The Justices of the Indiana Supreme Court during Justice Slaughter's investiture ceremony in August 2016.
On behalf of my colleagues on the Indiana Supreme Court, we thank staff, judicial officers, court employees, and the many other partners in justice who help us fulfill our collective vision of an effective, efficient, and fair system of justice.

Operating Indiana’s courts requires the hands and hearts of thousands of women and men in all 92 counties. These partners in justice help us fulfill our mission to modernize the courts, strengthen Hoosier families, and ensure public safety measures that complement reforms to Indiana’s criminal code.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR:

• Honoring Justice Robert D. Rucker’s lifetime of service
• The appointment of Christopher M. Goff as the 110th Justice
• Two million documents filed through the statewide electronic filing system
• Increased access to online court records
• Oral arguments on the road in Delaware and Lake counties
• Completed an extensive reorganization of judicial office administrative services

It is our pleasure to showcase the outstanding and inspirational work of Indiana’s judiciary. The following pages reflect our commitment to innovation and Hoosier values to ensure open access to courts.

Loretta H. Rush
Chief Justice of Indiana
The portraits of the five members of the Court are arranged in the order they sit on the bench, with Chief Justice Rush in the center. To her right is the most senior member, Justice Rucker, followed to his right by Justice David. The newest member of the Court, Justice Slaughter, sits to the left of the Chief Justice, and to his left is Justice Massa. Following Justice Rucker’s retirement, his portrait was moved to an adjacent wall, joining the portraits of more than 100 former Justices. The arrangement of portraits was adjusted following Justice Goff’s swearing in ceremony.
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58 Definitions
The Supreme Court Courtroom in the Indiana State House is where nearly all oral arguments take place.
July 1  E-filing  became mandatory in the appellate courts and Hamilton County. By the end of the fiscal year 53 counties were e-filing.

July 7  The Court issued an order creating the Indiana Tax Court Advisory Committee to advise and assist the Tax Court on administration, case management, performance standards, and data collection.

July 12  Barbara Harcourt received the National Center for State Courts’ (NCSC) Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented annually to those who have made significant contributions to the justice system and who have supported NCSC’s mission.

July 12  The annual Court and Clerk Employee Conference attracted nearly 390 court employees from 78 counties. Educational topics included e-filing, court reporters, jury administrators, and mental health commitments.

July 18  Information about appellate judges on the November General Election ballot was released via a website created by the Office of Judicial Administration.

July 25  Chief Justice Loretta Rush was appointed as a member of the Conference of Chief Justices’ (CCJ) Board of Directors. The CCJ allows for high-level state judicial officers to discuss improvements to judicial administration and make recommendations on matters affecting the judiciary.

August 11  Justice Geoffrey Slaughter was sworn in as the 109th Justice of the Court. A formal investiture ceremony in the Supreme Court Courtroom featured remarks from friends and colleagues.
August 17 The Coalition for Court Access met for the first time in the Supreme Court Courtroom. This 17-member committee is responsible for coordinating all Supreme Court programs that provide civil legal aid to those with limited financial resources.

August 31 60 Indiana educators attended a court and history program in collaboration with the Indiana Historical Society.

August 31 As part of the reorganization plan implemented by the Supreme Court, the newly combined agency of the Indiana Judicial Center and the Division of State Court Administration was announced as the Indiana Office of Court Services, headed by an executive director and four deputy directors.

September 7 The Court issued an order adopting Criminal Rule 26, encouraging the use of evidence-based risk assessment tools to inform pretrial release decisions. The Rule states that if an arrestee does not pose a substantial flight risk or danger to the community, the arrestee should be released without bail.

September 16 The Indiana Judicial Conference recognized three judicial officers for 24 years of service and 16 judicial officers for completing at least 120 hours of education.

September 16 📅 Lilia Judson retired after nearly 40 years with the Court. Judson was at the helm of the Division of State Court Administration for many years and helped provide a smooth transition to the first Chief Administrative Officer, Judge Mary Willis.

September 17 📅 In celebration of Constitution Day, 31 judges and lawyers visited over 2,000 students across the state.

September 23 The Court issued an order approving the Master List for Jury Pool Assembly, which permits trial courts to use the list to compile jury pools. The list is compiled by Trial Court Technology using records from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Revenue.
September 23 The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana promoted its annual report at in.gov/children. Chief Justice Rush served on the Commission’s executive committee as Chairperson.

September 27 A symposium on Commercial Courts and E-Filing in Indiana was held in the Supreme Court Courtroom. As part of the Commercial Court pilot project, businesses can request their dispute be heard in one of six specialized commercial courts around the state. During the first full year of the pilot, 114 cases were filed and 38 of those cases were closed.

October 11 📈 326 applicants who successfully passed the July 2016 bar exam were admitted during a ceremony. Another 137 applicants would pass the February 2017 bar exam and be admitted in May.

October 27 📍 The Supreme Court held an oral argument at Ball State University’s Emens Auditorium in Delaware County with nearly 1,000 in attendance, including students, members of local bar associations, special guests, press, and the public.

November 10 Justice Steven David chaired the Appellate Judges Education Institute annual summit in Philadelphia. The premiere educational event included federal judges, state appellate judges, appellate lawyers, and staff attorneys from across the country. In addition to serving as chair, Justice David moderated a session on Guantanamo Bay and the Rule of Law.

November 23 The Supreme Court published an online gallery featuring 20 Indiana trial courts participating in National Adoption Day. Through a Supreme Court order, families and press were allowed the opportunity to photograph and videotape certain adoption proceedings.
November 29 The Court hosted a Civil Justice Initiative Roundtable chaired by Justice Slaughter and former Chief Justice Brent Dickson with 15 guests discussing procedures and the need for lawyers to provide services in civil cases.

December 9 In celebration of Statehood Day, Justice Massa, Justice David, and Chief Justice Rush spoke to students at locations around Indianapolis. In addition, nearly 450 students visited the Supreme Court Courtroom as part of the larger statewide celebration.

December 12 Optima, a new statewide Guardian ad litem/Court Appointed Special Advocates (GAL/CASA) case management system, was fully implemented in 81 counties. Optima promotes consistent data entry and allows real-time access to data such as number of active volunteers, number of children being served, and number of children on the waiting list.

December 13 The Supreme Court made the first of three budget presentations to members of the Indiana General Assembly. Among the requests for FY18 and FY19 were funding for technology, specialized courts, guardianship programs, and civil legal aid.

January 18 Chief Justice Rush delivered her third State of the Judiciary address, focusing on recognizing the work of the Court’s many partners in justice who help create an effective, efficient, and fair justice system.

January 26 The Court issued an order creating the Office of Admissions and Continuing Education. The Office was formed by merging staff from the Board of Law Examiners and the Commission for Continuing Legal Education.
February 7  The Court issued an order enacting recommendations from the Advisory Task Force on Remote Access to and Privacy of Electronic Court Records. Recommendations increased access as part of a larger initiative to make court documents more easily available to the public. Throughout 2017, a wide range of trial court documents will become available online for free at mycase.in.gov.

February 9  The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana promoted its three-year strategic plan, an Information Sharing Guide app for iOS (iPhone and iPad), and announced Senator Erin Houchin as the Commission’s Chairperson.

