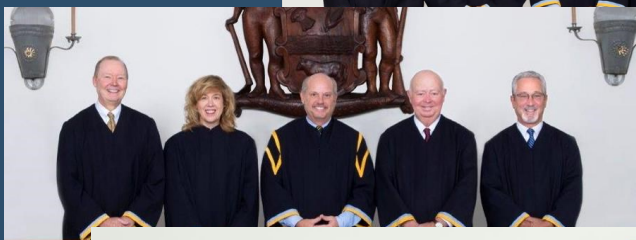
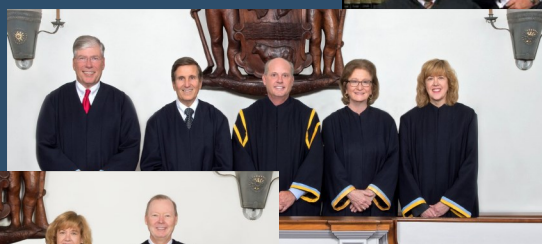


The Delaware Judiciary

Annual Report



Building For The Next Decade

2019

On the cover:

The Delaware Supreme Court 2013-2019

Cover images are arranged chronologically from the top of the page to the bottom.

2013 (Front Row, left to right): Justice Randy J. Holland; Chief Justice Myron T. Steele; Justice Carolyn Berger. (Back Row): Justice Henry duPont Ridgely; Justice Jack B. Jacobs

2014 (Left to right): Justice Henry duPont Ridgely; Justice Randy J. Holland; Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.; Justice Carolyn Berger; Justice Karen L. Valihura

2015 (L to R): Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.; Justice Randy J. Holland; Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.; Justice Karen L. Valihura; Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

2018 (L to R) : Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.; Justice Karen L. Valihura; Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.; Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.; Justice Gary F. Traynor

2019 (L to R): Justice Gary F. Traynor; Justice Karen L. Valihura; Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.; Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.; Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the State Court Administrator.....	2
Introduction.....	3
The Year in Pictures	10
Introduction to the Delaware Courts.....	12
Fiscal Overview.....	14
Supreme Court.....	19
Court of Chancery.....	24
Superior Court.....	29
Family Court.....	38
Court of Common Pleas.....	43
Justice of the Peace Court.....	50
Judicial Branch Employees Recognized.....	57

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

The 2019 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary

I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report of the Delaware Judicial Branch. Our theme this year, “Building for the Next Decade,” highlights the successes achieved by the Delaware Judiciary during the tenure of retiring Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. and outlines a vision for the future that will build upon that strong foundation as a new decade begins under the leadership of Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr., who was sworn in as Delaware’s ninth Chief Justice in November 2019.

This report is designed to give an overview of our Courts, how we operate, our funding and the various initiatives that both the Branch as a whole and individual Courts are pursuing to help fulfill our mission of providing fair, just and efficient resolution of disputes under the rules of law and equity, and with the protection of all rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitutions of the State of Delaware and the United States.

This past year has been one of significant change in the Judicial Branch leadership. In addition to the retirement of Chief Justice Strine, the courts lost the insight and experience of two valuable long-time public servants and dear friends with the retirement of Supreme Court Administrator William Montgomery and the relocation of my predecessor, State Court Administrator Amy Arnott Quinlan. We wish them both well and will miss them greatly, but the work of the courts must continue. The Delaware Judiciary now looks to the future with the investiture of Chief Justice Seitz and the historic appointment of Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to the Supreme Court.

I am excited to be returning to the Delaware Courts in 2020, following my 2018 retirement as the Delaware Supreme Court’s Chief Staff Attorney and a brief but invigorating term in 2019 working as a Staff Attorney at Legal Services Corporation of Delaware. I am thrilled to welcome Karlis Johnson as the new Supreme Court Administrator after more than a decade of service as the Court Administrator for the Court of Chancery. I also would like to offer special thanks to Elmer Setting for his excellent leadership as Acting State Court Administrator during the interregnum.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) remains focused on our mission of providing administrative support for the Delaware Judiciary and Court initiatives, like our court modernization project that includes two new downstate Family Court facilities along with improvements to the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center and the launch of a new e-filing system for all of the Delaware Courts. With our new Justices and our new court staff in place, we are set to begin building for the next decade.

I hope you find this Report useful in understanding our Court System and our ongoing initiatives. I encourage you to visit our website at <http://courts.delaware.gov/> for the latest information about the Delaware Courts.

Sincerely,



Gayle P. Lafferty
State Court Administrator



INTRODUCTION

Farewell Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

After 27 years of public service, Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. retired from the bench on October 31, 2019.

The Chief Justice began his career in service to the State of Delaware as Legal Counsel to Governor Tom Carper in 1993, a position he held until he was appointed to the Court of Chancery as a Vice Chancellor in 1998. Governor Jack Markell then elevated him to Chancellor in 2011 and again in 2014 to become Delaware's eighth Chief Justice.

Before joining the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice left a lasting legacy through a series of academic papers and landmark opinions in corporate law from his time on the Court of Chancery. He continued that legacy with additional academic writings and noteworthy rulings on the Delaware Supreme Court including co-authoring the 2016 opinion in *Rauf v. Delaware* that found Delaware's Death Penalty was unconstitutional. Just as importantly for the citizens of Delaware, Chief Justice Strine also left his mark as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch. Shortly after the Chief Justice took office, he established a set of core policy objectives for the Judiciary under his watch including:

- Meeting the business world's need for cost-

effective and timely dispute resolution;

- Maximizing the use of limited resources;
- Identifying flexible funding solutions for Judicial Branch needs;
- Investing in court employees, infrastructure, and the smart use of technology;
- Involving the Bar and other constituents in setting

the Branch's future agenda;

- Improving access to justice for all Delaware citizens and the justice system overall; and

- Addressing work-life balance issues for attorneys and legal professionals.



Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

At the close of Chief Justice Strine's tenure, the Judicial

Branch can report substantial progress on all these objectives.

Meeting the business world's need for cost-effective and timely dispute resolution

The Court worked with the Delaware General Assembly to pass the Delaware Rapid Arbitration Act. The Act established a confidential arbitration process for business entities that wanted to resolve their disputes in a timely and cost-effective way outside the traditional litigation process.

Continued on next page

INTRODUCTION

Maximizing the use of limited resources

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Strine, the Judiciary worked to ensure taxpayers were getting the most for their money and the courts were operating as efficiently as possible. On the day-to-day matters, the Delaware Courts joined forces with the University of Delaware’s Lerner College of Business and Economics to enter into a “process improvement” agreement. This led to a number of improvements, including moving the Court of Common Pleas bail tracking process from a paper-based system to one on a shared computer database and eliminating other paper-based processes in favor of electronic documents. Judicial branch employees also learned how to operate more efficiently which saved thousands of hours of staff time.

The Court also formed the Criminal Justice Council of the Judiciary, made up of trial court judges to review the operations and efficiency of our problem-solving courts. The goal was to improve, enhance and streamline the State’s problem-solving courts to have them operate more consistently and efficiently while continuing to provide the same level of specialized attention to address the root causes of recurring issues among certain groups – particularly veterans and those suffering from mental health issues or addiction.

The Council finished its work in April 2017, issuing a detailed report containing recommendations such as merging four separate drug and mental health

courts in the Court of Common Pleas and Superior Court into two courts with cross-jurisdictional authority. This report also directly led to the creation of core standards and policies for the problem-solving courts, to establish a truly statewide system, and to ensure that needed treatment courts would endure. The report also led to the formation of a Community Court program to better coordinate and integrate problem-solving courts and treatment programs and to intervene with low-level offenders to get them the help they need to break the cycle of crime before it starts.

Identifying flexible funding solutions for Judicial Branch needs

The Court has worked with the Governor’s office and the General Assembly over the past five years to obtain additional spending authority to support Judicial initiatives – like e-filing, Access to Justice, and recruitment and retention – as approved by the Office of Management and Budget and the Controller General’s Office.

In addition, the Courts have been able to secure funds to create a “technology fund” to allow the court to develop a more rational approach to fixing and replacing technology vital to court operations on an ongoing basis, rather than wait until systems were on the brink of collapse. The Courts hope to continue to increase the size of that fund to build on this progress and keep core court technology on the cutting edge and operating at peak efficiency.



Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr at an Oct. 28, 2019 budget hearing in Legislative Hall.

Continued on next page

INTRODUCTION

Investing in court employees, infrastructure, and the smart use of technology

During his tenure, Chief Justice Strine was a relentless advocate for employees, pressing for improved pay for not just Judicial Branch employees, but all state employees. His successes included

meet future needs and to ease overcrowding in the Court of Chancery.

As for the smart use of technology, the Courts have been working to implement a statewide e-filing system for all courts. While some courts, like the Court of Chancery, have long had electronic filing and case management, others, like Family Court, still rely on manila folders and paper records. Leaving paper-based systems behind would not only help improve overall efficiency in moving case files and records smoothly and quickly from place to place, the change would cut supply and storage costs that come with paper files. Moving to a fully integrated e-filing system will also allow greater ability to analyze court data and trends and better integrate with system partners.

Finally, the Courts have also been working with our State partners to consider a public-private partnership option, known as a “P3,” to speed the construction and opening of two new downstate Family Court facilities and improvements in New Castle County while giving the taxpayers the best value for their dollar. The P3 model is innovative and has been used by a neighboring jurisdiction – Howard County, Maryland – to bring needed court facilities online sooner and at a lower overall cost.



Architect's rendering of proposed Sussex County Family Courthouse in Georgetown

changes in the “casual/seasonal” or “contracted” employee status of some employees to full-time positions. Chief Justice Strine also worked with the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly to implement a program to provide parking for employees at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center as part of a recruitment and retention effort.

On infrastructure, work has also started on fitting out the unfinished 7th floor of the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington to become the new home for Justice of the Peace Court 20 and the Wilmington Community Court program. The completion of work on the 7th floor will mean the Justice Center has been completely built-out. The Courts have suggested that additional efficiency and savings could be realized by including renovation of the Court-owned Custom House property adjacent to the Justice Center in a proposal along with the new downstate Family Court facilities – allowing expansion of Leonard L. Williams Justice Center to



Architect's rendering of proposed Kent County Family Courthouse in Dover

INTRODUCTION

Whether through a P3 or traditional approach, the Courts remain hopeful that executive branch and legislative leaders will put the needed Family Court facilities, along with potential renovations at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center, on a fast track to address the glaring security and safety issues at those downstate courthouses and space issues in Wilmington.

Involving the Bar in setting our future agenda

In early 2015, the Courts reached out to the Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) and the Delaware Chapter of the American College of Trial Attorneys (ACTL) to survey members of the Delaware Bench and Bar and others about court operations and to solicit suggestions on where the Courts might improve (tying into the Court's parallel effort to maximize its use of limited resources).

More than 100 members of the Bar, including judicial officers, were interviewed and more than 1,300 responses were collected in an online survey. This resulted in a detailed report released in May 2016, recommending a variety of reforms including changes in the rules governing interlocutory appeals and case management practices. It also led to legislation that modernized jurisdictional limits for several courts and the formation of a task force to review the Administrative Procedures Act.

Improving access to justice for all Delaware citizens and the justice system overall

Improving Access to Justice was the predominant theme of Chief Justice Strine's tenure. While many other states have formed Access to Justice commissions whose focus was on civil access issues particularly for the poor and indigent, Delaware was unique in that it expanded the scope to include criminal justice issues. A Committee on Fairness in the Criminal Justice System examined the disproportionately high number of African-Americans in Delaware's prisons and made

recommendations on how to address that disparity while maintaining public safety.

The public was also included in the work of the Delaware Access to Justice Commission, not only by having members of the public serve on the commission but also through a series of public hearings in the fall and winter of 2015. The Access to Justice effort touched on, contributed to, and guided many of the key Judiciary initiatives over the past five years and led to a number of notable successes including the implementation of a comprehensive reform of Delaware's bail and pretrial system and the founding of the Community Resource Center. Legislation reforming the pretrial system was passed in 2018 with an Interim Rule effective on January 1, 2019. Work also continues on addressing and implementing recommendations made in the September 2018 final report from the three civil justice subcommittees. This includes improving programs to increase legal assistance for the poor and the conversion of the law libraries at each of the county courthouses into self-help centers for people who do not have an attorney (co-located with a Community Resource Center). A final report from the Fairness Committee of the Access to Justice Commission is expected in the early months of 2020.

Addressing work-life balance issues for attorneys

In July 2018, the Delaware State Courts adopted a new standard designed to improve the work-life balance for legal professionals in the State. Foremost among the changes was an order that moved the filing deadline for State Courts in non-expedited cases to ease the burden of a late filing deadline on staff and attorneys. The Supreme Court also encouraged all courts to consider adopting other measures to ease the burden on legal professionals in the State. Some of the recommendations included things like avoiding setting important deadlines on Mondays or the day after a holiday and avoiding scheduling trials or oral arguments in August.

Continued on next page

INTRODUCTION

In his letter of resignation to Governor Carney, Chief Justice Strine wrote that his decision to leave the bench was “bittersweet,” but the main emotion he felt was gratitude. Specifically, gratitude to the people of Delaware for allowing him to serve, to the Governors who appointed him, to the dedicated public servants he worked with during his career with the State, and, in particular, to the hard working employees of the Judiciary.

“I am also grateful, Governor,” the Chief Justice wrote, “that I can say to you with confidence that the Judiciary of this state is strong, that we are addressing our challenging and diverse caseloads

with diligence, skill and dispatch, and that we are continually looking for new ways to serve the people of Delaware more effectively. In particular, the entire Judiciary is deeply invested in improving access to justice for all Delawareans, and doing what we can to improve the fairness of our criminal justice system. As Carrie and I move on to a new phase of our lives, I just hope that during my nearly 27 years of service to Delaware, I have contributed in some modest way to making our state stronger and more equitable.”

The Delaware Judiciary thanks Chief Justice Strine for his many years of service and wishes him well. ♦



Retiring Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. greets incoming Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. outside the historic Courthouse in Old New Castle before administering the Oath of Office.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

On October 24, 2019, Governor John Carney nominated the Honorable Collins J. Seitz, Jr. to replace outgoing Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., as the ninth Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court.

Two weeks later, meeting in a special session on November 7, 2019, the Delaware Senate approved the elevation of Justice Seitz to Chief Justice in a unanimous 21-0 vote.

Following the confirmation vote, Governor Carney described Chief Justice Seitz as “one of Delaware’s finest legal minds,” and praised him as a person who “has the judgment, sense of fairness, and experience necessary to maintain and build on the Delaware courts’ reputation as objective, stable, and nonpartisan.”

On November 8, 2019, in a small, private ceremony at the historic Courthouse in Old New Castle, retired Chief Justice Strine administered the Oath of Office to Chief Justice Seitz.

At his confirmation hearing Chief Justice Seitz promised legislators, “I will work hard, I will do my best. I will always keep the citizens of Delaware in my mind.” Chief Justice Seitz also told the members

of the Senate that the priorities outlined by Chief Justice Strine in his October budget presentation – namely the need for new Family Court facilities in Dover and Georgetown and the need for a new, modern e-filing and case management system for all Delaware Courts – remain his top priorities as Chief Justice.



Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

Chief Justice Seitz first joined the Supreme Court as a Justice in 2015 after his nomination to the bench by Governor Jack Markell. Before his appointment to the bench, Chief Justice Seitz was a founding partner of Seitz, Ross, Aronstam & Moritz LLP, where he regularly litigated corporate, commercial, and intellectual property cases, and advised clients on issues of Delaware corporate law. Before that, Chief Justice Seitz was a partner at Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP, where he practiced for more than three decades. During his years in private practice, Chief Justice

Seitz was well known in Delaware for his representation of the State in the United States Supreme Court case *New Jersey v. Delaware*, where Delaware prevailed in its claim to ownership of the Delaware River in the Twelve Mile Circle.

Continued on next page

INTRODUCTION

In addition to his work in the courtroom, Chief Justice Seitz has remained involved in his community. He has served as a trustee for the New Castle Presbyterian Church and as a board member of the Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107.

He has also served as a former board member and president of the Greater Hockessin Area Development Association, and as a former board member and president of Community Legal Aid Society.

Chief Justice Seitz carries on a family tradition of public service in the law. He follows in the footsteps of his late father, Collins J. Seitz, Sr. (1914-1998), who served on the Delaware Court of Chancery

as Chancellor and later as Chief Judge of the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Seitz's father was also a "Judge" of the Delaware Supreme Court as opposed to a "Justice" in that he served on the state's highest court during the years when the court was comprised of sitting trial judges from the Court of Chancery and the Superior Court. (In 1951, the Delaware Supreme Court became a separate court with its own Justices.)

In 1952 as Chancellor, Seitz, Sr. made national

headlines and legal history in the cases of *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Belton v. Gebhart* when he ruled that African-American students in Delaware were receiving an inferior education under the segregationist doctrine "separate but equal." The cases later went on to become a part of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* that ended segregation in all public schools in the United States. The Delaware cases were the only cases affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.

Following his confirmation hearing, Chief Justice Seitz said, "I know my father is looking down at me from heaven, and I know he would be proud."

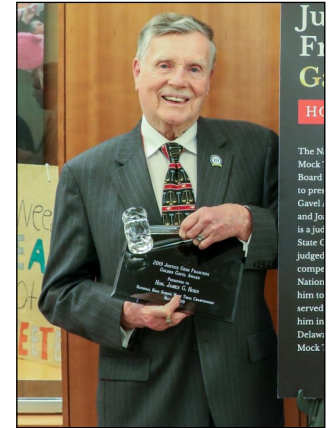
Chief Justice Seitz received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Delaware in 1980. He earned his law degree at the Villanova University School of Law in 1983 and was admitted to the Delaware Bar that same year. Chief Justice Seitz is married with three children. ♦



Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. takes the Oath of Office —as his wife Gail holds the Bible — administered by retired Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. on Nov. 8, 2019 at the Historic Courthouse in Old New Castle.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Arrivals and Departures



TOP LEFT: Judge Meghan A. Adams (center) at her investiture on Sept. 19, 2019, with former Chief Justice Myron Steele (left) administering the oath.

TOP CENTER: Retired Supreme Court Administrator Bill Montgomery receiving the Order of the First State with his wife Lyn Doto on Aug. 31, 2019.

TOP RIGHT: Justice of the Peace Court Judge James Horn who retired in October 2019 after 15 years on the bench.

CENTER LEFT: Family Court Judge Barbara D. Crowell who retired after 23 years with the court.

CENTER MIDDLE: State Court Administrator Amy Quinlan (standing) who retired in October.

CENTER RIGHT: Vice Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick (left) at her Jan. 18, 2019 investiture.

BOTTOM LEFT: Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn at her investiture on Jan. 4, 2019.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Court Events in 2019



TOP LEFT: Family Court Chief Judge Michael Newell and Supreme Court Justice Karen Valihura address a Wilmington meeting of the ABA on increasing *pro bono* representation.

TOP RIGHT: Community Court Coordinator Minda Thompson greets visitors to the August 2019 Community Resource Center Fair.

CENTER LEFT: A mural is unveiled outside the Dover courtroom for Veterans Treatment Court at the Kent County Courthouse in September 2019.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Students look on as attorney N. Christopher Griffiths (right) flips a coin to determine the final round sequence in the 2019 Delaware High School Mock Trial Competition.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Family Court Judge James McGiffin, (right) portrays Kris Kringle as Superior Court Resident Judge Richard Stokes presides in the 15th annual production of "Miracle on 34th St." by the Delaware Judiciary.



INTRODUCTION TO THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM



The Delaware Judicial Branch consists 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 Administrative Office of the 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 represents 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 in resources used to handle the matters and in speedier resolution of the issues at hand.

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 does not exceed \$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.

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$75,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction over all misdemeanors except certain drug-related offenses. It also handles motor vehicle offenses (excluding felonies). In addition, the Court is responsible for preliminary hearings in felony cases. Appeals may be taken to the Superior Court.

The Family Court has exclusive 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, Delaware's court of general jurisdiction, has original jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases except equity cases. The Court has exclusive jurisdic-

tion 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 various state agencies, boards and commissions. 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 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 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 State Court Collections Enforcement, provides services to the Delaware Judiciary that are consistent with the statewide policies and goals for judicial administration and support operations established by the Supreme Court.

Other state agencies associated with the Delaware Judicial Branch include: Law Libraries, Office of the Public Guardian, Office of the Child Advocate, Child Death Review Commission, and the Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission. ♦

THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

Supreme Court

- Court of last resort.
- 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.
- Jurisdiction over questions of law certified to the Supreme Court by other Delaware Courts, U.S. Supreme Court, a U.S. Court of Appeals, a U.S. District Court, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, or the highest appellate court of any state.

Court of Chancery

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

Superior Court

- Law 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/drug offenses involving minors).
- Involuntary commitments to Delaware Psychiatric Center.
- Intermediate appellate court from the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court (adult criminal), and various state agencies, boards, and commissions.

Family Court

- Extensive legal and equitable jurisdiction over all domestic relations matters, including divorce, custody, guardianships, adoptions, 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 certain serious offenses.

Court of Common Pleas

- Statewide jurisdiction in civil actions that do not exceed \$75,000.
- All criminal misdemeanors (except certain drug-related offenses) and motor vehicle offenses (except felonies).
- Responsible for preliminary hearings.
- Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court, Alderman's Courts, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Justice of the Peace Court

- Statewide jurisdiction over civil cases that do not exceed \$15,000.
- Jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (except felonies).
- May act as committing magistrate for all crimes.
- Jurisdiction over landlord/tenant (possession) disputes.



FISCAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL BUDGETS - FISCAL YEARS 2018-2020

GENERAL FUNDS - State Judicial Agencies and Bodies

	FY 2018 Enacted Budget	FY 2019 Enacted Budget	FY 2020 Enacted Budget
Supreme Court	\$ 3,437,400	\$ 3,434,700	\$ 3,508,400
Court of Chancery	3,265,700	3,948,100	4,024,800
Superior Court	25,752,000	25,728,800	26,408,300
Family Court	20,263,700	20,719,400	21,297,000
Court of Common Pleas	10,446,000	10,433,500	10,755,100
Justice of the Peace Court	19,024,200	19,063,700	19,538,900
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	3,794,100	3,789,700	3,849,000
AOC Custodial Pass-Through Funds*	2,111,800	2,113,100	2,921,600
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE)	598,500	597,600	614,300
Information Technology	3,853,300	3,850,800	3,899,900
Law Libraries	458,400	458,000	458,400
Office of the Public Guardian	680,800	679,800	800,400
Office of the Child Advocate	2,019,500	2,016,200	2,064,000
Child Death Review Commission	445,500	444,900	452,800
Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission	85,500	85,500	87,600
TOTAL	\$ 96,236,400	\$ 97,363,800	\$ 100,680,500

* These programs are included in AOC funding but are shown separately because they are pass-through funds. They include the CASA and Superior Court Appointed Attorney Programs, Interpreters Program, Victim Offender Mediation Program, Elder Law Program, and other funds. Technology Maintenance consists of pass-through funding to other state departments and vendors for equipment and services Branch-wide. Family Court Civil Attorneys were counted in this number until FY 2019 at which time the appropriation was transferred to Family Court. FY 2018 "Pass Through" totals were adjusted from the FY 2017 Annual Report, but the correction does not change the total reported appropriation.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* - FISCAL YEAR 2019

SUBMITTED TO THE STATE GENERAL FUND

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	Total
Supreme Court	\$ 97,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97,209
Court of Chancery	539,431	-	-	-	539,431
Superior Court	3,204,657	214,286	5,003	27,970	3,451,916
Family Court	234,517	22,422	-	3,440	260,379
Court of Common Pleas	2,006,019	379,197	-	56,806	2,442,022
Justice of the Peace Court	2,205,060	1,809,481	-	77,003	4,091,544
Office of State Court Collections DOC Fees**	792,727	-	-	-	792,727
State Total	\$ 9,079,620	\$ 2,425,386	\$ 5,003	\$ 165,219	\$ 11,675,228

SUBMITTED TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	Total
Superior Court	\$ 105,744	\$ 46,987	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 152,731
Court of Common Pleas	-	269,171	-	-	269,171
Justice of the Peace Court	-	2,398,605	-	-	2,398,605
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement	-	9,771	-	-	9,771
Counties and Municipalities Total	\$ 105,744	\$ 2,724,534	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,830,278

GRAND TOTAL	\$ 9,185,364	\$ 5,149,920	\$ 5,003	\$ 165,219	\$ 14,505,506
--------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------------------

* Figures represent only revenue actually received, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed. Figures include funds generated for the FY 2019 Fee Increase Spending Plan and other ASF spending authorizations included in the FY 2019 State Budget Act.

** OSCCE collected supervision fees on behalf of the Department of Correction (DOC).

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE - FISCAL YEAR 2019

RESTITUTION - FISCAL YEAR 2019

	Assessed	Collected	Disbursed
Superior Court	\$ 4,265,562	\$ 2,008,834	\$ 2,114,078
Family Court	122,223	174,760	192,695
Court of Common Pleas	1,237,783	788,784	811,332
Justice of the Peace Court	20,378	18,839	20,289
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement*(OSCCE)	-	40,199	38,474
RESTITUTION TOTAL	\$ 5,645,946	\$ 3,031,416	\$ 3,176,868

ASSESSMENTS AND COLLECTIONS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND

	Assessed	Collected
Superior Court	\$ 155,644	\$ 127,471
Family Court	3,498	2,541
Court of Common Pleas	396,544	333,116
Justice of the Peace Court	2,739,393	2,271,253
OSCCE	-	405
TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND TOTAL	\$ 3,295,079	\$ 2,734,786

COLLECTIONS ASSISTANCE BY THE OFFICE OF STATE COURT COLLECTIONS ENFORCEMENT ON BEHALF OF COURTS AND AGENCIES**

	Total
Superior Court	\$ 2,723,875
Family Court	273,619
Court of Common Pleas	326,131
Justice of the Peace Court	114,144
OSCCE Receivables	70,884
Department of Correction	792,727
Court of Chancery	6,457
Child Support	249,774
OSCCE ASSISTANCE TOTAL	\$ 4,557,611

* Figures represent all efforts made by the OSCCE on behalf of the Delaware Judicial Branch.

** These figures, in large part, overlap with amounts collected by the various courts and agencies, and should not be considered additional.

