

Class Action Litigation Report 2026



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Introduction

Lex Machina®, the LexisNexis® Legal Analytics® platform, provides legal and insurance professionals with a comprehensive dataset for analyzing class action litigation in federal courts.

This report primarily focuses on comparing data across the three-year period from the beginning of 2023 to the end of 2025, with additional context drawn from class action filings dating back to 2016. Much of the data rely on the Lex Machina platform's case filter system, which allows users to filter cases by claims and other characteristics, enabling side-by-side comparisons and insight into what types of cases are driving litigation trends.

The report includes data on federal district court cases as well as cases appealed to the federal circuit courts. It covers general class action cases along with civil rights, consumer protection, and appellate matters, all of which are also available for analysis on the Lex Machina platform.

Class action litigation is a complex and distinctive area of federal practice, and a large share of cases arise within multidistrict litigation ("MDL") cases. These cases include an MDL Master case, where the activity primarily occurs, and MDL Associated cases, which are related but usually contain minimal filing activity. This report specifically indicates whether "MDL Associated" cases are excluded from the data showcased in any figure. MDL cases may affect the data and analytics based on the year of a case filing; often, an MDL Master case is opened in a different year than many of the MDL Associated cases.

This report includes data-driven insights into the behavior of courts, judges, parties, and law firms. Law offices use litigation data analytics for planning, forecasting, and dispute-resolution strategy. From precise timing metrics that inform legal budgeting to trends among top law firms and leading judges, Lex Machina provides customized insights that supplement traditional research and accumulated experience. The metrics in this report can help readers decide who to pursue as clients, whether to file a particular motion, or when to settle (and for how much). Leveraging this data gives firms and companies a competitive edge in litigation.

Executive Summary

Class action case filings in 2025 jumped sharply after nearly a decade of stability. One of the most striking developments is the dramatic rise in consumer protection class actions, which surged to their highest level in a decade and now drive a significant share of overall filing growth. This jump reflects the expanding footprint of digital commerce and heightened attention to data and privacy practices, especially at the state level. Together, these forces are fueling a new wave of class-action litigation that appears both broad and sustained.

At the same time, filing patterns in class actions are shifting across jurisdictions. The Southern District of New York remains the most active district, but the Central District of California is gaining ground fast. Several other major districts are expanding their share of filings. The rise of both West Coast and East Coast hubs signals expanding geographic drivers behind class action activity, rather than reliance on a single anchor district.

Repeat-player behavior is intensifying with certain plaintiffs, firms, and defendants appearing at unprecedented levels. Data from Lex Machina shows a continued rise in repeat-player activity on both sides of the federal class actions docket. A small group of plaintiffs and plaintiff-side firms now account for an outsized share of filings, while major national corporations appear again and again as defendants. This concentration indicates a maturing ecosystem in which specialized firms deploy high-volume litigation strategies and large enterprises consistently face class exposure across multiple jurisdictions.

Together, these trends illustrate how class action practice is becoming more specialized and more shaped by institutional actors than ever before.

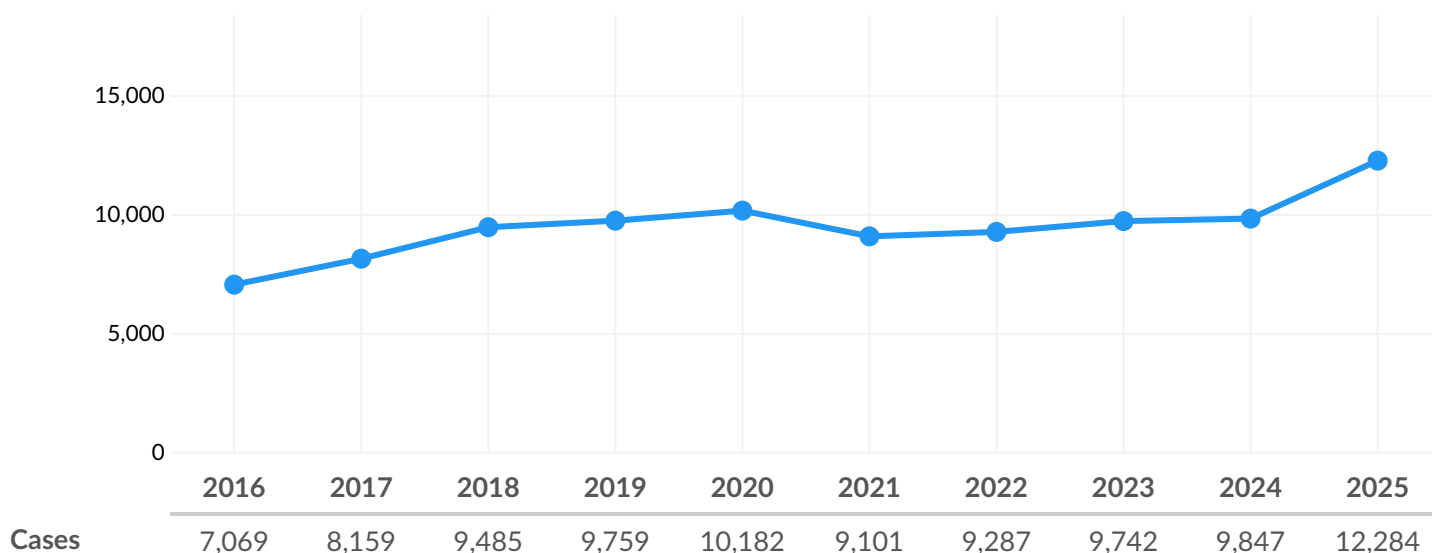
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Cases Filed

After years of relative stability, the number of putative class action lawsuits filed in federal district courts spiked in 2025. Figure 1 shows a generally upward trajectory in class action filings over the past decade, beginning around seven thousand cases in 2016 and climbing to more than eleven thousand by 2025. After steady increases through 2020, filings dipped modestly in 2021 likely due to court closures in the early Covid-19 pandemic. As courts reopened, class action filings resumed growth, with 2025 marking the highest volume in the period.

Figure 1: Class Action Cases (2016–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)



Consumer protection lawsuits dominate the federal class action lawsuit scene. Over the past decade, class actions alleging violations of consumer-protection statutes have accounted for nearly half of all filings and have outpaced the next-largest category (civil rights) by more than double. Employment, securities, and contracts disputes follow behind.

