ANNUAL REPORT

THE DELAWARE JUDICIARY

2025





VISION

Equal justice through transparency, integrity, innovation, and judicial branch independence.

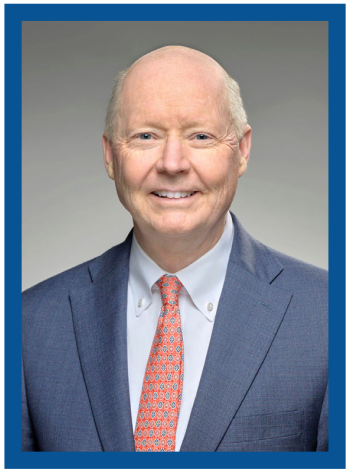
MISSION

To provide access to fair and effective justice in a safe and transparent environment through a diverse, inclusive, and dedicated workforce.

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MESSAGE FROM

Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

On behalf of the Court, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report.

A Few Highlights from 2025:

- The Court of Chancery completed its expanded Magistrate in Chancery bench. The Court now has seven full-time Magistrates in Chancery.
- This past year, the Governor nominated, and the Senate confirmed new judicial officers to every trial court.
- We are in the final stages of a courthouse building and rehabilitation campaign across our state to improve and enhance court facilities. We opened our new Family Court courthouse in Georgetown in November. Its sister Family Court facility in Dover will open this summer and the Custom House renovation and expansion in Wilmington will not be far behind.
- The Judicial Branch conducted its first-ever statewide security review of judicial facilities. The top to bottom review generated recommendations that we will work to implement as soon as practical.
- The five-year CASCADE project is well underway to move all courts to a single, modern electronic filing, case management and document management system.
- Under the leadership of Executive Director Betsy Renzo, Delaware Law Related Education Center (DELREC), continues its important outreach and educational efforts with schools across the state, expanding their work in Kent and Sussex counties.
- Finally, starting July 1, 2025, I began a one-year term as the President of the Conference of Chief Justices and Chair of the Board of the National Center for State Courts. I follow in the footsteps of former Chief Justices Veasey and Steele to lead these organizations through challenging times.

There is always more work to do, but the future has never been brighter for Delaware's Judicial Branch. Our success would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our judicial officers, court staff, and justice partners. Thank you for your public service.

Collins J. Seitz Jr.

Collins J. Seitz, Jr.
Chief Justice

Year in Review



Investiture of Judge Sonia Augusthy 7/31/25



Investiture of Judge Monica A. Horton 9/18/25



Salesianum School wins 2025 Delaware High School Mock Trial Competition 3/3/25



Supreme Court hears oral arguments at Delaware Technical Community College in Sussex County 3/20/25



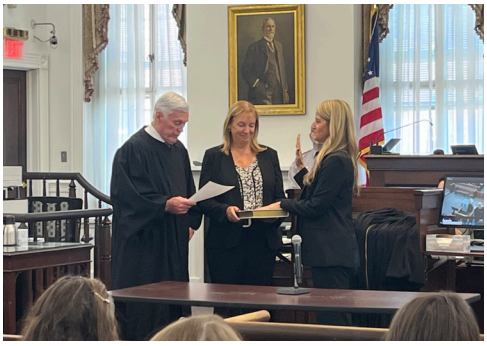
Supreme Court hears oral arguments at Widener University Delaware Law School 4/9/25



Investiture of Judge Gerard M. Spadaccini 9/4/25

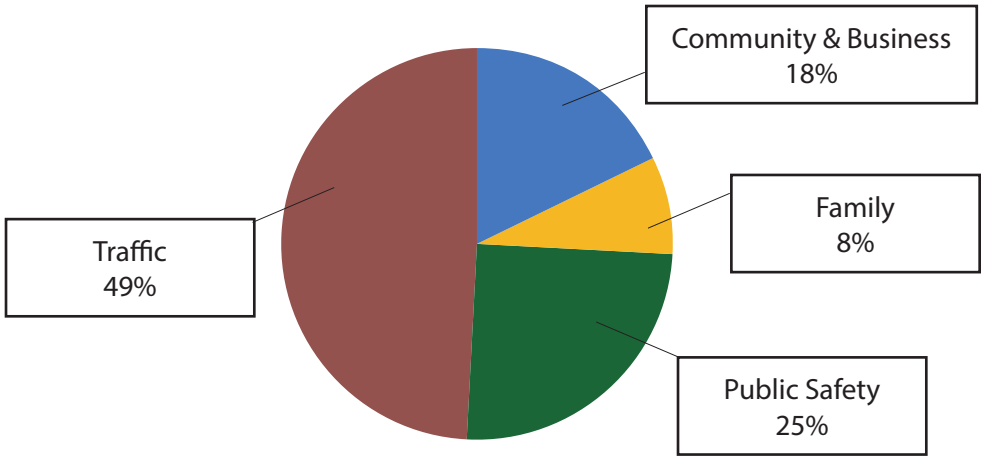


Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. addresses the Bench and Bar conference 6/12/25



Investiture of Judge Jennifer S. Donahue 9/12/25

Case Types as a Share of All Court Filings Fiscal Year 2024





Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. elected President of the Conference of Chief Justices (pictured without going President, Utah Chief Justice Matthew Durrant) 7/30/25



Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. visits Taiwan as part of a goodwill tour 9/5/25

NEW FAMILY COURT BUILDING IN GEORGETOWN

On November 13, 2025, the Delaware Family Court formally welcomed the public to the new Sussex County Family Courthouse in Georgetown. Clockwise from the top: the building as it appeared in October 2024; images from the ceremonial installation of a time capsule and date stone on August 21, 2025 and the buiding at its opening in the fall of 2025.









THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

The Delaware Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, the Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, the Justice of the Peace Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and related non-judicial agencies.

Supreme Court

- Court of Last Resort
- Final appellate jurisdiction for most criminal cases, civil cases, certain orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and Family Court
- Issuer of certain writs
- Jurisdiction over questions of law certified to the courts

Court of Chancery

- Equity Court
- Hears all cases in equity (typically corporate, trust, fiduciary matters, land sale, real estate, and commercial/contractual matters)
- Certain guardianship cases

Superior Court

- Law Court
- Original statewide jurisdiction over all criminal and civil cases (except equity)
- Exclusive jurisdiction over nearly all felonies and drug offenses
- Intermediate appellate court from Court of Common Pleas, Family Court (adult criminal) and various state agencies, boards and commissions

Family Court

- Legal and equitable jurisdiction over all domestic relations cases, including divorce, custody, guardianships, adoptions, visitation, child and spousal support, and property division
- Jurisdiction over all juvenile offenses except certain serious offenses

Court of Common Pleas

- All criminal misdemeanors (except certain drug offenses) and motor vehicle offenses (except felonies)
- Responsible for preliminary hearings
- Statewide jurisdiction in civil actions that do not exceed $75,000
- Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court, Alderman's Court and Division of Motor Vehicles

Justice of the Peace Court

- Statewide jurisdiction over civil cases that do not exceed $25,000
- Jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors and motor vehicle cases (except felonies)
- Jurisdiction over landlord/tenant (possession) cases
- Generally sets bail in most cases

FISCAL OVERVIEW



FISCAL OVERVIEW

Summary of Judicial Budget
Fiscal Years 2024-2026
General Funds

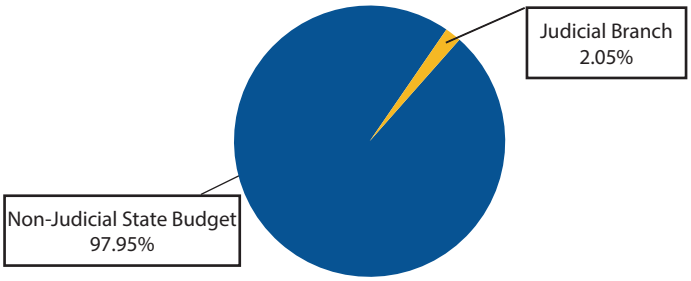
	FY 2024 Enacted Budget	FY 2025 Enacted Budget	FY 2026 Enacted Budget
Supreme Court	$4,253,600	$4,475,000	$4,781,700
Court of Chancery	$4,850,900	$5,837,500	$7,834,900
Superior Court	$30,040,900	$31,839,000	$34,237,900
Family Court	$22,812,200	$24,403,800	$28,709,700
Family Court Pass Through Funds*	$464,400	$864,400	$1,672,400
Court of Common Pleas	$12,069,800	$13,032,300	$14,051,000
Justice of the Peace Court	$21,996,000	$24,367,900	$27,527,400
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	$4,777,100	$5,040,100	$5,286,500
AOC Custodial Pass Through Funds**	$3,135,100	$4,785,100	$5,721,200
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE)	$670,300	$721,100	$792,500
Information Technology	$4,426,500	$4,625,400	$4,856,000
Law Libraries	$476,400	$494,900	$508,200
Office of the Public Guardian	$858,000	$914,000	$989,500
Office of the Child Advocate	$3,513,300	$3,768,600	$4,129,800
Maternal and Child Death Review Commission	$485,700	$517,500	$555,300
Delaware Residents' Protection Commission	$93,800	$193,900	$221,800
TOTAL	**$114,924,000**	**$125,880,500**	**$141,875,800**

* Family Court Pass Through Funds include Family Court Civil Attorneys and Parental Representation. Parental Representation began in FY 25. Please note that Family Court pass through funds were not reported separately until this year.

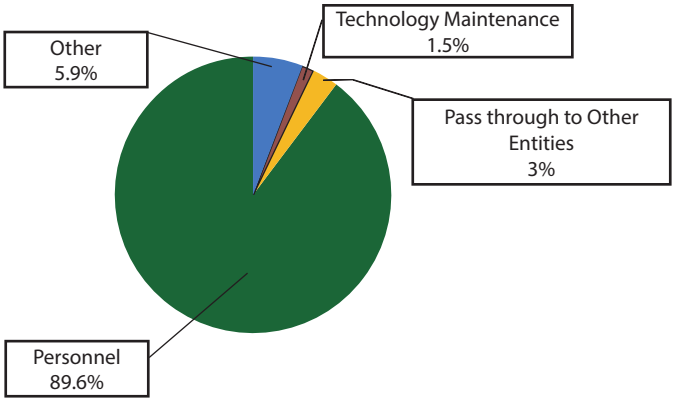
** AOC pass through programs include the following: the Superior Court Appointed Attorney Program, Court Interpreter Program, Victim Offender Alternative Case Resolution Program, Elder Law Program, Law Related Education and other funds. In FY 25, a new pass through program called "Right to Representation" was added. Technology Maintenance consists of pass through funding to other state departments and vendors for equipment and services branch-wide.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

The Judiciary's Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation is 2.05% of the State General Fund Budget



Fiscal Year 2025 Judicial Budget Breakdown



State of Delaware - Fiscal Year 2025

Breakdown of General Fund Appropriations		
Public Education	$2,157,197,900	35.20%
Health and Social Services	$1,635,847,500	26.69%
Correction	$434,233,000	7.08%
Higher Education	$298,802,500	4.88%
Children, Youth and Their Families	$218,944,900	3.57%
Safety and Homeland Security	$195,877,900	3.20%
Judicial Branch	$125,880,500	2.05%
All Other	$1,062,431,600	17.33%
TOTAL*	**$6,129,215,800**	**100.00%**

* Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Judicial Branch Appropriations - Fiscal Year 2025

General Funds by Court or Unit		
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	$5,040,100	4.00%
AOC Pass Through Funds*	$4,785,100	3.80%
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement	$721,100	0.57%
Information Technology	$4,625,400	3.67%
Law Libraries	$494,900	0.39%
Other**	$5,394,000	4.29%
Supreme Court	$4,475,000	3.55%
Court of Chancery	$5,837,500	4.64%
Superior Court	$31,839,000	25.29%
Family Court	$24,403,800	19.39%
Family Court Pass Through Funds***	$864,400	0.69%
Court of Common Pleas	$13,032,300	10.35%
Justice of the Peace Court	$24,367,900	19.36%
TOTAL**	**$125,880,500**	**100.00%**

* AOC Pass Through Funds consist of Court Appointed Attorneys/Involuntary Commitment, the Court Interpreter Program, Victim Offender Alternative Case Resolution Program, Elder Law Program, Technology Maintenance, Law Related Education, and the Right to Representation Program.

