

# State Reporter of New York 2024 Annual Report



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## I. The Law Reporting Bureau

The New York State Law Reporting Bureau was established by article 14 of the New York Judiciary Law in 1938. Its statutory mandate is to officially report the decisions of the New York State court system—the largest court system in the nation with 3,300 judges. The Bureau edits, enhances—with headnotes, summaries, and points of counsel—and publishes court opinions under the direction of the State Reporter. Opinions published since 1847 are maintained in their original hardbound volumes by the Bureau.

The current State Reporter is Thomas J.K. Smith, appointed in 2024 by the New York State Court of Appeals. Associate Judge Shirley Troutman serves as the Court’s current liaison judge, who oversees the Bureau, consults with the State Reporter on matters requiring Court approval, and presents law reporting issues to the full Court.

Under a competitive-bid contract between the State Reporter and a commercial publisher—currently West Publishing Corporation—the Bureau publishes the New York Reports, the Appellate Division Reports, and the Miscellaneous Reports in print and online. Those Official Reports include all court opinions of the Court of Appeals and the Appellate Division and select opinions of the Appellate Term and the trial courts. Online versions of the opinions are published on the Bureau’s free, public access [website](#) and in the Official Reports content category in Westlaw. Motion decisions of the Appellate Division and Appellate Term and trial orders submitted through the Westlaw trial order acquisition process are also published online. Hardbound volumes of the Official Reports are available for purchase from West Publishing Corporation.

The Bureau also publishes softbound volumes of its Advance Sheets containing enhanced opinions, classified by legal topic, released each week. And since 1956, the Bureau has also published the Official New York Law Reports Style Manual—available on its website and in the Westlaw Official Reports content category—which covers the citation, abbreviation, capitalization, quotation, and word style system used in the Official Reports.

## II. 2024 Highlights

- April 7, 2024—Founders Day—marked 220 years of official law reporting in New York State.
- Effective August 15, 2024, the New York State Court of Appeals appointed Thomas J.K. Smith as 28<sup>th</sup> State Reporter of New York.
- In November 2024, the Court of Appeals approved the Bureau’s Notice of Bid for its proposed 2026–30 commercial publishing contract for public release on January 2, 2025.
- On November 27, 2024, the Bureau launched its updated and upgraded free, public access website, leading the court system-wide 2025–26 website upgrade project.
- In December 2024, the Bureau began acquiring from West Publishing Company—for the State’s permanent records—complete digital copies of the Official Reports published since 2001.
- In December 2024, the New York State Secretary of State agreed to grant the Bureau—for the first time—a copyright license to publish the Bureau’s headnotes, summaries, and points of counsel enhancements to opinions on the Bureau’s website.

### III. Publishing Activity

#### EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITY\*

**Advance Sheets Published:** 52

**Bound Volumes Published:**

New York Reports, 3d Series	2
Appellate Division Reports, 3d Series	11
Miscellaneous Reports, 3d Series	4
<b>Total</b>	<u>17</u>

New York Reports			Appellate Division Reports			Miscellaneous Reports		
<b><u>Opinions</u></b>			<b><u>Opinions</u></b>			<b><u>Opinions</u></b>		
Pages	1,261	↑ 49%	Pages	1,904	↑ 35%	Pages	3,364	↓ 17%
Opinions	72	↑ 50%	Opinions	205	↑ 15%	Opinions	323	↓ 18%
Headnotes	120	↑ 52%	Headnotes	306	↑ 19%	Headnotes	416	↓ 32%
<b><u>Memoranda and Tables</u></b>			<b><u>Memoranda Decisions</u></b>			<b><u>Abstracts</u></b>		
Pages	287	↓ 19%	Pages	11,261	↓ 1%	Pages	281	↑ 30%
Memoranda	24	↓ 4%	Cases	6,334	↓ 4%	Cases	1,848	↑ 22%
Headnotes	27	↑ 4%	Headnotes	8,966	↓ 6%			
<b><u>Motions</u></b>								
Edited Motions	2063							

**Total Published:** 36,841 ↑ 4%

#### **PUBLISHED ONLINE**

**Appellate Motion Decisions:**

AD and AT Motions 20,760 ↑ 8%

**West Trial Orders:**

Opinion Acquisitions 5,262 ↓ 3%

#### **WEBSITE USAGE**

Visitors	6,636,689	↑ 411%
Total Visits	16,089,626	↑ 226%
Page Views	35,063,882	
User Guide Downloads	2,433	↑ 13%
X Followers	1,985	↑ 5%

