

STATISTICAL AND  
OPERATIONAL REPORT *of the*  
NORTH CAROLINA APPELLATE COURTS

2019-20



JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020  
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# TABLE *of* CONTENTS



## SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA

- 3** Appeals Docketed and Disposed
  - Petitions Docketed and Disposed
- 4** Caseload Inventory
- 5** Submission of Cases Reaching Decision Stage
  - Dispositions of Petitions
- 6** Processing Time from Docket to Opinion
  - Dispositions of Appeals

## COURT OF APPEALS

- 8** Filings and Dispositions of Appeals and Petitions
    - Caseload Inventory
  - 10** Disposition of Motions and Petitions
    - Manner of Case Dispositions (Opinions Only)
- 

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# SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA



## 2019–2020 CASELOAD

The first two tables in this subsection give 10-year trend data for appeals and petitions docketed and disposed. The third table presents the types of cases that the court hears. The fourth and fifth tables summarize case activity in those cases reaching the decision stage and the dispositions of petitions for review. The next table shows the various methods of disposition of appeals — signed opinion, per curiam opinion (unsigned), and dismissal or withdrawal — as well as the types of disposition (e.g., affirmed, reversed). The final table gives Supreme Court processing times for appeals disposed by signed or per curiam opinion.

### Appeals Docketed and Disposed

Fiscal Year	Appeals Docketed	Appeals Disposed
2019 – 20	196	141
2018 – 19	140	92
2017 – 18	142	136
2016 – 17	137	92
2015 – 16	111	127
2014 – 15	97	93
2013 – 14	115	111
2012 – 13	139	143
2011 – 12	120	84
2010 – 11	121	105

### Petitions Docketed and Disposed

Fiscal Year	Petitions Docketed	Petitions Disposed
2019 – 20	475	419
2018 – 19	588	494
2017 – 18	513	495
2016 – 17	509	515
2015 – 16	567	539
2014 – 15	579	583
2013 – 14	615	622
2012 – 13	632	636
2011 – 12	624	604
2010 – 11	641	622

## Caseload Inventory

Petitions for Review	Begin Pending (7/1/19)	Filed	Disposed	End Pending (6/30/20)
Civil domestic	7	19	14	12
Juvenile	6	10	9	7
Other civil	108	125	126	107
Criminal (death sentence)	0	1	0	1
Other criminal	125	318	268	175
Administrative agency decision	0	2	2	0
<b>Total petitions for review</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>302</b>

Appeals	Begin Pending (7/1/19)	Filed	Disposed	End Pending (6/30/20)
Civil domestic	5	1	5	1
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	4	1	1	4
Juvenile	32	110	43	99
Petitions for review granted that became juvenile appeals	1	3	1	3
Other civil	28	27	29	26
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	3	6	9	0
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	5	4	4	5
Other criminal	36	34	31	39
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	20	10	18	12
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0
<b>Total appeals</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>189</b>

Other Proceedings	Filed	Disposed
Rule 16(b) additional issues	0	0
Motions	1050	1017
<b>Total other proceedings</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1017</b>

### Submission of Cases Reaching Decision Stage

Cases Argued	Number of Cases
Civil domestic	4
Juvenile	7
Other civil	36
Criminal (capital)	6
Other criminal	37
Administrative agency decision	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>

Submission Without Arguments	Number of Cases
By motion of the parties [Appellate Rule 30(d)]	1
By order of the court [Appellate Rule 30(f)]	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>

### Dispositions of Petitions

Petitions For Review	Allowed	Denied	Dismissed / Withdrawn	Other	Total
Civil domestic	1	13	0	0	14
Juvenile	1	8	0	0	9
Other civil	16	99	11	0	126
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	0
Other criminal	18	208	42	0	268
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0
Post conviction	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>419</b>

**Processing Time from Docket to Opinion\***

Type of Case	Number of Cases	Median (Days)	Mean (Days)
Civil domestic	4	361	449
Petitions for review granted that became civil domestic appeals	0	0	0
Juvenile	38	276	260
Petitions for review granted that became civil juvenile appeals	1	360	360
Other civil	13	361	374
Petitions for review granted that became other civil appeals	15	528	522
Criminal, defendant sentenced to death	2	2,150	2,869
Other criminal	27	411	693
Petitions for review granted that became other criminal appeals	14	549	539
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0
Petitions for review granted that became appeals of administrative agency decision	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>453</b>

\*Only cases disposed by signed opinion or per curiam opinion are included.

**Dispositions of Appeals**

Dispositions by Withdrawal or Dismissal	Number of Cases
Civil domestic	1
Juvenile	4
Other civil	21
Criminal (capital)	1
Other criminal	45
Administrative agency decision	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

### Dispositions of Appeals

Dispositions by Signed Opinion*	Affirmed	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part; Remanded	Reversed	New Sentence Hearing	Reversed and Remanded	Other	Total Dispositions
Civil domestic	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Juvenile	34	0	0	2	0	0	3	39
Other civil	4	0	2	1	0	8	2	17
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Other criminal	10	3	2	2	0	10	9	36
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>96</b>

\*No activity was reported for new trial; no error.

