# *Sixteenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*

*(July 1, 1988 – June 30, 1989)*

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts

# Sixteenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts FY 1989

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April 1990

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**April 1990**

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# Foreword

This *Sixteenth 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 by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated June 12, 1978.

The constant challenge to the Georgia judiciary is to maintain an efficient, effective judicial system which dispenses equal justice while meeting the needs of a changing society. Our judges' response to this challenge has been, and continues to be, excellent.

Overall, the superior courts have increased case dispositions by 5% while experiencing a 9% rise in filings between 1987 and 1988. These courts saw a 19% jump in felony filings and were able to raise felony dispositions by 12% during the period. On an individual scale, average filings per superior court judge climbed by 150 cases as average dispositions grew by 75 cases.

The superior courts succeeded in dramatically reducing the time it takes to process cases. The average estimated time from filing to disposition was cut by almost half (49%) between 1982 and 1987. These achievements are attributed to more effective methods of case management and calendaring techniques, more productive procedures for court administration, additional judgeships, and the expanded use of computers.

By the end of the 1989 fiscal year, planned improvements were taking place. Due to the installation of personal computers in the offices of superior court clerks, each superior court clerk became part of a statewide network which grants access to the Secretary of State's business corporation records by attorneys, facilitates electronic communication among clerks, and provides word processing and spreadsheet capabilities. The Georgia Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System, appointed by former Chief Justice Marshall, formulated objectives and scheduled regional public hearings to investigate discrimination based on sex. The Georgia Indigent Defense Council prepared to operate with an initial appropriation to establish a statewide indigent defense system by assisting with the funding of local programs. The Court of Appeals' appellate settlement conference program was well under way, as was the Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center, Inc., which assists with legal representation in appeals by indigent inmates sentenced to death.

These projects and programs are only a few of the improvements sought to administer the Georgia judicial system in such a way as to provide for the speedy and affordable resolution of disputes and prosecutions.

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

Harold G. Clarke
Chairman
Judicial Council of Georgia

*Filing and disposition figures included in this report cannot, and should not, be considered a complete measurement of judicial workload borne by any given judge in any given court. While more detailed case types and disposition methods may represent more accurately the amount of judicial time required of judges in processing their caseloads, statistics alone cannot describe the relative contributions by various members of the judiciary in the performance of their official duties, nor are they indicative of the effort a judge has put forth or of the hours spent in performing the duties of office.*

*For example, a judge might spend a week or more presiding over a felony case in which the death penalty is sought. In that same week another judge might hear dozens of uncontested divorces, traffic cases, or minor civil cases without a jury. In the first example, the judge will dispose of only one case, while the second judge disposes of dozens of cases. Both judges, however, may have expended the same amount of time and effort, and both have performed duties of the office and provided required judicial services for the citizens of Georgia. Therefore, this report should not be used to evaluate or compare judicial performance.*

# The Courts in Review: FY 1989

Significant innovations at many levels of the state courts made FY 1989 a noteworthy year for Georgia's judges and court officials. Many activities focused on solving problems associated with reducing the processing time and managing the volume of cases within the court system. Other actions revolved around responses to administrative needs, legal requirements, and enhanced services.

In his second annual address to a joint session of the General Assembly in January 1989, Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall praised the efforts of the judiciary and the legislature to work together to reduce case backlog and improve court services and programs. He acknowledged the success of the judicial branch in establishing new programs and maintaining existing ones that required no increases in state financing. He also called on the legislature to meet some of the judiciary's most pressing administrative and monetary needs. The General Assembly responded positively by funding a statewide computer network, increasing compensation for judicial branch employees, creating additional superior court judgeships, and appropriating funds for new and existing programs.

The legislature approved the creation of six additional superior court judgeships that were recommended by the Judicial Council for the Atlanta, Atlantic, Chattahoochee, Cherokee, Eastern, and Southern judicial circuits. Recommendations for two additional judgeships for the Atlanta and Lookout Mountain circuits were not adopted. However, the expected addition of the new judgeships on July 1, 1989 was delayed pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia in July 1988. The lawsuit challenges Georgia's "at-large" system of electing judges and seeks to enforce recent federal court rulings in other states that expanded the 1965 Voting Rights Act to include judicial as well as legislative election practices.

Other important legislation included passage of a bill that incorporated provisions of the Federal Family Support Act of 1988, the purpose of which is to make the enforcement of child support payments more equitable and timely. Effective July 1, 1989, the new act made major changes in state law regarding child support matters that are expected to create a significant increase in the workload of superior court judges and clerks. These changes require: that the courts use the child support guidelines prescribed by OCGA §19-6-15 in all cases to determine the final amount of support; administrative reviews every 36 months of orders in which child support payments are to be made to the Office of Child Support Recovery (IV-D cases); and immediate income deductions in IV-D cases by means of continuing garnishment for support.

In other legislation effective July 1, 1989, magistrate and municipal courts were given additional authority in civil and traffic cases, respectively. Magistrate courts were granted additional civil jurisdiction to include claims valued at up to $5,000 (rather than $3,000) and to preside over the execution and acceptance of written waivers of extradition. Another bill authorized municipal courts to try misdemeanor state traffic offenses (except for violations involving homicide by vehicle) and to impose any punishment authorized under state law. This statute applies to all municipal courts regardless of whether a city, county, or state court is located in the county, if the defendant waives a jury trial.

The General Assembly passed several bills involving compensation for judges and other court officials. Effective July 1, 1989, the

salaries of Supreme Court justices were increased 12.4% to $90,514, and Court of Appeals judges received a 12.5% raise to $89,931. Superior court judges received a 2.5% cost of living increase in state pay to $68,838. The legislature also increased the per diem compensation to senior superior court judges providing temporary judicial assistance from $100 to $165. In addition, a new minimum salary schedule for chief magistrates, which includes an average increase of 18%, was adopted and will take effect on January 1, 1990.

Although revenues generated by a state sales tax increase contributed to a 17.2% rise in the state budget, judicial branch appropriations were not dramatically affected. The $52.2 million appropriated by the General Assembly to the judicial branch for FY 1990 amounted to a 9.6% increase over FY 1989 allotments. The share of the judicial branch budget as a percentage of the total state budget fell from 0.74% in FY 1989 to 0.70% in FY 1990.

New judicial branch appropriations included $1 million for first-time funding of the Georgia Indigent Defense Council. At least $950,000 of this amount will reimburse counties and circuits for expenses incurred in providing legal representation to indigent defendants.

By order of the Supreme Court dated March 15, 1989, the Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System was established to investigate the existence and scope of gender bias in the state judicial system. Under the leadership of Superior Court Judge Carol W. Hunstein, the commission began to conduct a broad examination of the judicial system in order to prepare findings and make recommendations to the Supreme Court. Public hearings were scheduled throughout the state to gather testimony from private citizens and concerned professionals. Areas of investigation include — but are not limited to — the unequal application of procedural and substantive law, treatment of judicial employees, domestic relations, domestic violence, criminal law, child support and custody, and judicial selection. The commission is comprised of 30 members, including judges, court officials, and community and business leaders.

Applications of computer technology continued to have a positive impact on the judiciary in FY 1989. The implementation of a new superior court clerks' com-

## State Appropriations for the Judicial Branch: Fiscal Years 1988, 1989, and 1990

| Budget Unit/Agency | FY 1988 Amended Appropriation | FY 1989 Amended Appropriation | Percent Change FY 88-89 | FY 1990 General Appropriation | Percent Change FY 89-90 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supreme Court | $3,654,950 | $3,900,608 | 6.7% | $4,210,943 | 8.0% |
| Court of Appeals | 4,075,070 | 4,504,874 | 10.5% | 4,775,456 | 6.0% |
| Superior Courts (Total) | 33,548,469 | 36,750,463 | 9.5% | 39,445,788 | 7.3% |
| Operations | 31,956,205 | 35,030,299 | 9.6% | 37,710,444 | 7.7% |
| Council of Superior Court Judges | 71,399 | 73,435 | 2.9% | 85,425 | 16.3% |
| Judicial Administrative Districts | 735,289 | 779,477 | 6.0% | 831,207 | 6.6% |
| Prosecuting Attorneys' Council | 667,787 | 747,652 | 12.0% | 692,233 | -7.4% |
| Sentence Review Panel | 117,789 | 119,600 | 1.5% | 126,479 | 5.8% |
| Juvenile Courts (Total) | 289,331 | 348,408 | 20.4% | 398,760 | 14.5% |
| Operations | 0 | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| Council of Juvenile Court Judges | 289,331 | 348,408 | 20.4% | 398,760 | 14.5% |
| Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (Total) | 467,268 | 550,368 | 17.8% | 562,500 | 2.2% |
| Operations | 376,250 | 425,506 | 13.1% | 437,000 | 2.7% |
| Magistrate Courts Training Council | 91,018 | 124,862 | 37.2% | 125,500 | 0.5% |
| Judicial Council (Total) | 774,675 | 1,509,673 | 94.9% | 1,737,304 | 15.1% |
| Operations | 629,565 | 665,088 | 5.6% | 716,677 | 7.8% |
| Board of Court Reporting | 25,110 | 28,575 | 13.8% | 30,355 | 6.2% |
| Case Counting | 70,500 | 71,000 | 0.7% | 73,500 | 3.5% |
| Council of Magistrate Court Judges | 20,000 | 26,000 | 30.0% | 26,000 | 0.0% |
| Council of Probate Court Judges | 20,000 | 20,000 | 0.0% | 20,000 | 0.0% |
| Council of State Court Judges | 9,500 | 10,000 | 5.3% | 10,000 | 0.0% |
| Resource Center | 0 | 150,000 | -- | 231,132 | 54.1% |
| Computerized Information Network | 0 | 539,010 | -- | 629,640 | 16.8% |
| Judicial Qualifications Commission | 106,000 | 109,310 | 3.1% | 112,242 | 2.7% |
| Indigent Defense Council | 0 | 0 | -- | 1,000,000 | -- |
| **Judicial Branch Totals** | **$42,915,763** | **$47,673,704** | **11.1%** | **$52,242,993** | **9.6%** |

## Five-Year Comparison of Judicial Budget (1986-1990)

| Fiscal Year | Total State Appropriation | Increase | Judicial Appropriation | Increase | Percent of State Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1986 | $5,225,947,058 | $861,119,383 | $36,376,436 | $3,334,360 | 0.70% |
| 1987 | 5,412,225,000 | 186,277,942 | 39,062,133 | 2,685,697 | 0.72% |
| 1988 | 5,936,113,339 | 523,888,339 | 42,915,763 | 3,853,630 | 0.72% |
| 1989 | 6,399,179,662 | 463,066,323 | 47,673,704 | 4,757,941 | 0.74% |
| 1990 | 7,498,000,000 | 1,098,820,338 | 52,242,993 | 4,569,289 | 0.70% |

puter information network provided electronic access to corporate records in the Secretary of State's office, and it linked clerks with each other by electronic mail through the state network.

In addition to faster and easier communication, the personal computers attached to the network gave each of Georgia's superior courts independent computing power with word-processing and spreadsheet capabilities. The General Assembly provided $539,010 in FY 1989 supplemental appropriations to purchase and install equipment for the new system. Future applications of the network may include links with other state courts and state databases or the creation of new databases to meet the needs of the judicial system.

A study released early in the year by the Administrative Office of the Courts revealed that superior court judges have reduced the estimated average case processing time by almost 50% in the past five years. Estimated time from filing to disposition for cases filed in Georgia's superior courts averaged 10.7 months in FY 1982; by CY 1987 that estimated time had dropped to 5.4 months, a decrease of 49.4%. Several factors contributed to this decline, including the expanded use of specialized computers by the courts, more productive court administration procedures, effective methods of case management, efficient calendaring techniques, and the positive impact of 21 additional judgeships created by the General Assembly that went into effect from FY 1982 through CY 1987.

An FY 1989 study by the Administrative Office of the Courts indicated that the courts' use of computers had increased 168% since the first poll was taken in 1984. The survey revealed that courts in 107 of Georgia's 159 counties use computers for at least some operations. Survey results also showed that courts' computer use is spread throughout the state and is less concentrated in urban areas than it was in the initial survey.

Superior courts reported the most remarkable advances in computer use with a 770% increase in the number of applications performed by their computers since 1984. The average number of applications reported by each county rose from 1.8 to 5.3 during the period. Superior court jury management and record indexing remain the most common uses, and computerized docketing has increased by 10% as a proportion of total programs.

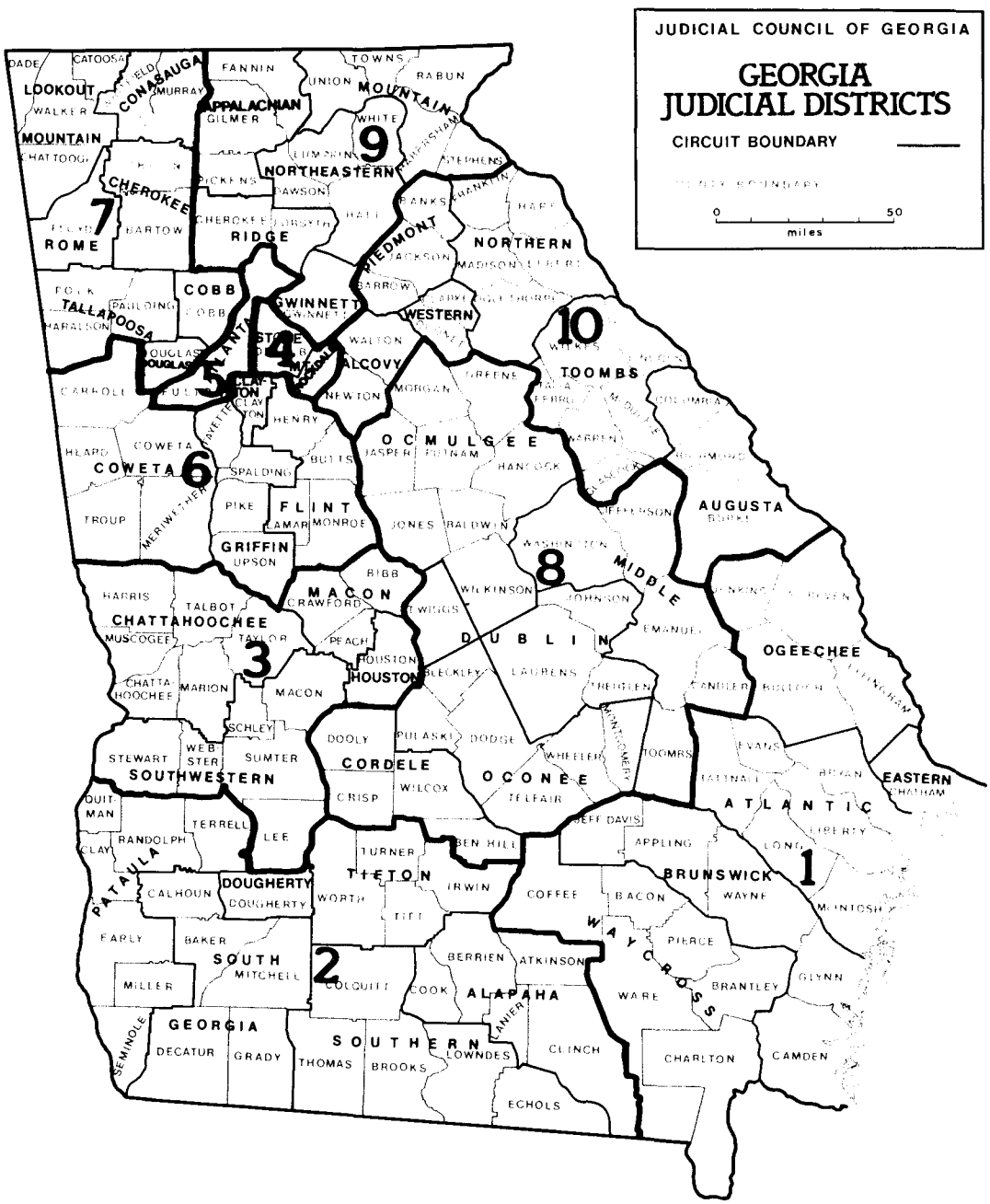
Other positive developments in the past year included the expansion of the Georgia Law Education Diversion Program which has grown from 12 to 33 counties since 1986. The annual, ten-week program uses community volunteers and court professionals to

## Judicial Branch Units: FY 1989 Funds Available and Expenditures

| | Supreme Court | Court of Appeals | Superior Courts | Council of Juvenile Court Judges | Institute of Continuing Judicial Education | Judicial Council | Judicial Qualifications Commission | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FUNDS AVAILABLE** | | | | | | | | |
| General Appropriations | $3,779,608 | $4,364,874 | $33,973,431 | $348,408 | $550,368 | $970,663 | $109,310 | $44,096,662 |
| Supplemental Appropriations | 121,000 | 140,000 | 2,777,032 | 0 | 0 | 539,010 | 0 | 3,577,042 |
| Governor's Emergency Funds | 15,500 | 22,000 | 0 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52,500 |
| Total State Funds | 3,916,108 | 4,526,874 | 36,750,463 | 363,408 | 550,368 | 1,509,673 | 109,310 | 47,726,204 |
| Federal Funds | 0 | 0 | 353,103 | 432,877 | 11,434 | 7,773 | 0 | 805,187 |
| Other Funds | 472,218 | 66,534 | 740,244 | 48,262 | 9,638 | 41,896 | 0 | 1,378,792 |
| **Total Funds Available** | **$4,388,326** | **$4,593,408** | **$37,843,810** | **$844,547** | **$571,440** | **$1,559,342** | **$109,310** | **$49,910,183** |
| **EXPENDITURES** | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | $3,160,821 | $3,968,260 | $35,651,330 | $249,666 | $0 | $583,442 | $63,515 | $43,677,034 |
| Regular Operating Expenses | 463,838 | 120,280 | 590,530 | 388,459 | 130,748 | 93,408 | 14,171 | 1,801,434 |
| Travel | 33,443 | 22,186 | 560,394 | 25,386 | 0 | 14,007 | 2,799 | 658,215 |
| Equipment Purchases | 152,786 | 73,117 | 79,626 | 5,962 | 0 | 7,156 | 0 | 318,647 |
| Computer Charges | 137,865 | 127,723 | 43,606 | 54,818 | 10,810 | 569,987 | 0 | 944,809 |
| Real Estate Rentals | 228,476 | 184,525 | 93,446 | 10,548 | 0 | 28,409 | 968 | 546,372 |
| Telecommunications | 27,788 | 27,955 | 33,987 | 7,116 | 100 | 7,068 | 1,082 | 105,096 |
| Per Diem, Fees & Contracts | 178,079 | 23,100 | 632,479 | 102,514 | 429,614 | 244,524 | 24,673 | 1,634,983 |
| **Total Expenditures** | **$4,383,096** | **$4,547,146** | **$37,685,398** | **$844,469** | **$571,272** | **$1,548,001** | **$107,208** | **$49,686,590** |

teach juvenile offenders their rights and responsibilities under the law. It is usually combined with, or used as an alternative to, probation. The program, federally funded by a grant from the state's Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, is designed to reduce recidivism by changing the negative attitudes youth have about the law. Plans were developed to expand the program into other counties by conducting local workshops for court staff.

Another program designed to help Georgia's children began in January, when Chief Justice Marshall swore in ten volunteers as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work to promote and protect the interests of deprived and delinquent children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Plans to expand the program throughout the state depend on the ability to obtain grants and government funding.



Three years of planning culminated in the summer 1988 opening of the Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center, Inc., a joint creation of the Georgia State University College of Law, the State Bar, the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Judicial Council, and the federal courts in Georgia. The center provides assistance with legal representation in post-conviction actions for indigent, death-row inmates. In addition, it has developed continuing legal education programs for attorneys representing defendants in capital cases at both the state and federal levels. Other responsibilities of the center include monitoring all capital punishment litigation in the state, screening and recruiting members of the private bar to handle post-conviction proceedings, and serving as expert resource counsel to assist the volunteers handling these cases. The resource center, one of the first of its kind developed in the United States, receives funds from state, federal, and private sources.

