

Representative Jack McFarland
Chair



Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue
Vice-Chair

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Review

JUDICIARY

House Committee on Appropriations
House Fiscal Division

March 9, 2026

Legislative Analyst: Rebecca Robinson

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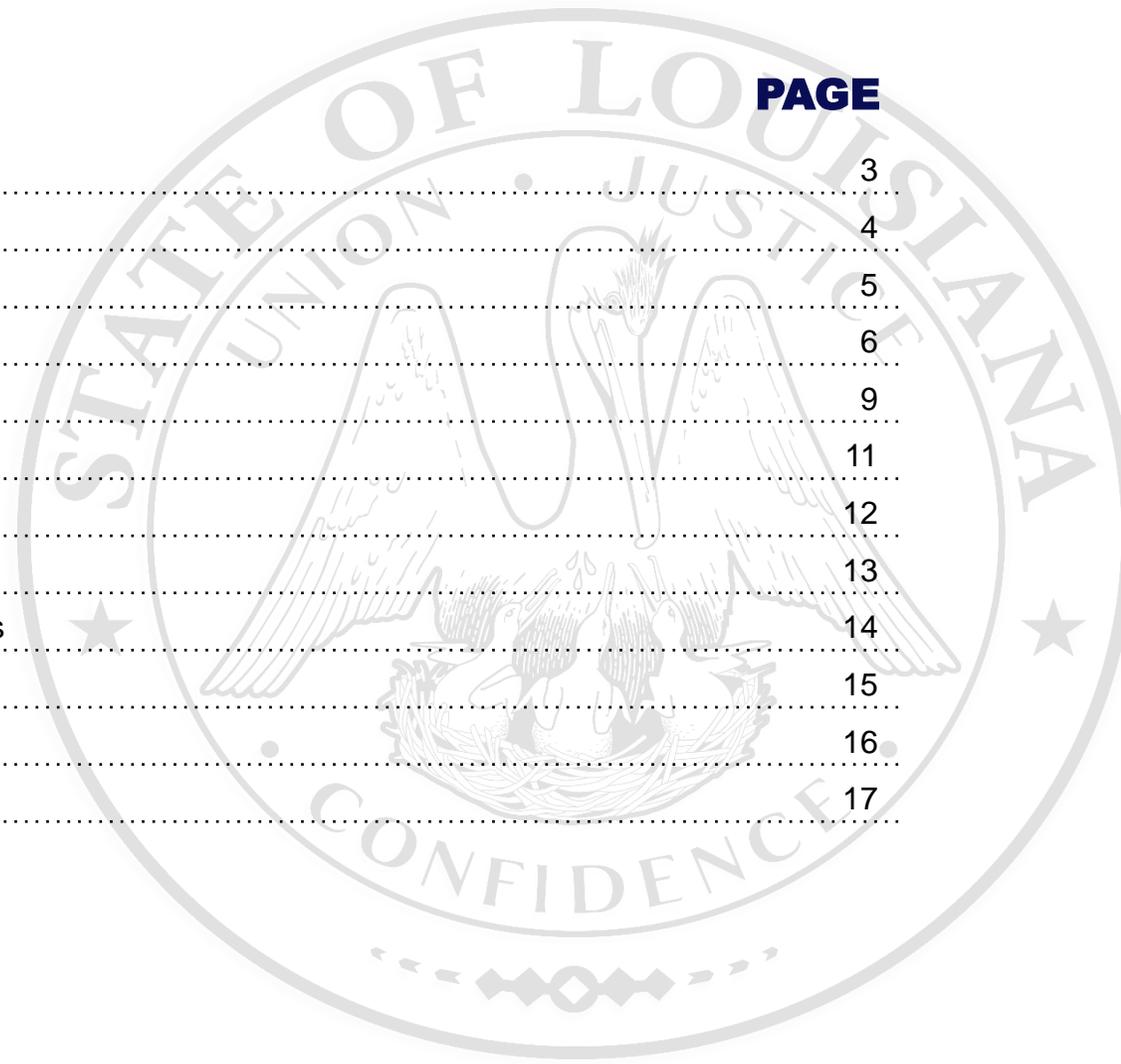
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All data, figures, and information were provided by the Louisiana Supreme Court for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, unless otherwise noted.

