disposed

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021



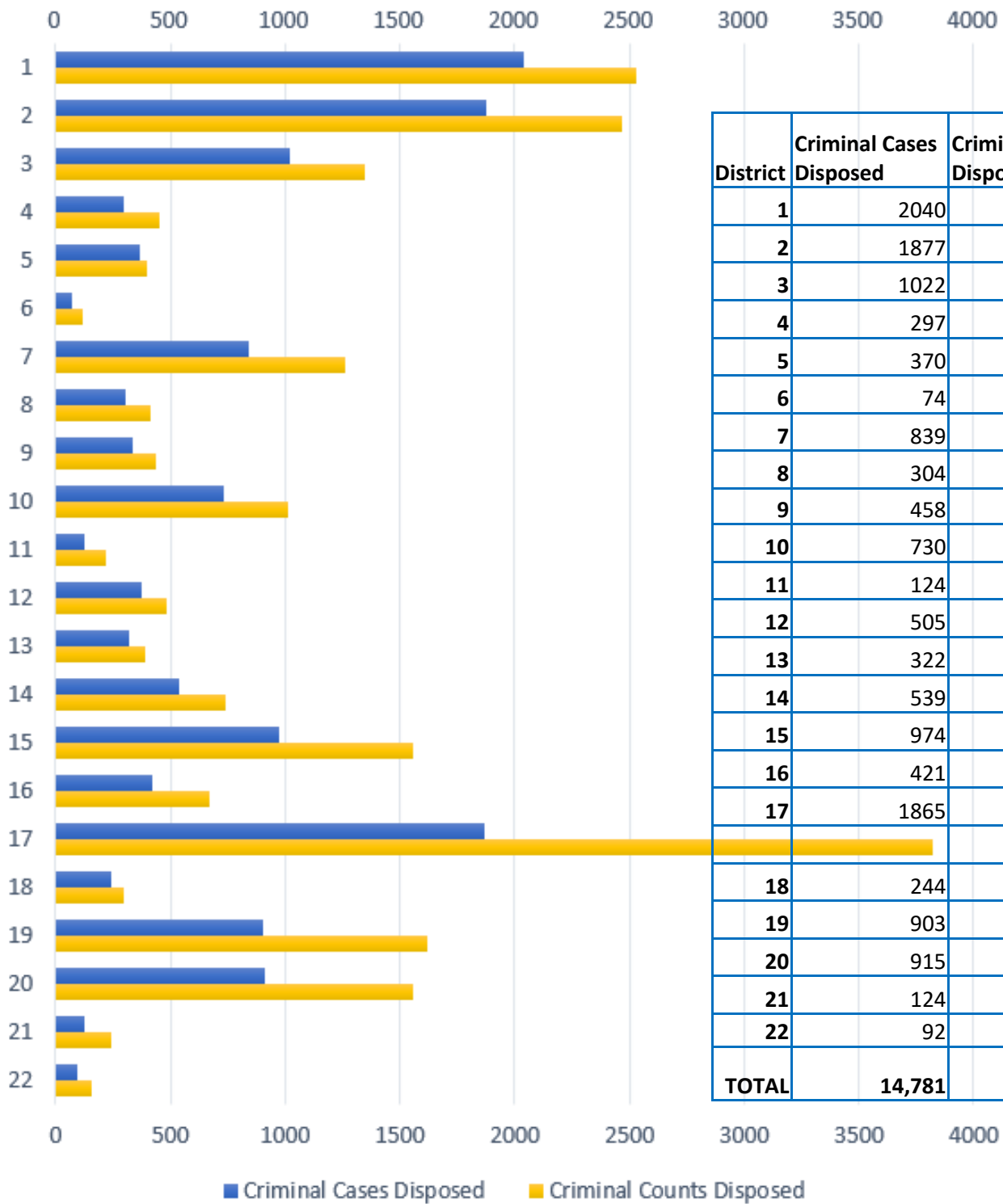
Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021



| District | County | Civil Cases Filed | Civil Cases Disposed |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 11 | Bolivar | 120 | 80 |
| | Coahoma | 25 | 36 |
| | Quitman | 21 | 26 |
| 12 | Tunica | 171 | 138 |
| | Forrest | 217 | 99 |
| 13 | Perry | 200 | 113 |
| | Covington | 244 | 148 |
| 14 | Jasper | 189 | 103 |
| | Simpson | 455 | 344 |
| | Smith | 233 | 125 |
| 15 | Lincoln | 533 | 532 |
| | Pike | 121 | 73 |
| | Walthall | 244 | 12 |
| 16 | Jefferson | 191 | 178 |
| | Lamar | 150 | 100 |
| | Lawrence | 157 | 180 |
| | Marion | 409 | 429 |
| 17 | Pearl River | 186 | 97 |
| | Clay | 195 | 19 |
| | Lowndes | 159 | 179 |
| | Noxubee | 139 | 214 |
| 18 | Oktibbeha | 302 | 229 |
| | DeSoto | 486 | 463 |
| | Panola | 150 | 95 |
| | Tallahatchie | 135 | 162 |
| 19 | Tate | 272 | 347 |
| | Yalobusha | 117 | 53 |
| | Jones | 124 | 621 |
| | George | 296 | 323 |
| 20 | Greene | 134 | 116 |
| | Jackson | 236 | 362 |
| | Madison | 319 | 224 |
| 21 | Rankin | 328 | 325 |
| | Holmes | 282 | 137 |
| | Humphreys | 92 | 8 |
| 22 | Yazoo | 58 | 28 |
| | Claiborne | 312 | 22 |
| | Copiah | 634 | 372 |
| Jefferson | 92 | 4 | |
| TOTAL | | 17,561 | 15,529 |

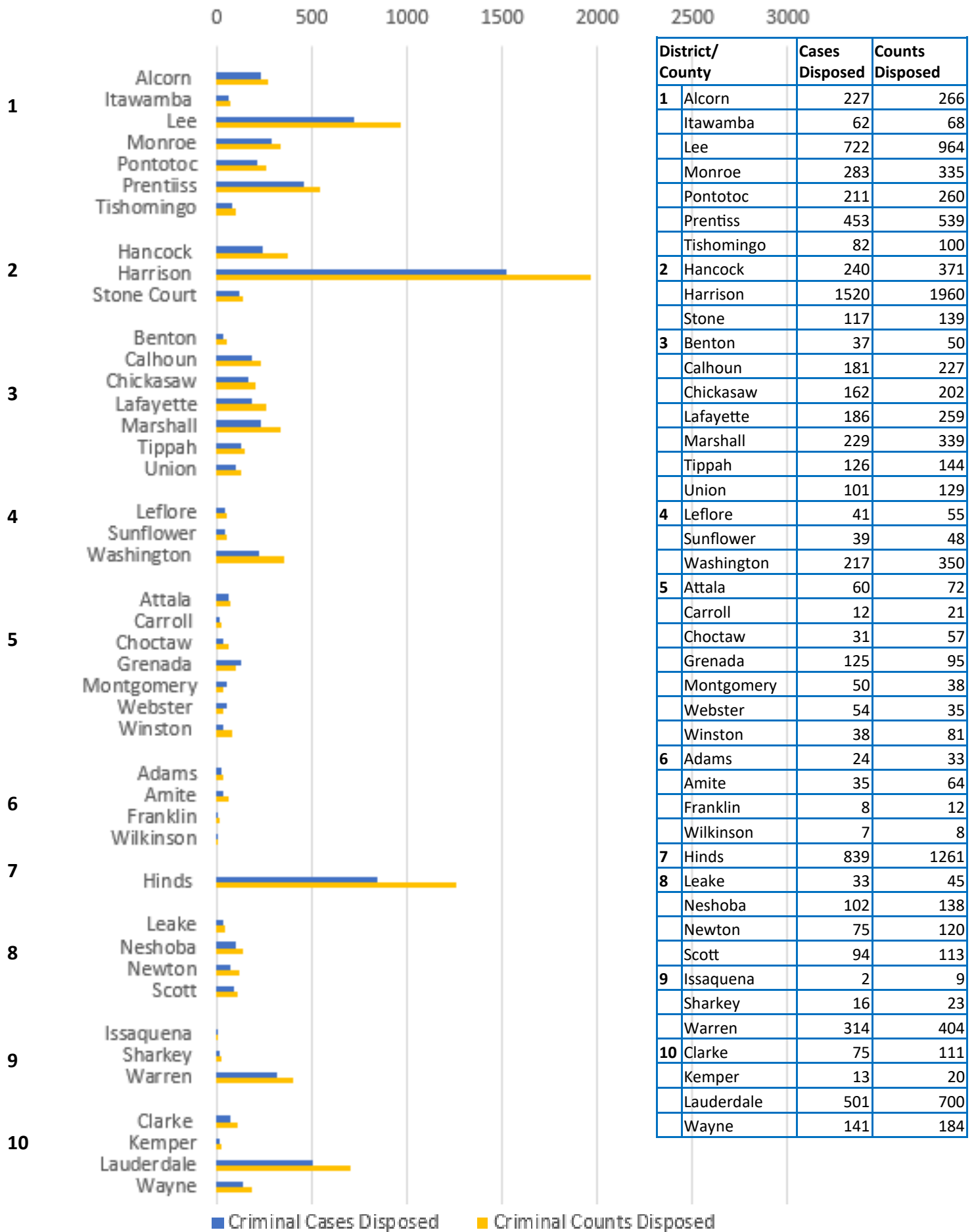
■ Civil Cases Filed ■ Civil Cases Disposed

