

## Orleans Parish Court Weighted Case Counts Minimal Judicial Officers and Report Specifications

Orleans Parish includes multiple courts with varying and sometimes overlapping jurisdictions. In computing Orleans Criminal District Court's case load, the calculations were based on filing numbers provided to the Supreme Court through their internal data collection system as well as the numbers reported and certified by the Orleans Parish Criminal Clerk of Court. Subsequently, the Chief Judge of Orleans Criminal Court worked with the Clerk of Court to review the reports and determined that additional cases were initially overlooked. These numbers were reviewed for accuracy and reliability; additional case filings were added to the formula computation. However, additional filing numbers are not reflected in the Supreme Court's Annual report, as they were provided and verified after the printing deadline.

- District Courts (trial courts)
  - Orleans Parish Civil District Court
  - Orleans Parish Criminal District Court
  - Orleans Parish Juvenile District Court
- Limited Jurisdiction Courts
  - New Orleans Municipal and Traffic Court
  - First City Court
  - Second City Court

The National Center for State Court's study evaluated the case 'weights' for both appellate and trial courts but did not evaluate case weights for limited jurisdiction (city) courts. Any information provided about the cases filed for the limited jurisdiction courts is not intended to reflect the number of 'appropriate' judges in those courts or to assess their resource needs. Instead, the inclusion of cases filed in other courts serves to:

- Provide a clear picture of the total cases filed in Orleans as a whole and the resources available to meet those needs.
- Heighten accuracy of comparisons across jurisdictions. Because other parishes/jurisdictions differ in their configuration and may have adjudicative authority for cases/case-types filed in Orleans limited jurisdiction courts, review of other jurisdictions' workload will provide necessary context.

The numbers referenced below are based on counts provided by court Clerks and the CMIS criminal data (Orleans Parish Criminal District Court only). In addition to the annual report data, Orleans Civil District Court and First and Second City Courts provided counts of everything in their databases, using their existing case-types. Database information was used to assess case weights but did not add to or supplement the filing data previously reported by the respective courts for the LASC Annual Report.

Based on the case types and sub-categories that were determined during the NCSC study period, the categories were mapped to the primary case-types selected by the district court advisory committee and then assigned their related case weights.

### Orleans Parish District Courts

#### District Court Case Types and Weights

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Case Weight (in minutes)</b>
General Civil	77
Contracts and Torts	48
Property	36
Probate/Succession	27
Family/Domestic	150
Civil/Discovery Protective Orders	51
Juvenile Civil/Non-Delinquency	105
Juvenile Delinquency	50
Capital/ Life without Parole	696
Violent Felonies	354
Non-Violent Felonies	78
Misdemeanor	18
Specialty Courts/Problem-Solving Courts	428

Total Case Minutes per year, per district judge: 77,258 (based on 6.13 hour day)

#### Civil District Court

Case Type	Case filings	Cases x Minutes	Minimum required	Current N Judges
General Civil	2,739	210,903		
Contracts and Torts	4,011	192,528		
Property	1,132	40,752		
Probate/succession	1,299	35,073		
Family/domestic	3,338	500,700		
Orleans Civil Totals	12,519	979,956	12.7	14

#### Criminal District Court

Case Type	Case filings	Cases x Minutes	Minimum required	Current N Judges
Misdemeanors	1,218	21,924		
NV Felonies	1,714	133,692		
V Felonies	1,018	360,372		
Capital/LWOP	113	78,648		
Specialty courts	46	19,688		
Orleans Criminal Totals	4,109	614,324	8.0	13

The filing count above may vary from the numbers provided for the annual report. As referenced previously, more filings were added after further review, and relative to the data migration to the new case management system. Also, civil forfeiture hearings and post-conviction relief applications that might have been included in the annual report counts were excluded here because these matters, reported as additional “filing,” are relative to a previously filed criminal case and if counted would be duplicative.

The specialty court detail was provided by the Supreme Court Drug Court databases and is lower than expected. Pre-trial monitoring programs and misdemeanor probation programs that are the purview of court staff are not included in specialty court counts; however, any cases that were accepted/filed are counted in the relevant case-type category. Should there be verifiable case counts higher than indicated below, additional filings would necessitate a supplemental computation.

#### Juvenile Court

Case Type	Case filings	Cases x Minutes	Minimum required	Current N Judges
Juvenile Civil	476	49,980		
*Juvenile Delinquency	930	46,500		
Orleans Juvenile Totals	1,406	96,480	1.2	4

\*includes juvenile traffic citations

The juvenile counts come from the court’s annual report submission. An inquiry to the Chief Judge and clerk was made for filing data confirmation. Verified supplemental filings here would also necessitate a new computation. Also of interest is whether additional context or nuances in filing practices might be relevant. Specifically, specialty court programs and the number of cases enrolled in 2025 would add value to workload. Supreme Court staff visits to other juvenile courts are recommended to determine whether there are inconsistencies in case filing and counting methods.

#### Orleans Municipal & City Court Cases

Orleans Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Case Type	Count	Minutes	Minimum Required	Current N Judges
First City Court	Property	4,307	155,052		
	Contract & Torts	5,160	247,680	5.2	3
Second City Court	Property	1,068	38,448		
	Contracts & Torts	388	18,108	.73	1
Municipal Court	Misdemeanors	3,579	64,422		
	Contested traffic	14,656	263,808	4.2	7
<b>Totals</b>		<b>29,158</b>	<b>787,518</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>11</b>