

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF STATE
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS





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A Letter from the Chief Judge

As Chief Judge of the Georgia Office of State Administrative Hearings, I am honored to present our annual report for this momentous year, which marks the 30th anniversary of our court's establishment. Having reached this milestone, we reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the future with renewed purpose and determination.

Since OSAH's founding, our caseload has expanded in volume and complexity to adapt to the evolving needs of our state and the people we serve. What began as a modest institution has matured into a cornerstone of administrative justice, renowned for its efficiency, fairness, and innovation.

Throughout the past year, we have built upon the successes of our past initiatives and have made remarkable strides in modernizing OSAH's infrastructure. In an era of rapid technological change, OSAH remains adaptive and resilient through the proactive integration of new technologies and the refinement of our existing systems.

On behalf of the entire court, I extend my gratitude to our founding chief judge, Judge Mark H. Cohen. Judge Cohen's vision laid the proper foundation for OSAH to thrive. His unparalleled impact on administrative judiciary is recognized 30 years after OSAH was established. I also extend my appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and the citizens of Georgia for their continued trust and support. Together, we will build on our wonderful legacy.



MICHAEL MALIHI
Chief State Administrative Law Judge



FY 2025 FACTS & FIGURES



TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS



OSAH: 30th ANNIVERSARY



STAFF DIRECTORY

OFFICE OF STATE
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS





ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



Chief Judge Michael Malihi



Deputy Chief Judge Lisa Boggs



Judge Barbara Brown



Judge Steven Teate



Judge Patrick Woodard



Judge Carol Walker-Russell



ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



Judge Ana Kennedy



Judge Ronit Walker



Judge Stephanie Howells



Judge Kimberly Schroer



Judge Charles Beaudrot



Judge Shakara Barnes



ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES



Judge John Fry



Judge Dominic Capraro



STAFF ATTORNEYS



Jessica Wang
General Counsel



Madison Mischik
Staff Attorney



Andrew Arrington
Staff Attorney



Emma Wimberly
Staff Attorney



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Renata Bareza
Director of Staff & Executive Legal Assistant



Devin Hamilton
Deputy Chief Clerk & Case Management Assistant



Esther Kim
Case Management Assistant



Grant Mintz
Budget Director & Case Management Assistant



Kristan Moses
Case Management Assistant



Phu Pham
IT Systems Analyst



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Katie Pouliot
Case Management Assistant



Jason Rouse
Chief Clerk



Ashley Smith
Case Management Assistant



Chelsea Unschuld
Case Management Assistant

Not Pictured: **Gabriel Chu**, Case Management Assistant; **Delores Waters**, Clerk.

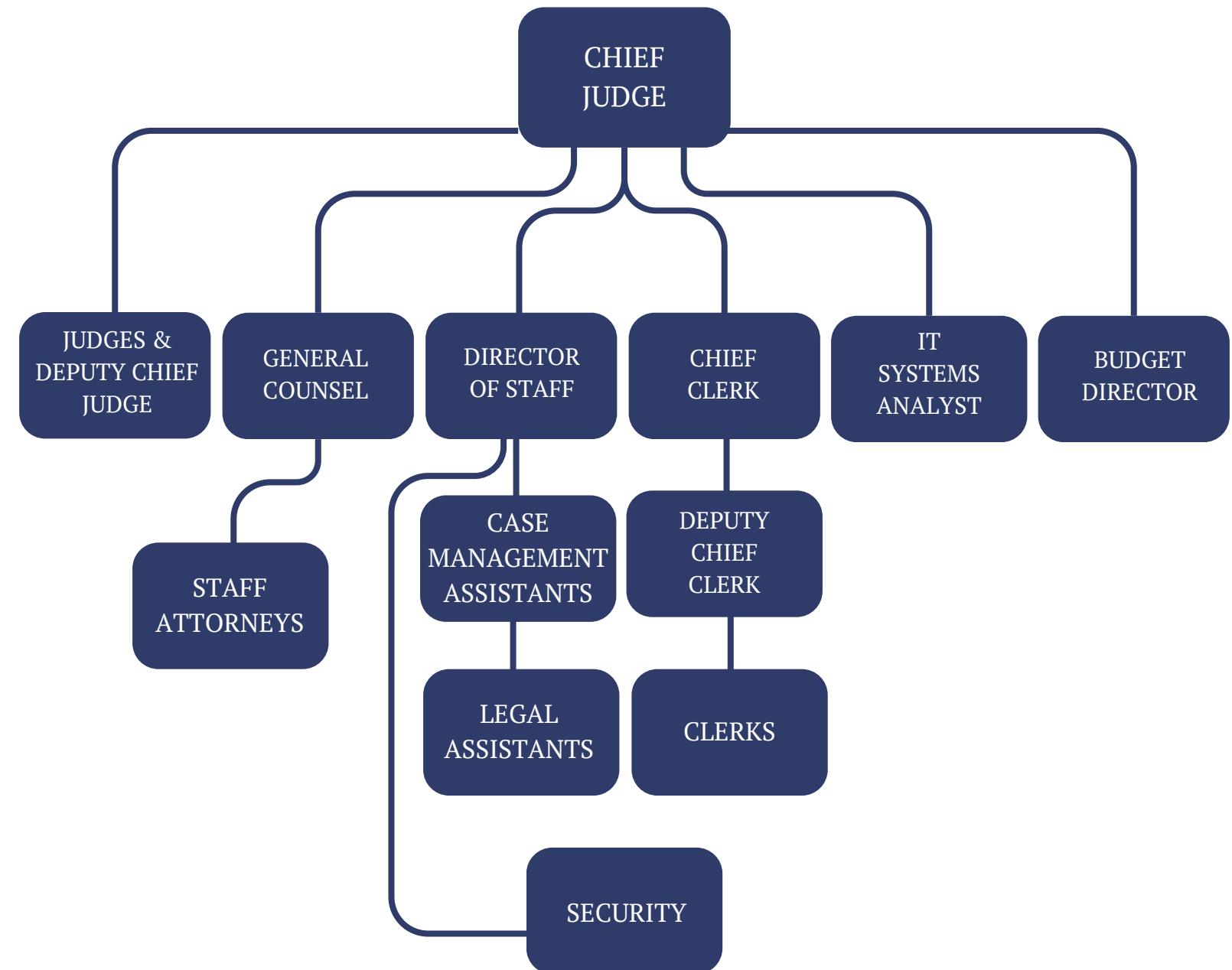
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

