

Activity Report 2024

QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL

COUR D'APPEL DU QUÉBEC

100

ÉDIFICE ERNEST-CORMIER

Québec



Activity Report 2024

QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL



175th

Court of Appeal of Quebec

June 2025

This report was prepared by the Quebec Court of Appeal.

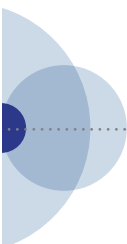
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



I am proud to present the very first activity report of the Quebec Court of Appeal.

This initiative reflects the Court's desire to raise awareness about its role and activities, while respecting judicial independence. The report thus provides details about the Court's work — both its judicial and administrative aspects. It includes information about the Court's judges and judgments, as well as its outreach activities and new projects, in addition to detailed statistics on the cases it hears. As this is a first edition, the form and content of the document will undoubtedly evolve over time.

The launch of this first activity report comes at an important moment in the history of our institution, which celebrated its 175th anniversary this year. The Court was officially created in 1849 and held its very first hearing in January 1850. To mark its 175th anniversary, a series of activities were organized throughout the year, giving the Court the opportunity to reach out to a varied audience.

A special section of this report is devoted to these activities. In that regard, I would like to thank the organizing committee, chaired by Justice Suzanne Gagné, and all those who worked so hard to put together this stimulating and ambitious program.

While an anniversary is a time for celebration, it is also a time for taking stock of things. It goes without saying that Quebec society has undergone profound changes since the Court's creation in the mid-19th century. Despite this, the Court has always adapted to the new realities, while often standing at the forefront of legal developments. Through a constant dialogue with those within its ecosystem, it has stood by its commitment to provide accessible and impartial justice of the highest quality.

I am immensely proud of our history, and I am convinced that the Court is well prepared for the many challenges that lie ahead. Quebecers can count on a strong, modern and forward-looking Court.

On behalf of myself and all of my colleagues, I hope you enjoy your reading!

Manon Savard, Chief Justice of Quebec

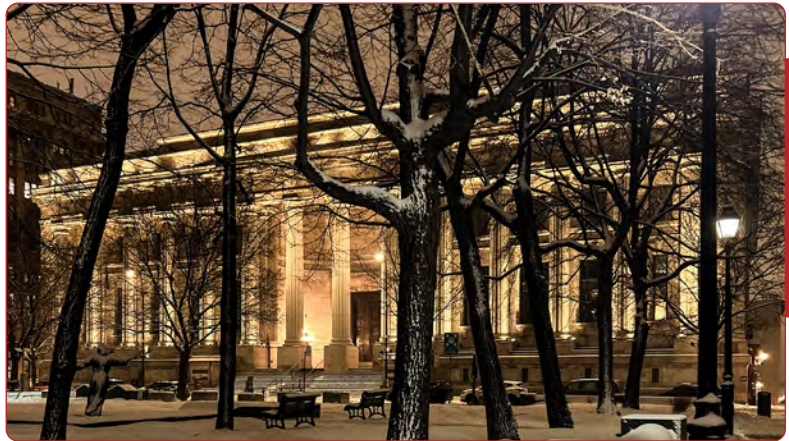
ABOUT THE QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL

The Quebec Court of Appeal is the highest judicial body in Quebec. Since its creation in 1849, it has had two seats, one in Montreal and one in Quebec City. The Court, however, speaks with one voice, as its judges have always travelled from one seat to the other to hear cases originating from all over the province.

The Quebec Court of Appeal is the general court of appeal for Quebec. It therefore has very broad jurisdiction and hears appeals in a wide range of fields, including in matters of civil law, criminal law, administrative law, judicial review, and family law, to name but a few. These are mainly appeals from judgments of the Quebec Superior Court or the Court of Québec.

Depending on the circumstances and the nature of the case, an appeal may be asserted as of right or may be subject to obtaining leave. Leave is sought from a judge of the Court sitting alone, who also has jurisdiction to hear other types of applications, such as applications for the release of an appellant from custody pending the appeal, or case management matters.

When hearing appeals on the merits (and certain types of applications), the Court sits as a panel of three judges. The Chief Justice may, however, increase this number where she considers it appropriate to do so.



Ernest Cormier Building, the Court's seat in Montreal.



Atrium of the Marc-André Bédard Building, which houses the Court's seat in Quebec City.

At the end of a hearing, the Court may rule from the bench or take the matter under advisement. The Court may also adjourn the hearing for a few days and then either announce its decision or take the matter under advisement.

The Court's judgments can be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, the highest court in the land, which only grants leave to appeal against approximately ten decisions from Quebec each year. Thus, in the vast majority of cases, the Quebec Court of Appeal is the final arbiter of the matters brought before it.

JUDGES OF THE QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL

Composition of the Court in 2024

As of December 31, 2024, the Quebec Court of Appeal had one Chief Justice, 21 puisne judges and 7 supernumerary* judges.



COURT OF APPEAL JUDGES IN OCTOBER 2024

Not in the photograph: Justices Michel Beaupré (March 8, 2019), Marie-Josée Hogue (June 19, 2015) and Sophie Lavallée (September 30, 2020).

From left to right, bottom row:

Justices Geneviève Marcotte (April 10, 2014), Guy Gagnon* (September 27, 2009), Julie Dutil* (September 24, 2004), Yves-Marie Morissette* (November 7, 2002), Manon Savard (April 25, 2013, Chief Justice since June 10, 2020), François Doyon* (May 7, 2004), Marie-France Bich* (September 24, 2004), Martin Vauclair (December 17, 2013) and Mark Schrager* (June 13, 2014).

From left to right, top row:

Justices Judith Harvie (December 18, 2023), Stéphane Sansfaçon (January 31, 2019), Lori Renée Weitzman (May 31, 2023), Geneviève Cotnam (June 26, 2018), Frédéric Bachand (November 18, 2020), Jocelyn F. Rancourt (June 21, 2017), Guy Cournoyer (September 30, 2020), Patrick Healy (October 19, 2016), Benoît Moore (June 22, 2019), Robert M. Mainville* (July 1, 2014), Christine Baudouin (November 18, 2020), Simon Ruel (June 21, 2017), Peter Kalichman (April 26, 2021), Suzanne Gagné (November 29, 2017), Éric Hardy (October 6, 2023), Stephen W. Hamilton (August 29, 2018) and Myriam Lachance (June 17, 2024).

*"Supernumerary" judges – i.e., judges who are eligible for retirement but have decided to continue their judicial duties with a lighter load.



Justice Myriam Lachance.

Appointments during the year

Only one new judge, the Honourable Myriam Lachance, joined the ranks of the Quebec Court of Appeal during the year. She was appointed on June 18, 2024.

Before becoming a member of the judiciary, she practised in the fields of criminal law, disciplinary law and professional ethics, and she participated in internal police investigations. Justice Lachance also served as Bâtonnière of the Barreau de Saint-François from 2009 to 2010.

In 2014, she was appointed a judge in the Criminal and Penal Division of the Court of Québec for the district of Montreal and, in 2017, a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal.

Retirement and supernumerary status

On February 7, 2024, Justice Jacques J. Levesque retired from the Quebec Court of Appeal, where he had sat since November 2, 2012.

On March 2, 2024, Justice Mark Schrager became a supernumerary judge. As noted above, supernumerary judges are judges who are eligible for retirement but decide to continue their judicial duties with a lighter load.

In memoriam

Several former judges of the Court left us in 2024:

- Claude Bisson, past Chief Justice of Quebec, passed away on March 18, 2024. He was a judge of the Court from 1980 to 1996 and served as Chief Justice from 1988 to 1994.
- Jacques Delisle passed away on August 10, 2024. He was a judge of the Court from 1992 to 2009.
- André Forget passed away on August 1, 2024. He was a judge of the Court from 1996 to 2012.
- Fred Kaufman passed away on December 27, 2023. He was a judge of the Court from 1973 to 1991.

SERVING THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE FOR 175 YEARS

The Court: past and present

The year 2024 marks the 175th anniversary of the Quebec Court of Appeal, which was created in May 1849 by *An Act to establish a Court having jurisdiction in Appeals and Criminal Matters, for Lower-Canada*. At that time, it was known as the “Court of Queen’s Bench”, or sometimes “King’s Bench”, depending on which British monarch was then on the throne. It kept this name until 1974, when it became the “Court of Appeal”.

At the time of its creation, the Court consisted of only four judges, including Chief Justice Sir James Stuart. The Act also provided for just one employee exclusively assigned to the Court: the clerk, who was permitted to appoint a deputy clerk. The very first hearing was held in Quebec City on January 7, 1850, in the courthouse then located on Saint-Louis Street. In Montreal, the first hearing took place on March 1, 1850, at the Château Ramezay (where the Court sat on a temporary basis because a fire had destroyed the old courthouse a few years earlier). During its first year of existence, the Court heard some twenty cases in civil matters (the number of cases heard in criminal matters is unknown).



Court of Appeal hearing in 1933.

In 2024, 175 years later, the Court was comprised of 29 judges with diverse professional backgrounds, over 40% being women. Some one hundred employees assist the Court in its work, which generates just under 2,000 judgments a year. It is a modern court that has stayed in tune with an ever-changing society.

But while the Court has indeed changed a great deal in 175 years, its original mission has remained the same: to clarify the law and, in an ongoing dialogue with the courts of first instance, ensure that the law develops in a coherent manner, in keeping with the values of our society. To this day, the Court remains a pillar of the rule of law in Quebec.



A program worthy of a 175th anniversary



The Court's 175th anniversary was celebrated with a rich program of events throughout the year. Although some of these activities were held in 2025, they are included in this year's report.