Circuit Criminal Cases/Counts Disposed FY 2021

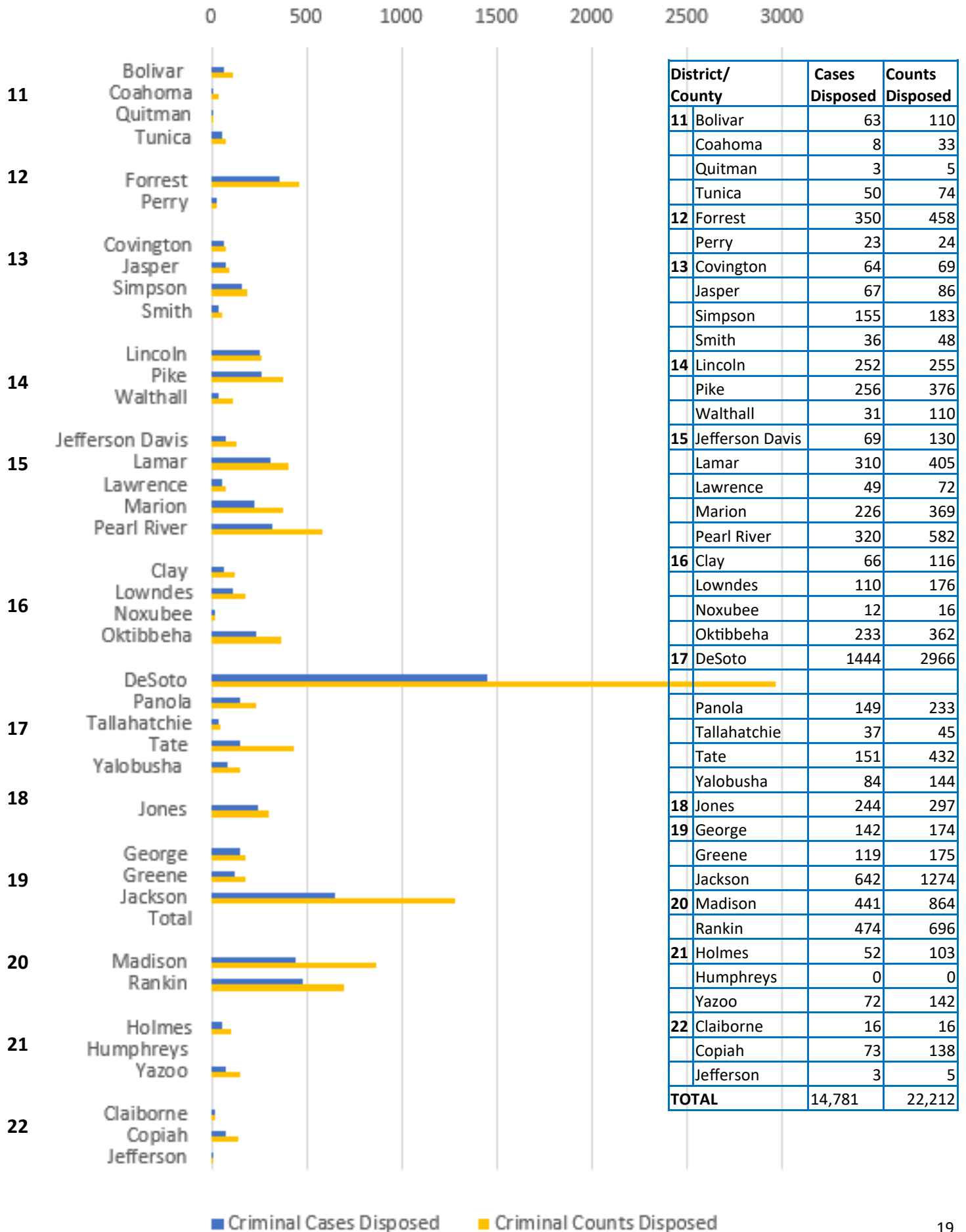


| District | Criminal Cases Disposed | Criminal Counts Disposed |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2040 | 2532 |
| 2 | 1877 | 2470 |
| 3 | 1022 | 1350 |
| 4 | 297 | 453 |
| 5 | 370 | 399 |
| 6 | 74 | 117 |
| 7 | 839 | 1261 |
| 8 | 304 | 416 |
| 9 | 458 | 32 |
| 10 | 730 | 1015 |
| 11 | 124 | 222 |
| 12 | 505 | 820 |
| 13 | 322 | 386 |
| 14 | 539 | 741 |
| 15 | 974 | 1558 |
| 16 | 421 | 670 |
| 17 | 1865 | 3820 |
| 18 | 244 | 297 |
| 19 | 903 | 1623 |
| 20 | 915 | 1560 |
| 21 | 124 | 245 |
| 22 | 92 | 159 |
| TOTAL | 14,781 | 22,212 |

Circuit Criminal Cases/Counts Disposed by County, FY 2021

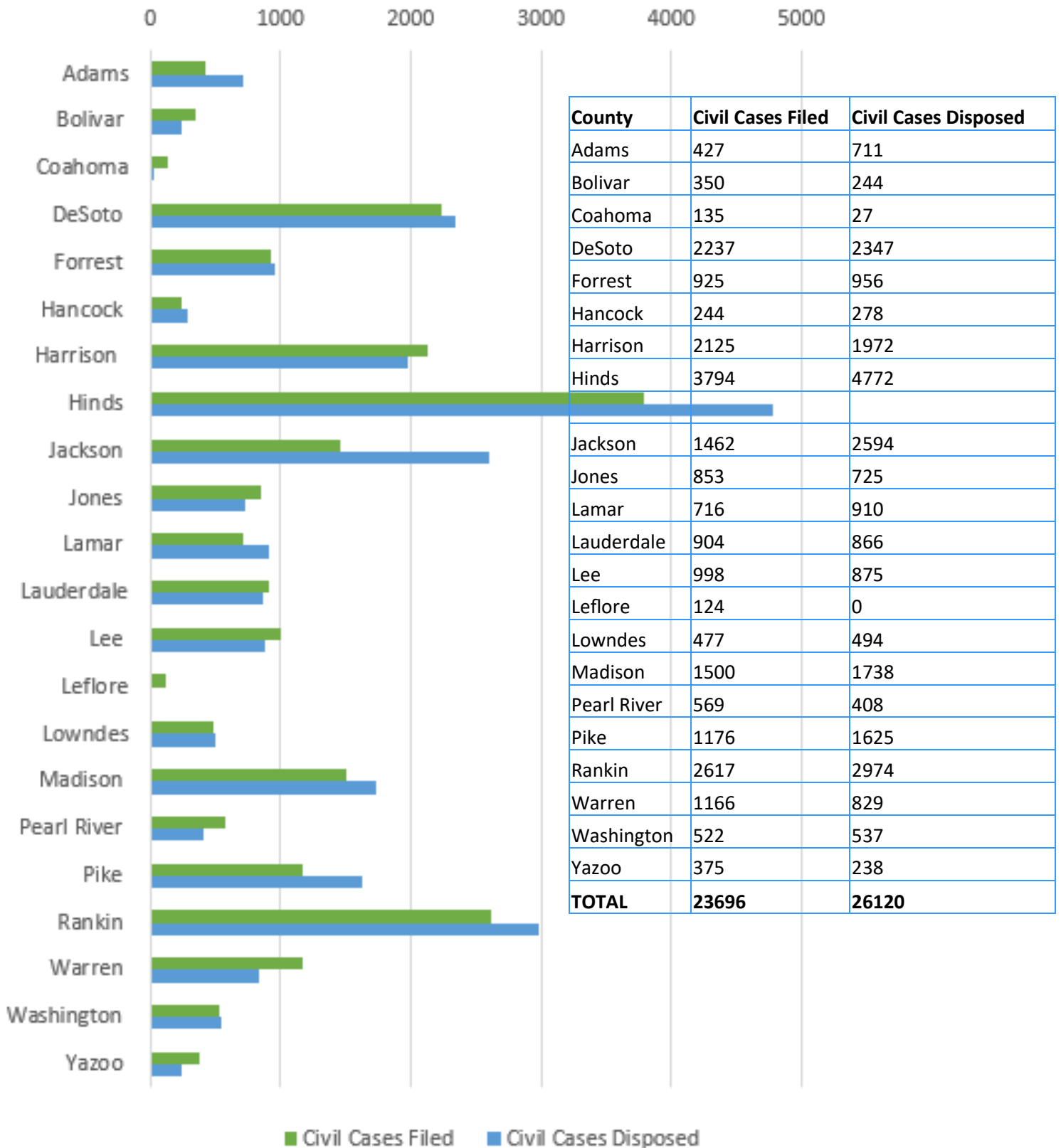


Circuit Criminal Cases/Counts Disposed by County, FY 2021



COUNTY COURTS

County Court Civil Cases Filed/Disposed FY 2021



YOUTH COURTS, CALENDAR YEAR 2021

| | Total Referrals | | | Formal Adjudicated Referrals | | | Referrals Handled Informally | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Abuse | Neglected | Delinquent | Abuse | Neglected | Delinquent | Abuse | Neglected | Delinquent |
| ADAMS | 84 | 288 | 187 | 14 | 84 | 159 | 70 | 204 | 28 |
| ALCORN | 173 | 577 | 90 | 0 | 46 | 44 | 173 | 531 | 46 |
| AMITE | 21 | 75 | 19 | 1 | 20 | 15 | 20 | 55 | 4 |
| ATTALA | 0 | 33 | 60 | 0 | 6 | 32 | 0 | 27 | 28 |
| BENTON | 9 | 79 | 8 | 1 | 16 | 4 | 8 | 63 | 4 |
| BOLIVAR | 8 | 40 | 121 | 3 | 28 | 47 | 5 | 12 | 74 |
| CALHOUN | 27 | 193 | 66 | 2 | 30 | 51 | 25 | 163 | 15 |
| CARROLL | 12 | 17 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| CHICKASAW | 22 | 74 | 44 | 2 | 19 | 44 | 20 | 55 | 0 |
| CHOCTAW | 2 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CLAIBORNE | 16 | 51 | 19 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 45 | 6 |
| CLARKE | 87 | 78 | 25 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 84 | 77 | 3 |
| CLAY | 31 | 79 | 51 | 14 | 35 | 43 | 17 | 44 | 8 |
| COAHOMA | 46 | 192 | 142 | 1 | 22 | 74 | 45 | 170 | 68 |
| COPIAH | 23 | 174 | 138 | 2 | 16 | 107 | 21 | 158 | 31 |
| COVINGTON | 62 | 131 | 85 | 12 | 24 | 82 | 50 | 107 | 3 |
| DESOTO | 1114 | 1599 | 1278 | 18 | 73 | 976 | 1096 | 1526 | 302 |
| FORREST | 14 | 89 | 180 | 14 | 83 | 90 | 0 | 6 | 90 |
| FRANKLIN | 35 | 109 | 21 | 7 | 17 | 12 | 28 | 92 | 9 |
| GEORGE | 17 | 37 | 52 | 3 | 22 | 38 | 14 | 15 | 14 |
| GREENE | 2 | 29 | 13 | 2 | 29 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| GRENADA | 19 | 48 | 208 | 8 | 38 | 165 | 11 | 10 | 43 |
| HANCOCK | 265 | 930 | 169 | 9 | 105 | 96 | 256 | 825 | 73 |
| HARRISON | 1626 | 3391 | 1315 | 10 | 127 | 571 | 1616 | 3264 | 744 |
| HINDS | 120 | 378 | 464 | 116 | 353 | 431 | 4 | 25 | 33 |
| HOLMES | 4 | 8 | 104 | 2 | 5 | 84 | 2 | 3 | 20 |
| HUMPHREYS | 10 | 29 | 51 | 2 | 15 | 41 | 8 | 14 | 10 |
| ISSAQUENA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ITAWAMBA | 98 | 284 | 55 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 95 | 276 | 28 |
| JACKSON | 54 | 412 | 498 | 18 | 299 | 217 | 36 | 113 | 281 |
| JASPER | 12 | 50 | 55 | 0 | 11 | 53 | 12 | 39 | 2 |
| JEFFERSON | 8 | 13 | 34 | 7 | 13 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| JEFFERSON DAVIS | 172 | 943 | 224 | 55 | 116 | 207 | 128 | 839 | 2 |
| JONES | 142 | 452 | 824 | 36 | 262 | 666 | 106 | 190 | 158 |
| KEMPER | 10 | 25 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 24 | 0 |
| LAFAYETTE | 15 | 45 | 82 | 15 | 45 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| LAMAR | 292 | 621 | 295 | 7 | 50 | 203 | 285 | 571 | 92 |
| LAUDERDALE | 249 | 838 | 364 | 6 | 69 | 250 | 243 | 769 | 114 |
| LAWRENCE | 34 | 131 | 40 | 7 | 38 | 36 | 27 | 93 | 4 |
| LEAKE | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LEE | 276 | 877 | 515 | 5 | 115 | 290 | 271 | 762 | 225 |

