

# **Supreme Court of Alabama**

**Annual Statistics**

**For The Fiscal Year  
Ending September 30, 2014**

**Table I**  
**Filings and Dispositions.**

	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014
<b>Filings</b>					
Certiorari Petitions	839	646	718	616	662
Original Decisions	950	914	923	871	849
Total	1789	1560	1641	1487	1511 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Dispositions</b>					
Certiorari Petitions	941	713	730	653	711
Original Decisions	1073	941	951	835	943
Total	1987	1654	1681	1488	1654
<b>Pending (Year End)</b>	755	683	659	670	559
<b>Throughput</b>	111.07%	106.02%	102.43%	100.06%	109.46%

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 case 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The number of cases filed do not include 32 additional appeals which were "filed" in the 2012-2013 fiscal year but not docketed until the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These 32 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.**

	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	5
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	10
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	11	6	8	4	8
Original decisions	23	6	9	5	11
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	12	6	8	4	8
Original decisions	11	13	4	5	14
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	40	24	12	6	8
Original decisions	39	34	23	10	10
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	33	24	21	19	14
Original decisions	31	17	40	38	27
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	58	34	43	29	14
Original decisions	26	18	29	18	22
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	14	10	4	9
Original decisions	n/a	21	16	15	9
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari decisions	n/a	18	8	6	8
Original decisions	n/a	26	13	15	12
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	11
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	16
<b>Former Justices<sup>2</sup></b>					
Certiorari petitions	31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Original decisions	29	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Division Staff</b>					
Certiorari petitions	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Original decisions	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Total</b>	371	294	275	236	216

<sup>2</sup>Cases assigned to former Justices that are no longer active.

**Table III.**

**Number of cases assigned to Justices upon assuming office.**

	<b># Pending Cases</b>	<b>Date Assumed Office</b>
<b>Moore, C.J.</b> Certiorari decisions Original decisions	5 11	1/15/2013
<b>Shaw, J.</b> Certiorari decisions Original decisions	4 37	01/19/2009
<b>Main, J.</b> Certiorari decisions Original decisions	1 26	01/14/2011
<b>Wise, J.</b> Certiorari decisions Original decisions	3 28	01/17/2011
<b>Bryan, J.</b> 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, each Justice's caseload consisted primarily of these type cases.

**Table IV.**

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

	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	85	57
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	174	151
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	34	34	34	34	36
Original decisions	85	69	66	54	68
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	69	35	35	38	43
Original decisions	129	84	75	98	126
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	214	146	79	71	44
Original decisions	590	366	256	188	124
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	138	148	115	109	100
Original decisions	349	250	264	357	330
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	220	261	225	185	131
Original decisions	252	203	171	246	256
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	39	39	38	36
Original decisions	n/a	128	166	125	131
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	55	61	37	56
Original decisions	n/a	96	177	110	134
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	68
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	133	129
<b>Average for the Court<sup>3</sup></b>					
Certiorari petitions	98	100	74	73	66
Original decisions	171	164	146	152	165

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

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

	09/30/2010	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	37
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	32
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	91	75	76	73	71
Original decisions	53	49	38	52	44
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	106	79	76	69	72
Original decisions	49	48	56	36	35
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	104	88	85	72	74
Original decisions	24	55	44	38	38
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	95	83	82	65	80
Original decisions	55	48	24	35	58
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	80	95	64	75	89
Original decisions	45	31	29	33	37
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	38	81	69	64
Original decisions	n/a	37	42	49	48
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	41	85	72	73
Original decisions	n/a	26	52	36	40
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	n/a	52	75
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	48

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.

**Table VI.**

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

	<b>09/30/2010</b>	<b>09/30/2011</b>	<b>09/30/2012</b>	<b>09/30/2013</b>	<b>09/30/2014</b>
Certiorari Petitions	111	112	86	85	82
Original Decisions	377	305	285	315	350

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 18 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.