Two ongoing Georgia court programs received gold medals and $10,000 awards from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice in recognition of their work to improve the quality of the justice system. The Council of Juvenile Court Judges' Purchase of Services Program was honored for providing funds to local courts for developing community service and restitution programs as alternatives to institutional treatment.

The Civil Arbitration Program of the Superior Court of Fulton County was also honored for its efforts to promote the speedy resolution of disputes. Begun as a test project in 1986, the program was made permanent by local rule in 1988. The rule requires parties in civil cases involving damages of $25,000 or less to undergo non-binding arbitration before a trained three-member panel. In 1987, 86% of cases assigned to the program were resolved without a trial.

# Georgia Court System: July 1, 1989

**SUPREME COURT**
7 justices
*Jurisdiction:*
• Appellate jurisdiction over cases of constitutional issue, title to land, validity of and construction of wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies, convictions of capital felonies, equity, divorce, alimony, election contest.
• Certified questions and certiorari from Court of Appeals.

Capital felonies.
Constitutional issues.
Title to land.
Wills, equity, and divorce.

**COURT OF APPEALS** (3 divisions)
9 judges
*Jurisdiction:*
• Appellate jurisdiction over lower courts in cases in which Supreme Court has no exclusive appellate jurisdiction.

Counties with population over 100,000 where probate judge is attorney practicing at least seven years.
Jury trials.

**SUPERIOR COURT** (45 circuits)
137 judges*
*Jurisdiction (general):*
• Civil law actions, misdemeanors, and other cases.
• Exclusive jurisdiction over cases of divorce, title to land, equity.
• Exclusive felony jurisdiction.
Jury trials.

**STATE COURT**
(62 courts)
84 judges: 39 full-time, 45 part-time.
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Civil law actions except cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of superior court.
• Misdemeanors, traffic, felony preliminaries.
Jury trials.

**JUVENILE COURT**
(159 courts; 63 county-funded)
51 judges: 12 full-time, 39 part-time (2 state court judges serve as part-time juvenile court judges).
Superior court judges serve in counties without independent juvenile courts.
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Delinquent, unruly, deprived juveniles.
• Juvenile traffic.
No jury trials.

**PROBATE COURT**
(159 courts)
159 judges
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Exclusive jurisdiction in probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, mentally ill, involuntary hospitalizations, marriage licenses.
• Traffic in some counties.
• Truancy in some counties.
• Hold courts of inquiry.
Search warrants and arrest warrants in certain cases.

**MAGISTRATE COURT**
(159 courts)
159 chief magistrates and 284 magistrates; 38 also serve state, juvenile, probate, civil, or municipal courts.
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Search and arrest warrants, felony and misdemeanor preliminaries, misdemeanor bad check violations.
• Civil claims of $5,000 or less, dispossessories, distress warrants, county ordinances.
No jury trials.

**CIVIL COURT**
(2 courts)
3 judges
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Warrants. Misdemeanor and felony preliminaries.
• Civil tort and contract cases under $7,500 for Bibb County; under $25,000 for Richmond County.
Jury trials.

**MUNICIPAL COURT**
(1 court in Columbus)
1 judge
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Civil law and landlord-tenant cases (civil) under $7,500.
• Misdemeanor guilty pleas and preliminary hearings.
Warrants.
Jury trials in civil cases.

**COUNTY RECORDER'S COURT**
(4 courts)
8 judges
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• County ordinances, criminal warrants, and preliminaries.

**MUNICIPAL COURTS**
(Approximately 390 courts active)
*Jurisdiction (limited):*
• Ordinance violations, traffic, criminal preliminaries.
No jury trials.

*Total of 143 judgeships are authorized.

# Supreme Court

The Constitution of Georgia gives the Supreme Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction in cases involving the construction of a treaty or of the Constitution of the State of Georgia or of the United States; the constitutionality of a law, ordinance or constitutional provision; and election contests.

The state constitution provides that, unless otherwise provided by law, the court shall have jurisdiction of all cases involving title to land, equity, wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies (mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto, etc.), divorce and alimony, and all cases in which a sentence of death was imposed or could be imposed.

The Supreme Court also is authorized to review by certiorari cases from the Court of Appeals and to answer questions of law from any state or federal appellate court.

The court has three terms of court each year, beginning in January, April, and September. Oral arguments are heard each month, except in August and December. Cases are assigned in rotation to the justices.

The seven justices serving on the court are elected to staggered six-year terms in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A vacancy on the court is filled by gubernatorial appointment to complete the unexpired term.

The justices elect from among themselves a chief justice and a presiding justice for four-year terms, who handle administrative matters for the court. The chief justice serves as chairman and the presiding justice serves as vice chairman of the state's Judicial Council.

A court-appointed clerk, along with clerical assistants, provides support for the court in calendaring and caseload and records management. The court also appoints an official reporter of decisions, who publishes the opinions of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Although the court nearly always hears cases in Atlanta, it occasionally schedules sessions at other locations in the state such as at law schools in order to educate students in court operations. In June of 1989, the court held a one-day session at the city hall in Savannah.

The Supreme Court has authority to promulgate orders needed to carry out its functions. By these orders the court has directed several agencies to assist it in administrative matters. Among these are the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, the Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts, the State Bar of Georgia, and the Office of Bar Admissions.

*The Supreme Court's caseload for calendar years 1987 and 1988 is shown on the next page.*

## Supreme Court Caseload: 1987 and 1988 (Docket entries)

| Filed | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|
| Direct appeals (Final) | 538 | 562 |
| Petitions for certiorari | 540 | 598 |
| Habeas corpus applications | 203 | 171 |
| Applications for discretionary appeal | 183 | 165 |
| Applications for interlocutory appeal | 58 | 32 |
| Attorney discipline | 72 | 48 |
| Original petitions/Motions | 22 | 32 |
| Cross appeals | 14 | 16 |
| Certified questions | 8 | 3 |
| Bar admissions | 5 | 10 |
| Judicial discipline | 2 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,646** | **1,637** |

| Disposed | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|
| By opinion | 377 | 348 |
| Affirmed without opinion (Rule 59) | 131 | 121 |
| Petitions for certiorari | | |
| Denied | 471 | 461 |
| Granted | 72 | 74 |
| Dismissed | 3 | 0 |
| Habeas corpus applications | | |
| Denied | 145 | 138 |
| Granted | 5 | 11 |
| Dismissed | 6 | 2 |
| Remanded | 4 | 3 |
| Withdrawn | 3 | 1 |
| Dismissed without prejudice | 1 | 3 |
| Dismissed as moot | 0 | 2 |
| Denied without prejudice | 1 | 0 |
| Stricken and entered on general docket | 0 | 1 |
| Vacated and remanded | 0 | 1 |
| Discretionary applications | | |
| Denied | 128 | 128 |
| Granted | 38 | 42 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 6 | 4 |
| Dismissed | 2 | 0 |
| Dismissed without prejudice | 2 | 0 |
| Withdrawn | 2 | 2 |
| Denied with direction | 1 | 0 |
| Interlocutory applications | | |
| Denied | 29 | 23 |
| Granted | 0 | 15 |
| Dismissed | 0 | 3 |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals | 1 | 0 |
| Original petitions/Motions | | |
| Denied | 6 | 10 |
| Granted | 4 | 4 |
| Dismissed | 6 | 11 |
| Dismissed without prejudice | 6 | 4 |
| Attorney and judicial disciplinary/ Bar admissions decided by order | 45 | 52 |
| Other | | |
| Transferred to Court of Appeals by order | 31 | 44 |
| Dismissed by order [a] | 46 | 58 |
| Remanded by order | 3 | 8 |
| Withdrawn | 42 | 23 |
| Vacated by order | 14 | 7 |
| Stricken from docket | 3 | 4 |
| Certiorari granted, application granted, notice of appeal | 5 | 6 |
| Removal from docket to await completion of record | 0 | 1 |
| **TOTAL [b]** | **1,639** | **1,615 [c]** |

[a] Includes dismissed without prejudice and dismissed as moot.

[b] Companion cases were counted as one case in arriving at total.

[c] Total includes figures from several categories not applicable to the 1988 study.

# Court of Appeals

Following approval of a constitutional amendment in 1906, the Court of Appeals was created in 1907 to alleviate some of the considerable caseload burden from the Supreme Court. Recent studies have shown that this court has become one of the busiest appellate courts in the United States.

The Court of Appeals retains statewide appellate jurisdiction from superior, state, and juvenile courts in all cases where exclusive jurisdiction is not reserved to the Supreme Court. Such cases include civil claims for damages, child custody cases, cases involving workers' compensation, and criminal cases other than capital felonies. The court may also certify legal questions to the Supreme Court, but certification is rarely used.

The court consists of nine judges who serve on three panels of three judges each. Under the court's rules, the chief judge is elected for a two-year term, usually upon the basis of seniority of tenure on the court. The chief judge is responsible for the administration of the court and together with the presiding judges forms the executive council. The chief judge appoints the three presiding judges who head each panel. All other judges rotate annually among the three panels.

Any decision rendered by a panel is final unless a single judge dissents, whereupon the case is considered by all nine judges. If, after the full court hears a case, the judges are equally divided as to the verdict, the case is transferred to the Supreme Court.

The judges of the Court of Appeals are elected to staggered, six-year terms in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A candidate for judgeship must have been a practicing attorney for at least seven years prior to assuming office. In the event of a vacancy on the court during a judge's term, the governor appoints a successor to complete the unexpired term.

The court has three annual terms, which begin in September, January, and April, in Atlanta. The constitution provides that all cases shall be decided no later than the term following the term in which a case is docketed (the "two term" rule) or the case shall be affirmed by operation of law. In the history of the Court of Appeals, no case has been affirmed by operation of law.

*Court of Appeals filings and dispositions for calendar years 1987 and 1988 are compared in the table below.*

**Court of Appeals Caseload: 1987 and 1988 (Docket entries)**

| Filed | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|
| Appeals | 2,071 | 2,306 |
| Discretionary applications | 342 | 356 |
| Interlocutory applications | 391 | 361 |
| **Total** | **2,804** | **3,023** |

| Disposed | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|
| By opinion | 1,667 | 1,724 |
| By order | 294 | 262 |
| Discretionary applications | 377 | 337 |
| Interlocutory applications | 324 | 346 |
| **Total** | **2,662** | **2,669** |

# Superior Courts

As Georgia's general jurisdiction trial court, the superior court has exclusive, constitutional authority to preside over felony cases (except those involving juvenile offenders, in which jurisdiction is shared with the juvenile court) and cases regarding title to land, divorce, and equity. The superior court also has exclusive statutory jurisdiction in such matters as declaratory judgments, habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto, and prohibition.

With the exception of certain probate and juvenile matters, the superior court may exercise concurrent jurisdiction over other cases with the limited jurisdiction courts located in the same county. In addition, 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. The 45 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 (see map of Georgia on page 4).

The number of superior court judges per circuit ranges from one judge in two circuits (Appalachian and Rockdale) to 13 judges in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. A chief judge, who in most cases attains the position through seniority, handles the administrative tasks for each circuit.

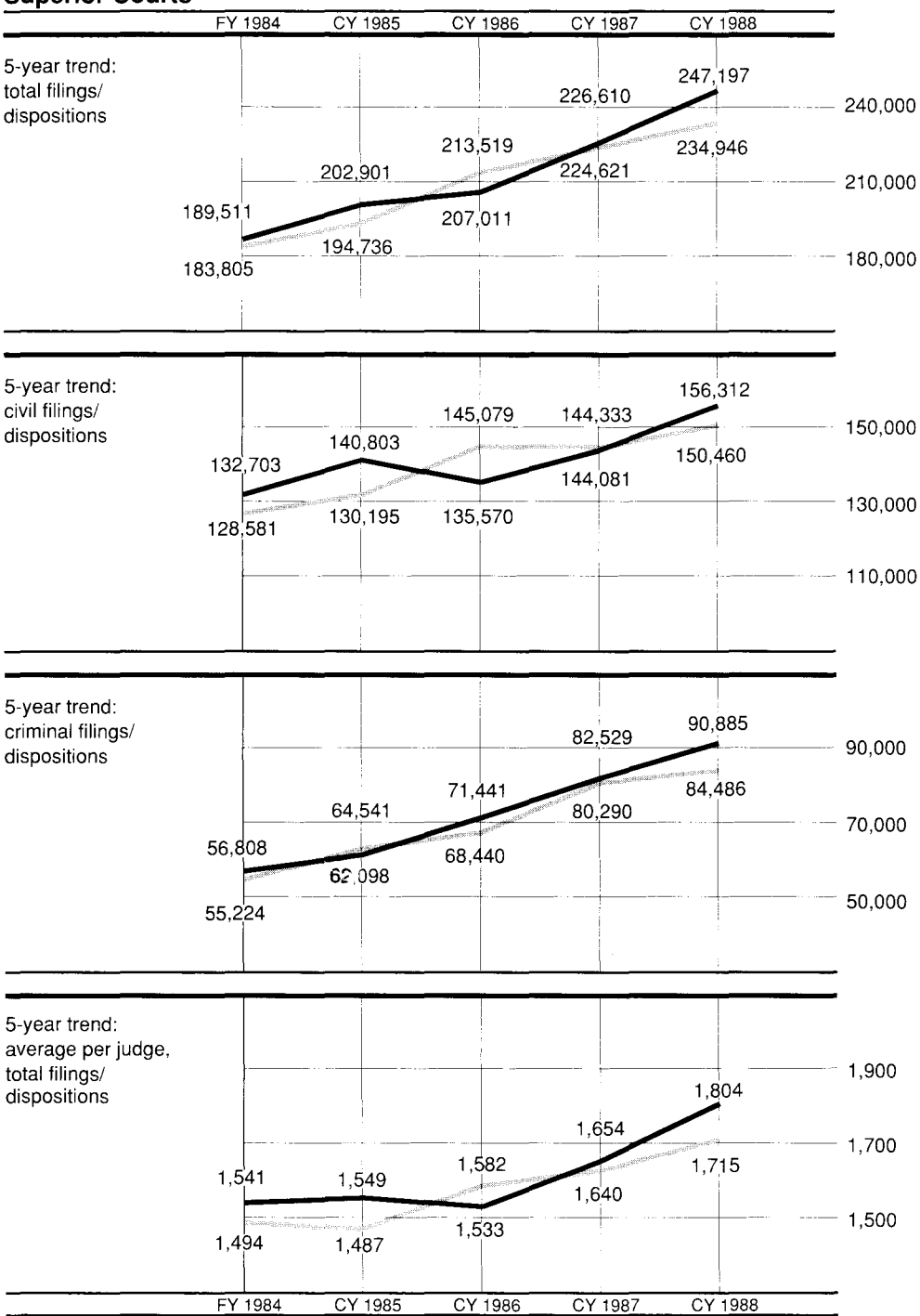
For purposes of administration, the superior courts are grouped into ten administrative districts with boundaries that roughly correspond to those of Georgia's U. S. congressional districts. An administrative judge, who is elected to two-year terms by the superior court judges of each district, performs executive functions in the district and is assisted by a district court administrator who provides technical assistance for the courts. Administrative judges have statutory authority to use caseload data and other information for management purposes and to assign superior court judges, with their approval, to serve temporarily in other counties and circuits as they are needed.

Superior court judges are elected to four-year terms in nonpartisan, circuitwide races. To qualify as a superior court judge, a candidate must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of Georgia for at least three years, and have been authorized to practice law for at least seven years. Senior superior court judges, who have retired from the bench and attained senior status, may hear cases in any circuit at the request of the local judges or an administrative judge. All judges must fulfill a 12-hour annual continuing education requirement.

As of June 30, 1989, there were 137 judges in Georgia's 159 superior courts. Six additional judgeships, one each for the Atlanta, Atlantic, Chattahoochee, Cherokee, Eastern, and Southern judicial circuits, were created by the 1989 General Assembly.

*Recent caseload data for the superior courts is presented on page 11. The four graphs depict total, civil, criminal, and average filings and dispositions for fiscal year 1984, and for calendar years 1985-1988. CY 1988 total superior court caseload by circuit and case type is presented in the table on pages 12 and 13.*

## Superior Courts




Filings

Dispositions

## CY 1988 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

| | Total Criminal | | Felony | | Misdemeanor | | Probation Revocation ** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Circuit | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed |
| Alapaha | 3,416 | 3,185 | 1,141 | 1,041 | 2,173 | 2,042 | 102 | 102 |
| Alcovy | 3,383 | 3,158 | 1,292 | 1,128 | 1,665 | 1,615 | 426 | 415 |
| Appalachian | 935 | 876 | 334 | 277 | 456 | 454 | 145 | 145 |
| Atlanta | 10,141 | 10,266 | 8,690 | 8,818 | 23 | 20 | 1,428 | 1,428 |
| Atlantic | 3,095 | 3,032 | 733 | 672 | 2,185 | 2,180 | 177 | 180 |
| Augusta | 2,677 | 1,905 | 2,048 | 1,338 | 515 | 460 | 111 | 107 |
| Blue Ridge | 931 | 803 | 615 | 493 | 30 | 24 | 286 | 286 |
| Brunswick | 2,040 | 1,840 | 1,661 | 1,392 | 224 | 293 | 155 | 155 |
| Chattahoochee | 2,546 | 2,254 | 1,724 | 1,444 | 617 | 605 | 205 | 205 |
| Cherokee | 1,917 | 1,568 | 794 | 562 | 546 | 438 | 577 | 568 |
| Clayton | 1,847 | 1,740 | 1,334 | 1,235 | 105 | 97 | 408 | 408 |
| Cobb | 3,852 | 4,121 | 2,948 | 3,136 | 272 | 385 | 631 | 600 |
| Conasauga | 1,884 | 1,612 | 788 | 627 | 914 | 802 | 182 | 183 |
| Cordele | 1,114 | 897 | 675 | 508 | 321 | 271 | 118 | 118 |
| Coweta | 1,976 | 1,974 | 1,405 | 1,404 | 314 | 313 | 257 | 257 |
| Dougherty | 1,208 | 1,059 | 1,098 | 942 | 0 | 7 | 110 | 110 |
| Douglas | 1,634 | 1,361 | 673 | 528 | 715 | 593 | 246 | 240 |
| Dublin | 1,048 | 818 | 390 | 251 | 338 | 247 | 320 | 320 |
| Eastern | 2,634 | 2,407 | 2,286 | 2,031 | 0 | 0 | 348 | 376 |
| Flint | 1,445 | 1,186 | 606 | 458 | 682 | 571 | 157 | 157 |
| Griffin | 1,962 | 1,927 | 1,076 | 992 | 747 | 796 | 139 | 139 |
| Gwinnett | 1,836 | 1,488 | 1,704 | 1,356 | 57 | 57 | 75 | 75 |
| Houston | 964 | 826 | 450 | 313 | 78 | 77 | 436 | 436 |
| Lookout Mountain | 2,380 | 2,501 | 958 | 933 | 1,256 | 1,338 | 166 | 230 |
| Macon | 2,398 | 2,404 | 1,665 | 1,654 | 88 | 105 | 645 | 645 |
| Middle | 1,006 | 701 | 777 | 483 | 28 | 17 | 201 | 201 |
| Mountain | 844 | 703 | 511 | 416 | 274 | 228 | 59 | 59 |
| Northeastern | 2,326 | 1,969 | 992 | 753 | 1,026 | 901 | 308 | 315 |
| Northern | 1,200 | 1,061 | 634 | 543 | 300 | 252 | 266 | 266 |
| Ocmulgee | 2,999 | 3,008 | 1,293 | 1,172 | 1,605 | 1,735 | 101 | 101 |
| Oconee | 1,008 | 848 | 467 | 354 | 383 | 336 | 158 | 158 |
| Ogeechee | 1,125 | 1,252 | 861 | 998 | 12 | 12 | 252 | 242 |
| Pataula | 1,052 | 891 | 483 | 452 | 473 | 343 | 96 | 96 |
| Piedmont | 948 | 925 | 482 | 451 | 355 | 365 | 111 | 109 |
| Rockdale | 517 | 550 | 319 | 300 | 32 | 74 | 166 | 176 |
| Rome | 1,996 | 2,034 | 520 | 474 | 1,145 | 1,242 | 331 | 318 |
| South Georgia | 900 | 948 | 550 | 539 | 69 | 61 | 280 | 348 |
| Southern | 1,875 | 1,821 | 1,395 | 1,349 | 353 | 338 | 127 | 134 |
| Southwestern | 1,538 | 1,494 | 728 | 698 | 338 | 325 | 472 | 471 |
| Stone Mountain | 5,194 | 4,428 | 3,941 | 3,175 | 0 | 0 | 1,253 | 1,253 |
| Tallapoosa | 1,561 | 1,615 | 468 | 442 | 869 | 942 | 224 | 231 |
| Tifton | 1,380 | 1,192 | 684 | 559 | 531 | 477 | 165 | 156 |
| Toombs | 1,331 | 1,295 | 360 | 365 | 854 | 817 | 117 | 113 |
| Waycross | 1,746 | 1,572 | 731 | 566 | 582 | 579 | 433 | 427 |
| Western | 1,076 | 971 | 700 | 589 | 53 | 59 | 323 | 323 |
| TOTALS | 90,885 | 84,486 | 53,984 | 48,211 | 23,603 | 22,893 | 13,293 | 13,382 |
| AVERAGE PER JUDGE* | 663 | 617 | 394 | 352 | 172 | 167 | 97 | 98 |

*Based on 137 superior court judges.
** Probation revocations were not included as a criminal case type prior to 1988.

