

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.

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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

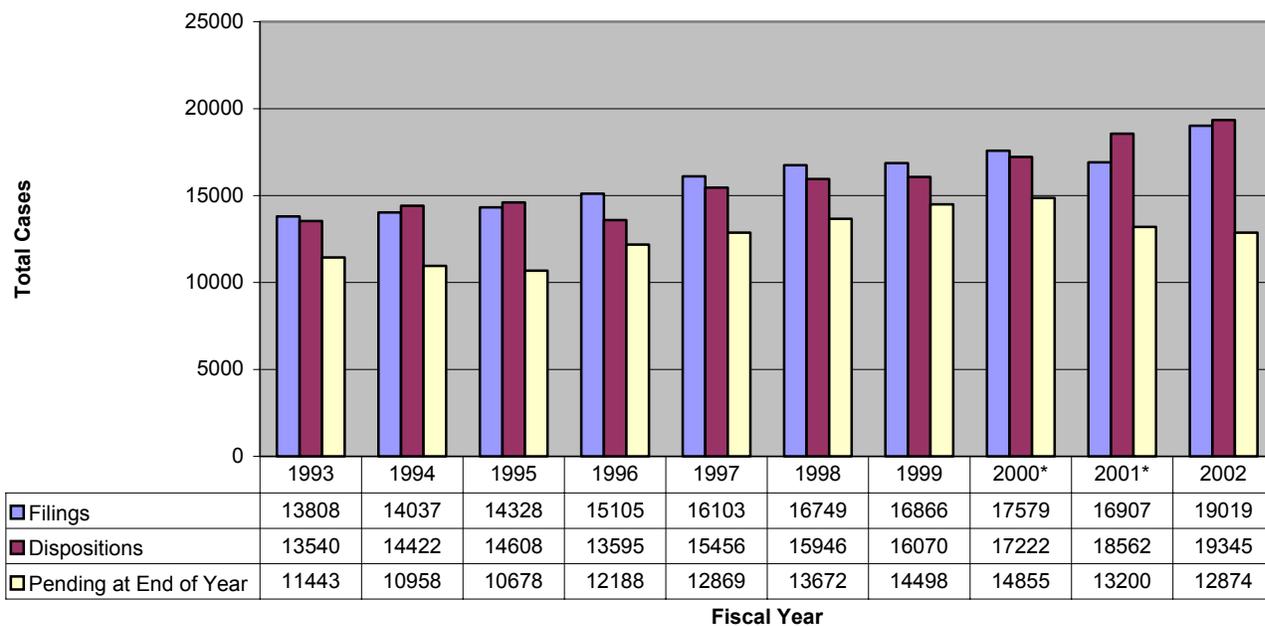
Superior Court may appoint court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, pre-sentence officers, a secretary for each judge, and other personnel.

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%	

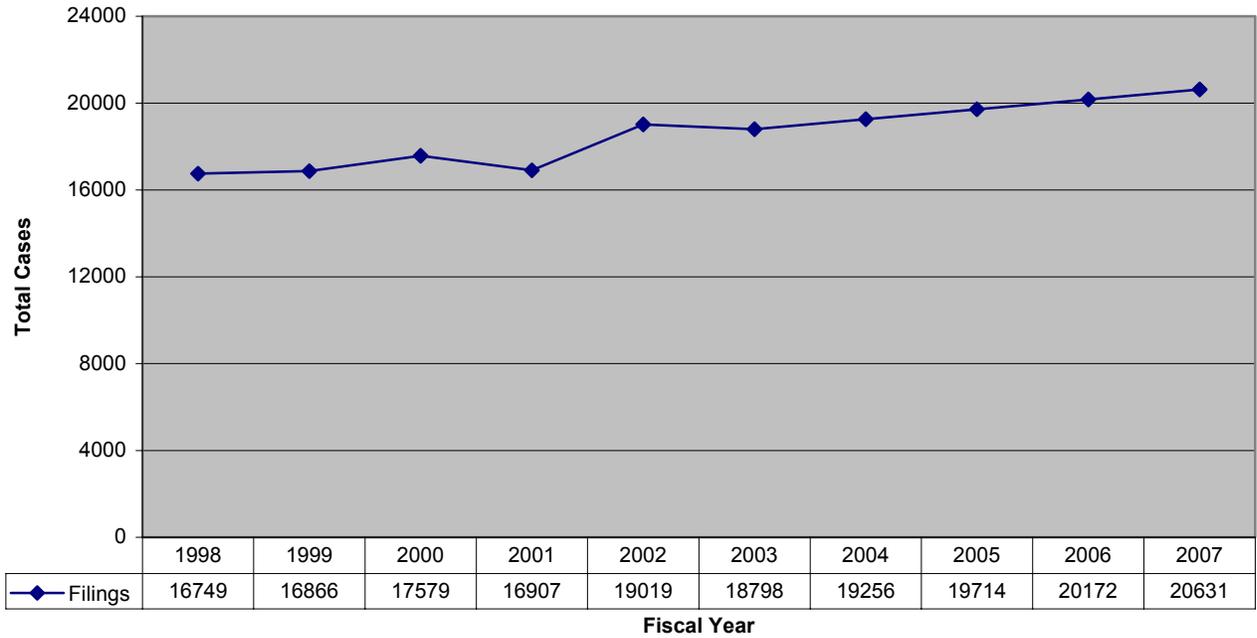
*New Castle County and State total amended from 2001 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary.
Source: Court Administrator, Prothonotaries Offices, and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court;
Administrative Office of the Courts.

