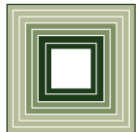


HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Special Superior Court Judges

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FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION
A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

February 20, 2014

Special Superior Court Judges

- The General Assembly is authorized by the North Carolina Constitution to provide for the selection or appointment of special superior court judges who, unlike regular superior court judges, are not required to reside within the district in which they are assigned to hold court. (N.C. Const. art. IV, §9)



"Good morning, everybody. My name is Donald, and I'll be your judge today."

SSCJ Authority

- NCGA has authorized the appointment of SSCJs by the Governor for five year terms. (G.S. 7A-45.1)
- SSCJs have the same power and authority in all matters that a regular judge holding the same court would have. (G.S. 7A-45.1(c))
- Both SSCJs and elected SC judges are given their district assignments by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. (N.C. Const. art. IV, §11)

Business Court Authority

- One or more of the SSCJs appointed by the Governor may be designated by the Chief Justice to hear and decide complex business cases in the Business Court. (G.S. 7A-45.3)
- Of the 15 current SSCJs, the Chief Justice has designated three judges to hear complex business cases pursuant to Rule 2.2 of the General Rules of Practice.

Current SSCJs

Judge	Home District	County	Appointment Date	Term Expiration
Richard Doughton	23	Alleghany	08/22/1997	03/05/2018
Gary Trawick	5	Pender	04/01/1999	10/20/2015
Jack Jenkins	3B	Carteret	01/26/2001	01/26/2016
Andrew Robinson Hassell	18	Guilford	03/31/2009	01/26/2016
Lucy Inman	10	Wake	04/30/2010	04/29/2015
Kendra Hill	10	Wake	12/31/2012	12/31/2017
Reuben Young	10	Wake	12/31/2012	12/31/2017
Lisa C. Bell	26	Mecklenburg	05/01/2013	05/01/2018
Ebern Tripp Watson	5	New Hanover	05/01/2013	05/01/2018
Jeff Hunt	29B	Henderson	05/15/2013	05/15/2018
Beecher Gray	14	Durham	01/09/2014	01/09/2019
Martin McGee	19A	Cabarrus	01/09/2014	01/09/2019

Current Business Court SSCJs

Judge	Home District	County	Appointment Date	Term Expiration
John Jolly	10	Wake	01/23/2001	01/23/2016
Calvin Murphy	26	Mecklenburg	07/01/2009	06/30/2014
James Gale	18	Guilford	03/01/2011	03/01/2016

SSCJ Cost, FY 2014-15

- Base salary: \$125,875
- Benefits (Retirement + SS + Insurance): \$56,570
- Administrative costs (equipment and travel):
 - \$21,916 R
 - \$6,017 NR
- Total annual cost: \$210,378
- Same as elected SC judge

Business Court Staff Cost, FY 2014-15

- Judicial Assistant II
 - Base salary: \$41,280
 - Benefits + Admin costs: \$22,468 R, \$3,075 NR
 - Total annual cost: \$66,823
- Legal Assistant
 - Base salary: \$47,188
 - Benefits + Admin costs: \$23,647 R, \$6,410 NR
 - Total annual cost: \$77,245
- **1 Jud Asst II + 2 Legal Assts: \$221,313 annual**

On-Bench Time

- Business Court on-bench time is not recorded
- Average weekly on-bench time of the 12 non-business court SSCJs compared to elected SC judges (Nov 11-Oct 12):

	Total On-Bench Time	Average Annual On-Bench Time Per Judge	Weekly On-Bench Time Per Judge
Special Judges	4835:50	416:46	8:00
Elected Judges	43693:11	474:46	9:07

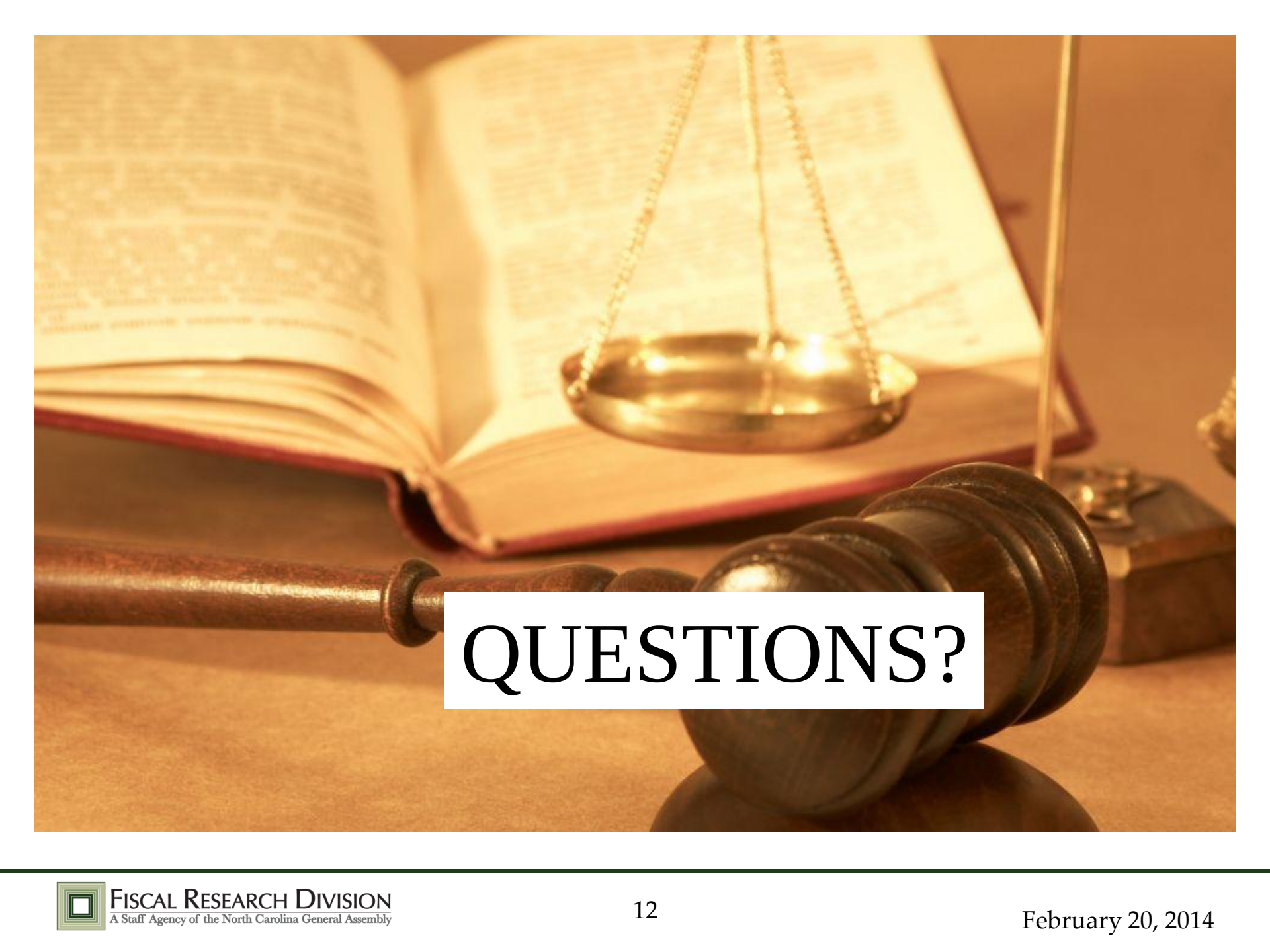
SSCJ Travel, Nov 11-Oct 12

Number of Sessions Per County

Alamance 11	Chatham 2	Gates 1	Jones 3	Onslow 41	Sampson 8
Alexander 5	Cherokee 2	Graham 2	Lee 10	Orange 14	Scotland 5
Alleghany 3	Chowan 2	Granville 1	Lenoir 19	Pasquotank 1	Stanly 4
Avery 4	Clay 2	Greene 2	Lincoln 15	Pender 2	Transylvania 5
Beaufort 13	Cleveland 5	Guilford 82	Macon 8	Perquimans 4	Tyrrell 1
Bertie 1	Columbus 37	Harnett 26	Madison 1	Pitt 25	Union 6
Bladen 6	Craven 1	Haywood 4	Martin 12	Polk 3	Vance 8
Brunswick 12	Cumberland 32	Henderson 2	McDowell 11	Randolph 5	Wake 113
Buncombe 32	Currituck 2	Hoke 4	Mecklenburg 159	Richmond 6	Warren 3
Cabarrus 17	Davidson 1	Hyde 3	Montgomery 4	Robeson 4	Washington 9
Caldwell 4	Duplin 5	Iredell 5	Moore 4	Rockingham 7	Watauga 3
Carteret 5	Durham 19	Jackson 1	Nash 13	Rowan 6	Wayne 47
Catawba 16	Edgecombe 5	Johnston 70	New Hanover 62	Rutherford 2	Wilson 4

Emergency Judges

- Emergency judges are retired judges called up to serve in special circumstances.
- Special judges are salaried employees of the State, but emergency judges are paid \$400 per day, plus expenses.
- Between Nov 2011 and Oct 2012, AOC spent \$458,780 on emergency judges, including travel.
- AOC has limited the use of emergency judges because of the expense involved.
- Emergency judges who have been retired for some time may not be as up-to-date on case law and therefore may be unequipped to handle complex cases.



QUESTIONS?

