

**SUPREME COURT
OF
MISSISSIPPI
2023 Annual Report**

Published by the Administrative Office of Courts

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Mississippi Judiciary is a co-equal branch among the three branches of state government, its independence established by Article 1, § 1 of the Mississippi Constitution. The Mississippi Supreme Court, the Circuit and Chancery Courts and the Justice Courts are constitutionally created courts established by Article 6 of the Mississippi Constitution. The Mississippi Court of Appeals is a statutorily created court established by Miss. Code Ann. § 9-4-1, and the County Courts are authorized and established by Miss. Code Ann. § 9-9-1. Municipal Courts are authorized by Miss. Code Ann. § 21-23-1.

Each judge in every district and county takes an oath set out in Article 6, § 155 of the Mississippi Constitution, pledging “that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me ... according to the best of my ability and understanding, agreeably to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi. So help me God.” Those words embody the duty and obligation of every judicial officer of every Mississippi court.

“All the duties incumbent” upon a judge encompasses a wide territory. For instance, circuit court judges are responsible not only for civil and criminal case dockets, but also oversee 23 drug intervention courts — one in each circuit court district. Youth court judges oversee 14 juvenile intervention courts and four family intervention courts. Drug intervention courts in Mississippi marked a milestone of 10,000 graduates in March 2023 after more than 23 years of offering life-changing programs for people struggling with drug addiction.

To fulfill their oath, judges of the courts of this state work to ensure that everyone who has a justiciable legal dispute can gain access to the appropriate court to decide that case. Economic barriers continue to be a challenge to “justice for all.” Increasing attention to the legal needs of low-income people by the bench, the private bar and non-profit organizations has gained traction and momentum toward access to justice for all. Much work remains.

The courts also made strides in equal access through improvements in the availability of foreign language interpreters. A full-time language access coordinator who focused on recruiting interpreters accomplished a 60 percent increase over the previous year’s number of credentialed language interpreters. A push to ensure that the state judiciary complies with federal laws and regulations regarding court interpreters led to new state legislation which made substantial improvements to the language access services available to people of limited English proficiency.

Providing better data to quantify the work of the trial courts has been a longtime goal of the judiciary. Planning for Mississippi Electronic Courts, MEC, began nearly two decades ago. As of June 19, 2023, all 82 chancery courts were operating in MEC, an electronic filing and docket management system modeled on that of the federal district courts. At the end of December 2023, the MEC system was utilized in 62 circuit courts covering 80 percent of the population, and in 21 county courts. Twenty-four courts awaited MEC implementation at the end of 2023.

Trial court data is currently gathered from multiple sources: electronically generated reporting of MEC, non-MEC reporting via daily electronic data downloads, and paper cover sheets and dispositions mailed to AOC. Clerks of the chancery and circuit courts reported to AOC that that trial courts closed more than 121,000 cases during Fiscal Year 2023, which commenced on July 1, 2022, and ended on June 30, 2023.

In recent years, the Annual Report has provided fiscal year data from trial courts and calendar year data for appellate courts. In the future, the Annual Report is expected to report on the calendar year. In the 2023 Annual Report, calendar year data as well as fiscal year data is reported for the trial courts, with fiscal year data providing comparisons with previous years. A category of numbers of pending cases also was added to the calendar year data.

The Supreme Court decided 260 cases in calendar year 2023, and issued rulings in 2,656 motions and petitions. The Supreme Court also has significant administrative responsibilities such as rule making. The Court of Appeals decided 354 cases and disposed of 1,550 motions and petitions. Appellate courts strive to decide cases within 270 days of completion of briefing. The Supreme Court’s average time was 183 days during 2023; the Court of Appeals’ average time was 200 days. Before the Legislature created the Court of Appeals, it could take three years for an appeal to be decided, due to a backlog of appeals. The efficient work of both appellate courts allows litigants to receive timely decisions in their appeals.

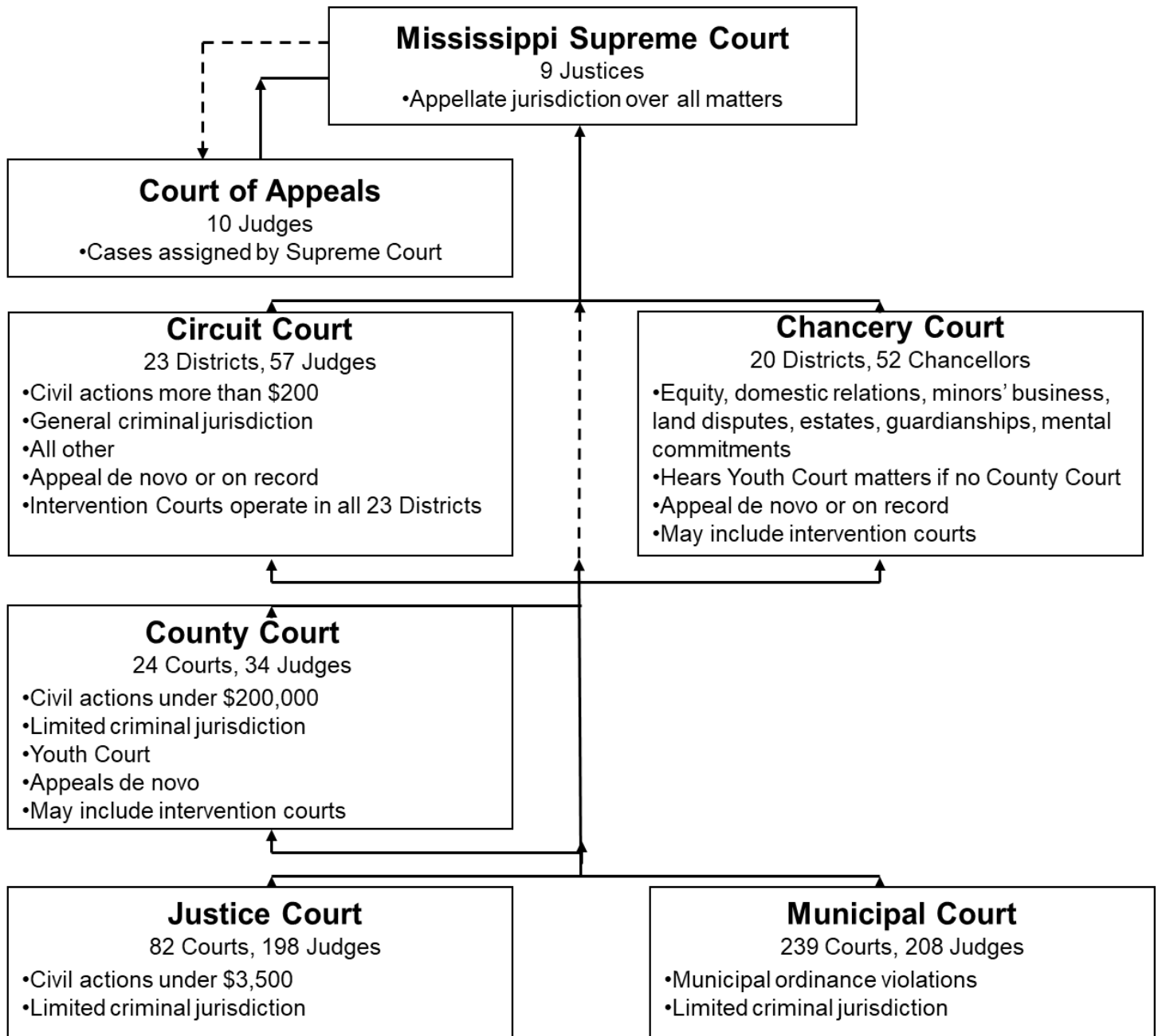
THE MISSISSIPPI JUDICIAL SYSTEM

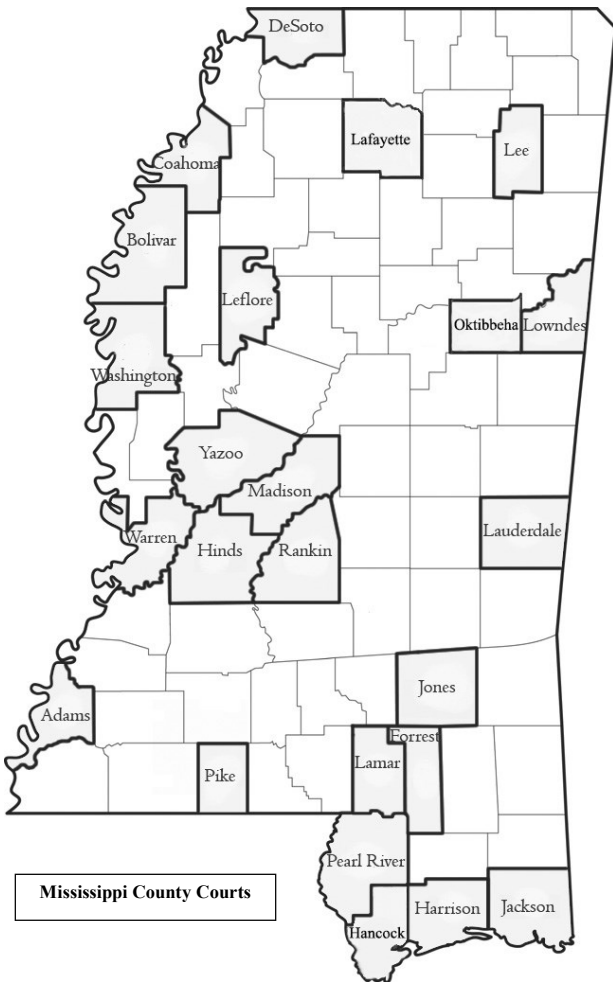
At the most basic level of the judicial system, Justice Courts and Municipal Courts are where the largest number of people encounter the judicial System. Trial courts of record are the County, Chancery, and Circuit Courts. The appellate system is made up of two appellate courts, the Court of Appeals 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 239 Municipal Courts, and 208 judges. 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 County Courts

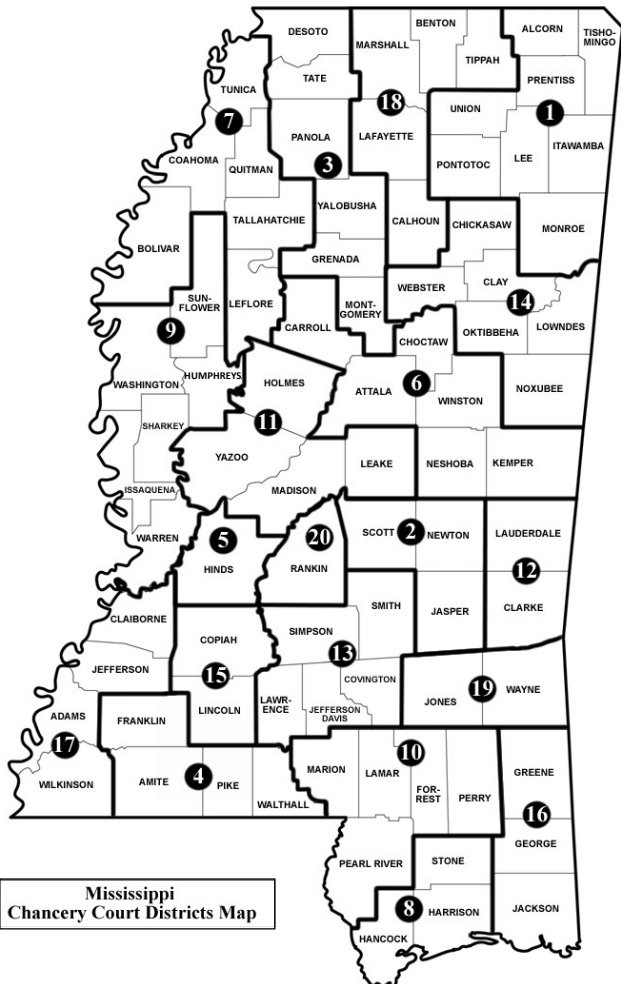
Mississippi gained two more County Courts in January 2023 when Lafayette and Oktibbeha counties began operating County Courts. Statewide, jurisdictions and judges grew to 24 County Courts with 34 judges. Governor Tate Reeves issued proclamations creating the new County Courts on Jan. 18, 2022, at the request of local officials, as Lafayette and Oktibbeha counties' populations had exceeded the statutory threshold of 50,000 people.

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

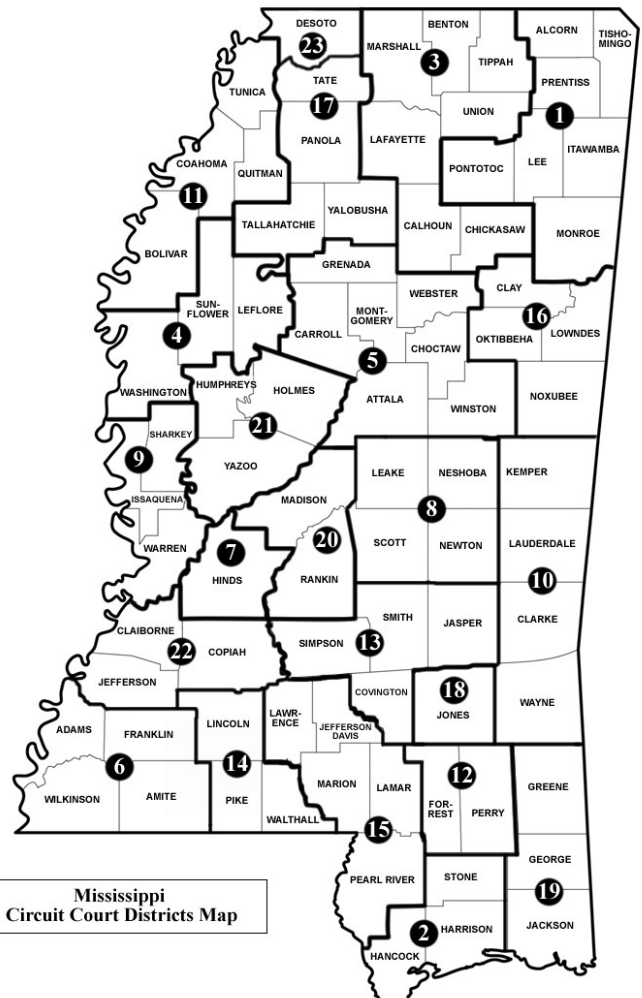
The 82 Chancery Courts are organized into 20 districts with 52 chancellors. Chancery Courts have jurisdiction over matters of equity, domestic relations, land disputes, estates, guardianships and mental commitments. In counties without County Courts, Chancery Courts handle Youth Court functions. They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

The Mississippi Legislature created the new 23rd Circuit District of DeSoto County effective in January 2023. DeSoto County previously was part of the 17th Circuit Court District.

The Circuit Courts are the general jurisdiction trial courts in Mississippi. There are 57 Circuit Judges. Circuit Courts 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.



Mississippi Chancery Court Districts Map



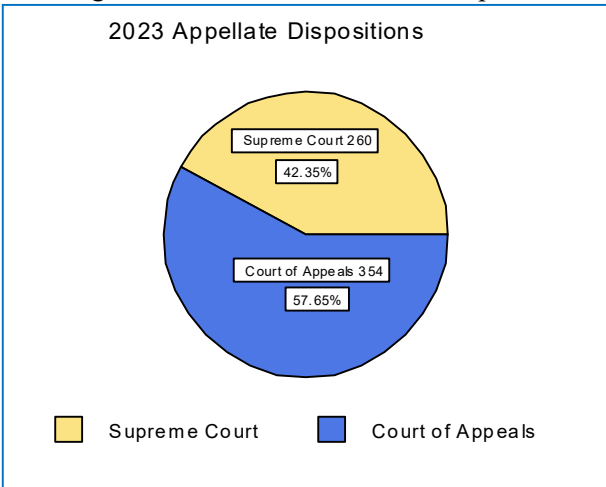
Mississippi Circuit Court Districts Map



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.

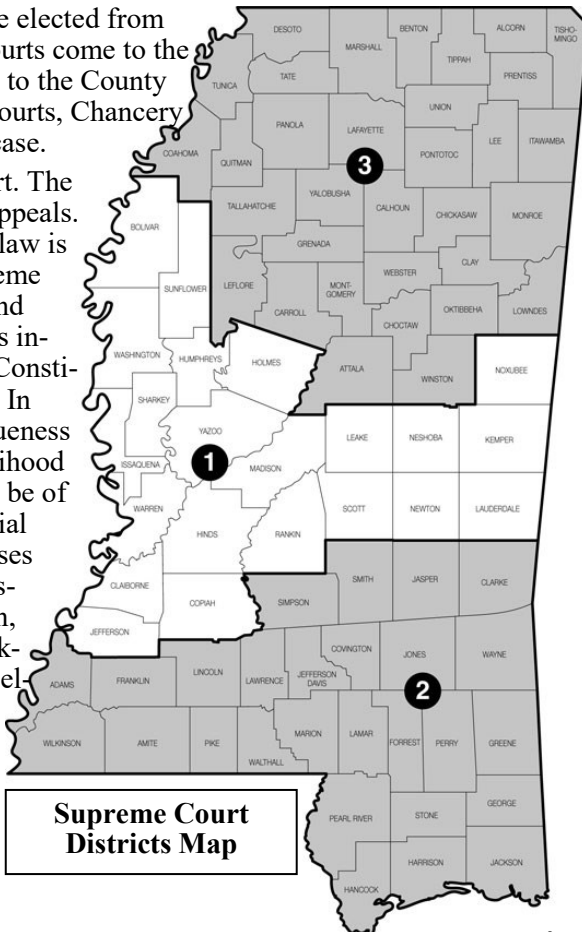
The Supreme Court is made up of nine justices; three justices are elected from each of three districts. All appeals from Circuit, Chancery and Youth Courts come to the Supreme Court. Appeals from Justice Courts go to the Circuit Courts or to the County Courts where available. County Court appeals are to either the Circuit Courts, Chancery Courts, or the Supreme Court, depending on subject matter and type of case.

All appeals from the trial courts are filed with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court may either retain an appeal or assign it to the Court of Appeals. Cases assigned to the Court of Appeals generally are those in which the law is settled, but the application of the law to the facts is in dispute. The Supreme Court retains appeals of death sentences; annexations; bar discipline; bond issues; election contests; judicial performance matters; utility rates; cases involving issues of first impression; cases involving interpretation of the Constitution, statutes or regulations; 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 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.

The Supreme Court decided 260 cases in 2023; the Court of Appeals decided 354 cases.





Justices of the En Banc Mississippi Supreme Court listen to oral arguments in a death penalty appeal on November 14, 2023.

In addition to its workload of retained cases, the Supreme Court has significant administrative responsibilities such as rule making obligations ranging from rules of procedure to bar admissions. The Supreme Court during 2023 adopted six rule amendments. The rule amendments included changes to Rules 37, 45 (two revisions) and 54 of the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure, approval of Local Rules for the Tenth Chancery Court District and an amendment to Rule 7.2 of the Mississippi Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Rule 7.2 amendment is intended to provide continuous representation for indigent defendants. Details of all 2023 rule changes may be found on the website of the Mississippi Judiciary at this link: <https://courts.ms.gov/research/rules/ruleamendments/ruleamendments.php?selid=1>.

Of the 260 cases decided by the Supreme Court, 137 cases were decided on the merits. The remaining cases were dismissed. Cases decided by the Supreme Court include both appeals and other cases, such as bar discipline and reinstatement cases and judicial discipline cases. Of the 117 appeals decided on the merits, 89 (76.1 percent) were civil, and 28 (23.9 percent) were criminal. Of the 89 civil appeals decided on the merits, 43 (48.3 percent) were affirmed, and 46 (51.7 percent) were reversed, vacated or remanded. Of the 28 criminal appeals decided on the merits, 27 (96.4 percent) were affirmed, and 1 (3.6 percent) was reversed.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in eight cases in 2023. The majority of cases were decided on briefs without oral argument.

The Supreme Court disposed of 2,656 motions and petitions during 2023. This included 29 motions for rehearing, of which one was granted. Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Mississippi Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Supreme Court disposed of 122 petitions for interlocutory appeal. Of the interlocutory appeals, 76 (62.3 percent) were denied, 25 (20.5 percent) were granted, and 21 (17.2 percent) were dismissed or had other dispositions.

In 2023, the Supreme Court decided 123 petitions for writ of certiorari that sought review of decisions of the Court of Appeals. Of those, 24 (19.5 percent) were granted; 94 (76.4 percent) were denied; and 5 (4.1 percent) were dismissed or had other dispositions.

Average days, final brief to decision								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Supreme Court	200	192	200	174	187	168	202	183
Court of Appeals	228	213	211	211	206	197	192	200

Appellate courts strive to decide cases within 270 days of completion of briefing, and in most cases, decisions are made sooner. The Supreme Court’s average time from end of briefing to case decision was 183 days during 2023. The Court of Appeals’ average time was 200 days.



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.

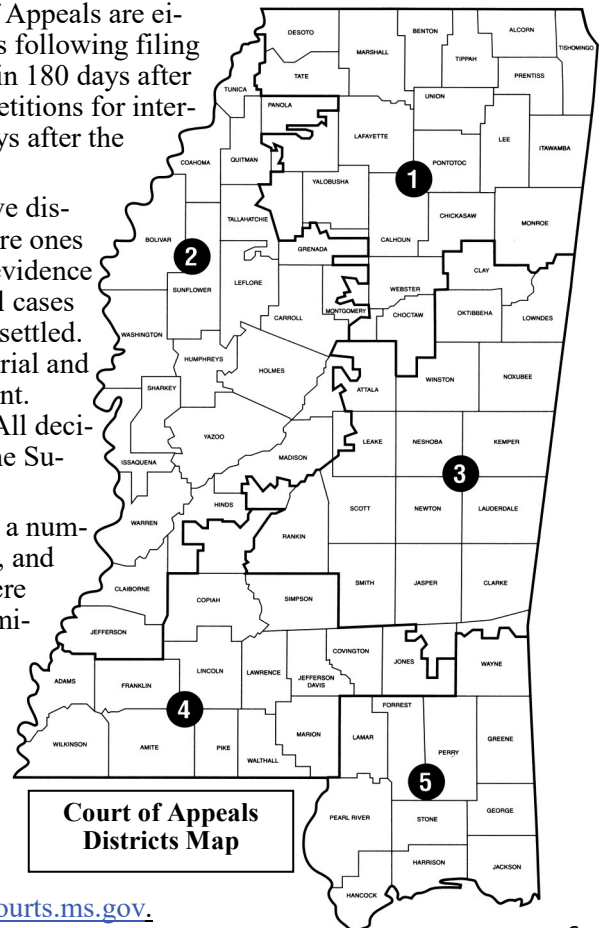
The Supreme Court has discretionary authority to review cases after those cases are decided by the Court of Appeals. All petitions for writ of certiorari from decisions of the Court of Appeals are either granted, denied or dismissed by the Supreme Court within 90 days following filing of responses to the petitions. Certiorari petitions must be decided within 180 days after review is granted. The Supreme Court’s average time was 105 days. Petitions for interlocutory appeal are usually granted, denied, or dismissed within 45 days after the responses are filed.

The Court of Appeals is made up of 10 judges elected from five districts. 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 of Appeals 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. 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.

Of the 354 cases disposed of by the Court of Appeals in 2023, a number were dismissed. Of the cases decided on the merits, 214 were civil, and 103 were criminal. Of the 214 civil cases decided, 169 (79 percent) were affirmed and 45 (21 percent) were reversed or vacated. Of the 103 criminal appeals decided, 93 (90.3 percent) were affirmed and 10 (9.7 percent) were reversed. The Court of Appeals disposed of 1,550 motions and petitions. This included 137 motions for rehearing, all of which were denied or dismissed.

The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in 36 cases in 2023.

Oral arguments are open to the public. Also, oral arguments before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals are webcast on the internet and archived on the Mississippi Judiciary website, <http://courts.ms.gov>.





Court of Appeals Judge Deborah McDonald, Presiding Judge Jack Wilson and Judge Anthony Lawrence listen to an oral argument at the University of Mississippi School of Law on October 18, 2023, as part of the Court on the Road program.

The Court of Appeals convened on four college campuses in 2023 for the Court on the Road program. Oral arguments were heard on the campuses of Mississippi State University, Mississippi Valley State University, the University of Mississippi School of Law and Rust College. Court on the Road schedules oral arguments on college campuses and occasionally at other locations as a teaching tool to give students and the public opportunities to watch proceedings in cases on appeal. Court on the Road offers a unique learning experience for students with an interest in law, government, journalism and a variety of other fields. The public may attend to gain a better understanding of appellate court

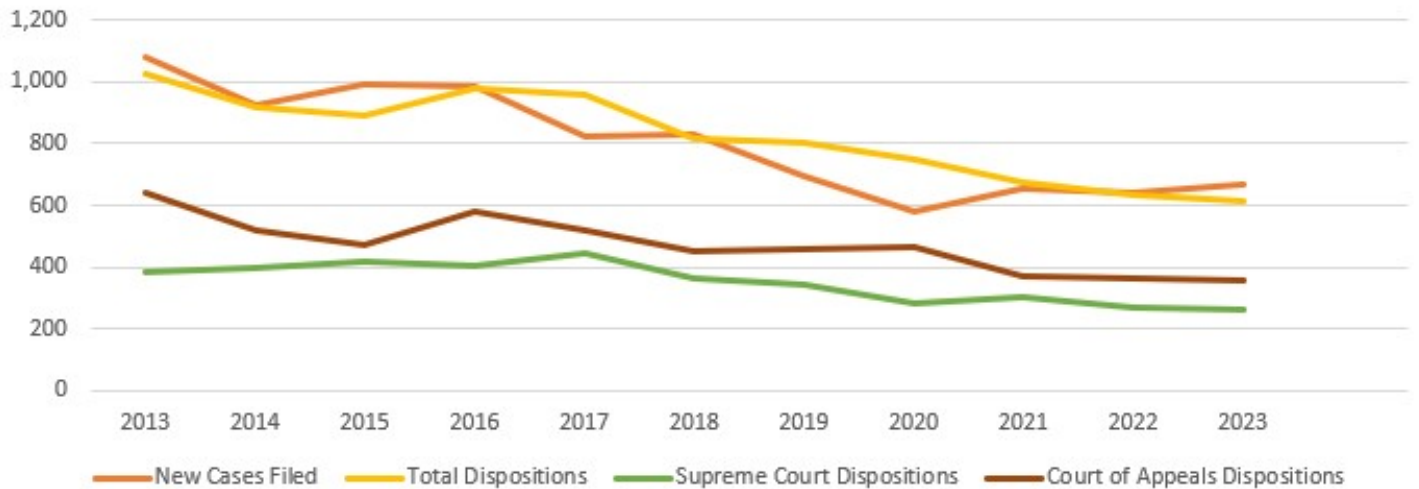
proceedings.

Judges always meet with students after the oral arguments, answering questions but not talking about the case on appeal. While the Supreme Court is required by the Mississippi Constitution to sit in Jackson, the Court of Appeals, legislatively created by statute, may convene at other locations around the state.

2021 — 2022 — 2023 Appellate Case Dispositions									
	Supreme Court			Court of Appeals			Courts Combined		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Dismissed by Clerk's Rule 2 Notice	71	68	57	18	27	21	89	95	78
Dismissed by Order of Court	102	81	71	32	26	13	134	107	84
Cert Petitions Dismissed after Grant	1	1	3	NA	NA	NA	1	1	3
Decided by Published Opinion	121	117	126	322	307	320	443	424	446
Per Curiam Affirmed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Decided by Order	4	3	2	1	2	0	5	5	2
Total Case Dispositions	299	270	260	373	362	354	672	632	614

2021 — 2022 — 2023 Dispositions of Rehearing Motions, Interlocutory Appeals and Cert Petitions									
	Supreme Court			Court of Appeals			Courts Combined		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Motions for Rehearing	30	33	29	147	129	137	177	129	166
Petitions for Interlocutory Appeal	123	151	122	0	0	0	123	0	122
Petitions for Certiorari	149	94	123	0	0	0	149	0	123

Appellate Filings and Dispositions 2013 - 2023



Appellate Filings and Dispositions, 2013 — 2023

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Cases Filed	1,084	926	995	983	824	830	697	579	657	642	667
Total Dispositions	1,030	916	890	980	958	819	805	752	672	632	616
Supreme Court Dispositions	386	400	419	401	441	365	344	285	299	270	260
Court of Appeals Dispositions	644	516	471	579	521	454	461	467	373	362	354

Appellate Case Filings	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Notices of Appeal, General	863	732	770	637	492	576	565	585
Death Penalty Direct Appeal	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Death Penalty PCR Applications	7	2	6	2	4	4	4	8
Bar Discipline Cases	4	1	9	8	5	7	3	7
Bar Discipline Appeals	1	4	0	1	1	1	1	0
Bar Reinstatement Cases	2	4	4	1	5	1	3	2
Judicial Performance Cases	4	0	3	2	1	1	1	0
Annexation Cases	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
Election Contests	6	1	2	1	9	4	0	8
Interlocutory Appeals Granted	44	37	22	29	43	26	32	25
Certiorari Petitions Granted	27	40	12	14	17	23	16	21
Workers' Compensation Appeals	24	27	25	17	17	14	16	9
Utility Rate Cases	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Federally Certified Questions	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Total New Cases Filed	983	824	830	697	579	657	642	667

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

The Office of the Clerk is maintained within the framework of various statutes enacted by the Legislature, rules, regulations, and orders promulgated by the Mississippi Supreme Court. The office has 12 full-time staff members, with Jeremy Whitmire serving as the Clerk of Court since his appointment by the Court in July 2018. The Office of the Clerk serves both the Mississippi Supreme Court and the Mississippi Court of Appeals. The Office of the Clerk 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.



Jeremy Whitmire

In addition to serving as the point of contact for attorneys, litigants, and the general public with respect to all case-related matters, the Clerk's Office serves as the primary repository for appellate cases and other matters before each Court. The office continues to be the hub for the judiciary of the state of Mississippi, working closely with the Administrative Office of Courts, Mississippi Electronic Courts, the Appellate Court's Information Technology Department and Court Administration to suggest and implement enhancements to existing systems as the needs of trial courts, appellate courts, attorneys, litigants, and the public evolve. The collaboration between these 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 in a timely, efficient manner.

The Clerk's Office in 2023 processed and docketed a total of 505 appellate records with the average turnaround time from receipt of record to the start of briefing being less than 24 hours. With more trial courts utilizing MEC, many appellate records are being sent to the Court electronically, which reduces cost and processing time for both appellate courts as well as the trial courts. This process will continue to improve with the goal of allowing for the transmission of more records electronically which will result in not only a quicker turnaround time for litigants, but also further reduction in costs to the State. The office processed and docketed 4,007 motions, 597 responses, 1,423 appellate briefs, and 2,074 total orders from the two appellate courts. A total of 2,057 procedural motions were timely addressed by the office and 510 mandates were issued during the year. At present, the office is responsible for approximately 964 open and active case files.

The year 2023 saw continued improvements with the Court's case management platform incorporating real-time reports that help to improve case management and ultimately case flow within the Court itself. These improvements to the system reduce delay and improve case clearance efficiency for each Court. In addition, workflow improvements within the system allow the office to work more efficiently. The Clerk's Office continues to work very closely with the Court's Information Technology team to leverage and improve existing technologies to not only improve the functionality of the system for *pro se* litigants and attorneys, but also for Justices, Judges, and their staff.

The 2023 Mississippi elections resulted in multiple, newly-elected Chancery Court Clerks as well as Circuit Court Clerks. The Clerk's Office welcomed new clerks to their positions and provided them with an introduction to the world of appellate law. The Clerk's Office was honored to be able to welcome these individuals into a family that supports each other through the difficult and demanding tasks ahead.

MISSISSIPPI TRIAL COURTS OF RECORD

Judicial Conference Leadership

Trial judges elected officers on Oct. 26, 2023, during the fall Trial and Appellate Judges Conference.

Chancellor Cynthia Brewer of Madison was elected chair of the Conference of Chancery Court Judges. Chancellor Troy Odom of Brandon was elected vice-chair, and Chancellor Larry Little of Oxford was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Circuit Judge Tomika Irving of Fayette was elected chair of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, Circuit Judge Christopher Schmidt of Pass Christian was elected vice-chair, and Circuit Judge Celeste Wilson of Southaven was elected secretary-treasurer.

The Conference of County Court Judges re-elected Madison County Court Judge Edwin Hannan of Madison as chairman, Washington County Court Judge Vernita King Johnson of Greenville as vice-chair, and Lauderdale County Court Judge Veldore Young Graham of Meridian as secretary.

Judge Brewer previously served as Chancery Conference chair in 2012, and was vice-chair in 2011 and 2022. She has served on the 11th Chancery Court since January 2007. Judge Odom took office in January 2019 in the 20th



Judge Cynthia Brewer



Judge Troy Odom



Judge Larry Little

Chancery. Judge Little took office in January 2019 in the 18th Chancery. He has served as Conference secretary-treasurer since October 2019.

Judge Irving has served the 22nd Circuit Court since January 2019. Judge Schmidt took office in January 2015 in the 2nd Circuit. Judge Wilson joined the 17th Circuit in February 2017. She was elected to the 23rd Circuit and took office in January 2023 when DeSoto County became a separate district.

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 became Conference secretary in April 2012. Judge Hannan, of Madison, became a Madison County Court Judge in January 2007. Judge Johnson, of Greenville, has been Washington County Court Judge since 1999. Judge Young Graham, of Meridian, has served on the Lauderdale County Court bench since January 2007.



Judge Tomika Irving



Judge Christopher Schmidt



Judge Celeste Wilson

Tishomingo County Youth Court Referee Joey Cobb became chair of the Council of Youth Court Judges after the death of long-time Chair Judge Thomas Broome on May 21, 2023. Cobb had served as vice-chair since 2011. Lauderdale County Youth Court Judge Veldore Young Graham has served as secretary-treasurer since September 2017.



Judge Edwin Hannan



Judge Vernita King Johnson



Judge Veldore Young Graham



Referee Joey Cobb

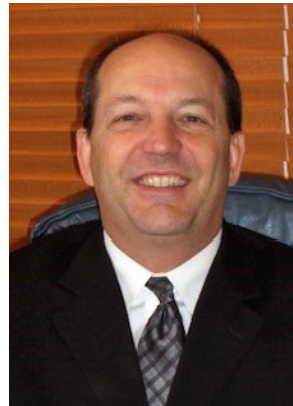
Retired Chancellor Patricia Wise of Jackson is chair of the Conference of Senior Status Judges. Retired Circuit Judge Steve Simpson of Gulfport



Judge Patricia Wise



Judge Steve Simpson



Judge James Bell

is vice-chair, and former Hinds County Court Judge James Bell of Crystal Springs is secretary-treasurer. They were elected at the April 27, 2023, spring Trial and Appellate Judges Conference. Judge Wise was a Hinds Chancery Judge 1989-2018. Judge Simpson was a 2nd Circuit judge 2000-2008. Judge Bell is the longest serving Senior Status judge. He began accepting Senior Status appointments in 1989 after serving for six years as a Hinds County Court Judge.

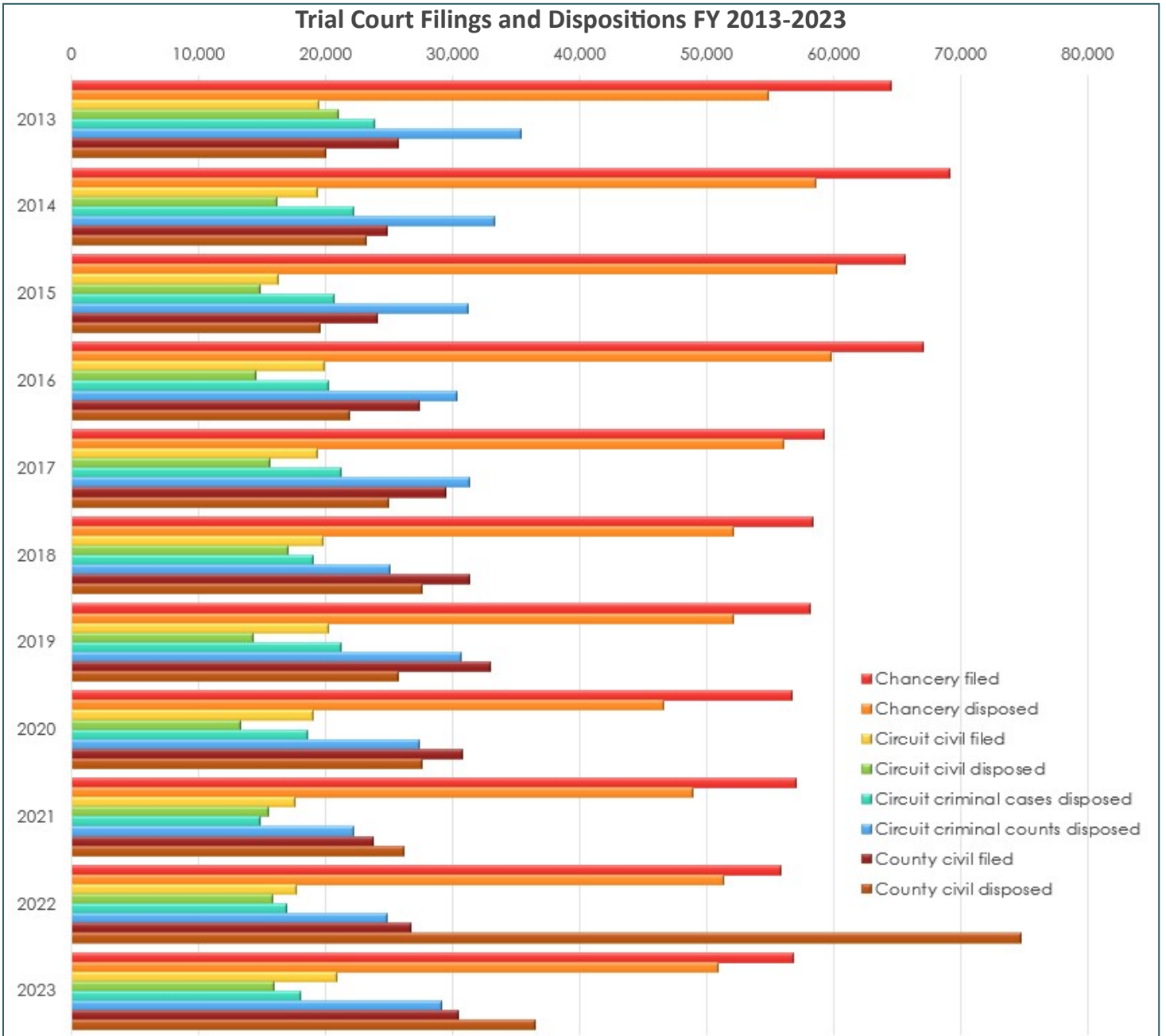
In December 2023, Senior Status judges included 72 retired judges. Senior Status judges serve a critical function, hearing cases by appointment of the Supreme Court

when all judges in a district recuse themselves. In 2023, the Supreme Court made 297 special judge appointments. All special judge appointments were of Senior Status judges.

TRIAL COURT DATA

Annual Reports in recent years have provided most trial court data on a fiscal year schedule. Next year's report, the 2024 Annual Report, is expected to move to a calendar year data format. To provide continuity for year-to-year comparisons, the 2023 Annual Report has two data sets, Fiscal Year 2023 and Calendar Year 2023. The 2023 FY section begins on the next page. Calendar year data begins on page 26.

The Administrative Office of Courts relies on the clerks of court for timely and complete entry of required case data into the Mississippi Electronic Courts system in order to compile accurate statistics for the courts. For the few courts not yet on MEC, the clerks of court are relied upon for accurate and timely data reporting directly to the AOC.



FISCAL YEAR	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Chancery filed	64,515	69,100	65,589	66,999	59,221	58,346	58,099	56,754	57,050	55,839	56,801
Chancery disposed	54,817	58,573	60,192	59,780	56,079	52,132	52,042	46,621	48,852	51,291	50,897
Circuit civil filed	19,429	19,305	16,236	19,907	19,328	19,789	20,235	18,984	17,561	17,676	20,924
Circuit civil disposed	21,003	16,123	14,874	14,467	15,557	16,974	14,288	13,340	15,529	15,765	15,966
Circuit criminal cases disposed	23,851	22,229	20,703	20,188	21,182	19,000	21,171	18,581	14,781	16,961	18,013
Circuit criminal counts disposed	35,437	33,322	31,174	30,284	31,361	25,009	30,644	27,367	22,212	24,880	29,094
County civil filed	25,761	24,793	24,055	27,366	29,417	31,307	32,915	30,791	23,696	26,725	30,485
County civil disposed	20,038	23,187	19,552	21,861	24,933	27,602	25,665	27,581	26,120	74,694*	36,483

* A backlog of civil cases in Hinds County Court was resolved in 2022. Thousands of cases had been filed but not pursued by litigants in previous years. Those cases are recorded as closed in 2022.

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, by District

Chancery District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
1	Alcorn Chancery Court	799	709
1	Itawamba Chancery Court	465	432
1	Lee Chancery Court	2,069	1,691
1	Monroe Chancery Court	663	500
1	Pontotoc Chancery Court	618	353
1	Prentiss Chancery Court	471	383
1	Tishomingo Chancery Court	421	355
1	Union Chancery Court	432	346
District 1 Totals		5,938	4,769
2	Jasper Chancery Court	377	326
2	Newton Chancery Court	400	413
2	Scott Chancery Court	728	596
District 2 Totals		1,505	1,335
3	DeSoto Chancery Court	2,717	3,083
3	Grenada Chancery Court	418	264
3	Montgomery Chancery Court	211	154
3	Panola Chancery Court	726	670
3	Tate Chancery Court	469	392
3	Yalobusha Chancery Court	268	181
District 3 Totals		4,809	4,744
4	Amite Chancery Court	295	304
4	Franklin Chancery Court	217	207
4	Pike Chancery Court	689	697
4	Walthall Chancery Court	301	307
District 4 Totals		1,502	1,515
5	Hinds Chancery Court	4,754	5,287
District 5 Totals		4,754	5,287
6	Attala Chancery Court	410	282
6	Carroll Chancery Court	184	155
6	Choctaw Chancery Court	147	188
6	Kemper Chancery Court	160	97
6	Neshoba Chancery Court	524	496
6	Winston Chancery Court	345	235
District 6 Totals		1,770	1,453
7	Bolivar Chancery Court	503	239
7	Coahoma Chancery Court	591	489
7	Leflore Chancery Court	442	223
7	Quitman Chancery Court	149	144
7	Tallahatchie Chancery Court	202	74
7	Tunica Chancery Court	193	155
District 7 Totals		2,080	1,324
8	Hancock Chancery Court	1,004	839
8	Harrison Chancery Court	4,506	3,855
8	Stone Chancery Court	286	279
District 8 Totals		5,796	4,973
9	Humphreys Chancery Court	155	2
9	Issaquena Chancery Court	17	0
9	Sharkey Chancery Court	77	32
9	Sunflower Chancery Court	403	970
9	Warren Chancery Court	753	913
9	Washington Chancery Court	860	236
District 9 Totals		2,265	2,153

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, by District

Chancery District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
10	Forrest Chancery Court	1,311	1,235
10	Lamar Chancery Court	936	934
10	Marion Chancery Court	393	350
10	Pearl River Chancery Court	1,055	1,336
10	Perry Chancery Court	199	168
District 10 Totals		3,894	4,023
11	Holmes Chancery Court	364	207
11	Leake Chancery Court	480	403
11	Madison Chancery Court	1,669	1,306
11	Yazoo Chancery Court	321	212
District 11 Totals		2,834	2,128
12	Clarke Chancery Court	328	399
12	Lauderdale Chancery Court	1,482	1,426
District 12 Totals		1,810	1,825
13	Covington Chancery Court	302	294
13	Jefferson Davis Chancery Court	231	186
13	Lawrence Chancery Court	257	259
13	Simpson Chancery Court	640	453
13	Smith Chancery Court	335	298
District 13 Totals		1,765	1,490
14	Chickasaw Chancery Court	375	331
14	Clay Chancery Court	495	397
14	Lowndes Chancery Court	1,209	895
14	Noxubee Chancery Court	230	108
14	Oktibbeha Chancery Court	646	410
14	Webster Chancery Court	184	152
District 14 Totals		3,139	2,293
15	Copiah Chancery Court	687	541
15	Lincoln Chancery Court	823	1,113
District 15 Totals		1,510	1,654
16	George Chancery Court	560	428
16	Greene Chancery Court	204	183
16	Jackson Chancery Court	3,182	3,075
District 16 Totals		3,946	3,686
17	Adams Chancery Court	701	563
17	Claiborne Chancery Court	254	113
17	Jefferson Chancery Court	210	84
17	Wilkinson Chancery Court	181	174
District 17 Totals		1,346	934
18	Benton Chancery Court	131	10
18	Calhoun Chancery Court	216	209
18	Lafayette Chancery Court	700	690
18	Marshall Chancery Court	630	495
18	Tippah Chancery Court	360	357
District 18 Totals		2,037	1,761
19	Jones Chancery Court	1,205	974
19	Wayne County Chancery Court	407	377
District 19 Totals		1,612	1,351
20	Rankin Chancery	2,489	2,199
District 20 Totals		2,489	2,199
Statewide Totals		56,801	50,897