| | Total Referrals | | | Formal Adjudicated Referrals | | | Referrals Handled Informally | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|------------|------------------------------|---------|------------|------------------------------|---------|------------|
| | Abuse | Neglect | Delinquent | Abuse | Neglect | Delinquent | Abuse | Neglect | Delinquent |
| LEFLORE | 147 | 384 | 143 | 11 | 51 | 103 | 136 | 333 | 40 |
| LINCOLN | 80 | 73 | 78 | 26 | 24 | 48 | 54 | 49 | 30 |
| LOWNDES | 201 | 340 | 207 | 21 | 92 | 151 | 180 | 248 | 56 |
| MADISON | 266 | 459 | 264 | 2 | 12 | 257 | 264 | 447 | 7 |
| MARION | 86 | 299 | 118 | 8 | 37 | 116 | 78 | 262 | 2 |
| MARSHALL | 97 | 336 | 126 | 12 | 31 | 108 | 85 | 305 | 18 |
| MONROE | 21 | 127 | 106 | 2 | 32 | 72 | 19 | 95 | 34 |
| MONTGOMERY | 1 | 2 | 58 | 1 | 2 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| NESHOBA | 88 | 312 | 129 | 2 | 16 | 124 | 86 | 296 | 5 |
| NEWTON | 2 | 10 | 55 | 2 | 10 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| NOXUBEE | 1 | 13 | 24 | 1 | 12 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| OKTIBBEHA | 5 | 72 | 118 | 2 | 70 | 116 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| PANOLA | 27 | 567 | 133 | 0 | 30 | 94 | 27 | 537 | 39 |
| PEARL RIVER | 311 | 584 | 97 | 11 | 79 | 70 | 300 | 505 | 27 |
| PERRY | 21 | 54 | 13 | 1 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 34 | 0 |
| PIKE | 250 | 638 | 160 | 41 | 74 | 75 | 209 | 564 | 85 |
| PONTOTOC | 399 | 589 | 149 | 7 | 25 | 130 | 392 | 564 | 19 |
| PRENTISS | 2 | 29 | 65 | 1 | 17 | 63 | 1 | 12 | 2 |
| QUITMAN | 1 | 8 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| RANKIN | 440 | 911 | 1217 | 20 | 347 | 280 | 420 | 564 | 937 |
| SCOTT | 14 | 93 | 82 | 1 | 45 | 73 | 13 | 48 | 9 |
| SHARKEY | 0 | 1 | 34 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SIMPSON | 216 | 256 | 160 | 11 | 28 | 144 | 205 | 228 | 16 |
| SMITH | 2 | 20 | 54 | 2 | 17 | 54 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| STONE | 20 | 56 | 29 | 8 | 28 | 9 | 12 | 28 | 20 |
| SUNFLOWER | 70 | 180 | 243 | 20 | 45 | 205 | 50 | 135 | 38 |
| TALLAHATCHIE | 29 | 124 | 19 | 0 | 11 | 12 | 29 | 113 | 7 |
| TATE | 156 | 227 | 129 | 5 | 23 | 68 | 151 | 204 | 61 |
| TIPPAH | 112 | 490 | 112 | 8 | 89 | 97 | 104 | 401 | 15 |
| TISHOMINGO | 92 | 235 | 79 | 2 | 26 | 52 | 90 | 209 | 27 |
| TUNICA | 29 | 35 | 52 | 5 | 15 | 29 | 24 | 20 | 23 |
| UNION | 60 | 163 | 71 | 4 | 71 | 66 | 56 | 92 | 5 |
| WALTHALL | 40 | 142 | 56 | 8 | 66 | 44 | 32 | 76 | 12 |
| WARREN | 189 | 357 | 219 | 81 | 147 | 211 | 108 | 210 | 8 |
| WASHINGTON | 127 | 534 | 386 | 48 | 158 | 238 | 79 | 376 | 148 |
| WAYNE | 4 | 20 | 180 | 4 | 20 | 114 | 0 | 0 | 66 |
| WEBSTER | 26 | 94 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 6 | 14 | 78 | 0 |
| WILKINSON | 2 | 10 | 23 | 2 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| WINSTON | 60 | 53 | 38 | 11 | 4 | 38 | 49 | 49 | 0 |
| YALOBUSHA | 28 | 125 | 23 | 1 | 9 | 16 | 27 | 116 | 7 |
| YAZOO | 27 | 100 | 232 | 2 | 55 | 161 | 25 | 45 | 71 |

Intervention Courts

Intervention Courts, formerly known as drug courts, have been in existence in Mississippi for 22 years. The first felony drug court program began in the 14th Circuit Court in 1999, followed by the 7th Circuit Court of Hinds County in 2000. At the end of the 2021 fiscal year in June, 2021, 43 programs were operating. There were 22 adult felony drug intervention court programs – one in each of the 22 Circuit Court districts. There were three adult misdemeanor intervention court programs, 14 juvenile intervention courts and three family intervention courts. At the end of December 2021, there were 42 intervention courts. An updated list of all intervention courts is at this link: <https://courts.ms.gov/trialcourts/interventioncourts/2022%20Intervention%20Courts%20database%20for%20website.pdf>.

In addition to their primary goal of restoring lives and saving families, intervention courts provide an enormous savings to the state budget. Avoided incarceration costs for intervention court participants amounted to an estimated savings of \$57.6 million during the 2021 fiscal year. During the past 10 fiscal years, FY 2012 through FY 2021, intervention courts statewide graduated more than 6,990 participants. The savings to Mississippi taxpayers from those participants working and being productive citizens while remaining out of prison is more than \$565.9 million. Savings calculations are based on a PEER Committee estimate of an average annual cost of

| Fiscal Year | Estimated savings of incarceration cost |
|--------------|---|
| FY 2012 | \$47,800,000 |
| FY 2013 | \$48,800,000 |
| FY 2014 | \$53,200,000 |
| FY 2015 | \$59,100,000 |
| FY 2016 | \$59,000,000 |
| FY 2017 | \$55,100,000 |
| FY 2018 | \$52,700,000 |
| FY 2019 | \$65,600,000 |
| FY 2020 | \$67,000,000 |
| FY 2021 | \$57,600,000 |
| TOTAL | \$565,900,000 |

| Fiscal Year | County Fines Paid by Drug Intervention Court Participants | Drug Intervention Court Fees Paid by Participants |
|--------------|---|---|
| FY 2017 | \$1,260,476 | \$1,649,771 |
| FY 2018 | \$1,279,860 | \$1,719,567 |
| FY 2019 | \$1,569,446 | \$2,006,986 |
| FY 2020 | \$1,427,625 | \$1,932,708 |
| FY 2021 | \$1,500,641 | \$2,037,256 |
| TOTAL | \$7,038,048 | \$9,346,288 |

| Drug Intervention Court Data FY 2019— FY 2021 | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 |
| Total drug intervention court programs | 40 | 42 | 43 |
| Total people served by drug intervention courts statewide during year | 5292 | 4934 | 4828 |
| Total drug intervention court graduates | 859 | 656 | 677 |
| Successfully completed and received expungement | N/A | 311 | 192 |
| Felony adult program graduates | 658 | 433 | 543 |
| Misdemeanor adult program graduates | 54 | 52 | 28 |
| Juvenile court program graduates | 152 | 139 | 94 |
| Family court program graduates | 28 | 32 | 15 |
| Total left program before completion | 616 | 473 | 526 |
| Charged with new offense while in program | 187 | 122 | 90 |
| Convicted of new crime | 22 | 38 | 17 |
| Drug-free babies born to participants | 52 | 58 | 21 |
| Participants who earned GED or high school equivalency certificate | 147 | 75 | 70 |
| Obtained employment | 858 | 427 | 186 |
| Fines collected and returned to county general funds | \$1,571,619.78 | \$1,427,978 | \$1,500,641 |
| Fees paid by participants | \$2,057,337.15 | \$1,972,668 | \$2,037,256 |
| Hours of community service work by participants | 30,794.75 | 23,438.75 | 25,224 |

\$19,607 per inmate to house inmates in the Department of Corrections. The average estimate dropped to \$18,479.95 per inmate in December 2020, according to PEER Report # 650.

With requirements that participants pay all their fines and fees, intervention courts also return money to the counties by collecting fines. Participants are unable to graduate until outstanding fines and fees are paid. Total fines collected for FY2021 was \$1,500,641, and the total fees collected was \$2,037,256. Annual fine collections ranged from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million during the past five fiscal years.

Another measure of the success of the intervention courts is that 590 drug-free babies were born to program participants statewide during the past 10 years. The value of a healthy life is precious. Drug intervention courts have saved the State of Mississippi more than \$442 million for the 590 drug-free babies born to participants since FY2012. The estimate assumes that without the care provided by intervention courts, drug addicted mothers would have given birth to babies with health issues that would require long-term medical care. According to a study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, each healthy, drug-free infant saves the state an average of \$750,000 during the first 18 years of life.

Other accomplishments of those 6,990 intervention court participants from FY 2012—FY 2021 include:

- 4,460 were employed;
- 540 attended vocational schools;
- more than 1,000 attended traditional schools;
- more than 250 attended alternative schools;
- 1,380 attended post-secondary schools;
- 595 earned general education development (GED) degrees;
- 1,315 obtained driver licenses.



Recidivism is another key measure of the success of intervention courts. Adult felony drug intervention courts have a recidivism rate of only 3.5 percent, compared to the recidivism rate of 35.4 percent for incarcerated prisoners.

The Legislature's adoption of Mississippi Code Section 9-25-1, effective July 1, 2014, authorized the Veterans Treatment Court Program to provide special services for military veterans. The Legislature authorized the creation of mental health intervention courts in 2017 with changes to Mississippi Code Sections 9-27-1 et. seq. The AOC is authorized to oversee the program. However, no funds were appropriated for operations or oversight, and Mississippi has limited access to federally regulated medically assisted treatment facilities. The 2019 Legislature, as part of the Criminal Justice Reform Act, authorized creation of intervention

courts to include veterans drug intervention and mental health intervention courts. Funding was not included in the legislation. At the end of 2021, three special programs for military veterans operated under the direction of the 1st Circuit, 12th Circuit and 19th Circuit intervention courts. Veterans treatment courts address problems unique to veterans and provide retired military veteran mentors. The programs take into account that veterans who suffer from drug and alcohol dependency or addiction and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse problems may also suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression and other issues related to their military service.