February 14  The Commission on Judicial Qualifications issued an advisory opinion stating that microblogging, tweeting, or electronically relaying a written message does not constitute broadcasting under Judicial Conduct Rule 2.17. The Commission also recognized that valid policy considerations exist which may necessitate a judge placing reasonable restrictions on these activities.

February 27  📚 The first of five community forums about the status of race and gender in the judicial system took place in Gary. The public participated in small group discussions, and dialogue was encouraged between members of the community and the Commission on Race and Gender Fairness.

March 9  📚 The Supreme Court held an oral argument in Lake County at Justice Robert Rucker’s alma mater, the former Gary Roosevelt High School. More than 400 students, members of local bar associations, special guests, press, and the public attended the argument.

March 20  Justice David spoke to approximately 400 volunteers attending CASA Day at the State House. Attendees were on site to show support for the program, interact with legislators about issues facing children, and draw attention to the need for more volunteers.
March 21 The Judicial Nominating Commission began public interviews of 20 applicants for a vacancy on the Supreme Court created by Justice Rucker’s pending retirement. 11 finalists were interviewed in April, after which three nominees were sent to the Governor.

May 11 The annual Adult Guardianship Symposium brought nearly 200 judges, social workers, legislators, and guardians together to discuss promising practices of adult guardianship statewide and in local communities.

May 12 Justice Rucker retired after serving more than 17 years on the Supreme Court. Rucker also served on the Court of Appeals for more than 8 years. 150 family members, government officials, and special guests attended a ceremony in his honor.

June 12 Governor Eric Holcomb announced his appointment of Wabash Superior Court Judge Christopher Goff as Indiana’s 110th Supreme Court Justice.

June 30 Morgan County joins the Guardianship Registry, bringing the total number of counties on the Registry to 48 with more than 5,300 active cases tracked by the end of the fiscal year.

June 30 The Supreme Court closed the fiscal year having heard 59 oral arguments, written 73 majority opinions, and disposed of 879 cases.
Clockwise from top left: Justice Geoffrey Slaughter and former Chief Justice Brent Dickson chair the Civil Justice Initiative Roundtable in the Supreme Court Conference Room in November; The 17-member Coalition for Court Access' inaugural meeting in the Supreme Court Courtroom in August; Educators listen during a ‘Speed Learning’ session during the teacher workshop at the State House in August; Nearly 200 attendees listen to presentations during the annual Adult Guardianship Symposium at Fort Harrison Garrison Conference Center in May; An applicant for the 110th Justice position is interviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission in the Supreme Court Conference Room in April.
The five Justices of the Indiana Supreme Court meet nearly every week to discuss cases and administrative matters. In addition, each Justice spends significant time reading briefs, hearing oral arguments, and writing opinions.

**CHIEF JUSTICE LORETTA RUSH**

**BORN** 1958 in Scranton, PA

**HOMETOWN** Grew up in Richmond (Wayne County); 15 years in general practice and 14 years as a trial court judge in Lafayette (Tippecanoe County)

**EDUCATION** Purdue University; Indiana University Maurer School of Law

**APPOINTED** 2014 as Chief Justice; 2012 by Governor Mitch Daniels, Jr.

**JUSTICE ROBERT RUCKER**

**BORN** 1947 in Canton, GA

**HOMETOWN** Childhood and 12 years in legal practice, including Deputy Prosecutor, in Gary (Lake County)

**EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE** Indiana University; Valparaiso University School of Law; University of Virginia School of Law; decorated combat infantryman in the Vietnam War

**APPOINTED** 1999 by Governor Frank O’Bannon; 1991 to Court of Appeals of Indiana by Governor Evan Bayh

**JUSTICE STEVEN DAVID**

**BORN** 1957 in Fort Wayne, IN (Allen County)

**HOMETOWN** Childhood and private practice in Columbus (Bartholomew County); 6 years in corporate practice and 16 years as a trial court judge (Boone County)

**EDUCATION & MILITARY SERVICE** Murray State University; Indiana University McKinney School of Law; 28 years of Military Service (RET COL U.S. Army)

**APPOINTED** 2010 by Governor Mitch Daniels, Jr.
JUSTICE
MARK MASSA

BORN 1961 in Milwaukee, WI

HOMETOWN Childhood in Milwaukee area; newspaper reporter in Evansville (Vanderburgh County); 20-year legal career in government and private practice; state and federal prosecutor and General Counsel to Governor Mitch Daniels, Jr. (Marion County)

EDUCATION Indiana University; Indiana University McKinney School of Law

APPOINTED 2012 by Governor Mitch Daniels, Jr.

JUSTICE
GEOFFREY SLAUGHTER

BORN 1962 in Gary, IN (Lake County)

HOMETOWN Childhood in Crown Point (Lake County); 4 years in Chicago private practice; 15 years as a partner at Indianapolis law firm (Marion County)

EDUCATION Indiana University; Kelley School of Business; Indiana University Maurer School of Law

APPOINTED 2016 by Governor Mike Pence
Most cases in Indiana are decided by trial courts. Less than 1% of the cases in the state are appealed to the Supreme Court. During the fiscal year, the Court was asked to decide 885 cases.

- **73** majority opinions
- **14** minority opinions
- **59** oral arguments
- **50** hours webcasting arguments & events

### Cases Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cases Disposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Three-year comparison

- **28%** reduction in attorney discipline cases received over last five years

### Oral Argument Case Type

- **58%** - Criminal
- **42%** - Civil

### Criminal Cases Received

- **3%** increase compared to previous year

### Webcasting

- **45 MINUTE AVERAGE PER ORAL ARGUMENT**

**Case Search**

mycase.in.gov
# Case Inventory

An accounting of the number of cases pending at the beginning and end of the year by case types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>Cases Pending JUL 1, 2016</th>
<th>Cases Received JUL 1, 2016 - JUN 30, 2017</th>
<th>Cases Disposed JUL 1, 2016 - JUN 30, 2017</th>
<th>Cases Pending JUN 30, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Actions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Law Examiners</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandate of Funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney Discipline</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Discipline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>221</strong></td>
<td><strong>885</strong></td>
<td><strong>879</strong></td>
<td><strong>227</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case Inventory An accounting of the number of cases pending at the beginning and end of the year by case types.
# Cases Received

All cases received by the Supreme Court during the fiscal year, organized by case type.

