

Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Jeff King, Chairman
State Capitol Room 346-S (old Supreme Courtroom)
Wednesday, January 23, 2013
10:30 a.m.

Educational Presentation Concerning the
Appellate Courts and Appellate Clerk
Jason P. Oldham, Chief Deputy Clerk
Supreme Court of Kansas
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Good morning, my name is Jason Oldham. I am the Chief Deputy Clerk for the Appellate Courts of Kansas, the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. I appear on behalf of Carol G. Green, the Clerk of the Appellate Courts, who regrets that she is unable to attend today.

The Supreme Court of Kansas consists of seven justices, appointed by the Governor. This Court is seniority-based and is led by the chief justice, the senior member of the Court in years of service. The Supreme Court sits in Topeka and hears appeals in week-long sessions scheduled periodically from August to May. This Court has a heavy caseload as you can see from the annual report attached to these remarks. The Court's caseload is a combination of direct appeals, cases transferred from the Kansas Court of Appeals, and cases accepted on petition for review after a decision by the Court of Appeals. In addition to their substantive caseload, the Court is also responsible for statewide administration of the Judicial Branch.

The Kansas Court of Appeals consists of thirteen judges, appointed by the Governor. This Court is led by a chief judge who is selected by the Kansas Supreme Court. This is a traveling court which can and does hold hearings anywhere in Kansas. During the past year, the Court has sat in each of the thirty-one judicial districts in the state. This Court is an appellate court of general jurisdiction; most appeals start with the Kansas Court of Appeals. As you can see from the annual report, this court has a large caseload. The Court sits in rotating three-judge panels to hear appeals and issue opinions. Senior judges and district court judges are often assigned to expand the capacity of the Court.

The Office of the Clerk of the Appellate Courts handles a great many duties and serves many functions. This office serves the case processing function for both appellate courts. All pleadings and records for appeals are filed in this office and circulated to the appropriate court and judge or justice for action.

Kansas is unique among the fifty states in the additional duties assigned to the Clerk of the Appellate Courts. We have long been frugal stewards of taxpayer funds. At the direction of the Supreme Court, the Clerk staffs and serves as secretary to the Kansas Board of Law Examiners, Client Protection Fund Commission, Board of Court Reporters, and Commission on Judicial Qualifications. Most of these functions are performed by separate offices and administrators in other states.

The Board of Law Examiners, accepts applications from persons wanting to sit for the Kansas Bar Exam, approximately 500 a year. Extensive character and fitness background checks are conducted for examinations administered twice a year. An additional 150 - 200 are admitted on corporate or reciprocal status, again after extensive character and fitness review. The Clerk also conducts annual statewide registration of Kansas attorneys. A court reporter exam is given twice a year, and the office conducts statewide annual registration of official court reporters. The Judicial Qualifications Commission reviews complaints filed by the public and issues decisions concerning judicial conduct.

The Clerk of the Appellate Courts has been designated by the Legislature to staff the Supreme Court Nominating Commission. Our office is a bee hive of activity.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to address you today and to invite you to visit our office for a tour and further discussion. I hope this information gives you more insight into the operation of the Kansas Appellate Courts and the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. P. Oldham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason P. Oldham
Chief Deputy Clerk
Supreme Court of Kansas

Kansas Appellate Courts

2012 Caseload Activity

2012
YEAR END SUMMARY
CASELOAD ACTIVITY

SUPREME COURT

Appeals Pending January 1, 2012	474
Petitions for Review Pending January 1, 2012	463
Appeals Filed During 2012	83
Petitions for Review Filed During 2012	823
Appeals Transferred from Court of Appeals.....	161
Reinstatements	0
Motions for Rehearing Granted	1
Reopened per Court Order	1
Net Caseload	2006

Dispositions

Opinions	334
Dismissals	7
Denials	26
Petitions for Review Denied	337
Miscellaneous Dispositions	47

Total Dispositions During 2012.....725

TOTAL APPEALS/PETITIONS PENDING JANUARY 1, 2013...1281

COURT OF APPEALS

Appeals Pending January 1, 2012	1633
Appeals Filed During 2012	1813
Appeals Transferred/Remanded from Supreme Court.....	12
Reinstatements	4
Motions for Rehearing Granted	3
Reopened Per Court Order.....	0
Net Caseload	3465

Dispositions

Opinions	1286
Dismissals	261
Denials	135
Transferred to Supreme Court.....	161
Transferred to District Court.....	3

Total Dispositions During 2012.....1846

TOTAL APPEALS PENDING JANUARY 1, 2013.....1619

**2012
YEAR END SUMMARY
CASELOAD STATISTICS**

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	+ OR -
Appeals Docketed											
Supreme Court	115	122	125	97	136	174	143	149	117	83	-34
Court of Appeals	1520	1972	1964	1935	1781	1729	1803	1687	1665	1813	148
TOTALS	1635	2094	2089	2032	1917	1903	1946	1836	1782	1896	114