The festivities kicked off in style with a **staff recognition event**. Indeed, it was important for the judges to start the celebrations by thanking those who work behind the scenes and without whom the Court could

not function. Employees from both of the Court's seats, as well as a number of former employees, gathered in Montreal to attend a conference on the architectural history of the Ernest Cormier Building, one of the Court's two seats. This was followed by a cocktail reception where employees and judges had the opportunity to chat in a relaxed atmosphere .



Mtre Pascal Pommier, Director General of the Court, thanking Court personnel during the staff recognition event.



Journalist Chantal Hébert, keynote speaker at the seminar.

In October, a **seminar about the Court** was held in Montreal, in the Louis-Hyppolite La Fontaine courtroom. Seasoned experts and enthusiastic panellists revisited the Court's history, culture and jurisprudence, from past to present, in a presentation made to judges from across Canada, academics and practitioners.

A **cocktail celebrating the 175th anniversary** was held in conjunction with the seminar. The Honourable Lucien Bouchard, former Premier of Quebec, provided a captivating account of how the project to refurbish the Ernest Cormier Building to serve as the Court's Montreal seat came together in the early 2000s. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Quebec Simon Jolin-Barrette announced the forthcoming construction of a new courtroom at the Court's Quebec City seat, which will be able to accommodate a panel of five judges. The Honourable Manon Savard, Chief Justice of Quebec, unveiled the name of this new courtroom, chosen in tribute to the Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé, the first woman appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal. Professor Marie-Claire Belleau, of the Faculty of Law of Université Laval, also paid homage to the Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé.



From left to right: Minister of Justice Simon Jolin-Barrette, Professor Marie-Claire Belleau, Chief Justice Manon Savard and former Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, at the 175th anniversary cocktail party in Montreal.

In November, a **conference on the topic of practising before the Court** was held in Quebec City, in collaboration with the Barreau de Québec, which also celebrated its 175th anniversary this year. In addition to discussing the specifics of appeals, participants were treated to a debate between Mtre Jacques Larochelle and Mtre Olivier Desjardins on the question: “Which Court decision left the greatest mark on history?” The conference was followed by a **cocktail party with the legal community**.

The Court met with the student community by **sitting at two universities** — Université Laval and Université de Montréal. This gave students the opportunity to see the Court in action. In both cases, the hearing was followed by a discussion period with the panel of judges that had heard the appeal.

The Court welcomed groups of paralegal students from several educational establishments. The students were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Court and had the opportunity to ask questions about the nature of the work of Court staff.

Justice Suzanne Gagné welcoming paralegal students from Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles for a tour of the Court.



A **special hearing** took place on January 7, 2025 — 175 years to the day after the Court’s very first hearing. In a nod to the past, the panel of judges was made up entirely of women: Chief Justice Manon Savard, Justice Julie Dutil and Justice Marie-France Bich.

On March 29, 2025, for the first time in its history, **the Court held an open house for members of the general public**, who were able to tour the Ernest Cormier Building. Judges and Court staff were on hand to explain the workings of the Court. The public also had the opportunity to attend a question-and-answer session with judges of the Court, moderated by veteran journalist Yves Boisvert. A panel of judges answered questions from the audience about the nature of the work of a judge of the Quebec Court of Appeal. More than 350 visitors attended the open house, which took place in collaboration with the Barreau de Montréal as part of the AIM FOR JUSTICE events.

Photo credit Sylvain Légaré.



A group of visitors at the Court’s open house.



The Honourable Jean-Louis Baudouin, former Quebec Court of Appeal judge, speaking about the creation of the Court’s research department, during the reunion of law clerks.

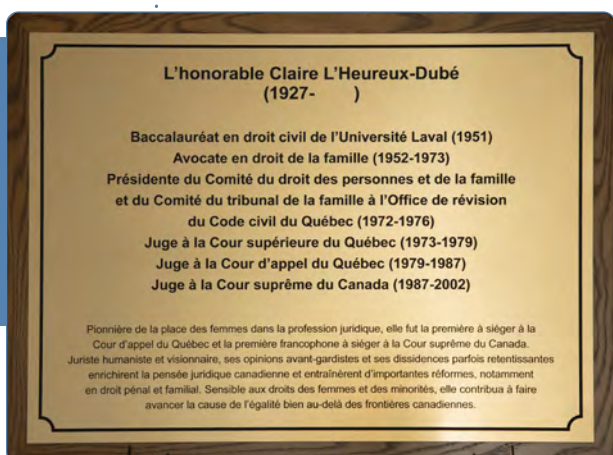
Finally, on May 14, 2025, the Court held **a reunion of law clerks** to highlight the contribution to the Court’s work by the research department, which was established in 1995. In all, some 250 participants, including several retired judges of the Court, gathered to share many memories and stories.



Justice François Doyon with Catherine Ariss, former legal assistant at the Court, at the staff recognition event.



Justice Julie Dutil (centre) presiding over the panel “Women at the Court”, during the seminar, in the company (from left to right) of: Mtre Sajeda Hedaraly, Dean Rachel Chagnon, the Honourable Louise Mailhot, former Quebec Court of Appeal judge, and Chief Justice Manon Savard.



Commemorative plaque for the Honourable Claire L'Heureux-Dubé unveiled at the 175th anniversary cocktail party in Montreal.

Mtre Jacques Larochelle and Mtre Olivier Desjardins, debating “Which Court decision left the greatest mark on history?”, during the conference held in Quebec City.



Photo credit Elisabeth Joly.



Photo credit Elisabeth Joly.

Justice Suzanne Gagné at the cocktail party with the legal community following the Quebec City conference.

Justices Michel Beaupré, Benoît Moore and Sophie Lavallée answering questions from Université Laval law students after holding a Court hearing there.





Photo credit Sylvain Légaré.

Justice Judith Harvie explaining the role of a judge sitting alone to a group of visitors.

A panel of Court judges answers questions from the public during a session moderated by journalist Yves Boisvert (from left to right: Justice François Doyon, Chief Justice Manon Savard, and Justices Guy Gagnon and Geneviève Marcotte).



Photo credit Sylvain Légaré.

Special panel to mark the 175th anniversary of the Court's first hearing, presided over by Chief Justice Manon Savard, accompanied by Justices Julie Dutil and Marie-France Bich.



Chief Justice Manon Savard addressing an audience comprised of students before the start of a Court hearing held at the Université de Montréal and presided over by Justice François Doyon, accompanied by Justices Christine Baudouin and Frédéric Bachand.

KEY JUDGMENTS

Throughout 2024, the Court delivered numerous judgments in the various areas of law within its broad jurisdiction. While each judgment rendered by the Court is important to the parties in question, some of the decisions are also of public interest to Quebec society as a whole, such as the following cases:

- ***Organisation mondiale sikhe du Canada c. Procureur général du Québec***:¹ In this judgment, which deals with the constitutional validity of the *Act respecting the laicity of the State*, the Court concluded, among other things, that the override provisions of this statute are consistent with s. 52 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* and s. 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Court added that the statute does not infringe the constitutionally protected language rights of Quebec's English linguistic minority.
- ***Procureur général du Québec c. Kanyinda***:² In this judgment, the Court ruled that excluding refugee claimants with work permits from Quebec's subsidized childcare program constitutes an unjustified infringement of the right to equality protected by s. 15 of the *Canadian Charter*.
- ***Procureur général du Québec c. Luamba***:³ In this judgment, the Court declared s. 636 of the *Highway Safety Code* inoperative. It concluded that the power conferred by this provision, which allows the police to make random traffic stops outside of an organized spot check program, gives rise to racial profiling and unjustifiably infringes the right not to be arbitrarily detained. The provision thus infringes ss. 9 and 15 of the *Canadian Charter*.
- ***Procureur général du Québec c. Centre de lutte contre l'oppression des genres***:⁴ This ruling deals with a regulatory provision requiring that an application for a change of the designation of sex on a minor's act of birth must be supported by a letter from a professional. The Court concluded that this requirement infringes the right to dignity of non-binary and transgender people but that the infringement is justified by the principle of the stability of acts of civil status.



1 [2024 QCCA 254](#), applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court granted, January 23, 2025, No. 41231.

2 [2024 QCCA 144](#), application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court granted, October 3, 2024, No. 41210.

3 [2024 QCCA 1387](#), application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court granted, May 1, 2025, No. 41605.

4 [2024 QCCA 348](#).

The Court also rendered decisions in private law matters that nevertheless address legal principles likely to affect the population in general. These cases include the following:

- ***Reckitt Benckiser (Canada) inc. c. Société d'assurance Beneva inc. (La Capitale Assurances Générales Inc.)***:⁵ The Court's judgment upholds a lower court judgment holding the manufacturer of a corrosive household cleaning product liable for damage caused to pipes in the homes of its users, on the grounds that the manufacturer failed in its duty to inform.
- ***Droit de la famille — 24915***:⁶ In this case, a mother had sued her son's father for civil liability, claiming he was responsible for the definitive breakdown in the bond between her and her child. The Court dismissed the mother's claim, stating that a civil liability action brought with respect to the exercise of parental authority is exceptional and requires a very high threshold of fault.

Lastly, a number of rulings in criminal and penal matters were of particular interest, for example:

- ***R. c. Vigneault***:⁷ In this impaired driving case, the Court concluded that the prosecution can invoke the presumption of accuracy of blood alcohol tests provided for in the *Criminal Code* by relying on the certificate of a qualified technician if this certificate mentions the target value of the alcohol standard certified by the analyst.
- ***Céré c. Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales***:⁸ In this case, the accused was found guilty of illegally hunting big game during a prohibited period. In dismissing the appeal, the Court ruled that the accused could not invoke the defence of reasonable mistake of fact, since he had not taken all reasonable steps to avoid committing this regulatory offence.
- ***R. c. Costanzo-Peterson***:⁹ This judgment deals with a delay exceeding the maximum time that can elapse between the laying of charges and the end of the trial, in accordance with the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in *Jordan*, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court concluded that it was inappropriate to attribute a presumptive delay to the health crisis, since not all court cases were affected in the same way by the pandemic.



