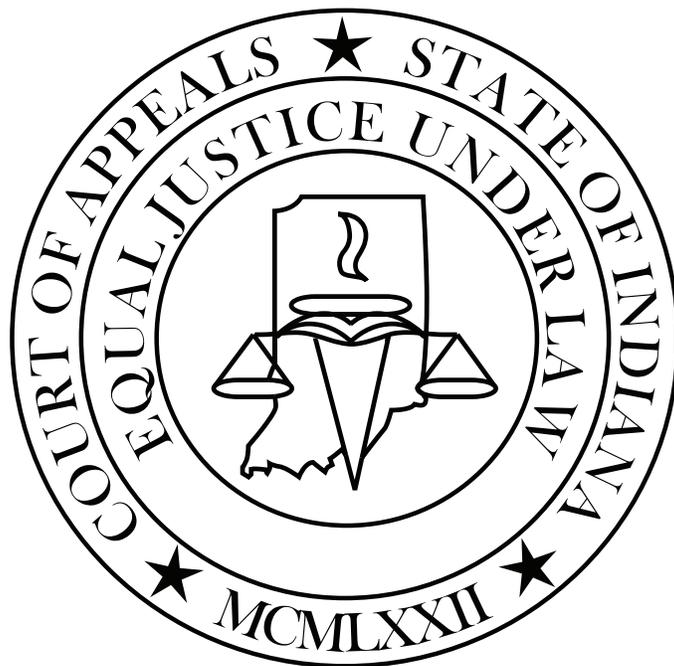


COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L R E P O R T



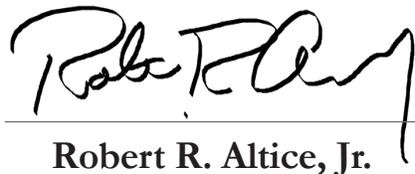
COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L R E P O R T



COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

This report pertaining to the progress of the work of the Court of Appeals of Indiana for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, is being submitted pursuant to section 2-6-1-1, Judges' Manual.



Robert R. Altice, Jr.
CHIEF JUDGE & PRESIDING JUDGE
SECOND DISTRICT



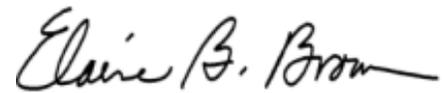
Leanna K. Weissmann
PRESIDING JUDGE
FIRST DISTRICT



Paul D. Mathias
PRESIDING JUDGE
THIRD DISTRICT



Melissa S. May
PRESIDING JUDGE
FOURTH DISTRICT



Elaine B. Brown
PRESIDING JUDGE
FIFTH DISTRICT

COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA



THE MISSION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA:

To serve all people by providing
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

FIRST DISTRICT

Leanna K. Weissmann, Presiding Judge | L. Mark Bailey, Judge | Peter R. Foley, Judge

SECOND DISTRICT

Robert R. Altice, Jr., Chief Judge | Cale J. Bradford, Judge | Dana J. Kenworthy, Judge

THIRD DISTRICT

Paul D. Mathias, Presiding Judge | Elizabeth F. Tavitas, Judge | Stephen E. Scheele, Judge

FOURTH DISTRICT

Melissa S. May, Presiding Judge | Rudolph R. Pyle, III, Judge | Mary A. DeBoer, Judge

FIFTH DISTRICT

Elaine B. Brown, Presiding Judge | Nancy H. Vaidik, Judge | Paul A. Felix, Judge

COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L R E P O R T

The 2025 Annual Report provides statistical information about the work of the Court of Appeals of Indiana from January through December 2025. Our hardworking team of judges, senior judges, law clerks, staff attorneys, and administrative staff collaborate daily to deliver timely, just results and to teach fellow Hoosiers about the Court's role in state government. Our impact can be measured in statistics and through examples of the Court's commitment to serve all people by providing equal justice under the law.

Civics Education and Outreach

The Court of Appeals rolled out several new events and collaborations to amplify its civics education mission via its award-winning traveling oral argument program, *Appeals on Wheels*.

