

**SUPREME COURT
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL
RECORDS**

--

**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND
2008 DATA**

SUPREME COURT CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL RECORDS

CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

A summary of case filings and dispositions in the Supreme Court of Illinois for the period 2004 through 2008 is presented in Table 1.

During 2008, filings in the supreme court totaled 2,955, 119 more cases than the 2,836 cases filed in 2007. The supreme court disposed of a total of 2,825 cases in 2008, a decrease of 137 cases from 2007 dispositions.

In 2008 there were 1,961 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, an increase of 89 cases, or 4.8 percent, over 2007 general docket filings.

A total of 751 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2008, 1 case fewer than filed in 2007. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters. In 2008, approximately 524 name-change (on roll of attorneys) petitions and 13 motions for restoration to active status on the roll of attorneys (under Rule 759) were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 149 cases, and the remaining 65 cases consist of bar admission motions, petitions concerning professional service corporations etc. under Rule 721, certain *pro hac vice* motions, and various administrative matters.

In 2008, 243 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 31-case increase from 2007. This docket consists of conviction-related cases filed by *pro se* prisoners. Typically, a matter is placed on the miscellaneous docket, as opposed to the general docket, when papers do not conform to the Supreme Court Rules in one or more respects. This docket provides a forum for the incarcerated *pro se* litigant without compromising standard filing requirements.

Petitions for Leave to Appeal

In 2008, 1,840 petitions were filed, an increase of 128 cases from the 2007 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2a. As in the prior 4 years, approximately twice as many petitions were filed in people cases than in civil cases. The supreme court allowed 95 petitions (49 people/46 civil), or 5.4 percent of the petitions acted upon in 2008. As indicated in Table 2b, 10 fewer petitions were allowed in 2008 than in 2007. The 5-year average of petitions allowed is 95.

Mandatory Appeals

As seen in Table 3, 3 direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence were filed in 2008; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed, as in the prior 4 years. In 2008, the court disposed of 1 capital case by opinion.

The year 2008 saw the filing of 2 direct appeals by right on notices of appeal from the circuit court under Rule 302(a) in civil cases in which a statute was held invalid and 4 notices in people's cases under Rule 603.

There was one certificate of importance from the appellate court filed pursuant to Rule 316 in 2008, the fourth in the period 2004 - 2008.

Other Activity

In 2008, the supreme court filed 93 opinions, disposing of 108 cases (Table 6). This figure does not include separate dissenting or concurring opinions, which numbered approximately 32.

The court ruled on 19 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, allowing none (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 84 cases (Table 5); and considered approximately 1,556 motions on the general docket alone, including 129 original action motions under Rules 381, 382 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2008 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 134 attorneys by order and suspended 15 attorneys on an interim basis by order. Six (6) petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 were presented to the court in 2008: 1 was allowed with conditions, 2 were denied, 2 were withdrawn, and 1 was remanded.

In 2008, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 4 matters to be placed upon the proposed rule docket, which spreads of record rule proposals and amendments being considered by the supreme court or its committees. Five (5) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed. In 2008, the court amended 27 Supreme Court Rules.¹ No new rules were adopted.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 3,298 attorneys in 2008, a decrease of 87 from the 3,385 licenses awarded in 2007. During the past 5 years, 15,790 lawyers were licensed, an average of 3,158 per year, which is an increase of 135 from the 5-year average reported in 2007.

Respecting limited licensure, in 2008 the court admitted 68 House Counsel (Rule 716) and no Legal Service Program attorneys (Rule 717). The court also licensed 4 Foreign Legal Consultants (Rule 712) in 2008.

As of December 31, 2008, 828 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 627 as lead counsel and 201 as co-counsel, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985).

In 2008, approximately 4,535 firms were registered with the court pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 721 to engage in the practice of law as a professional service corporation, professional association, limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

¹ Amended Rules 2, 21, 22, 23, 41, 56, 90, 101, 107, 108, 110, 213, 216, 224, 291, 296, 303, 324, 325, 341, 343, 526, 602, 712, 716, 721, 756.