

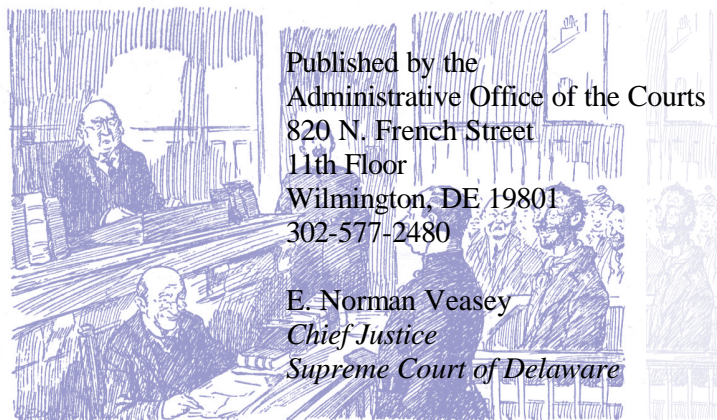
Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary



Fiscal Year 1999



1999 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary



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E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Delaware

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Message from Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey



SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 1999

To Governor Thomas R. Carper, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware:

It is my honor to present the 1999 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary. Because of the excellent relationships among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and the hard work of judges and court staff at every level, there have been major accomplishments in the past fiscal year.

More cases than ever before have been presented to the judicial branch in fiscal year 1999, and more work has been completed than in any prior year. This continuous growth in workload—not only in the sheer number of cases, but also in their complexity—has been a challenge to the dedicated and energetic judicial officers and staff of our state. They deserve our thanks and praise for their unceasing efforts to administer justice to all of the citizens of Delaware.

Perhaps fiscal year 1999 will be best remembered for two very important accomplishments: (1) the General Assembly and Governor provided much of the funding needed to build the New Castle County Courthouse (which is currently under construction) as well as for acquisition and improvements of court facilities in Kent and Sussex Counties; and (2) the creation of new judgeships for the Family Court and Court of Common Pleas in Kent and Sussex Counties.

I want to express my thanks to the Governor, the members of the General Assembly and the judiciary for their tireless dedication to justice this past year. The quality of life for citizens of Delaware, as well as our national reputation, will grow as we continue to strive for excellence and increase our efforts to build public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

Respectfully,

E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice

Highlights and Developments

COURT FACILITIES

New Castle County Courthouse

Significant progress was made in FY1999 towards building a new court facility in Wilmington. During the year, architects, engineers, interior designers and a construction manager were selected for the justice center project. The official ground-breaking ceremony was held on May 18, 1999 for the New Castle County Courthouse and was attended by numerous judges and state officials.

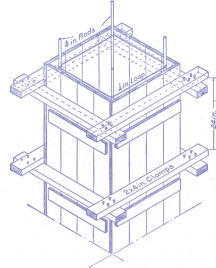
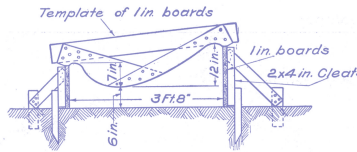
The Executive Committee, established by the FY 1998 Bond Bill, continued to oversee all aspects of the building program. The Executive Committee consists of the co-chairs to the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Improvement Programs, respective chairs of the senate and house judiciary committees, two members of the judiciary appointed by the Chief Justice, and three members of the executive branch including the Secretary of Administrative Services, the Director of Division of Facilities Management and the State Budget Director.

The FY 2000 Bond Bill appropriated \$60 million for the construction and design of the New Castle County Courthouse.

Kent County Courthouse

Planning and evaluation of space needs for the judiciary in Kent County continued in FY 1999. On May 28, 1999, a final report entitled, *Program Analysis and Master Plan for the Kent County Courthouse*, was issued. The master plan recommended the acquisition of the Kent County Courthouse along with a multi-phase approach to the expansion and renovation of the facility. Along with the purchase of the courthouse, the master plan recommended the acquisition of the O'Brien building and an addition to the existing courthouse.

This past year also saw incremental improvements to the courthouse with renovations being completed in the basement. FY 2000 plans include continued renovations and



relocation of the law library to the basement of the adjacent O'Brien Building.

Sussex County Courthouse

The FY 2000 Bond Bill appropriated \$7 million for the continuing renovation of the Sussex County Courthouses which was purchased by the state in 1997. Key officials from the Department of Administrative Services and the Courthouse Space Planning Committee, chaired by Resident Judge William Swain Lee, continue to work diligently with space planners and architects in allocating space within the existing facility. In FY 1999, the State also contracted to purchase the Wilmington Trust Building located on The Circle in Georgetown. Once renovated, this building will house the Supreme Court and Court of Chancery in Sussex County.

Justice of the Peace Court

Fiscal Year 1999 marked another year of significant progress for Justice of the Peace Court building projects. In July of 1998, Court 20, the Wilmington criminal-traffic court, moved into a newly renovated leased facility at the Public Safety Building located on North Walnut Street in Wilmington. Court 2, located near Lewes, moved into a new built-to-suit facility in August of 1998.

Significant expansion of Court 11 in New Castle was accomplished in December of 1998 by moving the Administrative Office to the newly renovated leased facility at 30 Parkway Circle in New Castle.

A new state-owned facility for Justice of the Peace Courts 7 and 16 and the Voluntary Assessment Center was completed in May of 1999. This new facility was a significant improvement over the old building which the Court had occupied for a number of years in a former railroad station in Dover.

In June of 1999, Court 15, a criminal-traffic court, moved into a newly renovated leased facility at 130 Hickman Road in Claymont.

Certified Court Interpreters' Program

Language barriers are preventing millions of non-English-speaking Americans from receiving equal access to the judicial system. During Fiscal Year 1999, the Administrative Office of the Courts received a \$10,000 grant from the Criminal Justice Council to expand the Certified Court Interpreters' Program, which is designed to provide qualified interpreters to meet the judicial needs of growing ethnic populations.

Two orientation sessions were held statewide for 40

prospective interpreters. The tests were administered to Spanish interpreters in two phases, the first consisting of sight and simultaneous interpreting, and the second phase for consecutive interpreting. Twenty-seven applicants were tested in Phase I and four passed. Phase II will be conducted in October, 1999.

A brochure detailing the program and qualifications for interpreters was developed in both English and Spanish and circulated throughout the State.

Highlights and Developments

Staff Training and Development



During fiscal year 1999, the Staff Training and Development Program offered 13 different training classes to judicial branch staff. Training topics included: Code of Conduct, Diversity, Computer Training (four software applications), Customer Service, Orientation for New Court Employees, and conferences for court managers, supervisors, support staff, and clerks.

The Staff Training and Development Program also provided funding for 15 different court managers and/or supervisors to attend the FrontLine Leadership training series offered by the Training and Development Department of the State Personnel Office.

The Staff Training and Development Program is managed by the Training and Staff Development Officer in the Administrative Office of the Courts. Liaisons from each of the six state courts, as well as staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts, serve on the Staff Training Advisory Board. The board identifies and coordinates staff training initiatives.

year 1999, the Development 13 different judicial branch

Courses	Sessions	Participants
Balancing Differences in the Workplace	8	93
Code of Conduct for Non-judicial Staff	8	584
Court Clerks Conference	1	61
Court Managers & Supervisors Conference	1	25
Computer Training	21	133
Giving Good Advice without Giving Legal Advice	2	109
Orientation for New Court Employees	3	64
Support Staff Conference	1	50
Customer Service	16	333
Relationship Strategies	3	10
TOTAL	61	1,463

Technology Update

Technology Policy Committee

Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey established the Technology Policy Committee, a subcommittee of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference. This group, consisting of the presiding judges and court administrators from the Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, and Justice of the Peace Court, provides leadership and policy oversight to technological initiatives of the judicial branch. With the end of the moratorium on new projects, the committee will steer the work of technology staff toward the most important priorities.

Judicial Branch Technology Plan

Understanding the need to migrate from an obsolete hardware and software environment, the Administrative Office of the Courts developed a three-year plan to stabilize existing systems prior to moving to a client/server platform. Four steps are essential to success in this transition: improved infrastructure maintenance, better court operations support, enhanced systems development methodologies, and strengthened relationships with DELJIS.

Substantial success with implementation of the plan already can be demonstrated. Efforts to

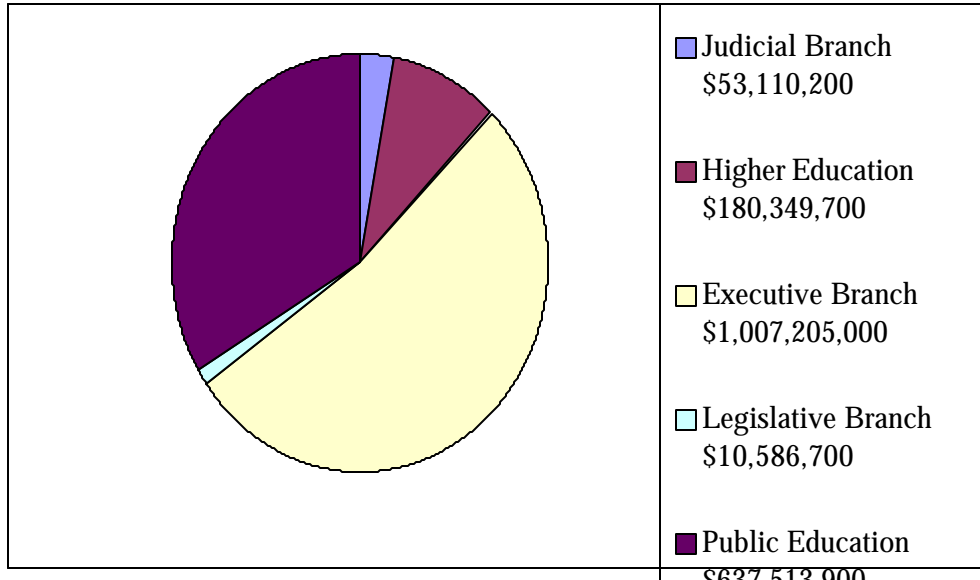
strengthen the JIC help desk operation have resulted in the hiring of a help desk manager and the reassignment of vacant positions to assist with important user support functions.

Other Developments

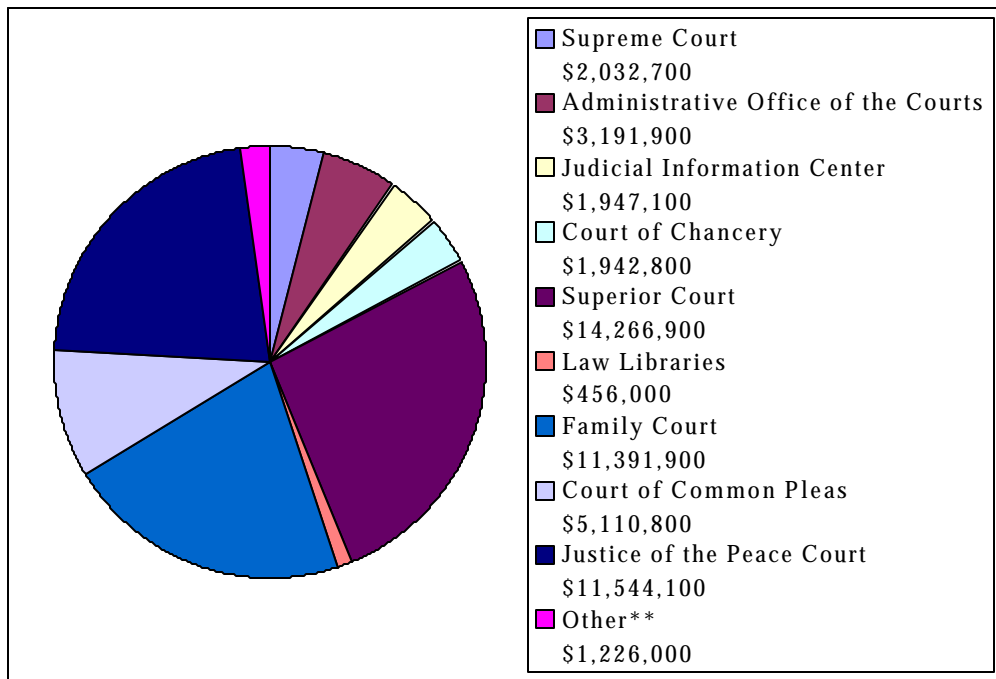
During FY 1999, a financial management team was established at the JIC. Y2k testing of case management and other software and hardware was a high priority. A computer training facility was designed and is under construction in Sussex County. The search for a new IRM for the JIC also was begun in FY 1999.

Fiscal Overview

DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 1999
STATE APPROPRIATIONS—TOTAL \$1,888,765,500



DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
FISCAL YEAR 1999
STATE APPROPRIATIONS— JUDICIARY \$53,110,200



*The chart reflects state general fund monies only. In addition to those amounts, the Supreme Court received \$65,200, the Family Court received \$2,595,300 and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board received \$2,175,700 in appropriated special funds.

**Other: Public Guardian 0.7% (\$373,400), Office of State Court Collections Enforcement 0.8% (\$398,000), Foster Care Review Board 0.7% (\$387,900), Educational Surrogate Program 0.1% (\$66,700).

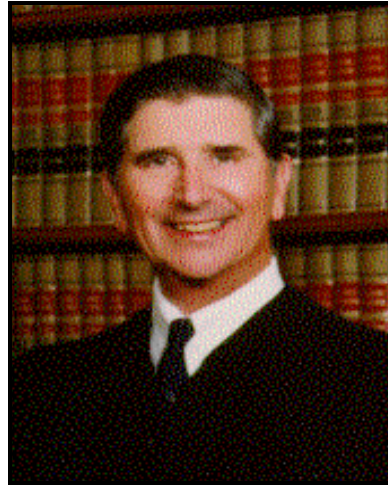
Source: 139th General Assembly, Senate Bill 410.

Supreme Court

Message from the Chief Justice

During the last fiscal year, the Delaware Supreme Court decided over 500 appeals and original proceedings involving a range of matters, including criminal, business, and constitutional issues of national importance. Despite the increasing complexity of its docket, the Court maintained its excellent record for deciding cases in an impartial and timely manner.

This past fiscal year has been one of renewed commitment and energy to the citizens of Delaware. The Delaware Judiciary is committed to a comprehensive strategic planning process to carry out the mission of fair, prompt, and efficient administration of justice. Initiatives that began this fiscal year and will progress into the next year include implementing the recommendations of the Racial and Ethnic Fairness Task Force, the Gender Fairness Task Force, and the Commission on Courts 2000, developing modern systems to assist our citizens who choose to handle their cases without representation, and the



Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
Delaware Supreme Court

strengthening and expansion of mediation and other alternatives to time-consuming trials and appeals.

In Fiscal Year 1999, the Court undertook major revisions to the rules and processes governing the Arms of the Court. The goal of these efforts is to serve the needs of the public and to regulate the practice of law in Delaware more fairly and effectively. During the last year, Justice Joseph T. Walsh of the Supreme Court headed a committee that developed a plan to strengthen and streamline the

functioning of the Administrative Office of the Courts as it interacts with the administration of the Supreme Court and the trial courts of Delaware. The Supreme Court has approved that plan. I will work diligently to implement it throughout the next fiscal year and beyond. The groundbreaking for the new New Castle County Courthouse in Wilmington marked another major development in our effort to improve the administration of justice. This facility, designed to house 52 courtrooms and nearly 1,000 staff members, will serve the public in a safe and user-friendly environment that will allow our judiciary to continue to earn the trust and confidence of our citizens.

The Delaware Judiciary is very thankful to the Governor and the General Assembly for their vision in moving forward with the New Castle County Courthouse, as well as courthouses in Kent and Sussex Counties, in providing adequate budgetary resources, and in authorizing the creation of new judgeships for the Family Court and Court of Common Pleas in

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
Criminal Appeals	113	232	203	142	+29	+25.7%
Civil Appeals	148	263	267	144	-4	-2.7%
Original Applications	8	63	57	14	+6	+75.0%
TOTAL	269	558	527	300	+31	+11.5%

Kent and Sussex Counties. The Judiciary will move forward aggressively by using those resources, state-of-the-art technology, and improved expertise to provide the citizens of our state with a modern and effective administration of the court system.

In May, I led the Delaware delegation to the national summit in Washington, D.C. on public trust and confidence in the judicial system. The conference focused on building trust and confidence by demystifying court processes through public education and performing at the highest levels of competence and efficiency attainable. The Delaware judiciary will actively participate in working to implement the goals of the conference. Delaware joins in the commitment of judiciaries around the nation to ensure that all citizens, regardless of race, gender, or other status receive equal access to prompt, inexpensive, and fair justice. As the incoming president of the national Conference of Chief Justices, I believe that Delaware should assume a national leadership position in building trust and confidence in the Judiciary. My goal is to see to it that this is accomplished.



JUDGESHIPS

- **Justice Randy J. Holland** took the oath of office for a second term as a justice of the Supreme Court on February 7, 1999.
- **Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.** began his initial term on the Court of Chancery on November 9, 1998.
- **Resident Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.** began his initial term on the Superior Court of Kent County on October 28, 1998.
- **The Honorable William L. Witham, Jr.** took the oath of office as an associate judge of the Superior Court on February 18, 1999.
- **The Honorable Richard F. Stokes** left his position as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas and joined the Superior Court on March 23, 1999.
- **The Honorable Peter B. Jones** joined the Family Court on July 24, 1998, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Battle R. Robinson.
- **Judge Rosemary B. Beauregard** took the oath of office on April 23, 1999, filling the vacancy left on the Court of Common Pleas with the departure of Judge Stokes.
- **Chief Magistrate Patricia W. Griffin** began a new term as Chief Magistrate for the Justice of the Peace Courts when she took the oath of office on June 25, 1999.



Supreme Court

Seated (left to right)
Justice Joseph T. Walsh
Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey
Justice Randy J. Holland

Standing (left to right)
Justice Maurice A. Harnett, III
Justice Carolyn Berger

Court of Chancery

Message from the Chancellor

The past twelve months have been a dynamic time for the Court of Chancery, as the Court has undergone changes in personnel and technology and looks forward to occupying new physical quarters that will enhance its ability to provide efficient and just resolution of the controversies before it, despite an increasing caseload.

Following the retirement last year of Vice Chancellor Bernard Balick, Leo E. Strine, Jr., was appointed Vice Chancellor of this Court. Previously, Vice Chancellor Strine had served as counsel to the Governor of the State of Delaware and as a corporate litigator at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. The Court also lost its master, Richard C. Kiger, who had served in that position for fourteen years. On January 1, 1999, Master Kiger was appointed Chief Deputy Register of Wills of New Castle County. I appointed Sam Glasscock III as Master in Chancery in January 1999.

In order to serve practitioners



Chancellor William B. Chandler III
Delaware Court of Chancery

and the public better, the Court of Chancery has made an ongoing effort to employ internet technology. Currently the Court, through private vendors and with the help of practitioners and academics, has made docket information and pleadings available over the internet for most civil and miscellaneous actions filed in New Castle County (see www.virtualdocket.com and www.marketspan.com). Plans for bringing Kent and Sussex Counties on board are underway. In addition, with the

help of Widener University School of Law and other participants, the Court helped launch the Delaware Corporate Law Clearinghouse (see <http://corporate-law.widener.edu>). This internet site currently features selected published and unpublished opinions, motions, and briefs. When fully developed, the site will feature comprehensive docket information. This site is available to the public and free to all users.

Early this year, this Court had the bittersweet opportunity to honor the passing of one of its most illustrious alumni, the Honorable Collins Seitz. Judge Seitz, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and formerly Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of this Court, famed jurist and civil-rights pioneer, died in 1998. He was honored at a special joint session of the Third Circuit, the Delaware Supreme Court and this Court on January 29, 1999, with Associate Justice David Souter of the United States Supreme Court presiding. At that

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	7,433	2,967	2,771	7,629	+196	+2.6%
Kent County	2,545	524	478	2,591	+46	+1.8%
Sussex County	2,120	861	841	2,140	+20	+0.9%
STATE	12,098	4,352	4,090	12,360	+262	+2.2%

ceremony, Judge Seitz' son, Collins Seitz, Jr., Esquire, presented his father's portrait to the Court. The portrait is now displayed in Chancery Courtroom #107, where it serves as a reminder not only of Judge Seitz' contribution to the law, but of what a court of equity can and

must be.

Finally, in New Castle and Sussex Counties, the Court is looking forward to occupying new quarters. Ground was broken for the New Castle County Courthouse on May 18, 1999, and the State has acquired a site on The Circle in Georgetown and is in the process of

planning and constructing a new Chancery Courthouse on that site. The new Sussex and New Castle courthouses will help this Court to deal efficiently with its expanding caseload while maintaining a high level of service to practitioners and to the public.



Court of Chancery

(left to right)
Vice Chancellor Stephen P. Lamb
Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs
Chancellor William B. Chandler III
Vice Chancellor Myron T. Steele
Vice Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr.

CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Through the Continuing Judicial Education Program administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the judiciary continued the practice of attending conferences on both a national and local level.

The Delaware and Maryland judiciaries sponsored a program entitled, "Genetics in the Courtroom," October 28-30, 1998 at the Sheraton Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland. This conference marked the first time that the Delaware judiciary had met with another state's judiciary for the annual judicial education program. The speakers at the conference included Dr. David Mallott and Dr. Joann A. Boughman of the University of Maryland, noted genetist Dr. Mahlon Hoagland, artist Bert Dodson, Dr. J. Craig Venter, President of Celera Genomics Corporation, Dr. Franklin Zweig, President, Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts, and Commissioner Paul Miller of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Members of the Delaware and Maryland judiciary served as panelists during the program and as moderators in the adjudication clinics.

The annual Bench and Bar Conference was held June 2, 1999 at the First USA Riverfront Conference Center, Wilmington. The educational program focused on the Year 2025 and what will be the role of the Bench and Bar. Madame Justice Rosalie Abella, Court of Appeals for Ontario, Canada, spoke on the "Future of Professionalism" and Professor Frederic I. Lederer, Marshall-Wythe School of Law College of William and Mary, detailed the "Anatomy of the Trial and Demonstrative Evidence in the New Millennium."

Superior Court

Message from the President Judge

During this year, the Superior Court lost a superb jurist and good friend to so many throughout Delaware. On August 15, 1998, Kent County Resident Judge N. Maxson Terry, Jr. died suddenly after presiding at a marriage ceremony. Max will be greatly missed.

* * *

Three new and well-qualified judges have joined the Court. The Honorable James T. Vaughn, Jr. was sworn in to succeed Resident Judge Terry. The Honorable William L. Witham, Jr. was sworn in as a judge in Kent County and the Honorable Richard F. Stokes was sworn in as a judge in Sussex County. The Court now has the strength of nineteen Judges. And while the Superior Court's traditions can be traced to the 1600s, we are embracing new methods and modern technologies so we may serve the people better.

Our nationally known drug court continues to set the example for visitors from around the nation and beyond that teamwork between treatment professionals and the criminal justice system works. As the first statewide drug



President Judge Henry duPont Ridgely
Superior Court of Delaware

court in the country, we completed our fifth full year of operation. More than 750 drug-involved criminal defendants graduated from the program during the last two years. All graduates, some who have been hard core drug users for many years, have tested negative for a minimum period of six months and have successfully completed other program requirements to become eligible for graduation. We intend to push the effort forward to reduce crime, recidivism, and the need to incarcerate.

The Court has constructed an experimental, high-tech, state-of-

the-art courtroom using rented space adjacent to the Herrmann Courthouse. Known as the *e-Courtroom*, it is the result of a joint venture between the Court, the Delaware State Bar Association, and Ameristar, a private sector supplier of hardware. This project is providing many important lessons in courtroom design for the new New Castle County courthouse.

Real time reporting, which is comparable to closed captioning on television, is a major advance in the field of court reporting. This technology is in daily use to assist the hearing impaired. This technology allows Judges to mark testimony for future reference and it expedites transcript preparation.

A digital recording system has been installed in one courtroom in each county to record proceedings for which a transcript request is unlikely. It allows judges to review the record at their desks on our computer network and enhances accurate data entry of case information outside the courtroom.

A bar code-based file labeling and tracking system has been installed in each prothonotary's office. File labels are generated

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	10,372	11,502	10,783	11,091	+719	+6.9%
Kent County	1,898	2,604	2,639	1,863	-35	-1.8%
Sussex County	1,402	2,760	2,648	1,514	+112	+8.0%
STATE	13,672	16,866	16,070	14,468	+796	+5.8%

using system data and are affixed by machine, instead of by hand.

The Court is involved in two major automation projects which will increase efficiency of operations. The Automated Sentence Order Project (ASOP) and the Drug Court Information System (DCIS) will come online in Fiscal Year 2000.

The Court continued its efforts to find new ways to increase the amount collected of restitution owed to victims of crime as well as the collection of fines, costs and other criminal assessments. In cooperation with the Division of Audit and Recovery of the Department of Health and Social Services, the Court has instituted a contempt hearings process for defendants convicted of welfare fraud who have failed to pay restitution to the State. This innovative joint venture will soon be featured in an article in the national journal of the United Council on Welfare Fraud.

The Court has instituted hearings to intercept money seized by arresting police departments which is subject to forfeiture. Forfeited money is then diverted to the payment of restitution and other criminal assessments. This initiative has been a cooperative effort between the Court and the



Department of Justice.

Meanwhile, the tax intercept system, which was established several years ago in cooperation with the Department of Finance, continues to produce benefits. The system identifies people who are due a State of Delaware tax refund and who also have outstanding fines, costs or restitution obligations. This program has generated \$200,000 per year for the last three years. With this success comes a heavy workload, however. During 1999 alone, the Court will process 1,400 intercepts, more than 100 appeals, and will conduct 25 formal appeal hearings.

Enforcement of the Court's orders is essential to the administration of justice. This includes sentence orders that provide specific conditions of

probation. For two years now the Court has participated in Operation Safe Streets, where probation officers accompany police officers during evening patrols of high crime and drug use areas in search of probationers who are violating curfews or other conditions of their probation. This program has been widely credited for a substantial reduction in the number of shootings in Wilmington. Operation Safe Streets was expanded to Kent and Sussex counties during Fiscal 1999.

We continue to recognize the importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a process less formal than the courtroom to resolve certain disputes quickly and on a cost effective basis. As part of our long-term commitment to the use of ADR, the Court enforces both mandatory arbitration and mediation which have resolved many cases without the need for a trial.

The hard work of many individuals is responsible for these many accomplishments and the daily administration of justice in Delaware's major criminal and civil cases. We are looking forward to the challenges of the next millennium with a focus on the consumers of our services and a steady determination to build on our success.



Superior Court

Seated (left to right)

Associate Judge John E. Babiarz, Jr.
Resident Judge Vincent A. Bifferato
President Judge Henry du Pont Ridgely
Associate Judge Richard S. Gebelein
Resident Judge William Swain Lee

Middle (left to right)

Associate Judge Charles H. Toliver, IV
Associate Judge Jerome O. Herlihy
Associate Judge Susan C. Del Pesco
Associate Judge William T. Quillen
Associate Judge Norman A. Barron
Associate Judge T. Henley Graves
Associate Judge Carl Goldstein

Back (left to right)

Associate Judge William L. Witham, Jr.
Associate Judge William C. Carpenter, Jr.
Associate Judge Richard R. Cooch
Associate Judge Haile L. Alford
Associate Judge Fred S. Silverman
Associate Judge James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Associate Judge Richard F. Stokes.

Family Court

Message from the Chief Judge

The Family Court continued its history of administering justice in Fiscal Year 1999, handling a record high number of 58,200 cases filed with only a minimal increase in the pending caseload, through creative and innovative judicial management. Equally important as hearing and deciding matters of delinquency, crime, and domestic relations, the Court spent considerable time and energy on internal management. The key word to describe the focus of the Family Court in Fiscal Year 1999 was "Assessment".

The judges of the Family Court welcomed the opportunity to take a close look from outside and within as we prepare to address the problems of family and juvenile justice in the 21st century. Some projects continued from the previous year and others were initiated in Fiscal Year 1999, all with the goal of continuing and



Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti
Family Court of Delaware

improving the excellence that has earned the Family Court of the State of Delaware its position of leadership and prominence across the country. Some of the highlights of effective programs and changes implemented in the previous year include the following:

Internal Operating Procedures: The Special Committee on Family Court Internal Operating Procedures, appointed by the Supreme Court and chaired by R. Franklin

Balotti, Esquire, completed its report in March 1999. The sixty-five recommendations contained in the report present an innovative method of judicial case management, identifying time standards specific to each type of case.

Court Improvement Project: The federally funded multi-year assessment and implementation project has developed a comprehensive and collaborative model for handling dependency and neglect, termination of parental rights, and adoption cases. The initial steps in restructuring were successful in reducing scheduling delays by up to one year in termination of parental rights cases.

Trial Court Performance Standards: The State Justice Institute acknowledged the leadership position of the Family Court in awarding a grant to the Court to develop Trial Court

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	5,636	34,817	32,738	7,715	+2,079	+36.9%
Kent County	2,390	11,020	11,530	1,880	-510	-21.3%
Sussex County	2,984	12,366	12,370	2,980	-4	-0.1%
STATE	11,010	58,203	56,638	12,575	+1,565	+14.2%

Performance Standards for Unified Family Courts. The committee of judges, commissioners, and staff members worked throughout the year with Dr. Ingo Keilitz, author of the original standards, to develop the best practices for established and emerging family courts. The work product is scheduled for national release in December 1999.

Services for Self-

Represented Litigants: In a snapshot study of all its cases, the Court found that in civil cases other than child support, over 70% of the litigants are self represented. A position was dedicated to developing a comprehensive program for self-represented litigants to gain access to the information and forms necessary to pursue their actions in Family Court. A web site facilitating this effort is open at <http://courts.state.de.us/family/family>.



