



## RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PLANNING

### IMPORTANT STATISTICS FISCAL YEAR 2018–19

#### Contracts

23 counties and municipalities  
108 FTE  
~\$8.4 million

#### Grants

47 federal and local entities  
260.34 FTE  
~\$19.3 million

#### Legislative Requests

183 bills affecting the Judicial Branch  
68 fiscal notes provided on proposed legislation

### FISCAL YEAR 2017–18

#### Contracts

21 counties and municipalities  
99 FTE  
~\$7.7 million

#### Grants

51 federal and local entities  
262.37 FTE  
~\$17.5 million

#### Legislative Requests

54 bills affecting the Judicial Branch  
10 fiscal notes provided on proposed legislation

### WHO WE ASSIST

Court officials and support staff  
News and trade media organizations  
State agencies  
Local government entities  
Academics and researchers  
Citizens of North Carolina  
Judicial Branch commissions and councils



The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) Research, Policy, and Planning Division is responsible for conducting research and generating reports on court statistics, managing grants and contracts, developing and analyzing workload data, and staffing and managing special projects.

The purpose of the division is to provide expertise and planning in support of the NCAOC mission of helping the courts operate more efficiently and effectively. The major responsibilities and initiatives of the division include:

- Conducting research to provide insight on issues facing the Judicial Branch, including extracting and analyzing data from NCAOC databases (CCIS-CC, ACIS, VCAP, JWise, etc.)
- Providing fiscal note requests on proposed legislative bills affecting the Judicial Branch
- Generating reports to answer requests for data from Judicial Branch stakeholders and other external customers (media, other state agencies, etc.)
- Managing the Judicial Branch grants and contracts process
- Working with Judicial Branch staff to analyze workload and staffing needs

### NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF LAW AND JUSTICE

The North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice (NCCALJ) was an independent, multidisciplinary commission, convened by then Chief Justice Mark Martin in 2015 to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the judicial system. Final recommendations for strengthening the court system were presented to Chief Justice Martin in early 2017. The Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff assisted the work of the Commission in providing data and research on requested topics. The division continues to implement activities consistent with the recommendations outlined in the Final Report.

#### Data Integrity Initiative

Several of the NCCALJ committees provided recommendations that spoke to the importance of having accurate data to monitor court system trends and inform policy making. In preparation for the transfer of Judicial Branch technology from various legacy systems to a single Integrated Case Management System (ICMS), Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff launched the Data Integrity Initiative. This Initiative aims to engage local offices in a widespread “clean-up” of pending case records to ensure that the data entered into all Judicial Branch criminal and civil legacy systems reflect the most current information available on a case prior to migration into the ICMS.

#### Raise the Age

The Criminal Investigation and Adjudication Committee put forth a comprehensive plan to “raise the age” of juvenile jurisdiction from 16 years old to 18 years old; meaning that 16- and 17- year olds would no longer be tried as adults for select offenses. The Committee’s plan led to the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (JJRA) by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2017. In preparation for a December 1, 2019 start date, Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff assisted in the implementation of the JJRA, including the continued rollout of School Justice Partnerships, and providing caseload and cost projections to the Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee.

#### Assisting Self-Represented Litigants

Four of the five NCCALJ committees made recommendations for how the Judicial Branch can better help self-represented litigants to navigate the court process. Research, Policy, and Planning Division staff partnered with the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System to conduct an all-day workshop that brought together self-represented litigants, judges, clerks of court, and staff from self-help centers, technology services, and court programs to discuss and map out how technology solutions could assist self-represented litigants through the divorce process.

Learning from court personnel and other subject matter experts to apply research, provide expertise, and implement plans in support of the NCAOC mission of helping the courts operate more efficiently and effectively



## ABOUT RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PLANNING

Services	Brief Description
<b>Grant and Contract Administration</b>	Coordination, information, assistance, and oversight are provided for all grants coming to and/or through the Judicial Branch. Common partners are federal government agencies, state government agencies, county governments, local municipalities, and nonprofit agencies.
<b>Legislative Requests</b>	Responses are provided to legislators and North Carolina General Assembly staff ranging from workload, staffing, and fiscal impact matters to long-term policy research projects.
<b>Statistical Analysis</b>	Data are extracted and analyzed from the following NCAOC databases and used in policy analysis, media and legislative requests, and court performance management: ACIS, VCAP, JWisE, CCIS-CC, and NCAWARE. More than 224 ad hoc requests were fulfilled in just the period from January through June 2019.
<b>Workload Analysis</b>	Workload models have been developed and maintained for district court judges, assistant district attorneys, district attorney legal assistants, clerks of superior court staff, family court coordinators, and magistrates. Staffing ratios have been developed and maintained for district court judicial support staff, superior court judicial support staff, and trial court administrators.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH STATISTICS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

In conjunction with NCAOC's transparency and accountability efforts, the Research, Policy, and Planning Division provides access to data and information online to the general public. In addition to producing hundreds of custom reports for court officials, media organizations, and the public each year, the division annually updates and publishes numerous reports on the web, available at [www.NCcourts.gov/about/data-and-statistics](http://www.NCcourts.gov/about/data-and-statistics). Examples of reports provided:

- County-level and statewide statistics on civil and criminal case types
- Domestic relations cases not involving child support (non IV-D)
- Domestic violence
- Felony convictions
- Foreclosures (residential and commercial)
- Impaired driving charges
- Statistical and operational summary reports on trial court case load

## DATA VISUALIZATION PORTAL

The Research, Policy, and Planning Division maintains a data visualization platform that allows the public to browse, analyze, and compare data about the court system through user-generated, and easy-to-understand charts and graphs. Explore for yourself at [data.nccourts.gov/explore](http://data.nccourts.gov/explore).

