

Annual Statistical Report

2025 – 2026 TERM

Wisconsin Supreme Court
Office of the Clerk



Wisconsin Supreme Court

2025 – 2026 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, 2025, to August 31, 2026. It includes 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
Annette Kingsland Ziegler
2007 – Present
Chief Justice 2021 – 2025

Justice
Rebecca Grassl Bradley
2015 - 2026

Justice
Rebecca Frank Dallet
2018 – Present

Justice
Brian K. Hagedorn
2019 – Present

Justice
Janet C. Protasiewicz
2023 – Present

Justice
Susan M. Crawford
2025 – Present

Justice
Chris Taylor
2026 – Present

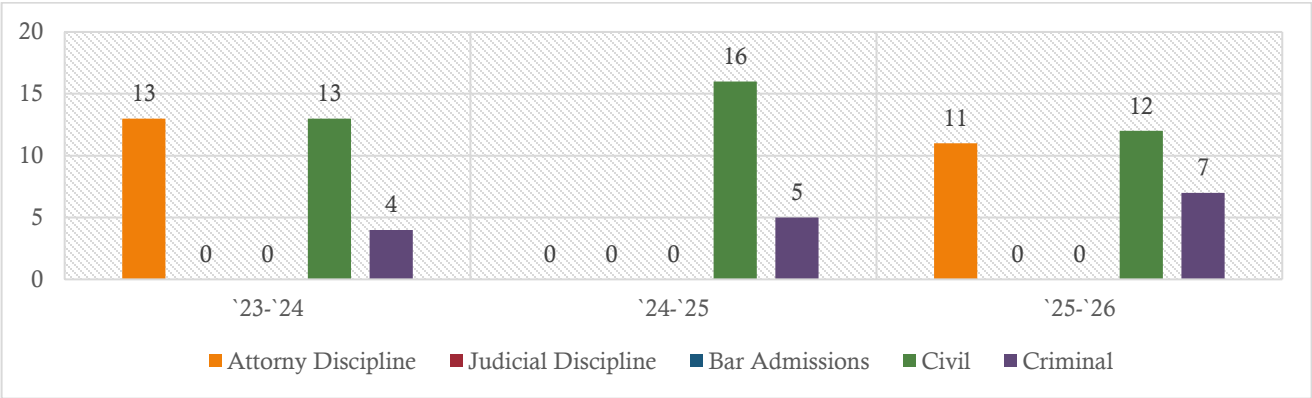
Opinions Issued by the Court

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 30 opinions resolving 30 cases¹ during the 2025-2026 term.

	'23-'24	'24-'25	'25-'26
Total number of cases resolved by opinion	30	40	30
- Attorney discipline cases	13	16	11
- Judicial discipline cases	0	0	0
- Bar admission cases	0	0	0
- Civil cases	13	17	12
- Criminal cases	4	5	7



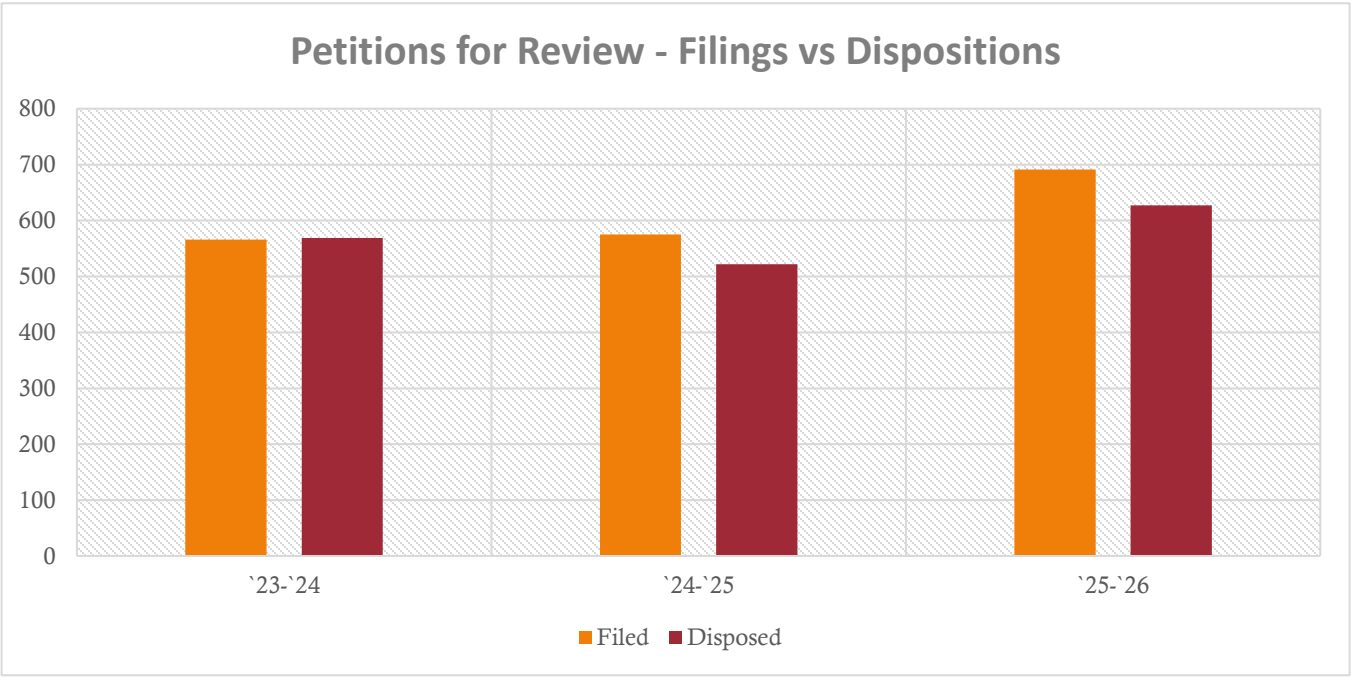
¹ The number of authored opinions for the term may differ from the number of cases resolved by opinion for the term; multiple cases resolve by one opinion (consolidated cases) and *per curiam* opinions (by the court as a whole) may account for this difference.

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 691 petitions for review were filed during the term. During the 2025-2026 term, the Supreme Court disposed of 627 petitions for review, of which 36 petitions were granted. At the end of the term, the Court had 320 petitions for review pending.

	'23-'24	'24-'25	'25-'26
Total Petitions for Review filed	566	575	691
- Civil cases	291	263	323
- Criminal cases	275	312	368
Total Petitions for Review dispositions	569	522	627
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	256 (7)	249 (12)	300 (24)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	313 (4)	273 (10)	327 (12)