Court Watch: A project using graduate level students from the University of Delaware received special training to conduct an evaluation of judicial officer performance from a non-lawyer's perspective.

Victim Safety Pager System:

An internal pager system was installed in each courthouse to separate victims from alleged perpetrators prior to trial.

Juvenile Drug Court: The first statewide juvenile drug court in the nation was established in the Family Court in each county. The evaluation of the program received national recognition

Domestic Violence Case Processing Study: Researchers

from the University of Delaware conducted an eighteen-month study of Domestic Violence Case Processing in the Family Court. The comparison of the court process for 1990 and 1996 led the researchers to conclude that the Family Court had improved significantly in spite of the dramatic increase in domestic violence cases.

Juvenile Offender

Accountability Project: Grant funded positions deal swiftly with violations of probation by serious juvenile offenders. A post-sentence monitor ensures offender and probation department compliance with judicial orders.

The exciting studies, recommendations, and initiatives of Fiscal Year 1999 hold great promise for the coming year as the Court prioritizes and implements those changes that will have the greatest positive effects for those who use the Family Court.



Family Court

Seated (left to right)

- Associate Judge Aida Waserstein*
- Associate Judge Kenneth M. Millman*
- Chief Judge Vincent J. Poppiti*
- Associate Judge Peggy L. Ableman*
- Associate Judge Jay H. Conner*

Standing (left to right)

- Associate Judge Alison Whitmer Tumas*
- Associate Judge Mark D. Buckworth*
- Associate Judge William N. Nicholas*
- Associate Judge Peter B. Jones*
- Associate Judge William L. Chapman, Jr.*
- Associate Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn*
- Associate Judge Barbara D. Crowell*
- Associate Judge William J. Walls, Jr.*

Court of Common Pleas

Message from the Chief Judge

The Court has experienced several significant changes in the last few years. The merger of the City of Wilmington Municipal Court into the Court of Common Pleas has increased the Court's size and caseload. In New Castle County, although the Court continues to actively manage its caseload with the use of specialized case review and trial calendars, the number of cases filed in recent years has significantly increased the time to dispose of cases. The Court has also experienced large caseload increases in Kent and Sussex Counties. Such increases required the Court to seek additional judges. In each of the counties, Court staff and facilities are strained to manage the workload.

The Court is especially pleased to welcome its newest judge, the Honorable Rosemary Betts Beauregard. She became the first woman to preside on the



Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
Delaware Court of Common Pleas

Court of Common Pleas bench. The Court also welcomes Commissioner Joseph Whitmore Maybee, who serves in Kent and Sussex counties.

In addition to these new judicial officers, the Court is pleased to report a number of significant accomplishments. The Drug Diversion Program, which boasts only a 10% termination rate, is in its second year and progressing well with an average enrollment of 200 participants. Consistent with its strategic plan of promoting access to justice and

improving service to the public, the Court installed public access computers in all three counties. An information booth was opened in New Castle County, and is handling hundreds of weekly inquiries. The Court is now taking credit cards for payments of fines, making it easier for customers to meet financial obligations and reducing the number of installment accounts. The Court began participation in a tax intercept program. Many Court forms and signs were translated into Spanish to provide improved access for non-English speaking litigants. Improvements were also made to many forms and instructions to assist pro se litigants.

Security was enhanced in all three counties through the installation of additional panic alarms and closed circuit TV cameras. The Court expanded its use of videophone technology,

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	18,055	36,002	30,476	23,581	+5,526	+30.6%
Kent County	4,439	15,871	15,136	5,174	+735	+16.6%
Sussex County	5,430	20,636	20,280	5,786	+356	+6.6%
STATE	27,924	72,509	65,892	34,541	+6,617	+23.7%

of prisoners brought to the courthouses daily.

To strengthen its organizational efficiency, the Court published a Criminal Case Management Users' Manual for Court staff. It also began production of Court notices

from an off-site location, reducing staff time involved in mailing notices to Court litigants, and resulting in significant cost savings to the State. The National Center for State Courts completed a study of the clerk's office in each county.

Steps are being taken to analyze the results of the study and begin implementation. This will continue the Court's ongoing strategic planning efforts.



Court of Common Pleas

Seated (left to right)
Judge Merrill C. Trader
Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls
Judge Alfred Fraczkowski

Standing (left to right)
Judge William C. Bradley, Jr.
Judge Rosemary B. Beauregard
Judge J. Paul James
Judge John K. Welch



Judicial Branch Employee of the Year Award

Since FY1991, the Judicial Branch Employee of the Year award has been presented annually to one staff member selected for his or her outstanding public service. This year, the award went to Angeline Pineault, Clerk of the Court I, of the Court of Common Pleas. Ms. Pineault was the 1998 recipient of this honor for distinguished and dedicated service to litigants and customers of the court.

Through her 35-year career, Angeline grew along with the Court of Common Pleas earning promotions and ultimately achieving a top position in the New

Castle County Civil Section. In 1995, she assumed statewide responsibility for the Court's accounting activities as they moved from a manual to an automated financial management system and recently took responsibility for the 24,000 collection cases acquired from the Wilmington Municipal Court. Ms. Pineault was also recognized for her training efforts and aiding victims in handling restitution problems.

Chief Judge Alex J. Smalls and State Court Administrator, Lawrence P. Webster presented the award to Ms. Pineault at a ceremony held on May 7, 1999 in Wilmington.

Justice of the Peace Court

Message from the Chief Magistrate

With the end of fiscal year 1999, the Justice of the Peace Court completed, or was on its way to completing, 90% of its building project, which was instituted in the mid 1980s, and reinvigorated in 1995. The purpose of the JP Court building project is to ensure that all Justice of the Peace Courts are located in dignified, secure and accessible facilities. In FY 1999, the following building projects were accomplished:

- new J.P. Court 20 opened in downtown Wilmington in July 1998;
- Court 2 moved to a new location in Rehoboth Beach in August;
- Court 11 was expanded with the relocation of the JP Court Administrative Offices in December;
- Courts 7, 16 and the Voluntary Assessment Center (VAC) moved to a new state-owned facility in Dover in May 1999;
- Court 15 relocated to a new facility in North Wilmington, also in May; and
- negotiations continued for land between Harrington and Milford to implement the merger of



*Chief Magistrate
Patricia Walther Griffin*
Delaware Justice of the Peace Court

Courts 5 and 6 into a 16-hour court facility.

Only Court 11 in New Castle and Court 1 in Millsboro remain in need of new facilities. The new facilities provide a better place for court staff to work and the public to use and enhance the Court's appearance of professionalism.

In addition to building construction and coordination of the court moves, the Justice of the Peace Court continued to focus on its strategic planning initiatives,

including:

- the implementation of a training program for new clerks;
- work on an automated civil case management system;
- enhancement of internal communications by regular administrative visits to courts;
- adoption of uniforms for constables and the drafting of a constable handbook to enhance security and professionalism;
- work on the Court's records retention schedule; and
- the completion of internal reviews of the VAC, Administrative Office and Staffing Standards Analysis (on allocation of staff resources and resource needs), in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts.

Significant strides were made in FY 1999 in the strategic goal of providing more public information, with the completion of a video and brochure on landlord/tenant (summary possession) procedures (funded by the State Justice Institute), efforts of the JP Court Speakers Bureau, and the development of a brochure on the Rules of

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CASELOAD SUMMARY								
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Disposi- tions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending		Capias Cleared
Criminal Appeals	36,535	340,585	339,765	37,355	+820	+2.2%	Superior	2,880
Civil Appeals	5,585	30,865	29,112	7,338	+1,753	+31.4%	Family	2,616
							CCP	9,999
TOTAL	42,120	371,450	368,877	44,693	+2,573	+6.1%	TOTAL	15,495

Evidence and the Court's website.

With the opening of the Truancy Court in Kent County in October 1998, the JP Truancy Court expanded to operate on a statewide basis. Following the drug court concept, the Truancy Court focuses on solving truancy issues with continued interaction with truant students and their parents and is strongly supported by visiting teachers and others involved with truancy problems. The Truancy Court, with its use of a new approach to combat truancy in Delaware, sparked the interest of the Governor, who visited it in July 1998. The Truancy Court Coordinator, a position that was created and filled in FY 1999, coordinates the Truancy Court program statewide.

Although there was much positive progress in the Justice of the Peace Court in FY1999, the Court experienced difficulties adjusting to significant caseload increases, particularly in New Castle County. (A significant



contributing factor was the May 1998 merger of the Municipal Court in Wilmington with the JP Court and the Court of Common Pleas). The Court's criminal and traffic caseload increased in FY1999 by 58,503 cases, for a total of 340,585 criminal and traffic cases statewide (or a 21% increase from the previous year). New Castle County handled 30,756 more criminal and traffic cases than last year, representing a 38% increase from the previous

year. The Court's overall caseload topped 371,000 cases in FY 1999. Considering that J.P. Court 11, the 24-hour court in New Castle County, handled more than 50,000 cases by itself in FY 1999, it is not unexpected that difficulties would arise. To relieve the burden on Court 11 after hours, the Court received additional staff and judges for FY 2000 to expand Court 20 to a 24-hour court.

A final highlight of FY 1999 was the selection of Deborah Long, court manager of Courts 17 and 19, as the Justice of the Peace Court Employee of the Year. She, along with the previous recipients of this award and many others who have not yet been recognized, provide living proof by their actions that excellence continues to exist in state government. Debbie was recognized for her exceptional initiative, leadership and achievement, both for her work as a court manager and as a major player in the Justice of the Peace Court civil automation effort.

**CHIEF JUSTICE'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL SERVICE
PRESENTED TO
CHIEF MAGISTRATE PATRICIA WALTHER GRIFFIN**

Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey presented the Fourth Annual Chief Justice's Award for Outstanding Judicial Service to Chief Magistrate Patricia Walther Griffin of the Justice of the Peace Courts at a meeting of the Delaware Judicial Conference on October 28, 1998.

Judge Griffin was nominated by Judge Norman A. Barron, Delaware's Chief Magistrate from 1980 until 1988. Judge Barron cited the superb performance of Judge Griffin's duties which included not only her management of the 58 judges in the Justice of the Peace Court but also her time spent hearing cases in the nineteen Justice of the Peace Courts statewide. He noted the numerous scholarly memoranda of law issued to the Justices of the Peace by Judge Griffin as well as the mandatory legal education program that she established.

Chief Justice Veasey particularly noted with appreciated Judge Griffin's work as chair of the Administrative Enhancement Committee that evaluated the Administrative Office of the Courts and her work as co-chair of the subcommittee of the Executive Committee on Technology.

The chief justice remarked that "Judge Griffin is an incredibly talented and conscientious person who willingly accepts added responsibilities and has, in doing so, enhanced justice in Delaware."

Justice of the Peace Court



KENT COUNTY

(left to right):

*Judge Margaret Barrett,
Deputy Chief Magistrate Charles Stump
Judge Ernst Arndt
Judge Frederick Dewey, Jr.
Judge Harvey Leighty
Judge Fred Lord
Judge Russell Rash*

Not Pictured:

*Judge Karen Bundek, Judge James Murray
Judge Ellis Parrott, Judge Agnes Pennella
Judge Robert Wall, Jr.*

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Seated (left to right):

*Judge Roger Barton, Judge Lawrence Fitchett,
Judge Nancy Roberts, Judge Kathleen Lucas,
Judge Clarence Bennett,
Deputy Chief Magistrate Bonita Lee,
Judge Joseph Schiavi*

Standing (left to right):

*Judge Paul Smith, Judge Terry Smith,
Judge William Moser, Judge James Tull,
Judge David Skelley, Judge Edward Poling,
Judge Thomas Brown, Judge Wayne Hanby,
Judge Thomas Kenney*

Not Pictured:

*Judge Robert Armstrong, Judge Thomas Cole,
Judge Richard Douglas, Judge Sean McCormick,
Judge Stanley Petraschuk, Judge Katharine Ross,
Judge Rosalie Rutkowski, Judge Vernon Taylor,
Judge Rosalind Toulson*



SUSSEX COUNTY

Seated (left to right):

*Deputy Chief Magistrate Sheila Blakely,
Judge Jeni Coffelt, Judge Marcealeate Ruffin,
Judge Edward Davis, Judge Margaret Barrett (Kent
County), Judge O'Bier*

Standing (left to right):

*Judge Richard Comly, Judge William Wood,
Judge John Hudson, Judge John Martin,
Judge William Hopkins, Jr., Judge Joseph Melson, Jr.,
Judge Howard Mulvaney, III, Judge William Boddy, III,
Judge John McKenzie*

Not Pictured:

*Judge William Brittingham, Judge Herman Hagan
Judge Jana Mollohan*

Alderman's Courts

Alderman Harld Britton Barber, *Bethany Beach*
 Alderman Francis J. Pryal, *Bethany Beach*
 Alderman David B. Striegel, *Delmar*
 Sr. Alderman Marvin Guberman, *Dewey Beach*
 Assistant Alderman Roger Mallet, *Dewey Beach*
 Alderman Paul H. Sheridan, *Laurel*
 Chief Alderman Loreto P. Rufo, *Newark*
 Assistant Alderman Robert P. Welshmer, *Newark*
 Alderman Joyce Nolan, *Newport*
 Assistant Alderman Barry Newstadt, *Neport*
 Alderman Melanie M. Nooney, *Ocean View*
 Alderman Michael J. DeFiore, *Rehoboth Beach*



FISCAL YEAR 1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY*						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Newark	4,836	10,976	10,569	5,243	+407	+8.4%
Newport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delmar	407	1,540	1,368	579	+172	+42.3%
Dewey Beach	0	1,303	1,303	0	0	—
Laurel	66	1,390	1,184	272	+206	+312.1%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	229	2,003	2,039	193	-36	-15.7%
STATE	5,538	17,212	16,463	6,287	+749	+13.5%

*The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.



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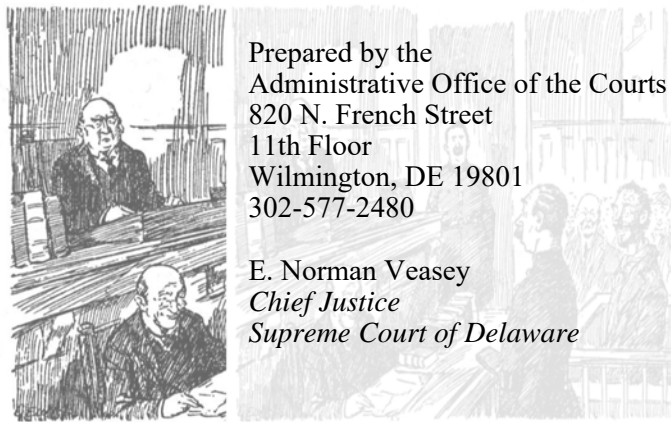
Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary



Fiscal Year 1999



1999 Statistical Report of the Delaware Judiciary



Prepared by the
Administrative Office of the Courts
820 N. French Street
11th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-577-2480

E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Delaware

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE



SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

December 1999

To Governor Thomas R. Carper, Members of the General Assembly, and Citizens of the State of Delaware:

It is my honor to present the 1999 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary. Because of the excellent relationships among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and the hard work of judges and court staff at every level, there have been major accomplishments in the past fiscal year.

More cases than ever before have been presented to the judicial branch in fiscal year 1999, and more work has been completed than in any prior year. This continuous growth in workload—not only in the sheer number of cases, but also in their complexity—has been a challenge to the dedicated and energetic judicial officers and staff of our State. They deserve our thanks and praise for their unceasing efforts to administer justice to all of the citizens of Delaware.

Perhaps fiscal year 1999 will be best remembered for two very important accomplishments: (1) the General Assembly and Governor provided much of the funding needed to build the New Castle County Courthouse (which is well under construction) as well as for acquisition and improvements of court facilities in Kent and Sussex Counties; and (2) the creation of new judgeships for the Family Court and Court of Common Pleas in Kent and Sussex Counties.

I want to express my thanks to the Governor, the members of the General Assembly and the judiciary for their tireless dedication to justice this past year. The quality of life for citizens of Delaware, as well as our national reputation, will grow as we continue to strive for excellence and increase our efforts to build public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

Respectfully,

E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Delaware

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

COURT ORGANIZATION AND JURISDICTION



The Delaware judiciary is composed 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 Alderman's Courts, and related judicial agencies.

In terms of interrelationships among the courts, the Delaware Court system is similar to a pyramid. The Justice of the Peace Court and the Alderman's Courts represent the base of the pyramid and the Supreme Court the apex of the pyramid. As a litigant goes upward through the court system pyramid, the legal issues generally become more complex and, thus, more costly to litigate. For this reason, cases decided as close as possible to the entry level of the court system generally result in cost savings to the judiciary in resources used to handle the matters and in speedier resolution of the issues at hand for the litigants.

The Justice of the Peace Court, the initial entry level into the court system for most citizens, have jurisdiction over civil cases in which the disputed

amount is less than \$15,000. In criminal cases, the Justice of the Peace Court hears certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and the Justices of the Peace may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas. Over one-half of all cases are disposed of rapidly at the Justice of the Peace Court level without further impact on the remainder of the judicial system.

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction in civil cases where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$50,000. In criminal cases, the Court of Common Pleas handles all misdemeanors occurring in the State except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses. Appeals may be taken to the Superior Court. The Court is also responsible for all preliminary hearings in felony cases.

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 criminal cases are appealed to the 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 on the record to the Supreme Court.

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to equity. The litigation

OVERVIEW OF THE COURTS

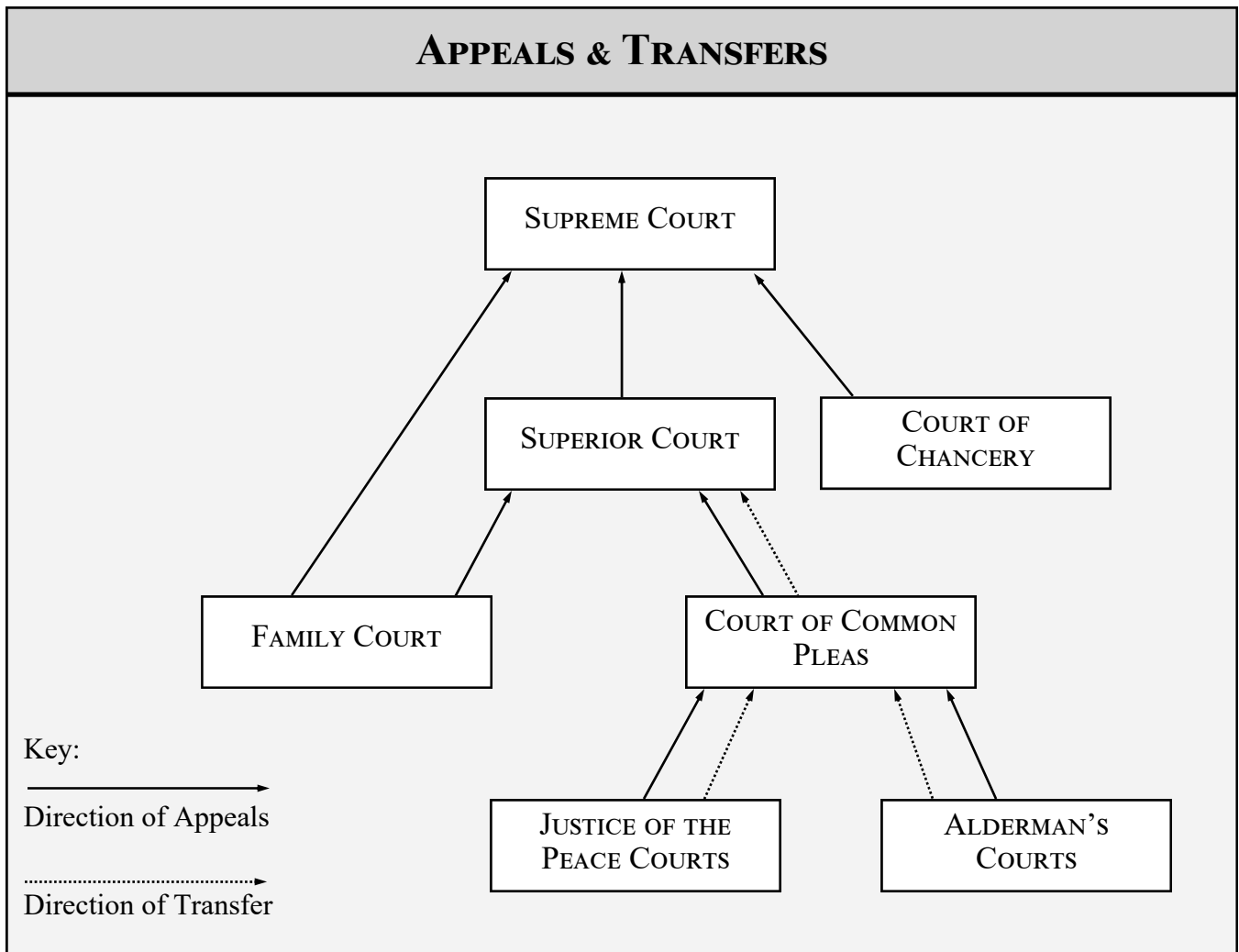
in this tribunal deals largely with corporate issues, trusts, estates, other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase of land and questions of title to real estate as well as commercial and contractual matters. The Court of Chancery has a national reputation in the business community and is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



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 Administrative Office of the Courts, including the Judicial Information Center and the Office of the State Court Collections Enforcement, provides those centralized services to the Delaware judiciary which are consistent with the statewide policies and goals for judicial administration and support operations as established by the chief justice of

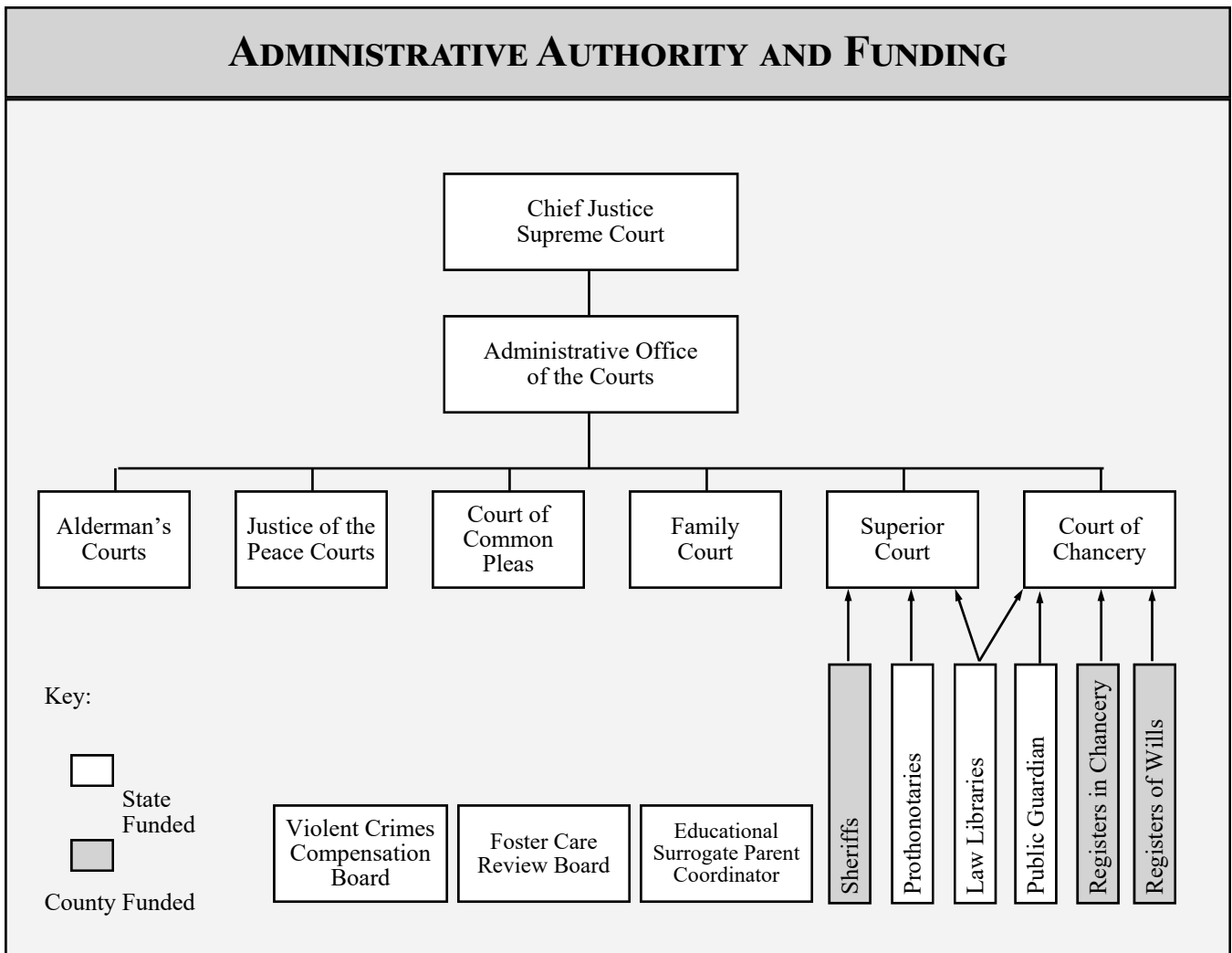
The Supreme Court is the State's appellate court which receives direct appeals from the



OVERVIEW OF THE COURTS

the Supreme Court.

Other agencies associated with the Delaware Judiciary as shown on the chart below include the state funded agencies: Violent Crimes Compensation Board, Foster Care Review Board, Educational Surrogate Parent Coordinator, Prothonotaries, Law Libraries, and Public Guardian. The majority of the components of the Delaware judicial system are funded by the State. Exceptions to this are the Alderman's Courts, the Registers in Chancery and the Registers of Wills for the Court of Chancery, and the Sheriffs' Offices.



THE DELAWARE COURT SYSTEM

COURT OF LAST RESORT

SUPREME COURT

Final appellate jurisdiction for criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds certain minimums, and in civil cases as to final judgments, certain orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court and court designated boards. Issuer of certain writs

EQUITY COURT

COURT OF CHANCERY

Hear/determine all matters and causes in equity (typically corporate, trust, fiduciary matters, land sale, real estate, and commercial/contractual matters).

LAW COURT

SUPERIOR COURT

Original statewide jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases (except equity cases). Exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except marijuana possession and most felonies/drugs involving minors). Involuntary commitments to Delaware State Hospital. Intermediate appellate court.

COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

FAMILY COURT

Extensive jurisdiction over all domestic relations matters, including divorce, custody, visitation, child and spousal support, and property division. Jurisdiction over intrafamily misdemeanors, misdemeanor crimes against children, and civil domestic violence protective orders. Jurisdiction over all juvenile offenses except murder, rape, and kidnapping.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Statewide jurisdiction in civil actions involving less than \$50,000. All criminal misdemeanors (except certain drug-related offenses and traffic offenses). Responsible for all preliminary hearings. Appeals from the Justice of the Peace Courts, Alderman's Courts, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

All civil cases involving less than \$15,000. Certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (except felonies). May act as committing magistrate for all crimes. Landlord/tenant disputes.

ALDERMAN'S COURTS

Minor misdemeanors, traffic, parking, and minor civil matters occurring within town limits (specific jurisdiction varies with town charter, as approved by the General Assembly).



FISCAL YEAR 1999 OVERVIEW

FISCAL OVERVIEW

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL BUDGETS—FISCAL YEARS 1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001				
STATE*	FY 1998 Actual Disbursement	FY 1999 Actual Disbursement	FY 2000 Appropriations	FY2001 Request
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 2,905,500	\$ 3,158,300	\$ 3,329,600	\$ 3,713,000
Judicial Information Center	2,760,800	2,752,200	2,109,500	5,971,500
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	384,700	426,400	419,600	428,300
Supreme Court	3,060,400	2,301,700	2,143,200	2,239,700
Continuing Judicial Education**	50,800	47,900	73,300	73,300
Court of Chancery	1,904,800	1,967,500	2,005,300	2,093,000
Public Guardian	365,600	376,300	386,200	395,700
Superior Court	13,804,500	15,212,900	15,135,900	15,944,800
Law Libraries	452,200	488,900	461,100	513,200
Family Court	13,678,600	14,207,300	15,122,900	16,535,900
Court of Common Pleas	4,993,300	5,196,400	5,628,400	6,389,700
Justice of the Peace Courts	13,570,200	11,600,900	12,108,900	12,818,300
Violent Crimes Compensation Board	1,527,800	1,420,200	2,196,900	2,197,400
Foster Care Review Board	386,300	397,600	408,800	520,300
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	62,100	69,300	68,700	70,100
Office of the Child Advocate	—	—	240,000	274,800
STATE TOTALS	\$59,907,600	\$59,623,800	\$61,838,300	\$70,179,000

	FY1998 Actual Disbursement	FY1999 Actual Disbursement	FY2000 Appropriations
NEW CASTLE COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$ 766,935	\$ 773,028	\$ 813,726
Register of Wills	931,385	967,373	1,001,781
Prothonotary	73,756	79,295	79,295
Sheriff	1,177,981	1,132,821	1,180,865
New Castle County Totals	\$2,950,057	\$2,952,517	\$3,075,667
KENT COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$166,019	\$155,000	\$149,700
Register of Wills	145,489	148,000	145,600
Sheriff	253,707	250,500	282,400
Kent County Totals	\$565,215	\$553,500	\$577,700
SUSSEX COUNTY			
Register in Chancery	\$119,224	\$122,698	\$123,359
Register of Wills	163,085	154,935	176,691
Sheriff	296,294	286,244	280,703
Sussex County Totals	\$578,603	\$563,877	\$580,753
MUNICIPALITIES			
Alderman's Courts	N/A	N/A	N/A
GRAND TOTALS JUDICIAL BRANCH	\$64,001,475	\$63,693,694	\$66,072,420

*Figures include State governed funds, federal funds, and other funds.

