



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS
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Lyn Stuart
Chief Justice

February 2, 2018

Randy Helms
Administrative Director of Courts

The Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Members of the Alabama Senate
c/o Mr. D. Patrick Harris
Secretary of the Senate
Alabama State House, Senate Chamber
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-4600

Members of the Alabama House of Representatives
c/o Mr. Jeff Woodard
Clerk, Alabama House of Representatives
Alabama Statehouse, Room 504
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Ivey and Members of the Legislature,

As the Chair of the Judicial Resources Allocation Commission, I am pleased to inform you that on Thursday, January 11, 2018, the Commission conducted its initial meeting to review the need for increasing or decreasing the number of judgeships in each district court and circuit court.

As required by Act No. 2017-42, the Supreme Court of Alabama adopted a formula to determine the need for increasing or decreasing the number of judgeships in the district courts and the circuit courts that uniformly calculates how civil, criminal, and domestic cases are accounted for between circuits and uniformly, fairly, and accurately accounts for

criminal cases brought against defendants by counts. The adopted formula was applied to the data the Administrative Office of Courts collected for the year 2017, and the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2017 Judicial Weighted Caseload Studies for circuit courts and district courts were produced and adopted by the Supreme Court of Alabama on December 19, 2017.

After considering the FY 2017 Judicial Weighted Caseload Studies and the populations in the various circuits and counties, the Commission adopted the rankings provided in the studies. Attached are copies of the FY 2017 Judicial Weighted Caseload Studies in rank order from most implied need to least.

The Commission recognizes that the FY 2017 Judicial Weighted Caseload Studies are the first studies produced after the Supreme Court adopted a formula on June 21, 2017, that complies with Act No. 2017-42 and is mindful that "[n]o judgeship shall be reallocated until three years of data is available after the revision of the factors considered in the Judicial Weighted Caseload Study."

In addition to providing the adopted studies for your consideration, the Commission recommends:

1. That the Legislature consider, in a judicial circuit where there is a need for a circuit court judgeship and the judicial circuit has multiple district court judgeships, converting a district court judgeship to a circuit court judgeship; and
2. That the Legislature consider providing incentives (i.e., a line item in the budget to be used by the Chief Justice) for actual expenses incurred by and for temporary staff used by retired judges who assist circuit courts or district courts by hearing cases.

If you have any questions about the meeting or the Commission recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyn Stuart".

Lyn Stuart
Chief Justice

cc:

Senator Del Marsh, President Pro Tempore
Representative Mac McCutcheon, Speaker of the House
Representative Victor Gaston, Speaker Pro Tempore
Senator Arthur Orr
Representative Jim Hill
Mr. Randy Helms, Administrative Director of Courts
Mr. Nathan Wilson, Assistant Administrative Director of Courts
& Legal Director

