

“Justice on the Move”



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2002 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary

IN MEMORY OF ADAM GOLBY

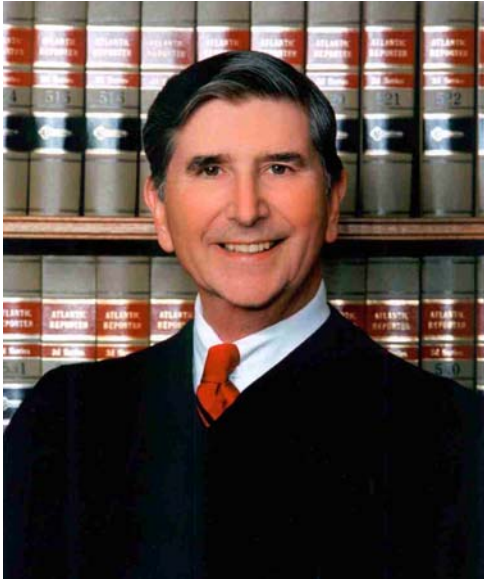
On December 29, 2002 the Delaware Judiciary lost a dedicated, valued co-worker and friend, Adam Golby. As the statistician for the Administrative Office of the Delaware Courts, Adam made many contributions throughout his career. Most notably, Adam was an integral part of the Delaware Judiciary's annual and statistical reports over the past twenty-five years. His unexpected passing has saddened all who knew him. He will be missed.

Published by the Administrative Office of the Courts, January 2003.
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Annual caseload statistics for the Delaware State Courts are published under separate cover in the "2002 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary." Copies of this publication can be obtained by contacting the Administrative Office of the Courts or online at <http://courts.state.de.us/supreme>.

Message from Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

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



It is my pleasure to present to you the 2002 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary. Over the past year, the Judiciary has faced many challenges. Our emphasis has been on the move to the new New Castle County Courthouse, building on our progress in technology, achieving effective integrated case management systems, addressing delays in court case processing, and finding fair and effective ways to provide legal services to indigent and non-English speaking litigants. The Judiciary is proud of its accomplishments in these areas and seeks to continue improving internal court operations and the access to justice for the citizens of Delaware.

The Judiciary strives to operate at peak efficiency with the resources available. To this end, I established a Court Resources Task Force as set forth in Administrative Directive No. 136 dated January 9, 2002. The Task Force is charged with assuring that modern business and management techniques prevalent in the private sector are being applied to the management and functioning of the Delaware Judiciary. The goal is to have the Courts maximize the economies of scales that can be achieved by a statewide co-operative effort.

I want to give special thanks to those who worked diligently to make the move to the new New Castle County Courthouse a success. Many individual officers and staff deserve great credit for this success, particularly Edward G. Pollard, Jr., former Family Court Administrator and current Deputy State Court Administrator, was instrumental in this process. His dedication, professionalism and thoroughness are exemplary. As we move forward, the Judiciary will focus on creating uniform case processing standards in preparation for the development and implementation of a commercial-off-the-shelf case and financial management system (COTS) and develop and implement case management initiatives that will reduce the adjudication time in criminal cases. Emphasis will also be given to providing the necessary funding for court-appointed counsel and court interpreters to assure fairness and to make the judicial process more efficient and cost effective.

It is my honor to serve Delaware as Chief Justice. I have enjoyed serving in good economic times and in challenging times such as those which now confront our state. I am proud to be a part of the traditional Delaware culture of all three branches of government working together to support the mission of Delaware's Judiciary.

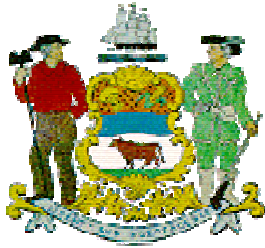
Respectfully,

E. Norman Veasey

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an efficient and effective mechanism for the citizens of the State to have their cases fairly decided in a prompt manner to achieve swift justice.

Improving Justice For All



The Delaware Court System is dedicated to the principles of equal and timely access to justice so that all individuals are treated with integrity, honesty, equality, respect for the rule of law and the rights of all.

Through innovative technologies to increased emphasis on increasing the pace of litigation the Delaware Court System is improving justice for all.

Court Facilities

The recently opened New Castle County Courthouse is a

state of the art facility that utilizes staff and technology to create a customer service oriented environment that is conducive to the efficient delivery of justice. Services that are most frequently needed by the public (e.g., document filings, fines/payments) are located close to the entrance. In addition, information staff are available near the entrance to assist the public in getting to where they need to go. Large plasma screens detailing court hearings, information staff, and an easily accessible self-help center are just some of the innovative approaches to quality customer services provided.

Renovations are underway at the Sussex County Courthouse in

Georgetown that will result in the addition of one new courtroom and new judges chambers; create more efficient work areas for staff in the Prothonotary's Office and Court of Common Pleas Clerk's Office; create separate areas for defense and prosecutorial witnesses; provide attorney-client interview rooms; and, increase the Department of Corrections' holding facility within the Courthouse. In addition, the entrance to the courthouse will be moved to the side of the building to provide better security and signage will be added to help guide the public while visiting the Courthouse.

Court of Chancery

The Court of Chancery is now more accessible with the transition of the Register in Chancery to a statewide office and the implementation of statewide practices and procedures. The Court has recently installed the same docketing software in all three counties that previously only the New Castle County Register in Chancery Office used. This docketing system is now accessible also by the Chambers staff to better facilitate the management of the caseloads. The Court of Chancery looks forward to when the COTS initiative will help mesh the information from the Register in Chancery and the other Courts statewide to better improve the entire Court system's accessibility to the public and the bar through e-filing and internet access to case information. The Court is also in the process of constructing a new Court of Chancery building on The Circle in Georgetown which will enable the consolidation of the all the support staff of the Court to be in one building which will facilitate an improved access for the public and the bar.

Superior Court

In 2002 the Superior Court of Delaware was commended in a Harris Poll of the nation's top corporate counsel and senior litigators, commissioned by the United States Chamber of Commerce, for "having a litigation environment perceived to be fair and reasonable in its handling of civil cases."

- The Superior Court has continued its involvement in the improvement of the administration of justice on a national level. President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely and Criminal Administrative Judge Richard Gebelein have worked, over the last year, on the American Bar Association's Drug Court Standard. Judge Gebelein was the principal draftsman and President Judge Ridgely managed it through the approval process, culminating in the approval of the Standard by the ABA House of Delegates last summer. The standard was later endorsed by the Conference of Chief Justices and the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association.
- The Court's nationwide reputation was recognized when it was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of nine pilot sites in the country to test the concept of re-entry courts. Re-entry courts focus on the need to create accountability systems and support networks for returning offenders to increase the chances of successful reintegration into their communities. The court is testing two approaches to re-entry: one targets returning domestic violence offenders in Sussex County and the other deals with the general population of returning offenders in New Castle County.
- Over the past year, the implementation of Real-Time Court Reporting has been accomplished in the Superior Court. The ability of attorneys, parties and Judges to instantly view recorded testimony is a major improvement accomplished throughout the state.

Family Court continues on its quest to improve the quality of the services provided in each of our courthouses. From our "VOICES" survey in 1992 to our "Courting Quality" initiative commenced in 1996 and our development and publication of the Family Court Performance Standards in 1999, we have now arrived at another critical milestone in our quest to provide quality services to the citizens of the State of Delaware.

- During the past year the Family Court focused much attention on the formulation and testing of performance "measures" for the Family Court Performance Standards as part of our "Quality Counts...Family Court...Counts Quality" program. The application of the performance measures will allow the Court, staff, litigants and the public to gauge our actual performance against those standards established in 1999.
- With the assistance and support of Dr. Ingo Keilitz, a nationally recognized expert on Trial Court Performance Standards and Measures, the five performance measurement focus groups, under the guidance of the Quality Counts Leadership Committee, composed of court and community members, and with the continued financial assistance of the First State Quality Improvement Fund, have developed and validated twenty-one measures for final development and implementation.
- Full implementation of the twenty-one performance measures is scheduled to commence in January 2003. Family Court will then utilize the information produced through the performance measurement process in order to adjust our policies, procedures and management practices in order to provide the quality of service the citizenry of our state deserve.

Court of Common Pleas

2002 was a challenging year for the Court of Common Pleas. The Court faced caseload increases and budget constraints and yet continued to effectively manage its busy calendars to provide high quality public service.

- During fiscal year 2002, the Court saw a considerable increase in the use of their mediation (dispute resolution) program that began in January of 2001. In partnership with the Center for Community Justice and the Delaware Center for Justice, the Court has referred approximately 800 cases to mediation since the start of the program. This program provides an alternative for criminal prosecution and it has been determined that it leaves participants with an increased sense of satisfaction about the criminal justice process.
- The Court continues to operate its very successful drug diversion program, a court-supervised, comprehensive program for non-violent offenders. This voluntary program, which handles approximately 500 participants each year, includes regular appearances before a Judge, participation in substance abuse education, drug testing and treatment, if needed. This program has been the subject of a study by the University of Pennsylvania on the role of judicial status hearings in drug court, a first study of its kind in the nation.
- Consistent with the Court's goal of ensuring maximum public access, it has developed a large number of materials and forms designed for self-represented litigants. Court materials are available providing general civil and criminal information, as well as for appeals from the JP Court, name changes, and civil and criminal motions. These materials are now available on the Court's website as well as in the New Castle County Courthouse Self-Help Center.

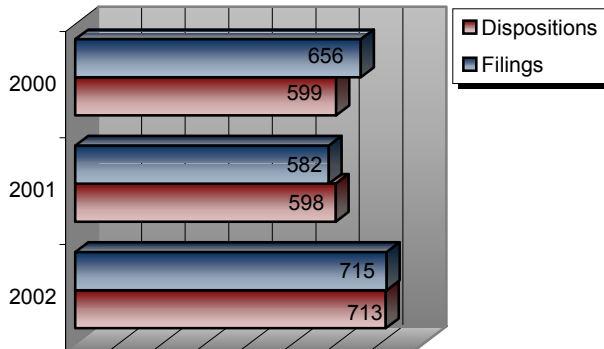
Justice of the Peace Court

In 2002 several initiatives underscore the Justice of the Peace Court's efforts to provide better services and to expedite case dispositions.

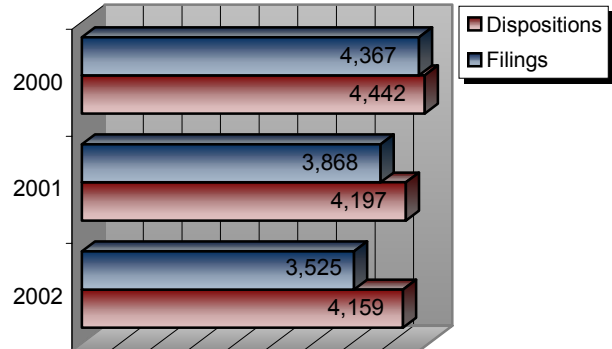
- A statewide Justice of the Peace Videophone Court was established at J.P. Court No.2 in Rehoboth. Conducting proceedings by videophone enables court users, such as the police, to obtain warrants and have arraignments conducted, without they or the defendants physically appearing in court, thereby saving time.
- A pilot project providing legal representation at JP Court 20 was initiated to provide an on-site attorney general and public defender. Benefits to victims and defendants include early resolution of cases (often at the initial court appearance), early access to victim's services, and access to legal services for both victims and defendants.
- The Justice of the Peace Court's statewide Truancy Court has developed into a multi-faceted program involving an extensive network of social service and treatment agencies that provide assistance to families with truancy problems.

Court Statistics by Fiscal Year (July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002)

Delaware Supreme Court



Chancery Court

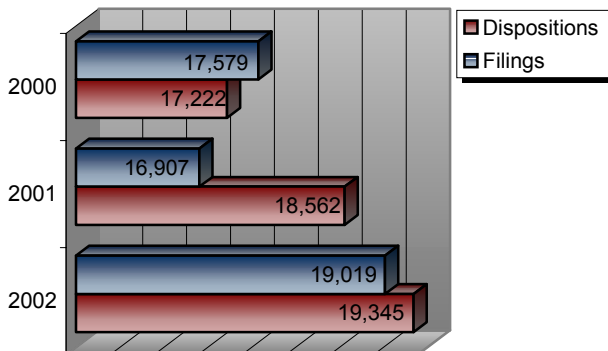


- The Supreme Court of Delaware saw a 22% increase in case filings in FY 2002 from the previous fiscal year.
- The Supreme Court disposed of 19.4% more cases in FY 2002 than in FY 2001.
- The difference between filings and dispositions resulted in a pending caseload increase of 0.6%, from 342 at the end of FY 2001 to 344 at the end of FY 2002.
- Chancery Court FY 2002 case filings decreased about 1% from cases filed in FY 2001.
- Cases disposed of by the Court in FY 2002 decreased 8.9% from the previous fiscal year.
- The total pending caseload increased 4.8%, from 3,156 at the end of FY 2001 to 3,274 at the end of FY 2002.

FY 2002 Case Filings by County

Court	New Castle	Kent	Sussex
Superior Court	12,968	3,025	3,026
Family Court	31,793	10,114	11,807
CCP	49,176	19,563	24,226
JP Court	57,612	22,229	29,545
Totals:	151,549	54,931	68,604

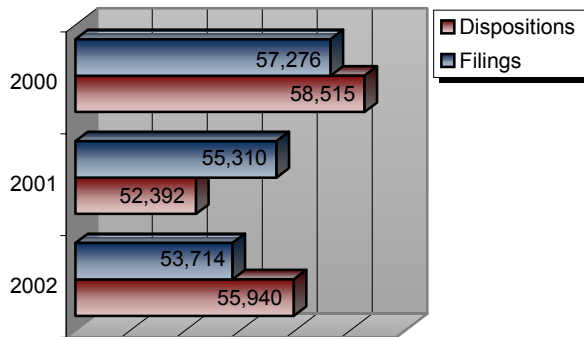
Superior Court



- Total case filings in FY 2002 increased 12.5% from cases filed the preceding fiscal year.
- Dispositions increased 4.2% in the same period.
- Civil case filings went up 14.4% during FY 2002, from 8,812 in FY 2001 to 10,078 in FY 2002.
- Civil case dispositions decreased 1.6% during the same period from 10,671 in FY 2001 to 10,499 in FY 2002.
- Criminal case filings increased 10.5% from 8,095 in FY 2001 to 8,941 in FY 2002.
- During the same period criminal case dispositions increased 12.1% from 7,891 in FY 2001 to 8,846 in FY 2002.
- Total pending caseload decreased 2.4%.

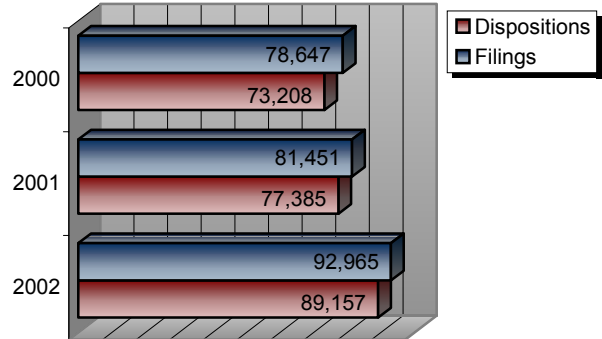
Court Statistics by Fiscal Year (July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002)

Delaware Family Court



- Total case filings in FY 2002 decreased 2.9% from FY 2001.
- Total case dispositions increased 6.8% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased 2.9%, from 9,738 in FY 2001 to 9,230 in FY 2002. Civil case dispositions were up 7.7% from 37,669 to 40,571 during the same period.
- Adult criminal case filings were down 3.4% from 5,566 in FY 2001 to 5,378 in FY 2002. In the same period, criminal case dispositions were down 1% from 5,444 to 5,388.
- Juvenile case filings decreased 4.2%, from 9,728 in FY 2001 to 9,320 in FY 2002. In the same period, juvenile case dispositions were up 7.6% from 9,279 to 9,981.
- At the end of FY 2002 there were 12,028 cases pending compared with 14,254 pending at the end of FY 2001, a decrease of 15.6%

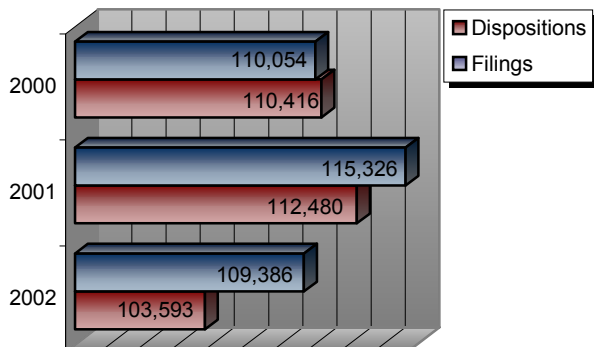
Court of Common Pleas



- In FY 2002, total case filings went up 14.1% from FY 2001.
- Dispositions increased 15.2% during the same time period.
- Civil case filings increased 30.3% during FY 2002, from 8,058 in FY 2001 to 10,496 in FY 2002. In the same period, civil case dispositions went up 27.8% from 6,574 in FY 2001 to 8,400 in FY 2002.
- Criminal case filings increased from 73,393 in FY 2001 to 82,469 in FY 2002, a 12.4% increase. Criminal case dispositions saw a 14% increase from 70,811 in FY 2001 to 80,757 in FY 2002.
- Total cases pending increased 8.6% from 44,046 at the end of FY 2001 to 47,854 at the end of FY 2002.

- FY 2002 case filings decreased 5.1% from FY 2001.
- Case dispositions decreased 7.9% during the same period.
- The difference between filings and dispositions resulted in a pending caseload increase of 30.8%, from 18,792 at the end of FY 2001 to 24,585 at the end of FY 2002.

Justice of the Peace Court



Court Developments and Initiatives

COTS – “Courts Organized to Serve”

In FY 2002, the Delaware Judiciary made significant progress toward the goal of acquiring a comprehensive, statewide, integrated case management and financial system for the Delaware court system. The adoption of a commercial off-the-shelf system (COTS) is expected to greatly improve the Delaware Judiciary’s ability to manage its complex caseload. COTS will assist the courts in improving service to the public and ensure that timely information is available for court decisions. COTS will also increase staff productivity, promote consistent and uniform staff training, and improve the Judiciary’s ability to respond to legislative mandates.

In November 2001 a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development and implementation of COTS was issued. After careful review of the proposals received the selection of Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) as the COTS system vendor was made in the spring of 2002. This decision was based on ACS’s reputation as a

strong company with large court project success, including two statewide implementations. It has established strong partnerships with industry-leading vendors and is a Courtroom 21 participating company. Their off-the-shelf system provides a high degree of functionality based on Delaware’s requirements and provides scalable and flexible system architecture.

The term “COTS” stands most commonly for “commercial off-the-shelf software.” However, in Delaware, COTS has become known as “Courts Organized to Serve,” a name which has come to epitomize the project. All courts, from the Justice of the Peace Court through the Supreme Court, along with their partners in the Delaware justice system, pooled their talents and resources and worked in concert on this effort in an unprecedented fashion. Moving forward with this same level of cooperation will help ensure the project’s success and will ensure that the citizens of the State continue to be well-served by the courts in the years to come.

Rise in Conflict/Contract Attorneys

In early fiscal year 2002 it became apparent that the Judiciary would be facing a crisis in funding for Conflict Counsel Services. Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey asked Justice Myron Steele to assemble a broad based committee to study why costs in this area were increasing, what could be done to control these costs, and what ideas could be brought to the table to address the ever increasing cost in both the short and long-term related to conflict counsel and the closely related issue of court interpreters.

A broad based committee on representation of indigent defendants first met on November 20, 2001 and included a broad representation including numerous members of the defense bar, both public and private. After researching and considering the problem for several months, Justice Steele and his committee recommended legislative enactment of a surcharge on all criminal fines including traffic violations. House Bill 426, which was estimated would raise 1.9 million dollars annually, was drafted and introduced. Ultimately, adequate funds were included in the State’s operating budget and separate legislation was not required. The solution gives the Delaware Judiciary the ability to manage this difficult issue in an efficient fashion consistent with the goal of swift and fair justice.

Improving the Delivery of Justice

In fiscal year 2002 the Superior Court took steps toward improving its criminal case management in New Castle County to more efficiently process the Court's criminal caseload. The Judges of the Superior Court convened a Criminal Case Management Committee to reengineer the Court's Criminal Case Management Plan. Through the use of grant funds, the Superior Court was able to arrange visits by Judges representing courts around the country with innovative and diverse case management plans. These judges presented their plans, their insights and processes with not only the Superior Court Judges, but also to other key Court officials. Drawing from the best of these plans, in addition to the insights and ideas within the Court, the Criminal Case Management Committee has been working diligently to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court in criminal cases.

In addition to reengineering the Court's Criminal Case Management System, representatives of the Superior Court from all three counties are working on the Delivery of Justice Subcommittee, chaired by Justice Walsh, in an effort to assure the speedy delivery of justice. In their work on this committee, Superior Court staff address issues pertaining to defendants detained within the Department of Correction, standardization of record keeping and work to assure that access to justice is reliable and efficient.

Court Resources Task Force

The Court Resources Task Force worked diligently throughout the previous year to develop recommendations for improved public access to the Delaware court system, improve the administration of justice, and increase efficiency in court operations.

One of the primary recommendations is the reorganization of the Administrative Office of the Courts to include merging financial staff from all courts to increase accounting efficiency and result in centralized control over the budget of the individual courts. The Task Force also highlighted the need to continue to pursue the COTS initiative that will provide a new inte-

grated case management and financial system for all of Delaware's Courts.

Centralizing collections through the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) was also at the top of the list of recommendations. Currently each court is responsible for their own collection efforts, by centralizing these efforts the Task force believes the fee collection process will be more efficient and effective. Also suggested were the implementation of wage garnishments and allowing people to pay fines and assessments by credit card.

Legislative Updates

The bills listed were signed into law by the Governor of the State of Delaware over the past year:

House Resolution 67 – This resolution encourages the Courts to embrace the opportunities presented by the integration of the Courts in the New Castle County Courthouse and the Courts Resources Task Force to further unity and comity among the Courts. This resolution noted that the findings of the Court Resources Task Force, as presented in The Gilliam Report (November 2002), should be applied to improve services to the citizens of the State of Delaware and promote uniformity and centralization of services as a catalyst toward the implementation of COTS, “Courts Organized to Serve.”

House Resolution 80 - This resolution calls for a task force to be created to review the bail bond procedure in the various courts in the State of Delaware. Initial report to be delivered by February 1, 2003. With regards to bail, the various components of the Criminal Justice System have varying interest and as a general rule favor high bail; while the Department of Corrections struggles with pre-trial overcrowding the courts have a duty to set reasonable bail to assure the defendants appearance. A task force was established with representatives from the Courts, the office of the Attorney General, the Public Defender’s Office, Law Enforcement Agencies, the Legislature and others charged with making recommendations for improvement in the bail setting process.

House Bill 598 – This legislation is related to juvenile probation and juvenile drug treatment services which seeks to promote abstinence; the reduction or elimination of recidivism; the substitution of healthy habits and activities for substance abuse; strengthening the capacity of families to provide structure and guidance for their drug-involved youth; keeping juveniles in school or gainfully employed.

Senate Bill 255 – This act modifies and supersedes the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) which has been the law in Delaware since 1976. The Act provides clearer standards for States to exercise jurisdiction over child custody disputes. The Act gives clear priority to the home state of the child, enunciates a standard for determining whether a state continues to have jurisdiction over a custody dispute and clarifies jurisdiction over requests to modify a custody order.

Senate Bill 349 – This legislation will minimize the ability of prisoners to file meritless civil suits. The overwhelming majority of civil suits brought by prisoners are dismissed without relief being awarded because they lack valid claims.

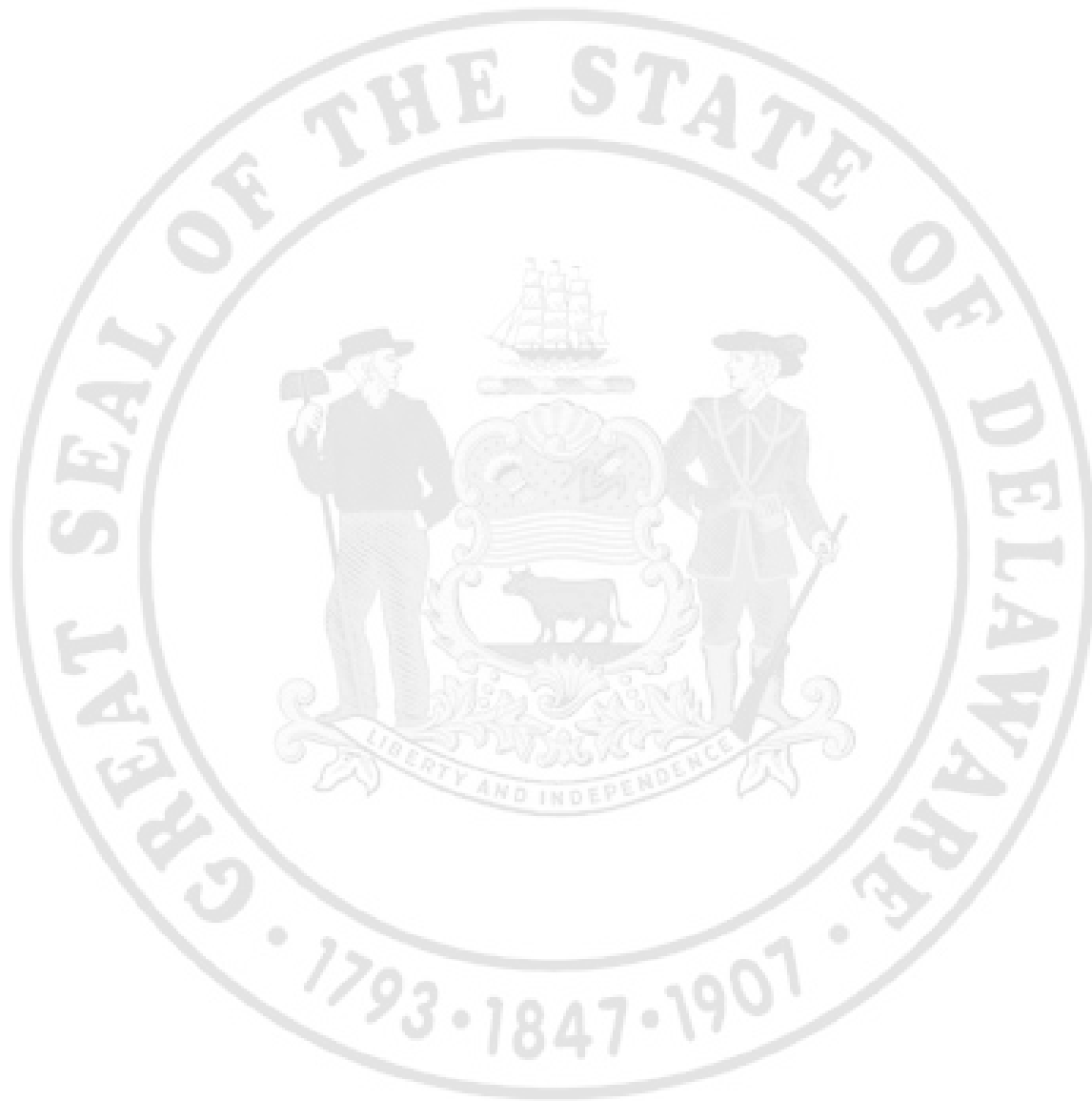
Senate Bill 351 – This legislation concerns an attorney guardian ad litem's role in representing a child. The changes make clear that the child is the client and the scope of representation is the child's best interests. It also makes sure that an attorney does not take the stand as a witness, but instead presents his or her position in the form of evidence.

Delaware Judicial Officer Appointments

The Honorable *Charles H. Tolliver, IV*, was reappointed as an associate judge of the Superior Court. His present term began upon his taking the oath of office on April 3, 2002.

The Honorable *William C. Bradley, Jr.*, was reappointed as a judge for the Court of Common Pleas. He took the oath of office for his term on April 3, 2002.

No new judicial officers were appointed during the 2002 Fiscal Year.



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courts.state.de.us

“Justice on the Move”



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2002 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary

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Respectfully,



INTRODUCTION TO THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM



The Delaware Judiciary 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, and related judicial agencies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

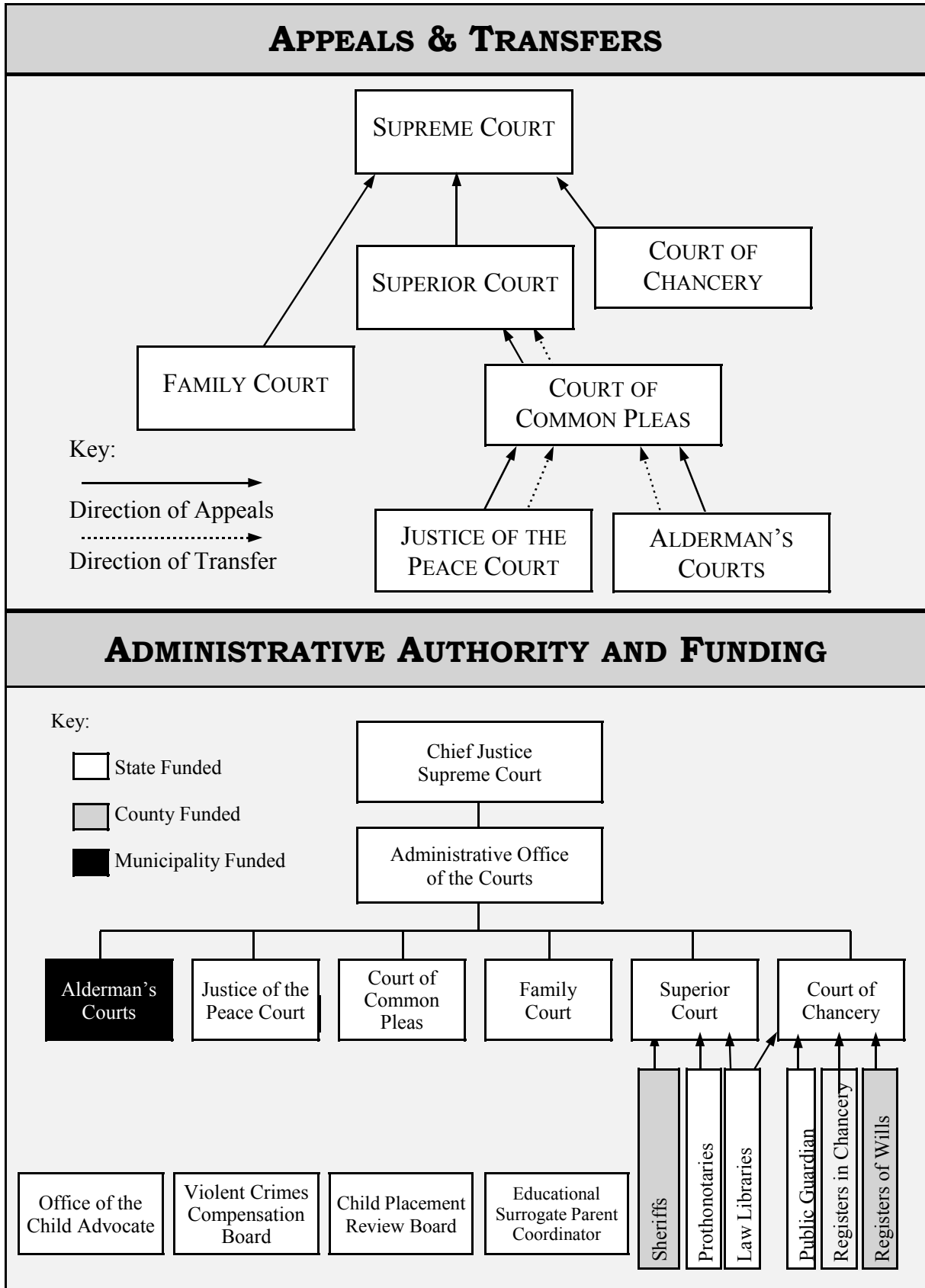
The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to equity. The litigation in this tribunal deals largely with corporate issues, trusts, estates, other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase of land and questions of title to real estate as well as commercial and contractual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

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

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

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

THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM



THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

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

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

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

COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

FAMILY COURT
Extensive 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 murder, rape, and kidnapping.

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

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

ALDERMAN'S COURTS*
Minor misdemeanors, traffic, parking, and minor civil matters occurring within town limits (specific jurisdiction varies with town charter, as approved by the General Assembly).

*Alderman's Courts are not part of the Delaware court system, they are independent entities within their respective municipalities. However, appealed cases are transferred to a state Court.

