

**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 2000 through 2004 is presented in Table 1.

During 2004, filings in the supreme court totaled 3,208 an increase of 8.1 percent or 241 more cases than the 2,967 cases filed in 2003. The supreme court disposed of a total of 3,056 cases in 2004, an decrease of 272 cases from 2003 dispositions.

In 2004 there were 2,199 cases filed on the general docket, which is the predominant docket, an increase of 54 cases, or 2.5 percent, from 2003 filings.

A total of 729 miscellaneous record cases were filed in 2004, an increase of 91 cases over 2003. The miscellaneous record consists primarily of attorney matters, including name-change petitions, disciplinary cases, and bar admission motions. In 2004, approximately 441 name-change petitions and 38 motions for restoration to active status under Rule 759 were filed. Disciplinary matters account for 158 cases, and the remaining 92 cases consist of bar admission motions, rule amendment petitions, petitions concerning professional service corporations etc. under Rule 721, and certain other administrative matters.

In 2004, 280 miscellaneous docket cases were filed, a 96-case increase from 2003. 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 2004, 2,058 petitions were filed, an increase of 104 cases from the 2003 filings on the leave to appeal docket, as represented in Table 2. The supreme court allowed 111 petitions, a 20-case increase from 2003, or 6.2 percent of the petitions acted upon.

As in the prior 4 years, more petitions were filed in people cases than in civil cases. In 2004, 56 petitions were allowed in people cases and 55 petitions were allowed in civil cases.

### **Mandatory Appeals**

As seen in Table 3, total capital case filings (imposition of death penalty and post-conviction) remained the same as the 2003 filings. Four (4) direct appeals from the imposition of the death sentence were filed in 2004; no capital post-conviction appeals were filed. During the 5-year period, direct appeal filings ranged from 4 to 9 cases annually and post-conviction appeals ranged from 0 to 14 cases annually. In 2004 the

court disposed of a total of 11 capital cases, which had been docketed as capital matters. (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 2004 saw 8 direct appeals from the circuit court under Rules 302(a) and 603 in cases in which a statute has been held invalid, a 12-case decrease from 2003.

Two (2) certificates of importance from the appellate court were filed in 2004, the only filings in the 5-year period.

### **Other Activity**

In 2004, the supreme court filed 108 full opinions, disposing of 123 cases; 10 more opinions than filed in 2003. (Table 6).

The court ruled on 26 petitions for rehearing in decided cases, allowing none, (Table 7); entertained oral argument in 100 cases and accepted 2 cases for submission as non-oral (Table 5); and considered over 2,000 motions on the general docket, including 88 original action motions under Rules 381 and 383 (Table 1).

Attorney disciplinary activity (Table 8) in 2004 was concentrated on the miscellaneous record where the court disciplined 148 attorneys by order and suspended 8 attorneys on an interim basis by order. One (1) attorney was disciplined by opinion. One (1) petition for reinstatement to the roll of attorneys pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 767 was considered by the court in 2004 and denied.

In 2004, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 3, the supreme court rules committee forwarded to the clerk of the court 21 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. In 2004, the court amended 15 Supreme Court Rules<sup>1</sup> and adopted 5 Supreme Court Rules<sup>2</sup>, including rules pertaining to court reporting services resources, appellate settlement conference program, limited admission of house counsel, limited admission of legal service program lawyers, and finality of disciplinary orders and effective date of discipline.

The supreme court, which is responsible for regulating the practice of law in the state, licensed 2,754 attorneys in 2004, an increase of 132 from the 2,622 licenses awarded in 2003. During the past 5 years, 13,131 lawyers were licensed, an average of 2,626 per year, which is an increase of 33 from the 5-year average reported in 2003.

Respecting limited licensure, in 2004 the court admitted 67 House Counsel (new

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<sup>1</sup>Amended Rules 22, 40, 292, 305, 306A (stay lifted 7-1), 315, 342, 344, 705, 706, 714, 722, 756, 766, 771 (renumbered as Rule 770).

<sup>2</sup>Adopted new Rules 45, 310.1, 716, 717, 771.

Rule 716) and 1 Legal Service Program attorney (new Rule 717). The court also licensed 1 Foreign Legal Consultant (Rule 712) in 2004.

In 2002, the court inaugurated the Capital Litigation Trial Bar Rosters consistent with Supreme Court Rule 714 and the order of January 23, 2002 (M.R. 17985). As of December 31, 2004, 737 attorneys were certified as members of the Capital Litigation Trial Bar, 578 as lead counsel and 159 as co-counsel.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Case Filings and Final Dispositions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2000 - 2004**

<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>
2000	3122	1938	45	0	6	1775	88	0	24	832	352
2001	3145(i)	2264(i)	205(i)	0	7	1881	134	1	36	615	266
2002	3310	2474	92(i)	0	10	2256	92	1	23	638	198
2003	2967	2145	24	0	17	1954	124	1	25	638	184
<b>2004</b>	<b>3208</b>	<b>2199</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2058</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Dispo- sitions</b>											
2000	3252	2027	68	0	6	1772	82	5	94	870	355
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
<b>2004</b>	<b>3056</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>279</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**  
**2000 - 2004**

