



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.

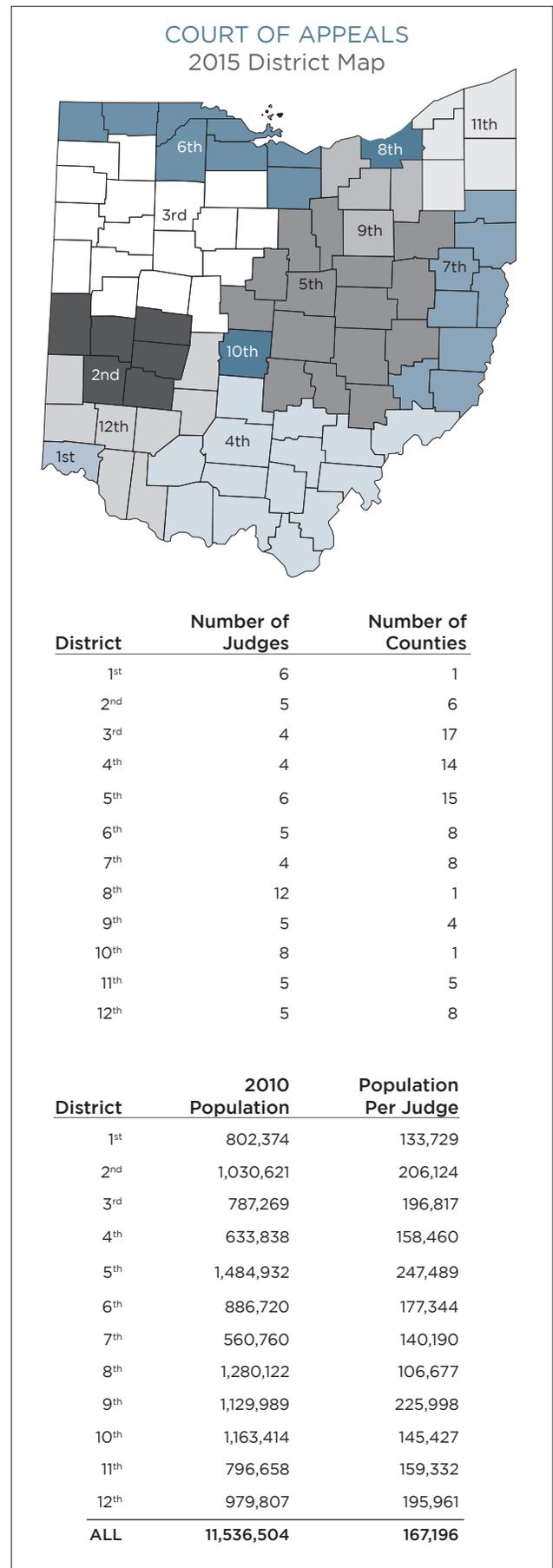
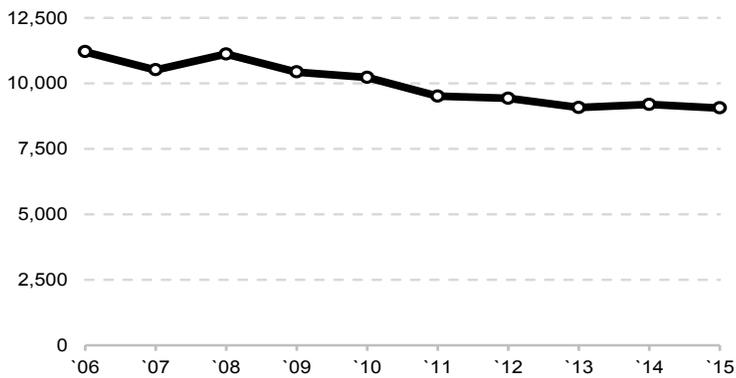


FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined

Total incoming cases



The overall number of appeals filed in Ohio’s court of appeals has been declining steadily for the last ten years. In 2006, a 10-year high of 11,208 cases were filed. In 2015, a total of 9,060 cases were filed, representing a 19-percent decline over the 10 years. The number filed in 2015 is also a 1-percent decrease from the number of incoming cases in 2014. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

TABLE 1

Court of Appeals

Total incoming cases

Case Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209	4,181	4,056	4,329	4,294
Civil	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955	2,975	2,807	2,595	2,633
Family Law	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430	1,422	1,454	1,526	1,428
Miscellaneous	810	832	857	909	973	914	848	759	746	705
All Case Types	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,227	9,508	9,426	9,076	9,196	9,060

Figure 2 shows trends in the number of incoming cases over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Both criminal and civil appeals exhibit general downward trends over the last ten years. While the appellate courts experienced an increase of 7 percent in the number of criminal appeals being filed in 2014, this trend did not continue as 2015 filings were down 1 percent from 2014. Civil appeals continue to decline fairly steadily from their 10-year high in 2006, though there was a small 1-percent increase from 2014 to 2015.

Family law appeals decreased 6 percent from 2014. A 10-year review of family law appeals reveals a return to filing levels similar to 2011 through 2013, after a small increase in 2014. (See **Figure 3**).

Figure 4 shows the 10-year trend in the filing of miscellaneous appeals (including original actions, habeas corpus cases, and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims). The filing of these cases has trended slightly downward since 2006, with the exception of a small increase in filings in 2009 and 2010.

FIGURE 2

Civil and Criminal Appeals

Total incoming cases

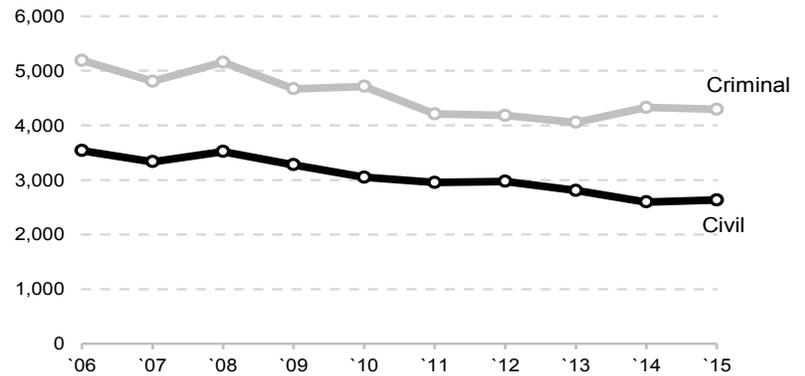


FIGURE 3

Family Law Appeals

Total incoming cases

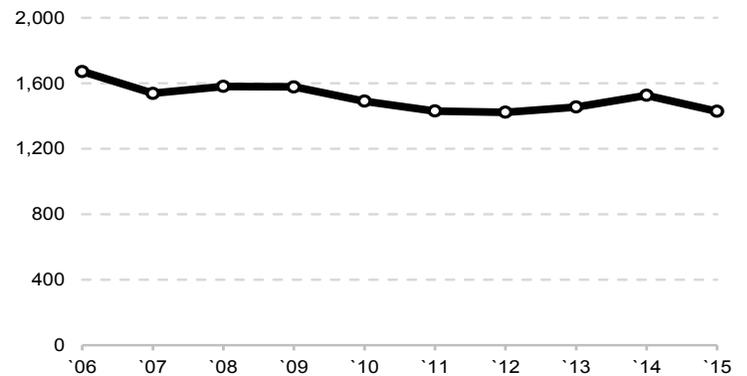
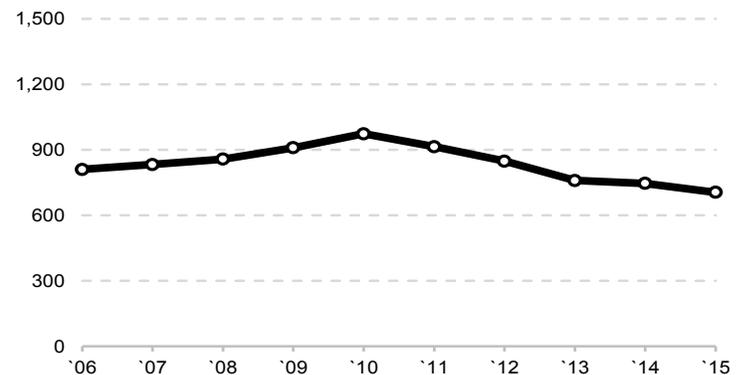


