

The experience and dedication you deserve



Alabama Judicial Retirement Fund Report of the Actuary on the Annual Valuation Prepared as of September 30, 2023





The experience and dedication you deserve

April 2, 2024

Board of Control Alabama Judicial Retirement Fund Montgomery, Alabama

Members of the Board:

In this report are submitted the results of the annual valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Alabama Judicial Retirement Fund (Fund), prepared as of September 30, 2023 in accordance with Sections 12-18-2(a) and 36-27-23(p) of the act governing the operation of the Fund.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the funded status of the Fund as of September 30, 2023 and to recommend rates of employer contribution for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

The findings in this report are based on data and other information through September 30, 2023. The valuation was based upon information furnished by RSA Staff, concerning RSA benefits, financial transactions, plan provisions and active members, terminated members, retirees and beneficiaries. We checked for internal reasonability and year-to-year consistency but did not audit the data.

The valuation reflects the 2% salary increase granted to all state employees effective October 1, 2023.

On the basis of the valuation, we have determined an employer contribution rate of 48.33% of payroll for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026 for Tier I members and of 43.76% of payroll for members of the Judges' and Clerks' plan (Tier II). For the District Attorneys' plan we have determined an employer contribution rate of 19.77% of payroll for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

The promised benefits of the Fund are included in the actuarially calculated contribution rates which are developed using the Entry Age Normal cost method. Five-year smoothed market value of assets is used for actuarial valuation purposes. Gains and losses are reflected in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability that is being amortized by regular annual contributions as a level percentage of payroll, on the assumption that payroll will increase by 2.75% annually. The assumptions recommended by the actuary and adopted by the Board are in the aggregate reasonably related to the experience under the Fund and to reasonable expectations of anticipated experience under the Fund. The assumptions and methods used for funding purposes meet the parameters outlined in the Board's funding policy.



April 2, 2024 Board of Control Page 2

In this report we provide the following information and supporting schedules in the Actuarial and Statistical Sections of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report:

- Summary of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods
- Actuarial Cost Method
- Summary of Plan Provisions as Interpreted for Valuation Purposes
- Schedule of Funding Progress
- Solvency Test
- Schedule of Active Member Valuation Data

We also provide the following schedules for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report in a separate supplemental report:

- Analysis of Actuarial Gains and Losses
- Schedule of Retirants and Beneficiaries Added and Removed from Rolls
- Retired Members by Type of Benefit as of September 30, 2023
- Ten-Year History of Average Monthly Benefit Payments as of September 30

The necessary GASB Statement Nos. 67 and 68 disclosure information is provided in separate supplemental reports. However, some accounting information is provided for informational purposes only.

This is to certify that Larry Langer and Edward Koebel are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and have experience in performing valuations for public retirement systems, that the valuation was prepared in accordance with principles of practice prescribed by the Actuarial Standards Board, and that the actuarial calculations were performed by qualified actuaries in accordance with accepted actuarial procedures, based on the current provisions of the retirement fund and on actuarial assumptions that are internally consistent and reasonably based on the actual experience of the Fund.

In order to prepare the results in this report, we have utilized actuarial models that were developed to measure liabilities and develop actuarial costs. These models include tools that we have produced and tested, along with commercially available valuation software that we have reviewed to confirm the appropriateness and accuracy of the output. In utilizing these models, we develop and use input parameters and assumptions about future contingent events along with recognized actuarial approaches to develop the needed results.

Future actuarial results may differ significantly from the current results presented in this report due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the plan's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law. Since the potential impact of such factors is outside the scope of a normal annual actuarial valuation, an analysis of the range of results is not presented herein.



April 2, 2024 Board of Control Page 3

The actuarial computations presented in this report are for purposes of determining the recommended funding amount for the Fund and appropriate for the determination of the employer contribution rates herein. The results contained herein are not appropriate for the settlement of liabilities. Use of these computations for purposes other than meeting these requirements may not be appropriate.

In our opinion the Fund is operating on an actuarially sound basis. Assuming that contributions to the Fund are made by the employer from year to year in the future at the rates recommended on the basis of the successive actuarial valuations, the continued sufficiency of the retirement fund to provide the benefits called for under the Fund may be safely anticipated.

The Table of Contents, which immediately follows, outlines the material contained in the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Langer, ASA. EA, FCA, MAAA Principal and Consulting Actuary

Edward J. Koebel, FCA, EA, MAAA Chief Executive Officer

Edward J. Worbel

Cathy Turcot

Principal and Managing Director

Jennifer Johnson Managing Director



Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>	<u>Item</u>	Page No.
1	Summary of Principal Results	1
II	Membership Data	5
III	Assets	7
IV	Comments on Valuation	9
V	Contributions Payable by Employer	12
VI	Analysis of Financial Experience	13
VII	Accounting Information	17
VIII	Risk Assessment	19
O ale a dada		
<u>Schedule</u>		
Α	Valuation Balance Sheet and Solvency Test	23
В	Development of the Actuarial Value of Assets	26
С	Summary of Receipts and Disbursements	29
D	Outline of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods	30
E	Actuarial Cost Method	33
F	Board Funding Policy	34
G	Amortization of Bases	36
Н	Summary of Main Plan Provisions	38
1	Schedule of Membership Data	44



REPORT OF THE ACTUARY ON THE ANNUAL VALUATION OF THE ALABAMA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUND PREPARED AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

1. For convenience of reference, the principal results of the valuation and a comparison with the preceding year's results are summarized below:

Summary of Principal Results for Judicial Retirement Fund (Other than District Attorneys' Plan)

VALUATION DATE	September 30, 2023 September 30,		eptember 30, 2022	
Active members Number Annual compensation	\$	361 53,811,263*	\$	358 53,175,340*
Retired members and beneficiaries Number Annual allowances	\$	466 43,163,885	\$	459 40,735,552
Deferred vested members Number Estimated deferred annual allowances	\$	12 1,172,506	\$	11 1,029,941
Assets Actuarial value Market value	\$	329,002,661 315,886,053	\$	331,501,692 291,188,509
Actuarial accrued liability	\$	552,379,935	\$	541,337,897
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	\$	223,377,274	\$	209,836,205
Funded ratio based on actuarial value of assets		59.6%		61.2%
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING	S	eptember 30, 2026	September 30, 2025	
Tier I (Groups 1 and 2) Employer contribution rate Normal Accrued liability Administration Total		14.21% 33.37 <u>0.75</u> 48.33%		13.96% 30.77 <u>0.75</u> 45.48%
Tier II Judges' and Clerks' Plan (Group 3) Employer contribution rate Normal Accrued liability Administration Death Benefit Total		9.49% 33.37 0.75 <u>0.15</u> 43.76%		9.38% 30.77 0.75 <u>0.15</u> 41.05%
Blended Amortization period		17.6 years		18.4 years

^{*} Includes all salary increases reflected in the valuation.





Summary of Principal Results for District Attorneys' Plan

VALUATION DATE	Se	ptember 30, 2023	Se	September 30, 2022	
Active members Number Annual compensation	\$	24 3,810,085*	\$	14 2,177,472*	
Retired members and beneficiaries Number Annual allowances	\$	1 98,927	\$	0 0	
Deferred vested members Number Estimated deferred annual allowances	\$	1 66,628	\$	0 0	
Assets Actuarial value Market value	\$	4,182,828 3,969,563	\$	3,166,430 2,803,949	
Actuarial accrued liability	\$	4,093,089	\$	3,180,243	
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	\$	(89,739)	\$	13,813	
Funded ratio based on actuarial value of assets		102.2%		99.6%	
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING	Se	ptember 30, 2026	Se	ptember 30, 2025	
Employer contribution rate Normal Accrued liability Administration Death Benefit Total		6.23% 11.79 0.75 <u>1.00</u> 19.77%		5.54% 12.48 0.75 <u>1.00</u> 19.77%	
Blended Amortization period		N/A years		0.1 years	

^{*} Includes all salary increases reflected in the valuation.





Summary of Principal Results - Total

VALUATION DATE	Sep	otember 30, 2023	Se	eptember 30, 2022
Active members Number Annual compensation	\$	385 57,621,347*	\$	372 55,352,812*
Retired members and beneficiaries Number Annual allowances	\$	467 43,262,811	\$	459 40,735,552
Deferred vested members Number Estimated deferred annual allowances	\$	13 1,239,134	\$	11 1,029,941
Assets				
Actuarial value	\$	333,185,489	\$	334,668,122
Market value		319,855,616		293,992,458
Actuarial accrued liability	\$	556,473,024	\$	544,518,140
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability	\$	223,287,535	\$	209,850,018
Funded ratio based on actuarial value of assets		59.9%		61.5%

^{*} Includes all salary increases reflected in the valuation.

- Comments on the valuation results as of September 30, 2023 are given in Section IV and further discussion of the contribution levels is set out in Section V. The valuation reflects the 2% salary increase granted to all state employees effective October 1, 2023.
- 3. Schedule B of this report shows the development of the actuarial value of assets.
- 4. The Board's funding policy is provided in Schedule F.
- 5. Schedule D outlines the full set of actuarial assumptions and methods employed in the current valuation. There have been no changes since the previous valuation.
- 6. Provisions of the Fund, as summarized in Schedule H, were taken into account in the current valuation. There have been no changes since the previous valuation.





7. The funded ratio shown in the Summary of Principal Results is the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the actuarial accrued liability. The Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) based on the market value of assets would be \$236,617,408 and the funded ratio based on the market value of assets as of September 30, 2023 is 57.5%. The funded ratio is an indication of progress in funding the promised benefits. Since the ratio is less than 100%, there is a need for additional contributions towards payment of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. In addition, this funded ratio does not have any relationship to measuring sufficiency if the plan had to settle its liabilities.





Section II: Membership Data

 The following table shows the number of active members and their annual compensation as of September 30, 2023 on the basis of which the valuation was prepared.

TABLE 1

THE NUMBER AND ANNUAL COMPENSATION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

GROUP	NUMBER	COMPENSATION*	
Tier I (Groups 1 and 2)		!	
District Court Judges	61	\$	10,294,230
Probate Court Judges	33		3,612,051
Non District, Non Probate Judges	<u>93</u>		<u>16,164,174</u>
Total	<u>187</u>	\$	<u>30,070,455</u>
Tier II (Group 3)			
District Court Judges	51	\$	7,746,454
Probate Judges	35		3,775,152
Non District, Non Probate Judges	65		10,255,042
Clerks	<u>23</u>		<u>1,964,159</u>
Total	<u>174</u>	\$	23,740,807
District Attorneys' Plan	<u>24</u>	\$	<u>3,810,085</u>
Total	<u>385</u>	\$	<u>57,621,347</u>

^{*} Includes all salary increases reflected in the valuation.

The table reflects the active membership for whom complete valuation data were submitted. The results of the valuation include contribution balances for an additional 25 non-vested inactive members.





Section II: Membership Data

2. The following table shows a six-year history of active member valuation data.

TABLE 2
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE MEMBER VALUATION DATA

Valuation <u>Date</u>	Number	Annual Payroll*	% Increase in Annual Payroll	Annual Average Pay**	% Increase in Average Pay
9/30/2023	385	\$57,621,347	4.10%	\$ 149,666	0.58%
9/30/2022	372	55,352,812	15.58	148,798	14.34
9/30/2021	368	47,891,703	1.71	130,140	0.88
9/30/2020	365	47,084,500	3.88	128,999	4.17
9/30/2019	366	45,325,830	3.44	123,841	(2.50)
9/30/2018	345	43,819,340	(1.07)	127,013	0.65

Includes all salary increases reflected in the 2023 valuation.

- * 5.6% increase for total pay since 2018
- ** 3.3% increase for average pay since 2018
- 3. The following table shows the number and annual retirement allowances payable to retired members and their beneficiaries on the roll of the Retirement Fund as of the valuation date.

TABLE 3

THE NUMBER AND ANNUAL RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES OF RETIRED MEMBERS AND BENEFICIARIES ON THE ROLL AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

GROUP	NUMBER*	ANNUAL RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES
Service Retirements	352	\$ 37,898,589
Disability Retirements	8	674,270
Beneficiaries of Deceased Members	<u>107</u>	4,689,952
Total	467	\$ 43,262,811

^{*} In addition, there were 13 vested inactive members with estimated deferred annual allowances totaling \$1,239,134 included in the valuation.

4. Schedule I shows the distribution by age and service of the number and average annual compensation of active members included in the valuation and a distribution by age of the number and benefits of retired members and beneficiaries included in the valuation.





Section III: Assets

The Judicial Retirement Fund assets are currently allocated to four funds for the purpose of recording
the fiscal transactions of the Fund, namely, the Annuity Savings Fund, the Pension Accumulation
Fund, the Expense Fund, and the Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Fund.

(a) Annuity Savings Fund

The Annuity Savings Fund is the fund to which are credited all contributions made by members together with regular interest thereon. When a member retires or when a survivor allowance becomes payable the amount of the member's accumulated contributions is transferred from the Annuity Savings Fund to the Pension Accumulation Fund. The market value of assets credited to the Annuity Savings Fund on September 30, 2023, which represent the accumulated contributions of active members to that date, including interest, amounted to \$50,023,503 for members other than District Attorneys and \$1,307,257 for the District Attorneys' Plan members.

(b) Pension Accumulation Fund

The Pension Accumulation Fund is the fund to which are credited all contributions made by the employer, except those contributions made to the Expense Fund. When a member retires or when a survivor allowance becomes payable, the pension is paid from this fund. In addition, the amount of the member's accumulated contributions is transferred from the Annuity Savings Fund to the Pension Accumulation Fund and the annuity is paid from this fund. On September 30, 2023 the market value of assets credited to this fund is \$265,862,551 for members other than the District Attorneys and \$2,662,305 for the District Attorneys' Plan members.

(c) Expense Fund

The Expense Fund is the fund from which the expenses of the administration of the retirement fund are paid. Any amounts credited to the accounts of members withdrawing before retirement and not returnable under the provisions of Sections 12-18-54 and 12-18-83 are credited to the Expense Fund. Additional contributions required to meet the expenses of the retirement fund made by the employer are also credited to this fund. On September 30, 2023, the market value of assets credited to this fund amounted to \$3,514,323. These assets are not included in the valuation.

(d) Pre- Retirement Death Benefit Fund

The Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Fund is the fund to which are credited contributions made by the employer for the special pre-retirement death benefit for members of the Judges and Clerks Plan and the District Attorneys' Plan. On September 30, 2023 the market value of assets credited to this fund amounted to \$(2,895) for members of the Judges and Clerks Plan and \$158,531 for members of the District Attorneys' Plan. These assets are <u>not</u> included in the valuation and the liabilities associated with these death benefits are not included in the valuation.





Section III: Assets

- The amount of assets taken into account in this valuation is based on information reported by the Retirement Fund.
- 3. As of September 30, 2023, the total market value of assets, exclusive of the Expense Fund and the Pre-retirement Death Benefit Funds, amounted to \$319,855,616, of which \$315,886,053 is for members other than District Attorneys and \$3,969,563 is for the District Attorneys' Plan.
- 4. The market related actuarial value of assets was \$333,185,489, of which \$329,002,661 is for members other than the District Attorneys and \$4,182,828 is for the District Attorneys' Plan. Schedule B shows the development of the actuarial value of assets as of September 30, 2023.
- 5. Schedule C shows the receipts and disbursements of the Fund for the year preceding the valuation date and a reconciliation of the fund balances at market value.
- 6. The following table shows the history of the assumed and actual rates of investment returns.

YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30	EXPECTED RETURN	MARKET RETURN	ACTUARIAL RETURN
2023	7.40%	14.66%	4.74%
2022	7.40	-14.87	5.27
2021	7.65	20.52	10.43
2020	7.65	7.87	8.41
2019	7.65	3.82	7.17
2018	7.75	9.32	8.86

7. The following table shows a historical reconciliation of the market value of assets by source (\$ thousands):

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (b) + (c) + (d)	(f) = (a) + (e)
Valuation Year Ending September 30	Beginning of Year Market Value of Assets	Contributions	Benefits and Administrative Expenses	Investment Income	Change in Market Value of Assets Amounts	End of Year Market Value of Assets
2023	\$293,992.5	\$25,876.0	\$(42,807.9)	\$42,795.0	\$25,863.1	\$319,855.6
2022	362,030.7	24,617.1	(40,875.8)	(51,779.5)	(68,038.2)	293,992.5
2021	315,535.3	21,906.0	(39,125.8)	63,715.2	46,495.4	362,030.7
2020	309,782.4	21,667.2	(39,069.8)	23,155.5	5,752.9	315,535.3
2019	314,801.1	21,550.7	(37,583.8)	11,014.4	(5,018.7)	309,782.4
2018	300,265.9	20,479.4	(33,566.9)	27,622.7	14,535.2	314,801.1





