

# **SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA**

**Annual Statistics**

**for the Fiscal Year Ending  
September 30, 2023**

# Table I

## FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
<b>Filings</b>					
Certiorari petitions	388	410	363	300	278
Original decisions	682	687	539	606	616
Total	1070	1097	902	906	894
<b>Dispositions</b>					
Certiorari petitions	404	387	414	282	270
Original decisions	622	724	614	541	576
Total	1026	1111	1028	823	846
<b>Pending (Year End)</b>	478	464	332	376	391
<b>Throughput</b>	95.88%	101.27%	113.96%	90.84%	94.63%

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 "Pending (Year End)" number includes active cases and inactive cases -- cases that are on the Court's Administrative Docket or otherwise stayed from consideration by the Court -- pending final disposition.

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 2018–2019	FY 2019–2020	FY 2020–2021	FY 2021–2022	FY 2022–2023
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	2	5	3	13	2
Original decisions	12	7	4	8	10
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	7	16	7	3	4
Original decisions	8	18	11	8	10
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	4	6	2	4	2
Original decisions	11	15	11	9	4
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	5	7	6	7	7
Original decisions	7	11	8	15	15
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	3	4	3	3	4
Original decisions	7	6	4	3	4
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	5	11	4	3	4
Original decisions	9	8	8	7	8
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	11	19	6	3	7
Original decisions	32	18	15	13	19
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	18	10	5	8	4
Original decisions	39	36	9	16	10
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18
<b>Former Justices†</b>					
Certiorari petitions	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Original decisions	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	222	214	117	145	135

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>Cook, J.</b>		
Certiorari petitions	1	01/17/2023
Original decisions	21	

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 2018–2019</b>	<b>FY 2019–2020</b>	<b>FY 2020–2021</b>	<b>FY 2021–2022</b>	<b>FY 2022–2023</b>
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	42	59	58	56	74
Original decisions	108	155	171	163	204
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	67	98	152	97	42
Original decisions	124	143	173	200	91
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	32	40	39	33	35
Original decisions	125	162	165	126	94
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	41	44	52	60	60
Original decisions	98	115	132	121	162
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	30	35	35	29	34
Original decisions	67	66	59	61	43
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	50	48	47	48	44
Original decisions	133	132	98	84	93
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	61	99	109	48	46
Original decisions	75	233	214	158	149
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	88	110	105	73	67
Original decisions	156	308	265	135	120
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	39
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	122
<b>Court Average<sup>†</sup></b>					
Certiorari petitions	50	63	73	54	49
Original decisions	115	169	156	128	121

<sup>†</sup>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.

In a case where a petition for writ of certiorari has been granted, the case is considered an “Original Decision,” and the average number of days between assignment of such a case and release of a decision includes the period of time from assignment of the petition for a writ of certiorari to final disposition, including time allowed for the parties to submit briefs after the petition is granted.

## Table V

### DECISIONS RELEASED

	FY 2018–2019	FY 2019–2020	FY 2020–2021	FY 2021–2022	FY 2022–2023
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	37	18	26	13	11
Original decisions	7	15	11	9	26
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	45	34	51	34	29
Original decisions	28	25	28	29	32
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	41	41	44	29	30
Original decisions	22	30	33	27	25
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	46	46	39	27	27
Original decisions	23	26	29	20	28
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	46	44	42	31	28
Original decisions	32	32	28	24	32
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	45	43	47	32	28
Original decisions	32	35	28	24	33
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	26	39	53	24	24
Original decisions	18	48	33	32	28
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	22	53	44	24	31
Original decisions	12	37	40	24	40
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	32
<b>Bolin, J.*</b>					
Certiorari petitions	42	48	41	27	9
Original decisions	39	33	33	20	11

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.

\*Justice Bolin retired on January 14, 2023. His number of decisions released is calculated from October 1, 2022 to January 14, 2023.

## Table VI

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

	FY 2018–2019	FY 2019–2020	FY 2020–2021	FY 2021–2022	FY 2022–2023
Certiorari petitions	59	72	86	68	62
Original decisions	253	302	283	152	164

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.