

A high-contrast, black and white graphic. A hand is shown from the top and sides, holding a large crystal ball. Inside the crystal ball, a modern, multi-story building with many windows is visible. The text "Seeing the Possibilities" is superimposed over the building. The background is dark, and the hand and crystal ball are rendered in a high-contrast, almost binary style.

Seeing the Possibilities

2001 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary

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December 2001

To Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware,

This presentation of the 2001 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary is on behalf of a court system that is being invigorated by the realization of its vision. During the past fiscal year, I emphasized three themes to implement our vision: the new New Castle County Courthouse, the acquisition of an off-the-shelf case management system, and the establishment of *pro se* centers for self-represented litigants. The foundation of our vision is the improvement of access to justice for the citizens of Delaware and the improvement of internal court operations.

The new New Castle County Courthouse, where the citizens of Delaware will experience a greater level of service in a modern, state of the art facility, has moved toward completion under the guidance of the Building Executive Committee and the Council of Court Administrators. By the end of the current fiscal year, this portion of our vision will be on the verge of realization, and courts will fully occupy the courthouse by September 2002. We owe special thanks to Edward Pollard of the Family Court who has been the liaison of the Judicial Branch and our superb "point person" to oversee the completion of the construction.

The court system is in the process of seeking commercial off-the-shelf case and financial management systems (COTS) for use in Delaware. Our goal is to acquire new, integrated automated systems to coordinate case and financial management information, develop secure electronic access to court information, provide real time integrated case data and permit the electronic filing of court documents. We are currently selecting the software and standardizing processes among the courts to simplify operations to facilitate the new software acquisition. Again, we owe special thanks to Carole Kirshner of the Court of Common Pleas and Cheryl Kingston of the Judicial Information Center who have co-chaired the Uniform Case Processes Committee that is responsible for the implementation of the COTS project.

An ever-increasing number of Delaware citizens are choosing to represent themselves as *pro se* litigants in our courts. The courts have made it a priority to assist *pro se* litigants in finding resources to help them navigate through the judicial system. During the past fiscal year, the Family Court opened a second Resource Center in Georgetown as a companion to the Dover Resource Center to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants. A third Resource Center will be located in the new Courthouse in Wilmington. To further accessibility, each court in the judicial system has a website where the public can retrieve information, forms and documents.

The Judicial Branch of government will continue to be innovative in the next fiscal year and will continue to refine our collective vision. We look forward to serving the public and making their interactions with the court system positive, efficient and professional experiences.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Norman Veasey".



IMPROVING OPERATIONS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

DELIVERY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY COMMITTEE DEVELOPS NEW FORMAT

On April 10, 2001, in response to recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Committee on Speedy Trial Guidelines, Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey issued Administrative Directive 128 establishing the Delivery of Criminal Justice Policy Committee. The Committee is charged with recommending guidelines to reduce the number of pretrial detentioners in Delaware's prisons and to ensure efficiency and fairness in the processing of criminal cases. Chaired by Justice Joseph T. Walsh and including representatives of all the Delaware courts and criminal justice constituencies, the Committee has met on a monthly basis since June 2001. The principal focus of the Committee's work thus far has been the development of a new form of Detentioners' Report to be used by the courts, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Public Defender to monitor the status of detentioners at each stage in the

criminal justice process.

The new form of Detentioners' Report is expected to provide a more accurate calculation of the number of detainees statewide, promote enhanced accountability on the part of the various courts and agencies regarding detentioners under their control and allow for increased efficiency in processing detentioners with multiple charges. A monitoring team under the direction of the Administrative Office of the Courts will have ongoing responsibility for receiving input from the various constituencies concerning the form of the report and for making any needed refinements. The Committee has also overseen the development of specific action plans on the part of each court and agency to reduce congestion in the processing of criminal cases. The Committee's Final Report is expected to be delivered to the Chief Justice by January 2002.

COURT FACILITIES DEVELOPMENTS

New Castle County Courthouse: Progress continues towards completion of the New Castle County Courthouse. The project remains on time and within budget and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2002. The move into the 572,000 square-foot building is scheduled to commence on August 1, 2002 and be completed by September 2, 2002. The \$134 million, fourteen-floor Courthouse will feature 44 courtrooms and will house approximately 550 court employees and another 150 employees from other departments and agencies. The court functions which now take place in the Daniel L. Herrmann Courthouse and Jean Kane Foulk DuPont Family Court Building will move into the new courthouse. The public will experience a new level of coordination for court services as operations are developed specifically to make the courts more accessible to the public.

The Executive Committee established by the Fiscal Year 1998 Bond Bill continues to oversee the building project. The Executive Committee is composed of the co-chairs of the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement Programs, respective chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, two members of the Judiciary appointed by the Chief Justice and three members of the Executive Branch who are the Secretary of Administrative Services, the Director of Facilities Management and the State Budget Director.

Kent County Courthouse: A new high-tech courtroom has been added in a space vacated by the law library in Kent County. A new elevator was installed for the transportation of inmates and enhanced court security in the building. The law library moved to new quarters in the basement of the O'Brien Building.

Sussex County Courthouse: Work has started on the renovations of the Sussex County Courthouse with the installation of new windows for the entire building. The exterior of the new addition to the courthouse was completed and further renovations to the building are scheduled to start in the near future. Sussex County Courtroom number two has become a high-tech courtroom with the installation of numerous technologies. The Sussex County law library has moved to the court annex building.

Justice of the Peace Court: In Fiscal Year 2001, the Justice of the Peace Court opened a new Court #9 in April. The old Court #9 was destroyed by fire in the previous year. In Sussex County, the Justice of the Peace Court opened a new Court #14 to centralize the driving under the influence cases and opened a new office for the Chief Magistrate.

COURTS SEEK CASE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In the past fiscal year, one of the major goals of the Delaware Judiciary has been the acquisition of an integrated civil, criminal and financial case management system for use by all courts. In order to accomplish this, Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey issued Administrative Directive Number 127 on April 27, 2001, which created the Uniform Case Processes Committee. This Committee was charged with 1) making recommendations to the Chief Justice concerning the development of statewide operational practices and procedures for the processing of civil and criminal cases by all courts based on best practices and 2) recommending a single COTS system for purchase by the Delaware courts. COTS commonly stands for "commercial off-the-shelf software." However, in Delaware, COTS has become known as "Courts Organized to Serve," a name which has come to epitomize the project. All courts, from the Justice of the Peace Court through the Supreme Court, along with their partners in the Delaware justice system, have pooled their talents and resources and are working in concert on this effort in an unprecedented fashion.

The Uniform Case Processes Committee is chaired by Carole B. Kirshner, Court Administrator for the Court of Common Pleas and has as its Vice-Chair, Cheryl L. Kingston, Director of Technology for the Delaware Courts. Each court and the Administrative Office of the Courts have a representative on the Committee, and each court has a liaison judge assigned to the project. In addition, many of the courts' partners serve actively on the Committee, including representatives of the Attorney General, Public Defender, DELJIS, Office of Information Services, and the Budget Office.

The adoption of a commercial off-the-shelf integrated case management system will greatly improve the Delaware Judiciary's ability to manage its complex caseload. Among other things, it will assist the courts in: improving service to the public, ensuring that timely information is available for court decisions, increasing

collections, promoting court information sharing and cooperation, increasing staff productivity, reducing the burden on JIC staff to support multiple systems, promoting consistent and uniform staff training, and improving responsiveness of the Judiciary to legislative mandates.

A COTS system will also permit the courts to capitalize on state-of-the-art technologies as well as to take advantage of enhancements the vendor develops for other users.

The Uniform Case Processes Committee has made remarkable progress in a very short time. Through the work of the Operational Practices and Procedures Subcommittee, all court practices and procedures are under review and recommendations promoting uniformity are being prepared and presented to the Chief Justice. Where appropriate, these recommendations are being developed in conjunction with our justice partners or with other State agencies. The recommendations deal with a wide range of issues and are aimed at adopting common business practices across all courts and ensuring that business decisions rather than technology needs drive the process.

On November 5, 2001, the Uniform Case Processes Committee issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for systems and services for the implementation of a comprehensive statewide integrated case management system for the Delaware Judiciary. To assist in the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP), the Committee contracted with the Gartner Group, an internationally known and respected consulting firm. Responses to the RFP were submitted on December 28, 2001. By March 5, 2002, the Committee expects to recommend a vendor who can provide the best possible case management solution for the Delaware courts.

More information about the COTS project can be found at the COTS website at <http://courts.state.de.us/cots>.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT'S TRUANCY COURT IS RECOGNIZED

In FY 2001, the Justice of the Peace Court's Truancy Court initiative continued to expand its efforts to make parents and truancy students accountable and to help parents take back control and responsibility of their children. The Truancy Court partnered with several agencies to seek grant funding for special programs designed for Truancy Court families, and established a relationship with the Delaware State University School of Social Work to have student interns provide intensive case management to truancy adolescents who would otherwise have no services available to them. It also undertook extensive outreach to the school districts, state agencies and organizations interested in addressing truancy problems. Internally, it worked to create consistent processes statewide and provide training to the truancy judges on issues such as substance abuse and its treatment, Attention Deficit Disorder, and mental health issues specific to adolescents.

With preliminary statistical information indicating that Truancy Court is a success, and with an invitation to present at the 2002 International Pupil Personnel Workers Conference, Delaware's Truancy Court is being widely recognized for its efforts to keep students in school and to support increased academic achievement. This year the Truancy Court Program was named "Program of the Year" by the New Castle County Community Council. This award is given annually to a program that has had significant impact on children and families.



COURT INITIATIVES

JUDICIAL INTERNET DEVELOPMENTS

The Delaware Judiciary's presence on the internet has continued to expand over the last fiscal year. An interactive version of the child support calculation was added to the Family Court website. For years, the public has seen the calculation as a mystery. They can now experience it firsthand from any computer with internet access. After entering income and other required information, they may run and print the calculation. It may be used as an estimate of the amount of support that might be awarded by the Court.

The Superior Court concentrated on the expansion of its electronic service delivery, browser-based report distribution and converting paper-based communications to electronic communications as they position themselves for integration for full e-commerce transactions. Interactive search capability was added to the site, which allows users to find information through both word and phrase searches. For the first time, Delaware's citizens summoned to jury service can respond via the web to their summons. All current Superior Court orders and opinions have been added to the site and are now immediately available online in a printable standard PDF format. Providing this service online enabled the Court to serve the public in a timelier manner as well as make gains in efficiency and cost savings.

All Administrative Directives written by Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey now reside on the Supreme Court website. Supreme Court Task Force and Committee reports can now be viewed on the site immediately upon release to the public. Students who take the Delaware Bar Exam were able to access their results online through the Board of Bar Examiners web site.

The Court of Common Pleas now has a presence on the Judiciary's web site. The site includes court rules, a listing of all court filing fees, criminal and civil procedures and processes and instructions for change of name petitions. The site also contains sample court forms, some of which can be filled out online. The Justice of the Peace Court continues to maintain its archive of legal memorandums and policy directives, and the highly requested complaint form used to initiate a civil action can now be filled out online. Finally, the Violent Crimes Compensation Board produced a website which includes a schedule of cases that will be decided each week.

The internet address for Delaware's judicial home page is <http://courts.state.de.us>

COURT SECURITY TASK FORCE

Pursuant to Administrative Directive No. 119, the Chief Justice appointed a Court Security Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of court security throughout the State. The final report was released on April 30, 2001. Co-chaired by Superior Court Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr. and Secretary of Public Safety James L. Ford, who succeeded Brian J. Bushweller, the 21-member Task Force included representatives from several state agencies as well as federal and private representatives with expertise in the area of security. The *Court Security Task Force Report* recommends critical security improvements to ensure the safety of the thousands of citizens who visit and work in the courts each day. Although Delaware courts have been fortunate to avoid significant violence directed toward them as an institution, it is understood that Delaware is not immune from the use of violence in or against its courts. With new or renovated court facilities planned in all three counties, the Delaware courts will continue to conduct business in 33 separate facilities serving more than 9,000 visitors each day.

The Court Security Task Force noted the potential risks that the public and court employees may be confronted with at court locations. Rather than the hybrid system currently in place, a professional fulltime force, dedicated to the courts can best address these risks. One of the critical recommendations is to adopt a clear and definitive management structure for providing court security similar to the United States Marshal Service. Implementing this recommendation would involve creating a single law enforcement entity that is given the responsibility and authority to provide security services throughout all court facilities. These services would be performed in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety and include the creation of a separate division of Capitol Police dedicated to court security.

The Task Force recommended adopting basic standards for perimeter, entry and interior security, some of which include: establishing identification systems and procedures, closed circuit television monitoring, duress alarms installed in various working areas, bulletproof material protecting benches and staff areas, selecting single access points for entry into the courts, and security training for all new employees.

Finally, the Task Force recommended establishing a permanent statewide security task force to review regularly the security needs of the courts and recommend security practices.

COUNCIL OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS DEVELOPS SYSTEMWIDE POLICIES

To expand the concept of systemwide cooperation, Chief Justice F. Norman Veasey signed Administrative Directive No. 122, which established the Council of Court Administrators. The Council was charged with the responsibility of developing systemwide administrative policies to promote efficiency and consistency within the judiciary. State Court Administrator Dennis B. Jones chairs the Council and its members are Stephen D. Taylor, Supreme Court Administrator, Art Bernardino, Superior Court Administrator, Edward G. Pollard, Jr., Family Court Administrator, Carole B. Kirshner, Court of Common Pleas Administrator, Thomas W. Nagle, Justice of the Peace Court Administrator, Ramona Monsen, Judicial Secretary for the

Court of Chancery and Michael F. McLaughlin, Deputy Court Administrator for the Administrative Office of the Courts. The responsibilities of the Council include the development of recommendations on judicial branch issues such as budget requests, technology, security, facilities, minor capital improvements, fee increases, classification studies, grant requests, bond bills, and yearly legislative programs.

Since the Council's inception, joint strategies have been developed for the new New Castle County Courthouse, the COTS initiative and the expansion of *pro se* resource centers. Courts now borrow and lend staff and financial resources, share practices and procedures and support each other's budget and legislative requests.

FAMILY COURT OPENS SECOND RESOURCE CENTER

On April 2, 2001 in the Family Court Building in Georgetown, the Family Court opened its second Resource Center to increase access to justice for self-represented litigants. The Family Court Resource Centers provide litigants with a central location where they can find resources to help guide them through the legal process and to deal with the emotional



challenges resulting from their legal circumstances. In fiscal year 2000, self-represented litigants filed 72.4% of all civil filings in Family Court, excluding child support.

The philosophy underlying the operation of the Resource Centers involves providing litigants with enough information and support to enable them to make educated determinations of whether they will be capable of adequately representing themselves. Furthermore, the Family Court has collaborated with the Delaware State Bar Association and the Delaware Paralegal Association to augment a litigant's access to legal assistance. At the Resource Centers, litigants have access to resources such as staff assistance, court forms, instructions, educational materials, a data bank of attorneys who are willing to represent a litigant in a specific area of the law, reference materials of available community services, notary services, computers, a photocopy machine, a fax machine, a VCR and television for viewing of Family Court videos, and other equipment to enable litigants to prepare for their cases at one location. Instruction packets explain court expectations of litigants from the time of filing through the day of the court ruling.

The Resource Centers are part of a systems approach to enhancing a litigant's access to the Court while maximizing cost-effectiveness, individual accountability and developing a link with other existing community services. The first Family Court Resource Center opened on December 29, 2000 at the Family Court Building in Dover.

DELAWARE JUDGESHIPS

- Honorable Myron T. Steele took the oath of office as a Supreme Court Justice on July 28, 2000.
- Honorable John W. Noble took the oath of office as a Vice Chancellor of the Court of Chancery on November 3, 2000.
- Honorable William T. Quillen retired as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court on September 1, 2000.
- Honorable Peggy L. Ableman took the oath of office as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court on October 30, 2000.
- Honorable Joseph R. Slights, III took the oath of office as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court on November 2, 2000.
- Honorable Norman A. Barron retired as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court on March 1, 2001.
- Honorable Jan R. Jurden took the oath of office as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court on May 29, 2001.
- Honorable John E. Henrikson took the oath of office as an Associate Judge of the Family Court on November 1, 2000.
- Honorable Robert B. Coonin took the oath of office as an Associate Judge of the Family Court on June 15, 2001.
- Honorable Charles W. Welch, III took the oath of office as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2000.
- Honorable Joseph F. Flickinger, III took the oath of office as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas on November 17, 2000.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE NORMAN A. BARRON RECEIVES CHIEF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL SERVICE

Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey presented the Sixth Annual Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service to Judge Norman A. Barron of the Superior Court at a meeting of the Delaware Judicial Conference on September 21, 2000.

The Honorable Norman A. Barron has served with distinction and perseverance as a Judge of Superior Court since February 1989, including service as Chief of Criminal Division II in New Castle County. Previously, he served as Chief Magistrate of the State from 1980-1988.

Judge Barron has demonstrated the highest professional standards throughout his service. In addition to his many regular duties, he has performed exemplary service in other roles undertaking varied duties where he combines remarkable compassion with a staunch respect for the law and the judicial system. Judge Barron is well known for his scholarly and analytical opinions and articles. He is an intellectually gifted jurist and an exceptional human being whose substance and style are characterized by common sense and humor. When presenting the award, Chief Justice Veasey said, "Judge Barron's courage, tenacity and character are so admirable that he is truly a worthy recipient of this Award."

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY HONORS CHIEF JUSTICE E. NORMAN VEASEY

Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey was awarded the Monsignor Paul J. Taggart Award from the St. Thomas More Society on May 20, 2001. Each year, the Society honors an individual who demonstrates the qualities of St. Thomas More in his or her professional and personal life. These qualities are 1) strong and pervasive sense of justice; 2) personal courage and conviction; 3) a commitment to law, community and religion; 4) keen scholarly pursuits and advancement of knowledge; 5) a high degree of intelligence, honesty and integrity, humility and humor; 6) a record of personal sacrifice for the good of the community; and 7) dedication to children, spouse, family and associates.

Thomas P. Sweeney, Esquire, President of the St. Thomas More Society, stated in his presentation of the award, "Chief Justice Veasey, through his initiatives as a lawyer and as the Chief Justice, has continually emphasized that every person is entitled to the same treatment, respect and civility no matter what their background, race, religion, gender and creed and has in the past and continues to see that every litigant, whether

civil or criminal, is treated with compassion and fairness. Chief Justice Veasey has continually emphasized the need for civility in the courtroom, as well as civility in the entire practice of law."

In regard to Chief Justice Veasey's personal courage and conviction, Mr. Sweeney added, "Chief Justice Veasey has shown his personal courage and conviction by being willing to be out front and champion lawyers' ethical obligations and professionalism. He has not shied away from meeting these challenges and meeting them in a very clear and convincing manner."

Upon his acceptance of this award, Chief Justice Veasey remarked, "Judges stand up for what is right every day when they make rulings that disappoint people. But it is not our job to please people. Our job is to stand up for the rule of law. Thomas More was one of our great teachers of that principle. As much as we revere Thomas More's courage and his faith, we should also celebrate the professionalism of the way he conducted his duties as an equity judge. More's strong work ethic is not only for professional self-fulfillment. It is also the only proper way for us, as judges, to serve the public. That is our job and the public deserves no less."

PAUL E. ADAMSON SELECTED AS THE 2000 JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Paul Adamson, Physical Plant Maintenance Trades Mechanic I for the Justice of the Peace Court, was the recipient of the 2000 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year Award and the 2000 Justice of the Peace Court Employee of the Year Award.

Paul was nominated for his outstanding perseverance and accomplishment against great odds and difficulties, for performing above the call of duty, and exceeding expectations on a daily basis. He has made recommendations that resulted in time or money saved. A nominator cited Paul as the "ideal" state employee.

According to Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, "Paul provides a valuable service by ensuring the facilities of the Court are maintained in a manner that provides safe and comfortable surroundings for employees and customers. Of equal importance is the positive attitude he displays when carrying out assignments. He goes out of his way to accommodate additional work assignments without complaint and takes the initiative to do whatever it takes to get the job done more efficiently and effectively. This commitment to service is a tremendous asset to the Court and promotes a positive image of the judiciary to the citizens of Delaware."

DENNIS L. SCHRADER RECEIVES SUPREME COURT'S PRO BONO PUBLICO AWARD

The Delaware Supreme Court presented the Andrew D. Christie Pro Bono Publico Award to Dennis L. Schrader, Esquire at the annual Arms of Court dinner on April 18, 2001.

The award was established by the Court in 1995 to honor and to express the Court's appreciation to an exceptional member of the Bar for outstanding pro bono publico service to the Delaware Supreme Court in furtherance of the administration of justice. Named in honor of the late Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie, this award exemplifies all that is good, professional and unselfish in the lawyer-statesman. Previous recipients were Harold Schmittinger, Esquire in 1995 and O. Francis Biondi, Esquire in 1998.

Mr. Schrader is the past President of the Delaware State Bar Association. His professional affiliations include terms as President, Vice President and Secretary of the Sussex County Bar Association and as a member of the Delaware Bar Foundation, of the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., of the American Judicature Society and of the Terry-Carey Inn of the American Inns of Court to mention but a few. His Supreme Court pro bono work includes membership on the Delaware Courts Planning Committee, the Board on Professional Responsibility, the Courts 2000 Commission, and the Chief Justice's Court of Common Pleas Study Committee. He has also held eight public offices including Town Attorney for several Sussex County towns.

Mr. Schrader was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1973 and is currently a partner in the law firm of Wilson, Halbrook & Bayard, P.A.

THE HONORABLE RICHARD D. COMLY RECEIVES AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL SERVICE

The Honorable Richard D. Comly received the Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service in the Justice of the Peace Court on May 21, 2001 at a Justice of the Peace Judicial Education Conference.

Judge Comly, who has served as a Justice of the Peace for 16 years, was nominated for his demonstrated professionalism, strong work ethic and willingness to help out wherever needed. Judge Comly embodies the highest standards of integrity.

In addition to his judicial responsibilities, Judge Comly is presently the Sussex County coordinator and mentor for the Basic Legal Education Program, a program which offers guidance and mentoring to new Justice of the Peace Court judges. He has served as the Sussex County Truancy Court Judge since the Court's inception. Judge Comly not only serves the citizens of Delaware, but also serves his community as a member of the Board of the Crisis House and is an active member in his church and the Kiwanis.

THE DELAWARE SUPREME COURT CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The Delaware Supreme Court celebrated its Golden Anniversary as a separate court at a dinner following the Annual Bench and Bar Conference on June 6, 2001. Senator Thomas R. Carper and former Governor Elbert N. Carvel were the keynote speakers for the occasion. The current members of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, Justice Joseph T. Walsh, Justice Randy J. Holland, Justice Carolyn Berger, and Justice Myron T. Steele, participated in the ceremonies following the dinner. Three former Delaware Supreme Court justices, Justice Maurice A. Hartnett, III, Justice Henry R. Horsey, and Justice William T. Quillen, were also in attendance.

Prior to the 1951 Constitutional Amendment that created the separate Supreme Court, the Court was composed of trial judges who would meet to review a decision on appeal. The trial judge who rendered the decision in the trial court would not sit on the Supreme Court for the appeal. This system of trial judges sitting as the Supreme Court was known as the "Leftover Judge"



Editors Helen L. Winslow, Esquire and Justice Randy J. Holland display the Supreme Court Golden Anniversary book.

system. This system remained in place until June 5, 1951 when Chief Justice Clarence A. Southerland, Justice James M. Tunnell, Jr. and Justice Daniel F. Wolcott were sworn in as the first members of the separate Delaware Supreme Court. Delaware was the last state to have a separate Supreme Court.

To commemorate the Court's Golden Anniversary, Justice Randy J. Holland and Helen L. Winslow, Esquire, as editors, released a history of the separate Supreme Court entitled "Delaware Supreme Court Golden Anniversary 1951-2001." The book features a preface by Chief Justice Veasey and a comprehensive history of the Delaware courts by Justice Hartnett. The book contains biographies of each justice who has served on the separate Supreme Court as well as twenty-four chapters by thirty authors on topics including criminal law, corporate law, family law and individual rights. This book will be the definitive resource for researchers studying the Delaware Supreme Court for years to come. In addition to being distributed to all members of the Delaware Bar at no cost, a copy of the book was given to each public library, public school, private school and university in the state.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

The Delaware Certified Court Interpreter Program began in 1997 with the issuance of Administrative Directive No. 107 by Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey. The program to date has trained over 500 prospective court interpreters and tested over 250 applicants in the Spanish language. Following the end of the three-year Criminal Justice Council grant to administer the program, the Delaware General Assembly provided funding for the program.

During FY00, four orientation sessions were held for over 100 participants and testing in the Spanish language was conducted in both Wilmington and Dover. Twelve applicants passed the test with either the national certification score of 70 or the Delaware score of 60. There are now 23 certified court interpreters in Delaware.

In July 2001, the Delaware courts transferred their spending lines for court interpreters to the Administrative Office of the Courts. This transfer is the beginning of a more centralized statewide court interpreter program. A request for additional funding and an interpreter position has been added to the FY03 budget request.

CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Through the Continuing Judicial Education Program administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts with funding from the General Assembly, the Delaware judiciary continued the practice of attending national and local education programs.

The judiciary met in September 2000 in Rehoboth Beach for a two-day program featuring workshops on Racial Profiling, Personal Health, and Recent Decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court. The Racial Profiling workshop presented by University of Delaware Professor Leland Ware, Karl Bakers, Esquire, Deputy Chief of the Appeals Division of the Philadelphia Defender Association, and Robert Wilkins, Esquire, of the Public Defender's Service in Washington, D.C. is part of an on-going effort to educate the judiciary on diversity issues and practices. The Recent Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court was presented by a nationally recognized authority, Professor Charles H. Whitebread of the University of California School of Law.

In April 2001, the judiciary met in Wilmington to learn about Improving Our Media Relations. Featured speakers included Craig R. Waters, Esquire, the Florida Supreme

Court Public Information Officer, Jeffrey Bullock, former press aide to Senator Thomas R. Carper, John H. Taylor, Jr., Editorial Page Editor of the News Journal Company, and Richard D. Kirk, Esquire, Chair of the Delaware State Bar Association's Committee on Responses to Public Comment. The luncheon speaker was Chief Justice Charles T. Wells of the Supreme Court of Florida who detailed his experiences in dealing with the press on both a local and national level. The afternoon program was on Ethical Issues for the Judiciary.

The Annual Bench and Bar Conference was held on June 6, 2001 in Wilmington and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Delaware Supreme Court. The educational program consisted of Multi-Jurisdictional Practice, the 21st Century "Regulation of the Practice of Law," Court Technology for Lawyers, and a Delaware Supreme Court *en Banc* mock argument in *Bush v. Gore*. Following the educational program, a dinner was held honoring the 50th anniversary of the Delaware Supreme Court.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2001 was the first year in which the Supreme Court's Administrative Directive No. 125 was operational. This directive requires all non-judicial employees of Delaware's Judicial Branch to attend at least six hours of continuing education or professional development training each fiscal year. Tracking both in-house and outside training is the responsibility of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

One thousand five hundred and thirty four judicial branch employees attended training during FY01. The Administrative Office of the Courts planned and funded training programs for a total of 973 participants. Training topics range from discussions on diversity to communication skills to personal safety and computer software.

The Staff Training and Development Program is managed by the Training and Staff Development Officer in the Administrative Office of the Courts. Liaisons from each of the six state courts and two representatives from Judicial Branch agencies serve on the Staff Training Advisory Board. The Board meets regularly to identify training needs and assess the effectiveness of existing courses.



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

CHANCERY WELCOMES THE REGISTER IN CHANCERY OFFICES

In June 2001, the General Assembly adopted the second and final leg of a constitutional amendment that allows the Court of Chancery to appoint the Register in Chancery for each county. Previously, the Register in Chancery for each county was an elected office, and each Register selected the clerical staff. With the passage of the constitutional amendment, the Court of Chancery will now control and supervise all of the clerical staff, who work closely with the Court in carrying out its mission. A unified Register in Chancery office, with professional management and under the Court's direct supervision, will allow the Court to implement standard and modernized procedures for case management and docketing. It also will enable the Court to improve its management of expedited cases. Finally, a unified Register in Chancery under the Court's supervision will facilitate the use of internet technology to make dockets and pleadings from all three counties available to practitioners, the public, and to the Court, thereby increasing the Court's ability to administer and process its caseload efficiently and fairly.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

- House Bill 62 - This legislation establishes the appeal period as thirty days for appeals taken from the Industrial Accident Board to Superior Court.
- House Bill 70 - This legislation is related to the preparation of transcripts in the awarding of costs on appeals from the Board of Adjustment to Superior Court.
- House Bill 87 - This legislation removed the crime of aggravated harassment, a felony, from the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Court and placed it in the Superior Court.
- House Bill 98 - This legislation permits a Justice of the Peace to accept payments for part-time employment such as teaching at a state institution consistent with State policy for other judicial officers.
- House Bill 106 - This legislation specifies that State employees are entitled for paid leave not to exceed thirty days to serve as an organ donor.
- House Bill 133 - This legislation renames presentence officers to investigative services officers. It also removes outdated references to presentence investigations.
- House Bill 154 - This legislation relates to the determination of parental rights in adoptions by giving additional protection to birth parents and to their children.
- House Bill 163 - This legislation expands the unlawful telecommunications device act and provides for civil actions and penalties.
- House Bill 174 - This legislation clarifies the criminal code as it relates to possession of a deadly weapon during the commission of a felony.
- House Bill 188 - This legislation provides that members of the Prothonotary's Office shall be part of the Judicial Branch personnel system.
- House Bill 221 - This legislation establishes the appeal time frame for cases involving the denial of a permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon.
- House Bill 226 and House Bill 303 - This legislation implements the transition of the Office of the Register in Chancery from County to State government.
- House Bill 269 - This legislation provides the statutory framework for granting guardianships with respect to children.
- House Bill 287 - This legislation adds three members to the Commission for Child Protection Accountability.
- House Bill 308 - This legislation increased court costs in Justice of the Peace Court for criminal warrants and voluntary assessments. This brought the Justice of the Peace Court system's fees in line with those established by court rule in other courts during fiscal year 2001.
- Senate Bill 12 - This legislation amended the current process for obtaining a permit to carry a concealed deadly weapon.
- Senate Bill 81 - This legislation removes outdated language as it relates to Justice of the Peace Court constables.
- Senate Bill 120 - This legislation allows for a retired Justice of Peace to serve on a temporary basis, on a per diem rate, in the Justice of the Peace Court system.
- Senate Bill 159 - This legislation clarifies the Court of Chancery's authority to appoint a master in Chancery.
- Senate Bill 179 - This legislation updates the Delaware Code as it relates to the issuance of subpoenas and warrants in criminal and delinquency cases.
- Senate Bill 254 - This legislation allows the judicial pension plan members to reduce the pension by 2% and thus provide for a 2/3 survivor's option.
- Senate Bill 256 - This legislation amends the State employee pension plan and increases the pension benefits for State employees.
- Senate Bill 262 - This bill amended the motor vehicle code relating to traffic light violations and electronic monitoring systems. It provided that these violations be handled civilly.
- Senate Substitute 1 to Senate Bill 215 - This legislation creates the Department of Technology and Information along with defining the functions of the Chief Information Officer of the State.



Seeing the Possibilities

2001 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUSTICE E. NORMAN VEASEY

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 2001



SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

To Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware,

This presentation of the 2001 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary is on behalf of a court system that is being invigorated by the realization of its vision. During the past fiscal year, I emphasized three themes to implement our vision: the new New Castle County Courthouse, the acquisition of an off-the-shelf case management system, and the establishment of *pro se* centers for self-represented litigants. The foundation of our vision is the improvement of access to justice for the citizens of Delaware and the improvement of internal court operations.

The new New Castle County Courthouse, where the citizens of Delaware will experience a greater level of service in a modern, state of the art facility, has moved toward completion under the guidance of the Building Executive Committee and the Council of Court Administrators. By the end of the current fiscal year, this portion of our vision will be on the verge of realization, and courts will fully occupy the courthouse by September 2002. We owe special thanks to Edward Pollard of the Family Court who has been the liaison of the Judicial Branch and our superb "point person" to oversee the completion of the construction.

The court system is in the process of seeking commercial off-the-shelf case and financial management systems (COTS) for use in Delaware. Our goal is to acquire new, integrated automated systems to coordinate case and financial management information, develop secure electronic access to court information, provide real time integrated case data and permit the electronic filing of court documents. We are currently selecting the software and standardizing processes among the courts to simplify operations to facilitate the new software acquisition. Again, we owe special thanks to Carole Kirshner of the Court of Common Pleas and Cheryl Kingston of the Judicial Information Center who have co-chaired the Uniform Case Processes Committee that is responsible for the implementation of the COTS project.

An ever-increasing number of Delaware citizens are choosing to represent themselves as *pro se* litigants in our courts. The courts have made it a priority to assist *pro se* litigants in finding resources to help them navigate through the judicial system. During the past fiscal year, the Family Court opened a second Resource Center in Georgetown as a companion to the Dover Resource Center to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants. A third Resource Center will be located in the new Courthouse in Wilmington. To further accessibility, each court in the judicial system has a website where the public can retrieve information, forms and documents.

The Judicial Branch of government will continue to be innovative in the next fiscal year and will continue to refine our collective vision. We look forward to serving the public and making their interactions with the court system positive, efficient and professional experiences.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Norman Veasey".

INTRODUCTION TO THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM



The Delaware judiciary is composed of the Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, the Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, the Justice of the Peace Court, the Alderman's Courts, and related judicial agencies.

In terms of interrelationships among the courts, the Delaware Court system is similar to a pyramid. The Justice of the Peace Court and the Alderman's Courts represent the base of the pyramid and the Supreme Court the apex of the pyramid. As a litigant goes upward through the court system pyramid, the legal issues generally become more complex and, thus, more costly to litigate. For this reason, cases decided as close as possible to the entry level of the court system generally result in cost savings to the judiciary in resources used to handle the matters and in speedier resolution of the issues at hand for the litigants.

The Justice of the Peace Court, the initial entry level into the court system for most citizens, has jurisdiction over civil cases in which the disputed amount is less than \$15,000. In criminal cases, the Justice of the Peace Court hears certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and the Justices of the Peace may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas. Over one-half of all cases are disposed of rapidly at the Justice of the Peace Court level without further impact on the remainder of the judicial system.

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$50,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas handles all misdemeanors occurring in the State except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses. Appeals may be taken to the Superior Court. The Court is also responsible for all preliminary hearings in felony cases.

The Family Court has extensive jurisdiction over virtually all family and juvenile matters. All civil appeals, including those relating to juvenile delinquency, go directly to the Supreme Court while criminal cases are appealed to the Superior Court.

The Superior Court, the State's court of general jurisdiction, has original jurisdiction over criminal

and civil cases except equity cases. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and almost all drug offenses. In civil matters, the Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Superior Court also serves as an intermediate appellate court by hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, the Family Court (in criminal cases), and a number of administrative agencies. Appeals from the Superior Court may be taken on the record to the Supreme Court.

