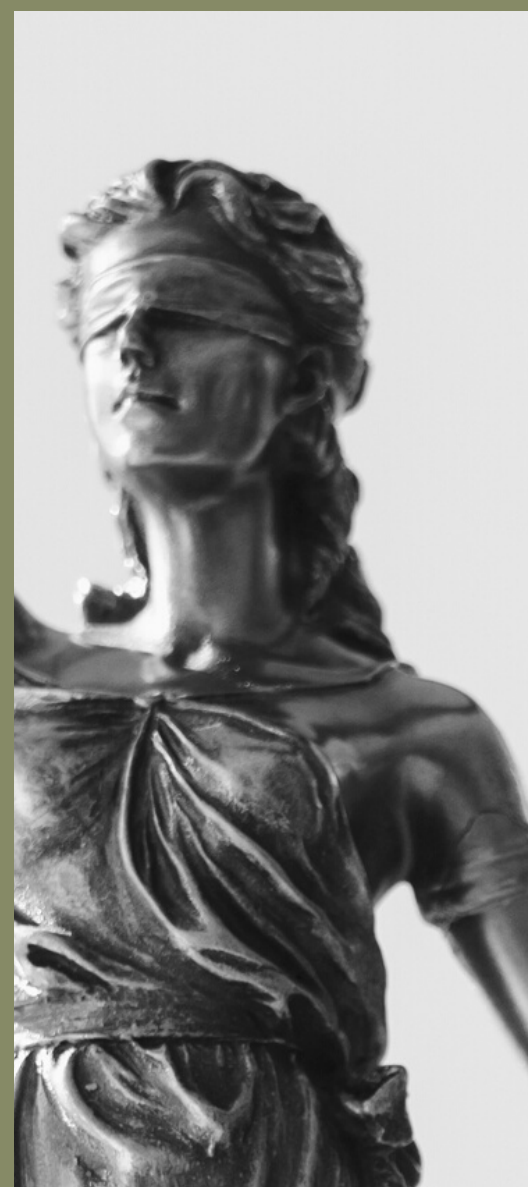




# MEASURING SOUTH CAROLINA'S JUSTICE GAP

A Report of the  
SC Access to Justice  
Commission



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## ABOUT THE SCATJ COMMISSION

The South Carolina Access to Justice Commission was created in January of 2007 by the South Carolina Supreme Court in recognition of the need to expand access to civil legal representation for people of low income and modest means. One of over forty access to justice entities across the country, SCATJ serves an umbrella function, providing new advocacy from a neutral body and involving an expanded range of stakeholders to develop meaningful systemic change.

Made up of representatives from all levels of our state judiciary, the private bar, legal services provider organizations, our state legislature, and our two law schools, the SCATJ Commission is charged with identifying the scope of the need for civil legal services in South Carolina and developing a long-term plan for ensuring that every person who needs representation can get it and that our courts are accessible to all.

### What is access to justice?

At its core, access to justice refers to a person's ability to use the legal system to advocate for themselves and their interests. In a narrow sense, it refers simply to someone's ability to appear in court. More broadly, it encompasses the social context of the court system and systemic barriers faced by different members of our community that might affect their ability to use the legal system, such as socioeconomic status, geographic location, language barriers, or physical disability.



# SCATJ'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The SCATJ Commission's work is organized around seven core objectives:

01

## LEGAL NEEDS

Assessing the essential civil legal needs of South Carolinians of low income and modest means

02

## COORDINATION

Fostering collaboration and coordination among stakeholders and legal service providers

03

## EDUCATION

Promoting education and outreach on the gap in civil legal services

04

## SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

Supporting programs and resources to assist self-represented litigants

05

## FUNDING

Supporting increased funding and efficient use of resources to expand access to justice

06

## PRO BONO

Encouraging greater voluntary participation by members of the bar in pro bono legal service

07

## NEW INITIATIVES & TECHNOLOGY

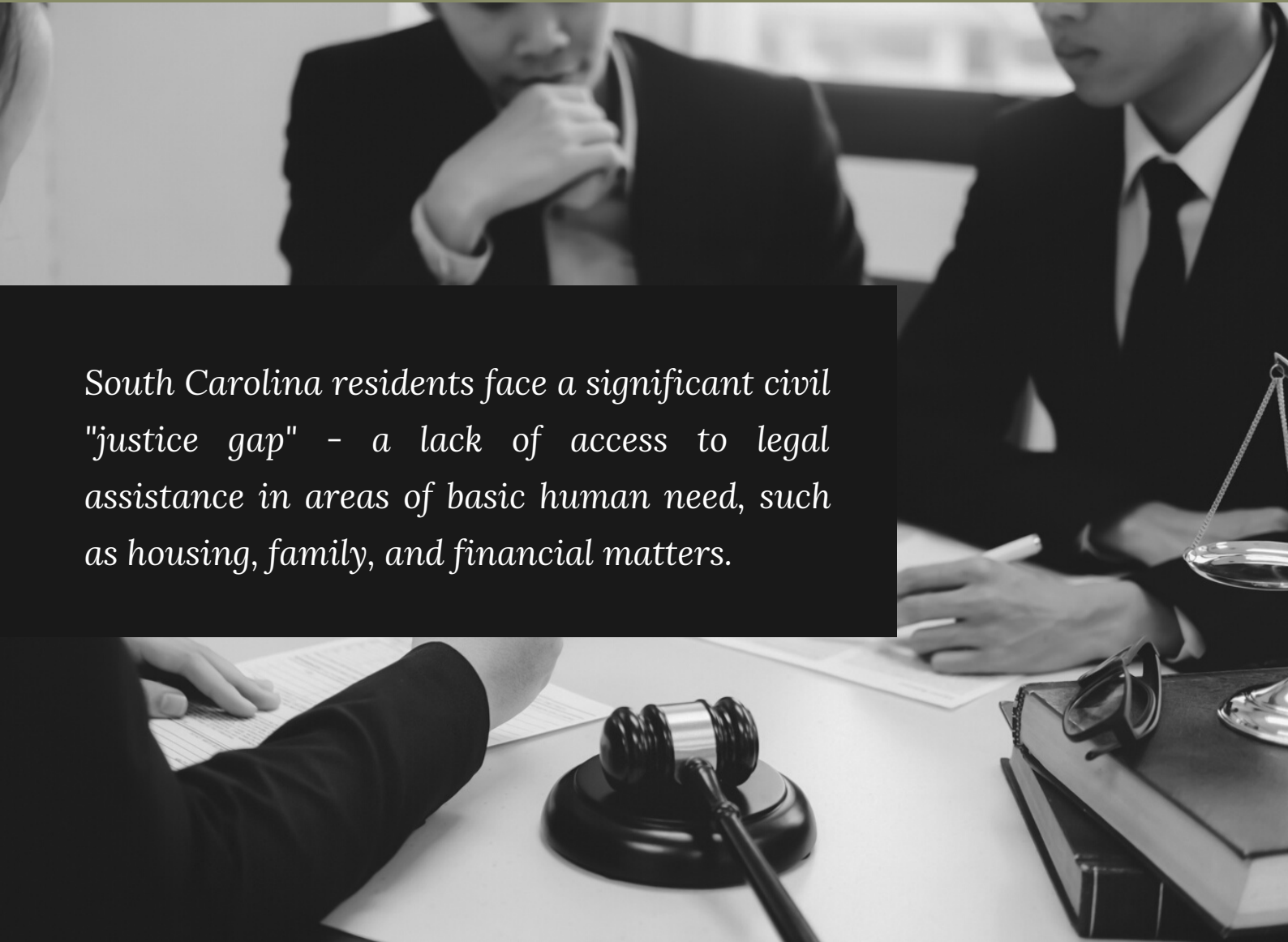
Recommending new initiatives and technology to expand civil access to justice



SOUTH CAROLINA  
access to  
justice



# THE JUSTICE GAP IN SOUTH CAROLINA



*South Carolina residents face a significant civil "justice gap" - a lack of access to legal assistance in areas of basic human need, such as housing, family, and financial matters.*

In 2019, 15.2% of South Carolinians lived in poverty and 20.1% were below 125% of the federal poverty line, making them eligible for subsidized legal assistance. Yet funding for South Carolina Legal Services, the front-line provider of civil legal aid within the state, supports only 54 attorneys—one for every 18,197 eligible persons. According

to the 2016 Justice Index, prepared by the National Center for Access to Justice, South Carolina ranks **last out of all states** (as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia) on the "Attorney Access" index, which analyzes the "civil legal aid attorney ratio," or the number of attorneys available to represent people living in poverty.

**OVER 20%**

**OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED LEGAL SERVICES**

**OVER 10K**

**INTAKES ARE PROCESSED BY SC LEGAL SERVICES EVERY YEAR**

**OVER 92%**

**OF DEFENDANTS IN EVICTION, FORECLOSURE AND DEBT COLLECTION CASES ARE UNREPRESENTED**

South Carolina Legal Services averages more than 20,000 answered telephone calls per year from people seeking legal assistance and processes more than 10,000 intakes. Even after screening for financial eligibility, service priority guidelines, and conflicts of interest, many callers must be turned away due to resource limitations. Between FY17 and FY19, more than 2,000 callers, on average, had to be turned away each year. Private attorneys, too, are scarce in South Carolina's rural counties. In 2020, 14 of the state's 46 counties had fewer than ten private practitioners and four counties had fewer than five.

