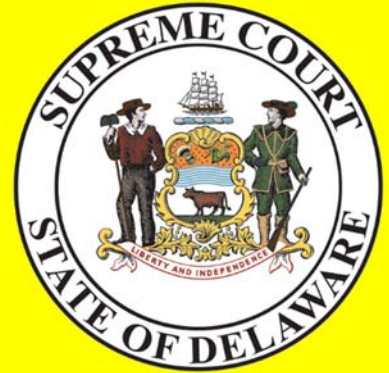


SUPREME COURT

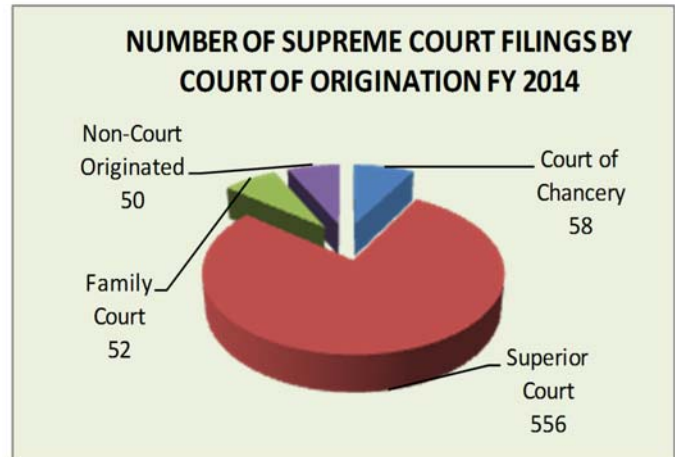


This past year has been a period of transition for the Delaware Supreme Court, beginning with Chief Justice Myron T. Steele's retirement on November 30, 2013, and followed by the retirement of other members of the Supreme Court who had long and distinguished careers in public service.

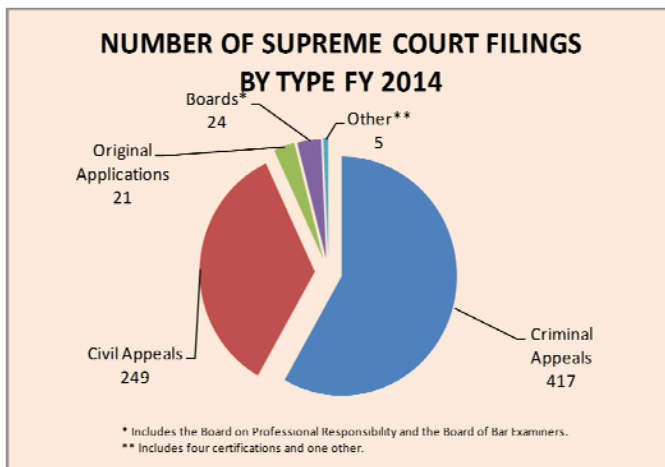
During the last year the Supreme Court has seen the retirement of three Justices with a collective judicial service of over 90 years.

Justice Jack B. Jacobs and Justice Carolyn Berger retired in 2014, and Justice Henry duPont Ridgely announced his retirement in 2014 and left the bench in early 2015. The distinguished Justices will all be missed, both on a professional and a personal level. These dedicated public servants have graced our state with their service and set a high standard of judicial excellence.

Likewise, a long-serving member of the Supreme Court family, Court Administrator Steve Taylor, retired on January 1, 2015 after 37 years with the Supreme Court. There will long be a void with the departure of Steve's vast knowledge, wise counsel, and subtle humor.



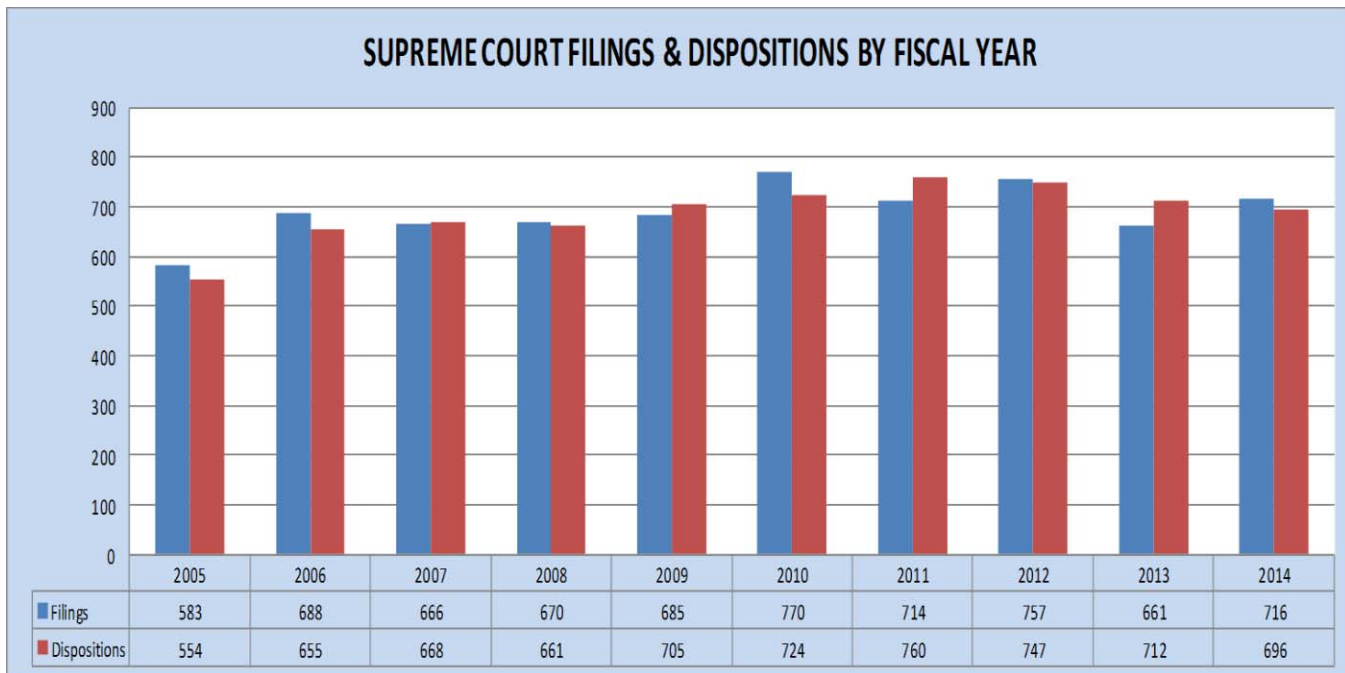
Despite these changes, the Court was able to manage its caseload without delay due, in material part, to the hard-working trial judges who stepped up to serve on Supreme Court panels during the transition, and to the Justices and staff, who stepped up to keep court operations running smoothly. We are grateful that Governor Markell and the General Assembly acted quickly to fill the judicial vacancies. As a result, any issues that might have arisen because of this transition were avoided.



I had the honor of becoming Chief Justice on February 28, 2014. Following a distinguished career as a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Justice Karen L. Valihura joined the Supreme Court on July 25, 2014, succeeding Justice Jacobs. My newest Supreme Court colleague is Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr., who took the oath of office on Oct. 28, 2014, as Justice Berger's successor. Justice Vaughn brings his many years of trial court experience on the Superior Court, and as President Judge, to the Court. A successor for Justice Ridgely has not yet been chosen. Finally, William S. Montgomery, who previously served as Chief of Staff for Wilmington Mayor James Baker,

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



became Court Administrator for the Supreme Court – following in Steve Taylor’s footsteps – at the beginning of January, 2015.

Through all this process, Justice Randy Holland helped me and the other new Justices get acclimated and keep the wheels of justice spinning true.

This is illustrated by the Courts’ performance against the standards it uses to ensure that the Court handles its case load with alacrity. The standards were set by the Court in 2005 and are based on the American Bar Association’s Standards Relating to Appellate Courts.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the Delaware Supreme Court received 716 appeals and disposed of 696 appeals by opinion, order or dismissal. The appeals were decided an average of 28 days from the date of submission to the date of final decision. In 98.9% of the appeals decided in FY 2014, the Court met the standard of the Delaware Judiciary for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. This Court also met its performance measure for the disposition of 75% of all cases within 290 days of the date of the filing of the notice of appeal, exceeding this objective by disposing of 91.2% of all

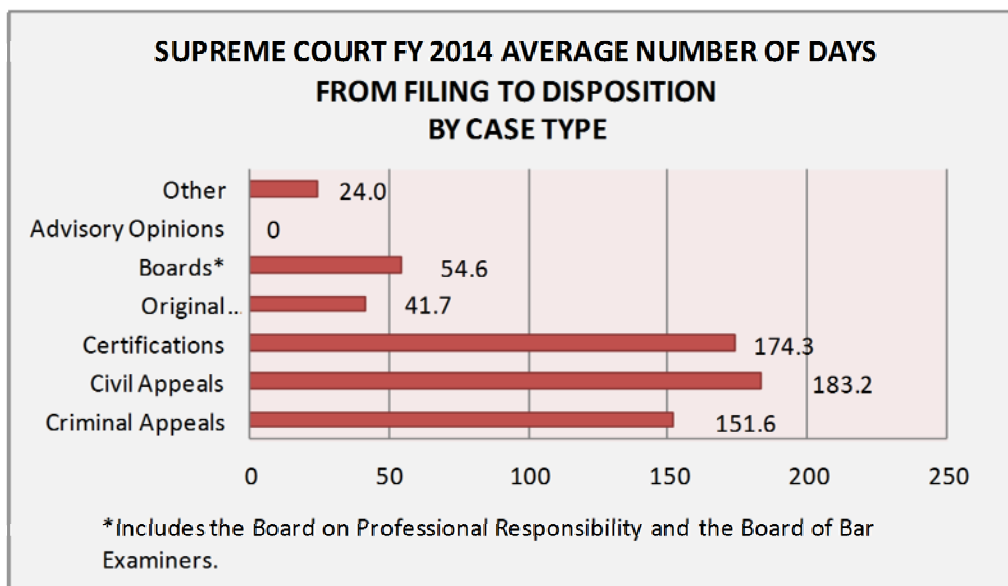
cases within the 290 day timeframe. The Court also met its performance measure for the disposition of 95% of all cases within one year of the date of the filing of the notice of appeal.

Considering the Supreme Court’s historical record of timely resolution and the change we experienced, we are proud that FY 2014 ended up being a strong year for the Court in meeting, and exceeding, national timeframes for appellate court dispositions. In FY 2014, the Court had a lower average number of days between the date of submission and final decision, and a higher percentage of appeals decided within 290 days, and also within one year, of the filing of the notice of appeal than it had in the previous four years.

Not only that, during the period of change, the Court has also launched several important Branch-wide initiatives to work with the Bar, our trial court colleagues, the General Assembly, the Executive Branch, and our community generally to make our system of justice even better. The efforts are described elsewhere in the annual report and result from a cooperative effort of all the Justices, our staff, and colleagues throughout the Judicial Branch.

Continued on next page

SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Justices

Standing left to right:

Justice Karen L. Valihura
Justice Randy J. Holland
Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.
Justice Henry duPont Ridgely
Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.