

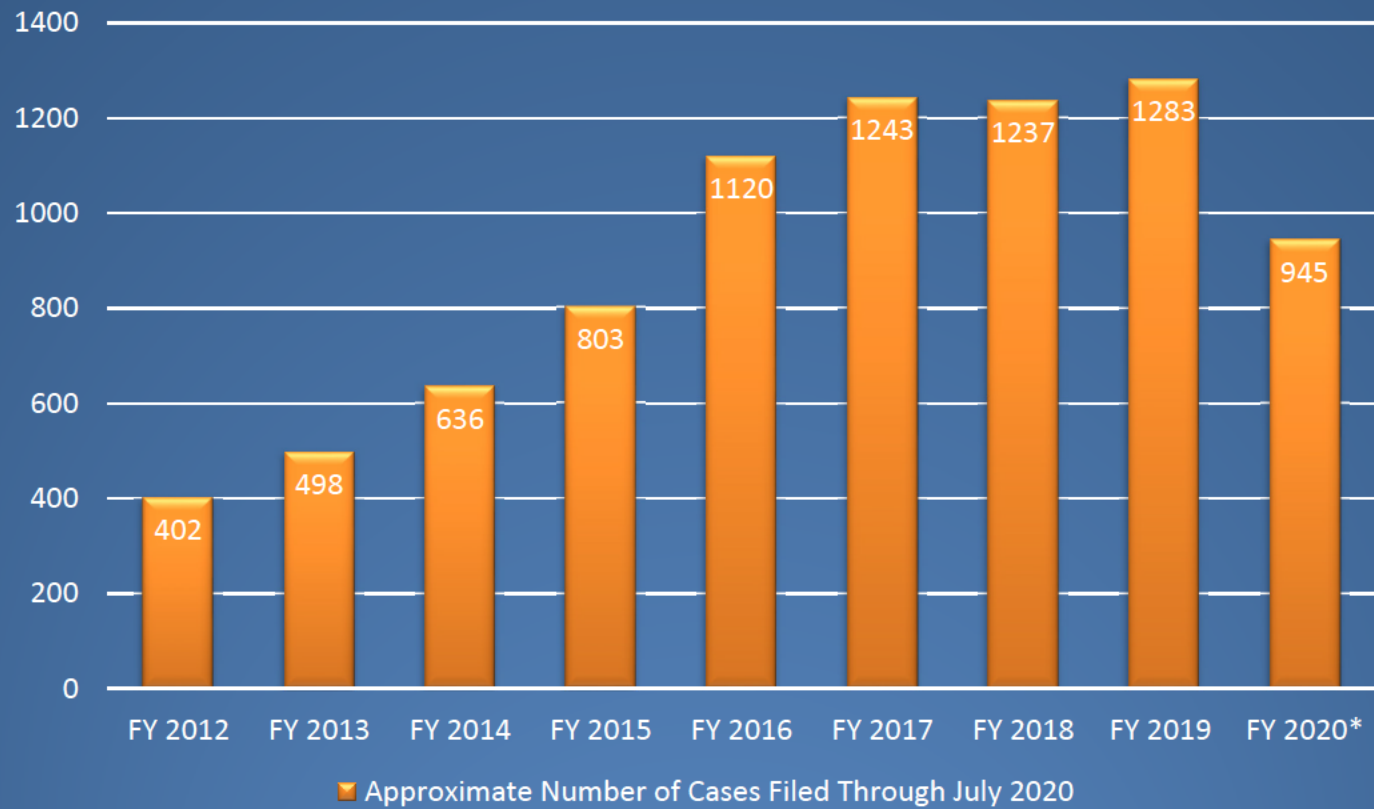


REPORT FROM THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS (“OSM”)
September 4, 2020
Brian H. Corcoran, Chief Special Master

OSM Update Overview

1. CASELOAD OVERVIEW
2. PRE-ASSIGNMENT REVIEW (“PAR”)
3. SPECIAL PROCESSING UNIT (“SPU”)
4. OSM and the PANDEMIC

Cases Filed Per Fiscal Year



Current Caseload

- 2,932 open cases as of July 31, 2020
- 84 Petitions were filed in July 2020 vs 119 Petitions filed in July 2019
- Closed cases in July 2020 were on par with closed cases in July 2019.
- Calendar year to date OSM has observed a decrease of approximately 13% in Petition filings.