South Carolina courts are filled with unrepresented parties in eviction, foreclosure, and consumer debt cases. In FY19, 99.7% of defendants in eviction cases, 92.3% of defendants in foreclosure cases, and 96% of defendants in debt collection cases were unrepresented. Among all adverse civil matters in Circuit Court, the first-named plaintiff had an attorney in 97.6% of cases whereas the first-named defendant had an attorney in only 28.3% of cases.



Even these numbers do not account for unrecognized legal needs. Research finds that most people experiencing potentially life-altering civil legal problems never seek legal assistance because they do not recognize their problems as "legal" or know that assistance may be available. A 2014 survey found that, among a representative sample of adults experiencing civil legal problems, only 8% sought help from an attorney and only 8% involved contact with a court. According to the Legal Services Corporation's 2017 Justice Gap Report, seven out of ten low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem during the preceding year, but they sought help for only 20% of them.

This report describes the contours of the justice gap in South Carolina. The goals of the report are to establish a template for annual reporting in a form that is useful for policymakers and providers, and to identify specific areas of need.

The report draws on census data, provider data from South Carolina Legal Services and the South Carolina Bar, and court data from South Carolina Circuit and Magistrate courts and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina, to present basic facts about attorney access, lack of access, and representation in court, both geographically and by problem area.

We are extremely grateful to South Carolina Legal Services, the South Carolina Bar, South Carolina Court Administration, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for their generous assistance in making available and accessible the data used to compile this report.



# CENSUS DATA & POVERTY STATISTICS



15.2%

OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS  
LIVE IN POVERTY

20.1%

OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS  
LIVE BELOW 125% FPL

35.1%

OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS  
LIVE BELOW 200% FPL

In 2019, 15.2% of South Carolinians lived in poverty and 20.1% were below 125% of the federal poverty line, making them eligible for federally funded services from South Carolina Legal Services (see Table 1 following the main text of the report). Statewide, over one third of South

Carolinians (35.1%) were below 200% of the federal poverty line, making them potentially eligible for subsidized services from other legal providers (see [scaccesstojustice.org/civil-cases](https://scaccesstojustice.org/civil-cases) for a guide to civil legal aid providers in South Carolina).

Within the state, the percentage of people in poverty varies considerably by county (see Table 1). In 2019, the counties with the highest poverty populations (measured at 125%) were Allendale (32.5%), Bamberg (31.7%), Barnwell (34.1%), Dillon (39.1%), Lee (32.9%), Marion (31.1%), Marlboro (35.1%), and Williamsburg (32.1%) (see Figure 1 at right).

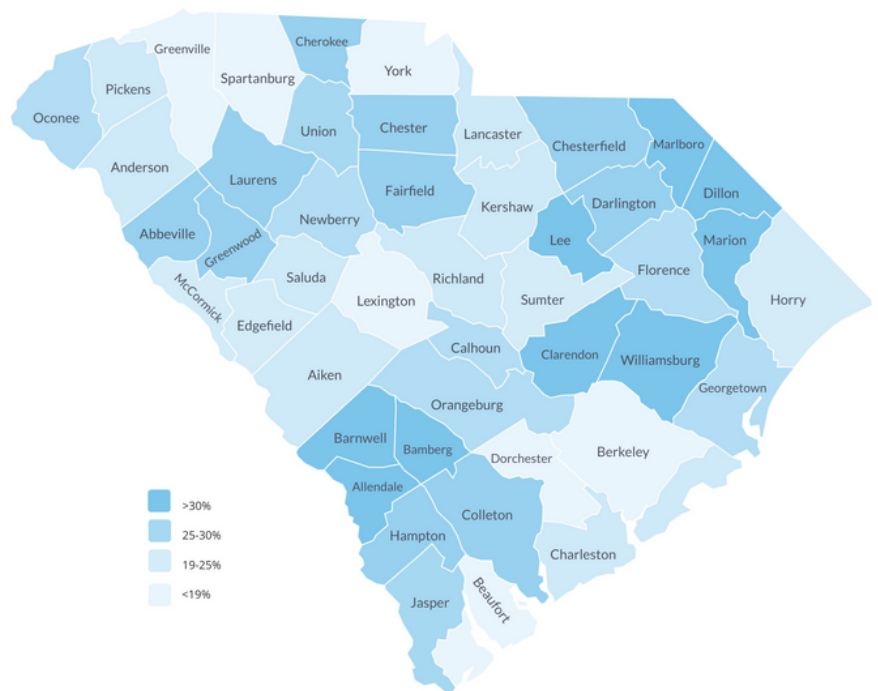


Figure 1: Percentage of Population Below 125% FPL  
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)



The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the hardships faced by low-income families in South Carolina. The unemployment rate in South Carolina increased from approximately 2.5% in February 2020 to nearly 13% in April 2020, after the closing of all non-essential face-to-face businesses. [1] By

late April 2020, more than 45% of South Carolinians reported that a member of their household had experienced a loss of employment. [2] In October 2020, 16.6% of South Carolina households reported that paying for usual household expenses was "very difficult," compared to 14% of households nationwide. [3]



# PROVIDER DATA & ACCESS TO ATTORNEYS

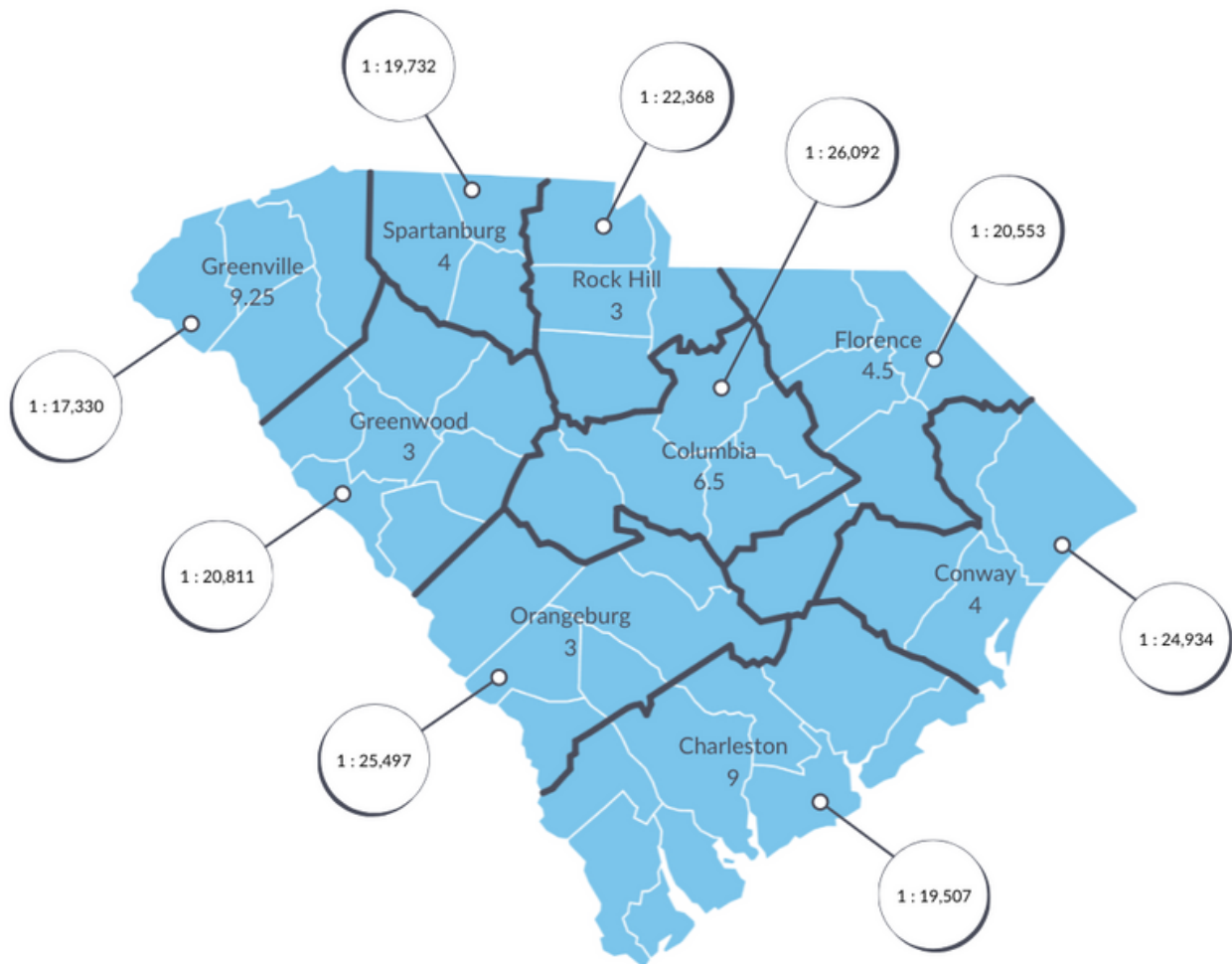


Figure 2: Number of Eligible People Per Attorney  
(Source: South Carolina Legal Services)

South Carolina Legal Services (SCLS), funded primarily by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), is the front-line provider of civil legal aid within the state. Currently, SCLS employs 54 attorneys, including those in statewide and administrative positions; 46.25 attorneys

provide direct services in regional offices around the state. Figure 2 above shows the number of SCLS attorneys by regional service area and the ratio of SCLS attorneys to the eligible population (people living below 125% of the federal poverty guideline).

*Family law, housing, and consumer finance are the top three categories of cases closed by South Carolina Legal Services, together comprising nearly 75% of cases closed over the past three years.*

The largest category of SCLS intakes are family law matters, which made up 41.4% of all intakes in FY19, followed by housing (19.5%), and consumer and financial matters (10.6%) (see Table 2). The top three intake categories have been the same for the past three years, but the percentage of family law matters increased somewhat from 35% in FY17 to 41.4% in FY19, whereas the percentage of housing cases declined from 28.4% in FY17 to 19.5% in FY19.

An average of more than 2,000 intakes are rejected each year due to insufficient resources or for other reasons, though the percentage rejected declined significantly in FY19. In FY17, 24.6% of intakes were rejected, compared to 16.2% in FY19 (see Table 2). The percentage rejected due to insufficient resources also declined from 7.4% in FY17 to 2.1% in FY19. Family law cases are among the most likely to be rejected, as are cases involving income maintenance and employment. Cases involving income main-

tenance are the most likely to be rejected due to insufficient resources.

Family law, housing, and consumer finance are the top three categories of cases closed by SCLS, together comprising nearly 75% of cases closed over the past three years (see Table 2). Most cases receive only limited assistance, defined as "advice and counsel" or "limited action," versus more extensive representation. Over the past three years, more than 80% of housing cases, 70% of consumer finance cases, and 60% of family law cases received limited assistance. In FY19, 77% of all cases received limited assistance.

Based on the number of accepted intakes in FY19, SCLS averaged one intake for every 110 people in the eligible population, for a per capita measure of less than 1.0% (see Table 3). In some of the poorest counties, such as Allendale, Bamberg, and Dillon, per capita intakes totaled less than 0.5%.

Private attorneys are also scarce outside of South Carolina's largest cities. In 2020, 14 of the state's 46 counties had fewer than ten private practitioners and four counties had fewer than five (see Figure 3 at right).

Statewide, there is only one private practitioner for every 703 people and in many counties the ratio is far lower (see Table 4). Excluding Charleston, Greenville, and Richland Counties—which together account for 65% of the state's private practitioners but only 26.2% of its population—the ratio of private practitioners (2,550) to the 2019 population in the rest of the state (3,798,007) is 1: 1,489.

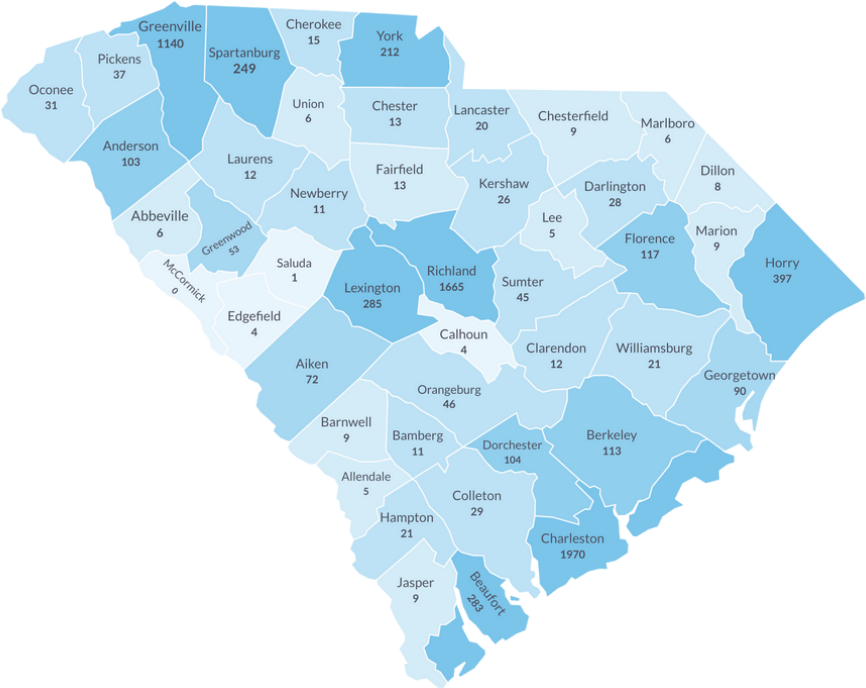


Figure 3: Private Practitioners Per County (Source: South Carolina Bar)



# COURT DATA & REPRESENTATION IN COURT



There were over 80,000 civil cases in Circuit Court in FY19, of which 47,999 were adverse matters (see Table 5). Among first-named parties in adverse civil matters, plaintiffs had an attorney in 97.6% of cases whereas defendants had an attorney in only 28.3% of cases, and both parties had attorneys in only 27% of cases. In previous years, both parties were represented in only about 23% of cases.

Debt collection and foreclosure were the most frequent types of adverse civil matters, and among the most likely to be cases in which only the plaintiff was represented. Claim and delivery cases, too, have consistently high rates of plaintiff-only representation, ranging from 93% to 95% over the past three years (see Table 5).

In Magistrate Court, close to 90% of all parties appeared unrepresented in FY19, including more than 99% of defendants in eviction and claim and delivery cases (see Table 6). The overall percentage of cases in which only the plaintiff was represented increased from 5.6% in FY17 to 9.8% in FY19. Plaintiff-only representation in eviction cases increased from 1.4% to 3.4%.



14

SC COUNTIES HAVE  
FEWER THAN TEN  
PRIVATE ATTORNEYS

4

COUNTIES HAVE  
FEWER THAN FIVE

Tables 7, 8, and 9 show the number of eviction, foreclosure, and debt collection cases by county and the percentage of cases in which only the plaintiff was represented. As Table 7 shows, the percentage of eviction cases with plaintiff-only representation is markedly higher in Beaufort, Berkeley, Dorchester, and Horry counties than in other counties, across all three fiscal years. In Dorchester County, in FY19, 18.8% of eviction cases involved plaintiff-only representation. Thus, while in most eviction cases, neither party is represented (see Table 6), some counties have relatively high rates of plaintiff-only representation, inviting closer analysis.

Representation patterns also vary by county in foreclosure and debt collection cases, though less consistently. In foreclosure cases, the percentage of plaintiff-only representation in FY19

ranged from 64.4% in Marion County to 100% in Allendale and McCormick counties, but the Marion County figure appears to be an outlier (see Table 8). In debt collection cases, the percentage of plaintiff-only representation ranged from 92% to 100% in FY19 (see Table 9).

Table 10 shows Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy filings initiated by unrepresented debtors by county and calendar year, and the number of initially unrepresented debtors who ultimately obtained counsel. The statewide annual average of initially unrepresented debtor filings was 283 between 2016 and 2018, and the average who ultimately obtained counsel was 20.5%. These figures, along with the extensive efforts of the Bankruptcy Court and bar to make pro bono representation available, also invite closer analysis.

27%

OF ADVERSE CIVIL MATTERS IN CIRCUIT COURT HAVE ATTORNEYS ON BOTH SIDES

90%

OF PARTIES IN MAGISTRATE COURT ARE UNREPRESENTED

99%

OF DEFENDANTS IN EVICTION CASES ARE UNREPRESENTED



# UNRECOGNIZED LEGAL NEEDS

*The preceding sections highlight the lack of access to attorneys in South Carolina and the widespread lack of representation in adverse civil matters in court. Yet even these stark numbers do not account for **unrecognized legal needs**.*

Research consistently finds that only a small percentage of people facing civil legal problems seek assistance from a lawyer or court. [4] Many people with civil justice problems do not recognize their problems as "legal," even when those problems raise clear legal issues and have legal remedies. [5] Most people with civil legal problems never consider using a lawyer, but rather rely on their own understanding and support networks to deal with the problem—or do nothing—even when the potential stakes are high. [6] Many people forego available legal

assistance even when it is free. [7] According to the Legal Services Corporation's 2017 Justice Gap Report, seven out of every ten low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem during the preceding year, but they sought help for only 20% of them. [8] The Report found that people do not seek help for a variety of reasons, including not knowing where to look, uncertainty about whether the problem is legal in nature, apprehension about cost, fear of pursuing legal action, or simply deciding to deal with the problem on their own. [9]



In recent years, many states have conducted legal needs studies to assess the type and frequency of unrecognized legal needs and to identify gaps between legal needs and legal resources in the state. These studies use a variety of methods, such as internet and paper surveys, interviews, and focus groups, that provide valuable community outreach as well as a means for gathering data and assessing priorities. A legal needs study provides an opportunity to build stakeholder support, engage clients and referral agencies, elicit feedback, and identify barriers that people face in accessing legal and other services.



7 OUT OF EVERY 10  
LOW-INCOME  
HOUSEHOLDS  
EXPERIENCE AT LEAST  
ONE CIVIL LEGAL  
PROBLEM  
EVERY YEAR

Among the states that recently have conducted civil legal needs studies are Alabama (2013), Arizona (2016), Arkansas (2014), California (2019), Colorado (2011), Connecticut (2016), Delaware (2018), Louisiana (2018), Michigan (2012), Montana (2014), Nebraska (2015), New Hampshire (2021), North Carolina (2021), Oregon (2018), Pennsylvania (2017), Tennessee (2014), Utah (2020), Virginia (2013), and Wyoming (2020). [10] In addition, numerous states have conducted targeted assessments of the legal needs of specific groups, such as seniors and veterans. Below, we recommend that South Carolina conduct its own legal needs study as the next step in assessing—and addressing—the civil justice gap in the state.



# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DATA COLLECTION



## 01

### STATEWIDE LEGAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

To assess the type and frequency of unrecognized legal needs, we recommend that South Carolina conduct a statewide legal needs assessment, paying special attention to rural and high-poverty areas and hard to reach populations, such as migrant workers, individuals with disabilities, vulnerable medical populations, veterans, and homeless populations. Such an assessment should include interviews with legal and social service providers and community leaders, such as faith leaders and educators, as well as surveys of individuals about the legal needs that they face. The South Carolina Access to Justice Commission and the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism at the University of South Carolina School of Law are in discussion with the research team that conducted the 2021 needs assessment in North Carolina and are working on a fundraising strategy to support a statewide assessment.



## 02

**INTAKE DATA  
FROM PROVIDERS**

One goal of a statewide legal needs assessment will be outreach to legal aid providers to promote participation in the study and develop a workable strategy for annual reporting of intake data. Basic annual reporting about the type and frequency of legal services provided would be invaluable in coordinating service and referrals among providers, as well as in identifying gaps between legal needs and resources in the state. Reporting can be onerous for providers, however. We propose to interview providers about their current data and reporting systems and solicit ideas about how to design a simple and sustainable system for statewide annual reporting of intake data.

## 03

**COURT DATA**

Court data are also invaluable for assessing civil legal needs and resources and we hope that our efforts in this initial report can be sustained and extended to include family court. We also recommend exploring partnerships with state court researchers and data scientists to enable access to case-level data about the most pressing and widespread problems, such as eviction. In May 2020, the Legal Services Corporation launched a nationwide study of eviction that includes a special focus on two locations in South Carolina: Charleston and St. Andrews. [11] In February 2021, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Legal Services Design Project released a white paper providing practical guidance for partnerships between state courts and researchers. [12] These national initiatives invite local input and collaboration in making existing data accessible, as well as in improving and streamlining the collection of data going forward.



## ENDNOTES

1. Melinda Merrell et al., South Carolina: Structural Factors Associated with Poverty 47 (November 2020). Available at: <https://sistersofcharitysc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FINAL-South-Carolina-Structural-Factors-Associated-with-Poverty-Research-Brief-November-2020-FINAL.pdf>.
2. U.S. Census Bureau. Week 1 Household Pulse Survey: April 23–May 5. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp1.html>.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. Week 17 Household Pulse Survey: October 14–October 26. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp17.html>.
4. See, e.g., REBECCA SANDEFUR, ACCESSING JUSTICE IN THE CONTEMPORARY USA: FINDINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SERVICES STUDY 1-12 (2014) (survey of a random sample of Midwestern adults finding that Americans rarely turn to lawyers or courts to handle their civil justice problems).
5. Rebecca L. Sandefur, *Money Isn't Everything: Understanding Moderate Income Households' Use of Lawyers' Services*, in MIDDLE INCOME ACCESS TO JUSTICE 222, 245 (Anthony Duggin et al., eds., 2012) (discussing the “pervasive alelity” of Americans' responses to civil justice problems).
6. Rebecca L. Sandefur, *The Importance of Doing Nothing: Everyday Problems and Responses of Inaction*, in TRANSFORMING LIVES: LAW AND SOCIAL PROCESS 112, 112 (Pascoe Pleasence et al. eds., 2007) (finding that the most common response to non-trivial civil justice problems is to do nothing, especially among the poor).
7. *Id.* Cost plays a surprisingly modest role in people's decisions not to seek civil legal assistance. See ACCESSING JUSTICE, *supra* note 4, at 13 (finding that cost was a reason for not seeking assistance in only seventeen percent of cases); *Money Isn't Everything*, *supra* note 5, at 237 (national study of civil justice problems in moderate-income households finding that cost was a reason for not seeking legal assistance in only six percent of cases).
8. LEGAL SERVICES CORP., THE JUSTICE GAP: MEASURING THE UNMET CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME AMERICANS 13 (2017). Available at: <https://www.lsc.gov/sites/default/files/images/TheJusticeGap-FullReport.pdf>.
9. *Id.*
10. See AM. BAR ASS'N, STATE NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACT STUDIES, [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_aid\\_indigent\\_defense/resource\\_center\\_for\\_access\\_to\\_justice/atj-commissions/atj\\_commission\\_self-assessment\\_materials1/studies/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_aid_indigent_defense/resource_center_for_access_to_justice/atj-commissions/atj_commission_self-assessment_materials1/studies/).
11. See Legal Services Corp., *Eviction Study: The Effect of State and Local Laws on Eviction*, <https://lsc.gov/about-lsc/eviction-study>.
12. AM. ACAD. ARTS & SCIENCES, MEASURING CIVIL JUSTICE FOR ALL: WHAT DO WE KNOW? WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW? HOW CAN WE KNOW IT? Available at: <https://www.amacad.org/publication/measuring-civil-justice-all>.



**TABLE 1 - SOUTH CAROLINA POVERTY STATISTICS**

County	Total 2017 Population	Percent < 200%	Percent < 125%	Percent < 100%	Total 2018 Population	Percent < 200%	Percent < 125%	Percent < 100%	Total 2019 Population	Percent < 200%	Percent < 125%	Percent < 100%
Abbeville	24,078	46.3%	27.6%	27.0%	23,951	43.1%	27.0%	22.5%	23,927	41.4%	25.2%	18.7%
Aiken	162,950	39.2%	22.4%	16.7%	164,182	38.2%	21.5%	16.1%	165,492	37.5%	20.5%	14.9%
Allendale	8,262	63.3%	34.8%	30.4%	8,094	61.3%	34.7%	26.8%	7,953	55.7%	32.5%	25.0%
Anderson	191,170	38.1%	21.4%	15.6%	192,926	36.9%	21.2%	15.2%	194,874	35.1%	20.1%	14.6%
Bamberg	13,891	47.8%	32.9%	24.5%	13,637	48.1%	33.9%	25.9%	13,503	47.2%	31.7%	23.4%
Barnwell	21,335	50.1%	32.4%	27.0%	21,140	50.2%	31.0%	26.2%	20,887	50.5%	34.1%	28.1%
Beaufort	173,968	30.3%	15.6%	11.9%	177,366	29.0%	14.8%	11.1%	181,070	28.1%	14.0%	10.2%
Berkeley	200,835	32.2%	17.0%	12.8%	205,130	31.3%	16.3%	12.2%	210,990	30.1%	16.2%	11.9%
Calhoun	14,538	34.3%	23.4%	18.3%	14,459	35.6%	22.8%	18.4%	14,403	32.6%	24.2%	20.8%
Charleston	375,922	31.1%	19.5%	15.3%	382,909	30.2%	18.7%	14.7%	389,334	29.0%	17.6%	13.7%
Cherokee	55,753	45.8%	29.2%	22.0%	55,880	45.1%	26.6%	20.5%	55,986	46.4%	26.1%	19.4%
Chester	32,211	46.9%	26.6%	21.8%	32,108	47.1%	27.3%	21.1%	32,079	46.7%	25.7%	19.6%
Chesterfield	45,571	49.9%	30.8%	23.8%	45,400	48.2%	29.8%	22.5%	45,346	46.3%	27.2%	20.7%
Clarendon	32,455	48.8%	30.6%	23.3%	32,498	48.3%	30.3%	23.4%	32,505	45.7%	29.7%	22.9%
Colleton	36,820	51.1%	30.4%	22.3%	36,774	50.4%	28.7%	21.2%	36,803	49.4%	28.3%	21.8%
Darlington	65,995	48.4%	29.0%	22.7%	65,651	48.4%	28.8%	22.3%	65,611	46.4%	26.6%	20.0%
Dillon	30,636	58.1%	37.1%	30.6%	30,441	60.8%	40.5%	33.8%	30,234	59.7%	39.1%	32.6%
Dorchester	149,368	30.1%	15.8%	11.8%	153,098	29.0%	16.0%	12.2%	155,840	28.7%	15.8%	12.1%
Edgefield	23,978	36.7%	20.9%	15.5%	24,217	37.1%	20.9%	15.5%	24,451	38.6%	21.0%	16.2%
Fairfield	22,555	48.5%	29.9%	21.3%	22,435	50.1%	29.8%	22.9%	22,290	45.8%	26.9%	20.9%
Florence	134,942	41.7%	26.1%	19.6%	135,039	40.3%	25.5%	19.1%	135,169	39.6%	24.3%	18.4%
Georgetown	60,418	39.7%	24.6%	18.7%	60,936	39.5%	24.1%	18.3%	61,344	39.9%	23.5%	17.9%
Greenville	478,064	32.6%	18.5%	13.5%	486,230	31.3%	17.4%	12.4%	494,967	29.1%	15.9%	11.5%
Greenwood	67,335	45.4%	30.6%	24.2%	67,824	45.2%	29.0%	22.5%	67,912	43.8%	27.5%	20.8%
Hampton	18,549	54.5%	28.0%	18.4%	18,391	54.8%	28.6%	18.7%	18,196	55.7%	29.2%	20.5%
Horry	305,835	38.9%	22.0%	17.0%	315,886	37.7%	21.5%	16.4%	326,477	35.7%	20.3%	15.0%
Jasper	26,926	51.2%	29.6%	22.6%	27,382	49.2%	27.8%	20.2%	27,967	44.9%	26.0%	17.7%
Kershaw	63,338	37.6%	20.4%	16.4%	63,958	37.7%	19.7%	16.4%	64,757	35.3%	18.4%	14.9%
Lancaster	84,475	32.6%	19.8%	15.5%	87,444	31.3%	18.3%	14.5%	89,776	30.6%	17.3%	13.4%
Laurens	64,157	46.5%	28.1%	20.7%	64,347	45.3%	27.1%	19.9%	64,528	42.5%	26.2%	20.3%
Lee	16,302	55.1%	36.9%	26.4%	16,036	54.6%	34.6%	25.0%	15,889	54.3%	32.9%	25.0%
Lexington	278,169	30.9%	17.2%	12.8%	282,695	30.1%	16.9%	12.7%	286,597	29.7%	16.8%	12.5%
Marion	31,374	56.6%	34.7%	26.5%	31,072	51.3%	31.9%	24.2%	30,733	52.7%	31.1%	22.7%
Marlboro	24,413	52.3%	34.6%	26.6%	24,122	51.0%	34.9%	26.0%	23,886	51.8%	35.1%	26.4%
McCormick	8,445	42.2%	22.6%	20.1%	8,378	41.8%	23.1%	19.1%	8,313	38.9%	19.9%	15.4%
Newberry	36,705	46.6%	27.2%	19.8%	36,920	42.3%	26.5%	18.7%	37,058	40.9%	24.7%	17.6%
Oconee	75,156	39.8%	24.8%	18.6%	75,905	39.1%	24.2%	18.3%	76,679	36.4%	22.8%	17.5%
Orangeburg	86,368	48.7%	31.1%	23.2%	85,572	49.0%	30.7%	24.2%	84,762	47.7%	29.7%	23.6%
Pickens	114,654	39.8%	23.4%	18.3%	115,815	39.1%	22.3%	17.5%	117,139	37.8%	21.3%	16.6%
Richland	374,266	35.7%	21.6%	16.7%	378,039	35.2%	21.2%	16.3%	380,957	34.6%	20.9%	16.2%
Saluda	19,956	50.2%	27.2%	20.5%	19,967	45.9%	24.5%	16.2%	19,970	47.5%	24.6%	15.1%
Spartanburg	289,304	38.0%	21.5%	15.6%	293,810	37.2%	20.5%	14.8%	299,116	35.6%	19.1%	14.0%
Sumter	104,977	45.7%	26.1%	21.1%	104,409	45.7%	25.6%	20.3%	104,124	43.7%	23.9%	18.7%
Union	27,243	45.3%	25.3%	19.3%	27,130	46.0%	27.3%	21.7%	27,001	46.7%	26.5%	21.6%
Williamsburg	30,446	52.7%	35.2%	28.2%	30,091	52.6%	31.4%	25.1%	29,689	51.7%	32.1%	26.4%
York	247,237	29.0%	15.7%	12.3%	254,338	27.6%	15.1%	11.5%	261,300	26.0%	14.3%	10.5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,751,345</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>4,814,032</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>16.0%</b>	<b>4,877,884</b>	<b>35.1%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five Year Estimates

