



Schedule A Lawsuits: What Share of Federal Trademark Cases They Make Up

Original analysis of 43,077 records from the Federal Judicial Center, FY2013–FY2025. Published October 22, 2026.

<https://settlementinsight.com/research/schedule-a-trademark-lawsuits-share>

Schedule A cases accounted for 40.2% of all new federal trademark lawsuits in fiscal 2025: 1,653 of 4,117 cases, up from 1.4% in fiscal 2013. The Northern District of Illinois received 85.6% of them. The count is a lower bound, because it includes only cases whose public caption names the Schedule A defendants.

40%

Schedule A share of new trademark cases, FY2025 (minimum)

1,653

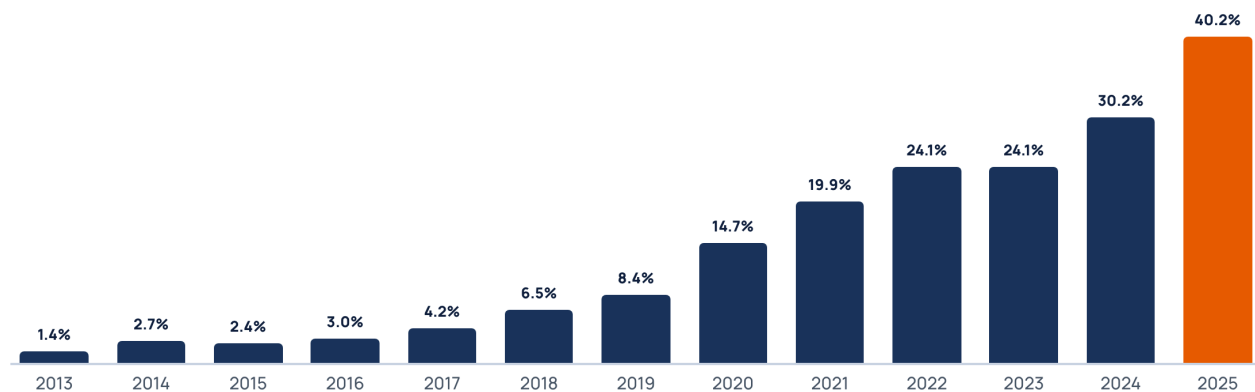
Schedule A trademark cases filed in FY2025

86%

Of those, filed in the Northern District of Illinois



Schedule A share of new federal trademark cases, FY2013–FY2025



Source: Settlement Insight analysis of data from the Federal Judicial Center

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Schedule A Cases in Federal Trademark Litigation

- Two in five trademark suits.** In fiscal 2025, 1,653 of 4,117 new federal trademark cases named Schedule A defendants in the caption, a share of 40.2%. In fiscal 2024 the share was 30.2%.
- Most of the recent growth.** New trademark cases rose by 860 from fiscal 2024 to fiscal 2025. Schedule A cases rose by 668, or 77.7% of that increase.

3. **Concentrated in Chicago.** The Northern District of Illinois received 1,415 of the 1,653 Schedule A trademark cases in fiscal 2025 (85.6%). Schedule A cases made up 91.4% of that court's new trademark cases.
4. **Mostly closed by default judgment.** Of the terminated Schedule A trademark cases filed since fiscal 2013, 61.8% ended in a default judgment, compared with 10.0% of other trademark cases.
5. **Not only trademarks.** Schedule A captions also appeared in 771 copyright and 309 patent cases filed in fiscal 2025.

How we measured

Data: the civil file of the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB), which covers cases terminated through June 30, 2026, and cases pending on that date, as loaded into our database on October 10, 2026. We used all cases with nature-of-suit code 840 (Trademark) filed from October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2025: 43,077 records. Each case is assigned to the federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30) of its filing date, not to the release year (tapeyear) in which it appears. Fiscal 2026 is incomplete in this release and is excluded.

Calibration: counting all filings, including reopened cases, we found 4,217 trademark cases in fiscal 2025; the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts reported 4,211. For the Northern District of Illinois we found 1,555, the same as the published 1,555.