## CY 1988 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

| Total Civil | | General Civil | | Domestic Relations | | Total Caseload | | Total Open |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed | Filed | Disposed | Caseload |
| 1,663 | 1,395 | 889 | 702 | 774 | 693 | 5,079 | 4,580 | 2,349 |
| 2,782 | 2,994 | 1,183 | 1,289 | 1,599 | 1,705 | 6,165 | 6,152 | 2,682 |
| 1,240 | 1,171 | 492 | 472 | 748 | 699 | 2,175 | 2,047 | 1,399 |
| 11,538 | 12,228 | 3,827 | 4,206 | 7,711 | 8,022 | 21,679 | 22,494 | 5,681 |
| 3,368 | 3,138 | 1,134 | 1,060 | 2,234 | 2,078 | 6,463 | 6,170 | 1,255 |
| 7,412 | 7,051 | 1,720 | 1,411 | 5,692 | 5,640 | 10,089 | 8,956 | 6,247 |
| 2,576 | 2,498 | 745 | 741 | 1,831 | 1,757 | 3,507 | 3,301 | 1,795 |
| 4,220 | 3,604 | 1,794 | 1,425 | 2,426 | 2,179 | 6,260 | 5,444 | 4,639 |
| 5,959 | 5,956 | 1,596 | 1,567 | 4,363 | 4,389 | 8,505 | 8,210 | 3,210 |
| 2,949 | 3,159 | 1,223 | 1,353 | 1,726 | 1,806 | 4,866 | 4,727 | 2,508 |
| 3,433 | 3,216 | 681 | 601 | 2,752 | 2,615 | 5,280 | 4,956 | 2,536 |
| 8,432 | 11,390 | 1,836 | 4,111 | 6,596 | 7,279 | 12,284 | 15,511 | 4,747 |
| 4,126 | 2,773 | 1,585 | 1,016 | 2,541 | 1,757 | 6,010 | 4,385 | 3,319 |
| 1,804 | 1,294 | 752 | 509 | 1,052 | 785 | 2,918 | 2,191 | 1,309 |
| 4,633 | 4,400 | 1,567 | 1,529 | 3,066 | 2,871 | 6,609 | 6,374 | 3,093 |
| 2,105 | 1,936 | 733 | 622 | 1,372 | 1,314 | 3,313 | 2,995 | 1,963 |
| 2,346 | 1,925 | 1,407 | 1,099 | 939 | 826 | 3,980 | 3,286 | 3,503 |
| 2,260 | 1,872 | 858 | 619 | 1,402 | 1,253 | 3,308 | 2,690 | 1,100 |
| 5,143 | 5,019 | 1,936 | 1,819 | 3,207 | 3,200 | 7,777 | 7,426 | 4,168 |
| 3,372 | 2,745 | 1,668 | 1,268 | 1,704 | 1,477 | 4,817 | 3,931 | 3,761 |
| 4,697 | 3,881 | 2,128 | 1,446 | 2,569 | 2,435 | 6,659 | 5,808 | 3,550 |
| 6,316 | 5,298 | 1,906 | 1,733 | 4,410 | 3,565 | 8,152 | 6,786 | 2,600 |
| 1,950 | 1,850 | 647 | 577 | 1,303 | 1,273 | 2,914 | 2,676 | 1,272 |
| 3,825 | 3,935 | 962 | 975 | 2,863 | 2,960 | 6,205 | 6,436 | 2,769 |
| 4,355 | 3,824 | 1,526 | 1,337 | 2,829 | 2,487 | 6,753 | 6,228 | 3,032 |
| 2,353 | 1,754 | 908 | 643 | 1,445 | 1,111 | 3,359 | 2,455 | 2,234 |
| 1,856 | 1,986 | 745 | 605 | 1,111 | 1,381 | 2,700 | 2,689 | 1,194 |
| 2,856 | 2,601 | 1,568 | 946 | 1,288 | 1,655 | 5,182 | 4,570 | 2,914 |
| 1,735 | 2,077 | 726 | 916 | 1,009 | 1,161 | 2,935 | 3,138 | 1,537 |
| 3,663 | 3,128 | 1,842 | 1,842 | 1,821 | 1,286 | 6,662 | 6,136 | 2,552 |
| 1,550 | 1,201 | 829 | 584 | 721 | 617 | 2,558 | 2,049 | 930 |
| 2,184 | 2,475 | 626 | 849 | 1,558 | 1,626 | 3,309 | 3,727 | 391 |
| 1,481 | 1,351 | 527 | 496 | 954 | 855 | 2,533 | 2,242 | 1,351 |
| 1,888 | 1,798 | 760 | 686 | 1,128 | 1,112 | 2,836 | 2,723 | 1,454 |
| 1,760 | 1,777 | 1,185 | 984 | 575 | 793 | 2,277 | 2,327 | 978 |
| 2,362 | 2,321 | 953 | 1,002 | 1,409 | 1,319 | 4,358 | 4,355 | 2,344 |
| 3,034 | 2,982 | 740 | 703 | 2,294 | 2,279 | 3,934 | 3,930 | 1,172 |
| 4,293 | 3,804 | 1,582 | 1,350 | 2,711 | 2,454 | 6,168 | 5,625 | 2,591 |
| 2,108 | 2,100 | 967 | 923 | 1,141 | 1,177 | 3,646 | 3,594 | 953 |
| 10,044 | 10,447 | 2,026 | 2,391 | 8,018 | 8,056 | 15,238 | 14,875 | 7,290 |
| 2,708 | 2,812 | 1,529 | 1,541 | 1,179 | 1,271 | 4,269 | 4,427 | 2,677 |
| 1,973 | 1,773 | 680 | 618 | 1,293 | 1,155 | 3,353 | 2,965 | 2,315 |
| 1,179 | 1,158 | 508 | 449 | 671 | 709 | 2,510 | 2,453 | 1,206 |
| 2,829 | 2,626 | 1,349 | 1,144 | 1,480 | 1,482 | 4,575 | 4,198 | 1,909 |
| 1,952 | 1,737 | 815 | 692 | 1,137 | 1,045 | 3,028 | 2,708 | 1,713 |
| 156,312 | 150,460 | 55,660 | 52,851 | 100,652 | 97,609 | 247,197 | 234,946 | 114,192 |
| 1,141 | 1,098 | 406 | 386 | 735 | 712 | 1,804 | 1,715 | 834 |

# State Courts

A 1970 legislative act established Georgia's state court system by designating as such certain existing countywide courts of limited jurisdiction. In counties where they are located, these courts may exercise jurisdiction over all misdemeanor violations, including traffic cases, and all civil actions, regardless of the amount claimed, unless the superior court has exclusive jurisdiction.

State courts are authorized by statute to hold hearings regarding applications for and issuance of search and arrest warrants and to hold preliminary hearings. These courts may also punish contempt by imposing a fine of up to $500 and/or a sentence of up to 20 days in jail. The Georgia Constitution grants state courts the authority to review lower court decisions, if this power is provided by statute. Specified in the Uniform Rules for State Courts, procedures in the state courts generally parallel those of the superior courts.

The General Assembly may create new state courts by local act in counties where none exists. In the same manner, the legislature also establishes the number of judges to preside in state courts and whether the judges are to be full or part-time. Part-time judges are permitted to practice law, except in their own courts.

In fiscal year 1989, 62 state courts operated in 63 counties. Georgia's only multi-county state court serves Cherokee and Forsyth counties. Of the 84 judges presiding, 39 were full-time and 45 were part-time.

State court judges are elected to four-year terms in nonpartisan, countywide elections. Candidates must be at least 25 years old, have practiced law for at least five years, and have lived in the county for at least three years. If a vacancy occurs in a state court judgeship, the governor may fill the office by appointment.

*CY 1988 filings and dispositions are listed in the table below for 24 counties that voluntarily submitted caseload data.*

## CY 1988 State Court Caseload [a]

| County | Misdemeanor Filed | Misdemeanor Disposed | Traffic Filed | Traffic Disposed | Civil Filed | Civil Disposed | Total Caseload Filed | Total Caseload Disposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bibb | 5,509 | 5,474 | 2,864 | 2,803 | 590 | 545 | 8,963 | 8,822 |
| Carroll | 394 | 429 | 5,114 | 3,972 | 571 | 191 | 6,079 | 4,592 |
| Chatham | 2,248 | 1,841 | 2,075 | 1,699 | 5,218 | 4,571 | 9,541 | 8,111 |
| Cherokee/Forsyth | 3,984 | 3,757 | 9,692 | 8,983 | 1,429 | 1,043 | 15,105 | 13,783 |
| Clarke [b] | 2,548 | N/A | 6,224 | N/A | 387 | N/A | 9,159 | N/A |
| Cobb | 5,404 | 5,041 | 61,225 | 59,079 | 27,130 | 23,777 | 93,759 | 87,897 |
| Colquitt | 869 | 727 | 1,449 | 1,243 | 87 | 55 | 2,405 | 2,025 |
| Coweta | 758 | 961 | 3,973 | 3,718 | 475 | 360 | 5,206 | 5,039 |
| DeKalb | 7,175 | 5,649 | 7,215 | 8,239 | 71,914 | 62,577 | 86,304 | 76,465 |
| Fulton | 20,557 | 15,608 | 9,985 | 6,330 | 46,609 | 21,899 | 77,151 | 43,837 |
| Gwinnett | 2,601 | 1,828 | 1,610 | 1,050 | 5,100 | 5,006 | 9,311 | 7,884 |
| Habersham | 745 | 684 | 1,216 | 1,364 | 98 | 59 | 2,059 | 2,107 |
| Houston | 1,554 | 1,449 | 10,961 | 10,754 | 1,235 | 984 | 13,750 | 13,187 |
| Jackson | 366 | 351 | 4,906 | 4,861 | 68 | 29 | 5,340 | 5,241 |
| Lowndes [c] | 2,874 | 2,861 | 8,941 | 9,165 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Miller [d] | 54 | 54 | 404 | 404 | 0 | 1 | 458 | 459 |
| Muscogee | 2,390 | 1,395 | 2,665 | 1,558 | 349 | 24 | 5,404 | 2,977 |
| Richmond | 3,583 | 1,859 | 5,775 | 3,474 | 659 | 322 | 10,017 | 5,655 |
| Spalding [e] | 711 | 553 | 2,804 | 2,481 | 242 | 167 | 3,757 | 3,201 |
| Sumter | 1,068 | 961 | 1,286 | 1,286 | 71 | 53 | 2,425 | 2,300 |
| Tift | 1,758 | 1,510 | 7,234 | 6,332 | 264 | 198 | 9,256 | 8,040 |
| Treutlen | 123 | 123 | 4,112 | 4,112 | 12 | 4 | 4,247 | 4,239 |
| Washington | 401 | 383 | 741 | 677 | 16 | 8 | 1,158 | 1,068 |
| Worth | 298 | 231 | 2,594 | 2,291 | 110 | 22 | 3,002 | 2,544 |

[a] Criminal caseloads equal the number of defendants; civil caseload equals number of docket entries.
[b] Dispositions not reported.
[c] Civil caseload data not submitted.
[d] Figures for the first half of CY 1988 only.
[e] Criminal dispositions estimated for the first half of CY 1988.

# Juvenile Courts

The express purpose of Georgia's juvenile courts 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 and unruly children under the age of 17 and deprived children under the age of 18. Juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in cases involving capital felonies, custody and child support cases, and in proceedings conducted to terminate parental rights. The superior court has the authority to preside over adoption proceedings.

These courts administer supervision and probation cases for those persons under 21 who were sentenced for an offense committed before age 17. In addition, the juvenile court has jurisdiction over cases involving enlistment in the military services and consent to marriage for minors and cases that fall under the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

Cases appealed from the juvenile courts may be heard by the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court, depending on the specific matter.

In 1982, the General Assembly enacted OCGA §15-11-3 to authorize a circuit-based juvenile court system and specify state salary supplements for circuits establishing judgeships on that geographical basis. However, since the legislature has not yet appropriated funds to implement this act, the state's 11 full-time and 40 part-time juvenile court judges who serve in the 63 separate juvenile courts continue to be funded by the individual counties.

In counties or circuits with no separate juvenile court judge, superior court judges hear juvenile cases. Thirty referees, who must be admitted to the state bar or have graduated from law school, serve in 34 counties to assist the juvenile or superior court judge with handling cases. Like the other trial courts, juvenile courts adhere to a set of uniform rules concerning procedures.

Juvenile court judges are appointed by superior court judges of the circuit for a four-year term. One exception is that the juvenile court judge of Floyd County is elected. Judges must be at least 30 years of age, have practiced law for five years, and have lived in Georgia for three years. Full-time judges cannot practice law while holding office. State law requires that juvenile court judges participate in one annual continuing education seminar sponsored by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges in conjunction with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

*Juvenile court caseload for CY 1988 is presented by county in the table on pages 16-18.*

## CY 1988 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

| County | Delinquent Filed | Delinquent Disposed | Unruly Filed | Unruly Disposed | Traffic Filed | Traffic Disposed | Deprived Filed | Deprived Disposed | Special Proceedings Filed | Special Proceedings Disposed | Total Caseload Filed | Total Caseload Disposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appling | 124 | 98 | 21 | 16 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 192 | 158 |
| Atkinson | 11 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 25 |
| Bacon | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 20 |
| Baker | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| Baldwin | 188 | 185 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 22 | 110 | 107 | 5 | 5 | 336 | 330 |
| Banks | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 20 |
| Barrow | 82 | 69 | 17 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 54 | 51 | 21 | 19 | 187 | 167 |
| Bartow | 281 | 214 | 86 | 69 | 192 | 173 | 154 | 113 | 130 | 102 | 843 | 671 |
| Ben Hill | 40 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 45 | 11 |
| Berrien | 71 | 58 | 37 | 29 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 141 | 108 |
| Bibb | 913 | 745 | 163 | 142 | 315 | 314 | 122 | 73 | 403 | 235 | 1,916 | 1,509 |
| Bleckley | 10 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 29 | 26 |
| Brantley | 17 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 19 | 8 | 8 | 51 | 37 |
| Brooks | 70 | 45 | 23 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 125 | 76 |
| Bryan | 94 | 66 | 44 | 32 | 8 | 6 | 22 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 174 | 124 |
| Bulloch | 96 | 74 | 13 | 13 | 23 | 19 | 24 | 20 | 4 | 1 | 160 | 127 |
| Burke | 103 | 96 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 38 | 38 | 11 | 10 | 170 | 161 |
| Butts | 75 | 57 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 32 | 18 | 7 | 5 | 141 | 103 |
| Calhoun | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 18 |
| Camden | 187 | 169 | 131 | 119 | 13 | 13 | 88 | 72 | 65 | 61 | 484 | 434 |
| Candler | 7 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 14 |
| Carroll | 316 | 293 | 246 | 151 | 190 | 183 | 121 | 109 | 6 | 0 | 879 | 736 |
| Catoosa | 172 | 165 | 19 | 19 | 81 | 80 | 87 | 72 | 1 | 1 | 360 | 337 |
| Charlton | 18 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 35 | 23 |
| Chatham | 1,095 | 738 | 339 | 252 | 623 | 53 | 577 | 347 | 67 | 18 | 2,701 | 1,408 |
| Chattahoochee | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 27 |
| Chattooga | 53 | 48 | 16 | 16 | 49 | 48 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 124 | 118 |
| Cherokee | 292 | 224 | 125 | 94 | 212 | 188 | 140 | 112 | 55 | 41 | 824 | 659 |
| Clarke | 516 | 505 | 122 | 120 | 85 | 85 | 197 | 197 | 16 | 16 | 936 | 923 |
| Clay | 9 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 30 |
| Clayton | 980 | 634 | 354 | 241 | 906 | 584 | 476 | 358 | 150 | 118 | 2,866 | 1,935 |
| Clinch | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 29 | 26 |
| Cobb | 1,651 | 1,318 | 732 | 607 | 1,386 | 1,195 | 460 | 382 | 217 | 195 | 4,446 | 3,697 |
| Coffee | 96 | 84 | 25 | 22 | 66 | 66 | 29 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 220 | 176 |
| Colquitt | 208 | 170 | 38 | 33 | 22 | 19 | 73 | 51 | 1 | 1 | 342 | 274 |
| Columbia | 226 | 209 | 48 | 47 | 140 | 133 | 15 | 11 | 27 | 24 | 456 | 424 |
| Cook | 74 | 71 | 20 | 19 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 110 | 99 |
| Coweta | 211 | 210 | 162 | 156 | 119 | 118 | 128 | 128 | 15 | 15 | 635 | 627 |
| Crawford | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 36 | 29 |
| Crisp | 73 | 61 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 59 | 50 | 14 | 11 | 171 | 147 |
| Dade | 35 | 31 | 19 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 81 | 69 |
| Dawson | 21 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 42 | 28 |
| Decatur | 137 | 119 | 18 | 14 | 35 | 34 | 51 | 40 | 5 | 5 | 246 | 212 |
| DeKalb | 3,073 | 1,111 | 1,168 | 519 | 1,288 | 548 | 920 | 403 | 257 | 81 | 6,706 | 2,662 |
| Dodge | 56 | 17 | 9 | 4 | 20 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 90 | 31 |
| Dooly | 14 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 38 | 16 |
| Dougherty | 908 | 867 | 121 | 117 | 197 | 190 | 110 | 110 | 75 | 68 | 1,411 | 1,352 |
| Douglas | 416 | 410 | 184 | 182 | 16 | 16 | 109 | 103 | 74 | 70 | 799 | 781 |
| Early | 50 | 43 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 77 | 66 |
| Echols | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 |
| Effingham | 98 | 91 | 35 | 35 | 15 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 176 | 162 |
| Elbert | 50 | 47 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 84 | 76 |
| Emanuel | 41 | 41 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 34 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 85 |
| Evans | 48 | 30 | 28 | 21 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 102 | 69 |
| Fannin | 20 | 18 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 26 |
| Fayette | 165 | 162 | 95 | 95 | 141 | 140 | 38 | 38 | 24 | 23 | 463 | 458 |
| Floyd | 379 | 197 | 232 | 130 | 361 | 258 | 169 | 109 | 37 | 20 | 1,178 | 714 |
| Forsyth | 124 | 98 | 31 | 18 | 110 | 93 | 39 | 19 | 21 | 15 | 325 | 243 |
| Franklin | 46 | 36 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 93 | 67 |
| Fulton | 5,428 | 3,138 | 1,321 | 798 | 1,334 | 1,071 | 1,114 | 523 | 458 | 223 | 9,655 | 5,753 |
| Gilmer | 33 | 23 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 37 |
| Glascock | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Glynn | 416 | 409 | 163 | 161 | 108 | 104 | 66 | 66 | 16 | 16 | 769 | 756 |
| Gordon | 188 | 153 | 150 | 137 | 5 | 5 | 145 | 129 | 23 | 23 | 511 | 447 |
| Grady | 62 | 59 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 104 | 91 |

