

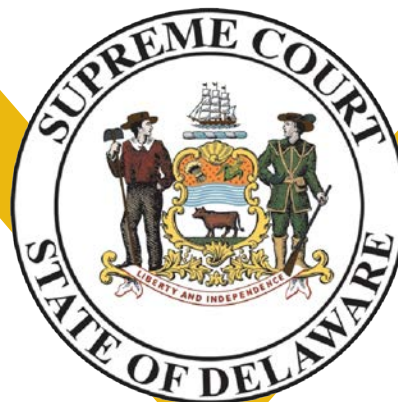


THE COURTS





The **Supreme Court** is the State's appellate court which receives direct appeals from the 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 Supreme Court is created by the Constitution of Delaware, Article IV, Section 1. The Supreme Court sits in Dover.



Supreme Court

Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

By the Numbers



SUPREME COURT

- Justices - 5
- Court Staff - 28

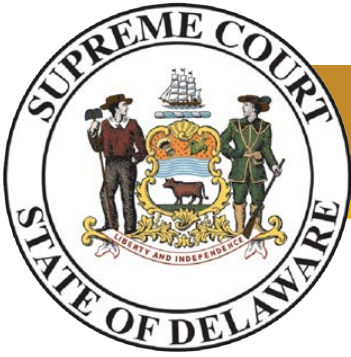
TOTAL: 33



ARMS OF THE COURT

- Full Time Staff - 10

TOTAL: 10



SUPREME COURT

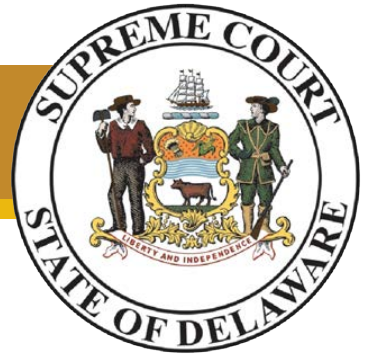


Supreme Court Justices

Left to Right:

Justice Abigail M. LeGrow • Justice Karen L. Valihura • Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. •
Justice Gary F. Traynor • Justice N. Christopher Griffiths

SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court

2024 Highlights

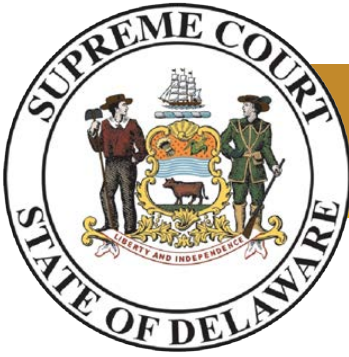
- Chief Disciplinary Counsel David White retired from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel effective November 2024. The court thanks him for his service and wishes him well on his next endeavor.
- Disciplinary Counsel Kathleen M. Vavala stepped down in May 2024 to accept her nomination to the Delaware Superior Court. The court thanks her for her service with the office.



- Justice Abigail LeGrow spoke to a class from the University of Delaware's Biden School of Public Policy on Oct. 1, 2024.

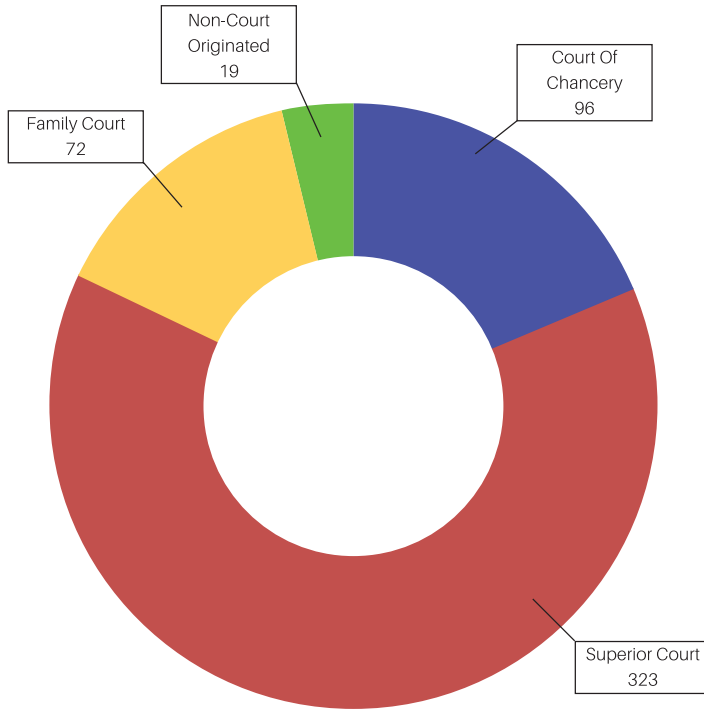


- The Delaware Supreme Court met for the first time in Sussex County on March 19, 2024 to hear oral arguments before an audience of high school and college students.