New cases: for the share, we first excluded reopened cases (origin codes 4 and 8–12 in the FJC codebook; 99 rows in fiscal 2025). Among the remaining rows we then treated rows with the same district, docket number and filing date as one case, regardless of the office code (the same case often appears in two annual releases or with a changed office code), and kept the row with the latest release year (tapeyear; 2099 marks pending cases). Rows from other natures of suit play no part in this step. That removed 49 rows over the study period, 1 of them in fiscal 2025, and leaves 4,117 new trademark cases in fiscal 2025.

Classification: the IDB records the first-listed defendant, cut to 30 characters. We converted that field to upper case, trimmed surrounding spaces, dropped one optional leading "THE " or "UNKNOWN " and counted a case as a Schedule A case when the rest begins with one of these strings; truncated words count, other spellings do not: "PARTNERSHIP" or "PARTNERSHIPS" as a whole word, or the misspelling "PARTNETSHIPS"; "UNINCORPORATED"; "SCHEDULE A"; "INDIVIDUAL", "INDIVIDUALS" or "INDIVIDUAL(S)"; then an optional comma, one or more spaces, an optional "AND" or "OR" with one or more spaces, and a word beginning with BU, CO, EN, LI, PA or UN (so "THE INDIVIDUALS, CORPO", "THE INDIVIDUALS AND ENT", "THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUS" and "UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL(S), PARTNER" count); "ENTITIES" followed directly by a comma, whatever comes after it (so "THE ENTITIES, PARTNERSH" counts), or "ENTITIES" followed by a space and "AND", "IDENTIF" or "LISTED"; "BUSINESS ENTITIES"; "CORPORATIONS, " (as in "THE CORPORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS"); or "DEFENDANTS" or "PARTIES" followed by a space and "IDENTIF" or "LISTED" (so the truncated "THE DEFENDANTS IDENTIFI" counts). Every other caption does not count, among them captions beginning with "DOES" or "JOHN DOE" (even when followed by "as identified in Exhibit"), "DEF", "AN INDIVIDUAL", "UNKNOWN PARTIES", "UNKNOWN PARTY", "UNIDENTIFIED", "ENTITY AND/OR INDIVIDUAL" or "DOMAINS IDENTIFIED", and captions such as "[REDACTED] AND THE INDIVIDUALS" that do not start with the collective wording. We reviewed every distinct caption string that matched.

Outcomes: a case counts as closed when it has a termination date on or before June 30, 2026. Default judgment = disposition code 4, voluntary dismissal = code 12, settled = code 13.

Checked against published figures

- Trademark cases filed in U.S. district courts, fiscal year 2025 (all filings incl. reopened cases): published 4,211, our count 4,217 (0.14% apart). [U.S. District Courts — Judicial Business 2025](#)
- Trademark cases filed in the Northern District of Illinois, fiscal year 2025: published 1,555, our count 1,555 (exact match). [U.S. District Courts — Judicial Business 2025](#)
- Increase in trademark cases filed, fiscal year 2025 over fiscal year 2024: published 848, our count 853 (0.59% apart). [U.S. District Courts — Judicial Business 2025](#)

Limitations

- The count is a lower bound. Cases filed under a placeholder caption ("ABC v. DEF" in the Southern District of New York), under seal, or against "Does" are not counted; 109 new trademark cases in fiscal 2025 had such a caption.
- The data count cases, not defendants. A single Schedule A case may name hundreds of online sellers, so the number of sellers sued is far larger than the case count but cannot be measured from the IDB.
- The classification depends on the caption, not on the complaint. Cases that sue many anonymous sellers but name the first defendant individually are not counted, and the data cannot show whether the claims in any case had merit.
- Outcome figures reflect the IDB release through June 30, 2026. 52 Schedule A cases from the study period were still pending, and courts can report dispositions late, so the shares for the most recent filings may change.
- Rankings by district use raw case counts and do not adjust for the size of each court's caseload.

Data files

- [Outcomes of terminated Schedule A and other trademark cases](#) (CSV, 4 rows)
- [Schedule A trademark cases by federal district](#) (CSV, 89 rows)
- [Schedule A share of federal trademark cases by fiscal year](#) (CSV, 13 rows)

How to cite

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