Fiscal Overview

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Summary of Judicial Budgets-Fiscal Years 2001-2002-2003-2004				
State Judicial Agencies and Bodies*				
	FY 2001 Actual Disbursement	FY 2002 Actual Disbursement	FY 2003 Appropriations	FY 2004 Request
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)#	\$1,902,500	\$1,935,108	\$2,784,700	\$3,308,400
Court Appointed Attorney Programs**,##	1,417,500	1,858,957	2,108,200	2,819,400
Interpreters##	----	139,435	198,900	215,000
Victim Offender Mediation Program**	424,800	424,800	424,800	424,800
Elder Law Program**	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Judicial Information Center###	2,378,300	2,913,100	2,683,000	2,885,900
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	458,600	409,600	410,200	447,700
Supreme Court	3,195,300	3,587,100	3,361,500	3,484,100
Retired Judges Program**	31,000	31,800	40,000	40,000
Continuing Judicial Education**	89,400	75,100	73,300	73,300
Court of Chancery####	2,077,100	2,693,200	3,311,000	3,496,800
Public Guardian	409,000	387,700	411,300	426,100
Superior Court	16,553,800	16,862,200	16,378,900	16,806,100
Law Libraries	484,400	535,000	498,600	512,500
Family Court	16,325,000	17,564,200	17,382,800	17,957,900
Court of Common Pleas	7,734,500	8,307,900	6,720,600	7,081,900
Justice of the Peace Courts	16,669,000	16,993,800	13,328,600	13,656,100
Violent Crimes Compensation Board	1,620,000	2,108,000	2,246,800	3,068,200
Child Placement Review Board***	485,600	437,700	550,900	557,800
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	56,000	79,700	72,300	72,300
Office of the Child Advocate	306,200	439,300	453,100	455,000
Total	\$ 72,668,000	\$ 77,833,700	\$ 73,489,500	\$ 77,838,300
County Judicial Agencies and Bodies				
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 783,304	\$ 831,973	\$ 686,053	
Register of Wills	950,794	1,019,475	1,108,329	
Prothonotary	32,074	75,000	44,500	
Sheriff	1,181,627	1,313,552	1,417,609	
NEW CASTLE COUNTY TOTALS	\$ 2,947,799	\$ 3,240,000	\$ 3,256,491	
KENT COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 157,700	\$ 175,000		
Register of Wills	151,100	169,000		
Sheriff	309,500	338,300		
KENT COUNTY TOTALS	\$ 618,300	\$ 682,300		
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Register in Chancery	\$ 146,332	\$ 131,689	\$ 29,309	
Register of Wills	174,630	214,038	217,263	
Sheriff	348,796	358,061	365,238	
SUSSEX COUNTY TOTALS	\$ 669,758	\$ 703,788	\$ 611,810	
GRAND TOTALS-JUDICIAL BRANCH	\$76,903,857	\$82,459,788	\$77,357,801	

*Figures include all funds, including State general funds, appropriated special funds, federal funds and/or other funds.

**These programs are funded as part of the AOC. They show separate for informational purposes.

***This Board was previously known as the Foster Care Review Board.

#Majority of growth is due to funding related to opening the new courthouse in Wilmington.

##As of July 1, 2001, all payments to court appointed attorneys and interpreters were transferred from the courts to AOC.

###FY 2004 budget request increase is in preparation for an integrated case and financial management system (COTS)

####Majority of growth is due to transfer of the Register in Chancery offices from County to State control on 01/01/2001.

Source Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Submitted to State General Fund						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Misc.	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	0.0%
Judicial Information Center	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Supreme Court	59,600	0	0	0	59,600	1.7%
Court of Chancery	0	0	222,000	0	222,000	8.2%
Public Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Superior Court	2,108,200	446,600	54,500	212,300	2,821,600	16.7%
Law Libraries	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Family Court	739,900	83,500	0	182,800	1,006,200	5.7%
Court of Common Pleas	1,983,200	1,145,700	0	192,200	3,321,100	40.0%
Justice of the Peace Court	2,206,700	976,300	0	13,100	3,196,100	18.8%
Child Placement Review Board***	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Office of the Child Advocate	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
STATE TOTALS	\$7,097,600	\$2,652,100	\$276,500	\$ 600,400	\$10,626,200	\$13.7%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Received by Violent Crimes Compensation Board						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest**	Misc.	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Superior Court	\$0	\$ 385,589	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 385,589	---
Family Court	0	24,527	0	0	24,527	---
Court of Common Pleas	0	738,729	0	0	738,729	---
Justice of the Peace Courts	0	1,354,528	0	0	1,354,528	---
Alderman's Courts	0	157,615	0	0	157,615	---
Restitution	0	86,018	0	0	86,018	---
Other	0	7,112	23,167	63,211	93,490	---
VCCB TOTALS	\$0	\$2,754,118	\$23,167	\$63,211	\$2,840,496	\$238.2%

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

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

***This Board was known as the Foster Care Review Board before changing its name in FY 2001.

#FY 2002 revenue divided by FY 2002 actual disbursement (includes State General, Federal, and other funds).

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Submitted to New Castle County						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 797,927	\$ 0	\$326,351	\$ 0	\$ 1,124,278	135.1%
Register of Wills	3,873,682	0	0	0	3,873,682	380.0%
Prothonotary	34,638	0	0	0	34,638	46.2%
Sheriff	1,448,174	0	42,922	0	1,491,096	113.5%
Justice of the Peace Court	<u>0</u>	<u>564,843</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>564,843</u>	-----
New Castle County Totals	\$6,154,421	\$564,843	\$369,273	\$0	\$7,088,537	201.3%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Submitted to Kent County						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 11,738	\$ 0	\$419	\$0	\$ 12,157	13.9%
Register of Wills	374,283	0	0	0	374,283	221.5%
Sheriff	488,986	0	0	0	488,986	144.5%
Justice of the Peace Court	<u>0</u>	<u>3,347</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,347</u>	-----
Kent County Totals	\$875,007	\$3,347	\$419	\$0	\$878,773	147.2%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Submitted to Sussex County						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 19,895	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$ 19,895	15.1%
Register of Wills	798,711	0	0	0	798,711	373.2%
Sheriff	351,509	0	0	0	351,509	98.2%
Justice of the Peace Court	<u>0</u>	<u>5,362</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,362</u>	-----
Sussex County Totals	\$1,170,115	\$5,362	\$0	\$0	\$1,175,477	166.3%

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

#FY 2002 revenue divided by FY 2002 actual disbursement.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Submitted to Municipalities						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 0	\$ 946,414	0	0	\$ 946,414	11.4%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	2,876,834	0	0	2,876,834	16.9%
Alderman Court	387,804	831,443	0	0	1,219,247	NA
TOTAL	\$387,804	\$4,654,691	0	0	\$5,042,495	NA

COURT GENERATED REVENUE*-FISCAL YEAR 2002						
Grand Totals-Judicial Branch						
	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of disbursement#
TOTALS	\$15,684,947	\$10,662,486	\$659,783	\$673,404	\$27,680,620	NA

RESTITUTION-FISCAL -YEAR 2002			
	Assessed	Collected	Disbursed
Supreme Court	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Court of Chancery	0	0	0
Superior Court	5,190,275	1,861,178	1,793,472
Family Court	804,275	281,007	261,851
Court of Common Pleas	405,452	383,745	350,827
Justice of the Peace Court	148,297	113,896	116,299
TOTALS	\$6,548,299	\$2,639,826	\$2,522,449

*Figures represent revenue actually collected, not the amount assessed.
 #FY 2002 revenue divided by FY 2002 actual disbursement (includes State General, Federal, and other funds).

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

FISCAL OVERVIEW

DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS* - FISCAL YEAR 2002		
State Appropriations		
	\$'s	As a %
Judicial	\$ 62,146,200	2.70%
Higher Education	\$ 202,437,900	8.79%
Executive Branch	\$1,252,176,500	54.40%
Legislative Branch	\$ 11,551,500	0.50%
Public Education	\$ 773,460,100	33.60%
Total	\$2,301,772,200	100.00%

Judicial Appropriations FY 2002*		
	\$'s	As a %
Supreme Court	\$ 2,286,900	3.68%
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 3,964,000	6.38%
Judicial Information Center	\$ 2,584,300	4.16%
Court of Chancery	\$ 2,062,200	3.32%
Superior Court	\$ 16,045,800	25.82%
Law Libraries	\$ 498,600	0.80%
Family Court	\$ 13,755,000	22.13%
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 6,306,200	10.15%
Justice o/t Peace Court	\$ 12,868,300	20.71%
Other**	\$ 1,774,900	2.86%
Total	\$ 62,146,200	100.00%

*State General Fund monies only.

**Other: Public Guardian, Office of State Court Collections Enforcement, Child Placement Review Board, Educational Surrogate Program and the Office of the Child Advocate.

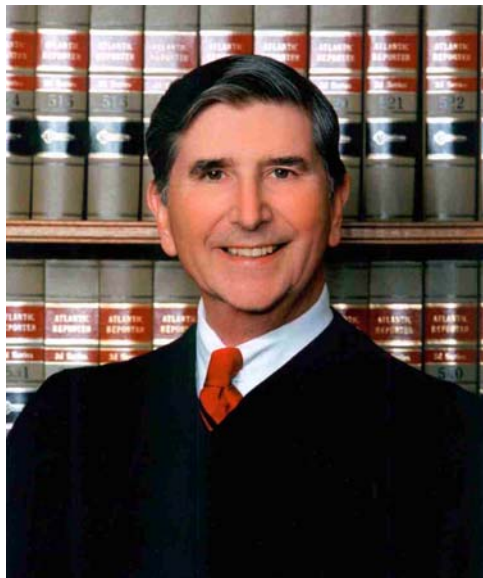
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

Supreme Court

In Fiscal Year 2002, the Delaware Supreme Court received 715 appeals. This is a record and represents a 22.9% increase in the Court's workload from the previous fiscal year. To keep pace with this increase and maintain the Court's reputation for the expeditious disposition of matters on appeal, the Court disposed of 713 appeals which represents a 19.4% increase over the previous fiscal year in the number of final dispositions. During the past year, the Court disposed of the majority of its cases within 40.5 days from the date of submission to the date of final decision. This pace is well under the 90 day standard that the Court has set for all Delaware courts.

The Court is indebted to its Chief Staff Attorney, Gayle P. Lafferty, Esquire, and its Staff Attorneys, Margaret L. Naylor, Esquire and Susan L. Parker, Esquire, for their dedication and diligence in helping the Court manage its pro se docket, motion practice and many other case management functions. Their expertise has been instrumental in meeting the challenges of increased filings. The Court also wishes to acknowledge the case management contributions made by its law clerks, judicial secretaries, Court Administrator, and the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Cathy L. Howard, and her staff.

The Court issued several Administrative Directives regulating the administration of the courts and the Bar. Administrative Directives 130 and 131 dated July 11, 2001 set speedy trial standards for all criminal cases including death penalty cases pursuant to recommendations of the Committee on Speedy Trial Guidelines. Administrative Directive 132 dated October 15, 2001 established a Board of Certified Court Re-



Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey

porters to ensure minimum standards of skill, competence and ethics for court reporters. Administrative Directive 133 dated October 16, 2001 established a Permanent Advisory Committee on the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 96 to consider on an on-going basis amendments to the Rules. Administrative Directive No. 134 dated October 30, 2001 set forth a policy that would standardize the procedure and establish uniform criteria for

determining the need for additional judgeships or other judicial officers. Administrative Directive No. 136 dated January 9, 2002 created a Court Resources Task Force to analyze the existing state budgetary structure and staffing of the Judicial Branch to determine if the structure and staffing are conducive to optimum management of the Judicial Branch and if resources should be reallocated and new staffing standards established to achieve maximum efficiency. Administrative Directive 137 dated February 25, 2002 created a Courthouse Operations Policy Committee to establish policies to coordinate common services and for the efficient usage of the New Castle County Courthouse. Administrative Directive No. 139 dated April 4, 2002 establishes a Mediation Committee to consider the best methods by which the Judiciary can promote voluntary mediation in all courts. Administrative Directive No. 142 dated June 15, 2002 implements the recommendations of the Uniform Case Processes Committee for a COTS System (Commercial Off the Shelf) for a Judicial wide case and financial management system.

SUPREME COURT

During Fiscal Year 2002, the Court received two interim reports from the Court Resources Task Force with a final report to be issued by December 31, 2002. The second interim report stated: “The discussion at the Task Force’s most recent meeting revolved primarily around the report of the Subcommittee on Budget, Funding and Staffing. Three concepts were emphasized: (1) The centralization of the administrative functions in the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); (2) Budget flexibility for the Chief Justice; and (3) Increasing the authority of the State Court Administrator and designating a Supreme Court Justice as the Liaison Justice to the AOC. The members of the Task Force present at this meeting preliminarily endorsed these concepts. The Chair also requested that each of the Subcommittees give further consideration to these overarching concepts as they continue with their work and move towards final recommendations.” While not occurring in the past fiscal year, it should be noted that the Task Force’s Final Report was filed on November 26, 2002 as this section on Supreme Court Fiscal Year 20002 accomplishments was being written.



Supreme Court Justices

Front Row (sitting left to right)
 Justice Joseph T. Walsh
 Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
 Justice Randy J. Holland

Back Row (standing left to right)
 Justice Myron T. Steele
 Justice Carolyn Berger

SUPREME COURT

Legal Authorization

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

Court History

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

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

Jurisdiction

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

Justices

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

Administration

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

SUPREME COURT						
Caseload Summary - Fiscal Year 2002						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
Criminal Appeals	172	329	305	196	+24	+14.0%
Civil Appeals*	160	306	330	136	-24	-15.0%
Original Applications**	10	80	78	12	+ 2	+20.0%
Total*	342	715	713	344	+ 2	+ 0.6%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Filings						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
Criminal Appeals	261	329	+ 68	+ 26.1%		
Civil Appeals	272	306	+ 34	+ 12.5%		
Certifications	4	1	- 3	- 75.0%		
Original Applications	30	56	+ 26	+ 86.7%		
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	14	23	+ 9	+ 64.3%		
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	1	0	- 1	-100.0%		
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0	0	-----		
Total	582	715	+133	+ 22.9%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Dispositions						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
Criminal Appeals	265	305	+ 40	+ 15.1%		
Civil Appeals*	275	330	+ 55	+ 20.0%		
Certifications	5	2	- 3	- 60.0%		
Original Applications	32	54	+ 22	+ 68.8%		
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	19	21	+ 2	+ 10.5%		
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	1	+ 1	-----		
Un. Prac. Of Law	1	0	- 1	-100.0%		
Total*	597	713	+116	+ 19.4%		

*2001 dispositions and pending values amended from FY 2001 Statistical Report.

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

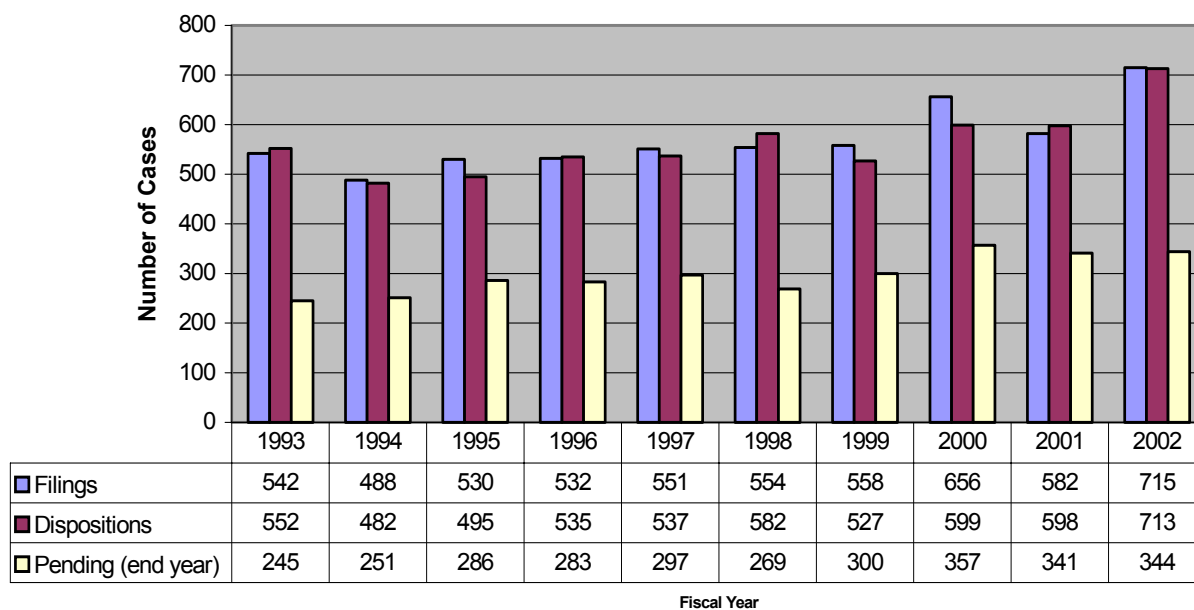
Bd. On Prof. Resp. = Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

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

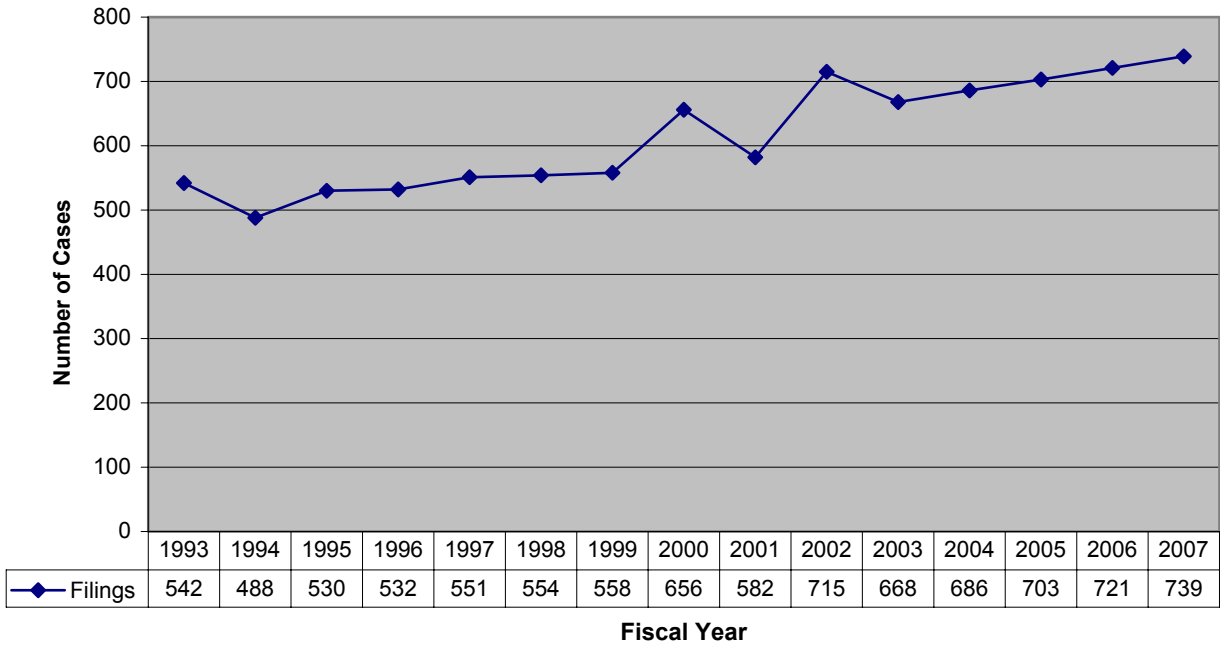
Source: Court Administrator and Clerk of the Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Supreme Court 10 Year Caseload Trend Total Cases

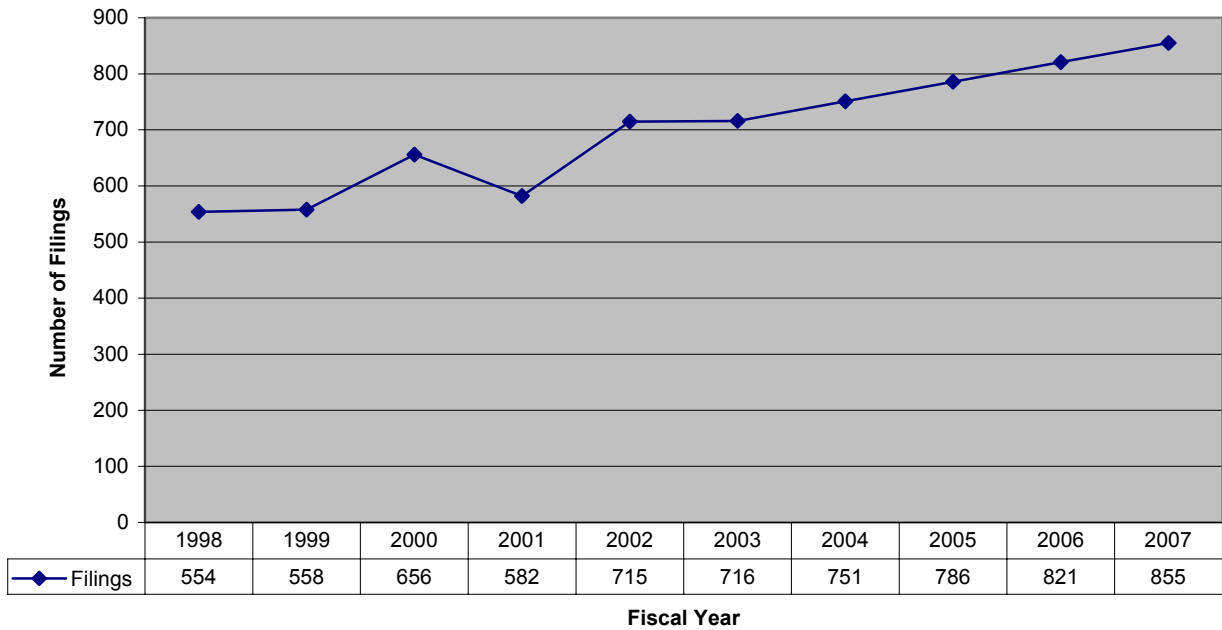


Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

5 Year Projections Supreme Total Using 10 Year Base



Supreme Court 5 Year Projections Using 5 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPREME COURT										
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Filings										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court*		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	329	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	329	100.0%
Civil Appeals	55	18.0%	180	58.8%	71	23.2%	0	0.0%	306	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	56	100.0%	56	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	23	100.0%	23	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total	55	7.7%	509	71.2%	71	9.9%	80	11.2%	715	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Dispositions										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court*		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	305	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	305	100.0%
Civil Appeals	58	17.6%	194	58.8%	78	23.6%	0	0.0%	330	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	54	100.0%	54	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	100.0%	21	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Un. Prac. Of Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	58	8.1%	499	70.0%	78	10.9%	78	10.9%	713	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Change in Pending										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court*		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		Total	
Criminal Appeals	0		+24		0		0		+24	
Civil Appeals	-3		-14		-7		0		-24	
Certifications	0		0		0		-1		- 1	
Original Applications	0		0		0		+2		+ 2	
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0		0		0		+2		+ 2	
Bd. Of Bar Exam	0		0		0		-1		- 1	
Un. Prac. Of Law	0		0		0		0		0	
Total	-3		+10		-7		+2		+ 2	

*Includes 353-2001 which is a civil appeal from JP Court.

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

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

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

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

SUPREME COURT

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Appeals

	Affirmed	Affirmed Part/ Reversed Part	Reversed	Remanded	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Leave to Appeal Denied	Other	Total									
Criminal Appeals	210	68.9%	5	1.6%	15	4.9%	0	0.0%	28	9.2%	46	15.1%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	305	100.0%
Civil Appeals	184	45.1%	9	2.2%	27	6.6%	3	0.7%	49	12.0%	104	25.5%	11	2.7%	21	5.1%	408	100.0%
Total	394	55.3%	14	2.0%	42	5.9%	3	0.4%	77	10.8%	150	21.0%	12	1.7%	21	2.9%	713	100.0%

Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous

	Action Taken *	Approved	Answered	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Denied	Leave to Appeal Denied	Other	Total									
Original Applica- tions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.9%	53	98.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	54	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	11	52.4%	7	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	4.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	9.5%	21	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Total	11	13.8%	7	8.8%	1	1.3%	54	67.5%	2	2.5%	2	2.5%	2	2.5%	2	2.5%	80	100.0%

Methods of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002

	Assigne Opinion	Per Curiam Opinion	Written Order	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total						
Criminal Appeals	32	10.5%	3	1.0%	242	79.3%	28	9.2%	0	0.0%	305	100.0%
Civil Appeals	38	11.5%	11	3.3%	233	70.6%	48	14.5%	0	0.0%	330	100.0%
Certifications	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%
Original Applica- tions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	53	98.1%	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	54	100.0%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	0	0.0%	4	19.0%	17	81.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	100.0%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Total	71	10.0%	19	2.7%	546	76.6%	77	10.8%	0	0.0%	713	100.0%

*Action taken includes disbarments, suspensions and reinstatements.

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

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

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

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

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Elapsed Time by Disposition Type				
Type of Disposition	Number of Dispositions		Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Affirmed	394		242.7 days	42.0 days
Affirmed Part/Reversed Part	14		303.9 days	62.4 days
Reversed	42		420.1 days	78.2 days
Remanded	3		183.3 days	43.7 days
Voluntary Dismissal	77		107.4 days	---
Court Dismissal	150		75.7 days	22.9 days
Leave to Appeal Denied	12		19.7 days	11.3 days
Other	21		155.7 days	39.7 days
Total	713		198.0 days	39.7 days

Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Elapsed Time by Disposition Method				
Method of Disposition	Number of Dispositions		Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Assigned Opinion	71		436.7 days	86.1 days
Per Curium Opinion	19		323.1 days	76.6 days
Written Order	546		175.4 days	32.4 days
Voluntary Dismissal	77		107.4 days	----
Total	713		198.0 days	39.7 days

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Average Elapsed Time to Disposition				
	Number of Dispositions		Average Time From Filing to Disposition	Average Time From Submission to Disposition*
Criminal Appeals	305		240.6 days	46.4 days
Civil Appeals	330		186.6 days	35.6 days
Certifications	2		15.5 days	157.5 days
Original Applications	54		53.4 days	28.1 days
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	21		131.4 days	36.7 days
Bd of Bar Exam.	1		290.0 days	71.0 days
Total	713		198.0 days	39.7 days

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Average Time From Filing to Disposition				
	2001	2002	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	211.5 days	240.6 days	+ 29.1 days	+13.8%
Civil Appeals	201.8 days	186.6 days	- 15.2 days	- 7.5%
Certifications	209.6 days	15.5 days	-194.1 days	-92.6%
Original Applications	47.2 days	53.4 days	+ 6.2 days	+13.1%
Bd. On Prof. Resp.	182.1 days	131.4 days	- 50.7 days	-27.8%
Bd. Of Bar Exam.	----- days	290.0 days	----- days	-----
Un. Prac. Of Law	286.0 days	----- days	----- days	-----
Total	197.4 days	198.0 days	+ 0.6 days	+ 0.3%

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition.

Not all Supreme Court dispositions require a judicial decision.

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

Bd. Of Bar Exam. = Board of Bar Examiners

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

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

Court of Chancery



Chancellor William B. Chandler III

The construction of the new Court of Chancery building on The Circle in Georgetown will enable the consolidation of all the support staff of the Court which will facilitate improved access for the public and the bar. With the transition of the Register in Chancery to a statewide office and with the implementation of statewide practices and procedures in all three counties, there has been an increased accessibility and understanding for anyone dealing with the Court. The Court has recently installed the same docketing software in all three counties that previously only the New Castle County Register in Chancery Office used. This docketing system is now accessible also by the Chambers staff to better facilitate the management of the caseloads. The Court of Chancery looks forward to the COTS initiative which will help mesh the information from the Register in Chancery and the other Courts statewide to better improve the entire Court system's accessibility to the public and the bar through e-filing and internet access to case information.

COURT OF CHANCERY



Seated (left to right)
 Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs
 Vice Chancellor Stephen P. Lamb

Standing (left to right)
 Vice Chancellor John W. Noble
 Chancellor William B. Chandler III
 Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.

Legal Authorization

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

Court History

The Court of Chancery came into existence as a separate court under the constitution of 1792. It was modeled on the High Court of Chancery in England and is in direct line of succession from the Court. The Court consisted solely of the chancellor until 1939 when the position of vice chancellor was added. The increase of the Court's workload, since then, has led to further expansions to its present complement of a chancellor and four vice chancellors, with the addition of the fourth vice chancellor being made in 1989.

Geographic Organization

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

Public Guardian

The chancellor has the duty to appoint the public guardian.

Support Personnel

The register in chancery is the clerk of the court for all actions except those within the jurisdiction of the register of wills. The chancellor or vice chancellor resident in the county is to appoint one chief deputy register in chancery in each county. The register in chancery in New Castle County appoints a chief deputy register in chancery as well.

Legal Jurisdiction

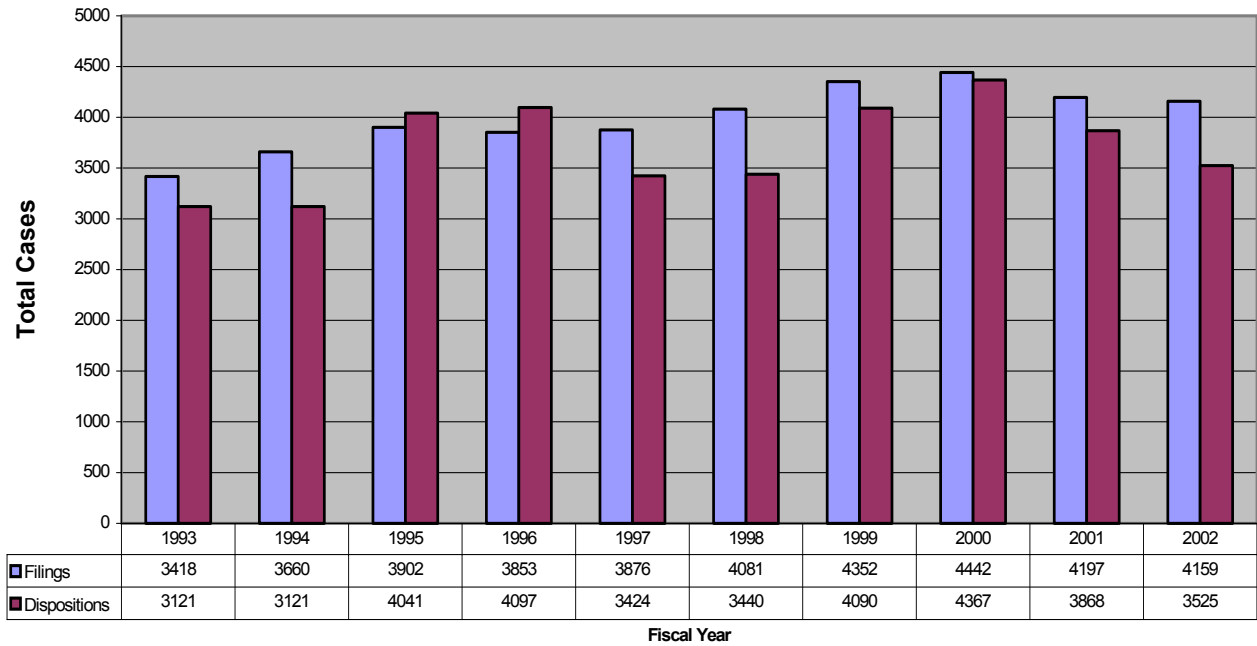
The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters and causes in equity. The general equity jurisdiction of the Court is measured in terms of the general equity jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery of Great Britain as it existed prior to the separation of the American colonies. The General Assembly may confer upon the Court of Chancery additional statutory jurisdiction. In today's practice, the litigation in the Court of Chancery consists largely of corporate matters, trusts, estates, and other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase and sale of land, questions of title to real estate, and commercial and contractual matters in general. When issues of fact to be tried by a jury arise, the Court of Chancery may order such facts to trial by issues at the Bar of the Superior Court (10 Del. C., 369).

COURT OF CHANCERY							
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Cases							
	Pending* 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending		% Change In Pending
New Castle County	7,793	2,808	2,317	8,284	+491		+6.3%
Kent County	2,160	526	501	2,185	+ 25		+1.2%
Sussex County	3,156	825	707	3,274	+118		+3.7%
State	13,109	4,159	3,525	13,743	+634		+4.8%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filed							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County	2,841		2,808		-33		-1.2%
Kent County	492		526		+34		+6.9%
Sussex County	864		825		-39		-4.5%
State	4,197		4,159		-38		-0.9%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Disposed							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County	2,731		2,317		-414		-15.2%
Kent County	453		501		+ 48		+10.6%
Sussex County	684		707		+ 23		+ 3.4%
State	3,868		3,525		-343		- 8.9%

*Total pending as of 6/30/01 amended for Kent County and State.

