

Table 2.4
U.S. Courts of Appeals (Excludes Federal Circuit). Pro Se Cases Filed

Fiscal Year*	Total Appeals	Pro Se												Percent Pro Se (2)	
		Total	Appeals From District Court									Other Appeals From:			
			Civil Appeals						Criminal Appeals	Administrative Agency (1)	Bankruptcy	Original Proceedings**			
			Prisoner Petitions			Other Civil									
Total	U.S.	Private	Total	U.S.	Private	Total	U.S.	Private	Agency (1)	Bankruptcy	Original Proceedings**				
1995	50,072	19,973	17,842	13,083	2,763	10,320	4,759	1,364	3,395	803	622	438	268	39.9%	
2000	54,697	24,938	19,945	15,027	4,045	10,982	4,918	1,361	3,557	945	797	248	3,003	45.6%	
2001	57,464	27,265	20,415	15,812	5,094	10,718	4,603	1,256	3,347	1,142	764	266	4,678	47.4%	
2002	57,555	26,624	20,660	16,054	5,205	10,849	4,606	1,188	3,418	1,286	1,377	242	3,059	46.3%	
2003	60,847	26,493	20,108	15,467	4,508	10,959	4,641	1,294	3,347	1,196	2,078	241	2,870	43.5%	
2004	62,762	26,800	19,093	14,530	4,269	10,261	4,563	1,156	3,407	1,140	3,056	233	3,278	42.7%	
2005	68,473	28,559	19,545	15,030	5,426	9,604	4,515	1,110	3,405	1,215	3,501	236	4,062	41.7%	

*Pro Se appeals were not reported until 1993.

** Proceedings not dependent on prior action by lower court or administrative agency (e.g., writs of mandamus, motions to file successive habeas petitions). The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, enacted April 1996, requires prisoners to seek permission from courts of appeals for certain petitions. Data for these types of original proceedings were first reported on October 1, 1998.

(1) The increase in filings of administrative agency appeals began in February 2002, after the Attorney General ordered the Board of Immigration Appeals to clear its backlog of cases, stating that this action was required to help prevent terrorist attacks and enforce the nation's immigration laws.

(2) The proportion of pro se appeals increased from 1995 to 2001, but has since declined steadily. While the new original proceedings were a factor in this trend, the primary cause remained the increasing number of prisoner appeals. The proportion of pro se appeals filed has decreased 4.7 percent since 2001, reflecting the 4.9 percent decline in prisoner petitions filed between 2001 and 2005.

Source: Statistical Table B-9