TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GEORGIA COURTS

Twelfth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts

(July 1, 1984-June 30, 1985)

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December 1985

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The *Twelfth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts* is published by the Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts in compliance with Ga. Laws 1973, p. 288, and by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated June 12, 1978.

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Foreword

This *Twelfth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts,* prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts, is issued pursuant to the requirement of Ga. Laws 1973, p. 288, and Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated June 12, 1978.

Due to the sustained commitment of all judges, clerks and other judicial personnel to the performance of their duties and to the achievement of improvements in the operation of the courts, FY1985 marked the beginning of a new era in trial court operations. This year's primary goal of adopting uniform rules for all classes of trial courts would have been impossible without the dedication, cooperation and hard work of the trial court councils. Because of their earnest efforts, uniform rules were adopted well in advance of the July 1, 1985, due date, and the rules were available to judges and lawyers for study prior to their actual use. Trial court council standing committees continue to monitor and revise their respective rules. All users of our judicial system will certainly recognize the contribution of the superior, state, juvenile, probate and magistrate court judges as each applies uniform rules for the benefit of all.

This past year has also provided an opportunity for judges and other court personnel to look beyond the day-to-day demands of the courts' work and to plan for future improvements in the judicial system. The Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission has addressed both near-term and long-term needs in three areas of committee study: judicial personnel, education and role of the judiciary in the criminal justice system; judicial administration and funding; and court structure, organization and judicial procedure. By May 1985, the Commission had developed about 60 recommendations dealing with these areas. While many of the matters under consideration generated extensive debate, reasoned efforts to resolve differences permitted the Commission to proceed from tentative proposals to definitive recommendations early in FY 1986. All the Commission members, staff and other interested parties who contributed their time and energy in research and deliberations deserve credit for the accomplishment of this important task.

Following the annual study of trial court caseload performed by the Administrative Office of the Courts with the assistance of judicial administrative district personnel, the Judicial Council recommended to the 1985 legislature the creation of superior court judgeships in four judicial circuits, but the General Assembly declined to approve the creation of these positions. Instead, the legislature created a joint study committee to consider alternative methods for equalizing judicial workload. This study committee will issue its report December 1, 1985.

This annual report is to inform the Governor, General Assembly and the public of judicial branch activities carried out in response to the varied duties and responsibilities with which courts, their officials and administrative agencies are charged. Readers are invited to review the following pages to observe ongoing improvement in the administration of justice in Georgia.

Harold N. Hill, Jr.

Harold N. Hill, Jr.
Chairman
Judicial Council of Georgia

Judicial Council of Georgia

December 1985

Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr.
Chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Presiding Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Vice chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judge Henry A. Baker
President
Council of Probate Court Judges
Covington

Chief Judge Harold R. Banke
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Third District
Macon

Presiding Judge A.W. Birdsong, Jr.
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Perry Brannen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
First District
Savannah

Judge George R. Ellis, Jr.
President
Council of State Court Judges
Americus

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Tenth District
Augusta

Judge J. Mike Greene
First vice president
Council of Probate Court Judges
Gray

Judge George W. Harris
President
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Fort Valley

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Second District
Moultrie

Judge John S. Langford
Administrative Judge
Fifth District
Atlanta

Judge Hugh Lawson
President
Council of Superior Court Judges
Hawkinsville

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Eighth District
Sandersville

Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Ninth District
Dalton

Judge Wayne Phillips
First vice president
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Marietta

Judge R. Edward Reddick, Jr.
President-elect
Council of State Court Judges
Springfield

Judge Marvin W. Sorrells
President-elect
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Monroe

Judge Robert B. Struble
President-elect
Council of Superior Court Judges
Toccoa

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Administrative Judge
Fourth District
Decatur

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Manchester

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Sixth District
Griffin

Judge Jere F. White
Administrative Judge
Seventh District
Cartersville

The Courts in Review: FY 1985

Concerted, cooperative efforts made by Georgia court officials in the past several years resulted in the achievement of one of the judicial branch's major goals in 1985, and activities initiated during the year promised future system-wide improvements. Judges and court support personnel engaged in still other administrative pursuits to upgrade services provided by and extended to the judiciary.

Georgia courts' recently assigned rule-making authority culminated in the adoption of uniform court rules for the superior, state, juvenile, probate and magistrate courts. All five trial court councils submitted drafts of revised rules to the Supreme Court by October 1, 1984 following numerous committee meetings and council sessions, to comply with constitutionally ordered horizontal uniformity within each class of court. Success in attaining significant vertical uniformity in the court rules evolved through compromise and a focus on anticipated benefits to all parties in the rule-making process. The final rules for all courts were published in the *Georgia Advance Sheets* prior to mid-May and were made effective with the beginning of the 1986 fiscal year.

Governor Harris' Judicial Process Review Commission (JPRC), established by the 1984 General Assembly, conducted its first hearings November 1-2, 1984 to receive comments from officials of a number of agencies representing all three governmental branches, as well as nonprofit organizations. The commission met in January 1985 to finalize its agenda, and by May had drafted a tentative summary of issues and recommendations. The three topical areas of study addressed by the JPRC committees included (1) personnel, education and the judiciary's role in the criminal justice system, (2) administration and funding, and (3) court structure, organization and procedure. Together, the commission members, including judges, court personnel, attorneys and legislators, addressed more than 30 related issues in their final discussions and deliberations.

A number of recommendations relating to the judicial branch were submitted to the Governor by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council late in 1984 and became legislative objectives at the 1985 session of the General Assembly. Many of the proposals centered around sentencing and probation practices with the purpose of coordinating judicial policy and expressing a need for priorities. The council also recommended that the Governor urge the legislature to appropriate funds necessary to implement a unified juvenile court system for the state.

Judicial branch appropriations increased 7.6 percent to $35.5 million for fiscal year 1986 (see table, p. 4). Of the $2.5 million in additional funds, all but $24,150 was designated for continuing operations. Most of the increase was earmarked for cost-of-living raises and increased contributions to retirement systems.

For the first time in the last decade, judicial branch appropriations as a percentage of the total state budget declined -- from 0.78 percent in FY 1985 to 0.74 percent in FY 1986. With higher overall state revenue collections for the 1985 tax year, other government agencies were awarded a proportionately larger share of funds.

The 1985 legislature addressed a number of issues relating to salaries, administration and court procedure. Although recommended for salary adjustments by the State Commission on Compensation, appellate and superior court judges did not receive base pay increases but were granted raises as a result of the legislative approval of the seven percent cost-of-living increase for state officials and employees effective with the 1986 fiscal year. Probate judges received a two-stage increase in their minimum salaries, taking effect July 1, 1985 and January 1, 1987, and a $50 monthly raise for hearing traffic cases and the same increase for conducting county elections. A 10 percent increase in minimum salaries was approved for superior court clerks for January 1, 1986. Additionally, legislative action raised superior court judges' and dis-

trict attorneys' secretaries' base annual salaries, constructed a pay schedule and made provisions for maximum merit and cost-of-living increases for these personnel.

One administrative measure established superior court representation on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council by adding a superior court judge to the council's membership. Another measure provided for the statutory creation of the Council of Superior Court Judges which was state funded for the first time in fiscal year 1985 and which, with the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, is one of only two trial court councils receiving state funds for operations.

The nationwide push for victim/witness legislation was felt in Georgia as the General Assembly modified criminal procedures in consideration of the rights of victims and witnesses. Judges were given discretion to allow victims to be present in court and to determine when a victim may testify. Judges were also granted authority to consider victim impact statements in sentencing and ordering restitution if a criminal defendant caused injury in committing a crime. Finally, approval was given to a measure which requires judges to clear the courtroom when children under 16 years of age testify during prosecution of a sex offense.

In declining to act on recommendations for four new superior court judgeships, the legislature imposed a moratorium on establishing judicial offices and set up a study committee to investigate the costs and benefits of circuit reapportionment or caseload reassignment in dealing with excessive caseload burdens. Its action interrupted a 15-year trend in creating new judicial circuits and/or superior court judgeships in response to heavy judicial workloads. The joint legislative committee was assigned the specific task of studying whether the two alternatives could minimize the need for costly new judgeships without impairing judicial efficiency or adversely increasing workloads.

Minimal change was directed toward limited jurisdiction courts in 1985. An additional judgeship for the State Court of DeKalb County was approved, bringing to four the number of judges presiding there. The legislature provided for the abolishment of the State Court of Bacon County, which had been created in 1984 but had never become operational.

For the second consecutive year, open caseload in the superior courts decreased, with the reduction attributed to efforts of trial judges and clerks in ridding their dockets of inactive cases, identifying scheduling priorities and attending to the handling of older cases in general. The almost 14 percent decrease in total open caseload combined with a 1.7 month decline in time required to process an average case to reflect the diligent work by court officials in processing their caseloads.

On November 5, 1984, the first woman to serve on a Georgia appeals bench was sworn in as judge of the nine-member Court of Appeals. Seven months earlier the first black judge was appointed to the same judicial body.

The five councils of trial court judges remained active during the year in planning for anticipated needs and in dealing with immediate concerns. The councils devoted much of their resources to the development and review of uniform court rules as required by the 1983 Georgia Constitution. They presented recommendations to and tracked the progress of the Judicial Process Review Commission. The councils representing the state, probate and magistrate court judges each requested, but were not appropriated, $20,000 in state funds for operating and meeting expenses. The superior, state and juvenile court councils worked with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) in planning for continuing education, and the probate and magistrate court judges, through their training organizations (Executive Probate Judges Council, Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council), assessed training needs and scheduled required programs in conjunction with ICJE.

At mid-year, the Court of Appeals changed leadership with the court's election of a new chief judge, Harold R. Banke. In assuming administrative responsibility for the court, Chief Judge Banke moved to equalize administrative duties among the nine judges, and the court adopted an administrative management plan in February. Near the end of the fiscal year, the court conducted its own, initial study of caseload for the two-year period January 1, 1983-December 31, 1984.

Also during the year, the judiciary of limited jurisdiction courts led an effort to obtain liability insurance under the State Employees Comprehensive Liability Insurance program for coverage for liabilities arising out of the performance of official duties and for which there may be no protection under judicial immunity. However, a bill authorizing the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide for such coverage or contracts of indemnity for judges and their employees was not passed by the legislature.

Five-Year Comparison for Judicial Budget (1982-1986)

Fiscal year	Total state appropriation	Increase	Judicial appropriation	Increase	Percent of state budget
1982	$3,522,966,448	$305,909,743	$24,305,842	$3,751,435	0.69%
1983	3,685,528,666	162,562,218	26,590,315	2,284,473	0.72%
1984	3,960,829,559	275,300,893	30,010,038	3,419,723	0.76%
1985	4,364,827,675	403,998,116	33,042,076	3,032,038	0.76%
1986	4,838,000,000	473,172,325	35,559,999	2,517,923	0.74%

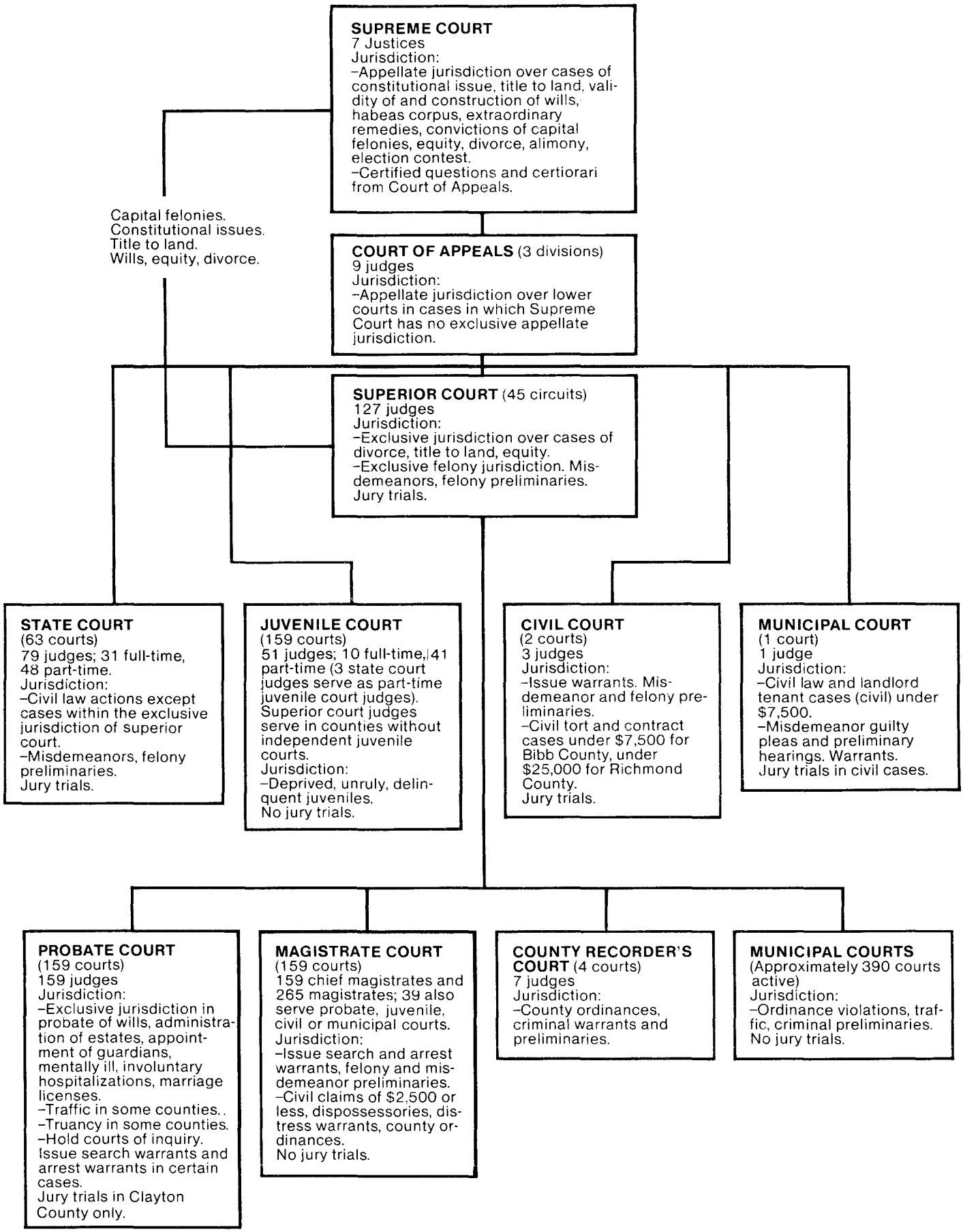
State Appropriations for the Judicial Branch: Fiscal Years 1984, 1985 and 1986

Court or Agency	FY 1984 Amended Appropriation	FY 1985 Amended Appropriation	Percent Change FY '84-85	FY 1986 General Appropriation	Percent Change FY '85-86
Supreme Court	$ 2,976,368	$ 3,072,016	3.2	$ 3,174,486	3.3
Court of Appeals	3,104,662	3,337,970	7.5	3,606,414	8.0
Superior Courts (Total)	23,017,170	25,583,882	11.2	27,572,779	7.8
Operations	21,903,474	24,378,138	11.3	26,258,697	7.7
Council of Superior Court Judges	0	54,502	—	51,378	-5.7
Judicial Administrative Districts	523,028	541,766	3.6	609,002	12.4
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council	488,744	498,713	2.0	538,924	8.1
Sentence Review Panel	101,924	110,763	8.7	114,778	3.6
Juvenile Courts (Total)	110,595	129,968	17.5	188,462	45.0
Operations	0	0	—	0	—
Council of Juvenile Court Judges	110,595	129,968	17.5	188,462	45.0
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (Total)	245,060	263,924	7.7	280,912	6.4
Operations	230,000	247,659	7.7	263,500	6.4
Magistrate Courts Training Council	15,060	16,265	8.0	17,412	7.1
Judicial Council (Total)	505,712	553,148	9.4	632,621	14.4
Operations	419,917	469,180	11.7	544,486	16.1
Board of Court Reporting	16,870	18,968	12.4	21,035	10.9
Case Counting	68,925	65,000	-5.7	67,100	3.2
Judicial Qualifications Commission	50,471	101,168	100.4	104,325	3.1
Judicial Branch Total	**$30,010,038**	**$33,042,076**	**10.1**	**$35,559,999**	**7.6**

Judicial Branch Budget Units: FY 85 Funds Available and Expenditures

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Courts	Juvenile Courts	Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	Judicial Council	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Total
FUNDS AVAILABLE								
General Appropriations	$3,137,274	$3,346,132	$25,981,249	$116,930	$263,924	$549,212	$101,168	$33,495,889
Supplemental Appropriations	(65,258)	(8,162)	(397,367)	13,038	0	3,936	0	(453,813)
Governor's Emergency Funds	0	0	0	15,000	0	1,000	0	16,000
Total State Funds	3,072,016	3,337,970	25,583,882	144,968	263,924	554,148	101,168	33,058,076
Federal Funds	0	0	52,039	471,787	4,336	0	0	528,162
Other Funds	427,161	57,367	437,035	12,859	46,784	25,294	0	1,006,500
Total Funds Available	**$3,499,177**	**$3,395,337**	**$26,072,956**	**$629,614**	**$315,044**	**$579,442**	**$101,168**	**$34,592,738**
EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	$2,225,570	$2,903,913	$24,430,465	$138,206	$ 0	$387,827	$ 0	$30,085,981
Regular Operating Expenses	271,461	84,026	489,595	6,416	32,549	21,763	2,981	908,791
Travel	29,692	25,163	426,529	7,909	0	8,369	0	497,662
Publications & Printing	139,579	9,006	20,809	7,248	56,841	25,827	5,443	264,753
Equipment Purchases	74,664	91,869	78,738	3,553	0	0	0	248,824
Computer Charges	114,741	0	29,330	189,093	0	22,733	0	355,897
Real Estate Rentals	188,680	140,587	59,358	6,375	0	21,675	748	417,423
Telecommunications	32,760	38,953	35,803	4,035	34	8,102	1,294	120,981
Per Diem, Fees & Contracts	162,416	32,789	183,885	256,855	225,616	82,976	74,294	1,018,831
Total Expenditures	**$3,239,563**	**$3,326,306**	**$25,754,512**	**$619,690**	**$315,040**	**$579,272**	**$84,760**	**$33,919,143**

Georgia Court System: July 1, 1985



Supreme Court

As Georgia's highest court of review, the Surpeme Court hears cases on appeal from superior, state and juvenile courts and from constitutional local courts such as the City Court of Atlanta. The court's exclusive jurisdiction extends to cases involving construction of a treaty or of the state or federal constitution, cases in which constitutionality of a law, ordinance or constitutional provision is questioned and contested election cases.

