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JUDICIAL BUSINESS OF THE U.S. COURTS

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FAQs

Judicial Business of the U.S. Courts is the most comprehensive set of detailed statistical tables published on the work of the federal Judiciary, plus charts and text explaining why increases or decreases occurred in the courts' caseload.

- The report provides data for the fiscal year ending September 30 for the U.S. courts of appeals, district courts and bankruptcy courts; the probation and pretrial services system; and other components of the federal Judiciary.
- The Judicial Caseload Indicators table compares the Judiciary's current fiscal year caseload to its caseload 1, 5, and 10 years earlier.
- Publications dating back to 1997 are available online.

Tables

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Table 2.5

U.S. Courts of Appeals (Excludes Federal Circuit). Type of Opinion or Order Filed In Cases Terminated on the Merits After Oral Hearing or Submission on Briefs

Fiscal Year	Total	Oral	Written, Signed*		Written, Reasoned, Unsigned*		Written, Unsigned, Without Comment		Total Unpublished	Percent Unpublished
			Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished		
1990**	21,022	94	6,008	2,374	712	9,669	4	2,161	14,204	68.0%
1995	27,772	99	6,118	3,814	566	14,233	5	2,937	20,984	75.9%
2000	27,516	63	5,099	4,281	427	16,510	32	1,104	21,895	79.8%
2003	27,009	13	5,037	4,223	364	16,402	38	932	21,557	79.9%
2004	27,438	20	4,782	4,468	366	16,973	54	775	22,216	81.0%
2005	29,913	3	5,043	5,211	396	18,254	60	946	24,411	81.6%
2006	34,580	1	5,082	7,277	353	20,763	71	1,033	29,073	84.1%
2007	31,717	2	4,844	5,997	305	19,607	72	890	26,494	83.5%

Note: This table does not include data for the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

*Includes only those opinions and orders that expound on the law as applied to the facts of each case and that detail the judicial reasons upon which the judgment is based.

**12-month period ending June 30.

Source: Table S-3, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.

Table S-3.
U.S. Courts of Appeals—Types of Opinions or Orders Filed in Cases Terminated
on the Merits After Oral Hearings or Submission on Briefs
During the 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2008

Circuit	Total	Oral	Written, Signed *		Written, Reasoned, Unsigned *		Written, Unsigned, Without Comment		Percent Unpublished
			Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	
TOTAL	29,608	-	4,949	5,870	388	17,399	40	962	81.8
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	557	-	220	-	12	324	-	1	58.3
FIRST	1,020	-	411	24	15	568	1	1	58.1
SECOND	2,859	-	313	2,472	68	4	-	2	86.7
THIRD	2,300	-	232	1,336	6	670	-	56	89.7
FOURTH	2,581	-	195	301	4	2,081	-	-	92.3
FIFTH	4,121	-	459	67	81	3,488	-	26	86.9
SIXTH	2,569	-	440	634	14	1,445	5	31	82.1
SEVENTH	1,338	-	670	-	11	607	3	47	48.9
EIGHTH	1,922	-	665	7	46	605	-	599	63.0
NINTH	5,800	-	721	84	26	4,935	31	3	86.6
TENTH	1,473	-	386	921	15	151	-	-	72.8
ELEVENTH	3,068	-	237	24	90	2,521	-	196	89.3

NOTE: THIS TABLE DOES NOT INCLUDE DATA FOR THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT.

* INCLUDES ONLY THOSE OPINIONS AND ORDERS THAT EXPOUND ON THE LAW AS APPLIED TO THE FACTS OF EACH CASE AND THAT DETAIL THE JUDICIAL REASONS UPON WHICH THE JUDGMENT IS BASED.

Table S-3.
U.S. Courts of Appeals—Types of Opinions or Orders Filed in Cases Terminated
on the Merits After Oral Hearings or Submission on Briefs
During the 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2009

Circuit	Total	Oral	Written, Signed ¹		Written, Reasoned, Unsigned ¹		Written, Unsigned, Without Comment		Percent Unpublished
			Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	
TOTAL	30,160	-	4,598	6,210	442	17,726	15	1,169	83.2
DC	561	-	221	1	12	327	-	-	58.5
FIRST	1,049	-	380	28	19	619	1	2	61.9
SECOND	3,230	-	264	2,877	84	5	-	-	89.2
THIRD	2,333	-	245	1,221	3	748	2	114	89.3
FOURTH	2,926	-	175	301	9	2,441	-	-	93.7
FIFTH	3,589	-	430	58	42	3,037	1	21	86.8
SIXTH	2,368	-	408	770	10	1,177	1	2	82.3
SEVENTH	1,641	-	636	2	30	934	5	34	59.1
EIGHTH	2,054	-	635	7	42	589	1	780	67.0
NINTH	5,509	-	591	5	70	4,825	4	14	87.9
TENTH	1,431	-	411	902	12	106	-	-	70.4
ELEVENTH	3,469	-	202	38	109	2,918	-	202	91.0

NOTE: This table does not include data for the U.S. Court of appeals for the Federal Circuit.

¹ Includes only those opinions and orders that expound on the law as applied to the facts of each case and that detail the judicial reasons upon which the judgment is based.

Table S-3.
U.S. Courts of Appeals—Types of Opinions or Orders Filed in Cases Terminated
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During the 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2010

Circuit	Total	Oral	Written, Signed ¹		Written, Reasoned, Unsigned ¹		Written, Unsigned, Without Comment		Percent Unpublished
			Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	
TOTAL	30,914	-	4,452	6,238	355	18,051	143	1,675	84.0
DC	520	-	187	-	9	324	-	-	62.3
FIRST	965	-	318	16	19	611	-	1	65.1
SECOND	3,304	-	324	2,917	61	2	-	-	88.3
THIRD	2,483	-	246	1,151	5	937	2	142	89.8
FOURTH	2,894	-	193	384	11	2,306	-	-	93.0
FIFTH	3,773	-	413	61	63	3,226	-	10	87.4
SIXTH	2,350	-	378	717	6	1,245	1	3	83.6
SEVENTH	1,512	-	582	-	19	874	7	30	59.8
EIGHTH	2,293	-	603	8	43	871	-	768	71.8
NINTH	6,324	-	659	3	37	4,980	133	512	86.9
TENTH	1,353	-	302	942	2	107	-	-	77.5
ELEVENTH	3,143	-	247	39	80	2,568	-	209	89.6

NOTE: This table does not include data for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

¹ Includes only those opinions and orders that expound on the law as applied to the facts of each case and that detail the judicial reasons upon which the judgment is based.

Table S-3.
U.S. Courts of Appeals—Types of Opinions or Orders Filed in Cases Terminated
on the Merits After Oral Hearings or Submission on Briefs
During the 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2011

Circuit	Total	Oral	Written, Signed ¹		Written, Reasoned, Unsigned ¹		Written, Unsigned, Without Comment		Percent Unpublished
			Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	Published	Unpublished	
Total	30,290	-	4,190	5,501	345	17,911	21	2,322	85.0
DC	546	-	200	1	6	339	-	-	62.3
First	819	-	294	10	11	500	2	2	62.5
Second	2,634	-	245	2,336	53	-	-	-	88.7
Third	2,484	-	214	1,110	9	1,017	4	130	90.9
Fourth	3,177	-	176	408	6	2,587	-	-	94.3
Fifth	3,881	-	371	69	70	3,349	3	19	88.6
Sixth	2,775	-	339	736	6	1,681	4	9	87.4
Seventh	1,396	-	611	-	25	737	4	19	54.2
Eighth	1,848	-	568	3	34	559	-	684	67.4
Ninth	6,517	-	689	3	49	4,498	3	1,275	88.6
Tenth	1,207	-	272	805	7	123	-	-	76.9
Eleventh	3,006	-	211	20	69	2,521	1	184	90.7

NOTE: This table does not include data for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

¹ Includes only those opinions and orders that expound on the law as applied to the facts of each case and that detail the judicial reasons upon which the judgment is based.