



NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE *of the* COURTS

Director John W. Smith, Administrative Office of the Courts



NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

Chief Justice Sarah Parker, Supreme Court of North Carolina

JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL

The judicial branch has more elected officials than the executive and legislative branches combined, including:

- 7 Supreme Court justices
- 15 court of appeals judges
- 112 superior court judges
- 270 district court judges
- 100 clerks of clerk
- 44 district attorneys

6,570 total positions from all funding sources
(as of June 30, 2010)

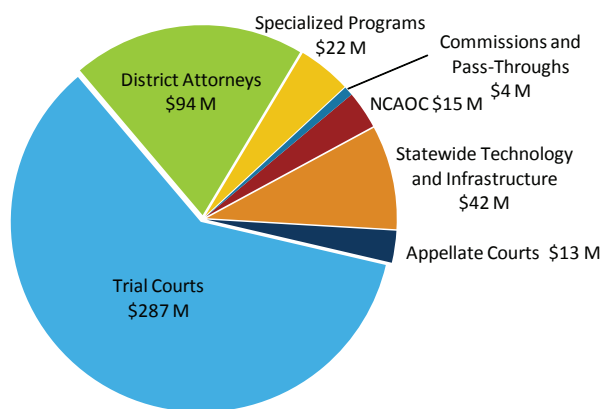
JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET

\$467 million certified state appropriations
in SFY 2009-2010

\$450 million certified state appropriations
in SFY 2010-2011

About the SFY 2011-2012 budget

90 percent salaries and benefits
28 percent of funds (\$132 million) supports
constitutionally mandated positions



Under the N.C. Constitution, the judicial branch is established as an equal branch of state government with the legislative and executive branches. North Carolina's court system, called the General Court of Justice, is a state-operated and state-funded unified court system. The General Court of Justice consists of three divisions: the appellate division, the superior court division and the district court division.

The N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is the administrative agency for the judicial branch. As such, it provides services and resources to help the unified court system to operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads and available resources. This includes providing administrative support to the more than 500 independently elected officials in the judicial branch.

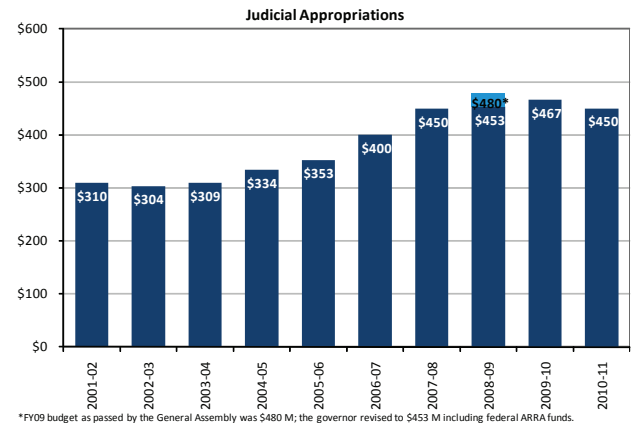
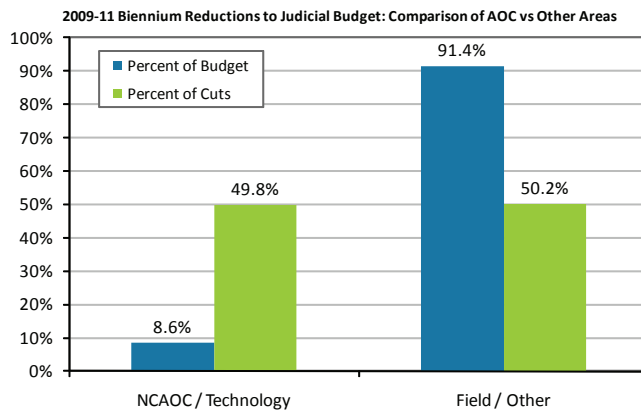
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the NCAOC director, who supervises the NCAOC. N.C.G.S. 7A-343 sets forth the duties of the director, which include budgeting and authorizing expenditures from appropriated funds, identifying staffing needs statewide, procuring and distributing equipment and supplies and prescribing uniform practices for clerks. The director also makes recommendations for the overall improvement of the judicial branch.

All operating expenses of the judicial branch are paid by the state, including salaries and travel expenses of all court officials, juror and witness fees, and equipment and office supplies for the judicial system. Counties and cities, however, are responsible for providing courtrooms and related judicial physical facilities.

To protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the Constitutions and laws of the United States and North Carolina by providing a fair, independent and accessible forum for the just, timely and economical resolution of their legal affairs.

BUDGET**\$466,928,250 certified state appropriations in SFY 2009–2010**

2.29% of total state General Fund budget [includes federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds]

**MONIES
DISBURSED****\$673,569,270 total disbursements** through Clerk of Superior Court Financial Management System*

\$236,613,413	remitted to state treasurer for General Fund
\$35,395,028	disbursed to other entities
\$5,123,901	receipts collected and disbursed for special operations
\$84,900,079	disbursed to local governments
\$311,536,849	disbursed to citizens

CASELOAD**District Court**

270 judges

3,007,998 total cases filed
2,943,438 total cases disposed
 247,759 civil magistrate cases filed
 247,048 civil magistrate cases disposed
 239,347 civil district cases filed
 242,128 civil district cases disposed
 1,724,556 criminal cases filed
 1,715,330 criminal cases disposed
 747,593 infraction cases filed
 738,932 infraction cases disposed
 48,743 civil license revocations filed

Superior Court

111 judges*

386,276 total cases filed
353,293 total cases disposed
 27,764 civil cases filed
 28,305 civil cases disposed
 100,854 felony cases filed
 101,382 felony cases disposed
 38,692 misdemeanor cases filed
 38,028 misdemeanor cases disposed
 66,117 estate cases filed
 62,530 estate cases disposed
 142,849 special proceedings filed
 123,048 special proceeding disposed

*The total figure does not include a superior court judge added Jan. 1, 2011.

Court of Appeals

15 judges

2,493 appeals, petitions filed
 2,126 appeals, petitions disposed

Supreme Court

7 justices

127 appeals docketed
 105 appeals disposed
 642 petitions docketed
 648 petitions disposed

**TIME TO
DISPOSITION**

216 days total criminal Superior Court cases
 544 days murder
 326 days rape / first degree sex offenses
 225 days robbery

186 days burglary / breaking and entering
 205 days larceny
 91 days all criminal district non-motor vehicle
 109 days general civil District Court cases

PERSONNEL**6,569.98 total judicial branch personnel***

403.00 justices and judges*
 100.00 clerks of superior court
 2,673.10 clerk personnel
 762.55 magistrates
 43.00 district attorneys*

642.00 assistant district attorneys
 13.00 trial court administrators
 1,242.03 court support personnel
 486.30 NCAOC staff
 166.50 Guardian ad Litem personnel
 38.50 Other**

*The total figures include grant-funded FTEs but not Indigent Defense Services FTEs. The total figures do not include a superior court judge added Jan. 1, 2011 and a district attorney added Jan. 15, 2011.

**Other includes Judicial Standards Commission, Conference of District Attorneys, Dispute Resolution Commission, Conference of Clerks of Superior Court, Innocence Inquiry Commission, Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, and Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission positions.

MISCELLANEOUS

15,373 abused or neglected children served by the
 Guardian ad Litem program
 13 funded family court districts

41 districts with custody mediation programs
 32 districts with court arbitration programs
 21 districts with drug treatment court programs