



Judicial Council of Georgia

Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs
Chair

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Director

Protocol for the Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment Clearance Rate Analysis

Purpose

The Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment acknowledges the Office of Research and Data Analysis (Research) methodology for calculating caseload clearance rate data for all of Georgia's trial courts. Trial courts achieving a 100 percent or higher clearance rate by clearing as many cases as have been filed during a given period may be recognized by the JC/AOC or JWAC.

Protocol Statement

1. Following the annual caseload collection period, Research staff will initiate the caseload clearance rate process.
2. Research staff will identify courts achieving a 100 percent or higher clearance rate.
3. Requests for individual court clearance rate analysis shall be submitted to the Research Office via the Research Request form on the [Research website](#).

Clearance Rate Methodology

1. Staff will use the most recent filed and disposed cases for each case category to calculate the clearance rate.
2. The *total disposed* cases are divided by the *total filed* cases.
The resulting figure will indicate a court's annual *clearance rate percentage*.
3. The most recent three-year clearance rate will determine a court's *clearance rate average*.

Criteria for Receiving a Clearance Rate Excellence Award

1. A court clearance rate must meet or exceed 100 percent for three consecutive years.
2. A court whose clearance rate meets the 100 percent threshold will be recognized by the Committee, and notice will be forwarded to each court council.
3. A court whose clearance rate exceeds 110 percent will be recognized by the Committee, and an official notice will be issued to the Chief Judge and Clerk of the awarding court.

Limitations

1. Clearance rates are calculated by research staff based on self-reported data from the Clerk of that court.
2. Research staff can identify areas of concern for a judicial circuit's caseload data, but is unable to correct, amend, modify, or quality-adjust it.
3. Clearance rate reporting can be subject to errors. The award or failure to be recognized with a clearance rate award is not necessarily correlated to how effectively a judge is working.

Appendix A

Definitions

Cases Filed – A count of cases filed with the court for the first time within the current reporting year.

Cases Disposed – A count of cases for which an original entry of judgment has been entered during the current reporting year.

Clearance Rate – The number of outgoing cases as a percentage of incoming cases.

Clearance Rate Percentage – The total number of disposed cases divided by the total number of filed cases.

Clearance Rate Average – The most recent three-year clearance rate of cases disposed and cases filed for each case type.

Court – The court represents a collective body of judges presiding over criminal, civil, or domestic cases within a jurisdiction.