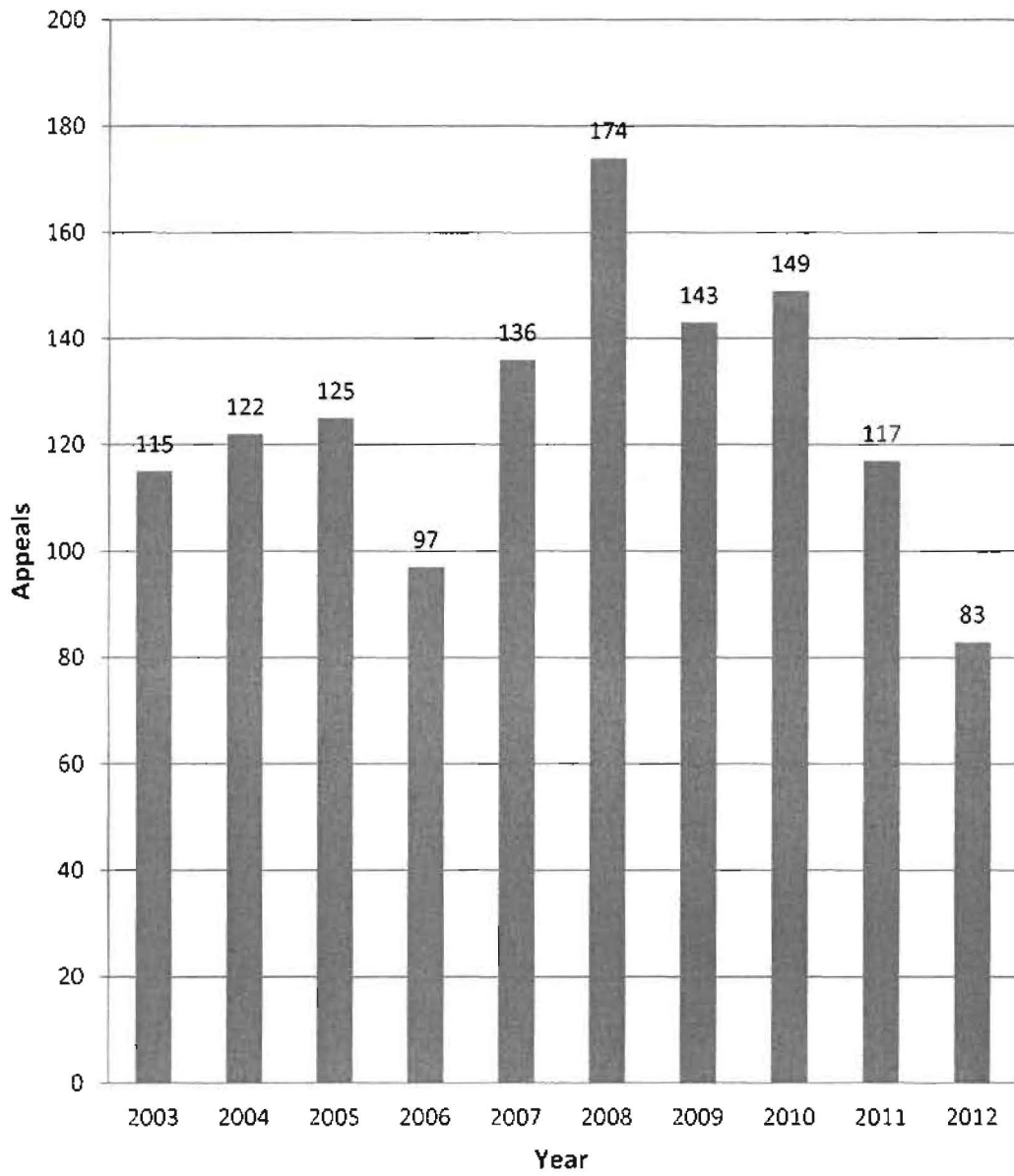
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	+ OR -
Opinions Filed											
Supreme Court	238	224	249	253	263	256	246	291	231	334	103
Court of Appeals	1152	1276	1262	1262	1344	1280	1257	1157	1296	1286	-10
TOTALS	1390	1500	1511	1515	1607	1536	1503	1448	1527	1620	93

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	+ OR -
Appeals Dismissed											
Supreme Court	9	9	6	6	8	10	11	13	23	7	-16
Court of Appeals	239	269	308	296	273	289	263	238	238	261	23
TOTALS	248	278	314	302	281	299	274	251	261	268	7