The Supreme Court's general appellate jurisdiction includes cases involving (1) title to land, (2) equity, (3) wills, (4) habeas corpus, (5) extraordinary remedies, (6) divorce/alimony, (7) questions certified by the Court of Appeals and (8) conviction of a capital felony. It is authorized to answer questions of law from any state or federal appellate court and may review by certiorari Court of Appeals cases of gravity or great public importance. The court also presides over cases involving discipline of attorneys and judges and bar admissions.

To qualify for office as a justice, a person must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the state for three years and a practicing attorney for seven years. Justices are elected to six-year terms in statewide nonpartisan elections. Any vacancies on the court are filled by appointment of the governor.

The court's seven justices elect from among themselves a chief and presiding justice. The chief justice is the administrative head of the court and presides over oral arguments and court conferences. The presiding justice serves in place of the chief justice when necessary and performs other duties. A clerk and law assistants provide support to the court, and a reporter of published opinions is appointed to serve the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

In carrying out its administrative duties, the court works with a number of auxiliary agencies, including the State Bar of Georgia, its own Office of Bar Admissions (which serves as the administrative office for the State Board of Bar Examiners and the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants) and the Judicial Council of Georgia.

The court holds three terms of court each year, beginning in September, January and April, and hears no oral arguments in August or December. Court is virtually always held in Atlanta, although the court is authorized to sit and may schedule sessions in other locations such as at an accredited law school in order to demonstrate its procedures to students.

The Supreme Court's caseload for administrative court years 1985 and 1984 (September 1-August 31) is shown at left.

Supreme Court Caseload: 1985 and 1984

Filed	1985	1984
Direct appeals (Final)	584	562
Petitions for certiorari	572	513
Original petitions/Motions	26	29
Habeas corpus applications	127	161
Applications for discretionary appeal	200	184
Applications for interlocutory appeal	50	54
Summary judgment granted	16	14
Certified questions	14	12
Attorney/Judge discipline, Bar admissions	78	75
TOTAL	1,667	1,604

Disposed	1985	1984
Opinions written	387	420
Affirmed without opinion (Rule 59)	125	108
Certiorari applications		
Granted	72	74
Denied	415	332
Habeas corpus applications		
Granted	10	14
Denied	111	134
Supersedeas granted	1	0
Interlocutory applications		
Granted	14	17
Denied	26	29
Discretionary applications		
Granted	48	51
Denied	137	115
Original petitions/Motions		
Granted	2	2
Denied	10	9
Disciplinary/Bar admissions/Judicial disciplinary decided by order	30	45
Other		
Transferred to Court of Appeals by order	49	32
Dismissed/Remanded by order	125	125
Withdrawn	38	42
Affirmed by order	1	0
Habeas corpus death sentence set aside by order	1	0
TOTAL	1,602	1,549

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is authorized to exercise appellate jurisdiction in all cases where exclusive jurisdiction is not reserved to the Supreme Court or conferred on other courts. Such cases include civil claims for damages, cases involving workers' compensation and criminal cases other than capital felonies. The court may also certify questions to the Supreme Court for instruction.

The Court of Appeals consists of nine judges divided into three panels of three judges each. Under the court's rules, the judges elect a chief judge for a term of two years, with an automatic rotation of the office of chief judge based on seniority of service. The chief judge is responsible for the administration of the court and appoints three divisional presiding judges who, along with the chief judge, form the executive council. Any decision rendered by a division is final unless a single judge dissents, whereupon the case is considered by all nine judges. In the instance of an equal division of judges hearing a case in full, the case is transferred to the Supreme Court.

Judges of the Court of Appeals are elected to terms of six years in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A vacancy in any judgeship is filled by gubernatorial appointment.

The court sits in Atlanta and holds three terms of court per year, beginning in September, January and April.

A summary of the court's caseload for calendar years 1984 and 1983 is given below.

Court of Appeals Caseload: 1984 and 1983

Filed	1984	1983	Disposed	1984	1983
General appeals	2,070	2,126	Opinions written*	1,606	1,673
			Affirmed without opinion (Rule 36)	22	34
			Transferred to Supreme Court	86	80
			Dismissed	62	30
			Withdrawn	148	146
			Remanded/Returned to lower court; Granted; Denied	4	12
			Total	1,928	1,975
Applications for discretionary appeal	307	258	Granted	91	71
			Denied	204	143
			Transferred to Supreme Court/ Interlocutory applications	9	15
			Dismissed/Withdrawn	7	1
			Total	311	230
Applications for interlocutory appeal	316	343	Granted	76	90
			Denied	219	212
			Transferred to Supreme Court/Discretionary applications	9	6
			Dismissed/Withdrawn	14	13
			Total	318	321
TOTAL	2,693	2,727	TOTAL	2,557	2,526

*Companion cases and main and cross appeal cases disposed by the same opinion were counted as one written opinion.

Superior Courts

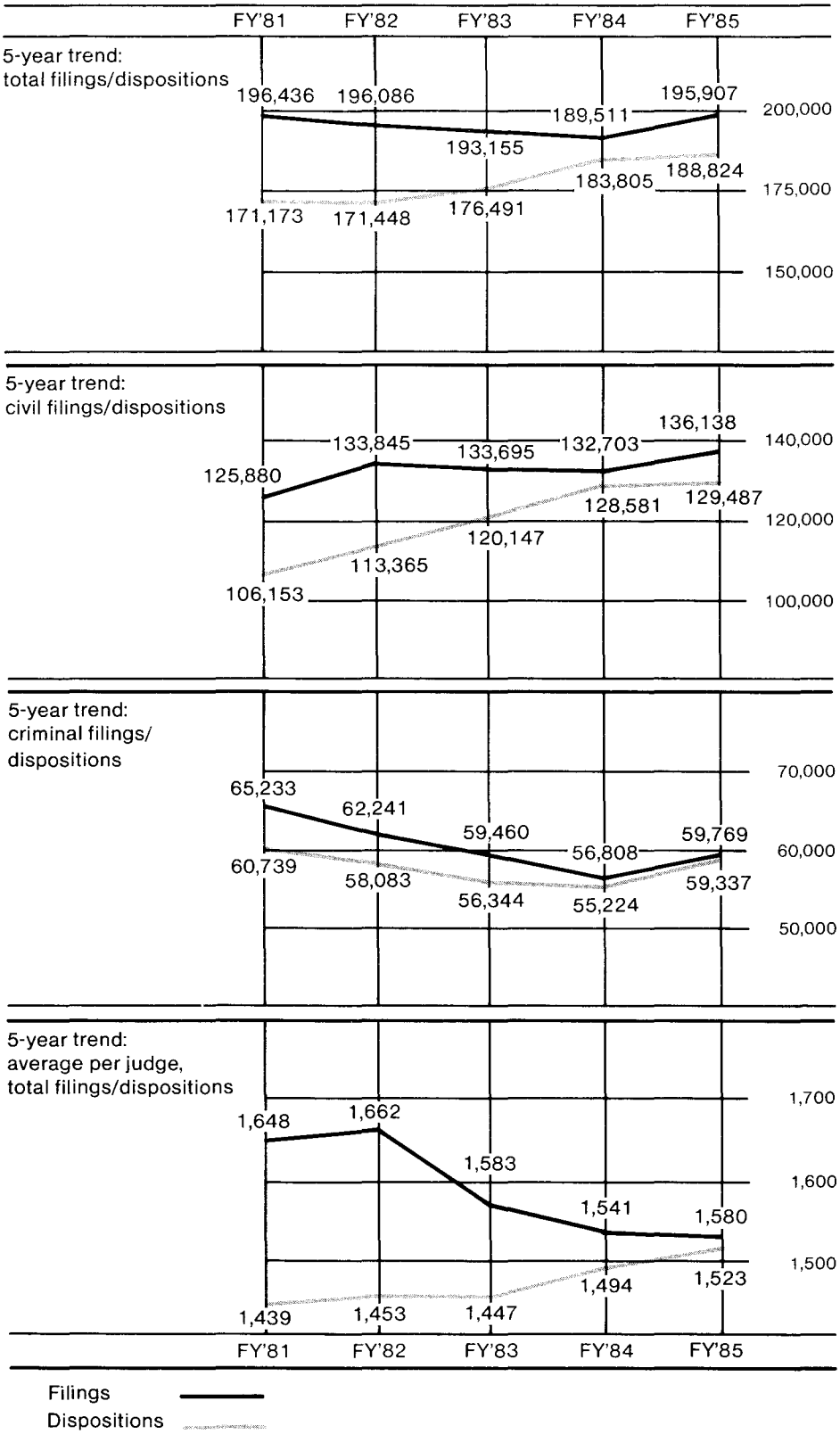
As Georgia's general jurisdiction trial court, the superior court has exclusive jurisdiction over felony cases (except in the case of juvenile offenders) and cases involving title to land, divorce and equity. With the exception of certain probate and juvenile matters, the superior court may exercise jurisdiction over other cases concurrently with the limited jurisdiction courts located in the same county. The superior courts are authorized to correct errors made by lower courts by issuing writs of certiorari, and for some lower courts, the right to direct review by the superior court applies.

Located in each of the state's 159 counties, superior courts are organized by judicial circuits, or groups of counties. Circuits vary in size and population, as well as in the number of judges serving them. From one to eight counties comprise the circuits, with the single-county circuits generally located in or near the several large metropolitan areas of the state.

The number of superior court judges per circuit ranges from one judge in each of three circuits (Appalachian, Piedmont, Rockdale) to twelve judges in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. As of the end of the 1985 fiscal year, there were 124 superior court judges in the state's 45 circuits, with three new judgeships to take effect on July 1, 1985.

For the purpose of administration, the judicial circuits are organized into 10 administrative districts whose boundaries correspond roughly to those of Georgia's U.S. congressional districts. The superior court judges of each district elect one among their number to serve as district administrative judge. The administrative judges are authorized by statute to utilize caseload and other information for management purposes and to assign superior court judges, with their approval, to other counties or circuits as needed.

Superior Courts



All superior court judges are elected in nonpartisan elections by voters of each circuit to terms of four years. Certain vacancies and new judgeships may be filled by appointment of the governor.

Recent caseload data for the superior courts is presented at right. The four graphs compare total, civil, criminal and per judge filings and dispositions for fiscal years 1981-1985. The table on pages 10 and 11 presents FY'85 total superior court caseload by circuit and case type.

FY 1985 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

Circuit	Total Criminal Filed	Total Criminal Disposed	Felony Filed	Felony Disposed	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed
Alapaha	2,578	2,404	789	740	1,125	1,075	664	589
Alcovy	1,325	1,353	550	566	683	691	92	96
Appalachian	888	1,010	234	254	461	485	193	271
Atlanta	5,577	5,825	5,538	5,789	39	36	0	0
Atlantic	892	854	600	583	130	120	162	151
Augusta	1,309	1,334	1,007	980	215	240	87	114
Blue Ridge	514	609	493	586	21	23	0	0
Brunswick	1,338	1,294	733	627	350	269	255	398
Chattahoochee	1,977	2,038	1,200	1,339	516	475	261	224
Cherokee	1,407	1,384	609	577	665	674	133	133
Clayton	1,416	1,234	1,288	1,114	97	91	31	29
Cobb	2,070	2,218	2,066	2,218	4	0	0	0
Conasauga	1,313	1,323	521	537	456	461	336	325
Cordele	1,313	1,255	462	467	850	782	1	6
Coweta	908	925	691	710	173	174	44	41
Dougherty	789	716	789	716	0	0	0	0
Douglas	986	1,047	329	284	477	515	180	248
Dublin	1,246	1,383	342	435	825	832	79	116
Eastern	1,678	2,150	1,550	1,987	103	128	25	35
Flint	900	928	435	451	401	416	64	61
Griffin	1,464	1,462	723	719	504	518	237	225
Gwinnett	796	803	790	798	4	4	2	1
Houston	442	505	210	270	232	235	0	0
Lookout Mountain	2,087	1,709	759	618	867	779	461	312
Macon	1,377	1,400	1,145	1,148	190	208	42	44
Middle	597	615	585	607	12	8	0	0
Mountain	635	578	342	331	202	169	91	78
Northeastern	2,153	1,802	763	537	1,018	893	372	372
Northern	949	1,120	415	498	513	602	21	20
Ocmulgee	2,515	2,386	1,331	1,240	1,167	1,131	17	15
Oconee	793	784	397	414	396	369	0	1
Ogeechee	502	627	430	538	71	87	1	2
Pataula	1,371	1,331	506	475	645	673	220	183
Piedmont	1,157	1,068	307	269	337	322	513	477
Rockdale	542	561	241	239	208	219	93	103
Rome	1,711	1,648	534	462	1,059	1,073	118	113
Southern	1,264	1,197	936	932	328	265	0	0
South Georgia	962	714	852	616	109	97	1	1
Southwestern	709	689	455	429	226	236	28	24
Stone Mountain	2,063	1,917	2,061	1,941	2	3	0	0
Tallapoosa	1,308	1,301	436	400	524	551	348	350
Tifton	808	653	467	3,666	308	260	33	27
Toombs	1,896	1,856	273	256	867	852	756	748
Waycross	685	853	498	524	174	319	13	10
Western	559	474	500	437	49	28	10	9
TOTAL	59,769	59,337	36,182	35,997	17,603	17,388	5,984	5,952
AVERAGE PER JUDGE*	482	479	292	290	142	140	48	48

*Based on 124 superior court judges.

