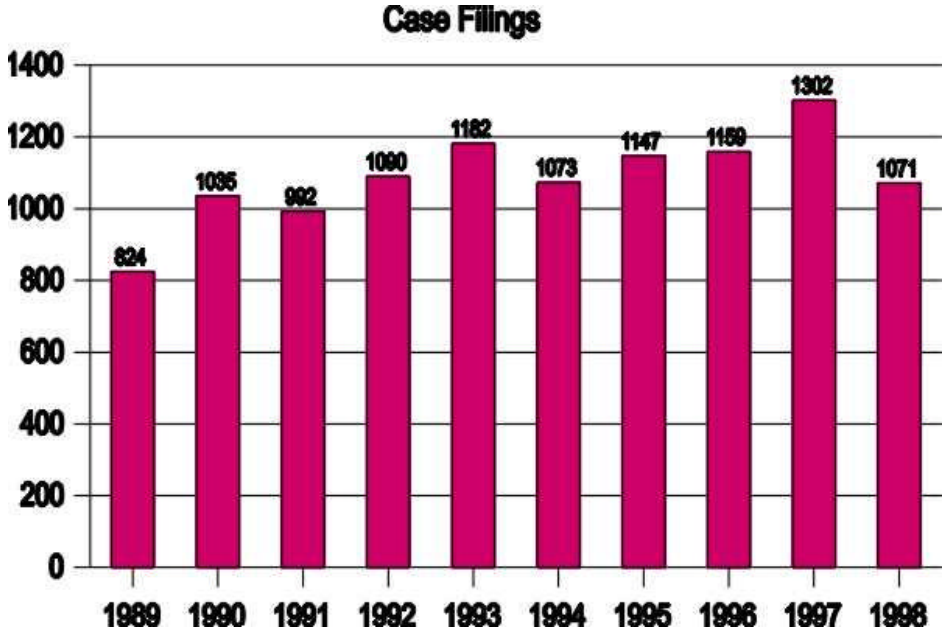
SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

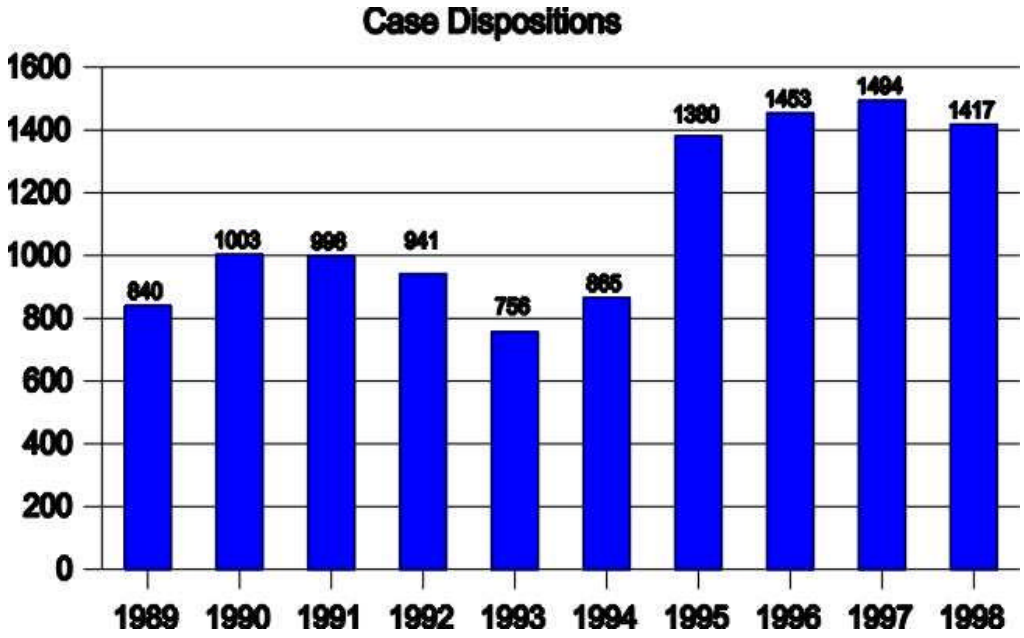
1998 ANNUAL REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

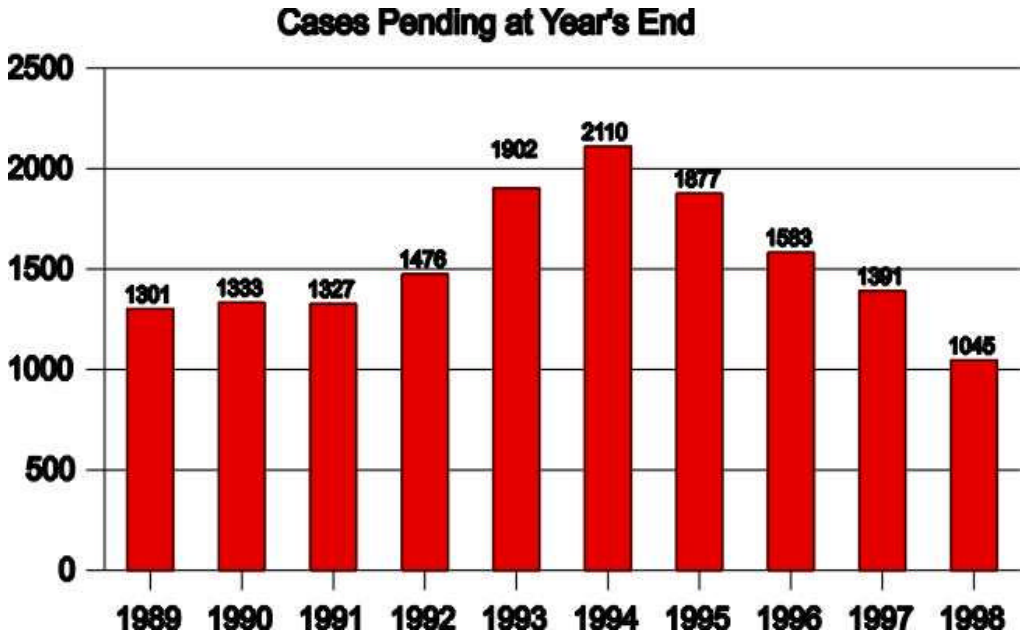
The Executive Summary of the 1998 Annual Report of the Supreme Court of Mississippi provides a synopsis of the appellate court system consisting of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and the trial court system including chancery, circuit, county, and youth courts.

APPELLATE COURTS

The following charts present an overview of the statistical case filings and dispositions of the combined efforts of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of Appeals encompassing a ten (10) year comparative base. There were 1,071 new filings in 1998. The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals disposed of 1,417 cases in 1998.