5 [2024 QCCA 958](#).

6 [2024 QCCA 767](#).

7 [2024 QCCA 793](#).

8 [2024 QCCA 344](#).

9 [2024 QCCA 1282](#).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL

The Court is always driven by the desire to put the quality of justice at the heart of its actions. With this in mind, a number of initiatives were deployed in 2024 to make justice ever more accessible.

New rules in criminal matters

On March 11, 2024, the new *Rules of the Court of Appeal of Quebec in Criminal Matters* came into force. They make certain changes to the old rules of practice of the same name, such as the obligation to transmit the digital version of pleadings. One of the aims of the new rules is to reduce appeal processing times. To this end, appellants are now obliged to request the transcript and exhibits of the trial proceedings within 30 days of the appeal having been lodged. The new rules also provide that the clerk of the trial court must take the necessary steps to obtain the required transcript and exhibits no later than four months after the request has been filed.

New regulation respecting references

The very first *Regulation respecting references to the Court of Appeal of Quebec* was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on December 18, 2024, and came into force on January 1, 2025. It provides a framework for all references to the Quebec Court of Appeal under the *Court of Appeal Reference Act* (chapter R-23).

Lexius

The Lexius project aims to bring Quebec's justice system up to date with new technologies by deploying digital solutions to move towards a paperless judicial process, from the filing of pleadings that initiate proceedings, to hearings and to the enforcement of judgments.

The Court has been actively involved in the Lexius project since its inception. In 2024, the Court documented and mapped the various processes relating to its judicial activities, allowing it to define the processes on which to focus when rolling out the electronic court record. This preliminary stage prior to the implementation phase, which is due to start shortly, involved several meetings and provided an opportunity to evaluate and optimize certain Court practices.

Information panels in the entry hall of the Ernest Cormier Building



April 2, 2024 marked the inauguration of 11 information panels permanently installed in the grand entry hall of the Court's Montreal seat. The exhibition is open to the public, providing an opportunity to learn more about the architecture of the Ernest Cormier Building, the history of the Quebec Court of Appeal and its role within the judicial system. This project will help to safeguard the architectural, historical and educational facets of Quebec's judicial heritage.

Second edition of the Court's citation guide

In September, the second version of the *Précis de la référence juridique de la Cour d'appel du Québec* was published. The first edition, released in 2017, arose from the desire to establish a citation standard that would reflect the practice before Quebec courts, foster comprehensibility and uniformity, and make it easier to locate and consult sources, all in a spirit of accessibility.

The second edition comprises a number of new citation guidelines for foreign legislation and for certain types of documents that had not previously been included. It also touches briefly on typography, punctuation and other elements of style and jurilinguistics. Lastly, various examples were added to better illustrate the rules, some of which have been refined, although the general principles remain the same.

OUTREACH BY THE QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL

In addition to performing its judicial functions, the Court took part in various events and activities throughout the year to strengthen its ties with the community. These initiatives promote a better understanding of the role and workings of the Court, while maintaining an ongoing dialogue with society. In addition, many of the Court's judges participated in raising the Court's profile beyond the courtroom, through their involvement and achievements outside the Court and through the honours they received.

Opening of the courts

This year, once again, the Court reached out to the legal community as part of the activities for the opening of the courts. In the first few weeks of September, several of the Court's judges addressed members of the regional bars across Quebec. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss topical issues.



Chief Justice Manon Savard at the opening of the courts in Montreal.

Podcast hosted by Justice Simon Ruel



In collaboration with Université Laval's Faculty of Law, Justice Simon Ruel published a series of five podcasts entitled "Sous le feu", in which he interviewed experts in the law of war, international humanitarian law and international criminal law. The aim of this series is to analyze and grasp the issues and legal repercussions of international conflicts, and to provide the Canadian legal community with a better understanding of those topics.

This series is part of the *In All Fairness* podcast produced by the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ). The podcasts are available on the [CIAJ website](#).

Journées strasbourgeoises

The 10th Journées strasbourgeoises were held from June 30 to July 6, 2024, bringing together a record number of participants around the theme of dignity and justice. By all accounts, the event, in which the Court played a key role, was a resounding success. Justices Christine Baudouin and Benoît Moore were part of the organizing committee for this year's gathering, which was attended by several of the Court's judges, including Chief Justice Manon Savard. In coordinating this major event, Justices Baudouin and Moore were assisted by a number of Court staff members. The next Journées strasbourgeoises will be held in 2028.

Workshop for high school students

In collaboration with Éducaloi, the Court gave legal workshops to several high school classes at Collège Notre-Dame. Students learned about the role that the law plays in their daily lives. They also gained a better understanding of legal debates and proceedings.

Mtre Ariane Charbonneau, Executive Director of Éducaloi, Anne-Marie Lalonde, Secondary 7 and 8 Principal, Chief Justice Manon Savard, Justice Marie-France Bich, and Marc-Olivier Toupin, Secondary 4 Teacher.



Legion of Honour awarded to Justice Suzanne Gagné



On April 6, 2024, by decree of the President of the French Republic, Justice Suzanne Gagné was appointed Chevalier (knight) of the Legion of Honour. The insignia were presented by Éric Dupond-Moretti, Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals of the French Republic, at a private ceremony in Quebec City.

This appointment recognizes her contribution to the discussions surrounding the implementation of the amicable settlement policy in France in light of Quebec's experience with judicial mediation.

Justice Suzanne Gagné
and Éric Dupond-Moretti.

Commission on foreign interference

On September 7, 2023, the Government of Canada established the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions. Justice Marie-Josée Hogue was appointed Commissioner. She held that position full-time, from September 18, 2023 until the publication of the Commission's final report on January 28, 2025. She subsequently resumed her functions as a puisne judge of the Court.

QUEBEC COURT OF APPEAL STAFF

In 2024, as in past years, Court staff demonstrated their ability to adapt and to be flexible in the context of a changing judicial system and regulatory reforms. Indeed, it is thanks to the commitment and professionalism of its team that the Court can continue to provide Quebec litigants with the highest quality of service.

Management

The Court's administrative and operational management is overseen by Mtre Pascal Pommier, its Director General, and Vickie Légaré, its Director of Administrative Services, the latter position having been created in 2024. They are assisted by administrative technicians.

Court office

The Court office functions under the supervision of the appellate clerks, Mtre Bertrand Gervais in Montreal and Mtre Pierre-Olivier Lacroix in Quebec City.

Paralegals perform a variety of tasks essential to the operation of the Court. Among other things, they provide general information to litigants and ensure that pleadings comply with the applicable rules. They also send out judgments and handle the consultation, distribution and archiving of Court records in compliance with current legislative requirements.



Moreover, paralegals act as clerks at hearings, where they record the proceedings and draft the minutes of hearings. Court ushers ensure the orderly conduct of hearings and compliance with the rules of decorum.

Lawyers provide legal support to the judges and Court staff. They manage and monitor files, and handle applications that fall under the jurisdiction of the appellate clerks.



The masters of the rolls are responsible for preparing the hearing rolls, under the supervision of the Chief Justice and the coordinating judge.

Support for the judiciary

Judicial assistants provide administrative support to the judges by assisting them in preparing Court files and reviewing draft judgments.

The team of jurilinguists is responsible for translating decisions and other Court documents, as needed. It also ensures the quality of all written material produced by the Court and the uniformity of the terminology used.

The Court also has a team of law clerks who work in close collaboration with the judges. Each judge has an assigned law clerk to assist in the performance of judicial duties. Clerkships last two years, with law clerks working the first six months as articling students, in fulfilment of the Quebec Bar's articling requirements, and then as research lawyers.



The Court also has agreements with various law faculties to offer credited internships with the judiciary to third-year law students.



2024 STATISTICS

The following data on the cases brought before the Court in a given year is presented, for the most part, over a 10-year period. Under certain headings, however, the available data does not go back that far and only the period covered has been included (as indicated in parentheses in the table title).

Files opened

Number of appeal files opened by subject matter

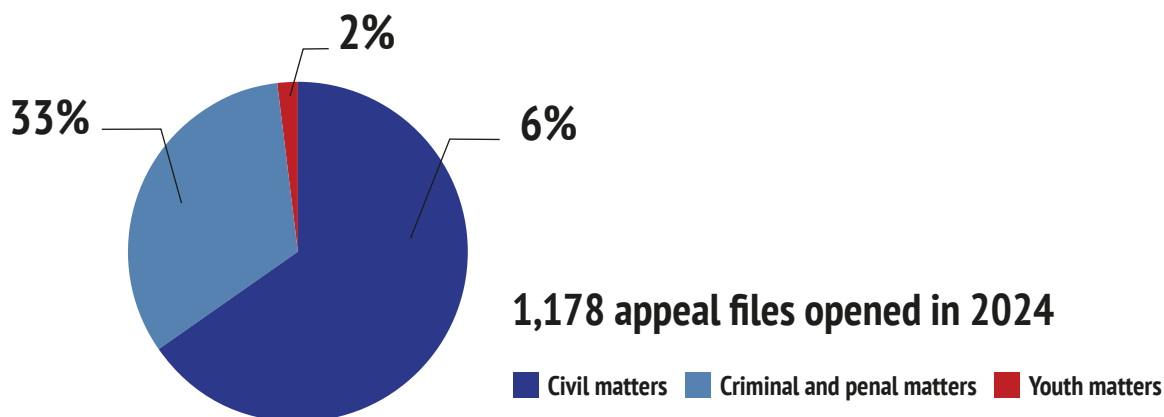
The table below shows the number of appeal files opened by subject matter, broken down as follows:

- civil matters (jurisdictional code: 09);
- criminal and penal matters (jurisdictional code: 10);
- youth matters (jurisdictional code: 08).

In 2024, a total of 1,178 appeal files were opened, of which 770 were in civil matters, 388 in criminal and penal matters and 20 in youth matters. This represents a slight increase over 2023.

	2015*	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	1,912	979	955	1,023	964	672	832	718	758	770
Criminal and penal matters	398	397	415	488	431	321	391	396	351	388
Youth matters	25	11	10	14	14	11	19	15	13	20
Total	2,335	1,387	1,380	1,525	1,409	1,004	1,242	1,129	1,122	1,178

*Note: In 2015, of the 1,912 files opened in civil matters, 763 were part of the Pyrrhotite appeal.



Number of appeals as of right or with leave

The tables below show, by subject matter, the number of appeals as of right, appeals with leave and other cases.

Appeal as of right: initiated by filing a notice of appeal.

Appeal with leave: certain legislative provisions require permission from a judge or panel of judges to appeal a judgment.

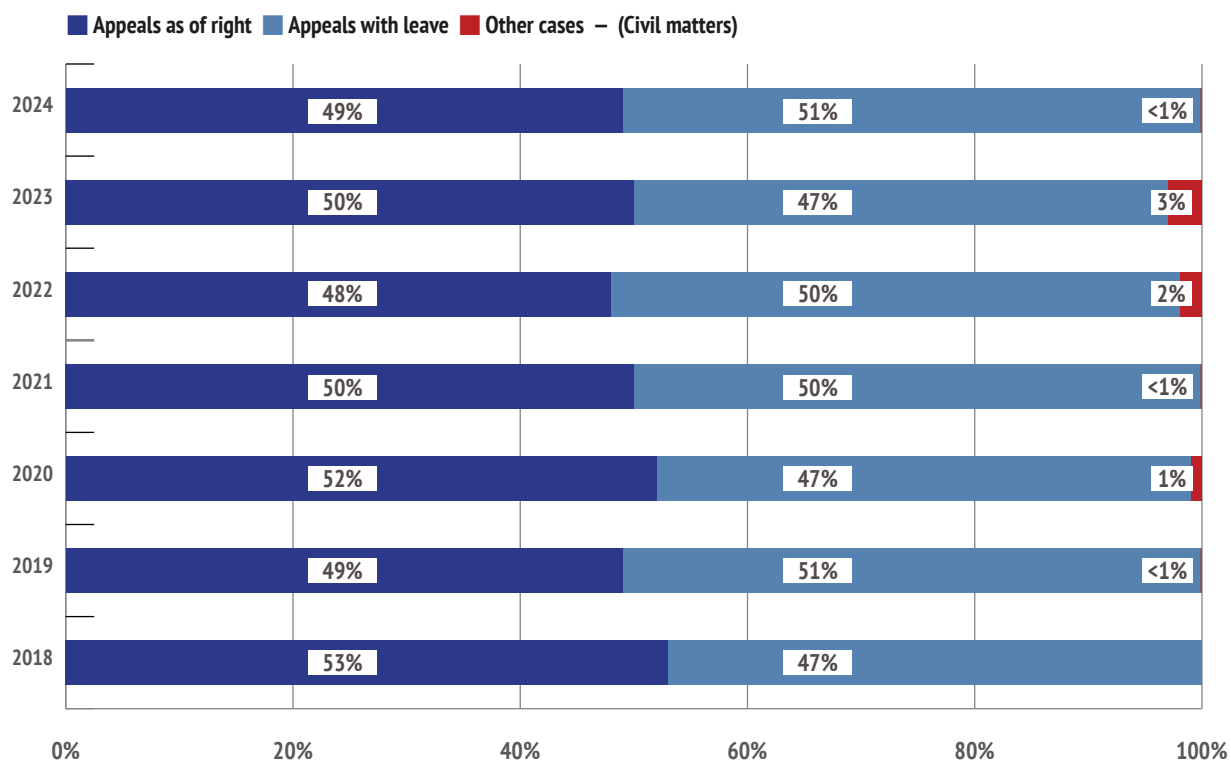
Other cases: certain other pleadings can initiate an appeal, such as an application to extend the time limit for an appeal in a divorce matter or an application for judicial review of the Minister's decision in an extradition matter.



(a) Civil matters (2018-2024)

In 2024, the number of appeals with leave in civil matters increased, while the number of appeals as of right was similar to 2023.

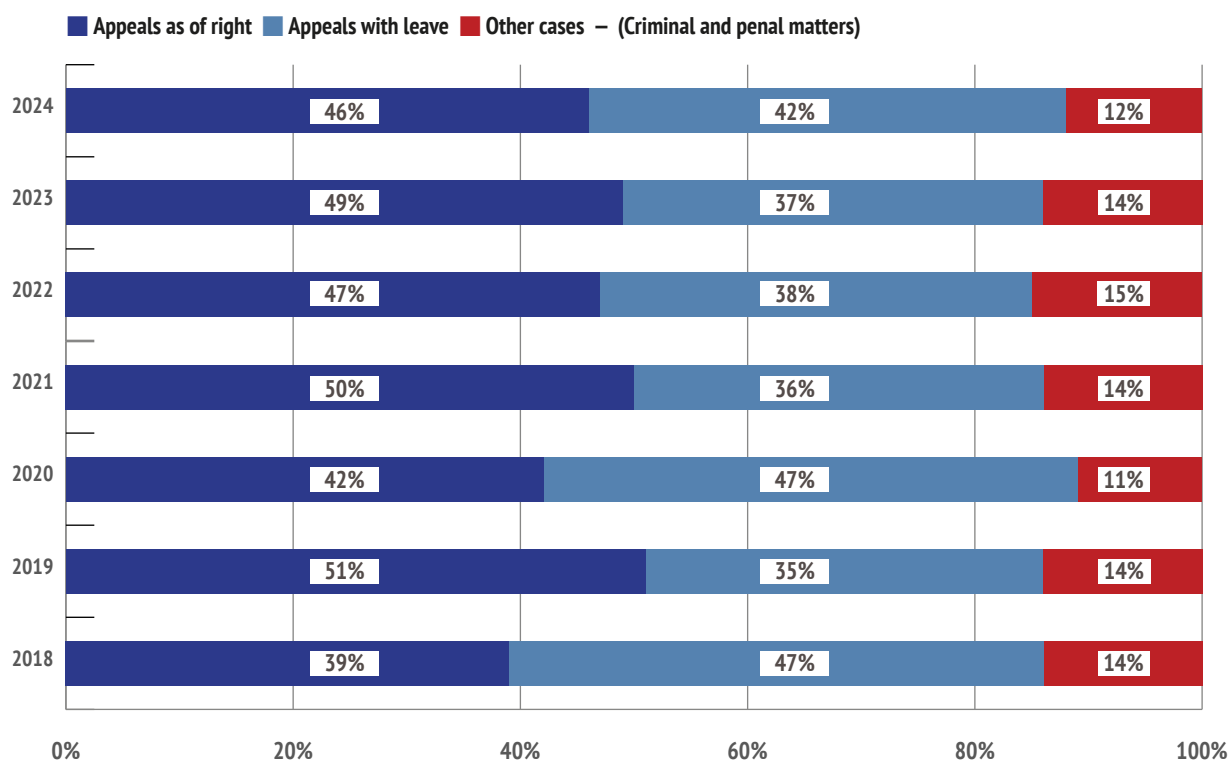
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appeals as of right	538	475	349	413	345	377	376
Appeals with leave	485	487	319	415	358	357	392
Other cases	0	2	4	4	15	24	2
Total	1,023	964	672	832	718	758	770



(b) Criminal and penal matters (2018-2024)

In 2024, the number of appeals with leave in criminal and penal matters increased, while the number of appeals as of right was similar to 2023.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appeals as of right	192	222	134	194	185	173	180
Appeals with leave	228	149	150	142	150	129	163
Other cases	68	60	37	55	61	49	45
Total	488	431	321	391	396	351	388



Judgments rendered on the merits

The table below shows data on judgments rendered by a panel of the Court and terminating the appeal proceedings, which includes judgments granting an application to dismiss an appeal.

Number of judgments rendered on the merits

In 2023 and 2024, the number of judgments rendered on the merits by a panel of judges remained similar, decreasing somewhat from 639 to 629. Overall, there has been a slight downward trend since the COVID-19 pandemic.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	445	475	497	499	554	1,162	578	408	449	411
Criminal and penal matters	172	244	217	237	249	223	247	237	190	218
Total	617	719	714	736	803	1,385	825	645	639	629

*Note: In 2020, 769 judgments in civil matters were part of the Pyrrhotite appeal.



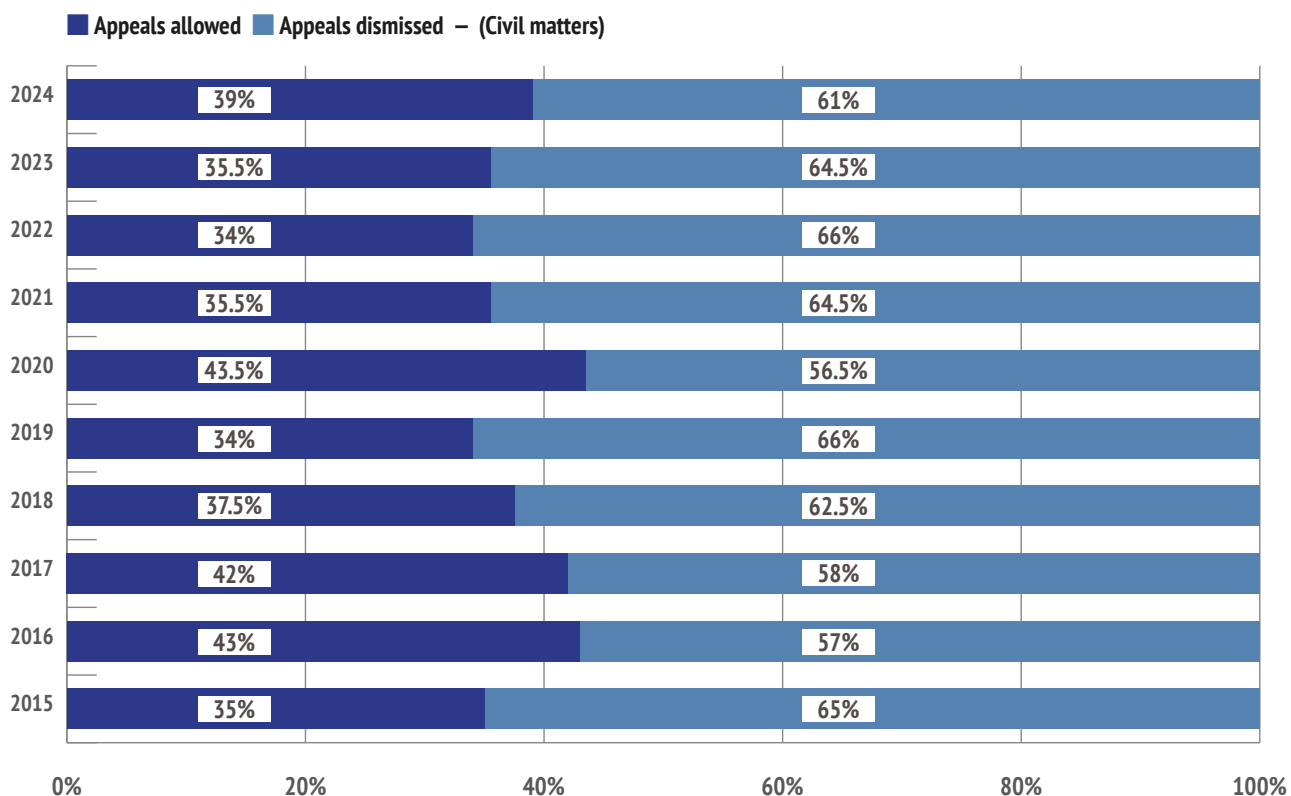
Percentage of appeals allowed or dismissed

The tables below show, by subject matter, the percentage of appeals allowed in relation to the percentage of appeals dismissed. For purposes of this section, appeals allowed include appeals allowed in part.

(a) Civil matters

There was no meaningful change in the percentage of appeals dismissed in relation to appeals allowed in civil matters.

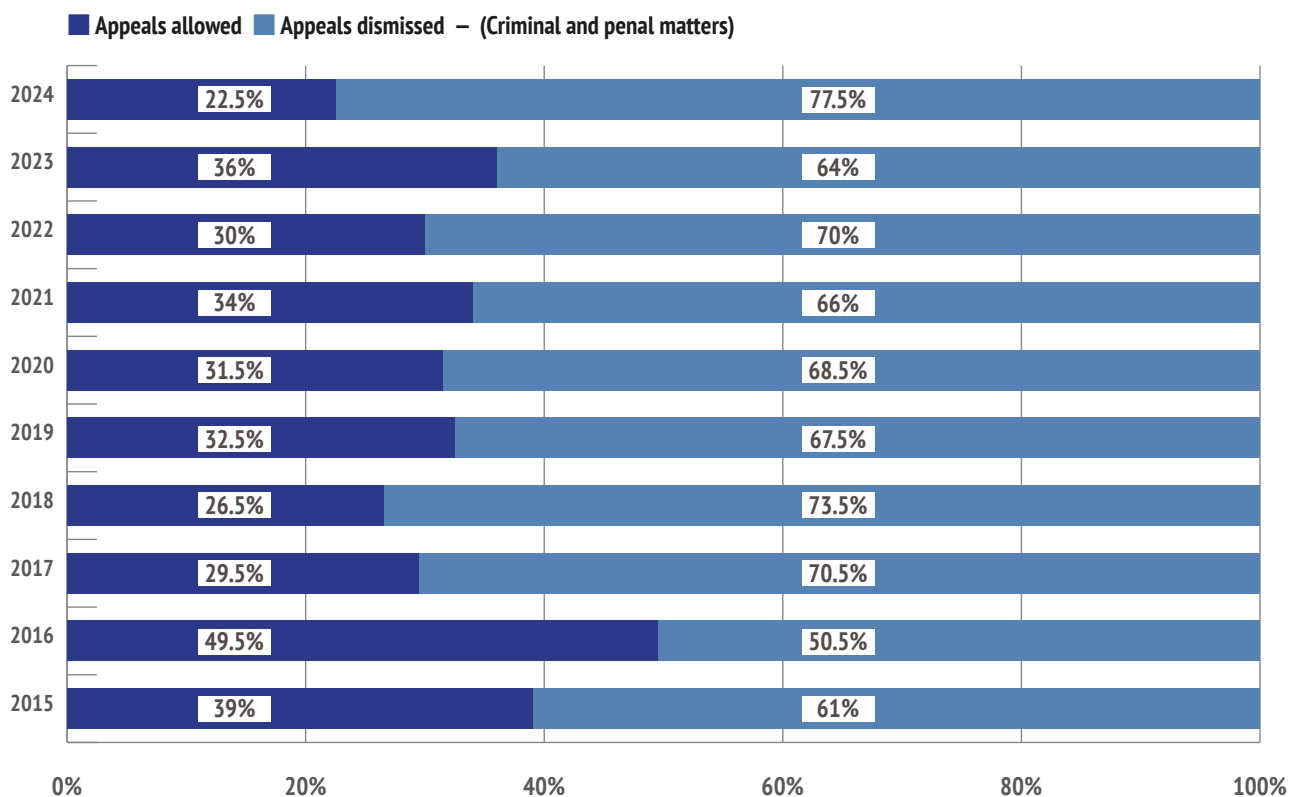
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appeals allowed	35%	43%	42%	37.5%	34%	43.5%	35.5%	34%	35.5%	39%
Appeals dismissed	65%	57%	58%	62.5%	66%	56.5%	64.5%	66%	64.5%	61%



(b) Criminal and penal matters

There was an increase in the percentage of appeals dismissed in criminal and penal matters in 2024 as compared with 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appeals allowed	39%	49.5%	29.5%	26.5%	32.5%	31.5%	34%	30%	36%	22.5%
Appeals dismissed	61%	50.5%	70.5%	73.5%	67.5%	68.5%	66%	70%	64%	77.5%



Hearings on the merits

Although a large number of appeal files are opened each year, not all are heard on the merits. Appeal proceedings may be ended by an out-of-court settlement between the parties, by a settlement resulting from a settlement conference, or by the summary dismissal of the appeal (granting of an application to dismiss the appeal).

Number of hearings on the merits

In 2024, there was a decrease in the total number of hearings on the merits as compared with 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	417	453	405	385	429	335	499	343	355	279
Criminal and penal matters	190	243	216	221	263	205	239	216	193	205
Total	607	696	621	606	692	540	738	559	548	484



Judgments rendered at the hearing or after the matter is taken under advisement

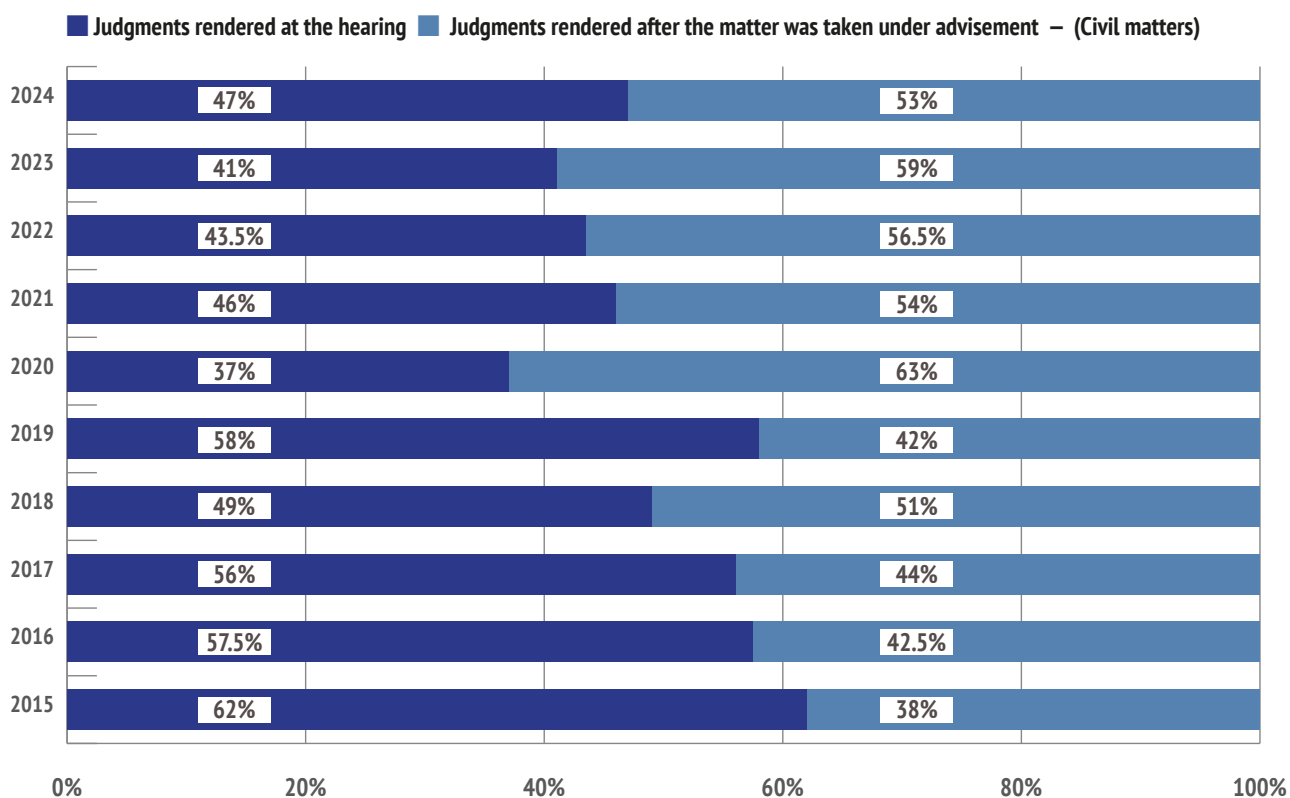
After a hearing on the merits, the Court may render its judgment at the hearing (on the minutes of the hearing) or take the matter under advisement. The tables below show, by subject matter, the number of judgments rendered at the hearing in relation to those rendered after the matter was taken under advisement.

