SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

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1996

ANNUAL REPORT

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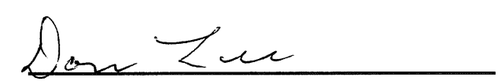
FOREWORD

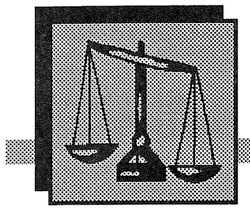
I am pleased to report that this year's statistical picture indicates that the new appellate structure which has been operational since January of 1995 is indeed working to reduce the backlog of cases. Together, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals have disposed of 1,453 cases this year. In the years preceding 1995, the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court steadily increased. Since 1995, however, the number of pending cases at each year's end has decreased. The total decrease in the number of pending cases in the past two years is 527 cases. Of the 1,583 cases presently pending, only 573 of these are ready for submission to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. The remaining 1,010 cases are in various stages of record preparation and briefing.

Another exciting development this year has been the introduction of the Court's World Wide Web page on the Internet. Since April, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals have provided free access to their opinions over the Internet. Trial judges, lawyers, the press, and the general public can now access full-text opinions of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals on the day the respective courts render the decisions and may download the opinions at no cost. The Court's World Wide Web site can be found at "http://www.mssc.state.ms.us".

We believe these accomplishments are of great benefit to the citizens of this state, and we will continue to work towards eliminating the backlog of cases, providing greater access to the courts, and improving the image of the judiciary.



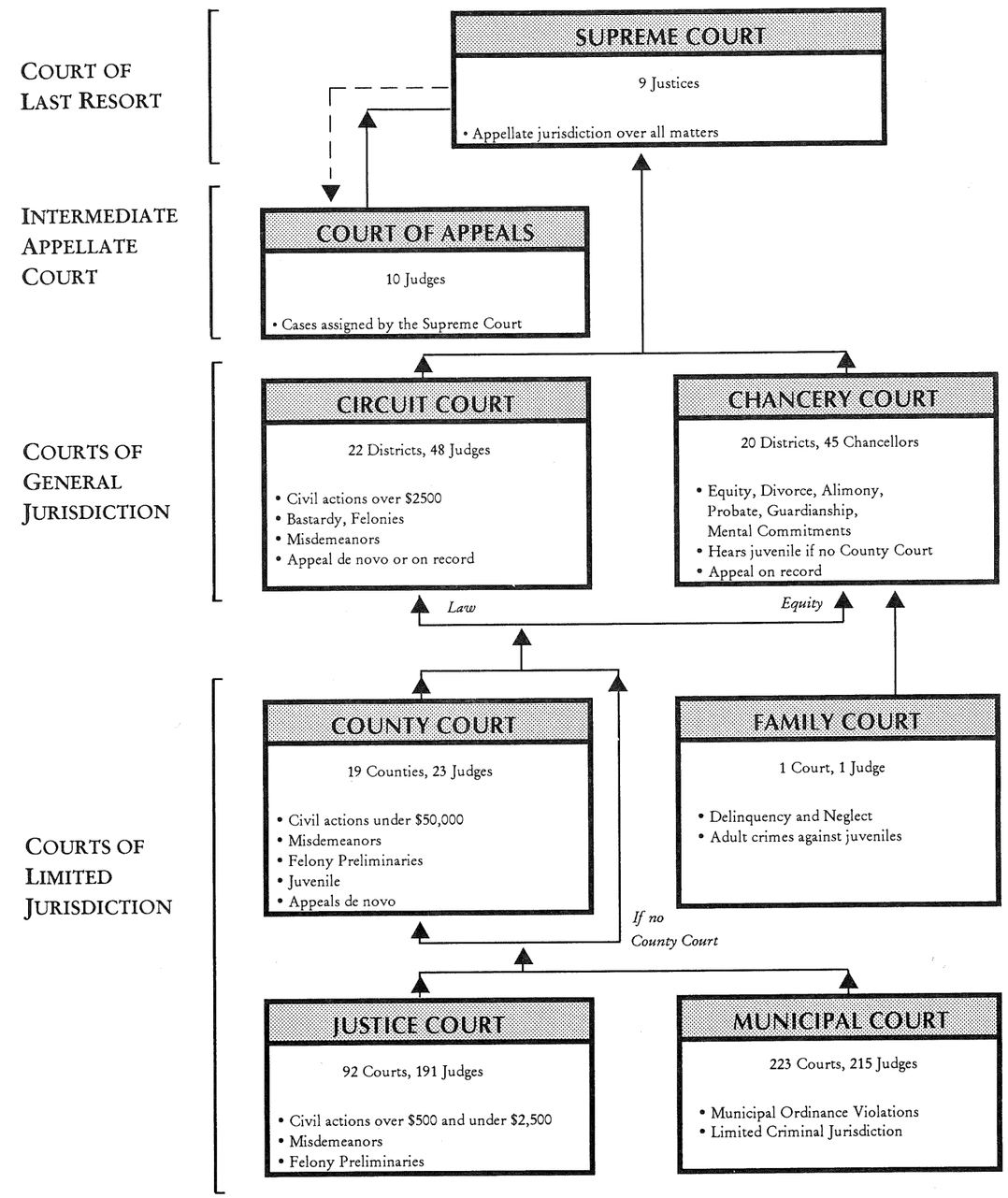
DAN LEE
Chief Justice



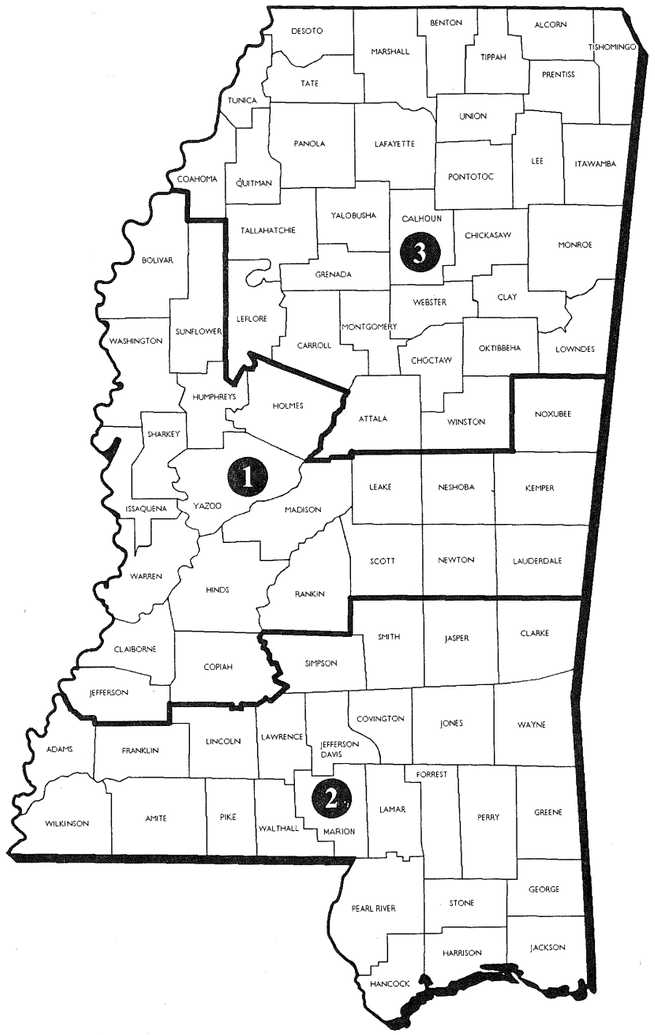
MISSISSIPPI COURT SYSTEM

- Organizational Chart
- Court Districts
- Funding and Administration

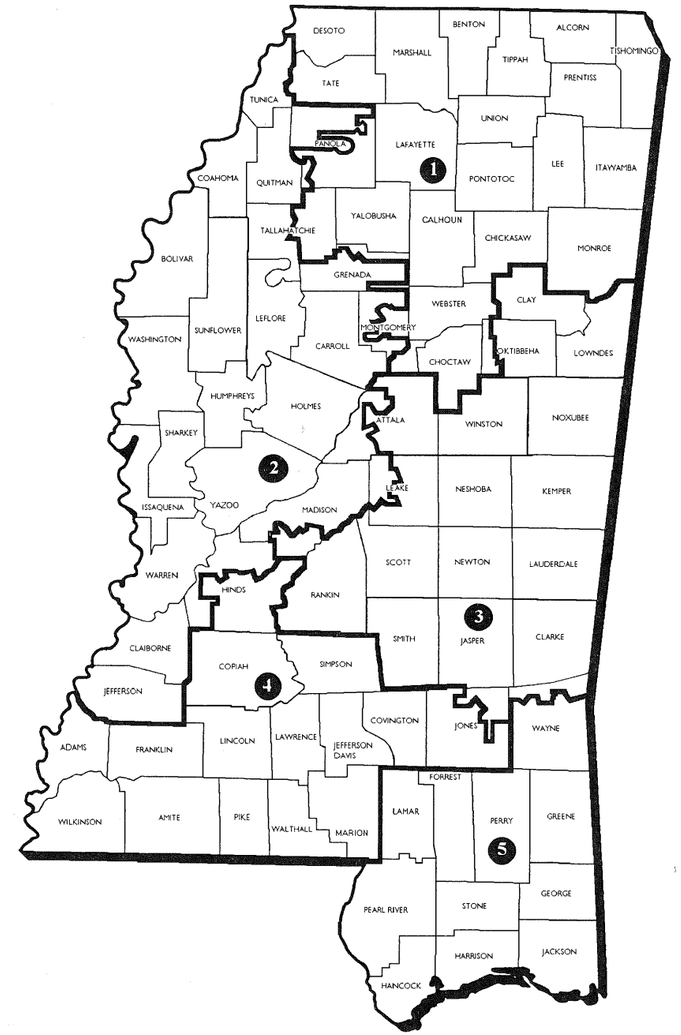
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



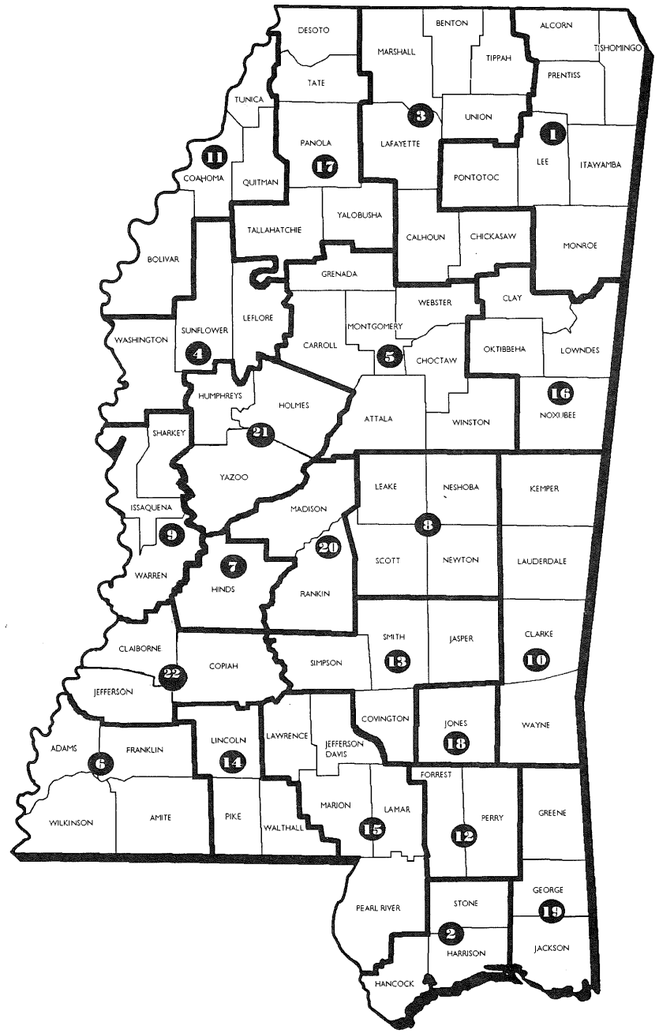
SUPREME COURT DISTRICTS



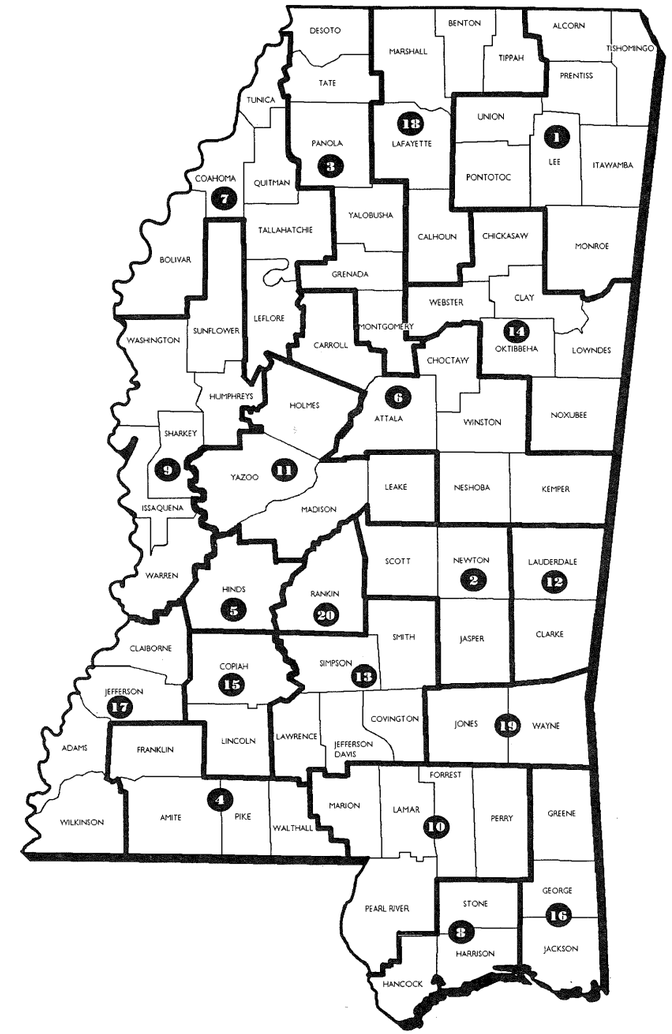
COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICTS



CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS



CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS



FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration of Mississippi's courts emanates from the Supreme Court, with administrative authority vested primarily in the Chief Justice. Independent of many executive branch restrictions, the judiciary directs many central functions of information systems and finance. Effective July 1, 1991, administrative authority for state monies benefiting Circuit and Chancery Courts was vested in the Supreme Court. Effective January 1, 1995, the Court of Appeals was created to alleviate the escalating workload of the Supreme Court.

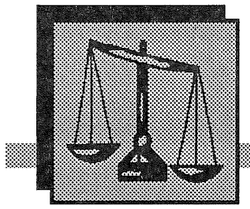
For purposes of this illustration, fiscal year 1997 appropriations for general fund agencies are classified into sixteen major functions within state government. The Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Chancery and Circuit Judges, Administrative Office of Courts, and Judicial Performance Commission, which are included in the Judiciary and Justice Function, are funded almost entirely from general funds. General fund agencies are those departments, institutions, boards, or commissions of the State of Mississippi which are supported in whole or in part by appropriations from general tax collections.

