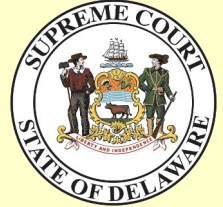


SUPREME COURT



CHIEF JUSTICE COLLINS J. SEITZ, JR.



SUPREME COURT

COVID-19 significantly disrupted the Supreme Court and the Arms of Court in 2020. In the pandemic's early stages, the Court postponed oral arguments and gave litigants the choice of rescheduling arguments or having their appeals decided without argument. Many litigants chose to forego oral argument. Postponed oral arguments were rescheduled beginning in June. In response to the challenges presented by the pandemic, the Supreme Court relaxed deadlines, suspended paper copy requirements, and did

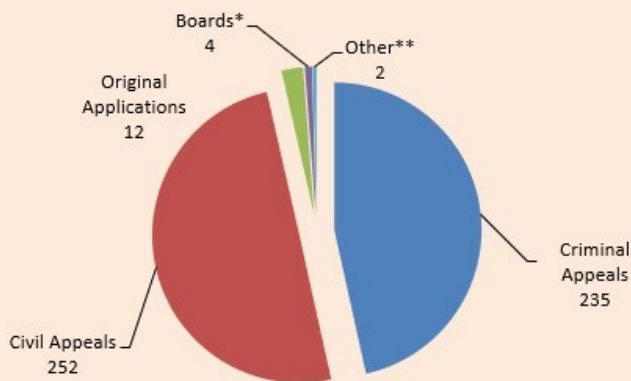
everything possible to allow lawyers and staff to turn their attention to family instead of work. Self-represented litigants, meanwhile, were given more filing options such as mail, email and in-person drop boxes in each county.

The Court held several in-person arguments early in the summer of 2020, but with continuing community spread of the virus, the Court decided to forego all in person arguments and instead use the Zoom video platform supported by Courtscribes.

The Court also cancelled its summer recess and heard oral arguments throughout the summer to catch up on pending cases. Because of the Court's rigorous summer schedule, the Court is now deciding appeals within 90 days from submission, with most appeals decided in 30-60 days. The result of this effort is the Court had no backlog of cases as 2020 ended.

In Fiscal Year 2020, the Delaware Supreme Court received 505 appeals and resolved 489 cases by opinion, order, or dismissal. The appeals were decided an average of 35 days

NUMBER OF SUPREME COURT FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2020



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

Continued on next page

SUPREME COURT

from the date of submission to the date of final decision. In 100% of the appeals decided in FY 2020, the Court met the Delaware Judiciary standard for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. The Court resolved 85% of all cases within 290 days of the filing of a notice of appeal, and 95% of all cases within a one-year timeframe.

The Arms of Court also had to adjust their operations in 2020 due to the pandemic. For the most part the Arms of Court staff have worked remotely. The

Office of Disciplinary Counsel, meanwhile, created an ethics hotline and participated in several highly successful CLE ethics programs for the Delaware Bar. CLE requirements were adjusted to allow on-line programs to satisfy reporting requirements. Of note this year, Patricia Bartley Schwartz, an attorney in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, was elected President of the National Organization of Bar Counsel for 2020-2021.

The Delaware Board of Bar Examiners was perhaps most severely impacted by the pandemic. Unlike many other states, the Delaware Board is an all-volunteer group that still drafts and grades all of the substantive essays and conducts the character and fitness reviews. The Delaware bar exam, usually held in July, was rescheduled for the Harrington Fairgrounds and later cancelled when the health and safety risks of an in-person exam became unacceptable. Nearly 60% of the bar applicants were from out-of-state, including some areas with high infection rates. Quarantine requirements prevented travel to Delaware for the bar exam for many. As a

partial measure to address the disappointment and complications due to cancelling the bar exam, the Supreme Court entered an order adopting a limited

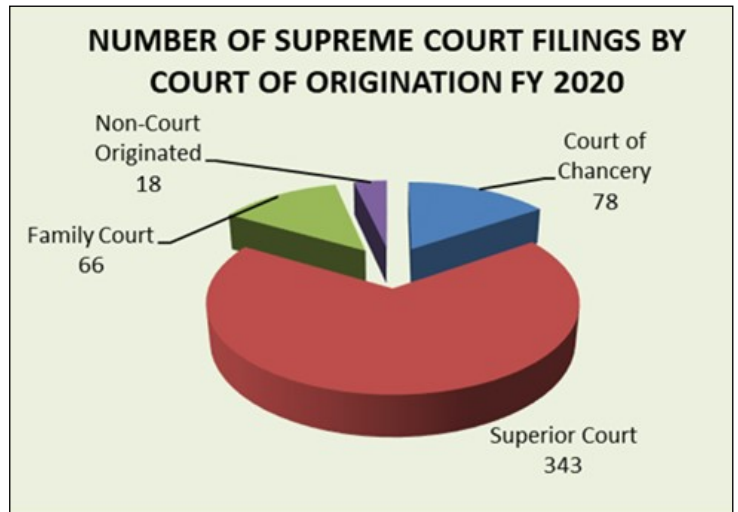
practice privilege, which will temporarily allow eligible bar applicants to engage in the practice of law under the supervision of a Delaware lawyer until they can sit for the 2021 Delaware Bar Exam.

The Court is grateful for the hard work of its staff and Court Administrator, Karlis

Johnson, for doing their best to keep the Court and its Arms operating under difficult circumstances. ♦

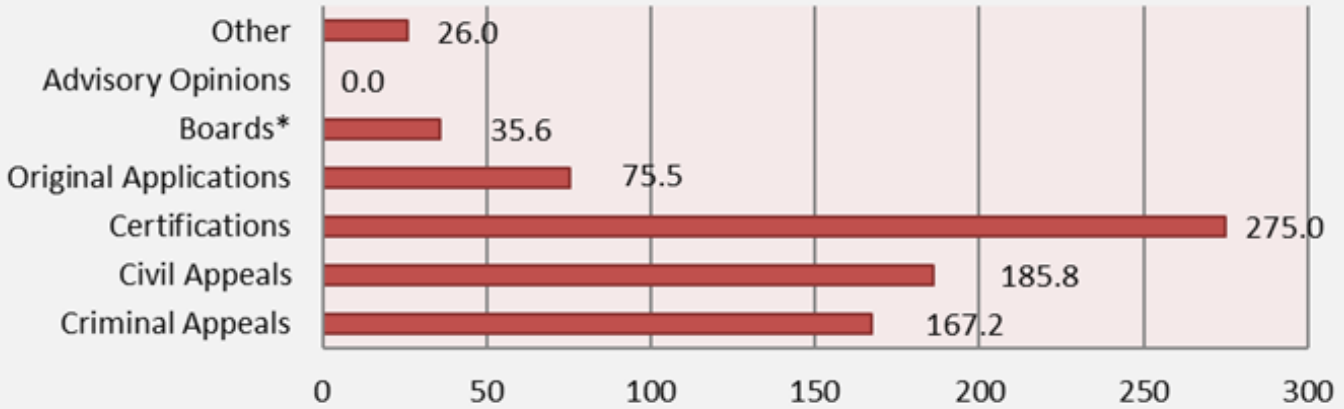


Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. preparing for an oral argument by Zoom in December 2020.



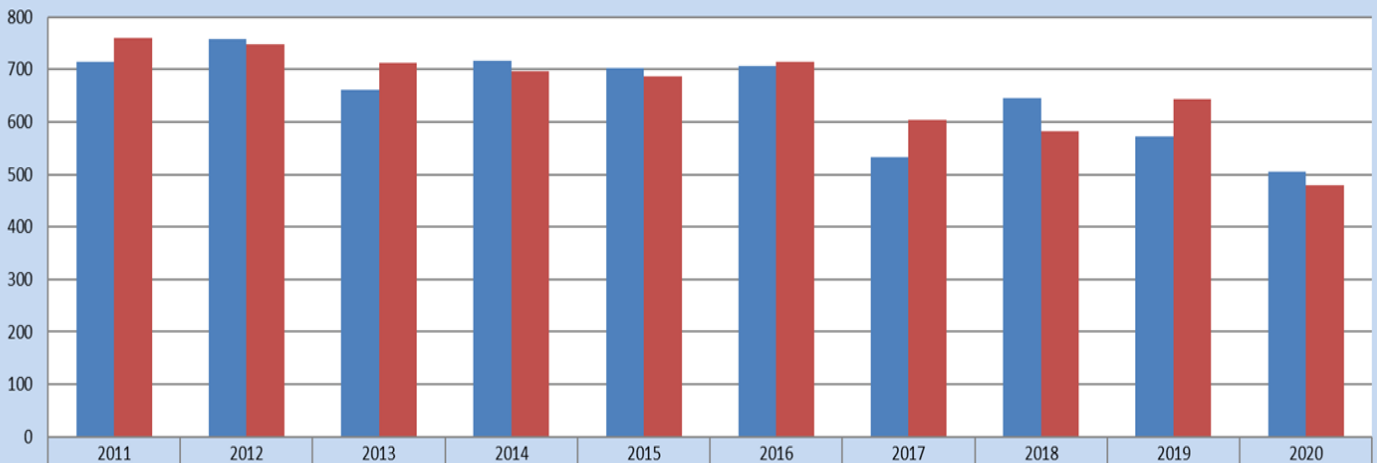
SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT FY 2020 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



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Filings	714	757	661	716	703	707	533	646	572	505
Dispositions	760	747	712	696	687	714	604	583	643	480

Continued on next page

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