OFFICE OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS



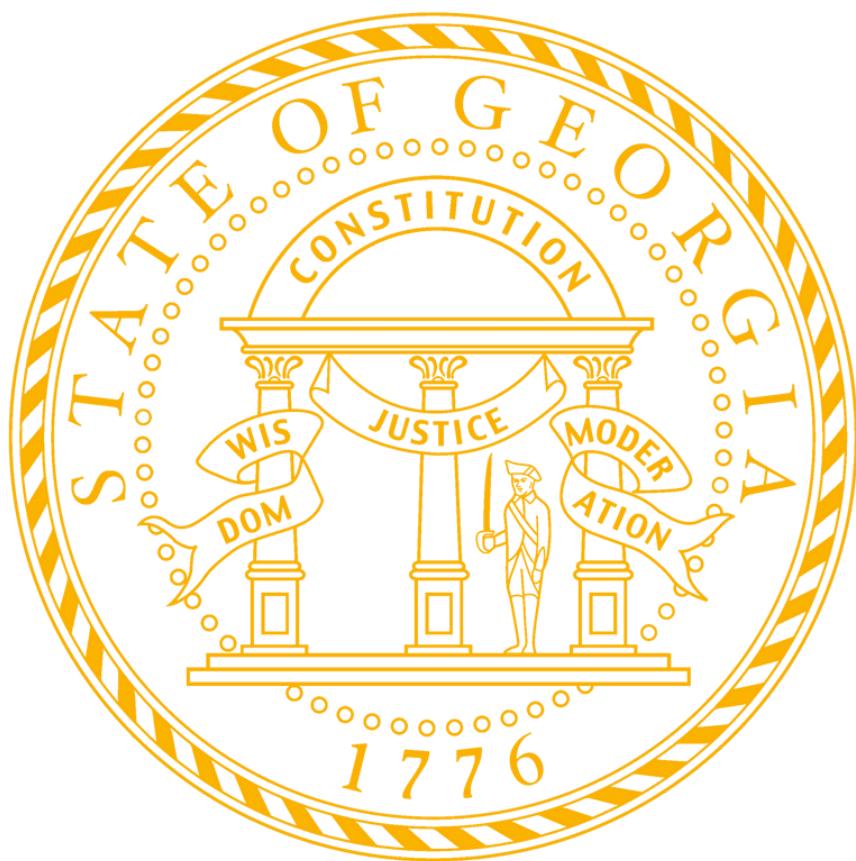


ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FACTS AND FIGURES

OFFICE OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

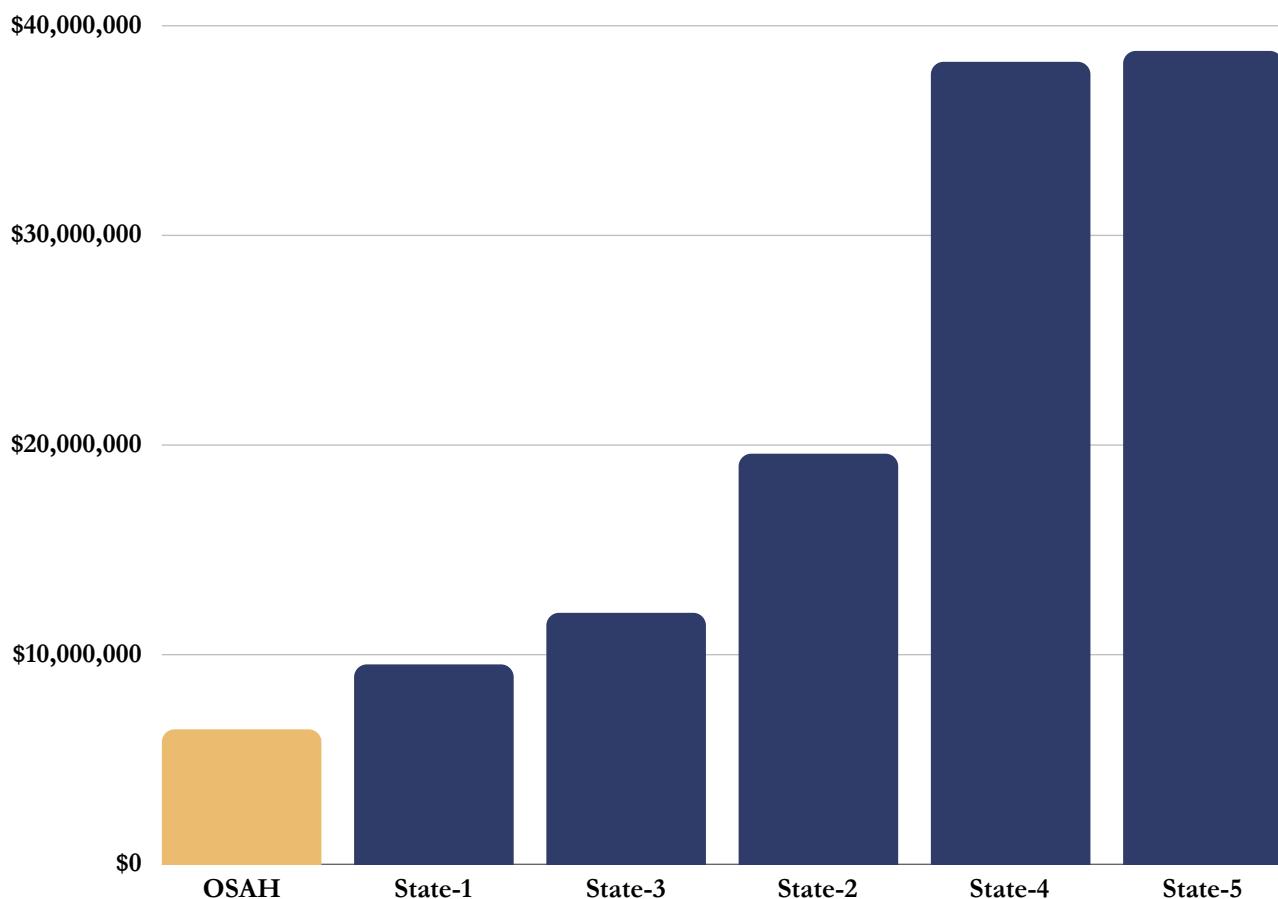




OSAH FACTS AND FIGURES

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Annual Budget - High-Caseload Administrative Courts †