The Judiciary, included in the Judiciary and Justice Function, receives 0.83% (less than one percent) of the total general tax collection dollars annually. The funds allocated to the Judiciary account for 50/100ths of one percent (0.50%) of the total funds appropriated. The allocation to the Judiciary is divided as follows: 39.25% to the Circuit and Chancery Judges; 16.02% to the Supreme Court; 11.96% to the Court of Appeals; 31.99% to the Administrative Office of Courts; and 0.78% to Judicial Performance.

COMPARISON OF FY97 APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNCTION

	General Funds Appropriated	Percent	Total Funds Appropriated	Percent
Legislative	17,390,857	0.62%	19,715,857	0.30%
Executive and Administration	3,089,130	0.11%	3,089,130	0.05%
Fiscal Affairs	84,167,138	3.01%	139,038,196	2.12%
Education (Public and Higher)	1,565,393,920	55.96%	2,670,511,172	40.80%
Public Health	34,991,308	1.25%	180,541,503	2.76%
Hospitals and Hospital Schools	159,317,842	5.70%	321,992,146	4.92%
Agriculture and Commerce	85,148,957	3.04%	215,549,611	3.29%
Conservation	47,733,870	1.71%	197,458,947	3.02%
Insurance and Banking	105,072	0.01%	105,072	0.00%
Corrections	183,086,019	6.55%	190,957,059	2.92%
Social Welfare	302,672,033	10.82%	2,196,286,725	33.55%
Military, Police, and Veterans Affairs	70,681,385	2.53%	139,447,114	2.13%
Local Assistance	69,800,000	2.50%	69,800,000	1.07%
Miscellaneous	27,133,457	0.97%	28,089,457	0.43%
Debt Service	100,515,473	3.59%	112,515,473	1.72%
Judiciary and Justice:				
Supreme Court	4,948,996	0.18%	5,302,871	0.08%
Court of Appeals	3,959,139	0.14%	3,959,139	0.06%
Circuit and Chancery Judges	12,993,714	0.46%	12,993,714	0.20%
Administrative Office of Courts	1,254,207	0.04%	10,591,722	0.16%
Judicial Performance	257,269	0.01%	257,269	0.00%
Attorney General's Office	6,159,610	0.22%	11,306,326	0.17%
District Attorneys and Staff	10,902,064	0.39%	10,902,064	0.17%
Compulsory Attendance	5,442,159	0.19%	5,442,159	0.08%
GRAND TOTALS	2,797,143,619	100.00%	6,545,852,726	100.00%

Source: Legislative Budget Office-Fiscal Year 1997 Budget



SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

- ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION
- HIGHLIGHTS AND MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS
- THE JUSTICES
- COURT FINANCES
- CASELOAD SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

By mandate of the citizens of Mississippi, the judicial power of the State of Mississippi is vested in the Supreme Court and any additional courts for which provision is made in the Constitution. The Supreme Court sits as Mississippi's court of last resort. The Court is composed of nine elected justices, three from each Supreme Court district. To be eligible for the office of Supreme Court justice, a candidate must be thirty years of age and have been a practicing attorney and a Mississippi citizen for five years prior to appointment.

Justices are elected for staggered terms of eight years. By statute, the Chief Justice is the member of the Court with the longest tenure. The two justices next ranking in tenure are designated as Presiding Justices. Members of the Court in 1996 include Chief Justice Dan M. Lee, Presiding Justice Lenore L. Prather, Presiding Justice Michael D. Sullivan, Justice Edwin Lloyd Pittman, Justice Fred L. Banks, Jr., Justice C.R. "Chuck" McRae, Justice James L. Roberts, Jr., Justice James W. Smith, Jr., and Justice Michael P. Mills.

The Supreme Court is given such jurisdiction as is properly held by a court of appeals. The Court hears appeals from Circuit and Chancery Courts and also entertains direct appeals from the County Courts in cases of eminent domain and in those felony criminal cases transferred by the Circuit Court to County Court for trial. A case originating in Justice or Municipal Court, which has been appealed first to the County Court and then to the Circuit Court, can be appealed directly to the Supreme Court only where a constitutional question is implicated and the appeal is allowed by the Circuit Court judge or a Supreme Court justice.

The Court sits in panels of three justices. The Chief Justice and the two Presiding Justices each preside over a panel. The remaining justices are rotated among the three panels. A cause will be decided by the full Court where the justices on a panel differ as to the judgment on appeal, a justice certifies that a decision is in conflict with a prior decision, or the cause is of sufficient importance to be considered by all nine justices.

Since July of 1996, the Supreme Court, operating under new internal procedures, has issued a written opinion in every decision on the merits. A written opinion may or may not be designated for publication.

The Court now screens all appeals filed in the Supreme Court to determine which are appropriate for assignment to the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court must also decide whether to review a decision of the Court of Appeals when a party seeks review in the Supreme Court by filing a petition for writ of certiorari.

Supporting the Supreme Court are a number of legal and administrative divisions. The Court Administrator serves as the administrative operating officer for the Court and oversees all support functions within the Court including budget and finance, information systems, central legal support, legislative liaison, and trial courts' liaison. The Office of the Supreme Court Clerk, the repository of all filings brought before the Court, is responsible for documenting each stage of the case from notice of appeal through final disposition. The State Law Library provides law library services to the Supreme Court and other state courts, to state officials, and to the general public. The Court's Central Legal Division

prepares motions and petitions for disposition by the Court and assists with death penalty cases, Bar and Judicial Performance matters, and proposed rules changes.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court serves as the chief administrative officer of all Mississippi courts. The Supreme Court has the power to promulgate rules of procedure and evidence for the Circuit, Chancery, and County courts. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Supreme Court is assisted by a number of judicially-related entities. The Commission on Judicial Performance is charged with the enforcement of laws and ethical canons relating to judicial officers. To that end, the Commission considers complaints and, where appropriate, recommends sanctions to the Supreme Court. Regulation of the practice of law is performed through the Office of Complaints Counsel of the Mississippi Bar which directs discipline proceedings and makes recommendations, where appropriate, to the Supreme Court in lawyer disciplinary proceedings. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court chairs the Conference of Mississippi Judges which meets regularly to direct administrative business and engage in study and discussion. The Advisory Committee on Rules, whose members are appointed by the Supreme Court, serves as a study and drafting resource with regard to Mississippi's comprehensive uniform and local court rules. The Committee reviews the rules, receives suggestions for rule changes from the bench, bar and general public, and reports to the Supreme Court on an annual basis.

Also assisting the Supreme Court are the Administrative Office of Courts, the Board of Bar Admissions, and the Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

Administrative Office of Courts

The 1993 Legislature passed Senate Bill 2620 which has been lauded as one of the most historic pieces of legislation affecting the judicial system to be passed in Mississippi this century. This bill created the Administrative Office of Courts and the Judicial Advisory Study Committee.

The purpose of the Administrative Office of Courts is to assist in the efficient administration of the nonjudicial business of the courts of the state and improve the administration of justice by performing the following duties:

- To assist the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with his duties as the chief administrative officer of all courts in the state
- To work with the clerks of all civil and criminal trial courts in the state to collect and publish information and statistics
- To serve as an agency to apply for and receive grants to improve the operation of the state courts.

The Administrative Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Supreme Court and has the following duties:

- To require the filing of reports, the collection and compilation of statistical data and other information on the judicial and financial operation of the state courts
- To prescribe uniform administrative and business methods and systems to be used in the offices of the clerks of court
- To prepare and submit budget recommendations for the operation of the state judicial system
- To develop and implement personnel policies for nonjudicial personnel employed by the state courts
- To make recommendations for the improvement of the operation of the judicial system
- To investigate and make recommendations concerning the physical accommodations for the judicial system
- To prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the judicial system to the Supreme Court.

During its first year of existence, the Administrative Office of Courts established a case filing/identification system covering both civil and criminal cases in the state's Chancery, Circuit, and County Courts. The system is based on computer compatible cover sheets which accompany civil cases at the time of filing and criminal cases at the time of disposition. A similar method for the collection of Youth Court statistics was implemented in 1995.

Under legislation enacted during the 1994 Regular Legislative Session, support staff for Chancery and Circuit judges became employees of the Administrative Office of Courts. Senate Bill 3096 provided that Chancery and Circuit judges may, at their option, employ court administrators, law clerks, paralegals, secretaries, or any combination thereof. Such staff members are designated as employees of the Administrative Office of Courts but are to be hired by and serve at the will and pleasure of the judges. The Legislature provided a limited state appropriation for the hiring of trial court support staff. Any shortfall in those funds for salaries and fringe benefits for court administrators is to be paid by the respective counties of a court district under statutory guidelines.

The same legislation which created the Administrative Office of Courts also created the twenty-one member Mississippi Judicial Advisory Study Committee. Its members have been appointed by various entities as directed by statute. The chairs of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees are designated by statute as non-voting members of the Committee. The Judicial Advisory Study Committee is required by statute to meet not less than quarterly. The Judicial Advisory Committee has appointed consulting groups in areas of particular concern, including both civil and criminal law, to develop recommendations as required by statute to be made to the Legislature, the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of Courts. The Administrative Office of Courts is directed by statute to provide support for the work of the Mississippi Judicial Advisory Study Committee.

Board of Bar Admissions

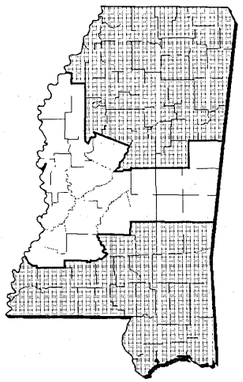
The Board of Bar Admissions governs admission of attorneys into the practice of law in the State of Mississippi and administers the bar admission examination twice each year, once in February and once in July. Board members are appointed by the Supreme Court. The Board of Bar Admissions office is located at 656 North State Street.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education

Continuing Legal Education, mandated by Rule 3 of the Rules and Regulations for Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, is monitored by the Commission on Continuing Legal Education. The Commission members are appointed by the Supreme Court. Twelve hours of approved instruction are required annually of every attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Mississippi. One of the twelve hours must be in the area of legal ethics, professional responsibility or malpractice prevention. The Continuing Legal Education office is located at 656 North State Street.

CHIEF JUSTICE DAN M. LEE

DISTRICT 1
PLACE 1



Chief Justice Daniel (Dan) McKinnon Lee was born in Forrest County, Petal, Mississippi, on April 19, 1926, the son of Buford Aaron Lee and Pherbia (Camp) Lee. He graduated from Petal High School, Petal, Mississippi, in April, 1944, and was inducted into its Academic Hall of Fame on June 7, 1990. Justice Lee is a World War II overseas veteran, having served in the United States Naval Air Corps from April 1944, to June 1946, aboard various ships, including the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Princeton. Justice Lee attended Pre-Law at the University of Southern Mississippi, and he obtained his LL.B. in 1949 and his Juris Doctorate in 1970, both from the Mississippi College School of Law. Justice Lee was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1948 and engaged in private practice with J. Ed Franklin from 1948 to 1954. From 1954 to 1971, he practiced law as a member of the firm of Lee, Moore & Countiss, and was a member of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board and the Interstate Oil Compact Commission from 1968 through 1971.

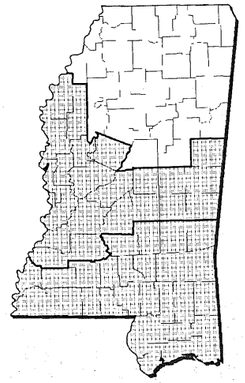
Justice Lee was elected and served as Hinds County Judge from 1971 to 1977, and Circuit Judge of Hinds and Yazoo Counties from 1977 to 1982. In 1980, he was elected Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court for a term beginning in 1982 and was re-elected in 1988 for an eight-year term commencing January 1, 1990. He served as a Presiding Justice from 1987 until December 1, 1995, when he became Chief Justice.

In 1996, Chief Justice Lee was honored as Mississippi College Lawyer of the Year. He currently serves as chair of the Substance Abuse Committee of the Conference of Chief Justices. He is a member of the Hinds County Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, and the National Judicial College. He is also a member of the American Legion, V.F.W., and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Associations.

Justice Lee was married to Peggy Jo Daniel (deceased, June 1952) and in September 1956, married the former Mary Alice Gray, M.D., of Waynesboro, Mississippi. Dr. Lee is a Retired Health Officer of the Mississippi State Health Department. Justice and Mrs. Lee are members of the Woodland Hills Baptist Church and have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Charles W. (Sheron Lee) Anderson (a municipal planner) and Daniel (Danny) McKinnon Lee, Jr. (a landscape architect), both reside in Madison, Mississippi.

PRESIDING JUSTICE
LENORE L. PRATHER

DISTRICT 3
PLACE 2



Presiding Justice Lenore L. Prather was born in West Point, Clay County, Mississippi, on September 17, 1931, the daughter of Byron H. and Hattie Hearn Loving.

She graduated from West Point High School, West Point, Mississippi in 1949 and from the Mississippi University for Women in 1953 and was in Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities, 1953. She graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1955 with a J.D. degree. From the Mississippi University for Women, she has received the Medal of Excellence and the Alumnae Achievement Award. She is a member of the University of Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame.

She was in the private practice of law from 1955 until 1971, practicing with her father and husband. She was appointed West Point Municipal Judge in 1965 and served until September 1972. In 1972, she was appointed Chancery Judge, 14th District, consisting of Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Clay, Noxubee, Webster and Chickasaw counties, as Mississippi's first female Chancery Judge by Governor John Bell Williams. She was re-elected without opposition to serve the unexpired term ending 1974 and again re-elected unopposed to two full terms from 1975 to 1982. She was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1982 by Governor William F. Winter as Mississippi's first female justice and was re-elected unopposed to the unexpired term ending January 1, 1985, and to a full term ending January 1, 1993 and re-elected to a full term ending in the year 2001. She became Presiding Justice in January 1993.

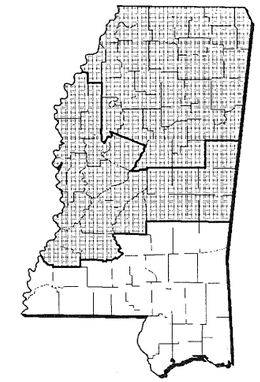
Justice Prather is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Foundation, Conference of Mississippi Judges, American Inns of Court, American Bar Association and American Judicature Society. She attended National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada.

She is an Episcopalian and a former member of Pilot International. She holds present membership in Rotary International and is a Paul Harris Fellow, Junior Auxiliary, Daughters of American Revolution, and Who's Who in America, 1984-1996.

Justice Prather is married to Robert Brooks Prather. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

PRESIDING JUSTICE
MICHAEL D. SULLIVAN

DISTRICT 2
PLACE 2



Presiding Justice Michael D. Sullivan was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on December 2, 1938. He is the son of the late Curran W. Sullivan and Mittie Chambers Sullivan. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1960 with a B.S. in History; from Tulane University in 1966 with a Juris Doctorate; and from the University of Virginia in 1988 with a Master of Laws in Judicial Process.

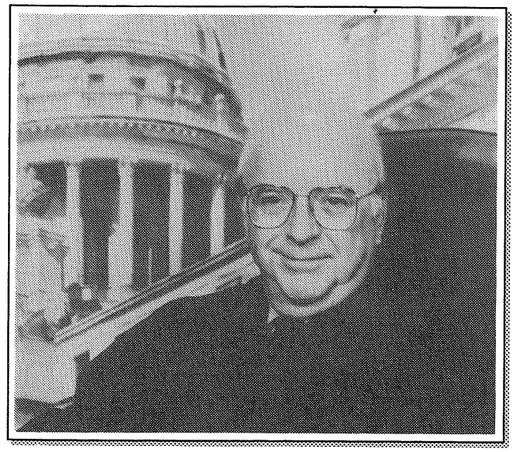
Justice Sullivan was on active duty with the United States Naval Reserve from 1961-63. He entered the practice of law in Hattiesburg in 1967, and engaged in private practice until July 1, 1975, when he was elected Chancellor for the Tenth Chancery Court District (Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Perry and Pearl River Counties) in the State's only Saturday election. He served as Chancellor until February 15, 1984, at which time he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Bill Allain.

