

**SUPREME COURT  
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL  
RECORDS**

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**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND  
2010 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 2006 through 2010 is presented in Table 1.

During 2010, filings in the supreme court totaled 3,014, 285 more cases than the 2,729 cases filed in 2009. The supreme court disposed of a total of 2,922 cases in 2010, an increase of 25 cases from 2009 dispositions.

In 2010 there were 1,978 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, an increase of 154 cases, or 7.8 percent from 2009 general docket filings.

A total of 775 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2010, 62 more cases than filed in 2009. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters. In 2010, approximately 509 name-change (on roll of attorneys) petitions and 7 motions for restoration to active status on the roll of attorneys (under Rule 759) were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 158 cases, and the remaining 101 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 2010, 261 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 69-case increase from 2009. 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 2010, 1,858 petitions were filed, an increase of 160 cases from the 2009 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 73 petitions (36 people/37 civil), or 4.2 percent of the petitions acted upon in 2010. As indicated in Table 2b, 14 fewer petitions were allowed in 2010 than in 2009. The 5-year average of petitions allowed is 87.2.

#### **Mandatory Appeals**

As seen in Table 3, 2 direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence were filed in 2010; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed. In 2010, the court disposed of 4 capital cases by opinion.

The year 2010 saw the filing of 2 direct appeals 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 2010.

### **Other Activity**

In 2010, the supreme court filed 84 opinions, disposing of 91 cases (Table 6). This figure does not include separate dissenting or concurring opinions, which numbered approximately 31.

The court ruled on 21 petitions for rehearing in decided cases (See Table 7 but note that several petitions disposed were filed in 2009), allowing none; entertained oral argument in 88 cases (Table 5); and considered approximately 1,371 motions on the general docket alone, including 98 original action motions under Rules 381 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2010 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 147 attorneys by order and suspended 11 attorneys on an interim basis by order. Nine (9) petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 were presented to the court in 2010: 3 were allowed with conditions, 2 were withdrawn, and 1 was remanded.

On September 27, 2010, effective January 1, 2011, the Supreme Court filed M.R. 24138, Illinois Rules of Evidence, in codified form consisting of 58 Supreme Court Rules, one (1) reserved rule, and Committee Commentary.

On March 22, 2010, effective July 1, 2010, the Court adopted Supreme Court Rule 430; Trial of Incarcerated Defendant.

The Court amended 36 Supreme Court Rules: 3 (including Administrative order in relation to Rule 3 - M.R. 10549), 23, 204, 212, 216, 222, 239, 296 (repealed and reserved), 304, 306, 306A (reserved and its provisions, as modified, were incorporated into Rule 311(a)), 307, 308, 311, 315, 345, 501, 503, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 551, 553, 603, 705, 706, 714, 716, 760, 777, 778, 794, 795, and 901.

In 2010, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 15 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. Ten (10) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 3,031 attorneys in 2010, a decrease of 53 from the 3,084 licenses awarded in 2009. During the past 5 years, 16,082 lawyers were licensed, an average of 3,216 per year, which is a decrease of 8 from the 5-year average reported in 2009.

Respecting limited licensure, in 2010 the court admitted 59 House Counsel (Rule 716) and 3 Legal Service Program attorneys (Rule 717). The court also licensed 2 Foreign Legal Consultants (Rule 712) in 2010.

As of December 31, 2010, 869 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 649 as lead counsel and 220 as co-counsel, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985).

In 2010, approximately 4,457 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 71 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**  
**2006 - 2010**

<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 Appeals 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>
2006	2992	2104	25	0	9	1920	128	0	22	695	193
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
<b>2010</b>	<b>3014</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1858</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>261</b>
<b>Dispo- sitions</b>											
2006	3048(i)	2158(i)	14(i)	1	11	1900	128	2	103	696	194
2007	2962	1949	22(j)	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
<b>2010</b>	<b>2922</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1677</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>240</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. “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) Includes 1 case which the Court had dismissed in 2003 (commutation order of Governor Ryan, dated January 10, 2003) and, in 2006, reinstated and transferred to appellate court. (j) 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**  
**2006 - 2010**

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**

	<b>Total Filed</b>	<b>(People)</b>	<b>(Civil)</b>
2006	1920	(1279)	(641)
2007	1712	(1160)	(552)
2008	1840	(1283)	(557)
2009	1698	(1154)	(544)
<b>2010</b>	<b>1858</b>	<b>(1286)</b>	<b>(572)</b>

**Table 2b**  
**Dispositions**

	<b>Total Allowed</b>	<b>(People)</b>	<b>(Civil)</b>	<b>Denied, Dismissed or Withdrawn</b>	<b>Denied With Supervisory Order</b>	<b>Total Disposed (a)</b>	<b>Percent Allowed (b)</b>
2006	76	(31)	(45)	1824	76	1976	4.0%
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%
<b>2010</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>(37)</b>	<b>1553</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

(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**  
**2006 - 2010**

	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
2006	25	2	0	16	7	0	0	15	3(a)	0	3	8	0	1
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
<b>2010</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

(a) Includes 1 case which the Court had dismissed in 2003 (commutation order of Governor Ryan, dated January 10, 2003) and, in 2006, reinstated and transferred to appellate court.

**Table 4**  
**General Docket**  
**People and Civil Cases**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2006 - 2010**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
2006	2104	1351	753	2158	1362	796
2007	1872	1208	664	1935	1282	653
2008	1961	1314	647	1849	1198	651
2009	1824	1196	628	1918	1268	650
<b>2010</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1338</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>614</b>

**Table 5**  
**Summary of the Call of the Docket**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2006 - 2010**

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
2006	84	(40)	(44)
2007	81	(36)	(45)
2008	84	(47)	(37)
2009	96	(55)	(41)
<b>2010</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(36)</b>

**Table 6**  
**Summary of Opinions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2006 - 2010**

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
2006	96	(46)	(50)	104
2007	65	(28)	(37)	72
2008	93	(51)	(42)	108
2009	90	(50)	(40)	99
<b>2010</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>91</b>

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

**Table 7**  
**Summary of Rehearings**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2006 - 2010**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
2006	31	(19)	(12)	1	(0)	(1)
2007	14	(5)	(9)	0	(0)	(0)
2008	25	(12)	(13)	0	(0)	(0)
2009	26(b)	(10)	(16)(b)	0	(0)	(0)
<b>2010</b>	<b>18(c)</b>	<b>(14)(c)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>

(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.

Table 8

Attorney Disciplinary Cases  
 Supreme Court of Illinois  
 (Calendar Year 2010)

<b>Discipline Imposed by Order</b>	<b>Dispositions</b>
Rule 753 proceedings on recommendation of Hearing or Review Board of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission	56
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	14
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	44
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>

<b>Discipline by Opinion</b>	0
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<b>Interim Suspension orders</b>	
Rule 761	5
Rule 774	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys</b>		
Petition Allowed w/conds	3	9
Petition Denied	3	
Petition Withdrawn	2	
Petition Remanded	1	

<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>167</b>
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Reinstatement Petitions	Reprimand	Censure	Interim Suspension	Probationary Suspension	Suspension	Disbarment	Total Dispositions
9	3	15	11	16	72	41	167

Figure 1  
**Filings**  
 2006-2010

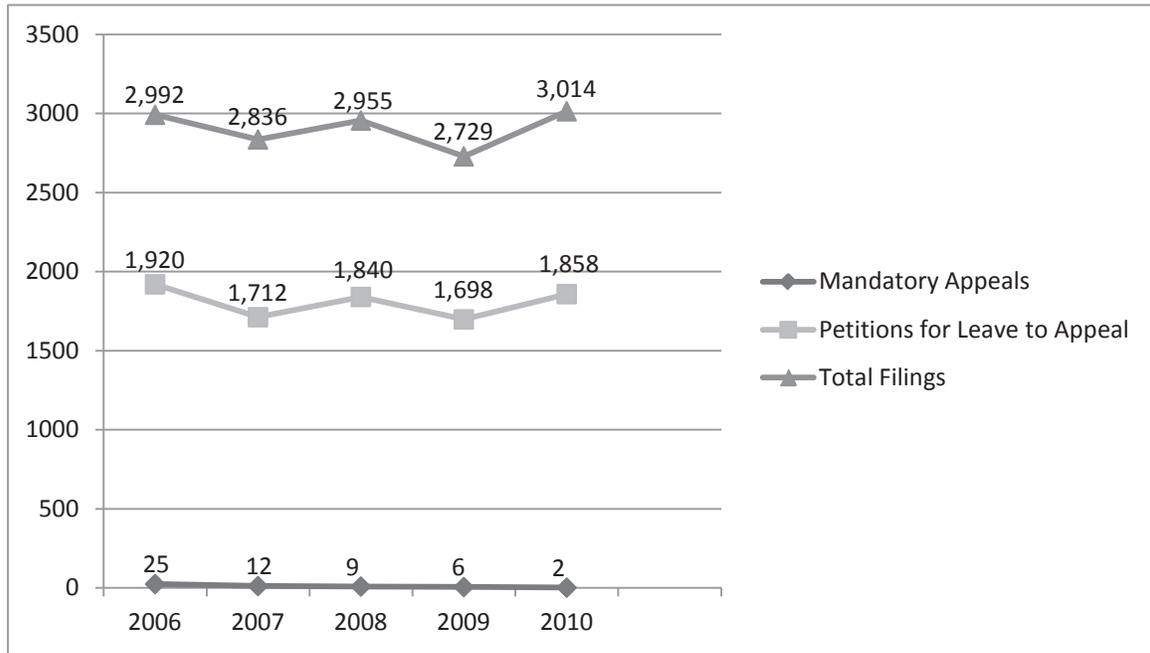


Figure 2  
**Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals  
 Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order**  
 2006-2010