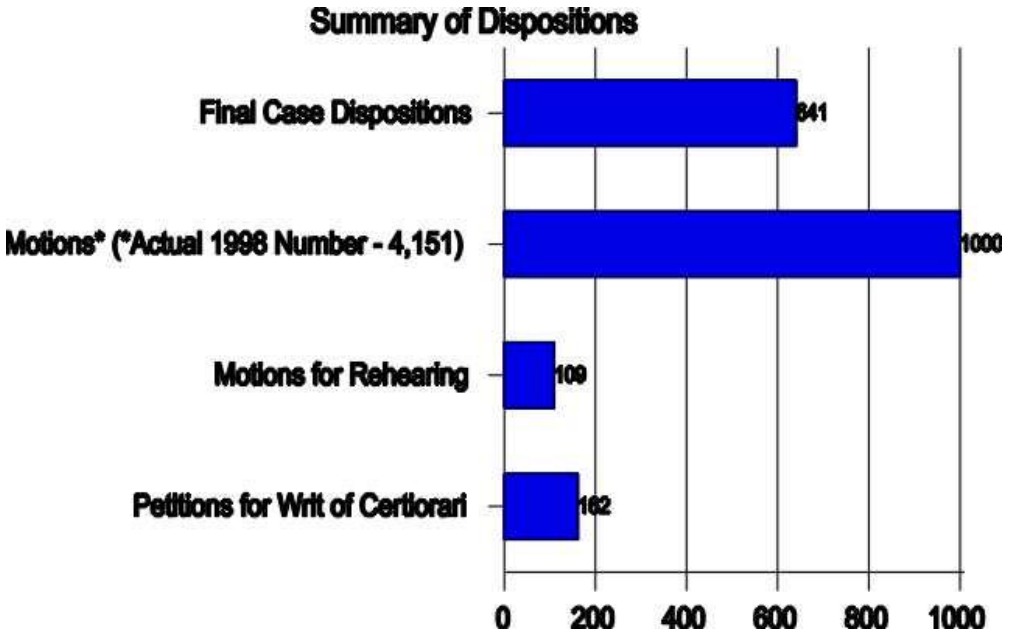




SUPREME COURT

The 1998 Supreme Court disposed of 641 cases, an average of 71 cases per justice. Of this number, 437 involved decisions on the merits. The remaining 204 were dismissed. Of the cases disposed of on the merits, 264 (or 60%) were civil and 173 (or 40%) were criminal. Overall, the Court affirmed 346 (or 80%) of the cases heard in 1998, while reversing 91 (or 20%) in whole or in part. The criminal affirmance rate was 90% while the civil affirmance rate was 73%.

The Supreme Court disposed of one hundred and nine (109) motions for rehearing in 1998. One hundred and six (106) were denied, and three (3) were granted. The number of motions disposed of in 1998 by the Court was 4,151. Ninety-five (95) petitions for interlocutory appeal were filed in 1998 under Mississippi Rule of Appellate Procedure 5. In 1998, twenty-eight (28) interlocutory appeals were granted, fifty-four (54) denied, and five (5) had other dispositions. The Court disposed of 162 Petitions for Writ of Certiorari. One hundred and thirty-eight (or 85%) were denied, and twenty-four (or 15%) were granted. The following chart represents a summary of the cases, motions, and petitions disposed of by the Supreme Court in 1998.