FY 1985 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

Total Civil		General Civil		Domestic Relations		Independent Motions		Total Caseload		Total Open
Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Caseload
1,321	1,366	406	455	627	608	288	303	3,899	3,770	1,708
2,306	2,946	694	865	981	1,341	631	740	3,631	4,299	2,329
635	732	153	209	312	312	170	211	1,523	1,742	1,249
11,149	10,925	3,651	3,013	5,601	5,656	1,897	2,256	16,726	16,750	10,357
2,731	2,381	673	732	1,544	1,164	514	485	3,623	3,235	2,155
6,955	5,147	1,077	760	4,304	3,083	1,574	1,304	8,264	6,481	8,459
1,832	1,946	284	307	1,145	1,209	403	430	2,346	2,555	1,388
3,943	2,935	1,064	803	1,952	1,478	927	654	5,281	4,229	4,988
5,027	3,373	912	774	3,517	2,142	598	457	7,004	5,411	6,862
2,626	2,811	831	954	1,072	1,110	723	747	4,033	4,195	2,700
3,193	3,288	577	531	2,229	2,374	387	383	4,609	4,522	2,922
6,356	7,087	1,092	1,095	4,262	5,016	1,002	976	8,426	9,305	4,260
2,946	3,060	751	641	1,263	1,228	932	1,191	4,259	4,383	2,748
1,531	1,399	569	459	578	663	384	277	2,844	2,654	1,581
4,373	3,937	1,118	1,021	2,285	2,034	970	882	5,281	4,862	4,535
2,204	1,783	342	425	1,193	1,052	669	306	2,993	2,499	2,150
1,895	1,495	917	677	672	543	306	272	2,881	2,539	3,302
1,878	1,414	661	506	819	646	398	262	3,124	2,797	2,923
3,493	2,857	1,131	768	1,662	1,645	700	444	5,171	5,007	3,729
2,249	1,965	953	795	868	778	428	392	3,149	2,893	2,580
2,791	2,273	895	641	1,251	1,151	645	481	4,255	3,735	3,117
4,965	5,662	782	1,579	2,686	2,461	1,497	1,622	5,761	6,465	2,523
1,635	1,503	226	239	1,067	1,006	342	258	2,077	2,008	1,836
3,377	3,577	723	848	1,831	2,037	823	692	5,464	5,286	3,564
3,799	3,838	940	1,054	2,275	2,200	584	584	5,176	5,238	2,779
2,403	2,050	804	622	1,097	996	502	432	3,000	2,665	3,181
1,510	1,680	377	418	796	902	337	360	2,145	2,258	1,283
2,747	2,268	633	521	1,211	1,018	903	729	4,900	4,070	2,527
1,781	2,014	516	610	813	921	452	483	2,730	3,134	2,219
3,439	2,990	1,302	1,332	1,305	1,116	832	542	5,954	5,376	5,429
1,469	1,201	524	446	607	532	338	223	2,262	1,985	1,302
2,042	2,097	625	708	1,066	926	351	463	2,544	2,724	1,783
1,571	1,300	582	562	788	622	201	116	2,942	2,631	1,976
1,699	1,543	494	531	730	732	475	280	2,856	2,611	2,357
1,299	1,408	436	446	500	535	363	427	1,841	1,969	1,874
2,800	3,069	734	983	1,210	1,331	856	755	4,511	4,717	3,676
3,590	3,358	1,266	1,187	1,682	1,647	642	524	4,854	4,555	3,593
2,091	1,666	685	626	1,134	877	272	163	3,053	2,380	2,164
2,020	1,903	792	804	924	859	304	240	2,729	2,592	1,641
9,360	11,064	1,713	2,078	5,865	7,052	1,782	1,934	11,423	12,981	8,515
2,657	2,706	1,022	916	1,006	1,102	629	688	3,765	4,007	3,039
2,458	2,124	812	734	1,069	1,008	577	382	3,266	2,777	2,078
985	870	298	266	411	361	276	243	2,881	2,726	1,576
2,712	2,238	850	685	1,441	1,217	421	336	3,397	3,091	3,026
1,907	1,801	640	598	900	897	367	306	2,466	2,275	1,562
136,138	129,487	36,683	35,414	70,673	67,722	28,782	26,351	195,907	188,824	141,735
1,098	1,044	296	286	570	546	232	213	1,580	1,523	1,143

State Courts

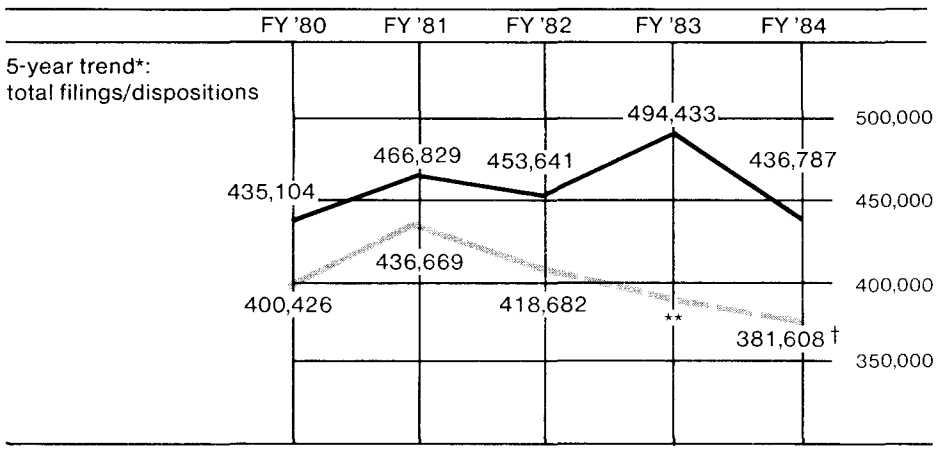
State courts retain jurisdiction over trials of nonfelony (misdemeanor, traffic) criminal cases and exercise civil jurisdiction over all general civil actions regardless of the amount claimed, unless exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the superior court. Uniform state court jurisdiction also includes hearing applications for and issuing search and arrest warrants, holding courts of inquiry and punishing contempts by fine ($500 or less) and/or imprisonment (20 days or less). State courts have also been granted constitutional jurisdiction to review decisions of lower courts as may later be provided by statute.

On June 30, 1985 there were 63 state courts operating in 64 counties. (Georgia's only multi-county state court serves both Cherokee and Forsyth counties.) Of the 79 judges presiding, 31 were full-time state court judges, while 48 served part-time. Part-time judges are authorized to practice law in courts other than their own.

Like superior court judges, state court judges are selected in nonpartisan elections by voters of the respective counties and serve terms of four years. Vacancies and new judgeships may be filled by appointment of the governor in certain instances.

Below is a comparison of total state court caseload for fiscal years 1981-1985. FY '85 filings and dispositions by county are listed in the tables on the following pages.

State Courts



* Because 1985 filing and disposition data were unavailable from Fulton County, years 1980-1984 were used to show caseload trend.

**Disposition data unavailable for FY'83.

† Civil disposition data unavailable for Fulton County.

Filings ———
Dispositions ———

FY 1985 State Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed	General Civil Filed	General Civil Disposed	Independent Motions Filed	Independent Motions Disposed	Total Caseload Filed	Total Caseload Disposed
Appling	435	258	1,083	1,082	43	20	16	4	1,577	1,364
Baldwin	1,555	1,555	1,743	1,743	0	0	0	0	3,298	3,298
Bibb	3,618	3,546	3,354	3,312	630	500	105	66	7,707	7,424
Bryan	76	47	135	58	65	59	25	5	301	169
Bulloch	1,854	1,507	5,012	13,870	70	49	38	12	6,974	15,438
Burke	386	386	2,610	2,610	67	60	66	50	3,129	3,106
Candler	129	122	2,158	1,812	16	11	8	5	2,311	1,950
Carroll	1,586	2,037	5,223	5,157	465	273	127	51	7,401	7,518
Chatham	1,833	1,433	2,186	914	3,127	2,862	1,721	1,704	8,867	6,913
Chattooga	453	491	2,149	2,124	8	12	9	4	2,619	2,631
Cherokee	1,636	1,457	6,901	6,635	702	618	160	148	9,399	8,858
Clarke	345	282	1,485	1,382	235	160	103	62	2,168	1,886
Clayton	4,960	3,183	17,975	20,226	3,270	3,074	2,508	2,747	28,713	29,230
Clinch	237	235	665	663	4	17	18	32	924	947
Cobb	5,798	4,638	39,527	37,336	7,414	5,486	11,068	10,308	63,807	57,768
Coffee	1,154	584	2,259	1,441	59	60	34	35	3,506	2,120
Colquitt	1,038	955	1,840	1,715	44	40	10	4	2,932	2,715
Coweta	1,303	1,066	5,970	5,265	254	181	67	25	7,594	6,537
Decatur	434	404	1,919	1,949	52	34	31	17	2,436	2,404
DeKalb	4,195	4,175	4,082	4,013	12,807	9,797	1,631	1,549	22,715	19,534
Dougherty	4,680	4,729	4,801	4,937	2,343	1,855	2,107	878	13,931	12,399
Early	389	389	841	891	27	19	3	3	1,260	1,302
Effingham	156	156	1,058	1,058	103	46	36	5	1,353	1,265
Elbert	738	784	948	948	21	13	3	1	1,710	1,746
Emanuel	793	675	4,578	3,990	56	54	33	18	5,460	4,737
Evans	234	234	765	765	24	14	23	13	1,046	1,026
Forsyth	1,168	1,059	3,243	3,143	312	291	84	47	4,807	4,540
Fulton*	8,703	7,096	3,245	3,145	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Glynn	1,048	767	7,407	4,353	389	629	328	337	9,172	6,086
Grady	476	421	1,534	1,418	26	19	4	2	2,040	1,860
Gwinnett	2,599	2,969	1,579	1,138	2,802	3,624	1,125	1,510	8,105	9,241
Habersham	767	783	1,278	1,416	64	86	33	68	2,142	2,353
Hall	3,280	3,337	8,538	8,219	423	376	180	153	12,421	12,085
Houston	3,496	2,383	6,497	4,873	1,124	1,159	446	453	11,563	8,868
Jackson	458	394	6,939	6,762	17	18	22	16	7,436	7,190
Jeff Davis	175	136	337	98	17	8	1	0	530	242
Jefferson	186	186	2,257	2,257	39	36	21	20	2,503	2,499
Jenkins	213	227	884	888	73	76	10	2	1,180	1,193
Johnson**	0	0	33	32	0	0	0	0	33	32
Liberty	1,181	1,140	1,689	1,658	84	33	47	20	3,001	2,851
Long	66	66	1,490	1,490	11	8	5	2	1,572	1,566
Lowndes	1,782	2,127	11,071	13,740	234	155	64	23	13,151	16,045
Macon	240	193	717	732	16	26	11	10	984	961
Miller	74	42	917	931	13	9	0	1	1,004	983
Mitchell	461	440	920	925	13	8	11	15	1,405	1,388

FY 1985 State Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed	General Civil Filed	General Civil Disposed	Independent Motions Filed	Independent Motions Disposed	Total Caseload Filed	Total Caseload Disposed
Muscogee	2,793	1,977	4,113	2,795	454	364	37	15	7,397	5,151
Pierce	303	301	543	767	15	15	7	3	868	1,086
Putnam	344	344	624	624	0	0	0	0	968	968
Richmond	7,316	5,740	14,401	12,326	344	300	220	287	22,281	18,653
Screven	478	497	1,019	1,057	26	26	0	0	1,523	1,580
Spalding	652	583	2,367	2,233	107	79	53	25	3,179	2,920
Stephens	375	371	838	867	77	47	36	32	1,326	1,317
Sumter	1,186	1,119	2,186	2,230	83	87	47	24	3,502	3,460
Tattnall	158	128	1,448	1,447	54	48	29	13	1,689	1,636
Thomas	1,880	1,802	2,863	2,728	45	32	7	1	4,795	4,563
Tift	1,285	1,741	6,699	6,182	171	137	288	140	8,443	8,200
Toombs	506	547	1,851	1,659	63	59	56	52	2,476	2,317
Treutlen	62	52	3,044	3,332	4	11	1	7	3,111	3,402
Troup	1,827	1,861	7,607	7,688	173	121	69	24	9,676	9,694
Walker	552	618	2,229	2,490	51	32	20	22	2,852	3,162
Ware	871	839	3,199	3,179	182	177	68	58	4,320	4,253
Washington	846	756	712	685	12	9	6	4	1,576	1,454
Wayne	504	420	756	707	59	66	21	22	1,340	1,215
Worth†	327	302	3,665	3,679	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TOTAL	88,653	79,092	242,006	239,789	62,080*	49,815*	42,694*	36,741*	435,433*	405,437*

* Incomplete data.

**Court was abolished in calendar year 1984.

† Civil case dockets of state court were destroyed by fire and are presently being reconstructed.

Juvenile Courts

The express purpose of Georgia's juvenile courts, as construed by the state's codified proceedings, is to protect the well-being of children, to provide guidance and control conducive to a child's welfare and the best interests of the state and to secure as nearly as possible care equivalent to parental care for a child removed from the home.

The juvenile court's exclusive original jurisdiction extends to cases involving delinquent children alleged to have committed noncapital offenses and unruly children under the age of 17, deprived children under the age of 18 and juvenile traffic offenders under 16 years of age. In addition, the juvenile court has jurisdiction over custody and child support proceedings referred from the superior court and in cases involving termination of parental rights and enlistment in the military services and consent to marriage for minors. Appeals from the juvenile court in all cases of final judgment are to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

Georgia's juvenile proceedings statutes authorize the superior court judge(s) of each judicial circuit to appoint one or more juvenile court judges with jurisdiction throughout the circuit, unless otherwise provided by law. (One such exception is the juvenile court judgeship in Floyd County which is an elective post.) If no one is appointed as a circuitwide juvenile court judge, the particular judgeship established pursuant to former law will continue as in effect on July 1, 1983, until a circuitwide judge is appointed or until termination by two successive county grand jury recommendations. As of June 30, 1985, circuitwide juvenile court judges were serving in 14 single or multi-county circuits.

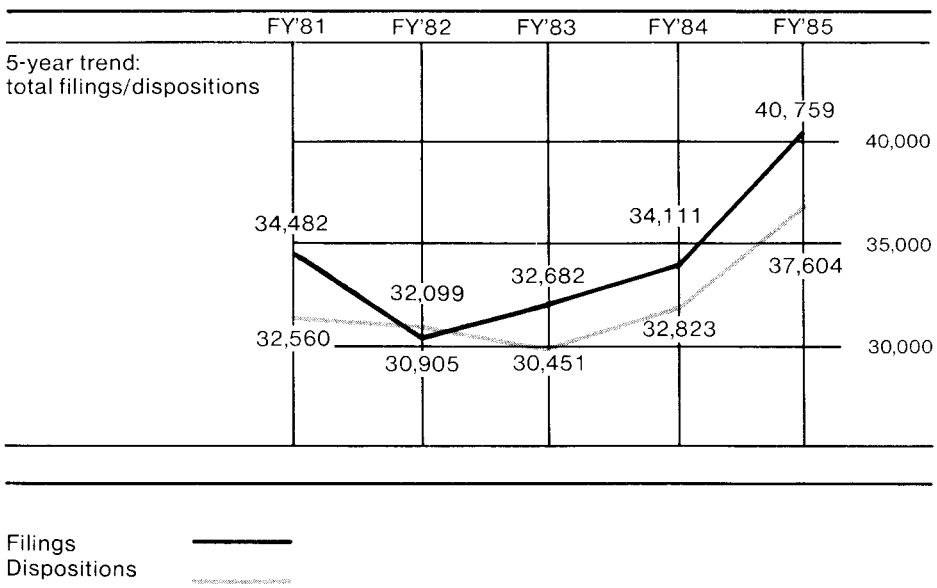
At the end of FY '85, 10 full-time and 41 part-time judges presided over the state's 59 separate juvenile courts. Of the 51 judges in office, three served as both juvenile and state court judge, and two held both a juvenile judgeship and position of chief magistrate. Superior court judges heard juvenile cases in the remaining 100 counties. Twenty-eight referees assisted the juvenile or superior court judge in presiding over juvenile courts in as many counties.

Juvenile court judges are required by statute to participate in annual training programs sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

Judges serving separate juvenile courts serve terms of four years. Upon judicial appointment, a person must be over 30 years of age and a citizen of the state for three years, as well as having practiced law for at least three years. Any referee appointed after July 1, 1983 must be a member of the State Bar or a law school graduate.

Statewide total juvenile court filings and dispositions are compared at left for fiscal years 1981-1985. Juvenile court caseload for FY '85 is presented by county in the table on pages 16-18.