- 1. Historic Oral Argument in Gary, Indiana.** The Court visited Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Indiana, for the first time in twenty (20) years to hold an oral argument in front of hundreds of students from IUN and nine (9) area high schools: River Forest, Hobart, Merrillville, Valparaiso, Thea Bowman, Bishop Knoll, Kouts, Hammond Central, and Hammond Morton.
- 2. International Civics Collaboration with U.S. Department of State.** The Court of Appeals partnered with the Indiana Bar Foundation, Purdue University, and the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Institute to conduct "Constitutional Conversations" and "We the People" hearings with 55 students from around the world. Participants were selected from U.S. embassies in 45 European and Eastern European nations, alongside selected American students.
- 3. Legislative Intern Event.** The Court rolled out its first-ever "Legislative Intern Event," a half-day judicial civics education workshop designed for interns from both sides of the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives. Over 80 interns joined the Court for an oral argument, question and answer session, appellate courts overview, and lunch with judges.
- 4. Statewide Impact.** The Court's Appeals on Wheels program spanned the five corners of the state in 2025, with thirty-six (36) events reaching **over 6,000 students, teachers, and constituents.**

Little Free Courthouse Libraries

The Court of Appeals partnered with New York Times Best-Selling Author Kim Michele Richardson to kick off a "Little Free Courthouse Libraries" project throughout the State. Volunteers from the courts gathered books and donations to start Courthouse Libraries in every county in Indiana. In 2025, 31 libraries were started in 27 counties, for a total of 39 Little Free Courthouse Libraries in Indiana. The effort is ongoing.

Oral Arguments & Case Disposition

The Court conducted a total of 53 oral arguments, including those held in the Courtroom and those held at Traveling Oral Argument sites. While 2,002 new cases were filed in 2025, 2,059 cases were disposed that same year. The average age of cases pending is an impressive 1.7 months. The Court of Appeals maintains its status as one of the most efficient and effective appellate courts in the nation.

As the second-highest court in the state, the Court of Appeals of Indiana will continue to take pride in its commitment to constitutional government and the rule of law.



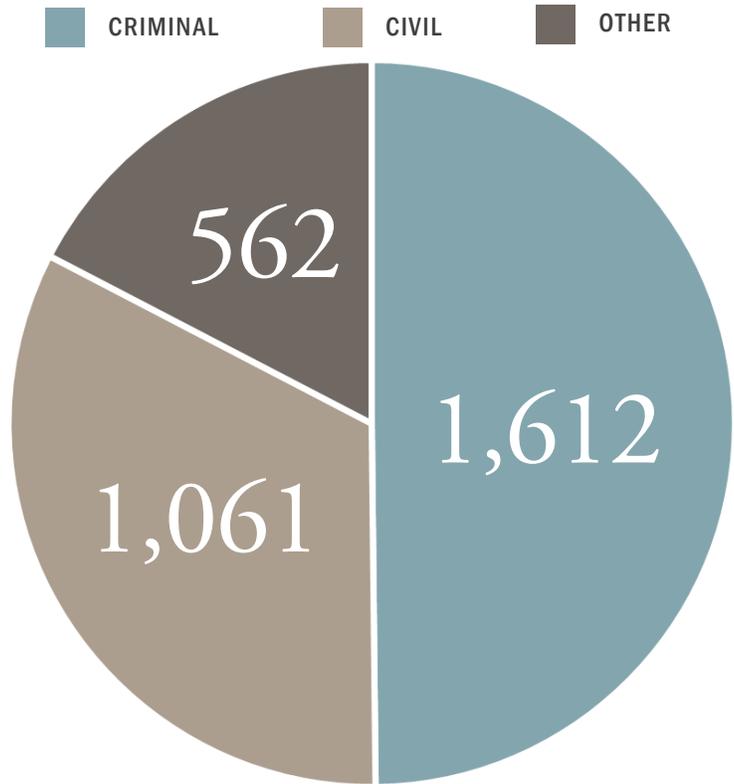
Robert R. Altice, Jr.

