

**SUPREME COURT  
OF ILLINOIS**

**CASELOAD AND STATISTICAL  
RECORDS**

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**FIVE-YEAR TRENDS AND  
2012 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 2008 through 2012 is presented in Table 1.

During 2012, filings in the Supreme Court totaled 2,697; 209 fewer cases than the 2,906 cases filed in 2011. The Supreme Court disposed of a total of 2,793 cases in 2012; a decrease of 311 cases from 2011 dispositions.

In 2012 there were 1,795 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, a decrease of 148 cases, or 8.2 percent from 2011 general docket filings.

A total of 689 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2012, 63 fewer cases than filed in 2011. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters. In 2012, approximately 467 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 108 cases, and the remaining 108 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 2012, 213 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 2-case increase from 2011. 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 2012, 1,664 petitions were filed, a decrease of 135 cases from the 2011 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 72 petitions (33 people/39 civil), or 4.1 percent of the petitions acted upon in 2012. As indicated in Table 2b, 6 less petitions were allowed in 2012 than in 2011. The 5-year average of petitions allowed is 81.

#### **Mandatory Appeals**

As seen in Table 3, no direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence or capital post-conviction appeals were filed in light of the statute abolishing the death penalty effective July 1, 2011, and Governor Quinn's March 9, 2011, commutation order.

In 2012, 4 direct appeals were filed by right from judgments of the circuit court in people's cases under Rule 603 and 2 direct appeals were docketed in civil cases.

There was 1 certificate of importance from the appellate court filed in 2012.

## Other Activity

In 2012, the Supreme Court filed 71 opinions, disposing of 81 cases (Table 6). This figure does not include separate dissenting or concurring opinions, which numbered approximately 37.

The Court ruled on 14 petitions for rehearing in decided cases (See Table 7, but note that several petitions disposed were filed in 2011), allowing none; entertained oral argument in 73 cases (Table 5); and considered approximately 1,307 motions on the general docket alone, including 104 original action motions under Rules 381, 382, and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2012 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the Court disciplined 102 attorneys by order and suspended 6 attorneys on an interim basis by order. Four (4) petitions for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 were presented to the court in 2012: 1 was allowed with conditions, 1 was denied, and 2 were withdrawn.

The Court adopted 6 new Supreme Court Rules in addition to a divisional heading preceding Supreme Court Rules 570-579: 10-100, 10-101(including Administrative order in relation to Rule 10-101-M.R. 25401), 138, 243, 718, and 502 (Illinois Rules of Evidence).

The Court amended 25 Supreme Court Rules: 10, 11 (amended on October 24 and on December 21), 12, 39 (amended October 30 and December 28), 41, 131, 201 (amended October 24 and November 28), 312, 402 (Justice Burke joined by Justice Freeman concurred in part and dissented in part), 431, 604, 606, 651, 702, 706, 756 (amended June 5, June 21 and November 28), 778, 791, 799, and 803 (Illinois Rules of Evidence).

In 2012, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the Supreme Court Rules Committee forwarded to the clerk of the Court 8 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. Seventeen (17) matters on the proposed rule docket were closed.

The Supreme Court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 3,039 attorneys in 2012, an increase of 111 from the 2,928 licenses awarded in 2011. During the past 5 years, 15,380 lawyers were licensed, an average of 3,076 per year, which is a decrease of 69 from the 5-year average reported in 2011.

Respecting limited licensure, in 2012 the Court admitted 58 House Counsel (Rule 716) and 5 Legal Service Program attorneys (Rule 717). No Foreign Legal Consultants (Rule 712) were licensed in 2012.

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). No attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar in 2012.

In 2012, approximately 4,086 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 72.4 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**  
**2008 - 2012**

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)
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
<b>2012</b>	<b>2697</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Dispositions</b>											
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
<b>2012</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1676</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>207</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.

**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**  
**2008 - 2012**

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>
2008	1840	(1283)	(557)
2009	1698	(1154)	(544)
2010	1858	(1286)	(572)
2011	1799	(1233)	(566)
<b>2012</b>	<b>1664</b>	<b>(1148)</b>	<b>(516)</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>
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	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>1638</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1760</b>	<b>4.1%</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**  
**2008 - 2012**

	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		People	Civil	Imposition of death sentence	Post-Conviction	People	Civil
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
<b>2012</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 4**  
**General Docket**  
**People and Civil Cases**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2008 - 2012**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
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
<b>2012</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>1202</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>635</b>

**Table 5**  
**Summary of the Call of the Docket**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2008 - 2012**

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
2008	84	(47)	(37)
2009	96	(55)	(41)
2010	88	(52)	(36)
2011	69	(40)	(29)
<b>2012</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>(38)</b>

**Table 6**  
**Summary of Opinions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2008 - 2012**

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
2008	93	(51)	(42)	108
2009	90	(50)	(40)	99
2010	84	(52)	(32)	91
2011	84	(46)	(38)	90
<b>2012</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>(32)</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>81</b>

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

**Table 7**  
**Summary of Rehearings**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2008 - 2012**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
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)
<b>2012</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(10)</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.

