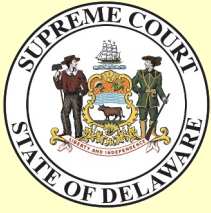


# SUPREME COURT



# SUPREME COURT

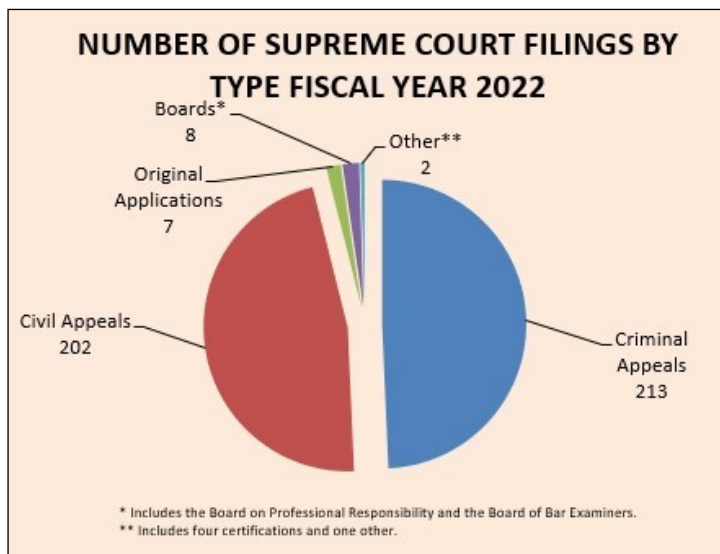
## CHIEF JUSTICE COLLINS J. SEITZ, JR.



After dealing with two challenging years caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court and Arms of Court gradually returned to normal operations in Fiscal Year 2022. In January 2022, the Supreme Court held the first-ever virtual bar admission ceremony for our newest attorneys who passed the 2021 Delaware Bar Exam. By March 2022 we transitioned from Zoom to in-person oral arguments. The court also resumed oral arguments at the Delaware Law School of Widener University to benefit the students. In July, the Board of Bar Examiners administered the bar exam in-

person for the first time since 2019. And finally, in December 2022, the court held its traditional, in-person admission ceremony for those attorneys who passed the July exam, which brought us closer to a feeling of normalcy.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Delaware Supreme Court received 432 appeals and resolved 392 cases by opinion, order or dismissal. Even with pandemic-related challenges, the court decided appeals an average of 37 days from the date of submission to the date of final decision. In 98% of the appeals decided in FY 22, the court met the Delaware Judiciary standard for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. The court resolved 91% of all cases within 290 days of filing of a notice of appeal and 96% of all cases were resolved within a one-year timeframe. In FY 22, the court held 79 oral arguments, 5 of which were reheard before the full court. In addition, 100 cases were submitted for decision on the briefs.



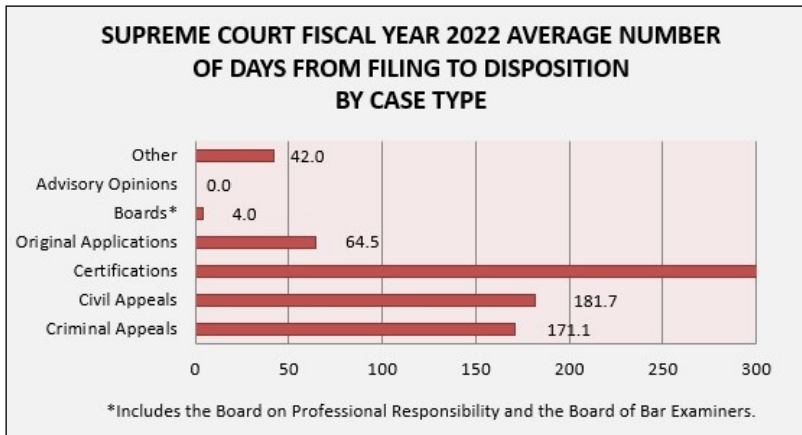
# SUPREME COURT

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Supreme Court, in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts and AccessLex Institute, launched the Delaware Bench and Bar Diversity Project. A steering committee and five working groups studied the lack of diversity among Delaware’s bench and bar. This work culminated in the February 2022 release of a detailed strategic plan with 50 recommendations for improving diversity in the legal community. The court is grateful to all the judges, attorneys, and educators who served on the steering committee and working groups for their work of such great importance to the court and the Judicial Branch. The court is in the process of considering and implementing the recommendations.

In personnel changes in FY 22 Patricia Bartley Schwartz, formerly with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, was selected as the Executive Director of the Board of Bar Examiners. In this position, Ms. Schwartz oversees the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, Lawyers Fund for Client Protection, as well as administration of the Delaware Bar Exam. The court also welcomed Jessica Tyler as a Staff Attorney with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Prior to this position, Ms. Tyler worked for the Marshall Dennehy law firm. Margot Millar, Assistant Director for the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, retired this year after serving over 30 years with the Arms of Court in various positions. We are



*Members of the Delaware Supreme Court attending the investiture for Vice Chancellor Nathan Cook in September 2022 (From left to right, Justice Karen L. Valihura, Justice Gary F. Traynor, Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr., and Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.).*



grateful to Ms. Millar for her commitment to Delaware’s legal community and we wish her the best.

