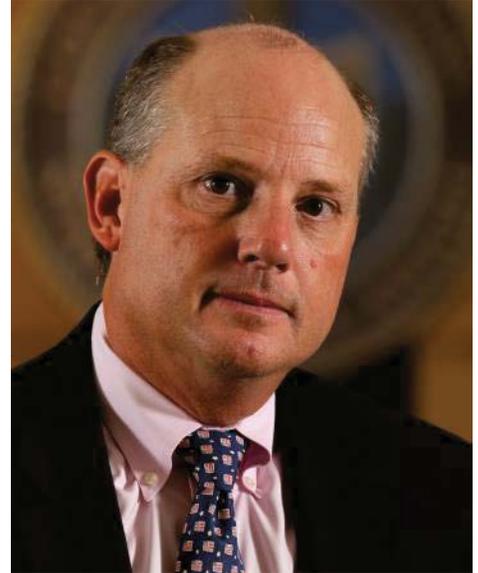


SUPREME COURT



SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE LEO E. STRINE, JR.

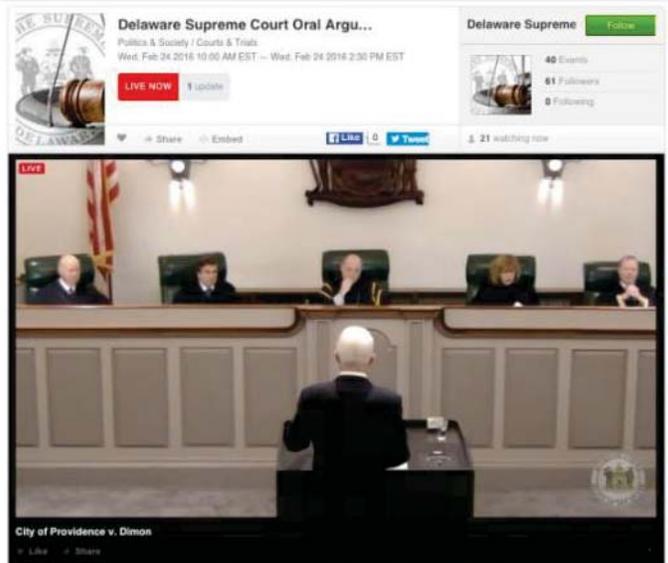


Consistent with the Judicial Branch’s overall goal of ensuring that cases are resolved in an expedited, timely, and effective way, the Supreme Court undertook several steps in 2016 to improve its ability to meet this goal and to use taxpayer dollars wisely.

This year marked the launch of a totally revamped website for the Branch and all of its courts. This change makes a wealth of valuable information about the individual courts and their operations more easily available to the legal community and the general public. The new website better meets the important goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act and our Access to Justice initiative. It also provides users with an attractive, uncluttered site that is easy to use on the device (desktop, tablet, smart phone, etc.) of the user’s choosing.

The Supreme Court has also taken strides to improve the quantity and quality of the free public information that it makes available on its website. Starting in March 2016 the

Court began making its non-confidential oral arguments available online, as they happen in Dover. A link on the Court’s website takes viewers to a live broadcast of the Court’s proceedings. Although this real time access is an obvious benefit to the legal community, it is the Court’s hope that these live broadcasts will also provide an educational opportunity to students, schools



A screen image of the Livestream of Delaware Supreme Court oral arguments online.

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT FY 2016 AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE



*Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.

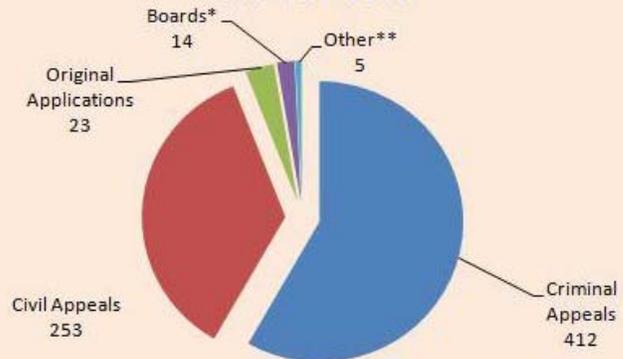
and members of the public interested in learning about the Supreme Court.

Because technology is also useful to the Court and its staff in accomplishing their duties more expertly and expeditiously, the Court created an intranet site for its own internal use. This intranet contains valuable shared information such as a master calendar, key administrative documents, frequently used forms including templates for sample orders and opinions, and information for and about the Court’s law clerks.

In the interests of the continuous improvement of the Supreme Court’s own processes and those of the other courts, the Chief Justice asked the Delaware Chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Delaware State Bar Association in 2015 to conduct a survey of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Judicial Branch. Their “Joint Study of Delaware Courts” was released in May of 2016 and it contained informative data gathered from interviews with more than 120 respected practitioners, sitting and former members of the Delaware bench as well as from more than 1,300 anonymous online survey responses from members of the Delaware Bar.

Each court received a detailed executive summary of the major themes that were elicited regarding their specific court. The Supreme Court has already taken affirmative steps to address this valuable ACTL/DSBA feedback, as reflected in its recent amendments to several Supreme Court rules implementing word counts for briefs in place of page counts and providing more guidance regarding when the Court

NUMBER OF SUPREME COURT FILINGS BY TYPE FY 2016



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

Continued on next page

SUPREME COURT

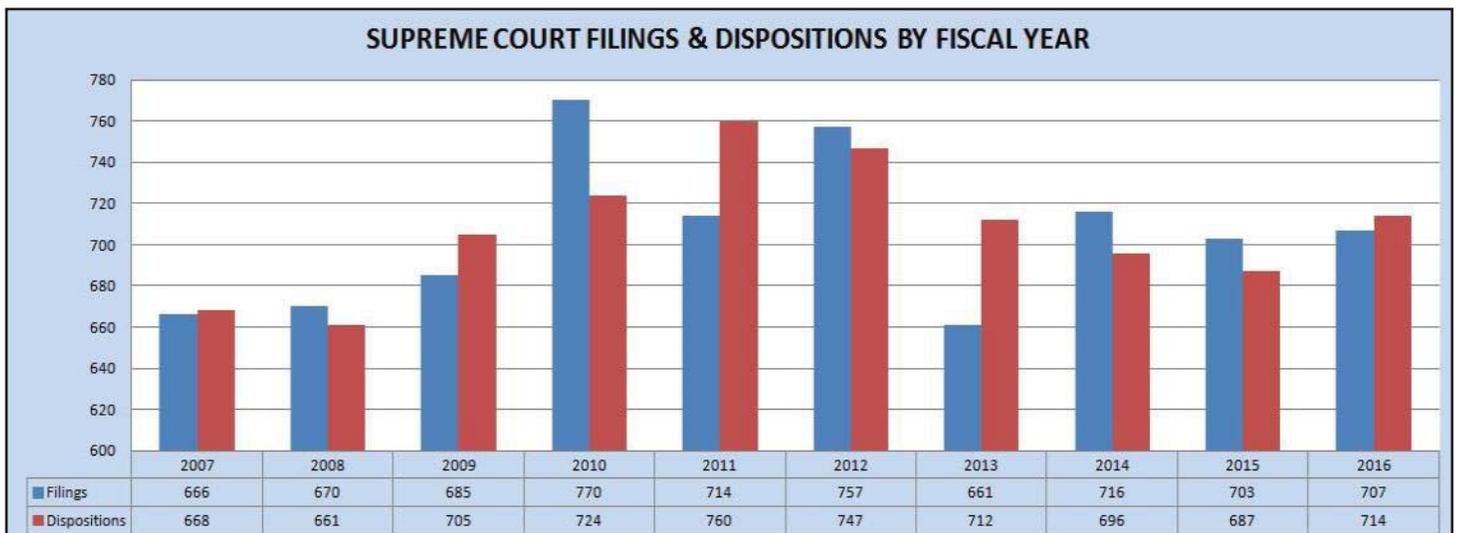
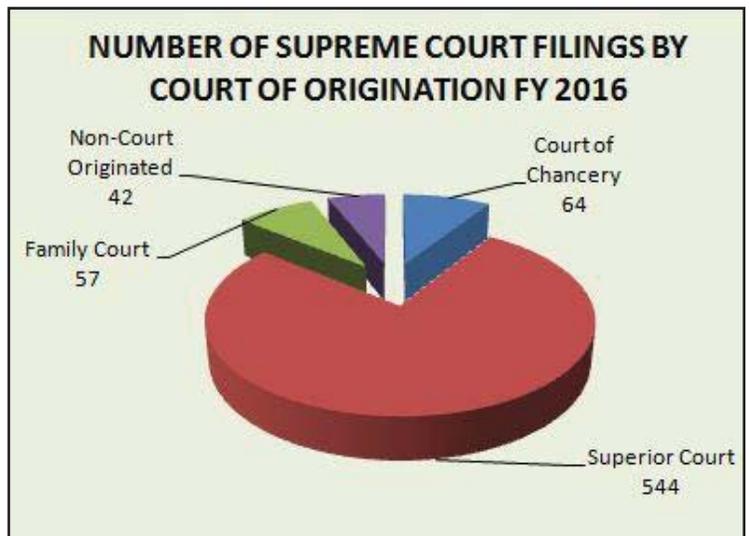
will consider interlocutory appeals. The Court also recently updated its Internal Operating Procedures.

