Annual Statistical Report

2024 – 2025 TERM

Wisconsin Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk

Wisconsin Supreme Court

2024 – 2025 Term, Annual Statistical Report

This annual report provides information about the work of the Wisconsin Supreme Court in its judicial and rulemaking functions from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. It includes comprehensive statistics on the number and types of cases filed, opinions issued, and dispositions made by the Court, allowing readers to gain insight into the Court's workload and priorities.

Additionally, the report offers valuable information about new or updated rules governing pleadings, practices, and procedures in judicial proceedings across all Wisconsin courts. This information is beneficial for legal professionals and individuals interested in understanding the legal landscape in Wisconsin and staying informed about any changes that may affect them.

Overall, this report is a resource for anyone seeking to understand the activities of the Wisconsin Supreme Court during the reporting period.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of the Supreme Court

"For nearly two centuries, our courts have stood as a cornerstone of justice in Wisconsin."

- Chief Justice Jill J. Karofsky

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Chief Justice
Jill J. Karofsky
2020 – Present
Chief Justice 2025 – Present

Justice
Ann Walsh Bradley
1995 – 2025
Chief Justice 2025

Justice
Annette Kingsland Ziegler
2007 – Present
Chief Justice 2021 – 2025

Justice
Rebecca Grassl Bradley
2015 - Present

Justice
Rebecca Frank Dallet
2018 – Present

Justice
Brian K. Hagedorn
2019 – Present

Justice
Janet C. Protasiewicz
2023 – Present

Justice
Susan M. Crawford
2025 – Present

Opinions Issued by the Court

A Supreme Court opinion is a document that explains the decision made by the court in a particular case. Different opinions are used based on how the justices agree or disagree. These include majority opinions, plurality opinions, concurring opinions, per curiam opinions, and dissenting opinions. For instance, a plurality opinion is issued when most justices voting with the majority agree, but there is no consensus among them. If a justice disagrees with part of the majority's reasoning but agrees with the rest of it, they may write a concurring opinion. In a dissenting opinion, a justice who voted against the outcome explains why they believe the majority is incorrect.

In a majority opinion, the justice who writes it explains the decision and reasoning behind it. A per curiam opinion is issued when the court rules in favor of a particular outcome but no specific justice writes an opinion. In this instance, the court will issue a per curiam opinion, which sets out the court's decision and reasoning. For purposes of this report, per curiam opinions are included as orders of the court, listed in the Disposed by Order section below.

The Supreme Court issued 21 opinions resolving 21 cases[1] during the 2024-2025 term.

	`22-`23	`23-`24	`24-`25
Total number of cases resolved by opinion	64	30	40
- Attorney discipline cases	15	13	16
- Judicial discipline cases	0	0	1
- Bar admission cases	0	0	1
- Civil cases	29	13	17
- Criminal cases	20	4	5

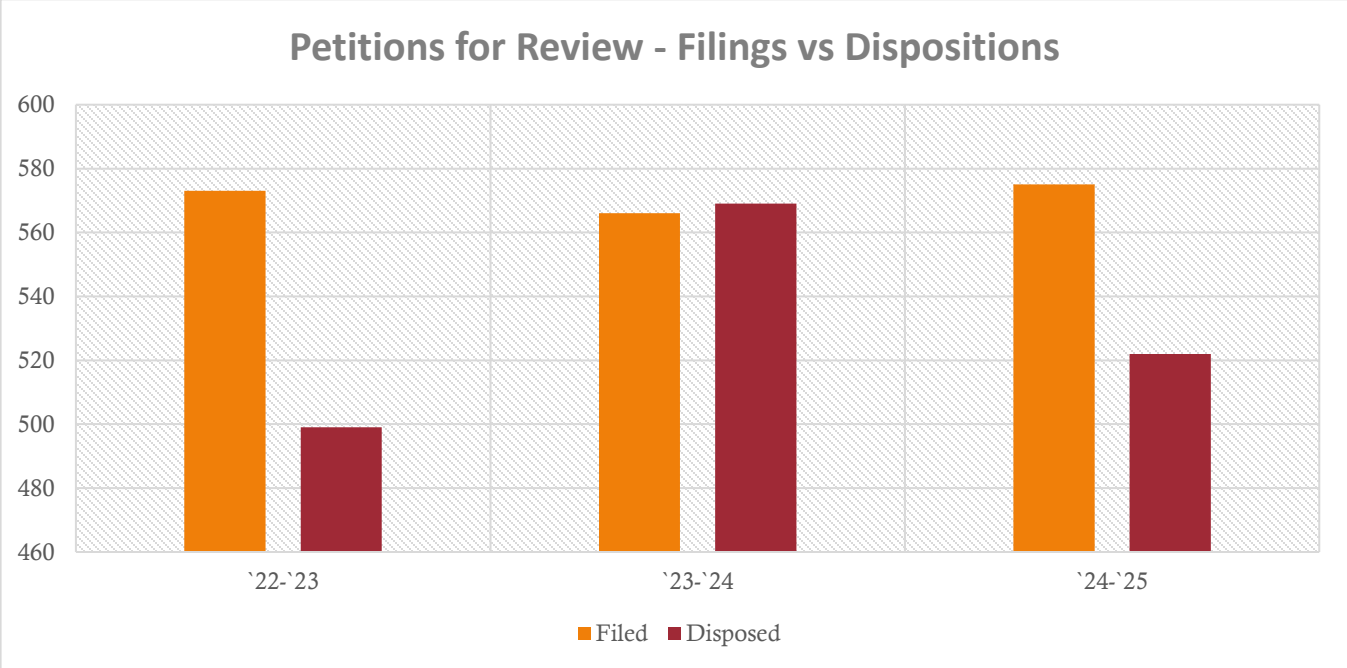
[1] The number of authored opinions for the term may differ from the number of cases resolved by opinion for the term; multiple cases resolve by one opinion (consolidated cases) and *per curiam* opinions (by the court as a whole) may account for this difference.

Petitions for Review

A petition for review asks the Supreme Court to review the decisions of the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's jurisdiction is discretionary, meaning that review is granted only in selected cases. The Supreme Court grants review of fewer than ten percent of the petitions of review that are filed.

A total of 575 petitions for review were filed during the term. During the 2024-2025 term, the Supreme Court disposed of 522 petitions for review, of which 22 petitions were granted. At the end of the term, the Court had 259 petitions for review pending.

	`22-`23	`23-`24	`24-`25
Total Petitions for Review filed	573	566	576
- Civil cases	230	291	264
- Criminal cases	343	275	312
Total Petitions for Review dispositions	499	569	522
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	221 (12)	256 (7)	249 (12)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	278 (7)	313 (4)	273 (10)

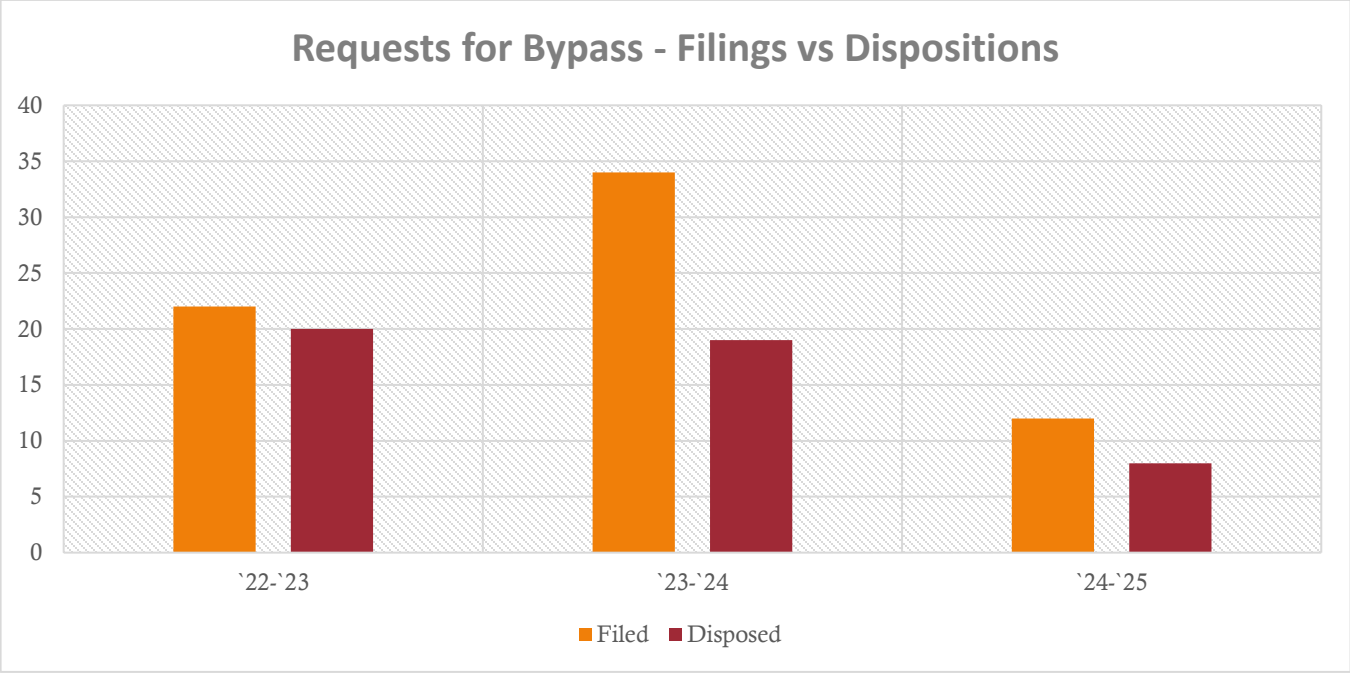


Requests for Bypass

In a petition for bypass, a party requests that the Supreme Court take jurisdiction of an appeal or other proceedings pending in the Court of Appeals. A matter appropriate for bypass is usually meets one or more criteria for review by the Supreme Court, and 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 expedite the ultimate appellate decision.

This term, the Supreme Court received 12 petitions for bypass and disposed of 28 petitions, of which four were granted. At the end of the term, the Court has three petitions pending.

	`22-`23	`23-`24	`24-`25
Total Petitions for Bypass filed	22	34	12
- Civil cases	18	32	11
- Criminal cases	4	2	1
Total Petitions for Bypass dispositions	20	19	28
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	16 (2)	17 (3)	28 (4)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	4 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)

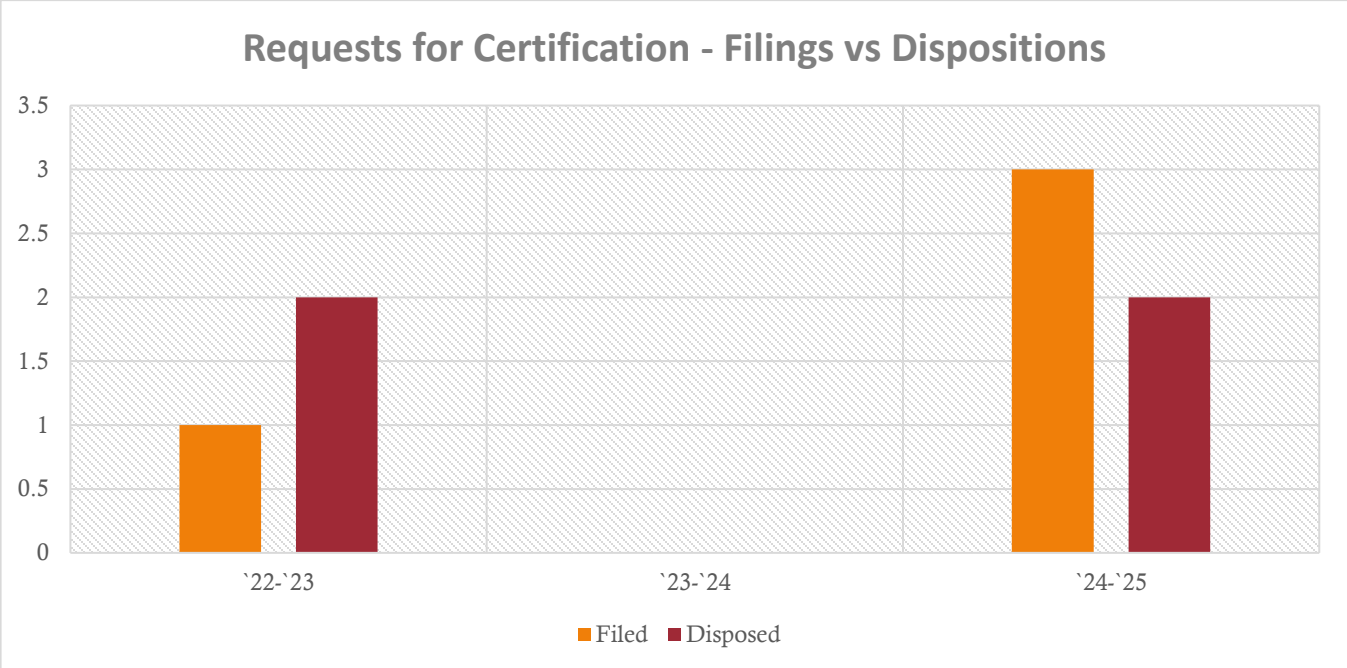


Requests for Certification

In a request for certification, the Court of Appeals asks the Supreme Court to take a case before the Court of Appeals itself has a chance to review it. It is important to note that the criteria used to decide whether or grant a request for certification is the same as that for a petition to bypass.

During the 2024-2025 term, the Supreme Court received three requests for certification and disposed of two requests. At the end of the term, one requests were pending.

	`22-`23	`23-`24	`24-`25
Total Petitions for Certification filed	1	0	3
- Civil cases	0	0	2
- Criminal cases	1	0	1
Total Petitions for Certification dispositions	2	0	2
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	2 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)



Regulatory Matters, Supervisory Writs, and Original Actions

During the 2024-2025 term, a total of 27 matters within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Court (bar admissions, lawyer discipline, and judicial discipline) were filed. The Supreme Court also received 49 petitions for supervisory writ, which ask the Court to order the Court of Appeals or a circuit court to take a certain action on a case. At the end of the term, the Court has 47 regulatory matters and 11 petitions for supervisory writ pending.

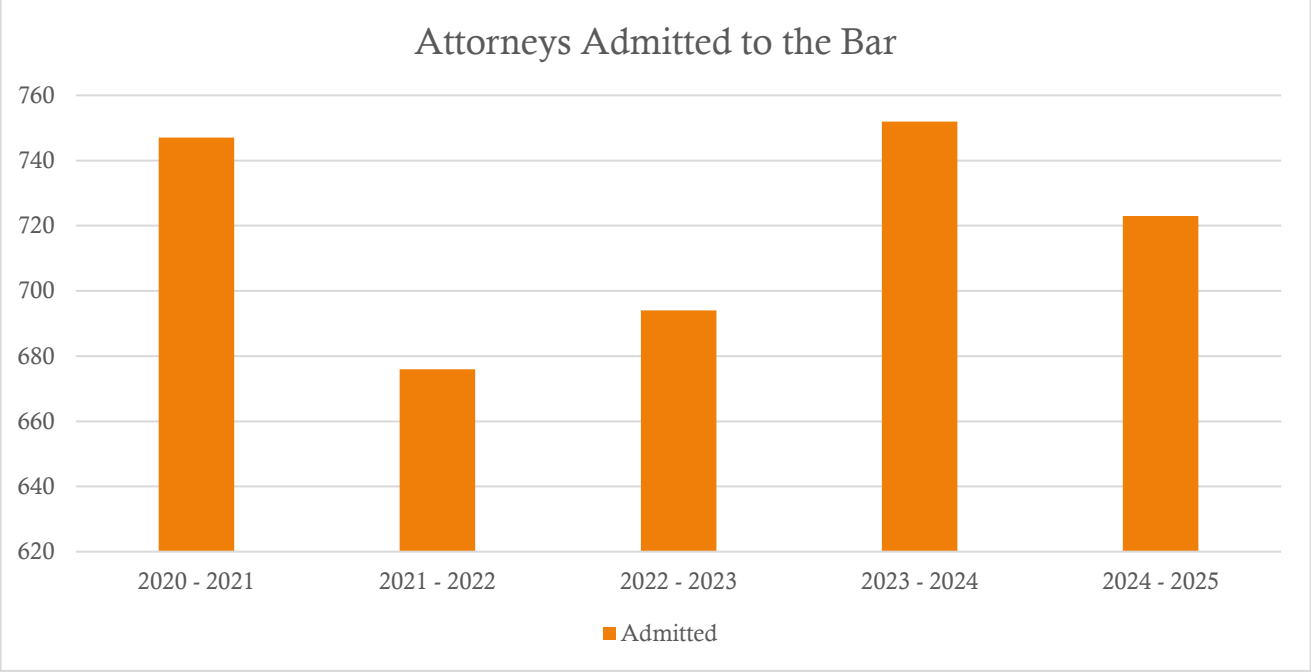
An original action is a petition asking the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over a particular matter. A certified question is a formal request by one court to another court, usually, but not always in another jurisdiction, for an opinion on a question of law. During this term, one original action was filed and no certified questions.

	`22-`23	`23-`24	`24-`25
Filings	70	91	132
- Attorney discipline	19	27	31
- Judicial discipline	0	0	2
- Bar admission	1	0	1
- Petitions for Supervisory Writ	49	53	80
- Other (including Original Actions)	1	11	18
Dispositions by Order[2]	68	54	92
- Attorney discipline	4	2	1
- Judicial discipline	0	0	0
- Bar admission	0	0	0
- Petitions for Supervisory Writ	58	43	68
- Other (including Original Actions)	6	9	23

The Supreme Court holds regulatory authority over the admission of attorneys to the bar. Under SCR 40, the Clerk's Office is tasked with maintaining detailed records on the admission status of each attorney, including the method of admission (such as, by diploma privilege for graduates of a

[2] Cases disposed by Opinion in these categories are included in the "Opinions Issued by the Court" section; statistics on dispositional orders are listed here.

Wisconsin law school, by passing the Wisconsin bar examination, or by providing proof of practice elsewhere). Notably, this term, the Supreme Court admitted 723 attorneys to the bar.



Rules Petitions

Each term, the Supreme Court provides notice and holds public hearings on petitions for the creation or amendment of rules governing pleadings, practice, and procedure in judicial proceedings in all Wisconsin courts, provided that the Court deems the petition to have arguable merit. In this term, the Court held six Rules hearings and convened four open administrative conferences at which six petitions were discussed. During the term, the Court issued seven orders related to amendments or new rules governing practice and procedure in Wisconsin.

The Court entered the following orders during the term:

Petition 16-05E: The creation of a Pilot Project for Dedicated Trial Court Judicial Dockets for Large Claim Business and Commercial Cases. The pilot project was temporarily extended pending the court's consideration of this Rule Petition, with the existing interim rules remaining in effect until further court orders. The court held a public hearing September 24, 2024, and subsequently voted 4-3 to terminate the pilot project, with Chief Justice Ziegler, Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley, and Justice Hagedorn dissenting. The court also voted to issue an interim order halting the assignment of new cases to the pilot project, while allowing existing cases to continue under the current interim rules. The order was issued on October 7, 2024, and can be found here.

Petition 24-01: The petition proposed an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 32.08(2) to provide reserve judges with a per diem payment, in addition to reimbursement of expenses, for attending up to four judicial education credits each year. A public hearing was held on September 24, 2024, after which the court voted to grant the petition with additional modifications. The final order issued on October 23, 2024, and can be found here.

Petition 24-02: The petition requested that the court establish a right to a qualified court interpreter for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) in municipal court proceedings, regardless of their financial status, and at municipal expense. A public hearing was held on December 17, 2024. The court voted 7-0 to deny the petition but 4-3 to refer the issue to the Wisconsin Judicial Council for further study. Chief Justice Ziegler concurred in denying the petition but dissented from the referral. Justice Hagedorn also concurred in part and dissented in part, with Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley joining. The final order issued on January 22, 2025, and can be found here.

Petition 24-03: The petition requested the court to amend, create, and repeal parts of Supreme Court Rule 70 governing judicial administration. Following a public hearing on December 17, 2024, the court voted 7-0 to partially grant the petition, approving changes in Section 1-23 and 25 while denying the revisions in Section 24. The order was issued on December 26, 2024, and can be found here.

Petition 24-04: The petition requested that the court repeal and recreate Supreme Court Rule 31.02, and establish SCR 31.02(6) to recognize continuing legal education (CLE) courses on cultural competency and the reduction of bias. It proposed that attorneys be allowed to use up to six hours of such courses during each reporting cycle to meet their CLE requirements under SCR 31.02(1). A public hearing was held on January 15, 2025. The court voted 4-3 to grant the petition with a delayed effective date to accommodate the Board of Bar Examiners' two-year reporting cycle for continuing legal education credits. Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley issued a dissenting opinion in which Justice Ziegler joined. The order issued on July 11, 2025, is effective January 01, 2026, and can be found here.

Petition 24-05: The petition requested that the court amend Supreme Court Rule 13.045(1) to increase the annual assessment of attorneys for the Public Interest legal Services Fund (PILSF), which supports legal services for people of limited means in non-criminal matters. The petition asked to increase the current $50 annual assessment to $75, beginning on July 1, 2025, and then to $100, beginning July 1, 2027. A public hearing was held on March 13, 2025. The court voted 4-3 to grant the petition. Justice Rebecca Grassl Bradley issued a dissenting opinion in which Chief Justice Ziegler and Justice Hagedorn joined. The order was issued on April 24, 2025, and can be found here.

Petition 25-01: The Court, on its own motion, determined that it is appropriate to amend the Application for Admission Pro Hac Vice form (CA-180) to include language incorporating the existing fee exemption language under Supreme Court Rule 10.03(4)(b)2 for attorney-applicants employed by an agency providing legal services to indigent clients who will be appearing on behalf of an indigent client, or attorney-applicants who will otherwise be appearing on behalf of an indigent client in the proceedings and will be charging no fee for the appearance. The order was issued on August 29, 2025 and can be found here.