

OVERVIEW OF FLORIDA'S STATE COURTS SYSTEM

MISSION

The mission of the judicial branch is to protect rights and liberties, uphold and interpret the law, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

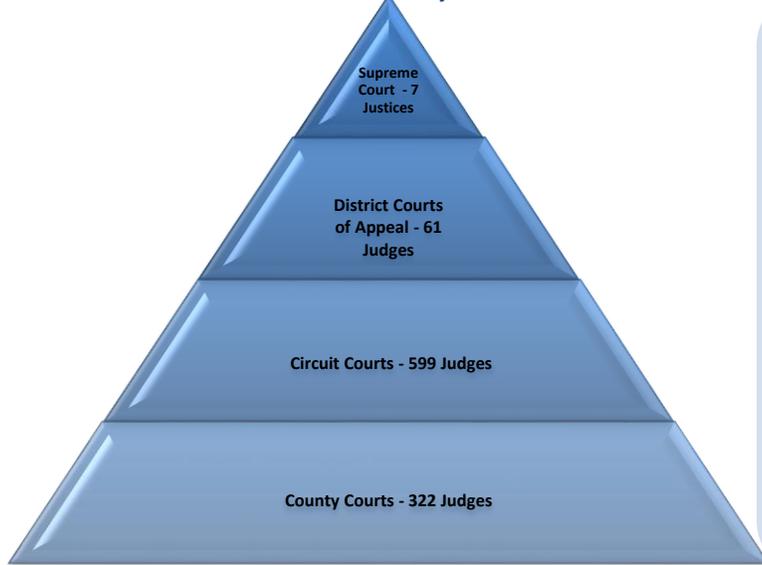
VISION

Justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive, and accountable.

STRUCTURE

Florida's courts system consists of the Supreme Court, the district courts of appeal, the circuit courts, and the county courts. The Chief Justice is the chief administrative officer of the judicial branch. Operational administrative authority is vested in the chief judges of the district courts and the trial courts.

Florida Judiciary: 989



APPELLATE COURTS

Supreme Court

- Seven justices, six-year terms
- Sits in Tallahassee
- Five justices constitute a quorum

District Courts of Appeal

- 61 judges, six-year terms
- Five districts: 1st – Tallahassee, 15 judges; 2nd – Lakeland, 14 judges; 3rd – Miami, 10 judges; 4th – West Palm Beach, 12 judges; 5th – Daytona Beach, 10 judges
- Cases generally reviewed by three-judge panels

TRIAL COURTS

Circuit Courts

- 599 judges, six-year terms
- 20 judicial circuits
- Number of judges in each circuit based on caseload
- Judges preside individually, not on panels

County Courts

- 322 judges, six-year terms
- At least one judge in each of the 67 counties

CASE FILINGS¹

FY 2012-13 Trial Court Filings by Division

Adult Criminal	Circuit Civil	Family Court ²	Probate	County Adult Criminal	County Civil ³	Total Filings
186,845	294,241	289,755	107,172	656,637	1,871,983	3,406,633

FY 2012-13 District Court of Appeal Notices of Appeal and Petitions

Administrative	Civil	Criminal	Criminal Post Convict.	Family	Juvenile	Probate/Guardianship	Workers' Compensation	Total Filings
1,084	6,102	9,342	5,305	1,382	1,185	230	231	24,861

FY 2012-13 Supreme Court Filings

Initial Death Penalty	Post Conviction Death Pen. Appeals	Other Mand. Review Jurisdiction Cases	Discretionary Review Jurisdiction Cases	Original Writ Petitions	The Florida Bar Cases	Other Original Jurisdiction Cases	Total Filings
19	83	76	1,064	906	335	138	2,621

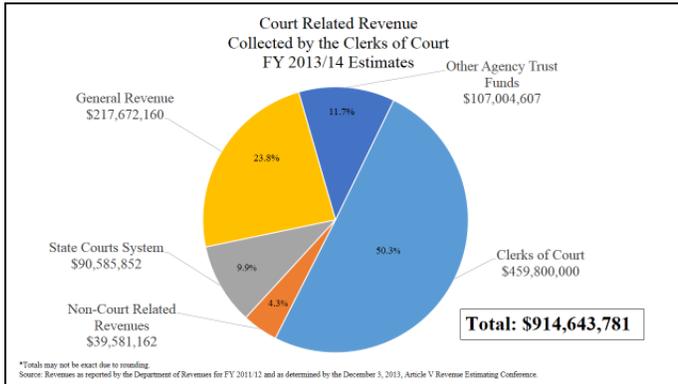
¹ FY 2012-13 filings information is preliminary data subject to modification.

² Family court filings include domestic relations, juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, and termination of parental rights.

³ These data do not include all civil traffic infractions reported to DHSMV; they represent only those filings involving a judge or hearing officer.

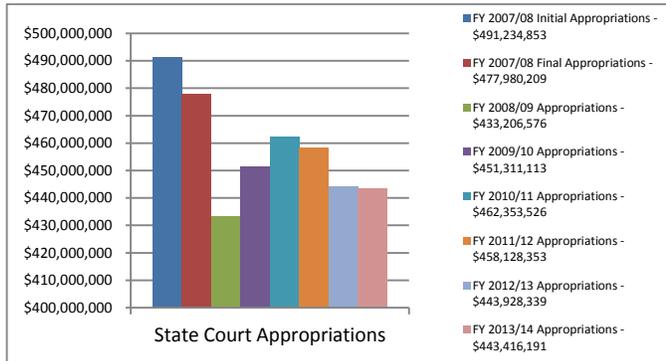
COURT FUNDING

Florida's Courts Generate Close to \$1 Billion a Year



Florida's courts typically generate around \$1 billion a year, which is more than enough to support court operations, but a significant portion is spent on non-court programs and services.

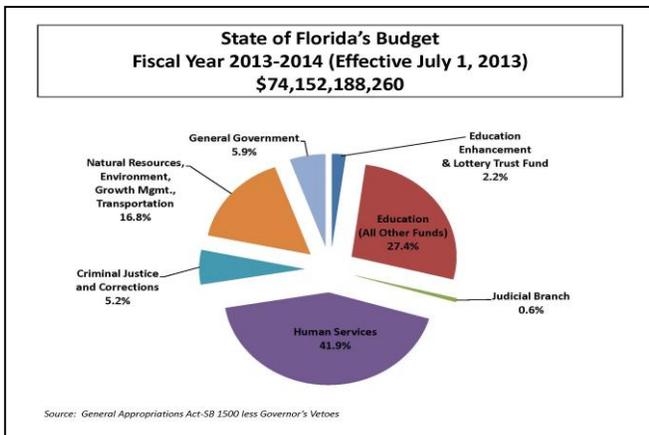
Florida's Courts System Has Participated in the State's Spending Reductions



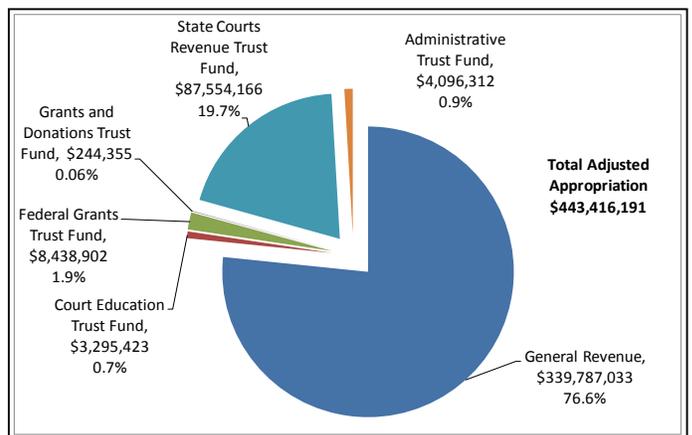
Cuts in State Court Staffing
Sustained net reductions since FY 2007/08: 246 positions.

Florida's state courts are called upon to fairly and efficiently resolve cases that are important to individuals, families, businesses, and to our economy as a whole. Reductions in court staff affect the courts system's ability to process cases in a timely manner.

Florida's Budget FY 2013-14



State Courts System Appropriations FY 2013-14



FURTHER INFORMATION

This document was prepared by the Office of the State Courts Administrator. For further information about Florida's State Courts System, please visit www.flcourts.org.