OSAH demonstrates exceptional fiscal responsibility, as reflected in its allocated annual budget.

Source: *State of Louisiana, 2025 Comparison of States with Centralized Administrative Hearings Tribunals*. Each administrative court included in the study, except Georgia, has been coded with “State” and a number. These codes are the same on all graphs in this section.

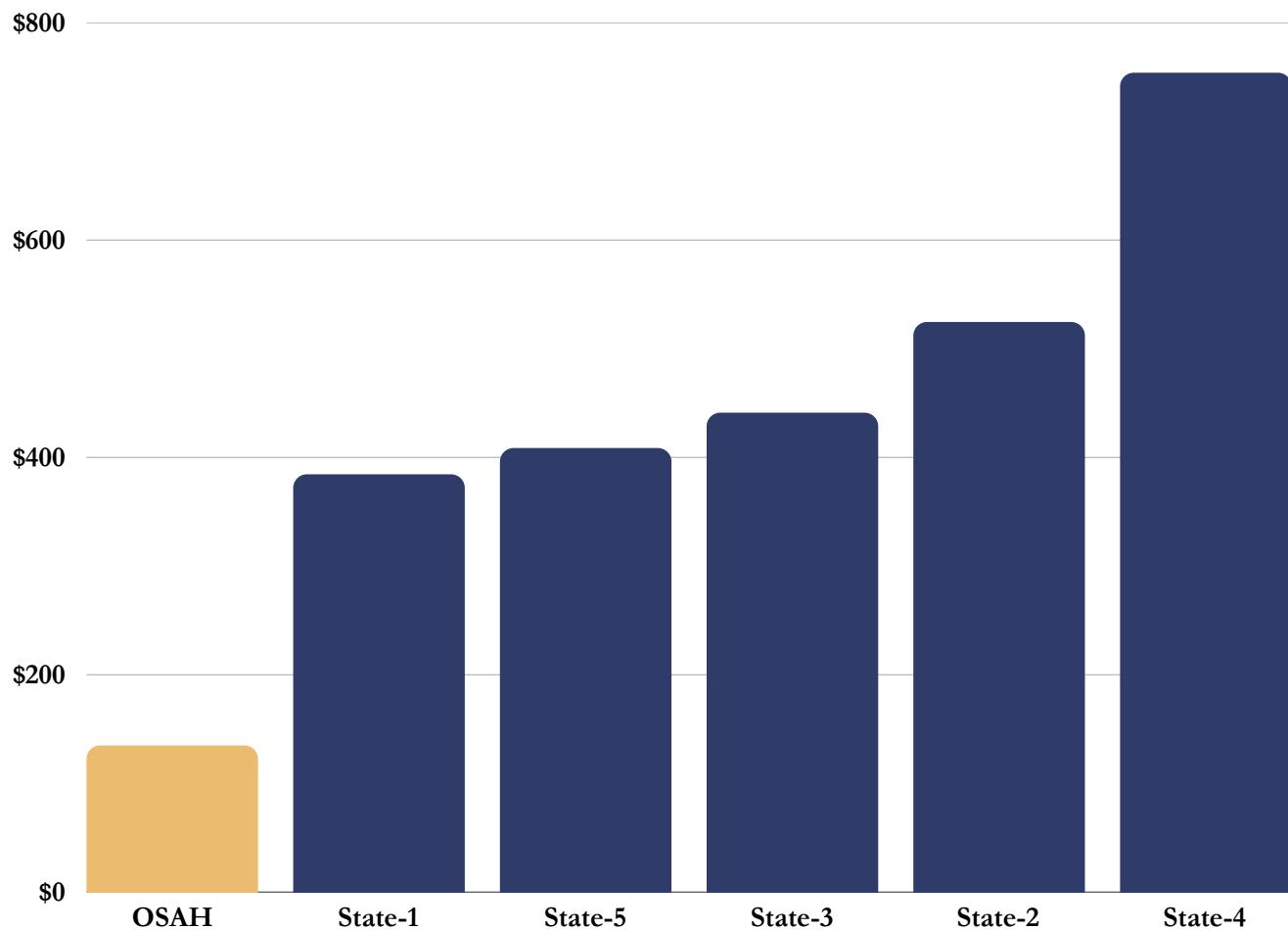
*Based on FY2025 data, the most recent data available for the national study.