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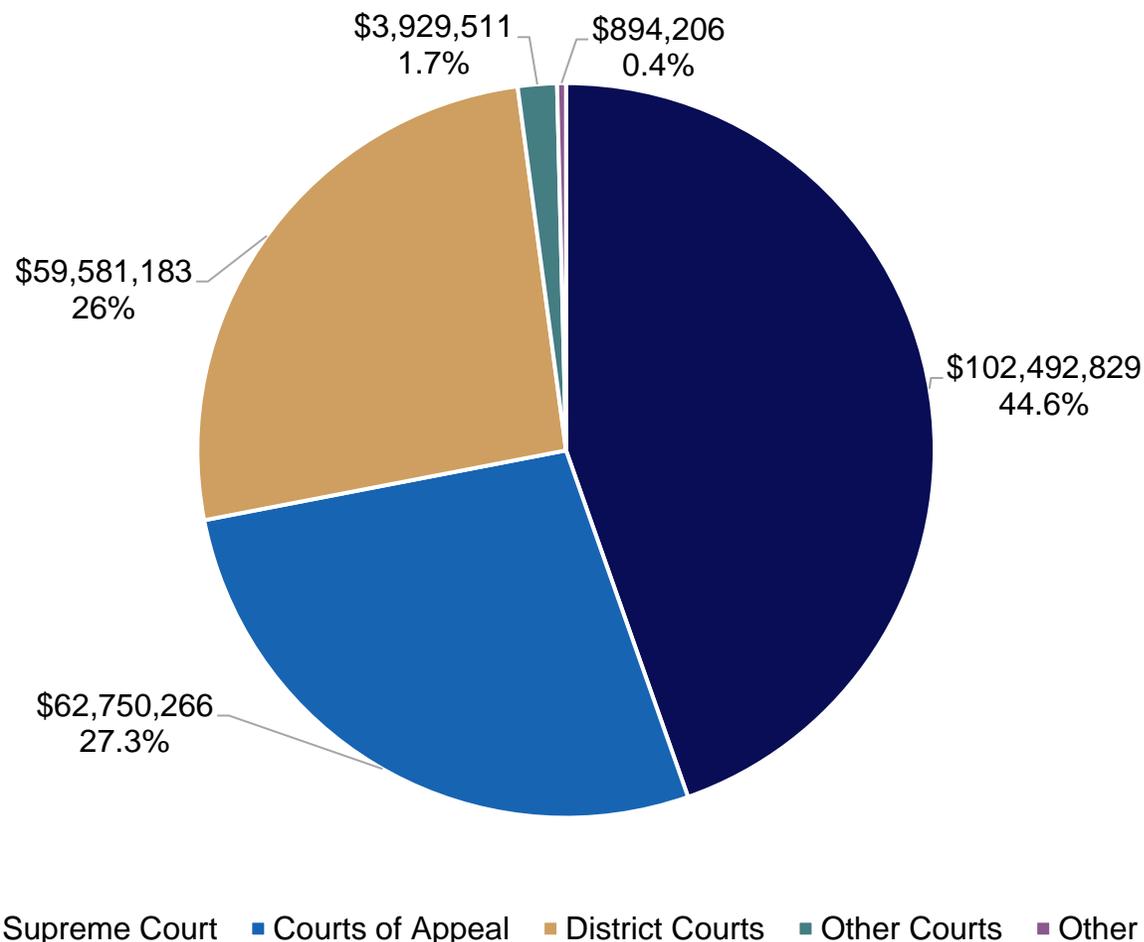


