

## Louisiana



Louisiana set a TV spending record in 2008, as incumbent Catherine D. “Kitty” Kimball and newcomer Greg G. Guidry were elected. Despite fairly tight contribution limits, state Supreme Court candidates raised \$8.9 million in 2000–09, ranking ninth nationally. The **Louisiana Association of Business & Industry** was a top contributor to the four most recently elected justices, including Guidry and Kimball. In 2009, Marcus Clark defeated Jimmy Faircloth in a nasty \$1.2 million race.

Total Supreme Court spending in 2007–08 (candidate fundraising and independent TV ads): \$3.9 million, ranking sixth nationally.

**Candidate Fundraising**  
\$8,950,146

**National Ranking**  
9

**Total TV**  
\$1,250,731

**National Ranking**  
13

Top Spenders, 2000–09	Candidate Contributions	Independent Expenditures	Total
Louisiana Conservative Action Network	\$0	\$251,227	\$251,227
Louisiana Democratic Party	\$109,416	\$0	\$109,416
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry	\$76,688	\$0	\$76,688
Alliance for Justice	\$0	\$40,192	\$40,192
Adams & Reese	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000

## Michigan



For much of the decade, four conservative Supreme Court justices dominated Michigan’s Supreme Court. Their opponents, who assailed the justices as an anti-plaintiff “Gang of Four,” helped defeat Chief Justice Cliff Taylor in 2008. The four justices’ top supporters from 2000–09 included the **Michigan Chamber of Commerce** and the **Michigan Republican Party**. Top super spenders on the

other side included the **Michigan Democratic Party**; the **Michigan Trial Lawyers Association**; and **Citizens for Judicial Reform** (CFJR), a group wholly funded by **plaintiffs’ lawyer Geoffrey Fieger** and his law firm. The state Democrats ran more than \$1.1 million ads for 2008 winner Diane Hathaway, almost exactly offsetting the \$1.2 million that the Michigan Chamber and GOP combined to spend on TV ads for Justice Taylor. In addition, the state parties and other PACS reported an additional \$1 million in non-TV spending in 2008.

Total Supreme Court spending in 2007–08 (candidate fundraising, independent TV ads, and \$1 million in non-TV independent expenditures registered with state): \$5.9 million.

**Candidate Fundraising**  
\$12,878,776

**National Ranking**  
6

**Total TV**  
\$10,982,950

**National Ranking**  
3

Top Spenders, 2000–09	Candidate Contributions	Independent Expenditures*	Total
Michigan Chamber of Commerce	\$164,140	\$2,825,255	\$2,989,395
Michigan Democratic Party	\$219,142	\$2,467,121	\$2,686,263
Michigan Republican Party	\$217,233	\$2,420,328	\$2,637,561
Citizens for Judicial Reform	\$0	\$372,094	\$372,094
Ann Arbor PAC	\$102,000	\$208,000	\$310,000

\*Includes non-TV independent expenditures listed on state campaign records