## Received in Detail

### Criminal Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petitions for rehearing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct appeals, death penalty</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct appeals, life without parole</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-conviction appeals, death penalty</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including successive requests)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-conviction appeals, non-capital</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including successive requests)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other criminal</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>486</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Civil Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petitions for rehearing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct appeals</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other civil</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>244</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mandate of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandate of funds</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Attorney Discipline Matters*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to show cause for noncooperation</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verified complaints for disciplinary action</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affidavits of resignation (tendered before filing verified complaint)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions for emergency interim suspension</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices of findings of guilt (felony)/requests for interim suspension</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices of foreign discipline/requests for reciprocal discipline</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions for reinstatement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to revoke probation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to terminate probation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contempt of court proceedings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>96</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTEWORTHY*

Additional information on attorney discipline is available on pages 42-43.
Cases Received

Tax Cases
- Tax Court petitions for review: 6
- Total: 6

Judicial Discipline Matters
- Formal disciplinary charges: 4
- Total: 4

State Board of Law Examiners
- Petitions for review: 2
- Total: 2

Original Actions
- Original actions: 45
- Total: 45

Total Received: 885

Cases Received 2016-2017
- 55% Criminal
- 28% Civil
- 11% Attorney Discipline
- 5% Original Actions
- 1% All other case types
## Disposed in Detail

### Criminal Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opinions on direct appeals</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinions on petitions to transfer</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinions on rehearing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orders on rehearing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to transfer denied, dismissed, or appeal remanded by order</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to transfer granted and remanded by order</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other opinions and dispositions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>484</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Civil Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opinions on petitions to transfer</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orders on rehearing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions to transfer denied, dismissed, or appeal remanded by order</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other opinions and dispositions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>246</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Attorney Discipline Matters*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal on compliance with show cause order</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminating noncooperation suspension on compliance with show cause order</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal of show cause proceeding due to other suspension</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converting noncooperation suspension to indefinite suspension</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private reprimand</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public reprimand</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension with automatic reinstatement (after verified complaint)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension without automatic reinstatement (after verified complaint)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension with conditions/probation (after verified complaint)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension due to disability determination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbarment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepting resignation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim suspension on finding of guilt (felony)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reciprocal discipline (suspension)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding or judgment for respondent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granting reinstatement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denying reinstatement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revoking probation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminating probation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding contempt of court</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous dismissing or withdrawing action</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>93</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* NOTEWORTHY

Additional information on attorney discipline is available on pages 42-43.
Cases Disposed

Tax Cases
- Dispositive orders on Tax Court petitions for review: 5
- Total: 5

Judicial Discipline Matters
- Opinions and published orders: 4
- Total: 4

State Board of Law Examiners
- Petitions for review: 1
- Total: 1

Original Actions
- Opinions issued: 1
- Disposed of without opinion: 45
- Total: 46

Total Dispositions: 879

Cases Disposed 2016-2017
- 55% Criminal
- 28% Civil
- 11% Attorney Discipline
- 5% Original Actions
- 1% All other case types
Cases Heard at Oral Argument

Oral Arguments Heard
The Supreme Court heard 59 oral arguments during the fiscal year, including one at Ball State University and another at Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy, Justice Rucker’s high school in Gary. All arguments were recorded and can be viewed online*, and all but the Lake County traveling argument were broadcast live on the web. The following details the types of cases presented at oral argument:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before transfer decision</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After transfer granted</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct appeals</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil/Tax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before transfer/review granted</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After transfer/review granted</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 10% Direct appeals
* 34% Before decision on transfer or review
* 56% After granting transfer or review

Webcasting Statistics
Supreme Court staff operated the webcasting equipment in the Courtroom. Since 2001, the Court has webcast:

- 757 hours of oral arguments, educational programs, and ceremonies
- 1,039 Supreme Court arguments webcast from the Courtroom

During this fiscal year, 57 Supreme Court arguments, five Court of Appeals arguments, two continuing legal education courses, and three ceremonies were webcast from the Supreme Court Courtroom for a total of 50 hours. Two traveling oral arguments were recorded at off-site locations.*

Related Article
On the Road Again...
PAGE 22

Oral Argument Video
mycourts.in.gov/arguments

* Audio only: Traveling Argument in Lake County
Justices took photos and spoke with students and educators prior to the March 2017 traveling argument at Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy, formerly Gary Roosevelt High School. Roosevelt alumnus Justice Rucker spoke with many students and area leaders before and after the argument.
The Court disposed of 879 cases in fiscal year 2016-2017 and handed down a written majority opinion in 73 of those cases. Justices also wrote 14 non-majority opinions either agreeing or disagreeing with the majority.

The Court is mostly unanimous in its decisions. There are some split decisions and rare “other” cases in which fewer than three justices were in complete agreement. There were no “other” cases during the fiscal year.

Excludes per curiam opinions.
Opinions

Majority Opinions by Author and Type
A breakdown of the number of majority opinions authored by each justice for each case type heard by the Supreme Court.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>Rush, C.J.</th>
<th>Rucker, J.</th>
<th>David, J.</th>
<th>Massa, J.</th>
<th>Slaughter, J.</th>
<th>By the Court</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Transfer</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Rehearing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Majority Opinions by Author and Type
Non-majority opinions are not dispositive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rush, C.J.</th>
<th>Rucker, J.</th>
<th>David, J.</th>
<th>Massa, J.</th>
<th>Slaughter, J.</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concur in Part / Dissent in Part</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

29% Concur in Part/Dissent in Part
21% Concurring
50% Dissenting

Non-Majority Opinions 2016-2017
The mycase.in.gov website, a custom case search application using data stored in the state’s Odyssey case management system, has been significantly improved this fiscal year in part to implement recommendations made by the Advisory Task Force on Remote Access to and Privacy of Electronic Court Records and ordered by the Supreme Court.

During the fiscal year, the Task Force continued to study the question of how to make documents available online with current technologies and procedures while preserving confidentiality and balancing privacy concerns. Court filings may contain intimate personal details or information that is confidential by law; others may affect the administration of justice if made readily available online, as in the case of a search warrant or an order suppressing evidence.

To address these concerns, the Task Force developed recommendations about which types of court information and documents should be made available online. The Supreme Court adopted several of the recommendations during the fiscal year, including:

- July 1 - Access to motions filed by attorneys in appellate cases
- March 1 – Access to case financial information, including court costs and fees paid/owed
- March 10 – Access to orders in some civil case types and all non-confidential documents in expungements that are either pending or were denied
- June 3 – Secure access for attorneys to all non-confidential documents in all public case types

The Task Force will continue its work to provide recommendations to the Court as questions regarding court documents and electronic access are considered.
Grant Funding

BY PROGRAM AND AMOUNT

Nearly all Indiana counties received funding for at least one court program during the fiscal year.

Adult Guardianship Program
30 Counties | $879,250

Court Improvement Program
8 Counties | $211,567

Court Interpreter Program
36 Counties | $250,000

Family Court Project
18 Counties | $144,903

Guardian ad Litem/
Court Appointed Special Advocates
81 Counties | $4,458,000

Pretrial Grants
13 Counties | $1,600,000

Problem-Solving Courts
34 Counties | $432,218

Veterans Courts
10 Counties | $500,000

86 counties received a total of $8,468,813 in grants
On the Road Again...

Court brings oral arguments to Delaware and Lake counties

The Supreme Court is committed to providing an opportunity for students to learn about the courts even if they cannot attend oral argument at the State House in Indianapolis. The Court hears traveling oral arguments twice a year to connect with communities around the state and to teach students about the judicial process.

In October 2016, the Court traveled to Ball State University in Delaware County to hear argument in Tresa Megenity v. David Dunn, a civil case regarding personal injury and negligence. Approximately 1,000 students from 10 local schools filled Emens Auditorium.

In honor of Justice Rucker’s spring retirement, the Court traveled to his alma mater in Lake County in March 2017. Oral argument was held at the Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy with over 300 students from nine local schools hearing argument in Danny Sims v. Andrew Pappas and Melissa Pappas, a civil negligence case. Junior ROTC and National Honor Society students served as greeters and welcomed alumnus Justice Rucker with enthusiasm.

After both oral arguments, the Court answered questions from the audience, which provided students and community members an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the day-to-day operations and overall role of the Court as well as the way cases move through the judicial system.