Section IV: Comments on Valuation

- Schedule A of this report contains the valuation balance sheet which shows the present and prospective assets and liabilities of the Fund as of September 30, 2023.
- 2. The valuation balance sheet shows that the Fund has total accrued liabilities of \$556,473,024. Of this amount, \$375,784,974 is for the benefits payable on account of present retired members and beneficiaries of deceased members, \$9,537,012 is for the benefits payable on account of present inactive members and \$171,151,038 is for the benefits payable on account of present active members. Against these liabilities, the Fund has total present actuarial value of assets of \$333,185,489 as of September 30, 2023. The difference of \$223,287,535 between the total accrued liabilities and the total present actuarial value of assets represents the present value of future unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) contributions to be made by the State.
- 3. The employer's regular contributions to the Fund consist of normal contributions, UAAL contributions and contributions for administrative expenses. The valuation indicates that employer normal contributions at a rate of 14.21% of payroll for Tier I members 9.49% of payroll for Tier II members and 6.23% of payroll for District Attorneys' Plan members are required to provide the benefits of the Fund.
- 4. The funding policy adopted by the Board, as shown in Schedule F, provides that the total UAAL as of September 30, 2021 (Initial Total UAAL), be amortized as a level percentage of payroll over a closed period 19-year period. In each subsequent valuation all benefit changes, assumption and method changes and experience gains and/or losses that have occurred since the previous valuation will determine a New Incremental UAAL. Each New Incremental UAAL due to benefit changes will be amortized as a level percent of payroll over a closed 15-year period from the date it is established. Each New Incremental UAAL due to assumption and method changes and experience gains and/or losses will be amortized as a level percent of payroll over a closed 20-year period from the date it is established.





Section IV: Comments on Valuation

- 5. The total UAAL contribution rate for members other than District Attorneys is 33.37% of payroll, determined in accordance with the Board's funding policy. The UAAL contribution rates have been calculated on the assumption that the aggregate amount of accrued liability contribution will increase by 2.75% each year. Schedule G of this report shows the amortization schedules for all UAAL bases as of September 30, 2023.
- 6. The following table shows the components of the total UAAL for members other than District Attorneys, and the derivation of the accrued liability contribution rate in accordance with the funding policy:

TABLE 4

TOTAL UAAL AND UAAL CONTRIBUTION RATE
Members other than District Attorney Plan Members

	UAAL	Amortization Period	Amortization Payment
Initial UAAL	\$162,975,620	17.0	\$14,331,636
New Incremental UAAL 9/30/2022	44,869,829	19.0	3,668,762
New Incremental UAAL 9/30/2023	15,531,825	20.0	1,229,580
Total UAAL	\$223,377,274		<u>\$19,229,978</u>
Total Amortization Payment Adjusted for Timing			\$18,543,855
Total Estimated Payroll*			\$55,577,117
UAAL Contribution Rate			33.37%

^{*} Estimated payroll based on applying the assumed salary scale to current salaries.

7. The UAAL contribution rate for the District Attorneys' Plan had been determined to be 11.79% of payroll, based on a total contribution rate of 19.77% of payroll, which is the rate determined during the legislative process and is the rate currently in effect. Since the District Attorneys' Plan is funded with segregated assets and members of the Plan may transfer in prior service, it is necessary to ensure that funds are available to pay all promised benefits, therefore, a total contribution rate of 19.77% will be used.





Section IV: Comments on Valuation

- 8. An additional contribution of 0.75% of payroll is required to cover expenses of administering the Fund.
- 9. Act 2015-498 requires members of the Judges' and Clerks' Plan and the District Attorneys' Plan to participate in the Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Program. The liabilities and assets associated with the pre-retirement death benefit are not included in the annual actuarial valuation of the System; however, the sufficiency of the Fund to provide the promised benefits is reviewed annually. The contribution requirements will be determined every five years during our experience investigation. For the Judges and Clerks' Plan an additional contribution of 0.15% of payroll will be required to meet the cost of the pre-retirement death benefit program this year. For the District Attorneys' Plan 1.00% of payroll will be required to meet the cost of the pre-retirement death benefit program this year.





Section V: Contributions Payable by Employer

- Section 12-18-3 of the Retirement Fund Law provides that sufficient monies shall be appropriated to carry out the provisions of the Law.
- 2. On the basis of the actuarial valuation prepared as of September 30, 2023 it is recommended that the employer make contributions at the following rates beginning October 1, 2025:

TABLE 5

EMPLOYER REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION RATES
AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS' COMPENSATION

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION	FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
Tier I (Groups 1 and 2)	
Normal	14.21%
Accrued Liability	33.37
Administration	<u>0.75</u>
Total	48.33%
Tier II (Group 3)	
Normal	9.49%
Accrued Liability	33.37
Administration	0.75
Death Benefit	<u>0.15</u>
Total	43.76%
District Attorneys' Plan	
Normal	6.23%
Accrued Liability	11.79
Administration	0.75
Death Benefit	<u>1.00</u>
Total	19.77%





The calculation of the Fund's liabilities and actuarial value of assets requires the use of several assumptions concerning the future experience of the Fund and its members. In each annual actuarial valuation, the experience of the Fund is compared with what was expected based on the actuarial assumptions. The differences between the actual and expected experience are called actuarial gains or losses depending on whether the difference increases or decreases the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL).

- 1. The UAAL increased from \$209,850,018 on September 30, 2022 to \$223,287,535 on September 30, 2023, an increase of \$13,437,517. The most significant items contributing to the increase in the UAAL were due to a loss due to investment earnings on an actuarial value basis less than expected, losses due to rehired active members, a gain due to salary increases less than expected and a loss due to fewer deaths than expected. Other sources of gains and losses were relatively small and there appear to be no trends developing that would be of concern to the System.
- The following tables show the reconciliation of the UAAL of the Fund and a breakdown by source of
 the actuarial gains and losses. These sources include the expected return on assets, salary
 increases, retirement, withdrawal, disability, and mortality.





RECONCILIATION OF THE UNFUNDED ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

(1)	UAAL at beginning of year	\$	209,850
(2)	Total normal cost at beginning of the year		10,851
(3)	Actual contributions		25,876
(4)	Interest accrual: [[(1) + (2)] - ½ [(3)]] x 0.0740		15,374
(5)	Expected UAAL before changes: (1) + (2) - (3) + (4)	:	210,199
(6)	Increase from benefit changes		0
(7)	Changes from revised actuarial assumptions and methods		0
(8)	Expected UAAL after changes: (5) + (6) + (7)	:	210,199
(9)	Actual UAAL at end of year	:	223,288
(10)	Total (Gain)/Loss: (9) - (8)	\$	13,089

DEVELOPMENT OF (GAIN)/LOSS FROM INVESTMENT RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

(1)	Actuarial Value of Assets (BOY)	\$ 334,668
(2)	Net Cash Flow	(16,932)
(3)	Expected Return [(1) + ½ [(2)]] x 0.0740	24,139
(4)	Expected Actuarial Value of Assets [(1) + (2) + (3)]	341,875
(5)	Actual Actuarial Value of Assets (EOY)	333,185
(6)	Investment (Gain)/Loss: (4) – (5)	\$ 8,690





(GAINS)/LOSSES BY SOURCE FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

ooupor.	T .4.1	% of Actuarial Accrued
SOURCE	Total	Liability
Age and Service Retirements. Generally, earlier retirements cause losses and later retirements cause gains.	\$ 480	0.09%
Withdrawal. More withdrawals than expected usually cause gains and less withdrawals than expected cause losses.	(794)	(0.14)%
Disability Retirements. More disabilities than expected generally cause losses and less disabilities than expected cause gains.	163	0.03%
Death-In-Service Benefits. If survivor claims are less than assumed, there is a gain. If claims are more than assumed, there is a loss.	189	0.03%
Salary Increases*. If salaries increase more than expected, there is a loss. If salaries increase less than expected, there is a gain.	(1,355)	(0.24)%
New Members/Rehires. Any past service causes losses.	2,347	0.42%
Retiree Mortality. More deaths than expected cause gains, less than expected cause losses.	1,605	0.29%
Investment Return. Investment income greater than expected causes gains while investment income less than expected cause losses.	8,690	1.56%
Other. Miscellaneous gains and losses resulting from data corrections, timing of financial transactions, unit transfers, changes in valuation	4.704	0.000/
software, etc.	1,764	0.32%
Total (Gain)/Loss	\$ 13,089	2.36%

^{*} Includes benefit increases for retirees and beneficiaries due to the 2% salary increase granted to all state employees effective October 1, 2023 .





