

26th Judicial District of North Carolina



FY17-18 Court System Budget Presentation



State of North Carolina Judicial Branch – 26th Judicial District of North Carolina

Mecklenburg County 2017 Presentation

Presentation Outline

- Return on Investment
- Barriers to Justice
- Requests
- Loss of Public Trust and Confidence
- Questions



THANK YOU

**ADA AND PD
SUPPLEMENTAL SALARIES**

Race Matters
for Juvenile Justice



**COURTROOM 4150
CASE MANAGEMENT**



**NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS**

CONTRACT POSITIONS

**FAMILY LAW
FACILITATOR
PROGRAM**

FOR YOUR CURRENT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT



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Cost Effectiveness of the Family Law Facilitator Program

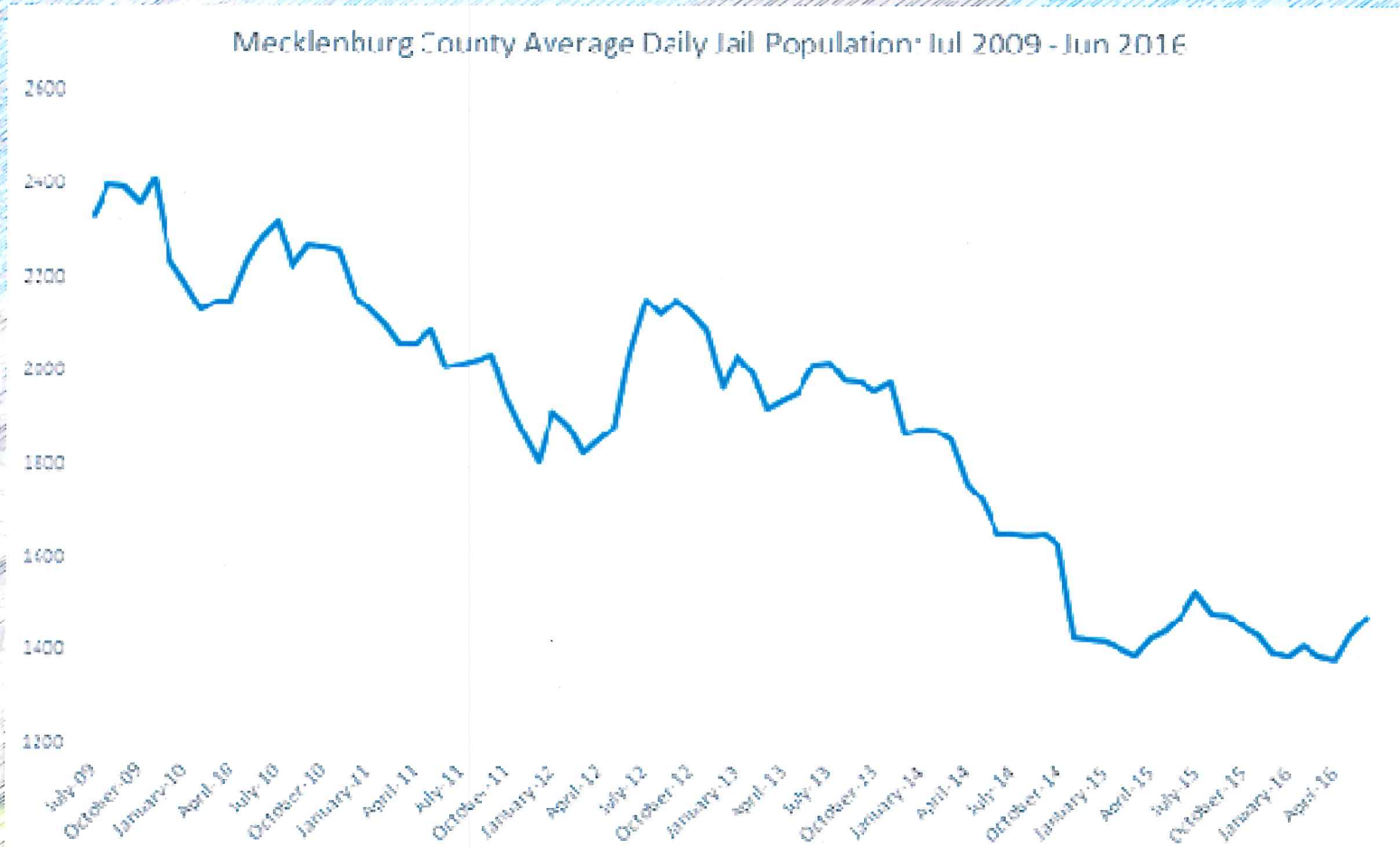
One of our signature programs. Our guiding principles include **Securing Permanency, Family Connection and Cost Savings.**

The program continues to assist kin care providers in gaining custody of children who would otherwise enter the foster care system.

During FY15-16, the program served a total of 306 children..

The program realized a cost savings of approximately 2.1 million dollars for Mecklenburg County by preventing foster care placement.





ALOS for Sentenced and Pretrial Felons and Misdemeanants

Average Length of Stay (Days)	Sentenced Felons	Sentenced Misdemeanants	Pretrial Felons	Pretrial Misdemeanants
FY 12	115	30	32	8
FY 13	117	34	37	8
FY 14	109	31	39	7
FY 15	96	30	37	6
FY 16	104	35	29 (10%)	6 (25%)



Superior Court Criminal Clearance Rate

Year	Dispositions	New Filings	Clearance Rate as %
2012	16,030	13,589	118%
2013	15,088	14,618	103%
2014	15,814	13,590	116%
2015	14,299	13,634	105%
2016	14,058	13,907	101%
2012-2016	75,289	69,338	109%

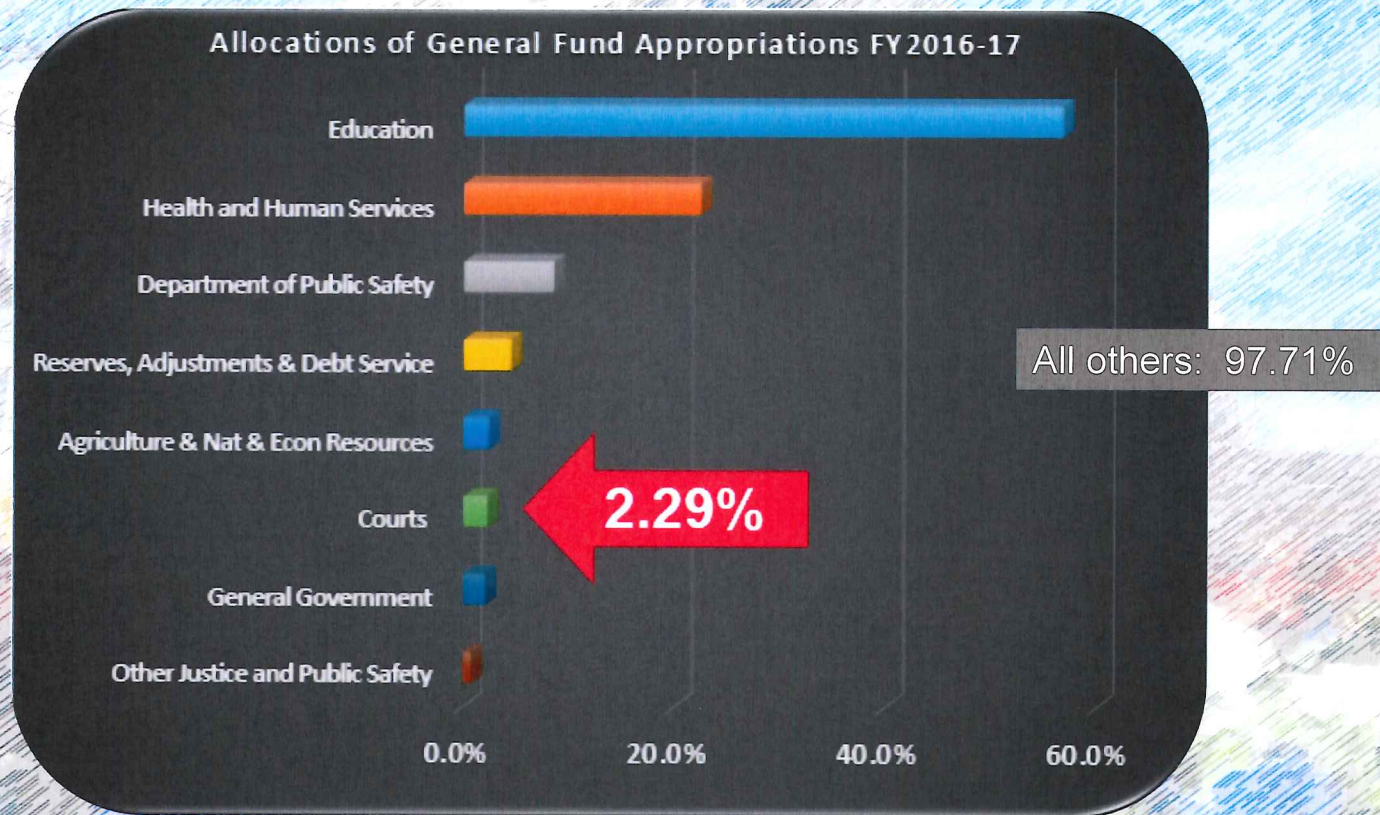


Barriers to Justice

- Financial
- Structural



The Judicial Branch receives less than 3% of a \$22.3 billion state budget



Revenue Contributions

Approximately 47% of the Court's budget is covered by fees

Essentially, only 1 penny out of every tax dollar is being spent to support our court system



Supplemental Funding from Mecklenburg County and City of Charlotte

14%

- Funding Received from Mecklenburg County Under Contract with the AOC and City of Charlotte Funding