**TABLE 2 - SCLS INTAKES AND CLOSURES BY PROBLEM AREA**

Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17)	Total Intakes	Percentage	Total Rejected	Percentage	Rejected: Insuff. Resources	Percentage	Total Closures	Percentage	Limited Assistance	Percentage
<b>Total</b>	10,597		2,612	24.6%	783	7.4%	8,151		6,242	76.6%
<b>Family</b>	3,706	35.0%	1,286	34.7%	391	10.6%	2,454	30.1%	1,592	64.9%
<b>Housing</b>	3,011	28.4%	398	13.2%	94	3.1%	2,757	33.8%	2,332	84.6%
<b>Consumer/Finance</b>	1,025	9.7%	252	24.6%	50	4.9%	861	10.6%	622	72.2%
<b>Income Maintenance</b>	707	6.7%	221	31.3%	115	16.3%	504	6.2%	357	70.8%
<b>Employment</b>	569	5.4%	114	20.0%	54	9.5%	355	4.4%	270	76.1%
<b>Education</b>	162	1.5%	33	20.4%	6	3.7%	126	1.5%	68	54.0%
<b>Health</b>	67	0.6%	23	34.3%	4	6.0%	45	0.6%	39	86.7%
<b>Individual Rights</b>	44	0.4%	11	25.0%	2	4.5%	35	0.4%	24	68.6%
<b>Juvenile</b>	4	0.0%	2	50.0%	1	25.0%	4	0.0%	2	50.0%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,302	12.3%	272	20.9%	66	5.1%	1,010	12.4%	936	92.7%
<b>Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18)</b>	<b>Total Intakes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Rejected</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Rejected: Insuff. Resources</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Closures</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Limited Assistance</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Total</b>	10,910		2,438	22.3%	680	6.2%	8,509		4,452	52.3%
<b>Family</b>	4,115	37.7%	1,183	28.7%	317	7.7%	2,726	32.0%	1,869	68.6%
<b>Housing</b>	3,003	27.5%	374	12.5%	68	2.3%	2,833	33.3%	2,500	88.2%
<b>Consumer/Finance</b>	1,023	9.4%	208	20.3%	29	2.8%	823	9.7%	606	73.6%
<b>Income Maintenance</b>	726	6.7%	210	28.9%	127	17.5%	493	5.8%	360	73.0%
<b>Employment</b>	436	4.0%	113	25.9%	58	13.3%	381	4.5%	266	69.8%
<b>Education</b>	184	1.7%	37	20.1%	7	3.8%	158	1.9%	100	63.3%
<b>Health</b>	71	0.7%	9	12.7%	4	5.6%	63	0.7%	55	87.3%
<b>Individual Rights</b>	45	0.4%	4	8.9%	0	0.0%	30	0.4%	17	56.7%
<b>Juvenile</b>	8	0.1%	4	50.0%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	n/a
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,299	11.9%	296	22.8%	69	5.3%	1,002	11.8%	929	92.7%
<b>Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19)</b>	<b>Total Intakes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Rejected</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Rejected: Insuff. Resources</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total Closures</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Limited Assistance</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Total</b>	10,609		1,714	16.2%	218	2.1%	8422		6,482	77.0%
<b>Family</b>	4,388	41.4%	885	20.2%	140	3.2%	3,319	39.4%	2,307	69.5%
<b>Housing</b>	2,073	19.5%	220	10.6%	17	0.8%	1,830	21.7%	1,482	81.0%
<b>Consumer/Finance</b>	1,124	10.6%	167	14.9%	11	1.0%	928	11.0%	711	76.6%
<b>Income Maintenance</b>	776	7.3%	130	16.8%	22	2.8%	581	6.9%	414	71.3%
<b>Employment</b>	378	3.6%	65	17.2%	9	2.4%	294	3.5%	224	76.2%
<b>Education</b>	164	1.5%	23	14.0%	1	0.6%	137	1.6%	95	69.3%
<b>Health</b>	71	0.7%	8	11.3%	0	0.0%	54	0.6%	50	92.6%
<b>Individual Rights</b>	134	1.3%	11	8.2%	2	1.5%	69	0.8%	57	82.6%
<b>Juvenile</b>	4	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.1%	4	57.1%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	1,497	14.1%	205	13.7%	16	1.1%	1,203	14.3%	1,138	94.6%

Source: South Carolina Legal Services

**TABLE 3 - SCLS INTAKES BY COUNTY AND ELIGIBLE POPULATION (FY 2019)**

County	Pop <125%	Percent <125%	Total Intakes	Accepted	Percent Accepted	Ratio	Per Capita Accepted
Abbeville	6,021	25.2%	63	47	74.6%	128.1	0.78%
Aiken	33,881	20.5%	268	235	87.7%	144.2	0.69%
Allendale	2,584	32.5%	7	4	57.1%	646.0	0.15%
Anderson	39,097	20.1%	306	250	81.7%	156.4	0.64%
Bamberg	4,274	31.7%	25	21	84.0%	203.5	0.49%
Barnwell	7,121	34.1%	52	49	94.2%	145.3	0.69%
Beaufort	25,277	14.0%	138	116	84.1%	217.9	0.46%
Berkeley	34,247	16.2%	328	268	81.7%	127.8	0.78%
Calhoun	3,487	24.2%	27	25	92.6%	139.5	0.72%
Charleston	68,390	17.6%	556	443	79.7%	154.4	0.65%
Cherokee	14,608	26.1%	110	99	90.0%	147.6	0.68%
Chester	8,258	25.7%	68	60	88.2%	137.6	0.73%
Chesterfield	12,336	27.2%	76	70	92.1%	176.2	0.57%
Clarendon	9,648	29.7%	55	50	90.9%	193.0	0.52%
Colleton	10,407	28.3%	63	54	85.7%	192.7	0.52%
Darlington	17,470	26.6%	125	105	84.0%	166.4	0.60%
Dillon	11,818	39.1%	63	58	92.1%	203.8	0.49%
Dorchester	24,667	15.8%	283	236	83.4%	104.5	0.96%
Edgefield	5,141	21.0%	31	27	87.1%	190.4	0.53%
Fairfield	6,006	26.9%	62	52	83.9%	115.5	0.87%
Florence	32,828	24.3%	524	484	92.4%	67.8	1.47%
Georgetown	14,429	23.5%	99	88	88.9%	164.0	0.61%
Greenville	78,763	15.9%	1,384	1,097	79.3%	71.8	1.39%
Greenwood	18,661	27.5%	284	227	79.9%	82.2	1.22%
Hampton	5,308	29.2%	26	21	80.8%	252.8	0.40%
Horry	66,228	20.3%	753	627	83.3%	105.6	0.95%
Jasper	7,264	26.0%	38	33	86.8%	220.1	0.45%
Kershaw	11,918	18.4%	105	97	92.4%	122.9	0.81%
Lancaster	15,549	17.3%	123	109	88.6%	142.7	0.70%
Laurens	16,888	26.2%	152	118	77.6%	143.1	0.70%
Lee	5,229	32.9%	28	27	96.4%	193.7	0.52%
Lexington	48,019	16.8%	495	420	84.8%	114.3	0.87%
Marion	9,552	31.1%	112	101	90.2%	94.6	1.06%
Marlboro	8,389	35.1%	69	60	87.0%	139.8	0.72%
McCormick	1,658	19.9%	28	23	82.1%	72.1	1.39%
Newberry	9,149	24.7%	54	43	79.6%	212.8	0.47%
Oconee	17,464	22.8%	114	90	78.9%	194.0	0.52%
Orangeburg	25,144	29.7%	358	325	90.8%	77.4	1.29%
Pickens	24,983	21.3%	192	146	76.0%	171.1	0.58%
Richland	79,593	20.9%	1,118	1,052	94.1%	75.7	1.32%
Saluda	4,916	24.6%	35	32	91.4%	153.6	0.65%
Spartanburg	57,166	19.1%	807	711	88.1%	80.4	1.24%
Sumter	24,838	23.9%	121	81	66.9%	306.6	0.33%
Union	7,154	26.5%	51	46	90.2%	155.5	0.64%
Williamsburg	9,527	32.1%	79	72	91.1%	132.3	0.76%
York	37,290	14.3%	613	545	88.9%	68.4	1.46%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>982,645</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>10,468</b>	<b>8,944</b>	<b>85.4%</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>0.91%</b>