** Other: Office of the Public Guardian, Office of the Child Advocate, Maternal and Child Death Review Commission, and Delaware Residents' Protection Commission.

*** Family Court Pass Through Funds include Family Court Civil Attorneys and Parental Representation. Parental Representation began in FY 25. Please note that Family Court Pass Through Funds were not reported separately until this year.

**** Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Court Generated Revenue* - Fiscal Year 2025

Submitted to the General Fund

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	Total
Supreme Court	$125,052	-	-	-	$125,052
Court of Chancery	$1,160,001	-	-	-	$1,160,001
Superior Court	$2,875,321	$114,542	-	$249,808	$3,239,671
Family Court	$61,395	$12,171	-	$6,744	$80,310
Court of Common Pleas	$1,618,036	$283,955	-	$40,336	$1,942,327
Justice of the Peace Court	$2,013,475	$1,716,402	-	$21,282	$3,751,158
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement**	$54,503	$7,365	-	-	$61,868
State Total	**$7,907,783**	**$2,134,435**	**-**	**$318,170**	**$10,360,388**

Submitted to Counties and Municipalities

	Fees & Costs	Fines	Interest	Miscellaneous	Total
Superior Court	$65,556	$15,183	-	-	$80,739
Family Court	-	$1,905	-	-	$1,905
Court of Common Pleas	$8	$128,289	-	-	$128,297
Justice of the Peace Court	-	$1,903,753	-	-	$1,903,753
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement	$281	$1,957	-	-	$2,238
Counties and Municipalities Total	**$65,845**	**$2,051,087**	**-**	**-**	**$2,116,932**

GRAND TOTAL	**$7,973,628**	**$4,185,522**	**-**	**$318,170**	**$12,477,320**

* Figures represent revenue actually received, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed. Figures include funds authorized in the Budget Act for the Court of Common Pleas and the FY 25 Fee Increase Spending Plan (SB 325, Sections 42 and 49). Court-generated revenue for this table does not include most criminal statutory assessments collected by the Courts on behalf of other agencies or entities, such as the Fund to Combat Violent Crime or the Videophone Fund.

** OSCCE collected probationary fees on behalf of the Department of Correction (DOC). The assessment of DOC Supervision Fees was eliminated in April 2023 with the implementation of HB 244 with HA2 of the 151st General Assembly, and the discharge of outstanding balances was authorized by SB 284 of the 152nd General Assembly effective August 2024. Included in the figures above is $43,041.62 in DOC Supervision Fees, collected in 2024 prior to the effective date of SB 284.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

Statutory Assessments Collected by the Courts

Criminal Only	
Court Security Fee*	$1,266,914
Drug Diversion Fee	$4,441
Drug Ed/Rehab SARTEP	$19,298
DELJIS	$15,284
Fund to Combat Violent Crime (State)	$874,153
Fund to Combat Violent Crime (Local)	$872,802
Senior Trust Fund	$1,587
Voluntary Ambulance Fund	$1,067,166
Victim Compensation	$1,221,696
Victim Rights Fund	$24,893
Video Phone Fee	$107,579
Transportation Trust Fund	$1,952,344
Civil Red Light	$10,745
Statutory transfer from GF Court Fees to DelDOT:	
Inspection & Maintenance	$2,454,340
DMVT	$38,574

* Revenue from Court Security totals $1,712,899 when civil collections are included with the criminal collections. Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

General Funds and Appropriated Special Funds (GF and ASF) Percent of Budget from Criminal Fees and Fines	
Judicial GF FY 25 Budget	$125,880,500
Judicial ASF FY 25 Budget	$14,254,200
Total GF + ASF FY 25 Budget	$140,134,700
Judicial Branch Authority from Criminal Fees and Fines	$1,324,285
Criminal Fees and Fines as a Percent of the total Judicial Branch Budget	0.95%

Apppropriated Special Funds (ASF) are derived from fees that are collected and designated for a specific purpose. Most court collections listed in the table on page 12 support programs outside of the Judicial Branch.

There are additional ASF revenues which are indirectly associated with fines and fees, primarily civil. Specifically, there is an ASF line called "Judicial Services" for $2,050,000 in FY 2025, which was appropriated in connection with a previous increase in fees. Most of those fees were Civil, although there is one fee which can be either Civil or Criminal.

Section 1 and Section 42 of the FY 2025 Budget Act (SB 325 of the 152nd General Assembly) appropriated ASF funds to the Court of Chancery and the Court of Common Pleas through the budget process; those funds, however, are not tied to specific fees. The Court of Chancery fines and fees are civil, and the Court of Common Pleas fines and fees may be civil or criminal. These funds are not included in the table above as they are not directly tied to any criminal collections.

Total Criminal Collections by Type and Recipient Fiscal Year 2025

Recipient of Collections	Fines	Fees & Costs	Assessments	Restitution	Total	Total Criminal: Recipient Breakdown
Courts	$0	$57,371	$1,266,914	-	$1,324,285	7.39%
GF/State	$2,549,391	$909,533	$0	-	$3,458,924	19.29%
Counties/Municipalities including Statutory Funds	$2,066,599	$64,939	$1,939,968	-	$4,071,506	22.71%
Statutory Fund	$5,604	$2,415,419	$4,232,021	-	$6,653,044	37.11%
Victims	-	-	$0	$2,419,601	$2,419,601	13.50%
Total	**$4,621,594**	**$3,447,262**	**$7,438,903**	**$2,419,601**	**$17,927,360**	**100.00%**

The above represents the criminal court collections from our criminal courts: Superior Court, Family Court, Court of Common Pleas, the Justice of the Peace Court and the OSCCE. Much of the above is not technically defined as court revenue, but rather as revenue for the State or other entities which is collected by the courts. Definitions below are not intended to be all-inclusive.

Fines: Includes state fines, town fines, criminal fines, DUI fines, and forensic fines.

Fees and Costs: Includes court costs, extradition, kiosks, Public Defender fees, and capiases. Assessments of certain fees, such as the kiosk fee, the Public Defender fee, and the Voluntary Assessment Center late and e-payment fees, were eliminated upon the effective date of HB 244 w/ HA 2 of the 151st General Assembly.

Assessments: Includes Court Security, Senior Trust Fund, Victim Rights, Victim Compensation, Drug Ed/Rehab Substance Abuse (SARTEP), Civil Penalty/ Drug Diversion Fees, Transportation Trust Fund Surcharge, Voluntary Ambulance Fund, the DELJIS Fund, the Videophone Fund, and the Fund to Combat Violent Crime. The Senior Trust fee and the SARTEP fee were eliminated upon the effective date of SB 282 of the 152nd General Assembly.

Revenues for the Volunteer Ambulance Company Fund and the Fund to Combat Violent Crimes (Local) are pass throughs for State agencies or commissions to municipalities or local entities. They are reported under "Counties/Municipalities including Statutory Funds".

FISCAL OVERVIEW

*Collections Assistance by the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) on Behalf of Courts and Agencies**

Superior Court	$920,175
Family Court	$173,477
Court of Common Pleas	$343,932
Justice of the Peace Court	$149,495
OSCCE Receivables	$1,076,342
Department of Correction	$43,042
Court of Chancery	$6,539
Child Support	$160,247
OSCCE Assistance Total	**$2,873,249**

* The figures represent all effort made by the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) on behalf of the Delaware Judicial Branch. These figures, in large part, overlap with the amounts collected by the various courts and agencies, and should not be considered additional. Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

*Court Generated Revenue - Fiscal Year 2025 Restitution**

	Assessed	Collected	Disbursed
Superior Court	$4,230,117	$736,426	$868,110
Family Court	$169,000	$77,582	$78,612
Court of Common Pleas	$1,089,005	$555,912	$570,973
Justice of the Peace Court	$3,600	$15,279	$14,593
Office of State Court Collections Enforcement	-	$1,034,401	$866,863
RESTITUTION TOTAL	**$5,491,722**	**$2,419,600**	**$2,399,151**

* Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

COURTHOUSE VISITORS



LEONARD L. WILLIAMS JUSTICE CENTER

428,017 Screened at Main Security Entrance



KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

101,316 Screened at Main Security Entrance



KENT COUNTY FAMILY COURT BUILDING

81,088 Screened at Main Security Entrance



DELAWARE SUPREME COURT

2,484 Screened at Main Security Entrance



SUSSEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

99,734 Screened at Main Security Entrance



SUSSEX COUNTY FAMILY COURT BUILDING

75,978 Screened at Main Security Entrance



SUSSEX COUNTY COURT OF CHANCERY

7,690 Screened at Main Security Entrance

Figures for calendar year 2024

THE COURTS



Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the State's appellate court which receives direct appeals from the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. As administrative head of the courts, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in consultation with the other justices, sets administrative policy for the court system. The Supreme Court was created by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1. The Supreme Court sits in Dover.



Chief Justice
Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

By the Numbers

SUPREME COURT

- Justices - 5
- Court Staff - 28

TOTAL: 33

ARMS OF THE COURT

- Staff -10

TOTAL: 10

SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Justices

Left to Right
Justice Abigail M. LeGrow • Justice Karen L. Valihura
Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.
Justice Gary F. Traynor • Justice N. Christopher Griffiths

2025 Highlights



• On 1/30/25, Jessica L. Tyler was appointed Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, an Arm of the Delaware Supreme Court. Prior to this post, Tyler served as Deputy Disciplinary Counsel for three years.

• On 4/7/25, the Delaware Board of Bar Examiners announced it will begin using the new NextGen Bar Exam in Feb. 2028, becoming the 39th state to announce it would adopt the new test.

• On 5/22/25, the court created a task force to assess alternative pathways to admission to the Delaware Bar. The task force, headed by Justice Gary F. Traynor, broadly represents Delaware's legal community including representatives from both the public and private bar, legal aid groups and local law schools. The group's report is due to the Chief Justice in June 2026.

• On 9/30/2025, Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr., along with Vice Chancellor Paul Fioravanti and Senior Magistrate in Chancery Selena Molina, spoke to a class of about 20 students from the University of Delaware's Biden School of Public Policy, about the importance of public service and working for the courts.





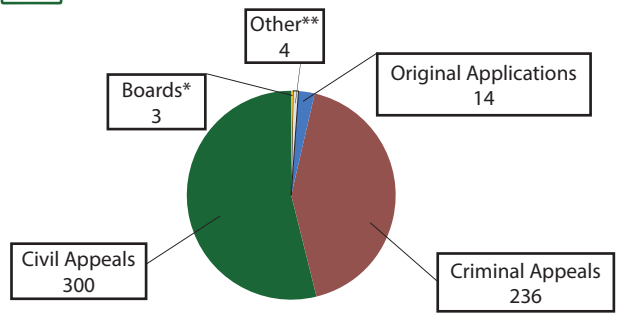
• After nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the State of Delaware and the Delaware Judiciary, Patricia Bartley Schwartz retired from her position as Executive Director of the Board of Bar Examiners at the end of 2025.

SUPREME COURT

Number of Supreme Court Filings by Court of Origination Fiscal Year 2025

21	66	111	359
Non-court Originated	Family Court	Court of Chancery	Superior Court

Number of Supreme Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025



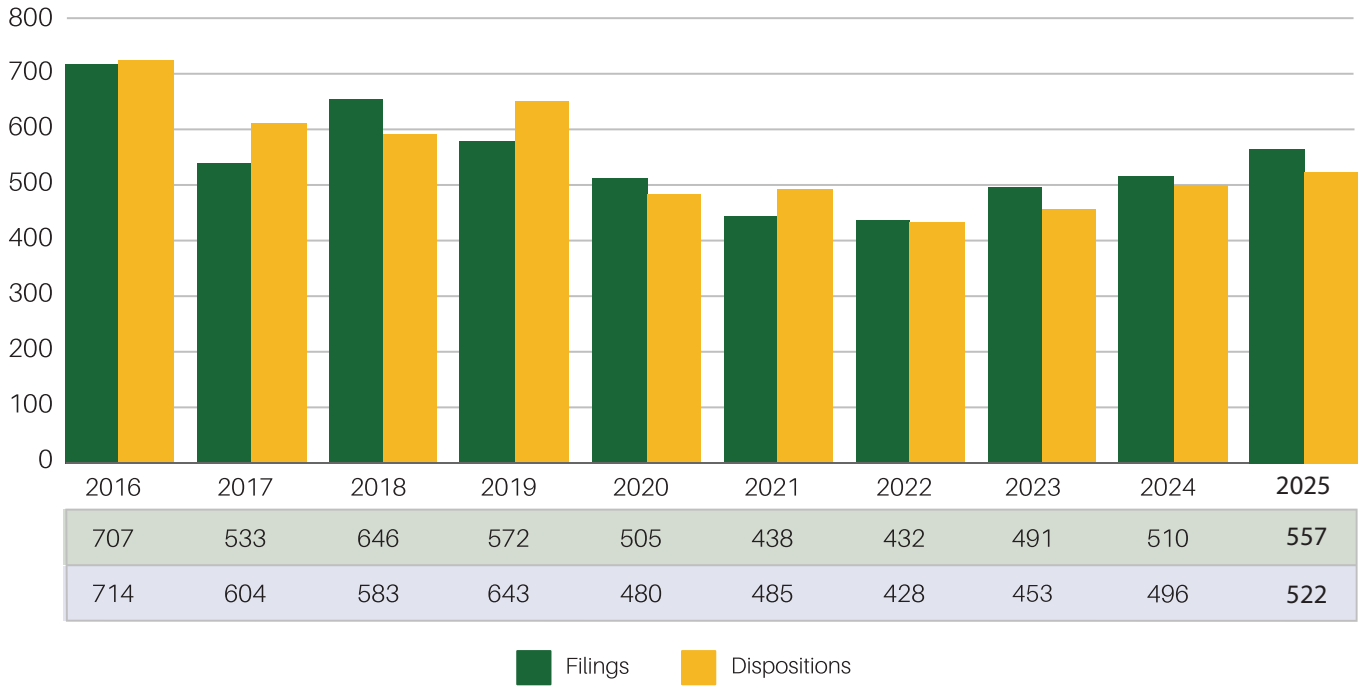
* Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.
** Includes four certifications and one other.

Average Number of Days from Filing to Disposition by Case Type

0	23	82	115	152	209	243
Advisory Opinions	Boards*	Original Applications	Certifications	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Other

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

Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	707	533	646	572	505	438	432	491	510	557
Dispositions	714	604	583	643	480	485	428	453	496	522

Court on the Judiciary

Delaware judges are governed by the highest standards of conduct in both their professional and personal capacities. The Court on the Judiciary is responsible for the receipt, investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and resolution of complaints alleging the ethical misconduct or disability of state judicial officers in Delaware. The judicial disciplinary process safeguards the integrity of, and thereby promotes public confidence in, the Judiciary and the judicial process.

Docketed Complaints FY 25

43

Complaints Dismissed FY 25

42

Complaints Referred for Investigation FY 25

0

Arms of the Supreme Court

Commission on Law and Technology

The commission develops and publishes guidelines and best practices regarding the use of technology and the practice of law. The commission was created by order of the Supreme Court on July 1, 2013, and became effective on Sept. 15, 2013. The Delaware Supreme Court then re-established and re-focused the commission by order on Nov. 27, 2023. The commission is composed of members who are appointed by the Court and serve three-year terms.

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection is a fund created by the Delaware Supreme Court to provide monetary relief to clients who have suffered financial losses as a result of the dishonest conduct of lawyers. While acts of attorney dishonesty are the exceptions and not the rule, the fund was established to show the good faith of all members of the Delaware Bar.

Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

The commission regulates legal education compliance for members of the Delaware State Bar. In addition, the commission reviews and processes CLE providers` applications for program approval.

CLE Transcripts Processed FY 25

6,867

CLE Programs Evaluated FY 25

7,280

Arms of the Supreme Court

Board of Bar Examiners



The board considers applications for admission and results of examinations for admissions to the Delaware State Bar. The Delaware Bar Examination consists of the Multistate Bar Examination, two Multistate Performance Tests and four essay questions. In addition, applicants must also pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

199 Bar Exam Applicants July 2024	92 Bar Exam Applicants February 2025	204 Admitted to the Bar in Fiscal Year 2025*

* Does not reflect number who passed the Bar Exam

Office of Disciplinary Counsel



The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) assists the Supreme Court in regulating the practice of law. In this capacity, the ODC is charged with evaluating, investigating, and, if warranted, prosecuting lawyer misconduct. All complaints regarding a Delaware lawyer's conduct should be directed to the ODC.

Disciplinary Complaints & Other Matters Opened FY 25

264



Disciplinary Complaints & Other Matters Resolved FY 25

178



CLE Presentations by ODC FY 25

22



Ethics Hotline Inquiries FY 25

144



Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaints Opened FY 25

17



Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaints Resolved FY 25

11



The Delaware Bar as of March 2025

Active Lawyers	3,991
Inactive Lawyers	792
Emeritus Lawyers	159
Total Lawyers	4,942

Court of Chancery

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to equity. The litigation in this tribunal deals largely with corporate issues, trusts, estates, other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase of land and questions of title to real estate as well as commercial and contractual matters. The Court of Chancery has a national reputation in the business community and is responsible for developing the case law in Delaware on corporate matters. Appeals from the Court of Chancery may be taken to the Supreme Court



Chancellor
Kathaleen St. J. McCormick

By the Numbers

COURT OF CHANCERY

- Judges - 7
- Magistrates - 7.5
- Court Staff - 78

TOTAL: 92.5

*The .5 represents a part-time magistrate



Court of Chancery

Seated Front Row (Left to Right):
Vice Chancellor Nathan A. Cook • Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr. • Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster
Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick • Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn • Vice Chancellor Lori W. Will
Vice Chancellor Bonnie W. David

Standing Second Row (Left to Right):
Magistrate in Chancery David Hume, IV • Magistrate in Chancery Christian Douglas Wright
Senior Magistrate in Chancery Selena E. Molina • Magistrate in Chancery Loren Mitchell
Magistrate in Chancery Danielle Gibbs
Magistrate in Chancery Patricia W. Griffin (retired 12/2022)

Not pictured:
Magistrate in Chancery Caroline Brittingham
Magistrate in Chancery Jessie R. Benavides

2025 Highlights

• Attorney Gregory Birney was presented with the Court of Chancery's Annual Award for Attorney ad litem service to the Court on 12/3/24.

• The Honorable Bonnie W. David, who had been serving as a Magistrate in Chancery, became a Vice Chancellor on 1/7/25.

• For the fifth year, the court welcomed high school interns participating in the Delaware Department of State's Future Leaders Internship Initiative ("FLii").

• The Court welcomed Christopher D. Renaud as the Court's new Chief Staff Attorney on 10/20/25.

• The Court completed its expansion of the Magistrate in Chancery Bench to seven full-time judicial officers, welcoming: David Hume, IV on 2/10/25; Caroline Brittingham on 9/8/25 and Jessie R. Benavides on 9/22/25. The Chancellor also announced the elevation of Magistrate in Chancery Selena Molina to the newly created title of Senior Magistrate Judge on 1/2/25 formalizing the leadership role she has informally held over the past few years.



Magistrate Brittingham



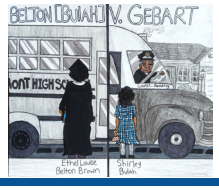
Magistrate Benavides

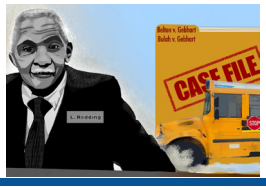
• Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr. held a Special Session at historic New Castle Court House Museum in Old New Castle, helping that historic building maintain its claim as one of the oldest continually operating courthouses in the nation on 9/19/24.

• The Court of Chancery Historical Society hosted a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Hostile Takeover Era at the Chase Center on 11/11/25. This event included an afternoon of CLE presentations focused on important Chancery decisions from the 1980s, followed by a cocktail reception and dinner. The Historical Society hosted the event as a celebration of the legacy of the court, including some of the judges and practitioners involved in those seminal cases.

