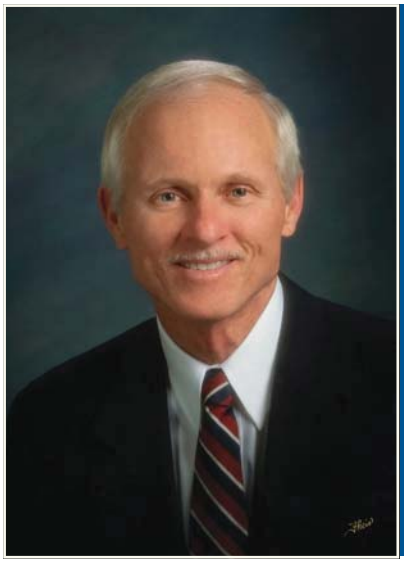


COURT OF CHANCERY

Chancellor William B. Chandler III

Since 1792 the Court of Chancery has been an indispensable component of Delaware's legal culture. The Court's preeminence in American business law has long been established. Two of the ingredients that have enabled the Court to achieve its stature within the national and international legal community are its expertise in its jurisdiction as evidenced in its extensive case law and its ability to deal with matters in a timely fashion. In FY 2010 the Court took steps to continue its tradition of excellence.

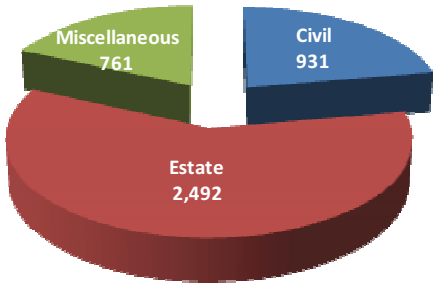
The e-filing effort first launched in 2003 continues to produce outcomes consistent with the project's original goals and objectives. To capitalize on that effort, the Court is working with the developers of COTS to secure the efficiencies realized to date and maximize the potential of e-filing throughout the entirety of the Court's caseload. With this expansion under COTS the Court is also focused on the development of a viable case management system that can provide measures of the Court's performance against established benchmarks.

Part of the plan to continue the Court's tradition of excellence is to take advantage of the opportunities presented with the legislation that established the statewide Register in Chancery Office. Thanks to e-filing and the resultant elimination of many paper intensive tasks, the Court has benefited from the reallocation of resources within the Register's Office.

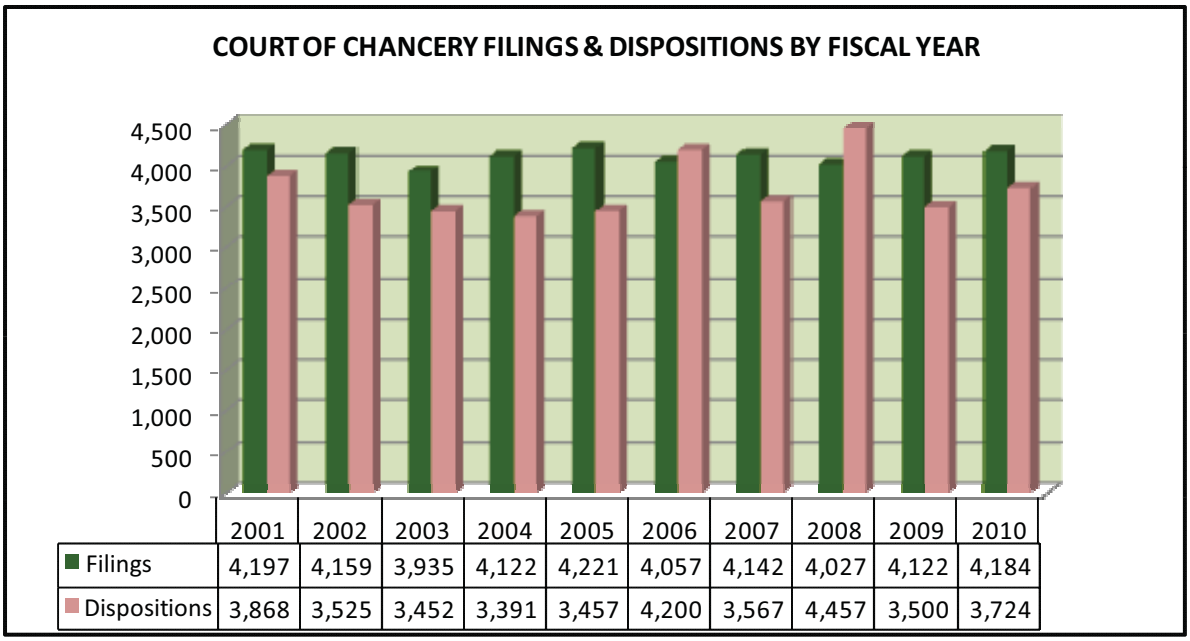
With the graying of the population, the number of persons seeking guardianships is expected to grow significantly. It is anticipated that there is a potential for this burgeoning population to need assistance in managing their personal and financial affairs. Having materials and procedures that are user friendly and that can guide citizens is important to providing the public with the access it deserves.

The Court has also been given additional statutory jurisdiction, in the form of authority to handle arbitration matters filed with the Court. Once again the Court is being called upon to provide an expedited solution to large business and commercial disputes. In a similar view, the Court's Rules were amended to permit the Court to hold arguments, conferences and hearings via videoconferencing, thus enabling counsel and parties to have access to the Court from distant locations. These steps were taken to further the Court's reputation for providing efficient access and prompt decision-making to those who choose to incorporate in Delaware or who choose Delaware law to apply to their disputes.

NUMBER OF COURT OF CHANCERY FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2010



COURT OF CHANCERY



	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

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