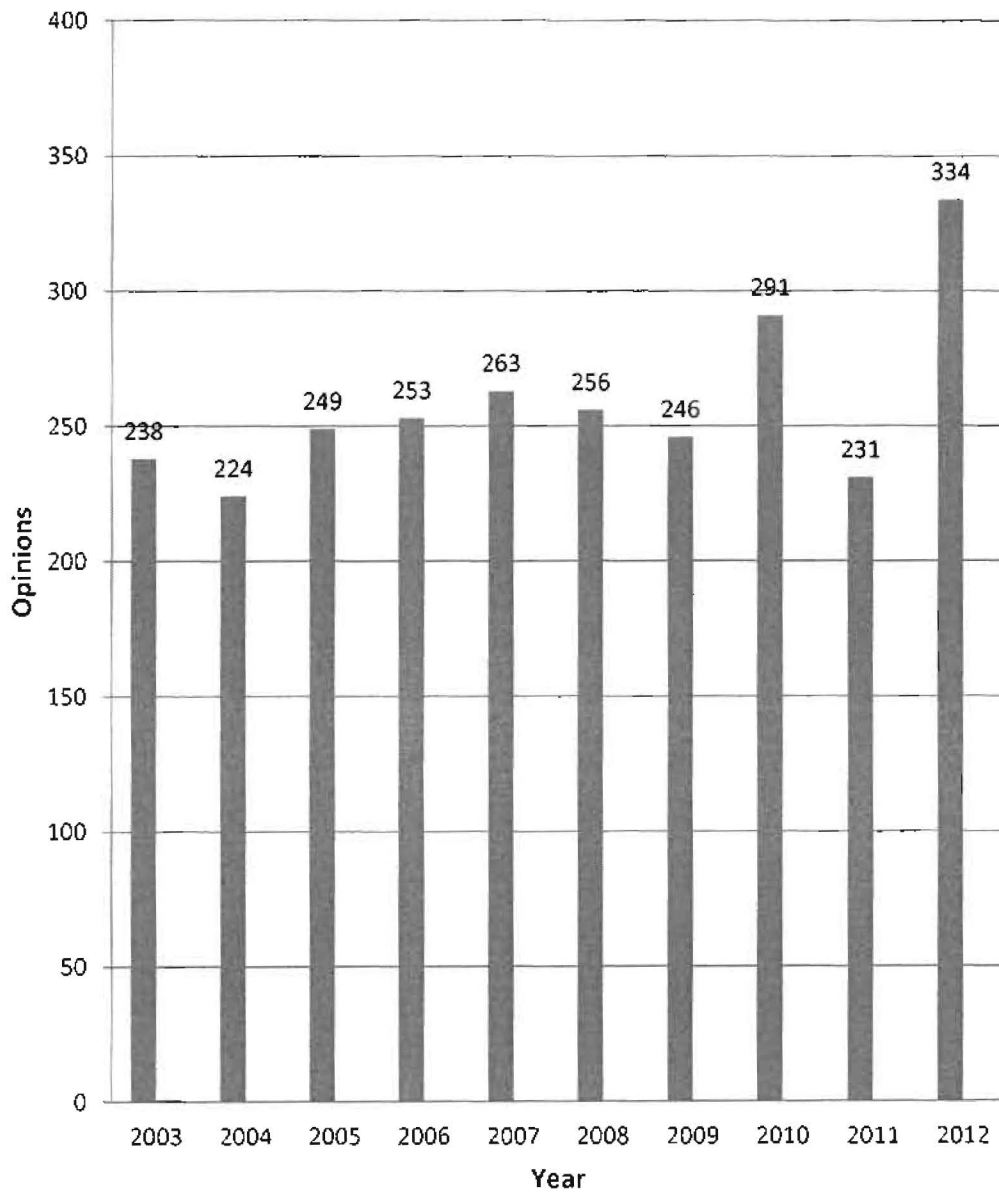
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	+ OR -
Motions Filed											
Supreme Court	648	648	775	859	658	971	1254	1229	1125	881	-244
Court of Appeals	8524	9056	10739	10168	9529	9227	10559	9854	9888	11517	1629
TOTALS	9172	9704	11514	11027	10187	10198	11813	11083	11013	12398	1385

Petitions For Review	
Pending 1/1/2012	432
Filed 2012	823
Denied 2012	337
Granted 2012	49
Withdrawn 2012	0
Pending 1/1/2013	900