He was formerly the Mississippi delegate to the National Conference of State Trial Judges, a member of the National Conference of Probate Judges, and a delegate to the President's Committee of Judiciary on Victim's Rights. He is a member and former governor of the American Judges Association. Justice Sullivan is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Judicial College.

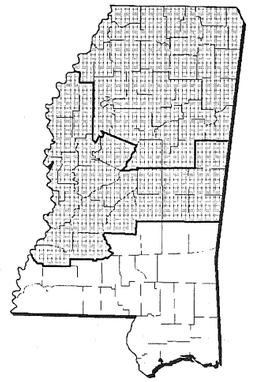
Justice Sullivan is a Methodist. He is a member of the South Central Mississippi Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, and American Bar Association.

He is married to the former Catherine Carter. Justice Sullivan has four children: a son, David Paul, and three daughters, Rachel Michel, Margaret Elizabeth, and Sarah Catherine.

JUSTICE
EDWIN LLOYD PITTMAN



DISTRICT 2
PLACE 3



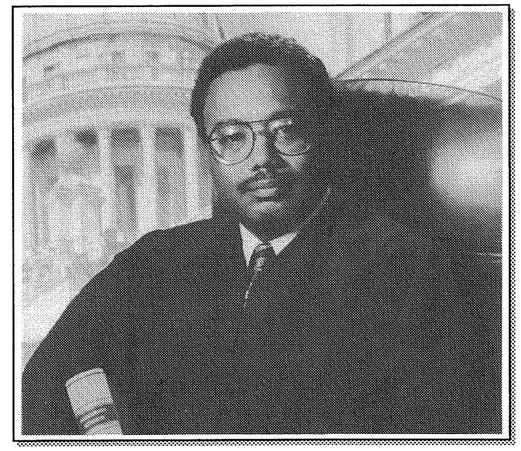
Justice Edwin Lloyd Pittman was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on January 2, 1935. He was educated in the Hattiesburg Public Schools. He received a B.S. degree in History and Government from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1957 and a J.D. Degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1960.

Justice Pittman practiced law for 16 years in Hattiesburg. He served in the Mississippi State Senate from 1964 to 1972; as State Treasurer from 1976 to 1980; as Secretary of State from 1980 to 1984; and as Attorney General from 1984 to 1988. In 1988, he practiced law in Hattiesburg and Jackson. He was elected to the State Supreme Court for a term beginning January 1989.

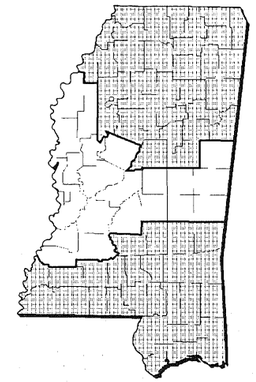
He retired from the Mississippi National Guard as Brigadier General with thirty years' service. He served as a member of the National Association of Attorneys General Executive Committee from 1985 to 1987 and Chairman of the Southern Conference of Attorneys General in 1987. In addition, he was the 1989 recipient of the HUB Award presented by the University of Southern Mississippi for outstanding contributions to the community and dedication to public service. He is a charter member of the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Humanized Education Award for 1982-83, presented by the Mississippi Association of Educators. He serves as a member of the Board of William Carey College in Hattiesburg. He is also a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Mississippi Bar Foundation. He is an active member of the Pine Lake Baptist Church located at the Reservoir in Rankin County where he has served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon and chairman of deacons.

Justice Pittman is married to Virginia Lund Pittman and is the father of three adult children: Mrs. John Wakeland (Melanie), Edwin Lloyd Pittman, Jr., and Jennifer Pittman.

JUSTICE
FRED L. BANKS, JR.



DISTRICT 1
PLACE 2



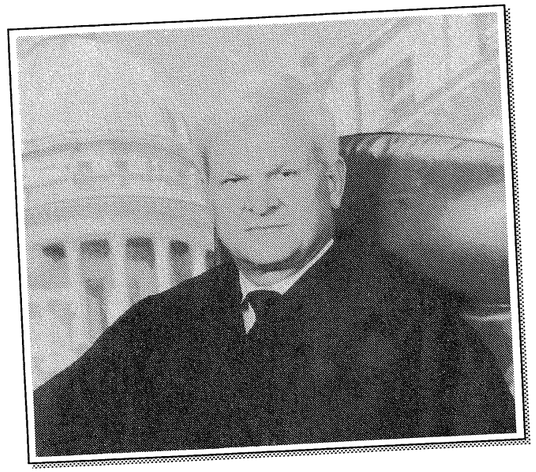
Justice Fred L. Banks, Jr. was born in Jackson, Mississippi, September 1, 1942, the son of the late F.L. Banks, Sr. and Violet Mabery Banks. After graduating from Lanier High School in Jackson in 1960, he attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration and graduated with honors from law school, second in his class.

Beginning in 1968, Justice Banks engaged in private practice in Jackson with the firm "Anderson, Banks, Nichols and Leventhal" and successor firms. In 1975, he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and was twice re-elected. During his tenure, he served as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee, Chairman of the House Judiciary "B" Committee and Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus. From 1979 until 1981, Justice Banks served as a member of the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions. In February 1985, he was appointed Judge of the Seventh Circuit Court District (Hinds and Yazoo Counties). He was twice unopposed for re-election to this position. In January 1991, Justice Banks was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Mississippi Supreme Court. He was elected to serve the remainder of that term in November 1991 and was re-elected for a full term in November 1996.

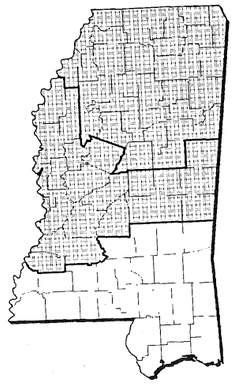
Justice Banks serves on the National Board of Directors of the NAACP, the Minority Advisory Committee to the University of Mississippi School of Law, the Board of Visitors at Mississippi College School of Law, where he is also an Adjunct Professor of Law, and chairs the Criminal Justice Task Force of the Mississippi Bar. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, American Inns of Court, Charles Clark Inn, and the Mississippi, Hinds County, Magnolia, National, American and District of Columbia Bar Associations.

He is married to Pamela Gipson Banks, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist. He has three children: Rachel, Jonathan, and Gabrielle.

JUSTICE
C.R. "CHUCK" MCRAE



DISTRICT 2
PLACE 1



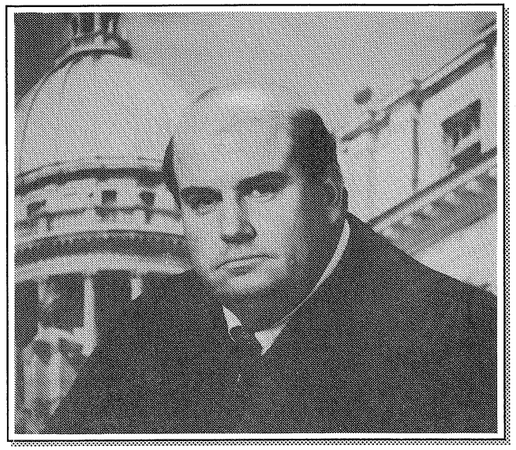
Justice Chuck McRae is the son of the late Orpha Whitmer and Marion Edward McRae. He grew up in Pascagoula, Mississippi, but graduated from high school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

He graduated from Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, in 1962. Upon graduation, he taught and coached in high schools at Moss Point, Mississippi, and Panama, Florida.

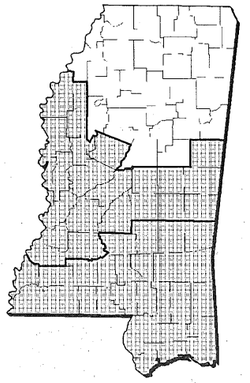
Justice McRae attended Jackson School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi, and graduated Cum Laude in 1970. He returned to Pascagoula to practice law and later formed a law firm with Margaret Ellis. He sat on both the Circuit and Chancery Court Benches by special appointment in Jackson, Forrest, Lamar and Lincoln Counties. Prior to his election as Supreme Court Justice in November 1990, he served as attorney for the Jackson County School Board and the Pascagoula Police Association.

Justice McRae has been active in the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association, being a lifetime member and serving as Governor and President. He has served as a governor for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and has been a sustaining member. He is a former Bar Commissioner of the Mississippi Bar. Justice McRae is a member of the Civil Justice Foundation, Roscoe Pound Foundation, M Club, Marietta College Athletic Founders Board, American Judicature Society, Fifth and Eleventh Circuit Bar Associations, Federal Bar Association, Magnolia Bar Association, American Bar Association and First United Methodist Church, Pascagoula. Justice McRae has one daughter, Rebecca, and one grandson, Jaqe.

JUSTICE
JAMES LAMAR ROBERTS, JR.



DISTRICT 3
PLACE 1



Born in the Robbs Community in Pontotoc County on June 8, 1945, Justice James L. Roberts, Jr. received his education from the Pontotoc public schools, Millsaps College (B.A., in 1967), Mississippi State University (M.B.A., in 1968), and the University of Mississippi (J.D., in 1971). He is also a graduate of the National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada (1988). Justice Roberts, a seventh generation Mississippian, was a law school class officer, member of the Honor Council and Moot Court Board, President of the law school student body and Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity. Additionally, he was named National Outstanding Student Member of Delta Theta Phi for 1970.

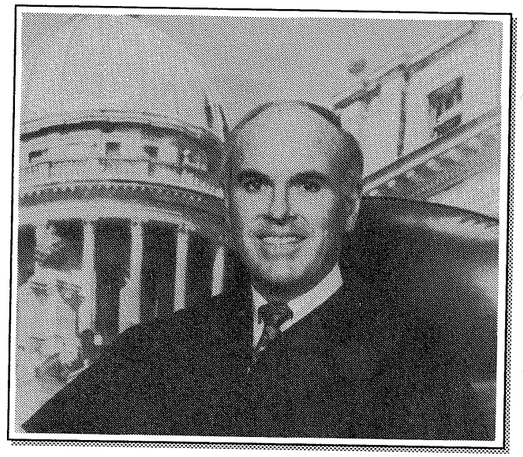
Justice Roberts practiced law in Pontotoc from 1971 until 1984, simultaneously serving as County Prosecuting Attorney and Youth Court Prosecutor from 1972 to 1984. As Mississippi Commissioner of Public Safety from 1984 to 1988, Roberts supervised an agency which included the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Mississippi Crime Laboratory, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy, Medical Examiner's Office, and the Bureau of Narcotics. As Commissioner, Roberts served a four-year term as a member, and one year as Chairman, of the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.

In January 1988, Roberts was appointed Chancellor in the First Chancery District, where he was subsequently elected and reelected for consecutive terms. Successful in 1992 in election to the Supreme Court to commence in 1993, Roberts was Governor Kirk Fordice's first appointment to the Supreme Court to complete the unexpired term of retiring Justice James Lawton Robertson.

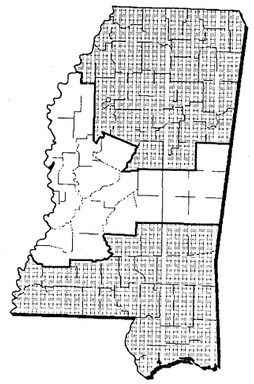
Justice Roberts has served as a member of several philanthropic and professional organizations, among them: Northeast Mental Health/Retardation Commission; Mississippi Prosecutors' Association; International Chiefs of Police; Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Association; Tennessee-Mississippi Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association; Rotary Club; Governor's Alliance Against Drugs; Mississippi Conference of Judges; Chancery Judges Conference; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; National College of Probate Judges; and Judicial Division of the American Bar Association. He maintains membership in the Pontotoc County, First Judicial District, Mississippi and American Bar Associations. In 1985, he received the Herman Glazier Award from the Mississippi Chapter for Public Administration. He serves as the Supreme Court member of the Board of Governors of the Mississippi Judicial College and as a member of the Mississippi Bar Foundation Board of Governors by designation of the Chief Justice. Roberts is also a member of Kappa Sigma, Alpha Kappa Psi, and Omicron Delta Kappa, as well as an honorary member of Pi Alpha Alpha. Additionally, he is a member of the alumni associations of Millsaps College, Mississippi State University, and the University of Mississippi. Other memberships include the Pontotoc County Historical Society, Mississippi Historical Society, and Mississippi Methodist Historical Society.

Justice Roberts is married to Rose D. Roberts. They are members of the Pontotoc United Methodist Church. He frequently speaks to legal and law enforcement groups, as well as to civic clubs, and church functions, and for commencements.

JUSTICE
JAMES W. SMITH, JR.



DISTRICT 1
PLACE 3



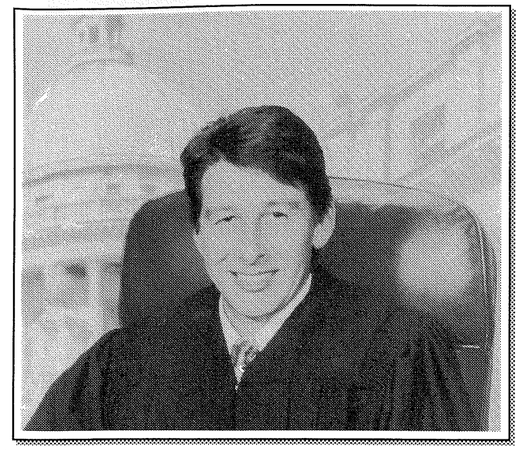
Justice James W. Smith, Jr. was elected to the Mississippi Supreme Court effective January 1, 1993. Justice Smith was born in Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi, on October 28, 1943. He was reared in Pelahatchie and graduated from Pelahatchie High School in 1961 where he was voted Mr. PHS and the Most Likely to Succeed. He attended Hinds Junior (Community) College and the University of Southern Mississippi where he received his B.S. in History and Political Science in 1965. In 1972, Justice Smith was awarded the Juris Doctorate from Jackson School of Law, Mississippi College, where he was also a member of the honorary law fraternity, Sigma Delta Kappa. In that same year, he was admitted to the practice of law in Mississippi. He earned a Master's degree in education administration from Mississippi College in 1973.

From 1969 to 1972, Justice Smith served as a teacher and principal at Pearl Junior High School. While at PJHS, he received the 1971 "Outstanding Young Educator of the Year Award" from the Pearl Jaycees. Beginning in 1973 and continuing until 1980, he was City Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Pearl and was also Rankin County Prosecuting Attorney in 1976. From 1977 to April, 1982, he served as district attorney for the 20th Circuit Court District. From April of 1982 until his election to the Mississippi Supreme Court, he was County Court Judge for Rankin County.

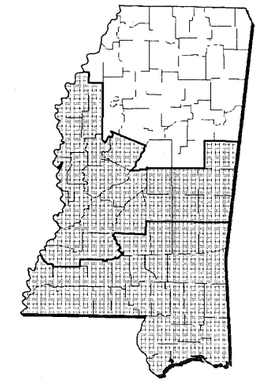
Justice Smith formerly served three years in the United States Army and four years in the Army Reserve. He is an active member of V.F.W. Post 11273 in Brandon; the Rankin County Bar Association; the Mississippi Bar Association; and Jackson Downtown Rotary Club. Justice Smith received the 1991 Outstanding Positive Role Model For Today's Youth Award, the 1992 Child Forever Award from Mississippi Voices of Children and Youth for Service to Mississippi Children, and was a 1994 finalist for the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award. He is the recipient of the 1995 You've Made a Difference Award for Service to Youth. He is the recipient of the 1996 Hinds Community College Alumnus of the Year Award.

Justice Smith is a tree farmer and avid outdoorsman, well known for his contributions to deer and wild turkey conservation projects. He is married to the former Shirley Ewell of Amite County. They have two daughters, Margaret Shannon and Amanda Helen. They reside in the Andrew Chapel community in Rankin County, Mississippi.

JUSTICE
MICHAEL P. MILLS



DISTRICT 3
PLACE 3



Justice Michael P. Mills is a seventh-generation native of Itawamba County. The "Clay Hills Justice" graduated from Itawamba Agricultural High School in 1974, after attending primary and secondary schools in Tishomingo, Iuka and Fulton. He attended Itawamba Community College and graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1978 with a bachelor's degree. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi Law School in 1980.

Justice Mills practiced law in Monroe and Itawamba counties until 1995 when he was appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court to fill the unexpired term of Chief Justice Armis E. Hawkins. He has practiced before the United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and all Mississippi state and federal courts.

Justice Mills served twelve years in the Mississippi Legislature. He held the positions of Chairman of the Judiciary "A" and Judiciary En Banc committees. He is a Commissioner on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and he is a member of the Mississippi Bar and the Federalist Society. He is a member of the Scottish Rite.

Justice Mills is married to the former Mona Robinson. They have four children: Alysson, Chip, Rebekah and Penn.

COURT FINANCES

The Supreme Court Finance Office is responsible for the appropriation units of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Administrative Office of Courts, Chancery and Circuit Judges, Board of Bar Admissions, and Commission on Continuing Legal Education. The appropriation for the Supreme Court includes the operating expenses of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Clerk, and the State Law Library. The appropriation for the Court of Appeals includes the operating expenses of the Court of Appeals, along with related costs for suppport staff and the Supreme Court Clerk. The appropriation for the Administrative Office of Courts includes the operating expenses of the AOC, salaries of Trial Judge support staff (paid from county funds), and operating expenses of the Board of Certified Court Reporters. The appropriation for the Chancery and Circuit Judges includes salary costs of support staff paid from general funds.

FY 96 COURT FINANCES	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Administrative Office of Courts	Trial Judges	Board of Bar Admissions	Continuing Legal Education
Category:						
Salaries	3,364,254	2,440,936	*1,286,707	**11,515,001	50,612	40,348
Travel	114,380	99,181	10,233	377,331	4,822	4,251
Contractual Services	767,275	564,573	357,441	10,836	95,693	22,407
Commodities	285,972	31,669	19,867	423,188	8,297	1,491
Equipment	184,503	84,082	215,686	278,435	1,397	0
Subsidies	63,689	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**4,780,073**	**3,220,441**	**1,889,934**	**12,604,791**	**160,821**	**68,497**
Funding:						
General Funds	4,556,003	3,220,441	927,597	12,604,791	0	0
Federal Funds	63,689	0	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	160,381	0	962,337	0	160,821	68,497
TOTAL	**4,780,073**	**3,220,441**	**1,889,934**	**12,604,791**	**160,821**	**68,497**
Authorized Positions:						
Full-Time Permanent	72	65	15	93	2	1
Full-Time Time-Limited	1	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time Permanent	2	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	**75**	**65**	**16**	**93**	**2**	**1**

*Salary expenses for AOC include $952,810 for Trial Judge support staff positions paid from county funds.

**Salary expenses for Trial Judges include $2,434,956 for support staff positions paid from general funds.

CASELOAD SUMMARY

The 1996 Supreme Court disposed of 797 cases, an average of 88 cases per justice. Of this number, 500 involved decisions on the merits. Of the cases disposed of on the merits, 291 (or 58.2%) were civil and 209 (or 41.8%) were criminal. Two hundred and twenty-five (225) of the cases were handled by published written opinion in 1996. The Court heard oral argument in 44 cases (or 5.5% of its caseload) in 1996.

Overall, the Court affirmed 368 (or 73.6%) of the cases heard in 1996, while reversing 132 (or 26.4%) in whole or in part. The criminal affirmance rate was 83.3% while the civil affirmance figure was 66.7%.

One hundred and seven (107) motions for rehearing were disposed of in 1996. One hundred and three (103) were denied, and four (4) were granted.

With reference to the appellate courts' motions dockets, a total of 5,960 motions were filed in 1996. The number of motions disposed of in 1996 was 6,080. Of that number, 69 were petitions for interlocutory appeal under Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 5.

TABLE 1
CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Table 1 presents a numerical and graphic overview of the statistical case filings and dispositions of the Mississippi Supreme Court encompassing a ten (10) year comparative base.

There were 1,152 new filings in 1996, an increase of 14 cases over the preceding year. The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals disposed of 1,453 cases in 1996.

YEAR	FILINGS NEW	FILINGS REINSTATED	FILINGS TOTAL	DISPOSITIONS** DECIDED	DISPOSITIONS** DISMISSED	DISPOSITIONS** TOTAL	PENDING DEC 31st
1987	886	5	891	713	118	831	1191
1988	919	*	919	793	*	793	1317
1989	816	8	824	655	185	840	1301
1990	1025	10	1035	779	224	1003	1333
1991	986	6	992	764	234	998	1327
1992	1083	7	1090	689	252	941	1476
1993	1180	2	1182	497	259	756	1902
1994	1066	7	1073	552	313	865	2110
1995	1138	9	1147	1090	290	1380	1877
1996	1152	7	1159	1154	299	1453	1583

* In 1988, Reinstated Filing figures are included with New Filings, and Dismissed Dispositions figures are included with Decided Dispositions.

** Beginning in 1995, Dispositions figures include Dispositions by the Supreme Court and by the Court of Appeals.

TABLE 2
CASE CLASSIFICATIONS

Table 2 depicts an overview of the nature of the 500 cases decided on the merits by the Court in 1996. A majority of the decisions (58.2%) involved civil matters; the balance (41.8%) involved criminal matters.

CASE CLASSIFICATIONS		
Post-Conviction Relief	100	20.00%
Criminal - Felony	84	16.80%
State Boards and Agencies	33	6.60%
Personal Injury	31	6.20%
Domestic Relations	30	6.00%
Contract	29	5.80%
Real Property	26	5.20%
Other Torts	22	4.40%
Wills, etc.	21	4.20%
Insurance	17	3.40%
Workers' Compensation	17	3.40%
Bar Matters	11	2.20%
Death Penalty (Direct Appeal)	10	2.00%
Wrongful Death	8	1.60%
Judicial Performance	8	1.60%
Custody	8	1.60%
Medical Malpractice	8	1.60%
Criminal Misdemeanor	4	0.80%
Death Penalty (Post-Conviction)	3	0.60%
Eminent Domain	2	0.40%
Legal Malpractice	2	0.40%
Property Damage	2	0.40%
Other	24	4.80%
TOTAL	500	100.00%

TABLE 3
FORM AND NATURE OF DECISIONS

3A. FORM OF DECISIONS

As indicated by the chart, disposition of cases form four categories: published written opinions, unpublished written opinions, per curiam (unwritten) opinions, and cases dismissed. There are various reasons for dismissal, i.e., cases to which both parties have agreed that dismissal is proper, cases dismissed on the Court's own motion due to failure of attorneys to pay costs in due course, attorneys' failure to adhere to briefing schedule, etc. Prior to July of 1996, per curiam, or unwritten, opinions were rendered in cases where the Court found no novel question of law or extraordinary circumstances which would necessitate a formal written opinion. Since July of 1996, the Court has written an opinion in every case. Standards for publication are found in Mississippi Rule of Appellate Court 35-A.

Of the 797 cases rendered in 1996, 225 (28.2%) cases were decided by published written opinions, 158 (19.8%) cases were decided by unpublished written opinions, 117 cases (14.7%) were decided by per curiam (unwritten) decisions, and 297 cases (37.3%) were dismissed. One hundred and fifty (150) separate opinions were written in 123 cases.

3B. NATURE OF DECISIONS

In 1996, the Court decided 500 cases on the merits and dismissed 297 appeals. Of the decisions on the merits, 368 (73.6%) were affirmed and 132 (26.4%) were reversed in whole or in part.

3A. FORM OF DECISIONS		
Published Written Opinions	225	28.23%
Per Curiam Decisions	117	14.68%
Cases Dismissed	297	37.27%
Unpublished Written Opinions	158	19.82%
GRAND TOTAL	797	100.00%

3B. NATURE OF DECISIONS ON THE MERITS		
AFFIRMED		
Criminal Cases	174	34.80%
Civil Cases	194	38.80%
TOTAL	368	73.60%
REVERSED (In Whole or Part)		
Criminal Cases	35	7.00%
Civil Cases	97	19.40%
TOTAL	132	26.40%
GRAND TOTAL	500	100.00%

TABLE 4
REASONS FOR REVERSAL IN REVERSED CASES

Table 4 details the reasons for reversal. Although there may have been more than one ground for reversal in a single case, only the principal ground is used for statistical purposes. A brief explanation of the categories follows:

Law: The trial judge misinterpreted the law. This category does not include cases where peremptory instruction was erroneously given or refused.

Procedure: The case contained errors involving such things as jurisdiction, venue, jury selection, procedural requirements, and judge's comments on the evidence, etc.

Weight of Evidence: The finding of fact upon which liability or non-liability, or guilt or innocence, was based was contrary to the overwhelming weight of the evidence.

Admission or Exclusion of Evidence: The evidence was admitted or excluded contrary to the rules of evidence.

Summary Judgment: The trial court erroneously granted or failed to grant summary judgment.

Instructions: The trial judge erred in refusing an instruction or in granting an instruction. This category does not include cases reversed because of an error in granting or refusing to grant a peremptory instruction or directed verdict.

Damages: The case involved an award of excessive or inadequate damages. This category includes cases affirmed on condition of remittitur or additur, and cases reversed unless remittitur or additur is accepted.

Lack of Substantial Evidence: A non-judicial fact-finding body, such as the Workers' Compensation Commission, did not have substantial evidence to support its findings.

Directed Verdict and JNOV: The trial court erred in granting or refusing to grant a directed verdict or judgment notwithstanding the verdict.

Peremptory Instruction: The trial court erred in giving or refusing to give a peremptory instruction.

REASONS FOR REVERSAL IN REVERSED CASES		
Law	87	65.91%
Procedure	11	8.33%
Instructions	7	5.30%
Admission or Exclusion of Evidence	6	4.54%
Weight of Evidence	5	3.79%
Directed Verdict	5	3.79%
Damages	4	3.03%
Summary Judgment	3	2.27%
Lack of Substantial Evidence	2	1.52%
JNOV	2	1.52%
Peremptory Instruction	0	0.00%
TOTAL	132	100.00%

TABLE 5
ORAL ARGUMENT

Cases are previewed by the justices to determine whether they should be orally argued or submitted. Attorneys' requests for oral argument made pursuant to Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 34 are also presented to the justices for consideration. On the day a case is scheduled for argument or submission, it is heard by a panel of three justices, unless the case requires *en banc* argument.*

As Table 5 indicates, oral argument was requested in 100 (20.0%) of the cases decided on the merits in 1996. Forty-four (44) (44.0%) of the requests were granted, while 56 (56.0%) of the requests were denied, resulting in oral argument in 44 cases or 8.8% of the cases decided on the merits in 1996.

REQUESTED ORAL ARGUMENT		
Criminal Cases	16	16.00%
Civil Cases	84	84.00%
TOTAL	100	100.00%
ARGUED		
Criminal Cases	13	29.55%
Civil Cases	31	70.45%
TOTAL ARGUED	44	8.80%
SUBMITTED		
Criminal Cases	192	42.11%
Civil Cases	264	57.89%
TOTAL SUBMITTED	456	91.20%

*Cases argued *en banc* include death penalty appeals, public utility rate matters, annexation cases, bar disciplinary and judicial performance matters, election contests, and cases raising novel constitutional challenges or involving statewide impact.

TABLE 6
ORIGIN OF DECISIONS ON THE MERITS

The Mississippi Supreme Court is the court of last resort in the state system. The primary work of the Court is deciding appeals from trial courts and administrative agencies.

Table 6 shows that 377 (75.4%) of the cases decided on the merits were appealed from the Circuit Courts in 1996; 101 (20.2%) were appealed from the Chancery Courts. Only 20 (4.0%) of the Court's appeals emanated from administrative agencies and courts of limited jurisdiction.

ORIGIN OF DECISIONS ON THE MERITS		
Circuit Court	377	75.40%
Chancery Court	101	20.20%
Agencies and Commissions	18	3.60%
County Court	2	0.40%
Federal Court	2	0.40%
Family Court	0	0.00%
TOTAL	500	100.00%

TABLE 7
MOTIONS FOR REHEARING

Within fourteen (14) days after a case is decided on the merits, unless an extension of time has been obtained, any party dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal may file a Motion for Rehearing with the Court. *See* Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 40.

In 1996, the Court disposed of 107 Motions for Rehearing: one hundred and three (96.3%) were denied, four (3.7%) were granted. Thirty-four (34) Motions for Rehearing were pending as of December 31, 1996.

MOTIONS FOR REHEARING		
Pending Dec. 31, 1995	45	
Filed	96	
TOTAL FOR CONSIDERATION	141	
Denied	103	96.26%
Granted	4	3.74%
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	107	100.00%
Pending Dec. 31, 1996	34	

TABLE 8
PETITIONS FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

A decision of the Court of Appeals is a final decision and is reviewable in the Supreme Court only on writ of certiorari. A party must file a petition for a writ of certiorari for review within fourteen (14) days from the date of judgment by the Court of Appeals on a petition for rehearing. The Supreme Court may grant a petition for writ of certiorari on the affirmative vote of four of the justices.

In 1996, the Court disposed of 126 Petitions for Writ of Certiorari: one hundred and five (83.3%) were denied, twenty-one (16.7%) were granted. Twenty (20) Petitions for Writ of Certiorari were pending as of December 31, 1996.

PETITIONS FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI		
Pending Dec. 31, 1995	11	
Filed	135	
TOTAL FOR CONSIDERATION	146	
Denied	105	83.33%
Granted	21	16.67%
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	126	100.00%
Pending Dec. 31, 1996	20	

TABLE 9
MOTION AND PETITION FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS AND COURT ACTIONS

9A. FILINGS

A total of 5,960 motions and petitions were placed on the Motions Dockets of the appellate courts during 1996, including 3,384 motions for additional time and 218 motions in the Court of Appeals. In Table 9A, the category of "Other" includes those motions or petitions of a type not readily classified and those of classes in which fewer than ten motions were filed during 1996.

9B. DISPOSITIONS

The appellate courts, with the assistance of Central Legal staff, disposed of 6,080 motions and petitions during 1996, including motions for additional time.

