



Court of Appeal for Ontario

2023–2024 Report



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Messages from the Court

Message from the Chief Justice

It is a great honour and privilege to introduce the 2023–2024 Report of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. With this report, we reaffirm the Court’s commitment to reporting regularly on its work. This publication describes the Court’s achievements during my first two years of service as Chief Justice of Ontario in 2023 and 2024. This edition is a two-year report. Going forward, the Court will publish a report every year.

This occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on the Court’s ongoing commitment to upholding the rule of law, ensuring access to justice, enhancing openness, accountability and transparency, and fostering public confidence in our judicial system.

Before my appointment as Chief Justice, I was fortunate to serve alongside my two distinguished predecessors, the Honourable Warren Winkler and the Honourable George Strathy—and I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude for their exemplary leadership over the last decade. Their stewardship during times of significant transformation has fortified the foundation upon which this court continues to deliver justice for the people of Ontario. I also wish to thank the Honourable Michal Fairburn for her committed leadership as Associate Chief Justice. The advice and assistance that she provides is invaluable.

In addition, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the judges who serve on the Court of Appeal, including those who have retired in recent years. The work of this court is, by necessity, deeply collaborative, and its reputation for excellence is inextricably tied to the indispensable contributions of each judge who has graced its bench. From shaping the law to advancing access to justice, these judges have played a pivotal role in maintaining the Court’s ability to deliver justice and its well-earned reputation for excellence.

Equally, I wish to acknowledge and express my appreciation to the dedicated staff of the Court, whose tireless efforts and commitment are vital to the seamless functioning of this institution. From our Executive Legal Officer, Registrar, and operational managers to frontline intake staff who assist litigants at the first point of contact, to the court scheduling and support staff who ensure the efficient progress of cases, to the Court’s lawyers, law clerks, and many others who provide essential support to the judiciary, their hard work and dedication form the backbone of our operations. It is through their efforts that the Court is able to deliver justice effectively, fairly, and in a timely manner to the people of Ontario.

As we navigate an era where public trust in institutions is increasingly fragile, the principles of transparency and accountability remain paramount. These principles are at the heart of the judiciary’s role in a democratic society. By sharing the achievements, challenges, and advancements of the Court in this report, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to earning and maintaining the confidence of those we serve.

The 2023–2024 Report captures the efforts of our judges, Court staff, and justice sector partners to innovate and adapt in pursuit of excellence in justice. From digital transformation to enhanced accessibility and outreach, these two years demonstrate the Court’s dedication to serving the public efficiently, effectively, and fairly.

I invite you to engage with this report as an expression of the Court’s mission: to remain responsive, accessible, and reflective of our rapidly changing society, while steadfastly delivering impartial justice to all Ontarians.

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch
Chief Justice of Ontario
Court of Appeal for Ontario



Message from the Associate Chief Justice

Since 2020, I have been privileged to serve as the Associate Chief Justice of Ontario and the Court of Appeal for Ontario. My predecessor was the Honourable Alexandra Hoy, who served with great distinction before me. I am grateful for her strong leadership as Associate Chief Justice and am honoured to succeed her.

I am also grateful to my judicial colleagues, including those who have retired from the Court, for their immense dedication and hard work. I am honoured to work alongside them all. In particular, I would like to extend my deep thanks to Chief Justice Michael Tulloch, for the leadership he shows both within and outside of the Court.

I also extend my profound thanks to the Court's wonderful staff, without whom the Court simply could not function. They work tirelessly in pursuit of the delivery of justice. In particular, I would like to recognize Shannon Chace, the Court's Executive Legal Officer, who strives for excellence in all she does and inspires her staff to do the same.

This Court also benefits greatly from the many justice participants who offer their time, talent and energy to assist the Court. These include the many who sit on Court committees and provide much needed input on important issues. The degree of collaboration and collegiality between this court and the bar remains critical to the delivery of justice. It is a shining example of how, when we come together in pursuit of a better justice system, we can move mountains.



I trust that, in reading this report, you will gain a window into the Court's accomplishments over the past two years and also the ways in which the court seeks to better serve the public going forward. As a court, we are aware how much our work matters to individual litigants and to the broader public, which has a strong interest in seeing that justice is administered fairly and efficiently. We remain laser focussed on achieving that goal.

On a more personal note, I have been reflecting lately on this court's place in the justice system, especially in these days of so much change. As a lawyer, I had the great privilege of arguing many appeals before this court. I always enjoyed the back and forth with the panel, even when they pushed back against my position. Now, decades later, I am honoured to be part of that same process, only now as a judge. Presiding over appeals, I interact with counsel, who energetically and admirably advance their clients' positions. Although my role is now different, the back and forth remains the same. It is that very human process – with the bench and bar working together to see that justice is done – that continues to nurture optimism in me about the future of justice in Canada and, indeed, the future of Canada.

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn
Associate Chief Justice of Ontario
Court of Appeal for Ontario

Message from the Executive Legal Officer

As Executive Legal Officer of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, I am privileged to work collaboratively with a team of more than 95 public servants dedicated to supporting the judiciary and providing efficient and timely service to the public. I am grateful to every staff member at the Court, who carry out their roles with dedication, hard work, and commitment to public service. Below, I share some of the projects, innovations, and staff contributions from the past two years at the Court.

First, the Court has taken significant steps in recent years to make itself more accessible to the public. During the pandemic, the Court moved to electronic filing, accepting all written materials by email, a process supported by our dedicated team of frontline staff. We also launched a new electronic case management system in partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General, replacing a legacy system created over thirty years ago. In addition, the Court has recently opened a purpose-built courtroom to meet a large array of accessibility needs.



Two of the Court's dedicated staff members: Hayley Pitcher, Deputy Executive Legal Officer (left) and Tanieka Swaby, Deputy Registrar, Court Administration.

Second, the Court expanded its collaborative work with justice sector stakeholders to enable timely and efficient access to justice. The Court, the profession, and the public benefit from the willingness of members of the legal community to serve on a variety of committees and other collaborative initiatives, such as the Civil Rules Committee, the Family Rules Committee, the Pro Bono Inmate Appeal Program, the Ontario Review Board Appeals Committee, and the Court's Bench and Bar Equity and Diversity Committee.

Third, the Court renewed its focus on providing helpful and responsive service to the public. We recognize that interacting with the justice system can be stressful, especially for self-represented litigants who are navigating the system on their own. Court staff are keenly aware of these challenges and strive to be respectful, listen carefully, and communicate clearly in their work with the public.

As we move ahead, I salute the staff of the Court of Appeal for their commitment to serving the Court and the public with excellence, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Shannon Chace
Executive Legal Officer
Court of Appeal for Ontario



About the Court

About the Court

Introduction

This report focuses on the Court's work in 2023 and 2024, but it also reflects on the Court's past decade in two respects:

- to recognize their many contributions, a list of all judges who have served on the Court in the past decade is found at Appendix A; and
- to support public awareness and comparative analysis, statistics covering the past decade are found in Appendix B.

The Court of Appeal's Role and Functions

The Court of Appeal for Ontario is the province's highest court and the busiest appellate court in Canada. For over 150 years, it has played a critical role in ensuring access to timely and impartial justice and upholding the rule of law.

For most Ontarians, the Court of Appeal is the final level of legal review, as the Supreme Court of Canada typically hears appeals from fewer than two percent of the cases decided by the Court of Appeal each year. This underscores the Court's important role in shaping the law and providing final resolution for the vast majority of appeals in Ontario.

The Court hears appeals from the Superior Court of Justice (including the Divisional Court) and the Ontario Court of Justice. It also reviews decisions of the Ontario Review Board concerning individuals found not criminally responsible due to mental disorder. In 2024, the Court heard more than 800 appeals.

Judges typically hear appeals in panels of three. In most appeals, they decide the case based on the written record of lower court proceedings without hearing or reviewing new evidence. Before they make their decisions, they review written submissions, listen carefully to the parties' oral submissions, and ask questions at the hearing. Then, they issue written decisions explaining their rulings and, where necessary, clarifying legal principles.

The Court hears both criminal and civil appeals. In criminal matters, it generally reviews convictions, acquittals, and sentencing decisions. As noted above, the Court also reviews Ontario Review Board decisions concerning persons found not criminally responsible due to mental disorder. Civil appeals cover a broad range of topics, including commercial disputes, personal injury claims, contract and property law, judicial review of government decisions, and constitutional issues. The Court also handles family law appeals, including those involving divorce, spousal and child support, parenting time, and decision-making authority for children.

Judges of the Court of Appeal

At the end of 2024, the Court had 22 full-time judges and 9 supernumerary judges. Supernumerary judges are senior judges who, after many years of full-time judicial service, continue to provide invaluable contributions to the Court by hearing a reduced number of cases, while also continuing to carry on other judicial work.

Judicial Roles and Responsibilities

Full-time judges of the Court of Appeal sit in court about 100 days per year. In addition to hearing cases and writing decisions, judges of the Court also hear motions and conduct case management conferences in all types of appeals and pre-hearing settlement conferences in civil and family law appeals.

Outside of the courtroom, Court of Appeal judges undertake administrative, educational, and outreach responsibilities. They contribute to procedural rule development, ensure access to court services in both official languages, promote accessibility, and support civic education. Many judges publish legal scholarship and provide education for fellow judges, lawyers, and law students. They also engage with the community, speaking to students and organizations about the justice system.

Judges may also be called upon to lead public inquiries and produce reports. In recent years, several of the Court's judges have conducted such inquiries, reviews, and commissions.

Judicial Complement: 2023 and 2024

The Court's judicial complement in 2023 and 2024 is set out below in order of seniority, noting appointment dates and retirement dates for those who were retired as of December 31, 2024.

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch, Chief Justice of Ontario

Chief Justice of Ontario: December 15, 2022

Court of Appeal: June 30, 2012

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario

Associate Chief Justice of Ontario: September 2, 2020

Court of Appeal: July 14, 2017

The Honourable David H. Doherty

Retirement: March 9, 2024

Court of Appeal: September 1, 1990

The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman

Retirement: December 30, 2023

Court of Appeal: June 11, 1998

The Honourable James C. MacPherson

Court of Appeal: May 25, 1999

The Honourable Janet M. Simmons

Court of Appeal: August 22, 2000

The Honourable Eileen E. Gillese

Court of Appeal: January 25, 2002

The Honourable Paul S. Rouleau

Court of Appeal: April 14, 2005

The Honourable Alexandra Hoy

Retirement: October 1, 2023

Associate Chief Justice of Ontario: June 6, 2013 – June 1, 2020

Court of Appeal: December 1, 2011

The Honourable Sarah E. Pepall

Court of Appeal: April 5, 2012

The Honourable Peter D. Lauwers

Court of Appeal: December 13, 2012

The Honourable Katherine M. van Rensburg

Court of Appeal: October 1, 2013

The Honourable C. William Hourigan

Court of Appeal: October 1, 2013

The Honourable Gladys I. Pardu

Retirement: September 30, 2023

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2013

The Honourable Mary Lou Benotto

Retirement: August 31, 2024

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2013

The Honourable David M. Brown

Retirement: December 31, 2024

Court of Appeal: December 11, 2014

The Honourable Grant Huscroft

Court of Appeal: December 11, 2014

The Honourable Lois B. Roberts

Court of Appeal: April 30, 2015

The Honourable Bradley W. Miller

Court of Appeal: June 19, 2015

The Honourable Gary T. Trotter

Court of Appeal: October 19, 2016

The Honourable David M. Paciocco

Court of Appeal: April 7, 2017

The Honourable Ian V. B. Nordheimer

Court of Appeal: September 14, 2017

The Honourable Alison Harvison Young

Court of Appeal: August 29, 2018

The Honourable Benjamin Zarnett

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2018

The Honourable Julie A. Thorburn

Court of Appeal: September 2, 2019

The Honourable Steve A. Coroza

Court of Appeal: April 3, 2020

The Honourable Lorne Sossin

Court of Appeal: November 24, 2020

The Honourable Jonathon C. George

Court of Appeal: December 17, 2021

The Honourable Lise G. Favreau

Court of Appeal: December 17, 2021

The Honourable Jill M. Copeland

Court of Appeal: March 25, 2022

The Honourable Patrick J. Monahan

Court of Appeal: May 11, 2023

The Honourable Sally A. Gomery

Court of Appeal: November 3, 2023

The Honourable Jonathan A. Dawe

Court of Appeal: November 3, 2023

The Honourable Darla A. Wilson

Court of Appeal: April 30, 2024

The Honourable Lene Madsen

Court of Appeal: April 30, 2024

The Honourable Renee Pomerance

Court of Appeal: July 19, 2024

New Judicial Appointments

In 2023 and 2024, the Court welcomed the appointments of the Honourable Patrick Monahan, the Honourable Sally Gomery, the Honourable Jonathan A. Dawe, the Honourable Darla A. Wilson, the Honourable Lene Madsen, and the Honourable Renee M. Pomerance.

The Honourable Patrick J. Monahan

Appointed in May 2023, Justice Monahan previously served on the Superior Court of Justice from 2017 to 2023. A graduate of the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, and Osgoode Hall Law School (gold medalist), he earned an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and clerked for Supreme Court Justice Brian Dickson. Before his judicial appointment, he was Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, Provost and Vice-President Academic of York University, and Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. He also played a key role in establishing the Law Commission of Ontario and received the Mundell Medal for excellence in legal writing.

The Honourable Sally Gomery

Appointed in November 2023, Justice Gomery previously served on the Superior Court of Justice from 2017 to 2023, including as the local administrative judge for civil matters in Ottawa. A graduate of Trinity College, University of Toronto, and McGill Law, she clerked at the Supreme Court of Canada for Justices Claire L'Heureux-Dubé and Frank Iacobucci. She practiced law in both English and French, specializing in health law, insurance, procurement, and constitutional litigation.

The Honourable Jonathan A. Dawe

Appointed in November 2023, Justice Dawe had served on the Superior Court of Justice since 2018. He studied physics at McGill and MIT before switching to law, graduating from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law as the Bronze Medalist. He clerked for Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Antonio Lamer and earned an LL.M. from Yale. He practiced as a criminal appeal lawyer for 22 years and co-founded a criminal appellate externship program at U of T Law.

The Honourable Darla A. Wilson

Appointed in May 2024, Justice Darla A. Wilson previously served on the Superior Court of Justice from 2007 to 2024. From 2020 to 2024, she was the Civil Team Lead for pre-trials and trials in Toronto. Justice Wilson received a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University in 1981, and a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University in 1984. She was previously a partner with Lawson McGrenere LLP in Toronto and is a judicial member of The Holland Group, comprised of advocates dedicated to promoting reforms in medical negligence actions.

The Honourable Lene Madsen

Appointed in May 2024, Justice Madsen previously served on the Superior Court of Justice from 2016 to 2024, including as the local administrative judge in Kitchener-Waterloo and as the Team Lead for the Unified Family Court. Justice Madsen graduated from McGill University and earned her LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School. She holds Master's Degrees in Environmental Studies and in Law, both from York University. Justice Madsen has lived, worked, and studied internationally, including in Scandinavia, the former Yugoslavia, South Asia, and East Africa.

