

Representative Jack McFarland
Chairman



Representative Jason Hughes
Vice Chairman

Fiscal Year 2025 Executive Budget Review

JUDICIARY

House Committee on Appropriations
House Fiscal Division

March 11, 2024

Budget Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

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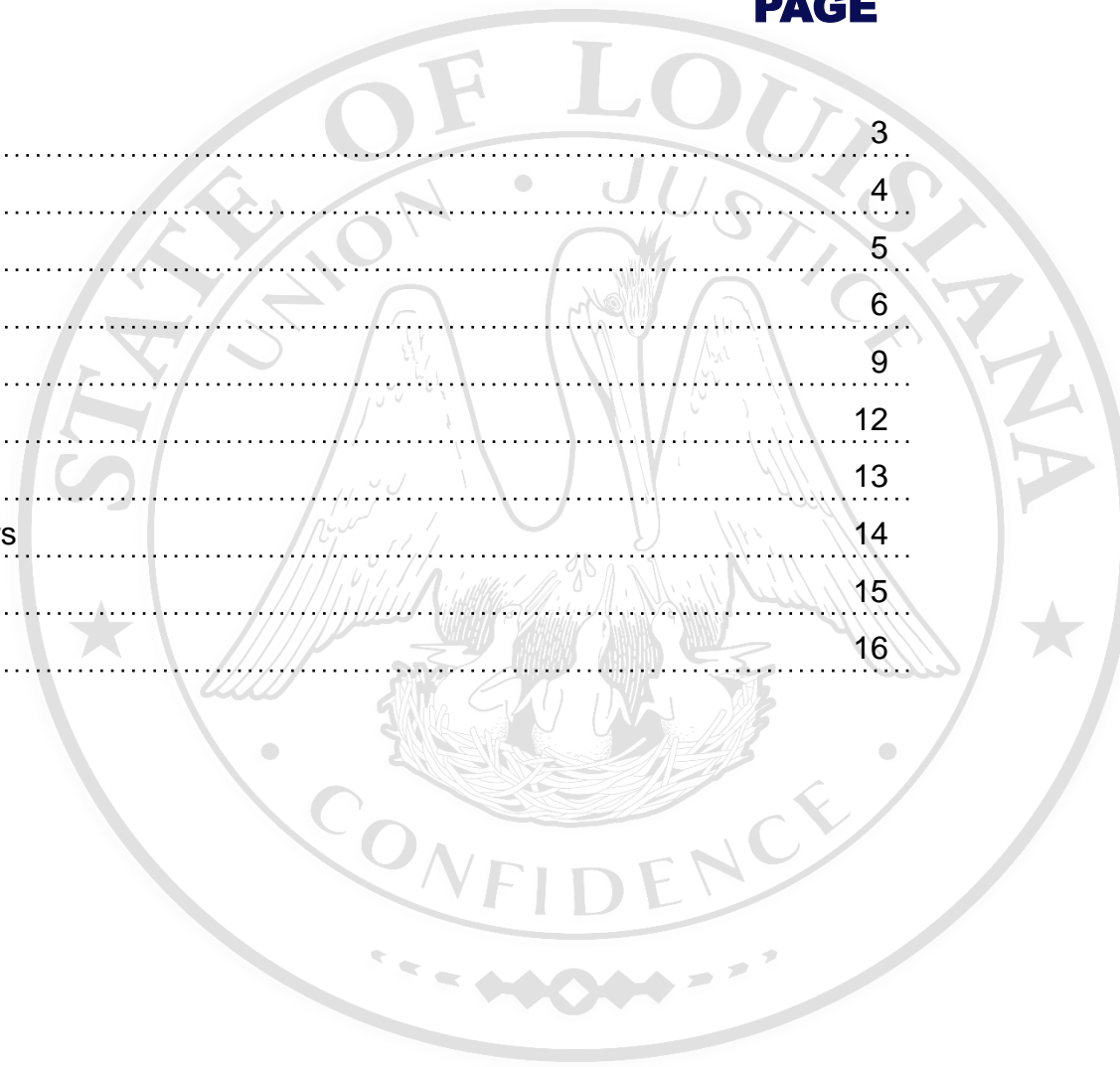
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All data, figures, and information
were provided by the Louisiana
Supreme Court for the
Fiscal Year 2024-2025,
unless otherwise noted.