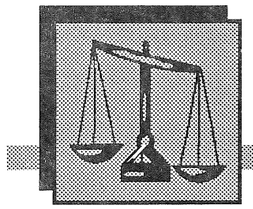
9C. COURT ACTIONS

In addition to disposing of filed motions and petitions, the Supreme Court took 1,337 actions on its own motion. The majority of the actions consisted of assignment of cases to the Court of Appeals and dismissals.

9A. FILINGS		
Total Pending December 31, 1995	772	
Motions & Petitions-1996 Filing Highlights		
Motion for Time	3384	56.78%
Motion to Dismiss	225	3.78%
Writ of Mandamus	213	3.57%
Withdraw as Counsel	185	3.10%
Misc. Rehearing Motions	184	3.09%
Post-Conviction Relief	149	2.50%
Motion to Supplement	115	1.93%
Bond	75	1.26%
Interlocutory Appeal	69	1.16%
Consolidation of Cases	64	1.07%
Certiorari Motions	60	1.01%
Stay of Other Court's Action	47	0.79%
Motion for Oral Argument (Out of time requests)	45	0.76%
Leave to Proceed IFP	44	0.74%
Extraordinary Writ	41	0.69%
Appointment of Counsel	37	0.62%
Amicus Curiae	36	0.60%
Strike	36	0.60%
Motion to Expedite/Advance	29	0.49%
Stay of Supreme Court's Action	29	0.49%
Motion for Recusal	28	0.47%
Additional Pages in Briefing	27	0.45%
Motion for Dismissal of Parties	26	0.44%
Rules Motions	26	0.44%
Motion to File Supplemental Brief	22	0.37%
Remand	18	0.30%
Motion to Reinstate Appeal	16	0.27%
Motion for Attorney's Fees	15	0.25%
Admission in Specific Case	14	0.23%
Motion to Correct Penalty/Judgmt	12	0.20%
Habeas Corpus	12	0.20%
Supersedeas	11	0.18%
Motion to Reset Execution Date	10	0.17%
Other	656	11.01%
TOTAL 1996 FILINGS	5960	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL FILINGS	6732	

9B. DISPOSITIONS		
Filings Granted	4415	72.62%
Filings Denied	1612	26.51%
Filings with Other Dispositions	53	0.87%
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	6080	100.00%

9C. COURT ACTIONS		
Assignment of Cases to Court	1107	82.80%
Other Actions on Court's Motion	152	11.37%
Dismissals on Court's Motion	59	4.41%
Show Cause	19	1.42%
TOTAL ACTIONS	1337	100.00%



MISSISSIPPI COURT OF APPEALS

- ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION
- THE JUDGES
- CASELOAD SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

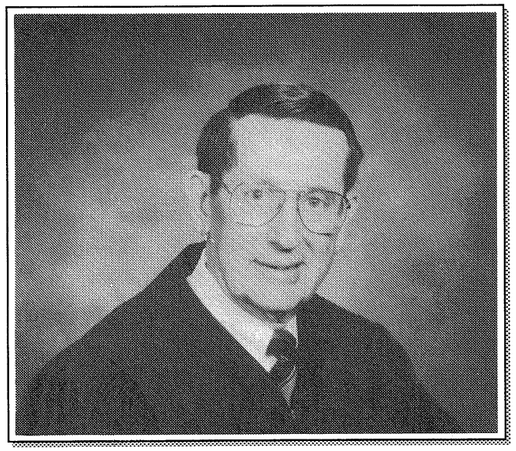
The Court of Appeals, created by legislation enacted in 1994, became operational in January of 1995. By statute, the Court of Appeals is given the power to determine or otherwise dispose of any appeal or other proceeding assigned to it by the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court must retain those appeals in cases which impose the death penalty or which involve utility rates, annexations, bond issues, election contests, or a statute held unconstitutional by the lower court. The Supreme Court also retains those cases involving attorney discipline, judicial performance, and certified questions from a federal court. Other cases ordinarily retained by the Supreme Court include those involving a major question of first impression, fundamental and urgent issues of broad public importance requiring prompt determination, substantial constitutional questions concerning the validity of a statute, ordinance, court rule, or administrative rule or regulation, and issues where there is an inconsistency or conflict in court decisions.

By law the Court of Appeals consists of ten elected judges, two from each Congressional District. Qualifications for office include age and residency requirements as well as five years standing as an attorney. Judges were initially elected for staggered terms. The term of office for all judges in subsequent years is eight years.

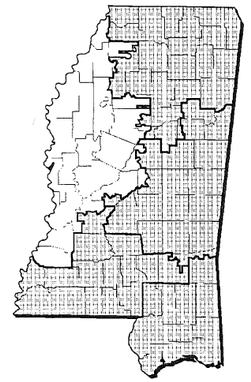
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for a term of four years. The Chief Judge appoints Presiding Judges to serve on Court of Appeals panels at the will and pleasure of the Chief Judge. Members of the 1996 Court are Chief Judge John J. Fraiser, Jr., Presiding Judge Billy G. Bridges, Presiding Judge James E. Thomas, Judge Frank D. Barber, Judge Thomas A. Coleman II, Judge Oliver E. Diaz, Jr., Judge Leslie D. King, Judge Roger H. McMillin, Jr., Judge Mary Libby Payne, and Judge Leslie H. Southwick. On December 23, 1996, Chief Judge John Fraiser announced his retirement, effective January 31, 1997. Governor Fordice appointed James H. Herring of Canton to the Court of Appeals.

In September of 1996, Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 35-B was amended to allow the Court of Appeals to publish those opinions which satisfy one of the following requirements: (1) the opinion clarifies an existing rule; (2) the opinion involves a factual situation or legal issue of broad and/or continuing public interest not addressed in recent Supreme Court opinions; (3) the opinion resolves an apparent conflict of authority; or (4) the opinion contains a professionally useful, nonduplicative review or summary of existing law on a specific issue not addressed in recent Supreme Court opinions. The Court of Appeals issued an unpublished written opinion in each case in 1996. In some cases, the Court affirmed with a memorandum opinion which is a concise statement of the case and contains the style and number of the case, the Court's disposition, and specific reasons for the result reached. The opinion is not authored by a single judge and is addressed to the litigants. This type opinion is utilized where (A) the issues involve no more than the application of well-settled rules of law to a recurring fact situation, (B) the issue asserted is whether the evidence is sufficient, and it clearly is, (C) disposition of the appeal is clearly controlled by a prior holding of the Mississippi Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court, and no reasons appear for explication of the holding, or (D) the decision on appeal is accompanied by an opinion of the trial court or of the agency being reviewed, that opinion identifies and discusses all the issues presented on appeal, and the Court approves of the conclusions and reasons in the opinion.

CHIEF JUDGE
JOHN J. FRAISER, JR.



SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POSITION 1



Chief Judge John J. Fraiser lives in Greenwood and is a native of Minter City. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Delta State University and Mississippi State University. He received his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1948, and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar that same year.

Judge Fraiser engaged in the practice of law in Greenwood for forty-two years, and was senior partner in the firm of Fraiser and Burgoon for twenty-five years. His long record of public service includes acting as Leflore County Prosecuting Attorney for twenty years; serving as State Senator from 1976 to 1983; and serving as Supreme Court Magistrate from 1990 to 1994. While in the State Senate, Judge Fraiser was chairman of the Committee on Universities and Colleges and vice-chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

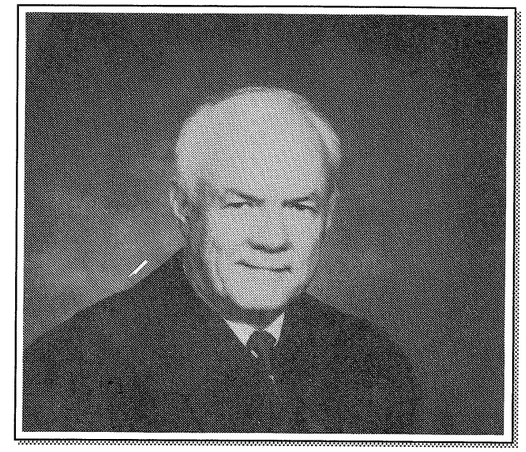
Judge Fraiser is an Air Force combat veteran having completed his flight missions in the 15th Air Force during World War II.

Judge Fraiser is a member of the Leflore County Bar Association (Past President); Mississippi Bar Association (former Commissioner); American Bar Association; Mississippi Bar Foundation; Omicron Delta Kappa; and Phi Alpha Delta. He is also a member of the American Bar Association/Council of Chief Judges. Judge Fraiser is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and former President of the Eta Chapter.

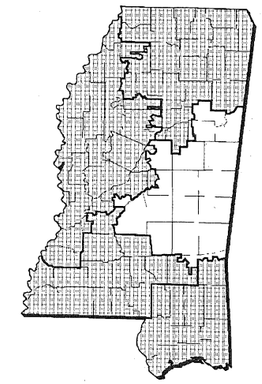
Judge Fraiser has been actively involved with many civic organizations in Greenwood, including the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, the March of Dimes, and the Jaycees. Judge Fraiser is a member of Delta Council, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kiwanis, and the Elks.

Judge Fraiser is married to the former Jennie Garrott Whitehead and has two children, John J. Fraiser III and Martha Fraiser Bryant, and two stepchildren, James L. Whitehead, IV and Emilie Whitehead. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Greenwood.

PRESIDING JUDGE
BILLY G. BRIDGES



THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POSITION 1



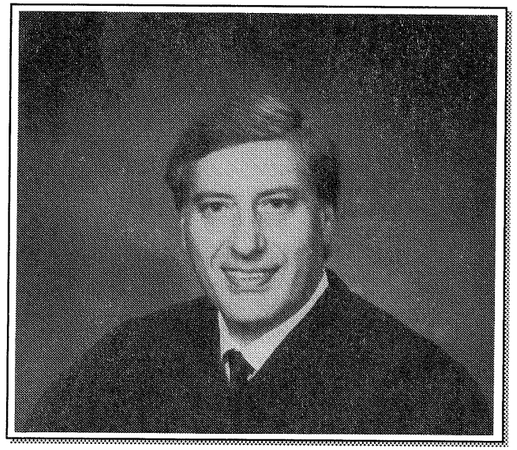
Judge Billy G. Bridges of Brandon practiced law in Rankin County for thirty-three years. He graduated from Pearl High School in 1952. He then attended Hinds Community College before going to the University of Mississippi where he earned a BBA degree in 1958. Judge Bridges pursued his study of law at the University of Mississippi School of Law and was awarded an LLB degree in 1961 and a J.D. in 1968.

Judge Bridges has served in a wide range of legal positions including Board Attorney for the Town of Florence, the Town of Pelahatchie, the Rankin Medical Center, and the Rankin County School Board. He has also been Rankin County Prosecuting Attorney, District Attorney for the 20th Circuit District, and Chancellor for the Twentieth Chancery Court District.

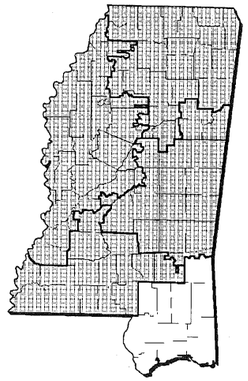
Judge Bridges has held membership in a number of prestigious legal organizations including: Who's Who of American Judges, Conference of Mississippi Trial Judges, American College of Trial Judges, Mississippi Bar Foundation, Mississippi Municipal Attorneys Association, American Society of Hospital Board Associations, Mississippi Hospital Board Attorneys, and the Mississippi Continuing Judicial Education Committee.

Judge Bridges is married and has four children. He is a member of Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon and is affiliated with Gideons International.

PRESIDING JUDGE
JAMES E. THOMAS



FIFTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 2



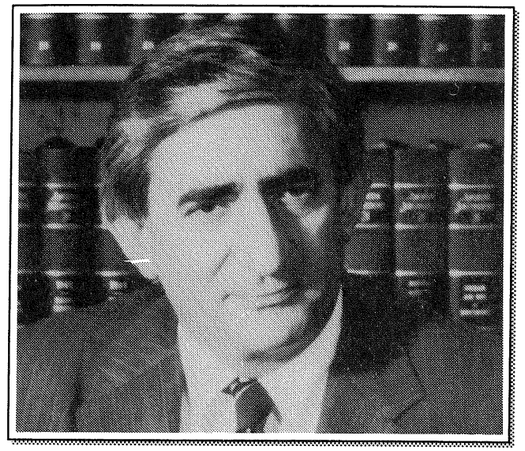
Judge James E. Thomas was born in Columbia but grew up in Gulfport, where he graduated from high school in 1968. Judge Thomas did his undergraduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned a B.S. in History and Political Science in 1971. He then entered the University of Mississippi School of Law where he earned a J.D. in 1973.

Following graduation from law school, Judge Thomas returned home to Gulfport where, after a brief period of private practice, he was named Assistant District Attorney for the Second Circuit District (Harrison, Hancock, and Stone Counties). He served in that capacity from 1974 to 1982, and was sworn in as Circuit Court Judge in January, 1983.

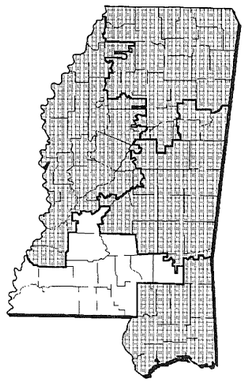
Judge Thomas has been a guest lecturer at William Carey College and at the Mississippi Highway Patrol Training Academy. He is a past chairman of the Circuit Judges' Conference of Mississippi. His professional memberships include the American Bar Association; Mississippi State Bar; American Judges Association; and Board of Governors, Mississippi Judicial College. Judge Thomas is a past member of the Mississippi Judicial Performance Commission.

Judge Thomas resides in Biloxi with his wife and two children.

JUDGE
FRANK D. BARBER



FOURTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 2



Judge Frank David Barber was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on April 2, 1929. His parents, Frank and Mary Venus Barber, returned to Mississippi three years later. An only child, he was reared in Hattiesburg and Laurel, attending public and private elementary schools in those cities. For three years of high school, he attended St. Joseph Seminary College, a boarding school, near Covington, Louisiana, and was graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1947.

Judge Barber began college as a pre-law student at the University of Mississippi, and after his return from military service, enrolled at the University of Southern Mississippi where in 1954, he received the B.A. degree in History, Political Science and English. At USM, he was elected President of the Student Government, was a charter member of Omicron Delta Kappa, was elected to the Student Hall of Fame, and was an Honor Debater. He returned to Ole Miss for his freshman year of Law School transferring in his second year to the National Law Center of The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Having received his Juris Doctorate in 1957, he stood for the bar examinations in both the District of Columbia and the State of Mississippi, passed, and was admitted to practice in the Courts of both jurisdictions in 1958.

Judge Barber's governmental service includes the following: Staff Member, Internal Security Subcommittee, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, 1955 - 1958; Counsel, General Legislative Investigating Committee, State of Mississippi, 1958 - 1959; Elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 1959, serving from 1960 - 1964; Executive Assistant to the Governor of Mississippi and State Extradition Officer, 1964 - 1968; Attorney, Industrial Department, Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board, 1968 - 1972; Legislative Assistant to United States Senator James O. Eastland, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, 1972 - 1978; General Counsel, Contractors Board, State of Mississippi, 1981 - 1989; Appointed by Governor Bill Allain to Mississippi Constitutional

Study Commission, 1986 - 1988; Secretary, Mississippi State Senate, 1989 - 1991; Special Attorney General, State of Mississippi, 1992 - 1994; Judge, Mississippi Court of Appeals, January 3, 1995 to present.

Judge Barber volunteered for service with the Regular Army and later the Mississippi National Guard. He was recalled to active duty with the Guard upon the outbreak of the Korean War. Active in veterans affairs, he is the immediate past Commander of American Legion Post #110 of Jackson. A Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he has been Judge Advocate of VFW Posts in Jackson and Hattiesburg. He has also been "wrecked" (initiated) by 40 & 8, Honorary Veterans Society. In addition, he has been named an Honorary Colonel on the military staffs of Governors of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

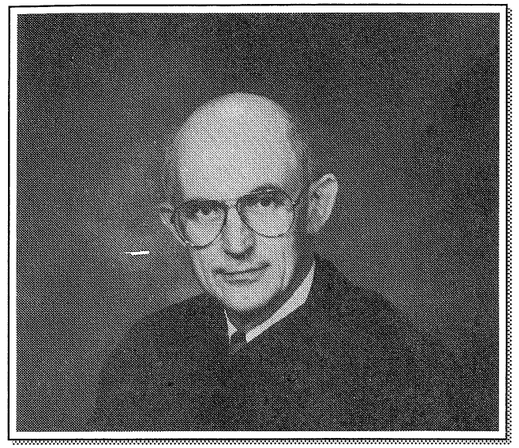
Judge Barber's fraternal affiliations include: Sigma Nu, social (Ole Miss); Omicron Delta Kappa, scholastic and leadership honorary (USM and Ole Miss); Pi Kappa Delta, honorary debate and forensic fraternity (USM); Alpha Gamma Rho, honorary political science (USM); Phi Alpha Delta, legal (Ole Miss and The George Washington University); Masonic memberships: Federal Lodge 1 (Washington, D.C.); Columbia Chapter No. 1, Royal Arch Masons (Washington, D.C.); York Rite, Knights Templar, Commandry No. 1 (Washington, D.C.); Scottish Rite Bodies (32°) (Jackson); Wahabi Temple, Shrine (Jackson).

In addition, Judge Barber has received the Award of Merit for Project Cairo presented by the American Association of State and Local History. He is also listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Who's Who in American Law, and Who's Who in the World.

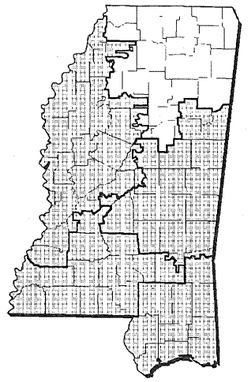
His past and present memberships in professional associations are as follows: Forrest County Bar, Hinds County Bar, Mississippi State Bar, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Fifth Circuit Bar Association, Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, Mississippi Attorneys for Constitutional Justice, and Board of Directors of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Judge Barber, a member of St. Richard's Church, Jackson, Mississippi, is married to the former Mary Jane Burch. They reside with two of their children, Rosebud, 15, and Will, 11, in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the father of five grown children: Amanda, a publicist and former television and motion picture actress; Frank D. Barber, III, an attorney in New Orleans; Melanie, an attorney and government official in Washington, D.C.; Paul, an attorney in Washington, D.C.; and Annabel, a surgeon on the faculty of Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Lubbock, Texas.

JUDGE
THOMAS A. COLEMAN II



FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT POSITION 1



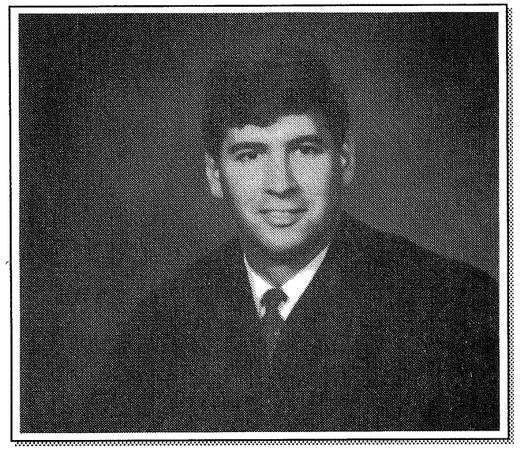
Judge Thomas A. Coleman, whose home is Ackerman, graduated from Central High School in Jackson in 1958. He earned a Bachelor of Arts with distinction in 1962 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1964 from the University of Mississippi. At the University, Judge Coleman belonged to Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Delta Phi. In law school, he served as case note editor of the Mississippi Law Journal.

After law school, Judge Coleman served two years on active duty with the Air Defense Artillery, United States Army, as a second and first lieutenant. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1973 with the rank of captain.

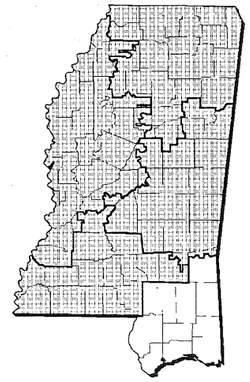
Judge Coleman practiced law in Ackerman from October, 1966, until November, 1968, when he moved to Jackson to practice law with the firm of Thomas, Alston, Davis, and Coleman. He returned to Ackerman on January 1, 1970, where he resumed the practice of law until October, 1992. He has served as District Attorney for the Fifth Circuit Court District (1972 to 1976), a member of the Mississippi Bicentennial Commission (1974 to 1976), and as Court Administrator of the Mississippi Supreme Court (1992 to 1993).

Judge Coleman is the son of James Plemon and Margaret Dennis Coleman. On August 29, 1964, he married Frances Witty McLean, daughter of Dr. Robert B. and Dorothy Witty McLean of Jackson. They are the parents of five children, James Plemon II, Robert McLean, Dorothy McLean, Josiah Dennis, and Leonidas McLean. His wife and he are members of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville, where he has served as Vestry Clerk and as a member of the Vestry.

JUDGE
OLIVER E. DIAZ, JR.



FIFTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 1

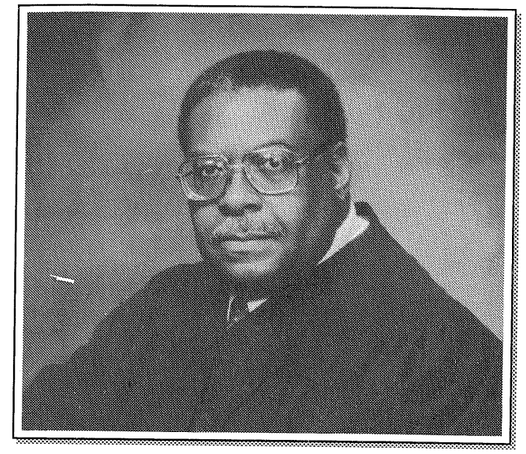


Judge Oliver E. Diaz, Jr. graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1977, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Alabama in 1982. After graduation from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1985, he practiced law on the Gulf Coast.

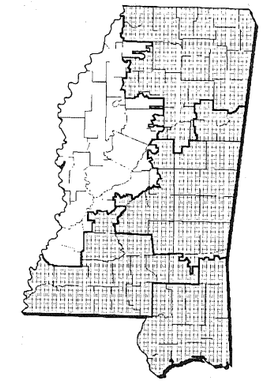
Judge Diaz served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from District 116 representing Biloxi and D'Iberville for the seven years immediately preceding his election to the Court of Appeals. During his tenure in the Legislature, he was a subcommittee chairman for the Insurance Committee and for the Judiciary Committee. He was on the Ways and Means Committee and was Secretary for the Constitution Committee. He also served as City Attorney for the City of D'Iberville for four years prior to assuming his position on the Court.

Judge Diaz is married to the former Jennifer Oestreich and is the father of one child.

JUDGE
LESLIE D. KING



SECOND
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 2

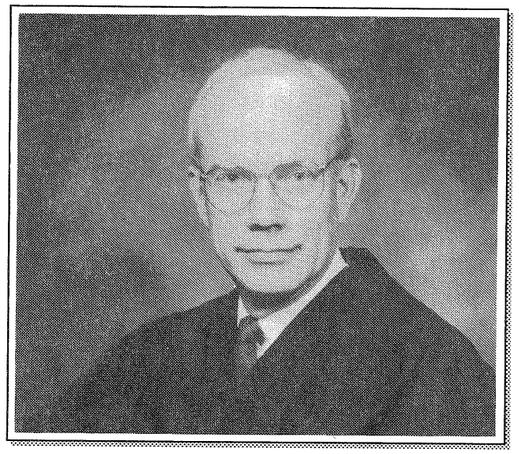


Judge Leslie D. King is a native of Greenville, where he began practicing law in 1973. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1970, and from the Texas Southern University School of Law in 1973.

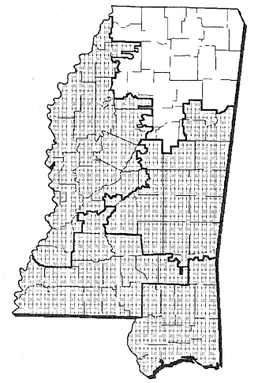
Prior to his election to the Court of Appeals, Judge King served in the Mississippi House of Representatives continuously beginning in 1980. During his tenure, he was named vice-chairman of the Ways and Means Committee (1988 - 1991) and vice-chairman of the Conservation and Water Resources Committee (since 1992). Other committees on which Judge King served include: Judiciary, Insurance, Environmental Protection Council, Housing Finance Oversight, and Universities and Colleges. He was also chairman of the Mississippi Black Legislative Caucus in 1988. Judge King has been Youth Court Counselor for Washington County, Public Defender, Youth Court Prosecutor, and Municipal Court Judge for the Town of Metcalfe.

Judge King and his wife, the former Patricia Smith of Greenville, have two daughters. They attend the St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greenville.

JUDGE
ROGER H. MCMILLIN, JR.



FIRST
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 2



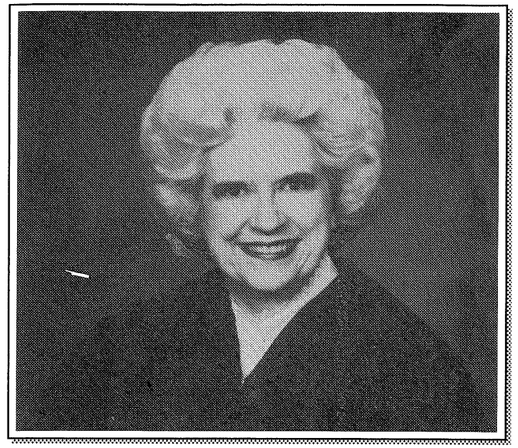
Judge Roger H. McMillin, Jr., a native of New Albany, graduated from New Albany High School in 1963. He completed his undergraduate studies at Mississippi State University where he received a B.A. degree in 1967. That same year, he attended Naval Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Ensign. Following a two-year tour of duty as a Communications Officer, he enrolled in the Memphis State University Law School under the G.I. Bill. Judge McMillin received his J.D. from Memphis State in 1972.

Following law school, he worked in the U.S.D.A.'s Office of General Counsel, primarily in Atlanta, and for the year 1976, he was an associate with the Jackson law firm of Scott, Barbour and Scott. In 1977, Judge McMillin returned to New Albany and entered private practice. He became a member of the firm of Sumners, Carter and McMillin in 1983. He served as City Attorney for New Albany from 1982 through 1994.

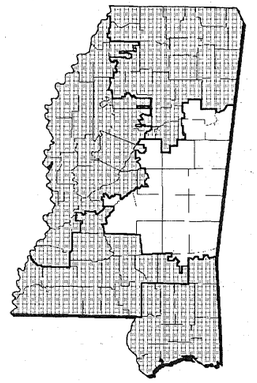
Judge McMillin served as Bar Commissioner for the Third Circuit District from 1986 to 1989. He has twice been President of the Union County Development Association, and in 1990, was named Industrial Development Volunteer Laureate by the Governor. He has been President of the New Albany Rotary Club, chairman of fund drives for his local Boy Scouts and Cancer Society, and served a term as President of the Union County Library Board. He is a former Elder and Congregational Chairman of the Cleveland Street Presbyterian Church.

Judge McMillin is married and is the father of two children.

JUDGE
MARY LIBBY PAYNE



THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 2



Prior to her election, Judge Mary Libby Payne was a Professor of Law and a former Dean of the Mississippi College School of Law. She had been associated with the school since 1975.

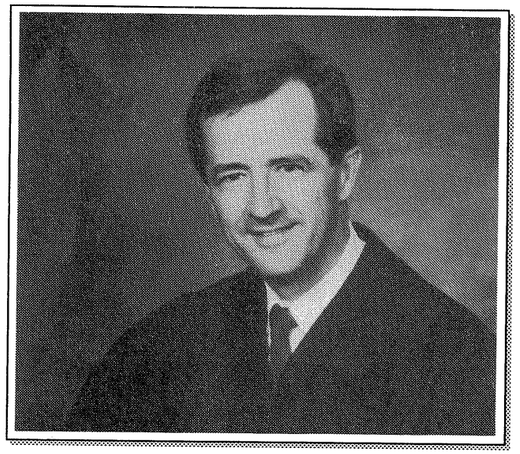
Judge Payne did her undergraduate work at Mississippi University for Women and the University of Mississippi where she graduated with distinction with a B.A. in Political Science. She has a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law where she graduated first in her class.

Judge Payne was involved in private practice in Jackson and Brandon before entering public service. She served all three branches of state government. She was a legislative draftsman, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Judiciary Commission, and an Assistant Attorney General.

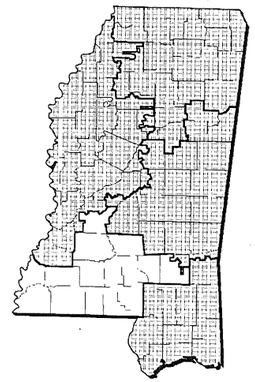
In 1987, MUW bestowed its Alumnae Achievement Award upon Judge Payne. In 1988, she received life membership in the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation (membership in which is limited to 1/3 of 1% of all lawyers). In 1989, Judge Payne was named "Woman of the Year" by the Mississippi Association for Women in Higher Education and received the Bank of Golden Deeds Award from the Pearl Exchange Club. In 1990, MUW gave her its highest award, the Medallion of Excellence.

Judge Payne is married to Bobby R. Payne, and they are the parents of two grown sons. They are active in the McLaurin Heights Baptist Church in Pearl. The Paynes often lead seminars on Time and Stress Management and the Problems and Delights of Dual Career Marriages.

JUDGE
LESLIE H. SOUTHWICK



FOURTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT
POSITION 1



Judge Leslie H. Southwick is a Texas native who has resided in Mississippi since 1976. He graduated cum laude with a B.A. degree from Rice University in 1972, and earned a J.D. from the University of Texas in 1975.

Following his law school graduation, Judge Southwick clerked for the Presiding Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and for Judge Charles Clark of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was an associate in the Jackson law firm of Brunini, Grantham, Grower and Hewes from 1977 to 1983, and a partner from 1983 to 1989. From 1985-86, he was a member of the Governor's Constitution Study Commission.

Judge Southwick pursued government service in 1989 when he became a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice (Civil Division). In this capacity, he supervised the one hundred and twenty-five lawyers of the Federal Programs Branch, which defends suits brought against the United States. He also supervised the Office of Consumer Litigation, a twenty-five lawyer division charged with civil and criminal enforcement of federal consumer laws. He has been an adjunct professor of law at Mississippi College. He is a member of the Charles Clark Chapter, American Inns of Court.

Judge Southwick has written several legal and historical articles which have been published in the Mississippi Law Journal, the Mississippi College Law Review, the Wall Street Journal, and various historical journals. He is the author of Presidential Also-Rans and Running Mates which won an American Library Association "Best Reference Work of the Year" award in 1985. A second edition is being published in 1997.

Judge Southwick is married to the former Sharon Polasek, and they have two children, Philip and Cathy. The Southwicks are members of St. Richard's Catholic Church in Jackson.

CASELOAD SUMMARY

The 1996 Court of Appeals disposed of 656 cases, an average of 65 cases per judge. Of this number, 636 involved decisions on the merits. The remaining 20 were dismissed. The Court of Appeals also remanded 7 cases to the trial courts. The Court heard oral argument in 85 cases (or 13.0% of its caseload). Overall, the Court affirmed 509 (or 79.2%) of the cases heard in 1996, while reversing 134 (or 20.8%) in whole or in part.

TABLE 1
CASE CLASSIFICATIONS

Table 1 depicts an overview of the nature of the 643 cases decided on the merits and remanded by the Court of Appeals in 1996. A majority of the cases 322 (50.1%) involved civil matters; the balance 321 (49.9%) involved criminal matters.

One hundred and eighty-four (184) motions for rehearing were disposed of in 1996. One hundred and eighty-two (182) were denied, and two (2) were dismissed on motion of the parties. The number of motions disposed of in 1996 was 218.

CASE CLASSIFICATIONS		
Criminal - Felony	319	49.61%
Domestic Relations	86	13.37%
Workers' Compensation	40	6.22%
Personal Injury	35	5.44%
State Boards and Agencies	35	5.44%
Contract	30	4.67%
Real Property	18	2.80%
Other Torts	14	2.18%
Wills, etc.	11	1.71%
Custody	11	1.71%
Insurance	8	1.24%
Property Damage	5	0.78%
Wrongful Death	4	0.62%
Medical Malpractice	4	0.62%
Eminent Domain	4	0.62%
Criminal Misdemeanor	2	0.31%
Legal Malpractice	2	0.31%
Other	15	2.33%
TOTAL	643	100.00%

TABLE 2
FORM AND NATURE OF DECISIONS

As indicated by the chart, disposition of cases in 1996 form three categories: unpublished comprehensive opinions, unpublished memorandum affirmances, and cases dismissed. Standards for publication by the Court of Appeals are found in Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 35-B. A memorandum affirmance may be used where well-settled rules of law apply to a recurring fact situation, the issue asserted is whether the evidence is sufficient and it clearly is, disposition of the case is controlled by a prior holding of the Mississippi Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court, or the Court approves of the conclusions and reasons reached in the opinion of the trial court or of the agency being reviewed and the opinion discusses all issues presented on appeal. Although Rule 35-B was amended in September of 1996 to allow the Court of Appeals to publish opinions, the Court issued only unpublished opinions in 1996.

Of the cases rendered in 1996, 620 (93.5%) cases were decided by unpublished comprehensive opinions, 23 (3.5%) cases were decided by memorandum opinions, and 20 (3.0%) cases were dismissed. Of the 643 decisions on the merits and remands, 509 (79.2%) were affirmed and 134 (20.8%) were reversed in whole or in part.

2A. FORM OF DECISIONS		
Unpublished Comprehensive Opinions	620	93.51%
Unpublished Memorandum Affirmances	23	3.47%
Cases Dismissed	20	3.02%
GRAND TOTAL	663	100.00%

2B. NATURE OF DECISIONS ON THE MERITS AND REMANDS		
Affirmed	509	79.16%
Reversed	134	20.84%
TOTAL	643	100.00%

TABLE 3
REASONS FOR REVERSAL IN REVERSED CASES

Table 3 details the reasons for reversal. Although there may have been more than one ground for reversal in a single case, only the principal ground is used for statistical purposes. A brief explanation of the categories follows:

Law: The trial judge misinterpreted the law. This category does not include cases where peremptory instruction was erroneously given or refused.

Procedure: The case contained errors involving such things as jurisdiction, venue, jury selection, procedural requirements, and judge's comments on the evidence, etc.

Weight of Evidence: The finding of fact upon which liability or non-liability, or guilt or innocence, was based was contrary to the overwhelming weight of the evidence.

Admission or Exclusion of Evidence: The evidence was admitted or excluded contrary to the rules of evidence.

Summary Judgment: The trial court erroneously granted or failed to grant summary judgment.

Instructions: The trial judge erred in refusing an instruction or in granting an instruction. This category does not include cases reversed because of an error in granting or refusing to grant a peremptory instruction or directed verdict.

Damages: The case involved an award of excessive or inadequate damages. This category includes cases affirmed on condition of remittitur or additur, and cases reversed unless remittitur or additur is accepted.

Lack of Substantial Evidence: A non-judicial fact-finding body, such as the Workers' Compensation Commission, did not have substantial evidence to support its findings.

Directed Verdict and JNOV: The trial court erred in granting or refusing to grant a directed verdict or judgment notwithstanding the verdict.

Peremptory Instruction: The trial court erred in giving or refusing to give a peremptory instruction.

REASONS FOR REVERSAL IN REVERSED CASES		
Law	49	36.57%
Procedure	17	12.69%
Summary Judgment	16	11.94%
Lack of Substantial Evidence	16	11.94%
Weight of Evidence	12	8.96%
Instructions	8	5.97%
Admission or Exclusion of Evidence	7	5.22%
Damages	5	3.73%
Peremptory Instruction	2	1.49%
Directed Verdict	2	1.49%
JNOV	0	0.00%
TOTAL	134	100.00%

TABLE 4
ORIGIN OF DISPOSITIONS

Table 4 shows that 447 (69.5%) of the cases disposed of on the merits and remanded by the Court of Appeals were appealed from the Circuit Courts in 1996; 124 (19.3%) were appealed from the Chancery Courts. Only 72 (11.2%) of the Court of Appeals' cases emanated from administrative agencies and courts of limited jurisdiction.

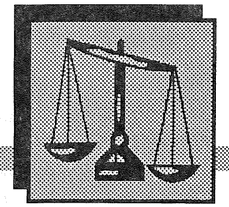
ORIGIN OF DISPOSITIONS		
Circuit Court	447	69.52%
Chancery Court	124	19.28%
Agencies and Commissions	63	9.80%
County Court	5	0.78%
Family Court	4	0.62%
TOTAL	643	100.00%

TABLE 5
MOTIONS FOR REHEARING

Within fourteen (14) days after a case is decided on the merits, unless an extension of time has been obtained, any party dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal may file a Motion for Rehearing with the Court of Appeals. *See* Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 40.

In 1996, the Court disposed of Motions for Rehearing: 182 (98.9%) were denied, 0 (0.0%) were granted, and 2 (1.1%) were dismissed on motion of the parties. Twenty-two (22) Motions for Rehearing were pending as of December 31, 1996.

MOTIONS FOR REHEARING		
Pending Dec. 31, 1995	31	
Filed	175	
TOTAL FOR CONSIDERATION	206	
Denied	182	98.90%
Granted	0	0.00%
Dismissed	2	1.10%
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	184	100.00%
Pending Dec. 31, 1996	22	



TRIAL COURT STATISTICS

- CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS
- CHANCERY COURT FILINGS
- COUNTY COURT FILINGS
- FAMILY COURT FILINGS

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS
CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Adams	206	387	158	189	203	164	301	169
Alcorn	656	171	721	228	179	635	221	543
Amite	200	56	184	66	56	261	20	231
Attala	216	95	196	118	89	197	139	215
Benton	64	23	72	38	29	96	25	91
Bolivar	92	116	85	49	238	100	106	91
Calhoun	166	89	226	157	71	218	124	264
Carroll	72	13	56	7	14	44	12	39
Chickasaw	274	98	351	115	103	397	43	415
Choctaw	62	58	105	76	34	121	59	77
Claiborne	246	17	250	60	45	247	83	289
Clarke	140	127	88	198	95	77	158	106
Clay	252	77	226	117	143	265	247	234
Coahoma	84	193	89	319	221	76	332	88
Copiah	456	261	431	139	103	363	95	426
Covington	190	32	160	20	21	156	167	174
DeSoto	264	481	399	311	271	343	588	361
Forrest	236	843	281	503	417	249	755	270
Franklin	56	23	79	33	26	111	12	98
George	200	29	217	48	70	255	65	181
Greene	68	35	69	43	32	77	48	138
Grenada	382	173	490	326	204	524	259	380
Hancock	366	116	359	244	118	391	173	232
Harrison	886	1645	751	1881	992	490	1221	605
Hinds	1386	1021	1283	1347	1429	1314	1972	1367
Holmes	434	53	257	106	125	200	110	314
Humphreys	144	63	109	118	55	103	59	87
Issaquena	18	10	11	2	1	14	6	20
Itawamba	144	52	136	89	70	127	73	126
Jackson	798	776	2188	758	447	852	737	3054
Jasper	220	59	234	84	69	206	164	208
Jefferson	860	56	140	2	3	90	35	103
Jefferson Davis	74	95	109	99	59	158	67	110
Jones	198	260	185	379	323	168	898	187
Kemper	60	39	79	46	42	66	26	51
Lafayette	496	199	796	175	134	611	216	647
Lamar	304	194	318	206	190	335	244	375
Lauderdale	244	875	177	764	664	163	504	212
Lawrence	158	51	88	48	72	144	60	115
Leake	220	29	172	23	27	239	41	147
Lee	252	316	303	363	375	361	528	262

LEGEND: ## = No data submitted

County	***1996 Civil Filings	***1996 Criminal Dispositions	**1995 Civil Filings	**1995 Criminal Dispositions	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Civil
Leflore	120	159	110	257	153	118	257	124
Lincoln	508	0	600	119	110	697	144	478
Lowndes	190	338	187	414	411	136	456	153
Madison	186	137	142	129	162	162	238	174
Marion	234	247	182	198	174	335	338	291
Marshall	458	57	535	75	60	609	73	684
Monroe	484	148	553	183	135	630	151	466
Montgomery	206	87	229	86	53	233	84	164
Neshoba	374	85	236	##	22	174	53	164
Newton	278	59	192	33	46	264	29	200
Noxubee	168	40	113	33	49	88	49	84
Oktibbeha	384	185	378	223	155	437	199	437
Panola	494	215	470	178	124	436	143	406
Pearl River	400	544	322	325	242	438	327	352
Perry	110	31	101	33	13	88	45	82
Pike	210	203	180	369	199	167	270	141
Pontotoc	364	71	317	69	22	414	69	352
Prentiss	360	163	293	250	103	297	92	251
Quitman	78	78	101	42	56	131	40	157
Rankin	524	449	228	327	331	259	365	229
Scott	242	70	258	115	78	345	92	262
Sharkey	54	25	34	30	32	44	68	50
Simpson	284	115	339	119	41	355	232	351
Smith	302	24	263	29	15	404	72	250
Stone	152	48	140	52	49	117	40	68
Sunflower	516	125	607	186	247	618	166	1046
Tallahatchie	120	38	110	65	56	82	97	153
Tate	360	71	401	116	94	274	134	317
Tippah	198	15	175	28	2	213	86	193
Tishomingo	138	49	146	47	36	101	31	135
Tunica	262	110	237	123	53	225	17	135
Union	446	100	322	94	89	269	128	238
Walthall	150	80	209	82	39	170	238	155
Warren	222	488	250	451	182	202	316	520
Washington	244	93	204	176	283	121	646	211
Wayne	122	86	182	150	60	84	83	128
Webster	100	26	104	56	31	92	22	109
Wilkinson	98	0	1	##	0	47	40	124
Winston	212	86	221	139	122	340	135	219
Yalobusha	116	33	113	23	18	150	39	124
Yazoo	74	124	63	169	197	41	456	71
TOTALS	**22,386**	**14,408**	**22,476**	**15,487**	**12,203**	**21,415**	**17,553**	**23,350**

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS
CASE FILINGS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 1 (3 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil Filings	***1996 Criminal Dispositions	**1995 Civil Filings	**1995 Criminal Dispositions	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Civil
Alcorn	656	171	721	228	179	635	221	543
Itawamba	144	52	136	89	70	127	73	126
Lee	252	316	303	363	375	361	528	262
Monroe	484	148	553	183	135	630	151	466
Pontotoc	364	71	317	69	22	414	69	352
Prentiss	360	163	293	250	103	297	92	251
Tishomingo	138	49	146	47	36	101	31	135
	2398	970	2469	1229	920	2565	1165	2135

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 2 (4 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil Filings	***1996 Criminal Dispositions	**1995 Civil Filings	**1995 Criminal Dispositions	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Civil
Hancock	366	116	359	244	118	391	173	232
Harrison	886	1645	751	1881	992	490	1221	605
Stone	152	48	140	52	49	117	40	68
	1404	1809	1250	2177	1159	998	1434	905

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 3 (2 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil Filings	***1996 Criminal Dispositions	**1995 Civil Filings	**1995 Criminal Dispositions	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Civil
Benton	64	23	72	38	29	96	25	91
Calhoun	166	89	226	157	71	218	124	264
Chickasaw	274	98	351	115	103	397	43	415
Lafayette	496	199	796	175	134	611	216	647
Marshall	458	57	535	75	60	609	73	684
Tippah	198	15	175	28	2	213	86	193
Union	446	100	322	94	89	269	128	238
	2102	581	2477	682	488	2413	695	2532

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 4 (4 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil Filings	***1996 Criminal Dispositions	**1995 Civil Filings	**1995 Criminal Dispositions	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Civil
Holmes					125	200	110	314
Humphreys					55	103	59	87
Leflore	120	159	110	257	153	118	257	124
Sunflower	516	125	607	186	247	618	166	1046
Washington	244	93	204	176	283	121	646	211
	880	377	921	619	863	1160	1238	1782

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 5 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Attala	216	95	196	118	89	197	139	215
Carroll	72	13	56	7	14	44	12	39
Choctaw	62	58	105	76	34	121	59	77
Grenada	382	173	490	326	204	524	259	380
Montgomery	206	87	229	86	53	233	84	164
Webster	100	26	104	56	31	92	22	109
Winston	212	86	221	139	122	340	135	219
	1250	538	1401	808	547	1551	710	1203

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 6 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Adams	206	387	158	189	203	164	301	169
Amite	200	56	184	66	56	261	20	231
Franklin	56	23	79	33	26	111	12	98
Jefferson					3	90	35	103
Wilkinson	98	0	1	##	0	47	40	124
	560	466	422	288	288	673	408	725

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 7 (4 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Hinds	1386	1021	1283	1347	1429	1314	1972	1367
Yazoo					197	41	456	71
	1386	1021	1283	1347	1626	1355	2428	1438

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 8 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Leake	220	29	172	23	27	239	41	147
Neshoba	374	85	236	##	22	174	53	164
Newton	278	59	192	33	46	264	29	200
Scott	242	70	258	115	78	345	92	262
	1114	243	858	171	173	1022	215	773

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 9 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal		Criminal	Civil
Claiborne					45	247	83	289
Issaquena	18	10	11	2	1	14	6	20
Sharkey	54	25	34	30	32	44	68	50
Warren	222	488	250	451	182	202	316	520
	294	523	295	483	260	507	473	879

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 10 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Clarke	140	127	88	198	95	77	158	106
Kemper	60	39	79	46	42	66	26	51
Lauderdale	244	875	177	764	664	163	504	212
Wayne	122	86	182	150	60	84	83	128
	566	1127	526	1158	861	390	771	497

