

Judiciary Fact Sheet

Special Superior Court Judges

Special Superior Court Judges are appointed by the Governor to 5 year terms and are subject to the same requirements and authorities prescribed by law for Regular Superior Court Judges without the requirement of residence in a particular district. Specials can be assigned to any County in North Carolina. These positions are instrumental to the administration of justice in North Carolina.

Special Superior Court Judges are assigned to:

- Assist in reducing the backlog of criminal and civil cases
- Hear complex business cases and homicide trials
- Cover courts during vacations, conferences and illnesses

Judicial Support Staff

Adequate staffing is critical to performing the duties and responsibilities assigned to judges. These positions are essential in performing the support functions and behind the scenes activities that address the daily workload so as to prevent or minimize case backlogs and delays resulting from overcrowded and ever burgeoning dockets. The current ratio of judges to state funded support positions is approximately 6 to 1. Productivity and effectiveness of the Bench is challenged by the competition for administrative support. Duties performed by these positions include the following:

- Preparing and distributing court schedules
- Assisting judges with scheduling hearings and special settings
- Attending meetings with judges, taking notes and preparing minutes
- Assisting judges with legal research and technology
- Researching and responding to mail received from prisoners
- Updating Statutes and Legal materials
- Preparing letters and legal documents
- Computing fee applications
- Screening visitors and callers