	<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>
2000	1775	(1082)	(693)	92	(42)	(50)	1694	1772	5.2%
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%
<b>2004</b>	<b>2058</b>	<b>(1387)</b>	<b>(671)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>(56)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>1692</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>6.2%</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  
2000 - 2004**

	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
2000	45	9	14	6	16	0	0	68	18	30	15	5	0	0
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
<b>2004</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 4  
General Docket  
People and Civil Cases  
Supreme Court of Illinois  
2000 - 2004**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Disposed	(People)	(Civil)
2000	1938	1134	804	2027	1222	805
2001	2264	1426	838	1848	1038	810
2002	2474	1715	759	2458	1690	768
2003	2144	1353	791	2471	1700	771
<b>2004</b>	<b>2199</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>776</b>

**Table 5**  
**Summary of the Call of the Docket**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2000 - 2004**

	Cases Submitted	(People)	(Civil)
2000	114(a)	(70)	(44)
2001	149(b)	(67)	(82)
2002	109(c)	(66)	(43)
2003	92(d)	(45)	(47)
<b>2004</b>	<b>102(e)</b>	<b>(44)</b>	<b>(58)</b>

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

**Table 6**  
**Summary of Opinions**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2000 - 2004**

	Total Filed (a)	(People)	(Civil)	Disposing of Cases on the Merits
2000	127(b)	(84)	(43)	144(b)
2001	111	(59)	(52)	130
2002	122	(71)	(51)	131
2003	96	(53)	(43)	113
<b>2004</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>(53)</b>	<b>(55)</b>	<b>123</b>

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

(b) Does not include 1 consolidated case dismissed by order.

**Table 7**  
**Summary of Rehearings**  
**Supreme Court of Illinois**  
**2000 - 2004**

	Total Filed	(People)	(Civil)	Total Allowed (a)	(People)	(Civil)
2000	51	(36)	(15)	2	(1)	(1)
2001	51	(30)	(21)	6	(2)	(4)
2002	43	(25)	(18)	1	(1)	(0)
2003	31	(21)	(10)	0	(0)	(0)
<b>2004</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(15)</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 2004)**

<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	12
Rule 762(b) Discipline on consent	53
Rule 763 Reciprocal discipline	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>

<b>Discipline by Opinion</b>	1
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<b>Interim Suspension orders</b>	
Rule 761	4
Rule 774	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Reinstatement to Roll of Attorneys</b>	
Petition Allowed 0	1
Petition Denied 1	
Petition Withdrawn 0	

<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>158</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>
1	4	13	8	23	74	35	158

Figure 1

# Filings

2000-2004

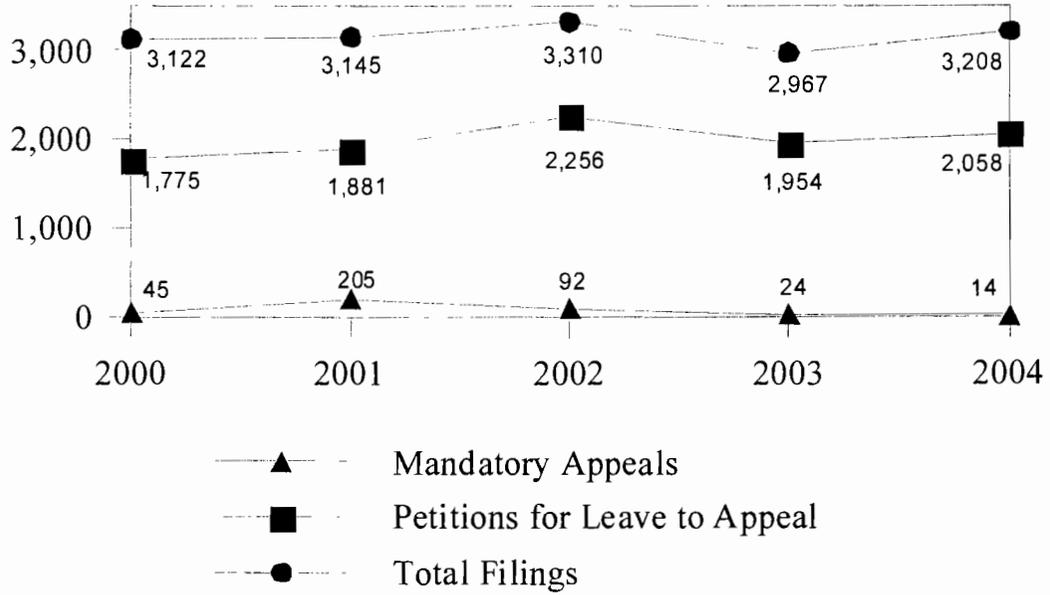


Figure 2  
 Petitions for Leave to Appeal Filed as a Percent of Appeals  
 Decided by Appellate Court Opinion or Rule 23 Order

2000-2004

