



# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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## WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT

### APRIL 2021

This statistical report presents information about the case filings and dispositions of the Wisconsin Supreme Court during the month of April 2021 and to date for the term that began on September 1, 2020.

#### Opinions Issued by the Court

The Supreme Court issued opinions resolving 9 cases in April. Information about these opinions, including the Court's dispositions and the names of the authoring justices, can be found on the attached table.

|   | <u>April 2021</u> | <u>Term to Date</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Total number of cases resolved by opinion ..... | 9                 | 54                  |
| Attorney disciplinary cases .....               | 2                 | 27                  |
| Judicial disciplinary cases.....                | 0                 | 0                   |
| Bar Admissions .....                            | 0                 | 0                   |
| Civil cases .....                               | 6                 | 17                  |
| Criminal cases .....                            | 1                 | 10                  |

#### Petitions for Review

A total of 53 petitions for review were filed during the month. A petition for review asks the Supreme Court to review the decision of the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's jurisdiction is discretionary, meaning that review is granted in selected cases only. In April, the Supreme Court disposed of 52 petitions for review, of which 5 petitions were granted. The Supreme Court currently has 145 petitions for review pending.

|                                  | <u>April 2021</u> | <u>Term to Date</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Petitions for Review filed ..... | 53                | 397                 |
| Civil cases .....                | 18                | 141                 |
| Criminal cases.....              | 35                | 256                 |

|  |        |          |
|--|--------|----------|
| Petition for Review dispositions .....   | 52     | 418      |
| Civil cases (petitions granted).....     | 20 (4) | 164 (23) |
| Criminal cases (petitions granted) ..... | 32 (1) | 254 (18) |

### Petitions for Bypass

In April, the Supreme Court received one petition for bypass and disposed of one petition for bypass. In a petition for bypass, a party requests that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction of an appeal or other proceeding pending in the Court of Appeals. A matter appropriate for bypass is usually one which meets one or more of the criteria for review by the Supreme Court and one the Supreme Court concludes it will ultimately choose to consider regardless of how the Court of Appeals might decide the issues. A petition for bypass may also be granted where there is a clear need to hasten the ultimate appellate decision. The Supreme Court currently has one petition for bypass pending.

|  | <u>April 2021</u> | <u>Term to Date</u> |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Petitions for Bypass filed .....         | 1                 | 10                  |
| Civil cases .....                        | 0                 | 2                   |
| Criminal cases .....                     | 1                 | 8                   |
| <br>                                     |                   |                     |
| Petition for Bypass dispositions.....    | 1                 | 10                  |
| Civil cases (petitions granted).....     | 0 (0)             | 3 (1)               |
| Criminal cases (petitions granted) ..... | 1 (1)             | 7 (2)               |

### Requests for Certification

During April 2021, the Supreme Court received 2 requests for certification and disposed of one request for certification. In a request for certification, the Court of Appeals asks the Supreme Court to exercise its appellate jurisdiction before the Court of Appeals hears the matter. A request for certification is decided on the basis of the same criteria as a petition to bypass. The Supreme Court currently has 3 requests for certification pending.

|   | <u>April 2021</u> | <u>Term to Date</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Requests for Certification filed.....       | 2                 | <u>6</u>            |
| Civil cases .....                           | 0                 | 2                   |
| Criminal cases .....                        | 2                 | 4                   |
| <br>  |                   |                     |
| Request for Certification dispositions..... | <u>1</u>          | <u>6</u>            |
| Civil cases (requests granted) .....        | 1 (1)             | 3 (2)               |
| Criminal cases (requests granted) .....     | 0 (0)             | 3 (3)               |

Regulatory Matters, Supervisory Writs, and Original Actions

During the month, a total of no matters within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Court (bar admission, lawyer discipline, and judicial discipline) was filed and one such case was reopened. The Supreme Court also received 4 petitions for supervisory writ, which asks the Supreme Court to order the Court of Appeals or a Circuit Court to take a certain action in a case. There were no original actions filed. An original action is a petition asking the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over a particular matter. When an opinion is issued in these cases, the disposition is included in “Opinions Issued by the Court” above; otherwise, the case is disposed of by order and is included in the totals below. The Supreme Court currently has 100 regulatory matters and 8 petitions for supervisory writs pending.

|   | <u>April 2021</u> | <u>Term to Date</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Filings</u>                                      |                   |                     |
| Attorney discipline (including reopened cases)..... | 1                 | 19                  |
| Judicial discipline.....                            | 0                 | 0                   |
| Bar admission.....                                  | 0                 | 2                   |
| Petitions for Supervisory Writ .....                | 4                 | 25                  |
| Other (including Original Actions).....             | 0                 | 17                  |
| <br><u>Dispositions by Order</u>                    |                   |                     |
| Attorney discipline.....                            | 1                 | 1                   |
| Judicial discipline.....                            | 0                 | 0                   |
| Bar admission.....                                  | 0                 | 0                   |
| Petitions for Supervisory Writ .....                | 1                 | 27                  |
| Other (including Original Actions).....             | 0                 | 16                  |

**DECISIONS BY THE  
WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT  
OPINIONS ISSUED DURING APRIL 2021**

| <b><u>Docket No.</u></b>    | <b><u>Title</u></b>  | <b><u>Date</u></b> |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| #2017AP2244                 | <b>Village of Slinger v. Polk Properties, LLC<br/>THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF<br/>APPEALS IS REVERSED AND THE CAUSE<br/>IS REMANDED TO THE CIRCUIT COURT.</b><br>REBECCA GRASSL BRADLEY, J., delivered<br>the majority opinion of the Court, in which<br>ROGGENSACK, C. J., ANN WALSH<br>BRADLEY, DALLET, and KAROFSKY, JJ.,<br>joined. ZIEGLER, J., filed a concurring opinion.<br>HAGEDORN, J., did not participate.  | 04/01/2021         |
| #2018AP1114                 | <b>Christus Lutheran Church of Appleton v.<br/>Wisconsin Department of Transportation:<br/>THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF<br/>APPEALS IS REVERSED.</b><br>KAROFSKY, J., delivered the majority opinion of<br>the Court, in which ANN WALSH BRADLEY,<br>DALLET, and HAGEDORN, JJ., joined.<br>ROGGENSACK, C. J., filed a dissenting opinion,<br>in which ZIEGLER and REBECCA GRASSL<br>BRADLEY, JJ., joined.  | 04/01/2021         |
| #2019AP2397 &<br>#2020AP112 | <b>Timothy Zignego v. Wisconsin Elections<br/>Commission<br/>THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF<br/>APPEALS IS MODIFIED AND AFFIRMED<br/>AS MODIFIED, AND THE CAUSE IS<br/>REMANDED TO THE CIRCUIT COURT<br/>FOR DISMISSAL.</b><br>HAGEDORN, J. delivered the majority opinion of<br>the Court, in which ROGGENSACK, C.J., ANN<br>WALSH BRADLEY, DALLET, and<br>KAROFSKY, JJ., joined.<br>REBECCA GRASSL BRADLEY, J., filed a<br>dissenting opinion, in which ZIEGLER, J., joined. | 04/09/2021         |

#2018AP960

**Country Visions Coop. v. Archer-Daniels  
Midland Co.  
THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF  
APPEALS IS AFFIRMED.**

04/21/2021

ZIEGLER, J., delivered the majority opinion for a unanimous Court. ROGGENSACK, C. J., filed a concurring opinion.

#2018AP1832-D

**Office of Lawyer Regulation v. James C.  
Ritland  
PER CURIAM.**

04/22/2021

**IT IS ORDERED** that the license of James C. Ritland to practice law in Wisconsin is suspended for a period of two years, effective June 3, 2021. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that James C. Ritland shall comply with the provisions of SCR 22.26 concerning the duties of a person whose license to practice law in Wisconsin has been suspended. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that within 60 days of the date of this order, James C. Ritland shall pay to the Office of Lawyer Regulation the costs of this proceeding, which are \$21,017.24 as of March 2, 2020. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that compliance with all conditions of this order is required for reinstatement. See SCR 22.29(4) (c).  
ROGGENSACK, C. J., filed a dissenting opinion, joined by ZIEGLER AND REBESCCA GRASSL BRADLEY, JJ.

#2021AP430-D

**Office of Lawyer Regulation v. Laura L. Waite  
PER CURIAM.**

04/27/2021

IT IS ORDERED that the request is granted and, effective the date of this order, Attorney Laura Waite's license to practice law in this state is indefinitely suspended.

