

Representative Jack McFarland
Chairman



Representative Jason Hughes
Vice Chairman

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Review

JUDICIARY

House Committee on Appropriations
House Fiscal Division

April 14, 2025

Legislative Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

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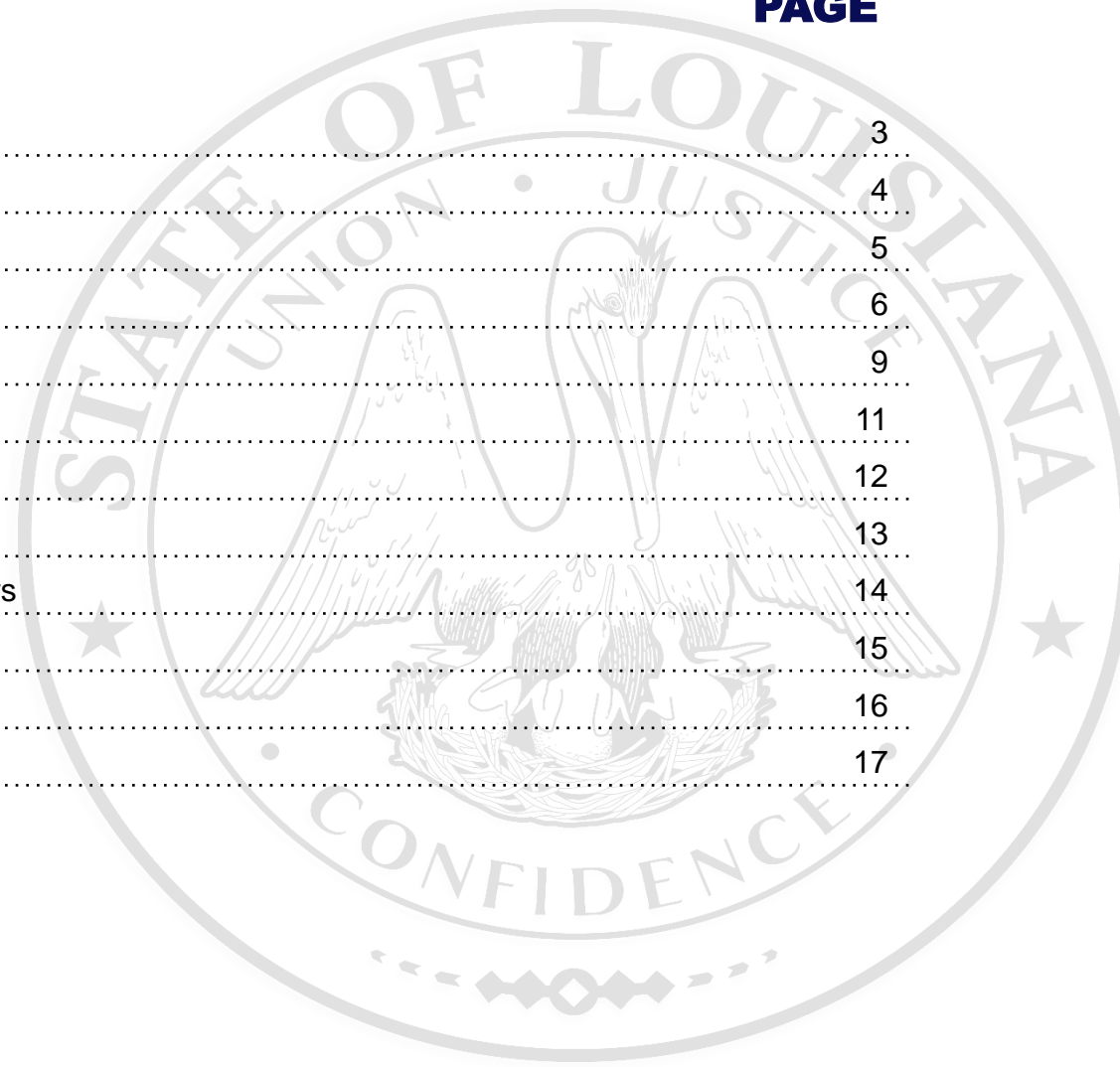
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Baton Rouge, LA 70802
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All data, figures, and information
were provided by the Louisiana
Supreme Court for
Fiscal Year 2025-2026,
unless otherwise noted.

