



Annual Report

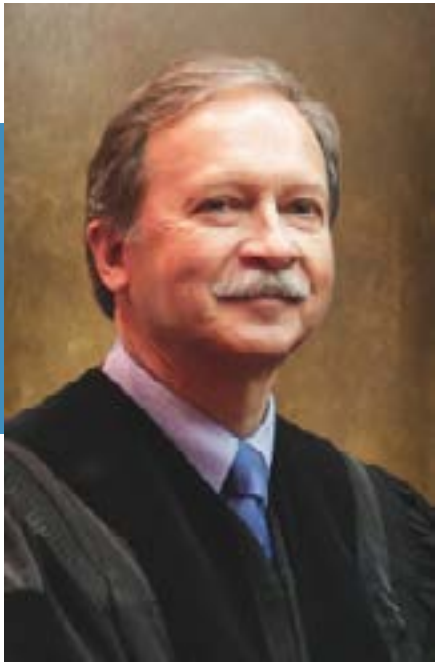
OF THE ARKANSAS JUDICIARY

2018



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From The Chief Justice

My fellow Arkansans,

Keeping in mind our Vision Statement that the Arkansas Judiciary will embody integrity, transparency, and accountability to the public, which it serves, I am excited and pleased to introduce the 2018 Annual Report.

The Annual Report is designed to bring even more transparency to the People of Arkansas and highlights the essential efforts of all the state's courts in administering justice this past year. As in years past, statistics, data, and other information that demonstrate the courts' extraordinary dedication can be found in these pages.

For the first time, Arkansas has a long-term, strategic plan for the judiciary. The Strategic Planning Committee worked tirelessly to establish a vision for what Arkansas courts may – indeed must – become over the next few years. In some ways, the material presented in this year's annual report can be used in future editions to evaluate our courts' progress toward the six goals presented in the Strategic Plan.

Responding to technological advancements, Arkansas courts are committed to innovation and improving efficiency, services, and access. Citizens rightfully expect their judicial branch to embrace technology that provides court users with the tools they need to engage with documents, records, and services remotely and on-demand.

Improving justice for all Arkansans requires a judiciary that is an equal and independent branch of government. At the same time, we recognize that communication among the three separate branches is of paramount importance, and Arkansas courts are committed to working with the Executive Branch, General Assembly, and all levels of our state and local courts and governments to meet our shared goals.

In closing any official statement, I always want to convey just how deeply honored and humbled I am to serve the State and the People as your Chief Justice. Words cannot convey the deep appreciation I have for placing your trust in me, and, as I reflect on the past year's efforts of our entire judicial branch, I look forward to the work of continuing the incredible progress of our state courts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Dan Kemp". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Dan Kemp
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Arkansas



From the Director

My fellow Arkansans,

It is my honor to present the 2018 Annual Report. This publication illustrates our commitment to transparency and accountability to the public.

The Arkansas Judicial Branch has embarked on an aggressive agenda of innovation. We are moving forward with an effort to embrace new technologies to increase efficiency, improve services, and promote new thinking about the delivery of justice.

It is the 21st Century, and the administration of justice must evolve to meet the expectations of the citizens of our state. We will respond to our everchanging technological environment by providing court users remote access to information, records, and services that are easy to use. We must approach problems proactively in order to execute the level of support I know we are capable of providing. The challenges in accomplishing this are great, but I look forward to working with my outstanding colleagues at the Administrative Office of the Courts, the members of the Arkansas Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Judicial Council, District Judges Council, and their staffs to meet these goals.

I also look forward to working with the Governor and the members of the General Assembly as we undertake these initiatives to improve efficiency and accessibility.

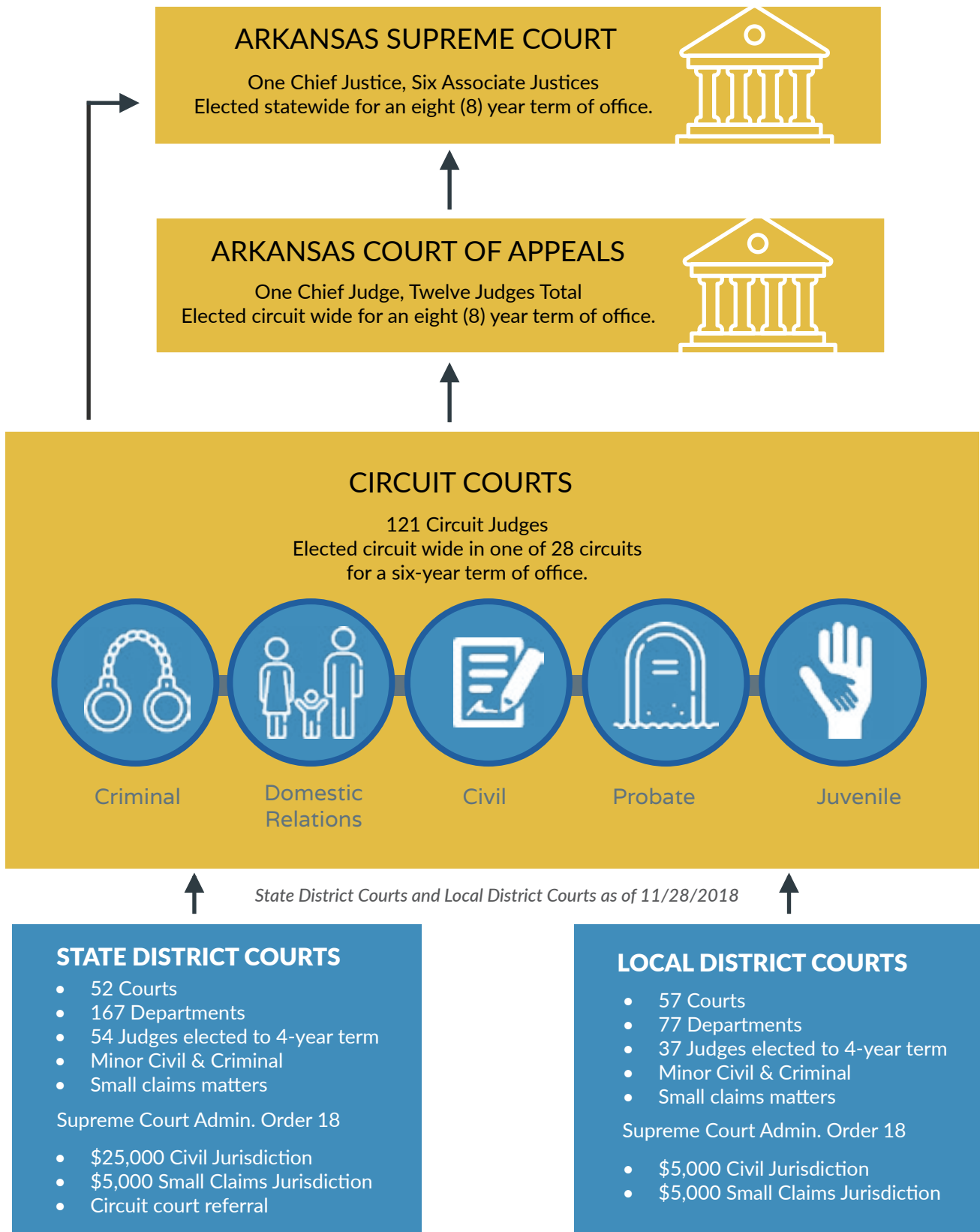
I am grateful to serve as the Arkansas State Court Administrator and am blessed to work with so many talented judges, court personnel, and staff who care passionately about improving the administration of justice in our great state. Together, we will fulfill our mission of supporting our courts and ensuring justice for the people of Arkansas.

Marty Sullivan,
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

“We are moving forward with an effort to embrace new technologies to increase efficiency, improve services, and promote new thinking about the delivery of justice.”



ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE





ABOUT THE DATA

All appellate and circuit court data in the annual report come from information entered into the Contexte Case Management System.

CIRCUIT COURT

In most counties in Arkansas, circuit court data are entered into Contexte by elected circuit clerks and their staff members based on cover and disposition sheets submitted by attorneys and self-represented litigants.

In some counties, these forms are submitted on paper to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), so data entry into Contexte can be delayed and may be incomplete.

DISTRICT COURT

Some district courts also use the Contexte system. Other district courts report summary information monthly to the AOC.

For a list of courts using Contexte, go to: <https://caseinfo.arcourts.gov>.

Filings include both new and reopened cases.

JUVENILE CASES

Juvenile cases are based on the number of juveniles and the number of filed petitions.

CRIMINAL CASES

Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants, not the number of charges.

Reports published prior to 2016 typically provided the number of charges for both criminal and juvenile delinquency cases.

ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT



The Arkansas Supreme Court was created in 1836 and met for the first time on January 24, 1837.

The Court established, as one of its early goals, a standard of fairness and speedy dispatch in its deliberations and opinion process.

For many years, the Court operated with one of the nation's heaviest per-judge appellate court workloads. The creation of the Court of Appeals in 1978 greatly eased the burden, but the number of cases continued to grow. The expansion of the Court of Appeals in 1996 and 1997 from six to twelve judges greatly improved the administration of justice at the appellate court level.

The workload of appellate courts is generally measured by the number of cases filed (including appeals, petitions, and motions) and disposed of during the year and by counting the number of opinions written by the justices. The number of appeals filed in the Supreme Court totaled 410. The number of cases closed also totaled 962, for a case clearance rate of 235%. The number of cases closed reflects work by the Clerk of the Court along with the Supreme Court to dispose of old cases.

The most common type of case filed with the Supreme Court was civil petition for review, with 115 filings, followed by post-conviction appeals, with 57. The chart that follows shows the relative frequency of different types of cases. Pending start are the cases open at the beginning of the year and pending end are the cases open at the end of the year.

The Supreme Court's historical dedication to its "fast track" system, where citizens are assured of a written opinion, on average, within two weeks of the time of submission, continues to be unique among state courts of last resort in the United States. This year, Justices wrote and published a total of 300 opinions, which include majority, concurring, dissenting, and per curiam opinions in addition to per curiam. The average time from submission of a case to majority opinion was 17 days and the median time was 14 days, meaning that the majority opinion was issued in fewer than 14 days in half of cases and longer than 14 days in half.



SUPREME COURT SUMMARY REPORT

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Case Type	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Appeal by State	14	8	18	4
Appellate Felony	35	20	37	18
Appellate Misdemeanor	2	0	2	0
Appellate Writ - Other - Criminal	212	0	208	4
Appellate Writ - Other - Civil	6	0	6	0
Capital Death	12	3	9	6
Capital Life w/o Parole	8	9	6	11
Civil Appeal Administrative	0	3	2	1
Civil Appeal Circuit	111	42	124	27
Civil Petition for Review	196	115	273	37
Criminal Petition for Review	29	28	53	3
DHS Juvenile Appeal	2	2	3	1
Incarcerated Civil Appeal	47	45	50	42
Interlocutory Appeal	12	14	17	9
Juvenile Civil Appeal	1	0	1	0
Original Action	9	9	12	5
Post Conviction Appeal	75	57	84	48
Post Conviction Death	0	4	2	2
Probate Appeal	2	4	4	1
WR Certiorari - Criminal	1	12	12	1
WR Certiorari - Civil	6	13	16	3
Writ of Habeas Corpus - Civil	1	1	2	0
Writ of Mandamus - Criminal	1	10	9	2
Writ of Mandamus - Civil	2	5	5	2
Writ of Prohibition - Criminal	2	1	2	1
Writ of Prohibition - Civil	0	5	5	0
TOTAL	786	410	962	228

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.



HISTORY OF SUPREME COURT

The Arkansas Supreme Court is composed of seven justices elected to serve eight-year terms. The State's current constitution, ratified in 1874, initially provided for three Supreme Court justices, but also authorized the General Assembly to increase the number of justices to five if it deemed necessary when the state population amounted to one million. By Act 19 of 1889, the number of Supreme Court justices was increased by the legislature to five. In 1924, the constitution was amended to allow the General Assembly to increase the number of justices to seven should it become necessary. By Act 205 of 1925, the number increased to seven justices, whose terms began on January 1, 1927.

Members of the Arkansas Supreme Court

John Dan Kemp

Chief Justice

Robin F. Wynne

Associate Justice - Position 2

Shawn A. Womack

Associate Justice - Position 5

Courtney Hudson Goodson

Associate Justice - Position 3

Karen R. Baker

Associate Justice - Position 6

Josephine Linker Hart

Associate Justice - Position 4

Rhonda K. Wood

Associate Justice - Position 7

According to the Arkansas Constitution, justices are required to be licensed attorneys for eight years immediately preceding the date of assuming office. Many justices spend much more than the required eight years practicing as lawyers or serving as judges on a trial court. As a result, each member of the Court brings a unique background, set of experiences, and perspectives to the bench.



COURT OF APPEALS

Since its creation in 1978, the Arkansas Court of Appeals has worked with the Supreme Court to provide major relief for the tremendous increase in appeals, which first challenged the Arkansas appellate court system during the 1970s.

The number of appeals continued to grow at such a tremendous rate, however, that the Court of Appeals was no longer able to accommodate further increase.

Legislation first adopted during the 1993 legislative session increased the Court of Appeals to twelve members from six members. Three new judges were added in 1996 and an additional three judges were added in 1997. The twelve member court sits in four panels of three.

The workload of the Court of Appeals is measured by the number of appeals, petitions, and motions considered by the Court during the fiscal year.

Appeals filed during 2017 totaled 1,151 cases. Disposed cases totaled 1,667 cases, for a case clearance rate of 145%.

Workload is also measured by the number of opinions written by the judges of the Court of Appeals. In 2017, the judges wrote a total of 732 majority, concurring, dissenting, and per curiam opinions.

The average time for a case from submission to majority opinion was 20 days. The median time was 14 days, meaning that the majority opinion was issued in fewer than 14 days in half of cases and longer than 14 days in half.



COURT OF APPEALS SUMMARY REPORT

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Case Type	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Appeal by State	9	0	9	0
Appellate Felony	250	177	269	158
Appellate Misdemeanor	21	7	22	6
Appellate Writ - Other - Criminal	1	0	1	0
Appellate Writ - Other - Civil	5	0	4	1
Civil Appeal Administrative	1	5	1	5
Civil Appeal Circuit	400	234	429	204
Civil Petition for Review	2	0	2	0
Dept Workforce Service	223	491	582	87
DHS Juvenile Appeal	54	116	128	42
Incarcerated Civil Appeal	1	1	1	1
Interlocutory Appeal	8	14	10	12
Juvenile Civil Appeal	7	0	7	0
Juvenile Delinquency Appeal	13	6	14	5
Original Action	0	1	0	1
Post Conviction Appeal	14	25	25	14
Probate Appeal	20	25	22	23
Public Service Commission	9	1	9	1
Worker's Compensation	109	48	131	26
WR Certiorari - Criminal	1	0	0	1
WR Certiorari - Civil	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	1,149	1,151	1,667	587

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.



Members of the Arkansas Court of Appeals

Rita W. Gruber

Chief Judge - Position 1
District 6

Ray Abramson

Judge - Position 1
District 1

Phillip Whiteaker

Judge - Position 2
District 1

Bart Virden

Judge - Position 1
District 2

Mike Murphy

Judge - Position 2
District 2

Robert J. Gladwin

Judge - Position 1
District 3

Kenneth S. Hixson

Judge - Position 2
District 3

Brandon Harrison

Judge - Position 1
District 4

David M. Glover

Judge - Position 2
District 4

Mark Klappenbach

Judge
District 5

Larry D. Vaught

Judge - Position 2
District 6

Waymond M. Brown

Judge
District 7

HISTORY OF COURT OF APPEALS

In response to the increasing backlog of cases pending before the Arkansas Supreme Court, effective July 1, 1979, the Arkansas General Assembly established a Court of Appeals composed of six members. The Court handed down its first opinions for publication on August 8, 1979.

Although the creation of the Court of Appeals provided relief for the Arkansas Supreme Court, the latter's growing docket required more. In 1995, the Arkansas General Assembly enlarged the Court of Appeals to nine judges, and in 1997 to the twelve members we have on the Court today.

Pursuant to Act 1812 of 2003, the State of Arkansas is divided into seven districts for the election of judges to the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and the dates of electing the judges within each of these districts is established.

The jurisdiction of the Arkansas Court of Appeals is determined by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

There is no right of appeal from the Arkansas Court of Appeals to the Arkansas Supreme Court. However, opinions decided by the Arkansas Court of Appeals may be reviewed by the Arkansas Supreme Court on application by a party to the appeal, upon certification of the Arkansas Court of Appeals, or if the Arkansas Supreme Court decides the case is one that should have originally been assigned to the Supreme Court.

APPEALS ON WHEELS



Appeals on Wheels is an outreach program to teach students about their court system.

Twice each year, the Supreme Court holds oral argument outside of Little Rock, inviting local students to attend, watch the proceedings, and ask questions of the justices afterwards.

In April 2017, the Arkansas Supreme Court travelled to Clinton to hold oral argument at Clinton High School in the case of *Arkansas State Police v. Keech*.

In October 2017, it heard oral argument at Fayetteville High School in the case of *Laron Edward Williams v. State of Arkansas*.



SUPREME COURT BOARDS & COMMITTEES

The Arkansas Supreme Court carries out many of its administrative responsibilities through the work of several committees, commissions, and boards. Each is made up of judges, attorneys, and lay persons and one liaison justice of the Supreme Court. Staffing for the committee is provided by the Office of Professional Programs, the Office of Professional Conduct, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The 2017 committees include the following:

Arkansas Access to Justice Commission (AATJ)

The mission of AATJ is to coordinate statewide efforts to ensure that all Arkansans have a fair opportunity to be heard in court in civil matters.

The AATJ works with a variety of partners who share their vision. Together, they undertake innovative projects to accomplish this mission, as well as efforts to increase the financial and pro bono resources available to meet the civil legal needs of low-income Arkansans.

Arkansas Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP)

The mission of JLAP is to protect the interests of clients, litigants, and the general public from harm caused by impaired lawyers or judges; to assist impaired members of the legal profession to begin and continue recovery; and to educate the bench and the bar to the causes of and remedies for impairments affecting members of the legal profession.

Board of Certified Court Reporter Examiners

The board oversees the examination and certification of court reporters and makes certain that all certified court reporters comply with Administrative Order 4 and also the Court Reporter Rules and Regulations.

Client Security Fund Committee

This committee was established to provide reimbursement to individuals who have lost money or property as a result of the dishonest conduct of an attorney practicing law in the State of Arkansas. The fund provides a remedy for clients who are unable to obtain reimbursement from any other source.

Commission on Children, Youth, and Families

The commission was created to study and recommend improvements to state courts and state court practice for children, youth, and families who are involved in proceedings in Arkansas courts. Its goals are to develop and sustain a collaborative model among leaders in the state that will produce improved outcomes for children, youth, and families in Arkansas courts; identify, recommend, implement, and evaluate improvements for courts in order to be more effective in achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for children and youth; promote data-driven, evidence-based practices in the courts; promote fairness and due process for all parties and provide appropriate access to courts for foster parents and relative care givers; promote appropriate training for all participants in the child welfare and juvenile justice system.



Committee on Automation

The committee's charge is to fully study all issues relating to the automation of the courts and to make recommendations for a master plan of automation.

Committee on Child Support

The Supreme Court Committee on Child Support is appointed by the Court to examine and, if needed, revise the child support guidelines (the family support chart) and to establish the criteria for deviation from the chart. The Committee consists of, at a minimum, one Court of Appeals judge, four circuit judges, one legal services attorney, one Office of Child Support Enforcement attorney, two attorneys from the private bar, and one member of the Arkansas General Assembly. Each state is required by federal law to review its child support guidelines every four years.

For Arkansas, this Committee conducts that review for the Supreme Court at least every four years, but recommendations to the Court concerning the guidelines and Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 10 may be made at any time.

Committee on Civil Practice

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice considers proposals and recommendations for changes in rules of procedure affecting civil practice. Recommendations are submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court. Members are appointed to three year terms.

Committee on Criminal Practice

The Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Criminal Practice considers proposals and recommendations for changes in rules of procedure affecting criminal practice. Recommendations are submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court. Members are appointed to three-year terms.

Committee on Model Jury Instructions - Civil

The Committee adopts model jury instructions for civil cases. Members are appointed to three-year terms.

Committee on Model Jury Instructions - Criminal

The Committee adopts model jury instructions for criminal cases. Members are appointed to three-year terms.

Committee on Professional Conduct

The Committee operates to adjudicate professional conduct charges brought before it by the Office of Professional Conduct (OPC) against Arkansas-licensed attorneys. The Committee consists of four panels, each comprised of five attorneys and two non-attorneys, all appointed by the Arkansas Supreme Court for six-year terms.

OPC staff receives grievances, investigates, charges as indicated by the evidence, and prosecutes formal complaints before the Committee panels and on appeals or disbarments before the Supreme Court. In the five year period through 2015, OPC has received an annual average of 729 grievances and filed 71 formal complaints. In 2015, 744 grievances were received and 51 formal Complaints filed.

Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness

Provides assistance and support to cities and counties in the adoption of local court security plans and the provision of court security for circuit and district courts; coordinates training programs for court security officers, and provides assistance to courts when incidents occur.

Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law

The UPL Committee determines probable cause to proceed and adjudicates formal charges developed by its staff attorney at OPC against any person or entity believed to be engaged in the unauthorized practice of law.

The Committee is composed of four attorneys and three non-attorneys appointed by the Arkansas Supreme Court for three-year terms. The Committee can issue cease-and-desist opinions.



If legal action against a party is deemed necessary, such action is filed in the circuit court for injunctive relief. In the five year period through 2015, the UPL Committee received an annual average of 32 complaints, 31 files were opened for investigation, and 10 UPL violations were found. In 2015, 27 complaints were received, 5 went to investigation, and 0 UPL violations were found.

Continuing Legal Education Board

The CLE Board is responsible for the supervisory authority over the Arkansas Supreme Court Rules for Minimum Continuing Legal Education.

These responsibilities include imposition of sanctions for noncompliance of the CLE requirements in Arkansas as well as the implementation and administration of the Rules. The Board has the exclusive authority for accreditation of continuing legal education sponsors and programs in Arkansas.

The Board handles all matters of reinstatement for those attorneys who have failed to comply with their annual requirements.

District Court Resource Assessment Board

The board is directed by statute to meet on or before the first Tuesday of the December before each regular session of the General Assembly to consider making a recommendation to the General Assembly for the creation and placement of new district court judgeships; any redistricting of the district courts; and the reorganization, consolidation, abolition, or creation of any district court(s) or district court judgeships.

The statute also requires the Board to meet upon the end of the term, resignation, retirement, death, or election to another judicial office of any district judge to recommend the reorganization, consolidation, abolition, or continuation of that district court judgeship to the General Assembly before the next regular session, fiscal session, or special session or during the current session.

Board of Law Examiners

The Board is responsible for obtaining and providing the questions to be used on all Bar Exams given in Arkansas. The Board members are also responsible for the grading of all essay answers of all applicants of the Arkansas Bar Exam.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Law Examiners to certify all applicants who have attained a passing score on the Bar Exam, secured a required scaled score on the MultiState Professional Responsibility Exam; and satisfied all requirements of the Standards for Admission.

The Board is responsible for the review and certification of all applicants seeking Admission by Motion, Readmission to the Bar of Arkansas after surrender or disbarment and those filing Petitions for Reinstatement after failing to pay annual license fees for a period of more than three (3) years. The Board conducts all hearings on applicants presenting Character and Fitness issues in their applications.



FUNDING OF THE JUDICIARY



Arkansas courts are financed through state, county, and city appropriations. The degree of funding from each source depends upon the level of jurisdiction of the court being funded. State government is the sole funding source for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, appellate court support staff, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. In addition, the state funds the salaries and costs of travel and educational assistance for circuit judges, and the salaries for court reporters and trial court assistants. The state also pays for one-half of the salaries of the juvenile intake and probation officers who serve the judges of the juvenile division.

In 1995, the General Assembly enacted legislation which laid the groundwork for the state to begin the assumption of the responsibility for funding all court-related personnel at the trial court level. In that year, funding was provided for salaries for trial court administrative assistants for each trial judge. In 1998, the costs of the public defender system were assumed by the state. Legislation in 1999 provided for the state to being able to pay the

salaries and expenses of deputy prosecuting attorneys in January 2000. Even with these additional costs, the funds appropriated to the courts and for court-related activities represent less than one percent of the total state government operating appropriation.

County government is the funding source for the salaries of circuit court support and clerical staff and for all supplies, equipment, utilities, and facilities within each judicial circuit. Each county within the circuit provides funding according to its pro rata share of the district-wide court expenses and is solely responsible for the costs of facilities and utilities within the county. County funding also includes juvenile intake and probation officer staff for the judiciary.

The county government also shares with city government the cost of the district court. The county share is usually 50%, but there are numerous exceptions to this pattern in a variety of locally-negotiated arrangements.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The office of Alternative Dispute Resolution assists in the work of the ADR commission in the implementation of programs and the education and certification of professional mediators.

Jennifer Taylor

Alternative Dispute Resolution Director
jennifer.taylor@arcourts.gov

Court Interpreters

Court Interpreter Services provides interpreting services for individuals who have a limited ability to understand English, are deaf or hard of hearing, or are unable to speak.

Mara Simmons

Court Interpreter Services Director
mara.simmons@arcourts.gov

Security and Emergency Preparedness

The office of Court Security and Emergency Preparedness oversees the Supreme Court's improvements to security and emergency preparedness for all the courts of the state, assisting courts in developing security plans,

coordinating training programs for court security officers, and providing assistance to courts when incidents occur.

Pete Hollingsworth

Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness

pete.hollingsworth@arcourts.gov

Domestic Violence Program

The Domestic Violence Program develops education resources and provides technical assistance to the Arkansas Judiciary on issues related to domestic violence. Services include training and education programs for judges, providing legal research and recommended judicial best practices, and maintaining the Domestic Violence Program webpage connected to the Arkansas Judiciary website.

Kristin Clark

Attorney, District Courts
kristin.clark@arcourts.gov

Judicial Branch Education Division

The Judicial Branch Education Division provides educational and training programs



for judges, court clerks, trial court assistants, court reporters, probation officers, other court personnel, and the public. In 2017, the judicial branch education division provided 31 programs and reached 1,993 learners.

Ben Barham

Director of Judicial Education
ben.barham@arcourts.gov

Juvenile Division

The Juvenile Division strives to encourage best judicial practices; promote data-driven, evidence-based practices in our courts; coordinate and provide training for participants in the Juvenile Division Courts; provide the Juvenile Division of Circuit Court with resources to better serve the children and families who appear before the court; ensure that the well-being of children, youth, and families is a high priority within the Arkansas judicial system; and provide leadership in bringing diverse groups together to better serve children and families who enter our court system.

Jennifer Craun

Juvenile Division Director
jennifer.craun@arcourts.gov

Juvenile Attorney ad Litem (AAL) Program

The Juvenile AAL program provides qualified attorneys to represent all children in dependency-neglect proceedings pursuant to Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 15. In 2017, AALs provided representation to 11,287 children in 5784 dependency-neglect cases.

Stasia Burk McDonald

Attorney Ad Litem Program Director
stasia.mcdonald@arcourts.gov

Court-Appointed Special Advocate (ARCASA) Program

ARCASA promotes and supports local CASA programs to provide qualified volunteer advocates in our courts to work with Attorneys Ad Litem to help dependent-neglected children reach safe, permanent homes. In 2017, ARCASA provided grants, technical assistance and training to 23 local CASA programs with a total of 1,439 volunteers who advocated for 4,520 youth.

Mary Beth Luibel

State CASA Coordinator
marybeth.luibel@arcourts.gov

Parent Counsel Program

The Parent Counsel Program provides representation to indigent parents or custodians in dependency-neglect cases. Parent Counsel represented an average of 2,922 parents per month across the state, with each contractor representing an average of 46.3 parents per month throughout the year.

Brian D. Welch II

Parent Counsel Program Director
brian.welch@arcourts.gov

Court Improvement Program (CIP)

The Court Improvement Program is an initiative to support improvements in child abuse and neglect cases, focusing on improving the quality of representation and court proceedings and on using court technology to improve court practice.

Carol A. Fletcher

CIP Director
carol.fletcher@arcourts.gov



Juvenile Officer Certification

Juvenile Officer Certification is provided by the Juvenile Division at the AOC based on a curriculum from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges adapted to Arkansas. All juvenile officers must complete the course in their first year of employment and complete 12 hours of continuing education each year. In 2017, 38 new juvenile officers completed certification training.

Jennifer L. Craun

Juvenile Justice Division Director
jennifer.craun@arcourts.gov

Legal Services

The attorneys in the Legal Division provide ongoing legal assistance to judges and court personnel throughout the state.

Larry Brady

Legal Services Director
larry.brady@arcourts.gov

Brooke Steen

Attorney, Circuit Court Domestic Relations/
Probate
brooke.steen@arcourts.gov

Krystal Mann

Attorney, Circuit Court Civil and Criminal
krystal.mann@arcourts.gov

Kristin Clark

Attorney, District Courts
kristin.clark@arcourts.gov

Attorneys within this division manage the Domestic Relations and Probate Attorney Ad Litem program.

Specialty Court Programs

The Specialty Court Coordinator serves as the coordinator of all specialty court program activities in the state. These responsibilities include the training and continuing education of specialty court judges and their staff, development of a centralized management information system to evaluate and report on specialty court activities, and the coordination of the work of judges, the Department of Community Correction, treatment providers, and others.

Janet Hawley

Specialty Court Coordinator
janet.hawley@arcourts.gov

Office of Research and Justice Statistics

The mission of the Office of Research and Justice Statistics is to support the Arkansas Judiciary, employees of the judicial branch, attorneys, and members of the public with relevant and accessible data to improve the court system's efficiency, accessibility, and fairness to all.

The office works to improve the quality and actionability of court data, produces the statistical guide for Arkansas Courts, responds to data requests, and produces statistical and research reports.

Diane Robinson

Office of Research and Justice Statistics
Director
diane.robinson@arcourts.gov



Supreme Court Library

The Supreme Court library serves the justices and staff of the Arkansas Supreme Court, the judges and staff of the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and support staff located within the Justice Building. The library is also open to the general public and participates as a selective depository in the federal government document and Arkansas state government document programs.

Ava Hicks

Supreme Court Library Director
ava.hicks@arcourts.gov

Court Information Services

The Court Information Systems Division (CIS) is responsible for providing technological support to the state's courts, maintaining accurate information regarding court case loads, and for managing the Arkansas Court Automation Programs, a statewide initiative to automate jury and case management in Arkansas courts.

Tim Holthoff

CIS Division Director
tim.holthoff@arcourts.gov

In 2017, the following courts went on Contexte: Crittenden County District Courts (West Memphis & Marion), Cleburne County Circuit Court, Fulton County Circuit Court, and Izard County Circuit Court.

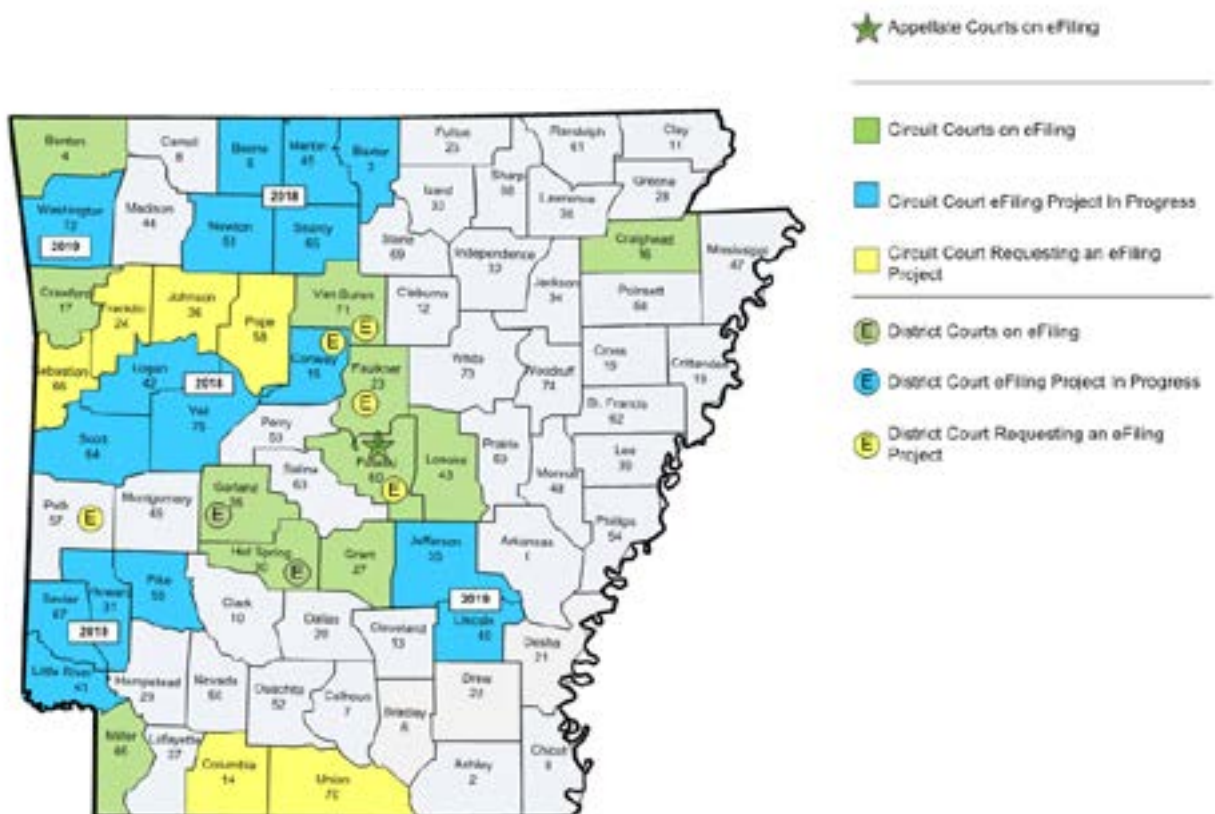
The following courts went on eFiling: Craighead County Circuit Court, 18th East Judicial Circuit Court and Garland County District Court.



ARKANSAS COURTS ON eFILING

Circuit Court & District Court as of December 2017

(Court code shown below county name)

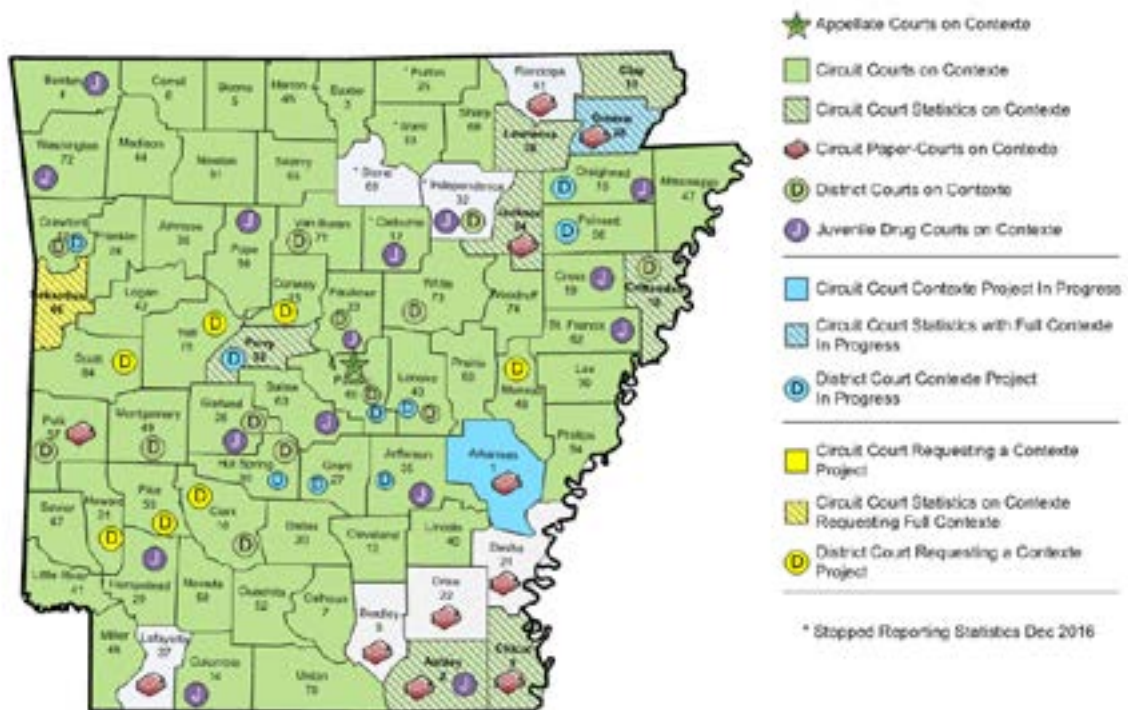




ARKANSAS COURTS ON CONTEXTE

Circuit Court & District Court as of December 2017

(Contexte court code shown below county name)





JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Arkansas Judicial Council consists of all judges of the circuit courts, Court of Appeals, Justices of the Supreme Court, retired justices and judges, and the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Council acts as the official body representing the state's judiciary.

It was organized to “foster and preserve the integrity, dignity, and independence of the judiciary; to promote uniformity and dispatch in judicial administration; to develop, implement, and maintain a program of judicial education assisting members newly elected or appointed to the bench; to provide continuing judicial education for members accommodating the diverse needs of chancellors, circuit judges, and appellate justices; and to select members to the Judicial Retirement Board.”

The Council has specific statutory responsibility of making recommendations to the General Assembly on judicial redistricting and the addition of new judgeships in the state. Formal business of the Council is conducted in spring and fall meetings each year.



Judicial Council Officers and Board of Directors

Front Row (L to R):

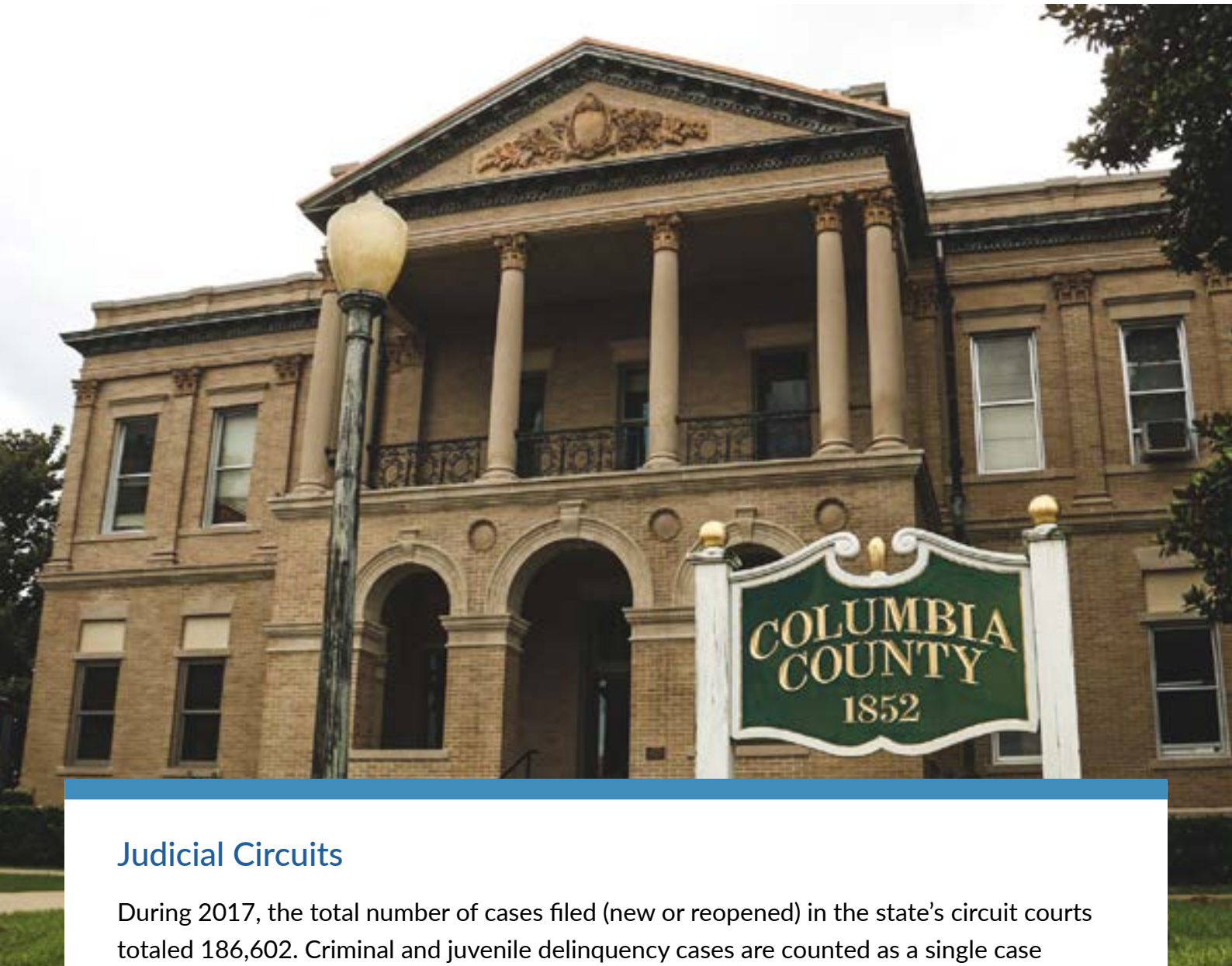
Hon. Ann Hudson, Justice Shawn Womack, Hon. Wiley Branton, Hon. David Guthrie, Hon. Mary McGowan, and AOC Director Marty Sullivan.

Back Row (L to R):

Hon. Carlton Jones, Hon. Herb Wright, Hon. Joanna Taylor, Hon. Edwin Keaton, Hon. Mike Medlock, and Hon. Leon Johnson.



COURTS OF GENERAL JURISDICTION



Judicial Circuits

During 2017, the total number of cases filed (new or reopened) in the state's circuit courts totaled 186,602. Criminal and juvenile delinquency cases are counted as a single case regardless of the number of charges filed. The 53,803 criminal cases filed involved 105,234 individual charges. Of those, 91,519 charges were disposed.

Overall, Arkansas circuit courts disposed of 167,361* cases in 2017. The number of cases pending at the end of 2017 was 255,676. The clearance rate compares the number of dispositions to the number of filings. The clearance rate for all courts of general jurisdiction was 89% in 2017.

**Dispositions are under-reported from our paper-reporting courts.*



ARKANSAS CIRCUIT COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	36,535	40,993	34,428	43,100
Criminal	72,032	53,803	42,166	83,669
Domestic Relations	45,065	49,431	47,312	47,184
Juvenile	17,929	22,248	20,917	19,260
Probate	67,051	20,127	20,444	66,734
TOTAL	238,612	186,602	165,267	259,947

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.



Arkansas Judicial Circuits

121
Total Judges



28
Judicial Circuits

For each judicial district, a summary of caseload and case distribution is provided in the coming pages of this report.

For details about circuit court administrative plans:

<https://arcourts.gov/courts/circuit-courts>





FIRST CIRCUIT



The First Judicial District is located in the eastern part of the state and is composed of Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis, and Woodruff counties. The circuit spans a total of 3,915 square miles and serves a population of 93,718.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. E. Dion Wilson	Division 1
Hon. Richard L. Proctor	Division 2
Hon. Christopher W. Morledge	Division 3
Hon. Chalk S. Mitchell	Division 4
Hon. Ann B. Hudson	Division 5

Additionally, Division 3 hears the Fine Collection Court in St. Francis County and Division 4 hears the Fine Collection Court in Lee County.



FIRST CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,975	1,330	1,039	2,266
Criminal	2,682	1,625	1,513	2,794
Domestic Relations	3,333	1,730	1,645	3,418
Juvenile	878	549	364	1,063
Probate	2,261	587	306	2,542
TOTAL	11,129	5,821	4,867	12,083

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	46%	43%	5%	0%	5%	
2	19%	34%	5%	0%	8%	
3	16%	10%	10%	0%	31%	St. Francis County Adult Drug Court
4	17%	12%	16%	0%	49%	
5	2%	1%	64%	100%	7%	St. Francis County & Cross County
District Court	Uncontested debt collection, real estate foreclosure, garnishment, orders of dismissal		St. Francis County agreed orders or modifications, temporary orders of protection, OCSE Show Cause		St. Francis County agreed post-guardianship orders, PC hearings in commitment cases	
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	



SECOND CIRCUIT



The Second Judicial Circuit is located in the northeast part of the state and is composed of Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Mississippi, and Poinsett counties. The circuit is the second largest in the state, spanning a total of 4,253 square miles and including 9 courthouses. The circuit serves a population of 276,581.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Pam Honeycutt	Division 1
Hon. Richard Lusby	Division 2
Hon. Brent Davis	Division 3
Hon. Cindy Thyer	Division 4
Hon. Ralph Wilson	Division 5
Hon. Tonya Alexander	Division 6
Hon. Barbara Halsey	Division 7
Hon. John N. Fogleman	Division 8
Hon. Melissa Richardson	Division 9
Hon. Dan Ritchey	Division 10
Hon. Randy Philhours	Division 11



SECOND CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	5,665	3,857	3,365	6,157
Criminal	9,501	6,594	5,457	10,638
Domestic Relations	5,037	5,370	4,983	5,424
Juvenile	1,452	2,506	2,274	1,684
Probate	10,308	1,606	1,108	10,806
TOTAL	31,963	19,933	17,187	34,709

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Clay ED 50%; Crittenden 33%	Clay ED 50%; Craighead WD 25%; Poinsett 33%	9.5%		9.5%	
2	Craighead WD 33%; Crittenden 33%; Green 50% Chickasawba 50%		11.5%	Delinquency & FINS 25%	11.5%	Craighead County Juvenile Drug Court
3	Clay WD 50%	Clay WD 25%; Greene 33%; Chickasawba 33%	13.3%		13.3%	Greene County Drug Court



SECOND CIRCUIT

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
4	Clay WD 50%; Osceola 50%	WD 50%; Craighead WD 25%; Chickasawba 33%	3.6%	Clay Delinquency & FINS 25%; Craighead DN 60%, Delinquency and FINS 25%; Remaining Counties Delinquency & FINS 25%	3.6%	Crittenden County Drug Court
5	33%	Chickasawba 33%; Osceola 50%	11.8%	Crittenden, Mississippi; Poinsett DN	11.8%	Mississippi County Drug Court
6	Chickasawba & Osceola 50%	Craighead WD 25%	10%	Delinquency & FINS 25%	10%	Craighead and Crittenden County Mental Health Court
7	Poinsett 50%	Greene & Poinsett 33%	3.4%	Delinquency & FINS 25%; Greene DN 100%	3.4%	
8	Craighead WD 33%	Crittenden & Poinsett 33%	8.8%		8.8%	
9	Craighead WD 33%; Greene 50%	Greene 33%	10.3%	Clay DN; Craighead DN 24%;	10.3%	Craighead County Drug Court
10	Craighead ED 100%; Poinsett 50%	Craighead ED 100%; Crittenden 33%; Osceola 50%	10.6%		10.6%	
11	Clay ED 50%	Clay ED 50%; Craighead WD 25%; Crittenden 33%	7.2%		7.2%	
District Court	Emergency or uncontested nature		Emergency or uncontested nature		Emergency or uncontested nature	Craighead County Sobriety or Domestic Violence Court



THIRD CIRCUIT



The Third Judicial Circuit is located in the northern part of the state and is composed of Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph, and Sharp counties. The circuit spans a total of 2,532 square miles and serves a population of 70,645.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Harold. Erwin Division 1

Hon. Timothy Watson Division 2

Hon. Kevin King **Division 3**



THIRD CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,489	754	624	1,619
Criminal	1,357	1,116	924	1,549
Domestic Relations	1,351	1,148	956	1,543
Juvenile	1,076	844	539	1,381
Probate	1,826	650	495	1,981
TOTAL	7,099	4,512	3,538	8,073

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	33%	50%		Delinquency Revocations		Jackson County Drug Court
2	33%	50%	100%		50%	Lawrence & Randolph County Drug Courts
3	33%		Child support and orders of protection	100%	50%	



FOURTH CIRCUIT



The Fourth Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Madison and Washington counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,793 square miles and serves a population of 218,782.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Doug Martin	Division 1
Hon. John Threet	Division 2
Hon. Stacey Zimmerman	Division 3
Hon. Cristi Beaumont	Division 4
Hon. Beth Storey Bryan	Division 5
Hon. Mark Lindsay	Division 6
Hon. Joanna Taylor	Division 7



FOURTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,080	3,263	2,868	1,475
Criminal	5,736	4,969	4,103	6,602
Domestic Relations	828	3,065	3,129	764
Juvenile	609	2,007	1,667	949
Probate	1,473	1,302	1,301	1,474
TOTAL	9,726	14,606	13,068	11,264

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	50%		Orders of Protection 33.3%		25%	
2	25%		20% generally; Orders of Protection 33.3%		25%	
3		Detention hearings for juveniles charged as adults		100%		Juvenile Drug Court



FOURTH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
4			40%			Drug Court; Veterans' Court
5	25%		20% generally; Orders of Protection 33.3%		25%	
6		Washington 75%; Madison 100%	filed 1/1/15-4/15/16		open prior to 1/1/13	
7		Washington 25%; Juveniles charged as adults	20% generally; reopen of Div 6 cases closed as of 1/1/2015		25%	



FIFTH CIRCUIT



The fifth Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Franklin, Johnson, and Pope counties. The circuit spans a total of 2,133 square miles and serves a population of 105,419.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. William M. Pearson	Division 1
Hon. Gordon "Mack" McCain, Jr.	Division 2
Hon. Ken D. Coker, Jr.	Division 3
Hon. Dennis C. Sutterfield	Division 4



FIFTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	563	1,347	1,059	851
Criminal	1,269	1,928	1,827	1,370
Domestic Relations	1,591	1,856	1,720	1,727
Juvenile	331	710	696	345
Probate	2,830	829	1,393	2,266
TOTAL	6,584	6,670	6,695	6,559

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Pope 20%; Johnson 40%; Franklin 40%	100%				
2		Search Warrants; PC & Bond Hearings	Pope 60%; Johnson 60%; Franklin 80%		100%	Johnson County Drug Court; Franklin County Drug Court
3	Pope 20%			100%		Juvenile Drug Court
4	60%	Search Warrants; PC & Bond Hearings	Pope 40%; Johnson 40%; Franklin 20%			Pope County Drug Court



SIXTH CIRCUIT



The Sixth Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Perry and Pulaski counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,368 square miles and is the state's most populous, serving a population of 401,729.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Leon Johnson	Division 1	Hon. Joyce Williams Warren	Division 10
Hon. Chris Piazza	Division 2	Hon. Patricia James	Division 11
Hon. Cathleen V. Compton	Division 3	Hon. Alice Gray	Division 12
Hon. Herbert T. Wright	Division 4	Hon. W. Michael Reif	Division 13
Hon. Wendell Griffen	Division 5	Hon. Vann Smith	Division 14
Hon. Tim Fox	Division 6	Hon. Richard Moore	Division 15
Hon. Barry Sims	Division 7	Hon. Morgan E. Welch	Division 16
Hon. Wiley Branton	Division 8	Hon. Mackie Pierce	Division 17
Hon. Mary McGowan	Division 9		



SIXTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	8,499	7,740	6,789	9,450
Criminal	20,433	7,644	3,290	24,787
Domestic Relations	8,533	6,386	5,767	9,152
Juvenile	5,427	1,985	1,793	5,619
Probate	10,060	3,279	3,084	10,255
TOTAL	52,952	27,034	20,723	59,263

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1		27.5%				
2	15.5%	9%				
3			19%		16.7%	
4		27.5%				
5	15.5%	9%				
6	24.5%					
7		27.5%				
8				33.3%		



SIXTH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
9	8.5%					Drug Court; Veterans' Treatment Court
10				33.3%		
11				33.3%		
12	24.5%					
13			19%		16.7%	
14			19%		16.7%	
15			19%		16.7%	
16	4%		15%		16.7%	
17	7.5%		10%		16.7%	



SEVENTH CIRCUIT



The Seventh Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Grant and Hot Spring counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,255 square miles and serves a population of 50,776.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Chris Williams

Division 1

Hon. Eddy Easley

Division 2



SEVENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	577	712	567	722
Criminal	583	784	625	742
Domestic Relations	915	616	669	862
Juvenile	522	331	532	321
Probate	1,457	331	272	1,516
TOTAL	4,054	2,774	2,665	4,163

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	50%	50%; Plea & Arraignment 100%; Misdemeanor Appeal 100%	50%; Orders of Protection 100%; OCSE 100%	0%	50%	Drug Court
2	50%	50%	50%	100%	50%	Swift Court
District Court	Unlawful detainer; uncontested motions & garnishments	Search Warrants; Arrest Warrants; First Appearances	Uncontested divorces; orders of protection;			



EIGHTH CIRCUIT NORTH



The Eighth North Judicial Circuit is located in the southwest part of the state and is composed of Hempstead and Nevada counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,326 square miles and serves a population of 31,606.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. William Randal Wright

Division 1

Hon. Duncan Culpepper

Division 2



EIGHTH CIRCUIT NORTH

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	630	397	285	742
Criminal	1,676	735	516	1,895
Domestic Relations	1,380	641	561	1,460
Juvenile	217	420	444	193
Probate	1,800	233	60	1,973
TOTAL	5,703	2,426	1,866	6,263

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	50%	50%	50%	Dependency Neglect	50%	Juvenile Drug Court; Swift Court
2	50%	50%	50%	Delinquency & FINS	50%	Adult Drug Court
District Court		Search Warrants; Arrest Warrants; First Appearances	Uncontested divorces; Orders of Protection; First Appearances			



EIGHTH CIRCUIT SOUTH



The Eighth South Judicial Circuit is located in the southwest part of the state and is composed of Lafayette and Miller counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,182 square miles and serves a population of 51,107.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Carlton D. Jones	Division 1
Hon. Brent Haltom	Division 2
Hon. Kirk Johnson	Division 3



EIGHTH CIRCUIT SOUTH

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	683	645	491	837
Criminal	1,524	1,435	1,405	1,554
Domestic Relations	1,088	907	888	1,107
Juvenile	137	298	255	180
Probate	1,368	339	136	1,571
TOTAL	4,800	3,624	3,175	5,249

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	Drug Court
2	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	
3	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	



NINTH CIRCUIT EAST



The Ninth East Circuit is located in the southwest part of the state and is composed of Clark County. The circuit spans a total of 882 square miles and serves a population of 22,995.

The current judge is:

Hon. Gregory Vardaman (beginning 5/1/17) Division 1



NINTH CIRCUIT EAST

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	247	227	289	185
Criminal	788	194	255	727
Domestic Relations	424	324	381	367
Juvenile	339	68	14	393
Probate	895	178	234	839
TOTAL	2,693	991	1,173	2,511

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

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CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
District Court	Forcible Entry; Detainer; Collection Cases	Search Warrants; Arrest Warrants	Uncontested Divorces			Circuit Drug Court District Drug Court



NINTH CIRCUIT WEST



The Ninth West Judicial Circuit is located in the southwest part of the state and is composed of Howard, Little River, Pike, and Sevier counties. The circuit spans a total of 2,380 square miles and serves a population of 55,309.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Tom Cooper

Division 1

Hon. Charles Yeargan

Division 2



TENTH CIRCUIT



The Tenth Judicial Circuit is located in the southeast part of the state and is composed of Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha, and Drew counties. The circuit spans a total of 3,939 square miles and serves a population of 76,678.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Sam Pope	Division 1
Hon. Kenny Johnson	Division 2
Hon. Bynum Gibson	Division 3
Hon. Steven Porch	Division 4
Hon. Teresa French	Division 5



TENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	836	1,008	788	1,056
Criminal	1,245	994	1,009	1,230
Domestic Relations	1,491	1,926	1,918	1,499
Juvenile	304	950	997	257
Probate	1,631	573	477	1,727
TOTAL	5,507	5,451	5,189	5,769

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Ashley 30%	50%	OCSE Bradley			Drew County Adult Drug
2	Bradley 40%		100% non OCSE cases		Ashley 50%	
3	Bradley 60%; Desha 60%; Drew 60%; Ashley 70%; Chicot 70%	Ashley 50%; Drew 50%	OCSE Ashley			Drew County Adult Drug
4	Drew 40%; Chicot 30%; Desha 40%	Bradley 50%; Chicot 50%; Desha 50%	OCSE Chicot & Desha		50%	Chicot & Desha County Swift Court



TENTH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
5			Chicot & Desha Orders of Protection	100%	Commitments	Ashley County Juvenile Drug Court
District Court	Forcible Entry; Detainers; Unlawful Detainer	Arrest Warrants; First Appearances	OCSE Drew; Uncontested Divorces; Order of Protection: Ashley, Bradley & Drew			



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT EAST



The Eleventh East Judicial Circuit is located in the southeast part of the state and is composed of Arkansas County. The circuit spans a total of 1,033 square miles and serves the smallest population of all the state's circuits with a population of 19,019.

The current judge is:

Hon. David Henry

Division 1



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT WEST



The Eleventh West Judicial Circuit is located in the southeast part of the state and is composed of Jefferson and Lincoln counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,485 square miles and serves a population of 91,569.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Alex Guynn	Division 1
Hon. Robert Wyatt, Jr.	Division 2
Hon. William Benton	Division 3
Hon. Leon Jamison	Division 4
Hon. Jodi Dennis	Division 5
Hon. Earnest E. Brown, Jr.	Division 6



ELEVENTH CIRCUIT WEST

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	932	1,245	1,023	1,154
Criminal	2,002	1,101	886	2,217
Domestic Relations	1,721	2,150	1,927	1,944
Juvenile	290	1,376	1,279	387
Probate	3,030	529	397	3,162
TOTAL	7,975	6,401	5,512	8,864

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Civil Forfeiture	54%				Drug Court
2	70%	12%				
3			50%		50%	
4			50%		50%	
5	30%; Inmate post-conviction	34%; inmate post-conviction	Inmate cases only		Inmate cases only	
6				100%		Juvenile Drug Court; Family Treatment Drug Court
District Court		First Appearances; Bond Hearings; P&A; Rule 8.1 Hearings				



TWELFTH CIRCUIT



The Twelfth Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Sebastian County. The circuit is comprised of the smallest geographic area of all the state's circuits totaling 581 square miles and serving a population of 125,744.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Steve Tabor	Division 1
Hon. Annie Hendricks	Division 2
Hon. Shannon Blatt	Division 3
Hon. Leigh Zuerker	Division 4
Hon. Michael Fitzhugh	Division 5
Hon. James Cox	Division 6



TWELFTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	741	1,906	1,514	1,133
Criminal	3,040	5,113	3,844	4,309
Domestic Relations	1,088	1,762	1,871	979
Juvenile	464	1,720	1,810	374
Probate	1,943	996	1,187	1,752
TOTAL	7,276	11,497	10,226	8,547

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

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CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	33%	33%				50% Drug Court; Veterans' Court
2			50%	DN 33%	45%	
3			50%	DN 33%	45%	
4				DN 34%; Delinquency & FINS 100%		
5	33%	33%				50% Drug Court
6	34%	34%			10%	



THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT



The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is located in the south central part of the state and is composed of Calhoun, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Ouachita, and Union counties. The circuit is the state's largest, spanning a total of 4,461 square miles and serving a population of 114,484.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Hamilton Singleton	Division 1
Hon. Spencer Singleton	Division 2
Hon. Edwin Keaton	Division 3
Hon. Robin Carroll	Division 4
Hon. David W. Talley, Jr.	Division 5
Hon. David Guthrie	Division 6



THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,842	1,347	1,182	2,007
Criminal	2,367	1,811	1,447	2,731
Domestic Relations	2,711	2,097	1,973	2,835
Juvenile	740	590	437	893
Probate	5,768	755	663	5,860
TOTAL	13,428	6,600	5,702	14,326

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1		Union 50%	Calhoun 50%; Cleveland 50%; Dallas 50%; Columbia 25%; Ouachita 33%		Cleveland 100%; Ouachita 100%	Union County Adult Drug Court; Union County Swift Court
2			Calhoun 50%; Cleveland 50%; Dallas 50%; Union 50%; Columbia 25%; Ouachita 33%		Union 50%	



THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
3	Dallas 25%	Ouachita 50%	Columbia 25%; Union 25%; Ouachita 33%	Ouachita 50%; Union 50%	Dallas 100%	Ouachita Adult Drug Court
4	Calhoun 25%; Cleveland 25%; Columbia 25%; Ouachita 25%; Union 25%	Calhoun 100%; Dallas 100%; Ouachita 50%; Union 50%			Calhoun 100%, except guardianship	
5		Cleveland 100%; Columbia 100%	Columbia 25%	Calhoun 100%; Cleveland 100%; Columbia 100%; Dallas 100%; Ouachita 50%; Union 50%	Columbia 100%	Columbia Adult Drug Court; Columbia Juvenile Drug Court
6	75%		Union 25%		Calhoun Guardianships; Union 50%	
District Court		Felony Warrants; Search Warrants; First Appearances; In Union, forcible Entry; Detainers; Unlawful Detainers				



FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT



The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit is located in the north part of the state and is composed of Baxter, Boone, Marion, and Newton Counties. The circuit spans a total of 2,652 square miles and serves a population of 103,399.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Gail Inman-Campbell	Division 1
Hon. Deanna "Suzie" Layton	Division 2
Hon. John Putman	Division 3
Hon. Gordon Webb	Division 4



FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	678	1,097	1,034	741
Criminal	975	1,254	1,319	910
Domestic Relations	868	1,796	1,877	787
Juvenile	677	268	496	449
Probate	1,839	788	1,447	1,180
TOTAL	5,037	5,203	6,173	4,067

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	33%		50% except OCSE 100%			
2				100%	100%	
3	33%	50%	25%			
4	33%	50%	25%			Boone & Newton County Drug Court; Baxter & Marion County Drug Court
District Court		Forcible Entry; Detainers; Unlawful Detainers	Orders of Protection			



FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT



The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is located in the northern part of the state and is composed of Conway, Logan, Scott, and Yell counties. The circuit spans a total of 2,915 square miles and serves a population of 77,044.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Jerry Don Ramey

Division 1

Hon. David McCormick

Division 2

Hon. Terry Sullivan

Division 3



FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	857	1,039	831	1,065
Criminal	1,087	1,323	1,377	1,033
Domestic Relations	1,437	1,476	1,313	1,600
Juvenile	707	717	624	800
Probate	1,652	630	581	1,701
TOTAL	5,740	5,185	4,726	6,199

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

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CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Conway 33%	100%			67% Adult Protective Services	Conway Cty. Drug Court
2	67%		Conway 100%, excluding OCSE; Yell-Dardanelle 100%; Logan 67%; Scott 67%; Yell- Danville 67%		67%, excluding Adult Protective Services	
3	Scott 33%; Logan 33%; Yell 33%		Conway 100% OCSE; Logan 33%; Scott 33%, 100% OCSE; Yell- Danville 33%, Dardanelle OCSE	100%	33%	



SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT



The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit is located in the north central part of the state and is composed of Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, IZard, and Stone counties. The circuit spans a total of 3,177 square miles and serves a population of 100,952.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Maureen Harrod	Division 1
Hon. Don McSpadden	Division 2
Hon. Lee Harrod	Division 3
Hon. Tim Weaver	Division 4



SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	891	1,028	444	1,475
Criminal	1,214	1,143	322	2,035
Domestic Relations	1,028	1,565	1,249	1,344
Juvenile	677	720	425	972
Probate	1,116	764	440	1,440
TOTAL	4,926	5,220	2,880	7,266

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	100%	Fulton, Izzard & Stone Orders of Protection			100% excluding guardianship & adoption	
2			100% excluding OCSE and permanent; Orders of Protection		guardianship & adoption 100%	



SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
3			100% OCSE	100%		Juvenile Drug Court; Veterans Drug Court; Independence Swift Court and Drug Court in Independence, Cleburne, Stone and Icard/Fulton Counties
4		100%				Adult Drug Courts; Swift Court; Veterans' Court
District Court			Cleburne Orders of Protection; Independence Orders of Protection			



SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT



The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Prairie and White counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,718 square miles and serves a population of 85,791.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Tom Hughes	Division 1
Hon. Robert Edwards	Division 2
Hon. Craig Hannah	Division 3



SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	890	906	772	1,024
Criminal	920	1,370	1,282	1,008
Domestic Relations	911	1,666	1,650	927
Juvenile	163	533	537	159
Probate	1,627	463	490	1,600
TOTAL	4,511	4,938	4,731	4,718

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	White 75%; Prairie 100%	Prairie 100%	Orders of Protection White 50%; OCSE 100%		White 75%	
2		White 100%		DN in White 100%; Prairie 100%		
3	White 25%		White County 100%, except: 50% Orders of Protection & OCSE; Prairie 100%	Delinquency & FINS in White 100%	White 25%; Prairie 100%	Drug Court



EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT EAST



The Eighteenth East Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Garland County. The circuit spans a total of 734 square miles and serves a population of 96,024.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. John Homer Wright	Division 1
Hon. Wade Naramore	Division 2
Hon. Lynn Williams	Division 3
Hon. Marcia Hearnberger	Division 4



EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT EAST

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	890	1,626	1,458	1,058
Criminal	797	938	887	848
Domestic Relations	850	1,606	1,536	920
Juvenile	186	901	917	170
Probate	2,247	768	1,085	1,930
TOTAL	4,970	5,839	5,883	4,926

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	35%	50%	10%		25%	Adult Drug Court
2			45%	Delinquency & FINS	25%	Juvenile Drug Court
3	40%		25%	Dependency-Neglect	25%	
4	25%	50%	20%		25%	
District Court						District Drug Court; Veteran Treatment Court; DWI Court



EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT WEST



The Eighteenth West Judicial Circuit is located in the western part of the state and is composed of Montgomery and Polk counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,662 square miles and serves a population of 30,149.

The current judge is:

Hon. Jerry Ryan Division 1



NINETEENTH CIRCUIT EAST



The Nineteenth East Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Carroll County. The circuit was created in 1999 when it was separated from what is now the Nineteenth West Circuit. The circuit spans a total of 638 square miles and serves a population of 27,446.

The current judge is:

Hon. Scott Jackson

Division 1



NINETEENTH CIRCUIT WEST



The Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Benton County. The circuit was created in 1999 when it was separated from what is now the Nineteenth East Circuit. The circuit spans a total of 880 square miles and serves a population of 221,339.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Robin Green	Division 1
Hon. Brad Karren	Division 2
Hon. Thomas Smith	Division 3
Hon. John Scott	Division 4
Hon. Xollie Duncan	Division 5
Hon. Doug Schrantz	Division 6



NINETEENTH CIRCUIT WEST

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,044	2,869	2,417	1,496
Criminal	4,152	3,238	2,836	4,554
Domestic Relations	885	2,738	2,798	825
Juvenile	571	1,841	1,850	562
Probate	1,787	1,099	2,233	653
TOTAL	8,439	11,785	12,134	8,090

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

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CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	10%	50%				
2	10%	50%				
3			10%	100%	10%	Veterans' Court; Adult Drug Court; Juvenile Drug Court; Family Treatment Drug Court
4	27%		30% generally; 33% Orders of Protection		30% generally; 33% civil commitment	



NINETEENTH CIRCUIT WEST

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
5	27%		30% generally; 33% Orders of Protection		30% generally; 33% civil commitment	
6	26%		30% generally; 33% Orders of Protection		30% generally; 33% civil commitment	



TWENTIETH CIRCUIT



The Twentieth Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Faulkner, Searcy, and Van Buren counties. The circuit spans a total of 1,934 square miles and serves a population of 138,727.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Chris Carnahan	Division 1
Hon. Troy Braswell	Division 2
Hon. Charles E. Clawson, Jr.	Division 3
Hon. David Clark	Division 4
Hon. H.G. Foster	Division 5



TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	1,456	2,116	1,760	1,812
Criminal	2,411	2,253	1,791	2,873
Domestic Relations	1,907	2,208	2,729	1,386
Juvenile	771	571	810	532
Probate	2,268	842	783	2,327
TOTAL	8,813	7,990	7,873	8,930

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More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Faulkner 65%; Van Buren 50%; Searcy 70%		Faulkner 35% generally, 50%OCSE; Van Buren 20%; Searcy 40%	Van Buren & Searcy 100% DN	Van Buren & Searcy 50% generally; 100% Adult Protective Services	
2	Faulkner 25%; Van Buren 50%; Searcy 30%	Juveniles charged as adults	Van Buren 20%	Delinquency; FINS; Juvenile Civil Commitments		Juvenile Drug Court; Teen Court
3	Faulkner 10%; Civil Forfeitures with Companion Criminal Cases	100%			15% generally; Civil Commitments	Adult Drug Court; Veterans' Court



TWENTIETH CIRCUIT

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
4			Faulkner 50%; Van Buren & Searcy 60% generally; 100% OCSE	Faulkner 100% DN	60% generally; 100% adult protective services	
5	Van Buren & Searcy - Civil Forfeitures with companion criminal case	Van Buren & Searcy - 100%; Faulkner - Domestic Battery; Misdemeanor Appeals	Faulkner - 15% generally. 100% Orders of Protection and cases involving Orders of Protection; Van Buren & Searcy - 100% Orders of Protection and cases involving Orders of Protection		Faulkner 25%; Civil Commitments	Van Buren & Searcy - Adult Drug Court



TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT



The Twenty-First Judicial Circuit is located in the northwest part of the state and is composed of Crawford County. The circuit was created in 1997 when it was separated from what is now the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. The circuit spans a total of 604 square miles and serves a population of 61,948.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Gary Cottrell Division 1

Hon. Mike Medlock **Division 2**



TWENTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	482	735	654	563
Criminal	1,200	1,888	1,865	1,223
Domestic Relations	543	992	941	594
Juvenile	107	541	561	87
Probate	359	346	458	247
TOTAL	2,691	4,502	4,479	2,714

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	60%	60%	40%		100%	Drug Court
2	40%	40%	60%	100%		



TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT



The Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Saline County. The circuit was created in 1999 when it was separated from what is now the Seventh Judicial Circuit. The circuit spans a total of 898 square miles and serves a population of 107,118.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Bobby McAllister (through 12/15/17)	Division 1
Hon. Barbara Webb	Division 1
Hon. Gary Arnold	Division 2
Hon. Grisham Phillips	Division 3
Hon. Robert Herzfeld	Division 4



TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	954	1,421	1,242	1,133
Criminal	1,474	1,214	1,118	1,570
Domestic Relations	1,192	1,452	1,291	1,353
Juvenile	137	764	809	92
Probate	3,236	850	935	3,151
TOTAL	6,993	5,701	5,395	7,299

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1		20%	80%, except child support			
2	40%	50%		DN 100%		Hope Court
3	60%	30%	OCSE/Child Support			Drug Court
4	10%		20%, except child support	Delinquency FINS	100%	Juvenile Drug Court; Hope Court (secondary)
District Court		Benton: First Appearance	Bryant: Orders of Protection; Uncontested Adoptions			Misdemeanor DWI Court



TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT



The Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit is located in the central part of the state and is composed of Lonoke County. The area had previously been designed as the Seventeenth West Circuit until it was renamed by the 1999 General Assembly. The circuit spans a total of 802 square miles and serves a population of 68,356.

The current judges and the division they hold are as follows, with Administrative Judge in bold:

Hon. Barbara Elmore	Division 1
Hon. Ashley Parker	Division 2
Hon. Sandy Huckabee	Division 3



TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT

COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Issue Area	Pending Start	Filed	Cases Disposed	Pending End
Civil	618	1,083	952	749
Criminal	824	1,270	1,146	948
Domestic Relations	898	1,684	1,582	1,000
Juvenile	91	365	358	98
Probate	660	541	563	638
TOTAL	3,091	4,943	4,601	3,433

Pending start are those cases open on January 1, 2017. Filed refers to cases entering the court system in 2017, either as new cases or as reopened cases. Disposed refers to cases closed during 2017. Pending end are those cases open on December 31, 2017. Criminal cases are based on the number of defendants and not charges. To see the number of criminal charges filed and disposed, see the statistical supplement to the annual report.

More detailed data and information available at: arcourts.gov/stats.

CASE DISTRIBUTION BY DIVISION

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Division	Civil	Criminal	Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Probate	Specialty Court
1	Miscellaneous civil	33%	100%, except 50% divorce	100%		
2		33%	50% divorce			
3	Torts, Real Property, Contracts	33%			100%	Drug Treatment Court; Veterans' Treatment Court



LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

District Courts

District courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. There are two types of district courts:

- State District Courts
- Local District Courts

In 2017, thirty-one (31) State District Court Judicial Districts had been established covering forty-six (46) counties. These state district courts were served by fifty-four (54) full time state district court judges.

There were twenty-nine (29) counties with local district courts. These local district courts were served by thirty-seven (37) part time local district court judges.

State District Courts

State district courts exercise territorial jurisdiction within judicial districts established by the General Assembly. This jurisdiction may be city wide, county wide, or may combine more than one county into a judicial district.

These courts have subject matter jurisdiction over traffic violations, misdemeanors offenses, violations of state law and local ordinances, preliminary felony matters, and civil matters involving contracts, damage to personal property and recovery of personal property where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000.00.



LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

Additionally, Supreme Court Administrative Order 18 provides that a state district court judge may be referred matters pending in the circuit court including but not limited to protective orders, forcible entry and detainer, unlawful detainer and matters of an emergency or uncontested nature.

The small claims division provides a forum for citizens to represent themselves in matters involving contracts, damage to personal property and recovery of personal property where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$5,000.00. These cases are tried informally with relaxed rules of evidence.

Local District Courts

Local district courts are served by part-time judges who may also engage in the practice of law. Local district courts exercise territorial jurisdiction within judicial districts established by the General Assembly. This jurisdiction may be city wide or county wide.

These courts have subject matter jurisdiction over traffic violations, misdemeanors offenses, violations of state law and local ordinances, preliminary felony matters and civil matters involving contracts, damage to personal property and recovery of personal property where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$5,000.00. Additionally, local district courts have a small claims division.

Arkansas District Judges Council

The Arkansas District Judges Council members include currently serving judges of the district courts of this state and retired judges who served as district court judges for at least ten (10) years. The council works to promote the common professional interests of its members and conducts formal business meetings in the spring and fall of each year.

Current President: Hon. Stephanie Casady

The Arkansas District Court Clerks' Association is responsible for the certification of these limited jurisdiction court clerks and works to represent their interest.

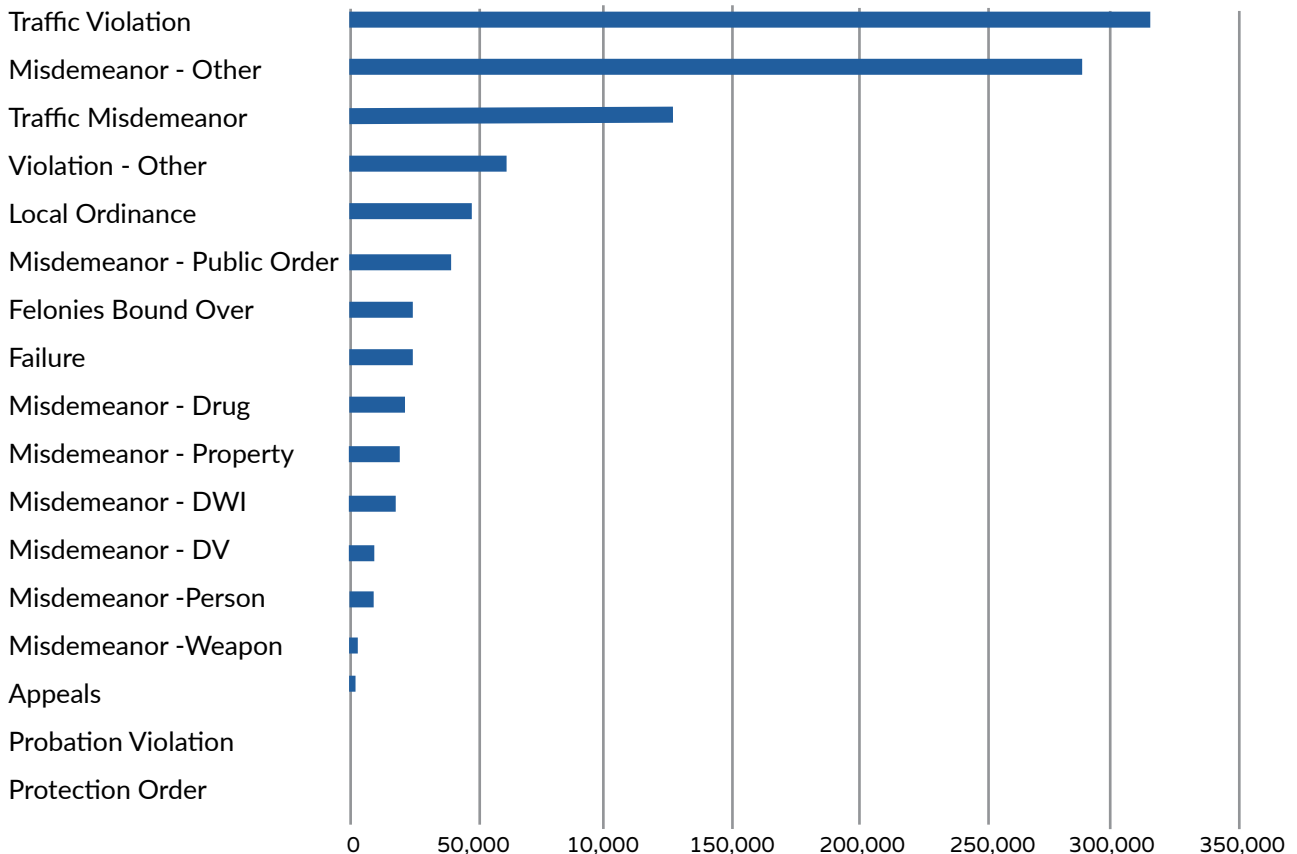
Current President: Jennifer Lopez-Jones



LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

During 2017, the total number of cases filed (new or reopened) in the state’s limited jurisdiction courts totaled 1,035,013. In district court, each individual charge is counted as a case. Criminal, traffic, and local ordinance cases made up 982,817 of those cases. Traffic charges constitute a majority of charges heard in district court, with 312,070 violations, 122,987 misdemeanors, and 15,299 misdemeanor DWIs. Violations of local ordinances make up 49,114 of the filings.

Criminal, Traffic, and Local Ordinance Cases

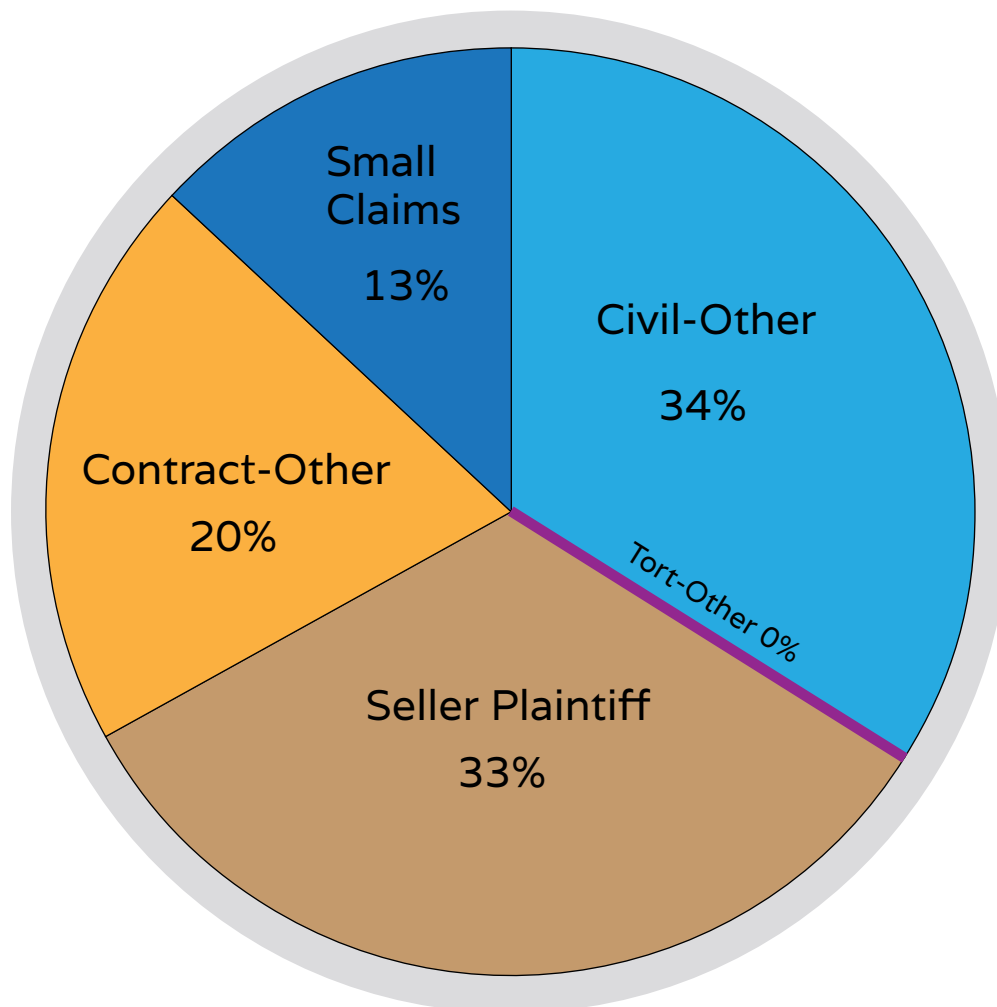




LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

In 2017, there were 52,196 civil cases filed in district court. The largest category was civil-other, with 17,653 cases filed, followed by seller plaintiff cases, with 17,138 cases filed. There were 6,608 small claims cases.

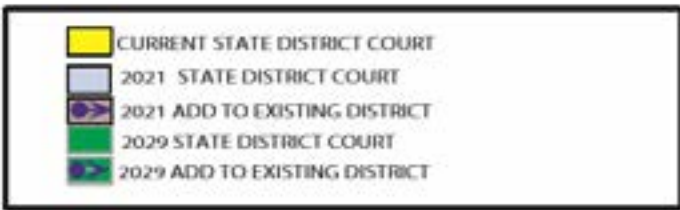
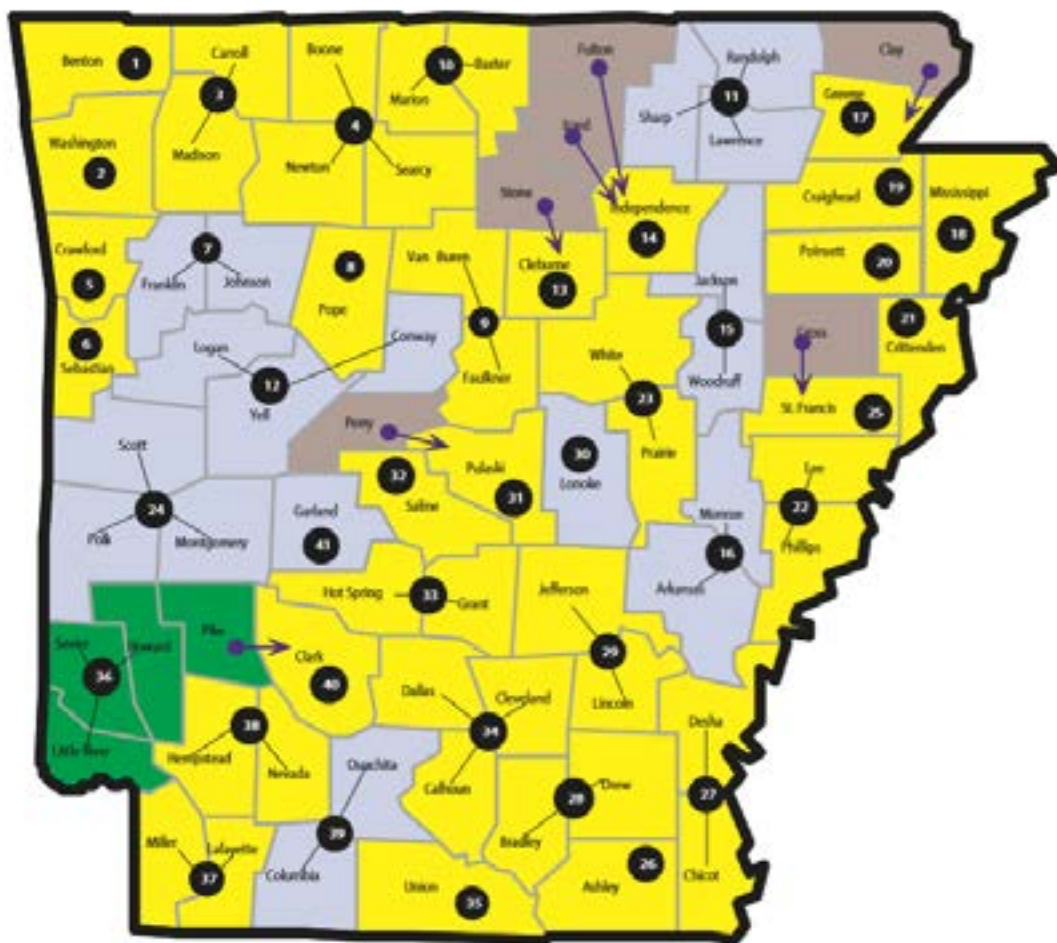
Civil & Small Claims Cases