† “High caseload” = states/districts whose administrative law courts receive more than 15,000 cases in a year.



OSAH FACTS AND FIGURES

Cost Per Case - High-Caseload Administrative Courts †



OSAH's average cost per case was \$135 — approximately 73% less than the average of \$503 among administrative courts with similarly high caseloads.*

Source: *State of Louisiana, 2025 Comparison of States with Centralized Administrative Hearings Tribunals*. Each administrative court included in the study, except Georgia, has been coded with "State" and a number. These codes are the same on all graphs in this section.

*Based on FY2025 data, the most recent data available for the national study.

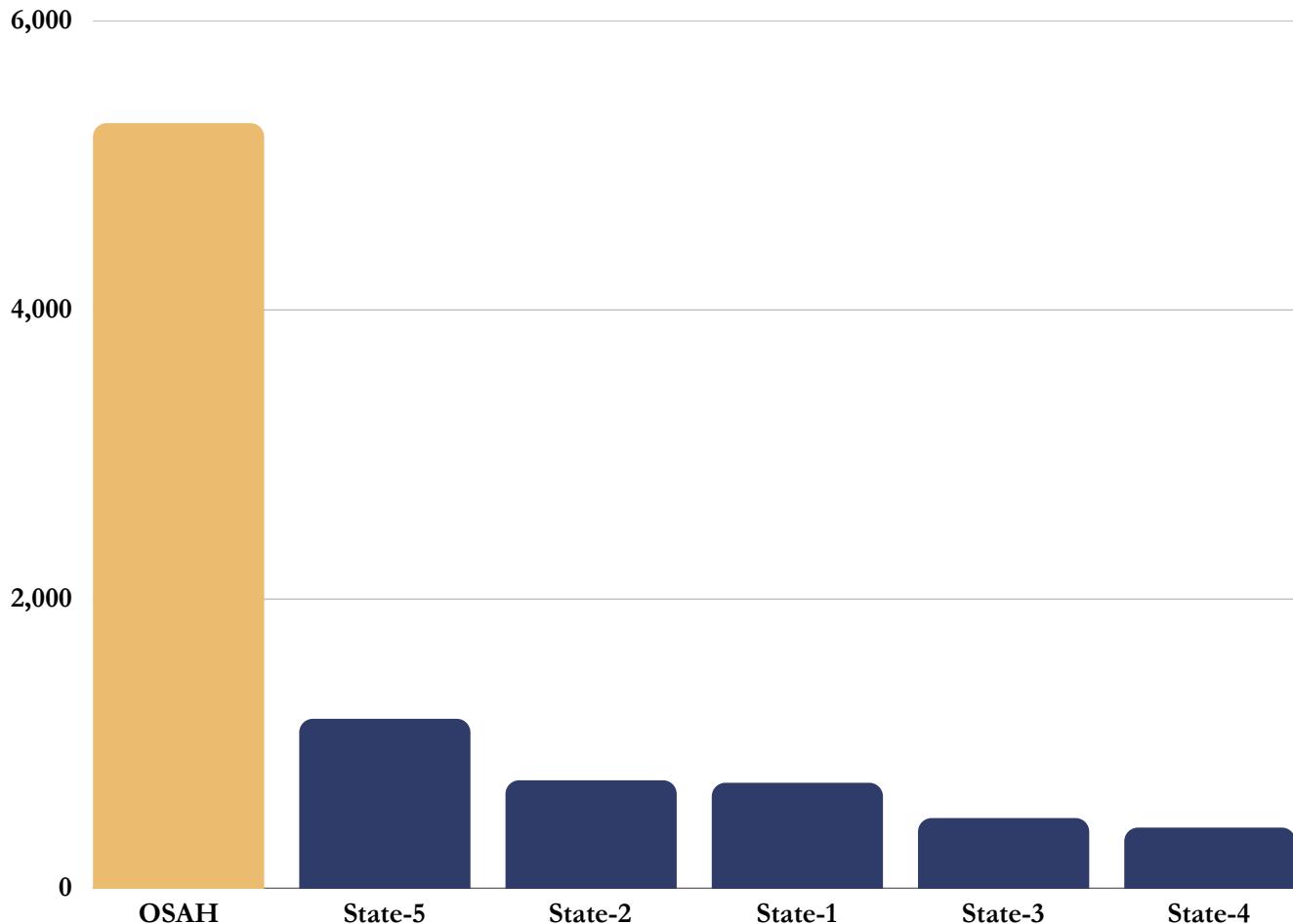
† "High caseload" = states/districts whose administrative law courts receive more than 15,000 cases in a year.



OSAH FACTS AND FIGURES

EFFICIENCY

Cases Per Judge - High-Caseload Administrative Courts †



OSAH operates at a high level of efficiency, as demonstrated by its ability to manage high caseloads at a low cost. OSAH's average case count per judge was 5,292 — more than seven times the case counts in other administrative courts with similarly high caseloads.*

Source: *State of Louisiana, 2025 Comparison of States with Centralized Administrative Hearings Tribunals*. Each administrative court included in the study, except Georgia, has been coded with "State" and a number. These codes are the same on all graphs in this section.

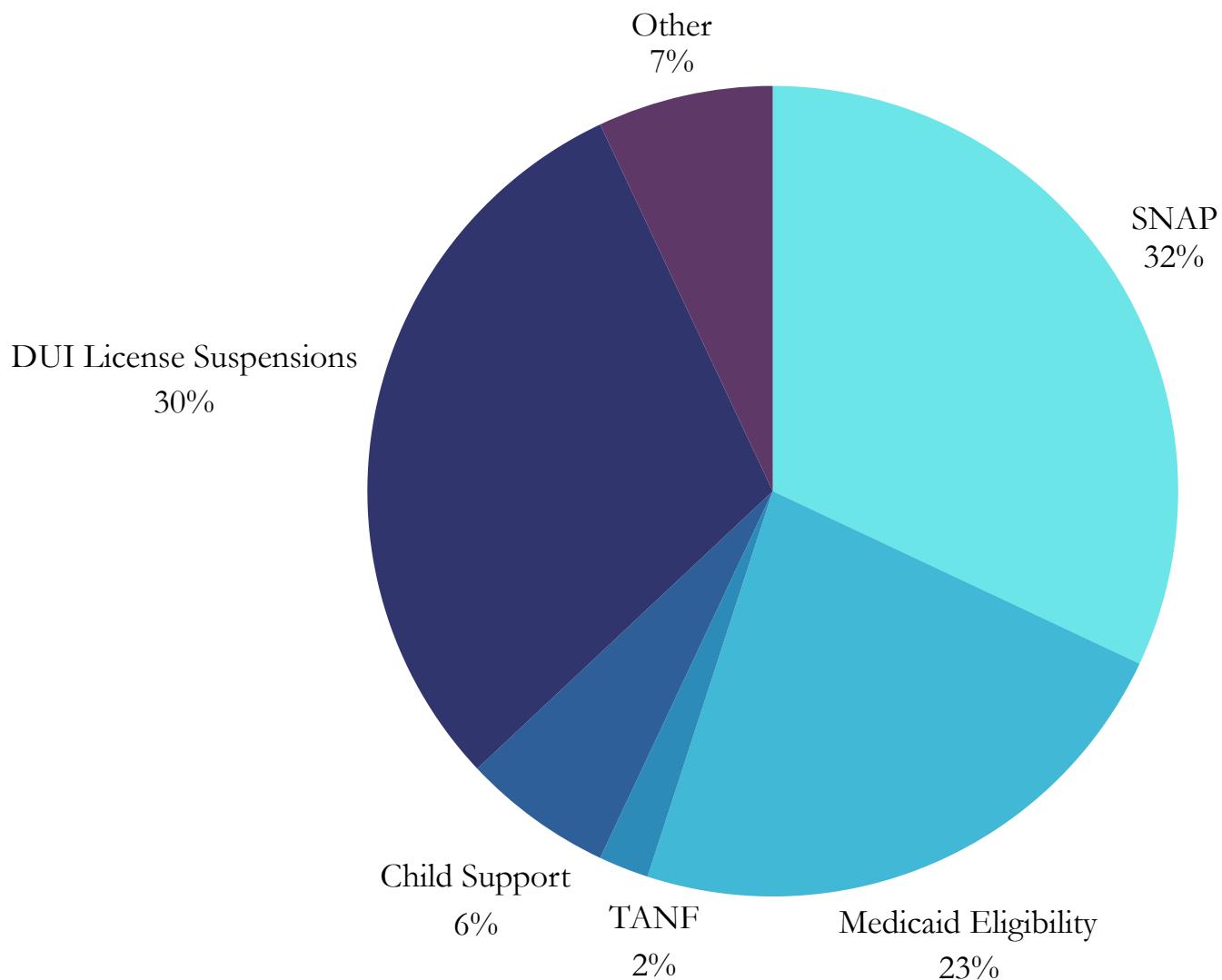
*Based on FY2025 data, the most recent data available for the national study.

† "High caseload" = states/districts whose administrative law courts receive more than 15,000 cases in a year.



OSAH FACTS AND FIGURES

Case Referral Distribution - FY 2025



OSAH docketed **47,130** cases in FY 2025.
This chart illustrates the types of cases received.

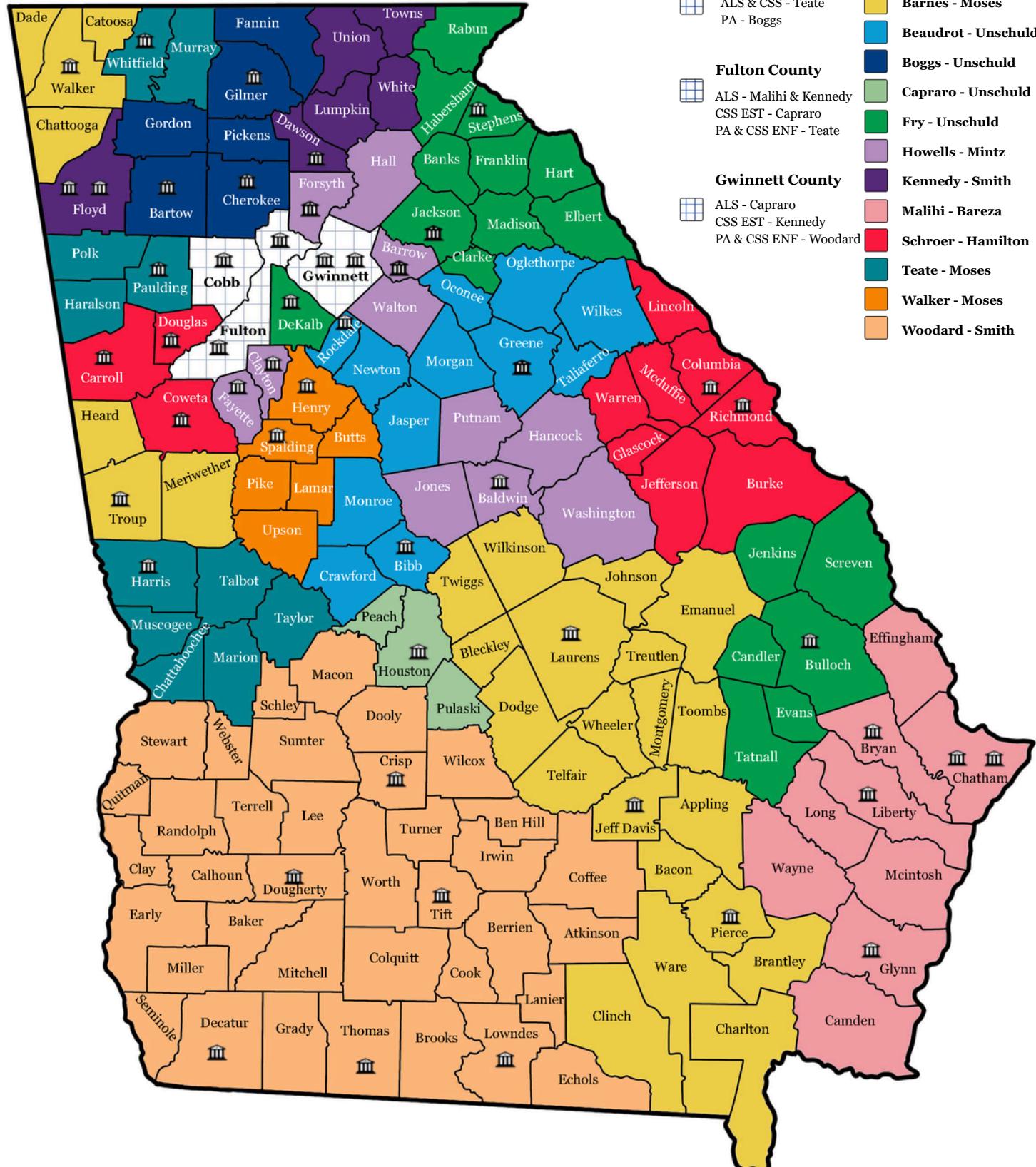


SAMPLE OF LITIGANTS

- Citizens of the State of Georgia
- Office of the Governor
- Care Management Organizations
- County Animal-Control Authorities
- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Driver Services
- Department of Early Care and Learning
- Department of Economic Development
- Department of Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Labor
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Department of Transportation
- Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission
- Georgia Composite Medical Board
- State Ethics Commission
- Georgia Lottery Corporation
- Georgia Real Estate Appraisers Board
- Georgia Real Estate Commission
- Office of the Secretary of State – Elections Division
- Office of the Secretary of State - Professional Licensing Board Division
- Peace Officer Standards and Training Council
- Professional Standards Commission
- State Road and Tollway Authority
- Wrongful Conviction Claimants



COURT LOCATIONS



Every month, OSAH's administrative law judges adjudicate cases throughout the State of Georgia in 50 locations at no additional cost to taxpayers.

OSAH's 30th ANNIVERSARY

OFFICE OF STATE
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS





OSAH's 30th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence: OSAH's Legacy of Efficiency and Innovation

For three decades, OSAH has been a cornerstone of justice in Georgia, ensuring impartial and efficient adjudication of disputes between citizens and state agencies. As we celebrate OSAH's 30th anniversary, we reflect on the remarkable enhancements that have made the court one of the most efficient administrative tribunals in the nation.

A Growing Caseload with Increased Efficiency

OSAH's ability to handle an increasing caseload with a leaner staff is a testament to its commitment to efficiency. In 1995, the agency had 67 judges and 60 support staff managing an annual caseload of 19,000 cases. Since then, OSAH has streamlined its operations significantly—now with just 14 judges and 20 support staff handling 49,985 cases annually.

Welcoming New Roles and Leadership

This year, several staff members have stepped into new roles, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to the agency. Their contributions will further OSAH's mission of resolving disputes between the public and state agencies in a timely, impartial, courteous, and professional manner.



Devin Hamilton
Deputy Chief Clerk



Jessica Wang
General Counsel



Dominic Capraro
Administrative Law Judge



Renata Bareza
Director of Staff & Executive
Legal Assistant



CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF CHARMAINE HOOKE-POWELL

After more than two decades of dedicated service, Charmaine Hooke-Powell retired from the Office of State Administrative Hearings in September 2025. Since joining OSAH in 2002, she has played a vital role in overseeing the agency's technology operations and ensuring the reliability of its network systems. Her work included daily monitoring of the OSAH network, collaborating with vendors to identify software solutions, and partnering with vendors to advance automation and deploy daily scripts that enhanced efficiency across the court.



Charmaine Hooke-Powell

Before joining OSAH, Ms. Hooke-Powell served as Director of Systems Administration at Bloomfield College in New Jersey, where she also taught as an adjunct faculty member for over nine years. A graduate of Hunter College, Teachers College at Columbia University, and Seton Hall University, she also contributed her expertise through service on multiple quality and performance boards, including the Georgia Oglethorpe Board of Examiners. Ms. Hooke-Powell's professionalism, technical insight, and commitment to excellence have left a lasting impact on the agency. She retires with the appreciation and best wishes of her colleagues, who wish her much joy in the years ahead.



OSAH's 30th ANNIVERSARY

As two of OSAH's original judges, Judge Steven Teate and Judge Patrick Woodard have seen the court grow from its early beginnings. As OSAH marks its 30th anniversary, they reflect on the court's evolution and commitment to serving the State of Georgia.



How has OSAH evolved since its establishment?

Caseloads have increased as Georgia's population has grown. Fortunately, as caseloads increased, commitment to technology was strong and evolved over the years to assist in handling increased caseloads. OSAH transitioned from judges serving specialized roles within specific divisions to all judges handling a broader range of cases, while also consolidating hearing sites across the state instead of maintaining separate locations in each county where a petitioner or local agency office was based.

— Judge Steven Teate

What was the vision or mission for OSAH when it was established?

Early on, there was an effort to formulate a vision statement for the agency, and it was soon adopted: "a mission to resolve disputes between the public and state agencies in a timely, impartial, courteous, and professional manner." OSAH's top priority is to provide Georgians with high-quality, time-efficient service.

— Judge Steven Teate





OSAH's 30th ANNIVERSARY

What makes OSAH different from other courts you've worked with?

We embrace using technology and staff attorney support more than most, if not all other administrative courts in the country. I've spoken at several CLE seminars across the country, and am asked about our eCourt system and how we utilize our in-house attorneys. Some states didn't adopt online filing and other technologies until the COVID-19 pandemic, while OSAH was already implementing systems that allowed us to continue hearing and adjudicating cases even after our physical ability to conduct in-person hearings was temporarily halted.

— Judge M. Patrick Woodard



What does OSAH mean to you?

I graduated from law school in 1977 and joined OSAH when it formed in 1995. Accordingly, most of my legal career has been with OSAH. There have been, and continue to be many wonderful colleagues, assistants, and judicial circuit assignments that have made it an enjoyable environment. OSAH is a home away from home that I will miss when I retire.

— Judge Steven Teate





OSAH's 30th ANNIVERSARY



What are you most grateful for during your time at OSAH?

I am grateful for the work I do as a judge, for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Georgia in that role, and for the dedicated OSAH staff who make that work possible.

— Judge Steven Teate

We extend our sincere thanks to the judges for sharing their time, insights, and reflections, and for their continued dedication to OSAH's mission and the people of Georgia.





REMEMBERING JUDGE DAVID LANGSTON

The Office of State Administrative Hearings mourns the passing of Judge David Chandler Langston, who passed away on July 22, 2025. Judge Langston began his legal career with the Georgia Department of Transportation, serving as staff attorney and State Hearing Officer. He was later appointed a professional lecturer with the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, where he taught courses in evidence, constitutional law, administrative search and seizure, courtroom demeanor, and civil liability under color of law. He also held leadership roles as Section Chair for the Administrative Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia and as President of the Georgia Association of the Administrative Judiciary.

Judge Langston was especially proud to be one of the original judges at the Office of State Administrative Hearings, where his professionalism and compassion left a lasting impact on colleagues and the broader administrative law community.



Judge David Chandler Langston
July 22, 1952 – July 22, 2025





REMEMBERING JUDGE DAVID LANGSTON



“Judge Langston was not only a great judge, but he was also understanding and had the best interests of everyone involved in mind. I only knew Judge Langston for a short time, but he left a lasting impact on me, and I will carry those courtroom memories with me. Judge Langston was compassionate toward others—no matter what path of life you came from, he was always willing to listen, help, and show respect. Judge Langston will be greatly missed.”