Tion Traywick, National Honor Society President from Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy, smiles after gaveling Court into session.
A lawyer presents his case to the Indiana Supreme Court during a traveling argument at Ball State University in October.

Justice Rucker presents a challenge coin to a National Honor Society student following a traveling argument in Gary.

A member of the student audience asks a question following a traveling argument at Ball State University.

The Indiana Supreme Court listens during a traveling argument at Theodore Roosevelt College & Career Academy in March.
20 courts in 16 counties across Indiana participated in National Adoption Day in November 2016. The festivities allowed families to mark the occasion with pictures and videos of the adoption proceedings. 160 children joined their forever families at various events across the state.

Yearly since 2012, the Indiana Supreme Court has issued an order allowing photos and videos of the uncontested adoption proceedings at National Adoption Day events in county courtrooms. Since then, over 500 children and their new families from 23 counties have participated.

Allen County Superior Court Judge Charles Pratt reflected, “Each child’s story is unique and filled with new opportunities for both the child and parents.”

National Adoption Day events involved the Children’s Bureau, Court Appointed Special Advocates, the Department of Child Services, and local adoption agencies. Thanks to these partnerships, children received gifts such as blankets, books, and balloons to take back to their new homes.

In addition to celebrating the new families, these proceedings help to raise awareness for the children in the foster care system and the value of adoption. Every year approximately 3,600 adoptions take place in Indiana. Since the beginning of National Adoption Day in 2000, approximately 58,500 children across the country have moved from foster care to join their forever families.

Left, top to bottom: Judges Jon Webster (Jennings), David Shaheed (Marion) and Magistrate Heather Mollo (Bartholomew) with families and children following adoption proceedings in their respective counties.

Opposite, clockwise from top left: Magistrate Andrew Roesener with a family following adoption proceedings in Johnson County; Judge Steven Eichholz with a family behind the bench in Marion County; Judge Charles Pratt and Magistrate Lori Morgan with a family following an adoption proceeding in Allen County; Judge Thomas Busch congratulates a newly adopted child in Tippecanoe County.
On May 12, 2017, Justice Robert D. Rucker retired from the Supreme Court after serving 26 years on the appellate bench. Justice Rucker was appointed as Indiana's 105th Supreme Court Justice in 1999 by Governor Frank O'Bannon. With his appointment to the Court of Appeals of Indiana in 1991, he was the first African American to serve on an Indiana appellate court.

Justice Rucker is one of only a few Indiana members of the American Law Institute and previously served as the Chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. In 2010, the judicial building in his hometown of Gary was named in his honor—the Justice Robert D. Rucker Superior Courthouse. In 2015, his alma mater of Valparaiso Law School created a lecture series in his name.

During his final weeks on the bench, both the Indiana House and Senate unanimously passed resolutions thanking Justice Rucker and acknowledging his years of dedication to the courts. During his **retirement ceremony**, Governor Eric Holcomb presented Justice Rucker with the Sagamore of the Wabash, a symbol of distinguished service to the State of Indiana.

Chief Justice Loretta Rush praised Justice Rucker's lifetime of court and military service, “Justice Robert Rucker has always had the courage and fortitude to protect the rights of all, regardless of their state in life. He has the ability to stand in the shoes of any person and understand their plight. In a word, he has a tremendous sense of humanity.”

Top: Justice Rucker smiles during his retirement ceremony. Above: Justice Rucker’s colleagues look on while he is honored in the Senate.
Justice Rucker and several of his former law clerks gather in the Supreme Court Courtroom for a photo following his retirement ceremony.

Justice Rucker meets with members of the Herron High School choir following a special performance of ‘My Country, tis of Thee’ during his retirement ceremony.

Justice Rucker shakes hands with Governor Holcomb after receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash during his retirement ceremony.

Justice Rucker and several of his former law clerks gather in the Supreme Court Courtroom for a photo following his retirement ceremony.
### Boards & Commissions

The Supreme Court is grateful to the many judges, lawyers, and citizens who volunteer their time to increase the effectiveness of the judiciary and provide guidance to the Court. The following individuals served on boards, commissions, and committees during the past fiscal year:

**Board of Law Examiners**
- Scott B. Ainsworth
- Hon. David R. Bolk
- Hon. Barbara Brugnaux
- Kathryn H. Burroughs
- Jane Ann Himsel
- Prof. Michael J. Jenuwine
- Gary K. Kemper
- Jon Laramore
- Jeffry Lind
- Cathleen M. Shrader
- Shelice R. Tolbert
- Charlotte F. Westerhaus-Renfrow
- Michael Yoder

**Commission for Continuing Legal Education**
- Hon. David J. Avery
- Steven M. Badger
- Hon. Jennifer L. DeGroote
- April R. Drake
- Angela L. Freel
- Shontrai D. Irving
- Christina J. Miller
- Dr. Howard Mzumara
- Hon. Rudolph R. Pyle
- Hon. Terry C. Shewmaker
- Steven A. Spence
- Catherine Springer
- Hon. Charles K. Todd, Jr.

**Disciplinary Commission**
- Brian K. Carroll
- Nancy L. Cross
- Molly Kitchell
- John L. Krauss
- Trent A. McCain
- Andrielle M. Metzel
- William Anthony Walker
- Kirk White
- Leanna K. Weissmann

**Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program**
- Hon. Tim A. Baker
- Joseph T. Baruffi
- Tonya J. Bond
- Hon. Elaine B. Brown
- Aimee M. Gong
- Hon. Stephen R. Heimann
- Ellen F. Hurley
- Robert William Jonas
- Hon. Gina L. Jones
- Hon. Marc R. Kellams
- Cassandra A. McNair
- Hon. David T. Ready
- J. Mark Robinson
- David D. Sanders
- Inge Van der Cruysse
Judicial Conference
Board of Directors
Hon. S. Brent Almon
Hon. Craig J. Bobay
Hon. John E. Broden
Hon. Vicki L. Carmichael
Hon. John M.T. Chavis II
Hon. Marla K. Clark
Hon. Dean A. Colvin
Hon. William E. Davis
Hon. Mary Ellen Diekhoff
Hon. Darrin M. Dolehanty
Hon. Cynthia S. Emkes
Hon. John T. Evans
Hon. Paul A. Felix
Hon. Thomas J. Felts
Hon. Peter R. Foley
Hon. Kurtis G. Fouts
Hon. Robert W. Freese

Hon. Christopher M. Goff
Hon. Michael G. Gotsch
Hon. Clayton A. Graham
Hon. Maria D. Granger
Hon. Steven L. Hostetler
Hon. Robert E. Hunley II
Hon. Matthew C. Kincaid
Hon. Kenton W. Kiracofe
Hon. Michael J. Kramer
Hon. Jeryl F. Leach
Hon. Peggy Quint Lohorn
Hon. Gretchen S. Lund
Hon. Richard A. Maughmer
Hon. Sally A. McLaughlin
Hon. Gary L. Miller
Hon. Sheila M. Moss
Hon. Thomas Newman Jr.
Hon. Timothy W. Oakes
Hon. John A. Rader
Hon. David N. Riggins

Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush
Hon. Jose D. Salinas
Hon. Terry C. Shewmaker
Hon. Michael A. Shurn
Hon. William G. Sleva
Hon. Gary L. Smith
Hon. Gregory A. Smith
Hon. Timothy P. Spahr
Hon. Thomas P. Stefaniak Jr.
Hon. Mark D. Stoner
Hon. Rhett M. Stuard
Hon. Wayne S. Trockman
Hon. Nancy Harris Vaidik
Hon. Marianne L. Vorhees
Hon. Joseph P. Weber
Hon. Mary G. Willis
Hon. Bob A. Witham
Hon. James D. Worton

Judicial Qualifications/
Judicial Nominating
Commission
Charlie Berger
Lee Christie
John O. Feighner
Molly Kitchell
Lynette Long
Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush
Dave Tinkey
Rudy Yakym III
James Young
Clockwise from top left: Chief Justice Loretta Rush listens while keynote speaker Colonel Kriste Kibbey Etue addresses Indiana State Police graduates in October 2016; Justice Rucker presents a challenge coin to a National Honor Society student following a March 2017 traveling argument in Gary; Justice Massa speaks at the Indiana State Library during Statehood Day in December 2016; Justice Slaughter meets cadet Slaughter following a March 2017 traveling argument in Gary; Justice David speaks in the Indiana House Chamber as part of CASA Day in March 2017.
Clockwise from top left: Justice Massa applauds during Justice Slaughter’s investiture ceremony in August 2016; Chief Justice Loretta Rush and Governor Eric Holcomb stand with Justice Goff following his appointment as the 110th Justice in June 2017; Justice David presents Justice Rucker with a gift from the Court during his May 2017 retirement ceremony; The Indiana Supreme Court listens during a traveling argument at Ball State University in October 2016.
Members of the Indiana Supreme Court and Indiana Court of Appeals sit among federal judges at the bar admission ceremony in October 2016 at the Indiana Convention Center.
Agency Reports

34 Office of Judicial Administration
36 Clerk of the Indiana Appellate Courts
37 Fiscal Office
38 Office of Personnel & Operations
39 Supreme Court Services
40 Office of Admissions & Continuing Education
42 Disciplinary Commission
44 Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program
46 Office of Communication, Education and Outreach
48 Court Technology
50 Indiana Office of Court Services
56 Judicial Qualifications/Nominating Commission
The working locations of the Supreme Court and agencies. **Left:** The Indiana State House, which houses the Supreme Court Courtroom, chambers for each Justice, the office of the Clerk of the Indiana Appellate Courts, and the Office of Judicial Administration. **Center:** 30 South Meridian, which houses most of the administrative offices of the Court. **Right:** 320 North Meridian, which houses the Indiana Judges & Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP), to maintain confidentiality.
The Office of Judicial Administration consists of nine agencies, the Office of the Clerk of the Indiana Appellate Courts, and the Commission on Judicial Qualifications / Judicial Nominating Commission.

The Office is overseen by the Chief Administrative Officer, who reports directly to the Chief Justice of Indiana and serves as the link between the Chief Justice and the agencies of the Court.
The **Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court** processes incoming filings and outgoing orders and opinions for Indiana's appellate courts.

The Clerk’s Office responds to inquiries from attorneys, litigants, and the public; oversees the microfilming of closed cases; and maintains the Roll of Attorneys, which is the roster of attorneys licensed to practice law in Indiana.

**Orders processed for the Appellate Courts**

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<th>Supreme</th>
<th>Appeals</th>
<th>Tax</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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29,592 filings processed in 3,698 cases for the three appellate courts

87 opinions processed for the Supreme Court

18,551 active attorneys in Indiana’s Roll of Attorneys, maintained by the Appellate Clerk’s Office

**HIGHLIGHTS**

During the fiscal year, the Clerk’s Office processed 2,205 opinions and 10,812 orders. The Office worked closely with technology staff to implement electronic filing, which is now required in the appellate courts except for filings that initiate the appeal.

The Office distributed over 7,500 ballots for the election of the District 2 attorney member of the Judicial Nominating/Qualifications Commission and tabulated the results with the Offices of the Attorney General and the Secretary of State.
The Fiscal Office manages the Supreme Court budget and assets, processes financial transactions and invoices, and provides accurate, timely financial information to the Court and other government officials.

**State judiciary constitutes LESS THAN 1% of the Indiana State Budget**

Budget Breakdown

- **51%** General Fund
- **49%** Other Revenue Sources

*$54.5 million in funding

*Excludes funding for payment of local judge and prosecutor salaries totaling $97.7 million.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

During its first full year in operation, the Court’s unified Fiscal Office (created utilizing existing staff) worked to standardize financial processes and coordinate more efficiently with other branches of government. Rather than five separate instances of accounting software and two dozen fiscal employees throughout the Court, the central office coordinated fiscal operations for the first time.

The Office conducted sessions to help staff better understand the new processes and enhance collaboration on budget and grant fund management.

3 **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

to House Ways & Means, Senate Appropriations, & State Budget Committees resulted in expanded projects and programs for the trial courts.
The Office of Personnel & Operations provides a wide scope of services to Supreme Court staff and agencies, including drafting internal policies, assisting with hiring and disciplinary issues, processing payroll and benefits, reviewing contracts for legality, ensuring legal compliance, security, and continuity of operations for the Court.

The Office also provides employment law counsel and assistance with contracts and payroll for all state judges.

HIGHLIGHTS

During the fiscal year, the Office initiated supervisor training, selected a staff performance development program, and made progress on revamping all staff job descriptions to determine the market value of specific positions and work toward achieving better pay equity.

With the administrative office lease expiring, the Office investigated options and provided an evaluation to the Justices to determine the best office location for the next decade. With millions of dollars in savings and a proximity closer to the State House, the Office secured space at Capitol Center North for a 10-year lease beginning in 2018.
Supreme Court Services

Supreme Court Services provides legal research, analysis, and drafting of legal memoranda for the Court; manages the Court’s pending cases; and maintains the Court’s law library.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Supreme Court Services provided legal advisory and case management functions for the Chief Justice and other members of the Court. Supreme Court Services administered the Court’s weekly conference agenda, oral argument schedule, and case statistical reporting.

- **248** legal memoranda drafted on a variety of topics
- **1,579** orders drafted
- **729** cases overseen, which were presented to the Court for review
- **46** original actions prepared challenging a trial court’s jurisdiction
- **150** requests for information fulfilled
- **73,475** volumes maintained in the Law Library, which served 2,211 patrons
The Indiana Office of Admissions and Continuing Education (ACE) provides administrative support to the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) and Commission for Continuing Legal Education (CLE).

BLE certifies that all individuals admitted to practice law have fulfilled the requirements for admission. CLE oversees the legal education requirements of attorneys, judges and mediators, and maintains a mediator registry.
Merging agencies, helping attorneys

Merging agencies
In January 2017, the Supreme Court created the Office of Admissions and Continuing Education, merging the two agencies that support BLE and CLE. Each agency retained its own board and commission for advisory purposes; however, administrative functions are handled from a joint office. The successful transition included an ACE open house in March with staff welcoming board and commission members and the legal community to the combined office.

Admission on examination
The bar exam is administered twice a year, in February and July. During the fiscal year, 463 out of 771 applicants passed the exam.

In January 2017, a group of judges and lawyers provided suggestions to the BLE on possible changes to the exam. Those suggestions were provided to the Court for review to ensure continued exam excellence.