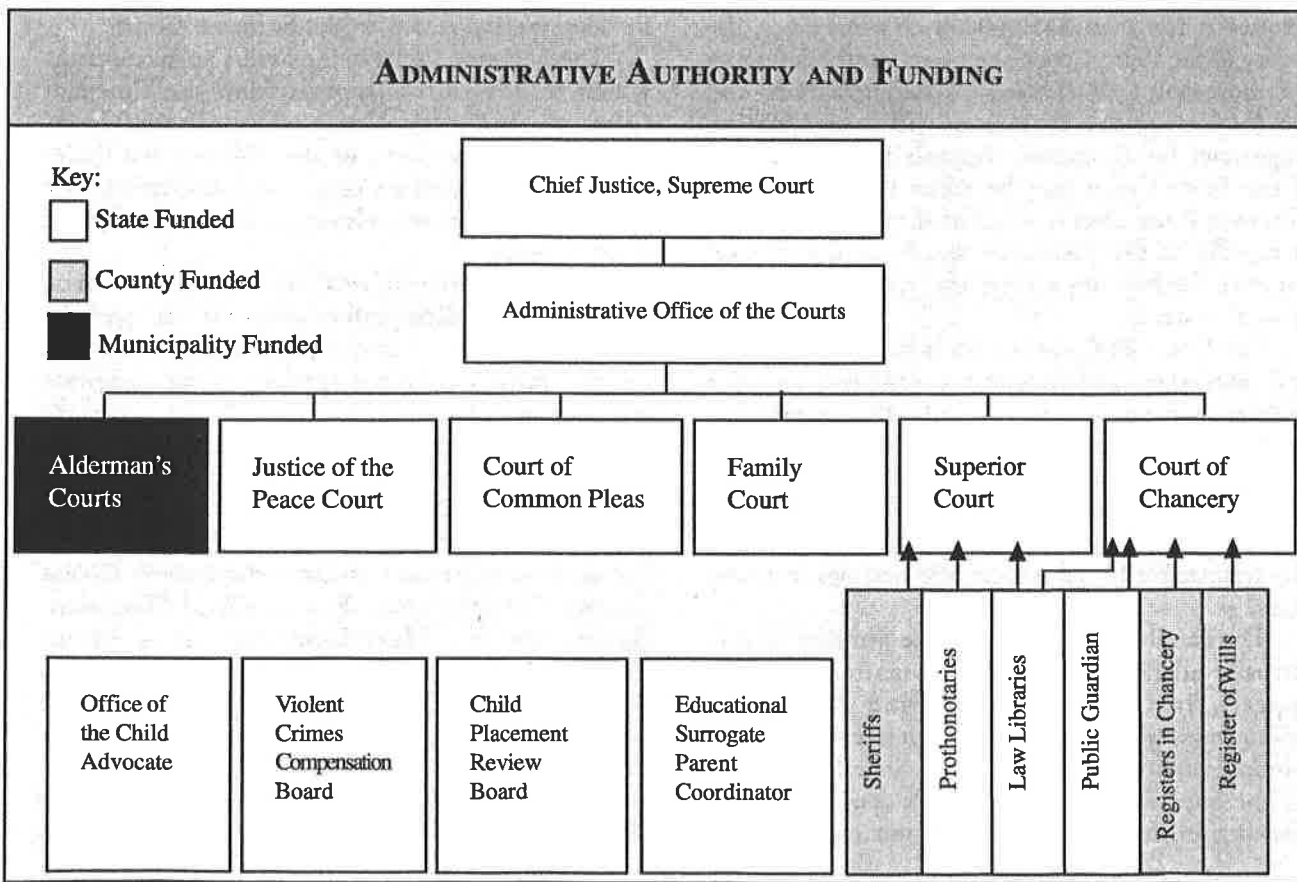
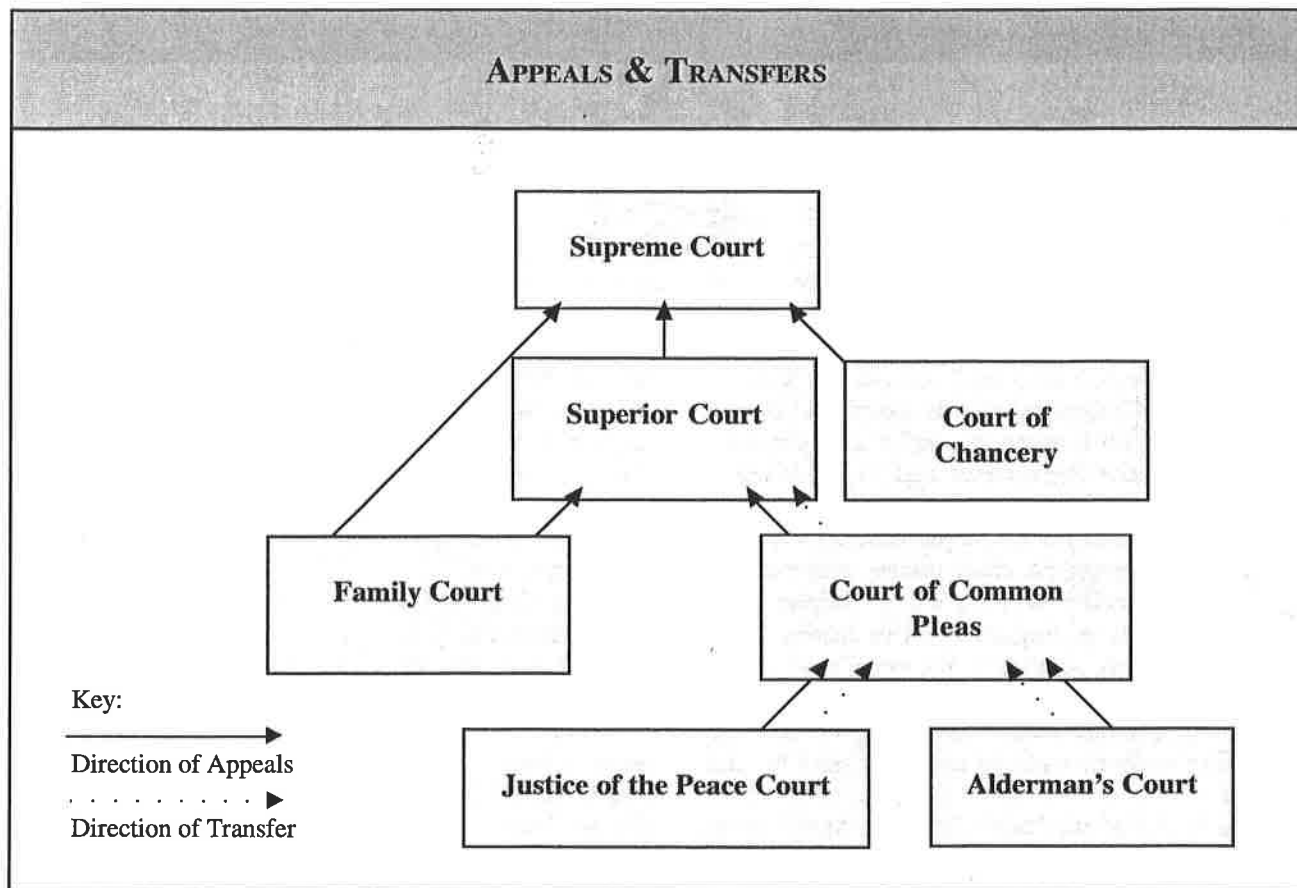
The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to equity. The litigation in this tribunal deals largely with corporate issues, trusts, estates, other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase of land and questions of title to real estate as well as commercial and contractual matters. The Court of Chancery has a national reputation in the business community and is responsible for developing the case law in Delaware on corporate matters. Appeals from the Court of Chancery may be taken on the record to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is the State's appellate court which receives direct appeals from the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. As administrative head of the courts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in consultation with the other justices, sets administrative policy for the court system.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, including the Judicial Information Center and the Office of the State Court Collections Enforcement, provide those centralized services to the Delaware judiciary which are consistent with the statewide policies and goals for judicial administration and support operations as established by the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Other agencies associated with the Delaware Judiciary include these state funded agencies: Violent Crimes Compensation Board, Child Placement Review Board, Educational Surrogate Parent Coordinator, Prothonotaries, Law Libraries, and Public Guardian. The majority of the components of the Delaware judicial system are funded by the State. Exceptions to this are the Alderman's Courts, the Registers in Chancery and the Registers of Wills for the Court of Chancery, and the Sheriffs' Offices.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURTS



THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

COURT OF LAST RESORT

SUPREME COURT

Final appellate jurisdiction for criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds certain minimums, and in civil cases as to final judgments, certain orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court and court designated boards. Issuer of certain writs.

EQUITY COURT

COURT OF CHANCERY

Hear/determine all matters and causes in equity (typically corporate, trust, fiduciary matters, land sale, real estate, and commercial/contractual matters).

LAW COURT

SUPERIOR COURT

Original statewide jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases (except equity cases). Exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except marijuana possession and most felonies/drugs involving minors). Involuntary commitments to Delaware State Hospital. Intermediate appellate court.

COURTS OF SPECIAL JURISDICTION

FAMILY COURT

Extensive jurisdiction over all domestic relations matters, including divorce, custody, visitation, child and spousal support, and property division. Jurisdiction over intrafamily misdemeanors, misdemeanor crimes against children, and civil domestic violence protective orders. Jurisdiction over all juvenile offenses except murder, rape, and kidnapping.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Statewide jurisdiction in civil actions involving less than \$50,000. All criminal misdemeanors (except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses). Responsible for all preliminary hearings. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court, Alderman's Courts, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

All civil cases involving less than \$15,000. Certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (except felonies). May act as committing magistrate for all crimes. Landlord/tenant disputes.

ALDERMAN'S COURTS

Minor misdemeanors, traffic, parking, and minor civil matter occurring within town limits (specific jurisdiction varies with town charter, as approved by the General Assembly).

FISCAL OVERVIEW

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Summary of Judicial Budgets - Fiscal Years 2000-2001-2002-2003				
State Judicial Agencies and Bodies*				
	FY 2000 Actual Disbursement**	FY 2001 Actual Disbursement	FY 2002 Appropriations	FY 2003 Request
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 1,918,900	\$ 2,002,500	\$ 1,956,800	\$ 6,940,300
Court Appointed Attorney Programs***	1,132,200	1,317,500	1,373,600	2,383,700
Interpreters	-----	-----	78,900	180,300
Victim Offender Mediation Program***	344,800	424,800	424,800	424,800
Elder Law Program***	-----	50,000	50,000	50,000
Judicial Information Center	2,463,800	2,378,300	2,584,300	4,647,400
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	427,900	458,600	409,600	432,500
Supreme Court	3,058,600	3,195,300	2,436,300	2,476,300
Retired Judges Program***	12,600	31,000	40,000	40,000
Continuing Judicial Education***	59,200	89,400	73,300	73,300
Court of Chancery	2,030,100	2,077,100	2,665,800	2,247,500
Public Guardian	366,000	409,000	411,300	420,400
Superior Court	15,748,100	16,553,800	16,045,800	16,766,100
Law Libraries	466,800	484,400	498,600	558,400
Family Court	15,339,100	16,325,000	16,729,100	14,695,500
Court of Common Pleas	6,841,800	7,734,500	6,432,200	6,984,100
Justice of the Peace Court	16,006,200	16,669,000	12,868,300	13,586,600
Violent Crimes Compensation Board	1,192,200	1,620,000	2,246,800	2,955,800
Child Placement Review Board	487,300	485,600	5,404,000	461,000
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	74,800	56,000	72,300	72,300
Office of the Child Advocate	90,600	306,200	441,300	455,100
Total	\$68,061,000	\$72,668,000	\$73,243,100	\$76,851,400
County Judicial Agencies and Bodies				
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 773,028	\$ 832,695	\$ 831,973	
Register of Wills	967,373	1,073,825	1,019,475	
Prothonotary	79,295	74,500	75,000	
Sheriff	1,132,821	1,292,233	1,313,552	
Total	\$ 2,952,517	\$ 3,273,253	\$ 3,240,000	
KENT COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 155,000	\$ 157,700	\$ 175,000	
Register of Wills	148,000	151,100	169,000	
Sheriff	250,500	309,500	338,300	
Total	\$ 553,500	\$ 618,300	\$ 682,300	
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 122,698	\$ 146,332	\$ 131,689	
Register of Wills	154,935	174,630	212,538	
Sheriff	286,244	348,796	329,981	
Total	\$ 563,877	\$ 669,758	\$ 674,208	
GRAND TOTAL-JUDICIAL BRANCH	\$72,130,894	\$77,229,311	\$77,839,608	

*Figures include all funds, including State General funds, Appropriated Special Funds, federal funds, and other funds.

**FY 2000 actual disbursements have been revised from those reflected in the 2000 Statistical Report. They now show all funds disbursed by all courts.

***These programs are funded as part of the Administrative Office of the Courts but are shown separately for informational purposes.

Source : Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2001						
Submitted to State General Fund						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.1%
Judicial Information Center	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	900	0	0	1,100	2,000	0.4%
Supreme Court	51,500	0	0	0	51,500	1.6%
Court of Chancery	0	0	209,400	0	209,400	10.1%
Public Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Superior Court	1,641,000	407,100	108,900	256,600	2,413,600	14.6%
Law Libraries	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Family Court	613,500	92,100	0	40,300	745,900	4.6%
Court of Common Pleas	1,645,600	1,032,800	0	86,200	2,764,600	35.7%
Justice of the Peace Court	2,129,300	1,232,400	0	15,800	3,377,500	20.3%
Child Placement Review Board	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Alderman Court	0	0	0	0	0	----
State	\$6,081,800	\$2,764,400	\$318,300	\$401,100	\$9,565,600	15.2%

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2001					
Received by Violent Crimes Compensation Board					
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	Total
Superior Court	\$0	\$ 374,823	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 374,823
Family Court	0	27,492	0	0	27,492
Court of Common Pleas	0	774,524	0	0	774,524
Justice of the Peace Court	0	1,352,152	0	0	1,352,152
Alderman Court	0	150,689	0	0	150,689
Restitution	0	72,027	0	0	72,027
Other	0	16,443	21,774	13,094	51,311
State	\$0	\$2,768,150	\$21,774	\$13,094	\$2,803,018

*Figures represent only revenue actually received, not the total amount actually assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 2001 revenue divided by FY 2001 actual disbursement, which includes state general, federal, and other funds.

Note: The Violent Crimes Compensation Board awarded \$1,224,086 during Fiscal Year 2001.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2001						
Submitted to New Castle County						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 612,677	\$ 0	\$216,200	\$ 0	\$ 828,877	99.5%
Register of Wills	2,040,563	0	0	0	2,040,563	190.0%
Prothonotary	29,044	0	0	0	29,044	39.0%
Sheriff	1,322,932	0	58,894	0	1,381,826	106.9%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	691,337	0	0	691,337	-----
Total	\$4,005,216	\$691,337	\$275,094	\$0	\$4,971,647	130.8%
Submitted to Kent County						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 27,777	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$ 27,777	17.6%
Register of Wills	359,519	0	0	0	359,519	237.9%
Sheriff	530,986	0	0	0	530,986	171.6%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	2,715	0	0	2,715	-----
Total	\$918,282	\$2,715	\$0	\$0	\$920,997	148.5%
Submitted to Sussex County						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 50,987	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$ 50,987	34.8%
Register of Wills	622,474	0	0	0	622,474	356.5%
Sheriff	297,053	0	0	0	297,053	85.2%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	976	\$0	0	976	-----
Total	\$970,514	\$976	\$0	\$0	\$971,490	144.9%

*Figures represent only revenue collected, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 2001 revenue divided by FY 2001 actual disbursement.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2001						
Submitted to Municipalities						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 0	\$ 880,326	0	0	\$ 880,326	15.4%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	3,877,901	0	0	3,877,901	32.5%
Alderman Court	333,097	790,562	0	12,148	1,135,807	NA
Total	\$333,097	\$5,548,789	0	\$12,148	\$5,894,034	NA

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2001						
Grand Total - Judicial Branch						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	Total	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Total	\$12,294,095	\$13,322,009	\$553,649	\$634,887	\$26,804,640	39.9%

Restitution - Fiscal Year 2001			
	Assessed	Collected	Disbursed
Supreme Court	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Court of Chancery	0	0	0
Superior Court	4,909,480	1,293,505	1,310,872
Family Court	655,836	233,176	231,012
Court of Common Pleas	420,196	334,152	334,321
Justice of the Peace Court	115,953	109,581	106,498
Total	\$6,101,465	\$1,970,414	\$1,982,703

*Figures represent only revenue actually collected, not the amount assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 2001 revenue divided by FY 2001 actual disbursement, which includes state general, federal, and other funds.

Source : Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Delaware Government Appropriations* - Fiscal Year 2001

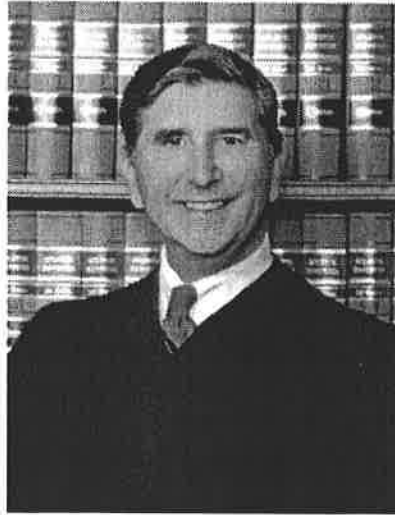
State Appropriations - Total		
Judicial Branch	\$ 60,944,300	2.8%
Higher Education	\$ 200,449,500	9.2%
Executive Branch	\$1,189,625,500	54.5%
Legislative Branch	\$ 11,572,100	0.5%
Public Education	\$ 720,228,500	33.0%
Total - State	\$2,182,819,900	100.0%
State Appropriations - Judiciary		
Supreme Court	\$ 2,173,700	3.6%
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 3,652,600	6.0%
Judicial Information Center	\$ 2,506,700	4.1%
Court of Chancery	\$ 2,052,900	3.4%
Superior Court	\$15,941,500	26.2%
Law Libraries	\$ 483,800	0.8%
Family Court	\$13,432,400	22.0%
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 6,329,800	10.4%
Justice of the Peace Court	\$12,695,000	20.8%
Other	\$ 1,675,900	2.7%
Total - Judiciary	\$60,944,300	100.0%

Other : Public Guardian 0.7%(\$400,000), Office of State Court Collections Enforcement 0.7% (\$431,800), Child Placement Review Board 0.7%(\$423,700), Educational Surrogate Program 0.1%(\$71,000) and the Office of the Child Advocate 0.6%(\$349,400).

*State general fund monies only.

Source: 140th General Assembly, Senate Bill 420.

SUPREME COURT



Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

The Delaware Supreme Court continues to manage our growing and increasingly complex caseload while maintaining our nationally respected record for decisions that are promptly rendered and jurisprudentially sound. During the past fiscal year, the Court received 582 appeals while issuing 531 written decisions by either opinion or order. From the date of submission to the date of decision, the Court's average disposition time was 34.5 days. All orders and opinions are accessible on our website which we continue to improve as we concentrate on timely service to the public and the Bar. Non-confidential Supreme Court case filings are now available on the Virtual Docket commercial system.

On June 6, 2001, the Delaware Supreme Court celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary as a separate Court. To commemorate the Court's golden anniversary, a history of the Supreme Court entitled, "Delaware Supreme Court Golden Anniversary 1951-2001" was released. The book is the product of numerous authors working under the guidance of Justice Randy J. Holland and Helen L. Winslow, Esquire as editors. The book contains biographies of each justice who has served on the separate Supreme Court as well as twenty-four chapters on topics including criminal law, corporate law, family law and individual rights. In addition to being distributed to all members of the Delaware Bar at no cost, a copy of the book was donated to each public library, public school, private school and university in the State. This book will be the definitive resource for researchers studying the Delaware Supreme Court for years to come.

During the past fiscal year, significant progress has been made in the areas of speedy trial guidelines and the delivery of justice. In November 2000, pursuant to Administrative Directive No. 118, the Committee on Speedy Trial Guidelines, chaired by Justice Joseph T.

Walsh, released the *Final Report of the Committee on Speedy Trial Guidelines* with recommendations to relieve the problems associated with the incarceration of pre-trial detainees. In response to that report, I issued Administrative Directive No.128 on April 10, 2001 establishing the Delivery of Criminal Justice Policy Committee which issued its final report on December 28, 2001. The Committee developed a new form of Detentioners' Report to be used by the courts, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Public Defender to monitor the status of detentioners at each stage in the criminal justice process. The new form of Detentioners' Report is expected to provide a more accurate calculation of the number of detainees statewide, promote enhanced accountability on the part of the various courts and agencies regarding detentioners under their control and allow for increased efficiency in processing detentioners with multiple charges.

The final report on the Court Security Task Force, chaired by Superior Court Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr., was released on April 30, 2001. The Court Security Task Force report recommends critical security improvements to ensure the safety of the thousands of citizens and employees who either visit or work in the courts

SUPREME COURT

each day. Under the recommendation of the report, a permanent statewide security task force has been recommended to review the security needs and practices of the courts on a continual basis. The Committee also recommended the creation of a separate security force for the judiciary.

Within the entire court system, our efforts are focused on developing innovative

technological systems, finishing and equipping court facilities in all three counties, developing pro se resource centers and developing our websites. The results of these efforts will be a court system that can meet the needs of our citizens in a prompt and efficient manner while maintaining our national reputation for excellence.



SUPREME COURT

Seated (left to right)

Justice Joseph T. Walsh

Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

Justice Randy J. Holland

Standing (left to right)

Justice Myron T. Steele

Justice Carolyn Berger

Legal Authorization

The Supreme Court is created by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1. The Supreme Court sits in Dover but the justices maintain their chambers in the counties where they reside.

Court History

The modern Supreme Court was established in 1951 by constitutional amendment. The State's first separate Supreme Court initially consisted of three justices and was enlarged to the current five justices in 1978.

Prior to 1951, Delaware was without a separate Supreme Court. The highest appellate authority prior to the creation of the separate Supreme Court consisted of those judges who did not participate in the original litigation in the lower courts. These judges would hear the appeal en Banc (collectively) and would exercise final jurisdiction in all matters in both law and equity.

Jurisdiction

The Court has final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds certain minimums and in civil cases as to final judgments and for certain other orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. Appeals are heard on the record. Under some circumstances, the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to issue writs of prohibition, quo warranto, certiorari, and mandamus.

Justices

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and four justices who are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The justices are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law and citizens of the State. Three of the justices must be of one of the major political parties while the other two justices must be of the other major political party.

Administration

The chief justice is responsible for the administration of all courts in the State and appoints a state court administrator to manage the non-judicial aspects of court administration. The Supreme Court is staffed by a clerk of the court, staff attorneys, an assistant clerk, law clerks, secretaries, and court clerks.

SUPREME COURT

Caseload Summary-Fiscal Year 2001						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
Criminal Appeals!	176	261	265	172	- 4	- 2.3%
Civil Appeals	163	272	276	159	- 4	- 2.5%
Original Applications*!	18	49	57	10	- 8	-44.4%
Total	357	582	598	341	-16	- 4.5%

Caseload Comparison-Fiscal Years 2000-2001-Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	273	261	-12	- 4.4%
Civil Appeals	317	272	-45	- 14.2%
Certifications	4	4	0	0.0%
Original Applications	45	30	-15	- 33.3%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	14	14	0	0.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	1	1	0	0.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	2	0	-2	-100.0%
Total	656	582	-74	- 11.3%

Caseload Comparison-Fiscal Years 2000-2001-Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	240	265	+25	+ 10.4%
Civil Appeals	298	276	-22	- 7.4%
Certifications	3	5	+2	+ 66.7%
Original Applications	41	32	-9	- 22.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	14	19	+5	+ 35.7%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	2	0	-2	-100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	1	1	0	0.0%
Total	599	598	-1	- 0.2%

!Pending as of 6/30/00 amended from 2000 Annual and Statistical Reports.

*Board on Professional Responsibility, Board of Bar Examiners, Unauthorized Practice of Law cases and Advisory Opinions are included with the original applications in the Caseload Summary. Each is listed separately, however, in the Caseload Comparison.

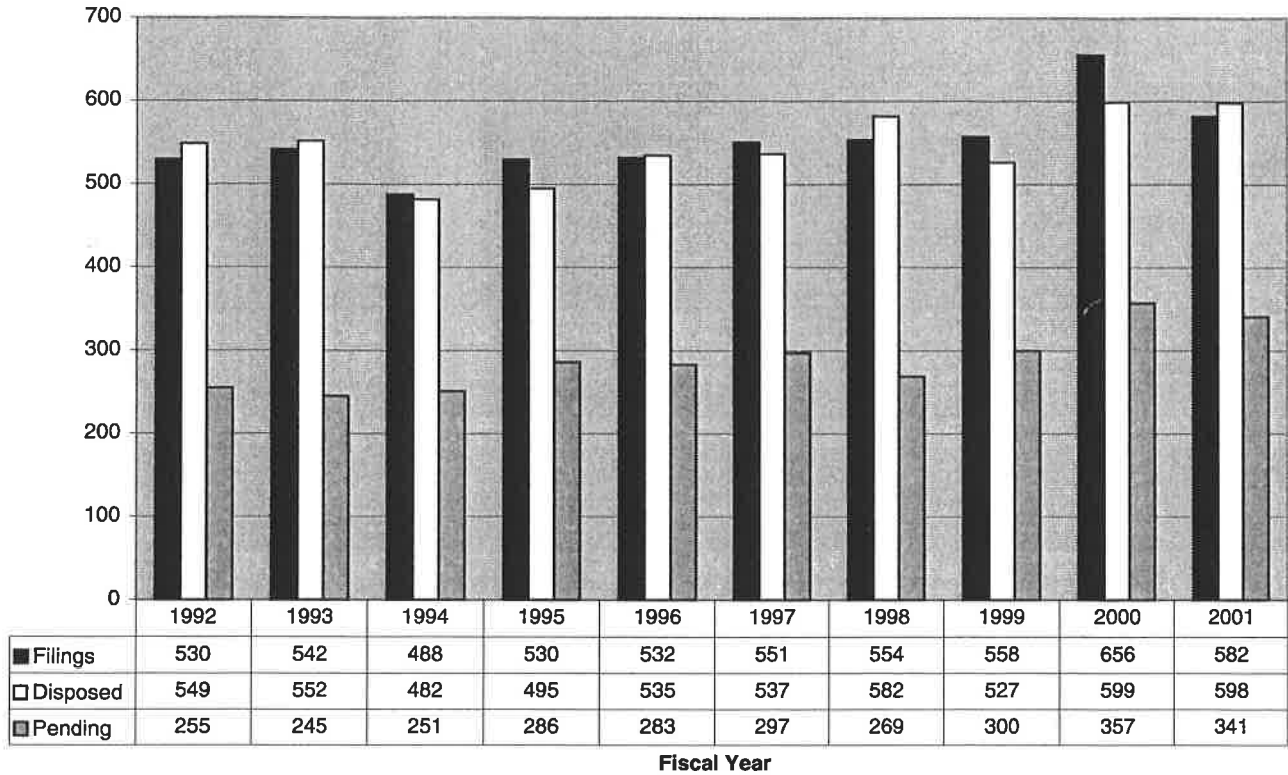
Bd. On Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

Un. Prac. Of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source : Court Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

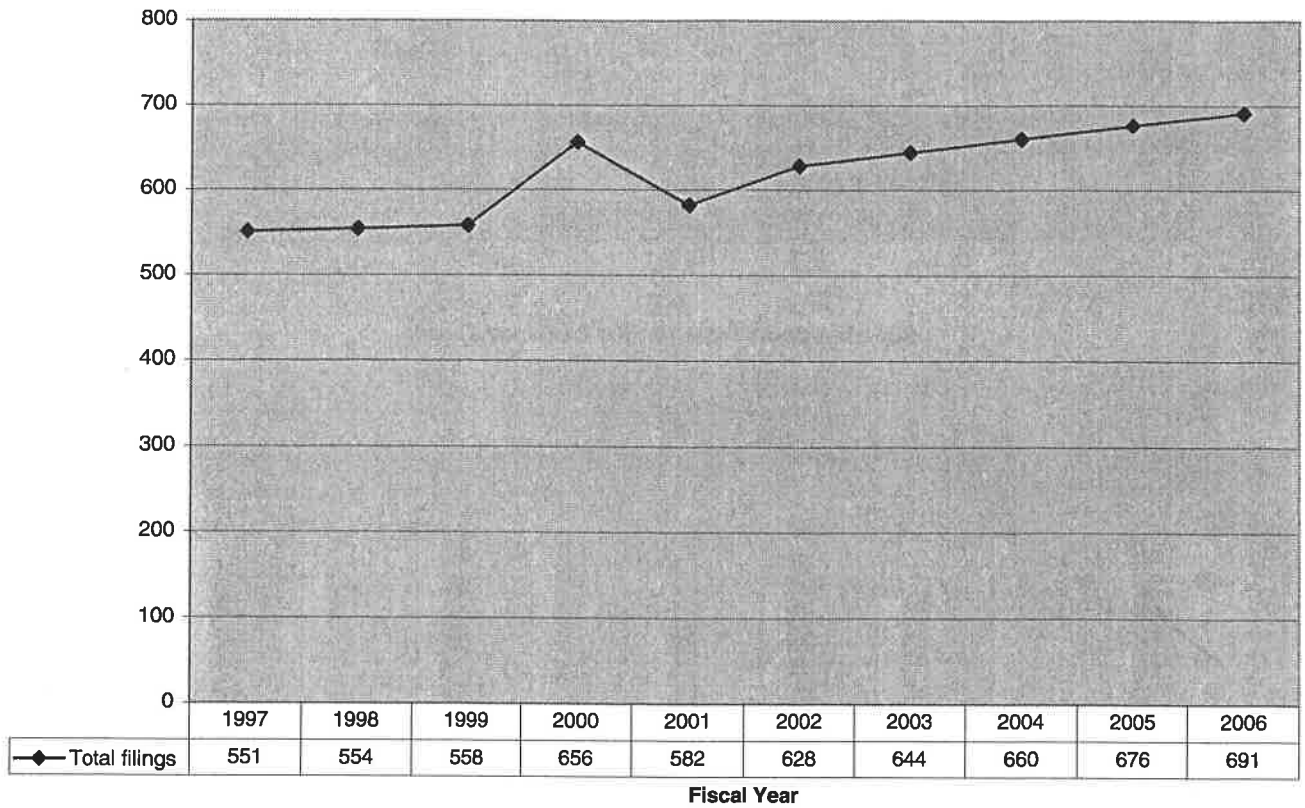
Supreme Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend



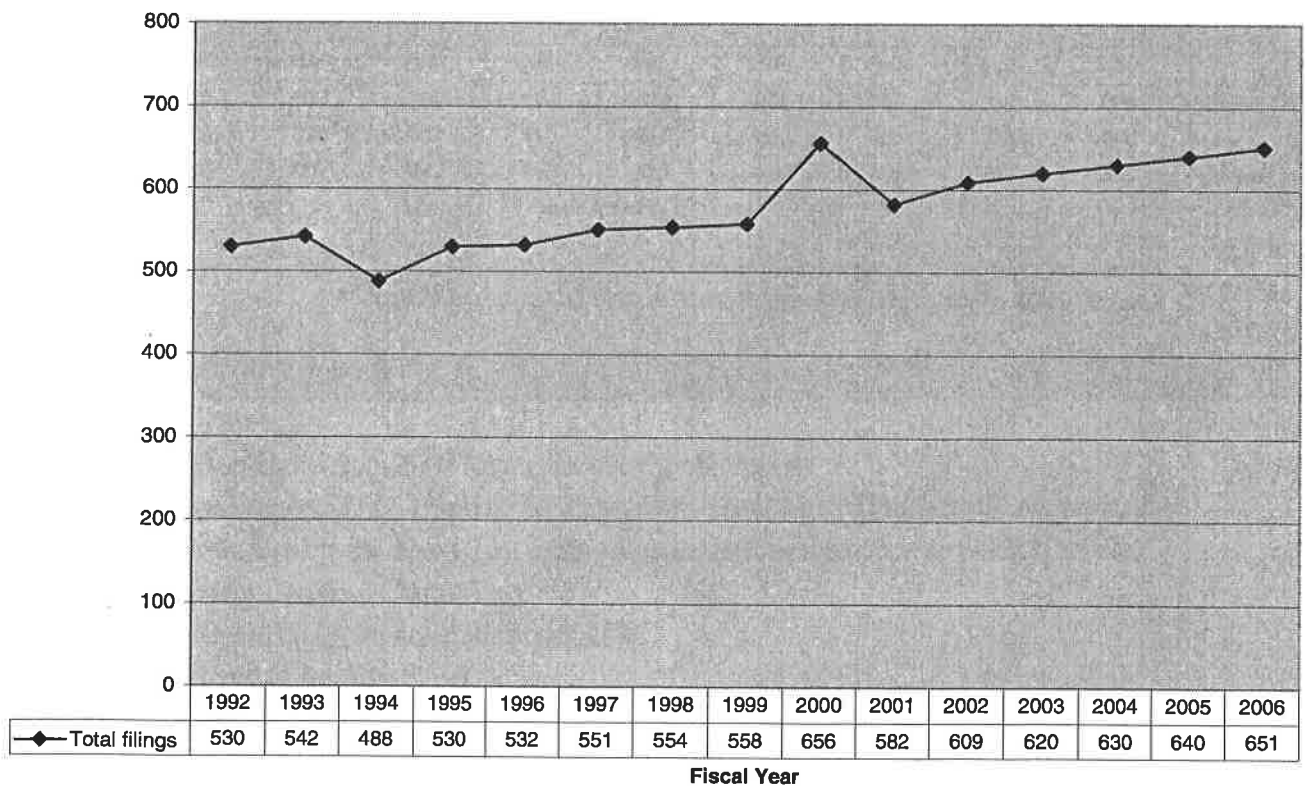
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Supreme Court Total 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Supreme Court Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Supreme Court

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Filings										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	261	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	261	100.0%
Civil Appeals	50	18.4%	157	57.7%	64	23.5%	1	0.4%	272	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	4	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	30	100.0%	30	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	100.0%	14	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total	50	8.6%	418	71.8%	64	11.0%	50	8.6%	582	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Dispositions										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	265	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	265	100.0%
Civil Appeals	41	14.9%	167	60.5%	67	24.3%	1	0.4%	276	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	100.0%	5	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	32	100.0%	32	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	100.0%	19	100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Total	41	6.9%	432	72.2%	67	11.2%	58	9.7%	598	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Change in Pending										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0		- 4		0		0		- 4	
Civil Appeals	+9		-10		-3		0		- 4	
Certifications	0		0		0		-1		- 1	
Original Applications	0		0		0		-2		- 2	
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0		0		0		-5		- 5	
Bd. Of Bar Exam	0		0		0		+1		+ 1	
Un. Prac. Of Law	0		0		0		-1		- 1	
Total	+9		-14		-3		-8		-16	

Bd. On Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

Un. Prac. Of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source : Court Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPREME COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Appeals

	Affirmed	Affirmed Part Reversed Part		Reversed	Remanded		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Leave to Appeal Denied		Other	Total				
		1	5		15	4	5	17	50	54	62	1			17			
Criminal Appeals	171	64.5%	1	0.4%	15	5.7%	4	1.5%	17	6.4%	54	20.4%	2	0.8%	265	100.0%		
Civil Appeals	146	43.8%	5	1.5%	29	8.7%	5	1.5%	50	15.0%	62	18.6%	19	5.7%	333	100.0%		
Total	317	53.0%	6	1.0%	44	7.4%	9	1.5%	67	11.2%	116	19.4%	18	3.0%	21	3.5%	598	100.0%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous

	Action Taken*	Approved	Answered		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Denied	Leave to Appeal Denied		Other	Total			
			0	3	1	31	0	0		2	3					
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.1%	31	96.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	32	100.0%		
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%		
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	10	52.6%	6	31.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	15.8%		
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Total	10	17.5%	7	12.3%	3	5.3%	31	54.4%	0	0.0%	2	3.5%	3	5.3%	57	100.0%

Methods of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001

	Assigned Opinion		Per Curiam Opinion		Written Order		Voluntary Dismissal		Other	Total	
	18	6.8%	9	3.4%	221	83.4%	17	6.4%			
Criminal Appeals	18	6.8%	9	3.4%	221	83.4%	17	6.4%	0	265	
Civil Appeals	32	11.6%	12	4.3%	183	66.3%	49	17.8%	0	276	
Certifications	2	40.0%	1	20.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	5	
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	31	96.9%	1	3.1%	0	32	
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	6	31.6%	13	68.4%	0	0.0%	0	19	
Bd. Of Bar Exam	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0	
Un. Prac. Of Law	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	1	
Total	53	8.9%	28	4.7%	450	75.3%	67	11.2%	0	598	100.0%

* Action taken includes disbarments, suspensions and reinstatements.

Bd. On Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

Un. Prac. Of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source: Court Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPREME COURT

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Elapsed Time by Disposition Type			
Type of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Affirmed	317	246.8 days	34.8 days
Affirmed Part/Reversed Part	6	350.3 days	92.0 days
Reversed	44	393.6 days	75.0 days
Remanded	9	240.3 days	25.1 days
Voluntary Dismissal	67	101.0 days	---
Court Dismissal	116	71.8 days	17.4 days
Leave to Appeal Denied	18	29.0 days	15.4 days
Other	21	125.0 days	43.1 days
Total	598	197.4 days	34.5 days

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Elapsed Time by Disposition Method			
Method of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Assigned Opinion	53	391.0 days	87.6 days
Per Curium Opinion	28	307.7 days	60.9 days
Written Order	450	182.1 days	26.6 days
Voluntary Dismissal	67	101.0 days	---
Total	598	197.4 days	34.5 days

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Average Elapsed Time to Disposition			
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Criminal Appeals	265	211.5 days	36.7 days
Civil Appeals	276	201.8 days	31.4 days
Certifications	5	209.6 days	56.2 days
Original Applications	32	47.2 days	28.5 days
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	19	182.1 days	47.5 days
Un. Prac. Of Law	1	286.0 days	44.0 days
Total	598	197.4 days	34.5 days

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Average Time From Filing to Disposition				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	211.9 days	211.5 days	- 0.4 days	- 0.2%
Civil Appeals	181.6 days	201.8 days	+ 20.2 days	+ 11.1%
Certifications	132.7 days	209.6 days	+ 76.9 days	+ 58.0%
Original Applications	47.7 days	47.2 days	- 0.5 days	- 1.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	165.7 days	182.1 days	+ 16.4 days	+ 9.9%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	164.0 days	---- days	---- days	----
Un. Prac. Of Law	84.0 days	286.0 days	+202.0 days	+240.5%
Total	183.8 days	197.4 days	+ 13.6 days	+ 7.4%

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. Not all Supreme Court dispositions require a judicial decision.

Bd. On Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

Un. Prac. Of Law = Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

Source : Court Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY



Chancellor William B. Chandler

This year, the Court of Chancery welcomed its newest member, Vice Chancellor John W. Noble, who filled the vacancy in Kent County following the appointment of Justice Myron T. Steele to the Delaware Supreme Court. The Court is again at full strength.

In addition to welcoming Vice Chancellor Noble to the Court, we also will soon be joined by all of the loyal and hardworking staff of the three Register in Chancery offices. This past June, the General Assembly adopted the second and final leg of a constitutional amendment that allows the Court of Chancery to appoint the Register in Chancery for each county. Previously, the Register in Chancery for each county was an elected office, and each Register selected the clerical staff. With the passage of the constitutional amendment, the Court of Chancery will now control and supervise all of the clerical staff, who work closely with the Court in carrying out its mission. A unified Register in Chancery office, with professional management and under the Court's direct supervision, will allow the Court to implement standard and modernized procedures for case management and docketing. It also will enable the Court to improve its management of expedited cases. Finally, a unified Register in Chancery under the Court's supervision will facilitate the use of internet technology to make dockets and

pleadings from all three counties available to practitioners, the public, and to the Court, thereby increasing the Court's ability to administer and process its caseload efficiently and fairly. The Court of Chancery thanks the members of the General Assembly for

assisting the Court in this progressive step to maintain the Court's reputation for timely and thoughtful decisions.

The Court of Chancery anticipates occupying new quarters in New Castle County and in Sussex County in the near future. Plans for construction of a courthouse on a site on the Circle in Georgetown have been completed and construction work should begin soon. Meanwhile, construction of the New Castle County Courthouse is proceeding apace and the Court looks forward to moving into the expanded facilities sometime in the next twelve months.

With the vacancy in Kent County filled by a new Vice Chancellor, the Court is now at full strength. And with the advent of new courthouses in Sussex and New Castle Counties and a new statewide court clerk system, we believe the Court of Chancery is poised to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing economic and legal landscapes in the twenty-first century.

COURT OF CHANCERY



COURT OF CHANCERY

Seated (left to right)

Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs

Vice Chancellor Stephen P. Lamb

Standing (left to right)

Vice Chancellor John W. Noble

Chancellor William B. Chandler III

Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.