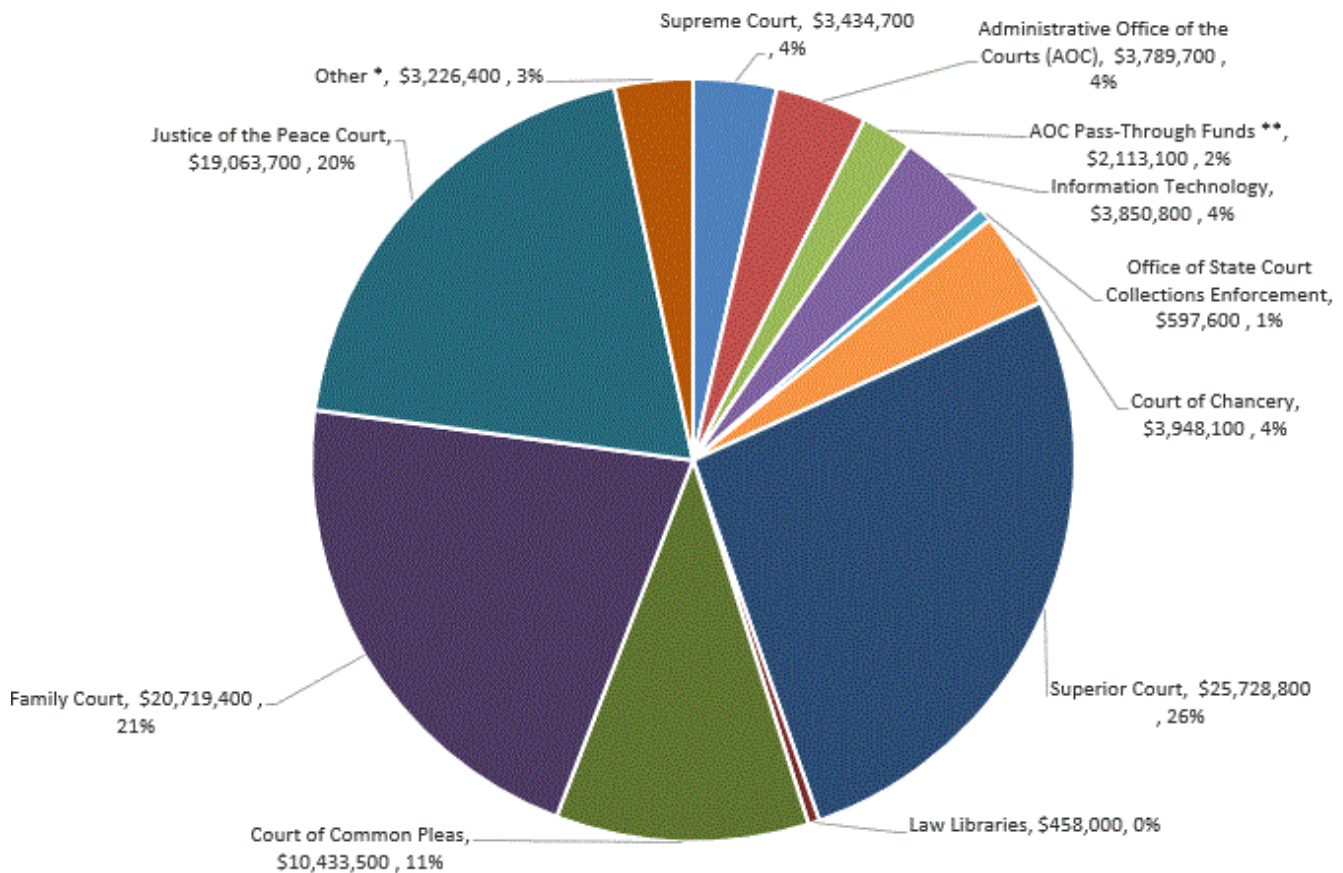
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2019

Public Education	\$ 1,481,992,200	34.7%
Health and Social Services	1,196,759,200	28.0%
Department of Correction	328,405,300	7.7 %
Higher Education	237,443,800	5.6 %
Children, Youth and Their Families	174,470,500	4.1 %
Safety and Homeland Security	137,527,100	3.2 %
Judicial Branch	97,363,800	2.28 %
All Other	616,819,500	14.4 %
TOTAL	\$ 4,270,781,400	100%

JUDICIAL APPROPRIATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2019



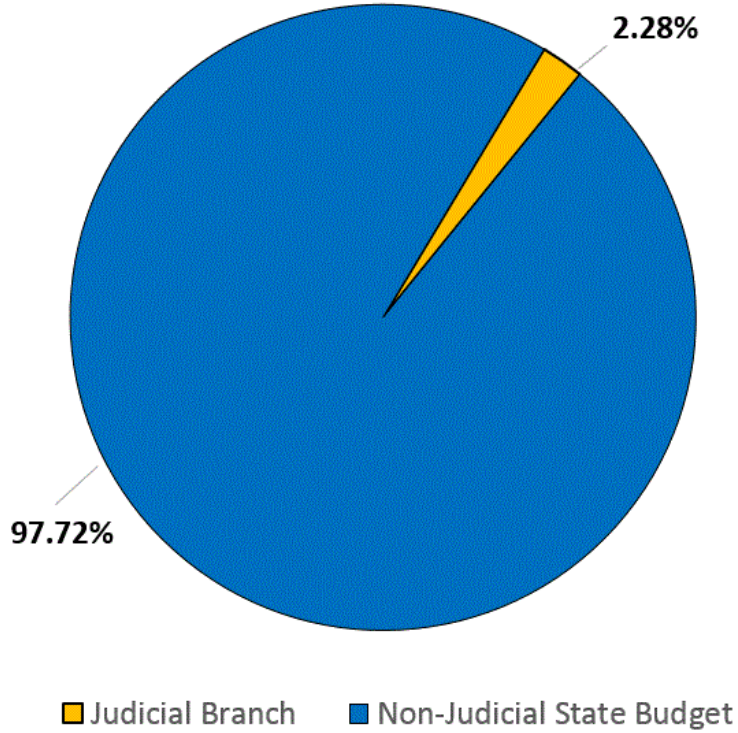
* Other: Office of the Public Guardian; Office of the Child Advocate; Child Death Review Commission; and Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission.

** AOC Pass-Through Funds consist of CASA Attorneys, Family Court Civil Attorneys, Court Appointed Attorneys/Involuntary Commitment, Interpreters, Victim Offender Mediation Program, Elder Law Program and DCAP Maint. Agreements (in IT).

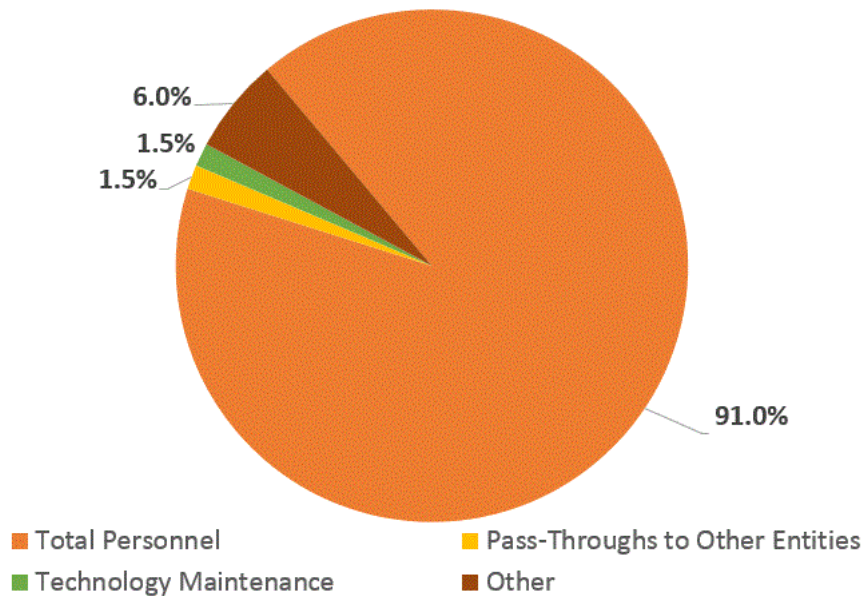
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

The Judiciary's FY 2019 appropriation is 2.28% of the State GF Budget.



The FY 2019 Judicial Branch budget breakdown: 91% Personnel, 1.5% Pass-Throughs to Other Entities, 1.5% Technology Maintenance, and 6% Other.



SUPREME COURT



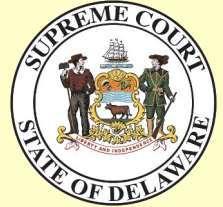
CHIEF JUSTICE COLLINS J. SEITZ, JR.

The year 2019 will be remembered as another year of change for the Supreme Court of Delaware as Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. and Supreme Court Administrator William S. Montgomery retired in the latter half of the year. Chief Justice Strine served as a judicial officer for twenty-one years, first as Vice Chancellor and then Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, followed by six years as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Mr. Montgomery served the citizens of Delaware for forty years,

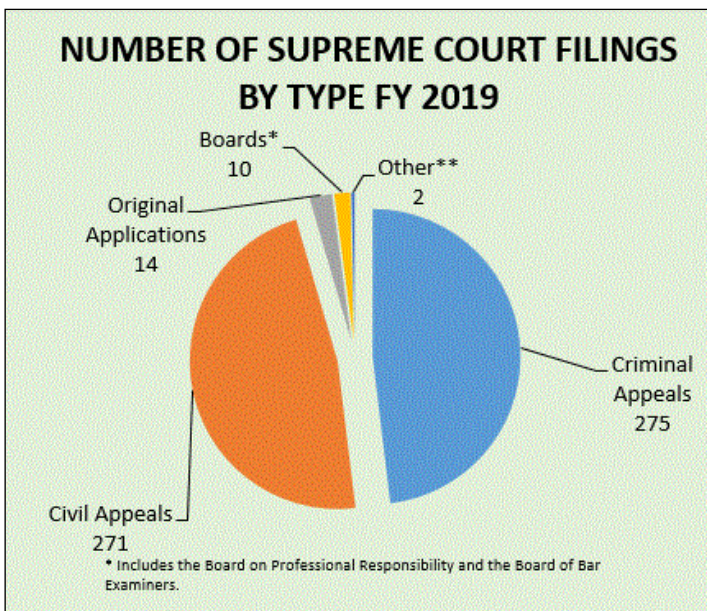
with five of those years as Supreme Court Administrator. In recognition of Mr. Montgomery's exemplary state service, Governor John Carney awarded him the Order of the First State, the highest honor for meritorious service bestowed by the Governor. Then-Governor Thomas Carper awarded Chief Justice Strine the same award in 2000. We thank former Chief Justice Leo Strine and Court Administrator Bill Montgomery for their service to the Court and to the State, and wish them the best in the next chapters of their lives.

While the Court bid these public servants farewell, the work of the Court continued and others were welcomed, including a new Chief Justice and Justice. On October 24, 2019, Governor Carney nominated Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. as the Court's next Chief Justice. The Delaware State Senate unanimously confirmed Justice Seitz's nomination on November 7, 2019. Justice Seitz's nomination and subsequent confirmation as Chief Justice

Continued on next page



SUPREME COURT



SUPREME COURT

created a derivative vacancy on the Court allowing Governor Carney to nominate Vice Chancellor Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves of the Court of Chancery to fill that vacancy. The Delaware State Senate then unanimously confirmed Justice Montgomery-Reeves on November 7, 2019 as the Court's newest Justice.

Justice Montgomery-Reeves was already a trailblazer in that she was the second woman to serve on Delaware's Court of Chancery and the first African-American to hold the position of Vice Chancellor. With her confirmation by the Delaware Senate, Justice Montgomery-Reeves is now the first African-American to join the Delaware Supreme Court. She is the third woman to serve on the Court.

Justice Montgomery-Reeves served as a Vice Chancellor of the Court of Chancery from November 2015 to November 2019.

Before her appointment to the bench, Justice Montgomery-Reeves was a partner in the Wilmington, Delaware office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, focusing on corporate governance, fiduciary duties, stockholder class action litigation, derivative litigation, and complex commercial litigation. Before that, she practiced in the securities and corpo-

rate governance department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York. Prior to joining Weil, Justice Montgomery-Reeves served as a law clerk for Chancellor William B. Chandler III.

Justice Montgomery-Reeves received her law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2006, and a B.A. from the University of Mississippi in 2003. She received recognition for her pro bono contribution to the Prisoners' Rights Project and previously served as a sub-committee member to the Delaware Access to Justice Commission.

Despite the significant changes, the Court's commitment to the timely disposition of the cases continued in Fiscal Year 2019. Litigants filed 572 new appeals and the Court resolved 643

cases by opinion, order, or dismissal. The Court decided appeals on average 32 days from the date of submission to the

date of final decision. In 99% of the appeals decided in FY 2019, the Court met the Delaware Judiciary standard for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. The Court resolved 85% of all cases within 290 days of the filing of a notice of appeal, and 96% of all cases within a one-year timeframe.



Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. administers the Oath of Office to Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, as her husband Jeffrey A. Reeves holds the Bible, and their son looks on at Howard High School of Technology in Wilmington on Jan. 3, 2020.

SUPREME COURT

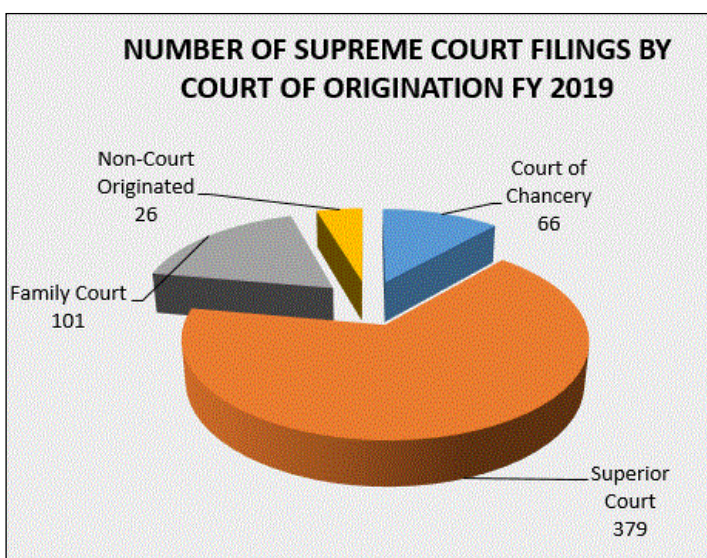
In other important developments, the Delaware Supreme Court adopted Supreme Court Rule 55.4 to permit military spouses to apply for a Certificate of Limited Practice in Delaware. In adopting this rule, the Delaware Judiciary joined thirty-four other States and the U.S. Virgin Islands by allowing the spouse of a service member to continue with their legal career in the state where their spouse is posted. Normally an attorney from outside of a state would have to pass the bar exam in that state to practice, or be eligible for admission by meeting other state specific practice requirements. This new rule allows the spouse of a service member, who is admitted as an attorney in good standing in at least one other state in the United States and whose spouse is posted in the state, the limited ability to practice law without taking the bar exam in Delaware if they meet certain requirements. Through this new rule, the Court recognizes the sacrifices military families make in the interest of our national security, and hopes that it will ease the burden when Delaware becomes the place of service.

The Court has also continued with its commitment to Access to Justice in 2019, most notably with Justice Karen L. Valihura and Family Court Chief Judge Michael K. Newell participating in a February 2019 meeting of the American Bar Association in Wilmington to encourage the legal community to embrace efforts to provide free legal representation to underserved individuals. Justice Valihura and Chief Judge Newell were both featured panelists in a discussion entitled, “Fearless Lawyering: How to Grow Pro Bono to Ensure Access to Jus-

stice.” The event was part of the ABA’s Children’s Rights Litigation Committee’s 2019 Listening and Appreciation Tour. The panel discussion followed opening remarks by ABA President Bob Carlson and Chair of the ABA Section of Litigation Gene Vance. Justice Valihura discussed how pro bono representation helps the community at large and explained the ongoing efforts – and the recent progress – by Delaware’s Access to Justice Commission, particularly in the areas focusing on increasing *pro bono* representation and increasing funding for community legal aid groups. “There are a lot of children that need help who aren’t getting it,” she told the crowd of attorneys.

Finally, in 2019, the Court welcomed Luke W. Mette as the new Chief Disciplinary Counsel for the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, an Arm of the Supreme Court. Mr. Mette joins the Arms of the Court after working as Wilmington’s City So-

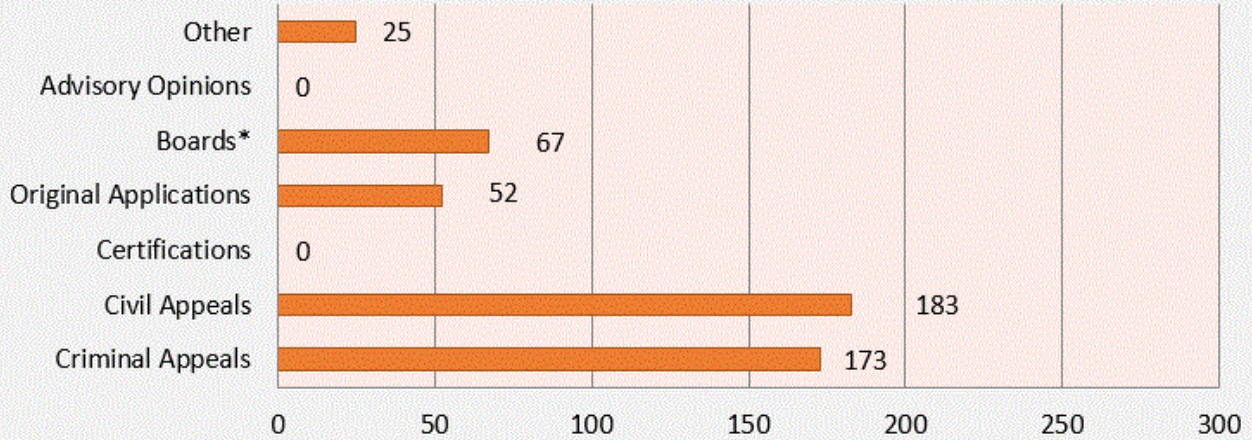
licitor. He is also an adjunct professor at Delaware Law School. Prior to working for the City, he was a partner at McCarter & English in the Business Litigation Practice Group. Before that, he worked for twenty-one years at AstraZeneca where he rose to the position of Deputy General Counsel. Mette has served on the Delaware Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission’s *Pro Bono* Subcommittee, the Delaware State Bar Association’s Executive Committee, and is a former president of the Carpenter-Walsh Delaware *Pro Bono* Inn of Court. Mette received his law degree from George Washington University and his undergraduate degree from Haverford College. ♦



Continued on next page

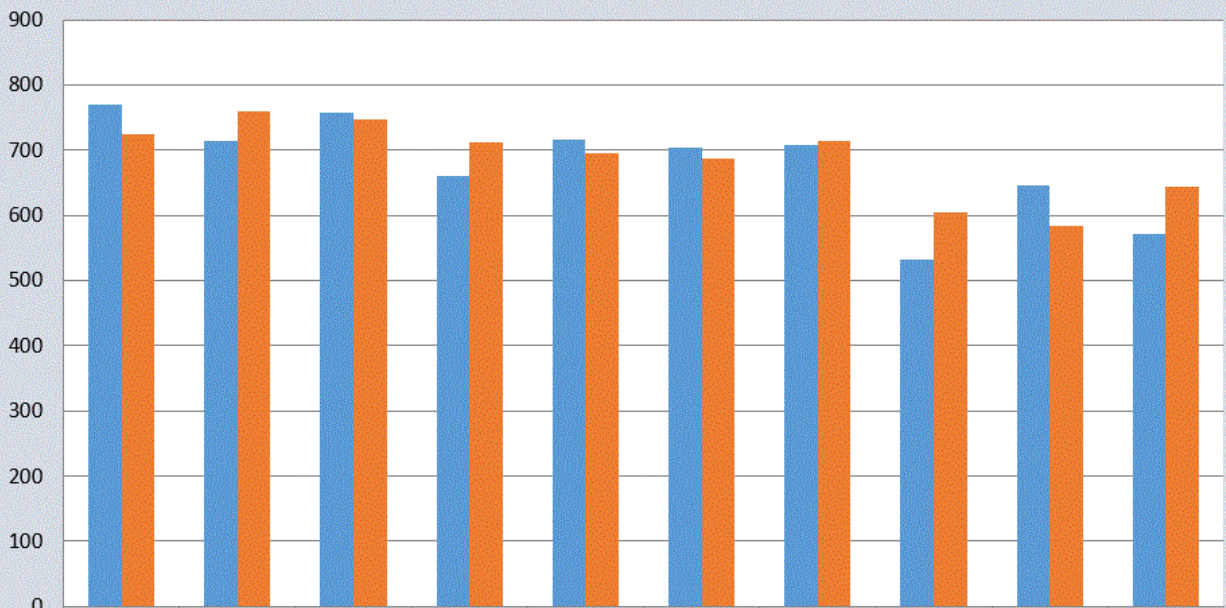
SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT FY2019 AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE



*Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.

SUPREME COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Filings	770	714	757	661	716	703	707	533	646	572
Dispositions	724	760	747	712	696	687	714	604	583	643

Continued on next page

SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Justices

Standing left to right:

Justice Gary F. Traynor
Justice Karen L. Valihura
Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.
Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves

COURT OF CHANCERY



COURT OF CHANCERY



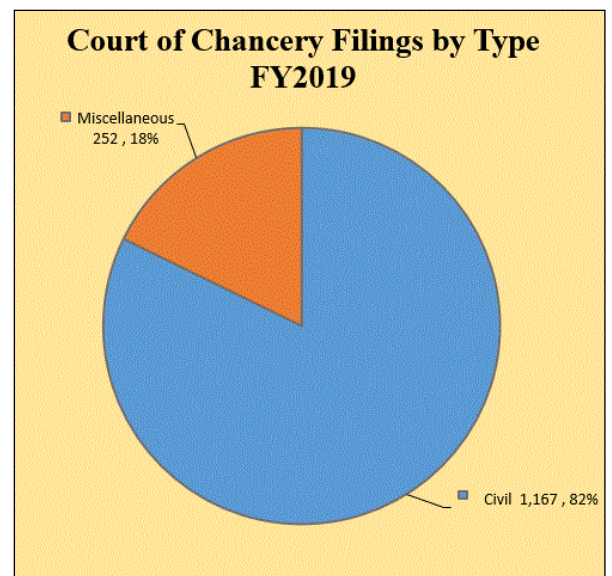
CHANCELLOR ANDRE G. BOUCHARD

The mission of the Court of Chancery is to administer justice by providing fair, prompt and well-reasoned decisions in all causes in equity and other matters within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Court of Chancery handles civil actions and civil miscellaneous matters. The vast majority of civil actions consists of corporate and commercial cases. The Court's constitutional judges, which increased in 2018 from five to seven members, handle most of the civil actions. These cases, which often involve multiple parties and complex disputes, consume the vast majority of the time and attention of the Court's judicial resources. In fiscal year 2019, total civil action filings increased by 22% compared to the prior fiscal year.

The civil miscellaneous matters largely consist of guardianship proceedings involving adults and the property of adults. The Masters in Chancery handle most of these matters. As the ultimate fiduciary for persons with a disability, the Court of

Chancery works every day to protect the most vulnerable in our society. In December 2018, the Delaware State Bar Association presented the Government Service Award to Renee Kinsey, Guardianship Case Management Supervisor, in recognition of her dedicated and distinguished service to Delawareans with disabilities and the support and guidance she provides to their caregivers and families.



COURT OF CHANCERY

There were a number of changes to the Court this past year. Selena Molina was appointed as a Master in Chancery to fill a vacancy when former Master Morgan Zurn was appointed Vice Chancellor. Before joining the Court, Master Molina was an attorney in the litigation department of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP. We are pleased to welcome Master Molina.

In October 2019, Governor John Carney nominated Vice Chancellor Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to serve as an Associate Justice on the Delaware Supreme Court. She assumed her new duties in De-

ember 2019. Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves served on the Court of Chancery since November 2015 and becomes the first African-American to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court. Always upbeat and personable, she will be missed by her Chancery colleagues and friends.

Sadly, former Chancellor William T. Allen passed away in October 2019. Governor Michael Castle appointed Chancellor Allen to the Court in 1985, where he served with the utmost distinction until 1997. Chancellor Allen oversaw the Court during a dynamic period of corporate takeover activity in the



Court of Chancery's 200th Anniversary (1792 –1992)

Pictured at this September 19, 1992 anniversary event were all living members of the Delaware Court of Chancery at that time with the exception of VC Isaac D. Short, who was unable to attend. (Titles are from 1992).

Back Row: VC William B. Chandler III; Ch. William Duffy (1966-73); VC Jack B. Jacobs; Ch. William T. Allen; VC Carolyn Berger (1984-94); VC Joseph T. Walsh (1984-85); VC Maurice A. Hartnett(1976-94); VC and Ch. Grover C. Brown (1973-85).
Front Row: VC George Burton Pearson, Jr. (1939-46); VC and Ch. Collins J. Seitz, Sr. (1946-66); Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey; USSC Chief Justice William Rehnquist; U.S. District Judge Walter K. Stapleton; VC Joseph Longobardi (1982-84); Ch. William T. Quillen (1973-76).

(Ch.=Chancellor, VC=Vice Chancellor)

Continued on next page

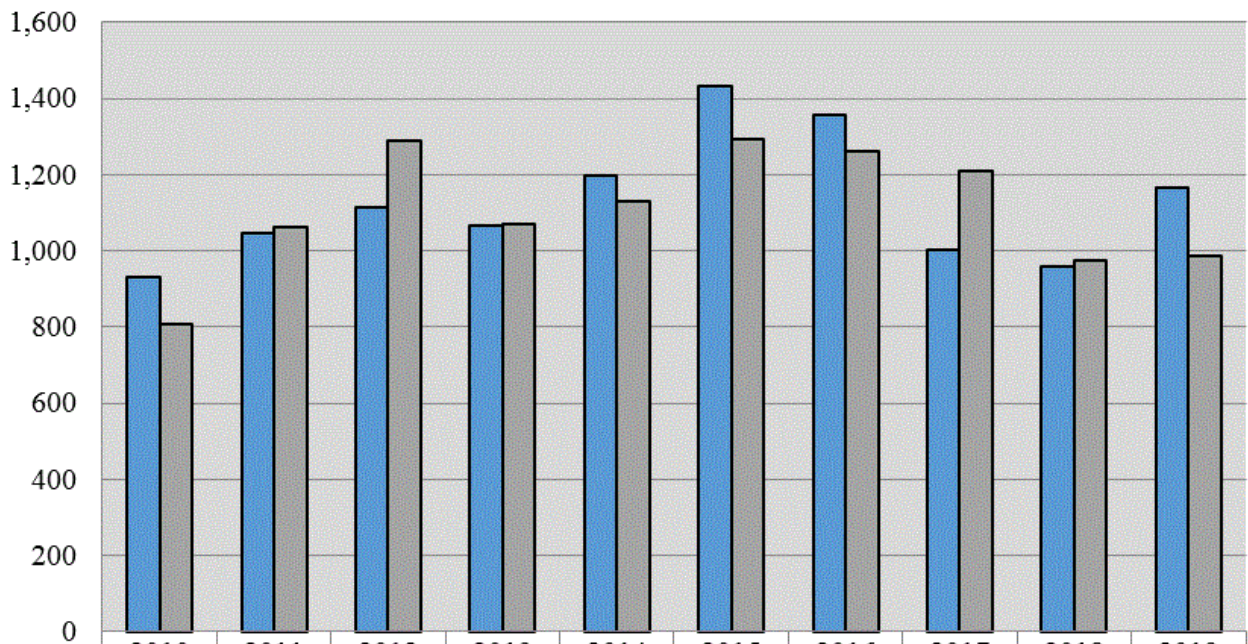
COURT OF CHANCERY

United States during which he and his colleagues helped reshape corporate governance standards to meet new challenges. During his tenure, the Court celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1992. Chancellor Allen served as Honorary Chairman of a special event to celebrate the milestone, where William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Allen’s understanding of corporate law was profound and he leaves behind a jurisprudential legacy of incisive decisions that fill law school textbooks today. The Court of Chancery offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Lastly, the Court would like to acknowledge Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., who retired from the

bench in 2019 after 27 years of service to the State of Delaware, including 21 years as a member of the Delaware Judiciary. Governor Tom Carper appointed Strine to serve as a Vice Chancellor in 1998. Governor Jack Markell appointed him Chancellor in 2011 and Chief Justice in 2014. During his tenure on the Court of Chancery, Chancellor Strine was known for his depth of preparation, keen insights into complex issues, razor wit, tireless work ethic, and carefully reasoned decisions—many of which were groundbreaking in the development of corporate law. We thank Chief Justice Strine for his remarkable service to our State and wish him well in his future endeavors. ♦

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



■ Filings	931	1,045	1,113	1,064	1,199	1,432	1,356	1,004	959	1,167
■ Dispositions	809	1,062	1,288	1,069	1,128	1,294	1,262	1,211	973	987

Fiscal Year

Continued on next page

COURT OF CHANCERY



Court of Chancery

Standing left to right:

Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slights III
Vice Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick
Vice Chancellor Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves (now Supreme Court Justice)
Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn

Sitting left to right:

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster
Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard
Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III

COURT OF CHANCERY

IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. ALLEN



The Honorable William T. Allen was appointed as Chancellor of the Court of Chancery by Governor Mike Castle in 1985 and served until 1997.

Chancellor Allen presided at a time when the takeover boom of the 1980s was in full swing and the Delaware Court of Chancery was the subject of intense national scrutiny. During that time, Chancellor Allen's decisions, often produced under extreme time pressure, were known for their lucid and lively writing style and incisive analysis. His rulings also showed a deep concern for the integrity of the law, the need for those with power to use it with fidelity to those they represented, and for their understanding of scholarship relevant to the matters before the Court. For that reason, Chancellor Allen was considered to be one of the finest corporate law judges of the era and, even more broadly, as one of the finest judges of his generation on any court. When Delaware most needed a Chancellor that could provide trusted corporate law

rulings that all would respect, it was fortunate to have Bill Allen in that critical position.

Before his appointment to the Court of Chancery, Chancellor Allen was in private practice at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell. After leaving the Court of Chancery, he served at the Jack H. Nusbaum Professor of Law & Business at New York University where he was also the founding director of the NYU Pollack Center for Law & Business — a center designed to be a bridge between the law school and the business school at NYU. Chancellor Allen also returned to private practice, serving Of Counsel, in the Corporate Department at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York.

He was 75.

“Chancellor Allen set a standard of excellence that made Delaware stand out in the eyes of all sophisticated observers. Bill Allen, the person, set a standard as a husband, father, friend, and caring professor to which we should all aspire. For me personally, he was a mentor, source of wisdom, and an inspiration. Everyone in Delaware owes him a debt of gratitude for what he did for our state, and our Judiciary's hearts are with his wife and children, as they endure the loss of this special man,” said retired Delaware Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

“Bill left us all with cherished memories of his leadership skills, energy and work ethic, intellect and enthusiasm for his and our work,” said retired Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, “He was an unsurpassed titan of the profession.”

“Bill Allen was a close friend and professional colleague, and will be recorded in history as one of Delaware's finest and most distinguished jurists,” added retired Delaware Supreme Court Justice Jack B. Jacobs, “The loss to me personally is beyond words.” ♦

SUPERIOR COURT



PRESIDENT JUDGE JAN R. JURDEN



SUPERIOR COURT

The mission of the Superior Court is to serve the public by providing fair, prompt and well-reasoned decisions in all matters coming before the Court. Our core values remain **Unity, Neutrality, Integrity, Timeliness, Equality, and Dedication.**

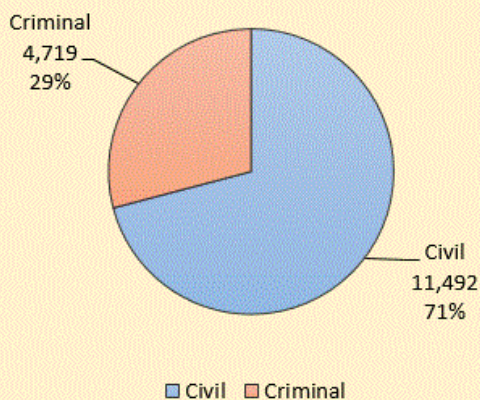
As Delaware's trial court of general jurisdiction, each year the Superior Court handles thousands of civil and criminal cases. Similar to preceding years, FY 2019 was a busy year for the Superior Court. The Court had 11,492 civil filings and 4,719

criminal filings. Twenty-eight First Degree Murder cases were filed in FY 19, and many complex multi-defendant, multi-count, gang participation and criminal racketeering cases were filed as well. Because of the number of defendants and attorneys involved in such cases, they often present significant logistical, staffing and scheduling challenges.

Trial by jury continues to be the bedrock of our criminal and civil justice systems. Every week, hundreds of jurors are summoned

for service in the Superior Court and the Court of Common Pleas in all three counties. In an effort to use technology to increase efficiency and make the process easier for prospective jurors, the Court has enhanced its Jury Management system. We now offer an online Juror Qualification Questionnaire and jurors have the ability to request excusals and postponements online. We have received very positive feedback from jurors regarding these enhancements. We continue to explore ways to min-

**NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT CASES
BY TYPE FY 2019**



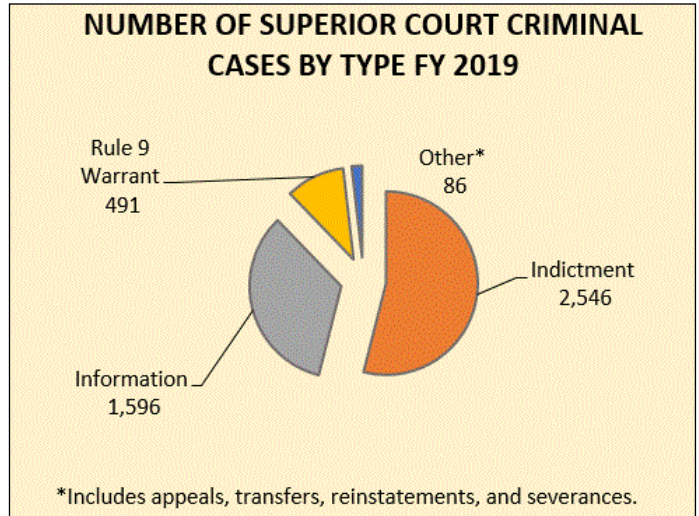
Continued on next page

SUPERIOR COURT

imize juror inconvenience and make the process more efficient and less stressful.

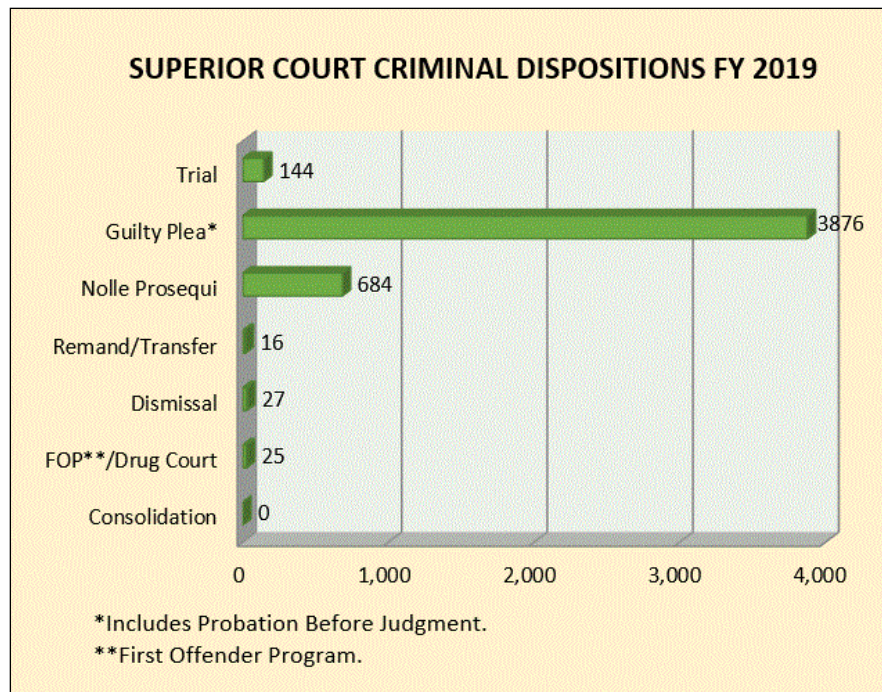
The Superior Court’s highly successful Complex Commercial Litigation Division (CCLD), now in its ninth year, saw a 39% increase in filings in FY19. These cases include commercial claims with an amount in controversy of \$1 million or more. Parties filing CCLD cases can expect trial date priority and, if requested, expedited scheduling. The CCLD judges are Judge Mary M. Johnston, Judge Eric M. Davis, Judge Paul R. Wallace and Judge Abigail M. LeGrow. In April, a delegation of six high-ranking judges from Taiwan met with President Judge Jan R. Jurden and the four CCLD judges to learn more about the Complex Commercial Litigation Division. Retired Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland hosted this delegation.

Judge Vivian L. Medinilla and Judge Jeffrey J Clark manage the Court’s large asbestos docket, with the able assistance of Special Master Matthew F. Boyer, Esquire. During FY19, there were 120 filings, 224 dispositions and 7,028 cases pending.



The Superior Court has a number of Problem-Solving Courts that strive to improve outcomes for the participating individuals, reduce recidivism and improve public safety. These include Mental Health Court (MHC), Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and Reentry Court.

The Superior Court continues in its efforts to improve the administration of civil and criminal justice in order to better serve the public. Our efforts include: training and education on evidence-based best practices; greater and smarter use of technology; and collaboration with the Bar, courts, agencies and stakeholders on innovative ideas to ensure equal justice for all, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety. By way of example, our staff attends Access to Justice committee meetings; is assisting with the conversion of the law libraries to self-help resource centers; and is adopting and implementing evidence-based best practices and bench books for our Problem-Solving Courts.



In FY19, the Superior Court held its sixth annual summer program for high school students. This weeklong program affords students an opportunity to

SUPERIOR COURT

observe civil and criminal trials, motions, pleas and sentencings, and to shadow judicial officers. The program not only provides a unique opportunity for interested high school students to learn more about our courts and how they operate, but also about potential careers in the civil and criminal justice system.

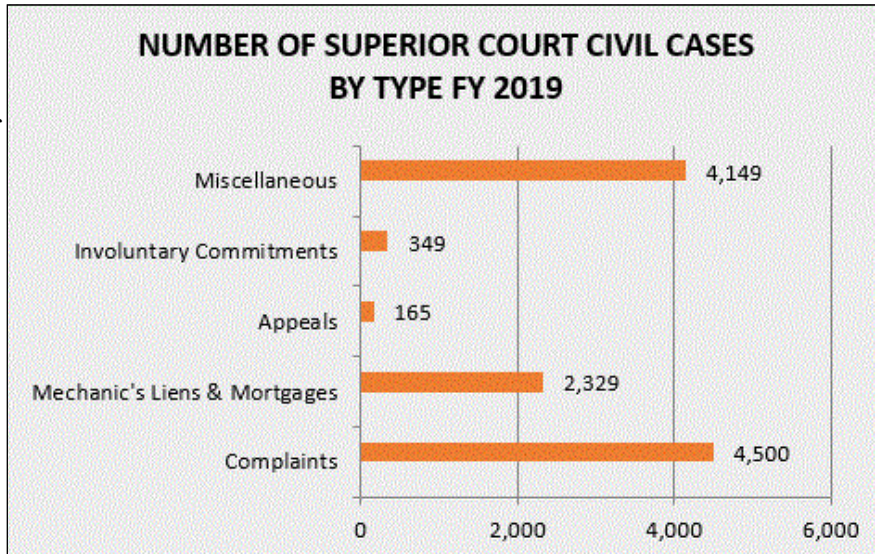
With the support of the Chief Justice and the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Judicial Information Center, the Superior Court continues to explore the use of technology to improve efficiency in all departments, and to ensure that our jury courtrooms are equipped with state of the art technology that meets the needs of our Bar and litigants. This remains a top priority.

We continue to review our criminal and civil court forms and processes in an effort to reduce redundancy, expedite processing, and standardize our processes. We are also developing training manuals to reduce learning curves for new employees. For example, the criminal division is developing a training guide outlining step-by-step procedures for all processes utilized in criminal cases. This training guide will enable new case managers to learn their duties and responsibilities more quickly and will educate them as to the purpose and importance of the procedures in the everyday functioning of the Court. This work will also be instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition to e-filing in criminal cases which we hope to implement in the next few years.

Each year the Superior Court issues thousands of orders and opinions which are published on the Court's website <http://courts.delaware.gov/opinions/>

We continually update our website in our concerted effort to keep the Bar and public informed, and to make the court system easier to navigate.

The Superior Court is fortunate to have extremely hardworking, dedicated and loyal staff who work tirelessly to maintain the level of superb service that litigants deserve and have come to expect. The Court is proud of our employees and the significant contributions they make.



Our Jury Services Judicial Case Processor Supervisor, Kenneth P. Creedon, was selected as Superior Court's Employee of the Year and the Judiciary's Employee of the Year. Governor John Carney presented Mr. Creedon with the Delaware

Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service on May 9, 2019. In June, Mr. Creedon was sworn in as the Prothonotary in New Castle County.

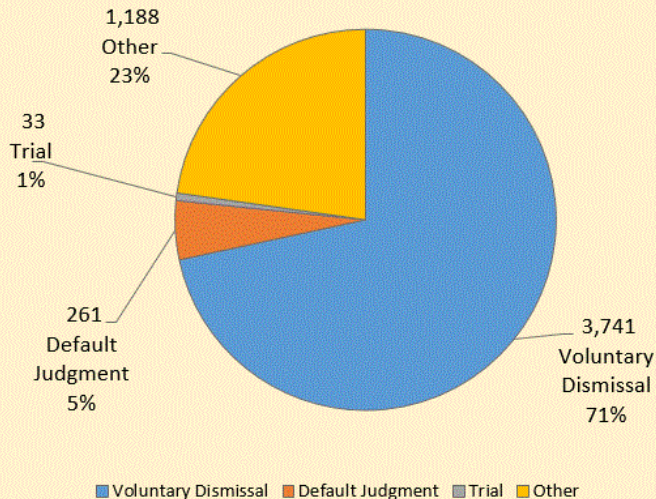
In January 2019, Joyce M. Collins, who served as the Prothonotary in Sussex County for more than 29 years, retired. Myrtle Thomas, the former Sussex Chief Deputy Prothonotary with 33 years of service to the state, was sworn in as Prothonotary in Sussex County. Ms. Leslie Rementer was named the new Sussex Chief Deputy Prothonotary.

In October 2018, Judge Richard F. Stokes was sworn in as the Resident Judge of the Sussex County Supe-

Continued on next page

SUPERIOR COURT

NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL COMPLAINT DISPOSITIONS BY METHOD FY 2019



rior Court. Resident Judge Stokes' appointment comes after the retirement of Judge T. Henley Graves. On October 22, 2018 the Superior Court welcomed Judge Craig A. Karsnitz as a Judge in Sussex County. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Karsnitz was a partner with the law firm of Young, Conaway, Stargatt and Taylor.

On January 23, 2019, the Court welcomed Commissioner Janine M. Salomone. Commissioner Salomone replaces Bradley V. Manning who now serves as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas. Prior to joining the bench, Commissioner Salomone spent 19 years in private practice, most recently as a partner with Potter, Anderson & Corroon, LLP.

Superior Court lost two cherished colleagues this past year: Commissioner Michael P. Reynolds passed away on March 27, 2019 and Judge John A. Parkins, Jr. passed away on May 24, 2019. The Court is grateful for their many years of distinguished loyal service and their friendship.

Notwithstanding heavy caseloads and staff turnover, our Court continues to work hard to provide exemplary service to the people we are honored to serve. ♦



Thank You Judge Cooch

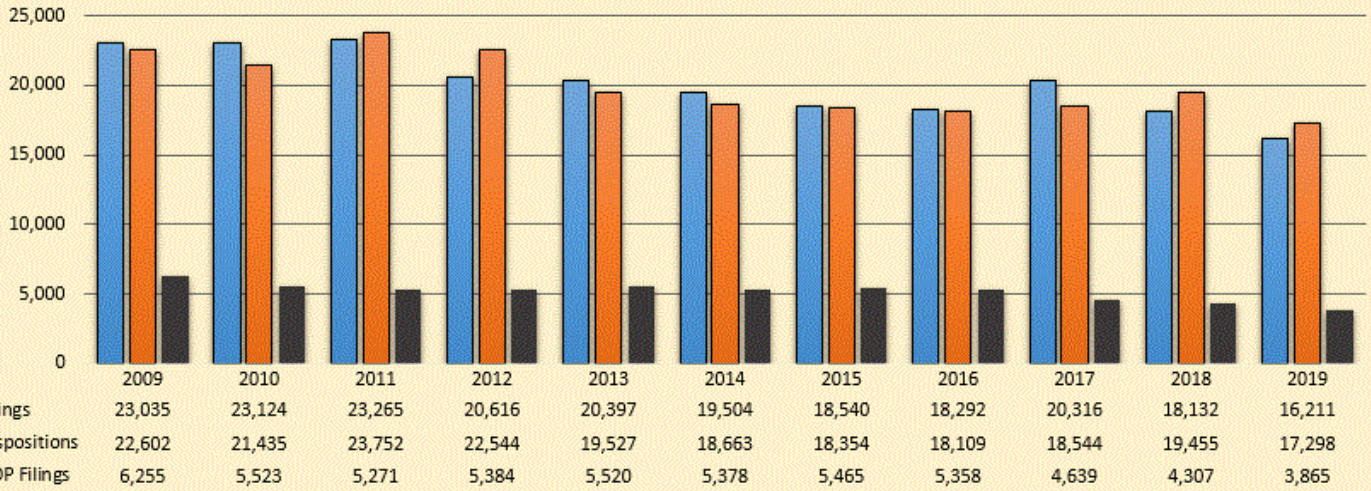
Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch retired effective January 1, 2020 after 27 years on the bench. Judge Cooch was appointed as a Judge of the Superior Court in 1992. He was then appointed as Resident Judge for New Castle County in 2000 and reappointed in 2012.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Cooch was in private practice for 15 years at the law firm of Cooch & Taylor. A lifelong Delawarean, Judge Cooch was admitted to the bar in 1973 after receiving his J.D. from the University of North Carolina Law School. He served as a Deputy Attorney General from 1974 to 1977 and was an attorney for the Delaware House of Representatives from 1979 to 1981.

The Court thanks him for his many years of distinguished and dedicated service.

SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL & CRIMINAL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



Continued on next page

SUPERIOR COURT



SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Front Row (L-R): Resident Judge William L. Witham, Jr.; Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch; President Judge Jan R. Jurden; Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.; Resident Judge Richard F. Stokes

Middle Row (L-R): Judge Charles E. Butler; Judge John A. Parkins, Jr. (deceased); Judge Calvin L. Scott, Jr.; Judge E. Scott Bradley; Judge Mary Miller Johnston; Judge Diane Clarke Streett; Judge Eric M. Davis

Back Row (L-R): Judge Sheldon K. Rennie; Judge Abigail M. LeGrow; Judge Ferris W. Wharton; Judge Vivian L. Medinilla; Judge Paul R. Wallace; Judge Andrea L. Rocanelli; Judge Jeffrey J. Clark; Judge Noel E. Primos; Judge Craig A. Karsnitz

The **Honorable Meghan A. Adams** was sworn in as a Judge of the Superior Court on September 19, 2019. Prior to her appointment, Judge Adams was an attorney at Morris James LLP. Judge Adams fills a vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable John A. Parkins, Jr.

SUPERIOR COURT



SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONERS

Standing (left to right):

Commissioner Janine M. Salomone

Commissioner Lynne M. Parker

Commissioner Alicia B. Howard

Commissioner Andrea M. Freud

Commissioner Katharine L. Mayer

Continued on next page

SUPERIOR COURT

IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE JOHN A. PARKINS, JR.



The Honorable John A. Parkins, Jr. was appointed to the Superior Court by former Governor Ruth Ann Minner and began service on August 21, 2008.

Judge Parkins clerked for the Delaware Supreme Court for former Chief Justice Daniel F. Wolcott and then-Associate Justice Daniel L. Herrmann. Afterward he became an associate at the now defunct firm of Murdock, Longobardi, Schwartz & Walsh.

At the age of 29 he became a Deputy Attorney General in the Delaware Department of Justice. He began representing the Department of Correction and was also Chief of the Appeals Division.

Judge Parkins worked in private practice for 23 years from 1985 through 2008 at the law firm of Richards Layton & Finger prior to his appointment to the Superior Court. Judge Parkins received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Delaware and his law degree with honors from Washington & Lee University. He also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army.

Judge Parkins once modestly remarked that his legal career was more a result of being fortunate and also a good deal of luck over merit. He was always appreciative and at times humbled by the lifetime of support from peers, mentors, friends and family. As he stated during his investiture, "for my entire lifetime I have considered myself to be the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

Judge Parkins retired from Superior Court on April 1, 2019. He passed away on May 24, 2019 at the age of 72. He was a person of the highest integrity and intelligence and he was always pragmatic with a pretty good sense of humor. His Superior Court family will greatly miss all the qualities he brought to our court not only as a consummate jurist but also as the truly dear and compassionate friend we all admired. ♦

SUPERIOR COURT

IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL PATRICK REYNOLDS



The Honorable Michael Patrick Reynolds was appointed by former Governor Thomas R. Carper and began service as a Court Commissioner of the Superior Court in and for New Castle County on October 17, 1994.

Commissioner Reynolds served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1966 to 1970 which included 13 months in Vietnam [Service: 1967-68].

He received his Bachelor's Degree with highest honors from the University of Delaware in 1974 and his Juris Doctorate from University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1977.

From 1977 to 1981, Commissioner Reynolds was an Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Wilmington. He was an associate in private practice with Wilson & Whittington from 1981 to 1983. He then served as Council Attorney for New Castle County from 1983 to 1985. In 1985, Commissioner Reynolds returned to the Law Department of the City of Wilmington as First Assistant City Solicitor. He served as City Solicitor from 1987 to 1993. He then served as Staff Attorney for the Majority Caucus of the State Senate in 1993.

Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Reynolds served as Labor Relations Specialist in the State Personnel Office. He chaired the Labor and Employment Law Section of the State Bar Association during 1993-1994.

Commissioner Reynolds retired from Superior Court on September 1, 2015. He passed away on March 27, 2019 at the age of 72. He will be dearly missed by his Superior Court colleagues. ♦

FAMILY COURT



FAMILY COURT

CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL K. NEWELL

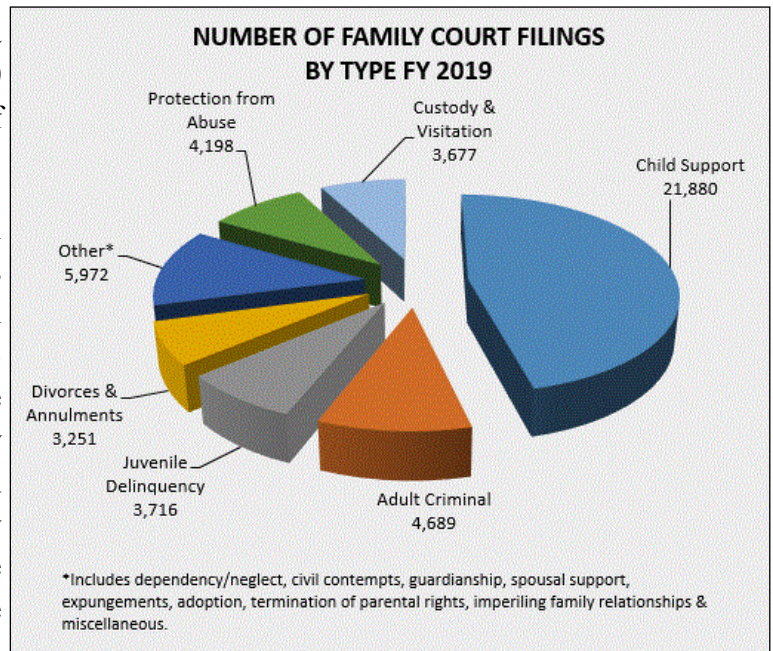


Family Court continues to be guided by its mission: to provide equal access to justice for the families and children under its jurisdiction in a manner that is fair and efficient and that maintains the public's trust and confidence in an independent and accountable judiciary. We strive each day to build an atmosphere that ensures all members of the public are treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect. Family Court continues to be a busy Court with over 47,000 filings and issuing in excess of 48,000 dispositions.

Family Court realized minimal change in annual filings this Fiscal Year. Overall filings in Family Court marginally decreased statewide by 0.2%. The Court's civil filings increased by 1.3%, and its criminal and delinquency filings decreased by 6.4%. By county, New Castle experienced a marginal increase

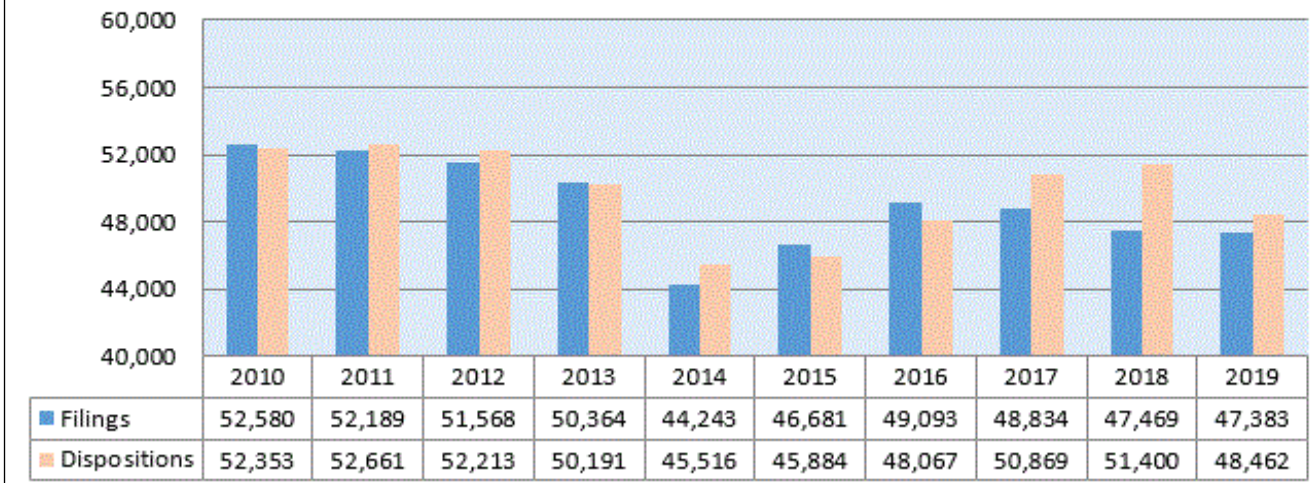
in its filings at 0.7%. Kent County experienced an increase in overall filings amounting to 3%. Finally, Sussex County decreased by 5% in total filings.

Child support filings represent the highest volume of filings for Family Court and the Court experienced the largest increase in this case type. Statewide, the increase in child support was 5.3%. This represents the



FAMILY COURT

FAMILY COURT CIVIL & CRIMINAL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



first increase in three years. There was an increase of 7.3% for New Castle County, 11.8% for Kent County and a decrease of 2.4% for Sussex County. Juvenile delinquency filings decreased by 13.1%, representing the largest decrease among all case categories. This is the third consecutive year of decrease, due in part to the creation and expansion of pre-arrest diversion programs such as civil citation. The decrease is also directly attributable to the increase in the number of offenses eligible for expungements.

In Fiscal Year 2019, Family Court was selected to participate as a National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (“NCJFCJ”) Implementation Site that will enhance our Court Improvement Program (“CIP”) work. Over the years, NCJFCJ has worked with 21 other state and tribal jurisdictions to improve their outcomes for children and families. As an Implementation Site, we will receive individualized assessments, training, and technical assistance from NCJFCJ to further support our ever-evolving child welfare practices. We were selected due to our

commitment and motivation to implement system reform efforts, our willingness to organize and form a strong collaborative team, and our desire to improve current court practice.

Family Court has entered the sustainability phase of the Family Court Enhancement Project. The project, which guided Family Court through improved practices in domestic violence, custody and visitation, was sponsored by the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, in collaboration with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Battered Women’s Justice Project, the Center for Court Innovation, and the National Institute for Justice. Helped by a newly appointed Domestic Violence Coordinator, Family Court has improved upon its Protection for Abuse (“PFA”) directional signage, case processing practices and the overall courthouse experience for litigants. The Family Court celebrated its successes and the end of the grant with a “round table” discussion on domestic violence with Governor John Carney on October 9, 2018. Governor Carney signed the proclamation

Continued on next page

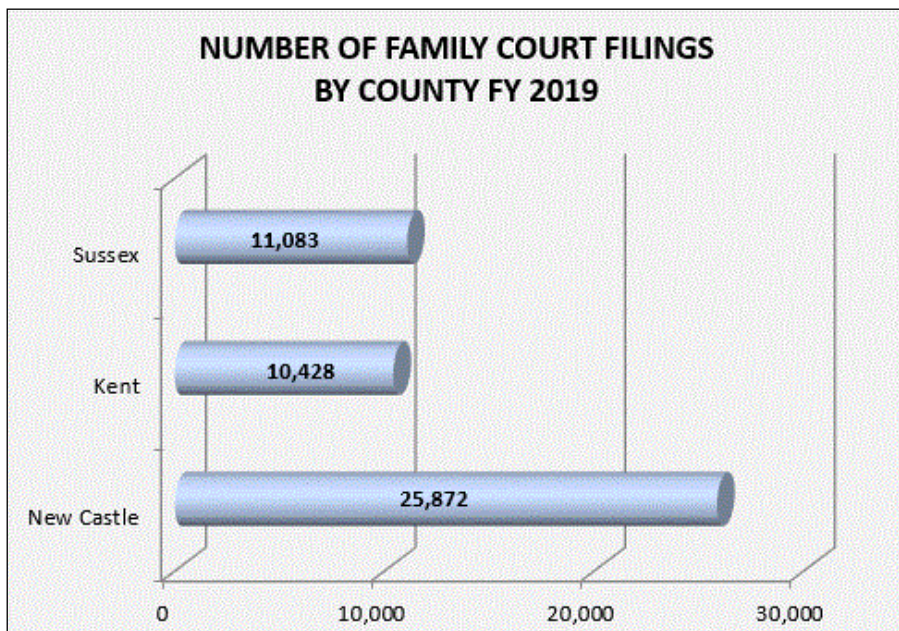
FAMILY COURT

declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the conclusion of the meeting.

Family Court continues to incorporate technology in its continuous effort to enhance access to justice for self-represented litigants. Originally established in New Castle County in 2017, the eCourtroom initiative expanded to Sussex County this Fiscal Year. The technology has provided litigants and attorneys the opportunity to present evidence electronically during court proceedings. This project came about as a joint effort among the Family Court, Richard Herrmann Esq., and Tom Russo and Dan Vink of doeLegal, Inc. Initial funding was complemented by the Richard K. Herrmann Technology American Inn of Court, and the Melson-Arshat American Inn of Court. A video series introducing the functionality and use of the eCourtroom to self-represented litigants and members of the Bar premiered on the Family Court website. Plans are to expand this technology to Kent County and additional courtrooms in both New Castle and Sussex Counties.

Family Court is continuing in its efforts to construct new Family Court buildings in Kent and Sussex Counties. The current buildings are undersized, undignified, and unsafe. These projects are critical in providing Family Court and the citizens of Delaware with adequate, secure and dignified facilities.

In October of this year, the Honorable Mark D. Buckworth was reappointed to a third term as a Family Court Judge in New Castle County. In addition, reappointed as Commissioners were the Honorable DeSales Haley (fifth term), the Honorable Loretta Young (fifth term) and the Honorable Jennifer Mayo (fourth term) in New Castle County. We thank them for their expertise and commitment to Family Court.



Family Court also welcomed a new Judge this Fiscal Year. The Honorable Michael W. Arrington took the oath of office in June 2019, serving in New Castle County.

Judge Arrington replaces the Honorable Barbara D. Crowell, who retired in June after twenty-three years on the bench in Family Court.

The Family Court is privileged to serve all citizens of Delaware, particularly its most vulnerable citizens, its children. The Court has a large caseload and hears some of the most intimate and sensitive issues that affect families, parents, and children. Our Judges, Commissioners, administration and staff strive to ensure equal access to justice for our citizens. We are proud of what we have accomplished in our court system during the past Fiscal Year and look forward to doing even more in the year ahead. ♦

FAMILY COURT



FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Front Row (from left to right): Judge Janell S. Ostroski, Judge Michael W. Arrington, Judge Natalie J. Haskins, Judge Paula Ryan, Judge Mark D. Buckworth, Judge Jennifer B. Ranji, Judge James G. McGiffin, Jr.

Middle Row (from left to right): Judge Joelle P. Hitch, Judge Louann Vari, Judge Kenneth M. Millman

Back Row (from left to right): Judge Arlene Minus Coppadge, Judge Peter B. Jones, Chief Judge Michael K. Newell, Judge Robert B. Coonin, Judge Mardi F. Pyott

Not Pictured: Judge Felice Glennon Kerr, Judge Mary S. Much

Continued on next page

FAMILY COURT



FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONERS

Front Row (from left to right): Commissioner DeSales Haley, Commissioner Para Wolcott, Commissioner Danielle S. Blount, Commissioner Emily Farley, Commissioner Loretta Young, Commissioner Samantha Lukoff, Commissioner Craig Fitzgerald

Middle Row (from left to right): Commissioner Kim DeBonte, Commissioner Sonja Wilson, Commissioner Theresa Sedivec, Commissioner James Maxwell

Back Row (from left to right): Commissioner Jennifer Mayo, Commissioner David Jones, Chief Judge Michael K. Newell, Commissioner Andrew Southmayd, Commissioner Gretchen Gilchrist

Not Pictured: Commissioner Susan Tussey

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



CHIEF JUDGE ALEX J. SMALLS

Since its inception in 1973, the statewide Court of Common Pleas has continued to expand and evolve to fulfill the Court’s mission of providing a neutral forum for the people and institutions of Delaware, in the resolution of everyday problems, disputes, and more complex legal matters in a fair, professional, efficient, and practical manner.

FY 2019 was no exception, marking a year of discernable growth in the Court. Today, the Court’s jurisdiction is more encompassing than ever before, the nature of the cases

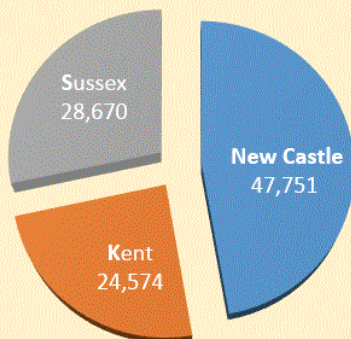
filed in the Court have continued to grow in complexity, and the number of cases proceeding to trial continues to rise. As a result, the Court has been especially challenged to balance the needs of litigants with the ever-increasing demand on the Court’s limited resources.

Civil Initiatives

Civil case filings in the Court of Common Pleas have leveled off since the record-high figures seen in FY 2018, but the Court has continued to maintain a remarkably heavy civil caseload. In FY 2019, the Court received 8,004 new civil complaints, in addition to 4,229 civil judgments, name changes, and appeals.

Consumer debt collection cases make up the bulk of the Court’s civil caseload. In FY 2019, consumer debt cases became a slightly smaller portion of the court’s caseload, decreasing from 86.3% of civil cases filed in FY 2018 to 85.7% of all civil case filings in FY 2019. However, consumer debt filings have continued to increase since FY 2013, when

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL & CRIMINAL
FILINGS BY COUNTY FY 2019**



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Continued on next page

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

the Court adopted Administrative Directive 2012-2 setting forth procedural guidelines in consumer debt collection cases with the goal of ensuring fairness to all litigants and improving efficiency in the administration of justice. In FY 2019, 6,859 consumer debt cases were filed in the Court of Common Pleas — up 80.1% since FY 2013.

Criminal Initiatives

The criminal misdemeanor filings in the Court of Common Pleas in FY 2019 was 88,762 and there were 7,739 preliminary hearings scheduled. These figures represent a 3.5% decrease in criminal misdemeanor filings and a 3.3% decrease in total criminal caseload compared to FY 2018.

While the criminal caseload has declined, the types of cases filed in the Court are considerably more complex than in years past.

Traffic cases now make up a smaller share of the total caseload in each county. In FY 2019, there were 35,190 traffic charges filed in the Court of Common Pleas. This is a 5.4% decrease from the 37,194 filed in FY 2018. However, the overall misdemeanor filing total decreased by only 3.5% during the same period, and the growth rate of drug and alcohol cases has consistently outpaced other criminal filings. Statewide DUI transfers increased 43.9% — growing from 1,970 to 2,835 — between FY 2013 and FY 2019. In Sussex County, the portion of the Court’s caseload consisting of misdemeanor drug cases has doubled, from 5% of the county’s total caseload to 11%, between FY 2012 and FY 2019.

In FY 2019, legislation passed which requires the Courts to implement a pre-trial assessment tool when making initial bail decisions. The tool, called the Delaware Pretrial Assessment Tool (“DELPAT”) was adopted in Court of Common Pleas. The DELPAT was introduced to increase the reliability and equity of decisions about pre-trial release.

The Court has also been working diligently with the Judicial Information Center (JIC) and across courts to create an electronic sentencing order that will be transmitted automatically to the Department of Correction (DOC) in real time. The institution of the

electronic sentencing order will save the Court time by not requiring that sentence orders be separately scanned and sent to the DOC. Additionally, the electronic sentencing order will be unified across Courts in a consistent format making it easier for staff to input data at DOC.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

cases are among the most time-consuming events handled by the Court. In FY 2019, the part of the Court’s criminal caseload consisting of DUI cases decreased by 0.1%. From FY 2013 to FY 2019, the number of DUI cases transferred to the court increased by 43.9% statewide. All three counties have experienced the case type change which required additional time to adjudicate. While statewide DUI transfers increased by 43.9%, the number of DUI transfers in Sussex County rose 77.7% during the same period. This significant increase is being evaluated and addressed as we move forward.



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

The new jurisdictional and programmatic changes have adversely affected the courts ability to handle these matters. These cases require more courtroom time, have a higher than average number of court events, and often require multiple court staff to process the case from filing to disposition.

The Department of Justice continues to aggressively review felony cases at preliminary hearings and, as appropriate, resolve those in the Court of Common Pleas. This effort has a positive effect on the entire criminal justice system because it eliminates the need for these cases to be handled twice in the Court of Common Pleas and once in the Superior Court; which occurs when felony charges are reduced to misdemeanors and returned to the Court after being bound over following preliminary hearings.

Mediation Program

The Court of Common Pleas Mediation Program serves as a valuable resource for criminal disputants, civil litigants, and the community at large. The program provides an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) option within the Court and serves a significant number of clients throughout the state. This ADR option is particularly valuable to indigent populations who otherwise cannot afford the cost of private ADR services. In addition, the program serves as an ADR educational resource for attorneys studying for the Delaware Bar exam or Mediation Certification, and assists local police agencies to resolve neighborhood disputes.

In FY 2019 there were 824 referrals to mediation, however since 2001, there has been over 19,399 cases referred for mediation. Mediation provides an alternative to criminal prosecution, assists the court in the management of its busy calendars, and leaves participants with an increased sense of satisfaction with the justice sys-

tem. In FY 2019, the court's mediation program had a success/satisfaction rate of 91%.

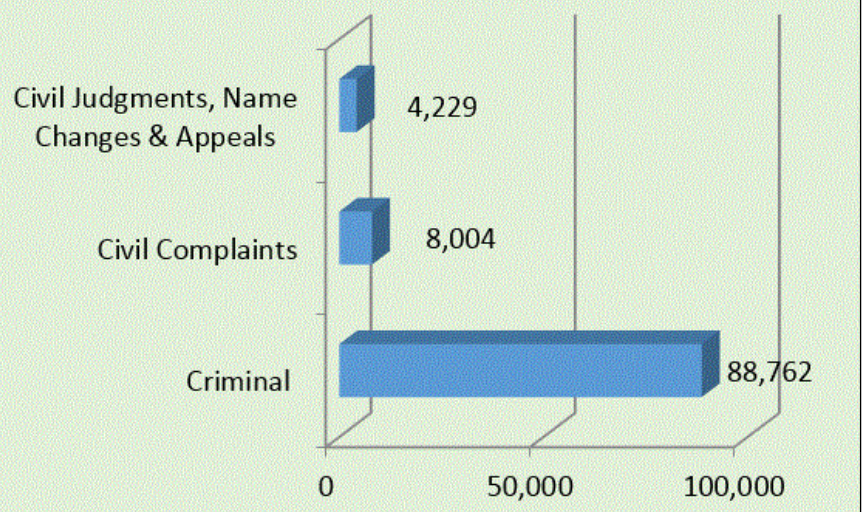
The court has also expanded the Community Mediation Program, to receive referrals from the New Castle County Police community section and municipalities seeking mediation assistance with minor neighborhood disputes, rather than referring matters for criminal or civil litigation. The expansion has created a positive relationship with the community at large.

Problem Solving Courts

A) Consolidation

In FY 2015, the Chief Justice appointed a committee of treatment court judges to work with evaluators from American University to study the effectiveness of the Judiciary's treatment courts. The study made several recommendations for improvements to the courts, most notably the consolidation of Drug Diversion Court in the Court of Common Pleas, and the Mental Health Court in the Superior Court, for more efficient use of available resources. The consolidation of Drug Court and Mental Health Court was completed in October of 2015, with the final revision

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS NUMBER OF FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2019



Continued on next page

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

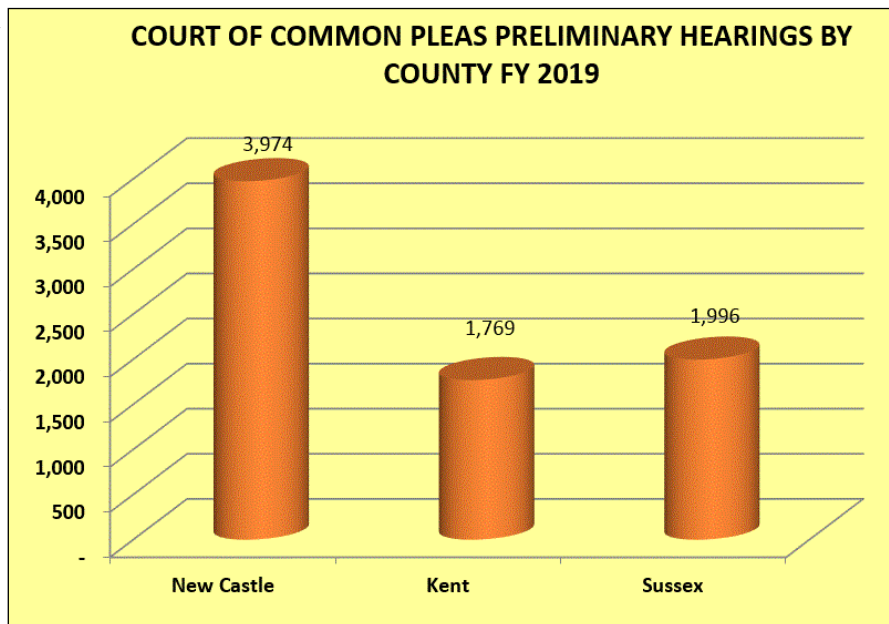
to permit diversion of felony offenses to take place in January of 2017. Legislation also made Possession of Marijuana for personal use a Civil Violation, allowing the Court and treatment resources to be focused on more serious drug offenses.

B) Drug Diversion

The Court continued to operate its highly successful court-supervised comprehensive Drug Diversion Program for non-violent offenders. This program is under the direction of Judge Robert H. Surlis in New Castle County, Judge Charles W. Welch III in Kent County and Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr. in Sussex County. The Drug Diversion Program represents a collaborative effort between the Court of Common Pleas, the Department of Justice, the Office of Defense Services, the private bar, treatment providers,

and the Treatment Research Institute (TRI) of the University of Pennsylvania. (The TRI program is limited to New Castle County). Collaboration with the TRI provides observation, research, and data analysis, which has assisted in launching scores of other drug diversion programs throughout the United States and internationally. The Court of Common Pleas Drug Diversion Program has served more than 8,975 participants since its inception in 1998. This voluntary program includes regular appearances before a judge, participation in substance abuse education, drug testing, and treatment.

To enhance its ability to identify eligible participants, the New Castle County Drug Diversion Program introduced in July 1, 2010, the “RANT Assessment” instrument. “RANT” is an acronym for Risk and Needs Assessment Triage. The assessment is used to assess the individual’s risks and needs. Based upon the results, a defendant is placed into one of four treatment quadrants: low risks/low needs; low risks/high needs; high risks/low needs; and high risks/high needs. Identifying these risks/needs gives the court a basis to tailor the individual treatment needs of the client, enhance successful program completion, and to reduce recidivism.



C) Mental Health Court

The Court of Common Pleas under the direction of Judge Carl C. Danberg, evaluates cases in the Court of Common Pleas for eligibility to enter Superior Court’s Mental Health Court program. The evaluation process involves ordering and analyzing

mental health evaluations and determining competency before referral.

D) DUI Court

The Court of Common Pleas continues to operate the DUI Treatment Court Program in New Castle County, under the direction of Chief Judge Smalls, and previously, with Judge Sheldon K. Rennie. The Court accepted its first participants on December 19, 2014. In FY 2019, in New Castle County there were 62 active participants in the program; to date,

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

182 individuals have entered the program, 138 individuals have successfully completed the program, and 13 individuals have been terminated from the program. On February 2, 2018, DUI Court was expanded to Kent County Court of Common Pleas under the direction of Judge Charles Welch III and Commissioner Donald Bucklin; to date, 29 individuals have entered the program, 14 individuals have successfully completed the program and 2 individuals have been terminated from the program. To be eligible, the DUI must be a first offense with a high blood alcohol content (BAC) level or a second DUI offense; the DUI must not have resulted in severe bodily injury or death; the individual is subject to the DUI-RANT Assessment and must be within the High Risk/High Needs quadrant, and; the individual must plead guilty to the offense.

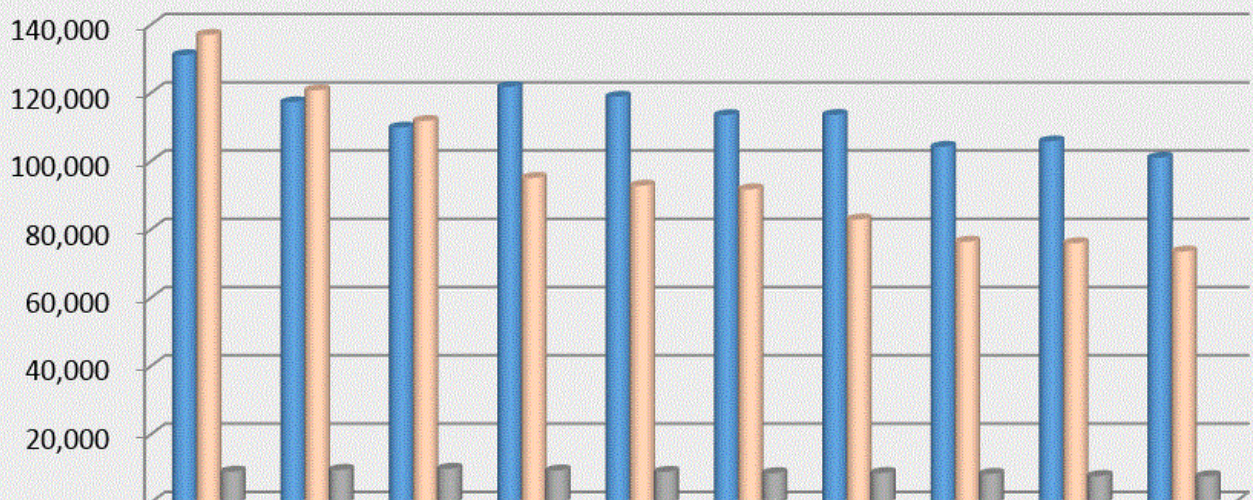
The program is authorized under 21 Del. C. § 4177(d) (2), and its goal is to enhance the community through the promotion of lifestyle change with specialized

treatment. The treatment program requires all participants to be evaluated by Brandywine Counseling & Community Services and complete the treatment. Specifically, they participate in the Prime Solutions Program, a motivational intervention approach to address alcohol or drug problems which encourage participants to change their behavior. Participants also are required to complete 240 hours of community service.

E) Community Court

The Court of Common Pleas is collaborating along with other courts in the judiciary, justice partners, state service agencies and community groups to establish a Community Court in the City of Wilmington. The judiciary established a Community Court Steering Committee to participate in Community Court Planning, on which the Court of Common Pleas has representatives; the Steering Committee is comprised of other Court's representatives, justice

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL & CRIMINAL FILINGS, DISPOSITIONS & PRELIMINARY HEARINGS BY FISCAL YEAR



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Filings	131,073	117,252	109,836	121,752	118,864	113,471	113,547	104,205	105,796	100,995
Dispositions	137,037	120,782	111,815	95,102	92,834	91,781	82,939	76,435	76,012	73,535
Preliminary Hearings	9,066	9,590	9,917	9,398	9,011	8,621	8,689	8,402	7,798	7,739

Continued on next page

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

partners, social service providers and community group members. The purpose of the committee is to “provide oversight to the planning process, guide the direction of the Community Court through the resolution of pertinent issues, and to assist in the development of necessary partnerships with the community and other entities.” The goal of Community Court is to build a stronger/improved relationship between the criminal justice system and the members of the community, by engaging the community members and focusing on criminal justice issues they identify as a concern.

The Community Resource Center was completed and opened on the second floor of the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center (formerly, the New Castle County Courthouse). The resource center will bring the justice center and many other service providers together in one location. Justice involved individuals will have immediate same site access to make connections with a variety of service providers to address needs ranging from education, mental health, substance abuse, housing, and food. One of the primary focuses of the resource center will be connecting offenders with employment. Job training, resume writing, and connecting defendants with employers willing to give them a second chance to reenter the workforce will all be accessible at the center. The resource center will not only be a resource for defendants as the center will be open to anyone in the community looking to be connected to needed services. This is an innovative way to restore the relationship between the justice system and the communities it services to improve access to justice and the public’s trust and confidence in the legal system. The Court of Common Pleas is prepared to begin accepting cases to the Community Court Calendar in FY 2020.

Technology Innovation

In March 2017, the court launched its new Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) to provide self-service options to customers 24 hours per day. The IVR has also significantly improved productivity and reduced

costs to the court by freeing up staff time and providing a reduction in “soft costs” of lost time and mismanaged labor. During FY 2019, the IVR system received an average of 86 calls per day, including calls on weekends and holidays, and reduced the number of callers who hung up after being placed on hold by nearly two-thirds.

Enforcement of Court Orders

In FY 2019, the Court of Common Pleas collected approximately \$5,714,985 in fines, costs, and assessments. A significant portion of the Court’s collections represents restitution payments to victims of crime.

The Court has a memorandum of understanding with the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) to assist in funds collection. OSCCE collected \$13,911 through kiosk transactions in FY 2019. These community-based service kiosks reduce the need for the public to travel to the courthouse to pay court costs and fines, saving both the public and court staff time.

Conclusion

Notwithstanding the challenges of managing a large and increasingly complex caseload, Judges and staff remain committed to “the mission of the Court of Common Pleas to provide a neutral forum for the people and institutions of Delaware in the resolution of everyday problems, disputes, and more complex legal matters in a fair, professional, efficient and practical manner.” ♦



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS COMMISSIONERS



Standing left to right:
Commissioner Mary McDonough
Commissioner Donald Bucklin

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUDGES



Front row (standing left to right):

Judge Anne Hartnett
Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
Judge Rosemary Betts
Beauregard
Judge Carl C. Danberg

Back row (standing left to right):

Judge Charles W. Welch III
Judge John K. Welch
Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr.
Judge Robert H. Surles
Judge Bradley V. Manning

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

CHIEF MAGISTRATE ALAN G. DAVIS

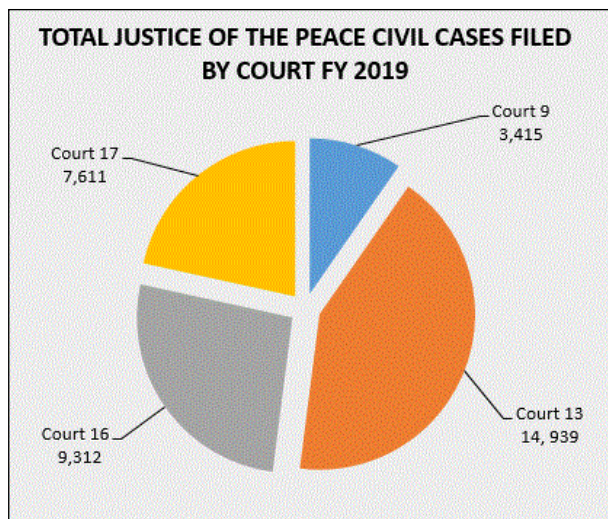


In my message contained in last year’s annual report, I talked about what a “resourcefully innovative” organization the Justice of the Peace Court is. We take the limited tools we have at our disposal and put them to work for the benefit of our users, our staff and the public at large to create new processes and improved outcomes. This year’s message will echo some of that, but add a dash of another Justice of the Peace Court characteristic – adaptability.

Last year I briefly mentioned a new process we were testing to allow police officers to use electronic signatures to swear to warrants. We were also working through the logistics of using Skype in lieu of our regular videophone system, to allow officers to swear to a warrant from the road. I am pleased to say that this past fiscal year saw the statewide rollout of the electronic warrant swear-to process and expanded use of Skype by a number of approved police agencies.

Here is how the process works. An officer writes an arrest warrant application in the Law Enforcement Investigative Support Service (LEISS), as they have for years.

The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) has built a dashboard for our judges to log into to see warrant applications as they are queued up for their particular court location. The judge selects and reviews the warrant online for probable cause and then either preliminarily approves or rejects the warrant. An email is sent to the officer indicating the judge’s decision. If the warrant is preliminarily approved, the court initiates either a videophone or a Skype call with the officer to swear the officer to the contents of the warrant. Once sworn to, the judge approves the warrant on the dashboard and the electronic signatures



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

of the judge and the officer are applied to the warrant and retained in the system.

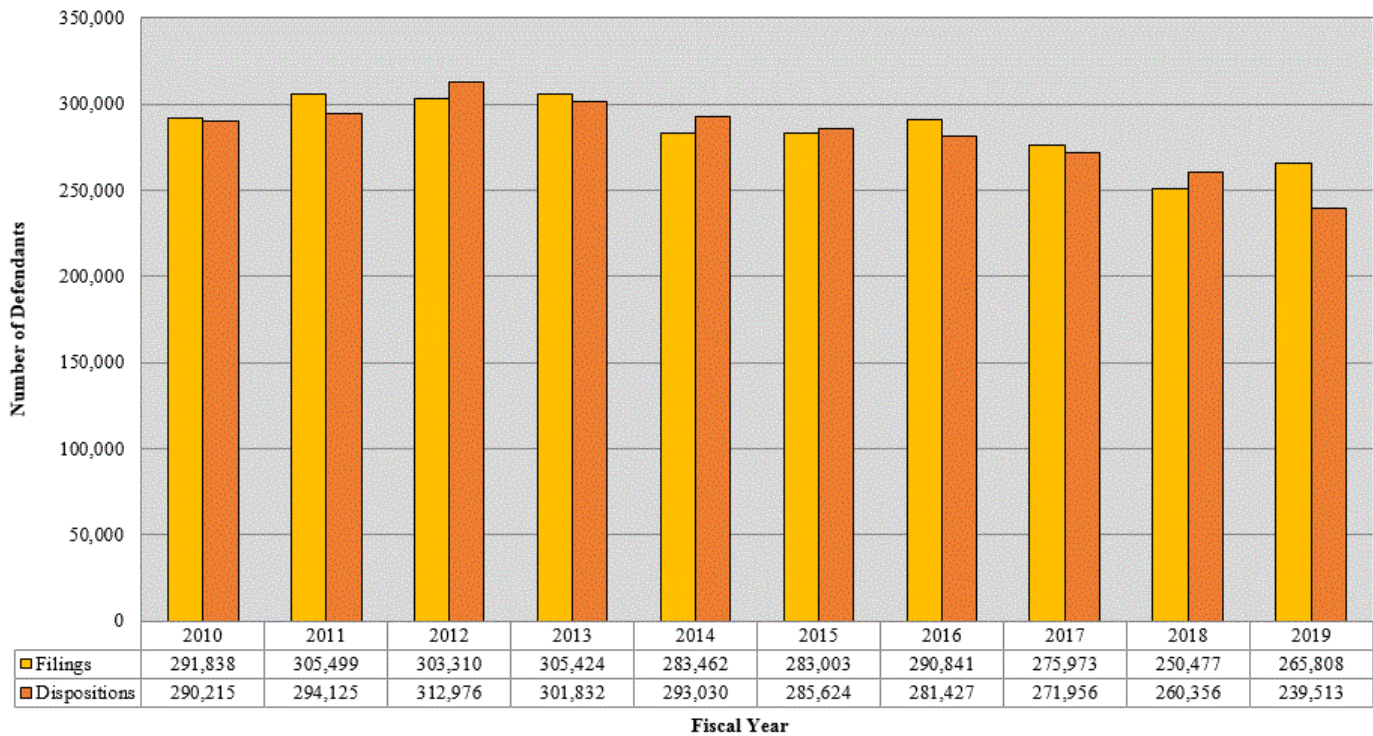
In this day and age, this seems pretty simple and straightforward. I can hear some of you saying right now, “How is this innovation when it is how half the world conducts operations on a day-to-day basis?” What is remarkable to me is that it is built on a foundation of thirty-plus year-old technology (with an overlay of some newer add-ons), and is — as far as I have been able to ascertain — the only statewide fully automated warrant review and approval system in use.

Furthermore, once we are able to maximize use of Skype, there will be significant benefits to both the police and the public. In theory, we should be able to achieve a situation where an officer may be able to investigate a criminal act, make an arrest, have the necessary warrant approved, conduct an initial

presentment before the Court with a defendant in custody, and – if the defendant is not going to be otherwise held – release that individual, all without leaving the initial scene. That will save hundreds of thousands of hours a year.

Finally, this little program may well become the backbone of this Court’s magisterial operations and forever change the way that we do our business. The Justice of the Peace Court is obligated by law to operate on a 24/7/365 basis. We have three 24-hour locations that are constantly staffed by clerical workers, security officers and judges. By leveraging this new system, the Court may well be able to reduce our 24-hour footprint by consolidation of off-hours operations, thereby decreasing our likelihood of having to request additional resources in the future and diverting those already applied to this service to other needs within the Court.

Justice of the Peace Court Civil & Criminal/Traffic Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year*

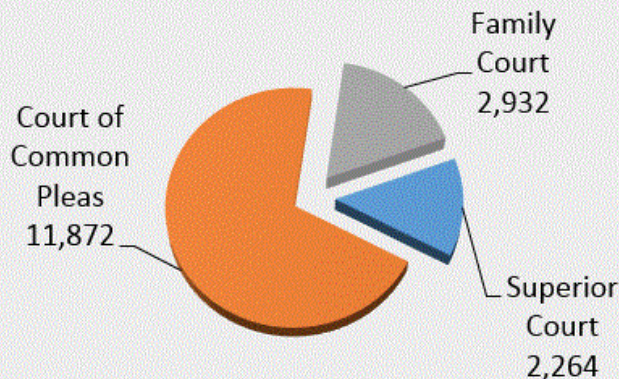


*Criminal filings and disposition information is by defendant

Continued on next page

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

CAPIASES CLEARED BY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FOR OTHER COURTS FY 2019



In a similar display of innovation, the Court has adopted, with the help of the Secretary of State's office, a method to electronically transmit out-of-state service of process paperwork, often called long-arm service, to the Secretary of State's office for proper service of defendants residing in another state. The previous process involved manual filing of papers by both the Court user and the Court itself, the transport of paperwork across county lines by Constables and duplicate data entry by clerical staff. As with any process that involves shuttling papers from one location to another, there was always the risk of documents getting lost, misplaced, or misfiled. By partnering with the Secretary of State's office, and using an e-filing system already in use by that organization, Court staff can now directly – electronically – file this service of process paperwork. This saves Court personnel approximately 600 hours per year. Perhaps best of all, from a Court user standpoint, they no longer have to cut separate checks to both the Court and the Secretary of State and they can use the Court's e-filing system to file all necessary paperwork, without any direct interaction with the Secretary of State.

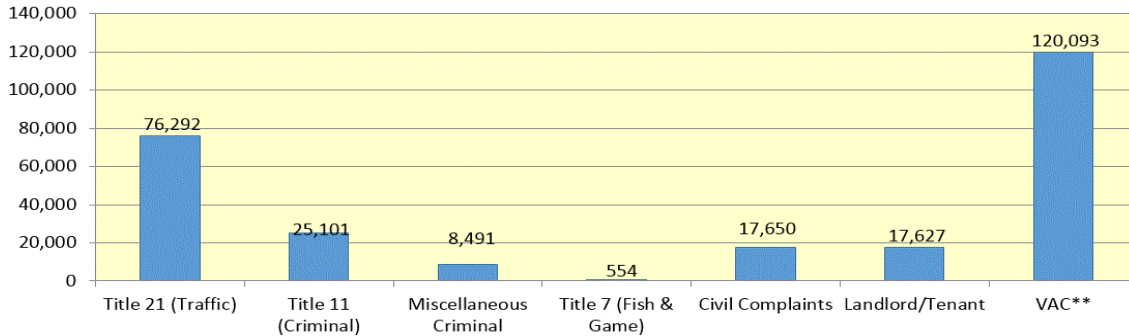
This Court also had an opportunity to display its adaptability this past fiscal year. With the passage of House Bill 204, the pretrial system of Delaware changed in significant ways. The new legislation required the use of a standardized, empirically-developed risk assessment tool as well as a focus on using alternatives to detention where applicable. This pairing results in less reliance on monetary bail. The judges of this Court have always examined cases on an individual basis while still trying to treat similar cases and similarly situated individuals similarly. The Court has also used a version of a risk assessment tool for several years, but the new system brought significant challenges.

The new law meant the establishment of new rules. Due to the press of time after passage of the legislation, the interim rules were not ready for roll-out until weeks before their implementation. While the system established by the rules was certainly appropriate and within the realm of the foundation of the legislative mandate, the Court was not entirely prepared for the changes that this brought.

I once heard a Justice of the Peace Court employee say, "We make the impossible look easy." True to that "can do" and "make it happen" attitude, the judges and staff of this Court buckled down and learned an entirely new system of pretrial justice within just a few weeks. Yes, there were some bumps and hiccups, but for the most part this system has been implemented with relatively few major issues. We are in a position now of monitoring the data generated by this newly implemented system and looking for ways to improve it. Because the rules are interim, acknowledging that some changes will be necessary to address known problems, in the near future the Court will once again be asked to modify its way of doing business to address a newly modified system. While not nearly as drastic a change as what we experienced in the past year, it will nonetheless test our ability to adapt to our changing world. ♦

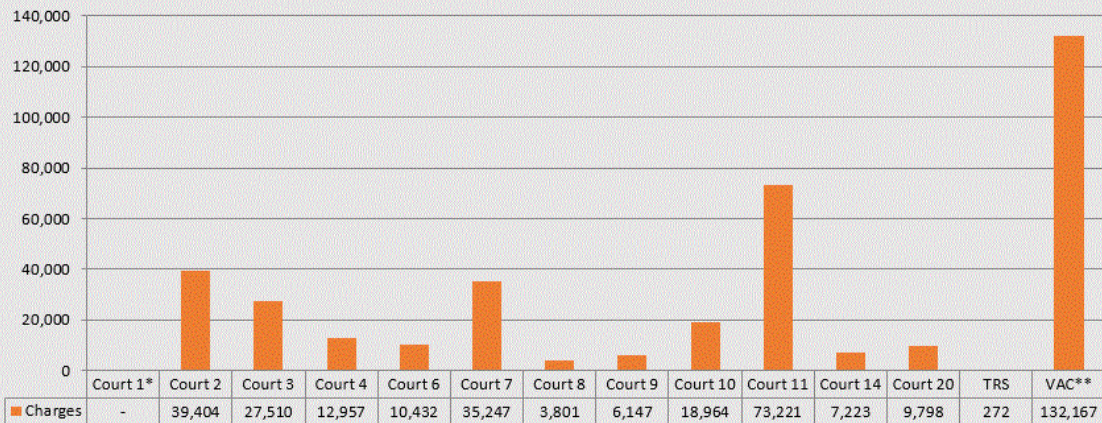
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

**NUMBER OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FILINGS* BY TYPE
FY 2019**



*Criminal filings are by defendant.
**Voluntary Assessment Center.

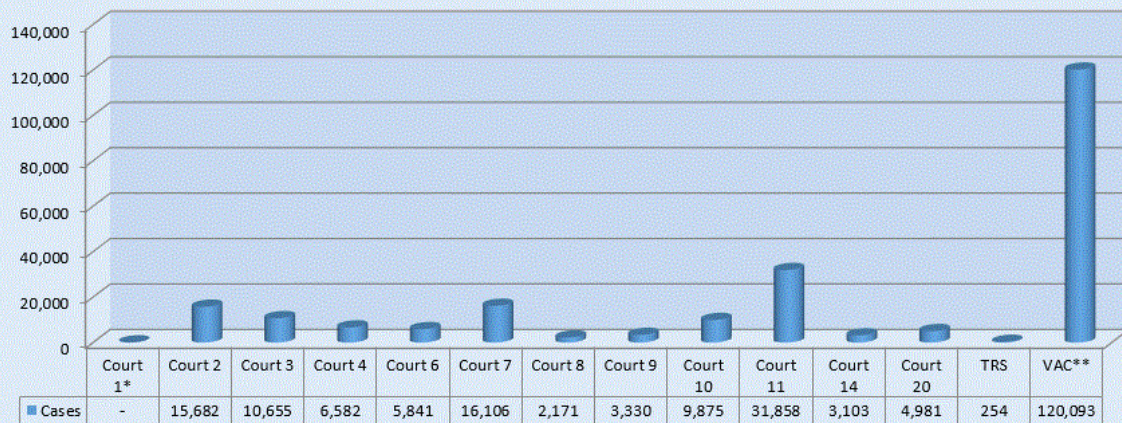
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CHARGES BY COURT FY 2019



*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

**Voluntary Assessment Center.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CASES BY DEFENDANT BY COURT FY 2019



*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

**Voluntary Assessment Center.

Continued on next page

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



NEW CASTLE COUNTY JUDGES

Front row, sitting (left to right):

Cheryl McCabe-Stroman, Amanda Moyer, Deputy Chief Magistrate Sean McCormick, Marie Page, Kerry Taylor, Shameka Booker

Middle row, standing (left to right):

John Potts, Thomas Kenny, Rodney Vodery, Susan Ufberg, Maria Perez-Chambers, Mary Ellen Naugle, Robert Lopez, Christopher Portante, Bobby Hoof

Back row, standing (left to right):

Senior Judge William Moser, James R. Hanby, Sr., David Skelley, Peter Burcat, Thomas Brown, Vincent Kowal, Gerald Ross, Alexander Peterson III

Not pictured:

Nina Bawa, Susan Cline, Bracy Dixon, Jr., Emily Ferrell, Beatrice Freel, Shelley Losito, Katharine Ross

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



KENT COUNTY JUDGES

Front row, sitting (left to right):

Nicole Alston-Jackson, Deputy Chief Magistrate Cathleen Hutchison, Jamie Hicks, Judy Smith

Back row, standing (left to right):

Dwight Dillard, Kevin Wilson, D. Ken Cox, James Murray, Alexander Montano

Not pictured:

Dana Tracy, W.G. Edmanson II, Michael Sherlock

Continued on next page

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



SUSSEX COUNTY JUDGES

Front row, sitting, (left to right):

Senior Judge Jeni Coffelt, Leah Chandler, Deborah Keenan, Deputy Chief Magistrate Sheila Blakely, Stephani Adams, Senior Judge Marcealeat Ruffin

Back row, standing, (left to right):

John McKenzie, W. Patrick Wood, Maria Castro, Michelle Jewell, Christopher Bradley, James Horn, John Hudson, Scott Willey, Nicholas Mirro, Mirta Collazo

Not pictured:

John Adams, Bethany Fiske, Jana Mollohan, Jennifer Sammons

JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



Assistant Jury Services Manager Ken Creedon of the Delaware Superior Court was named the 2018 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year. Ken also led the Jury Improvement Innovation Team that was recognized with the Governor’s “Commitment Award” for 2019. The team was responsible for a series of innovations that improved the efficiency and operations of Jury Services including the “Web Solution Project” that for the first time allowed prospective jurors to fill out a jury questionnaire online and request a postponement or dismissal, if needed. The change not only provided a welcome time-saving convenience for prospective jurors, but it also saved the Superior Court thousands of dollars in staff time and supplies. Other members of the Jury Improvement Innovation Team included the following employees from Superior Court: Kristin Dangelo, Lisa Parker, Mei-Ling

Cosgrove, Karen Horsey, Karen Taylor, Melanie Ewing-Lahutsky and Brian Clairmont; the following employees from the Judicial Information Center: Shawn Facen-Simmons, Ryan Fontello, Ann Hsu, Ken Kelemen, Saoud Khan, Achille Tcheou and Amy Whitman; and the following employees from the Department of Technology & Information: Nikia Wongus, Paul Kanich and Robert Jacobs.

For his individual honors, both as the Superior Court and Judicial Branch Employee of the Year, Creedon, who is now Superior Court Prothonotary, was cited for his enthusiasm and innovation in his position as a supervisor. In the words of Jury Services Manager Andrew Brennan, Ken is “a true gentleman, and if you meet him for one moment, you have become a better person.”

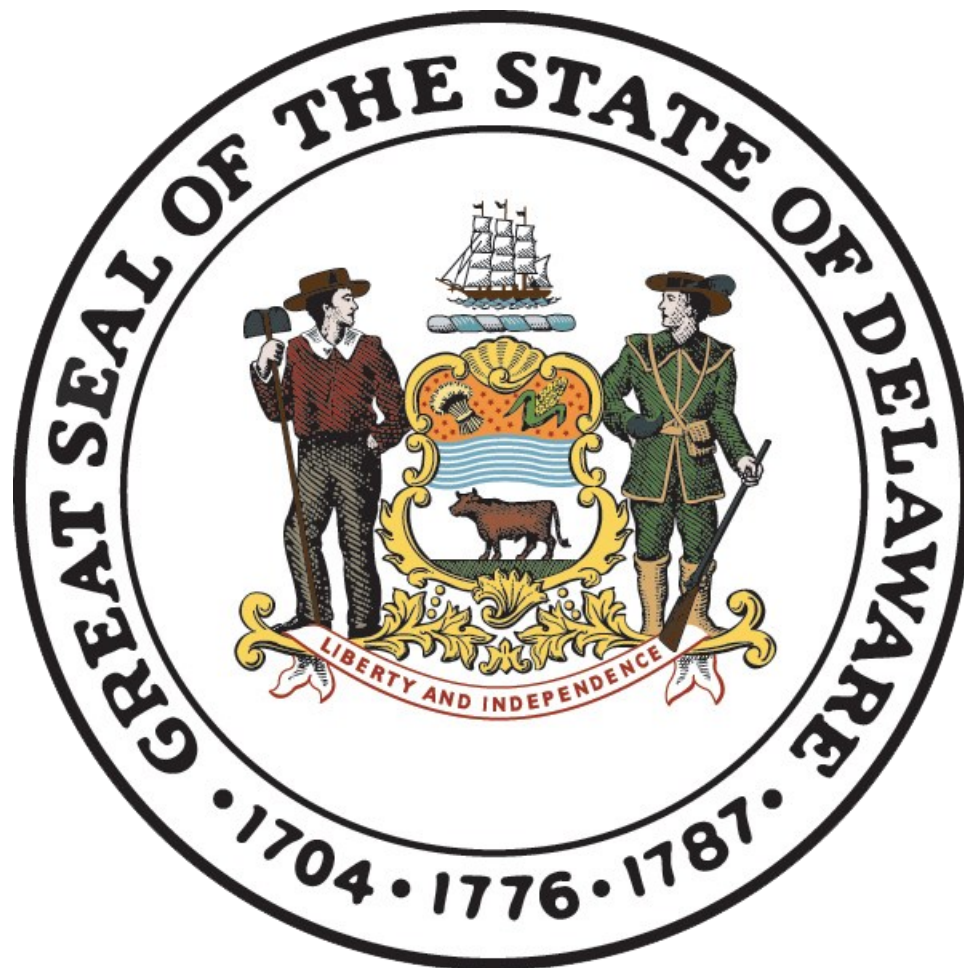
Other employees nominated for the Branch Employee of the Year award and who were honored as Employee of the Year for their respective courts include:

Niakesha Selby, Social Services Specialist II, Family Court. Niakesha, who has been with Family Court since 1998, was cited for her exceptional performance, achievement, initiative and selflessness in her duties. “I’ve witnessed Niakesha communicating with our litigants on many occasions and she has a way of explaining our process that has a calming effect,” said her supervisor, Cynthia Burris. Niakesha also often goes above and beyond, such as when she worked diligently to get a fee waived for a father who did not have the funds to pay for a needed paternity test.

Jennifer Shaffer, Sussex County Judicial Operations Manager, Court of Common Pleas. A Court employee since 2005, Jennifer was cited for her willingness to assist, on top of her regular duties, in a number of jobs during a period of high employee turnover in Sussex County Court of Common Pleas. Jennifer is organized, has effectively trained numerous new employees, and faces challenges and difficult situations with patience and tact. Her dedication and devotion to excellence reflects what we hope to see in all our employees.

Francis Walker, Court Security Officer II, Justice of the Peace Court. Francis was praised as a “unique and vital member of the Court.” During a staffing shortage, Francis volunteered to work as the “Constable Central Dispatcher,” allowing other Constables to attend to other important duties while he manned phone lines and monitored radio traffic. He also assisted with training 29 officers on a new system and attended more firearm practices than any other officer in the state.

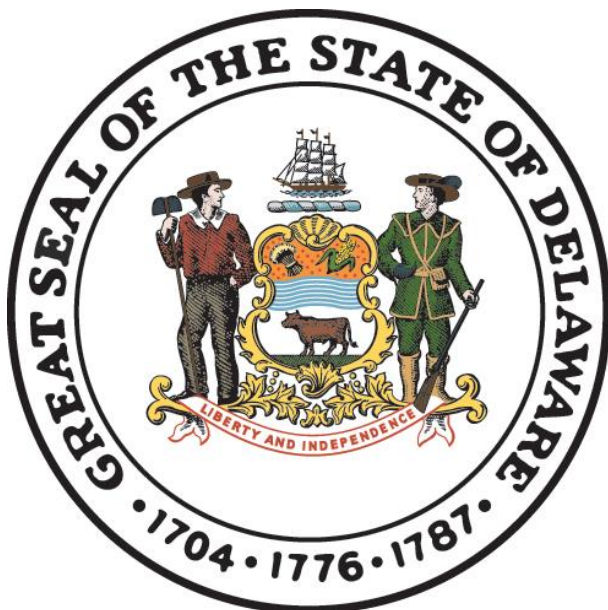
Betsy Bachmurski, Judicial Information Center Developer, Administrative Office of the Courts. Betsy, who has been with the Judicial Information Center since 1997, was cited for her dedication and work ethic over her long service to the Courts. Betsy “takes problems and can think in many different directions to identify options and define the best solution,” said Ken Kelemen, Information Systems Manager. He added that Betsy not only excels at completing a great quantity of assignments but does so with a high level of quality. ♦



Many thanks to the Presiding Judges, Court Administrators and others in the Courts, and the Administrative Office of the Courts for their efforts in preparing this Annual Report.

<http://courts.delaware.gov> (Delaware Judiciary)

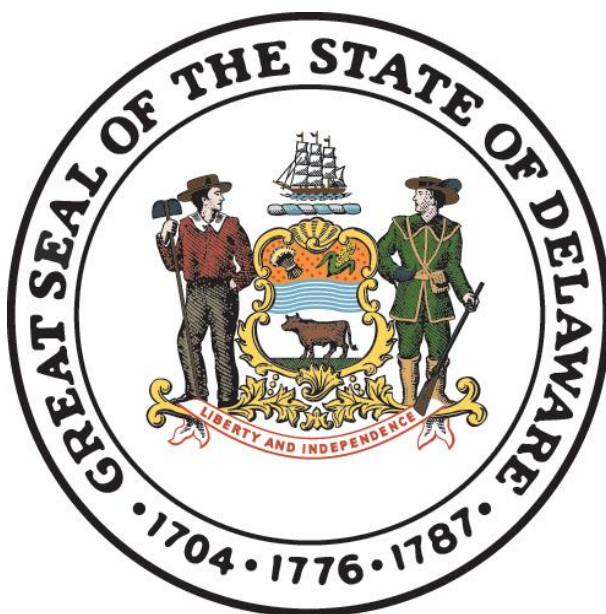
*<http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/AnnualReports/FY19>
2019 Annual Report, Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary and
additional Delaware Courts background information*



2019 Annual Report Statistical Information for the Delaware Judiciary

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	Page 2
Supreme Court	Page 3
Court of Chancery	Page 10
Superior Court	Page 16
Family Court	Page 31
Court of Common Pleas	Page 41
Justice of the Peace Court	Page 48
Alderman's Court	Page 61



SUPREME COURT
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

SUPREME COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	338	275	-63	-18.6%
Civil Appeals	272	271	-1	-0.4%
Certifications	0	1	1	0%
Original Applications	20	14	-6	-30.0%
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	14	10	-4	-28.6%
Bd. of Bar Exam	0	0	0	0%
Advisory Opinions	0	0	0	0%
Other	2	1	-1	-50.0%
Total	646	572	-74	-11.5%

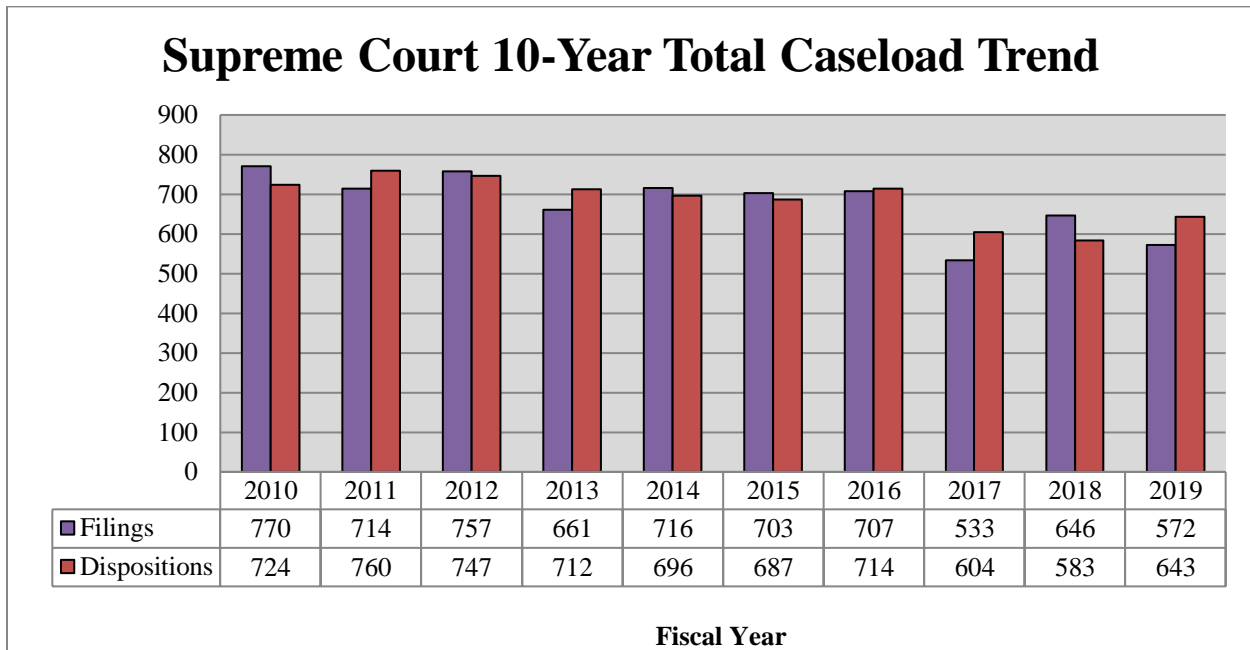
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	313	332	19	6.1%
Civil Appeals	231	291	60	26.0%
Certifications	1	0	-1	-100%
Original Applications	20	11	-9	-45.0%
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	16	8	-8	-50%
Bd. of Bar Exam	0	0	0	0%
Advisory Opinions	0	0	0	0%
Other	2	1	-1	-50%
Total	583	643	60	10.3%

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

Bd. of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners.

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

SUPREME COURT



Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Filings

	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0%	275	100%	0	0%	0	0%	275	100%
Civil Appeals	66	24.4%	104	38.4%	101	37.3%	0	0%	271	100%
Other*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	26	100%	26	100%
Total	66	11.5%	379	66.3%	101	17.7%	26	4.5%	572	100%

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019- Dispositions

	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0%	332	100%	0	0%	0	0%	332	100%
Civil Appeals	62	21.3%	128	44.0%	101	34.7%	0	0%	291	100%
Other*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	20	100%	20	100%
Total	62	9.6%	460	71.5%	101	15.7%	20	3.1%	643	100%

*Includes Original Applications; Certifications; Advisory Opinions; Appeals from the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners; and Other Filing & Disposition Types.

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

SUPREME COURT

Types of Dispositions - Fiscal Year 2019										
	Affirmed		Affirmed Part/Reverse d Part		Reversed		Remanded		Voluntary Dismissal	
Criminal Appeals	238	71.5%	2	0.6%	7	2.1%	7	2.1%	14	4.2%
Civil Appeals & Other	154	49.7%	6	1.9%	22	7.1%	2	0.6%	31	10.0%
Total	392	61.0%	8	1.2%	29	4.5%	9	1.4%	45	7.0%
	Court Dismissal		Leave to Appeal Denied		Other*				Total	
Criminal Appeals	65	19.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%			333	100%
Civil Appeals & Other	66	21.3%	21	6.8%	8	2.6%			310	100%
Total	131	20.4%	21	3.3%	8	1.2%			643	100%

SUPREME COURT

Methods of Dispositions - Fiscal Year 2019						
	Assigned Opinion		Per Curiam Opinion		Written Order	
Criminal Appeals	16	4.8%	0	0%	303	91.3%
Civil Appeals	30	10.3%	3	1%	227	78.0%
Certifications	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Original Applications	0	0%	0	0%	10	91%
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	0	0%	4	50%	4	50.0%
Bd. of Bar Exam.	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Advisory Opinions	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Total	46	7.2%	7	1%	545	84.8%

	Voluntary Dismissal		Other		Total	
Criminal Appeals	13	3.9%	0	0%	332	100%
Civil Appeals	31	10.7%	0	0%	291	100%
Certifications	0	0%	0	0%	0	-
Original Applications	1	9.1%	0	0%	11	100%
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	0	0%	8	100%
Bd. of Bar Exam.	0	0%	0	0%	0	-
Advisory Opinions	0	0%	0	0%	0	-
Other	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
Total	45	7.0%	0	0%	643	100%

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

Bd. of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners.

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

SUPREME COURT

Performance Summary - Fiscal Year 2019 - Average Elapsed Time to Disposition

	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Criminal Appeals	332	173.1 days	33.7 days
Civil Appeals	291	183.0 days	74.1 days
Certifications	0	- days	- days
Original Applications	11	52.0 days	24.2 days
BPR	8	67.0 days	9.1 days
BBE	0	- days	- days
Advisory Opinions	0	- days	- days
Other	1	25.0 days	8.0 days
Total	643	172.9 days	37.8 days

(Continued)

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	186.4 days	173.1 days	-13.4 days	-7.2%
Civil Appeals	256.3 days	183.0 days	-73.3 days	-28.6%
Certifications	- days	- days	- days	-
Original Applications	50.4 days	52.0 days	1.6 days	3.2%
BPR	46.1 days	67.0 days	20.9 days	45.3%
BBE	- days	- days	- days	-
Advisory Opinions	- days	- days	- days	-
Other	43.0 days	25.0 days	-18.0 days	-41.9%
Total	167.4 days	172.9 days	5.5 days	3.3%

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. The time for a case that is submitted and disposed in the same day is zero. Not all Supreme Court cases require a judicial decision.

BPR = Board on Professional Responsibility.

BBE = Board of Bar Examiners.

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

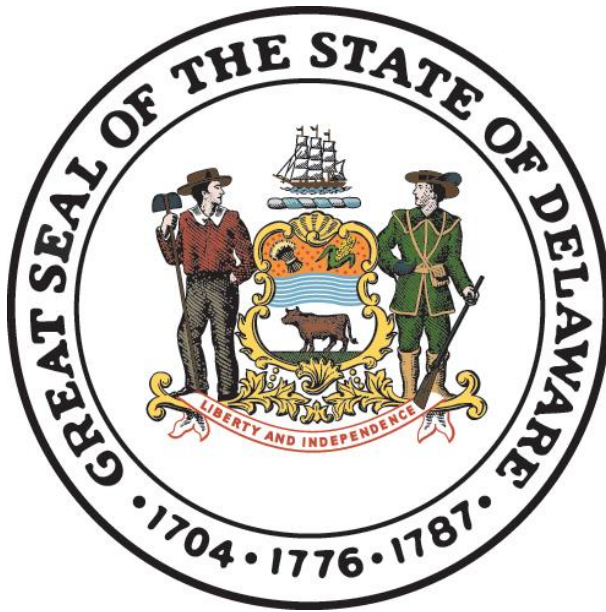
SUPREME COURT

Performance Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Elapsed Time by Disposition Type					
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition		Average Time From Submission to Disposition*	
Affirmed	392	215.9	days	44.9	days
Affirmed Part/Reversed Part	8	213.9	days	35.9	days
Reversed	29	286.3	days	118.3	days
Remanded	9	118.9	days	31.3	days
Voluntary Dismissal	45	71.2	days	4.4	days
Court Dismissal	131	80.5	days	14.6	days
Leave to Appeal					
Denied	21	51.0	days	23.2	days
Other	8	64.8	days	9.1	days
Total	643	172.9	days	37.8	days

Performance Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019- Elapsed Time by Disposition Method					
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition		Average Time From Submission to Disposition*	
Assigned Opinion	46	286.3	days	97.3	days
Per Curiam Opinion	7	-	days	-	days
Written Order	545	171.4	days	35.9	Days
Voluntary Dismissal	45	73.7	days	4.3	Days
Other	0	-	days	-	Days
Total	643	172.9	days	37.8	days

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. The time for a case that is submitted and disposed in the same day is zero. Not all Supreme Court cases require a judicial decision.

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



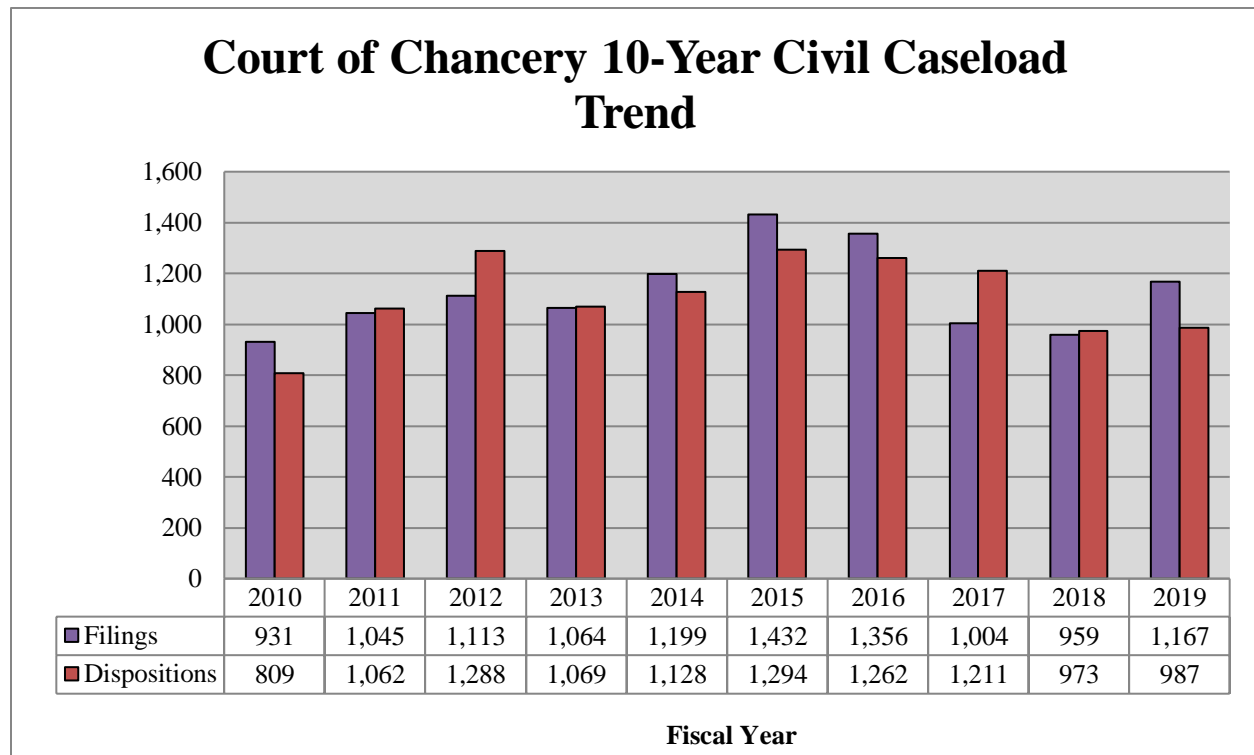
COURT OF CHANCERY
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	959	1,167	208	21.7%

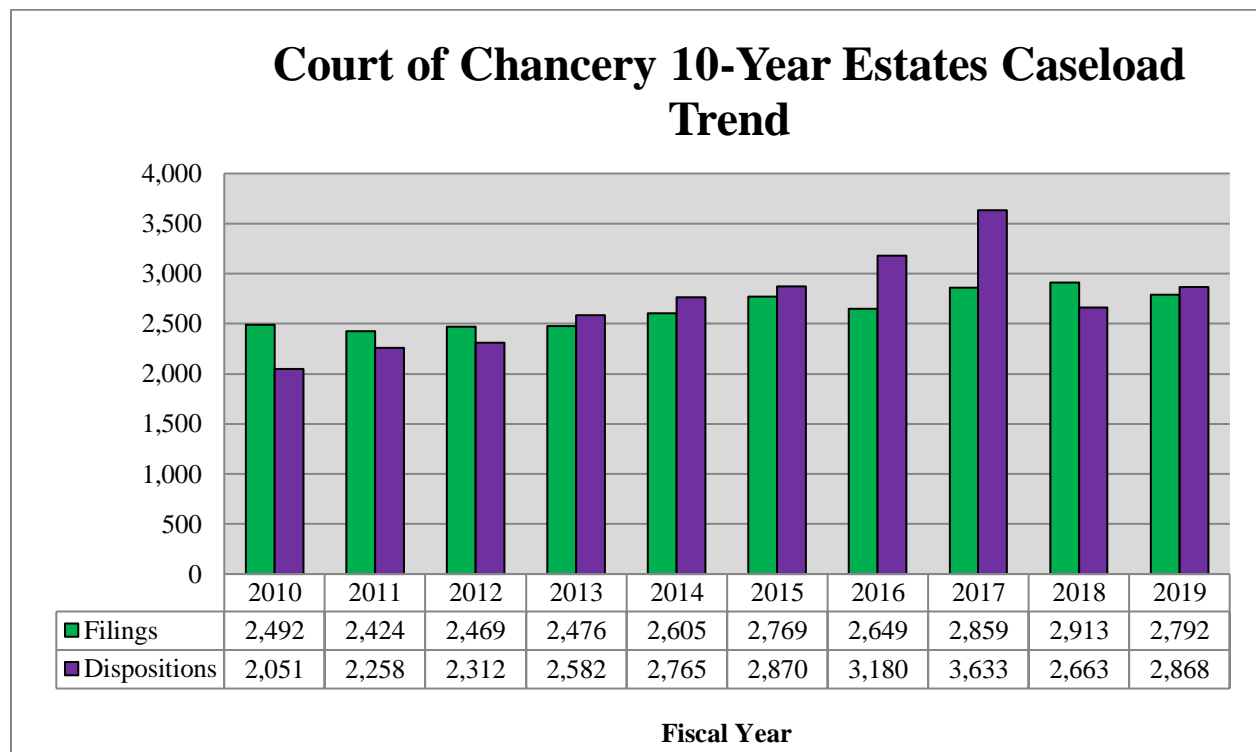
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	973	987	14	1.4%



COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Estates Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	2,913	2,792	-121	-4.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Estates Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	2,663	2,868	205	7.7%



COURT OF CHANCERY

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Miscellaneous Matters Filings

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	259	252	-7	-2.7%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	433	385	-48	-11.1%

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Miscellaneous Matters Filings

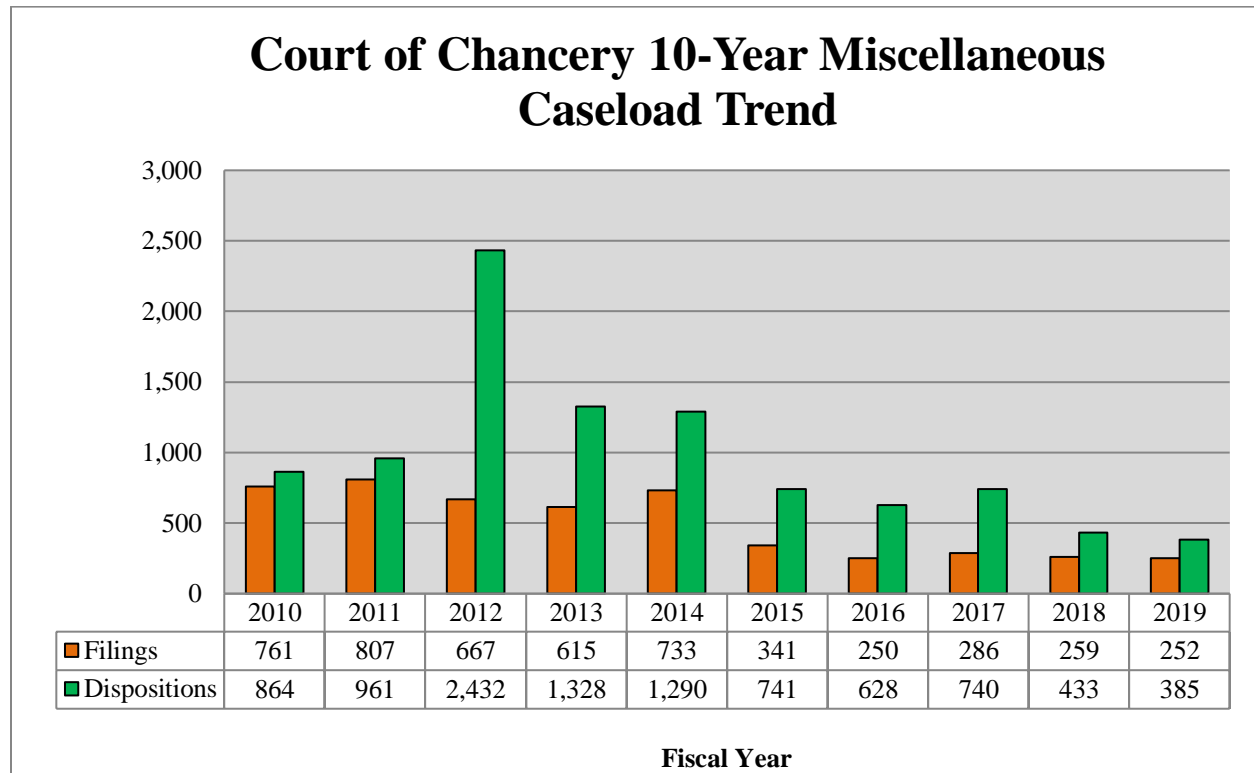
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Total	
State	21	8.3%	224	88.9%	1	0.4%	6	2.4%	252	100%

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		Total	
State	171	44.4%	189	49.1%	21	5.5%	4	1.0%	385	100%

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

COURT OF CHANCERY



Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Filings*				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	4,131	4,211	80	1.9%

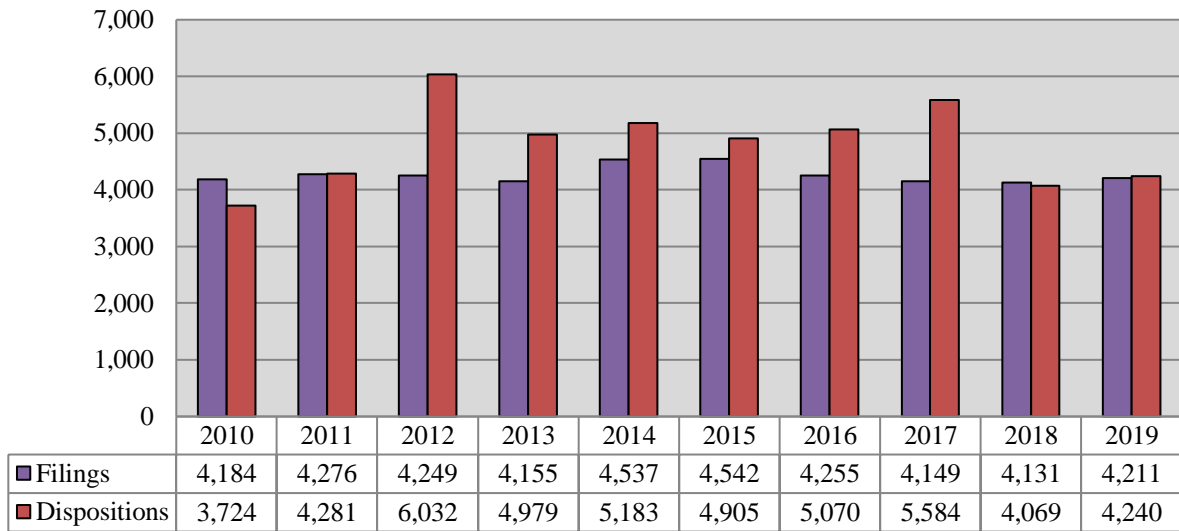
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Dispositions*				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
State	4,069	4,240	171	4.2%

*Total includes Civil, Miscellaneous, and Estates

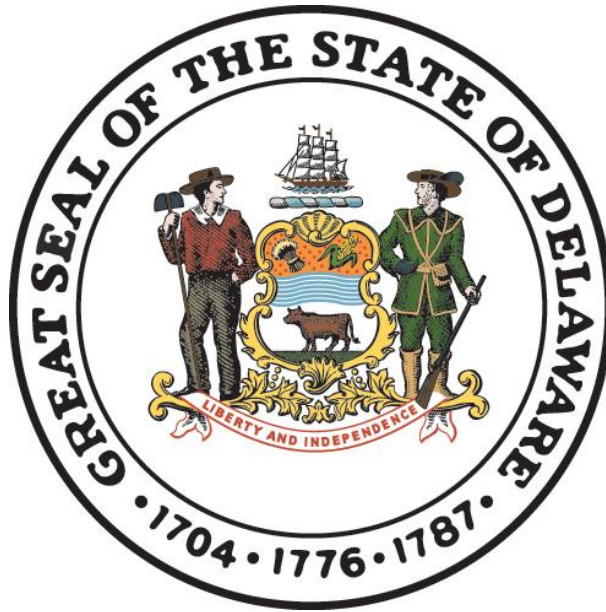
Source: Registers in Chancery; Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

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



Fiscal Year



SUPERIOR COURT
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Filings

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	9,964	8,527	-1,437	-16.9%
Kent County	1,635	1,503	-132	-8.8%
Sussex County	1,477	1,462	-15	-1.0%
State	13,076	11,492	-1584	13.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Dispositions

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	11,150	9,521	-1,629	-17.1%
Kent County	1,395	1,486	91	6.1%
Sussex County	1,481	1,515	34	2.2%
State	14,026	12,522	-1,504	12.0%

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

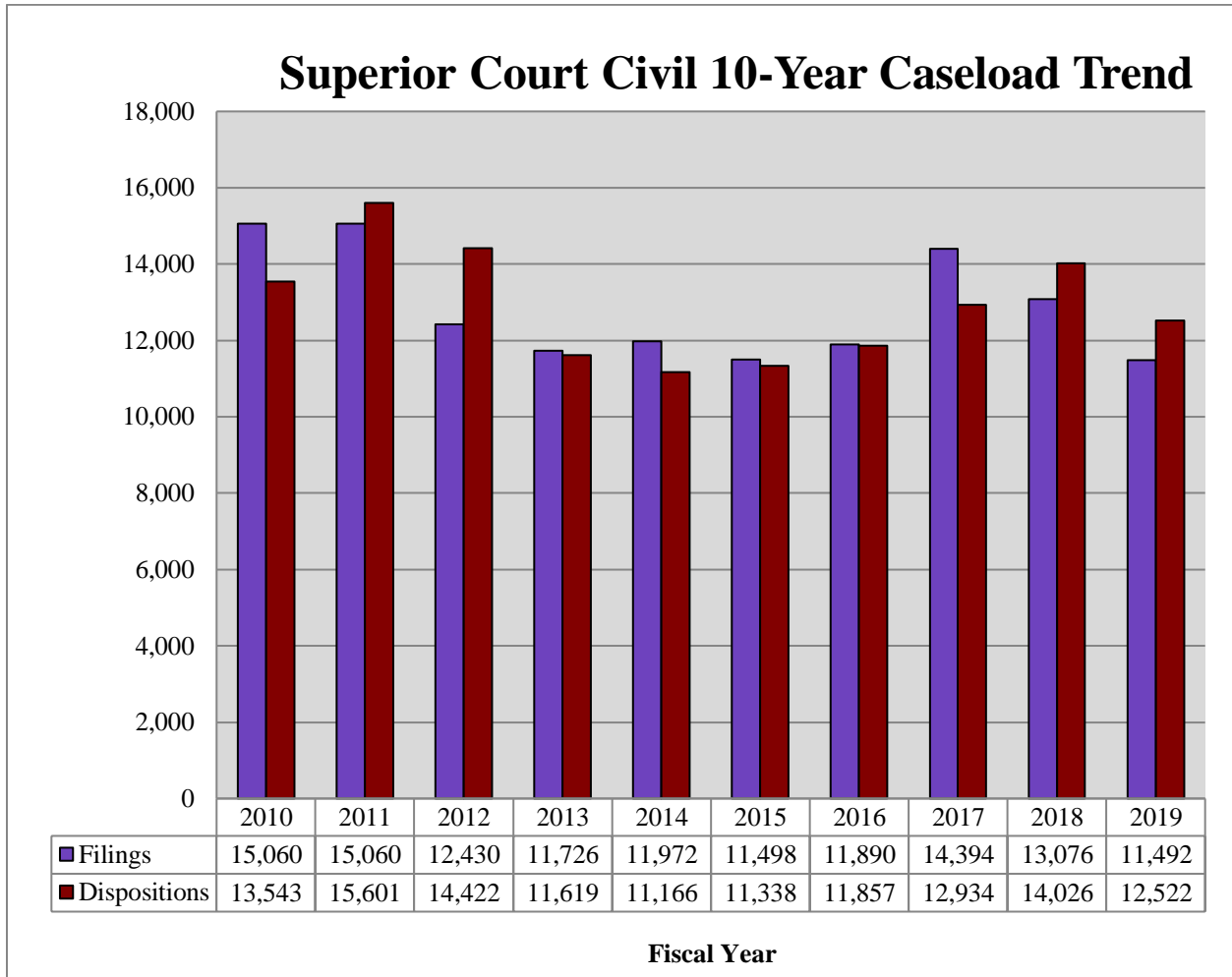
SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Filings						
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals	
New Castle County	3,547	41.6%	1,320	15.5%	98	1.1%
Kent County	493	32.8%	505	33.6%	33	2.2%
Sussex County	460	31.5%	504	34.5%	34	2.3%
State	4,500	39.2%	2,329	20.3%	165	1.4%
	Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	249	2.9%	3,313	38.9%	8,527	100%
Kent County	92	6.1%	380	25.3%	1,503	100%
Sussex County	8	0.5%	456	31.2%	1,462	100%
State	349	3.0%	4,149	36.1%	11,492	100%

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019- Civil Case Dispositions						
	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals	
New Castle County	4,299	45.2%	1,567	16.5%	97	1.0%
Kent County	457	30.8%	546	36.7%	30	2.0%
Sussex County	425	28.1%	585	38.6%	24	1.6%
State	5,181	41.4%	2,698	21.5%	151	1.2%
	Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County	223	2.3%	3,335	35.0%	9,521	100%
Kent County	95	6.4%	358	24.1%	1,486	100%
Sussex County	8	0.5%	473	31.2%	1,515	100%
State	326	2.6%	4,166	33.3%	12,522	100%

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

SUPERIOR COURT



* Report incorporates additional data made available since publication of the FY 2015 Annual Report.

SUPERIOR COURT

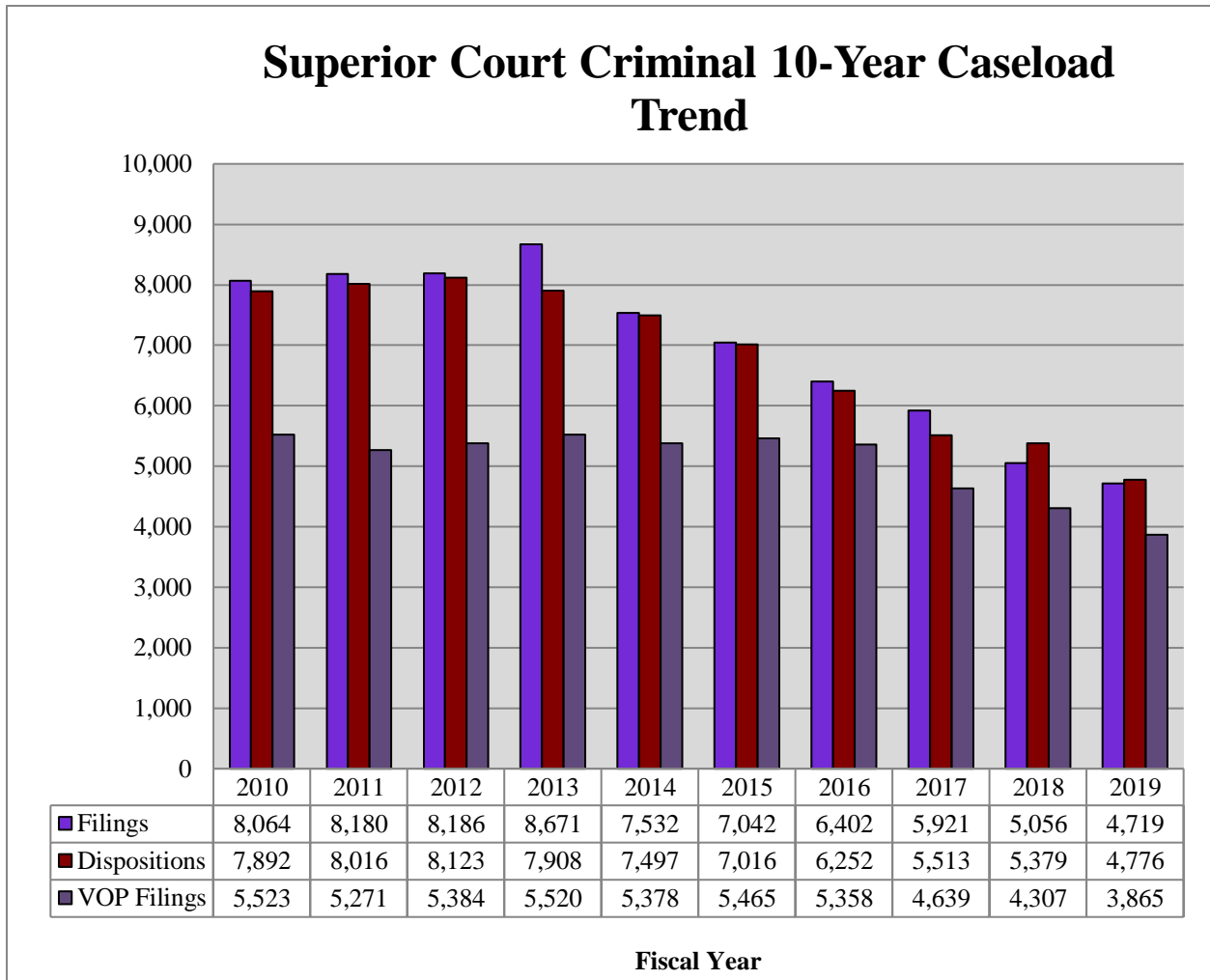
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,658	2,464	-194	-7.9%
Kent County	1,023	880	-143	-16.3%
Sussex County	1,375	1,375	0	0.0%
State	5,056	4,719	-337	-7.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,665	2,344	-321	-13.7%
Kent County	1,095	928	-167	-18.0%
Sussex County	1,619	1,504	-115	-7.6%
State	5,379	4,776	-603	-12.6%

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

Caseload Breakdowns- Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Filings									
	Indictment		Rule 9 Warrant		Information		Other*		Total
New Castle County	1,488	60.4%	268	10.9%	654	26.5%	54	2.2%	2,464
Kent County	656	74.5%	33	3.8%	181	20.6%	10	1.1%	880
Sussex County	402	29.2%	190	13.8%	761	55.3%	22	1.6%	1,375
State	2,546	54.0%	491	10.4%	1,596	33.8%	86	1.8%	4,719

SUPERIOR COURT



*VOP = Violation of Probation

SUPERIOR COURT

Caseload Breakdowns- Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Dispositions										
	Trial		Guilty Plea**		Nolle Prosequi		Remand/Transfer		Order/Reserved Decision	
New Castle County	110	4.7%	1,813	77.5%	397	17.0%	13	0.6%	0	0%
Kent County	26	11.8%	9	4.1%	148	67.3%	3	1.4%	0	0%
Sussex County	8	0.5%	1,347	89.6%	139	9.2%	-	0%	0	N/A
State	144	3.5%	3,169	78.0%	684	16.8%	16	0.4%	-	0%
	Dismissal		FOP/Drug Court		Consolidation		Total			
New Castle County	7	0.3%	-	0%	-	0%	2,340	100%		
Kent County	20	9.1%	14	6.4%	-	0%	220	100%		
Sussex County	-	0%	10	0.7%	-	0%	1,504	100%		
State	27	0.7%	24	0.6%	-	0%	4,064	100%		

*Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements, and severances.

**Includes Probation Before Judgment.

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 2019 - Criminal Trials - Part One							
	Jury Trial		Non-Jury Trial		Total		
New Castle County	92	83.6%	18	16.4%	110	100%	
Kent County	17	65.4%	9	34.6%	26	100%	
Sussex County	8	100%	0	34.6%	8	100%	
State	117	81.3%	27	18.8%	144	100%	
	Guilty		Not Guilty*		No Final Disposition**		Total
New Castle County	71	64.5%	21	19.1%	18	16.4%	110 100%
Kent County	15	60.0%	8	28.0%	3	12.0%	26 100%
Sussex County	5	57.1%	0	0%	3	42.9%	8 100%
State	91	63.4%	29	19.7%	24	16.9%	144 100%

*Includes Acquittals, Dismissals at Trial, and Nolle Prosequis at Trial.

**Includes Hung Juries, Mistrials, and Reserved Decisions.

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

Types of Dispositions - Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Trials - Part Two								
Jury Trial								
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty at Trial	Nol Pros/Dismissed at Trial	Mistrial	Hung Jury	Total
New Castle County	48	3	18	4	1	3	15	92
Kent County	7	1	3	1	2	1	2	17
Sussex County	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	8
State	58	5	21	6	3	7	17	117

SUPERIOR COURT

Non-Jury Trial								
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty at Trial	Nol Pros/Dismissed at Trial	Mistrial	Reserved Decision	Total*
New Castle County	16	0	1	0	1	0	0	18
Kent County	6	0	2	0	1	0	0	9
Sussex County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	22	0	3	0	1	0	0	27

All Trials									
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty at Trial	Nol Pros/Dismissed at Trial	Mistrial	Hung Jury	Reserved Decision	Total
New Castle County	64	3	19	4	2	3	15	0	110
Kent County	13	1	5	1	3	1	2	0	26
Sussex County	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	8
State	80	5	24	6	5	7	17	0	144

SUPERIOR COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Nolle Prosequis									
	Nolle Prosequis By Special Condition		Nolle Prosequis By Merit		NPL		Total		
New Castle County	170	42.8%	188	47.4%	39	9.8%	397	100%	
Kent County	98	66.2%	50	33.8%	0	0%	148	100%	
Sussex County	22	15.8%	117	84.2%	0	0%	139	100%	
State	290	42.4%	355	51.9%	39	5.7%	684	100%	

LIO = Lesser Included Offense.

Nol Pros = Nolle Prosequi.

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

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Felony Guilty Pleas							
	Pled Guilty Original		Pled Guilty Lesser		Total		
New Castle County	1,125	86.5%	176	13.5%	1,301	100%	
Kent County	446	85.8%	74	14.2%	520	100%	
Sussex County	758	90.8%	77	9.2%	835	100%	
State	2,329	87.7%	327	12.3%	2,656	100%	

SUPERIOR COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2019- Criminal Misdemeanor Guilty Pleas						
	Pled Guilty Original		Pled Guilty Lesser*		Total	
New Castle County	318	62.1%	194	37.9%	512	100%
Kent County	91	46.2%	106	53.8%	197	100%
Sussex County	340	66.4%	172	33.6%	512	100%
State	749	61.3%	472	38.7%	1,221	100%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Total Guilty Pleas						
	Pled Guilty Original		Pled Guilty Lesser*		Total	
New Castle County	1,443	79.7%	370	20.4%	1,813	100%
Kent County	537	74.9%	180	25.1%	717	100%
Sussex County	1,098	81.5%	249	18.5%	1,347	100%
State	3,078	79.4%	799	20.6%	3,877	100%

*Includes Probation Before Judgment.

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

SUPERIOR COURT

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Cases - Elapsed Time

	Total Number of Cases Disposed	Average Time from Arrest to Disposition	Average Time from Indictment to Disposition
New Castle County	2,344	183.4 days	119.2 days
Kent County	928	180.8 days	113.2 days
Sussex County	1,504	157.0 days	116.3 days
State	4,776	174.6 days	117.1 days

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal Cases - Compliance with Speedy Trial Standards

	Total Number of Cases Disposed	Disposed of within 120 Days of Indictment (90%)	Disposed of within 180 Days of Indictment (98%)	Disposed of within 365 Days of Indictment (100%)
New Castle County	2,344	1,423 60.7%	1,862 79.4%	2,143 91.4%
Kent County	928	632 68.1%	798 86.0%	909 98.0%
Sussex County	1,504	827 55.0%	1,054 70.1%	1,172 77.9%
State	4,776	2,882 60.3%	3,714 77.8%	4,224 88.4%

SUPERIOR COURT

Criminal Cases Performance Explanatory Notes - Fiscal Year 2019

1. The performance summary charts measure the average time from the date of arrest to the date of disposition as well as the average time from the date of indictment/information to the date of disposition.
2. 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 mental examinations, 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.

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

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Cases - Average Time from Arrest to Disposition

	2018 (in days)	2019 (in days)	Change (in days)	% Change
New Castle County	180.0	183.4	3.4	1.9%
Kent County	182.8	180.8	-1.9	-1.1%
Sussex County	135.5	157.0	21.5	13.7%
State	167.2	174.6	7.4	4.2%

SUPERIOR COURT

Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Cases - Average Time from Indictment to Disposition				
	2018 (in days)	2019 (in days)	Change (in days)	% Change
New Castle County	108.3	119.2	10.9	9.1%
Kent County	113.6	113.2	-0.4	-0.4%
Sussex County	127.8	116.3	-11.6	-9.9%
State	118.31	117.1	-1.2	-1.0%

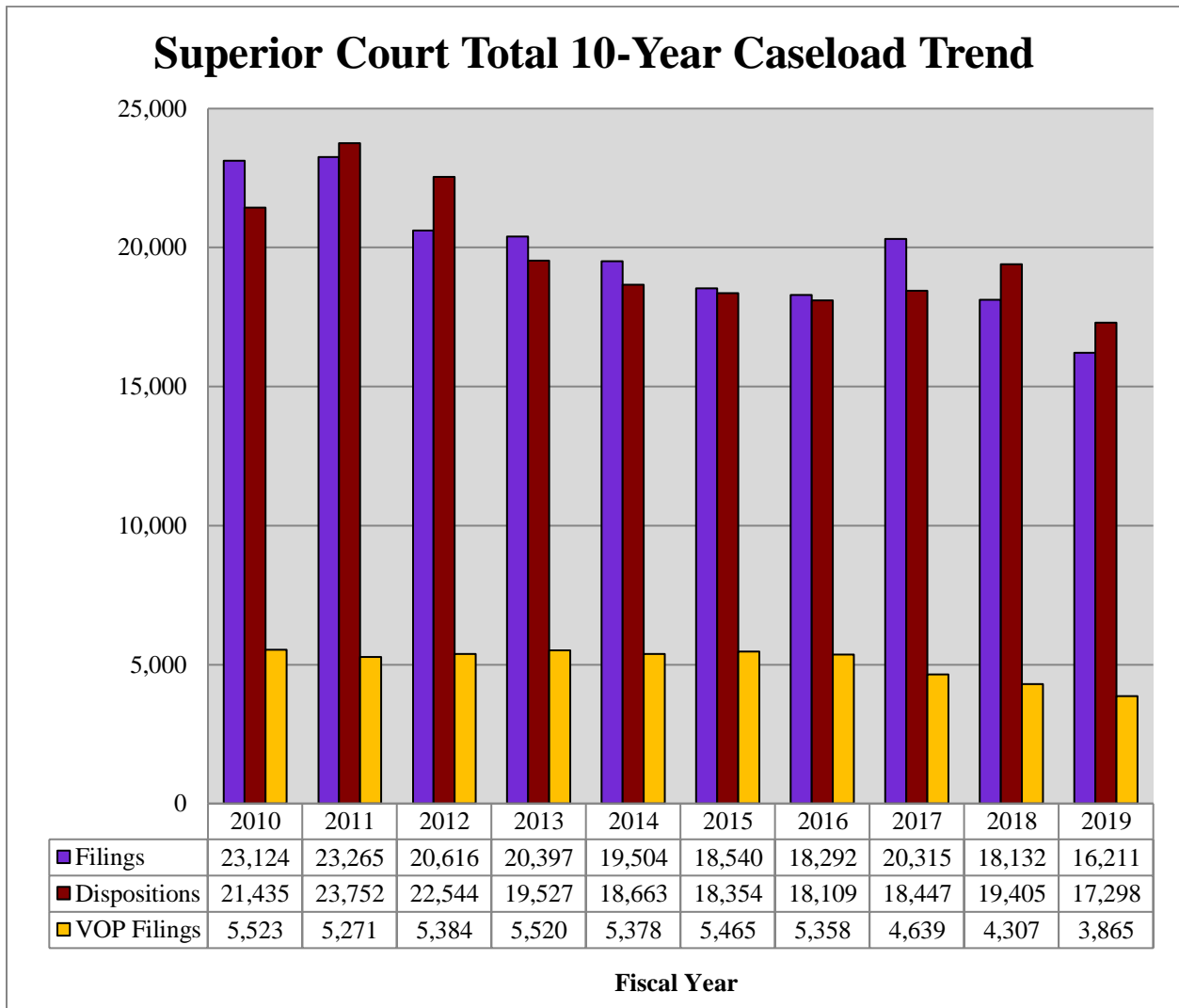
Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court;
Administrative Office of the Courts.

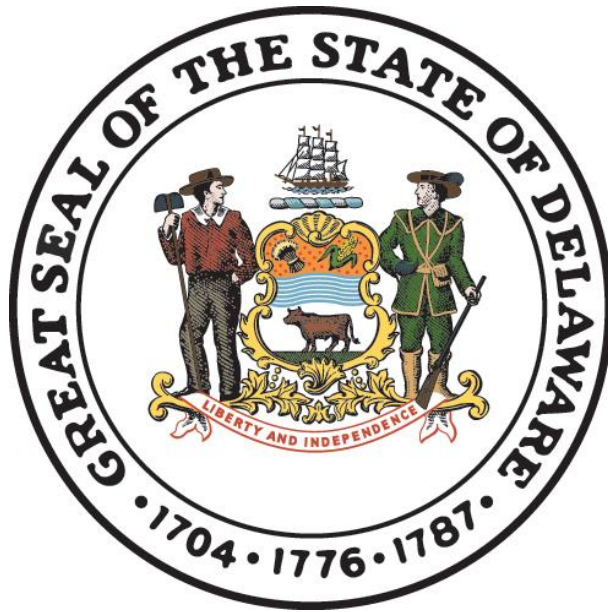
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	12,622	10,991	-1,631	-14.8%
Kent County	2,658	2,383	-275	-11.5%
Sussex County	2,852	2,837	-15	-0.5%
State	20,315	16,211	-4104	-25.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	13,815	11,865	-1,950	-16.4%
Kent County	2,490	2,414	-76	-3.1%
Sussex County	3,100	3,019	-81	-2.7%
State	18,447	17,298	-1,149	-6.6%

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

SUPERIOR COURT





FAMILY COURT
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Adult Criminal Case Filings

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,879	2,856	-23	-0.8%
Kent County	927	993	66	7.1%
Sussex County	898	840	-58	-6.5%
State	4,704	4,689	-15	-0.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Adult Criminal Dispositions

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,654	2,544	-110	-4.1%
Kent County	899	980	81	9.0%
Sussex County	847	871	24	2.8%
State	4,400	4,395	-5	-0.1%

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Filings

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	20,361	20,910	549	2.7%
Kent County	8,262	8,554	292	3.5%
Sussex County	9,864	9,514	-350	-3.5%
State	38,487	38,978	491	1.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019- Civil Case Dispositions

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	23,171	20,975	-2,196	-9.5%
Kent County	8,837	8,501	-336	-3.8%
Sussex County	10,325	10,327	2	0.0%
State	42,333	39,803	-2,530	-6.0%

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Filings								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/Modifications		Child Support/Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	3,420	16.4%	1,244	5.9%	2,948	14.1%	5	0.0%
Kent County	1,367	16.0%	504	5.9%	989	11.6%	4	0.0%
Sussex County	1,473	15.5%	514	5.4%	2,093	22.0%	1	0.0%
State	6,260	16.1%	2,262	5.8%	6,030	15.5%	10	0.0%
	Child Support/Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	215	1.0%	454	2.2%	197	0.9%	2,952	14.1%
Kent County	69	0.8%	263	3.1%	96	1.1%	1,132	13.2%
Sussex County	48	0.5%	144	1.5%	87	0.9%	1,625	17.1%
State	332	0.9%	861	2.2%	380	1.0%	5,709	14.6%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	16	0.1%	1,791	8.6%	192	0.9%	225	1.1%
Kent County	9	0.1%	737	8.6%	49	0.6%	142	1.7%
Sussex County	11	0.1%	687	7.2%	53	0.6%	95	1.0%
State	36	0.1%	3,215	8.2%	294	0.8%	462	1.2%

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Filings									
	Termination of Parental Rights		Civil Dissolution*		Guardianship		Spousal Support		
New Castle County	131	0.6%		0.0%	958	4.6%	75	0.4%	
Kent County	37	0.4%		0.0%	418	4.9%	31	0.4%	
Sussex County	43	0.5%		0.0%	368	3.9%	15	0.2%	
State	211	0.5%	-	0.0%	1,744	4.5%	121	0.3%	
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment		
New Castle County	1041	5.0%	14	0.1%	2,351	11.2%	1,824	8.7%	
Kent County	471	5.5%	-	0.0%	1,171	13.7%	705	8.2%	
Sussex County	607	6.4%	1	0.0%	676	7.1%	722	7.6%	
State	2119	5.4%	15	0.0%	4,198	10.8%	3,251	8.3%	
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor to Marry*		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption		
New Castle County	505	2.4%		0.0%	195	0.9%	157	0.8%	
Kent County	199	2.3%		0.0%	109	1.3%	52	0.6%	
Sussex County	117	1.2%		0.0%	91	1.0%	43	0.5%	
State	821	2.1%	-	0.0%	395	1.0%	252	0.6%	
	Total								
New Castle County	20,910	100%							
Kent County	8,554	100%							
Sussex County	9,514	100%							
State	38,978	100%							

*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases.

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Dispositions								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/Modifications		Child Support/Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	3,474	16.6%	1,119	5.3%	2,554	12.2%	4	0.0%
Kent County	1,341	15.8%	516	6.1%	807	9.5%	4	0.0%
Sussex County	1,711	16.6%	587	5.7%	2,399	23.2%	1	0.0%
State	6,526	16.4%	2,222	5.6%	5,760	14.5%	9	0.0%
	Child Support/Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	216	1.0%	442	2.1%	190	0.9%	2,947	14.1%
Kent County	70	0.8%	246	2.9%	88	1.0%	1,132	13.3%
Sussex County	59	0.6%	133	1.3%	94	0.9%	1,625	15.7%
State	345	0.9%	821	2.1%	372	0.9%	5,704	14.3%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	13	0.1%	1,927	9.2%	203	1.0%	246	1.2%
Kent County	8	0.1%	769	9.0%	83	1.0%	138	1.6%
Sussex County	13	0.1%	737	7.1%	58	0.6%	103	1.0%
State	34	0.1%	3,433	8.6%	344	0.9%	487	1.2%

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Dispositions									
	Termination of Parental Rights		Civil Dissolution*		Guardianship		Spousal Support		
New Castle County	144	0.7%		0.0%	982	4.7%	70	0.3%	
Kent County	49	0.6%		0.0%	504	5.9%	25	0.3%	
Sussex County	41	0.4%		0.0%	418	4.0%	11	0.1%	
State	234	0.6%	-	0.0%	1,904	4.8%	106	0.3%	
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment		
New Castle County	1067	5.1%	16	0.1%	2,341	11.2%	2,145	10.2%	
Kent County	493	5.8%	-	0.0%	1,176	13.8%	682	8.0%	
Sussex County	642	6.2%	1	0.0%	680	6.6%	779	7.5%	
State	2202	5.5%	17	0.0%	4,197	10.5%	3,606	9.1%	
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor to Marry*		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption		
New Castle County	530	2.5%		0.0%	259	1.2%	86	0.4%	
Kent County	210	2.5%		0.0%	119	1.4%	41	0.5%	
Sussex County	116	1.1%		0.0%	87	0.8%	32	0.3%	
State	856	2.2%	-	0.0%	465	1.2%	159	0.4%	
	Total								
New Castle County	20,975	100%							
Kent County	8,501	100%							
Sussex County	10,327	100%							
State	39,803	100%							

*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases.

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,442	2,106	-336	-13.8%
Kent County	934	881	-53	-5.7%
Sussex County	902	729	-173	-19.2%
State	4,278	3,716	-562	-13.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,565	2,262	-303	-11.8%
Kent County	1,139	1,121	-18	-1.6%
Sussex County	963	881	-82	-8.5%
State	4,667	4,264	-403	-8.6%

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

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings						
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	589	28.0%	1,105	52.5%	159	7.5%
Kent County	232	26.3%	482	54.7%	92	10.4%
Sussex County	129	17.7%	426	58.4%	137	18.8%
State	950	25.6%	2,013	54.2%	388	10.4%
	VOP*				Total	
New Castle County	253	12.0%			2,106	100%
Kent County	75	8.5%			881	100%
Sussex County	37	5.1%			729	100%
State	365	9.8%			3,716	100%

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions						
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	455	20.1%	1,393	61.6%	182	8.0%
Kent County	193	17.2%	766	68.3%	90	8.0%
Sussex County	137	15.6%	568	64.5%	136	15.4%
State	785	18.4%	2,727	64.0%	408	9.6%
	VOP*				Total	
New Castle County	232	10.3%			2,262	100%
Kent County	72	6.4%			1,121	100%
Sussex County	40	4.5%			881	100%
State	344	8.1%			4,264	100%

*VOP = Violations of Probation.

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Mediation Hearings Scheduled				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,725	4,875	-2,850	-36.9%
Kent County	2,510	2,075	-435	-17.3%
Sussex County	2,762	2,729	-33	-1.2%
State	12,997	9,679	-3,318	-25.5%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Mediation Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,204	2,897	-1,307	-31.1%
Kent County	1,417	1,145	-272	-19.2%
Sussex County	1,552	1,583	31	2.0%
State	7,173	5,625	-1,548	-21.6%

Note: Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge.

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	25,682	25,872	190	0.7%
Kent County	10,123	10,428	305	3.0%
Sussex County	11,664	11,083	-581	-5.0%
State	47,469	47,383	-86	-0.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019- Total Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	28,390	25,781	-2,609	-9.2%
Kent County	10,875	10,602	-273	-2.5%
Sussex County	12,135	12,079	-56	-0.5%
State	51,400	48,462	-2,938	-5.7%

Notes:

*A civil filing is defined as one petition or one single civil incident filed with the Family Court. In a divorce matter, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce, it is counted as only one filing.

*A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual or defendant. A single criminal or juvenile delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or of multiple charges relating to a single incident.

*Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge.

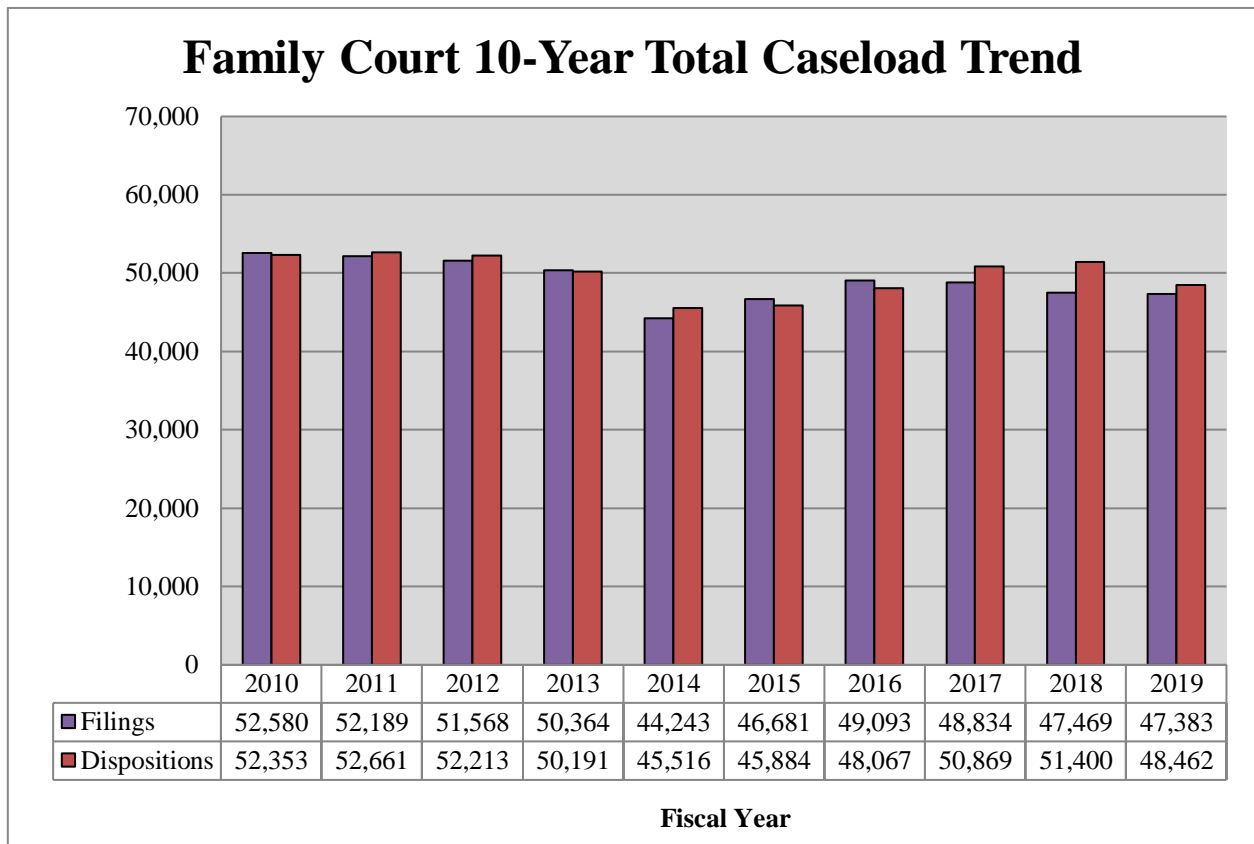
*Custody, support, visitation, paternity, guardianship, imperiling family relations, and rule to show cause filings are scheduled for mediation unless bypass mediation rules apply as indicated in 13 Del. C. § 711A and 13 Del. C. § 728A; Family Court Procedures OCI-914 and OCI-902.

*Automatic Expungements/Pardons resulting in Automatic Juvenile Expungements are counted as filings in this report due to the amount of staff effort to process them. Although there is not a disposition from a Hearing Officer for Automatic Expungements, the directive letter from SBI is acted upon by our staff. Therefore, the resolution of these types of filings are added to the same month they are received in the Disposition sections of this report.

*Due to expungements, Criminal Filings / Dispositions stats were taken from reports ran each month throughout the year. While this method will not catch all filing and dispositions that may have been expunged, this is the method that will allow us to capture the most. The volume of expungements will affect all data regarding juvenile criminal charges. Any decreases from prior FYs should not be assumed to be actual decreases as we don't have a definitive way to measure the impact of all the charges immediately expunged.

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

FAMILY COURT



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

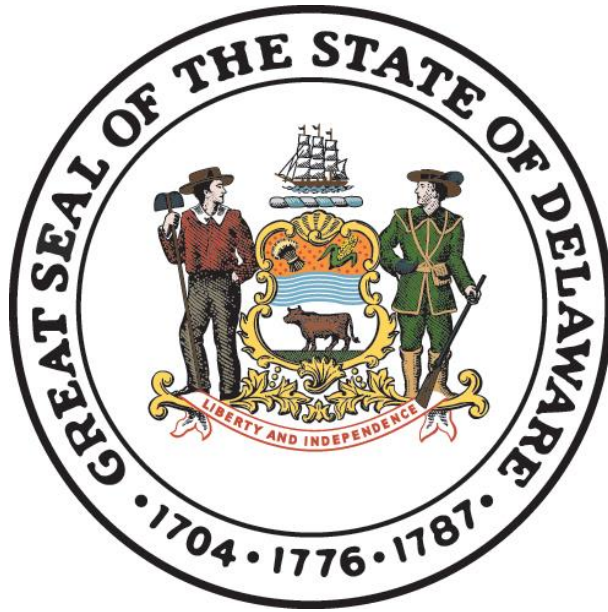
Notes:

*A civil filing is defined as one petition or one single civil incident filed with the Family Court. In a divorce matter, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce, it is counted as only one filing.

*A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual or defendant. A single criminal or juvenile delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or of multiple charges relating to a single incident.

*Automatic Expungements/Pardons resulting in Automatic Juvenile Expungements are counted as filings in this report due to the amount of staff effort to process them. Although there is not a disposition from a Hearing Officer for Automatic Expungements, the directive letter from SBI is acted upon by our staff. Therefore, the resolution of these types of filings are added to the same month they are received in the Disposition sections of this report.

*Due to expungements, Criminal Filings / Dispositions stats were taken from reports ran each month throughout the year. While this method will not catch all filing and dispositions that may have been expunged, this is the method that will allow us to capture the most. The volume of expungements will affect all data regarding juvenile criminal charges. Any decreases from prior FYs should not be assumed to be actual decreases as we don't have a definitive way to measure the impact of all the charges immediately expunged.



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

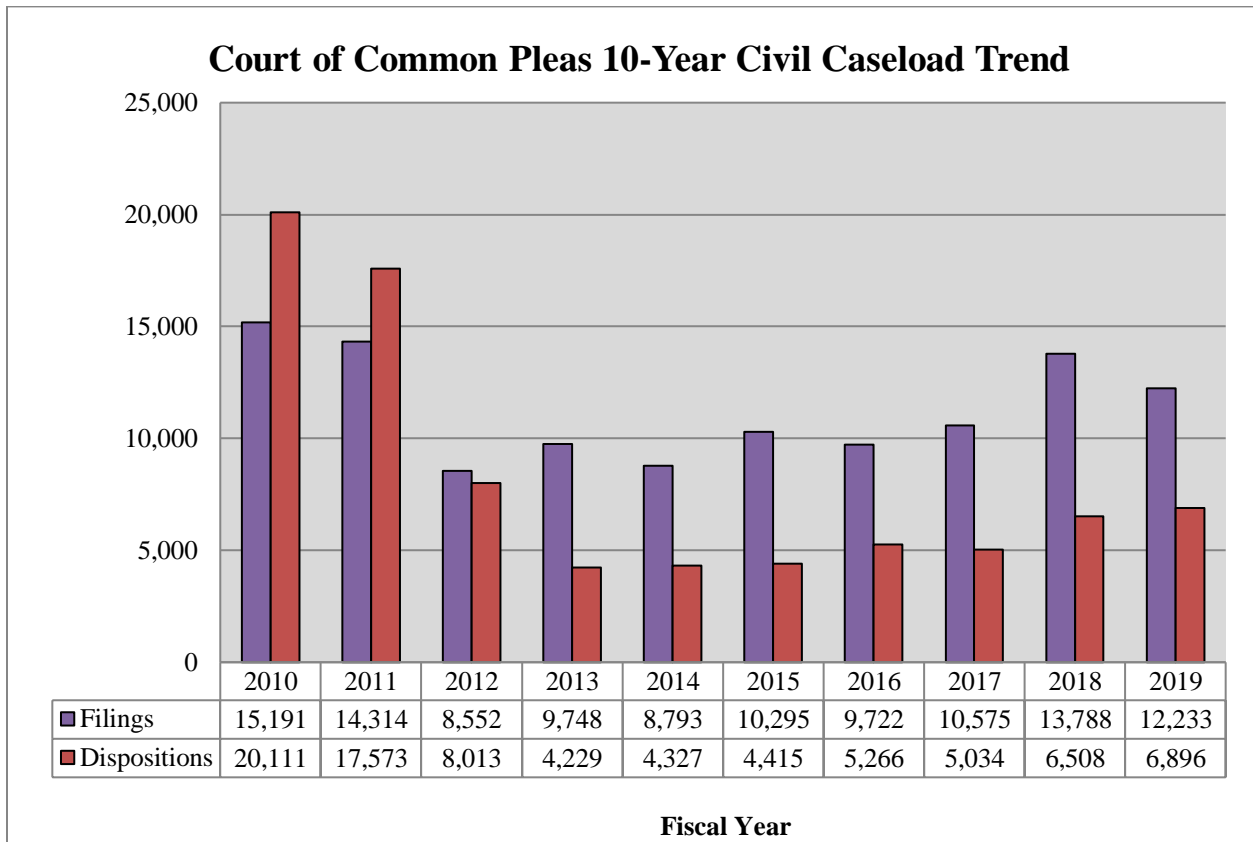
Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,910	7,040	-870	-11.0%
Kent County	2,862	2,648	-214	-7.5%
Sussex County	3,016	2,545	-471	-15.6%
State	13,788	12,233	-1,555	-11.3%

Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,586	3,718	132	3.7%
Kent County	1,349	1,452	103	7.6%
Sussex County	1,573	1,726	153	9.7%
State	6,508	6,896	388	6.0%

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Filings						
	Complaints		Civil Judgments, Name Changes & Appeals		Total	
New Castle County	4,694	66.7%	2,346	33.3%	7,040	100%
Kent County	1,680	63.4%	968	36.6%	2,648	100%
Sussex County	1,630	64.0%	915	36.0%	2,545	100%
State	8,004	65.4%	4,229	34.6%	12,233	100%

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

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Misdemeanor Case Filings*

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	40,620	40,711	91	0.2%
Kent County	22,429	21,926	-503	-2.2%
Sussex County	28,959	26,125	-2,834	-9.8%
State	92,008	88,762	-3,246	-3.5%

Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Misdemeanor Case Dispositions

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	30,917	30,973	56	0.2%
Kent County	16,752	15,005	-1,747	-10.4%
Sussex County	21,835	20,661	-1,174	-5.4%
State	69,504	66,639	-2,865	-4.1%

Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal Preliminary Hearing Case Filings

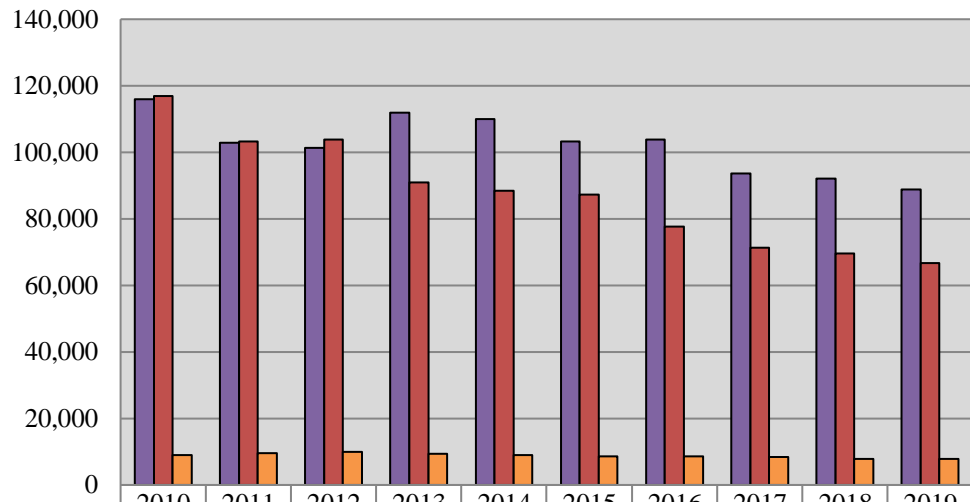
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,890	3,974	84	2.2%
Kent County	1,794	1,769	-25	-1.4%
Sussex County	2,114	1,996	-118	-5.6%
State	7,798	7,739	-59	-0.8%

*Includes Contempt of Court cases.

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

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Court of Common Pleas 10-Year Criminal Caseload Trend



■ Misdemeanor Filings	115,882	102,939	101,284	112,004	110,071	103,176	103,825	93,630	92,008	88,762
■ Misdemeanor Dispositions	116,926	103,209	103,802	90,873	88,507	87,366	77,673	71,401	69,504	66,639
■ Preliminary Hearings	9,066	9,590	9,917	9,398	9,011	8,621	8,689	8,402	7,798	7,739

Fiscal Year

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

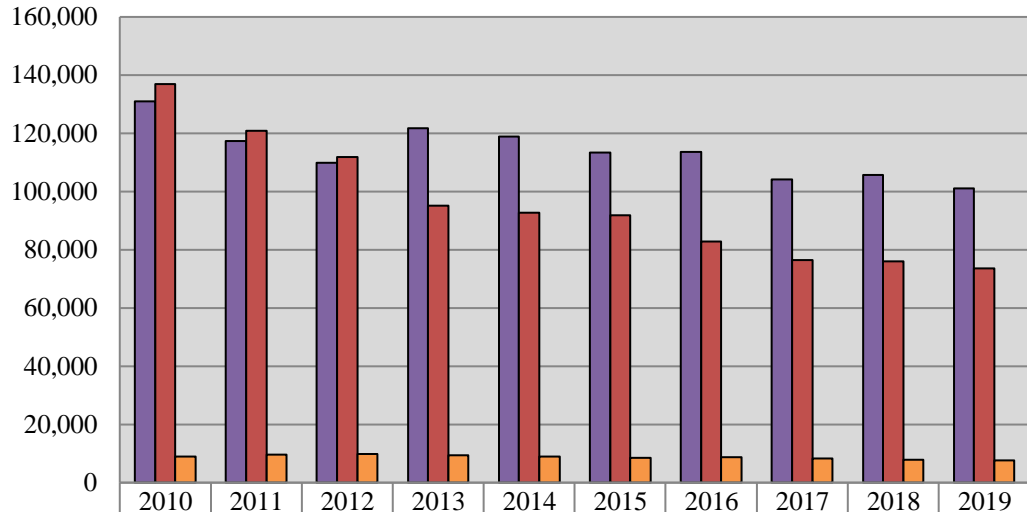
Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Criminal Misdemeanor and Civil Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	48,530	47,751	-779	-1.6%
Kent County	25,291	24,574	-717	-2.8%
Sussex County	31,975	28,670	-3,305	-10.3%
State	105,796	100,995	-4,801	-4.5%

Caseload Summary - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Criminal Misdemeanor and Civil Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	34,503	34,691	188	0.5%
Kent County	18,101	16,457	-1,644	-9.1%
Sussex County	23,408	22,387	-1,021	-4.4%
State	76,012	73,535	-2,477	-3.3%

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

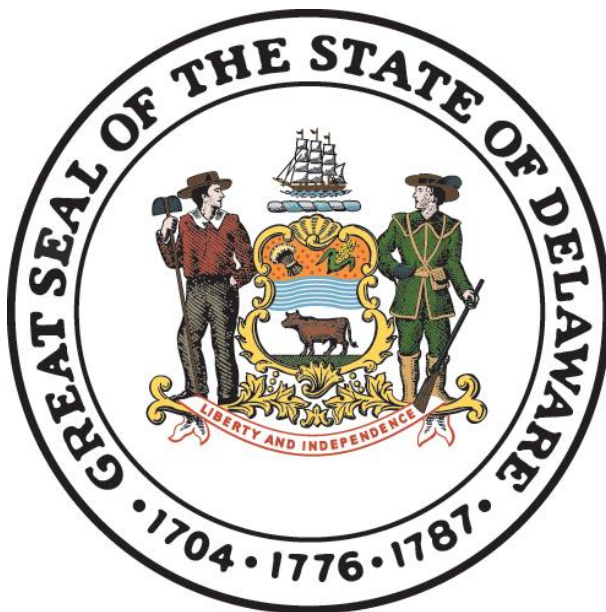
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Court of Common Pleas 10-Year Criminal Caseload Trend



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
■ Filings	131,073	117,252	109,836	121,752	118,864	113,471	113,547	104,205	105,796	100,995
■ Dispositions	137,037	120,782	111,815	95,102	92,834	91,781	82,939	76,435	76,012	73,535
■ Preliminary Hearings	9,066	9,590	9,917	9,398	9,011	8,621	8,689	8,402	7,798	7,739

Fiscal Year



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

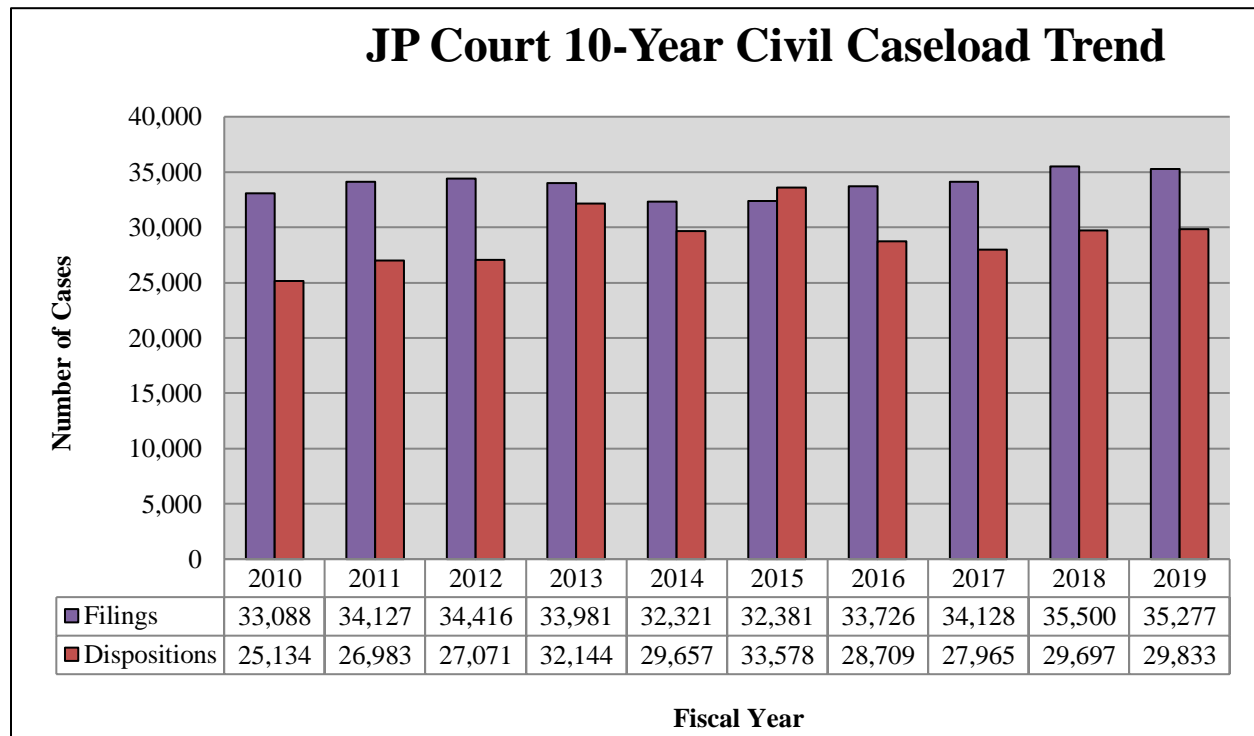
Caseload Summary - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Cases		
	Filings	Dispositions
New Castle County		
Court 9	3,415	2,405
Court 13	14,939	13,480
Kent County		
Court 16	9,312	7,208
Sussex County		
Court 17	7,611	6,740
State	35,277	29,833

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	3,352	3,415	63	1.9%
Court 13	15,671	14,939	-732	-4.7%
Kent County				
Court 16	8,515	9,312	797	9.4%
Sussex County				
Court 17	7,962	7,611	-351	-4.4%
State	35,500	35,277	-223	-0.6%

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Civil Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	2,447	2,405	-42	-1.7%
Court 13	14,411	13,480	-931	-6.5%
Kent County				
Court 16	6,914	7,208	294	4.3%
Sussex County				
Court 17	5,925	6,740	815	13.8%
State	29,697	29,833	136	0.5%

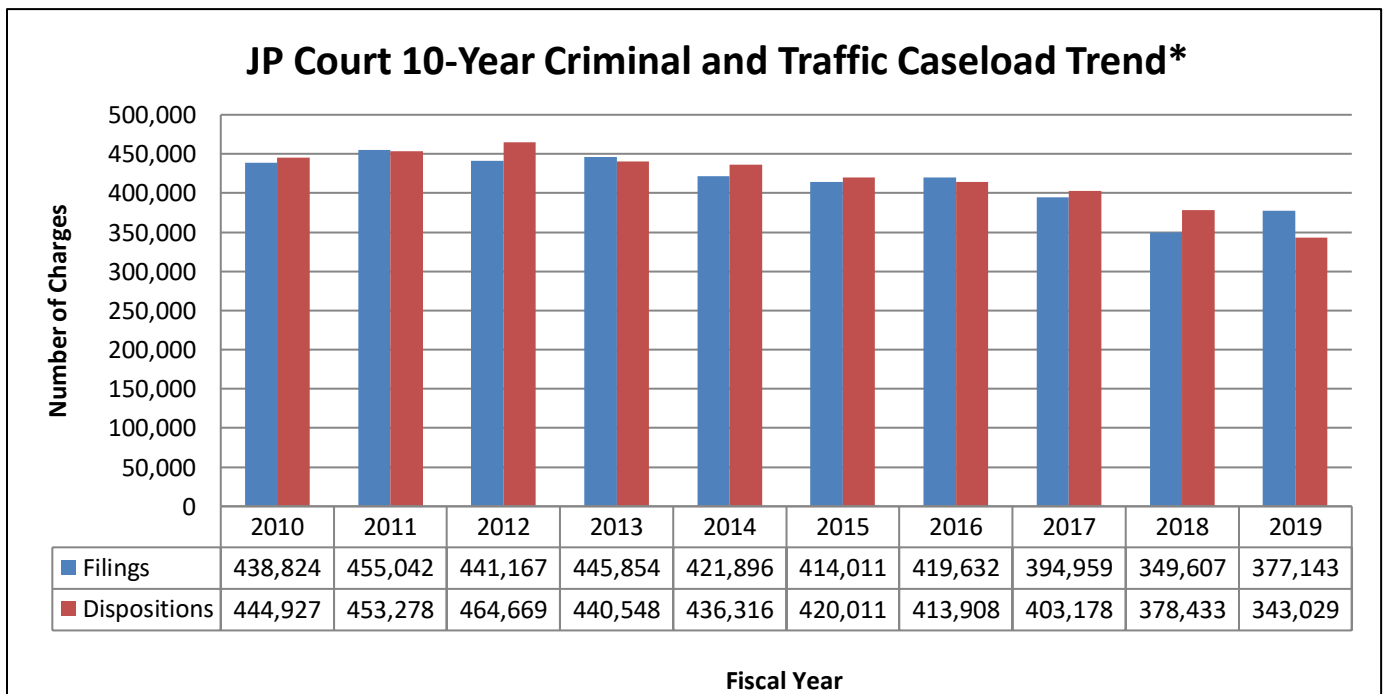
Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Civil Case Filings						
	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		Total	
New Castle County						
Court 9	2,996	87.7%	419	12.3%	3,415	100%
Court 13	3,798	25.4%	11,141	74.6%	14,939	100%
Kent County						
Court 16	6,037	64.8%	3,275	35.2%	9,312	100%
Sussex County						
Court 17	4,819	63.3%	2,792	36.7%	7,611	100%
State	17,650	50.0%	17,627	50.0%	35,277	100%

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



*Criminal filings and disposition information is by charge.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2019 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (Defendants)

	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	41	1.2%	177	5.3%	2,988	89.7%	124	3.7%	3,330	100%
Court 10	40	0.4%	350	3.5%	8,380	84.9%	1,105	11.2%	9,875	100%
Court 11	100	0.3%	7,742	24.3%	21,788	68.4%	2,228	7.0%	31,858	100%
Court 20	9	0.2%	1,463	29.4%	2,932	58.9%	577	11.6%	4,981	100%
Kent County										
Court 6	14	0.2%	227	3.9%	5,435	93.0%	165	2.8%	5,841	100%
Court 7	100	0.6%	3,605	22.4%	11,134	69.1%	1,267	7.9%	16,106	100%
Court 8	2	0.1%	94	4.3%	1,987	91.5%	88	4.1%	2,171	100%
Sussex County										
Court 1*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Court 2	79	0.5%	8,383	53.5%	5,882	37.5%	1,338	8.5%	15,682	100%
Court 3	158	1.5%	2,656	24.9%	6,982	65.5%	859	8.1%	10,655	100%
Court 4	10	0.2%	291	4.4%	5,982	90.9%	299	4.5%	6,582	100%
Court 14	1	0.0%	105	3.4%	2,797	90.1%	200	6.4%	3,103	100%
TRS	0	0%	8	3.1%	5	2.0%	241	94.9%	254	100%
State w/o VAC	554	0.5%	25,101	22.7%	76,292	69.1%	8,491	7.7%	110,438	100%
VAC	1,834	1.5%	0	0%	114,201	95.1%	4,058	3.4%	120,093	100%
State with VAC	2,388	1.0%	25,101	10.9%	190,493	82.6%	12,549	5.4%	230,531	100%

*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy 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 2019 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (Charges)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	83	1.4%	270	4.4%	5,594	91.0%	200	3.3%	6,147	100%
Court 10	45	0.2%	491	2.6%	17,060	90.0%	1,368	7.2%	18,964	100%
Court 11	742	1.0%	18,073	24.7%	49,206	67.2%	5,200	7.1%	73,221	100%
Court 20	12	0.1%	2,424	24.7%	6,109	62.3%	1,253	12.8%	9,798	100%
Kent County										
Court 6	23	0.2%	313	3.0%	9,836	94.3%	260	2.5%	10,432	100%
Court 7	413	1.2%	8,186	23.2%	24,056	68.2%	2,592	7.4%	35,247	100%
Court 8	3	0.1%	132	3.5%	3,537	93.1%	129	3.4%	3,801	100%
Sussex County										
Court 1*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Court 2	170	0.4%	21,039	53.4%	13,825	35.1%	4,370	11.1%	39,404	100%
Court 3	267	1.0%	8,099	29.4%	16,643	60.5%	2,501	9.1%	27,510	100%
Court 4	18	0.1%	463	3.6%	11,959	92.3%	517	4.0%	12,957	100%
Court 14	3	0.0%	155	2.1%	6,692	92.6%	373	5.2%	7,223	100%
TRS	0	0%	9	3.3%	11	4.0%	252	92.6%	272	100%
State w/o VAC										
VAC	1,779	0.7%	59,654	24.4%	164,528	67.2%	19,015	7.8%	244,976	100%
VAC	2,136	1.6%	0	0%	123,956	93.8%	6,075	4.6%	132,167	100%
State with VAC										
VAC	3,915	1.0%	59,654	15.8%	288,484	76.5%	25,090	6.7%	377,143	100%

*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy Court.

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (Defendants)

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	3,538	3,330	-208	-5.9%
Court 10	8,969	9,875	906	10.1%
Court 11	27,990	31,858	3,868	13.8%
Court 20	4,856	4,981	125	2.6%
Kent County				
Court 6	5,250	5,841	591	11.3%
Court 7	14,433	16,106	1,673	11.6%
Court 8	2,656	2,171	-485	-18.3%
Sussex County				
Court 1	0	0	0	0%
Court 2	14,769	15,682	913	6.2%
Court 3	9,661	10,655	994	10.3%
Court 4	6,671	6,582	-89	-1.3%
Court 14	3,309	3,103	-206	-6.2%
TRS	162	254	92	56.8%
State Without VAC	102,264	110,438	8,174	8.0%
VAC	112,713	120,093	7,380	6.5%
State with VAC	214,977	230,531	15,554	7.2%

*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy Court.

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (Charges)				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Court 9	6,447	6,147	-300	-4.7%
Court 10	17,524	18,964	1,440	8.2%
Court 11	62,702	73,221	10,519	16.8%
Court 20	10,043	9,798	-245	-2.4%
Kent County				
Court 6	9,636	10,432	796	8.3%
Court 7	30,905	35,247	4,342	14.0%
Court 8	4,830	3,801	-1,029	-21.3%
Sussex County				
Court 1	0	0	0	0%
Court 2	36,720	39,404	2,684	7.3%
Court 3	26,268	27,510	1,242	4.7%
Court 4	14,299	12,957	-1,342	-9.4%
Court 14	7,282	7,223	-59	-0.8%
TRS	173	272	99	57.2%
State Without VAC	226,829	244,976	18,147	8.0%
VAC	122,778	132,167	9,389	7.6%
State with VAC	349,607	377,143	27,536	7.9%

*JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy Court.

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Court Rankings - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Cases Filed* (Charges)				
2018 Rank w/o VAC	2019 Rank w/o VAC		2019 Total Filings	2019 % of Total w/o VAC
1	1	Court 11	73,221	26.1%
2	2	Court 2	39,404	14.1%
3	3	Court 7	35,247	12.6%
4	4	Court 3	27,510	9.8%
5	5	Court 10	18,964	6.8%
6	6	Court 13	14,939	5.3%
7	7	Court 4	12,957	4.6%
10	8	Court 6	10,432	3.7%
8	9	Court 20	9,798	3.5%
9	10	Court 9	9,562	3.4%
11	11	Court 16	9,312	3.3%
12	12	Court 17	7,611	2.7%
13	13	Court 14	7,223	2.6%
14	14	Court 8	3,801	1.4%
15	15	TRS	272	0.1%
**	**	Court 1	0	0%
2019 State w/o VAC			280,253	100%
2019 VAC			132,167	
2019 State w/ VAC			412,420	

*Includes civil, criminal, and traffic filings.

**JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy Court.

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Court Rankings - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Cases Filed* (Defendants)				
2018 Rank w/o VAC	2019 Rank w/o VAC		2019 Total Filings	2019 % of Total w/o VAC
1	1	Court 11	31,858	21.9%
4	2	Court 7	16,106	11.1%
3	3	Court 2	15,682	10.8%
2	4	Court 13	14,939	10.3%
5	5	Court 3	10,655	7.3%
6	6	Court 10	9,875	6.8%
7	7	Court 16	9,312	6.4%
8	8	Court 17	7,611	5.2%
9	9	Court 9	6,745	4.6%
10	10	Court 4	6,582	4.5%
11	11	Court 6	5,841	4.0%
12	12	Court 20	4,981	3.4%
13	13	Court 14	3,103	2.1%
14	14	Court 8	2,171	1.8%
15	15	TRS	254	0.1%
**	**	Court 1	0	0%
2019 State w/o VAC			145,715	100%
2019 VAC			120,093	
2019 State w/ VAC			265,808	

*Includes civil, criminal, and traffic filings.

**JP Court 1 closed November 2016.

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center. TRS = Truancy Court.

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Cases Filed (Charges)

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal & Traffic	349,607	377,143	27,536	7.9%
Civil	35,500	35,277	-223	-0.6%
Total	385,107	412,420	27,313	7.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Cases Disposed (Charges)

	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal & Traffic	378,433	343,029	-35,404	-9.4%
Civil	29,697	29,833	136	0.5%
Total	408,130	372,862	-35,268	-8.6%

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Filings (Defendants)

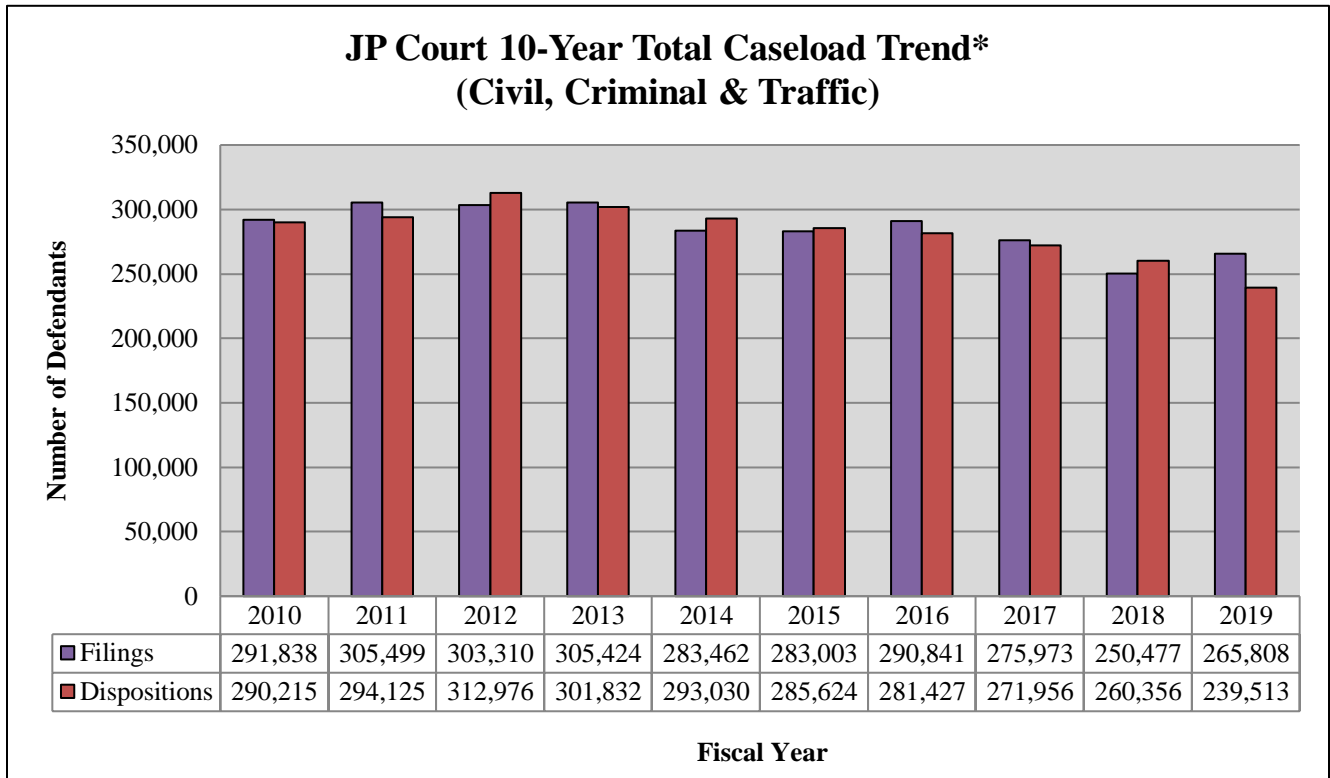
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal & Traffic	214,977	230,531	15,554	7.2%
Civil	35,500	35,277	-223	-0.6%
Total	250,477	265,808	15,331	6.1%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Cases Dispositions (Defendants)

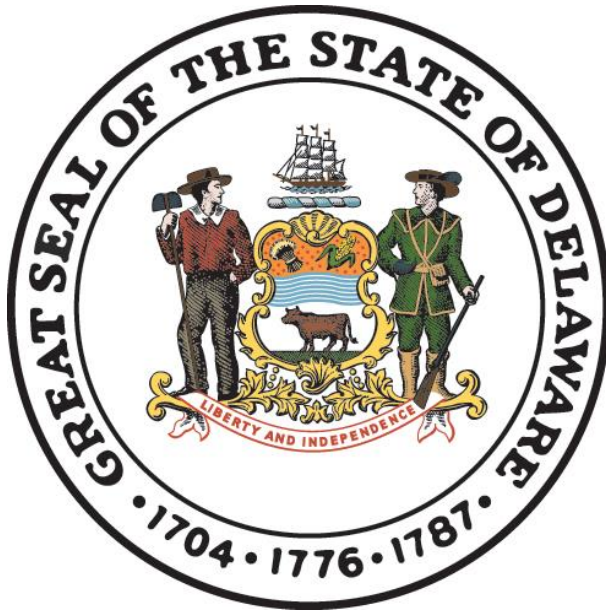
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
Criminal & Traffic	230,659	209,680	-20,979	-9.1%
Civil	29,697	29,833	136	0.5%
Total	260,356	239,513	-20,843	-8.0%

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



*Criminal filings and disposition information is by defendant.



ALDERMAN'S COURTS
State of Delaware

2019 Annual Report Statistical Information

ALDERMAN'S COURTS

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Newark	13,210	12,916	-294	-2.2%
Newport	4,937	3,849	-1,088	N/A
Sussex County				
Bethany Beach	0	0	0	N/A
Dewey Beach	491	454	-37	-7.5%
Laurel	5,645	4,123	-1,522	-27.0%
Rehoboth Beach	2,082	1,813	-269	-12.9%
State	26,365	23,155	-3,210	-12.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County				
Newark	12,188	12,678	490	4.0%
Newport	729	3,849	3,120	428.0%
Sussex County				
Bethany Beach	0	0	0	N/A
Dewey Beach	605	594	-11	-1.8%
Laurel	5,285	4,140	-1,145	-21.7%
Rehoboth Beach	2,145	1,777	-368	-17.2%
State	20,952	23,038	2,086	10.0%

Notes: 1) 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. 2) Bethany Beach Alderman's Court did not report FY2019 filings or dispositions to the Administrative Office of the Courts. 3) Newport and Rehoboth Beach did not have criminal filings or dispositions.

*Alderman's Courts are not part of the Delaware court system. They are independent entities within their respective Municipalities. However, cases may be transferred or appealed to a State court.

Source: Alderman's Courts; Administrative Office of the Courts.