



INDIANA SUPREME COURT

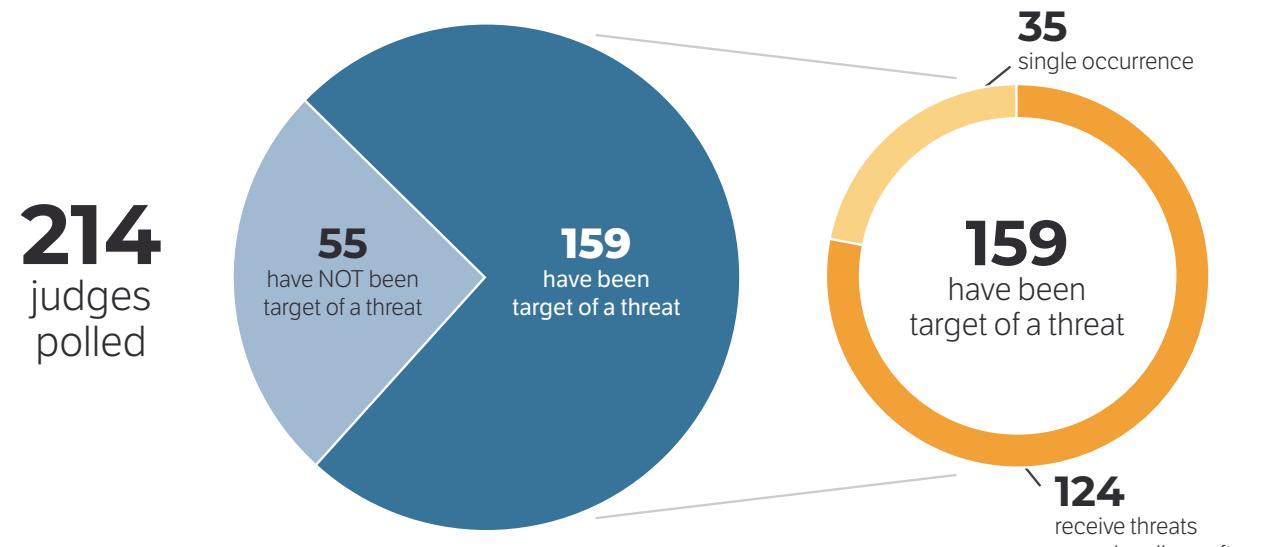
No court system can function as a free and independent branch of government if its judges, litigants, or court staff feel unsafe being in court, working for the court, or deciding cases.

Also in harm's way are court staff, parties, lawyers, and members of the public attending court proceedings.

The Supreme Court sheriff actively works with judges and county sheriffs to perform security assessments of courtrooms and courthouse facilities. But those assessments highlight that our judges desperately need funding for security-related upgrades to courtrooms and courthouses.

Indiana Court Security

In December 2023, the Court Security Committee of Indiana's Judicial Conference polled judges across Indiana, with 214 participating.



214
judges
polled

159
have been
target of a threat

55
have NOT been
target of a threat

35
single occurrence

159
have been
target of a threat

124
receive threats
occasionally or often



In many counties, an angry individual with violent intent could walk, unimpeded, through the front door of the courthouse straight into the courtroom.

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“A litigant threatened to blow up my house . . . and he brandished a firearm toward me in a remote proceeding.”

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“One litigant threatened to set me on fire.”

In the past, court grants have paid for

- metal detectors
- wands
- reinforced security glass
- alarm systems and panic buttons
- security cameras and intercoms
- access control systems
- emergency escape systems
- a holding cell to hold detained individuals, instead of a stairwell



It takes little imagination to see the dire stakes and the catastrophic effect on the trust and confidence in our court system should any threat come to fruition. We need help. We are therefore asking for a **\$1.5M** annual appropriation to fund court security grants and related improvements across Indiana.