

The broad discretion of judges in managing their caseloads results in varying efficiency of felony case processing across different sections of Orleans Criminal District Court (CDC).

Orleans CDC uses a longstanding random allotment process to distribute cases, which, over the course of a year, should result in equal numbers of cases assigned to each judge that have similar levels of complexity.

Therefore, judges with larger and older caseloads of open cases and take longer to bring cases to conclusion are less efficient than their peers. Less efficient felony case processing results in delays to the administration of justice for the accused and victims and witnesses. Jailed defendants with pending cases before less efficient judges increase costs to taxpayers and strain the resources of the sheriff who must endure the burden of housing pretrial defendants for longer periods of time.

This report applies best practice efficiency standards established by the [American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#) and the [National Center for State Courts](#). Comparing how judges working in the same court perform across these standards provides a reliable measure of each judge's felony case management efficiency.

Specifically, the judicial efficiency of Orleans CDC across 2024 and 2025 are

2024 and 2025 Aggregate
Judicial Efficiency Rankings

Judge	Joined Judiciary	Rank
Hon. Campbell	2021	1
Hon. Buras	1998	2
Hon. Pittman	2009	3
Hon. Holmes	2021	4 – Tie
Hon. Roche	2023	4 – Tie
Hon. Willard	2003	6
Hon. DeLarge	2021	7 – Tie
Hon. Harris	2021	7 – Tie
Hon. Levine	2023	7 – Tie
Hon. Goode-Douglas	2021	10
Hon. Flemings-Davillier*	2013	11

*In 2024-2025, Judge Flemings-Davillier served as Chief Judge, which carries additional administrative duties in conjunction with her criminal caseload.

NOTE: Efficiency measures do not include retired Judge Derbigny's section of court (See Appendix 1).

ranked using three primary measures: (1) the number of open felony cases, (2) the percent of pending felony cases open more than one year, and (3) the time it takes to resolve felony cases.

Three tiers of judicial efficiency were found in Orleans CDC:

The first tier includes five judges whose efficiency metrics were better than or consistent with the court average. Judge Campbell ranked first in efficiency after having the smallest inventory of open cases, lowest rate of cases open more than one year, and one of the shortest case processing times. Judges Buras, Pittman, Holmes, and Roche were also in the first tier of efficiency.

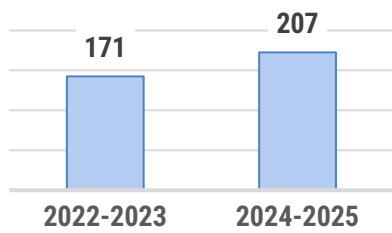
The second tier consists of four judges whose efficiency was slightly behind the overall court average, including Judges Willard, Levine, DeLarge, and Harris.

Judges Goode-Douglas and Flemings-Davillier were in the lowest and **third tier** of judicial efficiency for having larger caseloads and longer case processing times than the remainder of the judiciary.

The 2026 Louisiana Legislature reduced the judiciary of Orleans CDC from 12 to nine judges beginning in January 2027, which will increase felony caseloads and the need for greater judicial efficiency throughout the court.

This report examines three efficiency standards established by the [American Bar Association \(ABA\)](#) and the [National Center for State Courts](#). Felony cases are randomly assigned to judges, which should result in caseloads that are balanced in both size and difficulty. Comparing how judges perform across these three standards provides a reliable measure of each judge's felony case management.

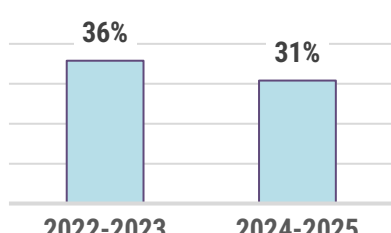
Exhibit 1: Average Number of Open Felony Cases Per Section
Metric 1



Year	Average Number of Open Felony Cases Per Section
2022-2023	171
2024-2025	207

From 2022-2023 to 2024-2025, the average number of felony cases per section of court increased by 36 (+21%) as prosecutors accepted more felony cases.

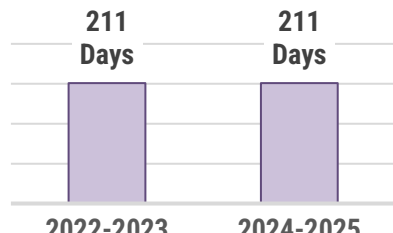
Exhibit 2: Percent of Pending Felony Cases Open More than One Year
Metric 2



Year	Percent of Pending Felony Cases Open More than One Year
2022-2023	36%
2024-2025	31%

Pending felony cases open more than one year went down by -5%, from 36% in 2022-2023 to 31% in 2024-2025. The reduction in cases open more than was year was driven by more new cases entering the court.

Exhibit 3: Median Days to Close Cases
Metric 3



Year	Median Days to Close Cases
2022-2023	211 Days
2024-2025	211 Days

Half of the cases that closed in 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 took more than 211 days to close and half took less (i.e., the median). **Despite an increase in caseloads, there was no change in the overall time it took to bring cases to conclusion.**

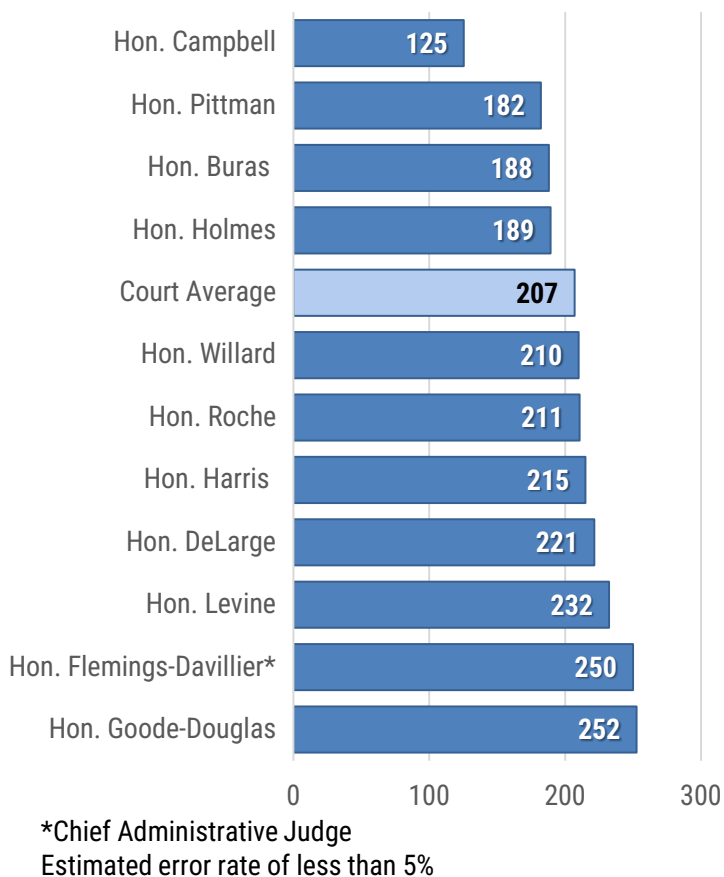


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FELONY CASELOAD AND CASES OPEN OVER ONE YEAR

Orleans CDC has a longstanding court-approved allotment process to randomly, equally, and fairly assign cases to judges, ensuring that each judge receives similar numbers of new cases with similar complexity. **Significant differences in judges' average numbers of pending cases and percent of cases that remain open for more than one year reflect different levels of judicial management and efficiency across the court.**

Exhibit 4: 2024-2025 Average Number of Open Felony Cases



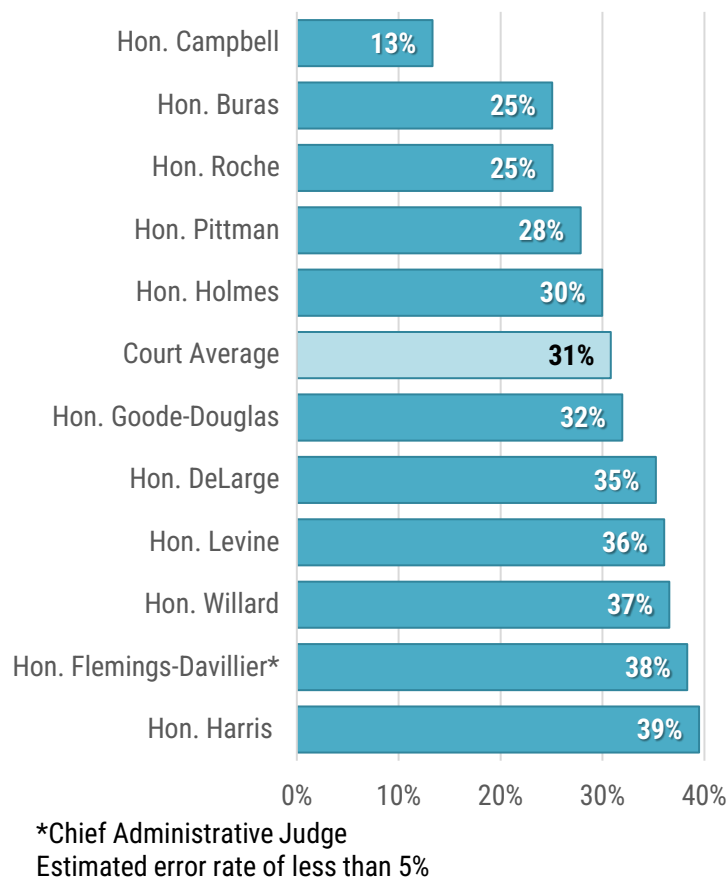
The first metric of judicial efficiency applied and reported herein is the monthly average number of pending open cases in each judge's section of court from 2024 through 2025 (see [Exhibit 4](#)). Fewer open cases indicate more efficient case management that reduces the numbers of cases pending before a judge, while larger numbers of open cases reflect less efficient case processing.

Judges Campbell, Pittman, Buras, and Holmes had fewer open felony cases per month and were below the court's overall average of 207 pending cases per month. Judge Campbell had the lowest average of 125 pending cases across 2024 and 2025. Average caseloads for Judges Pittman, Buras, and Holmes ranged from 182 to 189 open cases.

Five judges had caseloads slightly over the court's average of 207 open cases. Judges Willard, Roche, Harris, DeLarge, and Levine averaged from 210 to 232 pending cases each month.

Judges Flemings-Davillier and Goode-Douglas had the largest open inventories of felony cases with 250 or more pending cases each. Judges Flemings-Davillier and Goode-Douglas had over 40 more pending cases each month compared to the court's average of 207 and had caseloads twice as large as the smallest inventory of pending cases.

Exhibit 5: 2024-2025 Percent of Pending Felony Cases Open More than One Year



The second metric of judicial efficiency is the percent of a judge's caseload that has been open longer than one year (see [Exhibit 5](#)). ABA standards call for felony cases to close within one year of arrest.¹ To focus on when a case was under a judge's management, the MCC documents and reports a case's age from the date it is allotted. The percent of monthly caseloads open more than one year was averaged across 2024 and 2025. The MCC is aligned with the ABA's position that high percentages of cases remaining open more than one year indicate less efficient judicial case management.

On average, 31% of the Criminal District Court cases open in 2024 and 2025 had been pending for over one year, indicating that nearly a third were out of compliance with ABA standards.

Judge Campbell was most efficient with 13% of her pending cases remaining open for more than one year. Judges Buras and Roche both had 25% of their cases open more than one year.

Judges Pittman, Holmes, and Goode-Douglas were within 3% of the court's average rate of cases open more than one year.

Judges DeLarge, Levine, Willard, Flemings-Davillier, and Harris were somewhat less efficient than the court average with 35% to 39% of their pending cases open more than one year.

¹[Speedy Trial and Timely Resolution of Criminal Cases](#), The American Bar Association, April 2006



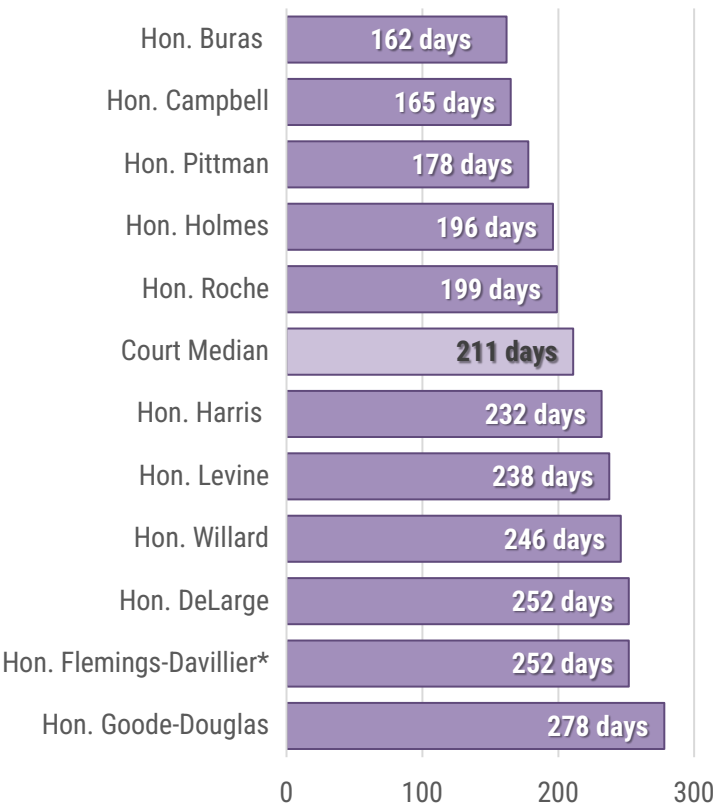
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CASE RESOLUTION TIME AND CONCLUSIONS

The third metric of judicial efficiency, illustrated in **Exhibit 6**, is case resolution time, the median number of days that it took for cases to close during 2024-2025 in each section of court. Case resolution time spans from when a judge receives a case until its final outcome of guilty, not guilty, or dismissal. The median is the midpoint with half of cases closing in less time and half closing in more time.

Note: Times when cases were under appeal, defendants failed to come to court, defendants were found mentally incompetent, and the Criminal District Court building closed due to safety concerns were subtracted from these calculations. Cases accepted into the Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Diversion Program were not included in median case resolution times.

Exhibit 6: 2024-2025 Median Case Resolution Times



*Chief Administrative Judge
Estimated error rate of less than 5%

Felony cases that closed in 2024 and 2025 were open a median of 211 days, approximately 7 months.

Judge Buras had the most efficient case processing time of 162 days, closely followed by Judge Campbell’s 165-day processing time. Both were almost two months below the overall court median.

Additionally, Judges Pittman, Holmes, and Roche were in the second tier of case processing time efficiency, and all had case processing times that were more efficient than the court’s median.

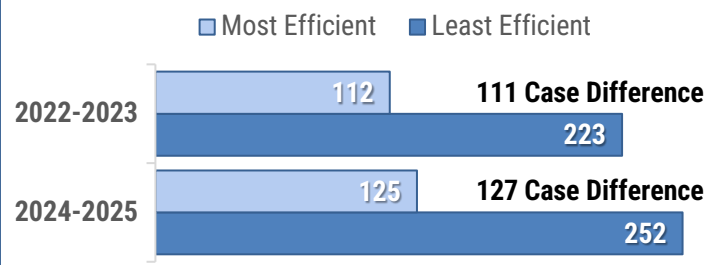
Judges Harris and Levine were generally consistent with the court’s overall performance and had median case processing times less than a month beyond the court’s overall performance.

Judges Willard, DeLarge, Flemings-Davillier, and Goode-Douglas all had median case processing times that were more than a month longer than the court’s overall median and were least efficient in the time it took to close cases in their sections of court.

Continued Disparities in Judicial Efficiency

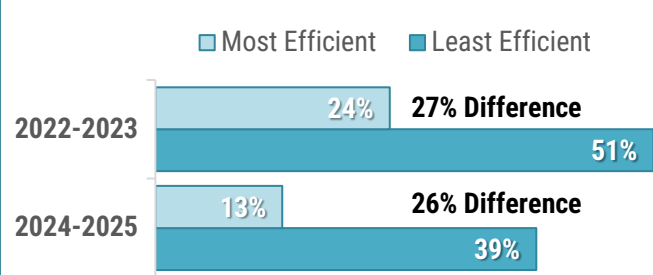
Exhibits 7 through 9 below show the performance metrics of the most and least efficient members of the judiciary from 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.* Comparing the most to the least efficient performance shows how wide the differences in efficiency are across different sections of the court.

Exhibit 7: Most and Least Efficient Number of Open Felony Cases 2022-2023 vs. 2024-2025



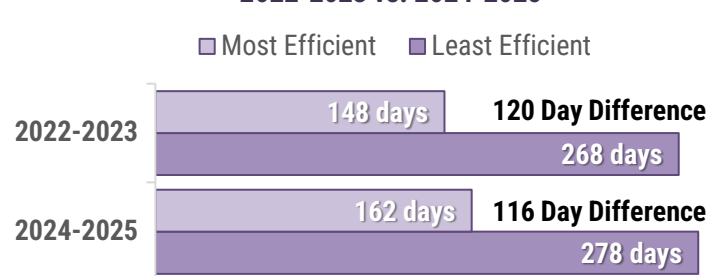
*Does not include former Judge Derbigny’s Section J

Exhibit 8: Most and Least Efficient Pending Felony Cases Open Over One Year 2022-2023 vs. 2024-2025



*Does not include former Judge Derbigny’s Section J

Exhibit 9: Most and Least Efficient Median Felony Case Processing Times 2022-2023 vs. 2024-2025



*Does not include former Judge Derbigny’s Section J

The disparities in judicial efficiency had small fluctuations from 2022-2023 compared to 2024-2025. Although there were differences in each judicial efficiency metric, the size of the gaps between the most and least efficient sections of court were largely unchanged.

The least efficient caseload size continued to be twice as large as the most efficient. There was a 26%-27% difference in the percent of pending cases open more than one year in the most and least efficient sections of court across the study period. The least efficient sections of court took 116 days to 120 days longer (approximately 4 months) to close cases throughout 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.



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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Information is power, and the information conveyed in this report provides judges, practitioners, policymakers, and the public with valuable insight into the operation of the criminal court system in the city of New Orleans.

This report examines the efficiency of the 2024-2025 Orleans CDC Judiciary according to three nationally recognized metrics of judicial performance and efficiency: (1) the size of each judge's pending caseload, (2) the age of each judge's pending caseload, and (3) how long it took to close cases in each judge's section of court.

The metrics reported within this report are important measures of judicial performance that are supportive of [Louisiana Judicial Canon 3\(A\)\(7\)](#), which requires judges to dispose of all judicial matters promptly, efficiently, and fairly.

The MCC does not advocate greater efficiency at the expense of fairness or justice, but a defendant should not receive a different pace of justice depending on the random allotment of their case. However, disparities in judicial efficiency have consequences. Witnesses, victims, defendants, attorneys, and criminal justice personnel endure months of delay based solely on which judge is randomly allotted a case. Delays also increase costs to taxpayers, who pay to house defendants in jail while their cases remain open.

The random allotment process adopted by the judges of Orleans CDC is designed to fairly and equitably assign cases to each judge, which should result in caseloads of similar size, age, and complexity.

Differences between the most and least efficient sections of court did not improve from 2022-2023 to 2024-2025 ([see Page 3, Exhibits 7-9](#)). Across 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, the largest caseload was twice the size of the smallest caseload. It took a median of four months longer to close felony cases in the least efficient sections of court, and the open cases in the least efficient sections of court had over 25% more pending cases open for greater than one year.