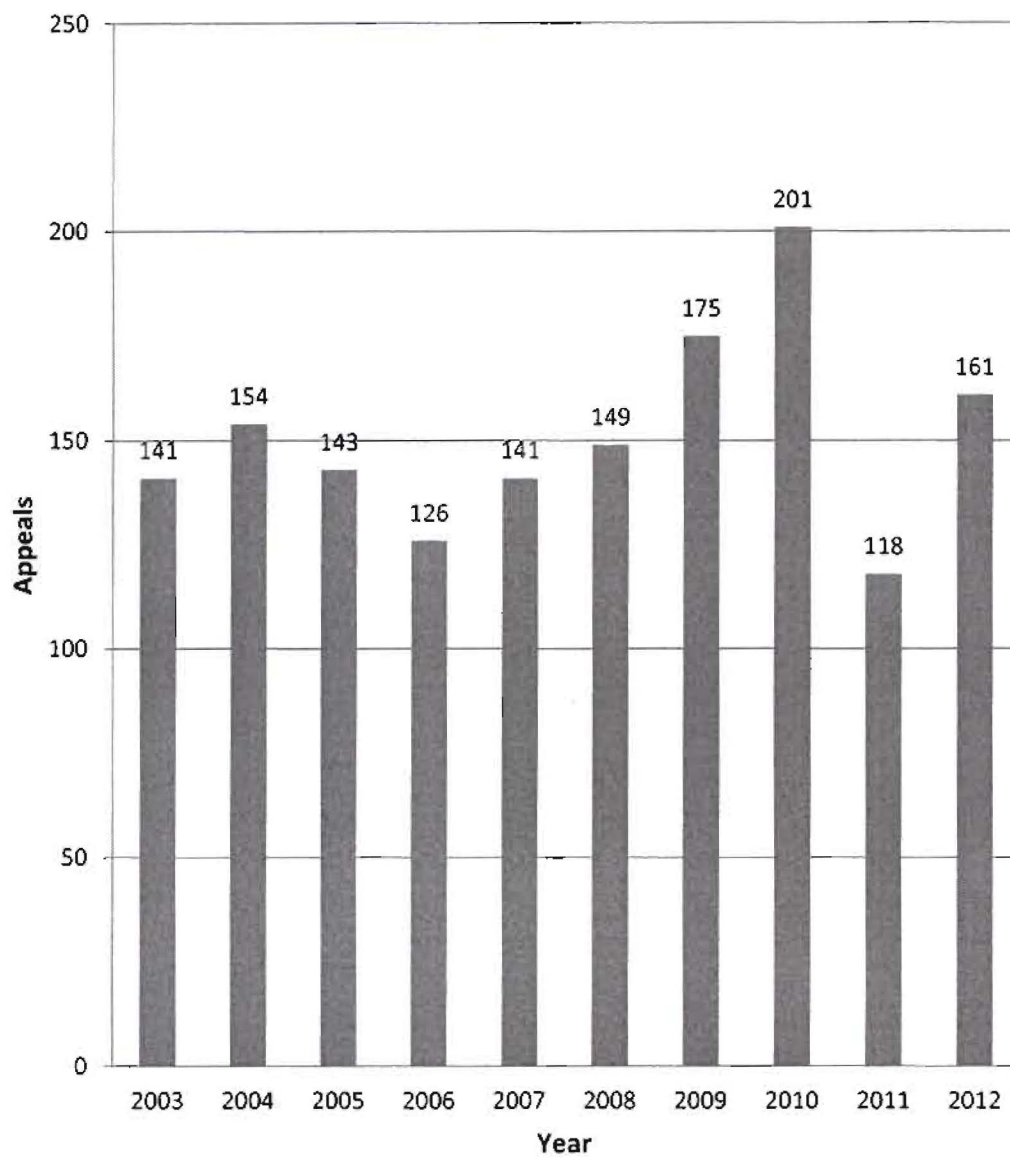
Kansas Supreme Court Appeals Docketed



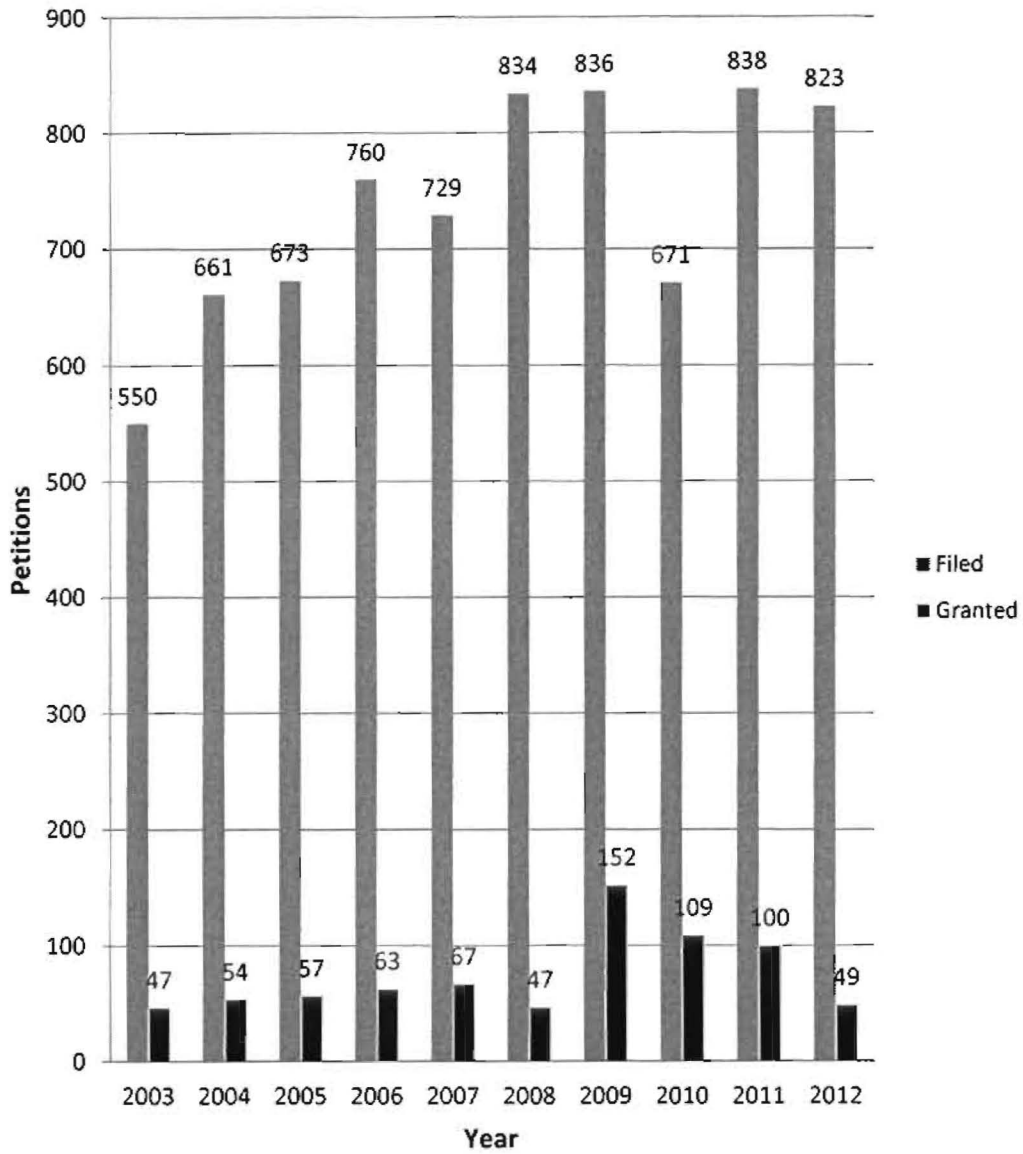
Kansas Supreme Court Opinions Filed



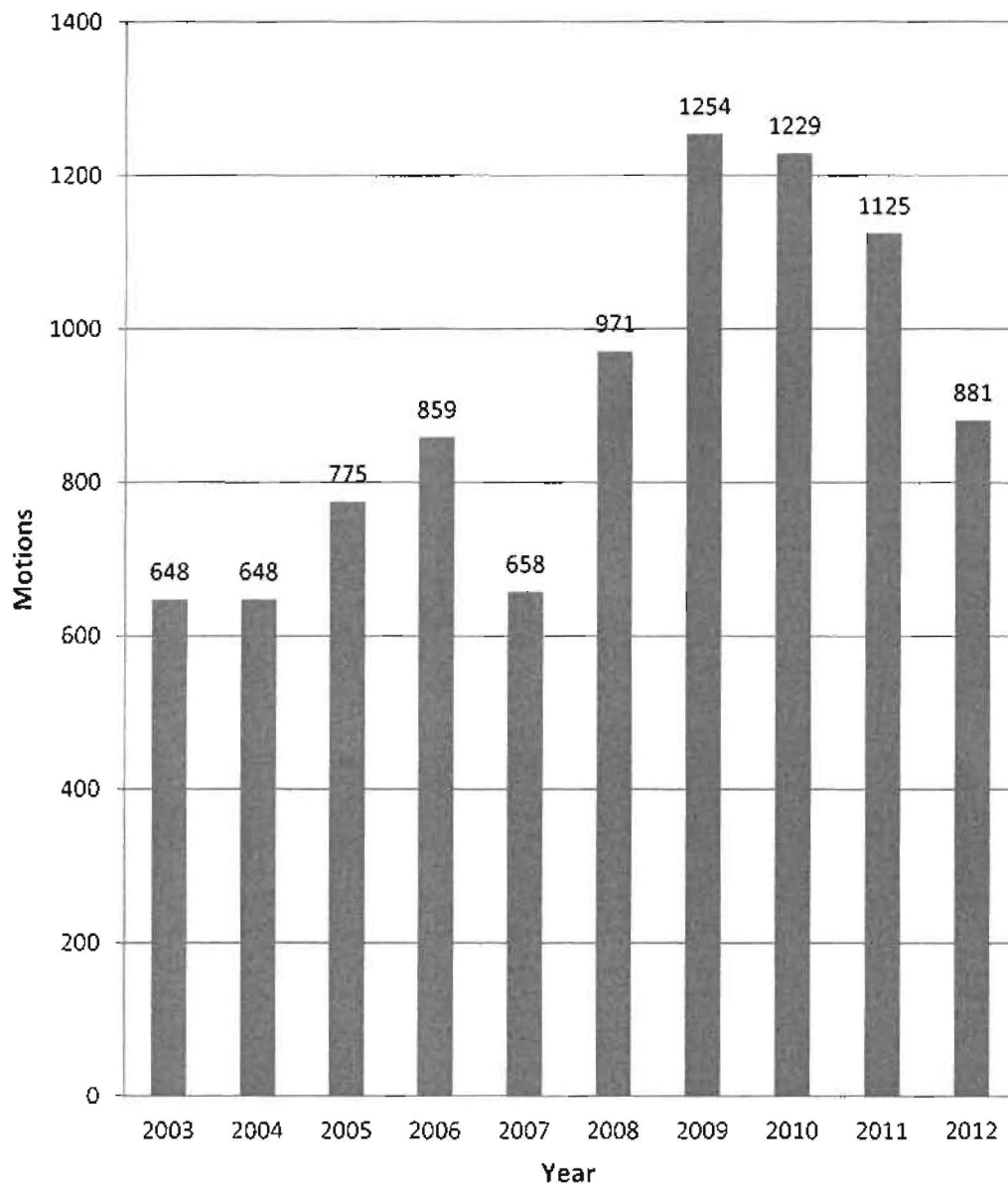
Kansas Supreme Court Transfers