



**WYOMING**  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

# Wyoming Chancery Court

Focused, Fast, and Fair Business & Trust  
Dispute Resolution

# What is the Chancery Court?

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A new court that resolves business and trust cases on an expedited schedule using bench trials, active case management, and limited motions practice.



# Legislative Developments

## SF0104 (2019)

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- Established chancery court.
- Directed Wyoming Supreme Court to adopt rules.

## HBo103 (2020)

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- Added actions regarding trademarks and trade names to the chancery court's jurisdiction.
- Authorized chancery court to exercise supplemental ancillary jurisdiction at its discretion.

# Legislative Developments

## HB0042 (2021), SF0057 (2022), SF0055 (2023)

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- Extended the deadline to appoint a full-time chancery court judge to January 1, 2025.

## HB0046 (2024)

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- Extended accelerated timeline from 150-days from filing of the complaint to 150-days from issuance of the scheduling order.

# Core Characteristics

## Purpose of Chancery Court

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- *Defined by Legislation*
- Provide a forum for the expeditious resolution of disputes involving commercial, business, trust, and similar issues

## Characteristics of Chancery Court

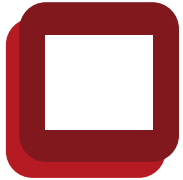
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- Limited jurisdiction
- Expedited resolution
- Active case management
- Limited motions practice
- Alternative dispute resolution methods
- Nonjury trials



# Location

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## Statewide Service

- Chancery serves the entire state of Wyoming
- Primary courtroom located in the Thyra Thomson State Office Building, Casper



## Remote Proceedings

- Proceedings often held remotely
- Reduce costs and enhance accessibility



## In-Person Hearings

- Conducted in Casper (default courtroom)
- Conducted in courtrooms statewide when available and when convenient for the parties, witnesses, and counsel



# Why a Chancery Court?

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With its focus on business and trust law, the Wyoming Chancery Court delivers fast and fair outcomes that reduce costs, positioning Wyoming as a premier destination for business and trust activity.





**“People buy products  
and services to get a  
job done.”**

– Clayton Christensen, Harvard Business School

Reference:

See *also* Clayton M. Christensen, Taddy Hall, Karen Dillon & David S. Duncan, Know Your Customers' 'Jobs to Be Done', 94 Harv. Bus. Rev. 54, 54–62 (2016).



# Value Proposition Statement

A value proposition statement articulates how a specific service provider uniquely gets the job done, distinguishing the service from other providers.

## *Examples:*

- Uber: "The smartest way to get around."
- Slack: "Be more productive at work with less effort."

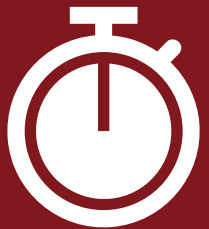
# Chancery Court Value Proposition Statement

## Focused, Fast, and Fair Business & Trust Dispute Resolution



### Focused Dispute Resolution

Specialized in business & trust cases



### Fast Dispute Resolution

Efficient processes to expedite cases



### Fair Dispute Resolution

Impartial, consistent & predictable outcomes

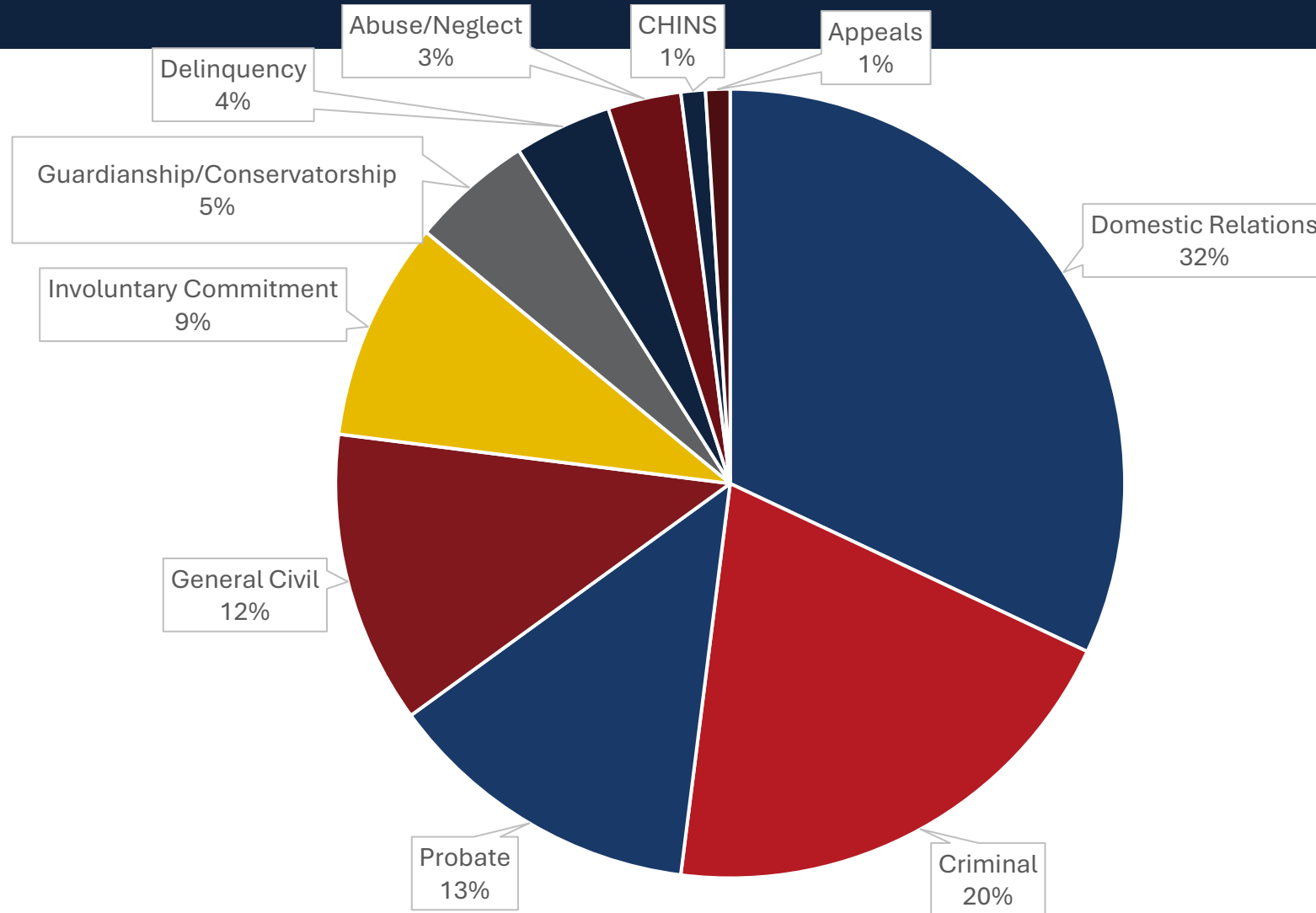
# Focused

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What distinguishes the chancery court from general jurisdiction courts is its focus. The chancery court specializes in business and trust law, which allows it to quickly resolve matters and issue consistent and predictable rulings.



# District Court Cases by Category FY24



# **Chancery Court: Focused Jurisdiction**

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*Dispute Type:* Commercial, Business, Trust

*Relief Type:* Equitable, Declaratory, Monetary  
(>\$50,000)

*Case Type:* 22 eligible types

*References:*

Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-115(a)

Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-115(b)

WRCPCH 2(a)



# Eligible Case Types

- Breach of contract
- Breach of fiduciary duty
- Fraud
- Misrepresentation
- A statutory or common law violation involving:
  - The sale of assets or securities;
  - A corporate restructuring;
  - A partnership, shareholder, joint venture or other business agreement;
  - Trade secrets; or
  - Employment agreements not including claims involving alleged discriminatory practices
- Transactions governed by the Wyoming Uniform Trust Code
- Transactions governed by the Uniform Commercial Code
- Shareholder derivative actions\*
- Commercial class actions
- Business transactions involving or arising out of dealings with commercial banks and other financial institutions
- A dispute concerning the internal affairs of business organizations
- A dispute concerning environmental insurance coverage
- A dispute concerning commercial insurance coverage
- Dissolution of corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, limited liability partnerships, joint ventures, banks and trust companies\*
- Applications to stay or compel arbitration and affirm or disaffirms awards and related injunctive relief or appeals pursuant to W.S. § 1-21-801 through 1-21-804 or 1-36-101 through 1-36-119,. . . \*\*
- Disputes concerning a digital asset registered under W.S. 34-29-201 through 34-29-209, Wyoming Session Laws 2023, Ch. 174, § 2 (S.F. 76)
- A claim or counterclaim in an action based on a contract entered into by a governmental entity, that is otherwise within the jurisdiction of the chancery court and where the contract provides for venue in the chancery court, Wyoming Session Laws 2023, Ch. 9, § 1 (H.B. 97)
- A dispute concerning a trademark, trade name, or service mark, or an appeal from administrative cancellation of a trademark\*

*\*The monetary threshold does not apply*

*\*\*The monetary threshold does not apply where any applicable arbitration agreement provides for an arbitration to be heard outside the United States*

## *Reference:*

Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-115(b);  
W.R.C.P.Ch.C. 2(b).

# Excluded Case Types

- Personal injury or wrongful death
- Professional malpractice claims
- Consumer claims against business entities or insurers of business entities, including breach of warranty, product liability, and personal injury cases and cases arising under consumer protection laws
- Matters involving only wages or hours, occupational health or safety, workers' compensation, or unemployment compensation
- Environmental claims, except insurance disputes
- Actions in the nature of a change of name of an individual, mental health act, guardianship, conservatorship, or government election matters
- Individual residential real estate disputes, including foreclosure actions, or non-commercial landlord-tenant disputes
- Any criminal matter, other than criminal contempt in connection with a matter pending before the Chancery Court
- Consumer debts such as debts or accounts incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose; credit card debts incurred by individuals; medical services debts incurred by individuals; student loans; tax debts of individuals; personal auto mobile loans; and other similar types of consumer debts
- Summary or formal probate matters (domiciliary or ancillary)

*Reference:*  
W.R.C.P.Ch.C. 2(e).

# Fast

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By statutory design, the Chancery Court is a forum for the “expeditious resolution of disputes.” It aims to resolve most actions within 150 days of the issuance of the scheduling order.

Typically, the scheduling order issues within 14 days after any defendant appears or files an answer or other response to the plaintiff’s initial pleading.



## *References:*

Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-115(a); Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-104(h); W.R.C.P.Ch.C. 1, 16

# General Jurisdiction – Priorities

## **Criminal Cases:**

- Initial Appearance: 72 hours from arrest
- Speedy Trial: Must bring case to trial 180 days following arraignment

## **Juvenile Cases:**

- Shelter Care Hearing: 48 hours after temporary protective custody
- Detention Hearing: 48 hours after detention

## **Title 25**

- Hearing within 72 hours of the initial detention to determine whether continued detention is required pending directed outpatient commitment or involuntary hospitalization proceedings

### *References:*

W.R.Cr.P. 5, 48; Wyo. Stat. § 14-3-409; Wyo. Stat. § 14-6-209;  
Wyo. Stat. § 25-10-109



# State Court Timelines

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## National Average

- Civil case resolution: 306 days

## Criticism

- Civil justice system takes too long and costs too much
- Many litigants with meritorious claims and defenses are denied access to justice
- Not economically feasible to litigate certain cases



Reference:

NCSC, *Civil Justice Initiative: The Landscape of Civil Litigation in State Courts* (2016)



# Federal Court Timelines

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## Increase in Civil Case Backlogs

- 346% rise in pending civil cases over 20 years from 18,280 cases in 2004 to 81,617 cases in 2024

## Extended Time Between Filing and Trial

- National average time is over two years
- In overworked courts, it can be three to four years
- "The delays increase costs for civil litigants, who have to spend more on attorneys' fees, expert witnesses, and depositions, often with no clear end in sight."

## Broader Impact of Case Delays

- Businesses may halt production lines
- Employees may be out of work indefinitely
- Significant impact on communities, businesses, and local economies



*Reference:*

*US Courts, The Need for Additional Judgeships: Litigants Suffer when Cases Linger (Nov. 18, 2024)*

# Time = Expense

## Correlation Between Litigation Length and Expense

- Prolonged discovery or procedural disputes can increase costs up to five times.

## Discovery Delays Identified as Primary Cost Factor

- Task Force on Discovery and Civil Justice highlights discovery delays as extending case resolution times and inflating costs.
- Proposed solutions include early judicial intervention and tighter case management.

### *References:*

Paula Hannaford-Agor & Nicole L. Waters, *Estimating the Cost of Civil Litigation, NCSC: Court Statistics Project, 20 Caseload Highlights* (Jan 2013).  
Task Force on Discovery and Civil Justice of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, Report to the 2010 Civil Litigated Conference, Duke University School of Law

# Wyoming Chancery Court Timelines

## Resolution Times for Disposed Cases

Average Resolution Time	From
116 days	Filing Date
40 days	Answer Date
34 days	Initial Case Management Conference

## 2025 Substantive Motion Resolution Times

Avg. days from close of briefing to order (no oral argument)	10.9 Days
Avg. days from hearing to order (with oral argument):	9.3 Days
Number of motions pending more than 25 days after briefing or oral argument	0

# Wyoming Chancery Court Timelines

## Trust Cases: Days to Resolution

Avg. days from filing to resolution (uncontested cases)	36
Avg. days from filing to resolution (contested cases)	149

## Trust Cases: Timelines

Days to hearing in uncontested cases	33
Days from hearing to resolution	5

# Active Case Management + Regular Settlement Efforts = Expedited Resolution

## Early and continuous control

- Court will convene a case management and scheduling conference early in the case. As part of this process, the parties and court develop an accelerated, but achievable, case schedule.
- In most cases, the court will hold regular status conferences to keep the case moving forward on time.

## Tailored discovery and schedule

- The chancery court has “broad authority to shape and expedite discovery.” Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 5-13-115(a).
- The court may “limit the frequency or extent of discovery otherwise allowed” by the rules. W.R.C.P.Ch.C. 26(b)(2)(c).
- At the start of a case, the court will require the parties to prepare and submit a joint case management report proposing limitations on discovery and a detailed case schedule with firm dates.

## Alternative dispute resolution

- Typically, the court requires three resolution conferences: initial conference, interim conference, and late-stage conference. At least one of the three resolution conferences must involve a mediator.

## Limited motions practice

- Before filing a discovery dispute motion, parties must meet and confer.
- If repeated attempts to settle the discovery dispute are unsuccessful, the parties will submit a joint letter to the court outlining the dispute and their respective positions.
- The court may resolve the dispute on the letter alone, convene a conference, or direct the filing of a formal motion.



# Fair

## **Specialization fosters fairness**

- Consistent and predictable results
- Based on law and facts, not identity of party, strength of counsel, or background of judge or jury

## **Fairness builds trust**

- Encourages economic activity

## Published Decisions

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"Opinions of the chancery court shall be published by the clerk of the chancery court in a searchable electronic database."

*Reference:*

Wyo. Stat. § 5-13-104(f)



# Example Orders & Decisions

## Implied Partnership

*Flying Phoenix v. Randall Sinclair*,  
2024 WYCH 3  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. Apr. 25, 2024)

## Custodianship

*Wilkinson v. Hawaiian Hospitality  
Grp*, 2023 WYCH 1  
(Wyo. Ch. Ct. Mar. 28, 2023).

## Receivership

*Keystone Capital Partners v. Life  
Clips*, 2025 WYCH 4 (Wyo. Ch. Ct.  
Jun. 18, 2025).

## Direct v. Derivative

*Aishangyou v. WeTrade Grp*,  
2023 WYCH 7  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. Nov. 7, 2023).

## Issue Preclusion

*Aishangyou v. WeTrade Grp*,  
2024 WYCH 7  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. June 7, 2024).

## Expert Opinions

*Chipcore v. Three Crown  
Petroleum*, 2024 WYCH 6  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. May 15, 2024).

## Summary Judgment involving Contracts with Technical Terms

*Chipcore v. Three Crown  
Petroleum*, 2024 WYCH 5  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. May 15, 2024).

## *Forum Non Conveniens*

*Yu v. Next Technology Holding*,  
2025 WYCH 12  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. Oct. 8, 2025).

## Default Judgment: Declaratory Relief & Judicial Dissolution under Operating Agreement

*Houston v. Koolaid Baby*,  
2025 WYCH 10  
(Wy. Ch. Ct. Aug. 22, 2025).

# Example Orders & Decisions

## Chancery Court Jurisdiction

*Clark v. Romo*, 2023 WYCH 4 (Wy. Ch. C. June 16, 2023).

*Lincolnway v. Villalpando*, 2023 WYCH 6 (Wy. Ch. C. Oct. 6, 2023).

## Misuse of AI

*Chagnon v. Nelson*, 2025 WYCH 9 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Jul. 11, 2025).

*Chan v. Khhermani*, 2024 WYCH 11 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Nov. 14, 2024).

## Personal Jurisdiction over Non-Resident Members of Wyoming LLCs

*Frankel v. Guardian Law*, 2024 WYCH 8 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Oct. 15, 2024).

*Wright McCall v. DeGaris Law*, 2022 WYCH 2 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Nov. 28, 2022).

## Rule 3 Objections to Proceeding in Chancery Court

*Aishangyou v. WeTrade Grp*, 2024 WYCH 4 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Apr. 24, 2024).

*Toppscorp v. Urban Equity*, 2024 WYCH 10 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Oct. 23, 2024).

*Layne v. West*, 2024 WYCH 9 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Oct. 25, 2024).

## Standards for Setting Aside Entry of Default

*G Bar S Heavy Haul v. Chipcore*, 2025 WYCH 7 (Wyo. Ch. Ct. Jun 30, 2025).

