

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF DELAWARE



ANNUAL REPORT

2026

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
TO THE
FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
2026**

THIS REPORT WAS PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE
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Photograph by: Ed Rebarchak

INTRODUCTION

As the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware reflects on both this historic national milestone and Delaware's remarkable place in our constitutional story. As the First State to ratify the Constitution, Delaware has long stood at the forefront of the rule of law, a tradition that continues in this Court's daily work. Chief Justice John Marshall's enduring observation that the United States is "a government of laws, and not of men" resonates in this commemorative year, underscoring the vital role of an independent judiciary in preserving democratic governance. Over the past year, the Court has carried out its responsibilities with a steadfast commitment to fairness, integrity, and equal justice under law, honoring the nation's founding principles while meeting the evolving needs of the public it serves.

The District of Delaware Bench & Bar Conference held in the fall at the Chase Center on the Riverfront was a huge success thanks to the hard work of our FBA and the committees that devoted their time to this endeavor. Judge Richard Andrews interviewing Federal Circuit Judge William Bryson was a particularly engaging session with two legal legends of the district sharing their stories. Senator Chris Coons continues to be a strong advocate for the Judiciary, and we appreciated his insights when I interviewed him during our fireside chat. The dinner event at Longwood Gardens where we were able to honor Third Circuit Judge Jordan, along with the fountain show was truly wonderful. The Delaware Bar continues to be a top-notch, professional group of practitioners and I look forward to these gatherings. Many thanks to our past FBA President Jeff Castellano, current President Bindu Palapura, the FBA Executive Board, and other volunteers for their efforts planning this conference to ensure it was a successful event.

At the Bankruptcy Court, Judge John Dorsey passed the torch to Judge Karen Owens as the next Chief of Bankruptcy Court on March 1, 2025. Judge Owens will serve as Chief for a three-year term, and the Court looks forward to her leadership of Bankruptcy Court. The Court thanks Judge Dorsey for his service as Bankruptcy Chief Judge and wishes him well as he reduces his docket to focus on his health. We also recognize the retirement of the Clerk of Bankruptcy Court, Una O'Boyle, who served as Clerk of Court for 9 years. Stephen Grant has assumed the role and brings over 15 years of service to the judicial branch to the position. The Court is indeed fortunate to have a candidate with Mr. Grant's deep experience and broad range of skills to assume the leadership of the Clerk's office.

The Court's outreach and civics events continue to be an area of pride for the Court. District Judge Noreika, District Judge Hall, and Magistrate Judge Fallon, as members of the Third Circuit's Courts, Community and Rule of Law Committee, hosted several outstanding outreach events this year. Additionally, we had several school visits where students participated in a mock trial, had a question-and-answer session with judges, and one group attended a Naturalization Ceremony. Outside of court events, several judges volunteered to participate in the State's Mock Trial competition.

The Annual Report offers an opportunity to reflect on the many successes and trials the Court has encountered over the past year. For example, the District Court of Delaware was

recently recognized as the most productive Federal District Court for fiscal year 2024, ranking first in the nation for hours on the bench, trial hours, and civil trials, and 34th for criminal trials. As the statistics reflect, it was a highly productive year for the Court on multiple fronts.

I would also like to recognize our dedicated court employees, U.S. Marshals, and court security officers who continued to serve this Court throughout the longest government shutdown. Each member of our staff plays an essential role in fulfilling the Court's mission, and the Court remains operational even when Congress has not enacted a budget. Our Court remains busy, and I extend my sincere thanks to the judges and court staff for their continued commitment to exemplary public service.

Colm F. Connolly
Chief Judge

DISTRICT JUDGES

Active Judges

Colm F. Connolly, Chief
Maryellen Noreika
Gregory B. Williams
Jennifer L. Hall

Senior Judge

Richard G. Andrews

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

Full-Time

Christopher J. Burke
Sherry R. Fallon
Laura D. Hatcher
Eleanor G. Tennyson

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

Active Judges

Karen B. Owens, Chief
John T. Dorsey
Craig T. Goldblatt
Thomas M. Horan
Brendan L. Shannon
Laurie S. Silverstein
J. Kate Stickle
Mary F. Walrath

COURT UNIT EXECUTIVES

Randall C. Lohan, Clerk, U.S. District Court
Stephen L. Grant, Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Robert Henderson, Acting Chief, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services

DISTRICT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

While Delaware's official motto is "Liberty and Independence," its unofficial motto is "Small but Mighty," a fitting description for the second smallest state in the country. This sentiment perfectly reflects our Clerk's Office: though we are a small team, we work tirelessly and with great determination to serve the citizens of Delaware. We are committed to delivering efficient, high-quality service to the public, the judiciary, the bar, and government agencies, all while supporting the fair and effective administration of justice. As I often say, every member of our office wears multiple hats and plays a vital role in advancing the Court's mission.

Under the new leadership of Nicole Selmyer, the Clerk's Office Operations Team has made remarkable strides. Nicole, with her extensive knowledge and expertise, has thoroughly evaluated our procedures and implemented several initiatives to improve both efficiency and service quality. Alongside Nicole, we've also welcomed two new Intake Clerks: Sam Cruz-Santiago and Shyanne Knorr. Shyanne joined us from the Delaware Department of Justice, where she worked as a paralegal in the Kent Office. Sam, a U.S. Air Force veteran and former UPS employee, has quickly proven to be a valuable addition to the team. Both have made meaningful contributions to the success of our Intake Team.

In addition to changes within Operations, we've seen other key personnel transitions this past year. After 35 years of exemplary service to the Court, Robert Butts, the heart of our Administrative Department, retired this past year. Rob's dedication and hard work have been integral to the Court's success, his contributions spanned from serving as a copy clerk to his pivotal role as the Court's Budget Analyst. He leaves behind a legacy of service that will be greatly missed. We are fortunate, however, to have Adam Brasher join us as the new Budget Analyst. Adam comes to us from the USDA Forestry Service, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise.

