

Accountability Report Transmittal Form

Agency Name: South Carolina Administrative Law Court

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Agency Director: Chief Judge Ralph K. Anderson, III

Agency Contact Person: Jana E. Shealy, Clerk

Agency Contact's E-mail: jshealy@scalc.net

Agency Contact's Number: 734-6411

Section I - Executive Summary

Purpose, Mission, Vision and Values

The Administrative Law Court is an autonomous quasi-judicial agency and court of record within the executive branch of state government. The provisions establishing the Court are contained in Article 5, Chapter 23 of Title 1 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings was created in 2005 and is an office within the Administrative Law Court. When used herein, “the Agency” means the Administrative Law Court and the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings collectively while “the Court” refers to the Administrative Law Court and “OMVH” refers to the Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings.

The Court’s mission is to provide a neutral forum for fair, prompt and objective hearings for any person(s) affected by an action or proposed action of certain State agencies or departments. The purpose of an administrative court such as the ALC, is to separate the adjudicatory proceedings from the investigative and policy-making functions of the agency. Prior to the creation of the Court, citizens who had a dispute with a state agency and wanted to challenge any action related to the dispute had to appear before hearing officers employed or contracted by that particular agency. The creation of this Court provided a forum separate from the agency whose decision was in dispute. The Court places a very high value on its ability to be fair and neutral to all of the litigants that appear before the Court and on continuing efforts to improve its results.

The Court’s jurisdiction is statutory in nature. Because the Court is an agency within the executive branch of state government, its power to hear a particular type of case from a particular agency is derived exclusively from the legislative branch of state government, the General Assembly. The Court has jurisdiction over three types of matters:

Contested cases. Administrative law judges (ALJs) preside as the fact finder in all contested cases involving agencies and departments of the executive branch of state government in which a single hearing officer was previously authorized to hear and decide such cases, with certain exemptions.

Appeals. ALJs hear appeals from final decisions of contested cases before professional and occupational licensing boards or commissions within the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The Court also has appellate jurisdiction to review final decisions of various other boards or departments. Also, the Court hears appeals from certain final decisions of the Department of Corrections pursuant to Al-Shabazz v. State, 338 S.C. 354, 527 S.E.2d 742 (2000) and from certain final decisions of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, pursuant to Furtick v. S.C. Dept. of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, 352 S.C. 594, 576 S.E.2d 146 (2003).

Regulation hearings. ALJs preside over public hearings held during the promulgation of regulations by an agency or department for which the governing authority is a single director. Upon the conclusion of a regulation hearing, an ALJ issues a written report including findings as to the need and reasonableness of the proposed regulation. If the report includes a finding of a lack of need or lack of reasonableness, the report may include suggested modifications to the proposed regulation.

The OMVH is statutory in nature also and has five full-time Hearing Officers who conduct hearings in accordance with Chapter 23 of Title 1, the Administrative Procedures Act, and the rules of procedure for the OMVH.

The OMVH provides a neutral forum for fair, prompt and objective hearings for persons affected by an action or proposed action of the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

Under the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, ALJs have the power to issue those remedial writs as are necessary to give effect to the Court's jurisdiction. The ALJs have the same power at chambers or in open hearing as do circuit court judges, including contempt powers. They can issue injunctions and enforce subpoenas.

The Agency's contested case hearings and other proceedings are open to the public unless confidentiality is allowed or required by law.

Major Achievements

- Continued partnership with PRT for IT support. The agency and litigants continue to benefit from this cooperative agreement between state agencies to achieve cost savings and enhanced services.
- During the previous two budget cycles, the General Assembly has provided additional state funds to the Agency to improve its vacancy rate and enhance services. The agency-wide vacancy rate has been reduced to 11 FTEs out of 44 from a high of 17 vacancies in 2009.
- Partnership with the SC Administrative and Regulatory Law Association to develop a website decision upload and search site application process. Due to limited resources prior to the last few budget cycles, our website was not up to date with current decisions. This project enabled the Agency to provide a more efficient method of uploading new decisions and a more user friendly search function.

Key Strategic Goals

- Improve the age of disposed cases
- Provide fair, prompt and impartial hearings for all litigants
- Enhance information and services provided to customers on the Agency's website
- Update/improve information technology

Challenges

- One of the long-term strategic challenges that the agency continues to face is the increase in jurisdiction and caseload. Unlike many state agencies, the ALC is a one program agency and is required by law to conduct hearings. We cannot choose to reduce the number of cases or the type of cases that we hear. Especially in years where the state faces an uncertain economic outcome, this can often contribute to a less than desirable age of disposed cases and percentage of cases being disposed of within agency guidelines.
- The agency has historically had limited funding for its attorney positions and as a result has seen an increase over the years in turnover rate among these positions. The ability to hire and retain qualified attorneys for research and support is vital to the mission of the Court.

Administrative Law Court - Historical Review

FY	FTEs*	Budget	Cases Filed
1995	24	\$1,306,396	720
1996	24	\$1,731,989	653
1997	24	\$1,802,577	622
1998	24	\$1,870,913	828
1999	24	\$1,910,396	666
2000	24	\$1,950,803	1130
2001	28	\$2,015,239	2272
2002	28	\$1,609,365	1711
2003	28	\$1,629,997	1683
2004	28	\$1,417,994	1313
2005	28	\$1,440,871	1412
2006 *	28	\$1,436,058	4164
2007	44	\$1,909,233	5385
2008	44	\$2,225,584	6179
2009	44	\$2,234,842	7140
2010	44	\$1,542,853	8530
2011	44	\$1,539,294	8731
2012	44	\$1,673,790	8671
2013	44	** \$1,950,693	8248

*The DMV's Administrative Hearings Division was transferred to the Court in January 2006

**11 FTEs vacant

Accountability Report

Information from the Report is used throughout the year by the Court to review and assess the areas regarding the delivery of its service that may need improvement.

