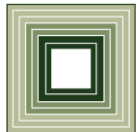


The Administrative Office of the Courts: Specialty Courts

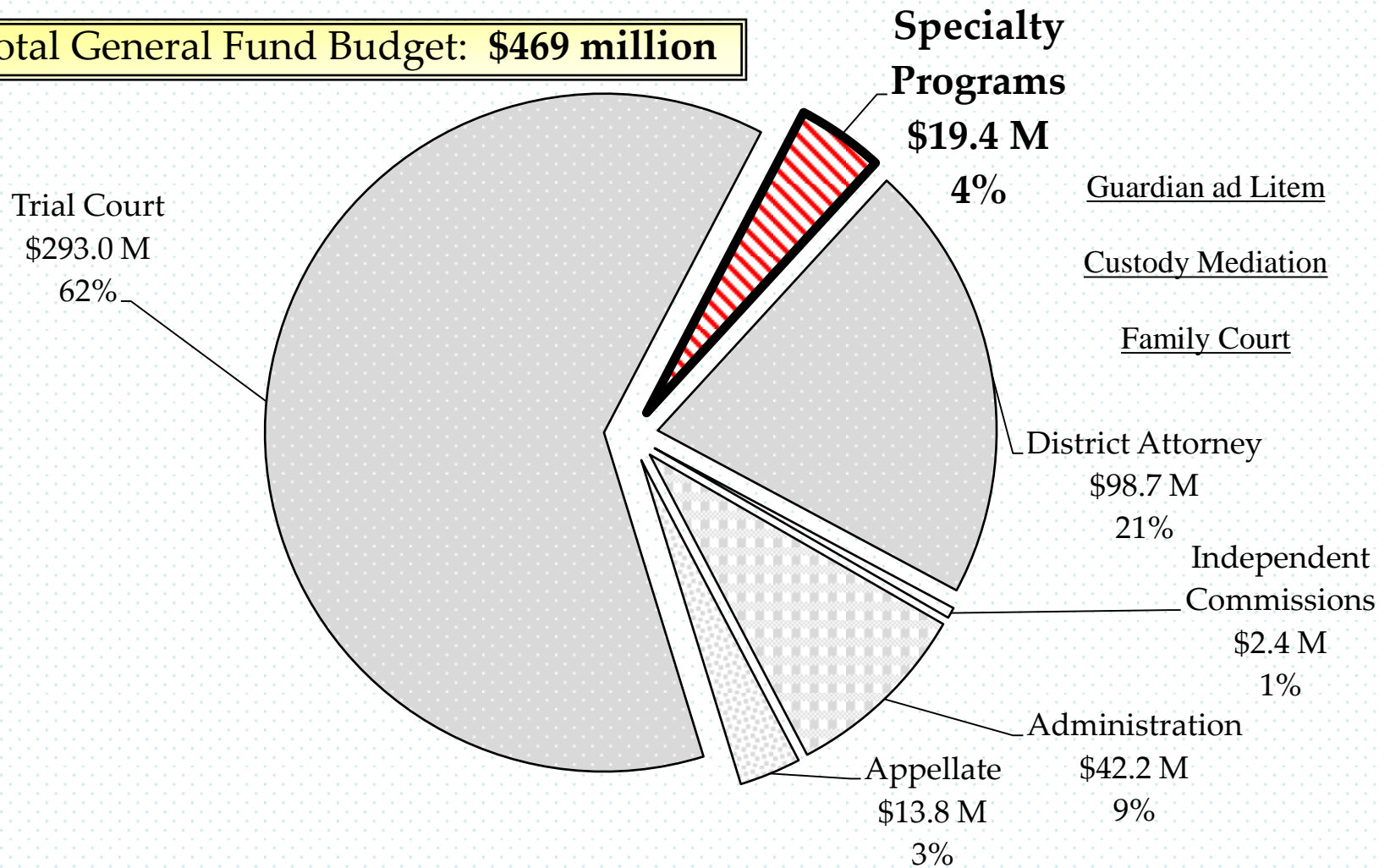
William Childs
Fiscal Research Division
March 5, 2015



FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

AOC Budget By Program FY 2014-15

Total General Fund Budget: \$469 million



Source: Authorized Budget, December 31, 2014

Guardian ad Litem and Custody Mediation

- Guardian ad Litem volunteers advocate for child in court:
 - supervised, supported, and trained by program staff (145.1 FTE):
 - 3 regional administrators
 - 137 field staff positions
 - 8 administrative staff positions
 - one is grant-funded
- Custody Mediation provides neutral, non-adversarial court-ordered mediation services in cases involving custody and/or visitation of minor children parenting agreements.
 - 46.6 FTE:
 - 38.6 FTE custody mediators
 - 8 FTE support staff

Family Court

- Consolidate all of a family's legal issues before a single District Court judge or team of judges
- Cases involving:
 - juvenile delinquency
 - abuse, neglect and dependency allegations
 - termination of parental rights
 - domestic violence
 - child custody and visitation rights
 - divorce and related financial issues
- Family court staff provide case management with the goal of efficient and timely resolution of cases.

Family Court Districts and Counties

District	Counties	Percentage of State Population
3A	Pitt	1.8%
5	New Hanover, Pender	2.7%
6A	Halifax	0.6%
8	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	2.1%
10	Wake	9.7%
12	Cumberland	3.4%
14	Durham	2.9%
19B	Randolph, Montgomery	1.7%
20A	Anson, Richmond, Stanly	1.4%
20B	Union	2.1%
25	Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	3.4%
26	Mecklenburg	9.9%
28	Buncombe	2.5%
13 Districts	21 Counties	44.2%

Family Court Districts and Counties

- Family Court districts handled 47.6 percent of all District Court civil domestic cases disposed in FY 2012-13.
- FC districts are less likely to have civil domestic cases pending for more than a year.