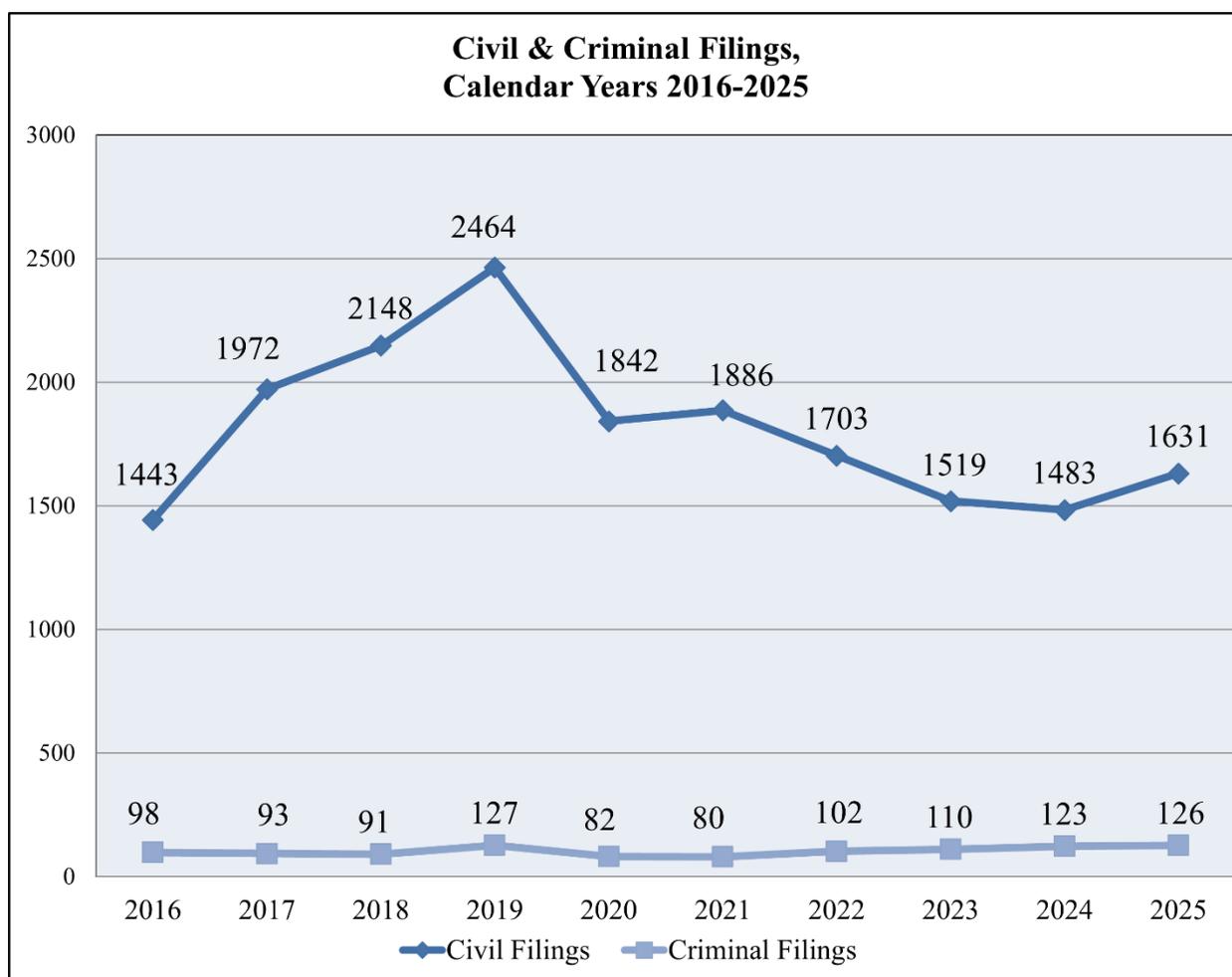
The IT Department, led by Richard Culp, continues to improve the Court's technology and cybersecurity infrastructure. We upgraded our public Wi-Fi to provide more stable and efficient service, and we've completed a network infrastructure upgrade to boost performance and security. This year we also upgraded audio in the courtrooms for court reporter access. We were involved in national projects including moving data centers, implementing multi-factor authentication, and migrating to the National Active Directory (NAD). These initiatives will enhance security, centralize some responsibilities, and reduce hardware/software costs.

Though we may be a small office, our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement is unwavering. It is an honor to serve the Court and the people of Delaware, and we will continue to work diligently to enhance our operations and provide the highest level of service.

Randall Lohan
Clerk of Court

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FILINGS

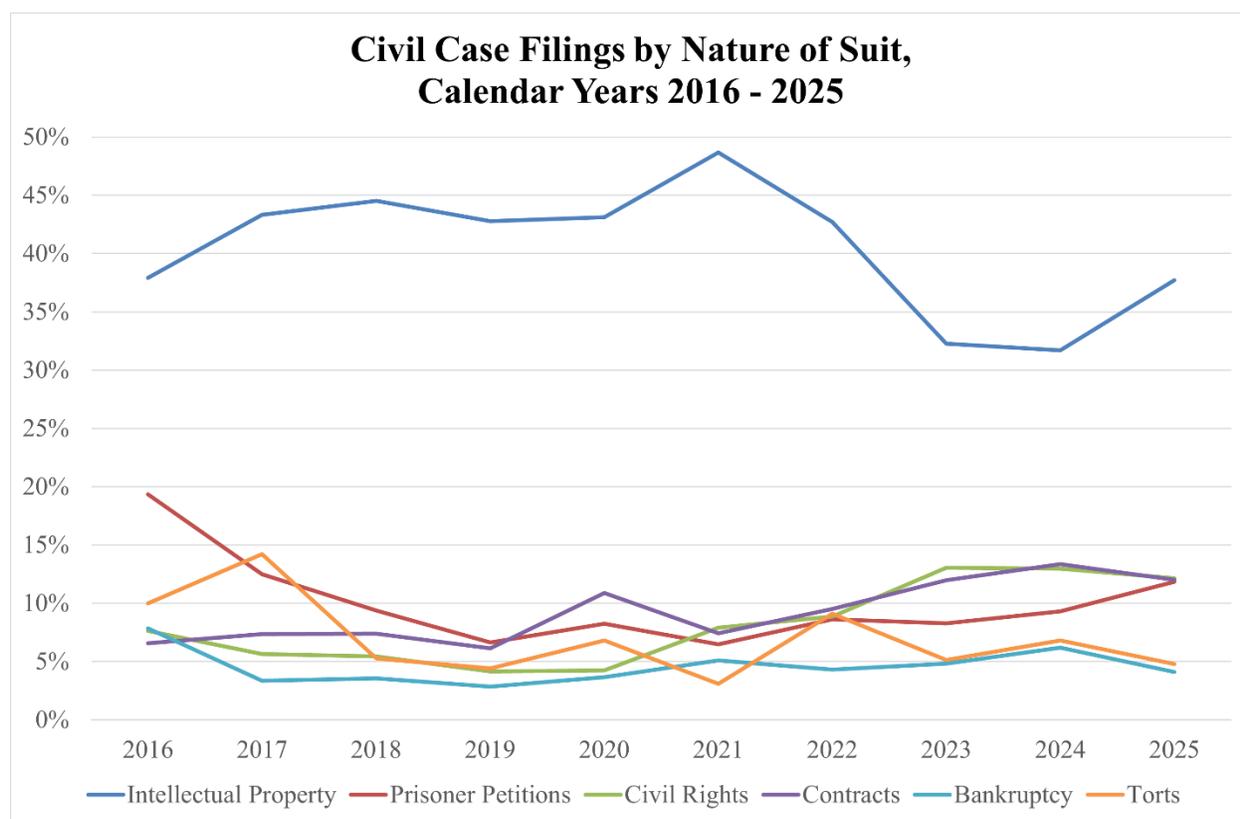
The following graph shows civil and criminal filing trends from 2016 to 2025. Civil case filings increased in 2025 from 2024. In 2025, a total of 1,631 civil cases were filed, a 10.0 percent increase from the previous year's total of 1,483 cases filed. Criminal case filings increased 2.4 percent from 123 in 2024 to 126 in 2025.