Section II – Organizational Profile

1. Description of Major Products and Services

A Final Order is issued in every case filed with the Court or the OMVH. The Final Order provides a final resolution to all issues in the case. The processes that result in the issuance of the Final Order include the pre-hearing activity of filing documents, sharing information, participating in scheduling conferences, addressing motions, and conducting pre-hearing conferences. Most cases proceed to a hearing, which is the opportunity for both sides of the dispute to present their case. Finally, there will be the collection of any legal research necessary for the ALJ or Hearing Officer to write the Final Order. All of the processes comprise the single service of the Agency – to handle and dispose of administrative law disputes.

2. Key Customers and their Requirements/Expectations

Litigants and the attorneys that represent the litigants are the key customers of the Court and OMVH. These groups include those who are the license or permit holders and those individuals who may protest the licenses and permits as well as the state agencies or local governments that are a party to the action. They also include individuals such as witnesses or other interested parties. All of the customers require and expect to see the mission of the agency fulfilled. They expect to receive a prompt and fair resolution of the issues presented during the proceedings.

3. Key Stakeholders

The key customers are also considered stakeholders. Any citizen or taxpayer of the state who has the potential to become involved in a proceeding before the Agency would be considered a stakeholder as well as the general public and the media.

4. Key Suppliers and Partners

The General Assembly provides the Agency with its jurisdiction through existing law and the creation of new statutes. The Judicial Branch provides case law that may have precedential value on future decisions issued by the Agency. Key customers provide factual and legal information during the process of the hearing and give input that may be incorporated into new rules or procedures for the Agency.

5. Operation Locations

South Carolina Administrative Law Court
Edgar A. Brown Building, Suite 224, 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia

Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings
Edgar A. Brown Building, Suite 325, 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia

6. Number of Employees

44 FTEs (33 positions are filled, leaving a 25% vacancy rate. All positions are unclassified)

7. Regulatory Environment

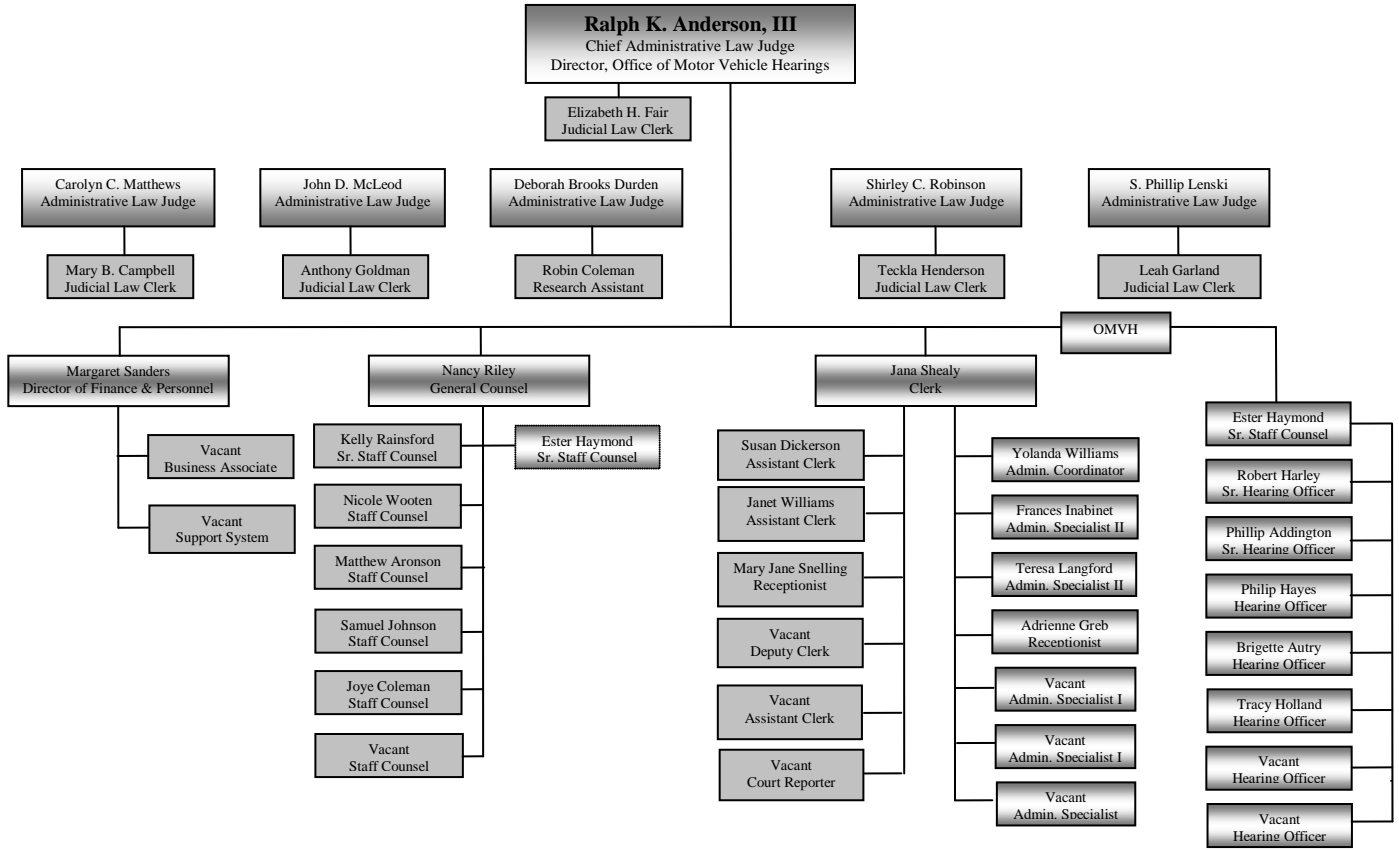
The agency operates under all applicable state and federal laws regarding labor, health, fire and safety regulations.