Juvenile Courts



FY 1985 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Appling	37	35	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	39
Atkinson	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15
Bacon	12	15	0	0	0	0	8	2	2	2	22	19
Baker	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	6
Baldwin	53	53	10	10	0	0	34	34	0	0	97	97
Banks	8	7	0	0	1	2	3	3	0	0	12	12
Barrow	67	67	13	6	4	5	52	57	0	0	136	135
Bartow	256	273	142	142	21	21	159	181	28	33	606	650
Ben Hill	28	26	3	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	34	31
Berrien	16	20	5	4	1	1	9	9	0	1	31	35
Bibb	750	741	104	105	4	4	107	97	132	104	1,097	1,051
Bleckley	16	16	8	8	0	0	3	3	0	0	27	27
Brantley	16	16	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Brooks	59	65	2	3	4	4	20	30	5	11	90	113
Bryan	25	25	13	11	5	6	9	13	6	9	58	64
Bulloch	83	77	6	5	5	5	7	7	6	6	107	100
Burke	17	4	1	1	0	0	5	5	21	16	44	26
Butts	17	10	1	1	1	1	4	4	0	0	23	16
Calhoun	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Camden	53	40	19	15	1	0	18	16	1	1	92	72
Candler	11	11	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	15	15
Carroll	108	101	7	6	8	9	56	48	5	2	184	166
Catoosa	116	123	28	26	4	4	25	19	19	11	192	183
Charlton	8	8	2	2	4	4	7	8	0	0	21	22
Chatham	1,295	1,139	252	221	109	63	259	228	58	56	1,973	1,707
Chattahoochee	8	9	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15
Chattooga	35	34	8	7	0	2	14	13	3	3	60	59
Cherokee	219	235	94	84	31	28	84	68	33	22	461	437
Clarke	358	367	64	66	2	3	97	97	30	30	551	563
Clay	4	3	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	8	7
Clayton	785	812	394	395	39	29	152	154	144	138	1,514	1,528
Clinch	8	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	10	8
Cobb	1,334	1,299	786	791	139	139	303	282	71	71	2,633	2,582
Coffee	43	30	0	0	22	16	19	7	0	0	84	53
Colquitt	88	72	6	2	8	5	28	13	3	3	133	95
Columbia	152	143	22	21	10	6	0	0	5	5	189	175
Cook	73	66	5	3	2	1	5	10	0	0	85	80
Coweta	164	162	74	72	6	8	126	124	6	7	376	373
Crawford	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Crisp	92	94	28	30	4	5	21	15	1	1	146	145
Dade	8	5	1	2	2	1	19	17	2	5	32	30
Dawson	15	10	3	0	0	0	6	1	6	1	30	12
Decatur	50	46	6	6	2	1	13	13	0	0	71	66
DeKalb	2,151	1,943	1,057	904	258	222	590	553	31	29	4,087	3,651
Dodge	31	31	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	34	34
Dooly	19	19	2	2	0	0	10	10	0	0	31	31
Dougherty	642	609	41	40	41	31	74	75	8	8	806	763
Douglas	239	195	74	59	17	14	38	20	12	10	380	298
Early	39	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	32
Echols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Effingham	28	25	4	4	0	0	12	2	0	0	44	31
Elbert	26	19	2	2	9	6	3	2	0	0	40	29
Emanuel	17	17	1	1	0	0	24	24	0	0	42	42
Evans	29	22	4	1	0	0	4	5	0	0	37	28

FY 1985 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Fannin	18	13	18	18	5	0	14	13	0	0	55	44
Fayette	90	79	8	7	2	2	15	10	0	0	115	98
Floyd	309	314	175	180	30	29	80	89	3	3	597	615
Forsyth	115	64	73	28	10	6	31	17	20	26	249	141
Franklin	12	12	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	16	18
Fulton	4,639	4,087	762	650	317	228	933	845	132	99	6,783	5,909
Gilmer	25	17	7	1	0	0	10	5	2	2	44	25
Glascock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glynn	366	345	135	134	9	11	75	68	14	11	599	569
Gordon	209	198	98	91	19	15	80	76	15	14	421	394
Grady	22	18	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	25	20
Greene	5	16	4	6	0	0	24	29	0	0	33	51
Gwinnett	1,037	912	455	349	46	42	328	302	116	87	1,982	1,692
Habersham	22	32	0	0	0	0	29	38	2	2	53	72
Hall	280	273	153	148	18	19	66	66	19	18	536	524
Hancock	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Haralson	32	30	5	6	2	2	19	17	0	0	58	55
Harris	13	16	4	5	3	5	0	0	0	0	20	26
Hart	28	21	0	0	1	1	21	21	0	0	50	43
Heard	2	2	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	12	12
Henry	146	144	135	134	5	4	6	5	10	16	302	303
Houston	144	133	45	32	2	1	21	24	11	11	223	201
Irwin	12	43	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	15	47
Jackson	43	57	2	7	0	2	32	27	5	5	82	98
Jasper	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	11	10
Jeff Davis	58	54	0	1	3	2	12	8	1	1	74	66
Jefferson	45	45	2	2	0	0	6	6	0	0	53	53
Jenkins	3	3	1	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	10	6
Johnson	9	9	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	18	18
Jones	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	6	4
Lamar	18	18	2	3	0	0	18	18	0	0	38	39
Lanier	20	19	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	25	24
Laurens	78	71	7	4	10	5	24	22	0	0	119	102
Lee	42	31	16	16	24	26	8	7	12	13	102	93
Liberty	133	123	38	38	5	5	29	7	6	3	211	176
Lincoln	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5	5
Long	17	14	6	15	0	0	8	0	0	0	31	29
Lowndes	192	191	21	23	2	2	72	68	0	0	287	284
Lumpkin	23	50	0	0	1	2	1	3	0	2	25	57
Macon	20	18	5	5	4	4	27	28	1	1	57	56
Madison	49	52	2	2	2	2	0	3	0	0	53	59
Marion	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
McDuffie	37	39	0	0	1	1	5	4	4	3	47	47
McIntosh	34	35	8	9	0	0	15	15	3	3	60	62
Meriwether	30	29	0	0	4	4	52	51	1	1	87	85
Miller	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
Mitchell	83	83	6	6	0	0	6	6	1	0	96	95
Monroe	31	30	2	2	0	0	11	13	0	0	44	45
Montgomery	7	7	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	18	18
Morgan	4	1	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	11	8
Murray	82	79	50	50	1	1	29	28	7	7	169	165
Muscogee	1,064	1,022	447	400	110	103	312	267	196	129	2,129	1,921
Newton	285	298	120	120	15	17	200	194	65	47	685	676
Oconee	2	6	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	6	10

FY 1985 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Oglethorpe	11	9	3	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	18	16
Paulding	94	97	62	66	7	4	20	14	0	0	183	181
Peach	37	40	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	45
Pickens	32	26	11	10	5	5	27	16	1	3	76	60
Pierce	8	11	1	1	1	1	5	4	0	0	15	17
Pike	3	3	0	0	1	1	8	8	0	0	12	12
Polk	18	15	34	26	2	1	22	19	0	0	76	61
Pulaski	11	12	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	14	16
Putnam	3	3	3	3	0	0	5	5	0	0	11	11
Quitman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rabun	11	4	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	17	7
Randolph	15	11	0	0	1	1	10	1	0	0	26	13
Richmond	1,221	1,185	446	445	31	29	35	35	20	19	1,753	1,713
Rockdale	130	124	86	86	79	72	51	41	32	29	378	352
Schley	20	6	2	2	0	0	8	8	0	0	30	16
Screven	27	26	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	29
Seminole	10	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	16
Spalding	248	247	69	74	6	6	72	75	8	8	403	410
Stephens	23	22	1	1	4	4	9	8	0	0	37	35
Stewart	19	14	4	5	1	1	5	5	4	4	33	29
Sumter	118	119	16	16	10	10	22	23	3	3	169	171
Talbot	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Taliaferro	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Tattnall	32	27	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	34	29
Taylor	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Telfair	19	18	3	3	0	0	10	10	0	0	32	31
Terrell	30	36	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	32	39
Thomas	109	94	32	29	3	3	11	13	3	3	158	142
Tift	100	94	16	17	3	2	19	17	2	0	140	130
Toombs	46	44	4	4	1	1	42	41	0	0	93	90
Towns	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	5	4
Treutlen	31	30	7	7	0	0	6	1	0	0	44	38
Troup	500	503	30	31	16	17	132	106	5	5	683	662
Turner	24	8	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	29	12
Twiggs	20	17	3	3	0	0	13	14	0	0	36	34
Union	5	5	0	0	0	0	19	15	0	0	24	20
Upson	25	25	5	5	0	0	27	29	0	0	57	59
Walker	134	125	66	56	27	25	29	35	45	40	301	281
Walton	429	389	156	150	91	94	155	141	45	40	876	814
Ware	214	179	66	65	26	23	90	92	49	60	445	419
Warren	3	14	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	7	16
Washington	23	27	1	1	0	0	12	12	0	0	36	40
Wayne	81	55	16	8	0	0	20	12	0	0	117	75
Webster	2	2	0	0	5	5	1	2	0	0	8	9
Wheeler	11	11	0	0	0	0	12	12	0	0	23	23
White	4	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	7
Whitfield	295	284	245	240	25	24	163	147	28	27	756	722
Wilcox	6	6	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	9	9
Wilkes	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	6	6
Wilkinson	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	5	5
Worth	31	33	6	7	0	0	1	1	2	3	40	44
TOTAL	23,888	22,244	7,539	6,947	1,766	1,519	6,067	5,599	1,499	1,295	40,759	37,604

Probate Courts

The probate court exercises exclusive jurisdiction in the probate of wills, the administration of estates, the appointment of guardians and the involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other dependent individuals. Probate judges are also authorized to perform certain administrative functions such as issuing marriage licenses, pistol permits and delayed birth certificates.

Depending on the particular county, probate judges may be responsible for holding habeas corpus hearings, supervising local elections or presiding over criminal preliminaries. Probate courts may also hear traffic cases and try violations of state game and fish laws, unless there is a demand for a jury trial, in which instance a case would be transferred to the superior court.

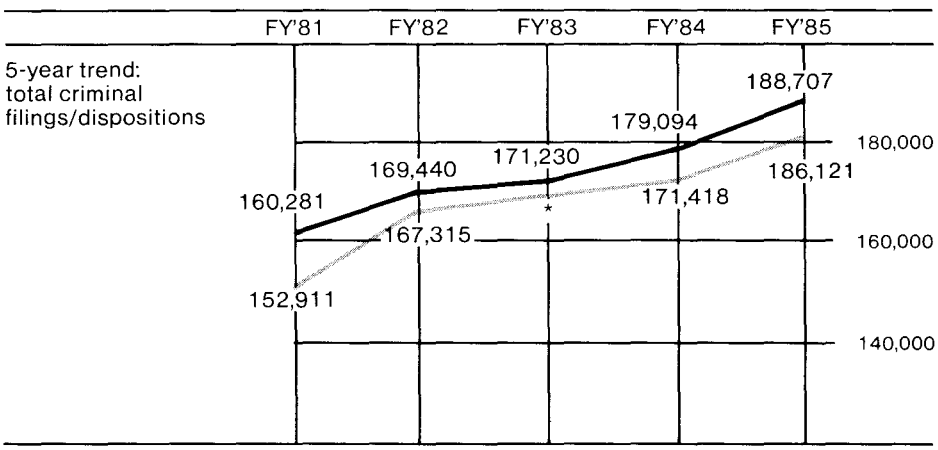
One probate judge serves in each of Georgia's 159 counties. Probate judges are elected in partisan elections by the voters of each county to a term of four years. In most counties, a vacancy in office is filled through special election ordered by an official serving as interim judge. In other counties, designated or appointed persons fill the particular vacancy until the next succeeding general election.

Candidates for the office of probate judge must be a county resident for at least two years, have attained the age of 25 and have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent. In counties with a population of more than 100,000, candidates must be 30 years of age and either a practicing attorney for three years or have served as probate court clerk for at least five years prior to election as judge.

State law requires probate judges to fulfill initial and annual training requirements by attending seminars conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education and planned together with the Executive Probate Judges Council. The council is a non-funded state agency charged with the responsibility of advising and coordinating with the Institute concerning matters of continuing education for probate judges.

A comparison of total criminal filings and dispositions for those probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction is presented below for fiscal years 1981-1985. The tables on pages 20-23 list the FY '85 criminal caseload by county for those probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction and the FY '85 civil caseload of 114 probate courts for which data was voluntarily submitted.

Probate Courts



*Disposition data unavailable for FY '83.

Filings ———

Dispositions

FY 1985 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total civil	Administration	No administration necessary	Probate Common	Probate Solemn	Guardianship	Year's support	Hospitalization	Habeas corpus	Licenses Marriage	Licenses Pistol
Appling	115	35	7	1	22	9	2	39	0	171	156
Atkinson	33	12	2	2	9	6	0	1	1	77	56
Bacon	68	9	2	0	17	12	1	24	3	117	51
Baldwin	429	15	10	13	68	70	3	249	1	356	332
Barrow	119	13	8	2	54	7	4	31	0	266	195
Bartow	262	17	8	0	95	28	13	101	0	472	382
Ben Hill	78	7	7	2	46	5	0	11	0	202	140
Berrien	104	16	7	0	42	5	6	28	0	245	41
Bibb*	717	66	39	30	364	89	45	84	0	1,668	754
Bleckley	33	5	2	1	20	4	1	0	0	127	145
Bryan	67	7	2	0	24	16	3	15	0	115	123
Burke	68	9	8	5	30	10	6	0	0	162	145
Butts	63	12	3	0	35	10	3	0	0	130	129
Candler	53	3	2	1	32	11	0	4	0	64	34
Charlton	54	18	4	0	13	7	3	9	0	2,570	8
Cherokee	219	15	25	5	130	20	9	15	0	554	530
Clarke*	435	34	23	15	169	91	10	93	0	780	315
Clay	17	3	0	2	10	2	0	0	0	12	26
Clayton*	612	47	32	13	210	183	43	84	0	2,262	1,323
Clinch	23	6	2	0	7	6	2	0	0	78	32
Cobb	1,568	147	75	16	731	333	78	182	6	4,687	2,232
Coffee	111	16	19	5	49	19	3	0	0	366	184
Colquitt	209	13	25	5	102	22	7	35	0	375	72
Columbia	168	30	15	6	53	43	21	0	0	350	510
Coweta	333	26	14	1	124	28	25	115	0	515	310
Crawford	28	4	2	1	18	2	1	0	0	74	95
Crisp	108	18	5	3	56	5	9	12	0	195	139
Dade	51	10	2	1	20	3	0	15	0	1,628	112
Dawson	27	2	5	0	14	1	2	3	0	66	93
Decatur	106	9	3	4	54	13	2	21	0	318	49
DeKalb*	2,091	210	195	223	536	347	169	401	10	5,505	2,376
Dodge	79	13	5	2	39	5	6	9	0	175	113
Dougherty	441	37	20	19	220	70	15	60	0	1,237	630
Douglas	229	15	10	5	94	35	40	30	0	767	487
Early	91	10	2	1	36	13	1	28	0	79	109
Echols	12	5	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	48	6
Evans	28	5	2	1	14	4	2	0	0	79	77
Fannin	66	9	6	0	26	4	6	15	0	129	139
Fayette	114	5	4	2	75	20	8	0	0	389	391
Floyd	558	17	19	20	227	50	12	213	0	800	305
Fulton	3,417	412	341	221	1,381	910	123	29	0	7,008	4,296
Gilmer	38	4	2	0	19	4	1	8	0	153	141
Glascock	18	1	3	0	9	2	2	1	0	20	18
Glynn	400	89	12	20	144	72	8	55	0	813	358
Gordon	117	23	8	2	60	15	9	0	0	321	133
Greene	60	4	1	5	32	5	1	12	0	84	62
Gwinnett	770	62	31	10	375	182	39	71	0	2,661	1,542
Habersham	121	15	1	1	65	17	4	18	0	230	192
Hall	282	30	24	4	178	39	7	0	0	878	591
Haralson	160	22	1	1	62	9	12	53	0	268	263
Henry	223	19	16	6	90	54	10	28	0	415	610
Houston	289	30	22	3	159	61	14	0	0	1,022	641
Irwin*	30	5	0	1	23	1	0	0	0	75	105
Jackson	165	9	9	6	76	19	8	38	0	319	174
Jasper	51	9	10	3	23	4	2	0	0	61	88