Figure 2: Class Action Cases by Type (2016–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Case Type	Cases
Consumer Protection	48,420
Civil Rights	19,405
Employment	8,759
Securities	5,393
Contracts	4,897
Product Liability	2,861
Insurance	2,706
Torts	2,074
ERISA	1,429
Antitrust	1,150

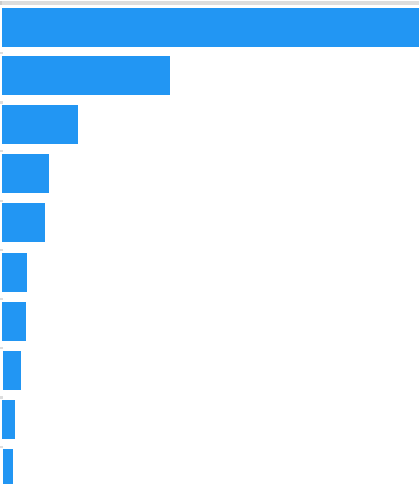
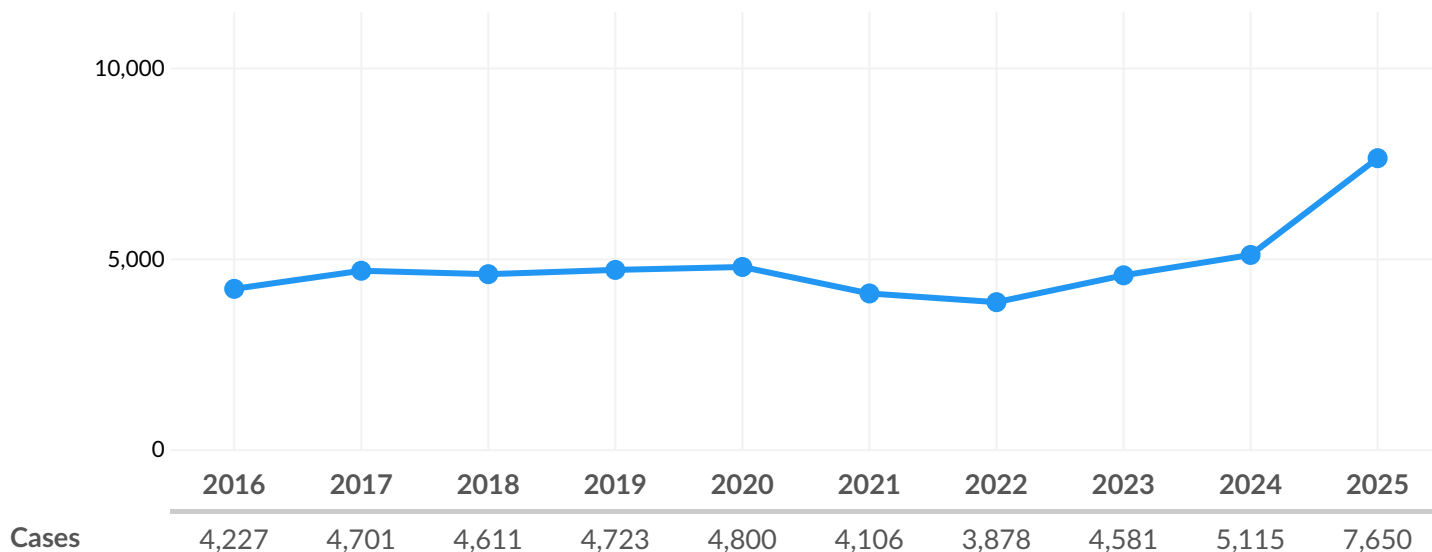


Figure 3 displays a largely stable trend in consumer protection filings through most of the decade, ranging between roughly four thousand and five thousand cases annually, before an abrupt escalation beginning in 2023 and culminating in 7,650 filings in 2025. Indeed, the general rise in the number of class action lawsuits filed in federal courts shown in Figure 1 is predominantly attributable to consumer protection lawsuits. In 2025, plaintiffs filed more than 7,000 putative class actions alleging violations of consumer protection statutes, which was a greater than 40% year-over-year increase from 2024.

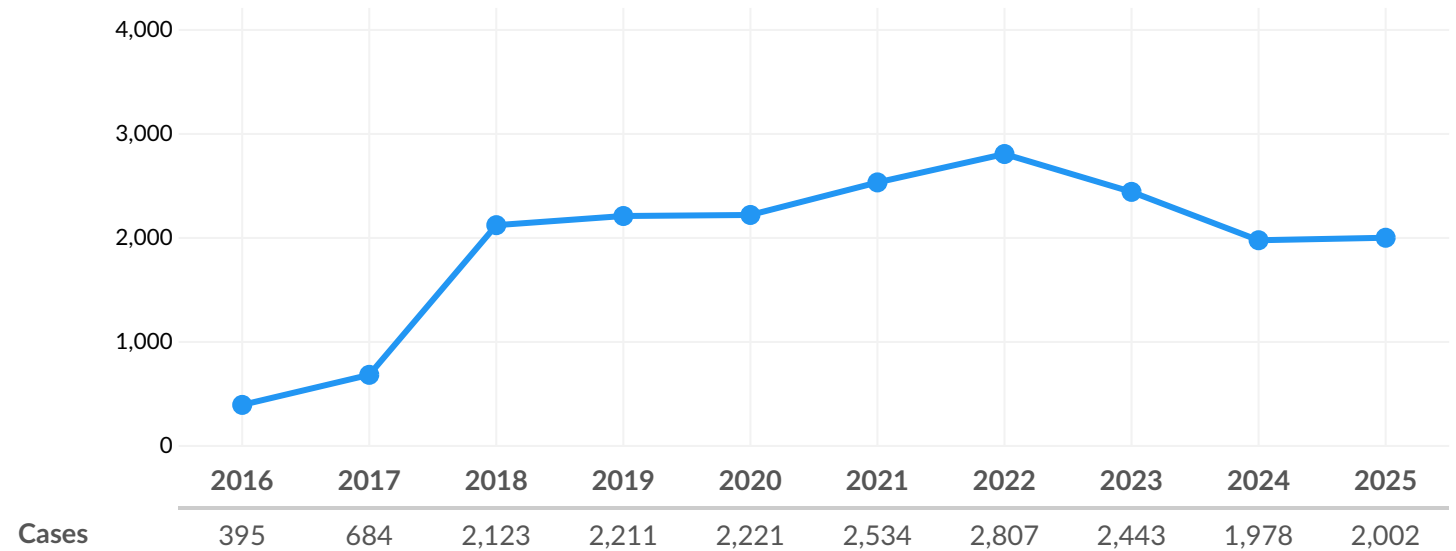
The increase between 2014 through 2017 was largely due to an increase in Fair Debt Collection Practices Act claims, while the rise in cases since 2022 has primarily been the result of electronic data breaches.

Figure 3: Consumer Protection Class Action Cases (2016–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)



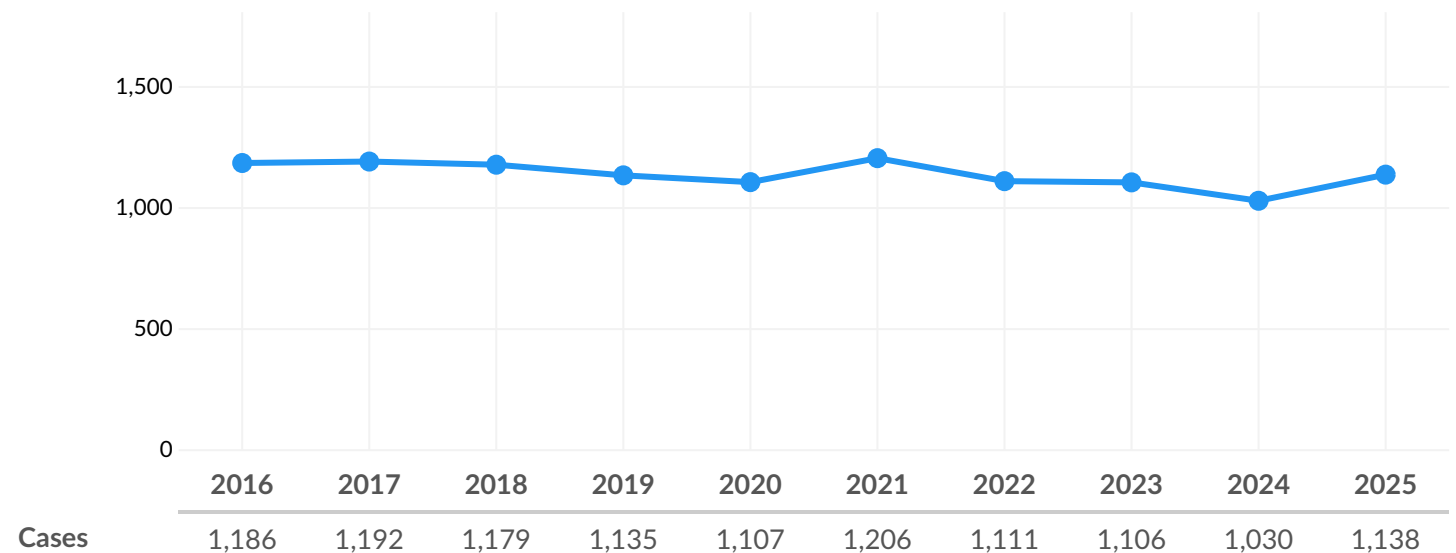
A new era of federal civil rights class actions began in 2018, when annual filings increased from several hundred new putative class actions to more than 2,000 per year. The spikes and subsequent stabilization in the 2020s aligns with increased litigation over disability access, policing practices, and voting rights, followed by a cooling period as those waves of litigation remained pending and finally resolved.

Figure 4: Civil Rights Class Action Cases (2016–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)



Appellate-level class action activity has remained remarkably stable from 2016 through 2025, with annual filings consistently hovering between about 1,000 and 1,200 cases. Despite shifts in district court filing patterns, appeals do not exhibit significant volatility.

Figure 5: Federal Class Action Appellate Cases Docketed (2016–2025)



Most Active Venues

Lex Machina analyzed the most active venues with the most class action cases filed in the last three years. The columns set forth the breakdown by year, along with the total number of cases and the proportion of class action cases that the venue presided over in the specified year.

Figure 6 demonstrates that class action filings are highly concentrated in a handful of federal districts, with the Southern District of New York leading by a substantial margin, followed by the Central and Northern Districts of California and the Northern District of Illinois. These jurisdictions collectively account for a large share of national activity, reflecting their dense populations, major corporate footprints, and active plaintiff bars. Most other districts contribute comparatively modest case volumes.

Although the Southern District of New York has continued to maintain its lead as the most popular federal forum for class action litigation, its grip on the top spot has relaxed some in recent years. From 2021 to 2022, plaintiffs filed more than 4,700 new class action lawsuits in the Southern District of New York, a figure more than double the amount of cases filed in the next-highest venue during that period (Central District of California). In 2025, however, plaintiffs filed more class action complaints in the Central District of California than any other district – including more than 300 class actions than filed in the Southern District of New York.

Figure 6: Most Active Districts by Cases Filed (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

District	2023	2024	2025	Total	Percent
S.D.N.Y.	1,970	1,539	1,284	4,793	15.0%
C.D.Cal.	931	1,085	1,662	3,678	11.5%
N.D.Cal.	630	610	971	2,211	6.9%
N.D.Ill.	491	625	1,030	2,146	6.7%
E.D.N.Y.	790	675	451	1,916	6.0%
S.D.Fla.	312	370	479	1,161	3.6%
M.D.Fla.	298	285	324	907	2.8%
D.N.J.	285	329	292	906	2.8%
E.D.Pa.	229	275	326	830	2.6%
S.D.Cal.	241	193	318	752	2.4%

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals continues its run as the most active federal venue for appeals from class action cases. With the increasing popularity of the Central District of California for filing class action cases, the Ninth Circuit's lead may reasonably be expected to continue. The concentration in the Ninth Circuit reflects its large geographic scope and significant state-level consumer statutory protections.

Figure 7: Most Active Circuits by Cases filed (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Circuit	2023	2024	2025	Total	Percent
9th Cir.	267	344	399	1,010	30.8%
2d Cir.	124	123	151	398	12.2%
3d Cir.	106	83	84	273	8.3%
5th Cir.	162	52	48	262	8.0%
6th Cir.	79	80	84	243	7.4%
11th Cir.	96	62	68	226	6.9%
4th Cir.	72	74	64	210	6.4%
7th Cir.	45	71	88	204	6.2%
8th Cir.	72	54	44	170	5.2%
1st Cir.	45	40	42	127	3.9%
10th Cir.	29	35	33	97	3.0%
D.C. Cir.	9	11	33	53	1.6%
Fed. Cir.	0	1	0	1	0.0%

Most Active Judges

Lex Machina offers analytics for the judges who preside over class action cases in federal courts. Figure 8 reveals that the most active class action judges overwhelmingly sit in the Southern District of New York, which occupies all top positions. Each of these judges handled roughly two hundred or more class action filings over the three-year period. This clustering mirrors the district's prominent role in national class action litigation and its heavy civil docket involving financial services, consumer protection, and complex commercial disputes. Rather than something idiosyncratic about the court's local rules or procedures for civil case assignments, S.D.N.Y. has simply fielded more class action filings than other districts.

Figure 8: Most Active Judges by Cases Filed (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Judge	District	2023	2024	2025	Total	Percent
Edgardo Ramos	S.D.N.Y.	104	62	70	236	0.7%
Katherine Polk Failla	S.D.N.Y.	96	68	60	224	0.6%
Andrew Lamar Carter Jr.	S.D.N.Y.	97	68	58	223	0.6%
Lewis Jeffrey Liman	S.D.N.Y.	91	64	66	221	0.6%
Analisa Nadine Torres	S.D.N.Y.	95	69	57	221	0.6%
Jennifer Hutchison Rearden	S.D.N.Y.	93	69	58	220	0.6%
Jesse Matthew Furman	S.D.N.Y.	100	71	47	218	0.6%
Jennifer Louise Rochon	S.D.N.Y.	90	62	63	215	0.6%
John George Koeltl	S.D.N.Y.	92	72	50	214	0.6%
John Peter Cronan	S.D.N.Y.	91	67	54	212	0.6%
James Paul Oetken	S.D.N.Y.	91	65	56	212	0.6%

Most Active Parties

A small number of highly active class plaintiffs account for disproportionately large volumes of class action filings. Although people with the same first and last names may occasionally serve as lead plaintiffs in different class action lawsuits, it is clear that several individuals filed dozens or even more than one hundred cases over the period, often concentrated in a single district. This pattern suggests the presence of repeat-filer strategies, specialized plaintiff-side law firms, or targeted campaigns around specific statutory claims. Most repeat-plaintiffs in recent years have been for website accessibility lawsuits alleging failure to provide reasonable accommodations for the visually impaired.

Figure 9: Most Active Plaintiffs by Cases Filed (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Party	2023	2024	2025	Total	Districts
Julie Dalton	12	81	138	231	1
Andrew Toro	75	24	0	99	1
Timothy Hernandez	13	41	43	97	1
Frangie Espinal	42	34	20	96	1
Jessica Karim	10	85	0	95	1
Jenny Hwang	83	0	0	83	1
Carlton Knowles	14	43	22	79	1
James Murphy	17	38	21	76	1
Leshawn Young	17	27	31	75	1
Luis Toro	70	0	0	70	1

Online retailers and tech companies led the list of defendants in federal class action complaints from 2023 through 2025. These organizations' national reach, large customer bases, and highly regulated operations make them regular targets for class-wide claims across many federal districts. More than 170 putative class action lawsuits were filed against Amazon.com entities in federal district courts during that span.

Figure 10: Most Active Defendants by Cases Filed (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Party	2023	2024	2025	Total	Districts
Walmart Inc.	44	35	37	116	38
Amazon.com Services LLC	30	35	29	94	20
Apple Inc.	31	16	38	85	13
Meta Platforms, Inc.	43	16	26	85	18
Amazon.com, Inc.	35	28	20	83	20
Ford Motor Company	47	14	15	76	21
Target Corporation	24	23	29	76	19
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	12	44	16	72	27
Bank of America, N.A.	24	24	22	70	25
United States of America	23	12	35	70	35

Most Active Firms and Attorneys

Lex Machina extracts counsel data from raw sources and normalizes the information in order to collect analytics on law firms and individual attorneys. We surveyed the data on the most active law firms by plaintiffs' and defendants' firms, as well as the most active individual attorneys. By tagging the various case types, Lex Machina users can find out what kind of experience their opposing counsel has with a particular claim.

The data reflects a consolidated ecosystem where high-output firms drive much of the nationwide class action docket. In both 2024 and 2025, Milberg led plaintiff law firms in terms of number of federal class action case filings. Stein Saks followed in second for the period, followed by Gottlieb & Associates.

Figure 11: Most Active Law Firms Representing Plaintiffs (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Firm	2023	2024	2025	Total	Districts
Milberg	448	533	669	1,650	80
Stein Saks	664	493	413	1,570	34
Gottlieb & Associates	309	426	472	1,207	2
The Law Offices of Jibrael S. Hindi	81	193	834	1,108	22
Bursor & Fisher	251	283	295	829	41
Strauss Borrelli	72	238	482	792	80
Mars Khaimov Law	601	178	0	779	2
Shamis & Gentile	126	177	444	747	75
Paronich Law	137	201	390	728	71
KO Lawyers	79	224	383	686	73

Large, national law firms are consistently retained in most federal class actions. BakerHostetler has led law firms each of the past three years in terms of representation for defendants in new class action lawsuits in federal district courts, having represented defendants in more than 900 new class actions since 2023 across more than 70 federal districts. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius was second with over 600 cases across more than 50 federal districts.

Figure 12: Most Active Law Firms Representing Defendants (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Firm	2023	2024	2025	Total	Districts
BakerHostetler	311	284	379	974	75
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius	173	206	260	639	57
Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani	175	202	200	577	77
Jackson Lewis	171	171	186	528	55
Dentons	169	145	156	470	50
Ogletree Deakins	160	144	162	466	49
Troutman Pepper Locke	143	196	125	464	61
Littler Mendelson	147	153	144	444	54
Greenberg Traurig	130	124	168	422	47
Stein & Nieporent	202	114	70	386	3

Most Active Attorneys

Several attorneys from Gottlieb & Associates led the field in class action plaintiff representation from 2023 to 2025, as a team handling well over a thousand cases. The concentration of cases among a small number of repeat players underscores the scale and specialization of the modern plaintiff class action bar.

Figure 13: Most Active Attorneys Representing Plaintiffs (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Attorney	2023	2024	2025	Total	Law Firm
Jeffrey Michael Gottlieb	307	426	472	1,205	Gottlieb & Associates
Michael A. LaBollita	307	426	472	1,205	Gottlieb & Associates
Dana Lauren Gottlieb	307	426	471	1,204	Gottlieb & Associates
Gerald Donald Lane Jr.	16	141	770	927	The Law Offices of Jibrael S. Hindi
Mars Khaimov	601	170	0	771	Mars Khaimov Law
Anthony I. Paronich	140	204	390	734	Paronich Law
Raina Challeen Borrelli	170	207	343	720	Strauss Borrelli
Rami Salim	14	291	352	657	Stein Saks
Gary Michael Klinger	232	221	197	650	Milberg
Andrew J. Shamis	122	168	329	619	Shamis & Gentile

David Stein of Stein & Nieporent has led defense counsel in each of the past three years in terms of case volume for federal class actions filed since 2023. In the past three years, he has been counsel of record for defendants in more than 370 different cases, which is about triple the amount handled by the next-leading attorney by case volume.

Figure 14: Most Active Attorneys Representing Defendants (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)

Attorney	2023	2024	2025	Total	Law Firm
David Stein	202	114	70	386	Stein & Nieporent
Karla Del Pozo García	40	37	21	98	Dentons
Ryan David Watstein	38	30	28	96	Watstein Terepka
Peter Thomas Shapiro	45	31	14	90	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith
Rebecca A. Stark	47	36	5	88	Dentons
Timothy James Lowe	17	20	50	87	McDonald Hopkins
Gerald Leonard Maatman Jr.	27	35	22	84	Duane Morris
Nolan Keith Klein	44	18	22	84	Law Offices of Nolan Klein
Casie Dell Collignon	35	24	22	81	BakerHostetler

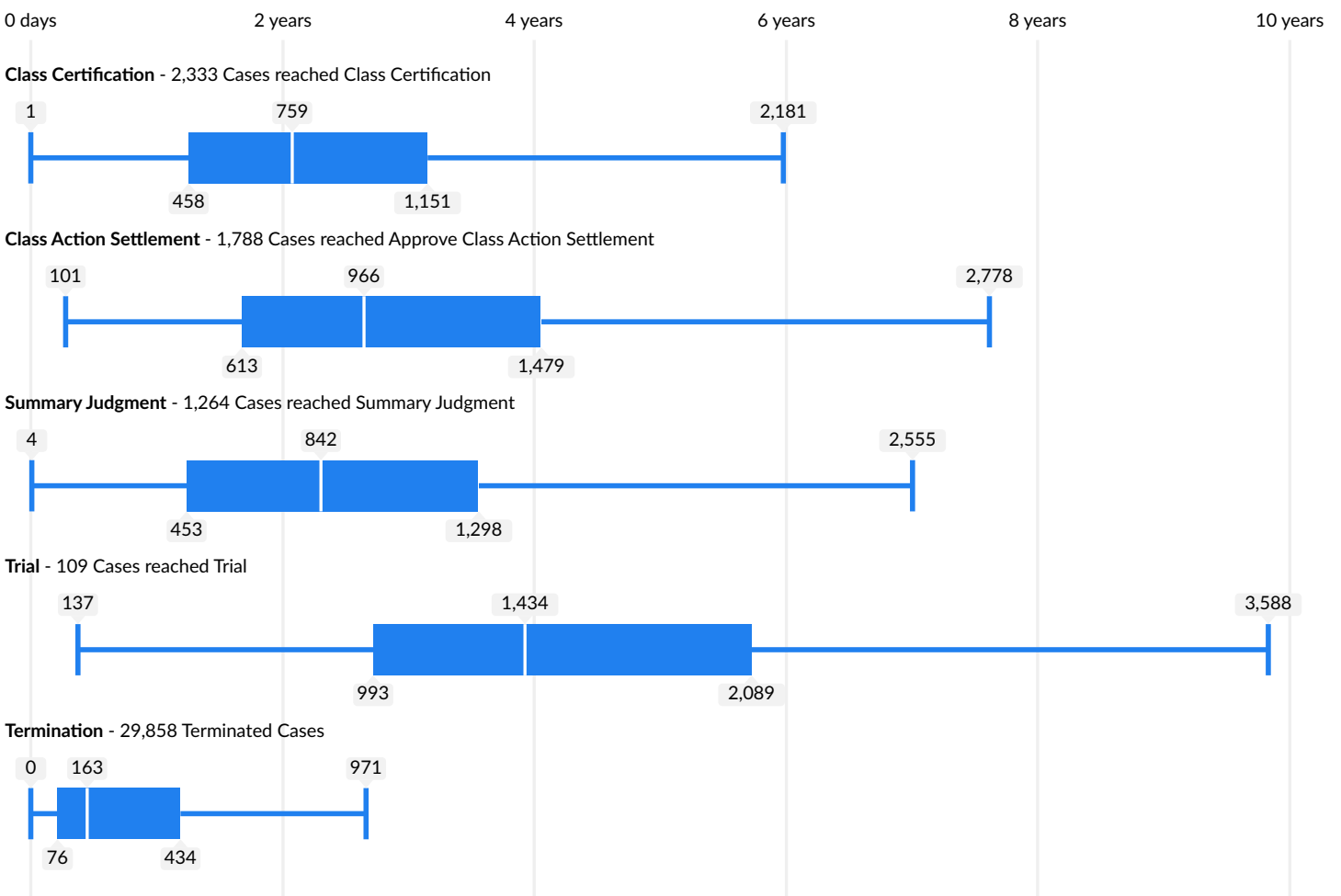
Timing

Lex Machina provides crucial timing analytics that include case timing data to certain milestones, which is often used for forecasting, calendaring, and budgeting. In viewing boxplots, the lines represent the lower and upper quartiles, and the box represents the middle 50% of cases with the median number highlighted in the center. For more information, see the Understanding Boxplots section at the end of this report.

Figure 15 illustrates wide variation in the time it takes class actions to reach major case milestones. Class certification, settlements, and summary judgment often occur between two and six years after filing, while trials are comparatively rare and span an even broader range. Terminations overall cluster more tightly, with many cases concluding within the first few years. The data showed that for all class action cases terminated in the three-year period from 2023 to 2025, the median time to class certification was over two years, and the median time to class action settlement was over two and a half years. The median time to trial was just under four years, while the median time to termination generally (including all resolutions) was less than half a year.

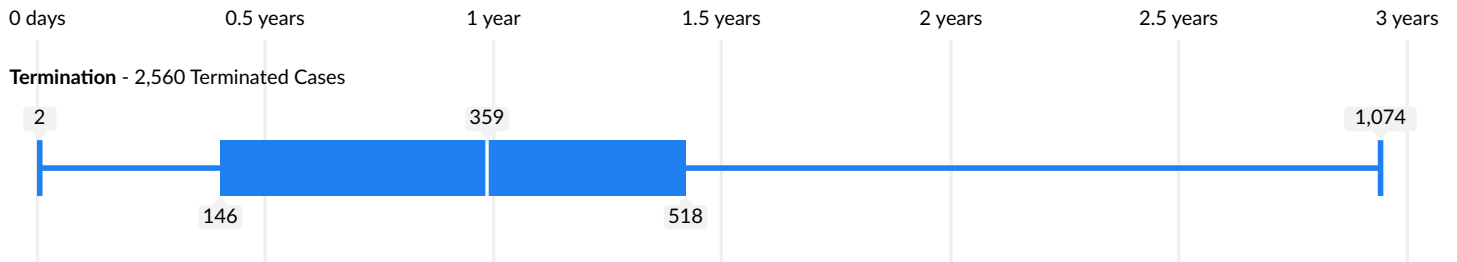
Note that the range of time it took to reach trial was particularly wide, and practitioners should consider other information, such as case claims and the assigned judge, to obtain deeper insights on timing.

