



PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

**PERFORMANCE OF THE
SUPREME COURT**

2017-2018 PERFORMANCE OF THE SUPREME COURT

INTRODUCTION

The Supreme Court of Louisiana adopted its original strategic plan in 1999. The plan was reviewed in 2005, 2010, and extensively revised in 2015.

The goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Supreme Court reflect the Supreme Court's Performance Standards.¹ The information presented in the "Response to the Objective" sections of this report was derived from the responses of various divisions of the Supreme Court to a request from the Judicial Administrator's Office.

SUPREME COURT MISSION STATEMENT

To provide effective and efficient administration of justice in the Supreme Court and to ensure proper administration and performance of all courts under its authority, to promote access to justice, to increase public confidence in the court system, and to ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench and bar.

SUPREME COURT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

I. PROMOTE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, AND PROCEDURAL ACCESS TO THE COURTS

- A. Increase access to Supreme Court information using technology
- B. Promote enhanced services for self-represented litigants and those with special needs, such as individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency (LEP)
- C. Develop a plan to ensure that court services are economically accessible
- D. Develop a plan to ensure that court services are physically accessible

¹Louisiana Supreme Court Rules, Part G, General Administrative Rules, Section 10.



II. PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (COURT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE)

- A. Efficiently and effectively manage judicial resources
- B. Improve data gathering and analysis across all programs
- C. Utilize technology to improve all aspects of court performance
- D. Continue to develop and implement methods to improve aspects of trial and appellate court performance
- E. Strengthen the Supreme Court workforce

III. STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION AND INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE COURT SYSTEM

- A. Enhance the public's access to court information
- B. Better engage the public concerning the Supreme Court's operations and activities
- C. Improve communication with other branches of government and justice system stakeholders
- D. To ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bar

IV. ENHANCE JUDICIAL COMPETENCY

- A. Ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench
- B. Improve communication among courts at all levels

V. ENHANCE PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

- A. Domestic violence
- B. Juvenile justice
- C. Elder law – guardianships, elder abuse for a rapidly increasing population
- D. Human trafficking
- E. Immigration



GOAL I. PROMOTE PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC, AND PROCEDURAL ACCESS TO THE COURTS

A fundamental value in the American system of justice is that the stability of our society depends upon the ability of the people to readily obtain access to the courts, because the court system is the mechanism recognized and accepted by all to peacefully resolve disputes. Denying access to the courts forces dispute resolution into other arenas and results in vigilantism and violence.... The Constitution establishes the fundamental right of access to the judicial system. The courts, as guardians of every person's individual rights, have a special responsibility to protect and enforce the right of equal access to the judicial system.²

Objective A. Increase access to court information using technology

Intent of the Objective. The Court believes that technology can empower courts to meet core purposes and responsibilities, be more transparent, and better serve the public even during times of economic downturn.

Strategy : Develop a new case management system. The Court is currently in the final stages of implementing a new appellate case management system with Thomson Reuters Court Management. This implementation is expected to be completed in June 2019. The system will expand and enhance the use of technology by replacing some of the aging components of the Court's existing systems with a highly-configurable integrated system including standards-based interface capabilities. The system will provide public access to documents. The new system will also allow the Court to expand its e-filing capability and begin to electronically notify parties, the public, and practitioners of filings and upcoming court dates.

Performance indicator: The status of the case management system, which is 80% complete.

Objective B. Promote enhanced services for self-represented litigants and those with special needs, such as individuals with disabilities or Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Intent of the Objective. When a party lacks sufficient financial resources to pursue a good-faith claim, Louisiana law requires that ways be found to minimize or defray the costs associated with the presentation of the case. Also, the Court must make accommodations so that individuals with speech, hearing, vision, or cognitive impairments and limited English language proficiency can participate in the Court's processes.

Strategy: Utilize the website to provide information and resources for self-represented litigants. Court staff and staff from the Supreme Court Law Library developed a set of resources for self-represented litigants that include links to the Supreme Court Library's LibGuides for self-represented litigants and Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) resources. These resources include general forms and forms specific to certain districts, a Modest Means Directory, the ABA's Free Legal Answers portal, and information regarding filing and responding to lawsuits. The Court maintained a self-represented litigant "button" on the first page of the website that directs users to the resources. The Law Library added content to and continually updated its existing online LibGuides for self-represented litigants.

Performance indicator: After the button was posted on the Supreme Court website in December of 2015, the number of visits to the Supreme Court Law Library self-represented resources page increased from 1,545 in 2015 to 6,975 in 2016. Visits to the page continued to increase, with 11,111 recorded visits in 2017, a 60% increase over 2016, and 18,197 visits to the page in 2018, 64% increase over 2017.

² Robert J. Grey, Jr., *Access to the Courts: Equal Justice for All, Issues of Democracy*, IIP Electronic Journals, Vol. 9, No. 2, August 2004. <http://www.lawsource.com/also/iid0804.pdf>.



Strategy : Collaborate with LSBA and legal services agencies to develop strategies to expand legal and other self-help services.

One strategy to expand legal and other self-help services that was developed by the Supreme Court, the LSBA, and the civil justice community, is the Louisiana Access to Justice Commission (Commission). The mission of the Commission is to assure continuity of policy and purpose in furtherance of the goal to ensure that all Louisiana citizens have access to equal justice under the law.

Goals of the Commission include: educating the people of Louisiana about the importance of equal access to justice and the challenges many face in effectively accessing the civil justice system in Louisiana; developing a strong statewide civil legal services delivery system by licensed attorneys; developing and recommending initiatives intended to maximize resources and funding for access to justice in civil matters and to encourage efficient use of the available resources; recommending initiatives to reduce systemic barriers to access to justice, including enhancing resources for self-represented litigants; and encouraging members of the bar to provide pro bono legal services as a regular component of their practices.

The Commission is pursuing a coordinated and systemic approach to ensuring the public's access to the legal system. 2017-2018 activities include working directly with the courts to increase the volunteer attorney pool. The most recent volunteer training CLE had 80 attendees and 35 attending attorneys agreed to take cases. 17 case matters were distributed onsite. The Commission also worked to secure a legislative appropriation for the state's civil legal aid providers; developed a series of articles to appear in the LDJA newsletter, *Obiter Dictum*, encouraging uniform application of the IFP statutes and best practices for courts; created an online modest means directory with parameters for both the attorneys' listed and the public interested in viewing the list; filmed a one hour on-demand CLE with LSBA President-Elect Barry Grodsky and

Professor Dane Ciolino with Loyola Law School on ethical considerations for representing clients with limited means; and developed the LSBA "Find Legal Help Portal," designed to connect the public with the full scope of legal services available including hiring an attorney, applying for legal aid, utilizing self-help services, or simply accessing legal information. www.lsba.org/goto/FindLegalHelp.

Also , Supreme Court Law librarians have partnered with other librarians and the Commission to form the Legal Assistance and Education Program (LEAP). The purpose of LEAP is to reach out to public librarians and teach them about legal research and sources of free legal information. LEAP partners sponsored three workshops in 2017-2018, at the Louisiana Library Association Conference in Lafayette, LA; at the St. Charles Parish East Regional library; and at Algiers Regional Library.

Performance indicator: Number and type of major strategies advanced: 2

Strategy: Expand the Supreme Court interpreter program list of registered and certified interpreters through orientations, skills classes and testing, and expand access to qualified interpreters nationwide. Court interpreter orientation and testing is held at least two times per year. In January 2018, 22 interpreter candidates attended the orientation. Five interpreters completed all of the requirements to become "Registered" court interpreters; accordingly, the total number of registered court interpreters increased from 134 to 139. After the November 2018 training and orientation, eight more interpreters completed the requirements to become "Registered" court interpreters; bringing the total number of "Registered" interpreters to 147.



Performance indicator: Interpreter program information for calendar years 2016-2018

Objective C. Develop a plan to ensure that court services are economically accessible

Intent of the Objective. “Courts must not only do the right thing; they must do the right thing in the right way.” When a party lacks sufficient financial resources to pursue a good-faith claim, Louisiana law requires that ways be found to minimize or defray the costs associated with the presentation of the case. Also, a court, including its judicial officers and staff, should follow applicable constitutional provisions and statutes that apply to the imposition, collection, and enforcement of court costs, fines, and fees (legal financial obligations, or LFOs). LFOs should not place an undue or disproportionate burden on citizens, especially those who are financially struggling.

Strategy: Continue a statewide study of fees and costs. The Court, through the Judicial Council, authorized the Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for Court Costs and Fees (Committee) to examine the system of collecting court costs and fees. Since beginning the study, the Committee has requested information from every state court as to the civil and criminal court costs and fees currently being charged. Members of the Committee also met with members of the Legislative Auditor’s staff and with representatives of groups who have an interest in court costs, including district attorneys, indigent defense attorneys, sheriffs, city court clerks, parish clerks of court, city court judges, parole/probation officers, business interests, and the Office of Debt Recovery.