FY 1985 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total civil	Admin-istration	No admin-istration necessary	Probate Common	Probate Solemn	Guardian-ship	Year's support	Hospital-ization	Habeas corpus	Licenses Marriage	Licenses Pistol
Jeff Davis	58	5	9	3	29	7	2	3	0	153	91
Jenkins	43	6	5	2	12	5	1	12	0	72	75
Johnson	89	14	10	4	38	4	3	16	0	0	84
Jones	72	10	2	8	26	12	3	11	0	179	251
Lamar	75	6	7	2	35	3	4	18	0	106	235
Lanier*	29	4	4	1	9	5	2	4	0	66	31
Laurens	204	19	16	4	80	24	6	55	0	401	284
Lee	59	8	2	4	27	7	2	4	5	132	167
Lincoln	28	3	1	2	20	0	2	0	0	41	12
Long	24	3	1	1	4	1	1	13	0	77	32
Macon*	104	16	5	5	34	12	6	25	1	120	97
Madison	98	12	7	0	35	14	4	26	0	171	132
Marion	28	6	3	1	16	2	0	0	0	38	57
McIntosh	42	16	4	2	11	6	3	0	0	100	70
Montgomery	48	13	8	0	14	6	5	2	0	69	47
Morgan	98	13	7	3	42	14	3	16	0	99	81
Murray	104	14	6	0	31	18	23	12	0	245	119
Muscogee	719	74	44	23	413	95	70	0	0	0	0
Newton	185	22	17	5	73	27	3	38	0	449	331
Oglethorpe	53	5	8	0	25	12	0	3	0	84	151
Peach	90	15	6	3	29	2	2	33	0	209	130
Pickens	93	15	16	0	25	2	6	29	0	121	185
Pierce	84	12	2	8	36	7	1	18	0	66	51
Pike	50	5	4	2	28	3	1	7	0	79	164
Polk	208	17	13	1	90	20	7	60	0	419	328
Putnam	74	14	6	3	31	14	2	4	0	113	101
Quitman	24	1	1	0	16	0	1	5	0	16	22
Rabun	78	13	6	0	39	10	0	10	0	108	130
Randolph*	38	4	2	0	24	3	0	0	5	62	84
Richmond	905	120	60	37	301	104	113	170	0	1,471	1,470
Schley	8	0	0	2	5	1	0	0	0	44	13
Seminole	67	22	8	0	31	4	2	0	0	1,092	41
Spalding	178	18	22	3	94	19	20	1	1	612	572
Stephens	131	14	0	6	63	16	7	25	0	157	147
Stewart*	24	1	1	0	14	2	1	5	0	39	53
Sumter	87	17	5	7	37	15	3	3	0	300	214
Taliaferro	19	8	1	1	7	0	0	2	0	11	4
Taylor	67	7	1	1	18	3	0	37	0	70	59
Telfair	81	9	2	0	40	8	0	21	1	149	131
Terrell	61	15	1	1	30	9	3	2	0	95	152
Tift	127	17	8	0	50	20	2	30	0	387	225
Toombs	175	11	78	2	42	11	9	22	0	308	200
Towns	32	3	5	1	17	5	1	0	0	78	65
Treutlen	27	6	7	1	5	3	5	0	0	83	52
Turner	75	18	3	0	24	20	2	8	0	69	73
Upson	182	13	18	3	100	14	9	25	0	284	383
Walker	329	29	24	4	138	48	23	61	2	334	241
Walton	202	17	10	11	76	17	16	55	0	316	215
Ware	236	34	16	3	94	32	13	44	0	461	284
Warren	41	1	4	3	20	5	1	7	0	37	41
Washington	109	14	6	7	44	10	2	24	2	138	149
Webster	13	4	1	1	3	3	1	0	0	4	20
Wheeler	25	5	0	0	11	3	2	4	0	57	26
White	89	8	5	1	39	13	3	20	0	120	100
Whitfield	440	79	23	3	203	65	13	54	0	621	348
Wilkes	61	15	0	6	30	4	1	5	0	64	0
Wilkinson	74	9	1	2	25	1	2	34	0	84	220
Worth	92	8	7	3	41	19	5	9	0	155	119

*Additional data was also submitted by these counties.

FY 1985 Probate Court Criminal Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed	Total Caseload Filed	Total Caseload Disposed
Atkinson	59	48	1,077	1,071	1,136	1,119
Bacon	28	28	396	396	424	424
Baker	11	11	245	245	256	256
Banks	36	44	1,238	1,375	1,274	1,419
Barrow	1	1	1,258	1,171	1,259	1,172
Bartow	416	318	6,749	5,976	7,165	6,294
Ben Hill	36	35	1,168	1,080	1,204	1,115
Berrien	6	6	759	759	765	765
Bleckley	16	16	820	820	836	836
Brantley	130	127	1,104	1,085	1,234	1,212
Brooks	0	0	1,453	1,453	1,453	1,453
Butts	116	116	2,766	2,766	2,882	2,882
Calhoun	0	0	476	476	476	476
Camden	0	0	3,830	4,360	3,830	4,360
Catoosa	0	0	5,375	5,375	5,375	5,375
Charlton	0	0	799	820	799	820
Chattahoochee	19	19	496	496	515	515
Clay	149	144	266	260	415	404
Columbia	236	236	5,055	5,064	5,291	5,300
Cook	41	41	4,527	4,527	4,568	4,568
Crawford	1	1	2,262	1,940	2,263	1,941
Crisp	92	70	5,577	5,109	5,649	5,179
Dade	12	12	2,101	2,097	2,113	2,109
Dawson	128	134	1,129	1,129	1,257	1,263
Dodge	19	10	1,420	992	1,439	1,002
Dooly	3	6	802	1,027	805	1,033
Douglas	74	76	7,872	7,606	7,946	7,682
Echols	67	67	171	171	238	238
Fannin	0	0	932	897	932	897
Fayette	39	34	1,875	1,906	1,914	1,940
Floyd	125	86	5,722	4,483	5,847	4,569
Franklin	71	73	3,160	3,387	3,231	3,460
Gilmer	77	77	397	397	474	474
Glascock	14	28	74	123	106	151
Gordon	124	129	4,068	4,192	4,192	4,321
Greene	104	104	2,589	2,589	2,693	2,693
Hancock	27	26	345	345	372	371
Haralson	36	11	2,465	2,224	2,501	2,235
Harris	130	116	2,328	2,166	2,458	2,282
Hart	124	142	759	905	883	1,047
Heard	75	81	728	784	803	865
Henry	103	105	5,911	6,599	6,014	6,704
Irwin	16	16	554	554	570	570
Jasper	58	58	919	919	977	977
Johnson*	0	0	339	325	339	325
Jones	39	39	2,571	2,571	2,610	2,610
Lamar	0	1	1,336	1,288	1,336	1,289
Lanier	1	1	250	224	251	225

FY 1985 Probate Court Criminal Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed	Total Caseload Filed	Total Caseload Disposed
Laurens	135	120	7,042	6,488	7,177	6,608
Lee	33	33	1,673	1,569	1,706	1,602
Lincoln	166	163	330	386	496	549
Lumpkin	87	74	1,910	1,790	1,997	1,864
Madison	59	53	1,312	995	1,371	1,048
Marion	25	25	1,063	1,063	1,088	1,088
McDuffie	39	39	2,766	2,929	2,805	2,968
McIntosh	0	0	1,825	1,810	1,825	1,810
Meriwether	134	98	2,668	2,393	2,802	2,491
Monroe	83	91	6,372	7,748	6,455	7,839
Montgomery	57	55	642	605	699	660
Morgan	40	40	4,825	4,785	4,865	4,825
Murray	178	178	1,975	1,975	2,153	2,153
Newton	96	103	4,318	4,457	4,414	4,560
Oconee	69	69	1,642	1,456	1,711	1,525
Oglethorpe	37	31	679	619	716	650
Paulding	61	57	1,286	1,294	1,347	1,351
Peach	2	2	1,074	1,074	1,076	1,076
Pickens	0	0	2,267	2,267	2,267	2,267
Pike	26	26	965	1,050	991	1,076
Polk	134	117	1,659	1,609	1,793	1,726
Pulaski	0	0	508	508	508	508
Quitman	130	130	239	239	369	369
Rabun	93	93	447	447	540	540
Randolph	20	20	888	888	908	908
Rockdale	99	91	5,991	5,769	6,090	5,860
Schley	1	1	333	333	334	334
Seminole	81	81	997	997	1,078	1,078
Stewart	99	97	481	445	580	542
Talbot	78	78	1,910	1,910	1,988	1,988
Taliaferro	6	6	734	856	740	862
Taylor	39	36	1,129	971	1,168	1,007
Telfair	32	32	1,169	1,169	1,201	1,201
Terrell	0	0	1,270	1,270	1,270	1,270
Towns	0	0	344	344	344	344
Turner	1	1	3,897	3,772	3,898	3,773
Twiggs	34	34	993	1,014	1,027	1,048
Union	70	60	452	419	522	479
Upson	106	107	3,002	3,144	3,108	3,251
Walton	59	59	2,996	3,066	3,055	3,125
Warren	18	19	704	619	722	638
Webster	21	21	659	659	680	680
Wheeler	56	124	893	792	949	916
White	0	0	492	492	492	492
Whitfield	176	176	3,610	3,610	3,786	3,786
Wilcox	28	20	626	578	654	598
Wilkes	72	74	894	910	966	984
Wilkinson	33	31	591	556	624	587
TOTAL	5,672	5,458	183,035	180,663	188,707	186,121

*Probate court began handling misdemeanor and traffic cases in 1985.

Magistrate Courts

The statewide system of magistrate courts completed its second year of operation since replacing justice of the peace, small claims and other existing, similar courts as courts with uniform jurisdiction in 1983. These courts hear applications for and issue search and arrest warrants, preside in actions concerning bonds for good behavior and bonds to keep the peace, hold criminal commitment hearings, try county ordinance violations, try civil claims up to $2,500 where exclusive jurisdiction is not vested in the superior court and preside over dispossessory actions and distress warrant proceedings. Magistrate court judges may punish for contempt by a fine not exceeding $200 and/or by imprisonment up to 10 days. They may also issue subpoenas for witnesses and, in instances not reserved to other court officials, set bail and administer oaths.

Magistrate courts cannot conduct jury trials, therefore cases involving county ordinance violations in which a written demand for jury trial is made must be transferred to the county's state or superior court. As of March 1984, appeals from judgments returned in magistrate court are made to superior or state court.

A chief magistrate and one or more magistrates serve each county. The chief magistrate makes appointments to fill vacancies in the office of magistrate (with concurrence of superior court judges), assigns cases among and decides disputes between other magistrates and sets court sessions as necessary.

Chief magistrates are elected in partisan elections. The term of an appointed magistrate runs concurrently with the four-year term of the chief magistrate.

Magistrates are required by law to be residents of the county for one year preceding the beginning of their term of office, to be at least 25 years of age and to have a high school education. Judges of courts replaced by magistrate courts who became magistrates by virtue of a statutory grandfather clause are exempt from these qualifications, but additional qualifications may be imposed for any county through local law. All non-lawyer magistrates are required to successfully complete initial certification courses and annual recertification programs approved by the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council and conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Attorney magistrates are exempt from the initial training requirement.

As provided by law, judges of other limited jurisdiction courts may also serve as judge of a magistrate court. At the end of FY '85, 30 probate judges, two juvenile court judges, one municipal court judge and three civil court judges likewise served as chief magistrate.

Other Courts

Along with the two appellate and five trial courts, approximately 400 local courts form the Georgia court system. Several special courts and numerous courts serving incorporated municipalities operate under a variety of names with varying jurisdictions.

Originally created by statute or constitutional provision, certain special courts have limited civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the county. Such courts are the civil courts located in Bibb and Richmond counties and the Municipal Court of Columbus. Special courts authorized to exercise criminal jurisdiction only are the county recorder's courts of Chatham, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties and the consolidated government of Columbus-Muscogee County.

The 1983 constitution classified existing and future local city, mayor's, municipal, recorder's and police courts under the umbrella term "municipal courts" to designate them as a group of courts having jurisdiction over ordinance violations and other matters as may be statutorily provided. (One exception is the City Court of Atlanta which retains its original name.) Numbering approximately 390, active municipal courts try local traffic offenses, exercise criminal jurisdiction of magistrate courts and may have concurrent jurisdiction over cases involving one ounce or less of marijuana.

Judicial Agencies

Judicial Council of Georgia

During the past year, the Judicial Council of Georgia focused efforts to improve the state's courts on coordinating judicial system components and fulfilling statutorily assigned responsibilities. The council held two meetings, in December and June, to consider requests for superior court judgeships, take action regarding court reporting issues, monitor progress of the Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission and approve administrative appointments.

Responding to its prescribed duty to submit proposals for the improved operation of the Georgia judicial system, the council studied the need for additional superior court judgeships pursuant to requests from six judicial circuits after completion of the caseload research conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Following its study, the council recommended to the Governor and the legislature new judgeships for the Augusta and Piedmont circuits and reapproved its 1984 recommendation for the addition of judgeships in Lookout Mountain and Northeastern circuits. Although requests for two other superior court judgeships were not endorsed, the council favorably recommended a fourth state court judgeship for DeKalb County.

The Judicial Council again contracted with the judicial administrative districts, using $67,100 in state funds, to carry out the annual statewide casecount. The council's 1984 caseload study methodology remained almost entirely intact fot the FY '85 casecount, with the exception that state and probate court cases were counted directly from court dockets without verification from case files. Plans were formed to meet after the end of the fiscal year to consider revising the policy on judgeship recommendations with regard to proposals from its case counting committee to modify the formula for weighted caseload specifications.

Several changes to the rules and regulations of the Board of Court Reporting were adopted by the council as part of its ongoing regulation of the court reporting profession. Proposed by the board itself, these changes provided for a first-time increase in required skills test speeds, allowed for recognition of proficiency examinations given by national reporter organizations and required any court reporter practicing under a temporary judicial permit to attend the next successive certification test if performing at least 100 hours of court reporting services during a calendar year. The council also approved an amendment to the fee schedule to reduce the line requirement on transcript pages at the option of the court reporter.

The Judicial Council played an active role in the work of the Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission as it examined the state's judicial system to determine existing and future needs. Council representatives reported to the commission on the current administrative structure of the system, and members monitored its progress throughout the year. Council staff forecasted statewide cost estimates for proposed services and assessed the impact of specific recommendations on court structure.

The council ventured into several new areas during the year to provide support services to judges. To take advantage of federal funds becoming available to states, the council requested that the Governor allocate one-third of the Georgia allotment under the 1984 Justice Assistance and Victims of Crime acts to fund court projects. The council also supported legislation regarding liability insurance coverage for judges of limited jurisdiction courts and forwarded to the Georgia congressional delegation a resolution asking for exemption of state judges acting in an official capacity from assessment of attorney's

fees in cases of injunctive relief. Additionally, the council began to develop rules and regulations for handling court cases involving child abuse as charged by Senate Resolutions 189 and 199.

The council attended to a number of administrative tasks as well, approving the 1985 training curriculum for the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council, filling vacancies on the Board of Court Reporting and appointing representatives to the board of trustees of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education and to the Superior Court Clerks Training Council.

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts provides budget, research and management information services for the state court system and serves a liaison function through its administrative activities in connection with national-level and other state-level judicial agencies. The AOC also serves as staff to the Judicial Council.

The AOC's administration/operations division performs fiscal support services that involve coordinating the judicial branch appropriations request as well as serving as accounting officer for eight other judicial agencies. The fiscal office handles tasks associated with accounts payable, cash management, purchasing, inventory control, personnel records and financial reporting for these agencies.

Another function of the division is promotion of communication and exchange of information among judges, court support personnel, and public and private judicial organizations. This objective is accomplished primarily through the production of a number of informational publications, including the *Georgia Courts Journal*, a bimonthly periodical which informs readers of changes in court procedure, judicial personnel appointments and elections, recent legislation, local and national court management activities and judicial process events. The AOC produced and distributed seven weekly issues of the *Judicial Legislative Log*, the *1984-85 Georgia Courts Directory* and the *Eleventh Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*, and coordinated more than 150 printing projects for the AOC and other judicial agencies. Nine issues of the *Public Relations Digest* - abstracts of articles about the courts appearing in the Georgia press - were compiled and distributed to Judicial Council members to gauge public opinion about activities of the judiciary and to identify matters of concern to the council.

The research/court services division of AOC has the responsibility to gather statistical, financial and other information on the judicial work of the courts in order to pinpoint current and anticipated needs and to propose recommendations for improvements. Each year the primary research effort is directed at supervising the collection of caseload and other data on the work of the courts. One important use made of this data is to determine the need for additional judgeships. During the past year, the AOC analyzed FY 1984 statewide caseload data for the four courts of record and prepared reports of district, circuit and county caseloads in response to individual requests. Open caseload reports for the superior courts for FY 1984 were also compiled for all 45 circuits.

Considerable staff work was undertaken for the Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission. The AOC studied other states' court structure, judicial support services, judicial manpower and judicial branch financing to compare them to the Georgia situation. Analysis of current appellate caseload and projections of appellate and superior court caseloads were made to provide court management data for current and future demands.

Court modernization projects were identified and steps were taken to coordinate criminal justice informational needs. The AOC designed and conducted a survey to gather basic information about court computer systems and applications presently used in Georgia. A joint effort with the Georgia Crime Information Center was initiated to develop common data elements for sharing computerized caseload data. The AOC conducted its annual survey of judicial and court personnel salaries, and information on superior court case calendaring and caseload reporting systems were obtained through other surveys. The AOC also helped to design methodology and forms for the self-reporting of magistrate court caseload as mandated by the newly approved magistrate court rules. Technical assistance was provided to the Cherokee County superior court clerk to determine space utilization and records disposition and to Decatur County on a computerization project.

