

The **Court of Common Pleas** has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$75,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas handles all misdemeanors occurring in the State except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses. The Court is also responsible for all preliminary hearings in felony cases.



# Court of Common Pleas

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## Chief Judge Carl C. Danberg

### *By the Numbers*

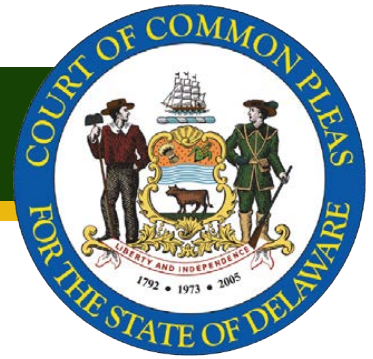


#### **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

- Judges - 9
- Commissioners - 3
- Court Staff - 137

TOTAL: 149

# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



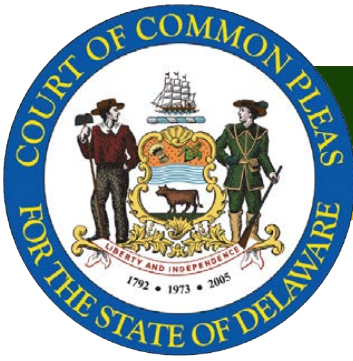
## Court of Common Pleas Judges

### Front Row (left to right):

Judge Monica A. Horton • Judge Kathleen K. Amalfitano • Judge Katharine L. Mayer

### Back Row (left to right):

Judge Rae M. Mims • Judge Robert H. Surles • Judge Anne E. Hartnett •  
Chief Judge Carl C. Danberg • Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr. (retired May 2024) •  
Judge Bradley V. Manning



# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

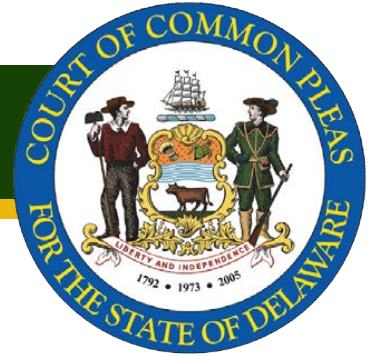


## Court of Common Pleas Commissioners

### Left to Right:

Commissioner Gregory R. Babowal • Commissioner Donald R. Bucklin •  
Commissioner Emily Ferrell

# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



## Court Of Common Pleas

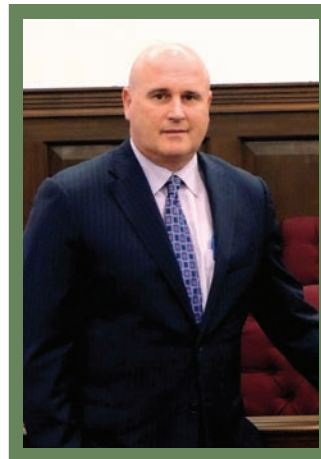
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# 2024 Highlights

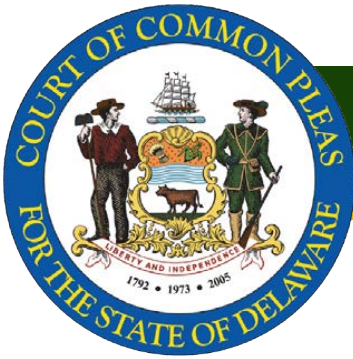
- The Court said farewell to Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr. who retired after completing two terms on the bench and 24 years of dedicated service to the Court of Common Pleas and the people of Delaware. He joined the court in 2000 and his final day was May 31, 2024. The Court wishes him well on his retirement.
- The Court welcomed Judge Thomas Pedersen who was sworn in to office in a private ceremony on June 30, 2024, and is based in Sussex County. He replaces Judge Clark. Prior to joining the Court, Judge Pedersen was a solo practitioner in Georgetown, where he focused on criminal defense. He spent 23 years in private practice, as well as working as a conflict attorney, representing criminal cases with the Office of the Public Defender. Prior to that Judge Pedersen worked as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the Delaware Department of Justice. He earned his undergraduate degree from West Chester University and his law degree from Widener University School of Law.



Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr.

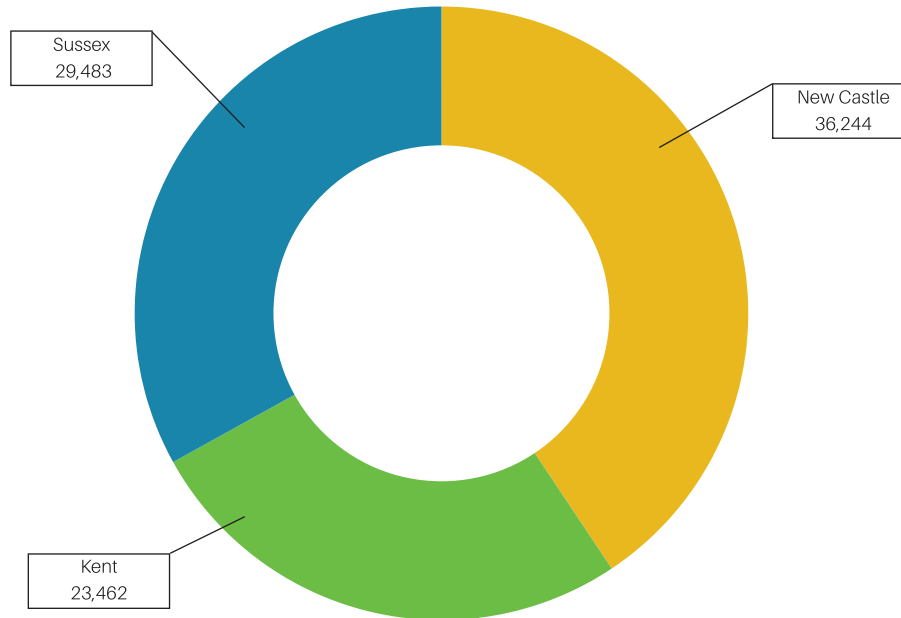


Judge Thomas Pedersen

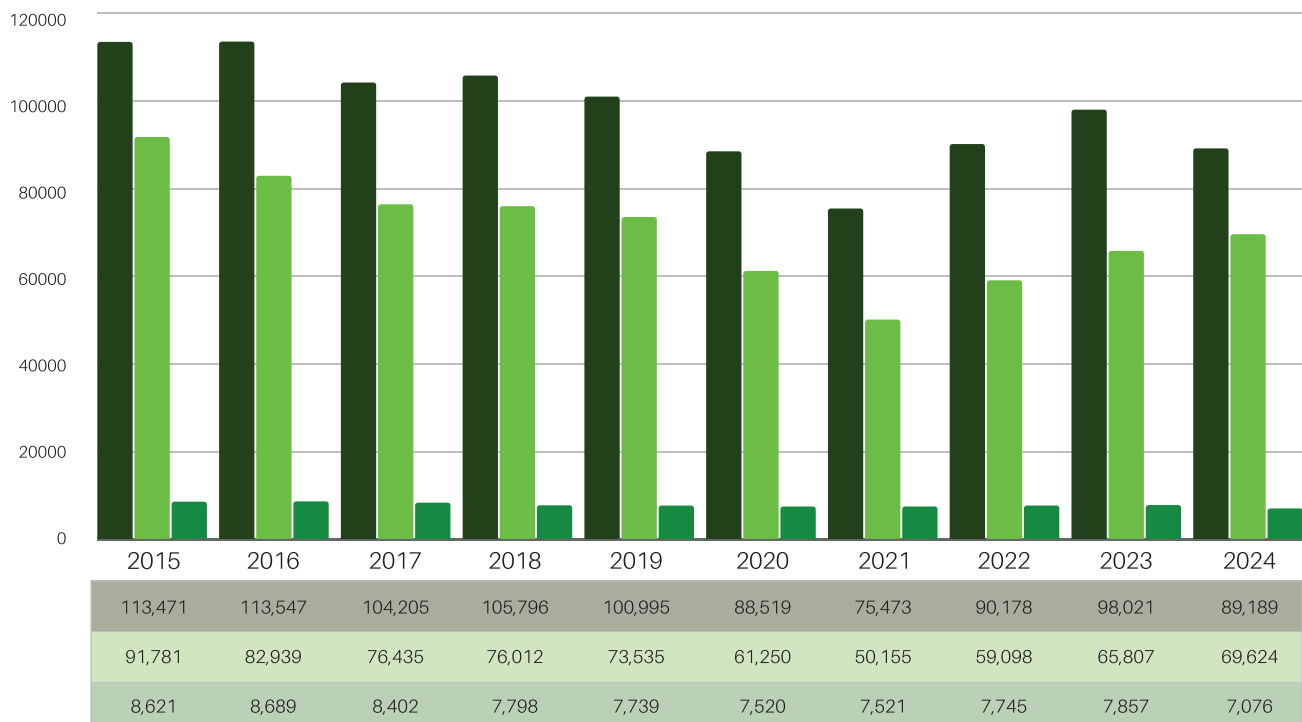


# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

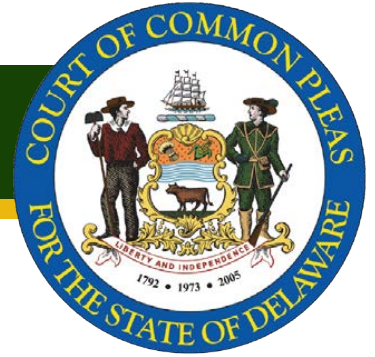
## Court of Common Pleas Civil and Criminal Filings by County Fiscal Year 2024



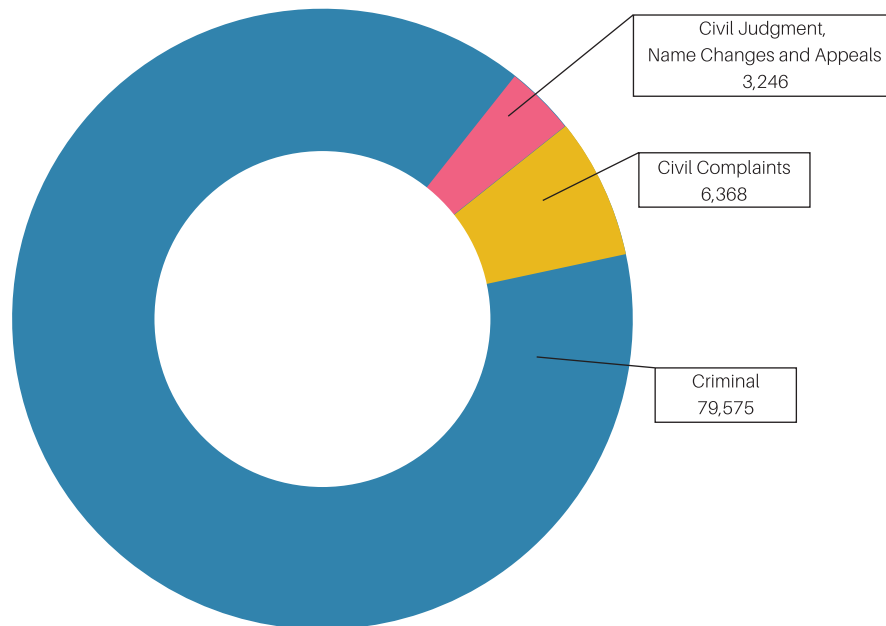
## Court of Common Pleas Criminal Caseload Trend by Fiscal Year



# COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



**Court of Common Pleas Number of Filings  
by Type Fiscal Year 2024**



**Court of Common Pleas Preliminary Hearings  
by County Fiscal Year 2024**

