SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI
2005 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2005 Annual Report of the Supreme Court of Mississippi provides a synopsis of the appellate court system consisting of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals and the trial court system including chancery, circuit, county, and youth courts.

APPELLATE COURTS

There were 1040 new appeals or special actions filed in 2005. The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals disposed of 1071 cases in 2005. Of these, 900 received decisions on the merits and 171 were dismissed. Of those decided on the merits, 639 (71%) were civil cases, and 261 (29%) were criminal. Of the 617 general civil appeals receiving decisions on the merits, 417 (68%) were affirmed, and 200 (32%) were reversed. (There were 22 special actions receiving other dispositions in the Supreme Court.)[1] Of the 261criminal appeals receiving decisions on the merits, 240 (92%) were affirmed, and 21 (8%) were reversed. There were 1611 cases on the merits pending before the Appellate Courts as of December 31, 2005.

SUPREME COURT

In 2005, Supreme Court disposed of 390 cases. Of this number, 259 received decisions on the merits. The remaining 131 were dismissed. Of those decided on the merits, 198 (or 76%) were civil and 61 (24%) were criminal. Of the 176 general civil appeals decided on the merits, 72 (41%) were affirmed, and 104 (59%) were reversed. Of the 61 criminal appeals decided on the merits, 58 (95%) were affirmed and 3(5%) were reversed.

The Supreme Court disposed of a total of 5806 motions and petitions during 2005. Included are 101 motions for rehearing, of which 90 (89%) were denied, 8 (8%) were granted and 3 (3%) were dismissed. Pursuant to M.R.A.P. 5, the Court disposed of 247 petitions for interlocutory appeal; 146 (60%) were denied, 89 (36%) were granted, 11 (4%) were dismissed, and 1 (less than 1%) received other disposition. The Court disposed of 188 petitions for writ of certiorari: 130 (69%) were denied, 39 (21%) were granted, 18 (or10%) were dismissed, and 1 (less than 1%) received other disposition.

The following chart summarizes the cases, motions, and petitions disposed by the Supreme Court in 2005.

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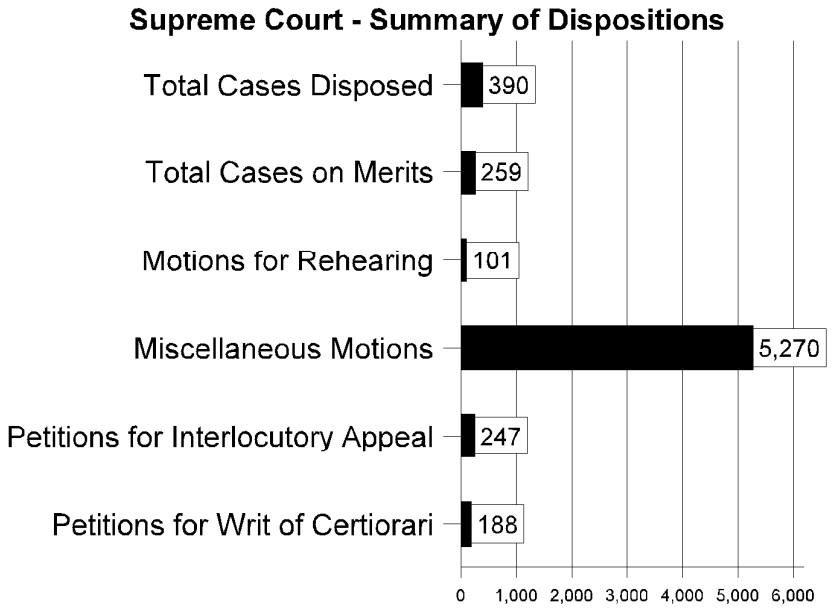
[1]Of the cases decided on the merits, 22 decided by the Supreme Court and identified here as "special actions" are excluded from the count of cases affirmed or reversed. These are special actions as to which affirmance or reversal may not be appropriate descriptions of the dispositions, case such as attorney disciplinary and judicial performance matters and applications for leave to file petitions for post-conviction relief in death penalty cases.



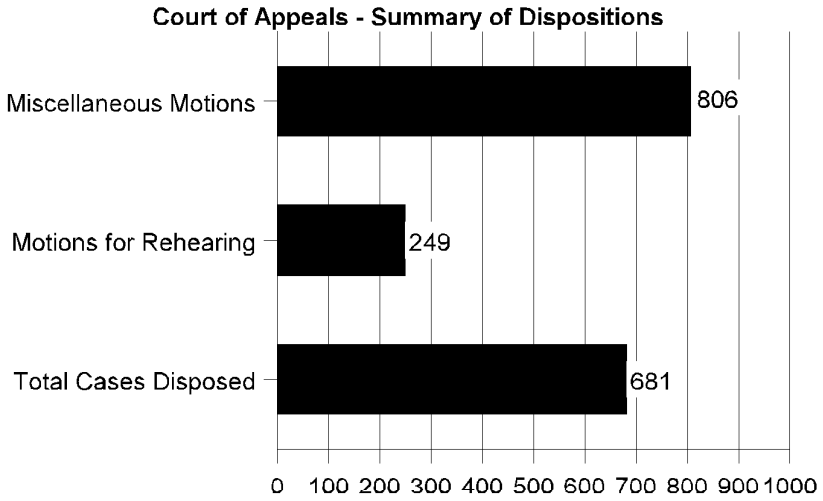
The Supreme Court heard oral argument in 32 cases in 2005. The majority of cases disposed by the Supreme Court originated in circuit court.

COURT OF APPEALS

In 2005, the Court of Appeals disposed of 681 cases. Of this number, 641 received decisions on the merits. The remaining 40 were dismissed. Of those decided on the merits, 441 (69%) were civil and 200 (or 31%) were criminal. Of the 441 civil cases decided on the merits, 345 (78%) were affirmed, and 96 (22%) were reversed. Of the200 criminal appeals decided on the merits, 182 (91%) were affirmed, and 18 (9%) were reversed.

The Court of Appeals disposed of a total of 1055 motions and petitions during 2005. Include are 249 motions for rehearing, of which 237 (95%) were denied, 5(2%) were granted and 7 (3%) were dismissed.

The following chart represents a summary of the cases and motions disposed of by the Court of Appeals in 2005.



The Court of Appeals heard oral argument in 74 cases in 2005. The majority of cases disposed of by the Court of Appeals originated in circuit court.

TRIAL COURT SYSTEM

Due to problems identified with the import of data from the trial courts, the trial court system data will be provided at a later date.