

Table 4.7
U.S. District Courts. Copyright, Patent and Trademark Cases Filed

Fiscal Year	Grand Total	U.S. Cases			Private Cases			
		Total	Patent	Trademark	Total	Copyright	Patent	Trademark
1990	5,729	37	24	13	5,692	2,075	1,212	2,405
1995	6,866	27	17	10	6,839	2,417	1,706	2,716
2000	8,738	41	24	17	8,697	2,050	2,460	4,187
2002	8,254	32	20	12	8,222	2,084	2,680	3,458
2003	8,934	41	26	15	8,893	2,448	2,788	3,657
2004	9,590	32	20	12	9,558	3,007	3,055	3,496
2005	12,184	25	14	11	12,159	5,796	2,706	3,657
2006	11,514	28	23	5	11,486	4,944	2,807	3,735

NOTE: Filings increased steadily from 1990 through 2000 due to rapid growth in advanced technology and an increase in the number of companies and individuals who view intellectual property as an asset to be protected. Filings decreased between 2000 and 2002, primarily because of a significant decline in trademark filings. The significant growth in filings in 2004 resulted primarily from a 23 percent increase in copyright filings. Much of the increase occurred after a judge ruled that a case originally filed in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against more than 200 defendants must be refiled as individual cases against each defendant. Filings continued to increase in 2005, but declined 5 percent in 2006 primarily due to a 15 percent drop in copyright filings. The 2005 increase likely resulted from music companies filing infringement cases against individuals for downloading copyrighted recordings.

Source: Special C-3 Table