State Intervention Courts Advisory Committee

The State Drug Courts Advisory Committee was established by the Mississippi Legislature in 2003 to develop and periodically update proposed statewide evaluation plans and models for monitoring all critical aspects of drug courts. The Advisory Committee is now known as the State Intervention Courts Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee may make recommendations for improvements to drug intervention court policies and procedures including the drug intervention court certification process. The committee may make suggestions as to the criteria for eligibility and other procedural and substantive guidelines for intervention court operations. The Advisory Committee sets funding formulas for drug intervention courts and acts as arbiter of disputes arising out of the operation of drug intervention courts established under Mississippi Code Section 9-23-9. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Supreme Court necessary and incident to compliance with established rules.

| FY 2021 | Intervention Court Program Data | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adult Felony Intervention Courts | Enrolled first day FY2021 July 1, 2020 | Enrolled last day FY2021 June 30, 2021 | Total new participants in the year | Successful completions in the year | Number who left before successful completion | Number who committed at least one violation | Number arrested for new offense | Number convicted of new crime |
| 1st Circuit | 259 | 260 | 67 | 29 | 32 | 341 | 22 | 0 |
| 2nd Circuit | 97 | 98 | 37 | 11 | 17 | 126 | 1 | 0 |
| 3rd Circuit | 322 | 268 | 49 | 73 | 30 | 329 | 4 | 0 |
| 4th Circuit | 100 | 85 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 270 | 4 | 1 |
| 5th Circuit | 67 | 53 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th Circuit | 114 | 110 | 9 | 17 | 0 | 72 | 2 | 1 |
| 7th Circuit | 168 | 173 | 31 | 12 | 8 | 285 | 5 | 0 |
| 8th Circuit | 332 | 316 | 85 | 44 | 34 | 92 | 0 | 0 |
| 9th Circuit | 85 | 75 | 24 | 20 | 6 | 56 | 1 | 0 |
| 10th Circuit | 44 | 48 | 27 | 13 | 7 | 66 | 3 | 0 |
| 11th Circuit | 69 | 75 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 0 | 0 |
| 12th Circuit | 194 | 191 | 40 | 26 | 15 | 150 | 0 | 0 |
| 13th Circuit | 52 | 55 | 24 | 13 | 5 | 59 | 0 | 0 |
| 14th Circuit | 237 | 182 | 50 | 67 | 36 | 212 | 0 | 0 |
| 15th Circuit | 241 | 210 | 55 | 34 | 44 | 146 | 1 | 0 |
| 16th Circuit | 64 | 68 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 0 |
| 17th Circuit | 408 | 406 | 105 | 68 | 23 | 272 | 5 | 0 |
| 18th Circuit | 84 | 79 | 25 | 20 | 9 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| 19th Circuit | 171 | 150 | 45 | 34 | 29 | 192 | 0 | 1 |
| 20th Circuit | 170 | 167 | 71 | 26 | 24 | 271 | 0 | 0 |
| 21st Circuit | 36 | 36 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 0 |
| 22nd Circuit | 27 | 29 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3341 | 3134 | 804 | 543 | 360 | 3155 | 51 | 3 |
| Adult Misdemeanor Intervention Courts | Enrolled first day FY2021 July 1, 2020 | Enrolled last day FY2021 June 30, 2021 | Total new participants in the year | Successful completions in the year | Number who left before successful completion | Number who committed at least one violation | Number arrested for new offense | Number convicted of new crime |
| Columbus Mun. | 40 | 33 | 19 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greenwood Mun. | 30 | 35 | 22 | 4 | 13 | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Hinds County Justice | 31 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 18 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Indianola Mun. | 0 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 101 | 89 | 62 | 28 | 33 | 116 | 2 | 0 |

Justice Robert Chamberlin served as committee chair as designee of the Director of the Administrative Office of Courts during part of the year 2021. AOC Directory E. Gregory Snowden assumed his statutory role as chair of the Advisory Committee when he joined AOC on June 22, 2021. Members of the Advisory Committee in 2021 were 7th Circuit Judge Winston Kidd; 11th Circuit Judge Charles Webster; 12th Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich; 14th Circuit Judge Mike Taylor; Jackson County Court Judge Sharon Sigalas; Rep Angela Cockerham; and Melody Madaris, Director of Substance Abuse and EAP Services at Communicare, Region II. The Supreme Court appointed 19th Circuit Judge Robert Krebs and Mississippi Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Gary Young to the Advisory Committee effective Jan. 1, 2021. Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Supreme Court to two-year terms.

| | Intervention Court Program Data | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Youth Intervention Courts | Enrolled first day FY2021 July 1, 2020 | Enrolled last day FY2021 June 30, 2021 | Total new participants in the year | Successful completions in the year | Number who left before successful completion | Number who committed at least one violation | Number detained for new delinquent offense | Number adjudicated for new delinquent offense |
| 3rd Chancery | 37 | 40 | 23 | 4 | 17 | 328 | 0 | 0 |
| 6th Chancery | 3 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 9th Chancery | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adams | 20 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 13 | 113 | 2 | 0 |
| DeSoto | 41 | 50 | 54 | 30 | 16 | 28 | 2 | 1 |
| Forrest | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Harrison | 19 | 31 | 40 | 15 | 12 | 77 | 0 | 0 |
| Hinds | 2 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Jackson | 14 | 20 | 13 | 1 | 7 | 97 | 3 | 4 |
| Madison | 35 | 34 | 24 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| Pike | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 0 | 0 |
| Rankin | 24 | 29 | 29 | 13 | 11 | 161 | 16 | 2 |
| Walthall | 7 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 5 |
| Washington | 3 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Yazoo | 0 | 20 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 216 | 276 | 256 | 91 | 101 | 903 | 36 | 12 |
| Family Intervention Courts | Enrolled first day FY2021 July 1, 2020 | Enrolled last day FY2021 June 30, 2021 | Total new participants in the year | Successful completions in the year | Number who left before successful completion | Number who committed at least one violation | Number arrested for new offense | Number convicted of new crime |
| Adams Family | 16 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Harrison Family | 10 | 12 | 26 | 7 | 18 | 42 | 0 | 2 |
| Rankin Family | 7 | 10 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 47 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 33 | 32 | 46 | 15 | 32 | 114 | 1 | 2 |
| All Courts | Enrolled first day FY2021 July 1, 2020 | Enrolled last day FY2021 June 30, 2021 | Total new participants in the year | Successful completions in the year | Number who left before successful completion | Number who committed at least one violation | Number arrested for new offense | Number convicted of new crime |
| TOTAL | 3691 | 3531 | 1168 | 677 | 526 | 4288 | 90 | 17 |

Mississippi Electronic Courts

The Mississippi Electronic Courts system, MEC, a part of the Administrative Office of Courts, is adapted from the electronic filing and case management system used in federal courts. MEC allows courts to file, store, and manage case files in an electronic format which is accessible via the Internet to judges, court staff, attorneys, and the public 24 hours a day.

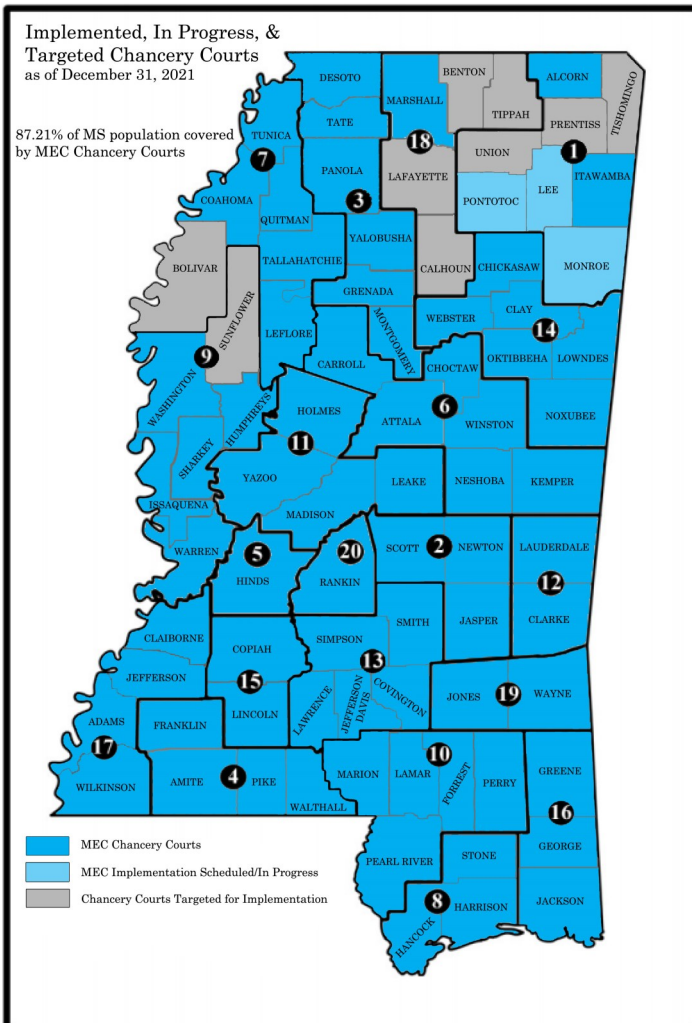
On June 30, 2020, Gov. Tate Reeves signed House Bill 25, which mandates use of the MEC system in all Chancery, Circuit, and County Courts in the state. MEC continues to bring new courts onto the system with the support of the new law, subject to continued legislative appropriations.



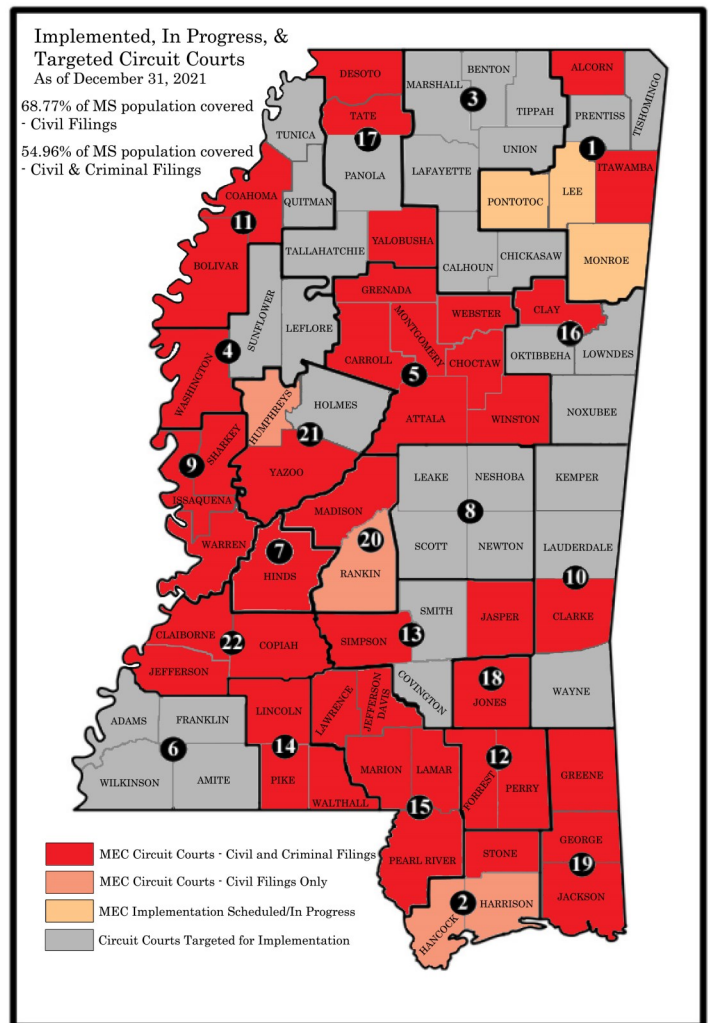
Nathan Evans, J.D., supervises a staff of 14 customer service representatives, trainers, analysts and programmers. MEC staff are responsible for supporting the numerous courts, attorneys and public users of the system, training and implementing new courts, and maintaining and enhancing the MEC online application and database servers.

The coronavirus pandemic created challenges for MEC. In 2020, in-person training programs were re-engineered and taken completely online. MEC continued bringing on new courts in 2021 by providing remote training to court staff, judges, and attorneys. Eight new Circuit Courts, three new Chancery Courts, and one new County Court were brought onto the system in 2021. Also, two Circuit and two County courts which had previously used MEC only for civil filings implemented criminal case filing in MEC. At the end of 2021, the MEC system was utilized in 70 Chancery Courts that cover 87.21 percent of the state's population, 39 Circuit Courts that cover 68.77 percent of the population, and 17 County Courts. A total of 134 out of the 186 Chancery, Circuit, and County courts were online and being supported by MEC.

