

COURT OF CHANCERY



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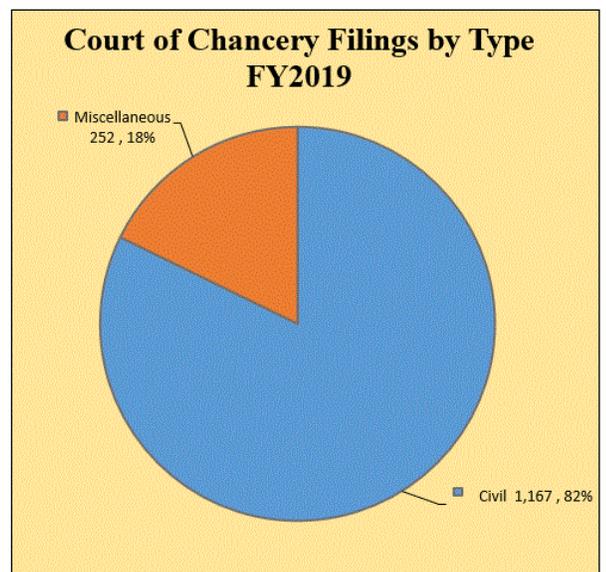
CHANCELLOR ANDRE G. BOUCHARD

The mission of the Court of Chancery is to administer justice by providing fair, prompt and well-reasoned decisions in all causes in equity and other matters within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Court of Chancery handles civil actions and civil miscellaneous matters. The vast majority of civil actions consists of corporate and commercial cases. The Court's constitutional judges, which increased in 2018 from five to seven members, handle most of the civil actions. These cases, which often involve multiple parties and complex disputes, consume the vast majority of the time and attention of the Court's judicial resources. In fiscal year 2019, total civil action filings increased by 22% compared to the prior fiscal year.

The civil miscellaneous matters largely consist of guardianship proceedings involving adults and the property of adults. The Masters in Chancery handle most of these matters. As the ultimate fiduciary for persons with a disability, the Court of

Chancery works every day to protect the most vulnerable in our society. In December 2018, the Delaware State Bar Association presented the Government Service Award to Renee Kinsey, Guardianship Case Management Supervisor, in recognition of her dedicated and distinguished service to Delawareans with disabilities and the support and guidance she provides to their caregivers and families.



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There were a number of changes to the Court this past year. Selena Molina was appointed as a Master in Chancery to fill a vacancy when former Master Morgan Zurn was appointed Vice Chancellor. Before joining the Court, Master Molina was an attorney in the litigation department of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP. We are pleased to welcome Master Molina.

In October 2019, Governor John Carney nominated Vice Chancellor Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves to serve as an Associate Justice on the Delaware Supreme Court. She assumed her new duties in De-

ember 2019. Vice Chancellor Montgomery-Reeves served on the Court of Chancery since November 2015 and becomes the first African-American to serve on the Delaware Supreme Court. Always upbeat and personable, she will be missed by her Chancery colleagues and friends.

Sadly, former Chancellor William T. Allen passed away in October 2019. Governor Michael Castle appointed Chancellor Allen to the Court in 1985, where he served with the utmost distinction until 1997. Chancellor Allen oversaw the Court during a dynamic period of corporate takeover activity in the



Court of Chancery's 200th Anniversary (1792 –1992)

Pictured at this September 19, 1992 anniversary event were all living members of the Delaware Court of Chancery at that time with the exception of VC Isaac D. Short, who was unable to attend. (Titles are from 1992).

Back Row: VC William B. Chandler III; Ch. William Duffy (1966-73); VC Jack B. Jacobs; Ch. William T. Allen; VC Carolyn Berger (1984-94); VC Joseph T. Walsh (1984-85); VC Maurice A. Hartnett(1976-94); VC and Ch. Grover C. Brown (1973-85).
Front Row: VC George Burton Pearson, Jr. (1939-46); VC and Ch. Collins J. Seitz, Sr. (1946-66); Chief Justice E. Norman Veasey; USSC Chief Justice William Rehnquist; U.S. District Judge Walter K. Stapleton; VC Joseph Longobardi (1982-84); Ch. William T. Quillen (1973-76).

(Ch.=Chancellor, VC=Vice Chancellor)

