



NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Interim Director McKinley Wooten, Jr.

Chief Justice Cheri Beasley

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2019

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*
- 107 superior court judges
- 273 district court judges
- 100 clerks of superior court
- 43 district attorneys

6,421.50 total full-time equivalent positions from all funding sources, as of June 30, 2019 (does not include Indigent Defense Services)

BUDGET

\$553.2 million certified state appropriations for FY 2018 – 19

2.31% of total State General Fund Budget

About the FY 2018 – 19 Budget

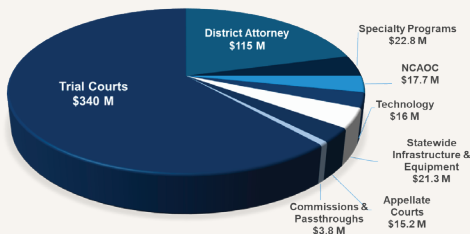
91.8% salaries and benefits

28.8% of funds (\$160 million) supports constitutionally mandated positions

FY 2018 – 19 State General Fund Appropriations

Certified Budget Total: \$23.9 billion

Judicial Certified: \$553.2 million



*Specialty services, courts, and alternative dispute resolution

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



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 over 6,400 employees of the Judicial Branch, which includes 545 independently elected judicial officials.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is head of the Judicial Branch and 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.

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS—FISCAL YEAR 2018–19

Monies disbursed	\$702,976,023	total disbursements through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System
	\$249,474,082	remitted to State Treasurer for General Fund
	\$33,371,849	disbursed to other entities
	\$5,194,173	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations
	\$69,001,555	disbursed to local governments
	\$342,934,364	disbursed to citizens

	District Court <i>273 judges</i>	Superior Court <i>107 judges</i>	Court of Appeals <i>15 judges</i>	Supreme Court <i>7 justices</i>
Caseload	2,253,949	total cases filed	248,126	total cases filed
	3,474,315	total cases disposed	290,806	total cases disposed
	212,602	civil magistrate cases filed	16,842	civil superior cases filed*
	211,516	civil magistrate cases disposed	17,406	civil superior cases disposed
	194,785	civil district cases filed	103,191	felony cases filed
	199,360	civil district cases disposed	121,057	felony cases disposed
	1,372,631	criminal cases filed	18,936	misdemeanor cases filed**
	2,359,651	criminal cases disposed	26,483	misdemeanor cases disposed
	473,931	infraction cases filed	72,411	estate cases filed
	703,788	infraction cases disposed	81,473	estate cases disposed
		36,746	special proceedings filed***	
		44,387	special proceedings 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 <i>(median time to disposition)</i>	13	days civil magistrate cases	250	days total civil superior court cases
	71	days civil district court cases	259	days superior court felony cases
	103	days district court felony cases	355	days superior court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic
	127	days infractions cases	128	days special proceeding cases
	635	days district court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic		

Personnel	6,421.50	total Judicial Branch personnel*	684.50	assistant district attorneys
	402.00	justices and judges	8.00	trial court administrators
	100.00	clerks of superior court	1,206.675	court support personnel
	2,654.85	clerk personnel	402.750	NCAOC staff
	672.60	magistrates	143.250	Guardian ad Litem personnel
	43.00	district attorneys	62.00	Other**

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

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

Miscellaneous	18,036	abused or neglected children served by the Guardian ad Litem program	41	districts with court arbitration programs
			15	districts with funded family court