# Review Published Orders & Decisions

Access published orders and decisions Westlaw, LexisNexis, and on the Wyoming Judicial Branch Website (wyocourts.gov)

[Home](#) > [Chancery Court Orders and Decisions](#)

## Chancery Court Orders and Decisions

[Supreme Court Opinions](#) [Chancery Court Orders And Decisions](#)

Chancery court is a specialized court that expeditiously handles business matters and claims relating to trusts and estates. Orders and decisions are published in a searchable electronic database pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 5-13-104(f).

Start Date

mm / dd / yyyy

End Date

mm / dd / yyyy

Plaintiff

Defendant

Search

Reset

Enter search information into one or more of the fields.

Using more than one field will result in a more narrow search.

Opinions and orders published prior to 2006 are not available in this search.

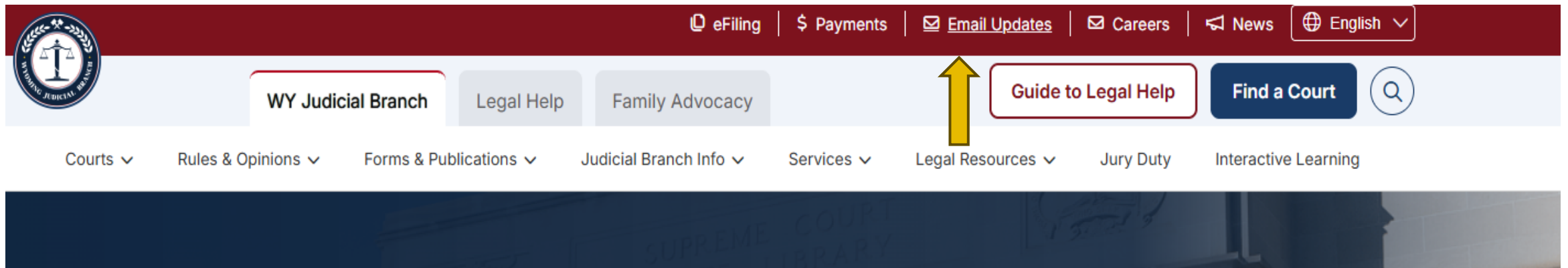
If you are not able to see the list of opinions below, please hold down the Control Key (Ctrl) on your keyboard, and press F5.

Opinion ID	Publish Date	Plaintiff	Defendant	Docket Number
<a href="#">2025 WYCH 10</a>	8/26/2025	Ariel Houston	Koolaid Baby Houston Music Group, LLC	CH-2025-0000011
<a href="#">2025 WYCH 9</a>	7/14/2025	Angela and Theodore Chagnon, Individually and as Shareholders, and Total Warrior Combat, LLC, Derivatively	Holly Nelson	CH-2025-0000002
<a href="#">2025 WYCH 8</a>	7/3/2025	Angela and Theodore Chagnon, Individually and as Shareholders, and Total Warrior Combat, LLC, Derivatively	Holly Nelson	CH-2025-0000002
<a href="#">2025 WYCH 7</a>	7/1/2025	G BAR S HEAVY HAUL, LLC, and RIATTA RENTALS, LLC.	CHIPCORE, LLC, WYLEASE, LLC, and PRESTIGE ENERGY, LLC.	CH-2025-0000009
<a href="#">2025 WYCH 6</a>	7/1/2025	Daniel Ayers	La Beliza Resort LLC and Justin Lambert	Ch-2024-0000017



# Notifications

Sign up for email notifications of published chancery court decisions on the Wyoming Judicial Branch Website (wyocourts.gov).



# Modern Business Court Movement

## Modern Business Court Concept

- Not unique to Wyoming
- Adopted by more than half of all states

## States with Modern Business Courts

- 27 states have some version
- Texas and Utah are the latest (launched fall 2024)

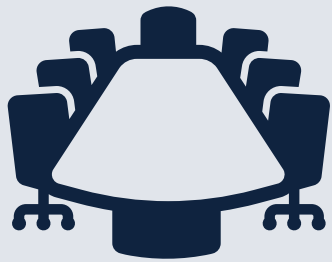
### *Reference:*

Bus. L. Section, Am. Bar Ass'n, Benjamin R. Norman & Benjamin M. Burningham eds., *Recent Developments in Business Courts 2024*, (Mar. 7, 2024).

# Defining Business Courts

- A business court is a state tribunal or program dedicated to resolving business disputes, including:
  - Business-to-business disputes (e.g., contract disputes); and
  - Intra-business disputes (e.g., ownership, partnership, or operational disagreements, corporate governance disputes).
- The main characteristics of business courts include focused and manageable case loads, resulting in consistent and predictable outcomes.

# Common Elements of Modern Business Courts



## **Specialized Jurisdiction**

Focuses on business and commercial disputes



## **Specially Assigned Judges**

One judge or a set of judges assigned to the business court



## **Consistent Judicial Handling**

Same judge handles a single case from start to finish

*Reference:*

Vanessa R. Tiradentes et al., *The Business Courts Benchbook: Procedures and Best Practices in Business and Commercial Cases* xv (2019)

# The “Godfather” of Business Courts – Delaware Chancery Court

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With over two centuries of history, it is known for predictability, efficiency, and well-reasoned decisions. Its role in shaping corporate law has made Delaware a leading jurisdiction for corporate law.

Its success is built on key characteristics:

*Expert Judges* – Specialists in business law.

*Bench Trials* – Cases decided by judges, ensuring consistency.

*Published, Well-Reasoned Decisions* – Creating a strong body of case law.

*Predictable & Efficient* – Reliable rulings and efficient case management.





# 1990 – 2000: Modern Business Court Movement Begins

In the early 1990s, states outside of Delaware established dedicated business court divisions or calendars within existing courts.

- **New York (1995)** – *Commercial Division of the Supreme Court*; Created by chief judge's order; Expanded over time.
- **North Carolina (1995)** – *Business Court*; Created by Supreme Court order; Statewide jurisdiction with six judges.
- **Illinois (1993)** – *Commercial Calendar Section* (Cook County Circuit Court); Created by administrative order; Expanded to eight judges by 2019.
- **New Jersey (1996)** – *Complex Business Litigation Program*; Created by Supreme Court order; Expanded statewide in 2015, with formal rules adopted in 2018.

