

**Table 4.4**  
**U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220,312</b>	<b>250,330</b>	<b>261,517</b>	<b>256,880</b>	<b>257,507</b>	<b>267,257</b>	<b>276,397</b>	<b>282,895</b>	<b>289,252</b>
<b>CONTRACT ACTIONS, TOTAL</b>	<b>46,103</b>	<b>31,182</b>	<b>53,625</b>	<b>28,020</b>	<b>33,939</b>	<b>34,172</b>	<b>35,634</b>	<b>31,109</b>	<b>32,306</b>
Franchise	0	0	0	171	384	391	429	357	423
Insurance	6,884	7,540	7,517	7,804	13,287	12,697	11,155	9,380	9,493
Marine	3,313	2,622	2,446	1,435	1,969	2,349	3,498	1,344	1,117
Miller Act	1,569	775	769	387	302	225	249	276	388
Negotiable Instruments	2,997	1,536	495	447	377	504	872	956	876
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments, Total	10,942	1,822	24,838	3,309	2,693	3,447	3,043	3,426	5,047
Student Loans <sup>1</sup>	5,365	1,142	24,404	2,883	2,673	2,910	2,405	2,741	4,332
Veterans' Benefits <sup>2</sup>	4,963	253	43	8	20	9	12	16	8
Other	550	361	277	292	511	528	626	669	707
Other Contract Actions	20,398	16,887	17,560	14,638	14,800	14,559	16,388	15,370	14,962
<b>REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, TOTAL</b>	<b>9,505</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>4,561</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>5,072</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>7,432</b>	<b>10,688</b>
Condemnation of Land	462	334	1,243	251	321	944	317	173	183
Foreclosure	7,196	4,972	4,209	3,012	2,960	2,144	3,129	4,267	7,224
Rent, Lease, and Ejectments	349	310	175	154	135	172	185	254	333
Torts to Land	405	401	377	380	842	510	579	661	577
Other Real Property Actions	1,093	852	707	764	922	1,302	1,788	2,077	2,371
<b>TORT ACTIONS, TOTAL</b>	<b>45,909</b>	<b>55,981</b>	<b>38,586</b>	<b>53,340</b>	<b>61,359</b>	<b>72,011</b>	<b>78,093</b>	<b>83,055</b>	<b>78,175</b>
Personal Injury, Total <sup>3</sup>	42,743	52,560	34,621	49,369	57,244	68,121	72,897	78,350	73,749
Personal Injury/Product Liability	18,839	27,547	14,428	29,537	36,469	52,110	58,335	63,203	59,761
Other Personal Injury, Total	23,904	25,013	20,193	19,832	20,775	16,011	14,562	15,147	13,988
Airplane	834	683	747	351	478	386	446	300	269
Marine	2,961	2,277	2,006	1,667	1,597	1,393	1,345	1,393	1,390
Motor Vehicle	6,157	5,374	4,690	4,091	3,764	3,636	3,588	3,546	3,549
Assault, Libel, and Slander	644	826	801	647	533	557	530	559	590
Fed. Employers Liability Act	2,741	1,903	1,108	748	585	511	545	480	413

**Table 4.4 (Continued)**  
**U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Other Personal Injury, (Cont.)									
Medical Malpractice	1,375	1,328	1,526	1,221	1,164	1,255	1,059	1,115	1,105
Other	7,202	10,627	7,315	9,102	12,654	8,273	7,049	7,754	6,672
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,166	3,421	3,965	3,971	4,115	3,890	5,196	4,705	4,426
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	1,492	1,881	2,265	2,465	2,129	2,245	3,320	2,902	2,683
Other Personal Property Damage	1,674	1,540	1,700	1,506	1,986	1,645	1,876	1,803	1,743
<b>ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES, TOTAL</b>	<b>118,669</b>	<b>156,209</b>	<b>162,583</b>	<b>170,867</b>	<b>156,916</b>	<b>155,939</b>	<b>156,629</b>	<b>161,297</b>	<b>168,076</b>
Antitrust	472	781	858	818	1,038	1,318	812	544	475
Bankruptcy, Total	5,056	5,046	3,361	3,000	3,164	2,383	2,313	2,696	2,829
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	4,231	4,312	2,785	2,435	2,290	1,954	1,906	2,177	2,227
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	825	734	576	565	874	429	407	519	602
Banks and Banking	700	432	205	258	234	258	444	647	622
Civil Rights, Total <sup>4</sup>	18,793	36,600	40,908	37,698	31,756	32,132	33,761	34,872	37,020
Voting	130	208	167	166	118	145	127	102	168
Employment	8,413	19,059	21,032	16,930	13,375	13,219	14,036	14,543	15,141
Accommodations	341	735	1,284	885	665	644	746	687	783
Welfare	129	116	80	54	27	48	71	58	52
ADA – Employment	0	0	0	586	1,041	1,095	1,195	1,522	1,768
ADA – Other	0	0	0	1,016	1,277	1,583	1,974	2,309	2,713
Other Civil Rights	9,780	16,482	18,345	18,061	17,571	18,076	18,781	15,651	16,395
Environmental Matters	958	1,081	886	714	767	920	741	942	726
Deportation	61	106	213	201	115	130	91	61	53
Prisoner Petitions	42,630	63,550	58,257	61,238	53,995	54,786	52,304	52,583	53,611
Civil Rights/Prison Condition	26,136	41,679	25,505	24,614	22,192	22,192	24,888	25,058	25,656
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	8,739	2,517	2,320	2,298	2,272	2,331	2,371	2,268	2,369
Agricultural Acts	84	155	57	27	29	26	22	32	35
Food and Drug Act	2,608	197	110	49	55	47	34	35	51
Drug-Related Seizure of Property		1,042	1,117	1,359	1,355	1,389	1,441	1,273	1,235
Air Traffic Regulations	2,608	11	7	6	5	4	1	5	6
Occupational Safety and Health Act	61	33	4	5	7	8	12	15	28
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	3,378	1,079	1,025	852	821	847	861	908	1,014

**Table 4.4 (Continued)****U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Labor Laws, Total	13,841	14,954	14,142	18,322	18,674	16,788	17,719	18,624	17,966
Fair Labor Standards Act	1,282	1,580	1,935	4,039	7,310	5,393	6,073	6,825	6,335
Labor Management Relations Act	2,342	1,984	1,542	1,674	1,079	1,051	1,066	1,094	1,173
Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act	181	161	101	88	82	66	57	70	42
Railway Labor Act	199	172	137	104	92	83	74	66	74
ERISA <sup>5</sup>		9,517	9,124	11,171	8,986	8,983	9,129	9,216	8,860
Other Labor Litigation	9,837	1,540	1,303	1,246	1,125	1,212	1,320	1,353	1,482
Immigration, Total	-	-	-	-	-	1,641	2,277	1,183	1,083
Protected Property Rights	5,738	6,866	8,738	12,184	10,783	9,592	8,365	8,966	9,940
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,629	1,906	2,678	2,038	1,394	1,637	1,674	1,397	1,402
Social Security Laws, Total	7,439	9,354	15,829	15,487	12,974	13,138	13,622	14,016	15,705
Health Insurance	121	81	70	58	56	-	-	-	-
Black Lung Cases	21	11	20	20	2	-	-	-	-
Disability Insurance	5,212	5,501	8,122	7,024	6,187	6,080	6,389	6,141	6,779
Supplemental Security Income	1,836	3,347	6,762	7,675	6,135	6,373	6,472	7,088	8,176
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	249	414	855	710	594	603	665	715	682
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	72	68
RICO <sup>6</sup>	1,138	900	829	781	653	684	786	993	666

**Table 4.4 (Continued)****U.S. District Courts—Civil Cases Filed, by Nature of Suit**

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
State Reapportionment Suits	2,604	7	2	8	6	4	3	6	14
Tax Suits	38	2,202	907	1,385	1,522	1,451	1,306	1,190	1,194
Customer Challenge	38	33	12	21	12	8	19	9	9
Consumer Credit	0	0	0	0	3,222	4,239	6,463	8,453	9,822
Cable/Satellite TV	0	0	0	0	450	639	626	1,014	1,518
Freedom of Information Act	407	467	341	404	335	280	314	298	388
Constitutionality of State Statutes	315	309	288	310	277	254	273	329	333
Other Statutory Actions	8,211	9,098	11,809	13,702	13,323	11,326	10,345	10,206	10,331

<sup>1</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>2</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>3</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, over 14,000 of which were multidistrict litigation filings in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Employee Retirement Income Security Act filings in 1990 were included in "other labor litigation."

<sup>6</sup> Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act data not reported in 1990.

Sources: Table S-8 for 1995 and 2000; Table C-2 for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2007 - 2011, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.