CHIEF JUDGE & PRESIDING JUDGE
SECOND DISTRICT

TOTAL CASELOAD*

YEAR	FILED	DISPOSED
2021	3,018	2,564
2022	3,191	2,971
2023	3,232	2,979
2024	3,259	3,206
2025	3,415	3,235

**TOTAL CASES DISPOSED
(BY TYPE)**



*Total caseload is defined by the National Center for State Courts in “Appellate Court Tools” as all appellate cases that have been disposed of in a year. A case is an appellate case when a notice of appeal is filed, when a petition for a permissive interlocutory appeal is filed, or when a petition requesting permission to file a successive petition for post-conviction relief is filed.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASELOADS

	CRIMINAL		CIVIL		OTHER	
	FILED	DISPOSED	FILED	DISPOSED	FILED	DISPOSED
2021	1,475	1,249	951	862	592	453
2022	1,642	1,537	966	880	583	554
2023	1,648	1,596	1,019	917	565	466
2024	1,655	1,641	1,000	1,029	604	536
2025	1,628	1,612	1,159	1,061	628	562

COURT SUMMARY

AVERAGE AGE OF CASES PENDING

1.7 MONTHS

AS OF 12/31/2025

1.9 MONTHS

AS OF 12/31/2024

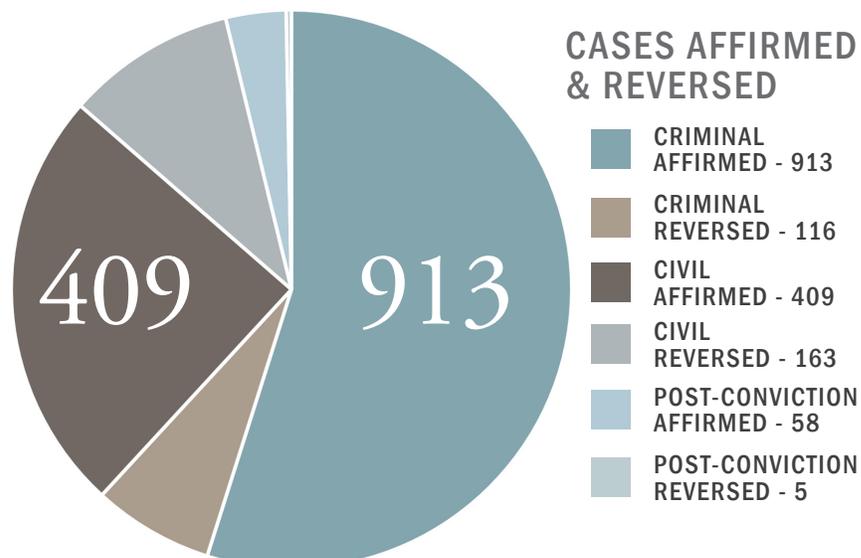
	CRIMINAL	POST - CONVICTION	CIVIL	EXPEDITE	OTHER	TOTAL
Cases Pending 12/31/2024	181	20	110	1	42	354
Cases Fully-Briefed Received	976	65	589	13	359	2,002
<i>Geographic District One</i>	331	25	169	0	131	656
<i>Geographic District Two</i>	393	20	267	13	132	825
<i>Geographic District Three</i>	252	20	153	0	96	521
Cases Disposed	1,040	63	582	13	361	2,059
<i>By Majority Opinion</i>	1,040	63	577	13	360	2,053
<i>By Order</i>	0	0	5	0	1	6
Net Increase/Decrease	(64)	2	7	0	(2)	(57)
Cases Pending 12/31/2025	117	22	117	1	40	297
Cases Affirmed	913	58	409	12	334	1,726
<i>Cases Affirmed Percent</i>	87.8%	92.1%	70.9%	92.3%	92.8%	84.1%
Cases Reversed	116	5	163	1	24	309
<i>Cases Reversed Percent</i>	11.2%	7.9%	28.2%	7.7%	6.7%	15.1%
Cases Remanded	11	0	5	0	2	18
<i>Cases Remanded Percent</i>	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.9%
Oral Arguments Heard	23	0	27	0	3	53