FY 27 BUDGET REQUEST

Total Funding Request = \$229,647,995

An additional \$5.6 M in one-time funding is also requested

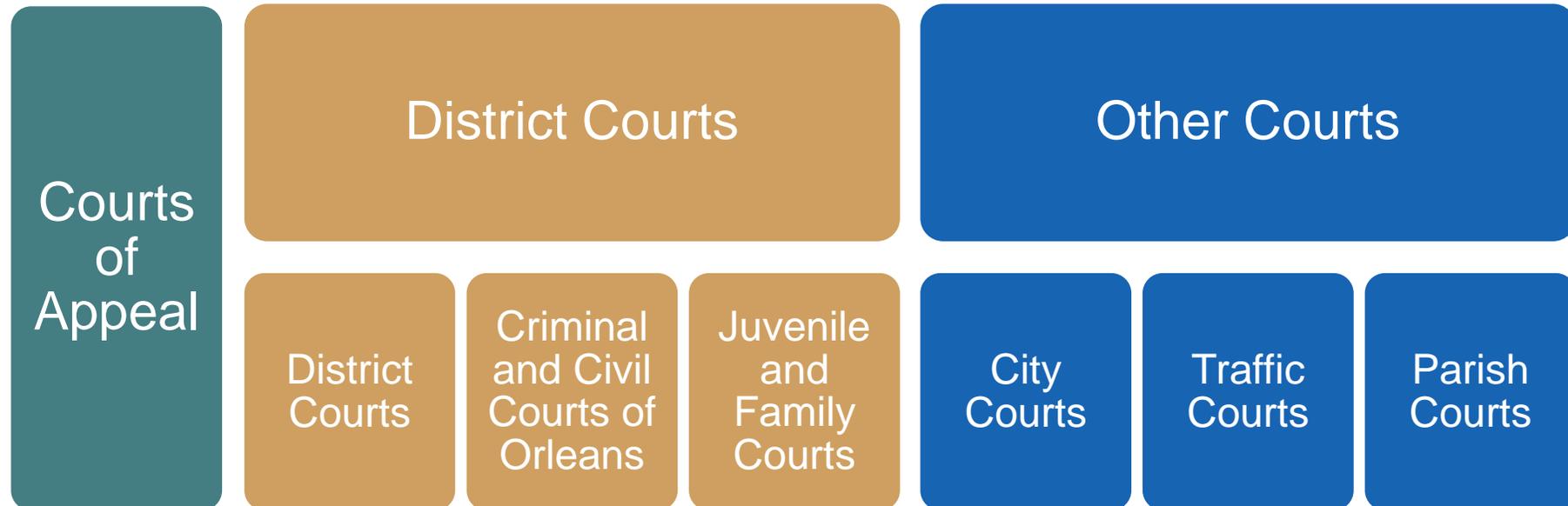
Means of Finance		
State General Fund	\$	208,412,221
Interagency Transfers		9,392,850
Fees & Self-generated		0
Statutory Dedications		11,842,924
Federal Funds		0
Total	\$	229,647,995



