

COURT OF CHANCERY



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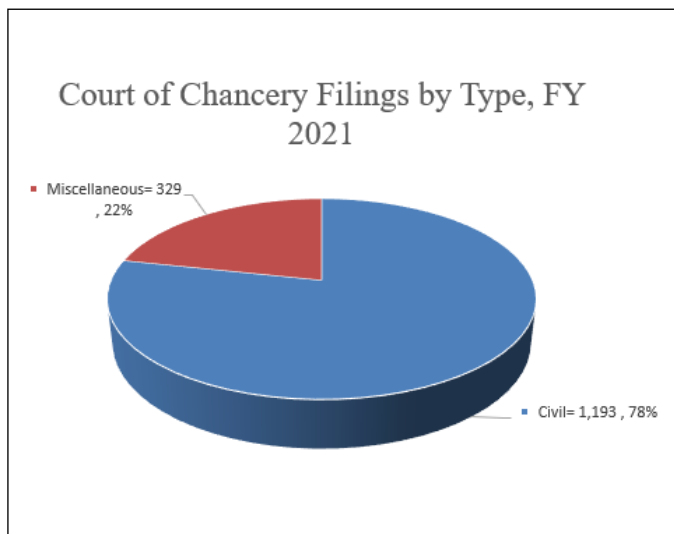


CHANCELLOR KATHALEEN ST. J. MCCORMICK

In this, my first address to the community on behalf of the Court of Chancery, I begin by thanking my predecessor, Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard, who retired on May 5, 2021. As this court's twenty-second leader in its 229 years, Chancellor Bouchard personally authored many seminal decisions in corporate law, fostered a collaborative and positive work environment, and steered the Court of Chancery through the tumult of

the pandemic. It was a privilege to serve with and learn from him. Thanks to Chancellor Bouchard, our court not only survived but also thrived over the past year, and we are well-positioned to address the challenges of the years ahead.

While the Court's leadership changed, intractable problems remained. We convinced ourselves that the harried conditions of 2020 made for a unique year in the court's history. Then came 2021. As the pandemic lingered, and the emergency orders were extended, the demands of litigants on our Court increased. Civil cases continued to increase in volume and complexity, with 38% of new filings accompanied by motions to expedite. Petitions for guardianships over adults with disabilities increased dramatically too, with emergency petitions comprising over 25% of all petitions.



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Equipped with the lessons learned from 2020, the court redoubled its efforts to meet these increasing demands, and Fiscal Year 2021 marked one of the most productive years in recent history. The Court disposed of over 25% more civil matters compared with the prior fiscal year, and conducted over 30 trials and 1,200 hearings while issuing over 225 rulings year to date.

Against the dark backdrop of the pandemic, the Court's many milestone achievements during the past year shone brighter and provided cause for much-needed celebration.

We celebrated our newest judicial officers. On May 26, 2021, the Honorable Lori W. Will was sworn in as Vice Chancellor. Prior to joining the Court, Vice Chancellor Will was a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P.C., where she focused on the representation of business entities and their directors and officers in corporate, complex commercial, and federal securities litigation. On August 2, 2021, members of the Court gathered with the friends and family of Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr., in the gardens of the Delaware Art Museum for his pandemic-delayed investiture.

We celebrated our veteran leaders. On August 5, 2021, we acknowledged several significant service accomplishments. Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slight III—now with 17 years in service to the Judiciary and seven to this Court—was belatedly recognized for his first 15 years' service. Judicial Operations Manager Katrina Kruger and Judicial Case Management Supervisor Arline Simmons each celebrated 25 years of Judiciary service. Vice Chancel-

lor Sam Glasscock III too achieved 25 years of service to the Judiciary, with 22 of those spent in service to this Court. Court Reporter Jeanne Cahill celebrated 30 years with the State and ten years with this Court. Deputy Court Administrator, Ramona Monsen, celebrated her 45 years of service to the State and over 30 years of service to this Court. Then, on October 13, 2021, we gathered to witness the Senate confirm Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster to his second term on the bench. On behalf of the Court, I thank all of our veteran employees and their families for the sacrifices they have made for this Court and those we serve.



Delaware Supreme Court Justice Gary Traynor (right) administers the oath of office to Vice Chancellor Paul Fioravanti at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington on August 2, 2021.