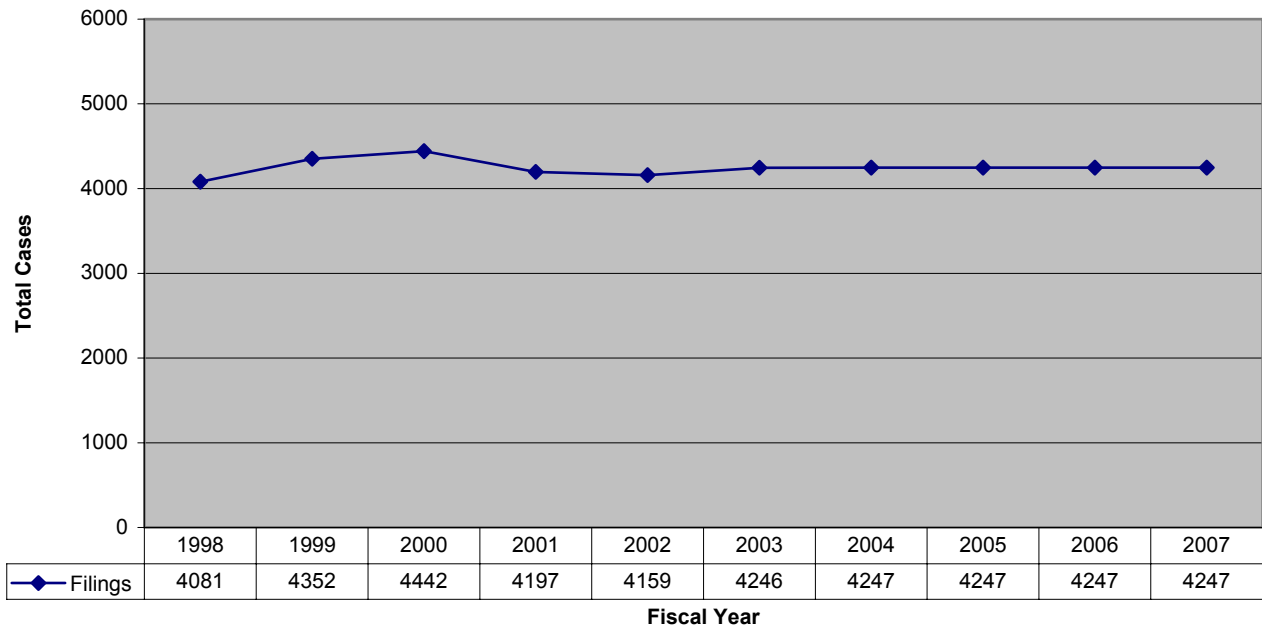
Source: Registers in Chancery, Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Total 10 Year Caseload Trend

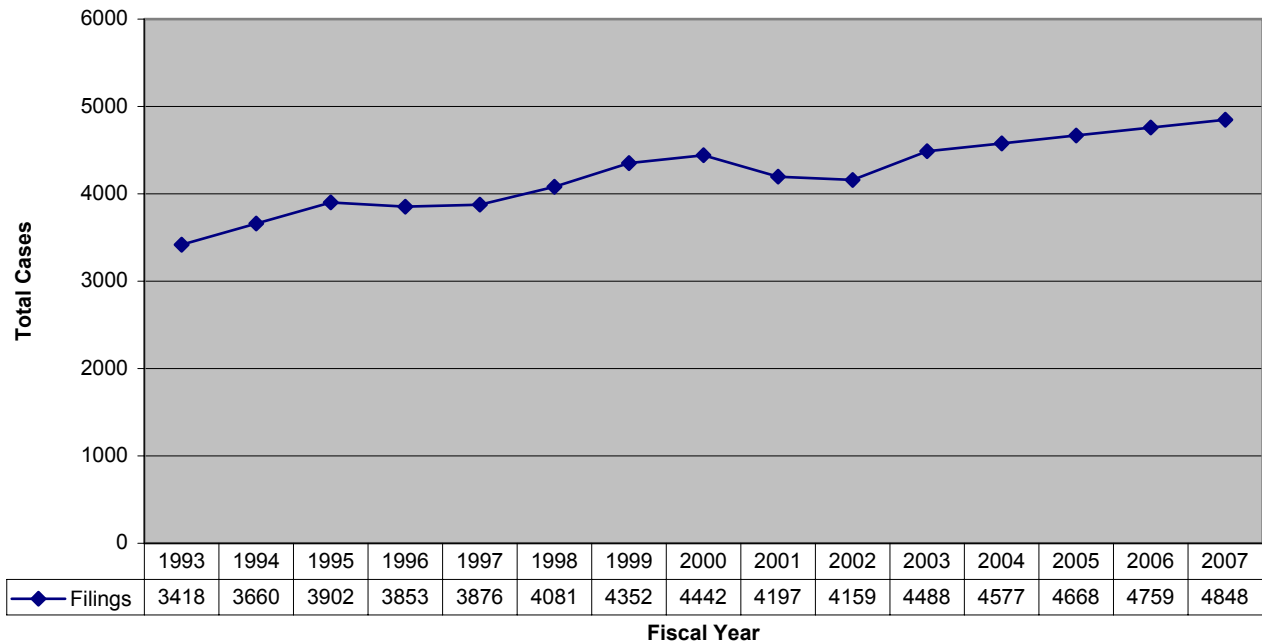


Source: Register in Chancery; Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Total 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



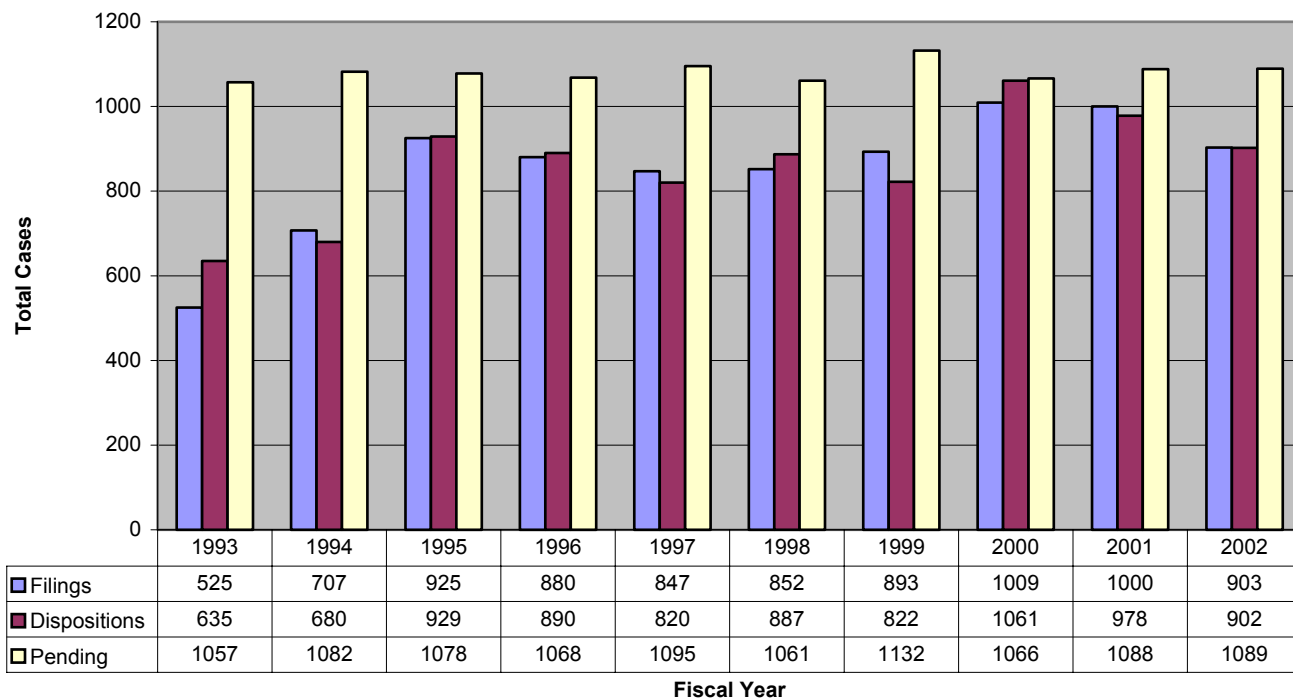
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

COURT OF CHANCERY						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	899	778	778	899	0	0.0%
Kent County	72	45	54	63	- 9	-12.5%
Sussex County	117	80	70	127	+10	+ 8.5%
State	1,088	903	902	1,089	+ 1	+ 0.1%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Filings						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	908		778		-130	-14.3%
Kent County	31		45		+ 14	+45.2%
Sussex County	61		80		+ 19	+31.1%
State	1,000		903		- 97	- 9.7%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Dispositions						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	902		778		-124	-13.7%
Kent County	28		54		+ 26	+92.9%
Sussex County	48		70		+ 22	+45.8%
State	978		902		- 76	- 7.8%

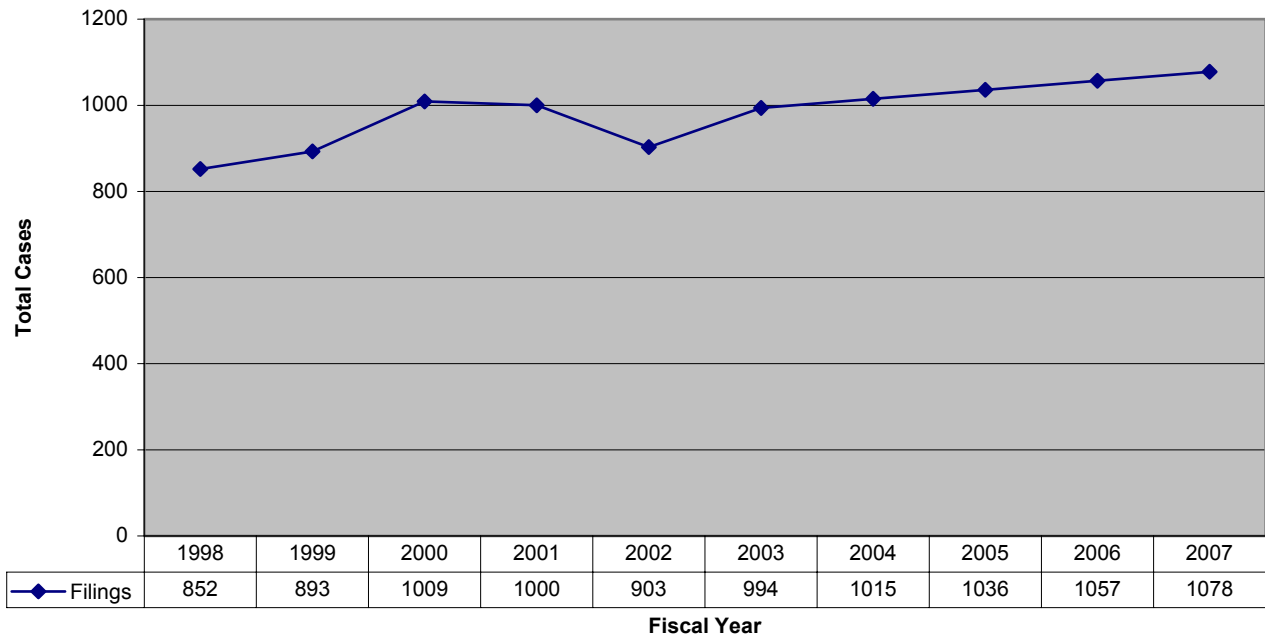
Source: Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Civil 10 Year Caseload Trend

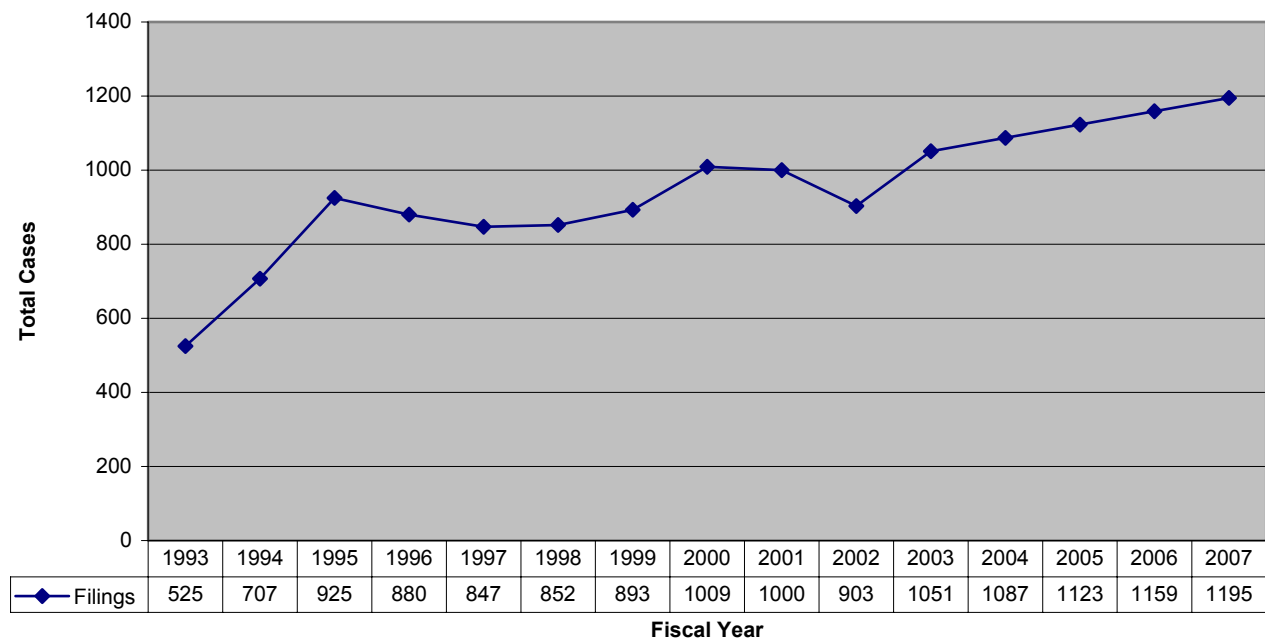


Source: Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Civil 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

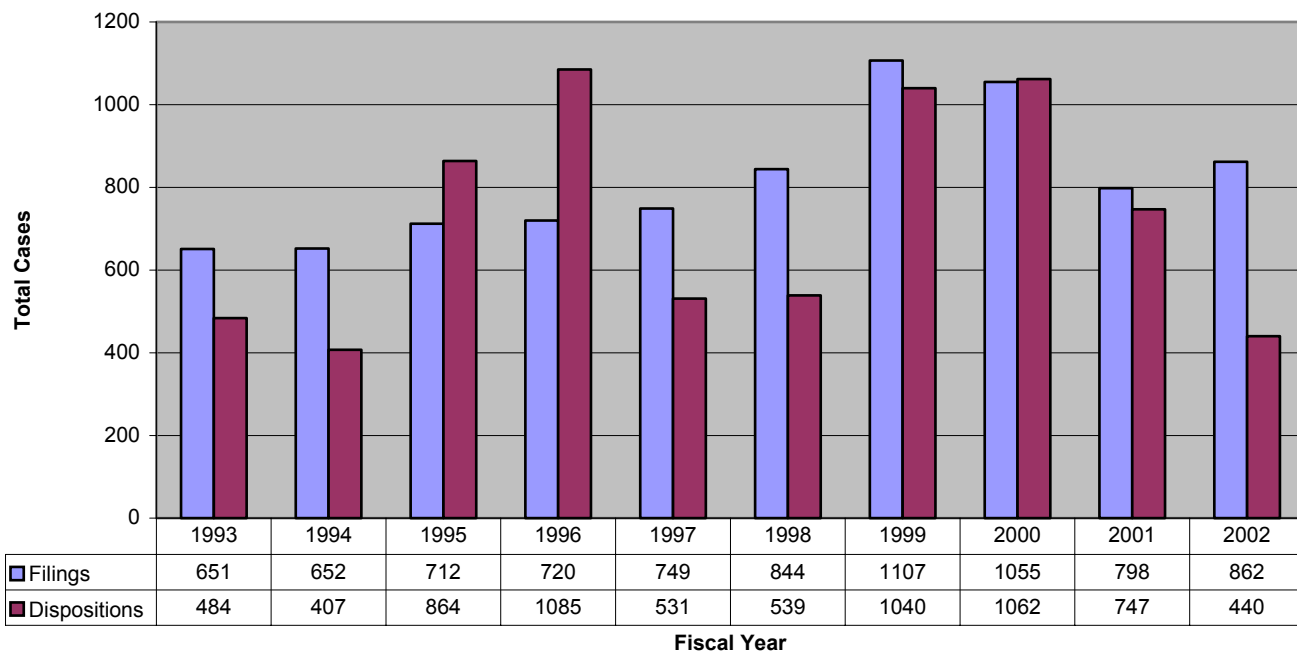
Source: Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous Matters						
	Pending* 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,498	581	298	3,781	+283	+8.1%
Kent County	743	121	69	795	+ 52	+7.0%
Sussex County	2,063	160	73	2,150	+ 87	+4.2%
State	6,304	862	440	6,726	+422	+6.7%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Filings						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	519		581		+62	+11.9%
Kent County	98		121		+23	+23.5%
Sussex County	181		160		-21	-11.6%
State	798		862		+64	+ 8.0%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Dispositions						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	606		298		-308	-50.8%
Kent County	35		69		+ 34	+97.1%
Sussex County	106		73		- 33	-31.1%
State	747		440		-307	-41.1%

*Pending as of 6/30/01 amended both for Kent County and State.

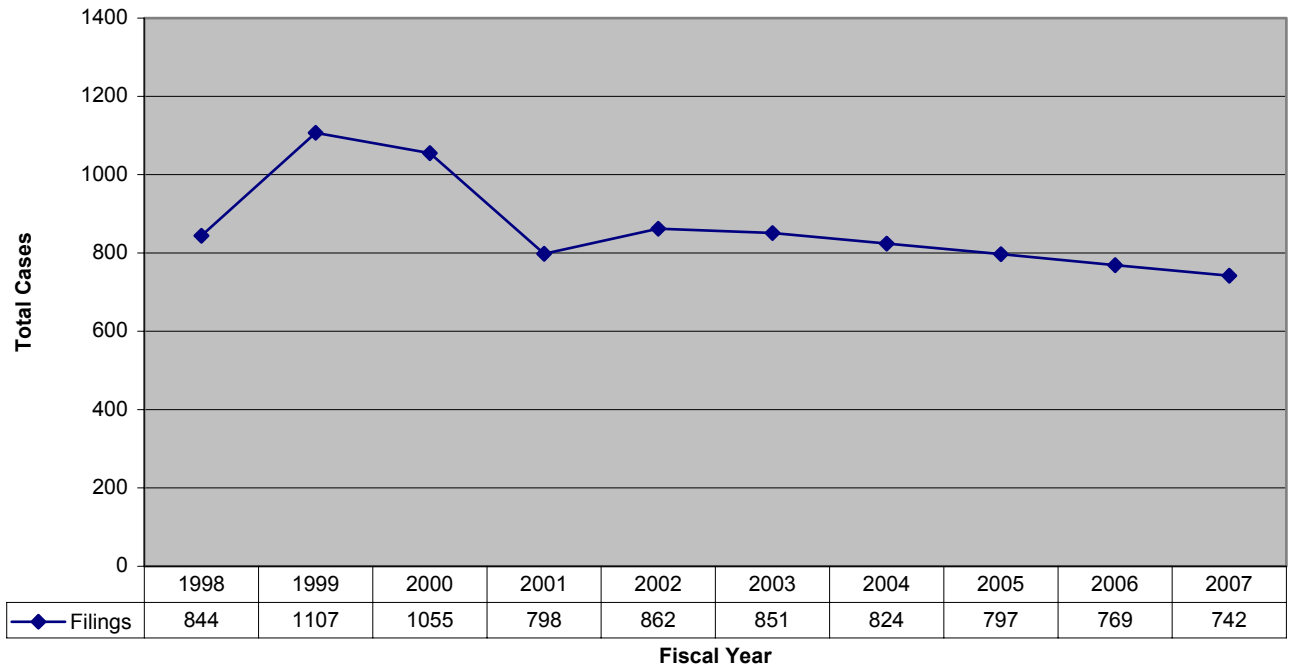
Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 10 Year Caseload Trend

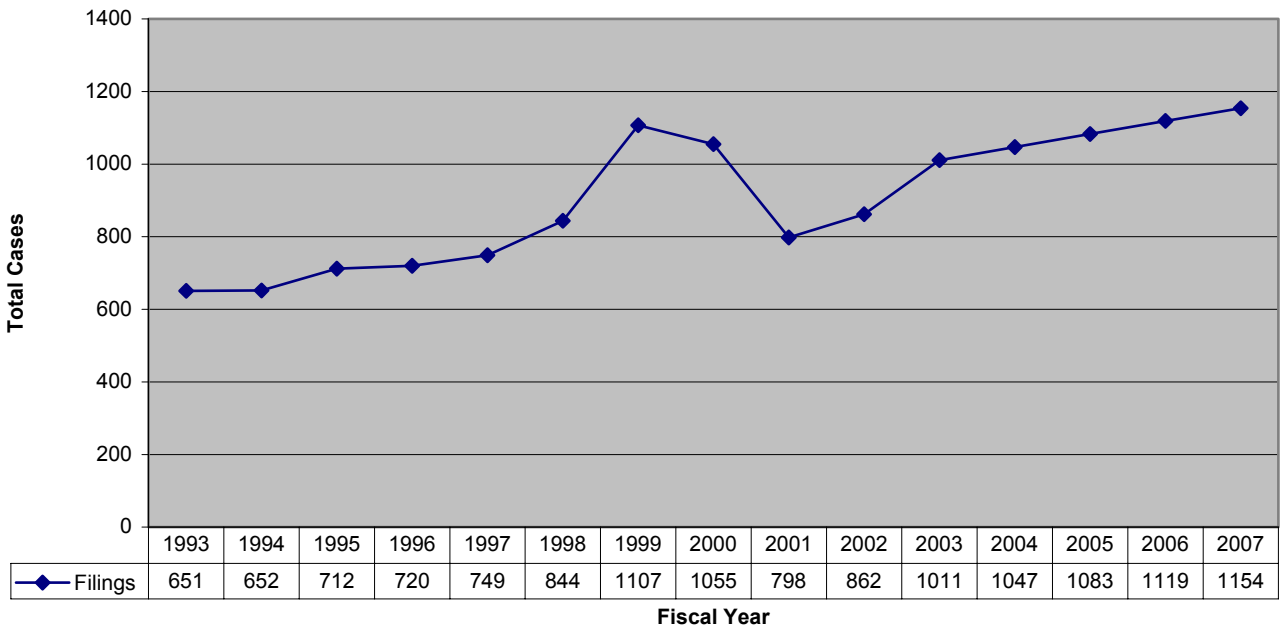


Source: Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Miscellaneous 5 Year Projections With 10 year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Registers in Chancery, Administrative Office of the Courts.

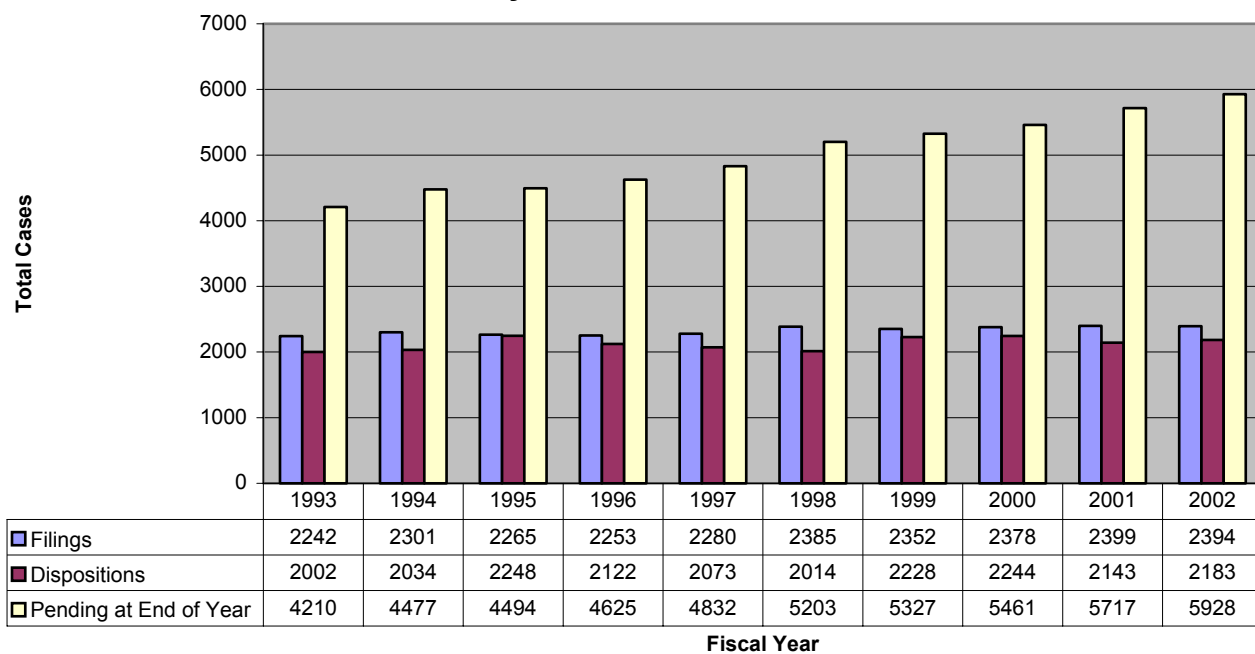
COURT OF CHANCERY						
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Filed						
	Guardians for Minors	Guardians for Infirm	Trusts	Other Matters	Totals	
New Castle County	249	174	50	108	581	100.0%
Kent County	59	50	1	11	121	100.0%
Sussex County	66	63	2	29	160	100.0%
State	374	287	53	148	862	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Disposed						
	Guardians for Minors	Guardians for Infirm	Trusts	Other Matters	Totals	
New Castle County	135	103	46	14	298	100.0%
Kent County	29	30	3	7	69	100.0%
Sussex County	28	25	3	17	73	100.0%
State	192	158	52	38	440	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Pending at End of Year						
	Guardians for Minors	Guardians for Infirm	Trusts	Other Matters	Totals	
New Castle County	1,390	1,470	531	390	3,781	100.0%
Kent County	379	307	68	41	795	100.0%
Sussex County	787	1,024	154	185	2,150	100.0%
State	2,556	2,801	753	616	6,726	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Miscellaneous Matters Change in Pending						
	Guardians for Minors	Guardians for Infirm	Trusts	Other Matters	Totals	
New Castle County	114	71	+4	94	283	
Kent County	+30	+20	-+2	+ 4	+52	
Sussex County	+38	+38	-1	+12	+87	
State	182	+129	+1	+110	+422	

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

COURT OF CHANCERY						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Estates						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,396	1,449	1,241	3,604	+208	+6.1%
Kent County	1,345	360	378	1,327	- 18	-1.3%
Sussex County	976	585	564	997	+ 21	+2.2%
State	5,717	2,394	2,183	5,928	+211	+3.7%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Estates Filings						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,414		1,449		+35	+2.5%
Kent County	363		360		- 3	-0.8%
Sussex County	622		585		-37	-5.9%
State	2,399		2,394		- 5	-0.2%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Estates Dispositions						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,223		1,241		+18	+1.5%
Kent County	390		378		-12	-3.1%
Sussex County	530		564		+34	+6.4%
State	2,143		2,183		+40	+1.9%

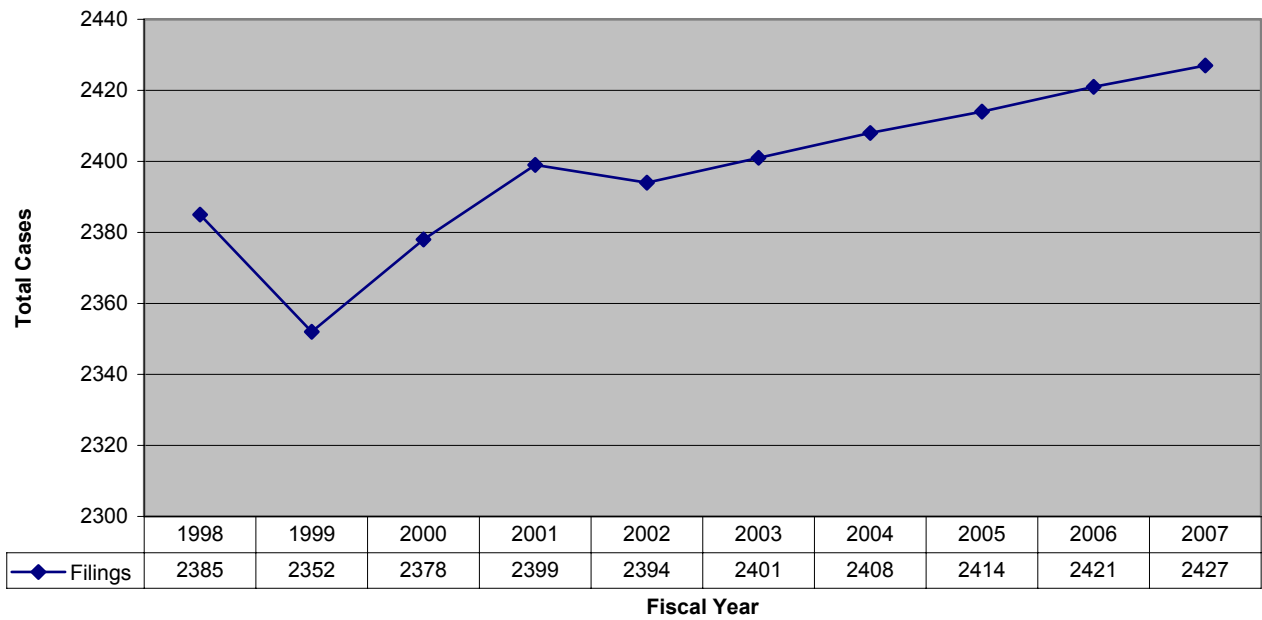
Source: Registers of Wills, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Estates 10 Year Caseload Trend

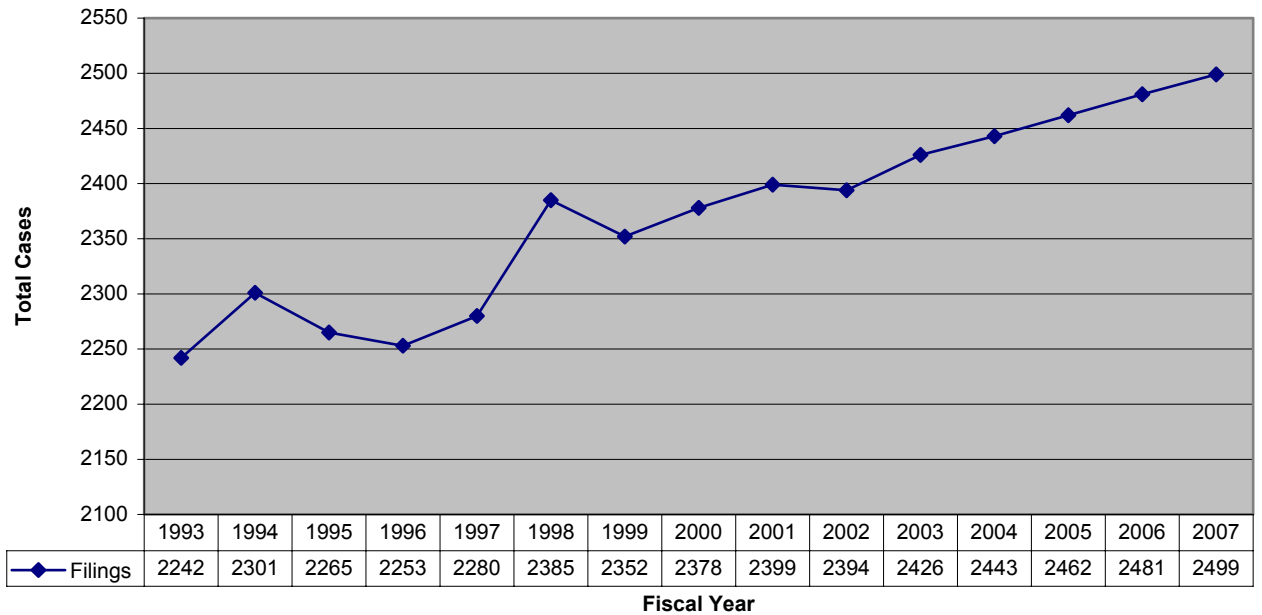


Source: Registers of Wills, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Court of Chancery Estates 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base



Court of Chancery Estates 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Registers of Wills, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court

In 2002 the Superior Court of Delaware was commended in a Harris Poll of the nation's top corporate counsel and senior litigators, commissioned by the United States Chamber of Commerce, for "having a litigation environment perceived to be fair and reasonable in its' handling of civil cases." In the survey establishing the Superior Court's number one ranking in the country, this positive atmosphere was cited as one of the factors that lead well over half of the Fortune 500 companies to incorporate in Delaware.

As the Court was receiving this honor, it was also working to improve its' criminal case management plan in New Castle County. The Judges of the Superior Court convened a Criminal Case Management Committee to reengineer the Court's Criminal Case Management Plan. Through the use of grant funds, the Superior Court was able to arrange visits by Judges representing courts around the country with innovative and diverse case management plans. These judges presented their plans, their insights and processes with not only the Superior Court Judges, but also to other key Court officials. Drawing from the best of these plans, in addition to the insights and ideas within the Court, the Criminal Case Management Committee has been working diligently to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Court in criminal cases. The new Criminal Case Management Plan is in the final draft stages, with an eye toward implementation in early 2003.

This year also saw a vast amount of planning for and the implementation of the move of the Superior Court into the New Castle County Court-



President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely

house. With this move, the number of courtrooms available to the Superior Court has increased from eleven to sixteen. The increased number of courtrooms allows, for the first time, all Judges and Commissioners to use a courtroom simultaneously. The move and the new facility have provided challenges and opportunities. The need for additional courtroom clerks to staff the courtrooms has challenged the resourcefulness of the Prothonotary's Office still rebounding from the ef-

fects of the hiring freeze imposed in the last fiscal year. Despite those challenges, the Prothonotary's Office received a 0.00% error rating in an audit conducted by the Delaware State Police of the DELJIS/NCIC computer records generated by the office.

The new facility in New Castle County, however, has provided some opportunities to enhance the service provided to the citizens of Delaware using the Superior Court in New Castle County. Plasma screens in the lobby of the courthouse provide scrolling court calendars, the Court's website has been continually revised and improved to provide more user-friendly menus, and two of the new courtrooms have state-of-the-art evidence display technology installed. The physical environment provided for jurors has improved, providing quality of life improvements such as a break room, a planned Cyber Café for internet access and easier access to the jury assembly room. The Superior Courts in Kent and Sussex Counties are seeing changes in their physical environment as well.

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court in Kent County has just completed renovation of its courthouse, providing an additional courtroom. In Sussex County, the Superior Court will be embarking on a major renovation project that will yield additional courtrooms and additional space in the Prothonotary's Office to relieve severe overcrowding.

This year has seen the beginning of the operation of a grant-funded unit aimed at improving the criminal case management efforts of the Court, initially in New Castle County. In addition to providing administrative support to the Criminal Case Management Committee, the unit has been working to decrease the backlog of criminal cases awaiting disposition by providing case management reports to the Criminal Administrative Judge and Criminal Assignment Judge, by conducting data clean-up, monitoring reports from DELJIS and JIC as well as actively monitoring speedy trial reports. In the short time the unit has been in operation, the number of cases pending over the speedy trial standard has steadily decreased. The Court is in the process of implementing an imaging project in Kent county for criminal cases that will allow Judges and designated court staff, Deputy Attorneys General, Public Defenders and the Department of Corrections staff to view criminal case filings through the "intranet".

The Superior Court has continued its involvement in the improvement of the administration of justice on a national level. President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely and Criminal Administrative Judge Richard Gebelein have worked, over the last year, on the American Bar Association's Drug Court Standard. Judge Gebelein was the principal draftsman and President Judge Ridgely managed it through the approval process, culminating in the approval of the Standard by the ABA House of Delegates last summer. The standard was later endorsed by the Conference of Chief Justices and the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association.

The Court's nationwide reputation was recognized when it was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice as one of nine pilot sites in the country to test the concept of re-entry courts. Re-entry courts focus on the need to create accountability systems and support networks for returning offenders to increase the chances of successful re-integration into their communities. The court is testing two approaches to re-entry: one targets re-

turning domestic violence offenders in Sussex County and the other deals with the general population of returning offenders in New Castle County.

Over the past year, the implementation of real time Court Reporting has been accomplished in the Superior Court. The ability of attorneys, parties and Judges to instantly view recorded testimony is a major improvement accomplished throughout the state. Representatives of the Superior Court from all three counties are working on the Delivery of Justice Subcommittee, chaired by Justice Walsh. In their work on this committee, Superior Court staff address issues pertaining to defendants detained within the Department of Correction, standardization of record keeping and work to assure that access to justice is reliable and efficient.

The court continued its efforts to improve the overall effectiveness of the criminal justice system continually re-examining its processes and procedures. Working under the most stressful of conditions, with limited resources, the staff of the Superior Court continues to make excellence of service to the citizens of Delaware a priority. Over the last year, in each department, shortages were felt due to the hiring and spending freeze made necessary by the budget shortfall. Despite this, and due to the dedication and professionalism of the staff of the Superior Court, services to the public were not curtailed.

The Court conducted a review of its bail accounts during the last year, and identified funds available for escheat by the State of Delaware. This effort yielded an amount in excess of \$133,000 to the State Treasury.

Finally, Superior Court refined its vision, mission and core values through the collaborative efforts of its judges and staff from across Delaware. The vision of the Superior Court is to be the Superior Court with the most superior service in the nation by providing superior service to the public in pursuit of justice. The court has agreed that the core values as an organization are UNITED, which stands for unity, neutrality, integrity, timeliness, equality and dedication. The court is committed to building on the quality of justice and public service for which the Superior Court of Delaware is well known here and across the nation.

SUPERIOR COURT



Front Row (sitting left to right)
 Associate Judge Susan C. Del Pesco
 Associate Judge Richard S. Gebelein
 President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely
 Associate Judge John E. Babiarez, Jr.
 Associate Judge Jerome O. Herlihy

Second Row (standing left to right)
 Associate Judge Fred S. Silverman
 Associate Judge Haile L. Alford
 Associate Judge Charles H. Toliver, IV
 Resident Judge T. Henley Graves
 Associate Judge Carl A. Goldstein
 Resident Judge Richard R. Cooch
 Associate Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.

Third Row (standing left to right)
 Associate Judge Joseph R. Slight, III
 Associate Judge E. Scott Bradley
 Associate Judge William L. Witham, Jr.
 Resident Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.
 Associate Judge Richard F. Stokes
 Associate Judge Peggy L. Ableman
 Associate Judge Jan R. Jurden

SUPERIOR COURT

Legal Authorization

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

Court History

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

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

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

Geographic Organization

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

Legal Jurisdiction

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

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

Judges

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

Support Personnel

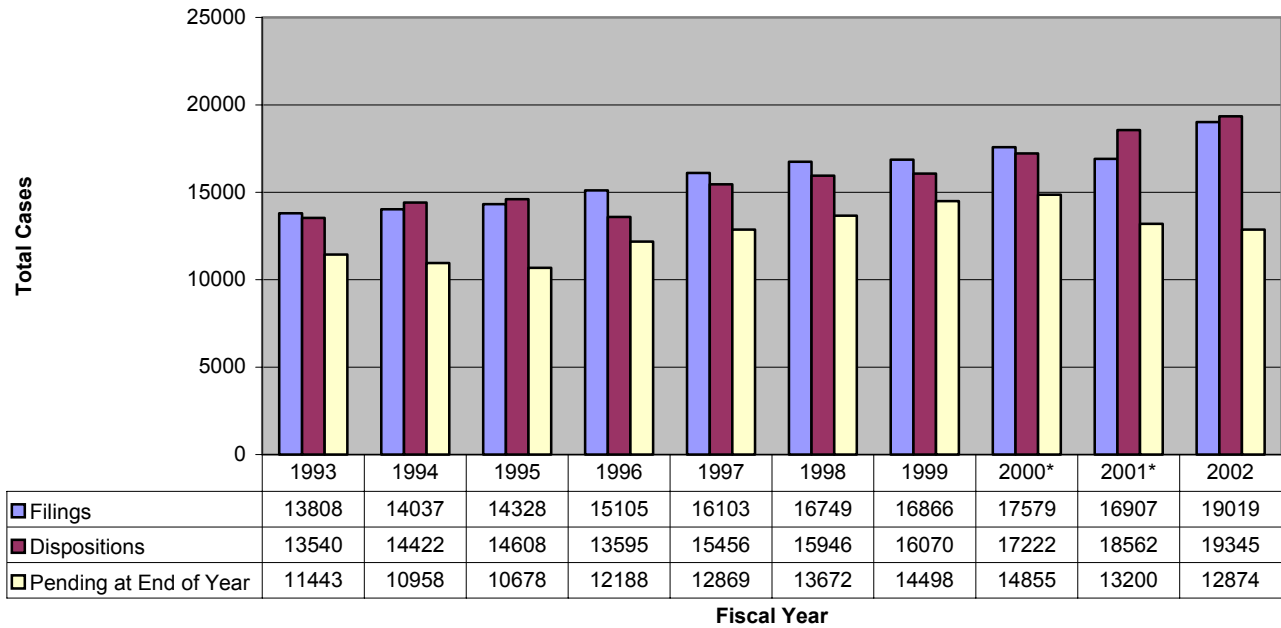
Superior Court may appoint court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, pre-sentence officers, a secretary for each judge, and other personnel.

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

SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	9,739	12,968	13,198	9,509	-230	-2.4%
Kent County	1,699	3,025	3,149	1,575	-124	-7.3%
Sussex County	1,762	3,026	2,998	1,790	+ 28	+1.6%
State	13,200	19,019	19,345	12,874	-326	-2.5%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filings						
	2001*	2002		Change	% Change	
New Castle County	11,054	12,968		+1,914	+17.3%	
Kent County	2,947	3,025		+ 78	+ 2.6%	
Sussex County	2,906	3,026		+ 120	+ 4.1%	
State	16,907	19,019		+2,112	+ 12.5%	
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Dispositions						
	2001	2002		Change	% Change	
New Castle County	12,681	13,198		+517	+4.1%	
Kent County	3,032	3,149		+117	+3.9%	
Sussex County	2,849	2,998		+149	+5.2%	
State	18,562	19,345		+783	+4.2%	

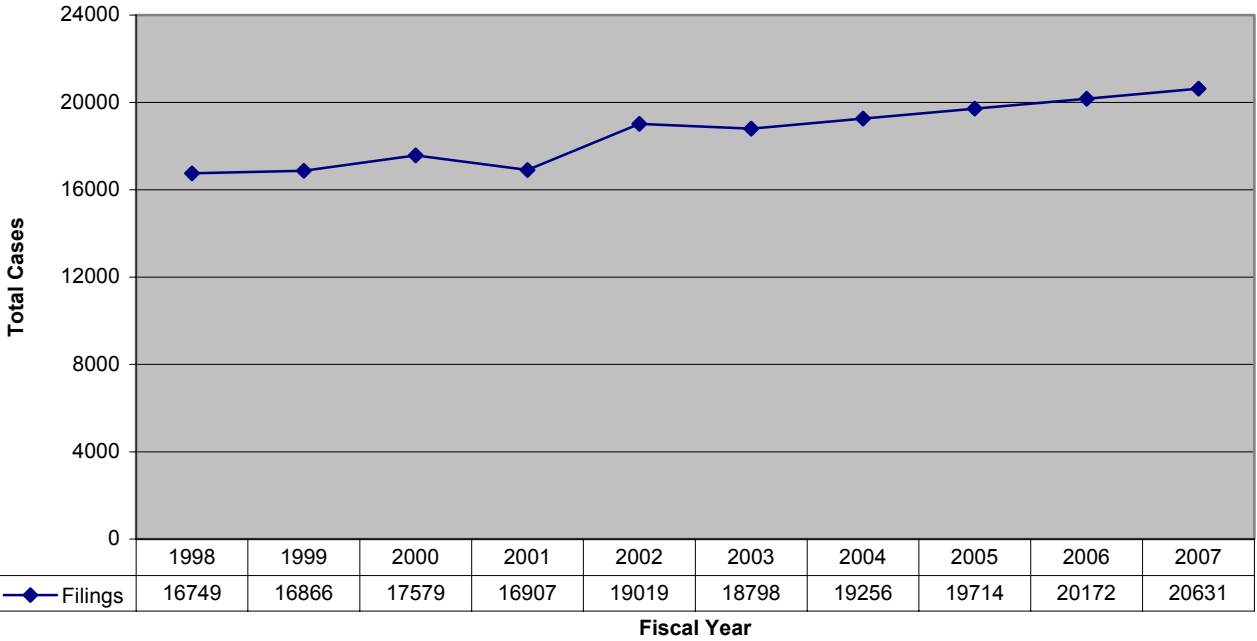
*New Castle County and State total amended from 2001 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary.
Source: Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court;
Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend

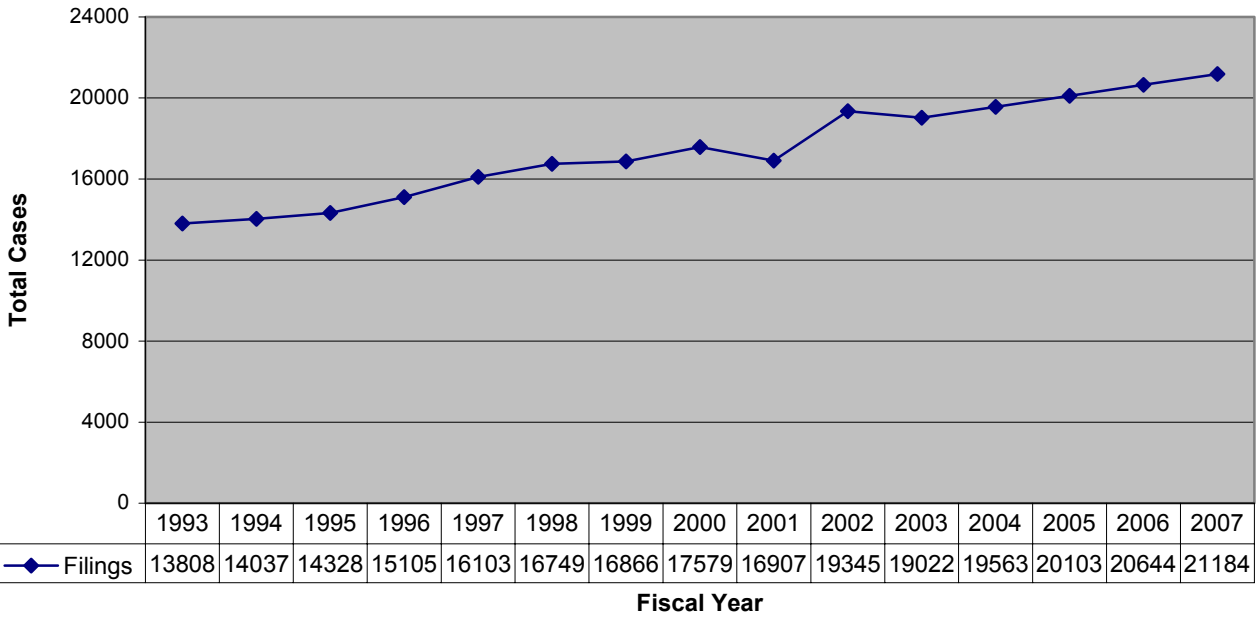


Source: Court Administrator and Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Total 5 Year Projections with 5 Year Base



Superior Court Total 5 Year Projections With 10 Year Base



*Filings and Pending at End of Year are amended.

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

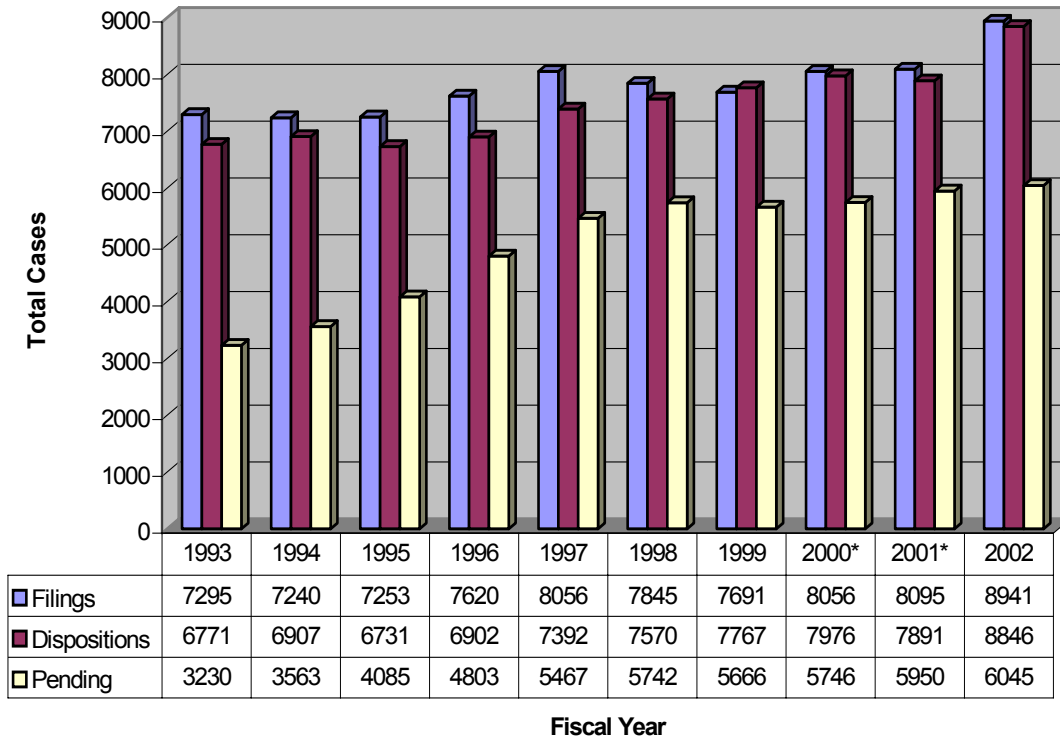
Source: Court Administrator and Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Cases						
	Pending* 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	4,046	5,247	5,244	4,049	+3	+ 0.1%
Kent County	926	1,799	1,813	912	- 14	- 1.5%
Sussex County	978	1,895	1,789	1,084	+106	+10.8%
State	5,950	8,941	8,846	6,045	+95	+ 1.6%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases Filed						
	2001*	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	4,742	5,247	+505	+10.6%		
Kent County	1,657	1,799	+142	+ 8.6%		
Sussex County	1,696	1,895	+199	+11.7%		
State	8,095	8,941	+846	+10.5%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases Disposed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	4,577	5,244	+667	+14.6%		
Kent County	1,675	1,813	+138	+ 8.2%		
Sussex County	1,639	1,789	+150	+ 9.2%		
State	7,891	8,846	+955	+12.1%		

*New Castle County and State total amended from 2001 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary.

Source: Court Administrator and Prothonoty's Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

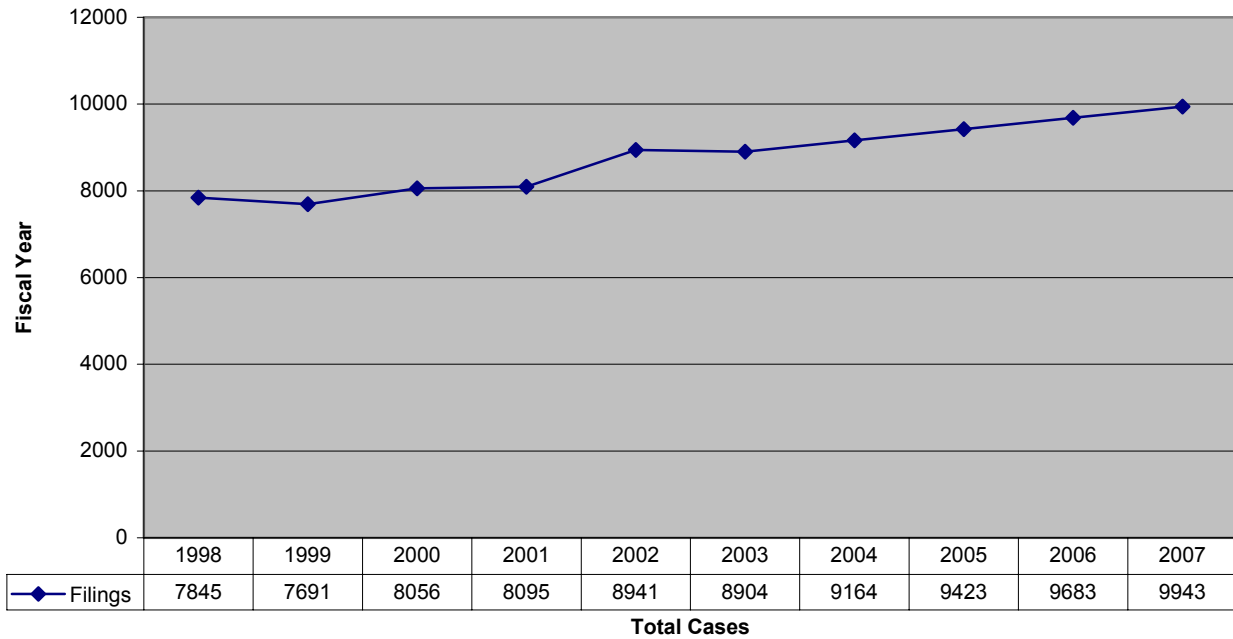
Superior Court Criminal 10 Year Caseload Trend



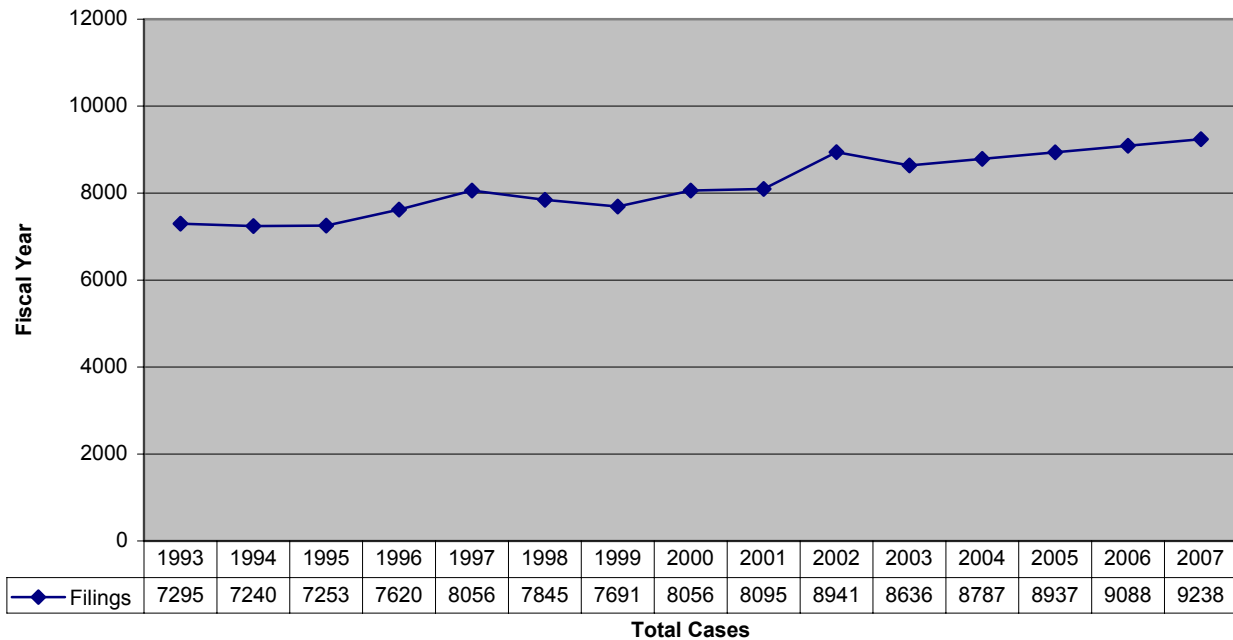
*Filings and pending at end of year amended.

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

Superior Court Criminal 5 Year Projections with 5 Year Base*



Superior Court Criminal 5 year Projections with 10 Year Base*



*2001 Filings are amended from FY 2001 Statistical Report.

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

SUPERIOR COURT										
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Filings										
	Indictment		Rule 9 Warrant		Information		Other*		Total	
New Castle County	4,626	88.2%	361	6.9%	193	3.7%	67	1.3%	5,247	100.0%
Kent County	1,568	87.2%	28	1.6%	180	10.0%	23	1.3%	1,799	100.0%
Sussex County	507	26.8%	86	4.5%	1,280	67.5%	22	1.2%	1,895	100.0%
State	6,701	74.9%	475	5.3%	1,653	18.5%	112	1.3%	8,941	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Dispositions										
	Trial		Guilty Plea		Nolle Prosequi		Remand/Transfer		ADRR	
New Castle County	169	3.2%	3,561	67.9%	744	14.2%	11	0.2%	0	0.0%
Kent County	44	2.4%	1,242	68.5%	215	11.9%	5	0.3%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	55	3.1%	1,147	64.1%	148	8.3%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
State	268	3.0%	5,950	67.3%	1,107	12.5%	17	0.2%	0	0.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Dispositions (cont.)										
	Dismissal		FOP/Drug Court		Consolidation		Total			
New Castle County	235	4.5%	283	5.4%	241	4.6%	5,244	100.0%		
Kent County	34	1.9%	161	8.9%	112	6.2%	1,813	100.0%		
Sussex County	33	1.8%	226	12.6%	179	10.0%	1,789	100.0%		
State	302	3.4%	670	7.6%	532	6.0%	8,846	100.0%		
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Pending at End of Year										
	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending		Total					
New Castle County	1,492	30.1%	3,461	69.9%	4,953	100.0%				
Kent County	267	29.3%	645	70.7%	912	100.0%				
Sussex County	405	37.4%	679	62.6%	1,084	100.0%				
State	2,164	31.1%	4,785	68.9%	6,949	100.0%				
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Change in Pending										
	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending		Total					
New Castle County	-298		+301		+ 3					
Kent County	- 38		+ 24		- 14					
Sussex County	+ 92		+ 14		+106					
State	-244		+339		+ 95					

*Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements and severances.

ADRR = Appeal Dismissed Record Remanded

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 2002 - Criminal Trials - Part One								
	Jury Trial		Non-Jury Trial		Total		Average Trial Length	
New Castle County	151	89.3%	18	10.7%	169	100.0%	2.58 days	
Kent County	42	95.5%	2	4.5%	44	100.0%	3.36 days	
Sussex County	53	96.4%	2	3.6%	55	100.0%	2.54 days	
State	246	91.8%	22	8.2%	268	100.0%	2.70 days	
	Guilty		Not Guilty*		No Final Disposition**		Total	
New Castle County	101	59.8%	46	27.2%	22	13.0%	169	
Kent County	30	68.2%	8	18.2%	6	13.6%	44	
Sussex County	43	78.2%	7	12.7%	5	9.1%	55	
State	174	64.9%	61	22.8%	33	12.3%	268	
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Trials - Part Two								
Jury Trial								
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty At Trial	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial	Hung Jury	Total
New Castle County	64	13	31	12	10	17	4	151
Kent County	22	1	6	6	1	5	1	42
Sussex County	35	1	5	5	2	2	3	53
State	121	15	42	23	13	24	8	246
Non-Jury Trial								
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial		Mistrial	Reserved Decision	Total
New Castle County	11	1	2	3		0	1	18
Kent County	0	1	1	0		0	0	2
Sussex County	2	0	0	0		0	0	2
State	13	2	3	3		0	1	22
All Trials								
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Pled Guilty At Trial	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial	Hung Jury/Reserved Decision	Total
New Castle County	75	14	33	12	13	17	5	169
Kent County	22	2	7	6	1	5	1	44
Sussex County	37	1	5	5	2	2	3	55
State	134	17	45	23	16	24	9	268
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Nolle Prosequis								
	Nolle Prosequis By Special Condition		Nolle Prosequis By Merit		Total			
New Castle County	327	44.0%	417	56.0%	744	100.0%		
Kent County	94	43.7%	121	56.3%	215	100.0%		
Sussex County	24	16.2%	124	83.8%	148	100.0%		
State	445	40.2%	662	59.8%	1,107	100.0%		

LIO = Lesser Included Offense

Nol Pros = Nolle Prosequi

*Includes Dismissals at Trial and Nolle Prosequis at Trial

**Hung Juries, Mistrials, and Reserved Decisions.

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

SUPERIOR COURT								
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Felony Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	2,083	91.4%	194	8.5%	3	0.1%	2,280	100.0%
Kent County	602	85.9%	99	14.1%	0	0.0%	701	100.0%
Sussex County	532	55.4%	426	44.4%	2	0.2%	960	100.0%
State	3,217	81.6%	719	18.2%	5	0.1%	3,941	100.0%
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Misdemeanor Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	619	48.3%	662	51.7%	0	0.0%	1,281	100.0%
Kent County	264	48.8%	277	51.2%	0	0.0%	541	100.0%
Sussex County	179	95.7%	5	2.7%	3	1.6%	187	100.0%
State	1062	52.9%	944	47.0%	3	0.1%	2,009	100.0%
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Total Guilty Pleas								
	PG - Original		PG - Lesser		PG - Information/ New Information		Total	
New Castle County	2,702	75.9%	856	24.0%	3	0.1%	3,561	100.0%
Kent County	866	69.7%	376	30.3%	0	0.0%	1,242	100.0%
Sussex County	711	62.0%	431	37.6%	5	0.4%	1,147	100.0%
State	4,279	71.9%	1,663	27.9%	8	0.1%	5,950	100.0%

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

SUPERIOR COURT

Criminal Cases Performance Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2002

1. The Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie became effective as of May 16, 1990. In the directive it states that 90% of all criminal defendants brought before Superior Court (excluding those charged with murder in the first degree) are to be disposed of within 120 days of the date of arrest, 98% are to be disposed of within 180 days of the date of arrest, and 100% are to be disposed of within 365 days of the arrest date. The standards were modified effective July 1, 2001 in the Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, changing the starting point for the time measures from the date of arrest to the date of indictment.
2. The performance summary charts measure the average and median time from the date of arrest to the date of disposition as well as the average and median time from the date of indictment/information to the date of disposition.
3. In measuring the elapsed time for defendants for the purpose of determining the rate of compliance with the speedy trial standards, the following are excluded by the Court :
 - a. For all capiases, the time between the date that the capias is issued and the date that it is executed.
 - b. For all Rule 9 summonses and Rule 9 warrants the time between the arrest and the indictment/information, if any.
 - c. For all nolle prosequis, the time between the scheduled trial date and the actual filing date of the nolle prosequis.
 - d. For all mental examinations, the time between the date that the examination is ordered and the date of the receipt of the results.
 - e. For all defendants deemed to be incompetent the period in which the defendant is considered incompetent.

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Cases Elapsed Time					
	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	Average Time from Arrest to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest to Disposition	Average Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition
New Castle County	5,244	188.2days	138.8days	147.2days	99.5days
Kent County	1,813	128.3days	107.7days	82.8days	62.6days
Sussex County	1,789	94.2days	95.0days	57.5days	57.6days
State	8,846	156.9days	123.6days	115.9days	83.5days

Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Cases Compliance With Speedy Trial Standard							
	Total Number Disposed of	Number Disposed of Within 120 Days of Indictment (90%)		Number Disposed of Within 180 Days of Indictment (98%)		Number Disposed of Within 365 Days of Arrest (100%)	
New Castle County	5,244	3,039	58.0%	3,637	69.4%	4,775	91.1%
Kent County	1,813	1,468	81.0%	1,655	91.3%	1,778	98.1%
Sussex County	1,789	1,506	84.2%	1,725	96.4%	1,784	99.7%
State	8,846	6,013	68.0%	7,017	79.3%	8,337	94.2%

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

SUPERIOR COURT				
Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases				
Average Time From Arrest to Disposition				
	2001	2002	Change	% Change
New Castle County	182.2days	188.2days	+ 6.0days	+ 3.3%
Kent County	124.6days	128.3days	+ 3.7days	+ 3.0%
Sussex County	105.9days	94.2days	-11.7days	-11.1%
State	154.1days	156.9days	+ 2.8days	+ 1.8%
Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases				
Median Time From Arrest to Disposition				
	2001	2002	Change	% Change
New Castle County	128.5days	138.8days	+10.3days	+8.0%
Kent County	99.1days	107.7days	+ 8.6days	+8.7%
Sussex County	101.1days	95.0days	- 6.1days	-6.0%
State	116.6days	123.6days	+ 7.0days	+6.0%
Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases				
Average Time From Indictment to Disposition				
	2001	2002	Change	% Change
New Castle County	144.2days	147.2days	+3.0days	+2.1%
Kent County	83.1days	82.8days	-0.3days	-0.4%
Sussex County	63.4days	57.5days	-5.9days	-9.3%
State	114.4days	115.9days	+1.4days	+1.2%
Performance Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases				
Median Time From Indictment to Disposition				
	2001	2002	Change	% Change
New Castle County	93.4days	99.5days	+6.1days	+6.5%
Kent County	58.1days	62.6days	+4.5days	+7.7%
Sussex County	56.4days	57.6days	+1.3days	+2.2%
State	78.3days	83.5days	+5.2days	+6.7%

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

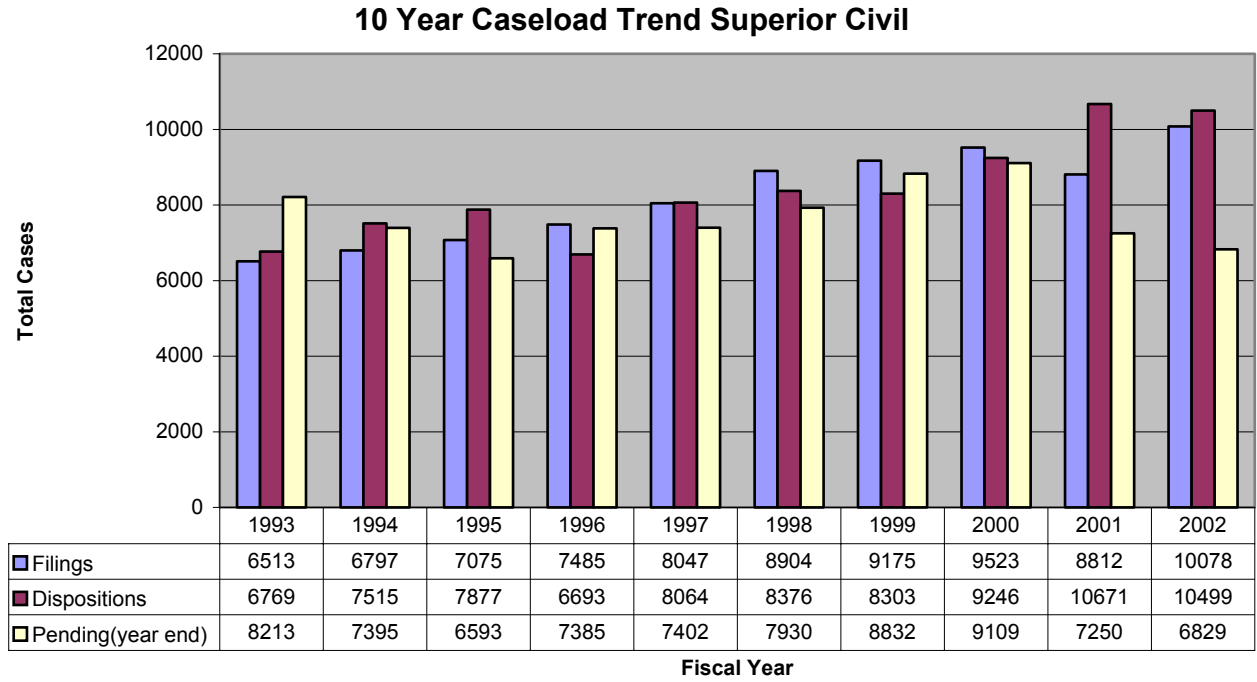
SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 2002 Civil Cases Explanatory Notes

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

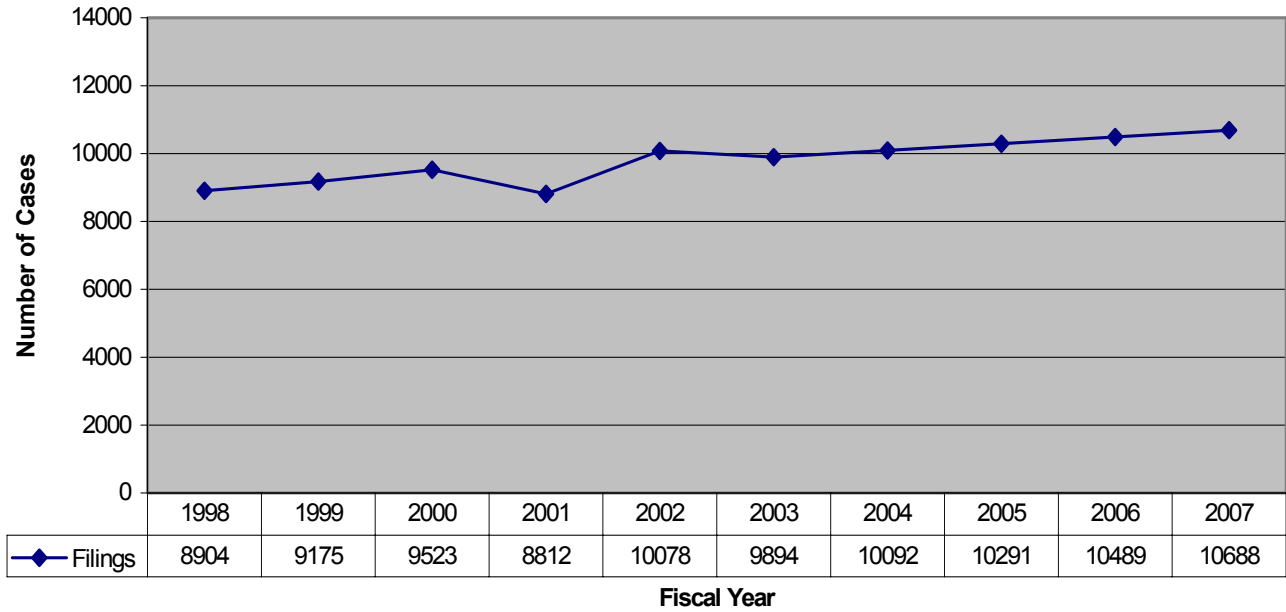
SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	5,693	7,721	7,954	5,460	-233	- 4.1%
Kent County	773	1,226	1,336	663	-110	-14.2%
Sussex County	784	1,131	1,209	706	- 78	-9.9%
State	7,250	10,078	10,499	6,829	-421	- 5.8%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Filings						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	6,312	7,721	+1,409	+22.3%		
Kent County	1,290	1,226	- 64	- 5.0%		
Sussex County	1,210	1,131	- 79	- 6.5%		
State	8,812	10,078	+1,266	+14.4%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Dispositions						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	8,104	7,954	-150	-1.9%		
Kent County	1,357	1,336	- 21	-1.5%		
Sussex County	1,210	1,209	+- 1	+0.1%		
State	10,671	10,499	-172	-1.6%		

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

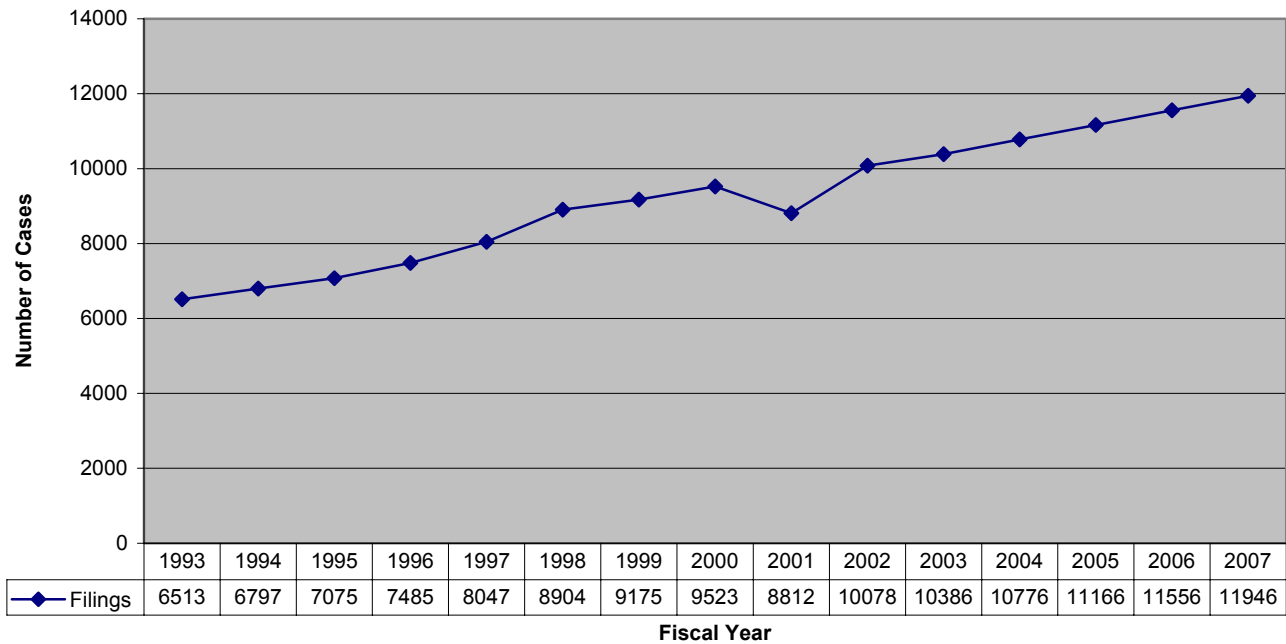


Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

Superior Civil 5 Year Projections With 5 Year Base*



Superior Civil 5 Year Projections Using 10 Year Base*



*2001 filings are amended from the FY 2001 Statistical Report.