**Mississippi Chancery Courts
MEC Implementation Map**

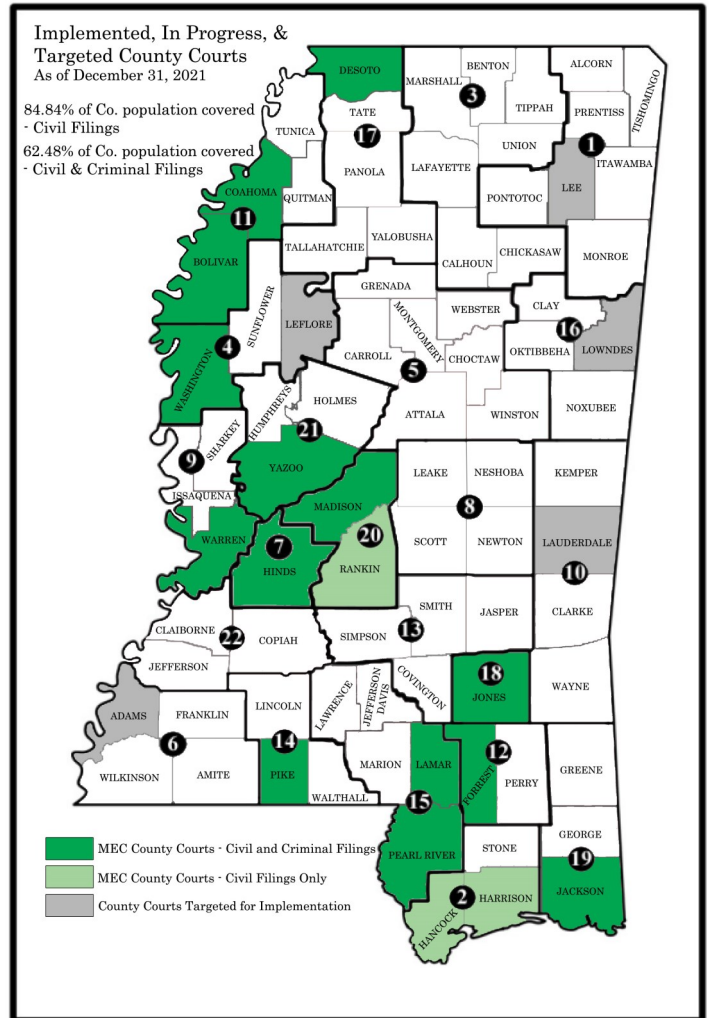


**Mississippi Circuit Courts
MEC Implementation Map**



| CALENDAR YEAR 2021 MEC Court Implementations | |
|--|----------------|
| Court | Date went live |
| Washington County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 01/25/2021 |
| Washington County Court, civil, criminal | 01/25/2021 |
| Walthall County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 02/08/2021 |
| Lincoln County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | |
| Completed MEC district-wide in 14th Circuit | 03/01/2021 |
| Winston County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 03/22/2021 |
| Webster County Circuit Court, civil and criminal | |
| Completed MEC district-wide in 5th Circuit | 04/19/2021 |
| Alcorn County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 05/24/2021 |
| Chickasaw County Chancery Court | |
| Completed MEC district-wide in 14th Chancery | 06/28/2021 |
| Itawamba County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 08/02/2021 |
| Itawamba County Chancery Court | 08/30/2021 |
| Sharkey County Circuit Court, civil, criminal | 09/27/2021 |
| DeSoto County Circuit Court, criminal | 10/25/2021 |
| DeSoto County Court, criminal | 10/25/2021 |
| Warren County Circuit Court, criminal | 11/15/2021 |
| Warren County Court, criminal | 11/15/2021 |
| Tallahatchie County Chancery Court | 12/13/2021 |

Mississippi County Courts (22 Total)
MEC Implementation Map



The MEC judgment roll pilot program began in October 2019 in the 15th Circuit Court District and continued throughout 2020. Courts of the 15th Circuit provided valuable feedback to MEC, which contributed greatly to the completion of the MEC judgment roll program. In late 2020, the MEC judgment roll was deployed to the first production paper court, Yalobusha Circuit. In 2021, 10 circuit courts began using the MEC judgment roll through legacy system migrations.

MEC Firm Billing was introduced during the second quarter of 2021, and 58 firms signed up to bundle bill their MEC attorney and public user accounts. The new Firm Billing option has allowed law firms to consolidate billing for their employees' MEC accounts into one easy online transaction per quarter.

The MEC system is funded solely through civil filing fees, user fees to access documents, and renewal fees. MEC had 8,228 registered attorney users, 9,461 non-attorney users, and 58 Firm Administrator users at the end of 2021. Since inception, MEC has generated usage fees totaling \$3,501,279.00, including \$1,908,216.80 from the Chancery Courts and \$1,593,062.20 from the Circuit and County Courts. Online page viewing fees are divided equally between the county clerks of the court and MEC.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Division of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of Courts consists of a small staff of software developers, systems administrators, business systems analysts/trainers, and a webmaster. Their responsibilities include the purchase, installation and maintenance of all computer and network equipment in the appellate courts and some trial courts; development, training, and support of several software systems including but not limited to the appellate court case management system CITS/ACADIA, the appellate court e-filing system, the statewide Youth Court case management system MYCIDS, the AOC statistical system SCATS, the Board of Bar Admissions online bar exam application system BarWeb; and the design and maintenance of the State of Mississippi Judiciary website.

IT support for remote users and video conferencing continued to be essential in 2021 as new variants extended the COVID-19 pandemic. Infection rates fell by early summer, which led to IT employees coming back to the office full-time. This was short-lived, however, as by August the Delta variant had caused cases to rise again, and IT received approval for a hybrid alternating remote/in-office weekly work schedule. Ongoing software development and systems

administration projects continued unabated.

Offsite backup of the Mississippi Electronic Courts (MEC) system was expanded in 2021 to implement emergency remote hosting of MEC production servers. Future plans are to budget resources and time for other Court Complex systems to have the same capabilities.

Implementation of ACADIA, the Appellate Case and Docket Information App, was expanded to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals chambers in 2021 as planned with features to replace the legacy CITS Clerks Suite program. Development continued to progress with plans to release additional modules such as orders, records, and briefing in 2022.

MYCIDS training sessions temporarily returned to in-person weekly onsite seminars, but quickly moved back online in late summer due to the rise in cases of the COVID Delta variant.

Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System (MYCIDS)

The Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System, MYCIDS, is a system for the real time management of the activities of the Mississippi Youth Court System. It is a web-based application that provides support for the intake of youths into the court system, scheduling of youth cases, management of court dockets, tracking of custody situations, and necessary document generation. MYCIDS also provides a base dataset for statistical reporting purposes.

MYCIDS includes electronic docketing and record keeping for delinquency, abuse and neglect cases. Case tracking features assist court staff in scheduling all hearings and other events required by law to occur within a specific time. Judges and court staff are able to track juveniles' encounters with multiple jurisdictions. Computer hardware, staff training and a help desk are provided at no charge to local courts.

The Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System was developed in 1999 and went live in 2002. As of July 1, 2015, use of MYCIDS became mandatory for all Youth Courts and all 82 counties' youth courts utilize MYCIDS.

Legislative mandate and the *In re Olivia Y.* lawsuit require extensive and continuous training. This training is required for practitioners in the youth courts including judges, administrators, intake officers, case workers including Department of Youth Services and Child Protection Services, prosecutors, youth defenders, guardians ad litem and judicial clerks. Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, the MYCIDS staff trained 1,258 people in 36 counties, presenting a total of 741 hours of training. Due to safety precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, most trainings took place virtually. While training briefly returned to in-person, it quickly returned to virtual with the onset of the Delta and then Omicron variants of COVID-19. The MYCIDS team also presented at the Youth Court Judges and Referees Conference in Oxford and at the Mississippi Department of Education School Attendance Officers Conference hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson.

FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURTS

The state judiciary is funded by General Fund appropriations with additional funding for specific mandates by way of grants and special funds.

The total 2022 Fiscal Year appropriation for the judicial branch was \$86,126,539, which consists of \$48,856,316 in general funds, \$141,000 in capital expense funds and \$37,129,223 in special funds. Within the context of General Fund appropriations for all of state government, less than 1 percent of the state's general fund expenditures go to operation of the judicial branch. FY 2022 general fund appropriations for all three branches of state government was \$5,808,460,000.

The General Fund appropriation for the Administrative Office of Courts and all state courts of record, including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, 22 circuit courts, 20 chancery courts, and 22 county courts, was \$48,856,316.

The judicial system's largest expenditure is salaries: \$61,702,201, or 71.64 percent of the entire judicial branch budget, including General Fund and Special Fund appropriations. The funding pays the salaries of judges, court administrators, staff attorneys, court reporters and other court staff who work in communities across the state.

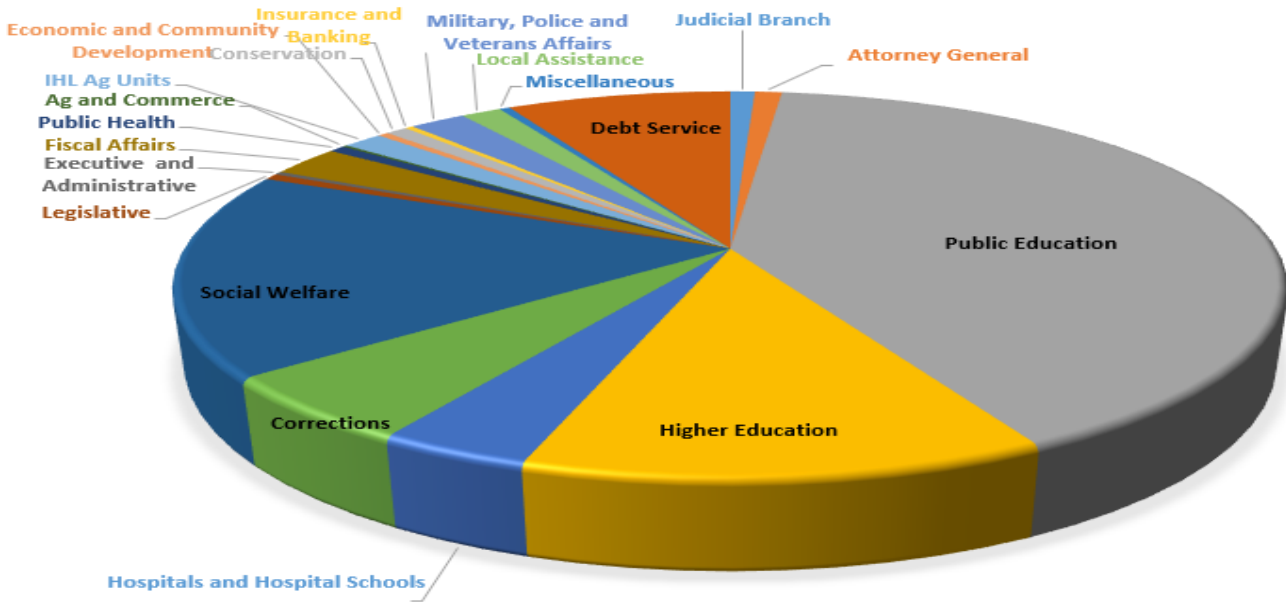
As a result of the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judiciary was able to obtain a legislative appropriation of \$2.5 million in CARES Act special funds in FY 2021, and carried over \$655,050 into FY 2022. Special funds allowed trial courts to purchase computer equipment, cameras, microphones and other electronics to enable courts to conduct proceedings via remote connections, as well as personal protective equipment, air purifiers and disinfectants. Purchases were approved only for items which were necessary to continue court operations during the pandemic.