## CY 1988 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

| County | Delinquent Filed | Delinquent Disposed | Unruly Filed | Unruly Disposed | Traffic Filed | Traffic Disposed | Deprived Filed | Deprived Disposed | Special Proceedings Filed | Special Proceedings Disposed | Total Caseload Filed | Total Caseload Disposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greene | 17 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 36 | 31 |
| Gwinnett | 1,201 | 1,129 | 564 | 518 | 1,083 | 1,041 | 395 | 368 | 225 | 216 | 3,468 | 3,272 |
| Habersham | 24 | 15 | 6 | 4 | 37 | 36 | 61 | 47 | 3 | 3 | 131 | 105 |
| Hall | 313 | 304 | 205 | 203 | 260 | 259 | 134 | 115 | 56 | 55 | 968 | 936 |
| Hancock | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 11 |
| Haralson | 41 | 37 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 33 | 26 | 15 | 14 | 99 | 87 |
| Harris | 32 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 64 | 46 |
| Hart | 75 | 73 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 128 | 111 |
| Heard | 17 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 5 | 38 | 34 |
| Henry | 252 | 249 | 95 | 95 | 111 | 110 | 36 | 30 | 65 | 62 | 559 | 546 |
| Houston | 359 | 256 | 321 | 258 | 375 | 342 | 294 | 251 | 77 | 56 | 1,426 | 1,163 |
| Irwin | 11 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 26 | 19 |
| Jackson | 78 | 62 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 58 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 152 | 123 |
| Jasper | 18 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 28 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 50 | 41 |
| Jeff Davis | 48 | 45 | 21 | 17 | 21 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 105 | 93 |
| Jefferson | 58 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 87 | 59 |
| Jenkins | 18 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 42 | 27 |
| Johnson | 17 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 33 | 30 |
| Jones | 35 | 34 | 7 | 7 | 60 | 60 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 106 |
| Lamar | 59 | 46 | 33 | 27 | 23 | 20 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 138 | 113 |
| Lanier | 26 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 26 |
| Laurens | 203 | 198 | 125 | 124 | 75 | 75 | 94 | 30 | 11 | 8 | 508 | 435 |
| Lee | 73 | 70 | 14 | 13 | 23 | 21 | 10 | 10 | 22 | 19 | 142 | 133 |
| Liberty | 207 | 185 | 77 | 74 | 43 | 41 | 39 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 366 | 329 |
| Lincoln | 6 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 43 |
| Long | 10 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 54 | 11 |
| Lowndes | 262 | 227 | 77 | 52 | 92 | 70 | 58 | 48 | 14 | 13 | 503 | 410 |
| Lumpkin | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 20 | 12 |
| Macon | 76 | 73 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 43 | 9 | 6 | 152 | 143 |
| Madison | 57 | 44 | 8 | 6 | 55 | 55 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 143 | 112 |
| Marion | 18 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 28 | 24 |
| McDuffie | 96 | 83 | 21 | 17 | 30 | 27 | 16 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 172 | 136 |
| McIntosh | 19 | 7 | 15 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 40 | 23 |
| Meriwether | 73 | 70 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 20 | 55 | 55 | 16 | 16 | 165 | 162 |
| Miller | 16 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 23 |
| Mitchell | 66 | 53 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 97 | 82 |
| Monroe | 57 | 57 | 34 | 33 | 44 | 44 | 37 | 37 | 7 | 7 | 179 | 178 |
| Montgomery | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 33 | 32 |
| Morgan | 28 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 27 | 27 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 74 | 61 |
| Murray | 93 | 57 | 47 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 21 | 16 | 50 | 40 | 213 | 146 |
| Muscogee | 1331 | 1142 | 562 | 462 | 350 | 289 | 415 | 327 | 245 | 130 | 2,903 | 2,350 |
| Newton | 229 | 177 | 144 | 124 | 103 | 85 | 177 | 142 | 199 | 161 | 852 | 689 |
| Oconee | 42 | 34 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 17 | 30 | 26 | 103 | 86 |
| Oglethorpe | 10 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 38 | 34 |
| Paulding | 217 | 199 | 59 | 55 | 19 | 19 | 43 | 31 | 69 | 57 | 407 | 361 |
| Peach | 83 | 69 | 34 | 31 | 2 | 1 | 50 | 41 | 30 | 29 | 199 | 171 |
| Pickens | 24 | 22 | 15 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 27 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 64 |
| Pierce | 25 | 18 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 51 | 33 |
| Pike | 39 | 33 | 13 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 85 | 68 |
| Polk | 99 | 85 | 38 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 18 | 40 | 29 | 207 | 164 |
| Pulaski | 24 | 18 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 37 | 29 |
| Putnam | 9 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 44 | 41 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 53 |
| Quitman | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 19 |
| Rabun | 34 | 29 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 71 | 53 |
| Randolph | 23 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 46 | 43 |
| Richmond | 1,279 | 1,101 | 299 | 280 | 143 | 109 | 195 | 138 | 43 | 31 | 1,959 | 1,659 |
| Rockdale | 208 | 154 | 86 | 65 | 169 | 151 | 71 | 52 | 60 | 43 | 594 | 465 |
| Schley | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 26 | 22 |
| Screven | 23 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 49 | 46 |
| Seminole | 12 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 25 |
| Spalding | 373 | 280 | 102 | 81 | 95 | 71 | 135 | 112 | 38 | 36 | 743 | 580 |
| Stephens | 64 | 57 | 7 | 6 | 26 | 26 | 13 | 7 | 20 | 14 | 130 | 110 |
| Stewart | 18 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 38 | 36 |
| Sumpter | 161 | 160 | 52 | 52 | 31 | 31 | 52 | 52 | 23 | 22 | 319 | 317 |
| Talbot | 7 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 11 |

## CY 1988 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

| County | Delinquent Filed | Delinquent Disposed | Unruly Filed | Unruly Disposed | Traffic Filed | Traffic Disposed | Deprived Filed | Deprived Disposed | Special Proceedings Filed | Special Proceedings Disposed | Total Caseload Filed | Total Caseload Disposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taliaferro | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 12 |
| Tattnall | 46 | 35 | 32 | 28 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 106 | 89 |
| Taylor | 8 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 25 |
| Telfair | 80 | 68 | 27 | 26 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 132 | 116 |
| Terrell | 32 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 53 | 49 | 15 | 13 | 112 | 99 |
| Thomas | 231 | 198 | 66 | 43 | 105 | 92 | 62 | 48 | 13 | 9 | 477 | 390 |
| Tift | 280 | 230 | 48 | 40 | 87 | 82 | 45 | 25 | 6 | 6 | 466 | 383 |
| Toombs | 80 | 75 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 57 | 44 | 26 | 22 | 170 | 144 |
| Towns | 8 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 12 |
| Treutlen | 35 | 32 | 7 | 7 | 24 | 19 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 79 | 67 |
| Troup | 609 | 467 | 146 | 128 | 71 | 50 | 178 | 128 | 13 | 9 | 1,017 | 782 |
| Turner | 34 | 24 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 66 | 45 |
| Twiggs | 32 | 29 | 14 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 64 | 54 |
| Union | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 29 | 28 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 55 |
| Upson | 127 | 119 | 44 | 41 | 60 | 56 | 52 | 46 | 6 | 6 | 289 | 268 |
| Walker | 123 | 120 | 57 | 56 | 97 | 97 | 52 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 349 | 343 |
| Walton | 275 | 243 | 278 | 242 | 99 | 86 | 165 | 134 | 77 | 56 | 894 | 761 |
| Ware | 326 | 284 | 102 | 82 | 73 | 60 | 96 | 79 | 22 | 22 | 619 | 527 |
| Warren | 19 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 30 | 31 |
| Washington | 21 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 31 |
| Wayne | 99 | 86 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 42 | 39 | 45 | 45 | 216 | 199 |
| Webster | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Wheeler | 24 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 35 |
| White | 18 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 38 | 15 |
| Whitfield | 337 | 294 | 193 | 179 | 228 | 192 | 168 | 145 | 101 | 92 | 1,027 | 902 |
| Wilcox | 20 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 24 |
| Wilkes | 23 | 22 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 47 | 44 |
| Wilkinson | 17 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 14 | 5 | 5 | 46 | 41 |
| Worth | 80 | 44 | 9 | 7 | 27 | 27 | 7 | 0 | 25 | 5 | 148 | 83 |
| TOTALS | 31,673 | 23,637 | 10,809 | 8,360 | 12,750 | 10,015 | 10,353 | 7,508 | 4,263 | 3,081 | 69,848 | 52,601 |

# Probate Courts

Located in each of Georgia's 159 counties, the probate court exercises exclusive original 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.

If provided by local statute, probate judges may serve as election superintendent, appoint persons to fill public offices, administer oaths of office, issue marriage licenses, hold habeas corpus hearings or preside over criminal preliminary hearings. In those counties where there is no state court, 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.

As of July 1, 1988, in counties with a population greater than 100,000 and where the probate judge has practiced law for at least seven years, a party to a civil case has the right to a jury trial if so asserted by a written demand with the first pleading. Appeals from such civil cases may be to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals, depending on the particular matter.

Probate court judges are elected to four-year terms in countywide, partisan elections. A candidate for office must be at least 25 years of age, a high school graduate, a U. S. citizen, and a county resident for at least two years preceding the election. In counties with a population over 100,000, candidates must fulfill additional qualifications on age and the practice of law.

Newly elected or appointed judges must complete an initial training course in probate matters. In order to receive retirement credit, all judges are required to attend annual continuing education courses and seminars sponsored by the Executive Probate Judges Council and conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

*FY 1989 civil caseload data voluntarily submitted by 97 probate courts and CY 1988 criminal caseload data voluntarily submitted by 51 probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction are presented in the tables on pages 20-22.*

## FY 1989 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries)

| County | Administration | No Administration Necessary | Probate Common | Probate Solemn | Guardianship | Year's Support | Hospitalization | Habeas Corpus | Licenses Marriage | Licenses Pistol | Total Civil |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atkinson * | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 36 | 26 | 89 |
| Bacon * | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 23 | 17 | 59 |
| Baker * | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 11 | 11 | 42 |
| Baldwin | 18 | 5 | 11 | 81 | 67 | 3 | 225 | 0 | 365 | 268 | 1,043 |
| Banks | 9 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 70 | 60 | 185 |
| Barrow | 11 | 10 | 0 | 68 | 42 | 2 | 44 | 0 | 270 | 200 | 647 |
| Bartow | 26 | 14 | 1 | 147 | 58 | 12 | 116 | 0 | 503 | 455 | 1,332 |
| Ben Hill | 16 | 5 | 5 | 50 | 15 | 4 | 17 | 0 | 190 | 127 | 429 |
| Bibb | 77 | 39 | 13 | 454 | 117 | 52 | 108 | 0 | 1,692 | 875 | 3,427 |
| Bleckley | 2 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 124 | 114 | 277 |
| Brantley | 1 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 58 | 184 |
| Bryan | 19 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 18 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 99 | 98 | 278 |
| Bulloch | 21 | 2 | 4 | 105 | 17 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 269 | 183 | 623 |
| Butts | 9 | 4 | 0 | 41 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 130 | 184 | 392 |
| Candler | 6 | 4 | 1 | 22 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 21 | 117 |
| Chatham * | 40 | 15 | 9 | 124 | 112 | 27 | 29 | 1 | 554 | 290 | 1,201 |
| Cherokee | 28 | 18 | 9 | 125 | 32 | 14 | 41 | 0 | 540 | 560 | 1,367 |
| Clarke | 79 | 12 | 15 | 214 | 100 | 11 | 82 | 2 | 551 | 382 | 1,448 |
| Clay * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 18 |
| Clayton | 69 | 29 | 9 | 256 | 280 | 45 | 72 | 0 | 2,275 | 1,082 | 4,117 |
| Clinch | 8 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 13 | 97 |
| Cobb | 171 | 52 | 40 | 717 | 389 | 78 | 142 | 0 | 4,685 | 2,387 | 8,661 |
| Coffee | 23 | 8 | 5 | 68 | 29 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 357 | 198 | 693 |
| Colquitt | 13 | 23 | 4 | 94 | 18 | 4 | 29 | 0 | 372 | 119 | 676 |
| Coweta | 36 | 14 | 8 | 143 | 75 | 16 | 67 | 1 | 564 | 341 | 1,265 |
| Crawford | 2 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 86 | 62 | 179 |
| Dawson | 5 | 4 | 1 | 32 | 10 | 3 | 19 | 0 | 83 | 97 | 254 |
| Decatur | 20 | 5 | 0 | 66 | 27 | 5 | 26 | 0 | 246 | 76 | 471 |
| DeKalb ** | 51 | 58 | 69 | 487 | 290 | 67 | 18 | 9 | 2,500 | 1,150 | 4,699 |
| Dodge | 10 | 9 | 3 | 44 | 23 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 146 | 79 | 323 |
| Dooly * | 1 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 51 | 99 |
| Dougherty * | 32 | 14 | 10 | 120 | 68 | 5 | 42 | 0 | 765 | 491 | 1,547 |
| Douglas | 22 | 9 | 1 | 124 | 85 | 18 | 20 | 0 | 954 | 603 | 1,836 |
| Early | 4 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 85 | 77 | 211 |
| Effingham | 15 | 1 | 8 | 46 | 31 | 6 | 21 | 0 | 176 | 205 | 509 |
| Evans * | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 48 | 33 | 102 |
| Fannin | 13 | 4 | 2 | 28 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 151 | 332 |
| Fayette | 20 | 8 | 6 | 82 | 36 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 454 | 450 | 1,068 |
| Fulton | 427 | 263 | 221 | 1,569 | 1,299 | 150 | 46 | 0 | 7,519 | 5,383 | 16,877 |
| Gilmer * | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 38 | 28 | 86 |
| Grady | 13 | 10 | 3 | 36 | 10 | 1 | 41 | 0 | 190 | 46 | 350 |
| Greene | 14 | 1 | 9 | 23 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 80 | 92 | 233 |
| Gwinnett | 101 | 36 | 15 | 396 | 281 | 34 | 76 | 0 | 3,135 | 1,735 | 5,809 |
| Hall * | 22 | 7 | 4 | 116 | 43 | 7 | 20 | 0 | 466 | 333 | 1,018 |
| Haralson | 39 | 0 | 0 | 62 | 15 | 12 | 27 | 1 | 231 | 220 | 607 |
| Harris * | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 20 | 73 |
| Heard * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 16 | 47 |
| Henry | 19 | 17 | 11 | 129 | 75 | 13 | 26 | 0 | 452 | 526 | 1,268 |
| Jasper | 3 | 0 | 4 | 26 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 65 | 59 | 167 |
| Jones | 11 | 0 | 7 | 54 | 17 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 140 | 204 | 450 |
| Laurens | 32 | 15 | 2 | 97 | 42 | 7 | 67 | 0 | 418 | 286 | 966 |
| Lee * | 4 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 64 | 93 | 191 |
| Liberty | 35 | 1 | 0 | 61 | 105 | 9 | 74 | 0 | 1,300 | 161 | 1,746 |
| Long * | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 9 | 36 |
| Lowndes * | 24 | 6 | 1 | 35 | 16 | 12 | 22 | 0 | 441 | 152 | 709 |
| Macon * | 12 | 2 | 4 | 54 | 19 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 116 | 99 | 330 |
| McDuffie * | 6 | 4 | 0 | 27 | 17 | 4 | 26 | 0 | 80 | 123 | 287 |
| Miller | 9 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 48 | 122 |
| Mitchell | 16 | 7 | 1 | 50 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 166 | 97 | 351 |
| Monroe | 9 | 5 | 5 | 40 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 128 | 123 | 321 |

## FY 1989 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries)

| County | Administration | No Administration Necessary | Probate Common | Probate Solemn | Guardianship | Year's Support | Hospitalization | Habeas Corpus | Licenses Marriage | Licenses Pistol | Total Civil |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morgan * | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 32 | 27 | 81 |
| Murray ** | 11 | 8 | 1 | 43 | 13 | 6 | 22 | 0 | 215 | 127 | 446 |
| Muscogee | 184 | 21 | 18 | 463 | 286 | 61 | 64 | 0 | 2,133 | 786 | 4,016 |
| Oglethorpe | 4 | 13 | 0 | 27 | 17 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 86 | 104 | 262 |
| Paulding | 21 | 8 | 0 | 99 | 37 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 591 | 391 | 1,154 |
| Peach * | 4 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 36 | 29 | 92 |
| Pierce * | 6 | 4 | 10 | 28 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 0 | 140 | 64 | 284 |
| Pike ** | 3 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 81 | 84 | 202 |
| Polk | 11 | 0 | 4 | 101 | 17 | 11 | 71 | 0 | 447 | 314 | 976 |
| Putnam | 16 | 6 | 4 | 26 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 120 | 133 | 330 |
| Quitman | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 19 | 15 | 50 |
| Randolph | 9 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 64 | 179 |
| Richmond | 109 | 51 | 56 | 343 | 170 | 127 | 202 | 0 | 1,553 | 1,181 | 3,792 |
| Rockdale | 23 | 21 | 11 | 86 | 73 | 5 | 14 | 0 | 642 | 422 | 1,297 |
| Seminole | 13 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 651 | 59 | 772 |
| Spalding | 21 | 15 | 1 | 139 | 61 | 12 | 45 | 0 | 583 | 417 | 1,294 |
| Tattnall | 10 | 7 | 2 | 143 | 16 | 5 | 18 | 0 | 120 | 119 | 440 |
| Taylor | 8 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 62 | 0 | 51 | 48 | 199 |
| Telfair | 7 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 6 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 98 | 105 | 261 |
| Terrell | 11 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 87 | 102 | 246 |
| Thomas | 28 | 8 | 1 | 124 | 29 | 5 | 430 | 0 | 413 | 164 | 1,202 |
| Tift | 20 | 6 | 0 | 72 | 17 | 2 | 34 | 0 | 394 | 204 | 749 |
| Towns | 9 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 91 | 187 |
| Troup | 20 | 18 | 6 | 166 | 48 | 22 | 77 | 0 | 486 | 410 | 1,253 |
| Turner | 14 | 6 | 2 | 39 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 57 | 70 | 216 |
| Union | 16 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 170 | 350 |
| Walker | 29 | 25 | 5 | 141 | 75 | 14 | 38 | 0 | 228 | 194 | 749 |
| Walton | 35 | 14 | 5 | 83 | 38 | 11 | 52 | 0 | 301 | 261 | 800 |
| Ware | 28 | 11 | 6 | 96 | 23 | 20 | 56 | 0 | 434 | 257 | 931 |
| Warren * | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 16 | 35 |
| Washington | 14 | 9 | 9 | 28 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 138 | 92 | 310 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 36 | 26 | 82 |
| White | 12 | 8 | 1 | 39 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 138 | 60 | 275 |
| Whitfield ** | 23 | 25 | 5 | 194 | 36 | 16 | 100 | 1 | 422 | 273 | 1,095 |
| Wilkes * | 8 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 36 | 9 | 89 |
| Wilkinson | 9 | 4 | 1 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 17 | 0 | 73 | 88 | 219 |
| Worth | 5 | 3 | 4 | 48 | 22 | 3 | 18 | 0 | 175 | 149 | 427 |

* Incomplete submissions for FY 1989.
** CY 1988 data.