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Filings						
	Complaints	Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages	Appeals	Involuntary Commitments	Miscellaneous	Total
New Castle County	3,356	1,442	133	1,213	1,577	7,721
Kent County	536	330	55	23	282	1,226
Sussex County	392	376	52	5	306	1,131
State	4,284	2,148	240	1,241	2,165	10,078
	43.5%	18.7%	1.7%	15.7%	20.4%	100.0%
	43.7%	26.9%	4.5%	1.9%	23.0%	100.0%
	34.7%	33.2%	4.6%	0.4%	27.1%	100.0%
	42.5%	21.3%	2.4%	12.3%	21.5%	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Dispositions						
	Complaints	Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages	Appeals	Involuntary Commitments	Miscellaneous	Total
New Castle County	3,716	1,420	149	1,091	1,578	7,954
Kent County	601	371	42	26	296	1,336
Sussex County	401	393	59	31	325	1,209
State	4,718	2,184	250	1,148	2,199	10,499
	46.7%	17.9%	1.9%	13.7%	19.8%	100.0%
	45.0%	27.8%	3.1%	1.9%	22.2%	100.0%
	33.2%	32.5%	4.9%	2.6%	26.9%	100.0%
	44.9%	20.8%	2.4%	10.9%	20.9%	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Pending at End of Year						
	Complaints	Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages	Appeals	Involuntary Commitments	Miscellaneous	Total
New Castle County	4,464	466	62	299	169	5,460
Kent County	453	111	33	49	17	663
Sussex County	408	158	34	48	58	706
State	5,325	735	129	396	244	6,829
	81.8%	8.5%	1.1%	5.5%	3.1%	100.0%
	68.3%	16.7%	5.0%	7.4%	2.6%	100.0%
	57.8%	22.4%	4.8%	6.8%	8.2%	100.0%
	78.0%	10.8%	1.9%	5.8%	3.6%	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Change in Pending						
	Complaints	Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages	Appeals	Involuntary Commitments	Miscellaneous	Total
New Castle County	-360	+22	-16	+122	- 1	-233
Kent County	- 65	-41	+13	- 3	-14	-110
Sussex County	- 9	-17	- 7	- 26	-19	- 78
State	-434	-36	-10	+93	-34	-421

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

SUPERIOR COURT										
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Complaints Dispositions										
Trial Dispositions						Non-Trial Dispositions				
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Other Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total
New Castle County	52	41	167	486	41	41	2,184	693	52	3,716
Kent County	9	9	28	54	5	5	409	80	7	601
Sussex County	16	4	13	67	8	8	253	25	15	401
State	77	54	208	607	54	54	2,846	798	74	4,718
	1.4%	1.1%	4.5%	13.1%	1.1%	1.1%	58.8%	18.6%	1.4%	100.0%
	1.5%	1.5%	4.7%	9.0%	0.8%	0.8%	68.1%	13.3%	1.2%	100.0%
	4.0%	1.0%	3.2%	16.7%	2.0%	2.0%	63.1%	6.2%	3.7%	100.0%
	1.6%	1.1%	4.4%	12.9%	1.1%	1.1%	60.3%	16.9%	1.6%	100.0%
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Mechanic's Lien and Mortgages Dispositions										
Trial Dispositions						Non-Trial Dispositions				
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total	
New Castle County	0	0	883	1	3	393	137	3	1,420	
Kent County	0	0	246	0	0	92	33	0	371	
Sussex County	2	0	189	17	0	114	34	37	393	
State	2	0	1,318	18	3	599	204	40	2,184	
	0.0%	0.0%	62.2%	0.1%	0.2%	27.7%	9.6%	0.2%	100.0%	
	0.0%	0.0%	66.3%	0.0%	0.0%	24.8%	8.9%	0.0%	100.0%	
	0.5%	0.0%	48.1%	4.3%	0.0%	29.0%	8.7%	9.4%	100.0%	
	0.1%	0.0%	60.3%	0.8%	0.1%	27.4%	9.3%	1.8%	100.0%	
Types of Dispositions Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Appeals Dispositions										
Trial Dispositions						Non-Trial Dispositions				
	Affirmed	Reversed	Remanded	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total			
New Castle County	70	8	15	26	30	0	149			
Kent County	15	4	1	10	11	1	42			
Sussex County	26	4	0	23	6	0	59			
State	111	16	16	59	47	1	250			
	47.0%	5.4%	10.1%	17.4%	20.1%	0.0%	100.0%			
	35.7%	9.5%	2.4%	23.8%	26.2%	2.4%	100.0%			
	44.1%	6.8%	0.0%	39.0%	10.2%	0.0%	100.0%			
	44.4%	6.4%	6.4%	23.6%	18.8%	0.4%	100.0%			

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

SUPERIOR COURT									
Trial Activity Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Trials									
	Number of Jury Trials	Number of Non-Jury Trials	Number of Special Jury Trials	Total Number of Trials	Trial Time	Average Trial Time			
New Castle County	109	13	0	122	361days	2.96days			
Kent County	19	2	0	21	73days	3.48days			
Sussex County	10	9	0	19	36days	1.89days			
State	138	24	0	162	470days	2.90days			
Calendar Activity Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases									
	Cases Tried	Cases Settled or Dismissed	Cases Continued for Settlement	Cases Continued Due to Lack of Judge	Cases Continued at Request of Attorney	Total Cases Scheduled			
New Castle County	122	754	70	6	206	1,158	10.5%	65.1%	6.0%
Kent County	21	251	6	7	190	475	4.4%	52.8%	1.3%
Sussex County	19	80	9	1	42	151	12.6%	53.0%	6.0%
State	162	1085	85	14	438	1,784	9.1%	60.8%	4.8%
Performance Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases									
	COMPLAINTS			MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES			APPEALS		
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions
New Castle County	3,716	463.1days	1,420	169.5days	149	232.1days			
Kent County	601	405.2days	371	192.4days	42	215.6days			
Sussex County	401	423.5days	393	178.4days	59	303.2days			
State	4,718	452.3days	2,184	175.0days	250	246.1days			
	INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS			MISCELLANEOUS			TOTAL		
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions
New Castle County	1,091	50.2days	1,578	68.0days	7,954	271.3days			
Kent County	26	288.4days	296	72.4days	1,336	264.2days			
Sussex County	31	545.4days	325	110.5days	1,209	257.0days			
State	1,148	69.0days	2,199	74.9days	10,499	268.8days			

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

SUPERIOR COURT												
Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002-Civil Complaints-Method of Disposition												
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total						
New Castle County	93	2.5%	524	14.1%	167	4.5%	2,184	58.8%	748	20.1%	3,716	100.0%
Kent County	18	3.0%	53	8.8%	28	4.7%	409	68.1%	93	15.5%	601	100.0%
Sussex County	20	5.0%	33	8.2%	12	3.0%	253	63.1%	83	20.7%	401	100.0%
State	131	2.8%	610	12.9%	207	4.4%	2,846	60.3%	924	19.6%	4,718	100.0%
Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002-Civil Complaints-Elapsed Time												
Average Time From Filing to Disposition												
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total						
New Castle County	904.7days	357.5days	280.5days	452.0days	555.2days	463.1days						
Kent County	772.9days	258.1days	205.9days	391.2days	539.8days	405.2days						
Sussex County	732.2days	327.6days	290.9days	418.1days	423.1days	423.5days						
State	860.2days	347.3days	271.0days	440.2days	541.8days	452.3days						
Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002-Civil Mechanics' Liens and Mortgages-Method of Disposition												
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total						
New Castle County	0	0.0%	4	0.3%	883	62.2%	392	27.6%	141	9.9%	1,420	100.0%
Kent County	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	246	66.3%	92	24.8%	33	8.9%	371	100.0%
Sussex County	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	189	48.1%	114	29.0%	88	22.4%	393	100.0%
State	2	0.1%	4	0.2%	1,318	60.3%	598	27.4%	262	12.0%	2,184	100.0%
Performance Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002-Civil Mechanics' Liens and Mortgages-Elapsed Time												
Average Time From Filing to Disposition												
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other	Total						
New Castle County	0.0days	494.8days	104.2days	188.5days	516.5days	169.5days						
Kent County	0.0days	0.0days	131.8days	231.8days	533.9days	192.4days						
Sussex County	438.0days	0.0days	138.3days	170.8days	268.6days	178.4days						
State	438.0days	494.8days	114.2days	191.8days	435.5days	175.0days						

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

SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Arbitration						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	3,253	2,716	2,940	3,029	-224	- 6.9%
Kent County	376	405	312	469	+ 93	+24.7%
Sussex County	332	345	315	362	+ 30	+ 9.0%
State	3,961	3,466	3,567	3,860	-101	- 2.5%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Arbitration Filings						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	2,697	2,716	+19	+ 0.7%		
Kent County	463	405	-58	-12.5%		
Sussex County	330	345	+15	+ 4.5%		
State	3,490	3,466	-24	- 0.7%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Arbitration Dispositions						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	3,072	2,940	-132	- 4.3%		
Kent County	543	312	-231	-42.5%		
Sussex County	354	315	- 39	-11.0%		
State	3,969	3,567	-402	-10.1%		

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

Family Court

Quality Counts...Family Court...Counts Quality

Family Court continues on its quest to improve the quality of the services provided in each of our courthouses. From our "VOICES" survey in 1992 to our "Courting Quality" initiative commenced in 1996 and our development and publication of the Family Court Performance Standards in 1999, we have now arrived at another critical milestone in our quest to provide quality services to the citizens of the State of Delaware.

During Fiscal Year 2002, the Family Court focused much attention on the formulation and testing of performance "measures" for the Family Court Performance Standards as part of our "Quality Counts...Family Court...Counts Quality" program. The application of the performance measures will allow the Court, staff, litigants and the public to gauge our actual performance against those standards established in 1999.

With the assistance and support of Dr. Ingo Keilitz, a nationally recognized expert on Trial Court Performance Standards and Measures, the five performance measurement focus groups, under the guidance of the Quality Counts Leadership Committee, composed of court and community members, and with the continued financial assistance of the First State Quality Improvement Fund, have developed and validated twenty-one measures for final development and implementation.

At present Dr. Keilitz is working with the five focus group chairpersons to complete the



Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti

final draft of the Family Court Performance Standards and Measures document, which is scheduled for completion in October/November 2002. Early in 2003 we plan to republish the Family Court Performance Standards along with the measures for family courts nationally. Additionally, the document will be available on our web site.

Full implementation of the twenty-one performance measures is scheduled to commence in January 2003. Family Court will then utilize the information produced through the performance measurement process in order to adjust our policies, procedures and management practices in order to provide the quality of service the citizenry of our state deserve.

Family Court Programs for Self-Represented Litigants

Family Court's focus on quality has resulted in the development and implementation of several programs for self-represented litigants:

Family Court Resource Centers

Family Court continues to experience success from the operation of its Resource Centers. Furthermore, based on feedback from a variety of sources, implementation of Family Court's *pro se* program already has contributed to more efficient court operations, to enhancing the public's access to the court, enhancing litigants' participation in the court process and their meaningful right to be heard.

FAMILY COURT

Litigants gradually are being referred to the Resource and Self-Help Centers by state agencies, organizations, legislators, and even attorneys. Litigants continue to report to Family Court that they have benefited from having a wide range of resources available at a single location to help guide them through the legal process. Some litigants were particularly thankful to have visited the Centers because the resources helped them determine whether they were capable of representing themselves.

During Fiscal Year 2002, 23,582 individuals availed themselves of the services of the Family Court Resource Centers in Kent and Sussex Counties. If the New Castle County Courthouse Self-Help Center follows the experience in Kent and Sussex, another 23,000 – 30,000 visitors will be added to the total.

Staff reports that they spend significantly less time trying to assist self-represented litigants since the Resource Centers have opened. Communications with self-represented litigants are more succinct because the resources at the Centers supplement the information staff provides.

Judicial Officers report spending less time explaining the legal process during court hearings because litigants are appearing more prepared and/or because they can refer litigants having questions or requiring additional information to the Resource and Self-Help Centers.

The Self-Help Center

On September 3, 2002, the first Self-Help Center opened in New Castle County. A Center serving the needs of self-represented litigants of all of Delaware's State Courts, the Self-Help Center has as its model the Family Court Resource Centers and incorporates the philosophy and approach of Family Court's *pro se* program. Family Court staffs the Self-Help Center and the vast majority of users are Family Court litigants. It is estimated that the Self-Help Center assisted nearly 2,000 people during the first month of operations.

As more people learn of the Self-Help Center, we anticipate that the number of people served through the Self-Help Center will substantially increase.

The Pilot of the Attorneys Counseling Evening Program

As a result of implementation of Rule 6.5 of the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Responsibility (adopted November 2000), on May 23, 2002 at the Delaware State Bar Association in Wilmington, Family Court co-sponsored the first Attorney Counseling Evening Program (hereinafter referred to as the "ACE Program"). Other sponsors included the Supreme Court, Court of Chancery, Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas, Justice of the Peace Court, the Delaware State Bar Association, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Widener University School of Law, Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, and Community Aid Legal Society, Inc. Although not a sponsor, the Delaware Paralegal Association, assisted with staffing.

Modeled after the ACE Program in Contra Costa County, California, the Program entails attorneys providing free "fifteen-minute type" assistance to self-represented litigants. Litigants having low-income were screened for eligibility for free legal assistance by one of Delaware's legal service providers.

Filings Examiners

In 1999 the Delaware Supreme Court's special committee on Family Court Internal Operating Procedures recommended that the Family Court's filing process could be materially improved if legally trained personnel reviewed filings at the outset. In Fiscal Year 2001 the Family Court hired its first Filings Examiner. The position is unique in Delaware's courts and rare throughout the nation. The intent in developing the filings examiner concept was to reduce the frustration of the self-represented litigant who inadvertently or unwittingly filed inappropriate or insufficient documents with the court and waited sometimes months only to find out that the court could not proceed and that they must start over. The law-trained Filings Examiner position reviews all filings received by the court from the self-represented and promptly intercedes to expedite the return of the insufficient documents to the litigant so that the necessary corrections can be made early on and the process expedited. As a result, the litigant's time, as well as that of staff, is not wasted while the paperwork moves forward through what could be unnecessary processing.

FAMILY COURT

During the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2002, the Filings Examiner reviewed approximately 1,540 civil filings presented by self-represented litigants. Of these, 524 petitions (34 percent of those filed) required corrective action. Therefore, 524 deficient petitions were either corrected or dismissed before they reached a court calendar.

Further, the work of the Filings Examiner helped to ensure that the remaining 1,016 *pro se* petitions, which went to scheduling without response, were ready for court action when calendared. This proactive effort by Family Court makes great strides in achieving what the committee called the most important aspect of Family Court work from the litigant's perspective, the "rendering of timely justice".

The Family Court has made great strides and has received substantial praise for our efforts on behalf of those citizens who represent themselves in Family Court.

The Family Court has also undertaken a number of other initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of our service to the citizenry of the State of Delaware:

Court Improvement Project

Background

The federal Family Preservation and Support Act provides multi-year Court Improvement Project (CIP) grants to state Supreme Courts to improve how courts within the state handle cases involving children in foster care, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings. The grants are administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. The Delaware Supreme Court is participating in this program under the direction of Justice Randy J. Holland. Family Court oversight is provided by Associate Judge Kenneth M. Millman.

During the first phase of the project the court conducted a two-year assessment of its practices, outcomes, and relevant external relationships. The assessment concluded with twenty-two detailed recommendations for improvement. During the second phase of the project, a Court Improvement Project Implementation Steering Com-

mittee, chaired by Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti, provided consultation and guidance to the Court in its efforts to develop and execute the recommendations.

Reforms

The primary changes to handling child welfare cases, which have been implemented statewide are: one judge for the life of a case; a defined sequence of hearings for each case; and substantially increased representation for parents and children. Statutory changes have been made regarding termination of parental rights, guardianship, permanent guardianship, and guardian *ad litem*/Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Other reforms in progress include data collection, use of case managers, revision of court rules that govern child welfare proceedings, court-focused training, and enhanced communication with the child welfare community.

Representation for Parents and Children

Eight contract attorneys provided representation for parents statewide. The state legislature provided some funds for contract positions, and the State Bar Foundation also provided funding. The court will continue to seek additional funding for these positions. Appointment of counsel for parents and CASA or attorney guardian *ad litem* for children has increased and now occurs early in the hearing process.

Data Collection

The current data system is being amended to enable tracking of court events through specific reports. New disposition codes for each stage of court proceeding have been implemented. Statewide data collection began July 1, 2001. Data elements, reports and exceptions have been identified, and reports for retrieving child welfare data are nearly completed.

Case Managers

Two case manager positions, originally funded through the CIP grant, have been incorporated into the Family Court budget. Two additional case managers were funded through the CIP grant in FY 2002. State funding was not approved for these positions for FY 2003, but the court has requested these positions in the FY 2004 budget.

FAMILY COURT

Court Rules

Proposed rules for child welfare cases have been drafted and have been approved by the Family Court Judiciary and Supreme Court. We anticipate that the rules will become effective December 2002.

Training

In 2001, interdisciplinary training sessions were organized and sponsored by the Court regarding child witnesses, ASFA and CIP changes and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. The Court and child welfare agency collaborated on a full-day training for judicial officers, court staff, agency personnel, and other community stakeholders. A child welfare reference library has been provided to each judge.

In the last fiscal year, Family Court offered interdisciplinary training on Early Childhood and the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children and provided in-house training for its case managers and CASA Coordinators. Judicial secretaries and case managers were trained on new CIP disposition codes and their relevance to child welfare. The statewide Abuse Intervention Committee (CJA Task Force) is finalizing a contract with Prevent Child Abuse Delaware to manage a statewide training consortium on child welfare issues.

Communication

Sussex and New Castle County judges convene quarterly meetings with key stakeholders. Similar meetings have begun in Kent County, but are not routinely scheduled. The Chief Judge holds regular meetings with the Secretary for the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. Judges hearing child welfare cases have begun meeting on a regular basis to develop policies and strategies toward insuring children's best interests.

Next Steps

- ◆ Finalize data reports. Retrieve and analyze information collected since July 1, 2001.
- ◆ Finalize approval of revised rules (anticipated to be effective December 1, 2002).
- ◆ Explore resources for additional attorneys for parents and CASA. Renew budget request for case managers and attorneys for FY04.
- ◆ Monitor the status of the Strengthening Abuse Neglect Courts Act funding for CIP/ASFA im-

plementation, automation of data systems, training for judges and court staff, and expansion of CASA programs.

- ◆ Bring judges hearing child welfare cases together on a regular basis to compare experiences and to make decisions concerning unresolved strategic and policy issues.

Financial Management System

In May 2002 the Family Court implemented an automated financial management system in its collections offices, records rooms and *Pro Se* Centers. This system is modeled after the system currently in use in Justice of the Peace Court and the Court of Common Pleas. With the adoption of the Financial Management System (FMS), the Family Court is on the same technological level as the other courts and is in a position to accept branch-wide collections rather than restricting activities only to Family Court functions. As such, the collection resources of the judiciary will be broader in terms of knowledge, capabilities and the ability to server a larger portion of the citizenry of the State. Additionally, the Family Court will be in a position to proactively manage the accounts receivable in order to ensure that court orders are being honored.

Drug Court

In Fiscal Year 2002, Family Court completed a review of Drug Court best practices and designed a new Adjudicated Drug Court model. The proposed approach received Legislative endorsement with passage of a law that grants conditional licenses to misdemeanor participants, permits the vacating of their sentence once they have successfully completed the program and gives the Court authority to compel parents into assessment and treatment if indicated. In addition, treatment funding was provided by the Joint Finance Committee and will allow our partner in this endeavor, the Division of Child Mental Health, to act as the managed care organization for a host of treatment agencies.

FAMILY COURT



Front Row (left to right)
Associate Judge Barbara D. Crowell
Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti
Associate Judge Kenneth M. Millman

Second Row (left to right)
Associate Judge Mark D. Buckworth
Associate Judge Aida Wasserstein
Associate Judge Mardi F. Pyott
Associate Judge Peter Jones

Third Row (left to right)
Associate Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Associate Judge William J. Walls, Jr.
Associate Judge William N. Nicholas

Fourth Row (left to right)
Associate Judge John E. Henriksen
Associate Judge Jay H. Conner
Associate Judge Alison Whitmer Tumas

Fifth Row (left to right)
Associate Judge William L. Chapman, Jr.
Associate Judge Robert B. Coonin

FAMILY COURT

Legal Authorization

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

Court History

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

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

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

Geographic Organization

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

Legal Jurisdiction

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

ship over minors, imperiling the family relationship, orders of protection from abuse, and intrafamily misdemeanor crimes.

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

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

Judges

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

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

Other Judicial Personnel

Family Court uses commissioners to hear specific types of cases. Commissioners are appointed for four-year terms by the Governor with the consent of a majority of the Senate.

Support Personnel

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

FAMILY COURT

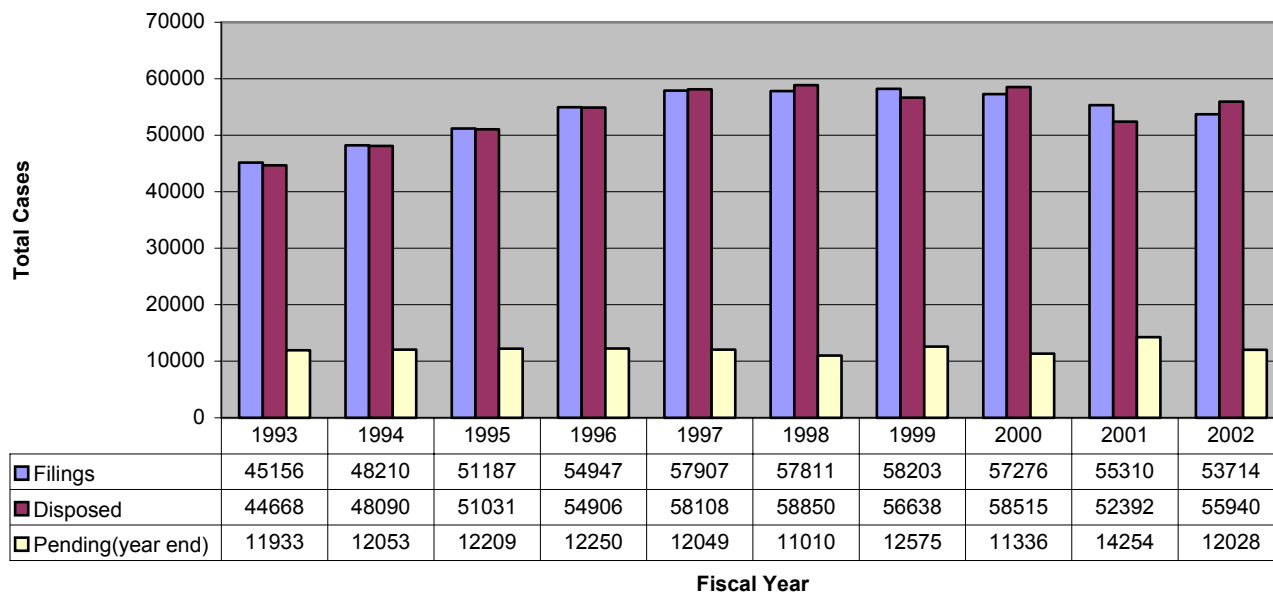
Total Cases Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2002

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

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Caseload						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	8,090	31,793	32,759	7,124	- 966	-11.9%
Kent County	2,856	10,114	10,940	2,030	- 826	-28.9%
Sussex County	3,308	11,807	12,241	2,874	- 434	-13.1%
State	14,254	53,714	55,940	12,028	-2,226	-15.6%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	32,846	31,793	-1,053	-3.2%		
Kent County	10,769	10,114	- 655	-6.1%		
Sussex County	11,695	11,807	+ 112	+1.0%		
State	55,310	53,714	-1,596	-2.9%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Disposed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	30,716	32,759	+2,043	+6.7%		
Kent County	10,186	10,940	+ 754	+7.4%		
Sussex County	11,490	12,241	+ 751	+6.5%		
State	52,392	55,940	+3,548	+6.8%		

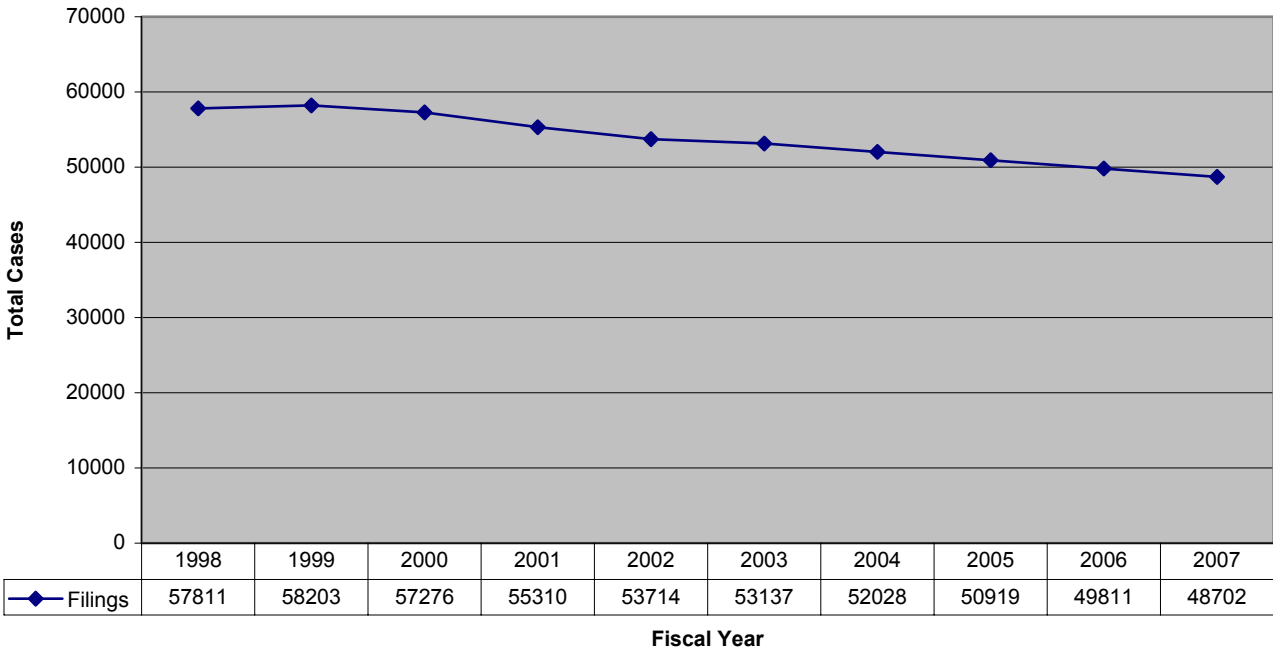
Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Family Court 10 Year Caseload Trend Total Cases

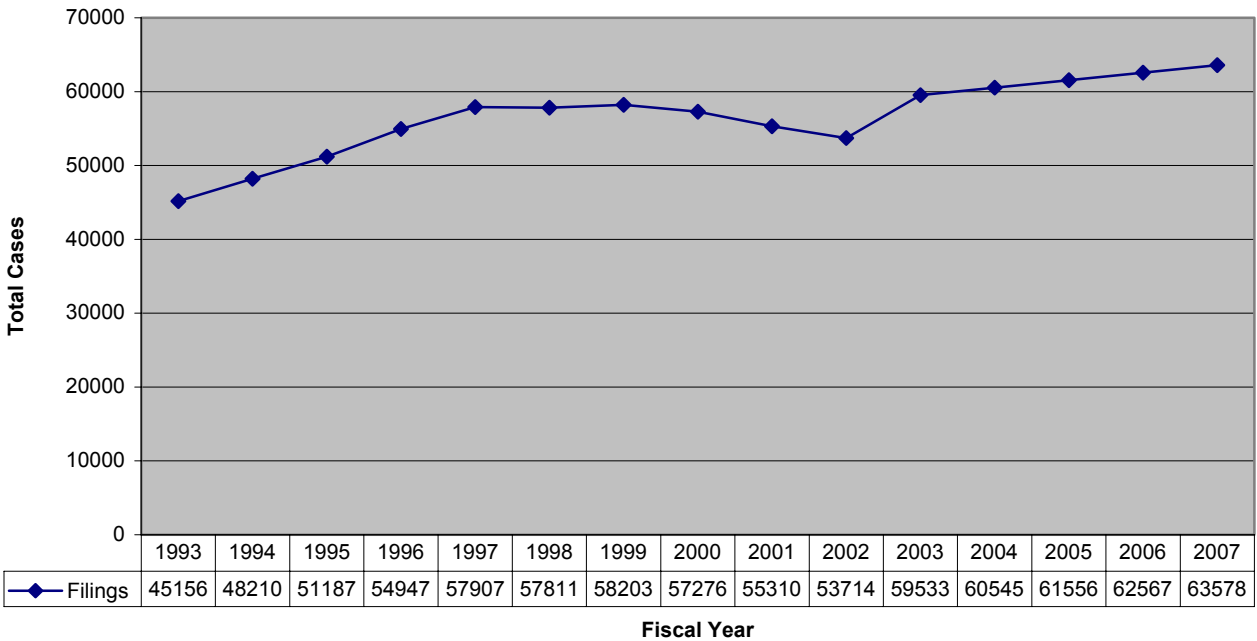


Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

5 Year Projections Family Total Using 5 Year Base



5 Year Projections Family Total Using 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by linear regression.

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

FAMILY COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Adult Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	885	3,352	3,379	858	-27	-3.1%
Kent County	92	982	974	100	+ 8	+8.7%
Sussex County	126	1,044	1,035	135	+ 9	+7.1%
State	1,103	5,378	5,388	1,093	-10	-0.9%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Adult Criminal Cases Filed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	3,453	3,352	-101	-2.9%		
Kent County	1,029	982	- 47	-4.6%		
Sussex County	1,084	1,044	- 40	-3.7%		
State	5,566	5,378	-188	-3.4%		
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Adult Criminal Cases Disposed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	3,218	3,379	+161	+ 5.0%		
Kent County	1,033	974	- 59	- 5.7%		
Sussex County	1,193	1,035	-158	-13.2%		
State	5,444	5,388	- 56	- 1.0%		

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

FAMILY COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases						
	Pending			Pending	Change	% Change
	6/30/2001	Filed	Disposed	6/30/2002	In Pending	In Pending
New Castle County	1,929	5,742	6,214	1,457	-472	-24.5%
Kent County	367	1,670	1,860	177	-190	-51.8%
Sussex County	265	1,908	1,907	266	+ 1	+ 0.4%
State	2,561	9,320	9,981	1,900	-661	-25.8%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Filed						
	2001		2002	Change	% Change	
New Castle County	5,926		5,742	-184	-3.1%	
Kent County	1,819		1,670	-149	-8.2%	
Sussex County	1,983		1,908	- 75	-3.8%	
State	9,728		9,320	-408	-4.2%	
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Disposed						
	2001		2002	Change	% Change	
New Castle County	5,254		6,214	+960	+18.3%	
Kent County	1,831		1,860	+ 29	+ 1.6%	
Sussex County	2,194		1,907	-287	-13.1%	
State	9,279		9,981	+702	+ 7.6%	

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

FAMILY COURT								
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Filed								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	1,140	19.9%	4,126	71.9%	476	8.3%	5,742	100.0%
Kent County	309	18.5%	1,201	71.9%	160	9.6%	1,670	100.0%
Sussex County	298	15.6%	1,340	70.2%	270	14.2%	1,908	100.0%
State	1,747	18.7%	6,667	71.5%	906	9.7%	9,320	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Disposed								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	1,407	22.6%	4,400	70.8%	407	6.5%	6,214	100.0%
Kent County	379	20.4%	1,319	70.9%	162	8.7%	1,860	100.0%
Sussex County	280	14.7%	1,358	71.2%	269	14.1%	1,907	100.0%
State	2,066	20.7%	7,077	70.9%	838	8.4%	9,981	100.0%
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Pending at End of Year								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total	
New Castle County	181	12.4%	1,136	78.0%	140	9.6%	1,457	100.0%
Kent County	52	29.4%	118	66.7%	7	4.0%	177	100.0%
Sussex County	83	31.2%	162	60.9%	21	7.9%	266	100.0%
State	316	16.6%	1,416	74.5%	168	8.8%	1,900	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Juvenile Delinquency Cases Change in Pending								
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Traffic	Total				
New Castle County	-267	-274	+69	-472				
Kent County	- 70	-118	- 2	-190				
Sussex County	+ 18	- 18	+ 1	+ 1				
State	-319	-410	+68	-661				

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

FAMILY COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases						
	Pending			Pending	Change	% Change
	6/30/2001	Filed	Disposed	6/30/2002	In Pending	In Pending
New Castle County	5,276	22,699	23,166	4,809	- 467	- 8.9%
Kent County	2,397	7,462	8,106	1,753	- 644	-26.9%
Sussex County	2,917	8,855	9,299	2,473	- 444	-15.2%
State	10,590	39,016	40,571	9,035	-1,555	-14.7%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Filed						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	23,467		22,699		- 768	-3.3%
Kent County	7,921		7,462		- 459	-5.8%
Sussex County	8,628		8,855		+ 227	+2.6%
State	40,016		39,016		-1,000	-2.5%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Disposed						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	22,244		23,166		+ 922	+ 4.1%
Kent County	7,322		8,106		+ 784	+10.7%
Sussex County	8,103		9,299		+1,196	+14.8%
State	37,669		40,571		+2,902	+ 7.7%

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

FAMILY COURT										
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Filed										
	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody				
New Castle County	2,114	792	2,969	4,578	2,110	2,498				
Kent County	811	215	1,023	1,257	595	886				
Sussex County	786	122	1,480	2,350	849	860				
State	3,711	1,129	5,472	8,185	3,554	4,244				
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	Total				
New Castle County	656	1,869	190	140	4,783	22,699				
Kent County	250	713	51	22	1,639	7,462				
Sussex County	229	726	35	16	1,402	8,855				
State	1,135	3,308	276	178	7,824	39,016				
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Disposed										
	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody				
New Castle County	1,831	806	2,581	5,453	2,361	2,629				
Kent County	744	208	1,092	1,974	609	850				
Sussex County	751	157	1,512	2,747	882	863				
State	3,326	1,171	5,185	10,174	3,852	4,342				
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	Total				
New Castle County	710	1,794	175	151	4,675	23,166				
Kent County	237	704	32	7	1,649	8,106				
Sussex County	243	729	54	40	1,321	9,299				
State	1,190	3,227	261	198	7,645	40,571				

RTSC = Rules to Show Cause
 Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT												
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Pending at End of Year												
	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody						
New Castle County	619	12.9%	202	4.2%	825	17.2%	797	16.6%	383	8.0%	546	11.4%
Kent County	287	16.4%	66	3.8%	220	12.5%	189	10.8%	133	7.6%	256	14.6%
Sussex County	299	12.1%	45	1.8%	414	16.7%	851	34.4%	147	5.9%	234	9.5%
State	1,205	13.3%	313	3.5%	1,459	16.1%	1,837	20.3%	663	7.3%	1,036	11.5%
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	Total						
New Castle County	156	3.2%	111	2.3%	59	1.2%	93	1.9%	1,018	21.2%	4,809	100.0%
Kent County	79	4.5%	20	1.1%	30	1.7%	50	2.9%	423	24.1%	1,753	100.0%
Sussex County	84	3.4%	31	1.3%	7	0.3%	15	0.6%	346	14.0%	2,473	100.0%
State	319	3.5%	162	1.8%	96	1.1%	158	1.7%	1,787	19.8%	9,035	100.0%
Caseload Breakdown Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Change in Pending												
	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody						
New Castle County	+283	-14	+388	- 875	-251	-131						
Kent County	+ 67	+ 7	- 69	- 717	- 14	+36						
Sussex County	+ 35	-35	- 32	- 397	- 33	- 3						
State	+385	-42	+287	-1,989	-298	-98						
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	Total						
New Castle County	-54	+75	+15	-11	+108	- 467						
Kent County	+13	+ 9	+19	+15	- 10	- 644						
Sussex County	-14	- 3	-19	-24	+ 81	- 444						
State	-55	+81	+15	-20	+179	-1,555						

RTSC = Rules to Show Cause
 Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Mediation Explanatory Notes Fiscal Year 2002

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

Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Mediation						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filed	Disposed	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	104	9,135	9,119	120	16	15.4%
Kent County	196	2,535	2,444	287	91	46.4%
Sussex County	238	3,627	3,865	0	-238	-100.0%
State	538	15,297	15,428	407	-131	-24.3%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Mediation Filed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	8,214	9,135	921	11.2%		
Kent County	2,837	2,535	-302	-10.6%		
Sussex County	3,263	3,627	364	11.2%		
State	14,314	15,297	983	6.9%		
Caseload Comparisons - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Mediation Disposed						
	2001	2002	Change	% Change		
New Castle County	8,212	9,119	907	11.0%		
Kent County	2,846	2,444	-402	-14.1%		
Sussex County	3,273	3,865	592	18.1%		
State	14,331	15,428	1097	7.7%		

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

Court of Common Pleas

FY 2002 was a challenging year for the Court of Common Pleas. The Court faced caseload increases and budget constraints and yet continued to effectively manage its busy calendars to provide high quality public service.

The Court of Common Pleas experienced another increase in caseload in FY 2002. The Court's criminal caseload increased by 8.77%. Even more significantly, the civil caseload increased by 30.2%, the largest civil increase in sixteen years and the second year of exceptional civil caseload growth. However, the Court still managed to dispose of 90% of all civil matters within ten (10) months after the filing of the responsive pleadings.

The Court continues to experience a backlog in its criminal caseload in New Castle County. Although the appearance of AG's and PD's at JP Court 20 has reduced the number of cases coming from the City of Wilmington, the overall caseload numbers continue to rise, making it difficult for the Court to manage and creating a backlog.

The Court began a mediation (dispute resolution) program in January of 2001. In partnership with the Center for Community Justice and the Delaware Center for Justice, the Court has referred approximately 800 cases to mediation since the start of the program. This pro-



Chief Judge Alex J. Small

gram provides an alternative for criminal prosecution and it has been determined that it leaves participants with an increased sense of satisfaction about the criminal justice process.

The Court continues to operate its very successful drug diversion program, a court-supervised, comprehensive program for non-violent offenders. This voluntary program, which handles approximately 500 participants each year, includes regular appearances before a Judge,

participation in substance abuse education, drug testing and treatment, if needed. This program has been the subject of a study by the University of Pennsylvania on the role of judicial status hearings in drug court, a first study of its kind in the nation.

The Court has been an active participant in the COTS project, the Judiciary's effort to acquire a new case management system for all of the Delaware Courts. Carole Kirshner, the Court of Common Pleas Administrator, was Chair of the Uniform Case Processes Committee that worked on recommending uniform business practices for all courts and recommended that ACS be the vendor to provide an off-the-shelf case management system for the Judiciary.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Consistent with the Court's goal of ensuring maximum public access, it developed a large number of materials and forms designed for self-represented litigants this year. Court materials are available providing general civil and criminal information, as well as for appeals from the JP Court, name changes, and civil and criminal motions. These materials are now available on the Court's website as well as in the New Castle County Courthouse Self-Help Center.

The move to the New Castle County Courthouse, which required months of planning and effort, represented a major change for the Court. The Court is now situated in its new space, providing a significant improvement in staff working conditions and allowing better interaction with other courts. Most important, the new building permits the Court to serve the public more effectively.



Front Row (from left to right)
 Judge Merrill C. Trader
 Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
 Judge William C. Bradley, Jr.

Standing (left to right)
 Judge Joseph F. Flickinger, III
 Judge Charles W. Welch, III
 Judge Jay Paul James
 Judge Rosemary B. Beauregard
 Judge John K. Welch
 Judge Kenneth S. Clark, Jr.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Legal Authorization

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

Court History

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

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

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

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

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

Geographic Organization

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

Legal Jurisdiction

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

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

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

Judges

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

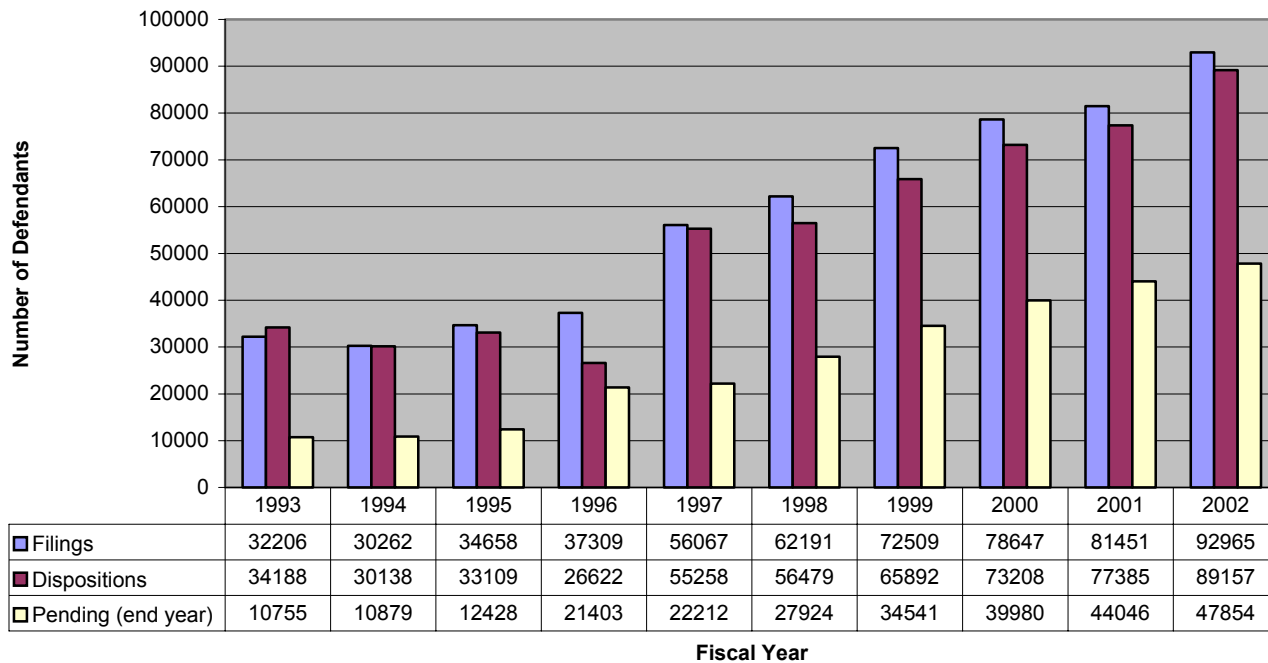
Support Personnel

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

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	31,112	49,176	47,074	33,214	+2,102	+ 6.8%
Kent County	5,785	19,563	18,510	6,838	+1,053	+18.2%
Sussex County	7,149	24,226	23,573	7,802	+ 653	+ 9.1%
State	44,046	92,965	89,157	47,854	+3,808	+ 8.6%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filings						
	2001	2002		Change	% Change	
New Castle County	41,126	49,176		+ 8,050	+19.6%	
Kent County	17,272	19,563		+ 2,291	+13.3%	
Sussex County	23,053	24,226		+ 1,173	+ 5.1%	
State	81,451	92,965		+11,514	+14.1%	
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Dispositions						
	2001	2002		Change	% Change	
New Castle County	37,796	47,074		+ 9,278	+24.5%	
Kent County	16,793	18,510		+ 1,717	+10.2%	
Sussex County	22,796	23,573		+ 777	+ 3.4%	
State	77,385	89,157		+11,772	+15.2%	

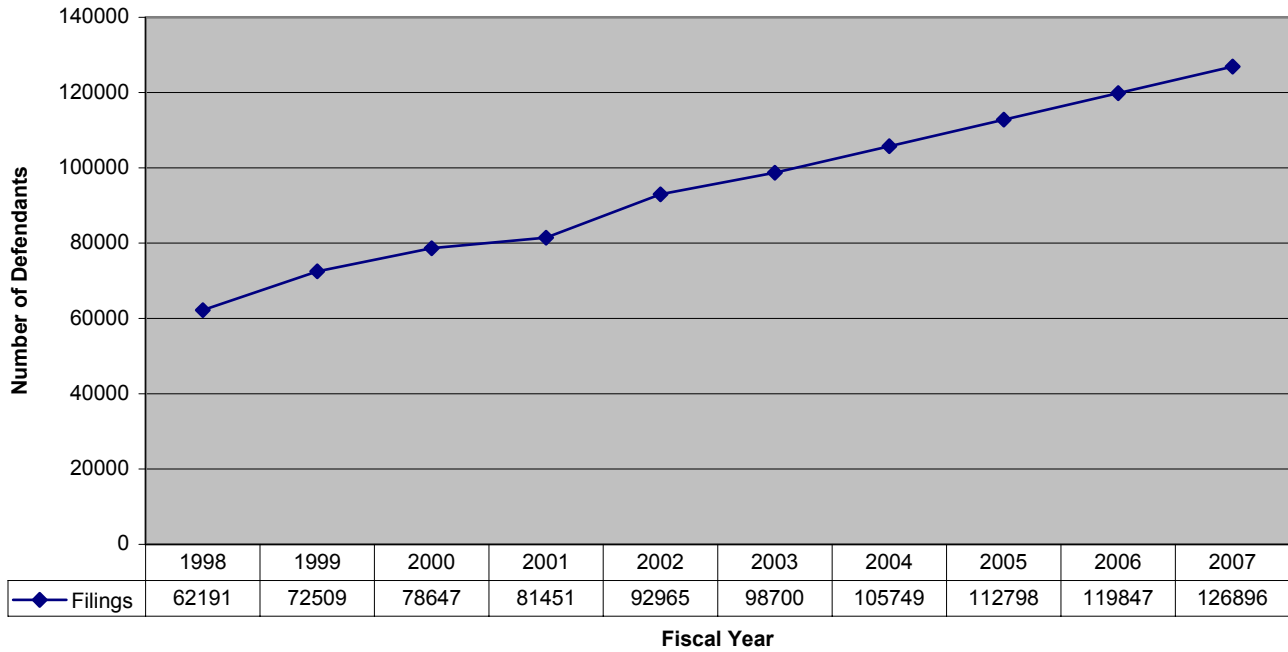
Source: Court Administrator , Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

10 Year Caseload Trend CCP Total

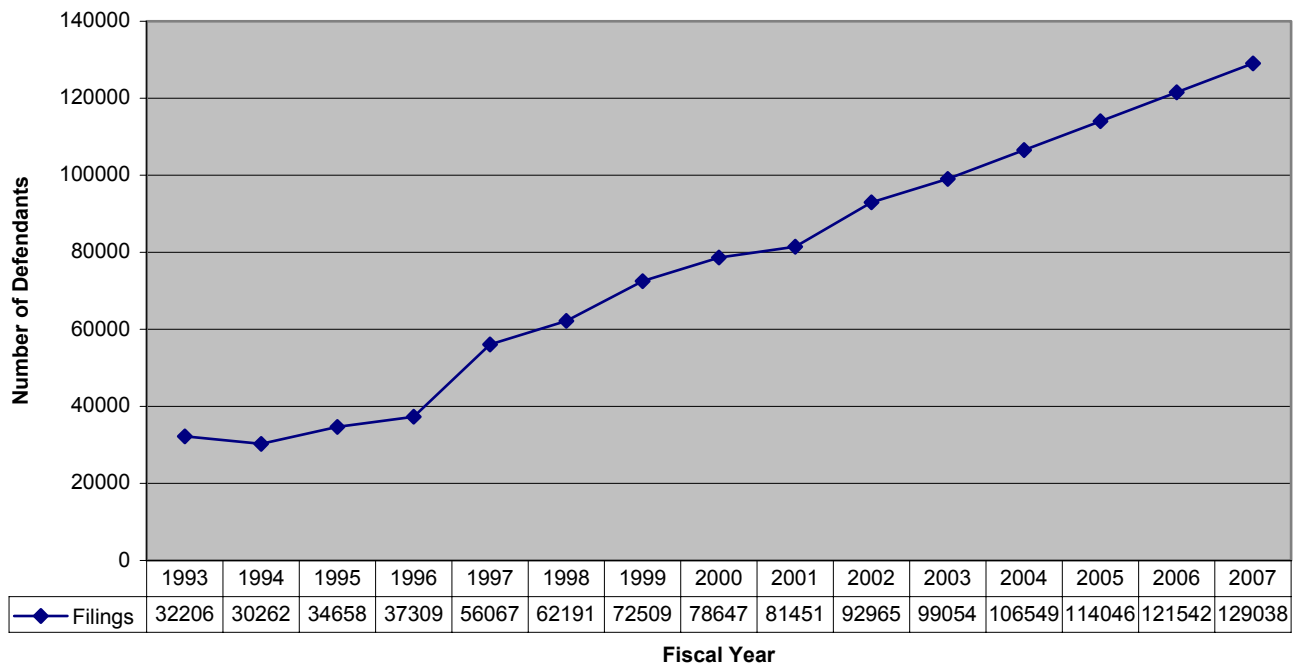


Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

5 Year Projections CCP Total Using 5 Year Base



5 Year Projections CCP Total Using 10 Year Base



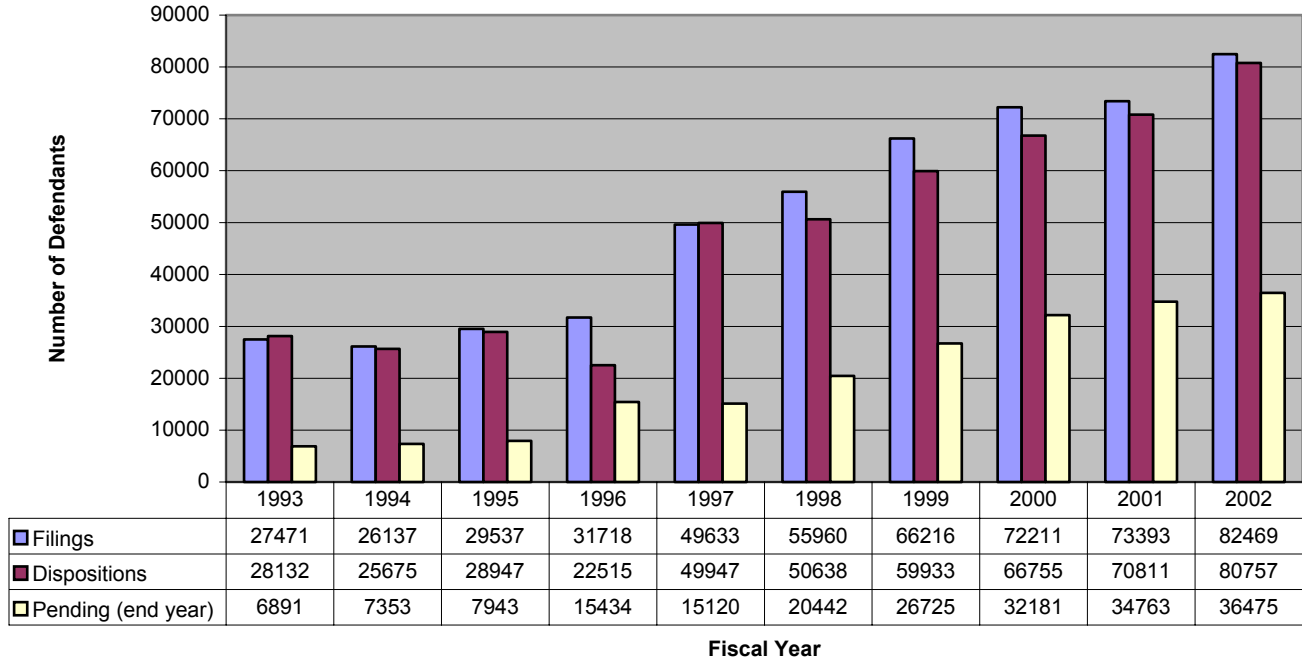
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	24,200	42,104	41,709	24,595	+ 395	+ 1.6%
Kent County	4,885	17,892	17,162	5,615	+ 730	+14.9%
Sussex County	5,678	22,473	21,886	6,265	+ 587	+10.3%
State	34,763	82,469	80,757	36,475	+1,712	+ 4.9%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases Filings						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	35,788		42,104		+6,316	+17.6%
Kent County	16,005		17,892		+1,887	+11.8%
Sussex County	21,600		22,473		+ 873	+ 4.0%
State	73,393		82,469		+9,076	+12.4%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases Dispositions						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	33,543		41,709		+8,166	+24.3%
Kent County	15,726		17,162		+1,436	+ 9.1%
Sussex County	21,542		21,886		+ 344	+ 1.6%
State	70,811		80,757		+9,946	+14.0%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal Cases Preliminary Hearings Held						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,700		5,156		+456	+ 9.7%
Kent County	1,520		1,571		+ 51	+ 3.4%
Sussex County	1,396		1,635		+239	+17.1%
State	7,616		8,362		+746	+ 9.8%

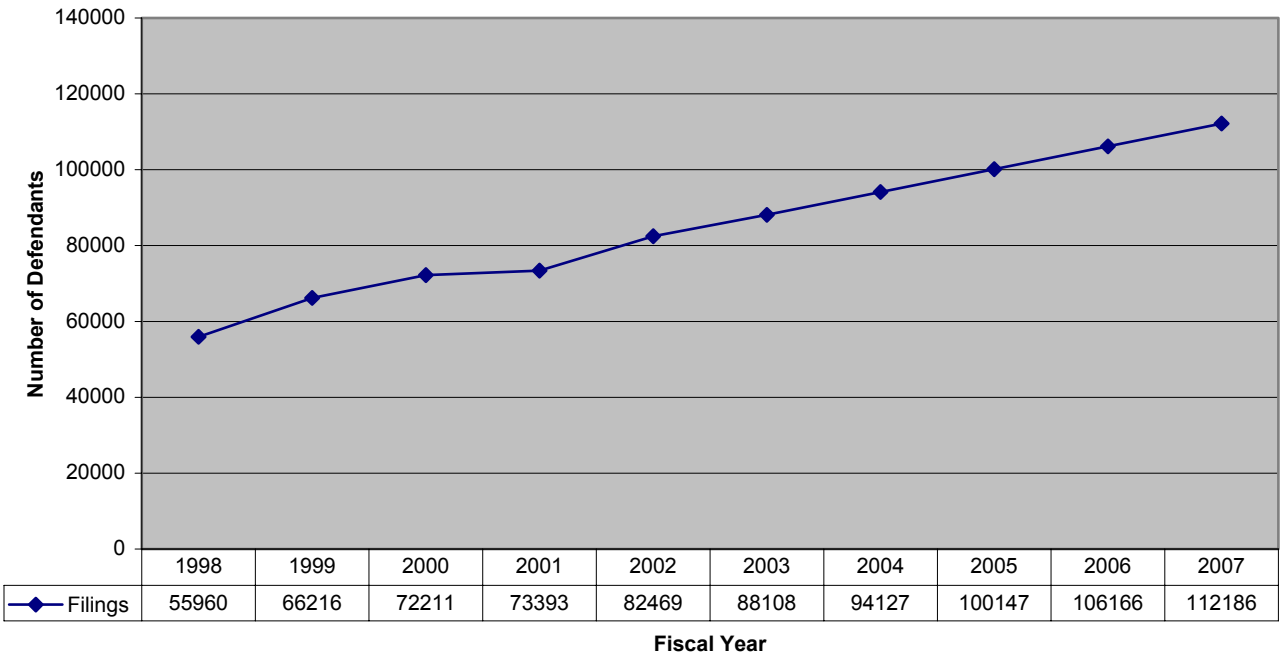
Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

10 Year Caseload Trend CCP Criminal

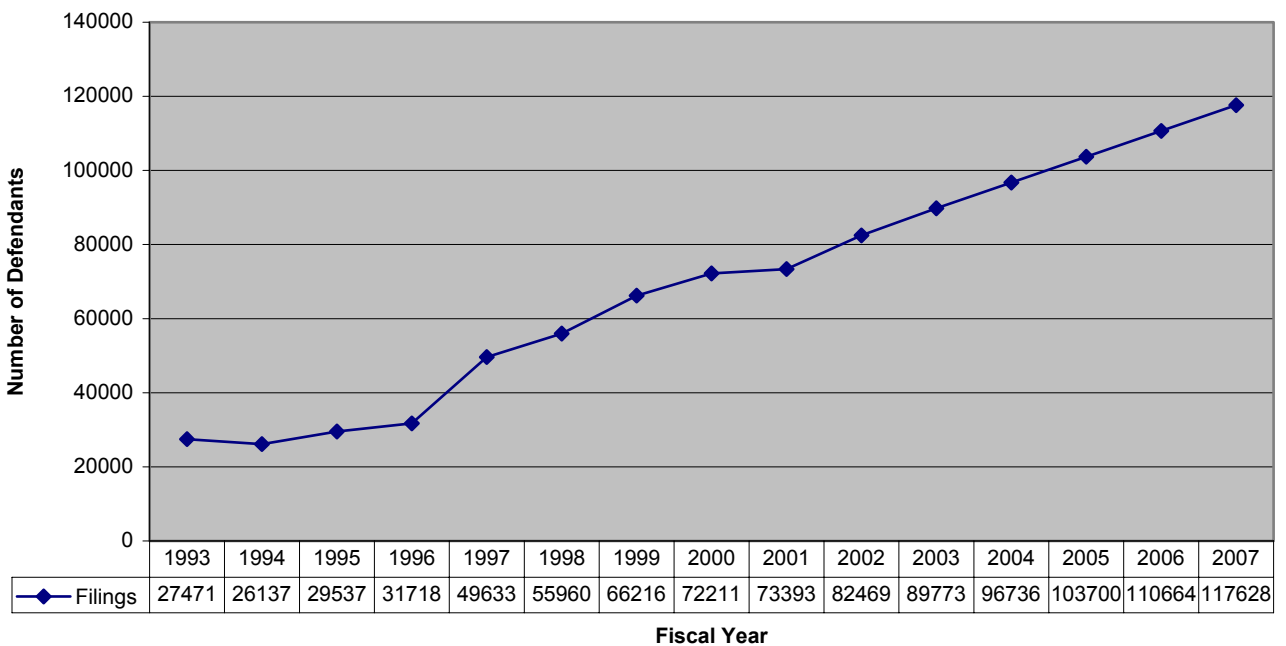


Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts

5 Year Projections CCP Criminal Using 5 Year Base



5 Year Projections CCP Criminal Using 10 Year Base



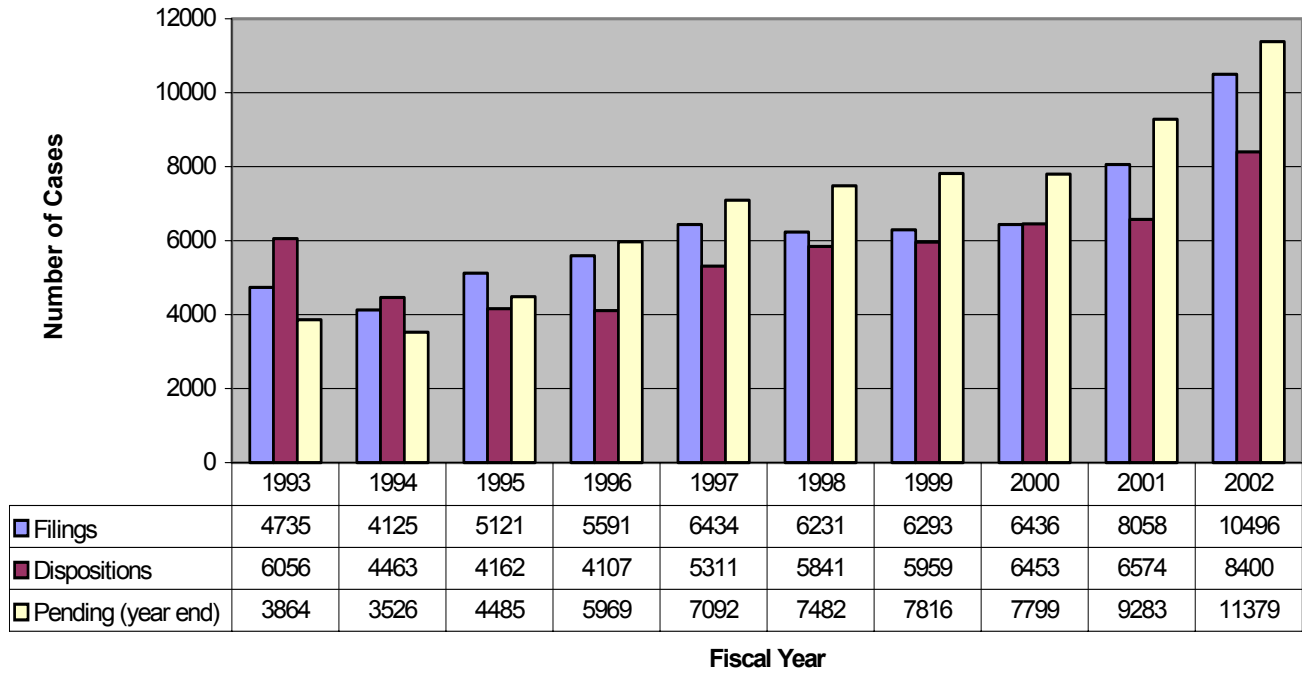
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS							
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases							
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending		% Change In Pending
New Castle County	6,912	7,072	5,365	8,619	+1,707		+24.7%
Kent County	900	1,671	1,348	1,223	+ 323		+35.9%
Sussex County	1,471	1,753	1,687	1,537	+ 66		+ 4.5%
State	9,283	10,496	8,400	11,379	+2,096		+22.6%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Filings							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County	5,338		7,072		+1,734		+32.5%
Kent County	1,267		1,671		+ 404		+31.9%
Sussex County	1,453		1,753		+ 300		+20.6%
State	8,058		10,496		+2,438		+30.3%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Dispositions							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County	4,253		5,365		+1,112		+26.1%
Kent County	1,067		1,348		+ 281		+26.3%
Sussex County	1,254		1,687		+ 433		+34.5%
State	6,574		8,400		+1,826		+27.8%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Filings							
	Complaints		Civil Judgments, Name Changes		Total		
New Castle County	6,550	92.6%	522	7.4%	7,072		100.0%
Kent County	1,547	92.6%	124	7.4%	1,671		100.0%
Sussex County	1,605	91.6%	148	8.4%	1,753		100.0%
State	9,702	92.4%	794	7.6%	10,496		100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases Dispositions							
	Court Action		Counsel Action		Total		
New Castle County	1,097	20.4%	4,268	79.6%	5,365		100.0%
Kent County	309	22.9%	1,039	77.1%	1,348		100.0%
Sussex County	432	25.6%	1,255	74.4%	1,687		100.0%
State	1,838	21.9%	6,562	78.1%	8,400		100.0%

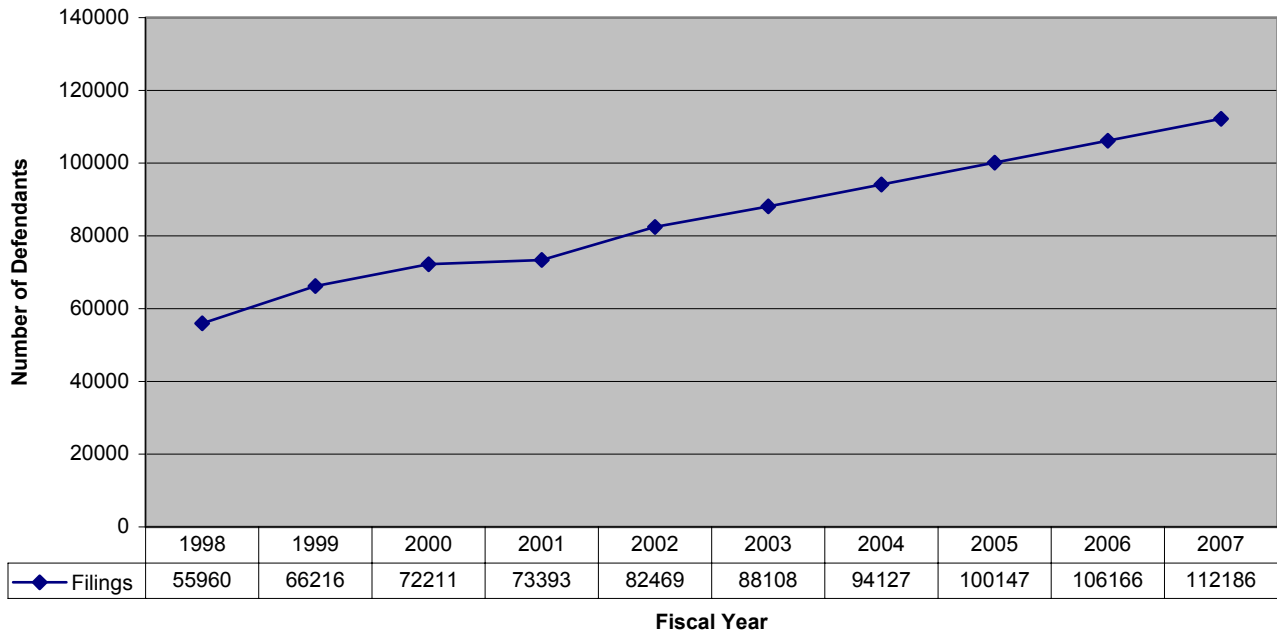
Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

10 Year Caseload Trend CCP Civil

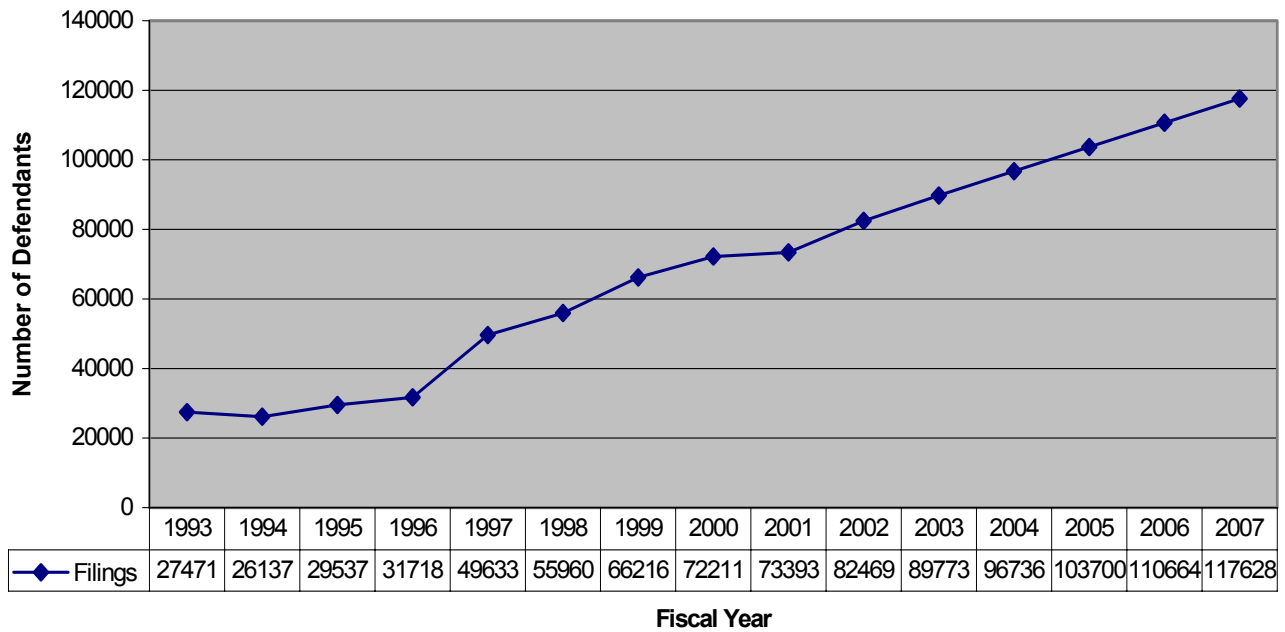


Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts

5 Year Projections CCP Criminal Using 5 Year Base



5 Year Projections CCP Criminal Using 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

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

Justice of the Peace Court

In FY 2002, several initiatives underscore the Justice of the Peace Court's efforts to provide better services and to expedite case dispositions, including:

Pilot Project Providing Legal Representation at Court 20:

A highlight of FY 2002 was the initiation of the federally-funded pilot project to provide attorney general and public defender representation at J.P. Court 20 in Wilmington. Through this project, the Attorney General, Public Defender and the Court work collaboratively at Court 20 to resolve cases at the earliest possible opportunity. The grant provides two deputies attorney general, two public defenders, and support personnel, to provide representation at pre-trial proceedings and trials at Court 20, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Benefits brought by the project to the victims and defendants include early resolution of cases (often at the initial court appearance), early access to victim's services, and access to legal services for both victims and defendants at Court 20. Preliminary statistics indicate that the project has reduced the transfer rate (the percentage of cases which could be heard in the Justice of the Peace Court but which are transferred to the Court of Common Pleas by the defendant) from 46% before the project went into effect to 25% (including cases pending at Court 20). These promising initial results should help reduce backlogs at the Court of Common Pleas, pre-trial detention and the number of capiases issued for defendants failing to appear for trial at a later date.



