



COURT OF CHANCERY
State of Delaware

2010 Annual Report Statistical Information



COURT OF CHANCERY

Chancellor William B. Chandler III

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Court of Chancery.

COURT HISTORY

The Court of Chancery came into existence as a separate court under the Delaware Constitution of 1792. Its creation contradicted an historical trend in eighteenth century America away from chancery courts. The Court consisted solely of a chancellor until 1939 when the position of vice chancellor was added. The increase of the court's workload, since then, has led to further expansions to its present complement of a chancellor and four vice chancellors, with the addition of the fourth vice chancellor occurring in 1989.

LEGAL JURISDICTION

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters and causes in equity. The general equity jurisdiction of the Court is measured in terms of the general equity jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery of Great Britain as it existed prior to the separation of the American colonies. The General Assembly may confer upon the Court of Chancery additional statutory jurisdiction.

In today's practice, litigation in the Court of Chancery consists largely of corporate matters, trusts, estates, and other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase and sale of land, questions of title to real estate, and commercial and contractual matters in general. When issues of fact to be tried by a jury arise, the Court of Chancery may order such facts to trial by issues at the Bar of the Superior Court (10 *Del.C.* § 369).



Court of Chancery *(left to right)*

Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons, Jr.
Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.
Chancellor William B. Chandler III

Vice Chancellor John W. Noble
Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster

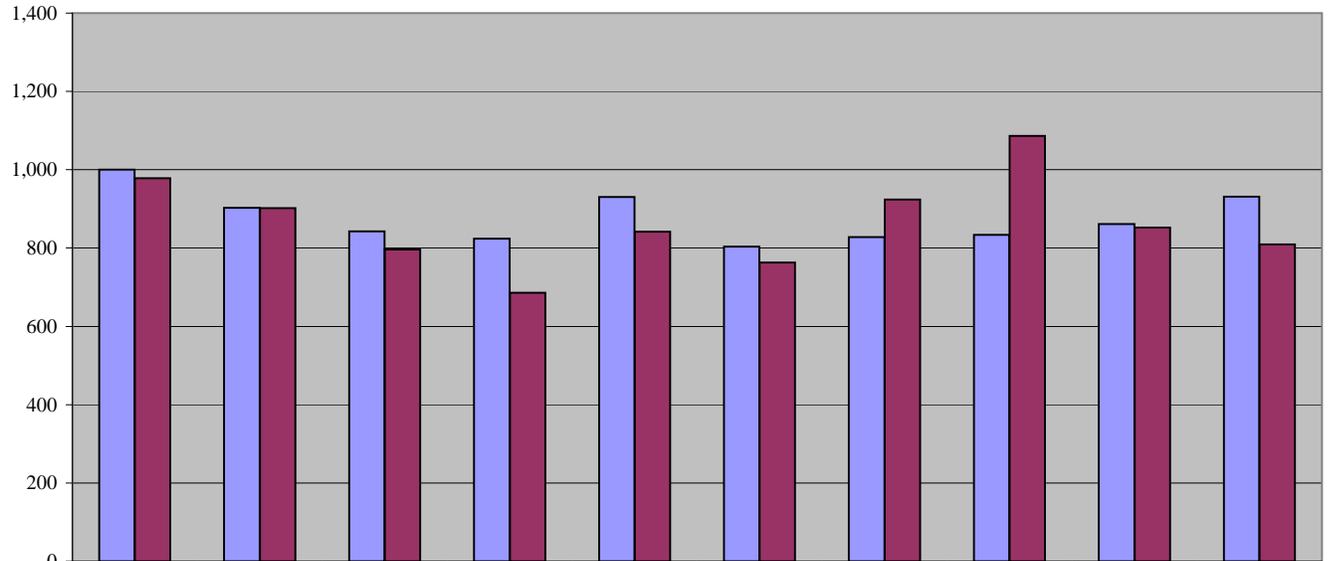
COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Civil Filings				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	861	931	70	8.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Civil Dispositions				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	852	809	-43	-5.0%

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Filings	1,000	903	843	824	930	804	828	834	861	931
Dispositions	978	902	796	686	842	763	924	1,086	852	809