Special funds are critical to the work of the judicial branch. Mississippi Electronic Courts, MEC, charges a \$10 annual registration fee for e-filing system users, and viewing fees of 20 cents per page. The viewing fees are shared equally by MEC and the counties. Other judicial branch entities which receive no General Fund appropriations, relying totally on self-sustaining special fund collections, include the Board of Bar Admissions, the Board of Certified Court Reporters, and the Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

Leaders of the judiciary have worked extremely hard to secure adequate funding for the judicial branch of government, while providing an efficient, cost effective system of justice for the people of the state of Mississippi.

| FY 2022 JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Supreme Court | Court Of Appeals | Trial Judges | Admin Office of Courts | Continuing Legal Ed | Board of Bar Admissions | AOC COVID 19 | Totals |
| Salaries | 6,796,630 | 5,850,595 | 28,838,809 | 19,904,120 | 122,543 | 189,504 | - | 61,702,201 |
| Travel | 313,370 | 169,102 | 500,000 | 57,660 | 13,000 | 21,500 | - | 1,074,632 |
| Contractual | 222,232 | 57,350 | 87,500 | 1,728,856 | 12,450 | 100,420 | - | 2,208,808 |
| Commodities | 442,120 | 4,950 | 1,089,000 | 197,300 | 3,600 | 38,300 | - | 1,775,270 |
| Equipment | - | - | - | 201,100 | - | - | - | 201,100 |
| Subsidies | - | - | - | 18,509,478 | - | - | 655,050 | 19,164,528 |
| Judicial Branch Appropriation | 7,774,352 | 6,081,997 | 30,515,309 | 40,598,514 | 151,593 | 349,724 | 655,050 | 86,126,539 |
| General Funds | 6,836,882 | 4,493,141 | 26,322,941 | 11,203,352 | - | - | - | 48,856,316 |
| Capital Expense Fund | - | - | - | 141,000 | - | - | - | 141,000 |
| Special Funds | 937,470 | 1,588,856 | 4,192,368 | 29,254,162 | 151,593 | 349,724 | 655,050 | 37,129,223 |
| Judicial Branch Appropriation | 7,774,352 | 6,081,997 | 30,515,309 | 40,598,514 | 151,593 | 349,724 | 655,050 | 86,126,539 |
| No. of PINS | 70 | 58 | 109 | 39 | 2 | 3 | | 281 |

FY 2022 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION



DOES NOT INCLUDE FY 2021 REAPPROPRIATIONS

| | | |
|--|---------------|----------|
| Judicial Branch | 48,856,316 | 0.8411% |
| Attorney General | 57,400,430 | 0.9882% |
| Total Judiciary and Justice per LBO | 106,256,746 | |
| | | |
| Other: | | % |
| Public Education | 2,317,007,186 | 39.8902% |
| Higher Education | 746,335,039 | 12.8491% |
| Hospitals and Hospital Schools | 214,082,403 | 3.6857% |
| Corrections | 323,552,322 | 5.5704% |
| Social Welfare | 1,041,736,457 | 17.9348% |
| Legislative | 30,809,235 | 0.5304% |
| Executive and Administrative | 15,409,362 | 0.2653% |
| Fiscal Affairs | 141,072,699 | 2.4287% |
| Public Health | 33,274,222 | 0.5729% |
| Agriculture and Commerce | 9,499,985 | 0.1636% |
| IHL- Agriculture Units | 80,832,350 | 1.3916% |
| Economic and Community Development | 21,620,702 | 0.3722% |
| Conservation | 43,831,789 | 0.7546% |
| Insurance and Banking | 16,891,670 | 0.2908% |
| Military, Police and Veterans Affairs | 125,505,873 | 2.1607% |
| Local Assistance | 79,013,472 | 1.3603% |
| Miscellaneous | 22,658,859 | 0.3901% |
| Debt Service | 439,069,629 | 7.5591% |
| Total Other | 5,702,203,254 | |
| Total General Fund Appropriation FY 2022 | 5,808,460,000 | 100% |

FY 2009—FY 2022 JUDICIAL BRANCH SPENDING

| Fiscal Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Supreme Court | 6,546,560 | 6,191,709 | 6,504,661 | 6,688,507 | 6,804,905 | 7,088,365 | 7,266,019 | 8,982,639 | 7,658,703 | 7,418,303 | 7,512,227 | 7,678,983 | 7,645,353 | 7,774,352 |
| Court of Appeals | 5,130,570 | 4,878,956 | 5,063,906 | 5,388,381 | 5,539,485 | 5,818,158 | 6,063,132 | 6,189,265 | 5,632,021 | 5,703,898 | 5,877,195 | 6,013,252 | 5,991,252 | 6,081,997 |
| Trial Judges | 22,799,216 | 20,811,115 | 21,451,492 | 23,446,877 | 23,776,367 | 25,482,413 | 27,195,343 | 28,346,791 | 29,762,816 | 29,762,816 | 29,950,910 | 30,353,108 | 30,222,305 | 30,515,309 |
| AOC | 19,438,559 | 19,592,868 | 20,560,547 | 21,831,819 | 23,858,746 | 26,115,394 | 34,885,208 | 37,806,442 | 37,479,253 | 42,103,854 | 42,813,752 | 39,525,722 | 38,167,971 | 40,598,514 |
| CLE | 123,978 | 124,046 | 139,646 | 134,968 | 130,193 | 135,538 | 138,651 | 183,386 | 144,282 | 144,282 | 144,414 | 149,338 | 149,338 | 151,593 |
| Bar Admissions | 373,618 | 373,788 | 378,088 | 371,438 | 351,138 | 406,515 | 402,586 | 401,671 | 338,493 | 338,493 | 338,691 | 346,100 | 346,100 | 349,724 |
| AOC CARES Act | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,500,000 | 655,050 |
| Total | 54,412,501 | 51,972,482 | 54,098,340 | 57,861,990 | 60,460,834 | 65,046,383 | 75,950,939 | 81,910,194 | 81,015,568 | 85,471,646 | 86,637,189 | 84,066,503 | 85,022,319 | 86,126,539 |

FY 2009—FY 2022 JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGETS BY FUNDING SOURCES

| Fiscal Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Special Fund | 20,284,966 | 17,611,903 | 19,215,654 | 21,999,397 | 23,567,580 | 26,843,343 | 33,189,718 | 36,683,401 | 33,513,116 | 42,376,804 | 42,971,615 | 35,355,322 | 34,846,138 | 36,615,173 |
| General Fund | 34,127,535 | 34,360,579 | 34,882,686 | 35,862,593 | 36,893,254 | 38,203,040 | 42,761,221 | 45,226,793 | 47,502,452 | 43,094,842 | 43,665,574 | 48,711,181 | 47,676,181 | 48,856,316 |
| CARES Act | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2,500,000 | 655,050 |
| TOTAL | 54,412,501 | 51,972,482 | 54,098,340 | 57,861,990 | 60,460,834 | 65,046,383 | 75,950,939 | 81,910,194 | 81,015,568 | 85,471,646 | 86,637,189 | 84,066,503 | 85,022,319 | 86,126,539 |

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS

E. Gregory Snowden, J.D. became AOC Director on June 22, 2021. Lisa A. Counts, J.D., served as Interim Director of AOC from July 1, 2020, until June 2021.



Snowden, former House Speaker Pro Tempore, served in the House of Representatives for 20 years, representing Lauderdale County District 83 from January 2000 through December 2019. He also was a member of the Appropriations, Budget, Judiciary A; Judiciary En Banc; Rules; and Compilation, Revision, and Publication committees. He served terms on the executive committees of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, and the Southern Legislative Conference.

Snowden is the second former high-ranking legislator to lead AOC. Former Senator Martin Smith of Poplarville was AOC's first director after the administrative arm of the courts of Mississippi was created by the Legislature and began operation in 1995.

The Administrative Office of Courts was created on July 1, 1993, to support the judicial system by providing efficient administration of the non-judicial business of the state's courts. The AOC offices are located in Jackson in the Carroll Gartin Justice Building at 450 High Street. Duties of the AOC, specified in Miss. Code Ann. §§ 9-21-1, -3, -9 (Rev. 2019), -11 (Rev. 2019), -13, -14, -43, -45, -51, -73; and §§ 9-23-3, -7, -11,

-17 include:

- assist the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with his duties as the chief administrative officer of all of the courts in the state;
- assist in the prevention of unnecessary delay in the conduct of trials of the state courts;
- promulgate standards, rules and regulations for computer and/or electronic filing and storage of all court records and court-related records maintained throughout the state in courts and in offices of circuit and chancery clerks;
- oversee the Mississippi Electronic Courts system under the direction of the Supreme Court;
- collect case statistics from all civil, criminal and youth courts in the state;
- require the filing of reports and the collection and compilation of statistical data and financial information;
- devise, promulgate and require use of a uniform youth court case tracking system, including a youth court case filing form for filing with each individual youth court matter, to be utilized by the Administrative Office of Courts and the youth courts in order that the number of youthful offenders, abused, neglected, truant and dependent children, as well as children in need of special care and children in need of supervision, may be tracked with specificity through the youth court and adult justice systems. The director shall require that all youth courts utilize the Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System, MYCIDS.
- AOC also must develop and require use of a statewide docket numbering system and uniform youth court orders and forms;
- coordinate and conduct studies and projects to improve the administration of justice;
- make recommendations regarding the state of the dockets and the effective number of judges and other court personnel;
- prescribe uniform administrative and business records, forms and systems;
- prepare budget recommendations necessary for maintenance and operation of the judicial system;
- administer the Civil Legal Assistance Fund under the direction of the Supreme Court;
- administer the Judicial System Operation Fund under the direction of the Supreme Court;
- serve as an agency to apply for and receive grants or other assistance;
- develop and implement personnel policies for non-judicial court employees;
- investigate, make recommendations concerning and assist in the securing of adequate physical accommodations for the judicial system;
- procure, distribute, exchange, transfer and assign equipment, books, forms and supplies acquired for the court system;
- prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the judicial system;

- make recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the judicial system;
- take necessary steps in the collection of unpaid fines and court costs;
- establish a program to facilitate the use of language interpreters in all courts of the State of Mississippi;
- certify and monitor drug intervention courts;
- collect monthly data reports from certified drug intervention courts and compile an annual data summary; and
- perform any additional administrative duties assigned by the Supreme Court.

The AOC processes payroll for the support staff of the Chancery and Circuit judges, as well as the official court reporters; administers the office and rent allowances for the trial judges; maintains inventory records for equipment purchased with state funds; approves the trial judges' travel reimbursements for in-state and out-of-state travel; collects statistical data from the Chancery, Circuit, County and Youth Courts; collects data on cases handled by family masters; administers special funds for civil legal assistance, comprehensive electronic court systems, judicial system operations and the Board of Certified Court Reporters; and oversees federal grants awarded to the AOC for the benefit of the judiciary.

Court Interpreter Credentialing Program

The Administrative Office of Courts provides all state courts with a list of language interpreters who have demonstrated proficiency in oral and written interpretation of court proceedings. At the end of 2021, there were 25 credentialed interpreters available —22 Spanish speakers and one each for Arabic, Mandarin Chinese and Portuguese. There is a need for Vietnamese speakers, but none have been credentialed yet. There are two levels of proficiency: registered and certified. Eleven interpreters are certified, and 14 are registered. Certified interpreters have passed all examinations and criteria promulgated by the AOC for certification. Registered interpreters have begun the credentialing process and are waiting to take the oral performance examination.

Interpreters live in Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Clinton, French Camp, Gulfport, Hazlehurst, Meridian, Newton, Ocean Springs, Pass Christian, Pontotoc, Ridgeland, Tupelo and Vicksburg as well as Cordova, Goodlettsville, Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., and New Orleans.