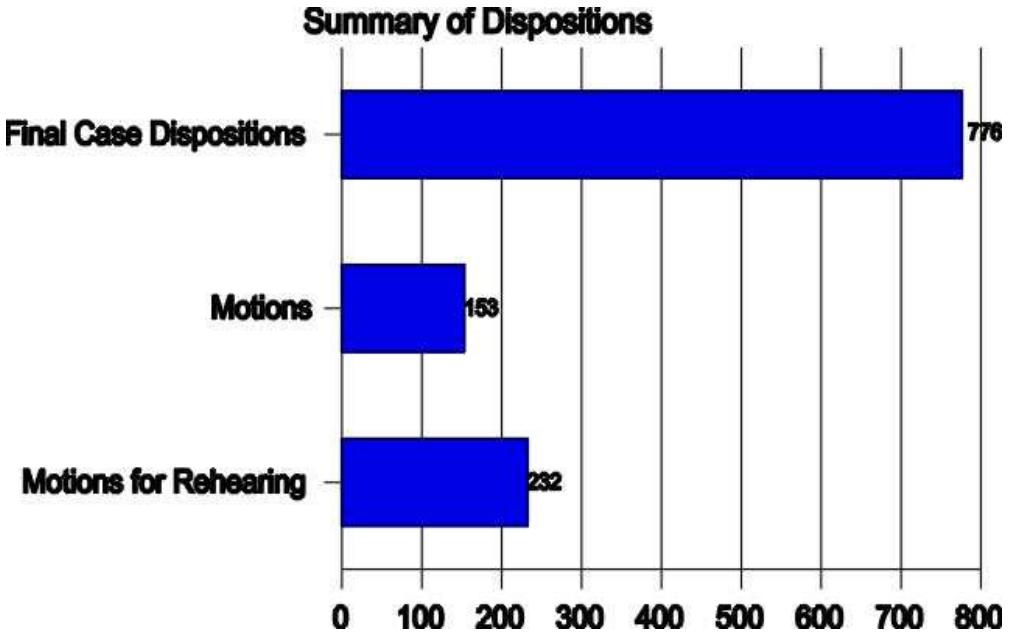


Three hundred and twenty-five (325) of the cases considered by the Supreme Court were handled by published written opinion in 1998, one hundred and eleven (111) cases were decided by unpublished written opinions, and one (1) by per curiam decision. The Court heard oral argument in 51 cases (or 8% of its caseload) in 1998. The majority of the cases originated in circuit court.

COURT OF APPEALS

In 1998, the Court of Appeals disposed of 776 cases, an average of 77 cases per judge. Of this number, 758 involved decisions on the merits. The remaining 18 were dismissed. Overall, the Court affirmed 611 (or 80%) of the cases heard in 1998, while reversing 147 (or 20%) in whole or in part. A majority of the cases decided on the merits, 398 (or 53%), involved criminal matters; the balance, 360 (or 47%) involved civil matters. The criminal affirmance rate was 88% while the civil affirmance rate was 73%.

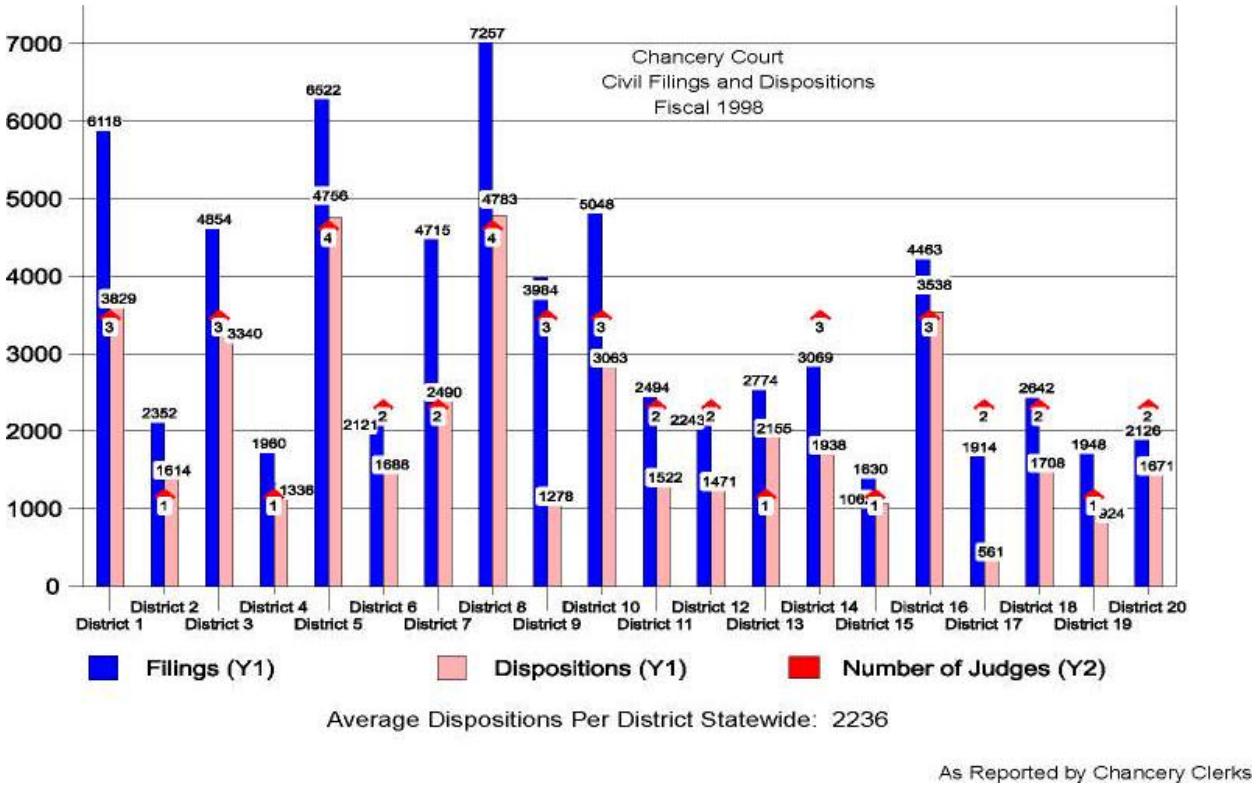
The Court of Appeals disposed of two hundred and thirty-two (232) motions for rehearing in 1998. Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) were denied, four (4) were granted. The number of motions disposed of in 1998 was 153. The following chart represents a summary of the cases and motions disposed of by the Court of Appeals in 1998.



Of the cases decided by the Court of Appeals in 1998, 451 (58%) cases were decided by unpublished comprehensive opinions, 50 (7.0%) cases were decided by unpublished memorandum opinions, 18 (2.0%) cases were dismissed, and 257 (33%) were decided by

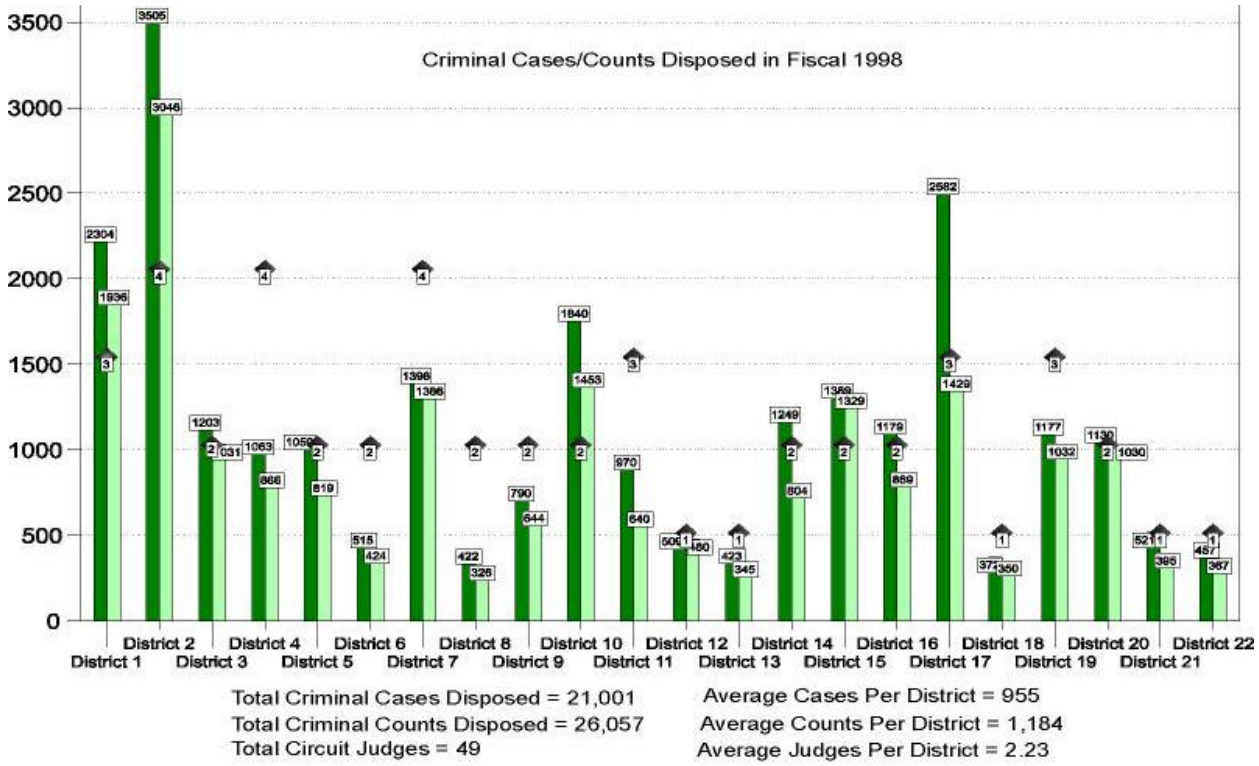
published written opinions. The Court heard oral argument in 62 cases (or 8% of its caseload). The majority of cases originated from circuit court.

Chancery Court Civil Filings and Dispositions



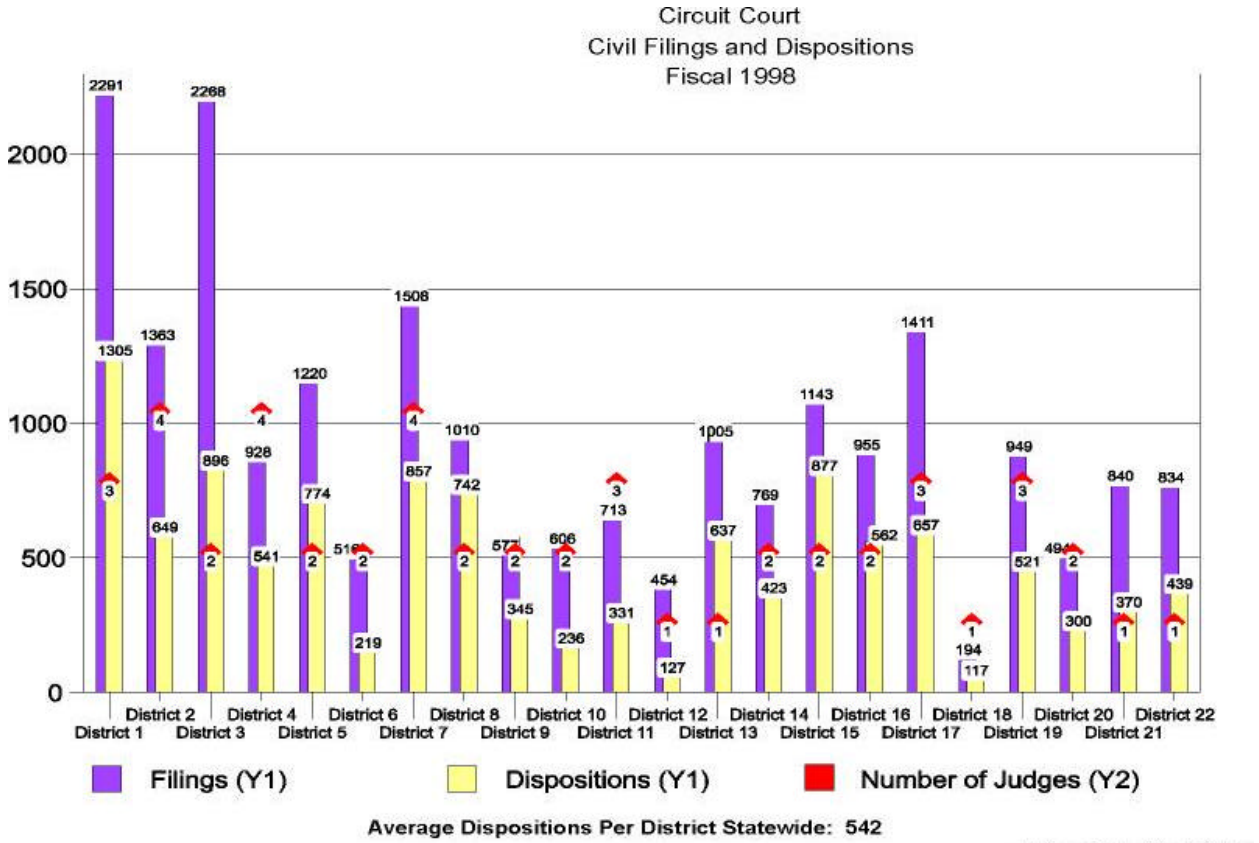
As Reported by Chancery Clerks

Criminal Cases/Counts Disposed



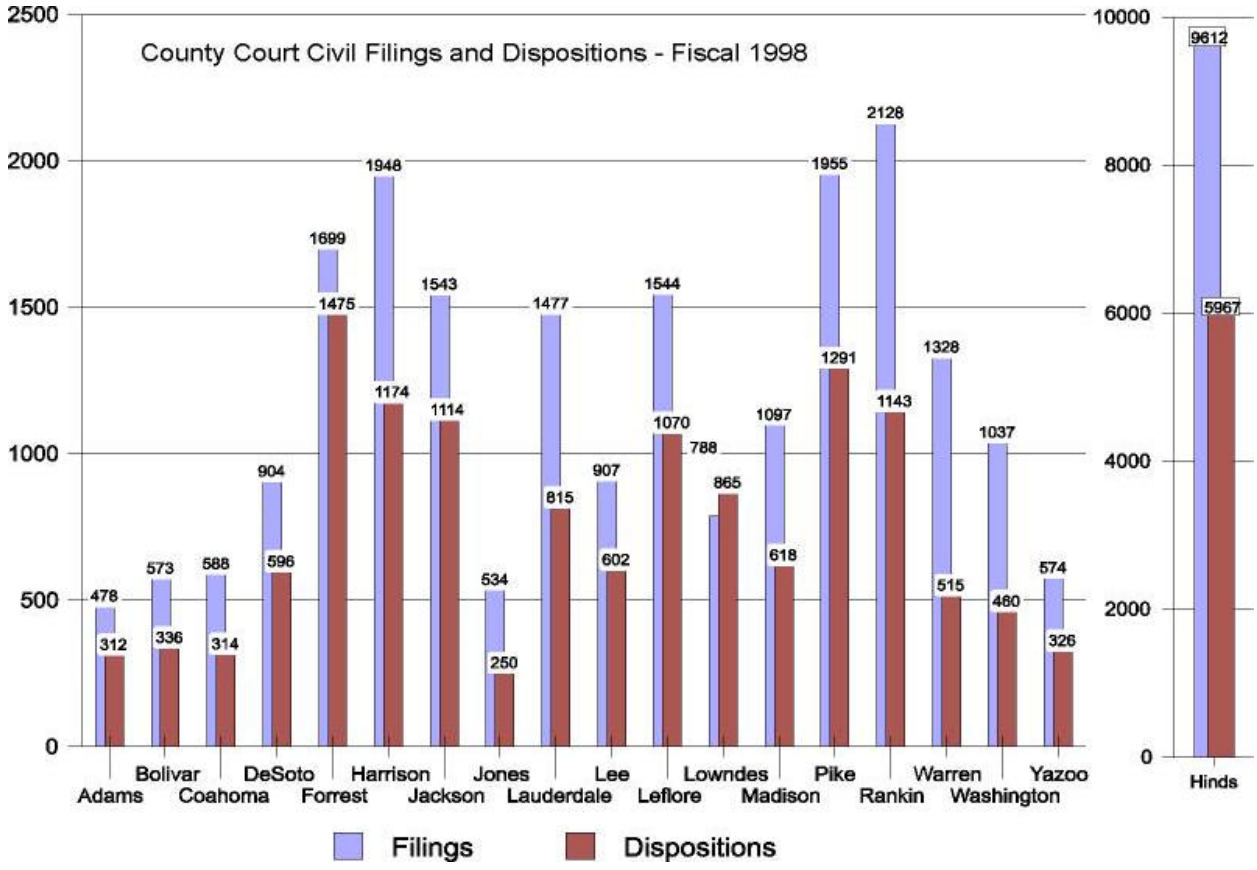