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FY 25 BUDGET REQUEST

Total Funding Request = \$213.7 M

Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	192,510,095
Interagency Transfers		9,392,850
Fees & Self-generated		0
Statutory Dedications		11,842,924
Federal Funds		0
Total	\$	213,745,869

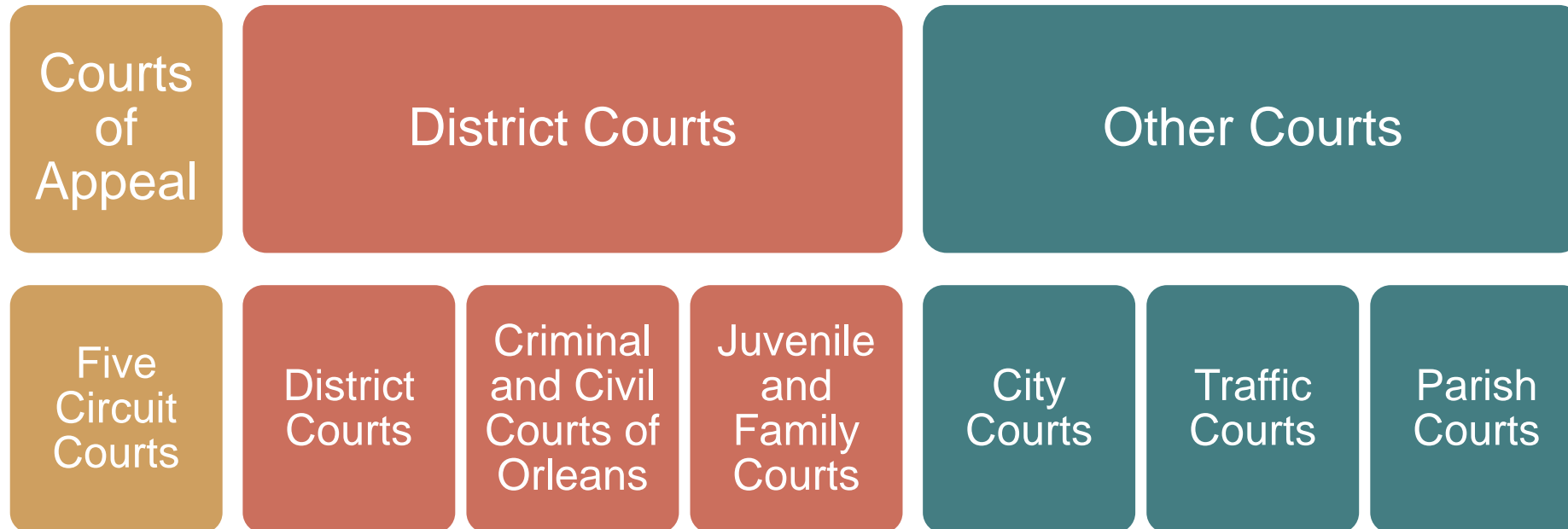


Supreme Court	\$	94,167,608
Courts of Appeal	\$	55,830,638
District Courts	\$	48,684,291
Criminal Dist. Ct. Orleans	\$	7,387,777
Juvenile/Family Courts	\$	2,911,815
Other Req'd by Statute	\$	3,901,082
Other Not Req'd by Statute	\$	862,658
Total	\$	213,745,869

JUDICIARY ORGANIZATION

- The Louisiana Constitution distributes governmental powers among three separate branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
- The Judicial Branch is charged with interpretation and application of laws and is granted the power to issue writs and orders of process in aid thereof
- This branch is comprised of a supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, and other courts authorized by the constitution
- There are a total of 367 judges that preside over state and local courts