While violent crime in the City of New Orleans continues to decrease, the overall average open case inventory was higher in 2024-2025 ([See page 1, Exhibit 1](#)). The increase in open inventories largely reflects improved investigations by the New Orleans Police Department and Louisiana State Police's Troop NOLA, which led to more arrests and more felony cases accepted for prosecution by the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

A comparison of efficiency metrics for the entire judiciary from 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 shows that the median case processing time did not change, despite the increased numbers of pending cases ([see Page 1, Exhibits 1 and 3](#)). Stability of case efficiency metrics, even when presented with a greater workload, demonstrates the court's capability to avoid falling behind and increasing backlogs in the criminal justice system.

Acknowledgements: The MCC greatly appreciates the assistance of the judiciary of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Judicial Administrator's Office and Judicial Administrator Rob Kazik, the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, and the City of New Orleans Tech Modernization Program and Nathaniel Weaver whose collaboration and coordination made this research possible.

Although specialty courts are not factored into metrics of judicial efficiency, the MCC commends Judges Campbell, DeLarge, Flemings-Davillier, Goode-Douglas, Harris, Holmes, Pittman, and Willard for conducting specialty courts (e.g., Drug Court). In addition to managing their felony caseloads, these judges oversee court initiatives that work with defendants to support their rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

A twelfth section of court, retired Judge Derbigny's Section J, was not included in the court's average measures of efficiency because his section of court was an extreme outlier that skewed the court's performance metrics. The Louisiana Legislature eliminated his section of court beginning in 2027 ([see Appendix 1](#)).

Two additional sections of court will be eliminated by the same legislative reform that eliminated Section J, reducing the court from twelve to nine sections of court that oversee the prosecution of felony cases in Orleans Parish Criminal District Court. The caseloads of these three eliminated sections will be divided and reassigned to the nine remaining sections of court, increasing the workload for each of the remaining judges. The rise in the numbers of pending cases will place greater demands on a smaller number of judges to maintain or improve felony case processing efficiency.

Recommendations

This report provides a baseline of efficiency for an 11-member judiciary. Beginning January 1, 2027, Orleans CDC will have a 9-member judiciary that must be prepared to deal with a larger workload of cases. Disparities in judicial efficiency demonstrate opportunities for improvement, and the reduction in the numbers of judges increases the need for greater efficiency. The broad discretion judges are granted in managing their dockets should allow for less efficient sections to amend their practices to be more in line with their more efficient peers.

This report documents how the collective efforts of the entire court and criminal justice system prevented cases from taking longer to conclude in 2024-2025, although the increase in felony cases accepted for prosecution resulted in larger pending felony caseloads. The MCC acknowledges and applauds the collective improvements of the entire court. The sum improvement accomplished by the entire court is a reflection of the individual work performed by the judges.

The MCC respectfully encourages the judges of Orleans CDC to work collaboratively with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and criminal justice agencies to develop a unified case management strategy to address the pending increase in felony caseloads. A collaborative, unified approach is even more critically important in response to legislation that reduces the number of judges. The court cannot do it alone. Consistent and efficient case processing will reduce costs to taxpayers, lessen burdens on victims, witnesses, defendants, and criminal justice agencies, and strengthen public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The only way for the judges to improve upon the existing accomplishments is for each and every judge to be more effective and efficient in the way they manage their dockets. The report documents the improved efficiency of the entire court in 2024-2025, but there remains room for improvement, which will be a greater challenge entering 2027 when the court downsizes from twelve to nine judges.