#### **OTHER ACTIVITY**

**Miscellaneous Reports Opinion Selection:**

Reporter Mailbox Submissions	2,217	↑ 12%
Selected for Full Print	346	↓ 20%
Selected for Abstracts	1,871	↑ 21%

**Nonjudicial Requests for Publication:**

Nonjudicial Requests	318
LRB Solicitations	112

**Arcanum:**

Summaries	437
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#### **STYLE MANUAL DISTRIBUTION**

Print Copies Distributed	186	↓ 95%
Copies Downloaded	9,017	↑ 6%

\*with percentage change from 2023

## **IV. Product Development**

- Coordinated the publication of the Official Reports Court of Appeals New Filings content on the New Filings database on Westlaw
- Streamlined the trial orders acquisition process to ensure that decisions withheld for privacy concerns from publication on the Bureau’s website are also withheld from publication on Westlaw
- Published the 2024 electronic update of the Official New York Law Reports Style Manual on the Bureau’s website and coordinated publication on Westlaw
- Oversaw West Publishing Corporation’s completion of the Bureau’s New York Official Reports Service to include all decisions, memoranda, and tabular lists of decisions from the inception of the First Series of the Official Reports
- Streamlined the headnotes for trial-level court opinions published in the Miscellaneous Reports

## **V. Staff**

The Bureau edits, enhances, and publishes the Official Reports of New York State court opinions with a regular staff of 30 professionals: State Reporter, Deputy State Reporter, Assistant State Reporter, Legal Editors, Law Reporting Assistants, Law Reporting Aides, Court Analyst, and Technology Specialists. On December 31, 2024, the Bureau had a staff of 27. The Bureau continues to recruit for two Legal Editors. The Assistant State Reporter position will remain open indefinitely.

## **VI. Editorial and Information Technology**

The Bureau’s Technology Specialists—Local Area Network (LAN) Administrators and Computer Applications Programmers—support its mission to edit, enhance, and publish the Official Reports. The Administrators are responsible for acquisition and maintenance of the Bureau’s computers, printers, software, intranet and internet service, and phones. The Programmers are responsible for the Bureau’s data—hundreds of thousands of court opinions in electronic format—and its automated opinion processing system and free, public access website.

Highlights of the Technology Specialists’ work in 2024 include the following:

- Completed construction of the Bureau’s central database of court opinions for retrieval and transmission in multiple electronic formats for editing and publishing—both online and in print.
- Continued to upgrade and transform the Bureau’s Corel WordPerfect-based opinion-processing system to a state-of-the-art Microsoft Word-based system.
- Developed secure data storage for complete digital copies—acquired beginning in 2024—of the Bureau’s opinions published since 2001.
- Updated and upgraded the Bureau’s free, public access website, leading the court system-wide 2025-26 website upgrade project.

## **VII. Professional and Volunteer Activities**

Bureau staff continued to participate in the following professional and volunteer activities.

- Bureau staff edited and formatted 24 new and updated Rules of Evidence and their accompanying Notes at the request of the Chief Judge’s Advisory Committee on Evidence. The Rules and Notes are contained in the Court’s [Official Guide to New York Evidence](#).
- The Bureau continued its holiday tradition of “adopting” families through the Ronald McDonald House. Gift cards purchased through staff contributions were donated to the Ronald McDonald “Family Room” in the neonatal intensive care unit at Albany Medical Center.

## **VIII. Visitors to the Bureau**

- In September, Associate Court of Appeals Judge Shirley Troutman, the Court’s liaison judge to the Bureau, and Clerk of the Court of Appeals Heather Davis visited the Bureau for a tour and discussion of current issues involving the Bureau.
- In October, State Reporter Thomas J.K. Smith hosted retired Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals Albert Rosenblatt and students from his New York University Law School class for a tour of Centennial Hall and a presentation of the Bureau’s official reporting of New York State court decisions.
- In October, the Clerk and Court Attorneys of the Appellate Division Third Department visited the Bureau for a tour of Centennial Hall and a discussion of current issues in reporting decisions of the four Appellate Division Departments.
- In November, the 24<sup>th</sup> State Reporter, Frederick Muller, visited the Bureau to tour Centennial Hall, meet the current staff, and discuss the Bureau’s history.
- In December, the Bureau and Westlaw held a virtual meeting to wrap-up the 2024 publishing contract year and discuss projects for 2025, including preliminary work on the bidding of the 2026–2030 commercial publishing contract.