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

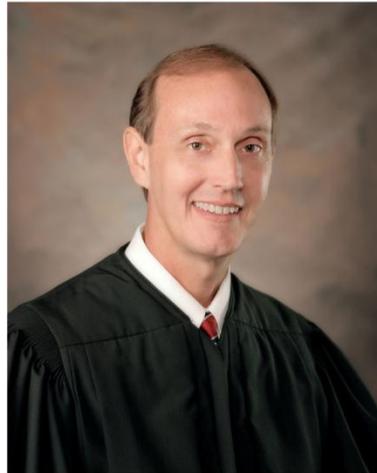
Louisiana Supreme Court



LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Jefferson D. Hughes III



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

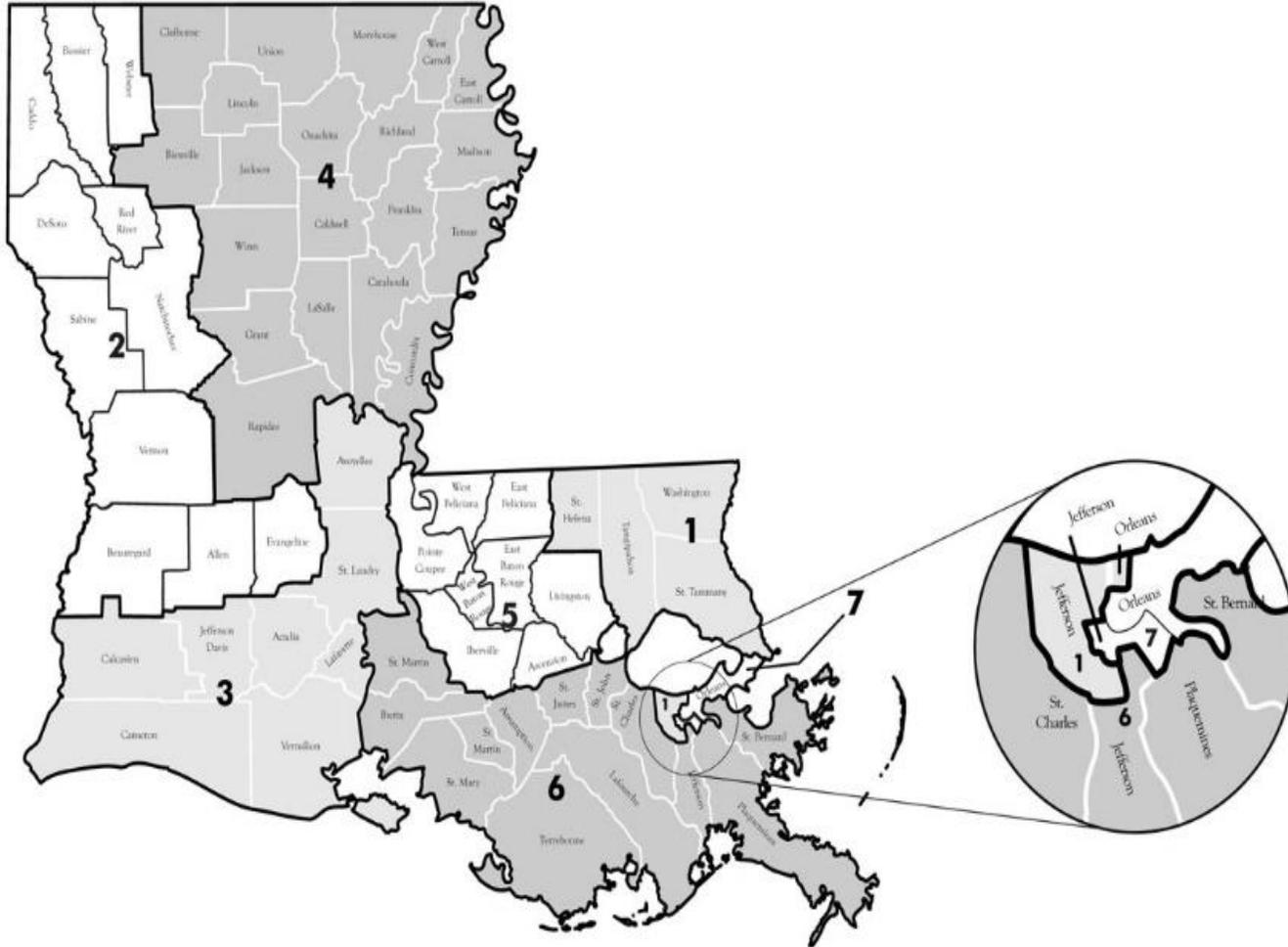


Louisiana Supreme Court
Justice Pro Tempore Allison H. Penzato



Louisiana Supreme Court
Associate Justice Piper D. Griffin

SUPREME COURT

