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**AT A GLANCE**

- Over 1,900 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals in 2015.
- The 19 judges serving on the Court of Appeals hear cases in three judge panels in courthouses throughout the state.
- Court of Appeals' decisions are the final ruling in about 95 percent of the appeals filed every year. Typically, about 5 percent of the court's decisions are accepted by the Minnesota Supreme Court for further review.
- The Court of Appeals serves all Minnesota citizens.

**PURPOSE**

The Minnesota Court of Appeals provides the citizens of Minnesota with prompt and deliberate review of all final decisions of the trial courts, state agencies and local governments.

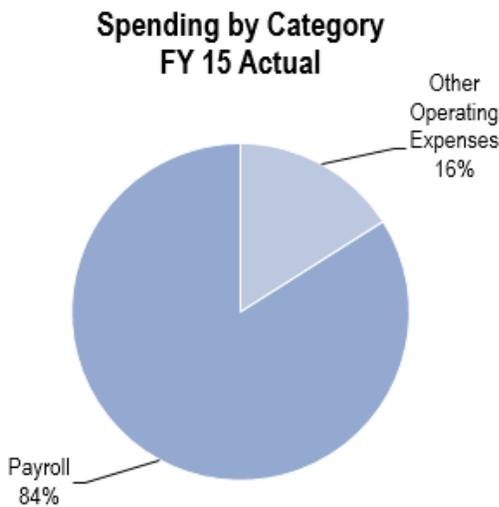
As the error-correcting court, the Court of Appeals handles most of the appeals, which allows the Minnesota Supreme Court to spend time resolving difficult constitutional and public policy cases.

The Court of Appeals has jurisdiction over all final decisions of the district courts, except first degree-murder convictions, which are appealed directly to the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals also has jurisdiction to review certain decisions of administrative agencies and local governments.

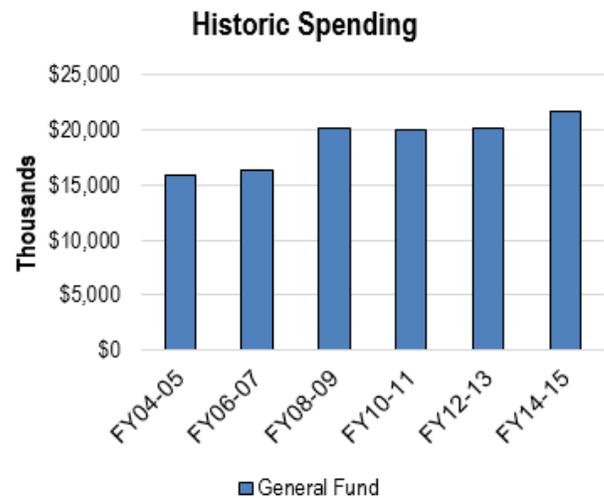
The adjudicative function of the Court of Appeals supports the following statewide outcomes:

- Strong and stable families and communities;
- People in Minnesota are safe; and
- Efficient and accountable government services.

**BUDGET**



Source: SWIFT



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Court of Appeals FY15 expenditures were \$11,416,000. The budget is funded 100% through the state general fund.

## STRATEGIES

The mission of the Judicial Branch is *“To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.”* The Court of Appeals conducts its functions in support of three strategic goals to deliver its mission and to support the statewide outcomes of promoting strong families and communities, insuring people in Minnesota are safe and providing efficient and accountable government services:

1. Access to Justice – Ensuring the justice system is open, affordable, effective and accountable to the people it serves.
2. Administration of Justice for Effective Results – Working across branches of government and with other justice system stakeholders to improve outcomes for and the delivery of services for children, families, and alcohol and other addicted offenders who come to its courts.
3. Public Trust, Accountability, and Impartiality – Through education, outreach to diverse communities and a commitment to effective and efficient customer service and accountability, improving citizens’ understanding of and confidence in the Third Branch of government.

As part of the Court’s effort to expedite justice and to make access to the appellate system less burdensome and expensive, the Court’s 19 judges sit in three-judge panels and travel to locations throughout Minnesota to hear oral arguments.

By law, the Court must issue a decision within 90 days after oral arguments. This deadline is the shortest imposed on any appellate court in the nation. The Court expedites decisions on child protection cases, child custody cases, mental health commitments and other requested matters.

The Court of Appeals issues a published opinion, unpublished opinion, or order opinion on each case it considers on the merits.

## RESULTS

It is the policy of the Minnesota Judicial Branch to establish core performance goals and to monitor key results that measure progress toward meeting these goals in order to ensure accountability of the Branch, improve overall operations of the court and enhance the public’s trust and confidence in the Judiciary. Throughout the year the Court of Appeals reviews performance measure results. This review is shared with the Judicial Council (the Branch’s governing body) twice a year.

The Court has adopted the American Bar Association (ABA) standards for intermediate appellate courts, which measure cases from beginning (filing) to end (disposition). The goals are to have 75% of the cases disposed within 290 days of filing and 90% of cases disposed within 365 days of filing.

### Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing, 2012 - 2014

In 2014, the Court of Appeals nearly met its goal of disposing 75% of all cases within 290 days, with 73% of the cases meeting the goal. This is a decline compared to 2013 when 78% of cases were disposed within 290 days.

### Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 290 Days of Filing

Goal = 75% of Cases

	2014		2013		2012	
	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil	1,216	88%	1,263	92%	1,404	87%
Criminal	856	50%	775	53%	753	49%
Juvenile Protection	51	100%	61	100%	51	100%
Juvenile Delinquency	14	93%	26	100%	21	95%
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>74%</b>

## Percent of Court of Appeals Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing

The Court of Appeals exceeded the goal of disposing 90% of cases within 365 days, by disposing of 91% of its cases within that time in 2014. Only Criminal cases did not meet the goal of 90%.

### Court of Appeals Percentage of Cases Disposed Within 365 Days of Filing

Goal = 90% of Cases

	2014		2013		2012	
	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective	# of cases	% of cases meeting objective
Civil	1,216	98%	1,263	99%	1,404	98%
Criminal	856	80%	775	87%	753	80%
Juvenile Protection	51	100%	61	100%	51	100%
Juvenile Delinquency	14	100%	26	100%	21	100%
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>92%</b>

Data are from the *Judicial Branch 2015 Performance Measures – Key Results and Measures Annual Report*. The report can be found at [www.mncourts.gov/](http://www.mncourts.gov/).

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The Minnesota Constitution, Article VI, provides the legal authority for the Court of Appeals:  
[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article\\_6](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/constitution/#article_6).