(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 2012)**

<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	44
Rule 762(a) Voluntary disbarment	15
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	26
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>

<b>Discipline by Opinion</b>	0
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<b>Interim Suspension orders</b>	
Rule 761	5
Rule 774	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys</b>	
Petition Allowed w/conds	1
Petition Denied	1
Petition Withdrawn	2
	4

<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>112</b>
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<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>
4	3	15	6	17	38	29	112

Figure 1  
**Filings**  
 2008-2012

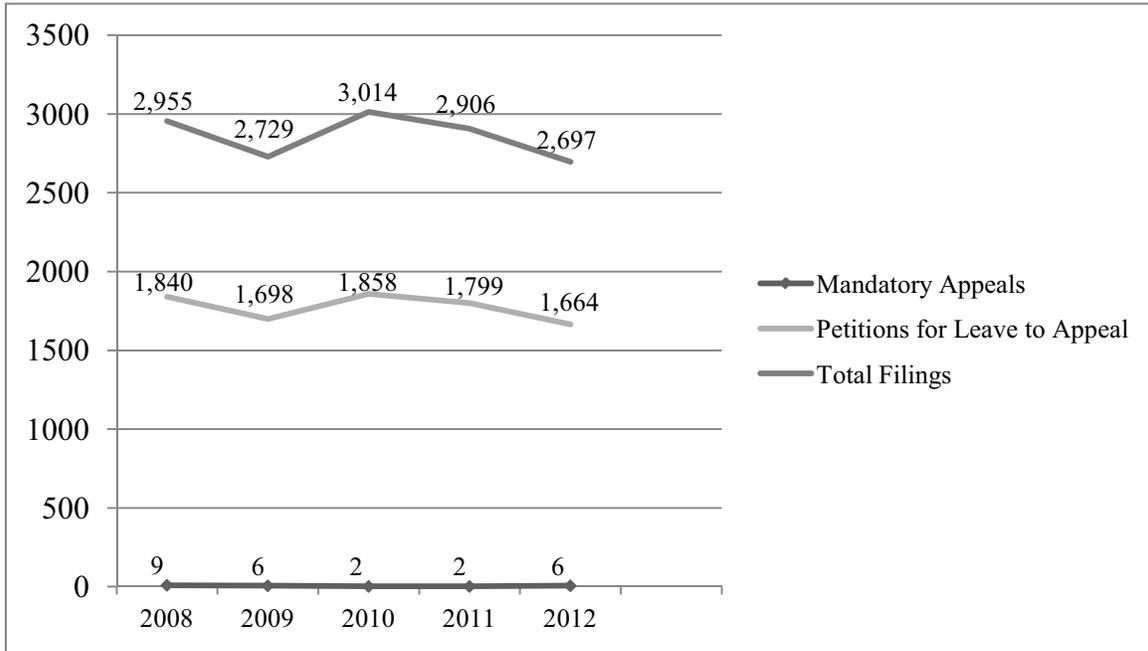
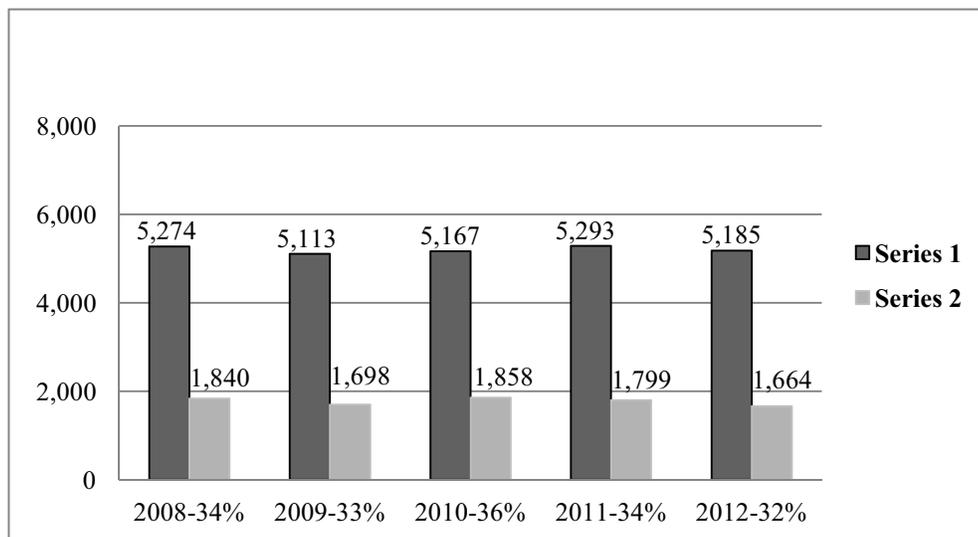


Figure 2  
**Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order**  
 2008-2012



Appeals disposed of by Opinion or Pursuant to Rule 23(b) or (c) in Appellate Court  
 Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed in Supreme Court