Alabama FY2017 Circuit Court Judicial Weighted Caseload Implied Need

Circuit	County	Region	Workload (minutes)	Judge Year Value	Overall Judicial Officer Need (FTE)	District Court Judges (FTE)	Referees (FTE)	Circuit Judge Implied Need (FTE)	Actual Circuit Court Judges	Difference (+ = surplus; - = deficit)	Rank
	Alabama		15,354,490		173.3	10.0	7.3	156.0	146	-10.01	
23	Madison	Single	1,002,261	90,300	11.1	0.2	0.0	10.9	7	-3.90	1
13	Mobile	Single	1,638,168	90,300	18.1	1.0	3.0	14.1	11	-3.14	2
19	Autauga, Chilton, Elmore	Multiple	493,509	83,850	5.9	0.1	0.0	5.8	3	-2.79	3
6	Tuscaloosa	Single	852,823	90,300	9.4	0.0	1.0	8.4	6	-2.44	4
28	Baldwin	Single	741,965	90,300	8.2	0.8	0.1	7.3	5	-2.32	5
11	Lauderdale	Single	412,289	90,300	4.6	0.0	0.1	4.5	3	-1.47	6
20	Henry, Houston	Multiple	578,422	83,850	6.9	0.9	0.0	6.0	5	-1.00	7
37	Lee	Single	397,350	90,300	4.4	0.5	0.1	3.8	3	-0.80	8
5	Chambers, Macon, Randolph, Tallapoosa	Multiple	314,597	83,850	3.8	0.0	0.0	3.8	3	-0.75	9
24	Fayette, Lamar, Pickens	Multiple	161,497	83,850	1.9	0.4	0.0	1.5	1	-0.53	10
8	Morgan	Single	307,912	90,300	3.4	0.0	0.0	3.4	3	-0.41	11
33	Dale, Geneva	Multiple	198,860	83,850	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.4	2	-0.37	12
39	Limestone	Single	213,631	90,300	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.4	2	-0.37	13
1	Choctaw, Clarke, Washington	Multiple	198,067	83,850	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.4	2	-0.36	14
25	Marion, Winston	Multiple	236,220	83,850	2.8	0.5	0.0	2.3	2	-0.32	15
32	Cullman	Single	208,992	90,300	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.3	2	-0.31	16
41	Blount	Single	118,001	90,300	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	1	-0.31	17
4	Bibb, Dallas, Hale, Perry, Wilcox	Multiple	275,594	83,850	3.3	0.0	0.0	3.3	3	-0.29	18
34	Franklin	Single	110,947	90,300	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	1	-0.23	19
36	Lawrence	Single	106,685	90,300	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	1	-0.18	20
18	Shelby	Single	377,357	90,300	4.2	0.0	0.0	4.2	4	-0.18	21
35	Conecuh, Monroe	Multiple	94,716	83,850	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	1	-0.13	22
7	Calhoun, Cleburne	Multiple	516,160	83,850	6.2	1.0	0.1	5.1	5	-0.06	23
16	Etowah	Single	389,316	90,300	4.3	0.3	0.0	4.0	4	-0.01	24
17	Greene, Marengo, Sumter	Multiple	81,536	83,850	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1	0.03	25
2	Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes	Multiple	113,438	83,850	1.4	0.4	0.0	1.0	1	0.05	26
3	Barbour, Bullock	Multiple	88,274	83,850	1.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	1	0.05	27
30	St. Clair	Single	209,422	90,300	2.3	0.4	0.0	1.9	2	0.08	28
38	Jackson	Single	156,247	90,300	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.7	2	0.27	29
31	Colbert	Single	156,087	90,300	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.7	2	0.27	30
21	Escambia	Single	155,561	90,300	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.7	2	0.28	31
15	Montgomery	Single	875,235	90,300	9.7	0.0	1.0	8.7	9	0.31	32
26	Russell	Single	161,713	90,300	1.8	0.1	0.0	1.7	2	0.31	33
27	Marshall	Single	240,135	90,300	2.7	0.0	0.0	2.7	3	0.34	34
9	Cherokee, DeKalb	Multiple	226,657	83,850	2.7	0.1	0.0	2.6	3	0.40	35
40	Clay, Coosa	Multiple	54,112	83,850	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.5	1	0.45	36
12	Coffee, Pike	Multiple	209,453	83,850	2.5	0.1	0.0	2.4	3	0.60	37
22	Covington	Single	122,083	90,300	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4	2	0.65	38
29	Talladega	Single	166,548	90,300	1.8	0.6	0.0	1.2	2	0.76	39
14	Walker	Single	182,253	90,300	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	3	0.98	40
10	Jefferson	Single	2,210,397	90,300	24.5	2.4	1.9	20.2	27	6.82	41

Alabama FY2017 District Court Judicial Weighted Caseload Time Study

County Number	County	Workload (minutes)	Judge Year Value	Overall Judicial Officer Need (FTE)	District Court Judges assigned to Circuit (FTE)	Referees (FTE)	District Judge Implied Need (FTE)	Actual District Court Judges	Difference (+ = surplus; - = deficit)	Rank
	Alabama	9,136,724		101.18	10.00	1.70	109.48	106	-3.48	
58	Shelby	356,231	90,300	3.94	0.00	0.10	3.84	2	-1.84	1
5	Baldwin	254,564	90,300	2.82	0.80	0.00	3.62	2	-1.62	2
2	Mobile	499,615	90,300	5.53	1.00	0.00	6.53	5	-1.53	3
31	Etowah	297,332	90,300	3.29	0.30	0.10	3.49	2	-1.49	4
28	Dekalb	183,229	90,300	2.03	0.10	0.00	2.13	1	-1.13	5
47	Madison	535,290	90,300	5.93	0.20	1.00	5.13	4	-1.13	6
63	Tuscaloosa	280,521	90,300	3.11	0.00	0.00	3.11	2	-1.11	7
38	Houston	195,714	90,300	2.17	0.80	0.00	2.97	2	-0.97	8
39	Jackson	155,885	90,300	1.73	0.00	0.00	1.73	1	-0.73	9
25	Cullman	242,752	90,300	2.69	0.00	0.00	2.69	2	-0.69	10
61	Talladega	182,992	90,300	2.03	0.60	0.00	2.63	2	-0.63	11
50	Marshall	236,756	90,300	2.62	0.00	0.00	2.62	2	-0.62	12
20	Colbert	140,349	90,300	1.55	0.00	0.00	1.55	1	-0.55	13
59	St. Clair	201,118	90,300	2.23	0.40	0.10	2.53	2	-0.53	14
68	Jefferson- Bessemer	135,326	90,300	1.50	1.00	0.00	2.50	2	-0.50	15
19	Coffee	125,304	90,300	1.39	0.10	0.00	1.49	1	-0.49	16
49	Marion	106,963	90,300	1.18	0.30	0.00	1.48	1	-0.48	17
12	Chambers	131,797	90,300	1.46	0.00	0.00	1.46	1	-0.46	18
30	Escambia	127,678	90,300	1.41	0.00	0.00	1.41	1	-0.41	19
8	Blount	126,499	90,300	1.40	0.00	0.00	1.40	1	-0.40	20
41	Lauderdale	125,694	90,300	1.39	0.00	0.00	1.39	1	-0.39	21
14	Chilton	127,539	90,300	1.41	0.00	0.10	1.31	1	-0.31	22
11	Calhoun	206,754	90,300	2.29	1.00	0.00	3.29	3	-0.29	23
43	Lee	160,522	90,300	1.78	0.50	0.00	2.28	2	-0.28	24
3	Montgomery	292,745	90,300	3.24	0.00	0.00	3.24	3	-0.24	25
4	Autauga	121,045	90,300	1.34	0.00	0.10	1.24	1	-0.24	26
23	Covington	106,782	90,300	1.18	0.00	0.00	1.18	1	-0.18	27
62	Tallapoosa	101,710	90,300	1.13	0.00	0.00	1.13	1	-0.13	28
13	Cherokee	95,225	90,300	1.05	0.00	0.00	1.05	1	-0.05	29
7	Bibb	93,058	90,300	1.03	0.00	0.00	1.03	1	-0.03	30
52	Morgan	272,201	90,300	3.01	0.00	0.00	3.01	3	-0.01	31
42	Lawrence	91,463	90,300	1.01	0.00	0.00	1.01	1	-0.01	32
27	Dallas	99,527	90,300	1.10	0.00	0.10	1.00	1	0.00	33
18	Cleburne	88,543	90,300	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.98	1	0.02	34
67	Winston	65,843	90,300	0.73	0.20	0.00	0.93	1	0.07	35
34	Geneva	83,052	90,300	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.92	1	0.08	36
33	Franklin	81,815	90,300	0.91	0.00	0.00	0.91	1	0.09	37
37	Henry	71,612	90,300	0.79	0.10	0.00	0.89	1	0.11	38
10	Butler	70,540	90,300	0.78	0.10	0.00	0.88	1	0.12	39
29	Elmore	168,216	90,300	1.86	0.10	0.10	1.86	2	0.14	40
55	Pike	74,915	90,300	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.83	1	0.17	41
44	Limestone	164,627	90,300	1.82	0.00	0.00	1.82	2	0.18	42
6	Barbour	59,821	90,300	0.66	0.10	0.00	0.76	1	0.24	43
65	Washington	63,627	90,300	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.70	1	0.30	44
64	Walker	150,628	90,300	1.67	0.00	0.00	1.67	2	0.33	45
24	Crenshaw	41,639	90,300	0.46	0.20	0.00	0.66	1	0.34	46
56	Randolph	56,689	90,300	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.63	1	0.37	47
32	Fayette	46,926	90,300	0.52	0.10	0.00	0.62	1	0.38	48
48	Marengo	54,972	90,300	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.61	1	0.39	49
40	Lamar	36,589	90,300	0.41	0.20	0.00	0.61	1	0.39	50
57	Russell	134,410	90,300	1.49	0.10	0.00	1.59	2	0.41	51
16	Clarke	50,619	90,300	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.56	1	0.44	52
54	Pickens	39,257	90,300	0.43	0.10	0.00	0.53	1	0.47	53
51	Monroe	47,365	90,300	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.52	1	0.48	54
46	Macon	46,668	90,300	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.52	1	0.48	55
45	Lowndes	33,976	90,300	0.38	0.10	0.00	0.48	1	0.52	56
36	Hale	40,289	90,300	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.45	1	0.55	57
21	Conecuh	39,975	90,300	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.44	1	0.56	58
22	Coosa	38,095	90,300	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.42	1	0.58	59
17	Clay	27,664	90,300	0.31	0.10	0.00	0.41	1	0.59	60
66	Wilcox	31,315	90,300	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.35	1	0.65	61
15	Choctaw	30,365	90,300	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.34	1	0.66	62
35	Greene	27,846	90,300	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.31	1	0.69	63
53	Perry	21,476	90,300	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.24	1	0.76	64
26	Dale	109,003	90,300	1.21	0.00	0.00	1.21	2	0.79	65
60	Sumter	17,986	90,300	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	1	0.80	66
9	Bullock	17,668	90,300	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	1	0.80	67
1	Jefferson- Birmingham	592,513	90,300	6.56	1.40	0.00	7.96	10	2.04	68