TOPIC

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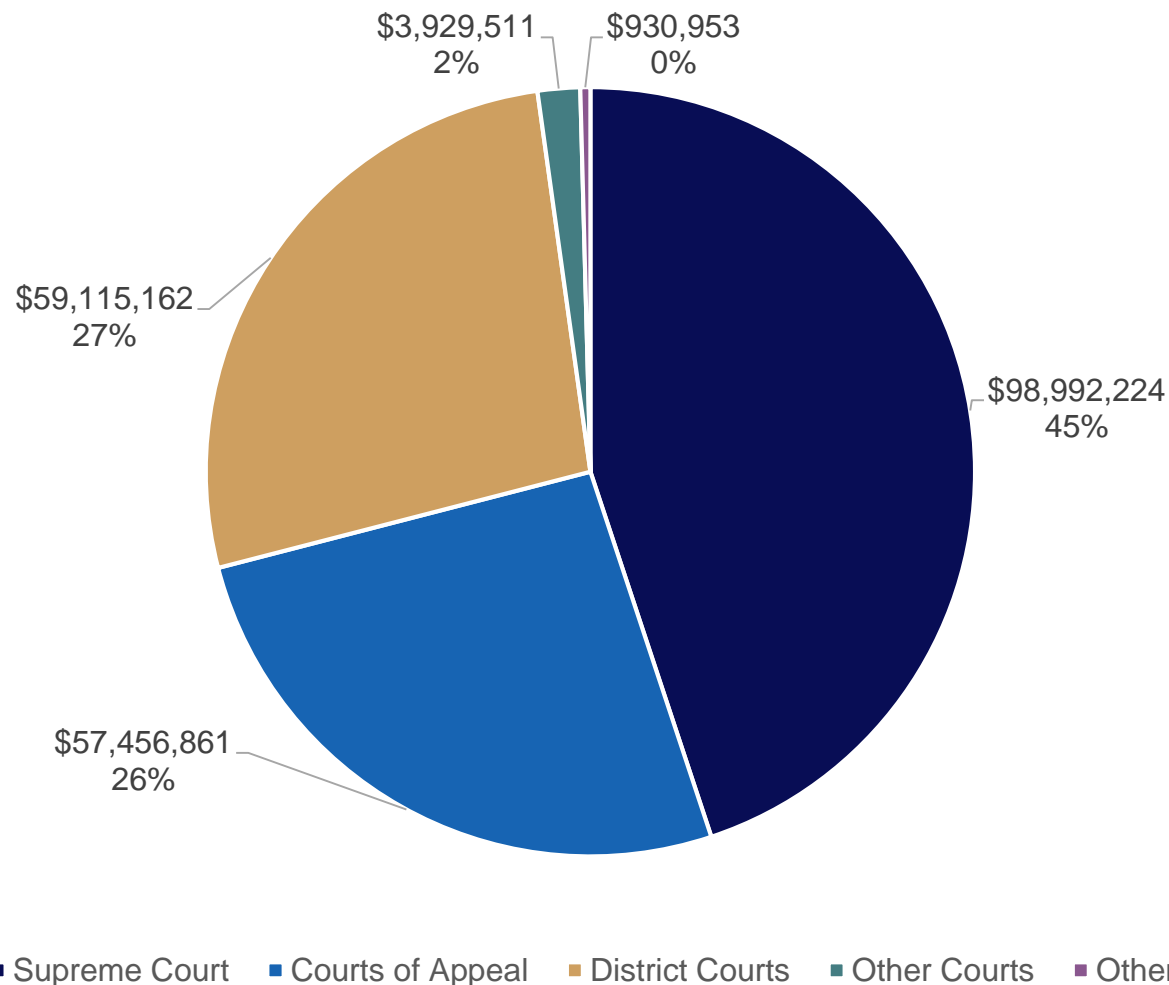
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FY 26 BUDGET REQUEST

