

Supreme Court Caseload

The caseload information shown in Table 1 on page 5 is also presented graphically in Chart 1. The categories shown are those most commonly used in Supreme Court cases.

“Intermediate Appeals” are appeals made during the progress of a case in circuit court. Intermediate appeals are accepted at the discretion of the Supreme Court.

“Notice of Review” is filed by an appellee (party against whom an appeal is taken) seeking review of a judgment or order entered in the same action from which an appeal has been taken. A notice of review is a separate filing but not a separate disposition since it is disposed as part of the original appeal.

“Certificates of Probable Cause” are required before an appeal can be brought in a habeas corpus case.

“Summary Dispositions” are appeals that have been summarily affirmed or reversed on established grounds set forth in SDCL 15-26A-87.1. In these proceedings the Court, on its own mo-

tion, may affirm or reverse the judgment or order from which the appeal is taken. The Court must be unanimous in its decision to render a summary disposition, and the decision is set out in an order or memorandum opinion. The term “expedited appeal” is sometimes used because it usually takes less time to process appeals under this rule.

“Pending Cases” are cases which have been filed with the Court but in which no decision has been entered. Pending cases are divided into:

- “Submitted and pending” -- cases which have been completely briefed, orally argued, or submitted to the Court on briefs and await only final disposition by the Court
- “Ready for submission” -- cases which have been completely briefed and are awaiting placement on the Court calendar
- “Not ready for calendar” -- cases which have been filed but are still in the transcript or briefing stages.

Table 1. SUPREME COURT CASELOAD COMPARED BY FISCAL YEAR

Fiscal Year:	FY1997	FY1998	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001
FILINGS:					
Appeals	306	339	379	386	380
Intermediate Appeals	40	38	52	44	35
Original Proceedings	37	22	13	21	22
Notice of Review	24	39	41	31	31
Certificates of Probable Cause	16	16	10	22	23
Reinstatements	0	2	3	2	2
Rehearings Granted	0	1	0	2	1
COMBINED FILINGS	423	457	498	508	494
DISPOSITIONS:					
Appeals / Original Proceedings	144/174	128/153	147/182	167/203	158/184
Orders of Dismissal/Dispositional Remands	104/107	76/79	97/102	118/126	120/128
Denial of Intermediate Appeals	28	26	33	26	29
Original Proceedings (by Order)	52	31	23	42	22
Dispositive Remand	0	0	0	3	0
Summary Dispositions	143	108	142	114	117
COMBINED DISPOSITIONS	504	397	482	514	480
PENDING CASES:					
Submitted and Pending	56	61	74	68	64
Ready for Submission	37	56	60	72	70
Not Ready for Calendar	122	160	159	148	152
Other (in Suspense)	5	3	3	2	2
TOTAL PENDING CASES (6/30/2000)	220	280	296	290	288
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES FILED *					
Filed by Appellant	48	14	0	0	0
Filed by Appellee	4	0	0	0	0
Invited by Conferee	0	0	0	0	0
Ineligible	32	14	0	0	0
Refused	10	0	0	0	0
Conference Unsuccessful	10	0	0	0	0
Issues Narrowed	3	0	0	0	0
Cases Settled	6	3	0	0	0
Pending (End of FY)	3	0	0	0	0

* Repealed by Supreme Court Rule 97-45.

Chart 1. Supreme Court Caseload Comparison