(a) Civil matters

In 2024, the percentage of judgments rendered at the hearing in civil matters increased slightly compared with 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023	2024
Judgments rendered at the hearing	62%	57.5%	56%	49%	58%	37%	46%	43.5%	41%	47%
Judgments rendered after the matter was taken under advisement	38%	42.5%	44%	51%	42%	63%	54%	56.5%	59%	53%

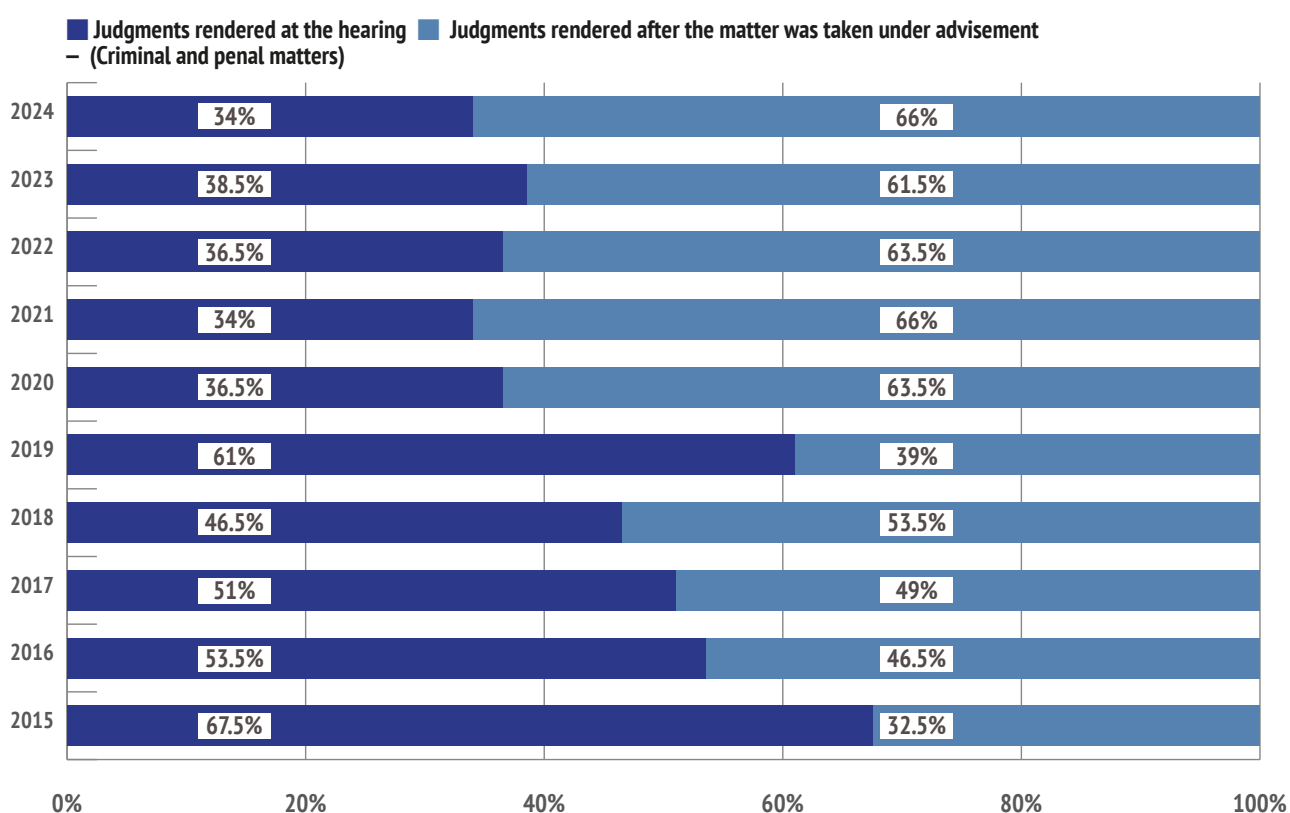
*Note: The 769 judgments rendered in civil matters in 2020 in the Pyrrhotite appeal were excluded from the calculation so as not to skew the data.



(b) Criminal and penal matters

In 2024, the percentage of judgments rendered at the hearing in criminal and penal matters decreased slightly compared with 2023.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Judgments rendered at the hearing	67.5%	53.5%	51%	46.5%	61%	36.5%	34%	36.5%	38.5%	34%
Judgments rendered after the matter was taken under advisement	32.5%	46.5%	49%	53.5%	39%	63.5%	66%	63.5%	61.5%	66%



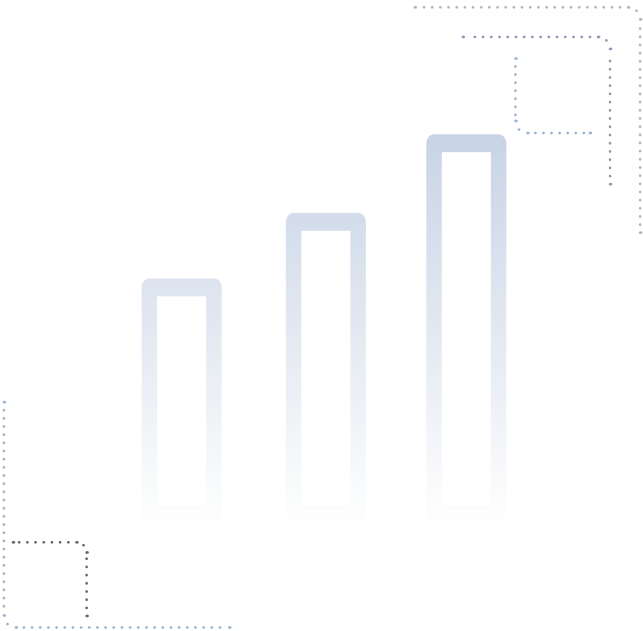
Judgments on an application or motion rendered by a panel of judges

Some applications or motions must be presented before a panel of three judges, such as an application to dismiss the appeal or an application for leave to appeal after the expiry of the time limit.

Number of judgments rendered by a panel of judges after the hearing of a motion or an application

There was an increase in the number of judgments rendered in 2024 compared with 2023.

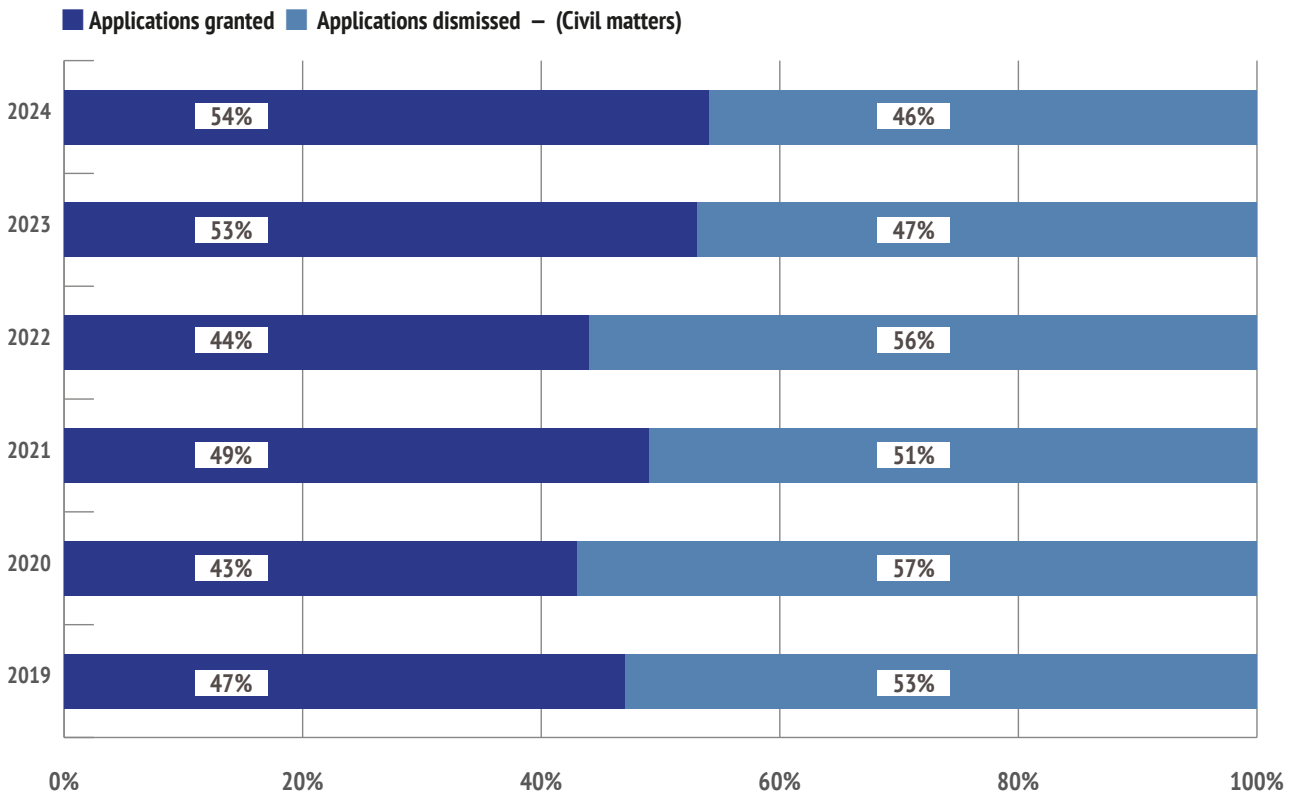
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	619	570	571	584	619	416	512	430	440	531
Criminal and penal matters	58	91	163	258	271	252	247	170	141	184
Total	677	661	734	842	890	668	759	600	581	715