Total Funding Request = \$220,424,711

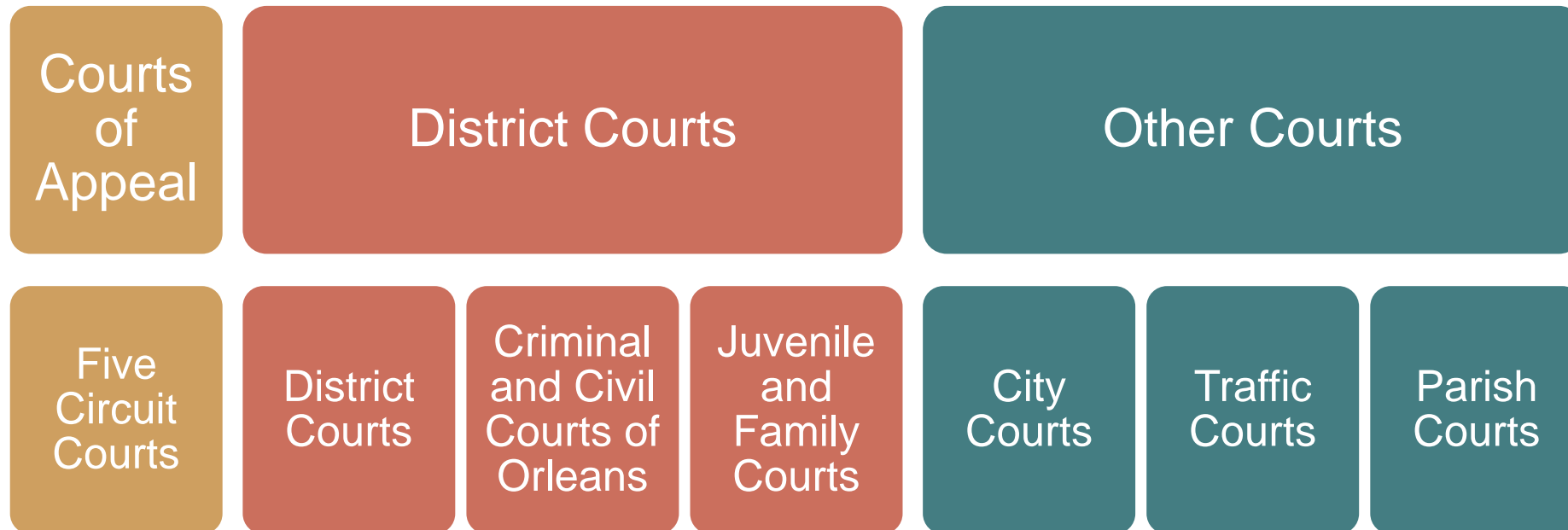
Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	199,188,937
Interagency Transfers		9,392,850
Fees & Self-generated		0
Statutory Dedications		11,842,924
Federal Funds		0
Total	\$	220,424,711



JUDICIARY ORGANIZATION

- The Louisiana Constitution distributes governmental powers among three separate branches: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
- The Judicial Branch is charged with interpretation and application of laws and is granted the power to issue writs and orders of process in aid thereof
- This branch is comprised of a supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, and other courts authorized by the constitution
- There are a total of 369 judges that preside over state and local courts

