

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
TOTAL	226,523	248,335	259,517	256,880	282,895	289,252	278,442	284,604	295,310
CONTRACT ACTIONS, TOTAL	46,103	31,182	53,625	28,020	31,109	32,306	28,713	28,571	28,557
Franchise ¹	-	-	-	171	357	423	367	477	456
Insurance	6,884	7,540	7,517	7,804	9,380	9,493	8,679	10,569	11,728
Marine	3,313	2,622	2,446	1,435	1,344	1,117	1,032	987	810
Miller Act	1,569	775	769	387	276	388	574	473	502
Negotiable Instruments	2,997	1,536	495	447	956	876	819	654	562
Recovery of Overpayments and Enforcement of Judgments, Total	10,942	1,822	24,838	3,309	3,426	5,047	3,279	2,520	2,352
Student Loans ²	5,365	1,142	24,404	2,883	2,741	4,332	2,657	1,855	1,654
Veterans' Benefits ³	4,963	253	43	8	16	8	6	4	8
Other	550	361	277	292	669	707	616	661	690
Other Contract Actions	20,398	16,887	17,560	14,638	15,370	14,962	13,963	12,891	12,147
REAL PROPERTY ACTIONS, TOTAL	9,505	6,869	6,711	4,561	7,432	10,688	12,960	10,762	7,802
Condemnation of Land	462	334	1,243	251	173	183	123	173	149
Foreclosure	7,196	4,972	4,209	3,012	4,267	7,224	8,130	6,264	3,928
Rent, Lease, and Ejectments	349	310	175	154	254	333	662	516	773
Torts to Land	405	401	377	380	661	577	1,054	687	642
Other Real Property Actions	1,093	852	707	764	2,077	2,371	2,991	3,122	2,310
TORT ACTIONS, TOTAL	45,909	53,986	36,586	53,340	83,055	78,175	61,306	67,738	79,990
Personal Injury, Total ⁴	42,743	50,565	32,621	49,369	78,350	73,750	57,151	63,316	76,463
Personal Injury/Product Liability	18,839	27,547	14,428	29,537	63,203	59,761	43,083	49,526	60,078
Other Personal Injury, Total	23,904	23,018	18,193	19,832	15,147	13,989	14,068	13,790	16,385
Airplane	834	683	747	351	300	269	194	222	214
Marine	2,961	2,277	2,006	1,667	1,393	1,390	1,258	1,200	1,166
Motor Vehicle	6,157	5,374	4,690	4,091	3,546	3,549	3,501	3,524	3,741
Assault, Libel, and Slander	644	826	801	647	559	590	579	636	495
Fed. Employers Liability Act	2,741	1,903	1,108	748	480	413	412	352	330

Table 4.4 (Continued)
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Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Other Personal Injury (Cont.)									
Medical Malpractice	1,375	1,328	1,526	1,221	1,115	1,105	1,044	1,025	986
Other	7,202	10,627	7,315	9,102	7,754	6,673	7,080	6,831	9,453
Personal Property Damage, Total	3,166	3,421	3,965	3,971	4,705	4,426	4,155	4,422	3,527
Fraud, Including Truth in Lending	1,492	1,881	2,265	2,465	2,902	2,683	2,340	2,078	2,005
Other Personal Property Damage	1,674	1,540	1,700	1,506	1,803	1,743	1,815	2,344	1,522
ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES, TOTAL	124,880	156,209	162,583	170,867	161,297	168,076	175,463	177,533	178,961
Antitrust	472	781	858	818	544	475	702	817	799
Bankruptcy, Total	5,056	5,046	3,361	3,000	2,696	2,829	3,928	2,633	2,651
Appeal (28 U.S.C. 158)	4,231	4,312	2,785	2,435	2,177	2,227	2,168	1,992	2,055
Withdrawal (28 U.S.C. 157)	825	734	576	565	519	602	1,760	641	596
Banks and Banking	700	432	205	258	647	622	605	340	294
Civil Rights, Total ⁵	18,793	36,600	40,908	37,698	34,872	37,020	37,705	35,307	35,274
Voting	130	208	167	166	102	168	204	129	171
Employment	8,413	19,059	21,032	16,930	14,543	15,141	15,018	13,322	11,937
Accommodations	341	735	1,284	885	687	783	741	667	757
Welfare	129	116	80	54	58	52	28	6	0
ADA – Employment ⁶	-	-	-	586	1,522	1,768	1,958	1,944	1,894
ADA – Other ⁶	-	-	-	1,016	2,309	2,713	3,133	3,039	4,432
Other Civil Rights	9,780	16,482	18,345	18,061	15,651	16,395	16,497	15,906	15,628
Environmental Matters	958	1,081	886	714	942	726	696	1,436	614
Deportation	61	106	213	201	61	53	20	25	21
Prisoner Petitions	42,630	63,550	58,257	61,238	52,583	53,611	54,300	56,955	60,675
Civil Rights/Prison Condition	26,136	41,679	25,505	24,614	25,058	25,656	25,036	27,612	32,036
Forfeiture and Penalty, Total	6,224	2,517	2,320	2,298	2,268	2,369	2,298	2,144	1,901
Agricultural Acts	84	155	57	27	32	35	18	4	2
Food and Drug Act	739	197	110	49	35	51	16	3	0
Drug-Related Seizure of Property	1,914	1,042	1,117	1,359	1,273	1,235	1,289	1,155	1,018
Air Traffic Regulations	48	11	7	6	5	6	-	1	0
Occupational Safety and Health Act	61	33	4	5	15	28	13	1	0
Other Forfeiture and Penalty Suits	3,378	1,079	1,025	852	908	1,014	962	980	881

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Labor Laws, Total	22,567	14,954	14,142	18,322	18,624	17,966	19,440	18,043	18,673
Fair Labor Standards Act	1,282	1,580	1,935	4,039	6,825	6,335	8,152	7,500	8,160
Labor Management Relations Act	2,342	1,984	1,542	1,674	1,094	1,173	1,167	883	812
Labor Management Reporting & Disclosure Act	181	161	101	88	70	42	15	7	1
Railway Labor Act	199	172	137	104	66	74	44	64	57
ERISA	8,726	9,517	9,124	11,171	9,216	8,860	8,404	7,599	7,191
Other Labor Litigation	9,837	1,540	1,303	1,246	1,353	1,482	1,367	1,113	1,108
Immigration, Total ⁷	-	-	-	-	1,183	1,083	1,058	1,054	1,163
Protected Property Rights	5,738	6,866	8,738	12,184	8,966	9,940	11,666	13,335	13,420
Securities, Commodities, and Exchanges	2,629	1,906	2,678	2,038	1,397	1,402	1,432	1,113	947
Social Security Laws, Total ⁸	7,439	9,354	15,829	15,487	14,016	15,705	17,645	19,977	19,146
Health Insurance	121	81	70	58	-	-	-	-	-
Black Lung Cases	21	11	20	20	-	-	-	-	-
Disability Insurance	5,212	5,501	8,122	7,024	6,141	6,779	7,487	8,407	8,513
Supplemental Security Income	1,836	3,347	6,762	7,675	7,088	8,176	9,248	10,634	9,813
Retirement and Survivors Benefits	249	414	855	710	715	682	772	784	692
Other	-	-	-	-	72	68	138	152	128
RICO	1,214	900	829	781	993	666	772	645	735

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

Nature of Suit	Fiscal Year								
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
State Reapportionment Suits	2,604	7	2	8	6	14	14	9	11
Tax Suits	38	2,202	907	1,385	1,190	1,194	1,202	1,113	941
Customer Challenge	38	33	12	21	9	9	9	3	0
Consumer Credit ⁹	-	-	-	-	8,453	9,822	9,320	8,974	8,547
Cable/Satellite TV ⁹	-	-	-	-	1,014	1,518	1,514	1,489	1,367
Freedom of Information Act	407	467	341	404	298	388	344	382	446
Constitutionality of State Statutes	315	309	288	310	329	333	328	322	323
Other Statutory Actions	8,211	9,098	11,809	13,702	10,206	10,331	10,340	11,417	11,013

¹ Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Civil rights filings increased significantly after 1990 largely because of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

⁶ Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

⁷ Collection of data for this category began in 2006.

⁸ Collection of data for this category began in 2005.

⁹ Collection of data for this category began in 2008.

Sources: Table S-8 for 1995 and 2000; Table C-2 for 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2009 - 2014, *Annual Report of the Director: Judicial Business of the United States Courts*.