



Council of State Court Judges

Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

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2017 Hot Sheet



71 STATE COURTS ARE THE LITTLE GIANT of the State Trial Court System

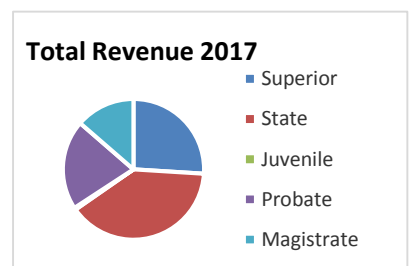
CASES FILED	CY 2016	CY 2015	CY 2014	CY 2007
Number of Misdemeanors Filed	89,632	93,510	96,226	120,425
Number of DUI & Serious Traffic Filed	30,062	28,054	25,794	53,504
Number of Other Traffic Offenses Filed	474,856	488,288	389,910	498,998
Probation Revocations Filed	32,301	36,445	32,923	29,138
Landlord Tenant Filed	743	563	772	110,220
Civil Cases Filed	51,799	55,625	60,280	197,675
TOTAL CASES FILED	679,393	702,425	605,905	1,009,960

TOTAL CASES FILED COMPARED WITH OTHER COURTS	CY 2016	CY 2015	CY 2014	CY 2007
STATE COURTS	679,393	702,425	605,905	1,009,960
Superior Courts	369,730	366,000	377,335	430,792
Juvenile Courts	77,973	81,256	62,732	141,343
Probate Courts	231,796	214,993	212,273	276,312
Magistrate Courts (excludes Warrants)*	580,483	536,502	533,551	N/A

TOTAL REVENUES COLLECTED ³	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2008
STATE COURTS	\$ 125,535,018	\$ 129,653,624	\$ 122,391,992	\$ 143,383,624
Superior Courts	\$ 81,613,507	\$ 85,695,486	\$ 87,740,761	\$ 101,350,151
Juvenile Courts	\$ 1,362,339	\$ 1,480,146	\$ 1,639,689	\$ 2,314,304
Probate Courts	\$ 69,628,973	\$ 67,996,311	\$ 64,386,150	\$ 61,725,279
Magistrate Courts	\$ 47,109,503	\$ 44,864,515	\$ 49,570,932	\$ 50,618,129
TOTAL FOR STATE SYSTEM	\$ 325,249,340	\$ 329,690,082	\$ 325,729,524	\$ 360,099,629

REVENUES COLLECTED FOR STATE	FY 2017	% of Total	FY 2016	% of Total
State Courts	\$ 21,360,446	36.4%	\$ 21,991,104	37%
Superior Courts	\$ 20,729,304	35.4%	\$ 21,432,068	36%
Juvenile, Probate and Magistrate	\$ 16,602,263	28.2%	\$ 15,901,437	27%
TOTAL REMITTED TO STATE	\$ 58,692,033	100%	\$ 59,324,609	100%

TRIAL COURTS / JUDGES		
Superior Courts	159 Courts	214 Judges
State Courts (Fewest Courts)	71 Courts	129 Judges
Juvenile Courts	159 Courts	99 Judges
Probate Courts	159 Courts	170 Judges
Magistrate Courts	159 Courts	500+ Judges
Total	707 Courts	1,112 Judges



HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE COURT JUDGES

In 1967 a group of state court judges and prosecutors created the *Trial Judges and Solicitors Association of Georgia* to promote the effective and efficient administration of justice brought before their courts. In 1980, the judges and solicitors acknowledged that their roles in the judicial system were ethically and constitutionally separate and distinct and the *State Court Judges of Georgia* was organized. In 1988 the General Assembly enacted O.C.G.A. § 15-7-26 creating *The Council of State Court Judges of Georgia* "...to effectuate the constitutional and statutory responsibilities conferred upon it by law and to further the improvement of the state courts, the quality and expertise of the judges thereof, and the administration of justice."

Council policies are set by the Executive Committee and utilize committees for specific issues concerning: strategic planning, educational training, new judge mentoring, specialized support surrounding DUI, Mental Health, Domestic Violence and other accountability courts, information technology, uniform rules, performance and feasibility studies among others. Designated State Court Judges serve on judicial branch agencies such as the Judicial Council, Institute for Continuing Judicial Education, the Board of Court Reporting, Georgia Commission on Interpreters, DUI/Drug Court Committee, Judicial Council Domestic Violence Task Force, Chief Justices Commission on Professionalism and Assistance for Pro Se Litigants among others.

Currently there are 71 State Courts with 129 judges serving the State of Georgia. There are 35 full-time state courts and 36 part-time state courts. A State Court is established by local legislation introduced in the General Assembly. State Court judges are elected to four-year terms in county-wide non-partisan elections. The Governor has the ability to appoint state court judges to fill vacancies.

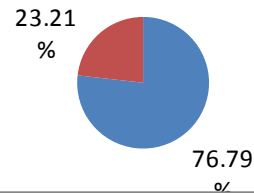
JURISDICTION

- Criminal and Traffic Misdemeanor cases (including DUI, misdemeanor drug, and serious misdemeanor cases.)
- Civil cases except those in which exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the Superior Courts (i.e. domestic relations, real estate and injunctive relief.)
- Arrest and Search Warrant hearings
- Punishments of contempt by fine not exceeding \$500 or 20 days imprisonment, or both
- Appeals from Magistrate Court
- Issuance of Bench Warrants, Bonds, Committal Hearings; Revocation of Probation proceedings
- Assignment of civil cases to arbitration and alternative dispute resolution
- Granting of New Trials
- Direct appeals to the Georgia Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court of Georgia
- Court of Record adhering to the Rules of Evidence, the Civil Practice Act and the Criminal Procedures Act

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Council of State Court Judges is to advance and support the State Court and the quality and expertise of its judges; maintain the impartiality of the judiciary; ensure the fair, efficient, and uniform administration of justice; and enhance public confidence in the judicial system.

Population of Georgia Served by State Courts



Revenues For Last 3 Years

**State Courts:
\$377,580,634.00**

State Courts represent only 10% of the State Trial Courts and Judges, but bring in 36% of Total Revenues!

Cases Filed Last 3 Years
State Courts: 1,987,723

QUALIFICATIONS FOR JUDGES

Court	Resident of GA	Age	Licensed Atty.	Practiced Law	Gov. Appoints	Appellate Juris.
Supreme	Yes		Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
Ct. of Appeals	Yes		Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
Superior	At least 3 years	At least 30	Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
State	At least 3 years	At least 25	Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
Juvenile	At least 3 years	At least 30	Yes	5 years	No	No
Probate	At least 2 years	At least 25	No (H.S. Diploma)	No	No	No
Pop. 96,000+		At least 30	Yes	7 years		
Magistrate	At least 1 year	At least 25	No (H.S. Diploma)	No	No	No

State Courts are the **ONLY** County funded Court with the same Judicial Qualifications of the State Funded Courts.