• The Court continued with its ongoing effort to update, modernize and improve court rules and processes including revising Sample Confidentiality and Quick Peek Stipulations; updating Guidelines for Litigants; updating guidelines for requesting special designation of judicial officers; amending rules 143 and 144; updates to the e-filing system; and creating a new process for handling routine civil actions.

• The Court held its Third Annual Student Legal History Art Contest in 2025. The contest winners included: Nevaeh Rumbley, 17 of Dover High School, who won the $500 first-place prize for her work, "Next Stop... Hopes and Dreams!"; Sarah Emily Falu, 17, of Polytech High School and her work "Louis Redding is a Pioneer for Equal Rights" and Sharon Rodney, 15, of Early College School at Delaware State University and her work "Shattering the Color Line" both won the $300 second-place prize; and Onna Parrish, 16 of Appoquinimink High School won the $200 third-place prize for her untitled work "Untitled."

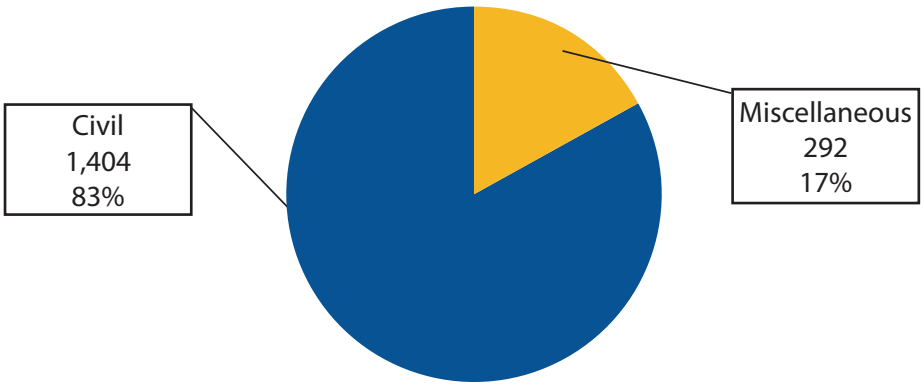






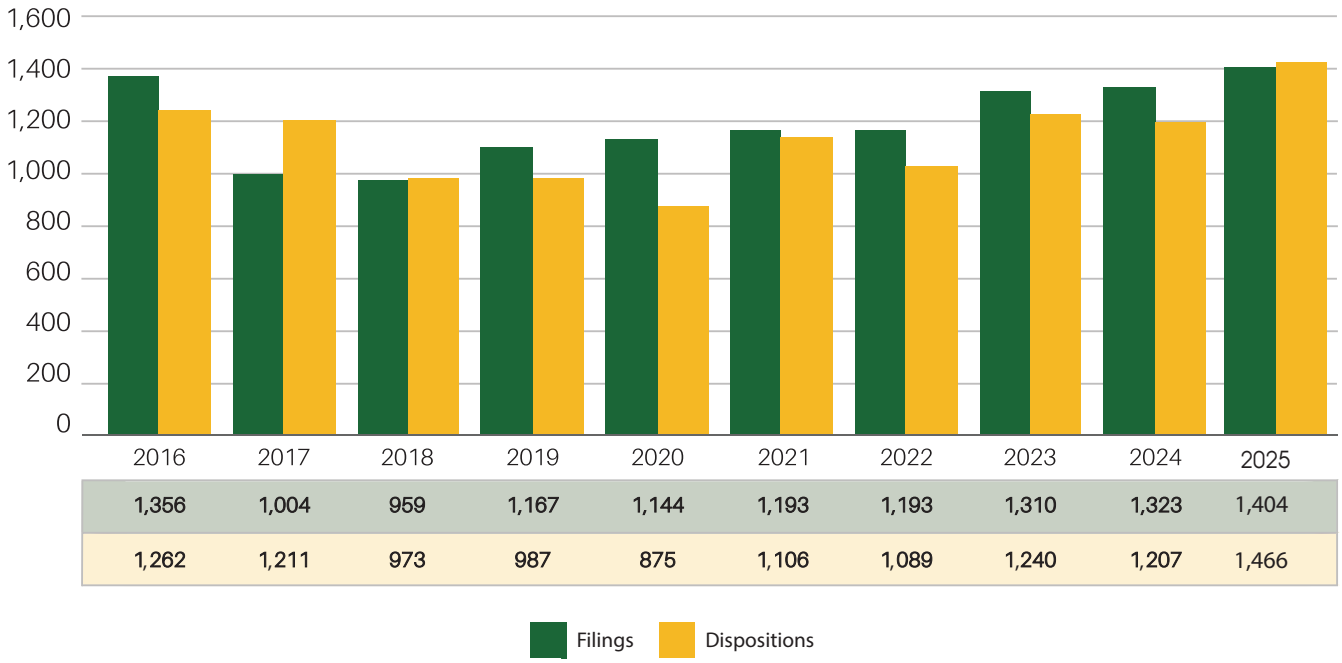


Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025



Before FY 23 reactivated cases were included in this count. Beginning FY 23 they were excluded. FY 25 saw 62 reactivated cases.

Civil Caseload Trend by Fiscal Year



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	1,356	1,004	959	1,167	1,144	1,193	1,193	1,310	1,323	1,404
Dispositions	1,262	1,211	973	987	875	1,106	1,089	1,240	1,207	1,466

Superior Court

The Superior Court, the State's court of general jurisdiction, has original jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases except equity cases. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and almost all drug offenses. In civil matters, the Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Superior Court also serves as an intermediate appellate court by hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, the Family Court (in criminal cases), and a number of administrative agencies. Appeals from the Superior Court may be taken to the Supreme Court.



President Judge
Eric M. Davis

By the Numbers

SUPERIOR COURT

- Judges - 21
- Commissioners - 5
- Court Staff - 302

TOTAL: 328

SUPERIOR COURT



Superior Court Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right):
Judge Paul R. Wallace • Judge Calvin L. Scott Jr. • President Judge Eric M. Davis
Resident Judge Charles E. Butler • Judge Ferris W. Wharton

Standing, Second Row (Left to Right):
Judge Mark H. Conner • Judge Meghan A. Adams • Judge Noel Eason Primos
Resident Judge Jeffrey J Clark • Judge Sheldon K. Rennie • Judge Francis J. Jones Jr.
Judge Robert H. Robinson Jr.

Standing, Third Row (Left to Right):
Judge Sonia Augusthy • Judge Kathleen M. Miller • Judge Patricia A. Winston
Judge Danielle J. Brennan • Judge Sean P. Lugg • Judge Kathleen M. Vavala
Judge Monica A. Horton

Not Pictured:
Resident Judge Craig A. Karsnitz • Judge Reneta L. Green-Streett



Superior Court Commissioners

Left to Right:
Commissioner Janine M. Salomone • Commissioner Alicia B. Howard
Commissioner Martin B. O'Connor • Commissioner Andrea M. Freud
Commissioner Lynne M. Parker

2025 Highlights

• Superior Court welcomed the Honorable Eric M. Davis as its new President Judge on April 17, 2025. President Judge Davis previously served on the Court of Common Pleas from 2010-2012 and joined Superior Court in 2012.

• Superior Court also welcomed the Honorable Sonia Augusthy on May 16, 2025, and Judge Monica A. Horton on June 26, 2025. Judge Augusthy was with the Office of Defense Services before being nominated as a Superior Court Judge and Judge Horton was with the Court of Common Pleas before being nominated as a Superior Court Judge.

• Superior Court continues to see case filings increase in its Complex Commercial Litigation Division ("CCLD"). In Fiscal Year 2024 there were 223 CCLD cases filed. In Fiscal Year 2025 the filings increased by 40 to 273. This in part has been driven by the February 2023 cross designation order from the Chief Justice allowing CCLD to take on breach of contract cases from the Court of Chancery where damages are sought. Since that time, CCLD Judges have closed 43 Section 111 cases, while 65 remain pending and three have been stayed.

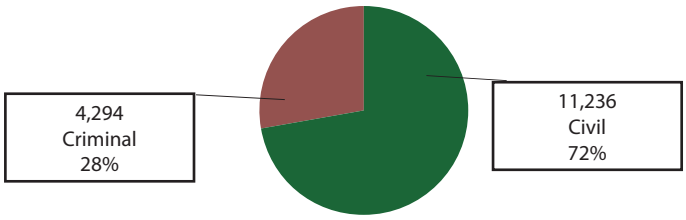
• Superior Court is working to implement new probation standards in the wake of the enactment of Senate Bill 7 (Probation Reform) on July 1, 2025. The act instructs the courts, the Board of Parole, and the Bureau of Community Corrections to use the least restrictive probation and parole conditions and the most minimally intrusive reporting requirements necessary to achieve the goals of community supervision. The legislation is effective December 28, 2025.

• Superior Court is also working to implement Senate Bill 10 (Compassionate Release) that was enacted on July 14, 2025. This act, named for Richard "Mouse" Smith, removes the Board of Parole from the sentence modification process, thereby allowing the Department of Correction and incarcerated individuals, themselves or through their legal counsel, to apply directly to the sentencing court for modifications. Superior Court is coordinating with the Department of Correction to facilitate a seamless rollout of this new process. This legislation is effective January 10, 2026.

• As part of the Automatic Mandatory Expungement statute ("Clean Slate"), Superior Court has been working to identify and review criminal cases where dispositions were unknown, unobtainable or pending in the Court's records. This project was undertaken to permit eligible criminal cases to proceed through Clean Slate. To date, approximately 10,000 criminal case records have been reviewed using this process. Superior Court continues to work on this effort to permit additional criminal cases to be available for expungement. Beginning in August 2024 through September 2025, Superior Court completed 401 Clean Slate expungements, with 298 in New Castle County; 62 in Kent County; and 41 in Sussex County.

SUPERIOR COURT

Number of Superior Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025



Number of Superior Court Criminal Dispositions by Method Fiscal Year 2025

3,265 Guilty Plea	835 Nolle Prosequi	112 Trial	
42 Diversion	17 Dismissal	11 Remand/Transfer	0 Consolidation

Number of Superior Court Criminal Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025

2,826 Indictment	1,180 Information	231 Rule 9 Warrant	57 Other

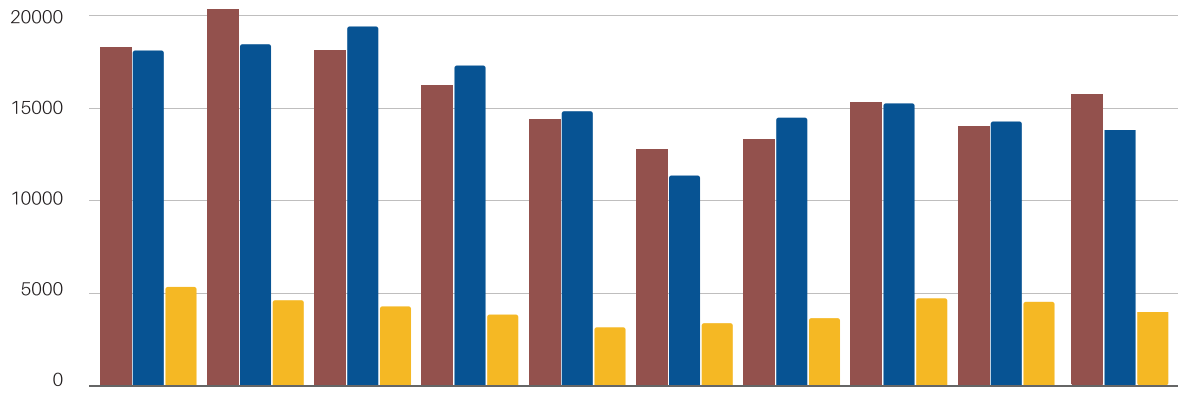
Number of Superior Court Civil Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025

5,791 Complaints	3,260 Miscellaneous	
1,347 Mechanic's Liens & Mortgages	742 Involuntary Commitments	96 Appeals

Number of Superior Court Civil Complaint Dispositions by Method Fiscal Year 2025

3,027 Voluntary Dismissal	982 Other	291 Default Judgment	19 Trial

Superior Court Civil and Criminal Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	18,292	20,315	18,132	16,211	14,375	12,793	13,309	15,321	14,012	15,530
Dispositions	18,109	18,447	19,405	17,298	14,834	11,364	14,487	15,257	14,279	13,971
VOP Filings	5,358	4,639	4,307	3,865	3,179	3,402	3,673	4,743	4,553	4,173

SUPERIOR COURT

Jury Services

The Superior Court supplies jurors for civil and criminal Superior Court trials; for criminal Court of Common Pleas trials; and for landlord tenant trials in the Justice of the Peace Courts. The Superior Court also provides jurors for the Grand Jury process.

Summoned Jurors by County

118,115 New Castle	18,269 Kent	25,229 Sussex
Total Jurors Summoned FY25	161,613	

Jurors Brought In by County

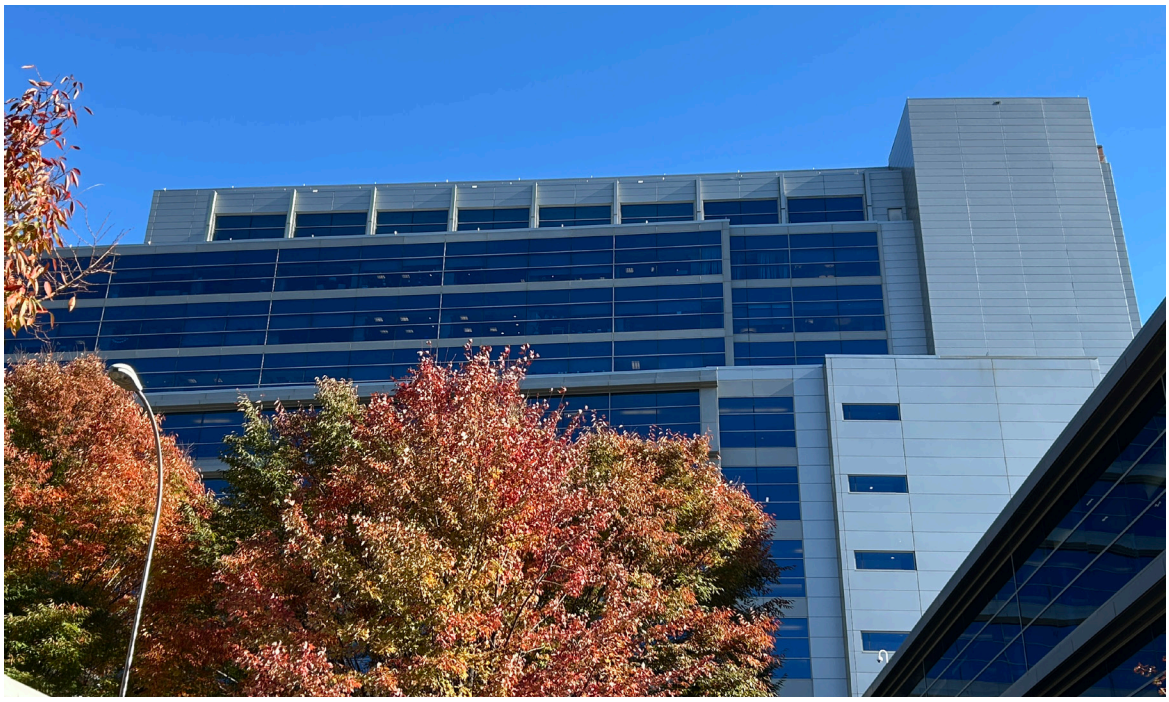
18,580 New Castle	3,239 Kent	2,058 Sussex
Total Jurors Brought In FY25	23,277	

Jury Trials by County

104 New Castle	23 Kent	14 Sussex
Total Jury Trials FY25	141	

Grand Jurors by County

289 New Castle	107 Kent	149 Sussex
Total Grand Jurors Served In FY25	545	



In Memoriam

Superior Court Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.

The Delaware Judiciary mourned the passing of retired Superior Court Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr. on July 30, 2025.

Judge Babiarz, 83, served on Superior Court from 1985 to 2010.



"John was intelligent, quick-witted, kind and generous. He was a larger-than-life presence on the Court for many years and a great colleague. He will be dearly missed," said Superior Court President Judge Eric M. Davis.

Judge Babiarz, a Delaware native and graduate of Salesianum High School, joined the Delaware Bar in 1966 after graduating from Harvard Law School. Prior to joining the bench, he was in private practice and formed the law firm Biondi and Babiarz in 1971. In 1979, he became a partner at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell where he worked until his appointment to Superior Court. On the bench he had a reputation as a fiercely independent jurist, neither consistently favoring defense nor the prosecution. He was the son of former Wilmington Mayor John Babiarz and was particularly pleased that during most of his judicial career he worked in the Daniel L. Herrmann Courthouse on Rodney Square, which was the same building where his father had his office during his time as mayor.

While serving on the bench, Judge Babiarz said the great strength of Delaware's legal community was the sense of decorum and mutual respect among members of the Delaware Bar.

Shortly after he was nominated in 1985, Judge Babiarz said that being a judge was the best job he ever had, adding, "I can't wait for tomorrow to come." And 25 years later, on the eve of his retirement, he remained as enthusiastic about being a judge as the day he took office. "I look forward to coming to work every day," he said.

Family Court

The Family Court has extensive jurisdiction over virtually all family and juvenile matters. All civil appeals, including those relating to juvenile delinquency, go directly to the Supreme Court while adult criminal cases are appealed to the Superior Court. The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, establishes the Family Court.



Chief Judge
Michael K. Newell

By the Numbers

FAMILY COURT

- Judges - 18
- Commissioners - 16
- Court Staff - 307

TOTAL: 341



Family Court Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right):
Judge Arlene Minus Coppadge • Judge Mardi F. Pyott • Judge Louann Vari
Judge James G. McGiffin, Jr. • Judge Mary S. Much • Judge Janell S. Ostroski • Judge Felice G. Kerr

Standing, Back Row (Left to Right):
Judge Paula T. Ryan • Judge Jennifer B. Ranji • Judge Peter B. Jones • Judge Theresa M. Hayes
Chief Judge Michael K. Newell • Judge Joelle P. Hitch • Judge Michael W. Arrington
Judge Natalie J. Haskins • Judge Mark D. Buckworth • Judge Eliza M. Hirst

Not Pictured:
Judge Jennifer S. Donahue

FAMILY COURT



Family Court Commisioners

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right):
Commissioner Candace E. Holmes • Commissioner Meghann O'Reilly Karasic
Commissioner Para K. Wolcott • Commissioner Sonja Truitt Wilson • Commissioner Theresa A. Sedivec
Commissioner Gretchen C. Gilchrist • Commissioner Emily A. Farley

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Standing, Back Row (Left to Right):
Commissioner Elizabeth C. Fillingame • Commissioner Francis E. Mieczkowski, III
Commissioner Andrew K. Southmayd (retired 10/2025) • Chief Judge Michael K. Newell
Commissioner Jessica B. Markowski-Kelly • Commissioner James J. Maxwell
Commissioner Mary E. Batten

Not Pictured:
Commissioner Craig R. Fitzgerald
Commissioner Jennifer L. Mayo
Commissioner Danielle S. Blount
Commissioner Mark Hudson

2025 Highlights

• The new Sussex County Family Court building in Georgetown opened to the public in November 2025. This is an important milestone for Family Court and the citizens of Sussex County. Many months of detailed planning ensured a smooth transition to the new facility with minimal disruption to public facing services.

• Family Court continues to work with construction teams on completion of the new Kent County Family Court courthouse in Dover, expected to open in the summer of 2026.

• Family Court welcomed the Honorable Jennifer Donahue, as a fourth Judge now assigned to Sussex County on 6/18/25.

• Family Court also welcomed three new commissioners: the Honorable Meghann O. Karasic in New Castle County on 4/17/25, the Honorable Mary E. Batten in Sussex County on 6/25/25, and the Honorable Elizabeth Fillingame in New Castle County on 7/11/25.

• The court worked on new processes to effectuate service in civil cases, with a focus on a process that provides optimal customer service and early interaction with judicial officers. This effort also led to numerous "blitz" calendars to move cases forward that had been awaiting service.

• The court continued with its training efforts for new staff and supervisors and has continued to improve its onboarding process to set new staff up for success.

• Family Court experienced a substantial increase in expungements this last fiscal year, over 3,400 more than FY 24, or a 145% increase.

• Family Court's PFA Compliance Calendar continued to grow this fiscal year with 79 more entries into the program than last fiscal year. This calendar remains a specialized calendar in all three counties that was created to increase engagement and completion of domestic violence intervention treatment by PFA respondents ordered to have a domestic violence evaluation. There are currently over 200 cases in the program, and it is a critical effort to help address domestic violence in Delaware.

• Family Court has focused on training new members of the court's Administrative Team throughout 2025, as several new members have joined the team in key leadership positions. This is a lengthy process, given the depth and breadth of Family Court's jurisdiction.

FAMILY COURT

Number of Family Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025

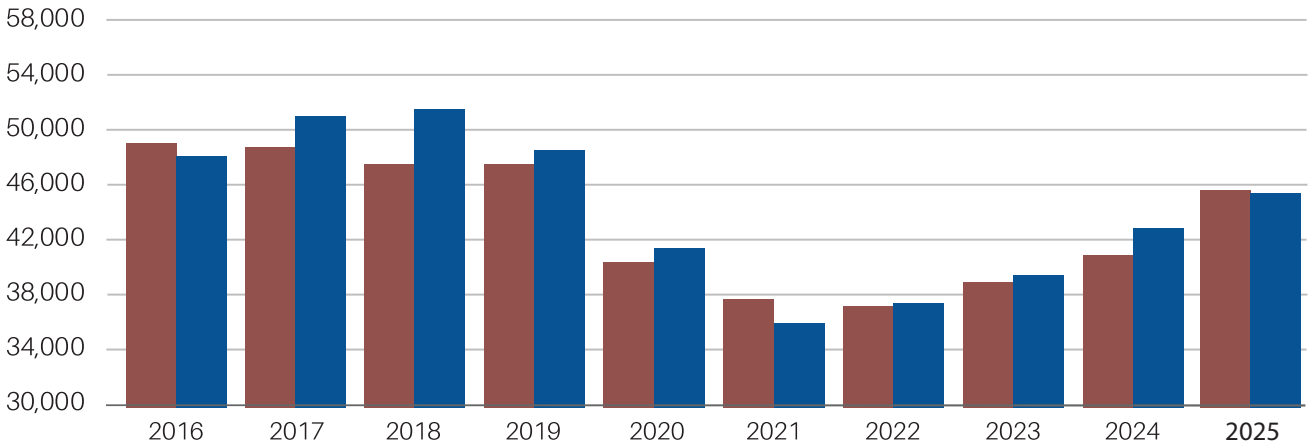
15,594 Child Support	5,844 Expungements (Juv. & Adult)	
4,946 Protection from Abuse	4,779 Adult Criminal	3,446 Juvenile Delinquency
3,185 Custody & Visitation	2,956 Other	2,940 Divorces & Annulments	1,450 Guardianship

45,140
Total Filings

Number of Family Court Filings by County Fiscal Year 2025

24,873 New Castle	9,698 Kent	10,569 Sussex

Family Court Civil and Criminal Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	49,093	48,834	47,469	47,383	40,331	37,567	37,259	38,969	40,832	45,140
Dispositions	48,067	50,869	51,400	48,462	41,371	35,901	37,295	39,279	42,781	43,283

Court of Common Pleas

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed $75,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas handles all misdemeanors occurring in the State except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses. The Court is also responsible for all preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Chief Judge
Carl C. Danberg

By the Numbers

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

- Judges - 9
- Commissioners - 3
- Court Staff - 137

TOTAL: 149

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



Court of Common Pleas Judges

Front Row (Left to Right)
Judge Anne E. Hartnett • Judge Katharine L. Mayer • Chief Judge Carl C. Danberg
Judge Monica A. Horton (elevated to Superior Court)
Judge Kathleen K. Amalfitano

Back Row (Left to Right)
Judge Bradley V. Manning • Judge Rae M. Mims • Judge Thomas Pedersen
Judge Gerard M. Spadaccini

Not Pictured
Judge Jordan Ponzo Perry



Court of Common Pleas Commissioners

Left to Right
Commissioner Gregory R. Babowal • Commissioner Donald R. Bucklin
Commissioner Emily A. Ferrell

2025 Highlights



• After 49 years of service to the State of Delaware, we congratulate our Fiscal Controller, Lynn Deramo-Durr, on her retirement from the Court of Common Pleas. Lynn began her time with the State of Delaware in 1975 and concluded her service on March 1st, 2025. We thank her for her tremendous efforts to our court and the people of Delaware.

• Judge Robert Surles retired from the bench on January 18, 2025. He retired after 1 term and 12 years of dedicated service to the Court of Common Pleas and the people of Delaware.



• Judge Monica A. Horton left the bench of the Court of Common Pleas on June 26, 2025 upon being confirmed as a judge for the Delaware Superior Court. She had served on the Court of Common Pleas since July 1, 2020.



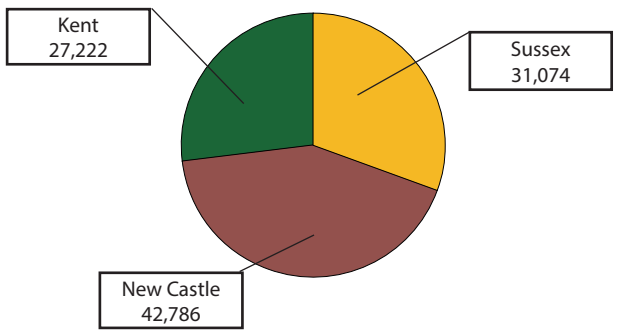
• The Court of Common Pleas welcomed Judge Gerard Spadaccini who was sworn in as a Judge in New Castle County on May 9th, 2025, followed by a public investiture ceremony on September 4th, 2025. He replaces Judge Surles. Judge Spadaccini served as an Assistant Public Defender with the Office of Defense Services for 21 years. From 2010 until his appointment, Spadaccini led the ODS's Court of Common Pleas Unit. Prior to that Judge Spadaccini served as a Deputy Principal Assistant in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Delaware. He earned his law degree from Widener University, his Master of Forensic Sciences degree from George Washington University, and his Bachelor of Science degree from Ursinus College.

• The Court of Common Pleas also welcomed Judge Jordan Ponzo Perry, who was sworn in as a Judge in New Castle County on September 23, 2025. She replaces Judge Horton. Before her nomination, Judge Perry served as an Assistant County Attorney for the New Castle County Department of Public Safety. Prior to that she worked as a partner at Jacobs & Crumplar P.A., where she handled personal injury, toxic tort, and abuse litigation. She also served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Maryland where she prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies in Prince George's County. She earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Delaware.



COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Civil and Criminal Filings by County Fiscal Year 2025



Preliminary Hearings by County Fiscal Year 2025

New Castle	Kent	Sussex
3,823	1,852	2,075

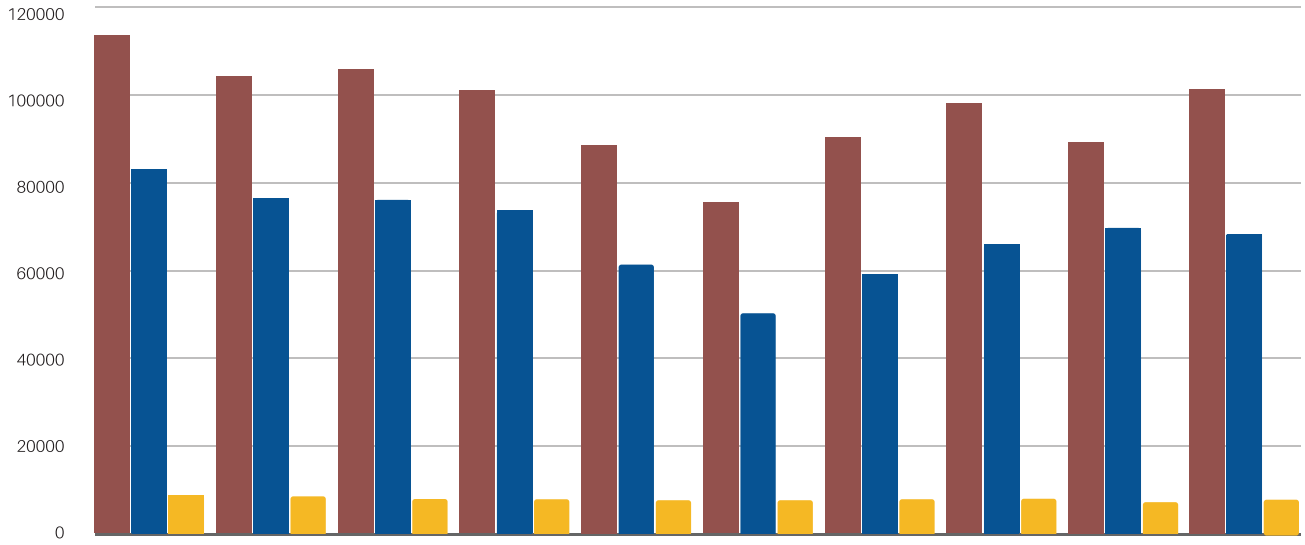
Number of Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025

3,975
Civil Judgement, Name Changes & Appeals

11,047
Civil Complaints

86,060
Criminal

Criminal Caseload Trend by Fiscal Year



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	113,547	104,205	105,796	100,995	88,519	75,473	90,178	98,021	89,189	101,082
Dispositions	82,939	76,435	76,012	73,535	61,250	50,155	59,098	65,807	69,624	68,653
Preliminary Hearings	8,689	8,402	7,798	7,739	7,520	7,521	7,745	7,857	7,076	7,750

Justice of the Peace Court

The Justice of the Peace Court has jurisdiction over civil cases involving debt, trespass and replevin in which the amount in controversy does not exceed $25,000.

The Justice of the Peace Court has jurisdiction over all landlord/tenant summary possession proceedings. Justice of the Peace Court is authorized to hear certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. The Justice of the Peace Court handles more than 90 percent of initial presentments/arraignments and warrants statewide.



Chief Magistrate
Alan G. Davis

By the Numbers

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

- Judicial Officers - 62
- Court Staff - 230

TOTAL: 292

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



Kent County Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)
Alexander Montano • Dana Tracy • Jamie Hicks • Nicole Alston-Jackson

Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)
D. Kenneth Cox • Michael Sherlock • James Murray

Not Pictured
Michael Green • Deputy Chief Magistrate Kevin Wilson
W.G. Edmanson, II • Dwight Dillard

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



Sussex County Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)
Bethany Crowley • Leah Chandler • Maria Castro
Deputy Chief Magistrate Deborah Keenan • Jennifer Sammons • Terri Davis

Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)
William Patrick Wood • John Hudson • John Adams • Kristine Kellenbenz
Matthew Tingle • Scott Willey • Christopher Bradley • Brett Graves

Not Pictured
Amber Welch • Mirta Collazo • Stephani Adams

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



New Castle County Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)
Maria Perez-Chambers • Maria Page • Mary Ellen Naugle
Deputy Chief Magistrate Sean McCormick • Susan Goldsman • Kerry Kowal • Lisa Emerson

Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)
Peter Burcat • Joesph Spagnolo • Rodney Vodery • James Hanby, Sr.
John Potts • Amanda Moyer • Earl MacFarlane • Gerald Ross, III
Beatrice Freel • Michelle Michini-Adam • Walter Newton

Not Pictured
Shelley Losito • Nina Bawa • Shameka Booker
Cheryl McCabe-Stroman • Bobby Hoof
Alex Peterson, III • Shanaya Eyong
Bracy Dizon, Jr. • Christopher Portante
Katharine Ross

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

2025 Highlights

• In February 2025, the State of Delaware Judicial Pension was implemented for Justice of the Peace Court Magistrates. The plan was previously in place for the Justice of the Peace Court Chief Magistrate and all judges in the higher courts and this move brings equity for all judicial officers in the Delaware courts and will improve the hiring and retention of judges at the Justice of the Peace Court.

• The Civil Mediation Unit moved into its new leased location at 113 Neurology Way, Milford, Kent County. The unit was created by legislation in 2023 that required the Justice of the Peace Court to establish and administer a residential eviction diversion program to facilitate dispute resolution between landlords and tenants. The facility provides administrative office space for the unit and may be used by the public for scheduled mediation meetings.

• Civil case filings increased an additional 17% in Fiscal Year 2025 over FY 2024. To manage the growing number of cases, the court has created a statewide Civil Intake Unit to more efficiently review and accept cases filed electronically. Initially the unit is handling civil debt cases with plans to expand to handle all types of civil cases filed in the court.

• Court 13 in New Castle, the highest volume civil court location for the Justice of the Peace Court in the state, has been challenged by a backlog of Landlord Tenant filings since COVID. To address the backlog, the court used resources from civil locations throughout the state, including dedicating a senior judge to the project; reviewed and revised processes, such as the use of virtual or in-person hearings; and focused staff efforts to optimize efficiencies and reduced the backlog.

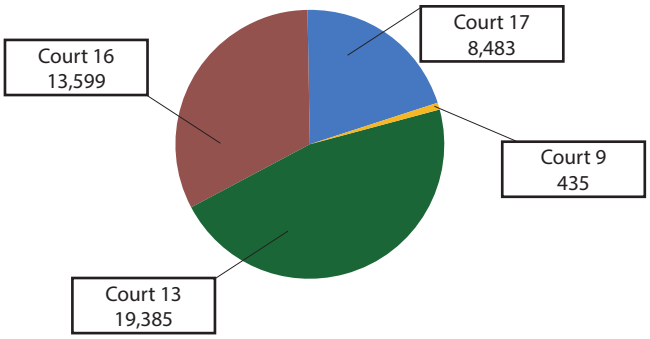
• Court 20 will be moving from the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center to make room for Delaware Chancery Court expansion. The new location at 824 North Market Street is scheduled to be fully renovated for move in by early 2026.



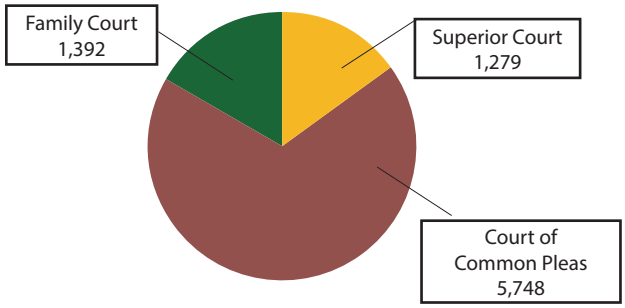
• The Justice of the Peace Court is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the court joining the Delaware State Court system. The legislation creating the modern Justice of the Peace Court was signed into law on March 31, 1965, by Governor Charles L. Terry and commemorated on March 31, 2025, with a special proclamation signed by Governor Matt Meyer.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Total Justice of the Peace Court Civil Cases Filed by the Court Fiscal Year 2025



Capiases Cleared by Justice of the Peace Court for Other Courts Fiscal Year 2025

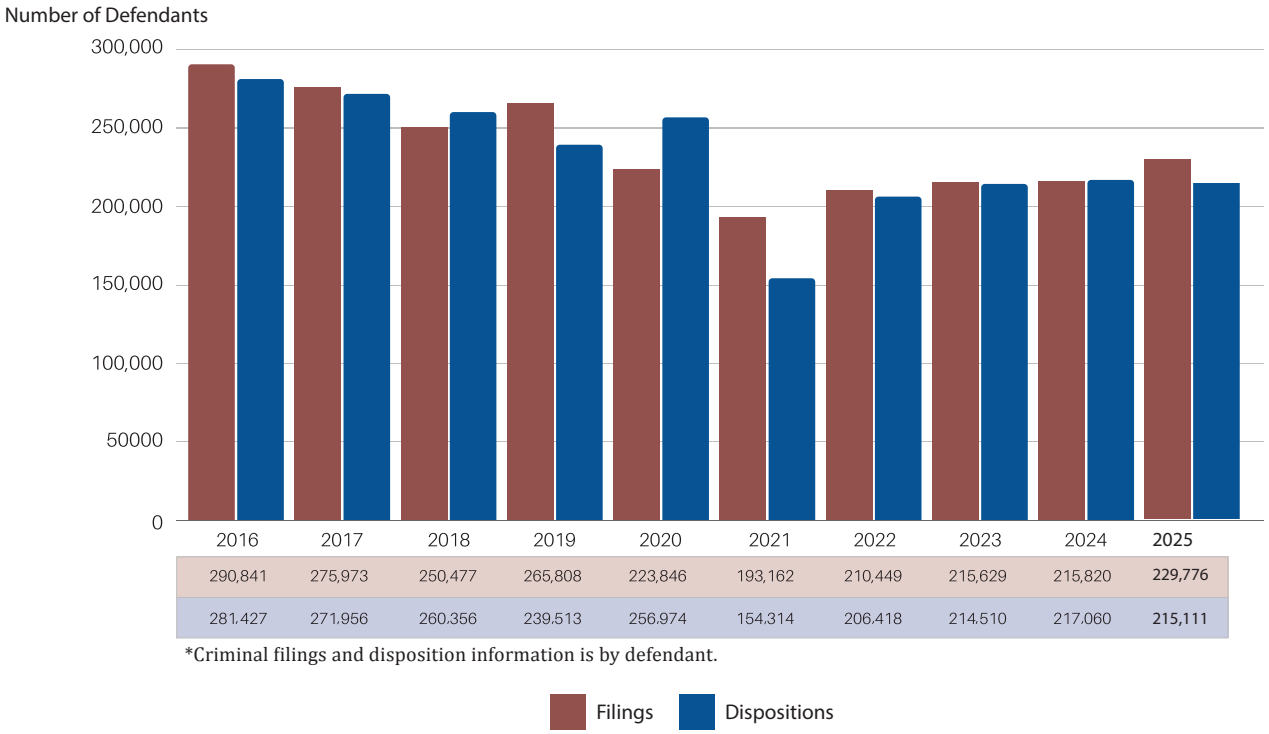


Number of Justice of the Peace Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025*

92,348 Voluntary Assessment Center	63,189 Title 21 (Traffic)	30,129 Civil Complaints	25,583 Title 11 (Criminal)	11,773 Landlord/Tenant	6,486 Miscellaneous Criminal	268 Title 7 (Fish & Game)

*Criminal filings are by defendant

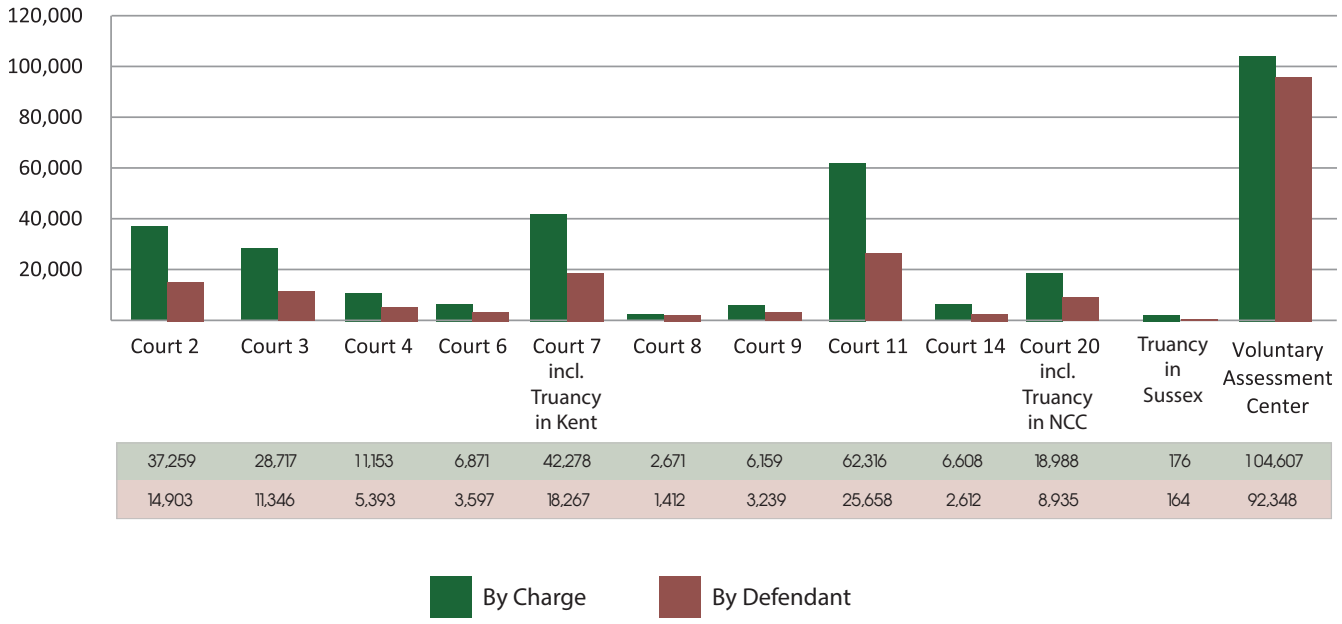
Justice of the Peace Court Civil and Criminal/Traffic Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year*



*Criminal filings and disposition information is by defendant.

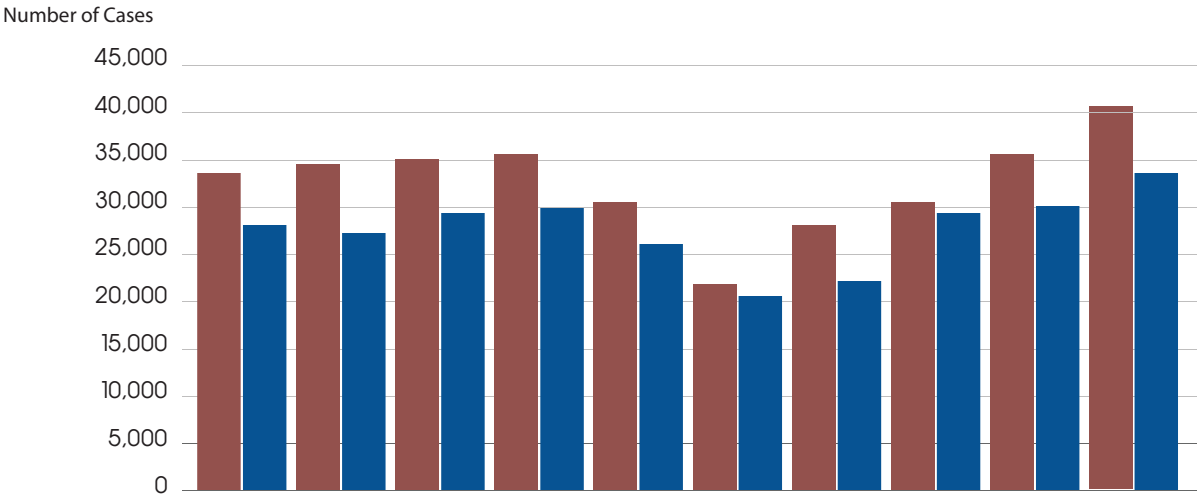
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Justice of the Peace Court Criminal and Traffic Charges Fiscal Year 2025



	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 6	Court 7 incl. Truancy in Kent	Court 8	Court 9	Court 11	Court 14	Court 20 incl. Truancy in NCC	Truancy in Sussex	Voluntary Assessment Center
By Charge	37,259	28,717	11,153	6,871	42,278	2,671	6,159	62,316	6,608	18,988	176	104,607
By Defendant	14,903	11,346	5,393	3,597	18,267	1,412	3,239	25,658	2,612	8,935	164	92,348

Justice of the Peace Court - 10 Year Civil Caseload Trend



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Filings	33,726	34,128	35,500	35,277	30,970	22,817	27,443	30,415	35,601	41,902
Dispositions	28,709	27,965	29,697	29,833	26,544	20,635	22,533	28,185	29,906	32,989

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the administrative arm of the State of Delaware Supreme Court. Established in 1971, the AOC provides a broad range of support services to the Delaware Courts in operations, information technology, legal, government relations, financial, administration and programs consistent with the statewide policies and goals established by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.



