

**SUPREME COURT
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL
RECORDS**

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**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND
2011 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 2007 through 2011 is presented in Table 1.

During 2011, filings in the supreme court totaled 2,906, 108 fewer cases than the 3,014 cases filed in 2010. The supreme court disposed of a total of 3,104 cases in 2011, an increase of 182 cases from 2010 dispositions.

In 2011 there were 1,943 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, a decrease of 35 cases, or 1.8 percent from 2010 general docket filings.

A total of 752 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2011, 23 fewer cases than filed in 2010. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters. In 2011, approximately 508 name-change (on roll of attorneys) petitions and 6 motions for restoration to active status on the roll of attorneys (under Rule 759) were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 166 cases, and the remaining 72 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 2011, 211 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 50-case decrease from 2010. 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 2011, 1,799 petitions were filed, a decrease of 59 cases from the 2010 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 78 petitions (36 people/42 civil), or 4 percent of the petitions acted upon in 2011. As indicated in Table 2b, 5 more petitions were allowed in 2011 than in 2010. The 5-year average of petitions allowed is 87.6.

Mandatory Appeals

As seen in Table 3, no direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence were filed in 2011; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed. In 2011, the supreme court disposed of 1 capital case by opinion and 5 capital cases by order in light of Governor Quinn's March 9, 2011, commutation order.

In 2011, 2 direct appeals were filed by right from judgments of the circuit court in people's cases under Rule 603. No such notices were docketed in civil cases.

There were no certificates of importance from the appellate court filed in 2011.

Other Activity

In 2011, the supreme court filed 84 opinions, disposing of 90 cases (Table 6). This figure does not include separate dissenting or concurring opinions, which numbered approximately 30.

The court ruled on 24 petitions for rehearing in decided cases (See Table 7, but note that several petitions disposed were filed in 2010), allowing none; entertained oral argument in 69 cases (Table 5); and considered approximately 1,466 motions on the general docket alone, including 122 original action motions under Rules 381, 382, and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2011 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 155 attorneys by order and suspended 10 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 2011: 1 was allowed with conditions, 2 were withdrawn, and 1 was stricken without prejudice.

The court adopted 13 new Supreme Court Rules: 138, 241, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, and 779.

The court amended 33 Supreme Court Rules: 1.15 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct of 2010, 6 (including commentary in relation to Rule 6), 13, 23 (including Administrative Order in relation to Rule 23 - M.R. 10343), 40, 58, 65, 138, 206, 208, 215, 302, 306, 411, 526, 529, 553, 716, 751, 752, 753, 754, 756, 775, 778, 791 (amended on September 27 and December 7), 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, and 799.

In 2011, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the Supreme Court Rules Committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 7 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. Fourteen (14) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 2,928 attorneys in 2011, a decrease of 103 from the 3,031 licenses awarded in 2010. During the past 5 years, 15,726 lawyers were licensed, an average of 3,145 per year, which is a decrease of 71 from the 5-year average reported in 2010.

Respecting limited licensure, in 2011 the court admitted 42 House Counsel (Rule 716) and 4 Legal Service Program attorneys (Rule 717). No Foreign Legal Consultants (Rule 712) were licensed in 2011.

As of December 31, 2011, 834 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 632 as lead counsel and 202 as co-counsel, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985).

In 2011, approximately 4,580 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. Approximately 65 percent of these firms also provided evidence of minimum insurance or proof of financial responsibility pursuant to Rule 722 (limited liability legal practice).

Table 1
Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

Filings	Grand Total	Total General Docket	Direct Appeals by Right (a)	Certificates of Importance (b)	Direct Appeals by Permission (c)	Petitions for Leave to Appeal (d)	Original Action Motions (e)	Attorney Disc. Cases on General Docket	Other General Docket (f)	Total Misc. Record (g)	Total Misc. Docket (h)
2007	2836	1872	12	1	3	1712	122	0	25	752	212
2008	2955	1961	9	1	6	1840	129	1	16	751	243
2009	2729	1824	6	2	1	1698	123	0	22	713	192
2010	3014	1978	4	0	6	1858	99	1	15	775	261
2011	2906	1943	2	0	1	1799	122	1	21	752	211
Dispositions											
2007	2962	1949	22(i)	0	2	1726	119	0	82	800	224
2008	2825	1849	7	1	4	1652	118	0	107	775	201
2009	2897	1918	10	1	4	1689	140	1	102	746	233
2010	2922	1875	8	1	6	1677	93	0	90	807	240
2011	3104	2112	8	1	1	1858	115	1	53	762	230

(a) Appeals directly from the circuit court: Capital cases (Ill. Const. 1970, art. VI, § 4; Rule 603 appeals from imposition of death sentence and appeals in post-conviction proceedings under Rule 651) and statutes held invalid (Rules 302(a) and 603). (b) Certification of case by Appellate Court under Rule 316. (c) Rule 302(b) motions. “Dispositions” do not include motions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (d) “Dispositions” do not include petitions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (e) Motions filed under Rule 381 (mandamus, prohibition, habeas corpus), Rule 382 (legislative redistricting/ability of governor to serve or resume office), Rule 383 (supervisory authority). “Dispositions” do not include motions allowed in a given year unless entire case disposed of in that same year. (f) “Filings” include, for example, motions for appeal bond, motions to stay (Rule 305), motions to transfer & consolidate multicircuit actions (Rule 384), certification of questions of state law from certain federal courts (Rule 20). “Dispositions” also may include allowed petitions for leave to appeal which were not completely disposed of in the year in which the petition was filed (see footnote (d)), including dismissals (see e.g. *Lake Co. Riverboat v. Illinois Gaming Bd., case No. 94730*). (g) The Miscellaneous Record consists primarily of attorney matters, including disciplinary cases, motions for restoration to active status (Rule 759), petitions to change name on roll of attorneys, bar admission motions, and law firms seeking leave to register/renew under Rule 721. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules. (i) 11 cases of this total were dismissed in light of *People v. Jones*, 223 Ill. 2d 569 (2006).

Table 2
Summary of Petitions for Leave to Appeal and/or Appeal as a Matter of Right
Under Rules 315/317 - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

Prior to 2008, Table 2 contained a summary of petitions for leave to appeal and/or appeal as a matter of right that were filed, allowed, denied or dismissed, and a total of petitions disposed during a particular year; former Table 2 did not include petitions denied with supervisory orders. Effective 2008, Table 2 consists of two parts, 2a and 2b, and contains all information presented in former Table 2, as well as the following additional information: a new column for “denied with supervisory order,” and a note that the “total disposed” column now includes petitions “denied with supervisory order” and petitions that were “allowed.” The “percent allowed” column reflects these changes.

Table 2a
Filings

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)
2007	1712	(1160)	(552)
2008	1840	(1283)	(557)
2009	1698	(1154)	(544)
2010	1858	(1286)	(572)
2011	1799	(1233)	(566)

Table 2b
Dispositions

	Total Allowed	(People)	(Civil)	Denied, Dismissed or Withdrawn	Denied With Supervisory Order	Total Disposed (a)	Percent Allowed (b)
2007	105	(54)	(51)	1553	173	1831	5.7%
2008	95	(49)	(46)	1585	67	1747	5.4%
2009	87	(53)	(34)	1594	95	1776	4.9%
2010	73	(36)	(37)	1553	124	1750	4.2%
2011	78	(36)	(42)	1740	118	1936	4.0%

(a) Total disposed includes petitions allowed, denied, denied with supervisory order, dismissed and withdrawn.

(b) Relationship between petitions allowed and all petitions disposed, i.e., denied, denied with supervisory order, dismissed, withdrawn, and allowed.

Table 3
Mandatory Jurisdiction Appeals - General Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

	Total Filed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance		Total Disposed	Capital		Statute Invalid		Certificate of Importance	
		Imposition of death sentence	Post-Conviction	People	Civil	People	Civil		Imposition of death sentence	Post-Conviction	People	Civil	People	Civil
2007	13	2	0	0	10	0	1	22	2	0	15	5	0	0
2008	10	3	0	4	2	1	0	8	1	0	2	4	0	1
2009	8	2	1	2	1	0	2	11	3	0	4	3	1	0
2010	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	9	4	0	2	2	0	1
2011	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	5	1	2	0	0	1

Table 4
General Docket
People and Civil Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
2007	1872	1208	664	1935	1282	653
2008	1961	1314	647	1849	1198	651
2009	1824	1196	628	1918	1268	650
2010	1978	1338	640	1875	1261	614
2011	1943	1291	652	2112	1461	651

Table 5
Summary of the Call of the Docket
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
2007	81	(36)	(45)
2008	84	(47)	(37)
2009	96	(55)	(41)
2010	88	(52)	(36)
2011	69	(40)	(29)

Table 6
Summary of Opinions
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
2007	65	(28)	(37)	72
2008	93	(51)	(42)	108
2009	90	(50)	(40)	99
2010	84	(52)	(32)	91
2011	84	(46)	(38)	90

(a) Category does not include dissenting or concurring opinions.

Table 7
Summary of Rehearings
Supreme Court of Illinois
2007 - 2011

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
2007	14	(5)	(9)	0	(0)	(0)
2008	25	(12)	(13)	0	(0)	(0)
2009	26(b)	(10)	(16)(b)	0	(0)	(0)
2010	18(c)	(14)(c)	(4)	0	(0)	(0)
2011	24(d)	(10)	(14)(d)	0	(0)	(0)

(a) Petitions not allowed are denied or, occasionally, dismissed or withdrawn on motion, or not ruled on in the reporting year.

(b) In one civil case 2 petitions filed, i.e. 25 cases/26 petitions.

(c) In one people's case 2 petitions filed, i.e. 17 cases/18 petitions.

(d) In one civil case 2 petitions filed, i.e., 23 cases/24 petitions.

Table 8

**Attorney Disciplinary Cases
Supreme Court of Illinois
(Calendar Year 2011)**

Discipline Imposed by Order	Dispositions
Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Board of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission	58
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	15
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	54
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	28
Total	155

Discipline by Opinion	1
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Interim Suspension orders	
Rule 761	5
Rule 774	5
Total	10

Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys	
Petition Allowed w/conds 1	6
Petition Denied 2	
Petition Withdrawn 2	
Petition stricken w/o prejudice 1	

Total Dispositions	172
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Reinstatement Petitions	Reprimand	Censure	Interim Suspension	Probationary Suspension	Suspension	Disbarment	Total Dispositions
6	9	18	10	20	75	34	172

Figure 1
Filings
2007-2011

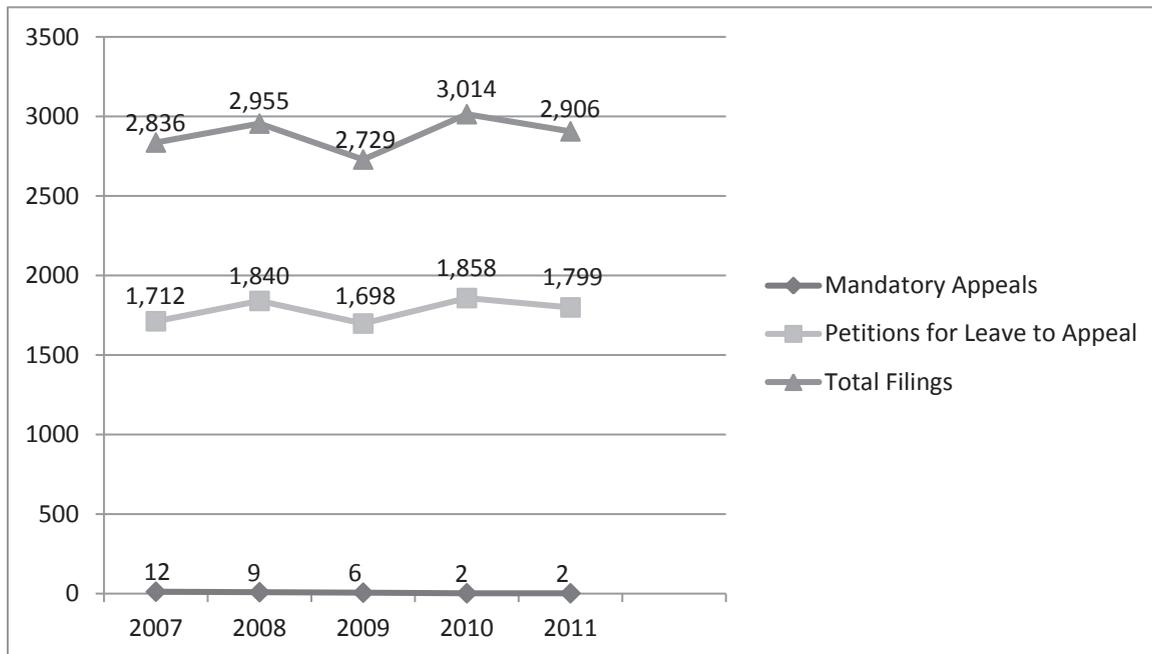


Figure 2
Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals
Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order
2007-2011

