



THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL FELLOWSHIP

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

CASELOAD

District Court 272 judges

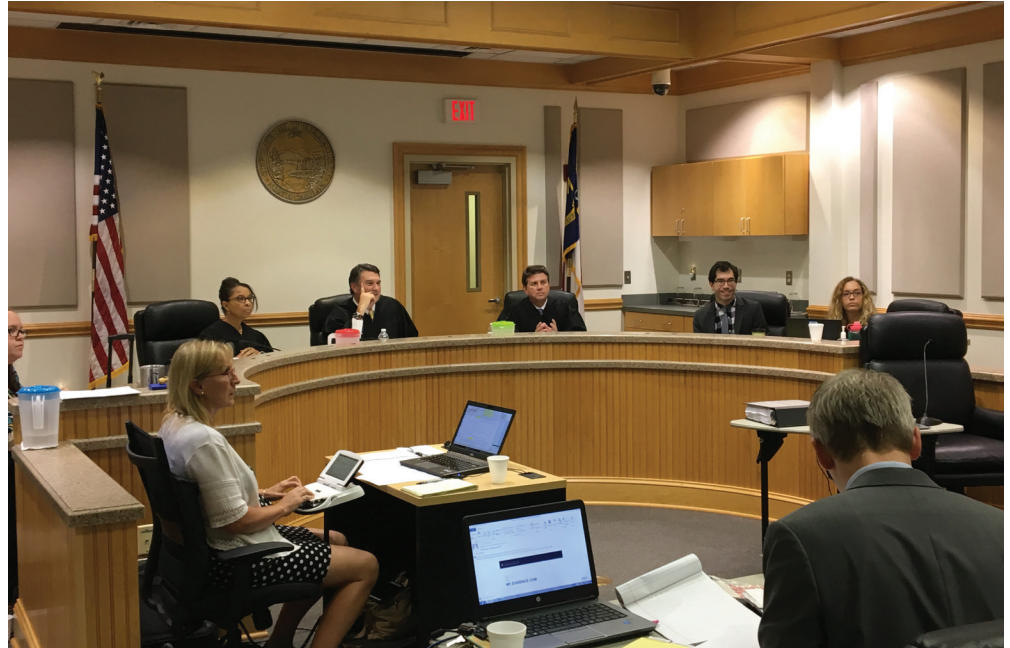
2,293,648 total cases filed
2,476,584 total cases disposed

Superior Court 109 judges

264,770 total cases filed
293,776 total cases disposed

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

- Motions for appropriate relief
- General issue research
- Constitutional litigation
- Equitable distribution
- Case-specific research
- Review of complex filings
- 2.1 complex civil cases
- Termination of parental rights
- 3-judge panels
- Order drafting & editing
- Pro se litigation
- Judicial toolkits
- In-courtroom assistance
- And more



The North Carolina Judicial Fellowship provides independent, confidential, and timely legal support for the judges of the district and superior court benches of North Carolina with regard to the matters over which those judges preside. The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts launched the Fellowship in April 2017 upon a recommendation of the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice.

The Fellowship supports judges on a wide variety of research and writing projects in all subject matter areas. Fellows have conducted both case-specific and generalized research, assisted judges in drafting orders, and attended trials and hearings to provide real-time, in-person support. The Fellowship employs a central intake and assignment process, and Fellows work collaboratively in order to provide quick, accurate, and comprehensive responses.

The Fellowship staff comprises attorneys who demonstrate academic excellence and who represent a broad diversity of experience and subject matter familiarity. Fellows serve two-year, staggered terms in order to provide for cross-training, continuity of work flow, and predictability of staffing needs. The Fellowship is based at the North Carolina Judicial Center, but Fellows routinely travel to aid judges in courthouses throughout the state.

For more information, please contact Andrew Brown, Director of the N.C. Judicial Fellowship, at 919-890-1671 or Andrew.Brown@NCcourts.org.

Photo: N.C. Judicial Fellows assisting at an Innocence Inquiry Hearing in Boone, NC in July 2017. Left to Right: Superior Court Judge Gale Adams, Superior Court Judge Joseph Crosswhite, Superior Court Judge Marvin Blount, Judicial Fellow Mac Clebone, and Judicial Fellow Jada Akers.

FELLOWSHIP CREATED AFTER NCCALJ FINAL REPORT

In September 2015, Chief Justice Mark Martin convened the North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ) and tasked its members with making recommendations to strengthen North Carolina's courts. The Civil Justice Committee recommended providing research support staff for judges of the Superior and District Courts. In response, NCAOC launched the Fellowship in April 2017, the first recommendation from the entire report to be fully implemented.

www.NCCALJ.org

REASSIGN AND RETRAIN AS NECESSARY COURT SUPPORT STAFF, AND SUPPLY JUDGES WITH RESEARCH STAFF

Some of the anticipated savings that the system generates through improved technology and streamlined procedures can be directed to improving the quality of justice delivered in the system as a whole.

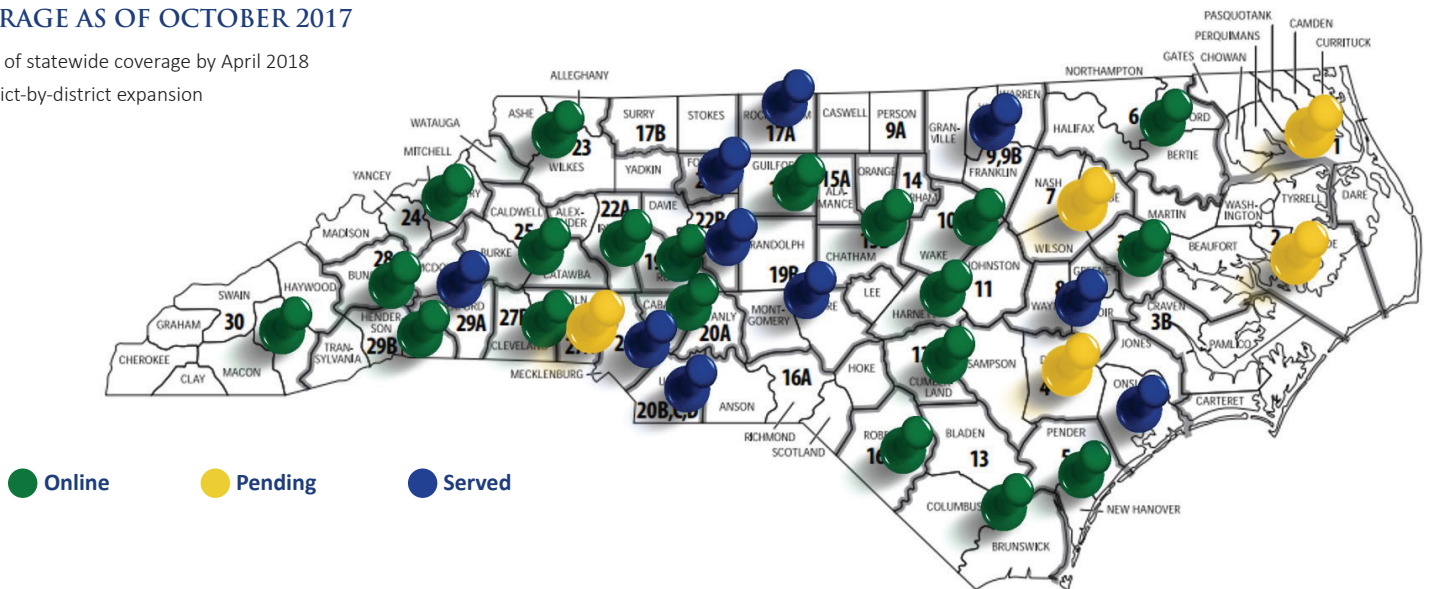
The Committee suggests that some portion of expected savings from the transition to technology be used to reassign, retrain, or reinvest in judicial system support staff, including trial court administrators, clerks of court, and pools of research support personnel, so that a more precise, accurate, and efficient disposition can occur in every case.



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COVERAGE AS OF OCTOBER 2017

- Goal of statewide coverage by April 2018
- District-by-district expansion



▲ The inaugural class of the North Carolina Judicial Fellowship. Pictured from left to right: Director Andrew Brown and Fellows Christopher Willis, Joshua Winks, Paige Vankooten, Jada Akers, Michael "Mac" Clebone, Emma Smiley, Seth Ascher, and Caitlin Slavin.

CONTACT THE NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL FELLOWSHIP

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