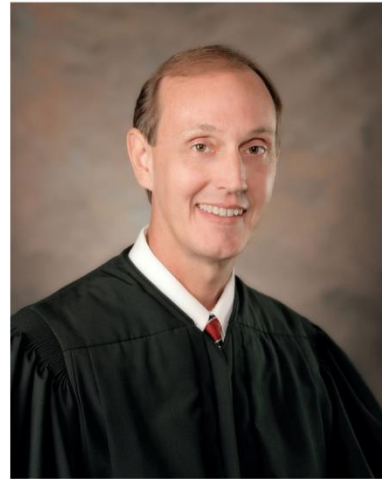
Louisiana Supreme Court



LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice William J. Crain



Louisiana Supreme Court
Chief Justice John L. Weimer



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice John Michael Guidry



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Cade R. Cole



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Jay B. McCallum

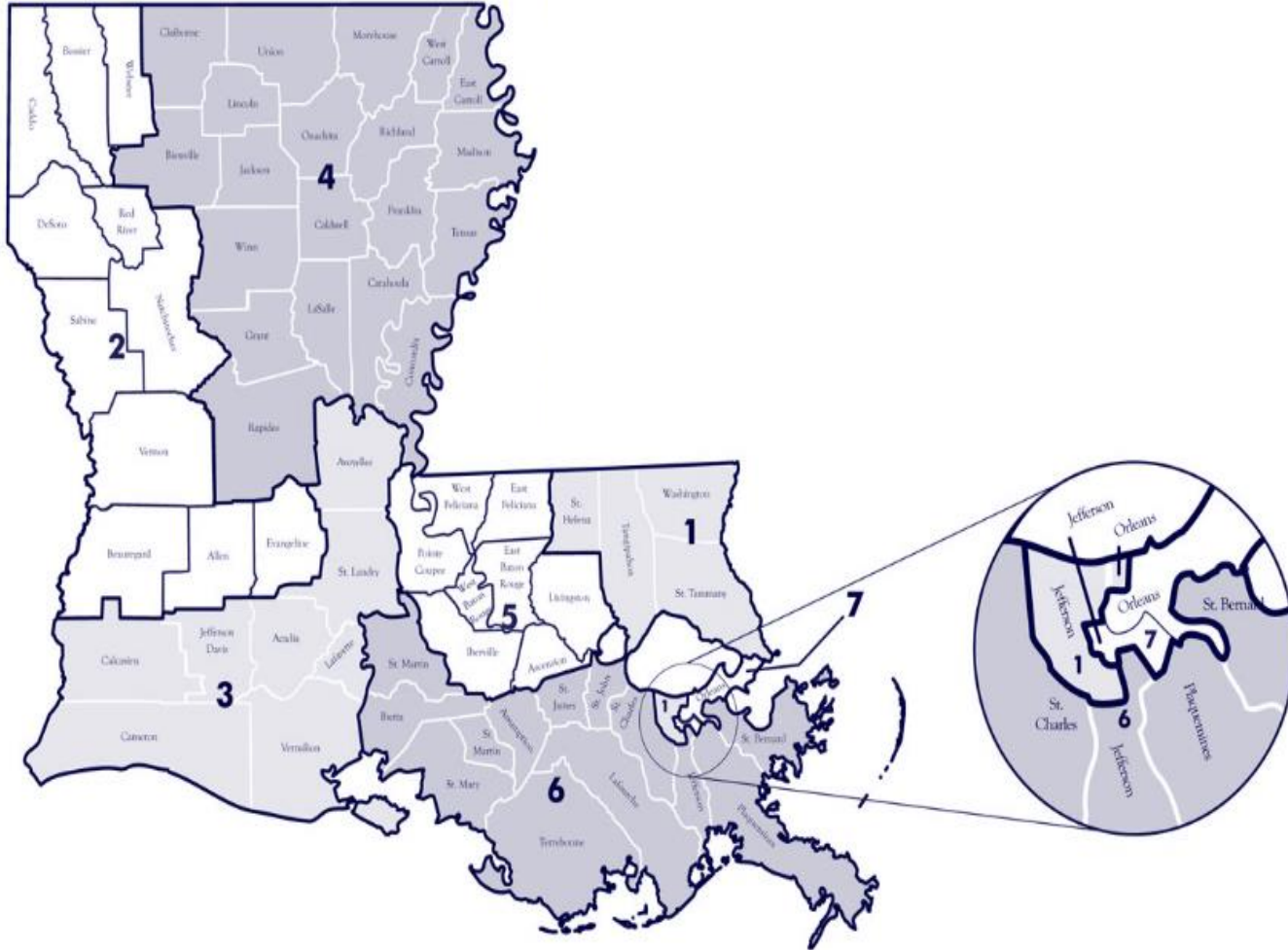


Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Piper D. Griffin

SUPREME COURT

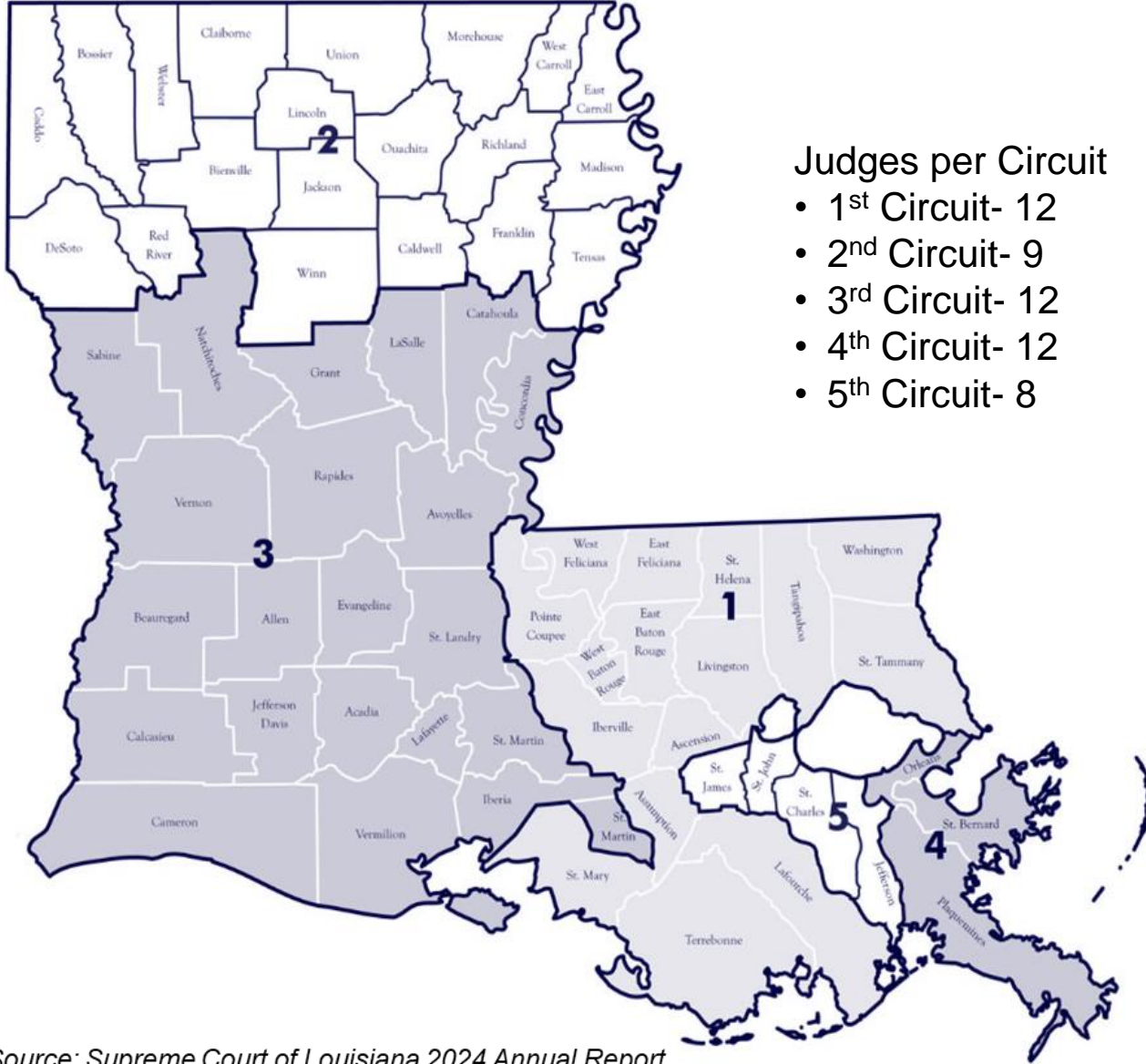


Performance Information	2022	2023	2024
Total filings	1,889	1,725	1,595
Total appeals filed	2	2	3
Total writs filed (except prisoner pro se)	1,073	961	903
Total prisoner pro se writs	608	578	519
Opinions rendered	64	53	48
Total Civil and Criminal Orders - Louisiana Protective Order Registry	31,470	32,169	30,785

- The Supreme Court is Louisiana’s highest court
- It is domiciled in the city of New Orleans
- In addition to hearing cases, the Supreme Court establishes procedural and administrative rules for Louisiana courts, regulates the legal profession, and promulgates and updates the Judicial Code of Conduct

