

SUPREME COURT



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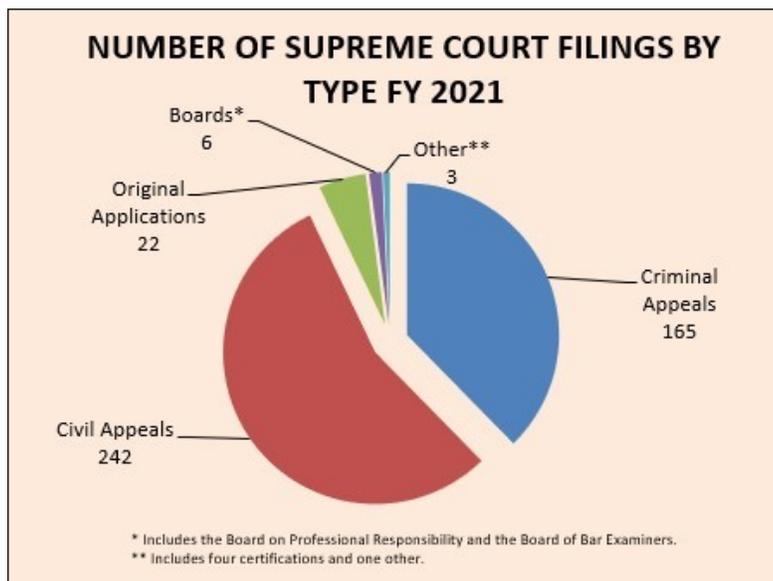
CHIEF JUSTICE COLLINS J. SEITZ, JR.

The Supreme Court and Arms of The Court soldiered on during Fiscal Year 2021, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant. As with other Delaware Courts, the Supreme Court transitioned from Zoom oral arguments to in-person oral arguments, but continued with social distancing and face mask requirements. Even though we lifted the judicial emergency order, our top priority was always the safety of the Justices, court staff, and litigants.

Because of safety and logistical concerns attributable to the pandemic, the Court cancelled the 2020 Delaware Bar Exam. All 2020 bar applicants were able to apply for limited practice privileges to start their legal careers under the supervision of a Delaware lawyer until the 2021 exam. While we hoped to return to an in-person exam in 2021, safety concerns caused us to administer the 2021 Delaware Bar Exam remotely. Remotely administering the 2021 Bar Exam for the first time was not without

its challenges. Yet, despite some technical issues, we saw the highest passing rate compared to the six prior years. The Court is grateful to the Board of Bar Examiners for continuing their important work in the face of an unprecedented pandemic.

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Delaware Supreme Court received 438 appeals and resolved 485 cases by opinion, order, or dismissal. The Court decided appeals an average of 32 days from the date of submission to the



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date of final decision. In 100% of the appeals decided in FY 2021, the Court met the Delaware Judiciary standard for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. The Court resolved 78% of all cases within 290 days of the filing of a notice of appeal, and 88% of all cases within a one-year timeframe—a remarkable accomplishment given the COVID-19 pandemic.

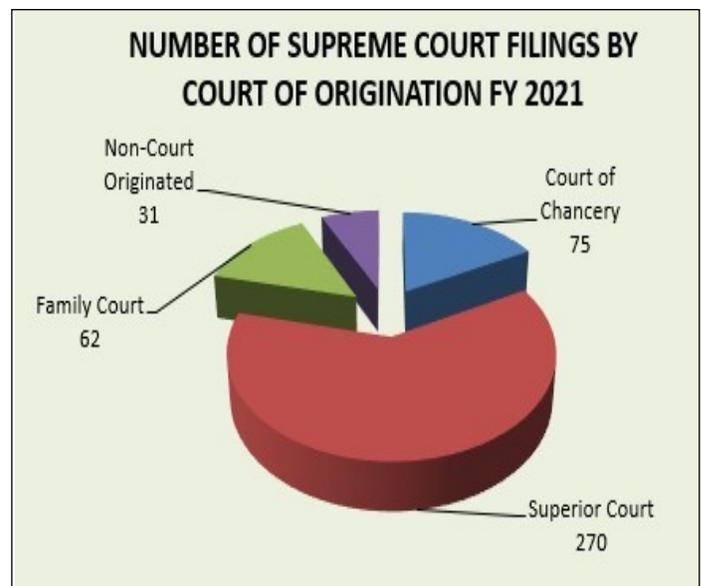
In 2021, the Court welcomed David White as the new Chief Disciplinary Counsel. Mr. White joined the Office of Disciplinary Counsel after working as the Managing Partner of the Wilmington office of McCarter & English LLP, where his practice was devoted to Alternative Dispute Resolution. Prior to joining the law firm, he served as a Superior Court Commissioner. Mr. White received his law degree from Widener University Delaware Law School and attended the University of Delaware for his undergraduate degree.

Former Justice Randy J. Holland edited and published “Delaware Supreme Court History 1951-2021” to commemorate the 70-year history of the Court, which he dedicated to all the Justices throughout the history of the Court and their work to uphold the rule of law and the fair administration of equal justice for all. Justice Holland also served as Chair of a task force, which made recommendations for bail rule reforms in domestic violence cases. The Court is grateful to former Justice Holland for his continued service to the Delaware judiciary, and to the members of Delaware’s legal community who contributed to the updated history.