from Court of Appeals



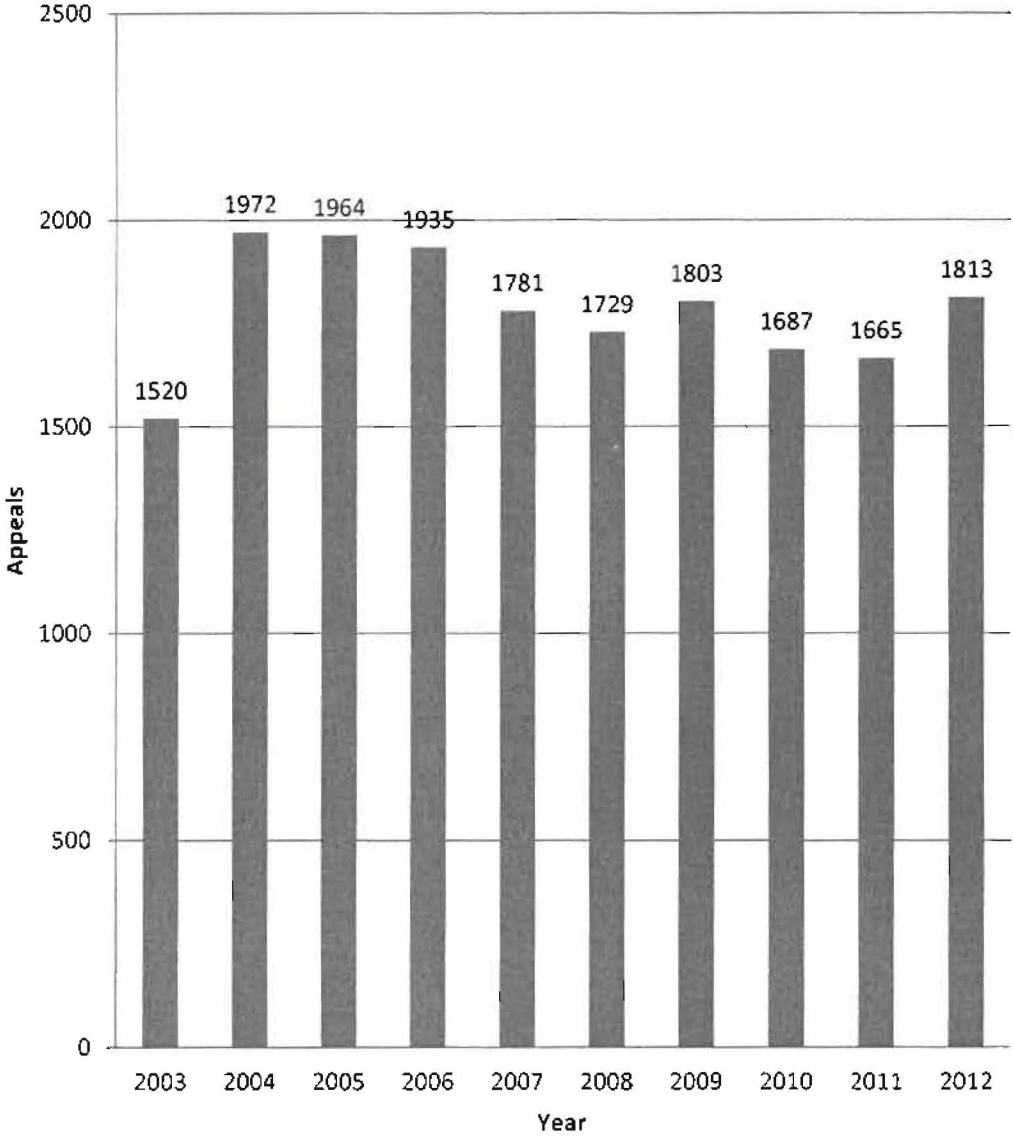
Kansas Supreme Court Petitions for Review



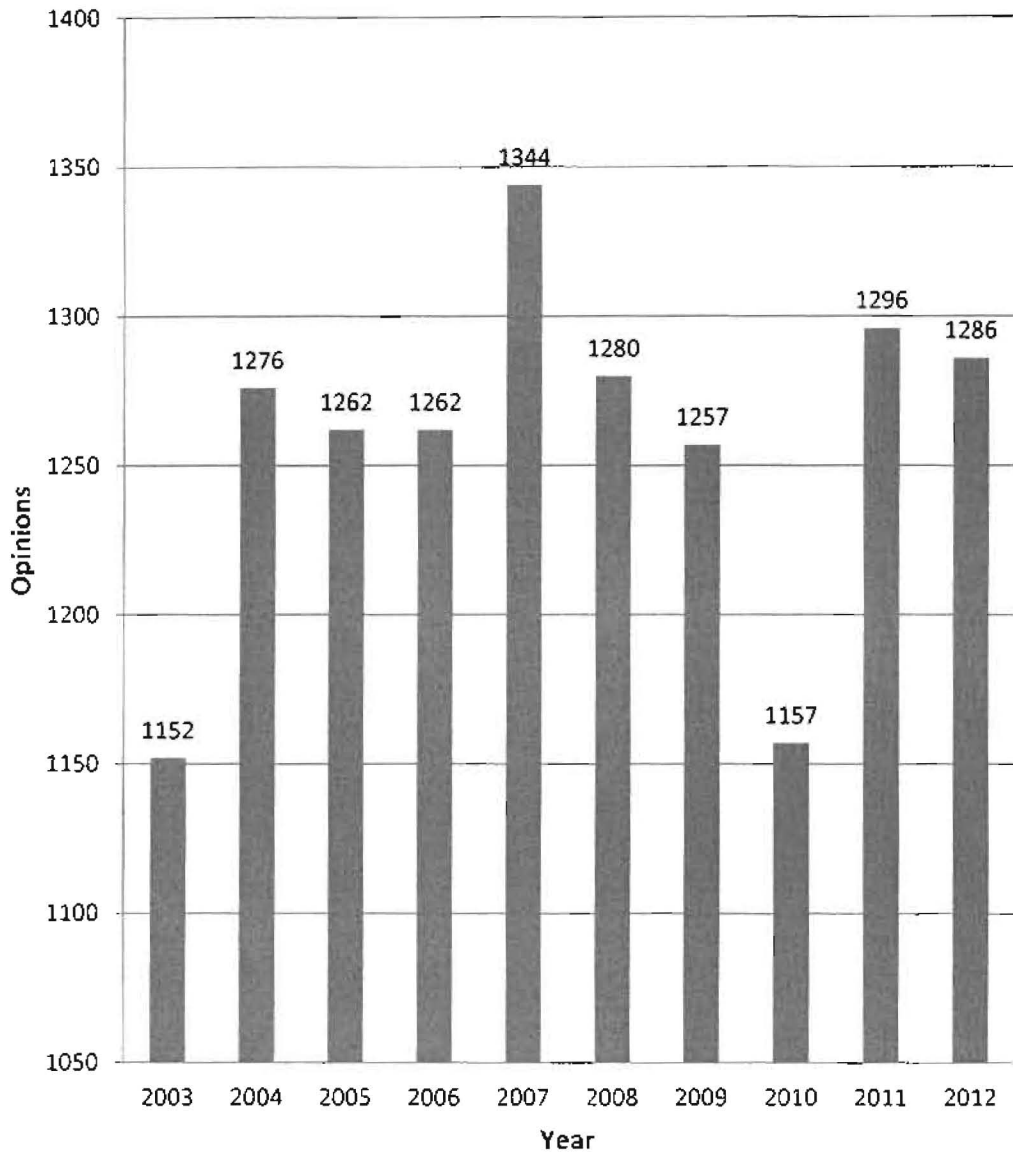
Kansas Supreme Court Motions Filed



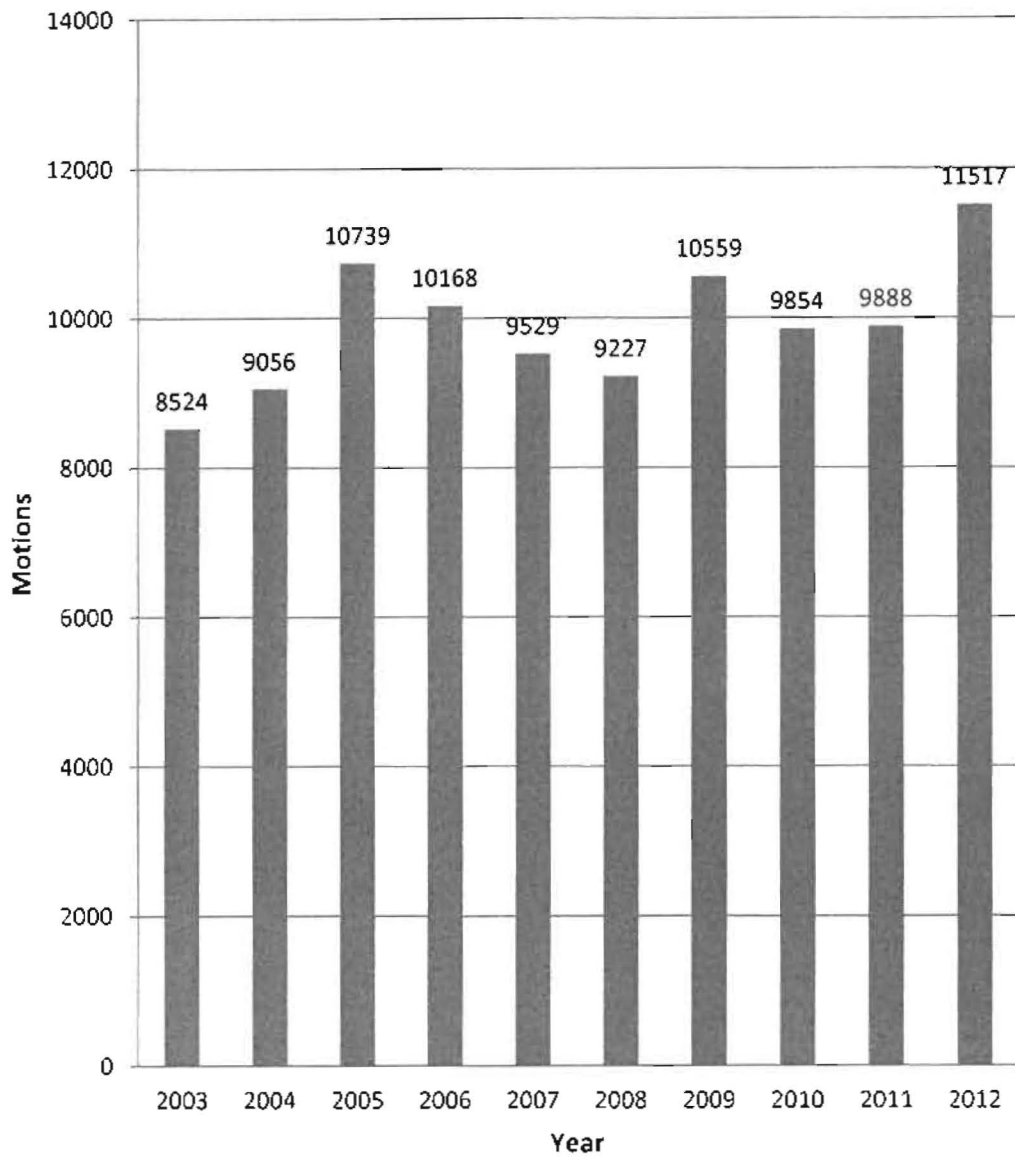
Kansas Court of Appeals Appeals Docketed