	Case Clearance Rate	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Cases Pending More Than A Year
Family Court Districts	101.2%	45,448	18.8%
Non-Family Court Districts	96.3%	50,091	51.0%

2011 Family Court Continuation Review

- NCGA directed AOC to conduct a Continuation Review of the Family Court in 2011
 - FC funding was made non-recurring
- AOC recommended:
 - restoring funding for Family Court
 - adding an additional 17 FTE positions to provide adequate staffing in existing Family Court districts
- AOC provided five court performance measures:
 - Case clearance rate
 - Cases disposed of in less than 181 days
 - Median age of a case at disposition
 - Cases pending for greater than 365 days
 - Pending median age of cases

2011 Family Court Continuation Review

- Some Family Court districts perform better than non-family court districts, but some Family Court districts do not perform as well as some non-family court districts
 - For instance, one grouping compared statistics from District 21 (Forsyth, non-Family Court), District 18 (Guilford, non-Family Court), and District 26 (Mecklenburg, Family Court).

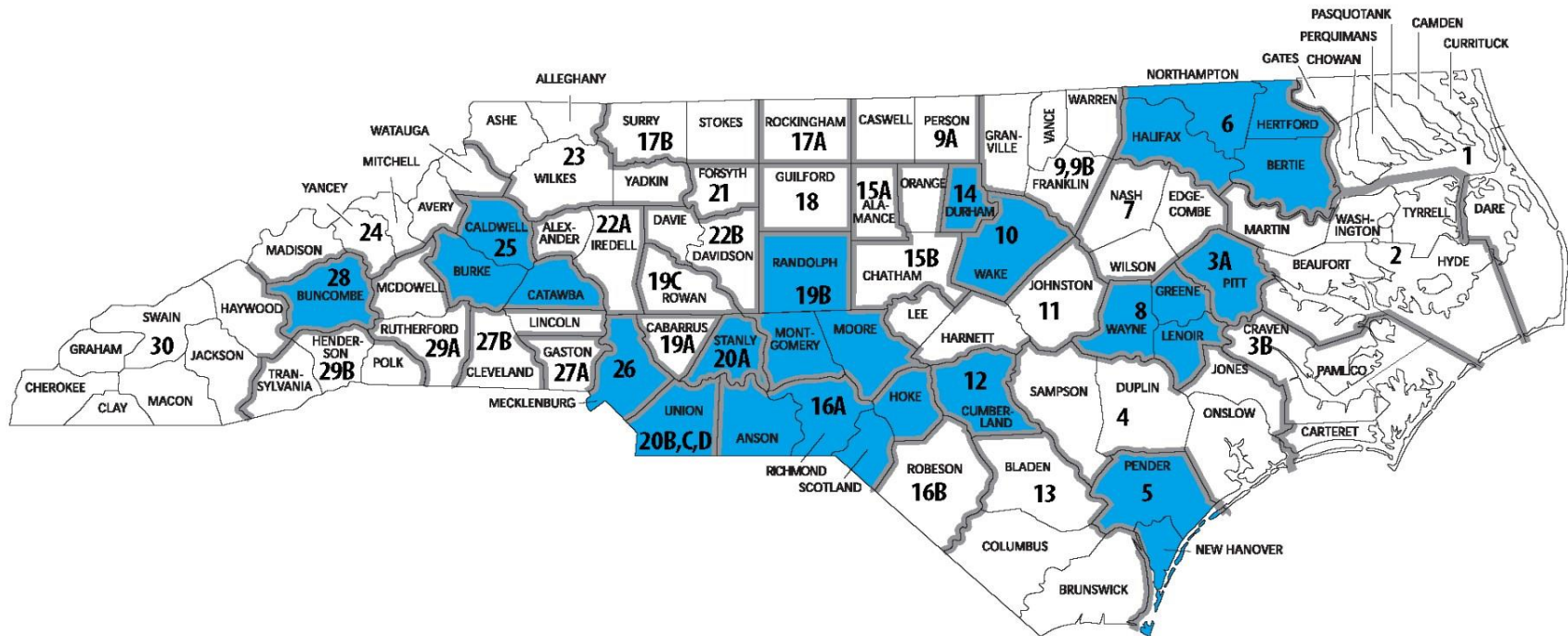
Sorted by District					
District Court District	Case Clearance Rate	Disposed <181 Days	Disposed Median Age	Pending >365 Days	Pending Median Age
18	106.2%	80.3%	46	42.7%	258
21	99.8%	85.2%	52	15.1%	101
26	98.7%	86.4%	59	23.3%	119
Non-Family	99.5%	85.9%	43	44.1%	272

2011 Family Court Continuation Review

- Unclear whether there are practices being used in non-Family Court districts that can be utilized in other districts with no additional funding
- NCGA restored Family Court funding:
 - \$2.9 million for 44 FTE.
- Current Family Court funding:
 - \$2.9 million for 45.2 FTE
 - Statewide Expansion: \$9.6 M for 110 FTE

North Carolina Family Court Districts

Effective January 1, 2015



Note: Districts 9 and 9B, and districts 20B, 20C, and 20D are districts for electoral purposes only. They are combined for administrative purposes.

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Other Specialty Courts

- All operating with local funds, grant funding, or without funding
- Drug Treatment Court:
 - NCGA discontinued State funding in 2011
 - \$2.0 million for 32 FTE
 - Currently 30 DTCs operating in 25 counties
- DWI Court:
 - 7 DWICs operating in 7 counties
- Mental Health Court:
 - 6 MHCs operating in 5 counties
- Veterans Treatment Court:
 - 2 VTCs operating in 2 counties