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APPENDIX 1:

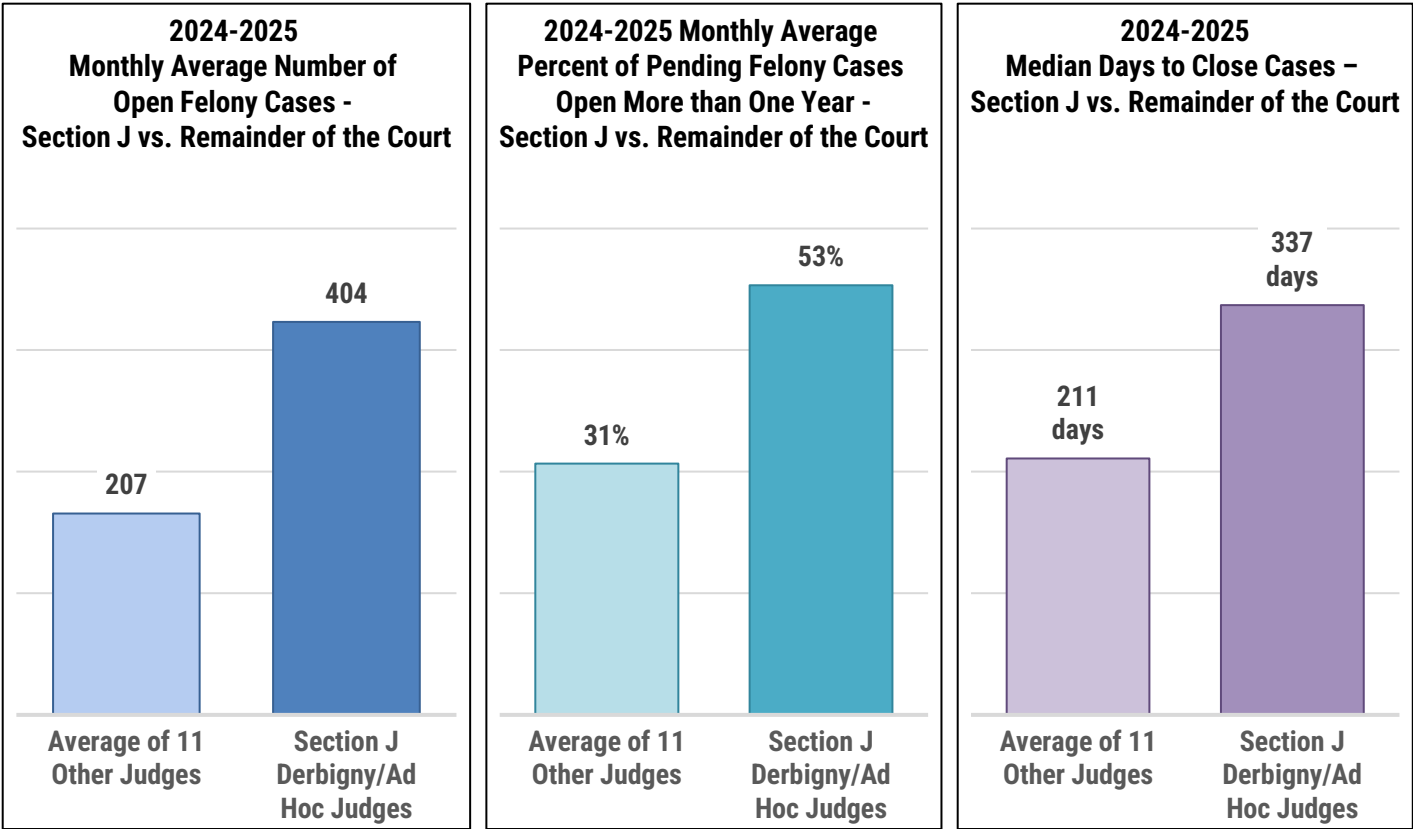
SECTION J EFFICIENCY VS. REMAINDER OF THE COURT

Judge Darryl Derbigny, Section J

In April of 2025, the [MCC released a report examining judicial efficiency in Orleans Criminal District Court in 2024](#) that identified Judge Darryl Derbigny as exceptionally inefficient compared to the remainder of the court across all three of the judicial efficiency metrics. In May of 2025, Judge Derbigny took a leave of absence and then retired effective August 1, 2025. A series of temporary, ad hoc judges oversaw the caseload from his section in the months thereafter until Judge John Fuller was elected and sworn into office in 2026.