Chief Magistrate Patricia Walther Griffin

Truancy Court: The Justice of the Peace Court's statewide Truancy Court has developed into a multi-faceted program involving an extensive network of social service and treatment agencies that provide assistance to families with truancy problems. Performance indicators for the Truancy Court in 2001-2002 show promising results:

- 56% of the cases closed in 2001-2002 achieved full compliance with the Truancy Court (returned to school regularly), representing a significant improvement from the previous school year's compliance rate of 44%.
- Preliminary statistics also demonstrate the need to target younger truants to enhance success – the compliance rate is close to 100% when the truant student is less than 11 years old.
- The earlier the intervention, the better the outcome: truant students who achieved full compliance averaged 23 days of unexcused absences at the time of filing, while non-compliant truants averaged a substantially higher number of days (34) for the same period.
- 95% of the truant students who achieved full compliance with Truancy Court in 2001-2002 completed the school year.

Justice of the Peace Court

FY 2002 was the first year of a highly successful federally-funded joint program with the Truancy Court and the Boys and Girls Club in Kent County intended to encourage the difficult-to-motivate teenage truants to return to school. The program includes a morning attendance program, after-school work readiness and life skills program, and paid part-time employment for teenage truants. It was recognized as the 2002 Program of the Year by the Kent County Interagency Council for its outstanding results.

Statewide Videophone Court: A statewide Justice of the Peace Videophone Court was established at J.P. Court No.2 in Rehoboth on January 2, 2002. Conducting proceedings by videophone enables court users, such as the police, to obtain warrants and have arraignments conducted, without them or the defendants physically appearing in court, thereby saving time. The new Videophone Court has provided substantial benefits to the criminal justice community because it efficiently manages and distributes the J.P. Court's statewide videophone workload during its hours of operation, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until midnight. In a recent survey of police officers using the new Videophone Court, 94% of those responding said that the amount of time they spent on videophone proceedings has been reduced by the Videophone Court and 86% of respondents indicated that they were very pleased with the service they received. Survey responses included comments such as "[I was] surprised how fast the process [with Videophone Court] took" and "The Statewide Videophone Court

keeps officers available and on patrol like we are supposed to be." The benefits of the new court were also highlighted in a study by the Criminal Justice Council, which indicated that the Videophone Court would enable the police to save over \$600,000 per year in personnel costs. The Statewide Videophone Court initiative exemplifies the Justice of the Peace Court's efforts to redistribute existing resources to enhance the speed and efficiency of the services it provides to its videophone customers.

Employee Recognition: In FY 2002, the Justice of the Peace Court COTS team, including Larry Sipple (Management Analyst III), Lyn Arnold (Management Analyst II), Charlotte Walsh (Judicial Case Processor Supervisor), Debbie Cahall (Judicial Operations Manager), Debbie Long (Judicial Operations Manager), Sheila Taylor (Judicial Case Processor Supervisor), and Vanessa Marlowe (Judicial Case Processor Supervisor), were recognized as the Justice of the Peace Court Employees of the Year for 2001 for their outstanding work related to the Judiciary's COTS initiative to select and acquire a new case management system for all of the courts. We are also proud of Judge Rosalind Toulson, who received the 2002 Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service in the Justice of the Peace Court for her tireless efforts and leadership with regard to the Truancy Court in New Castle County and her exceptional skills, including her treatment of every litigant, witness and colleague with dignity, respect and understanding.

Justice of the Peace Court



Justice of the Peace Court, New Castle County

Front Row (sitting from left to right)

Judge Vernon Taylor, Judge Roger Barton, Judge Marie Page, Deputy Chief Magistrate Bonita Lee, Judge Deborah McNesby, Judge Cheryl Stallman, Judge James Tull

Back Row (standing from left to right)

Judge Sidney Clark, Judge Sean McCormick, Judge Rosalind Toulson, Judge Wayne Hanby, Judge Marilyn Letts, Judge Thomas Cole, Judge Katharine Ross, Judge David Skelley, Judge Nancy Roberts, Judge Paul Smith, Judge Kathleen Lucas, Judge Thomas Brown, Judge Stanley Petraschuk, Judge Laurence Fitchett, Jr.

Not Pictured

Judge Robert Armstrong, Judge Linda Gray, Judge Thomas Kenney, Judge Roberto Lopez, Judge William Moser, Judge Rosalie Rutkowski, Judge Terry Smith

Justice of the Peace Court

Justice of the Peace Court, Kent County



Front Row (sitting left to right)
Judge Pamela Darling, Judge Margaret Barrett, Judge Debora Foor

Back Row (standing left to right)
Judge Fred Lord, Deputy Chief Magistrate Charles Stump, Judge Harvey Leighty, Judge James Murray, Judge Robert Wall

Not Pictured
Judge Ernst Arndt, Judge Frederick Dewey, Jr., Judge Ellis Parrott, Judge Agnes Pennella

Justice of the Peace Court, Sussex County

Front Row (sitting left to right)
Judge John McKenzie, Judge Margaret Barrett, Deputy Chief Magistrate Sheila Blakely, Judge Edward Davis, Judge Jana Mollohan, Judge Jeni Coffelt, Judge John Hudson

Back Row (standing left to right)
Judge William Patrick Wood, Judge William Hopkins, Jr., Judge William Brittingham, Judge Herman Hagan, Judge John Martin, Judge Richard Comly, Judge Walter Godwin, Judge William Boddy, III

Not Pictured
Judge Joseph Melson, Jr., Judge Howard (William) Mulvaney, III, Judge John O'Bier, Judge Marcealeate Ruffin



Justice of the Peace Court

Legal Authorization

The Justice of the Peace Court is authorized by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1.

Court History

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

Legal Jurisdiction

The Justice of the Peace Court has jurisdiction over civil cases in which the amount in controversy is not greater than \$15,000. This increased from \$5,000 in January 1995. Justice of the Peace Court is authorized to hear certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas effective January 1995. In the past, these appeals were taken to the Superior Court. The subject matter jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Courts is shared with the Court of Common Pleas, except for summary possession actions.

The Court's jurisdiction was increased on May 1, 1998, to include filings in the city of Wilmington as a result of the Municipal Court merger.

Geographic Organization

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

Justice of the Peace

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

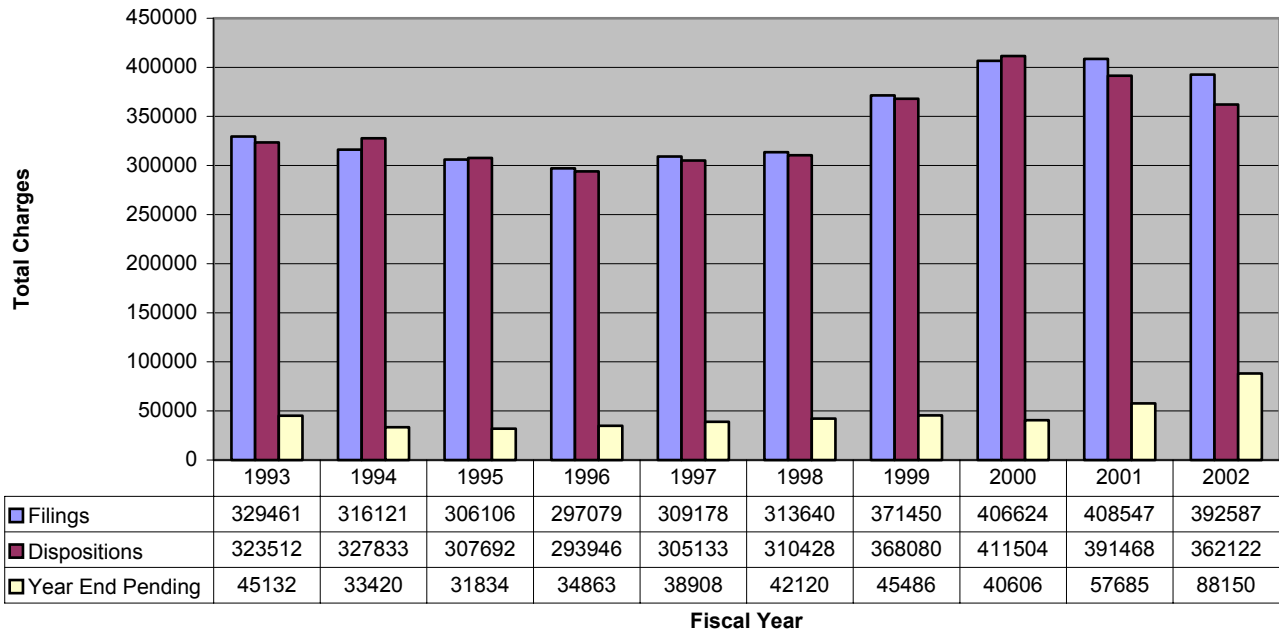
Support Personnel

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT							
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Cases (defendants)							
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending		% Change In Pending
Criminal	28,886	229,817	213,754	44,949	+16,063		+55.6%
Civil	10,260	28,910	29,637	9,533	- 727		- 7.1%
Total	39,146	258,727	243,391	54,482	+15,336		+39.2%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filings (defendants)							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
Criminal	247,368		229,817		-17,551		-7.1%
Civil	27,874		28,910		+ 1,036		+3.7%
Total	275,242		258,727		-16,515		-6.0%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Dispositions (defendants)							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
Criminal	238,752		213,754		-24,998		-10.5%
Civil	23,527		29,637		+ 6,110		+26.0%
Total	262,279		243,391		-18,888		- 7.2%
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002-Total Cases (charges)							
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending		% Change In Pending
Criminal	47,425	363,677	332,485	78,617	+31,192		+65.8%
Civil	10,260	28,910	29,637	9,533	- 727		- 7.1%
Total	57,685	392,587	362,122	88,150	+30,465		+52.8%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filed (charges)							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
Criminal	380,673		363,677		-16,996		-4.5%
Civil	27,874		28,910		1,036		+3.7%
Total	408,547		392,587		-15,960		-3.9%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Cases Disposed (charges)							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
Criminal	367,941		332,485		-35,456		- 9.6%
Civil	23,527		29,637		+ 6,110		+26.0%
Total	391,468		362,122		-29,346		- 7.5%

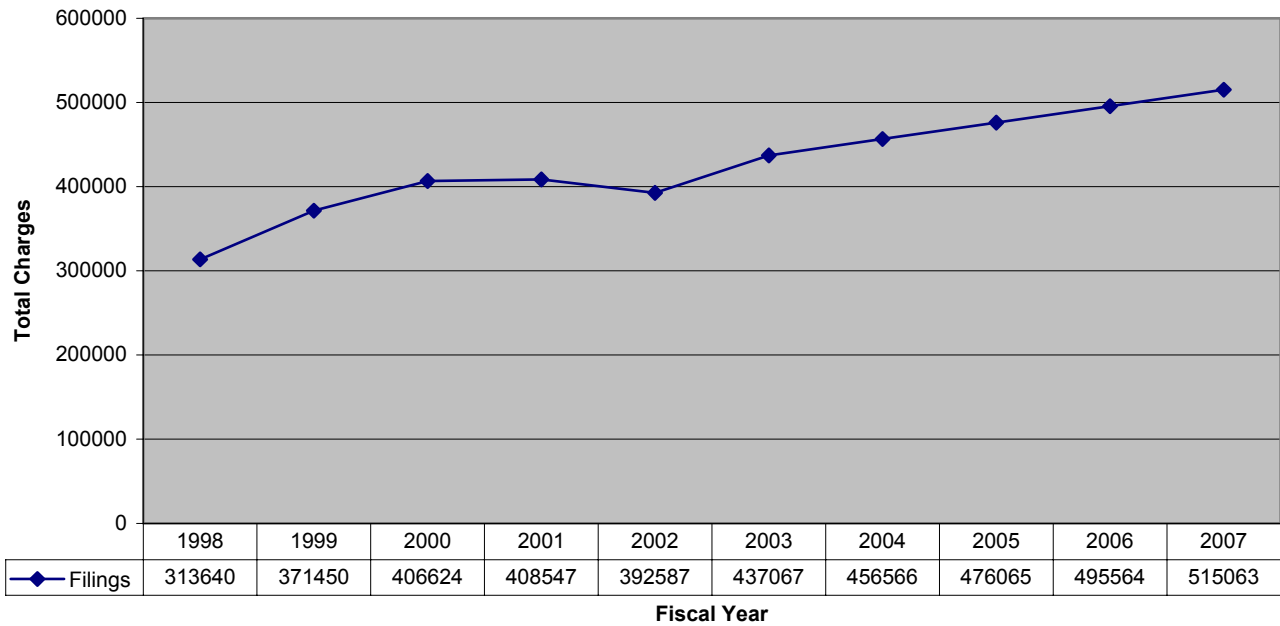
Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JP Court Total Cases 10 Year Caseload Trend

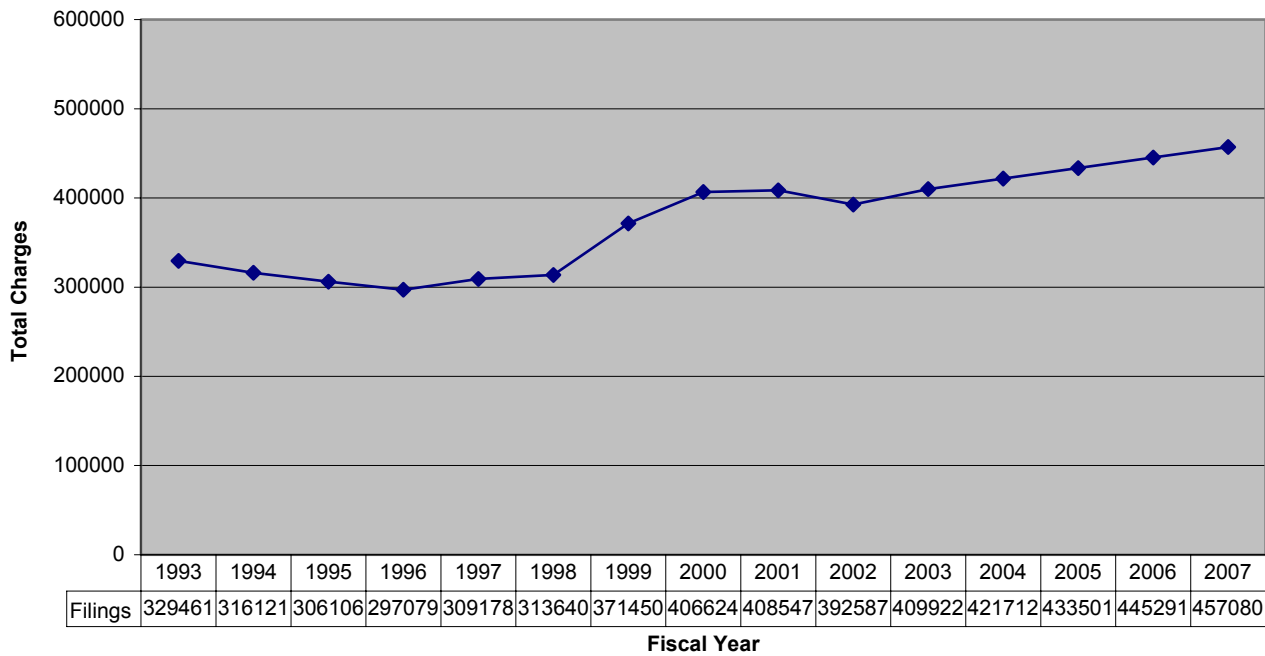


Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JP Court 5 Year Projected Total Filings With 5 Year Base



JP Court 5 Year Projected Filings Total Cases Using 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Cases (defendants)						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Court 9	755	1,426	1,574	607	- 148	- 19.6%
Court 10	977	9,832	8,492	2,317	+ 1,340	+137.2%
Court 11	4,881	18,031	17,458	5,454	+ 573	+ 11.7%
Court 15	2,989	6,532	6,912	2,609	- 380	- 12.7%
Court 18	78	2,819	2,738	159	+ 81	+103.8%
Court 20	2,021	18,972	17,713	3,280	+ 1,259	+ 62.3%
Kent County						
Court 6	1,618	2,953	3,528	1,043	- 575	- 35.5%
Court 7	2,688	17,558	16,961	3,285	+ 597	+ 22.2%
Court 8	93	1,718	1,573	238	+ 145	+155.9%
Sussex County						
Court 1	375	2,526	2,330	571	+ 196	+ 52.3%
Court 2	467	6,250	5,686	1,031	+ 564	+120.8%
Court 3	740	10,092	8,955	1,877	+ 1,137	+153.6%
Court 4	652	6,903	6,195	1,360	+ 708	+108.6%
Court 5	311	2,141	2,022	430	+ 119	+ 38.3%
Court 14	147	1,633	1,456	324	+ 177	+120.4%
State without VAC	18,792	109,386	103,593	24,585	+ 5,793	+ 30.8%
VAC	10,094	120,431	110,161	20,364	+10,270	+101.7%
State with VAC	28,886	229,817	213,754	44,949	+16,063	+ 55.6%

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

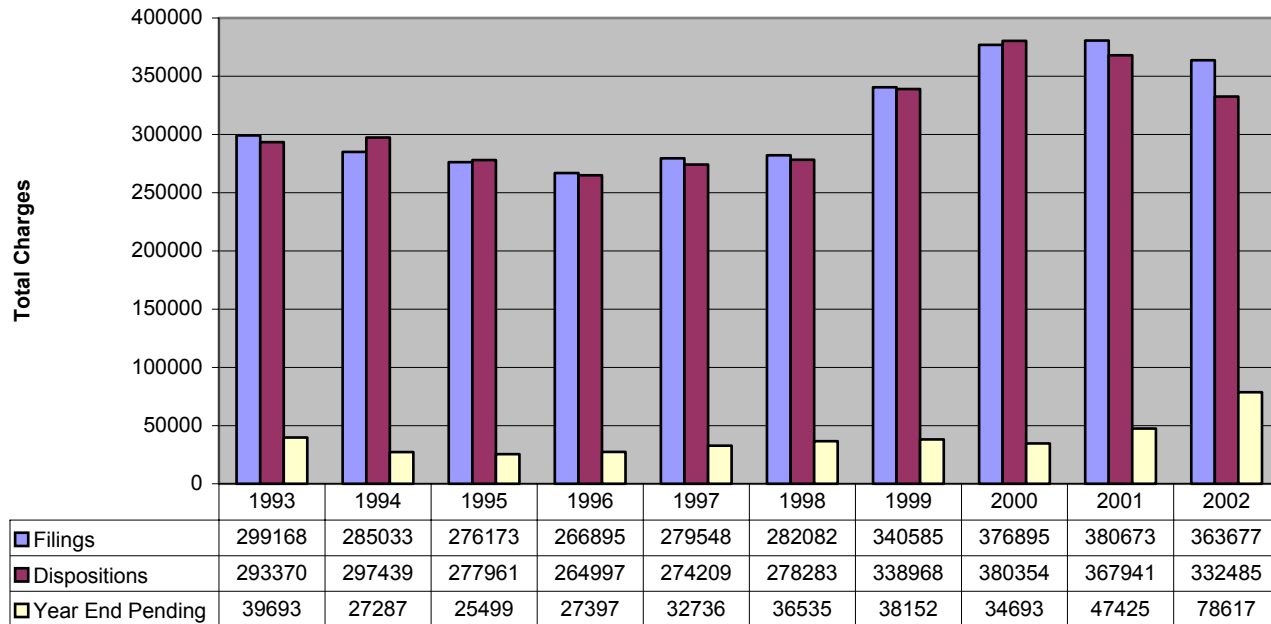
Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Cases (charges)						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Court 9	2,066	3,132	3,771	1,427	- 639	- 30.9%
Court 10	2,468	17,926	15,853	4,541	+ 2,073	+ 84.0%
Court 11	8,500	37,767	33,671	12,596	+ 4,096	+ 48.2%
Court 15	4,099	13,573	12,485	5,187	+ 1,088	+ 26.5%
Court 18	218	4,534	4,510	242	+ 24	+ 11.0%
Court 20	4,209	41,227	39,686	5,750	+ 1,541	+ 36.6%
Kent County						
Court 6	1,886	4,995	5,003	1,878	- 8	- 0.4%
Court 7	3,821	36,644	34,251	6,214	+ 2,393	+ 62.6%
Court 8	240	3,293	3,122	411	+ 171	+ 71.3%
Sussex County						
Court 1	711	4,811	4,463	1,059	+ 348	+ 48.9%
Court 2	469	18,943	17,603	1,809	+ 1,340	+285.7%
Court 3	2,871	29,790	28,356	4,305	+ 1,434	+ 49.9%
Court 4	1,562	13,893	12,795	2,660	+ 1,098	+ 70.3%
Court 5	511	4,270	3,953	828	+ 317	+ 62.0%
Court 14	264	4,297	3,770	791	+ 527	-----
State without VAC	33,895	239,095	223,292	49,698	+15,803	+ 46.6%
VAC	13,530	124,582	109,193	28,919	+15,389	+113.7%
State with VAC	47,425	363,677	332,485	78,617	+31,192	+ 65.8%

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

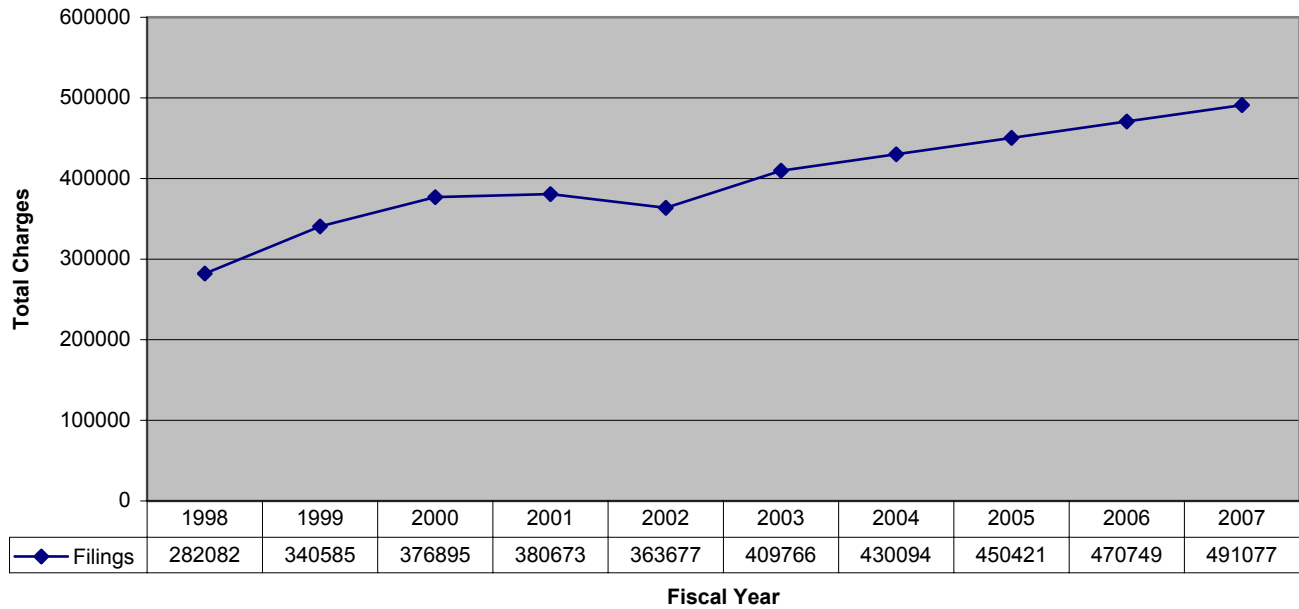
JP Court Criminal and Traffic 10 Year Caseload Trend



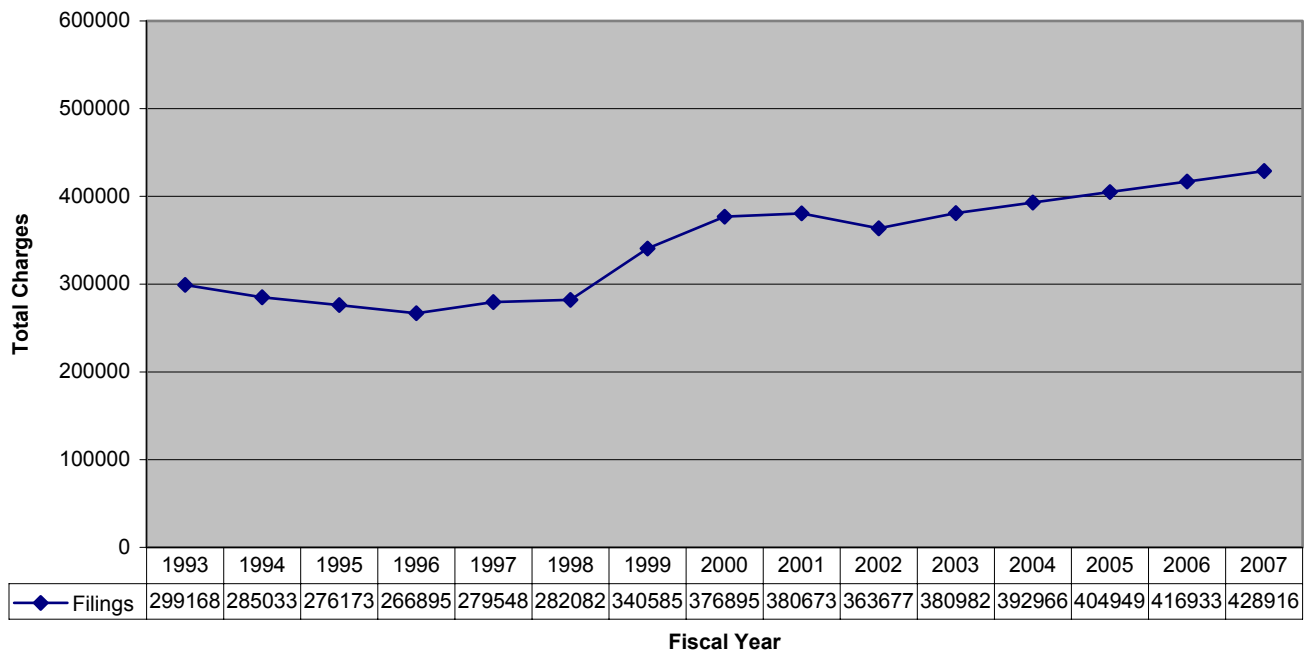
Fiscal Year

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JP Court 5 Year Proections Criminal and Traffic Filings Using 5 Year Base



JP Court 5 Year Projected Filings Criminal and Traffic Cases Using 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT								
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Capiases Handled*								
	Superior Court		Family Court		Court of Common Pleas		Total	
New Castle County								
Court 9	20	27.8%	7	9.7%	45	62.5%	72	100.0%
Court 10	84	16.4%	61	11.9%	366	71.6%	511	100.0%
Court 11	416	14.2%	442	15.0%	2,079	70.8%	2,937	100.0%
Court 15	26	12.0%	31	14.3%	160	73.7%	217	100.0%
Court 18	0	----	0	----	0	----	0	----
Court 20	917	20.6%	714	16.1%	2,811	63.3%	4,442	100.0%
Kent County								
Court 6	8	15.4%	5	9.6%	39	75.0%	52	100.0%
Court 7	491	17.2%	438	15.4%	1,920	67.4%	2,849	100.0%
Court 8	5	21.7%	3	13.0%	15	65.2%	23	100.0%
Sussex County								
Court 1	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	10	90.9%	11	100.0%
Court 2	238	20.3%	160	13.6%	777	66.1%	1,175	100.0%
Court 3	422	15.8%	410	15.3%	1,841	68.9%	2,673	100.0%
Court 4	84	14.5%	95	16.4%	399	69.0%	578	100.0%
Court 5	14	26.9%	2	3.8%	36	69.2%	52	100.0%
Court 14	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2	100.0%
Total	2,726	17.5%	2,369	15.2%	10,499	67.3%	15,594	100.0%

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

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT										
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (defendants)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	168	11.8%	169	11.9%	964	67.6%	125	8.8%	1,426	100.0%
Court 10	126	1.3%	2,671	27.2%	6,213	63.2%	822	8.4%	9,832	100.0%
Court 11	436	2.4%	5,809	32.2%	10,461	58.0%	1,325	7.3%	18,031	100.0%
Court 15	46	0.7%	568	8.7%	5,088	77.9%	830	12.7%	6,532	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.1%	2,409	85.5%	232	8.2%	176	6.2%	2,819	100.0%
Court 20	43	0.2%	6,828	36.0%	8,720	46.0%	3,381	17.8%	18,972	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	49	1.7%	282	9.5%	2,529	85.6%	93	3.1%	2,953	100.0%
Court 7	385	2.2%	5,595	31.9%	10,314	58.7%	1,264	7.2%	17,558	100.0%
Court 8	6	0.3%	221	12.9%	1,424	82.9%	67	3.9%	1,718	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	270	10.7%	86	3.4%	1,939	76.8%	231	9.1%	2,526	100.0%
Court 2	394	6.3%	3,651	58.4%	1,867	29.9%	338	5.4%	6,250	100.0%
Court 3	158	1.6%	3,773	37.4%	5,182	51.3%	979	9.7%	10,092	100.0%
Court 4	60	0.9%	1,082	15.7%	5,566	80.6%	195	2.8%	6,903	100.0%
Court 5	16	0.7%	344	16.1%	1,675	78.2%	106	5.0%	2,141	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	32	2.0%	1,449	88.7%	151	9.2%	1,633	100.0%
State without VAC	2,160	2.0%	33,520	30.6%	63,623	58.2%	10,083	9.2%	109,386	100.0%
VAC	227	0.2%	0	0.0%	120,198	99.8%	6	0.0%	120,431	100.0%
State with VAC	2,387	1.0%	33,520	14.6%	183,821	80.0%	10,089	4.4%	229,817	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (defendants)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	219	13.9%	163	10.4%	1,038	65.9%	154	9.8%	1,574	100.0%
Court 10	174	2.0%	2,066	24.3%	5,270	62.1%	982	11.6%	8,492	100.0%
Court 11	409	2.3%	5,725	32.8%	10,073	57.7%	1,251	7.2%	17,458	100.0%
Court 15	58	0.8%	575	8.3%	5,404	78.2%	875	12.7%	6,912	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.1%	2,366	86.4%	201	7.3%	169	6.2%	2,738	100.0%
Court 20	58	0.3%	6,407	36.2%	7,925	44.7%	3,323	18.8%	17,713	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	37	1.0%	437	12.4%	2,940	83.3%	114	3.2%	3,528	100.0%
Court 7	331	2.0%	5,359	31.6%	9,893	58.3%	1,378	8.1%	16,961	100.0%
Court 8	7	0.4%	197	12.5%	1,301	82.7%	68	4.3%	1,573	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	244	10.5%	97	4.2%	1,794	77.0%	195	8.4%	2,330	100.0%
Court 2	375	6.6%	3,199	56.3%	1,787	31.4%	325	5.7%	5,686	100.0%
Court 3	206	2.3%	3,403	38.0%	4,529	50.6%	817	9.1%	8,955	100.0%
Court 4	57	0.9%	941	15.2%	5,007	80.8%	190	3.1%	6,195	100.0%
Court 5	19	0.9%	305	15.1%	1,599	79.1%	99	4.9%	2,022	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	27	1.9%	1,340	92.0%	88	6.0%	1,456	100.0%
State without VAC	2,197	2.1%	31,267	30.2%	60,101	58.0%	10,028	9.7%	103,593	100.0%
VAC	184	0.2%	0	0.0%	109,972	99.8%	5	0.0%	110,161	100.0%
State with VAC	2,381	1.1%	31,267	14.6%	170,073	79.6%	10,033	4.7%	213,754	100.0%

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT										
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (charges)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	251	8.0%	312	10.0%	2,332	74.5%	237	7.6%	3,132	100.0%
Court 10	261	1.5%	3,951	22.0%	12,452	69.5%	1,262	7.0%	17,926	100.0%
Court 11	714	1.9%	12,350	32.7%	21,741	57.6%	2,962	7.8%	37,767	100.0%
Court 15	127	0.9%	904	6.7%	11,513	84.8%	1,029	7.6%	13,573	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.0%	3,743	82.6%	465	10.3%	324	7.1%	4,534	100.0%
Court 20	70	0.2%	13,454	32.6%	20,057	48.7%	7,646	18.5%	41,227	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	57	1.1%	777	15.6%	3,991	79.9%	170	3.4%	4,995	100.0%
Court 7	658	1.8%	11,393	31.1%	21,287	58.1%	3,306	9.0%	36,644	100.0%
Court 8	2	0.1%	409	12.4%	2,780	84.4%	102	3.1%	3,293	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	562	11.7%	152	3.2%	3,832	79.7%	265	5.5%	4,811	100.0%
Court 2	509	2.7%	9,607	50.7%	7,627	40.3%	1,200	6.3%	18,943	100.0%
Court 3	486	1.6%	11,365	38.2%	14,731	49.4%	3,208	10.8%	29,790	100.0%
Court 4	113	0.8%	2,207	15.9%	11,151	80.3%	422	3.0%	13,893	100.0%
Court 5	19	0.4%	674	15.8%	3,355	78.6%	222	5.2%	4,270	100.0%
Court 14	17	0.4%	78	1.8%	4,066	94.6%	136	3.2%	4,297	100.0%
State without VAC	3,848	1.6%	71,376	29.9%	141,380	59.1%	22,491	9.4%	239,095	100.0%
VAC	246	0.2%	0	0.0%	124,326	99.8%	10	0.0%	124,582	100.0%
State with VAC	4,094	1.1%	71,376	19.6%	265,706	73.1%	22,501	6.2%	363,677	100.0%
Caseload Breakdowns Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (charges)										
	Title 7 - Fish/Game		Title 11 - Criminal		Title 21 - Traffic		Miscellaneous		Total	
New Castle County										
Court 9	260	6.9%	289	7.7%	2,977	78.9%	245	6.5%	3,771	100.0%
Court 10	225	1.4%	3,551	22.4%	11,041	69.6%	1,036	6.5%	15,853	100.0%
Court 11	622	1.8%	10,494	31.2%	20,017	59.4%	2,538	7.5%	33,671	100.0%
Court 15	99	0.8%	863	6.9%	10,544	84.5%	979	7.8%	12,485	100.0%
Court 18	2	0.0%	3,783	83.9%	450	10.0%	275	6.1%	4,510	100.0%
Court 20	77	0.2%	12,977	32.7%	19,291	48.6%	7,341	18.5%	39,686	100.0%
Kent County										
Court 6	50	1.0%	827	16.5%	3,958	79.1%	168	3.4%	5,003	100.0%
Court 7	731	2.1%	10,222	29.8%	20,012	58.4%	3,286	9.6%	34,251	100.0%
Court 8	8	0.3%	325	10.4%	2,690	86.2%	99	3.2%	3,122	100.0%
Sussex County										
Court 1	498	11.2%	120	2.7%	3,594	80.5%	251	5.6%	4,463	100.0%
Court 2	434	2.5%	9,269	52.7%	6,901	39.2%	999	5.7%	17,603	100.0%
Court 3	393	1.4%	11,050	39.0%	14,001	49.4%	2,912	10.3%	28,356	100.0%
Court 4	99	0.8%	2,104	16.4%	10,173	79.5%	419	3.3%	12,795	100.0%
Court 5	28	0.7%	604	15.3%	3,164	80.0%	157	4.0%	3,953	100.0%
Court 14	5	0.1%	59	1.6%	3,608	95.7%	98	2.6%	3,770	100.0%
State without VAC	3,531	1.6%	66,537	29.8%	132,421	59.3%	20,803	9.3%	223,292	100.0%
VAC	208	0.2%	0	0.0%	108,972	99.8%	13	0.0%	109,193	100.0%
State with VAC	3,739	1.1%	66,537	20.0%	241,393	72.6%	20,816	6.3%	332,485	100.0%

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT						
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (defendants)						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Court 9	574		1,426		+ 852	+148.4%
Court 10	16,686		9,832		- 6,854	- 41.1%
Court 11	23,025		18,031		- 4,994	- 21.7%
Court 15	6,720		6,532		- 188	- 2.8%
Court 18	4,256		2,819		- 1,437	- 33.8%
Court 20	14,318		18,972		+ 4,654	+ 32.5%
Kent County						
Court 6	3,602		2,953		- 649	- 18.0%
Court 7	16,461		17,558		+ 1,097	+ 6.7%
Court 8	1,491		1,718		+ 227	+ 15.2%
Sussex County						
Court 1	2,707		2,526		- 181	- 6.7%
Court 2	4,922		6,250		+ 1,328	+ 27.0%
Court 3	10,568		10,092		- 476	- 4.5%
Court 4	6,806		6,903		+ 97	+ 1.4%
Court 5	2,249		2,141		- 108	- 4.8%
Court 14	941		1,633		+ 692	+ 73.5%
State without VAC	115,326		109,386		- 5,940	- 5.2%
VAC	132,042		120,431		-11,611	- 8.8%
State with VAC	247,368		229,817		-17,551	- 7.1%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (defendants)						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Court 9	685		1,574		+ 889	+129.8%
Court 10	16,647		8,492		- 8,155	- 49.0%
Court 11	22,099		17,458		- 4,641	- 21.0%
Court 15	6,078		6,912		+ 834	+ 13.7%
Court 18	4,380		2,738		- 1,642	- 37.5%
Court 20	13,339		17,713		+ 4,374	+ 32.8%
Kent County						
Court 6	3,213		3,528		+ 315	+ 9.8%
Court 7	15,501		16,961		+ 1,460	+ 9.4%
Court 8	1,584		1,573		- 11	- 0.7%
Sussex County						
Court 1	2,769		2,330		- 439	- 15.9%
Court 2	4,989		5,686		+ 697	+ 14.0%
Court 3	10,934		8,955		- 1,979	- 18.1%
Court 4	7,119		6,195		- 924	- 13.0%
Court 5	2,349		2,022		- 327	- 13.9%
Court 14	794		1,456		+ 662	+ 83.4%
State without VAC	112,480		103,593		- 8,887	- 7.9%
VAC	126,272		110,161		-16,111	- 12.8%
State with VAC	238,752		213,754		-24,998	- 10.5%

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT						
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal and Traffic Filings (charges)						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Court 9	946		3,132		+ 2,186	+231.1%
Court 10	23,367		17,926		- 5,441	- 23.3%
Court 11	50,309		37,767		-12,542	- 24.9%
Court 15	13,946		13,573		- 373	- 2.7%
Court 18	13,649		4,534		- 9,115	- 66.8%
Court 20	29,032		41,227		+12,195	+ 42.0%
Kent County						
Court 6	6,656		4,995		- 1,661	- 25.0%
Court 7	35,906		36,644		+ 738	+ 2.1%
Court 8	2,433		3,293		+ 860	+ 35.3%
Sussex County						
Court 1	4,559		4,811		+ 252	+ 5.5%
Court 2	9,734		18,943		+ 9,209	+ 94.6%
Court 3	28,080		29,790		+ 1,710	+ 6.1%
Court 4	14,272		13,893		- 379	- 2.7%
Court 5	4,346		4,270		- 76	- 1.7%
Court 14	1,825		4,297		+ 2,472	+135.5%
State without VAC	239,060		239,095		+ 35	+ 0.0%
VAC	141,613		124,582		-17,031	- 12.0%
State with VAC	380,673		363,677		-16,996	- 4.5%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Criminal and Traffic Dispositions (charges)						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Court 9	1,088		3,771		+ 2,683	+246.6%
Court 10	23,223		15,853		- 7,370	- 31.7%
Court 11	48,701		33,671		-15,030	- 30.9%
Court 15	13,213		12,485		- 728	- 5.5%
Court 18	13,859		4,510		- 9,349	- 67.5%
Court 20	26,655		39,686		+13,031	+ 48.9%
Kent County						
Court 6	6,049		5,003		- 1,046	- 17.3%
Court 7	35,044		34,251		- 793	- 2.3%
Court 8	2,655		3,122		+ 467	+ 17.6%
Sussex County						
Court 1	4,584		4,463		- 121	- 2.6%
Court 2	9,915		17,603		+ 7,688	+ 77.5%
Court 3	28,246		28,356		+ 110	+ 0.4%
Court 4	14,639		12,795		- 1,844	- 12.6%
Court 5	4,479		3,953		- 526	- 11.7%
Court 14	1,561		3,770		+ 2,209	+141.5%
State without VAC	233,911		223,292		-10,619	- 4.5%
VAC	134,030		109,193		-24,837	- 18.5%
State with VAC	367,941		332,485		-35,456	- 9.6%

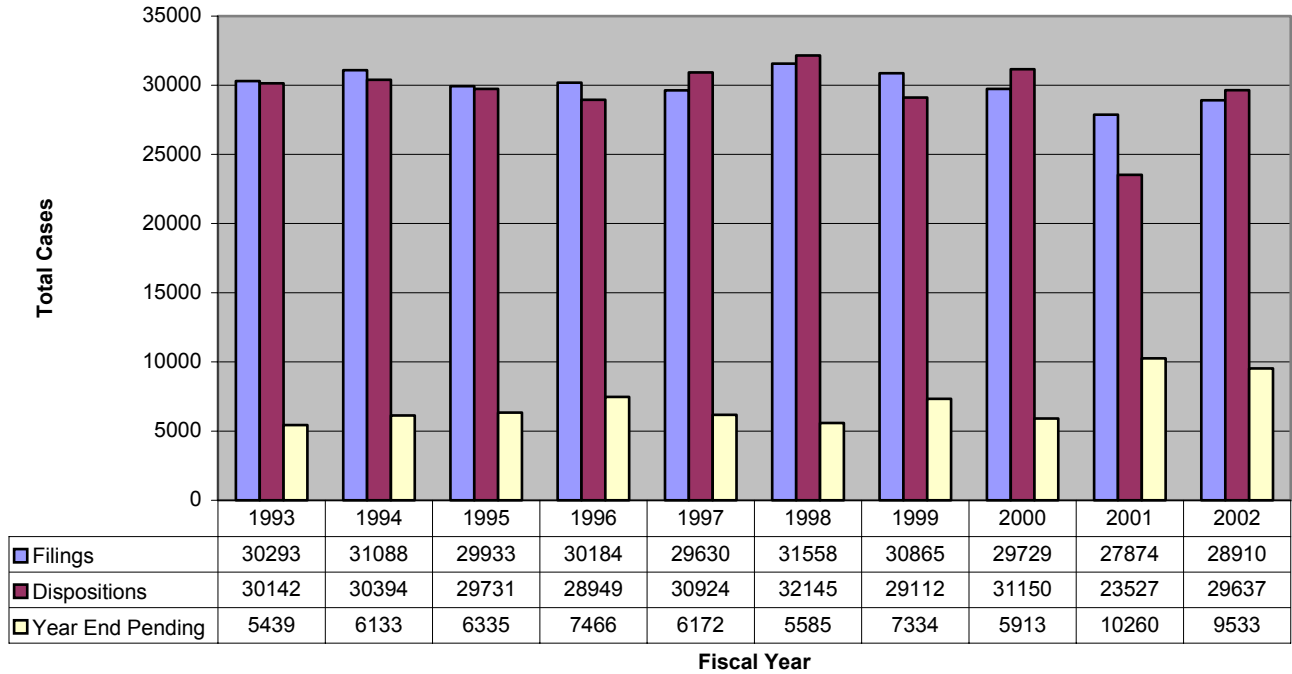
VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT							
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases							
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending	Executions Filed
New Castle County							
Court 9	218	750	682	286	+ 68	+31.2%	0
Court 12	2,879	8,812	9,091	2,600	-279	- 9.7%	0
Court 13	3,462	8,492	8,838	3,116	-346	-10.0%	0
Kent County							
Court 8	6	8	10	4	- 2	-33.3%	0
Court 16	2,036	5,615	5,910	1,741	-295	-14.5%	0
Sussex County							
Court 17	1,043	2,782	2,901	924	-119	-11.4%	0
Court 19	616	2,451	2,205	862	+246	+39.9%	0
State	10,260	28,910	29,637	9,533	-727	- 7.1%	0
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Filings							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County							
Court 9	188		750		+ 562		+298.9%
Court 12	9,144		8,812		- 332		- 3.6%
Court 13	8,253		8,492		+ 239		+ 2.9%
Kent County							
Court 8	4		8		+ 4		+100.0%
Court 16	5,531		5,615		+ 84		+ 1.5%
Sussex County							
Court 17	2,762		2,782		+ 20		+ 0.7%
Court 19	1,992		2,451		+ 459		+ 23.0%
State	27,874		28,910		+1,036		+ 3.7%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Civil Cases Dispositions							
	2001		2002		Change		% Change
New Castle County							
Court 9	235		682		+ 447		+190.2%
Court 12	6,962		9,091		+2,129		+ 30.6%
Court 13	5,660		8,838		+3,178		+ 56.1%
Kent County							
Court 8	7		10		+ 3		+ 42.9%
Court 16	5,734		5,910		+ 176		+ 3.1%
Sussex County							
Court 17	2,770		2,901		+ 131		+ 4.7%
Court 19	2,159		2,205		+ 46		+ 2.1%
State	23,527		29,637		+6,110		+ 26.0%

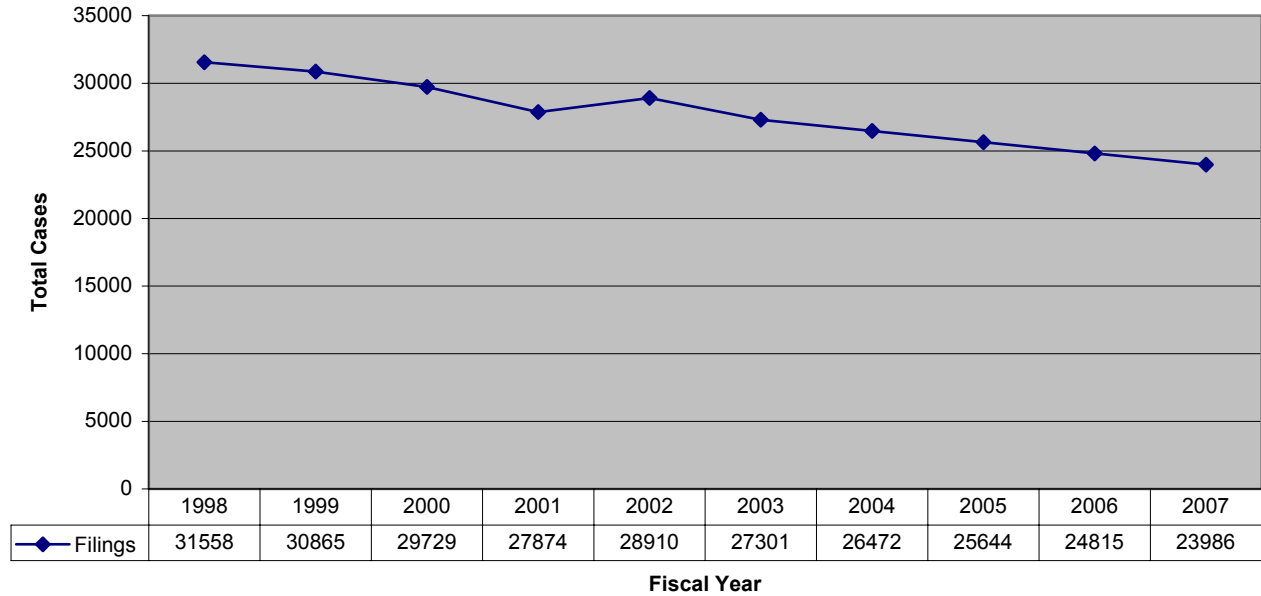
Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JP Court Civil Cases 10 Year Caseload Trend

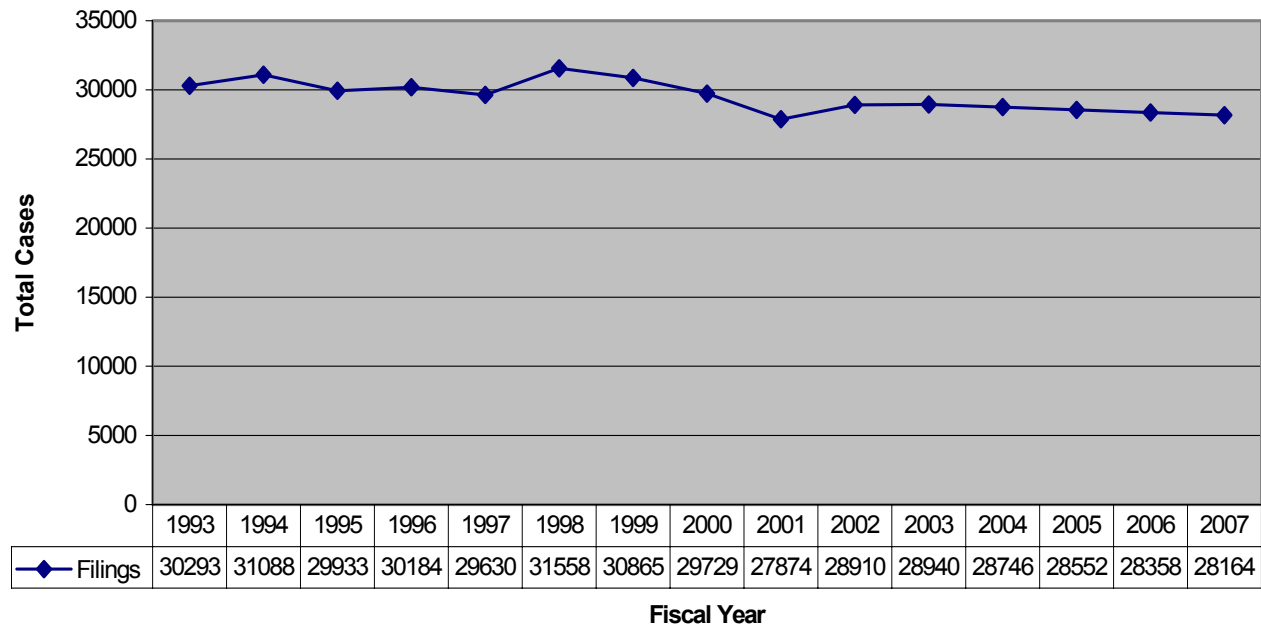


Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JP Court Civil Cases 5 Year Projections Using 5 Year Base



JP Court Civil Cases 5 Year Projections Using 10 Year Base



Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT				
Court Rankings Fiscal Year 2001-2002 - Total Cases Filed (defendants)				
2002 Rank w/o VAC	Court	Total Filings	% of Total w/o VAC	2001 Rank w/o VAC
1	Court 20	18,972	13.7%	4
2	Court 11	18,031	13.0%	1
3	Court 7	17,558	12.7%	3
4	Court 3	10,092	7.3%	5
5	Court 10	9,832	7.1%	2
6	Court 12	8,812	6.4%	6
7	Court 13	8,492	6.1%	7
8	Court 4	6,903	5.0%	8
9	Court 15	6,532	4.7%	9
10	Court 2	6,250	4.5%	11
11	Court 16	5,615	4.1%	10
12	Court 6	2,953	2.1%	13
13	Court 18	2,819	2.0%	12
14	Court 17	2,782	2.0%	14
15	Court 1	2,526	1.8%	15
16	Court 19	2,451	1.8%	17
17	Court 9	2,176	1.6%	20
18	Court 5	2,141	1.5%	16
19	Court 8	1,726	1.2%	18
20	Court 14	1,633	1.2%	15
	State w/o VAC	138,296		
	VAC	120,431		
	State w/ VAC	258,727		

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT				
Court Rankings - Fiscal Year 2001-2002 - Total Filings (charges)				
2002 Rank w/o VAC	Court	Total Filings	% of Total w/o VAC	2001 Rank w/o VAC
1	Court 20	41,227	15.4%	3
2	Court 11	37,767	14.1%	1
3	Court 7	36,644	13.7%	2
4	Court 3	29,790	11.1%	4
5	Court 2	18,943	7.1%	9
6	Court 10	17,926	6.7%	5
7	Court 4	13,893	5.2%	6
8	Court 15	13,573	5.1%	7
9	Court 12	8,812	3.3%	10
10	Court 13	8,492	3.2%	11
11	Court 16	5,615	2.1%	13
12	Court 6	4,995	1.9%	12
13	Court 1	4,811	1.8%	14
14	Court 18	4,534	1.7%	8
15	Court 14	4,297	1.6%	19
16	Court 5	4,270	1.6%	15
17	Court 9	3,882	1.4%	20
18	Court 8	3,301	1.2%	17
19	Court 17	2,782	1.0%	16
20	Court 19	2,451	0.9%	18
	State w/o VAC	268,005		
	VAC	124,582		
	State w/ VAC	392,587		

VAC = Voluntary Assessment Center

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

Alderman's Court

Legal Authorization

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

Legal Jurisdiction

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

Geographic Organization

Alderman's Courts have jurisdiction only within their own town limits. There were eight active Alderman's Courts at the end of 2001, two in New Castle County and six in Sussex County. When a town is without a court or an alderman for any period of time, its cases are transferred to the nearest Justice of the Peace Court.

Aldermen

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

ALDERMAN COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Total Cases						
	Pending** 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	5,053	10,413	10,278	5,188	+135	+ 2.7%
Newport	2,742	4,817	5,390	2,169	-573	- 20.9%
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	0	3,394	3,394	0	0	-----
Delmar	231	447	421	257	+ 26	+ 11.3%
Dewey Beach	0	1,533	1,533	0	0	-----
Laurel	114	1,935	1,821	228	+114	+100.0%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	53	426	467	12	- 41	- 77.4%
State	8,193	22,965	23,304	7,854	-339	- 4.1%
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Criminal Cases*						
	Pending** 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	360	1,817	1,789	388	+28	+ 7.8%
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	0	193	193	0	0	-----
Delmar	60	9	4	65	+ 5	+ 8.3%
Dewey Beach	0	789	789	0	0	-----
Laurel	28	250	267	11	-17	-60.7%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	21	170	186	5	-16	-76.2%
State	469	3,228	3,228	469	0	0.0%
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Traffic Cases*						
	Pending** 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County						
Newark	4,693	8,596	8,489	4,800	+107	+ 2.3%
Newport	2,742	4,817	5,390	2,169	-573	- 20.9%
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	0	3,201	3,201	0	0	-----
Delmar	171	438	417	192	+ 21	+ 12.3%
Dewey Beach	0	744	744	0	0	-----
Laurel	86	1,685	1,554	217	+131	+152.3%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	32	256	281	7	- 25	- 78.1%
State	7,724	19,737	20,076	7,385	-339	- 4.4%

*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.

**Pending amended for Newport, Rehoboth Beach, and State.

Source : Alderman Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

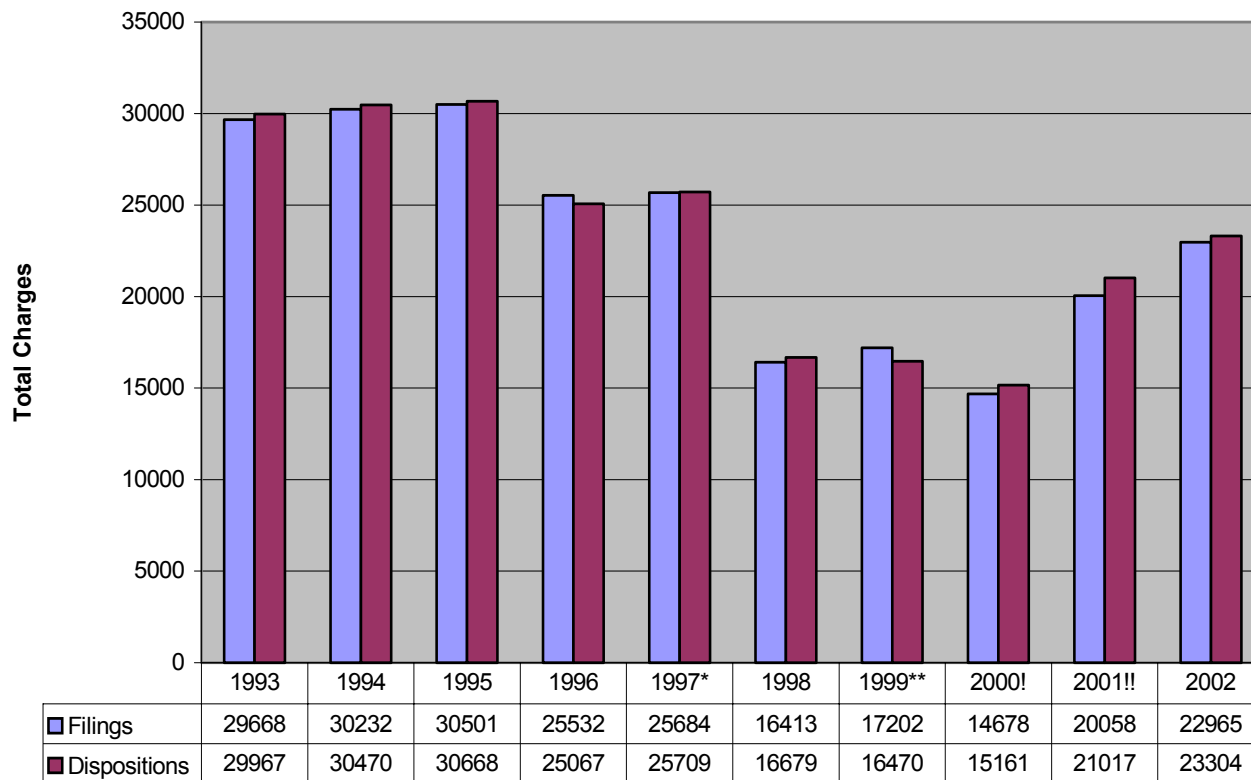
ALDERMAN COURT						
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Filings						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Newark	11,071		10,413		- 658	- 5.9%
Newport	4,661		4,817		+ 156	+ 3.3%
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	NA		3,394		+3,394	-----
Delmar	720		447		- 273	-37.9%
Dewey Beach	1,024		1,533		+ 509	+49.7%
Laurel	1,754		1,935		+ 181	+10.3%
Ocean View	0		0		0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	828		426		- 402	-48.6%
State	20,058		22,965		+2,907	+14.5%
Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2001-2002 - Total Dispositions*						
	2001		2002		Change	% Change
New Castle County						
Newark	11,009		10,278		- 731	- 6.6%
Newport	5,267		5,390		+ 123	+ 2.3%
Sussex County						
Bethany Beach	NA		3,394		+3,394	-----
Delmar	877		421		- 456	-52.0%
Dewey Beach	1,024		1,533		+ 509	+49.7%
Laurel	1,916		1,821		- 95	- 5.0%
Ocean View	0		0		0	-----
Rehoboth Beach	924		467		- 457	-49.5%
State	21,017		23,304		+2,287	+10.9%

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

NA = Not Available

Source: Alderman Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Alderman Court 10 Year Caseload Trend



Data was unavailable for Newport from 1998-2000 and Bethany Beach was unavailable for 1998-2001. Projections not possible due to unavailability of data for some courts in recent years.

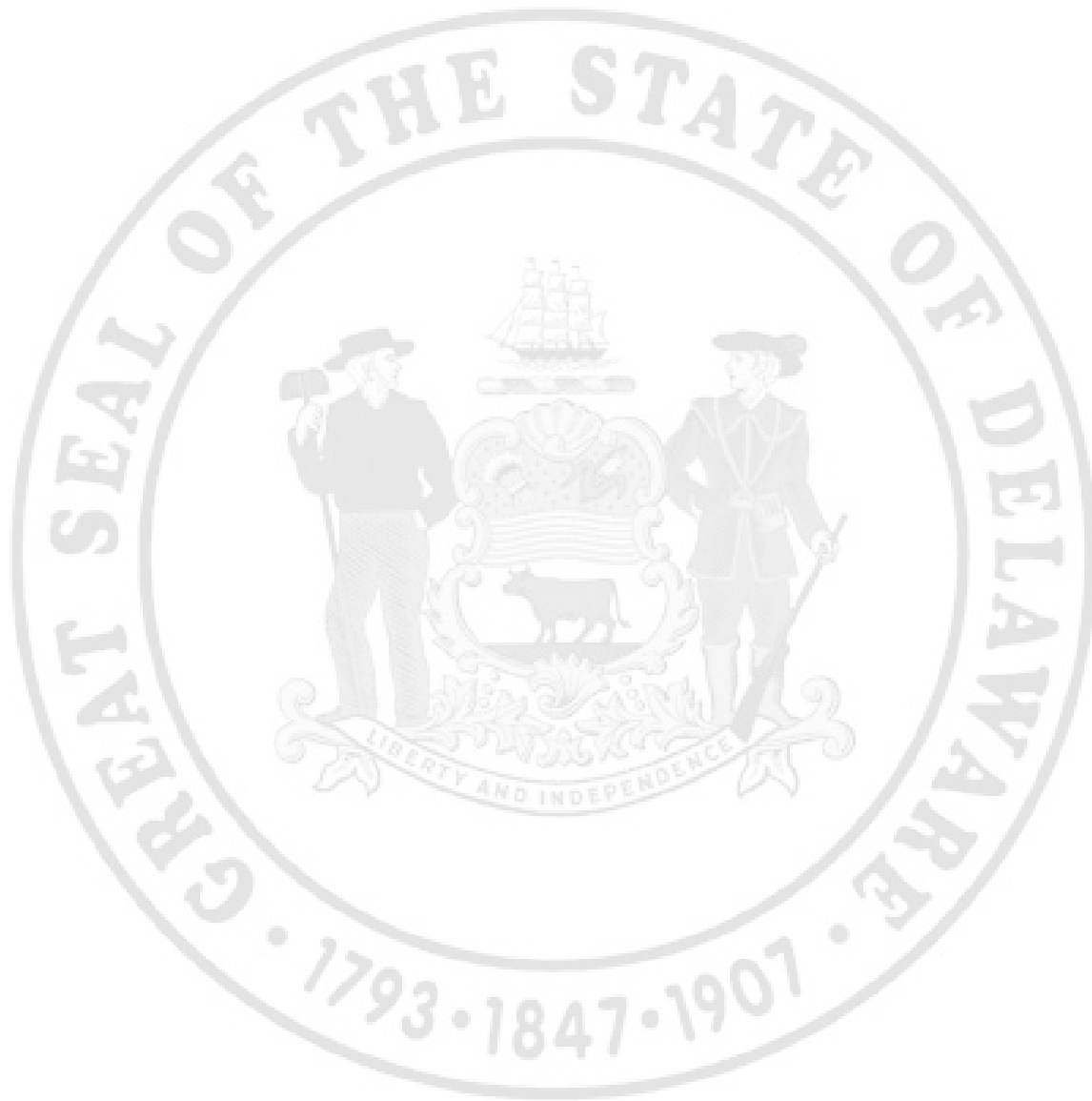
*Filings, dispositions, and pending amended.

**Filings and dispositions amended.

!Dispositions and pending at end of year amended.

!!Pending at end of year amended.

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



**Administrative Office of the Courts
500 North King Street, Suite 11600
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 255-0090**

courts.state.de.us