Council of State Court Judges

Impartial Courts • Judicial Excellence • Accessible and Efficient Justice

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President (Chatham)

Judge Susan E. Edlein
President-Elect (Fulton)

Executive Director

2025 Fact Sheet

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

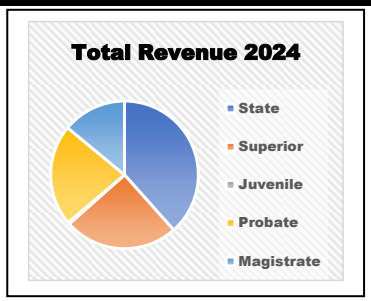
CASES FILED	CY 2024	CY 2023	CY 2022	CY 2013
Number of Misdemeanors Filed	**88,900**	**93,733**	**84,127**	**102,149**
Number of DUI & Serious Traffic Filed	**28,616**	**28,499**	**27,809**	**28,200**
Number of Other Traffic Offenses Filed	**454,964**	**440,232**	**429,607**	**430,943**
Probation Revocations Filed	**24,666**	**24,020**	**16,402**	**36,608**
Landlord Tenant Filed	**14,212**	**10,414**	**626**	**897**
Civil Cases Filed	**102,679**	**79,884**	**60,454**	**77,975**
TOTAL CASES FILED	**714,037**	**676,782**	**619,025**	**676,772**

TOTAL CASES FILED COMPARED WITH OTHER COURTS	CY 2024	CY 2023	CY 2022	CY 2013
STATE COURTS	**714,037**	**676,782**	**619,025**	**676,772**
Superior Courts	333,334	382,407	314,939	388,943
Juvenile Courts	50,547	54,585	52,488	97,899
Probate Courts	313,510	201,771	293,049	207,961
Magistrate Courts (excludes Warrants)*	687,650	477,202	584,591	371,231

TOTAL REVENUES COLLECTED[$]	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2014
STATE COURTS	**$ 144,785,537**	**$ 132,702,001**	**$ 118,260,760**	**$ 120,391,639**
Superior Courts	$ 88,254,582	$ 86,479,383	$ 91,162,889	$ 87,482,048
Juvenile Courts	$ 1,239,767	$ 1,279,901	$ 1,158,288	$ 1,387,742
Probate Courts	$ 78,583,705	$ 76,618,352	$ 80,249,185	$ 63,664,775
Magistrate Courts	$ 53,313,984	$ 48,374,422	$ 40,377,610	$ 51,757,746
TOTAL FOR STATE SYSTEM	**$ 366,177,575**	**$ 345,454,059**	**$ 331,208,732**	**$ 324,683,950**

REVENUES COLLECTED FOR STATE	FY 2024	% of Total	FY 2023	% of Total
State Courts	**$ 25,930,457**	**39.6%**	**$ 21,970,332**	**37.6%**
Superior Courts	$ 20,970,863	32.0%	$ 19,331,030	33.1%
Juvenile, Probate and Magistrate	$ 18,577,707	28.4%	$ 17,142,556	29.3%
TOTAL REMITTED TO STATE	**$ 65,479,027**	**100%**	**$ 58,423,918**	**100%**

TRIAL COURTS / JUDGES		
Superior Courts	159 Courts	227 Judges
State Courts (Fewest Courts)	**72 Courts**	**134 Judges**
Juvenile Courts	159 Courts	152 Judges
Probate Courts	159 Courts	204 Judges
Magistrate Courts	159 Courts	520 Judges
Total	**708 Courts**	**1,237 Judges**



Updated 6/1/2025

HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE COURT JUDGES

In 1967 a group of state court judges and prosecutors created the *Trial Judges and Solicitors Association of Georgia* to promote the effective and efficient administration of justice brought before their courts. In 1980, the judges and solicitors acknowledged that their roles in the judicial system were ethically and constitutionally separate and distinct and the *State Court Judges of Georgia* was organized. In 1988 the General Assembly enacted O.C.G.A. § 15-7-26 creating *The Council of State Court Judges of Georgia* "…to effectuate the constitutional and statutory responsibilities conferred upon it by law and to further the improvement of the state courts, the quality and expertise of the judges thereof, and the administration of justice."

Council policies are set by the Executive Committee and utilize committees for specific issues concerning strategic planning, educational training, new judge mentoring, specialized support surrounding DUI, Mental Health, Domestic Violence and other accountability courts, information technology, uniform rules, performance and feasibility studies among others. Designated State Court Judges serve on judicial branch agencies such as the Judicial Council, Institute for Continuing Judicial Education, the Board of Court Reporting, Georgia Commission on Interpreters, DUI/Drug Court Committee, Judicial Council Domestic Violence Task Force, Chief Justices Commission on Professionalism and Assistance for Pro Se Litigants among others.

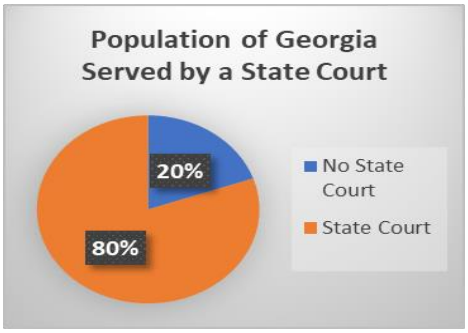
Currently there are 73 State Courts with 134 judges serving the State of Georgia. There are 35 full-time state courts and 38 part-time state courts. A State Court is established by local legislation introduced in the General Assembly. State Court judges are elected to four-year terms in county-wide non-partisan elections. The Governor has the ability to appoint state court judges to fill vacancies.

JURISDICTION

- Criminal and Traffic Misdemeanor cases (including DUI, misdemeanor drug, and serious misdemeanor cases.)
- Civil cases except those in which exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the Superior Courts (i.e. domestic relations, real estate and injunctive relief.)
- Arrest and Search Warrant hearings
- Punishments of contempt by fine not exceeding $500 or 20 days imprisonment, or both
- Appeals from Magistrate Court
- Issuance of Bench Warrants, Bonds, Committal Hearings; Revocation of Probation proceedings
- Assignment of civil cases to arbitration and alternative dispute resolution
- Granting of New Trials
- Direct appeals to the Georgia Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court of Georgia
- Court of Record adhering to the Rules of Evidence, the Civil Practice Act and the Criminal Procedures Act

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Council of State Court Judges is to advance and support the State Court and the quality and expertise of its judges; maintain the impartiality of the judiciary; ensure the fair, efficient, and uniform administration of justice; and enhance public confidence in the judicial system.



State Courts represent only 11% of the State Trial Courts and Judges, but bring in 39.6% of Total Revenues!

Cases Filed Last 3 Years
State Courts: 2,009,844

Revenues For Last 3 Years
State Courts: $504,009,058

QUALIFICATIONS FOR JUDGES

Court	Resident of GA	Age	Licensed Atty.	Practiced Law	Gov. Appoints	Appellate Juris.
Supreme	Yes		Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
Ct. of Appeals	Yes		Yes	7 years	Yes	Yes
Superior	**At least 3 years**	**At least 30**	**Yes**	**7 years**	**Yes**	**Yes**
State	**At least 3 years**	**At least 25**	**Yes**	**7 years**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Juvenile	At least 3 years	At least 30	Yes	5 years	No	No
Probate	At least 2 years	At least 25	No (H.S. Diploma)	No	No	No
Pop. 96,000+		At least 30	Yes	7 years		
Magistrate	At least 1 year	At least 25	No (H.S. Diploma	No	No	No

State Courts are the **ONLY** County funded Court with the same Judicial Qualifications of the State Funded Courts.

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