Superior Court Total 10 Year Caseload Trend

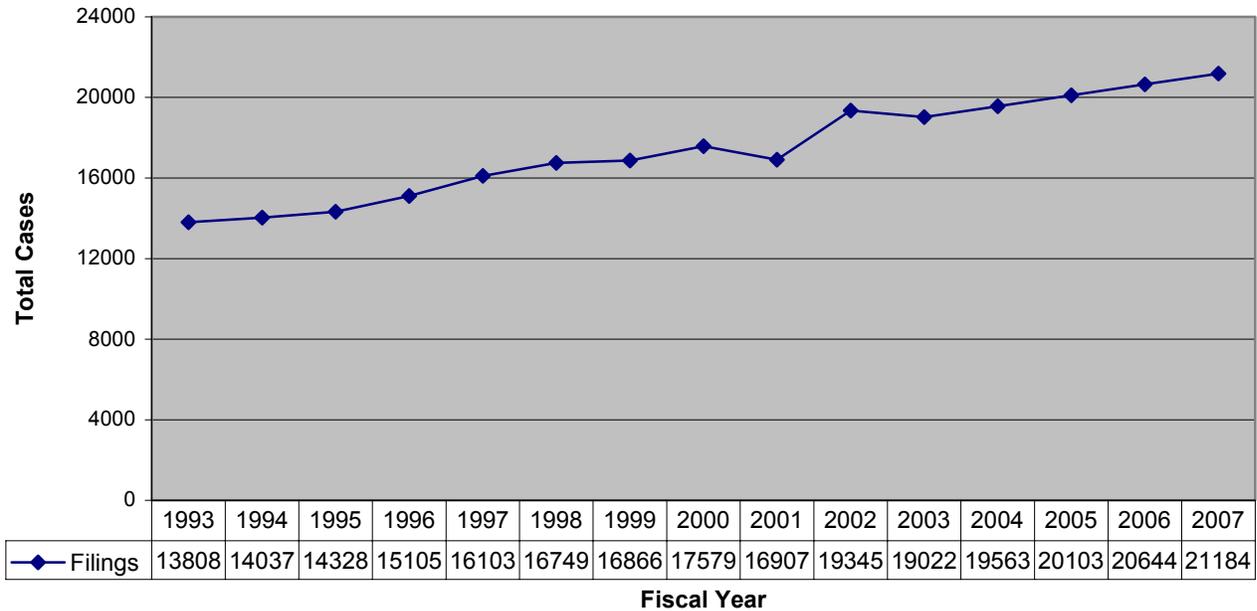


Source: Court Administrator and Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

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.

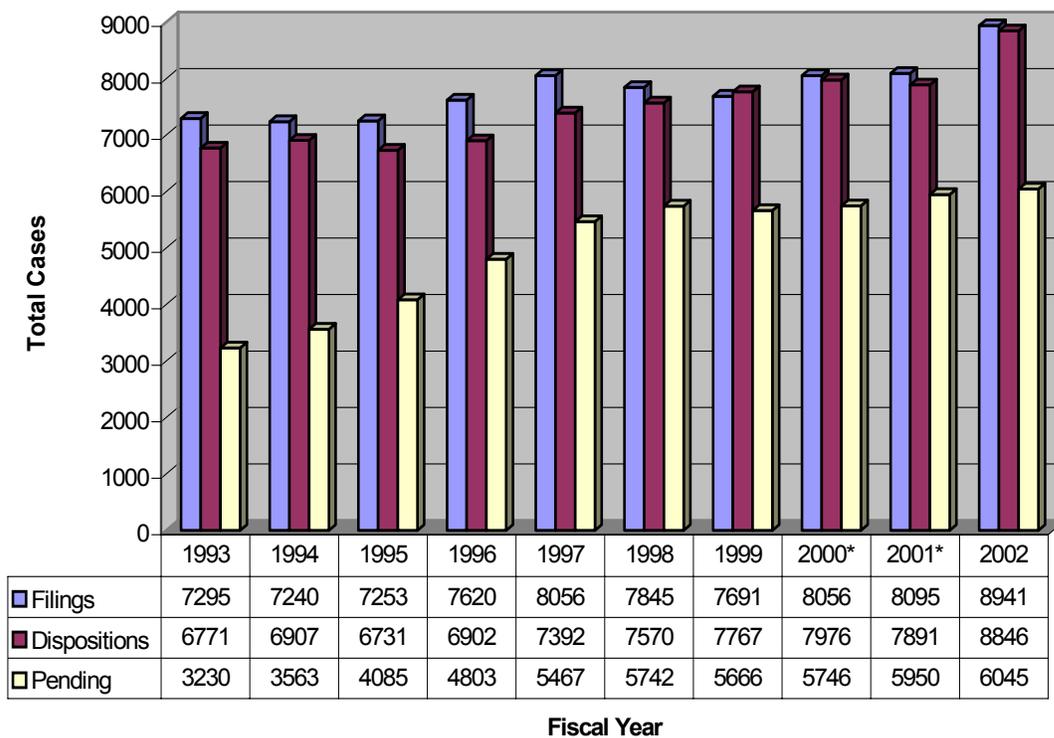
Source: Court Administrator and Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

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.

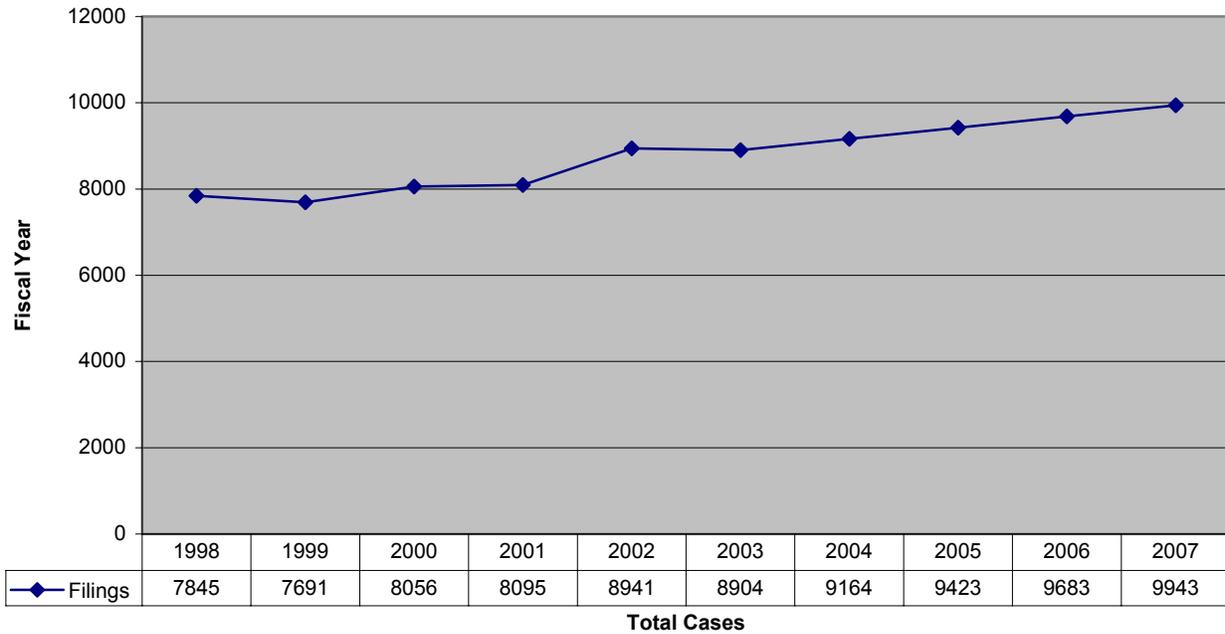
Superior Court Criminal 10 Year Caseload Trend



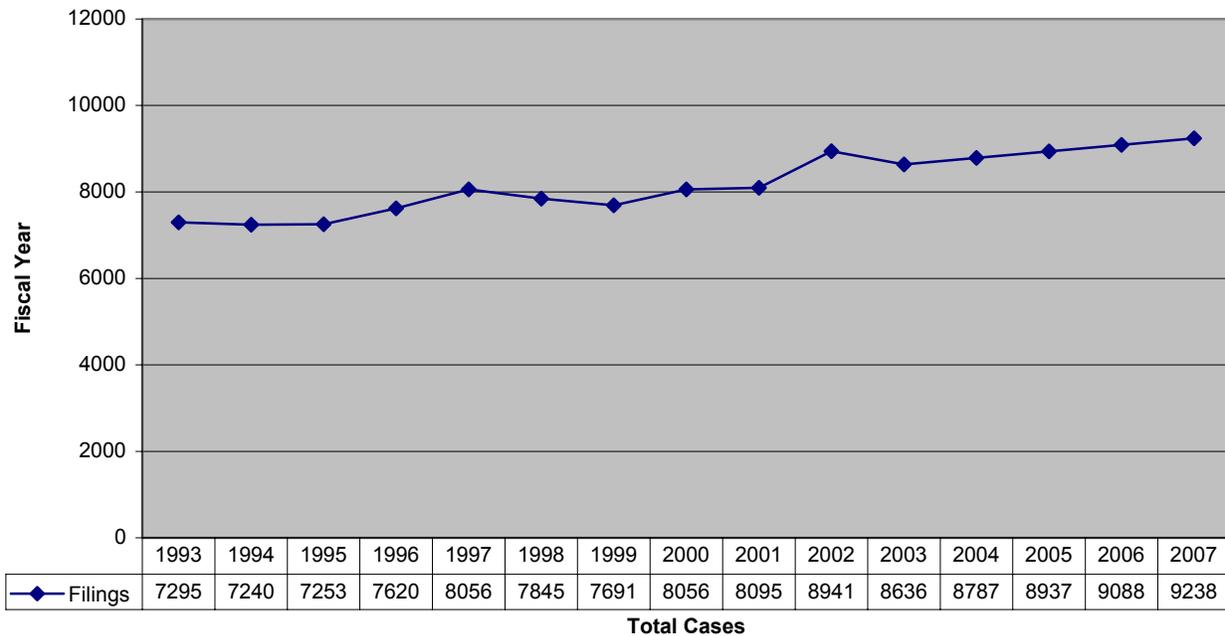
*Filings and pending at end of year amended.

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.

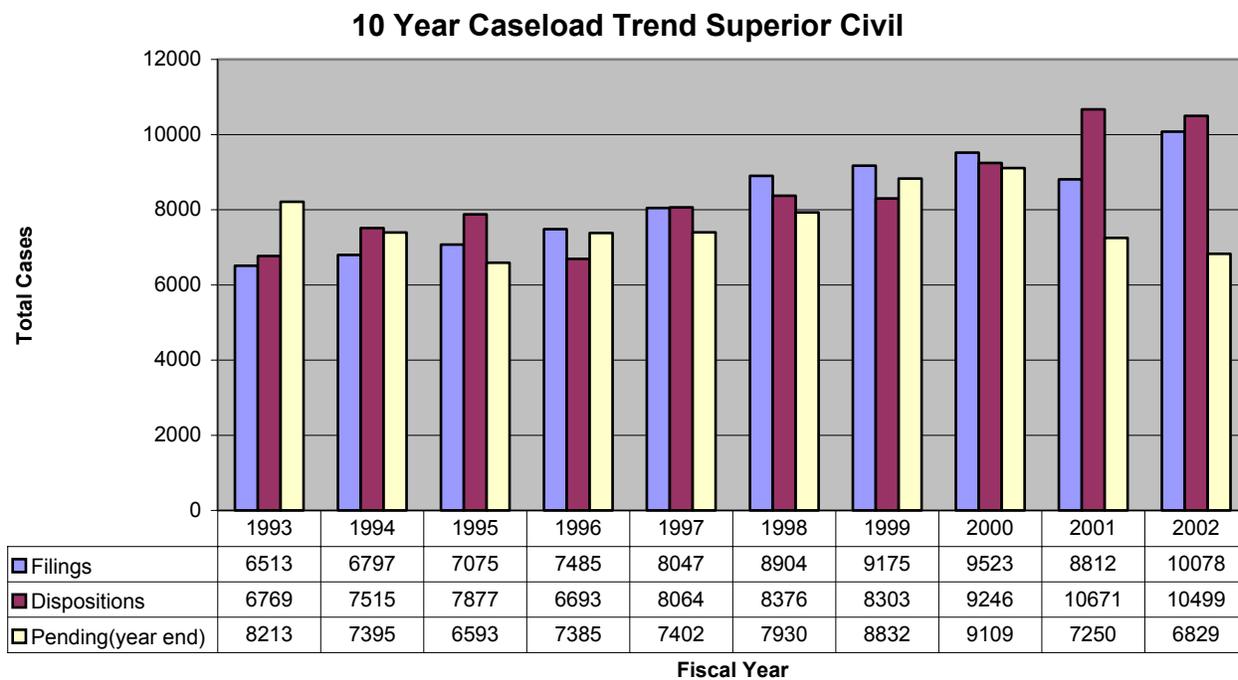
SUPERIOR COURT

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.

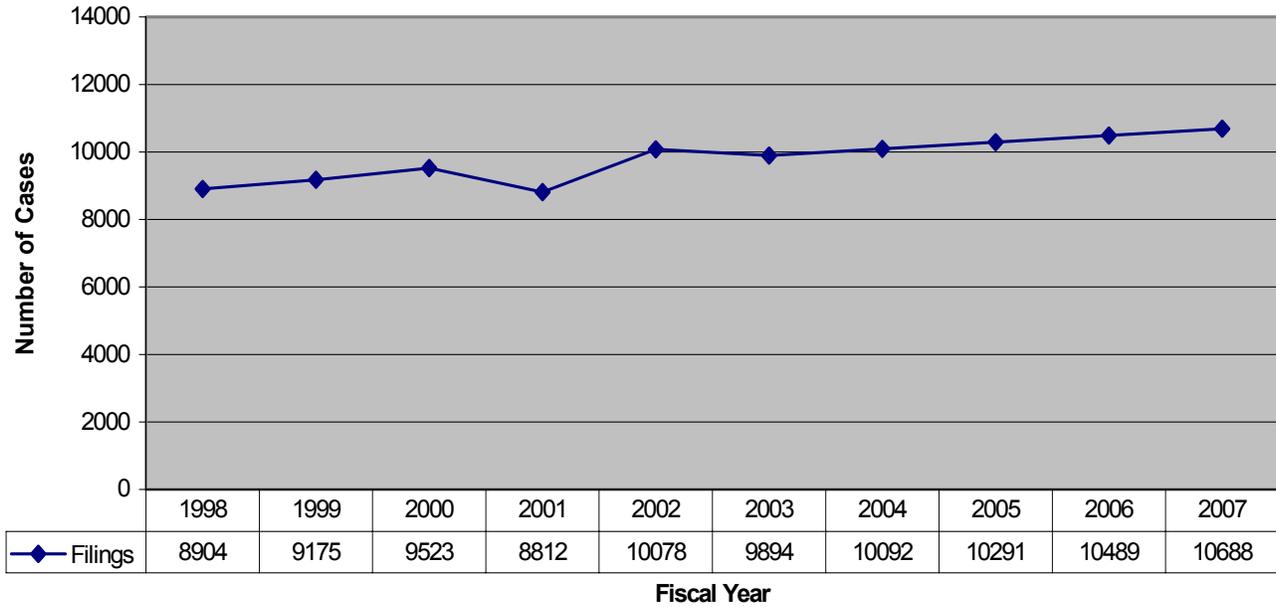
SUPERIOR COURT						
Caseload Summary Fiscal Year 2002 - Civil Cases						
	Pending 6/30/2001	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/2002	Change In Pending	% Change In Pending
New Castle County	5,693	7,721	7,954	5,460	-233	- 4.1%
Kent County	773	1,226	1,336	663	-110	-14.2%
Sussex County	784	1,131	1,209	706	- 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.

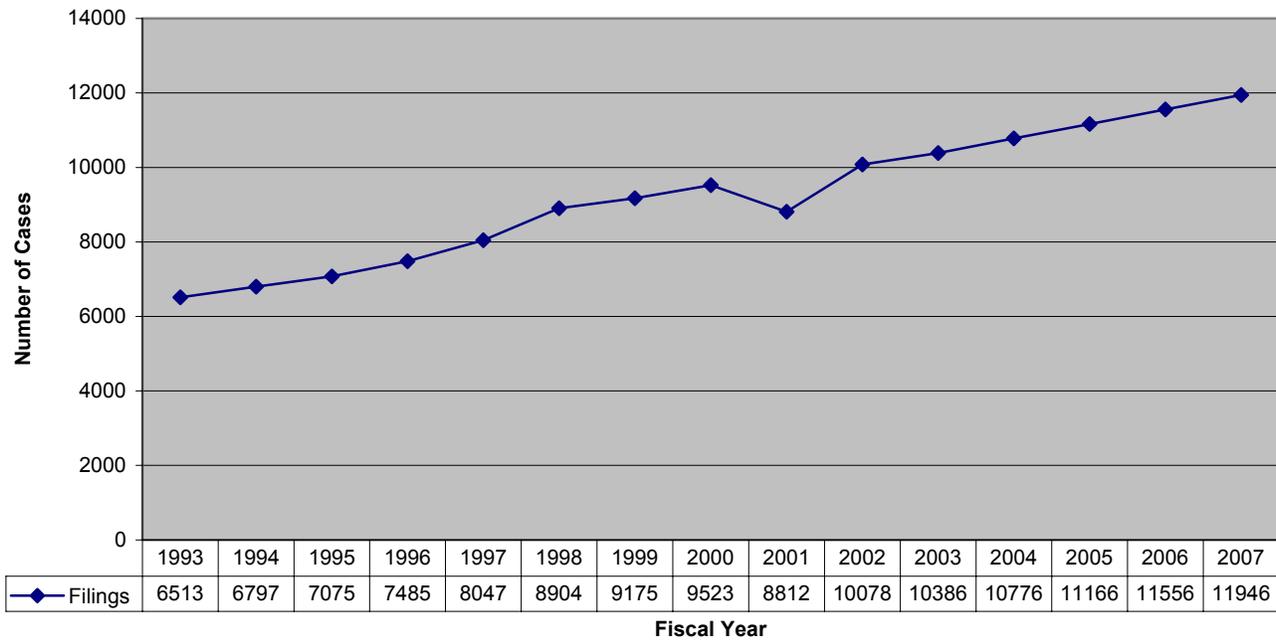


Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

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	100.0%
Kent County	536	330	55	23	282	1,226	100.0%
Sussex County	392	376	52	5	306	1,131	100.0%
State	4,284	2,148	240	1,241	2,165	10,078	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	100.0%
Kent County	601	371	42	26	296	1,336	100.0%
Sussex County	401	393	59	31	325	1,209	100.0%
State	4,718	2,184	250	1,148	2,199	10,499	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	100.0%
Kent County	453	111	33	49	17	663	100.0%
Sussex County	408	158	34	48	58	706	100.0%
State	5,325	735	129	396	244	6,829	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	1.4%	41	1.1%	167	4.5%	486	13.1%	41	1.1%	2,184	58.8%	693	18.6%	52	1.4%	3,716	100.0%
Kent County	9	1.5%	9	1.5%	28	4.7%	54	9.0%	5	0.8%	409	68.1%	80	13.3%	7	1.2%	601	100.0%
Sussex County	16	4.0%	4	1.0%	13	3.2%	67	16.7%	8	2.0%	253	63.1%	25	6.2%	15	3.7%	401	100.0%
State	77	1.6%	54	1.1%	208	4.4%	607	12.9%	54	1.1%	2,846	60.3%	798	16.9%	74	1.6%	4,718	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	Other Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other	Total								
New Castle County	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	883	62.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.2%	393	27.7%	137	9.6%	3	0.2%	1,420	100.0%
Kent County	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	246	66.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	92	24.8%	33	8.9%	0	0.0%	371	100.0%
Sussex County	2	0.5%	0	0.0%	189	48.1%	17	4.3%	0	0.0%	114	29.0%	34	8.7%	37	9.4%	393	100.0%
State	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	1,318	60.3%	18	0.8%	3	0.1%	599	27.4%	204	9.3%	40	1.8%	2,184	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	47.0%	8	5.4%	15	10.1%	26	17.4%	30	20.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	149	100.0%
Kent County	15	35.7%	4	9.5%	1	2.4%	10	23.8%	11	26.2%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%	42	100.0%
Sussex County	26	44.1%	4	6.8%	0	0.0%	23	39.0%	6	10.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	59	100.0%
State	111	44.4%	16	6.4%	16	6.4%	59	23.6%	47	18.8%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	250	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.