Fiscal Year

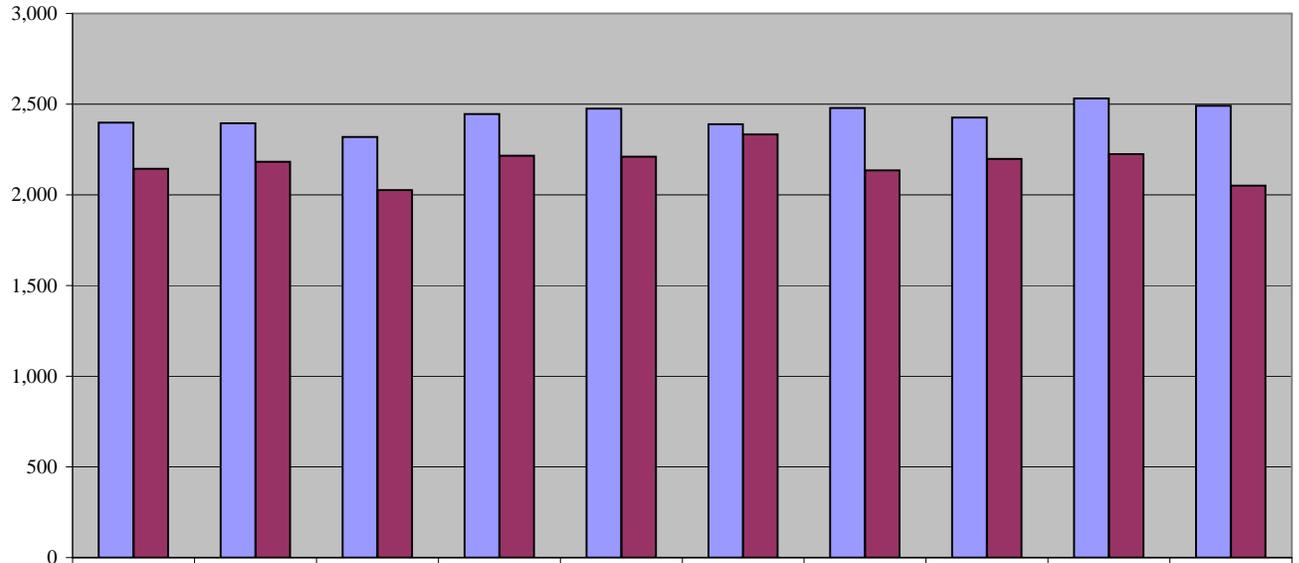
COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Estates Filings				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	2,531	2,492	-39	-1.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Estates Dispositions				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	2,225	2,051	-174	-7.8%

Source: Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts

Court of Chancery 10-Year Estates Caseload Trend



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Filings	2,399	2,394	2,319	2,445	2,476	2,390	2,479	2,427	2,531	2,492
Dispositions	2,143	2,183	2,027	2,215	2,210	2,333	2,135	2,199	2,225	2,051

Fiscal Year

COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Summary Fiscal Years 2009-2010- Miscellaneous Matters Filings				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	730	761	31	4.2%

Caseload Summary Fiscal Years 2009-2010- Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change*
Statewide	423	864	441	104.3%

* The percentage change for miscellaneous matters dispositions reflects an on-going file maintenance of dormant civil miscellaneous cases on the Lexis Nexis system that should not have transferred as active.

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts

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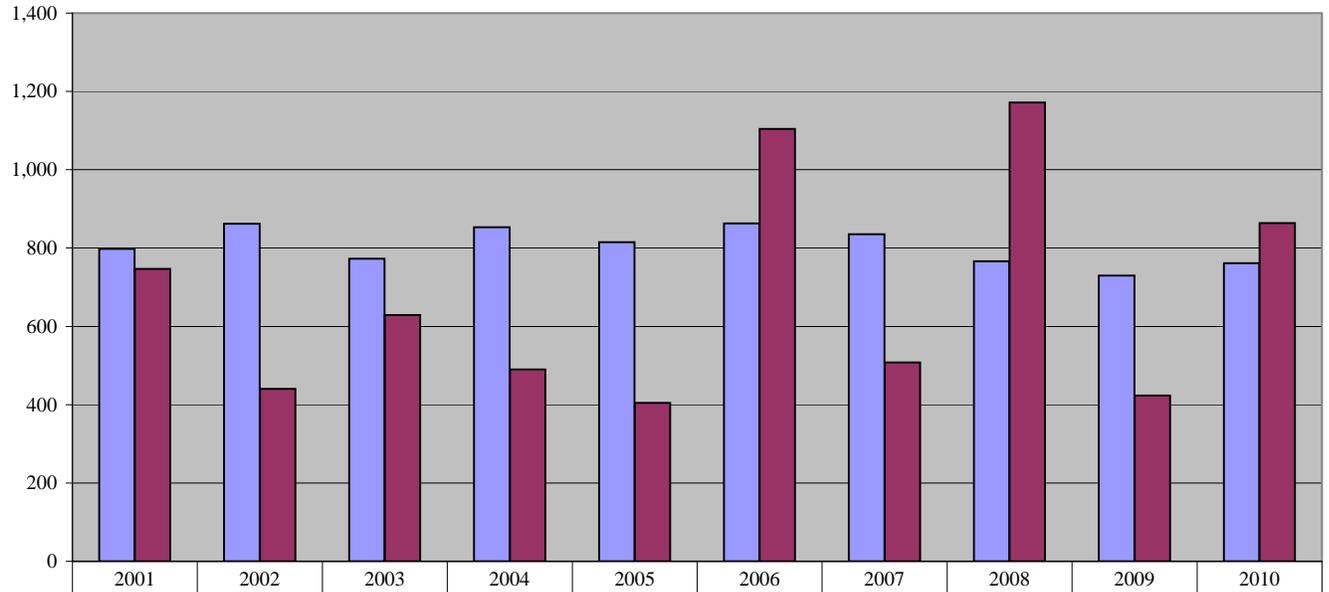
Caseload Summary Fiscal Years 2009-2010- Miscellaneous Matters Filings				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	730	761	31	4.2%

