

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 ¹	5,700	30	22	8	5,670	2,095	1,165	2,410
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
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
2007	10,783	22	18	4	10,761	4,400	2,878	3,483
2008	6,358	19	14	5	6,339	3,234 ²	2,895	3,444
2009	8,365	47	41	6	8,318	2,192	2,751	3,375

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. Between 2000 and 2005, 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 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.

¹ Twelve-month period ending June 30.

² Over the past year, 70 percent of the U.S. district courts reported lower filings. Their filings are now returning to levels reported prior to 2004.

Source: Table C-2, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.