

# **SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA**

**Annual Statistics**

**for the Fiscal Year Ending  
September 30, 2022**

# Table I

## FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
<b>Filings</b>					
Certiorari petitions	471	388	410	363	300
Original decisions	745	682	687	539	606
Total	1216	1070	1097	902	906
<b>Dispositions</b>					
Certiorari petitions	473	404	387	414	282
Original decisions	764	622	724	614	541
Total	1237	1026	1111	1028	823
<b>Pending (Year End)</b>	417	478	464	332	376
<b>Throughput</b>	101.72%	95.88%	101.27%	113.96%	90.84%

Petitions to the Supreme Court of Alabama for writs for certiorari are proceedings seeking discretionary review of decisions of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

Original decisions include the following types of cases:

- (1) direct appeals (i.e., proceedings seeking review in the Court of a judgment of a trial court in civil cases where the amount in controversy exceeds \$50,000 or the relief sought is equitable);
- (2) petitions for extraordinary writs (i.e., proceedings seeking review of orders that are not immediately appealable, such as certain orders entered during the pendency of a proceeding in a trial court or appellate court);
- (3) petitions for permission to appeal (i.e., proceedings seeking review of a question of law arising during the pendency of a proceeding in a trial court);
- (4) granted petitions for certiorari (i.e., proceedings after the Court has determined that further review is warranted); and
- (5) certified questions from federal courts (i.e., proceedings where a federal court has referred a question of Alabama law to the Court for resolution).

After certain cases are filed with the Court, the record on appeal is prepared and briefs are filed. Once this process is completed, cases are randomly assigned to the Justices for review and the preparation of the Court's decision.

The Alabama Appellate Mediation Program has been successful in both the Supreme Court of Alabama and the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, having a substantial impact upon the number of cases assigned for decision.

**Table II****CASES ASSIGNED TO JUSTICES  
AND PENDING AT END OF FISCAL YEAR**

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	6	2	5	3	13
Original decisions	5	12	7	4	8
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	5	7	5	5	5
Original decisions	19	12	12	6	17
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	11	7	16	7	3
Original decisions	16	8	18	11	8
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	5	4	6	2	4
Original decisions	11	11	15	11	9
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	6	5	7	6	7
Original decisions	8	7	11	8	15
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	6	3	4	3	3
Original decisions	13	7	6	4	3
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	9	5	11	4	3
Original decisions	18	9	8	8	7
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	11	19	6	3
Original decisions	N/A	32	18	15	13
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	18	10	5	8
Original decisions	N/A	39	36	9	16
<b>Former Justices†</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	15	N/A	N/A	N/A
Original decisions	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	154	222	214	117	145

In many cases, for efficiency, the Court sits in two panels, each composed of the Chief Justice and four Associate Justices. Because the Chief Justice participates in both panels and also has significant additional administrative duties, the Chief Justice is assigned 1 of every 17 cases rather than 1 of every 9 cases.

†Cases assigned to former Justices who are no longer on the Court at the end of the fiscal year.

## Table III

### CASES ASSIGNED TO JUSTICES UPON ASSUMING OFFICE

	Pending Cases	Date Assumed Office
<b>Stewart, J.</b>		
Certiorari petitions	5	01/15/2019
Original decisions	26	
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>		
Certiorari petitions	5	01/15/2019
Original decisions	26	

This table includes only the Justices who most recently joined the Court. When a Justice assumes office, he or she assumes responsibility for cases previously assigned to other Justices. At that time, a new Justice's caseload consists primarily of these reassigned cases.

**Table IV**

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS  
BETWEEN ASSIGNMENT OF A CASE TO A JUSTICE  
AND RELEASE OF A DECISION**

	<b>FY 2017–2018</b>	<b>FY 2018–2019</b>	<b>FY 2019–2020</b>	<b>FY 2020–2021</b>	<b>FY 2021–2022</b>
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	41	42	59	58	56
Original decisions	102	108	155	171	163
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	39	41	36	34	43
Original decisions	128	132	138	94	95
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	91	67	98	152	97
Original decisions	163	124	143	173	200
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	38	32	40	39	33
Original decisions	115	125	162	165	126
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	36	41	44	52	60
Original decisions	75	98	115	132	121
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	45	30	35	35	29
Original decisions	104	67	66	59	61
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	53	50	48	47	48
Original decisions	135	133	132	98	84
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	61	99	109	48
Original decisions	N/A	75	233	214	158
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	88	110	105	73
Original decisions	N/A	156	308	265	135
<b>Court Average<sup>†</sup></b>					
Certiorari petitions	47	50	63	73	54
Original decisions	109	115	169	156	128

†The “Court Average” values are calculated by dividing the total number of days for all cases by the total number of cases for all Justices. The value is then rounded to the next whole number.

## Table V

### DECISIONS RELEASED

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	52	37	18	26	13
Original decisions	30	7	15	11	9
<b>Bolin, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	52	42	48	41	27
Original decisions	25	39	33	33	20
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	55	45	34	51	34
Original decisions	34	28	25	28	29
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	49	41	41	44	29
Original decisions	24	22	30	33	27
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	49	46	46	39	27
Original decisions	37	23	26	29	20
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	51	46	44	42	31
Original decisions	40	32	32	28	24
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	40	45	43	47	32
Original decisions	36	32	35	28	24
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	26	39	53	24
Original decisions	N/A	18	48	33	32
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	22	53	44	24
Original decisions	N/A	12	37	40	24

These statistics do not reflect the following activities:

- (1) cases and matters in which the Court renders decisions that are disposed of by the Court without assignment to a Justice;
- (2) Justices' separate opinions in cases assigned to another Justice;
- (3) Alabama State Bar disciplinary matters;
- (4) administrative matters of the Court;
- (5) Justices' work with various standing rules committees, commissions, and task forces;
- (6) advisory opinions; and
- (7) other responsibilities beyond Justices' caseloads.

For the year in which a Justice assumed office, that Justice's number of decisions reflects only part of that year.

## Table VI

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS BETWEEN FILING OF A CASE AND RELEASE OF AN INITIAL DECISION

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022
Certiorari petitions	59	59	72	86	68
Original decisions	247	253	302	283	152

A certificate of judgment indicating the final disposition of certain types of cases is not issued until at least 18 days after the decision is released, unless the time is shortened by order of the Court or a timely application for rehearing is filed.

The number of days includes any time for preparation of an appellate record, for a trial court to take further action, for filing of briefs, and for other prerequisite actions. These events generally must occur before the assignment of a case to a Justice. The number of days also includes any time needed for the Court to vote on the disposition of a case and for circulation and review of the writings of the Justices.