Figure 15: Time to Key Events in District Court Cases (2023–2025) (excluding MDL Associated Cases)



Appeals from district court decisions in class action cases since 2023 have reached termination in a median of about one year after docketing in the circuit court.

Figure 16: Time to Termination in Federal Appellate Cases (2023 to 2025)



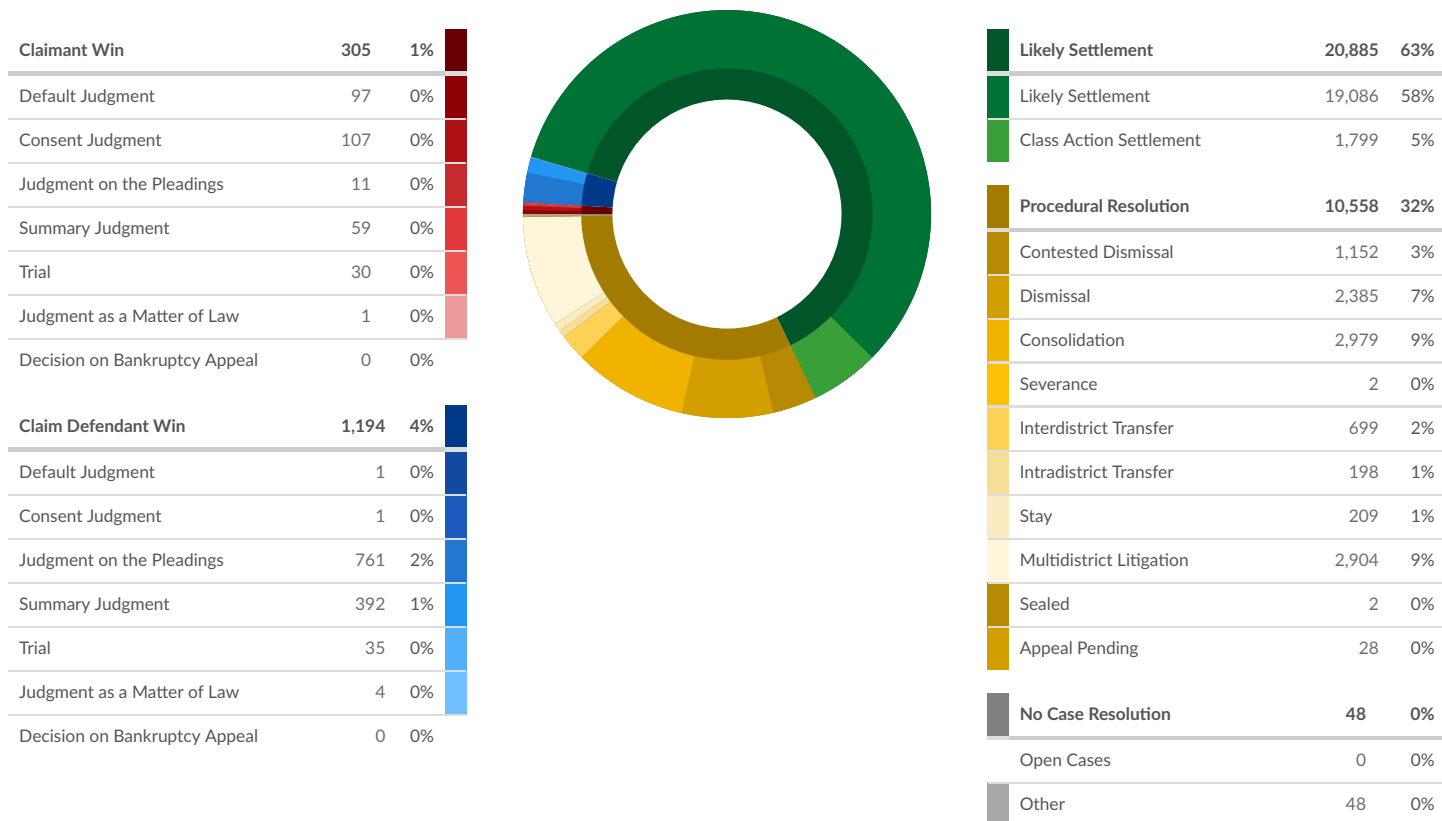
Case Resolutions

Lex Machina monitors case resolutions for district court and federal circuit court class action cases. In this report, we focus on the cases terminated in the three-year period from 2023 to 2025. For district court cases, settlements and procedural resolutions are on the right, and the parties' wins on the left.

On the left side, case resolutions are broken down into wins for claimants and claim defendants at various stages of litigation. For district court class action cases terminated in the last three years, the vast majority were resolved with a likely settlement or on procedural grounds (about 95% of cases altogether). Merits outcomes such as summary judgment or trial account for only a sliver of cases, highlighting how infrequently class actions reach adjudicated conclusions.

For cases that concluded on substantive grounds, claim defendants won almost four times as often as plaintiffs, primarily on judgment on the pleadings and summary judgment.

Figure 17: District Court Case Resolutions (2023–2025)

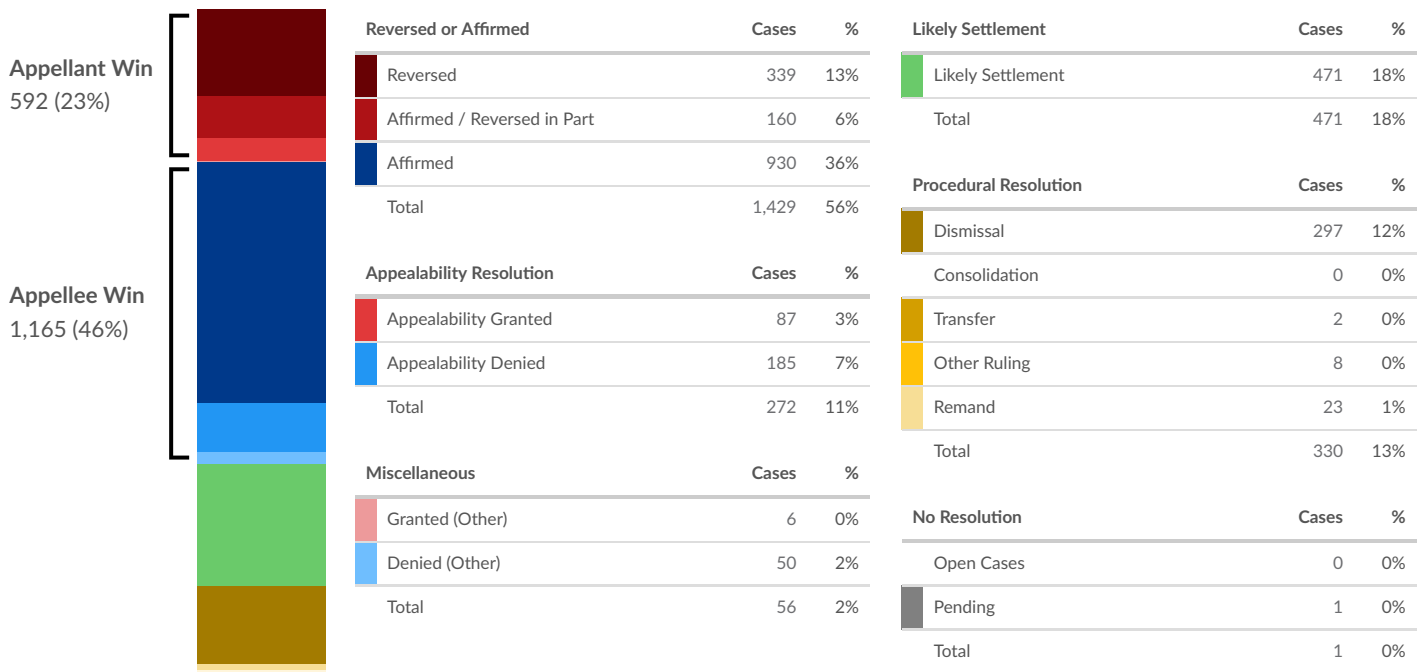


In Figure 18, appellant/appellee wins are on the left, and the settlement and procedural resolutions are on the right. On the bottom, the bar graph shows the reversal rate of district court cases that resulted in a substantive decision (either reversed or affirmed).

Among cases decided on the merits, affirmances dominate, producing an affirmance rate of about two-thirds and a reversal rate of one-third. A notable share of cases also ends in settlement or procedural dismissal.

Figure 18: Federal Appellate Case Resolutions (2023 to 2025)

All Resolutions



Reversal Rate of Reversed or Affirmed Cases

35%

Reversal rate

65%

Affirmance rate



The reversal rate is calculated by dividing the number of cases (499) that were either ● Reversed (339) or ● Affirmed / Reversed in Part (160) by the total number of cases (1,429) that were ● Reversed, ● Affirmed / Reversed in Part, or ● Affirmed (930).

Findings

Many putative class actions reach a negotiated resolution before motions for class certification are filed or ruled upon. District judges often accordingly grant class certification for limited purposes of settlement and other purposes stipulated between the parties and their counsel. In orders on motions for class certification in actively litigated disputes, federal district courts outright denied certification in about 45% of motions during the three-year period.

Figure 19: Class Action Class Certification for Cases (2023–2025)

Finding	Cases
Class Certification: Grant for Settlement Only	1,737
Class Certification: Deny	449
Class Certification: Grant	413
Class Certification: Partial	95

At the class certification stage, defendants achieved their greatest success from 2023 to 2025 by arguing that plaintiffs failed to satisfy Rule 23(b)(3) (predominance and superiority). While defendants also saw some success challenging whether the named plaintiffs could fairly and adequately represent the class, arguments that those plaintiffs lacked standing altogether were far less effective.

Figure 20: Class Action Class Certification Denial for Cases (2023–2025)

Finding	Cases
No 23(b)(3) Predominance and Superiority	249
No 23(a)(2) Commonality	123
No 23(a)(3) Typicality	119
No 23(a)(4) Adequate Representation	91
Other Rule 23 Denial	76
No 23(a)(1) Numerosity	63
No Ascertainable Class	41
No Class Representative Standing	22

Damages

Figure 21 shows the total class action settlement damages awarded each year (excluding fees, costs, and interest) over the ten-year period from 2014 to 2023. The first three columns from the left show the numbers of cases with damages awarded each year and the total damages awarded that year.

The damages awards in the third column are “final” and have not been reversed, voided, or modified on appeal. The fifth column shows the damages awarded each year that were later reversed on appeal. The damages in the third and fifth columns are mutually exclusive.

There has been substantial year-to-year fluctuation in total settlement damages, ranging from roughly eight billion to more than fourteen billion in most years, with occasional spikes such as the unusually high total in 2016. The lack of a clear upward or downward trend reflects the influence of a small number of very large settlements as well as shifts in case mix and litigation cycles.

Note that as it takes time to reverse damages on appeal, the amounts of reversed damages for recent years may shift. Lex Machina will continue tracking damages to see whether these newer damage awards are reversed or left to stand.

Figure 21: Total Class Action Settlement Damages Awarded (2016–2025)(millions)(excluding Fees and Interest)

Year	Cases	Amount	Reversed Cases	Reversed Amount
2025	577	\$10,887	—	—
2024	592	\$9,943	—	—
2023	540	\$12,097	2	\$11
2022	583	\$13,744	4	\$81
2021	553	\$8,694	2	\$15
2020	607	\$10,190	4	\$197
2019	566	\$7,810	2	\$24
2018	599	\$14,590	2	\$26
2017	631	\$8,576	4	\$10
2016	596	\$24,162	2	\$10

Lex Machina tracks the various types of damages and the amounts of damages awarded at various judgment events. Lex Machina annotates certain types of damages specific to class action cases: Class Action Attorneys' Fees and Class Representative Award. Approved Class Action Settlement, Prejudgment Interest, and Other / Mixed Damage Types are not specific to the class action litigation practice area, but are annotated generally within Lex Machina. Note that the Class Action Attorneys' Fees and Class Representative Award are included in the total amount of Approved Class Action Settlement.

Figure 22 shows that approved class action settlements account for the overwhelming majority of monetary damages, totaling more than thirty-one billion dollars.

Figure 22: Class Action Damages Awarded from 2023 to 2025

Type	2023	2024	2025
Approved Class Action Settlement	\$12,097	\$9,943	\$10,887
Class Action Attorneys' Fees	\$3,089	\$2,803	\$2,681
Class Representative Award	\$18	\$44	\$14

Courts approved over \$32 billion in principal damages for plaintiff classes from 2023 to 2025, exclusive of costs, fees, and interests. Their counsel were awarded fees of about one-quarter that amount. Class representatives were awarded about \$76 million, explaining the allure for repeat lead plaintiffs.

Figure 23: Damages by Type Awarded (2023–2025)(millions)

Type	Cases	Awarded	DFJ	CJ	Verdict	Merits
Class Action Attorneys' Fees	1,848	\$8,573	–	–	–	\$8,573
Class Representative Award	1,658	\$77	–	–	–	\$77
Approved Class Action Settlement	1,697	\$32,928	–	–	–	\$32,928

Data and Methodology

This Lex Machina report presents data from our Legal Analytics platform. Using machine learning and technology-assisted attorney review, raw data is extracted from sources including PACER. The raw data is then cleaned, tagged, structured, and loaded in our proprietary platform. This report is prepared by the Lex Machina product team using charts and graphs from the platform. Commentary is provided by internal legal experts.

We supplement and enhance primary data from PACER in a variety of ways, including:

- Correcting errors ranging from spelling mistakes to complex data problems
- Normalizing data on judges, parties, law firms, and attorneys
- Extracting records of law firms and attorneys not found in docket reports
- Tagging and categorizing cases
- Annotating case resolutions, damages, and dispositive rulings

What Kinds of Data Does Lex Machina Offer?

We maintain a specialized database containing information about litigation in the U.S. District Courts, many state courts, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, and the U.S. Federal Courts of Appeals. On a daily basis, Lex Machina requests and receives data from the various courts' PACER systems on new cases and docket entries filed. Our automated systems ensure the completeness and consistency of this data before analyzing it in conjunction with other data sources.

This document was published in April 2026. The Lex Machina platform updates daily; therefore, any numbers in this report will change as new cases get added to PACER with new information. This report is meant to provide trends and general research information as of the date of publication.

What is a Class Action Case?

A case in which a plaintiff alleges a claim on behalf of a group or class of individuals. This Case Type includes cases plead as Rule 23 class actions and does not include Employment cases brought as collective actions under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) or Shareholder Derivative Actions.

What are the case types included in this report?

Lex Machina uses artificial intelligence and attorney review to create case types that identify certain claims in a case. In this report, case types include:

Civil rights cases — cases in which a plaintiff alleges a violation of basic rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution or laws of the United States, or by state law, including:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or state disability rights laws
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Fair Housing Act (FHA) and/or state fair housing laws
- The Voting Rights Act and/or federal right to vote acts
- Purported misconduct concerning law enforcement officers and entities

Consumer protection cases — cases with a claim brought under a major federal consumer protection statute, a claim under a consumer protection enforcement statute brought by a federal government entity, a data breach claim brought by or on behalf of a consumer, or a class action lawsuit alleging a state-based claim for consumer fraud. The major federal consumer protection statutes included are:

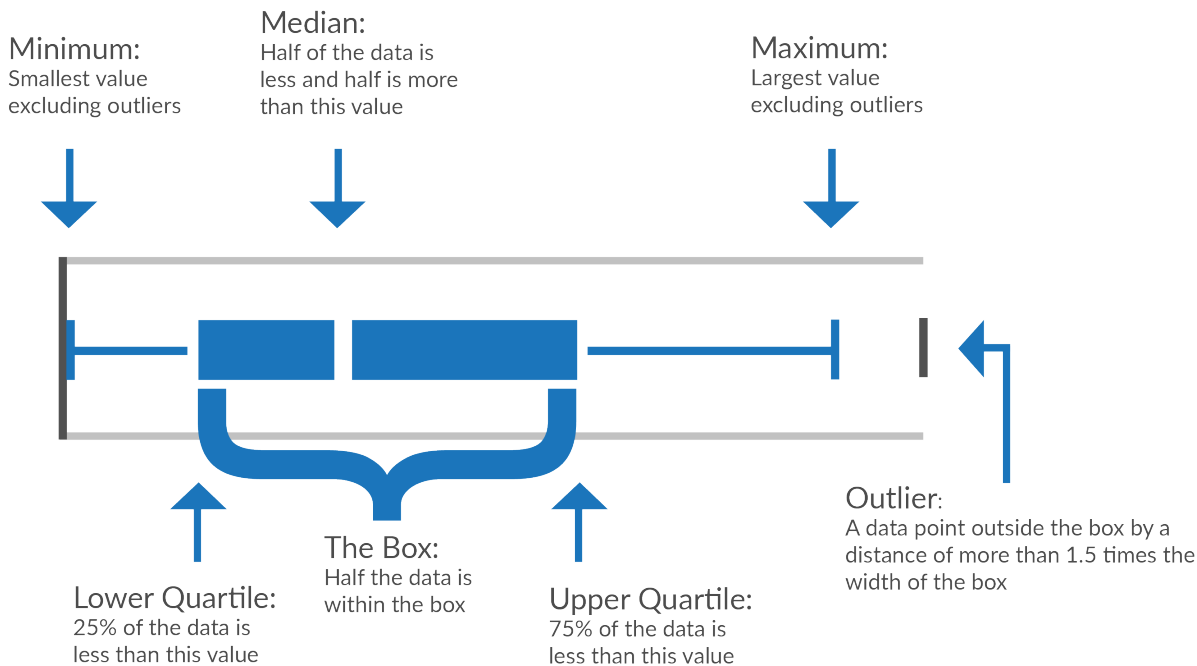
- Fair Debt Collection Practices Act
- Fair Credit Reporting Act
- Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act
- Truth in Lending Act
- Telephone Consumer Protection Act

The federal consumer protection enforcement statutes included are:

- Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Act
- Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB) Act

Understanding Box Plots

Analytics from Lex Machina use a data visualization known as the box plot to convey information about the timing of significant events in a case. A box plot summarizes a series of data points to help you understand the shape or distribution of the values in those points. The box plot is drawn based on five numbers: the median, the upper and lower quartiles, and the whiskers for a distribution.



The four observations below explain the significance of a box plot:

Median

The middle dividing line of the box splits the data points evenly so that 50% fall to either side. It's a form of average that gives a single number representation of what to reasonably expect.

Box bounds

The box encloses the middle-most 50% of the data points (from the 25th percentile to the 75th), with 25% of the data points falling outside to either side. This makes the box a good representation of the range one can reasonably expect.

Box compressed or elongated

A more compressed box means that more data points fall into a smaller range of time and therefore are more consistent; in contrast, a longer box means that the data points are spread out over a wider time period and are therefore less predictable.

Whiskers

Whiskers are drawn to show the outside bounds of reasonable expectation, beyond which data points are considered outliers. By statistical convention, box plots define outliers as points beyond more than 1.5 times the width of the box (sometimes called the "interquartile range").

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