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 Constitution of 1792. It was modeled on the High Court of Chancery in England and is in direct line of succession from the Court. The Court consisted solely of the 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 being made in 1989.

Geographic Organization

The Court of Chancery holds court in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown. The Court of Chancery consists of one chancellor and four vice chancellors. The chancellor and vice chancellors are nominated by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate for 12-year terms. The chancellor and vice chancellors must be learned in the law and must be Delaware citizens.

Public Guardian

The chancellor has the duty to appoint the public guardian.

Support Personnel

The chancellor may appoint court reporters, bailiffs, criers or pages, and law clerks. The register in chancery is the clerk of the court for all actions except those within the jurisdiction of the register of wills. A register in chancery is elected for each county. The chancellor or vice chancellor resident in the county is to appoint one chief deputy register in chancery in each county. The register in chancery in New Castle County appoints a chief deputy register in chancery as well.

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, the 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., Section 369).

COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	7,683	2,841	2,731	7,793	+110	+1.4%
Kent County*	2,660	492	453	2,699	+ 39	+1.5%
Sussex County	2,976	864	684	3,156	+180	+6.0%
State*	13,319	4,197	3,868	13,648	+329	+2.5%

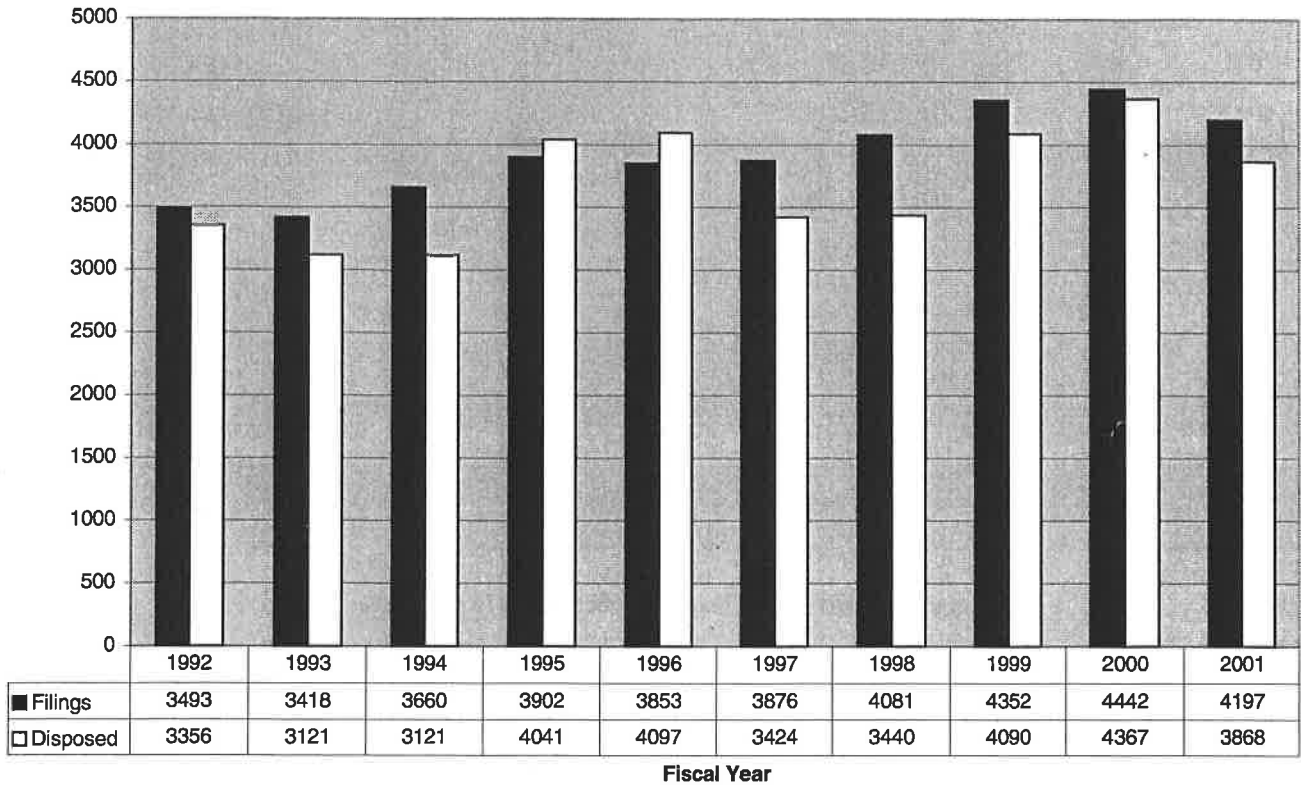
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,220	2,841	-379	-11.8%
Kent County	482	492	+ 10	+ 2.1%
Sussex County	740	864	+124	+16.8%
State	4,442	4,197	-245	- 5.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,299	2,731	-568	-17.2%
Kent County	399	453	+ 54	+ 13.5%
Sussex County	669	684	+ 15	+ 2.2%
State	4,367	3,868	-499	-11.4%

*Pending as of 6/30/00 amended from 2000 Statistical Report.

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

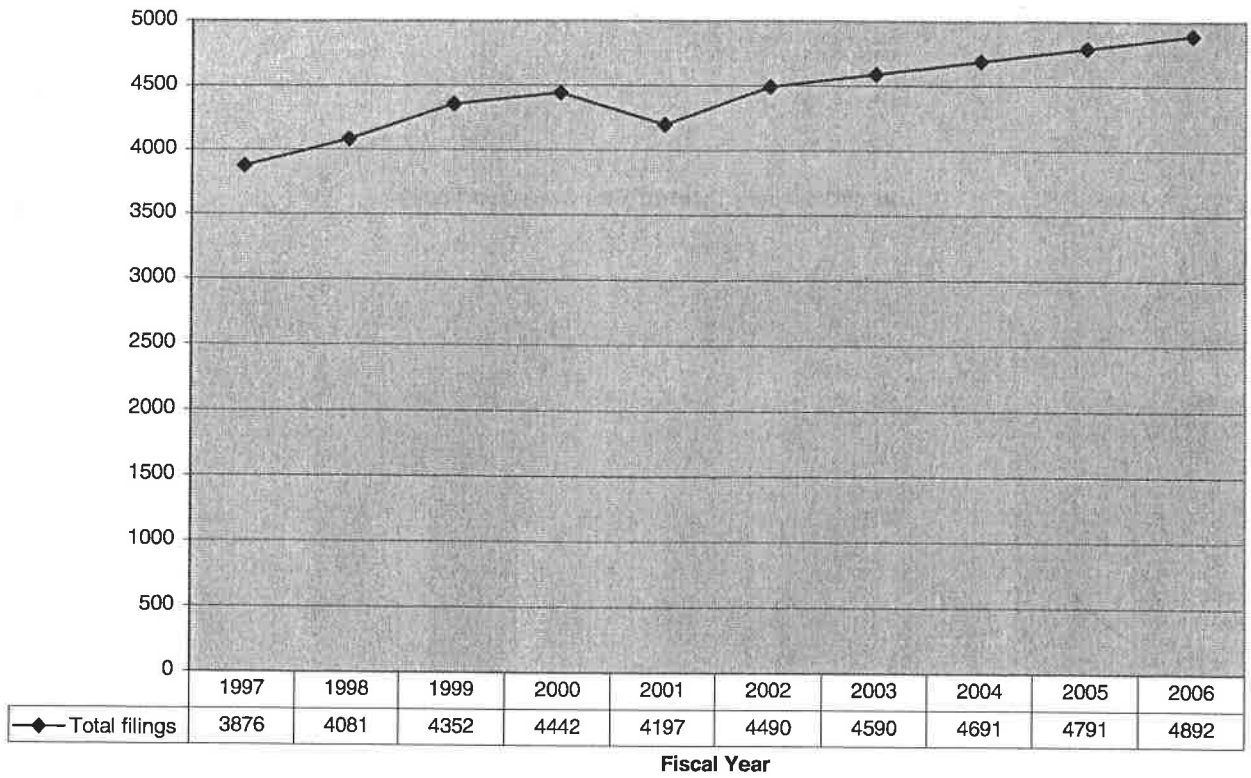
Court of Chancery Total 10 Year Caseload Trend



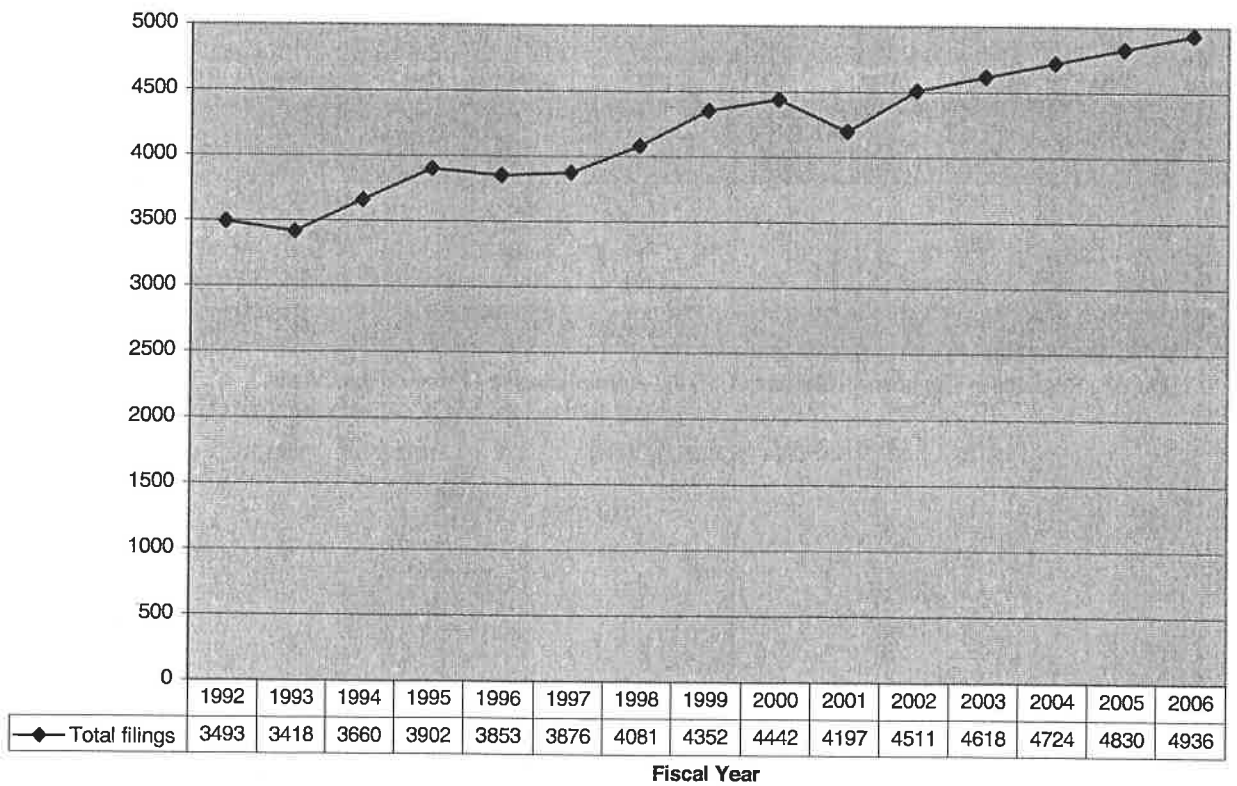
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery, Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Total 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery, Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	893	908	902	899	+6	+ 0.7%
Kent County*	69	31	28	72	+3	+ 4.3%
Sussex County	104	61	48	117	+13	+12.5%
State*	1,066	1,000	978	1,088	+22	+ 2.1%

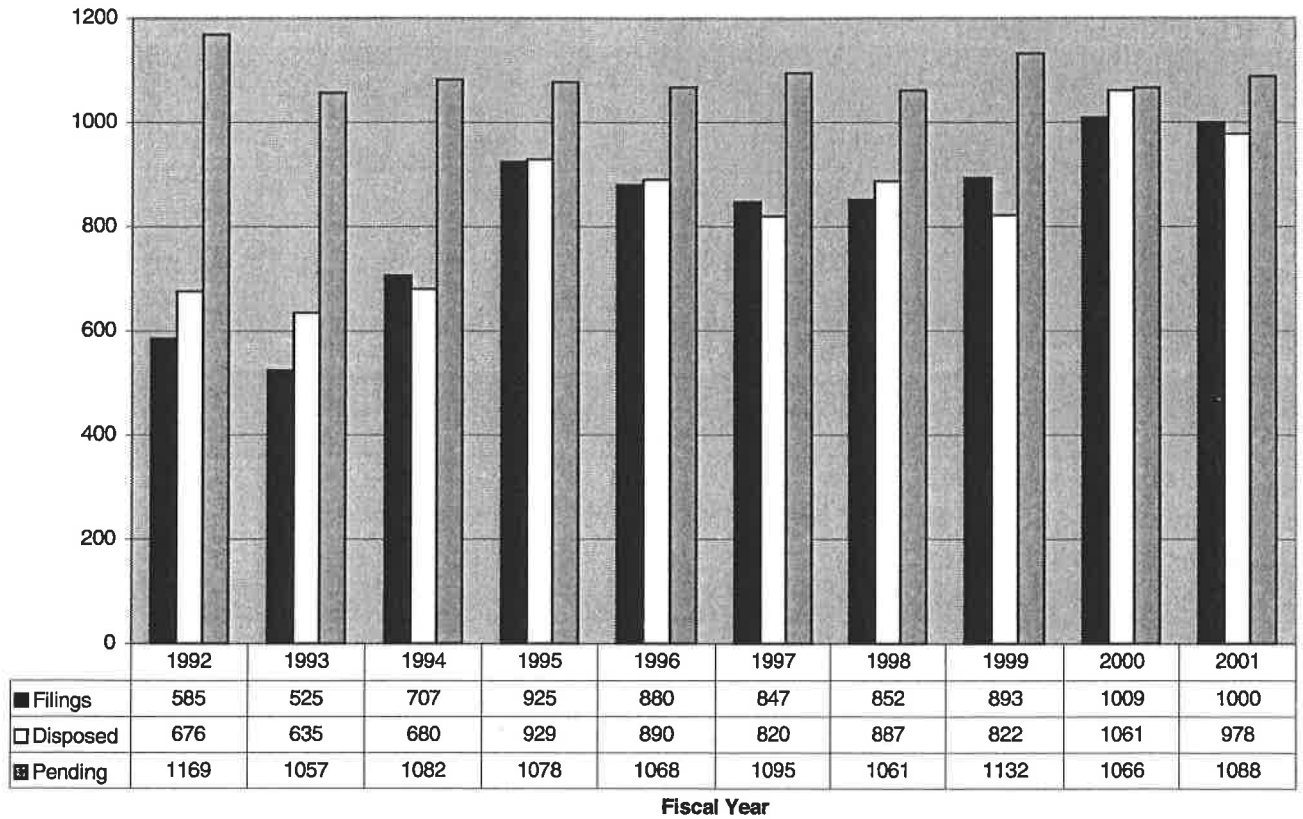
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	917	908	-9	- 1.0%
Kent County	27	31	+4	+14.8%
Sussex County	65	61	-4	- 6.2%
State	1,009	1,000	-9	- 0.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	979	902	-77	- 7.9%
Kent County	22	28	+6	+27.3%
Sussex County	60	48	-12	-20.0%
State	1,061	978	-83	- 7.8%

*Pending as of 6/30/00 amended from 2000 Statistical Report.

Source : Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

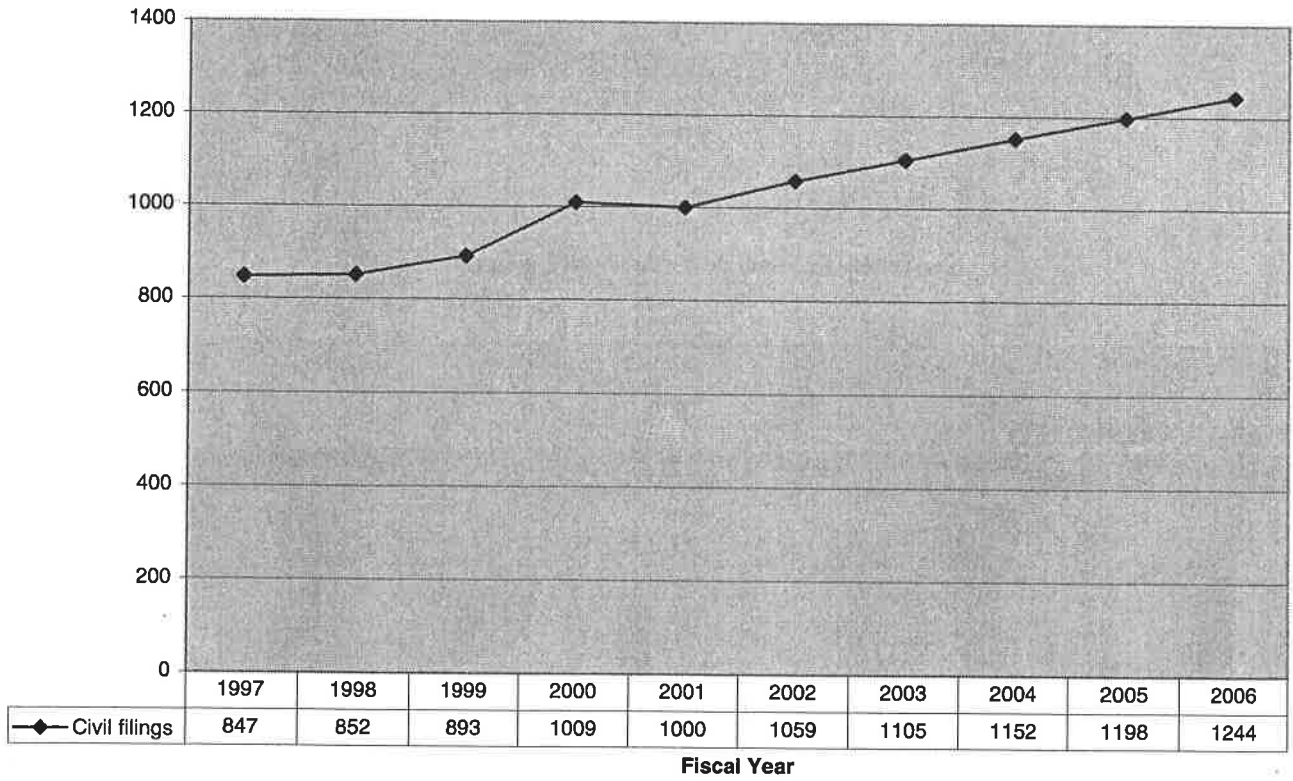
Court of Chancery Civil 10 Year Caseload Trend



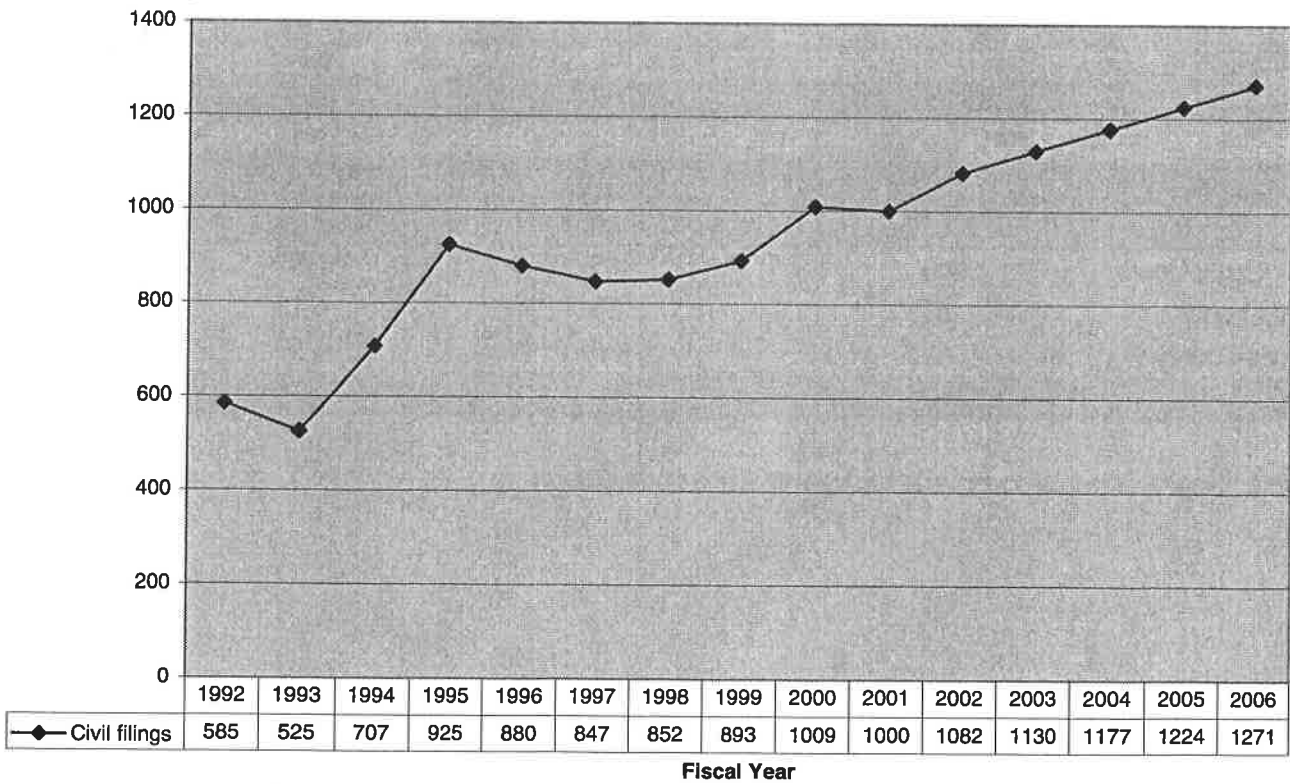
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Civil 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

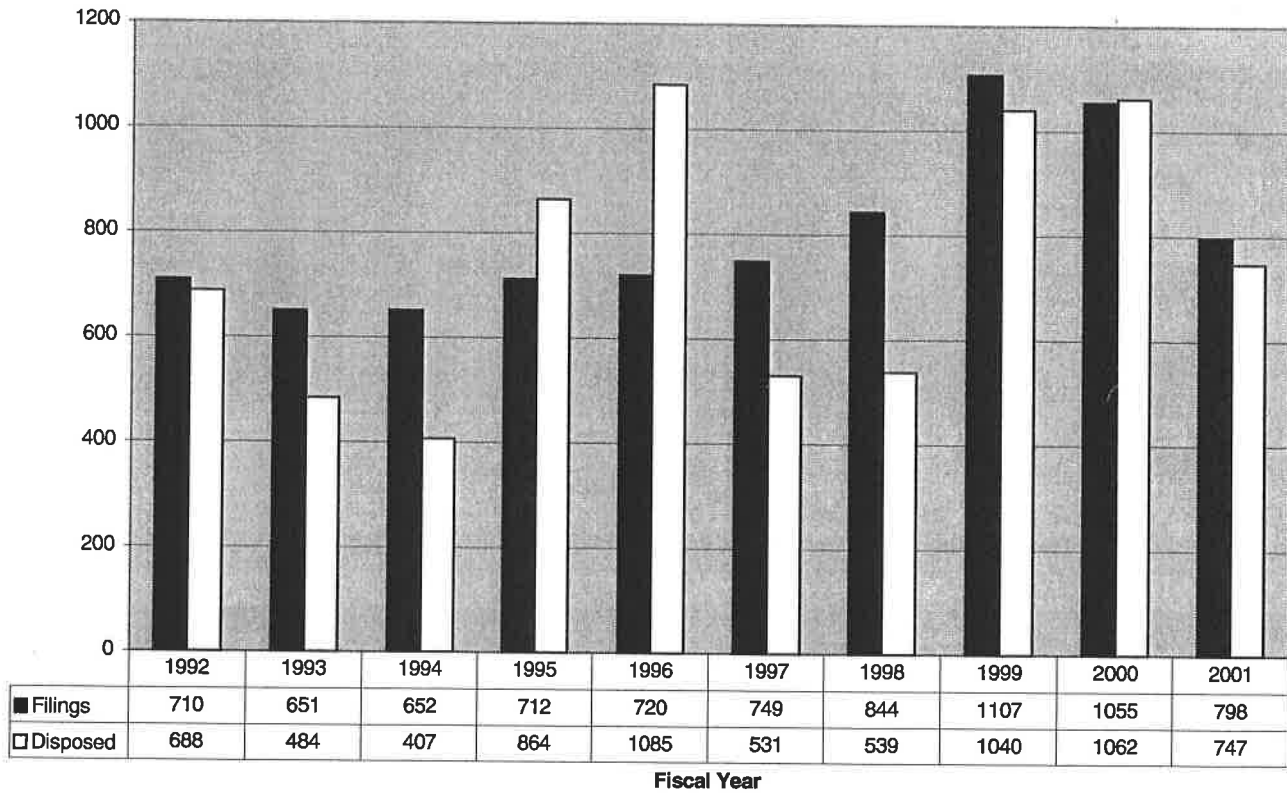
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous Matters						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,585	519	606	3,498	-87	-2.4%
Kent County	1,219	98	35	1,282	+63	+5.2%
Sussex County	1,988	181	106	2,063	+75	+3.8%
State	6,792	798	747	6,843	+51	+0.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	814	519	-295	-36.2%
Kent County	119	98	- 21	-17.6%
Sussex County	122	181	+ 59	+48.4%
State	1,055	798	-257	-24.4%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	960	606	-354	- 36.9%
Kent County	53	35	- 18	- 34.0%
Sussex County	49	106	+ 57	+116.3%
State	1,062	747	-315	- 29.7%

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

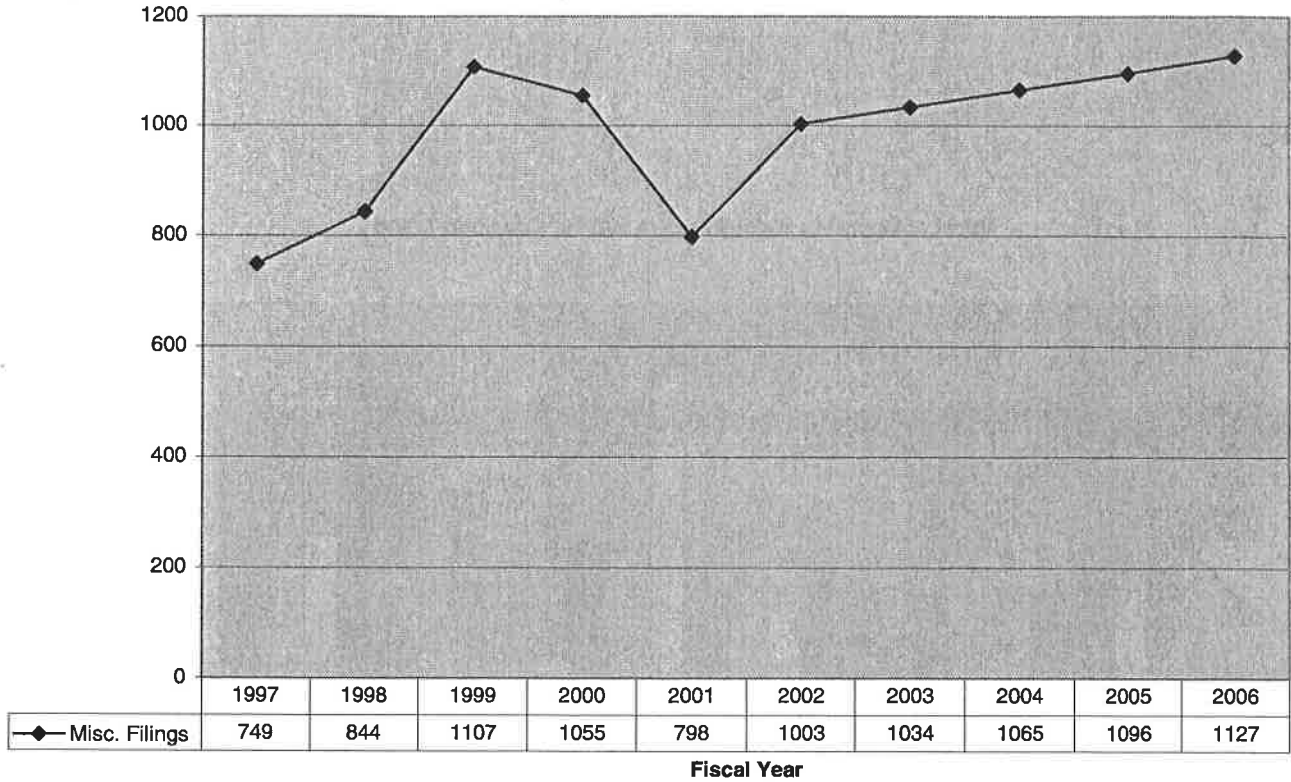
Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 10 Year Caseload Trend



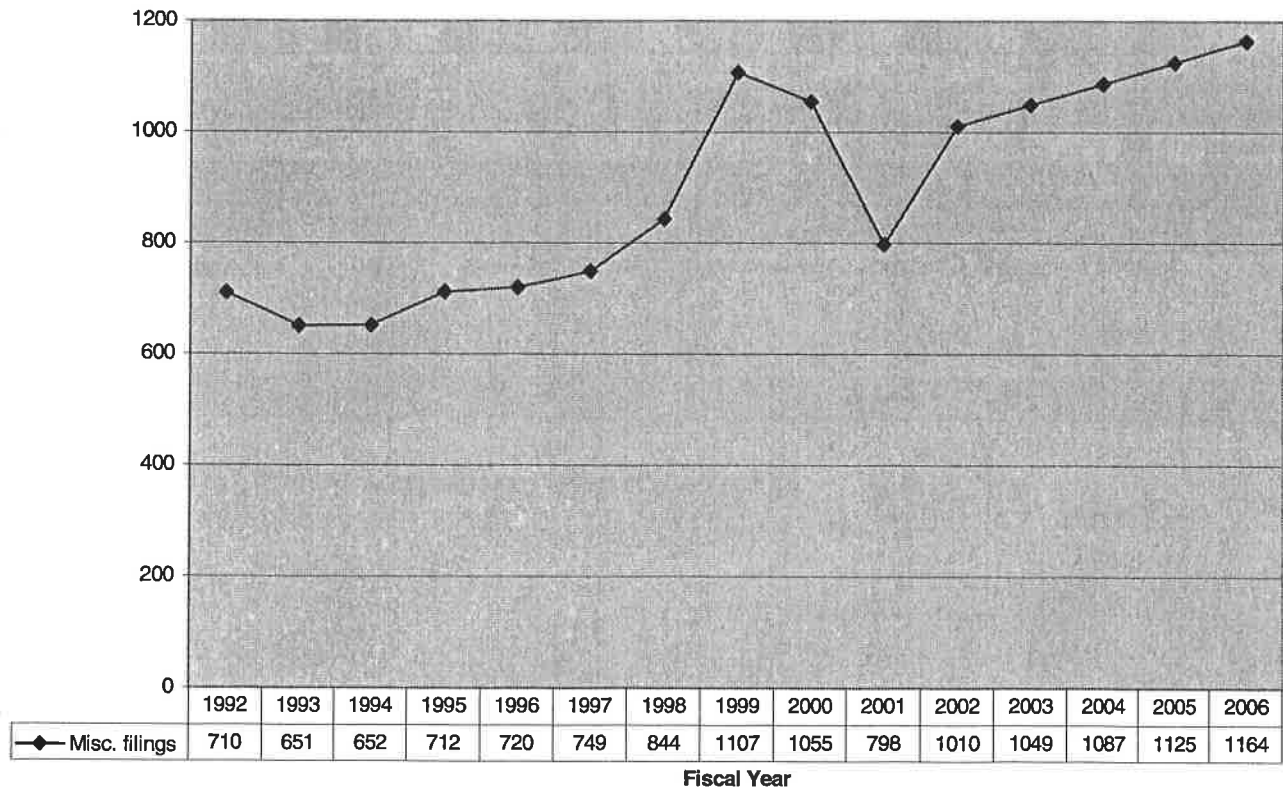
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Filed										
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle County	230	44.3%	153	29.5%	74	14.3%	62	11.9%	519	100.0%
Kent County	54	55.1%	32	32.7%	4	4.1%	8	8.2%	98	100.0%
Sussex County	45	24.9%	60	33.1%	0	0.0%	76	42.0%	181	100.0%
State	329	41.2%	245	30.7%	78	9.8%	146	18.3%	798	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Disposed										
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle County	298	49.2%	173	28.5%	72	11.9%	63	10.4%	606	100.0%
Kent County	26	74.3%	5	14.3%	0	0.0%	4	11.4%	35	100.0%
Sussex County	30	28.3%	19	17.9%	1	0.9%	56	52.8%	106	100.0%
State	354	47.4%	197	26.4%	73	9.8%	123	16.5%	747	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Pending at End of Year										
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle County	1,276	36.5%	1,399	40.0%	527	15.1%	296	8.5%	3,498	100.0%
Kent County	545	42.5%	431	33.6%	229	17.9%	77	6.0%	1,282	100.0%
Sussex County	749	36.3%	986	47.8%	155	7.5%	173	8.4%	2,063	100.0%
State	2,570	37.6%	2,816	41.2%	911	13.3%	546	8.0%	6,843	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Miscellaneous Matters Change in Pending										
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Totals	
New Castle County	-68		-20		+2		- 1		-87	
Kent County	+28		+27		+4		+ 4		+63	
Sussex County	+15		+41		-1		+20		+75	
State	-25		+48		+5		+23		+51	

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

COURT OF CHANCERY

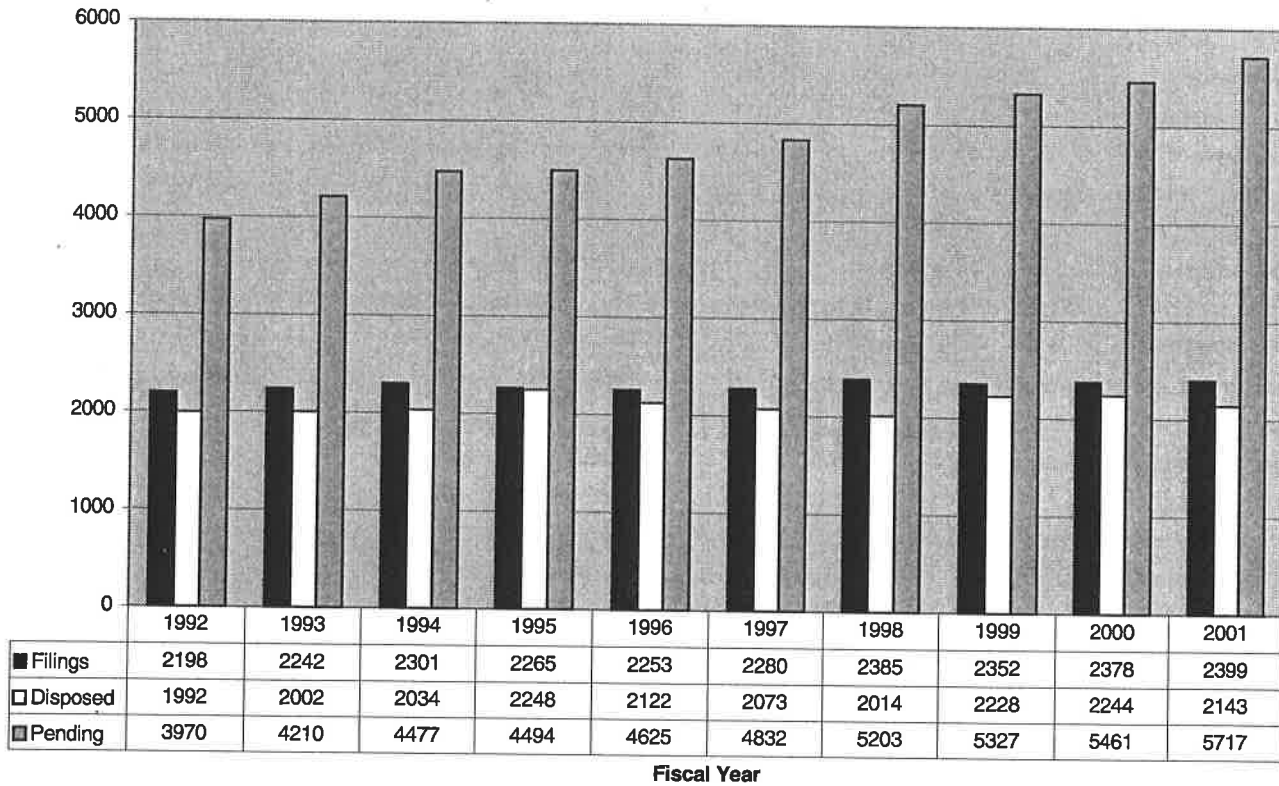
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Estates						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,205	1,414	1,223	3,396	+191	+ 6.0%
Kent County	1,372	363	390	1,345	- 27	- 2.0%
Sussex County	884	622	530	976	+ 92	+10.4%
State	5,461	2,399	2,143	5,717	+256	+ 4.7%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Estates Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,489	1,414	-75	- 5.0%
Kent County	336	363	+27	+ 8.0%
Sussex County	553	622	+69	+12.5%
State	2,378	2,399	+21	+ 0.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Estates Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,360	1,223	-137	-10.1%
Kent County	324	390	+ 66	+20.4%
Sussex County	560	530	- 30	- 5.4%
State	2,244	2,143	-101	- 4.5%

Source : Registers of Wills, Administrative Office of the Courts.

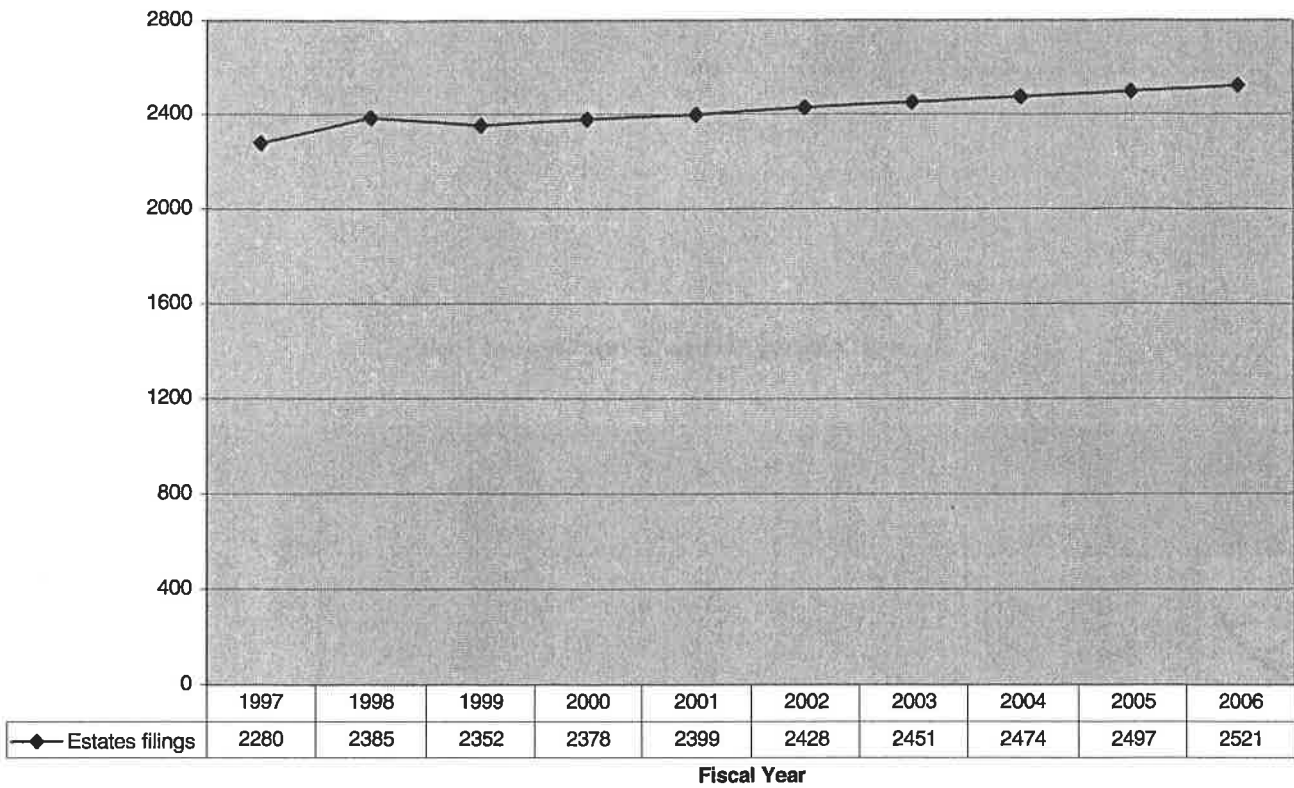
Court of Chancery Estates 10 Year Caseload Trend



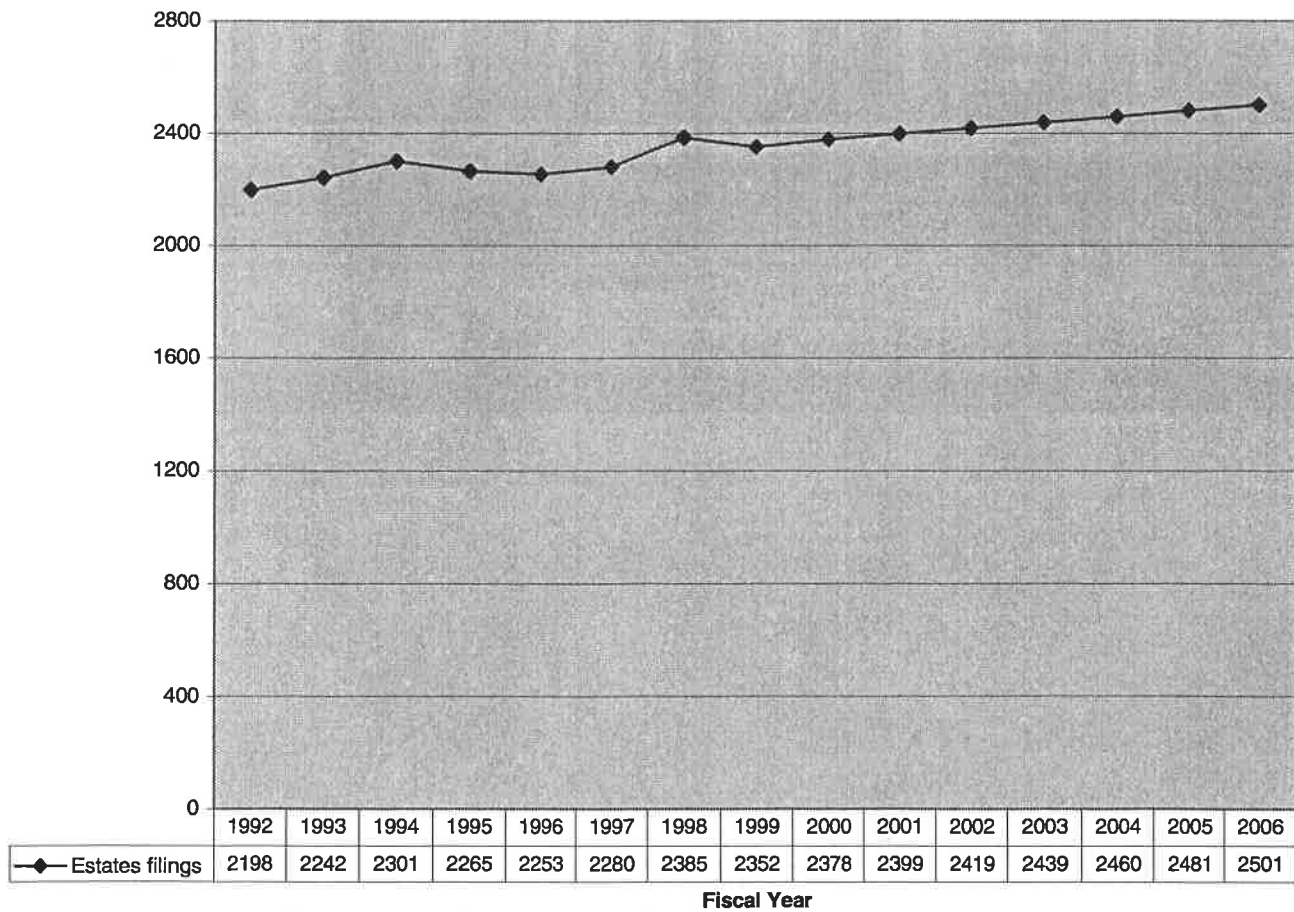
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Estates 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Estates 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT



President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely

During FY2001 the Superior Court welcomed three new judges, two new Commissioners and a new Court Administrator. Judge Peggy L. Ableman was sworn in on October 30, 2000, after 17 years as a Family Court Judge. Judge Joseph Slights was sworn in on November 2, 2000 after 12 years of private practice. Judge Jan Jurden was sworn in on May 29, 2001 after 12 years of private practice. They respectively succeeded Resident Judge Vincent A. Bifferato, Judge William T. Quillen and Judge Norman A. Barron who have retired. Commissioner Mark Vavala and Commissioner David White were sworn in upon the conversion of their positions from Master to Commissioner. And Art Bernardino joined the Superior Court as our new Court Administrator upon the retirement from state service of Tom Ralston. They bring a wealth of experience to the Court.

During this fiscal year the total number of new case filings statewide was 3.9% less than the previous fiscal year. I am pleased to report that the Court reduced the total number of pending cases by 8% statewide by disposing of more cases than ever before in the Court's history. The Court continues to be the forum for the resolution of not only Delaware's major criminal cases but also some of the nation's most complex commercial litigation involving Delaware corporations.

We continue to apply a best commercial practices and customer service approach to improve our service to the public. Through our web site prospective jurors now may file their responses to jury qualification questionnaires online which saves time and money for them and the Court. The site has also been expanded

to include a searchable database of recent written decisions of the Judges.

The Court continues to set the example for an effective statewide Drug Court. In March 2001 the statewide Drug Court Information System (DCIS) was launched with federal funding assistance. DCIS permits drug

court treatment providers and the Court to share information electronically.

In Sussex County an e-courtroom was completed where courtroom technologies are being used to reduce the time needed to try cases and to improve juror comprehension of the evidence. Construction of a new e-courtroom in Kent County was near completion by the end of the fiscal year. With the e-courtroom in New Castle County, the Court will soon have a state-of-the-art e-courtroom in each County.

The Superior Court joins with five other Courts in fully supporting the full funding of COTS. We are fully committed to this process and selection of a cost effective judicial case management system that meets the needs of the State of Delaware. By improving information sharing this system will enhance not only court operations, but also public safety.

Our vision is to be the Superior Court with the most superior service in the nation. Our core values as an organization are UNITED, which stands for unity, neutrality, integrity, timeliness, equality and dedication. We have a continuing commitment to build on the quality of justice and public service for which the Superior Court of Delaware is well known here and nationally.

SUPERIOR COURT



SUPERIOR COURT

Front row, sitting (left to right)

Associate Judge Susan C. Del Pesco
Associate Judge Richard S. Gebelein
President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely
Associate Judge John E. Babiartz, Jr.
Associate Judge Jerome O. Herlihy

Second row, standing (left to right)

Associate Judge Fred S. Silverman
Associate Judge Haile L. Alford
Associate Judge Charles H. Toliver, IV
Resident Judge T. Henley Graves
Associate Judge Carl Goldstein
Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch
Associate Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.

Third row, standing (left to right)

Associate Judge Joseph R. Slights, III
Associate Judge E. Scott Bradley
Associate Judge William L. Witham, Jr.
Resident Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Associate Judge Richard F. Stokes
Associate Judge Peggy L. Ableman
Associate Judge Jan R. Jurden

Legal Authorization

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section I, authorizes the Superior Court.

Court History

Superior Court's roots can be traced back more than 300 years to December 6, 1669 when John Binckson and two others were tried for treason for leading an insurrection against colonists loyal to England in favor of the King of Sweden.

The law courts, which represent today's Superior Court jurisdiction, go back as far as 1831 when they included Superior Court, which heard civil matters, the Court of General Sessions, which heard criminal matters, and the Court of Oyer and Terminer, which heard capital cases and consisted of all four law judges for the other two courts.

In 1951, the Court of Oyer and Terminer and the Court of General Sessions were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined in today's Superior Court. The presiding judge of Superior Court was renamed president judge. There were five Superior judges in 1951; there are nineteen today.

Geographic Organization

Sessions of Superior Court are held in each of the three counties at the county seat.

Legal Jurisdiction

Superior Court has statewide original jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases, except equity cases, over which the Court of Chancery has exclusive jurisdiction, and domestic relations matters which jurisdiction is vested with the Family Court. The Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Court hears cases of personal injury, libel and slander, and contract claims. The Court also tries cases involving medical malpractice, legal malpractice, property cases involving mortgage foreclosures, mechanics' liens, condemnations, and appeals related to landlord-tenant disputes, and appeals from the Automobile Arbitration Board. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except most felonies and drug offenses involving minors and except possession of marijuana cases). Superior Court has jurisdiction over involuntary

commitments of the mentally ill to the Delaware State Hospital. The Court serves as an intermediate appellate court, hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court (adult criminal), and more than 50 administrative agencies including the Industrial Zoning and Adjustment Boards, and other quasi-judicial bodies. Appeals from Superior Court are argued on the record before the Supreme Court.

Judges

Superior Court judges are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law. There may be nineteen judges appointed to the Superior Court bench. One of the nineteen judges is appointed president judge with administrative responsibility for the Court. Three are appointed as resident judges and must reside in the county in which they are appointed. No more than a bare majority of the judges may be of one political party; the rest must be of the other major political party.

Support Personnel

Superior Court may appoint court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, pre-sentence officers, a secretary for each judge, and other personnel.

An appointed prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court for the county. The prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court and is directly involved with the daily operations of the Court. The office handles the jury list and property liens, and is the custodian of costs and fees for the Court. It issues permits to carry deadly weapons, receives bail, deals with the release of incarcerated prisoners, issues certificates of notary public where applicable, issues certificates of election to elected officials, issues commitments to the State Hospital, and collects and distributes restitution monies as ordered by the Court in addition to numerous other duties. It is also charged with security, care, and custody of court exhibits. Elected sheriffs, one per county, also serve Superior Court.

SUPERIOR COURT

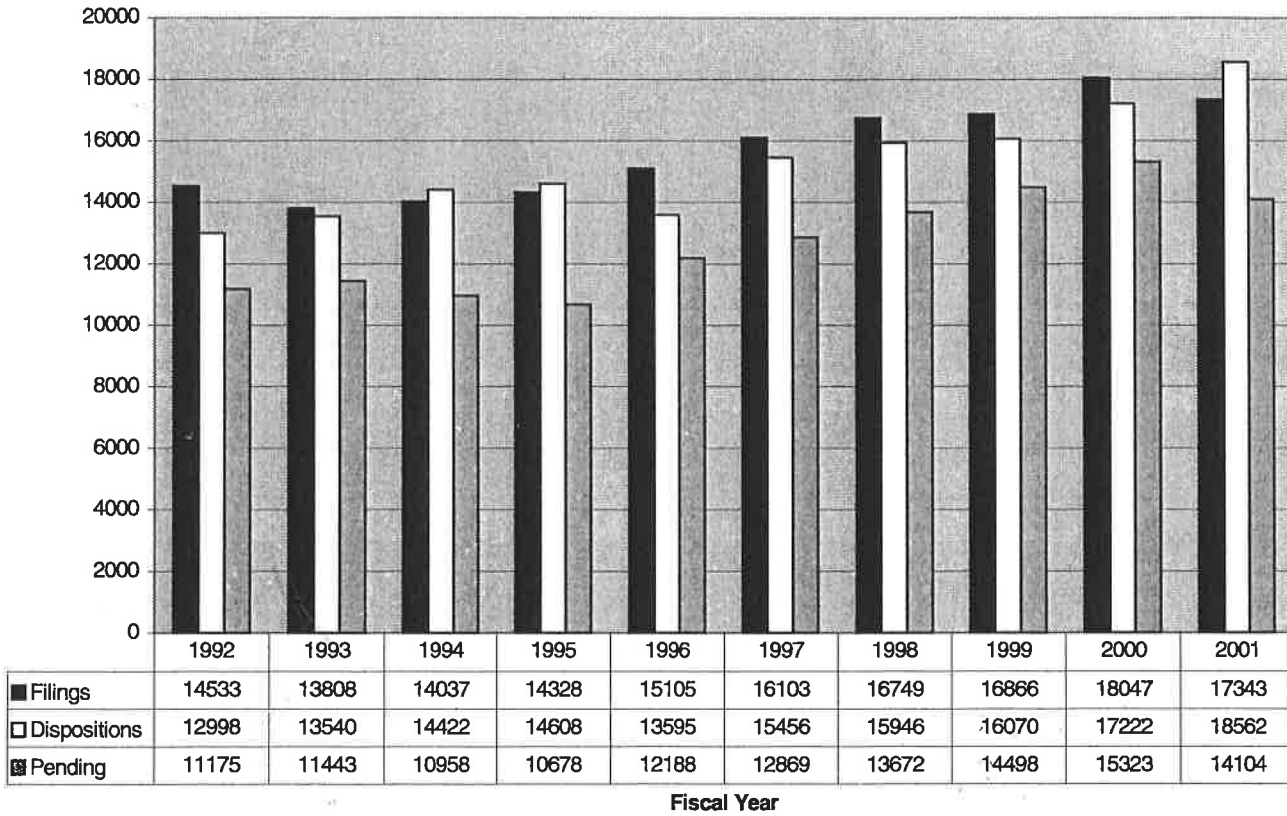
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	11,834	11,490	12,681	10,643	-1,191	-10.1%
Kent County	1,784	2,947	3,032	1,699	- 85	- 4.8%
Sussex County	1,705	2,906	2,849	1,762	+ 57	+3.3%
State	15,323	17,343	18,562	14,104	-1,219	-8.0%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	12,176	11,490	-686	-5.6%
Kent County	3,014	2,947	- 67	-2.2%
Sussex County	2,857	2,906	+ 49	+1.7%
State	18,047	17,343	-704	-3.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	11,452	12,681	+1,229	+10.7%
Kent County	3,104	3,032	- 72	- 2.3%
Sussex County	2,666	2,849	+ 183	+ 6.9%
State	17,222	18,562	+1,340	+ 7.8%

Source : Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

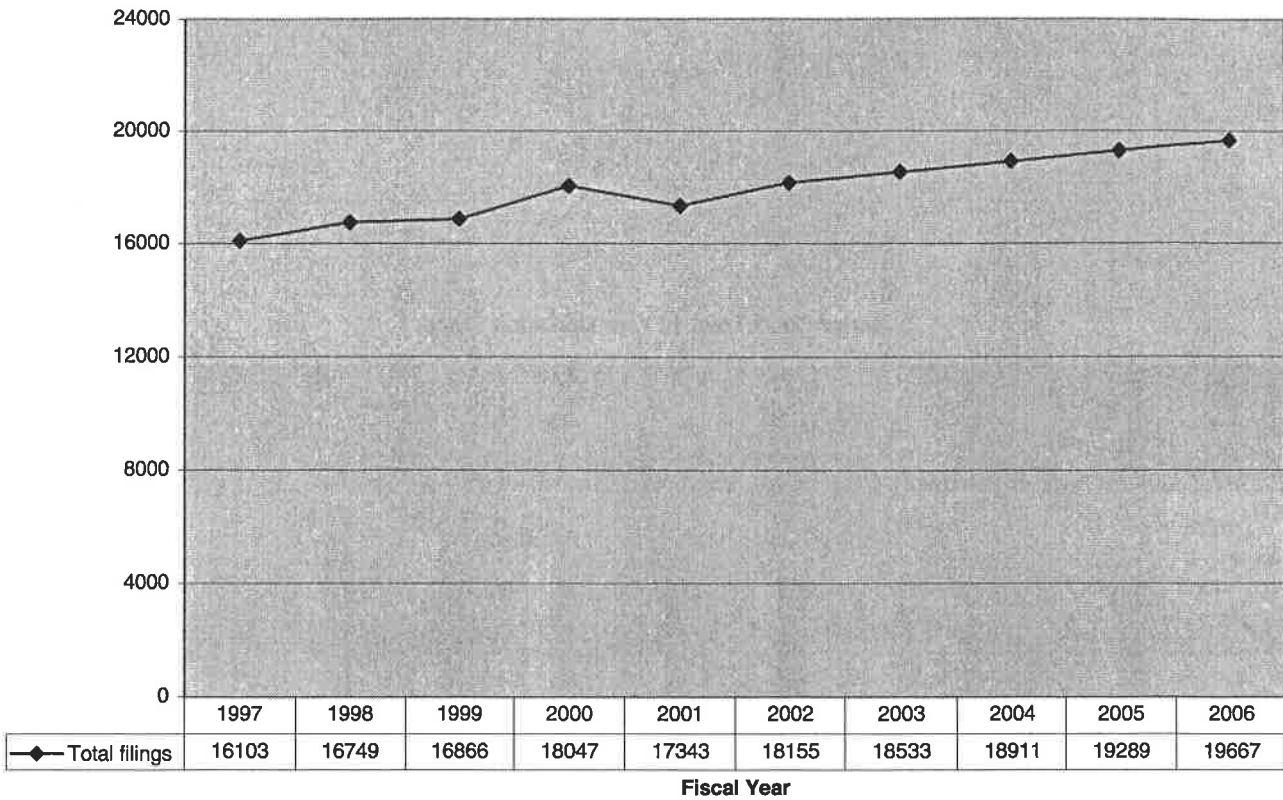
Superior Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend



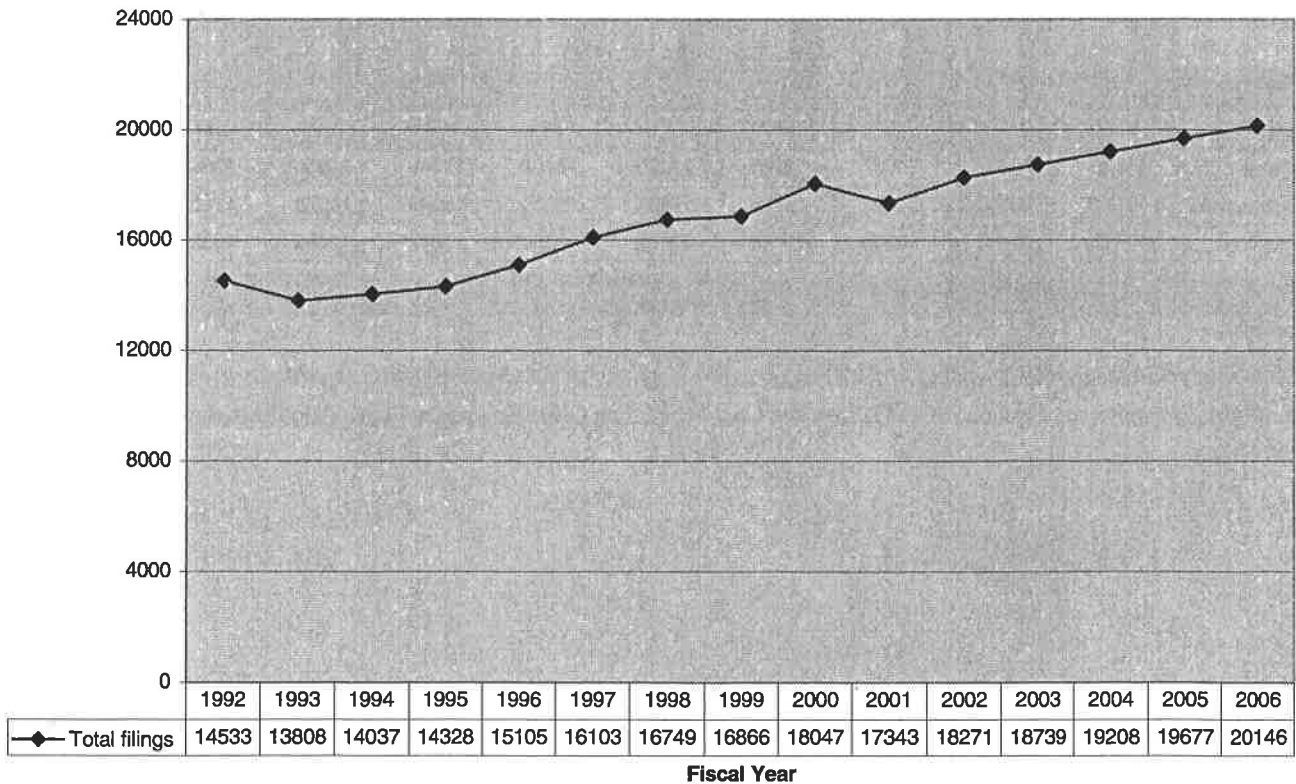
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Total 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Superior Court Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

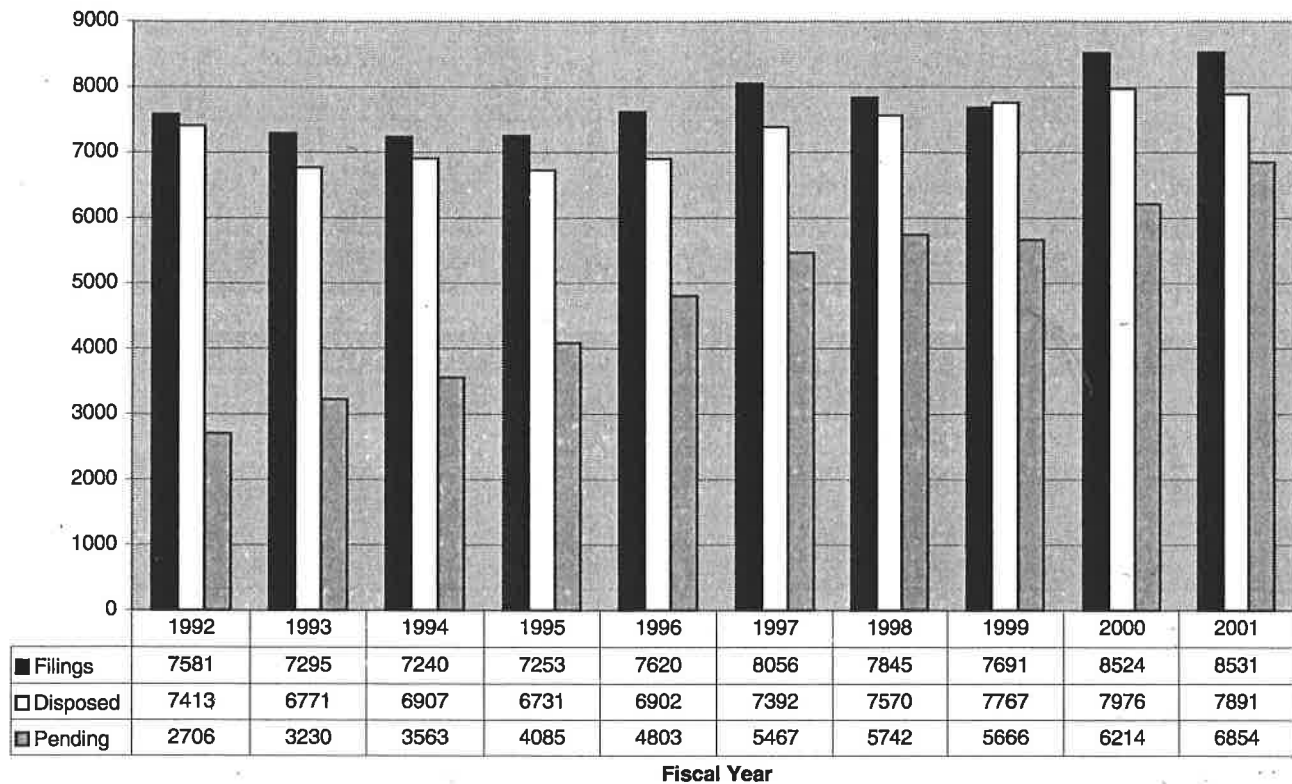
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	4,349	5,178	4,577	4,950	+601	+13.8%
Kent County	944	1,657	1,675	926	- 18	- 1.9%
Sussex County	921	1,696	1,639	978	+ 57	+ 6.2%
State	6,214	8,531	7,891	6,854	+640	+10.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	5,009	5,178	+169	+3.4%
Kent County	1,804	1,657	-147	-8.1%
Sussex County	1,711	1,696	- 15	-0.9%
State	8,524	8,531	+ 7	+0.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,488	4,577	+ 89	+ 2.0%
Kent County	1,862	1,675	-187	-10.0%
Sussex County	1,626	1,639	+ 13	+ 0.8%
State	7,976	7,891	- 85	-1.1%

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

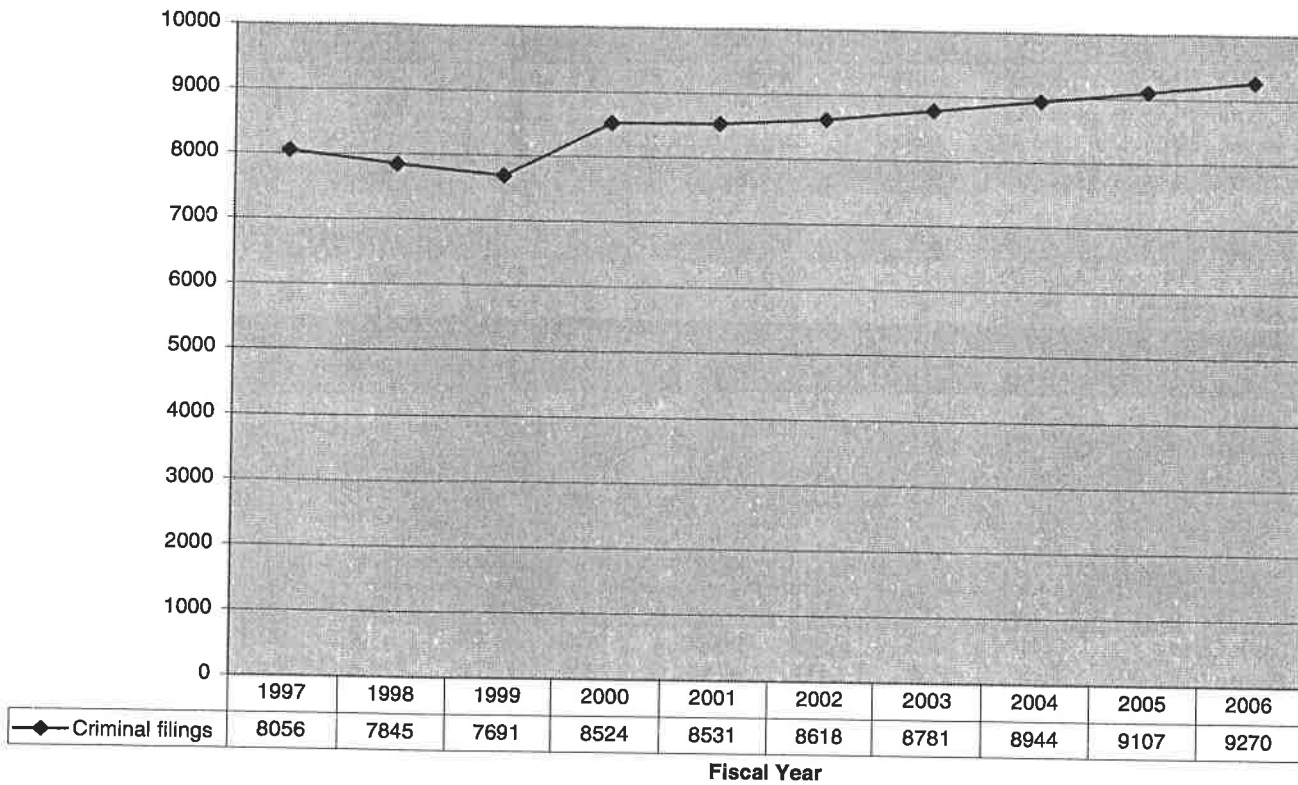
Superior Court Criminal 10 Year Caseload Trend



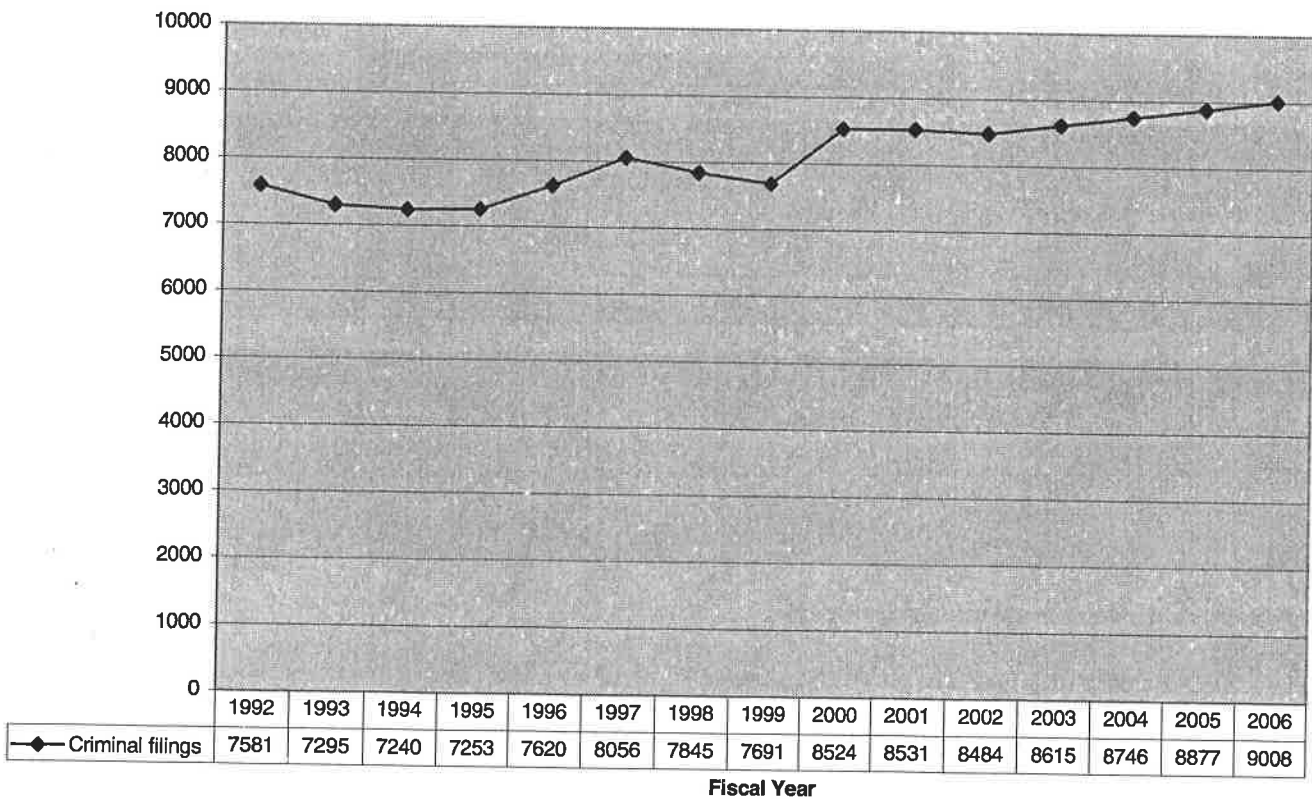
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Criminal 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Superior Court Criminal 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Filings										
	Indictment		Rule 9 Warrant		Information		Other*		Total	
New Castle County	4,588	88.6%	286	5.5%	304	5.9%	0	0.0%	5,178	100.0%
Kent County	1,467	88.5%	22	1.3%	150	9.1%	18	1.1%	1,657	100.0%
Sussex County	563	33.2%	69	4.1%	1,049	61.9%	15	0.9%	1,696	100.0%
State	6,618	77.6%	377	4.4%	1,503	17.6%	33	0.4%	8,531	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Dispositions										
	Trial		Guilty Plea		Nolle Prosequi		Remand/Transfer		ADRR	
New Castle County	111	2.4%	2,968	64.8%	704	15.4%	7	0.2%	0	0.0%
Kent County	39	2.3%	1,135	67.8%	203	12.1%	6	0.4%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	59	3.6%	1,049	64.0%	158	9.6%	9	0.5%	0	0.0%
State	209	2.6%	5,152	65.3%	1,065	13.5%	22	0.3%	0	0.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Dispositions (cont.)										
	Dismissal		FOP/Drug Court**		Consolidation		Total			
New Castle County	257	5.6%	253	5.5%	277	6.1%	4,577	100.0%		
Kent County	14	0.8%	150	9.0%	128	7.6%	1,675	100.0%		
Sussex County	4	0.2%	188	11.5%	172	10.5%	1,639	100.0%		
State	275	3.5%	591	7.5%	577	7.3%	7,891	100.0%		

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Pending at End of Year										
	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending				Total			
New Castle County	1,790	36.2%	3,160	63.8%			4,950	100.0%		
Kent County	305	32.9%	621	67.1%			926	100.0%		
Sussex County	313	32.0%	665	68.0%			978	100.0%		
State	2,408	35.1%	4,446	64.9%			6,854	100.0%		

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Change in Pending										
	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending				Total			
New Castle County	+208		+393				+601			
Kent County	+22		- 40				- 18			
Sussex County	+17		+ 40				+57			
State	+247		+393				+640			

*Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements and severances.

**FOP = First Offender Program

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Trials - Part One							
	Jury Trial		Non-Jury Trial		Total		Average Trial Length
New Castle County	96	86.5%	15	13.5%	111	100.0%	4.05 days
Kent County	36	92.3%	3	7.7%	39	100.0%	2.79 days
Sussex County	57	96.6%	2	3.4%	59	100.0%	2.25 days
State	189	90.4%	20	9.6%	209	100.0%	3.32 days

	Guilty		Not Guilty*		No Final Disposition**		Total	
New Castle County	69	62.2%	35	31.5%	7	6.3%	111	100.0%
Kent County	26	66.7%	5	12.8%	8	20.5%	39	100.0%
Sussex County	48	81.4%	8	13.6%	3	5.1%	59	100.0%
State	143	68.4%	48	23.0%	18	8.6%	209	100.0%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Trials - Part Two															
Jury Trial															
	Guilty		Guilty LIO		Not Guilty		Pled Guilty At Trial		Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial		Mistrial		Hung Jury		Total
New Castle County	43	5	24	9	8	4	3	96							
Kent County	16	2	3	6	1	7	1	36							
Sussex County	35	4	6	7	2	3	0	57							
State	94	11	33	22	11	14	4	189							

Non-Jury Trial													
	Guilty		Guilty LIO		Not Guilty		Pled Guilty At Trial		Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial		Mistrial		Total
New Castle County	9	3	3	0	0	0	15						
Kent County	2	0	1	0	0	0	3						
Sussex County	2	0	0	0	0	0	2						
State	13	3	4	0	0	0	20						

All Trials															
	Guilty		Guilty LIO		Not Guilty		Pled Guilty At Trial		Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial		Mistrial		Hung Jury		Total
New Castle County	52	8	27	9	8	4	3	111							
Kent County	18	2	4	6	1	7	1	39							
Sussex County	37	4	6	7	2	3	0	59							
State	107	14	37	22	11	14	4	209							

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Nolle Prosequis						
	Nolle Prosequis By Special Condition		Nolle Prosequis By Merit		Total	
New Castle County	415	58.9%	289	41.1%	704	100.0%
Kent County	86	42.4%	117	57.6%	203	100.0%
Sussex County	30	19.0%	128	81.0%	158	100.0%
State	531	49.9%	534	50.1%	1,065	100.0%

LIO = Lesser Included Offense

Nol Pros = Nolle Prosequi

*Includes Dismissals at Trial and Nolle Prosequis at Trial

**Hung Juries and Mistrials

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Felony Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	1,681	90.9%	162	8.8%	6	0.3%	1,849	100.0%
Kent County	565	85.0%	100	15.0%	0	0.0%	665	100.0%
Sussex County	503	55.0%	411	44.9%	1	0.1%	915	100.0%
State	2,749	80.2%	673	19.6%	7	0.2%	3,429	100.0%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Misdemeanor Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	481	43.0%	635	56.7%	3	0.3%	1,119	100.0%
Kent County	217	46.2%	253	53.8%	0	0.0%	470	100.0%
Sussex County	129	96.3%	5	3.7%	0	0.0%	134	100.0%
State	827	48.0%	893	51.8%	3	0.2%	1,723	100.0%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Total Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	2,162	72.8%	797	26.9%	9	0.3%	2,968	100.0%
Kent County	782	68.9%	353	31.1%	0	0.0%	1,135	100.0%
Sussex County	632	60.2%	416	39.7%	1	0.1%	1,049	100.0%
State	3,576	69.4%	1,566	30.4%	10	0.2%	5,152	100.0%

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Criminal Cases Performance Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2001

1. The Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie was effective as of May 16, 1990. In the directive it states that 90% of all criminal defendants brought before Superior Court (excluding those charged with murder in the first degree) are to be disposed of within 120 days of the date of arrest, 98% are to be disposed of within 180 days of the date of arrest, and 100% are to be disposed of within 365 days of the arrest date. The standards were modified effective July 1, 2001 in the Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, but they do not impact the data for fiscal year 2001.
2. The performance summary charts measure the average and median time from the date of arrest to the date of disposition as well as the average and median time from the date of indictment/information to the date of disposition.
3. In measuring the elapsed time for defendants for the purpose of determining the rate of compliance with the speedy trial standards, the following are excluded by the Court:
 - a. For all capiases, the time between the date that the capias is issued and the date that it is executed.
 - b. For all Rule 9 summonses and Rule 9 warrants, the time between the arrest and the indictment/information, if any.
 - c. For all nolle prosequis, the time between the date that the examination is ordered and the date of the receipt of the results.
 - d. For all defendants deemed to be incompetent, the period in which the defendant is considered incompetent.

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Cases Elapsed Time					
	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	Average Time from Arrest to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest to Disposition	Average Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition
New Castle County	4,577	182.2 days	128.5 days	144.2 days	93.4 days
Kent County	1,675	124.6 days	99.1 days	83.1 days	58.1 days
Sussex County	1,639	105.9 days	101.1 days	63.4 days	56.4 days
State	7,891	154.1 days	116.6 days	114.4 days	78.3 days

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Cases Compliance With Speedy Trial Standard							
	Total Number Disposed of	Number Disposed of Within 120 Days of Arrest (90%)		Number Disposed of Within 180 Days of Arrest (98%)		Number Disposed of Within 365 Days of Arrest (100%)	
New Castle County	4,577	2,090	45.7%	2,952	64.5%	3,997	87.3%
Kent County	1,675	1,089	65.0%	1,437	85.8%	1,626	97.1%
Sussex County	1,639	972	59.3%	1,418	86.5%	1,628	99.3%
State	7,891	4,151	52.6%	5,807	73.6%	7,251	91.9%

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases				
Average Time From Arrest to Disposition				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	170.6 days	182.2 days	+11.6 days	+ 6.8%
Kent County	147.1 days	124.6 days	-22.5 days	-15.3%
Sussex County	100.9 days	105.9 days	+ 5.0 days	+ 4.9%
State	150.9 days	154.1 days	+ 3.2 days	+ 2.1%

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases				
Median Time From Arrest to Disposition				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	<u>121.5 days</u>	<u>128.5 days</u>	+ 7.0 days	+ 5.8%
Kent County	120.7 days	99.1 days	-21.7 days	-17.9%
Sussex County	96.1 days	101.1 days	+ 5.0 days	+ 5.2%
State	116.1 days	116.6 days	+ 0.4 days	+ 0.4%

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases				
Average Time From Indictment to Disposition				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	135.8 days	144.2 days	+ 8.4 days	+ 6.2%
Kent County	96.8 days	83.1 days	-13.7 days	-14.2%
Sussex County	62.2 days	63.4 days	+ 1.2 days	+ 1.9%
State	111.7 days	114.4 days	+ 2.8 days	+ 2.5%

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases				
Median Time From Indictment to Disposition				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	<u>92.4 days</u>	<u>93.4 days</u>	+ 1.1 days	+ 1.1%
Kent County	75.3 days	58.1 days	-17.2 days	-22.8%
Sussex County	58.0 days	56.4 days	- 1.6 days	- 2.7%
State	81.4 days	78.3 days	- 3.1 days	- 3.9%

Source : Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2001 Civil Cases Explanatory Notes

1. Complaints most often are suits for damages though there are a number of other types of cases included in this category.
2. Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages are property suits.
3. Involuntary Commitments are proceedings to determine whether individuals are to be committed as mentally ill. Most involuntary commitments are held in New Castle County because the Delaware State Hospital, which is the State's facility for mentally ill patients, is located in New Castle County.
4. Appeals are on the record and come from a number of different courts and agencies.
5. Miscellaneous appeals include all other civil cases in the Superior Court.

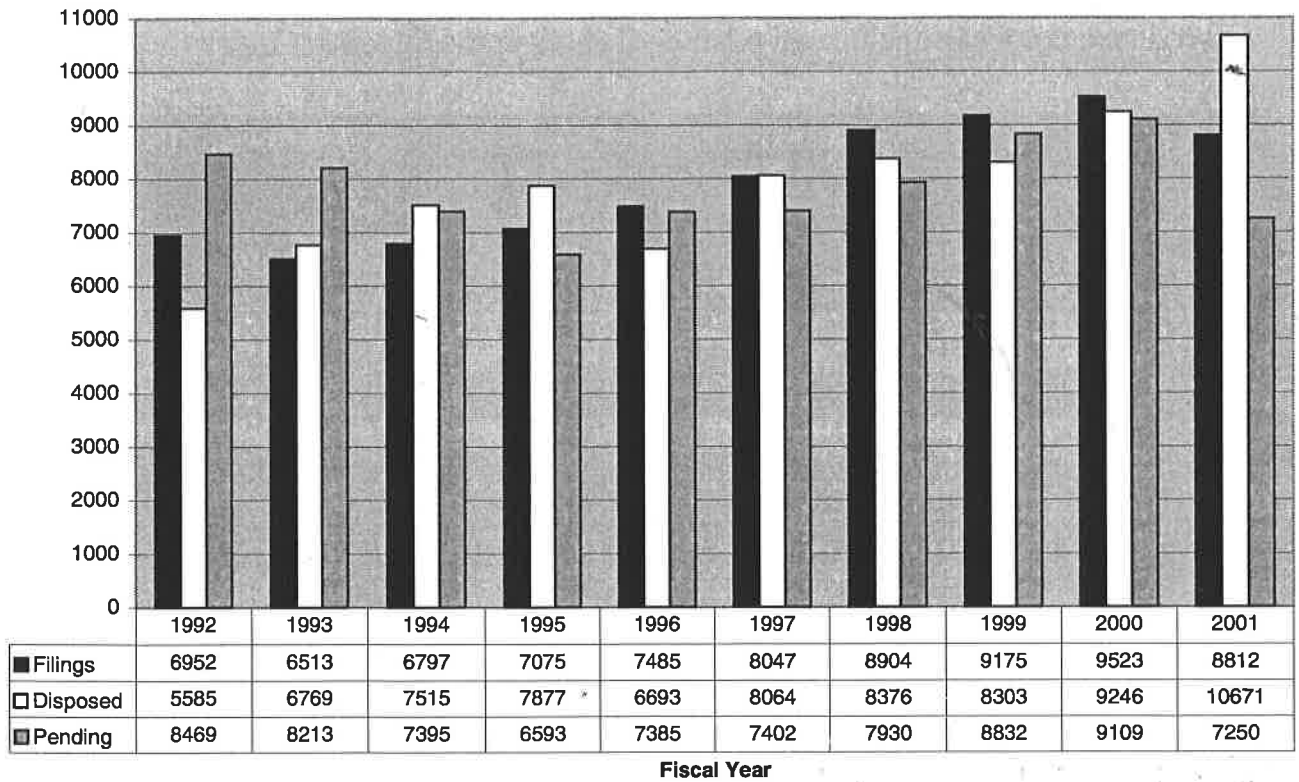
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	7,485	6,312	8,104	5,693	-1,792	-23.9%
Kent County	840	1,290	1,357	773	- 67	- 8.0%
Sussex County	784	1,210	1,210	784	0	0.0%
State	9,109	8,812	10,671	7,250	-1,859	-20.4%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,167	6,312	-855	-11.9%
Kent County	1,210	1,290	+ 80	+ 6.6%
Sussex County	1,146	1,210	+ 64	+ 5.6%
State	9,523	8,812	-711	-7.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	6,964	8,104	+1,140	+16.4%
Kent County	1,242	1,357	+ 115	+ 9.3%
Sussex County	1,040	1,210	+ 170	+16.3%
State	9,246	10,671	+1,425	+15.4%

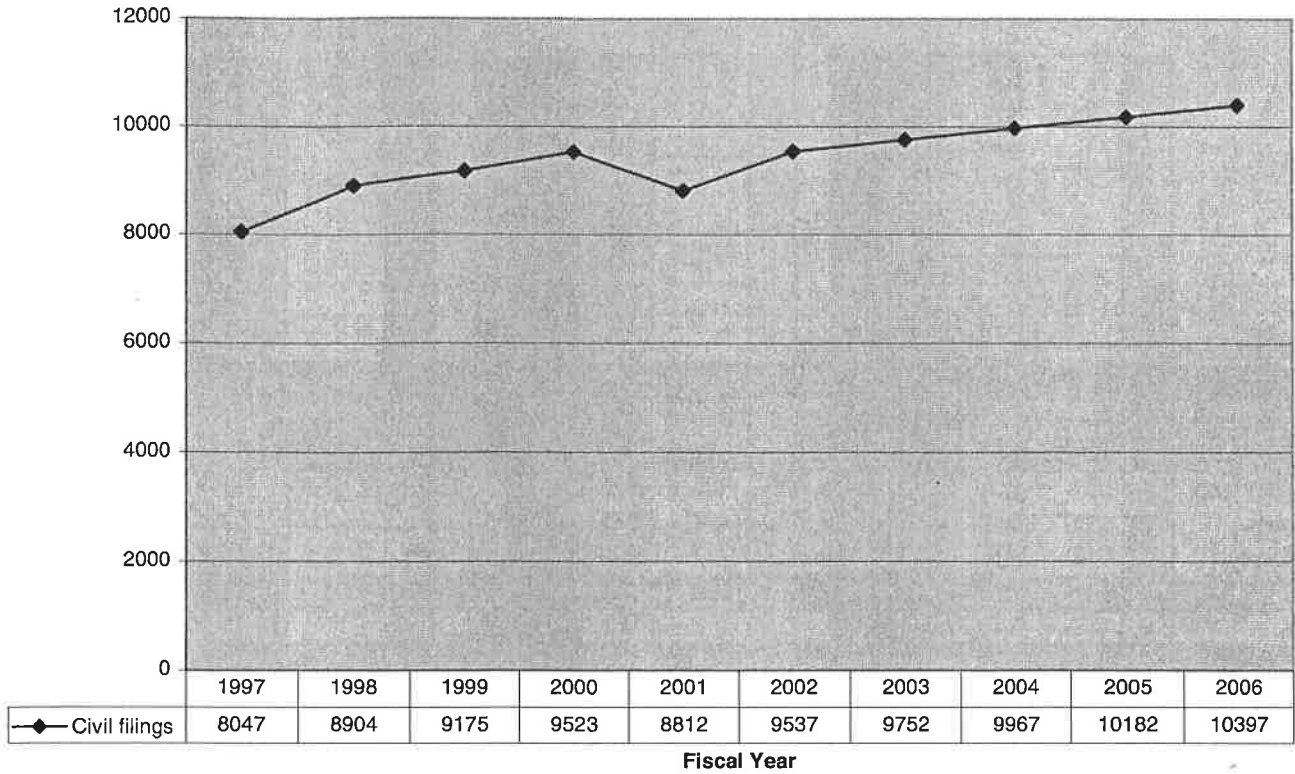
Source: Prothonotaries Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Civil 10 Year Caseload Trend

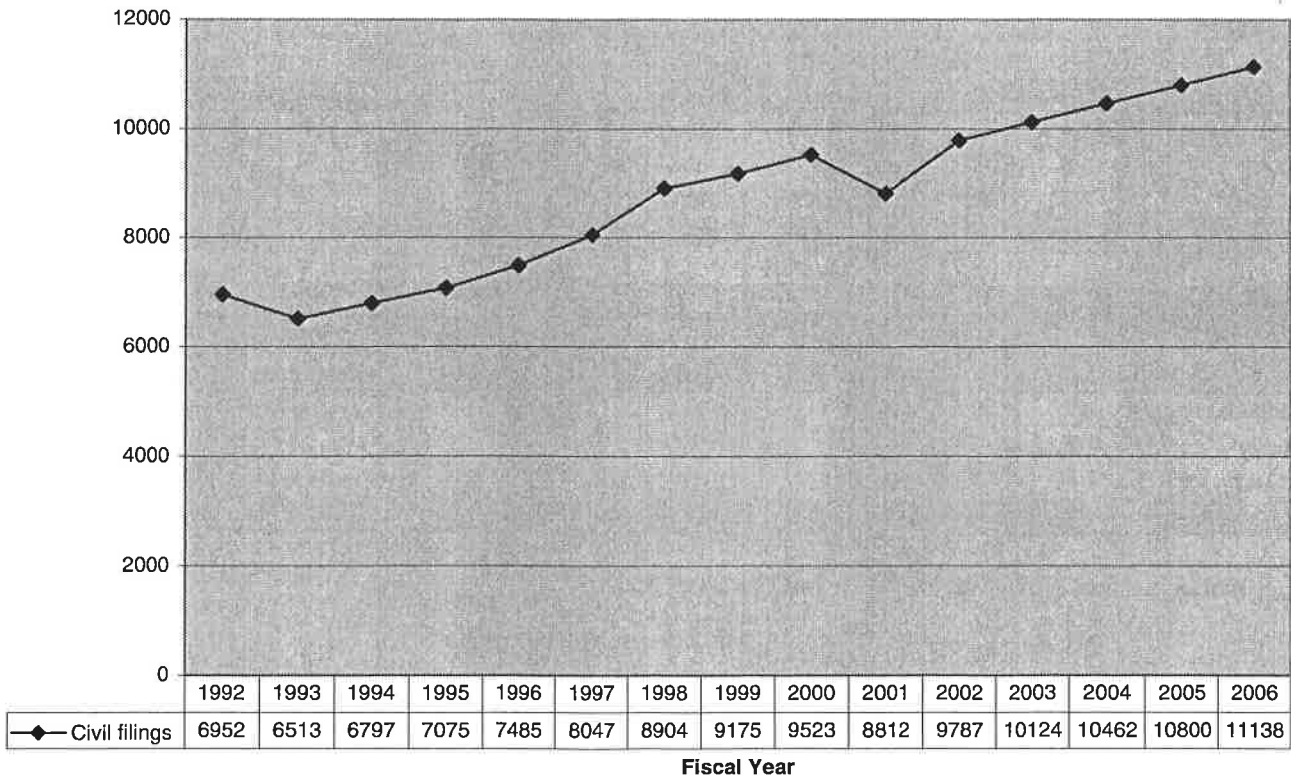


Source : Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the C

Superior Court Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Superior Court Civil 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Court Administrator and Prothonotaries Offices; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Filings												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	3,005	47.6%	1,159	18.4%	125	2.0%	778	12.3%	1,245	19.7%	6,312	100.0%
Kent County	598	46.4%	371	28.8%	38	2.9%	24	1.9%	259	20.1%	1,290	100.0%
Sussex County	430	35.5%	390	32.2%	43	3.6%	21	1.7%	326	26.9%	1,210	100.0%
State	4,033	45.8%	1,920	21.8%	206	2.3%	823	9.3%	1,830	20.8%	8,812	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Dispositions												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	3,459	42.7%	1,354	16.7%	143	1.8%	1,907	23.5%	1,241	15.3%	8,104	100.0%
Kent County	651	48.0%	366	27.0%	42	3.1%	10	0.7%	288	21.2%	1,357	100.0%
Sussex County	467	38.6%	389	32.1%	37	3.1%	0	0.0%	317	26.2%	1,210	100.0%
State	4,577	42.9%	2,109	19.8%	222	2.1%	1,917	18.0%	1,846	17.3%	10,671	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Pending at End of Year												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	4,824	84.7%	444	7.8%	78	1.4%	177	3.1%	170	3.0%	5,693	100.0%
Kent County	518	67.0%	152	19.7%	20	2.6%	52	6.7%	31	4.0%	773	100.0%
Sussex County	417	53.2%	175	22.3%	41	5.2%	74	9.4%	77	9.8%	784	100.0%
State	5,759	79.4%	771	10.6%	139	1.9%	303	4.2%	278	3.8%	7,250	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Change in Pending												
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	-454		-195		-18		-1,129		+4		-1,792	
Kent County	- 53		+ 5		- 4		+ 14		-29		- 67	
Sussex County	- 37		+ 1		+6		+ 21		+9		0	
State	-544		-189		-16		-1,094		-16		-1,859	

Source : Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Complaints Dispositions

	Trial Dispositions				Non-Trial Dispositions							Total
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total			
New Castle County	59	42	138	429	45	2,130	565	51	3,459	100.0%		
Kent County	13	13	30	49	8	467	60	11	651	100.0%		
Sussex County	11	3	9	71	7	291	67	8	467	100.0%		
State	83	58	177	549	60	2,888	692	70	4,577	100.0%		

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Mechanic's Lien and Mortgages Dispositions

	Trial Dispositions				Non-Trial Dispositions							Total
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total			
New Castle County	1	0	838	3	0	408	103	1	1,354	100.0%		
Kent County	0	0	237	4	0	111	13	0	365	100.0%		
Sussex County	0	1	207	11	0	126	36	8	389	100.0%		
State	1	1	1,282	18	0	645	152	9	2,108	100.0%		

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Appeals Dispositions

	Trial Dispositions			Non-Trial Dispositions				Total
	Affirmed	Reversed	Remanded	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total	
New Castle County	56	27	5	20	35	0	143	100.0%
Kent County	13	11	4	11	3	0	42	100.0%
Sussex County	13	4	1	18	0	1	37	100.0%
State	82	42	10	49	38	1	222	100.0%

Source: Prothonotaries Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Trial Activity Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Trials						
	Number of Jury Trials	Number of Non-Jury Trials	Number of Special Jury Trials	Total Number of Trials	Trial Time	Average Trial Time
New Castle County	120	19	4	143	392 days	2.74 days
Kent County	10	0	0	10	35 days	3.50 days
Sussex County	4	7	0	11	19 days	1.73 days
State	134	26	4	164	446 days	2.72 days

Calendar Activity Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases												
	Cases Tried		Cases Settled or Dismissed		Cases Continued for Settlement		Cases Continued Due to Lack of Judge		Cases Continued at Request of Attorney		Total Cases Scheduled	
New Castle County	143	15.1%	490	51.8%	36	3.8%	12	1.3%	265	28.0%	946	100.0%
Kent County	12	10.9%	54	49.1%	8	7.3%	2	1.8%	34	30.9%	110	100.0%
Sussex County	11	8.9%	76	61.8%	4	3.3%	0	0.0%	32	26.0%	123	100.0%
State	166	14.1%	620	52.6%	48	4.1%	14	1.2%	331	28.1%	1,179	100.0%

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases						
	COMPLAINTS		MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES		APPEALS	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition
New Castle County	3,459	459.1 days	1,354	162.4 days	143	253.0 days
Kent County	651	372.8 days	366	167.7 days	42	225.0 days
Sussex County	467	454.7 days	389	200.3 days	37	233.5 days
State	4,577	446.4 days	2,109	170.3 days	222	244.5 days
	INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS		MISCELLANEOUS		TOTAL	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition
New Castle County	1,907	537.3 days	1,241	53.3 days	8,104	362.1 days
Kent County	10	296.3 days	288	108.2 days	1,357	256.2 days
Sussex County	0	0.0 days	317	80.8 days	1,210	268.2 days
State	1,917	536.0 days	1,846	66.5 days	10,671	338.0 days

Source: Prothonotaries Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001-Civil Complaints-Method of Disposition												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle County	101	2.9%	473	13.7%	138	4.0%	2,130	61.6%	617	17.8%	3,459	100.0%
Kent County	26	4.0%	54	8.3%	30	4.6%	467	71.7%	74	11.4%	651	100.0%
Sussex County	14	3.0%	37	7.9%	9	1.9%	291	62.3%	116	24.8%	467	100.0%
State	141	3.1%	564	12.3%	177	3.9%	2,888	63.1%	807	17.6%	4,577	100.0%

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001-Civil Complaints-Elapsed Time						
Average Time From Filing to Disposition						
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total
New Castle County	904.9 days	369.9 days	209.7 days	455.2 days	524.0 days	459.1 days
Kent County	856.1 days	240.1 days	147.7 days	376.0 days	371.0 days	372.8 days
Sussex County	571.4 days	342.1 days	123.4 days	438.4 days	543.2 days	454.7 days
State	862.8 days	355.6 days	194.8 days	440.7 days	512.7 days	446.4 days

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001-Civil Mechanics' Liens and Mortgages-Method of Disposition												
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle County	1	0.1%	2	0.1%	838	61.9%	408	30.1%	105	7.8%	1,354	100.0%
Kent County	0	0.0%	2	0.5%	237	64.8%	111	30.3%	16	4.4%	366	100.0%
Sussex County	1	0.3%	2	0.5%	207	53.2%	126	32.4%	53	13.6%	389	100.0%
State	2	0.1%	6	0.3%	1,282	60.8%	645	30.6%	174	8.3%	2,109	100.0%

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001-Civil Mechanics' Liens and Mortgages-Elapsed Time						
Average Time From Filing to Disposition						
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total
New Castle County	587.0 days	520.5 days	112.9 days	208.8 days	365.8 days	162.4 days
Kent County	0.0 days	417.0 days	129.4 days	226.0 days	300.6 days	167.7 days
Sussex County	475.0 days	299.0 days	121.7 days	216.3 days	460.0 days	200.3 days
State	531.0 days	412.2 days	117.4 days	213.2 days	388.5 days	170.3 days

Source: Prothonotaries Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Arbitration						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,628	2,697	3,072	3,253	-375	-10.3%
Kent County	456	463	543	376	- 80	-17.5%
Sussex County	356	330	354	332	- 24	- 6.7%
State	4,440	3,490	3,969	3,961	-479	-10.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Arbitration Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,301	2,697	-604	-18.3%
Kent County	450	463	+ 13	+2.9%
Sussex County	315	330	+ 15	+4.8%
State	4,066	3,490	-576	-14.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Arbitration Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,123	3,033	-90	- 2.9%
Kent County	620	543	-77	-12.4%
Sussex County	277	354	+77	+27.8%
State	4,020	3,930	-90	- 2.2%

Source : Arbitration Unit, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT



Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti

For the past nine years, Family Court has focused much of its attention on improving the quality of the work done inside our courthouses. With a survey called *VOICES*, we launched an effort in 1992 to put a finger on the pulse of Family Court. The results of that survey provided a roadmap by which we were able to focus our attention: hiring policies, facility improvements, computing capability, training, case processing, and other areas. The foundation upon which to build quality was in place.

Several years later in 1996, we added to that foundation with *Courting Quality*. By focusing on quality, the court's staff identified numerous areas where the Court could focus its energies: assisting unrepresented litigants, employee orientation, public education, case processing improvements, employee recognition, and much more. This effort in turn pointed us toward a national effort called the Trial Court Performance Standards.

The recognized leader in that effort, Dr. Ingo Keilitz, was invited to Delaware to assist us with the development of a strategic plan. Subsequently, at Dr. Keilitz's urging, we published the Family Court Performance Standards which are now a part of the National Center for State Courts' annual curriculum for educating court leaders.

Dr. Keilitz has asked us to take another step. He suggests it would be difficult to drive a car properly without any of the instruments in a dashboard: fuel gauge, oil pressure, temperature, tachometer, speedometer, etc. How would you know how fast you were going? How would you tell if the oil pressure suddenly dropped? If the engine temperature was at danger levels? Would you depend on your feelings? "It feels like I'm going 55 mph." "It feels like the oil pressure is pretty good." Dr. Keilitz points out that we need the gauges in our cars to measure how the car is performing. How then do we in courts measure how we are doing?

What gauges do we have? Don't courts need a dashboard in order to steer them along?

With Dr. Keilitz's assistance, the Court initiated a new program in 2001: "Quality Counts... Family Court... Counts Quality". Following up on the Family Court Performance Standards, this project is creating measures for those standards.

These measures will allow the Court, staff, litigants, and the public to gauge our performance. They will become our dashboard. By September, 2002 several of these measures will have been tested and applied in our court. By late 2002, we plan on republishing the Family Court Performance Standards with measurements for use by family courts nationally.

A direct outgrowth of the focus on quality has been the opening of Family Court Resource Centers in Dover and Georgetown in 2001. The judges and staff of the court identified a growth in the number of persons representing themselves. Many of these self represented litigants displayed difficulty navigating the Court's system of rules, procedures, policies, and forms. A concerted effort was undertaken to address their needs in cooperation with the Bar and with resources and encouragement provided by all three branches of government. The result is that over 2,000 people in Kent and Sussex pass through these centers each month. When the Resource Center opens in Wilmington in August, 2002 we expect its number of visitors will bring the annual statewide total to 60,000.

While the standards and measures as well as the Resource Centers are major undertakings, there are other areas in which we are also seeking to enhance the quality of our service to the citizens of Delaware:

" Court Improvement Project – The Court is now addressing and managing its cases involving children and families at risk in accord with new standards. The hands on management of all cases by judges will result in

FAMILY COURT

increasing the permanency required for children to grow into healthy adults.

“ Drug Court – Delaware’s Family Court implemented the first statewide juvenile drug court in the country. Efforts are underway to re-vamp this program in light of some of the exciting improvements made around the country by other jurisdictions.

“ Financial Management System (FMS) – Due to arrive in April, 2002 it will allow Family Court the opportunity

to better enforce and collect upon court orders in criminal and delinquency cases.

“ Juvenile Arbitration – Family Court has one of the longest operating alternative dispute resolution programs in the nation. In 2001, this program has been redesigned to provide parents and guardians with increased contact and support from court personnel through increased monitoring and accountability.



FAMILY COURT

Front Row (left to right)

Associate Judge Kenneth M. Millman
Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti
Associate Judge Barbara D. Crowell

Second Row (left to right)

Associate Judge Mark D. Buckworth
Associate Judge William J. Walls, Jr.
Associate Judge Mardi F. Pyott
Associate Judge Alison Whitmer Tumas
Associate Judge Aida Wasserstein

Third Row (left to right)

Associate Judge Peter B. Jones
Associate Judge John E. Henriksen
Associate Judge Jay H. Conner

Fourth Row (left to right)

Associate Judge William L. Chapman, Jr.
Associate Judge Robert B. Coonin
Associate Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn

Not pictured: Judge William N. Nicholas

Legal Authorization

The Family Court Act, Title 10, Chapter 9, Delaware Code, authorizes the Family Court.

Court History

The Family Court of the State of Delaware has its origin in the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington which was founded in 1911. A little over a decade later, in 1923, the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington was extended to include New Castle County. In 1933, the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was created.

From the early 1930s, there was a campaign to establish a Family Court in the northernmost county, and this ideal was achieved in 1945 when the legislature created the Family Court for New Castle County, Delaware. In 1951, legislation was enacted to give the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties jurisdiction over all family matters, and in early 1962, the name of the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was changed to the Family Court for Kent and Sussex counties.

As early as the 1950s, the concept of a statewide Family Court had been endorsed. The fruition of this concept was realized with the statutory authorization of the Family Court of the State of Delaware in 1971.

Geographic Organization

The Family Court is a unified Statewide court with branches in New Castle County at Wilmington, Kent County at Dover, and Sussex County at Georgetown.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Family Court has had conferred upon it by the General Assembly jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, child neglect, dependency, child abuse, adult misdemeanor crimes against juveniles, child and spouse support, paternity of children, custody and visitation of children, adoptions, terminations of parental rights, divorces and annulments, property divisions, specific enforcement of separation agreements, guardianship over minors, imperiling

the family relationship, orders of protection from abuse, and intrafamily misdemeanor crimes.

The Family Court does not have jurisdiction over adults charged with felonies and does not have original jurisdiction over juveniles charged with first and second degree murder, rape, or kidnapping.

Cases are appealed to the Supreme Court with the exception of adult criminal cases which are appealed to the Superior Court.

Judges

Family Court is composed of 15 judges of equal judicial authority, one of whom is appointed by the Governor as chief judge and who is the chief administrative and executive officer for the Court. A bare majority of the judges must be of one major political party with the remainder of the other major political party.

The Governor nominates the judges, who must be confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms. Judges must have been duly admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Delaware at least five years prior to appointment and must have a knowledge of the law and interest in and understanding of family and child problems. They shall not practice law during their tenure and may be reappointed.

Other Judicial Personnel

Family Court uses special masters and commissioners to hear specific types of cases. Special masters are appointed by the chief judge and have limited responsibilities. Commissioners are appointed for four-year terms by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. Commissioners and masters must be attorneys.

Support Personnel

The Family Court has a staff of more than 290 persons in addition to judicial officers. The Court has a court administrator, directors, clerks of court, clerks, secretaries, typists, accountants, judicial assistants, mediation/arbitration officers; intake officers, program coordinators and volunteers working in all areas of the Court.

FAMILY COURT

Total Cases Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2001

1. The unit of count in Family Court for adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, and civil cases is the filing.
2. A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual. Each incident is counted separately, so that multiple incidents brought before the Court on a single individual are counted as multiple charges.
 - a. A single criminal or delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or multiple charges relating to a single incident.
 - b. A criminal filing is received by the Court in the form of an information or a complaint, and a delinquency filing is received by the Court in the form of a petition or a complaint.
3. A civil filing is defined a single civil incident filed with Family Court. A civil incident is initiated by a petition. In a divorce, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce it is counted as one filing.

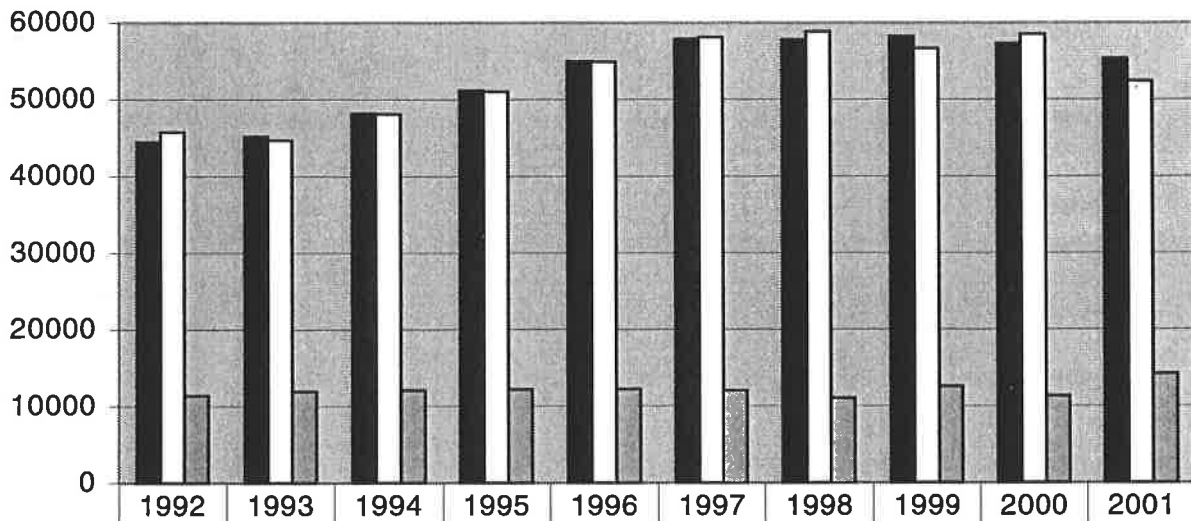
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Caseload						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	5,960	32,846	30,716	8,090	+2,130	+35.7%
Kent County	2,273	10,769	10,186	2,856	+ 583	+25.6%
Sussex County	3,103	11,695	11,490	3,308	+ 205	+ 6.6%
State	11,336	55,310	52,392	14,254	+2,918	+25.7%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	34,709	32,846	-1,863	-5.4%
Kent County	10,687	10,769	+ 82	+0.8%
Sussex County	11,880	11,695	- 185	-1.6%
State	57,276	55,310	-1,966	-3.4%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	36,464	30,716	-5,748	-15.8%
Kent County	10,294	10,186	- 108	- 1.0%
Sussex County	11,757	11,490	- 267	- 2.3%
State	58,515	52,392	-6,123	-10.5%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Family Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend



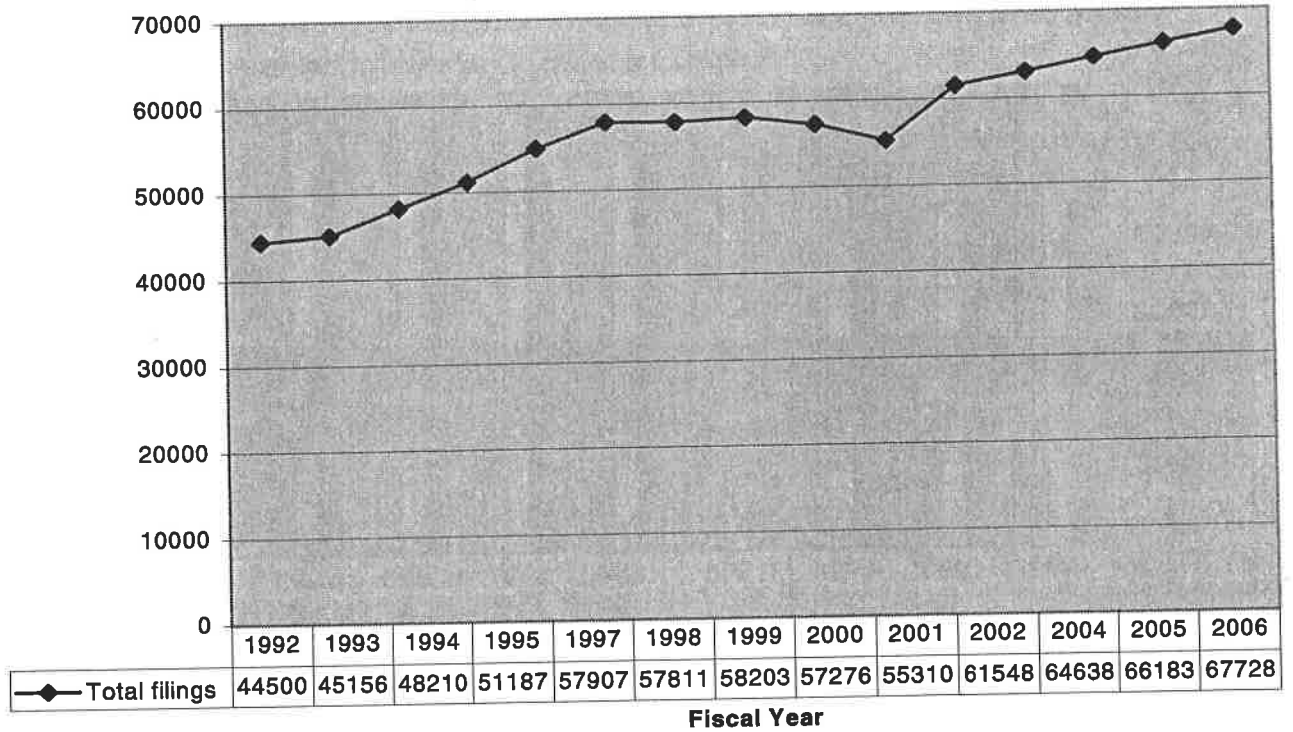
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
■ Filed	44500	45156	48210	51187	54947	57907	57811	58203	57276	55310
□ Disposed	45755	44668	48090	51031	54906	58108	58850	56638	58515	52392
■ Pending	11445	11933	12053	12209	12250	12049	11010	12575	11336	14254

Fiscal Year

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Family Court Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Adult Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	650	3,453	3,218	885	+235	+36.2%
Kent County	96	1,029	1,033	92	- 4	- 4.2%
Sussex County	235	1,084	1,193	126	-109	-46.4%
State	981	5,566	5,444	1,103	+122	+12.4%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Adult Criminal Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,535	3,453	+918	+36.2%
Kent County	996	1,029	+ 33	+ 3.3%
Sussex County	1,165	1,084	- 81	- 7.0%
State	4,696	5,566	+870	+18.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Adult Criminal Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,633	3,218	+585	+22.2%
Kent County	1,028	1,033	+ 5	+ 0.5%
Sussex County	1,095	1,193	+98	+ 8.9%
State	4,756	5,444	+688	+14.5%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	1,257	5,926	5,254	1,929	+672	+53.5%
Kent County	379	1,819	1,831	367	- 12	- 3.2%
Sussex County	476	1,983	2,194	265	-211	-44.3%
State	2,112	9,728	9,279	2,561	+449	+21.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,837	5,926	-1,911	-24.4%
Kent County	1,784	1,819	+ 35	+2.0%
Sussex County	2,214	1,983	- 231	-10.4%
State	11,835	9,728	-2,107	-17.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,834	5,254	-2,580	-32.9%
Kent County	1,715	1,831	+ 116	+6.8%
Sussex County	2,325	2,194	- 131	- 5.6%
State	11,874	9,279	-2,595	-21.9%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Filed								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	1,137	19.2%	4,283	72.3%	506	8.5%	5,926	100.0%
Kent County	349	19.2%	1,288	70.8%	182	10.0%	1,819	100.0%
Sussex County	353	17.8%	1,399	70.5%	231	11.6%	1,983	100.0%
State	1,839	18.9%	6,970	71.6%	919	9.4%	9,728	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Disposed								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	973	18.5%	3,743	71.2%	538	10.2%	5,254	100.0%
Kent County	283	15.5%	1,367	74.7%	181	9.9%	1,831	100.0%
Sussex County	356	16.2%	1,571	71.6%	267	12.2%	2,194	100.0%
State	1,612	17.4%	6,681	72.0%	986	10.6%	9,279	100.0%