As a result of its work, the Committee recommended the following initial steps:

1. Creation of a transparent public database listing all required and optional fines and fees that may be charged.
2. Establishment of an effective system for tracking assessed and collected fines, fees, and costs, searchable by individual and date of payment.
3. Development of Louisiana-specific statewide best practices and support for courts as they implement those best practices.
4. Publication of statewide guidance on collecting and distributing partial payments.
5. Determination of the point at which increased fees no longer generate increased income, in light of the person’s ability to pay and other factors.

In November of 2015, the Supreme Court won a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI), contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and began implementing these recommendations. During the period covered by this report, the study regarding recommendation number five, the point at which higher fees no longer generate increased income, was received and the grant activities were completed.

Further, in 2016 the Court won a three-year \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Price of Justice Initiative to pilot and implement the recommendations. During the period covered by this report the Court hired grant staff, developed and began working with pilot courts, and convened the grant advisory committee that will develop best practices in the area of costs, fines, and fees.

INTERPRETER PROGRAM INFORMATION 2016-2018

	2016 ³	2017	2018
Number of attendees at Supreme Court interpreter trainings	93	148	67
Cumulative number of registered court interpreters in Louisiana	133	160	146
Cumulative number of certified court interpreters in Louisiana	14	15	19

³ Reflects updated figures received after the publication of the 2015-2016 Justice at Work Report.



Grant goals include:

1. Complete the public database of the applicable laws regarding the cost or fee to be collected, the allowable amount of the fee or cost, and the entity responsible for each particular action in the assessment and collection process.
2. Develop and disseminate models of data sharing to assist local jurisdictions to effectively track assessed legal financial obligations searchable by individual and date of payment. Partner agencies will be able to share information regarding the assessed cost or fee, the defendant who is assessed the fee, and the amount paid and/or still owed each time a payment is made.
3. Develop and spread statewide best practices in assessing and collecting LFOs, specifically including meaningful alternatives to incarceration for those who are unable to pay LFOs.
4. Collect data to show the cost/benefit of collection practices and the impact of grant activities. The target populations of this goal are courts, clerks of court, and sheriffs, who collect the data.
5. Make appropriate recommendations to the state legislature regarding long-term changes to the cost collection system.

Performance indicator: SJI grant activities 100% complete; Price of Justice grant activities 25% complete.

Strategy: Develop a comprehensive database of current fees and costs. In November of 2015, the Supreme Court won a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI) and contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop a comprehensive database of fines, fees, and court costs. During 2016, staff from the Center submitted a plan for the database to the Supreme Court Case Management Information Systems (CMIS). The database project was added to an ongoing IT contract and is expected to be completed in 2019.

Performance indicator: Database 25% complete.

Objective D. Develop a plan to ensure that Court services are physically accessible

Intent of the Objective. Physical features of the courthouse can constitute formidable barriers to persons with disabilities who want to observe or avail themselves of court services. Further, the safety and security of all who enter the courthouse, whether judge, attorney, court staff, or member of the public, is essential.

Strategy : Review ADA policies. The Human Resources Division of the Judicial Administrator's Office has developed a comprehensive guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for use by all courts, with special attention to the district courts. The Court's website contains ADA policies that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act. The Court's website also contains a form to request accommodations. During the period, the ADA Ombudsman reviewed the Court's ADA policies.

Performance indicator: Review of ADA policies 100% complete.

Strategy : Review court security policies and follow-up on existing requests regarding court security committees and security assessments. The Court maintained a staff of highly-qualified law enforcement officers, properly equipped and trained with up-to-date security technology and other resources, to efficiently control, direct, and facilitate public and employee accessibility. The Security Division controlled all points of access to the Court and issued ID/access badges to all Court officials and staff. The Security Division also monitored all activity, access to restricted areas and building alarms by use of electronic security cameras and software. The Security Division reviewed court security policies during the period of this report and reported that all policies were up to date.

Performance indicator: The policy review is 100% complete.



GOAL II. PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (COURT MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE)

“The due administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good government.”⁵

Our judicial system recognizes that decisions made by lower tribunals may require modification. American jurisprudence generally requires that litigants are afforded a reasonable opportunity to have such decisions reviewed by a higher court through the appellate process. The Supreme Court of Louisiana, composed of seven Justices, is the state’s appellate court of last resort. Four justices must concur to render judgment. The full-panel review structure of the Court allows for a broad and diverse review of matters before it. This review process creates an opportunity for the development, clarification, and unification of the law in a manner that offers guidance to judges, attorneys, and the public, thus reducing errors and litigation costs.

In addition to its appellate role, under Article V of the Louisiana Constitution, the Court has administrative and procedural authority over state courts; the Chief Justice is the chief administrative officer for the state judicial system.

Objective A. Provide a reasonable opportunity for litigants to seek review in the Supreme Court of decisions made by lower tribunals

Intent of the Objective. The process of receiving, hearing, and deciding cases based upon the decisions of lower tribunals is one of the Court’s most important regular, ongoing activities. In 2018, the Court disposed of 2,344 cases while receiving and filing 2,117 cases for a clearance rate of 111 percent, an increase from 93 percent in 2017.

For the fifth year in a row, filings (case initiations) with the Clerk of Court have declined. In 2013, 3,017 cases were filed compared to the 2,117 in 2018, with filings at 2,716 in 2014, 2,365 in 2015, 2,283 in 2016 and 2,181 in 2017. All together, the filings have dropped 29.8% since 2013. The all-time filing high occurred in 1999 when there were 3,652 filings. Since this high, filings have dropped a total of 42.0%.

Although there has been a decline in the total number of filings, it should be noted that there continues to be a large number of cases being filed where expedited consideration has been requested. In 2015, 166 such cases were filed, but that number jumped to 220 in 2016. In 2017 that number settled in at 182 and has remained stable at 172 in 2018. These cases interrupt the normal processing of

SUPREME COURT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Total Filings	2,283	2,181	2,117
Total Appeals Filed	9	4	6
Total Writs Filed	2,092	1,997	1,925
Total Dispositions Rendered	2,142	2,039	2,344
Percentage of noncriminal case applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	94.1%	88%	83.4%
Percentage of criminal case applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	48.7%	34.9%	34.1%
Percentage of <i>pro se</i> post-conviction applications acted on within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	26%	20.8%	23%
Percentage of bar disciplinary filings acted upon within Supreme Court standard of 120 days of filing	93.6%	89.3%	85%
Percentage of opinions rendered within Supreme Court standard of 84 days from argument	66.7%	73.2%	74%
Percentage of written opinions available to the public within 5 days of decision	100%	100%	100%

⁵ George Washington, from his letter nominating Edmund Randolph as the first attorney general of the United States, September 28, 1789.



work and are labor intensive, requiring immediate attention.

Performance indicator: Supreme Court Performance Information 2016-2018

Objective B. Efficiently and effectively manage judicial resources

Intent of the Objective. As a co-equal and essential branch of our constitutional government, the judiciary requires sufficient financial resources to fulfill its responsibilities. Just as court systems should be held accountable for their performance, it is the obligation of the legislative and executive branches of government to provide sufficient financial resources to the judiciary for it to meet its responsibility as a co-equal, independent third branch of government. Even with the soundest management, court systems will not be able to promote or protect the rule of law, or to preserve the public trust, without adequate resources.

Strategy: Improve collection of court costs and fees statewide. As is more fully discussed under Goal I, Objective C, the Court completed State Institute of Justice grant activities and moved forward with a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to continue working on the recommendations for a more transparent court-cost collection system.

Performance indicator: The Court Cost Committee provided recommendations and the

Court won grants from the State Justice Institute and the U.S. Department of Justice to begin implementing recommendations to improve the court-cost collection system.

Strategy : Judicial education. During the period, the Judicial College presented Spending Public Money. Judge Madeleine Landrieu, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, and Judge Guy Holdridge, 1st Circuit Court of Appeal, served as faculty for this program as part of new judge training. Numerous CLE sessions on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative during FY 2017-2018 included components on funding the courts. More sessions are planned for the future.

Performance indicator: The annual mandatory New Judge Training curriculum always includes a course on Spending Public Money.

Strategy: Continue Efficient Fiscal Management. The Fiscal Office of the Judicial Administrator’s Office and the Clerk of Court continued to manage the Court’s fiscal resources efficiently. A summary of fiscal workload is provided below.

