

Table 4.4

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year							
	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
TOTAL	218,258	248,335	259,517	259,541	257,507	267,257	276,397	282,895
CONTRACT ACTIONS, TOTAL	46,039	31,182	53,625	30,044	33,939	34,172	35,634	31,109
Insurance	6,884	7,540	7,517	9,792	13,287	12,697	11,155	9,380
Marine	3,313	2,622	2,446	1,700	1,969	2,349	3,498	1,344
Miller Act	1,569	775	769	359	302	225	249	276
Negotiable Instruments	2,997	1,536	495	336	377	504	872	956
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments, Total	10,878	1,822	24,838	2,872	2,693	3,447	3,043	3,426
Medicare Benefits		66	114	152				
Student Loans ¹	5,365	1,142	24,404	2,395	2,673	2,910	2,405	2,741
Veterans' Benefits ²	4,963	253	43	13	20	9	12	16
Other	550	361	277	312	511	528	626	669
Other Contract Actions	20,398	16,887	17,560	14,985	14,800	14,559	16,388	15,370
REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, TOTAL	9,505	6,869	6,711	4,414	5,180	5,072	5,998	7,432
Condemnation of Land	462	334	1,243	316	321	944	317	173
Foreclosure	7,196	4,972	4,209	2,644	2,960	2,144	3,129	4,267
Rent, Lease, and Ejectments	349	310	175	142	135	172	185	254
Torts to Land	405	401	377	467	842	510	579	661
Other Real Property Actions	1,093	852	707	845	922	1,302	1,788	2,077
TORT ACTIONS, TOTAL	43,919	53,986	36,586	68,804	61,359	72,011	78,093	83,055
Personal Injury, Total ³	40,753	50,565	32,621	64,743	57,244	68,121	72,897	78,350
Personal Injury/Product Liability	18,839	27,547	14,428	48,739	36,469	52,110	58,335	63,203
Other Personal Injury, Total	21,914	23,018	18,193	16,004	20,775	16,011	14,562	15,147
Airplane	834	683	747	294	478	386	446	300
Marine	2,961	2,277	2,006	1,584	1,597	1,393	1,345	1,393
Motor Vehicle	6,157	5,374	4,690	3,938	3,764	3,636	3,588	3,546
Assault, Libel, and Slander	644	826	801	587	533	557	530	559
Fed. Employers Liability Act	2,741	1,903	1,108	700	585	511	545	480
Medical Malpractice	1,375	1,328	1,526	1,221	1,164	1,255	1,059	1,115
Other	7,202	10,627	7,315	7,680	12,654	8,273	7,049	7,754
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,166	3,421	3,965	4,061	4,115	3,890	5,196	4,705
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	1,492	1,881	2,265	2,313	2,129	2,245	3,320	2,902
Other Personal Property Damage	1,674	1,540	1,700	1,748	1,986	1,645	1,876	1,803
ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES, TOTAL	118,669	156,209	162,583	156,177	156,916	155,939	156,629	161,297
Antitrust	472	781	858	986	1,038	1,318	812	544
Bankruptcy, Total	5,056	5,046	3,361	3,389	3,164	2,383	2,313	2,696
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	4,231	4,312	2,785	2,475	2,290	1,954	1,906	2,177
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	825	734	576	914	874	429	407	519
Banks and Banking	700	432	205	201	234	258	444	647

Table 4.4 (Continued)

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Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year							
	1990	1995	2000	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Civil Rights, Total ⁴	18,793	36,600	40,908	32,865	31,756	32,132	33,761	34,872
Voting	130	208	167	150	118	145	127	102
Employment	8,413	19,059	21,032	14,353	13,375	13,219	14,036	14,543
Accommodations	341	735	1,284	643	665	644	746	687
Welfare	129	116	80	56	27	48	71	58
Other Civil Rights	9,780	16,482	18,345	17,663	17,571	18,076	18,781	15,651
Environmental Matters	958	1,081	886	871	767	920	741	942
Deportation	61	106	213	130	115	130	91	61
Prisoner Petitions	42,630	63,550	58,257	54,955	53,995	54,786	52,304	51,901
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	8,739	2,517	2,320	2,224	2,272	2,331	2,371	2,268
Agricultural Acts	84	155	57	18	29	26	22	32
Food and Drug Act	2,608	197	110	42	55	47	34	35
Drug-Related Seizure of Property		1,042	1,117	1,328	1,355	1,389	1,441	1,273
Air Traffic Regulations	2,608	11	7	2	5	4	1	5
Occupational Safety and Health Act	61	33	4	8	7	8	12	15
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	3,378	1,079	1,025	826	821	847	861	908
Labor Laws, Total	13,841	14,954	14,142	16,659	18,674	16,788	17,719	18,624
Fair Labor Standards Act	1,282	1,580	1,935	4,207	7,310	5,393	6,073	6,825
Labor Management Relations Act	2,342	1,984	1,542	1,239	1,079	1,051	1,066	1,094
Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act	181	161	101	63	82	66	57	70
Railway Labor Act	199	172	137	108	92	83	74	66
E.R.I.S.A. ⁵		9,517	9,124	9,748	8,986	8,983	9,129	9,216
Other Labor Litigation	9,837	1,540	1,303	1,294	1,125	1,212	1,320	1,353
Immigration, Total	-	-	-	-	-	1,641	2,277	1,865
Protected Property Rights	5,738	6,866	8,738	11,514	10,783	9,592	8,365	8,966
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,629	1,906	2,678	1,621	1,394	1,637	1,674	1,397
Social Security Laws, Total	7,439	9,354	15,829	13,847	12,974	13,138	13,622	14,016
Health Insurance	121	81	70	53	56	-	-	-
Black Lung Cases	21	11	20	7	2	-	-	-
Disability Insurance	5,212	5,501	8,122	6,480	6,187	6,080	6,389	6,141
Supplemental Security Income	1,836	3,347	6,762	6,649	6,135	6,373	6,472	7,088
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	249	414	855	658	594	603	665	715
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	72
RICO ⁶		900	829	687	653	684	786	993
State Reapportionment Suits	2,604	7	2	6	6	4	3	6
Tax Suits	38	2,202	907	1,490	1,522	1,451	1,306	1,190
Customer Challenge	38	33	12	17	12	8	19	9
Freedom of Information Act	407	467	341	312	335	639	626	298
Constitutionality of State Statutes	315	309	288	304	277	280	314	329
Other Statutory Actions	8,211	9,098	11,809	14,099	16,995	11,326	10,345	10,206

Table 4.4 (Continued)

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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.

² 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 multidistrict litigation cases transferred to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and severed into separate filings.

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, and 2000; Table S-5 for 2006; Table C-2 for 1990, 1995, and 2000; and Table S-6 for 2006, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.