Source: Supreme Court of Louisiana 2024 Annual Report

COURTS OF APPEAL



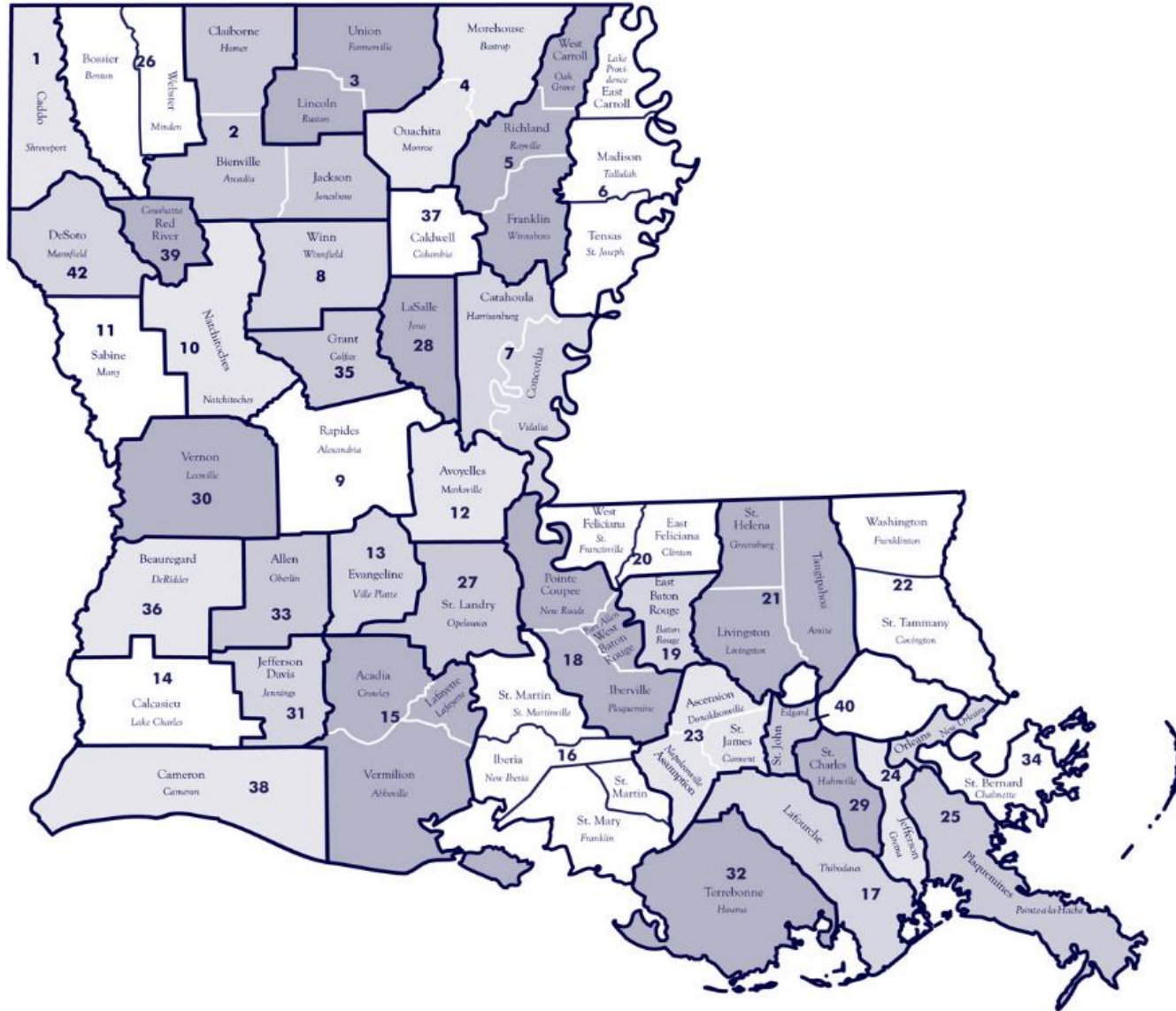
- Judges per Circuit**
- 1st Circuit- 12
 - 2nd Circuit- 9
 - 3rd Circuit- 12
 - 4th Circuit- 12
 - 5th Circuit- 8