The Honourable Renee M. Pomerance

Appointed in July 2024, Justice Pomerance had served on the Superior Court of Justice since 2006. She served as the local administrative judge in Windsor from 2015 to 2023, when she was appointed Regional Senior Judge for the Southwest Region of the Superior Court. Justice Pomerance practiced law at the Crown Law Office – Criminal of Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General. Justice Pomerance served as Counsel to the Honourable Peter Cory on "The Collusion Inquiry", which investigated allegations of collusion by state agencies in six cases of paramilitary murder in the Republic of Ireland.



Retirement of the Honourable George R. Strathy, Chief Justice of Ontario from 2014 – 2022

The Honourable George R. Strathy retired as Chief Justice of Ontario on August 31, 2022, just prior to the years covered by this report. The former Chief Justice was appointed to the Court of Appeal on April 25, 2013, and appointed Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal on June 13, 2014. Prior to serving as an appellate judge, he served as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice for five years, including three years as a member of Toronto’s class action team. As Chief Justice, he actively promoted the modernization of court technology, stewarding the transformation of the Court of Appeal to paperless operation during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic and managing the acquisition and launch of the Court of Appeal’s state-of-the-art digital case management system, which later became a model for digital transformation in Ontario’s trial courts. He was a Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Judicial Council and Chair of a committee to promote effective case management of civil, family and criminal proceedings. He actively supported equity and diversity in the Bar and Bench and was an outspoken advocate for mental health and wellness in the legal profession. Since his retirement from the bench, he has maintained an active arbitration practice.

Judicial Retirements in 2023 and 2024

In 2023 and 2024, the Court marked the retirements of the Honourable David H. Doherty, the Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman, the Honourable Alexandra Hoy, the Honourable Gladys I. Pardu, the Honourable Mary Lou Benotto, and the Honourable David M. Brown.

The Honourable David H. Doherty

Justice David Doherty retired in March 2024 after more than 33 years on the Court of Appeal. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal, he was a judge of the High Court of Justice, a criminal lawyer at the Crown Law Office – Criminal, and a litigator at McCarthys. Justice Doherty wrote judgments in virtually all areas of the law and received the G. Arthur Martin Medal in 2019 for his contributions to the criminal law. The retiring room behind Courtroom 10, where the Court traditionally hears criminal appeals, has been renamed the Martin-Doherty Room in honour of Justice Doherty’s outstanding contributions to the law.

The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman

The Court marked the retirement of Justice Feldman in December 2023. Justice Feldman was appointed as a Justice of the Superior Court on December 24, 1990, and sat on the Commercial List as well as on criminal and civil matters. She was appointed to the Court of Appeal for Ontario on June 11, 1998. She heard appeals and wrote decisions in all areas of the law. In addition to writing judgments in diverse areas of the law, Justice Feldman was the Chair of the Civil Rules Committee (2019–2023), Chair of the Court of Appeal Bench and Bar Equity and Diversity Committee (2021–2023), Chair of the Inmate Appeal Committee (2015–2016), and Chair of the Law Clerks Committee (2013/2014 clerkship year – 2017/2018 clerkship year). In January 2001, Justice Feldman became the first recipient of the Canadian Superior Court Judges Association President’s Award. In 2015, she was one of 50 women featured in the book *Leading the Way: Canadian Women in the Law* by Julie Soloway and Emma Costante (Lexis-Nexis, 2015). In 2016, she was named by University College as an Alumna of Influence. In June 2023, Justice Feldman was awarded an Honourary Doctor of Laws by the Law Society of Ontario.

The Honourable Alexandra Hoy

Justice Alexandra Hoy was appointed to the Court of Appeal on December 1, 2011, and served as Associate Chief Justice of Ontario for seven years, from 2013 to 2020. She continued to sit as a judge of the Court of Appeal until her retirement in 2023. As Associate Chief Justice, she chaired the Civil Rules Committee and was a member of the Canadian Judicial Council. Prior to her appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice Hoy was a Superior Court judge for nearly ten years. On the Superior Court of Justice, she presided in all areas of the Superior Court’s operations, including terms on the Superior Court’s Commercial List, Divisional Court, and Class Action Team.

The Honourable Gladys I. Pardu

Justice Pardu retired from the Court in November 2023 after serving thirty-two years as a judge, including ten years on the Court of Appeal. She was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice (General Division) in 1991 and the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 2013. During Justice Pardu’s judicial career, she presided in every judicial region in Ontario. Prior to her appointment to the Bench, Justice Pardu practised in Sault Ste. Marie.

The Honourable Mary Lou Benotto

Justice Benotto retired from the Court of Appeal in 2024, after serving on the Court since her appointment in 2013. Before her appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice Benotto was a trial judge for 18 years and a partner at Chappell, Bushell, Stewart. Justice Benotto was the longest serving chair of the Court of Appeal’s Family Rules Committee. The Mary Lou Benotto Award for Excellence in Family Law was established to recognize Justice Benotto’s legacy and extraordinary contributions in family law.

The Honourable David M. Brown

Justice David Brown retired in December 2024 after sitting for ten years as a judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. While on the Court of Appeal, Justice Brown served on the Court's Technology Committee and was an active participant in legal education, frequently speaking on topics related to technology and civil justice reform. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in December 2014, after having sat as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice in the Toronto Region since 2006, where he served as the lead judge on the Estates List for two years, as well as several years on the Commercial List. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal, he was the President of the Ontario Superior Court Judges' Association.



In Memoriam

In 2023 and 2024, four former judges of the Court of Appeal passed away: the Honourable R. Roy McMurtry, the Honourable Coulter A. Osbourne, the Honourable Horace Krever, and the Honourable Hilda M. McKinlay.

The Court also honours below the Honourable Marc Rosenberg, who passed away in 2015. In 2023, the Court recognized Justice Rosenberg's contribution to the Court by creating the Court of Appeal for Ontario Rosenberg Mentorship Moot. The first such moot was held in January 2023.

The Honourable R. Roy McMurtry (1932–2024)

On March 18, 2024, the Honourable R. Roy McMurtry, the former Chief Justice of Ontario, died at the age of 91. Former Chief Justice McMurtry was first appointed to the Bench in 1991, serving as Associate Chief Justice and then Chief Justice of the Ontario Court.¹ In 1996, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal, where he served as Chief Justice of Ontario for 11 years.

Former Chief Justice McMurtry's vision helped shape the province and country we live in today. A trial lawyer for more than 15 years, he was elected to the Ontario Legislature in 1975 and immediately appointed Attorney General of Ontario, a position he held for 10 years. During that time, he played a central and influential role in negotiating the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and patriating Canada's Constitution. He also oversaw many reforms in the justice system, including the introduction of official bilingualism in the courts. Prior to his judicial service, his public service shifted from Queen's Park to the global stage as High Commissioner of Canada to the United Kingdom from 1985 to 1988.

¹As a result of legislative amendments that came into force in 1999, these positions are now referred to as the Associate Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice and the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, respectively.

The Honourable Coulter A. Osborne (1934–2023)

On April 19, 2023, the Honourable Coulter A. Osborne, the former Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, died at the age of 88. The former Associate Chief Justice practiced law in Kitchener until 1978, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario. In 1990, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal, serving as Associate Chief Justice from 1999 until his retirement from the Bench in 2001. After retiring from the Bench, he served as the Integrity Commissioner for the Province of Ontario until 2007. In 2006 and 2007, he conducted an inquiry into Ontario's civil justice system for Ontario's Attorney General, which led to changes to the province's *Rules of Civil Procedure*. Later, he worked for many years as a mediator and an arbitrator.

The Honourable Horace Krever (1929–2023)

On April 30, 2023, the Honourable Horace Krever, a former judge of the Court of Appeal, died at the age of 94. Justice Krever was called to the Bar in 1956 and practiced litigation until 1964, when he became a professor of law at the University of Western Ontario and then at the University of Toronto. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1975 and to the Court of Appeal in 1986. Justice Krever chaired two important public inquiries into the Canadian blood system and the confidentiality of health information.

The Honourable Hilda M. McKinlay (1927–2023)

On December 27, 2023, the Honourable Hilda M. McKinlay, a former judge of the Court of Appeal, died at the age of 96. Justice McKinlay was an assistant professor and then associate professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law from 1969 to 1973. She went on to become a partner at Fasken and Calvin and then Fraser Beaty until 1983, when she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Ontario. She was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 1987 and served on the Court for 12 years until her retirement. After her retirement, she continued working in alternative dispute resolution.

The Honourable Marc Rosenberg (1950–2015)

On August 27, 2015, the Honourable Marc Rosenberg, a former judge of the Court of Appeal, died at the age of 65. Justice Rosenberg practiced criminal law with the firm of Greenspan, Rosenberg and Buhr until 1995 when he joined the Ministry of the Attorney General as an Assistant Deputy Attorney General. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in December 1995, where he served for almost two decades. Among his many contributions to criminal law, Justice Rosenberg was instrumental in establishing the Inmate Appeal Program and was an editor of *Martin's Criminal Code*.

Staff of the Court of Appeal

The Court relies on a team of nearly 100 public servants to ensure smooth, accessible, and transparent court operations. These staff members facilitate case processing, assist judges, and support the public.

Staff Teams

Staff teams at the Court include:

- Intake staff who help individuals file legal materials and navigate court procedures;
- Scheduling staff who arrange hearing dates;
- Records staff who prepare materials for judges and the public;
- Staff lawyers and law clerks who conduct legal research;
- Court registrars and ushers who ensure courtrooms run efficiently; and
- Judicial assistants who provide administrative support to the judiciary.

Additional staff manage library resources, IT infrastructure, budgeting, and security.

Each member of the staff plays an important role in ensuring that the Court operates effectively.



Law Clerk Program

Each year, the Court hires outstanding recent law graduates to serve as law clerks for a one-year term. Clerks work closely with judges, rotating between different judges midway through their term. Their responsibilities include legal research, drafting memos, and assisting with publications and special projects.

The Court's law clerk program enhances the clerks' legal skills and their understanding of appellate advocacy. Clerks also participate in a robust educational program featuring seminars and discussions with judges and lawyers. For those who have not yet completed articling, the clerkship fulfills this requirement.

In 2023 and 2024, the law clerk program was overseen by the Honourable Katherine M. van Rensburg, the Honourable Lois B. Roberts, the Honourable David M. Paciocco, and the Honourable Steve A. Coroza.

Law clerks often go on to become leaders in the profession – in government, academia and private practice in Canada and abroad. Several alumni of the program have served on the Bench, including the Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman, formerly of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, the Honourable Lene Madsen of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and the Honourable Andromache Karakatsanis of the Supreme Court of Canada.



Court of Appeal Law Clerks, 2022–2023



Court Projects

Court Projects

Digital Transformation

In 2023 and 2024, the Court prioritized modernizing its digital infrastructure to provide prompt access to justice for Ontarians and to operate more efficiently and transparently.

Expanding Electronic Filing

The Court continues to update its filing practices and more fully embrace electronic filing.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court began allowing parties to appear remotely and to file materials electronically in some circumstances. This experience enabled the Court to quickly transform its filing practices in response to changing public health conditions.

When the pandemic began, the Court transitioned to receiving all materials electronically, moving from a primarily paper-based process to a fully digital one in a matter of months. The Court continues to use this fully digital filing process.

Electronic filing increases access to justice by saving parties the time and expense of preparing and delivering hard copy materials. It also streamlines Court operations and enhances access and convenience for litigants across Ontario.

Modernizing Case Management

The Court has also transformed its case management system. In 2022, in partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Court replaced its 30-year-old legacy database with a new digital case management system, C-Track.

C-Track is a customized, off-the-shelf court case management system. It was designed by Thomson Reuters and customized for use by the Court of Appeal, the first Canadian court to use this product. It is a single digital solution that tracks cases from start to finish. It has streamlined workflow across all departments, including case management, records management, and scheduling, which enables the Court to function more efficiently, facilitating professional and diligent management of each case.

The Court is continuing to upgrade its case management system. In 2026, in partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General and Thomson Reuters, the Court will launch a new public portal, which will improve electronic filing and fee payment. This will allow litigants, lawyers, and the public to interact with the Court more seamlessly online.

Making Judicial Decisions More Accessible Online

The Court is making it easier for people to access its decisions. At the end of 2022, the Court of Appeal launched a new online decision database of its decisions from 1998 to the present.

The new database enables visitors to the Court’s website to quickly find decisions and information about legal topics by searching by keyword(s), date, case name, or case citation.

The database improves access to justice by allowing lawyers and self-represented litigants to quickly find decisions and stay on top of legal developments. It also enhances transparency for journalists, researchers, and the public, making the Court’s work more visible.



Access to Justice and Accessibility

The Court is enhancing its accessibility and improving its ability to provide prompt access to justice.

Enabling Remote and In-Person Access to Justice

Before the pandemic, all appeals and nearly all motions were heard by judges in person. When the pandemic began, the Court adapted to public health restrictions by pivoting to virtual hearings. By Fall 2020, the Court was able to hear all cases remotely by video conference. This rapid transformation enabled Ontarians to access justice despite changing public health conditions, prevented delay, and reduced travel time and expenses for many people.

The Court returned to hearing appeals in person in April 2022 and lifted courtroom capacity limits in May 2023 to allow members of the public and the media to attend hearings in person at Osgoode Hall.

The Court has retained many of the technological and procedural innovations it adopted during the pandemic. For instance, parties may appear remotely if they choose, and members of the public and the media are able to view hearings online. Motions before a single judge continue to be heard remotely (unless otherwise directed), which improves access to justice for parties across Ontario.

The Court is committed to improving the quality of remote and hybrid hearings for all participants. To achieve this goal, and in collaboration with the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Court is adding camera and control systems to all courtrooms that will improve video and audio quality for remote attendees. Once installation is complete, these state-of-the-art systems will enhance remote attendees' ability to participate.

Building Accessible Courtrooms

The Court is committed to ensuring that it is accessible to everyone.

In 2023, the Court renovated courtroom 8 to remove barriers and make the courtroom more accessible. Renovations included:

- making the dais, counsel tables, and court staff stations wheelchair accessible and height adjustable;
- adding large-screen, adjustable-resolution monitors at all tables and stations; and
- creating a sound system that helps to accommodate deaf, hard of hearing, blind, and low vision court users, by incorporating directional sound amplification.

The renovations permit judges, court staff, counsel, parties, and members of the public and the media to better experience and participate in court proceedings with the benefit of the latest accessibility technology and facilities. These upgrades showcase the Court's and the Ministry of the Attorney General's commitment to ensuring that all Ontarians can fully participate in and observe the administration of justice.





Strengthening the Inmate Appeal Program

Resolving criminal appeals promptly, efficiently, and fairly is integral to the work of the Court. Achieving this goal can be challenging when appellants are in custody and do not have access to a lawyer.

The Court's Inmate Appeal Program meets this challenge by helping self-represented appellants who are in custody to navigate appeals from filing to completion. The Program is built on successful collaboration between judges, Court staff, Crown counsel, defence counsel who volunteer their time, and correctional staff. Through this concerted effort across the justice system, the Program assisted with 283 inmate appeals filed in 2023 and 235 inmate appeals filed in 2024.

The Program helps appellants apply for Legal Aid funding. Appellants who are successful in obtaining Legal Aid are transitioned from the Program and begin receiving the services of their new lawyer.

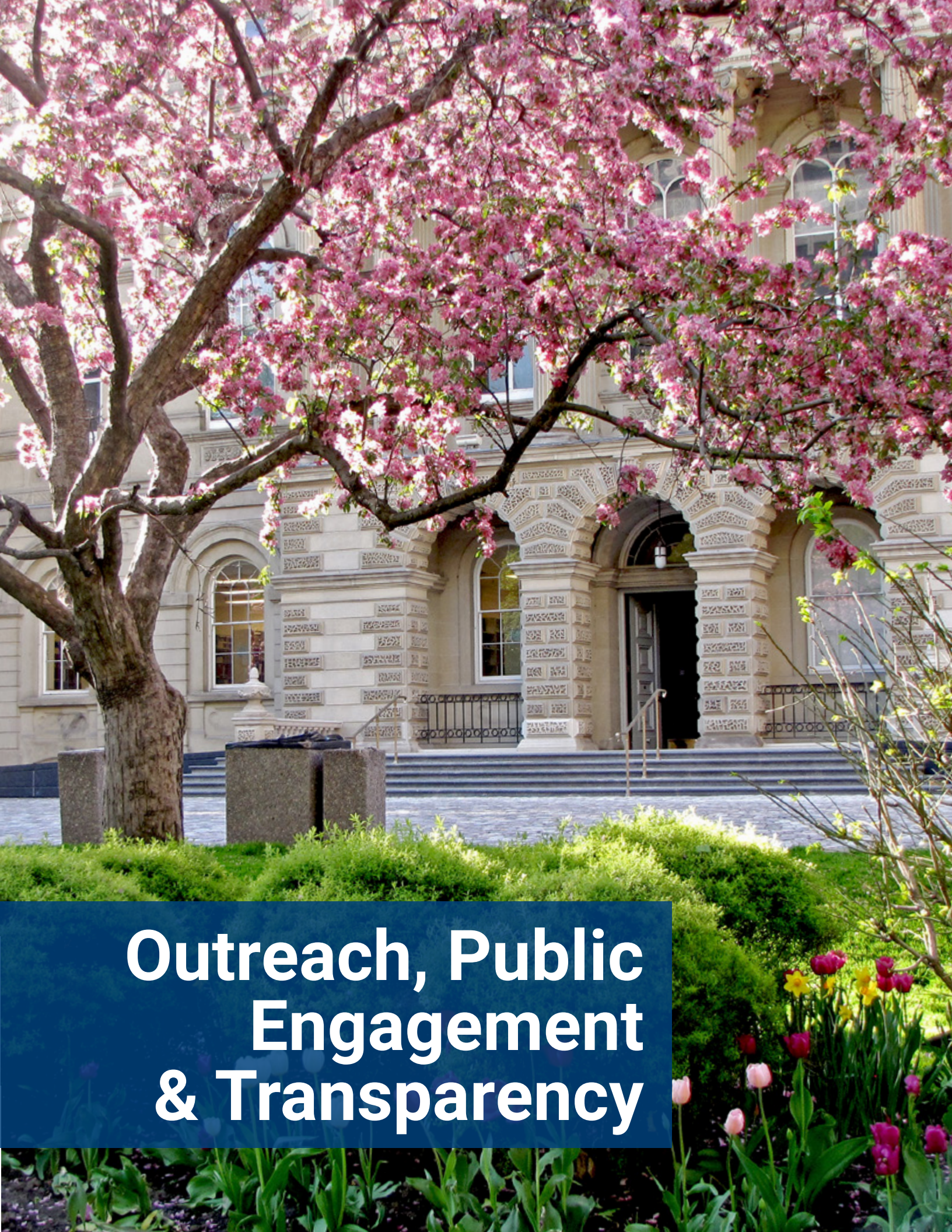
Appellants who do not receive Legal Aid may still access the Program. Crown counsel gather the necessary court records, while volunteer defence counsel advise them and, if agreed, argue the appeals. Once appeals are ready for argument, the Court hears them in Toronto at the Court of Appeal or at the courthouse in Kingston, which is close to several penitentiaries. Court staff coordinate with correctional staff so that appellants can attend these appeals in person.

The Court is intent on continually improving the Inmate Appeal Program's efficiency and ability to provide prompt access to justice. In support of this goal, the Program formally meets at least once a year to review what is working, what is not working, and what could be improved. Various members of the Program also meet informally many times throughout the year to brainstorm and problem-solve together.

The Honourable Gary T. Trotter chaired the Program from 2021 through 2023. In January 2024, the Honourable David M. Paciocco became the Program Chair.

The Program highlights the Court's commitment to ensuring equal justice for all. By providing structured support to self-represented appellants, the Program helps safeguard fairness and supports prompt access to the Court.





Outreach, Public Engagement & Transparency

Outreach, Public Engagement & Transparency

The Court is a public institution that serves people from all parts of Ontario and beyond. Engaging with people across the province and ensuring public transparency is a priority for the Court. Through outreach, education, and open events, the Court works to enhance public understanding of its role and strengthen confidence in the justice system and the rule of law.

Opening of the Courts

Every year, the Opening of the Courts ceremony brings together judges, lawyers, government leaders, court staff, law enforcement, justice system officials, and members of the public to reaffirm their shared commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring access to justice.

On September 28, 2023, the Court of Appeal for Ontario, the Superior Court of Justice, and the Ontario Court of Justice celebrated the annual Opening of the Courts of Ontario. For the first time following his appointment, the ceremony was presided over by the Honourable Michael H. Tulloch, who was appointed as Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal on December 15, 2022.

Chief Justice Tulloch told those gathered that “[t]oday, we must work together and commit ourselves to three guiding principles. Our justice system must be responsive, accessible, and reflective of our society.”

He encouraged everyone to “never lose sight of the fact that we serve the people of Ontario [and] that each case that comes before our courts involves real people.”

He called on those present to recommit themselves “to that most noble task of preserving and enhancing our justice system for all.”



On September 23, 2024, Chief Justice Tulloch again presided over the Opening of the Courts ceremony. He encouraged those present to “come together to reaffirm our commitment to a strong and independent judiciary; to redouble our promise to enrich and enhance public confidence in the administration of justice; and to reassert our pledge to uphold the rule of law for the people of Ontario.”

Chief Justice Tulloch further emphasized that “[w]e gather together alongside the Attorneys General, members of the Bar, and the public to underscore the openness of the courts and to emphasize that these courts do not belong to us. We are their stewards, with a duty to serve the public. First and foremost, we are a people-centred court.”

Both ceremonies also included remarks by the Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, and the Honourable Sharon Nicklas, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice. Remarks were also delivered by the invited guests (or their designates), including the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Attorney General of Ontario, and the Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario.

Every year, the ceremony concludes with the presentation of the annual Catzman Award for Professionalism and Civility. Established in 2008 by the Catzman family, The Advocates’ Society, and the Chief Justice of Ontario’s Advisory Committee on Professionalism, this award memorializes the late Honourable Marvin Catzman, whose distinguished career spanned the roles of advocate, trial judge, and appellate judge. It recognizes individuals who have exemplified the qualities of professionalism and civility in the practice of law. The 2023 recipient was Nader R. Hasan, a partner at Stockwoods LLP. The recipient in 2024 was Imran Kamal, counsel at the Ministry of the Attorney General, Crown Law Office—Civil.

Reaching Out to Communities in Ontario

While the Court sits primarily in Toronto, it is the appeal court for the entire province. To foster province-wide awareness, the Court has recommenced outreach visits to engage with judges, lawyers, legal educators, law students, and communities throughout Ontario. These initiatives enhance collaboration, allow for the exchange of ideas, help the Court learn about local needs, and increase transparency and public confidence in the Court.

The Court renewed its outreach program by visiting Windsor for three days in October 2023. The Court engaged with local judges of the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Justice, as well as local lawyers. These dialogues allowed the Court to learn about the community's experiences and needs, increased understanding of the Court's work, and identified opportunities for collaboration.

The Court also engaged with professors and law students at the University of Windsor, visiting the newly renovated Windsor Law School Building. Judges spoke with law students and shared their knowledge and experience. Chief Justice Tulloch told those assembled that “[a]s Chief Justice of Ontario, one of my goals is to connect with and learn from the many diverse communities across our province. That is why I am invested in outreach events that allow our judges to engage with legal communities across the province.”

In Fall 2024, the Court travelled to Ottawa to meet with judges from the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Justice in the East Region. The Court also engaged with the Ottawa legal community and with law students and faculty from the University of Ottawa.

At the University of Ottawa, Chief Justice Tulloch reflected on the law school's important contributions to the justice system. He encouraged law professors and students to continue making a meaningful impact by bridging the gap between law and technology and addressing emerging challenges in public law - two areas where the University excels.

Speaking to the local Bar, Chief Justice Tulloch celebrated the City's rich mix of national law firm offices, regional firms, public law and appellate specialists, and federal government lawyers. He emphasized the importance of understanding the unique needs of eastern Ontario, including its large Francophone population.

These outreach visits demonstrate the Court's commitment to engaging in dialogue and building relationships across Ontario that make the justice system more responsive to regional diversity and local needs.



Engaging with Young People

The Court has prioritized outreach to students and young lawyers from communities across the province. These activities provide valuable opportunities for young people to experience the Court's work and engage directly with judges.

Through the course of 2023 and 2024, the Court welcomed many young people for in-person visits in Toronto and Kingston. In Toronto, the Court hosted post-secondary students from the Black Future Lawyers program, who toured the Court, watched an appeal hearing, and engaged in dialogue with one of the Court's judges. The Court also welcomed young lawyers and law students from the Filipino Canadian Lawyers Network for a mentorship session. In Kingston, the Court invited law students from Queen's University to attend hearings of inmate appeals and to meet the judges for an informal discussion. These in-person engagements strengthen the bonds between the Court and the next generation of lawyers and allow students to witness justice in action.

Continuing a long tradition, the Court also opened its doors to students seeking to hone their legal and advocacy skills through mooting. Moot court competitions allow students to argue legal issues before panels of judges and more experienced lawyers, who provide guidance and feedback on how to argue cases effectively.

In 2023 and 2024, the Court hosted three moots for law students: (1) the Julius Alexander Isaac Moot on equality issues; (2) the Frank W. Callaghan Moot on criminal or constitutional law; and (3) the Cassels Brock Cup Moot on criminal law for first-year law students. As well, the Court partnered with the Ontario Justice Education Network to welcome high school students for a mooting competition and a fireside chat with the Chief Justice, who shared insights about his journey to law school and becoming a lawyer.

Finally, in January 2023, the Court hosted the first-ever Court of Appeal for Ontario Rosenberg Mentorship Moot. The Court plans to host this moot every two years. This moot is inspired by and named after the late Honourable Marc Rosenberg, a judge of the Court from 1995 to 2015. The moot is uniquely focused on supporting the development of junior counsel. It offers the newest members of the legal profession a warm, welcoming, and inclusive opportunity to practice criminal appellate advocacy before judges of the Court of Appeal, along with special guest judges from the Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice. The Rosenberg Mentorship Moot not only fosters friendship and collegiality between junior and senior counsel, and between Crown and defence colleagues, but also stands as a shining example of the Bench and Bar at its finest – a fitting tribute to Justice Rosenberg's enduring commitment to kindness, mentorship, and education.



Opening the Court's Doors to the Public

Welcoming people into its space is one of the ways that the Court engages with communities and promotes transparency. On May 27–28, 2023, and May 25–26, 2024, the Court participated in Doors Open Toronto, a free citywide annual event that allows the public to explore local buildings of architectural, cultural, historical, or civic significance.

Doors Open Toronto offers the public an unparalleled opportunity to explore the Court's home, Osgoode Hall. Located at the corner of Queen Street and University Avenue near Toronto's downtown business district, this National Historic Site of Canada is one of the oldest buildings in Toronto and features a historic front façade with limestone columns that were completed more than 150 years ago. The Law Society of Ontario sponsored and organized the Osgoode Hall Doors Open event, which resumed in 2023 after being suspended during the pandemic.

In each of 2023 and 2024, more than 13,000 people visited Osgoode Hall. Visitors experienced one of Canada's most historically and architecturally significant court-houses and gained a better appreciation of the Court and the justice system.

By participating In Doors Open, the Court, in partnership with the Law Society of Ontario, enhances awareness and understanding of the courts and the legal profession.





Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead

December 2024 marked the end of the first two years of the Honourable Michael H. Tulloch's tenure as Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal. During these two years, the Court has implemented meaningful improvements, from the continued modernization of its case management system to the renewal of its outreach program. Looking ahead to 2025 and 2026, the Court will continue to build on these accomplishments in its ongoing pursuit of excellence in justice.

Future priorities include:

- **Annual Reporting:** The Court will publish annual reports to provide more timely updates and enhance transparency.
- **Technology and Innovation:** The Court will complete its new public portal project, expand electronic filing, and continue to invest in digital tools that make the Court more accessible and efficient.
- **Access to Justice:** The Court will continue to reduce geographic and financial barriers, ensure accessibility for all, and provide structured support to self-represented litigants through the Inmate Appeal Program.
- **Engagement and Outreach:** The Court will deepen its outreach commitment to communities across Ontario to foster greater public understanding of and trust in the justice system.

By pursuing these goals, the Court seeks to continue to adapt to a changing society, and reaffirm its commitment to principles of impartial justice, independence, and service to the people of Ontario.

The image shows a grand, ornate courtroom. A large, multi-tiered chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The walls are decorated with intricate moldings and a central medallion depicting a seated figure. In the foreground, rows of wooden benches with green cushions are visible. In the background, a judge's bench is elevated on a platform, featuring a wooden desk and a chair. The overall atmosphere is formal and historical.

Appendix A: Court Judicial Complement 2014–2024

Judicial Complement: 2014–2024

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch, Chief Justice of Ontario

Chief Justice of Ontario: December 15, 2022

Court of Appeal: June 30, 2012

The Honourable George R. Strathy, Chief Justice of Ontario

Retirement: August 31, 2022

Chief Justice of Ontario: June 13, 2014

Court of Appeal: April 25, 2013

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario

Associate Chief Justice of Ontario: September 2, 2020

Court of Appeal: July 14, 2017

The Honourable David H. Doherty

Retirement: March 9, 2024

Court of Appeal: September 1, 1990

The Honourable Karen M. Weiler

Retirement: September 1, 2017

Court of Appeal: March 12, 1992

The Honourable John I. Laskin

Retirement: March 19, 2018

Court of Appeal: January 27, 1994

The Honourable Marc Rosenberg

Died: August 27, 2015

Court of Appeal: December 12, 1995

The Honourable Stephen T. Goudge

Retirement: April 30, 2014

Court of Appeal: December 19, 1996

The Honourable Kathryn N. Feldman

Retirement: December 30, 2023

Court of Appeal: June 11, 1998

The Honourable Robert J. Sharpe

Retirement: February 28, 2020

Court of Appeal: May 25, 1999

The Honourable James C. MacPherson

Court of Appeal: May 25, 1999

The Honourable Janet M. Simmons

Court of Appeal: August 22, 2000

The Honourable Eleanore A. Cronk

Retirement: January 10, 2018

Court of Appeal: July 31, 2001

The Honourable Eileen E. Gillese

Court of Appeal: January 25, 2002

The Honourable Robert A. Blair

Retirement: October 27, 2017

Court of Appeal: November 5, 2003

The Honourable Russell G. Juriansz

Retirement: August 31, 2021

Court of Appeal: March 12, 2004

The Honourable Harry S. LaForme

Retirement: October 10, 2018

Court of Appeal: November 19, 2004

The Honourable Jean L. MacFarland

Retirement: October 10, 2018

Court of Appeal: November 19, 2004

The Honourable Paul S. Rouleau

Court of Appeal: April 14, 2005

The Honourable David Watt

Retirement: November 2, 2021

Court of Appeal: October 12, 2007

The Honourable Gloria J. Epstein

Retirement: September 1, 2018

Court of Appeal: December 13, 2007

The Honourable Alexandra Hoy

Retirement: October 1, 2023

Associate Chief Justice of Ontario: June 6, 2013–June 1, 2020

Court of Appeal: December 1, 2011

The Honourable Sarah E. Pepall

Court of Appeal: April 5, 2012

The Honourable Peter D. Lauwers

Court of Appeal: December 13, 2012

The Honourable Katherine M. van Rensburg

Court of Appeal: October 1, 2013

The Honourable C. William Hourigan

Court of Appeal: October 1, 2013

The Honourable Gladys I. Pardu

Retirement: September 30, 2023

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2013

The Honourable Mary Lou Benotto

Retirement: August 31, 2024

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2013

The Honourable David M. Brown

Retirement: December 31, 2024

Court of Appeal: December 11, 2014

The Honourable Grant Huscroft

Court of Appeal: December 11, 2014

The Honourable Lois B. Roberts

Court of Appeal: April 30, 2015

The Honourable Bradley W. Miller

Court of Appeal: June 19, 2015

The Honourable Gary T. Trotter

Court of Appeal: October 19, 2016

The Honourable David M. Paciocco

Court of Appeal: April 7, 2017

The Honourable Ian V. B. Nordheimer

Court of Appeal: September 14, 2017

The Honourable Alison Harvison Young

Court of Appeal: August 29, 2018

The Honourable Benjamin Zarnett

Court of Appeal: November 7, 2018

The Honourable Mahmud Jamal

Supreme Court of Canada: July 1, 2021

Court of Appeal: June 24, 2019

The Honourable Julie A. Thorburn

Court of Appeal: September 2, 2019

The Honourable Steve A. Coroza

Court of Appeal: April 3, 2020

The Honourable Lorne Sossin

Court of Appeal: November 24, 2020

The Honourable Jonathon C. George

Court of Appeal: December 17, 2021

The Honourable Lise G. Favreau

Court of Appeal: December 17, 2021

The Honourable Jill M. Copeland

Court of Appeal: March 25, 2022

The Honourable Patrick J. Monahan

Court of Appeal: May 11, 2023

The Honourable Sally Gomery

Court of Appeal: November 3, 2023

The Honourable Jonathan A. Dawe

Court of Appeal: November 3, 2023

The Honourable Darla A. Wilson

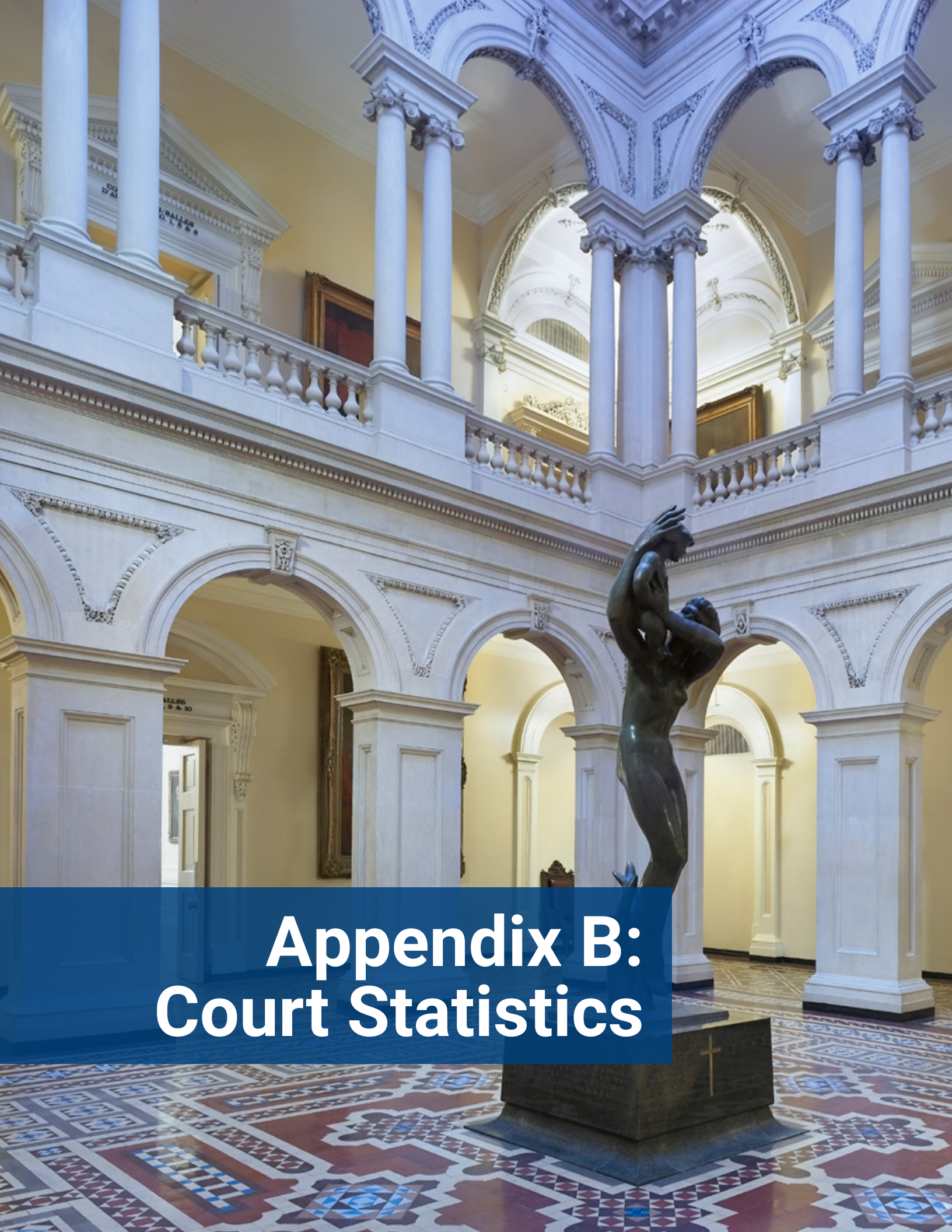
Court of Appeal: April 30, 2024

The Honourable Lene Madsen

Court of Appeal: April 30, 2024

The Honourable Renee M. Pomerance

Court of Appeal: July 19, 2024



Appendix B: Court Statistics

Court Statistics 2014–2024

This Report includes statistics on Court activity for the 2014-2024 timeframe.² This extended timeframe allows readers to review the 2023 and 2024 statistics in historical context. The publication of these statistics underscores the Court's commitment to enhancing openness and public awareness of Court activities.

This section summarizes the statistics and presents them visually in charts. The next section, beginning on page 71, provides tables containing the raw data used to generate these charts.³

²In 2022, the Court transitioned its case management and records to a new platform. The migration to the new platform resulted in data anomalies that required manual correction through the review of individual case files. The statistics discussed in this section represent the Court's best available data at the time of publication. Any discrepancies identified after publication will be addressed in future reports.

³For statistical purposes, Court of Appeal cases are generally categorized into either civil or criminal appeals. Criminal appeals can be further subdivided into criminal appeals (excluding inmate appeals) and inmate appeals. Inmate appeals are criminal matters in which sentenced inmates, who are in custody, file an appeal without representation by legal counsel. Administrative law cases are included in the civil category and provincial offences matters are included in the criminal category. Unless otherwise indicated, civil appeals include family law appeals.

Statistical Charts

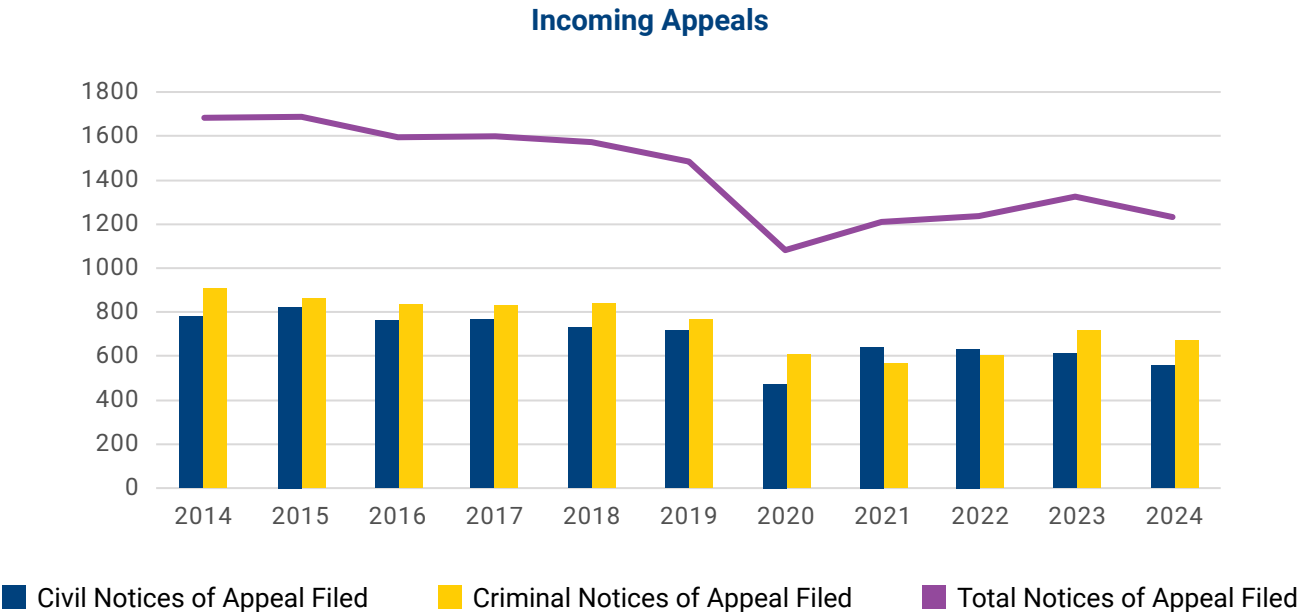
Incoming Caseload

The Court tracks its incoming caseload by measuring how many appeals and motions are filed each year.

Appeals

Number of Appeals Filed

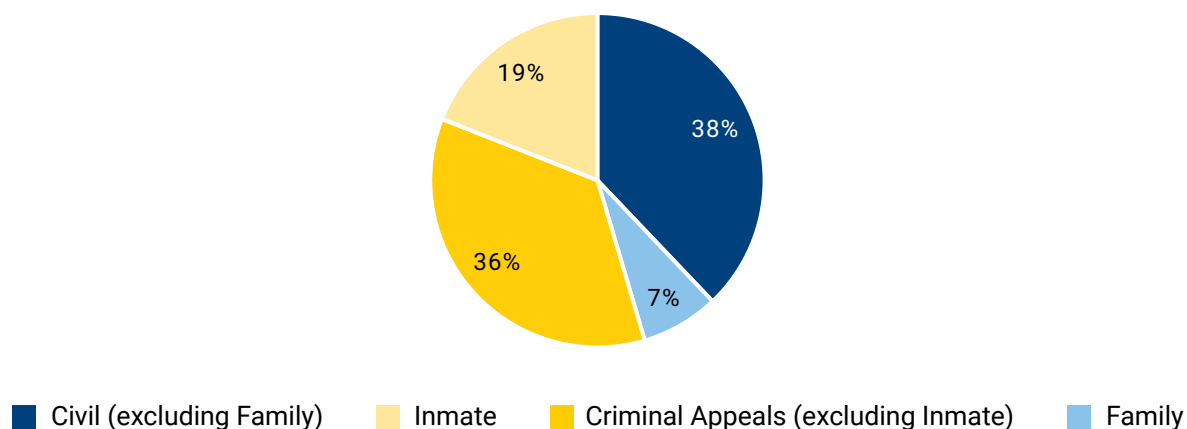
The chart below shows the number of appeals filed by year. The number of appeals filed declined in 2020 as a result of the onset of the pandemic. It has increased in subsequent years but has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. In 2024, 1,232 appeals were filed.



Subject Matter of Incoming Appeals

The Court typically receives more criminal appeals than civil appeals. In 2024, 55% of incoming appeals were criminal and 45% were civil. The chart and table below provide more detailed information on the subject matter of incoming appeals in 2024 and previous years. Family law appeals represent a relatively small proportion of the Court’s caseload, although there was an increase in incoming family law appeals in 2024.

