

Correction Made in February 2024: Updates to the underlying data resulted in revised totals for complaints against judges.

Table S-22

Judicial Complaints —Complaints Commenced, Terminated, and Pending with Allegations and Actions Taken Under Authority of 28 U.S.C. 351-364 During the 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2020

Summary of Activity	Circuit														National Court[1]	
	Total	Fed	DC	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	CC	CIT
Complaints Pending on 10/1/2019[2]	580	9	6	37	60	21	90	50	79	9	20	31	69	95	4	0
Complaints Commenced	1,328	41	50	29	120	69	145	145	123	106	78	162	67	160	33	0
Source of Complaints																
Filed by Complainant	1,314	41	50	29	120	69	145	136	122	106	78	159	66	160	33	0
Identified by Circuit Chief Judge	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Complainants[3]	1,360	41	50	29	121	69	151	153	124	106	78	167	73	164	34	0
Prison Inmates	479	13	13	0	25	21	60	57	56	22	56	61	34	58	3	0
Lawyers	32	0	2	0	18	2	1	0	1	3	0	2	2	0	1	0
Litigants	806	28	21	29	78	46	86	94	64	79	22	101	26	102	30	0
Public Official	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial Employees	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	40	0	14	0	0	0	3	2	1	2	0	3	11	4	0	0
Judges Complained About[4]																
Circuit Judges	331	25	18	11	48	12	28	25	25	22	16	40	22	39	0	0
District Judges	711	12	32	15	47	40	84	75	73	64	52	82	28	83	24	0
Bankruptcy Judges	41	0	0	1	7	5	7	0	3	2	0	9	1	5	1	0
Magistrate Judges	236	1	0	2	18	11	26	45	22	18	10	31	16	33	3	0
Court of Federal Claims Judges	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Court of International Trade Judges	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nature of Allegations[5]																
Special Treatment for Friend or Relative	34	0	0	1	4	0	9	5	2	0	1	1	0	10	1	0
Acceptance of Bribe, Gift, or Favor	95	1	8	0	2	0	5	16	22	0	11	11	0	19	0	0

Improper Ex Parte Communication with Party or Counsel	83	0	3	1	11	0	10	8	12	1	12	6	6	11	2	0
Partisan Political Activity or Statement	15	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Soliciting Funds for Organization	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Improper Outside Income	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Disclosure Violation	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Unwanted, Abusive, or Offensive Sexual Conduct	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hostility Toward Litigant, Attorney, Judicial Employee, or Other	140	0	11	2	19	2	12	10	5	0	31	16	12	16	4	0
Hostile Work Environment	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discrimination on the Basis of Race, Color, Sex, or Other	175	1	10	1	39	2	23	21	17	0	32	12	6	8	3	0
Retaliation for Participating in Complaint Process	29	1	0	0	10	0	11	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Refusal to Cooperate in Complaint Proceeding	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to Report or Disclose Misconduct or Disability	23	1	0	0	5	0	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conduct Outside of Official Duties	22	6	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	6	3	0	0	0	0
Related to Merits of Decision or Ruling	1,037	20	43	26	88	38	126	107	79	82	66	139	57	134	32	0
Delayed Decision	100	0	9	1	10	4	12	20	22	1	2	8	4	6	1	0
Other Misconduct	538	14	17	4	51	45	55	78	37	20	6	64	32	106	9	0
Disability	47	1	8	0	2	0	3	5	2	0	0	5	3	17	1	0

Actions Regarding Complaints

Complaint Withdrawn by Complainant	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0
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Actions by Chief Circuit Judge

Matters returned from Judicial Council	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Complaints Dismissed in Whole or in Part[6]	1,157	48	34	32	67	65	177	153	53	92	76	112	69	157	22	0
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Not Misconduct or Disability	45	0	0	8	0	1	13	8	3	4	0	8	0	0	0	0
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Received Special Committee Report	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Action on Special Committee Report	11	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complaints Dismissed [6]	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Misconduct or Disability	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merits Related	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allegations Lack Sufficient Evidence	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Otherwise Not Appropriate	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Complaints with Corrective Action Taken or Intervening Events	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complaints Referred to Judicial Conference	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Complaints with Remedial Action Taken [7]																
Censure or Reprimand	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suspension of Assignments	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Action Against Magistrate Judge	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Removal of Bankruptcy Judge	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Requesting of Voluntary Retirement	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Certifying Disability of Circuit or District Judge	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Investigation Warranted																
Returned to Special Committee	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retained by Judicial Council	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Complaints Terminated as Final Between 10/1/2019 and 9/30/2020	1,206	50	34	33	67	63	178	174	58	98	79	95	85	171	21	0
Complaints Pending on 9/30/2020	661	0	22	29	96	29	57	20	123	17	19	98	51	84	16	0

[1] CC = U.S. Court of Federal Claims; CIT = U.S. Court of International Trade.

[2] Revised

[3] Number of complainants may not total the number of filings because each complaint may have multiple complainants.

[4] This does not represent a count of individual judges since a judge can be the subject of multiple complaints.

[5] Each Complaint may involve multiple allegations. Changes to the items appearing under "Nature of Allegations" reflect recent amendments to the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings and track the Rules language and provisions directly.

[6] Each complaint may have multiple reasons for dismissal.

[7] Each complaint may have multiple remedial actions.