

COURT OF CHANCERY



CHANCELLOR KATHALEEN ST. J. MCCORMICK

American actress and comedian Amy Poehler once advised: “Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.” As the court’s annual statistics reflect, its judges and staff spent an awful lot of time together this past year, as demands on the court continue to increase in volume and complexity. To share some of the highlights, case filings increased 10% and requests for expedition increased 8% over last year. The court held over 1,400 hearings and issued nearly 400

opinions excluding orders and bench rulings. Reflecting on the court’s productivity in light of Poehler’s wisdom, we can safely say that 2023 was life changing.

Our court’s accomplishments are only made possible by our inspired judges and staff. We begin each year with the unrealistic but genuinely held hope that no judge or employee will leave our ranks. And this past year we marked the retirement of our court’s leaders and glue — Administrator and Register in Chancery, Susan Judge, on March 31, 2023, after fifteen years with the Judicial Branch. Judge held the position of Court Administrator and Register in Chancery for the past three years and prior to that served as Superior Court Administrator.

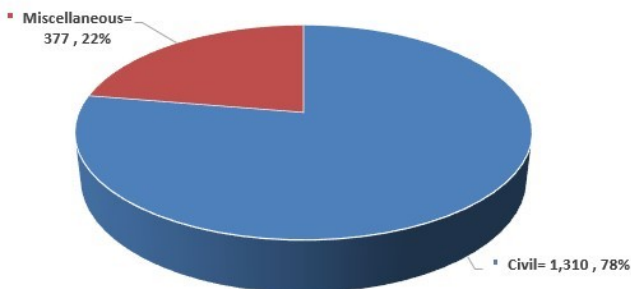
True to Judge’s way, she made sure to leave us in good hands, and on April 1, 2023, we welcomed Tamara Burton the new Court Administrator and Register in Chancery. Burton joined the Court of Chancery after

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**Court of Chancery Filings by Type,
FY2023**



Previous FYs reactivated cases were included in this count. Beginning FY23 they were excluded. FY23 saw 52 reactivated cases.

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serving as Deputy Court Administrator for the Delaware Court of Common Pleas for the past ten years. Before joining the Judicial Branch, Burton spent over 20 years with the Department of Labor.

The court also welcomed Aaron Goldstein as the court's first-ever Chief Staff Attorney. Prior to joining the court, Goldstein served in various positions in the Delaware Department of Justice for 19 years. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Attorney General who provided advice to and representation for: the Department of State, the Secretary of State, the Division of Corporations, the Division of Small Business and the Delaware Economic Development Authority, among others. He also served as the Chief Legal Ethics Officer to the Delaware Department of Justice. Prior to that, Goldstein served as State Solicitor under two Attorneys General and also as Chief Deputy to Attorney General Matt Denn.

In July, the court celebrated the retirement of one of our real-time court reporters, Jeanne Cahill, who worked for the State for over 30 years and the last 15 years with the Court of Chancery. Cahill contributed tremendously to the court's positive culture and will be sorely missed.

With Cahill's retirement the court gained Lorena Hartnett who is an excellent stenographer and came to the court from the freelance world. Hartnett is no stranger to the Court of Chancery. Having covered hearings for the court for years, she is already famil-

iar with much of what we do making her a fantastic addition to the team.

Burton, Goldstein, and Hartnett have all hit the ground running and are immensely valuable to our organization.

A major highlight of 2023 was the reappointment of The Honorable Sam Glasscock III, who was sworn in for his second term as Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery on Friday, June 30, 2023, at the Court of Chancery Courthouse in Georgetown by Magistrate in Chancery Bonnie W. David. Vice Chancellor Glasscock was first appointed as Vice Chancellor by Gov. Jack Markell, taking his oath for

his initial term on June 29, 2011. Prior to accepting his appointment as Vice Chancellor, he served the Court of Chancery as a Magistrate in Chancery (formally called Master) from 1999 to 2011. Before joining the Court of Chancery, Vice Chancellor

Glasscock worked as a judicial clerk, as an associate at Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristol & Schnee in the litigation section, as a Superior Court special discovery master, and as a Deputy Attorney General in the Appeals Unit of the Department of Justice.

Another highlight of the year was the court's first-ever Legal History Art Contest held in partnership with the Court of Chancery Historical Society. Open to students in grades 7-12, the contest marked the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's historic *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling desegregating public schools and the Delaware Court of Chancery's key role in that decision. Students were invited to



Winning art works in the Court of Chancery's Legal History Art Contest: At left is First Place winner "Our Segregated Worlds" by Cassius Hearne of Archmere Academy and at right is Second Place winner "Right to Ride" by Sophia Silverman of Tower Hill School.