8,614

Total number of Motions

9,183

Total number of Orders



SUMMARY BY JUDGE

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	MAJORITY OPINIONS ISSUED	ALL OPINIONS ISSUED	ORDERS ISSUED	CASES VOTED ON	ORAL ARGUMENTS HEARD	CASES PENDING 12/31/2024	CASES PENDING 12/31/2025
Altice (2nd)	122	123	0	365	15	26	24
Bailey (1st)	145	150	0	389	4	6	6
Bradford (2nd)	161	162	0	402	9	14	6
Brown (5th)	145	154	0	437	8	9	15
DeBoer (4th)	125	126	0	418	12	22	17
Felix (5th)	142	147	2	435	12	20	15
Foley (1st)	117	119	0	375	9	34	34
Kenworthy (2nd)	109	112	0	386	19	34	28
Mathias (3rd)	173	179	1	423	6	16	12
May (4th)	124	132	1	390	14	36	22
Pyle (4th)	102	102	1	405	6	39	21
Scheele (3rd)	79	83	0	361	9	0	25
Tavitas (3rd)	130	143	0	418	15	18	19
Vaidik (5th)	124	128	0	393	7	21	22
Weissmann (1st)	136	137	0	429	12	31	18
SENIOR JUDGES						28	13
Baker	33	35	0	34	1	0	0
Crone	35	37	1	42	0	0	0
Najam	13	13	0	13	0	0	0
Robb	28	30	0	34	1	0	0
Shepard	10	10	0	10	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,053	2,122	6	6,159	159	354	297

CASELOAD

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	CASES PENDING 1/1/2025	INTAKE				DISPOSITIONS			CASES PENDING 12/31/2025
		CASES	TRANSFERS			MAJORITY OPINIONS	ORDERS	TOTALS	
			IN	OUT	TOTAL				
Altice (2nd)	26	126	3	9	120	122	0	122	24
Bailey (1st)	6	127	22	4	145	145	0	145	6
Bradford (2nd)	14	127	30	4	153	161	0	161	6
Brown (5th)	9	131	25	5	151	145	0	145	15
DeBoer (4th)	22	125	2	7	120	125	0	125	17
Felix (5th)	20	124	19	4	139	142	2	144	15
Foley (1st)	34	129	3	15	117	117	0	117	34
Kenworthy (2nd)	34	126	3	26	103	109	0	109	28
Mathias (3rd)	16	129	47	6	170	173	1	174	12
May (4th)	36	130	3	22	111	124	1	125	22
Pyle (4th)	39	126	2	43	85	102	1	103	21
Scheele (3rd)	0	112	3	11	104	79	0	79	25
Tavitas (3rd)	18	128	7	4	131	130	0	130	19
Vaidik (5th)	21	132	3	10	125	124	0	124	22
Weissmann (1st)	31	127	6	10	123	136	0	136	18
SENIOR JUDGES	28	103	2	0	105	(119)	(1)	(120)	13
Baker	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	33	0
Crone	0	0	0	0	0	35	1	36	0
Najam	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13	0
Robb	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	28	0
Shepard	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0
TOTAL	354	2,002	180	180	2,002	2,053	6	2,059	297

OPINIONS ISSUED

PORTION OF ISSUED OPINIONS THAT ARE MAJORITY OPINIONS

TOTAL MAJORITY OPINIONS ISSUED - 2,053

TOTAL OPINIONS ISSUED - 2,122

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	MAJORITY OPINIONS			CONCURRING OPINIONS	DISSENTING OPINIONS	REHEARING OPINIONS	OTHER OPINIONS	TOTAL OPINIONS
	ISSUED	PUBLISHED	PERCENT PUBLISHED					
Altice (2nd)	122	14	11.5	0	1	0	0	123
Bailey (1st)	145	10	6.9	2	3	0	0	150
Bradford (2nd)	161	30	18.6	0	1	0	0	162
Brown (5th)	145	20	13.8	1	8	0	0	154
DeBoer (4th)	125	33	26.4	0	0	1	0	126
Felix (5th)	142	25	17.6	3	1	1	0	147
Foley (1st)	117	16	13.7	1	1	0	0	119
Kenworthy (2nd)	109	12	11.0	1	2	0	0	112
Mathias (3rd)	173	30	17.3	0	4	2	0	179
May (4th)	124	29	23.4	2	5	1	0	132
Pyle (4th)	102	18	17.6	0	0	0	0	102
Scheele (3rd)	79	6	7.6	1	3	0	0	83
Tavitas (3rd)	130	32	24.6	4	9	0	0	143
Vaidik (5th)	124	24	19.4	2	2	0	0	128
Weissmann (1st)	136	33	24.3	1	0	0	0	137
SENIOR JUDGES								
Baker	33	3	9.1	0	1	1	0	35
Crone	35	7	20.0	0	0	2	0	37
Najam	13	5	38.5	0	0	0	0	13
Robb	28	10	35.7	0	0	2	0	30
Shepard	10	2	20.0	0	0	0	0	10
TOTAL	2,053	359	17.5	18	41	10	0	2,122

CASES HANDED DOWN

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	CRIMINAL		POST-CONVICTION		CIVIL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Altice (2nd)	61	128	4	8	31	61
Bailey (1st)	70	126	3	7	43	74
Bradford (2nd)	76	118	8	8	47	69
Brown (5th)	68	153	1	8	46	80
DeBoer (4th)	67	139	3	10	34	91
Felix (5th)	73	151	3	11	40	76
Foley (1st)	62	132	4	7	35	72
Kenworthy (2nd)	55	138	2	6	31	78
Mathias (3rd)	79	123	8	12	53	66
May (4th)	64	141	3	10	36	70
Pyle (4th)	58	154	4	9	18	80
Scheele (3rd)	46	144	1	5	14	84
Tavitas (3rd)	64	149	2	6	37	83
Vaidik (5th)	61	138	5	7	31	77
Weissmann (1st)	69	142	4	11	41	86
TOTAL	973	2,076	55	125	537	1,147

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	EXPEDITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Altice (2nd)	1	1	25	45	122	243
Bailey (1st)	1	1	28	36	145	244
Bradford (2nd)	1	1	29	45	161	241
Brown (5th)	1	2	29	49	145	292
DeBoer (4th)	1	1	20	52	125	293
Felix (5th)	0	2	26	53	142	293
Foley (1st)	0	3	16	44	117	258
Kenworthy (2nd)	1	4	20	51	109	277
Mathias (3rd)	2	1	31	48	173	250
May (4th)	1	0	20	45	124	266
Pyle (4th)	0	3	22	57	102	303
Scheele (3rd)	1	3	17	46	79	282
Tavitas (3rd)	1	1	26	49	130	288
Vaidik (5th)	1	0	26	47	124	269
Weissmann (1st)	0	3	22	51	136	293
TOTAL	12	26	357	718	1,934	4,092

CASES HANDED DOWN

SENIOR JUDGES	SENIOR JUDGES					
	CRIMINAL		POST-CONVICTION		CIVIL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Baker	17	1	4	0	10	0
Crone	18	3	3	1	13	1
Najam	9	0	0	0	3	0
Robb	14	0	1	0	13	6
Shepard	9	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	67	4	8	1	40	7

SENIOR JUDGES	EXPEDITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Baker	0	0	2	0	33	1
Crone	0	0	1	2	35	7
Najam	1	0	0	0	13	0
Robb	0	0	0	0	28	6
Shepard	0	0	0	0	10	0
TOTAL	1	0	3	2	119	14

The Court of Appeals handed down 2,053 written decisions in 2025.



ORAL ARGUMENTS

The Court of Appeals conducted 53 Oral Arguments in 2025.

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	CRIMINAL		POST-CONVICTION		CIVIL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Altice (2nd)	2	4	0	0	2	5
Bailey (1st)	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bradford (2nd)	3	1	0	0	1	3
Brown (5th)	2	1	0	0	2	3
DeBoer (4th)	3	2	0	0	1	4
Felix (5th)	1	7	0	0	2	1
Foley (1st)	3	4	0	0	0	2
Kenworthy (2nd)	1	8	0	0	2	7
Mathias (3rd)	2	0	0	0	1	3
May (4th)	0	6	0	0	2	6
Pyle (4th)	1	0	0	0	2	2
Scheele (3rd)	0	4	0	0	0	5
Tavitas (3rd)	3	5	0	0	4	3
Vaidik (5th)	1	1	0	0	2	3
Weissmann (1st)	1	2	0	0	6	2
TOTAL	23	45	0	0	27	53

JUDGES (DISTRICT)	EXPEDITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Altice (2nd)	0	0	1	1	5	10
Bailey (1st)	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bradford (2nd)	0	0	1	0	5	4
Brown (5th)	0	0	0	0	4	4
DeBoer (4th)	0	0	1	1	5	7
Felix (5th)	0	0	0	1	3	9
Foley (1st)	0	0	0	0	3	6
Kenworthy (2nd)	0	0	0	1	3	16
Mathias (3rd)	0	0	0	0	3	3
May (4th)	0	0	0	0	2	12
Pyle (4th)	0	0	0	1	3	3
Scheele (3rd)	0	0	0	0	0	9
Tavitas (3rd)	0	0	0	0	7	8
Vaidik (5th)	0	0	0	0	3	4
Weissmann (1st)	0	0	0	1	7	5
TOTAL	0	0	3	6	53	104

Appeals on Wheels



Chief Judge Robert R. Altice, Jr. speaks to Legislative interns



State educators experience the judiciary firsthand



Appeals on Wheels visits IU Northwest, hosting nine (9) Gary schools



Students at the Fever Practice Court in Gambridge Fieldhouse

ORAL ARGUMENTS

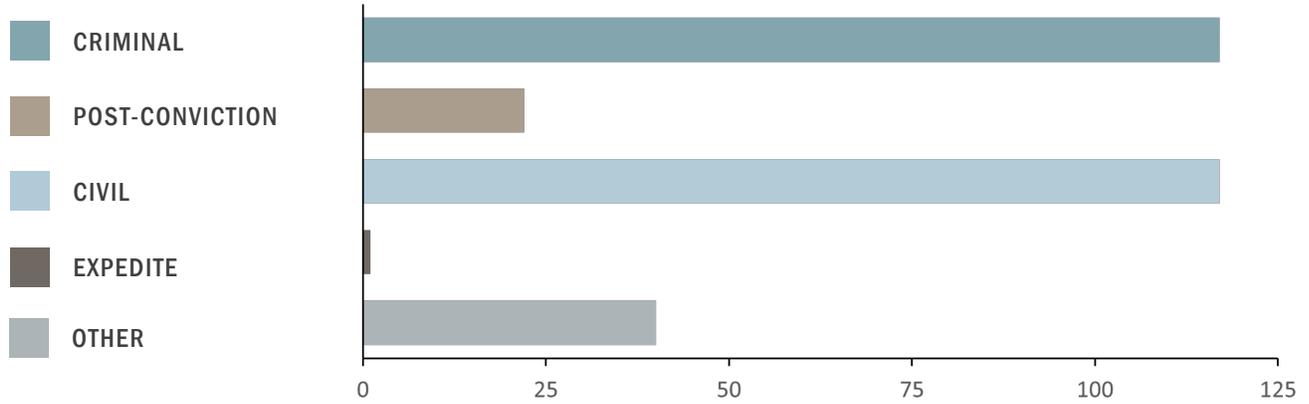
SENIOR JUDGES

SENIOR JUDGES	CRIMINAL		POST-CONVICTION		CIVIL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Baker	0	1	0	0	0	0
Crone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Najam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robb	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shepard	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	0	0	0	1

SENIOR JUDGES	EXPEDITE		OTHER		TOTAL	
	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL	WRITING	PANEL
Baker	0	0	0	0	0	1
Crone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Najam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robb	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shepard	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	2

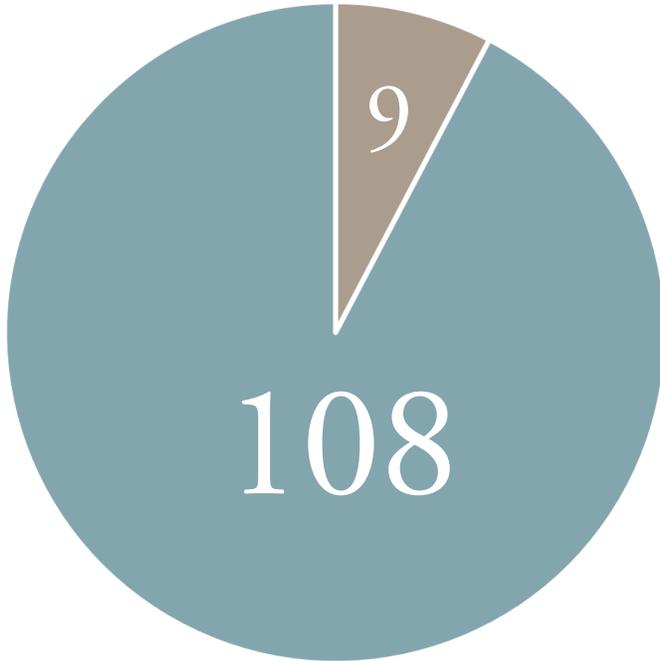
CASES PENDING

TOTAL CASES PENDING (PER TYPE)



JUDGES (DISTRICT)	CRIMINAL	POST - CONVICTION	CIVIL	EXPEDITE	OTHER	TOTAL
Altice (2nd)	10	2	10	0	2	24
Bailey (1st)	3	0	2	0	1	6
Bradford (2nd)	2	0	2	0	2	6
Brown (5th)	6	3	5	0	1	15
DeBoer (4th)	6	1	6	0	4	17
Felix (5th)	8	0	6	0	1	15
Foley (1st)	12	1	12	1	8	34
Kenworthy (2nd)	12	3	7	0	6	28
Mathias (3rd)	5	1	4	0	2	12
May (4th)	8	1	11	0	2	22
Pyle (4th)	8	0	10	0	3	21
Scheele (3rd)	11	0	12	0	2	25
Tavitas (3rd)	4	5	9	0	1	19
Vaidik (5th)	10	1	7	0	4	22
Weissmann (1st)	9	1	7	0	1	18
Senior Judges	3	3	7	0	0	13
TOTAL	117	22	117	1	40	297

SUCCESSIVE PETITIONS FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF



9

Pending as of 12/31/2024

108

Petitions filed

117

Total petitions

AUTHORIZATION

2

Petitions authorized to be
filed in trial court for hearing

107

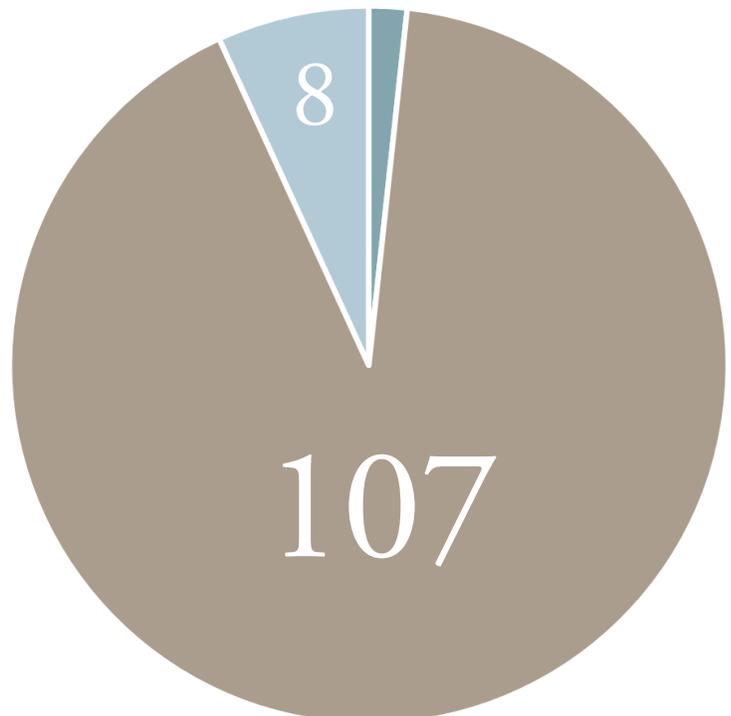
Petitions not authorized to be filed
in trial court for hearing (“No Merit”)

8

Petitions pending

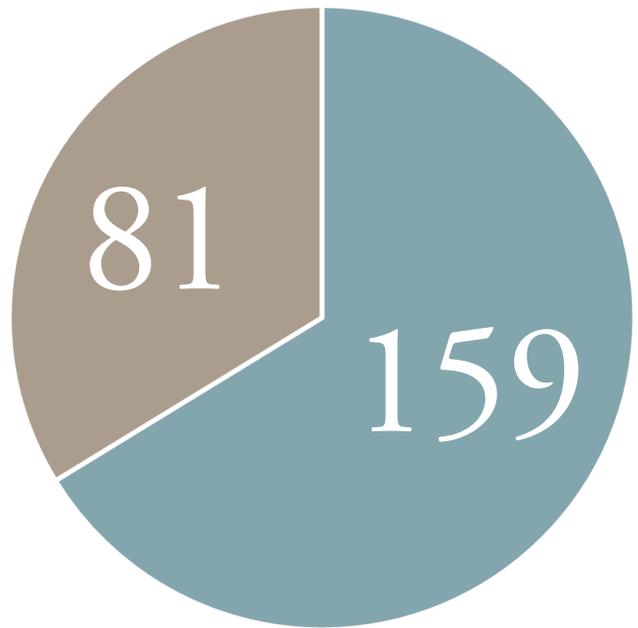
117

Total petitions



APPELLEE’S MOTIONS TO DISMISS

MOTIONS TO DISMISS GRANTED	MOTION TO DISMISS DENIED
159	81
PER CURIAM OPINIONS	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
0	240



26 Pending motions as of 12/31/2025

STATISTICS REGARDING DISPOSITION OF CHIEF JUDGE MATTERS

8,614 Motions, Petitions for Time, Misc. Motions Received

JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Orders Granting Petitions to File Belated Notice of Appeal	54
Orders Denying Petitions to File Belated Notice of Appeal	49
Orders Granting Pre-Appeal Conferences	0
Orders Denying Pre-Appeal Conferences	1
Orders with Instructions from Pre-Appeal Conference	0
Orders Granting Permissive Interlocutory Appeals	46
Orders Denying Permissive Interlocutory Appeals	126
Orders Granting Successive Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief	2
Orders Denying Successive Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief	107
Orders Granting Consolidations of Appeals	133
Orders Denying Consolidations of Appeals	5
Orders Granting Petitions to Amend Brief	113
Orders Denying Petitions to Amend Brief	11
Orders Granting Withdrawals of Record	200
Orders Denying Withdrawals of Record	35
Miscellaneous Orders	4,257

REHEARINGS

Petitions for Rehearing Granted without Opinion	0
Petitions for Rehearing Denied without Opinion	124
Petitions for Rehearing Granted with Opinion	10
Petitions for Rehearing Denied with Opinion	0

TIME GRANTS

Petitions for Time to File Record Granted	685
Petitions for Time to File Record Denied	17
Petitions for Time to File Appellant's Brief Granted	1,333
Petitions for Time to File Appellant's Brief Denied	54
Petitions for Time to File Appellee's Brief Granted	462
Petitions for Time to File Appellee's Brief Denied	7
Petitions for Time to File Appellant's Reply Brief Granted	154
Petitions for Time to File Appellant's Reply Brief Denied	5

ORAL ARGUMENT ACTION

Orders Setting Oral Arguments	57
Orders Denying Petitions for Oral Arguments	68

DISMISSALS

Orders Granting Appellant's Motions to Dismiss	199
Orders Denying Appellant's Motions to Dismiss	19
Orders Granting Appellee's Motions to Dismiss	159
Orders Denying Appellee's Motions to Dismiss	81
Court-Directed Orders of Dismissal	610

9,183 TOTAL



COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA

2 0 2 5 A N N U A L R E P O R T

This report pertaining to the progress of the work of the Court of Appeals of Indiana for the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, is being submitted pursuant to section 2-6-1-1, Judges' Manual.

Information about the Court of Appeals of Indiana and the Indiana Judicial Branch can be found online at:

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/appeals>

THE MISSION OF THE COURT OF APPEALS OF INDIANA:
To serve all people by providing equal justice under law