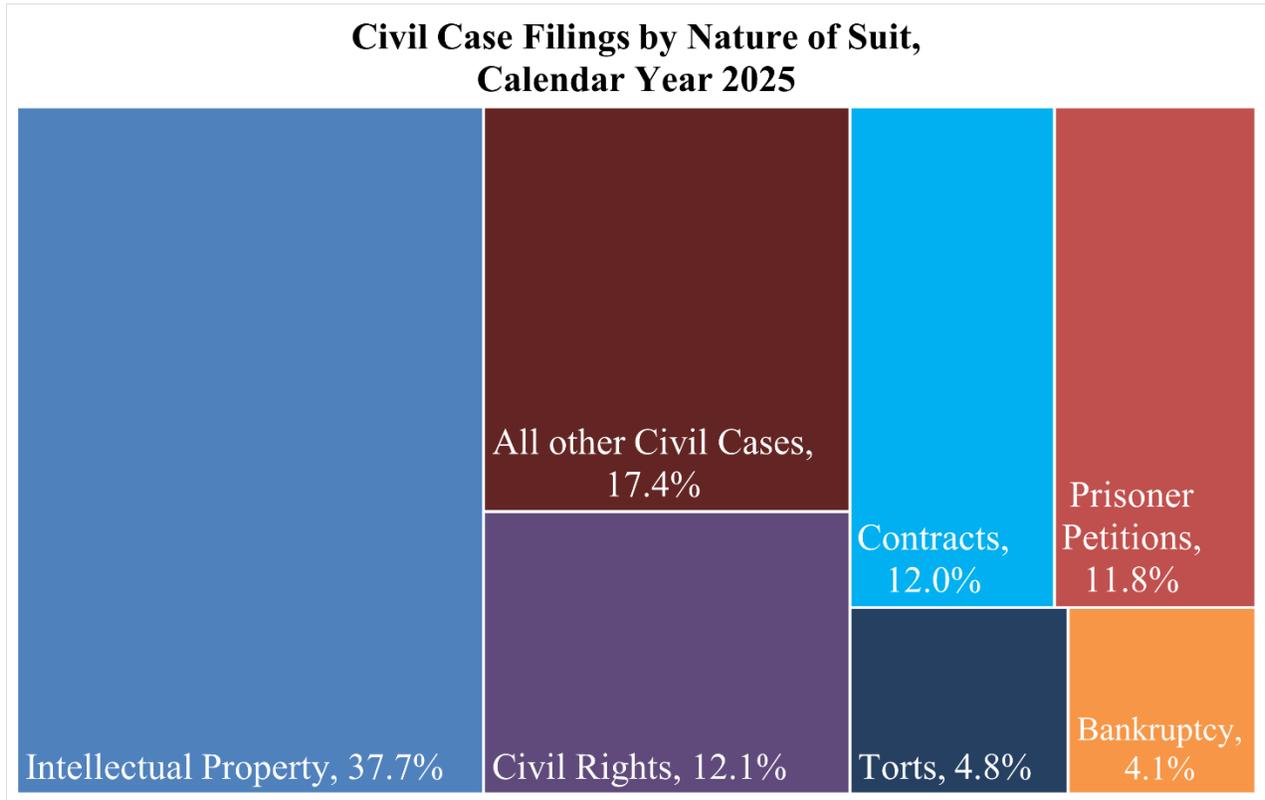
CIVIL CASE FILINGS

The two graphs that follow represent the most common types of civil cases filed in the district since 2016, characterized by nature of suit. From decade to decade, the top categories remain the same, but the percentage of total civil filings within those categories has changed. The high percentage of Intellectual Property (IP) litigation continues to dominate the Court's caseload.

The first graph displays the trend in civil filings by nature of suit for the calendar years from 2016 through 2025. IP cases ranged from a high of 48.7 percent of filings in 2021 to a low of 31.7 percent of filings in 2024. Prisoner Petitions have begun to increase after their decline from a 10-year maximum of 19.3 percent of filings in 2016, while Civil Rights and Contracts cases have increased as a share of the total over the 10-year period. Bankruptcy cases have remained flat over the past several years, ranging between 2.8 and 7.8 percent of total filings over the 10-year period.



The second graph displays total civil filings for calendar year 2025 by the top nature of suit categories. IP cases account for 37.7 percent of civil filings, Prisoner Petitions 11.8 percent, Contracts 12.0 percent, Civil Rights 12.1 percent, Torts 4.8 percent, and Bankruptcy 4.1 percent. All Other Civil Cases accounted for 17.4 percent of the total civil filings.

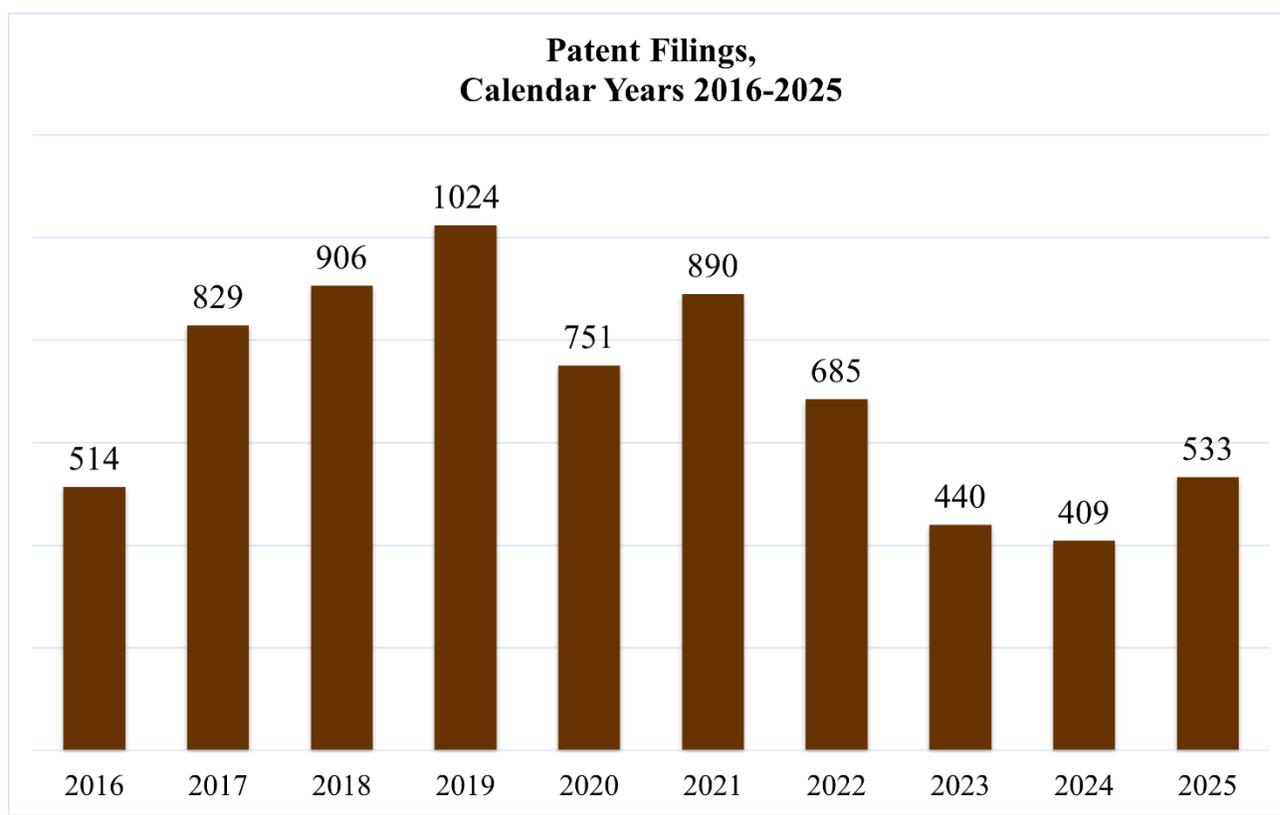


PATENT CASE FILINGS

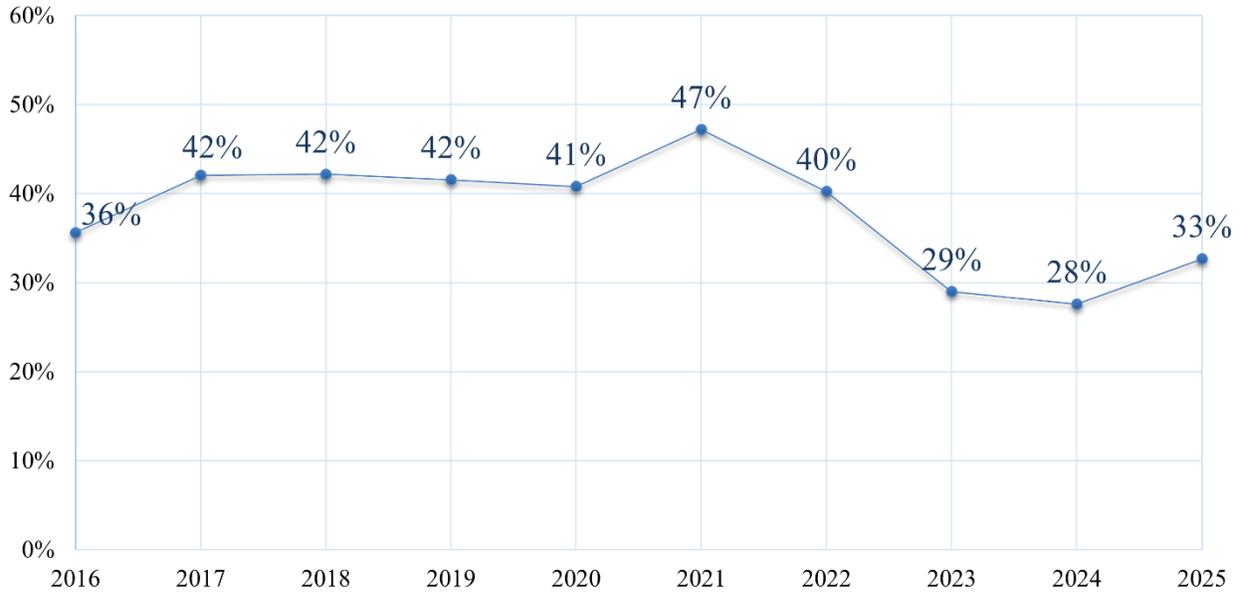
Patent filings continue to be a substantial part of the District Court’s caseload. The first graph details the annual number of filings during the period from 2016-2025. In 2025, 533 patent cases were filed, a 30.3 percent increase from the previous year’s total of 440.

The second graph shows the change in patent filings as a percentage of Civil caseload, which increased by five percentage points, from 28% to 33%, in 2025.

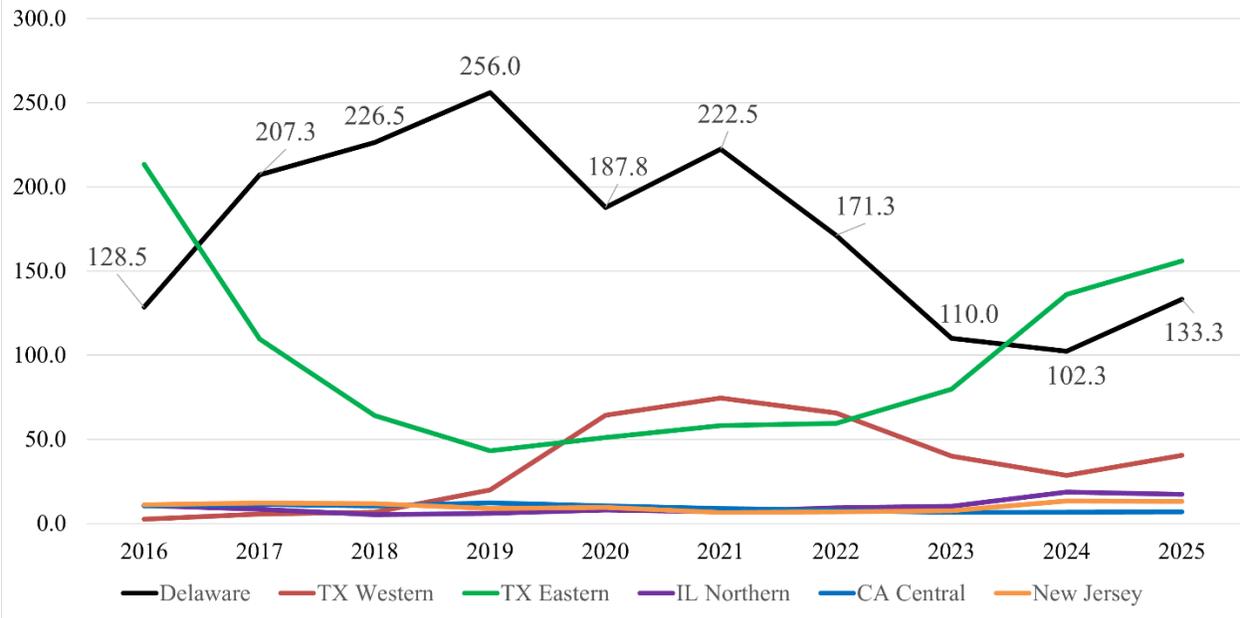
For the past decade, Delaware has ranked in the top five district courts for patent filings in the nation. The third graph displays the cumulative average of patent filings per authorized judgeship from 2016 to 2025. During those years, Delaware averaged 175 patent cases filed per authorized judgeship. In 2025, Delaware held the second position nationally for the number of patent cases filed per authorized judgeship, at 133.3 cases per judgeship.



**Patent Filings as a
Percentage of Civil Caseload,
Calendar Years 2016-2025**



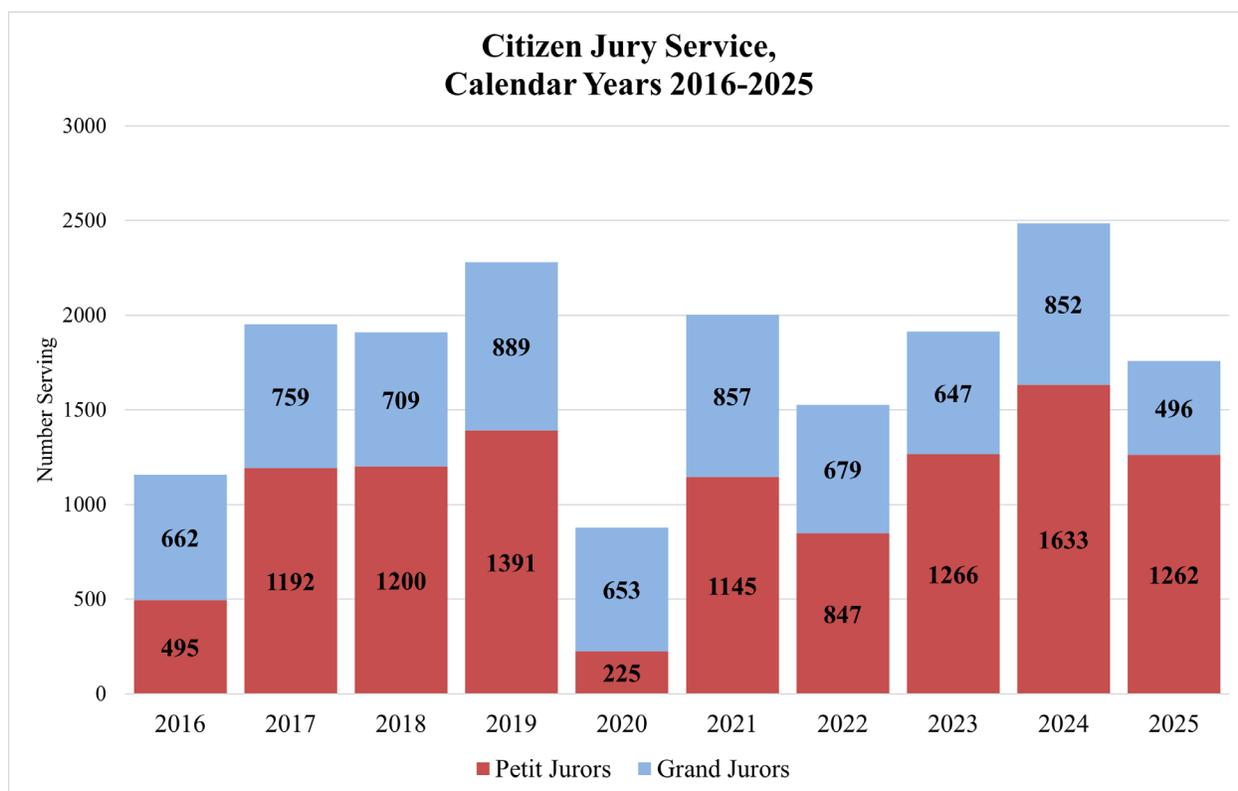
**Patent Cases per Judgeship,
Calendar Years 2016 - 2025**



JUROR SERVICES

Summoning citizens for jury duty is an important function of the Clerk's Office. The number of jurors requested varies due to the nature and length of a trial. The selection of petit and grand jurors is authorized by the revised Jury Plan, which may be found on the District Court's website. Prospective jurors are drawn randomly from a merged database of names of all registered voters, licensed drivers and individuals issued a State of Delaware identification card. Information and frequently asked questions about jury service are available on the Court's website.