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 11 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Bolivar	92	116	85	49	238	100	106	91
Coahoma	84	193	89	319	221	76	332	88
Quitman	78	78	101	42	56	131	40	157
Tunica	262	110	237	123	53	225	17	135
	516	497	512	533	568	532	495	471

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 12 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Forrest	236	843	281	503	417	249	755	270
Perry	110	31	101	33	13	88	45	82
	346	874	382	536	430	337	800	352

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 13 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Covington	190	32	160	20	21	156	167	174
Jasper	220	59	234	84	69	206	164	208
Simpson	284	115	339	119	41	355	232	351
Smith	302	24	263	29	15	404	72	250
	996	230	996	252	146	1121	635	983

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 14 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Copiah					103	363	95	426
Lincoln	508	0	600	119	110	697	144	478
Pike	210	203	180	369	199	167	270	141
Walthall	150	80	209	82	39	170	238	155
	868	283	989	570	451	1397	747	1200

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 15 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Jefferson Davis	74	95	109	99	59	158	67	110
Lamar	304	194	318	206	190	335	244	375
Lawrence	158	51	88	48	72	144	60	115
Marion	234	247	182	198	174	335	338	291
Pearl River	400	544	322	325	242	438	327	352
	1170	1131	1019	876	737	1410	1036	1243

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 16 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Clay	252	77	226	117	143	265	247	234
Lowndes	190	338	187	414	411	136	456	153
Noxubee	168	40	113	33	49	88	49	84
Oktibbeha	384	185	378	223	155	437	199	437
	994	640	904	787	758	926	951	908

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 17 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
DeSoto	264	481	399	311	271	343	588	361
Panola	494	215	470	178	124	436	143	406
Tallahatchie	120	38	110	65	56	82	97	153
Tate	360	71	401	116	94	274	134	317
Yalobusha	116	33	113	23	18	150	39	124
	1354	838	1493	693	563	1285	1001	1361

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 18 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Jones	198	260	185	379	323	168	898	187
	198	260	185	379	323	168	898	187

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 19 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
George	200	29	217	48	70	255	65	181
Greene	68	35	69	43	32	77	48	138
Jackson	798	776	2188	758	447	852	737	3054
	1066	840	2474	849	549	1184	850	3373

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 20 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Madison	186	137	142	129	162	162	238	174
Rankin	524	449	228	327	331	259	365	229
	710	586	370	456	493	421	603	403

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 21 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Holmes	434	53	257	106	125	200	110	314
Humphreys	144	63	109	118	55	103	59	87
Yazoo	74	124	63	169	197	41	456	71
	652	240	429	393	377	344	625	472

CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT 22 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		**1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Civil Filings	Criminal Dispositions	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil
Claiborne	246	17	250	60	45	247	83	289
Copiah	456	261	431	139	103	363	95	426
Jefferson	860	56	140	2	3	90	35	103
	1562	334	821	201	151	700	213	818

CHANCERY COURT FILINGS
CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Adams	1116	#	995	#	988		1062	#
Alcorn	1016	213	962	38	937		836	136
Amite	376	35	218	23	291		308	23
Attala	314	105	315	23	381		370	10
Benton	172	9	151	14	208		189	13
Bolivar	1230	#	1029	#	1178		1364	#
Calhoun	502	28	418	29	276		295	29
Carroll	230	14	120	4	118		127	1
Chickasaw	418	55	320	62	463		405	35
Choctaw	180	22	163	14	106		124	2
Claiborne	352	29	220	30	432		216	13
Clarke	574	113	437	21	518		772	17
Clay	566	244	390	79	684		439	67
Coahoma	1162	#	807	#	773		987	#
Copiah	830	245	674	240	669		538	150
Covington	396	44	460	81	397		445	60
DeSoto	1998	#	2177	#	2079		1662	#
Forrest	2228	#	1843	#	2024		1428	#
Franklin	196	129	175	33	284		170	28
George	518	221	431	63	439		409	54
Greene	266	25	176	21	190		228	26
Grenada	550	357	528	92	486		497	95
Hancock	1166	611	978	228	1036		940	376
Harrison	6412	#	5318	#	5877		5508	#
Hinds	6486	#	7753	#	6982		7094	#
Holmes	524	64	481	91	444		499	41
Humphreys	234	29	175	30	185		150	27
Issaquena	34	3	15	12	26		26	2
Itawamba	588	220	453	126	475		398	89
Jackson	4538	#	3595	#	4975		3394	#
Jasper	752	49	532	30	500		273	49
Jefferson	220	48	174	117	21		175	9
Jefferson Davis	380	23	195	61	225		216	41
Jones	1326	#	1148	#	938		1360	#
Kemper	200	62	150	13	279		223	15
Lafayette	882	218	676	75	871		616	43
Lamar	966	137	617	30	828		654	29
Lauderdale	2294	#	2225	#	3153		1970	#
Lawrence	332	15	255	65	189		234	26
Leake	432	68	398	8	404		349	28

LEGEND: # = No jurisdiction (see County Court Chart)
= No data submitted

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Lee	2024	#	1728	#	1860		2068	#
Leflore	1118	#	786	#	859		736	#
Lincoln	756	658	910	464	992		772	431
Lowndes	1328	#	1188	#	1428		1038	#
Madison	842	#	1025	#	683		640	#
Marion	1184	104	565	38	836		662	63
Marshall	806	156	609	72	814		681	69
Monroe	846	221	814	208	865		776	223
Montgomery	264	249	207	42	254		327	59
Neshoba	578	183	437	51	534		378	23
Newton	656	96	427	66	490		354	33
Noxubee	260	18	219	12	219		219	11
Oktibbeha	518	183	497	98	523		507	55
Panola	922	270	764	31	1261		828	37
Pearl River	1048	143	889	43	1170		833	52
Perry	294	3	300	39	333		242	36
Pike	918	#	875	#	1020		881	#
Pontotoc	664	71	557	59	514		469	96
Prentiss	684	83	605	58	473		538	118
Quitman	522	143	270	68	378		270	17
Rankin	2180	#	2300	#	2289		1569	#
Scott	632	68	590	60	795		584	81
Sharkey	116	11	135	90	161		184	125
Simpson	720	328	660	157	715		473	122
Smith	512	51	276	42	284		318	44
Stone	260	146	296	34	372		275	30
Sunflower	504	448	602	437	533		748	426
Tallahatchie	344	127	339	44	350		305	26
Tate	622	180	532	19	641		421	13
Tippah	622	75	466	60	451		459	39
Tishomingo	476	59	392	45	466		465	52
Tunica	362	102	285	53	345		318	44
Union	672	121	491	78	617		430	90
Walthall	322	23	250	46	245		364	24
Warren	1282	#	1037	#	912		1039	#
Washington	1224	#	1300	#	743		1325	#
Wayne	698	129	358	57	530		440	53
Webster	318	26	196	22	231		184	2
Wilkinson	356	6	287	7	285		236	2
Winston	570	97	400	41	425		310	43
Yalobusha	428	94	314	28	436		312	23
Yazoo	400	#	440	#	431		341	#
TOTALS	**72,808**	**8,107**	**63,765**	**4,422**	**69,092**		**61,269**	**4,096**

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS
CASE FILINGS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 1 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Alcorn	1016	213	962	38	937		836	136
Itawamba	588	220	453	126	475		398	89
Lee	2024	#	1728	#	1860		2068	#
Monroe	846	221	814	208	865		776	223
Pontotoc	664	71	557	59	514		469	96
Prentiss	684	83	605	58	473		538	118
Tishomingo	476	59	392	45	466		465	52
Union	672	121	491	78	617		430	90
	6970	988	6002	612	6207		5980	804

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 2 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Jasper	752	49	532	30	500		273	49
Newton	656	96	427	66	490		354	33
Scott	632	68	590	60	795		584	81
	2040	213	1549	156	1785		1211	163

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 3 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
DeSoto	1998	#	2177	#	2079		1662	#
Grenada	550	357	528	92	486		497	95
Montgomery	264	249	207	42	254		327	59
Panola	922	270	764	31	1261		828	37
Tate	622	180	532	19	641		421	13
Yalobusha	428	94	314	28	436		312	23
	4784	1150	4522	212	5157		4047	227

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 4 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Amite	376	35	218	23	291		308	23
Franklin	196	129	175	33	284		170	28
Pike	918	#	875	#	1020		881	#
Walthall	322	23	250	46	245		364	24
	1812	187	1518	102	1840		1723	75

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 5 (4 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Hinds	6486	#	7753	#	6982		7094	#
	6486	#	7753	#	6982		7094	#

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 6 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Attala	314	105	315	23	381		370	10
Carroll	230	14	120	4	118		127	1
Choctaw	180	22	163	14	106		124	2
Kemper	200	62	150	13	279		223	15
Neshoba	578	183	437	51	534		378	23
Winston	570	97	400	41	425		310	43
	2072	483	1585	146	1843		1532	94

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 7 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Bolivar	1230	#	1029	#	1178		1364	#
Coahoma	1162	#	807	#	773		987	#
Leflore	1118	#	786	#	859		736	#
Quitman	522	143	270	68	378		270	17
Tallahatchie	344	127	339	44	350		305	26
Tunica	362	102	285	53	345		318	44
	4738	372	3516	165	3883		3980	87

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 8 (4 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Hancock	1166	611	978	228	1036		940	376
Harrison	6412	#	5318	#	5877		5508	#
Stone	260	146	296	34	372		275	30
	7838	757	6592	262	7285		6723	406

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 9 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Humphreys	234	29	175	30	185		150	27
Issaquena	34	3	15	12	26		26	2
Sharkey	116	11	135	90	161		184	125
Sunflower	504	448	602	437	533		748	426
Warren	1282	#	1037	#	912		1039	#
Washington	1224	#	1300	#	743		1325	#
	3394	491	3264	569	2560		3472	580

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 10 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Forrest	2228	#	1843	#	2024		1428	#
Lamar	966	137	617	30	828		654	29
Marion	1184	104	565	38	836		662	63
Pearl River	1048	143	889	43	1170		833	52
Perry	294	3	300	39	333		242	36
	5720	387	4214	150	5191		3819	180

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 11 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Holmes	524	64	481	91	444		499	41
Leake	432	68	398	8	404		349	28
Madison	842	#	1025	#	683		640	#
Yazoo	400	#	440	#	431		341	#
	2198	132	2344	99	1962		1829	69

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 12 (2 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Clarke	574	113	437	21	518		772	17
Lauderdale	2294	#	2225	#	3153		1970	#
	2868	113	2662	21	3671		2742	17

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 13 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Covington	396	44	460	81	397		445	60
Jefferson Davis	380	23	195	61	225		216	41
Lawrence	332	15	255	65	189		234	26
Simpson	720	328	660	157	715		473	122
Smith	512	51	276	42	284		318	44
	2340	461	1846	406	1810		1686	293

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 14 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Chickasaw	418	55	320	62	463		405	35
Clay	566	244	390	79	684		439	67
Lowndes	1328	#	1188	#	1428		1038	#
Noxubee	260	18	219	12	219		219	11
Oktibbeha	518	183	497	98	523		507	55
Webster	318	26	196	22	231		184	2
	3408	526	2810	273	3548		2792	170

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 15 (1 JUDGE)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
Copiah	830	245	674	240	669		538	150
Lincoln	756	658	910	464	992		772	431
	1586	903	1584	704	1661		1310	581

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 16 (3 JUDGES)

	***1996		1995		*1994		1993 Filings	
County	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth	Civil	Youth
George	518	221	431	63	439		409	54
Greene	266	25	176	21	190		228	26
Jackson	4538	#	3595	#	4975		3394	#
	5322	246	4202	84	5604		4031	80

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 17 (2 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil	***1996 Youth	1995 Civil	1995 Youth	*1994 Civil	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Civil	1993 Filings Youth
Adams	1116	#	995	#	988		1062	#
Claiborne	352	29	220	30	432		216	13
Jefferson	220	48	174	117	21		175	9
Wilkinson	356	6	287	7	285		236	2
	2044	83	1676	154	1726		1689	24

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 18 (2 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil	***1996 Youth	1995 Civil	1995 Youth	*1994 Civil	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Civil	1993 Filings Youth
Benton	172	9	151	14	208		189	13
Calhoun	502	28	418	29	276		295	29
Lafayette	882	218	676	75	871		616	43
Marshall	806	156	609	72	814		681	69
Tippah	622	75	466	60	451		459	39
	2984	486	2320	250	2620		2240	193

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 19 (1 JUDGE)

County	***1996 Civil	***1996 Youth	1995 Civil	1995 Youth	*1994 Civil	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Civil	1993 Filings Youth
Jones	1326	#	1148	#	938		1360	#
Wayne	698	129	358	57	530		440	53
	2024	129	1506	57	1468		1800	53

CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT 20 (2 JUDGES)

County	***1996 Civil	***1996 Youth	1995 Civil	1995 Youth	*1994 Civil	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Civil	1993 Filings Youth
Rankin	2180	#	2300	#	2289		1569	#
	2180	#	2300	#	2289		1569	#

COUNTY COURT FILINGS
CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

County	***1996 Filings Civil	***1996 Filings Youth	1995 Filings Civil	1995 Filings Youth	*1994 Civil	*1994 Criminal	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Civil	1993 Filings Criminal	1993 Filings Youth
Adams	404	768	636	321	651			401	46	343
Bolivar	592	440	667	216	645			427	57	213
Coahoma	542	760	455	165	406			473	43	222
DeSoto	836	1526	845	179	651			734	102	271
Forrest	3296	965	2586	179	2324			2166	1147	188
Harrison	2506	#	2449	#	3005			2415	255	#
Hinds	12052	2994	11678	1847	13211			13149	1251	2691
Jackson	1612	1838	1579	233	1599			889	781	1805
Jones	500	591	629	117	636			493	49	241
Lauderdale	1988	1666	1636	840	1708			1469	75	1138
Lee	1076	579	932	142	1033			827	39	135
Leflore	1126	511	1084	125	1002			612	162	77
Lowndes	1074	621	1317	424	1053			720	144	297
Madison	964	585	935	833	1017			792	59	270
Pike	2074	518	1680	276	1848			936	43	179
Rankin	1948	349	1635	194	1626			1349	408	288
Warren	1468	752	1181	387	1594			1102	132	677
Washington	784	1368	753	1050	1137			548	426	1054
Yazoo	400	624	443	37	512			458	8	40
TOTALS	**35,242**	**17,455**	**33,120**	**7,565**	**35,658**			**29,960**	**5,227**	**10,129**

LEGEND: # = No jurisdiction (see Family Court Chart)

FAMILY COURT FILINGS
CALENDAR YEARS 1993-1996

County	***1996 Youth	1995 Youth	*1994 Youth	1993 Filings Youth
Harrison	2741	1168		964

*1994 A new system for identifying both civil and criminal case activities in the trial courts was implemented in calendar year 1994. For that reason, some statistical information is not available for 1994.

**1995 The 1995 circuit court statistics reflect filings and dispositions for two new circuit court districts created in 1995. Circuit court statistics have been revised in 1995 to show criminal dispositions as well as civil filings.

***1996 The 1996 circuit court filings and criminal dispositions and chancery court filings are estimated in part. The 1996 youth court filings are descriptive rather than precise. While the 1996 youth court filings show a substantial increase over previous years, the actual increase is approximately 15% additional activity over the 1995 figures. A new youth court tracking system has been implemented for calendar year 1997.

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