**Continuing judicial education is funded as part of the Administrative Office of the Courts' budget, but is shown separately for informational purposes.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 SUBMITTED TO STATE GENERAL FUND						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interests**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 700	\$ 700	0.0%
Judicial Information Center	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
State Court Collections Enforcement Office	200	0	0	0	200	0.0%
Supreme Court	50,100	0	0	0	50,100	2.2%
Continuing Judicial Education	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Court of Chancery	0	0	3,900	0	3,900	0.2%
Public Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Superior Court	1,574,700	336,200	9,500	335,700	2,256,100	14.8%
Law Libraries	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Family Court	620,600	73,700	0	43,000	737,300	5.2%
Court of Common Pleas	1,360,500	835,700	0	33,500	2,229,700	42.9%
Justice of the Peace Court	2,107,800	1,091,800	0	40,100	3,239,700	27.9%
Foster Care Review Board	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Educational Surrogate Parent Program	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Alderman's Courts	0	0	0	19,346	19,346	N/A
STATE TOTALS	\$5,713,900	\$2,337,400	\$13,400	\$472,346	\$8,537,046	14.3%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 RECEIVED BY VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interests**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement #
Superior Court	\$ 0	\$ 400,829	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 400,829	—
Family Court	0	23,192	0	0	23,192	—
Court of Common Pleas	0	584,387	0	0	584,387	—
Justice of the Peace Court	0	1,245,844	0	0	1,245,844	—
Alderman's Courts	0	192,432	0	0	192,432	—
Restitution	0	77,429	0	0	77,429	—
Other	0	4,539	30,099	49,869	84,507	—
VIOLENT CRIMES COMPEN-	\$ 0	\$2,528,652	\$30,099	\$49,869	\$2,608,620	183.7%

*Figures represent only revenue actually received, not the total amount actually assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

#FY 1999 revenue divided by FY 1999 actual disbursement which includes state general, federal, and other funds.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 SUBMITTED TO NEW CASTLE COUNTY

	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 582,683	\$ 0	\$195,537	\$ 0	\$ 778,220	100.7%
Register of Wills	2,058,808	0	0	500	2,059,308	212.9%
Prothonotary	44,692	1,945	0	0	46,637	58.8%
Sheriff	1,086,974	0	10,000	5,206	1,102,180	97.3%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	511,075	0	0	511,075	4.4%
NEW CASTLE COUNTY TOTALS	\$3,773,157	\$513,020	\$205,537	\$5,706	\$4,497,420	135.0%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 SUBMITTED TO KENT COUNTY

	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 28,087	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$ 28,087	18.1%
Register of Wills	330,097	0	0	0	330,097	223.0%
Sheriff	375,944	0	0	0	375,944	150.1%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	4,210	0	0	4,210	0.0%
KENT COUNTY TOTALS	\$734,128	\$4,210	\$0	\$0	\$738,338	132.6%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 SUBMITTED TO SUSSEX COUNTY

	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
Register in Chancery	\$ 35,470	\$ 0	\$2,984	\$0	\$ 38,454	31.3%
Register of Wills	633,044	0	0	0	633,044	408.6%
Sheriff	349,033	0	0	0	349,033	121.9%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	616	0	0	616	0.0%
SUSSEX COUNTY TOTALS	\$1,017,547	\$616	\$2,984	\$0	\$1,021,147	181.0%

*Figures represent only revenue actually collected, not the total amount of fines and costs assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all court of Chancery interest money.

#FY1999 revenue divided by FY1999 actual disbursement.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 SUBMITTED TO MUNICIPALITIES						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
Court of Common Pleas	\$ 0	\$ 689,671	\$0	\$0	\$ 689,671	13.3%
Justice of the Peace Court	0	2,751,667	0	0	2,751,667	23.7%
Alderman's Courts	240,958	651,156	0	0	892,114	N/A
TOTAL	\$240,958	\$4,092,494	\$0	\$0	\$4,333,452	25.8%

COURT GENERATED REVENUE* — FISCAL YEAR 1999 GRAND TOTALS — JUDICIAL BRANCH						
	Fees and Costs	Fines	Interest**	Miscellaneous	TOTALS	Revenue as a % of Disbursement#
TOTAL	\$10,640,849	\$8,481,245	\$460,312	\$331,683	\$19,914,089	31.3%

RESTITUTION — FISCAL YEAR 1999			
	Restitution Assessed	Restitution Collected	Restitution Disbursed
Supreme Court	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Court of Chancery	0	0	0
Superior Court	6,373,294	1,468,073	1,441,646
Family Court	672,557	218,125	218,690
Court of Common Pleas	383,823	275,967	261,315
Justice of the Peace Court	135,843	110,957	111,705
TOTAL	\$7,565,517	\$2,073,122	\$2,033,356

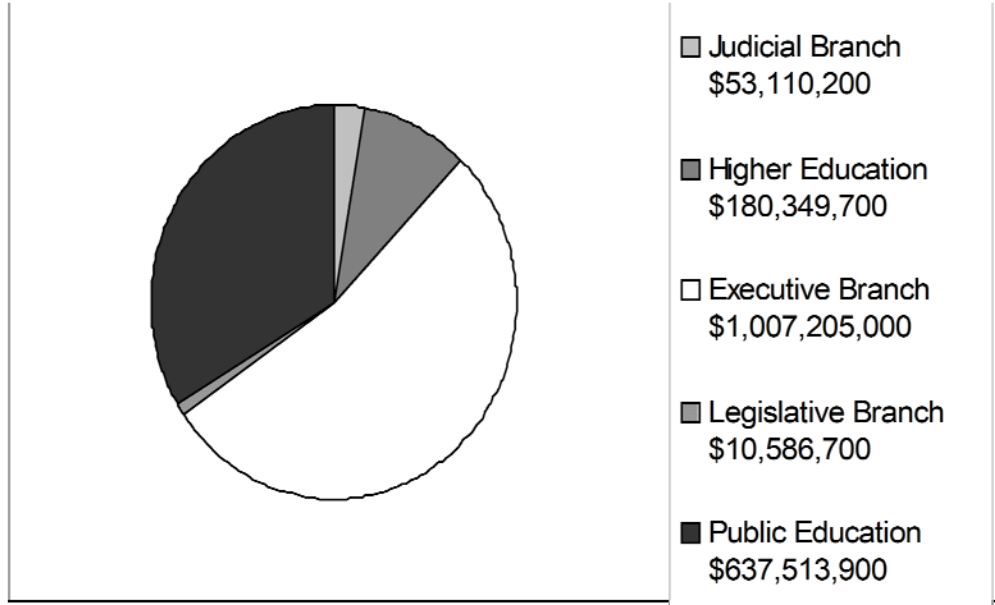
*Figures represent only revenue actually collected, not the total amount of fines and costs actually assessed.

**Counties receive 50% of all Court of Chancery interest money.

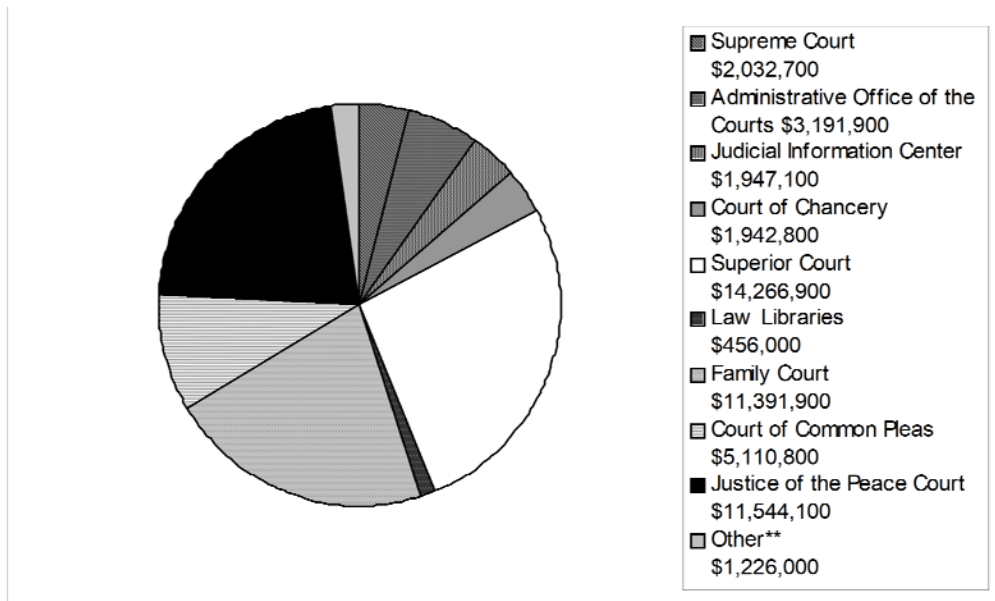
#FY 1999 Revenue divided by FY 1999 Actual Disbursement, which includes State general, federal, and other funds.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts

DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
 FISCAL YEAR 1999
 STATE APPROPRIATIONS—TOTAL (\$1,888,765,500)



DELAWARE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS*
 FISCAL YEAR 1999
 STATE APPROPRIATIONS—JUDICIARY (\$53,110,200)



*The chart reflects state general fund monies only. In addition to those amounts, the Supreme Court received \$65,200, the Family Court received \$2,595,300 and the Violent Crimes Compensation Board received \$2,175,700 in appropriated special funds.

**Other: Public Guardian (\$373,400), Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (\$398,000), Foster Care Review Board (\$387,900), Educational Surrogate Program (\$66,700).

Source: 139th General Assembly, Senate Bill 410.

SUPREME COURT



Legal Authorization

The Supreme Court is created by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1. The Supreme Court sits in Dover but the justices maintain their chambers in the counties where they reside.

Court History

The modern Supreme Court was established in 1951 by constitutional amendment. The State's first separate Supreme Court initially consisted of three justices and was enlarged to the current five justices in 1978.

Prior to 1951, Delaware was without a separate Supreme Court. The highest appellate authority prior to the creation of the separate Supreme Court consisted of those judges who did not participate in the original litigation in the lower courts. These judges would hear the appeal en banc (collectively) and would exercise final jurisdiction in all matters in both law and equity.

Jurisdiction

The Court has final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases in which the sentence exceeds

certain minimums and in civil cases as to final judgments and for certain other orders of the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, and the Family Court. Appeals are heard on the record. Under some circumstances, the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to issue writs of prohibition, quo warranto, certiorari, and mandamus.

Justices

The Supreme Court consists of a chief justice and four justices who are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The justices are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law and citizens of the State. Three of the justices must be of one of the major political parties while the other two justices must be of the other major political party.

Administration

The chief justice is responsible for the administration of all courts in the State and appoints a State Court Administrator to manage the non-judicial aspects of court administration. The Supreme Court is staffed by a clerk of the court, staff attorneys, an assistant clerk, law clerks, secretaries, and court clerks.

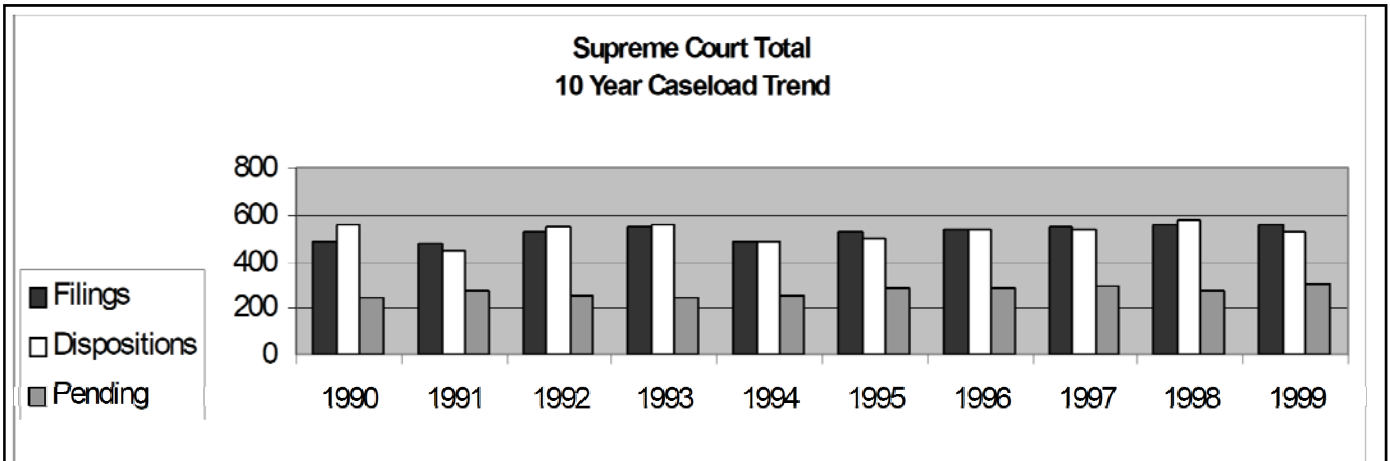
SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
Criminal Appeals	113	232	203	142	+29	+25.7%
Civil Appeals	148	263	267	144	-4	-2.7%
Original Applications*	8	63	57	14	+6	+75.0%
TOTALS	269	558	527	300	+31	+11.5%

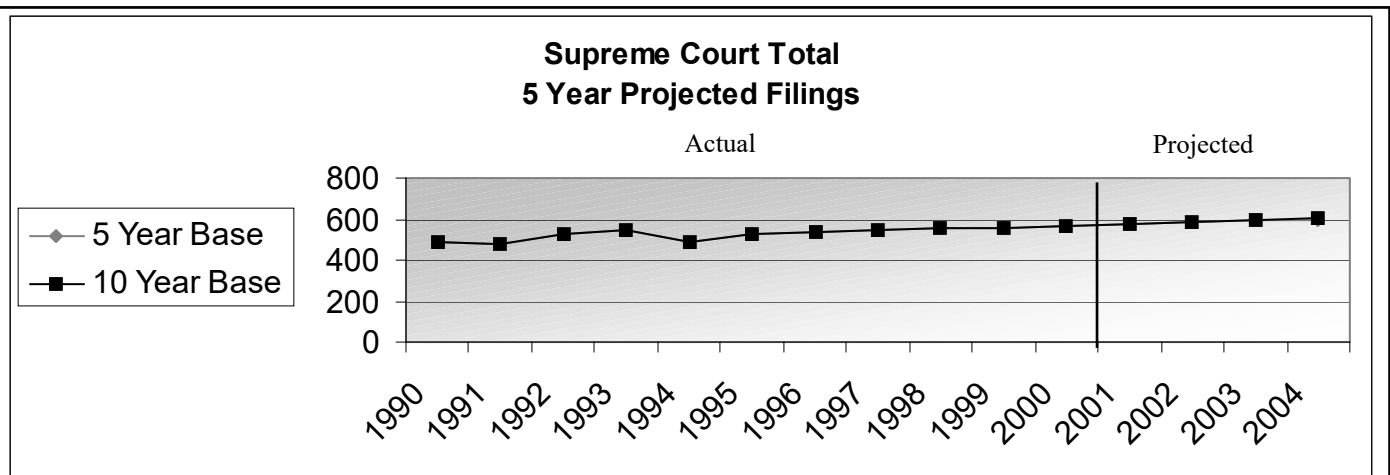
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	186	232	+46	+24.7%
Civil Appeals	307	263	-44	-14.3%
Certifications	4	2	-2	-50.0%
Original Applications	33	42	+9	+27.3%
Board on Professional Responsibility	21	17	-4	-19.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	3	1	-2	-66.7%
Advisory Opinions	0	1	+1	—
TOTALS	554	558	+4	+0.7%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
Criminal Appeals	201	203	+2	+1.0%
Civil Appeals	314	267	-47	-15.0%
Certifications	6	1	-5	-83.3%
Original Applications	36	39	+3	+8.3%
Board on Professional Responsibility	23	14	-9	-39.1%
Board of Bar Examiners	2	2	0	0.0%
Advisory Opinions	0	1	+1	—
TOTALS	582	527	-55	-9.5%

*Board on Professional Responsibility, Board of Bar Examiners and Advisory Opinions are included with the original applications in the Caseload Summary. Each is listed separately, however, in the Caseload Comparison.
Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	484	474	530	542	488	530	532	551	554	558
Dispositions	558	444	549	552	482	495	535	537	582	527
Pending at End of Year	244	274	255	245	251	286	283	297	269	300



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	530	532	551	554	558	568	576	584	592	600
10 Year Base	484	474	530	542	488	530	532	551	554	558	569	577	585	593	602

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS FILINGS										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	232	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	232	100.0%
Civil Appeals	60	22.8 %	152	57.8%	51	19.4%	0	0.0%	263	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	42	100.0%	42	100.0%
Board on Professional Responsibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	17	100.0%	17	100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Advisory Opinions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
TOTALS	60	10.8%	384	68.8%	51	9.1%	63	11.3%	558	100.0%

FISCAL YEARS 1999—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS DISPOSITIONS										
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Family Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0	0.0%	203	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	203	100.0%
Civil Appeals	60	22.5 %	143	53.6%	64	24.0%	0	0.0%	267	100.0%
Certifications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
Original Applications	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	39	100.0%	39	100.0%
Board on Professional Responsibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14	100.0%	14	100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Advisory Opinions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%
TOTALS	60	11.4%	346	65.7%	64	12.1%	57	10.8%	527	100.0%

FISCAL YEARS 1999—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CHANGE IN PENDING								
	Court of Chancery		Superior Court		Non-Court Originated		TOTALS	
Criminal Appeals	0		+29		0		0	+29
Civil Appeals	0		+9		-13		0	-4
Certifications	0		0		0		+1	+1
Original Applications	0		0		0		+3	+3
Board on Professional Responsibility	0		0		0		+3	+3
Board of Bar Examiners	0		0		0		-1	-1
Advisory Opinions	0		0		0		0	0
TOTALS	0		+38		-13		+6	+31

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS — FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CASELOAD
APPEAL DISPOSITIONS

	Affirmed	Affirmed Part/ Reversed Part	Reversed	Re-manded	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Leave to Appeal Denied	Other	Totals
Criminal Appeals	148 72.9%	1 0.5%	10 4.9%	1 0.5%	10 4.9%	32 15.8%	0 0.0%	1 0.5%	203 100.0%
Civil Appeals	144 44.4%	4 1.2%	24 7.4%	1 0.3%	48 14.8%	76 23.5%	12 3.7%	15 4.6%	324 100.0%
TOTALS	292 55.4%	5 0.9%	34 6.5%	2 0.4%	58 11.0%	108 20.5%	12 2.3%	16 3.0%	527 100.0%

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS — FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CASELOAD
MISCELLANEOUS DISPOSITIONS

	Action			Voluntary Dismissal	Court		Leave to Appeal		
Original Apps.	0 0.0%	1 2.4%	1 2.4%	2 4.9%	37 90.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	41 100.0%
Bd. on Prof. Resp.	6 42.9%	8 57.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	14 100.0%
Bd. of Bar Exam.	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 100.0%	0 0.0%	2 100.0%
TOTALS	6 10.5%	9 15.8%	1 1.8%	2 3.5%	37 64.9%	0 0.0%	2 3.5%	0 0.0%	57 100.0%

TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS — FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CASELOAD
METHOD OF DISPOSITIONS

	Assigned Opinion	Per Curiam Opinion	Order	Voluntary Dismissal	TOTALS
Criminal Appeals	24 11.8%	3 1.5%	166 81.8%	10 4.9%	203 100.0%
Civil Appeals	37 13.9%	6 2.2%	178 66.7%	46 17.2%	267 100.0%
Original Applications	1 2.4%	0 0.0%	38 92.7%	2 4.9%	41 100.0%
Board on Professional Responsibility	0 0.0%	4 28.6%	10 71.4%	0 0.0%	14 100.0%
Board of Bar Examiners	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 100.0%	0 0.0%	2 100.0%
TOTALS	62 11.8%	13 2.5%	394 74.8%	58 11.0%	527 100.0%

*Action taken includes disbarments, suspensions, and reinstatements.

Bd. on Prof. Resp.—Board on Professional Responsibility

Bd. of Bar Exam.—Board of Bar Examiners

Source: Clerk of the Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPREME COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — PERFORMANCE SUMMARY <i>AVERAGE ELAPSED TIME TO DISPOSITION</i>			
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Average Time from Submission to Disposition*
Criminal Appeals	203	233.5 days	32.3 days
Civil Appeals	267	175.9 days	31.7 days
Certifications	1	27.0 days	27.0 days
Original Applications	39	26.6 days	12.0 days
Board on Professional Responsibility	14	95.7 days	11.8 days
Board of Bar Examiners	2	436.0 days	216.0 days
Advisory Opinion	1	12.0 days	1.0 days
TOTALS	527	184.9 days	28.4 days

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — PERFORMANCE SUMMARY				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
Criminal Appeals	231.6 days	233.5 days	+1.9 days	+0.8%
Civil Appeals	196.1 days	175.9 days	-20.2 days	-10.3%
Certifications	182.5 days	27.0 days	-155.5 days	-85.2%
Original Applications	34.3 days	26.6 days	-7.7 days	-22.4%
Board on Professional Responsibility	72.8 days	95.7 days	+22.9 days	+31.5%
Board of Bar Examiners	88.0 days	436.0 days	—	—
Advisory Opinion	—	12.0 days	—	—
TOTALS	193.0 days	184.9 days	-8.9 days	-4.6%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS <i>ELAPSED TIME BY DISPOSITION TYPE</i>			
Type of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Average Time from Submission to Disposition*
Affirmed	292	240.1 days	30.1 days
Affirmed Part/Reversed Part	5	299.6 days	95.4 days
Reversed	34	329.8 days	52.5 days
Remanded	2	102.5 days	45.0 days
Voluntary Dismissal	58	86.6 days	—
Court Dismissal	108	67.7 days	14.1 days
Leave to Appeal Denied	12	60.3 days	31.7 days
Other	16	85.9 days	18.8 days
TOTALS	527	184.9 days	28.4 days

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS <i>ELAPSED TIME BY DISPOSITION METHOD</i>			
Method of Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Average Time from Submission to Disposition*
Assigned Opinion	62	320.5 days	61.4 days
Per Curiam Opinion	13	230.6 days	33.1 days
Order	394	176.5 days	23.1 days
Voluntary Dismissal	58	86.6 days	—
TOTALS	527	184.9 days	28.4 days

*Average time from date submitted for judicial decision to actual date of disposition. Not all Supreme Court cases require a judicial decision.
Source: Clerk of Supreme Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY



Legal Authorization

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Court of Chancery.

Court History

The Court of Chancery came into existence as a separate court under the constitution of 1792. It was modeled on the High Court of Chancery in England and is in direct line of succession from the Court. The Court consisted solely of the chancellor until 1939 when the position of vice chancellor was added. The increase of the Court's workload, since then, has led to further expansions to its present complement of a chancellor and four vice chancellors, with the addition of the fourth vice chancellor being made in 1989.

Geographic Organization

The Court of Chancery holds court in Wilmington, Dover and Georgetown. The Court of

Chancery consists of one chancellor and four vice chancellors. The chancellor and vice chancellors are nominated by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Senate for 12-year terms. The chancellor and vice chancellors must be learned in the law and must be Delaware citizens.

Public Guardian

The chancellor has the duty to appoint the public guardian.

Support Personnel

The chancellor may appoint court reporters, bailiffs, criers or pages, and law clerks. The register in chancery is the clerk of the court for all actions except those within the jurisdiction of the register of wills. A register in chancery is elected for each county. The chancellor or vice chancellor resident in the county is to appoint one chief deputy register

in chancery in each county. The register in chancery in New Castle County appoints a chief deputy register in chancery as well.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Court of Chancery has jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters and causes in equity. The general equity jurisdiction of the Court is measured in terms of the general equity jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery of Great Britain as it existed prior to the separation of the American colonies. The General Assembly may confer upon the Court of Chancery additional statutory jurisdiction. In today's practice, the litigation in the Court of Chancery consists largely of corporate matters, trusts, estates, and other fiduciary matters, disputes involving the purchase and sale of land, questions of title to real estate, and commercial and contractual matters in general. When issues of fact to be tried by a jury arise, the Court of Chancery may order such facts to trial by issues at the Bar of the Superior Court (10 Del. C., 369).

COURT OF CHANCERY

FISCAL YEAR 1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending* 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	7,433	2,967	2,771	7,629	+196	+2.6%
Kent County	2,545	524	478	2,591	+46	+1.8%
Sussex County	2,120	861	841	2,140	+20	+0.9%
STATE	12,098	4,352	4,090	12,360	+262	+2.2%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1998**	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,738	2,967	+229	+8.4%
Kent County	479	524	+45	+9.4%
Sussex County	864	861	-3	-0.3%
STATE	4,081	4,352	+271	+6.6%

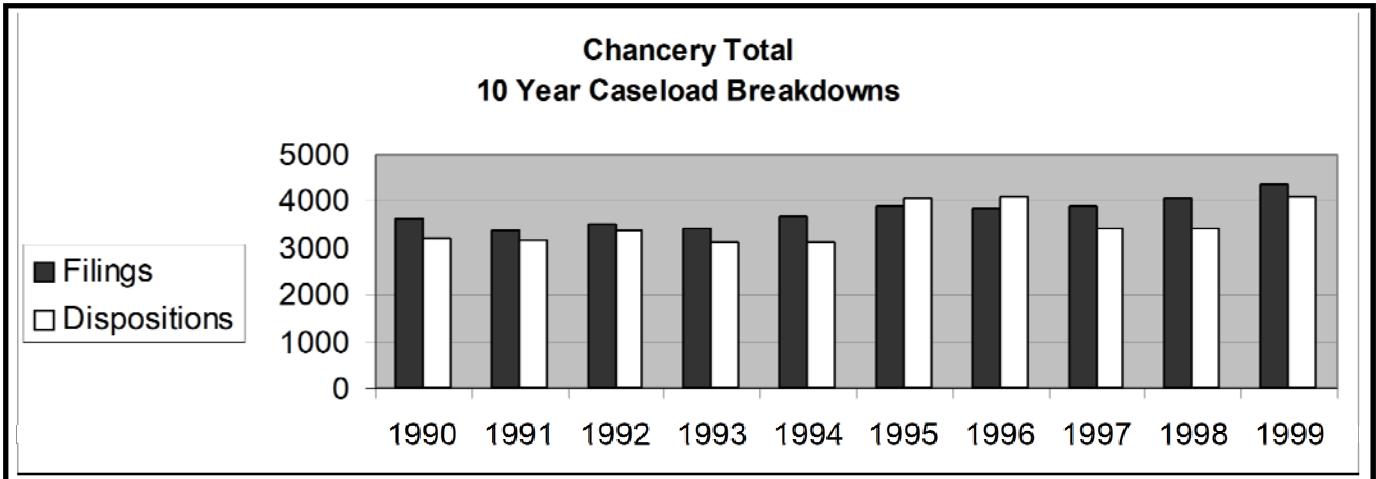
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1998**	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,272	2,771	+499	+22.0%
Kent County	434	478	+44	+10.1%
Sussex County	734	841	+107	+14.6%
STATE	3,440	4,090	+650	+18.9%

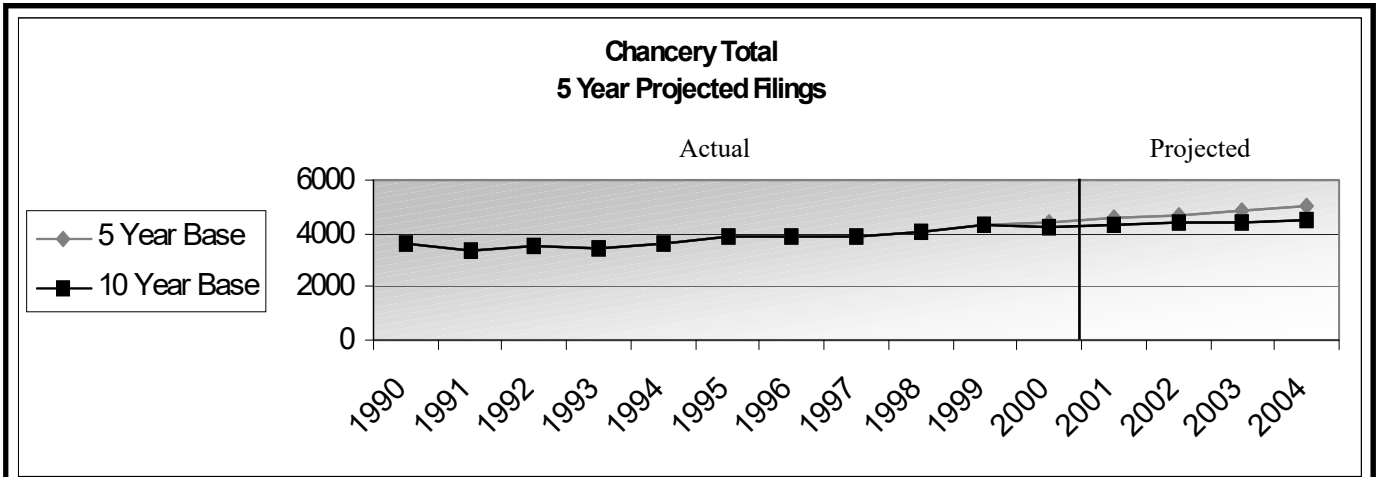
*Sussex County and State amended.

**New Castle County and State amended.

Source: Registers in Chancery; Register of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	3,618	3,365	3,493	3,418	3,660	3,902	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352
Dispositions	3,212	3,147	3,356	3,121	3,121	4,041	4,097	3,424	3,440	4,090



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	3,902	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352	4,413	4,559	4,706	4,854	5,000
10 Year Base	3,618	3,365	3,493	3,418	3,660	3,902	3,853	3,876	4,081	4,352	4,231	4,301	4,373	4,443	4,514

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Registers in Chancery, Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending* 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	893	810	748	955	+62	+6.9%
Kent County	66	26	14	78	+12	+18.2%
Sussex County	102	57	60	99	-3	-2.9%
STATE	1,061	893	822	1,132	+71	+6.7%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—CIVIL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

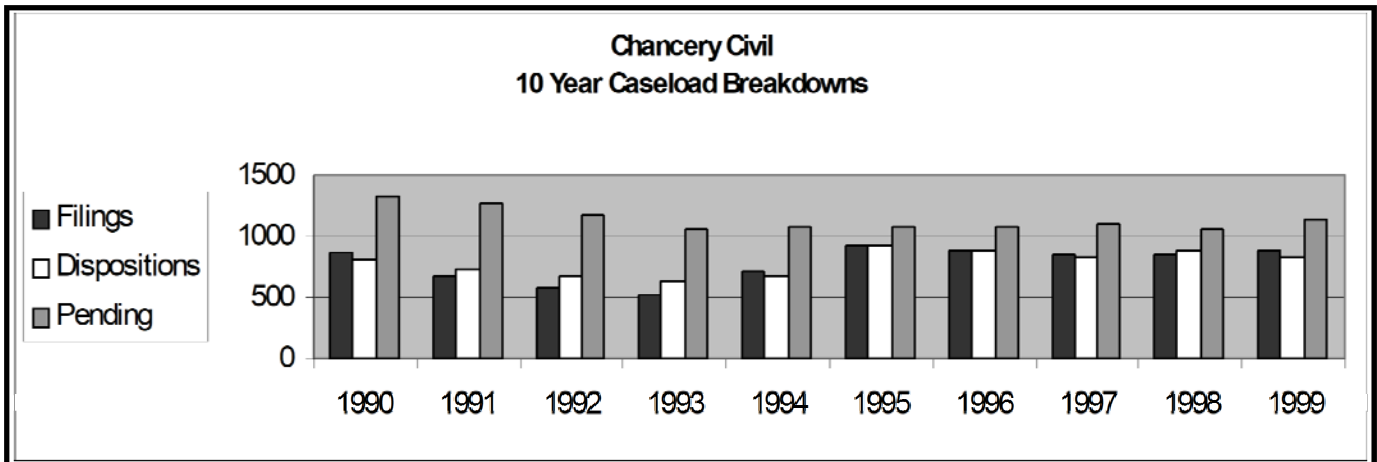
	1998*	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	765	810	+45	+5.9%
Kent County	35	26	-9	-25.7%
Sussex County	52	57	+5	+9.6%
STATE	852	893	+41	+4.8%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—CIVIL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

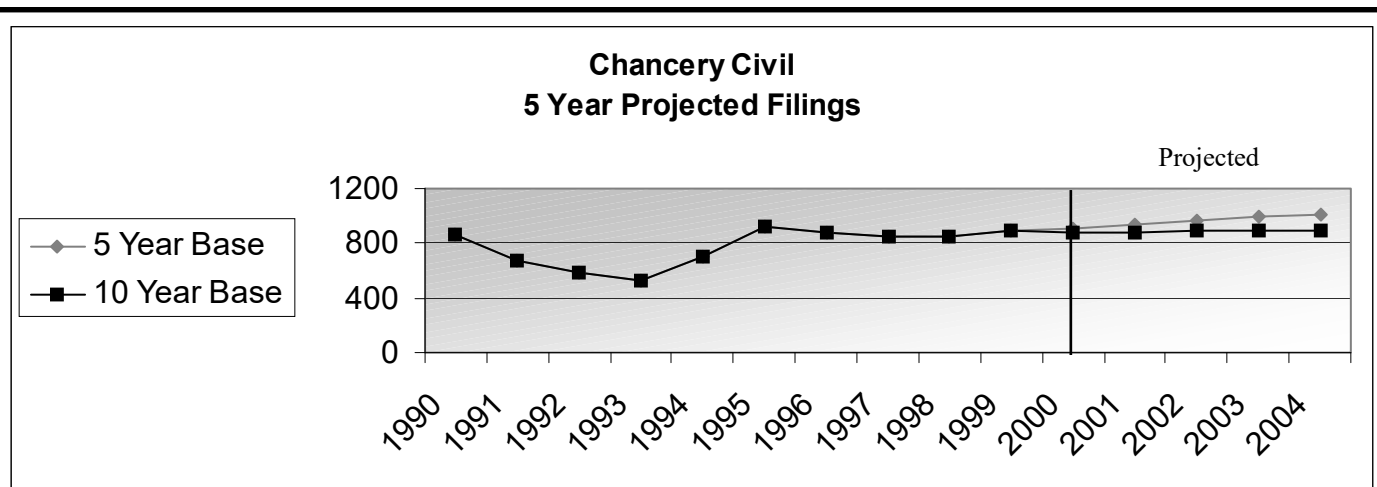
	1998*	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	791	748	-43	-5.4%
Kent County	43	14	-29	-67.4%
Sussex County	53	60	+7	+13.2%
STATE	887	822	-65	-7.3%

*New Castle County and State amended.

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999
Filings	863	670	585	525	707	925	880	847	852	893
Dispositions	812	740	676	635	680	929	890	820	887	822
Pending at End of Year	1,330	1,260	1,169	1,057	1,082	1,078	1,068	1,095	1,061	1,132



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	925	880	847	852	893	913	938	963	988	1,013
10 Year Base	863	670	585	525	707	925	880	847	852	893	879	883	888	892	897

*Amended from previous year's report.
Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY

FISCAL YEAR 1999 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending* 6/30/98	Filings	Disposition	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	3,604	708	714	3,598	-6	-0.2%
Kent County	1,108	168	123	1,153	+45	+4.1%
Sussex County	1,122	231	203	1,150	+28	+2.5%
STATE	5,834	1,107	1,040	5,901	+67	+1.1%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
New Castle County	469	708	+239	+51.0%
Kent County	105	168	+63	+60.0%
Sussex County	270	231	-39	-14.4%
STATE	844	1,107	+263	+31.2%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
New Castle County	238	714	+476	+200.0%
Kent County	55	123	+68	+123.6%
Sussex County	246	203	-43	-17.5%
STATE	539	1,040	+501	+92.9%

*Sussex County and State amended from previous year's report.
Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
FILINGS**

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		TOTALS	
New Castle County	228	32.2%	147	20.8%	268	37.9%	65	9.2%	708	100.0%
Kent County	47	28.0%	30	17.9%	76	45.2%	15	8.9%	168	100.0%
Sussex County	39	16.9%	50	21.6%	16	6.9%	126	54.5%	231	100.0%
STATE	314	28.4%	227	20.5%	360	32.5%	206	18.6%	1,107	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
DISPOSITIONS**

	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		TOTALS	
New Castle County	115	16.1%	128	17.9%	460	64.4%	11	1.5%	714	100.0%
Kent County	29	23.6%	20	16.3%	68	55.3%	6	4.9%	123	100.0%
Sussex County	44	21.7%	34	16.7%	2	1.0%	123	60.6%	203	100.0%
STATE	188	18.1%	182	17.5%	530	51.0%	140	13.5%	1,040	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
PENDING AT END OF YEAR**

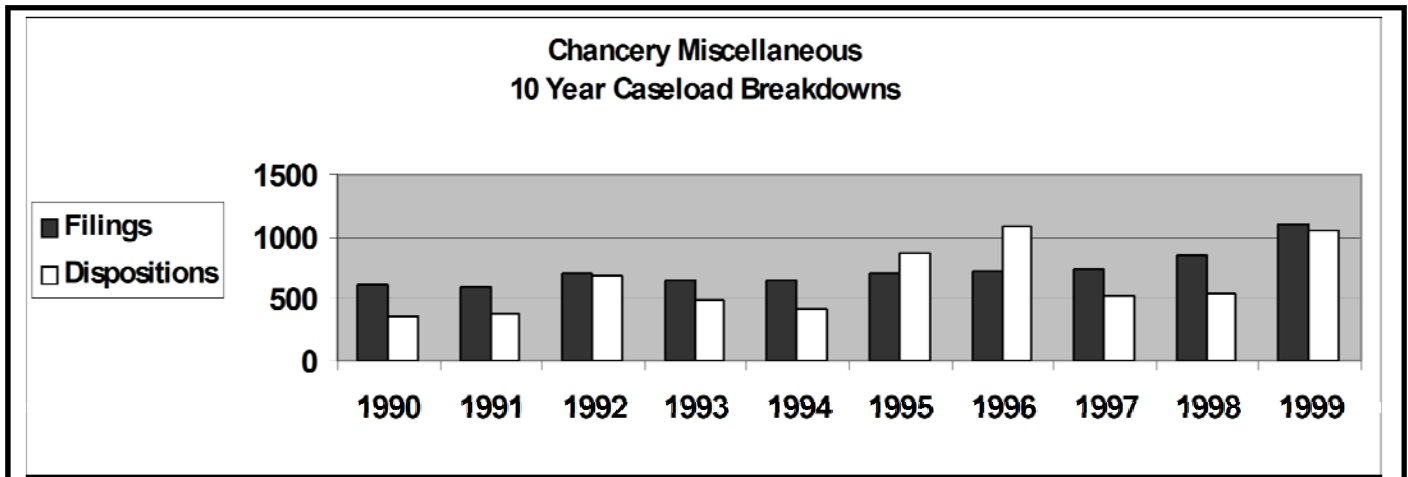
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		TOTALS	
New Castle County	1,265	35.2%	1,407	39.1%	690	19.2%	236	6.6%	3,598	100.0%
Kent County	489	42.4%	385	33.4%	212	18.4%	67	5.8%	1,153	100.0%
Sussex County	722	62.8%	137	11.9%	156	13.6%	135	11.7%	1,150	100.0%
STATE	2,476	42.0%	1,929	32.7%	1,058	17.9%	438	7.4%	5,901	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
CHANGE IN PENDING**

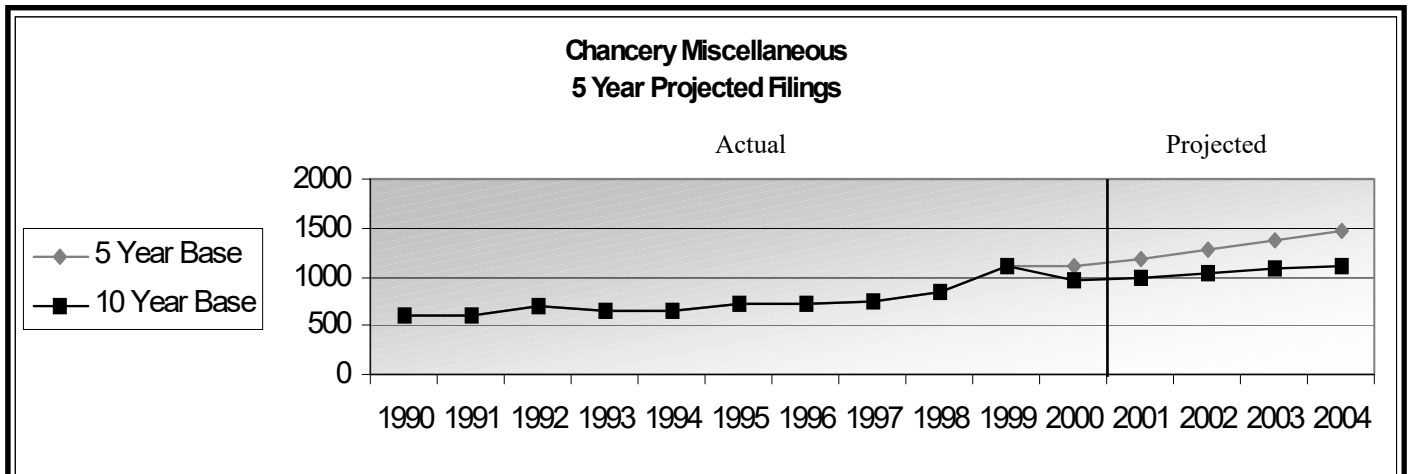
	Guardians for Minors		Guardians for Infirm		Trusts		Other Matters		TOTALS	
New Castle County	+113		+19		-192		+54		-6	
Kent County	+18		+10		+8		+9		+45	
Sussex County	-5		+16		+14		+3		+28	
STATE	+126		+45		-170		+66		+67	

Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	607	604	710	651	652	712	720	749	844	1,107
Dispositions	362	375	688	484	407	864	1,085	531	539	1,040



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	712	720	749	844	1,107	1,101	1,192	1,283	1,375	1,466
10 Year Base	607	604	710	651	652	712	720	749	844	1,107	957	997	1,038	1,078	1,118

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
 Source: Registers in Chancery; Administrative Office of the Courts.

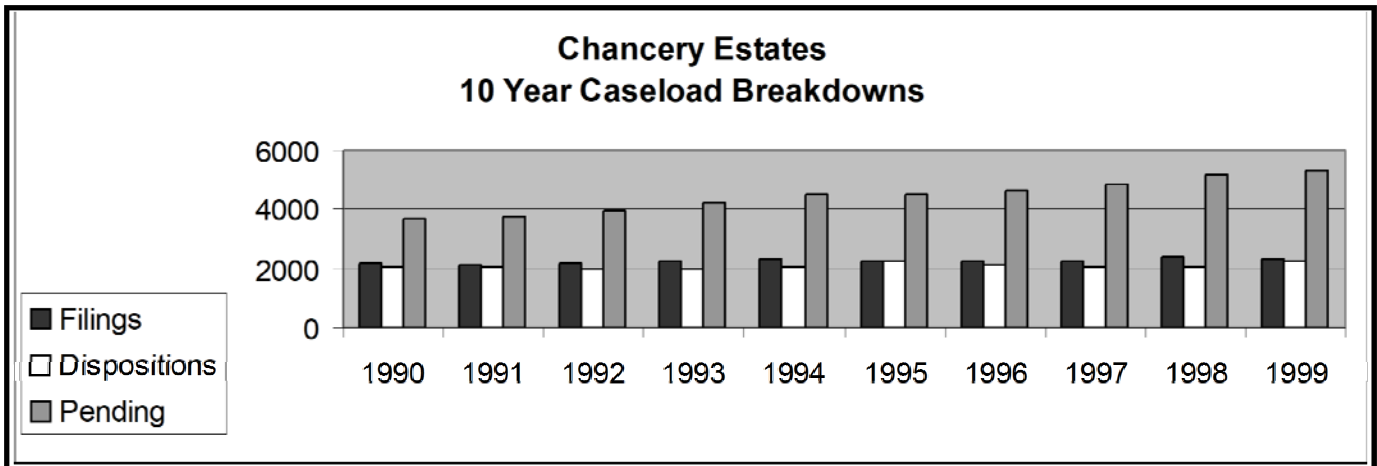
FISCAL YEAR 1999 ESTATES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	2,936	1,449	1,309	3,076	+140	+4.8%
Kent County	1,371	330	341	1,360	-11	-0.8%
Sussex County	896	573	578	891	-5	-0.6%
STATE	5,203	2,352	2,228	5,327	+124	+2.4%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—ESTATES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
New Castle County	1,504	1,449	-55	-3.7%
Kent County	339	330	-9	-2.7%
Sussex County	542	573	+31	+5.7%
STATE	2,385	2,352	-33	-1.4%

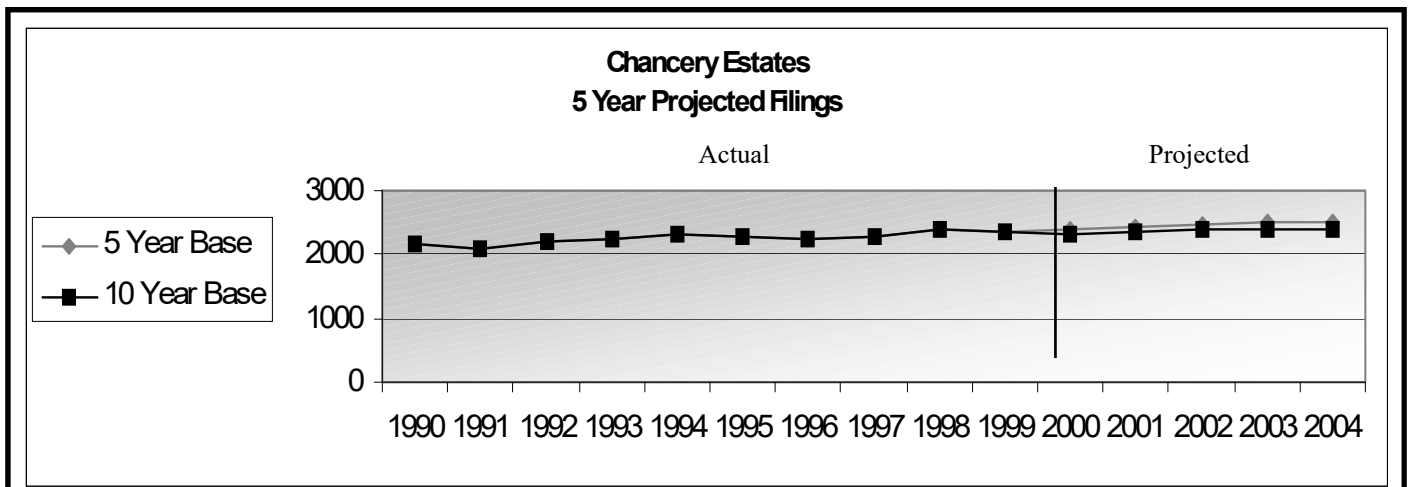
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—ESTATES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
New Castle County	1,243	1,309	+66	+5.3%
Kent County	336	341	+5	+1.5%
Sussex County	435	578	+143	+32.9%
STATE	2,014	2,228	+214	+10.6%

Source: Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF CHANCERY



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999
Filings	2,148	2,091	2,198	2,242	2,301	2,265	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352
Dispositions	2,038	2,032	1,992	2,002	2,034	2,248	2,122	2,073	2,014	2,228
Pending at End of Year	3,705	3,764	3,970	4,210	4,477	4,494	4,625	4,832	5,203	5,327



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	2,265	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352	2,399	2,429	2,460	2,491	2,521
10 Year Base	2,148	2,091	2,198	2,242	2,301	2,265	2,253	2,280	2,385	2,352	2,395	2,421	2,447	2,473	2,499

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Registers in Chancery, Registers of Wills; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Legal Authorization

The Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1, authorizes the Superior Court.

Court History

Superior Court's roots can be traced back more than 300 years to December 6, 1669 when John Binckson and two others were tried for treason for leading an insurrection against colonists loyal to England in favor of the King of Sweden.

The law courts, which represent today's Superior Court jurisdiction, go back as far as 1831 when they included Superior Court, which heard civil matters, the Court of General Sessions, which heard criminal matters, and the Court of Oyer and Terminer, which heard capital cases and consisted of all four law judges for the other two courts.

In 1951, the Court of Oyer and Terminer and the Court of General Sessions were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined in today's Superior Court. The presiding judge of Superior Court was renamed president judge. There were five Superior judges in 1951; there are seventeen today.

Geographic Organization

Sessions of Superior Court are held in each of the three counties at the county seat.

Legal Jurisdiction

Superior Court has statewide original jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases, except equity cases, over which the Court of Chancery has exclusive jurisdiction, and



domestic relations matters which jurisdiction is vested with the Family Court. The Court's authority to award damages is not subject to a monetary maximum. The Court hears cases of personal injury, libel and slander, and contract claims. The Court also tries cases involving medical malpractice, legal malpractice, property cases involving mortgage foreclosures, mechanics' liens, condemnations, and appeals related to landlord-tenant disputes, and appeals from the Automobile Arbitration Board. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over felonies and drug offenses (except most felonies and drug offenses involving minors and except possession of marijuana cases). Superior Court has jurisdiction over involuntary commitments of the mentally ill to the Delaware State Hospital. The Court serves as an intermediate appellate court, hearing appeals on the record from the Court of Common Pleas, Family Court (adult criminal), and more than 50 administrative agencies including the Industrial Zoning and Adjustment Boards, and other quasi-judicial bodies. Appeals from Superior Court are argued on the record before the Supreme Court.

Judges

Superior Court judges are nominated by the Governor and

confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms and must be learned in the law. There may be seventeen judges appointed to the Superior Court bench, which will increase to nineteen judges as of January 1, 1999. One of the seventeen judges is appointed president judge with administrative responsibility for the Court. Three are appointed as resident judges and must reside in the county in which they are appointed. No more than a bare majority of the judges may be of one political party; the rest must be of the other major political party.

Support Personnel

Superior Court may appoint court reporters, law clerks, bailiffs, presentence officers, a secretary for each judge, and other personnel.

An appointed prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court for the county. The prothonotary for each county serves as clerk of the Superior Court and is directly involved with the daily operations of the Court. The office handles the jury list and property liens, and is the custodian of costs and fees for the Court. It issues permits to carry deadly weapons, receives bail, deals with the release of incarcerated prisoners, issues certificates of notary public where applicable, issues certificates of election to elected officials, issues commitments to the State Hospital, and collects and distributes restitution monies as ordered by the Court in addition to numerous other duties. It is also charged with security, care, and custody of court's exhibits. Elected sheriffs, one per county, also serve Superior Court.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD SUMMARY*— Number of Defendants</i>						
	Pending** 6/30/98	Filings	Disposition	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	10,372	11,502	10,783	11,091	+719	+6.9%
Kent County	1,898	2,604	2,639	1,863	-35	-1.8%
Sussex County	1,402	2,760	2,648	1,514	+112	+8.0%
STATE	13,672	16,866	16,070	14,468	+796	+5.8%

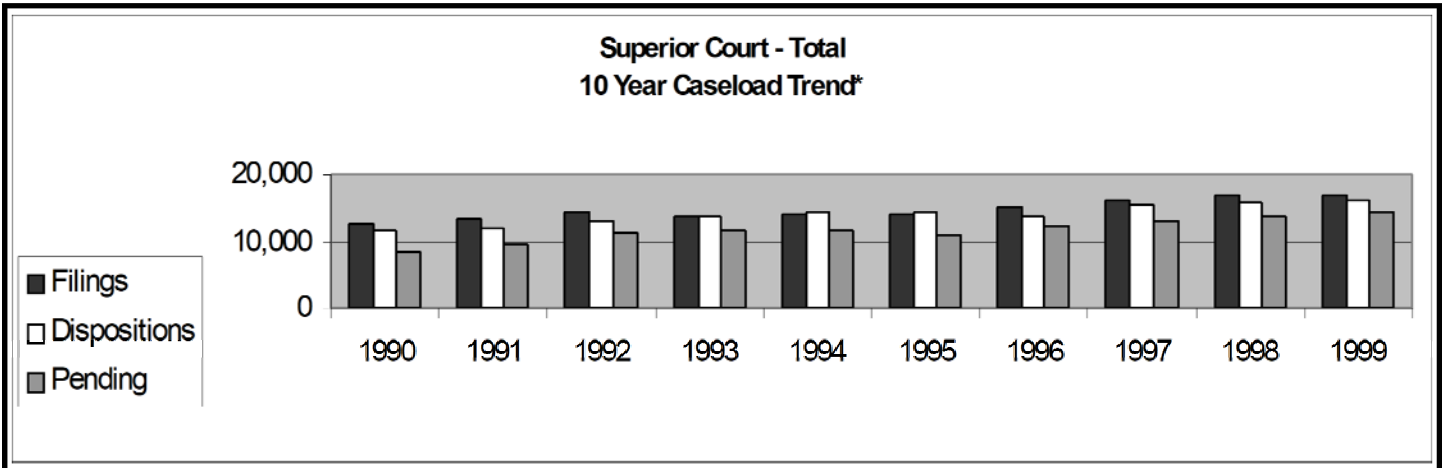
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD FILINGS*—Number of Defendants</i>				
	1998**	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	11,327	11,502	+175	+1.5%
Kent County	2,720	2,604	-116	-4.3%
Sussex County	2,702	2,760	+58	+2.1%
STATE	16,749	16,866	+117	+0.7%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS* — Number of Defendants</i>				
	1998**	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	10,854	10,783	-71	-0.7%
Kent County	2,394	2,639	+245	+10.2%
Sussex County	2,698	2,648	-50	-1.9%
STATE	15,946	16,070	+124	+0.8%

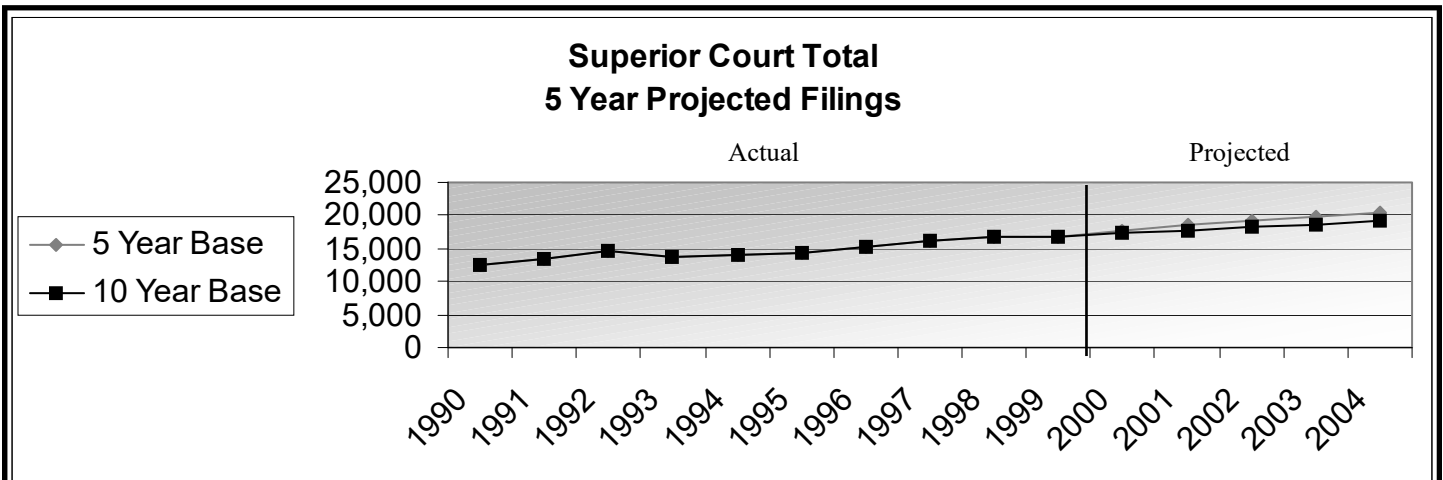
*Involuntary commitments are included in the caseload.

**Amended from the 1998 Annual Report.

Source: Superior Court, Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	12,477	13,344	14,533	13,808	14,037	14,328	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866
Dispositions	11,472	12,084	12,998	13,540	14,422	14,608	13,595	15,456	15,946	16,070
Pending at End of Year	8,380	9,640	11,175	11,443	10,958	10,678	12,188	12,869	13,672**	14,468



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	14,328	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866	17,831	18,496	19,160	19,825	20,490
10 Year Base	12,477	13,344	14,533	13,808	14,037	14,328	15,105	16,103	16,749	16,866	17,263	17,726	18,191	18,655	19,119

*Involuntary commitments are included with caseload.