FIGURE 4

Miscellaneous Appeals

Total incoming cases





COURT OF CLAIMS

The Court of Claims has statewide original jurisdiction over all civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. Created pursuant to the Court of Claims Act in 1976, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County. Appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the Tenth District Court of Appeals in Columbus.

Civil actions in the Court of Claims are determined in one of two ways, depending on the amount of monetary damages claimed.

Civil cases involving \$10,000 or less are determined administratively by the clerk or deputy clerk of the court. Cases involving more than \$10,000 are heard by a judge. A judge of the court also may review and enter final judgment in a civil action determined administratively. Judges on the Court of Claims are assigned by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio.

In addition to civil actions against the state of Ohio, the Court of Claims hears appeals from decisions of the Attorney General regarding claims for reparations by victims of crime.

The total incoming cases for the Court of Claims for the past five years is displayed in **Table 1**. The number of incoming judicial cases increased slightly in 2014, following a three-year decline. In 2015, a total of 335 cases were filed, which is 24 percent fewer than the five year high of 441 cases in 2011 but an 8 percent increase over 2014. (See **Figure 1**).

The make-up of the court's incoming caseload in 2015 is shown in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1

Court of Claims
Total incoming cases

Case Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Judicial Cases	441	359	342	309	335
Administrative Determinations	796	447	371	635	659
Victims of Crime Appeals	100	59	80	63	79
All Case Types	1,337	865	793	1,007	1,073

FIGURE 1

Judicial Cases
Total incoming cases



FIGURE 2

Incoming Cases in 2015
All Case Types

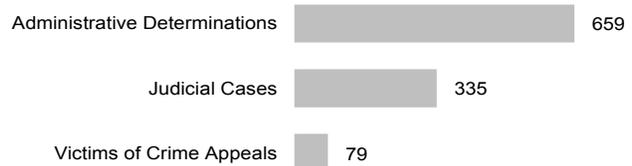
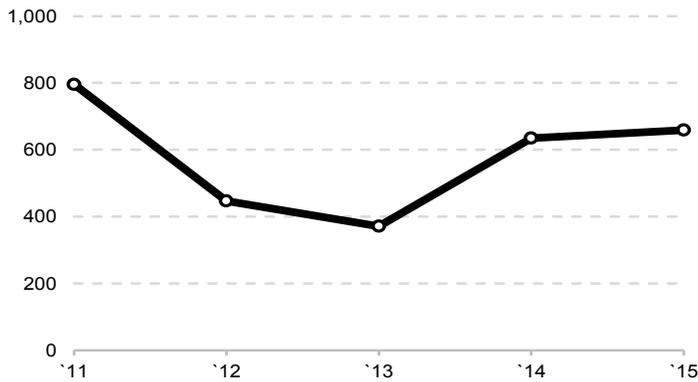


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations
Total incoming cases



The number of administrative determination cases filed each year typically varies widely, however 2014 and 2015 data suggest this may be stabilizing. In 2015, the court saw the filing of 659 cases, an increase of just 4 percent over 2014. (See **Figure 3**).

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions fluctuates from year to year. In 2015, a total of 79 appeals were filed, a 25 percent increase over 2014. (See **Figure 4**).

FIGURE 4

Victims of Crime Appeals
Total incoming cases