AOC during previous years conducted training workshops to introduce bilingual speakers to the requirements for court interpreting. Those workshops introduced interpreting in legal settings including the courtroom, depositions and other legal proceedings. In the past, attending a workshop was the first step in the program which would train, certify, and test individuals who wish to serve as court interpreters. However, due to the continuing COVID pandemic, AOC was unable to conduct in-person introductory training workshops during 2021. In the interim, a list of independent continuing education providers was made available on the court's website.

AOC adopted Standards for Court Interpreters and a Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters on Oct. 17, 2011. AOC developed the Mississippi Court Interpreter Credentialing Program to assist courts in efforts to provide equal access to justice for limited English proficiency individuals. The program provides judges with a list of language interpreters who have demonstrated proficiency in oral and written interpretation of court proceedings. The rules for court interpreters apply to Municipal Court, Justice Court, Youth Court, County Court, Circuit Court, Chancery Court and grand jury proceedings.

Indigent Parent Representation

A Parent Representation Committee grew out of the work of the Commission on Children's Justice in 2012. The Parent Representation Task Force is a collaborative effort between the judiciary, Child Protection Services, Casey Family Programs, the University of Mississippi School of Law, the Mississippi College School of Law, the American Bar Association, the Mississippi Center for Legal Services and the Mississippi Judicial College. Members of the Committee continue to seek public and private funding to maintain and expand programs that provide attorneys for indigent parents facing allegations of abuse and neglect in Youth Court.

As of 2021, 34 counties reported some level of parent representation, with 25 counties participating in the Parent Representation projects funded by the Mississippi Legislature appropriation, grants from Casey Family Programs, and Federal Court Improvement Basic Grant funds.

Not all parents are represented in these counties, but there is an increased awareness that parent representation must be available statewide to all indigent parents at risk of their children being removed due to allegations of abuse or neglect.

The Mississippi Legislature in 2021 provided \$278,500.00 to the Office of State Public Defender for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) to pay for certified attorneys to represent indigent parents or guardians in abuse, neglect or termination of parental rights proceedings as provided under Sections 43-21-201 and 99-18-13, Mississippi Code of 1972. The legislative funding for parent representation, authorized through House Bill 1383 during the 2021 Session, was the same as for FY 2020 and FY 2021.

| COUNTY | Year Parent Rep Began | COUNTY | Year Parent Rep Began |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Adams | 2012 | Lee | 2019 |
| Alcorn | 2019 | Lowndes | 2019 |
| Bolivar | 2017 | Madison | early 1980s |
| Covington | 2017 | Marion | 2019 |
| DeSoto | 2016 | Monroe | 2019 |
| Forrest | 2012 | Pearl River | 2016 |
| Hancock | 2015 | Perry | 2019 |
| Harrison | 2013 | Pontotoc | 2019 |
| Hinds | 2017 | Prentiss | 2020 |
| Itawamba | 2019 | Rankin | 2012 |
| Jackson | 2018 | Simpson | 2017 |
| Jefferson Davis | 2017 | Smith | 2017 |
| Jones | 2018 | Stone | 2020 |
| Lafayette | 2016 | Tishomingo | 2019 |
| Lamar | 2019 | Union | 2019 |
| Lawrence | 2017 | Warren | 2019 |
| Lauderdale | 2019 | Yazoo | 2019 |

The Office of State Public Defender established the position of Parent Defense Program Manager, and Jennifer Morgan began work in that position on June 1, 2021. Morgan, who previously served as parent representation attorney for DeSoto County, provides technical support and training for other parent defenders.

The number of children in foster care declined significantly in most counties which provide parent representation. Counties that provide indigent parent representation show an average of eight percent fewer children in custody than those that have no representation in place.

A total of 5,728 children were in CPS custody on Jan. 1, 2018. The number declined to 4,867 as of Jan. 1, 2019, and decreased to 4,256 by Jan. 1, 2020. As of Jan. 1, 2021, there were 3,766 children in CPS custody. On Jan. 1, 2022, there were 3,849 children in Department of Child Protection Services custody, up slightly from the previous year.

Resident Jurist

Former Adams County Court and Youth Court Judge John N. Hudson, who became Resident Jurist in April 2015, is a resource person to the judicial system and to local courts. He is tasked with advising the Administrative Office of Courts and the state judiciary on issues dealing with children’s justice in Mississippi. He serves as a member of the Supreme Court’s Commission on Children’s Justice. A key work of the Commission on Children’s Justice has been the development of competent parent representation for parents caught up in the child welfare system. The Commission continued its work to increase funding to maintain and expand parent representation programs.



The Resident Jurist has worked with other members of the Commission including the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and the University of Mississippi School of Law to study the Mississippi definition of neglect and to consider recommending redrafting legislation to develop an alternate system to assist and bring optimism to families who are within the system because of poverty-related issues and other circumstances outside their control.

Bi-annual multi-disciplinary training took place in three regional venues in the state. Training focused on assisting youth courts in becoming trauma informed to meet the needs of the children and families who find themselves in the court system. The training wrapped up with the challenge to continue to develop local collaboratives to meet the needs identified by the court as reasonable and to develop a specific plan of action.

Numerous presentations were made by the Resident Jurist including a presentation to state youth court prosecutors on reasonable efforts to prevent removal and later to accomplish permanency. He also presented at the MDCPS annual Joint Planning Conference on “The Court’s View of Barriers to Permanency” and to the annual Youth Court Judges and Referees Seminar on “Protection of the Forensic Interview Now a Youth Court Record.”

Collaboration with different state entities such as the MDCPS to identify and address emerging issues in the area of child welfare and the courts and with the Children’s Bureau to assist in developing strategies will bring better outcomes for children and their families and will improve the lives of Mississippi’s children. There was regular collaboration between the Resident Jurist and Department of Human Services personnel to address issues involving delinquents and children in need of supervision including detention, local probation, training school commitments and education in detention issues. Further collaboration occurs with the private sector such as the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, the Methodist Children’s Home, Canopy Children’s Services and other similar child and family services providers to address the needs of the system and the courts working to bring justice to our children and families.

COMMISSION ON CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE) has the primary responsibility to exercise general supervisory authority over the administration of the Rules for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education and to adopt, repeal, and amend regulations consistent with these rules. The objective of the Mississippi Commission on CLE is to ensure that each member of the Mississippi Bar complies with the rules and regulations established by the Commission and meets the mandatory CLE requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

Twelve (12) hours of approved instruction are required annually of every attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Mississippi. Newly admitted attorneys are required to attend a specific new lawyer program within the first two years of practice, then comply with the annual requirement thereafter.

Due to restrictions for attendance at live CLE programs and fewer available in-person courses as a result of COVID-19, the Mississippi Commission on CLE petitioned the Mississippi Supreme Court to temporarily amend Rule 3 of the Rules and Regulations for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education and waive the in-person requirements for attorneys’ CLE obligation for the 2020-2021 reporting year, as was done the previous year. This waiver would allow attorneys to earn CLE credits in the method of their choosing. The Mississippi Supreme Court granted the Commission’s petition and attorneys were allowed to complete their CLE requirement through online programs, webinars or live in-person programs. Further, the Mississippi Supreme Court ordered that any newly admitted attorney who had to complete the new lawyer program by July 31, 2021, could complete that program online.

In 2021, the Mississippi Commission on CLE approved for credit 211 live programs that were held in the state of Mississippi, 503 live programs held outside the state of Mississippi and 6,687 programs that were given by satellite, teleconference or online through live webcasts and on-demand programs.

The Commission strives to meet the needs of the members of the Mississippi Bar regarding continuing legal education by keeping abreast of national changes in programming formats and topics. Members of the Commission and its administrator are active in the national organization of regulatory CLE boards, CLEReg.

Tracy Graves serves as Administrator of the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS



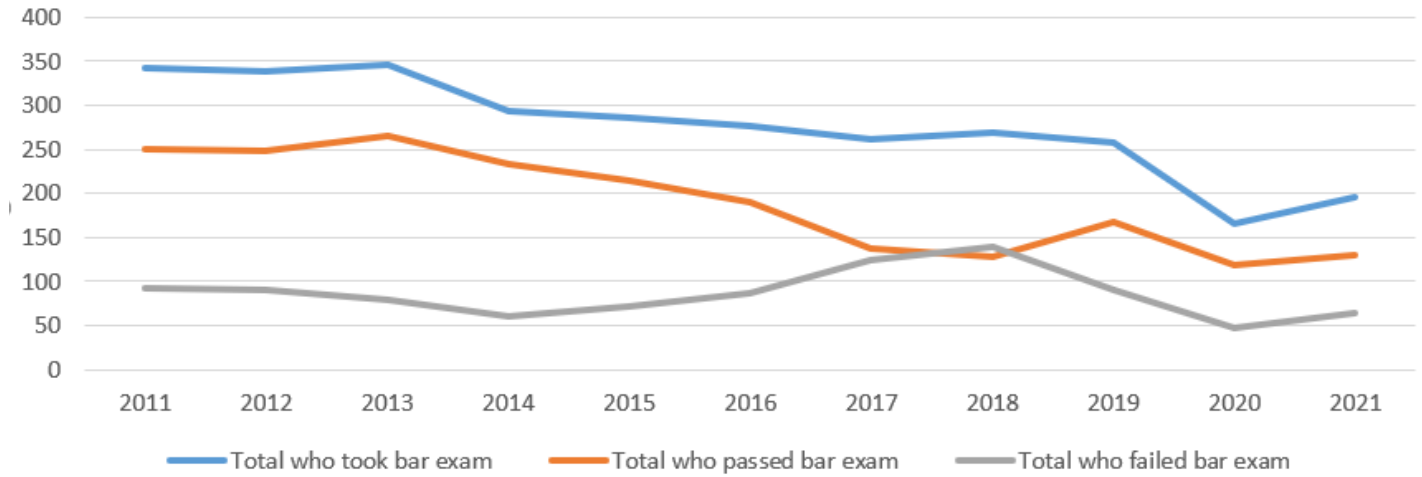
The Board of Bar Admissions has the primary obligation to administer the laws and rules governing admission to practice law in Mississippi. The Board’s efforts are primarily focused on the preparation, administration and evaluation of twice yearly Bar admission examinations, which are given in February and July, and on the investigation and evaluation of the character and fitness of each person seeking admission to practice law in the state of Mississippi.

Members of the Board of Bar Admissions in 2021 were Chair Marcie Fyke Baria of Bay St. Louis, Vice-chair Pieter Teeuwissen of Jackson, Gwendolyn Baptist-Rucker of Southaven, Anthony R. Simon of Jackson, Kristopher A. Powell of Hattiesburg, Joseph D. Neyman Jr. of Hernando, J. William Manuel of Jackson, Walter Alan Davis of Oxford, and Michael C. McCabe Jr. of Gulfport. Wendy Smith serves as Administrator to the Board of Bar Admissions.

In 2021, the Board of Bar Admissions processed 21 applications for registration as law students, and 250 applications for examination. There were 34 motions for admission by reciprocity. Attorneys licensed in other states and having five years of active practice are exempt from taking the bar exam if the licensing state has a reciprocity agreement.

A total of 195 people took the bar exam in 2021, an increase of 27 more exam takers than the previous year. The pass rate declined to 66.7 percent, down from the 71.7 percent pass rate from the previous year.

