



NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Director Marion Warren

Chief Justice Mark Martin

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2016

PERSONNEL

The Judicial Branch has more elected officials than the executive and legislative branches combined, including:

- 7 Supreme Court justices
- 15 Court of Appeals judges
- 109 superior court judges
- 270 district court judges
- 100 clerks of superior court
- 44 district attorneys

6,152 total full-time equivalent positions from all funding sources, as of June 30, 2016 (does not include Indigent Defense Services)

BUDGET

\$484.9 million certified state appropriations for FY 2015 – 16

2.23% of total State General Fund Budget

About the FY 2015 – 16 Budget

91.3% salaries and benefits

30% of funds (\$143 million) supports constitutionally mandated positions

FY 2015 – 16 State General Fund Appropriations

Certified Budget Total: \$821.7 billion

Judicial Certified: \$485 million

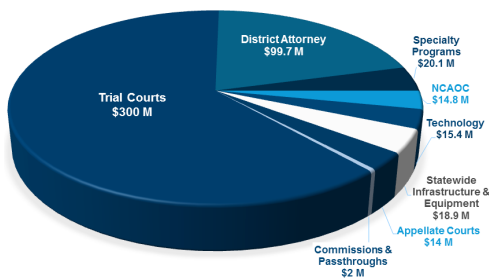


Under the North Carolina Constitution, the Judicial Branch is established as an equal branch of state government with the legislative and executive branches. North Carolina's court system, called the General Court of Justice, is a state-operated and state-funded unified court system. The General Court of Justice consists of three divisions: appellate, superior court, and district court.

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is the administrative agency for the Judicial Branch. As such, it provides services and resources to help the unified court system to operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources. Services include providing administrative support to the 548 independently elected officials in the Judicial Branch.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints a director to supervise the NCAOC. General Statute 7A-343 sets forth the duties of the director, which include budgeting and authorizing expenditures from appropriated funds, identifying staffing needs statewide, procuring and distributing equipment and supplies, and prescribing uniform practices for clerks. The director also makes recommendations for the overall improvement of the Judicial Branch.

All operating expenses of the Judicial Branch are paid by the state, including salaries and travel expenses of all court officials, juror and witness fees, and equipment and office supplies for the statewide judicial system. Counties and cities, however, are responsible for providing courtrooms and related judicial physical facilities.



*Specialty services, courts, and alternative dispute resolution

Note: The certified budget is the budget enacted by the General Assembly.

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS

FISCAL YEAR 2015–16

Monies disbursed	\$737,644,080	total disbursements through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System
	\$265,811,445	remitted to State Treasurer for General Fund
	\$44,325,773	disbursed to other entities
	\$5,544,773	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations
	\$71,152,547	disbursed to local governments
	\$350,809,541	disbursed to citizens

	District Court <i>270 judges</i>	Superior Court <i>109 judges</i>	Court of Appeals <i>15 judges</i>	Supreme Court <i>7 justices</i>	
Caseload	2,377,571	total cases filed	263,682	total cases filed	
	2,559,247	total cases disposed	289,015	total cases disposed	
	206,682	civil magistrate cases filed	16,532	civil superior cases filed*	
	208,457	civil magistrate cases disposed	15,514	civil superior cases disposed	
	184,399	civil district cases filed	105,271	felony cases filed	
	183,817	civil district cases disposed	123,728	felony cases disposed	
	1,405,216	criminal cases filed	25,819	misdemeanor cases filed**	
	1,522,616	criminal cases disposed	28,017	misdemeanor cases disposed	
	581,274	infraction cases filed	71,480	estate cases filed	
	614,357	infraction cases disposed	76,467	estate cases disposed	
		44,580	special proceedings filed***		
		44,289	special proceedings disposed		
			2,183	appeals/ petitions filed	
			2,229	appeals/ petitions disposed	
				111	appeals docketed
				127	appeals disposed
				567	petitions docketed
				539	petitions disposed

*The number of civil cases filed and disposed in superior court includes business court cases.

**The number of misdemeanor cases filed and disposed in superior court includes cases that originated in superior court, were transferred to superior court, and were appealed from district court. Also includes DWI cases.

***The number of special proceedings cases filed and disposed reflects those cases that are non-confidential.

Time to disposition	14	days civil magistrate cases	217	days total civil superior court cases
	64	days civil district court cases	243	days superior court felony cases
	98	days district court felony cases	198	days superior court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic
	69	days infractions cases		days special proceeding cases
	147	days district court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic	118	

Personnel	6,151.675	total Judicial Branch personnel*	640.00	assistant district attorneys
	401.00	justices and judges	8.00	trial court administrators
	100.00	clerks of superior court	1,178.725	court support personnel
	2,528.10	clerk personnel	376.25	NCAOC staff
	674.60	magistrates	148.50	Guardian ad Litem personnel
	44.00	district attorneys	52.50	Other**

*The total figures include grant-funded FTEs but not Indigent Defense Services FTEs.

**"Other" includes Judicial Standards Commission, Conference of District Attorneys, Dispute Resolution Commission, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, Innocence Inquiry Commission, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission positions, North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice, and Pro Bono Resource Center.

Miscellaneous	17,019	abused or neglected children served by the Guardian ad Litem program	25	districts with court arbitration programs
			14	funded family court districts