

# **Supreme Court of Alabama**

**Annual Statistics**

**For The Fiscal Year  
Ending September 30, 2016**

## Table I

### Filings and Dispositions.

	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016
<b>Filings</b>					
Certiorari	718	616	662	602	606
Petitions	923	871	849	834	760
Original Decisions	1641	1487	1511	1436	1366*
Total					
<b>Dispositions</b>					
Certiorari	730	653	711	618	613
Petitions	951	835	943	881	794
Original Decisions	1681	1488	1654	1499	1407
Total					
<b>Pending (Year End)</b>	659	670	559	512	477
<b>Throughput</b>	102.43%	100.06%	109.46%	104.38%	103.30%

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.

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\*The number of cases *filed* do not include 2 additional appeals which were "filed" in the 2014-2015 fiscal year but not *docketed* until the 2015-2016 fiscal year bringing the total number of cases process through the court this year to 1368. The additional 2 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.**

	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	09/30/2015	9/30/2016
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	3	5	6	0
Original decisions	n/a	23	10	10	0*
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	8	4	8	8	9
Original decisions	9	5	11	5	6
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	8	4	8	9	10
Original decisions	4	5	14	14	9
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	12	6	8	6	12
Original decisions	23	10	10	8	18
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	21	19	14	11	16
Original decisions	40	38	27	27	26
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	43	29	14	21	15
Original decisions	29	18	22	18	20
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	10	4	9	5	8
Original decisions	16	15	9	5	5
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari decisions	8	6	8	9	7
Original decisions	13	15	12	14	9
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari decisions	n/a	12	11	7	10
Original decisions	n/a	20	16	9	3
<b>Total</b>	275	236	216	192	266

\* Pursuant to Amendment 157, Chief Justice Moore was automatically suspended when the Judicial Inquiry Commission filed a complaint against him in the Court of the Judiciary on May 6, 2016. Since that date, the Court assigned no cases to the Chief Justice.

**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>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.**

	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	85	57	64	43
Original decisions	n/a	174	151	144	106*
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	34	34	36	45	39
Original decisions	66	54	68	69	84
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	35	38	43	50	44
Original decisions	75	98	126	118	145
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	79	71	44	46	46
Original decisions	256	188	124	110	124
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	115	109	100	72	81
Original decisions	264	357	340	289	286
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	225	185	131	101	130
Original decisions	171	246	256	180	250
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	39	38	36	41	38
Original decisions	166	125	131	73	60
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	61	37	56	42	42
Original decisions	177	110	134	137	177
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	70	68	57	52
Original decisions	n/a	133	129	121	99
<b>Average for the Court</b>					
Certiorari petitions	74	73	66	56	59
Original decisions	146	152	165	132	148

\* The averages for Chief Justice Moore begin October 1, 2015 and extend through May 6, 2016.

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

	09/30/2012	09/30/2013	09/30/2014	9/30/2015	9/30/2016
<b>Moore, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	31	37	29	18
Original decisions	n/a	11	32	20	14*
<b>Stuart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	76	73	71	65	67
Original decisions	38	52	44	44	44
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	76	69	72	61	67
Original decisions	56	36	35	39	48
<b>Parker, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	85	72	74	67	59
Original decisions	44	38	38	28	27
<b>Murdock, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	82	65	80	67	61
Original decisions	2	35	51	28	39
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	64	75	89	57	74
Original decisions	29	33	37	33	26
<b>Main, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	81	69	64	66	64
Original decisions	42	49	48	24	35
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	85	72	73	63	69
Original decisions	52	36	40	29	33
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	n/a	52	75	71	67
Original decisions	n/a	33	48	39	38

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.

\* The averages for Chief Justice Moore begin October 1, 2015 and extend through May 6, 2016.

**Table VI.**

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

	<b>09/30/2012</b>	<b>09/30/2013</b>	<b>09/30/2014</b>	<b>09/30/2015</b>	<b>09/30/2016</b>
Certiorari Petitions	86	85	82	70	70
Original Decisions	285	315	350	290	304

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.