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AT A GLANCE

- The seven members of the Supreme Court review petitions in approximately 900 cases a year and accept review in about 1 in 8 cases.
- In 2013, 107 direct appeals and 671 petitions for further review were filed with the Supreme Court.
- The Chief Justice is the administrative head of the Judicial Branch, which includes 315 justices and judges and 2,500 employees.
- The Supreme Court serves all Minnesota citizens.

PURPOSE

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Minnesota, serving as the final guardian of the Minnesota Constitution and interpreting/applying the United States Constitution.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in remedial cases as prescribed by law, appellate jurisdiction over all cases, and supervisory jurisdiction over all courts in the state. These cases can come from the Minnesota Court of Appeals, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals, Tax Court, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, and Board of Judicial Standards. Election contests and appeals for first-degree murder cases are automatically appealed to the Supreme Court.

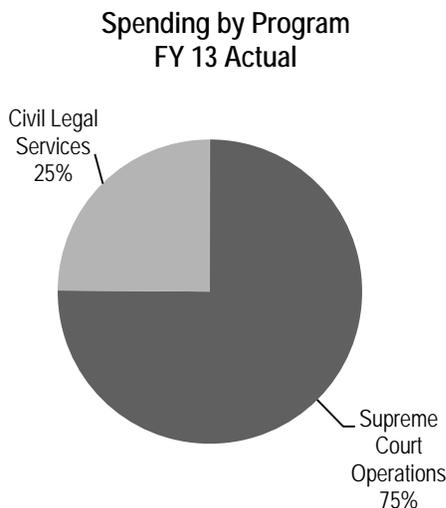
The Supreme Court is solely responsible for the regulation of the practice of law and for judicial and lawyer discipline. The Court also promulgates rules of practice and procedure for the legal system in the state.

The Chief Justice serves as the chair of the Judicial Council, the policy making body for the Judicial Branch. The Chief Justice is responsible for supervising administrative operations of the state court system.

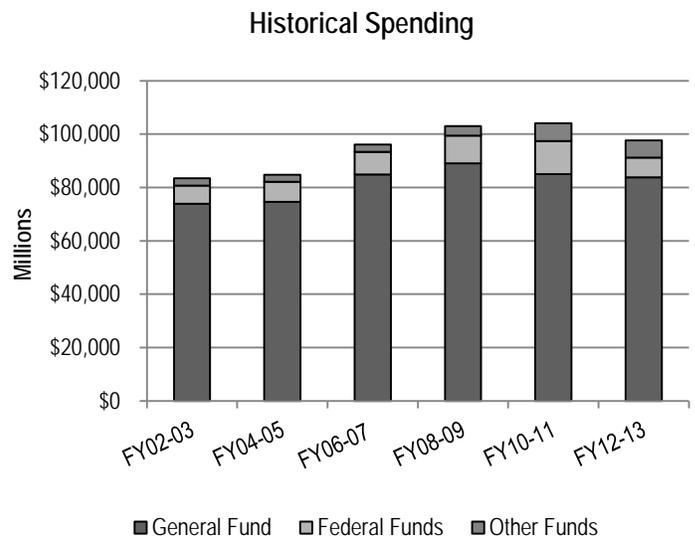
The Chief Justice is assisted by the State Court Administrator's Office, which provides the administrative infrastructure for the Judicial Branch. The State Court Administrator's Office is responsible for providing Judicial Branch finance, human resources, technology, education, communications, research/evaluation, caseload management and cross-district judicial assignments.

The Supreme Court promotes **strong and stable families and communities**, helps to insure **people in Minnesota are safe** and provides **efficient and accountable government services**

BUDGET



Source: SWIFT



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The Supreme Court expended \$52 million in FY2013. Of this amount, \$45 million (87%) was from state general fund appropriations, with the remaining \$7 million (13%) being funded through various sources such as federal and local government grants, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts, and fees.

STRATEGIES

As the state's highest court, the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the State Capitol Courtroom and the Minnesota Judicial Center. The Supreme Court reviews matters on certiorari, meaning it reviews cases to set precedent, to clarify legal issues, to resolve statutory conflicts, and to answer constitutional questions.