The following charts illustrate the sharp disparity between Judge Derbigny’s former section of court and the remaining 11 sections.

Section J was among three sections eliminated when the Louisiana Legislature passed [Act 748](#) in the 2026 legislative session.



Section J was not included in the overall court average on any of the metrics presented in this report. As illustrated by the charts above, the inclusion of Section J numbers would skew the court average on all three metrics of judicial efficiency. This section had a larger number of cases open over one year and substantially longer case resolution times due to the work of the ad hoc judges who were appointed to reduce Judge Derbigny’s backlog.

Since the beginning of 2024, four different judges have presided over Section J, and this section will no longer exist on January 1, 2027. Excluding Section J from the overall totals provides the closest comparison of the judges actively working caseloads in Orleans CDC in 2024-2025.



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APPENDIX 2: 2022-2023 AND 2024-2025
JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY STATISTICS AND RANKINGS

2022-2023 Judicial Accountability Statistics and Rankings

Section	Judge	Metric 1: Average Number of Open Felony Cases		Metric 2: Percent of Felony Cases Open Over One Year		Metric 3: Median Case Resolution Time		Total 2022-2023 Ranking
		Average	Rank	Percent	Rank	Median	Rank	
A	Hon. White/Hon. Levine*	158	4	24%	1	171 days	2	2
B	Hon. Flemings-Davillier	207	10	39%	7 – Tie	239 days	9	9 – Tie
C	Hon. Willard	223	11	51%	11	253 days	10	11
D	Hon. Holmes	192	9	36%	6	268 days	11	9 – Tie
E	Hon. Goode-Douglas	180	6	34%	4 – Tie	232 days	7	5 – Tie
F	Hon. Pittman**	164	5	42%	9 – Tie	187 days	3	5 – Tie
G	Hon. Campbell	126	2	25%	2	188 days	4	3
H	Hon. Buras	143	3	34%	4 – Tie	212 days	5	4
I	Hon. Herman/Hon. Roche***	112	1	27%	3	148 days	1	1
K	Hon. DeLarge	185	7	42%	9 – Tie	233 days	8	8
L	Hon. Harris	191	8	39%	7 – Tie	223 days	6	7
Court Average		171	--	36%	--	211 days	--	--

*Judge Levine overtook Judge White’s section of court in March 2023
**Chief Judge 2022 and 2023
***Judge Roche overtook Judge Herman’s section of court in October 2023
Estimated error rate of less than 5%

2024-2025 Judicial Accountability Statistics and Rankings

Section	Judge	First Year in Office	Metric 1: Average Number of Open Felony Cases		Metric 2: Percent of Felony Cases Open Over One Year		Metric 3: Median Case Resolution Time		Total 2024-2025 Ranking
			Average	Rank	Percent	Rank	Median	Rank	
A	Hon. Levine	2023	232	9	36%	8	238 days	7	7 – Tie
B	Hon. Flemings-Davillier*	2013	250	10	38%	10	252 days	9 – Tie	11
C	Hon. Willard	2003	210	5	37%	9	246 days	8	6
D	Hon. Holmes	2021	189	4	30%	5	196 days	4	4 – Tie
E	Hon. Goode-Douglas	2021	252	11	32%	6	278 days	11	10
F	Hon. Pittman	2009	182	2	28%	4	178 days	3	3
G	Hon. Campbell	2021	125	1	13%	1	165 days	2	1
H	Hon. Buras	1998	188	3	25%	2 – Tie	162 days	1	2
I	Hon. Roche	2023	211	6	25%	2 – Tie	199 days	5	4 – Tie
K	Hon. DeLarge	2021	221	8	35%	7	252 days	9 – Tie	7 – Tie
L	Hon. Harris	2021	215	7	39%	11	232 days	6	7 – Tie
Court Average		--	207	--	31%	--	211 days	--	--

*Chief Judge in 2024 and 2025
Estimated error rate of less than 5%