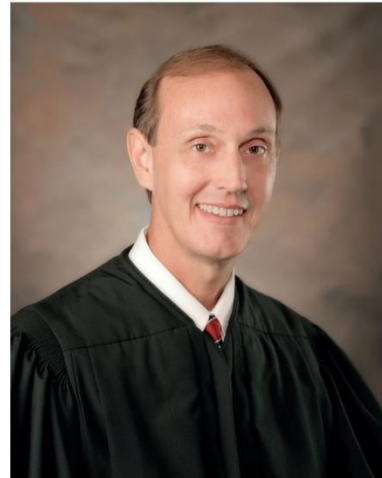
Louisiana Supreme Court



LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES



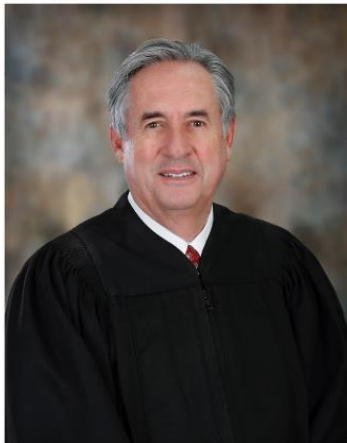
Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice William J. Crain



Louisiana Supreme Court
Chief Justice John L. Weimer



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Scott J. Crichton



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice James T. Genovese



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Jay B. McCallum

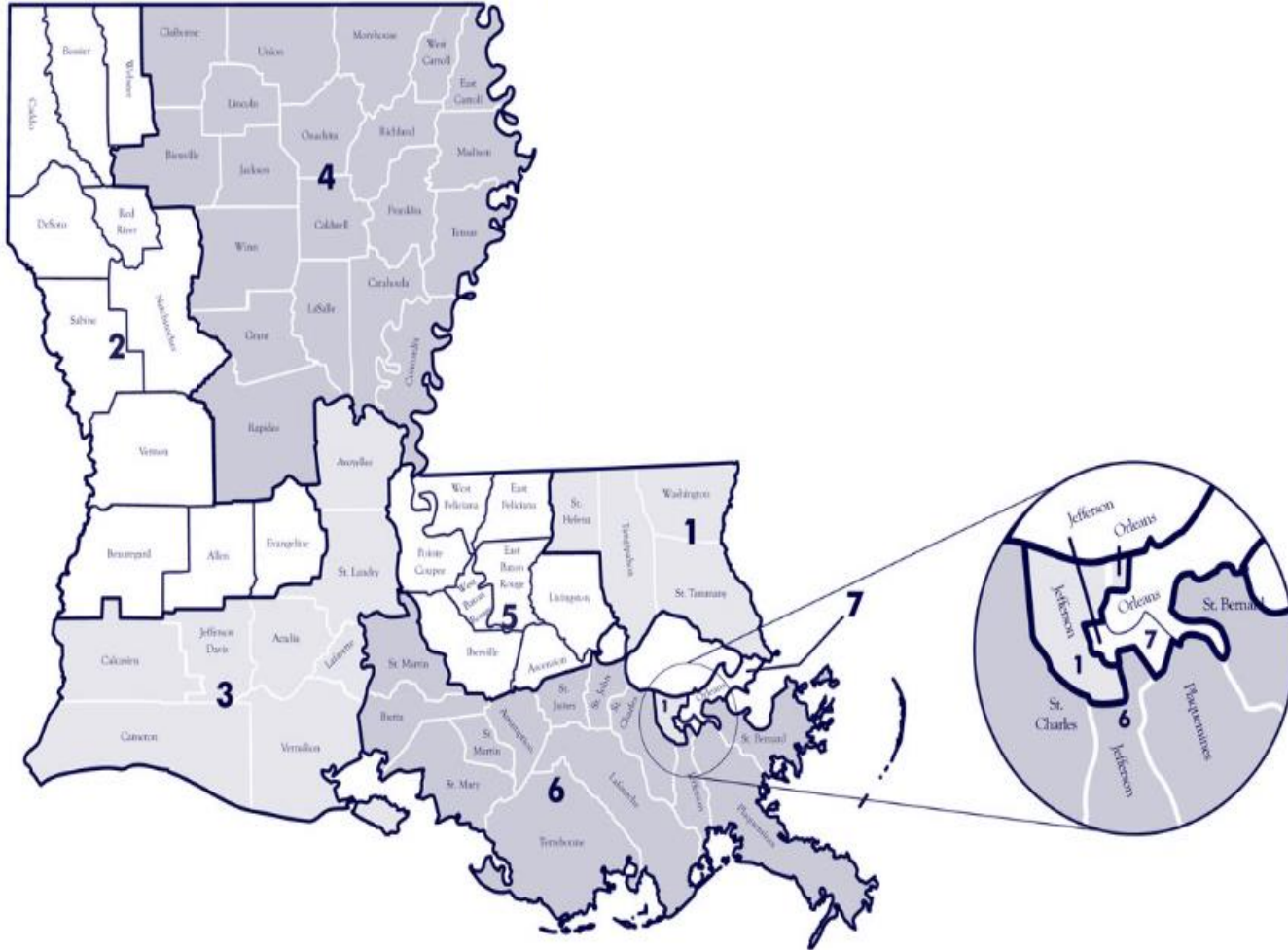


Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Piper D. Griffin

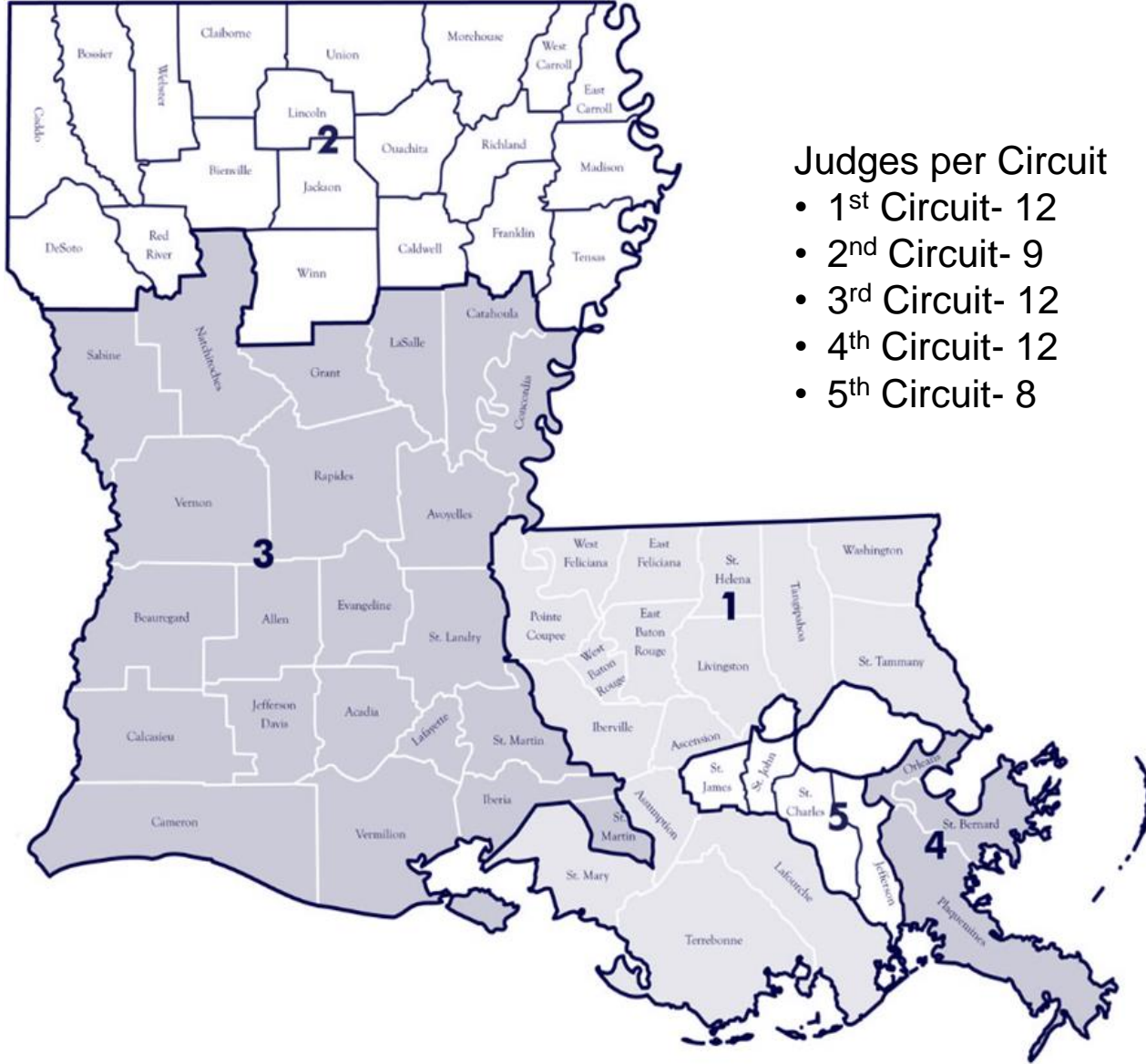
SUPREME COURT



Performance Information	2021	2022	2023
Total filings	1,994	1,889	1,725
Total appeals filed	3	2	2
Total writs filed (except prisoner pro se)	1,208	1,073	961
Total prisoner pro se writs	613	608	578
Opinions rendered	41	64	53
Total Civil and Criminal Orders - Louisiana Protective Order Registry	28,946	30,806	31,683

- The Supreme Court is Louisiana’s highest court
- It is domiciled in the city of New Orleans
- In addition to hearing cases, the Supreme Court established procedural and administrative rules for Louisiana courts, regulates the legal profession, and promulgates and updates the Judicial Code of Conduct

COURTS OF APPEAL



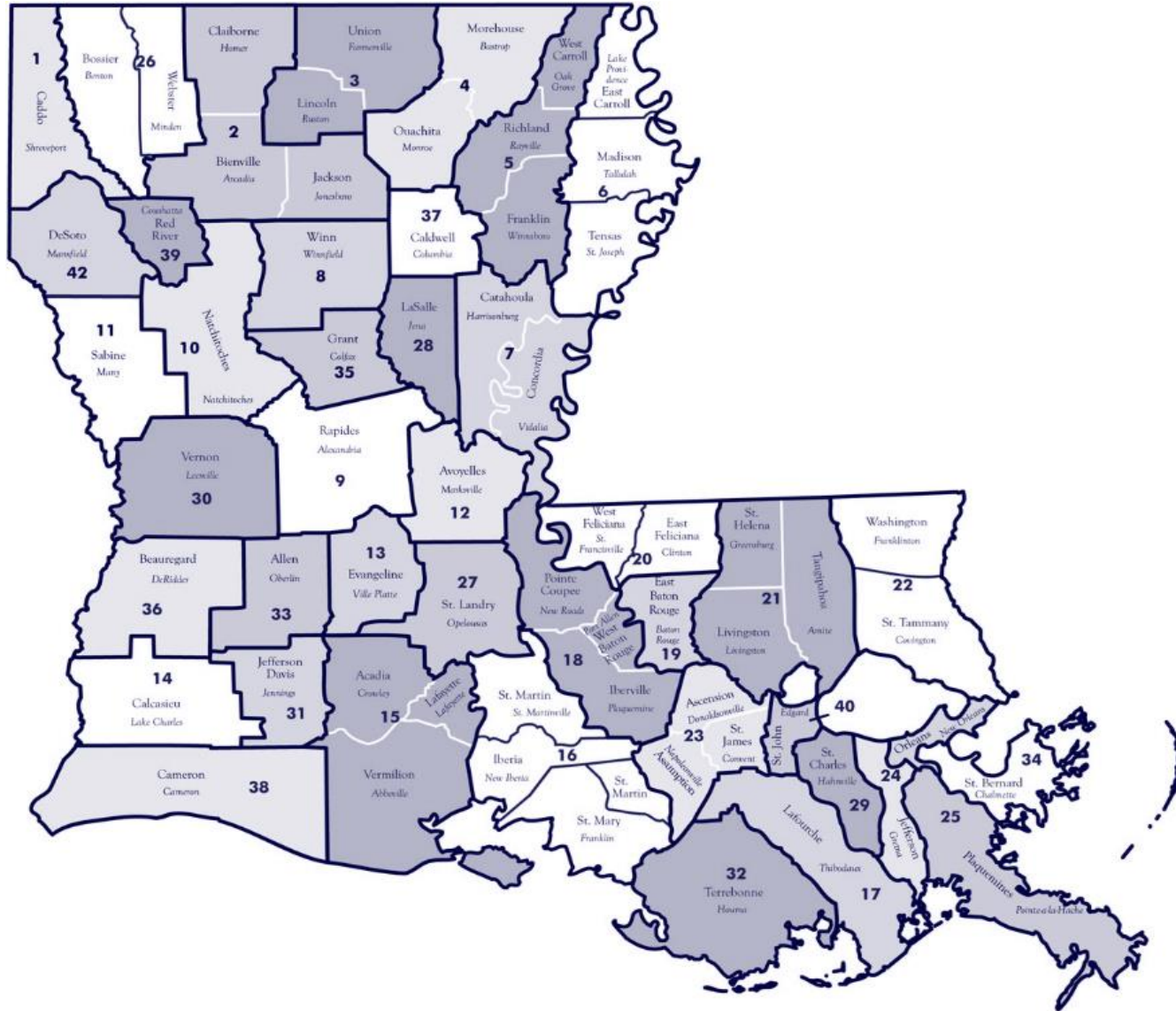
Judges per Circuit

- 1st Circuit- 12
- 2nd Circuit- 9
- 3rd Circuit- 12
- 4th Circuit- 12
- 5th Circuit- 8

Performance Information	2021	2022	2023
Total appeals filed	1,322	1,430	1,496
Total motions filed	109	108	128
Total writs filed (excluding pro se)	2,066	1,689	1,684
Pro Se Writs filed	1,102	1,026	962
Opinions Rendered	1,189	1,296	1,293

- Louisiana has established the intermediate Courts of Appeal between District Courts and the Supreme Court
- There are 5 Courts of Appeal
- Judicial terms are 10 years

DISTRICT COURTS



Performance Information	2021	2022	2023
Criminal cases filed	124,635	122,536	135,551
Civil cases filed	124,423	134,327	144,926
Juvenile cases filed	18,882	20,406	21,992
Traffic cases filed	225,351	230,225	251,938
Total Cases Filed	493,291	507,494	554,407
Civil jury trials	101	160	131
Criminal jury trials	276	495	558

- Louisiana has 43 judicial districts
- Each district contains at least one parish, has at least one judge, and elects a chief judge
- Judicial terms on district courts are six years

DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

There are 69 operational Louisiana specialty courts, of which 38 are Drug Courts

Other specialty courts include: Reentry Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Family Preservation/Treatment Courts, Co-occurring/Behavioral Courts, and Sobriety/DWI Courts. Each specialty court program is comprised of a team, which is led by a judge and includes a coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor, public defender, law enforcement representatives, case manager, and/or other stakeholders. Recidivism rate for participants in Drug and Specialty Courts is 8%.

2023 Drug and Specialty Court Participants	Adult Drug Courts	Juvenile Drug Courts	Family Preservation Courts	Behavioral Health Courts	DWI Courts	Reentry Courts	Veterans Courts	Total All Courts
Individual Participants Served	3,399	297	482	290	257	194	96	5,015
Individuals Screened	1,928	238	627	505	115	64	75	3,552
New Participants Admitted	1,542	169	321	173	88	44	44	2,381
Treatment Hours Administered	234,228	4,730	14,440	3,136	18,690	962	2,102	278,287
Drug Tests Administered	131,158	4,180	9,067	8,604	3,900	4,894	2,757	164,560

JUVENILE COURTS

Juvenile Judicial Activity	Filings	Charges	Children
Formal FINS cases	846	1,096	846
Child in Need of Care Cases	984	0	1,302
Domestic Abuse	127	0	127
Juvenile Traffic	1,885	3,084	1,884
Juvenile Delinquency	3,621	8,814	3,744
Mental Incapacity to Proceed	37	37	37
Adoptions	214	0	231
Child Support	1,527	0	850
Mental Health	58	0	58

OTHER PROGRAMS

Families in Need of Services and Court Appointed Special Advocates

The Families in Need of Services (FINS) program provides funding for informal FINS offices in 43 judicial districts. FINS intake officers statewide processed over 7,000 complaints and continue to provide programmatic support, implement intensive case management strategies and service coordination that help to increase alternatives to formal processing.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Assistance Program administers funding for CASA programs in 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts. The purpose of CASA is to advocate for timely placement of children in permanent, safe, and stable homes. CASA programs are appointed by a court to designate a volunteer for a child involved in certain proceedings before the court. CASA volunteers serve without compensation and have the special duty and responsibility to advocate for the best interests of the child to which he is assigned throughout the pendency of judicial proceedings.

HOW THE COURTS ARE FUNDED

Fully Funded	Partially Funded	Not Funded
<p>Supreme Court entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and benefits of 7 Justices • Salaries and benefits of staff, Judicial Administrator's Office, and Judiciary Commission • Office expenses and building maintenance of the Supreme Court, Judicial Administrator, and the Judiciary Commission • Law Library of Louisiana • Retired Judge Compensation, salaries and expenses of transferred judges, and widows pensions • Judicial College • Civil commitment matters • Paul M. Hebert Law Center for record storage • Louisiana Protective Order Registry • Families in Need of Services Program • Drug and Specialty Court Programs • CASA Programs <p>Courts of Appeal (5 Circuits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and benefits of 53 Judges • Salaries and expenses of operation and maintenance of each of the 5 circuit courts <p>District Courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salaries and benefits of 191 District Judges • Salaries and benefits of 27 Judges of Orleans Civil and Criminal District Courts • Salaries and benefits of 2 Court Reporters in the 20th JDC • Salaries of 17 Juvenile and Family Court Judges 	<p>District Courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office and travel expense reimbursement not to exceed \$5,000 per judge per year (prorated if a judge presides over more than one parish) • Expenses of the Clerk of Orleans Civil District Court • Salaries of commissioners of the 19th and 15th JDCs • Judicial Expense Fund of the 19th, 15th, and 10th JDCs for office expenses • Law clerk salary of the 20th JDC • Salaries and benefits of 17 minute clerks, 30 court reporters, 4 commissioners, Judicial Administrator and assistants, 13 law clerks, and 4 secretaries of Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish • Expenses of the Sanity Commission and the Board of Jury Commissioners, Orleans Criminal District Court <p>Other Courts - required by statute:</p> <p>Salaries of 60 City Court Judges, 7 Municipal and Traffic Court Judges and 1 Parish Court Judge (partially funded based on a formula)</p> <p>Other Courts - not required by statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Reporters salaries • Judges' Assistance Program • Orleans Parish Juvenile Protective Care Monitoring Program 	<p>All expenses of District, City, Traffic, and Parish Courts not expressly funded in the appropriations bill, including building maintenance, staff salaries and benefits, and operating expenses</p>

FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 23 Actual Expenditures	FY 24 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/23	FY 25 Budget Request	Change from Existing Operating Budget to FY 25 Request		Change from Actual Expenditures to FY 25 Request	
SGF	\$ 174,577,666	\$ 178,883,689	\$ 192,510,095	\$ 13,626,406	7.6%	\$ 17,932,429	10.3%
IAT	9,392,850	9,392,850	9,392,850	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
FSGR	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Stat Ded	10,240,925	10,240,925	11,842,924	1,601,999	15.6%	1,601,999	15.6%
Federal	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	\$ 194,211,441	\$ 198,517,464	\$ 213,745,869	\$ 15,228,405	7.7%	\$ 19,534,428	10.1%

Source: FY 23 Actuals - Office of Planning and Budget

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS AND INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 24 EOB	FY 25 Request
Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund	(R.S. 13:10.3) – Civil filing fees	Salary supplements to judges and commissioners	\$6,223,724	\$7,785,844
Trial Court Case Management Information Fund	(C.CR.P Art. 887) – Special court costs to be paid upon conviction	Development of a trial court case management information system	\$4,017,201	\$4,057,080
Total			\$10,240,925	\$11,842,924

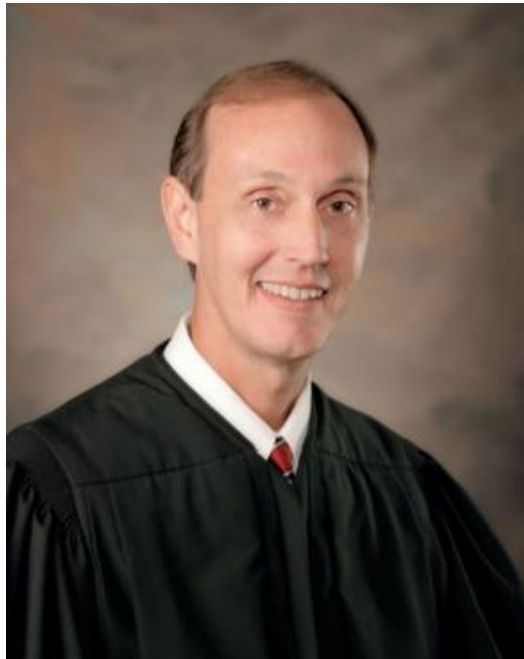
INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 24 EOB	FY 25 Request
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Federal funds transferred from the Department of Child & Family Services	Drug Court and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$9,392,850	\$9,392,850
Total			\$9,392,850	\$9,392,850

SIGNIFICANT FUNDING CHANGES

Budget Adjustments and Additional Funding Requests for FY 25 State General Fund	
\$6,364,030	Cost of living adjustment for judges
\$2,397,115	Operational expenses based on current expenses with 2.25% inflation index
\$2,139,740	Staff cost of living adjustment of 4%
\$1,516,284	Funding of 14 positions at eight courts, FINS, and LPOR
\$1,204,162	Increases in staff health insurance payable to the Office of Group Benefits
\$1,110,368	Increases in judges health insurance payable to the Office of Group Benefits
\$734,553	Expansion of Families in Need of Services
\$650,000	Replace lost grant funding and the expansion of drug courts
\$629,050	Expansion of Court Appointment Special Advocates (CASA)
\$59,753	Increase in costs for civil commitment matters
\$47,443	Increase in funding for judges on assignment
(\$1,245,740)	Staff employer retirement contribution due to LASERS rate reduction
(\$1,940,473)	Judges employer retirement contribution due to LASERS rate reduction
\$13,666,285	Total Requested Increase in SGF

JUDICIARY CONTACTS



Honorable John L. Weimer
Chief Justice

Honorable Piper D. Griffen
Justice

Bryan Wolff
Chief Financial Officer