8. Performance Improvement Systems

The agency's performance improvement system is unusual because although we have agency-wide standards for measuring performance, it is up to each individual judge's office to ensure those standards are being met. Data is gathered and shared through informal meetings and conferences, as well as information shared through the Standing Rules Committee in preparing the Court's Rules for promulgation by the General Assembly.

9. Organizational Structure

The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court, hiring and supervising all administrative staff and is also the Director of the OMVH. The structure of the administrative staff within the Court has changed significantly over the past several years. Currently, the positions comprising the administrative staff are the Business Office, which is responsible for finance and personnel, facilities management and information technology of the entire Agency, including the OMVH; the Office of General Counsel for research/legal support; and the Clerk's Office, which is responsible for caseload management, contract court reporters, governmental affairs, and assistance to the Chief Judge for overall administration of the Court and the OMVH. The Chief Judge and the other five ALJs each hires and supervise a law clerk or judicial aide. The Court has six staff attorney FTEs to allow each ALJ to have a staff attorney assigned specifically to him or her for research and drafting. (Currently, one of the attorney positions is vacant and so the General Counsel provides research support to that particular judge.) Within the OMVH there are two Senior Hearing Officers, three full-time Hearing Officers and four support staff. The Hearing Officers report directly to the Staff Attorney assigned to OMVH, who then reports to the ALC General Counsel. The staff report directly to the ALC Clerk. The Clerk and General Counsel are responsible to the Chief Judge/Director.



Accountability Report Appropriations/Expenditures Chart

Base Budget Expenditures and Appropriations

Major Budget Categories	FY 11-12 Actual Expenditures		FY 12-13 Actual Expenditures		FY 13-14 Appropriations Act	
	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	General Funds
Personal Service	\$1,650,740	\$995,073	\$1,886,733	\$1,162,232	\$2,052,308	\$1,301,308
Other Operating	\$507,374	\$190,554	\$528,414	\$412,413	\$708,163	\$222,640
Special Items						
Permanent Improvements						
Case Services						
Distributions to Subdivisions						
Fringe Benefits	\$500,037	\$292,426	\$602,992	\$362,775	\$660,462	\$426,745
Non-recurring						
Total	\$2,658,151	\$1,478,053	\$3,018,139	\$1,937,420	\$3,420,933	\$1,950,693

Other Expenditures

Sources of Funds	FY 11-12 Actual Expenditures	FY 12-13 Actual Expenditures
Supplemental Bills	\$2,950	0
Capital Reserve Funds	0	0
Bonds	0	0

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South Carolina Administrative Law Court Major Program Areas

Program Number and Title	Major Program Area Purpose (Brief)	FY 11-12 Budget Expenditures	FY 12-13 Budget Expenditures	Key Cross References for Financial Results*
I. SCALC Hearings	Process, hear, and decide contested cases, appeals, regulation and injunctive relief matters from state agencies pursuant to Article 1, Sect. 22 of the SC Constitution, S.C. Code Ann 1-23-500 et seq., <u>Al-Shabazz v. State</u> and various agency specific statutes.	State: 1,357,091.00 Federal: Other: 326,198.00 Total: 1,683,289.00 % of Total Budget: 64%	State: 1,815,248.00 Federal: Other: 251,196.00 Total: 2,066,444.00 % of Total Budget: 68%	<i>Fig. 7.2-1 to 7.2-2</i>
I. Admin Overhead	Administration of the Agency (the Court and OMVH) , particularly in regards to Agency Accounting, Human Resources, Budgeting, and Receptionist Functions	State: 120,962.00 Federal: Other: 43,950.00 Total: 164,912.00 % of Total Budget: 6%	State: 122,172.00 Federal: Other: 44,390.00 Total: 166,562.00 % of Total Budget: 6%	NA
I. OMVH Hearings	Process, hear and decide administrative hearings required by SC motor vehicle and driver license laws pursuant to South Carolina Code Title 56, Administrative Procedures Act, and Financial Responsibility Act.	State: Federal: Other: 809,950.00 Total: 809,950.00 % of Total Budget: 31%	State: Federal: Other: 785,133.00 Total: 785,133.00 % of Total Budget: 26%	<i>Fig. 7.2-3</i>

Below: List any programs not included above and show the remainder of expenditures by source of funds.

Remainder of Expenditures:	State:	State:
	Federal: 2,950.00	Federal: 0
	Other:	Other:
	Total:	Total:
	% of Total Budget: 100%	% of Total Budget: 0%

* Key Cross-References are a link to the Category 7 - Business Results.

These References provide a Chart number that is included in the 7th section of this document.