Evolution of legal education
When the Supreme Court established the CLE Commission on January 1, 1987, Indiana became the 18th state to require that attorneys receive continuing legal education. 30 years later, continuing legal education is evolving again with increased demand for distance education courses. On January 1, 2017, the Court increased the maximum number of distance credits attorneys may earn in an education cycle from six to nine.

Of the roughly 14,000 total educational courses approved by the CLE Commission, nearly 40% were distance education courses. Attorneys reported almost 13,500 distance credits, which is a 280% increase over fiscal year 2005-2006, when the first distance education credits were available.

Test Takers Success Rate

60% of all test takers passed
70% of first-time test takers passed
37% of repeat test takers passed
The Disciplinary Commission is responsible for investigating attorney misconduct and prosecuting lawyer discipline proceedings. The Commission is primarily a reactive agency that responds to grievances filed by other individuals.

The Commission is not tax supported; it is funded primarily through the annual registration fee paid by Indiana lawyers in good standing.

30 VERIFIED COMPLAINTS
Misconduct charges filed by the Disciplinary Commission

Dismissed Summarily
Percentage of complaints dismissed as having no valid issue of misconduct

82%

Extension of Time
Sought by the Disciplinary Commission

2%
Keeping the legal profession honest

Changing the rules
Effective January 1, 2017, the Court approved changes to Admission and Discipline Rule 23 that overhaul the lawyer discipline process. Revisions include:

- Authorization to issue caution letters for low-level misconduct
- Acceleration of the screening and charging decision process
- Acceleration of the non-cooperation indefinite suspension timeline
- Mandatory prerequisite conditions for filing a Petition for Reinstatement
- Application of the formal Rules of Evidence to discipline hearings
- A time limit of one year on the length of an investigation, except if the Supreme Court grants an extension of time*

* During the fiscal year, the Commission sought an extension of time to complete an investigation in only 23 cases out of a total of 1,485 grievances.

Managing Caseload
At the end of the fiscal year, there were 72 cases under investigation or being screened, including two unauthorized practice of law matters. Additionally, there were 39 cases in some stage of litigation, including seven license reinstatement matters.

Attorney Discipline Case Highlights
Cases reviewed by the Commission

| Complaints submitted (Requests for investigation against attorneys) | 1,485 |
| Dismissed summarily (no valid issue of misconduct) | 1,212 |
| Complaints (investigations) | 273 |
| Dismissed after investigations | 93 |
| Caution/Warning letters sent | 7 |
| Sent back (not a commission matter/no attorney listed/illegible) | 32 |
| Dismissed pending reinstatement (attorney is already suspended) | 19 |
| Dismissed as moot due to death | 1 |
| Referred out (to JQC/other states) | 15 |
| Referred to local bar for investigation | 4 |
| Investigations pending (at the end of the fiscal year) | 102 |
The **Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP)** assists judges, lawyers, and law students with personal issues—addiction, mental health, physical, age-related, and other concerns—that have the potential to reduce their effectiveness.

JLAP works to educate the bench and bar and reduce potential harm caused by impairment. All interactions with JLAP are confidential.

### BY THE NUMBERS

**26% increase in calls for assistance**

**2,870 attendees at 58 presentations**

### Calls for Assistance

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<th>Calls for Assistance</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2014 - 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>261</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012 - 2013</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Compared to previous fiscal year*

### Services provided to callers

(Some callers provided with multiple services)

- **Education Provided**: 226
- **Support Provided**: 181
- **Scheduled Followup Appointment**: 110
- **Case Opened**: 84
- **Referred to Treatment Program**: 64
- **Referred to JLAP Support Group**: 59
- **Referred to JLAP Volunteer**: 57
- **Assessment Conducted**: 44
- **Referred to 12-Step Program**: 29
Outreach efforts
In response to recent studies showing law students and lawyers under 30 years old experience high rates of anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders, JLAP has increased its presence at Indiana’s law schools by participating in health fairs, exam stress relief programs, mentoring programs, and more:

- Invited to participate in Valparaiso Law School’s Professionalism Program
- Asked to present to Indiana University’s Maurer School of Law students
- Installed a permanent display in the Indiana University’s Robert H. McKinney School of Law library and collaborated on the production of a video aimed at encouraging students with mental health or substance use issues to seek help

As outreach to newly admitted and young lawyers, JLAP participated in nine Applied Professionalism Courses around the state reaching over 500 young lawyers and participated in the curriculum for leadership development programs sponsored by the Indianapolis Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association.

National spotlight
During the fiscal year, JLAP staff and committee members provided information and education at the Annual Convention of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association, National Conference of Bar Presidents, and the American Bar Association’s National Conference on Lawyer Assistance Programs. In addition, JLAP staff presented on three national webinars sponsored by different organizations.

Attendance
The attendee breakdown shows the wide variety of lawyers reached through presentations.

- National Organizations..........................27%
- Applied Professionalism Courses....18%
- Law Schools........................................16%
- Court Agencies......................................13%
- Judicial Groups.................................11%
- Bar Associations...............................10%
- Other ..................................................3%
- Volunteer Training.........................2%
The Office of Communication, Education and Outreach (OCEO) manages media inquiries, public information, and opportunities for educators to engage with the judicial branch.

OCEO oversees the Supreme Court’s website, webcasting, and social media accounts; creates and distributes press releases; and coordinates messaging campaigns on a variety of topics.

**430 INQUIRIES ANSWERED**
Provided answers to members of the press regarding a variety of court-related topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Inquires</th>
<th>Five-year comparison</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 - 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 - 2016</td>
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<td>2014 - 2015</td>
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<td>2013 - 2014</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 - 2013</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Twitter Posts**
Five-year comparison

| 2016 - 2017 | 432 |
| 2015 - 2016 | 383 |
| 2014 - 2015 | 396 |
| 2013 - 2014 | 349 |
| 2012 - 2013 | 130 |

**432 TWEETS**
including opinions, transfer dispositions, Indiana Court Times articles, and announcements

**69 JUDGES ASSISTED**
Provided assistance to trial court judges for everyday media matters and high-profile cases
Working with the Press
OCEO answered 430 media inquiries during the fiscal year and distributed 36 press releases announcing upcoming events and promoting a better understanding of the judiciary. The Office also assisted print and television journalists and photographers in attendance at oral arguments.

Teacher Workshop
In August, 60 teachers from across the state attended a one-day workshop designed to inform educators about the courts and improve knowledge of Indiana history and government. Teachers attended an oral argument, conducted research in the Law Library, heard about various Court initiatives, and had the opportunity to visit the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center.

Traveling Oral Arguments
OCEO coordinated two traveling oral arguments during the fiscal year. Student audiences in Delaware and Lake counties were provided the opportunity to witness a Supreme Court oral argument without traveling to Indianapolis.

Getting the word out
During the fiscal year, OCEO managed a variety of messaging campaigns to judges, lawyers, court staff, and the public. As the statewide e-filing implementation continued, the Office promoted the ability for lawyers to move away from paper and file documents electronically. The Office distributed weekly messages to trial court judges, a monthly newsletter to Court staff, and published Indiana Court Times, a magazine and blog on topics of interest to the judiciary.

