

COURT OF CHANCERY



CHANCELLOR ANDRE G. BOUCHARD



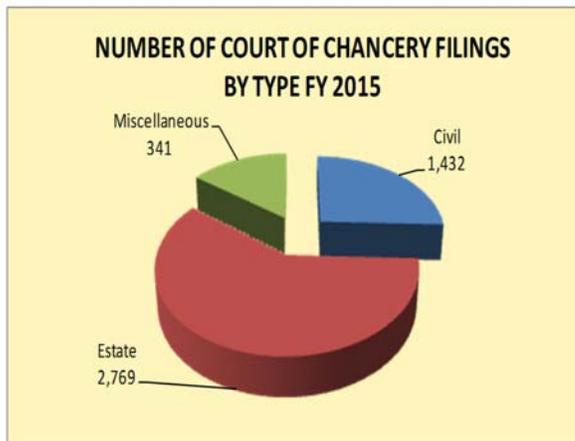
CHANCERY COURT

Since the close of the fiscal year, the Court has experienced some changes. After twelve years of distinguished service, Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons, Jr. retired in October 2015. During his tenure, Vice Chancellor Parsons demonstrated a conscientious devotion to the work of the Court both through the management of his docket and his involvement in many committees supporting the operations of the Court. We wish him well in his retirement. Tamika Montgomery-Reeves was selected as Vice Chancellor Parsons' successor. Her appointment is a historic one for the Court, as she is the first African-American and only the second woman to serve on the bench of the Court of Chancery.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the Court's caseload increased almost 2% over the previous year. This modest growth is attributable to a significant reduction in minor guardianship cases involving property as a result of legislation passed in 2014 to allow funds below a specified level to be placed in a Uniform Transfers to Minors Act account instead of establishing a guardianship. The reduction in cases of this nature has allowed the Court to devote greater

resources to other matters, including guardianship cases that require more Court involvement.

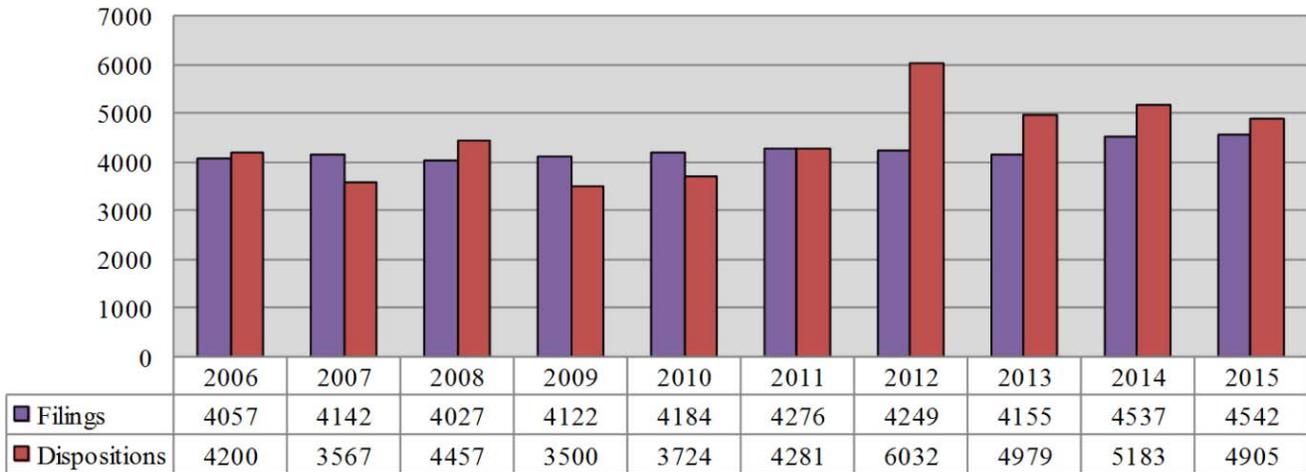
A core goal of the Court of Chancery is to administer justice in a timely and cost-effective manner in the face of demanding caseloads and limited resources. Fulfilling this goal requires a constant reassessment of how we can operate more efficiently. To that end, we relocated the Register in Chancery to space on the 11th floor of the New Castle County Courthouse adjacent to the judges' chambers. This



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COURT OF CHANCERY

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



move has enhanced operational efficiencies and provided the opportunity for us to create better facilities for mediations involving a member of the Court. We now have a new mediation center that includes three conference rooms, providing the parties with adequate break-out space that was not available previously.

In May 2015, the General Assembly enacted and the Governor signed the Delaware Rapid Arbitration Act (DRAA). To implement that legislation, the Court amended its Rules to establish a process for commencing a summary proceeding to appoint an arbitrator under the DRAA when the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, to enforce subpoenas issued in connection with a DRAA proceeding, and to determine an arbitrator's fees and enter judgment after arbitration.

The Court of Chancery has long been a leader in the implementation of technology to maximize efficiencies. In 2003, we implemented electronic filing in civil actions, with the goal of expanding e-filing to all aspects

of the Court's docket over time. In 2012, the New Castle County Register of Wills was the first of the three county offices to implement e-filing, followed by the Kent County Register of Wills the next year. Effective July 1, 2015, the Sussex County Register of Wills office came on line, completing an initiative that promises to bring the advantages of technology to the administration of decedents' estates throughout the State.

As the Court moves forward into the new fiscal year, its goal will continue to be what it has been in the past: to provide prompt, expert judicial resolution of cases falling within the Court's jurisdiction. Consistent with that tradition, the Court will continue to innovate to meet new challenges to best serve the citizens of Delaware and all of the other constituencies who appear before us on a daily basis.

COURT OF CHANCERY



Court of Chancery

Standing left to right:

Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III

Vice Chancellor Tamika Montgomery-Reeves

Sitting left to right:

Vice Chancellor John W. Noble

Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster

The **Honorable Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves** was formally sworn in for her first term as a Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery on December 11, 2015. Prior to her appointment, Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves was a partner at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati. Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves replaced Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons, Jr., who retired from the bench.