

# **SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA**

**Annual Statistics**

**for the Fiscal Year Ending  
September 30, 2024**

# Table I

## FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024
<b>Filings</b>					
Certiorari petitions	410	363	300	278	323
Original decisions	687	539	606	616	593
Total	1097	902	906	894	916
<b>Dispositions</b>					
Certiorari petitions	387	414	282	270	325
Original decisions	724	614	541	576	653
Total	1111	1028	823	846	978
<b>Pending (Year End)</b>	464	332	376	391	330
<b>Throughput</b>	101.27%	113.96%	90.84%	94.63%	106.76%

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 involved exceeds \$50,000);
- (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**

	<b>FY 2019-2020</b>	<b>FY 2020-2021</b>	<b>FY 2021-2022</b>	<b>FY 2022-2023</b>	<b>FY 2023-2024</b>
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	5	3	13	2	1
Original decisions	7	4	8	10	4
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	16	7	3	4	6
Original decisions	18	11	8	10	18
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	6	2	4	2	4
Original decisions	15	11	9	4	16
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	7	6	7	7	11
Original decisions	11	8	15	15	17
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	4	3	3	4	5
Original decisions	6	4	3	4	5
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	11	4	3	4	3
Original decisions	8	8	7	8	11
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	19	6	3	7	4
Original decisions	18	15	13	19	17
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	10	5	8	4	5
Original decisions	36	9	16	10	11
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	5
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	8
<b>Total</b>	214	117	145	135	151

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.

## Table III

### CASES ASSIGNED TO JUSTICES UPON ASSUMING OFFICE

	Pending Cases	Date Assumed Office
<b>Cook, J.</b>		
Certiorari petitions	1	1/17/2023
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

	FY 2019–2020	FY 2020–2021	FY 2021–2022	FY 2022–2023	FY 2023–2024
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	59	58	56	74	91
Original decisions	155	171	163	204	157
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	98	152	97	42	49
Original decisions	143	173	200	91	134
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	40	39	33	35	40
Original decisions	162	165	126	94	115
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	44	52	60	60	118
Original decisions	115	132	121	162	189
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	35	35	29	34	35
Original decisions	66	59	61	43	48
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	48	47	48	44	47
Original decisions	132	98	84	93	104
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	99	109	48	46	69
Original decisions	233	214	158	149	162
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	110	105	73	67	60
Original decisions	308	265	135	120	82
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	39	42
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	122	99
<b>Court Average<sup>†</sup></b>					
Certiorari petitions	63	73	54	49	60
Original decisions	169	156	128	121	119

<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 is calculated from the date the case is submitted to a Justice after briefing is complete until final disposition.

## Table V

### DECISIONS RELEASED

	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024
<b>Parker, C.J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	18	26	13	11	16
Original decisions	15	11	9	26	22
<b>Shaw, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	34	51	34	29	35
Original decisions	25	28	29	32	30
<b>Wise, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	41	44	29	30	35
Original decisions	30	33	27	25	28
<b>Bryan, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	46	39	27	27	36
Original decisions	26	29	20	28	34
<b>Sellers, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	44	42	31	28	36
Original decisions	32	28	24	32	36
<b>Mendheim, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	43	47	32	28	37
Original decisions	35	28	24	33	37
<b>Stewart, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	39	53	24	24	38
Original decisions	48	33	32	28	41
<b>Mitchell, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	53	44	24	31	36
Original decisions	37	40	24	40	40
<b>Cook, J.</b>					
Certiorari petitions	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	33
Original decisions	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	44

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.

## Table VI

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

	FY 2019-2020	FY 2020-2021	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023	FY 2023-2024
Certiorari petitions	72	86	68	62	70
Original decisions	302	283	152	164	240

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. The number of days does not include any time a case spends in mediation or on the Court's administrative docket.