



Trial Courts

OF THE

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

JASON STEPHENSON
COURT ADMINISTRATOR
P.O. BOX 1435
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30503
770-532-1895

DAWSON AND HALL COUNTIES

Media Release
April 15, 2024

NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CLOSES RECORD NUMBER OF CASES IN 2023

The Superior Courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, comprised of Hall and Dawson counties, closed another record number of cases in 2023. At year-end, the circuit reported 5,761 dispositions – a 3% increase over the previous year and a 7% increase over pre-pandemic numbers. Like all Georgia courts, the circuit has been working to dispose of a pandemic-imposed backlog of cases, particularly criminal cases. Last year's dispositions yielded a clearance rate of 103% across the two counties, which is a key performance measure indicating whether a court is keeping up with its incoming caseload.

"We're enormously proud of what the circuit has been able to achieve over these last three years," states Chief Superior Court Judge Jason J. Deal. "Thanks to the strong cooperation and dedication of a lot of stakeholders - the local bar, Public Defender, District Attorney, the Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Court, County Administration, Court Administration; this validates a lot of hard work."

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit is served by five Superior Court judges. Due to the high volume of cases, and thanks to the willingness of the Chief Magistrates and Chief Juvenile Court Judge, the five sitting judges are also assisted each week by Juvenile Court and Magistrate Court judges who sit by designation. A court's clearance rate is determined by dividing the total number of cases disposed by the total number of cases filed.

NEJC TOTAL FILINGS					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hall	4081	3087	3922	3828	4338
Dawson	1319	901	1268	1460	1238
Total	5400	3988	5190	5288	5576

NEJC TOTAL DISPOSITIONS					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hall	4298	2756	4132	4346	4297
Dawson	<u>1087</u>	<u>781</u>	<u>1333</u>	<u>1243</u>	<u>1464</u>
Total	5385	3537	5465	5589	5761