In 2025, there was a total of 24 jury trials conducted (24 civil and 5 criminal).

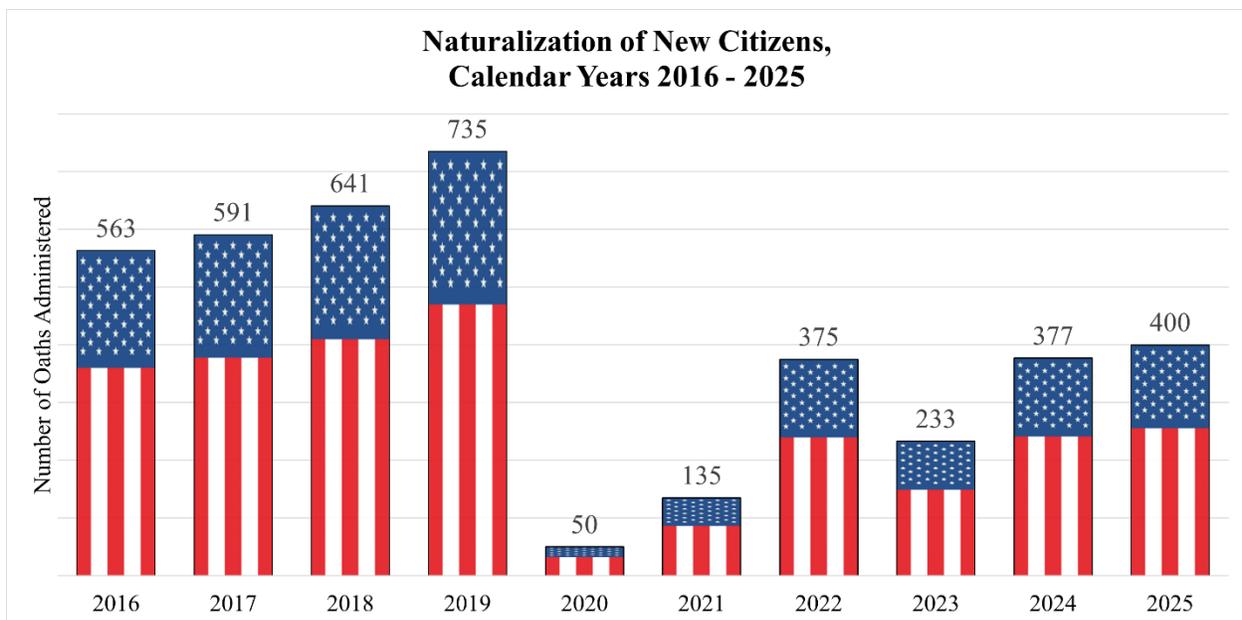


During 2025, the total number of citizens who reported for petit jury duty was 1262, compared to 1633 reporting in 2024. Service on grand juries decreased in 2025 to 496 citizens reporting compared to 2024, when 852 citizens reported for service.

NATURALIZATION

The Judges of the District Court of Delaware view the naturalization of new citizens as an important and rewarding duty. In 2025, a total of 400 new citizens were naturalized, a significant increase since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services is responsible for preparing and processing the file for each new citizen. The District Court is responsible for conducting naturalization ceremonies, during which the Oath of Allegiance is administered. Since September 1993, Magistrate Judges have joined the District Judges in presiding over these ceremonies. In 2006, Bankruptcy Judges also began presiding over naturalization ceremonies.



Naturalization ceremonies are typically held eight times a year, at least one of which is conducted at the University of Delaware. Among the private organizations that have assisted with the ceremonies are the American Legion, the Colonial Dames of America, the League of Women Voters and the Service for the Foreign Born.

U. S. BANKRUPTCY COURT

As a result of Bankruptcy Amendments and the Federal Judgeship Act of 1984, 28 U.S.C. § 157(a) was amended to provide that each District Court could refer all Title 11 cases to a Bankruptcy Judge. On July 23, 1984, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware issued a Standing Order referring all cases under Title 11 to a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware currently operates with its full complement of eight sitting judges. The District of Delaware has long been recognized as one of the busiest Chapter 11 filing districts in the nation and consistently ranks among the leaders in the number of "mega" cases filed (those involving more than \$100 million in assets and more than 1,000 creditors). For the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2025, 596 Chapter 11 and 24 mega cases were filed. Additionally, forty-five (45) Chapter 15 international cases were filed during the same period, ranking second in the nation. The Bankruptcy Court's weighted caseload per authorized judgeship is 2,378, the second-highest nationally, underscoring the extraordinary demands placed on the court's judicial resources. Beyond the substantial volume of case filings, the level of litigation arising within these cases, most commonly in the form of Adversary Proceedings, has remained consistently elevated compared to other bankruptcy courts across the country. The District of Delaware ranked first nationally in Adversary Proceedings with 2,489 filings during the period ending December 31, 2025.

Karen B. Owens
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

BANKRUPTCY COURT CLERK’S OFFICE

Justice Thurgood Marshall once observed, “None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us pick up our boots.” That principle is at the heart of everything we do in the Clerk’s Office at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. As one of the busiest bankruptcy courts in the nation, handling complex Chapter 11 cases that draw national attention, our success depends on every member of this team lifting one another and working together toward a common mission.

Last year, we sadly said farewell to one of our most dedicated leaders. Una O’Boyle retired in June 2025 as Clerk of Court after a distinguished 30-year career with the Judiciary. Una’s institutional knowledge, professionalism, and warm presence will be deeply missed. She embodied the commitment and excellence that defined this Court, and we wish her all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

In July 2025, I was honored to be elevated to Clerk of Court by the judges of this Court. I joined the Bankruptcy Court in 2010 as a backup electronic court reporter. Over the past fifteen years, I have had the privilege of serving in progressively responsible roles. I am proud to be a “homegrown” clerk, one who has grown up within this Court and understands its culture, its people, and its mission from the ground up. As Clerk of Court, my vision is to enhance the engagement and impact of the Clerk’s Office with the public, the bar, and our federal partners.

This was also a year of well-deserved promotions. Sara Hughes was elevated to Chief Deputy Clerk. Sara has been with the Court since 2011 and is a tremendous manager whose leadership and operational expertise are invaluable to this office. Sherry Stiles was promoted to Operations Manager. Sherry has been with the Court since 2002, holding various positions, including Chapter 13 case processing, case administrator, and courtroom deputy. She is an excellent people-focused manager and a great addition to the management team. Lesa Neal was elevated to Assistant Operations Manager, bringing over two decades of experience to the role. Lesa has been with the Court since 2002 and is our resident expert in Chapter 13 cases. Ed Rebarchak was elevated to Assistant IT Manager. Ed has been with the Court since 1998 and is an expert in all things programming and servers, making him an indispensable part of our technology infrastructure. These promotions reflect our commitment to recognizing and developing talent from within.

Our Case Administrators and Electronic Court Reporter Operators, led by Operations Manager Sherry Stiles, deserve special recognition. The sheer volume and complexity of cases filed in this Court, including large and voluminous matters in cases such as FTX and other high-profile Chapter 11 proceedings, demand an extraordinary level of attention to detail and procedural expertise. Our Case Administrators have risen to that challenge time and again, processing thousands of docket entries, managing intricate claims processes, and ensuring the administrative machinery of these landmark cases runs without interruption.

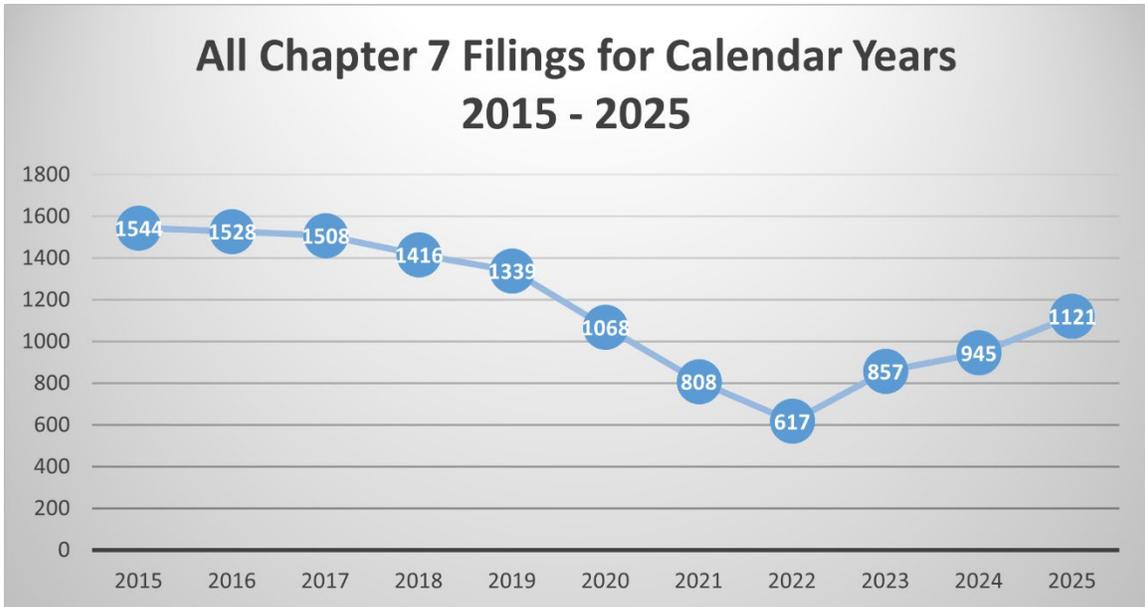
Our IT Team, led by Lori Waite, had an outstanding year. The team undertook the ambitious project of upgrading all courtrooms with modern audio-visual technology and overhauling the Court's entire network infrastructure, all accomplished using in-house expertise. By performing these upgrades internally rather than relying on outside contractors, the team saved the Court significant resources while ensuring the work was tailored precisely to our operational needs.

Our Operations, IT, and Administrative Staff continued to be the backbone of the Clerk's Office, handling budget management, procurement, human resources, case administration, IT, and facilities with professionalism and adaptability during a year of significant change. We also continued to invest in professional development, with staff participating in training focused on emerging technologies, bankruptcy rules and procedures, and leadership development. The Clerk's Office continued its outreach to the bankruptcy bar, pro se litigants, and the broader legal community to improve access to justice and enhance the filing experience.

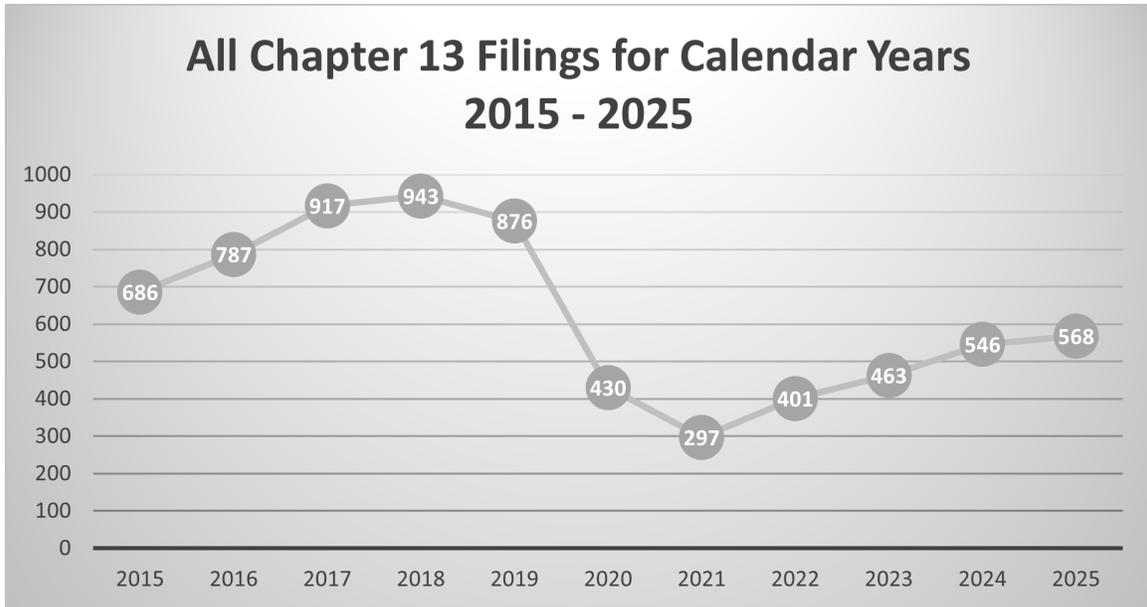
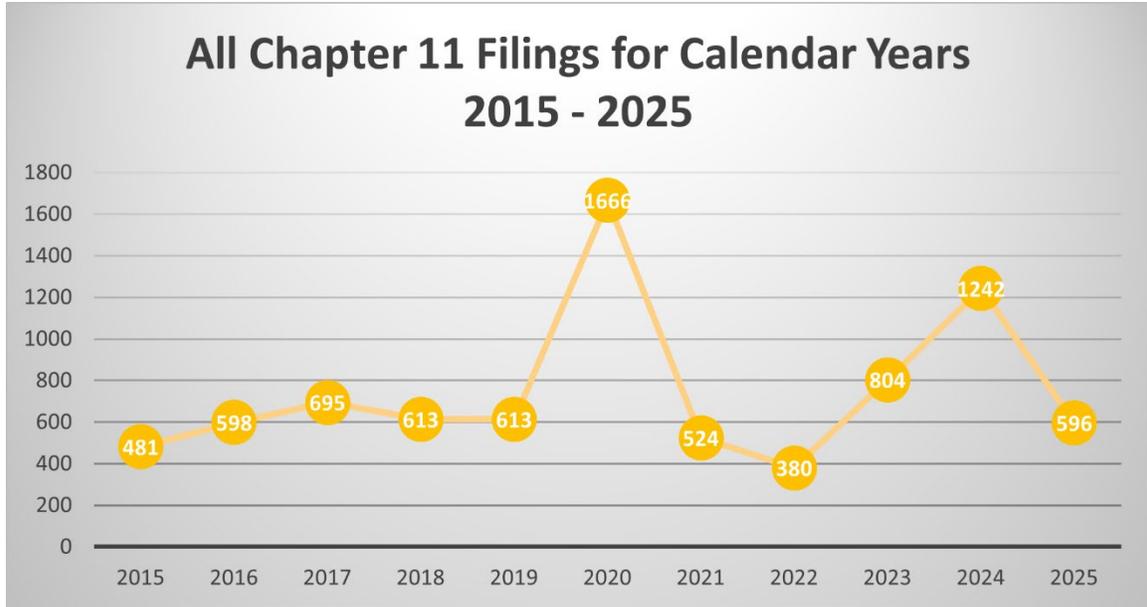
As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for the team I have the privilege to lead. Every member of this office plays a vital role, and our collective commitment to excellence enables us to serve one of the most demanding courts in the country. The Clerk's Office remains committed to continuous improvement through innovation, technology, and operational excellence. It is an honor to serve this Court, and we look forward to building on this year's successes in the year ahead.

Stephen L. Grant Sr.
Clerk of Court
United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware

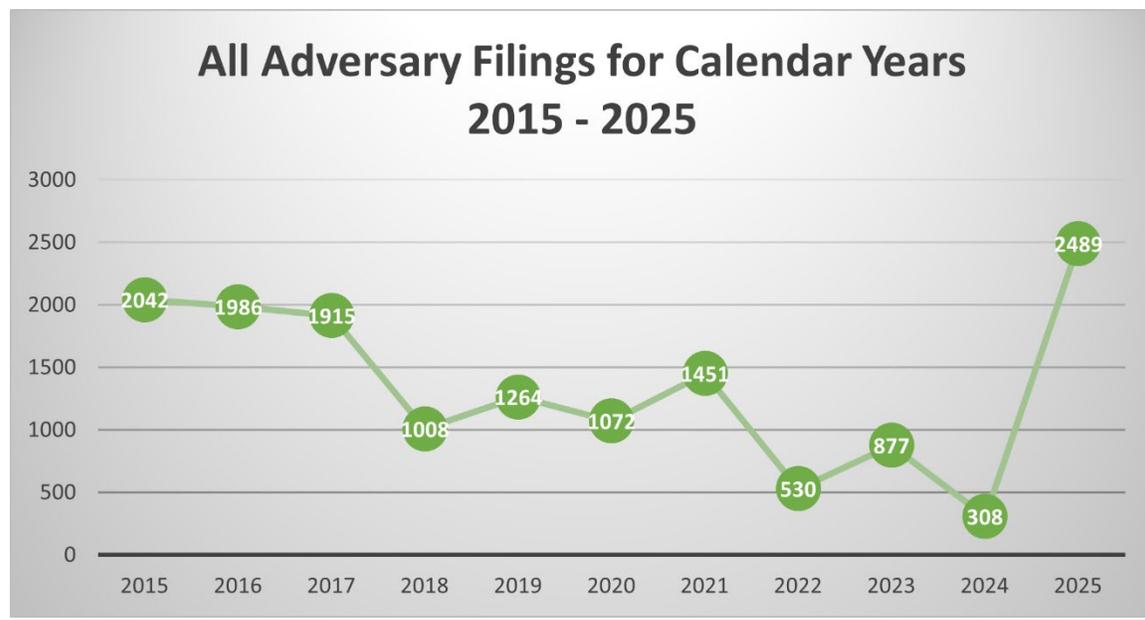
BANKRUPTCY COURT STATISTICS, ALL CASE & CHAPTER 7



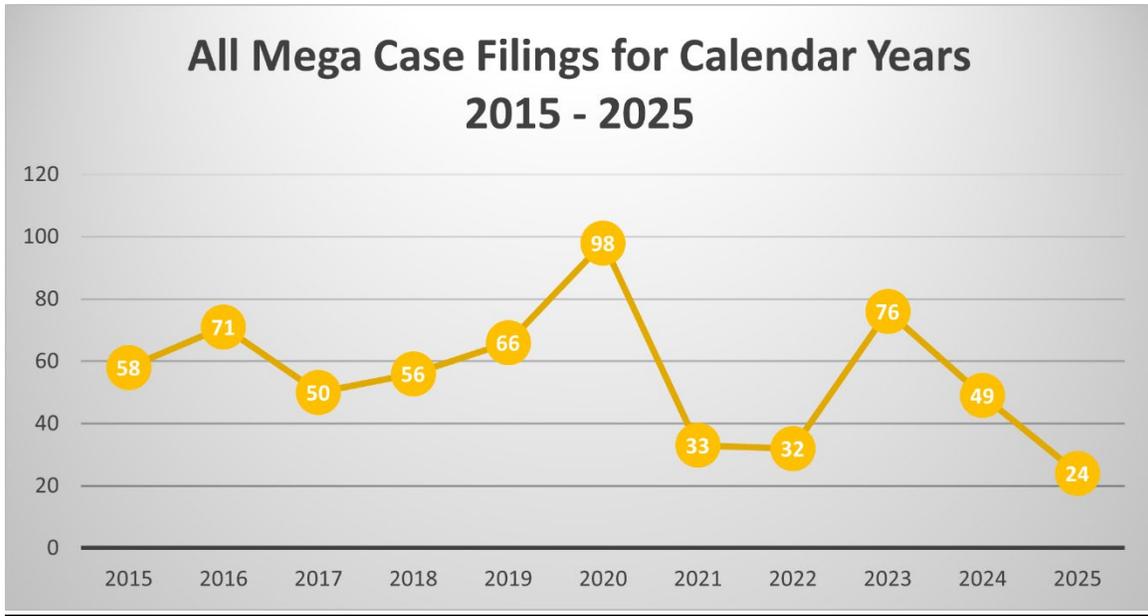
BANKRUPTCY COURT STATISTICS, CHAPTERS 11 & 13



BANKRUPTCY COURT STATISTICS, CHAPTER 15 & ADVERSARY



BANKRUPTCY COURT STATISTICS, MEGA CASE FILINGS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Brief Overview:

Our District Court is a participant in the Third Circuit Courts and Community Committee, which is a Third Circuit Judicial Council Committee formed in April of 2014. The mission of the Courts and Community Committee is to connect the courts in our Circuit to their respective local communities by embracing initiatives that bring teachers, students, parents, lawyers, community leaders, and other civic participants into the courts to interact with judges and the justice system. Programs will be designed to improve an understanding of the role that the judicial system plays in our democracy.

Activities:

“Judge Chats”

In the past year, Judges of the District Court have participated in the “Judge Chats” program at the National Constitution Center (NCC) in Philadelphia. The Judge Chats allow students and judges to engage in an open and informative dialogue about judging and the judicial system. Judges talk to students and teachers about interpreting law and the implications of the Constitution on everyday life.

Delaware High School Mock Trial Competition

District Judge Maryellen Noreika participated in the Delaware High School Mock Trial Competition held in February 2025 in Wilmington at the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center. Participants included high school students from across the state of Delaware.

Third Circuit Essay Contest

The Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Judicial Council of the Third Circuit hosted an essay contest for 4th through 7th grade classes focused on civics, citizenship, and the concept of the “*We the People?*” The essay prompt was: “How did our Nation’s Founders envision ‘the People’ when they drafted the Constitution, and how should we interpret their vision in our country today?”

The winning contest entries for the District of Delaware were selected by a Judges Committee including District Judge Maryellen Noreika, Magistrate Judges Sherry Fallon, Christopher Burke, and Laura Hatcher, and Bankruptcy Judge Kate Stickles. On May 5, 2025, the District Court held a public ceremony in Judge Burke’s courtroom where the students from two of the winning classes read their respective essays. Magistrate Judges Sherry Fallon and Christopher Burke were joined by Bankruptcy Judge J. Kate Stickles to preside over the event. The Judges presented congratulatory remarks to the students on the excellent quality of the submissions and the impressive presentations by the student speakers. All essay submissions were outstanding

and reflected the thoughtfulness and effort the students and teachers dedicated to this contest. The winning submission was submitted by the 4th grade class of the Bayard School, in Wilmington, Delaware. The second and third place essay contest winners were 5th grade classes, Room 110 and Room 109, respectively, from the William Henry Middle School in Dover, Delaware.

Third Circuit Video Contest

Joshua Edwards, a 9th-grade student at Odessa High School in Delaware, was announced as the 2024 winner of the Courts, Community, and Rule of Law Committee of the Judicial Council of the Third Circuit's Annual "Importance of American Democracy" Video Contest. High school students submitted original-content videos depicting why our democratic institutions and the fundamental rights and principles associated with them are critical to the future of the country.

On Thursday, April 3, 2025, Mr. Edwards and his family were invited to attend a Naturalization Ceremony at the Delaware District Court. Prior to the event, they had the opportunity to meet with United States District Judge Richard Andrews and United States Magistrate Judge Sherry Fallon who presented Joshua with a certificate of achievement for this outstanding accomplishment. Judge Andrews further recognized Mr. Edwards and offered additional congratulatory remarks during the ceremony.

Student Visits

On January 22, 2025, District Judge Maryellen Noreika and Magistrate Judge Sherry Fallon hosted over one hundred 4th- 8th grade students from Nativity Prep and Serviam Academy for their "Law Day" courthouse visit. The students were separated into two courtrooms and participated in a mock trial of a personal injury case arising from a motor vehicle accident caused by texting while driving. The students assumed the roles of attorneys, witnesses and jurors for the trial. The judges hosted a post-trial discussion with the students about jury trials in the District Court. In addition, Associates from a local law firm spoke to the students about their education and experiences in becoming new lawyers at their firm.

On April 24, 2025, the District Court hosted over 45 students for the national "Bring your Kid to Work Day." The New Castle County K-9 Unit provided a demonstration to the students. A mini-career day was led by the Federal Public Defender and United States Attorney's Office. The students also participated in a mock trial of *The State of Fairyland vs. Curly Pig*.

On December 2, 2025, District Judge Noreika and Magistrate Judge Fallon hosted approximately one hundred 4th- 8th grade students from Nativity Prep and Serviam Academy for "Law Day." The students participated in a mock trial activity for the criminal prosecution for trespass and property damages in the case of "*The Village of Greenville v. Goldie Locks*."

High School Fellowship Program

In August 2025, the District Court celebrated the conclusion of its eighth-annual High School Fellowship Program ("HSFP") a program that is jointly overseen by Clerk of the Court Randall

Lohan and Magistrate Judge Christopher Burke. The HSFP is a multi-week program for area high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. The program focuses on area students who are interested in attending college and in pursuing a career in law, but who are also in need of mentorship and financial assistance in order to help make those goals more attainable. The program allows selected students to: (1) work in chambers with a federal judge or with other attorneys in the federal legal system; (2) observe numerous court events; and (3) participate in presentations from members of the federal and state judiciary, governmental organizations and members of the Delaware Bar.

Interns

The District and Bankruptcy Courts continue to offer internship opportunities year-round for local college and law school students, providing valuable practical experience and access to unique perspectives from within a judge's chambers. The interns may be asked to engage in legal research and writing on draft opinions and orders. They work closely with the judge's law clerks and chambers staff and have an opportunity to observe civil and criminal proceedings throughout the courthouse.

Constitution Day and Bill of Rights Day Celebrated at Naturalization Ceremonies

September and December acknowledged Constitution Day and Bill of Rights Day, respectively. The Naturalization Ceremony held September 19, was presided over by District Judge Maryellen Noreika, with Tayo Odugbesan, Vice President of Global Financial Crimes Advisory within the Legal Compliance Division at Morgan Stanley, presenting congratulatory remarks to the 47 new citizens. On December 4, the Naturalization Ceremony was held at the University of Delaware and presided over by District Judge Richard Andrews. The guest speaker was Yvonne Takvorian Saville, a Director with the firm Weiss, Saville & Houser P.A. A total of 121 new citizens were naturalized at this ceremony.

As in all Naturalization ceremonies in the District of Delaware, the League of Women Voters and Daughters of the American Revolution were guests of the court who presented American flags and voter registration materials to the new citizens.

Pro Bono to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 ("POWER Act")

On April 3, 2025, the District of Delaware and a number of other United States District Courts co-sponsored a virtual Pro Bono to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 ("POWER Act") event. The focus of the event was on the impact of pro bono representation on the lives of victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Members of the legal community were invited to attend.

Re-entry Court

The District Court's Re-entry Court (REC) program began operation in September 2012. The Re-entry Court is overseen by Magistrate Judge Christopher Burke and a team of representatives from the United States Probation Office, the United States Attorney's Office and the Office of

the Federal Public Defender. The team works with participants (1) who are or soon will be serving a term of federal supervised release, (2) who have committed certain dangerous crimes in the past, or are otherwise considered a statistically higher risk to recidivate than are other persons on supervised release; and (3) who have nevertheless indicated a strong desire to modify their future behavior so as to have a positive impact on their community. The Re-entry team closely monitors the participants' progress after release from prison and provides the participants with enhanced opportunities for personal and professional growth. Once a participant successfully completes 52 weeks of compliant participation in the program, they may petition the District Court for up to a one-year reduction in their remaining supervised release term.

The Court held a Re-entry Court graduation on August 13, 2025, with two participants graduating from the program. Graduates of the program participate in a ceremony attended by their families and friends, REC team members, other Court employees, service providers, and anyone else who contributed to the participant's success. The REC has held 18 graduation ceremonies and has recognized 41 graduates of the program.

THE DELAWARE CHAPTER OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The Chapter is proud to have delivered exceptional programming over the past year and looks forward to offering several engaging and substantive events later this year and into 2027.

Last year featured a strong slate of programs, led by our biennial Bench and Bar Conference in September. The 2025 Bench & Bar Conference welcomed more than 350 attendees—our largest ever—for two days of outstanding panels spanning IP, criminal, and bankruptcy law, along with informative conversations with judges and practitioners. A beautiful evening at Longwood Gardens capped off an exceptional event. In June, we held our Annual Luncheon, which included updates on the state of the Court and the election of a new executive committee. That same month, we partnered with the Third Circuit Bar Association for an appellate-ethics CLE in remembrance of the Honorable Walter K. Stapleton, featuring a distinguished panel of Third Circuit judges discussing key developments in appellate practice. In September, we co-sponsored The False Claims Act Today, an online discussion series focused on practical, jurisdiction-specific insights into modern False Claims Act practice.

In January of this year, the Chapter sponsored the Bankruptcy Court’s annual Consumer Bankruptcy CLE. Looking ahead, the Chapter is working with the Court to plan a full calendar of events for the coming year, including our Annual Luncheon and additional programs designed to bring the bench and bar together. Stay tuned for more details as we roll out another year of collaborative and high-quality FBA programming.

Separately, the Delaware Chapter has continued its efforts to serve the courts and the community. Among other initiatives, the Foundation of the Delaware Chapter of the Federal Bar Association continues to assist with the District of Delaware’s Re-entry Court, which provides individuals released from federal prisons with support in re-entering the community.

The Chapter’s programs and initiatives would not be possible without the strong and sustained support of the District Court, the Bankruptcy Court, and the federal bar in Delaware. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of our Executive Board, who have dedicated countless hours in service to the Chapter.

We welcome any suggestions the membership has for programs over the next year and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Respectfully,

Bindu Palapura, Esq.
President, Delaware Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