**Amended from 1998 Annual Report.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY— *Number of Defendants*

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Disposition	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	3,903	4,370	4,445	3,828	-75	-1.9%
Kent County	1,034	1,552	1,584	1,002	-32	-3.1%
Sussex County	805	1,769	1,738	836	+31	+3.9%
STATE	5,742	7,691	7,767	5,666	-76	-1.3%

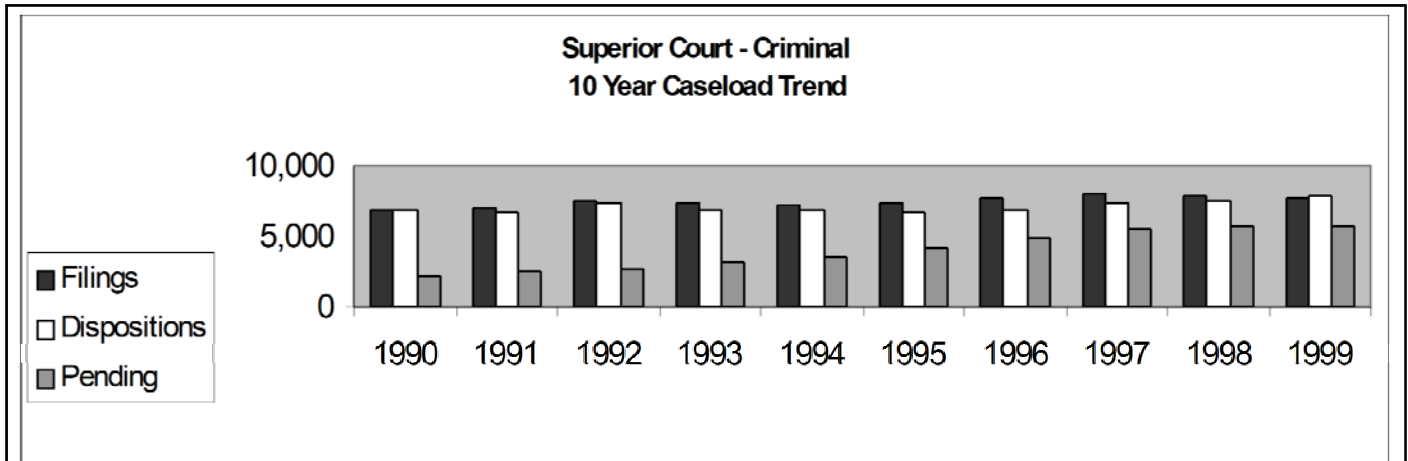
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS — *Number of Defendants*

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,389	4,370	-19	-0.4%
Kent County	1,633	1,552	-81	-5.0%
Sussex County	1,823	1,769	-54	-3.0%
STATE	7,845	7,691	-154	-2.0%

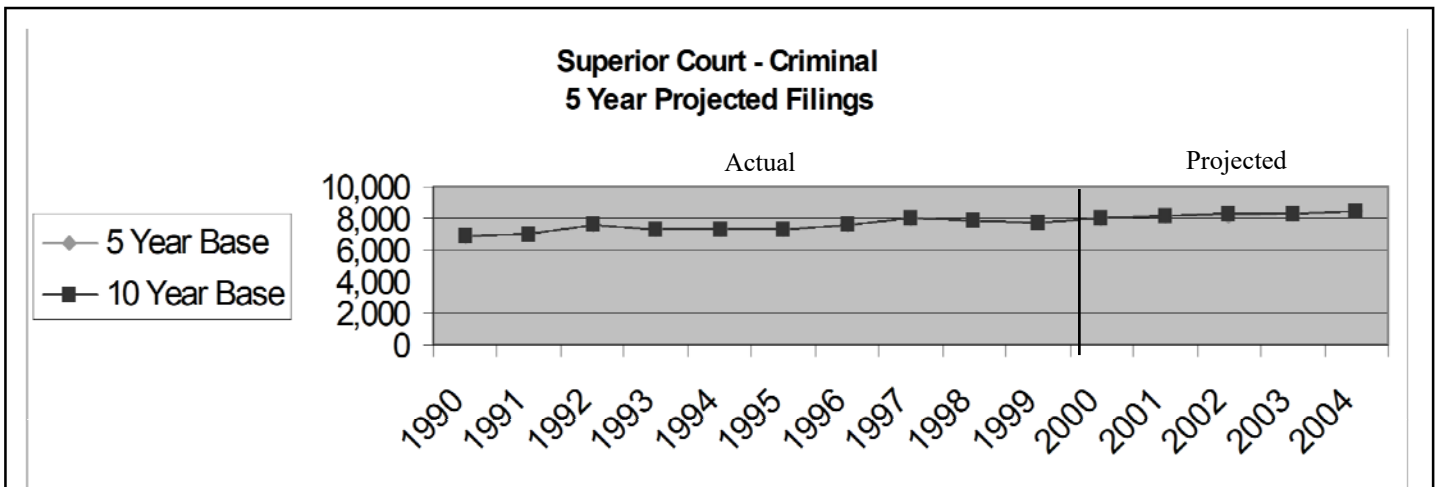
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS— *Number of Defendants*

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,410	4,445	+35	+0.8%
Kent County	1,402	1,584	+182	+13.0%
Sussex County	1,758	1,738	-20	-1.1%
STATE	7,570	7,767	+197	+2.6%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	6,833	7,003	7,581	7,295	7,240	7,253	7,620	8,056	7,845	7,691
Dispositions	6,775	6,709	7,413	6,771	6,907	6,731	6,902	7,392	7,570	7,767
Pending at End of Year	2,244	2,538	2,706	3,230	3,563	4,085	4,803	5,467	5,742	5,666



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	7,253	7,620	8,056	7,845	7,691	8,008	8,111	8,213	8,316	8,419
10 Year Base	6,833	7,003	7,581	7,295	7,240	7,253	7,620	8,056	7,845	7,691	8,023	8,133	8,244	8,354	8,464

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Criminal Cases Explanatory Notes

1. The unit of count in Superior Court criminal cases is the defendant. A defendant is defined as an individual named in an indictment, so that an individual named in three (3) indictments is counted as three (3) defendants. An individual with a consecutively-numbered series of informations, appeals, or transfers filed on the same day is counted as one defendant.
2. Informations are filed if defendants waive indictment.
3. Transfers were defendants brought before the Court of Common Pleas in New Castle County who requested jury trials before January 15, 1995. After January 15, 1995, the Court of Common Pleas began to hear jury trials.
4. Reinstatements represent defendants who have had their cases disposed of who are brought back before Superior Court for one of the following reasons:
 - mistrial
 - hung jury
 - motion for new trial granted
 - guilty plea withdrawn
 - lower court appeal reinstated after being dismissed
 - conviction overturned by Supreme Court; remanded to Superior Court for a new trial.
5. Severances are defendants indicted on multiple charges whose charges are severed to be tried separately.
6. Trial dispositions refer to the number of defendants whose charges were disposed of at trial rather than the number of trials. The date of disposition is the trial date. Should the decision be reserved, it will be the date when the opinion is handed down.
7. A defendant is counted as being disposed of by nolle prosequi only if all charges in an indictment or information or all charges transferred or appealed simultaneously are dropped. For example, if a defendant pleads guilty to one charge in an indictment, and other charges in the same indictment are then nol-prossed, that defendant is considered to have been disposed of by guilty plea on the date of the plea.
8. Defendants are not counted as disposed of by nolle prosequi if the nolle prosequi was filed to an original charge because the defendant entered a guilty plea to a new information. This is a further action in an existing case and is not counted as a separate filing, so the nolle prosequi is not the primary disposition.
9. Only nolle prosequis filed for defendants who were actually brought before Superior Court by indictment, information, appeal, transfer, reinstatement, or severance are counted in the total number of Superior Court dispositions. Nolle prosequis of unindicted defendants are listed separately because such defendants were never formally brought before the Superior Court.
10. Unindicted nolle prosequis are felony or drug defendants who were arrested and were bound over to Superior Court by a lower court either because probable cause was found or because the defendant waived preliminary hearing.
11. Remands are defendants who appealed or transferred their cases to Superior Court and had them remanded back to the lower court. Appeals Dismissed Records Remanded (ADRR) are cases in which an appeal to Superior Court has been dismissed with the record being remanded to the court from which it came. ADRR's and remands do not constitute the dispositions of all appeals that are filed; some are disposed of by trial de novo, plea, or nolle prosequi.
12. Participation in the First Offender Program is limited to defendants who are charged with driving under the influence or select drug possession charges and are first-time offenders. The defendants choose to enroll in a rehabilitation program and waive their right to a speedy trial in the process. The charge is dropped once the defendant satisfactorily completes the program and pays all fees.
13. A consolidation represents a single individual who is indicted separately on different charges but whose charges are consolidated to be tried together, thus an individual indicted in January and again in February, and who is counted as two filings, will receive one trial disposition and one consolidation disposition if the charges are tried together.
14. A triable criminal case is one in which there has been an indictment, information, or notice of appeal de novo filed with the court. Defendants who have capiases or Rule 9 warrants for summonses outstanding or who have been judged to be incompetent to stand trial are not triable and are not included in the triable pending cases.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
FILINGS—Number of Defendants brought to Superior Court by:

	Indictment		Rule 9 Warrant		Information		Other*		Total	
New Castle County	3,713	85.0%	445	10.2%	210	4.8%	2	0.0%	4,370	100.0%
Kent County	1,223	78.8%	0	0.0%	319	20.6%	10	0.6%	1,552	100.0%
Sussex County	357	20.2%	95	5.4%	1,313	74.2%	4	0.2%	1,769	100.0%
STATE	5,293	68.8%	540	7.0%	1,842	24.0%	16	0.2%	7,691	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES— CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
DISPOSITIONS—Number of Defendants brought to Superior Court by:

	Trial		Guilty Plea		Nolle Prosequi		Remand or Transfer		ADRR		Dismissal		FOP/Drug Court**		Consolidation		Total	
New Castle	126	2.8%	2,934	66.0%	830	18.7%	8	0.2%	2	0.0%	100	2.2%	214	4.8%	231	5.2%	4,445	100.0%
Kent	45	2.8%	1,088	68.7%	227	14.3%	7	0.4%	0	0.0%	21	1.3%	131	8.3%	65	4.1%	1,584	100.0%
Sussex	49	2.8%	1,145	65.9%	226	13.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	179	10.3%	137	7.9%	1,738	100.0%
STATE	220	2.8%	5,167	66.5%	1,283	16.5%	15	0.2%	2	0.0%	123	1.6%	524	6.7%	433	5.6%	7,767	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
PENDING AT THE END OF YEAR

	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending		Total Pending	
New Castle County	1,700	44.4%	2,128	55.6%	3,828	100.0%
Kent County	367	36.6%	635	63.4%	1,002	100.0%
Sussex County	304	36.4%	532	63.6%	836	100.0%
STATE	2,371	41.8%	3,295	58.2%	5,666	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CHANGE IN PENDING

	Triable Pending		Non-Triable Pending		Total Pending	
New Castle County	+67		-142		-75	
Kent County	-86		+54		-32	
Sussex County	-14		+45		+31	
STATE	-33		-43		-76	

*Includes appeals, transfers, reinstatements and severances.

**FOP=First Offender Program

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS															
TRIAL DISPOSITIONS—PART ONE—Number of Defendants disposed of by:															
	Jury Trial		Non-Jury Trial		Totals		Guilty		Not Guilty*		No Final Disposition**		Totals		Average Length of Trial
New Castle	115	91.3%	11	8.7%	126	100.0%	76	60.3%	40	31.7%	10	7.9%	126	100.0%	3.48 days
Kent	44	97.8%	1	2.2%	45	100.0%	36	80.0%	6	13.3%	3	6.7%	45	100.0%	3.27 days
Sussex	46	93.9%	3	6.1%	49	100.0%	33	67.3%	13	26.5%	3	6.1%	49	100.0%	1.36 days
STATE	205	93.2%	15	6.8%	220	100.0%	145	65.9%	59	26.8%	16	7.3%	220	100.0%	2.92 days

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS															
TRIAL DISPOSITIONS—PART TWO—Number of Defendants disposed of by:															
	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Jury Trial				Hung Jury	Guilty	Guilty LIO	Not Guilty	Non-Jury Trial			TOTALS
				Pled Guilty at Trial	Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial	Pled Guilty at Trial					Nol Pros/Dismiss at Trial	Mistrial		
New Castle	55	0	34	14	2	6	4	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	126
Kent	29	2	4	4	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Sussex	24	1	10	7	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	49
STATE	108	3	48	25	5	8	8	9	0	4	0	2	0	220	

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS						
NOLLE PROSEQUI DISPOSITIONS						
	Number of Defendants With Nolle Prosequis by Special Condition		Number of Defendants With Nolle Prosequis by Merit		Total Number of Defendants Disposed of by Nolle Prosequis	
New Castle County	461	55.5%	369	44.5%	830	100.0%
Kent County	117	51.5%	110	48.5%	227	100.0%
Sussex County	38	16.8%	188	83.2%	226	100.0%
STATE	616	48.0%	667	52.0%	1,283	100.0%

LIO = Lesser Included Offense

Nol Pros= Nolle Prosequi

*Included Dismissals at Trial and Nolle Prosequis at Trial

**Hung Juries and Mistrials

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Explanatory Notes

1. Guilty Plea dispositions do not include pleas made during trials. They are included in the trial disposition totals.
2. "PG-Original" includes defendants who plead guilty to all charges or to the major charge of a multi-count indictment, appeal, transfer or reinstatement.
3. "PG-Lesser" includes defendants who pled guilty to a lesser included offense of the most serious charge, a less serious charge of a multi-count indictment or other filings, or a lesser included offense of a less serious charge of a multi-count or other filing.
4. A plea of nolo contendere is considered to be the equivalent of a guilty plea; e.g., a plea of nolo contendere to lesser included offense is counted with PG-Lesser.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS							
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS — FELONY</i>							
	PG—Original		PG—Lesser		PG-Information/ New Information		TOTALS
New Castle County	1,592	89.0%	194	10.9%	2	0.1%	1,788 100.0%
Kent County	519	86.8%	79	13.2%	0	0.0%	598 100.0%
Sussex County	494	51.7%	456	47.7%	5	0.5%	955 100.0%
STATE	2,605	78.0%	729	21.8%	7	0.2%	3,341 100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS							
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS — MISDEMEANOR</i>							
	PG—Original		PG—Lesser		PG-Information/ New Information		TOTALS
New Castle County	452	39.4%	687	59.9%	7	0.6%	1,146 100.0%
Kent County	217	44.3%	273	55.7%	0	0.0%	490 100.0%
Sussex County	180	94.7%	5	2.6%	5	2.6%	190 100.0%
STATE	849	46.5%	965	52.8%	12	0.7%	1,826 100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS							
<i>GUILTY PLEA DISPOSITIONS — TOTALS</i>							
	PG—Original		PG—Lesser		PG-Information/ New Information		TOTALS
New Castle County	2,044	69.7%	881	30.0%	9	0.3%	2,934 100.0%
Kent County	736	67.6%	352	32.4%	0	0.0%	1,088 100.0%
Sussex County	674	58.9%	461	40.3%	10	0.9%	1,145 100.0%
STATE	3,454	66.8%	1,694	32.8%	19	0.4%	5,167 100.0%

PG= Pled Guilty

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE (by defendant) — NEW CASTLE COUNTY

VIOLENT CRIMES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Murder 2nd	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Attempted Murder 1st	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Manslaughter	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	5	3	1	7	11	0	0	3	0	3	33
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen	2	0	0	36	7	0	0	0	0	0	45
Sexual Contact	0	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	11
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Robbery 1st	9	1	0	57	35	0	10	2	0	18	132
Robbery 2nd	3	0	0	53	10	0	3	0	0	2	71
Assault 1st	3	0	0	13	3	0	1	0	0	0	20
Assault 2nd	5	3	0	101	18	0	7	0	0	3	137
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	35	11	2	287	92	0	21	5	0	29	482
DRUG OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Trafficking Drugs	4	3	4	96	43	0	0	0	2	0	152
Drug Delivery	1	1	0	96	34	0	0	0	11	2	145
Possession with Intent to Deliver	4	0	0	126	48	0	6	1	14	3	202
Possession of Drugs	0	1	0	213	55	0	0	0	90	0	359
Other Drug-Felony	1	2	0	161	20	0	4	0	49	3	240
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	1	0	0	59	28	0	3	0	39	4	134
Other Drugs	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL DRUGS	11	7	4	751	229	0	13	1	205	12	1,233
OTHER OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Arson	2	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	13
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	31	5	0	0	0	0	0	36
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	26	2	0	0	0	0	3	31
PDWDCF	5	7	2	34	59	0	21	1	0	7	136
Other Weapons	1	1	0	89	28	0	0	0	1	4	124
Theft	2	2	0	390	98	0	6	0	0	29	527
RSP	1	1	0	116	27	0	0	0	1	3	149
Burglary	5	4	0	151	48	0	9	0	0	38	255
Forgery	1	0	0	155	62	0	3	0	1	15	237
Escape	0	0	0	103	9	0	0	0	0	1	113
Other Felony	9	6	1	319	111	0	17	1	2	18	484
DUI/CUI	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	8
Other Traffic	0	0	0	38	13	1	1	0	1	41	95
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	4	1	1	424	44	1	9	0	3	25	512
TOTAL OTHER	30	22	4	1,896	509	2	66	2	9	190	2,730
GRAND TOTAL	76	40	10	2,934	830	2	100	8	214	231	4,445

*TNG=Trials Not Guilty, and also includes nolle prosequis and dismissals at trial.

**TNFD=Trials No Final Disposition, and includes trials ending with a hung jury and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA
DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE — KENT COUNTY

VIOLENT CRIMES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF/ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Murder 2nd	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Murder 1st	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	3	1	0	7	3	0	0	5	0	0	19
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen	1	0	0	15	3	0	0	0	0	0	19
Sexual Contact	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery 1st	3	0	0	20	4	0	1	0	0	1	29
Robbery 2nd	0	0	0	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	17
Assault 1st	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Assault 2nd	1	0	0	29	6	0	3	1	0	1	41
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	12	2	0	94	20	0	4	6	0	2	140
DRUG OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/	1st OFF/	CONS	TOTAL
Trafficking Drugs	3	0	1	23	6	0	1	0	4	2	40
Drug Delivery	5	1	0	18	2	0	0	0	7	2	35
Possession with Intent to Deliver	1	0	0	19	4	0	0	0	5	1	30
Possession of Drugs	0	0	0	66	16	0	0	0	41	1	124
Other Drug-Felony	1	0	0	47	17	0	0	0	46	5	116
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	0	0	0	25	8	0	0	0	26	2	61
Other Drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DRUGS	10	1	1	198	53	0	1	0	129	13	406
OTHER OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/	1st OFF/	CONS	TOTAL
Arson	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	21	2	0	1	0	0	0	24
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	14
PDWDCF	1	0	0	6	15	0	8	0	0	4	34
Other Weapons	3	0	0	42	4	0	0	1	0	1	51
Theft	3	1	0	125	45	0	1	0	0	14	189
RSP	0	0	0	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	25
Burglary	2	1	0	76	16	0	1	0	0	8	104
Forgery	0	0	1	65	12	0	0	0	0	4	82
Escape	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Felony	5	1	1	177	46	0	5	0	1	9	245
DUI/CUI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Traffic	0	0	0	30	1	0	0	0	0	3	34
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	0	0	0	219	4	0	0	0	1	6	230
TOTAL OTHER	14	3	2	796	154	0	16	1	2	50	1,038
GRAND TOTAL	36	6	3	1,088	227	0	21	7	131	65	1,584

*TNG= Trial Not Guilty, and also includes nolle prosequis and dismissals at trial.

**TNFD= Trial No Final Disposition, and includes trials ending with a hung jury and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE — SUSSEX COUNTY

VIOLENT CRIMES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Murder 2nd	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Attempted Murder 1st	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	1	2	0	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	27
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen	0	0	0	16	8	0	0	0	0	0	24
Sexual Contact	0	1	0	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	17
Kidnap 1st	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Kidnap 2nd	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery 1st	2	1	0	18	2	0	0	0	0	2	25
Robbery 2nd	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Assault 1st	1	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
Assault 2nd	3	0	0	81	23	0	0	0	0	1	108
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	9	6	0	180	44	0	0	0	0	3	242
DRUG OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Trafficking Drugs	0	0	1	17	3	0	0	0	1	2	24
Drug Delivery	4	0	0	32	4	0	0	0	0	21	61
Possession with Intent to Deliver	1	0	0	27	9	0	0	0	7	5	49
Possession of Drugs	1	1	0	42	5	0	0	0	90	4	143
Other Drug-Felony	0	1	0	20	7	0	1	0	24	3	56
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	1	0	0	20	2	0	0	0	49	2	74
Other Drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DRUGS	7	2	1	158	30	0	1	0	171	37	407
OTHER OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF./ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Arson	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	26	3	0	0	0	0	4	33
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
PDWDCF	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	2	11
Other Weapons	1	0	0	35	7	0	0	0	0	7	50
Theft	0	0	0	192	44	0	0	0	0	8	244
RSP	0	1	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	8	18
Burglary	2	2	0	153	35	0	0	0	0	30	222
Forgery	0	0	0	45	11	0	0	0	0	16	72
Escape	1	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	2	38
Other Felony	5	1	1	128	33	0	0	0	0	8	176
DUI/CUI	5	0	0	110	4	0	1	0	6	0	126
Other Traffic	1	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	3	13
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	2	1	1	57	3	0	0	0	2	8	74
TOTAL OTHER	17	5	2	807	152	0	1	0	8	97	1,089
GRAND TOTAL	33	13	3	1,145	226	0	2	0	179	137	1,738

*TNG=Trial Not Guilty, and also includes nolle prosequis and dismissals at trial.

**TNFD=Trial No Final Disposition, and includes trials ending with a hung jury and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASELOAD AND DISPOSITION DATA
DISPOSITIONS BY OFFENSE TYPE — STATE

VIOLENT CRIMES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF/ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Murder 1st	10	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	15
Murder 2nd	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Attempted Murder 1st	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Manslaughter	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	9	6	1	35	17	0	0	8	0	3	79
Sexual Intercourse 1st & 2nd	3	0	0	67	18	0	0	0	0	0	88
Sexual Intercourse 3rd; Sex. Pen	0	4	0	19	6	0	0	0	0	3	32
Sexual Contact	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
Kidnap 1st	0	0	0	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	15
Kidnap 2nd	14	2	0	95	41	0	11	2	0	21	186
Robbery 1st	3	0	0	78	14	0	3	0	0	2	100
Robbery 2nd	5	0	0	31	5	0	1	0	0	0	42
Assault 1st	9	3	0	211	47	0	10	1	0	5	286
Assault 2nd											
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	56	19	2	561	156	0	25	11	0	34	864
DRUG OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF/ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Trafficking Drugs	7	3	6	136	52	0	1	0	7	4	216
Drug Delivery	10	2	0	146	40	0	0	0	18	25	241
Possession with Intent to Deliver	6	0	0	172	61	0	6	1	26	9	281
Possession of Drugs	1	2	0	321	76	0	0	0	221	5	626
Other Drug-Felony	2	3	0	228	44	0	5	0	119	11	412
Other Drug-Misdemeanor	2	0	0	104	38	0	3	0	114	8	269
Other Drugs	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL DRUGS	28	10	6	1,107	312	0	15	1	505	62	2,046
OTHER OFFENSES	TG	TNG*	TNFD**	PLEA	NOLP	ADRR	DISM	REM/ TRANS	1st OFF/ DUI	CONS	TOTAL
Arson	2	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	0	1	24
Criminally Negligent Homicide	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Reckless Endangering	0	0	0	78	10	0	1	0	0	4	93
Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Vehicular Assault	0	0	0	42	5	0	0	0	0	4	51
PDWDCF	6	7	2	41	82	0	29	1	0	13	181
Other Weapons	5	1	0	166	39	0	0	1	1	12	225
Theft	5	3	0	707	187	0	7	0	0	51	960
RSP	1	2	0	144	33	0	0	0	1	11	192
Burglary	9	7	0	380	99	0	10	0	0	76	581
Forgery	1	0	1	265	85	0	3	0	1	35	391
Escape	1	0	0	139	9	0	0	0	0	3	152
Other Felony	19	8	3	624	190	0	22	1	3	35	905
DUI/CUI	5	0	0	112	4	0	1	0	6	6	134
Other Traffic	1	0	0	76	15	1	1	0	1	47	142
Non-Traffic Misdemeanor	6	2	2	700	51	1	9	0	6	39	816
TOTAL OTHER	61	30	8	3,499	815	2	83	3	19	337	4,857
GRAND TOTAL	145	59	16	5,167	1,283	2	123	15	524	433	7,767

*TNG=Trials Not Guilty, and also includes nolle prosequis and dismissals at trial.

**TNFD=Trials No Final Disposition, and includes trials ending with a hung jury and mistrials.

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Criminal Cases Performance — Explanatory Notes

1. The Speedy Trial Directive of Chief Justice Andrew D. Christie, effective May 16, 1990, states that 90% of all criminal defendants brought before Superior Court (except murder in the first degree cases) should be disposed of within 120 days of arrest, 98% within 180 days of arrest, and 100% within 365 days of arrest.
2. The charts measure the average and median time intervals between arrest and disposition, and the average and median time intervals between indictment/information and disposition. Subtracting the figures for indictment/information to disposition from the figures for arrest to disposition might not determine the time from arrest to indictment/information exactly. This is because there may be a different number of cases being counted in the different categories (i.e., unindicted nolle prosequis.)
3. In measuring the elapsed time of defendants for the purposes of computing compliance with speedy trial directives or average elapsed time, Superior Court excludes the following time intervals:
 - a. For all capiases, the time between the date the capias is issued and the date the capias is executed.
 - b. For all Rule 9 Summonses and Rule 9 Warrants, the time between arrest and indictment/information, if any.
 - c. For all nolle prosequis, the time between the scheduled trial date and the actual filing date of the nolle prosequis.
 - d. For all mental examination, the time between the date the examination is ordered and the receipt date for the results.
 - e. For all defendants deemed incompetent to stand trial, the period in which the defendants remain incompetent.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES — PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	Average Time from Arrest to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest to Disposition	Average Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition	Median Time from Arrest/Indictment to Disposition
New Castle County	4,445	178.6 days	123.7 days	144.2 days	97.4 days
Kent County	1,584	184.0 days	150.0 days	132.9 days	102.8 days
Sussex County	1,738	93.2 days	86.3 days	59.0 days	52.9 days
STATE	7,767	160.6 days	120.7 days	122.8 days	88.5 days

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES — PERFORMANCE SUMMARY COMPLIANCE WITH SPEEDY TRIAL MANDATE

	Total Number of Defendants Disposed of	No. Disposed of Within 120 Days of Arrest (90%)	No. Disposed of Within 180 Days of Arrest (98%)	No. Disposed of Within 365 Days of Arrest (100%)
New Castle County	4,445	2,145 48.3%	3,026 68.1%	3,902 87.8%
Kent County	1,584	619 39.1%	972 61.4%	1,421 89.7%
Sussex County	1,738	1,144 65.8%	1,604 92.3%	1,737 99.9%
STATE	7,767	3,908 50.3%	5,602 72.1%	7,060 90.9%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES—PERFORMANCE COMPARISON
AVERAGE TIME FROM ARREST TO DISPOSITION

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	181.8 days	178.6 days	-3.2 days	-1.8%
Kent County	143.9 days	184.0 days	+40.1 days	+27.9%
Sussex County	102.0 days	93.2 days	-8.8 days	-8.6%
STATE	156.2 days	160.6 days	+4.4 days	+2.8%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES—PERFORMANCE COMPARISON
MEDIAN TIME FROM ARREST TO DISPOSITION

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	122.8 days	123.7 days	+0.9 days	+0.7%
Kent County	109.7 days	150.0 days	+40.3 days	+36.7%
Sussex County	90.9 days	86.3 days	-4.6 days	-5.1%
STATE	106.4 days	120.7 days	+14.3 days	+13.4%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES—PERFORMANCE COMPARISON
AVERAGE TIME FROM INDICTMENT TO DISPOSITION

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	145.9 days	144.2 days	-1.7 days	-1.2%
Kent County	97.6 days	132.9 days	+35.3 days	+36.2%
Sussex County	67.2 days	59.0 days	-8.2 days	-12.2%
STATE	118.7 days	122.8 days	+4.1 days	+3.5%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CRIMINAL CASES—PERFORMANCE COMPARISON
MEDIAN TIME FROM INDICTMENT TO DISPOSITION

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	90.4 days	97.4 days	+7.0 days	+7.7%
Kent County	62.7 days	102.8 days	+40.1 days	+64.0%
Sussex County	57.8 days	52.9 days	-4.9 days	-8.5%
STATE	77.7 days	88.5 days	+10.8 days	+13.9%

Source: Court Administrator and Case Scheduling Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Civil Cases — Explanatory Notes

1. Complaints are suits for damages. During FY 1999, activity in the Complaints category included Complaints for Damages, Condemnations, Ejectments, Appeals from Justice of the Peace Courts and from Arbitration Panels, Declaratory Judgments, Foreign Judgments, Replevins, Foreign Attachments, Domestic Attachments, Interpleaders, Amicable Actions, Breach of Contract, Transfers and Removals from the Court of Chancery, Transfers and Removals from the Court of Common Pleas and Debt Actions.
2. Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages are property suits.
3. Involuntary Commitments are proceedings held to determine whether individuals shall be involuntarily committed as mentally ill. Because Delaware State Hospital, the state's facility for mentally ill patients is located in New Castle County, most Involuntary Commitment appeals are held in New Castle County. These actions are included in the Court's caseload.
4. Appeals are appeals on the record. This category includes appeals from administrative agencies, appeals from Family Court, appeals from the Court of Common Pleas and certioraris.
5. Miscellaneous includes all other cases.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY*						
	Pending** 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	6,469	7,132	6,338	7,263	+794	+12.3%
Kent County	864	1,052	1,055	861	-3	-0.3%
Sussex County	597	991	910	678	+81	+13.6%
STATE	7,930	9,175	8,303	8,802	+872	+11.0%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS*				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	6,938**	7,132	+194	+2.8%
Kent County	1,087	1,052	-35	-3.2%
Sussex County	879	991	+112	+12.7%
STATE	8,904	9,175	+271	+3.0%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS*				
	1998**	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	6,444	6,338	-106	-1.6%
Kent County	992	1,055	+63	+6.4%
Sussex County	940	910	-30	-3.2%
STATE	8,376	8,303	-73	-0.9%

*Involuntary Commitments are included in the caseload summary or comparisons.

**Amended from 1998 Annual Report.

Source: Office of the Prothonotary, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
FILINGS**

	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle County	3,678	51.6%	1,086	15.2%	178	2.5%	900	12.6%	1,290	18.1%	7,132	100.0%
Kent County	510	48.5%	226	21.5%	33	3.1%	23	2.2%	260	24.7%	1,052	100.0%
Sussex County	377	38.0%	279	28.2%	33	3.3%	38	3.8%	264	26.6%	991	100.0%
STATE	4,565	49.8%	1,591	17.3%	244	2.7%	961	10.5%	1,814	19.8%	9,175	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
DISPOSITIONS**

	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle County	3,262	51.5%	1,033	16.3%	174	2.7%	544	8.6%	1,325	20.9%	6,338	100.0%
Kent County	505	47.9%	249	23.6%	56	5.3%	8	0.8%	237	22.5%	1,055	100.0%
Sussex County	327	35.9%	254	27.9%	48	5.3%	28	3.1%	253	27.8%	910	100.0%
STATE	4,094	49.3%	1,536	18.5%	278	3.3%	580	7.0%	1,815	21.9%	8,303	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
PENDING AT END OF YEAR**

	Complaints		Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages		Appeals		Involuntary Commitments		Miscellaneous		Totals	
New Castle County	5,305	73.0%	535	7.4%	136	1.9%	1,052	14.5%	235	3.2%	7,263	100.0%
Kent County	604	70.2%	139	16.1%	23	2.7%	20	0.0%	75	8.7%	861	100.0%
Sussex County	445	65.6%	132	19.5%	23	3.4%	37	5.5%	41	6.0%	678	100.0%
STATE	6,354	72.2%	806	9.2%	182	2.1%	1,109	12.6%	351	4.0%	8,802	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS
CHANGE IN PENDING**

	Complaints	Mechanic's Liens and Mortgages	Appeals	Involuntary Commitments	Miscellaneous	Totals
New Castle County	+416	+53	+4	+356	-35	+794
Kent County	+5	-23	-23	+15	+23	-3
Sussex County	+50	+25	-15	+10	+11	+81
STATE	+471	+55	-34	+381	-1	+872

Source: Office of the Prothonotary, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS COMPLAINTS DISPOSITIONS

	Trial Dispositions		Non-Trial Dispositions							Totals	
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other			
New Castle	57 1.7%	50 1.5%	151 4.6%	374 11.5%	55 1.7%	1,985 60.9%	535 16.4%	55 1.7%	3,262 100.0%		
Kent	8 1.6%	14 2.8%	33 6.5%	32 6.3%	2 0.4%	358 70.9%	53 10.5%	5 1.0%	505 100.0%		
Sussex	15 4.6%	6 1.8%	11 3.4%	42 12.8%	5 1.5%	214 65.4%	20 6.1%	14 4.3%	327 100.0%		
STATE	80 2.0%	70 1.7%	195 4.8%	448 10.9%	62 1.5%	2,557 62.5%	608 14.9%	74 1.8%	4,094 100.0%		

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES DISPOSITIONS

	Trial Dispositions		Non-Trial Dispositions							Totals	
	Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Default Judgment for Plaintiff	Other Judgment for Plaintiff	Judgment for Defendant	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Other			
New Castle	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	683 66.1%	9 0.9%	1 0.1%	196 19.0%	140 13.6%	2 0.2%	1,033 100.0%		
Kent	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	192 77.1%	3 1.2%	2 0.8%	34 13.7%	18 7.2%	0 0.0%	249 100.0%		
Sussex	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	171 67.3%	12 4.7%	0 0.0%	42 16.5%	19 7.5%	10 3.9%	254 100.0%		
STATE	2 0.1%	0 0.0%	1,046 68.1%	24 1.6%	3 0.2%	272 17.7%	177 11.5%	12 0.8%	1,536 100.0%		

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — TYPES OF DISPOSITIONS APPEALS DISPOSITIONS

	Affirmed	Reversed	Voluntary Dismissal	Court Dismissal	Remanded	Other	Totals
New Castle	63 36.2%	14 8.0%	44 25.3%	40 23.0%	9 5.2%	4 2.3%	174 100.0%
Kent	32 57.1%	2 3.6%	9 16.1%	9 16.1%	2 3.6%	2 3.6%	56 100.0%
Sussex	20 41.7%	7 14.6%	20 41.7%	1 2.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	48 100.0%
STATE	115 41.4%	23 8.3%	73 26.3%	50 18.0%	11 4.0%	6 2.2%	278 100.0%

Source: Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES
TRIALS**

	Number of Jury Trials	Number of Non-Jury Trials	Number Special Jury Trials	Total Number of Trials	Number of Days	Average Trial Time
New Castle County	117	37	0	154	417	2.71 days
Kent County	18	2	0	20	61	3.05 days
Sussex County	12	10	0	22	44	2.00 days
STATE	147	49	0	196	522	2.66 days

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES
CALENDAR ACTIVITY**

	Cases Tried	Cases Settled or Dismissed	Cases Continued for Settlement	Cases Continued Due to Lack of Judge	Cases Continued at Request of Attorney	Total Cases Rescheduled
New Castle	154 13.7%	595 52.8%	36 3.2%	19 1.7%	322 28.6%	1,126 100.0%
Kent	20 17.4%	45 39.1%	4 3.5%	17 14.8%	29 25.2%	115 100.0%
Sussex	22 16.4%	46 34.3%	19 14.2%	2 1.5%	45 33.6%	134 100.0%
STATE	196 14.3%	686 49.9%	59 4.3%	38 2.8%	396 28.8%	1,375 100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

	COMPLAINTS		MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition
New Castle County	3,262	434.0 days	1,033	185.1 days
Kent County	505	472.3 days	249	214.2 days
Sussex County	327	402.9 days	254	184.1 days
STATE	4,094	436.2 days	1,536	189.6 days

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES
PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

	APPEALS		MISCELLANEOUS		INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS	
	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time from Filing to Disposition	Number of Dispositions	Average Time From Filing to Disposition
New Castle	174	247.6 days	1,325	65.6 days	544	186.9 days
Kent	56	239.7 days	237	48.8 days	8	144.5 days
Sussex	48	303.1 days	253	47.1 days	28	238.4 days
STATE	278	255.6 days	1,815	60.8 days	580	188.8 days

Source: Prothonotary's Office, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS
COMPLAINTS—METHOD—Number of Cases Disposed of by:

METHOD OF DISPOSITION														
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	107	3.3%	429	13.2%	151	4.6%	1,985	60.9%	535	16.4%	55	1.7%	3,262	100.0%
Kent	22	4.4%	28	5.5%	33	6.5%	358	70.9%	53	10.5%	11	2.2%	505	100.0%
Sussex	21	6.4%	33	10.1%	11	3.4%	214	65.4%	20	6.1%	28	8.6%	327	100.0%
STATE	150	3.7%	490	12.0%	195	4.8%	2,557	62.5%	608	14.9%	94	2.3%	4,094	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS
COMPLAINTS—ELAPSED TIME—Number of Days From Filing to Disposition:

AVERAGE TIME FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION						
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other *	Total
New Castle	798.0 days	337.4 days	197.9 days	429.1 days	515.2 days	434.0 days
Kent	944.9 days	294.3 days	206.5 days	451.4 days	641.8 days	472.3 days
Sussex	661.3 days	374.3 days	154.3 days	381.3 days	463.0 days	402.9 days
STATE	800.4 days	337.4 days	196.9 days	428.2 days	523.2 days	436.2 days

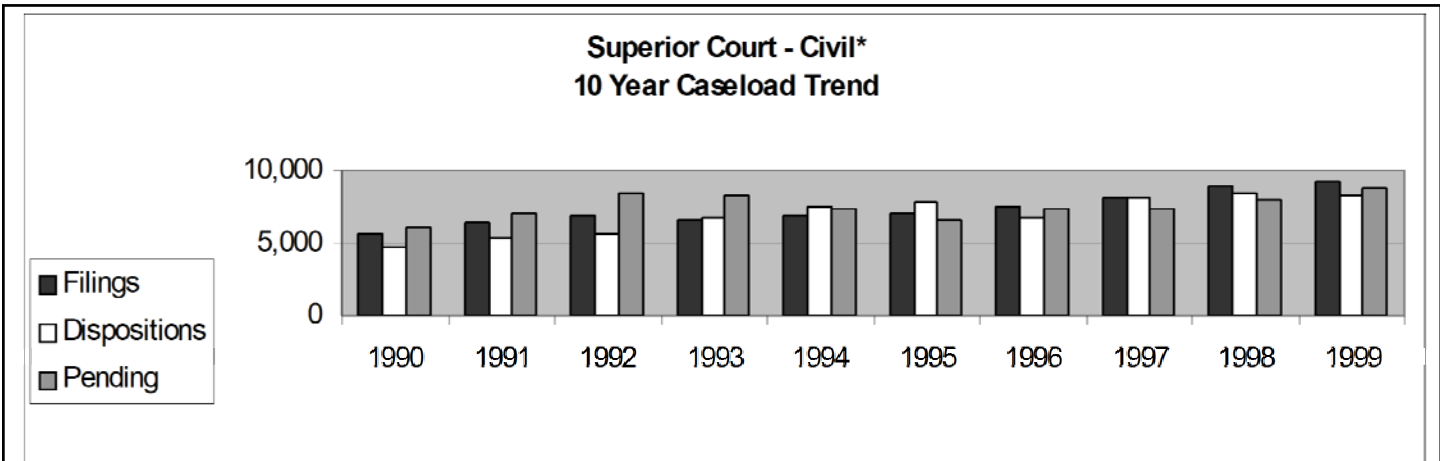
FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS
MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES—Number of Cases Disposed of by:

METHOD OF DISPOSITION														
	Trial		Arbitrator's Order		Default Judgment		Voluntary Dismissal		Court Dismissal		Other		Total	
New Castle	2	0.2%	10	1.0%	683	66.1%	196	19.0%	140	13.6%	2	0.2%	1,033	100.0%
Kent	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	192	77.1%	34	13.7%	18	7.2%	4	1.6%	249	100.0%
Sussex	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	171	67.3%	42	16.5%	19	7.5%	22	8.7%	254	100.0%
STATE	2	0.1%	11	0.7%	1,046	68.1%	272	17.7%	177	11.5%	28	1.8%	1,536	100.0%

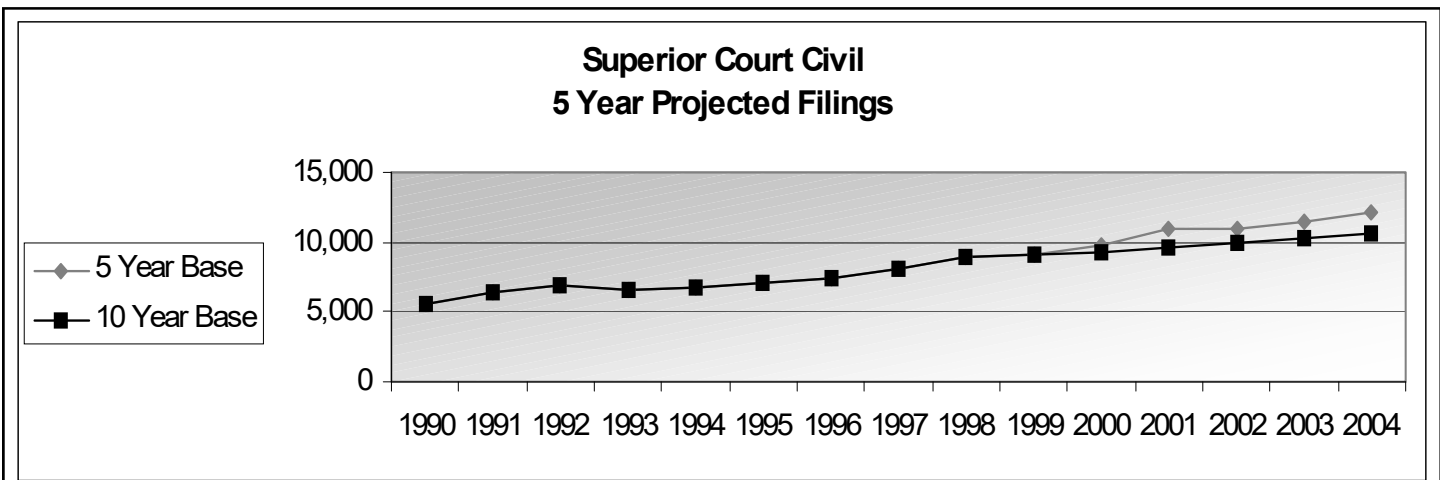
FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — PERFORMANCE BREAKDOWNS
MECHANIC'S LIENS AND MORTGAGES —ELAPSED TIME—Number of Days From Filing to Disposition:

AVERAGE TIME FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION						
	Trial	Arbitrator's Order	Default Judgment	Voluntary Dismissal	Other *	Total
New Castle	966.5 days	337.2 days	122.0 days	211.8 days	429.7 days	185.1 days
Kent	— days	635.0 days	153.1 days	362.4 days	499.9 days	214.2 days
Sussex	— days	— days	123.7 days	245.9 days	373.1 days	184.1 days
STATE	966.5 days	364.3 days	128.0 days	235.8 days	426.0 days	189.6 days

*Court dismissal included with "other" in elapsed time breakdowns.
 Source: Prothonotary's Offices, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	5,644	6,341	6,952	6,513	6,797	7,075	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175
Dispositions	4,697	5,375	5,585	6,769	7,515	7,877	6,693	8,064	8,376	8,303
Pending at End of Year	6,136	7,102	8,469	8,213	7,395	6,593	7,385	7,402	7,930**	8,802



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	7,075	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175	9,823	10,385	10,947	11,509	12,071
10 Year Base	5,644	6,341	6,952	6,513	6,797	7,075	7,485	8,047	8,904	9,175	9,240	9,593	9,947	10,301	10,655

*Involuntary commitments are included in the caseload.

**Amended from 1998 Annual Report.

Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Arbitration Cases — Explanatory Notes

1. Arbitration is compulsory for civil cases in which:
 - a. Trial is available
 - b. Monetary damages are sought, and
 - c. Non-monetary damages are substantial, and
 - d. Damages do not exceed \$100,000.
2. The President Judge of Superior Court or his designee assigns each arbitration case to an arbitrator who is appointed pursuant to the following guidelines:
 - a. The parties may request a specific arbiter by joint agreement,
 - b. If the parties fail to mutually agree upon an arbitrator of their choice, the Court provides a list of three (3) alternative arbitrators for review by the parties. The plaintiff(s) and the defendant(s) may each strike one alternative arbitrator, and the Court appoints the arbitrator from the remaining alternative arbitrators.
3. The arbitrator's decision is to be in the form of a written order. The order is to become a judgment of the court unless a trial de novo is requested. Any party may request a trial de novo before Superior Court within 20 days following the arbitrator's order.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending* 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions**	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	3,499	3,815	3,435	3,879	+380	+10.9%
Kent County	585	615	595	605	+20	+3.4%
Sussex County	391	305	297	399	+8	+2.0%
STATE	4,475	4,735	4,327	4,883	+408	+9.1%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 ARBITRATION CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,775	3,815	+40	+1.1%
Kent County	594	615	+21	+3.5%
Sussex County	341	305	-36	-10.6%
STATE	4,710	4,735	+25	+0.5%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS**				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,938	3,435	+497	+16.9%
Kent County	497	595	+98	+19.7%
Sussex County	279	297	+18	+6.5%
STATE	3,714	4,327	+613	+16.5%

*Pending amended from 1998 Annual Report.

**Does not include cases where there is a de novo application.

Source: Arbitration Unit, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 - ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD FILINGS						
Cases Eligible for Arbitration*	Arbitration Cases Filed		Non-Arbitration Cases Filed		Total Filed	
New Castle County	3,815	80.1%	949	19.9%	4,764	100.0%
Kent County	615	83.6%	121	16.4%	736	100.0%
Sussex County	305	46.5%	351	53.5%	656	100.0%
STATE	4,735	76.9%	1,421	23.1%	6,156	100.0%
All Civil Cases**	Arbitration Cases Filed		Non-Arbitration Cases Filed		Total Filed	
New Castle County	3,815	53.5%	3,317	46.5%	7,132	100.0%
Kent County	615	58.5%	437	41.5%	1,052	100.0%
Sussex County	305	30.8%	686	69.2%	991	100.0%
STATE	4,735	51.6%	4,440	48.4%	9,175	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 - ARBITRATION - METHOD OF DISPOSTION NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS						
	Removed Before Hearing		Final Dispositions- Arbitrator's Order		Total***	
New Castle County	2,996	87.2%	439	12.8%	3,435	100.0%
Kent County	566	95.1%	29	4.9%	595	100.0%
Sussex County	263	88.6%	34	11.4%	297	100.0%
STATE	3,825	88.4%	502	11.6%	4,327	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 - ARBITRATION - METHOD OF DISPOSTION NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS									
	DISPOSED BEFORE HEARING						ARBITRATOR'S ORDERS		
	Default Judgment		Dismissed/Settled		Other		Final Disposition		Total***
New Castle County	658	19.2%	2,208	64.3%	130	3.8%	439	12.8%	3,435 100.0%
Kent County	172	28.9%	345	58.0%	49	8.2%	29	4.9%	595 100.0%
Sussex County	14	4.7%	205	69.0%	44	14.8%	34	11.4%	297 100.0%
STATE	844	19.5%	2,758	63.7%	223	5.2%	502	11.6%	4,327 100.0%

*Include complaints and mechanic's liens and mortgages.

**Involuntary commitments are included in total civil filings.

***Does not include cases where there is a de novo application.

Source: Arbitration Unit, Superior Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT



Legal Authorization

The Family Court Act, Title 10, Chapter 9, Delaware Code, authorizes the Family Court.

Court History

The Family Court of the State of Delaware has its origin in the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington which was founded in 1911. A little over a decade later, in 1923, the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court for the city of Wilmington was extended to include New Castle County. In 1933, the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was created.

From the early 1930s, there was a campaign to establish a Family Court in the northernmost county, and this ideal was achieved in 1945 when the legislature created the Family Court for New Castle County, Delaware. In 1951, legislation was enacted to give the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties jurisdiction over all family matters, and in early 1962, the name of the Juvenile Court for Kent and Sussex Counties was changed to the Family Court for Kent and Sussex counties.

As early as the 1950s, the concept of a statewide Family Court had been endorsed. The fruition of this concept as realized with the statutory authorization of the Family Court of the State of Delaware in 1971.

Geographic Organization

The Family Court is a unified

statewide court with branches in New Castle County at Wilmington, Kent County at Dover, and Sussex County at Georgetown.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Family Court has had conferred upon it by the General Assembly jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, child neglect, dependency, child abuse, adult misdemeanor crimes against juveniles, child and spouse support, paternity of children, custody and visitation of children, adoptions, terminations of parental rights, divorces and annulments, property divisions, specific enforcement of separation agreements, guardianship over minors, imperiling the family relationship, orders of protection from abuse, and intrafamily misdemeanor crimes.

The Family Court does not have jurisdiction over adults charged with felonies or juveniles charged with first and second degree murder, rape, or kidnapping.

Cases are appealed to the Supreme Court with the exception of adult criminal cases which are appealed to the Superior Court.

Judges

Family Court has allowed 15 judges of equal judicial authority, one of whom is appointed by the Governor

as chief judge and who is the chief administrative and executive officer for the Court. A bare majority of the judges must be of one major political party with the remainder of the other major political party.

The Governor nominates the judges, who must be confirmed by the Senate. The judges are appointed for 12-year terms. Judges must have been duly admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Delaware at least five years prior to appointment and must have a knowledge of the law and interest in and understanding of family and child problems. They shall not practice law during their tenure and may be reappointed.

Other Judicial Personnel

Family Court uses masters and commissioners to hear specific types of cases. Masters are appointed by the chief judge and serve at the chief judge's pleasure, while commissioners are appointed for four-year terms by the Governor with the consent of a majority of the Senate.

Support Personnel

The Family Court has a staff of more than 290 persons in addition to judicial officers. The Court has a court administrator, directors, clerks of court, clerks, secretaries, typists, accountants, judicial assistants, mediation/arbitration officers, intake officers, program coordinators and volunteers working in all areas of the Court.

FAMILY COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Total Cases Workload Explanatory Notes

1. The unit of count in the Family Court adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, and civil cases is the filing.
2. A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual. Each incident is counted separately, so that three (3) incidents brought before the Court on a single individual are counted as three (3) criminal or delinquency filings or multiple charges.
 - a. A single criminal or delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or multiple charges relating to a single incident.
 - b. A criminal filing received by the Court in the form of an information or a complaint, and a delinquency filing is received by the Court in the form of a petition or a complaint.
3. A civil filing is defined as a single civil incident filed with Family Court. A civil incident is initiated by a petition. In the instance of a divorce, although the petition may contain multiple matters ancillary to the divorce, each person is counted as one filing.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — TOTAL CASELOAD SUMMARY CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	5,636	34,817	32,738	7,715	+2,079	+36.9%
Kent County	2,390	11,020	11,530	1,880	-510	-21.3%
Sussex County	2,984	12,366	12,370	2,980	-4	-0.1%
STATE	11,010	58,203	56,638	12,575	+1,565	+14.2%

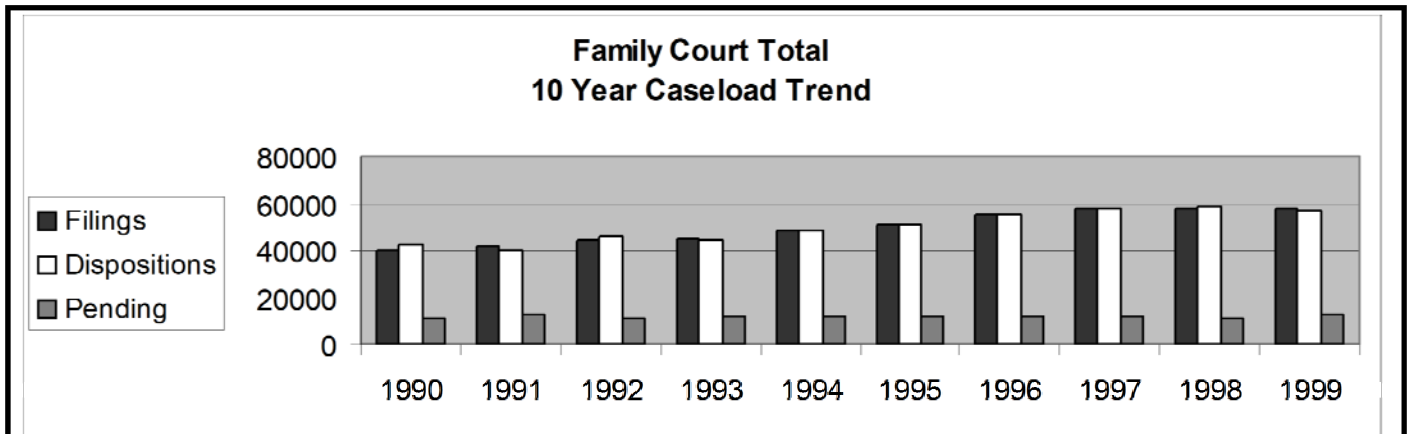
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 — TOTAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	33,694	34,817	+1,123	+3.3%
Kent County	11,676	11,020	-656	-5.6%
Sussex County	12,441	12,366	-75	-0.6%
STATE	57,811	58,203	+392	+0.7%

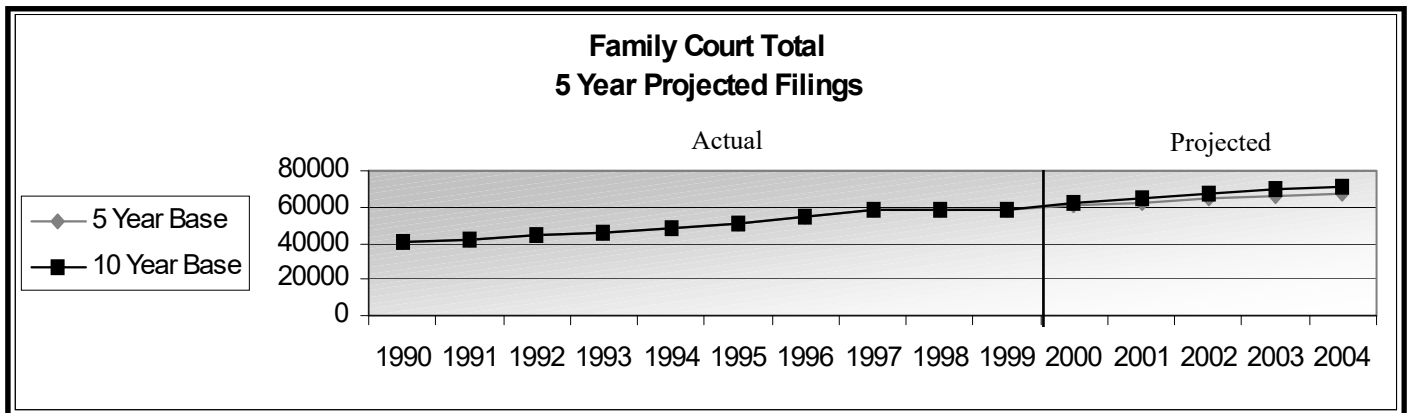
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1999 — TOTAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	35,014	32,738	-2,276	-6.5%
Kent County	11,303	11,530	+227	+2.0%
Sussex County	12,533	12,370	-163	-1.3%
STATE	58,850	56,638	-2,212	-3.8%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	40,007	41,498	44,500	45,156	48,210	51,187	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203
Dispositions	42,179	40,101	45,755	44,668	48,090	51,031	54,906	58,108	58,850	56,638
Pending at End of Year	11,303	12,700	11,445	11,933	12,053	12,209	12,250	12,049	11,010	12,575



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	51,187	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203	61,080	62,769	64,459	66,149	67,838
10 Year Base	40,007	41,498	44,500	45,156	48,210	51,187	54,947	57,907	57,811	58,203	62,521	64,808	67,095	69,381	71,668

Trend lines computed by linear regression.

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	561	2,434	2,247	748	+187	+33.3%
Kent County	167	1,075	1,114	128	-39	-23.4%
Sussex County	198	1,311	1,344	165	-33	-16.7%
STATE	926	4,820	4,705	1,041	+115	+12.4%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 — ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,217	2,434	-783	-24.3%
Kent County	1,095	1,075	-20	-1.8%
Sussex County	1,384	1,311	-73	-5.3%
STATE	5,696	4,820	-876	-15.4%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — ADULT CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,328	2,247	-1,081	-32.5%
Kent County	1,095	1,114	+19	+1.7%
Sussex County	1,588	1,344	-244	-15.4%
STATE	6,011	4,705	-1,306	-21.7%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 — JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES
CASELOAD SUMMARY**

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	756	7,887	7,389	1,254	+498	+65.9%
Kent County	463	2,004	2,157	310	-153	-33.0%
Sussex County	593	2,255	2,261	587	-6	-1.0%
STATE	1,812	12,146	11,807	2,151	+339	+18.7%

**COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES
CASELOAD FILINGS**

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	6,849	7,887	+1,038	+15.2%
Kent County	2,106	2,004	-102	-4.8%
Sussex County	2,412	2,255	-157	-6.5%
STATE	11,367	12,146	+779	+6.9%

**COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES
CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS**

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	7,394	7,389	-5	-0.1%
Kent County	2,021	2,157	+136	+6.7%
Sussex County	2,667	2,261	-406	-15.2%
STATE	12,082	11,807	-275	-2.3%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN *FILINGS*

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle County	1,769	22.4%	5,352	67.9%	766	9.7%	7,887	100.0%
Kent County	306	15.3%	1,300	64.9%	398	19.9%	2,004	100.0%
Sussex County	307	13.6%	1,617	71.7%	331	14.7%	2,255	100.0%
STATE	2,382	19.6%	8,269	68.1%	1,495	12.3%	12,146	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN *DISPOSITIONS*

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle County	1,730	23.4%	4,912	66.5%	747	10.1%	7,389	100.0%
Kent County	329	15.3%	1,419	65.8%	409	19.0%	2,157	100.0%
Sussex County	285	12.6%	1,608	71.1%	368	16.3%	2,261	100.0%
STATE	2,344	19.9%	7,939	67.2%	1,524	12.9%	11,807	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN *PENDING AT END OF YEAR*

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle County	205	16.3%	976	77.8%	73	5.8%	1,254	100.0%
Kent County	41	13.2%	246	79.4%	23	7.4%	310	100.0%
Sussex County	79	13.5%	443	75.5%	65	11.1%	587	100.0%
STATE	325	15.1%	1,665	77.4%	161	7.5%	2,151	100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN *CHANGE IN PENDING*

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		TOTALS	
New Castle County	+39		+440		+19		+498	
Kent County	-23		-119		-11		-153	
Sussex County	+22		+9		-37		-6	
STATE	+38		+330		-29		+339	

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	4,319	24,496	23,102	5,713	+1,394	+32.3%
Kent County	1,760	7,941	8,259	1,442	-318	-18.1%
Sussex County	2,193	8,800	8,765	2,228	+35	+1.6%
STATE	8,272	41,237	40,126	9,383	+1,111	+13.4%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	23,628	24,496	+868	+3.7%
Kent County	8,475	7,941	-534	-6.3%
Sussex County	8,645	8,800	+155	+1.8%
STATE	40,748	41,237	+489	+1.2%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	24,292	23,102	-1,190	-4.9%
Kent County	8,187	8,259	+72	+0.9%
Sussex County	8,278	8,765	+487	+5.9%
STATE	40,757	40,126	-631	-1.5%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN FILINGS

	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody
New Castle Co.	2,215 9.0%	806 3.3%	4,071 16.6%	5,582 22.8%	2,167 8.8%	2,269 9.3%
Kent County	804 10.1%	236 3.0%	867 10.9%	1,812 22.8%	557 7.0%	847 10.7%
Sussex County	720 8.2%	194 2.2%	1,242 14.1%	2,480 28.2%	720 8.2%	927 10.5%
STATE	3,739 9.1%	1,236 3.0%	6,180 15.0%	9,874 23.9%	3,444 8.4%	4,043 9.8%
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	TOTALS
New Castle Co.	612 2.5%	1,945 7.9%	125 0.5%	106 0.4%	4,598 18.8%	24,496 100.0%
Kent County	300 3.8%	677 8.5%	27 0.3%	32 0.4%	1,782 22.4%	7,941 100.0%
Sussex County	277 3.1%	541 6.1%	37 0.4%	30 0.3%	1,632 18.5%	8,800 100.0%
STATE	1,189 2.9%	3,163 7.7%	189 0.5%	168 0.4%	8,012 19.4%	41,237 100.0%

FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN DISPOSITIONS

	Divorces and Annulments	RTSC/Other Civil Contempts	New Non-Support	Support Arrearages	Support Modifications	Custody
New Castle Co.	2,376 10.3%	725 3.1%	3,932 17.0%	4,649 20.1%	2,105 9.1%	2,400 10.4%
Kent County	806 9.8%	270 3.3%	991 12.0%	1,916 23.2%	614 7.4%	981 11.9%
Sussex County	718 8.2%	157 1.8%	1,333 15.2%	2,408 27.5%	762 8.7%	962 11.0%
STATE	3,900 9.7%	1,152 2.9%	6,256 15.6%	8,973 22.4%	3,481 8.7%	4,343 10.8%
	Visitation	Protection From Abuse	Adoptions	Termination of Parental Rights	Miscellaneous	TOTALS
New Castle Co.	602 2.6%	1,898 8.2%	162 0.7%	114 0.5%	4,139 17.9%	23,102 100.0%
Kent County	307 3.7%	668 8.1%	24 0.3%	8 0.1%	1,674 20.3%	8,259 100.0%
Sussex County	267 3.0%	547 6.2%	41 0.5%	12 0.1%	1,558 17.8%	8,765 100.0%
STATE	1,176 2.9%	3,113 7.8%	227 0.6%	134 0.3%	7,371 18.4%	40,126 100.0%

RTSC=Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
PENDING AT END OF YEAR**

	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
New Castle Co.	314	5.5%	249	4.4%	1,127	19.7%	1,296	22.7%	528	9.2%	866	15.2%
Kent County	280	19.4%	14	1.0%	178	12.3%	269	18.7%	93	6.4%	197	13.7%
Sussex County	273	12.3%	100	4.5%	314	14.1%	675	30.3%	153	6.9%	277	12.4%
STATE	867	9.2%	363	3.9%	1,619	17.3%	2,240	23.9%	774	8.2%	1,340	14.3%

	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
New Castle Co.	248	4.3%	123	2.2%	45	0.8%	81	1.4%	836	14.6%	5,713	100.0%
Kent County	82	5.7%	25	1.7%	21	1.5%	39	2.7%	244	16.9%	1,442	100.0%
Sussex County	103	4.6%	16	0.7%	13	0.6%	35	1.6%	269	12.1%	2,228	100.0%
STATE	433	4.6%	164	1.7%	79	0.8%	155	1.7%	1,349	14.4%	9,383	100.0%

**FISCAL YEAR 1999 CIVIL CASES — CASELOAD BREAKDOWN
CHANGE IN PENDING**

	Divorces and Annulments		RTSC/Other Civil Contempts		New Non-Support		Support Arrearages		Support Modifications		Custody	
New Castle Co.	-161		+81		+139		+933		+62		-131	
Kent County	-2		-34		-124		-104		-57		-134	
Sussex County	+2		+37		-91		+72		-42		-35	
STATE	-161		+84		-76		+901		-37		-300	

	Visitation		Protection From Abuse		Adoptions		Termination of Parental Rights		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
New Castle Co.	+10		+47		-37		-8		+459		+1,394	
Kent County	-7		+9		+3		+24		+108		-318	
Sussex County	+10		-6		-4		+18		+74		+35	
STATE	+13		+50		-38		+34		+641		+1,111	

RTSC=Rules to Show Cause

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

FAMILY COURT

Fiscal Year 1999 Arbitration Explanatory Notes

1. Arbitration is an informal proceeding in which a specially trained arbitration officer attempts to resolve juvenile delinquency cases involving minor charges and adult criminal cases involving selected misdemeanors.
2. Family Court decides according to established criteria if a case should be prosecuted at a formal hearing or if it should be referred to the Arbitration Unit.
3. An arbitration officer determines if the case should be dismissed, sent to a formal hearing, or kept open. A case is kept open if a defendant is required to fulfill conditions set by the officer and agreed to by the defendants.
4. The complainant, victim, defendant, or parent has ten (10) days to request a review of the disposition. The review is done by a deputy attorney general, who either upholds the disposition or decides that the manner should go to a formal hearing.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	247	1,048	1,119	176	-71	-28.7%
Kent County	5	626	631	0	-5	-100.0%
Sussex County	53	769	812	10	-43	-81.1%
STATE	305	2,443	2,562	186	-119	-39.0%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 — ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD FILINGS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,330	1,048	-282	-21.2%
Kent County	568	626	+58	+10.2%
Sussex County	673	769	+96	+14.3%
STATE	2,571	2,443	-128	-5.0%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 — ARBITRATION CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,286	1,119	-167	-13.0%
Kent County	578	631	+53	+9.2%
Sussex County	668	812	+144	+21.6%
STATE	2,532	2,562	+30	+1.2%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Fiscal Year 1999 Mediation Explanatory Notes

1. Mediation is a pre-adjudicatory proceeding where a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement in disputes involving child custody, support, visitation, guardianships, imperilling family relations, and rules to show cause. Mediation is mandatory in child custody, visitation and support matters.
2. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled for a hearing before a master or a judge.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	147	8,298	8,347	98	-49	-33.3%
Kent County	334	2,742	2,873	203	-131	-39.2%
Sussex County	144	3,292	3,202	234	+90	+62.5%
STATE	625	14,332	14,422	535	-90	-14.4%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 — MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	8,137	8,298	+161	+2.0%
Kent County	2,936	2,742	-194	-6.6%
Sussex County	3,084	3,292	+208	+6.7%
STATE	14,157	14,332	+175	+1.2%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998—1999 — MEDIATION CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	8,173	8,347	+174	+2.1%
Kent County	2,791	2,873	+82	+2.9%
Sussex County	3,180	3,202	+22	+0.7%
STATE	14,144	14,422	+278	+2.0%

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



Legal Authorization

The statewide Court of Common Pleas was created by Title 10, Chapter 13 of the Delaware Code, effective July 5, 1973.

Court History

Initially established under William Penn in the 17th Century, the Court of Common Pleas served as the supreme judicial authority in the State. During the latter part of the 18th Century and through most of the 19th Century; however, the Court was abolished during an era of Court reorganization.

The modern day Court of Common Pleas was established in 1917 when a Court of limited civil and criminal jurisdiction was established in New Castle County. A Court of Common Pleas was later established in Kent County in 1931 and Sussex County in 1953.

In 1969, the three County Courts of Common Pleas became State Courts. In 1973, the three Courts merged into a single Statewide Court of Common Pleas.

In 1994, The Commission on Delaware Courts 2000 recommended new jurisdiction for the Court of Common Pleas as vital to the Delaware court system. Legislation implementing the Commission Report vested

significant new areas of jurisdiction in the Court in 1995.

On May 1, 1998, the Municipal Court was merged into the State court system, and pending cases were transferred to the Court of Common Pleas.

Geographic Organization

The Court of Common Pleas sits in each of the three counties at the respective county seats.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Court of Common Pleas has statewide jurisdiction, which includes concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Court in civil matters where the amount in controversy, exclusive of interest, does not exceed \$50,000 on the complaint. There is no limitation in amount on counterclaims and crossclaims. All civil cases are tried without a jury.

The Court has criminal jurisdiction over all misdemeanors occurring in the state of Delaware except certain drug-related offenses. It is also responsible for all preliminary hearings. Jury trial is available to all defendants.

The Court has jurisdiction over appeals from Justice of the Peace and Alderman's Courts in both civil and criminal cases. It also has jurisdiction over administrative appeals from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Judges

There are seven judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of which five are to be residents of New Castle County, one of Kent County, and one of Sussex County. They are nominated by the Governor with the confirmation of the Senate for 12-year terms. They must have been actively engaged in the general practice of law in the State of Delaware for at least five years and must be citizens of the State. A majority of not more than one Judge may be from the same political party. The Chief Judge, also appointed by the Governor, serves as the administrative head of the Court during his term of appointment.

Support Personnel

Personnel are appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, including a Court Administrator and one Clerk of the Court for each county. Other employees as are necessary are also added, including bailiffs, court reporters, secretaries, clerks, and presentence officers.

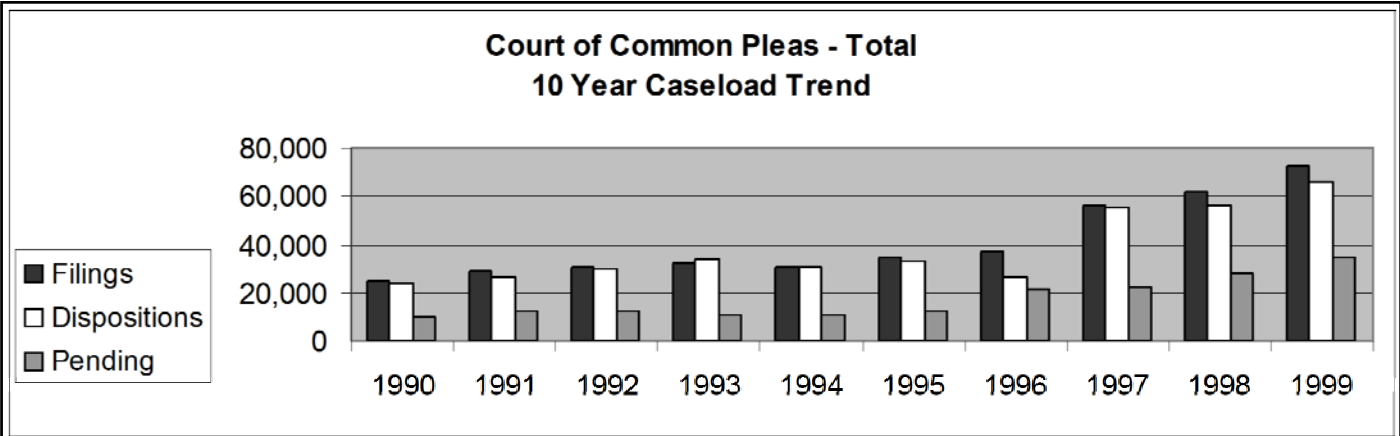
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD SUMMARY — Number of Defendants</i>						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	18,055	36,002	30,476	23,581	+5,526	+30.6%
Kent County	4,439	15,871	15,136	5,174	+735	+16.6%
Sussex County	5,430	20,636	20,280	5,786	+356	+6.6%
STATE	27,924	72,509	65,892	34,541	+6,617	+23.7%

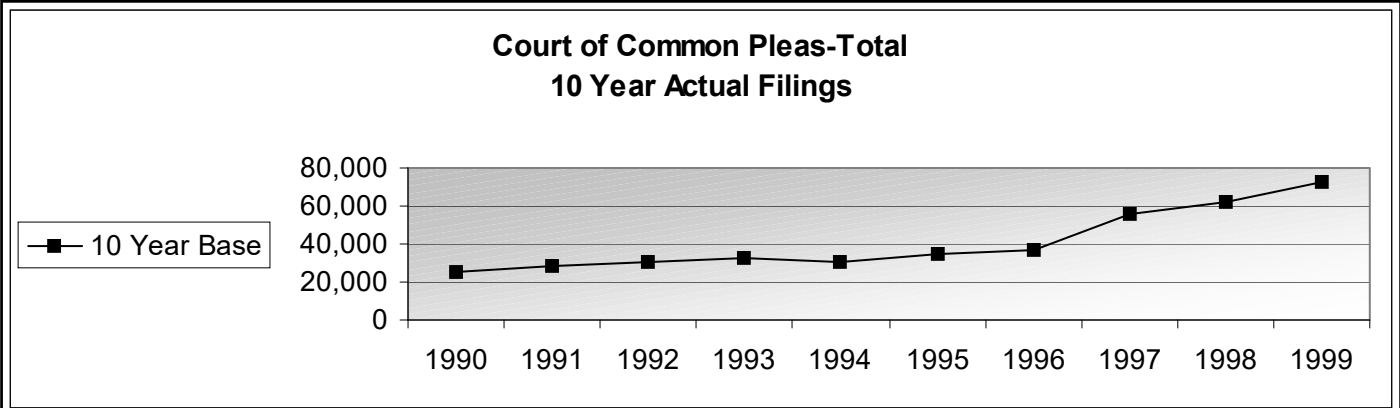
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD FILINGS — Number of Defendants</i>				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	28,153	36,002	+7,849	+27.9%
Kent County	14,567	15,871	+1,304	+9.0%
Sussex County	19,471	20,636	+1,165	+6.0%
STATE	62,191	72,509	+10,318	+16.6%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — TOTAL CASES <i>CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS — Number of Defendants</i>				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	23,746	30,476	+6,730	+28.3%
Kent County	13,993	15,136	+1,143	+8.2%
Sussex County	18,740	20,280	+1,540	+8.2%
STATE	56,479	65,892	+9,413	+16.7%

Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	25,070	28,530	30,131	32,206	30,262	34,658	37,309	56,067	62,191	72,509
Dispositions	24,072	26,404	29,363	34,188	30,138	33,109	26,622	55,258	56,479	65,892
Pending at End of Year	9,843	11,969	12,737	10,755	10,879	12,428	21,403	22,212	27,924	34,541



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
10 Year Base	25,070	28,530	30,131	32,206	30,262	34,658	37,309	56,067	62,191	72,509

Projections not provided due to large shifts in caseload in recent years.
 Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY — Number of Defendants

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	12,169	31,971	26,578	17,562	+5,393	+44.3%
Kent County	3,942	14,701	14,084	4,559	+617	+15.7%
Sussex County	4,331	19,544	19,271	4,604	+273	+6.3%
STATE	20,442	66,216	59,933	26,725	+6,283	+30.7%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS — Number of Defendants

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	24,009	31,971	+7,962	+33.2%
Kent County	13,512	14,701	+1,189	+8.8%
Sussex County	18,439	19,544	+1,105	+6.0%
STATE	55,960	66,216	+10,256	+18.3%

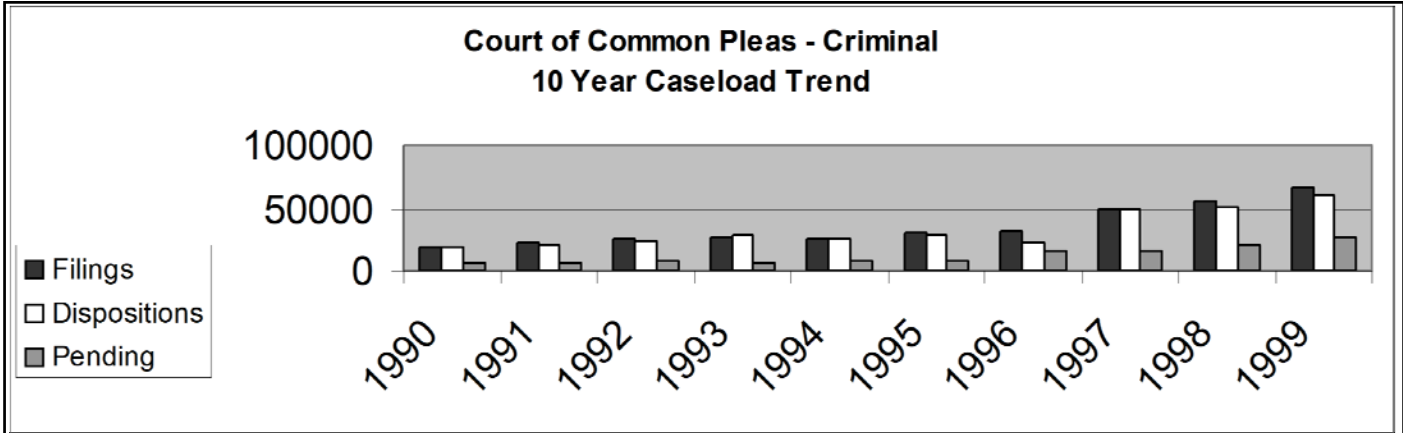
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS — Number of Defendants

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	20,037	26,578	+6,541	+32.6%
Kent County	12,819	14,084	+1,265	+9.9%
Sussex County	17,782	19,271	+1,489	+8.4%
STATE	50,638	59,933	+9,295	+18.4%

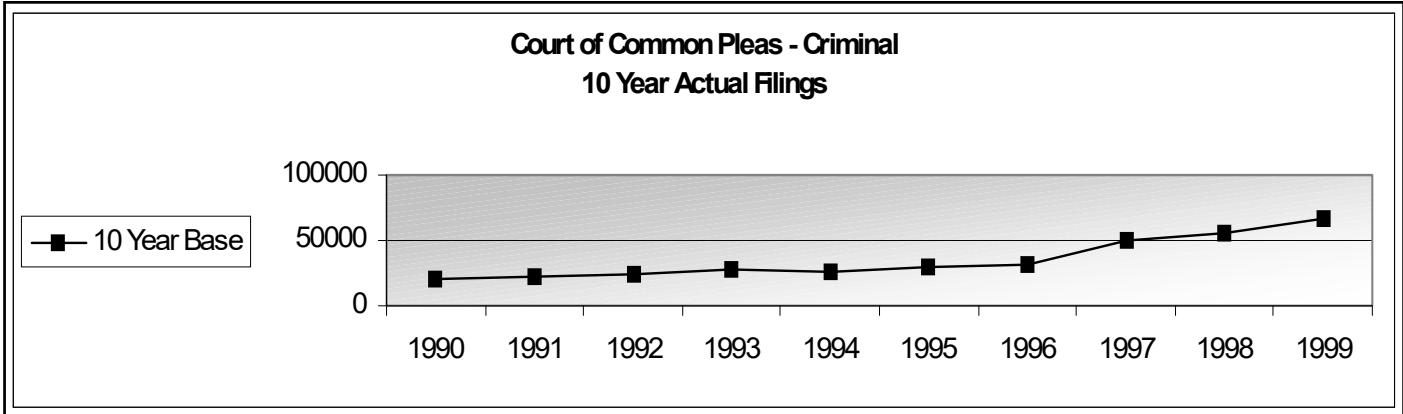
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD PRELIMINARY HEARINGS — Number of Defendants

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,016	4,229	+1,213	+40.2%
Kent County	1,352	1,413	+61	+4.5%
Sussex County	1,410	1,476	+66	+4.7%
STATE	5,778	7,118	+1,340	+23.2%

Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	19,650	22,819	24,650	27,471	26,137	29,537	31,718	49,633	55,960	66,216
Dispositions	18,908	21,342	24,206	28,132	25,675	28,947	22,515	49,947	50,638	59,933
Pending at End of Year	5,631	7,108	7,552	6,891	7,353	7,943	15,434	15,120	20,442	26,725



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
10 Year Base	19,650	22,819	24,650	27,471	26,137	29,537	31,718	49,633	55,960	66,216

Projections not provided due to large shifts in caseload in recent years.
 Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
New Castle County	5,886	4,031	3,898	6,019	+133	+2.3%
Kent County	497	1,170	1,052	615	+118	+23.7%
Sussex County	1,099	1,092	1,009	1,182	+83	+7.6%
STATE	7,482	6,293	5,959	7,816	+334	+4.5%

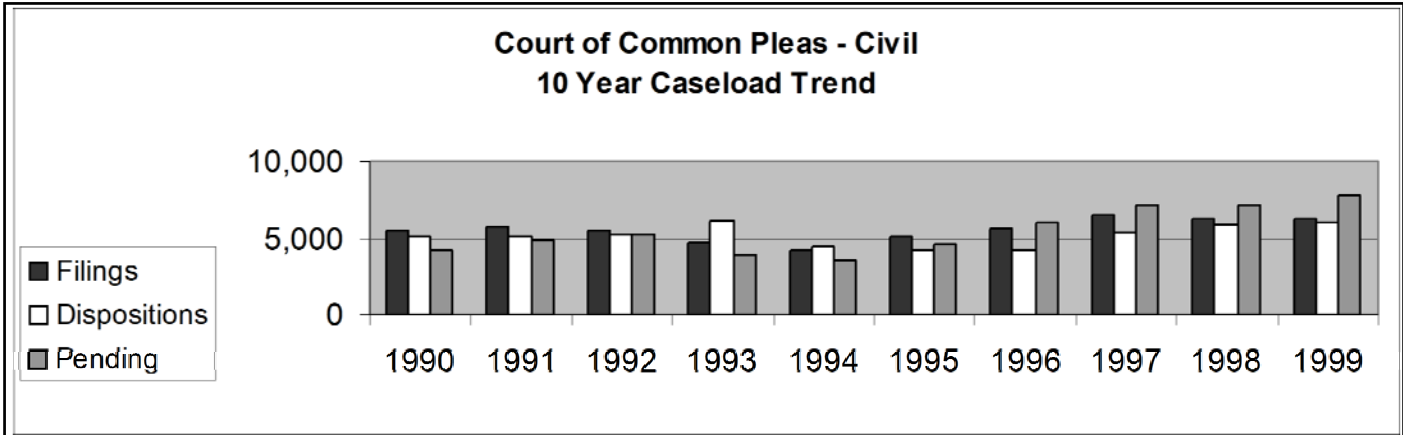
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	4,144	4,031	-113	-2.7%
Kent County	1,055	1,170	+115	+10.9%
Sussex County	1,032	1,092	+60	+5.8%
STATE	6,231	6,293	+62	+1.0%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES CASELOAD DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,709	3,898	+189	+5.1%
Kent County	1,174	1,052	-122	-10.4%
Sussex County	958	1,009	+51	+5.3%
STATE	5,841	5,959	+118	+2.0%

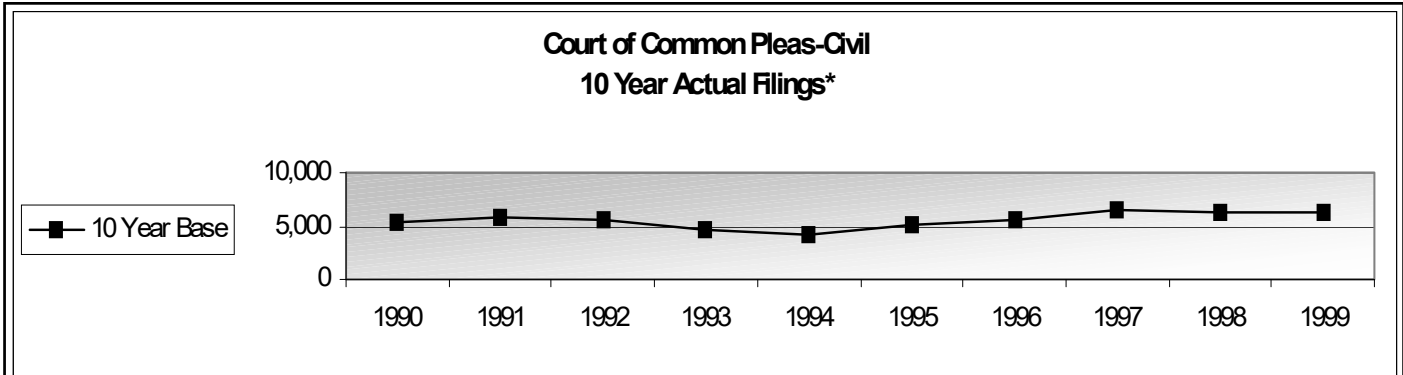
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS FILINGS						
	Complaints		Civil Judgments, Name Changes		TOTALS	
	New Castle County	3,755	93.2%	276	6.8%	4,031
Kent County	1,084	92.6%	86	7.4%	1,170	100.0%
Sussex County	990	90.7%	102	9.3%	1,092	100.0%
STATE	5,829	92.6%	464	7.4%	6,293	100.0%

COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 — CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS DISPOSITIONS						
	Court Action		Counsel Action		TOTALS	
	New Castle County	1,358	34.8%	2,540	65.2%	3,898
Kent County	333	31.7%	719	68.3%	1,052	100.0%
Sussex County	367	36.4%	642	63.6%	1,009	100.0%
STATE	2,058	34.5%	3,901	65.5%	5,959	100.0%

Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	5,420	5,711	5,481	4,735	4,125	5,121	5,591	6,434	6,231	6,293
Dispositions	5,060	5,062	5,157	6,056	4,463	4,162	4,107	5,311	5,841	5,959
Pending at End of Year	4,212	4,861	5,185	3,864	3,526	4,485	5,969	7,092	7,482	7,816



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
10 Year Base	5,420	5,711	5,481	4,735	4,125	5,121	5,591	6,434	6,231	6,293

*Projections not provided due to large shifts in caseload in recent years.
 Source: Court Administrator, Court of Common Pleas; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



Legal Authorization

The Justice of the Peace Courts are authorized by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1.

Court History

As early as the 1600s, justices of the peace were commissioned to handle minor civil and criminal cases. Along with a host of other duties, the administering of local government in the 17th and 18th Centuries on behalf of the English Crown was a primary duty of the justices of the peace. With the adoption of the State Constitution of 1792, the justices of the peace were stripped of their general administrative duties leaving them with minor civil and criminal jurisdiction. During the period 1792 through 1964, the justices of the peace were compensated entirely by the costs and fees accessed and collected for the performance of their legal duties.

Legal Jurisdiction

The Justice of the Peace Courts have jurisdiction over civil cases in which the amount in controversy is not greater than \$15,000. This increased from \$5,000 in January

1995. Justice of the Peace Courts are authorized to hear certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. Appeals may be taken to the Court of Common Pleas effective January 1995. In the past, these appeals were taken to the Superior Court. The subject matter jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Courts is shared with the Court of Common Pleas, except for summary possession actions.

The Court's jurisdiction was increased on May 1, 1998, to include filings in the city of Wilmington as a result of the Municipal Court merger.

Geographic Organization

The jurisdiction of the Courts is statewide and sessions are held throughout the State. Of the 19 courts currently operating, eight are in New Castle County, four are in Kent County and seven are in Sussex County. The Voluntary

Assessment Center, which handles mail-in fines, is located in Dover.

Justice of the Peace

The Delaware Code authorizes a maximum of 58 justices of the peace. The maximum number of justices of the peace permitted in each county is 29 in New Castle County, 12 in Kent County and 17 in Sussex County. All justices of the peace are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for terms of four years. A justice of the peace must be at least 21 years of age and a resident of the state of Delaware and the county in which the justice of the peace serves. In addition to the 58 justices of the peace, the Governor nominates a chief magistrate, subject to Senate confirmation.

Support Personnel

An administrator, two operations managers, an administrative officer, and a fiscal administrative officer help the chief magistrate direct the Justice of the Peace Courts on a daily basis. The State provides clerks of the court, constables, and other personnel for the courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 — TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY

	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending	Capias	Cleared
Criminal	36,535	340,585	339,765	37,355	+820	+2.2%	Superior	2,880
Civil	5,585	30,865	29,112	7,338	+1,753	+31.4%	Family CCP	2,616 9,999
TOTAL	42,120	371,450	368,877	44,693	+2,573	+6.1%	TOTAL	15,495

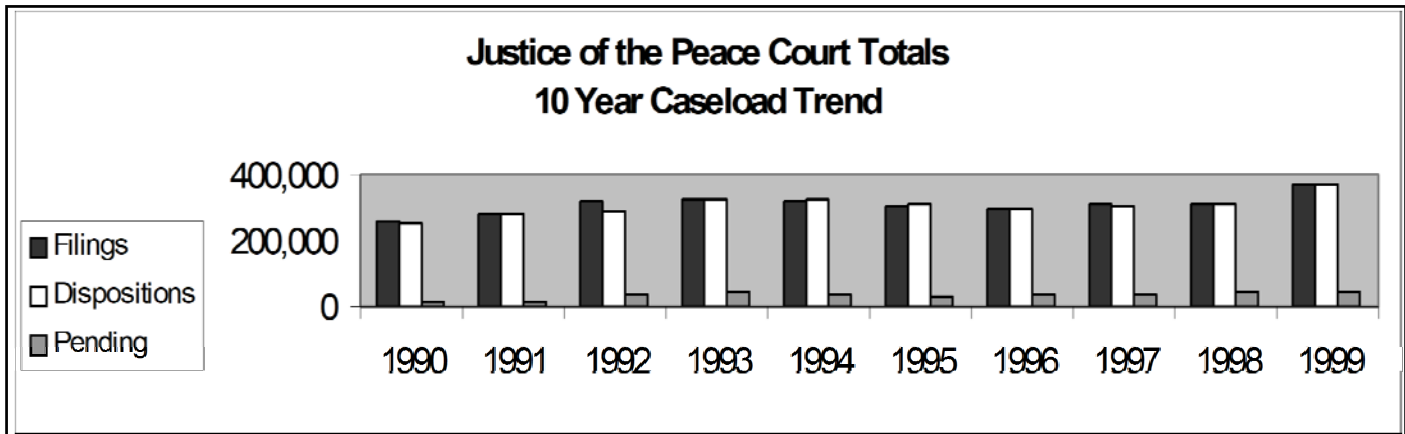
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 NUMBER OF FILINGS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
Criminal	282,082	340,585	+58,503	+20.7%
Civil	31,558	30,865	-693	-2.2%
TOTAL	313,640	371,450	+57,810	+18.4%

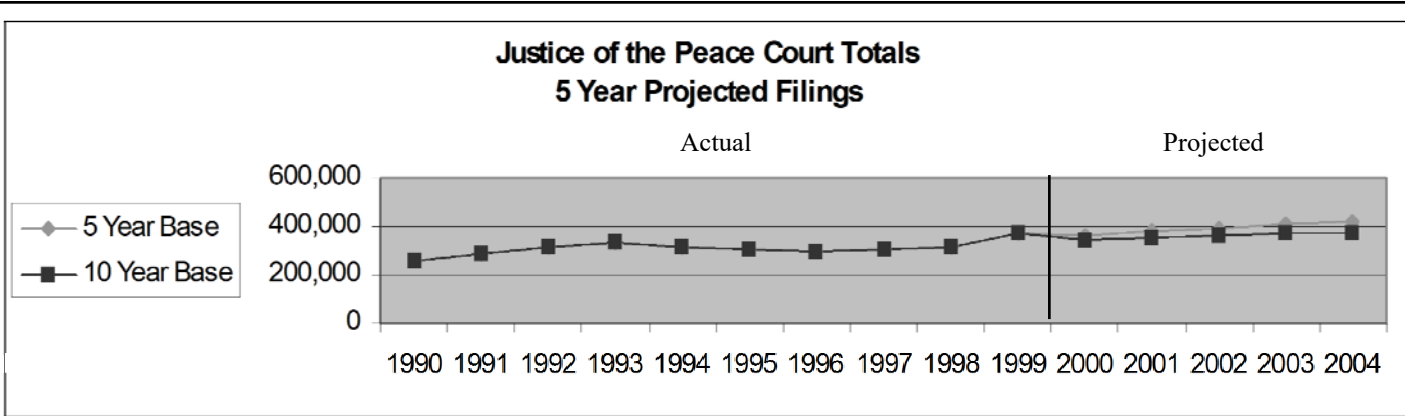
COMPARISON — FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS

	1998	1999	Change	% Change
Criminal	278,283	339,765	+61,482	+22.1%
Civil	32,145	29,112	-3,033	-9.4%
TOTAL	310,428	368,877	+58,449	+18.8%

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	257,063	281,001	316,695	329,461	316,121	306,106	297,079	309,178	313,640	371,450
Dispositions	255,553	279,004	291,109	323,512	327,833	307,692	293,946	305,133	310,428	368,877
Pending at End of Year	11,600	13,597	39,183	45,132	33,420	31,834	34,863	38,908	42,120	44,693



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	306,106	297,079	309,178	313,640	371,450	363,665	378,390	393,115	407,840	422,565
10 Year Base	257,063	281,001	316,695	329,461	316,121	306,106	297,079	309,178	313,640	371,450	346,886	353,632	360,380	367,126	373,873

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Explanatory Notes

The initial filings of the Municipal Court of the City of Wilmington were transferred to a newly created State court, JP Court No. 20, on May 1, 1998, which operates from 8 a.m. until midnight on Mondays through Fridays. Court 20's filings in 1998 reflect only two months of operation. JP Court No. 11 handles much of the Municipal Court's initial caseload from midnight to 8 a.m. and on weekends. Court 11's caseload was further increased after Court 1 ceased operating at 716 Philadelphia Pike in Wilmington on July 9, 1998. Court 15 reopened at a new facility in Claymont, Delaware on June 1, 1999.