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, Alphabetical

Chancery District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
17	Adams Chancery Court	701	563
1	Alcorn Chancery Court	799	709
4	Amite Chancery Court	295	304
6	Attala Chancery Court	410	282
18	Benton Chancery Court	131	10
7	Bolivar Chancery Court	503	239
18	Calhoun Chancery Court	216	209
6	Carroll Chancery Court	184	155
14	Chickasaw Chancery Court	375	331
6	Choctaw Chancery Court	147	188
17	Claiborne Chancery Court	254	113
12	Clarke Chancery Court	328	399
14	Clay Chancery Court	495	397
7	Coahoma Chancery Court	591	489
15	Copiah Chancery Court	687	541
13	Covington Chancery Court	302	294
3	DeSoto Chancery Court	2,717	3,083
10	Forrest Chancery Court	1,311	1,235
4	Franklin Chancery Court	217	207
16	George Chancery Court	560	428
16	Greene Chancery Court	204	183
3	Grenada Chancery Court	418	264
8	Hancock Chancery Court	1,004	839
8	Harrison Chancery Court	4,506	3,855
5	Hinds Chancery Court	4,754	5,287
11	Holmes Chancery Court	364	207
9	Humphreys Chancery Court	155	2
9	Issaquena Chancery Court	17	0
1	Itawamba Chancery Court	465	432
16	Jackson Chancery Court	3,182	3,075
2	Jasper Chancery Court	377	326
17	Jefferson Chancery Court	210	84
13	Jefferson Davis Chancery Court	231	186
19	Jones Chancery Court	1,205	974
6	Kemper Chancery Court	160	97
18	Lafayette Chancery Court	700	690
10	Lamar Chancery Court	936	934
12	Lauderdale Chancery Court	1,482	1,426
13	Lawrence Chancery Court	257	259
11	Leake Chancery Court	480	403
1	Lee Chancery Court	2,069	1,691

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, Alphabetical

Chancery District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
7	Leflore Chancery Court	442	223
15	Lincoln Chancery Court	823	1,113
14	Lowndes Chancery Court	1,209	895
11	Madison Chancery Court	1,669	1,306
10	Marion Chancery Court	393	350
18	Marshall Chancery Court	630	495
1	Monroe Chancery Court	663	500
3	Montgomery Chancery Court	211	154
6	Neshoba Chancery Court	524	496
2	Newton Chancery Court	400	413
14	Noxubee Chancery Court	230	108
14	Oktibbeha Chancery Court	646	410
3	Panola Chancery Court	726	670
10	Pearl River Chancery Court	1,055	1,336
10	Perry Chancery Court	199	168
4	Pike Chancery Court	689	697
1	Pontotoc Chancery Court	618	353
1	Prentiss Chancery Court	471	383
7	Quitman Chancery Court	149	144
20	Rankin Chancery	2,489	2,199
2	Scott Chancery Court	728	596
9	Sharkey Chancery Court	77	32
13	Simpson Chancery Court	640	453
13	Smith Chancery Court	335	298
8	Stone Chancery Court	286	279
9	Sunflower Chancery Court	403	970
7	Tallahatchie Chancery Court	202	74
3	Tate Chancery Court	469	392
18	Tippah Chancery Court	360	357
1	Tishomingo Chancery Court	421	355
7	Tunica Chancery Court	193	155
1	Union Chancery Court	432	346
4	Walthall Chancery Court	301	307
9	Warren Chancery Court	753	913
9	Washington Chancery Court	860	236
19	Wayne County Chancery Court	407	377
14	Webster Chancery Court	184	152
17	Wilkinson Chancery Court	181	174
6	Winston Chancery Court	345	235
3	Yalobusha Chancery Court	268	181
11	Yazoo Chancery Court	321	212
	Totals:	56,801	50,897

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, by District			
Circuit District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	357	277
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	182	111
1	Lee Circuit Court	124	138
1	Monroe Circuit Court	418	430
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	271	467
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	284	251
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	192	169
District 1 Totals		1,828	1,843
2	Hancock Circuit Court	244	208
2	Harrison Circuit Court	762	720
2	Stone Circuit Court	188	139
District 2 Totals		1,194	1,067
3	Benton Circuit Court	106	61
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	143	172
3	Chickasaw Circuit Court	205	125
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	504	608
3	Marshall Circuit Court	491	570
3	Tippah Circuit Court	220	182
3	Union Circuit Court	381	216
District 3 Totals		2,050	1,934
4	Leflore Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	330	294
4	Washington Circuit Court	162	189
District 4 Totals		492	483
5	Attala Circuit Court	319	325
5	Carroll Circuit Court	95	37
5	Choctaw Circuit Court	72	60
5	Grenada Circuit Court	449	466
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	110	89
5	Webster Circuit Court	107	107
5	Winston Circuit Court	205	206
District 5 Totals		1,357	1,290
6	Adams Circuit Court	103	43
6	Amite Circuit Court	196	120
6	Franklin Circuit Court	90	56
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	69	24
District 6 Totals		458	243
7	Hinds Circuit Court	883	669
District 7 Totals		883	669
8	Leake Circuit Court	299	148
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	667	0 (No data provided.)
8	Newton Circuit Court	271	144
8	Scott Circuit Court	411	340
District 8 Totals		1,648	632
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	18	5
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	52	37
9	Warren Circuit Court	203	186
District 9 Totals		273	228
10	Clarke Circuit Court	170	129
10	Kemper Circuit Court	65	3
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	134	134
10	Wayne Circuit Court	299	199
District 10 Totals		668	465

Counties listed in blue use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, by District

Circuit District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	99	123
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	51	39
11	Quitman Circuit Court	51	5
11	Tunica Circuit Court	147	106
District 11 Totals		348	273
12	Forrest Circuit Court	225	121
12	Perry Circuit Court	210	141
District 12 Totals		435	262
13	Covington Circuit Court	313	227
13	Jasper Circuit Court	229	154
13	Simpson Circuit Court	525	10
13	Smith Circuit Court	205	177
District 13 Totals		1,272	568
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	718	603
14	Pike Circuit Court	155	119
14	Walthall Circuit Court	353	29
District 14 Totals		1,226	751
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	197	148
15	Lamar Circuit Court	203	208
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	177	147
15	Marion Circuit Court	447	417
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	222	126
District 15 Totals		1,246	1,046
16	Clay Circuit Court	276	12
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	226	159
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	115	169
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	621	645
District 16 Totals		1,238	985
17	Panola Circuit Court	643	165
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	163	108
17	Tate Circuit Court	406	355
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	144	68
District 17 Totals		1,356	696
18	Jones Circuit Court	85	48
District 18 Totals		85	48
19	George Circuit Court	315	301
19	Greene Circuit Court	185	164
19	Jackson Circuit Court	227	319
District 19 Totals		727	784
20	Madison Circuit Court	383	363
20	Rankin Circuit Court	367	306
District 20 Totals		750	669
21	Holmes Circuit Court	28	0 (No data provided.)
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	82	6
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	58	43
District 21 Totals		168	49
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	168	104
22	Copiah Circuit Court	502	425
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	99	8
District 22 Totals		769	537
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	453	444
District 23 Totals		453	444
Statewide Totals		20,924	15,966

Counties listed in blue use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, Alphabetical

Circuit District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
6	Adams Circuit Court	103	43
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	357	277
6	Amite Circuit Court	196	120
5	Attala Circuit Court	319	325
3	Benton Circuit Court	106	61
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	99	123
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	143	172
5	Carroll Circuit Court	95	37
5	Choctaw Circuit Court	72	60
3	Chickasaw Circuit Court	205	125
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	168	104
10	Clarke Circuit Court	170	129
16	Clay Circuit Court	276	12
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	51	39
22	Copiah Circuit Court	502	425
13	Covington Circuit Court	313	227
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	453	444
12	Forrest Circuit Court	225	121
6	Franklin Circuit Court	90	56
19	George Circuit Court	315	301
19	Greene Circuit Court	185	164
5	Grenada Circuit Court	449	466
2	Hancock Circuit Court	244	208
2	Harrison Circuit Court	762	720
7	Hinds Circuit Court	883	669
21	Holmes Circuit Court	28	0 (No data provided.)
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	82	6
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	18	5
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	182	111
19	Jackson Circuit Court	227	319
13	Jasper Circuit Court	229	154
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	99	8
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	197	148
18	Jones Circuit Court	85	48
10	Kemper Circuit Court	65	3
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	504	608
15	Lamar Circuit Court	203	208
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	134	134
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	177	147
8	Leake Circuit Court	299	148
1	Lee Circuit Court	124	138

Counties listed in blue use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023, Alphabetical

Circuit District	County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
4	Leflore Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	718	603
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	226	159
20	Madison Circuit Court	383	363
15	Marion Circuit Court	447	417
3	Marshall Circuit Court	491	570
1	Monroe Circuit Court	418	430
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	110	89
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	667	0 (No data provided.)
8	Newton Circuit Court	271	144
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	115	169
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	621	645
17	Panola Circuit Court	643	165
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	222	126
12	Perry Circuit Court	210	141
14	Pike Circuit Court	155	119
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	271	467
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	284	251
11	Quitman Circuit Court	51	5
20	Rankin Circuit Court	367	306
8	Scott Circuit Court	411	340
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	52	37
13	Simpson Circuit Court	525	10
13	Smith Circuit Court	205	177
2	Stone Circuit Court	188	139
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	330	294
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	163	108
17	Tate Circuit Court	406	355
3	Tippah Circuit Court	220	182
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	192	169
11	Tunica Circuit Court	147	106
3	Union Circuit Court	381	216
14	Walthall Circuit Court	353	29
9	Warren Circuit Court	203	186
4	Washington Circuit Court	162	189
10	Wayne Circuit Court	299	199
5	Webster Circuit Court	107	107
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	69	24
5	Winston Circuit Court	205	206
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	144	68
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	58	43
	Statewide Totals:	20,924	15,966

Counties listed in *blue* use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in *red* were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Criminal Cases/Counts Closed in FY 2023, by District

Circuit District	County	Criminal Cases Closed	Criminal Counts Closed
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	286	406
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	277	389
1	Lee Circuit Court	1,044	1,084
1	Monroe Circuit Court	311	423
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	338	421
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	50	552
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	267	317
District 1 Totals		2,573	3,592
2	Hancock Circuit Court	271	337
2	Harrison Circuit Court	1,743	2,226
2	Stone Circuit Court	34	42
District 2 Totals		2,048	2,605
3	Benton Circuit Court	26	37
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	24	236
3	Chickasaw Circuit Court	190	272
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	557	871
3	Marshall Circuit Court	274	435
3	Tippah Circuit Court	145	182
3	Union Circuit Court	191	260
District 3 Totals		1,407	2,293
4	Leflore Circuit Court	65	84
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	47	81
4	Washington Circuit Court	242	374
District 4 Totals		354	539
5	Attala Circuit Court	106	115
5	Carroll Circuit Court	35	58
5	Choctaw Circuit Court	53	79
5	Grenada Circuit Court	165	236
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	46	75
5	Webster Circuit Court	52	80
5	Winston Circuit Court	59	156
District 5 Totals		516	799
6	Adams Circuit Court	31	54
6	Amite Circuit Court	77	123
6	Franklin Circuit Court	18	24
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	13	31
District 6 Totals		139	232
7	Hinds Circuit Court	949	1,355
District 7 Totals		949	1,355
8	Leake Circuit Court	70	87
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	133	160
8	Newton Circuit Court	96	107
8	Scott Circuit Court	124	159
District 8 Totals		423	513
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	1	1
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
9	Warren Circuit Court	132	621
District 9 Totals		133	622
10	Clarke Circuit Court	58	111
10	Kemper Circuit Court	23	25
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	230	199
10	Wayne Circuit Court	88	119
District 10 Totals		399	454

Counties listed in blue use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Criminal Cases/Counts Closed in FY 2023, by District

Circuit District	County	Criminal Cases Closed	Criminal Counts Closed
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	94	156
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	3	4
11	Quitman Circuit Court	22	39
11	Tunica Circuit Court	64	102
District 11 Totals		183	301
12	Forrest Circuit Court	826	1,239
12	Perry Circuit Court	67	84
District 12 Totals		893	1,323
13	Covington Circuit Court	113	139
13	Jasper Circuit Court	68	89
13	Simpson Circuit Court	134	150
13	Smith Circuit Court	56	64
District 13 Totals		371	442
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	255	390
14	Pike Circuit Court	387	680
14	Walthall Circuit Court	79	140
District 14 Totals		721	1,210
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	91	158
15	Lamar Circuit Court	459	595
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	65	78
15	Marion Circuit Court	406	677
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	522	955
District 15 Totals		1,543	2,463
16	Clay Circuit Court	13	24
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	422	642
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	23	39
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	240	388
District 16 Totals		698	1,093
17	Panola Circuit Court	74	779
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	28	41
17	Tate Circuit Court	171	366
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	73	147
District 17 Totals		346	1,333
18	Jones Circuit Court	140	381
District 18 Totals		140	381
19	George Circuit Court	159	257
19	Greene Circuit Court	125	156
19	Jackson Circuit Court	989	1,941
District 19 Totals		1,273	2,354
20	Madison Circuit Court	507	911
20	Rankin Circuit Court	727	1,047
District 20 Totals		1,234	1,958
21	Holmes Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	73	122
District 21 Totals		73	122
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	6	12
22	Copiah Circuit Court	63	124
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	1	3
District 22 Totals		70	139
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	1,527	2,971
District 23 Totals		1,527	2,971
Statewide Totals		18,013	29,094

Counties listed in blue use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Circuit Criminal Cases and Counts Closed in FY 2023, Alphabetical			
Circuit District	County	Criminal Cases Closed	Criminal Counts Closed
6	Adams Circuit Court	31	54
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	286	406
6	Amite Circuit Court	77	123
5	Attala Circuit Court	106	115
3	Benton Circuit Court	26	37
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	94	156
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	24	236
5	Carroll Circuit Court	35	58
5	Choctaw Circuit Court	53	79
3	Chickasaw Circuit Court	190	272
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	6	12
10	Clarke Circuit Court	58	111
16	Clay Circuit Court	13	24
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	3	4
22	Copiah Circuit Court	63	124
13	Covington Circuit Court	113	139
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	1,527	2,971
12	Forrest Circuit Court	826	1,239
6	Franklin Circuit Court	18	24
19	George Circuit Court	159	257
19	Greene Circuit Court	125	156
5	Grenada Circuit Court	165	236
2	Hancock Circuit Court	271	337
2	Harrison Circuit Court	1,743	2,226
7	Hinds Circuit Court	949	1,355
21	Holmes Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	1	1
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	277	389
19	Jackson Circuit Court	989	1,941
13	Jasper Circuit Court	68	89
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	1	3
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	91	158
18	Jones Circuit Court	140	381
10	Kemper Circuit Court	23	25
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	557	871
15	Lamar Circuit Court	459	595
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	230	199
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	65	78
8	Leake Circuit Court	70	87
1	Lee Circuit Court	1,044	1,084

Counties listed in *blue* use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in *red* were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Note: Complete data on criminal cases filed is not yet available statewide. MEC tracks criminal cases from the time charges are filed in the 60 Circuit Courts which utilize electronic filing. However, 22 Circuit Courts had not yet implemented MEC at the end of 2023. Those courts not yet on MEC report criminal case data to MEC when each case is concluded.

Circuit Criminal Cases and Counts Closed in FY 2023, Alphabetical

Circuit District	County	Criminal Cases Closed	Criminal Counts Closed
4	Leflore Circuit Court	65	84
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	255	390
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	422	642
20	Madison Circuit Court	507	911
15	Marion Circuit Court	406	677
3	Marshall Circuit Court	274	435
1	Monroe Circuit Court	311	423
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	46	75
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	133	160
8	Newton Circuit Court	96	107
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	23	39
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	240	388
17	Panola Circuit Court	74	779
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	522	955
12	Perry Circuit Court	67	84
14	Pike Circuit Court	387	680
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	338	421
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	50	552
11	Quitman Circuit Court	22	39
20	Rankin Circuit Court	727	1,047
8	Scott Circuit Court	124	159
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
13	Simpson Circuit Court	134	150
13	Smith Circuit Court	56	64
2	Stone Circuit Court	34	42
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	47	81
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	28	41
17	Tate Circuit Court	171	366
3	Tippah Circuit Court	145	182
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	267	317
11	Tunica Circuit Court	64	102
3	Union Circuit Court	191	260
14	Walthall Circuit Court	79	140
9	Warren Circuit Court	132	621
4	Washington Circuit Court	242	374
10	Wayne Circuit Court	88	119
5	Webster Circuit Court	52	80
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	13	31
5	Winston Circuit Court	59	156
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	73	147
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	73	122
	Totals:	18,013	29,094

Counties listed in *blue* use MEC only for civil filings; counties listed in *red* were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Note: Complete data on criminal cases **filed** is not yet available statewide. MEC tracks criminal cases from the time charges are filed in the 60 Circuit Courts which utilize electronic filing. However, 22 Circuit Courts had not yet implemented MEC at the end of 2023. Those courts not yet on MEC report criminal case data to MEC when each case is concluded.

County Court Civil Cases Filed/Closed FY 2023

County	Civil Cases Filed	Civil Cases Closed
Adams County Court	453	320
Bolivar County Court	487	234
Coahoma County Court	189	109
DeSoto County Court	3,501	3,186
Forrest County Court	1,586	1,244
Hancock County Court	349	316
Harrison County Court	2,741	2,885
Hinds County Court	4,136	15,399
Jackson County Court	1,750	1,415
Jones County Court	1,092	775
Lafayette County Court	174	69
Lamar County Court	865	689
Lauderdale County Court	1,063	831
Lee County Court	1,731	1,535
Leflore County Court	0	0 (No data provided.)
Lowndes County Court	609	425
Madison County Court	1,763	1,434
Oktibbeha County Court	41	2
Pearl River County Court	773	468
Pike County Court	1,709	1,305
Rankin County Court	3,337	2,301
Warren County Court	1,198	922
Washington County Court	521	386
Yazoo County Court	417	233
Totals	30,485	36,483

Counties listed in red were not using MEC as of Dec. 31, 2023.

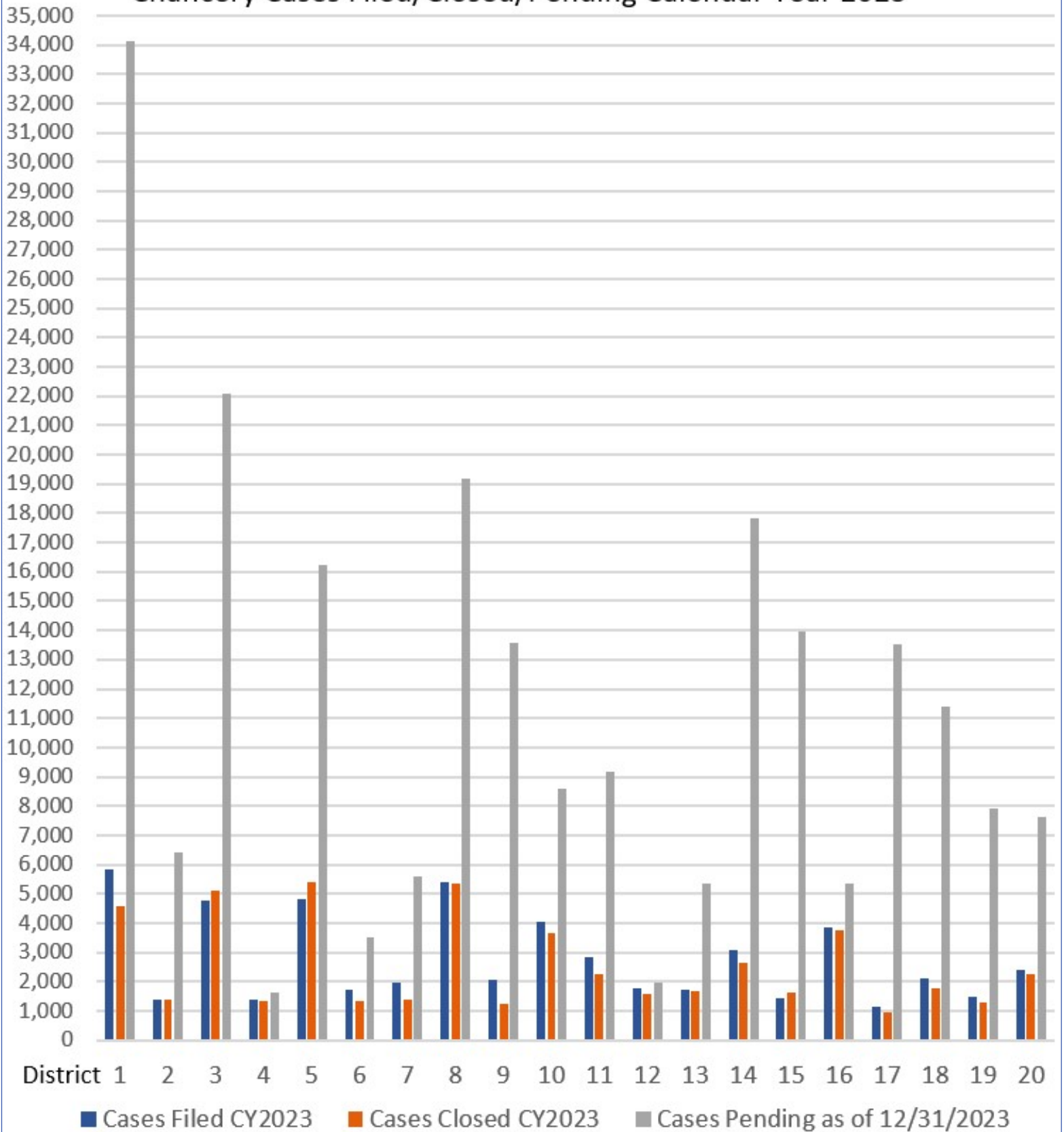
CALENDAR YEAR 2023 DATA BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Annual Reports in recent years have provided most trial court data on a fiscal year schedule. Next year's report, the 2024 Annual Report, is expected to move to a calendar year data format. The previous pages of FY 2023 data are provided for continuity for year-to-year comparisons. Calendar year 2023 data begins on the next page.