LIMITED JURISDICTION COURTS

State District Courts



Last Updated: 9/6/2017



2017 STATE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Hon. Reid Harrod
Ashley County – Crossett, Hamburg

Hon. Jason Duffy
Baxter County – Briarcliff, Cotter, Gassville,
Lakeview, Mountain Home, Norfolk, Salesville
Marion County – Yellville, Bull Shoals, Flippin

Hon. Jeff Conner
Benton County – Gentry, Decatur, Centeron,
Gravette, Little Flock, Lowell, Sulphur Springs

Hon. Stephen Thomas
Benton County – Bethel Heights, Siloam
Springs

Hon. Ray Bunch
Benton County – Bentonville, Cave Springs,
Pea Ridge, Bella Vista

Hon. Chris Griffin
Benton County – Rogers

Hon. Fred Kirkpatrick
Boone County – Harrison
Carroll County – Alpena
Newton County – Jasper
Searcy County – Marshall

Hon. Bruce Anderson
Bradley County – Warren
Drew County – Monticello

Hon. Ronnie Phillips
Calhoun County – Hampton
Cleveland County – Rison
Dallas County – Fordyce, Sparkman

Hon. Randy Hill
Clark County – Arkadelphia, Amity, Caddo
Valley, Gurdon

Hon. Lance Wright
Cleburne County – Heber Springs, Greens
Ferry, Concord, Quitman

Hon. Thomas Fowler
Craighead County – Jonesboro and Lake City

Hon. David Boling
Craighead County – Jonesboro and Lake City

Hon. Chuck Baker
Crawford County – Van Buren, Alma,
Mountainburg, Mulberry, Dyer

Hon. Fred Thorne
Crittenden County – Earl, Gilmore, Jennette,
Jericho, Marion, Turrell, West Memphis

Hon. Melinda French
Desha County – Dumas, McGehee
Chicot County – Dermott, Eudora, Lake Village

Hon. Susan Weaver
Faulkner County – Conway, Greenbrier, Vilonia
Van Buren County – Clinton, Damascus

Hon. David Reynolds
Faulkner County – Conway, Greenbrier, Guy,
Mayflower
Van Buren County – Clinton

Hon. Emily White
Grant County – Sheridan
Hot Spring County – Malvern, Rockport
Hon. Dan Stidham
Greene County – Marmaduke, Paragould,

Hon. Tony Yocom
Hempstead County – Hope
Nevada County – Prescott



2017 STATE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Hon. Chaney Taylor
Independence County – Batesville

Hon. Kim Bridgforth
Jefferson County – Pine Bluff, Altheimer,
Humphrey, White Hall, Wabbaseka, Redfield
Lincoln County

Hon. John Kearney
Jefferson County – Pine Bluff
Lincoln County

Hon. Phillip Green
Jefferson County
Lincoln County – Star City, Grady, Gould

Hon. Wren Autrey
Lafayette County – Lewisville, Bradley, Stamps
Miller County – City of Texarkana, Miller
County

Hon. Durwood King
Lee County – Marianna
Phillips County – Helena-West Helena, Elaine,
Lake View, Marvell

Hon. Dale Ramsey
Madison County – Huntsville
Carroll County – Berryville, Eureka Springs,
Green Forrest

Hon. Shannon Langston
Mississippi County, Chickasawba District –
Blytheville, Dell, Gosnell, Leachville, Manila

Hon. Donald Betterton
Mississippi County, Osceola District – Osceola

Hon. Mark Pate
Prairie County – Des Arc, Hazen, Biscoe, De
Valls Bluff
White County – Searcy

Hon. Mark Derrick
Prairie County
White County – Beebe, Bald Knob, Bradford,
Judsonia, Kensett, McRae, Pangburn, Rose Bud

Hon. Ron Hunter
Poinsett County – Harrisburg, Lepanto, Marked
Tree, Trumann, Tyronza

Hon. Don Bourne
Pope County – Atkins, Dover, London,
Pottsville, Russellville

Hon. Wayne Gruber
Pulaski County – Pulaski County

Hon. Rita Bailey
Pulaski County – Jacksonville and Maumelle

Hon. Paula Juels Jones
Pulaski County – North Little Rock

Hon. Randy Morley
Pulaski County – North Little Rock

Hon. Vic Fleming
Pulaski County – Little Rock

Hon. Mark Leverett
Pulaski County – Little Rock, Wrightsville,
Cammack Village

Hon. Hugh Finklestein
Pulaski County – Little Rock

Hon. Butch Hale
Pulaski County – Sherwood

Hon. Stephanie Casady
Saline County – Bauxite, Bryant, Haskell,
Shannon Hills
Pulaski County – Alexander



2017 STATE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Hon. Mike Robinson
Saline County – Benton

Hon. Jim O'Hern
Sebastian County,
Fort Smith District – Fort Smith

Hon. Ben Beland
Sebastian County, Fort Smith District – Fort
Smith

Hon. Claire L. Borengasser
Sebastian County, Fort Smith District – Fort
Smith

Hon. Michael Wagoner
Sebastian County, Greenwood District –
Barling, Central City, Greenwood

Hon. Mike Smith
St. Francis County – Forrest City, Madison,
Palestine

Hon. Jack Barker
Union County – El Dorado

Hon. Jeff Harper
Washington County – Springdale, Elm
Springs, Johnson
Benton County – Springdale

Hon. Graham Nations
Washington County – Prairie Grove, Lincoln,
Farmington

Hon. Casey Jones
Washington County – Elkins, Greenland,
West Fork

Hon. William A. Storey
Washington County – Fayetteville

CONTACT INFORMATION

An updated list of current
state district court judges
can be found at:

arcourts.gov/directory





2017 LOCAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Hon. B. Park Eldridge, Jr.
Arkansas County, Southern District – DeWitt,
Gillett, St. Charles

Hon. Jeremy Bueker
Arkansas County, Northern District – Stuttgart

Hon. David Copelin
Clay County – Corning, Piggott, Rector

Hon. David Graham
Columbia County – Magnolia, Waldo

Hon. Dale Lipsmeyer
Conway County – Morrilton, Menifee, Oppelo,
Plumerville

Hon. Mike Smith
Cross County – Wynne, Cherry Valley, Parkin

Hon. Paul Efurd
Franklin County, Charleston District –
Charleston

Hon. Ray Spruell
Franklin County, Ozark District – Ozark, Altus

Hon. Johnnie Copeland
Fulton County – Salem, Mammoth Springs

Hon. Meredith Switzer
Garland County – Hot Springs, Mountain Pine

Hon. Ralph Ohm
Garland County – Hot Springs, Mountain Pine

Hon. Jessica Steele Gunter
Howard County – Nashville

Hon. David Miller
Izard County – Melbourne, Horseshoe Bend

Hon. Barbara Griffin
Jackson County – Newport, Diaz, Swifton,
Tuckerman

Hon. Len Bradley
Johnson County – Clarksville, Lamar, Coal Hill

Hon. Adam Weeks
Lawrence County – Hoxie, Walnut Ridge, Black
Rock, Portia

Hon. John C. Finley, III
Little River County – Ashdown, Winthrop,
Foreman

Hon. Brian Mueller
Logan County, Southern District – Booneville,
Magazine,

Hon. David Rush
Logan County, Northern District – Paris

Hon. Clint McGue
Lonoke County, Northern District – Cabot,
Ward, Austin

Hon. Teresa Smith
Lonoke County, Southern District – Lonoke,
England, Carlisle, Allport, Humnoke

Hon. John W. Martin
Monroe County – Brinkley

Hon. David Carruth
Monroe County – Clarendon, Holly Grove

Hon. William McKimm
Montgomery County – Mount Ida

Hon. Phil Foster
Ouachita County – Camden



2017 LOCAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Hon. Dan Ives
Ouachita County – East Camden, Bearden,
Chidester, Stephens

Hon. Andy Gill
Perry County – Perryville

Hon. Dana Stone
Pike County – Murfreesboro, Glenwood

Hon. Danny Thrailkill
Polk County – Mena

Hon. John Throesch
Randolph County – Pocahontas

Hon. Donald Goodner
Scott County – Waldron

Hon. Many Wood
Sevier County – DeQueen

Hon. Mark R. Johnson
Sharp County – Ash Flat, Cherokee Village

Hon. Jacob L. Newton
Stone County – Mountain View

Hon. John Eldridge, III
Woodruff County – Augusta, Cotton Plant,
McCrary, Patterson

Hon. Carol Collins
Yell County, Northern District

Hon. Deidre Luker
Yell County, Southern District



SPECIALTY COURTS

Adult Drug Court

A specially-designed court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent substance abusing offenders and to increase the offender's likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2005).

Juvenile Drug Court

Located within the juvenile or family court system, juvenile drug court is a program to which selected delinquency cases, and in some instances status offenders, are referred for handling. The youths referred to this docket are identified as having problems with alcohol and/or other drugs (Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance: Juvenile Drug Courts, Strategies in Practice 2003).



SPECIALTY COURTS

DWI Court

This court is an accountability court dedicated to changing the behavior of the hardcore DWI offenders. The goal of DWI Court or DWI/Drug Court is to protect public safety by using the highly successful Drug Court model that uses accountability and long-term treatment (National Center for DWI Courts).

Veterans Treatment Court

This court serves justice-involved veterans and sometimes active duty personnel. Courts link veterans facing mental illness, drug addiction/abuse, and/or reintegration issues to services, intensive treatment, and support while promoting sobriety, recovery and stability. Services may include a coordinated response from traditional partners as well as the Department of Veterans' Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, State Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans' families (justiceforvets.org).

Mental Health Court

This court links offenders who would ordinarily be prison-bound to long-term community-based treatment. They rely on thorough mental health assessments, individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs of offenders and public safety concerns of communities. These courts vary as to the types of charges and mental illness diagnoses accepted as well as the participants' demographics and plea requirements, but they are united by the common themes of substituting a problem-solving model for traditional criminal court processing and an emphasis on linking defendants to effective treatment and supports (Center for Court Innovation: www.courtinnovation.org).

H.O.P.E. Court

HOPE Courts are based on the Hawaii Opportunity on Probation with Enforcement



SPECIALTY COURTS

program model. Pilot HOPE courts exist nationwide, including in Arkansas. The program identifies probationers with a high risk for re-offending, focusing on reducing drug use, new crimes and incarceration. Offenders are deterred from using drugs and committing crimes by frequent and random drug tests, backed by swift and certain jail stays, along with treatment when necessary.

Swift Court

Swift courts are pilot program problem solving courts in Arkansas. These courts are similar to HOPE courts, using similar structure and seek similar positive outcomes. While each program is unique, all place emphasis on the certainty of the sanction and the swiftness with which it is applied, rather than the severity of the sanction. Swift and certain sanctioning increases offender compliance with rules of supervision, improving public safety in the short term and allowing for more effective case management. The models distinguish between low and high level offenders and have coordinated responses.

Alternative Sentencing Court

These courts are problem-solving courts in Arkansas that use multiple tracks within their programs for offenders based on risk/need assessment levels. Sanction and incentive responses are tailored to offender track and risk levels. Programs include phase advancement and increased supervision and drug testing.



In Memorium



Judge Lawrence Dawson

November 11, 2017

Hon. Dawson received his Juris Doctorate in 1948 from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He was in private practice for ten years in Pine Bluff.

While in private practice, he also taught Business Law at the Modern School of Business in Pine Bluff and later taught an extension course in Business Law through Monticello A & M.

He served as United States Commissioner and in the Arkansas State House of Representatives from Jefferson county. In 1954 he ran successfully for Municipal Judge and later served as Judge for Jefferson, Arkansas, Lincoln and Cleveland counties.



Judge Perry Whitmore

February 7, 2017

Hon. Whitmore graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1951. He entered law practice in Conway with the late Russell Roberts. Following two years with the Arkansas Insurance Department, he practiced law with the late Joseph Kemp; later he practiced with the firm of Plegge, Lowe, and Whitmore.

From 1978 until 1990, he served as Circuit Judge for Pulaski and Perry counties. He was named Outstanding Trial Judge by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association in 1982 and again in 1989-1990.

Administrative Office of the Courts

Arkansas Justice Building
625 Marshall Street, Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-9400