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Pending at End of Year								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	448	23.2%	1,410	73.1%	71	3.7%	1,929	100.0%
Kent County	122	33.2%	236	64.3%	9	2.5%	367	100.0%
Sussex County	65	24.5%	180	67.9%	20	7.5%	265	100.0%
State	635	24.8%	1,826	71.3%	100	3.9%	2,561	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Change in Pending								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	+164		+540		-32		+672	
Kent County	+66		-79		+1		-12	
Sussex County	-3		-172		-36		-211	
State	+227		+289		-67		+449	

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	4,053	23,467	22,244	5,276	+1,223	+30.2%
Kent County	1,798	7,921	7,322	2,397	+ 599	+33.3%
Sussex County	2,392	8,628	8,103	2,917	+ 525	+21.9%
State	8,243	40,016	37,669	10,590	+2,347	+28.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	24,337	23,467	-870	-3.6%
Kent County	7,907	7,921	+ 14	+0.2%
Sussex County	8,501	8,628	+127	+1.5%
State	40,745	40,016	-729	-1.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	25,997	22,244	-3,753	-14.4%
Kent County	7,551	7,322	- 229	- 3.0%
Sussex County	8,337	8,103	- 234	- 2.8%
State	41,885	37,669	-4,216	-10.1%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Filed												
	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
	New Castle County	2,150	9.2%	827	3.5%	3,626	15.5%	4,789	20.4%	1,942	8.3%	2,477
Kent County	739	9.3%	209	2.6%	1,167	14.7%	1,570	19.8%	716	9.0%	957	12.1%
Sussex County	783	9.1%	157	1.8%	1,417	16.4%	2,261	26.2%	737	8.5%	856	9.9%
State	3,672	9.2%	1,193	3.0%	6,210	15.5%	8,620	21.5%	3,395	8.5%	4,290	10.7%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		Total	
	New Castle County	669	2.9%	1,797	7.7%	139	0.6%	121	0.5%	4,930	21.0%	23,467
Kent County	227	2.9%	600	7.6%	35	0.4%	38	0.5%	1,663	21.0%	7,921	100.0%
Sussex County	233	2.7%	549	6.4%	38	0.4%	27	0.3%	1,570	18.2%	8,618	100.0%
State	1,129	2.8%	2,946	7.4%	212	0.5%	186	0.5%	8,163	20.4%	40,016	100.0%

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Disposed												
	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
	New Castle County	1,975	8.9%	838	3.8%	3,809	17.1%	3,952	17.8%	1,680	7.6%	2,652
Kent County	819	11.2%	203	2.8%	1,088	14.9%	1,116	15.2%	689	9.4%	956	13.1%
Sussex County	853	10.5%	173	2.1%	1,301	16.1%	1,727	21.3%	701	8.7%	952	11.7%
State	3,647	9.7%	1,214	3.2%	6,198	16.5%	6,795	18.0%	3,070	8.1%	4,560	12.1%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		Total	
	New Castle County	711	3.2%	1,835	8.2%	148	0.7%	121	0.5%	4,523	20.3%	22,244
Kent County	239	3.3%	599	8.2%	52	0.7%	62	0.8%	1,499	20.5%	7,322	100.0%
Sussex County	240	3.0%	531	6.6%	25	0.3%	24	0.3%	1,576	19.4%	8,103	100.0%
State	1,190	3.2%	2,965	7.9%	225	0.6%	207	0.5%	7,598	20.2%	37,669	100.0%

RTSC = Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Pending at End of Year												
	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
	New Castle County	336	6.4%	216	4.1%	437	8.3%	1,672	31.7%	634	12.0%	677
Kent County	220	9.2%	59	2.5%	289	12.1%	906	37.8%	147	6.1%	220	9.2%
Sussex County	264	9.1%	80	2.7%	446	15.3%	1,248	42.8%	180	6.2%	237	8.1%
State	820	7.7%	355	3.4%	1,172	11.1%	3,826	36.1%	961	9.1%	1,134	10.7%
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		Total	
	New Castle County	210	4.0%	36	0.7%	44	0.8%	104	2.0%	910	17.2%	5,276
Kent County	66	2.8%	11	0.5%	11	0.5%	35	1.5%	433	18.1%	2,397	100.0%
Sussex County	98	3.4%	34	1.2%	26	0.9%	39	1.3%	265	9.1%	2,917	100.0%
State	374	3.5%	81	0.8%	81	0.8%	178	1.7%	1,608	15.2%	10,590	100.0%

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Change in Pending												
	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
	New Castle County	+175		-11		-183		+837		+262		-175
Kent County	-80		+6		+79		+454		+27		+1	
Sussex County	-70		-16		+116		+534		+36		-96	
State	+25		-21		+12		+1,825		+325		-270	
	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		Total	
	New Castle County	-42		-38		-9		0		+407		+1,223
Kent County	-12		+1		-17		-24		+164		+599	
Sussex County	-7		+18		+13		+3		-6		+525	
State	-61		-19		-13		-21		+565		+2,347	

RTSC = Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Arbitration Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2001

1. Arbitration is an informal proceeding in which a specially trained arbitration officer attempts to resolve juvenile delinquency cases involving minor charges.
2. The Attorney General's Office decides according to established criteria if a case should be prosecuted at a formal hearing or if it should be referred to the Arbitration Unit.
3. An arbitration officer decides if the case should be dismissed, sent to a formal hearing, or kept open. A case is kept open if a defendant is required to fulfill conditions set by the officer and agreed to by the defendants.

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Arbitration						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	219	1,181	1,048	352	+133	+60.7%
Kent County	0	275	275	0	0	0.0%
Sussex County	30	633	615	48	+ 18	+60.0%
State	249	2,089	1,938	400	+151	+60.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Arbitration Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,135	1,181	+ 46	+ 4.1%
Kent County	401	275	-126	-31.4%
Sussex County	571	633	+ 62	+10.9%
State	2,107	2,089	- 18	- 0.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Arbitration Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,092	1,048	- 44	- 4.0%
Kent County	401	275	-126	-31.4%
Sussex County	551	615	+ 64	+11.6%
State	2,044	1,938	-106	- 5.2%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Mediation Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2001

1. Mediation is a proceeding prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement in disputes which involve child custody, support, visitation, guardianships, imperiling family relations, and rules to show cause. Mediation is mandatory in child custody, visitation, and support matters.
2. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a master or a judge.

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Mediation						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	102	8,214	8,212	104	+ 2	+2.0%
Kent County	205	2,837	2,846	196	- 9	-4.4%
Sussex County	248	3,263	3,273	238	-10	-4.0%
State	555	14,314	14,331	538	-17	-3.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Mediation Filed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	9,694	8,214	-1,480	-15.3%
Kent County	2,402	2,837	+ 435	+18.1%
Sussex County	3,256	3,263	+ 7	+ 0.2%
State	15,352	14,314	-1,038	- 6.8%

Caseload Comparisons - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Mediation Disposed				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	9,690	8,212	-1,478	-15.3%
Kent County	2,400	2,846	+ 446	+18.6%
Sussex County	3,242	3,273	+ 31	+ 1.0%
State	15,332	14,331	-1,001	- 6.5%

Source : Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls

FY 2001 was another busy year for the Court of Common Pleas. The Court welcomed two new Judges in FY2001. Judge Charles Welch became the Court's second Judge in Kent County. One day later, Joseph Flickinger joined the Court in New Castle County. His appointment brought the total number of Judges serving in the Court to nine for the first time.

The Court of Common Pleas experienced another increase in caseload in FY 2001. Although the Court's criminal caseload increased by only 1.4%, the civil caseload increased by 25.2%, the largest civil case increase in fifteen years. However, the court still manages to dispose of 90% of all civil matters within ten (10) months after the responsive pleading. The Court continues to have a backlog in its criminal caseload in New Castle County, primarily due to the large number of cases transferring from the Justice of the Peace Courts.

The Court began a mediation (dispute resolution) program in January of 2001. In partnership with the Center for Community Justice and the Delaware Center for Justice, the Court has referred approximately 300 cases to mediation since the start of the program. Mediation provides an alternative for criminal prosecution and leaves participants with an increased sense of satisfaction about the criminal justice process.

The Court continued to operate its very successful drug diversion program, a court-

supervised, comprehensive program for non-violent offenders. This voluntary program that includes regular appearances before a Judge, participation in substance abuse education, drug testing and treatment, if needed, handled 462 participants in FY 2001. This program has been the subject of a study by the University of Pennsylvania on the role of judicial status hearings in drug court, the first such study of its kind in the nation.

The Court completed three initiatives associated with its strategic planning efforts. First, the Court completed and distributed an Employee Policies and Procedures Manual for the first time. Second, the Court completed a training video for use by Court clerks. The video instructs staff in how to use the Court's case management system and provides the first comprehensive training tool for use by court staff. Third, a career ladder for court clerks was established in FY 2001 for personnel in all courts. The Court hopes to identify additional career ladder opportunities for other staff.

The court is an active participant in the COTS project, the Judiciary's effort to acquire a new case management system for all of the Delaware Courts. Carole Kirshner, the Court of Common Pleas Administrator, is Chair of the Uniform Case Processes Committee which is working on recommending uniform business practices for all courts and will recommend a case management system software vendor to the Chief Justice in the next fiscal year.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Seated (left to right)

Judge Merrill C. Trader
Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
Judge William C. Bradley, Jr.

Standing (left to right)

Judge Joseph F. Flickinger, III
Judge Charles W. Welch, III
Judge Jay Paul James
Judge Rosemary B. Beauregard
Judge John K. Welch
Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr

Legal Authorization

The statewide Court of Common Pleas was created by Title 10, Chapter 13 of the Delaware Code, effective July 5, 1973.

Court History

Initially established under William Penn in the 17th century, the Court of Common Pleas served as the supreme judicial authority in the State. During the latter part of the 18th century and through most of the 19th century, the Court was abolished during an era of Court reorganization.

The modern day Court of Common Pleas was established in 1917 when a Court of limited civil and criminal jurisdiction was established in New Castle County. A Court of Common Pleas was later established in Kent County in 1931 and Sussex County in 1953.

In 1969, the three County Courts of Common Pleas became State Courts. In 1973, the three Courts merged into a single Statewide Court of Common Pleas.

In 1994, The Commission on Delaware Courts 2000 envisioned an expanded and strengthened Court of Common Pleas as vital to the Delaware court system. Legislation implementing the Commission Report vested significant new areas of jurisdiction in the Court in 1995.

On May 1, 1998, the Municipal Court was merged into the State court system, and pending cases were transferred to the Court of Common Pleas.

Geographic Organization

The Court of Common Pleas sits in each of the three counties at the respective county seats.

The Court of Common Pleas has Statewide jurisdiction, which includes concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Court in civil matters where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$50,000 on the complaint. There is no limitation in amount on counterclaims and crossclaims. All civil cases are tried without a jury.

The Court has criminal jurisdiction over all misdemeanors occurring in the State of Delaware except certain drug-related offenses. It is also responsible for all preliminary hearings. Jury trial is available to all defendants.

The Court has jurisdiction over appeals from Justice of the Peace Court and Alderman's Courts in both civil and criminal cases. It also has jurisdiction over administrative appeals from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Judges

There are nine judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of which five are to be residents of New Castle County, two of Kent County, and two of Sussex County. They are nominated by the Governor with the confirmation of the Senate for 12-year terms. They must have been actively engaged in the general practice of law in the State of Delaware for at least five years and must be citizens of the State. A majority of not more than one Judge may be from the same political party. The Chief Judge, also appointed by the Governor, serves as the administrative head of the Court during the term of appointment.

Support Personnel

Personnel are appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, including a court administrator and one clerk of the court for each county. Other employees as are necessary are also added, including bailiffs, court reporters, secretaries, clerks, and presentence officers.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

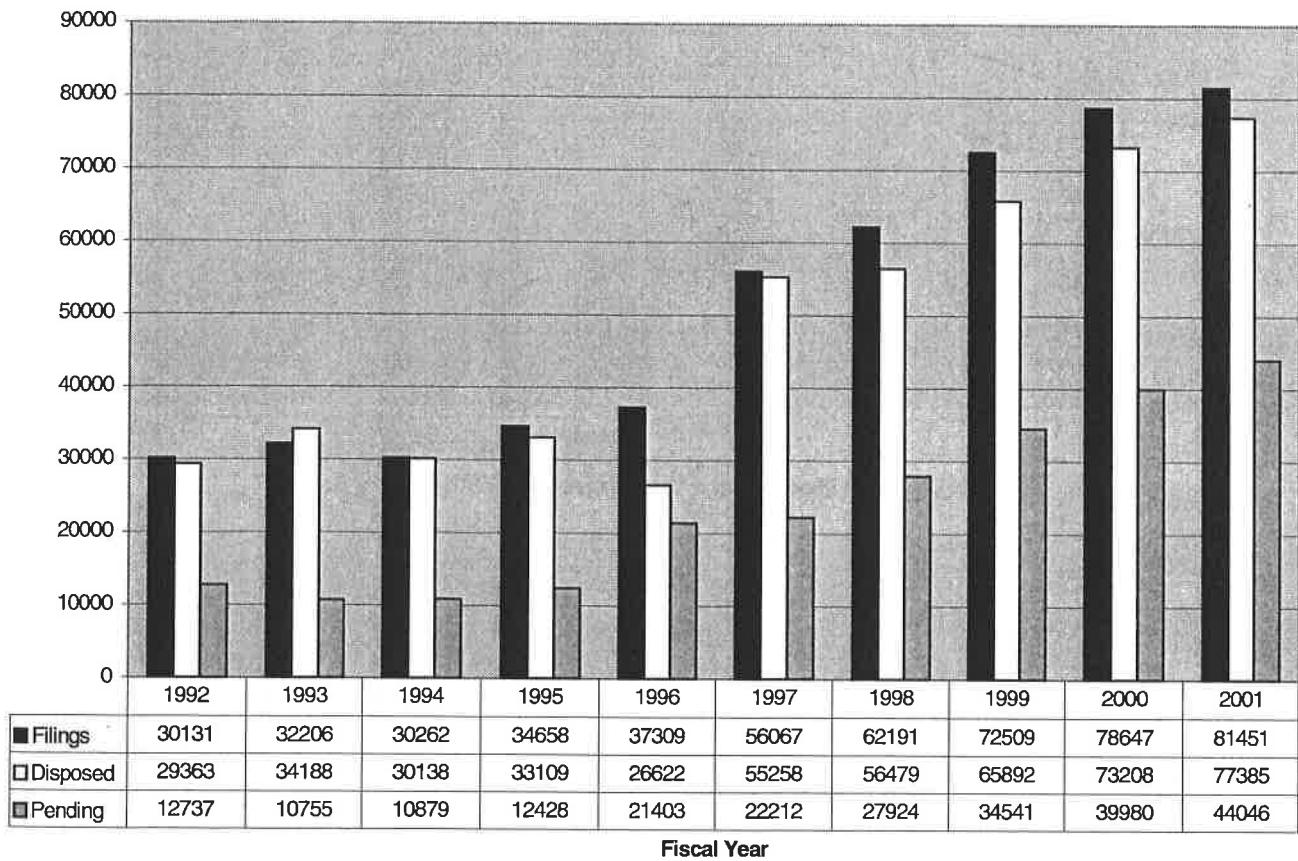
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Chang In Pending
New Castle County	27,782	41,126	37,796	31,112	+3,330	+12.0%
Kent County	5,306	17,272	16,793	5,785	+ 479	+9.0%
Sussex County	6,892	23,053	22,796	7,149	+ 257	+3.7%
State	39,980	81,451	77,385	44,046	+4,066	+10.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Chang
New Castle County	38,861	41,126	+2,265	+5.8%
Kent County	17,150	17,272	+ 122	+0.7%
Sussex County	22,636	23,053	+ 417	+1.8%
State	78,647	81,451	+2,804	+3.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Chang
New Castle County	34,660	37,796	+3,136	+9.0%
Kent County	17,018	16,793	- 225	-1.3%
Sussex County	21,530	22,796	+1,266	+5.9%
State	73,208	77,385	+4,177	+5.7%

Source : Court Administrator , Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

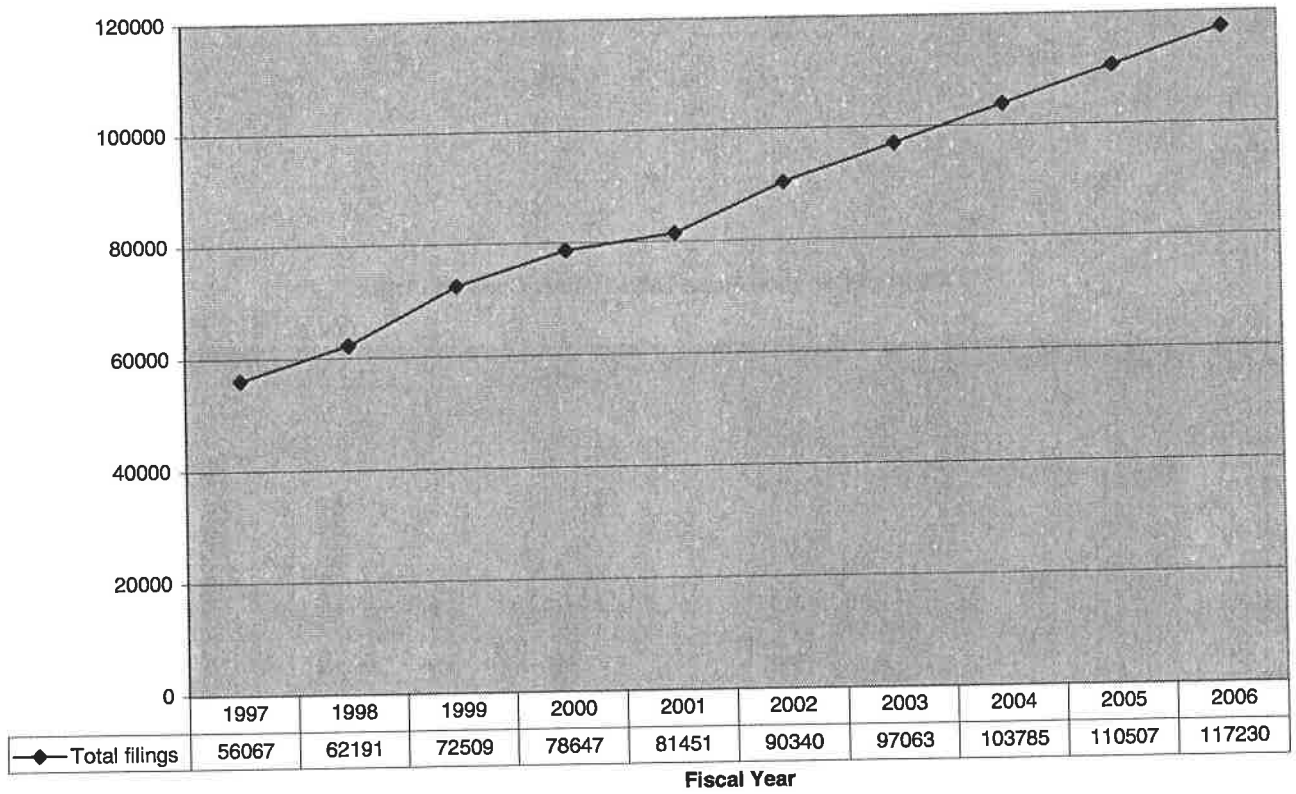
Court of Common Pleas Total 10 Year Caseload Trend



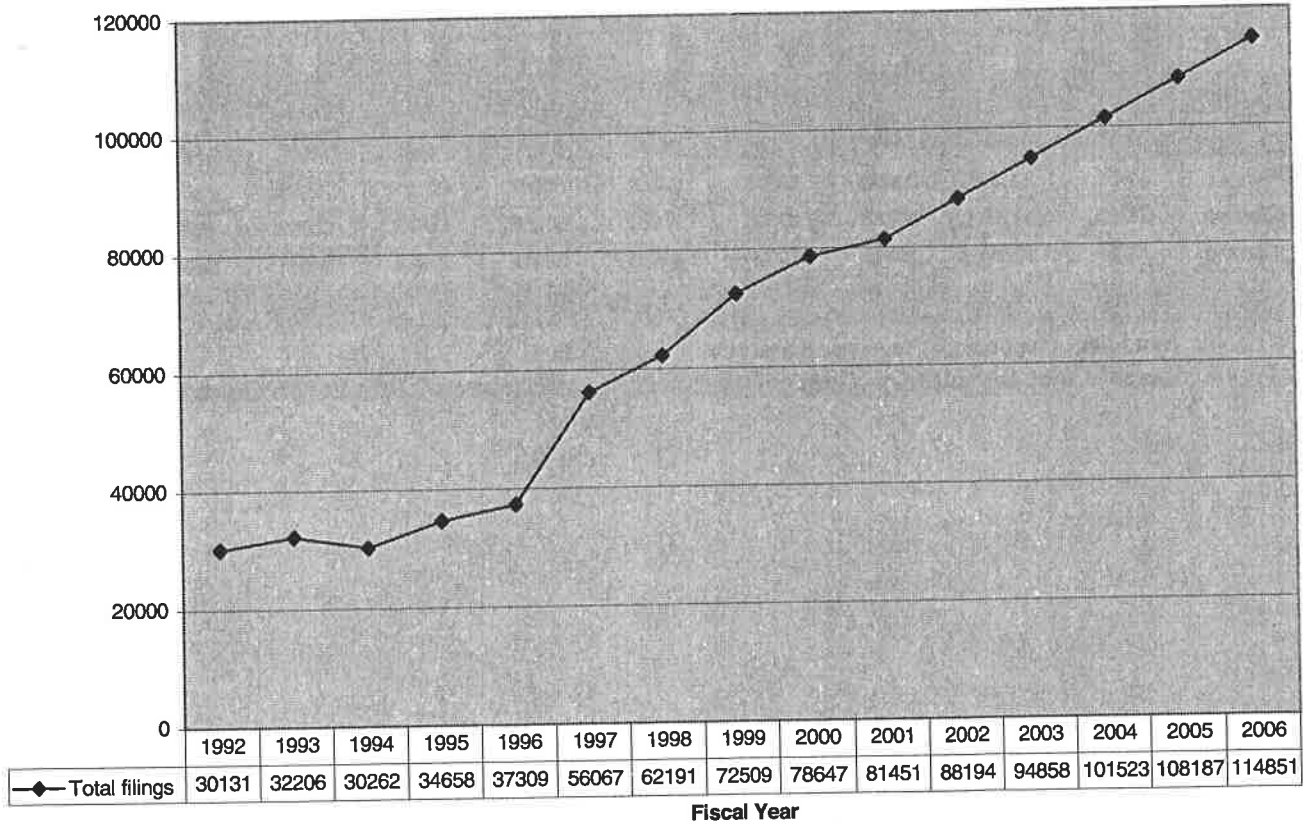
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Common Pleas Total 5 Year Projection With 5 Year Base



Court of Common Pleas Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	21,955	35,788	33,543	24,200	+2,245	+10.2%
Kent County	4,606	16,005	15,726	4,885	+ 279	+ 6.1%
Sussex County	5,620	21,600	21,542	5,678	+ 58	+ 1.0%
State	32,181	73,393	70,811	34,763	+2,582	+ 8.0%

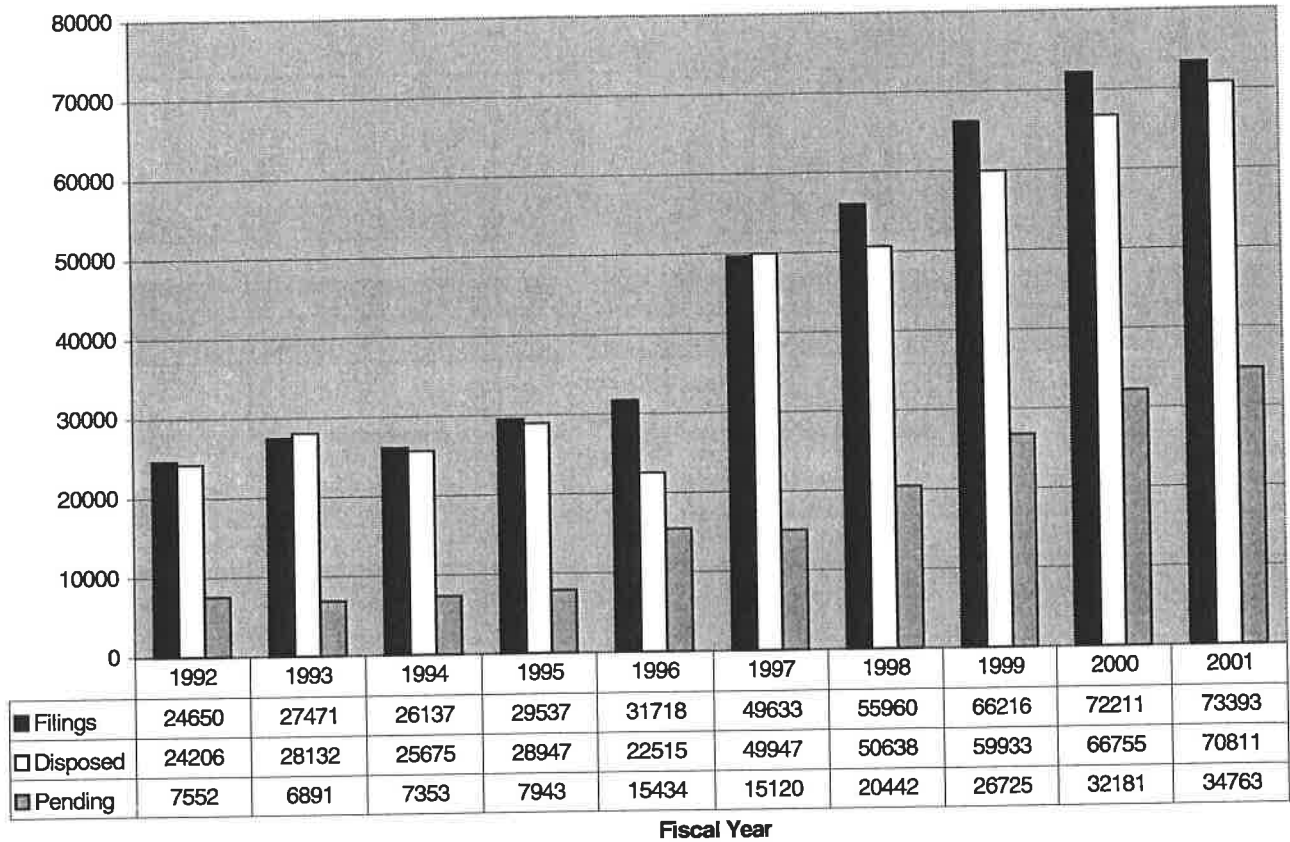
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	34,601	35,788	+1,187	+3.4%
Kent County	16,032	16,005	- 27	-0.2%
Sussex County	21,578	21,600	+ 22	+0.1%
State	72,211	73,393	+1,182	+1.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	30,208	33,543	+3,335	+11.0%
Kent County	15,985	15,726	- 259	- 1.6%
Sussex County	20,562	21,542	+ 980	+ 4.8%
State	66,755	70,811	+4,056	+ 6.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal Cases Preliminary Hearings Held				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,387	4,700	+313	+7.1%
Kent County	1,460	1,520	+ 60	+4.1%
Sussex County	1,451	1,396	- 55	-3.8%
State	7,298	7,616	+318	+4.4%

Source : Court Administrator , Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

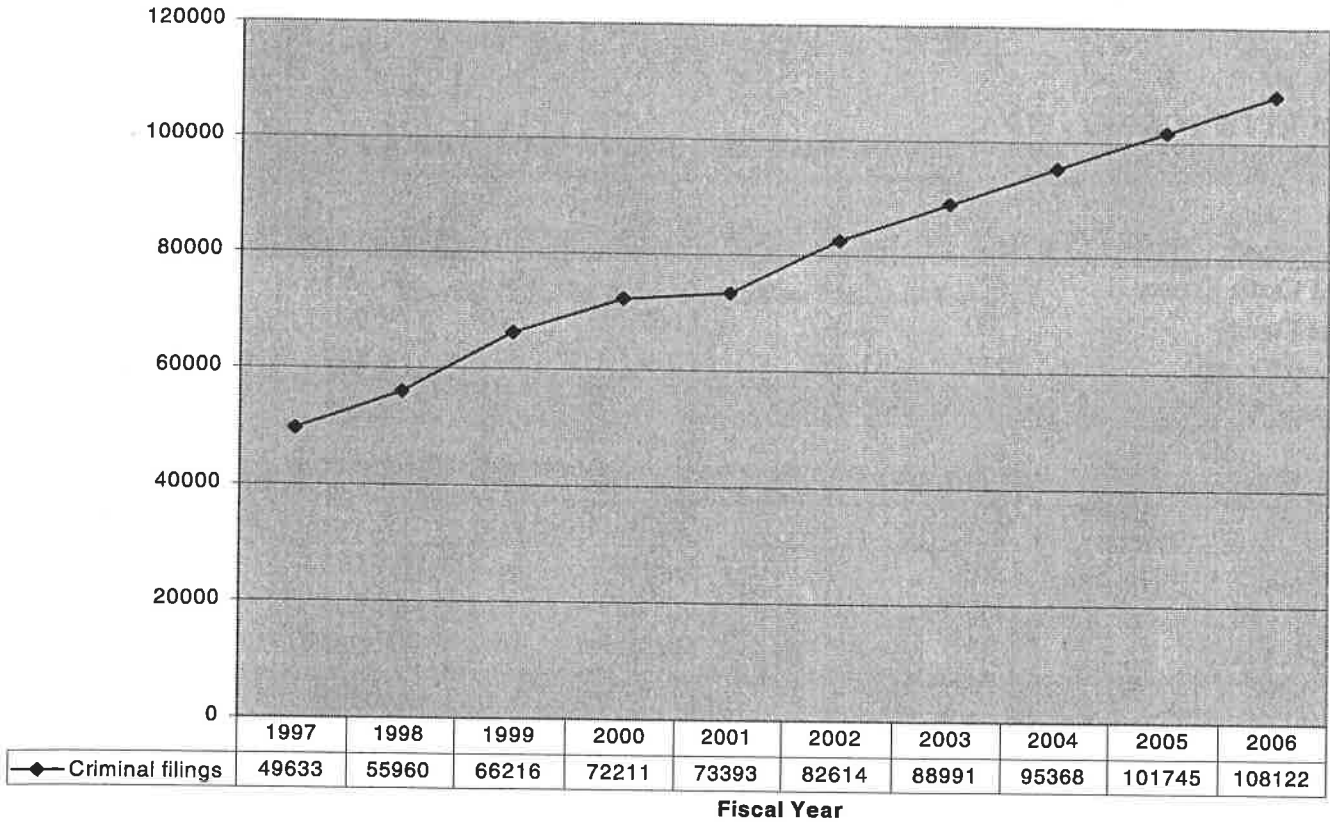
Court of Common Pleas Criminal 10 Year Caseload Trend



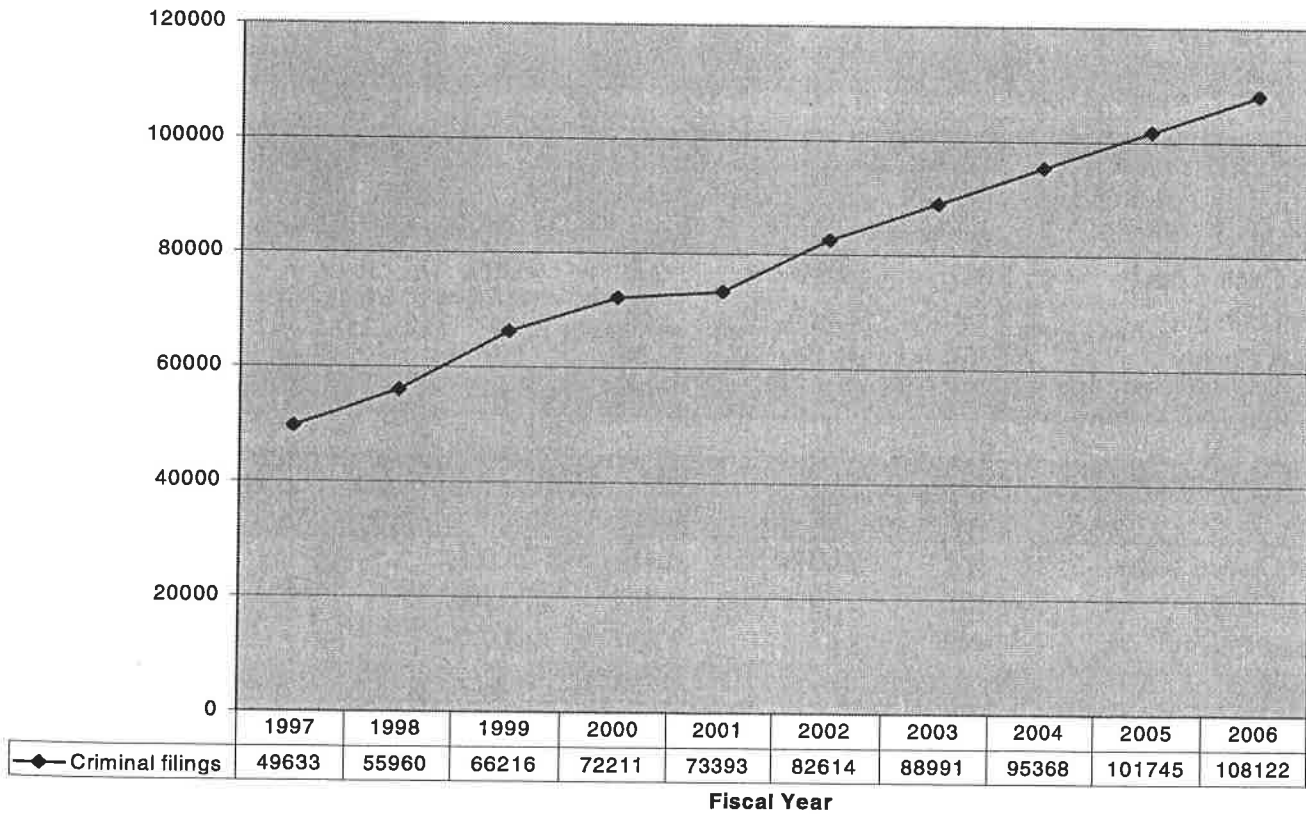
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Common Pleas Criminal 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Common Pleas Criminal 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	5,827	5,338	4,253	6,912	+1,085	+18.6%
Kent County	700	1,267	1,067	900	+ 200	+28.6%
Sussex County	1,272	1,453	1,254	1,471	+ 199	+15.6%
State	7,799	8,058	6,574	9,283	+1,484	+19.0%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,260	5,338	+1,078	+25.3%
Kent County	1,118	1,267	+ 149	+13.3%
Sussex County	1,058	1,453	+ 395	+37.3%
State	6,436	8,058	+1,622	+25.2%

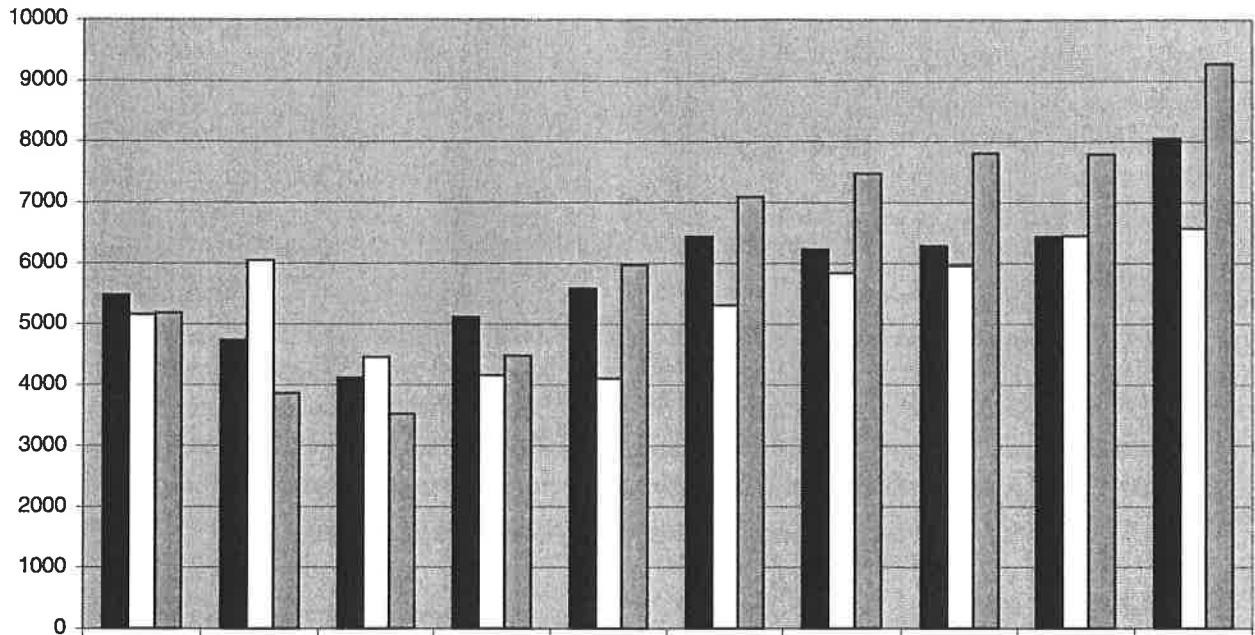
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,452	4,253	-199	- 4.5%
Kent County	1,033	1,067	+ 34	+ 3.3%
Sussex County	968	1,254	+286	+29.5%
State	6,453	6,574	+121	+ 1.9%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Filings						
	Complaints		Civil Judgments, Name Changes		Total	
New Castle County	5,063	94.8%	275	5.2%	5,338	100.0%
Kent County	1,176	92.8%	91	7.2%	1,267	100.0%
Sussex County	1,367	94.1%	86	5.9%	1,453	100.0%
State	7,606	94.4%	452	5.6%	8,058	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases Dispositions						
	Court Action		Counsel Action		Total	
New Castle County	934	22.0%	3,319	78.0%	4,253	100.0%
Kent County	255	23.9%	812	76.1%	1,067	100.0%
Sussex County	430	34.3%	824	65.7%	1,254	100.0%
State	1,619	24.6%	4,955	75.4%	6,574	100.0%

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Common Pleas Civil 10 Year Caseload Trend



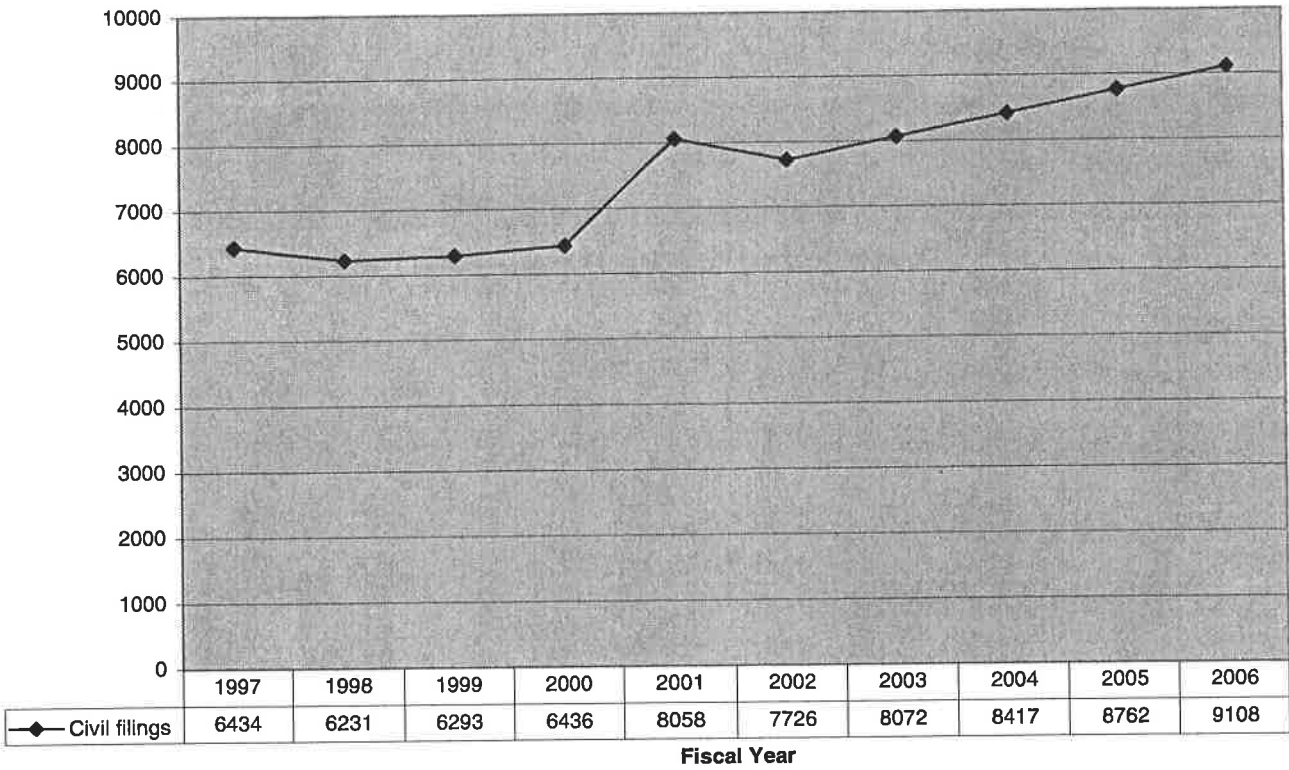
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
■ Filings	5481	4735	4125	5121	5591	6434	6231	6293	6436	8058
□ Disposed	5157	6056	4463	4162	4107	5311	5841	5959	6453	6574
■ Pending	5185	3864	3526	4485	5969	7092	7482	7816	7799	9283

Fiscal Year

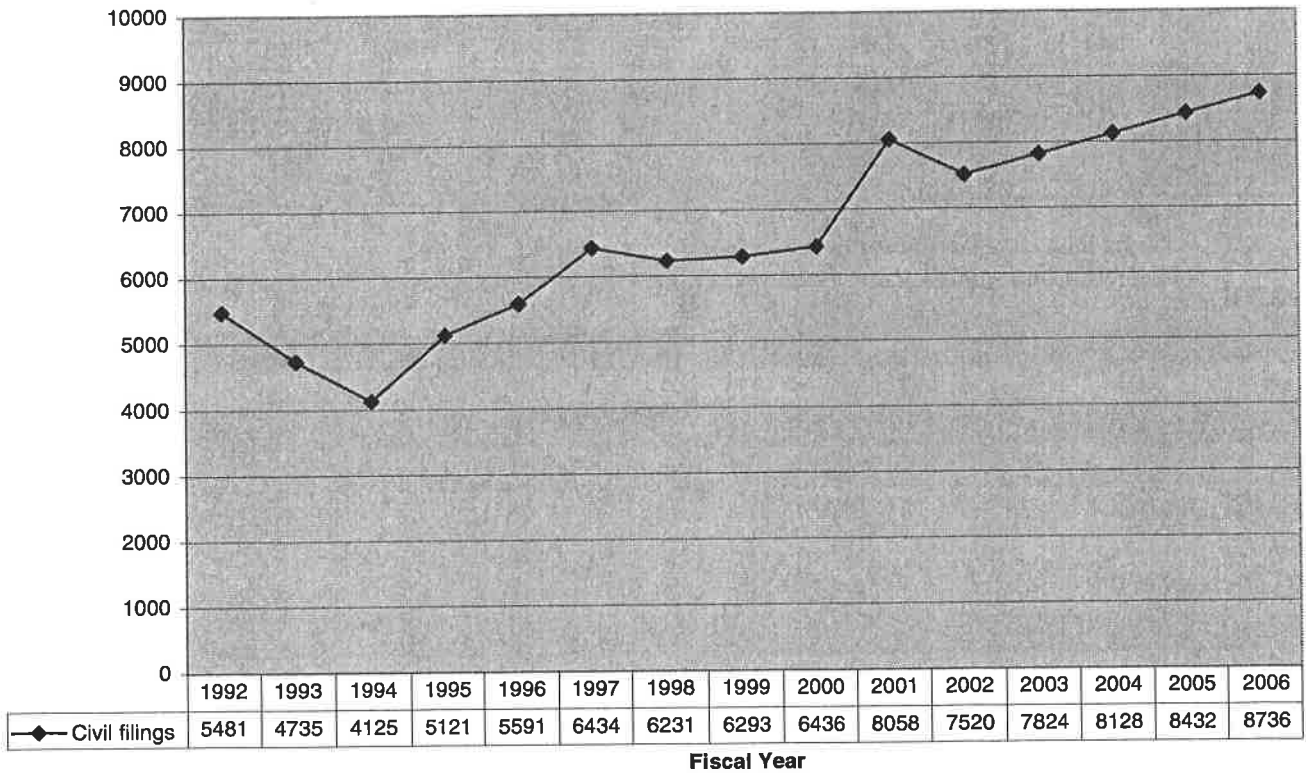
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Common Pleas Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Common Pleas Civil 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



Chief Magistrate Patricia Walther Griffin

FEATURED PROGRAM

The Justice of the Peace Court's Truancy Court serves as the only statewide Court-based initiative in the United States that makes parents and truant students accountable and helps parents to take back control and responsibility of their children. Since its inception in 1996, the Truancy Court has developed into a multi-faceted program, involving an extensive network of social service and treatment agencies to provide services to families with truancy problems. The Court is structured to provide for immediate intervention with truant students and their families and access to those families for services – even before they leave the courtroom.

In FY 2001, the Truancy Court partnered with several agencies to seek grant funding for special programs designed for Truancy Court families and has undertaken extensive outreach to the school districts, state agencies and organizations interested in addressing truancy problems. The Truancy judges received training on substance abuse and its treatment, Attention Deficit Disorder, and mental health issues specific to adolescents. With an invitation to present at the 2002 International Pupil Personnel Workers Conference, Delaware's Truancy Court is being recognized for its all-encompassing, expeditious and successful program, which keeps students in school and supports increased academic achievement. The Truancy Court was also honored as the "Program of the Year 2000-2001" through the New Castle County Interagency Council. This award represents outstanding work with children and their families in addition to collaborating with a network of agencies.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2001 brought a variety of facility changes to the Justice of the Peace Court, including the expansion of Court 20 operations to 24 hour, 7 days per week on January 1, 2001. This expansion provides New Castle

County with two 24-hour J.P. courts – one in New Castle and one in downtown Wilmington. Both courts handle staggering caseloads — Court 11 handled 50,309 filings and Court 20 handled 29,032 filings in FY 2001. Also in January 2001, Court 14 was established in Georgetown as a specialized court handling DUI (driving while under the influence) and truancy cases on a centralized basis in Sussex County.

FY 2001 brought a lowpoint, and a high point, with regard to Court 9 in Middletown/Townsend. Court 9 was destroyed by arson on July 23, 2000. It was reopened in a new leased facility in April 2001.

In FY 2001, the Justice of the Peace Court's Truancy Court initiative continued to expand its efforts to make parents and truant students accountable and to help parents take back control and responsibility of their children. The Truancy Court partnered with several agencies to seek grant funding for special programs designed for Truancy Court families, and established a relationship with Delaware State University School of Social Work to have student interns provide intensive case management to truant adolescents who would otherwise have no services available to them. It also undertook extensive outreach to the school districts, state agencies and organizations interested in addressing truancy problems. And, internally,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

worked to create consistent processes statewide and provide training to the Truancy judges on issues such as substance abuse and its treatment, Attention Deficit Disorder, and mental health issues specific to adolescents. With preliminary statistical information indicating that Truancy Court is a success (in a sample study, 74% of truant students who achieved full compliance with Truancy Court completed the school year successfully, while only 25% of those students found non-compliant did so), and with an invitation to present at the 2002 International Pupil Personnel Workers Conference, Delaware's Truancy Court is being widely recognized for its efforts to keep students in school and to support increased academic achievement.

Legislatively, the Court obtained authorization to use retired justices of the peace on a per diem basis to help out temporarily to ensure the availability of judicial coverage during the 196 shifts each week that the JP Courts are open.

Finally, the Court is proud of its 2000 Employee of the Year, Paul Adamson, who was

also named the 2000 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year. Paul received this award for his outstanding perseverance and accomplishment during his 2 ½ years with the Justice of the Peace Court as its Physical Maintenance Trades Mechanic. Paul was recognized for handling a difficult job with a consistently positive and "can do" approach. We are equally proud of Judge Richard D. Comly, who received the second annual Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service in the Justice of the Peace Court. Judge Comly, who has served as a Justice of the Peace for 16 years, was selected for his willingness to help out wherever needed, including serving as the Sussex Basic Legal Education Coordinator and Mentor, the Sussex Truancy Court judge, and in a variety of other activities to improve judicial administration. He was commended for his clear, well-researched and well-written case opinions, as well as his community service.



Justice of the Peace Court, Kent County

Left to right: Judge Leighty, Deputy Chief Magistrate Stump, Judge Dewey, Judge Barrett, Judge Wall, and Judge Lord

Not pictured: Judge Arndt, Judge Murray, Judge Parrott, Judge Pennella, and Judge Rash

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



Justice of the Peace Court, New Castle County

Seated from left: Judge Ross, Judge Lucas, Judge Lopez, Judge Roberts and Judge Letts

Back rows from left: Judge Barton, Judge Paul Smith, Judge Tull, Judge Schiavi, Judge Skelley, Deputy Chief Magistrate Lee, Judge Petraschuk, Judge Clark, Judge Cole, Judge Taylor, Judge Brown and Judge Fitchett

Not pictured - Judge Armstrong, Judge Gray, Judge Hanby, Judge Kenney, Judge McCormick, Judge Page, Judge Poling, Judge Rutkowski, Judge Terry Smith, and Judge Toulson



Justice of the Peace Court, Sussex County

Seated from left: Judge Ruffin, Judge Wood, Judge Barrett

Back row from left: Judge Boddy, Judge Martin, Judge Comly, Judge Melson, Judge Coffelt, Judge Hagan, Judge O'Bier, Judge Brittingham, Judge Hudson and Deputy Chief Magistrate Blakely

Not pictured: Judge Davis, Judge Hopkins, Judge McKenzie, Judge Mollohan, and Judge Mulvaney

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Legal Authorization

The Justice of the Peace Courts are authorized by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1.

Court History

As early as the 1600s, justices of the peace were commissioned to handle minor civil and criminal cases. Along with a host of other duties, the administering of local government in the 17th and 18th centuries on behalf of the English Crown was a primary duty of the justices of the peace. With the adoption of the State Constitution of 1792, the justices of the peace were stripped of their general administrative duties leaving them with minor civil and criminal jurisdiction. During the period 1792 through 1964, the justices of the peace were compensated entirely by the costs and fees assessed and collected for the performance of their legal duties.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Justice of the Peace Courts have jurisdiction over civil cases in which the amount in controversy is not greater than \$15,000. This increased from \$5,000 in January 1995. Justice of the Peace Courts are authorized to hear certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas effective January

Geographic Organization

The jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Courts is Statewide and sessions are held throughout the State. Of the 19 courts currently operating, eight are in New Castle County, four are in Kent County and seven are in Sussex County. The Voluntary Assessment Center, which handles mail-in fines, is located in Dover.

Justice of the Peace

The Delaware Code authorizes a maximum of 58 justices of the peace. The maximum number of justices of the peace permitted in each county is 29 in New Castle County, 12 in Kent County and 17 in Sussex County. All justices of the peace are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for terms of four years. Upon renomination after a four-year term, justices of the peace receive six-year terms. A justice of the peace must be at least 21 years of age and a resident of the State of Delaware and the county in which the justice of the peace serves. In addition to the 58 justices of the peace, the Governor nominates a chief magistrate, subject to Senate confirmation.

Support Personnel

An administrator, two operations managers, an administrative officer, and a fiscal administrative officer help the chief magistrate direct the Justice of the Peace Courts on a daily basis. The State provides clerks of the court, constables, and other personnel for the courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Cases (defendants)						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
Criminal	20,270	247,368	238,752	28,886	+ 8,616	+42.5%
Civil	5,913	27,874	23,527	10,260	+ 4,347	+73.5%
Total	26,183	275,242	262,279	39,146	+12,963	+49.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filings (defendants)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal	244,302	247,368	+3,066	+1.3%
Civil	29,729	27,874	-1,855	-6.2%
Total	274,031	275,242	+1,211	+0.4%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Dispositions (defendants)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal	246,478	238,752	- 7,726	- 3.1%
Civil	31,150	23,527	- 7,623	-24.5%
Total	277,628	262,279	-15,349	- 5.5%

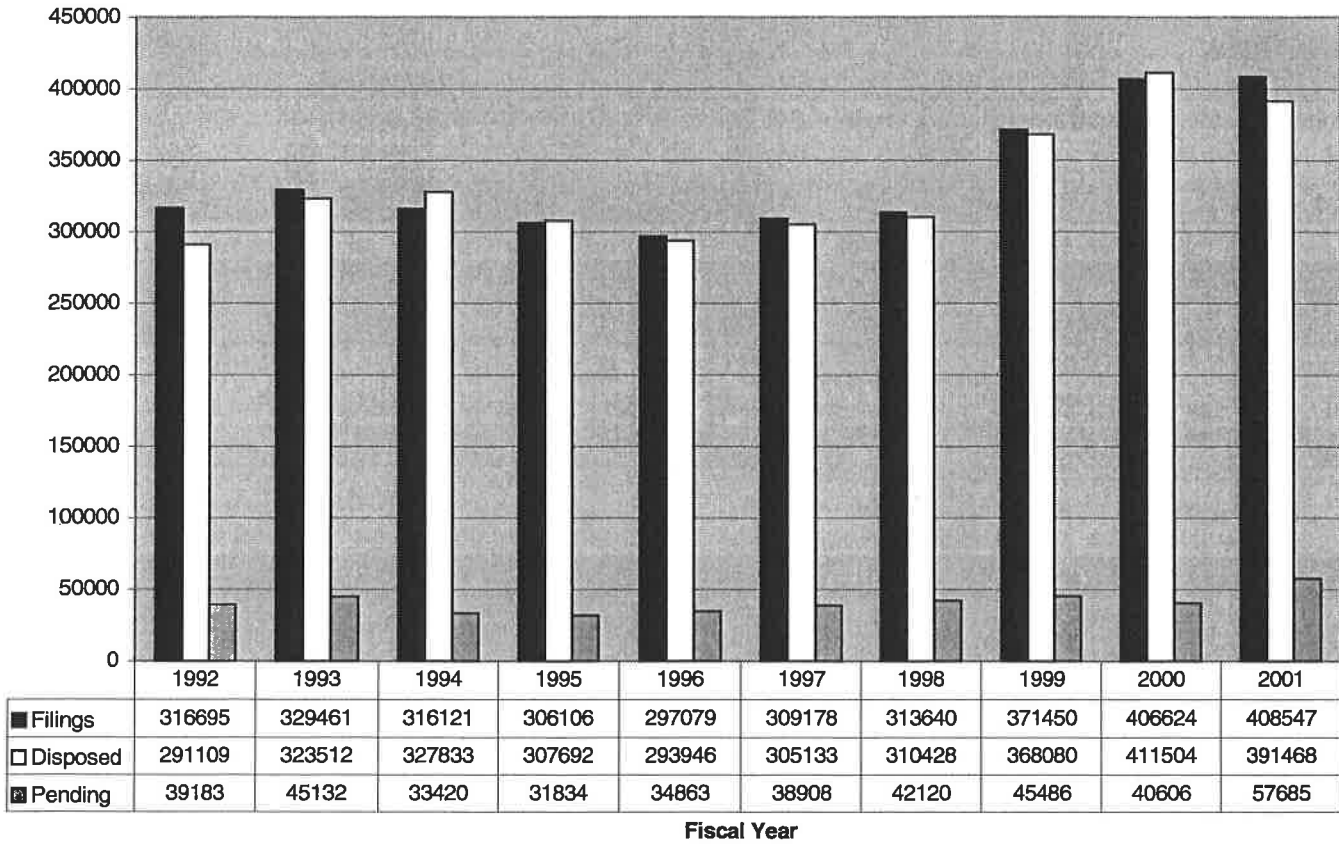
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001-Total Cases (charges)						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
Criminal	34,693	380,673	367,941	47,425	+12,732	+36.7%
Civil	5,913	27,874	23,527	10,260	+ 4,347	+73.5%
Total	40,606	408,547	391,468	57,685	+17,079	+42.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Filed (charges)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal	376,895	380,673	+3,778	+1.0%
Civil	29,729	27,874	-1,855	-6.2%
Total	406,624	408,547	+1,923	+0.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Cases Disposed (charges)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
Criminal	380,354	367,941	-12,413	- 3.3%
Civil	31,150	23,527	- 7,623	-24.5%
Total	411,504	391,468	-20,036	- 4.9%

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Justice of the Peace Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend

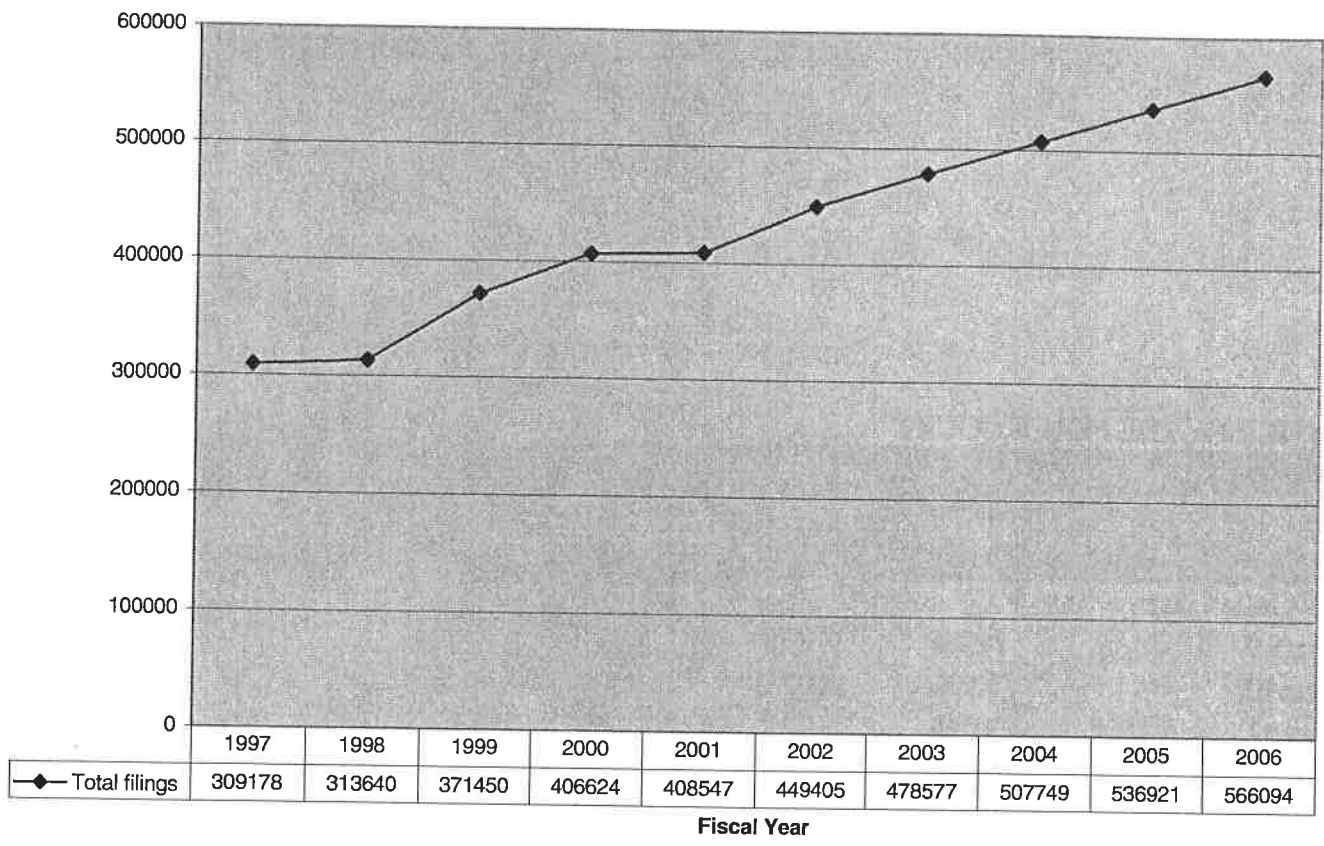


Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

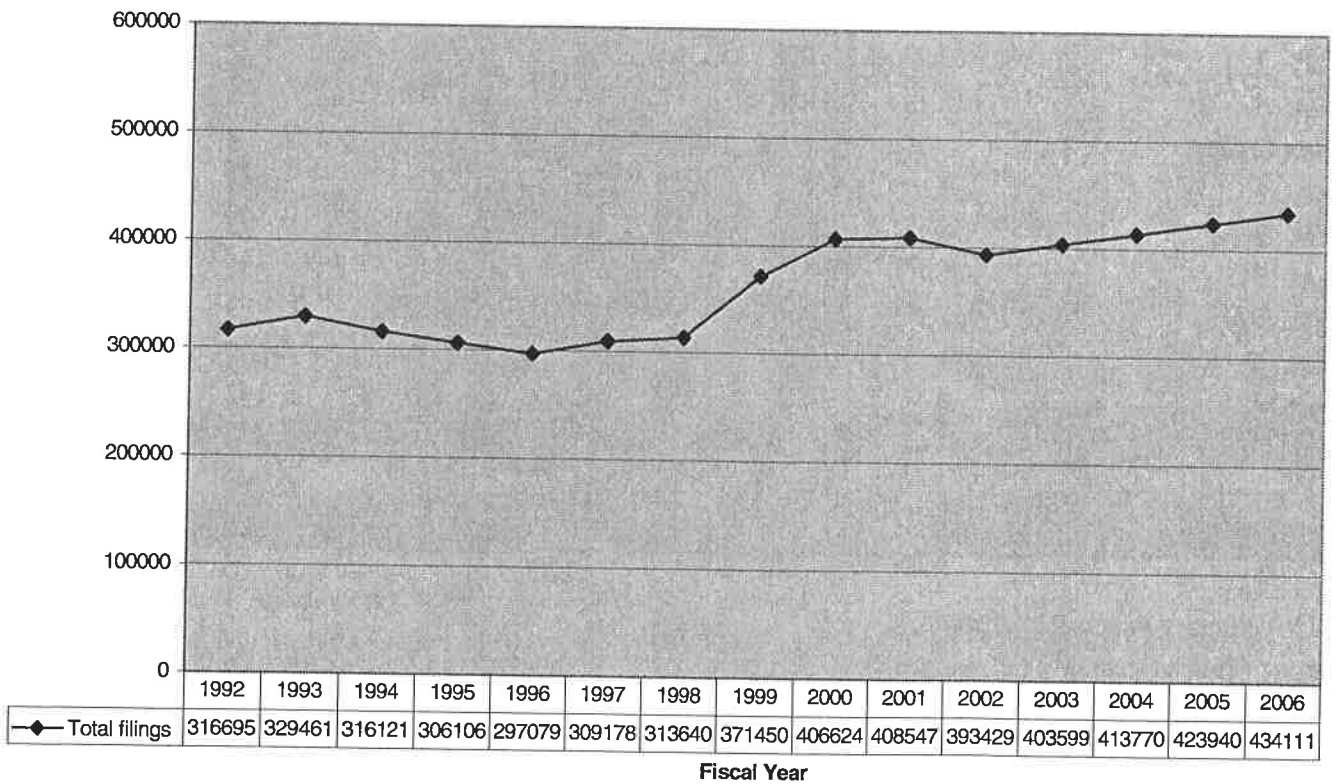
Charge based data used because defendant based data is only available for the past 2 years.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Justice of the Peace Court Total 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Justice of the Peace Court Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Charge based data used because defendant based data is only available for the past 2 years.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Cases (defendants)						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Court 9	866	574	685	755	- 111	- 12.8%
Court 10	938	16,686	16,647	977	+ 39	+ 4.2%
Court 11	3,955	23,025	22,099	4,881	+ 926	+ 23.4%
Court 15	2,347	6,720	6,078	2,989	+ 642	+ 27.4%
Court 18	202	4,256	4,380	78	- 124	- 61.4%
Court 20	1,042	14,318	13,339	2,021	+ 979	+ 94.0%
Kent County						
Court 6	1,229	3,602	3,213	1,618	+ 389	+ 31.7%
Court 7	1,728	16,461	15,501	2,688	+ 960	+ 55.6%
Court 8	186	1,491	1,584	93	- 93	- 50.0%
Sussex County						
Court 1	437	2,707	2,769	375	- 62	- 14.2%
Court 2	534	4,922	4,989	467	- 67	- 12.5%
Court 3	1,106	10,568	10,934	740	- 366	- 33.1%
Court 4	965	6,806	7,119	652	- 313	- 32.4%
Court 5	411	2,249	2,349	311	- 100	- 24.3%
Court 14	0	941	794	147	+ 147	—
State without VAC	15,946	115,326	112,480	18,792	+2,846	+ 17.8%
VAC	4,324	132,042	126,272	10,094	+5,770	+133.4%
State with VAC	20,270	247,368	238,752	28,886	+8,616	+ 42.5%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

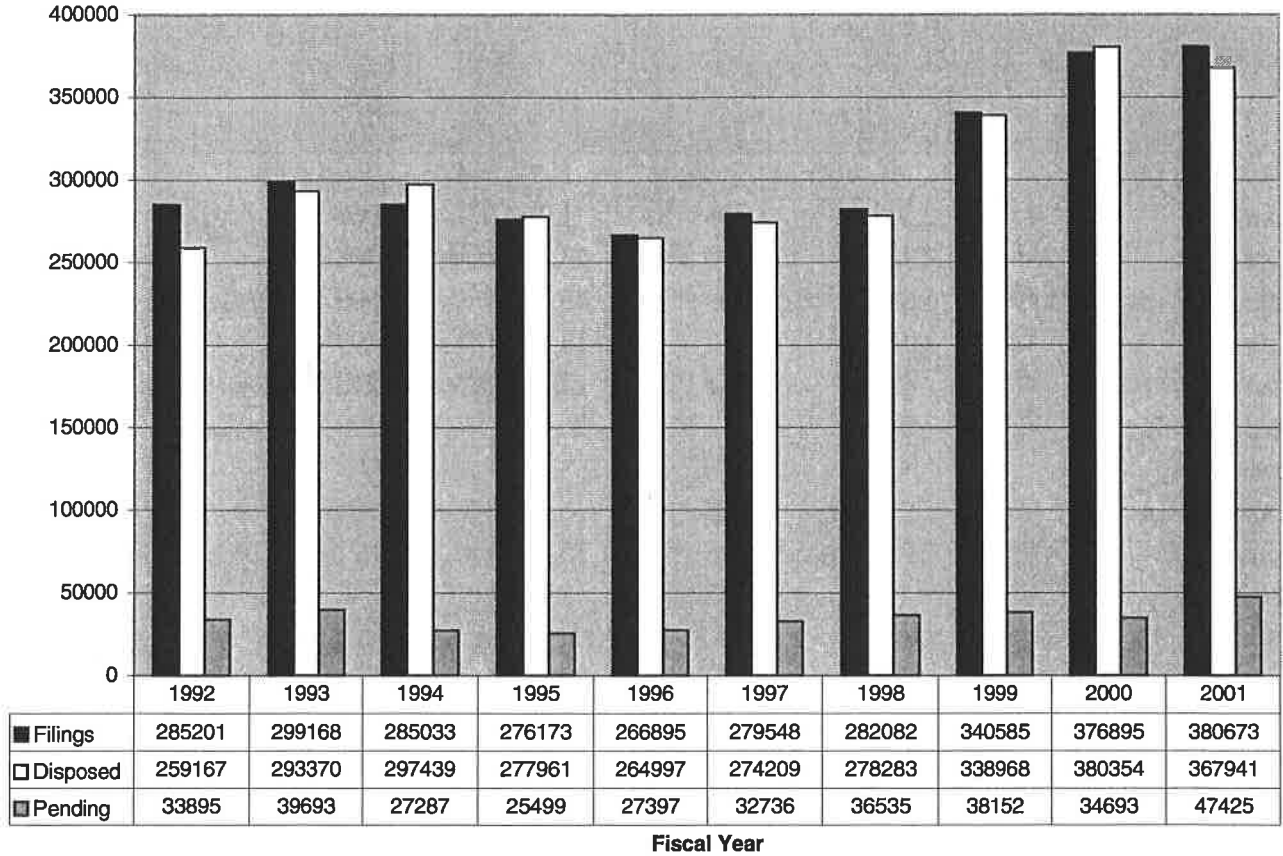
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Cases (charges)						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Court 9	2,208	946	1,088	2,066	- 142	- 6.4%
Court 10	2,324	23,367	23,223	2,468	+ 144	+ 6.2%
Court 11	6,892	50,309	48,701	8,500	+1,608	+ 23.3%
Court 15	3,366	13,946	13,213	4,099	+ 733	+ 21.8%
Court 18	428	13,649	13,859	218	- 210	- 49.1%
Court 20	1,832	29,032	26,655	4,209	+2,377	+129.7%
Kent County						
Court 6	1,279	6,656	6,049	1,886	+ 607	+ 47.5%
Court 7	2,959	35,906	35,044	3,821	+ 862	+ 29.1%
Court 8	462	2,433	2,655	240	- 222	- 48.1%
Sussex County						
Court 1	736	4,559	4,584	711	- 25	- 3.4%
Court 2	650	9,734	9,915	469	- 181	- 27.8%
Court 3	3,037	28,080	28,246	2,871	- 166	- 5.5%
Court 4	1,929	14,272	14,639	1,562	- 367	- 19.0%
Court 5	644	4,346	4,479	511	- 133	- 20.7%
Court 14	0	1,825	1,561	264	+ 264	---
State without VAC	28,746	239,060	233,911	33,895	+5,149	+ 17.9%
VAC	5,947	141,613	134,030	13,530	+7,583	+127.5%
State with VAC	34,693	380,673	367,941	47,425	+12,732	+ 36.7%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Justice of the Peace Court Criminal and Traffic 10 Year Caseload Trend

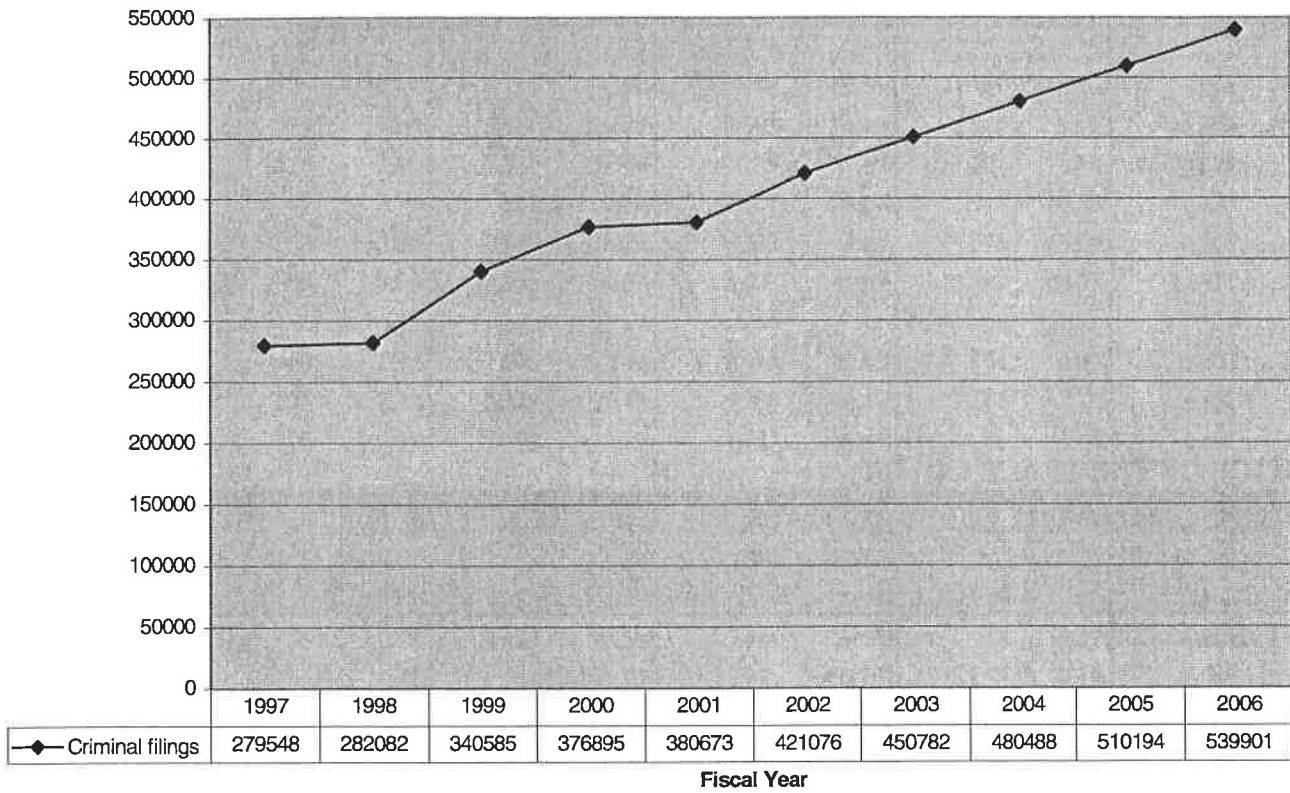


Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

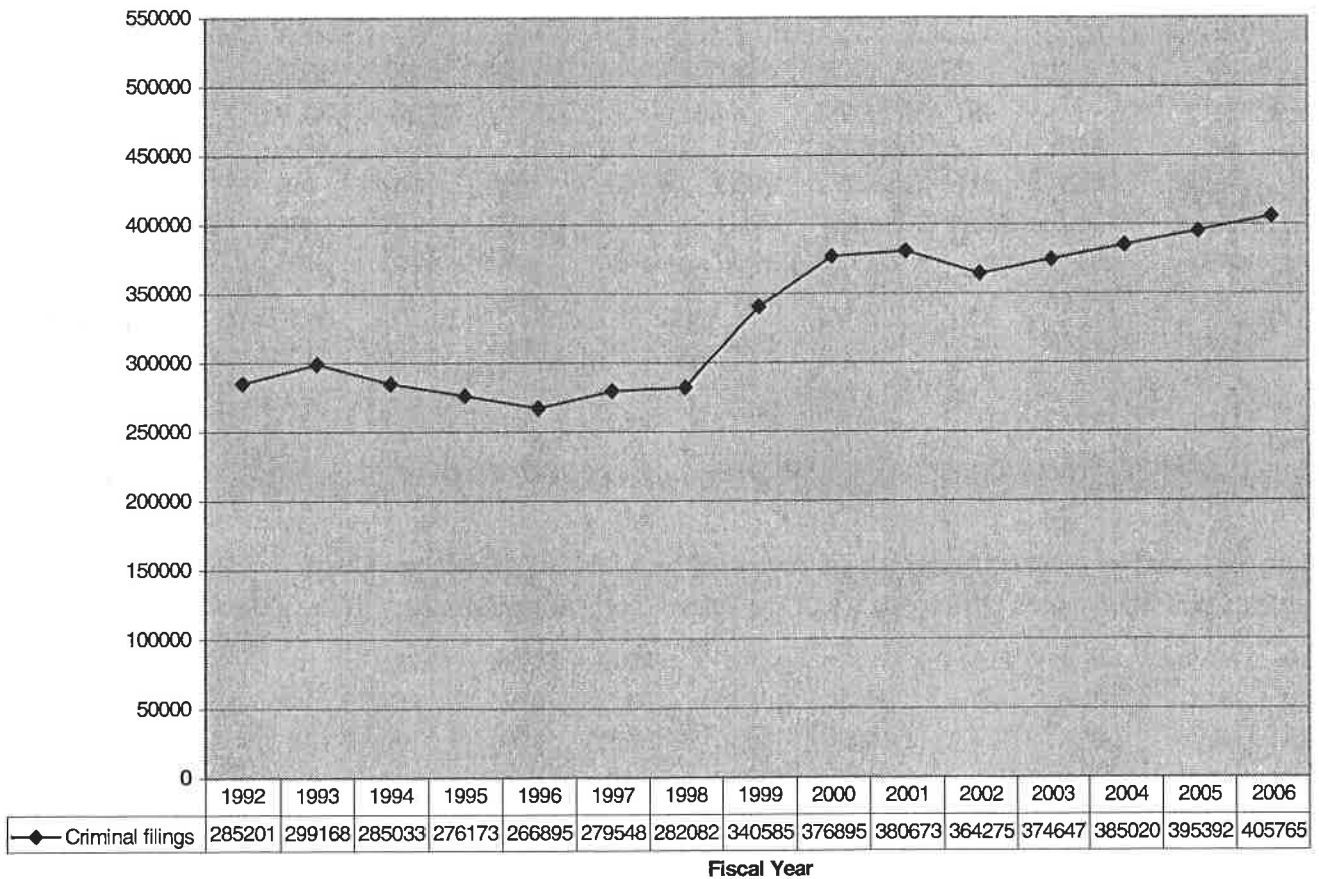
Charge based data used because defendant based data is only available for the past 2 years.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Justice of the Peace Court Criminal and Traffic 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Justice of the Peace Court Criminal and Traffic 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Charge based data used because defendant based data is only available for the past 2 years.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Capiases Handled*								
	Superior Court		Family Court		Court of Common Pleas		Total	
New Castle County								
Court 9	12	28.6%	12	28.6%	18	42.9%	42	100.0%
Court 10	213	19.7%	180	16.6%	689	63.7%	1,082	100.0%
Court 11	398	15.2%	428	16.4%	1,789	68.4%	2,615	100.0%
Court 15	128	17.8%	129	17.9%	464	64.4%	721	100.0%
Court 18	252	31.4%	102	12.7%	448	55.9%	802	100.0%
Court 20	682	23.8%	480	16.7%	1,704	59.5%	2,866	100.0%
Kent County								
Court 6	3	9.1%	8	24.2%	22	66.7%	33	100.0%
Court 7	481	15.9%	416	13.8%	2,120	70.3%	3,017	100.0%
Court 8	4	17.4%	4	17.4%	15	65.2%	23	100.0%
Sussex County								
Court 1	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	4	66.7%	6	100.0%
Court 2	33	20.1%	20	12.2%	111	67.7%	164	100.0%
Court 3	339	16.1%	320	15.2%	1,450	68.8%	2,109	100.0%
Court 4	34	9.4%	68	18.9%	258	71.7%	360	100.0%
Court 5	14	15.6%	9	10.0%	67	74.4%	90	100.0%
Court 14	2	18.2%	3	27.3%	6	54.5%	11	100.0%
Total	2,595	18.6%	2,181	15.6%	9,165	65.7%	13,941	100.0%

*Capiases issued by other courts which are processed by a Justice of the Peace Court.