Number of applications to dismiss an appeal in civil matters (2019-2024)

There was an increase in the number of judgments rendered after the hearing of an application to dismiss in 2024 compared with 2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications granted	130	79	107	85	103	121
Applications dismissed	144	106	112	108	93	105
Total	274	185	219	193	196	226



Judgments rendered by a judge sitting alone

A judge sitting alone (sometimes referred to as the “judge in chambers” or “motions judge”) hears several types of applications, such as applications for leave to appeal, applications for provisional execution or applications for interim release from custody in criminal matters.

Total number of judgments rendered by a judge sitting alone

The total includes applications (or motions) that were granted as well as those that were dismissed. There was an increase in the number of judgments rendered in 2024 compared with 2023.

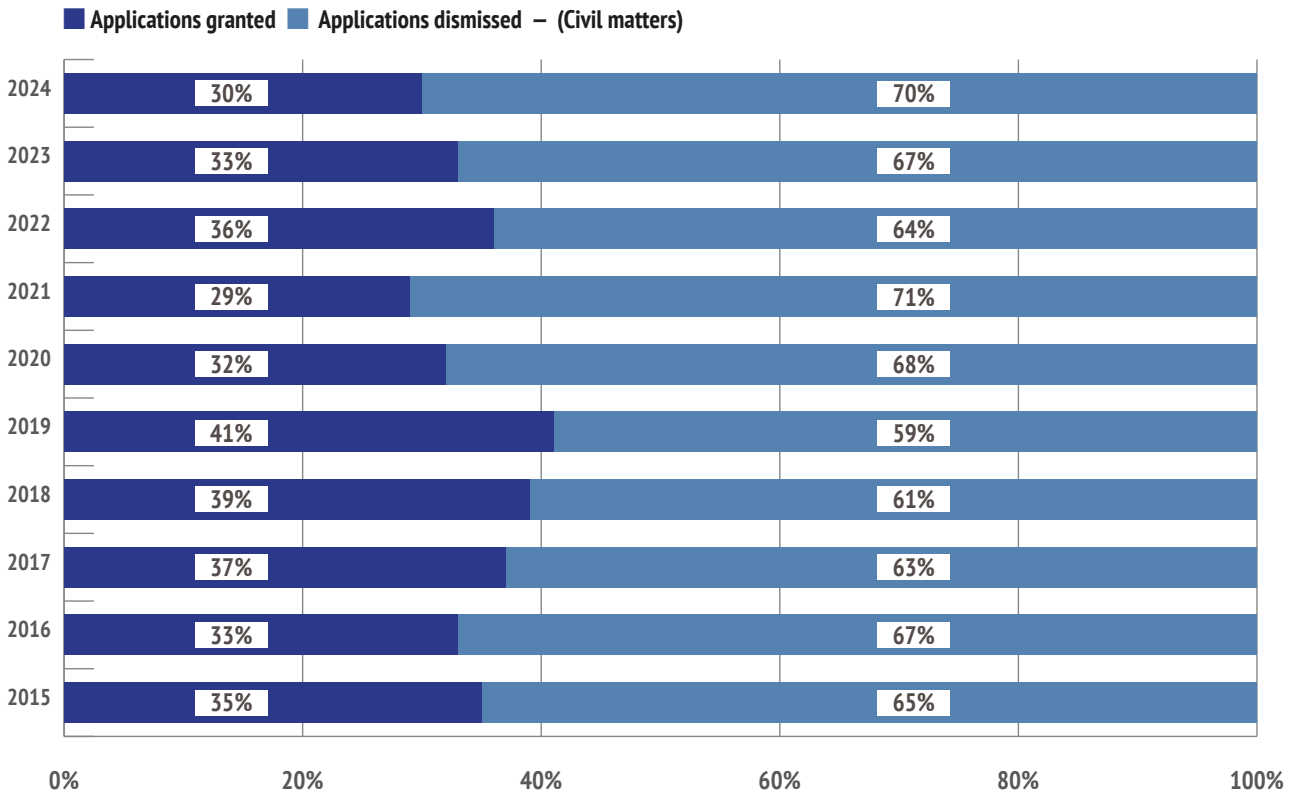
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	488	469	530	585	581	390	477	369	344	393
Criminal and penal matters	291	374	404	544	454	381	364	356	320	298
Total	779	843	934	1,129	1,035	771	841	725	664	691



Number of judgments rendered by a judge sitting alone after the hearing of an application for leave to appeal in civil matters

There was an increase in the number of judgments rendered in 2024 compared with 2023 in civil matters.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications granted	160	120	143	171	178	93	95	108	92	97
Applications dismissed	302	249	240	265	260	197	238	195	186	223
Total	462	369	383	436	438	290	333	303	278	320

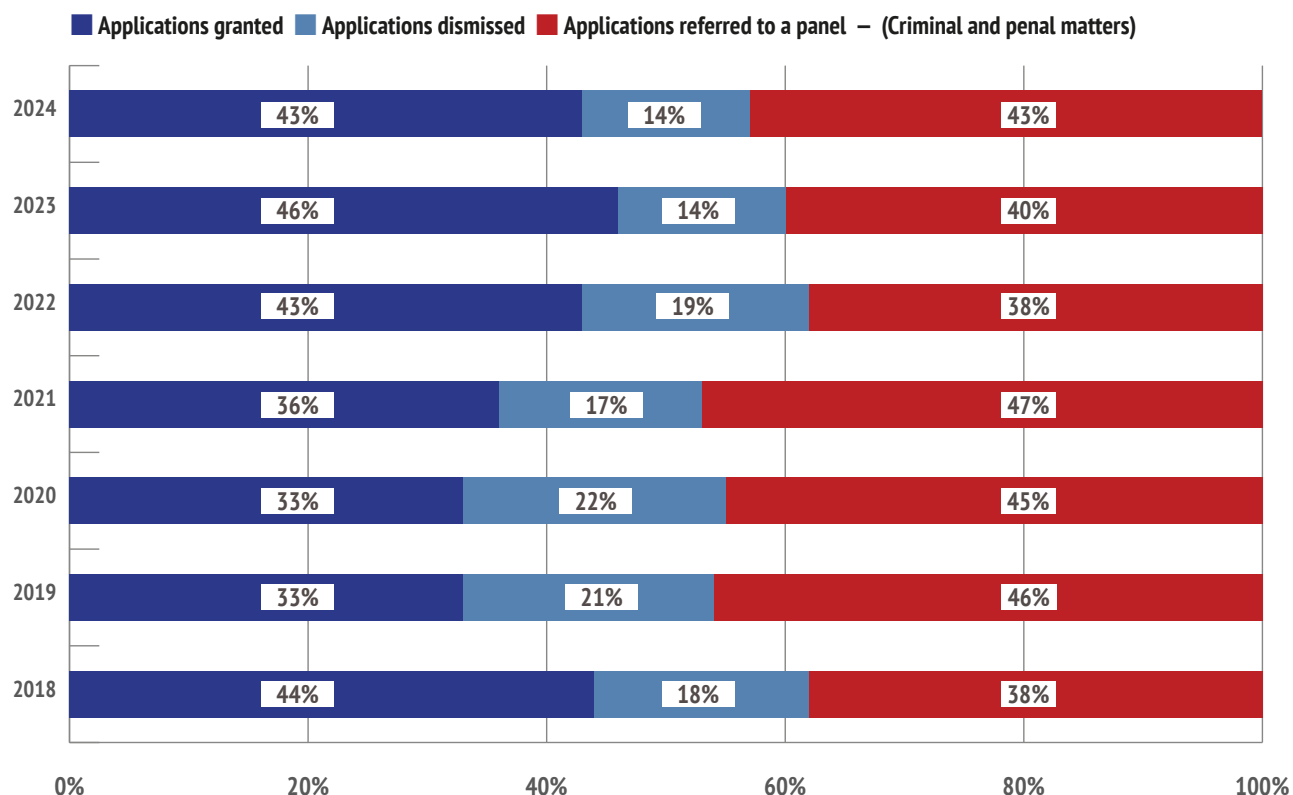


Number of judgments rendered by a judge sitting alone after the hearing of an application for leave to appeal in criminal and penal matters (2018-2024)

There was a decrease in the number of judgments rendered in 2024 compared with 2023 in criminal and penal matters.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Applications granted	109	64	50	64	54	53	44
Applications dismissed	44	41	33	31	24	16	14
Applications referred to a panel*	95	90	69	84	47	46	44
Total	248	195	152	179	125	115	102

*Note: A judge sitting alone hearing an application for leave to appeal can decide to refer the application to a panel of judges.