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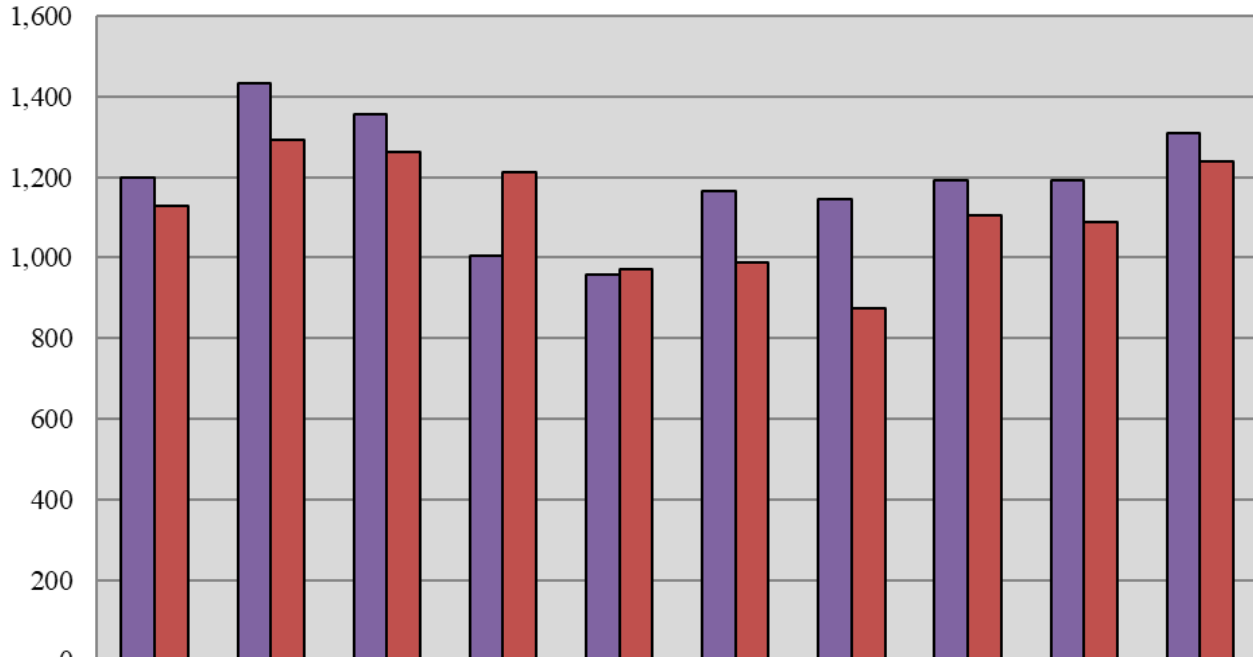
submit artwork representing Delaware’s role in the historic case and its impact along with how the artwork addressed the theme. The winning students and their families were invited to attend a reception and award ceremony.

In addition, for the third year, the court welcomed high school interns participating in the Delaware Department of State’s Future Leaders Internship Initiative (“FLi”). We have again enjoyed the company and enthusiasm of our high school interns as well as the collaboration with our sister branch of government.

Finally, the court kicked off its Rules Renovation project in 2023. Under the leadership of a subcom-

mittee of the Court of Chancery Rules Committee co-chaired by Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster and Attorney Blake Rohrbacher, the project will look to “renovate” (and not demolish and rebuild) the Court of Chancery Rules. The project’s goals are to modernize the rules and hew them more closely to the federal rules and the court’s current practices. The rules will be reviewed and amended in tranches over two years, the first of which was implemented in September 2023. The project is ambitious and overdue, and our litigants will benefit from the hard work of those spearheading the project. ♦

Court of Chancery 10-Year Civil Caseload Trend



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
■ Filings	1,199	1,432	1,356	1,004	959	1,167	1,144	1,193	1,193	1,310
■ Dispositions	1,128	1,294	1,262	1,211	973	987	875	1,106	1,089	1,240

Fiscal Year

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Court of Chancery

Standing left to right:

Magistrate in Chancery Loren Mitchell, Magistrate in Chancery Patricia W. Griffin (retired 12/2022),
Vice Chancellor Lori W. Will, Vice Chancellor Nathan A. Cook,
Magistrate in Chancery Selena E. Molina, Magistrate in Chancery Bonnie W. David.

Seated left to right:

Vice Chancellor Morgan T. Zurn, Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster,
Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick,
Vice Chancellor Sam Glasscock III, Vice Chancellor Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr.