

Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online

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Table 5.69.2009

Cases filed, disposed of, and pending in the U.S. Supreme Court

By method of filing, at conclusion of the October term, 1976-2009

| October term | Total | Method of filing | | | October term | Total | Method of filing | | |
|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | | Original | Paid | In forma pauperis | | | Original | Paid | In forma pauperis |
| <u>1976</u> | | | | | <u>1988</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 4,730 | 8 | 2,324 | 2,398 | Cases on docket | 5,657 | 14 | 2,587 | 3,056 |
| Disposed of | 3,918 | 2 | 1,852 | 2,064 | Disposed of | 4,911 | 2 | 2,271 | 2,638 |
| Remaining on docket | 812 | 6 | 472 | 334 | Remaining on docket | 746 | 12 | 316 | 418 |
| <u>1977</u> | | | | | <u>1989</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 4,704 | 14 | 2,341 | 2,349 | Cases on docket | 5,746 | 14 | 2,416 | 3,316 |
| Disposed of | 3,867 | 3 | 1,911 | 1,953 | Disposed of | 4,989 | 2 | 2,096 | 2,891 |
| Remaining on docket | 837 | 11 | 430 | 396 | Remaining on docket | 757 | 12 | 320 | 425 |
| <u>1978</u> | | | | | <u>1990</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 4,731 | 17 | 2,383 | 2,331 | Cases on docket | 6,316 | 14 | 2,351 | 3,951 |
| Disposed of | 4,017 | 0 | 2,021 | 1,996 | Disposed of | 5,481 | 3 | 2,042 | 3,436 |
| Remaining on docket | 714 | 17 | 362 | 335 | Remaining on docket | 835 | 11 | 309 | 515 |
| <u>1979</u> | | | | | <u>1991</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 4,781 | 23 | 2,509 | 2,249 | Cases on docket | 6,770 | 12 | 2,451 | 4,307 |
| Disposed of | 3,889 | 1 | 2,050 | 1,838 | Disposed of | 5,894 | 1 | 2,125 | 3,768 |
| Remaining on docket | 892 | 22 | 459 | 411 | Remaining on docket | 876 | 11 | 326 | 539 |
| <u>1980</u> | | | | | <u>1992</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,144 | 24 | 2,749 | 2,371 | Cases on docket | 7,245 | 12 | 2,441 | 4,792 |
| Disposed of | 4,196 | 7 | 2,222 | 1,950 | Disposed of | 6,402 | 1 | 2,140 | 4,261 |
| Remaining on docket | 948 | 17 | 527 | 421 | Remaining on docket | 843 | 11 | 301 | 531 |
| <u>1981</u> | | | | | <u>1993</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,311 | 22 | 2,935 | 2,354 | Cases on docket | 7,786 | 12 | 2,442 | 5,332 |
| Disposed of | 4,433 | 6 | 2,390 | 2,037 | Disposed of | 6,721 | 1 | 2,099 | 4,621 |
| Remaining on docket | 878 | 16 | 545 | 317 | Remaining on docket | 1,065 | 11 | 343 | 711 |
| <u>1982</u> | | | | | <u>1994</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,079 | 17 | 2,170 | 2,352 | Cases on docket | 8,100 | 11 | 2,515 | 5,574 |
| Disposed of | 4,201 | 3 | 2,190 | 2,008 | Disposed of | 7,170 | 2 | 2,185 | 4,983 |
| Remaining on docket | 878 | 14 | 520 | 344 | Remaining on docket | 930 | 9 | 330 | 591 |
| <u>1983</u> | | | | | <u>1995</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,100 | 18 | 2,688 | 2,394 | Cases on docket | 7,565 | 11 | 2,456 | 5,098 |
| Disposed of | 4,140 | 7 | 2,148 | 1,985 | Disposed of | 6,649 | 5 | 2,130 | 4,514 |
| Remaining on docket | 960 | 11 | 540 | 409 | Remaining on docket | 916 | 6 | 326 | 584 |
| <u>1984</u> | | | | | <u>1996</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,006 | 15 | 2,575 | 2,416 | Cases on docket | 7,602 | 7 | 2,430 | 5,165 |
| Disposed of | 4,261 | 8 | 2,175 | 2,078 | Disposed of | 6,739 | 2 | 2,124 | 4,613 |
| Remaining on docket | 745 | 7 | 400 | 338 | Remaining on docket | 863 | 5 | 306 | 552 |
| <u>1985</u> | | | | | <u>1997</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,158 | 10 | 2,571 | 2,577 | Cases on docket | 7,692 | 7 | 2,432 | 5,253 |
| Disposed of | 4,275 | 2 | 2,095 | 2,178 | Disposed of | 6,759 | 1 | 2,142 | 4,616 |
| Remaining on docket | 883 | 8 | 476 | 399 | Remaining on docket | 933 | 6 | 290 | 637 |
| <u>1986</u> | | | | | <u>1998</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,134 | 12 | 2,547 | 2,575 | Cases on docket | 8,083 | 7 | 2,387 | 5,689 |
| Disposed of | 4,360 | 1 | 2,105 | 2,254 | Disposed of | 7,045 | 2 | 2,092 | 4,951 |
| Remaining on docket | 774 | 11 | 442 | 321 | Remaining on docket | 1,038 | 5 | 295 | 738 |
| <u>1987</u> | | | | | <u>1999</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 5,268 | 16 | 2,577 | 2,675 | Cases on docket | 8,445 | 8 | 2,413 | 6,024 |
| Disposed of | 4,387 | 5 | 2,131 | 2,251 | Disposed of | 7,369 | 0 | 2,096 | 5,273 |
| Remaining on docket | 881 | 11 | 446 | 424 | Remaining on docket | 1,076 | 8 | 317 | 751 |

See notes on next page.

Table 5.69.2009

Cases filed, disposed of, and pending in the U.S. Supreme Court

By method of filing, at conclusion of the October term, 1976-2009--Continued

| October term | Total | Method of filing | | | October term | Total | Method of filing | | |
|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|-------|-------------------|
| | | Original | Paid | In forma pauperis | | | Original | Paid | In forma pauperis |
| <u>2000</u> | | | | | <u>2005</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 8,965 | 9 | 2,305 | 6,651 | Cases on docket | 9,608 | 8 | 2,025 | 7,575 |
| Disposed of | 7,762 | 2 | 2,024 | 5,736 | Disposed of | 8,240 | 4 | 1,703 | 6,533 |
| Remaining on docket | 1,203 | 7 | 281 | 915 | Remaining on docket | 1,368 | 4 | 322 | 1,042 |
| <u>2001</u> | | | | | <u>2006</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 9,176 | 8 | 2,210 | 6,958 | Cases on docket | 10,256 | 6 | 2,069 | 8,181 |
| Disposed of | 8,072 | 1 | 1,932 | 6,139 | Disposed of | 8,923 | 1 | 1,736 | 7,186 |
| Remaining on docket | 1,104 | 7 | 278 | 819 | Remaining on docket | 1,333 | 5 | 333 | 995 |
| <u>2002</u> | | | | | <u>2007</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 9,406 | 7 | 2,190 | 7,209 | Cases on docket | 9,602 | 5 | 1,969 | 7,628 |
| Disposed of | 8,388 | 1 | 1,899 | 6,488 | Disposed of | 8,420 | 1 | 1,666 | 6,753 |
| Remaining on docket | 1,018 | 6 | 291 | 721 | Remaining on docket | 1,182 | 4 | 303 | 875 |
| <u>2003</u> | | | | | <u>2008</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 8,882 | 6 | 2,058 | 6,818 | Cases on docket | 8,966 | 4 | 1,941 | 7,021 |
| Disposed of | 7,836 | 2 | 1,798 | 6,036 | Disposed of | 7,869 | 1 | 1,654 | 6,214 |
| Remaining on docket | 1,046 | 4 | 260 | 782 | Remaining on docket | 1,097 | 29 | 267 | 807 |
| <u>2004</u> | | | | | <u>2009</u> | | | | |
| Cases on docket | 8,588 | 4 | 2,041 | 6,543 | Cases on docket | 9,302 | 6 | 1,908 | 7,388 |
| Disposed of | 7,542 | 0 | 1,727 | 5,815 | Disposed of | 8,133 | 2 | 1,607 | 6,524 |
| Remaining on docket | 1,046 | 4 | 314 | 728 | Remaining on docket | 1,169 | 4 | 301 | 864 |

Note: "Original" refers to those cases that were on the Supreme Court docket previously and were disposed of, but that subsequently were reinstated. For all cases other than "original" ones, a docket filing fee must be "paid." If the petitioner is indigent, the docket filing fee is waived and the case is filed "in forma pauperis."

Source: Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Annual Report of the Director*, 1981, p. A-1; 1986, p. 135 (Washington, DC: Administrative Office of the United States Courts); *Annual Report of the Director*, 1991, p. 161; 1996, p. 82 (Washington, DC: USGPO); and Administrative Office of the United States Courts, *Judicial Business of the United States Courts: 2002 Annual Report of the Director*, p. 72; *2007 Annual Report of the Director*, p. 84; *2008 Annual Report of the Director*, p. 82; *2010 Annual Report of the Director*, p. 82 (Washington, DC: USGPO). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.