

**Table 4.4**  
**U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit,**  
**During the 12-Month Periods Ending June 30, 1990, and September 30, 1995 Through 2016**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year									
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2010	2005	2000	1995	1990 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>291,851</b>	<b>279,036</b>	<b>295,310</b>	<b>284,604</b>	<b>278,442</b>	<b>282,895</b>	<b>253,273</b>	<b>259,517</b>	<b>248,335</b>	<b>226,523</b>
<b>Contract Actions, Total</b>	<b>24,486</b>	<b>26,068</b>	<b>28,557</b>	<b>28,571</b>	<b>28,713</b>	<b>31,109</b>	<b>28,020</b>	<b>53,625</b>	<b>31,182</b>	<b>46,103</b>
Franchise <sup>1</sup>	342	382	456	477	367	357	171	0	0	0
Insurance	8,872	9,711	11,728	10,569	8,679	9,380	7,804	7,517	7,540	6,884
Marine	805	907	810	987	1,032	1,344	1,435	2,446	2,622	3,313
Miller Act	331	398	502	473	574	276	387	769	775	1,569
Negotiable Instruments	481	505	562	654	819	956	447	495	1,536	2,997
<b>Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>3,279</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>24,838</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>10,942</b>
Student Loans <sup>2</sup>	950	1,546	1,654	1,855	2,657	2,741	2,883	24,404	1,142	5,365
Veterans' Benefits <sup>3</sup>	4	7	8	4	6	16	8	43	253	4,963
Other	628	633	690	661	616	669	418	391	361	550
Other Contract Actions	12,073	11,979	12,147	12,891	13,963	15,370	14,467	17,560	16,887	20,398
<b>Real Property Actions, Total</b>	<b>9,247</b>	<b>9,195</b>	<b>7,802</b>	<b>10,762</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>7,432</b>	<b>4,561</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>9,505</b>
Condemnation of Land	568	339	149	173	123	173	251	1,243	334	462
Foreclosure	4,809	4,256	3,928	6,264	8,130	4,267	3,012	4,209	4,972	7,196
Rent, Lease, and Ejectment	970	688	773	516	662	254	154	175	310	349
Torts to Land, Including Product Liability	762	1,554	642	687	1,054	661	380	377	401	405
Other Real Property Actions	2,138	2,358	2,310	3,122	2,991	2,077	764	707	852	1,093
<b>Tort Actions, Total</b>	<b>61,495</b>	<b>68,879</b>	<b>79,990</b>	<b>67,738</b>	<b>61,306</b>	<b>83,055</b>	<b>51,335</b>	<b>36,586</b>	<b>53,986</b>	<b>45,909</b>
<b>Personal Injury, Total <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>55,283</b>	<b>61,093</b>	<b>76,463</b>	<b>63,316</b>	<b>57,151</b>	<b>78,350</b>	<b>47,364</b>	<b>32,621</b>	<b>50,565</b>	<b>42,743</b>
<b>Personal Injury/Product Liability</b>	<b>39,879</b>	<b>41,764</b>	<b>60,078</b>	<b>49,526</b>	<b>43,083</b>	<b>63,203</b>	<b>29,537</b>	<b>14,428</b>	<b>27,547</b>	<b>18,839</b>
<b>Other Personal Injury, Total</b>	<b>15,404</b>	<b>19,329</b>	<b>16,385</b>	<b>13,790</b>	<b>14,068</b>	<b>15,147</b>	<b>17,827</b>	<b>18,193</b>	<b>23,018</b>	<b>23,904</b>
Airplane	185	191	214	222	194	300	351	747	683	834
Marine	1,515	1,125	1,166	1,200	1,258	1,393	1,667	2,006	2,277	2,961
Motor Vehicle	4,039	3,743	3,741	3,524	3,501	3,546	4,091	4,690	5,374	6,157
Assault, Libel, and Slander	559	591	495	636	579	559	647	801	826	644
Federal Employers Liability Act	316	296	330	352	412	480	748	1,108	1,903	2,741
Medical Malpractice	1,347	1,135	986	1,025	1,044	1,115	1,221	1,526	1,328	1,375
Other	7,443	12,248	9,453	6,831	7,080	7,754	9,102	7,315	10,627	7,202
<b>Personal Property Damage, Total</b>	<b>6,212</b>	<b>7,786</b>	<b>3,527</b>	<b>4,422</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>4,705</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>3,421</b>	<b>3,166</b>
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	3,416	2,396	2,005	2,078	2,340	2,902	2,465	2,265	1,881	1,492
Other Personal Property Damage	2,796	5,390	1,522	2,344	1,815	1,803	1,506	1,700	1,540	1,674

<b>Actions Under Statutes, Total</b>	<b>196,623</b>	<b>174,894</b>	<b>178,961</b>	<b>177,533</b>	<b>175,463</b>	<b>161,297</b>	<b>169,265</b>	<b>162,583</b>	<b>156,209</b>	<b>124,880</b>
<b>Antitrust</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>Bankruptcy, Total</b>	<b>2,304</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>2,651</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>2,696</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,361</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,056</b>
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	1,952	2,272	2,055	1,992	2,168	2,177	2,435	2,785	4,312	4,231
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	352	542	596	641	1,760	519	565	576	734	825
<b>Banks and Banking</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Civil Rights, Total <sup>5</sup></b>	<b>38,002</b>	<b>37,384</b>	<b>35,274</b>	<b>35,307</b>	<b>37,705</b>	<b>34,872</b>	<b>36,096</b>	<b>40,908</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>18,793</b>
Voting	144	86	171	129	204	102	166	167	208	130
Employment	11,878	12,205	11,937	13,322	15,018	14,543	16,930	21,032	19,059	8,413
Housing and Accommodations	900	775	757	667	741	687	885	1,284	735	341
Welfare	0	0	0	6	28	58	54	80	116	129
ADA -- Employment <sup>6</sup>	2,231	2,076	1,894	1,944	1,958	1,522	586	0	0	0
ADA -- Other <sup>6</sup>	7,096	5,156	4,432	3,039	3,133	2,309	1,016	0	0	0
Education	548	525	455	294	126	0	0	0	0	0
Other Civil Rights	15,205	16,561	15,628	15,906	16,497	15,651	16,459	18,345	16,482	9,780
<b>Environmental Matters</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>958</b>
<b>Deportation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Prisoner Petitions, Total</b>	<b>73,725</b>	<b>52,531</b>	<b>60,675</b>	<b>56,955</b>	<b>54,300</b>	<b>52,583</b>	<b>61,238</b>	<b>58,257</b>	<b>63,550</b>	<b>42,630</b>
Motions to Vacate Sentence	24,837	5,520	7,390	7,924	8,499	5,858	10,361	6,341	0	0
Habeas Corpus--General	17,356	18,448	19,185	19,356	18,851	19,825	24,633	24,945	0	0
Habeas Corpus--Death Penalty	202	194	165	193	189	208	240	274	0	0
Mandamus and Other	892	837	950	883	907	952	1,390	1,192	0	0
Civil Rights	20,622	17,829	18,991	17,514	16,970	16,951	16,005	14,151	0	0
Prison Condition	8,307	8,690	13,045	10,098	8,066	8,107	8,609	11,354	0	0
Habeas Corpus--Alien Detainees	1,134	670	736	791	744	682	0	0	0	0
Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	375	343	213	196	74	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Forfeiture and Penalty, Total</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>6,224</b>
Agricultural Acts	0	0	2	4	18	32	27	57	155	84
Food and Drug Act	0	0	0	3	16	35	49	110	197	739
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	499	688	1,018	1,155	1,289	1,273	1,359	1,117	1,042	1,914
Air Traffic Regulations	0	0	0	1	0	5	6	7	11	48
Occupational Safety and Health Act	0	0	0	1	13	15	5	4	33	61
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	569	783	881	980	962	908	852	1,025	1,079	3,378
<b>Labor Laws, Total</b>	<b>18,929</b>	<b>19,322</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>18,043</b>	<b>19,440</b>	<b>18,624</b>	<b>18,322</b>	<b>14,142</b>	<b>14,954</b>	<b>22,567</b>
Fair Labor Standards Act	8,686	8,781	8,160	7,500	8,152	6,825	4,039	1,935	1,580	1,282
Labor Management Relations Act	675	690	812	883	1,167	1,094	1,674	1,542	1,984	2,342

Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act	0	0	1	7	15	70	88	101	161	181
Railway Labor Act	60	45	57	64	44	66	104	137	172	199
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	6,831	7,228	7,191	7,599	8,404	9,216	11,171	9,124	9,517	8,726
Family and Medical Leave Act	1,255	1,139	1,108	877	291	0	0	0	0	0
Other Labor Litigation	1,422	1,439	1,344	1,113	1,367	1,353	1,246	1,303	1,540	9,837
<b>Immigration, Total <sup>7</sup></b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Naturalization Applications	307	260	277	272	301	402	0	0	0	0
Other Immigration Actions	1,330	1,061	886	782	757	781	0	0	0	0
<b>Intellectual Property Rights, Total</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>13,751</b>	<b>13,420</b>	<b>13,335</b>	<b>11,666</b>	<b>8,966</b>	<b>12,184</b>	<b>8,738</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>5,738</b>
Copyright	3,936	5,035	4,041	3,666	3,074	2,013	5,796	2,050	0	0
Patent	5,080	5,564	5,686	6,497	5,189	3,301	2,720	2,484	0	0
Trademark	3,095	3,152	3,693	3,172	3,403	3,652	3,668	4,204	0	0
<b>Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,432</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>2,629</b>
<b>Social Security Laws, Total <sup>8</sup></b>	<b>18,716</b>	<b>18,538</b>	<b>19,146</b>	<b>19,977</b>	<b>17,645</b>	<b>14,016</b>	<b>15,487</b>	<b>15,829</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>7,439</b>
Disability Insurance	8,616	8,578	8,513	8,407	7,487	6,141	7,024	8,122	5,501	5,212
Supplemental Security Income	9,151	9,210	9,813	10,634	9,248	7,088	7,675	6,762	3,347	1,836
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	851	656	692	784	772	715	710	855	414	249
Other	98	94	128	152	138	72	78	90	0	0
<b>Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,214</b>
<b>State Reapportionment Suits</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,604</b>
<b>Tax Suits</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Customer Challenge</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Consumer Credit <sup>9</sup></b>	<b>9,745</b>	<b>9,801</b>	<b>8,547</b>	<b>8,974</b>	<b>9,320</b>	<b>8,453</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cable/Satellite TV <sup>9</sup></b>	<b>691</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Freedom of Information Act</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>Constitutionality of State Statutes</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Other Statutory Actions</b>	<b>13,133</b>	<b>11,348</b>	<b>11,013</b>	<b>11,417</b>	<b>10,465</b>	<b>10,206</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,809</b>	<b>9,098</b>	<b>8,211</b>

Note: Due to a change in methodology, numbers prior to 2015 may not match numbers previously published in this table.

<sup>1</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Filings for recovery of defaulted student loans decreased from 1990 to 1995 due to a change in Department of Education (DOE) policy on collection of delinquent loans. Renewed growth peaked in 2000 as a result of streamlining of the loan-processing system. In 2001, DOE implemented new administrative measures that caused fewer student loan cases to be filed in federal courts.

<sup>3</sup> Filings for recovery of overpayments of veterans' benefits have decreased significantly as the Department of Veterans' Affairs has used administrative actions and the Internal Revenue Service to recover overpayments rather than filing suit in district court. For additional information, see the 1991 *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*, page 86.

<sup>4</sup> The increase in personal injury filings between 1990 and 1995 was attributable mostly to breast implant cases and a large number of cases related to an oil refinery explosion in Louisiana. In 2006, personal injury/product liability filings rose 64 percent, primarily as a result of 15,000 additional asbestos cases, of which over 14,000 were multidistrict litigation filings in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

<sup>5</sup> Civil rights filings increased significantly after 1990 largely because of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

<sup>6</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

<sup>7</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

Source: Table S-8 for 1995 and 2000; Table C-2 for 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2011-2016, *Annual report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.