

NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION OF LAW & JUSTICE

North Carolina Court Operations
An Overview

September 30, 2015
Jon Williams, Chief Reporter

Today's Topics

- The work and the people
- The technology
- The funding

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Topic: The Work and the People

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Clerks of Superior Court

- Each county elects a Clerk of Superior Court, minimum staff of 5
- Administrative, clerical, and recordkeeping functions of trial courts
- Clerk is Judge of Probate
- Original Jurisdiction: Probate and Estates, Special Proceedings (Condemnation, Adoptions, Partitions, Foreclosures, etc.), may accept guilty pleas or admissions of responsibility and enter judgments in certain cases
- Collection and disbursement of court costs (fees, fines, forfeitures, restitution)

Elected Clerks of Superior Court: 100 FTE
Assistant Clerks (Division Chiefs): 613 FTE
Deputy Clerks: 1,916.85 FTE
Conference of Clerks: 2 FTE
TOTAL: 2,631.85 FTE

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Magistrates

Original Jurisdiction:

- Issue Warrants
- Set Bail
- Accept Guilty Pleas for Minor Misdemeanors and Infractions
- May accept waivers for worthless check cases
- Small Claims (\$10,000 or less)
- Landlord Eviction Cases
- Suits for recovery of personal property and mechanics' liens

674.6 FTE

- Minimum of 3 magistrates per county

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District Court

- Original Jurisdiction:
 - Misdemeanor cases
 - Probable cause hearings
 - Guilty/no contest pleas in certain felony cases
 - Civil cases \$25,000 or less
 - Juvenile Proceedings
 - Domestic Relations
 - Mental Health Hospital Commitments

District Court Judges: 270 FTE
District Court Judicial Staff: 90.5 FTE

TOTAL: 360.5 FTE

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Superior Court

- Original Jurisdiction:
 - All Felony Cases
 - Jury Trials
 - Civil Cases \$25,000 or more
 - Decisions of most administrative agencies

Elected Superior Court Judges: 97 FTE
 Special Superior Court Judges: 15 FTE (includes 3 Business Court Judges)
 Superior Court Judicial Staff: 193.125 (includes court reporters)

TOTAL: 305.125 FTE

Superior Court/Business Court

- Special statewide venue of civil Superior Court
- Complex and significant issues of corporate and commercial law assigned to a special judge
- 3 Business Courts Chambers in NC: Wake, Guilford, Mecklenburg
- Cases may be tried in all 100 counties
- 231 pending cases on 12/31/2014
 - 23 on appeal
 - 19 inactive or stayed
- 133 cases closed in 2014
- 122 new cases assigned in 2014

Other Special Courts are not available statewide: e.g. Family, Veterans, Drug Treatment

Court of Appeals



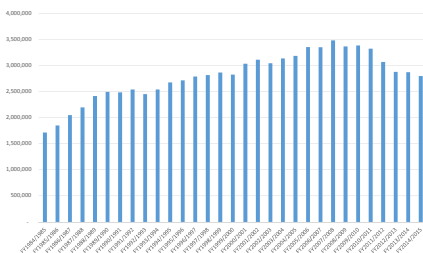
- Civil and Juvenile Appeals from District Courts
- Appeals in non first-degree capital murder criminal cases from Superior Court
- State agency decisions

Supreme Court

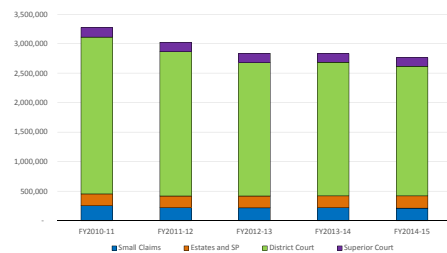


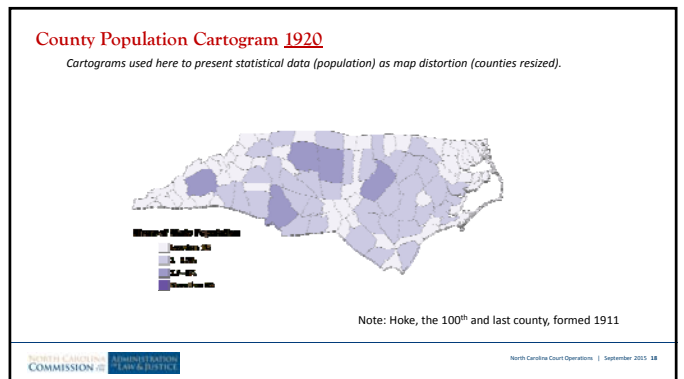
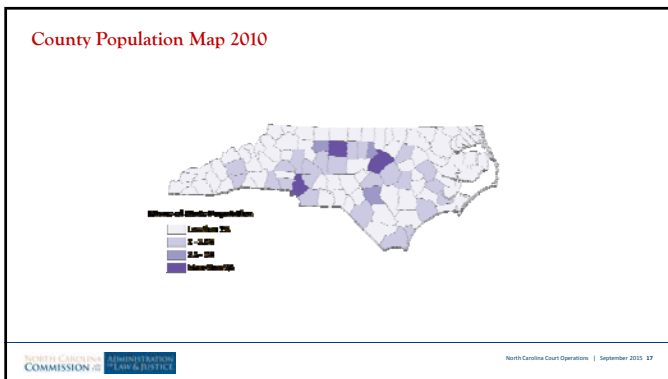
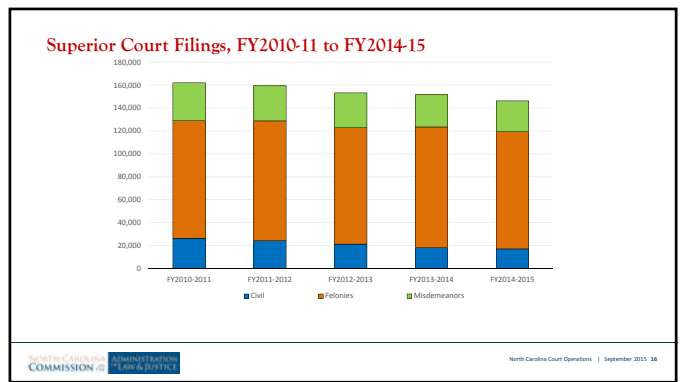
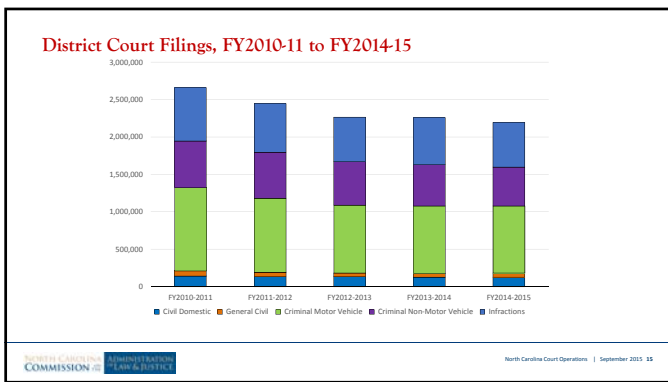
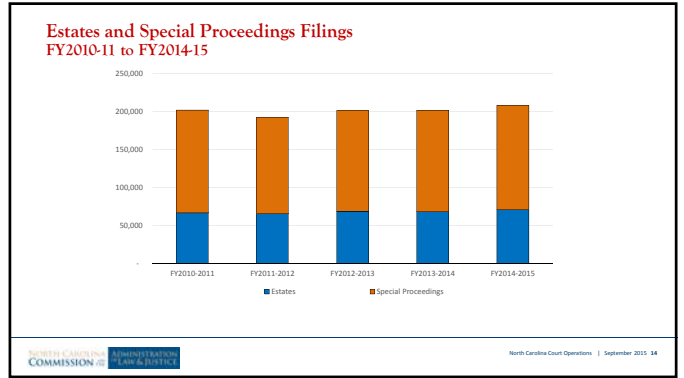
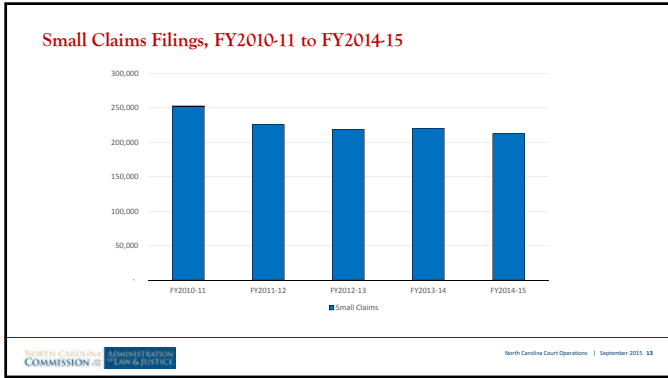
- Constitutional questions
- Cases in which the Court of Appeals has had dissent
- Cases of significant public interest
- Cases involving legal principles of major significance
- Appeals in first-degree capital murder cases in which the defendant has been sentenced to death
- Appeals or final orders in Utilities Commission general rate cases
- Redistricting cases

Total Filings 1985 - 2015



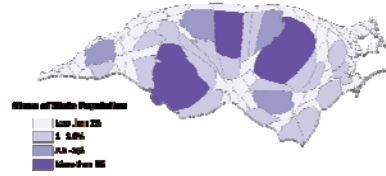
Court Filings, FY2010-11 to FY2014-15



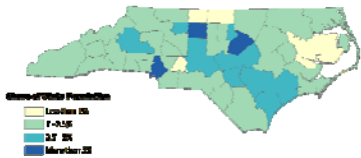


Fast forward 100 years

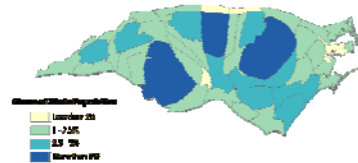
County Population Cartogram Proj. 2020



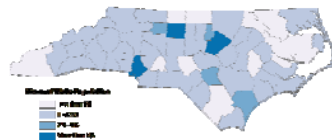
District Court Population Map 2010



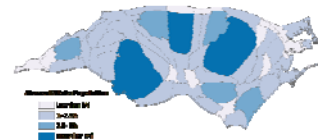
District Court Population Cartogram Proj. 2020



Superior Court Population Map 2010



Superior Court Population Cartogram Proj. 2020



Transactions Flowing through the Court Information System

- NCAWARE**
 - Over 10 million processes (served and unserved)
 - 1.9 million+ processes added in 2014
 - 42,000+ court and law enforcement users
 - 2,000+ processes served each day
- Automated Criminal/Infractions System (ACIS)**
 - ~2.3 million cases filed
 - ~2.4 million case dispositions
 - >1.1 million transactions/day
 - 27,000 users
- Criminal Court Information System – Clerk Component (CCIS-CC)**
 - ~2 million cases processed/year (2012-2013)
 - ~25,000 automatic record corrections fed to DMV systems
- Criminal Court Information System – District Attorney (CCIS-DA)**
 - Over 7 million cases tracked
 - 1,300 users

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Transactions Flowing through the Court Information System

- Discovery Automation System (DAS)**
 - Over 500,000 documents under management
 - Over 63 million pages
 - Over 4,500 users
- eCitation®**
 - ~8 million citations processed since inception (1999)
 - 90% of all non-arrestable citations statewide
 - 1.5M citations created annually
 - Used by over 17,000 officers in over 400 law enforcement agencies
- payNCticket®**
 - 654,000 citations paid; \$145 million collected since inception
- Credit Card Payments**
 - 100 counties
 - 500 transactions/day
 - Over 210,000 transactions and over \$35 million collected since 1/2014

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North Carolina Judicial Center Data Center – Partial Equipment List


- 2 mainframe computers
- 575 data center servers (virtual and physical)
- 3 storage area networks (~1.4 PB)
- Data replication system
- Tape backup systems
- Uninterruptible power supplies
- Backup power generator
- High availability/redundant architecture
- Disaster Recovery



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NCAOC Judicial Branch Applications

- NCAOC supports over 200 applications
- Age of 53 enterprise-level applications:
 - Less than 5 years: 11
 - 5 – 10 years old: 21
 - 11 – 15 years old: 10
 - 16 – 20 years old: 2
 - More than 20 years old: 9

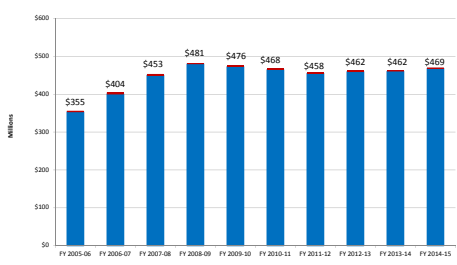


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Topic: The Funding

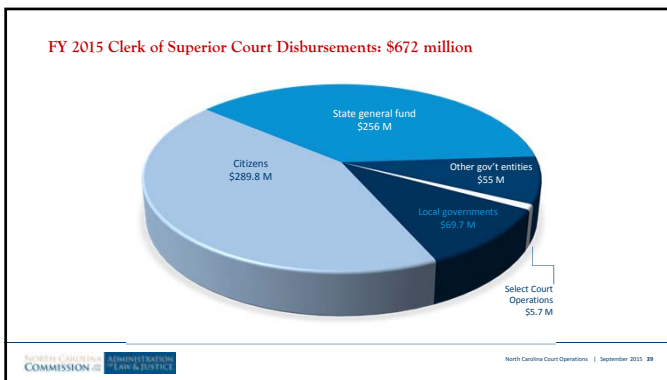
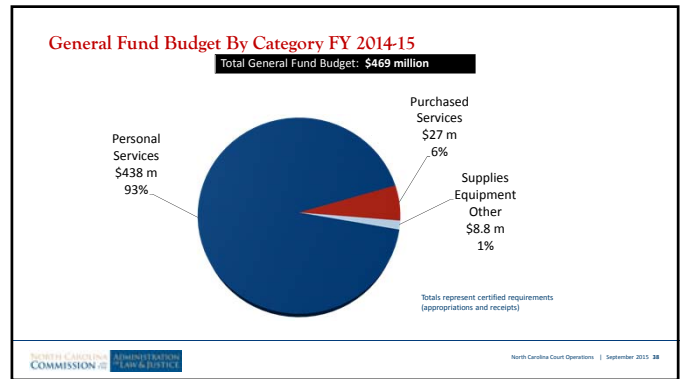
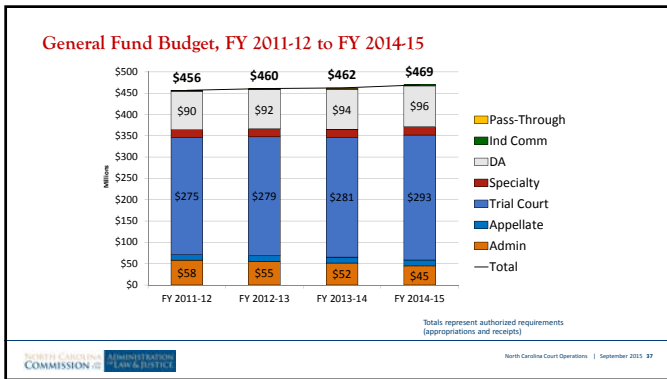
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General Fund Budget, FY 2005-06 to FY 2014-15



Totals represent certified requirements (appropriations and receipts) FY 2009 adjusted for ABRA receipts

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Considering how North Carolina courts can best meet
 institutional needs
 and 21st century public expectations