



## COURT OF APPEALS

Ohio's court of appeals is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution and its jurisdiction is outlined in Article IV, Section 3. The court is divided regionally into 12 districts. As an intermediate-level appellate court, its primary function is to hear appeals from the courts of common pleas, and municipal and county courts, which may in turn be further appealed to the Supreme Court. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel.

In addition to its appellate jurisdiction, the court of appeals has original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition and quo warranto. The tenth appellate district, consisting solely of Franklin County, also hears appeals from the Court of Claims.

The number of judges in each appellate district depends on a variety of factors, including the district's population and its caseload. Appeals court judges are elected to six-year terms in even-numbered years. They must be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio six years prior to the commencement of the term.

## Caseloads

The cases heard in Ohio's court of appeals are classified into four broad types:

- **Criminal appeals** arising from criminal cases heard in the general divisions of the courts of common pleas, and in municipal and county courts.
- **Civil appeals** arising from civil cases heard in the general divisions of the courts of common pleas, and municipal and county courts.
- **Family law appeals** arising from cases heard in the domestic relations, juvenile, and probate divisions of Ohio's courts of common pleas.
- **Miscellaneous appeals** include original actions filed in the courts of appeals, habeas corpus cases and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims.

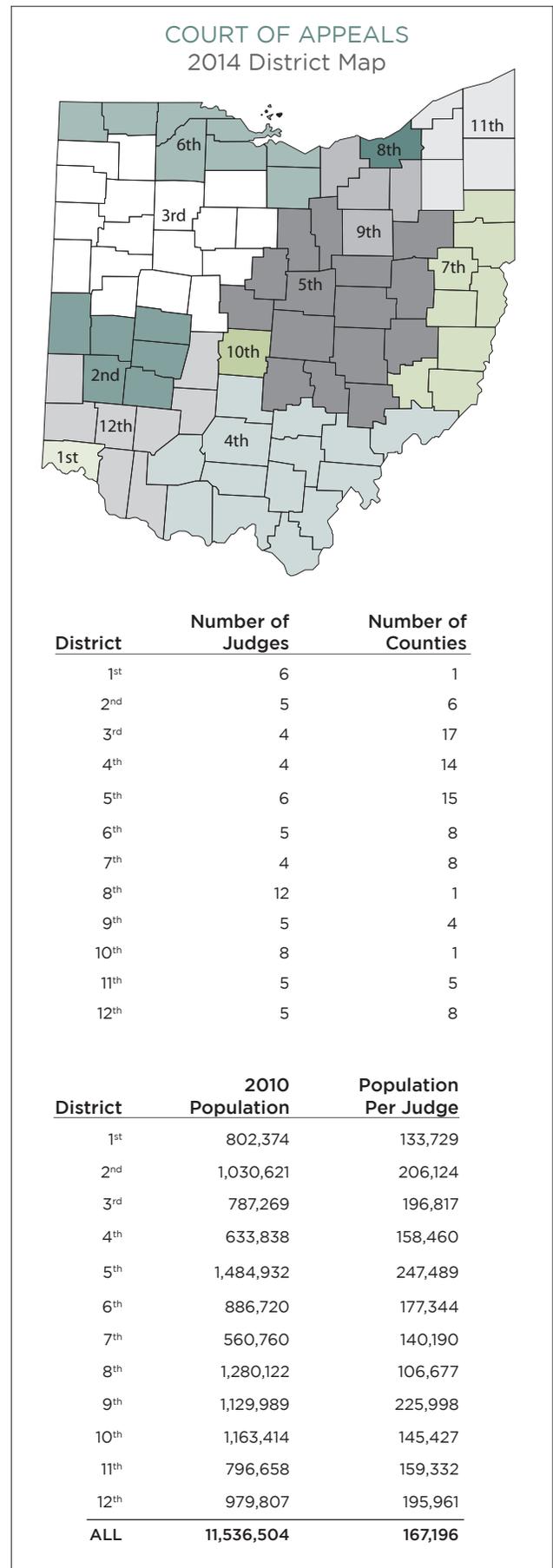
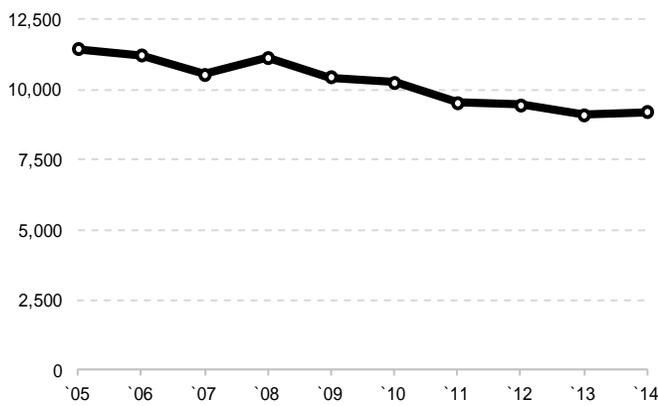


FIGURE 1

**All Case Types Combined**  
Total incoming cases



The overall number of appeals filed in Ohio’s court of appeals has been declining fairly steadily for the last 10 years. In 2005, a 10-year high of 11,437 cases were filed. In 2014, a total of 9,196 cases were filed, representing a 20-percent decline over 2005. The number filed in 2014, however, represented a one-percent increase over 2013. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

TABLE 1

**Court of Appeals**  
Total Incoming Cases

Case Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Criminal	5,047	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209	4,181	4,056	4,329
Civil	3,433	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955	2,975	2,807	2,595
Family Law	1,623	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430	1,422	1,454	1,526
Miscellaneous	1,288	810	832	857	909	973	914	848	759	746
<b>All Case Types</b>	<b>11,391</b>	<b>11,208</b>	<b>10,512</b>	<b>11,115</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>10,227</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>9,426</b>	<b>9,076</b>	<b>9,196</b>

**Figure 2** shows trends in the number of filings over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Both criminal and civil appeals exhibit general downward trends over the last 10 years. However, in 2014, the appellate courts experienced an increase of seven percent in the number of criminal appeals being filed. Civil appeals continue to decline fairly steadily from their 10-year high in 2006. Family law appeals were up in 2015, with an increase of five percent over 2013. A 10-year view of family law appeals reveals a reversal of the general downward trend between 2006 and 2011, with two consecutive years of annual increases beginning in 2013. (See **Figure 3**).

**Figure 4** shows the 10-year trend in the filing of miscellaneous appeals (consisting of original actions, habeas corpus cases, and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims). Despite the spike seen in 2005, filings in these cases types have remained largely stable, although since 2010, filings have declined.

FIGURE 2

**Civil and Criminal Appeals**  
Total incoming cases

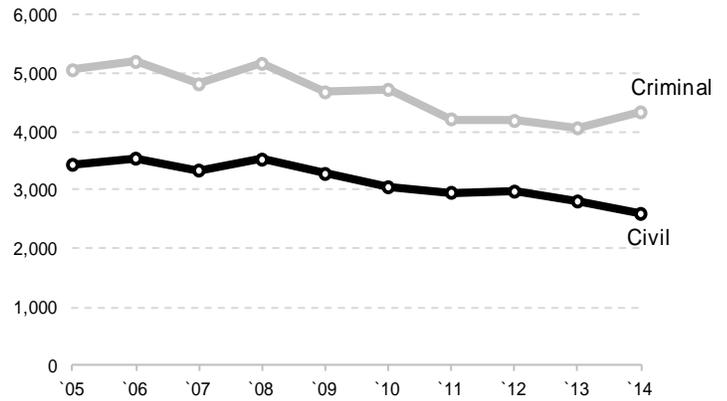


FIGURE 3

**Family Law Appeals**  
Total incoming cases

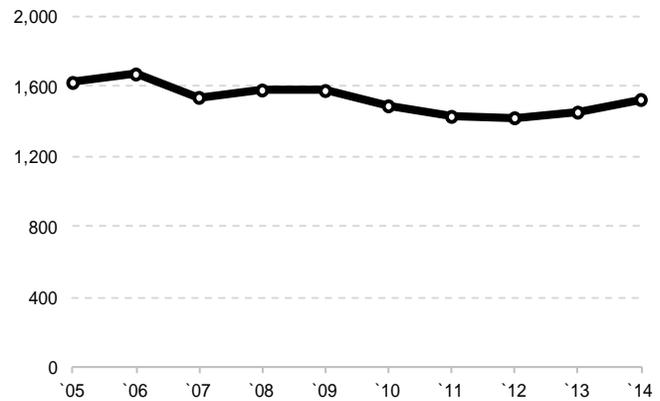


FIGURE 4

**Miscellaneous Appeals**  
Total incoming cases