In closing, there are several retirements to note. Debra Zatlokovicz and Deborah Collins retired after 31 and 41 years of service to the Supreme Court and the State of Delaware, respectively. We are grateful for their dedication to the Court and wish them all the best as they enter the next chapter of their lives. The Court also wishes to recognize Richard K. Herrmann, Esquire, for his steadfast dedication to improving the practice of law through technology. The Court thanks him for his service and offers him well wishes in his retirement. ♦

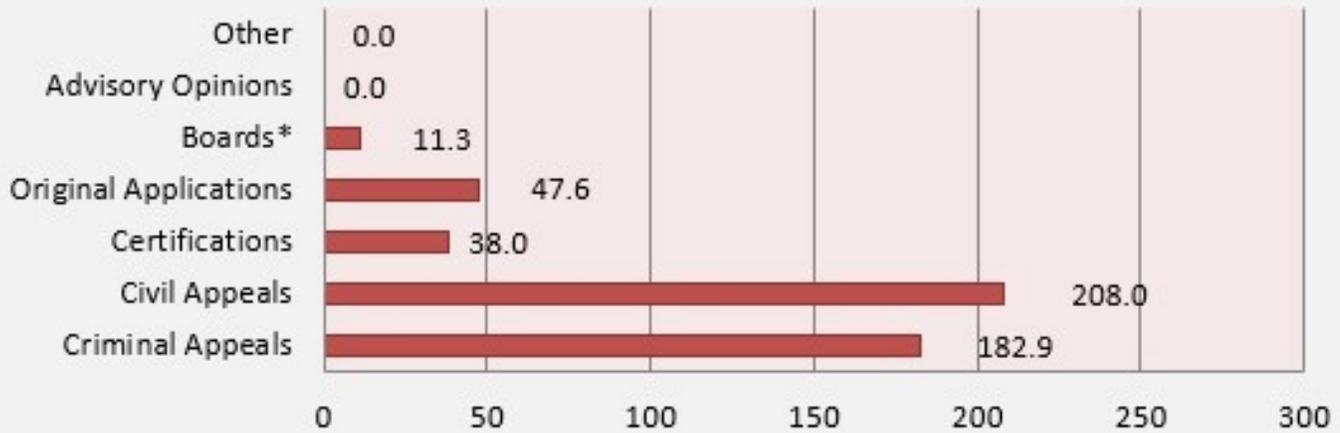


Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr., working in his office located in Wilmington, Delaware.



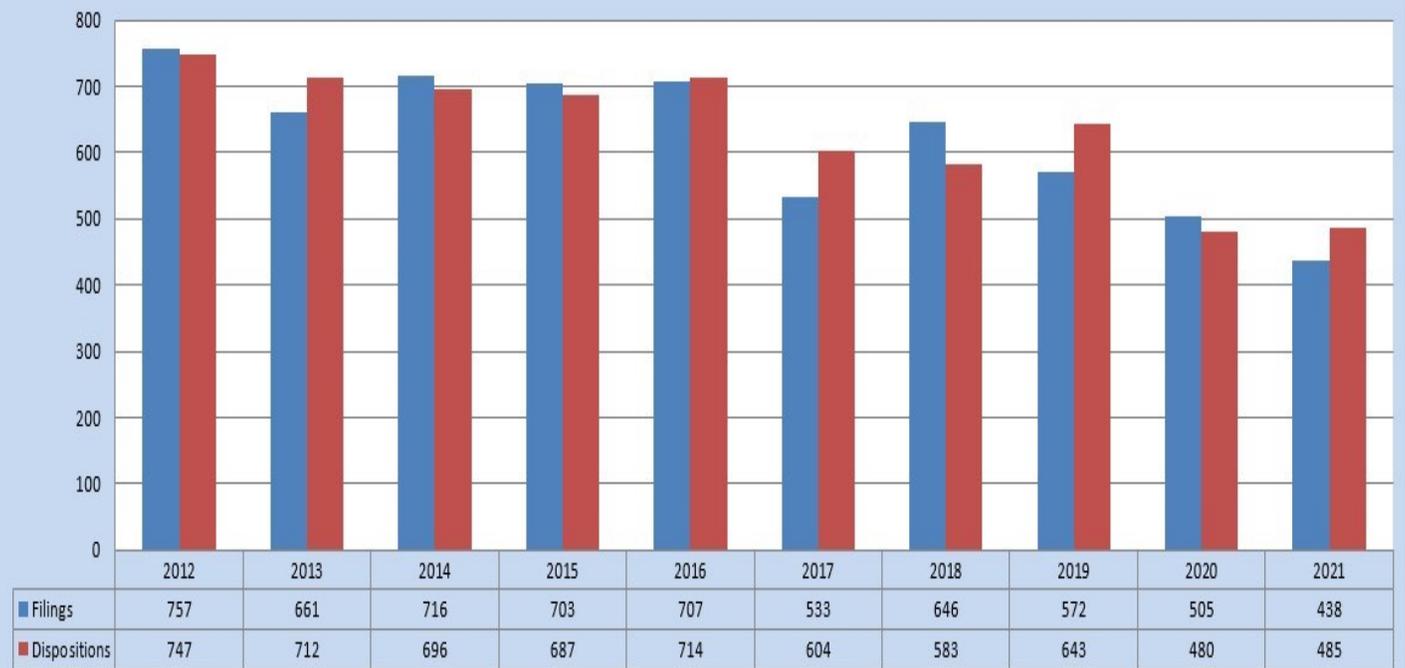
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SUPREME COURT FY 2021 AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE



*Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.

SUPREME COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



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Supreme Court Justices

Standing left to right:

Justice Gary F. Traynor
Justice Karen L. Valihura
Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.
Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Justice Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves