

**SUPREME COURT  
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL  
RECORDS**

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**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND  
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 2001 through 2005 is presented in Table 1.

During 2005, filings in the supreme court totaled 2,994 a decrease of 6.7 percent or 214 fewer cases than the 3,208 cases filed in 2004. The supreme court disposed of a total of 3,217 cases in 2005, an increase of 161 cases from 2004 dispositions.

In 2005 there were 2,039 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, a decrease of 160 cases, or 7.3 percent, from 2004 filings.

A total of 747 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2005, an increase of 18 cases over 2004. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters, including name-change petitions, disciplinary cases, and bar admission motions. In 2005, approximately 476 name-change petitions and 23 motions for restoration to active status under Rule 759 were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 190 cases, and the remaining 58 cases consist of bar admission motions, petitions concerning professional service corporations etc. under Rule 721, and certain other administrative matters.

In 2005, 208 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 72-case decrease from 2004. 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 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 2005, 1,885 petitions were filed, a decrease of 173 cases from the 2004 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2. The supreme court allowed 88 petitions (41 people/47 civil), a 23-case decrease from 2004, or 4.7 percent of the petitions acted upon. As in the prior 4 years, more petitions were filed in people cases than in civil cases.

#### **Mandatory Appeals**

As seen in Table 3(imposition of death sentence and capital post-conviction), only 1 direct appeal from the imposition of the death sentence was filed in 2005; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed. During the 5-year period, direct appeal filings ranged from 1 to 9 cases annually and post-conviction appeals ranged from 0 to 6 cases annually. In 2005 the court disposed of a total of 3 capital cases, in 2 of which the death sentence had been commuted. (Commutation orders of Governor Ryan, dated January 10, 2003; *People ex rel. Madigan, v. Donald N. Snyder, Jr.*, 208 Ill. 2d 457 (2004)).

The year 2005 saw 10 direct appeals from the circuit court under Rules 302(a) and 603 in cases in which a statute has been held invalid, a 2-case increase from 2004.

There were no certificates of importance from the appellate court filed in 2005.

### **Other Activity**

In 2005, the supreme court filed 105 full opinions, disposing of 118 cases. (Table 6). This figure does not include dissenting or concurring opinions.

The court ruled on 15 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, allowing none (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 101 cases and accepted 1 case for submission as non-oral (Table 5); and considered over 1,600 motions on the general docket, including 109 original action motions under Rules 381 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2005 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 163 attorneys by order and suspended 14 attorneys on an interim basis by order. Six (6) petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 reached the court in 2005: 1 was allowed, 1 was denied, 3 were withdrawn, and 1 case was closed due to death of petitioner.

In 2005, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 12 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. Thirteen (13) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed. In 2005, the court amended 28 Supreme Court Rules, including 3 Rules of Professional Conduct<sup>1</sup>, and adopted 12 Supreme Court Rules<sup>2</sup>, including Parts C and D of Article VII initiating a Minimum Continuing Legal Education program and creating the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, and 1 rule of professional conduct respecting the sale or transfer of a law practice.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 3,069 attorneys in 2005, an increase of 315 from the 2,754 licenses awarded in 2004. During the past 5 years, 13,628 lawyers were licensed, an average of 2,725 per year, which is an increase of 99 from the 5-year average reported in 2004.

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<sup>1</sup>Amended Rules 5.4, 5.6, 7.2 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, the Administrative Order under Rule 68, 22, 90, 237, 281, 303 (corrected 3/18/05), 304, 306A (also amended on 12/13/05), 312, 323, 329, 345, 361, 367, 604 (also amended on 12/13/05), 606, 607, 608, 751, 756, 759.

<sup>2</sup>Adopted new Rules 1.17 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct, 46 (Rule 45 was repealed and reserved), 274, 790, 791 (amended on 12/6/05), 792 (amended on 12/6/05), 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 799 (amended on 12/6/05).

Respecting limited licensure, in 2005 the court admitted 242 House Counsel (Rule 716) and 6 Legal Service Program attorneys (Rule 717). The court also licensed 1 Foreign Legal Consultant (Rule 712) in 2005.

As of December 31, 2005, 798 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 624 as lead counsel and 174 as co-counsel, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985).

In 2005, approximately 4,170 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.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

| <b>Filings</b>      | <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>Total General Docket</b> | <b>Direct Appeals by Right (a)</b> | <b>Certificates of Importance (b)</b> | <b>Direct Appeal by Permission (c)</b> | <b>Petitions for Leave to Appeal (d)</b> | <b>Original Action Motions (e)</b> | <b>Attorney Disc. Cases on General Docket</b> | <b>Other General Docket (f)</b> | <b>Total Misc. Record (g)</b> | <b>Total Misc. Docket (h)</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2001                | 3145(i)            | 2264(i)                     | 205(i)                             | 0                                     | 7                                      | 1881                                     | 134                                | 1   | 36                              | 615                           | 266                           |
| 2002                | 3310(i)            | 2474(i)                     | 92(i)                              | 0                                     | 10                                     | 2256                                     | 92                                 | 1   | 23                              | 638                           | 198                           |
| 2003                | 2967               | 2145                        | 24                                 | 0                                     | 17                                     | 1954                                     | 124                                | 1   | 25                              | 638                           | 184                           |
| 2004                | 3208               | 2199                        | 12                                 | 2                                     | 12                                     | 2058                                     | 88                                 | 0   | 27                              | 729                           | 280                           |
| <b>2005</b>         | <b>2994</b>        | <b>2039</b>                 | <b>11</b>                          | <b>0</b>                              | <b>9</b>                               | <b>1885</b>                              | <b>109</b>                         | <b>2</b>                                      | <b>23</b>                       | <b>747</b>                    | <b>208</b>                    |
| <b>Dispositions</b> |                    |                             |                                    |                                       |  |  |                                    |   |                                 |                               |                               |
| 2001                | 2706               | 1848                        | 45(i)                              | 0                                     | 7                                      | 1559                                     | 131                                | 0   | 106                             | 610                           | 248                           |
| 2002                | 3320               | 2458(i)                     | 173(i)                             | 0                                     | 9                                      | 2069                                     | 98                                 | 2   | 107                             | 649                           | 213                           |
| 2003                | 3328               | 2471                        | 145                                | 0                                     | 17                                     | 2083                                     | 121                                | 1   | 104                             | 666                           | 191                           |
| 2004                | 3056               | 2024                        | 32                                 | 0                                     | 8                                      | 1779                                     | 87                                 | 1   | 117                             | 753                           | 279                           |
| <b>2005</b>         | <b>3217</b>        | <b>2137</b>                 | <b>17</b>                          | <b>1</b>                              | <b>14</b>                              | <b>1885</b>                              | <b>106</b>                         | <b>0</b>                                      | <b>114</b>                      | <b>847</b>                    | <b>233</b>                    |

(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. (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), Rule 383 (supervisory authority). (f) Other dispositions include final disposition of cases in which discretionary review was granted in prior year(s). (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, and bar admission motions. (h) Cases are filed on the Miscellaneous Docket when papers tendered by pro se prisoners do not conform to Supreme Court Rules. (i) The 2001-2002 figures include approximately 264 cases filed on notices of appeal from orders of the circuit court declaring unconstitutional, all or part of, Public Act 91-404 (sentencing enhancements for crimes committed with firearms). In 2002 approximately 145 of these cases were dismissed and in 2003 approximately 107 of these cases were dismissed, after the Court issued an opinion in *People v. Moss et al.*, 206 Ill. 2d 503 (2003).

**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**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | <b>Total Filed</b> | <b>(People)</b> | <b>(Civil)</b> | <b>Total Allowed</b> | <b>(People)</b> | <b>(Civil)</b> | <b>Denied or Dismissed (a)</b> | <b>Total Disposed</b> | <b>Percent Allowed (b)</b> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 2001        | 1881               | (1196)          | (685)          | 98                   | (42)            | (56)           | 1491                           | 1559                  | 6.2%                       |
| 2002        | 2256               | (1594)          | (662)          | 86                   | (43)            | (43)           | 1937                           | 2069                  | 4.2%                       |
| 2003        | 1954               | (1304)          | (650)          | 91                   | (41)            | (50)           | 1966                           | 2083                  | 4.3%                       |
| 2004        | 2058               | (1387)          | (671)          | 111                  | (56)            | (55)           | 1692                           | 1779                  | 6.2%                       |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>1885</b>        | <b>(1210)</b>   | <b>(675)</b>   | <b>88</b>            | <b>(41)</b>     | <b>(47)</b>    | <b>1780</b>                    | <b>1885</b>           | <b>4.7%</b>                |

(a) Does not include petitions denied with supervisory orders. These are reflected in "total disposed".

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

**Table 3**  
**Mandatory Jurisdiction Appeals - General Docket**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | 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    |
| 2001        | 205         | 7                            | 6               | 188             | 4        | 0                         | 0        | 45             | 7                            | 15              | 12              | 11       | 0                         | 0        |
| 2002        | 92          | 9                            | 6               | 72              | 5        | 0                         | 0        | 173            | 6                            | 17              | 145             | 5        | 0                         | 0        |
| 2003        | 24          | 4                            | 0               | 9               | 11       | 0                         | 0        | 145            | 18                           | 16              | 107             | 4        | 0                         | 0        |
| 2004        | 14          | 4                            | 0               | 3               | 5        | 1                         | 1        | 32             | 7                            | 4               | 9               | 12       | 0                         | 0        |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>11</b>   | <b>1</b>                     | <b>0</b>        | <b>4</b>        | <b>6</b> | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b> | <b>18</b>      | <b>3(a)</b>                  | <b>0</b>        | <b>6</b>        | <b>8</b> | <b>1</b>                  | <b>0</b> |

(a) 1 case disposed of by opinion and 2 cases transferred to Appellate Court, First District. (Commutation orders of Governor Ryan, dated January 10, 2003; *People ex rel. Madigan v. Snyder*, 208 Ill. 2d 457 (2004)).

**Table 4**  
**General Docket**  
**People and Civil Cases**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | Total Filed | (People)    | (Civil)    | Total Disposed | (People)    | (Civil)    |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 2001        | 2264        | 1426        | 838        | 1848           | 1038        | 810        |
| 2002        | 2474        | 1715        | 759        | 2458           | 1690        | 768        |
| 2003        | 2144        | 1353        | 791        | 2471           | 1700        | 771        |
| 2004        | 2199        | 1414        | 785        | 2024           | 1248        | 776        |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>2039</b> | <b>1250</b> | <b>789</b> | <b>2137</b>    | <b>1337</b> | <b>800</b> |

**Table 5**  
**Summary of the Call of the Docket**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | Cases Submitted | (People)    | (Civil)     |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2001        | 149(a)          | (67)        | (82)        |
| 2002        | 109(b)          | (66)        | (43)        |
| 2003        | 92(c)           | (45)        | (47)        |
| 2004        | 102(d)          | (44)        | (58)        |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>102(e)</b>   | <b>(58)</b> | <b>(44)</b> |

Cases submitted on briefs without oral argument: (a)10, including 8 legislative redistricting cases; (b)1; (c) 1; (d) 2; (e) 1.

**Table 6**  
**Summary of Opinions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | Total Filed<br>(a) | (People)    | (Civil)     | Disposing of<br>Cases on the<br>Merits |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 2001        | 111                | (59)        | (52)        | 130                                    |
| 2002        | 122                | (71)        | (51)        | 131                                    |
| 2003        | 96                 | (53)        | (43)        | 113                                    |
| 2004        | 108                | (53)        | (55)        | 123                                    |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>105</b>         | <b>(57)</b> | <b>(48)</b> | <b>118</b>                             |

(a) Full opinions; category does not include dissenting or concurring opinions.

**Table 7**  
**Summary of Rehearings**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2001 - 2005**

|             | Total Filed | (People)   | (Civil)    | Total Allowed<br>(a) | (People)   | (Civil)    |
|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| 2001        | 51          | (30)       | (21)       | 6                    | (2)        | (4)        |
| 2002        | 43          | (25)       | (18)       | 1                    | (1)        | (0)        |
| 2003        | 31          | (21)       | (10)       | 0                    | (0)        | (0)        |
| 2004        | 26          | (11)       | (15)       | 0                    | (0)        | (0)        |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>15</b>   | <b>(6)</b> | <b>(9)</b> | <b>0</b>             | <b>(0)</b> | <b>(0)</b> |

(a) Petitions not allowed are denied or, occasionally, dismissed or withdrawn on motion.

**Table 8**

**Attorney Disciplinary Cases  
Supreme Court of Illinois  
(Calendar Year 2005)**

| <b>Discipline Imposed by Order</b>  | <b>Dispositions</b> |
|---|---------------------|
| Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Boards of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission | 67                  |
| Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment  | 17                  |
| Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent   | 56                  |
| Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline  | 23                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>163</b>          |

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Discipline by Opinion</b> | 0 |
|------------------------------|---|

| <b>Interim Suspension orders</b> |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Rule 761                         | 3         |
| Rule 774                         | 11        |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>14</b> |

| <b>Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| Petition Allowed            1               | 6 |
| Petition Denied            1                |   |
| Petition Withdrawn       3                  |   |
| Case closed due to death of petitioner    1 |   |

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>Total Dispositions</b> | <b>183</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

| <b>Reinstatement Petitions</b> | <b>Reprimand</b> | <b>Censure</b> | <b>Interim Suspension</b> | <b>Probationary Suspension</b> | <b>Suspension</b> | <b>Disbarment</b> | <b>Total Dispositions</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 6                              | 5                | 24             | 14                        | 21                             | 80                | 33                | 183                       |

Figure 1

# Filings

2001-2005

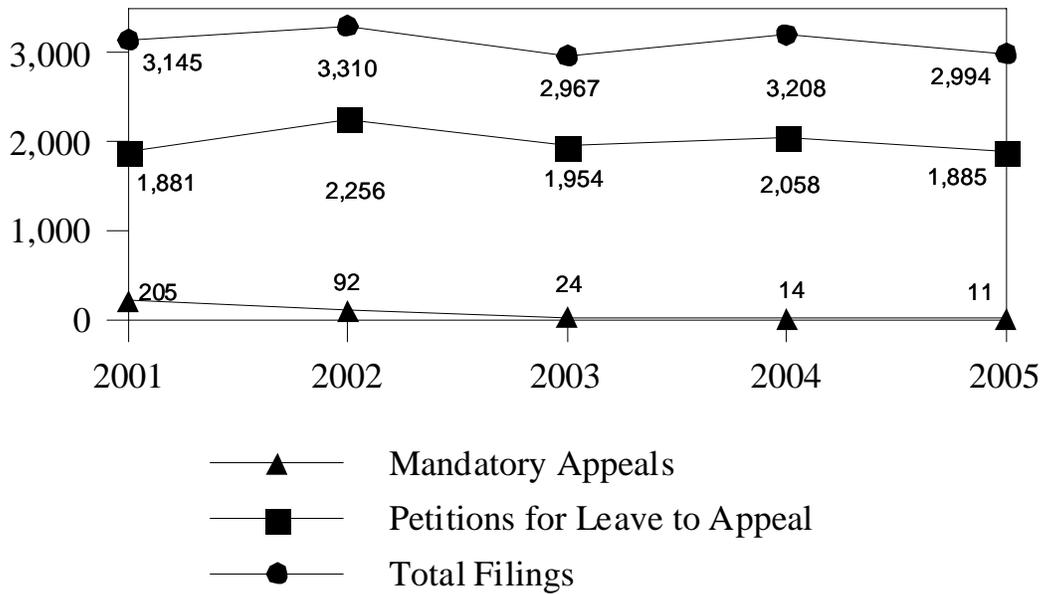


Figure 2

# Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order

2001-2005

