



# Council of State Court Judges

*Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice*

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## 2016 Hot Sheet



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

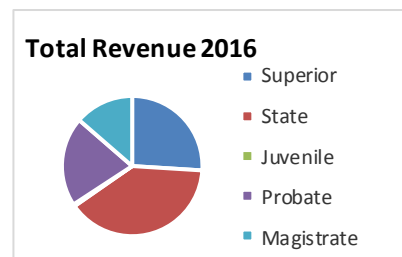
CASES FILED	CY 2015	CY 2014	CY 2013	CY 2012
Number of Misdemeanors Filed	93,510	96,226	102,149	101,291
Number of DUI & Serious Traffic Filed	28,054	25,794	28,200	40,221
Number of Other Traffic Offenses Filed	488,288	389,910	430,943	443,301
Probation Revocations Filed	36,445	32,923	36,608	36,614
Landlord Tenant Filed	563	772	897	1,113
Civil Cases Filed	55,625	60,280	77,975	90,480
<b>TOTAL CASES FILED</b>	<b>702,425</b>	<b>605,905</b>	<b>676,772</b>	<b>713,020</b>

TOTAL CASES FILED COMPARED WITH OTHER COURTS				
	CY 2015	CY 2014	CY 2013	CY 2012
<b>STATE COURTS</b>	<b>702,425</b>	<b>605,905</b>	<b>676,772</b>	<b>713,020</b>
Superior Courts	366,000	377,335	388,943	413,347
Juvenile Courts	81,256	62,732	97,899	89,363
Probate Courts	214,993	212,273	207,961	271,429
Magistrate Courts (excludes Warrants)*	536,502	533,551	571,231	570,016

TOTAL REVENUES COLLECTED <sup>s</sup>				
	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013
<b>STATE COURTS</b>	<b>\$ 129,653,624</b>	<b>\$ 122,391,992</b>	<b>\$ 120,391,639</b>	<b>\$ 117,646,074</b>
Superior Courts	\$ 85,695,486	\$ 87,740,761	\$ 87,482,048	\$ 95,118,622
Juvenile Courts	\$ 1,480,146	\$ 1,639,689	\$ 1,387,742	\$ 1,480,828
Probate Courts	\$ 67,996,311	\$ 64,386,150	\$ 63,664,775	\$ 63,595,862
Magistrate Courts	\$ 44,864,515	\$ 49,570,932	\$ 51,757,746	\$ 78,677,988
<b>TOTAL FOR STATE SYSTEM</b>	<b>\$ 329,690,082</b>	<b>\$ 325,729,524</b>	<b>\$ 324,683,950</b>	<b>\$ 356,519,374</b>

REVENUES COLLECTED FOR STATE				
	FY 2016	% of Total	FY 2015	% of Total
<b>State Courts</b>	<b>\$ 21,991,104</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>\$ 20,834,709</b>	<b>35%</b>
Superior Courts	\$ 21,432,068	36%	\$ 22,698,834	38%
Juvenile, Probate and Magistrate	\$ 15,901,437	27%	\$ 16,380,968	27%
<b>TOTAL REMITTED TO STATE</b>	<b>\$ 59,324,609</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 59,914,511</b>	<b>100%</b>

TRIAL COURTS / JUDGES		
Superior Courts	159 Courts	213 Judges
<b>State Courts (Fewest Courts &amp; Judges)</b>	<b>71 Courts</b>	<b>129 Judges</b>
Juvenile Courts	159 Courts	94 Judges
Probate Courts	159 Courts	168 Judges
Magistrate Courts	159 Courts	478 Judges
<b>Total</b>	<b>707 Courts</b>	<b>1,082 Judges</b>



## 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 34 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.

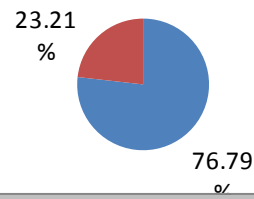
### JURISDICTION

- 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:  
\$372,437,255.00**

**State Courts represent only 10% of the State Trial Courts and Judges, but bring in 37% of Total Revenues!**

Cases Filed Last 3 Years  
**State Courts: 1,985,102**

### 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.