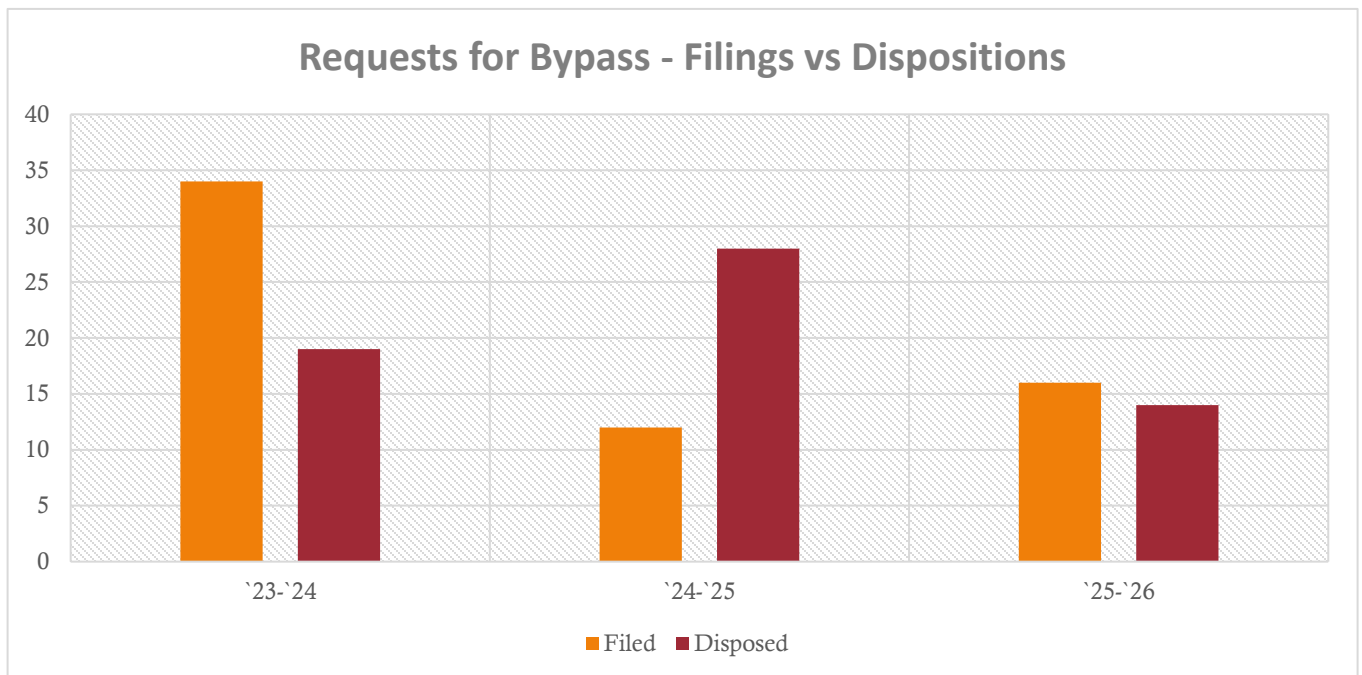


Requests for Bypass

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 16 petitions for bypass and disposed of 14 petitions, of which none were granted. At the end of the term, the Court had five petitions pending.

	'23-`24	'24-`25	'25-`26
Total Petitions for Bypass filed	34	12	16
- Civil cases	32	11	14
- Criminal cases	2	1	2
Total Petitions for Bypass dispositions	19	28	14
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	17 (3)	28 (4)	11 (0)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	2 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)

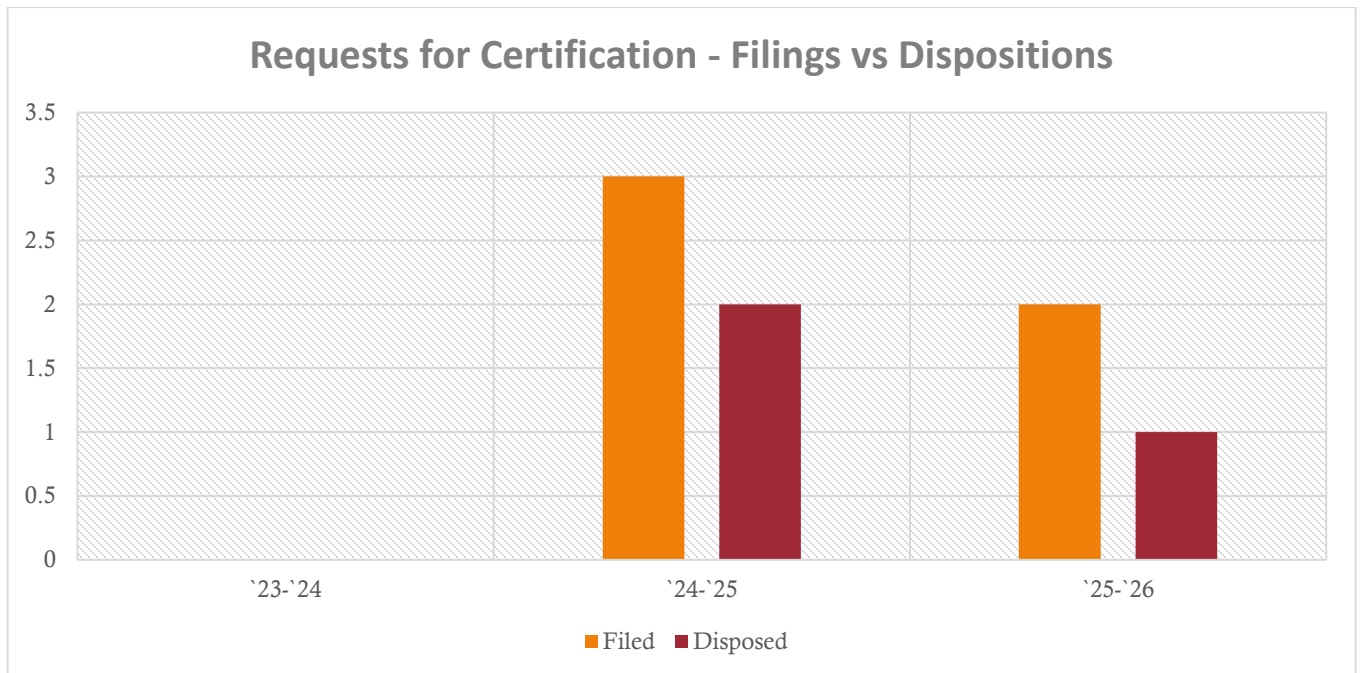


Requests for Certification

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 2025-2026 term, the Supreme Court received two requests for certification and disposed of one request. At the end of the term, two requests were pending.

	'23-`24	'24-`25	'25-`26
Total Petitions for Certification filed	0	3	2
- Civil cases	0	2	0
- Criminal cases	0	1	2
Total Petitions for Certification dispositions	0	2	1
- Civil cases (Petitions granted)	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)
- Criminal cases (Petitions granted)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)



Regulatory Matters, Supervisory Writs, and Original Actions

During the 2025-2026 term, a total of 23 matters within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Court (bar admissions, lawyer discipline, and judicial discipline) were filed. The Supreme Court also received 96 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 14 regulatory matters and 32 petitions for supervisory writ pending.

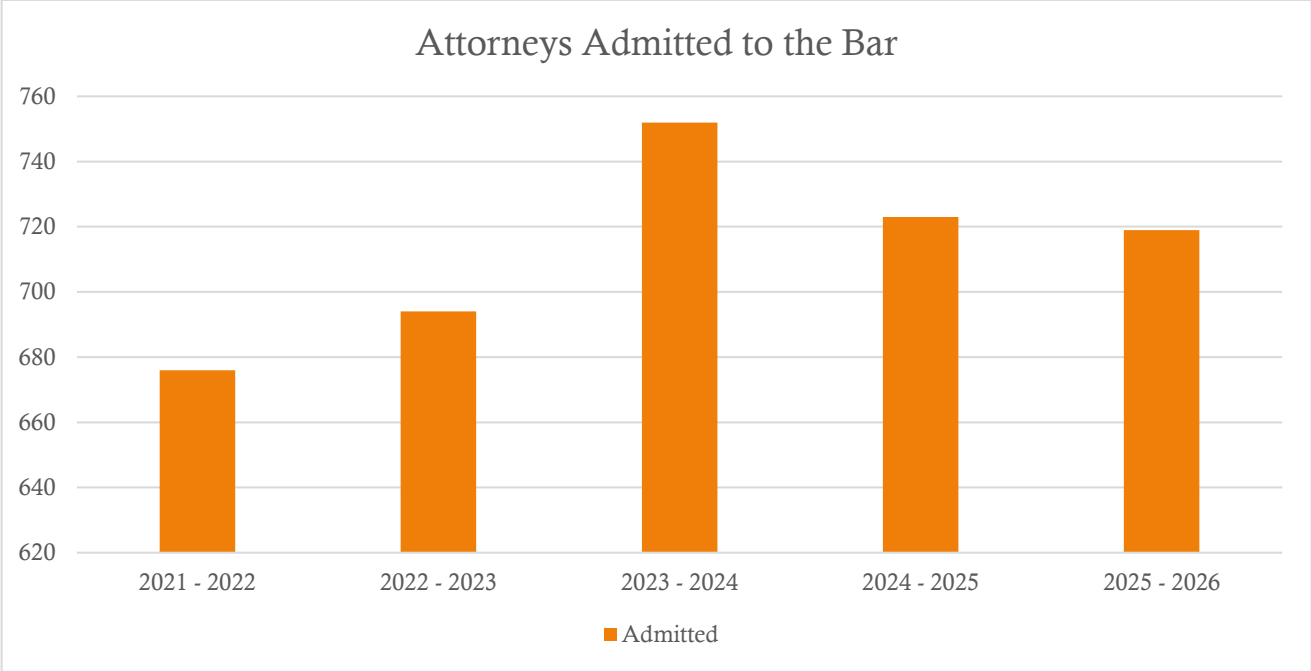
An original action is a petition asking the Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over a particular matter. A certified question is a formal request by one court to another court, usually, but not always in another jurisdiction, for an opinion on a question of law. During this term, fourteen original actions were filed and one certified question.

	`23-`24	`24-`25	`25-`26
Filings	91	132	134
- Attorney discipline	27	31	21
- Judicial discipline	0	2	1
- Bar admission	0	1	1
- Petitions for Supervisory Writ	53	80	96
- Other (including Original Actions)	11	18	15
Dispositions by Order²	54	92	127
- Attorney discipline	2	1	6
- Judicial discipline	0	0	0
- Bar admission	0	0	1
- Petitions for Supervisory Writ	43	68	106
- Other (including Original Actions)	9	23	14

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 719 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. During the term, the Court issued five orders related to amendments or new rules governing practice and procedure in Wisconsin.

The Court entered the following orders during the term:

Petition 24-06: The petition, filed by the Office of Lawyer Regulation’s Board of Administrative Oversight, asked the court to repeal several Supreme Court Rules related to and referencing district committees. A public hearing was held on October 14, 2025. The court voted unanimously to grant the petition and modify the rules as requested. The order was issued on October 30, 2025, and can be found [here](#).

Petition 25-02: The court, on its own motion on August 4, 2023, October 30, 2023, February 22, 2024, June 28, 2024, and September 16, 2025, adopted various amendments to its Internal Operating Procedures (IOPs). The amended IOPs became effective immediately upon adoption. Justice Dallet and Justice Hagedorn wrote a concurring opinions. Justice Zielger dissented in part. Justice Bradley wrote a dissenting opinion. The Order was issued on November 25, 2025, and can be found [here](#).

Petition 25-03: The court, on its own motion, determined that it was appropriate to amend Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 10.03(6m)(c). The order amended an incorrect reference to SCR 20:1.15(g) in this section to correct reference of 20:1.15(i). The order issued on December 9, 2025 and can be found [here](#).

Petition 25-04: The Board of Bar Examiners (BBE) asked the court to amend Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 40.04 and 40.14 relating to the administration, content, and fees for the Wisconsin Bar Examination. The petition proposed eliminating the existing Wisconsin Bar Examination and replacing it with the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE), and then with the successor to the UBE in 2028 (NextGen exam). A public hearing was held on March 12, 2026 and the court voted unanimously to grant the petition, in part, and modify the petition in certain other respects. The order issued on March 24, 2026, and can be found [here](#).

Petition 26-01: A petition concerning judicial campaign-related recusal rules. The Honorable Richard G. Niess filed this rule petition on behalf of a group of retired circuit court judges asking to amend Supreme Court Rules (SCR) 60.04(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), relating to campaign-related judicial recusals. The court issued an order on April 6, 2026 for a hearing. A public hearing was held on June 4, 2026. This rule petition is pending.