The AOC also engaged in cooperative activities with other agencies in completing certain projects. The AOC drafted nine records retention schedules later approved by the State Records Committee to assist local officials in managing court records and, with the State Archives Department, compiled a booklet of statewide records retention schedules for distribution around the state. The *Georgia Traffic Court Manual* was revised with the assistance of the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. Staff assistance was provided to the Superior Court Clerks' Uniform Rules Committee in preparing rules on docketing procedures. Along with the Department of Administrative Services, the AOC arranged for production of uniform forms for clerks of superior court.

The AOC continued to provide secretarial and basic coordinative services to a wide range of judicial agencies, boards and committees. Inmate action forms - forms for use by inmates in actions against state and local governments - were designed and promulgated as required by a 1985 act. The AOC also coordinated its state-level activities with national organizations such as the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts.

Board of Court Reporting

The Board of Court Reporting certifies official and freelance court reporters in order to regulate the state's court reporting profession and guarantee a minimum level of proficiency by reporting practitioners. The board also investigates complaints filed against court reporters and administers disciplinary action when warranted. The Judicial Council of Georgia appoints board members and governs court reporting fees through regulation and adjustment of an established fee schedule.

The certification examination administered by the board consists of a skills test in one of three elected methods of takedown, including machine or manual shorthand or Stenomask. Reporters must pass the "B" test, which involves dictation, transcription and a written exam, to become certified. The optional "A" test provides certified reporters an opportunity to upgrade their professional status. Individuals who pass the initial examination submit a renewal fee by April 1 of each year to remain certified.

During FY '85, the board expanded standardized grading criteria, enabling more uniform grading of test papers. Two new written tests were compiled to replace the four tests which were retired. The board temporarily hired a grader for the dictation tests to aid in uniform grading and to shorten the time required to distribute test results.

A new testing site proved satisfactory, as the board selected facilities at DeKalb Community College in Clarkston when a former location became unavailable. Two tests were held during the year, in September 1984 and March 1985. Of the 258 persons submitting applications for testing, 232 actually attended. Ninety-four persons (44%) passed the "B" test, with one person upgrading a certificate and one changing the certified method of takedown. Two persons (10%) successfully passed the "A" test.

At the end of the fiscal year, 674 court reporters were certified to practice in Georgia. Temporary board permit holders numbered 50, and 13 persons were operating on temporary judicial permits. Board permits may be issued to allow trained reporters to work until the next scheduled examination; holders of these permits may report for any court or in any legal setting. Judicial temporary permits are made available for work in one court by a sponsoring judge and may be revoked only with the consent of the issuing judge.

There were a total of 98 board permits granted during the year. The board revoked 17 permits for failure to attend the next succeeding certification test, and 10 were terminated for failing to pass the test in two testing periods. Two reporters in the latter group were later issued judicial permits to continue working until becoming certified. Two other permits were revoked for lack of a sponsor.

On May 1, 1985, the board suspended 43 certificates for nonpayment of the annual renewal fee. Six reporters subsequently reinstated their certificates by remitting the renewal and required delinquent fees.

The board handled seven formal complaints against reporters filed by attorneys, citizens and other court reporters. Two complaints were withdrawn prior to disposition by the board after the issues were settled. No action was taken in response to one complaint involving a reporter with an expired temporary permit, as the only remedies available to the board are revocation or suspension of a certificate. One complaint resulted in the voluntary suspension of a certificate, and in response to another claim that a fee higher than that authorized by the schedule was charged, the board ordered a reporter to issue a refund. A hearing in response to another complaint cleared a court reporter of a charge of fraud, and a complaint for violation of retention schedules for court reporters' notes, tapes and transcripts remained in progress at year-end.

The board pursued a number of projects during the year, most notably the complete revision of the *Certified Court Reporter's Handbook* which was originally published in 1978. The board worked with the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association (GCCRA) on a preliminary survey used for a rate increase proposal submitted to the Judicial Council. The board's clerk also assisted GCCRA in publishing and distributing its monthly newsletter.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges is composed of all judges of the courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles. The membership includes 51 full or part-time juvenile court judges and 58 superior court judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction. The primary concern of the council is contributing to more effective administration and operation of the state's juvenile courts. Among the council's activities during FY 1985 were direction of the Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders and the Permanent Homes for Children programs, expansion of the automated juvenile information system and plans for implementation of the Uniform Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Juvenile Courts.

Federally funded through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the purchase of services program furnishes financial support and operational guidance to local courts for the maintenance and development of a variety of alternatives to institutional treatment of juvenile offenders. The components of the purchase of services program are tutorial and remedial instruction; family, group and individual counseling; diagnostic testing; part-time community service jobs; symbolic restitution; temporary housing and transportation. The program allows for maximum flexibility at the local level where the judge determines which children to refer to the progam and the appropriate services for each child.

In FY '85, 65 counties expended $221,066 to establish community-based services for children on probation. Eight of these counties participated for the first time in FY '85. (In all, 85 counties have contracted with the council for reimbursement funds.) During this twelve month period, over 2,000 children throughout the state participated in the program. The average expenditure on each individual was $110.

Operating since 1979, the council's purchase of services program was recognized as an Exemplary Project by the Governor's Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. A sample survey of children's records in eleven counties showed that rates of return to court for children placed on the purchase of services program were significantly lower than rates of return for five other disposition methods.

Transfer of the Permanent Homes for Children in Georgia program from the Georgia Alliance for Children to the Council of Juvenile Court Judges was a significant event in FY 1985. The budget for this program, previously funded by the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, was part of the General Assembly's appropriation to the council for fiscal year 1986. The program provides training and operational assistance to counties throughout the state to establish judicial citizen review panels. The panels consist of citizens in local communities appointed by the juvenile court judge who are trained by council staff to review cases of children in foster care and who provide a report to the juvenile court judge. Reviews of each case are held every six months to determine if progress is being made toward achieving a permanent home for a child. At the end of the fiscal year, 27 citizen review panels with 270 volunteers operated in 15 counties in Georgia. Panels were in the developmental stage in five additional counties.

Expansion of the council's juvenile information system from a voluntary reporting system to a true statewide child tracking and information system was an ongoing activity during FY 1985. In anticipation of the adoption of uniform court rules and uniform dockets, the council developed software for a computerized trial court management system utilizing the mandated forms. Software for the system, which runs on a PICK operating system, is available to any juvenile court in the state. Using funds from the Governor's Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the council purchased computer equipment and installed systems in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb and Fulton counties' juvenile courts. These counties form the nucleus of the new statewide information system known as CIRTS, Child Information and Record Tracking System. Each juvenile court in the state will contribute data to this new system either by electronic means or by submitting paper copy.

Statistical reports were compiled for 63 counties that participated in the council's voluntary juvenile information system during FY '85. Efforts to automate the states' juvenile courts have been made possible by funding from the legislature since 1978.

Uniform Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Juvenile Courts, providing for uniformity in record-keeping, intake procedure, forms and transfer of cases, were adopted by the Supreme Court during FY 1985. To insure a smooth transition to use of the new rules, council staff conducted seminars for juvenile court personnel, clerks of court, Department of Family and Children's Services personnel and law enforcement officers. The seminars were designed to clarify responsibilities of the various components in the juvenile justice system, to provide for exchange of information and to insure the cooperation of those affected by implementation of the uniform rules.

Legislation affecting the juvenile courts during the 1985 session of the Georgia General Assembly included a measure sponsored by the council to standardize termination of parental rights procedures and a bill modifying time limitations for detention hearings. Pending in the 1986 state Senate, the termination bill (HB 175) enumerates standards which a judge must specifically consider before entering a decision for termination of parental rights. Under this proposal judges would be required to make findings of fact and conclusions of law in their orders as the basis for the decision to terminate. HB 185, which amended OCGA § 15-11-21 governing mandatory detention hearings, provided that, if the 72-hour time limit for holding the hearing expires on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, a detention hearing regarding a delinquent or deprived child will be held on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Seminars sponsored by the council and the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education were held in the fall and spring to provide for annual certification of juvenile court judges. Forty-six judges and referees attended the fall seminar and 55 juvenile court judges and referees participated in the spring seminar. All juvenile court judges were properly certified by the council as provided in OCGA § 15-11-4.1.

Funds for five direct-service internships in juvenile justice were made available to the council by the Governor's Advisory Council. These funds provided an opportunity for law students to become involved in the day-to-day operation of the state's juvenile courts. Students were placed in the juvenile courts located in Fulton, Chatham, Douglas and Thomas counties. Interviewing and placement of student interns were handled jointly by council staff and the Governor's Intern Office.

The Juvenile Justice Personnel Development Project, cosponsored by the council and the Division of Youth Services, continued to provide training for field staff of the juvenile courts. Forty-three seminars were held during the year, with 451 Division of Youth Services employees and 479 juvenile court employees in attendance. Training network members provided leadership and instruction for these seminars.

Council of Superior Court Judges

The purpose and goals of the Council of Superior Court Judges are to effectuate the constitutional and statutory responsibilities conferred upon it by law, to identify and seek solutions to problems common to all judges and to pursue matters of mutual interest in furthering the improvement of the administration of justice and the judiciary in Georgia. Fiscal year 1985 proved to be a landmark year for the council as it followed these aims using an initial appropriation of $40,000 from the 1984 General Assembly. The funds enabled the council, which had existed since 1960 without state monies, to establish a central office in close proximity to the state's judicial branch headquarters in Atlanta and to hire a full-time staff administrator.

Working through its 10 standing committees, the council realized several significant achievements during the year. Subcommittees of the Judicial Education Committee revised the Criminal Benchbook and updated and distributed the Suggested Civil and Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions. The Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts were completed and approved by the entire council. The council also published a 170-page directory of superior court judges, senior superior court judges and judicial district administrative personnel.

The council attained a number of legislative objectives during the 1985 session of the state legislature. The council was statutorily created as a state agency as the result of the adoption of Senate Bill 95 (Act #658), which formalized the council's existing structure and organization. Another objective was reached with passage of a measure providing a salary increase for superior court judges' secretaries, thereby bringing them into parity with secretaries of district attorneys. A third favorable outcome was accomplished by the amendment of OCGA §35-6A-3 to add a superior court judge representative to the Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

In other areas, the council monitored the progress and recommendations of the Judicial Process Review Commission to keep its membership informed of possible changes affecting superior courts. Its commitment to and support of continuing judicial education was evidenced by the attendance of 93 members at the summer seminar on St. Simons Island and 113 members at the fall seminar in Athens.

The council is composed of all superior court judges (127) and senior (retired) superior court judges (38) in Georgia. Three officers - president, president-elect, secretary-treasurer - and the administrative judge of each of the 10 judicial districts constitute its executive committee.

Georgia Indigent Defense Council

Operating without a legislative appropriation since 1981, the Georgia Indigent Defense Council continued its work in FY '85. The council's statutory duties include administering funds to support local indigent defense programs, recommending guidelines for local indigent defense programs, providing assistance and administrative services to local programs and attorneys who represent indigents and preparing supporting budgets and information for the implementation of state policy regarding the right to counsel.

The Supreme Court committed $5,100 of its FY '85 budget to fund expenses of the council's quarterly meetings. In addition, a grant of $4,800 was awarded to the council by the American Bar Association to provide funds for research and planning assistance and contractual services.

In using the ABA funds, the council attempted to document statewide information on indigent defense through a survey of caseload and county expenditures for indigent defense services. Indigent defense programs were identified as one of three types, including public defender, appointment and contractual systems, with the exception of one program functioning in Clarke and Oconee counties as a nonprofit organization in conjunction with the University of Georgia's Law School Clinic. Survey results revealed that counties expended approximately $4,908,812 on 32,344 indigent cases over a twelve month period.

Thirteen persons, each appointed by the Supreme Court, sit on the council, including ten attorneys representing the judicial administrative districts and three nonlawyers selected from the state at-large. An administrative assistant and attorney serving as counsel to the membership provide staff services through contract with the council.

First established in 1979, the Indigent Defense Council's goals are to procure adequate defense services for indigents, adequate compensation for counsel, independence of counsel, reasonably early entry into indigent cases by counsel and state funding of the indigent defense system.

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

In prescribing minimum standards for curricula and criteria for magistrate training, the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council governs initial and continuing education requirements for magistrate court judges. The council approves instructor qualifications and issues training certification to chief and associate magistrates who satisfactorily comply with established programs. Newly elected or appointed non-lawyer magistrates are required to attend the first scheduled certification course after assuming office and to successfully complete 40 hours of training in the performance of their duties, and all magistrates must fulfill an annual 20-hour training requirement to maintain certified status.

Due to a 1984 policy change, the council altered its 1985 training year from a fiscal to a calendar year basis. With assistance from the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, two 40-hour and seven 20-hour training sessions for magistrates were held during the year. In certifying 394 magistrate court judges, 220 hours of training were administered.

Magistrates attending the 40-hour programs were instructed in their court's civil, criminal, historical, ethical and administrative practices through a variety of methods, including lectures, videotapes and demonstration. Judges renewing their certification at the 20-hour courses received instruction in forms completion, responsibilities of support personnel, civil and criminal court duties and evidence law, and were introduced to computerization in magistrate courts. Exams given at the end of each day covered topics presented earlier.

Each participant paid a $125 tuition fee to cover costs for speakers and materials, which included the *Handbook for Magistrates*, a landlord-tenant addendum to the handbook and supplements and index to the Georgia unannotated code. New magistrates also received a two-volume set of the unannotated code.

The Institute of Continuing Legal Education allowed 24.5 and 8.3 hours credit, respectively, for the 40 and 20-hour sessions toward mandatory continuing education hours for attorney magistrates. These attorneys were charged $1.25 per credit hour to compensate the Institute for administrative costs associated with the reciprocal training.

The council instituted a number of policy changes for 1985 and 1986. The council limited attendance at each 1985 seminar to 60 participants at each training site, with the exception of the 40-hour sessions, to stimulate small group interaction. After finding it necessary to alter the program calendar to hold a second basic certification program in 1985, the council planned again to schedule only one in 1986 in two 20-hour segments. The council decided to enrich training sessions by utilizing more discussion groups and will train discussion group leaders in conjunction with the Council of Magistrate Court Judges. It was also determined that participants in 1986 seminars may choose which published training materials they wish to receive.

In addition, as required by the 1983 Magistrate Courts Training Act, the council turned over to the Judicial Qualifications Commission the names of 10 persons who failed to become certified. Following a decision by the board of trustees of the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education to expand its membership to include a representative from the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, the training council adopted a policy to include that person in all meetings.

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council 1985 Seminars

Date	Location	# Hours	Attendees	# Certified
January 7-11, 1985	Athens	40	62	62
February 11-13, 1985	Tifton	20	42	40
March 11-13, 1985	Statesboro	20	36	36
April 1-3, 1985	Macon	20	54	54
May 13-15, 1985	Athens	20	59	59
July 15-19, 1985	Athens	40	44	44
August 5-7, 1985	Macon	20	32	32
August 28-30, 1985	Marietta	20	39	39
September 23-25, 1985	Athens	20	28	28

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

The 1984-85 program year proved the busiest ever for the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) as it sponsored 23 state-based instructional activities for almost 1,600 participants. The annual calendar of training events traditionally offered by ICJE was readministered and enhanced by the addition of a fall seminar for state court judges and an initial workshop for clerks of juvenile court.

The success of two experimental programs undertaken during FY '85 sufficiently warranted their continuation in following years. The first venture, moderated by a pair of nonlegal scholars from the fields of philosophy and the classics, introduced judicial officers to literary works through a program of readings and discussion of Greek classical writings on judging. The second activity enabled a small group of judges to visit a variety of state adult correctional institutions and programs. Judges viewed incarceration and probation activities in a two-day tour during the latter program, which gave most of the participants their initial exposure to Georgia's corrections facilities and offender services.

The Institute continued to utilize its array of legal and judicial instructional resources in conducting its educational programs. Law faculty participation in judicial training was at an all-time high, as faculty members of the law schools of Mercer University, Emory University and the University of Georgia donated public service time to the Institute. For the first time, superior court judges assumed a significant instructional role in the statutorily mandated training for magistrates by leading two-hour evidence law segments at each of four regional seminar locations.

Significant effort was devoted to development of a continuing judicial education specialty course focusing on the interpretation and application of Georgia constitutional provisions, particularly where an analogous provision in the federal Bill of Rights exists. Progress in this area led to the scheduling of a seminar on the topic for September 1985.