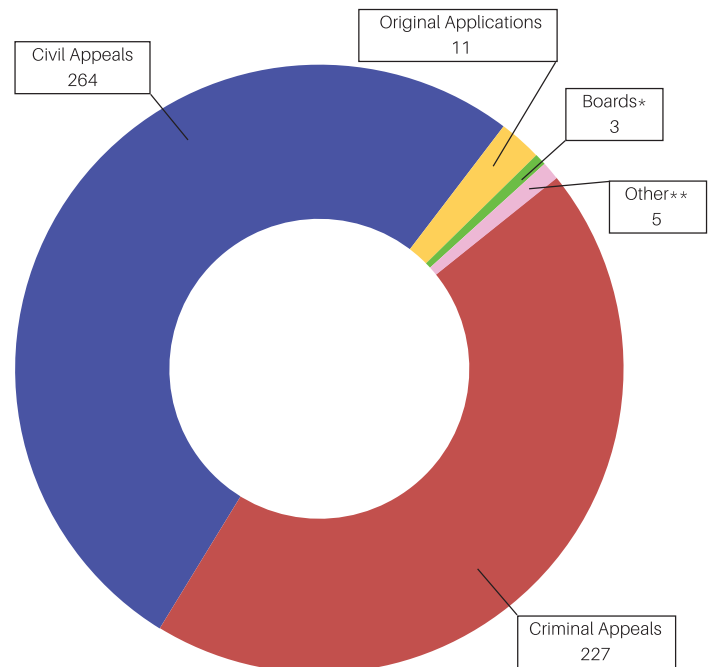


SUPREME COURT

Number of Supreme Court Filings by Court of Origination Fiscal Year 2024

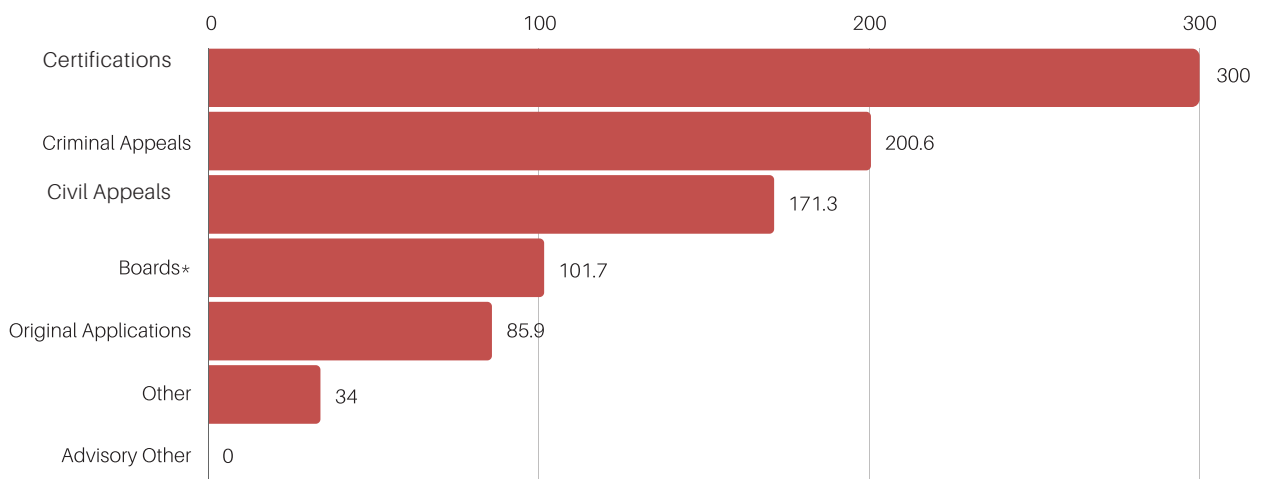


Number of Supreme Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2024



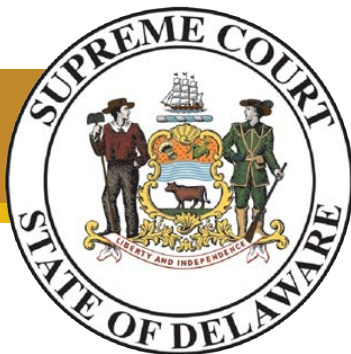
* Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.
** Includes four certifications and one other.

**Supreme Court Fiscal Year 2024
Average Number of Days from
Filing to Disposition by Case Type**

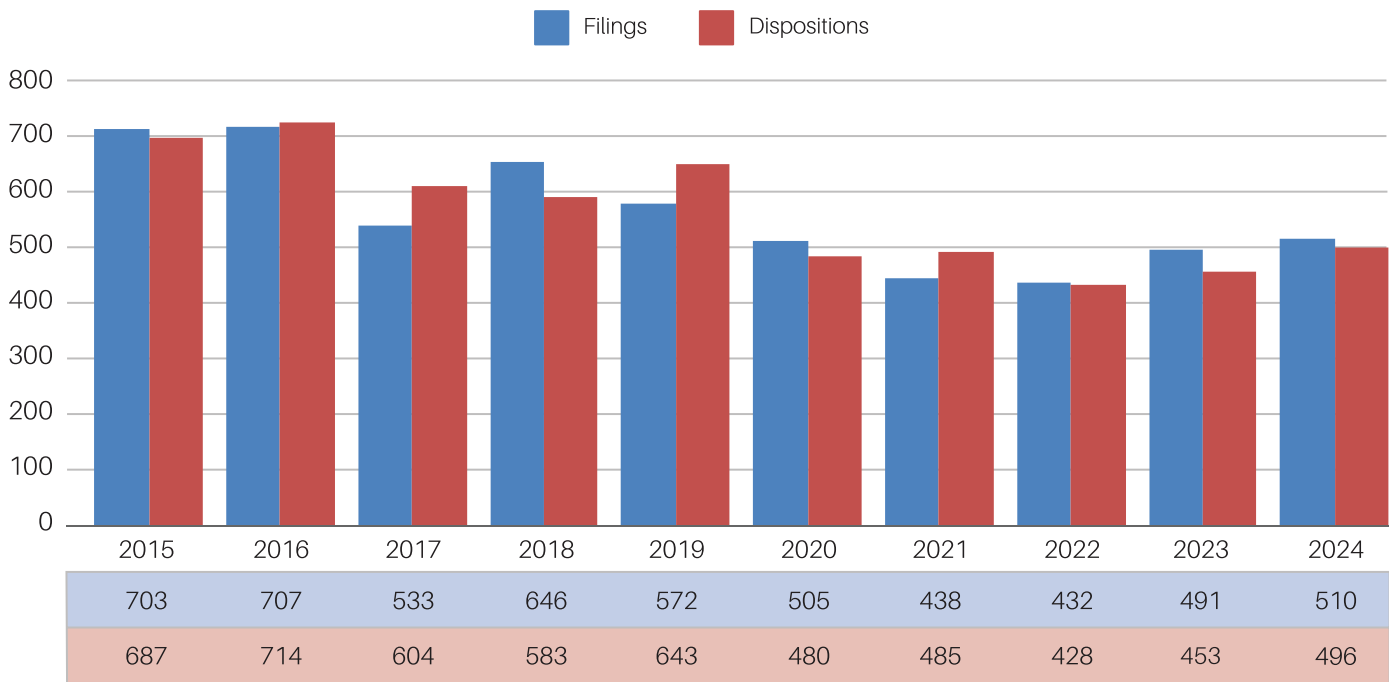


*Includes the Board on Professional Responsibility and the Board of Bar Examiners.

SUPREME COURT



Supreme Court Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year



COURT ON THE JUDICIARY

Delaware judges are governed by the highest standards of conduct in both their professional and personal capacities. The Court on the Judiciary is responsible for the receipt, investigation, prosecution, adjudication, and resolution of complaints alleging the ethical misconduct or disability of state judicial officers in Delaware. The judicial disciplinary process safeguards the integrity of, and thereby promotes public confidence in, the Judiciary and the judicial process.

Docketed Complaints
FY 24

24



Complaints Dismissed
FY 24

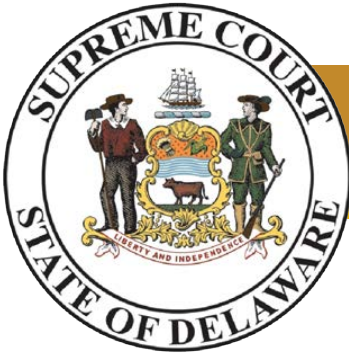
23



Complaints Referred for
Investigation FY 24

0



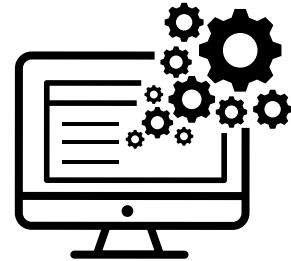


ARMS OF THE SUPREME COURT

Commission on Law and Technology

The commission develops and publishes guidelines and best practices regarding the use of technology and the practice of law. The commission was created by order of the Supreme Court on July 1, 2013, and became effective on Sept. 15, 2013.

The Delaware Supreme Court then re-established and re-focused the commission by order on Nov. 27, 2023. The commission is composed of members who are appointed by the Court and serve three year terms.



Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection is a fund created by the Delaware Supreme Court to provide monetary relief to clients who have suffered financial losses as a result of the dishonest conduct of lawyers. While acts of

attorney dishonesty are the exceptions and not the rule, the fund was established to show the good faith of all members of the Delaware Bar.



Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

The commission regulates legal education compliance for members of the Delaware State Bar. In addition, the commission reviews and processes CLE providers' applications for program approval.

**CLE Transcripts
Processed FY 24**

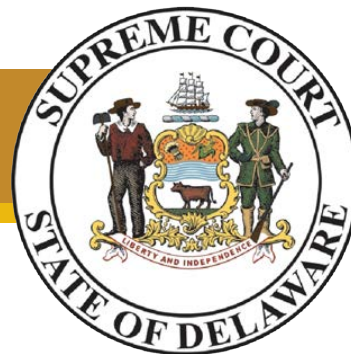
6,440

**CLE Programs
Evaluated FY 24**

6,670



ARMS OF THE SUPREME COURT



Board of Bar Examiners

The board considers applications for admission and results of examinations for admissions to the Delaware State Bar. The Delaware Bar Examination consists of the Multistate Bar Examination, two Multistate Performance Tests and four essay questions. In addition applicants must also pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination.

**Bar Exam Applicants
July 2023**

262

**Bar Exam Applicants
February 2024**

110

**Admitted to the Bar in
Fiscal Year 2024***

201

* Does not reflect number who passed the Bar Exam

Office of Disciplinary Counsel

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) assists the Supreme Court in regulating the practice of law. In this capacity, the ODC is charged with evaluating, investigating, and, if warranted, prosecuting lawyer misconduct. All complaints regarding a Delaware lawyer's conduct should be directed to the ODC.

**Disciplinary
Complaints Opened
FY 24**

218



**Disciplinary
Complaints Resolved
FY 24**

193



**CLE Presentations
by ODC FY 24**

31



**Ethics Hotline
Inquiries FY 24**

160



**Unauthorized Practice of Law
Complaints Opened FY 24**

16



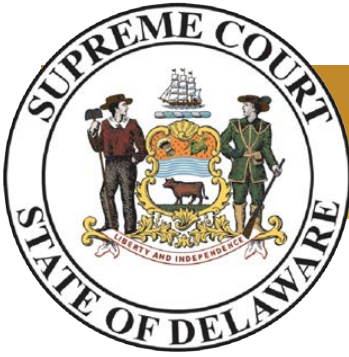
**Unauthorized Practice of Law
Complaints Resolved FY 24**

9



The Delaware Bar as of March 2024

Active Lawyers	3,959
Inactive Lawyers	766
Emeritus Lawyers	151
Total Lawyers	4,876



SUPREME COURT

In Memoriam

Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr.



The Delaware Judiciary mourned the passing of retired Supreme Court Justice James T. Vaughn, Jr. on October 10, 2024.

"When he retired less than two years ago, I said the Court would miss Justice Vaughn's hard work, steady hand and unflappable nature. That has proven to be true. Justice Vaughn has left an indelible mark on Delaware's legal landscape. The Delaware Supreme Court and Superior Court are grateful for his long service to the citizens of Delaware," said Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr.

Justice Vaughn, 75, first joined the bench in 1998 as the Resident Judge for Kent County Superior Court. He was later

elevated to the position of President Judge of Superior Court in 2004. Governor Jack Markell then appointed him to the Supreme Court in October 2014 and he retired from the bench in May 2023.

In his letter to the governor stating his intention to step down, he wrote, in his typically understated style, **"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve ... I will always appreciate the memories of working with my colleagues on the bench and with court staff in our efforts to maintain the rule of law in this state. I leave with a sense of satisfaction that I have done my best to discharge the duties of the judicial offices I have held."**