In Fiscal Year 2016 the Court continued its tradition of taking the timely disposition of its caseload very seriously. During the year, the Court received 707 new appeals and disposed of a total of 714 by opinion, order or dismissal. The appeals were decided an average of 29.7 days from the date of submission to the date of final decision. In 98.6% of the appeals decided in FY 2016, the Court met the standard for the Delaware Judiciary for deciding cases within 90 days of the date of submission. The Court also met its performance measure for disposition of 75% of all cases within 290 days of the date of the filing of a notice of appeal, exceeding this objective by disposing of 87% of all cases within the 290 day timeframe.

This past year also marks the end of an era with the retirement of Court Clerk Cathy B. Howard after almost 39 years of distinguished service to the bench, the bar, and the citizens of Delaware. We express our heartfelt thanks to Cathy for the unfailing caring and commitment that she brought to her work and wish her well in all of her future endeavors. The Court is very pleased to announce that another experienced and dedicated Court employee,

Elizabeth A. “Lisa” Dolph, took on the critical role of Court Clerk on January 1, 2017.

Finally, 2016 marked a very special event in this Court’s history. Our esteemed colleague Justice Randy J. Holland marked his 30th year of distinguished service as a Justice. A nationally recognized jurist and international leader of the Inns of Court movement, Justice Holland has served our state with great distinction and has been a role model for generations of Delaware lawyers. ♦



SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Justices

Standing left to right:

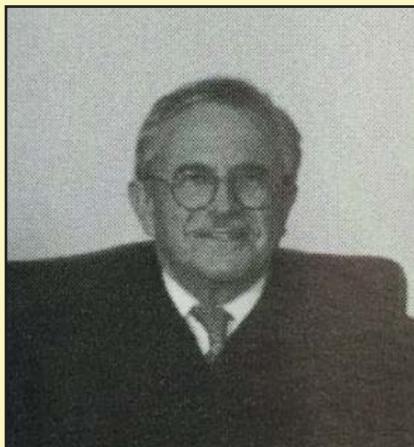
Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.
Justice Randy J. Holland
Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.
Justice Karen L. Valihura
Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