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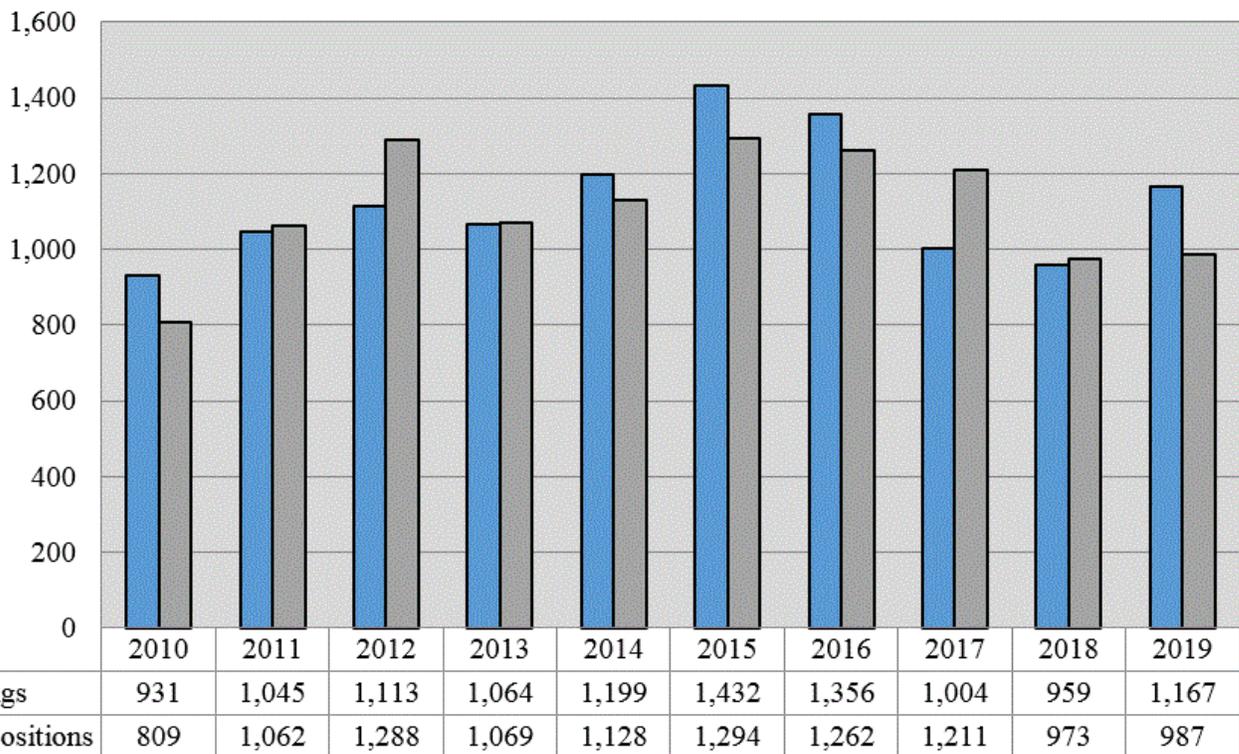
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United States during which he and his colleagues helped reshape corporate governance standards to meet new challenges. During his tenure, the Court celebrated its 200th anniversary in 1992. Chancellor Allen served as Honorary Chairman of a special event to celebrate the milestone, where William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker. Chancellor Allen’s understanding of corporate law was profound and he leaves behind a jurisprudential legacy of incisive decisions that fill law school textbooks today. The Court of Chancery offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Lastly, the Court would like to acknowledge Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., who retired from the

bench in 2019 after 27 years of service to the State of Delaware, including 21 years as a member of the Delaware Judiciary. Governor Tom Carper appointed Strine to serve as a Vice Chancellor in 1998. Governor Jack Markell appointed him Chancellor in 2011 and Chief Justice in 2014. During his tenure on the Court of Chancery, Chancellor Strine was known for his depth of preparation, keen insights into complex issues, razor wit, tireless work ethic, and carefully reasoned decisions—many of which were groundbreaking in the development of corporate law. We thank Chief Justice Strine for his remarkable service to our State and wish him well in his future endeavors. ♦

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



Fiscal Year

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Court of Chancery

Standing left to right:

Vice Chancellor Joseph R. Slights III
Vice Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick
Vice Chancellor Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves (now Supreme Court Justice)
Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn

Sitting left to right:

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster
Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard
Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III

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IN MEMORIAM

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM T. ALLEN



The Honorable William T. Allen was appointed as Chancellor of the Court of Chancery by Governor Mike Castle in 1985 and served until 1997.

Chancellor Allen presided at a time when the takeover boom of the 1980s was in full swing and the Delaware Court of Chancery was the subject of intense national scrutiny. During that time, Chancellor Allen's decisions, often produced under extreme time pressure, were known for their lucid and lively writing style and incisive analysis. His rulings also showed a deep concern for the integrity of the law, the need for those with power to use it with fidelity to those they represented, and for their understanding of scholarship relevant to the matters before the Court. For that reason, Chancellor Allen was considered to be one of the finest corporate law judges of the era and, even more broadly, as one of the finest judges of his generation on any court. When Delaware most needed a Chancellor that could provide trusted corporate law

rulings that all would respect, it was fortunate to have Bill Allen in that critical position.

Before his appointment to the Court of Chancery, Chancellor Allen was in private practice at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell. After leaving the Court of Chancery, he served at the Jack H. Nusbaum Professor of Law & Business at New York University where he was also the founding director of the NYU Pollack Center for Law & Business — a center designed to be a bridge between the law school and the business school at NYU. Chancellor Allen also returned to private practice, serving Of Counsel, in the Corporate Department at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York.

He was 75.

“Chancellor Allen set a standard of excellence that made Delaware stand out in the eyes of all sophisticated observers. Bill Allen, the person, set a standard as a husband, father, friend, and caring professor to which we should all aspire. For me personally, he was a mentor, source of wisdom, and an inspiration. Everyone in Delaware owes him a debt of gratitude for what he did for our state, and our Judiciary's hearts are with his wife and children, as they endure the loss of this special man,” said retired Delaware Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr.

“Bill left us all with cherished memories of his leadership skills, energy and work ethic, intellect and enthusiasm for his and our work,” said retired Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, “He was an unsurpassed titan of the profession.”

“Bill Allen was a close friend and professional colleague, and will be recorded in history as one of Delaware's finest and most distinguished jurists,” added retired Delaware Supreme Court Justice Jack B. Jacobs, “The loss to me personally is beyond words.” ♦