

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
TOTAL	220,312	250,330	261,517	256,880	267,257	276,397	282,895	289,252	278,442
CONTRACT ACTIONS, TOTAL	46,103	31,182	53,625	28,020	34,172	35,634	31,109	32,306	28,713
Franchise	0	0	0	171	391	429	357	423	367
Insurance	6,884	7,540	7,517	7,804	12,697	11,155	9,380	9,493	8,679
Marine	3,313	2,622	2,446	1,435	2,349	3,498	1,344	1,117	1,032
Miller Act	1,569	775	769	387	225	249	276	388	574
Negotiable Instruments	2,997	1,536	495	447	504	872	956	876	819
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments, Total	10,942	1,822	24,838	3,309	3,447	3,043	3,426	5,047	3,279
Student Loans ¹	5,365	1,142	24,404	2,883	2,910	2,405	2,741	4,332	2,657
Veterans' Benefits ²	4,963	253	43	8	9	12	16	8	6
Other	550	361	277	292	528	626	669	707	616
Other Contract Actions	20,398	16,887	17,560	14,638	14,559	16,388	15,370	14,962	13,963
REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, TOTAL	9,505	6,869	6,711	4,561	5,072	5,998	7,432	10,688	12,960
Condemnation of Land	462	334	1,243	251	944	317	173	183	123
Foreclosure	7,196	4,972	4,209	3,012	2,144	3,129	4,267	7,224	8,130
Rent, Lease, and Ejectments	349	310	175	154	172	185	254	333	662
Torts to Land	405	401	377	380	510	579	661	577	1054
Other Real Property Actions	1,093	852	707	764	1,302	1,788	2,077	2,371	2,991
TORT ACTIONS, TOTAL	45,909	55,981	38,586	53,340	72,011	78,093	83,055	78,175	61,306
Personal Injury, Total ³	42,743	52,560	34,621	49,369	68,121	72,897	78,350	73,750	57,151
Personal Injury/Product Liability	18,839	27,547	14,428	29,537	52,110	58,335	63,203	59,761	43,083
Other Personal Injury, Total	23,904	25,013	20,193	19,832	16,011	14,562	15,147	13,989	14,068
Airplane	834	683	747	351	386	446	300	269	194
Marine	2,961	2,277	2,006	1,667	1,393	1,345	1,393	1,390	1,258
Motor Vehicle	6,157	5,374	4,690	4,091	3,636	3,588	3,546	3,549	3,501
Assault, Libel, and Slander	644	826	801	647	557	530	559	590	579
Fed. Employers Liability Act	2,741	1,903	1,108	748	511	545	480	413	412

Table 4.4 (Continued)
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Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Other Personal Injury (Cont.)									
Medical Malpractice	1,375	1,328	1,526	1,221	1,255	1,059	1,115	1,105	1,044
Other	7,202	10,627	7,315	9,102	8,273	7,049	7,754	6,673	7,080
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,166	3,421	3,965	3,971	3,890	5,196	4,705	4,426	4,155
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	1,492	1,881	2,265	2,465	2,245	3,320	2,902	2,683	2,340
Other Personal Property Damage	1,674	1,540	1,700	1,506	1,645	1,876	1,803	1,743	1,815
ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES, TOTAL	118,669	156,209	162,583	170,867	155,939	156,629	161,297	168,076	175,463
Antitrust	472	781	858	818	1,318	812	544	475	702
Bankruptcy, Total	5,056	5,046	3,361	3,000	2,383	2,313	2,696	2,829	3,928
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	4,231	4,312	2,785	2,435	1,954	1,906	2,177	2,227	2,168
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	825	734	576	565	429	407	519	602	1,760
Banks and Banking	700	432	205	258	258	444	647	622	605
Civil Rights, Total ⁴	18,793	36,600	40,908	37,698	32,132	33,761	34,872	37,020	37,705
Voting	130	208	167	166	145	127	102	168	204
Employment	8,413	19,059	21,032	16,930	13,219	14,036	14,543	15,141	15,018
Accommodations	341	735	1,284	885	644	746	687	783	741
Welfare	129	116	80	54	48	71	58	52	28
ADA – Employment	0	0	0	586	1,095	1,195	1,522	1,768	1,958
ADA – Other	0	0	0	1,016	1,583	1,974	2,309	2,713	3,133
Other Civil Rights	9,780	16,482	18,345	18,061	18,076	18,781	15,651	16,395	16,497
Environmental Matters	958	1,081	886	714	920	741	942	726	696
Deportation	61	106	213	201	130	91	61	53	20
Prisoner Petitions	42,630	63,550	58,257	61,238	54,786	52,304	52,583	53,611	54,300
Civil Rights/Prison Condition	26,136	41,679	25,505	24,614	22,192	24,888	25,058	25,656	25,036
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	8,739	2,517	2,320	2,298	2,331	2,371	2,268	2,369	2,298
Agricultural Acts	84	155	57	27	26	22	32	35	18
Food and Drug Act	2,608	197	110	49	47	34	35	51	16
Drug-Related Seizure of Property		1,042	1,117	1,359	1,389	1,441	1,273	1,235	1,289
Air Traffic Regulations	2,608	11	7	6	4	1	5	6	0
Occupational Safety and Health Act	61	33	4	5	8	12	15	28	13
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	3,378	1,079	1,025	852	847	861	908	1,014	962

Table 4.4 (Continued)

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Labor Laws, Total	13,841	14,954	14,142	18,322	16,788	17,719	18,624	17,966	19,440
Fair Labor Standards Act	1,282	1,580	1,935	4,039	5,393	6,073	6,825	6,335	8,152
Labor Management Relations Act	2,342	1,984	1,542	1,674	1,051	1,066	1,094	1,173	1,167
Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act	181	161	101	88	66	57	70	42	15
Railway Labor Act	199	172	137	104	83	74	66	74	44
ERISA ⁵		9,517	9,124	11,171	8,983	9,129	9,216	8,860	8,404
Other Labor Litigation	9,837	1,540	1,303	1,246	1,212	1,320	1,353	1,482	1,367
Immigration, Total	-	-	-	-	1,641	2,277	1,183	1,083	1,058
Protected Property Rights	5,738	6,866	8,738	12,184	9,592	8,365	8,966	9,940	11,666
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,629	1,906	2,678	2,038	1,637	1,674	1,397	1,402	1,432
Social Security Laws, Total	7,439	9,354	15,829	15,487	13,138	13,622	14,016	15,705	17,645
Health Insurance	121	81	70	58	-	-	-	-	-
Black Lung Cases	21	11	20	20	-	-	-	-	-
Disability Insurance	5,212	5,501	8,122	7,024	6,080	6,389	6,141	6,779	7,487
Supplemental Security Income	1,836	3,347	6,762	7,675	6,373	6,472	7,088	8,176	9,248
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	249	414	855	710	603	665	715	682	772
Other	-	-	-	-	-	96	72	68	138
RICO	1,214	900	829	781	684	786	993	666	772

Table 4.4 (Continued)

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year									
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
State Reapportionment Suits	2,604	7	2	8	4	3	6	14	14	
Tax Suits	38	2,202	907	1,385	1,451	1,306	1,190	1,194	1,202	
Customer Challenge	38	33	12	21	8	19	9	9	9	
Consumer Credit	0	0	0	0	4,239	6,463	8,453	9,822	9,320	
Cable/Satellite TV	0	0	0	0	639	626	1,014	1,518	1,514	
Freedom of Information Act	407	467	341	404	280	314	298	388	344	
Constitutionality of State Statutes	315	309	288	310	254	273	329	333	328	
Other Statutory Actions	8,211	9,098	11,809	13,702	11,326	10,345	10,206	10,331	10,340	

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 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."

Sources: Table S-8 for 1995 and 2000; Table C-2 for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2007 - 2012, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.