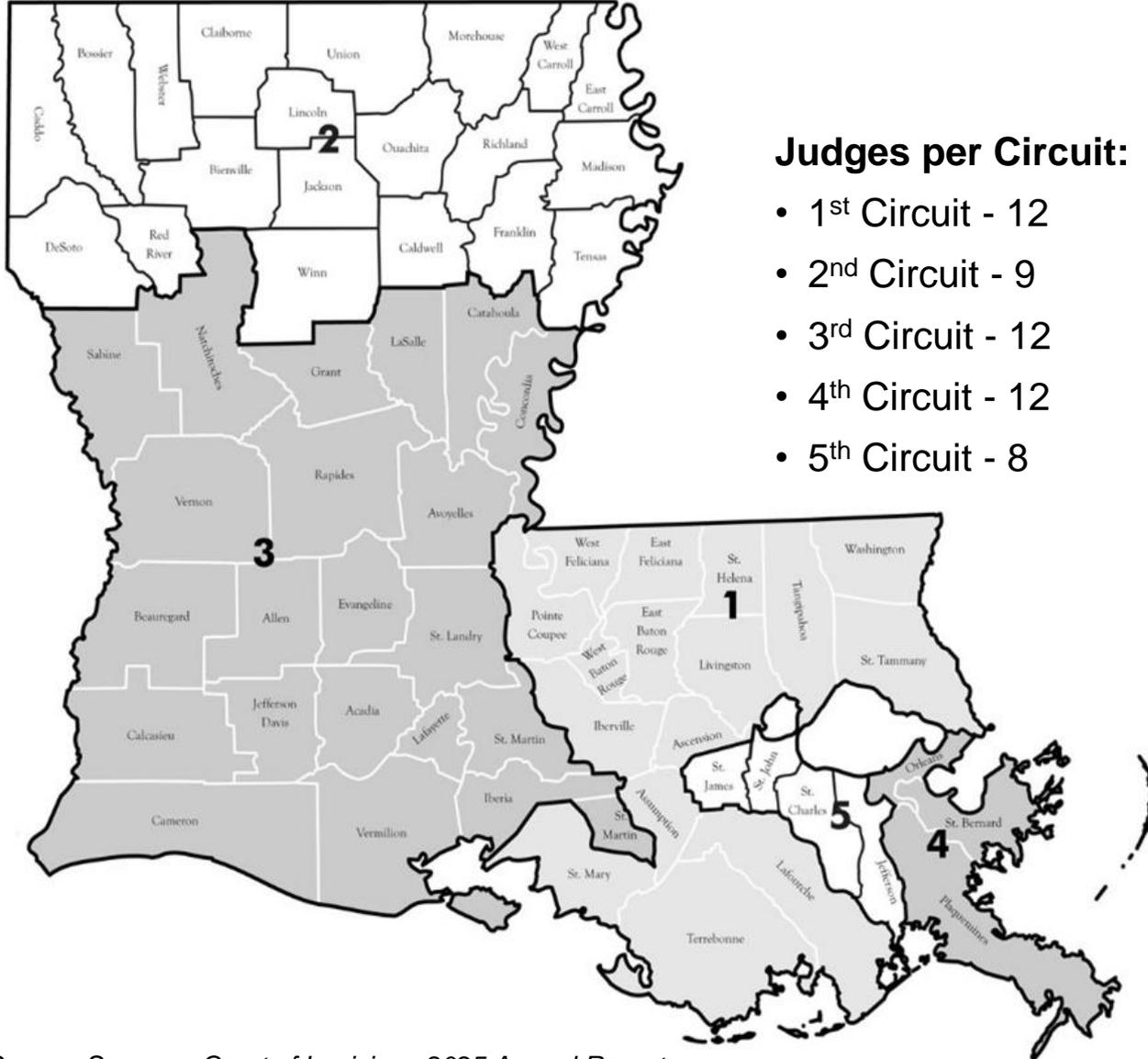


Performance Information	2023	2024	2025
Total filings	1,725	1,595	1,651
Total appeals filed	2	3	4
Total writs filed (except prisoner pro se)	961	903	992
Total prisoner pro se writs	578	519	508
Opinions rendered	53	53	50
Total Civil and Criminal Orders - Louisiana Protective Order Registry	32,186	31,023	31,938

- 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 2025 Annual Report

COURTS OF APPEAL



Judges per Circuit:

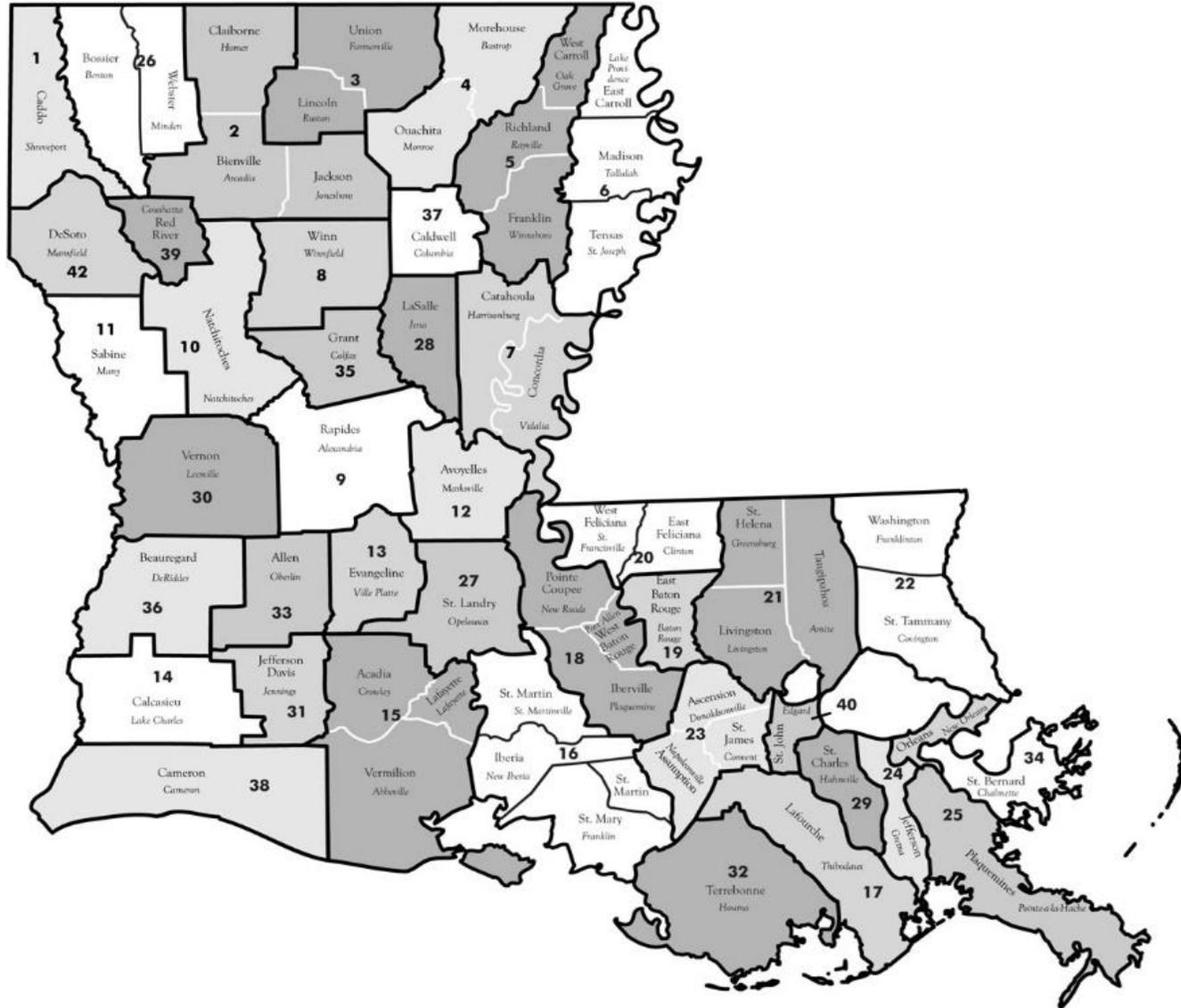
- 1st Circuit - 12
- 2nd Circuit - 9
- 3rd Circuit - 12
- 4th Circuit - 12
- 5th Circuit - 8