Bar Exam Pass Rate 2011 - 2021



| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total took Bar Exam | 343 | 339 | 346 | 294 | 286 | 276 | 262 | 269 | 258 | 168 | 195 |
| Total passed Bar Exam | 251 | 249 | 266 | 233 | 215 | 190 | 137 | 129 | 167 | 119 | 130 |
| Total failed Bar Exam | 92 | 90 | 80 | 61 | 71 | 86 | 125 | 140 | 91 | 49 | 65 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| Percentage pass rate | 73% | 73% | 76% | 79% | 75% | 68% | 52% | 48% | 64.7% | 71.7% | 66.7% |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

Bar Exam Applications

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Applications for registration as law student | 105 | 69 | 66 | 92 | 61 | 27 | 29 | 16 | 10 | 9 | 21 |
| Applications for examination | 420 | 426 | 433 | 385 | 318 | 343 | 343 | 323 | 279 | 263 | 250 |
| Admission on motion | | | | 46 | 30 | 46 | 33 | 56 | 57 | 33 | 34 |
| Total applications processed/being processed | 525 | 495 | 499 | 523 | 409 | 416 | 405 | 395 | 346 | 166 | 305 |

Bar Exams

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Took February bar exam | 101 | 108 | 108 | 111 | 98 | 95 | 88 | 91 | 102 | 49 | 66 |
| Passed February bar exam | 66 | 71 | 76 | 90 | 70 | 62 | 36 | 37 | 62 | 27 | 38 |
| Failed February bar exam | 35 | 37 | 32 | 21 | 28 | 33 | 52 | 54 | 40 | 22 | 28 |
| Took July bar exam | 242 | 231 | 238 | 183 | 188 | 181 | 174 | 178 | 156 | 117 | 129 |
| Passed July bar exam | 185 | 178 | 190 | 143 | 145 | 128 | 101 | 92 | 105 | 92 | 92 |
| Failed July bar exam | 57 | 53 | 48 | 40 | 43 | 53 | 73 | 86 | 51 | 25 | 37 |
| Total who took bar exam | 343 | 339 | 346 | 294 | 286 | 276 | 262 | 269 | 258 | 166 | 195 |
| Total who passed bar exam | 251 | 249 | 266 | 233 | 215 | 190 | 137 | 129 | 167 | 119 | 130 |
| Total who failed bar exam | 92 | 90 | 80 | 61 | 71 | 86 | 125 | 140 | 91 | 47 | 65 |

Since Jan. 1, 2020, the Rules Governing Admission to the Mississippi Bar, Rule IV, Section 8, Re-Examination in Excess of Three, has limited the number of times an applicant may take the Mississippi Bar Examination to three. An examinee who fails the bar exam a third time is required to undertake additional legal education.

The February and July 2021 bar exams required special arrangements because of COVID-19. The bar exams were administered at the Jackson Convention Complex to allow for social distancing and other safety measures. COVID protocols included:

- Two medical professionals were hired to take temperatures of examinees upon entry;
- Examinees, medical professionals, proctors, and bar admissions staff were required to wear masks at all times;
- Examinees were required to sign a Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement and Code of Conduct;
- Examinees waited, standing six feet apart, in staging area until called to their assigned registration table;
- Hand sanitizing stations were placed throughout the venue and at proctor/registration tables;
- Examinees tables were spaced ten feet apart with one examinee per table;
- Tables and chairs were sanitized daily;
- Gloves were provided for proctors to handle exam materials;
- One emergency medical technician was present in the event an examinee began to show signs of illness and needed immediate medical attention. There were no reports of COVID during the 2021 exams.

OUTREACH

Mississippi Access to Justice Commission

The Access to Justice Commission in 2021 marked 15 years of work to improve civil legal access for the poor. The Mississippi Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission by an order signed on June 28, 2006, to

develop a unified strategy to improve access to the civil courts for the poor. The Commission is tasked with investigating the need for civil legal services to the poor in Mississippi and evaluating, developing and recommending policies, programs and initiatives that will assist the judiciary in meeting needs for civil legal services to the poor.

The Commission is made up of 21 voting members and 15 ex-officio members. Co-Chairs are Chancery Judge Jacqueline Mask of Tupelo and former Mississippi Bar President Rodger Wilder of Gulfport. Nicole McLaughlin of Tupelo is executive director.

Mississippi has made great improvements in providing legal access for the poor in civil disputes, yet there is still much work to do, leaders of the Access to Justice Commission said at the Commission's 15th Anniversary celebration on June 8, 2021. The state moved from last in the nation in 2016 to 34th out of 52 jurisdictions on the Justice Index survey which was released on May 18, 2021.

An even greater gain was rising to 14th in how the state assists self-represented litigants – up from next to last only four years before. The improvements ranked the state as seventh in the nation for overall progress. The survey, conducted by the National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham Law School, is a measure of 163 access to justice best practices in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

After very successful free family law clinics across the state in 2018 and 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Commission, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, Chancery Courts and local bar associations to curtail in-person free legal clinics in 2020 and 2021. Legal clinics included:



- *Pro se* family law clinics were held in all First Chancery District courts of Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Prentiss, Pontotoc, Tishomingo and Union counties. The First Chancery District clinics served 201 clients with assistance from 142 volunteer lawyers and 53 law students.
- An expungement assistance clinic was held in Bolivar County on July 28, 2021, co-sponsored by the Access to Justice Commission and the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. Four volunteer attorneys assisted 15 clients.
- The Commission partnered with the non-profit Wills for Magnolia State First Responders program to provide free estate planning documents for more than 30 first responders on Oct. 23, 2021.
- An Eviction pro bono project volunteer attorney continuing legal education program was presented virtually on Sept. 23, 2021, by the Commission and MVLP.
- A domestic abuse protection order practice CLE was presented virtually on Nov. 17, 2021, by the Commission in conjunction with MVLP and the Attorney General’s Office.

The Commission partnered with the Commission on Children’s Justice to produce a series of self-help videos for parents with cases in Youth Court. The videos are intended to assist individuals represented by counsel and self-represented litigants prepare for court and navigate the legal system. Topics included an introduction to Youth Court, parents’ rights, responsibilities for working on a safety plan, the first court hearing, and other court hearings. The videos were filmed in February 2021. Videos are expected to be made available in spring 2022 on the Access to Justice Commission website, <http://www.msatjc.org>. The website’s video library already contained 13 self-help videos. This addition of the parents in Youth Court videos will bring the number to 18.

The Commission partnered with the Mississippi Center for Justice to develop a virtual court navigator or chatbot for Justice Courts, available at <https://msjusticecourthelp.com/>. The chatbot, which went online in August 2021, answers questions and helps residents better understand the Justice Court system. The system was developed by California-based Cambria Solutions. The Commission worked with the Mississippi Center for Justice to secure funding for the program from a State Justice Institute Court Pandemic Response and Recovery Grant in the amount of \$150,000.

Civil Legal Assistance Fund

| YEAR | DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 2004 | \$115,000.00 |
| 2005 | \$230,000.00 |
| 2006 | \$145,000.00 |
| 2007 | \$280,000.00 |
| 2008 | \$774,663.00 |
| 2009 | \$887,000.00 |
| 2010 | \$800,000.00 |
| 2011 | \$753,000.00 |
| 2012 | \$662,500.00 |
| 2013 | \$594,119.09 |
| 2014 | \$597,480.76 |
| 2015 | \$797,192.69 |
| 2016 | \$785,254.03 |
| 2017 | \$727,075.77 |
| 2018 | \$717,325.07 |
| 2019 | \$742,295.55 |
| 2020 | \$710,955.07 |
| 2021 | \$661,718.85 |
| TOTAL | \$10,980,579.88 |

The Supreme Court in Fiscal Year 2021 distributed \$661,718.85 for civil legal assistance to low income people. The funds held by the Administrative Office of Courts are disbursed quarterly to the Mississippi Center for Legal Services, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, and the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. Civil Legal Assistance Fund distributions are paid from special assessments on court filings and from fees charged to out-of-state attorneys appearing *pro hac vice*.

The Supreme Court added the Access to Justice Commission to those entities receiving funding on May 10, 2018. The Court directed the Mississippi Bar to retain one-third of *pro hac vice* fees to be used by the Access to Justice Commission, and to forward two-thirds to the Administrative Office of Courts for the Civil Legal Assistance Fund. Since the Civil Legal Assistance Fund was created in 2004, more than \$10.9 million has been disbursed to help poor people to gain access to the legal system.

The Civil Legal Assistance Fund provides much needed assistance to promote access to the courts for low income people. There aren’t enough Legal Services lawyers to handle the estimated 200,000 to 250,000 people who need legal aid each year but can’t afford it. MVLP takes some of the cases referred by Legal Services. Legal Services offices are funded primarily by federal appropriations to the Legal Services Corporation. Money provided through the Civil Legal Assistance Fund is a significant supplement to Legal Services providers.

Commission on Children’s Justice

The Mississippi Supreme Court charged the Commission on Children’s Justice in 2006 with developing a statewide comprehensive approach to improving the child welfare system; coordinating the three branches of government in assessing the impact of government actions on children who are abused or neglected; and recommending changes to improve children’s safety, strengthen and support families and promote public trust and confidence in the child welfare system. Co-chairs are Supreme Court Justice Dawn Beam, 10th District Chancellor Rhea Sheldon and

Rankin County Youth Court Judge Thomas Broome.

The Commission on Children’s Justice fulfills a requirement for the receipt of federal funds for the state Court Improvement Program, CIP, in that an advisory group must be utilized to assist in identifying areas needing improvement in children’s justice issues, to make recommendations for improvement of those areas, and to monitor the implementation of the recommended reforms.

MCCJ, at its core, is the collaborative home for emerging ideas about child welfare in the state. Statewide stakeholders from the judiciary, the executive branch — including the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and the state Department of Human Services as well as the legislative branch join non-profit organizations, the private sector and the voices of those who have lived through the system. Together, these stakeholders discuss new approaches to a difficult system, with topics ranging from new practices throughout courtrooms and investigations to suggestions for new legislation.

Collaboration between the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services and the judiciary was in the spotlight in the "Child and Family Services Reviews Round 3 Report for Legal and Judicial Communities" issued in January 2021 by the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Report noted, "Mississippi’s Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS), in partnership with judicial leadership, has committed to expanding the number of counties that involve judicial court staff in the state’s child welfare Practice Model Learning Cycle (PMLC) during the CFSR PIP Implementation Period. The PMLC is a training and coaching process to institutionalize the state’s prevention-focused, trauma-informed, family-centric child welfare system practice model. Additional counties are being invited to replicate the judicial PMLC based on complementary initiatives, performance data, and readiness to participate."

Collaborative efforts between the Department of Child Protection Services and the courts, with assistance from national and community partners, have moved Mississippi toward systemic change in child welfare practices. The strongest evidence of that change is a significant reduction in the number of children in the custody of the courts and the Department of Child Protection Services. On March 31, 2017, there were 5,986 children in foster care, the most since 2003, the earliest data available. On Jan. 1, 2022, there were 3,849 children in Department of Child Protection Services custody, up slightly from the previous year. On Jan. 1, 2021, there were 3,766 children in foster care.

The Commission continued its program of hope-centered training. Psychologist Chan Hellman on Jan. 26 and 27, 2021, provided virtual and in-person “hope navigator” training to participants from more than 40 agencies and entities. On April 13, 14 and 15, 2021, Hellman led training in the power of hope in sessions in Oxford, Pearl and Gulfport. More than 1,200 people who work with abused and neglected children in the Youth Courts registered to participate. Participants included judges and court staff, Department of Child Protection Services leaders and social workers, Department of Education school attendance officers, representatives from the Department of Human Services, representatives of the Department of Mental Health, representatives of child advocacy centers and service providers. Youth Court teams from each jurisdiction participated as groups in the interactive training.