Continued on next page

SUPREME COURT

IN MEMORIAM

The HONORABLE HENRY RIDGELY HORSEY



The Honorable Henry Ridgely Horsey served as a Justice on the Delaware Supreme Court from 1978 until 1994. Justice Horsey hailed from a family with a long tradition of reverence for the law and service to the citizens of Delaware. One of his forefathers, Nicholas Ridgely of Eden Hill Farm, served as a judge of provincial Supreme Court of the three lower counties of the Pennsylvania colony, an area that later became the State of Delaware. Justice Horsey served in the U.S. Army for three years, from 1943 to 1946 during World War II, first in the infantry and later in the combat en-

gineers, with two years in the European Theater. Upon his discharge in 1946 as a sergeant, he resumed his education at Harvard College and Harvard Law School, graduating in 1952. He was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1953 and practiced law in Wilmington as an associate and then a partner at Berl, Potter & Anderson (now Potter, Anderson & Corroon) from 1953 to 1962. From 1962 until 1965, Justice Horsey served as a trust officer and Assistant Vice President of the Wilmington Trust Company. He then returned to the practice of law in Dover, joining the Delaware Attorney General's Office for several years and operating a solo law practice until 1969 when he joined the Dover office of Morris, James, Hitchens & Williams. In 1978, he was appointed to the Delaware Supreme Court. During his tenure on the state's highest court, Justice Horsey authored more than 200 published opinions. Many of Justice Horsey's opinions became landmark decisions, most notably his opinion in *Riley v. State*, which became the format for the seminal holding by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1986 case *Batson v. United States*, which prohibits attorneys from removing prospective jurors during jury selection in criminal proceedings based on race. Many other opinions by Justice Horsey are landmark rulings in regard to principles of corporate governance.

“It was an honor for me to serve with Justice Horsey, who warmly welcomed me to the Delaware Supreme Court. Justice Horsey continued a family tradition of judicial and public service that spans 250 years. Many of his opinions are landmark decisions on a wide variety of legal principles.” — Justice Randy J. Holland.

SUPREME COURT

IN MEMORIAM

The HONORABLE WILLIAM T. QUILLEN



The Honorable William T. Quillen, served as a Judge on the Delaware Superior Court from 1966 to 1973, as Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery from 1973 to 1976, as a Justice on Delaware Supreme Court from 1978 to 1983 and then again as a Judge on the Delaware Superior Court from 1994 until 2000.

Justice Quillen grew up in New Castle and graduated from Wilmington Friends School in 1952. He then went on to graduate from Williams College in 1956 and received his LL.B. from Harvard Law School and an LL.M from the University of Virginia School of Law. Justice Quillen was an officer in the JAG Corps of the United States Air Force from 1959 to 1962. On his return to civilian life, he served as a law clerk to Judge Charles Terry before working briefly as an associate at

Richards, Layton & Finger. He then became Counsel to Judge Terry who by then had become Governor Terry. In 1966, Governor Terry appointed Justice Quillen to his first term on the bench with the Delaware Superior Court. After Justice Quillen left the Bench in 1983, he worked in the Trust Department at Wilmington Trust and then as a partner at Potter, Anderson & Corroon. He ran for Governor in 1984 and also served as General Counsel for the Howard Hughes Medical Institution and taught Ethics and Constitutional Law at Widener University. He returned to public service in 1993 as Delaware's Secretary of State under Governor Tom Carper before his return to the bench and the Superior Court in 1994. Upon leaving the bench again in 2000, Justice Quillen was of Counsel at Drinker, Biddle & Reath. After he retired as an attorney, Justice Quillen maintained an office at Seitz, Ross, Aronstam & Moritz where he was working on a biography of Judge Collins J. Seitz with his friend and Judge Seitz's son, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. In 2013 Governor Jack Markell awarded Justice Quillen the Governor's Heritage Award for his contributions to the preservation and celebration of the state's history.

"Delaware has lost one of its most talented, loyal and unique citizens; someone who graced us by spending much of his career as an outstanding and exemplary member of our Judiciary. Relentlessly, almost restlessly, curious, deeply intelligent, and passionate about our state, Bill Quillen was always ready to take up the next challenge, to push himself and those around him to make the institutions he helped lead serve the people of Delaware better," — Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.