ICJE's fiscal year 1985 state appropriation of $273,924 was augmented during the winter of 1985 by the receipt of two federal grant awards. A sum of $9,590, consisting of monies granted to the Institute from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, provided the impetus for an initial seminar for clerks of juvenile court. This grant also enabled ICJE to underwrite the costs of instructors and provide training materials for programs covering the new uniform rules of juvenile court targeted specifically at prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, independent juvenile court support personnel and juvenile court service workers (trained in cooperation with the Department of Human Resources' Juvenile Justice Training Project).

With a second grant of $38,600, awarded from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, ICJE devised a basic training program for traffic court judges and clerks with plans to conduct the program, following an initial test run, on a regional basis during the first six months of FY '86.

It was the second year in which no mileage expenses were reimbursed to program participants due to insufficient funding to cover this expense. For the first time, both the 40-hour and 20-hour mandatory training sessions for magistrates were conducted for audiences limited to 60 attendees, allowing for a more sound learning environment and regionalized execution of the curriculum, saving time and expense for all involved.

Of 58 applications received for financial aid to attend nationally-based training, the Institute approved some level of funding and 38 persons actually took advantage of the assistance. Usually, the Institute's share of costs amounted to 80 percent of out-of-state training expenditures for each individual. Total funds spent by ICJE for nationally-based training were $43,699.

One major administrative change occurred late in the year when the Judicial Council, upon the Institute's recommendation, voted to add to the board of trustees the dean of the recently accredited Georgia State University law school in Atlanta and a delegated representative of magistrate court judges and superior court clerks. Existing members of the board for the most part represent client groups of courts and judicial organizations in the state and include one judge of the Court of Appeals; two members of the Council of Superior Court Judges; one member each of the councils of state, juvenile and probate court judges; one member each of the State Bar of Georgia and the Judicial Council; and five ex officio members, including the immediate past chairmen of the Institute's board of trustees and the board of trustees of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the deans of the state's other three accredited law schools. A liaison member representing the Supreme Court and an advisory member also serve on the Institute's board.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
FY 1985 State-based Instructional Activities

Program	Location	Date	Attendees
Summer Seminar for Superior Court Judges	St. Simons Island	July 30-August 1, 1984	104
Annual Fall Municipal Court Judges Seminar	Athens	September 12-14, 1984	22
Juvenile Court Judges Fall Seminar	Augusta	October 10-12, 1984	63
Independent Juvenile Court Probation Officers	Unicoi	October 17-19, 1984	74
Annual Fall Seminar for Court Administrators	Athens	October 31-November 2, 1984	31
Annual Fall Seminar for Superior Court Judges	Athens	October 31-November 2, 1984	121
Annual Fall Seminar for Clerks of Superior Court	Macon	November 12-14, 1984	119
Annual Fall Seminar for Probate Court Judges	Macon	November 12-14, 1984	100
State Court Judges Seminar	Athens	December 5-7, 1984	30
40-Hour Basic Course for Magistrates	Athens	January 7-11, 1985	62
20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrates	Tifton	February 11-13, 1985	42
20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrates	Statesboro	March 11-13, 1985	36
20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrates	Macon	April 1-3, 1985	54
Independent Juvenile Court Probation Officers	Athens	April 2-4, 1985	43
Annual Spring Seminar for Probate Court Judges	Athens	April 15-17, 1985	167
20-Hour Course for Superior Court Clerks	Athens	April 17-19, 1985	137
40-Hour Course for Superior Court Clerks	Athens	April 15-19, 1985	70
Juvenile Court Clerks Seminar	Athens	April 17,1985	31
Annual Spring Seminar for Juvenile Court Judges	St. Simons Island	April 29-May 1, 1985	81
DOR/ICJE Facilities and Programs Tour	Based in Macon	May 2-3, 1985	22
20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrates	Athens	May 13-15, 1985	59
Spring Seminar for State Court Judges	Savannah	May 22-24, 1985	23
Annual Spring Seminar for Judicial Secretaries	Atlanta	May 29-31, 1985	84

Judicial Nominating Commission

The Judicial Nominating Commission solicits nominations and evaluates the qualifications of nominees for judicial positions to assist the governor in appointing well-qualified individuals to judicial office. The nominating process is most often undertaken to fill judicial vacancies, although nominations may also be taken to fill newly created judgeships.

Prior to appointment, candidates for judicial office must fulfill specific qualifications. While the qualifications vary, most candidates must meet a residency and age requirement. Judges of the appellate and superior courts must also exhibit active membership in the state bar for seven years, and state and juvenile court judges must be admitted to practice law for at least five years. Qualifications for these and other judges are specified either in the state constitution or in various statutes.

Ten members serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission, five of whom are citizen members appointed to serve a term concurrent with that of the governor. The other five members are or have been elected officers of the state bar, including the president, two successive past presidents and the president-elect and president of the younger lawyers section.

The commission held eight meetings in fiscal year 1985 to consider nominations for 13 vacancies and new judgeships, including one vacancy on the Court of Appeals, three vacancies and three new judgeships for the superior courts and five vacancies and one new position for the state courts.

Since its creation by executive order of then Governor Jimmy Carter in 1973, the commission has acted on a total of 137 judgeships, including 1) nine Supreme Court vacancies, 2) 11 Court of Appeals vacancies, 3) 86 superior court judicial positions, 4) 29 state court judicial positions and 5) two municipal court judgeships.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

Since its beginning in late 1973, the Judicial Qualifications Commission has conducted investigations and hearings in response to complaints of misconduct by Georgia judges and is responsible for issuing formal and informal opinions in answer to inquiries regarding appropriate judicial conduct. The commission operates in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court, which is authorized to review all proceedings.

Complaints against judges must be based on an alleged violation of one of seven canons of the state's Code of Judicial Conduct. After investigation of a complaint and a subsequent hearing or evaluation, the commission may recommend to the Supreme Court the removal, discipline or retirement of a particular judge. The grounds upon which a judge may be disciplined or removed or retired from office, as specified in the Georgia Constitution, include 1) willful misconduct in office; 2) willful and persistent failure to perform duties; 3) habitual intemperance; 4) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute; or 5) disability seriously interfering with the performance of duties, which is, or is likely to become of a permanent character.

The state constitution further provides that the commission may suspend from office a judge who has been indicted for a felony, pending final disposition of the case or until expiration of the term of office, whichever occurs first, if the commission concludes that such indictment relates to and adversely affects administration of the judge's office.

During fiscal year 1985, the commission held 11 regular meetings. It concluded 128 cases, including complaints and requests for opinions, of the 30 cases pending from FY '84 and 114 new matters received during the year. A total of 95 complaints were terminated for the following reasons:

a) judge defeated for reelection	1
b) no basis for discipline	83
c) judge given private admonition or reprimand	6
d) judge suspended	1
e) judge resigned	2
f) judge removed	1
g) no jurisdiction	1

Fourteen formal opinions and nine informal opinions were rendered. Nine requests for opinions were denied.

Two formal proceedings were initiated before the commission. In one case, upon recommendation of the commission, a state court judge was suspended for thirty days without compensation. In the second, the approval for service of a former superior court judge to hold court as a senior judge was revoked by the Supreme Court subject to an application for reinstatement after five months.

On April 25, 1985, the Supreme Court approved and adopted revised Rules for the Judicial Qualifications Commission as submitted by the commission, and the commission arranged for publication and distribution of these rules, both in the *Georgia Courts Journal* (published by the Administrative Office of the courts) and in a booklet distributed to clerks of superior court and to others upon request. A booklet of the revised Code of Judicial Conduct was similarly prepared and made available for distribution.

The seven members of the commission include two judges of courts of record, three members of the State Bar of Georgia and two citizen members. Under the commission's rules, no member other than a judge may hold public or judicial office, and no member is permitted to hold office in a political party or organization. Fiscal year 1985 was the first year in which the commission employed a director.

Synopses of FY 1985 JQC Opinions

Opinion 57: A part-time juvenile court judge is not prohibited from serving as a member of the board of education unless the board has been, or there is reason to anticipate that it will be, engaged in proceedings that ordinarily come before him, or that it would be regularly engaged in adversary proceedings in any court, and his duties as juvenile court judge must at all time take precedence.

Opinion 58: It would not constitute a violation of Canon 7 for a superior court judge's secretary, who had been a member and secretary of the county democratic executive committee for many years, to serve in that capacity, unless it was undertaken or conducted on behalf of the judge, or he undertook to influence or control her activity as a member of said committee.

Opinion 59: (1) A county attorney may run for the position of magistrate without resigning as county attorney, in view of the amended Canon 7, which has deleted the requirement of former Canon 7A(3), that a judge must resign before he becomes a candidate for nonjudicial office.
(2) A county attorney may continue to serve as such if he is elected to the position of magistrate, but he may not practice in his own court or appear in any matter as to which his court has exercised any jurisdiction.
(3) A county attorney cannot appoint a part-time magistrate and prosecute cases in the court before him.

Opinion 60: It would be a violation of Canon 3A(6) for a judge to participate in any interview with respect to a case tried by him so long as the case was not finally disposed of, or there existed the remotest possibility of further proceedings before him. While a judge may discuss procedures of the court in general terms for the information of the public, a discussion relating trial strategies to his decisions in a specific case would be inappropriate.

Opinion 61: If the publication and distribution of a proposed newsletter is carried out strictly in the manner represented and without interference with the judges' primary commitment to the proper performance of their judicial duties, such publication and distribution will not violate the applicable canons but, unless great caution is exercised, there is danger that in actual practice it may well do so.

Opinion 62: A candidate for judicial office may reimburse himself for campaign expenditures from surplus campaign contributions at the conclusion of the campaign without violating Canon 7, provided such surplus funds are used for nothing more than to reimburse him for contingent advances and loans made to his campaign committee pending receipt of adequate campaign contributions.

Opinion 63: Letters of recommendation from a judge to a screening committee of the bar for judicial appointment would not violate Canon 2, provided that the letters are sought because of the peculiar opportunity of those from whom such letters are sought to know and to recommend the applicant, rather than sought primarily by reason of the prestige of the judicial office.

Opinion 64: A judge may write a letter to the clerk of the Supreme Court approving the petition for reinstatement of a former attorney of his local bar who has previously been disbarred, without violating the canons, in view of the fact that, under Georgia Bar Rule 4-301, the judge is one of the constituency whose approval is mandated by the rule, and the recommendations are not to be disclosed by the clerk.

Opinion 65: It is not appropriate for a part-time judge of the state court of one county to also serve as part-time judge of the recorder's court of a city.

Opinion 66: Directors of the State Board of Worker's Compensation, when serving as hearing officers or exercising judicial functions, are subject to all provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Opinion 67: The statute creating the Magistrate Court of Chatham County (Ga. Laws 1984, pp. 4422-4426) made the judge of the Municipal Court of Savannah judge emeritus of said court and ex officio judge of the Magistrate Court of Chatham County, which froze him into the office so long as he remained qualified, and had the effect of exonerating him from the initial forty-hour training period, but left him subject to the annual twenty-hour training periods required by the act.

Opinion 68: It is not appropriate for judges to appoint their spouses or other members of their immediate family to serve as their personal secretaries.

Opinion 69: A part-time juvenile court judge of a court in one county can practice in the juvenile courts of another county without violating any of the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Opinion 70: A magistrate should not serve as constable in the court in which he is presiding.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

For the first time in its 11-year history, the Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel experienced a decline in the number of sentences reviewed in response to appeals by Georgia inmates. Applications for review submitted to the panel clerk decreased almost 20 percent, while the number of cases examined dropped 8.8 percent.

During FY '85, the panel processed 2,207 applications, of which 2,004 were docketed and 203 were ruled ineligible for consideration. The panel evaluated 2,237 actual cases, affirming 2,137 and reducing 100 sentences.

The cumulative reduction rate for cases reviewed since the panel's inception (July 1, 1974) decreased to 5.94 percent in fiscal year 1985, the lowest rate since March 1977. The reduction rate for the year - 4.47 percent - was the second lowest in the panel's experience.

Cases subject to review by the Sentence Review Panel are those sentences totaling five or more years set by a superior court judge without a jury. Exceptions to the panel's jurisdiction include sentences set in misdemeanor cases, cases in which the death penalty has been imposed and murder cases where a life sentence has been applied.

In evaluating sentences, the panel seeks to determine whether the sentence imposed by the trial judge was excessive. Consideration is given to the nature of the crime for which the defendant was convicted and to the defendant's prior criminal record. While it is empowered to reduce sentences, the panel is prohibited by law from increasing punishments, reducing sentences to probation or suspending any sentence.

The Sentence Review Panel meets in two concurrent panels, each composed of three superior court judges. Panel members are appointed and chairmen are designated by the president of the Council of Superior Court judges to serve three-month terms. A supernumerary member is also appointed for each term and is authorized to substitute for any member who cannot attend a meeting or who is disqualified.

An administrative board of three judges serves to maintain continuity between the various panels. The board prepares an annual budget, considers revisions to the panel's procedural rules and supervises the activities of the clerk and support staff. During the past year, the board amended the rules to conform to the format of the rules of the Supreme Court and published them in the *Georgia Advance Sheets*, a weekly digest of Supreme Court cases.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel Caseload Summary

FY 1984 Caseload

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced	Cases reviewed	Percent reduced
Panel 41	572	38	610	6.23
Panel 42	448	12	460	2.61
Panel 43	544	36	580	6.21
Panel 44	573	14	587	2.39
Total	2,137	100	2,237	4.47

10-year Comparison of Cases Reviewed

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced	Percent reduced
FY 1976	703	39	5.26
FY 1977	955	80	7.73
FY 1978	1,123	67	5.63
FY 1979	1,134	101	8.18
FY 1980	1,228	90	6.83
FY 1981	1,542	145	8.60
FY 1982	1,846	136	6.86
FY 1983	2,359	88	3.60
FY 1984	2,335	119	4.85
FY 1985	2,137	100	4.47

Appendix 1

Judicial Personnel Changes: FY 1985

Appointments

Court of Appeals

Dorothy T. Beasley for term 11/5/84-1/1/87.

Superior Courts

Atlanta Judicial Court
Don A. Langham for term 3/18/85-1/1/87.

Cobb Judicial Circuit
George H. Kreeger for term 7/1/84-12/31/86.

Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Carol W. Hunstein for term 9/17/84-1/1/85.
Robert J. Castellani for term 11/30/84-1/1/87.

State Courts

Chatham County
Charles B. Mikell, Jr., for term 1/4/85-1/1/87.

Cherokee/Forsyth Counties
Clyde J. Gober, Jr., for term 7/6/84-1/1/85.

Cobb County
Mary E. Staley for term 10/3/84-1/1/85.
A. Harris Adams for term 1/4/85-1/1/87.

Decatur County
James M. Pace, Jr., for term 7/6/85-1/1/85.

Fulton County
Frank M. Hull for term 11/19/84-1/1/87.
A.L. Thompson for term 12/21/84-1/1/85.
Thelma Wyatt-Cummings for term 5/30/85-1/1/87.

Troup County
Allen B. Keeble for term 12/26/84-1/1/85.

Walker County
Charles D. Peppers, Sr., for term 5/6/85-1/1/87.

Juvenile Courts

Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Elizabeth R. Glazebrook for term 10/15/84-10/15/88.

Carroll County
Thomas E. Greer for term 11/14/84-11/13/90.

Clarke County
James E. McDonald, Jr., for term 1/1/85-12/31/88.

Hall County
Richard W. Story for term 1/1/85-12/31/90.

Troup County
Allen B. Keeble for term 1/1/85-12/31/90.

Probate Courts

McIntosh County
John D. Browning for term 8/31/84-1/1/85.

Chief Magistrates

Bryan County
Cleveland Strickland for term 3/1/85-1/1/89.

Warren County
Cecil Johnson for term 5/15/85-1/1/89.

Elections

Superior Courts

Cobb Judicial Circuit
Tom Cauthorn for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Eastern Judicial Circuit
James W. Head for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Northeastern Judicial Circuit
J.D. Smith for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Clarence F. Seeliger for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

State Courts

Bulloch County
John R. Turner for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Candler County
Ogden Doremus for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Carroll County
Aubrey Duffey for term 11/7/84-11/1/88.

Coffee County
T.V. Williams, Jr., for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

DeKalb County
Anne Workman for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Emanuel County
William H. McWhorter, Jr., for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Gwinnett County
Howard E. Cook for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Habersham County
James Butterworth for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Richmond County
Gayle B. Hamrick for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Thomas County
Elliot P. McCollum, Jr., for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Probate Courts

Atkinson County
Glenn J. White for term 1/1/85-1/1/89.