State Court Administrator
Gayle P. Lafferty

By the Numbers

ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE COURTS

- Full Time Staff - 36
- Judicial Information Center - 39
- Law Library - 3
- Court Collections - 9

TOTAL: 87

NON-JUDICIAL AGENCIES

- Full Time Staff - 52

TOTAL: 52

Community Court

The Wilmington Community Court grant-funded initiative is an innovative effort by the Delaware Judiciary to break the cycle of crime before it starts by focusing on treatment and solving problems while ensuring public safety. Defendants are held accountable for their actions, but rather than using only incarceration or fines, community court looks to address the underlying issues that drive low-level, non-violent criminal behavior like drug addiction, mental health issues or unemployment, and connects defendants with needed services.

Wilmington Community Court's focus has narrowed to certain zip codes in Wilmington to increase collaboration between community partners and stakeholders such as the Treatment Access Center (TASC), West End Neighborhood House, Friendship House, and others. Cases are seen through the Court of Common Pleas and referrals are accepted from both Justice of the Peace Court and Court of Common Pleas.

COMMUNITY COURT WILMINGTON

Total Participation 2020-2025

- 634 people enrolled in the Community Court program
- 525 people graduated or completed the program

Fiscal Year 2025 Participation

- 21 people enrolled in the Community Court program
- 10 people graduated or completed the program

Law Libraries

The Law Libraries provide legal research and information assistance to the Delaware Judiciary and access to print and digital legal research tools to members of the bar and the general public. There is one court law library in each of the state's three counties. Currently, around half of those using the libraries and their services are those representing themselves in the Delaware Court system. The Law Libraries have been serving the Delaware Judiciary since 1911.



	Pro Se Litigants	Total Patrons*
New Castle	1,231	2,608
Kent	258	420
Sussex	111	241
Remote (Ask a Law Librarian)	484	616
TOTAL	**2,084**	**3,885**

*includes Pro Se

Limited Legal Assistance Program

Volunteer attorneys meet with eligible self-represented litigants for a one-time, fifteen-minute meeting. The attorney will not meet with the self-represented litigant outside of the program, nor will the attorney represent the litigant in court.

There is no income eligibility for this service. Instead, to be eligible, people seeking assistance must not have received previous legal assistance regarding the same issue and their question must be one that can be asked and answered within the fifteen-minute time frame. People using the service will be directed to legal service providers and reference materials for further assistance.

Limited Legal Assistance Program

Fiscal Year	Litigants Served
23	161
24	187
25	167

OSCCE: Office of State Court Collections Enforcement

The Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) pursues the collection of court-ordered financial assessments through a variety of state and private sector sanctions to ensure the enforcement of Judicial Branch orders. These orders may include, but are not limited to, restitution, statutory surcharges, fines and court costs.

Judicial Information Center

The mission of the Judicial Information Center is to provide strategic IT vision, leadership, and enterprise solutions to the Judicial Branch and its customers, ensuring efficient operations and secure, reliable, and timely access to information.



The Judicial Information Center (JIC) consists of the following units:

- A/V Telecom Team
- Business Solutions and Training Team
- Development Team
- Helpdesk/Technical Support Group
- Information Security
- Operations Team

DELAWARE COURTS JUDICIAL BRANCH
PROJECT: CASCADE

Over the past year JIC's CASCADE Initiative to move all courts to a centralized E-Filing, Case Management, Document Management and Reporting system has marked several important milestones:

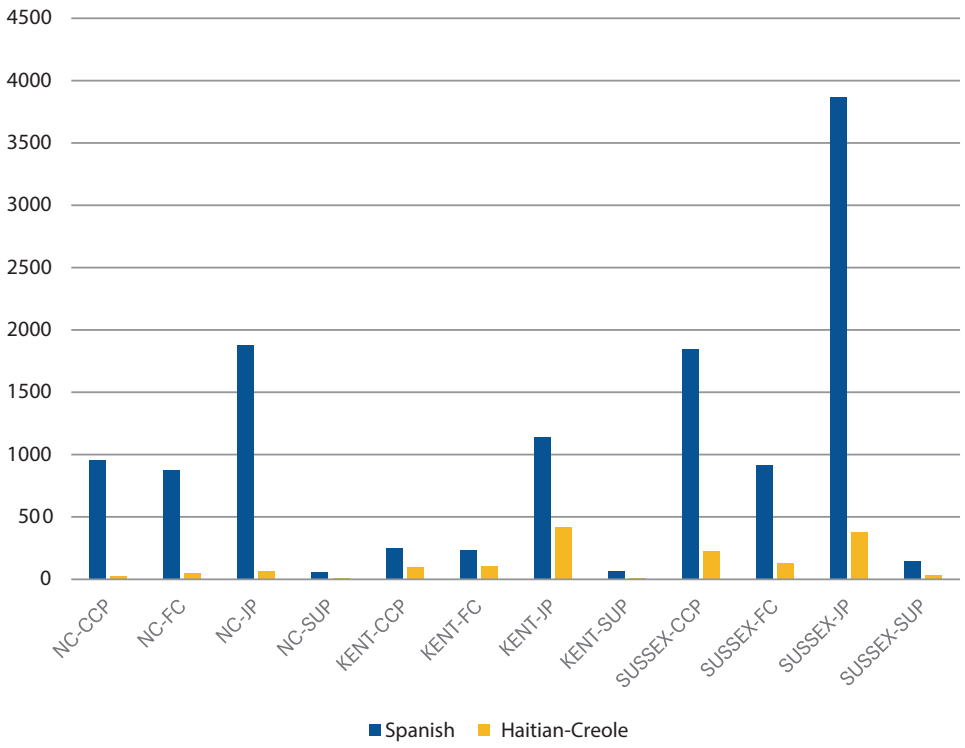
- Phase 1 was expanded to include the Court of Chancery without affecting the projected completion date of Nov. 2026.
- The Problem-Solving Court application launched in Sept. 2025.
- Civil Case Management 0.2.0 release was implemented in December of 2025.
- The CASCADE Initiative remains on time and in budget.

Interpreter Services

The Delaware Judiciary provides language access to those with limited English proficiency and members of the Deaf and hard of hearing community. The Court Interpreter Program is managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) under the direction of the Court Interpreter Advisory Board. Below are several charts detailing the demand for interpretation services.



Fiscal Year 2025 Top Two Languages Requested by Court/County



Program Requests/Number of Litigants Statewide

10,408 FY 22	12,651 FY 23	15,576 FY 24	17,411 FY 25

Fiscal Year 2025 Requests for Spoken Language Interpreter Services by Litigants

86% Spanish	10% Haitian-Creole	1% Punjabi
1% Portuguese	1% Turkish	1% Other

JUDICIAL BRANCH EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Sharay Knight – Judicial Branch Employee of the Year for 2024



Sharay Knight, a Judicial Case Manager 1 for the Court of Chancery, has been an employee of the branch since 2022 and was cited for her stellar customer service. Litigants who have worked with her praised her for her dedication and assistance that sometimes extended beyond regular court hours. When asked why she would take on additional work she simply replied, "Because it's for the court."

Knight's industriousness has been particularly helpful at a time of high caseloads and staffing shortages downstate. "Sharay has proven willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done in a timely and professional manner. Sharay is a pleasure to be around and goes above and beyond her day-to-day responsibilities to ensure that the court is accessible to all," wrote her nominator.

While there is supposed to be a one-to-one staffing ratio between case managers and judicial officers, Knight works for two judicial officers, assisted for a third, and after a staffing change, helped out with a fourth. "She did so without being asked and while continuing with her own responsibilities," wrote her nominator. She keeps things running smoothly and efficiently and has impressed all who work with her – litigants, colleagues and judicial officers – with her "contribution and dedication to the mission of the Court of Chancery."

OTHER NOMINEES

Melissa Peters, Judicial Operations Manager, Justice of the Peace Court – Peters took on the challenge of the transfer of a court to a new location in February of this year. "She increased accountability, knowledge, coaching, and most importantly, morale," wrote her nominator.

Brian Bashkow, Judicial Case Manager III, Prothonotary's Office, Superior Court – Bashkow was praised as an exceptional case manager in the Prothonotary's Office, most notably to Superior Court Judge Eric Davis, during the Dominion v. Fox News litigation, arguably the largest case Superior Court has ever handled. "Brian is known as being a great co-worker, always offering assistance, and in general an all-around wonderful person," wrote his nominator.

Amber Durr, Senior Investigative Services Officer, Court of Common Pleas – Durr, who has been with the court since 2013, has consistently gone above and beyond her designated duties, making significant contributions in pre-sentence investigations and court reporting efforts among others. Her nominator wrote that Durr's contributions to the judicial system statewide "have been immeasurable."

Ashley Tucker, Deputy State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts – Tucker was praised for her unmatched work ethic and dedication. "Large or small, Ashley is instrumental in nearly every project the AOC is working on. Not only is she a 'go to' for legal matters, but she is also a 'go to' for everything else," wrote her nominator. Her work on a statewide security audit and accessibility issues during this past year were also highlighted.

Meghan McCarthy, Mediation Unit Supervisor, Family Court – McCarthy, who has been with the court since 2016, was praised as "a subject matter expert in all thing's mediation" and a great resource to other managers and judicial officers. She was also praised for her high standards and customer service. "Meghan is an exemplary public servant," her nominator wrote.

DELAWARE COURTS

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Many thanks to the Presiding Judges, Court Administrators, court staff and others in the courts, and the Administrative Office of the Courts, for their efforts in preparing this Annual Report.

http://courts.delaware.gov (Delaware Judiciary)

http://courts.delaware.gov/AOC/AnnualReports/FY25
2025 Annual Report, Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary and additional Delaware Courts background information

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All photographs (except judicial officers) by AOC Chief of Community Relations Sean O'Sullivan, or court staff, unless otherwise noted.