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, by District

Chancery District	Counties	Cases Filed CY2023	Cases Closed CY2023	Cases Pending 12/31/2023
1	Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Union	5,836	4,590	34,116
2	Jasper, Newton, Scott	1,388	1,396	6,431
3	DeSoto, Grenada, Montgomery, Panola, Tate, Yalobusha	4,775	5,102	22,103
4	Amite, Franklin, Pike, Walthall	1,374	1,354	1,609
5	Hinds	4,825	5,417	16,212
6	Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Kemper, Neshoba, Winston	1,717	1,360	3,492
7	Bolivar, Coahoma, Leflore, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tunica	1,978	1,387	5,612
8	Hancock, Harrison, Stone	5,389	5,331	19,178
9	Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Sunflower, Warren, Washington	2,084	1,261	13,556
10	Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry	4,048	3,683	8,586
11	Holmes, Leake, Madison, Yazoo	2,813	2,244	9,157
12	Clarke, Lauderdale	1,762	1,598	1,943
13	Covington, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Simpson, Smith	1,725	1,670	5,336
14	Chickasaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster	3,080	2,629	17,822
15	Copiah, Lincoln	1,422	1,642	13,951
16	George, Greene, Jackson	3,837	3,744	5,349
17	Adams, Claiborne, Jefferson, Wilkinson	1,165	955	13,526
18	Benton, Calhoun, Lafayette, Marshall, Tippah	2,124	1,792	11,406
19	Jones, Wayne	1,482	1,292	7,901
20	Rankin	2,423	2,235	7,606
Totals		55,247	50,682	224,892

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023

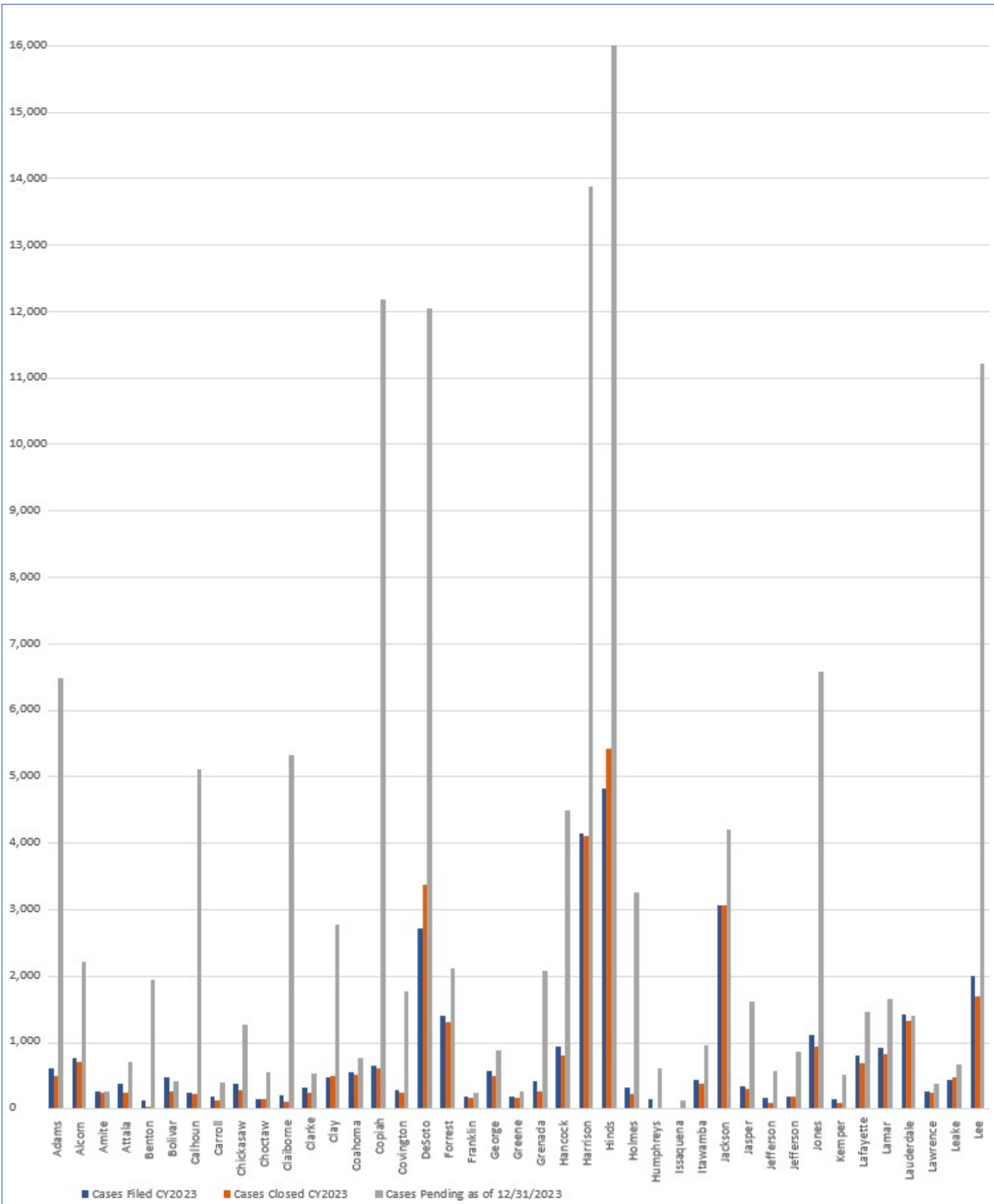


Chancery Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

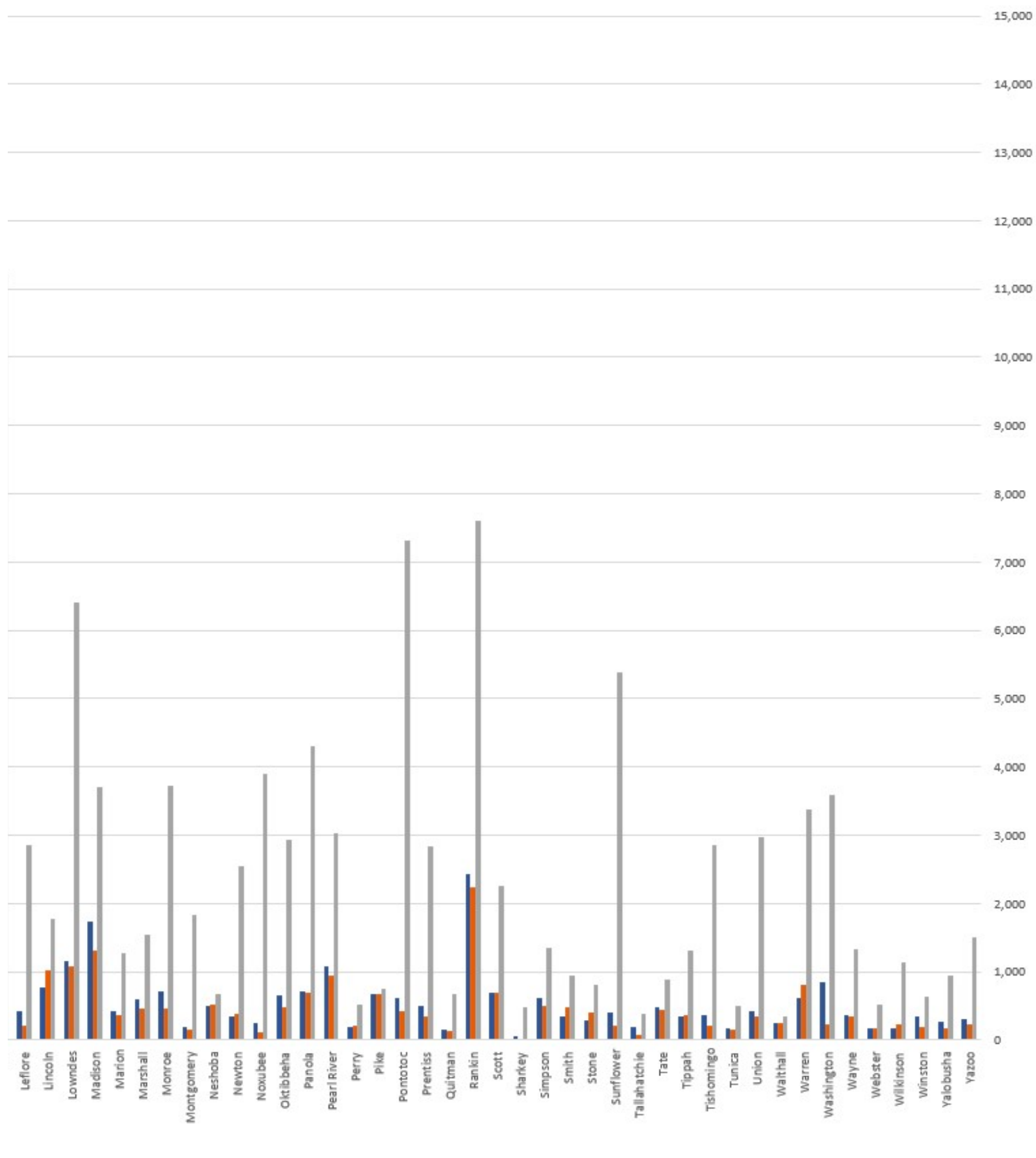
Chancery District	Counties	Cases Filed CY2023	Cases Closed CY2023	Cases Pending as of 12/31/2023
17	Adams Chancery Court	617	509	6,478
1	Alcorn Chancery Court	762	721	2,215
4	Amite Chancery Court	260	253	275
6	Attala Chancery Court	377	259	719
18	Benton Chancery Court	130	33	1,953
7	Bolivar Chancery Court	472	272	427
18	Calhoun Chancery Court	243	228	5,118
6	Carroll Chancery Court	190	136	401
14	Chickasaw Chancery Court	378	291	1,280
6	Choctaw Chancery Court	145	152	550
17	Claiborne Chancery Court	203	118	5,332
12	Clarke Chancery Court	333	259	533
14	Clay Chancery Court	480	509	2,785
7	Coahoma Chancery Court	558	524	772
15	Copiah Chancery Court	651	620	12,178
13	Covington Chancery Court	297	252	1,782
3	DeSoto Chancery Court	2,718	3,379	12,055
10	Forrest Chancery Court	1,417	1,317	2,122
4	Franklin Chancery Court	184	182	242
16	George Chancery Court	577	492	882
16	Greene Chancery Court	195	178	264
3	Grenada Chancery Court	420	278	2,088
8	Hancock Chancery Court	945	819	4,499
8	Harrison Chancery Court	4,146	4,103	13,873
5	Hinds Chancery Court	4,825	5,417	16,212
11	Holmes Chancery Court	319	222	3,271
9	Humphreys Chancery Court	151	3	609
9	Issaquena Chancery Court	10	1	128
1	Itawamba Chancery Court	438	391	967
16	Jackson Chancery Court	3,065	3,074	4,203
2	Jasper Chancery Court	344	315	1,618
17	Jefferson Chancery Court	177	104	586
13	Jefferson Davis Chancery	193	200	861
19	Jones Chancery Court	1,109	942	6,573
6	Kemper Chancery Court	147	102	527
18	Lafayette Chancery Court	803	702	1,473
10	Lamar Chancery Court	920	831	1,666
12	Lauderdale Chancery Court	1,429	1,339	1,410
13	Lawrence Chancery Court	263	243	387
11	Leake Chancery Court	452	479	673
1	Lee Chancery Court	2,007	1,702	11,214

Chancery Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

Chancery District	Counties	Cases Filed CY2023	Cases Closed CY2023	Cases Pending as of 12/31/2023
7	Leflore Chancery Court	423	206	2,849
15	Lincoln Chancery Court	771	1,022	1,773
14	Lowndes Chancery Court	1,153	1,083	6,413
11	Madison Chancery Court	1,727	1,307	3,715
10	Marion Chancery Court	433	373	1,265
18	Marshall Chancery Court	596	462	1,542
1	Monroe Chancery Court	704	461	3,727
3	Montgomery Chancery Court	183	148	1,835
6	Neshoba Chancery Court	503	513	666
2	Newton Chancery Court	351	390	2,554
14	Noxubee Chancery Court	252	106	3,893
14	Oktibbeha Chancery Court	650	477	2,935
3	Panola Chancery Court	711	690	4,299
10	Pearl River Chancery Court	1,084	954	3,022
10	Perry Chancery Court	194	208	511
4	Pike Chancery Court	684	671	745
1	Pontotoc Chancery Court	624	418	7,311
1	Prentiss Chancery Court	493	354	2,837
7	Quitman Chancery Court	160	143	669
20	Rankin Chancery Court	2,423	2,235	7,606
2	Scott Chancery Court	693	691	2,259
9	Sharkey Chancery Court	55	15	486
13	Simpson Chancery Court	626	493	1,356
13	Smith Chancery Court	346	482	950
8	Stone Chancery Court	298	409	806
9	Sunflower Chancery Court	400	207	5,380
7	Tallahatchie Chancery	187	82	387
3	Tate Chancery Court	476	442	878
18	Tippah Chancery Court	352	367	1,320
1	Tishomingo Chancery Court	375	206	2,864
7	Tunica Chancery Court	178	160	508
1	Union Chancery Court	433	337	2,981
4	Walthall Chancery Court	246	248	347
9	Warren Chancery Court	621	814	3,372
9	Washington Chancery Court	847	221	3,581
19	Wayne Chancery Court	373	350	1,328
14	Webster Chancery Court	167	163	516
17	Wilkinson Chancery Court	168	224	1,130
6	Winston Chancery Court	355	198	629
3	Yalobusha Chancery Court	267	165	948
11	Yazoo Chancery Court	315	236	1,498
Totals		55,247	50,682	224,892



Chancery Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023



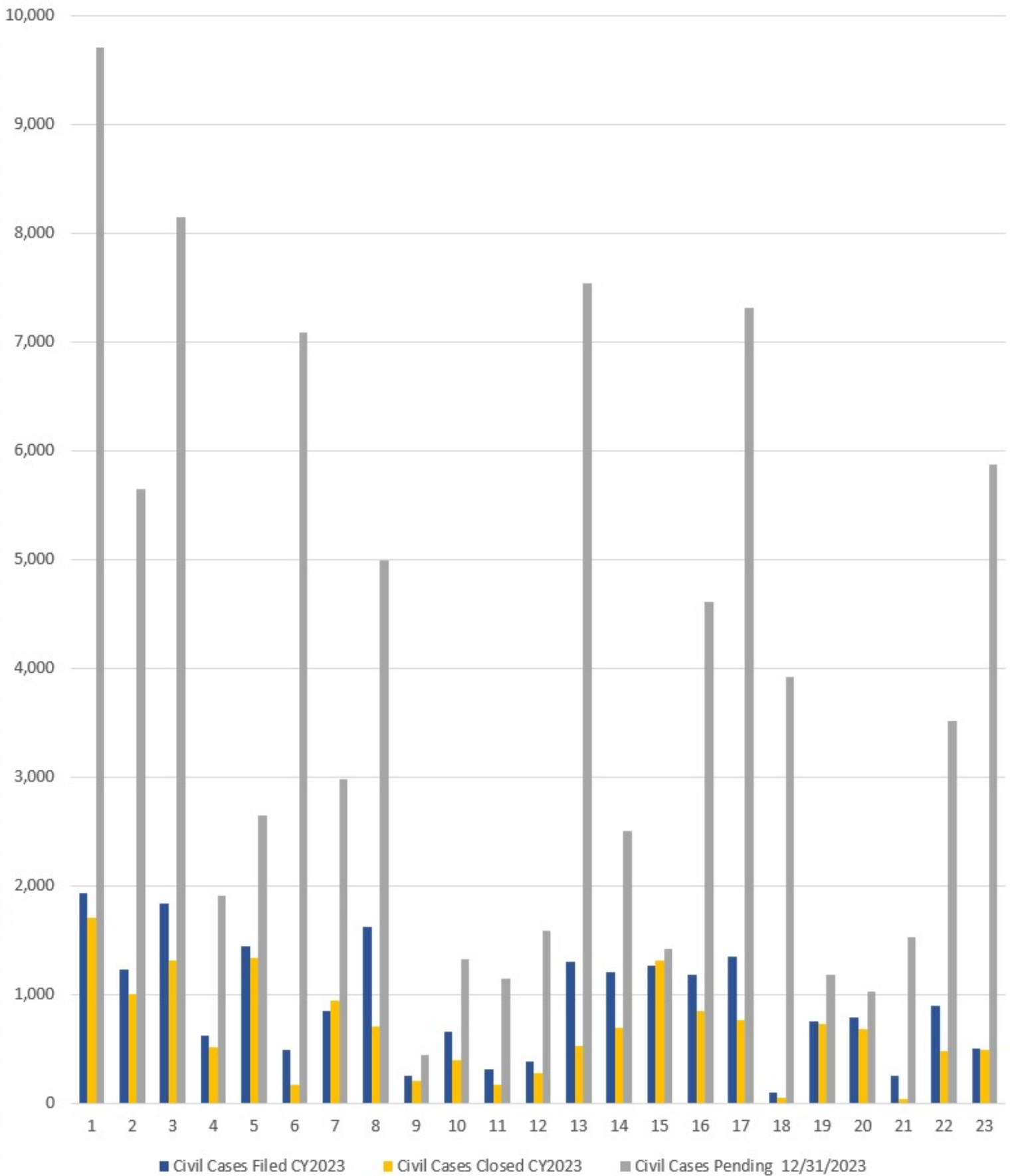
Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, by District

District	Counties	Civil Cases Filed CY2023	Civil Cases Closed CY2023	Civil Cases Pending 12/31/2023
1	Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee*, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo	1,931	1,707	9,710
2	Hancock*, Harrison*, Stone	1,225	1,003	5,649
3	Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lafayette*, Marshall, Tippah, Union	1,836	1,309	8,144
4	Leflore*, Sunflower, Washington*	625	514	1,904
5	Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Montgomery, Webster, Winston	1,442	1,334	2,647
6	Adams*, Amite, Franklin, Wilkinson	492	168	7,086
7	Hinds*	850	939	2,980
8	Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott	1,618	709	4,994
9	Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren*	251	203	438
10	Clark, Kemper, Lauderdale*, Wayne	656	394	1,323
11	Bolivar*, Coahoma*, Quitman, Tunica	308	169	1,147
12	Forrest*, Perry	378	271	1,590
13	Covington, Jasper, Simpson, Smith	1,302	526	7,540
14	Lincoln, Pike*, Walthall	1,200	691	2,503
15	Jefferson Davis, Lamar*, Lawrence, Marion, Pearl River*	1,270	1,317	1,419
16	Clay, Lowndes*, Noxubee, Oktibbeha*	1,183	852	4,605
17	Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate, Yalobusha	1,351	766	7,307
18	Jones*	102	56	3,923
19	George, Greene, Jackson*	753	733	1,180
20	Madison*, Rankin*	787	677	1,029
21	Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo*	248	44	1,524
22	Claiborne, Copiah, Jefferson	896	475	3,511
23	DeSoto*	502	490	5,871
	Totals	21,206	15,347	88,024

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for civil filings as of 12/31/2023.

* Counties with County Courts divert a large civil caseload from Circuit Courts.

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023



Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

District	Counties	Civil Cases Filed CY2023	Civil Cases Closed CY2023	Civil Cases Pending 12/31/2023
6	Adams Circuit Court	113	21	6,377
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	389	299	870
6	Amite Circuit Court	168	82	277
5	Attala Circuit Court	314	275	327
3	Benton Circuit Court	78	34	192
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	99	68	690
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	126	131	260
5	Carroll Circuit Court	102	43	270
5	Chickasaw Circuit Court	212	124	297
3	Choctaw Circuit Court	65	64	93
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	208	90	962
10	Clarke Circuit Court	182	128	492
16	Clay Circuit Court	251	18	3,129
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	40	37	124
22	Copiah Circuit Court	587	369	2,045
13	Covington Circuit Court	343	228	727
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	502	490	5,871
12	Forrest Circuit Court	199	130	1,094
6	Franklin Circuit Court	92	29	107
19	George Circuit Court	324	321	380
19	Greene Circuit Court	180	168	123
5	Grenada Circuit Court	478	561	1,021
2	Hancock Circuit Court	232	175	3,478
2	Harrison Circuit Court	772	668	1,272
7	Hinds Circuit Court	850	939	2,980
21	Holmes Circuit Court	88	1	105
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	99	5	902
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	15	8	39
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	207	138	646
19	Jackson Circuit Court	249	244	677
13	Jasper Circuit Court	225	162	584
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	101	16	504
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	212	197	210
18	Jones Circuit Court	102	56	3,923
10	Kemper Circuit Court	97	35	150
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	364	132	420
15	Lamar Circuit Court	166	189	199
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	146	111	274
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	181	256	204
8	Leake Circuit Court	340	100	373
1	Lee Circuit Court	109	77	2,185

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for civil filings as of 12/31/2023.

* Counties with County Courts divert a large civil caseload from Circuit Courts.

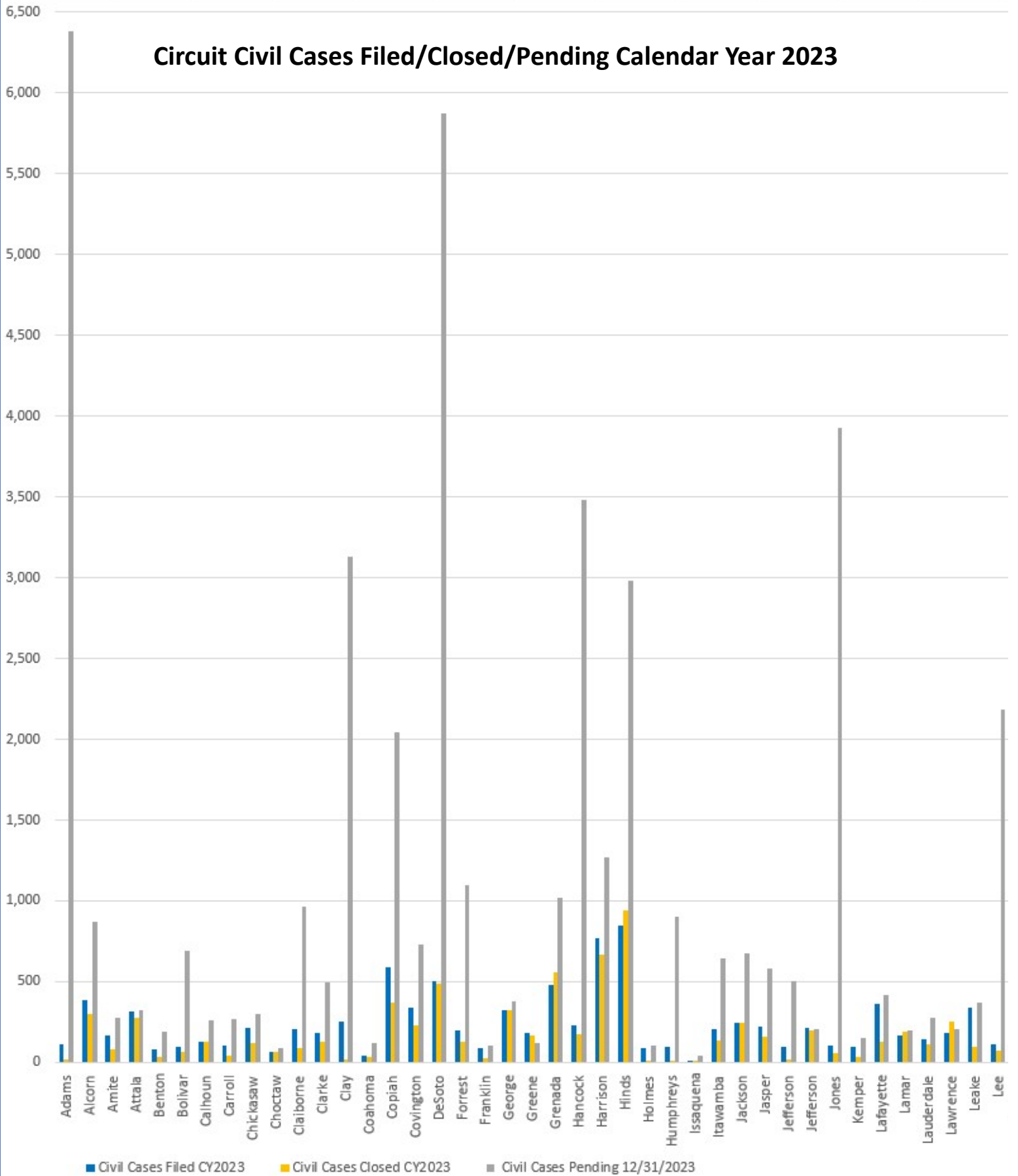
Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

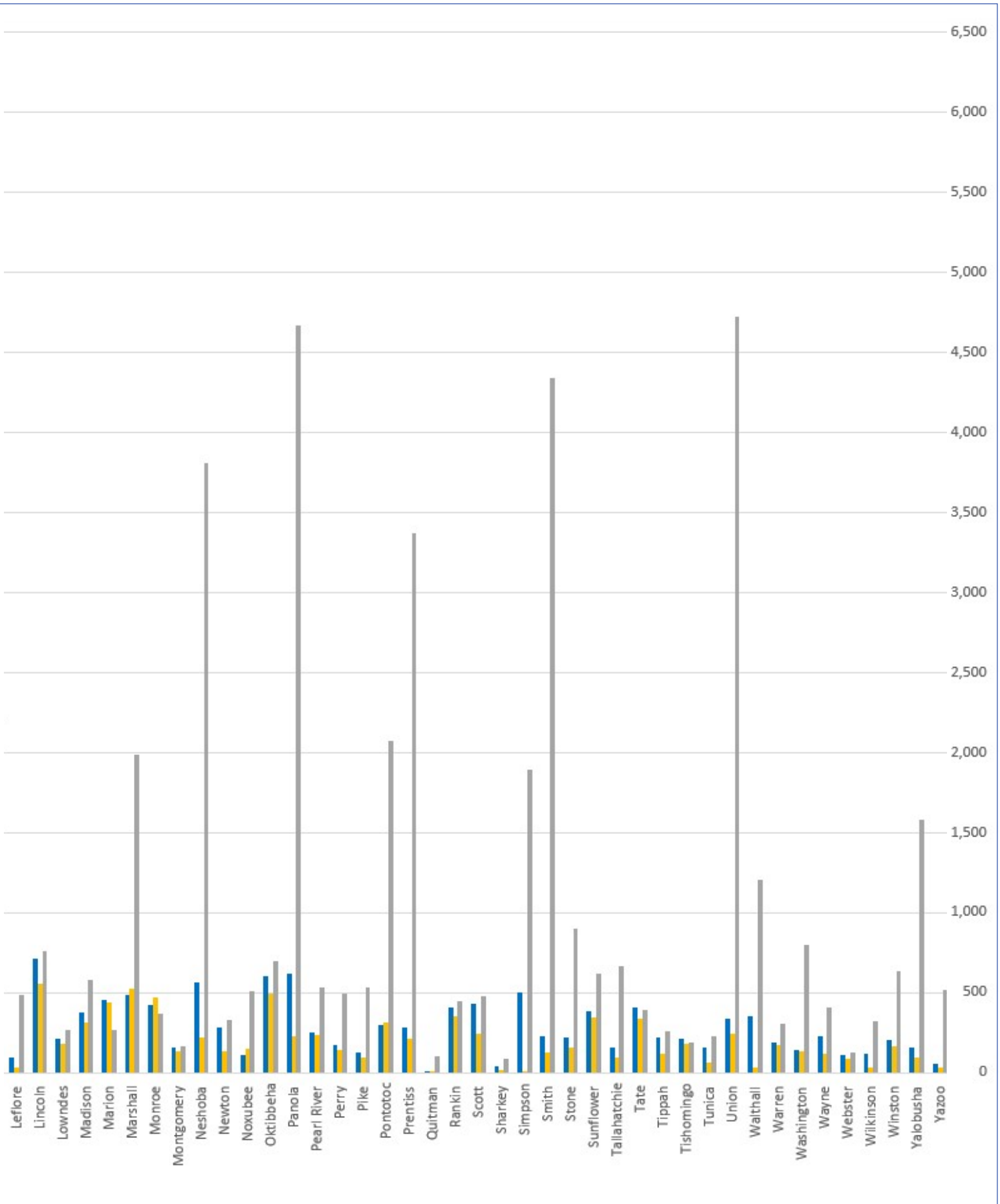
District	Counties	Civil Cases Filed CY2023	Civil Cases Closed CY2023	Civil Cases Pending 12/31/2023
4	Leflore Circuit Court	96	31	485
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	716	562	759
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	216	187	268
20	Madison Circuit Court	378	319	580
15	Marion Circuit Court	458	438	270
3	Marshall Circuit Court	491	526	1,986
1	Monroe Circuit Court	422	474	369
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	161	140	171
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	567	226	3,809
8	Newton Circuit Court	281	138	330
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	114	150	510
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	602	497	698
17	Panola Circuit Court	619	233	4,665
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	253	237	536
12	Perry Circuit Court	179	141	496
14	Pike Circuit Court	129	98	538
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	304	319	2,073
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	284	214	3,374
11	Quitman Circuit Court	8	1	103
20	Rankin Circuit Court	409	358	449
8	Scott Circuit Court	430	245	482
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	46	22	87
13	Simpson Circuit Court	501	9	1,892
13	Smith Circuit Court	233	127	4,337
2	Stone Circuit Court	221	160	899
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	384	349	621
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	157	96	669
17	Tate Circuit Court	412	341	391
3	Tippah Circuit Court	224	119	262
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	216	186	193
11	Tunica Circuit Court	161	63	230
3	Union Circuit Court	341	243	4,727
14	Walthall Circuit Court	355	31	1,206
9	Warren Circuit Court	190	173	312
4	Washington Circuit Court	145	134	798
10	Wayne Circuit Court	231	120	407
5	Webster Circuit Court	113	87	127
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	119	36	325
5	Winston Circuit Court	209	164	638
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	163	96	1,582
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	61	38	517
	Totals	21,206	15,347	88,024

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for civil filings as of 12/31/2023.

* Counties with County Courts divert a large civil caseload from Circuit Courts.

Circuit Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023



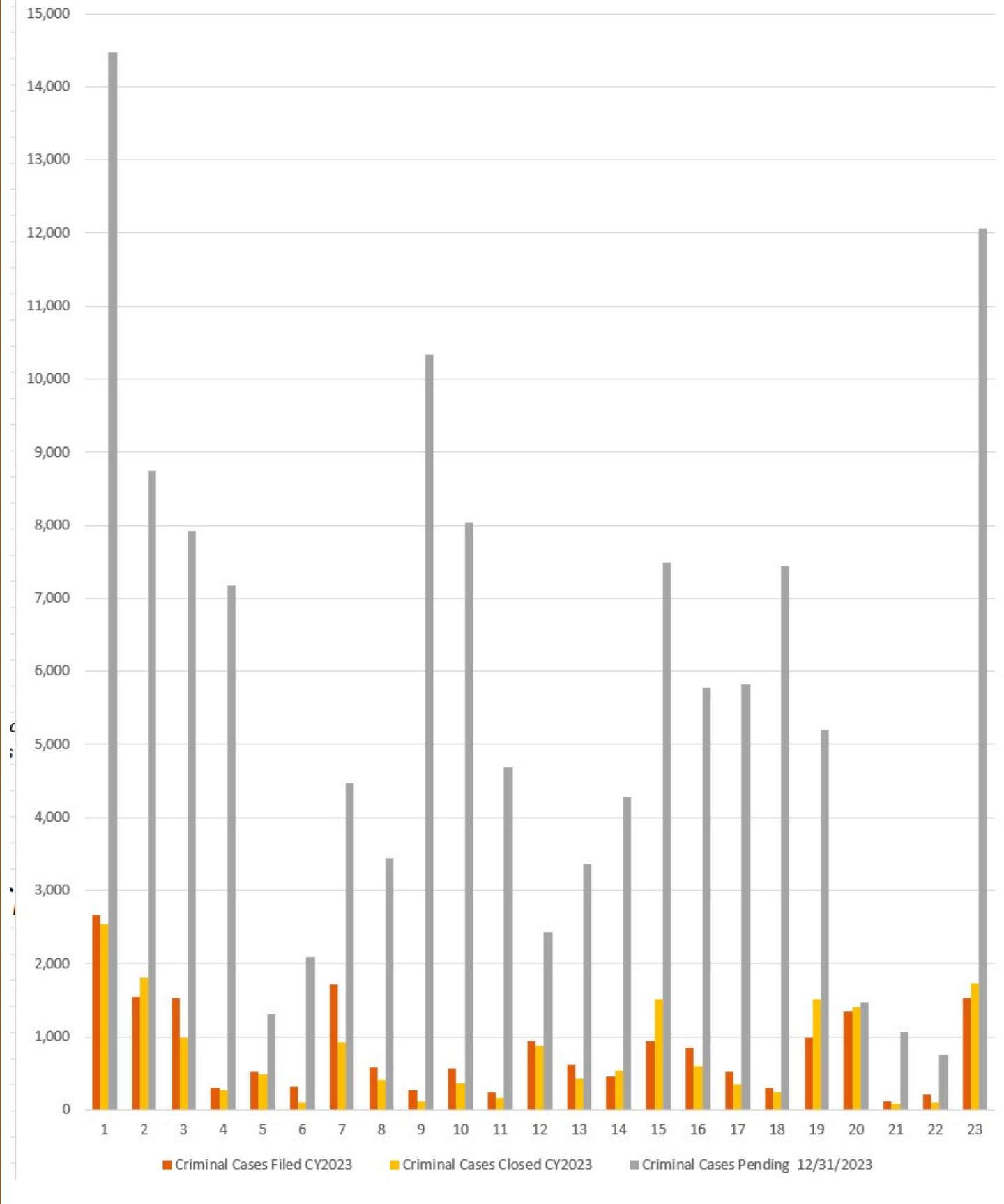


Circuit Criminal Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023

District	Counties	Criminal Cases Filed CY2023	Criminal Cases Closed CY2023	Criminal Cases Pending 12/31/2023
1	Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tishomingo	2,669	2,548	14,478
2	Hancock, Harrison, Stone	1,538	1,808	8,752
3	Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lafayette, Marshall, Tippah, Union	1,529	992	7,926
4	Leflore, Sunflower, Washington	296	265	7,175
5	Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Montgomery, Webster, Winston	521	494	1,305
6	Adams, Amite, Franklin, Wilkinson	318	104	2,092
7	Hinds	1,718	915	4,468
8	Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott	586	411	3,443
9	Issaquena, Sharkey, Warren	267	121	10,336
10	Clark, Kemper, Lauderdale, Wayne	569	366	8,025
11	Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Tunica	245	155	4,690
12	Forrest, Perry	943	880	2,435
13	Covington, Jasper, Simpson, Smith	614	426	3,366
14	Lincoln, Pike, Walthall	460	535	4,288
15	Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Pearl River	935	1,513	7,493
16	Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha	849	596	5,773
17	Panola, Tallahatchie, Tate, Yalobusha	525	349	5,822
18	Jones	306	245	7,440
19	George, Greene, Jackson	987	1,512	5,205
20	Madison, Rankin	1,339	1,403	1,464
21	Holmes, Humphreys, Yazoo	110	87	1,055
22	Claiborne, Copiah, Jefferson	210	96	750
23	DeSoto	1,530	1,734	12,056
Totals		19,064	17,555	129,837

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for criminal filings as of 12/31/2023.

Circuit Criminal Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023



Circuit Criminal Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

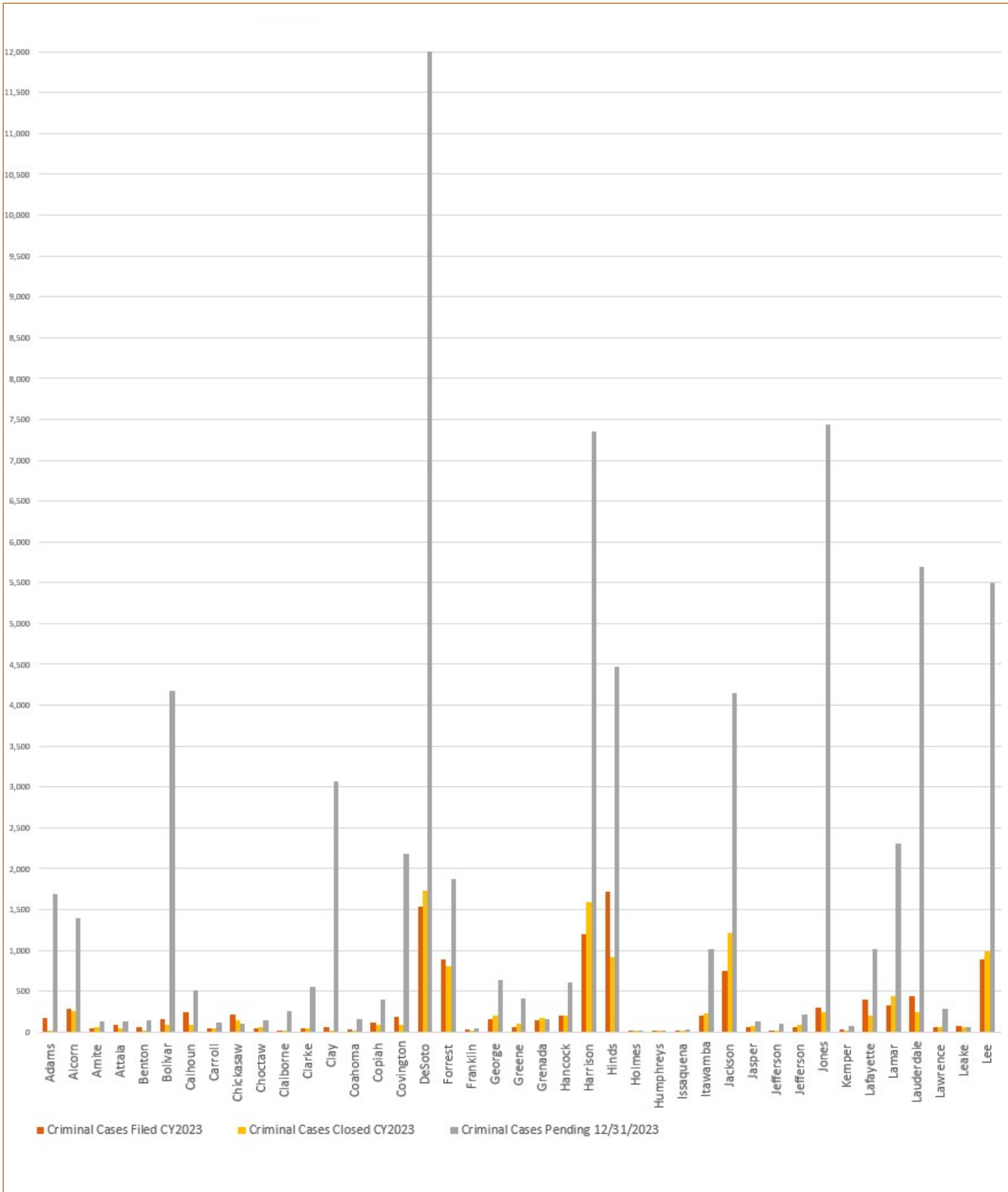
	County	Criminal Cases Filed CY2023	Criminal Cases Closed CY2023	Criminal Cases Pending 12/31/2023
6	Adams Circuit Court	175	15	1,683
1	Alcorn Circuit Court	289	264	1,395
6	Amite Circuit Court	51	65	136
5	Attala Circuit Court	89	51	124
3	Benton Circuit Court	65	22	138
11	Bolivar Circuit Court	163	84	4,173
3	Calhoun Circuit Court	242	89	509
5	Carroll Circuit Court	48	42	114
5	Chickasaw Circuit Court	216	150	102
3	Choctaw Circuit Court	42	57	138
22	Claiborne Circuit Court	23	8	258
10	Clarke Circuit Court	42	42	546
16	Clay Circuit Court	60	24	3,070
11	Coahoma Circuit Court	38	19	159
22	Copiah Circuit Court	121	86	395
13	Covington Circuit Court	181	87	2,181
23	DeSoto Circuit Court	1,530	1,734	12,056
12	Forrest Circuit Court	883	811	1,870
6	Franklin Circuit Court	26	14	48
19	George Circuit Court	165	198	640
19	Greene Circuit Court	67	102	411
5	Grenada Circuit Court	146	166	157
2	Hancock Circuit Court	205	204	614
2	Harrison Circuit Court	1,202	1,589	7,357
7	Hinds Circuit Court	1,718	915	4,468
21	Holmes Circuit Court	4	7	4
21	Humphreys Circuit Court	17	2	24
9	Issaquena Circuit Court	10	1	35
1	Itawamba Circuit Court	198	234	1,018
19	Jackson Circuit Court	755	1,212	4,154
13	Jasper Circuit Court	59	76	125
22	Jefferson Circuit Court	22	2	97
15	Jefferson Davis Circuit	66	89	208
18	Jones Circuit Court	306	245	7,440
10	Kemper Circuit Court	36	24	75
3	Lafayette Circuit Court	404	196	1,019
15	Lamar Circuit Court	327	444	2,314
10	Lauderdale Circuit Court	446	236	5,689
15	Lawrence Circuit Court	63	57	282
8	Leake Circuit Court	73	67	67
1	Lee Circuit Court	890	993	5,500

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for criminal filings as of 12/31/2023.

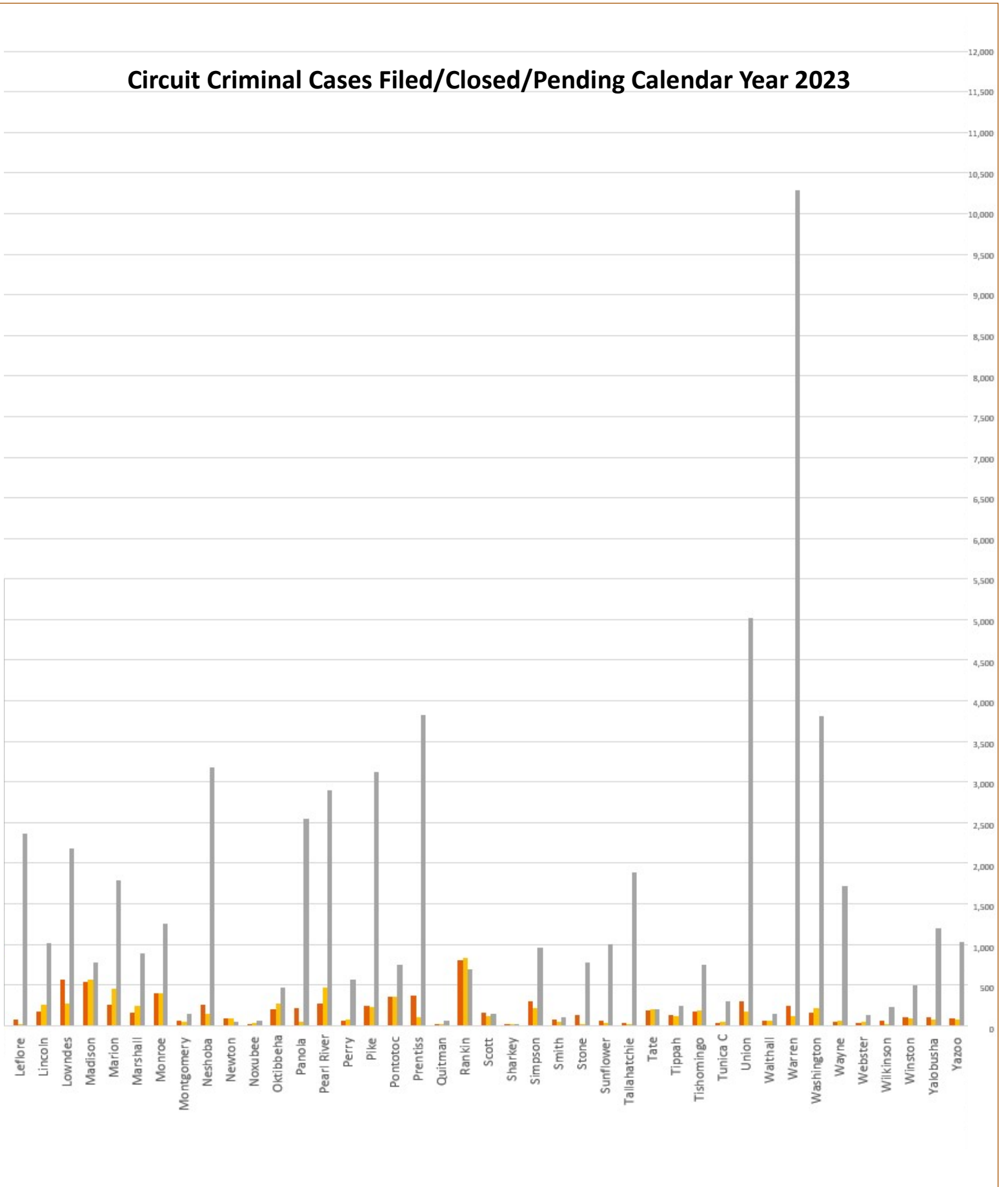
Circuit Criminal Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023, Alphabetical

	County	Criminal Cases Filed CY2023	Criminal Cases Closed CY2023	Criminal Cases Pending 12/31/2023
4	Leflore Circuit Court	80	19	2,367
14	Lincoln Circuit Court	168	257	1,013
16	Lowndes Circuit Court	566	270	2,176
20	Madison Circuit Court	533	568	770
15	Marion Circuit Court	252	449	1,794
3	Marshall Circuit Court	163	248	883
1	Monroe Circuit Court	403	403	1,248
5	Montgomery Circuit Court	61	40	140
8	Neshoba Circuit Court	260	140	3,181
8	Newton Circuit Court	95	84	47
16	Noxubee Circuit Court	25	26	60
16	Oktibbeha Circuit Court	198	276	467
17	Panola Circuit Court	217	53	2,548
15	Pearl River Circuit Court	271	474	2,895
12	Perry Circuit Court	60	69	565
14	Pike Circuit Court	238	224	3,124
1	Pontotoc Circuit Court	350	359	743
1	Prentiss Circuit Court	368	107	3,831
11	Quitman Circuit Court	8	4	59
20	Rankin Circuit Court	806	835	694
8	Scott Circuit Court	158	120	148
9	Sharkey Circuit Court	10	2	9
13	Simpson Circuit Court	293	220	955
13	Smith Circuit Court	81	43	105
2	Stone Circuit Court	131	15	781
4	Sunflower Circuit Court	55	38	998
17	Tallahatchie Circuit	30	17	1,880
17	Tate Circuit Court	180	199	199
3	Tippah Circuit Court	136	112	249
1	Tishomingo Circuit Court	171	188	743
11	Tunica Circuit Court	36	48	299
3	Union Circuit Court	303	175	5,026
14	Walthall Circuit Court	54	54	151
9	Warren Circuit Court	247	118	10,292
4	Washington Circuit Court	161	208	3,810
10	Wayne Circuit Court	45	64	1,715
5	Webster Circuit Court	35	49	133
6	Wilkinson Circuit Court	66	10	225
5	Winston Circuit Court	100	89	499
17	Yalobusha Circuit Court	98	80	1,195
21	Yazoo Circuit Court	89	78	1,027
	Totals	19,064	17,555	129,837

Counties listed in red were not using the MEC system for criminal filings as of 12/31/2023.



Circuit Criminal Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023

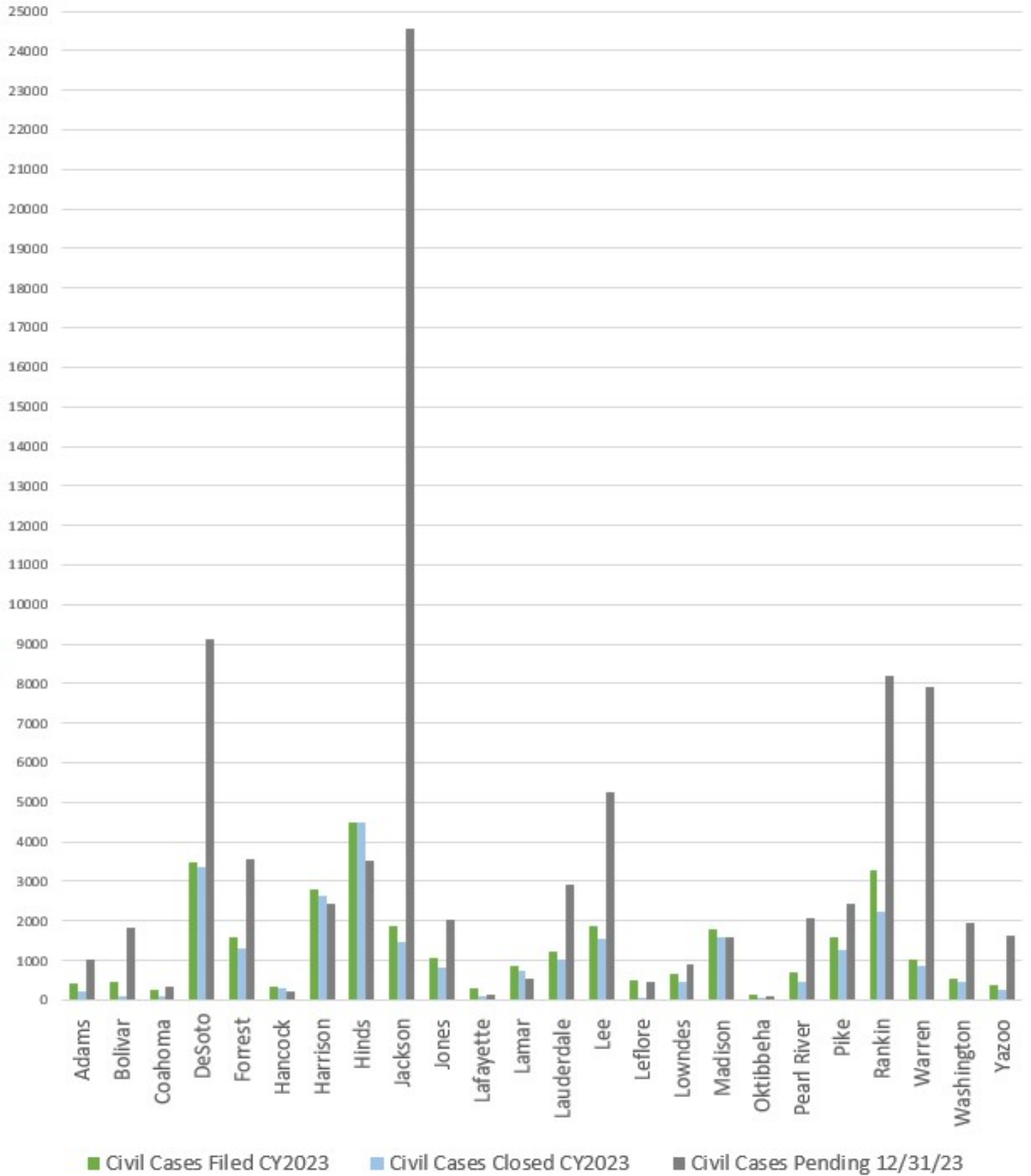


**County Court Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending
Calendar Year 2023**

County Court	Civil Cases Filed CY2023	Civil Cases Closed CY2023	Civil Cases Pending 12/31/2023
Adams County Court	422	231	1043
Bolivar County Court	444	80	1,834
Coahoma County Court	246	115	353
DeSoto County Court	3,494	3,373	9,118
Forrest County Court	1,572	1,320	3,551
Hancock County Court	344	292	239
Harrison County Court	2,802	2,644	2,438
Hinds County Court	4,507	4,487	3,535
Jackson County Court	1,861	1,477	24,554
Jones County Court	1,064	809	2,015
Lafayette County Court	309	114	129
Lamar County Court	883	737	536
Lauderdale County Court	1,239	1,024	2,915
Lee County Court	1,853	1,542	5,250
Leflore County Court	488	46	468
Lowndes County Court	650	457	908
Madison County Court	1,794	1,588	1,584
Oktibbeha County Court	125	15	110
Pearl River County Court	706	446	2,083
Pike County Court	1,583	1,274	2,448
Rankin County Court	3,290	2232	8,212
Warren County Court	1,005	850	7,900
Washington County Court	553	452	1,970
Yazoo County Court	383	252	1,635
Totals	31,617	25,857	84,828

Counties listed in red were not using MEC as of 12/31/2023.

County Court Civil Cases Filed/Closed/Pending Calendar Year 2023



YOUTH COURTS, CALENDAR YEAR 2023

COUNTY	Total Referrals			Formally Adjudicated Referrals			Referrals Handled Informally		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT
ADAMS	89	246	188	13	86	141	76	160	47
ALCORN	95	343	111	5	36	40	90	307	71
AMITE	22	83	41	8	22	24	14	61	17
ATTALA	79	228	71	3	1	52	76	227	19
BENTON	84	360	20	0	18	13	84	342	7
BOLIVAR	93	257	208	41	141	176	52	116	32
CALHOUN	30	94	47	2	23	32	28	71	15
CARROLL	1	25	17	0	4	2	1	21	15
CHICKASAW	63	112	90	3	18	90	60	94	0
CHOCTAW	4	6	8	4	6	7	0	0	1
CLAIBORNE	5	18	75	1	5	57	4	13	18
CLARKE	40	106	32	0	1	25	40	105	7
CLAY	116	269	98	21	50	87	95	219	11
COAHOMA	20	98	119	2	31	50	18	67	69
COPIAH	52	201	66	2	37	42	50	164	24
COVINGTON	115	292	112	5	13	73	110	279	39
DESOTO	1601	2199	2572	32	93	2193	1569	2106	379
FORREST	754	1707	322	11	57	179	743	1650	143
FRANKLIN	27	123	34	2	26	21	25	97	13
GEORGE	78	153	72	7	31	16	71	122	56
GREENE	24	72	11	1	6	7	23	66	4
GRENADA	48	78	143	37	62	136	11	16	7
HANCOCK	259	813	238	59	153	130	200	660	108
HARRISON	1449	2969	1583	30	123	684	1419	2846	899
HINDS	345	990	540	186	583	524	159	407	16
HOLMES	173	26	46	5	4	44	168	22	2
HUMPHREYS	20	77	83	8	26	59	12	51	24
ISSAQUENA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ITAWAMBA	70	259	69	1	21	50	69	238	19
JACKSON	95	334	590	8	162	324	87	172	266
JASPER	52	139	71	0	17	53	52	122	18
JEFFERSON	1	7	36	1	7	17	0	0	19
JEFFERSON DA'	212	352	64	2	21	60	210	331	4
JONES	481	1292	818	109	623	612	372	669	206
KEMPER	11	36	4	0	2	4	11	34	0
LAFAYETTE	444	976	204	20	61	202	424	915	2
LAMAR	253	443	278	13	59	148	240	384	130
LAUDERDALE	286	1029	455	7	107	319	279	922	136
LAWRENCE	53	141	52	6	25	42	47	116	10
LEAKE	118	356	7	3	17	7	115	339	0
LEE	434	1345	615	7	169	470	427	1176	145

YOUTH COURTS, CALENDAR YEAR 2023

COUNTY	Total Referrals			Formally Adjudicated Referrals			Referrals Handled Informally		
	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT	ABUSE	NEGLECT	DELINQUENT
LEFLORE	7	25	134	2	15	86	5	10	48
LINCOLN	211	301	151	12	23	124	199	278	27
LOWNDES	1115	2158	409	33	142	214	1082	2016	195
MADISON	136	283	560	16	95	526	120	188	34
MARION	65	282	269	16	92	265	49	190	4
MARSHALL	164	463	220	16	50	199	148	413	21
MONROE	8	30	75	6	28	57	2	2	18
MONTGOMERY	101	137	83	0	8	76	101	129	7
NESHOBA	86	358	129	2	35	124	84	323	5
NEWTON	229	391	58	2	13	53	227	378	5
NOXUBEE	15	69	13	0	19	7	15	50	6
OKTIBBEHA	71	140	284	19	59	253	52	81	31
PANOLA	30	603	216	1	36	175	29	567	41
PEARL RIVER	335	543	131	14	60	69	321	483	62
PERRY	42	75	26	2	9	16	40	66	10
PIKE	257	673	350	32	158	199	225	515	151
PONTOTOC	96	554	185	2	64	163	94	490	22
PRENTISS	78	314	104	6	45	101	72	269	3
QUITMAN	4	6	45	3	2	23	1	4	22
RANKIN	660	1088	1085	18	232	373	642	856	712
SCOTT	300	460	119	0	48	103	300	412	16
SHARKEY	2	1	9	1	1	3	1	0	6
SIMPSON	122	294	84	2	86	75	120	208	9
SMITH	4	68	50	2	60	40	2	8	10
STONE	38	207	35	1	38	21	37	169	14
SUNFLOWER	76	191	228	38	90	173	38	101	55
TALLAHATCHIE	22	87	50	2	6	29	20	81	21
TATE	97	144	174	2	20	126	95	124	48
TIPPAH	267	948	101	4	62	91	263	886	10
TISHOMINGO	109	309	88	4	53	67	105	256	21
TUNICA	31	125	213	3	20	121	28	105	92
UNION	244	218	64	7	9	59	237	209	5
WALTHALL	58	115	53	10	32	28	48	83	25
WARREN	215	521	306	69	135	302	146	386	4
WASHINGTON	134	331	648	49	152	325	85	179	323
WAYNE	65	243	211	10	20	93	55	223	118
WEBSTER	1	15	12	1	15	12	0	0	0
WILKINSON	35	184	29	2	11	15	33	173	14
WINSTON	107	26	50	0	10	50	107	16	0
YALOBUSHA	52	166	33	2	5	24	50	161	9
YAZOO	22	82	243	1	31	126	21	51	117
TOTAL	13907	31882	17537	1077	5036	12198	12830	26846	5339

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS



Katharine McKee Surkin

Katharine McKee Surkin of Madison became director of the state Administrative Office of Courts on Nov. 1, 2023. Lisa A. Counts of Brandon, is AOC Deputy Director.

Surkin has worked for the Supreme Court for more than 13 years. Before assuming leadership of AOC, she was Chief of Staff for Chief Justice Mike Randolph, having served in that position since July 2022. She served as senior judicial law clerk for Justice Randolph from August 2014 until July 2022. Surkin began her legal career as a judicial law clerk for former Justice George C. Carlson Jr. in December 2001, serving in that position for three and one-half years. She was in private law practice law for nine years before returning to the Supreme Court in 2014.

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, as set forth in the Mississippi Code, 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.

Intervention Courts

Drug intervention courts in Mississippi marked a milestone of 10,000 graduates in March 2023 after more than 23 years of offering life-changing programs for people struggling with drug addiction. A total of 844 people graduated from 41 intervention courts in Fiscal Year 2023. Intervention court programs served a total of 5,234 people during 2023.

The 41 drug intervention courts include 23 adult felony drug intervention court programs, one in each of the 23 Circuit Court districts, and 14 juvenile intervention courts and four family intervention courts.

Drug intervention courts give non-violent offenders whose crimes are rooted in drug addiction a chance to put their lives back together and become productive and self-supporting. Intervention courts seek to equip participants with job and life skills as well as education that will enable them to support themselves and their families. Participants are required to get and keep a job, do community service work, and work toward obtaining a GED if they do not have a high school diploma. Those who were alienated from their families as a result of addiction get a chance to reunite with their loved ones. Some are able to regain custody of their children.

Many of the people who are accepted for participation in drug intervention courts have co-occurring disorders — dual diagnoses of substance abuse and mental health issues. The Legislature authorized the creation of mental health treatment courts in 2017 with changes to Mississippi Code § 9-27-1 et seq. The 2022 Legislature provided funding for mental health treatment courts, with the funds becoming available at the start of FY 2023, which began July 1, 2022.

Mental health treatment courts use a problem-solving approach in lieu of more traditional court procedures for non-violent offenders who have been screened and diagnosed with mental illnesses. The program includes screening, clinical assessment, education, referral for treatment, counseling and rehabilitative care, service coordination and case management.

Intervention courts provide an enormous savings to the state budget. Avoided incarceration costs for intervention court participants amounted to an estimated savings of \$66.2 million during the 2023 fiscal year. Since FY 2006, savings generated by intervention court participants working and being productive citizens while remaining out of prison



The Drug Court Team at the Administrative Office of Courts meets with members of the Hinds Circuit Mental Health Treatment Court for training on Jan. 4, 2023.

Fiscal Year	Number of drug intervention courts operating at end of FY	Estimated gross savings of incarceration costs	Appropriation to fund drug courts
FY 2006	16	\$13,356,373	\$1,647,358*
FY 2007	19	\$17,843,713	\$2,228,014
FY 2008	25	\$23,469,080	\$2,146,851
FY 2009	32	\$30,807,854	\$4,336,865
FY 2010	34	\$37,764,166	\$4,729,865
FY 2011	39	\$41,748,670	\$4,414,624
FY 2012	43	\$45,113,788	\$5,965,896
FY 2013	44	\$47,379,543	\$7,212,115
FY 2014	40	\$69,872,000	\$7,213,758
FY 2015	40	\$74,171,610	\$7,493,680
FY 2016	42	\$54,753,425	\$7,499,650
FY 2017	42	\$58,033,724	\$7,581,065
FY 2018	40	\$64,081,427	\$6,500,000
FY 2019	40	\$66,133,706	\$6,500,000
FY 2020	42	\$63,266,280	\$6,500,000
FY 2021	43	\$57,603,700	\$6,500,000
FY 2022	43	\$57,619,100	\$7,000,000
FY 2023	41	\$66,238,979	\$9,500,000
			* 2006 reflects actual expenditure. Legislative appropriations FY 2006 and earlier were \$150,000 specifically for Hinds Circuit Drug Court. A \$10 fee on felony and misdemeanor convictions funded other drug courts before 2007.
TOTAL		\$889,257,138	\$104,969,741

are estimated to be more than \$1 billion. Gross savings to Mississippi taxpayers from avoided incarceration costs from FY 2006 through FY 2023 is an estimated \$889,257,138. Savings calculations are based on PEER Committee estimates of the average annual cost per inmate to house inmates in the Department of Corrections. The average estimate was \$18,499 per inmate in fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022; PEER raised the average estimate to \$21,622.60 in December 2022.

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 FY2023 was \$1,268,409, and total fees collected was \$930,669. Fine collections from FY 2006 through FY 2022 amounted to \$18,282,093; fees paid by adult drug intervention court participants from FY 2006 through FY 2022 amounted to \$22,571,503.

Another measure of the success of the intervention courts is that 940 drug-free babies were born to female program participants statewide in FY 2006 through FY 2023. The value of a healthy life is precious. Drug intervention courts have saved the State of Mississippi an estimated \$705 million for the 940 drug-free babies born to participants since FY 2006. 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 U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, each healthy, drug-free infant saves the state \$750,000 during the first 18 years of life.

Success also is measured in graduates' personal accomplishments. From FY 2015 - FY 2023:

- 5,860 were employed;
- 774 attended vocational schools;
- 1,554 attended post-secondary schools;
- 899 earned high school equivalency diplomas.

Recidivism is another key measure of the success of intervention courts. Mississippi's adult felony drug intervention courts had a recidivism rate of 2.9 percent, compared to the Mississippi Department of Corrections' recidivism rate of 35.4 percent for Fiscal Year 2018. Between 2006 and 2018, there were 133 repeat offenders among the 4,439 adult felony drug intervention court graduates.

Fiscal Year	Fines paid by Drug Intervention Court participants	Fees paid by Drug Intervention Court 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
FY 2022	\$1,387,715	\$1,832,758
FY 2023	\$1,268,409	\$930,669
TOTAL	\$9,694,172	\$12,109,715

ism rate of 2.9 percent, compared to the Mississippi Department of Corrections' recidivism rate of 35.4 percent for Fiscal Year 2018. Between 2006 and 2018, there were 133 repeat offenders among the 4,439 adult felony drug intervention court graduates.

Statewide Drug Intervention Court Data FY 2019 — FY 2023

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total drug intervention court programs	40	42	43	43	41
Total people served by drug intervention courts	5,292	4,934	4,828	4,803	5,234
Total drug intervention court graduates	859	656	677	617	901
Successfully completed and received expungement	N/A	311	192	81	69
Felony adult program graduates	658	433	543	504	642
Misdemeanor adult program graduates	54	52	28	34	59
Juvenile court program graduates	152	139	94	117	174
Family court program graduates	28	32	15	16	26
Total left program before completion	616	473	526	603	646
Charged with new offense while in program	187	122	90	71	57
Convicted of new crime	22	38	17	2	16
Drug-free babies born to female participants	52	58	21	21	12
Earned high school equivalency certificate	147	75	70	99	55
Obtained employment	858	427	186	180	314
Fines collected and returned to counties	\$1,571,619	\$1,427,978	\$1,500,641	\$1,387,715	\$1,268,409
Fees paid by participants	\$2,057,337	\$1,972,668	\$2,037,256	\$1,832,758	\$930,669
Hours of community service work by participants	30,794.75	23,438.75	25,224	21,099	29,114

FY 2023	Individual Intervention Court Program Data						
Adult Felony	Enrolled first day of FY23	Enrolled last day of FY 23	Total new participants in year	Successful completions in the year	Left before successful completion	Number arrested for new offense	Number convicted of a new crime
1st Circuit	237	253	109	56	37	0	0
2nd Circuit	109	138	69	21	12	0	0
3rd Circuit	254	262	131	98	22	0	0
4th Circuit	89	84	31	30	6	3	0
5th Circuit	52	58	23	9	0	0	0
6th Circuit	119	27	20	28	43	0	0
7th Circuit	157	166	39	17	13	0	0
8th Circuit	270	241	89	41	70	0	0
9th Circuit	87	116	49	13	14	0	0
10th Circuit	37	31	13	11	4	2	0
11th Circuit	71	80	7	0	0	0	0
12th Circuit	143	163	60	31	10	0	0
13th Circuit	60	59	18	5	13	0	1
14th Circuit	217	245	74	24	19	0	0
15th Circuit	277	248	103	57	44	0	0
16th Circuit	72	86	31	9	7	1	0
17th Circuit	390	181	64	49	25	1	1
18th Circuit	75	71	25	22	8	0	0
19th Circuit	183	186	63	35	7	2	0
20th Circuit	172	211	118	50	20	6	0
21st Circuit	36	24	2	1	2	0	0
22nd Circuit	30	25	9	9	4	0	0
23rd Circuit	192	172	22	27	14	1	0
Total	3329	3127	1169	643	394	16	2

FY 2023							
Youth	Enrolled first day of FY23	Enrolled last day of FY 23	Total new participants in year	Successful completions in the year	Left before successful completion	Number arrested for new offense	Number convicted of a new crime
3rd Chancery	50	38	22	10	24	0	0
Walthall	3	5	8	0	4	0	0
6th Chancery	1	9	10	0	2	1	0
9th Chancery	15	13	7	2	7	0	0
Adams	16	12	4	5	3	0	0
DeSoto	49	39	116	68	0	1	0
Forrest	5	4	6	3	5	0	0
Harrison	33	38	57	25	0	4	0
Hinds	6	2	2	2	3	0	0
Madison	42	37	33	23	16	4	1
Pike	7	10	9	4	2	2	0
Rankin	43	33	20	21	9	28	0
Washington	7	6	4	0	5	1	1
Yazoo	8	19	28	12	5	0	12
Total	285	265	326	175	85	41	14
FY 2023							
Family	Enrolled first day of FY23	Enrolled last day of FY 23	Total new participants in year	Successful completions in the year	Left before successful completion	Number arrested for new offense	Number convicted of a new crime
Adams Family	15	14	11	10	9	0	0
Harrison Family	10	15	22	9	13	0	0
Madison Family	0	9	0	0	12	0	0
Rankin Family	10	22	22	7	4	0	0
Total	35	60	55	26	38	0	0
All Courts	Enrolled first day of FY23	Enrolled last day of FY 23	Total new participants in year	Successful completions in the year	Left before successful completion	Number arrested for new offense	Number convicted of a new crime
TOTAL	3649	3452	1550	844	517	55	16

State Intervention Courts Advisory Committee

The State Intervention Courts Advisory Committee, formerly known as 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 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 § 9-23-9. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Supreme Court necessary and incident to compliance with established rules.

Justice Robert P. Chamberlin is chair of the Advisory Committee. Members of the Advisory Committee in 2023 were 2nd Circuit Judge Randi P. Mueller; 7th Circuit Judge Winston Kidd; 11th Circuit Judge Charles Webster; 12th Circuit Judge Robert Helfrich; 14th Circuit Judge Mike Taylor; 19th Circuit Judge Kathy King Jackson; Rep. Angela Cockerham; Department of Corrections Deputy Commissioner Nathan Blevins; State Veterans Affairs Board Executive Director Mark Smith; and Melody Madaris, Executive Director of Communicare. Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Supreme Court.

Mississippi Electronic Courts

Mississippi Electronic Courts implemented the transition of 18 court systems to electronic filing and docket management during 2023. All 82 Chancery Courts were operating in MEC as of June 19, 2023. At the end of December 2023, the MEC system was utilized in 62 Circuit Courts covering 80 percent of the population, and in 21 County Courts. A total of 165 of the 186 Chancery, Circuit and County courts were online and supported by MEC. Twenty-four courts remain awaiting implementation into MEC. It is anticipated that the remaining Circuit and County Courts will be online by the end of FY 2025.

Gov. Tate Reeves signed House Bill 25 on June 30, 2020, mandating use of the MEC system in all Chancery, Circuit and County Courts. MEC continues to bring new courts onto the system at a rate of one or two courts each month.



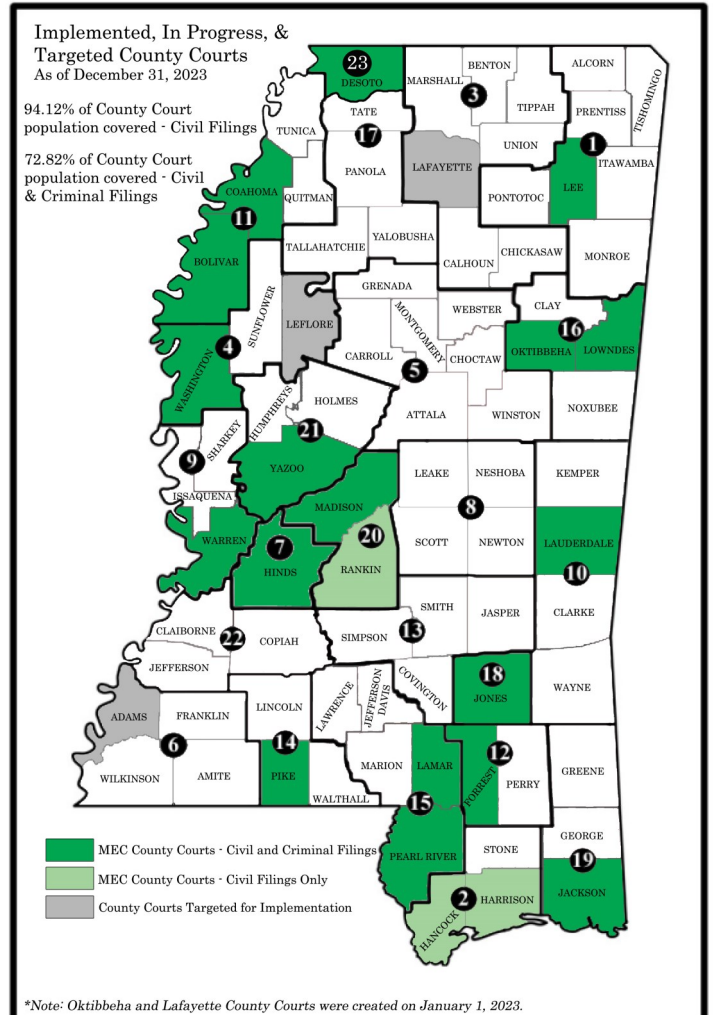
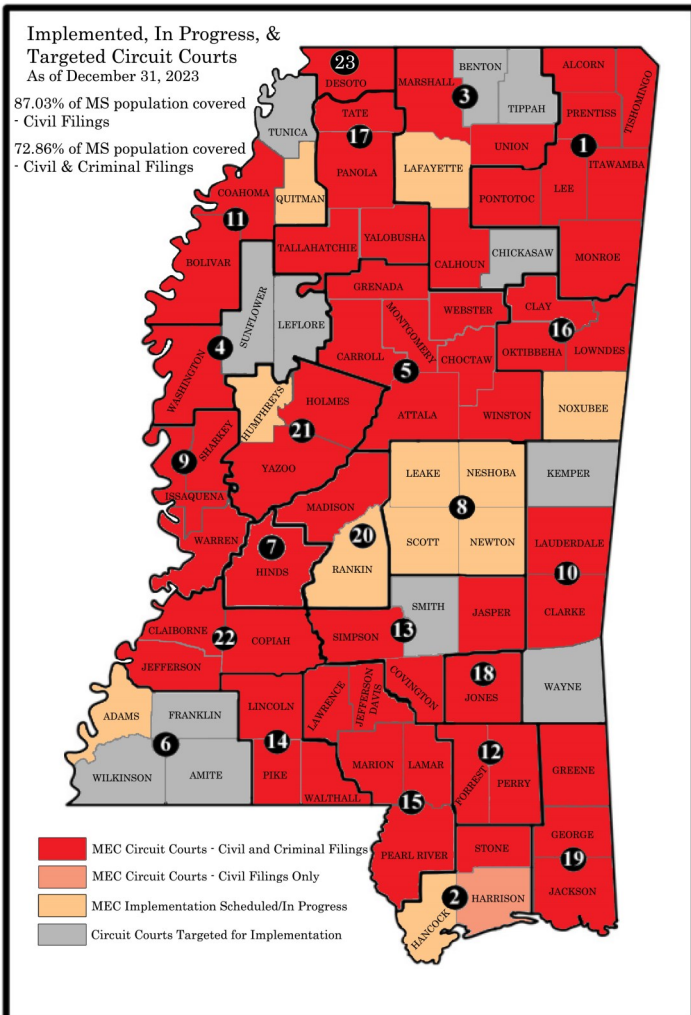
The MEC system is funded solely through civil filing fees, user fees to access documents, and renewal fees. MEC had 8,870 registered attorney users, 13,869 non-attorney users, and 140 firm administrator users at the end of 2023. Since 2011, MEC has generated usage fees totaling \$5,236,668.60, including \$2,797,583.00 from the Chancery Courts and \$2,439,085.60 from the Circuit and County Courts. Online page viewing fees are divided equally between the county clerks of the court and MEC.

Nathan Evans supervises a staff of 16 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.

MEC, under the supervision of the Mississippi Supreme Court, 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. Attorneys have the capability

**Mississippi Circuit Courts
MEC Implementation Map**

**Mississippi County Courts (24 Total*)
MEC Implementation Map**



*Note: Oktibbeha and Lafayette County Courts were created on January 1, 2023.

CALENDAR YEAR 2023 MEC Court Implementations	
Court	Date went live
23rd Circuit Court of DeSoto County created and split from 17th Circuit, civil, criminal	1/1/2023
Tallahatchie County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	1/30/2023
Lauderdale County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	3/6/2023
Lauderdale County Court, civil, criminal	3/6/2023
Calhoun County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	3/20/2023
Calhoun County Chancery Court	3/20/2023
Sunflower County Chancery Court	4/17/2023
Benton County Chancery Court	5/15/2023
Tippah County Chancery Court	5/22/2023
Lafayette County Chancery Court	6/19/2023
Lowndes County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	7/24/2023
Lowndes County Court, civil, criminal	7/24/2023
Oktibbeha County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	8/28/2023
Oktibbeha County Court, civil, criminal	8/28/2023
Marshall County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	9/25/2023
Holmes County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	10/23/2023
Covington County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	12/4/2023
Panola County Circuit Court, civil, criminal	12/18/2023
TOTALS: 10 Circuit, 3 County, 5 Chancery	

to file documents 24 hours a day. Documents are automatically docketed as part of the filing process and are immediately available electronically through an established account. When a document or pleading is electronically filed, an automatic e-mail notice of the case activity is sent to all attorneys of record in the case as well as the assigned judge. The system provides quicker and cheaper delivery of documents by reducing postage and courier fees and allows for easier tracking of case activity. Expanding paper records storage space is no longer an issue.

Remote electronic access to dockets and documents promotes judicial efficiency. Judges are able to access their dockets district-wide and deal with matters in any county in the district without the need to retrieve paper case files.

Any member of the public who wishes to view an electronically filed court document via the internet may register for an account in the Public Access Mississippi Electronic Case Management system, PAMEC. The annual registration fee is \$10. Viewing documents costs 20 cents per page. Here is the link for registration: <https://www.pamecapps.mec.ms.gov/onlineereg/main.jsp>.

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 ACADIA/CITS, 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.

Implementation of ACADIA, the Appellate Case and Docket Information App, began in 2019. ACADIA development and implementation continued in 2023 with eight software releases including 26 new features and 45 improvements, along with various bug fixes. Functionality for processing case mandates, records, volumes, and exhibits was implemented. Various reports and letters were added as well. Over time, the ACADIA unified case management system will replace all of the applications in the CITS legacy system for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

A major security upgrade to the MYCIDS server, client and network infrastructure was performed via a statewide rollout with completion expected in early 2024. A major overhaul of the Bar Admissions BarWeb online bar exam application was completed in 2023. Improvements to the CLE online system were also released. Additional features for the CLE online system, including the ability to process online payments, improvements in course search and electronic submissions, and further integration of front-office functionality into ACADIA will be developed in 2024.



Members of the Information Technology Department take a group photo during a staff holiday gathering in December 2023.

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 helpdesk support are provided at no charge to local courts.

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, 2022, and June 30, 2023, the MYCIDS staff trained 1,808 people in 80 courts. In 42 weeks of scheduled training at a rate of nine three-hour sessions each week, MYCIDS staff presented 1,134 hours of training, a 35 percent increase over the previous year.

The Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System was developed in 1999 and went live in 2002. MYCIDS became the mandatory case management system for all Youth Courts statewide on July 1, 2015. MYCIDS is the official court record for Youth Court.

STUDIES ADDRESSING YOUTH COURTS, FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

The Mississippi Legislature during the 2023 Session called for two studies that examined the state's Youth Court System and issues related to foster care and adoption. House Bill 1149 reconstituted the Mississippi Commission on a Uniform Youth Court System and Procedures to study the Youth Court system in an effort to provide a clear path to permanency for neglected and abused children in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services. Senate Bill 2384 created the Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption to perform a comprehensive review of statutes affecting adoptions including Youth Court provisions for the purpose of making recommendations to the Legislature.

Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption

The Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption issued its report to the Mississippi Legislature on December 1, 2023, calling for expansion of custodial Parent Representation to all Youth Courts in the State of Mississippi. The Task Force recommended changing "may" to "shall" in the language of Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-201(2), proposing that the statute be changed to "...the youth court judge *shall* appoint counsel to represent the indigent custodial parent or guardian in the proceeding." The Task Force also proposed language to allow the Youth Court to appoint an attorney for a non-custodial parent who has been involved in the life of the child, and to require appointment of an attorney for a non-custodial parent in a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) action. The Task Force suggested that the cost of indigent parent representation could be covered by leveraging federal, state, and local funds.

Since the first indigent parent representation pilot program was implemented in 2012, the pilot programs demonstrated that better outcomes for children occur when legal representation is provided to indigent parents facing the possibility of court-order removal of their children and termination of their parental rights. The number of children in foster care declined in most counties which provide parent representation, and time spent in foster care declined. In 2023, 34 counties reported some level of parent representation, with a majority receiving matching state funds. Not all parents are represented in these counties. No growth occurred in the number of counties in which parent representation was available to indigent parents.

Among other Task Force recommendations are:

- Waive the filing fee for an adoption involving children in the custody of the Department of Child Protection Services and set a deadline for Chancery Courts to hear adoption cases involving children in CPS custody;
- Shorten the hearing requirement in termination of parental rights cases from 120 calendar days to 90 days;
- Conduct permanency review hearings every 30 days for children under three years old, and permanency hearings more often than six months;
- Provide an attorney for children 12 and older in termination of parental rights proceedings, and give consideration to the wishes of a child aged 14 or older;
- Clarify duties of the attorney;
- Have one agency attorney see the case through from start to finish;
- Revise factors to be considered if termination of parental rights was due to severe mental illness rendering a parent



Members of the Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption finalize legislative recommendations on Nov. 20, 2023.

- unable to care for the child;
- Redefine “reasonable efforts” in Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-105;
- Define “compelling and extraordinary reasons” why termination of parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child after the child has been in foster care for an extended period of time. Examples include children cared for by relatives, parents incarcerated but scheduled for release, terminal illness of natural parent, commitment of a parent to an institution or health facility, military service of a parent and other circumstances;
- Distinguish “willful” neglect from “non-willful” neglect due to poverty;
- Define “torture” under state statute so that certain criminal prosecution elements can be asserted;
- Clarify when Youth Court jurisdiction attaches;
- Standardize pay scale for guardians ad litem and increase number of guardians ad litem, especially in rural counties;
- Pointed to the need for more resources in smaller counties and the use of technology to connect parents with their resource needs so that they can complete their service agreements;
- Called for CPS to allow a masters level mental health professional to use a standardized assessment to interview when determining therapeutic classification to increase statewide assessment capacity, decrease waitlists and allow for more timely therapeutic classification;
- Explained permissible uses of federal Title IV-E funding;
- Called for legislation which would improve fathers’ involvement in children’s lives and identified the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative as a model.

Commission on a Uniform Youth Court System and Procedures

The Mississippi Commission on a Uniform Youth Court System and Procedures began studying the state’s varied Youth Court system in August 2023. Commission members discussed the pros and cons of adopting a statewide uniform system with full-time Youth Court judges serving every county, the possibility of regional county court districts, or measures that could bring uniformity to the existing patchwork system of County Court judges, Chancellor supervised Youth Courts and Chancery-appointed Youth Court referees. Major concerns were that children do not receive adequate and uniform services, and that children spend too long in foster care without permanency. Critics of a statewide system of full-time County Court Judges argued that such a system would cost too much. Officials of the Department of Child Protection Services said that the current system that lets some children stay in foster care for years produces poor outcomes for children and costs an average of about \$40,000 per year per child. CPS officials said that changes which would bring children to permanency sooner would reduce spending on foster care.



Members of the Commission on a Uniform Youth Court System and Procedures discuss preliminary recommendations.

The Commission will continue discussions in 2024, with a final report due to the Legislature on or before October 1, 2024. However, the Commission put forward two early recommendations. The group called for better training for Youth Court intake officers, with each to receive a minimum of six hours of annual training in addition to the technical training already provided on the MYCIDS system. Data analysis by the Commission showed inconsistencies in the intake process as children came into the jurisdiction of the Youth Court. Intake officers perform a crucial function, and it is hoped that better training will address the inconsistencies. The Commission also joined in the recommendation of the Task Force on Foster Care and Adoption regarding the need for parent representation. The Commission recommended that the Legislature “codify a right to have a public defender appointed by the court for all indigent parents in abuse and neglect cases.” The Commissions wrote, “The members of the Commission agree with the principle that indigent parents should be provided with attorney representation in all stages of an abuse and neglect action. While many counties have made steps to provide public defenders for indigent parents, there is still a gap where many indigent parents are left to represent themselves in a court proceeding that is fast and the stakes involve such a precious fundamental right.”

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. A focus on recruiting brought the number of credentialed interpreters to 48 at the end of December 2023 — a 60 percent increase over the previous year, when 30 credentialed interpreters were available. It was the most substantial increase in available foreign language interpreters since Standards for Court Interpreters were adopted in 2011. Deenie Miller, the first full-time language access coordinator, has focused on recruiting new interpreters since joining the AOC in July 2022.

Among the recently credentialed interpreters is the state’s first Vietnamese speaker. Credentialed interpreters also include those who speak Arabic, French, German, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Yoruba and Pidgin.

The Language Access Coordinator assists the courts in meeting the needs of individuals of limited English proficiency, LEP. Because she is responsible for ensuring that the state judiciary complies with federal rules and regulations regarding court interpreters, Miller began work toward revising state statutes to comply with U.S. Department of Justice requirements for LEP individuals. Mississippi House Bill 1217, which Miller drafted, passed and became law July 1, 2023.

Revised laws require qualified language interpreters for people of limited English proficiency in court proceedings in order to provide broader access to assistance for those who are limited in their understanding of English or who speak English as a second language. The new laws mandate court appointment of a qualified interpreter in criminal cases at no cost to the defendant, with the cost borne by the county or municipality. Changes in the criminal statute can be



Bilingual speakers interested in court interpreting participated in an ethics and skills seminar on Dec. 15, 2023, in Jackson.



Deenie Miller

found in Miss. Code Ann. § 99-17-7 (2023). New legislation also requires court interpreters to be paid by the county or municipality in civil cases, so that limited English proficient individuals will no longer be required to pay for a court interpreter. The cost of the interpreter can no longer be assessed to the LEP individual.

Revisions to the statutes clarify that LEP individuals are entitled to use an interpreter in any instance arising out of or pertaining to the individual’s involvement in litigation. See Miss. Code Ann. § 9-21-73 (4) (2023). This provision ensures that LEP individuals have a right to an interpreter during all phases of litigation, including hearings and depositions. This provision applies not only to litigants, but also to witnesses. This includes a plaintiff filing a lawsuit in the Clerk’s Office, a defendant appearing in court responding to a summons, or a witness testifying at a trial. Clarifying language was added in statute to make it clear that appointing a court interpreter is proper for individuals who may speak some English but are not fluent. The statute includes language requiring not only the appointment of an interpreter for those who do not speak English, but also for one “who does not speak English as his or her primary language” and “has a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English.”

Judges are required to appoint the most qualified interpreter available. The Legislature enacted a new statute that defines the previously established three categories of court interpreters: certified, registered, and non-credentialed. The legislation also adopted an order of preference, with certified interpreters first, then registered, then non-credentialed.

The Mississippi Court Interpreter Credentialing Program trains, tests and certifies individuals who wish to serve as court interpreters. The Ethics and Skill Building Seminar, the first step in the Court Interpreter Credentialing Program, is offered at the Supreme Court multiple times per year. Those who complete the seminar and pass the court interpreter written test are designated as “registered” court interpreters and are listed on the roster. “Certified” interpreters have passed all requirements to be designated as “Registered” and have also passed the Oral Performance Examination.

The Language Access Coordinator educates judges, court staff and attorneys about requirements for providing court interpreters for people of limited English proficiency. In 2023, Miller conducted training at the Evelyn Gandy Foundation, Youth Defender Certification Training, Parent Defender Certification Training, University of Mississippi School of Law, Office of State Public Defender and the Mississippi State Department of Health Language Access Symposium. Miller also provided training for trial and appellate court judges, chancery and circuit clerks, justice court and municipal court clerks, court administrators and new court clerks, sitting justice court judges and newly elected justice court judges and guardians ad litem.

Miller has been asked by the Chief of the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to serve as a language access resource for the National Judicial Network. She also serves on several national boards and task forces as well as the American Bar Association Advisory Committee on Language Access, where she helps shape policy on language access in the courts.

Language interpreters who provide services in the courts of Mississippi are required to follow the Rules on Standards for Court Interpreters and the Code of Ethics for Court Interpreters. AOC adopted Standards for Court Interpreters and a Code of Ethics 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 proficient 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.

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 2024 Fiscal Year appropriation for the judicial branch was \$102,017,112, which includes \$61,421,641 in general funds, \$1,190,515 in capital expense funds, \$34,777,365 in special funds and \$4,627,591 from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Of the \$61,421,641 in general funds, \$1,299,160 was appropriated in Senate Bill 2961 to pay for four special judge appointments for Hinds County as called for under House Bill 1020. A challenge to the provisions of HB 1020 came before the Supreme Court, and the Court in a decision issued on September 21, 2023, declared unconstitutional the legislation which would have codified the four special judge appointments for Hinds County. As a result, the \$1,299,160 was not spent by the Supreme Court.

The remaining general fund appropriation of \$59,732,816 represents less than 1 percent of the general funds appropriated for all of state government. The FY 2024 general fund appropriations for all three branches of state government totaled \$6,663,038,000.

The General Fund appropriation for the Administrative Office of Courts and all state courts of record, including the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, 23 circuit court districts, 20 chancery court districts and 24 county courts, was \$59,732,816.

The judicial system's largest expenditure is salaries: \$73,000,443, or 71.56 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 continuing difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judiciary was able to obtain a legislative appropriation of \$4,627,591 in Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds in FY 2024.

Special funds are critical to the work of the judicial branch. Mississippi Electronic Courts, MEC, is self-funded through fees. 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 2024 JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET

Appropriation by Expense	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Trial Judges *	Admin Office of Courts **	Continuing Legal Ed	Board of Bar Admissions	Hinds Circuit Criminal Case Backlog	Adoptions	Totals	Percent
Salaries	7,357,811	6,405,754	33,800,567	20,766,651	135,005	209,364	2,925,291	1,400,000	73,000,443	71.56%
Travel	353,830	368,000	656,000	75,075	12,852	15,000	198,000	100,000	1,778,757	1.74%
Contractual	244,771	61,000	103,800	1,793,718	8,300	106,570	4,300		2,322,459	2.28%
Commodities	405,504	2,250	1,966,000	85,475	2,700	27,950	-		2,489,879	2.44%
Equipment	-	-	-	466,131	-	-	-		466,131	0.46%
Subsidies	-	-	-	21,959,443	-	-	-		21,959,443	21.53%
Judicial Branch Appropriation	8,361,916	6,837,004	36,526,367	45,146,493	158,857	358,884	3,127,591	1,500,000	102,017,112	100.00%
No. of PINS	70	58	109	40 **	2	3	-	-	282	

* Includes \$1,299,160 in general funds appropriated in SB2961 for appointment of judges for Hinds County under HB 1020. HB1020 legislation calling for special judge appointments was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and the funds will not be spent.

** The Administrative Office of Courts employs all circuit and chancery courts court administrators, law clerks, staff attorneys, and other administrative personnel in addition to the 40 PINS assigned to the Administrative Office of Courts.

Appropriation by Funding Source	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Trial Judges	Admin Office of Courts	Continuing Legal Ed	Board of Bar Admissions	Hinds Circuit Criminal Case Backlog	Adoptions	Totals	Percent
General Funds	7,400,165	5,225,711	32,333,999	16,461,766	-	-	-	-	61,421,641	60.21%
Capital Expense Funds	-	-	-	1,190,515	-	-	-	-	1,190,515	1.17%
Special Funds	961,751	1,611,293	4,192,368	27,494,212	158,857	358,884	-	-	34,777,365	34.09%
Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,127,591	1,500,000	4,627,591	4.54%
Judicial Branch Appropriation	8,361,916	6,837,004	36,526,367	45,146,493	158,857	358,884	3,127,591	1,500,000	102,017,112	100.00%

FY 2014—FY 2024 JUDICIAL BRANCH FUNDING

Fiscal Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Supreme Court	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	8,189,687	8,361,916
Court of Appeals	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	6,686,080	6,837,004
Trial Judges	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	31,321,543	36,526,367
AOC	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	42,977,740	45,146,493
CLE	135,538	138,651	183,386	144,282	144,282	144,414	149,338	149,338	151,593	155,600	158,857
Bar Admissions	406,515	402,586	401,671	338,493	338,493	338,691	346,100	346,100	349,724	355,449	358,884
AOC CARES Act	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500,000	655,050	3,227,683	4,627,591
Total	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	92,913,782	102,017,112

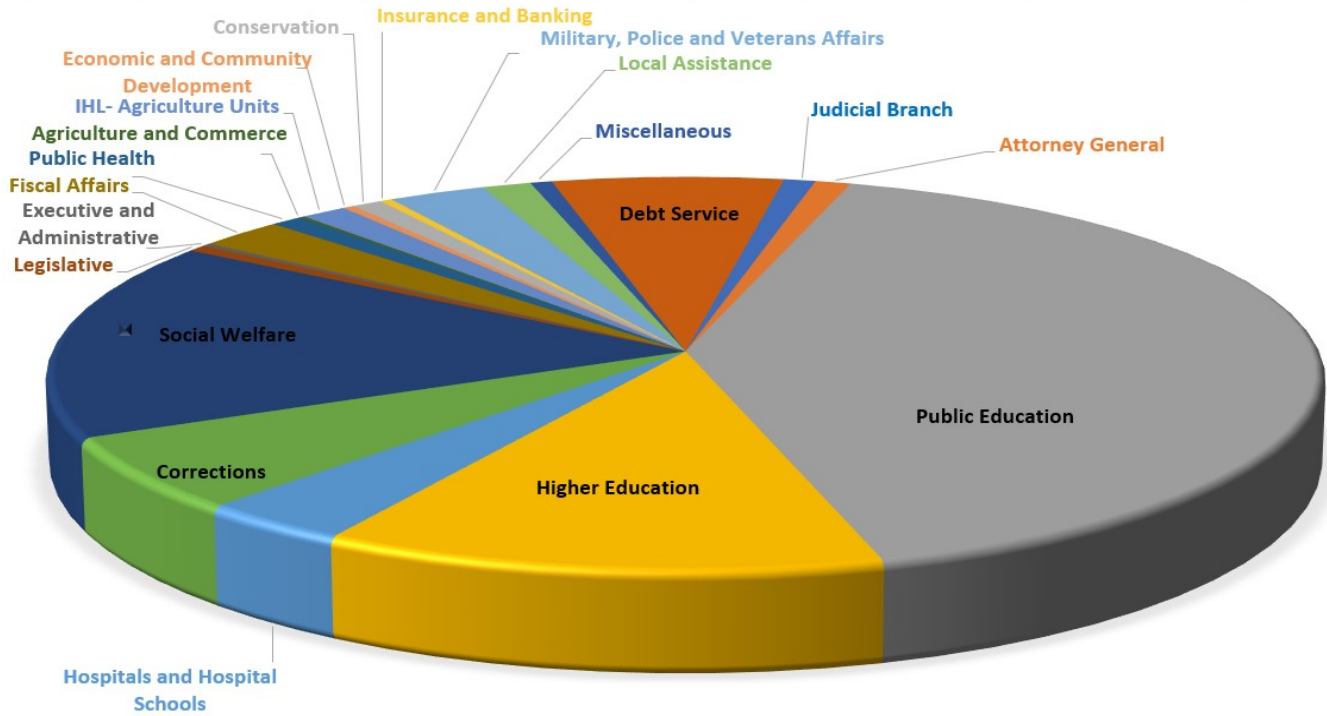
FY 2024 JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET

Appropriation by Bill Number	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Trial Judges *	Admin Office of Courts	Continuing Legal Ed	Board of Bar Admissions	Hinds Circuit Criminal Case Backlog	Adoptions	Totals
HB 1640									
General Funds	7,400,165	5,225,711	31,034,839	16,072,101	-	-	-	-	59,732,816
Capital Expense Funds	-	-	-	810,000	-	-	-	-	810,000
Special Funds	961,751	1,611,293	4,192,368	27,494,212	158,857	358,884	-	-	34,777,365
Reappropriated from FY2023									
Capital Expense Funds	-	-	-	380,515	-	-	-	-	380,515
Total HB 1640	8,361,916	6,837,004	35,227,207	44,756,828	158,857	358,884	-	-	95,700,696
SB 2961									
General Funds *	-	-	1,299,160*	389,665	-	-	-	-	1,688,825
Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,480,872	-	1,480,872
Total SB 2961	-	-	1,299,160 *	389,665	-	-	1,480,872	-	3,169,697
* Includes \$1,299,160 in general funds appropriated in SB2961 for appointment of judges for Hinds County under HB 1020. HB1020 legislation calling for special judge appointments was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and the funds will not be spent.									
SB 3052									
Reappropriated from FY2023									-
Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery							1,646,719	1,500,000	3,146,719
Total SB 3052	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,646,719	1,500,000	3,146,719
Judicial Branch Appropriation	8,361,916	6,837,004	36,526,367	45,146,493	158,857	358,884	3,127,591	1,500,000	102,017,112

FY 2014—FY 2024 JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGETS BY FUNDING SOURCES

Fiscal Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Special Funds	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	35,236,955	35,967,880
General Funds	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	54,449,144	61,421,641
CARES Act Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500,000	655,050	3,227,683	4,627,591
TOTAL	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	92,913,782	102,017,112

FY 2024 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION



FY 2024 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION (DOES NOT INCLUDE FY2023 REAPPROPRIATIONS)

Judicial Branch	59,732,816		0.8965%
Attorney General	67,386,750		1.0114%
Total Judiciary and Justice per LBO		127,119,566	
Other:			
Public Education	2,719,212,931		40.8104%
Higher Education	861,630,866		12.9315%
Hospitals and Hospital Schools	234,206,164		3.5150%
Corrections	405,228,240		6.0817%
Social Welfare	1,085,017,958		16.2841%
Legislative	35,185,503		0.5281%
Executive and Administrative	17,080,037		0.2563%
Fiscal Affairs	162,171,013		2.4339%
Public Health	60,271,120		0.9046%
Agriculture and Commerce	10,989,789		0.1649%
IHL- Agriculture Units	88,013,582		1.3209%
Economic and Community Development	21,639,332		0.3248%
Conservation	57,510,938		0.8631%
Insurance and Banking	22,508,382		0.3378%
Military, Police and Veterans Affairs	184,685,928		2.7718%
Local Assistance	92,000,000		1.3808%
Miscellaneous	41,169,897		0.6179%
Debt Service	437,396,754		6.5645%
Total Other		6,535,918,434	
Total General Fund Appropriation for FY2023		6,663,038,000	100.00%

ACCESS TO THE COURTS

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project



MVLP Executive Director Gayla Carpenter Sanders introduces Legal Ambassadors at Pro Bono Awards on Dec. 12, 2023.

The Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project conducted 37 free legal clinics for low-income people in 2023, the most ever for MVLP in a year. The clinics provided limited representation to 419 people across the state. MVLP also helped 497 individuals gain access to the courts through full direct representation by volunteer lawyers.

The free family law clinics address issues including divorce, child custody, child support and guardianships. MVLP also assists low-income people with bankruptcy matters, foreclosure prevention, landlord tenant issues and expungements. The family law clinics especially are designed to give people enough basic legal advice and directions so that they can handle simple legal matters on their own in Chancery Court. Attorneys at the legal clinics help clients prepare documents, give limited legal advice and help them get ready to go to court on their own. Chancellors make themselves available during the clinics to hear cases which are ready to be resolved immediately.

MVLP also began a program to send lawyers into areas identified as “legal deserts.” The Mississippi Bar’s Future of the Profession Committee in 2019 began a study concerning areas where there were few or even no attorneys. The study found that in 26 counties, there were 10 or fewer attorneys. MVLP secured a grant in June 2023 to establish the Mississippi Legal Ambassadors program. Twelve attorneys conducted five expungement clinics in counties with five or fewer local lawyers. They collectively donated 150 hours of pro bono services.

For the past 41 years, MVLP has worked to provide civil legal services for people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. Two Legal Services organizations provide assistance to poor people across the state, but there are too few Legal Services attorneys to meet the needs of all of the low-income people who qualify for assistance. MVLP bridges the gap with the help of volunteer attorneys who give free or reduced rate legal services.

MVLP is a non-profit, cooperative effort of the Mississippi Bar, Mississippi Center for Legal Services and North Mississippi Rural Legal Services. Low-income residents whose civil legal needs cannot be met by the two Legal Services entities are referred to the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

Mississippi Access to Justice Commission

The Mississippi Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission 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 continued to develop and expand its online and print resources. Use of legal forms developed



Volunteer attorneys provide free legal help to low-income people at a Jan. 20, 2023 family law clinic for the 11th Chancery.

by the Commission has increased. The Commission currently has online interactive forms for emancipation, adult name change, domestic abuse protection and irreconcilable differences divorce without children. The Commission is working on a form packet to be used by parties seeking irreconcilable differences divorce with children. The forms are available on the Commission website at <https://www.msatjc.org/legal-forms>.

Printed resources developed by MSATJC include a Parents’ Rights in Youth Court pamphlet; Evidentiary Cards which assist unrepresented litigants with an overview of the Mississippi Rules of Evidence; Resource Cards for clerks and librarians to give to patrons; and “Cans and Cannots” for court staff and patrons, to assist court staff as they endeavor to provide information without violating the prohibition against giving legal advice. Other resource cards include ones explaining default judgment; eviction and landlord/tenant laws; and child custody options in Mississippi. Work was underway and expected to be completed in 2024 on information about guardianships.

The Commission worked with Disability Rights Mississippi in 2022 to create a Disability Access Manual to help courts with disability access issues. The manual is available online at www.msatjc.org/judges-court-clerks-and-court-staff. Disability access training that began in 2022 continued at the 2023 Chancery Clerks Conference and Circuit Clerks Conference.

The Commission worked with the Mississippi Bar to implement a modest means lawyer directory for people who do not qualify financially for legal aid but lack the resources to hire an attorney. The Commission worked with the Bar to update the Bar’s legal directory and to add a section in which attorneys can be listed as willing to take payment plans or reduce fees if a client meets certain income qualifications. Work began on the directory in fall 2023 and will be completed in spring 2024.

Increases in domestic violence and the need for attorneys to help victims *pro bono* is the focus of the federal Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018, known as the POWER Act. The POWER Act requires the chief judges in each federal judicial district to partner with a domestic violence service provider and a volunteer lawyer project to lead a public event that promotes *pro bono* legal service as a critical way to empower victims. The Access to Justice Commission continued its partnership in the event held on Aug. 10, 2023, at Our House, a domestic violence shelter in Greenville, with participants in person and virtually.

2023 Use of Forms Provided by MSATJC			
Online form	Started	Finished	Completion rate
Mississippi Adult Name Change Interview	823	568	69 %
Mississippi Emancipation Interview	435	168	39 %
Mississippi Uncontested Divorce Without Children Interview	3,852	2,244	58 %
Petition for Domestic Abuse Protection Order	334	150	45 %
TOTALS	5,444	3,130	57 %

A primary objective of the Commission has always been to expand and improve the state’s civil legal services delivery system. Under the direction of Commission Co-Chair Jacqueline Mask, *pro se* family law clinics were held in all First Chancery District courts: Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Prentiss, Pontotoc, Tishomingo and Union counties. The First Chancery District clinics served 237 clients with assistance from 145 volunteer lawyers and 51 law students from the University of Mississippi School of Law. The Commission also

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
2022	\$639,744.36
2023	\$673,021.55
TOTAL	\$12,293,345.79

partnered with the Mississippi Bar Leadership Forum and the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project to host a family law clinic for the 11th Chancery Court. Eighteen people from across the district and outside received services from nine volunteer attorneys and seven law students.

Civil Legal Assistance Fund

The Civil Legal Assistance Fund provides much needed assistance to promote access to the courts for low-income people. Money provided through the Civil Legal Assistance Fund is a significant supplement to Legal Services providers.

The Supreme Court in Fiscal Year 2023 distributed \$673,021.55 for civil legal assistance for low-income people. Since the Civil Legal Assistance Fund was created in 2004, more than \$12 million has been disbursed to help poor people gain access to the legal system.

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. The funds 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 in 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.

COMMISSION ON CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The Mississippi Commission on Mandatory 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 Commission on Mandatory 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.

COVID-19 health concerns prompted the Commission on CLE to petition 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 in 2020, 2021 and 2022. The Commission did not seek another waiver of the in-person requirement in 2023.

As COVID-related illnesses declined, live CLE programs increased in 2022 and 2023, while remote webcast CLE presentations decreased. In 2022, the Commission on CLE approved for credit 296 live programs that were held in the state of Mississippi and 1,310 live programs held outside the state. By comparison, 2023 approved live CLE offerings included 312 in-state and 1,209 out-of-state. In 2023, 4,139 CLE programs were given by satellite, teleconference or online through live webcasts and on-demand programs, down from 4,435 remote presentation CLE programs approved the year before.

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.

Members of the Commission on CLE are John Dickson Mayo of Oxford, Robert M. Tyner Jr. of Sumner, George Scott Luter of Jackson, Elizabeth Lee Maron of Ridgeland, Richard W. Sliman of Gulfport, Sam H. Buchanan of Hattiesburg, Marcus A. McLeland of Petal, Helen Morris of Cleveland and Katherine K. Farese of Ashland.

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



Tracy Graves

BOARD OF BAR ADMISSIONS

The Board of Bar Admissions administers 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.

A total of 206 people took the bar exam in 2023 — 16 more than the previous year. The overall pass rate decreased to 66.5 percent, down from 70.5 percent in 2022. The July Bar Exam, which always has a larger number of examinees, had a pass rate of 75.3 percent: 113 of 150 who took the July exam passed. The February Bar Exam had a pass rate of 42.9 percent; 32 of 56 who took the February exam failed. The February Bar Exam historically has had a higher percentage of people retaking the Bar Exam after a previous unsuccessful attempt.

The February and July 2023 bar exams were administered at the Jackson Convention Complex at 105 East Pascagoula Street in Jackson. All examinees were required to sign a COVID waiver and a Code of Conduct. Masks were optional, and hand sanitizer was available.

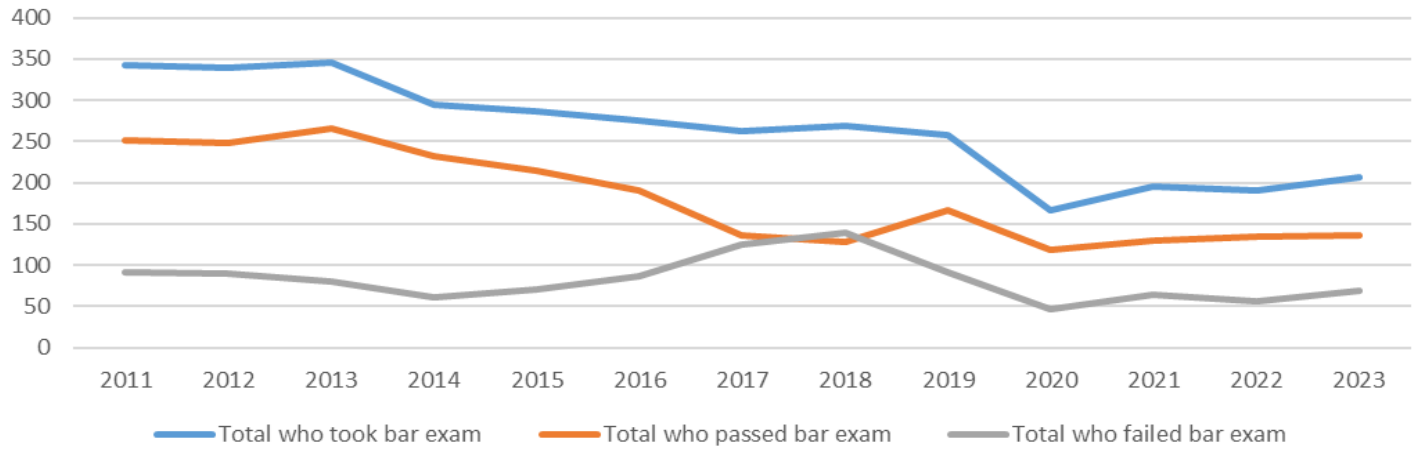
In 2023, the Board of Bar Admissions processed seven applications for registration as law students and 257 applications for examination. There were 28 motions for admission by reciprocity. Attorneys licensed in other states and having five years of active practice are exempt from taking the bar exam if the licensing state has a reciprocity agreement with Mississippi.

Members of the Board of Bar Admissions in 2023 were Chair Gwendolyn Baptist-Rucker of Southaven, Vice-chair Michael C. McCabe Jr. of Gulfport, Marcie Fyke Baria of Bay St. Louis, Pieter Teeuwissen of Jackson, Anthony R. Simon of Jackson, Kristopher A. Powell of Hattiesburg, Joseph D. Neyman Jr. of Hernando, J. William Manuel of Jackson, and Walter Alan Davis of Oxford. Wendy Smith serves as Administrator to the Board of Bar Admissions.



Board of Bar Admissions Chair Gwendolyn Baptist-Rucker addresses the Sept. 28, 2023, Bar Admissions Ceremony.

Bar Exam Pass Rate 2011 - 2023



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bar Exam Applications													
Applications for registration as law student	105	69	66	92	61	27	29	16	10	9	21	11	7
Applications for examination	420	426	433	385	318	343	343	323	279	263	250	240	257
Admission on motion				46	30	46	33	56	57	33	34	35	28
Total applications processed/being processed	525	495	499	523	409	416	405	395	346	166	305	286	292
Bar Exams													
Took February bar exam	101	108	108	111	98	95	88	91	102	49	66	54	56
Passed February bar exam	66	71	76	90	70	62	36	37	62	27	38	32	24
Failed February bar exam	35	37	32	21	28	33	52	54	40	22	28	22	32
Took July bar exam	242	231	238	183	188	181	174	178	156	117	129	136	150
Passed July bar exam	185	178	190	143	145	128	101	92	105	92	92	102	113
Failed July bar exam	57	53	48	40	43	53	73	86	51	25	37	34	37
Total who took bar exam	343	339	346	294	286	276	262	269	258	166	195	190	206
Total who passed bar exam	251	249	266	233	215	190	137	129	167	119	130	134	137
Total who failed bar exam	92	90	80	61	71	86	125	140	91	47	65	56	69
Percentage pass rate	73%	73%	76%	79%	75%	68%	52%	48%	64.7%	71.7%	66.7%	70.5%	66.5%