Objective C. Improve data gathering and analysis across all programs

Intent of the Objective. Effective courts are responsive to trends and emerging public issues. This objective requires courts to recognize and

INDICATORS OF FISCAL WORKLOAD BY FISCAL YEAR, 2015-2018

Indicator	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Number of Vendors	5,526	5,704	6,075
Accounts Payable Dollar Amount	\$116,280,660	\$113,359,807	\$167,265,137
Number of Checks Processed for Accounts Payable	6,830	6,248	5,794
Automated Clearing House (ACH) Payments	869	830	1,756
Payroll Dollar Amount	\$53,593,939	\$66,800,216	\$47,287,922
Number of Checks Processed for Payroll	10,268	10,972	9,026



respond appropriately to such issues. A court that moves deliberately in response to these issues is a stabilizing force in society and acts consistently with its role in maintaining the rule of law and building public trust and confidence. One significant trend is the emergence of technology in both the public and private arenas. The Supreme Court should employ technology to gather data important to the court system and should encourage and assist the lower courts to do so as well.

Strategy : Leverage technology to make data gathering and analysis processes more efficient and effective. The Court, through its Court Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, continued to develop, maintain, and expand electronic data collection and information sharing systems.

Technology Grants to District, City, and Parish Courts. In 2018 CMIS committed more than \$1,766,681 in federal and CMIS grants to district and city courts throughout the state to enhance security, to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of disposition reporting, and enhance overall data quality. In addition to efforts by CMIS staff, funds were also provided to the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association through a Memorandum of Understanding for collaborative training and assistance with the identification of causes for incomplete or missing information necessary for posting to the Louisiana Criminal History database and the FBI National Instant Check System (NICS).

Federal Motor Carrier funding was provided to 2 city courts and 7 district courts for replacement or enhancement of case management systems, or to implement a data exchange program in order to improve the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of reporting traffic and DWI dispositions to CMIS for posting to the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles driver history database and the National Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS).

Tools for Judges. Grant money was also used to help provide tools for judges. During 2018, after a successful pilot project, the CMIS office expanded availability of an interface with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry for judges in order to provide access to protective orders while on the bench to improve the information available to a judge while adjudicating a case.

Standardization of Data Collection. CMIS continued to use standardized case filing data collection protocols guided by state and national standards for appellate, criminal, civil, and traffic cases and collected this data through the Court of Appeal Reporting System, the District Court Reporting System, the Juvenile and Family Court Reporting System, the Civil Case Reporting System, the Louisiana Protective Order Registry, and the Parish and City Court Reporting System. This filing information is published in the Supreme Court Annual Report. Detailed information about all these systems can be found in the Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report. Future plans include encouraging statewide adoption and use of standard data definitions.

Terminal Agency Coordinator. The CMIS division of the Louisiana Supreme Court serves as the Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) for the Judiciary of the State of Louisiana. The TAC facilitates the applications for and provides the technology infrastructure that enables access to state and federal law enforcement databases for authorized individuals.

Additional District and City Court Assistance. The Supreme Court, through CMIS, worked with clerks of court throughout the state to provide training assistance, on-site visits, grant opportunities, and outreach to the clerks of court and their staff to enhance the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of data collected for criminal and traffic dispositions. Through grant funding, CMIS entered into an agreement with the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association to provide funding for part-time personnel to



supplement training assistance and to identify specific opportunities for improvements in the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of disposition reporting.

Performance indicator: 64 district courts, 17 city and parish courts, and 11 mayor's courts reported data electronically during the period, an increase of five courts from the previous period.

Objective D. Utilize technology to improve all aspects of court performance

Intent of the Objective. Technology is an essential tool to improve court processes and decrease operating costs while maintaining data security and constitutional protections, especially those guarantees of privacy, due process, and a fair trial. Technology should also be used to employ best practices in business process management as a means of improving aspects of court performance within the judiciary.

Strategy : Louisiana Supreme Court Case Management Information Systems and Business Process Management. The Court, through its Court Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, continued to employ best practices in business process management as a means of improving aspects of court performance within the judiciary. The Court employs the use of technology on all fronts, including its case management system, electronic filing system, and writ application scanning procedures. These practices help streamline business processes across programs and increase the efficiency of the Court. More information can be found in the Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report.

Strategy: Implement an updated case management system to enhance access and efficiency. This strategy is discussed in Goal I, Objective A.

Strategy : Upgrade the Court's website.

The Court maintains a website to help inform the public about the work of the Court and provide links to further resources. The website provides information about Court business including the docket, opinions released by the Court, news releases, emergency court closures, court rules, publications, court-managed programs, the law library, the Office of the Judicial Administrator, assistance for self-represented litigants, and employment opportunities, among other items. An updated website is in development.

Performance indicator: Planned rollout of the updated website is 2019.

Objective E. Continue to develop and implement methods to improve aspects of trial and appellate court performance

Intent of the Objective. Under Article V, Section 6 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is the chief administrative officer of the judicial system of the state, subject to rules adopted by the Court. The Court has the authority under Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution, to select a judicial administrator, clerks, and other personnel to assist in the exercise of this administrative responsibility. The Court, therefore, through the Chief Justice, the Judicial Administrator, the Clerk of Court, and other personnel, has the constitutional authority to support and improve trial and appellate court performance.

Strategy : Develop and support all Louisiana specialty courts such as adult and juvenile drug courts, DWI courts, family preservation/intervention courts, reentry courts, behavioral health/co-occurring courts, and veteran's courts.

In 2018, the Supreme Court Drug Court Office transitioned to the Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office, with the goal of bringing



all Louisiana Specialty Courts under its umbrella. Drug courts were the first statutorily enabled courts; in 1997, the legislature authorized courts to establish “drug divisions” to reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug addiction and the associated increased costs of crime. Since that time, the legislature has also authorized veteran’s courts, reentry courts, and mental health courts. Each year the legislature appropriates funds for these courts, and the Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office (SCDSCO) administers these funds.

During the period of this report, the SCDSCO acted as the fiscal agent for state general funds and federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and provided fiscal and programmatic oversight to ensure local program compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. For further information, please see the Supreme Court Annual Report and Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report.

Performance indicator: Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Program

Reentry Courts. Act 131 (HB 94) of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session authorized the creation of reentry courts in all parishes in the state effective August 1, 2017. This new law removed the list of enumerated district courts previously authorized to create reentry divisions, and requires certain criteria for eligibility and suitability. Because bed space is limited for offenders who meet the eligibility criteria for reentry courts, this provision

requires each court to contact the Department of Public Safety and Corrections Reentry Services to determine if there is adequate capacity for enrollment or if bed space is available. Judges who have undertaken special dockets for the creation of a reentry court do so with no additional funding from the state and no additional staff assistance. These judges understand that reentry courts have proven successful in reducing recidivism rates because the re-entering citizens are not only required to refrain from criminal activity but also to maintain gainful employment, secure stable housing, and become current in any financial obligations such as child support and restitution. The reentry court judge helps them achieve success in all these areas.

Strategy: Develop and support varied methods to improve trial and appellate court performance

Office of the Judicial Administrator. The Court continued to maintain sufficient numbers of highly-qualified professional and support staff in the Judicial Administrator’s Office to develop and support methods for improving aspects of court performance at all court levels. Attorneys and staff in the Office of the Judicial Administrator support Court committees and work with judges, court administrators and clerks, and the public to ensure the efficient administration of Court functions.

The Judicial Budget and Performance Accountability Program. The Court continued to engage in strategic planning, oversee performance

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT DRUG COURT PROGRAM STATISTICS BY FISCAL YEAR 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2017
Cumulative Number of Courts ^{6,7}	54	54	73
Number of judicial districts served	29	29	29
Total participants served	4,811	4,552	5,687
Drug-free babies born (each year) ⁸	60	57	46
Total graduates	1,080	953	953

⁶ For 2018, includes all specialty courts utilizing the AIMS system

⁷ Source: AIMS

⁸ Includes adult, juvenile and family preservation courts only



monitoring and reporting, and promote judicial branch performance improvements pursuant to the provisions of the Judicial Budget and Performance Accountability Act (La. R.S. 13:81 - 13:85). Under the provisions of the Judicial Budget and Performance Accountability Act, the Court has a responsibility to ensure not only that strategic plans are developed but also that they are implemented to improve judicial performance.

Strategic Plans. The Court continued to pursue implementation of its 2015-2019 strategic plan. In addition, through its Judicial Administrator's Office, the Court monitors the implementation of the strategic plans of the courts of appeal, the trial courts, and the city and parish courts, and renders assistance to judges and administrators in these courts upon request.

The district judges continued to implement their new plan, based on five campaigns, with suggested strategies and resources for the courts to apply in each individual court. The judges will focus on one campaign each year; during the period covered by this report, the focus was on Campaign III, Advance Judicial Competency. City and parish court judges completed the first year of their Strategic Plan for 2017-2021. The new plan has fewer but broader goals and strategies. The city and parish judges also decided to focus on one goal per year. They chose to focus on Goal I of the Strategic Plan of the City and Parish Courts 2017-2021, Advance Judicial Competency, during the reporting period. More information on the district and city and parish courts may be found in the sections dedicated to them in this report.

Operational Plan and Performance Indicators. The Court continued to submit to the legislature an annual operational plan. The plan contains key objectives, performance indicators, and mission statements, as required by statute.

Performance Audits. The Court continued to arrange for and conduct performance audits of judicial programs. These audits have focused on a variety of topics, most recently a report on fines and fees and the funding of local and state courts.

Judicial Council. The Court, through its Judicial Administrator's Office, continued to staff and support the Judicial Council, including the work of the Trial Court New Judgeship Committee, the Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for Court Costs and Fees, and the various subcommittees that from time to time may be established under these committees.

In 2018, the Supreme Court amended the Judicial Council rules to add a member of the criminal defense bar to the Council beginning in 2019. Also in 2018, the Legislature amended the Judicial Council statute to allow for a more robust examination of court cost requests. The new legislation also moved the deadline for receiving requests for new or increased court costs back to October 15 of the year prior to the year the request is to be introduced into the Legislature. The Council also began gathering information on diversion programs in Louisiana.

The Standing Committee to Evaluate the Need for New Judgeships examines requests for new judgeships against set criteria and conducts a site visit to the requesting jurisdiction prior to making a recommendation to the Judicial Council. A request for a new judgeship must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 1st of each year. In 2018, the Council approved one request for a new magistrate judge.

The Standing Committee to Evaluate Requests for new Court Costs and Fees was created in 2003 to guide the Judicial Council's process of reviewing and evaluating requests for new court costs, fees, and increases in existing court costs and fees. Requests must be received by the Judicial Administrator's Office by October 15 of the year prior to the year the request is to



be introduced into the legislature. The Council reviewed seven requests for new or increased court costs in 2018, prior to the 2018 changes in the Judicial Council statute; the Council found that all requests met the applicable guidelines.

Americans with Disabilities Act Assistance. This strategy is discussed in Goal I, Objective D.

Appellate Court Assistance. The Court, through its Judicial Administrator’s Office, and in association with the Conference of Appellate Court Judges, continued to support the courts’ efforts to improve those aspects of the administration of justice identified in the Strategic Plan of the Courts of Appeal.

Trial Court Assistance. The Court, through its Judicial Administrator’s Office, and in association with the Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA), the Louisiana City Judges Association, and the Louisiana Court Administrators Association, continued to support the courts’ efforts to improve those aspects of the administration of justice identified in the strategic plans of the district courts or the Court.

District Courts. The Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA) has developed, over the course of its existence, approximately twelve active committees. That committee work aims to guide the courts in their efforts to continuously improve and administer justice in an equal, effective, and efficient manner. Staffed by a liaison counsel from the Judicial Administrator’s office, committee work is the result of input from district judges and judicial partners who seek to address pressing issues facing the courts. In the current year, committee work included tracking legislation, collaborating with the Clerks of Court and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and gathering technological and best practices resources for judges.

The LDJA/Department of Corrections (DOC) Liaison Committee includes judges, DOC personnel, leaders from the DA’s association

and criminal defense bar, probation and parole supervisors, legislators, and other criminal justice partners. This Committee provides an outlet for, and a means to address issues that arise between all partners within the criminal justice system. With the 2017 implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, this Committee is instrumental in aiding judges and criminal justice partners through discussions of new sentencing laws and alternative sentencing strategies. The Committee continues to update the Uniform Commitment Order as needed so that felony sentencing provisions are communicated seamlessly from the judge to the Department.

The LDJA/Clerks of Courts Committee includes judges, clerks of court, and judicial administrators from across the state. The mission of this committee is to improve communication with the clerks and establish an effective partnership with their members. Some goals of this committee are to promote statewide E-Filing, improve reporting of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, and assist clerks in addressing collections issues. This committee also has worked diligently to integrate proper use of the Uniform Commitment Order among all districts.

City and Parish Courts. The city and parish court judges completed the first year of their Strategic Plan for 2017-2021. The new plan has fewer but broader goals and strategies. The city and parish judges decided to focus on one goal per year. They chose to focus on Goal I of the Plan, Advance Judicial Competency, during the reporting period. More information on the city and parish courts may be found in the section dedicated to them in this report.

Juvenile Court Assistance. In association with the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Louisiana District Court Judges Association, and the Louisiana City Court Judges Association, through its Judicial Administrator’s Office, the Court continued to support efforts to improve the exercise of juvenile and family



jurisdiction in courts. For further information, please see Goal V, Objective B.

Louisiana Protective Order Registry. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is a statewide repository of court orders issued to provide protection from domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault and to aid law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts in handling such matters. Further information about LPOR is available under Goal V, Objective A, and in the Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report.

Performance indicator: LPOR performance information 2016-2018

Cases Under Advisement. The Court, through the Judicial Administrator’s Office, continued to report on and enforce court rules, orders, and policies relating to cases under advisement as a means of improving performance in city and parish courts, district courts, and appellate courts.

General Counsel. The Court’s General Counsel’s Office consists of the General Counsel and two staff attorneys who research legal issues involving the administration of justice, draft orders amending court rules, staff various Court committees and boards, review all contracts to which the Court is a party, and monitor litigation involving, or of interest to, the Court. Additional staff of the office assist the Court in preparing and

promulgating orders amending court rules and appointing judges, attorneys, and citizens to various court and court-related committees and boards.

Judicial Assignments. The Judicial Administrator’s Office continued to assist the Court in the exercise of its constitutionally-conferred assignment authority. Through the promulgation of hundreds of court orders, which assign sitting and retired judges to overburdened courts and time-consuming and difficult cases throughout the state, the administration of justice is advanced and litigants’ access to justice ensured.

Performance indicator: Number of judicial order of assignment processed per year 2016-2018.

Louisiana Supreme Court Case Management Information Systems. The Court, through its Court Case Management Information Systems (CMIS) Division, continued to develop, maintain, and expand electronic data collection and information sharing systems, and employ best practices in business process management as a means of improving aspects of court performance within the judiciary. More information can be found throughout the Supreme Court section of this report and the Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report.

Supreme Court Clerk of Court. In addition to processing all filings and dispositions and disseminating the actions of the Court to the

LPOR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Total number of orders entered into the Louisiana Protective Order Registry	27,004	28,462	27,159
Number of requests for order verification from examiners with the FBI’s NICS program, all of which were fulfilled by LPOR	231	207	204
Number of requests for order verification from local, state, and out-of-state law enforcement officials who were conducting investigations involving the subject of a Louisiana order of protection. All Requests were fulfilled by LPOR	1,610	2,044	2,164

JUDICIAL ORDERS OF ASSIGNMENT PROCESSED PER YEAR 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Number of judicial orders of assignment processed per year	1,430	1,243	1,236



parties, courts and the public via mail, email, and the internet, the Clerk of Court's office fulfilled the following key responsibilities or accomplished the following in 2018:

- Processed all filings and dispositions including dissemination of actions to the parties, courts, and the public via U.S. mail, e-mail, and the Internet.
- Scanned all filings and dispositions, which are available to staff via the Court's case management system.
- Continued to develop and configure the Thomson Reuters' C-Track case management software which, besides replacing the current CMS and e-filing systems, integrates with the justices' and staff attorneys' offices. Software is scheduled to be installed in June 2019.
- The number of attorneys admitted to practice law in 2018 remained virtually the same at 543. 546 new attorneys were admitted in 2017 which was a drop of 89 from 2016, 90 from 2015 and 163 less than 2014 when we admitted 709 new attorneys.
- Issued Certificates of Good Standing. After having reached a four year high of 2,359 in 2017, the number dropped to 2,274 in 2018 which was still the second highest in the last five years. As mentioned last year, the average number of Certificates issued in 2010, 2011 and 2012 was about 4,800. Following the July 1, 2013 implementation of a charge of \$20.00 for Certificates of Good Standing requests for Certificates had dropped more than half. The requests appear to be leveling off with an average of 2,247 over the last five years. Note: Newly admitted attorneys receive two certificates, free of charge, which are not included in these numbers.
- Managed logistics for 259 events hosted by the Court. These events included Court conferences, oral argument days, Judiciary Commission hearings, and other meetings.
- Oversaw courthouse general maintenance and improvements involving roof repairs and assessment of options for more permanent solutions and evaluation of plumbing and ventilation of kitchen/dining room. Architects/

Designers were selected in 2018 and bid documents for the four construction projects at the court are in the process of being completed or bid with the work to be completed by the end of 2019.

Objective F. Strengthen the Court Workforce

Intent of the Objective. The judiciary is an important and visible symbol of government. Equal treatment of all persons before the law is essential to the concept of justice. Accordingly, the Supreme Court of Louisiana recognizes that it should operate free of bias in its personnel practices and decisions.

Strategy: Continue a learning management system to provide training resources for all employees. Training resources during the period included in-house quarterly safety meetings, annual ethics training requirement, CLEs, and conferences as well as off-site training sessions for supervisors on various topics.

During the period, the Court utilized both live and electronic training on the "Moodle" system. The Court held three electronic trainings and one live training program, on Emergency Preparedness.