Related Article
On the Road Again... PAGE 22
Court Technology provides support to appellate court staff for day-to-day operations; assists the Supreme Court with creating a vision for how technology can improve court operations and access to justice; develops custom applications for data sharing with the public and state agencies; and supports thousands of users across the state with case management, e-filing, and other technology needs.

E-Filing County Implementation Progress

58%
Statewide by the end of 2018

E-Filing Statistics as of June 30, 2017

2.1 MILLION documents e-filed statewide

372,000 criminal cases and citations e-filed into Odyssey

41,000+ documents e-filed weekly

70% of newly filed Indiana cases are in the Odyssey CMS

NEARLY 4,200 new guardianships tracked using the Adult Guardianship Registry

OVER $1 million collected for court fees by tax intercept
Advancing justice through technology

Paperless Courts
Implementation of statewide electronic filing progressed dramatically, adding 44 counties to the e-filing system. At the end of the fiscal year, there were 53 counties e-filing, nearly 20,000 registered users, and over 41,000 documents filed each week.

On July 1, 2016, e-filing in the appellate courts became mandatory. During the fiscal year, 37,767 documents of 111,364 total filings in the three appellate courts were e-filed. Four new e-filing providers were added, giving filers nine options: one state-provided free e-filing solution and eight commercial providers.

The Odyssey Continues
The principal trial court technology project—implementation of the Odyssey case management system—further expanded with 20 new courts using the system. By the end of the fiscal year, a total of 263 courts in 61 counties plus all three appellate courts used Odyssey, accounting for 70% of new cases filed.

Mycase Improvements
Court technology staff continued work on the mycase.in.gov beta site for searching trial and appellate cases. For the first time, the public can access documents from both appellate and trial courts and search for commercial court cases, and attorneys can sign in for enhanced access, all with no fees to the end-user.

Other Projects
In addition to continued maintenance and support of over 30 existing data-sharing applications, trial court technology staff launched several new applications:

- Envisioned as a tool for parents to research potential child care providers, the Child Abuse Registry provides access to information on criminal cases resulting from child abuse and neglect charges.
- The Supervised Release System being piloted in Marion County aggregates critical data in real time for probation, community corrections, and problem-solving courts in a single application.

Data Sharing Applications
FISCAL YEAR DATA

- NEARLY 900,000 tickets issued using electronic citation system
- OVER 53,000 protection orders submitted to protection order registry
- OVER 770 mental health adjudications reported to FBI

Related Article
A Milestone for Public Access
The Indiana Office of Court Services (IOCS) assists the Supreme Court in its role as the head of Indiana’s judicial system by developing education, programs, and projects for all courts to improve the administration of justice.

IOCS also supports the Judicial Conference of Indiana and its Board of Directors, comprised of judicial officers from across Indiana, and provides staff support to multiple committees.
ONE OFFICE: FOUR FOCUSES

STAD/IJC Merger
During the fiscal year, the Court created the Indiana Office of Court Services which is made up of the former Indiana Judicial Center (IJC) and Division of State Court Administration (STAD). The merger created one newly formed office, with four divisions including: Education, Justice Services, Legal Support, and Programming & Projects. IOCS interacts with a diverse population, including:

- judges
- clerks
- probation/community supervision/court security
- problem-solving court teams
- court alcohol and drug programs
- juvenile detention alternative initiative (JDAI) teams
- guardian ad litem/court appointed special advocate programs (GAL/CASA)
- adult guardian volunteers
- court interpreters

The Education Division ensures judges and judicial branch staff are offered educational opportunities through one-on-one mentoring, in-person education, online manuals/benchbooks, discussion groups, webinars, and web-based training modules.

The Justice Services Division works with probation, problem-solving courts, court alcohol and drug programs, and juvenile justice stakeholders to help criminal offenders successfully transition into the community and offer community-based alternative programs for youth.

The Legal Support Division answers legal questions; collects trial court/probation statistics; reviews requests for bulk/compiled data and public records; and assists courts and clerks regarding changes to legislation, procedures, and rules.

The Programming & Projects Division manages innovative statewide initiatives that protect Hoosiers in need and promote equal justice and manages grants that benefit trial courts, litigants, and communities.

Additional Information
Highlights from the four divisions
PAGES 52-55
The **Education Division** ensures that Indiana’s citizens interact with well-trained judges and judicial branch staff. The Division offered more than 250 days of educational opportunities with more than 9,000 judicial branch personnel and justice system stakeholders attending an IOCS-facilitated training.

**Training**

IOCS provided over 527 hours of regional training for GAL/CASA staff and volunteers, judicial officers, probation officers, certified court alcohol and drug staff, problem-solving court staff, JDAI stakeholders, and trial court staff.

The Education Division also held a one-day Court Improvement Program collaborative conference for juvenile justice stakeholders, focusing on helping youth achieve permanency. Over 800 probation officers attended an annual meeting and learned about how unconscious processes impact decision-making when interacting with people. 30 judicial officers from across Indiana took part in a graduate studies program, which focused on cyber security versus cyber insecurity; free speech and the judicial role; and health care today.

**Risk Assessment**

IOCS launched an online recertification process for probation officers and community supervision officers trained to administer the Indiana youth and adult risk assessment tool. IOCS offered 144 hours of instruction on youth and adult risk assessment tools.

**New office holders**

45 candidates for judicial office participated in a four-part online e-Candidate School during the 2016 general election process. 49 newly elected or appointed judicial officers attended a two-week orientation program focusing on demeanor and courtroom control skills, interacting with the media, conducting jury trials, and civil case management.
The Justice Services Division provides support to adult/juvenile probation departments and works with over 130 problem-solving courts and court alcohol and drug programs. The Division helps counties identify community-based alternatives to secure detention and supports county-level efforts to implement evidence-based practices in sentencing and community supervision.

Certified Courts and Programs

IOCS certified/recertified eight court alcohol and drug programs and 26 problem-solving courts during the fiscal year. These additions brought the total to 53 certified court alcohol and drug programs and 84 certified problem-solving courts with an additional 13 problem-solving courts in the planning stages. With funding appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly, IOCS awarded $500,000 in grants to 10 veterans courts, a type of problem-solving court.

EBDM

In September 2016, Indiana was awarded continued technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections to support the state’s participation in the Evidence-Based Decision Making initiative (EBDM). Criminal justice stakeholders and 11 counties worked to improve outcomes in pretrial release and other criminal justice decision points as part of a pilot program. Participating counties included Allen, Bartholomew, Grant, Jefferson, Hamilton, Hendricks, Monroe, St. Joseph, Starke, Porter, and Tipton.

Interstate Compact

IOCS administers the interstate compact for the transfer of offenders in and out of Indiana and serves as the intermediary for the return of juvenile runaways. During the fiscal year, IOCS supervised or processed more than 5,750 adult cases; over 1,000 juvenile cases; and 80 juveniles as runaways/absconders/escapees.

JDAI

IOCS assisted 31 counties with JDAI-related activities, including more than 180 hours of training and education to more than 1,500 participants on topics such as increasing data literacy, implicit bias, and adolescent brain development. The Department of Correction reported a 42% reduction in youth commitments in part due to JDAI.
The Legal Support Division is responsible for court and probation data collection, responding to legal questions from trial courts, and monitoring legislative changes affecting the judicial branch.

