



NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Director Judge Andrew Heath

Chief Justice Paul Newby

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

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
- 282 district court judges
- 100 clerks of superior court
- 42 district attorneys

7,025.60 total full-time equivalent positions from all funding sources, as of June 30, 2021 (includes Indigent Defense Services)

BUDGET

\$598.2 million certified state appropriations for FY 2020 – 21

2.44% of total State General Fund Budget

About the FY 2020 – 21 Budget

89.2% salaries and benefits

28.6% of funds (\$173 million) supports constitutionally mandated positions

FY 2020 – 21 State General Fund Appropriations

Certified Budget Total: \$24.5 billion

Judicial Certified: \$598.2 million

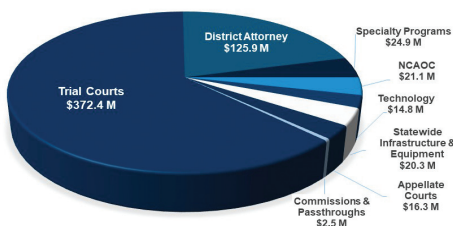


Under the North Carolina Constitution, the Judicial Branch is established as an equal branch of state government with the Legislative and Executive branches. North Carolina's court system, called the General Court of Justice, is a state-operated and state-funded unified court system. The General Court 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 over 7,000 employees of the Judicial Branch, which includes 555 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.



*Specialty services, courts, and alternative dispute resolution

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

To protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people as guaranteed by the Constitutions and laws of the United States and North Carolina by providing a fair, independent, and accessible forum for the just, timely, and economical resolution of their legal affairs

NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS—FISCAL YEAR 2020–21

Monies disbursed	\$591,686,246	total disbursements through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System			
	\$193,356,180	remitted to State Treasurer for General Fund			
	\$35,275,224	disbursed to other entities			
	\$3,951,165	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations			
	\$50,158,591	disbursed to local governments			
	\$308,945,086	disbursed to citizens			

	District Court <i>282 judges</i>		Superior Court <i>109 judges</i>		Court of Appeals <i>15 judges</i>		Supreme Court <i>7 justices</i>	
	1,794,782	total cases filed	251,644	total cases filed	1,531	appeals/ petitions filed	186	appeals docketed
Caseload	1,836,050	total cases disposed	245,213	total cases disposed				
	98,478	civil magistrate cases filed	17,901	civil superior cases filed*			152	appeals disposed
	99,883	civil magistrate cases disposed	16,172	civil superior cases disposed	1,484	appeals/ petitions disposed	448	petitions docketed
	190,893	civil district cases filed	100,083	felony cases filed			219	petitions disposed
	188,089	civil district cases disposed	101,190	felony cases disposed				
	1,159,943	criminal cases filed	22,924	misdemeanor cases filed**				
	1,188,597	criminal cases disposed	20,264	misdemeanor cases disposed				
	345,468	infraction cases filed	89,297	estate cases filed				
	359,481	infraction cases disposed	84,482	estate cases disposed				
			21,439	special proceedings filed***				
			23,105	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>	26	days civil magistrate cases	211	days total civil superior court cases
	76	days civil district court cases	311	days superior court felony cases
	140	days district court felony cases	264	days superior court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic
	99	days infractions cases	73	days special proceeding cases
	227	days district court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic		

Personnel	7,025.60	total Judicial Branch personnel*	695.50	assistant district attorneys
	413.00	justices and judges	8.00	trial court administrators
	100.00	clerks of superior court	1,215.50	court support personnel
	2,657.10	clerk personnel	385.90	NCAOC staff
	672.60	magistrates	193.75	Guardian ad Litem personnel
	42.00	district attorneys	66.25	Other**

*The total figures include grant-funded FTEs and 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	17,883	abused or neglected children served by the Guardian ad Litem program	32	districts with district court ordered arbitration programs
			15	districts with funded family court