Analysis of Statewide Judicial Manpower (July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985)

Court	Total number judgeships [1]	Judges beginning first terms: Method of selection: Elected	Appointed	New judgeship	Total	Judges leaving the bench: Reason for leaving: Resigned	Retired	Not reelected/Not a candidate for reelection	Died	Total [2]
Supreme Court	7	–	–	–	0	–	–	–	–	0
Court of Appeals	9	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	1
Superior Courts	127 [3]	4	3	1	8	2	4	1	1	8
State Courts (Full and part-time)	78	10	10	1	21	5	4	6	2	17
Juvenile Courts (Full and part-time)	50	–	5	–	5	5	–	–	1	6
Probate Courts	159	22	1	–	23	1	9	13	–	23

[1] As of June 30, 1985.

[2] Total number of judges leaving the bench does not match total number of new judges in some instances because of new appointments or vacancies which existed at the end of the fiscal year.

[3] Although 127 superior court judgeships had been allocated by the end of the year, 124 had been filled.

Chatham County
R.M. McDuffee for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Cobb County
David Dodd for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Coweta County
Mary T. Crawford for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Crawford County
Sara W. Paravis for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Dade County
John F. Bradford for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Dodge County
John Kelly for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Evans County
W.V. Strickland for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Habersham County
Ken Holcomb for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Harris County
Martha F.M. Chewning for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Lee County
John Wheaton for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

McIntosh County
Gordon G. Shuman for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Muscogee County
Rudy Jones for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Oglethorpe County
Beverly W. Nation for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Paulding County
Fran Watson for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Putnam County
Yvonne Harrell for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Rabun County
Larry E. Cannon for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Telfair County
Gerald A. Wells for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Towns County
Wayne Garrett for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Union County
Marcus Sosebee for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Ware County
Marcus L. Sweat, Jr., for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Webster County
Frank Walker for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Chief Magistrates

Brantley County
Huey R. Ham for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Brooks County
Joyce Warren for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Bulloch County
Billy Joe Deal for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Burke County
Patricia J. Hall for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Calhoun County
Charles B. Porter for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Carroll County
Evelyn Reeves for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Charlton County
Zada J. Murray for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Chatham County
John Andre, Jr., for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Chattahoochee County
Hendon Griffin for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Clay County
Danny L. Gay for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Clayton County
J. Dan Baer for term
3/30/85-1/1/89.

Dade County
Don Hicks for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

DeKalb County
Wayne M. Purdom for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Effingham County
Yolanda T. Bota for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Fannin County
David E. Buchanan for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Gilmer County
David Baugh for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Glascock County
Lee M. Harrell for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Grady County
Nancy R. Wisham for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Houston County
James Corbeil for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Lincoln County
Lee Moss for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

McIntosh County
Ralph E. Poppell for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Monroe County
Frank N. Wilder, IV, for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Montgomery County
Gary Braddy for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Murray County
Mitchell Smith for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Paulding County
Larry F. Silbaugh for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Pierce County
Karen Clark for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Pulaski County
Cheri Gross for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Randolph County
A.W. Palmer for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Rockdale County
Sidney L. Nation for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Screven County
Tony L. Kemp for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Sumter County
R. Lawton LeSueur, Jr., for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Tattnall County
Richard O. Brannen for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Taylor County
Alton J. Allen for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Tift County
J. Ledford Hood for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Turner County
Craig E. Poole for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Upson County
Vivian J. Hammock for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Webster County
William P. Addy for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

White County
Martin Welch for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Whitfield County
Jim Campbell for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Worth County
Jean A. Powers for term
1/1/85-1/1/89.

Appendix 2

Judicial Agencies Directory

Judicial Council of Georgia

Chief Justice Harold N. Hill Jr.
Chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Presiding Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Vice chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judge Henry A. Baker
First vice president
Council of Probate Court Judges
Covington

Chief Judge Harold R. Banke [1]
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Third District
Macon

Judge A.W. Birdsong, Jr.
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge A. Wallace Cato
President
Council of Superior Court Judges
Bainbridge

Judge Tom Cauthorn [2]
President
Council of State Court Judges
Marietta

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Covington

Judge George W. Eisel, III
President
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Sparta

Judge George R. Ellis, Jr. [3]
President-elect
Council of State Court Judges
Americus

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Tenth District
Augusta

Judge George W. Harris
First vice president
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Fort Valley

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Second District
Moultrie

Judge John S. Langford
Administrative Judge
Fifth District
Atlanta

Judge Hugh Lawson
President-elect
Council of Superior Court Judges
Hawkinsville

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Eighth District
Sandersville

Chief Judge William L. McMurray, Jr. [2]
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge James E. Palmour, III [2]
Administrative Judge
Ninth District
Gainesville

Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr.[4]
Administrative Judge
Ninth District
Dalton

Judge R. Edward Reddick, Jr. [3]
President-elect
Council of State Court Judges
Springfield

Judge J. Ben Spear
President
Council of Probate Court Judges
Forsyth

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr.
Administrative Judge
First District
Brunswick

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Administrative Judge
Fourth District
Decatur

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
President-elect
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Manchester

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Sixth District
Griffin

Judge Jere F. White
Administrative Judge
Seventh District
Cartersville

1 Judge Banke was elected chief judge of the Court of Appeals, and thus replaced Judge McMurray.
2 On January 1, 1985, Judges Cauthorn, McMurray and Palmour left the council.
3 Judge Ellis assumed the position of president of the Council of State Court Judges and Judge Reddick became president-elect.
4 Judge Pannell replaced Judge Palmour as administrative judge for the ninth district.

Board of Court Reporting

Judge Ben J. Miller
Chairperson
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Thomaston

Lounell B. Day
Vice chairperson
Official court reporter
Tifton

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

Robert M. Brinson
Attorney
Rome

Hazel S. Campbell
Official court reporter
Dalton

Raymond E. Campbell
Official court reporter
Columbus

James Cox
Attorney
Atlanta

Danny Sayer
Court reporter
Douglas

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
President
Juvenile Court of Newton County
Covington

Judge Othniel W. McGehee
Immediate past president
Juvenile Court of Bibb County
Macon

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
President-elect
Juvenile Court of Meriwether County
Manchester

Judge Marvin W. Sorrells
Vice president
Juvenile Court of Walton County
Monroe

Judge Clinton O. Pearson
Secretary
Juvenile Court of Glynn County
Brunswick

Judge T. Jefferson Loftiss, II
Treasurer
Juvenile Court of Thomas County
Thomasville

Council of Superior Court Judges

Judge A. Wallace Cato
President
South Georgia Judicial Circuit
Bainbridge

Judge Hugh Lawson
President-elect
Oconee Judicial Circuit
Hawkinsville

Judge Robert B. Struble
Secretary-treasurer
Mountain Judicial Circuit
Toccoa

Senior Judge Hal Bell
District 3
Macon

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
District 10
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
District 2
Southern Judicial Circuit
Moultrie

Judge John S. Langford
District 5
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
District 8
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Judge James E. Palmour, III
District 9
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr. [5]
District 9
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr.
District 1
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Brunswick

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
District 4
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
District 6
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Judge Jere F. White
District 7
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

5 Judge Pannell replaced Judge Palmour as administrative judge upon the expiration of the latter's term of office.

Georgia Indigent Defense Council

Bobby Lee Cook
Chairman
Summerville

Paul V. Kilpatrick, Jr.
Vice chairman
Columbus

Donald W. Huskins
Secretary
Eatonton

Robert H. Walling
Treasurer
Atlanta

Mrs. Emily Amburgey
Member-at-large
Savannah

Dr. Robert H. Brisbane
Member-at-large
Atlanta

Charles Daley
Member-at-large
Columbus

Edward R. Downs, Jr.
Savannah

Harvey J. Kennedy, Jr.
Barnesville

Robert E. Knox
Thomson

Louise T. Norwood
Jonesboro

E. Wycliffe Orr
Gainesville

Evans J. Plowden, Jr.
Albany

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

Judge E. Hulyn Smith [6]
Chairman
Lowndes County
Valdosta

Judge J. Davis Roberts
Vice chairman
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Ex officio secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

Judge L. Carroll Blankenship
Bulloch County
Statesboro

Judge George W. Eisel, III
Hancock County
Sparta

Judge Chester L. Gunby [7]
Baldwin County
Milledgeville

Judge William J. Jenkins, Jr. [7]
Cobb County
Marietta

Judge Laverne C. Ogletree
Greene County
Greensboro

Judge Johnny Warren [7]
Laurens County
Dublin

6 Judge Smith resigned effective 8/1/85. Judge Warren was elected chairman and Judge Jenkins was elected vice chairman on 10/22/85.
7 On April 4, 1985, Judges Gunby, Jenkins and Warren were sworn in to replace Judges Roberts (deceased), Blankenship and Eisel. Judge Ogletree was reappointed to serve another term.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Chairman
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Dean J. Ralph Beaird
Vice chairman
School of Law
University of Georgia
Athens

Judge Frank M. Eldridge
Secretary-Treasurer
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Past chairman
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge Martha K. Glaze
Juvenile Court of Clayton County
Jonesboro

Judge W. Marion Guess, Jr.
Probate Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Frank Love, Jr.
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Dean Thomas Morgan
School of Law
Emory University
Atlanta

Presiding Judge J. Kelley Quillian
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Dorothy A. Robinson
Superior Court
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Judge H. Jack Short
State Court of Colquitt County
Moultrie

J. Douglas Stewart
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Gainesville

Dean Karl P. Warden
School of Law
Mercer University
Macon

A. Gus Cleveland
Advisory member
Atlanta

Justice George T. Smith
Liaison member
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judicial Nominating Commission

A. Gus Cleveland, Jr.
Chairman
Atlanta

George W. Felker, III
Monroe

Jane Guthman Kahn
Savannah

Judge Romae T. Powell
Juvenile Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

John H. Ruffin, Jr.
Augusta

Duross Fitzpatrick [8]
President
State Bar of Georgia
Cochran

Jule W. Felton, Jr. [8]
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Richard Y. Bradley [8]
Immediate past president
State Bar of Georgia
Columbus

Frank Love, Jr.
Next immediate past president
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Walter H. Bush, Jr.
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Robert M. Brinson [9]
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Rome

William D. Barwick [9]
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

8 Mr. Love and Mr. Bush rotated off the commission in June 1985, upon the election of new officers of the bar. Mr. Felton became president, Mr. Fitzpatrick became immediate past president and Mr. Bradley became next immediate past president.

9 Mr. Brinson and Mr. Barwick joined the commission in June, 1985.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

Harry S. Baxter
Chairman
Atlanta

Judge J. Taylor Phillips [10]
Vice chairman
State Court of Bibb County
Macon

Barbara L. Carter, Ph.D.
Atlanta

Harry L. Cashin, Jr. [11]
Atlanta

Robert H. Jordan
Talbotton

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Courts
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Will Ed Smith
Eastman

Judge Robert B. Struble [11]
Superior Courts
Mountain Judicial Circuit
Toccoa

Ed Voyles [10]
Marietta

10 In January, 1985, Judge Phillips was elected chairman and Mr. Voyles was elected vice chairman.
11 In December, 1984, Mr. Baxter retired and was succeeded by Mr. Cashin. Judge Struble replaced Judge McMillan upon the latter's retirement from the commission.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Administrative Board

Judge Luther Alverson, Chairman
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge James Barrow
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge Jere F. White
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Panel 41/1

Judge Walker P. Johnson, Jr.
Chairman
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge Rufe E. McCombs
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Columbus

Judge H. Arthur McLane
Southern Judicial Circuit
Valdosta

Panel 41/2

Judge Dorothy A. Robinson
Chairman
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Judge Bobby C. Milam
Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Blue Ridge

Judge Clarence R. Vaughn, Jr.
Rockdale Judicial Circuit
Conyers

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Lowrey S. Stone, Jr.
Pataula Judicial Circuit
Blakely

Panel 42/1

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Chairman
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge Gordon Knox, Jr.
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Hazlehurst

Judge William J. Neville
Ogeechee Judicial Circuit
Statesboro

Panel 42/2

Judge Sam Whitmire
Chairman
Flint Judicial Circuit
Barnesville

Judge William H. Ison
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Jonesboro

Judge George Kreeger
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge A. Wallace Cato
South Georgia Judicial Circuit
Bainbridge

Panel 43/1

Judge Dan Winn
Chairman
Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit
Cedartown

Judge Joseph J. Gaines
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge James H. Weeks
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Panel 43/2

Judge Coy H. Temples
Chairman
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Judge Frank S. Cheatham, Jr.
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Judge Richard S. Gault
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Cumming

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge William W. Daniel
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Panel 44/1

Judge Homer M. Stark
Chairman
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge William F. Blanks
Southwestern Judicial Circuit
Americus

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

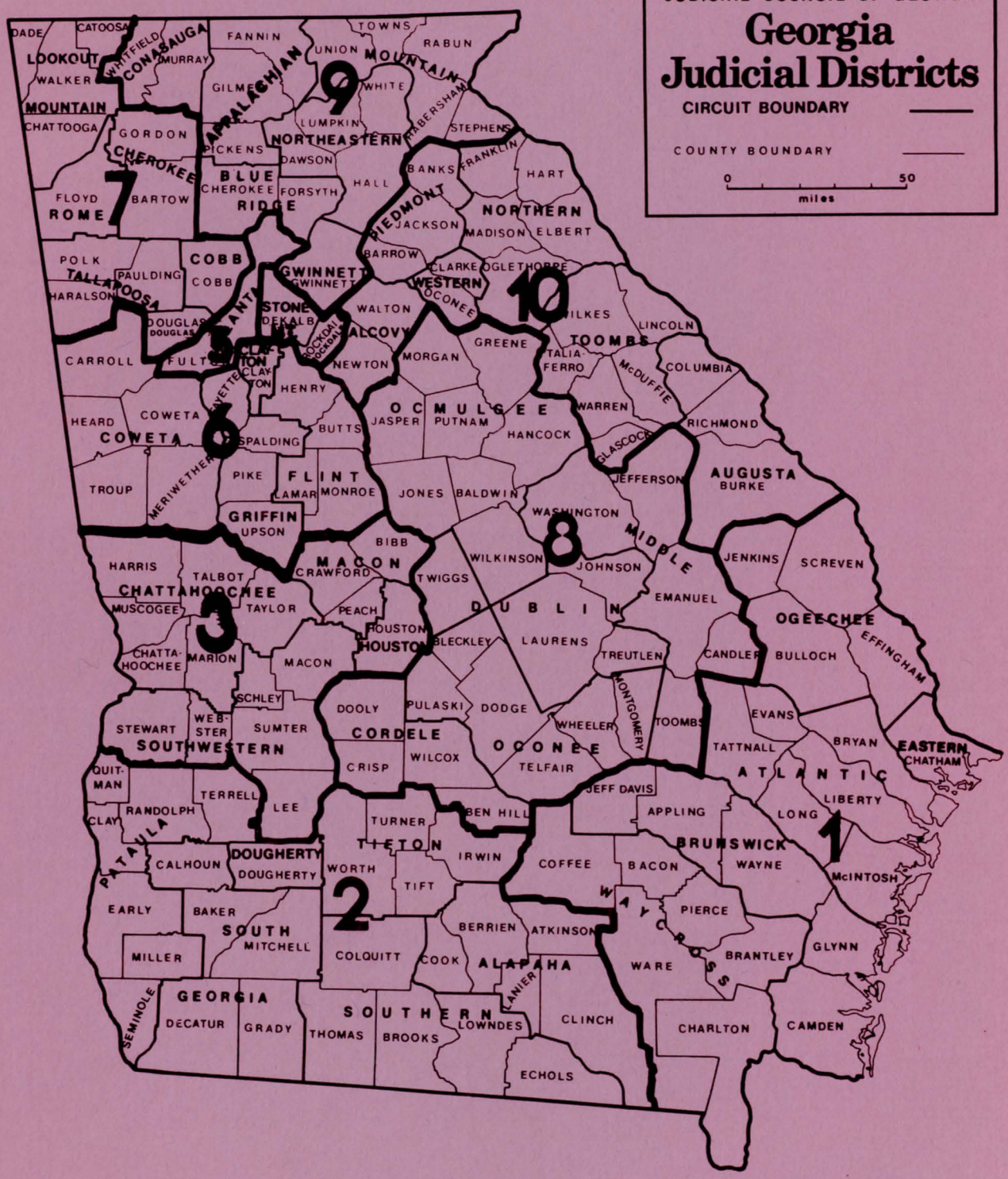
Panel 44/2

Judge Thomas D. Wilcox, Jr.
Chairman
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge Isaac Jenrette
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Robert J. Noland
Douglas Judicial Circuit
Douglasville

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Reid Merritt
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Georgia Judicial Administrative Districts