# 2000–2010: Modern Business Court Movement Continues

In the early 2000s, more states joined the movement by introducing specialized programs, sessions, dockets, or calendars within existing courts, while a few expanded statewide and established standalone business courts.

- **Pennsylvania (2000):** Launched *Commerce Case Management Program* (Philadelphia) and *Commerce & Complex Litigation Center* (Pittsburgh, 2007) via court order.
- **Massachusetts (2000):** Introduced *Business Litigation Session* in Boston; expanded statewide (2009) with rotating 6-month sessions.
- **Nevada (2000):** Created *Business Courts* in Reno and Las Vegas through a Supreme Court rule using existing judges.
- **Rhode Island (2001):** Established *Business Calendar* in Providence & Bristol Counties via court order; statewide expansion in 2011.
- **Maryland (2003):** Initiated *Business & Technology Case Management Program* in circuit courts via court rule.
- **Florida (2004–2007):** Formed *Complex Business Litigation Divisions* in multiple cities; Miami's division reaffirmed in 2017.
- **Maine (2008):** Launched *Business & Consumer Docket* via Supreme Court order; staffed by two judges; serves the entire state.
- **South Carolina (2007):** Started a *Business Court Pilot Program* via Supreme Court order; expanded statewide in 2014 and made permanent in 2019 unless modified by subsequent order.
- **New Hampshire (2008):** Created *Business & Commercial Dispute Docket* through legislation; statewide, centered in Merrimack County.

# 2010 – 2020: Momentum into the Interior States

The business court movement grew in the 2010s. While some states added specialized divisions and dockets, more states launched pilot business courts, paving the way for future statewide courts dedicated to business disputes.

- **West Virginia (2012):** *Business Court Division* created by Supreme Court order; seven judges appointed for seven-year terms.
- **Michigan (2013):** *Specialized Business Court Dockets* established in circuit courts; 17 counties had dockets by 2019.
- **Iowa (2012, expanded 2016 & 2019):** *Iowa Business Specialty Court* began as a pilot, made permanent in 2016, and expanded to five judges by 2019.
- **Arizona (2015, permanent 2019):** *Maricopa County Commercial Court* started as a pilot, later made permanent.
- **Tennessee (2015, expanded 2017):** *Davidson County Business Court Pilot Project* created by Supreme Court order; opened to statewide disputes in 2017.
- **Indiana (2016, permanent 2019):** *Commercial Courts* launched by Indiana Supreme Court as a three-year pilot, made permanent in six jurisdictions by 2019.
- **Wisconsin (2017):** *Commercial Docket Pilot Project* established in two locations, later allowing statewide petitioning for case transfers. Discontinued in 2024.
- **Kentucky (2019):** *Jefferson County Business Court Docket Pilot Project* created by Supreme Court order; guided by an advisory committee.

# 2020 – 2025: Statewide Business Courts Take Hold

The current decade of the business court movement is unique in that each participating state launched standalone, statewide business courts through legislation

- **Georgia (2020):**  
Legislation established the *Georgia Statewide Business Court*. It launched with a full-time judge in August 2020.
- **Utah (2024):**  
Utah's Legislature created the *Utah Business and Chancery Court*. It launched in fall 2024 with one full-time judge.
- **Wyoming (2021):**  
Born of statute in 2019, the *Wyoming Chancery Court* opened in December 2021. Full-time judge appointed January 2025.
- **Texas (2024):**  
The *Texas Business Court* was also created by statute. It launched fall 2024 with 10 full-time judges.

# Modern Business Court Movement Continues

## ***Are Oklahoma, Montana, and Louisiana next?***

- On May 29, 2024, the Oklahoma Senate passed Senate Bill 473, which creates an 11-member task force charged to study business courts and to create a report on the implementation of business courts in Oklahoma.
- Montana Legislature considering creation of chancery court, referencing Wyoming's experience.
- Louisiana legislature voted for a constitutional amendment giving legislators the power to create a statewide business court.

### *References:*

Oklahoma Senate Bill 473 (2024)

Daily Montanan, Micah Drew, *Senate Committee on Judicial Oversight Proposes Creation of New Court*, (Nov. 15, 2024).

Louisiana Illuminator, Julie O'Donoghue, *Voters will decide whether state lawmakers can set up a new business court and others* (Nov. 25, 2024).



# Why Modern Business Courts?

- **Specialized Expertise:**  
Judges with focused business law expertise deliver consistent, predictable, well-reasoned decisions.
- **Efficiency:**  
Dedicated dockets streamline case management, reducing delays and litigation costs.
- **Robust Precedent:**  
A focused docket builds a coherent body of published decisions, enhancing predictability.
- **Economic Impact:**  
Predictable rulings boost business confidence, attract investment, and spur economic growth.
- **System Relief:**  
Removing commercial cases from general jurisdiction courts eases congestion and improves overall judicial branch performance.

*Reference:*

Commercial Division Advisory Council, *The Benefits of the Commercial Division to the State of New York*

# **Business Courts Attract & Retain Business**

## **Importance of Specialized Forums for Marketplace**

- Businesses consider the presence of specialized forums for resolving business disputes when choosing where to do business.

## **Wyoming's Chancery Court**

- Helps Wyoming compete with 26 other states that have business courts.
- Ensures Wyoming remains attractive for business and trust formation and administration.
- Serves small and local businesses.

# Already Helping Attract Business?

opencorporates BLOG

The largest open database of companies in the world

December 11, 2024

## An explosion of LLCs: the Wyoming angle

Posted by: OpenCorporates Communications

Data Impact

### US INCORPORATION TRENDS:

Article by Ana Muñoz Padrés & the OpenCorporates team

What's behind Wyoming's spectacular rise as

opencorporates BLOG

The largest open database of companies in the world

December 4, 2024

## Wyoming overtakes Delaware for per-capita company incorporations, OpenCorporates data shows

Posted by: OpenCorporates Communications

# Wyoming Overtakes Delaware For Most Per Capita Incorporations In The Nation

Wyoming had 22,000 new business incorporations last year, a 40% jump that allowed it to overtake Delaware as the number of new incorporations per capita. It continues to be one of the most popular places to register a business.



Ana Muñoz Padrés  
December 11, 2024 • 4 minutes read



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STARTUP

## Why Wyoming Just Overtook Delaware as the New LLC Epicenter

For decades, limited liability companies flocked to Delaware. Now, they're heading West.

EXPERT OPINION BY ANNA-LOUISE JACKSON, FREELANCE WRITER

AUG 20, 2025



Wyoming is home to more than 1.2 million companies as of July, a number that might seem incongruous given that the sparsely-populated state has fewer than 600,000 residents. But Wyomingites aren't busy running multiple businesses; rather, other founders and entrepreneurs are increasingly incorporating their new LLC ventures here.

With nearly 50,000 new entities in 2023, Wyoming generated nearly \$5 million in revenue. LLCs must also pay an annual fee of at least \$60, potentially generating tens of millions in recurring revenue for the state each year. That fee is low, as Delaware and Nevada both charge \$300-plus in ongoing fees. Gray said he anticipates the trend of companies choosing to incorporate in Wyoming will continue in the years to come.

“We continue to see increases in businesses seeking to incorporate here, especially in our core industries of oil and gas, agriculture, and minerals.”

Other founders have clearly come to the same conclusion. Business filings in Wyoming more than tripled in a five-year span, capped off by a record 42 percent increase in 2023. Nearly 167,000 entities are incorporated there, compared to Delaware's 287,000-plus LLCs.

Wyoming Economy

## Expert: Wyoming's efforts to attract digital asset companies are working

Public News Service | By Kathleen Shannon  
Published July 17, 2025 at 10:54 AM MDT



"Businesses, if there are disputes, want to know what the rules of the road are, what are the guardrails," Lupein explained. "No other state has as defined a digital-asset law as Wyoming."

In addition to business case law, a 2019 state law established a [Wyoming Chancery Court](#), which deals specifically with commercial, business and trust litigation.

## WYOMING

# Wyoming landed one of crypto's biggest names. Here's what that means for the state.

*Country's second-largest crypto exchange names Cheyenne its home base. Wyoming leaders believe their pursuit of digital assets is paying off.*

Many times, Kaufman said, a company that forms some Wyoming LLCs decides to do more, such as make a deal or open an office here. Between the state's status as a [leader for incorporations](#), a new [chancery court](#) dedicated to expeditiously handling business disputes and the ongoing work on digital assets, "it starts to move the needle to where people say, 'OK, this makes more and more sense, and we're going to go ahead and move,'" Kaufman said.

"Over time," he said, "that momentum continues to build."



**Justas Valciukas** • 3rd+

3d ...

Recruiter for Highly Skilled Talent | Supporting Global Professionals in Buildin...

Great to see Kraken choosing Wyoming as its home. The state is clearly leading the way in crypto innovation. Excited to see what's ahead!

Like | Reply



**Blagovest Krumov** • 3rd+

3d ...

AML Specialist @ Wallet | AML, Fraud Detection, Blockchain, Cryptocurrency

Happy to see my favorite state moving in the right direction and leading the pack towards mass crypto adoption!

Like | Reply



**Jade Barker** • 3rd+

3d ...

Warrior Princess of Tech - Silicon Prairie Capital Partners

How exciting! We re-domiciled our BD there too a bit ago. Besides all the favorable laws, I thought the chancery court sounded badass.

Like | Reply





# Attracting Business, Serving Wyoming

The Chancery Court both strengthens Wyoming's role as a hub for business formation and delivers fast, expert resolution for local businesses with a meaningful presence in our communities.

- **Local Wyoming Businesses**

*Deep community presence*

**53% of business cases**

- **Wyoming-Formed Entities**

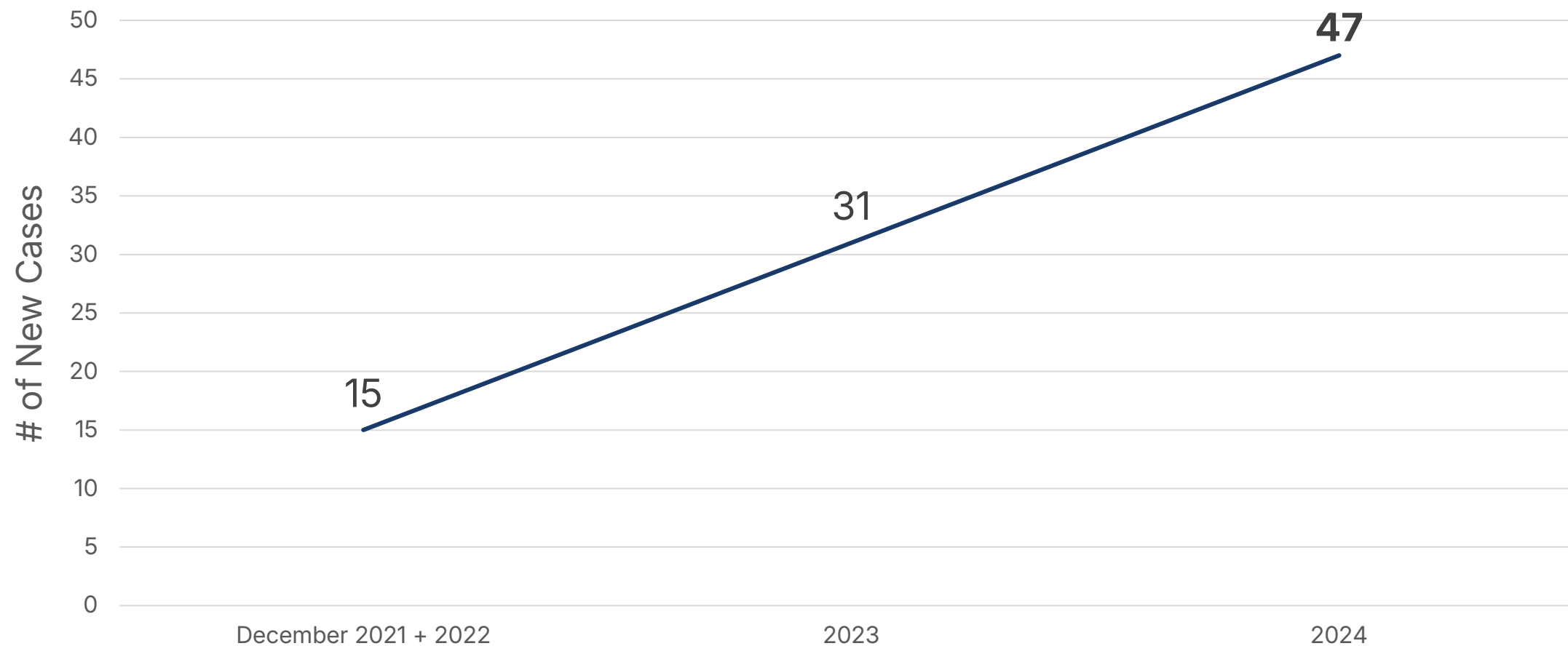
*Legal presence through formation under Wyoming law*

**47% of business cases**

# Benefits for Wyoming

- Accelerated resolution of business and trust cases
- Resolve disputes accurately, predictably, and consistently
- Attract and retain businesses and trust activity
- Build a body of business decisions
- Act as a laboratory for new and innovative practices
- Preserve Wyoming's first-mover advantage in blockchain and digital asset law

# Chancery Court – Total Case Numbers



# Law of Diffusion of Innovation

Trend aligns with the law of diffusion of innovation, which explains that new ideas spread gradually:

- first embraced by *early adopters* (13.5% of the population with a high tolerance for innovation),
- followed by the *early majority* (34% of the population willing to adopt innovation after seeing the benefits reaped by early adopters),
- then the *late majority* (the 34% who cautiously embrace innovation after wide acceptance),
- and finally by the *laggards* (the 16% who, in resistance to change, adopt innovation last).

## *References:*

Everett M. Rogers, Diffusion of Innovations. 5th ed., Free Press, 2003;

Simon Sinek, How Great Leaders Inspire Action, TED (Sept. 2009), [https://www.ted.com/talks/simon\\_sinek\\_how\\_great\\_leaders\\_inspire\\_action](https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action).

# Law of Diffusion of Innovation

- In 2021, just two firms from one county used the court.
- By 2022, that number grew to 13 firms from five Wyoming counties and two states.
- By 2023, 47 firms from 10 Wyoming counties and six states had litigated in chancery court.

# Law of Diffusion of Innovation

13 Wyoming law firms have appeared in trust cases before the Chancery Court



# Case Numbers Comparison



## Texas

- 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated state
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest GDP
- Launched in Fall 2024

- 10 full-time trial court judges & 3 full-time appellate court judges.
- 50 cases filed in first 90 days



## Georgia

- 8<sup>th</sup> most populated state
- 9<sup>th</sup> largest GDP
- Launched in August 2020

- 1 full-time judge
- 86 total cases during first 33 months



## North Carolina

- 9<sup>th</sup> most populated state
- 11<sup>th</sup> largest GDP
- Established in 1996

- 5 full-time business court judges
- 101 new cases in 2023

### References:

Law360, Rosie Manins, GA. Bizz Court Benefits Still Barely Used, Frustrated Attys Say (May 4, 2023).

North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, *Report on North Carolina Business Court* (Feb. 1, 2024).

National Law Review, Craig Duewall, Christopher LaVinge, *Texas Business Courts: Judges Take on Cases Across Divisions to Equalize Dockets* (Jan. 15, 2025).

# Case Numbers Comparison



## Tennessee

- 15<sup>th</sup> most populated state
- 16<sup>th</sup> largest GDP
- Launched in 2015

- 1 chancellor assigned
- 145 cases since its founding



## Iowa

- 30<sup>th</sup> most populated state
- 31<sup>st</sup> largest GDP
- Launched in 2013

- 8 district court judges
- 8 cases in 2013, 14 cases in 2018, 22 cases in 2020, & 47 cases in 2023



## West Virginia

- 38<sup>th</sup> most populated state
- 49<sup>th</sup> largest GDP
- Established in 2012

- Up to 7 active circuit judges
- 145 cases transferred to business court division since inception in 2012

### References:

West Virginia Judiciary, *2023 Annual Report: West Virginia Business Court Division*.

Iowa Judicial Branch, *Report Shows Growth and Trust in Iowa Business Specialty Court* (June 20, 2024).

Tennessee Courts, *Business Court Docket*.

# Primary Case Types in WY Chancery

Primary Case Subtype	Cases
Breach of contract	45
Trust	33
Civil Other	9
Internal Business Affairs	8
Fiduciary Breach	7
Business Agreement	5
Dissolution	6
Business Transactions – Banks	3
Fraud	2
Trade Secrets	1
Misrepresentation	1
Sale = Assets/Securities	1
Arbitration	1
Trademark	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>

# Case Resolution in WY Chancery

Case Resolution	
<b>Cases with Objections</b> Number of cases in which a party objected to proceeding in chancery court	34
<b>Settled Cases</b> Number of cases in which no objections were raised, and the parties reached a settlement	13
<b>Cases Resolved by Order without Trial</b> Number of cases in which no objections were raised, but the parties did not settle during the action, and the case was resolved by court order without proceeding to trial (e.g., dismissal, petition granted, default judgment, summary judgment)	58
<b>Cases Resolved After Bench Trial</b>	1
<b>Pending</b>	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>

# Case Resolution in WY Chancery

Number of Disposed Cases per Year	
2022	6
2023	27
2024	36
2025	37
Still Pending	17
Total	123

# District Court → Chancery Court

## **Removal:**

W.R.C.P.Ch.C 3(b) and W.R.C.P. 3.2 allow an action to be removed from district court to chancery if all parties consent in writing within 20 days of service on the last defendant. Removal is a topic of discussion for scheduling conferences in district court. W.R.C.P. 16(a)(6).

## **Assignment:**

Wyo. Stat. § 5-3-112 allows district and circuit judges to assign their cases to chancery court judges, provided the parties consent and the chancery court judge accepts.



# District v. Chancery Rules

The Wyoming Supreme Court adopted Chancery Court rules by closely mirroring the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure, with targeted adjustments to support the court's legislatively defined function and characteristics.

Characteristics	Chancery Rules
<b>Focused Jurisdiction</b>	Jurisdiction defined in Rule 2.
<b>Expedited Resolution</b>	Goal to resolve most cases within 150 days of filing (W.R.C.P.Ch.C. 1); scheduling conference to reach goal (Rule 16(a)(1)).
<b>Active Case Management</b>	Court must actively manage cases (Rule 1); scheduling order due 14 days after appearance or answer (Rule 16(b)(2)).
<b>Limited Motions &amp; Tailored Discovery</b>	Written discovery motions require court approval; informal resolution encouraged (Rule 37(a)(1)).
<b>Bench Trials</b>	Rules omit references to jury trials and criminal/juvenile matters (throughout).
<b>Removal to Chancery</b>	All parties may consent to remove from district court within 20 days of service; full record due within 14 days (Rule 3(b), (d)).
<b>Removal from Chancery</b>	Any party may object before first responsive pleading or motion to dismiss; if no forum agreement exists, case must be dismissed (Rule 3(a)).

# What to Expect in Chancery Court?

- After a defendant answers or appears, the court will order the parties to meet and confer to develop a proposed case schedule and discovery plan.
- Within 14 days of the answer or appearance, the court will hold a scheduling and case management conference to review the proposal.
- Following the conference, the court will issue a Comprehensive Case Management and Scheduling Order (CMSO) that sets deadlines from discovery through trial.
- The CMSO will be carefully tailored to the needs and circumstances of each case.
- The CMSO will require:
  - Periodic but brief case management conferences
  - Regular settlement efforts
- The court will aim to control costs by conducting as many proceedings as possible remotely.
- The court will also strive to resolve motions promptly.

# What to Expect in Chancery Court?

## Uncontested Trust Case

- The court reviews the petition to ensure all parties entitled to notice under statute have received proper notice.
- If notice requirements are not satisfied, the court takes no action until they are met.
- If notice is proper, the requested relief is appropriate, and the court has no questions, it enters the proposed order.
- If notice is proper but the court has concerns or questions about the requested relief, it contacts counsel to schedule a remote hearing.
- At the remote hearing, the court raises its questions and seeks clarification before granting any relief.

# Lessons from North Carolina: A Promising Trajectory

North Carolina's Business Court began small in 1995 with one judge and a light caseload. It published fewer than 50 opinions in its first five years. Now, it is considered an "unqualified success." Wyoming's Chancery Court is following this proven path and echoing that same growth pattern.

## Three Keys to NC's Success

- **People** – Judge and staff focused on business and trust law.
- **Refinement** – Ongoing improvements to rules, procedures, and technology.
- **Buy-in** – Growing confidence from the bar, businesses, and courts.

Reference: Benjamin Burningham & Benjamin Norman, *From Tar Heels to Cowboys: Pioneering Business Courts*, Wyo. Law., June 2025, at 24 - 27.

# People

The Wyoming Chancery Court operates with a lean, capable team. Unlike district courts, it carries a lighter and focused caseload and functions without a judicial assistant or court reporter:

- **Judge: Benjamin Burningham** – Has worked with IAALS on business dispute resolution and co-edits an annual ABA business courts publication. He belongs to the American College of Business Court Judges. His background includes complex securities litigation, antitrust, consumer protection, and transactional matters.
- **Staff Attorney: William Berry** – brings years of private-sector experience in complex commercial, trust, and transactional matters.
- **Clerk of Court: Gena Hansen** – decades of court administration experience.

Focusing solely on business and trust cases, this team builds specialized expertise and efficiency. The team is committed to speed, fairness, consistency, and well-articulated decisions.

# Chancery Court People

## Full-Time Team

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- Judge: Benjamin Burningham
- Staff Attorney: William Berry
- Clerk: Gena Hansen

## Permanent Rules Advisory Committee, Chancery Court Division

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- Hon. John G. Fenn
- Hon. Benjamin M. Burningham (Chair)
- Hon. Michael J. McGrady
- Hon. W. Thomas Sullins (Ret.)
- Stuart Day
- Greg Dyekman
- Matthew Delano Kaufman
- Timothy Stubson
- Tom Walters
- Clerk Amanda Sanchez



# Refinement

The Chancery Court Division of the Permanent Rules Advisory Committee has carefully reviewed the chancery court rules and released proposed amendments for public comment. Division will propose amended rules for adoption.

Key updates will:

- Align chancery rules with new eFiling procedures for consistency across jurisdictions.
- Extend the district-to-chancery removal window from 20 to 60 days.
- Introduce a complex adjudication track for cases that would benefit from chancery's specialization but cannot be resolved within 150 days of issuing the scheduling order.

# Buy-In

Wyoming's Chancery Court had strong initial support: the legislature created it, the governor signed it into law, and the judiciary implemented it. Long-term success, however, depends on use and acceptance by the bar and business community—a court can be created by law, but its impact comes when litigants turn to it.

Early results show growing acceptance by the Wyoming bar, but the court is still building its full potential.

The Chancery Court is earning trust by:

- Publishing well-reasoned, carefully considered decisions
- Accepting district court assignments and handling them with speed and skill
- Resolving cases quickly



**WYOMING**  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

# Why Litigate in the Wyoming Chancery Court?

*Focused:* Designed specifically for business and trust cases, promoting early, consistent, and cost-effective outcomes.

*Fast:* Structured to resolve cases quickly—average case resolution in 116 days; motions decided in 10 days after briefing or argument.

*Fair:* Provides consistent, predictable decisions, avoiding the variability of jury outcomes. Builds a body of published business decisions to promote certainty and predictability.

# Contact Us



## Wyoming Chancery Court

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