In March, we lost our friend and colleague, former Justice Randy J. Holland. When he was appointed in 1986, Justice Holland was the youngest person to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court and went on to serve the court for 30 years, making him the longest serving justice in the court’s history. We honored Justice Holland and his legacy in a memorial service on April 20, 2022, at Delaware State University in Dover.

The coming year will bring even more change for the court with the pending

retirement of Justice James Vaughn, Jr., and Justice Montgomery-Reeves’ appointment to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. We wish Justice Vaughn well in retirement and Justice Montgomery-Reeves well in her new position and look forward to welcoming two new colleagues to the bench in 2023.

The last couple of years were difficult, but as with the rest of the Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court was able to pivot and adjust as needed to keep our operations going while maintaining the safety of our staff and the public. We are hopeful that the worst days are behind us and we can return to our central mission – insuring equal justice for all. ♦

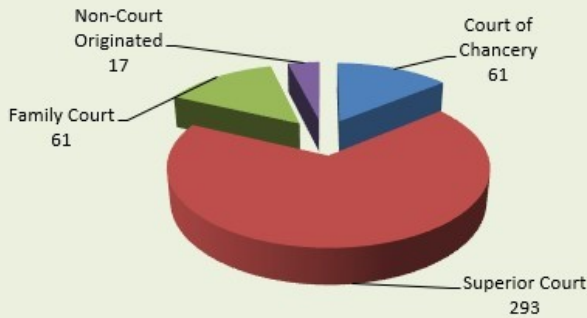
*Continued on next page*

# SUPREME COURT



PHOTO :Dick Dubroff

## NUMBER OF SUPREME COURT FILINGS BY COURT OF ORIGINATION FISCAL YEAR 2022



**Top left:** The April 30, 2022 memorial service for former Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy J. Holland in Dover at Delaware State University.

**Above:** Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. speaking at the Hotel DuPont on Nov. 30, 2022 at the Court of Chancery 230th Anniversary Celebration.

## SUPREME COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



# SUPREME COURT



## 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

# SUPREME COURT

## IN MEMORIAM JUSTICE RANDY J. HOLLAND



Justice Randy J. Holland, who passed away on March 15, 2022, was appointed and reappointed to the Delaware Supreme Court by three different Governors and served with four different Chief Justices during his tenure on the bench. At his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1986 by Governor Mike Castle, Justice Holland became the youngest person ever to serve on the state’s highest court and went on to also become the Court’s longest serving Justice at his retirement in March 2017. Throughout his 30 years on the bench, Justice Holland wrote more than 700 reported opinions and several thousand case dispositive orders.

Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr., described Holland as one of Delaware’s greatest public servants. “Randy Holland wrote cogent and authoritative opinions in all areas of the law that have withstood the test of time. He championed the highest ethical standards for Delaware lawyers and judges. As president of the American Inns of Court, he worked to further its nationwide mission to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar. Most recently, he chaired a court committee to work on bail reform in domestic violence cases. What Justice Randy Holland will be

most remembered for is his kindness, humility, and graciousness, and his personal notes written with a blue felt tip pen,” Seitz said.

“Delaware just lost one of its true servants,” said former Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., who served with Justice Holland from 2014 to 2017. “No one loved our state or its bar more than Justice Holland. Through his dedication to the judicial craft, his fostering of bench-bar relations through the Inns of Court movement, his preservation of our state’s history, and his concern for the most vulnerable of litigants – particularly the children served by our Family Court – Randy made our state a better place and burnished its reputation as a legal center of excellence. We will miss his friendship and are profoundly sorry for his family’s irreplaceable loss.”

During his years on the Court, Justice Holland was known as not only an expert on state constitutional law but also as an avid historian of Delaware and the Delaware Supreme Court. He authored or co-authored ten books, including two books on the Delaware Constitution, two histories of the Delaware Supreme Court, and a History of the Delaware Bar in the Twentieth Century in addition to many law review articles. “Justice Holland was a great and historic jurist of the Court,” said former Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey, who served with Justice Holland from 1992 to 2004. “Indeed, he was a quintessential and intellectual jurist, with an extraordinary grounding in the law and a marvelous sense of fairness and equity. Not only was he historically long-serving as a jurist but also he was an extraordinarily gifted and scholarly writer, having authored or co-authored nine books and treatises as well as innumerable articles. Above all, he was a warm and noble human being – a truly good man in all respects. He was devoted to his wife of 50 years, Dr. Ilona Holland, their son, Ethan, daughter-in-law, Jen, and their granddaughters, Rori and Chloe. He will be missed in ways we have not begun to fathom by all who knew him, worked with him, and admired him.”

Justice Holland graduated from Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he received the Loughlin Award for legal ethics. He later earned a Master of Laws in Judicial Process from the University of Virginia Law School and was awarded honorary Doctor of Law degrees by the Delaware Law School and Swarthmore College. Justice Holland taught corporate governance, appellate practice and state constitutional law and frequently focused on business ethics. He traveled internationally to advance corporate governance and ethics including working with the justice system in Taiwan. On several occasions he hosted visiting delegations from Taiwan to Delaware.

After leaving the Delaware Supreme Court, he became Senior of Counsel in the Wilmington office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. In 2018 the Randy J. Holland Family Law Endowment was created in his honor for the Combined Campaign for Justice to fund a full-time fellowship position to work on family law needs for low-income families. ♦