2015 Workload Formulas

Mecklenburg Needs 73 Additional Positions
Based on Workload Formulas

35

Additional Clerks

1

Additional
District Court Judges

2

Superior Court Judges

22

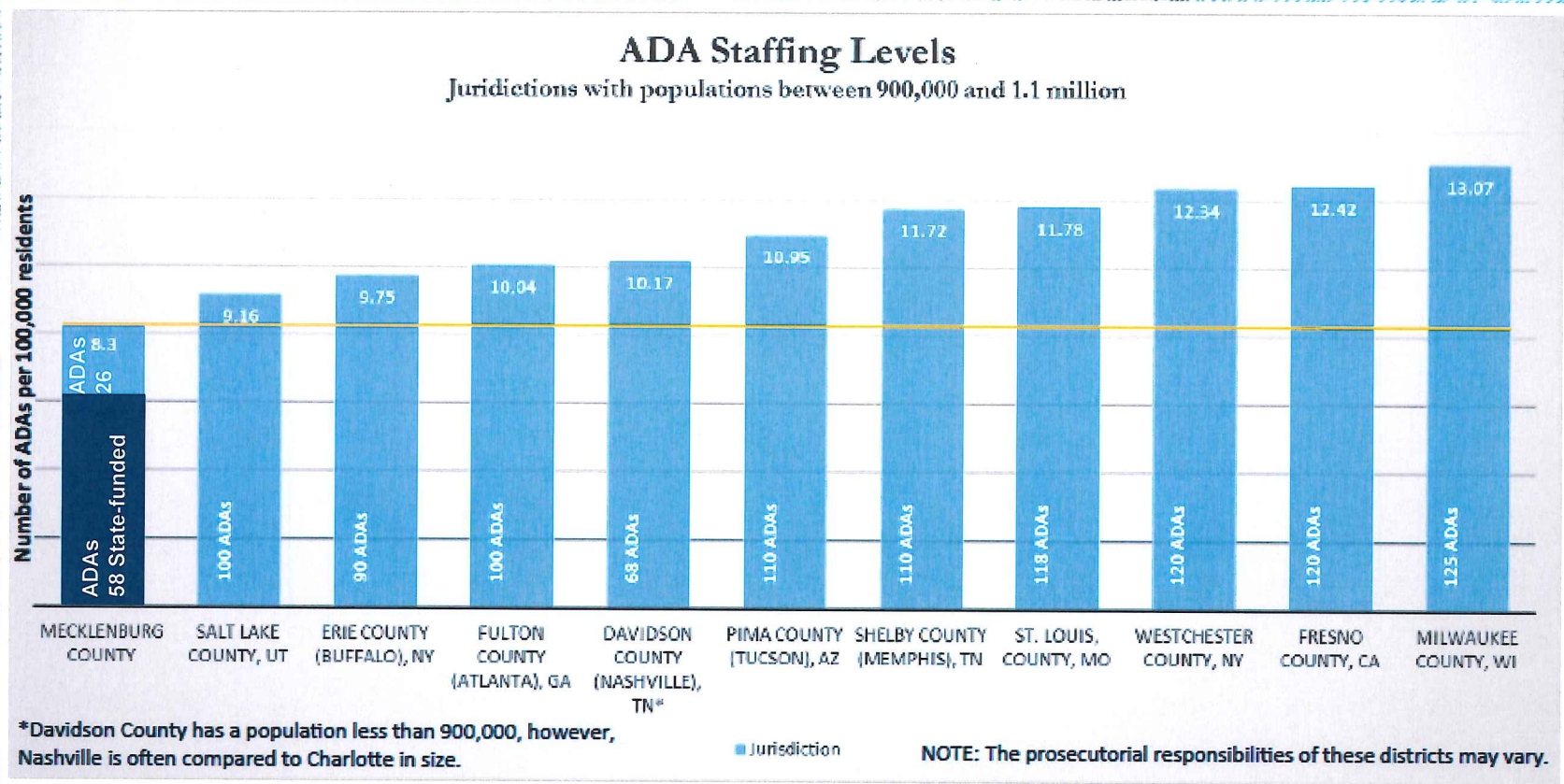
Additional Magistrates

13

Additional VWLAS



Mecklenburg Needs 17 Prosecutors



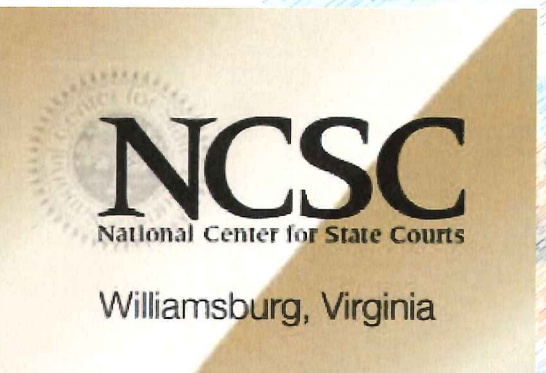
According to the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys there should be 10 prosecutors per 100,000 residents of the jurisdiction.