As Reported by Circuit Clerks

Circuit Court Civil Filings and Dispositions

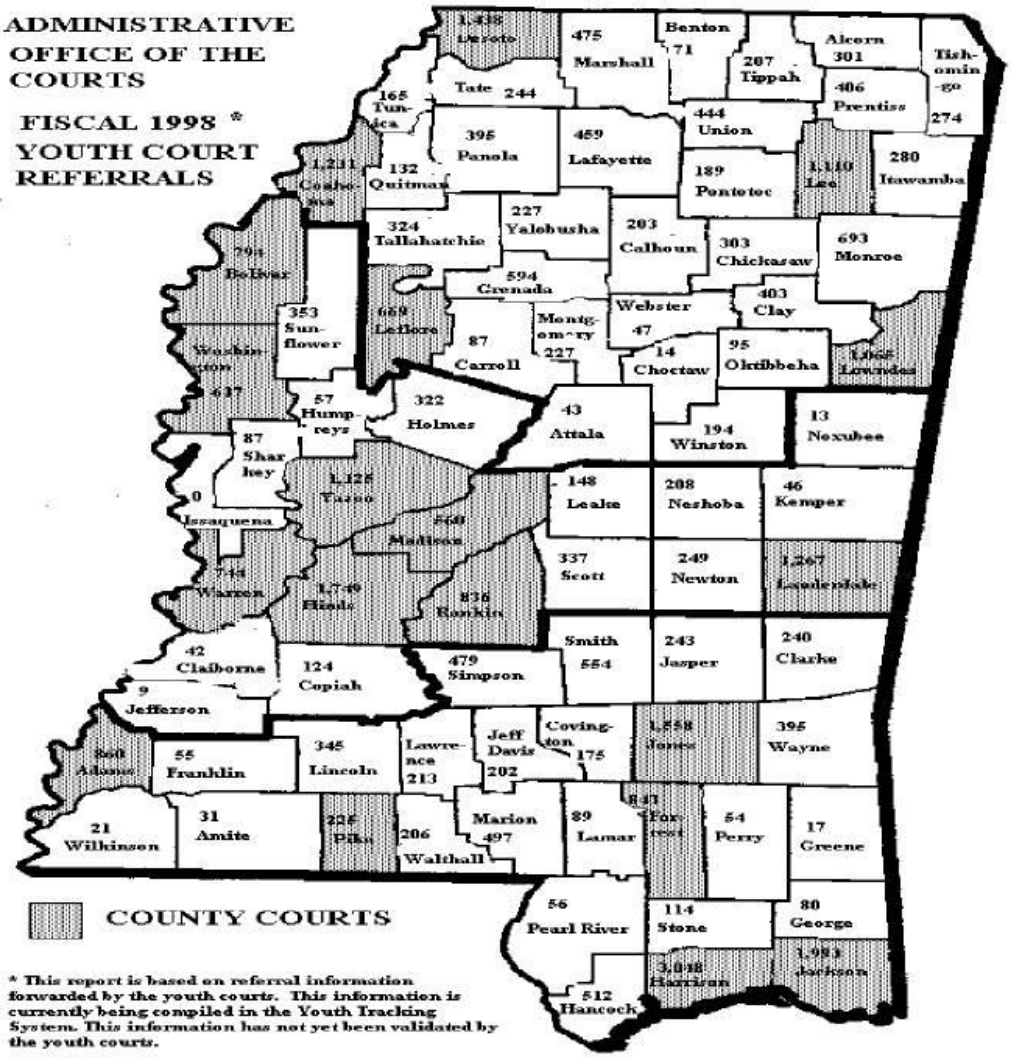


As Reported by Circuit Clerks

County Court Civil Filings and Dispositions



Youth Court Referrals



* This report is based on referral information forwarded by the youth courts. This information is currently being compiled in the Youth Tracking System. This information has not yet been validated by the youth courts.