## FY 1989 Probate Court Criminal Caseload (Docket entries)

| County | Misdemeanors Filed | Misdemeanors Disposed | Traffic Filed | Traffic Disposed | Total Caseload Filed | Total Caseload Disposed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atkinson * | 0 | 0 | 556 | 441 | 556 | 441 |
| Bacon * | 8 | 15 | 117 | 218 | 125 | 233 |
| Baker * | 17 | 17 | 346 | 319 | 363 | 336 |
| Banks | 129 | 161 | 712 | 709 | 841 | 870 |
| Barrow | 0 | 0 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 | 1,706 |
| Bartow | 591 | 574 | 5,355 | 4,855 | 5,946 | 5,429 |
| Ben Hill | 66 | 56 | 789 | 670 | 855 | 726 |
| Bleckley | 0 | 0 | 743 | 1,300 | 743 | 1,300 |
| Brantley | 70 | 70 | 865 | 865 | 935 | 935 |
| Butts | 190 | 190 | 1,473 | 1,473 | 1,663 | 1,663 |
| Clay * | 31 | 29 | 144 | 122 | 175 | 151 |
| Crawford | 47 | 38 | 1,167 | 1,152 | 1,214 | 1,190 |
| Dawson | 101 | 85 | 684 | 604 | 785 | 689 |
| Dodge | 76 | 57 | 943 | 612 | 1,019 | 669 |
| Dooly * | 9 | 1 | 1,819 | 1,574 | 1,828 | 1,575 |
| Douglas | 0 | 0 | 1,989 | 1,446 | 1,989 | 1,446 |
| Fannin | 167 | 164 | 916 | 861 | 1,083 | 1,025 |
| Fayette | 7 | 2 | 1,708 | 1,784 | 1,715 | 1,786 |
| Gilmer * | 45 | 45 | 213 | 213 | 258 | 258 |
| Greene | 233 | 228 | 2,339 | 2,259 | 2,572 | 2,487 |
| Haralson | 145 | 91 | 2,105 | 1,383 | 2,250 | 1,474 |
| Harris * | 0 | 0 | 538 | 538 | 538 | 538 |
| Heard * | 6 | 6 | 82 | 86 | 88 | 92 |
| Henry | 104 | 101 | 5,233 | 5,086 | 5,337 | 5,187 |
| Jasper | 3 | 6 | 1,010 | 1,010 | 1,013 | 1,016 |
| Laurens | 227 | 171 | 4,464 | 4,261 | 4,691 | 4,432 |
| Lee * | 8 | 8 | 1,067 | 749 | 1,075 | 757 |
| McDuffie * | 0 | 0 | 1,347 | 1,466 | 1,347 | 1,466 |
| Monroe | 303 | 262 | 10,657 | 10,126 | 10,960 | 10,388 |
| Morgan * | 25 | 30 | 1,268 | 1,418 | 1,293 | 1,448 |
| Murray ** | 0 | 0 | 2,560 | 2,560 | 2,560 | 2,560 |
| Oglethorpe | 77 | 70 | 879 | 879 | 956 | 949 |
| Paulding | 324 | 329 | 1,843 | 1,809 | 2,167 | 2,138 |
| Peach* | 0 | 0 | 96 | 96 | 96 | 96 |
| Pike ** | 17 | 17 | 1,070 | 1,070 | 1,087 | 1,087 |
| Polk | 83 | 74 | 1,613 | 1,588 | 1,696 | 1,662 |
| Quitman | 109 | 109 | 280 | 280 | 389 | 389 |
| Randolph | 0 | 0 | 920 | 922 | 920 | 922 |
| Seminole | 10 | 10 | 1,248 | 1,148 | 1,258 | 1,158 |
| Taylor | 28 | 38 | 802 | 708 | 830 | 746 |
| Telfair | 40 | 32 | 1,069 | 941 | 1,109 | 973 |
| Terrell | 88 | 91 | 1,673 | 1,636 | 1,761 | 1,727 |
| Towns | 57 | 55 | 191 | 186 | 248 | 241 |
| Turner | 0 | 0 | 1,511 | 1,393 | 1,511 | 1,393 |
| Union | 86 | 76 | 486 | 407 | 572 | 483 |
| Walton | 142 | 142 | 2,952 | 2,952 | 3,094 | 3,094 |
| Warren * | 2 | 7 | 214 | 183 | 216 | 190 |
| Wheeler | 12 | 12 | 638 | 635 | 650 | 647 |
| White | 0 | 0 | 472 | 336 | 472 | 336 |
| Wilkes * | 35 | 32 | 512 | 628 | 547 | 660 |
| Wilkinson | 108 | 77 | 371 | 294 | 479 | 371 |

* Incomplete submissions for FY 1989.
** CY 1988 data.

# Magistrate Courts

A statewide system of magistrate courts was constitutionally created in 1983 to replace justice of the peace, small claims, and other similar courts. A chief magistrate, who may be assisted by one or more magistrates, presides over each of the 159 magistrate courts in the state.

Magistrate court jurisdiction encompasses civil trials for claims of $5,000 or less; trials for county ordinance violations; trials for misdemeanor violations of bad check laws; holding preliminary hearings; and issuing summonses, arrest warrants, search warrants, distress warrants, and dispossessory writs.

Magistrates may grant bail in cases for which the setting of bail is not exclusively reserved to a judge of another court, administer oaths and issue subpoenas, as well as sentence and fine for contempt up to 10 days imprisonment and/or $200.

No jury trials are held in magistrate court, and cases involving county ordinance violations in which the defendant submits a written request for a jury trial are removed to superior or state court. These courts also hear de novo appeals from judgments of magistrate courts.

In addition to hearing cases, duties of the chief magistrate include assignment of cases, setting of court sessions, appointment of other magistrates (with the consent of the superior court judges), and deciding disputes among other magistrates. Minimum compensation for chief magistrates and magistrates is fixed by statute. Unless otherwise provided by local law, the number of magistrates in addition to the chief is set by majority vote of the county's superior court judges.

Chief magistrates are either appointed or elected in partisan, countywide elections to serve for a term of four years. Terms for other magistrate judges run concurrently with that of the chief magistrate who appointed them. The authority to appoint a replacement if a vacancy occurs in the office of chief magistrate usually resides with a circuit's superior court judges.

To qualify for candidacy for magistrate office, persons must reside in the county for at least one year preceding their term of office, be 25 years of age, and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. New magistrates, unless they are active members of the state bar, must complete an initial 40-hour course for certification and all magistrates must satisfy an annual 20-hour continuing education requirement. The Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council formulates the curricula for the seminars and sets the standards for certification, and the training courses are coordinated by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

As provided by law, judges of other limited jurisdiction courts may also serve in the capacity of magistrate in the same county. At the end of FY 1989, 29 probate judges, three civil court judges, three juvenile court judges and referees, one state court clerk, and two municipal court judges also served as chief magistrate or magistrate.

*Fiscal year 1989 magistrate court caseload is presented on pages 24-26 for 143 counties submitting data.*

## FY 1989 Magistrate Court Caseload (Cases filed)

| County | Warrants Issued | Bond and Commitment Hearings | Criminal Cases Filed | Criminal Cases Disposed | Civil Claims Filed | Civil Claims Disposed | Other Civil Cases Filed | Other Civil Cases Disposed | Total Warrants and Filings | Total Hearings and Dispositions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appling * | 229 | 199 | 2 | 2 | 84 | 84 | 52 | 52 | 367 | 337 |
| Atkinson | 231 | 30 | 8 | 8 | 215 | 201 | 54 | 54 | 508 | 293 |
| Bacon | 446 | 257 | 370 | 13 | 461 | 332 | 149 | 149 | 1,426 | 751 |
| Baker * | 70 | 52 | 14 | 14 | 80 | 34 | 25 | 25 | 189 | 125 |
| Baldwin | 1,891 | 267 | 0 | 0 | 3,127 | 2,537 | 2,382 | 2,382 | 7,400 | 5,186 |
| Banks | 389 | 29 | 10 | 10 | 211 | 213 | 52 | 52 | 662 | 304 |
| Barrow | 2,492 | 250 | 1 | 1 | 699 | 363 | 600 | 600 | 3,792 | 1,214 |
| Ben Hill | 1,403 | 505 | 233 | 414 | 1,362 | 1,009 | 918 | 918 | 3,916 | 2,846 |
| Berrien | 1,139 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 466 | 363 | 213 | 213 | 1,818 | 576 |
| Bibb | 10,896 | 4,461 | 0 | 0 | 2,713 | 1,994 | 1,208 | 1,208 | 14,817 | 7,663 |
| Bleckley | 693 | 145 | 74 | 191 | 280 | 276 | 153 | 153 | 1,200 | 765 |
| Brantley | 109 | 16 | 70 | 41 | 170 | 134 | 34 | 34 | 383 | 225 |
| Brooks | 534 | 409 | 50 | 50 | 463 | 356 | 204 | 204 | 1,251 | 1,019 |
| Bryan * | 185 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 288 | 248 | 53 | 53 | 526 | 349 |
| Bulloch | 3,571 | 213 | 3 | 3 | 1,318 | 2,031 | 818 | 818 | 5,710 | 3,065 |
| Burke | 1,200 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 712 | 605 | 278 | 278 | 2,190 | 888 |
| Butts * | 734 | 135 | 83 | 93 | 247 | 200 | 132 | 132 | 1,196 | 560 |
| Calhoun * | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 23 | 14 | 14 | 85 | 37 |
| Camden | 1,754 | 496 | 2 | 2 | 540 | 291 | 269 | 269 | 2,565 | 1,058 |
| Candler * | 501 | 254 | 111 | 0 | 120 | 116 | 74 | 74 | 806 | 444 |
| Carroll | 1,980 | 255 | 98 | 98 | 1,555 | 1,486 | 1,457 | 1,457 | 5,090 | 3,296 |
| Catoosa | 1,969 | 360 | 120 | 170 | 304 | 406 | 314 | 314 | 2,707 | 1,250 |
| Charlton | 587 | 462 | 91 | 92 | 289 | 258 | 74 | 74 | 1,041 | 886 |
| Chatham | 5,594 | 3,335 | 1,256 | 1,070 | 6,897 | 3,261 | 8,927 | 8,927 | 22,674 | 16,593 |
| Cherokee | 5,336 | 764 | 1 | 1 | 1,133 | 684 | 1,302 | 1,302 | 7,772 | 2,751 |
| Clarke | 9,012 | 2,474 | 30 | 86 | 1,346 | 1,168 | 2,101 | 2,101 | 12,489 | 5,829 |
| Clay | 185 | 64 | 1 | 0 | 77 | 65 | 15 | 15 | 278 | 144 |
| Clayton | 9,283 | 10,078 | 258 | 232 | 1,751 | 1,122 | 9,826 | 9,826 | 21,118 | 21,258 |
| Clinch | 339 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 253 | 113 | 67 | 67 | 659 | 189 |
| Cobb | 17,166 | 22,215 | 1,285 | 1,271 | 4,963 | 2,678 | 0 | 0 | 23,414 | 26,164 |
| Coffee | 5,164 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 1,491 | 104 | 820 | 820 | 7,475 | 979 |
| Colquitt | 2,720 | 411 | 0 | 0 | 1,691 | 456 | 621 | 621 | 5,032 | 1,488 |
| Columbia | 1,541 | 315 | 1,445 | 1,011 | 1,102 | 1,170 | 384 | 384 | 4,472 | 2,880 |
| Coweta | 3,500 | 13 | 1,181 | 738 | 1,759 | 1,349 | 1,103 | 1,103 | 7,543 | 3,203 |
| Crawford | 218 | 19 | 28 | 24 | 146 | 162 | 52 | 52 | 444 | 257 |
| Crisp | 1,533 | 647 | 536 | 639 | 699 | 635 | 630 | 630 | 3,398 | 2,551 |
| Dade | 657 | 341 | 0 | 0 | 125 | 143 | 73 | 73 | 855 | 557 |
| Dawson | 382 | 217 | 0 | 11 | 312 | 328 | 88 | 88 | 782 | 644 |
| Decatur | 1,340 | 535 | 0 | 0 | 1,075 | 0 | 440 | 440 | 2,855 | 975 |
| DeKalb | 19,190 | 33,383 | 1,184 | 1,084 | 4,291 | 2,401 | 80 | 80 | 24,745 | 36,948 |
| Dodge | 1,741 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 366 | 129 | 281 | 281 | 2,388 | 410 |
| Dooly | 450 | 107 | 0 | 0 | 434 | 333 | 142 | 142 | 1026 | 582 |
| Dougherty | 7,815 | 392 | 0 | 0 | 3,476 | 3,476 | 3,825 | 3,825 | 15,116 | 7,693 |
| Douglas | 3,984 | 157 | 386 | 399 | 1,072 | 954 | 1,219 | 1,219 | 6,661 | 2,729 |
| Early | 660 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 420 | 420 | 163 | 163 | 1,243 | 595 |
| Echols | 26 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 25 |
| Effingham | 775 | 115 | 95 | 95 | 405 | 405 | 155 | 155 | 1,430 | 770 |
| Elbert | 1,424 | 433 | 0 | 0 | 616 | 561 | 357 | 357 | 2,397 | 1,351 |
| Emanuel | 923 | 574 | 355 | 338 | 725 | 722 | 330 | 330 | 2,333 | 1,964 |
| Evans * | 292 | 88 | 329 | 186 | 189 | 37 | 185 | 185 | 995 | 496 |
| Fannin | 525 | 24 | 86 | 86 | 244 | 168 | 36 | 36 | 891 | 314 |
| Fayette | 664 | 390 | 698 | 626 | 647 | 543 | 427 | 427 | 2,436 | 1,986 |
| Floyd * | 1,955 | 654 | 1,392 | 330 | 1,996 | 1,076 | 1,763 | 1,763 | 7,106 | 3,823 |
| Franklin | 911 | 120 | 132 | 124 | 541 | 441 | 166 | 166 | 1,750 | 851 |
| Fulton | 18,639 | 23,110 | 21,601 | 12,391 | 5,527 | 3,806 | 57,626 | 57,626 | 103,393 | 96,933 |
| Glascock * | 13 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 30 | 9 |
| Glynn | 6,884 | 205 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,671 | 1,030 | 1,687 | 1,687 | 11,274 | 3,954 |
| Gordon | 3,389 | 1,018 | 221 | 315 | 762 | 563 | 381 | 381 | 4,753 | 2,277 |
| Greene * | 303 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 535 | 1,578 | 242 | 242 | 1,080 | 1,820 |
| Gwinnett | 10,217 | 6,120 | 1,077 | 342 | 3,555 | 3,021 | 9,256 | 9,256 | 24,105 | 18,739 |

## FY 1989 Magistrate Court Caseload (Cases filed)

| County | Warrants Issued | Bond and Commitment Hearings | Criminal Cases Filed | Criminal Cases Disposed | Civil Claims Filed | Civil Claims Disposed | Other Civil Cases Filed | Other Civil Cases Disposed | Total Warrants and Filings | Total Hearings and Dispositions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hall | 2,641 | 4,572 | 2,225 | 2,225 | 1,886 | 1,749 | 1,809 | 1,809 | 8,561 | 10,355 |
| Hancock | 221 | 103 | 102 | 27 | 918 | 838 | 377 | 377 | 1,618 | 1,345 |
| Haralson | 932 | 74 | 123 | 77 | 329 | 190 | 128 | 128 | 1,512 | 469 |
| Harris | 590 | 134 | 17 | 12 | 389 | 315 | 160 | 160 | 1,156 | 621 |
| Hart | 668 | 199 | 43 | 76 | 520 | 178 | 248 | 248 | 1,479 | 701 |
| Heard * | 198 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 140 | 126 | 46 | 46 | 392 | 182 |
| Henry | 1,976 | 3,313 | 597 | 608 | 973 | 1,340 | 686 | 686 | 4,232 | 5,947 |
| Houston | 7,571 | 2,776 | 146 | 77 | 1,336 | 1,201 | 1,435 | 1,435 | 10,488 | 5,489 |
| Irwin | 368 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 400 | 201 | 201 | 969 | 601 |
| Jackson | 2,072 | 229 | 4 | 3 | 670 | 753 | 381 | 381 | 3,127 | 1,366 |
| Jasper | 268 | 129 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 173 | 107 | 107 | 547 | 409 |
| Jeff Davis | 1,020 | 756 | 592 | 592 | 760 | 782 | 299 | 299 | 2,671 | 2,429 |
| Jefferson * | 187 | 64 | 48 | 48 | 179 | 179 | 93 | 93 | 507 | 384 |
| Jenkins * | 240 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 235 | 215 | 149 | 149 | 624 | 391 |
| Johnson | 424 | 19 | 39 | 39 | 222 | 121 | 118 | 118 | 803 | 297 |
| Jones | 830 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 620 | 315 | 182 | 182 | 1,632 | 504 |
| Lamar | 487 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 416 | 383 | 225 | 225 | 1,128 | 640 |
| Lanier | 431 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 196 | 126 | 59 | 59 | 686 | 208 |
| Lauren | 2,939 | 2,932 | 1,031 | 1,033 | 1,052 | 1,831 | 1,042 | 1,042 | 6,064 | 6,838 |
| Lee | 634 | 111 | 87 | 85 | 420 | 382 | 127 | 127 | 1,268 | 705 |
| Liberty * | 596 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 165 | 294 | 165 | 165 | 926 | 459 |
| Lincoln * | 169 | 49 | 2 | 2 | 297 | 212 | 179 | 179 | 647 | 442 |
| Long | 285 | 106 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 104 | 19 | 19 | 415 | 229 |
| Lowndes | 6,009 | 1,830 | 823 | 360 | 2,102 | 918 | 1,860 | 1,860 | 10,794 | 4,968 |
| Lumpkin | 637 | 366 | 164 | 45 | 346 | 217 | 76 | 76 | 1,223 | 704 |
| Macon | 835 | 162 | 138 | 47 | 519 | 104 | 352 | 352 | 1,844 | 665 |
| Madison | 843 | 364 | 164 | 141 | 447 | 258 | 97 | 97 | 1,551 | 860 |
| Marion | 146 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 116 | 59 | 59 | 326 | 268 |
| McDuffie | 1,164 | 221 | 87 | 87 | 699 | 482 | 431 | 431 | 2,381 | 1,221 |
| McIntosh | 459 | 176 | 2 | 2 | 270 | 250 | 65 | 65 | 796 | 493 |
| Meriwether | 1,237 | 51 | 4 | 4 | 827 | 769 | 331 | 331 | 2,399 | 1,155 |
| Miller | 281 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 319 | 0 | 43 | 43 | 643 | 43 |
| Monroe | 816 | 97 | 0 | 0 | 715 | 502 | 349 | 349 | 1,880 | 948 |
| Montgomery * | 60 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 43 | 29 | 8 | 8 | 111 | 46 |
| Morgan | 570 | 271 | 66 | 17 | 452 | 405 | 217 | 217 | 1,305 | 910 |
| Murray * | 268 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 144 | 96 | 22 | 22 | 449 | 139 |
| Muscogee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,154 | 469 | 15 | 15 | 1,169 | 484 |
| Newton * | 1,234 | 532 | 690 | 612 | 463 | 432 | 286 | 286 | 2,673 | 1,862 |
| Oglethorpe | 265 | 19 | 4 | 0 | 193 | 184 | 77 | 77 | 539 | 280 |
| Paulding | 1,148 | 642 | 82 | 216 | 539 | 645 | 277 | 277 | 2,046 | 1,780 |
| Peach | 1,064 | 729 | 41 | 59 | 463 | 266 | 271 | 271 | 1,839 | 1,325 |
| Pickens | 882 | 4 | 29 | 29 | 303 | 244 | 82 | 82 | 1,296 | 359 |
| Pierce * | 217 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 67 | 17 | 17 | 293 | 126 |
| Pike | 382 | 153 | 10 | 10 | 200 | 69 | 71 | 71 | 663 | 303 |
| Pulaski | 389 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 329 | 226 | 97 | 97 | 815 | 443 |
| Putnam * | 427 | 486 | 0 | 0 | 744 | 625 | 243 | 243 | 1,414 | 1,354 |
| Quitman | 66 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 44 | 1 | 1 | 110 | 73 |
| Rabun * | 464 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 202 | 206 | 53 | 53 | 721 | 267 |
| Randolph * | 205 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 89 | 24 | 24 | 308 | 133 |
| Richmond | 15,561 | 1,911 | 7,852 | 7,852 | 6,433 | 1,649 | 5,997 | 5,997 | 35,843 | 17,409 |
| Rockdale | 2,388 | 2,167 | 1,622 | 1,256 | 714 | 564 | 1,116 | 1,116 | 5,840 | 5,103 |
| Schley | 170 | 71 | 0 | 0 | 131 | 75 | 60 | 60 | 361 | 206 |
| Seminole | 307 | 72 | 15 | 36 | 290 | 201 | 83 | 83 | 695 | 392 |
| Spalding | 3,463 | 2,083 | 19 | 22 | 1,907 | 1,590 | 2,768 | 2,768 | 8,157 | 6,463 |
| Stephens | 1,948 | 71 | 474 | 102 | 516 | 268 | 191 | 191 | 3,129 | 632 |
| Stewart | 281 | 44 | 13 | 14 | 95 | 73 | 42 | 42 | 431 | 173 |
| Sumter | 2,441 | 1,231 | 0 | 0 | 1,018 | 991 | 751 | 751 | 4,210 | 2,973 |
| Tattnall * | 317 | 137 | 207 | 104 | 319 | 310 | 43 | 43 | 886 | 594 |
| Taylor * | 75 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 24 | 5 | 5 | 103 | 36 |
| Telfair | 700 | 208 | 0 | 0 | 377 | 313 | 243 | 243 | 1,320 | 764 |

