

# COURT OF CHANCERY



This past year marked a sea of change in the venerable history of the Court of Chancery as Chancellor Leo E. Strine, Jr., left the Court after sixteen years of exemplary service to become our new Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court. During his tenure with Chancery, first as a Vice Chancellor for thirteen years and then as Chancellor for the past three years, Chancellor Strine issued over 400 written decisions and built a jurisprudential legacy for the ages.

Less known to many, our former Chancellor also implemented numerous improvements to the functioning of the Court. These initiatives included, among others, leveraging the capabilities of the Court's e-filing system to better monitor the Court's operations, adopting new internal case management procedures, and implementing a uniform set of best practices shared by all members of the Court (the Guidelines for Practitioners) that are available on the Court's website.

As it has in the past, our Court remains committed to delivering timely, cost-effective justice in the face of increasing caseloads. In Fiscal Year 2014, total filings increased by 9% over the previous year. Despite this increase, the Court was able to resolve 4% more cases than it did in Fiscal Year 2013.

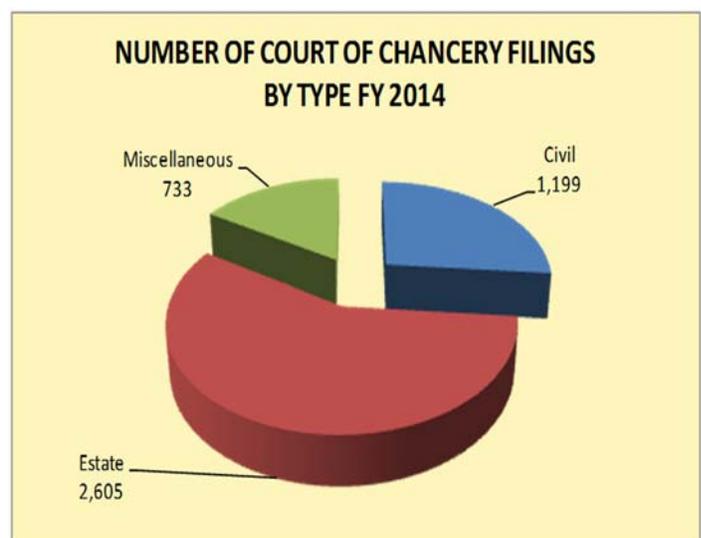
The Court of Chancery has long recognized the importance of innovation and has strived to maximize efficiencies through the use of technology. During Fiscal Year 2014, the Court celebrated its tenth year



*Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard*

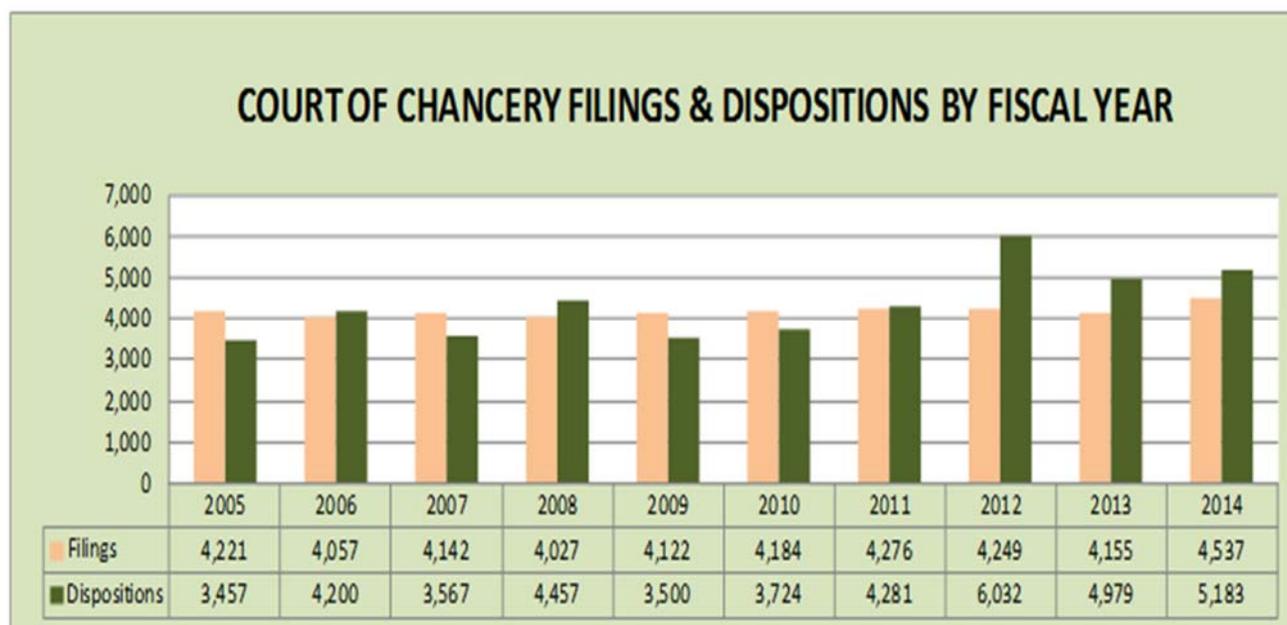
of electronic filing. The use of e-filing has reduced the need for paper files and, relatedly, eliminated many paper intensive tasks, enabling the Register in Chancery's office to reallocate staff time to other tasks.

Continuing with the goal of innovation, the Court of Chancery reporters have enhanced their ability to provide real-time trial transcripts through the use of wireless technology in most of our courtrooms. Software enhancements were made to enable court reporters to wirelessly transmit testimony to judges, attorneys and law clerks during trials. This allows for immediate re-view of testimony, central-



Continued on next page

# COURT OF CHANCERY



ized error correction, and annotation by the reviewer. The wireless software eliminates the disruption of the real-time transmissions caused by the use of electronic devices in the courtroom, which often occurred with the hard-wired real-time connection used previously.

Following an extensive, two-year review undertaken by a subcommittee of our Rules Committee, working closely with Master Kim Ayvazian and Master Abigail LeGrow, a series of revisions to our Rules was recently approved to address outdated procedures concerning guardianship, trust and estate matters. These revisions, which became effective on January 1, 2015, will supersede and eliminate various standing orders that have been implemented over the years, providing greater clarity and transparency to the Court's procedures in these important areas of practice.

In a related initiative, the General Assembly passed legislation allowing the Court to set dollar thresholds on new minor guardianship cases. As an alternative to establishing a guardianship, funds can now

be placed in a Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA) account if the amount involved falls below a specified threshold. It is expected that the implementation of this legislation will reduce the number of smaller property guardianship cases requiring Court oversight while maintaining appropriate protections for the benefit of minors, so that members of the Court and the staff in the Register's office can concentrate their resources more effectively on cases involving guardianships over disabled adults and large property settlements awarded to minors.

As the Court moves forward into the new fiscal year, its goal will continue to be what it has been in the past: to provide prompt, expert judicial resolution of cases falling within the Court's jurisdiction. Consistent with that tradition, the Court will continue to innovate to meet new challenges to best serve the citizens of Delaware and all of the other constituencies who appear before us on a daily basis.

# COURT OF CHANCERY



## Court of Chancery

***Standing left to right***

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster  
Vice Chancellor John W. Noble  
Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard  
Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons, Jr.  
Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III