**Crystal Pope, Supervisor
Atlanta Division of Child Support
Services**

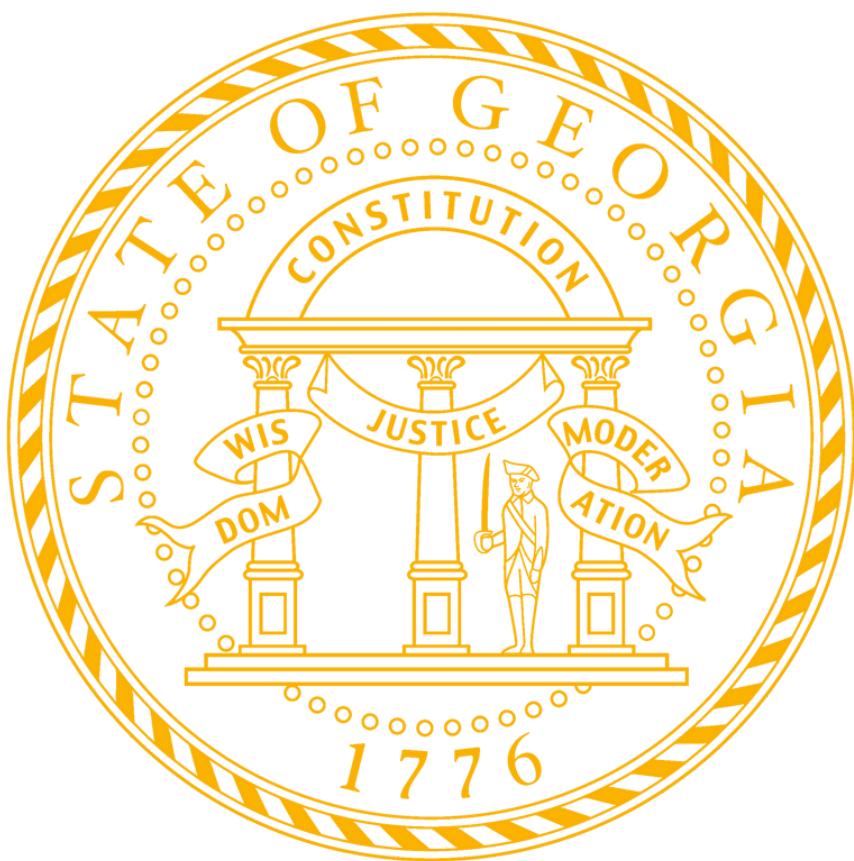
“When I came in as a new agent with Child Support Services and began working in the courts, Judge Langston made the first experience very pleasant with his warm nature and willingness to explain the court processes. He was admired for his fairness and was always willing to listen to and empathize with the parties. He is missed greatly! It was a pleasure meeting him and working with him. His strength was evident through until the very end.”

**Keisha Murray, Agent
Atlanta Division of Child Support
Services**



TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

OFFICE OF STATE
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS





TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Technological Advancements

Continued eCourt Expansion

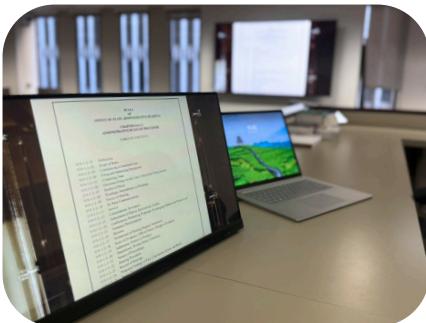
Over the years, OSAH has embraced cutting-edge technology to enhance case management and improve access to justice. The continued enhancement of the eCourt system streamlined case filing and document access, making it easier for litigants to engage with the court.

Since 2019, OSAH has introduced numerous technological advancements. This includes the ePortal Module which allows parties to track case progress online, and a Mobile Application, ensuring access to case information on the go. In 2022, OSAH further expanded its digital reach by implementing a notifications system for judicial staff.

This past year, OSAH introduced several exciting new features, including optional electronic service of documents, a custom internal billing platform, and a court check-in feature to track attendance by the parties. These innovations have significantly improved case processing efficiency, further reducing paperwork and expediting resolutions.

Courtroom Audiovisual Improvements and Upgrades

In 2024, OSAH completely overhauled the audiovisual capabilities of its largest courtroom. This courtroom is equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The improved system features upgraded high-definition cameras with full coverage of the judge, witnesses, and the parties; optimized speakers and microphones embedded in the ceiling; integrated livestreaming and teleconferencing capability; a ceiling-mounted evidence camera that enables parties to share and display exhibits; new high-definition touchscreen display monitors; and a comprehensive touchscreen control system. These enhancements have allowed OSAH to further streamline the hearing process, and to ensure accuracy of court records.





TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation

In May 2025, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed the “Wrongful Conviction and Incarceration Compensation Act” into law. Through this legislation, OSAH has been tasked with considering whether Claimants are eligible for compensation and, if so, the amount to be awarded.



Compensation in the amount of \$75,000 may be awarded for each year of wrongful incarceration (prorated if necessary). An additional \$25,000 for each year of incarceration while awaiting a sentence of death (prorated if necessary) may be awarded. Additionally, the administrative law judge may award reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, costs and expenses incurred by the Claimant or on the Claimant's behalf in reversing or vacating the conviction, obtaining a pardon and filing for compensation, and reimbursement for restitution, costs, fines, fees or surcharges paid by or on behalf of the Claimant as a result of the wrongful conviction.



As we mark 30 years of service, OSAH remains committed to innovation and excellence. We look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Georgia with integrity and dedication.

