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*The Work of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the*

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## Foreword

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# The Work of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the 1952-1953 Term

## Foreword

*Paul M. Hebert\**

The LAW REVIEW with this issue presents to the legal profession in Louisiana its sixteenth annual survey of the work of the Louisiana Supreme Court covering the more important developments during the 1952-1953 term. Through this medium, the faculty of the Law School attempts in panoramic treatment to provide the means whereby the members of the bar, the judiciary and students in law school may be kept abreast of broad trends in the interpretation and application of the laws of Louisiana by the highest state court. The breadth of subject matter with which the symposium must deal imposes limitations upon the scope of treatment of any single problem, but studious effort has been made to develop the salient points of the more significant judicial opinions. As in the past, it has been found convenient to exercise a wide latitude in the classification of cases for subject matter treatment and to follow the practice of having the respective reviews of topics presented by those members of the faculty of the Louisiana State University Law School in whose fields of teaching interests the particular case most appropriately belongs. It is hoped that this feature of the REVIEW is of assistance to the legal profession of this state.

With this issue the REVIEW is returning to the practice of presenting a statistical survey of the work of the Supreme Court to give indication of the volume of judicial business, the disposition of the cases considered, the geographical and jurisdictional origin of reported cases, the disposition of applications for writs and rehearings, and indication of the time elapsing between the docketing of appeals and their final disposition.<sup>1</sup>

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1. The last statistical survey appears in the Symposium on The Work of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the 1948-1949 Term, 10 LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW 120-126 (1950).

Unfortunately, one of the great needs in Louisiana is for a more comprehensive, accurate and regular collection of judicial statistics from our courts at all levels. It is to be hoped that such an enterprise will be undertaken in connection with the work of a well-organized judicial council. Such data are indispensable to the thorough consideration of the manner in which justice is administered under the law. They would be of interest and value to students of the judicial process. Information as to the volume of work performed in the courts at all levels would also be of invaluable assistance in any intelligent approach to the problems of judicial reorganization, reassignment of personnel of lower courts or redistribution of judicial work which are inevitably considered from time to time. Should a constitutional convention be called in Louisiana, a statistical analysis of the work loads of the entire judicial structure would be an important consideration in planning the geographical distribution of courts and in re-defining the jurisdiction of courts of first instance and appellate courts. Consideration of the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court would be aided if a comprehensive analysis on jurisdictional grounds of the flow of judicial business were available.

The statistical survey of the work of the Supreme Court as it appears in these pages can be viewed only as an indication of lines that might be pursued in the further organization of meaningful data covering the work of our courts. It is hoped that the start toward the collection of judicial statistics, herein reflected, will serve as a stimulus to broaden the scope of inquiry into such matters, looking toward the time when more complete information will be regularly compiled and interpreted under the leadership of an adequately staffed judicial council.

## General

### STATISTICAL SURVEY

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During the 1952-1953 term of court, 493 new suits were docketed in the Louisiana Supreme Court according to information obtained from the daily docket of the court as it appears

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