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 Supreme Court conducts its administrative functions in support of three strategic goals to deliver its mission and to support the statewide outcome of strong families and communities:

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.

The Judicial Council – chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court – conducts a rigorous strategic planning process that guides the work of the State Court Administrator's Office in support of the Judicial Branch's three strategic goals. The strategic plan is reviewed and updated annually.

In recent years, as part of the Judicial Council's strategic planning, the Judicial Branch has begun leveraging new technologies and re-engineering business practices in a system-wide effort to expand services and ensure equal access to justice. The centerpiece of this effort – the eCourtMN Initiative – is transforming Minnesota's courts from a paper-based environment to an electronic information environment that will ensure convenient, timely, and appropriate access to case information for all stakeholders, and result in more timely and efficient processing of cases.

The Minnesota State Constitution, Article VI, provides the legal authority for the Supreme Court.

Program: Supreme Court Operations

www.mncourts.gov

AT A GLANCE

- In 2013, 107 direct appeals and 671 petitions for further review were filed with the Supreme Court.
- The Chief Justice is the administrative head of the Judicial Branch, which includes 289 justices and judges and 2,500 employees.
- The Supreme Court publically disciplined 47 Minnesota lawyers in 2013.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Supreme Court is the highest court in Minnesota, serving as the final guardian of the Minnesota Constitution and interpreting/applying the United States Constitution.

The Supreme Court is solely responsible for the regulation of the practice of law and for judicial and lawyer discipline.

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 Supreme Court conducts its adjudicative and administrative functions in support of three strategic goals to deliver its mission and to support the statewide outcome of strong families and communities:

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.

The Supreme Court serves all Minnesota citizens. The administrative and adjudicative functions of the Supreme Court support the following statewide outcomes:

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

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Minnesota Supreme Court considers appeals from judgments from the Court of Appeals, the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals, and the Tax Court. It hears special term matters, motions, and petitions from extraordinary relief. The Supreme Court also hears mandatory cases, including first degree murder convictions and election contests. The Court promulgates rules of practice and procedure for the legal system in the state.

The Chief Justice is responsible for supervising administrative operations of the state court system. The Chief Justice serves as the chair of the Judicial Council, the policy making body for the Judicial Branch.

The Chief Justice is assisted by the State Court Administrator's Office, which provides the administrative infrastructure for the Judicial Branch. The State Court Administrator's Office is responsible for providing Judicial Branch finance, human resources, technology, education, communications, research/evaluation, caseload management and cross-district judicial assignments.

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 Supreme Court reviews performance measure results. This review is shared with the Judicial Council (the Branch's governing body) twice a year.

The performance goal of timeliness indicates whether the Supreme Court is handling cases in a timely manner. The Supreme Court measures timeliness with the following measure: reports the number of days to accomplish an event for the case that is at the 50th percentile and at the 90th percentile. The event categories are taken from the American Bar Association (ABA) standards and the points of measurement conform to the ABA use of the 50th percentile and the 90th percentile for state supreme courts.

The Supreme Court is generally meeting its timing standards. It meets timing objectives for Filing of Petitions for Further Review to the Disposition of the Petition for Further Review. Most appeals heard by the Supreme Court come in the form of a petition for further review from a lower court's decision. The Supreme Court can grant review of the case, placing it on the Court's agenda for action or can deny review of the case.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	The decision to grant further review should occur within 50 days of the filing of the petition for further review.	47 days	48 days	2011 and 2012
Results	The decision to deny further review should occur within 50 days of the filing of the petition for further review.	47 days	47 days	2011 and 2012

When a case is placed on the Supreme Court's calendar, the case is argued orally before the full Supreme Court. Following oral argument a Supreme Court Justice is assigned to write the majority opinion which is then circulated to all justices.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Murder 1 Cases – time elapsed between oral argument and opinion circulation.	191 days	125 days	2011 and 2012
Results	Civil Cases – time elapsed between oral argument and opinion circulation.	219 days	160 days	2011 and 2012
Results	Professional Regulation (Lawyer and Judge Discipline) Cases – time elapsed between oral argument and opinion circulation.	78 days	64 days	2011 and 2012

Data are from the *Judicial Branch 2012 Performance Measures – Key Results and Measures Annual Report* and the *Judicial Branch 2013 Performance Measures – Key Results and Measures Annual Report*. Both reports can be found at www.mncourts.gov.

The Minnesota State Constitution, Article VI, provides the legal authority for the Supreme Court. M.S. 2.724 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=2.724> provides the legal authority for the chief justice's administrative responsibilities. M.S. 480.05 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.05> provides legal authority for the Supreme Court's rule making authority. M.S. 480.13-.17 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480> provides legal authority for the position and duties of the state court administrator.

Program: Civil Legal Services

www.mncourts.gov

AT A GLANCE

- In 2013, Civil Legal Services served 48,043 households consisting of more than 120,000 people throughout all 87 Minnesota counties.
- There is one Civil Legal Services attorney for every 4,453 eligible clients, compared with one practicing attorney for every 446 Minnesotans.
- Fourteen percent (14%) of clients represented are seniors, 23% are people with disabilities, and 65% are women.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The statewide civil legal services network (CLS) is a core function of the justice system. It ensures access to justice for vulnerable Minnesotans and increases efficiency in the justice system. CLS focuses on resolving civil legal matters that directly affect the basic human needs for safety, shelter and household sustenance. All CLS clients have low incomes, disabilities, or are elderly. Network innovations to increase efficiency include expanded public access to services through technology, controlled cost through shared service coordination, and leveraging of volunteer resources.

The Supreme Court administers CLS funding. There are three sources of Court-administered funding: general fund, Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts and attorney registration fees. The Court administers these funds through its Legal Services Advisory Committee. By statute, 85% of the general fund support is distributed on a poverty population basis to the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, six regional CLS organizations that provide a full range of civil legal help in all 87 counties. The remaining 15% of general fund support is awarded on a competitive basis to CLS organizations. CLS also receives funding from federal and local government grants, foundations, the United Way, law firms, corporations, and individual private donors.

SERVICES PROVIDED

CLS opens the doors of the justice system to the most vulnerable in our community. It creates **strong and stable families and communities** by helping people find solutions to civil legal disputes. In 2013, CLS provided legal representation and advice to 48,043 families and individuals. Additionally, CLS provided education and self-help services to more than 350,000 Minnesotans. CLS attorneys and advocates work from offices throughout the state, giving direct service to people in all 87 Minnesota counties. CLS also developed, and is continuously expanding, a public internet resource, www.LawHelpMN.org. This website has dozens of self-help resources including easy-to-use legal forms, and is used by the court system, public libraries, and social service agencies as well as the general public.

CLS priorities are: helping victims of domestic violence achieve safety; preventing homelessness due to improper eviction or foreclosure; protecting vulnerable Minnesotans from financial exploitation; and maximizing the ability of people who are elderly or have disabilities to live safely and independently in their community. An essential part of the state's domestic violence intervention system, CLS gives legal help to women and children served by the state's network of domestic violence shelters and support programs. CLS has a similar relationship with social service systems that address homelessness or independent living for seniors or people with disabilities. The CLS partnership with the justice system is also critical. CLS creates efficiencies in the justice system by redirecting cases that are without merit or can be resolved in another manner, and by ensuring efficient use of the courts when CLS clients come before a judge. CLS also creates efficiency by providing essential infrastructure to leverage and support volunteer attorneys through training, mentoring and the web service www.ProJusticeMN.org

CLS currently serves the needs for one of every three eligible clients seeking help. CLS seeks to narrow the gap by increasing service capacity. CLS will also continue to create efficiencies through technological innovations, coordination, and leveraging volunteers.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Percentage of families and individuals served who successfully resolved critical legal problems.	89% of 49,079	89% of 48,043	2011 and 2013
Results	Number of children and women who are victims of domestic violence who achieved safety.	1,879	1,965	2011 and 2013
Results	Number of families and individuals faced with foreclosure or eviction who remained housed.	3,112	3,252	2011 and 2013
Results	Number of seniors and people with disabilities who continue to live safely and independently in the community.	3,433	3,587	2011 and 2013
Quantity	Number of people obtaining education and self-help resources about legal rights and responsibilities through technological innovation.	258,857	350,381	2011 and 2013

M.S. 480.24 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.24> to 480.244 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.244> provides the legal authority for Civil and Family Legal Services.