Performance indicator: The following training materials were presented either live or electronically. The numbers represent employee attendance and/or training reviewed electronically: IT Security Awareness - 122; Ergonomics - 200; General Safety Rules - 167; and Mail & Parcel Handling - 140.

Strategy: Continue to develop and enforce fair employment policies as required by law and by human resource management best practices. The Court did not introduce or implement any new policies to the Court for this period; the current policies in place are sufficient at this time.

Strategy: Evaluate and develop wellness initiatives for court staff. During the



period, Court employees were given the option of participating in an on-site, free health screening clinic; participation in the free screening resulted in a monthly discount on the employees' health care deductions. The Court continued to maintain a wellness facility with three exercise machines for employee use and is in the process of upgrading the gym equipment and the facility.

Strategy: Emphasize education and professional development to ensure cross-training and succession of court leaders.

Court leaders and supervisors participated in numerous continuing legal education (CLE) seminars and conferences during the period; these included legal CLEs, law library CLEs, the Agresso Users' Conference, Court Technology Conference, National Association for Court Management Annual Conference, Conference of State Court Administrators meetings, Louisiana Court Administrators Association seminars, Human Resources National Conference, etc. Some of these are specific to the Court's functions, while others are specific to a particular field of expertise.

GOAL III. STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION AND INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN COURT SYSTEM

"Next to doing right, the great object in the administration of justice should be to give public satisfaction."

Objective A. Enhance the public's access to court information

Intent of the Objective. Making the Supreme Court accessible to the public and to attorneys protects and promotes the rule of law. Confidence in the review of the decisions of lower tribunals occurs when the Court's process is reasonably open to those who seek or are affected by this review, or who simply wish to observe it.

Strategy: Implement a new case management to promote greater access to court records and documents. This strategy is discussed above under Goal I, Objective A.

Strategy : Continue to publish the Supreme Court Annual Report. The Supreme Court Annual Report is a useful guide to judicial personnel and contacts throughout the state, as well as an overview of the Court's progress, and includes maps of electoral districts for the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and District Courts. The Statistical Data section summarizes two-year activity trends in juvenile, civil, criminal and traffic categories for courts at all levels in the state. The Louisiana Supreme Court Annual Report and The Guide to Louisiana Courts featuring a list of judges, clerks, and administrators (complete with contact phone numbers) for the Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and City and Parish Courts statewide are now available on the Louisiana Supreme Court website.

Strategy : Continue to support law library services and encourage additional services including teaching, training, and the creation of online content. The Law Library created numerous online LibGuides exploring topics of interest to self-represented litigants and members of the bar, as well as those interested in Louisiana legal history. Librarians maintained the partnership with the LSBA Access to Justice Committee that formed the Legal Assistance and Education Program (LEAP), and continued to reach out to public librarians to teach them about legal research and sources of free legal information.

The Law Library continued to support the research needs of Court staff and made these needs a priority. The library met those needs in part by offering training on legal research tools and techniques. Librarians created informative exhibits on display in the library and the museum that are free and open to the public. Additionally, the Law Library participated in Court building tours,

⁷ John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, in a letter to George Washington from the Supreme Court Justices 15 September 1790.



providing visitors information about what the Law Library does, and allowing some of its rare legal materials to be viewed. Law librarians developed CLE programs offered free of charge to the Bar and the public.

The Law Library provides legal information to inmates of the state’s prisons, who communicate in writing to the library. In response to a prisoner’s letter, the library sends the prisoner a form with the cost of photocopying included so that the prisoner can return a check for payment. From July 2017 to June 2018, the Law Library staff answered 277 letters from prisoners requesting photocopies of statutes and cases.

Law Library staff members wrote, designed, and produced a library newsletter, De Novo, which featured articles on various topics related to the library, library services, events taking place at the library, individuals in the library and the Court, and Louisiana legal history. Library staff greeted visitors and conducted tours of the library in coordination with groups touring the Court as arranged by the Community Relations Department.

Library staff members created exhibits aimed at informing and educating Court users and the public about various legal topics, including an exhibit commemorating Law Day, which is celebrated annually in May. The Law Day theme for 2018 was “Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom,” with an emphasis on the checks and balances between the three branches of the United States government and an examination of the limits of executive power.

The library debuted three exhibits: a 6-case exhibit in the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum commemorating the New Orleans Tricentennial entitled “Colonial Law in New Orleans: Olde World Law in a New Land;” a smaller Tricentennial exhibit called “Famous

New Orleanians;” and an exhibit examining legal aspects of emerging technologies called “The Law of Future Technologies.” The Louisiana Supreme Court Museum also hosted a temporary exhibit commemorating the first 50 years of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, a legal aid agency serving the New Orleans metro area. All exhibits are on view at the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum, unless otherwise indicated, and are free and open to the public. Additionally, the library sponsored or co-sponsored nine continuing legal education seminars in 2017-2018.

Performance indicator: CLE/Exhibits offered by the Law Library in FY 2017-2018: 14

Performance indicator: Number of library clients served in FY 2017-2018: 2,294.

Strategy : Maintain access to court opinions.

Performance Indicator: Access to Court Opinions 2016-2018.

Strategy: Participate in community activities and discuss the role of the Supreme Court and the judicial system whenever possible. During the period, the Supreme Court justices participated in a number of community activities, including holding oral arguments at various locations around the state such as law schools, speaking to civic groups, addressing state and local and bar associations and other lawyer associations, and meeting with groups such as community organizations, school groups, and church groups as they toured the Court. The justices also visited schools, met with law students and interns, and spoke at conventions and other meetings.

ACCESS TO COURT OPINIONS 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Number of Supreme Court opinions available to the public within five days of being issued	100%	100%	100%
Number of media releases on court decisions	78	65	56
Number of recipients of releases on court decisions	1,775	1,932	2,054



Objective B. Better engage the public concerning the Supreme Court’s operations and activities

Intent of the objective. Most citizens do not have direct contact with courts. Information about courts is filtered through sources such as the media, lawyers, litigants, jurors, political leaders, and the employees of justice system agencies and partners. This objective suggests that courts have a direct responsibility to inform the community of their structure, function, and programs. The sharing of such information through outreach programs increases the influence of the courts on the development of the law, and increases public awareness of and confidence in the judicial branch. The Supreme Court recognizes the need to increase the public’s awareness of and confidence in its operations by engaging in a variety of outreach efforts describing the purpose, procedures, and activities of the Court.

Strategy: Encourage judges at all court levels to become involved in community activities and to engage their communities regarding the role and operations of the court system. Justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the courts of appeal, district courts judges and city and parish court judges took action during the period to educate the public about the court, the law, or the administration of justice. These actions included holding oral arguments in various locations around the state, appearing on radio or TV shows, giving talks at various forums, publishing informational court

brochures or publications, creating or maintaining a website containing information about the court, participating in judicial ride-along programs, sponsoring teen court programs and tours of the court, visiting classrooms, and using social media.

Performance Indicator: Number of courts that took action to educate the public about the court, the law, or the administration of justice

Strategy: Support community relations initiatives. In 2018, the Community Relations Division (CRD) assisted with media coverage of the visit to the Court by Port-au-Prince Bar Association Bâtonnier Stanley Gaston, joined by members of the Francophone Section of the LSBA, as well as Bar President Dona K. Renegar, and assisted with additional coverage of the 2018 State of the Judiciary Address given by Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson to the Joint Session of the House and Senate. The CRD also issued 19 media releases on matters not involving court decisions.

Law Day always presents an opportunity to reach out to students. In 2018, the Supreme Court hosted 70 students from Orleans Parish for Law Day court tours and presentations. Additionally in 2018, the CRD staff conducted 62 courthouse tours for 926 court visitors from across the state and country, and from around the world.

Performance Indicator: Community Relations Department initiatives 2016-2018

NUMBER OF COURTS THAT TOOK ACTION TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE COURT, THE LAW, OR THE ADMINISTRATION VOF JUSTICE

	2016	2017	2018
Percentage of courts of appeal chief judges indicating that their courts regularly provided public education and public outreach services	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of district court chief judges indicating that their courts regularly provided public education and public outreach services	87.5%	91.7%	89.6%
Percentage of surveyed city/parish court chief judges indicating that their courts regularly provided public education and public outreach services	88.5%	88.2%	78.4%

COMMUNITY RELATIONS DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Number of outreach programs	60	70	84
Number of media releases on non-decision matters	24	18	19
Number of recipients of releases on non-decision matters	6,010	3,489	5,835



Objective C. Improve communication with other branches of government and justice system stakeholders

Intent of the Objective. While insisting on the need for judicial independence, the Supreme Court recognizes that it must clarify, promote, and institutionalize effective working relationships with the other two branches of state government and other agencies and partners comprising the state’s justice system. Such cooperation and collaboration is vital for maintaining a fair, efficient, impartial, and independent judiciary, and for improving the law and the proper administration of justice.

Strategy: Implement new Supreme Court case management system. This strategy is discussed above under Goal I, Objective A above.