2024: Subject Matter of Incoming Appeals



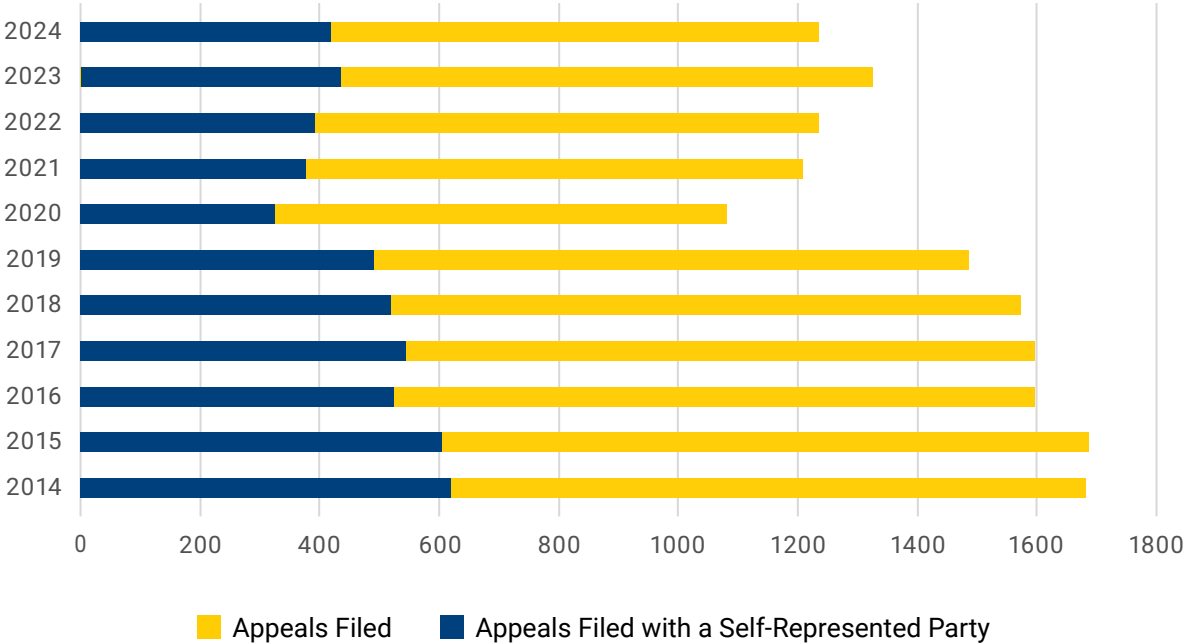
Subject Matter of Incoming Appeals: Percentages of Total Appeals Filed

Year	Civil (Excluding Family)	Family	All Civil	Criminal (Excluding Inmates)	Inmate	All Criminal
2014	42%	5%	47%	32%	21%	53%
2015	45%	4%	49%	29%	22%	51%
2016	43%	5%	48%	32%	20%	52%
2017	43%	5%	48%	32%	20%	52%
2018	42%	5%	47%	32%	21%	53%
2019	43%	5%	48%	32%	20%	52%
2020	40%	4%	44%	37%	19%	56%
2021	49%	4%	53%	31%	16%	47%
2022	47%	4%	51%	29%	20%	49%
2023	41%	5%	46%	33%	21%	54%
2024	38%	7%	45%	36%	19%	55%

Incoming Appeals with Self-Represented Litigants

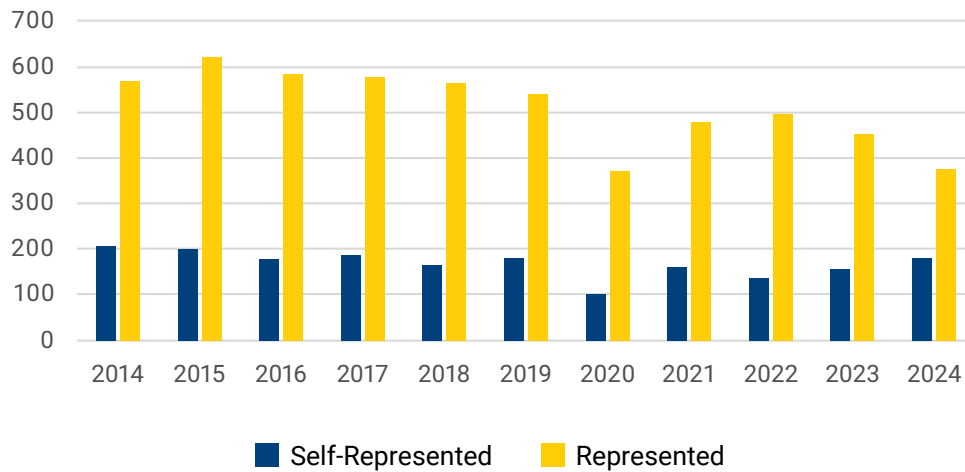
Many incoming appeals involve self-represented litigants. In 2024, 419 incoming appeals involved a self-represented litigant – approximately 34% of the Court’s total incoming caseload. Looking at civil and criminal appeals together, the chart below depicts the number of appeals involving a self-represented litigant compared to the total number of appeals filed.

Civil and Criminal Appeals: Number of Appeals Filed with a Self-Represented Party



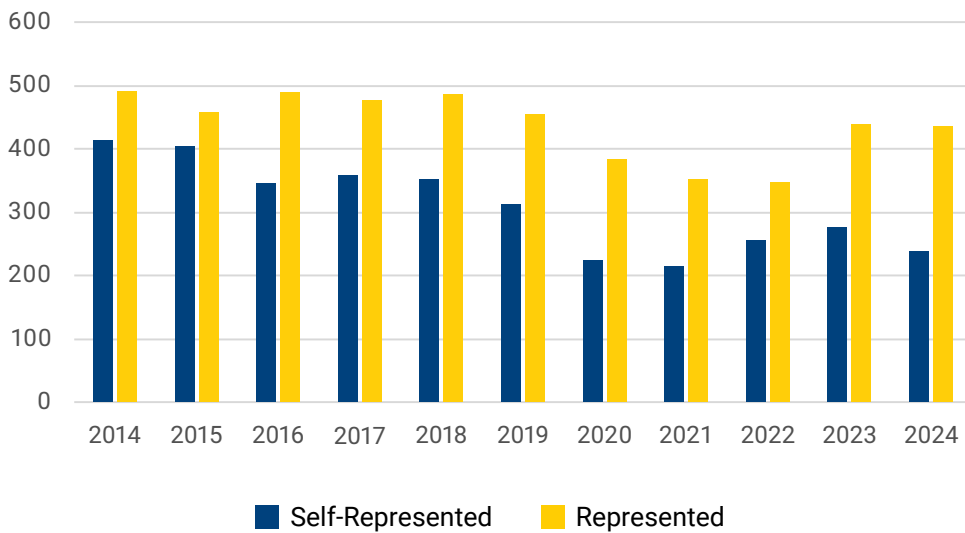
In 2024, approximately 32% of civil appeals (including family law appeals) involved a self-represented litigant. Focusing just on these appeals, the chart below compares the number commenced with self-represented parties with those commenced with represented parties only.

Civil Appeals Commenced with Self-Represented or Represented Parties



The chart below depicts the same comparison but for criminal appeals. In 2024, approximately 35% of all incoming criminal appeals involved a self-represented litigant. Most of these appeals were inmate appeals.

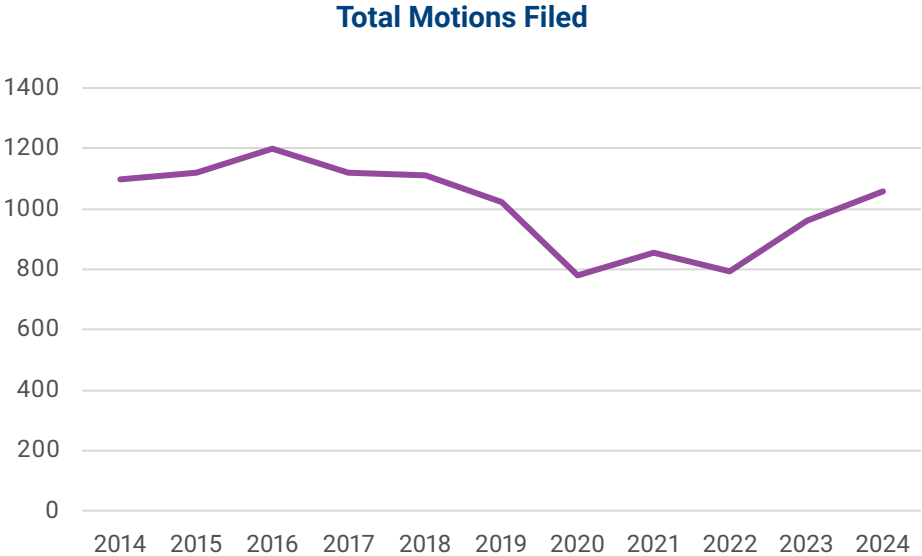
Criminal Appeals Commenced with Self-Represented or Represented Parties



Motions

Number of Motions Filed

The number of motions filed declined during the pandemic. In 2024, the number returned to its pre-pandemic level. In 2024, 1,058 motions were filed – slightly more than in 2019, the last pre-pandemic year.

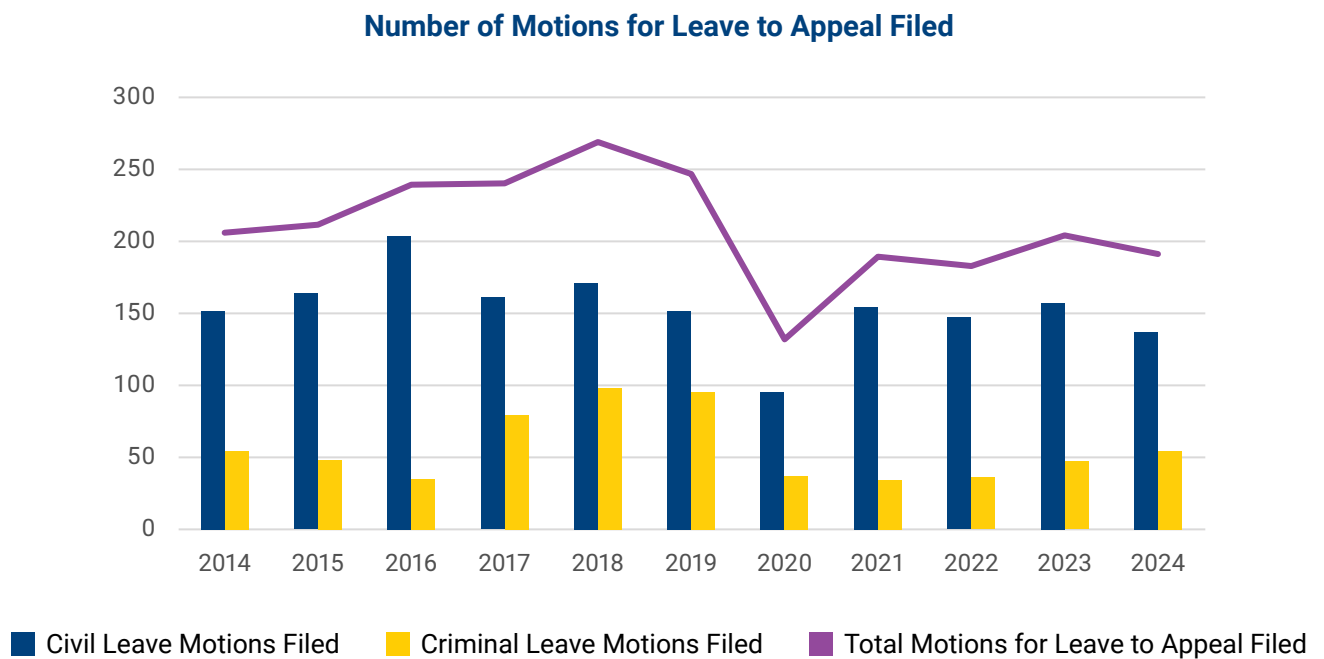


Types of Motions

The Court hears several different types of motions.

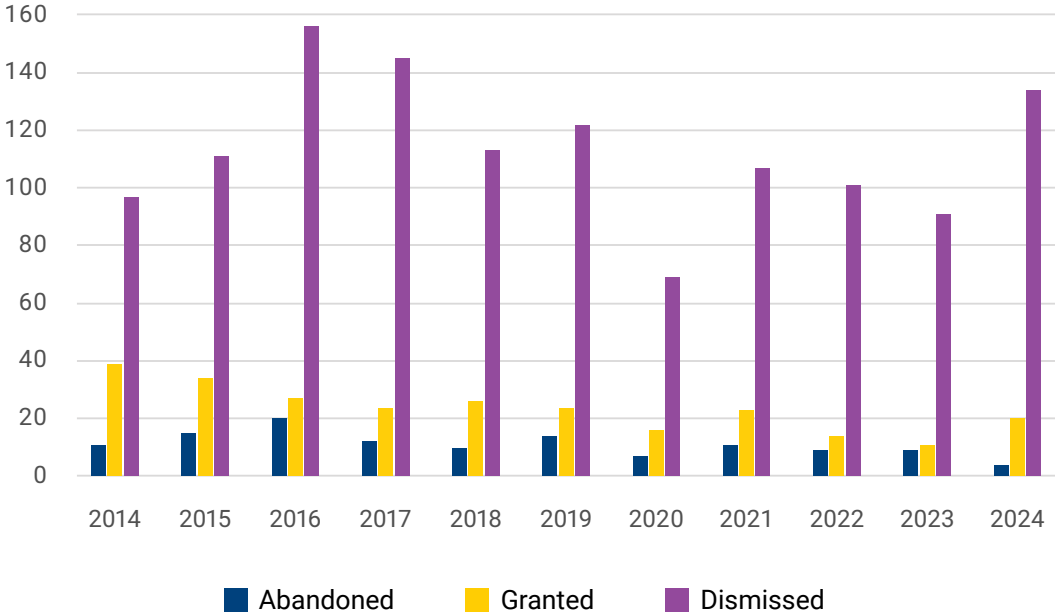
Leave to Appeal Motions

Some motions, referred to as “leave to appeal” motions, request the Court’s permission to appeal cases, which is required by law for some types of appeals. The chart below depicts the number of these motions filed by year.

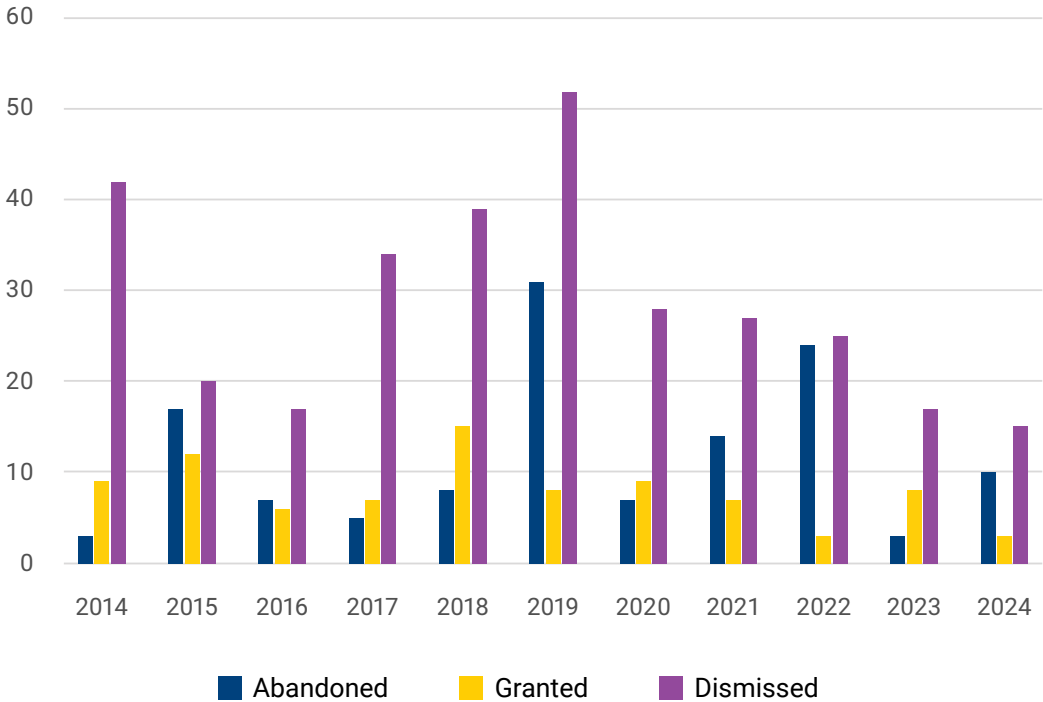


A motion for leave to appeal may be granted, dismissed, or abandoned. The charts below set out how many leave to appeal motions were granted, dismissed, or abandoned each year.