We also celebrated gender diversity. The appointment of Vice Chancellor Will allowed the Court to reclaim the distinction of being majority female. The Court earned this status only once before, in 2018 when Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn and I were appointed to serve with then-Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves, Master Patricia W. Griffin, and Master Selena E. Molina. The gender diversity of our Court's administrative leadership is also notable. When I was sworn in as Chancellor on May 6, 2021, I joined a leadership team including Court Administrator Susan Judge, who joined this Court in March of 2020, Deputy Court Administrator Ramona Monsen, who assumed her position in August of 2020, Chief Court Reporter Juli LaBadia, who was elevated to her position in November of 2020, and the Court's Fiscal Administrative Officer, Monica Jones, who has held this position since 2014.

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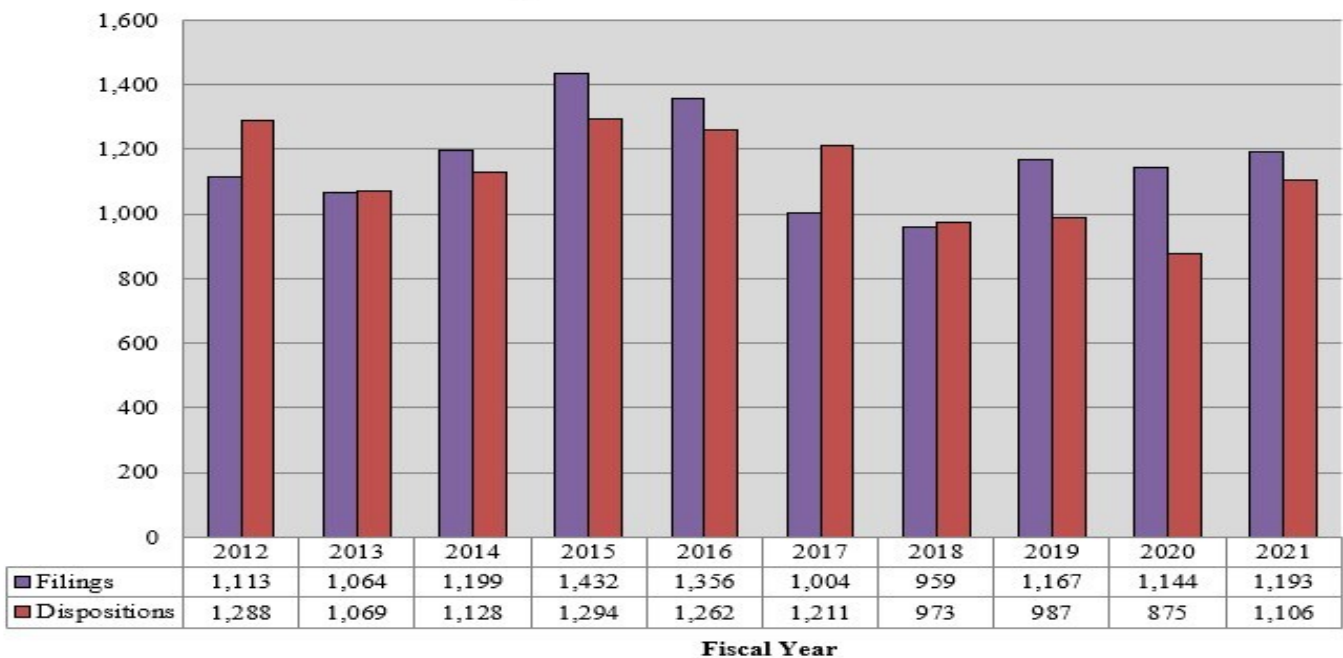
As the achievements of the past year underscore, the strength of our Court is in its people. As we head into our 230th year, it is my honor to work alongside the fresh faces and seasoned hands of the second-ever majority-female, first-ever female-led Court of Chancery. ♦



Top: Vice Chancellor Lori W. Will being sworn in on May 26, 2021 on the plaza outside the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington.

Left: Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster being sworn in for his second term on October 29, 2021 at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center.

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



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Court of Chancery

Standing left to right:

Master in Chancery Patricia W. Griffin, Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr.,
Vice Chancellor Lori W. Will, Master in Chancery Selena E. Molina.

Seated left to right:

Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slights III, Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster, Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick,
Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III, Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn.