

Table 4.4

U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
TOTAL	218,258	248,335	259,517	253,273	259,541	257,507	267,257	276,397
CONTRACT ACTIONS, TOTAL	46,039	31,182	53,625	28,020	30,044	33,939	34,172	35,634
Insurance	6,884	7,540	7,517	7,804	9,792	13,287	12,697	11,155
Marine	3,313	2,622	2,446	1,435	1,700	1,969	2,349	3,498
Miller Act	1,569	775	769	387	359	302	225	249
Negotiable Instruments	2,997	1,536	495	447	336	377	504	872
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments, Total	10,878	1,822	24,838	3,309	2,872	2,693	3,447	3,043
Medicare Benefits		66	114	126	152			
Student Loans ¹	5,365	1,142	24,404	2,883	2,395	2,673	2,910	2,405
Veterans' Benefits ²	4,963	253	43	8	13	20	9	12
Other	550	361	277	292	312	511	528	626
Other Contract Actions	20,398	16,887	17,560	14,638	14,985	14,800	14,559	16,388
REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, TOTAL	9,505	6,869	6,711	4,561	4,414	5,180	5,072	5,998
Condemnation of Land	462	334	1,243	251	316	321	944	317
Foreclosure	7,196	4,972	4,209	3,012	2,644	2,960	2,144	3,129
Rent, Lease, and Ejectments	349	310	175	154	142	135	172	185
Torts to Land	405	401	377	380	467	842	510	579
Other Real Property Actions	1,093	852	707	764	845	922	1,302	1,788
TORT ACTIONS, TOTAL	43,919	53,986	36,586	51,335	68,804	61,359	72,011	78,093
Personal Injury, Total ³	40,753	50,565	32,621	47,364	64,743	57,244	68,121	72,897
Personal Injury/Product Liability	18,839	27,547	14,428	29,537	48,739	36,469	52,110	58,335
Other Personal Injury, Total	21,914	23,018	18,193	17,827	16,004	20,775	16,011	14,562
Airplane	834	683	747	351	294	478	386	446
Marine	2,961	2,277	2,006	1,667	1,584	1,597	1,393	1,345
Motor Vehicle	6,157	5,374	4,690	4,091	3,938	3,764	3,636	3,588
Assault, Libel, and Slander	644	826	801	647	587	533	557	530
Fed. Employers Liability Act	2,741	1,903	1,108	748	700	585	511	545
Medical Malpractice	1,375	1,328	1,526	1,221	1,221	1,164	1,255	1,059
Other	7,202	10,627	7,315	9,102	7,680	12,654	8,273	7,049
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,166	3,421	3,965	3,971	4,061	4,115	3,890	5,196
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	1,492	1,881	2,265	2,465	2,313	2,129	2,245	3,320
Other Personal Property Damage	1,674	1,540	1,700	1,506	1,748	1,986	1,645	1,876
ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES, TOTAL	118,669	156,209	162,583	169,265	156,177	156,916	155,939	156,629
Antitrust	472	781	858	818	986	1,038	1,318	812
Bankruptcy, Total	5,056	5,046	3,361	3,000	3,389	3,164	2,383	2,313
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	4,231	4,312	2,785	2,435	2,475	2,290	1,954	1,906
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	825	734	576	565	914	874	429	407
Banks and Banking	700	432	205	258	201	234	258	444

Table 4.4 (Continued)
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Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year							
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Civil Rights, Total ⁴	18,793	36,600	40,908	36,096	32,865	31,756	32,132	33,761
Voting	130	208	167	166	150	118	145	127
Employment	8,413	19,059	21,032	16,930	14,353	13,375	13,219	14,036
Accommodations	341	735	1,284	885	643	665	644	746
Welfare	129	116	80	54	56	27	48	71
Other Civil Rights	9,780	16,482	18,345	18,061	17,663	17,571	18,076	18,781
Environmental Matters	958	1,081	886	714	871	767	920	741
Deportation	61	106	213	201	130	115	130	91
Prisoner Petitions	42,630	63,550	58,257	61,238	54,955	53,995	54,786	52,304
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	8,739	2,517	2,320	2,298	2,224	2,272	2,331	2,371
Agricultural Acts	84	155	57	27	18	29	26	22
Food and Drug Act	2,608	197	110	49	42	55	47	34
Drug-Related Seizure of Property		1,042	1,117	1,359	1,328	1,355	1,389	1,441
Air Traffic Regulations	2,608	11	7	6	2	5	4	1
Occupational Safety and Health Act	61	33	4	5	8	7	8	12
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	3,378	1,079	1,025	852	826	821	847	861
Labor Laws, Total	13,841	14,954	14,142	18,322	16,659	18,674	16,788	17,719
Fair Labor Standards Act	1,282	1,580	1,935	4,039	4,207	7,310	5,393	6,073
Labor Management Relations Act	2,342	1,984	1,542	1,674	1,239	1,079	1,051	1,066
Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act	181	161	101	88	63	82	66	57
Railway Labor Act	199	172	137	104	108	92	83	74
E.R.I.S.A. ⁵		9,517	9,124	11,171	9,748	8,986	8,983	9,129
Other Labor Litigation	9,837	1,540	1,303	1,246	1,294	1,125	1,212	1,320
Protected Property Rights	5,738	6,866	8,738	12,184	11,514	10,783	9,592	8,365
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,629	1,906	2,678	2,038	1,621	1,394	1,637	1,674
Social Security Laws, Total	7,439	9,354	15,829	15,487	13,847	12,974	13,138	13,622
Health Insurance	121	81	70	58	53	56	-	-
Black Lung Cases	21	11	20	20	7	2	-	-
Disability Insurance	5,212	5,501	8,122	7,024	6,480	6,187	6,080	6,389
Supplemental Security Income	1,836	3,347	6,762	7,675	6,649	6,135	6,373	6,472
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	249	414	855	710	658	594	603	665
							82	96
RICO ⁶		900	829	781	687	653	684	786
State Reapportionment Suits	2,604	7	2	8	6	6	4	3
Tax Suits	38	2,202	907	1,385	1,490	1,522	1,451	1,306
Customer Challenge	38	33	12	21	17	12	8	19
Freedom of Information Act	407	467	341	404	312	335	639	626
Constitutionality of State Statutes	315	309	288	310	304	277	280	314
Other Statutory Actions	8,211	9,098	11,809	13,702	14,099	16,995	11,326	10,345

Table 4.4 (Continued)

U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit

FOOTNOTES

¹ 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.

⁴ 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.

³ 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, over 14,000 of which were MDL filings in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

⁴ Civil rights filings increased significantly after 1990 largely because of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

⁵ Employee Retirement Income Security Act filings in 1990 were included in "other labor litigation."

⁶ Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization Act data not reported in 1990.

Sources: Table C-2, Tables S-8 for 1995, 2000, and 2002 through 2004; Table S-5 for 2005 and 2006; Table C-2 for 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2003; and Table S-6 for 2005 and 2006, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.