



PRESIDENT JUDGE JAMES T. VAUGHN, JR.

In Superior Court this year, Judge Susan Del Pesco retired on May 30, after twenty years of service. She was the State's first female Superior Court judge. To fill this vacancy, John A. Parkins, Jr., was sworn in on August 21, 2008. Previously, on July 24, 2008, Lynne M. Parker was sworn in as a Commissioner. Commissioner Parker filled the vacancy created when Commissioner David A. White resigned to return to private practice.

Statewide for 2008, Superior Court filings totaled 23,292, a one percent increase over last year; dispositions totaled 23,450, a five percent increase. The number of non-first degree murder cases moving through the system within allotted time frames remained consistent. At the end of June this year, forty-six first degree murder cases were pending in Superior Court. Additionally, the Court disposed of 9,390 Violation of Probation cases.

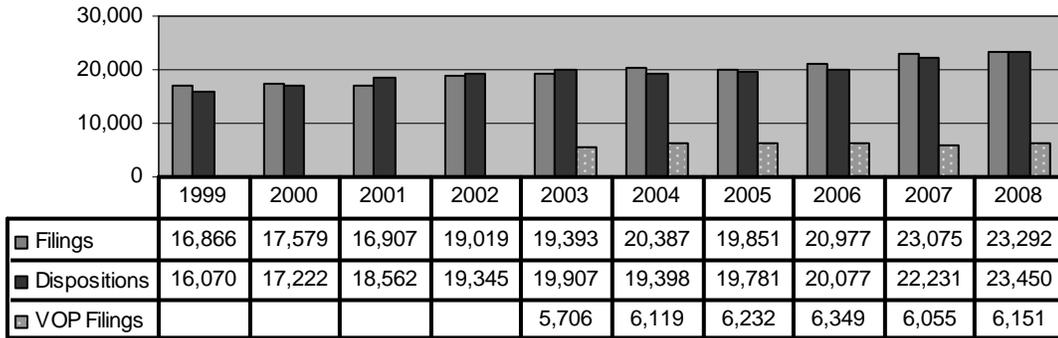
Effective March 1, 2008, Superior Court adopted sweeping changes to its mandatory Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. Civil Rule 16.1 was repealed. Civil Rule 16 was amended to require mandatory ADR in every civil case, unless expressly excluded by the rule or by the Court. The revised rule was implemented as a timesaver by the Court. Our core mission to those who file complaints is to give parties a prompt day in court.

It is estimated that more than 1,000 additional cases per year will be added to the 4,000 cases that currently proceed through the Superior Court's alternative dispute program.

Judge Jan R. Jurden has been named Superior Court's representative to Delaware's Task Force for the Chief Justice's Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative by President Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center selected Delaware as one of four states to participate in the national project. The Project's mission is to improve responses to people with mental illness who are involved in the justice system. For Superior Court, the Initiative will build upon our existing pilot Mental Health Court, which Judge Jurden initiated in early 2008 and continues to oversee.

Finally, for the seventh consecutive year, the Superior Court of Delaware has been recognized as the premier court of general jurisdiction in the country by the Harris Poll State Liability Systems Ranking Study. The three counties of the Court are true to its core values of unity, neutrality, integrity, timeliness, equality and dedication, and they are U.N.I.T.E.D. in their mission "to serve the public, in pursuit of justice."

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL & CRIMINAL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



NOTE: The number of VOP filings are not available for 1999-2002.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION

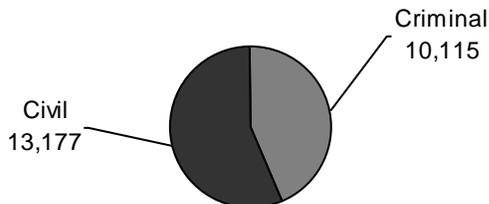
The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Superior Court.

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 Court judges in 1951; there are nineteen today.

NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2008



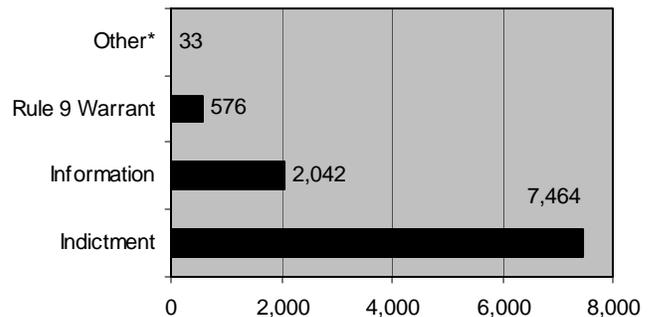
GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION

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

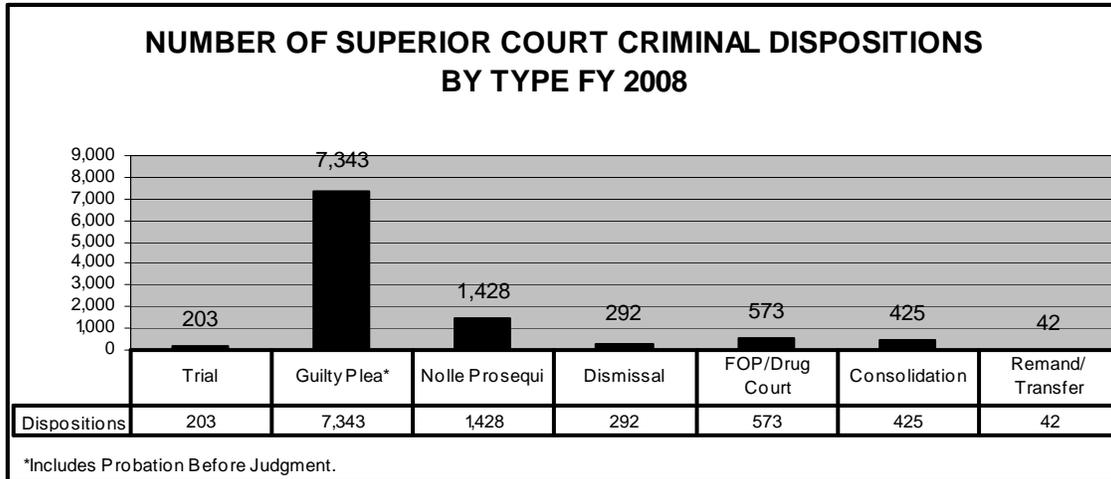
LEGAL JURISDICTION

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, and condemnations. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except most felonies and drug offenses involving minors and possession of marijuana and certain other drug-related possession cases). Super-

NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2008



* Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements and severances.



rior Court has jurisdiction over involuntary commitments of the mentally ill to the Delaware Psychiatric Center. 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 fifty administrative agencies including the Industrial Accident, Zoning and Adjustment Boards, and other quasi-judicial bodies. Appeals from Superior Court are argued on the record before the Supreme Court.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Superior Court employs court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, investigative services officers, a secretary for each judge, a court administrator and other support personnel.

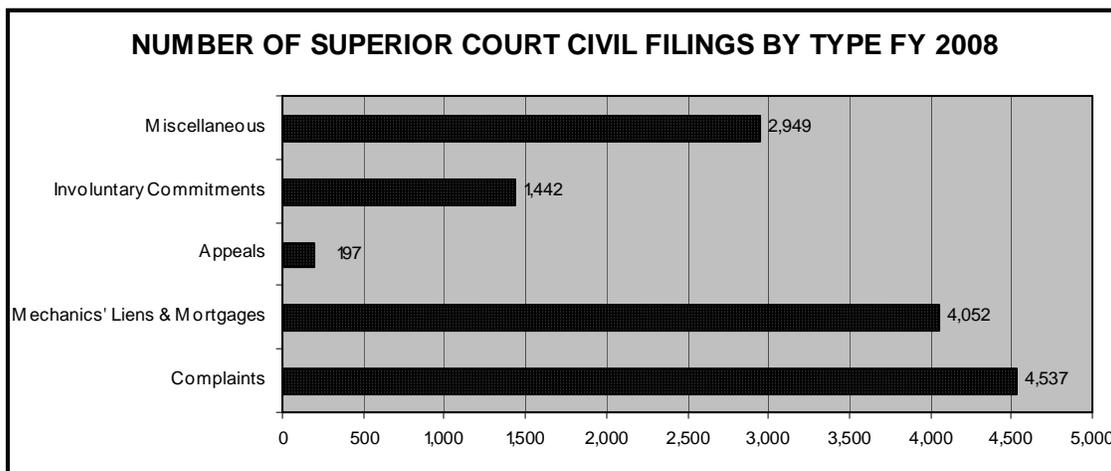
A prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court for that county. The prothonotary is directly involved with the daily operations of the Court. The prothonotary handles jury lists and property liens and is the custodian of costs and fees for the Court. That office also issues permits 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 Delaware Psychiatric Center and collects and distributes restitution monies ordered by the Court in addition to numerous other duties. The prothonotary is also charged with security, care, and custody of the Court's exhibits. Sheriffs for each county also serve Superior Court.

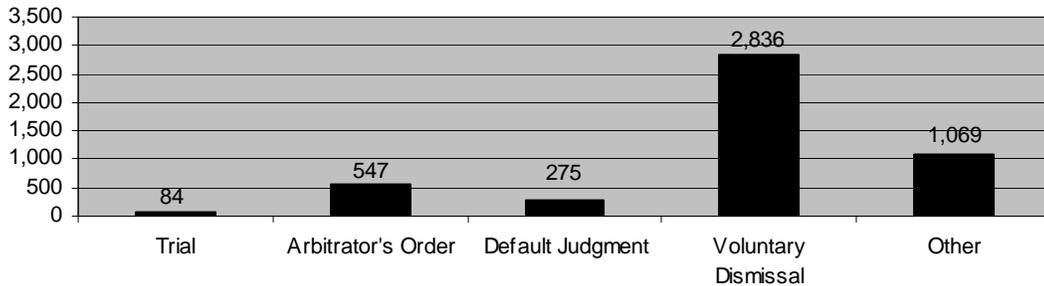
JUDGES

Superior Court judges are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for twelve-year terms and must be learned in the law. There may be nineteen judges appointed to the Superior Court bench, one of whom is appointed president judge.

Three judges 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.



NUMBER OF SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL COMPLAINTS BY METHOD OF DISPOSITION FY 2008



Front Row (sitting left to right)

Judge Jerome O. Herlihy
 Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.
 President Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.
 Judge Susan C. Del Pesco (*Retired June 1, 2008*)
 Judge T. Henley Graves (SC Resident Judge)

Second Row (standing left to right)

Judge Richard F. Stokes
 Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.
 Judge Richard R. Cooch (NCC Resident Judge)
 Judge Charles H. Toliver, IV
 Judge Fred S. Silverman
 Judge William L. Witham, Jr. (KC Resident Judge)
 Judge E. Scott Bradley

Back Row (standing left to right)

Judge Robert B. Young
 Judge Calvin L. Scott, Jr.
 Judge Joseph R. Slights, III
 Judge Peggy L. Ableman
 Judge Jan R. Jurden
 Judge Mary M. Johnston
 Judge M. Jane Brady

Not Pictured:

Judge John A. Parkins, Jr. (*Sworn in July 21, 2008*)