

Supreme Court of Alabama

Annual Statistics

**For The Fiscal Year
Ending September 30, 2015**

Table I
Filings and Dispositions.

	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015
Filings					
Certiorari Petitions	646	718	616	662	602
Original Decisions	914	923	871	849	834
Total	1560	1641	1487	1511	1436 ¹
Dispositions					
Certiorari Petitions	713	730	653	711	618
Original Decisions	941	951	835	943	881
Total	1654	1681	1488	1654	1499
Pending (Year End)	683	659	670	559	512
Throughput	106.02%	102.43%	100.06%	109.46%	104.38%

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 11 additional appeals which were "filed" in the 2013-2014 fiscal year but not *docketed* until the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Court docketed a total of 1447 cases. The additional 11 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.**

	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	09/30/2015
Moore, C.J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	3 23	5 10	6 10
Stuart, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	6 6	8 9	4 5	8 11	8 5
Bolin, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	6 13	8 4	4 5	8 14	9 14
Parker, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	24 34	12 23	6 10	8 10	6 8
Murdock, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	24 17	21 40	19 38	14 27	11 27
Shaw, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	34 18	43 29	29 18	14 22	21 18
Main, J. Certiorari petitions Original decisions	14 21	10 16	4 15	9 9	5 5
Wise, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	18 26	8 13	6 15	8 12	9 14
Bryan, J. Certiorari decisions Original decisions	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	12 20	11 16	7 9
Total	294	275	236	216	192

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
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, 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.**

	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015
Moore, C.J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	85	57	64
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	174	151	144
Stuart, J.					
Certiorari petitions	34	34	34	36	45
Original decisions	69	66	54	68	69
Bolin, J.					
Certiorari petitions	35	35	38	43	50
Original decisions	84	75	98	126	118
Parker, J.					
Certiorari petitions	146	79	71	44	46
Original decisions	366	256	188	124	110
Murdock, J.					
Certiorari petitions	148	115	109	100	72
Original decisions	250	264	357	340	289
Shaw, J.					
Certiorari petitions	261	225	185	131	101
Original decisions	203	171	246	256	180
Main, J.					
Certiorari petitions	39	39	38	36	41
Original decisions	128	166	125	131	73
Wise, J.					
Certiorari petitions	55	61	37	56	42
Original decisions	96	177	110	134	137
Bryan, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	70	68	57
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	133	129	121
Average for the Court²					
Certiorari petitions	100	74	73	66	56
Original decisions	164	146	152	165	132

²The averages for the Court include Former Justices who are not longer active.

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

	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015
Moore, C.J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	31	37	29
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	11	32	20
Stuart, J.					
Certiorari petitions	75	76	73	71	65
Original decisions	49	38	52	44	44
Bolin, J.					
Certiorari petitions	79	76	69	72	61
Original decisions	48	56	36	35	39
Parker, J.					
Certiorari petitions	88	85	72	74	67
Original decisions	55	44	38	38	28
Murdock, J.					
Certiorari petitions	83	82	65	80	67
Original decisions	48	24	35	51	28
Shaw, J.					
Certiorari petitions	95	64	75	89	57
Original decisions	31	29	33	37	33
Main, J.					
Certiorari petitions	38	81	69	64	66
Original decisions	37	42	49	48	24
Wise, J.					
Certiorari petitions	41	85	72	73	63
Original decisions	26	52	36	40	29
Bryan, J.					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	n/a	52	75	71
Original decisions	n/a	n/a	33	48	39

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.

	09/30/2011	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	09/30/2015
Certiorari Petitions	112	86	85	82	70
Original Decisions	305	285	315	350	290

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.