



# Supreme Court of Wisconsin

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## WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2009

This statistical report presents information about the case filings and dispositions of the Wisconsin Supreme Court during the month of February 2009 and to date for the term that began on September 1, 2008.

#### Opinions Issued by the Court

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

	<u>February 2009</u>	<u>Term to Date</u>
Total number of cases resolved by opinion .....	<u>3</u>	<u>21</u>
Attorney disciplinary cases .....	1	8
Judicial disciplinary cases .....	0	0
Civil cases .....	1	9
Criminal cases .....	1	4

#### Petitions for Review

A total of 58 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 February, the Supreme Court disposed of 51 petitions for review, of which 5 petitions were granted. The Supreme Court currently has 200 petitions for review pending.

	<u>February 2009</u>	<u>Term to Date</u>
Petitions for Review filed .....	<u>58</u>	<u>365</u>
Civil cases .....	27	179
Criminal cases .....	31	186

Petition for Review dispositions .....	<u>51</u>	<u>361</u>
Civil cases (petitions granted).....	30 (2)	198 (20)
Criminal cases (petitions granted) .....	21 (3)	163 (11)

### Petitions for Bypass

The Supreme Court received no petitions for bypass and disposed of 3 petitions for bypass in February. 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 no petitions for bypass pending.

	<u>February 2009</u>	<u>Term to Date</u>
Petitions for Bypass filed .....	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Civil cases .....	0	3
Criminal cases .....	0	0
Petition for Bypass dispositions.....	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Civil cases (petitions granted).....	3 (0)	7 (0)
Criminal cases (petitions granted) .....	0 (0)	2 (0)

### Requests for Certification

During February 2009, the Supreme Court received 1 request for certification and disposed of 1 request for certification, of which 1 request was granted. 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 1 request for certification pending.

	<u>February 2009</u>	<u>Term to Date</u>
Requests for Certification filed.....	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
Civil cases .....	1	4
Criminal cases .....	0	1
Request for Certification dispositions.....	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
Civil cases (requests granted) .....	0 (0)	4 (3)
Criminal cases (requests granted) .....	1 (1)	2 (2)

Regulatory Matters, Supervisory Writs, and Original Actions

During the month, a total of 8 matters within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Court (bar admission, lawyer discipline, and judicial discipline) were filed. The Supreme Court also received 6 petitions for supervisory writ, which ask the Supreme Court to order the Court of Appeals or a circuit court to take a certain action in a case. No original actions were 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 37 regulatory matters and 9 petitions for supervisory writ pending.

February 2009    Term to Date

Filings

Attorney discipline.....	8	24
Judicial discipline.....	0	1
Bar admission.....	0	1
Petitions for Supervisory Writ .....	6	29
Other (including Original Actions).....	0	5

Dispositions by Order

Attorney discipline.....	4	13
Judicial discipline.....	0	0
Bar admission.....	0	0
Petitions for Supervisory Writ .....	8	27
Other (including Original Actions).....	2	8

**DECISIONS BY THE  
WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT**

**OPINIONS ISSUED DURING FEBRUARY 2009**

**ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE CASES**

<b><u>Docket No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
2008AP002868-D	Office of Lawyer Regulation (OLR) v. Scott E. Selmer Public Reprimand Per Curiam <sup>1</sup>	02/17/2009

**CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES**

<b><u>Docket No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
2006AP001506	Joseph Blunt, Sr. v. Medtronic, Inc. Court of Appeals decision affirmed. <u>Majority Opinion</u> : Roggensack, J. <u>Concurrence</u> : Bradley, J., joined by Abrahamson, C.J.	02/17/2009
2007AP000005-CR	State v. Dhosi J. Ndina Court of Appeals decision affirmed and remanded. <u>Majority Opinion</u> : Abrahamson, C.J. <u>Concurrence</u> : Prosser, J., joined by Ziegler and Gableman, J.J.	02/26/2009

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<sup>1</sup> “Per Curiam” means “by the Court.” Opinions issued *per curiam* are handed down by the Court as a whole.