Source: South Carolina Legal Services (intake data); U.S. Census Bureau (population data)

**TABLE 4 - PRIVATE ATTORNEYS BY COUNTY**

County	Number of Attorneys	2019 Population	People per attorney	Population < 200%	People per attorney	Population < 125%	People per attorney
Abbeville	6	23,927	3,988	9,905	1,651	6,021	1,004
Aiken	72	165,492	2,299	62,057	862	33,881	471
Allendale	5	7,953	1,591	4,426	885	2,584	517
Anderson	103	194,874	1,892	68,375	664	39,097	380
Bamberg	11	13,503	1,228	6,371	579	4,274	389
Barnwell	9	20,887	2,321	10,556	1,173	7,121	791
Beaufort	283	181,070	640	50,917	180	25,277	89
Berkeley	113	210,990	1,867	63,441	561	34,247	303
Calhoun	4	14,403	3,601	4,695	1,174	3,487	872
Charleston	1,970	389,334	198	112,758	57	68,390	35
Cherokee	15	55,986	3,732	25,981	1,732	14,608	974
Chester	13	32,079	2,468	14,978	1,152	8,258	635
Chesterfield	9	45,346	5,038	20,978	2,331	12,336	1,371
Clarendon	12	32,505	2,709	14,844	1,237	9,648	804
Colleton	29	36,803	1,269	18,165	626	10,407	359
Darlington	28	65,611	2,343	30,457	1,088	17,470	624
Dillon	8	30,234	3,779	18,062	2,258	11,818	1,477
Dorchester	104	155,840	1,498	44,730	430	24,667	237
Edgefield	4	24,451	6,113	9,438	2,360	5,141	1,285
Fairfield	13	22,290	1,715	10,216	786	6,006	462
Florence	117	135,169	1,155	53,547	458	32,828	281
Georgetown	90	61,344	682	24,450	272	14,429	160
Greenville	1,140	494,967	434	143,964	126	78,763	69
Greenwood	53	67,912	1,281	29,741	561	18,661	352
Hampton	21	18,196	866	10,141	483	5,308	253
Horry	397	326,477	822	116,440	293	66,228	167
Jasper	9	27,967	3,107	12,552	1,395	7,264	807
Kershaw	26	64,757	2,491	22,886	880	11,918	458
Lancaster	20	89,776	4,489	27,516	1,376	15,549	777
Laurens	12	64,528	5,377	27,440	2,287	16,888	1,407
Lee	5	15,889	3,178	8,620	1,724	5,229	1,046
Lexington	285	286,597	1,006	85,225	299	48,019	168
Marion	9	30,733	3,415	16,202	1,800	9,552	1,061
Marlboro	6	23,886	3,981	12,375	2,063	8,389	1,398
McCormick	0	8,313	n/a	3,231	n/a	1,658	n/a
Newberry	11	37,058	3,369	15,158	1,378	9,149	832
Oconee	31	76,679	2,474	27,914	900	17,464	563
Orangeburg	46	84,762	1,843	40,441	879	25,144	547
Pickens	37	117,139	3,166	44,309	1,198	24,983	675
Richland	1,665	380,957	229	131,757	79	79,593	48
Saluda	1	19,970	19,970	9,484	9,484	4,916	4,916
Spartanburg	249	299,116	1,201	106,633	428	57,166	230
Sumter	45	104,124	2,314	45,492	1,011	24,838	552
Union	6	27,001	4,500	12,613	2,102	7,154	1,192
Williamsburg	21	29,689	1,414	15,346	731	9,527	454
York	212	261,300	1,233	67,870	320	37,290	176
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>4,877,884</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>1,712,697</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>982,645</b>	<b>134</b>

Source: South Carolina Bar (attorney data); U.S. Census Bureau (population data)

**TABLE 5 - ADVERSE CIVIL MATTERS BY PROBLEM AREA (CIRCUIT COURT)**

	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY17</b>	49,550	11,318	22.8%	37,006	74.7%	434	0.9%	792	1.6%
<b>Debt Collection 110</b>	14,358	626	4.4%	13,684	95.3%	11	0.1%	37	0.3%
<b>Foreclosure 420</b>	15,771	1,190	7.5%	14,301	90.7%	42	0.3%	238	1.5%
<b>Motor Veh Accid 320</b>	6,082	4,145	68.2%	1,877	30.9%	47	0.8%	13	0.2%
<b>Real Prop/Other 499</b>	1,364	345	25.3%	978	71.7%	22	1.6%	19	1.4%
<b>Breach of Cont 140</b>	1,982	869	43.8%	1,010	51.0%	37	1.9%	66	3.3%
<b>Claim &amp; Delivery 400</b>	961	38	4.0%	913	95.0%	2	0.2%	8	0.8%
	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY18</b>	53,043	12,291	23.2%	39,634	74.7%	501	0.9%	617	1.2%
<b>Debt Collection 110</b>	17,019	532	3.1%	16,442	96.6%	11	0.1%	34	0.2%
<b>Foreclosure 420</b>	15,473	1,186	7.7%	14,081	91.0%	35	0.2%	171	1.1%
<b>Motor Veh Accid 320</b>	6,764	4,779	70.7%	1,921	28.4%	58	0.9%	6	0.1%
<b>Real Prop/Other 499</b>	1,387	359	25.9%	988	71.2%	19	1.4%	21	1.5%
<b>Breach of Cont 140</b>	1,969	851	43.2%	1,033	52.5%	42	2.1%	43	2.2%
<b>Claim &amp; Delivery 400</b>	1,059	47	4.4%	1,001	94.5%	6	0.6%	5	0.5%
	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY19</b>	47,999	12,971	27.0%	33,890	70.6%	620	1.3%	518	1.1%
<b>Debt Collection 110</b>	13,696	535	3.9%	13,100	95.6%	5	0.0%	56	0.4%
<b>Foreclosure 420</b>	13,184	998	7.6%	12,086	91.7%	22	0.2%	78	0.6%
<b>Motor Veh Accid 320</b>	7,226	5,123	70.9%	2,009	27.8%	75	1.0%	19	0.3%
<b>Real Prop/Other 499</b>	1,387	325	23.4%	1,013	73.0%	16	1.2%	33	2.4%
<b>Breach of Cont 140</b>	1,907	891	46.7%	932	48.9%	47	2.5%	37	1.9%
<b>Claim &amp; Delivery 400</b>	924	49	5.3%	861	93.2%	2	0.2%	12	1.3%

Source: South Carolina Court Administration

**TABLE 6 - ADVERSE CIVIL MATTERS BY PROBLEM AREA (MAGISTRATE COURT)**

	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY17</b>	213,003	888	0.4%	11,989	5.6%	1308	0.6%	198,817	93.3%
Eviction 101 102 103 104 111 112	139,694	147	0.1%	1,971	1.4%	260	0.2%	137,316	98.3%
Claim & Delivery 201 202 203	18,015	26	0.1%	205	1.1%	84	0.5%	17,700	98.3%
	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY18</b>	228,766	870	0.4%	16,865	7.4%	1,372	0.6%	209,659	91.6%
Eviction 101 102 103 104 111 112	150,692	142	0.1%	2,972	2.0%	301	0.2%	147,277	97.7%
Claim & Delivery 201 202 203	17,304	31	0.2%	190	1.1%	61	0.4%	17,022	98.4%
	Total	Both Parties Represented	Percentage	Only Plaintiff Represented	Percentage	Only Defendant Represented	Percentage	Neither Party Represented	Percentage
<b>FY19</b>	225,416	874	0.4%	22,135	9.8%	1,477	0.7%	200,930	89.1%
Eviction 101 102 103 104 111 112	143,015	156	0.1%	4,860	3.4%	284	0.2%	137,715	96.3%
Claim & Delivery 201 202 203	13,950	21	0.2%	250	1.8%	70	0.5%	13,609	97.6%