Performance Information	2023	2024	2025
Total appeals filed	1,496	1,425	1,342
Total motions filed	128	159	171
Total writs filed (excluding pro se)	1,684	1,526	1,755
Pro se Writs filed	962	946	958
Opinions Rendered	1,293	1,402	1,345

- 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 2025 Annual Report

DISTRICT COURTS



Performance Information	2023	2024	2025
Criminal cases filed	135,551	145,352	135,252
Civil cases filed	144,926	140,547	147,258
Juvenile cases filed	21,992	18,229	17,293
Traffic cases filed	251,938	246,167	270,930
Total Cases Filed	554,118	550,295	570,733
Civil jury trials	131	125	112
Criminal jury trials	558	563	574

- 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 2025 Annual Report

DRUG AND SPECIALTY COURTS

67 Specialty Courts

- 39 are Drug Courts
- Drug Courts, Family Preservation Court, Behavioral Health Court, DWI Courts, Reentry Courts, and Veterans Courts
- Specialty court team: judge, coordinator, treatment staff, prosecutor, public defender, law enforcement, case manager

5,149 Individuals Served in 2025

- 2,251 new participants in 2025
- 872 graduates in 2025

OTHER PROGRAMS

Families in Need of Services

- 42 judicial districts
- Added Natchitoches City Court
- Programmatic support, case management, and service coordination

Court Appointed Special Advocates

- 62 parishes and 40 judicial districts
- Advocate for timely placement of children
- Served 4,297 children in 2025

WEIGHTED CASELOAD STUDY

Conducted by the National Center for State Courts

Courts of Appeal and District Courts judicial time study

- Participation – 100% of appellate court judges and 96% of district court judges

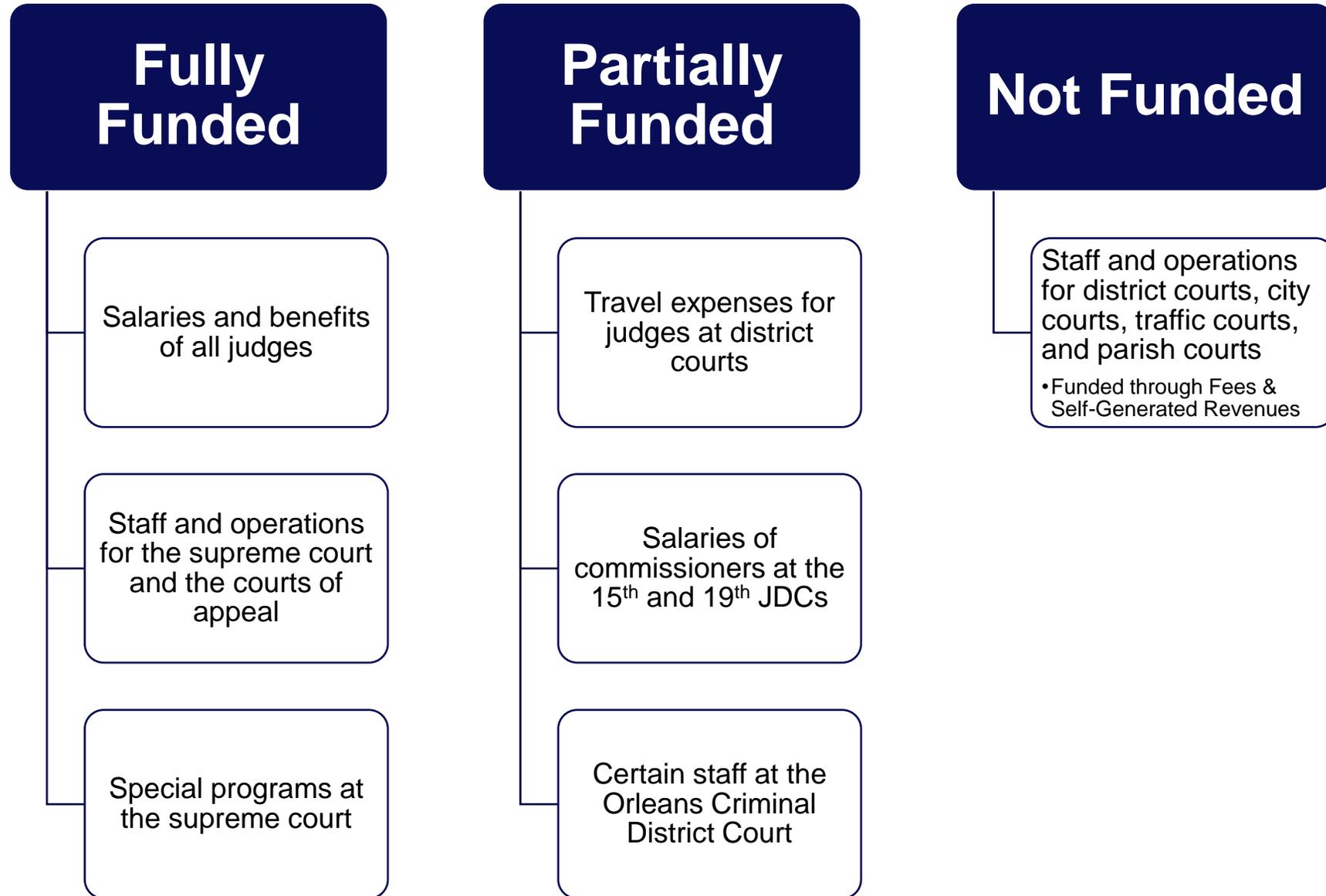
Study shows:

- 6 hours case-related work
- 1.5 hours administrative duties

Establishes a weighted caseload formula for evaluating the number of judgeships

Source: Courts of Appeal and District Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Study and Supreme Court of Louisiana 2025 Annual Report

STATE GENERAL FUND ALLOCATIONS



FUNDING COMPARISON

Means of Finance	FY 25 Actual Expenditures	FY 26 Existing Operating Budget 12/1/25	FY 27 Budget Request	Change from Existing Operating Budget to FY 26 Request	
SGF	\$ 187,315,555	\$ 187,855,555	\$ 208,412,221	\$ 20,556,666	10.9%
IAT	9,392,850	9,392,850	9,392,850	0	0.0%
FSGR	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Stat Ded	11,842,924	17,842,924	11,842,924	(6,000,000)	(33.6%)
Federal	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total	\$ 208,551,329	\$ 215,091,329	\$ 229,647,995	\$ 14,556,666	6.8%

An additional \$5,609,926 is also requested for one-time funding for technology improvements and security upgrades

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS AND INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

STATUTORY DEDICATIONS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 EOB	FY 27 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
Modernization and Security Fund	Act 390 of the 2025 Regular Session	One-time funding to replace equipment for technology and security	6,000,000	0
Total			\$17,842,924	\$11,842,924

INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS

Fund Name	Source	Usage	FY 26 EOB	FY 27 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

Source: Office of Planning and Budget

FY 27 FUNDING REQUESTS

Budget Adjustments and Additional Funding Requests

\$20,556,666
State General Fund

\$6,690,756
Salary increase for judges statewide

\$6,483,096
Staff Pay Plan Adjustment

\$2,322,335
Staff cost of living adjustment

\$1,179,426
Increase in health insurance premiums

\$3,103,821
Increase in operating expenses

\$138,120
Increase for ad hoc judges

\$1,800,726
Seventeen unfunded positions at five courts

\$465,312
Expansion of CASA

(\$1,561,161)
LASERS reduction

**Other reductions = (\$65,765)*

FY 27 ONE-TIME FUNDING REQUESTS

Security Upgrades

- \$856,183

Technology Improvements

- \$4,753,743

JUDICIARY CONTACTS



Honorable Piper D. Griffin
Associate Justice

Bryan Wolff
Chief Financial Officer



Honorable John L. Weimer
Chief Justice

Brian Wiggins
Chief Deputy Judicial Administrator



Honorable Cade R. Cole
Associate Justice

Fletcher Hyacinth
Drug and Specialty Courts