

Supreme Court of Alabama

Annual Statistics

**For The Fiscal Year
Ending September 30, 2013**

Table I

Filings and Dispositions.

	09/30/2009	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013
Filings					
Certiorari Petitions	793	839	646	718	616
Original Decisions	1017	950	914	923	871
Total	1810	1789	1560	1641	1487 ¹
Dispositions					
Certiorari Petitions	756	914	713	730	653
Original Decisions	1056	1073	941	951	835
Total	1812	1987	1654	1681	1488
Pending (Year End)	953	755	683	659	670
Throughput	100.11%	111.07%	106.02%	102.43%	100.06%

Cases before the Supreme Court seeking decisions on petitions for writs for certiorari to the Court of Civil Appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals are proceedings seeking discretionary review by the Supreme Court after the case has been decided by a trial court and reviewed on direct appeal by an intermediate appellate court.

Cases before the Supreme Court seeking original decisions consist of direct appeals (proceedings seeking review of a judgment of a trial court in this Court in civil cases where the amount in controversy exceeds \$50,000 or the relief sought is equitable), petitions for extraordinary writs (proceedings seeking review of orders entered during the pendency of a proceeding in a trial court or appellate court), petitions for permission to appeal (proceedings seeking review of a question of law arising during the pendency of a proceeding in a trial court), granted writs in petitions for certiorari (proceedings after this Court has determined further review is warranted of a decision by an intermediate appellate court), and certified questions from federal Courts (proceedings where a federal court has referred a question of Alabama law arising in a before the federal court to this Court for resolution).

After cases are filed with the Supreme Court, they undergo a period for preparation of the record on appeal and the filing of briefs. Once this process is completed, cases are randomly assigned to the Justices for research and the preparation of the Court's decision.

On November 17, 2003, the Supreme Court of Alabama adopted the Alabama Appellate Mediation Rules, which govern the procedure for referring appeals to appellate mediators. Those rules became effective on January 1, 2004, and the program has been successful in both the Supreme Court and the Court of Civil Appeals, having a substantial impact upon the number of cases assigned for decision.

¹ The number of cases filed do not include 22 additional appeals which were "filed" in the 2011-2012 fiscal year but not docketed until the 2012-2013 fiscal year. These 22 cases were not captured by last year's annual statistical report, nor are they included in this year's annual statistical report.

Table II.**Number of cases assigned to Justices and pending decisions
on petitions of certiorari and original decisions.**

	09/30/2009	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013
Moore, C.J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a		23
Stuart, J.					
Certiorari petitions	12	11	6	8	4
Original decisions	13	23	6	9	5
Bolin, J.					
Certiorari petitions	26	12	6	8	4
Original decisions	25	11	13	4	5
Parker, J.					
Certiorari petitions	64	40	24	12	6
Original decisions	73	39	34	23	10
Murdock, J.					
Certiorari petitions	35	33	24	21	19
Original decisions	41	31	17	40	38
Shaw, J.					
Certiorari petitions	48	58	34	43	29
Original decisions	33	26	18	29	18
Main, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	14	10	4
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	21	16	15
Wise, J.					
Certiorari decisions	n/a	n/a	18	8	6
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	26	13	15
Bryan, J.					
Certiorari decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20
Former Justices²					
Certiorari petitions	45	31	n/a	n/a	n/a
Original decisions	47	29	n/a	n/a	n/a
Division Staff					
Certiorari petitions	3	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Original decisions	8	9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	497	371	294	275	236

²Cases assigned to former Justices that are not longer active.

Table III.

Number of cases assigned to Justices upon assuming office.

	# Pending Cases	Date Assumed Office
Moore, C.J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	5 11	1/15/2013
Shaw, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	4 37	01/19/2009
Main, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	1 26	01/14/2011
Wise, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	3 28	01/17/2011
Bryan, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	15 22	1/15/2013

The above table reflects the initial caseload assigned to sitting Justices that assumed office during the period covered by this report. When each Justice assumes office, he or she assumes responsibility for the cases previously assigned to other members of the Court. At that time, their caseload consisted primarily of these type cases.

Table IV.**Average number of days between the assignment of cases
and the release of decisions.**

	09/30/2009	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013
Moore, C.J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	174
Stuart, J.					
Certiorari petitions	39	34	34	34	34
Original decisions	92	85	69	66	54
Bolin, J.					
Certiorari petitions	96	69	35	35	38
Original decisions	259	129	84	75	98
Parker, J.					
Certiorari petitions	217	214	146	79	71
Original decisions	534	590	366	256	188
Murdock, J.					
Certiorari petitions	141	138	148	115	109
Original decisions	362	349	250	264	357
Shaw, J.					
Certiorari petitions	80	220	261	225	185
Original decisions	134	252	203	171	246
Main, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	39	39	38
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	128	166	125
Wise, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	55	61	37
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	96	177	110
Bryan, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	133
Average for the Court³					
Certiorari petitions	78	98	100	74	73
Original decisions	199	171	160	146	152

³The averages for the Court include Former Justices (see Footnote 2 on Table II) during the time period.

Table V.**Number of decisions released.**

	09/30/2009	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013
Moore, C.J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31 ⁴
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11 ⁴
Stuart, J.					
Certiorari petitions	83	91	75	76	73
Original decisions	50	53	49	38	52
Bolin, J.					
Certiorari petitions	84	106	79	76	69
Original decisions	55	49	48	56	36
Parker, J.					
Certiorari petitions	25	104	88	85	72
Original decisions	28	24	55	44	38
Murdock, J.					
Certiorari petitions	87	95	83	82	65
Original decisions	59	55	48	24	35
Shaw, J.					
Certiorari petitions	28	80	95	64	75
Original decisions	31	45	31	29	33
Main, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	38	81	69
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	37	42	49
Wise, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	41	85	72
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	26	52	36
Bryan, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	52 ⁴
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33 ⁴

These statistics do not reflect the following activities: (a) the Court often renders decisions on matters that are disposed of by a panel of the Court or the entire Court without assignment to a Justice; (b) a Justice may write a separate opinion in a case in which that Justice concurs specially, concurs in the result, or dissents; and (c) all Justices have administrative responsibilities.

In its normal operation, the Court sits in two panels, each of which is composed of the Chief Justice and four Justices in alternating seniority. Thus, many cases can be disposed of by the vote of five Justices without requiring the participation of the other four Justices. Because the Chief Justice is required to participate in the case disposition in both panels, and because he has significant additional administrative duties, the Court's Internal Rule III.B.2. provides that he is assigned 1 of every 17 cases from each of the Court's assignment rosters, rather than 1 of every 9 cases. The number of released decisions reflected above for a Justice in the year in which said Justice assumed office (see Table III) reflects decisions released during a period of less than 12 months.

⁴ Because this Justice did not take office until January 15, 2013, the numbers of decisions released is calculated beginning from January 15, 2013, rather than from October 1, 2012.

Table VI.

Average number of days in which cases with decisions were pending.

	09/30/2009	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013
Certiorari Petitions	106	111	112	86	85
Original Decisions	396	377	305	285	315

These statistics refer to the initial release of a decision in a case. The certificate of judgment indicating final disposition of a case is not issued until 14 days later, unless an application for rehearing is filed. In such event, additional time is necessary to issue a ruling on the application for rehearing.

The number of days pending in this Court includes the time necessary for preparation of the record on appeal and the filing of briefs. These events occur before the assignment of the case to a Justice for preparation and circulation of a proposed opinion. The number of days pending also includes the time expended while awaiting special concurrences or dissents of other Justices after a majority of the Court has concurred in the release of a proposed opinion.