Dispositions of Motions for Leave to Appeal: Civil



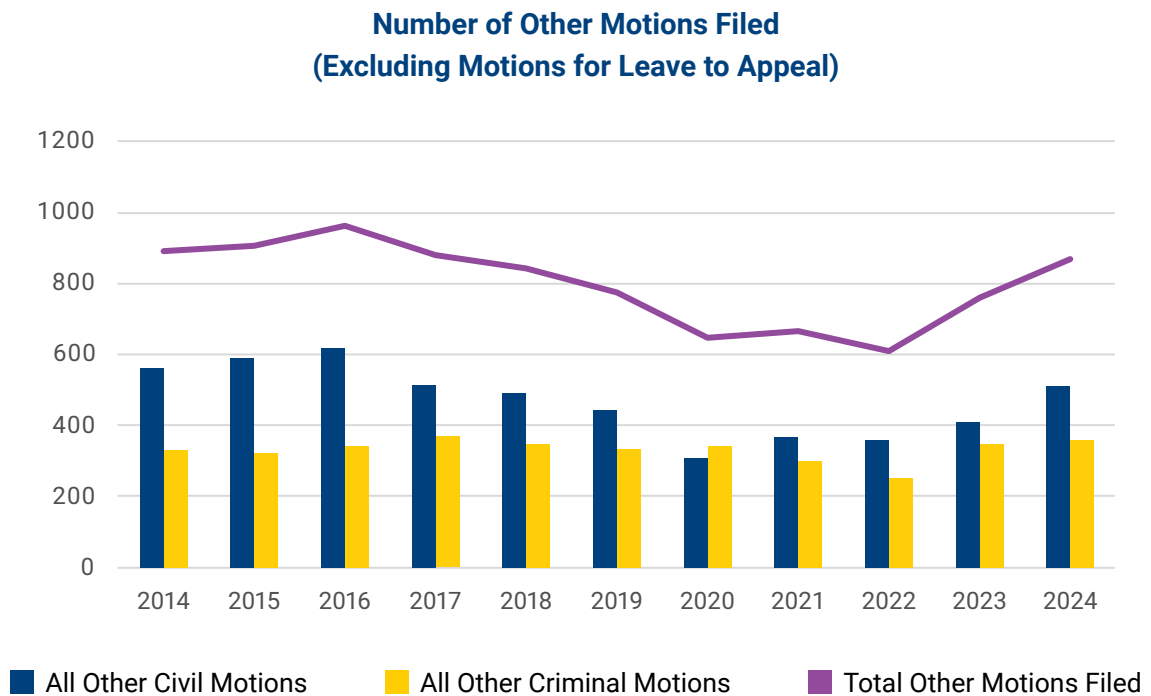
Dispositions of Motions for Leave to Appeal: Criminal



Other Motions

Many other types of motions are filed in the Court. These include motions for release from custody pending a criminal appeal, motions to stay pending appeal, motions for fresh evidence, motions for permission to intervene, and motions for extensions of time.

The Court categorizes these as “other motions”. The chart below depicts the number of other motions filed each year by appeal type – civil or criminal.

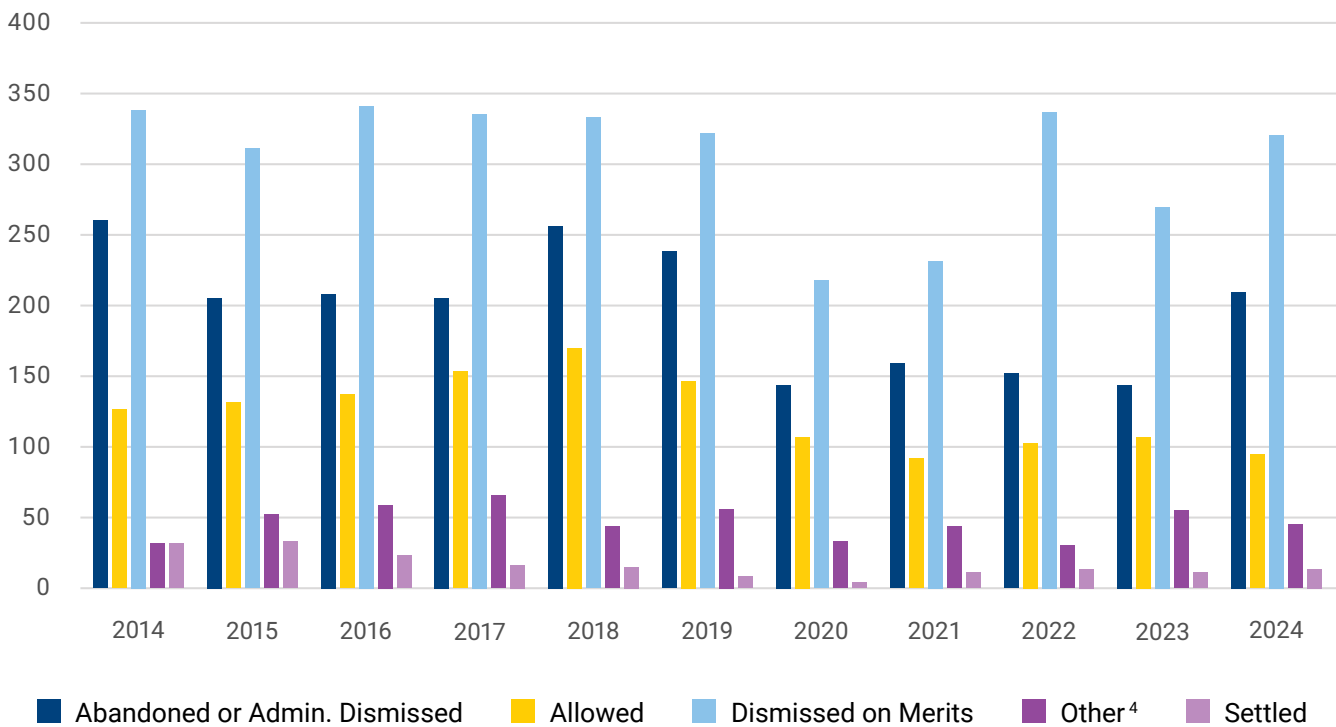


Appeal Dispositions

Civil and Criminal Appeal Dispositions

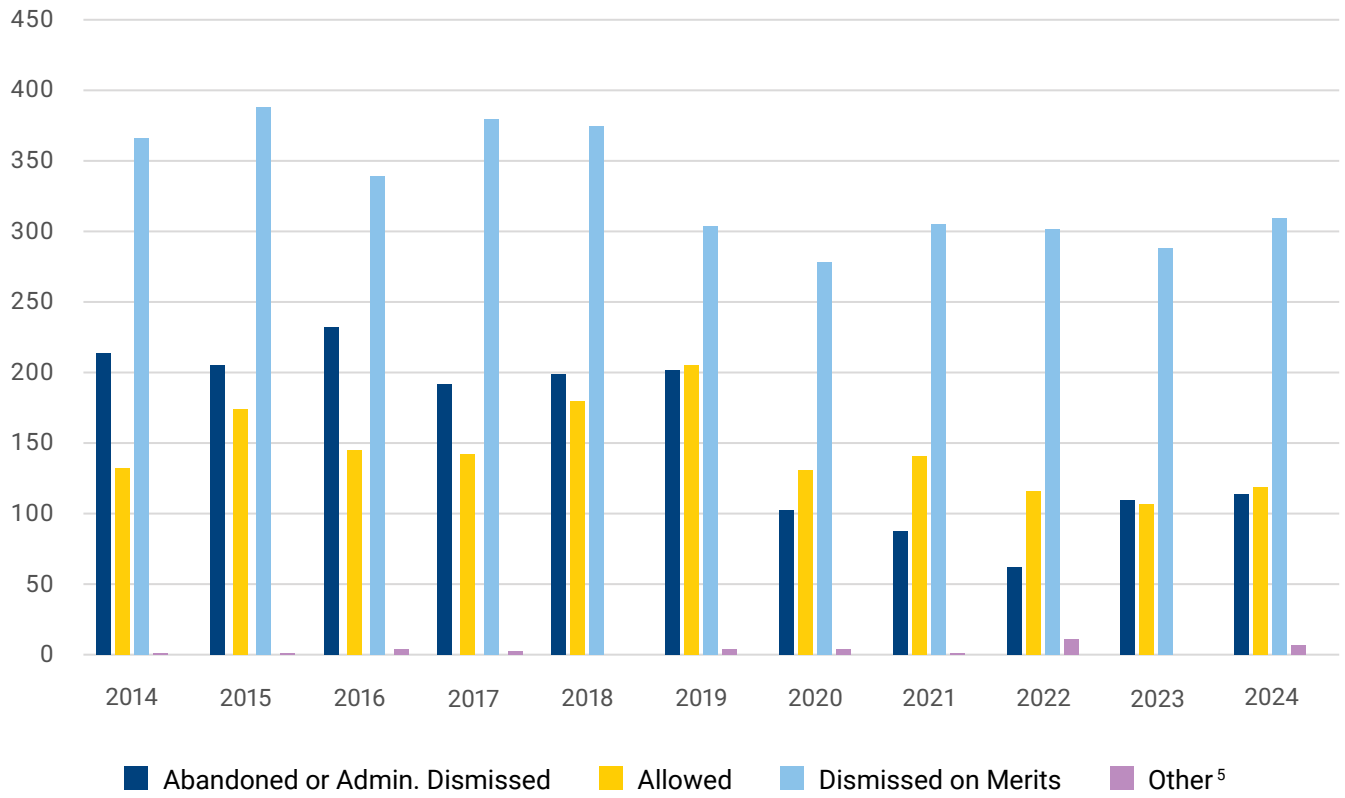
Once an appeal is filed, it may ultimately be disposed of in a variety of ways. For example, an appeal may be abandoned or administratively dismissed, allowed, dismissed on its merits, or, in the civil context, settled. The charts below provide greater detail on the disposition of appeals. The first chart provides information about the disposition of civil appeals and the second chart provides information about the disposition of criminal appeals.

Disposition of Civil Appeals



⁴“Other” includes dispositions such as transfers to the Divisional Court, appeals dismissed by way of motion, and stayed appeals.

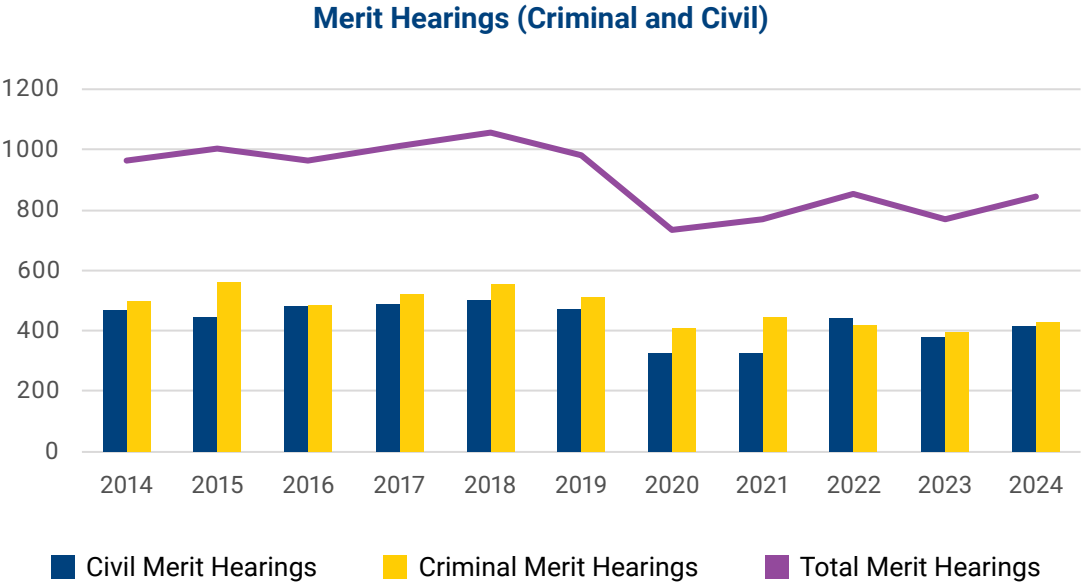
Disposition of Criminal Appeals



⁵“Other” includes dispositions such as appeals dismissed by way of motion.

Appeals Heard on Their Merits

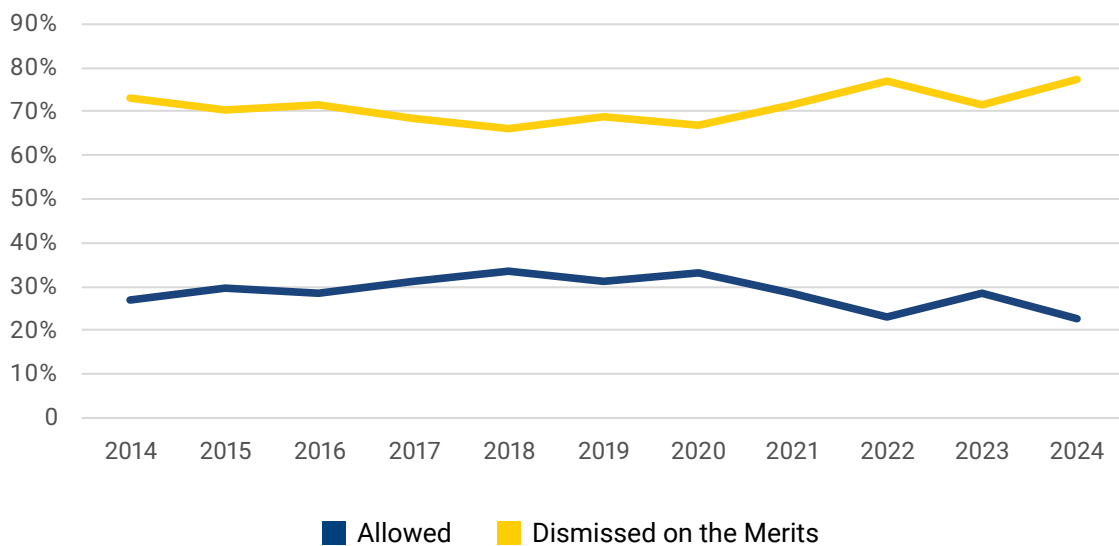
The Court resolves most appeals by hearing them on their merits. As the chart below shows, the Court heard 844 appeals on their merits in 2024.



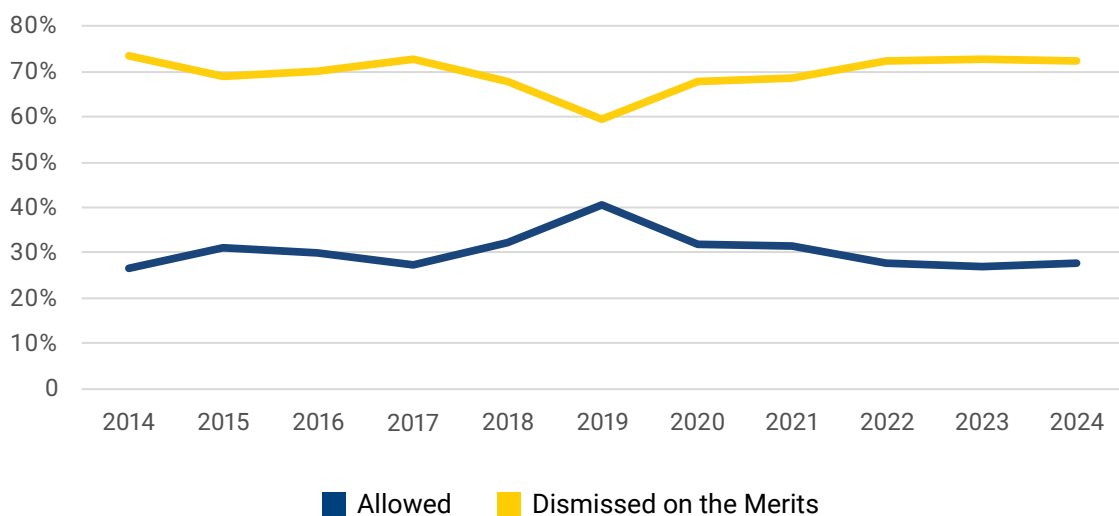
Outcomes of Appeals Heard on Their Merits

When an appeal is heard on its merits, the Court may either allow the appeal or dismiss it. Allowing an appeal means overturning or modifying the order under appeal, while dismissing an appeal means confirming the original order. The charts below show the percentage of appeals heard on their merits that were allowed versus those that were dismissed. In 2024, the Court allowed 22.6% of civil appeals and 27.7% of criminal appeals. The remaining 77.4% and 72.3% of those appeals were dismissed on their merits.

Civil Appeals: Percentage Allowed or Dismissed on Their Merits



Criminal Appeals: Percentage Allowed or Dismissed on Their Merits

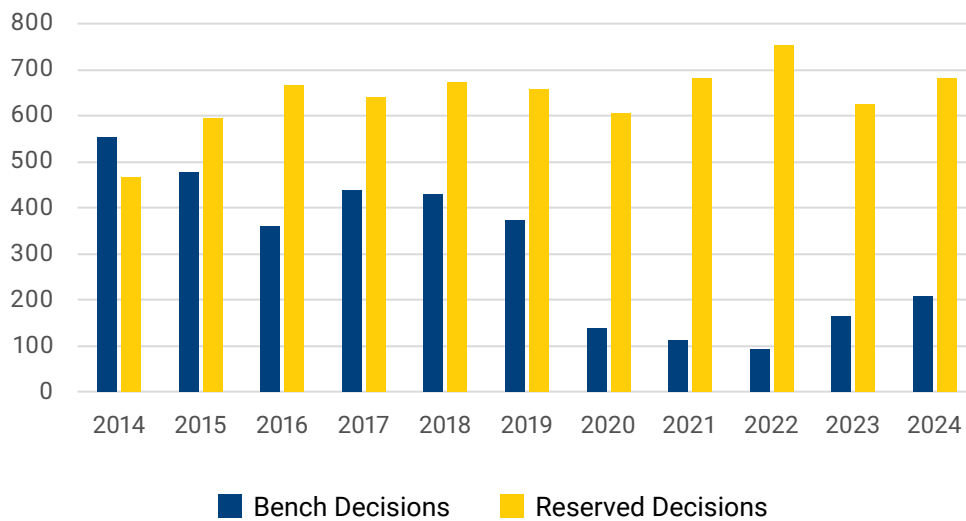


Bench and Reserved Decisions

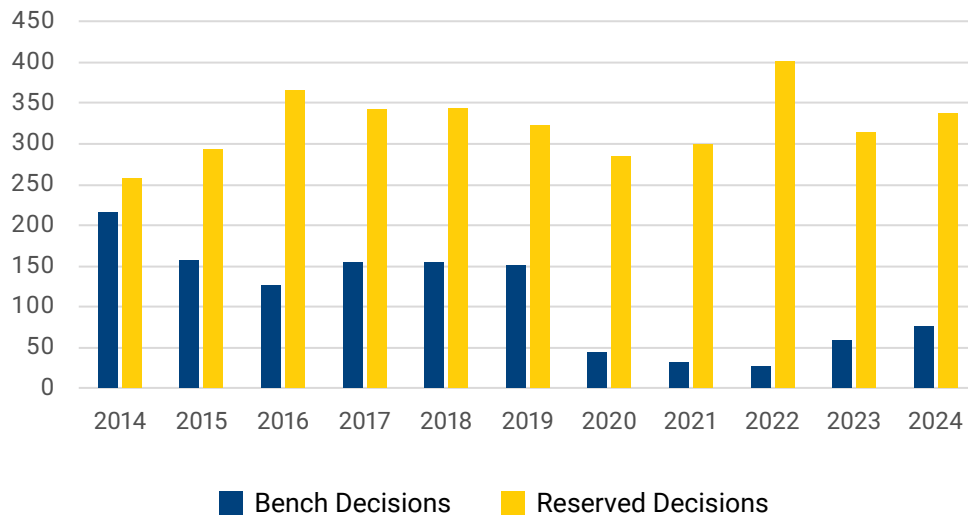
The Court decides some appeals immediately from the Bench and takes others under reserve to allow for further reflection before releasing a decision. In 2024, the Court decided 210 appeals from the Bench and reserved 682 appeals.

The charts below show the number of appeals decided from the Bench compared with the number taken under reserve. The first chart shows this breakdown for all appeals. The second chart shows this breakdown for civil appeals, and the third chart shows this breakdown for criminal appeals.

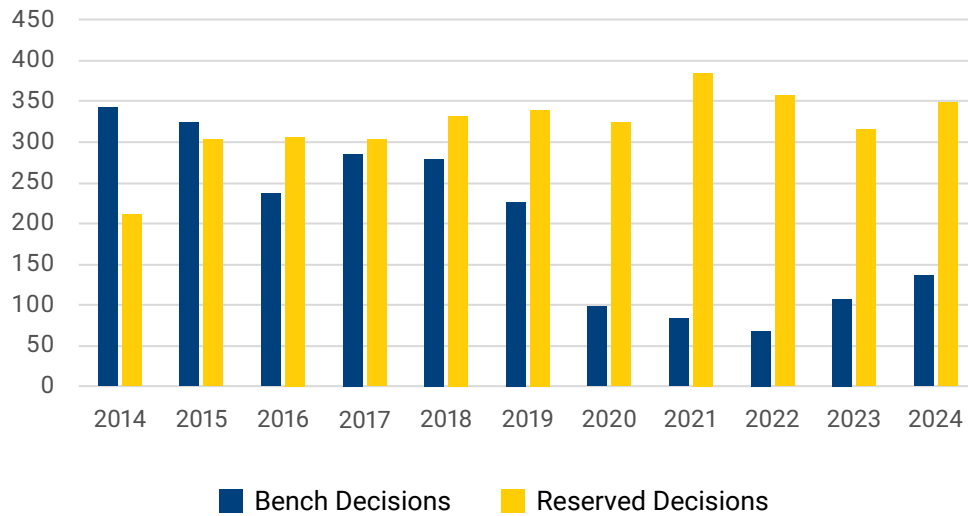
All Appeals: Decisions from the Bench and Decisions Taken Under Reserve



Civil Appeals: Decisions from the Bench and Decisions Taken Under Reserve

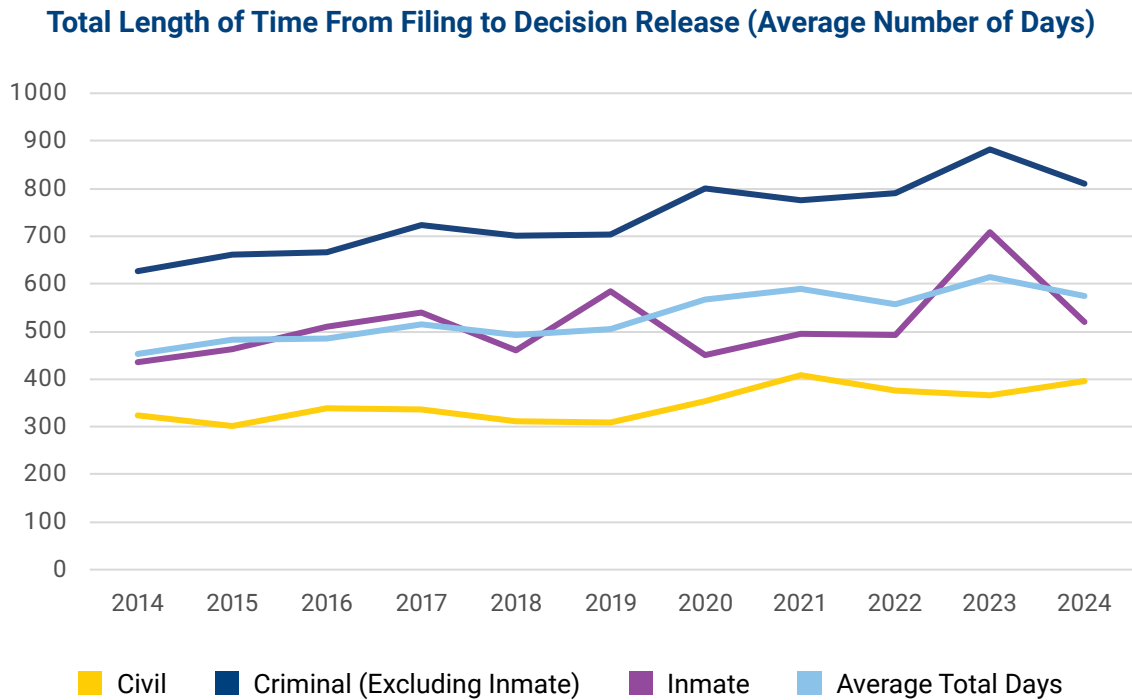


Criminal Appeals: Decisions from the Bench and Decisions Taken Under Reserve



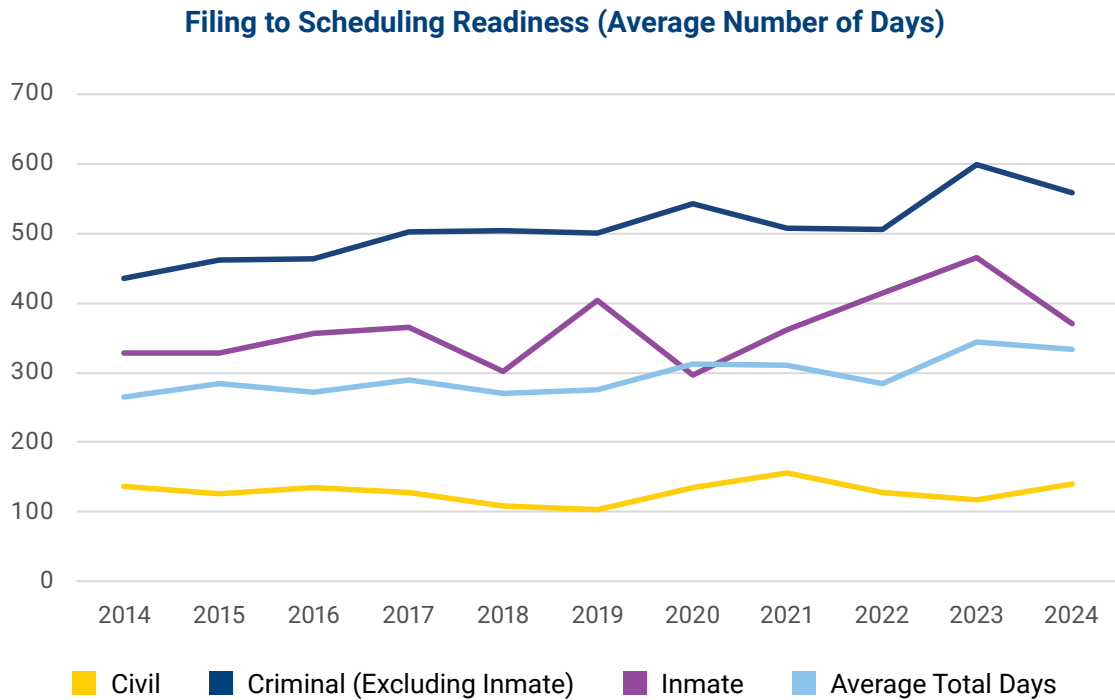
Appeal Timelines

For appeals that are heard and decided on their merits, the Court tracks timelines for the three phases of the appeal: (1) filing to scheduling readiness; (2) scheduling readiness to hearing date; and (3) hearing date to decision release. The total length of time (measured in average number of days) from filing to decision release, analyzed by filing year, is set out below, followed by a breakdown of each of the three phases.



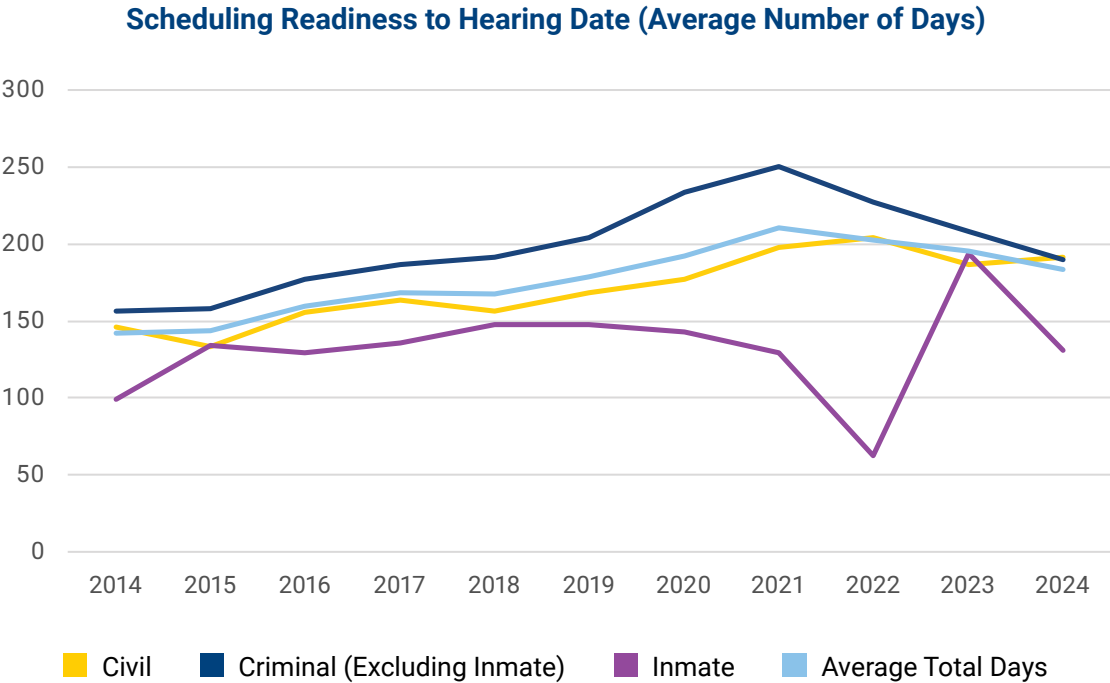
Phase #1: Filing to Scheduling Readiness

Appeals are considered filed when a party files a notice of appeal. Appeals are considered ready to be scheduled for hearing when the appellant has served and filed all documents required from them for the appeal. This is also known as perfection. The chart below shows the average number of days from filing to scheduling readiness, analyzed by filing year.



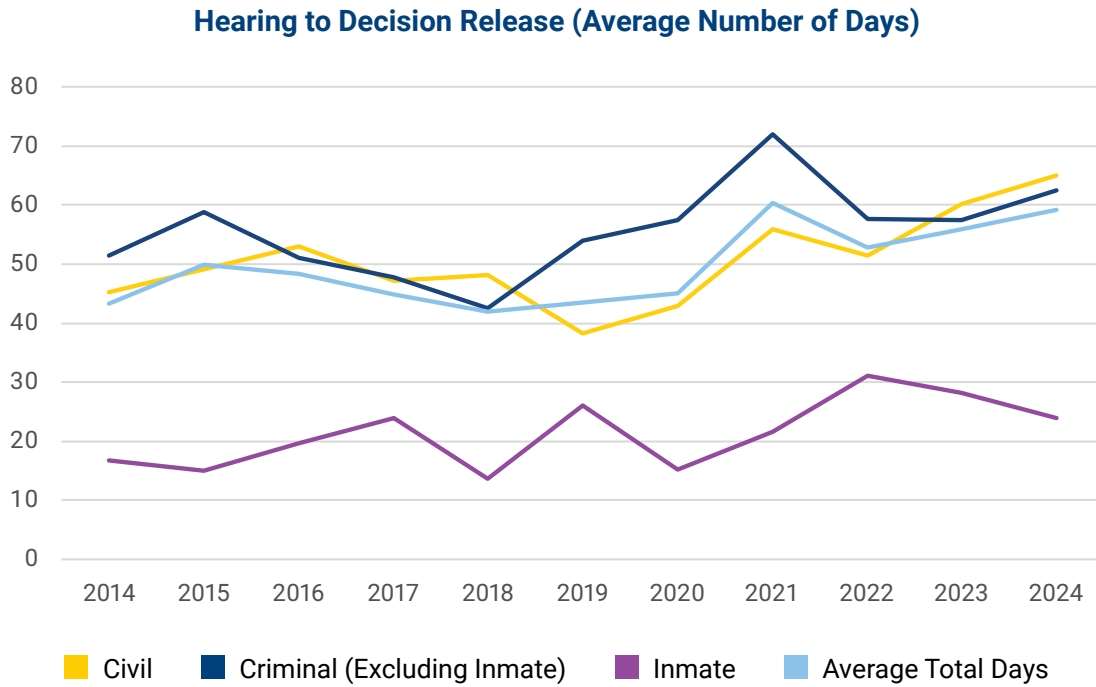
Phase #2: Scheduling Readiness to Hearing Date

The chart below shows the average number of days from scheduling readiness to hearing date, analyzed by filing year.



Phase #3: Hearing Date to Decision Release

The chart below shows the average number of days from hearing date to decision release, analyzed by filing year.





Statistical Data

Incoming Caseload

Appeals

Number of Appeals Filed

Year	Civil Notices of Appeal Filed	Criminal Notices of Appeal Filed	Total Notices of Appeal Filed
2014	905	777	1682
2015	862	824	1686
2016	836	760	1596
2017	834	764	1598
2018	841	731	1572
2019	767	718	1485
2020	608	473	1081
2021	568	641	1209
2022	603	633	1236
2023	715	609	1324
2024	674	558	1232

Subject Matter of Incoming Appeals

Year	Total (All Appeals)	All Civil (Excluding Family)	Family	Criminal (Excluding Inmate)	Inmate
2014	1682	700	77	545	360
2015	1686	754	70	490	372
2016	1596	688	72	518	318
2017	1598	684	80	510	324
2018	1572	652	79	511	330
2019	1485	637	81	473	294
2020	1081	432	41	399	209
2021	1209	593	48	370	198
2022	1236	579	54	356	247
2023	1324	540	69	432	283
2024	1232	466	92	439	235

Incoming Appeals with Self-Represented Litigants

Year	Civil			Criminal		
	Self-Represented	Represented	Total Civil Appeals Filed	Self-Represented	Represented	Total Criminal Appeals Filed
2014	207 (26.64%)	570 (73.36%)	777	414 (45.75%)	491 (54.25%)	905
2015	201 (24.39%)	623 (75.61%)	824	404 (46.87%)	458 (53.13%)	862
2016	177 (23.29%)	583 (76.71%)	760	346 (41.39%)	490 (58.61%)	836
2017	186 (24.35%)	578 (75.65%)	764	358 (42.93%)	476 (57.07%)	834
2018	166 (22.71%)	565 (77.29%)	731	353 (41.97%)	488 (58.03%)	841
2019	179 (24.93%)	539 (75.07%)	718	311 (40.55%)	456 (59.45%)	767
2020	101 (21.35%)	372 (78.65%)	473	224 (36.84%)	384 (63.16%)	608
2021	161 (25.12%)	480 (74.88%)	641	216 (38.03%)	352 (61.97%)	568
2022	137 (21.64%)	496 (78.36%)	633	255 (42.29%)	348 (57.71%)	603
2023	157 (25.78%)	452 (74.22%)	609	277 (38.74%)	438 (61.26%)	715
2024	181 (32.44%)	377 (67.56%)	558	238 (35.31%)	436 (64.69%)	674

Motions

Number of Motions Filed

Year	Motions for Leave to Appeal			Other Motions			All Motions
	Civil	Criminal	Total MLA	Civil	Criminal	Total Other	Total
2014	152	54	206	562	331	893	1099
2015	164	48	212	587	321	908	1120
2016	204	35	239	620	342	962	1201
2017	161	79	240	512	369	881	1121
2018	171	98	269	493	350	843	1112
2019	152	95	247	442	332	774	1021
2020	95	37	132	307	340	647	779
2021	155	34	189	366	301	667	856
2022	147	36	183	361	250	611	794
2023	157	47	204	408	350	758	962
2024	137	54	191	509	358	867	1058

Types of Motions

Leave to Appeal Motions ⁶

Dispositions of Civil Motions for Leave to Appeal					
Year	Total Filed	Abandoned	Granted	Dismissed	Total Disposed
2014	152	11	39	97	147
2015	164	15	34	111	160
2016	204	20	27	156	203
2017	161	12	24	145	181
2018	171	10	26	113	149
2019	152	14	24	122	160
2020	95	7	16	69	92
2021	155	11	23	107	141
2022	147	9	14	101	124
2023	157	9	11	91	111
2024	137	4	20	134	158

⁶ Motions for leave to appeal may be filed in one year, but not disposed of until the following year.

Dispositions of Criminal Motions for Leave to Appeal

Year	Total Filed	Abandoned	Granted	Dismissed	Total Disposed
2014	54	3	9	42	54
2015	48	17	12	20	49
2016	35	7	6	17	30
2017	79	5	7	34	46
2018	98	8	15	39	62
2019	95	31	8	52	91
2020	37	7	9	28	44
2021	34	14	7	27	48
2022	36	24	3	25	52
2023	47	3	8	17	28
2024	54	10	3	15	28

Other Motions (Excluding Motions for Leave to Appeal)

Year	Criminal Motions Heard	Civil Motions Heard
2014	331	562
2015	321	587
2016	342	620
2017	369	512
2018	350	493
2019	332	442
2020	340	307
2021	301	366
2022	250	361
2023	350	408
2024	509	358

Appeal Dispositions

Dispositions of Civil and Criminal Appeals

Dispositions of Civil Appeals					
Year	Abandoned or Admin. Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed on Merits	Other ⁷	Settled
2014	261	126	339	31	31
2015	206	131	312	52	32
2016	209	137	342	58	23
2017	206	154	336	66	16
2018	256	170	334	44	14
2019	238	147	323	56	8
2020	144	107	218	32	4
2021	159	92	232	44	11
2022	152	102	337	30	13
2023	144	107	270	54	10
2024	210	94	321	45	13

⁷"Other" includes dispositions such as transfers to the Divisional Court, appeals dismissed by way of motion, and stayed appeals.

Dispositions of Criminal Appeals				
Year	Abandoned or Admin. Dismissed	Allowed	Dismissed on Merits	Other⁸
2014	214	132	366	1
2015	206	174	388	1
2016	232	144	340	3
2017	192	142	380	2
2018	199	179	375	0
2019	201	206	304	3
2020	102	131	279	4
2021	87	140	305	1
2022	62	116	301	10
2023	109	107	288	0
2024	113	119	310	6

⁸ "Other" includes dispositions such as appeals dismissed by way of motion.

Appeals Heard on Their Merits

Year	Civil Merits Hearings	Criminal Merits Hearings	Total Merits Hearings
2014	465	498	963
2015	443	562	1005
2016	479	484	963
2017	490	522	1012
2018	504	554	1058
2019	470	510	980
2020	325	410	735
2021	324	445	769
2022	439	417	856
2023	377	395	772
2024	415	429	844

Outcomes of Appeals Heard on Their Merits

Civil Appeals Allowed or Dismissed on Their Merits				
Year	Appeals Allowed	Appeals Dismissed on the Merits	Percentage Allowed	Percentage Dismissed on the Merits
2014	126	339	27.1%	72.9%
2015	131	312	29.6%	70.4%
2016	137	342	28.6%	71.4%
2017	154	336	31.4%	68.6%
2018	170	334	33.7%	66.3%
2019	147	323	31.3%	68.7%
2020	107	218	32.9%	67.1%
2021	92	232	28.4%	71.6%
2022	102	337	23.2%	76.8%
2023	107	270	28.4%	71.6%
2024	94	321	22.7%	77.3%

Criminal Appeals Allowed or Dismissed on Their Merits

Year	Appeals Allowed	Appeals Dismissed on the Merits	Percentage Allowed	Percentage Dismissed on the Merits
2014	132	366	26.5%	73.5%
2015	174	388	31%	69%
2016	144	340	29.8%	70.2%
2017	142	380	27.2%	72.8%
2018	179	375	32.3%	67.7%
2019	206	304	40.4%	59.6%
2020	131	279	32%	68%
2021	140	305	31.5%	68.5%
2022	116	301	27.8%	72.2%
2023	107	288	27.1%	72.9%
2024	119	310	27.7%	72.3%

Bench and Reserved Decisions

Year	Civil Bench Decisions	Criminal Bench Decisions	Total Bench Decisions	Civil Reserved Decisions	Criminal Reserved Decisions	Total Reserved Decisions
2014	216	339	555	258	210	468
2015	157	322	479	294	300	594
2016	126	235	361	365	304	669
2017	155	283	438	342	301	643
2018	154	277	431	345	329	674
2019	151	224	375	323	336	659
2020	44	97	141	285	321	606
2021	31	83	114	300	381	681
2022	26	68	94	402	354	756
2023	59	106	165	314	312	626
2024	76	134	210	337	345	682

Appeal Timelines

Appeal Timeline: From Filing to Decision (Average Number of Days)				
Year	Civil	Criminal (Excluding Inmate)	Inmate	Average Total Days
2014	324.53	627.13	435.28	453.37
2015	302.18	662.30	463.48	482.41
2016	340.12	666.56	511.29	485.69
2017	336.29	723.38	539.50	516.37
2018	312.78	700.20	461.04	491.93
2019	310.19	704.48	585.19	504.48
2020	353.98	801.74	449.40	567.26
2021	408.35	775.98	494.27	589.45
2022	375.15	789.47	492.04	557.59
2023	366.28	881.48	708.53	614.40
2024	396.66	809.66	520.99	574.91

Phase #1: Filing to Scheduling Readiness

Year	Civil	Criminal (Excluding Inmate)	Inmate	Average Total Days
2014	135.81	435.13	328.43	264.03
2015	125.33	462.40	328.27	284.40
2016	134.59	463.30	356.59	272.23
2017	128.45	502.34	365.06	289.46
2018	108.31	503.93	301.74	269.52
2019	103.35	500.72	403.50	275.38
2020	134.50	543.30	297.34	313.17
2021	155.50	508.27	360.90	309.77
2022	127.02	505.90	413.56	284.92
2023	117.37	599.90	464.55	343.51
2024	140.35	559.52	371.03	333.35

Phase #2: Scheduling Readiness to Hearing Date

Year	Civil	Criminal (Excluding Inmate)	Inmate	Average Total Days
2014	145.87	156.05	99.00	142.03
2015	133.67	158.30	134.32	143.73
2016	155.95	177.18	129.18	159.62
2017	163.36	186.85	135.89	168.35
2018	156.72	191.63	147.43	167.63
2019	168.69	204.38	147.93	178.49
2020	177.10	233.80	143.17	192.30
2021	198.24	250.45	129.61	210.97
2022	204.30	227.56	62.15	202.64
2023	186.56	207.87	193.81	195.75
2024	191.60	189.81	130.61	183.83

Phase #3: Hearing Date to Decision Release

Year	Civil	Criminal (Excluding Inmate)	Inmate	Average Total Days
2014	45.17	51.40	16.67	43.27
2015	49.08	58.73	15.03	49.91
2016	53.02	51.05	19.64	48.36
2017	47.20	47.74	23.96	44.81
2018	48.13	42.57	13.75	42.01
2019	38.33	53.95	26.13	43.51
2020	42.90	57.39	15.24	45.15
2021	55.88	71.99	21.70	60.31
2022	51.53	57.60	31.02	52.78
2023	60.24	57.40	28.13	55.94
2024	65.03	62.53	23.95	59.28

Credits

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