Dispositions by Per Curiam Opinion**	Affirmed	Affirmed in Part; Reversed in Part	Reversed	Reversed and Remanded	Other	Total Dispositions
Civil domestic	2	0	0	0	0	2
Juvenile	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other civil	9	0	1	0	3	13
Criminal (capital)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other criminal	3	0	0	0	0	3
Administrative agency decision	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>

\*\*No activity was reported for affirmed in part, reversed in part, and remanded; new sentencing hearing; new trial; no error.

# COURT OF APPEALS



## 2019–2020 CASELOAD

In addition to trend data for the past 10 years, the following tables provide data about filings and dispositions for cases on appeal, petitions, and motions during FY 2019 – 20. “Cases on appeal” include cases appealed from district courts, superior courts, and administrative agencies. They are counted as appeals only after a record is filed with the clerk’s office and a docket number is assigned. The “petition” category includes petitions involving only the four extraordinary writs set out in Article V of the Rules of Appellate Procedure: certiorari, mandamus, prohibition, and supersedeas. “Motions” encompass any type of relief sought from the Court of Appeals, either in a case already filed with the Court of Appeals or one on its way to the Court of Appeals but not yet filed.

Cases on appeal represent the largest portion of the Court of Appeals’ workload since most are disposed by written opinion. The other methods of disposition, represented by the “Other Cases Disposed” category in the table at the bottom of the data page, include the court’s dismissal of the appeal and the appealing party’s withdrawal of the appeal.

### Filings and Dispositions of Appeals and Petitions\*

Fiscal Year	Filings	Dispositions
2019 – 20	1,765	1,892
2018 – 19	2,062	2,133
2017 – 18	2,214	2,178
2016 – 17	2,264	2,201
2015 – 16	2,183	2,229
2014 – 15	2,377	2,312
2013 – 14	2,389	2,435
2012 – 13	2,564	2,490
2011 – 12	2,594	2,775
2010 – 11	2,549	2,671

\*Filings and dispositions shown here include appealed cases and petitions, but not motions.

### Caseload Inventory

Type	Begin Pending Cases	Incoming	Disposed	End Pending Cases	Cases Disposed with Oral Argument	Cases Disposed Without Oral Argument	Published Cases	Unpublished Cases	Average Days Calendar to Opinion	Average Days Docket to Opinion
Agency	11	6	13	4	5	8	10	3	105	331
Domestic	101	90	112	79	7	105	37	62	109	306
Juvenile	127	83	108	102	45	63	21	77	46	300
Civil other	544	277	314	507	66	248	130	134	102	280
Criminal other	1,184	557	557	1,184	77	480	181	346	85	298
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>1,876</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>295</b>

Cases Filed	Number of Cases
Appeals	1,043
Motions	4,332
Petitions	712
Motions and petitions	5,054
Records, motions, and petitions	6,097
Appeals disposed by written opinion*	969
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was affirmed	536
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was reversed	181
Appeals in which the judgment or order of a trial tribunal was affirmed in part and reversed in part	248
Appeals disposed by the Court of Appeals other than by written opinion	151
Appeals disposed by the Court of Appeals	1,120
Causes certified from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court after determination by the Court of Appeals	481
Causes after determination by the Court of Appeals in which certiorari to the Court of Appeals was disallowed by the Supreme Court	234

\*One opinion may dispose of more than one appeal.

Cases Filed	Number of Cases
<b>Cases on appeal</b>	
Civil cases appealed from district courts	204
Civil cases appealed from superior courts	255
Civil cases appealed from administrative agencies	41
Criminal cases appealed from superior courts	543
<b>Total cases on appeal</b>	<b>1,043</b>

## Disposition of Motions and Petitions

Type	Number of Cases
<b>Disposition of Motions</b>	
Allowed	3,763
Denied	185
Dismissed	198
Dismissed as moot	49
Other	29
Referred	58
Spec order	26
Withdrawn	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,308</b>
<b>Disposition of Petitions</b>	
Allowed	50
Denied	321
Dismissed	76
Dismissed as moot	19
Other	2
Referred	58
Spec order	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>Petitions Filed</b>	
Petition for Writ of Certiorari (PWC)	474
Petition for Writ of Mandamus (WR-MAN)	141
Petition for Writ of Supersedeas (PWS)	31
Petition for Writ of Prohibition (PET-PROHIB)	5
Other	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>

## Manner of Case Dispositions (Opinions Only)

Affirmed*	Reversed*	Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part*	Other Cases Disposed	Total Cases Disposed
536	181	248	151	1,120

\*Cases disposed by written opinion.



SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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