Judgments rendered by the clerk

The clerk has jurisdiction to rule on certain types of applications, such as an application to extend the time limit for filing a brief or an application presented by a lawyer who wishes to cease representing a client.

Number of judgments rendered by the clerk on an application (2018-2024)

In 2024, there was an increase in the number of judgments rendered by the clerk.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	279	362	213	399	271	292	306
Criminal and penal matters	315	280	444	489	396	426	539
Total	594	642	657	888	667	718	845

Self-represented parties

The data below shows the percentage of hearings on the merits and hearings of applications held before a panel of judges or a judge sitting alone where at least one of the parties was not represented by counsel.

Percentage of hearings on the merits where at least one party was not represented by counsel (2022-2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Hearings on the merits	4.5%	10%	4.5%

Percentage of hearings of applications where at least one party was not represented by counsel (2022-2024)

	2022	2023	2024
Applications presented before a judge sitting alone	15%	12.5%	22.5%
Applications presented before a panel of judges	19%	25.5%	19.5%

Wait times for hearings on the merits

Appeals proceed on the standard track or the fast track, depending on the nature of the file or as decided by a judge or a panel of judges of the Court.

Civil matters

When a file proceeds on the fast track (e.g., in family matters or appeals of judgments rendered in the course of a proceeding), the parties file memoranda rather than briefs, and they do so within shorter time limits. The date of the hearing on the merits is usually determined at the start of the appeal process, during case management.

Percentage of appeals in civil matters proceeding on the fast track

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	38%	41%	41%	32%	40%	32%	34%	37%	35%	35%

The other types of files in civil matters proceed on the standard track — i.e., the usual time limits for filing briefs apply. Wait times for the hearing of appeals depend on the number of files waiting to be placed on the roll. The table below shows the wait time for hearings proceeding on the standard track. The wait time is the time elapsed between the date the clerk sets the case down for a hearing (when all the briefs have been filed) and the date scheduled for the hearing of the appeal.

Wait times for the hearing of appeals in civil matters proceeding on the standard track (2017-2024)

Since 2017, there has been a downward trend in wait times for the hearing of appeals in civil matters.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Wait times (in months)	10.8	14	13.7	14	11.7	9.2	9.5	7.1

Criminal and penal matters

In criminal and penal matters, a file is placed on the next available roll as soon as it is ready to proceed — i.e., when all the briefs or memoranda have been filed. Due to particular circumstances specific to each case, however, there may be a delay before the file is placed on the roll.

Appeals settled out of court or discontinued

An appeal file can be terminated at any time for a variety of reasons, including an out-of-court settlement between the parties or the discontinuance of the appeal by the appellant.

Appeals settled out of court or discontinued

In 2024, there was a slight increase, in all matters, in the number of appeals in which there was a discontinuance or out-of-court settlement.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Civil matters	128	132	102	133	143	72	87	66	64	70
Criminal and penal matters	49	47	35	59	68	47	63	85	57	63
Total	177	179	137	192	211	119	150	151	121	133

Settlement conferences and facilitation conferences in criminal and penal matters

The Quebec Court of Appeal offers judicial mediation in civil matters, referred to as a settlement conference. It offers a similar program for criminal and penal matters, referred to as a facilitation conference in penal matters.

These programs provide parties with an opportunity to reach a settlement with the assistance of a judge acting as mediator or facilitator.

Number of settlement conferences

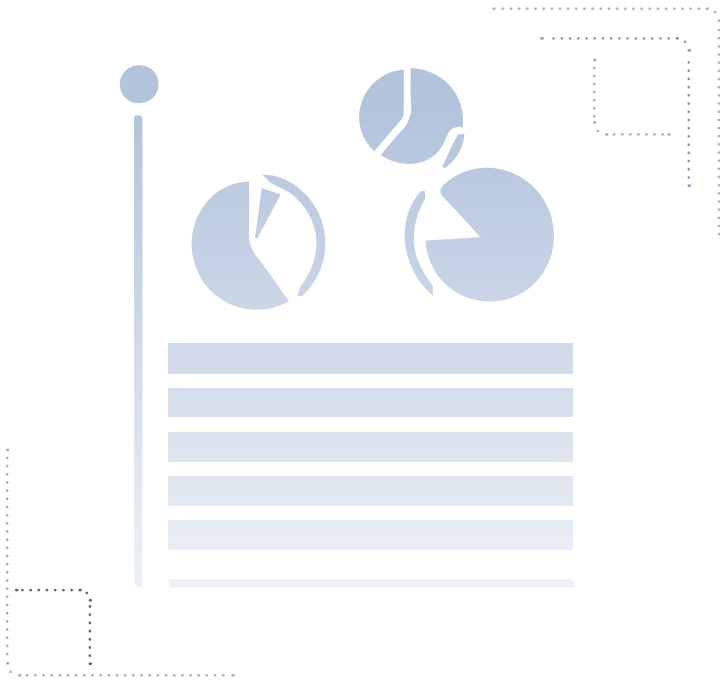
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of files submitted to a settlement conference	43	39	36	53	20	21	15	14	25	24*
Number of files settled	30	24	18	34	9	10	11	8	16	13
Number of files withdrawn	3	3	6	7	5	1	1	2	5	5

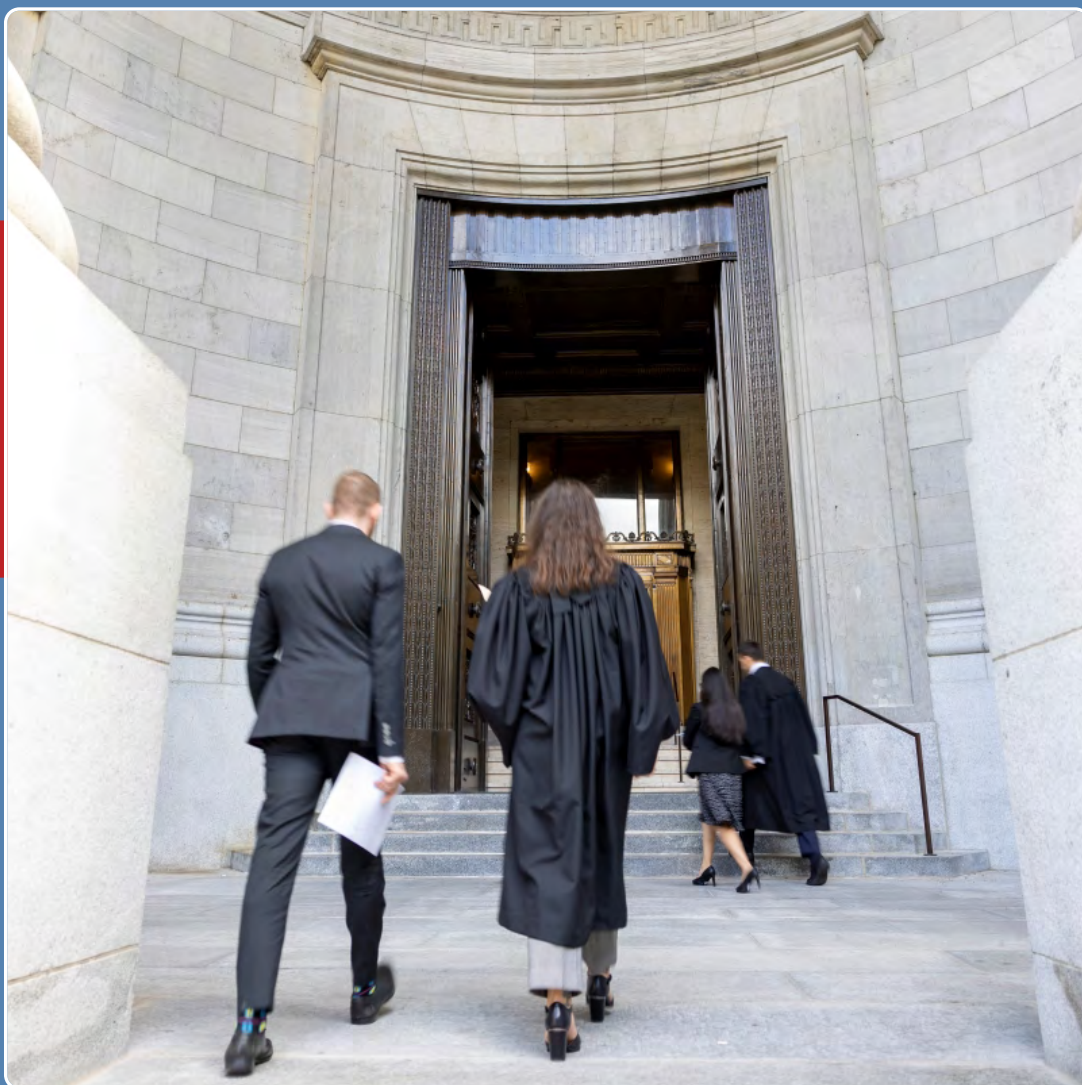
Note: *Two files submitted in 2024 were still pending at the time of writing.

Number of facilitation conferences in criminal and penal matters

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of files submitted to a facilitation conference in criminal and penal matters	30	26	17	32	24	21	19	17	14	13*
Number of files settled	21	23	13	24	24	17	21	14	12	8

Note: *Two files submitted in 2024 were still pending at the time of writing





175th *Court of Appeal of Quebec*

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