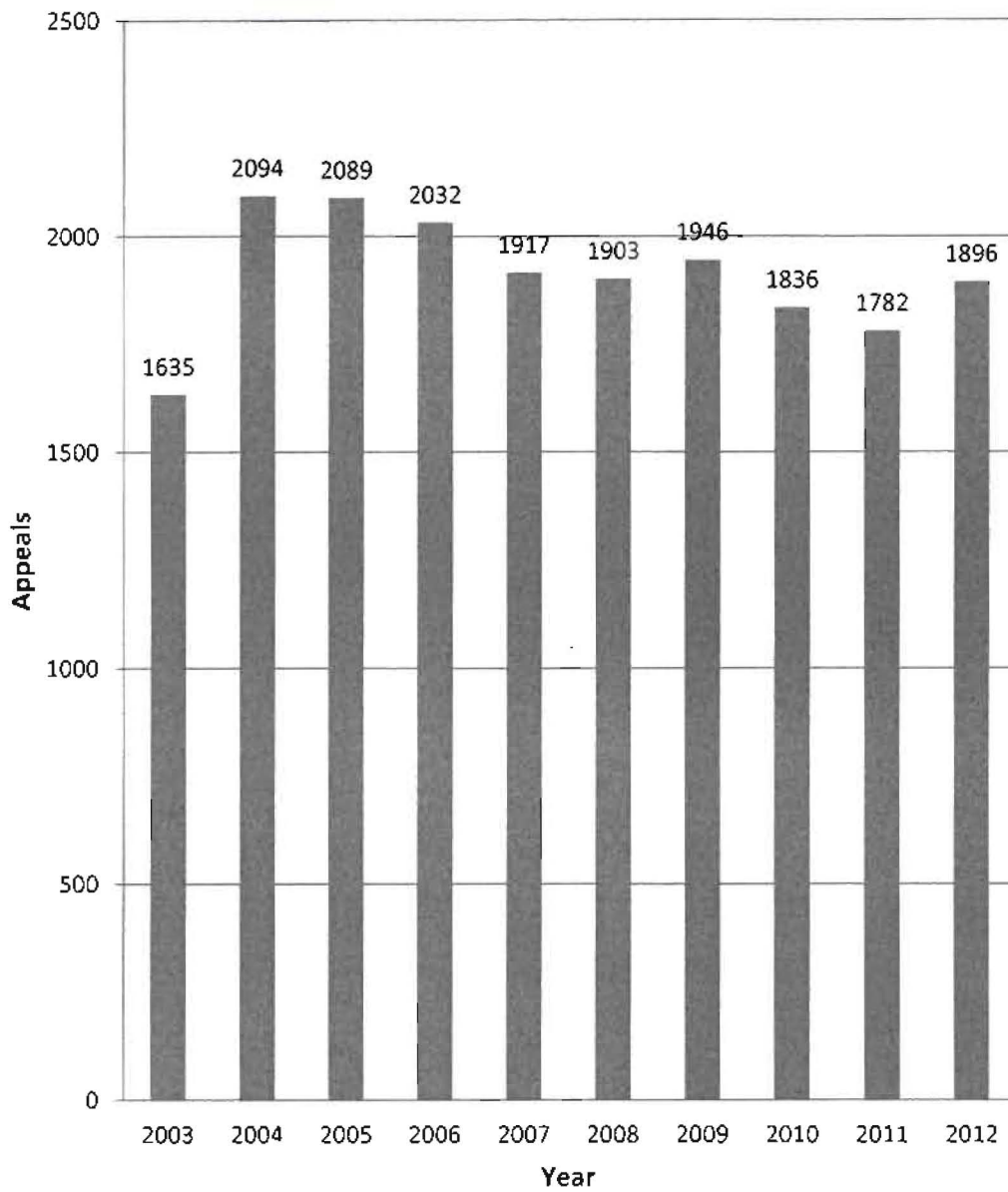
Kansas Court of Appeals Opinions Filed



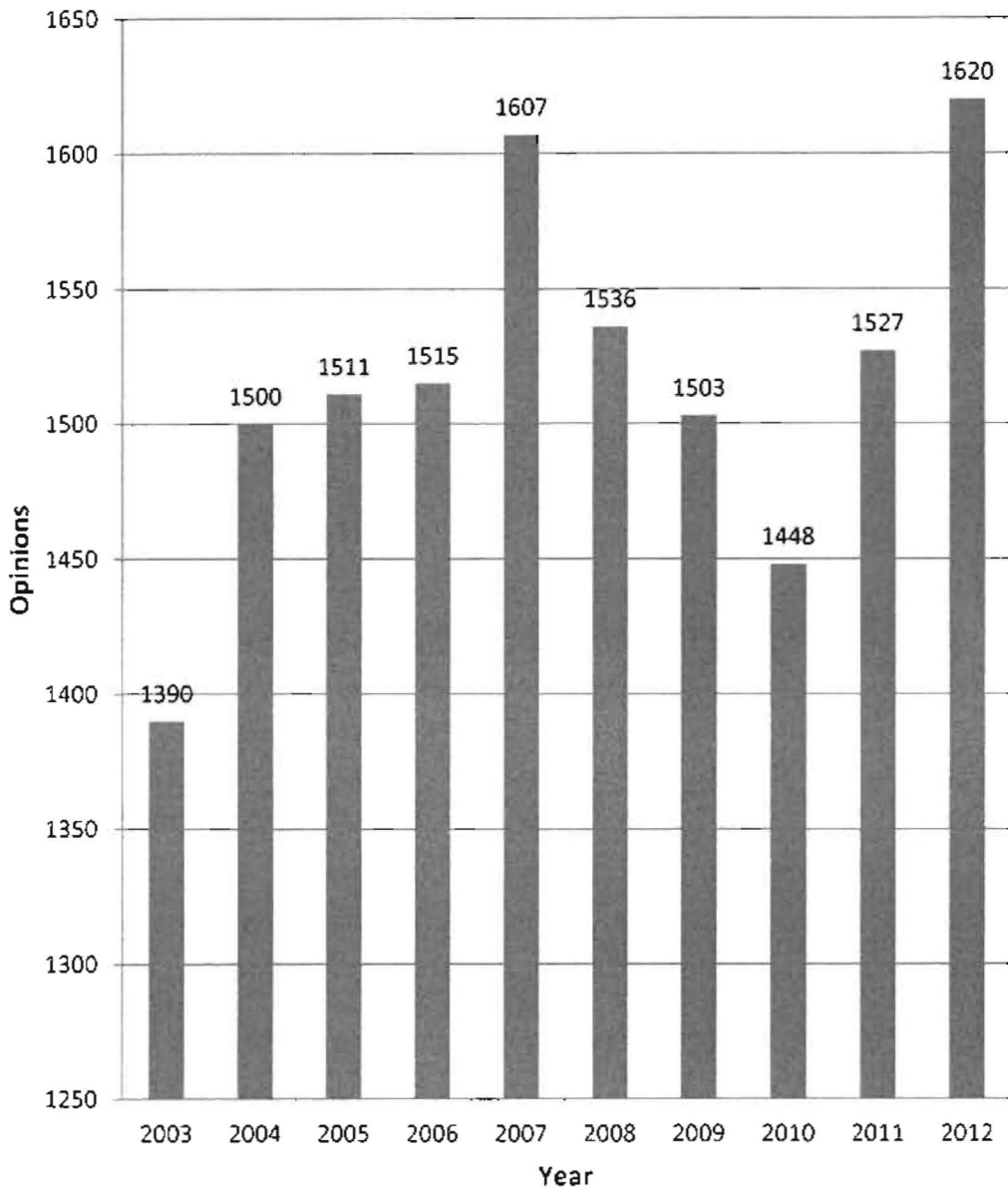
Kansas Court of Appeals Motions Filed



Kansas Appellate Courts Appeals Docketed



Kansas Appellate Courts Opinions Filed



Kansas Appellate Courts Motions Filed