Section III - Elements of Malcolm Baldrige Criteria

Category 1 – Sr. Leadership, Governance and Social Responsibility

The Chief Judge of the Court is responsible for the administration of the Agency pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 1-23-570 and 1-23-660. The Chief Judge is ultimately responsible for the fiscal and administrative accountability of the Court. This includes budgetary matters, assignment of cases and the duties and responsibilities of the administrative staff of the Court as well as the Hearing Officers and staff of the OMVH. The Chief Judge sets administrative policy for the Agency and appoints the Clerk of the Court. The five ALJs serve as senior leaders in the Court and are consulted with by the Chief Judge regarding administrative matters for the Court, when necessary. Nevertheless, most of the ideas affecting the Agency direction are initiated by the Chief Judge and/or Clerk. The Chief Judge also consults the Staff Attorney assigned to OMVH and the Hearing Officers in developing policy for the OMVH. Changes to the Internal Rules or the Court's Rules of Procedure must be voted on by the ALJs pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-650. As appropriate, new policies for the Court are circulated to the ALJs for comment before they are implemented. However, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-660, only the Chief Judge has the authority to promulgate rules governing practice and procedures before the OMVH. The Clerk is the Chief Judge's primary assistant in administering the policy and serves as manager of the Agency.

Timetables and goals for the timely disposition of assigned cases were initially set when the Court was first created. Periodically, these timetables are reviewed by the ALJs, Chief Judge and Clerk, and adjusted by the Clerk at the direction of the Chief Judge. The importance of these performance expectations is tied directly to the Court's one mission, which sets the Agency's organizational values. The Chief Judge and the other ALJs are responsible for ensuring the efficient disposition of cases assigned to each. Although the Chief Judge is the administrator of the Court, and the other ALJs serve as senior leaders, each ALJ has autonomy over the cases he or she is assigned to preside over. Therefore, each ALJ and his or her law clerk are responsible for ensuring the fair and prompt disposition of the cases assigned to their office. The timeframes for issuing the highest volume of OMVH decisions (implied consent or BAC) were defined by statute until February 2009. At that time, Act 201 of 2008 went into effect, deleting those statutory timeframes.

Most empowerment issues arise with employees who work directly for the ALJs, or within the Clerk's Office. No actions by the ALJs as a group have been necessary to accomplish this. The ALJs might review or endorse opportunities for institutional and/or individual learning, but usually the Chief Judge or the Clerk's Office initiates these activities.

The ALJs are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-560. The ALJs and the Court attorneys are bound by the Code of Professional Conduct. Further, all Court staff is subject to the provisions of South Carolina Appellate Court Rule (SCACR) 507, and Rule 506, Canon 8. The OMVH Hearing Officers are bound by the Code of Judicial Conduct, SCACR 506, Canon 8 regarding confidences gained in the course of employment and SCACR 507 regarding political activity.

Category 2 - Strategic Planning

The Agency is a small organization consisting of two tiers. The Court essentially has seven different offices: the six judges' offices and the administrative staff. The only program is the prompt and well-reasoned disposal of all cases filed with the Agency. Although no formal strategic plan is in

place, the Court has informal plans for achieving certain goals, particularly in regard to improvement of information technology and improvement of the age of disposed cases in order to enhance our main goal of providing fair, prompt and impartial hearings for all litigants. The second tier of the Agency is the OMVH. Until February 2009, the implied consent hearings had to be held within 30 days of the request for hearing and an order had to be issued within 30 days of the date of the hearing. Pursuant to Act 201 of 2008 the time frames for those hearings were deleted. However, a significant portion of those decisions are still issued within 30 to 45 days of the hearing.

The assignment of cases to an ALJ is accomplished using an internal rotation system to ensure an equitable distribution of quantity and complexity of cases. The legal support staff assists the ALJs in the research and drafting of orders. The administrative staff provides support functions, such as case management, financial, personnel, and facilities management. This allocation of resources and workload is used to assist in the timely disposal of cases.

The Chief Judge periodically advises the ALJs of external events that may affect jurisdiction and/or caseload. After discussion with the ALJs, the Chief Judge will shift personnel and resources to accommodate changes, if necessary. The Chief Judge also consults with the ALJs when developing and implementing time standards for disposal of each type of case. Statistics are generated annually, which track the progress in meeting those time standards. Reports are shared informally with ALJs, and any adjustments to the objectives or measures will normally be provided to the ALJs for review prior to implementation. The Annual Accountability Report is provided on the Court’s website at www.scalc.net.

Strategic Planning

Program Number and Title	Supported Agency Strategic Planning Goal/Objective	Related FY 09-10 Key Agency Action Plan/Initiative(s)	Key Cross References for Performance Measures*
01000000 Admin.	Improvement of information technology	Implementation of Case Management System	Section I – Opportunities and Major Achievements
01000000 Admin.	Provide fair, prompt and impartial hearings for all litigants	Improvement of age of case at disposition – ongoing	Section III – <i>Fig. 7.2-1</i>

Category 3 - Customer Focus

The Agency’s key customers are the litigants who bring cases before an ALJ or an OMVH Hearing Officer. The litigants include individuals, business entities, and their attorneys, as well as state and local governmental agencies and their attorneys. Ultimately, the public at large has a stake in the Agency’s caseload as it offers a checks-and-balances effect on the exercise of the state’s regulatory authority, typically to issue licenses and permits.

As cases are filed with the Court, litigants and their attorneys are identified. The needs and requirements of the customers have been discussed in staff meetings, in the ALJ meetings and with the Standing Rules Committee. Customers (representatives of litigant groups) have been represented on the initial advisory committee created to draft proposed rules of procedure for the Court, and the permanent Standing Rules Committee (which consists primarily of attorneys from across the state). The drafting of Rules of Procedure is the primary process in addressing litigants' needs and expectations. Most often, the input from customers is translated into a new rule or amendment to an existing rule or procedure.

Regular input from the Standing Rules Committee assists the Court in refining its procedural rules and in meeting its customers' needs and concerns. The General Counsel serves as the Secretary to the Committee and is responsible for compiling and preparing amendments for the Committee's review. Input is also obtained from professional associations such as the South Carolina Bar, the South Carolina Administrative and Regulatory Law Association, the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, as well as continuing legal education programs. Sometimes the information may be provided in the context of an individual case that illustrates a need for amending a rule or policy. Informal feedback is encouraged and received from agencies, departments and attorneys. The OMVH promulgated rules regarding their procedures with input from various agencies and attorneys.

Receiving input from affected customers is valuable and helps ensure a successful operation. Typically, this is done by receiving and discussing informal feedback from the litigants. The ALJs, Hearing Officers and staff develop professional relationships with agency heads, attorneys who practice before the Agency, individuals who are not represented by attorneys and other groups such as county assessors who have appeared in cases before the Court. One particular distinction among the customers of the Agency is that some are represented by attorneys and others represent themselves (referred to as pro se litigants). The Agency is very aware of the needs of those who are unrepresented and ALC Rule 10 addresses those needs.

Category 4 – Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management

The Clerk's Office recommends two measures – the "Age of Disposed Cases Report" and "Workload Report" (See *Fig. 7.2-1* to *Fig. 7.2-3*) – for use by the Agency to determine success in disposing of cases promptly. These measures are two of the most commonly used statistics by states' civil courts, as reported by the National Center for State Courts.

The Clerk's Office is responsible for maintaining the Court's official records. Previously, this information was maintained in an Excel spreadsheet, which also served as the database of case information, and was used to generate reports. However, with the implementation of the automated case management system (CMS), the Clerk's Office and judges' offices have direct access to and can update the case information quickly. The CMS assists the Court in collecting, organizing, processing, storing and distributing essential case information within the Court and to external agencies as needed. The OMVH also utilizes the same automated system and realizes the same benefits for maintaining its information. Efficiency in collecting and analyzing this data is critical for maintaining the Agency's overall caseload and reporting information.

The workload report is used to maintain the system of grouping case types for purposes of assigning cases to the ALJs. The even distribution of case assignments by the Chief Judge to the ALJs is not only fair, but it also allows for the most efficient balancing of workload to get the maximum number of cases disposed of in the shortest amount of time. The age of disposed cases report is also useful in identifying case types that require more time for disposition so that different procedures might be considered to improve efficiency.

In addition to the two key performance measures, the Agency maintains an in-house electronic directory of all its issued decisions. This database provides the best method of collection and maintenance of organizational knowledge. Although most cases have their own individual facts, the ALJs, Hearing Officers and staff can share research and knowledge by reviewing previously issued decisions with similar legal questions.

Because there are few other courts or agencies in South Carolina, if any, structured the same as our Agency, very little relevant data exists. The most useful comparative data is historical, from prior year reports of the Agency's workload. However, the Court does review relative information and best practices from other states that have a central panel, or office of administrative hearings, similar to the Court.

Category 5 - Workforce Focus

The success of the Agency in achieving its mission and goals is contingent on its staff meeting their full potential. By responding to the individual and professional needs of the staff through continuing education, staff training and professional development, the Agency is able to accomplish its mission and achieve its goals. Managers recommend and encourage staff to attend pertinent training and continuing educational courses to enhance their knowledge and capabilities for job growth and excellence in performance.

New employee orientation and training is required for the varying responsibilities of the Agency. The Business Office is responsible for administering employee orientation, the safety policy and training and benefit counseling. All ALJs, Hearing Officers and staff receive orientation, training, and counseling based on their needs, skills and abilities.

For the past several years, the court has used an informal approach to performance appraisals. Prior to that, the Court utilized formal performance appraisals to build and maintain professionalism, knowledge, skills, and abilities of the staff. After research and comparison to performance appraisals and reviews utilized by other courts across the country, the Court modified its previous appraisal forms and created a new process. The intent was to enhance employee satisfaction, growth and accountability. The ALJs, Clerk, General Counsel and Director of Finance and Personnel have one-on-one contact with the person(s) they supervise daily and provide feedback regarding strengths and weaknesses and suggestions for improvement. Evaluation, input, and feedback between the supervisor and employee establish a means for performance requirements that develop success criteria for each duty.

The Agency follows the safety standards set by the Office of General Services. Employees are given a safety plan in their orientation packets and are asked to stay abreast of updates and policy changes. New or changed safety policies are provided to each employee as they are adopted. A monitored, secured office environment helps maintain a high standard for a safe and healthy work environment.

The ALJs, Hearing Officers and employees are encouraged to attend functions sponsored by professional organizations such as the South Carolina Bar and the South Carolina Administrative and Regulatory Law Association. Non-legal employees are active in professional organizations such as the South Carolina Agency Directors Association, the South Carolina Government Finance Officers Association, and the South Carolina Administrative and Regulatory Law Association. The ALJs and/or staff have participated in leadership development programs such as the South Carolina Executive Institute and the Certified Public Managers Program. The Agency employees are encouraged to be active in various religious and civic organizations of their choice and many participate in the United Way campaign.

Category 6 - Process Management

The typical life cycle for a case before the Agency has four phases: the initial filing and processing phase, the pre-hearing phase, the hearing phase, and the order-writing phase. Most of the factors influencing these four processes are defined by the Court's procedural rules. The review and/or amendment of these rules are usually drafted and recommended by the Standing Rules Committee, reviewed by the ALJs, and then submitted to the General Assembly for approval. Rules specific to the OMVH were initially submitted for promulgation during the 2007 Session of the General Assembly.

Each of the four phases of a case's life cycle affects the amount of time needed to dispose of a case. The ALJs' staff, Clerk's Office staff, and OMVH staff work diligently to minimize any unnecessary delay during each of the four phases.

The single most important support process involves the use of the Court's staff and legal resources. The General Counsel and Clerk provide a valuable support process in providing an historical perspective on current procedural issues faced by the Agency. Periodically, various strategies for optimally using the General Counsel's Office and the law clerk positions have been considered and tested. Our legal research software has been updated to take advantage of new technology.

To improve performance for contractor interactions, the Court has developed instructions for the use of contract reporters for hearings. These procedures have been developed to maximize the benefits derived from this arrangement. Also, the Clerk's Office is in constant contact with the contract reporters and their office to monitor their needs in order to maximize their performance. The hearings conducted by the OMVH Hearing Officers are recorded, and if requested or appealed to the Court, contract reporters are used for the transcription.

Category 7 – Results

Since the primary mission of the Court is to seek the prompt disposal of cases, the "Age of Disposed Cases Report" (*Fig. 7.2-1*) is a significant measurement of attempts to satisfy customer expectations.

During FY 2012-13, thirty-seven specific case types were tracked for the Court and twelve case types for the OMVH. The case types are divided into four categories, based upon complexity and normal length of time between the filing of a case to final disposition. For the case types included in "Category I", the objective is to dispose of most of these cases within 90 days, or to maintain an average age (between filing and disposition) of 90 days or less. In "Category II," the objective is 120 days and, in "Category III," the objective is 180 days. "Category IV" includes only inmate grievance appeals from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services and the objective is 120 days. The "Age of Disposed Cases Report" indicates for each case type and category the total number of cases disposed, the average age of those cases at disposition, and the percentage of cases disposed within the suggested time frames. As with any adjudicatory process, there are legitimate reasons requiring additional time for processing cases to conclusion within the desired time frames, such as requests for continuances, lengthy discovery, complicated research efforts, motions, and other jurisdictional or procedural issues which might arise during the life of the case.

Fig. 7.2-1 AGE OF DISPOSED CASES REPORT FOR THE COURT

	Total Cases Disposed	Avg. Age at Disposition	% Meeting Objective
Category I Case Types: Objective = 90 Days	192	113	54
Insurance rate cases [DOI]	2	87	50
Insurance agent application/disciplinary cases [DOI]	4	221	0
Wage disputes [LLR]	1	39	100
Alcoholic beverage license applications/renewals [DOR]	76	92	58
Alcoholic beverage license violations [DOR]	39	122	49
Concealable weapons permitting cases [SLED]	6	98	33
Setoff Debt Collection [SETOFF]	12	106	42
Consumer Affairs [CA]	5	174	20
Injunctive relief hearings	8	64	75
Public hearings for proposed regulations	19	71	84
Employee Grievance Appeals	4	349	25
Charter School Appeals	3	271	0
Secretary of State	4	62	75
Subpoenas	3	9	100
Miscellaneous cases	6	285	17
Category II Case Types: Objective = 120 Days	93	193	43
Hunting/Fishing and Coastal Fisheries violations [DNR]	4	92	75
Boating under the influence	7	100	71
Health licensing cases [DHEC]	1	158	0
Outdoor advertising permits [DOT]	--	--	--
Disadvantaged Business Enterprises/Displacement[DOT]	6	192	33
PEBA Retirement Systems	10	128	50
OMVH Appeals [OMVH]	41	238	34
Professional Licensing Board Appeals [LLR]	9	240	33
OSHA [LLR]	15	159	53
Category III Case Types: Objective = 180 Days	274	272	44
Certificate of Need cases [DHEC]	11	490	27
Environmental permitting cases [DHEC]	16	407	6
OCRM cases [DHEC]	13	404	23
Medicaid Appeals [HHS]	27	422	23
Bingo violations [DOR]	2	80	100
State tax cases [DOR]	32	328	32
County property tax (real and personal) cases [DOR]	54	182	59
Daycare/Fostercare Appeals, SNAP (FI) [DSS]	12	260	33
Employment & Workforce Appeals [DEW]	96	186	61
PEBA Employee Insurance Program Appeals	11	313	18
Category IV Case Types: Objective = 120 days	938	106	73
Inmate grievances [DOC & PPPS]	938	106	73
ALL CASE TYPES	1497	142	64
ALL CASE TYPES excluding inmate grievances	559	202	48

NOTE: DOI: Dept. of Insurance; LLR: Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; DNR: Dept. of Natural Resources; DOR: Dept. of Revenue; DHEC: Dept. of Health and Environmental Control; HHS: Dept. of Health and Human Services; DSS: Dept. of Social Services; SLED: State Law Enforcement Court; DOC: Department of Corrections; PPPS, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; RET: South Carolina Budget and Control Board, SC Retirement Systems; OMVH: Office of Motor Vehicle Hearings; CA: Department of Consumer Affairs

The Court's percentage of total cases meeting the time standards for disposition has varied over the years. One factor that can account for this variation is the court's resources, i.e. whether we are at full capacity or have a reduction in resources, such as ALJ or staff vacancies. Another issue with timeframe for disposition of cases is an increase in jurisdiction and caseload. The motion practice and complex discovery issues have continued to grow, which has contributed to the age of disposed cases remaining at its current percentage rate, though recently the judges have increased their efforts to promptly determine the cases.

The two charts below compare the percentage of cases meeting the time standards for disposition from year to year for the past nine years. The first chart includes all inmate filings, but the second chart excludes them.

Fig. 7.2-1a

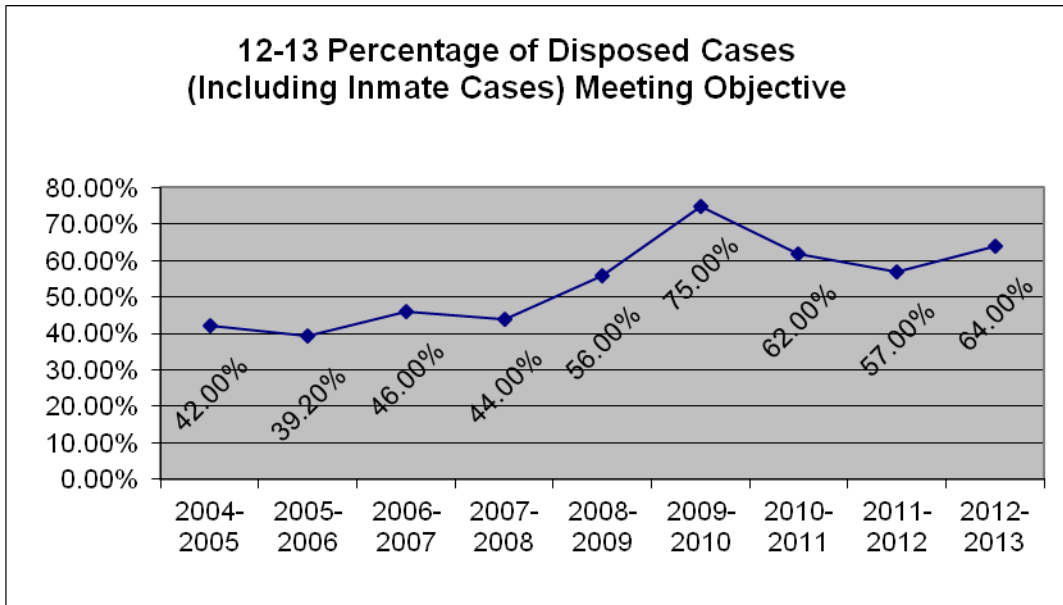
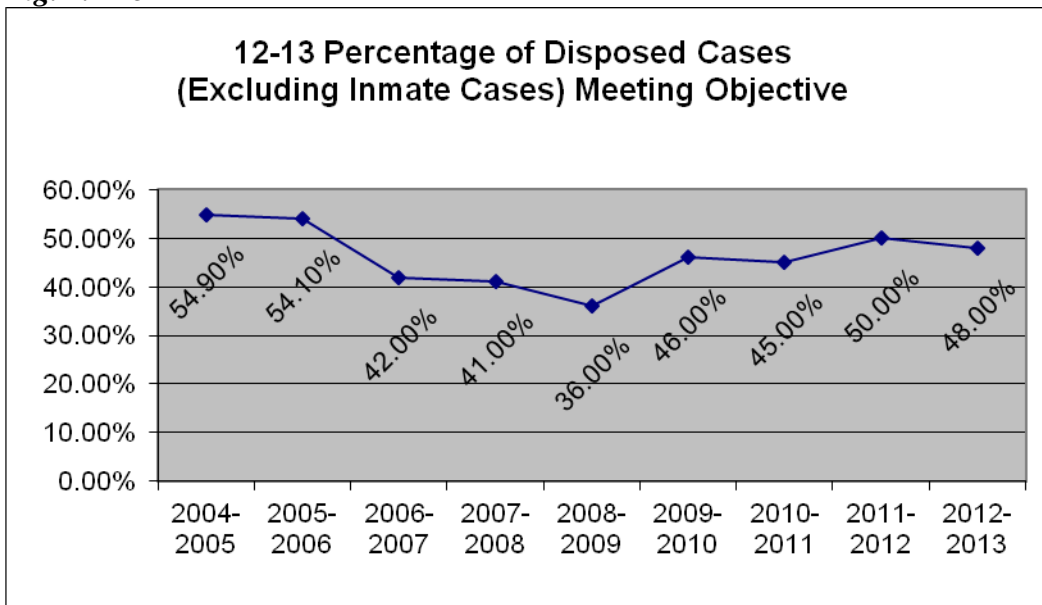


Fig. 7.2-1b



The tables below compare the number of cases filed with the Court and the number of final decisions issued by the Court for each fiscal year since 2008.

Fig. 7.2-2

COMBINED COURT and OMVH WORKLOAD SINCE 2008

FISCAL YEAR	FILINGS		TOTAL CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS		TOTAL FINAL DECISIONS
	COURT	OMVH		COURT	OMVH	
FY 08-09	1800	5340	7,140	1761	4655	6,416
FY 09-10	1955	6577	8,532	1591	5222	6,813
FY 10-11	1945	6786	8,731	1986	6760	8746
FY 11-12	1733	6939	8,671	1886	7501	9387
FY 12-13	1472	6776	8,248	1497	6678	8,175

THE COURT'S WORKLOAD REPORT BY YEAR SINCE 2004

FISCAL YEAR	FILINGS		TOTAL CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS		TOTAL FINAL DECISIONS
	*CCs, RHs, IJs, and & other appeals	<u>Al-Shabazz/Furtick</u> Appeals		*CCs, RHs, IJs, and & other appeals	<u>Al-Shabazz/Furtick</u> Appeals	
FY 04-05	479	933	1,412	470	628	1,098
FY 05-06	878	1,454	2,332	534	1,621	2,164
FY 06-07	668	1,085	1,753	848	1,266	2,114
FY 07-08	631	1,179	1,810	676	1,235	1,911
FY 08-09	534	1,266	1,800	544	1,342	1,886
FY 09-10	838	1,117	1,955	492	1,099	1,591
FY 10-11	750	1,195	1,945	924	1,062	1,986
FY 11-12	643	1,090	1,733	627	1,259	1,886
FY 12-13	567	905	1472	559	938	1497

