



# NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Director Judge Marion Warren

Chief Justice Mark Martin

## IMPORTANT STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

### 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
- 272 district court judges
- 100 clerks of superior court
- 44 district attorneys

6,232 total full-time equivalent positions from all funding sources, as of June 30, 2017 (does not include Indigent Defense Services)

### BUDGET

\$511.7 million certified state appropriations for FY 2016 – 17

2.29% of total State General Fund Budget

### About the FY 2016 – 17 Budget

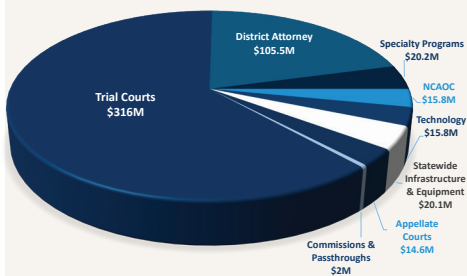
90.8% salaries and benefits

29.21% of funds (\$151 million) supports constitutionally mandated positions

### FY 2016 – 17 State General Fund Appropriations

Certified Budget Total: \$22.34 billion

Judicial Certified: \$512 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 the nearly 6,400 employees of the Judicial Branch, which includes 547 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 2016–17

<b>Monies disbursed</b>	<b>\$725,689,283</b>	<b>total disbursements</b> through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System
	\$262,523,785	remitted to State Treasurer for General Fund
	\$32,082,202	disbursed to other entities
	\$5,357,999	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations
	\$70,597,568	disbursed to local governments
	\$355,127,729	disbursed to citizens

	<b>District Court</b> <i>272 judges</i>	<b>Superior Court</b> <i>109 judges</i>	<b>Court of Appeals</b> <i>15 judges</i>	<b>Supreme Court</b> <i>7 justices</i>				
<b>Caseload</b>	<b>2,293,648</b>	<b>total cases filed</b>	<b>264,770</b>	<b>total cases filed</b>	2,264	appeals/ petitions filed	137	appeals docketed
	<b>2,476,584</b>	<b>total cases disposed</b>	<b>290,776</b>	<b>total cases disposed</b>			92	appeals disposed
	205,481	civil magistrate cases filed	16,194	civil superior cases filed*				
	206,037	civil magistrate cases disposed	16,095	civil superior cases disposed	2,201	appeals/ petitions disposed	509	petitions docketed
	187,330	civil district cases filed	107,803	felony cases filed			515	petitions disposed
	183,926	civil district cases disposed	125,927	felony cases disposed				
	1,359,369	criminal cases filed	27,508	misdemeanor cases filed**				
	1,508,651	criminal cases disposed	28,095	misdemeanor cases disposed				
	541,468	infraction cases filed	72,461	estate cases filed				
	577,970	infraction cases disposed	77,557	estate cases disposed				
		40,804	special proceedings filed***					
		43,102	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.

<b>Time to disposition</b> <i>(median time to disposition)</i>	13	days civil magistrate cases	224	days total civil superior court cases
	64	days civil district court cases	239	days superior court felony cases
	98	days district court felony cases	189	days superior court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic
	72	days infractions cases	120	days special proceeding cases
	148	days district court misdemeanor cases, other than traffic		

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>6,232.20</b>	<b>total Judicial Branch personnel*</b>	648.00	assistant district attorneys
	403.00	justices and judges	8.00	trial court administrators
	100.00	clerks of superior court	1,193.375	court support personnel
	2,553.10	clerk personnel	400.25	NCAOC staff
	674.60	magistrates	151.875	Guardian ad Litem personnel
	44.00	district attorneys	56.00	Other**

\*The total figures include grant-funded FTEs but not Indigent Defense Services FTEs.

\*\*“Other” includes Judicial Standards Commission, Conference of District Attorneys, Dispute Resolution Commission, Equal Access to Justice Commission, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, Innocence Inquiry Commission, Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism, Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission positions, North Carolina Commission on the Administration of Law and Justice, and Pro Bono Resource Center.

<b>Miscellaneous</b>	18,085	abused or neglected children served by the Guardian ad Litem program	25	districts with court arbitration programs
			14	districts with funded family court