Performance Information	2022	2023	2024
Total appeals filed	1,430	1,496	1,425
Total motions filed	108	128	159
Total writs filed (excluding pro se)	1,689	1,684	1,526
Pro se Writs filed	1,026	962	946
Opinions Rendered	1,296	1,293	1,402

- Louisiana has established the intermediate Courts of Appeal between District Courts and the Supreme Court
- There are 5 Courts of Appeal
- Judicial terms are 10 years

Source: Supreme Court of Louisiana 2024 Annual Report

DISTRICT COURTS



Performance Information	2022	2023	2024
Criminal cases filed	122,536	135,551	145,352
Civil cases filed	134,327	144,926	140,547
Juvenile cases filed	20,406	21,992	18,229
Traffic cases filed	230,225	251,938	246,167
Total Cases Filed	507,494	554,118	550,295
Civil jury trials	160	131	125
Criminal jury trials	495	558	563

- Louisiana has 43 judicial districts
- Each district contains at least one parish, has at least one judge, and elects a chief judge
- Judicial terms on district courts are six years

Source: Supreme Court of Louisiana 2024 Annual Report

DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

67 Specialty Courts

- 38 are drug courts

Reentry Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, Family Preservation Courts, Behavioral Health Courts, DWI Courts

- Specialty court team: judge, coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor, public defender, law enforcement, case manager

5,081 Individuals Served in 2024

- 2,251 new participants in 2024

Recidivism is 5.8%

- 1,145 graduates in 2024

OTHER PROGRAMS

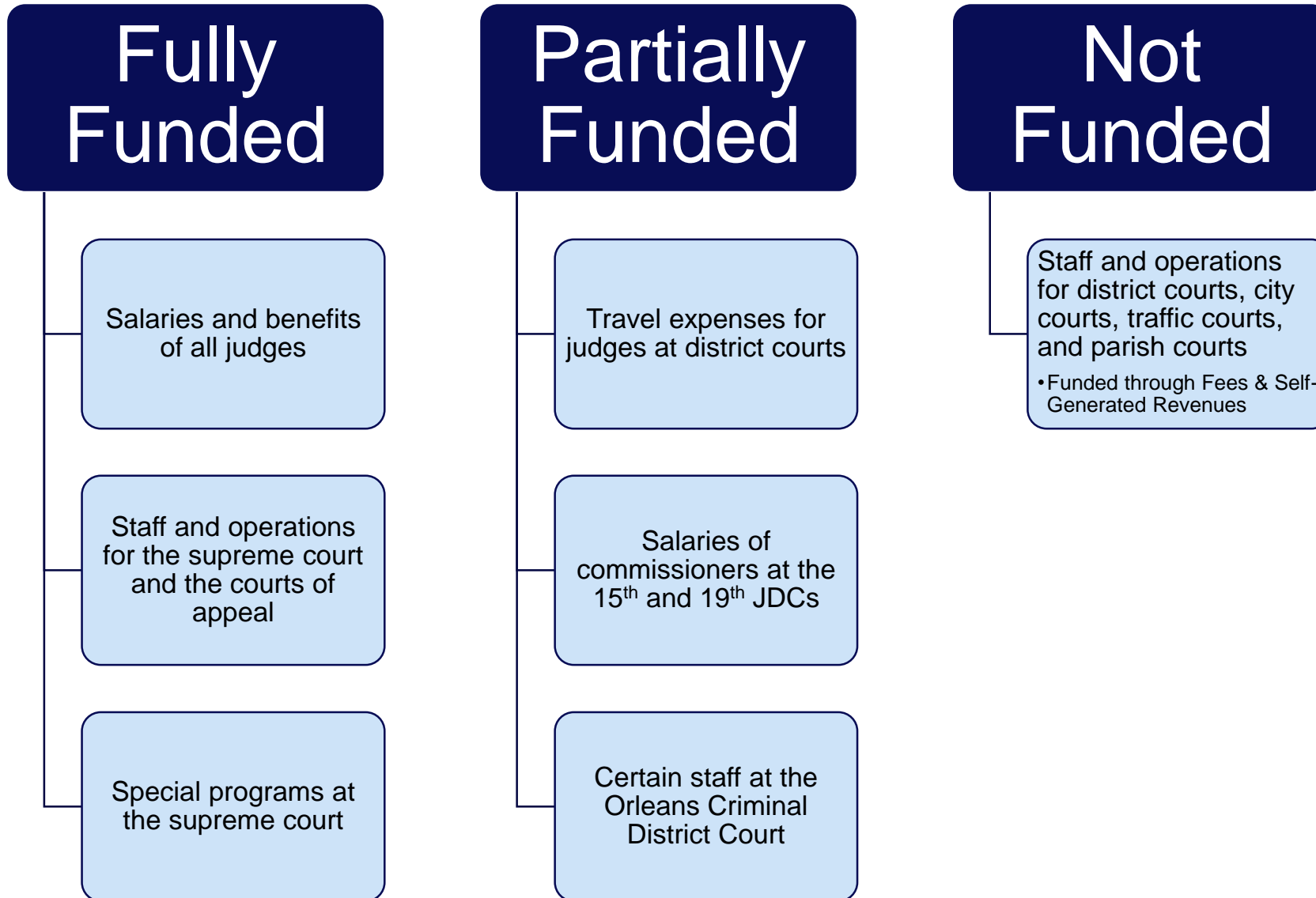
Families in Need of Services

- 43 judicial districts
- Programmatic support, case management, and service coordination

Court Appointed Special Advocates

- 61 parishes and 41 judicial districts
- Advocate for timely placement of children
- Served 2,692 children in 2024

STATE GENERAL FUND ALLOCATIONS



FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 24 Actual Expenditures	FY 25 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/24	FY 26 Budget Request	Change from Existing Operating Budget to FY 26 Request	
SGF	\$ 178,883,689	\$ 187,315,555	\$ 199,188,937	\$ 11,873,382	6.3%
IAT	9,392,850	9,392,850	9,392,850	0	0.0%
FSGR	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Stat Ded	10,589,853	11,842,924	11,842,924	0	0.0%
Federal	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$ 198,866,392	\$ 208,551,329	\$ 220,424,711	\$ 11,873,382	5.7%

Source: FY 24 Actuals - Office of Planning and Budget

FUNDING REQUESTS FY 26

Budget
Adjustments
and
Additional
Funding
Requests
FY 26

\$11,873,382

State General Fund

\$6,890,640
Salary increase
for judges
statewide

\$2,262,571
Staff cost of
living
adjustment

\$1,562,742
Increase in
health insurance
premiums

\$1,436,699
Increase in
operating
expenses

\$1,227,360
Technology
improvements

\$969,464
Nine unfunded
positions at five
courts

\$390,000
Expansion of
CASA

\$150,000
Expansion of
FINS

(\$3,191,579)
LASERS
reduction

**Other requests = \$175,485*

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS AND INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 25 EOB	FY 26 Request
Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund	(R.S. 13:10.3) – Civil filing fees	Salary supplements to judges and commissioners	\$7,785,844	\$7,785,844
Trial Court Case Management Information Fund	(C.CR.P Art. 887) – Special court costs to be paid upon conviction	Development of a trial court case management information system	\$4,057,080	\$4,057,080
Total			\$11,842,924	\$11,842,924

INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 25 EOB	FY 26 Request
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Federal funds transferred from the Department of Child & Family Services	Drug Court and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$9,392,850	\$9,392,850
Total			\$9,392,850	\$9,392,850

COURT MODERNIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY FUND

Administered by the
Judicial Council

Technology
upgrades to courts
statewide

Appropriated \$5 M
in 2023

District Courts

Funding for rural
and underfunded
district courts that
lack high-speed
internet, technology
support, or proper
equipment

Statewide Projects

Creation of an
integrated case
management
system for the
supreme court

Judicial portal

ONE-TIME FUNDING REQUESTS FY 26

Security Upgrades

- \$3,686,485

Technology Improvements

- \$5,156,201

JUDICIARY CONTACTS



Honorable John L. Weimer
Chief Justice



Honorable Piper D. Griffen
Justice

Bryan Wolff
Chief Financial Officer

Sandra Vujnovich
Judicial Administrator

Russell Cortazzo, Jr.
*Case Management Information
System*

Fletcher Hyacinth
Drug and Specialty Courts