Fig. 7.2-2a

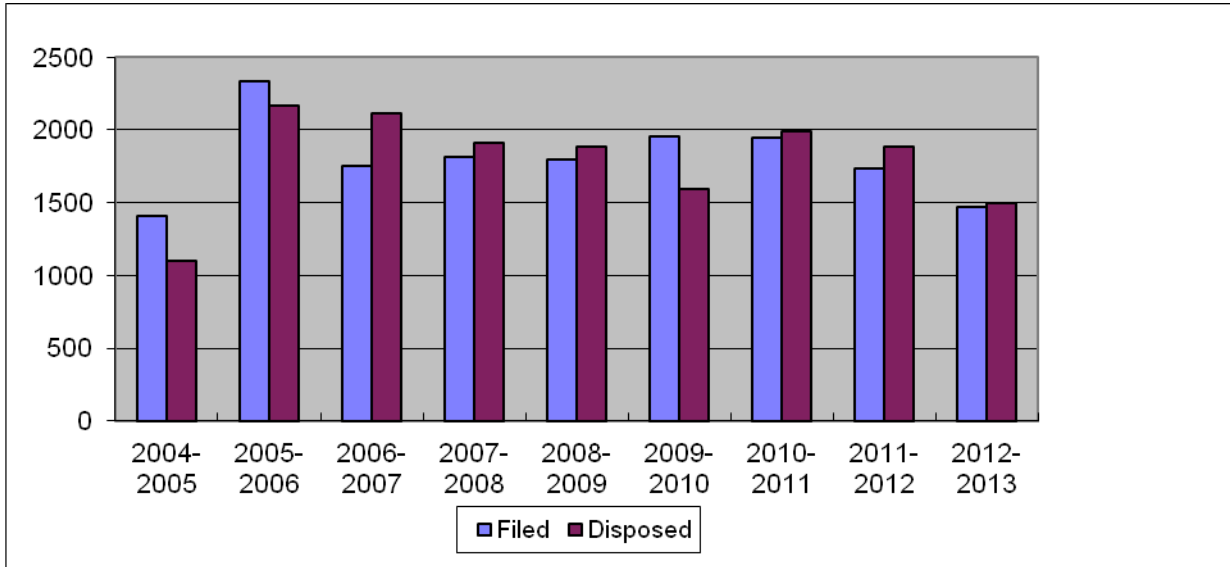


Fig. 7.2-3

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/12 to 6/30/13

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	6569	6468
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	46	49
03	Habitual Offender Reduction/HOR 2	54	59
04	Financial Responsibility	73	71
05	Dealer Licensing	7	10
06	Physical Disqualification	5	6
07	IFTA	9	6
08	Self-Insured	--	--
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	3	2
11	Miscellaneous	2	2
12	Points Suspension	8	11
TOTAL		6776	6678

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/11 to 6/30/12

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	6657	7207
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	78	75
03	Habitual Offender Reduction/HOR 2	78	84
04	Financial Responsibility	77	91
05	Dealer Licensing	8	6
06	Physical Disqualification	8	9
07	IFTA	9	7
08	Self-Insured	--	--
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	6	4
11	Miscellaneous	5	5
12	Points Suspension	13	13
TOTAL		6939	7501

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/10 to 6/30/11

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	6500	6473
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	54	56
03	Habitual Offender Reduction/HOR 2	84	82
04	Financial Responsibility	97	91
05	Dealer Licensing	10	11
06	Physical Disqualification	11	9
07	IFTA	5	8
08	Self-Insured	--	--
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	--	--
11	Miscellaneous	7	6
12	Points Suspension	18	21
TOTAL		6786	6760

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/09 to 6/30/10

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	6278	4968
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	64	45
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	87	71
04	Financial Responsibility	96	66
05	Dealer Licensing	2	5
06	Physical Disqualification	9	8
07	IFTA	10	8
08	Self-Insured	1	1
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	5	3
11	Miscellaneous	--	--
12	Points Suspension	25	47
TOTAL		6577	5222

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/08 to 6/30/09

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	5030	4386
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	73	62
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	65	78
04	Financial Responsibility	84	91
05	Dealer Licensing	13	8
06	Physical Disqualification	4	3
07	IFTA	5	2
08	Self-Insured	--	--
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	3	2
11	Miscellaneous	15	8
12	Points Suspension	49	15
TOTAL		5340	4655

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/07 to 6/30/08

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	4046	3811
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	65	60
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	126	109
04	Financial Responsibility	119	99
05	Dealer Licensing	6	3
06	Physical Disqualification	3	2
07	IFTA	4	5
08	Self-Insured	--	--
09	Driver Training School	--	--
10	IRP	--	--
TOTAL		4369	4089

OMVH WORKLOAD REPORT from 7/1/06 to 6/30/07

Case Type #	Description	CASES FILED	FINAL DECISIONS
01	Implied Consent or BAC	3314	3307
02	Habitual Offender 1 st Declared	52	46
03	Habitual Offender Reduction	157	153
04	Financial Responsibility	100	93
05	Dealer Licensing	3	2
06	Physical Disqualification	2	2
07	IFTA	3	3
08	Self-Insured	0	0
09	Driver Training School	0	0
10	IRP	1	1
TOTAL		3632	3607