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (defendants)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	73	12.7%	54	9.4%	398	69.3%	49	8.5%	574	100.0%
Court 10	177	1.1%	3,161	18.9%	12,503	74.9%	845	5.1%	16,686	100.0%
Court 11	575	2.5%	7,521	32.7%	13,225	57.4%	1,704	7.4%	23,025	100.0%
Court 15	47	0.7%	612	9.1%	5,347	79.6%	714	10.6%	6,720	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.0%	3,346	78.6%	333	7.8%	575	13.5%	4,256	100.0%
Court 20	66	0.5%	4,956	34.6%	6,003	41.9%	3,293	23.0%	14,318	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	69	1.9%	376	10.4%	2,983	82.8%	174	4.8%	3,602	100.0%
Court 7	525	3.2%	5,375	32.7%	9,300	56.5%	1,261	7.7%	16,461	100.0%
Court 8	6	0.4%	192	12.9%	1,213	81.4%	80	5.4%	1,491	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	236	8.7%	89	3.3%	2,101	77.6%	281	10.4%	2,707	100.0%
Court 2	382	7.8%	778	15.8%	3,551	72.1%	211	4.3%	4,922	100.0%
Court 3	238	2.3%	3,867	36.6%	5,501	52.1%	962	9.1%	10,568	100.0%
Court 4	51	0.7%	1,124	16.5%	5,416	79.6%	215	3.2%	6,806	100.0%
Court 5	34	1.5%	367	16.3%	1,755	78.0%	93	4.1%	2,249	100.0%
Court 14	0	0.0%	32	3.4%	671	71.3%	238	25.3%	941	100.0%
State without VAC	2,481	2.2%	31,850	27.6%	70,300	61.0%	10,695	9.3%	115,326	100.0%
VAC	230	0.2%	3	0.0%	131,771	99.8%	38	0.0%	132,042	100.0%
State with VAC	2,711	1.1%	31,853	12.9%	202,071	81.7%	10,733	4.3%	247,368	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (defendants)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	60	8.8%	57	8.3%	499	72.8%	69	10.1%	685	100.0%
Court 10	226	1.4%	3,294	19.8%	12,107	72.7%	1,020	6.1%	16,647	100.0%
Court 11	759	3.4%	7,786	35.2%	11,673	52.8%	1,881	8.5%	22,099	100.0%
Court 15	59	1.0%	630	10.4%	4,720	77.7%	669	11.0%	6,078	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.0%	3,401	77.6%	386	8.8%	591	13.5%	4,380	100.0%
Court 20	93	0.7%	5,180	38.8%	4,605	34.5%	3,461	25.9%	13,339	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	90	2.8%	357	11.1%	2,598	80.9%	168	5.2%	3,213	100.0%
Court 7	751	4.8%	4,447	28.7%	8,917	57.5%	1,386	8.9%	15,501	100.0%
Court 8	6	0.4%	188	11.9%	1,305	82.4%	85	5.4%	1,584	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	314	11.3%	94	3.4%	1,994	72.0%	367	13.3%	2,769	100.0%
Court 2	461	9.2%	824	16.5%	3,476	69.7%	228	4.6%	4,989	100.0%
Court 3	316	2.9%	3,891	35.6%	5,712	52.2%	1,015	9.3%	10,934	100.0%
Court 4	90	1.3%	1,074	15.1%	5,714	80.3%	241	3.4%	7,119	100.0%
Court 5	44	1.9%	404	17.2%	1,807	76.9%	94	4.0%	2,349	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	24	3.0%	556	70.0%	213	26.8%	794	100.0%
State without VAC	3,272	2.9%	31,651	28.1%	66,069	58.7%	11,488	10.2%	112,480	100.0%
VAC	217	0.2%	3	0.0%	125,953	99.7%	99	0.1%	126,272	100.0%
State with VAC	3,489	1.5%	31,654	13.3%	192,022	80.4%	11,587	4.9%	238,752	100.0%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (charges)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	56	5.9%	88	9.3%	715	75.6%	87	9.2%	946	100.0%
Court 10	249	1.1%	6,209	26.6%	15,199	65.0%	1,710	7.3%	23,367	100.0%
Court 11	931	1.9%	16,026	31.9%	29,751	59.1%	3,601	7.2%	50,309	100.0%
Court 15	65	0.5%	1,034	7.4%	11,833	84.8%	1,014	7.3%	13,946	100.0%
Court 18	14	0.1%	10,138	74.3%	1,522	11.2%	1,975	14.5%	13,649	100.0%
Court 20	100	0.3%	9,701	33.4%	12,792	44.1%	6,439	22.2%	29,032	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	78	1.2%	1,365	20.5%	4,862	73.0%	351	5.3%	6,656	100.0%
Court 7	974	2.7%	11,883	33.1%	19,834	55.2%	3,215	9.0%	35,906	100.0%
Court 8	9	0.4%	381	15.7%	1,930	79.3%	113	4.6%	2,433	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	378	8.3%	159	3.5%	3,706	81.3%	316	6.9%	4,559	100.0%
Court 2	439	4.5%	1,607	16.5%	7,354	75.5%	334	3.4%	9,734	100.0%
Court 3	575	2.0%	10,830	38.6%	13,926	49.6%	2,749	9.8%	28,080	100.0%
Court 4	73	0.5%	2,328	16.3%	11,454	80.3%	417	2.9%	14,272	100.0%
Court 5	94	2.2%	992	22.8%	3,104	71.4%	156	3.6%	4,346	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	27	1.5%	1,711	93.8%	86	4.7%	1,825	100.0%
State without VAC	4,036	1.7%	72,768	30.4%	139,693	58.4%	22,563	9.4%	239,060	100.0%
VAC	235	0.2%	1	0.0%	141,353	99.8%	24	0.0%	141,613	100.0%
State with VAC	4,271	1.1%	72,769	19.1%	281,046	73.8%	22,587	5.9%	380,673	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (charges)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	58	5.3%	85	7.8%	845	77.7%	100	9.2%	1,088	100.0%
Court 10	240	1.0%	6,216	26.8%	15,032	64.7%	1,735	7.5%	23,223	100.0%
Court 11	929	1.9%	15,916	32.7%	28,271	58.1%	3,585	7.4%	48,701	100.0%
Court 15	63	0.5%	1,007	7.6%	11,004	83.3%	1,139	8.6%	13,213	100.0%
Court 18	14	0.1%	10,153	73.3%	1,694	12.2%	1,998	14.4%	13,859	100.0%
Court 20	110	0.4%	9,380	35.2%	11,250	42.2%	5,915	22.2%	26,655	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	77	1.3%	1,337	22.1%	4,289	70.9%	346	5.7%	6,049	100.0%
Court 7	1,000	2.9%	11,830	33.8%	18,999	54.2%	3,215	9.2%	35,044	100.0%
Court 8	9	0.3%	731	27.5%	1,815	68.4%	100	3.8%	2,655	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	387	8.4%	158	3.4%	3,681	80.3%	358	7.8%	4,584	100.0%
Court 2	442	4.5%	1,650	16.6%	7,504	75.7%	319	3.2%	9,915	100.0%
Court 3	554	2.0%	10,828	38.3%	14,132	50.0%	2,732	9.7%	28,246	100.0%
Court 4	95	0.6%	2,157	14.7%	11,959	81.7%	428	2.9%	14,639	100.0%
Court 5	42	0.9%	683	15.2%	3,578	79.9%	176	3.9%	4,479	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	22	1.4%	1,452	93.0%	86	5.5%	1,561	100.0%
State without VAC	4,021	1.7%	72,153	30.8%	135,505	57.9%	22,232	9.5%	233,911	100.0%
VAC	206	0.2%	1	0.0%	133,805	99.8%	18	0.0%	134,030	100.0%
State with VAC	4,227	1.1%	72,154	19.6%	269,310	73.2%	22,250	6.0%	367,941	100.0%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (defendants)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	2,427	574	-1,853	-76.3%
Court 10	12,333	16,686	+4,353	+35.3%
Court 11	22,539	23,025	+ 486	+ 2.2%
Court 15	6,872	6,720	- 152	- 2.2%
Court 18	5,258	4,256	-1,002	-19.1%
Court 20	10,295	14,318	+4,023	+39.1%
Kent County				
Court 6	3,679	3,602	- 77	- 2.1%
Court 7	16,108	16,461	+ 353	+ 2.2%
Court 8	940	1,491	+ 551	+58.6%
Sussex County				
Court 1	2,686	2,707	+ 21	+ 0.8%
Court 2	6,077	4,922	-1,155	-19.0%
Court 3	10,854	10,568	- 286	- 2.6%
Court 4	7,793	6,806	- 987	-12.7%
Court 5	2,193	2,249	+ 56	+ 2.6%
Court 14	0	941	+ 941	----
State without VAC	110,054	115,326	+5,272	+ 4.8%
VAC	134,248	132,042	-2,206	- 1.6%
State with VAC	244,302	247,368	+3,066	+ 1.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (defendants)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	2,667	685	-1,982	-74.3%
Court 10	12,565	16,647	+4,082	+32.5%
Court 11	23,162	22,099	-1,063	- 4.6%
Court 15	6,347	6,078	- 269	- 4.2%
Court 18	5,285	4,380	- 905	-17.1%
Court 20	10,218	13,339	+3,121	+30.5%
Kent County				
Court 6	3,158	3,213	+ 55	+ 1.7%
Court 7	15,738	15,501	- 237	- 1.5%
Court 8	1,019	1,584	+ 565	+55.4%
Sussex County				
Court 1	2,575	2,769	+ 194	+ 7.5%
Court 2	6,029	4,989	-1,040	-17.2%
Court 3	11,247	10,934	- 313	- 2.8%
Court 4	7,633	7,119	- 514	- 6.7%
Court 5	2,210	2,349	+ 139	+ 6.3%
Court 14	563	794	+ 231	+41.0%
State without VAC	110,416	112,480	+2,064	+ 1.9%
VAC	136,062	126,272	-9,790	- 7.2%
State with VAC	246,478	238,752	-7,726	- 3.1%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (charges)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	4,330	946	-3,384	-78.2%
Court 10	23,426	23,367	- 59	- 0.3%
Court 11	48,997	50,309	+1,312	+ 2.7%
Court 15	13,556	13,946	+ 390	+ 2.9%
Court 18	18,182	13,649	-4,533	-24.9%
Court 20	19,077	29,032	+9,955	+52.2%
Kent County				
Court 6	5,738	6,656	+ 918	+16.0%
Court 7	34,505	35,906	+1,401	+ 4.1%
Court 8	1,266	2,433	+1,167	+92.2%
Sussex County				
Court 1	4,151	4,559	+ 408	+ 9.8%
Court 2	11,580	9,734	-1,846	-15.9%
Court 3	28,754	28,080	- 674	- 2.3%
Court 4	16,365	14,272	-2,093	-12.8%
Court 5	3,571	4,346	+ 775	+21.7%
Court 14	0	1,825	+1,825	----
State without VAC	233,498	239,060	+5,562	+ 2.4%
VAC	143,397	141,613	-1,784	- 1.2%
State with VAC	376,895	380,673	+3,778	+ 1.0%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (charges)				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	3,869	1,088	- 2,781	- 71.9%
Court 10	23,219	23,223	+ 4	+ 0.0%
Court 11	51,399	48,701	- 2,698	- 5.2%
Court 15	13,396	13,213	- 183	- 1.4%
Court 18	18,481	13,859	- 4,622	- 25.0%
Court 20	19,001	26,655	+ 7,654	+ 40.3%
Kent County				
Court 6	5,627	6,049	+ 422	+ 7.5%
Court 7	34,316	35,044	+ 728	+ 2.1%
Court 8	1,223	2,655	+ 1,432	+117.1%
Sussex County				
Court 1	3,865	4,584	+ 719	+ 18.6%
Court 2	11,791	9,915	- 1,876	- 15.9%
Court 3	29,525	28,246	- 1,279	- 4.3%
Court 4	16,038	14,639	- 1,399	- 8.7%
Court 5	3,668	4,479	+ 811	+ 22.1%
Court 14	980	1,561	+ 581	+ 59.3%
State without VAC	236,398	233,911	- 2,487	- 1.1%
VAC	143,956	134,030	- 9,926	- 6.9%
State with VAC	380,354	367,941	-12,413	- 3.3%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

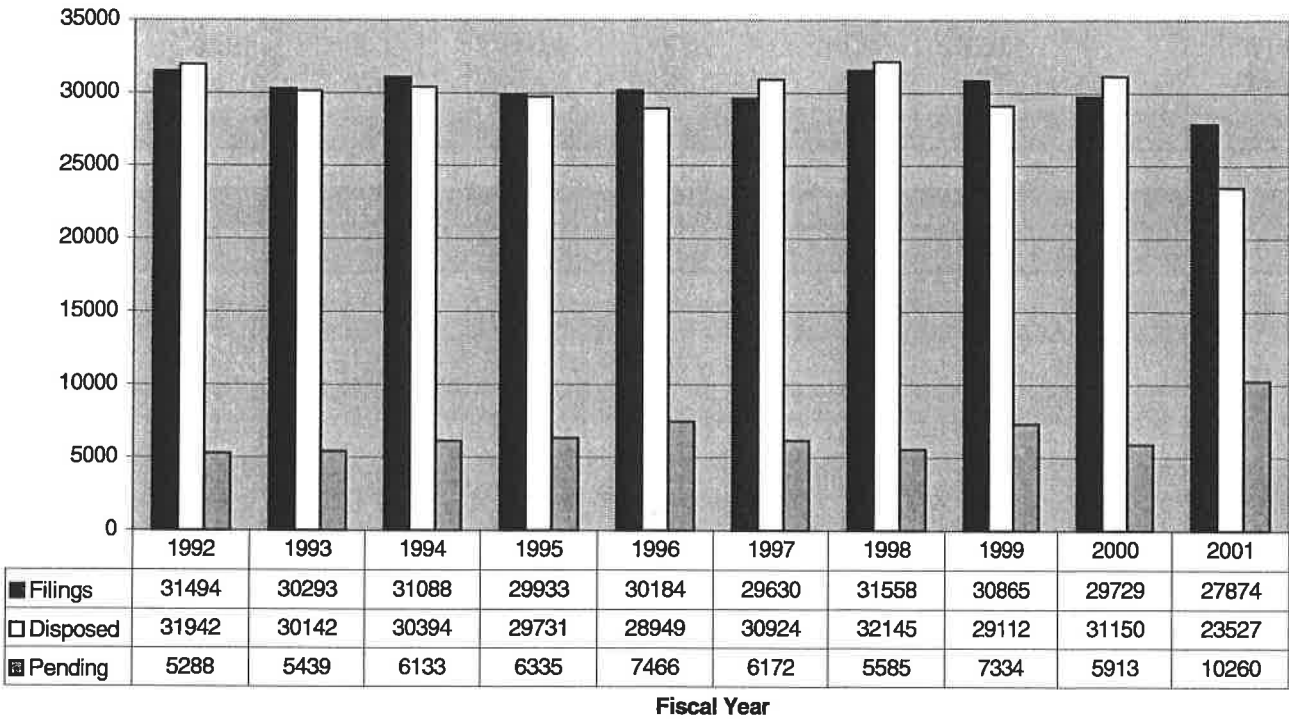
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Cases							
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending	Executions Filed
New Castle County							
Court 9	265	188	235	218	- 47	- 17.7%	124
Court 12	697	9,144	6,962	2,879	+2,182	+313.1%	1,467
Court 13	869	8,253	5,660	3,462	+2,593	+298.4%	1,436
Kent County							
Court 8	9	4	7	6	- 3	- 33.3%	0
Court 16	2,239	5,531	5,734	2,036	- 203	- 9.1%	2,297
Sussex County							
Court 17	1,051	2,762	2,770	1,043	- 8	- 0.8%	903
Court 19	783	1,992	2,159	616	- 167	- 21.3%	646
State	5,913	27,874	23,527	10,260	+4,347	+73.5%	6,873

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	836	188	- 648	-77.5%
Court 12	8,700	9,144	+ 444	+ 5.1%
Court 13	8,190	8,253	+ 63	+0.8%
Kent County				
Court 8	11	4	- 7	-63.6%
Court 16	5,741	5,531	- 210	- 3.7%
Sussex County				
Court 17	3,690	2,762	- 928	-25.1%
Court 19	2,561	1,992	- 569	-22.2%
State	29,729	27,874	-1,855	- 6.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Civil Cases Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	691	235	- 456	-66.0%
Court 12	9,381	6,962	-2,419	-25.8%
Court 13	8,555	5,660	-2,895	-33.8%
Kent County				
Court 8	4	7	+ 3	+75.0%
Court 16	5,833	5,734	- 99	- 1.7%
Sussex County				
Court 17	4,233	2,770	-1,463	-34.6%
Court 19	2,453	2,159	- 294	-12.0%
State	31,150	23,527	-7,623	-24.5%

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

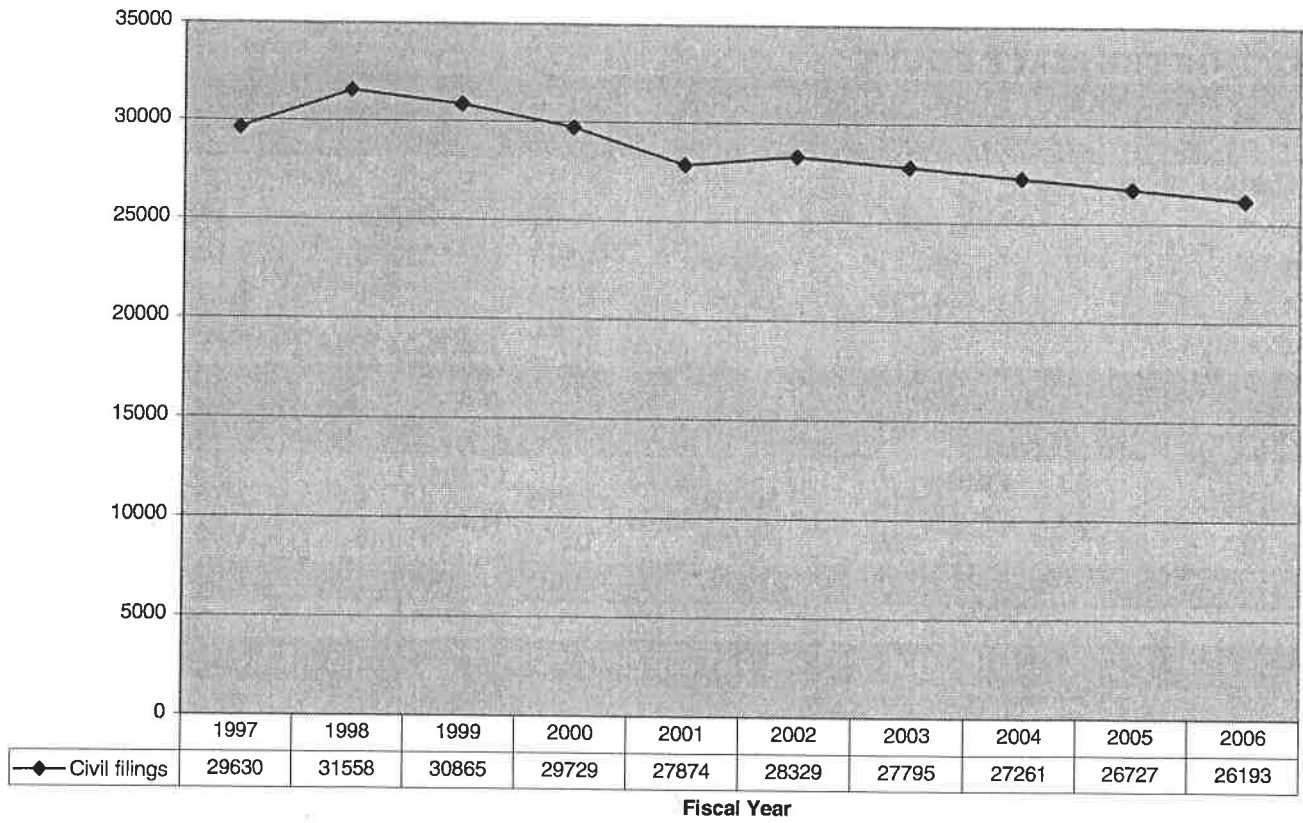
Justice of the Peace Court Civil 10 Year Caseload Trend



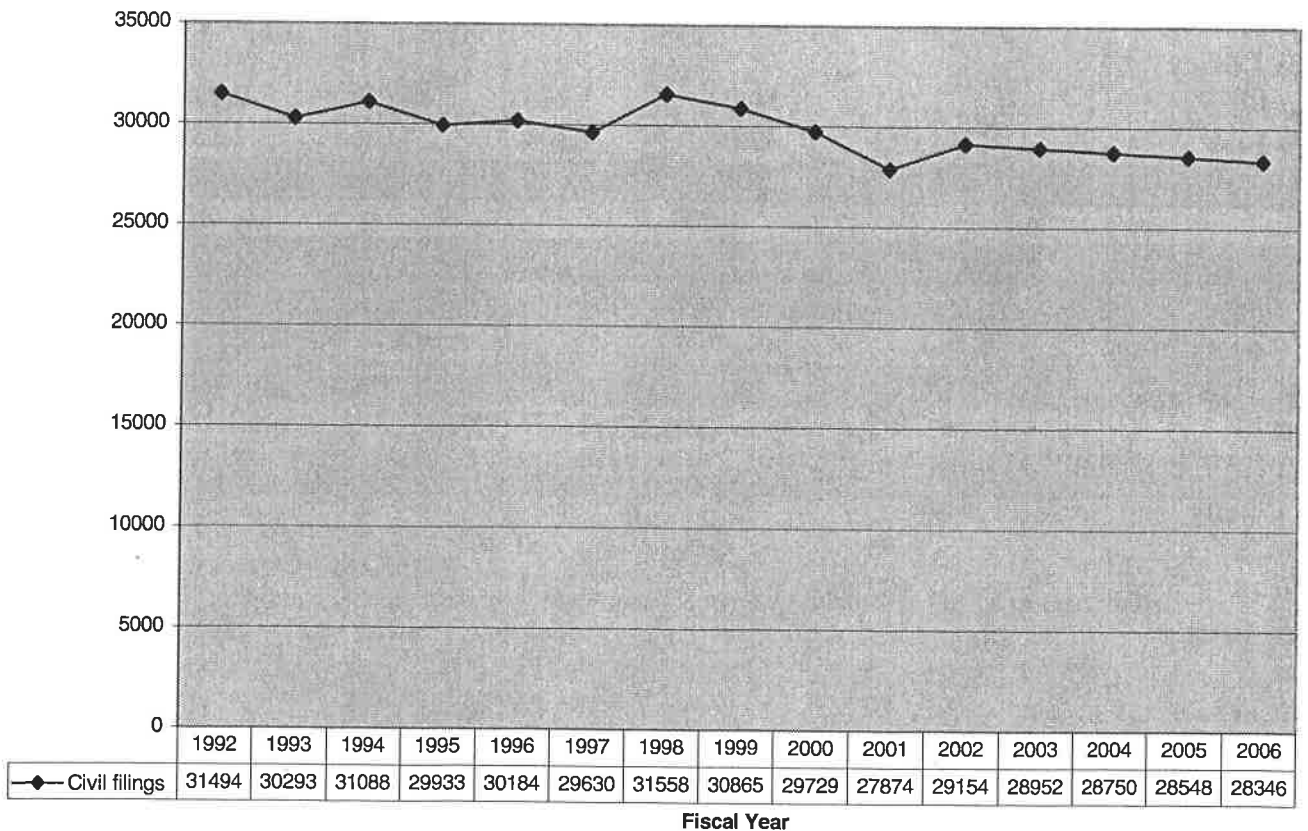
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Justice of the Peace Court Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Justice of the Peace Court Civil 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source : Court Administrator, Justice of the Peace Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Case Filings

	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		Total	
New Castle County						
Court 9	145	77.1%	43	22.9%	188	100.0%
Court 12	4,227	46.2%	4,917	53.8%	9,144	100.0%
Court 13	4,298	52.1%	3,955	47.9%	8,253	100.0%
Kent County						
Court 8	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%
Court 16	3,109	56.2%	2,422	43.8%	5,531	100.0%
Sussex County						
Court 17	1,554	56.3%	1,208	43.7%	2,762	100.0%
Court 19	936	47.0%	1,056	53.0%	1,992	100.0%
State	14,273	51.2%	13,601	48.8%	27,874	100.0%

Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Case Dispositions

	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		Total	
New Castle County						
Court 9	197	83.8%	38	16.2%	235	100.0%
Court 12	3,272	47.0%	3,690	53.0%	6,962	100.0%
Court 13	2,944	52.0%	2,716	48.0%	5,660	100.0%
Kent County						
Court 8	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	7	100.0%
Court 16	3,211	56.0%	2,523	44.0%	5,734	100.0%
Sussex County						
Court 17	1,551	56.0%	1,219	44.0%	2,770	100.0%
Court 19	1,015	47.0%	1,144	53.0%	2,159	100.0%
State	12,197	51.8%	11,330	48.2%	23,527	100.0%

Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2001 - Civil Case Change in Pending

	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		Total	
New Castle County						
Court 9	- 52		+ 5		- 47	
Court 12	+ 955		+1,227		+2,182	
Court 13	+1,354		+1,239		+2,593	
Kent County						
Court 8	- 3		0		- 3	
Court 16	- 102		- 101		- 203	
Sussex County						
Court 17	+ 3		- 11		- 8	
Court 19	- 79		- 88		- 167	
State	+2,076		+2,271		+4,347	

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Court Rankings Fiscal Year 2000-2001 - Total Filings (defendants)					
2001 Rank w/o VAC	Court	Total Filings	% of Total w/o VAC	2000 Rank w/o VAC	
1	Court 11	23,025	16.1%	1	
2	Court 10	16,686	11.7%	3	
3	Court 7	16,461	11.5%	2	
4	Court 20	14,318	10.0%	5	
5	Court 3	10,568	7.4%	4	
6	Court 12	9,144	6.4%	6	
7	Court 13	8,253	5.8%	7	
8	Court 4	6,806	4.8%	8	
9	Court 15	6,720	4.7%	9	
10	Court 16	5,531	3.9%	11	
11	Court 2	4,922	3.4%	10	
12	Court 18	4,256	3.0%	12	
13	Court 6	3,602	2.5%	14	
14	Court 17	2,762	1.9%	13	
15	Court 1	2,707	1.9%	16	
16	Court 5	2,249	1.6%	18	
17	Court 19	1,992	1.4%	17	
18	Court 8	1,495	1.0%	19	
19	Court 14	941	0.7%	20	
20	Court 9	762	0.5%	15	
State w/o VAC		143,200	100.0%		
VAC		132,042			
State w/ VAC		275,242			

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Court Rankings - Fiscal Year 2000-2001 - Total Filings (charges)					
2001 Rank w/o VAC	Court	Total Filings	% of Total w/o VAC	2000 Rank w/o VAC	
1	Court 11	50,309	18.8%	1	
2	Court 7	35,906	13.5%	2	
3	Court 20	29,032	10.9%	5	
4	Court 3	28,080	10.5%	3	
5	Court 10	23,367	8.8%	4	
6	Court 4	14,272	5.3%	7	
7	Court 15	13,946	5.2%	8	
8	Court 18	13,649	5.1%	6	
9	Court 2	9,734	3.6%	9	
10	Court 12	9,144	3.4%	10	
11	Court 13	8,253	3.1%	11	
12	Court 6	6,656	2.5%	13	
13	Court 16	5,531	2.1%	12	
14	Court 1	4,559	1.7%	15	
15	Court 5	4,346	1.6%	17	
16	Court 17	2,762	1.0%	16	
17	Court 8	2,437	0.9%	19	
18	Court 19	1,992	0.7%	18	
19	Court 14	1,825	0.7%	20	
20	Court 9	1,134	0.4%	14	
State w/o VAC		266,934			
VAC		141,613			
State w/ VAC		408,547			

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

Source : Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

ALDERMAN'S COURT

Legal Authorization

Alderman's Courts are authorized by the town charters of their respective municipalities.

Legal Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of an Alderman's Court is limited to misdemeanors, traffic offenses, parking violations, and minor civil matters. The specific jurisdiction of each court varies with the town charter (which is approved by the General Assembly). Appeals are taken de novo to the Court of Common Pleas within 15 days of trial.

Geographic Organization

Alderman's Courts have jurisdiction only within their own town limits. There were eight active Alderman's Courts at the end of 1998, two in New Castle County and six in Sussex County. When a town is without a court or an alderman for any period of time, its cases are transferred to the nearest Justice of the Peace Court.

Aldermen

The selection, number, tenure and qualifications of aldermen are determined by the towns themselves. Some require lawyers while others choose private citizens. A few aldermen serve full-time, while some are part-time.

ALDERMAN COURT

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	4,991	11,071	11,009	5,053	+ 62	+ 1.2%
Newport	NA	4,661	5,267	NA	NA	NA
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Delmar	388	720	877	231	-157	-40.5%
Dewey Beach	0	1,024	1,024	0	0	-----
Laurel	276	1,754	1,916	114	-162	-58.7%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	342	828	924	246	- 96	-28.1%
State	5,997	20,058	21,017	5,644	-353	- 5.9%

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	45	1,620	1,305	360	+315	+700.0%
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Delmar	51	13	4	60	+ 9	+ 17.6%
Dewey Beach	0	796	796	0	0	-----
Laurel	234	276	482	28	-206	- 88.0%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	76	363	390	49	- 27	- 35.5%
State	406	3,068	2,977	497	+91	+ 22.4%

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2001 - Traffic Cases						
	Pending 6/30/00	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/01	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	4,946	9,451	9,704	4,693	-253	- 5.1%
Newport	NA	4,661	5,267	NA	NA	NA
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Delmar	337	707	873	171	-166	- 49.3%
Dewey Beach	0	228	228	0	0	-----
Laurel	42	1,478	1,434	86	+ 44	+104.8%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	266	465	534	197	- 69	- 25.9%
State	5,591	16,990	18,040	4,541	-444	- 7.9%

The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.

Note : Data not available for Newport for FY 2000 and Bethany Beach for FY 2000 and FY 2001.

Source : Alderman Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Alderman Court

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Filings				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Newark	9,147	11,071	+1,924	+21.0%
Newport	NA	4,661	NA	NA
Sussex County				
Bethany Beach	NA	NA	NA	NA
Delmar	830	720	- 110	-13.3%
Dewey Beach	1,358	1,024	- 334	-24.6%
Laurel	2,102	1,754	- 348	-16.6%
Ocean View	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	1,241	828	- 413	-33.3%
State	14,678	20,058	+ 719	+ 4.9%

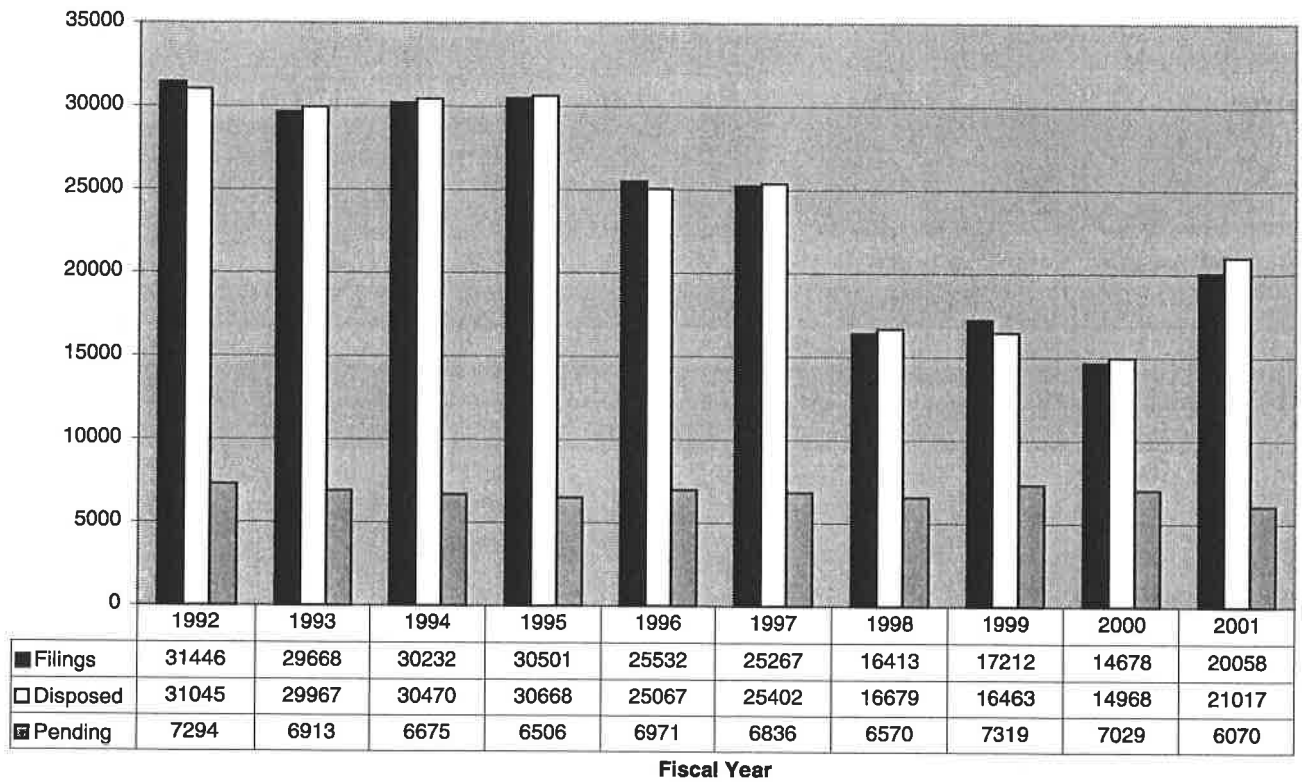
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2000-2001 - Total Dispositions				
	2000	2001	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Newark	9,399	11,009	+1,610	+17.1%
Newport	NA	5,267	NA	NA
Sussex County				
Bethany Beach	NA	NA	NA	NA
Delmar	1,021	877	- 144	-14.1%
Dewey Beach	1,358	1,024	- 334	-24.6%
Laurel	2,098	1,916	- 182	- 8.7%
Ocean View	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	1,092	924	- 168	-15.4%
State	14,968	21,017	+ 782	+ 5.2%

The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.

Note : Data not available for Newport for FY 2000 and Bethany Beach for FY 2000 and FY 2001.

Source : Alderman Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Alderman Court 10 Year Caseload Trend



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Data not available for Newport for FY 1998-FY 2000 and Bethany Beach for FY 1998-FY 2001.

Source : Alderman Court ; Administrative Office of the Courts.