(GAINS)/LOSSES BY SOURCE Historical Trends

(Dollar amounts in thousands)

SOURCE		2023	 2022	_	September 2021	· 30 _	2020	. <u>-</u>	2019
Age and Service Retirements	\$	480	\$ (1,503)	\$	(1,598)	\$	(813)	\$	8,347
Withdrawal	i !	(794)	(98)		(190)		529		(1,910)
Disability Retirements		163	97		(193)		(186)		(188)
Death-In-Service Benefits		189	251		169		(27)		258
Salary Increases		(1,355)	34,074		(5,605)		(1,610)		(1,806)
New Members/Rehires		2,347	279		486		129		2,702
Retiree Mortality		1,605	5,147		604		3,017		4,720
Investment Return		8,690	6,950		(8,606)		(2,285)		1,425
Other		1,764	1,476		1,731		(322)		310
Total (Gain)/Loss	\$	13,089	\$ 46,673	\$	(13,202)	\$	(1,568)	\$	13,858





Section VII: Accounting Information

The information required under Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Nos. 67 and 68 is issued in separate reports. The following information is provided for informational purposes only.

1. The following is a distribution of the number of employees by type of membership.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

GROUP	NUMBER
Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	467
Terminated employees entitled to benefits but not yet receiving benefits	13
Non-vested inactive members	25
Active members	<u>385</u>
Total	890

2. The schedule of funding progress as shown below.

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Actuarial Valuation <u>Date</u>	Actuarial Value of Assets (<u>a</u>)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)
9/30/2018 ¹	\$305,396,555	\$457,833,685	\$152,437,130	66.7%	\$43,819,340	347.9%
9/30/2019	310,688,721	475,829,487	165,140,766	65.3	45,325,830	364.3
9/30/2020	318,673,256	481,862,876	163,189,620	66.1	47,084,500	346.6
9/30/2021 ¹	333,779,256	499,915,582	166,136,326	66.8	47,891,703	346.9
9/30/2022	334,668,122	544,518,140	209,850,018	61.5	55,352,812	379.1
9/30/2023	333,185,489	556,473,024	223,287,535	59.9	57,621,347	387.5

¹Reflects changes in actuarial assumptions and methods.





Section VII: Accounting Information

3. The information presented above was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at September 30, 2023. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows.

Valuation date 9/30/2023

Actuarial cost method Entry Age Normal

Amortization method Level percent closed*

Single equivalent remaining

amortization period 17.5 years

Asset valuation method Five-year market related value

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment

Rate of return* 7.40%

Projected salary

Increases* 2.75%

Cost-of-living adjustments 2.75% per year for certain members

hired prior to July 30, 1979 and for spouses benefits subject to increase

*Includes inflation at 2.75%



^{*} For the District Attorneys' Plan, the amortization method is Level percent open.



Overview

Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOP) No. 51, issued by the Actuarial Standards Board, provides guidance on assessing and disclosing risks related to pension plan funding. This guidance is binding on all credentialed actuaries practicing in the United States. This standard was issued as final in September 2017 with application to measurement dates on or after November 1, 2018.

The term "risk" frequently has a negative connotation, but from an actuarial perspective, it can simply be considered that what actually happens in the real world will not always match what was expected, based on actuarial assumptions. Of course, when actual experience is better than expected, the favorable risk is easily absorbed. The risk of unfavorable experience will likely be unpleasant, and so understandably, there is a focus on aspects of risk that are negative.

Risk can usually be reduced or eliminated at some cost. Consumers, for example, buy auto and home insurance to reduce the risk of accidents or catastrophes. Another way to express this concept, however, is that there is generally some reward for assuming risk. Thus, retirement plans invest not just in US Treasury bonds, which have almost no risk, but also in equities, which are considerably riskier – because they have an expected reward of a higher return that justifies the risk.

Under ASOP 51, the actuary is called upon to identify the significant risks to the pension plan and provide information to help those sponsoring and administering the plan understand the implications of these risks. In this section, we identify some of the key risks for the System and provide information to help interested parties better understand these risks.





Investment Risk

The investment return on assets is the most obvious risk – and usually the largest risk – to funding a pension plan. To illustrate the magnitude of this risk, the following chart shows the Asset Volatility Ratio (AVR), defined as the fair value of assets divided by covered payroll.

(\$ in thousands)

	•	•	
Valuation	Fair Value of Assets	Covered Payroll	Asset Volatility Ratio
2018	\$314,801	\$43,819	7.18
2019	\$309,782	\$45,326	6.83
2020	\$315,535	\$47,085	6.70
2021	\$362,031	\$47,892	7.56
2022	\$293,992	\$55,353	5.31
2023	\$319,856	\$57,621	5.55

The asset volatility ratio is especially useful to compare across plans or through time. It is also frequently useful to consider how the AVR translates into changes in the Required Contribution Rate (actuarially determined employer contribution rate). The greater the AVR, the more volatility there is in the Required Contribution Rate. For plans with low AVRs, the impact of investment gains and losses on Required Contribution Rates is less than for plans with high AVRs. The AVR for JRF at September 30, 2023 is 5.55. As shown in the table below, if the market value return is 5% below assumed, or 2.40% (7.40% minus 5.00%) for the System, the increase in the Required Contribution Rate is 0.43% of payroll in the first year. Without asset smoothing or without returns above the expected return in the next four years, the impact on the Required Contribution Rate would be 2.14%.

Investment Rate of Return 5% Less Than Assumed						
AVR	Unsmoothed Amortization	Smoothed Amortization				
5.00	1.93%	0.39%				
5.55	2.14%	0.43%				
6.00	2.31%	0.46%				





Sensitivity Measures

Valuations are generally performed with a single set of assumptions that reflects the best estimate of future conditions, in the opinion of the actuary and typically the governing board. Note that under actuarial standards of practice, the set of economic assumptions used for funding must be consistent. To enhance the understanding of the importance of an assumption, a sensitivity test can be performed where the valuation results are recalculated using a different assumption or set of assumptions.

The following table contains the key measures for the System using the valuation assumption for investment return of 7.40% along with the results if the assumption were 6.40% or 8.40%. In this analysis, only the investment return assumption is changed. Consequently, there may be inconsistencies between the investment return and other economic assumptions such as inflation or payroll increases. In addition, simply because the valuation results under alternative assumptions are shown here, it should not be implied that CMC believes that either assumption (6.40% or 8.40%) would comply with actuarial standards of practice.

(\$ in thousands)

As of September 30, 2023	Current Discount	-1% Discount	+1% Discount
	Rate (7.40%)	Rate (6.40%)	Rate (8.40%)
Accrued Liability	\$556,473	\$607,438	\$512,422
Unfunded Liability	\$223,288	\$274,253	\$179,237
Funded Ratio (AVA)	59.9%	54.9%	65.0%





Mortality Risk

The mortality assumption is a significant assumption for valuation results, second only to the investment assumption in most situations. The System's mortality assumption utilizes a mortality table (with separate rates for males and females, as well as different rates by status) and a generational projection scale for how the mortality table is expected to improve through time.

The future, however, is unknown, and actual mortality improvements may occur at a faster rate than expected, or at a slower rate than expected. Although changes in mortality will affect the benefits paid, this assumption is reviewed carefully during the regular experience studies that the System conducts so that incremental changes can be made to smoothly reflect emerging experience. The risk to the System due to mortality is significantly reduced due to the use of the generational improvement method. The next actuarial experience study will be for the period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2025.

Contribution Risk

The System is funded primarily by member and employer contributions to the trust fund, together with the earnings on those accumulated contributions. Each year in the valuation, the Actuarial Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) rate is determined, based on the System's funding policy. This rate is the sum of the rates for the normal cost for the plan (which includes expected administrative expenses), and the rate necessary to amortize the UAAL. Since the level percentage of payroll method is used to determine the UAAL amortization amounts, there is an expectation that future payments will grow at the assumed 2.75% annual rate of increase in covered payroll. If payroll grows at a slower rate, under this amortization method, less than expected UAAL amortization payments would result in a greater UAAL in future years and may require increases to either the amortization rate or the amortization period. From a policy perspective, since the ADEC rate has always been made by the plan sponsors, and that procedure is expected to continue, there is minimal to the System associated with the contribution amounts being less than the ADEC.





Low-Default-Risk Obligation Measure

Under the revised Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOP) No. 4 effective for valuations after February 15, 2023, we are required to include a low-default-risk obligation measure of the system's liability in our funding valuation report. This is an informational disclosure as described below and would not be appropriate for assessing the funding progress or health of the plan.

This measure uses the unit credit cost method and reflects all the assumptions and provisions of the funding valuation (including the assumed COLA paid), except that the discount rate is derived from considering low-default-risk fixed income securities. We considered the FTSE Pension Discount Curve based on market bond rates published by the Society of Actuaries as of September 30, 2023 and with the 30-year spot rate used for all durations beyond 30. Using these assumptions, we calculate a liability of approximately \$599.6 million.

This amount approximates the termination liability if the plan (or all covered employment) ended on the valuation date and all of the accrued benefits had to be paid with cash-flow matched bonds. If the plan were funded with the intent of being able to be terminated at any valuation date, contribution requirements may need to increase and would also be more volatile. This assurance of funded status and benefit security is typically more relevant for corporate plans than for governmental plans since governments rarely have the need or option to completely terminate a plan.





Schedule A: Valuation Balance Sheet and Solvency Test

VALUATION BALANCE SHEET SHOWING THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE ALABAMA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUND

Judicial Retirement Fund (Other than District Attorneys' Plan)

	Sep	otember 30, 2023
Actuarial Accrued Liabilities		
(a) Present active members		
- Service pensions	\$	163,543,429
- Disability pensions		1,018,364
- Death benefits*		1,229,223
- Termination benefits		2,684,982
- Total	\$	168,475,998
(b) Present inactive members		
- Non-vested	\$	1,390,991
- Deferred vested		7,727,331
- Total	\$	9,118,322
(c) Present retired members and beneficiaries		
- Service retirements	\$	333,870,311
- Disability retirements		6,742,310
- Beneficiaries of deceased members		34,172,994
- Total	\$	374,785,615
(d) Total actuarial accrued liabilities ((a) + (b) + (c))	\$	552,379,935
2. Actuarial Value of Assets	\$	329,002,661
3. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (1(d) - 2)	\$	223,377,274

Liability for death benefits payable after retirement is included with liability for service and disability pensions.





VALUATION BALANCE SHEET SHOWING THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE ALABAMA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUND

District Attorneys' Plan

	Sep	tember 30, 2023
Actuarial Accrued Liabilities		
(a) Present active members		
- Service pensions	\$	2,459,257
- Disability pensions		53,918
- Death benefits		31,064
- Termination benefits		130,801
- Total	\$	2,675,040
(b) Present inactive members		
- Non-vested	\$	165,563
- Deferred vested		253,127
- Total	\$	418,690
(c) Present retired members and beneficiaries		
- Service retirements	\$	999,359
- Disability retirements		0
- Beneficiaries of deceased members		0
- Total	\$	999,359
(d) Total actuarial accrued liabilities ((a) + (b) + (c))	\$	4,093,089
2. Actuarial Value of Assets	\$	4,182,828
3. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (1(d) - 2)	\$	(89,739)





VALUATION BALANCE SHEET SHOWING THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE ALABAMA JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUND

Total - All Groups

	September 30, 2023
Actuarial Accrued Liabilities (a) Present active members	
 Service pensions Disability pensions Death benefits* Termination benefits Total 	\$ 166,002,686 1,072,282 1,260,287 2,815,783 \$ 171,151,038
(b) Present inactive membersNon-vestedDeferred vestedTotal	\$ 1,556,554 7,980,458 \$ 9,537,012
 (c) Present retired members and beneficiaries - Service retirements - Disability retirements - Beneficiaries of deceased members - Total 	\$ 334,869,670 6,742,310 34,172,994 \$ 375,784,974
(d) Total actuarial accrued liabilities ((a) + (b) + (c))	\$ 556,473,024
2. Actuarial Value of Assets	\$ 333,185,489
3. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (1(d) - 2)	\$ 223,287,535

^{*} Liability for death benefits payable after retirement is included with liability for service and disability pensions.

SOLVENCY TEST (\$1000's)

Aggı		gate Accrued Lia	bilities For			of Accrued l I by Report	
Valuation Date	(1) Active Member Contributions	(2) Retirants and Beneficiaries	(3) Active Members (Employer Financed Portion)	Reported Assets	(1)	(2)	(3)
9/30/2023	\$51,331	\$375,785	\$129,357	\$333,185	100%	75%	0%
9/30/2022	51,509	357,653	135,356	334,668	100	79	0
9/30/20211	47,304	343,885	108,727	333,779	100	83	0
9/30/2020	43,899	338,492	99,472	318,673	100	81	0
9/30/2019	40,993	338,734	96,102	310,689	100	80	0
9/30/20181	48,609	296,550	112,675	305,397	100	87	0

¹Reflects changes in actuarial assumptions and methods.





Schedule B: Development of the Actuarial Value of Assets

Judicial Retirement Fund (Other than District Attorneys' Plan)

		l	
(1)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2022	\$	331,501,692
(2)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2023		315,886,053
(3)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2022	\$	291,188,509
(4)	Cash Flow a. Contributions b. Benefit Payments	\$	24,951,477 (42,513,768)
	c. Refund to Members d. Transfer to Expense Fund – Interest Forfeitures e. Investment Expenses		(198,105) (7,293) 0
	f. Net Cash Flow: (a + b + c + d + e)	\$	(17,767,689)
(5)	Actual Investment Return ((2) - (3) - (4)f)		42,465,233
(6)	Assumed Rate of Return on Assets		7.40%
(7)	Amount for Immediate Recognition [(3) * (6)] + [((4)a + (4)b + (4)c + (4)d) * 0.5 * (6)] + (4)e		20,890,545
(8)	Investment Gain/(Loss) for the Fiscal Year ((5) - (7))		21,574,688
(9)	Phased-In Recognition of Investment Gain/(Loss) a. Current Year: 0.2 * (8) b. First Prior Year c. Second Prior Year d. Third Prior Year e. Fourth Prior Year f. Total Recognized Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$ 	4,314,938 (15,462,863) 7,994,454 23,903 (2,492,319) (5,621,887)
(10)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2023 (1) + (4)f + (7) + (9)f	\$	329,002,661
(11)	Estimated Rate of Return on Actuarial Value		4.73%





Schedule B: Development of the Actuarial Value of Assets

District Attorneys' Plan

(1)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2022	\$ 3,166,430
(2)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2023	3,969,563
(3)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2022	2,803,949
(4)	Cash Flow a. Contributions b. Benefit Payments c. Refund to Members d. Transfer to Expense Fund – Interest Forfeitures e. Investment Expenses f. Net Cash Flow: (a + b + c + d + e)	\$ 924,507 (65,951) (22,751) 0 0 835,805
(5)	Actual Investment Return ((2) - (3) - (4)f)	329,809
(6)	Assumed Rate of Return on Assets	7.40%
(7)	Amount for Immediate Recognition [(3) * (6)] + [((4)a + (4)b + (4)c + (4)d) * 0.5 * (6)] + (4)e	238,417
(8)	Investment Gain/(Loss) for the Fiscal Year ((5) - (7))	91,392
(9)	Phased-In Recognition of Investment Gain/(Loss) a. Current Year: 0.2 * (8) b. First Prior Year c. Second Prior Year d. Third Prior Year e. Fourth Prior Year f. Total Recognized Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$ 18,278 (130,765) 52,630 647 1,386 (57,824)
(10)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2023 (1) + (4)f + (7) + (9)f	\$ 4,182,828
(11)	Estimated Rate of Return on Actuarial Value	5.04%





Schedule B: Development of the Actuarial Value of Assets

Total - All Plans

(1)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2022	\$	334,668,122
(2)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2023		319,855,616
(3)	Market Value of Assets on September 30, 2022		293,992,458
(4)	Cash Flow a. Contributions b. Benefit Payments c. Refund to Members d. Transfer to Expense Fund – Interest Forfeitures e. Investment Expenses f. Net Cash Flow: (a + b + c + d + e)	\$	25,875,984 (42,579,719) (220,856) (7,293) 0 (16,931,884)
(5)	Actual Investment Return ((2) - (3) - (4)f)		42,795,042
(6)	Assumed Rate of Return on Assets		7.40%
(7)	Amount for Immediate Recognition [(3) * (6)] + [((4)a + (4)b + (4)c + (4)d) * 0.5 * (6)] + (4)e		21,128,962
(8)	Investment Gain/(Loss) for the Fiscal Year ((5) - (7))		21,666,080
(9)	Phased-In Recognition of Investment Gain/(Loss) a. Current Year: 0.2 * (8) b. First Prior Year c. Second Prior Year d. Third Prior Year e. Fourth Prior Year f. Total Recognized Investment Gain/(Loss)	\$ \$	4,333,216 (15,593,628) 8,047,084 24,550 (2,490,933) (5,679,711)
(10)	Actuarial Value of Assets on September 30, 2023 (1) + (4)f + (7) + (9)f	\$	333,185,489
(11)	Estimated Rate of Return on Actuarial Value		4.74%





Schedule C: Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Receipts for the Period				
Contributions: Members	\$	5,019,289		
Employer		20,856,695		
Total	\$	25,875,984		
Investment Income		42,795,042		
TOTAL	\$	68,671,026		
<u>Disbursements for the Period</u>				
Benefit Payments	\$	42,579,719		
Refunds to Members		220,856		
Transfer to Expense Fund		7,293		
TOTAL	\$	42,807,868		
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	\$	25,863,158		
Reconciliation of Asset Balances				
Market Value of Assets as of September 30, 2022	\$	293,992,458		
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements		<u>25,863,158</u>		
Market Value of Assets as of September 30, 2023	\$	319,855,616		
Rate of Return on Market Value		14.66%		





The assumptions and methods used in the valuation are based on the results of the Experience Investigation for the Five-Year Period Ending September 30, 2020, dated July 12, 2021, and adopted by the Board on September 14, 2021.

Investment Rate of Return: 7.40% per annum, compounded annually, including inflation at 2.50%.

Salary Increases: 3.50% per annum for less than 14 years of service, 3.25% for 14 years of service, and 2.75% for 15 or greater years of service, compounded annually, including wage inflation at 2.75%.

Separations Before Retirement: Representative values of the assumed annual rates of withdrawal, death and disability are as follows:

Annual Data of

		Annual Rate of			
	Withdrawal	Death*		n*	Disability**
Years of Service		<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<1 1 2-5 6-9 10-14 15-19 20+	3.00% 3.00 3.00 3.00 1.30 1.30 1.30	30 35 40 45 50 55 60 64	0.0195% 0.0267 0.0371 0.0585 0.0969 0.1508 0.2321 0.3439	0.0111% 0.0169 0.0260 0.0403 0.0605 0.0878 0.1326 0.1995	0.020% 0.040 0.068 0.108 0.163 0.250 0.395 0.570

^{*} Base rates of pre-retirement mortality as of 2010 from the sex distinct Pub-2010 Teacher Employee Below Median Table with an adjustment factor of 65%, before application of the improvement scale



^{**} Disability rates turn off at retirement eligibility.



Schedule D: Outline of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

Rates of Retirement:

	Tier I Judges (Groups 1 and 2)* Tier II Judges (Group 3)		(Group 3)	Clerks and District Attorneys***
<u>Age</u>		<18 years	≥18 years**	
45-59	7.5%			
60-61	16.5%			
62	20.0%	10.0%	30.0%	10.0%
63-64	16.5%	10.0%	16.5%	10.0%
65-69	20.0%	10.0%	20.0%	10.0%
70-74	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
75	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

^{*30%} are assumed to retire when first eligible at ages <60; 25% are assumed to retire when first eligible at ages 60-69.

Deaths After Retirement: Rates of mortality for the period after becoming a retiree are according to the Pub-2010 Family of Tables projected generationally with MP-2019 Scale adjusted by 66-2/3% beginning with year 2019, and with further adjustments are used for post-retirement mortality assumptions as follows:

		Set Forward(+) /	
<u>Group</u>	Membership Table	Setback (-)	Adjustment to Rates
Service Retirees	Teacher Retiree-Below	Male: +2, Female: +2	Male: 108% ages < 63, 96%
	Median		ages > 67; Phasing down 63 -
			67 Female: 112% ages < 69
			98% > age 74
			Phasing down 69-74
Beneficiaries	Contingent Survivor	Male: +2, Female: None	None
	Below Median		
Disabled Retirees	Teacher Disability	Male: +8, Female: +3	None



^{**30%} are assumed to retire when first eligible.

^{***}An additional 20% are assumed to retire when first eligible and at 27 years of service.



Schedule D: Outline of Actuarial Assumptions and Methods

Percent Married: 100% of active members are assumed to be married with the husband 3 years older than the wife.

Actuarial Method: Individual Entry age normal. Gains and losses are reflected in the unfunded accrued liability. See Schedule E for more details.

Assets: Actuarial Value as developed in Schedule B. The actuarial value of assets recognizes a portion of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected value of assets, based on the assumed valuation rate of return.

Liability for Current Inactive Non-Vested Members: Member Contribution Balance is multiplied by a factor of 1.0.

Post Retirement Increases: Allowances of retired members and spouses who receive benefits based on the salaries prescribed by law for the position are assumed to increase by 3.00% per year. The members' actual salaries at retirement are assumed to be equal to the salary prescribed by law for their position.

Benefits Payable upon Separation from Service: Active members who terminated from service prior to becoming eligible for a benefit are assumed to receive a refund of contributions with interest assumed to be 4% per year.





Schedule E: Actuarial Cost Method

- 1. The valuation is prepared on the projected benefit basis, under which the present value, at the interest rate assumed to be earned in the future (see Schedule D for a description of the interest rate used), of each member's expected benefit payable at retirement or death is determined, based on his age, service, sex, and compensation. The calculations take into account the probability of a member's death or termination of employment prior to becoming eligible for a benefit, as well as the probability of his terminating with a service, disability, or survivor's benefit. Future salary increases are also anticipated. The present value of the expected benefits payable on account of the active members is added to the present value of the expected future payments to retired members and beneficiaries to obtain the present value of all expected benefits payable from the Fund on account of the present group of members and beneficiaries.
- 2. The employer contributions required to support the benefits of the Fund are determined following a level funding approach and consist of a normal contribution and an accrued liability contribution.
- 3. The normal contribution is determined using the "individual entry age normal" method. Under this method, a calculation is made to determine the uniform and constant percentage rate of employer contribution which, if applied to the compensation of each new member during the entire period of his anticipated covered service, would be required in addition to the contributions of the member to meet the cost of all benefits payable on his behalf.
- 4. The unfunded accrued liability contributions are determined by subtracting the present value of prospective employer normal contributions and member contributions together with the current assets held from the present value of expected benefits to be paid from the Fund.





Schedule F: Board Funding Policy

FUNDING POLICY OF THE

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF CONTROL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Effective September 30, 2021

The purpose of the funding policy is to state the overall funding objectives for the Judicial Retirement Fund (Fund), the benchmarks that will be used to measure progress in achieving those goals, and the methods and assumptions that will be employed to develop the benchmarks.

The funding policy reflects the Board's long-term strategy for stability in funding of the plan.

- I. Funding Objectives The goal in requiring employer and member contributions to the Fund is to accumulate sufficient assets during a member's employment to fully finance the benefits the member is expected to receive throughout retirement. In meeting this objective, the Fund will strive to meet the following funding objectives:
 - To maintain an increasing funded ratio (ratio of fund actuarial value of assets to actuarial accrued liabilities) that reflects a trend of improved actuarial condition. The long-term objective is to attain a funded ratio which is consistent with the fiscal health and long-term stability of the Fund.
 - To maintain adequate asset levels to finance the benefits promised to members and monitor the future demands for liquidity.
 - To develop a pattern of contribution rates expressed as a percentage of member payroll as measured by valuations prepared in accordance with applicable State laws and the principles of practice prescribed by the Actuarial Standards Board. In no event will the employer contribution rate be negative.
 - To provide intergenerational equity for taxpayers with respect to Fund costs.

II. Benchmarks

To track progress in achieving the previously outlined funding objectives, the following benchmarks will be measured annually as of the valuation date. The valuation date is the date that the annual actuarial valuation of the Fund's assets and liabilities is prepared. This date is currently September 30th each year with due recognition that a single year's results may not be indicative of long-term trends:

- **Funded ratio** The funded ratio, defined as the actuarial value of assets divided by the actuarial accrued liability, should increase over time, before adjustments for changes in benefits, actuarial methods, and/or actuarial assumptions.
- Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)
 - > Initial Total UAAL The initial total UAAL established as of the initial valuation date (September 30, 2021) for which this funding policy is adopted shall be amortized over a closed





Schedule F: Board Funding Policy

- period. (A closed amortization period is one which is calculated over a fixed period and at the end of that period, the amount is fully amortized).
- New Incremental UAAL Each valuation after the initial valuation date will produce a New Incremental UAAL consisting of all benefit changes that have occurred since the previous valuation. Each valuation after the initial valuation date will produce a New Incremental UAAL consisting of all assumption and method changes and experience gains and/or losses that have occurred since the previous valuation.

• UAAL Amortization Period and Contribution Rates

- > The Initial Total UAAL will be amortized over a closed 19-year period.
- > Except as noted later, each New Incremental UAAL shall be amortized over a closed 20 year period.
- ➤ Incremental UAAL resulting from plan changes that grant benefit improvements shall be amortized over a period not to exceed 15 years.
- ➤ Employer Normal Contribution Rate the contribution rate determined as of the valuation date each year based on the provisions of Alabama Code Sections 36-27-24 and 12-18-2.
- ➤ In each valuation subsequent to the adoption of this funding policy the required employer contribution rate will be determined by the summation of the employer Normal Contribution Rate, a contribution rate for the pre-retirement death benefit fund, a contribution rate for administrative expenses, the individual amortization rate for each of the New Incremental UAAL bases, and the amortization rate for the remaining initial UAAL.

III. Methods and Assumptions

The actuarial funding method used to develop the benchmarks will be the Entry Age Normal (EAN) actuarial cost method. The actuarial methods and assumptions used will be those last adopted by the Board based upon the advice and recommendation of the actuary. The actuary shall conduct an investigation into the Fund's experience at least every five years and utilize the results of the investigation to form the basis for those recommendations.

IV. Funding Policy Progress

The Board will periodically have projections of funded status performed to assess the current and expected future progress towards the overall funding goal.





Schedule G: Amortization of Bases

AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE FOR INITIAL UAAL ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

		Payment for
Valuation Date	Projected UAAL	<u>Year</u>
9/30/2021	\$166,022,505	\$13,574,759
9/30/2022	\$164,733,412	\$13,948,065
9/30/2023	\$162,975,620	\$14,331,636
9/30/2024	\$160,704,179	\$14,725,756
9/30/2025	\$157,870,532	\$15,130,715
9/30/2026	\$154,422,237	\$15,546,809
9/30/2027	\$150,302,673	\$15,974,347
9/30/2028	\$145,450,724	\$16,413,641
9/30/2029	\$139,800,437	\$16,865,016
9/30/2030	\$133,280,653	\$17,328,804
9/30/2031	\$125,814,617	\$17,805,346
9/30/2032	\$117,319,552	\$18,294,993
9/30/2033	\$107,706,206	\$18,798,106
9/30/2034	\$96,878,359	\$19,315,054
9/30/2035	\$84,732,304	\$19,846,217
9/30/2036	\$71,156,278	\$20,391,988
9/30/2037	\$56,029,854	\$20,952,768
9/30/2038	\$39,223,295	\$21,528,969
9/30/2039	\$20,596,849	\$22,121,016
9/30/2040	\$0	\$0





Schedule G: Amortization of Bases

AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE FOR NEW INCREMENTAL UAAL ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Taxable Control of the Control of th		
		Payment for
Valuation Date	Projected UAAL	<u>Year</u>
9/30/2022	\$45,102,793	\$3,570,572
9/30/2023	\$44,869,829	\$3,668,762
9/30/2024	\$44,521,434	\$3,769,653
9/30/2025	\$44,046,367	\$3,873,319
9/30/2026	\$43,432,479	\$3,979,835
9/30/2027	\$42,666,648	\$4,089,280
9/30/2028	\$41,734,699	\$4,201,736
9/30/2029	\$40,621,331	\$4,317,283
9/30/2030	\$39,310,026	\$4,436,009
9/30/2031	\$37,782,960	\$4,557,999
9/30/2032	\$36,020,900	\$4,683,344
9/30/2033	\$34,003,103	\$4,812,136
9/30/2034	\$31,707,197	\$4,944,470
9/30/2035	\$29,109,060	\$5,080,442
9/30/2036	\$26,182,688	\$5,220,155
9/30/2037	\$22,900,052	\$5,363,709
9/30/2038	\$19,230,947	\$5,511,211
9/30/2039	\$15,142,826	\$5,662,769
9/30/2040	\$10,600,626	\$5,818,495
9/30/2041	\$5,566,577	\$5,978,504
9/30/2042	\$0	\$0





Schedule G: Amortization of Bases

AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE FOR NEW INCREMENTAL UAAL ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

ir-		
		Payment for
Valuation Date	Projected UAAL	<u>Year</u>
9/30/2023	\$15,531,825	\$1,229,580
9/30/2024	\$15,451,600	\$1,263,393
9/30/2025	\$15,331,625	\$1,298,137
9/30/2026	\$15,168,028	\$1,333,835
9/30/2027	\$14,956,627	\$1,370,516
9/30/2028	\$14,692,901	\$1,408,205
9/30/2029	\$14,371,971	\$1,446,931
9/30/2030	\$13,988,566	\$1,486,721
9/30/2031	\$13,536,999	\$1,527,606
9/30/2032	\$13,011,131	\$1,569,616
9/30/2033	\$12,404,339	\$1,612,780
9/30/2034	\$11,709,480	\$1,657,131
9/30/2035	\$10,918,851	\$1,702,703
9/30/2036	\$10,024,143	\$1,749,527
9/30/2037	\$9,016,403	\$1,797,639
9/30/2038	\$7,885,978	\$1,847,074
9/30/2039	\$6,622,466	\$1,897,868
9/30/2040	\$5,214,660	\$1,950,060
9/30/2041	\$3,650,485	\$2,003,686
9/30/2042	\$1,916,935	\$2,058,788
9/30/2043	\$0	\$0





The Judicial Retirement Fund was established September 18, 1973. This valuation included amendments to the Fund effective through the valuation date. There is a new tier of benefits (Tier II) for all justices, judges, and circuit clerks elected or appointed on or after November 8, 2016. In addition, there is a new tier of benefits (District Attorneys' Plan) for all district attorneys serving in the capacity of district attorney on or after November 8, 2016. The following summary describes the main benefit and contribution provisions of the Fund as interpreted for the valuation.

Membership

Any justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Civil Appeals, judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, judge of the Circuit Court, or officeholder of any newly created judicial office receiving compensation from the State treasury became a member of the Fund if he was holding office on the effective date of the Act and elected to come under its provisions. Any such justice or judge elected or appointed to office after the effective date of the Act or any district or probate judge elected or appointed to office after October 10, 1975, or October 1, 1976, respectively, automatically becomes a member. Any circuit clerk or district attorney serving in the capacity of circuit clerk or district attorney on or after November 8, 2016, automatically becomes a member. Certain other district and probate judges as well as certain former county court judges, district attorneys or assistant district attorneys serving as circuit judges, and certain supernumerary judges and justices could also elect to become members.

Average Final Compensation

The average compensation of a Tier II (Group 3) or District Attorney member for the 5 highest years in the last 10 years of creditable service.

Creditable Service

Creditable service is service as a member plus certain periods of previous service creditable in accordance with the provisions of the Act.





Benefits

Service Retirement Benefit

Condition for Benefit

Tier I (Groups 1 and 2):

A retirement benefit is payable upon the request of any member who has:

Completed 12 years of creditable service and attained age 65, or

Completed 15 years of creditable service and whose age plus creditable service equals or exceeds 77, or

Completed at least 18 years of creditable service or three full terms as a judge or justice, or

Completed 10 years of creditable service and attained age 70.

However, a judge who became a member on or after July 30, 1979, or who is a district or probate judge must meet the following age and service requirement combinations in order to be eligible to retire:

Completed 12 years of creditable service and attained age 65, or

Completed at least 15 years of creditable service and attained age 60, whose age plus credible service equals or exceeds 77, or

Completed 10 years of creditable service and attained age 70, or

Completed 25 years of creditable service (or completed 24 years of creditable service provided the member purchases one year of service prior to retirement) regardless of age.

Tier II (Group 3) and District Attorneys:

Completed 10 years of credible service and attained age 62.

Amount of Benefit

Tier I (Groups 1 and 2):

The service retirement benefit for a member is equal to:

- (a) For a circuit or appellate judge who was a member prior to July 30, 1979, 75% of the salary prescribed by law for the position from which the member retires.
- (b) For a circuit or appellate judge who became a member on or after July 30, 1979, 75% of the member's salary at the time of separation from service.
- (c) For a district judge, 75% of the position's salary immediately prior to retirement.
- (d) For a probate judge, 75% of the member's salary at the time of separation from service.





Tier II (Group 3) and District Attorneys:

The service retirement benefit for a member is equal to:

- (a) For a member who is a judge with less than 18 years of creditable service, 4% of average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service; for a member who is a judge with 18 or more years of creditable service, 75% of average final compensation, not to exceed 75% of average final compensation.
- (b) For a member who is a clerk or district attorney, 3% of average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, not to exceed 80% of average final compensation.

Disability Retirement Benefit

Condition for Benefit

A disability retirement benefit is payable to any member who becomes permanently, physically, or mentally unable to carry out his duties on a full-time basis, provided the member has completed five or more years of creditable service. (ten years for new tier members)

Amount of Benefit

Tier I (Groups 1 and 2):

The disability retirement benefit for a member other than a district or probate judge who was a member prior to July 30, 1979, is equal to 25% of the salary prescribed by law for the position from which the member retires plus 10% of such salary for each year of creditable service in excess of five years. The disability retirement benefit is subject to a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 75% of such salary.

The disability retirement benefit for a judge who became a member on or after July 30, 1979, or who is a district or probate judge is equal to 25% of his salary immediately prior to retirement plus 10% of such salary for each year of creditable service in excess of five years. The disability retirement benefit is subject to a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 75% of such salary.

Tier II (Group 3) and District Attorneys:

For a member who is a judge with less than 18 years of creditable service, 4% of average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service; for a member who is a judge with 18 or more years of creditable service, 75% of average final compensation, not to exceed 75% of average final compensation.

For a member who is a clerk or district attorney, 3% of average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, not to exceed 80% of average final compensation.





Spouse's Benefit

Condition for Benefit

Tier I (Groups 1 and 2):

Upon the death of an active, inactive or retired member with at least 5 years of creditable service, a death benefit is payable to the member's spouse.

Amount of Benefit Tier I (Groups 1 and 2):

The death benefit payable to the spouse of a judge other than a district or probate judge consists of a yearly benefit equal to 3% of the salary prescribed by law for the position of the former member for each year of credible service, not to exceed 30% of such salary.

The death benefit payable to the spouse of a district judge consists of a yearly benefit equal to 3% of the position's salary prescribed by law at the time of death for each year of credible service not to exceed 30% of such salary.

The death benefit payable to the spouse of a probate judge is a yearly benefit equal to the greater of \$480 for each year of creditable service to a maximum of 10 years, or 3% of the member's salary at the time of separation from service for each year of creditable service not to exceed 30% of such salary.

The benefit is payable for the spouse's life or until his or her remarriage.

Death in Active Service Benefit

Amount of Benefit

Tier II (Group 3) and **District Attorneys:**

In the event of the death of a member who is eligible for service retirement, the designated beneficiary may elect: (1) to exercise option 3 as defined below under "Special Privileges at Retirement -All Employees" or (2) to receive a return of member contributions and total interest earned plus a death benefit payable from the preretirement death benefit fund equal to the salary on which the member made retirement contributions for the previous fiscal year (October 1 – September 30).

In the event of the death of a member who is not eligible for retirement, the designated beneficiary shall receive the accumulated contributions not to exceed \$5,000 or the accumulated contributions of the member plus an additional death benefit payable from the preretirement death benefit fund equal to the salary on which their retirement contributions were made for the previous fiscal year. (October 1- September 30)





Benefit Payable on Separation from Service

If a member terminates service and elects not to withdraw his contributions and accrued interest from the plan, he is eligible to receive any of the benefits for which he has sufficient creditable service upon reaching an eligible retirement age.

A member terminating service before reaching eligibility for retirement benefits may elect to receive a return of contributions and accrued interest. "Regular Interest" is 4% which is the rate adopted by the Board and applied to the balance in each member's account every year; however, if a member receives a refund of contributions, the interest rate applied to the refund is lower than the 4% regular rate (Based on Section 36-27-16.3(c)(1)).

Contributions

By Members

Tier I (Groups 1 and 2): Prior to October 1, 2011, each member contributed 6.0% of salary.

Beginning October 1, 2011, each member contributed 8.25% of

salary.

Beginning October 1, 2012, each member contributes 8.50% of

salary.

Tier II (Group 3) and **District Attorneys:**

Each Tier II member and District Attorney member contributes

8.50% of salary.

If positive investment performance results in a decrease in the total contribution rate paid by employers and employees participating in the Fund, the Retirement Systems of Alabama shall first reduce the

employee contribution rate.

By State

The State makes contributions which, in addition to the members' contributions, are sufficient to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Special Privileges at Retirement

Tier II (Group 3) and **District Attorneys:**

In lieu of the full retirement allowance, any member may, at retirement, elect to receive a reduced retirement allowance equal in value to the full allowance with the provision that:

Option 1. If the member dies before the annuity payments equal or exceed the present value of the value of the annuity in the member's account at the date of retirement, the balance is paid to a designated beneficiary or to the estate, or

Option 2. After the member's death, the member's allowance is continued throughout the life of the designated beneficiary, or Option 3. After the member's death, one half of the member's allowance is continued throughout the life of the designated beneficiary, or





Option 4. Some other benefit is paid either to the member or to the designated beneficiary provided such benefit, together with the reduced retirement allowance, is of equivalent actuarial value to his retirement allowance and is approved by the Board of Control.





Schedule I: Schedule of Membership Data

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP DATA AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS AND THEIR AVERAGE COMPENSATION* BY AGE AND YEARS OF SERVICE

Attained Age	Completed Years of Service										
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	<u>></u> 40	Total
Under 25 Avg. Pay											
25 to 29 Avg. Pay											
30 to 34 Avg. Pay			1 150,400								1 150,400
35 to 39 Avg. Pay	3 155,378	6 122,864	4 135,165	2 123,009							15 132,666
40 to 44 Avg. Pay	12 156,265	12 134,398	3 110,744	6 166,821	3 158,669						36 147,143
45 to 49 Avg. Pay	7 143,422	29 138,357	14 158,077	12 147,516	2 168,325	1 175,057					65 146,327
50 to 54 Avg. Pay	6 126,135	30 130,448	12 150,489	15 143,700	6 149,993	4 158,585					73 139,259
55 to 59 Avg. Pay	3 153,821	13 138,446	13 150,495	19 152,091	17 172,084	6 148,560	2 166,504	2 175,515			75 154,777
60 to 64 Avg. Pay	6 163,364	8 130,704	4 154,239	12 154,922	12 175,567	8 172,699	3 209,019		2 187,514		55 163,497
65 to 69 Avg. Pay	1 147,437	8 114,758	12 146,984	13 158,772	8 159,509	4 160,562		2 180,996	2 227,027	1 80,672	51 151,145
70 & up Avg. Pay		1 86,169	2 156,581	4 166,145	2 168,950	2 159,025	1 69,565	1 220,071		1 188,186	14 156,977
Total Avg. Pay	38 149,768	107 132,013	65 149,117	83 152,410	50 167,176	25 161,706	6 171,605	5 186,619	4 207,270	2 134,429	385 149,666

^{*} Includes all salary increases reflected in the valuation.

The top number in each box is the count of actives for that age and service combination. The bottom amount is the average compensation for the group.

Average Age: 54.6 Average Years of Service: 10.3





Schedule I: Schedule of Membership Data

NUMBER OF SERVICE RETIREMENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS BY AGE

	Number of	Total	Average
Age	Members	Annual Benefits	Annual Benefits
Under 50	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
50-54	1	115,558	115,558
55-59	2	158,220	79,110
60-64	18	2,020,663	112,259
65-69	59	6,583,105	111,578
70-74	79	8,356,629	105,780
75-79	106	11,347,240	107,049
80-84	59	6,477,035	109,780
85-89	15	1,399,732	93,315
90-94	9	1,051,603	116,845
95 & Over	4	460,758	115,190
Total	352	\$ 37,970,543	\$ 107,871

Average Age: 75.1

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR BENEFITS BY AGE

	Number of	Total	Average	
Age	Members	Annual Benefits	Annual Benefits	
Under 50	0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
50-54	1	33,287	33,287	
55-59	0	0	0	
60-64	7	366,796	52,399	
65-69	6	259,764	43,294	
70-74	11	558,699	50,791	
75-79	19	910,461	47,919	
80-84	18	759,848	42,214	
85-89	19	717,832	37,781	
90-94	19	775,456	40,813	
95 & Over	7	307,809	43,973	
Total	107	\$ 4,689,952	\$ 43,831	

Average Age: 81.3





Schedule I: Schedule of Membership Data

NUMBER OF DISABLED RETIREES AND THEIR BENEFITS BY AGE

Age	Number of Members	Total Annual Benefits	Average Annual Benefits
Under 50	0	\$ 0	\$ 0
50-54	0	0	0
55-59	1	105,705	105,705
60-64	1	128,718	128,718
65-69	3	289,307	96,436
70-74	1	37,469	37,469
75-79	2	113,071	56,536
80-84	0	0	0
85-89	0	0	0
90-94	0	0	0
95 & Over	0	0	0
Total	8	\$ 674,270	\$ 84,284

Average Age: 68.5

STATUS RECONCILIATION FROM 2022 TO 2023

Reconciliation of Data from Last Year to This Year	Active	Retired	Disabled	Survivor	Vested	Total
Total as of September 30, 2022	372	336	8	115	11	842
Service Retirements	(19)	20			(1)	
Disability Retirements	(1)		1			
Deceased	(2)	(1)		(12)	(1)	(16)
Deceased with Beneficiary		(3)	(1)	4		
Deferred Vested Termination	(4)				4	
Refunds	(2)					(2)
Inactive	(2)					(2)
Return to Active Status						
Pick-up/Status Change	2					2
New	41					41
Total as of September 30, 2023	385	352	8	107	13	865