## FY 1989 Magistrate Court Caseload (Cases filed)

| County | Warrants Issued | Bond and Commitment Hearings | Criminal Cases Filed | Criminal Cases Disposed | Civil Claims Filed | Civil Claims Disposed | Other Civil Cases Filed | Other Civil Cases Disposed | Total Warrants and Filings | Total Hearings and Dispositions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Terrell | 393 | 332 | 125 | 107 | 292 | 238 | 205 | 205 | 1,015 | 882 |
| Thomas | 2,663 | 925 | 978 | 1,308 | 1,628 | 1,529 | 1,297 | 1,297 | 6,566 | 5,059 |
| Tift | 4,160 | 971 | 4 | 2 | 1,168 | 413 | 628 | 628 | 5,960 | 2,014 |
| Toombs | 2,842 | 38 | 492 | 834 | 922 | 607 | 457 | 457 | 4,713 | 1,936 |
| Towns | 273 | 12 | 0 | 23 | 70 | 71 | 10 | 10 | 353 | 116 |
| Treutlen * | 258 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 57 | 28 | 28 | 341 | 104 |
| Troup | 2,402 | 18 | 41 | 41 | 4,444 | 3,453 | 3,659 | 3,659 | 10,546 | 7,171 |
| Twiggs | 306 | 117 | 12 | 31 | 219 | 104 | 66 | 66 | 603 | 318 |
| Union | 522 | 2 | 116 | 7 | 219 | 45 | 14 | 14 | 871 | 68 |
| Upson | 1,139 | 299 | 200 | 3 | 721 | 59 | 474 | 474 | 2,534 | 835 |
| Walker | 1,277 | 301 | 64 | 135 | 721 | 251 | 524 | 524 | 2,586 | 1,211 |
| Walton | 2,771 | 375 | 716 | 728 | 941 | 930 | 1,270 | 1,270 | 5,698 | 3,303 |
| Ware | 2,449 | 1,394 | 1,886 | 1,886 | 942 | 942 | 785 | 785 | 6,062 | 5,007 |
| Warren | 165 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 228 | 222 | 153 | 153 | 546 | 377 |
| Washington | 1,199 | 43 | 307 | 231 | 1,247 | 1,221 | 597 | 597 | 3,350 | 2,092 |
| Webster * | 63 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 71 | 66 | 6 | 6 | 140 | 127 |
| Wheeler * | 238 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 124 | 39 | 44 | 44 | 406 | 120 |
| White * | 252 | 211 | 114 | 73 | 165 | 82 | 43 | 43 | 574 | 409 |
| Whitfield | 5,861 | 17 | 561 | 427 | 2,363 | 2,363 | 1,302 | 1,302 | 10,087 | 4,109 |
| Wilcox * | 90 | 25 | 12 | 8 | 61 | 69 | 21 | 21 | 184 | 123 |
| Wilkes | 350 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 394 | 361 | 218 | 218 | 962 | 688 |
| Wilkinson | 317 | 60 | 27 | 22 | 318 | 318 | 151 | 151 | 813 | 551 |
| Worth | 880 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 341 | 341 | 133 | 133 | 1,354 | 558 |
| TOTALS | 282,134 | 152,780 | 59,191 | 45,450 | 121,710 | 88,435 | 151,346 | 151,346 | 614,381 | 438,011 |

* Incomplete submissions for FY 1989.

# Other Courts

Along with the two appellate and five classes of trial courts, approximately 400 local courts form the Georgia court system. Several special courts and numerous (390) courts serving incorporated municipalities operate under a variety of names with varying jurisdiction.

Originally created by statute or constitutional provision, certain special courts have limited civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the county. Such courts include the civil courts located in Bibb and Richmond counties and the Municipal Court of Columbus (see court organizational chart, page 6). Special courts authorized to exercise criminal jurisdiction only are the county recorder's courts of Chatham, DeKalb, and Gwinnett counties and courts of the consolidated government of Columbus-Muscogee County.

At the local level, Georgia has courts of incorporated municipalities that try municipal ordinance violations, issue criminal warrants, conduct preliminary hearings, and may have concurrent jurisdiction over cases involving one ounce or less of marijuana. Although first established under various names (city courts, mayor's courts, municipal courts, police courts, recorder's courts), these courts were redesignated as municipal courts by the 1983 state constitution. (An exception is the City Court of Atlanta, which retains its original name.)

Qualifications of judges and terms of office in municipal courts are set by local legislation.

# Judicial Agencies

## Judicial Council of Georgia

Since its creation by statute in 1973, the Judicial Council has served the Georgia judiciary and citizenry as the state-level judicial planning agency by coordinating administrative efforts for and recommending improvements in the state judicial system. An administrative arm of the Supreme Court since 1978, the council advises the legislature and the governor on the need for additional superior court judgeships by evaluating circuit caseloads and circumstances. The council also responds to legislative directives and individual requests for studies and initiates projects to generate efficiencies in the state's courts.

Twenty-four representatives of the appellate and trial courts serve on the Judicial Council. The Supreme Court's chief justice and presiding justice act as the chairperson and vice chairperson, respectively. The chief judge and another member of the Court of Appeals, the presidents and presidents-elect of the superior, state, juvenile, probate, and magistrate court councils, and the ten superior court district administrative judges complete the council's membership.

The full council meets at least twice each year, as it did in December 1988 and June 1989, to consider its committees' recommendations regarding specific studies and ongoing projects. The council oversees the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Board of Court Reporting (see following pages).

The Judicial Council continued its contract with the ten judicial administrative districts for district personnel to conduct the 1987 calendar year casecount in the summer of 1988. Raw data obtained by the districts was analyzed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the results were submitted to the council for use in evaluating requests for ten additional superior court judgeships in nine judicial circuits.

In considering additional judgeships, the Judicial Council seeks a balanced and equitable distribution of superior court caseload to promote speedy and fair trials. Endorsements are based on information that clearly and convincingly depicts the necessity of additional judicial personnel. As a matter of policy, the council does not recommend the creation of new part-time judgeships or additional circuits.

The council compares a requesting circuit's situation, in terms of weighted caseload, average filings, jury trials, open caseload, population, and days of senior judge assistance, to that of the remaining circuits. In FY 1989, the council recommended to Governor Harris and the General Assembly the creation of eight new superior court judgeships in the following judicial circuits: Atlanta (thirteenth and fourteenth judgeships), Atlantic (fourth), Chattahoochee (fifth), Cherokee (third), Eastern (fifth), Lookout Mountain (fourth), and Southern (fourth). All judgeships were approved by the General Assembly except the fourteenth judgeship for the Atlanta Circuit and an additional judgeship for the Lookout Mountain Circuit.

In response to a request from a state representative, the council evaluated a proposal to split Columbia County from the three-county Augusta Judicial Circuit. In light of its policy against creating single-county circuits, the council did not recommend dividing the Augusta Circuit.

At the end of the fiscal year, the council authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to study 1988 caseload data to determine the need for new superior court judgeships for the Atlanta,

Augusta, Blue Ridge, Cobb, Coweta, Flint, Gwinnett, Lookout Mountain, Macon, Middle, Ocmulgee, South Georgia, and Stone Mountain judicial circuits. The council also authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts to research a request to create a new circuit by splitting Henry County from the Flint Judicial Circuit.

During the year, the council took steps to improve casecounting and case reporting methods. The council submitted to the Uniform Rules Committees of the superior and state courts a proposal for rules requiring that each civil suit have face sheets containing case initiation and disposition information. These sheets would be filled out by attorneys to assist clerks in docketing cases.

The Electronic Data Processing Committee (EDP) is charged with making recommendations to the Judicial Council for providing uniform electronic data management systems for Georgia's courts. It is composed of judges representing each class of trial court, court clerks, and numerous staff and technical advisors from the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Administrative Services, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, and other professional organizations and businesses.

During FY 1989, the EDP Committee coordinated the planning, funding, procurement, and installation of personal computers in the offices of all superior court clerks to link the clerks' offices with the state's mainframe computer network. The network connects clerks to the Secretary of State's automated database for inquiries regarding corporate charters and also provides access to electronic mail. At the end of FY 1989, the clerks' network was fully operational.

The council adopted the EDP committee's recommendation to discontinue the AOC's manual case-by-case pilot project and to use the resulting funds to develop software for superior court clerks in the less populous counties. The council also approved the committee's proposal to seek funds to purchase personal computers that would connect the following persons and organizations to the statewide network: each chief judge of the 45 superior court judicial circuits; the 24 members of the Judicial Council; a designated representative of each of the five trial court judges' councils (superior, state, juvenile, probate, and magistrate courts), the ten district court administrators, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

As charged by law, the Judicial Council took administrative action in different areas. It approved two revisions of the rules of the Board of Court Reporting, as recommended by the board. The council also voted to approve, as part of the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council's 1989 curriculum, a three-hour domestic violence course (to be added to the initial certification course) and a three-hour course devoted to benchbook usage (to be added to every course).

A Judicial Council committee to investigate jury utilization and management standards as recommended by the American Bar Association (ABA) was appointed late in the year. The Jury Standards Committee began examining the ABA guidelines to determine whether the council should establish uniform jury standards in Georgia.

# Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides budget, research, and management information services for the state court system and serves as liaison between national and other state judicial agencies through its administrative activities. The AOC also serves as staff to the Judicial Council, working closely with its chairperson, the chief justice of the state Supreme Court.

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

In FY 1989, the AOC's fiscal section managed 62 separate funding sources comprising all or part of five of the seven budget units in the judicial branch (see table, page 3). These funding sources included 26 state fund allocations, 13 federal grants, and 23 fee or other revenue accounts.

Other functions of the administration/operations division are the promotion of communication and the exchange of information among judges, court support personnel, and public and private judicial organizations. These objectives are accomplished primarily through the production of a variety of informational publications, including the *Georgia Courts Journal*, a periodical that informs readers of changes in court procedure, judicial personnel

appointments and elections, recent legislation, local and national court management activities, and judicial process events.

During FY 1989, five issues of the *Courts Journal* and one index were published and distributed to 3,000 local, state, and national officials. The AOC prepared and distributed eight weekly issues of the *Judicial Legislative Log*, a digest of court-related legislation, to approximately 700 judges, county officers, and court administrative personnel.

The *1988-89 Georgia Courts Directory*, which contains address information for Georgia county, state, and federal judicial branch officials, was provided at no cost to judicial branch personnel and was made available at cost to attorneys and other persons. The AOC also produced the judiciary's *Fifteenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*.

Six issues of the *Public Relations Digest* ... abstracts of news and feature items about the judiciary ... were compiled and circulated to Judicial Council members to gauge public opinion about court activities and to identify matters of concern.

Eighteen press releases were also issued to the state's print and electronic media during the year to announce Judicial Council action regarding the creation of additional superior court judgeships, the appointment of new council members, and other activities. Approximately 195 printing projects were coordinated by the AOC communications staff for itself and other judicial agencies.

The AOC's research/court services division gathers statistical, financial, and other information on the judicial work of the courts so that it can identify current and future needs and propose recommendations for improvement. The AOC responds to requests for studies from the General Assembly and the judicial community and initiates projects to fulfill its legislatively prescribed duty to serve the courts (see list of AOC duties on page 30).

Each year the research staff supervises the collection of caseload and other data on the trial courts' work. Through a contract with the judicial administrative districts, the AOC expended $71,000 on a manual count of calendar year 1987 cases in the superior and juvenile courts.

CY 1987 data submitted by district personnel was audited and analyzed in terms of judicial workload and presented to the Judicial Council to formulate recommendations on the need for additional superior court judgeships in nine circuits: Atlanta, Atlantic, Chattahoochee, Cherokee, Cobb, Eastern, Gwinnett, Lookout Mountain, and Southern. The research staff also conducted a study to determine the feasibility of dividing the Augusta Judicial Circuit and the need for a full-time state court judge in Spalding County.

The AOC generated reports of district, circuit, and county caseloads in response to individual requests for caseload information and compiled open caseload reports for the 45 superior court circuits. Following an analysis of the number of open cases, the AOC estimated average processing times for each judicial circuit, and the chief justice notified judges of their circuit's ranking on this measure.

According to the study, the estimated processing time for the average case in superior court decreased by 50% over five years. Some reasons given for this decrease were expanded use of computers by courts, more productive procedures for court administration, effective methods of case management, efficient calendaring techniques, and the positive benefit of the 21 additional judgeships added from FY 1982 through CY 1987.

It was found that the ten circuits in the state with the shortest overall processing times were the Atlanta, Atlantic, Conasauga, Gwinnett, Oconee, Ogeechee, Rockdale, South Georgia, Southwestern, and Waycross circuits. The Lookout Mountain Circuit demonstrated the greatest improvement in the disposition of open cases.

The AOC continued to work with the councils of state, probate, and magistrate court judges on the development of quarterly summary caseload reporting systems for each class of court. The statistical categories used to report criminal dispositions and civil filings and dispositions for the state courts were revised to provide more relevant data and simplify reporting procedures. Manuals and forms incorporating these changes were distributed to all state court clerks. New manuals were also created for the probate court summary reporting system to improve legibility, ease of use, and forms. These manuals were distributed to all probate courts.

During the year, 24 state courts, 97 probate courts, and 143 magistrate courts submitted caseload statistics.

The AOC's research staff assisted the Judicial Council's Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Committee in planning the superior court clerks' personal computer network. The immediate purpose of the network is to provide access to corporate charter information by the public and attorneys through each clerk's office. The system provides other benefits, such as electronic mail and word processing capabilities, and serves as a basis for the further automation of clerks' functions.

The AOC assisted the EDP Committee in determining budget requirements for a superior court judges' personal computer network, which would include access to legal research tools and a

**Duties of the Administrative Office of the Courts**

*(OCGA §15-5-24)*

1) Consult with and assist judges, administrators, clerks of court and other officers and employees of the court pertaining to matters relating to court administration and provide such services as are requested

2) Examine the administrative and business methods and systems employed in the offices related to and serving the courts and make recommendations for necessary improvement

3) Compile statistical and financial data and other information on the judicial work of the courts and on the work of other offices related to and serving the courts, which shall be provided by the courts

4) Examine the state of the dockets and practices and procedures of the courts and make recommendations for the expedition of litigation

5) Act as fiscal officer and prepare and submit budget estimates of state appropriations necessary for the maintenance and operation of the judicial system

6) Perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Judicial Council

7) Prepare and publish an annual report on the work of the courts and on the activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts

8) Receive grants from any source, public or private, and expend funds and perform services in accordance with the terms of any grant

9) Prepare, publish, and distribute, from time to time, studies and reports relating to the administration of justice, impose reasonable charges for such reports where appropriate on either an individual or subscription basis, and retain any proceeds of such charges

10) Provide clerical, technical, research, or other assistance to individual courts to enable them more effectively to discharge their duties

11) Enter into contracts as necessary to perform its other duties

model jury selection system. Additionally, AOC staff drafted personal computer compatibility requirements for the Judicial Council's approval.

The AOC completed its third computer survey of all trial courts to identify computer usage in the state. Survey results indicate that the courts' use of computers has increased 168% since the first poll was taken in 1984, and the number of applications computers perform in superior courts has grown 770%. As in previous years, the survey catalogs operating systems and software, types of automated court functions, and Georgia vendors. The survey was designed to update the 1986 computer survey and to furnish planning information to the EDP Committee.

Salary surveys of superior, state, juvenile, probate, and magistrate court judges and personnel were conducted to provide court officials with information for comparison and preparation of budget and staff requests.

During FY 1989, the AOC responded to numerous state and national surveys by organizations such as the U.S. Bureau of Justice, National Center for State Courts, National Judicial College, Rural Justice Center, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and other states' Administrative Office of the Courts, as well as requests for information from judges, senators, representatives, and private citizens. The AOC also prepared statistics for the Bibb County courts study completed by a task force of the judicial administrative districts.

The *Jury Commissioner's Handbook*, which informs jury commissioners and clerks of their responsibilities and provides guidelines for preparing the jury master list, was revised and published in a 1989 edition.

The AOC continued to provide secretariat services to six related agencies and organizations. As required by statute, staff assistance was provided to the Board of Court Reporting and the Georgia Magistrate Courts' Training Council. The AOC's judicial liaison officer worked with the Council of Probate Court Judges, assisted the Executive Probate Judges Council in the development of training curricula, staffed meetings of the Superior Court Clerks Training Council, and aided the Council of Magistrate Court Judges in updating and distributing the benchbook. The AOC provided staff assistance to the Uniform Rules Committee of the Council of Superior Court Judges in its efforts to improve the courts' procedural rules.

The AOC also provided staff, administrative, and technical support to the Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System as it began its investigation of existing and potential gender bias in the state judiciary. Areas of investigation will include the unequal application of procedural and substantive law, treatment of judicial employees, domestic relations, domestic violence, criminal law, child support and custody, and judicial selection. Testimony and information gathered from professionals and the public at regional statewide hearings will be used to prepare a report on the commission's findings and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court. The commission is composed of 30 members, including judges, court officials, and community and business leaders.

# Board of Court Reporting

The Board of Court Reporting operates under authority of the 1974 Georgia Court Reporting Act to assist the state's judiciary by insuring proficiency in the practice of court reporting and encouraging high standards of professionalism among reporting practitioners. The board also investigates complaints filed against court reporters and administers disciplinary action when warranted. The Judicial Council appoints board members and governs official court reporting fees through regulation and adjustment of an established fee schedule.

The board conducts examinations twice annually as part of a qualifications procedure to certify court reporters in the state. In order to practice, both freelance and official court reporters are required to attain certified status or to obtain a temporary permit from the board or from a judge.

Board permits are issued for a single testing period and may not be renewed. Persons holding board permits may work in a freelance or official capacity until the permit expires or the reporter becomes certified. Judicial permits are issued on the signature of a judge, and these permits may be revoked by the board only with the approval of the issuing judge. Reporters on judicial permits who report more than 100 hours per year must attend the certification exams and are restricted to working in the court of the supervising judge.

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

At the two "B" tests administered in FY 1989, 38 percent of the 298 participants passed and were certified. Four persons upgraded their certificates by qualifying for a "B" certification with no back-up.

As of June 30, 1989, there were 915 certified court reporters in the state. Fifteen reporters held temporary judicial permits, while 36 were working under temporary board permits. The board issued 88 new temporary permits during the year.

Of three formal complaints filed in FY 1989, one was issued on the board's own motion against a court reporter who had previously been convicted of a felony. Following a hearing, the reporter's license was suspended for 30 days. In the second complaint, an attorney alleged that the transcript provided by the court reporter was incorrect. The board dismissed the complaint, noting that the attorney had other remedies available to correct the transcript. The third complaint, filed against a court reporter for failure to provide a transcript of a deposition, was dismissed because the reporter's license had already been suspended for non-renewal and neither party attended the scheduled hearing date.

The **Georgia Certified Court Reporter's Association (GCCRA)**, the profession's alliance for education and training, held two seminars during the year. The fall seminar focused on stress management and tax information. Spring seminar topics included tips on grammar, punctuation, and transcription; a demonstration of computerized, real-time reporting; and professionalism. GCCRA published a quarterly newsletter for court reporters and sponsored legislation to provide retirement compensation to official court reporters.

The board submitted several rule changes to the Judicial Council for approval. The primary change concerned rules on eligibility for temporary permits. Sponsorship provisions were strengthened by a requirement to add the sponsor's name and certificate number to the certificate page of each transcript. Other changes included the adoption of a policy for testing disabled reporters, license revocation for persons whose licenses are suspended for more than three years, and revisions of all forms used by the board. The Judicial Council approved the requested changes at its meeting in December 1988.

The seven members of the Board of Court Reporting include four certified court reporters, two representatives from the State Bar of Georgia, and one representative from the judiciary who has historically been a superior court judge. The members serve two-year terms of office, and the Judicial Council appoints new members to fill any vacancies. Each person is required to have accumulated at least five years of professional experience to qualify for membership. In addition to the seven members, the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as secretary, and the clerk of the board performs staff functions.

# Council of Juvenile Court Judges

*(Annual Report for fiscal year 1989, as required by OCGA §15-11-4.)*

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges is composed of all judges of the courts exercising jurisdiction over juveniles. Council membership for FY 1989 included 51 full or part-time juvenile court judges and 59 superior court judges exercising juvenile jurisdiction. Thirty juvenile court referees assist these judges in hearing cases.

Staff of the council provides assistance for judges and local court staff regarding matters of court administration, court services, probation and intake standards and procedures, foster care review, uniform dockets, automation, uniform court rules, and other issues relating to the special functions of juvenile court.

Judges receive yearly certification training at biannual seminars conducted in conjunction with the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education. Juvenile court judges, referees, and judges pro-tem serving more than 30 days per year are required to attend at least one of the seminars to remain certified. During the past fiscal year, 51 judges and 25 referees were certified by the council.

Special projects initiated or continued by the council in FY 1989 included:

1) providing technical assistance to the Institute of Government for production of an educational video entitled "What's Going to Happen to Me?: A Look at the Juvenile Court in Georgia;"

2) formation of a joint committee with the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to plan a training conference on handling the cases of deprived or abused children for Special Assistant Attorneys General, judges, and DFCS staff;

3) placement of summer law interns with juvenile courts of Chatham and Clayton counties;

4) a joint effort with the Division of Youth Services to prepare and adopt intake and probation standards for juvenile courts;

5) planning for the July 1989 meeting of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to be held in Atlanta; and

6) creation of a committee to establish minimum caseload standards for full-time judgeships.

The Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) began operation in four juvenile courts in September 1988. The program provides a systematic means to identify, screen, and assess juvenile probationers who have a substance abuse problem or who are at risk for developing one.

An intervention officer and an assistant serve the juvenile courts of Cobb, Douglas, Floyd, and Gwinnett counties to conduct drug screens, make assessments, monitor cases of juveniles referred to the program, and develop links to appropriate sources of treatment in the community. A total of 392 juveniles were helped by the program during the fiscal year.

Preliminary data reveals that court involvement alone is a significant indicator of drug or alcohol problems; fifty percent of the juvenile probationers evaluated at project sites were already using illegal substances in varying degrees. Substance abuse was associated with problem behaviors, including: failing grades (15%); school discipline problems (67%); and truancy (59%). For the majority of those screened, their substance abuse problem was first identified through ASAP. In May 1989, the project received a $262,000 continuation grant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

The council's Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders Program was named a 1988 Achievement Award winner by the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice for its accomplishments in restitution. The program annually makes available grant funds of $250,000 to juvenile courts in 95 counties for the development of court-sponsored restitution and other community-based services. A statewide total of 2,747 children were referred for services by their judge or court worker. The average expenditure per child was $84.22. During FY 1989, a total of $231,353 was spent: 53% of total expenditures were for symbolic restitution and community service jobs; 26.9% for counseling and diagnostic testing; 18.4% for tutorial sessions; and 1.4% for temporary housing, and transportation.

The program has been instrumental in the creation of restitution and community services programs in 51 counties. Funds are also used for after-school and summer tutorial programs, counseling and diagnostic testing, temporary housing and transportation. These local efforts provide opportunities for children to make constructive changes and remain in their communities.

During fiscal year 1989, the Georgia Juvenile Justice Information System expanded from 15 to 19 counties by adding Dougherty, Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Ware counties to those already using automated docketing systems. This communication link between the council and county juvenile courts enables counties to retrieve information from the statewide database, facilitates the exchange of court records, and provides prior juvenile history information to the state's juvenile courts.

Three meetings were held during the year to provide technical support for all counties using the system. Project staff compiled an operations manual and wrote job descriptions for county positions associated with the information system.

During the year, the Permanent Homes for Children in Georgia program added seven counties, bringing the total number of participating counties to 29 and the number of volunteers who serve on foster care citizen review panels to 450. Review panels analyzed 2,215 cases and spent 9,000 hours making recommendations to juvenile court judges for the temporary placement of children in foster care.

During the 1989 legislative session, the Permanent Homes project was commended with resolutions both by the Georgia Senate and the House of Representatives. The program also was recognized by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as the Outstanding Volunteer Program in the Juvenile Courts of America, receiving a citation at the National Council's annual meeting in July 1989.

In October 1988, the council sponsored the Fourth Georgia Conference on Permanency Planning, "In the Best Interests of the Child." Held in Atlanta, the conference offered training in foster care review for the 260 judges, citizen volunteers, and professional caseworkers who attended. Participants attended workshops and heard lectures about the world of an abused child.

The council and the Division of Youth Services jointly administer the Georgia Juvenile Justice Personnel Development Project. The project's goals are to provide quality uniform training to community-based direct service providers and to promote better working relationships between community-based employees of independent juvenile courts and employees of the Division of Youth Services. Each year, the project receives $45,000 in federal funds from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. Thirty-one workshops were held during FY'89, and topics included: time and caseload management, intake and probation standards, reality therapy, and the changing role of the American family. More than 6,544 training hours were provided for 209 employees of independent juvenile courts and for 435 employees of the Division of Youth Services.

Legislation affecting the juvenile courts that passed during the 1989 session of the General Assembly included: an act making the jailing of juvenile delinquents unlawful; guidelines governing the pretrial detention of juvenile offenders; and a provision requiring the district attorney's office to prosecute all delinquency cases upon request of the judge.

# Council of Magistrate Court Judges

The Council of Magistrate Court Judges was statutorily created in 1988 to carry out responsibilities conferred upon it by law, to further the improvement of the magistrate courts and the administration of justice, to assist magistrates throughout the state in the execution of their duties and to promote and assist in their training. The council is composed of all chief magistrates and magistrates and is authorized to develop a constitution and by-laws. The council's executive committee, comprised of seven officers and two representatives from each of the ten judicial administrative districts, carries out the administrative duties of the council.

The council met three times in FY 1989. Each meeting consisted of a business session and a training program on a planned topic of interest. During the 1989 General Assembly, the council's legislative agenda included salary and retirement issues.

The council published the first edititon of the *Georgia Magistrate Court Benchbook* and supplemented it with an update late in the year. This book was distributed to each magistrate in office and to those who attended the 40-hour training course as new judges. The Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council provided three hours of instruction concerning utilization of this benchbook.

# Council of Probate Court Judges

The Council of Probate Court Judges was created by statute in 1988 to further the improvement of the probate courts and the administration of justice. Composed of judges and judges emeriti of the probate courts, the council has developed uniform rules, uniform forms, and a benchbook.

The council met four times during FY 1989, three times with the County Officers' Association of Georgia, and once in Athens for training and the annual election of officers. During the year, the primary objective of the council was to contract with a sitting judge to produce the *Handbook for Probate Judges*. Due to an Attorney General's opinion on the issue, the council sought legislation to allow the contract to be executed by the council. This legislation was adopted and the contract was awarded.

# Council of State Court Judges

Originally a section of the Trial Judges and Solicitors Association, the Council of State Court Judges established its separate identity in 1985. A 1988 statute officially created the council to further the improvement of the state courts, the quality and expertise of the judges, and the administration of justice.

In addition to the two general meetings held during 1989, the council has an active committee system to address issues such as racial and gender bias, mandatory judicial education, uniform rules, and criminal sanctions and facilities.

# Council of Superior Court Judges

The Council of Superior Court Judges is composed of all superior court judges (137) and senior (retired) superior court judges (44). Its purpose and goals 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 justice and the judiciary in Georgia.

The council created two new committees during FY 1989. The Committee on Gender Bias and the Committee on Racial Bias began planning activities for upcoming years. Both made commitments to follow the precept stated by the Supreme Court's Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System, that "Courts should provide due process and equal protection of law to all who come before them, as guaranteed by the federal and state constitutions. Equality and fairness demand equal justice."

The council supported funding of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act during debates before the General Assembly and followed with interest the funding of new prisons and funding for altenatives to prison sentences. New child support guidelines, as approved by the legislature, were also of interest to the council.

In FY 1989, the council membership continued to actively participate in improving the administration of the courts through attendance at continuing judicial education seminars. The fall 1988 seminar was attended by 119 superior and senior superior court judges; 137 judges participated in the summer 1989 seminar.

# Georgia Indigent Defense Council

The Georgia Indigent Defense Council (IDC) was created by an act of the state legislature in 1979 to provide a program of legal representation for indigent defendants. The council is composed of 13 persons appointed by the Supreme Court ... one lawyer from each of the ten judicial administrative districts in Georgia and three non-lawyers from the state at large.

The council's four statutory purposes and duties are:

1) to administer funds provided by the state and federal governments to support local indigent defense programs;

2) to recommend uniform guidelines within which local indigent defense programs will operate;

3) to provide local programs and attorneys who represent indigents with technical and research assistance, clinical and training programs, and other administrative services; and

4) to prepare budget reports and management information required for implementation of the Georgia Indigent Defense Act.

In FY 1989, the IDC began formulating guidelines which outlined procedures for providing uniform operation of local indigent defense programs, to be submitted for subsequent approval by the Georgia Supreme Court.

The council received a $1 million appropriation for the 1990 fiscal year from the 1989 General Assembly. These funds were to be distributed to participating counties according to a formula that considers three equally weighted factors: county population, indigent defense caseload, and indigent defense expenditures. In FY 1989, the council chose a staff director and planned for its annual program.

The IDC works closely with county-level governing committees on the development and operation of local indigent defense programs. The council also consults with the State Bar of Georgia, the Council of Superior Court Judges, the County Commissioners Association, district court administrators, and the criminal defense bar in planning its agenda.

# Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

*(Annual Report for calendar year 1989, as required by OCGA §15-10-134.)*

The Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council supervises continuing judicial education requirements for magistrate court judges by prescribing minimum standards for curricula and criteria for magistrate training. Specifically, the council approves instructor qualifications and issues training certification to chief magistrates and magistrates who satisfactorily comply with established programs.

Nonlawyer magistrates who are newly elected or appointed must attend the first scheduled certification course after assuming office and successfully complete 40 hours of basic training in the performance of their duties. In order to maintain certified status, all magistrates (including those who are members of the State Bar of Georgia) must fulfill an annual 20-hour training requirement.

In association with the council, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) sponsored two 40-hour seminars and seven 20-hour regional training sessions for magistrates during the 1989 calendar year (see table at right). A total of 436 magistrate court judges were certified in CY 1989.

It was the first year in which all who needed certification had been able to attend training, due primarily to the availability of the second 40-hour training course in September. This was also the first year that the council did not require completion of an examination to achieve certified status. Instead, a pretest was administered to help participants identify topical areas that needed attention. It was decided that no test would be required at the CY 1990 training sessions and that the time previously devoted to testing would be made available for additional instruction. Once again, the training instructors were required to attend an intensive 20-hour course designed to help them in determining their most effective methods of presentation.

Each participant was charged tuition of $125. Magistrates attending the 40-hour program took part in a variety of training modules, including instruction in legal research, reviewing the new benchbook, judicial discipline, civil claims, judicial ethics, torts and proof of damages, bookkeeping, contracts, landlord and tenant cases, garnishments and attachments, personalty actions, contempt of court, local ordinance adjudication, criminal law, search warrants, bail, pretrial release and preliminary hearings, family violence, bad check recovery, and arrest warrants. Twenty-hour participants received instruction on judicial ethics and discipline, civil issues, evidence, criminal issues, landlord and tenant issues, and benchbook usage.

For the first time, training was provided to clerks of magistrate courts with two programs shown at various sites around the state. The first session was a live satellite transmission to 150 participants who were able to call in questions to a panel of clerks and judges. The second session, transmitted to the regional locations using a videotape of the first session, was attended by 80 persons. The council produced a notebook of handout materials and an instructional videotape, which were given to each of the 159 magistrate courts for use in training new clerks.

**Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council: 1989 Seminars**

| Date | Location | Hours | Attendees |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 12-17 | Athens | 40 | 72 |
| May 3-5 | Tifton | 20 | 48 |
| May 23-25 | Athens | 20 | 61 |
| June 6-8 | Savannah | 20 | 66 |
| June 20-22 | Forsyth | 20 | 40 |
| July 12-17 | Athens | 20 | 34 |
| August 2-4 | Savannah | 20 | 54 |
| August 22-24 | Dalton | 20 | 34 |
| September 10-15 | Athens | 40 | 27 |

# Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

In fiscal year 1989, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) coordinated or sponsored 34 training programs for judges, court officials, and judicial personnel. Exceeding 2,000 attendees for the second year in a row, Georgia's ICJE is one of the top state and national continuing judicial education providers in the country. The state ranked tenth in the nation among state-based continuing judicial education programs in fiscal support committed for this purpose.

As an administrative arm of the Supreme Court, the Institute has retained sole responsibility for the training of all judicial personnel since 1981. The various courts and judges' councils have since adopted training standards for their members. Supreme Court justices and Court of Appeals judges must complete a minimum of 12 hours of instruction each year, with at least two hours devoted to legal or judicial ethics.

Superior court judges are required to attend judicial education programs totaling at least 12 hours per year, including two hours of judicial ethics every two years. Rule 43 of the Uniform Rules for the State Courts mandates that state court judges attend continuing legal and/or judicial education courses totaling 24 hours, two of which must be devoted to ethics studies, every two years.

As prescribed by the Executive Probate Judges Council, probate court judges must complete 20 hours of initial training and 15 hours of continuing education thereafter. By law, magistrate court judges must satisfactorily fulfill an initial 40-hour training requirement (attorney magistrates are exempt) and attend an annual 20-hour recertification course. Superior court clerks are also required to complete 40 hours in basic certification and 15 hours in recertification training courses.

During FY 1989, ICJE offered its traditional calendar of annual and semiannual training events, including programs for workers' compensation judges and administrative law judges of executive branch agencies, which were first conducted in FY'88. The biannual topical specialty course was replaced with preservice orientation courses for newly elected superior, state, and probate court judges. (The table on page 37 lists the Institute's FY 1989 state-based activities, identifying the constituent group served, the course site, the date, and the number of attendees for each program.)

In March 1989, the Institute introduced continuing education to magistrate court clerks when it conducted its second intrastate satellite teleconference. Training materials and a videotape were produced and distributed to each magistrate court to be used for new clerk orientation.

ICJE also created a videotape examining judicial ethics and discipline, which featured a discussion of practices and rules among three members of the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Other program highlights included teacher training courses for faculty who serve probate court judges, juvenile court judges, and superior court clerks. A new course, developed and tested with support from a State Justice Institute grant, focused on trial court writing. Upon completion of this project, a tested and revised curriculum was distributed to every judicial education program in the country.

Faculty of Georgia's accredited law schools (Emory, Georgia State, Mercer, and the University of Georgia) donated valuable instruction time to ICJE programs. However, superior court judges continued to perform the bulk of instructional duties throughout the year, as they guided the instruction of mandatory evidence courses for magistrates and served as instructors for workers' compensation judges and administrative law judges.

The Institute sponsored persons attending out-of-state training programs held by nationally recognized judicial education agencies. Thirty-five of 44 applicants were granted some financial aid (usually 80% of costs) to attend nationally-based training in FY 1989. Approval was granted for training at the National Judicial College, the Institute for Court Management, the American Academy of Judicial Education, and for programs sponsored by the National Council for Family and Juvenile Court Judges. Institute funds supported the out-of-state training of fifteen superior court judges, three state court judges, four juvenile court judges and referees, three court administrative personnel, one deputy clerk, five probation personnel, and two others.

In FY 1989, the state legislature appropriated $570,368 to ICJE, a 20% increase over FY 1988 funding. The budget included these allotments: $20,000 to superior court judges for nationally-based education; $124,862 to the Magistrate Courts Training Council for administration and for training magistrate court judges and clerks; and $425,506 for administration and continuing operations of ICJE, including a new conference facilitator position. ICJE was able to reimburse mileage expenses for

about half of its program participants.

Executive Director Richard Reaves was honored for his service and leadership as president of the National Association of State Judicial Educators from 1986 to 1988.

Members of the ICJE board of trustees primarily represent client groups of state courts and judicial organizations. The board includes one Court of Appeals judge; two members of the Council of Superior Court Judges; one member from each of the councils of state, juvenile, probate, and magistrate court judges; one representative of the Superior Court Clerks Association; one member each of the State Bar of Georgia and the Judicial Council; and five ex officio members, including the immediate past chairpersons 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 four accredited law schools. A liaison member representing the Supreme Court and an advisory member also serve on the board.

**Institute of Continuing Judicial Education**
**FY 1989 State-based Instructional Activities**

| Program | Location | Date | Attendees |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Athens | July 6-8, 1988 | 52 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Marietta | July 20-22, 1988 | 47 |
| Superior Court Judges Summer Seminar | St. Simons Island | July 24-27, 1988 | 80 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Savannah | August 3-5, 1988 | 46 |
| Trial Supervision by Lawyer Magistrates | Athens | August 21-26, 1988 | 23 |
| 40-Hour Basic Course for Magistrate Court Judges (Civil) | Athens | Sept. 7-9, 1988 | 30 |
| Juvenile Court Judges Fall Seminar | Thomasville | Sept. 28-30, 1988 | 57 |
| Fall Seminar for Administrative Law Judges | Athens | October 3-5, 1988 | 52 |
| Juvenile Court Probation Officers Fall Seminar | Columbus | October 5-7, 1988 | 72 |
| Faculty Development Seminar | Athens | October 23-25, 1988 | 7 |
| Superior Court Judges Fall Seminar | Athens | October 26-28, 1988 | 119 |
| State Court Judges Fall Seminar | Pine Mountain | Nov.30-Dec.2, 1988 | 55 |
| Superior Court Clerks Fall Seminar | Savannah | Nov. 16-18, 1988 | 120 |
| Probate Court Judges Fall Seminar | Savannah | Nov. 16-18, 1988 | 90 |
| New Judges Orientation | Athens | Dec. 7-9, 1988 | 45 |
| County Officers Association Training for Probate Court Judges and Superior Court Clerks | Atlanta | January, 1989 | 72 |
| 40-Hour Basic Course for Magistrate Court Judges (Criminal) | Athens | Feb. 15-17, 1989 | 72 |
| Magistrate Court Clerks Seminar (satellite teleconference) | Athens, nine additional sites | March 30 & 31, 1989 | 228 |
| Judicial Secretaries Seminar | Savannah | March 8-10, 1989 | 117 |
| Workers' Compensation Judges Spring Seminar | Athens | March 20-22, 1989 | 24 |
| Faculty Development Seminar | Athens | March 20-22, 1989 | 18 |
| Superior Court Clerks Spring Seminar | Cordele | April 12-14, 1989 | 163 |
| Probate Court Judges Spring Seminar | Athens | April 19-21, 1989 | 139 |
| Corrections Facilities Tour | Macon | April 26-28, 1989 | 10 |
| Juvenile Court Judges Spring Seminar | St. Simons | May 1-3, 1989 | 74 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Tifton | May 3-5, 1989 | 48 |
| State Court Judges Spring Seminar | St. Simons | May 8-10, 1989 | 61 |
| Juvenile Court Probation Officers Spring Seminar | Jekyll Island | May 10-12, 1989 | 133 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Athens | May 17-19, 1989 | 61 |
| Juvenile Court Clerks Seminar | Macon | May 22-23, 1989 | 66 |
| County Officers Association Training for Probate Court Judges and Superior Court Clerks | Jekyll Island | June, 1989 | 72 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Savannah | June 7-9, 1989 | 66 |
| 20-Hour Recertification Course for Magistrate Court Judges | Forsyth | June 21-23, 1989 | 40 |
| Judicial Writing Workshops | Various sites | Various dates | 12 |

# Judicial Administrative Districts

The Judicial Administration Act of 1976 established ten judicial administrative districts in Georgia and created district councils, composed of all superior and senior superior court judges within the respective districts. These ten regional councils elect administrative judges who serve on the Council of Administrative Judges, which was formed to provide unified administrative rules and continuity of operation among districts. Each administrative judge selects a district court administrator to serve as staff for the judges of the district.

Under the guidance of the administrative judges, the district court administrators were involved in a number of activities in fiscal year 1989. The collection and evaluation of data relevant to the operation and management of the superior courts were continued. Detailed lists of open cases were prepared for the superior court judges in each of Georgia's 159 counties. Support was provided for the administrative judges by the authorization and assignment of judges within the districts, and judges were secured from inside individual districts to serve elsewhere at the request of other administrative judges and the Governor.

The district court administrators functioned as the liaison between the superior courts and local governmental officials, court personnel, various components of the criminal justice system, interested citizens, and others on the local, state, and regional level. The district administrators also assisted chief judges in the preparation, presentation, and management of local court budgets. A number of innovative circuitwide budgets were formulated and administered by the districts during the fiscal year. Additionally, personnel policies and procedures for local court systems were developed, and the district court administrators screened and interviewed applicants for trial court administrator, law clerk, court reporter, and other court support positions.

District staff served as the local resource for information on educational programs and activities for superior court judges and other judicial support personnel. Orientation sessions for jury commissioners and seminars for courtroom bailiffs were conducted on a local basis. District court administrators provided assistance in several statewide training programs for judicial personnel.

District staff assisted chief judges and clerks in local jury management projects and coordinated jury management services provided by other court agencies and vendors. Jury selection was automated in many circuits during the last fiscal year. Technical assistance was provided for the revising of county jury boxes.

As specified by the Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts and authorized by the chief judges, district staff conferred with attorneys, media representatives, court staff, law enforcement personnel, and the general public regarding court activities. These efforts included the preparation of news releases, speeches for civic groups, and educational programs and other public relations activities deemed appropriate by the administrative judges.

The district court administrators advised local courts on records management issues, assisted in the development of records retention schedules, and coordinated records management or technical assistance services provided to local courts by other state agencies and vendors. Major emphasis was placed on the computerization of court records in counties with sufficient resources. District personnel were involved in efforts to establish a statewide computer network for the clerks of superior court.

The administrative judges authorized assistance to individual circuits, bar associations, and governmental units in the establishment, funding, and management of local indigent defense programs. Several district court administrators served on county and circuit tripartite committees within their districts, and district personnel provided administrative support to other programs.

The district court administrators prepared grant applications, managed grant programs, and evaluated funded projects in order to provide assistance to local trial courts and assist local governments in meeting the needs of the superior courts. District staff consulted with local trial courts about space and facilities management, including their serving as liaison for architects and contractors during the construction and renovation of courthouses.

District court administrators assisted in the development of projects on arbitration, mediation, video arraignment, court delay reduction, and alternative sentencing. District court personnel aided superior court judges in dealing with local jail overcrowding problems. Studies of court systems and evaluations of court programs were conducted upon the request of local officials. Public policy concerns about using DNA "typing" in the courts were also addressed.

At the direction of the administrative judges, the district court administrators were involved in staff support of special projects and committees of the Council of

Superior Court Judges, the Judicial Council of Georgia, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and other court related groups. District court administrators serve on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Judicial Council's Jury Standards Committee, and other local, state, and national organizations concerned with judicial administration.

# Judicial Nominating Commission

The Judicial Nominating Commission assists the governor in appointing highly qualified persons to judicial office by soliciting nominations for judgeships filled by gubernatorial selection. The nominating procedure is often undertaken to fill judicial vacancies, although nominations may also be processed in designating candidates for newly created judgeships.

Certain qualifications must be met prior to consideration of any candidate for judicial office. While the prerequisites vary according to the type of court, most candidates must meet a residency and age requirement. Judges of appellate and superior courts must have maintained an active membership in the state bar for seven years, and state and juvenile court judges must be admitted to practice law in the state for at least five years. Qualifications for all judges are specified either in the state constitution or in pertinent statutes (see reviews of specific courts on pages 1-26, for more detail).

The commission begins the selection process by seeking nominations from local individuals and leaders among the civic and legal communities. The commission members evaluate candidates based on a questionnaire concerning their qualifications and a legal article or brief that each candidate has written. The nominees are then investigated through interviews with attorneys familiar with them and by personally interviewing the candidates themselves.

The nominating body held five meetings in FY 1989 to consider candidates for eight judicial offices, including two new superior court judgeships, five superior court vacancies, and one state court vacancy. Since 1973, the commission has acted on a total of 175 judgeships, including:

- 10 Supreme Court vacancies
- 12 Court of Appeals vacancies
- 106 superior court offices
- 43 state court posts
- 2 municipal court judgeships
- 2 civil court vacancies.

Originally created by executive order of former Governor Jimmy Carter and continued in the same manner by succeeding governors, the commission is composed of ten members. Five are persons appointed to serve a term concurrent with that of the appointing governor, and the other five 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.

# Judicial Qualifications Commission

The Georgia Constitution empowers the Judicial Qualifications Commission to respond to inquiries from judges regarding appropriate judicial conduct, to direct investigations into complaints involving members of the state judiciary and, when it deems necessary, to hold hearings concerning allegations of judicial misconduct.

Grievances involving judges are almost always initiated by a written, verified complaint, although the commission may act upon its own motion in cases where it considers such action appropriate. Alleged violations of misconduct or protests against judges must be based on one of the seven canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct, last revised March 15, 1984. Grounds for action 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; and (5) disability which seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties and which is or is likely to become permanent.

If, following acknowledgement and review of a complaint, the commission finds that it raises questions or justifies further action, the judge is sent a copy of the complaint or a synopsis of matters to be investigated and is given reasonable opportunity to make an oral or written statement either personally or through counsel. If the judge responds satisfactorily to the complaint, it is disposed. The commission may make an initial inquiry and may authorize a preliminary investigation of the

## Synopses of FY 1989 JQC Opinions

***Opinion 124:*** After a judge or a candidate has made the decision to run for election or re-election he is "a candidate for election or re-election" within the meaning of subsection A(2) of Canon 7 and if he is acting on his own behalf pursuant to this purpose, he may attend a fund raising for a partisan nonjudicial candidate or an "appreciation dinner" for a friend who is retiring from the General Assembly, provided he complies with the restrictions imposed by Opinion 83.

***Opinion 125:*** It would not be appropriate for a judge to participate in a "board of ethics" with the duty of hearing complaints of violations of an ethics code and making investigations and recommendations with respect to matters which may ultimately come before them.

***Opinion 126:*** There is no legal or ethical problem with the appointment of an attorney who holds and retains a state bar office, such as president or secretary, to a judicial position, such as state or superior court judge.

***Opinion 127:*** An associate magistrate is not disqualified to represent a client as his attorney because the opposite party has filed numerous civil actions in the magistrate court where the associate magistrate is a presiding judge.

***Opinion 128:*** A judge is not automatically required to disqualify in a case because his spouse is employed as a secretary by a firm which represents one of the parties in the case but, if the circumstances are such that his impartiality "might reasonably be questioned," he should disqualify.

***Opinion 129:*** A judge should not serve as a member of a county executive committee of the Democratic Party for the reason that as such he would be both a leader and an office holder in a political organization in violation of Canon 7A(1).

***Opinion 130:*** If the terms are reasonable and fair, a newly appointed judge, who upon withdrawing from his former firm has arranged for them to pay him certain guaranteed payments plus a percentage of fees generated in certain contingent cases would not be required to disqualify but, if the judge entertains doubt as to his impartiality, or, if under the circumstances his impartiality might be reasonably questioned by others, it would be his duty to recuse himself. In any event, as long as the debt remained outstanding, the judge should make full disclosure.

***Opinion 131:*** It is not inappropriate for candidates to state their political party affiliation and offices they have held in partisan organizations in either partisan or nonpartisan elections. The candidates may also attend partisan political functions and seek the support/endorsement of these organizations but they may not, in either partisan or nonpartisan elections, represent that they are qualified, or better qualified, because of their political party affiliations.

***Opinion 132:*** It is not inappropriate for a convicted drunk driver to be required to meet for stated periods with a panel of victims of drunk drivers, provided such appearances are properly supervised, nor is it inappropriate for the judge to establish and administer such a panel, provided that so doing does not interfere with the proper performance of his/her judicial duties.

***Opinion 133:*** After a judge has been listed along with other council leaders in a letter in which numerous people were invited to attend a breakfast meeting, the purpose of which was to solicit contributions to the Boy Scouts which followed closely on a request for assistance by way of time and money in meeting a goal to raise $5 million. It was not appropriate for a judge to continue to serve as chairman of the district council.

judge's conduct or condition to determine whether formal proceedings should be instituted and a hearing held.

After a formal hearing, the commission may recommend to the Supreme Court the removal, discipline, or retirement of a judge. The Supreme Court makes a final decision whether to accept, reject, or modify the commission's recommendation about a particular judge. A 1985 amendment to the constitution further provides that a judge who has been indicted for a felony may be suspended from office, pending final disposition of the case or until expiration of the term of office, whichever occurs first, if the commission concludes that the indictment relates to and adversely affects performance of the judge's official duties.

At its 11 regular meetings in fiscal year 1989, the commission resolved 132 complaints and requests for opinions of the 156 new matters filed and 16 pending from FY 1988. At the end of the year, 40 issues remained pending.

One hundred seventeen complaints were disposed for the following reasons: (a) dismissed as frivolous, unfounded, unsupported, or appropriate for appeal (107); (b) judge privately reprimanded (6); (c) judge defeated after complaint filed or term expired (2); (d) judge suspended (1); (e) judge publicly reprimanded (1).

The commission held hearings on formal proceedings against three judges. One was suspended without pay for 30 days. A public reprimand, accepted by the Supreme Court, was recommended for another judge who violated the Uniform Rules for the Superior Courts and Canon 2A. The third judge filed the statutory bond required by law and the complaint was not further pursued. Six judges were privately reprimanded for violation of the canons.

The known sources of FY 1989 complaints included 105 litigants or their relations, 9 judges, 8 non-litigants, 6 attorneys, 5 anonymous individuals, 2 public officials or officers, and 2 others.

The commission received 16 requests for advisory rulings during the year. Ten formal opinions and 2 informal opinions were rendered, while 4 applications for opinions were denied.

The seven-member commission operates under procedural rules revised as of May 1, 1985. All proceedings of the commission are confidential, with the exception of notice of a formal hearing, formal hearings, reports recommending discipline, and decisions after a hearing in which a judge was found not guilty of misconduct.

The members of the commission include two judges of courts of record appointed by the Supreme Court, three attorneys named by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia, and two citizens selected by the governor. A director and an investigator serve as the commission's staff.

# Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Georgia's Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel has operated since 1974 to review defendants' sentences to assure they are not excessive in relation to other sentences for similar crimes. In comparing sentences, the panel considers the nature of the crime and the defendant's prior criminal record.

Cases subject to the panel's jurisdiction are those sentences totaling five or more years set by a superior court judge without a jury, sentences set in misdemeanor cases, and murder cases where a life sentence has been applied. The panel retains the authority only to reduce sentences and is statutorily prohibited from increasing punishments, reducing sentences to probation, or suspending any sentence.

The Sentence Review Panel reviews sentences upon application of a defendant who must act within 30 days of the date on which the sentence was assessed by the superior court judge, or after the remittitur from the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court affirming the conviction of the sentencing court, whichever occurs last. The application for sentence review must be transmitted to the panel within 10 days of its filing, along with copies of any pre-sentence or post-sentence report. Both the defendant and the district attorney have the right to present written argument relative to the harshness or justification of the sentence.

A defendant may not file more than one application for review of a sentence, and the panel's action reducing or declining to reduce a sentence is not reviewable. Panel orders relating to an application are binding on the defendant and the superior court which imposed the sentence.

The panel affirmed 1,889 cases and reduced 74 cases in FY 1989, for a total caseload of 1,963. The reduction rate for the year was 3.77 percent.

In the last quarter of FY 1989, the cumulative reduction rate decreased further to 5.04 percent (for all 25,209 cases considered by all panels), down from 5.15 percent at the end of fiscal year 1988. Listed above is a summary of the panel's caseload for FY 1989 along with a ten-year comparison of cases reviewed by the panel.

The Sentence Review Panel meets in two concurrent panels, each composed of three superior court judges. Panel members are appointed and chairpersons 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 maintains 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.

## Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel Caseload Summary

### FY 1989 Caseload

| | Cases Affirmed | Cases Reduced | Cases Reviewed | Percent Reduced |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Panel 57 | 614 | 22 | 636 | 3.46% |
| Panel 58 | 385 | 14 | 399 | 3.51% |
| Panel 59 | 293 | 15 | 308 | 4.87% |
| Panel 60 | 597 | 23 | 620 | 3.71% |
| Total | 1,889 | 74 | 1,963 | 3.77% |

### 10-year Comparison of Cases Reviewed

| | Cases Affirmed | Cases Reduced | Percent Reduced |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| FY 1986 | 1,769 | 67 | 3.65 |
| FY 1987 | 2,485 | 63 | 2.47 |
| FY 1988 | 2,273 | 87 | 3.69 |
| FY 1989 | 1,889 | 74 | 3.77 |

# Judicial Personnel Changes: FY 1989

## Appointments

### *Superior Courts*

**Alcovy Judicial Circuit**
Marvin W. Sorrells for term 9/1/88 to 1/1/89.
**Appalachian Judicial Circuit**
Elizabeth R. Glazebrook for term 7/1/88 to 1/1/91.
**Rome Judicial Circuit**
Walter J. Matthews for term 8/25/88 to 1/1/91.
**Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit**
Robert P. Mallis for term 7/1/88 to 1/1/91.
**Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit**
F. Marion Cummings for term 11/22/88 to 1/1/91.

### *State Courts*

**Clayton County**
John C. Carbo, III for term 7/1/88 to 12/31/90.
**Fulton County**
Melvin K. Westmoreland for term 9/20/89 to 1/1/89.

### *Juvenile Courts*

**Chattooga County**
Wm. Jerry Westbrook for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Colquitt County**
William C. Peters for term 8/7/88 to 8/6/92.
**Dougherty County**
Herbert E. Phipps for term 1/1/89 to 12/31/92.
**Meriwether County**
David J. Turner, Jr. for term 11/1/88 to 10/31/92.
**Walton County**
George J. Hearn, III for term 10/13/88 to 10/13/92.

### *Chief Magistrates*

**Charlton County**
Kile McDowell for term 9/1/88 to 12/31/88.
**Dougherty County**
T. Lee Bishop, Jr. for term 1/1/89 to 12/31/93.
**Jefferson County**
Lanora O. Hutchinson for term 10/31/88 to 12/31/88.
**Montgomery County**
Johnnie C. Thigpen for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

## Elections

### *Superior Courts*

**Atlanta Judicial Circuit**
Leah Sears-Collins for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
Edward H. Johnson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit**
William J. Smith for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Flint Judicial Circuit**
E. Byron Smith for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Rome Judicial Circuit**
F. Larry Salmon for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

### *State Courts*

**Chattooga County**
Carlton H. Vines for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Colquitt County**
Frank D. Horkan for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Coweta County**
Guerry R. Thornton for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Elbert County**
Robert A. Johnson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Fulton County**
Dorothy J. Vaughn for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Jackson County**
David Motes for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Spalding County**
Timothy C. Cramer for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

### *Probate Court*

**Baker County**
Virginia Collins for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Bartow County**
Mitchell Scoggins for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Bibb County**
William J. Self, II for term 4/12/89 to 1/1/93.
**Butts County**
Vicki W. Johnston for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Carroll County**
Wilma Jo Wilson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Dougherty County**
Joe S. Champion for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Douglas County**
James T. Baker for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Houston County**
Frances Annis for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Lanier County**
Judy B. Mullis for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Macon County**
Mack S. McCarty for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**McDuffie County**
Albert E. Wells for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Oconee County** *
David Anglin for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Sumter County**
Florence Heath for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Taliaferro County** *
Lois A. Richards for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Washington County**
Rachel T. Lord for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Wheeler County** *
Mackie Simpson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Wilcox County**
Betty J. Anderson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Wilkes County**
Jim Burton for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

### *Chief Magistrates*

**Bacon County**
Diane Carter for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Banks County**
Henry D. Banks for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Barrow County**
Terri Russell for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Bartow County**
Harry F. Brown for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

* Also serves as chief magistrate.

**Catoosa County**
David L. Carlock for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Clarke County**
John M. Coleman for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Clay County**
Judy Cooper for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Clinch County**
Annie Ruth Steedley for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Columbia County**
David L Huguenin for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Coweta County**
Francis K. Reno for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Dodge County**
Charles E. Nelson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Fannin County**
Ronald L. Newton for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Gilmer County**
Cheryl Barclay for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Gordon County**
Max Fuller for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Haralson County**
Mark Murphy for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Heard County**
Kathy C. Knowles for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Irwin County**
Paula Daniels for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Jefferson County**
Murry Bowman for term 4/12/89 to 12/31/93.
**Lanier County**
Georgia M. Williams for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Liberty County**
Melinda Anderson for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Macon County**
Linda S. Rodgers for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Murray County**
Steve Hampton for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Muscogee County**
Haywood Turner, III for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Stephens County**
Dale Smith for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Stewart County**
William M. Green for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Sumter County**
J. W. Southwell for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Tattnall County**
Susie W. Rowland for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Taylor County**
Ronnie A. Parker for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Twiggs County**
Richard A. Carter for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.
**Webster County**
Lorraine Ellington for term 1/1/89 to 1/1/93.

## Judicial Elections and Appointments (July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989)

| Court | Total number judgeships [a] | Method of Selection: Elected | Appointed | New judgeship | Total judges beginning first terms |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Supreme Court | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| Court of Appeals | 9 | - | - | - | - |
| Superior Courts | 143 [b] | 5 | 5 | 6 [c] | 16 |
| State Courts (Full and part-time) | 84 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| Juvenile Courts (Full and part-time) | 51 | - | 5 | - | 5 |
| Probate Courts | 159 | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Magistrate Courts (Chief Magistrates) | 159 | 33 | 4 | - | 37 |

[a] As of June 30, 1989.
[b] Although 143 superior court judgeships had been allocated by the end of the year, only 137 had been filled.
[c] Appointments for these new judgeships were suspended pending the outcome of a voting rights lawsuit filed in July 1989.