Data is Approximate as of August 1, 2020

Pre-Assignment Review - “PAR”

- Started in September 2019.
- All new petitions are assigned to the Chief Special Master.
- A review of the case is conducted to ensure the record is substantially complete as required by Section 11 (c) of the Vaccine Act.
- After review if the record is determined to be substantially complete an Activation and Reassignment Order is issued.
- If the record is not substantially complete follow-up scheduling orders are issued until substantial completeness is achieved.
- The filing of certified records to expedite petition processing is required as of January 1, 2020.
- A PAR Questionnaire Form (which will assist in determining completeness of the record) is also required as of January 1, 2020.

Special Processing Unit - "SPU"

- Started in July 2014.
- Includes:
 - Table Cases
 - Other cases likely to settle
 - Cases that must be dismissed

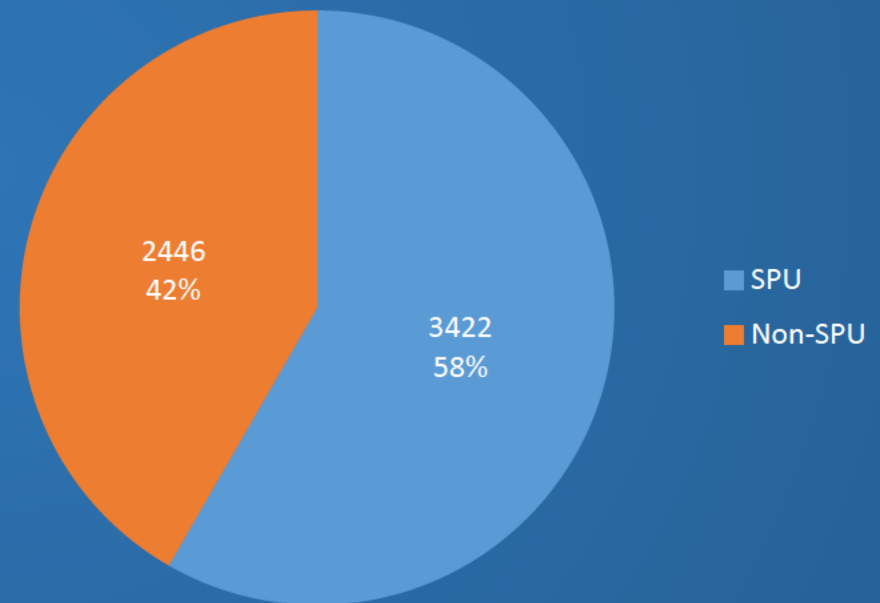
SPU PROCESS

- Cases meeting SPU criteria assigned to the Chief Special Master's docket after PAR Review
- Other cases assigned randomly
- Chief Special Master supervision, fact finding and decision making with staff attorney case management

Over Half of All Vaccine Cases Have Been Assigned to the SPU

- Since SPU began on July 1, 2014, 5,868 Vaccine Petitions have been filed and assigned.
- Of those 5,868 petitions, 3,422, or 58%, were assigned to SPU.

Cases Filed July 1, 2014, to September 30, 2019



Data is approximate and is provided by the USCFC's Clerk's Office and Office of Special Masters as of September 30, 2019. Totals do not include 50 petitions in PAR and not yet assigned

New Initiatives in SPU

- Greater Emphasis on SPU as Expedited Process to Resolve Cases that Should Be Informally Resolved Between the Parties
- “One Year Rule” to Encourage Movement
- Motions Hearing Dates to Reach Decisions Faster

OSM and the Pandemic

- Inability to Travel and Conduct Full In-Person Hearings
- More All-Video Proceedings
- Productivity March – June 2020 on par with March – June 2019 (in terms of decisions and other rulings)
- We Don't Stop Working!