Strategy : Leverage information management systems and other technology to more efficiently and effectively share data and information among justice system stakeholders. The Court, through its CMIS Division, shares information with a number of justice system stakeholders including district attorneys, clerks of court, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the Office of Motor Vehicles, and the FBI. Further information can be found in Goal II, Objective C, and the Supreme Court Data Collection and Information Sharing Systems section of this report.

Performance indicator: CMIS criminal records

Objective D. To ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bar

Intent of the Objective. “A lawyer is a representative of clients, an officer of the legal system, and a public citizen having special responsibility for the quality of justice.”¹⁰ By virtue of the public trust placed in the bar, those engaged in the practice of law should adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct. The Supreme Court takes very seriously its lead responsibility for ensuring the development and enforcement of these standards. A lawyer disciplinary process that expeditiously, diligently, and fairly evaluates the merits of each complaint to determine whether standards of conduct have been breached is an essential component of the regulation infrastructure.

Strategy: Mandatory continuing legal education for attorneys. Lawyers and judges are required to complete a minimum of 12.5 hours of approved CLE each calendar year; one of these required hours must concern legal ethics and another hour must concern professionalism.

Performance indicator: Average hours acquired through continuing legal education per lawyer 2016-2018

Strategy: Continue to support the new lawyer mentoring program. The Supreme

CMIS CRIMINAL RECORDS

	2016	2017	2018
Number of criminal records received by CMIS’ Criminal Records Project	345,807	437,859	467,829
Number shared with Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections	73,022	95,113	98,339
Number shared with the FBI	46,098	63,299	64,029

AVERAGE HOURS ACQUIRED THROUGH CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PER LAWYER 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
The average number of hours acquired through continuing legal education per lawyer	15.08	14.76	14.75

¹⁰ American Bar Association, *Preamble to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct*, Section 1.



Court formally approved the Transition Into Practice (TIP) Program for new lawyers admitted to practice in the state of Louisiana.

The statewide program matches one mentor with one mentee, allowing more experienced attorneys to share their knowledge with those who are just starting their careers. The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) and the Supreme Court see this as an opportunity to exercise the highest level of professionalism; as such, each mentor can receive up to six hours of free CLE credit (should they successfully complete a mentoring training session and if their mentee successfully completes their requirements). The Supreme Court appoints qualifying mentors recommended by the LSBA, based on submitted mentor applications.

Strategy: Support the Office of Disciplinary Counsel and Board’s initiatives regarding education and program assessment. The Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board (LADB) and the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) are continuing outreach to all four Louisiana law schools and to practicing lawyers to further the goal of education on ethical principles:

- Continuing its twenty-plus year effort, the LADB again offered free continuing education seminars across the state focused on ethics and practice issues which are particularly germane to the solo practitioner and small firms.
- The LADB launched ELLI (Ethical Lawyer Learning Initiative) to help newly admitted lawyers avoid disciplinary complaints through the provision of free continuing legal education and other educational opportunities on topics ranging from the lawyer disciplinary rules, to law office management and practice skills, to

lawyer wellness issues, all designed specifically for new lawyers.

- At the request of the ODC, the justices invited a consultation team from the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility to conduct a system-wide review of the lawyer regulation system to facilitate changes and improvements designed to make Louisiana’s system more efficient, effective, and fair. The Court received the Consultation Team’s report and, working with the ODC and the LADB, implemented changes to La. Sup. Ct. Rule XIX, the discipline system’s governing rule.
- The Disciplinary Board continued to work towards making electronic filing in all lawyer regulatory matters available for respondents and the Disciplinary Counsel.
- The ODC explored ways to address end-of-practice issues more effectively through advance successor planning, particularly for solo and small firm practitioners.
- The ODC and the LSBA generated a cooperative proposal to establish Receivership Teams across the state to supplement the work of curators in dealing with the practices of lawyers who are disabled or who have died leaving no associate, partner or successor.

Performance indicator: Complaints against lawyers filed and resolved 2016-2018

Cooperation with the Louisiana State Bar Association. The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) is a non-profit corporation, established pursuant to Articles of Incorporation first authorized by the Court in 1941. According to the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose

COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAWYERS FILED AND RESOLVED 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Number of complaints filed against lawyers	2,922	2,795	2,532
Number of complaints filed against lawyers resolved or disposed of	2,673	3,096	2,678



of the LSBA is to regulate the practice of law, advance the science of jurisprudence, promote the administration of justice, uphold the honor of the courts and of the profession of law, encourage cordial interpersonal relations among its members, and generally promote the welfare of the profession in the state. The LSBA from time to time recommends changes to its Rules of Professional Conduct for attorneys to the Court for adoption.

Attorney Professionalism. The Court continues to work with the LSBA to encourage and support professionalism among attorneys. As noted above, the Court, through its Continuing Legal Education Committee, requires all attorneys and judges to complete at least one hour of continuing legal education per year on professionalism. The Court has also promulgated, as an aspirational standard, its Code of Professionalism in the courts. Furthermore, as a means of instilling professionalism in attorneys at an early stage of their careers, the justices have participated in the professionalism orientation sessions held at the state’s four law schools in the fall of each year.

Supervision of the Practice of Law. During the period, the Court continued to maintain and improve its supervision of the practice of law by ensuring the quality, competency, and integrity of the bar admissions process, imposing sanctions in disciplinary matters, and requiring continuing legal education.

Encouragement of Pro Bono Activities. The Court continued to encourage members of the bar to participate in pro bono activities. The Court has assisted the LSBA in establishing a program for recruiting and training pro bono attorneys to counsel prisoners in capital post-conviction applications. The Court has also assisted the LSBA in its general efforts to recruit and train pro bono attorneys. In addition, the Court enacted Regulation 3.21 of Supreme Court Rule XXX which awards up to 3 continuing legal education credit to

attorneys who provide uncompensated pro bono legal representation to indigent or near-indigent clients.

Attorney Fee Review Board. The legislature created the Attorney Fee Review Board (La. R.S. 13:5108.3 -13:5108.4) in 2001 to provide for the payment or reimbursement of legal fees and expenses incurred in the successful defense of state officials, officers, and employees, who are charged with criminal conduct arising from acts undertaken in the performance of their duties. Requests for payment or reimbursement of legal fees and expenses were evaluated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the factors set forth in Rule 1.5 of the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct. As directed by law, the board set a minimum hourly rate for legal fees of \$125 and a maximum hourly rate of \$425. Since its creation, the board has reviewed 16 requests for payment from exonerated state officials and employees and has made written recommendations to the legislature as to the reasonableness of such fees and expenses and whether the fees are in accordance with the hourly rates for legal fees for such matters as established by the board.

GOAL IV. ENHANCE JUDICIAL COMPETENCY

“The rule of law, which is a foundation of freedom, presupposes a functioning judiciary respected for its independence, its professional attainments, and the absolute probity of its judges.”¹¹

Objective A. Ensure the highest professional conduct, integrity, and competence of the bench

Intent of the objective. By virtue of the public trust placed in the bench, judges should adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct. Ethical conduct by judges heightens confidence in the legal and judicial

¹¹ *New York State Bd. of Elections v. Lopez Torres*, 552 U.S. at 212, 128 S.Ct. 791 (Kennedy J., concurring).

¹² Chief Justice Wayne Martin, *Chief Justice of Western Australia and Chair, National Judicial College of Australia*.



systems. Standards of conduct for judges serve the dual purpose of protecting the public and enhancing professionalism. The Supreme Court has the lead responsibility for ensuring the development and enforcement of these standards. Regulation of the bench fosters public confidence, particularly when it is open to public scrutiny. A disciplinary process that expeditiously, diligently, and fairly evaluates the merits of each complaint to determine whether standards of conduct have been breached is an essential component of the regulation infrastructure. Further, judicial competence depends on the willingness of the judiciary itself to assure that its members are knowledgeable and skilled in the study of the law and its development, and that judges are trained in the application of legal principles and the art of judging.¹²

Strategy: Develop and make available to judges a 12.5 credit hour training course on enhancing the judicial response to domestic violence. During the period, development continued on the remaining two modules of the course. The developer also improved the voice technology and screen captures. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry is applying for CLE credits for the course.

Strategy: Continue the Judicial Mentoring Program. During the period, the Louisiana District Judges Association, in partnership with the Louisiana Judicial College, facilitated the continuation and expansion of the judicial mentoring program. As part of the program, each new judge was assigned a senior judge who served as a mentor. The program assists new judges in understanding and managing their caseloads, avoiding ethical conflicts, and accessing information and resources.

Strategy : Continued legal education. Judges and lawyers are required to complete a minimum of 12.5 hours of approved continuing

legal education (CLE) each calendar year; one of these required hours must concern legal ethics and another hour must concern professionalism. Five of these hours for judges must be obtained through Judicial College seminars.

