

SUPREME COURT



**FY2020-2024
5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI
5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
FY 2020 – 2024
Business Area 1051

1. Comprehensive Mission Statement:

The judiciary is one of the three Constitutionally created co-equal branches of government, not a state agency. The Mississippi Constitution, Article 6, Section 144, states, “The judicial power of the State shall be vested in a Supreme Court and such other courts as are provided for in this Constitution.”

The mission of the judicial branch of government is to apply statutory law and case law in the resolution of civil disputes and criminal charges brought before the courts. The Mississippi Supreme Court is the court of last resort among state courts. The Supreme Court defers some appeals to the statutorily created Court of Appeals, and has discretion to review that court’s appellate decisions. The trial courts are the Chancery, Circuit and County Courts

2. Philosophy:

Fairness, equality and efficiency are the guiding principles of the leadership of the Mississippi judicial branch. The administration of justice must be unbiased and even-handed, thoroughly researched and well-grounded in the statutory and case law. Decisions must be rendered in a timely fashion.

3. Relevant Statewide Goals and Benchmarks:

Statewide Goal #1:

To protect the public’s safety, including providing timely and appropriate responses to emergencies and disasters and to operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Relevant Benchmarks:

- Case clearance rates
- Time to case disposition
- Age of pending caseload (number of days from case filing to date of measurement of the pending caseload)
- Collection of monetary penalties
- Average cost of processing a single case

Statewide Goal #2:

To create an efficient government and an informed and engaged citizenry that helps to address social problems through the payment of taxes, the election of capable leaders at all levels of government, and participation in charitable organizations through contributions and volunteerism.

Relevant Benchmarks:

- Average wait time for state government services
- Regulatory efficiency: average length of time to resolution of documented complaints to professional licensing agencies.
- State dollars saved by providing government services online

4. Overview of the 5-Year Strategic Plan:

During the next five years, the primary objective of the Supreme Court of Mississippi will be the expeditious disposition of cases. The Court will focus on successfully implementing policies and procedures for the Supreme Court and for the Court of Appeals which will be designed to achieve that objective.

To better manage its complex docket, the Court will need to utilize new technologies and develop new information systems. As part of this process, the Supreme Court will continue the expansion of the MS Electronic Case Management (MEC) system throughout the State. MEC is a comprehensive, internet based document filing and case management system that allows courts to maintain electronic case files and offer electronic filing. The system allows courts to make all case information immediately available electronically through the Internet and provides a framework for seamless, transparent exchange of data among courts and the appropriate law enforcement, children's services and public welfare agencies. The MEC system also provides for seamless transmission of case tracking data to the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC) and inmate data the Mississippi Department of Corrections for civil and criminal cases.

As part of its objective to provide an efficient judicial system, the AOC will continue the expansion of the Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System (MYCIDS) throughout the state. MYCIDS is a web-based application that provides support for the intake of youths into the court system, scheduling of youth cases, management of court dockets, tracking custody situations, necessary document generation and also provides a base dataset for statistical reporting purposes. MYCIDS closely monitors the scheduling activities to make sure that the youth are treated according to the law. The system is designed to support the Youth Court staff in the decision making process by providing rapid access and visibility to information shared in a common information repository.

The Office of Drug Court Compliance, created in 2014 within the AOC, will continue to work with drug court programs across the State to ensure that all drug court programs are operating within the Alyce Griffin Clarke Drug Court Act and under rules established by the State Drug Court Advisory Committee.

5. External/Internal Assessment:

The Internal Auditor will continue to conduct assessments of each department to ensure the Judiciary is in compliance with the Judiciary's Internal Control Procedures and with applicable guidelines set forth by the Department of Finance and Administration.

6. Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Measures by Program:

Program 1: Supreme Court Services

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1:

To maintain or increase the average number of motions disposed of each year:

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of motions filed for the Supreme Court

Efficiency: Number of cases dismissed

Efficiency: Number of motions decided/disposed of

Program 2: Supreme Court Clerk

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1: To track record preparation and briefing in a timely manner.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of Notices of Appeals filed for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals

Output: Number of records filed

Output: Number of briefs filed

Efficiency: Total amount collected from Clerk Fees generated

Objective A-2: To disseminate court decisions and mandates in a timely manner.

