

COURT OF CHANCERY



CHANCELLOR ANDRE G. BOUCHARD

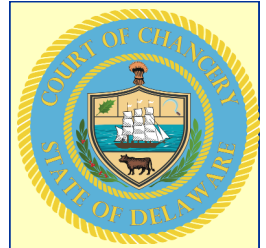
As the format of this year's picture of our judicial officers exemplifies, 2020 was a year like no other in the 228-year history of the Court of Chancery. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the court quickly transitioned to hold hearings remotely using telephonic and video technologies. In-person hearings and gatherings, even to take a photograph of our current judicial roster, were minimized to ensure the safety of the public, litigants, practitioners, and court staff.

Apart from postponing some non-expedited trials, the court did not skip a beat in attending to its docket. During the first three months of our pandemic response, when the courthouses were closed by declaration of a judicial emergency, new filings continued at the same pace as last year, motions to expedite were filed in about one-third of our cases, and the court held over 300 hearings and issued over 500 rulings. Our ability to meet the demand was a team effort. We are grateful for the dedication of our

judicial assistants, law clerks, court reporters, and Register in Chancery staff who dutifully worked from home to allow us to operate as normally as possible while the courthouses were closed.

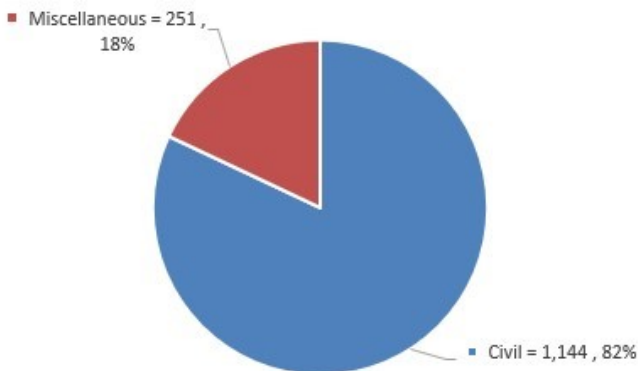
In June, when the first phase of the court reopening plan began, we were ready. Protective shields were installed in our courtrooms, which we reconfigured to maintain social distancing, and new protocols were established for returning

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Court of Chancery Filings by Type,
FY 2020



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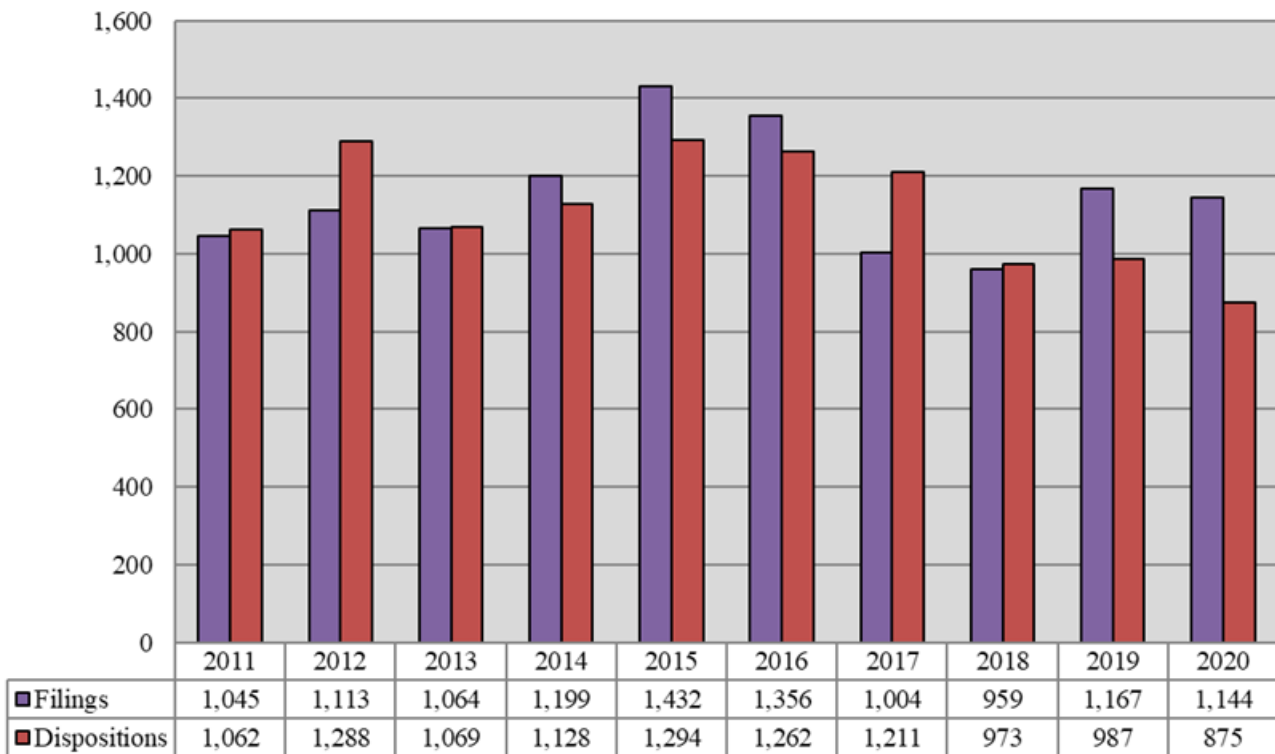
to in-person hearings when safe to do so. Filings and rulings have continued at a regular pace since the reopening and we adapted the now ubiquitous use of video technology to handle a number of expedited trials.

On February 10, 2020, Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr. took the oath of office in a private ceremony and began his term as our newest Vice Chancellor, filling the vacancy left from the elevation of former Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves. Before becoming the forty-second member of the court in its history, Vice Chancellor Fioravanti was a director at Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A., where he focused on corporate and commercial litigation.

On March 2, 2020, Susan Judge became our new Court Administrator, replacing Karlis Johnson, who

became Court Administrator for the Supreme Court. Susan stepped in immediately and ably took charge of implementing our pandemic response. On June 5, Kenneth J. Lagowski, Office Manager for the Register in Chancery in New Castle County, retired after 44 years of state service, including 30 years with the court. Ramona Monsen, a long-time court employee, assumed Ken’s duties and became Deputy Court Administrator. On November 2, Neith Ecker retired as Chief Court Reporter, after a 49-year career as a court reporter, and Juli LaBadia was named as her successor. We thank Karlis, Ken, and Neith for their devoted service to the court and wish each of them well in their future endeavors. ♦

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



Fiscal Year

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COURT OF CHANCERY

Speaker View Exit Full Screen

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster

Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III

Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slight III

Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn

Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard

Vice Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick

Master Patricia W. Griffin

Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr.

Master Selena E. Molina

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