Caseload Summary Fiscal Years 2009-2010- Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change*
Statewide	423	864	441	104.3%

* The percentage change for miscellaneous matters dispositions reflects an on-going file maintenance of dormant civil miscellaneous cases on the Lexis Nexis system that should not have transferred as active.

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts

Court of Chancery 10-Year Miscellaneous Caseload Trend



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
■ Filings	798	862	773	853	815	863	835	766	730	761
■ Dispositions	747	440	629	490	405	1,104	508	1,172	423	864

Fiscal Year

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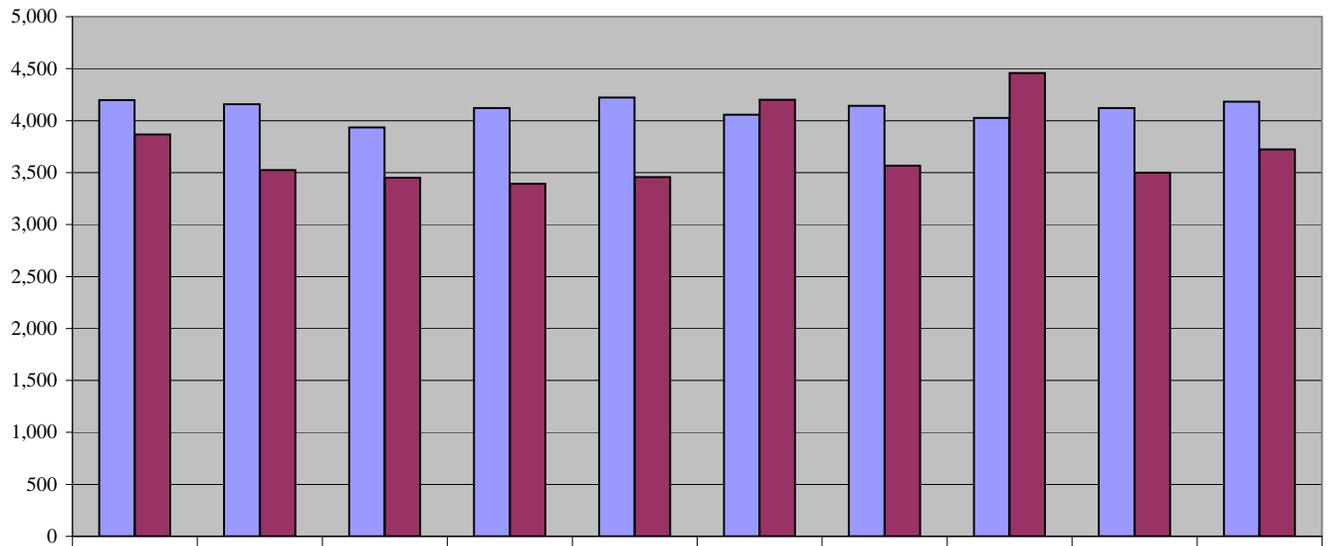
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Total Case Filings*				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	4,122	4,184	62	1.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2009-2010 - Total Case Dispositions*				
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
Statewide	3,500	3,724	224	6.4%

* Total includes Civil, Miscellaneous, and Estates

Source: Registers in Chancery; Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts

Court of Chancery 10-Year Total Caseload Trend (Civil, Miscellaneous, & Estates)



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
■ Filings	4,197	4,159	3,935	4,122	4,221	4,057	4,142	4,027	4,122	4,184
■ Dispositions	3,868	3,525	3,452	3,391	3,457	4,200	3,567	4,457	3,500	3,724

Fiscal Year