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES* CASELOAD SUMMARY						
	Pending 6/30/1998	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Court 9	1,734	3,207	3,194	1,747	+13	+0.7%
Court 10	2,678	19,428	19,989	2,117	-561	-20.9%
Court 11	11,154	50,314	52,174	9,294	-1,860	-16.7%
Court 14	954	1,821	1,795	980	+26	+2.7%
Court 15	3,303	1,924	2,021	3,206	-97	-2.9%
Court 18	562	16,542	16,377	727	+165	+29.4%
Court 20	529	18,622	17,395	1,756	+1,227	+231.9%
KENT COUNTY						
Court 6	1,070	4,421	4,323	1,168	+98	+9.2%
Court 7	2,243	34,136	33,609	2,770	+527	+23.5%
Court 8	261	2,015	1,857	419	+158	+60.5%
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Court 1	365	3,095	3,010	450	+85	+23.3%
Court 2	687	10,593	10,419	861	+174	+25.3%
Court 3	3,958	27,627	27,777	3,808	-150	-3.8%
Court 4	2,078	14,685	15,161	1,602	-476	-22.9%
Court 5	693	3,540	3,492	741	+48	+6.9%
TOTAL	32,269	211,970	212,593	31,646	-623	-1.9%
VAC	4,266	128,615	126,375	6,506	+2,240	+52.5%
STATE	36,535	340,585	338,968	38,152	+1,617	+4.4%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

*The unit of count is the charge.

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES* — CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS										
FILINGS										
	Title 7 Fish/Game		Title 11 Criminal		Title 21 Traffic		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
NEW CASTLE COUNTY										
Court 9	219	6.8%	294	9.2%	2,435	75.9%	259	8.1%	3,207	100.0%
Court 10	196	1.0%	5,617	28.9%	12,044	62.0%	1,571	8.1%	19,428	100.0%
Court 11	453	0.9%	18,231	36.2%	27,628	54.9%	4,002	8.0%	50,314	100.0%
Court 14	0	0.0%	124	6.8%	1,325	72.8%	372	20.4%	1,821	100.0%
Court 15	2	0.1%	184	9.6%	1,435	74.6%	303	15.7%	1,924	100.0%
Court 18	5	0.0%	11,915	72.0%	1,742	10.5%	2,880	17.4%	16,542	100.0%
Court 20	76	0.4%	5,248	28.2%	9,894	53.1%	3,404	18.3%	18,622	100.0%
KENT COUNTY										
Court 6	106	2.4%	729	16.5%	3,371	76.2%	215	4.9%	4,421	100.0%
Court 7	898	2.6%	11,504	33.7%	19,173	56.2%	2,561	7.5%	34,136	100.0%
Court 8	15	0.7%	555	27.5%	1,249	62.0%	196	9.7%	2,015	100.0%
SUSSEX COUNTY										
Court 1	378	12.2%	198	6.4%	2,188	70.7%	331	10.7%	3,095	100.0%
Court 2	597	5.6%	1,523	14.4%	8,168	77.1%	305	2.9%	10,593	100.0%
Court 3	425	1.5%	11,722	42.4%	13,406	48.5%	2,074	7.5%	27,627	100.0%
Court 4	213	1.5%	2,801	19.1%	11,258	76.7%	413	2.8%	14,685	100.0%
Court 5	32	0.9%	765	21.6%	2,627	74.2%	116	3.3%	3,540	100.0%
TOTAL	3,615	1.7%	71,410	33.7%	117,943	55.6%	19,002	9.0%	211,970	100.0%
VAC	92	0.1%	1	0.0%	128,456	99.9%	66	0.1%	128,615	100.0%
STATE	3,707	1.1%	71,411	21.0%	246,399	72.3%	19,068	5.6%	340,585	100.0%

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES* — CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS										
DISPOSITIONS										
	Title 7 Fish/Game		Title 11 Criminal		Title 21 Traffic		Miscellaneous		TOTALS	
NEW CASTLE COUNTY										
Court 9	190	5.9%	247	7.7%	2,536	79.4%	221	6.9%	3,194	100.0%
Court 10	143	0.7%	5,837	29.2%	12,700	63.5%	1,309	6.5%	19,989	100.0%
Court 11	425	0.8%	17,840	34.2%	29,905	57.3%	4,004	7.7%	52,174	100.0%
Court 14	1	0.1%	178	9.9%	1,355	75.5%	261	14.5%	1,795	100.0%
Court 15	2	0.1%	184	9.1%	1,644	81.3%	191	9.5%	2,021	100.0%
Court 18	4	0.0%	11,505	70.3%	1,900	11.6%	2,968	18.1%	16,377	100.0%
Court 20	47	0.3%	5,327	30.6%	9,502	54.6%	2,519	14.5%	17,395	100.0%
KENT COUNTY										
Court 6	120	2.8%	807	18.7%	3,157	73.0%	239	5.5%	4,323	100.0%
Court 7	912	2.7%	12,680	37.7%	17,571	52.3%	2,446	7.3%	33,609	100.0%
Court 8	12	0.6%	500	26.9%	1,194	64.3%	151	8.1%	1,857	100.0%
SUSSEX COUNTY										
Court 1	440	14.6%	177	5.9%	2,045	67.9%	348	11.6%	3,010	100.0%
Court 2	616	5.9%	1,457	14.0%	8,048	77.2%	298	2.9%	10,419	100.0%
Court 3	340	1.2%	11,982	43.1%	13,397	48.2%	2,058	7.4%	27,777	100.0%
Court 4	225	1.5%	2,576	17.0%	11,937	78.7%	423	2.8%	15,161	100.0%
Court 5	50	1.4%	680	19.5%	2,620	75.0%	142	4.1%	3,492	100.0%
TOTAL	3,527	1.7%	71,977	33.9%	119,511	56.2%	17,578	8.3%	212,593	100.0%
VAC	92	0.1%	2	0.0%	126,219	99.9%	62	0.0%	126,375	100.0%
STATE	3,619	1.1%	71,979	21.2%	245,730	72.5%	17,640	5.2%	338,968	100.0%

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center.

*The unit of count is the charge.

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

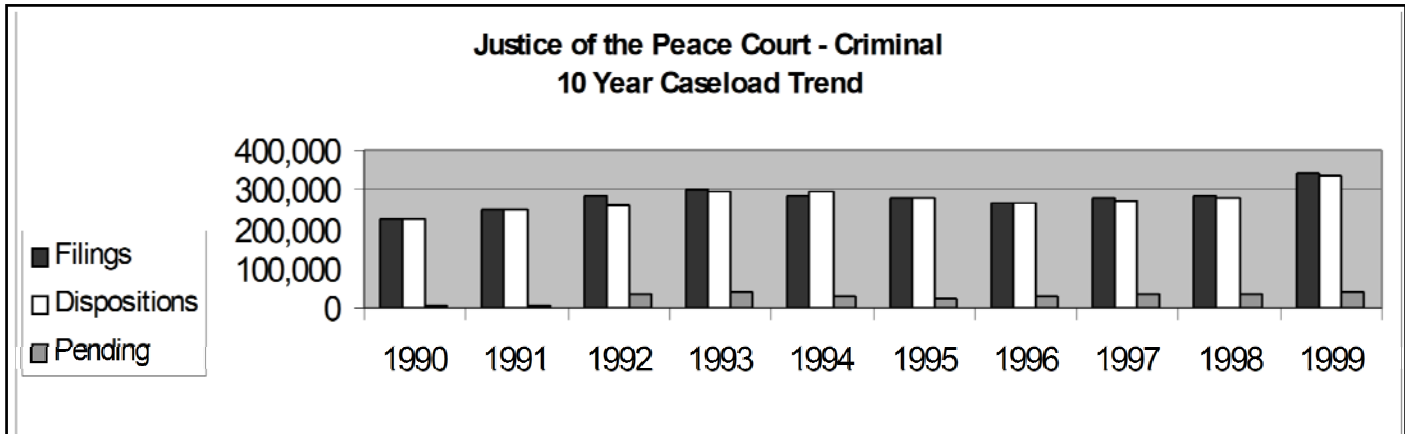
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES*				
CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Court 9	2,563	3,207	+644	+25.1%
Court 10	15,302	19,428	+4,126	+27.0%
Court 11	34,073	50,314	+16,241	+47.7%
Court 14	1,922	1,821	-101	-5.3%
Court 15	12,663	1,924	-10,739	-84.8%
Court 18	12,962	16,542	+3,580	+27.6%
Court 20	1,617	18,622	+17,005	+1,051.6%
KENT COUNTY				
Court 6	5,325	4,421	-904	-17.0%
Court 7	32,686	34,136	+1,450	+4.4%
Court 8	1,892	2,015	+123	+6.5%
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Court 1	3,513	3,095	-418	-11.9%
Court 2	9,287	10,593	+1,306	+14.1%
Court 3	24,330	27,627	+3,297	+13.6%
Court 4	13,909	14,685	+776	+5.6%
Court 5	3,428	3,540	+112	+3.3%
TOTAL	175,472	211,970	+36,498	+20.8%
VAC	106,610	128,615	+22,005	+20.6%
STATE	282,082	340,585	+58,503	+20.7%

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999—CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC CASES*				
CASELOAD FILINGS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Court 9	2,675	3,194	+519	+19.4%
Court 10	15,226	19,989	+4,763	+31.3%
Court 11	31,512	52,174	+20,662	+65.6%
Court 14	1,933	1,795	-138	-7.1%
Court 15	11,875	2,021	-9,854	-83.0%
Court 18	12,565	16,377	+3,812	+30.3%
Court 20	1,088	17,395	+16,307	+1,498.8%
KENT COUNTY				
Court 6	5,145	4,323	-822	-16.0%
Court 7	32,377	34,406	+2,029	+6.3%
Court 8	1,963	1,857	-106	-5.4%
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Court 1	3,687	3,010	-677	-18.4%
Court 2	9,346	10,419	+1,073	+11.5%
Court 3	23,680	27,777	+4,097	+17.3%
Court 4	13,049	15,161	+2,112	+16.2%
Court 5	3,471	3,492	+21	+0.6%
TOTAL	169,592	213,390	+43,798	+25.8%
VAC	108,691	126,375	+17,684	+16.3%
STATE	278,283	339,765	+61,482	+22.1%

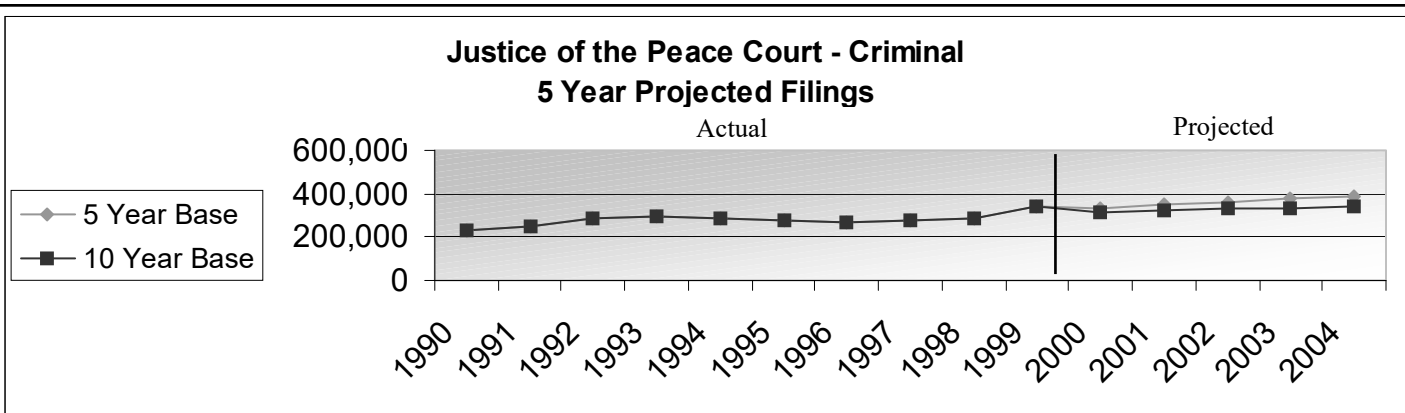
VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

*The unit of count is the charge.

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Courts; Administrative Office of the Courts.



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	227,631	248,262	285,201	299,168	285,033	276,173	266,895	279,548	282,082	340,585
Dispositions	226,959	247,361	259,167	293,370	297,439	277,961	264,997	274,209	278,283	338,968
Pending at End of Year	6,960	7,861	33,895	39,693	27,287	25,499	27,397	32,736	36,535	38,152



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	276,173	266,895	279,548	282,082	340,585	332,260	346,661	361,062	375,463	389,864
10 Year Base	227,631	248,262	285,201	299,168	285,033	276,173	266,895	279,548	282,082	340,585	316,370	323,154	329,939	336,723	343,507

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CIVIL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY							
	Pending 6/30/1998	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending	Executions Filed
NEW CASTLE COUNTY							
Court 9	181	775	836	120	-61	-33.7%	403
Court 12	1,987	8,663	9,272	1,378	-609	-30.6%	2,912
Court 13	657	8,273	7,696	1,234	+577	+87.8%	1,809
KENT COUNTY							
Court 8	7	10	15	2	-5	-71.4%	0
Court 16	1,361	6,760	5,790	2,331	+970	+71.3%	2,688
SUSSEX COUNTY							
Court 17	846	3,947	3,199	1,594	+748	+88.4%	1,483
Court 19	542	2,437	2,304	675	+133	+24.5%	1,114
STATE	5,581	30,865	29,112	7,334	+1,753	+31.4%	10,409

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS FILINGS							
	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		TOTALS		
NEW CASTLE COUNTY							
Court 9	568	73.3%	207	26.7%	775	100.0%	
Court 12	4,520	52.2%	4,143	47.8%	8,663	100.0%	
Court 13	5,096	61.6%	3,177	38.4%	8,273	100.0%	
KENT COUNTY							
Court 8	10	100.0%	0	0.0%	10	100.0%	
Court 16	4,673	69.1%	2,087	30.9%	6,760	100.0%	
SUSSEX COUNTY							
Court 2	0	—	0	—	0	—	
Court 17	2,929	74.2%	1,018	25.8%	3,947	100.0%	
Court 19	1,752	71.9%	685	28.1%	2,437	100.0%	
STATE	19,548	63.3%	11,317	36.7%	30,865	100.0%	

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS DISPOSITIONS						
	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		TOTALS	
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Court 9	584	69.9%	252	30.1%	836	100.0%
Court 12	4,647	50.1%	4,625	49.9%	9,272	100.0%
Court 13	4,604	59.8%	3,092	40.2%	7,696	100.0%
KENT COUNTY						
Court 8	15	100.0%	0	0.0%	15	100.0%
Court 16	4,202	72.6%	1,588	27.4%	5,790	100.0%
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Court 2	0	—	0	—	0	—
Court 17	2,273	71.1%	926	28.9%	3,199	100.0%
Court 19	1,706	74.0%	598	26.0%	2,304	100.0%
STATE	18,031	61.9%	11,081	38.1%	29,112	100.0%

FISCAL YEARS 1999 CIVIL CASES—CASELOAD BREAKDOWNS CHANGE IN PENDING						
	Complaints		Landlord/Tenant		TOTALS	
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Court 9	-16		-45		-61	
Court 12	-127		-482		-609	
Court 13	+492		+85		+577	
KENT COUNTY						
Court 8	-5		0		-5	
Court 16	+471		+499		+970	
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Court 2	0		0		0	
Court 17	+656		+92		+748	
Court 19	+46		+87		+133	
STATE	+1,517		+236		+1,753	

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

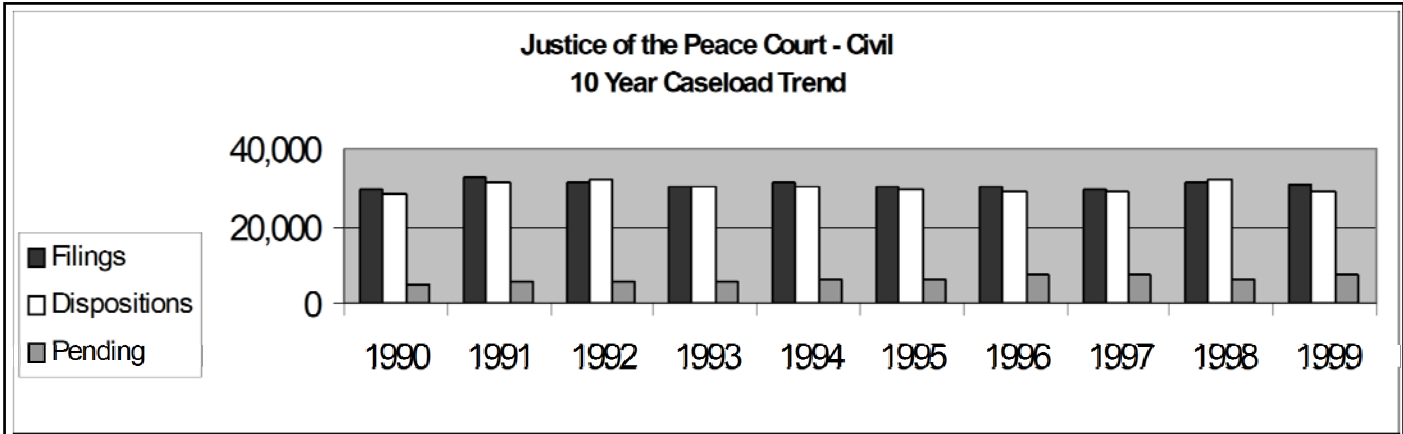
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 —CIVIL CASES				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Court 9	1,073	775	-298	-27.8%
Court 12	9,401	8,663	-738	-7.9%
Court 13	8,242	8,273	+31	+0.4%
KENT COUNTY				
Court 8	16	10	-6	-37.5%
Court 16	6,595	6,760	+165	+2.5%
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Court 2	0	0	0	—
Court 17	3,797	3,947	+150	+4.0%
Court 19	2,434	2,437	+3	+0.1%
STATE	31,558	30,865	-693	-2.2%

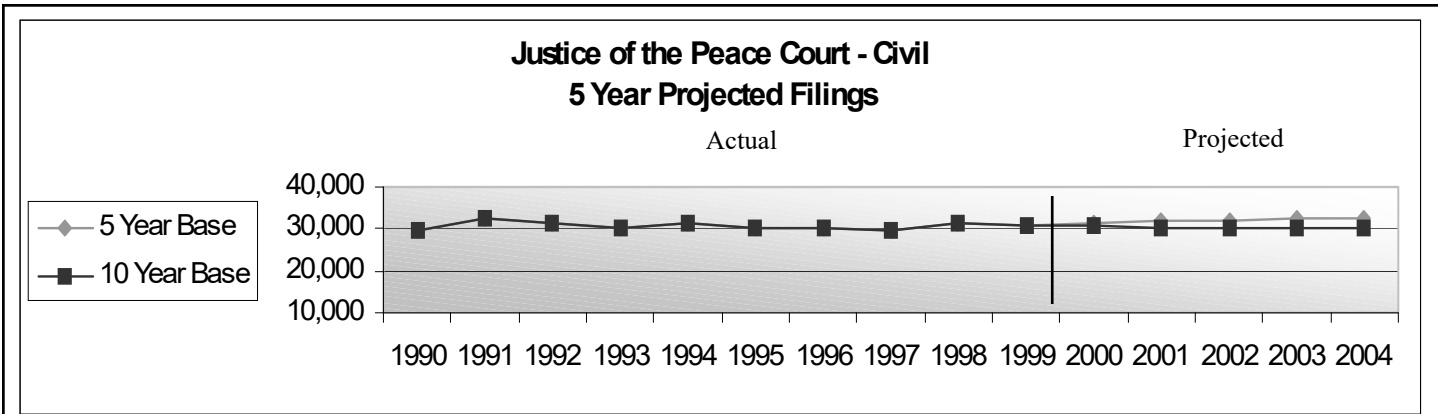
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 —CIVIL CASES DISPOSITIONS				
	1998	1999	Change	% Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Court 9	932	836	-96	-10.3%
Court 12	8,772	9,272	+500	+5.7%
Court 13	7,898	7,696	-202	-2.6%
KENT COUNTY				
Court 8	13	15	+2	+15.4%
Court 16	7,596	5,790	-1,806	-23.8%
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Court 2	0	0	0	—
Court 17	3,925	3,199	-726	-18.5%
Court 19	3,009	2,304	-705	-23.4%
STATE	32,145	29,112	-3,033	-9.4%

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Filings	29,432	32,739	31,494	30,293	31,088	29,933	30,184	29,630	31,558	30,865
Dispositions	28,594	31,643	31,942	30,142	30,394	29,731	28,949	30,924	32,145	29,112
Pending at End of Year	4,640	5,736	5,288	5,439	6,133	6,335	7,466	6,172	5,585	7,338



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
5 Year Base	—	—	—	—	—	29,933	30,184	29,630	31,558	30,865	31,405	31,729	32,053	32,377	32,701
10 Year Base	29,432	32,739	31,494	30,293	31,088	29,933	30,184	29,630	31,558	30,865	30,516	30,478	30,441	30,403	30,366

Trend lines computed by regression analysis.
Source: Administrative Office of the Courts.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999 RANKINGS IN ORDER OF TOTAL CASES FILED				
1999 Rank (w/o VAC)	Court Number	Total Filings*	% of Total w/o VAC	1998 Rank (w/o VAC)
1	Court 11	50,314	20.7%	1
2	Court 7	34,136	14.1%	2
3	Court 3	27,627	11.4%	3
4	Court 10	19,428	8.0%	4
5	Court 20	18,622	7.7%	20
6	Court 18	16,542	6.8%	6
7	Court 4	14,685	6.0%	5
8	Court 2	10,593	4.4%	9
9	Court 12	8,663	3.6%	8
10	Court 13	8,273	3.4%	10
11	Court 16	6,760	2.8%	11
12	Court 6	4,421	1.8%	12
13	Court 9	3,982	1.6%	14
14	Court 17	3,947	1.6%	13
15	Court 5	3,540	1.5%	16
16	Court 1	3,095	1.3%	15
17	Court 19	2,437	1.0%	17
18	Court 8	2,025	0.8%	19
19	Court 15	1,924	0.8%	7
20	Court 14	1,821	0.7%	18
	State w/o VAC	242,835		
	VAC	128,615		
	State w/ VAC	371,450		

VAC=Voluntary Assessment Center

*The unit of count is the charge.

Source: Chief Magistrate's Office, Justice of the Peace Court; Administrative Office of the Courts

ALDERMAN'S COURT



Legal Authorization

Alderman's Courts are authorized by the town charters of their respective municipalities.

Legal Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of an Alderman's Court is limited to misdemeanors, traffic offenses, parking violations, and minor civil matters. The specific jurisdiction of each court varies with the town charter (which is approved by the General Assembly). Appeals are taken de novo to the Court of Common Pleas within 15 days of trial.

Geographic Organization

Alderman's Courts have jurisdiction only within their own town limits. There were eight active Alderman's Courts at the end of 1998, two in New Castle County and six in Sussex County. When a town is without a Court or an alderman for any period of time, its cases are transferred to the nearest Justice of the Peace Court.

Aldermen

The selection, number, tenure and qualifications of Aldermen are determined by the towns themselves. Some require lawyers while others choose private citizens. A few aldermen serve full-time, while some are part-time.

ALDERMAN'S COURT

FISCAL YEAR 1999—TOTAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY*						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Newark	4,836	10,976	10,569	5,243	+407	+8.4%
Newport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delmar	407	1,540	1,368	579	+172	+42.3%
Dewey Beach	0	1,303	1,303	0	0	—
Laurel	66	1,390	1,184	272	+206	+312.1%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	229	2,003	2,039	193	-36	-15.7%
STATE	5,538	17,212	16,463	6,287	+749	+13.5%

FISCAL YEAR 1999—CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY*						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Newark	234	1,104	1,123	215	-19	-8.1%
Newport	0	0	0	0	0	—
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delmar	30	29	13	46	+16	+53.3%
Dewey Beach	0	711	711	0	0	—
Laurel	43	487	361	169	+126	+293.0%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	18	409	399	28	+10	+55.6%
STATE	325	2,740	2,607	458	+133	+40.9%

FISCAL YEAR 1999—CRIMINAL CASES CASELOAD SUMMARY*						
	Pending 6/30/98	Filings	Dispositions	Pending 6/30/99	Change in Pending	% Change in Pending
NEW CASTLE COUNTY						
Newark	4,602	9,872	9,446	5,028	+426	+9.3%
Newport	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUSSEX COUNTY						
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delmar	377	1,511	1,355	533	+156	+41.4%
Dewey Beach	0	592	592	0	0	—
Laurel	23	903	823	103	+80	+347.8%
Ocean View	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	211	1,594	1,640	165	-46	-21.8%
STATE	5,213	14,472	13,856	5,829	+616	+11.8%

*The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.

Note: Data not available for Newport and Bethany Beach courts for FY'99.

Source: Alderman's Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts.

COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES NUMBER OF FILINGS*				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Newark	10,805	10,976	+171	+1.6%
Newport	N/A	N/A	—	—
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	—	—
Delmar	1,313	1,540	+227	+17.3%
Dewey Beach	1,225	1,303	+78	+6.4%
Laurel	1,312	1,390	+78	+5.9%
Ocean View	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	1,758	2,003	+245	+13.9%
STATE	16,413	17,212	+799	+4.9%

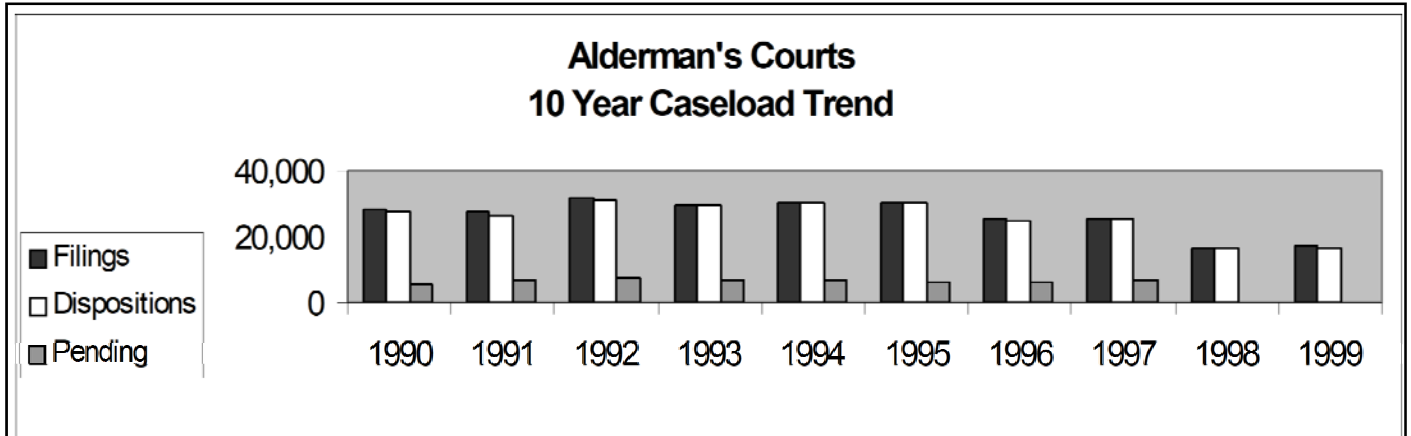
COMPARISON—FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 TOTAL CASES NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS*				
	1998	1999	Change	%Change
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Newark	10,866	10,569	-297	-2.7%
Newport	N/A	N/A	—	—
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Bethany Beach	N/A	N/A	—	—
Delmar	1,654	1,368	-286	-17.3%
Dewey Beach	1,225	1,303	+78	+6.4%
Laurel	1,351	1,184	-167	-12.4%
Ocean View	0	0	0	—
Rehoboth Beach	1,583	2,039	+456	+28.8%
STATE	16,679	16,463	-216	-1.3%

*The unit of count for criminal and traffic cases is the charge. For example, a defendant with three charges disposed of is counted as three dispositions.

Note: Data not available for Newport and Rehoboth Beach courts for FY'99.

Source: Alderman's Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts.

ALDERMAN'S COURT



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	1999*
Filings	28,244	27,402	31,446	29,668	30,232	30,501	25,532	25,267	16,413	17,212
Dispositions	27,512	26,192	31,045	29,967	30,470	30,668	25,067	25,402	16,679	16,463
Pending at End of Year	5,683	6,893	7,294	6,913	6,675	6,506	6,971	6,836	N/A	N/A

*Does not include data for Newport or Bethany Beach Courts.
 Projections not possible due to large caseload changes in recent years.
 Source: Alderman's Courts, Administrative Office of the Courts.



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