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NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Director McKinley Wooten, Jr.

Chief Justice Cheri Beasley

IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

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

6,415.40 total full-time equivalent positions from all funding sources, as of June 30, 2020 (does not include Indigent Defense Services)

BUDGET

\$578.4 million certified state appropriations for FY 2019 – 20

2.37% of total State General Fund Budget

About the FY 2019 – 20 Budget

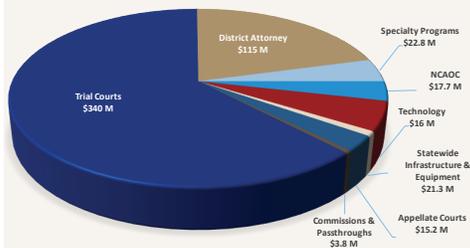
88.4% salaries and benefits

27.7% of funds (\$160 million) supports constitutionally mandated positions

FY 2019 – 20 State General Fund Appropriations

Certified Budget Total: \$24.4 billion

Judicial Certified: \$578.4 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 2019–20

Monies disbursed	\$629,015,727	total disbursements through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System
	\$218,668,676	remitted to State Treasurer for General Fund
	\$37,962,279	disbursed to other entities
	\$4,496,143	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations
	\$59,891,053	disbursed to local governments
	\$307,997,576	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	2,017,941	total cases filed	231,184	total cases filed
	2,079,714	total cases disposed	246,847	total cases disposed
	170,998	civil magistrate cases filed	17,510	civil superior cases filed*
	172,844	civil magistrate cases disposed	16,150	civil superior cases disposed
	184,010	civil district cases filed	94,939	felony cases filed
	178,977	civil district cases disposed	105,184	felony cases disposed
	1,257,549	criminal cases filed	16,091	misdemeanor cases filed**
	1,300,583	criminal cases disposed	16,616	misdemeanor cases disposed
	405,384	infraction cases filed	71,551	estate cases filed
	427,310	infraction cases disposed	73,817	estate cases disposed
		31,093	special proceedings filed***	
		35,080	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>	14	days civil magistrate cases	217	days total civil superior court cases
	71	days civil district court cases	255	days superior court felony cases
	107	days district court felony cases	206	days superior court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic
	74	days infractions cases	106	days special proceeding cases
	158	days district court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic		

Personnel	6,415.40	total Judicial Branch personnel*	689.00	assistant district attorneys
	402.00	justices and judges	8.00	trial court administrators
	100.00	clerks of superior court	1,207.30	court support personnel
	2,658.60	clerk personnel	384.90	NCAOC staff
	672.60	magistrates	186.50	Guardian ad Litem personnel
	43.00	district attorneys	63.50	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	17,923	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