Growth of Self-Represented Litigants

At least one party was self-represented (usually the defendant)
in more than three-quarters of the cases.

The Landscape of Civil Litigation in State Courts, 2015



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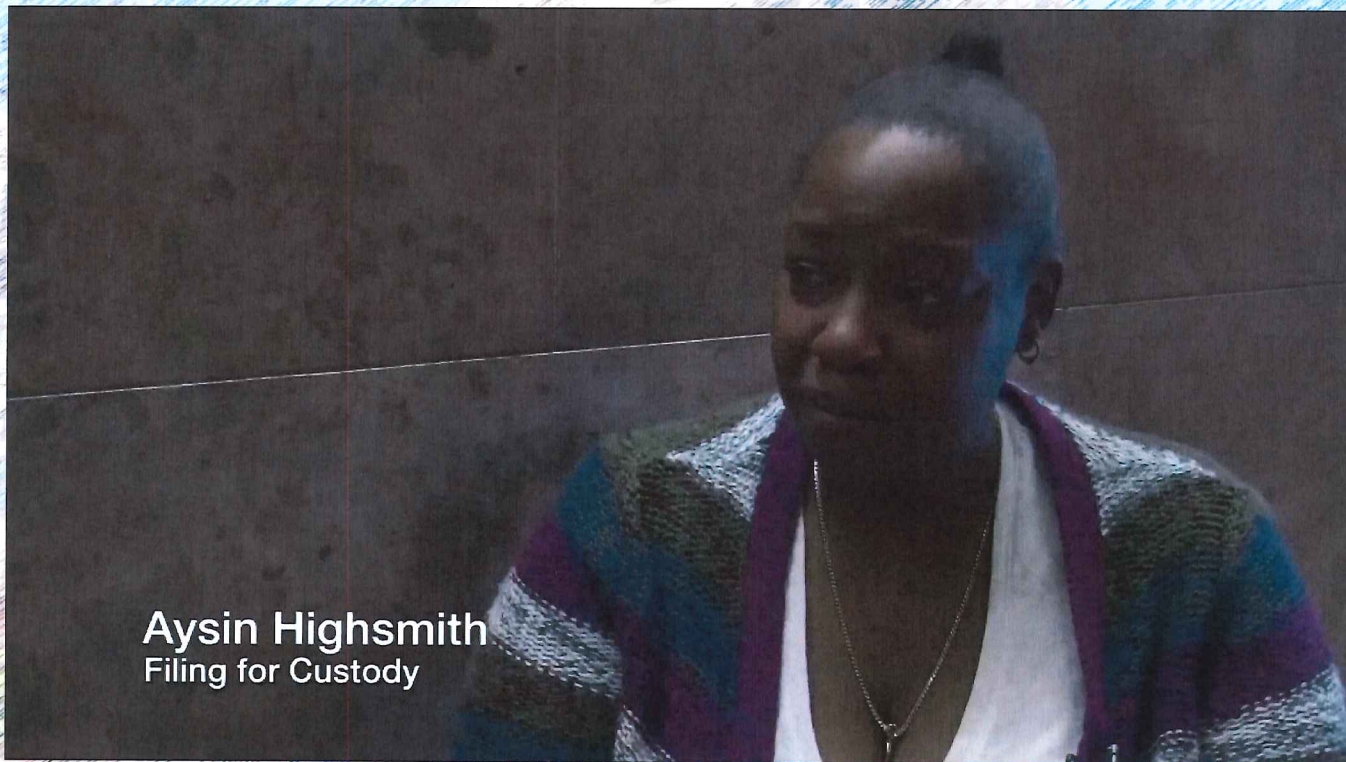
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Self-Represented Litigant Challenges

- Difficult to navigate complex procedures
- Drain court system resources, seeking help from staff and judges
- Create ethical dilemmas
- Contribute to system delay
- 80% civil legal needs of the poor going unmet



Access to Justice



Aysin Highsmith
Filing for Custody



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Impact of delayed or denied access

- Unintended winners and losers
- Increased demands on social services
- Uncertainty and psychological trauma for the child/children involved
- Lack of productivity in the workplace due to ongoing dysfunction and lack of stability
- Missed work days because of multiple court proceedings
- Increased litigation costs associated with number of hearings



State Requests

- SelfServe Center Position
- Law Clerks
- Research Planning Position
- Superior Criminal Court Set (Judge, ADA, Public Defender, Clerk and Court Reporter)
- District Civil Court Set (Judge, Clerk, Case Manager and Mediator)



New County Requests

- SelfServe Center Judicial Assistant (\$50,000)
 - SSC has no dedicated staff. A full-time position would allow us to serve self-represented litigants and restore capacity to Family Court office
- Strategic Planning Initiative - (\$35,000)
- Travel, Training and Meeting Expenses (\$27,000)
 - Site visits to court systems in other counties and states. Limited working lunch expenses.



New County Requests

- Juvenile Case Coordinator (\$50,000)
 - Having a dedicated JCC will allow Family Court to work closely with YFS to reduce time to permanency and to meet federal & state mandated time standards
- Assistant Clerk - Tax Foreclosures (\$63,775)
 - 400% increase projected in proceeding related to recovering funds
- Custody Mediator (\$45,000)
- Guardian ad Litem Office Assistant



Possible Needs

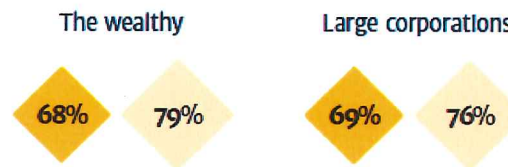
- Potential Raising of the Juvenile Age to 18
 - Juvenile case management is more complex and resource intensive
- Domestic Violence Electronic Filing
 - Well-functioning community portals (Safe Alliance) or increased staffing within courthouse



Perception of Unequal Justice

Q: "Tell me whether you believe that group is treated the same as other groups by the (court/justice) system, or whether you believe they are treated differently than others by the (court/justice) system."

Who is Treated Better?



Who is Treated Worse?



Overall African-Americans



Justice



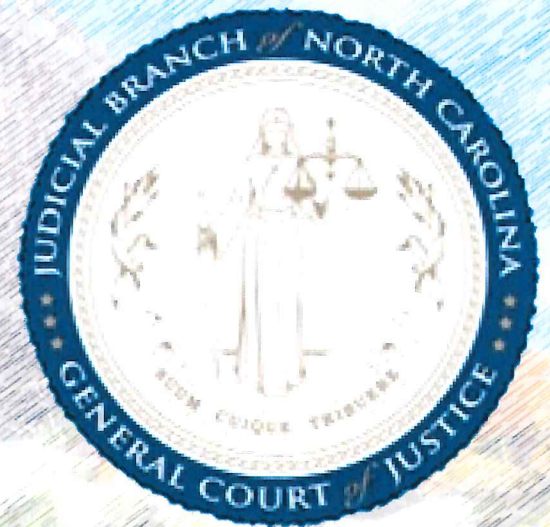
“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice...”



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Questions



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