Source: South Carolina Court Administration



**TABLE 7 - EVICTION CASES BY COUNTY**

County	FY17 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY18 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY19 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented
Abbeville	684	2.84%	1.0%	236	0.99%	1.3%	289	1.21%	0.3%
Aiken	5,118	3.14%	7.4%	3,121	1.90%	1.6%	2,993	1.81%	2.2%
Allendale	262	3.17%	2.3%	118	1.46%	0.8%	99	1.24%	0.0%
Anderson	7,411	3.88%	7.9%	4,563	2.37%	1.1%	4,451	2.28%	0.6%
Bamberg	1,102	7.93%	2.8%	971	7.12%	0.2%	197	1.46%	0.5%
Barnwell	852	3.99%	6.3%	496	2.35%	0.2%	472	2.26%	2.1%
Beaufort	3,640	2.09%	9.7%	1,703	0.96%	5.8%	1,991	1.10%	10.1%
Berkeley	7,106	3.54%	14.5%	8,821	4.30%	4.5%	6,056	2.87%	13.0%
Calhoun	399	2.74%	9.0%	108	0.75%	0.0%	131	0.91%	0.8%
Charleston	20,955	5.57%	3.2%	15,997	4.18%	0.9%	15,196	3.90%	5.8%
Cherokee	4,009	7.19%	2.6%	2,933	5.25%	0.1%	2,910	5.20%	0.4%
Chester	1,343	4.17%	4.2%	507	1.58%	0.8%	524	1.63%	1.5%
Chesterfield	1,320	2.90%	2.3%	761	1.68%	0.1%	920	2.03%	0.2%
Clarendon	1,312	4.04%	6.3%	508	1.56%	0.8%	492	1.51%	0.6%
Colleton	1,685	4.58%	6.2%	809	2.20%	1.2%	761	2.07%	0.9%
Darlington	2,516	3.81%	2.6%	2,406	3.66%	0.1%	1,470	2.24%	0.3%
Dillon	1,845	6.02%	2.9%	1,430	4.70%	0.3%	1,541	5.10%	0.1%
Dorchester	7,814	5.23%	11.3%	5,247	3.43%	8.1%	5,094	3.27%	18.8%
Edgefield	589	2.46%	8.3%	191	0.79%	1.6%	239	0.98%	0.8%
Fairfield	741	3.29%	5.1%	351	1.56%	2.8%	342	1.53%	0.6%
Florence	10,803	8.01%	1.6%	7,283	5.39%	0.2%	8,388	6.21%	0.3%
Georgetown	2,376	3.93%	3.0%	1,161	1.91%	1.0%	1,561	2.54%	0.6%
Greenville	18,895	3.95%	1.7%	14,490	2.98%	0.2%	16,003	3.23%	0.3%
Greenwood	4,211	6.25%	1.7%	2,941	4.34%	0.1%	2,687	3.96%	0.0%
Hampton	534	2.88%	7.3%	151	0.82%	0.0%	160	0.88%	0.0%
Horry	13,116	4.29%	20.4%	6,286	1.99%	6.7%	6,110	1.87%	8.6%
Jasper	949	3.52%	2.0%	508	1.86%	0.8%	422	1.51%	1.4%
Kershaw	2,149	3.39%	4.4%	932	1.46%	0.2%	1,138	1.76%	0.1%
Lancaster	2,481	2.94%	7.1%	1,590	1.82%	0.6%	1,618	1.80%	0.9%
Laurens	3,048	4.75%	4.5%	2,055	3.19%	0.4%	2,176	3.37%	0.4%
Lee	527	3.23%	9.3%	188	1.17%	0.0%	264	1.66%	1.9%
Lexington	10,853	3.90%	6.6%	6,885	2.44%	4.1%	6,700	2.34%	4.4%
Marion	2,307	7.35%	2.4%	1,673	5.38%	0.2%	1,677	5.46%	0.2%
Marlboro	1,017	4.17%	0.2%	571	2.37%	0.0%	689	2.88%	0.3%
McCormick	222	2.63%	0.5%	122	1.46%	0.0%	92	1.11%	0.0%
Newberry	1,611	4.39%	1.7%	1,050	2.84%	1.0%	1,022	2.76%	0.6%
Oconee	1,989	2.65%	4.6%	933	1.23%	0.5%	1,015	1.32%	0.5%
Orangeburg	5,415	6.27%	6.3%	3,049	3.56%	2.3%	2,953	3.48%	2.0%
Pickens	3,110	2.71%	1.9%	1,928	1.66%	0.4%	2,327	1.99%	1.3%
Richland	24,673	6.59%	4.2%	20,447	5.41%	4.0%	19,516	5.12%	3.6%
Saluda	512	2.57%	7.2%	161	0.81%	0.0%	193	0.97%	1.0%
Spartanburg	14,604	5.05%	3.4%	10,836	3.69%	0.1%	10,676	3.57%	0.2%
Sumter	5,173	4.93%	5.1%	7,967	7.63%	0.2%	3,265	3.14%	0.3%
Union	1,357	4.98%	4.8%	632	2.33%	0.3%	644	2.39%	0.6%
Williamsburg	1,131	3.71%	7.1%	411	1.37%	0.0%	387	1.30%	1.8%
York	9,237	3.74%	3.1%	5,165	2.03%	0.3%	5,164	1.98%	1.9%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>213,003</b>	<b>4.48%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>150,692</b>	<b>3.13%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>143,015</b>	<b>2.93%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

Source: South Carolina Court Administration (court data); U.S. Census Bureau (population data)

**TABLE 8 - FORECLOSURE CASES BY COUNTY**

County	FY17 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY18 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY19 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented
Abbeville	53	0.22%	96.2%	50	0.21%	98.0%	61	0.25%	96.7%
Aiken	469	0.29%	94.2%	433	0.26%	94.2%	414	0.25%	94.4%
Allendale	13	0.16%	100.0%	18	0.22%	94.4%	18	0.23%	100.0%
Anderson	553	0.29%	93.1%	506	0.26%	91.3%	457	0.23%	94.5%
Bamberg	30	0.22%	93.3%	29	0.21%	79.3%	34	0.25%	88.2%
Barnwell	40	0.19%	72.5%	41	0.19%	90.2%	40	0.19%	82.5%
Beaufort	616	0.35%	80.2%	559	0.32%	79.8%	543	0.30%	82.1%
Berkeley	743	0.37%	90.6%	758	0.37%	91.2%	582	0.28%	91.1%
Calhoun	34	0.23%	91.2%	22	0.15%	77.3%	32	0.22%	93.8%
Charleston	960	0.26%	83.8%	961	0.25%	86.0%	787	0.20%	90.0%
Cherokee	123	0.22%	95.9%	110	0.20%	92.7%	125	0.22%	93.6%
Chester	104	0.32%	97.1%	100	0.31%	96.0%	105	0.33%	97.1%
Chesterfield	80	0.18%	91.3%	77	0.17%	93.5%	75	0.17%	94.7%
Clarendon	76	0.23%	82.9%	84	0.26%	86.9%	67	0.21%	89.6%
Colleton	522	1.42%	98.3%	605	1.65%	92.9%	229	0.62%	89.5%
Darlington	148	0.22%	90.5%	154	0.23%	94.2%	141	0.21%	96.5%
Dillon	48	0.16%	91.7%	65	0.21%	87.7%	61	0.20%	96.7%
Dorchester	505	0.34%	89.1%	551	0.36%	90.4%	477	0.31%	91.2%
Edgefield	65	0.27%	92.3%	67	0.28%	94.0%	58	0.24%	96.6%
Fairfield	37	0.16%	94.6%	77	0.34%	89.6%	64	0.29%	95.3%
Florence	348	0.26%	90.5%	365	0.27%	93.2%	297	0.22%	92.6%
Georgetown	215	0.36%	81.9%	193	0.32%	79.8%	144	0.23%	83.3%
Greenville	1,369	0.29%	90.8%	1,130	0.23%	90.6%	1,002	0.20%	90.6%
Greenwood	188	0.28%	95.7%	196	0.29%	94.9%	177	0.26%	91.5%
Hampton	47	0.25%	89.4%	41	0.22%	90.2%	38	0.21%	89.5%
Horry	1,601	0.52%	91.7%	1,416	0.45%	90.5%	987	0.30%	89.7%
Jasper	72	0.27%	80.6%	60	0.22%	96.7%	58	0.21%	89.7%
Kershaw	242	0.38%	94.6%	248	0.39%	96.8%	213	0.33%	92.0%
Lancaster	243	0.29%	95.9%	174	0.20%	96.6%	214	0.24%	95.8%
Laurens	167	0.26%	93.4%	168	0.26%	92.9%	172	0.27%	93.0%
Lee	38	0.23%	92.1%	45	0.28%	91.1%	37	0.23%	91.9%
Lexington	1,105	0.40%	90.9%	1,068	0.38%	91.5%	986	0.34%	91.6%
Marion	71	0.23%	95.8%	91	0.29%	93.4%	45	0.15%	64.4%
Marlboro	39	0.16%	87.2%	63	0.26%	92.1%	41	0.17%	95.1%
McCormick	21	0.25%	95.2%	21	0.25%	100.0%	14	0.17%	100.0%
Newberry	97	0.26%	93.8%	91	0.25%	91.2%	82	0.22%	97.6%
Oconee	162	0.22%	87.7%	125	0.16%	92.8%	156	0.20%	92.9%
Orangeburg	235	0.27%	97.4%	312	0.36%	94.6%	262	0.31%	94.7%
Pickens	273	0.24%	88.6%	271	0.23%	92.3%	234	0.20%	91.5%
Richland	1,706	0.46%	89.8%	1,944	0.51%	91.3%	1,858	0.49%	93.0%
Saluda	35	0.18%	91.4%	41	0.21%	90.2%	34	0.17%	79.4%
Spartanburg	973	0.34%	92.3%	935	0.32%	94.5%	762	0.25%	93.4%
Sumter	324	0.31%	88.0%	325	0.31%	90.2%	281	0.27%	92.2%
Union	75	0.28%	94.7%	62	0.23%	90.3%	73	0.27%	97.3%
Williamsburg	60	0.20%	86.7%	73	0.24%	89.0%	51	0.17%	94.1%
York	846	0.34%	94.1%	748	0.29%	92.2%	596	0.23%	93.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15,771</b>	<b>0.33%</b>	<b>90.7%</b>	<b>15,473</b>	<b>0.32%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>13,184</b>	<b>0.27%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>

Source: South Carolina Court Administration (court data); U.S. Census Bureau (population data)

**TABLE 9 - DEBT COLLECTION CASES BY COUNTY**

County	FY17 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY18 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented	FY19 Total	Per Capita	Only Plaintiff Represented
Abbeville	71	0.29%	94.4%	88	0.37%	96.6%	87	0.36%	94.3%
Aiken	491	0.30%	95.9%	577	0.35%	95.8%	488	0.29%	96.9%
Allendale	20	0.24%	95.0%	27	0.33%	100.0%	15	0.19%	93.3%
Anderson	357	0.19%	89.6%	439	0.23%	93.2%	281	0.14%	95.0%
Bamberg	39	0.28%	94.9%	36	0.26%	100.0%	51	0.38%	100.0%
Barnwell	50	0.23%	90.0%	69	0.33%	100.0%	85	0.41%	97.6%
Beaufort	435	0.25%	88.5%	482	0.27%	94.6%	473	0.26%	92.6%
Berkeley	334	0.17%	91.9%	371	0.18%	92.5%	361	0.17%	95.6%
Calhoun	39	0.27%	89.7%	17	0.12%	94.1%	18	0.12%	100.0%
Charleston	981	0.26%	92.3%	1,224	0.32%	94.7%	853	0.22%	92.0%
Cherokee	164	0.29%	97.0%	240	0.43%	99.6%	96	0.17%	95.8%
Chester	136	0.42%	97.1%	125	0.39%	96.8%	108	0.34%	95.4%
Chesterfield	174	0.38%	97.1%	244	0.54%	96.3%	219	0.48%	95.9%
Clarendon	83	0.26%	88.0%	132	0.41%	95.5%	125	0.38%	96.0%
Colleton	140	0.38%	96.4%	148	0.40%	98.0%	173	0.47%	96.5%
Darlington	191	0.29%	94.8%	295	0.45%	96.6%	313	0.48%	96.8%
Dillon	80	0.26%	98.8%	118	0.39%	97.5%	88	0.29%	96.6%
Dorchester	275	0.18%	97.1%	257	0.17%	92.6%	285	0.18%	93.0%
Edgefield	72	0.30%	94.4%	101	0.42%	97.0%	56	0.23%	100.0%
Fairfield	63	0.28%	96.8%	54	0.24%	92.6%	25	0.11%	92.0%
Florence	500	0.37%	97.4%	702	0.52%	97.7%	683	0.51%	96.5%
Georgetown	179	0.30%	95.0%	218	0.36%	94.5%	222	0.36%	98.2%
Greenville	1,676	0.35%	95.8%	1,643	0.34%	96.2%	1,533	0.31%	95.2%
Greenwood	172	0.26%	94.2%	202	0.30%	97.5%	186	0.27%	97.3%
Hampton	57	0.31%	94.7%	64	0.35%	95.3%	56	0.31%	100.0%
Horry	1,000	0.33%	94.0%	1,097	0.35%	96.1%	1,236	0.38%	95.3%
Jasper	57	0.21%	87.7%	66	0.24%	97.0%	84	0.30%	96.4%
Kershaw	221	0.35%	95.9%	268	0.42%	97.8%	139	0.21%	97.1%
Lancaster	336	0.40%	97.0%	345	0.39%	97.1%	356	0.40%	99.4%
Laurens	239	0.37%	99.2%	252	0.39%	97.2%	197	0.31%	98.0%
Lee	54	0.33%	100.0%	53	0.33%	100.0%	61	0.38%	96.7%
Lexington	903	0.32%	94.8%	1,156	0.41%	96.8%	855	0.30%	95.6%
Marion	153	0.49%	96.7%	219	0.70%	98.2%	178	0.58%	97.2%
Marlboro	116	0.48%	98.3%	195	0.81%	97.9%	124	0.52%	96.8%
McCormick	17	0.20%	100.0%	15	0.18%	93.3%	17	0.20%	94.1%
Newberry	101	0.28%	96.0%	112	0.30%	97.3%	133	0.36%	96.2%
Oconee	127	0.17%	95.3%	182	0.24%	91.8%	87	0.11%	92.0%
Orangeburg	111	0.13%	92.8%	118	0.14%	95.8%	131	0.15%	96.2%
Pickens	349	0.30%	96.8%	353	0.30%	98.3%	341	0.29%	96.2%
Richland	1,554	0.42%	96.7%	1,803	0.48%	97.6%	868	0.23%	92.1%
Saluda	41	0.21%	97.6%	56	0.28%	98.2%	35	0.18%	94.3%
Spartanburg	1,227	0.42%	96.7%	1,466	0.50%	98.1%	496	0.17%	97.8%
Sumter	259	0.25%	98.1%	361	0.35%	98.6%	342	0.33%	96.8%
Union	71	0.26%	95.8%	102	0.38%	98.0%	83	0.31%	97.6%
Williamsburg	115	0.38%	98.3%	91	0.30%	98.9%	95	0.32%	97.9%
York	528	0.21%	97.2%	837	0.33%	98.1%	958	0.37%	97.7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14,358</b>	<b>0.30%</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>17,020</b>	<b>0.35%</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>13,696</b>	<b>0.28%</b>	<b>95.6%</b>

Source: South Carolina Court Administration (court data); U.S. Census Bureau (population data)

**TABLE 10 - CHAPTER 7 & 13 BANKRUPTCY CASES BY COUNTY (Initially unrepresented debtors ultimately obtaining representation)**

County	2016	Represented	Percentage	2017	Represented	Percentage	2018	Represented	Percentage
Abbeville	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Aiken	11	3	27.3%	9	2	22.2%	8	1	12.5%
Allendale	0	0		0	0		1	0	0.0%
Anderson	7	1	14.3%	11	1	9.1%	12	1	8.3%
Bamberg	0	0		1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Barnwell	1	1	100.0%	0	0		0	0	
Beaufort	11	5	45.5%	11	4	36.4%	11	0	0.0%
Berkeley	19	4	21.1%	18	4	22.2%	18	3	16.7%
Calhoun	1	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%
Charleston	23	9	39.1%	32	8	25.0%	19	2	10.5%
Cherokee	1	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0.0%
Chester	1	0	0.0%	0	0		0	0	
Chesterfield	1	0	0.0%	0	0		1	1	100.0%
Clarendon	3	2	66.7%	4	1	25.0%	2	2	100.0%
Colleton	2	1	50.0%	3	0	0.0%	3	1	33.3%
Darlington	2	0	0.0%	5	1	20.0%	2	1	50.0%
Dillon	1	1	100.0%	2	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Dorchester	7	0	0.0%	11	3	27.3%	10	2	20.0%
Edgefield	0	0		1	0	0.0%	3	1	33.3%
Fairfield	1	1	100.0%	4	2	50.0%	1	1	100.0%
Florence	7	1	14.3%	7	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%
Georgetown	6	1	16.7%	5	1	20.0%	2	1	50.0%
Greenville	23	5	21.7%	22	1	4.5%	26	5	19.2%
Greenwood	2	0	0.0%	2	1	50.0%	6	1	16.7%
Hampton	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Horry	27	7	25.9%	23	4	17.4%	21	6	28.6%
Jasper	0	0		3	3	100.0%	1	0	0.0%
Kershaw	5	1	20.0%	0	0		1	0	0.0%
Lancaster	6	1	16.7%	1	0	0.0%	8	1	12.5%
Laurens	1	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
Lee	0	0		1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Lexington	16	6	37.5%	16	1	6.3%	21	4	19.0%
Marion	1	0	0.0%	0	0		0	0	
Marlboro	0	0		0	0		0	0	
McCormick	0	0		0	0		1	0	0.0%
Newberry	3	1	33.3%	2	1	50.0%	1	1	100.0%
Oconee	1	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%
Orangeburg	2	0	0.0%	8	5	62.5%	3	1	33.3%
Pickens	2	1	50.0%	6	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%
Richland	36	8	22.2%	31	9	29.0%	48	5	10.4%
Saluda	2	0	0.0%	0	0		1	0	0.0%
Spartanburg	9	3	33.3%	14	0	0.0%	31	4	12.9%
Sumter	6	1	16.7%	6	2	33.3%	4	0	0.0%
Union	0	0		2	0	0.0%	0	0	
Williamsburg	0	0		1	1	100.0%	5	2	40.0%
York	9	2	22.2%	10	2	20.0%	16	3	18.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19.4%</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

Source: U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina



The South Carolina Access to Justice Commission  
[scaccesstojustice.org](http://scaccesstojustice.org)