Assisting Courts
IOCS reviewed 40 requests for bulk data; reviewed 34 public records requests; recommended approval of approximately 85 caseload allocation plans; conducted 25 onsite county visits regarding storage of records; and updated the Trial Court Administrative Manual for Judges/Clerks.

Roughly 40% of each week was spent researching and answering questions from judicial officers, circuit clerks, probation officers, court and clerk staff, in addition to internal questions from other court agencies. IOCS compiled and published the online Indiana Judicial Service Report containing information regarding the workload and finances of the judicial system. The report included information on nearly 670 judicial officers who handled 1.5 million new cases filed during the 2016 calendar year.

Caseload Assessment Plan
Nearly every trial court judge participated in a four-week time study conducted by the National Center for State Courts to determine Indiana’s weighted caseload. In September 2016, the Judicial Administration Committee published the results of the study, which showed:

- 43 counties need additional judicial officers
- Statewide there is a collective need for about 17 full-time judicial officers

The study recommended modifying administrative rules to allow for sharing of judicial officers across county lines.
The Programming & Projects Division works to ensure equal access to justice through numerous initiatives focusing on families, children, victims of domestic violence, and others. The Division provided nearly $6 million in grant funding to counties across the state.

Protecting Hoosiers in Need
The State Office of Guardians Ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates awarded grants to 64 certified CASA programs across Indiana, whose 4,034 volunteers served 26,762 abused and neglected children (CY16).

To improve safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes in Children in Need of Services and Termination of Parental Rights cases, the Court Improvement Program (CIP) awarded 11 grants to support Alternative Dispute Resolution programs, family dependency drug courts, Adoption Day activities, training, and data collection and analysis. CIP also provided over $13,000 in scholarships and trained 339 judicial officers and child welfare professionals.

As an expert in family violence, civil protection orders, sexual assault, and criminal domestic violence, the Family Violence Resource Attorney trained 1,187 judicial officers, advocates, law enforcement personnel, and other professionals.

The Family Court Project supported 19 counties assisting 3,500 families in the court system with document preparation, co-parenting counseling, and court-ordered programming.

The Adult Guardianship Office awarded grants to 15 volunteer-based programs in 30 counties with nearly 300 volunteers that protect 500 vulnerable adults. The Office also received a $30,000 national grant to launch a multidisciplinary supported decision-making pilot program that creates a spectrum of guardianship.

Promoting Equal Justice
In its 20th year, more than 500 minority, low-income, and disadvantaged students have benefited from the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity’s (ICLEO) Summer Institute. 21 ICLEO fellows participated in 2016, 60 fellows are currently enrolled in Indiana law schools, and 22 graduated in 2017.

The Court Interpreter Certification Program promoted equal access to the courts for those with limited English proficiency and those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Staff provided court training; maintained a registry of 100+ certified interpreters; assisted with in-person and telephonic interpreter services; and awarded 37 grants to counties to fund interpreter services.
The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications/Judicial Nominating Commission is a seven-member body chaired by the Chief Justice of Indiana.

The Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) provides ethical advice to Indiana trial judges and investigates and prosecutes allegations of judicial ethical misconduct.

The Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) recruits and interviews applicants for appellate court vacancies, selects the Chief Justice, and certifies senior judges.

**Investigations v. Grievances**
Grievances resulting in a formal investigation

- **8%**

**Judicial Discipline Action**
Breakdown of 22 cases

- **2** Advisory letters
  (not classified as formal discipline)

- **2** Investigations closed without prejudice
  (after judicial officer resigned/retired)

- **1** Investigation closed
  (after judge agreed to resign/never hold future judicial office)

- **7** Private Cautions
  (formal discipline which must be disclosed)

- **1** Deferred resolution agreement

- **9** Investigations pending
  (at the end of the fiscal year)

**Senior Judges**
100 certifications/recertifications

- **17** Certified
- **83** Recertified
Nominations and Qualifications

Selection of 110
In January 2017, Justice Robert D. Rucker announced his intent to retire. JNC solicited applications and interviewed 20 applicants in March with 11 finalists being invited back for a second interview in April. The Chief Justice submitted three names to the Governor for consideration (Hon. Vicki Carmichael, Hon. Christopher Goff, and Hon. Matthew Kincaid), and on June 12, Governor Eric Holcomb selected Goff to become the 110th Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court. Justice Goff was sworn in on July 24.

Judicial Discipline
During the fiscal year, JQC considered 418 complaints alleging judicial misconduct. Of those, 385 complaints were dismissed summarily as failing to raise valid issues of ethical misconduct or were dismissed following informal investigation by JQC staff and a determination that no misconduct occurred.

One judge was issued a public reprimand after an arrest for battery against a public safety official and agreed to resign and never seek future judicial office. Two judges were issued public reprimands following arrests for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. One judge agreed to a commission public admonition for banning the Clerk from the courthouse without sufficient due process, and another judge faced public disciplinary charges for the same situation involving the Clerk. At the end of the fiscal year, the charges were still pending.

In the remaining 28 cases, the Commission required the judge to respond to the allegations or conducted formal inquiries or investigations. Six of these cases were dismissed as not establishing ethical misconduct.

Advising Judges and Judicial Candidates
Advisory opinions do not carry the weight of law, but they are intended to guide judicial officers in handling common ethical dilemmas.

The JQC issued one advisory opinion during the fiscal year. Advisory Opinion #1-17 addresses the use of Twitter and other microblogging tools in the courtroom as related to the Judicial Conduct Rule 2.17 prohibitions against the broadcast of court proceedings.
Definitions

A **certified question** is a request from a federal court to the Indiana Supreme Court asking for the Court’s opinion on a specific matter of Indiana law that the federal court is considering in a pending matter.

A **dispositive order** presents the decision of the Court in a case, but does not typically include a detailed explanation of legal reasoning as do opinions. Examples of dispositive orders include orders resolving attorney or judicial discipline cases and orders denying transfer of cases.

In a **mandate of funds** case, the Supreme Court reviews an order by a special judge that requires the county commissioners to fund court operations or other court-related functions. Mandates of funds are typically ordered when a county executive branch does not provide adequate funding to its local judicial branch.

A **majority opinion** in a case is authored by one justice and approved by two or more additional justices who agree with the decision and the legal reasoning for it. A majority opinion may also be *per curiam*, meaning “by the court” and not attributed to a specific author.

A **non-majority opinion** is attached to a majority opinion or dispositive order and may be concurring or dissenting. In a *concurring opinion*, the justice agrees with the majority opinion but adds additional analysis of the issues. In an *opinion concurring in the result*, the justice agrees with the ultimate result, but disagrees with the majority’s reasoning. In a *dissenting opinion*, the justice disagrees with the majority opinion and offers different legal reasoning in support of a different result.

An **original action** is a request by a party asking the Supreme Court to order a lower state court to perform an act required by law or to stop acting in a way the law does not allow.

A **petition for rehearing** is a request by a party asking the Supreme Court to reconsider a case it has already decided. If the Court denies the petition, the decision stands. If the Court grants the petition, then it issues a new opinion affirming or altering its decision.

A **petition to transfer** is a request by a party asking the Supreme Court to assume jurisdiction over a case already decided by the Court of Appeals.

A **verified complaint** in an attorney discipline case is the charging document in which the Disciplinary Commission alleges misconduct by the attorney being charged and asks the Supreme Court to impose appropriate discipline for the misconduct.