Performance indicator: Average number of hours acquired through continuing legal education per judge 2016-2018

Under Supreme Court Rule XXX, judges are required to obtain five of their required 12.5 CLE hours through the Judicial College. During the period, the College offered a total of eleven seminars: City, Juvenile, and Family Judges Seminar; New Judge Training; Occupational Stress Prevention Workshop; Evidence and Procedure Seminar with the Louisiana Association for Justice; Spring Judges Conference; North Louisiana Seminar; Summer School with the Louisiana State Bar Association; Fall Judges Conference; Rural Courts Seminar; Torts Seminar with the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel; and Criminal Courts Seminar. 810 judges attended Judicial College seminars during the period.

The Supreme Court continued to facilitate the activities of the College. Justices serve as co-chairs of the College’s Board of Governors, and through the judicial budgetary and appropriations process the Court provides for a portion of expenses. In addition, the Court offers the services of its Judicial Administrator’s Office to support the Judicial College in various ways. The justices also taught CLE presentations during Judicial College seminars.

Strategy: Through the Judicial College, continue to provide training on judicial ethics. During the period the Judicial College offered continuing legal education sessions on ethics at each of its seminars throughout the state.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS ACQUIRED THROUGH CLE PER JUDGE 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Average number of hours acquired through continuing legal education per judge	30.08	29.03	29.47



Performance indicator: Number of continuing legal education sessions on ethics offered through the Judicial College during the period: 11

Strategy: Continue to fulfill the court’s constitutional duties and responsibilities in reviewing and acting on recommendations of the Judiciary Commission of Louisiana.

The Judiciary Commission of Louisiana is a constitutionally-created body that operates pursuant to Article V, Section 25 of the Louisiana Constitution. The Judiciary Commission evaluates and, where appropriate, investigates complaints of ethical misconduct against judges and other state judicial officers who are subject to the ethical rules contained in the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct and Article V, Section 25 of the Louisiana Constitution. The Judiciary Commission makes recommendations to the Supreme Court that a judge be publicly disciplined when the Commissioners have concluded that clear and convincing evidence has been presented that a judge violated one or more ethical rules. Only the Supreme Court can impose discipline on judges, which can range from censure to removal from office.

The Judiciary Commission also conducts hearings concerning compliance by judges, justices of the peace, and judicial candidates with the financial disclosure requirements contained in Louisiana Supreme Court Rules 39 and 40, and makes recommendations to the Supreme Court

concerning the imposition of monetary penalties in such cases.

Performance indicator: Actions, Complaints, and Dispositions of the Judiciary Commission 2016-2018

Strategy : Continue to administer programs designed to provide guidance and promote enhanced competence in the field of judicial ethics, such as the Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics and the Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee.

The Court, through its Committee on Judicial Ethics, continued to provide a resource to receive inquiries from judges and judicial candidates and to issue formal advisory opinions regarding the interpretation of the Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Judicial Administrator’s Office also provided informal guidance to judges and judicial candidates regarding the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Court’s Judicial Administrator and the lawyers employed in the Judicial Administrator’s Office staff the committee.

The Court has established a permanent Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee, consisting of 15 members, including sitting judges, retired judges, lawyers, and citizens who are neither lawyers nor judges. The purposes of the committee are to educate candidates about the requirements of the Code of Judicial Conduct, to answer questions about proper campaign conduct, and to receive and During the fall 2017 election cycle, 9 contested

ACTIONS, COMPLAINTS, AND DISPOSITIONS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMISSION BY CALENDAR YEAR, 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Requests for Information	288	268	202
Complaints filed	545	533	543
Number screened out	420	316	316
Remaining cases reviewed	125	217	216
Number of files in which the Commission authorized in-depth investigation	71	75	56
Number of formal charges	5	4	6
Number of judges with formal charges	2	2	4
Disposed cases	582	546	428
Pending cases	177	111	226



judicial races fell within the Committee’s oversight jurisdiction and the committee received six complaints. During the spring 2018 election cycle, 3 contested judicial races fell within the Committee’s oversight jurisdiction and the committee received zero complaints.

Strategy: Promote the use of technology to provide necessary information for decision-making by judges while on the bench. During 2018, after a successful pilot project, the CMIS office expanded availability of an interface with the Louisiana Protective Order Registry for judges in order to provide access to protective orders while on the bench to improve the information available to a judge while adjudicating a case. Additionally, grant funding was obtained to implement an electronic uniform commitment order document for use by judges and other tools to leverage technology to provide additional information to judges.

Objective B. Improve communication among courts at all levels

Intent of the objective. Judges at all levels can benefit from sharing their experiences with each other. Such information assists judges to decide like cases without undue disparity, work more collegially together, and to apply proven solutions to court administrative challenges.

Strategy: Continue the Judicial Mentoring Program. During the period, the Louisiana District Judges Association, in partnership with the Louisiana Judicial College, facilitated the continuation and expansion of the judicial mentoring program. As part of the program, each new judge was assigned a senior judge who served as a mentor. The program assists new judges in understanding and managing their caseloads, avoiding ethical conflicts, and accessing information and resources.

Strategy: Facilitate the LDJA website and newsletter. The website committee provides

extensive resources for judges in matters such as criminal procedure best practices, technology within the courts, and equal access to justice for self-represented litigants. The LDJA continued to publish a quarterly newsletter, “Obiter Dictum,” which includes reports from committee work, highlights of community involvement by judges throughout the state, announcements about developments within the judiciary, and messages from the LDJA leaders.

The newsletter is a good conduit for sending information but it is not the only means of communication. The LDJA Executive Committee meets four or five times annually and communicates its work to the district judges through bi-annual General Membership meetings and to other judges at various educational seminars throughout the year.

Strategy: Publish Justice at Work. The Judicial Administrator continued to produce “Justice at Work,” a yearly report on the performance of judges at all levels. The report contains a wealth of information on the activities and operations of courts. The document is searchable and interactive, so a user may do a search or compile a report on a certain court or activity.

Strategy: Appoint judges on all levels to boards and committees. The Court strove to continuously improve its communication and cooperation with judges and judicial associations at all levels. The Court’s Judicial Council consists of representatives from all major judicial associations. Further, all five courts of appeal are involved in the Court’s Human Resources Committee and both the courts of appeal and the district courts are represented on the Judicial Budgetary Control Board.

Performance indicator: The number of initiatives to foster better communication among courts at all levels: 4.



GOAL V. ENHANCE PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

*“The concept of judicial independence is one of the key factors that distinguishes our system of government from others around the world. It protects the weak from the powerful; the minority from the majority; the poor from the rich; yes, even the citizens from excesses of government.”*¹³

Objective A. Domestic violence

Intent of the Objective. In 2016, the latest year data is available, there were 58 domestic homicides in Louisiana.¹⁴ Louisiana ranks 2nd in the nation in the statistic usually used to measure domestic violence - the number of women murdered by men.¹⁵ Reducing domestic violence requires a sustained commitment to victim safety and offender accountability.¹⁶

Strategy: Continue to collect and analyze domestic violence court orders. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR) is the statewide repository of court orders issued to provide protection from domestic abuse, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault and to aid law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts in handling such matters. Further information about LPOR is available in the **Data Collecting and Information Sharing Systems** section of this report.

Performance indicator: LPOR Performance information 2016-2018

Strategy: Participate in the statewide Domestic Violence Prevention

Commission created during the 2014

legislative session. The Commission met four times during the period covered by this report. The Louisiana Protective Order Registry (LPOR), through its Director, participated at meetings and provided statistical information to the commission to facilitate the multi-jurisdictional data needs assessment work of the commission in preparation of the report to the legislature for February 2018.

Strategy: Continue to collaborate with other agencies such as the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault to develop statewide responses to domestic violence. LPOR worked with each coalition after the legislative session ended and received input relative to the creation of the new version (v. 10) of LPOR forms and related products.

Objective B. Juvenile justice

Intent of the Objective. The promise of justice for all is never more important than when it comes to the most vulnerable members of society. Courts all too often encounter youth who have been abused, assaulted, or exploited by once-trusted friends and family members or predatory strangers. Courts must address the special needs of the young.

The intent of the objective is to promote the use of

LPOR PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2016-2018

	2016	2017	2018
Number of orders entered	27,020	28,426	27,159
Time from submission to entry in database	1.64 days	1.93 days	1.59 days
Percentage of orders entered within the goal time period	100%	100%	100%

¹³ Judge Robert C. Leuba, Chief Court Administrator, Connecticut Judicial branch, Program Review and Investigations Committee Public Hearing, October 10, 2000.

¹⁴ The Violence Policy Center, *When Men Murder Women*, 2018. <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2018.pdf>. Accessed 7/13/2020.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*



evidence-based, effective, and measurable developments in science and law in juvenile justice case processing, administration, and planning, with the goal of arriving at the best outcomes for all juveniles who come in contact with the justice system.

Strategy: Continue initiatives to improve the administration of juvenile justice.

During 2018, the Supreme Court continued initiatives designed to improve the administration of juvenile justice.

The Families in Need of Services (FINS) Assistance Program provided funding for informal FINS offices in 42 judicial districts, including Hammond City Court and Morgan City Court. FINS intake officers statewide processed almost 6,200 referrals and continue to provide program and case management strategies that help to increase alternatives to formal processing. Highlights this year include regional evidence-based training attended by FINS officers and staff statewide. In February 2018, the FINS-AP launched an online Community Resource Directory that lists services and interventions throughout the State of Louisiana. And in July 2018, the FINS-AP launched through an internal database The Parish Snapshot to assist the program with identifying a parish or judicial district’s complaint(s) received by primary ground, race, gender and age. This data will allow FINS officers the ability to specifically identify the service needs of their clients and strategically create community-based initiatives within their judicial district.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Assistance Program administered funding for CASA programs in 54 parishes and 37 judicial districts. The CASA Assistance Program administered funding for CASA programs in 54 parishes and 37 judicial districts. In 2018, CASA programs served 3,562 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) eligible children through the advocacy of 1,590 volunteer advocates. Closed child protection cases resulted in 1,379 children being placed in permanent homes. CASA programs trained 505 new volunteers. For 2018, the local CASA programs began utilization of

the “Wellbeing Module” within the CASA case management software. This module enables CASA advocates to develop enhanced advocacy plans for children and helps staff supervisors understand and support the direction of each advocate.

The Supreme Court also provided Child Representation System Oversight over the entities approved for representation of all children in child protection cases in designated jurisdictions statewide and continued its efforts to provide the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement with juvenile Disproportionate Minority Contact data.

Strategy: Support implementation of the Court Improvement Program strategic plan by the Pelican Center for Children and Families.

The Court Improvement Program (CIP), through the Pelican Center for Children and Families, provided both legal and interdisciplinary training and education programs designed to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being of abused and neglected children in our state. During 2018, the Pelican Center offered 43 different online training opportunities and 29 in-person trainings or workshops, which resulted in 2,357 hours of CLE awarded to judges and attorneys.

Other 2018 CIP activities focused on the federal Child and Family Services Review which assesses safety, permanency and child well-being outcomes for the state as a whole. The CIP continued its efforts around implementation of management information systems for attorneys representing abused and neglected children to support management of those cases by the programs to provide a mechanism to collect data in support of CIP work to improve permanency outcomes, the quality of legal representation for children and indigent parents.

The CIP Judicial Fellow provided support to judges hearing Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases, and provided information and mentoring to new judges assuming CINC jurisdiction. Another area of intense work by the CIP involved a joint project with the Louisiana Department of



Children and Families to improve the quality of safety decision making by the courts in CINC cases. The safety work made substantial progress in 2018 with the Pelican Center providing 4 live 6-hour, interdisciplinary training events across the state, in addition to 4 quarterly webinars on Law and Best Practices in Safety Decision Making.

Strategy: Support the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Statewide Leadership Collaborative supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation regarding juvenile justice.

The Supreme Court was officially included in the membership of the Louisiana Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Statewide Leadership Collaborative by HCR 102 to provide judicial leadership with the statewide implementation of JDAI. The JDAI is a comprehensive system reform model that safely reduces reliance on secure detention for at-risk-youth. This system reform model has proven to reduce detention populations, improve public safety outcomes, expand alternative programs, enhance conditions of confinement, and reduce racial disparities. The Supreme Court’s participation with the collaborative allowed the state to continue statewide implementation of the eight JADI core strategies (Collaboration, Data, Alternatives to Detentions, Admission Instruments, Case Processing, Special Detention Cases, Reducing Racial Disparities, and Improving Conditions of Confinement).

Objective C. Elder law – guardianships, response to elder abuse for a rapidly increasing population

Intent of the Objective. As noted in Objective B above, the promise of justice for all is never more important than when it comes to the most vulnerable members of society. Senior citizens who have been physically abused, sexually assaulted, or financially exploited by once-trusted friends and family members or predatory strangers need the protection of law as

enforced by the court system.¹⁸

Information on this objective was not collected during the period of this report.

Objective D. Human trafficking

Intent of the Objective. State courts nationwide are now becoming aware that many people in the courts may have been “induced, recruited, harbored, obtained, or transported by force, fraud, or coercion, for commercial sex or labor...it is now becoming apparent that many of the tens of thousands of juvenile and adult prostitutes who have contact with state courts may be trafficking victims.¹⁹ Similarly, court practitioners are now becoming aware that human trafficking can manifest itself in a variety of court settings such as drug sales, theft, and peddling by individuals who may be trafficking victims, as well as in child protection cases.”²⁰

Strategy : Coordinate efforts to address and prevent human trafficking. Human trafficking has been defined by many as a “Modern Day Slavery,” which studies have demonstrated is a \$9.8 billion industry in the United States. Statistics have proven that there are two minors sold every minute in the United States, and every twenty-six seconds a child is sold into this modern day slavery. In an effort to raise human trafficking awareness and to eradicate this phenomena in Louisiana, the judiciary, in collaboration with the governor’s office, the executive branch, legislative branch, and other key stakeholders, has made the issue of human trafficking a top priority. Louisiana has made great efforts to prevent and eradicate human trafficking. In fact, in 2012 and 2016 Shared Hope International, under the Protected Innocence Challenge, which annually analyzes the progress of each state to eradicate sex trafficking, ranked Louisiana’s laws on domestic minor sex trafficking the best in the country.

The judiciary is most proud of the hard work and dedication of the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission, chaired by Fourth Circuit

¹⁸ Mary Campbell McQueen, Preface, *Trends in State Courts 2014: Special Focus on Juvenile Justice and Elder Issues* p. vii.

¹⁹ Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative, *A Guide to Human Trafficking for State Courts*, July 2014, p. 15.

²⁰ *Id.*



Court of Appeal Judge Joy Cossich Lobrano. During the period covered by this report, Judge Lobrano, along with the Louisiana Human Trafficking Advisory Board, completed its 2018 Annual Report. This report is a comprehensive study which identifies multiple levels of intervention, which includes education, training, fostering coalitions, strengthening individual resilience, systemic changes of organizational practices, and influencing policy and legislation. The study sets forth a recommendation that the judiciary establish a three-year plan to coordinate with and compliment the three-year initiatives of the governor’s office. The annual report was approved by the Justices of the Supreme Court and presented to Governor John Bel Edwards. Specifically, the 2018 Human Trafficking Prevention Commission Report recommends that Louisiana create a viable funding stream to provide specialized shelters and/or placement and services to human trafficking victims and to develop and implement prevention initiatives to combat human trafficking before it occurs.

Objective E. Immigration

Intent of the Objective. A wide range of legal issues—including employment, workers’ compensation, pleas, traffic, family, and malpractice—can involve immigrants (legal or illegal) and present special concerns for courts.²¹ Court administration, too, is affected. Courts must provide interpreters and other services, as well as adequate staffing levels in areas with growing populations. Newly enacted and proposed documentation requirements, moreover, pose a paperwork challenge for already strapped courts.

Strategy: Expand the Supreme Court interpreter program list of registered and certified interpreters through orientations,

skills classes, and testing, and expand access to qualified interpreters nationwide. The Supreme Court developed the Louisiana Court Interpreter Training Program to serve litigants of limited English proficiency in the Louisiana court system by enhancing access to justice through quality interpreting services. Prior to the period of this report, the Court adopted the Code of Professional Responsibility for Language Interpreters and adopted policies that established a two-tier interpreter qualification and testing program consisting of “Registered” and “Certified” court interpreters. The program was initially funded in part by a grant from the State Justice Institute and currently includes court interpreter orientation classes around the state, oral exam preparation, and advanced skills classes, and the administration of English proficiency exams, translation exams, and the court interpreter oral certification exam.

During the period of this report, the number of Certified and/or Registered court interpreters increased to 151 in the languages of Amharic, Arabic, French, German, Haitian Creole, Italian, Laotian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and American Sign. In May 2016, the Supreme Court hosted the annual national conference of the Council for Language Access Coordinators. A current list of Registered and Certified court interpreters, information and registration for upcoming training opportunities and testing, the application for court interpreter reciprocity, and other information about the program is available on the Supreme Court website at www.lasc.org.

Performance Indicator: Interpreter program information for calendar years 2016-2018

INTERPRETER PROGRAM INFORMATION 2016-2018

	2016 ²²	2017	2018
Number of attendees at Supreme Court interpreter trainings	94	148	67
Cumulative number of registered court interpreters in Louisiana	133	160	146
Cumulative number of certified court interpreters in Louisiana	14	15	19

²¹ Skove, *Disorder in the Court; The Implications of Immigration and Immigration Reform on State Courts, Future Trends in State Courts 2007*, p. 72.

²² Reflects updated figures received after the publication of the 2015-2016 Justice at Work Report.