A.2.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of dispositions disseminated

Output: Number of motions filed

Program 3: State Law Library

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1:

To provide current legal research and reference services for the legal community and general public in a complete and timely manner.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Average response time for reference questions

Efficiency: Number of materials circulated

Efficiency: Number of bound volumes processed

Efficiency: Number of new titles added to collection

Efficiency: Number of government documents processed

Efficiency: Number of books in inventory

Program 4: Court of Appeals

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1:

To maintain or increase the average number of motions disposed of each year:

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of appeals filed/pending

Efficiency: Number of cases decided

Program 5: Administrative Office of Courts

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1:

Track court case information statewide

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of statistical documents processed

Objective A-2:

To provide administrative support to chancery, circuit and county judges.

A.2.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of chancery/circuit judges served

Output: Number of county judges served

Output: Average number of court reporters paid monthly

Output: Average number of trial judge support staff paid monthly

Efficiency: Percentage of trial judge office allowance paid

Efficiency: Percentage of trial judge rent allowance paid

Efficiency: Percentage of trial judge support staff allowance paid

Efficiency: Total dollar amount of trial judge support staff payroll

Efficiency: Total net payroll processed for county court administrators

Objective A-3:

To provide administrative support to youth courts.

A.3.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of youth court jurisdictions served

Output: Number of youth court events (hearings)

Output: Number of types of courts serving counties as youth courts

Efficiency: Percentage of youth court jurisdictions served

Objective A-3:

To provide administrative support to drug courts.

A.3.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of drug court programs operating

Output: Number of adult clients served by drug court programs

Output: Number of juvenile clients served by drug court programs

Output: Number of counties served by drug court programs

Efficiency: Average cost per felony adult drug court program

Efficiency: Average cost per misdemeanor adult drug court program

Efficiency: Average cost per juvenile drug court program

Efficiency: Savings to the State by not incarcerating drug court clients in State correctional facilities

Program 6: Board of Certified Court Reporters

Goal A: To create an efficient government.

Objective A-1:

Ensure applicants are in compliance with the rules governing certified court reporters.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of court reporters certified annually

Efficiency: Cost of certificate to applicant

Efficiency: Cost of recertification to applicant

Objective A-2:

Ensure applicants are processed accurately.

A.2.1. Strategy:

Output: Percentage of certified court reporter applications processed

Program 7: Trial Judges

Goal A: To operate a fair and effective system of justice.

Objective A-1:

To maintain or increase the average number of civil and criminal cases disposed of.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of civil case disposals

Output: Number of criminal case disposals

Output: Number of civil cases filed

Efficiency: Number of chancery/circuit judges

Efficiency: Average number of court reporters paid monthly

Efficiency: Average number of trial judge support staff paid monthly

Efficiency: Number of statistical documents processed

Program 8: Board of Bar Admissions

Goal A: To create an efficient government.

Objective A-1:

Ensure applicants are in compliance with the rules governing admissions for the MS Bar and administer and evaluate the Bar Examination semi-annually.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of bar exam applicants

Output: Number of law student applicants

Output: Bar exam passage rate (percentage)

Output: Character/Fitness hearings held

Output: Character and Fitness Committee – informal conferences held

Output: Appeals hearings held

Output: Number of Admissions on Motion applicants

Efficiency: Cost per out-of-state character investigations for law students

Efficiency: Cost per out-of-state character investigations for attorneys

Efficiency: Minimum court reporter costs for hearings

Efficiency: Committee member cost for one-day hearings

Efficiency: Number of weeks to complete investigation

Program 9: Commission on Continuing Legal Education

Goal A: To create an efficient government.

Objective A-1:

Ensure each member of the Bar is in compliance with the rules and regulations established by CLE and meets the mandatory CLE requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

A.1.1. Strategy:

Output: Number of Bar members reported

Output: Number of program requests received

Output: Number of CLE seminars requested

Efficiency: Number of months to compile reports

Efficiency: Percentage of delinquent attorneys

Efficiency: Percentage of program requests answered

Efficiency: Percentage of CLE seminars entered