

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Cover: On July 2, 2009, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly administered the lawyer's oath via videoconference to Army Major Miles Gengler, then stationed in Baghdad, Iraq. Major Gengler, a native of Grand Blanc and a graduate of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, was deployed to Iraq shortly after taking the bar exam. The 6,300 mile videoconference between Michigan and Baghdad is believed to be the first time an American attorney has been sworn in via videoconference. Major Gengler's family and friends attended the ceremony in Michigan along with Chief Justice Kelly. *Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School.*

A Message from

CHIEF JUSTICE MARILYN KELLY



Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly

Will Rogers, the American humorist, once quipped that “Things will get better — despite our efforts to improve them.” In 2009, there seemed little reason for such optimism, as Michigan’s economy, and state and local governments, continued to struggle.

This annual report tells the largely unknown story of the Michigan judiciary: how it continued to serve the public well, despite economic pressures and cutbacks. The primary work of the courts, of course, is to decide the disputes brought to Michigan courts each day, and to address violations of the law. But the judicial branch’s work encompasses much more than that.

Take, for example, Michigan’s many “problem-solving courts,” which target the underlying addiction or other disorder that contributes to an offender’s behavior. These courts are making it possible for offenders to get the treatment they need and have productive lives — a cost-effective alternative to traditional incarceration.

Consider also the work that our courts do on behalf of children. In 2009, thanks in large part to the efforts of state family courts and the State Court Administrative Office’s Child Welfare Services division, the number of children in state foster care dropped by 14 percent, while adoptions rose by over 14 percent compared to 2008. In 2009, the federal Office of Child Support reported that Michigan ranked sixth in the country for child support distributions in FY 2008. Our family courts, Friend of the Court offices, and SCAO’s Friend of the Court Bureau have all contributed to Michigan’s good record in this regard.

Technology continued to be a high priority for the judicial branch in 2009, as SCAO’s Judicial Information Systems division pursued the development of a web-based system that will help trial courts manage their caseloads more efficiently. Other technology initiatives, such as the Judicial Network and the Judicial Data Warehouse, enable courts to share case information statewide with law enforcement and to monitor children in abuse and neglect cases.

This past year also saw increased efforts by the Michigan Supreme Court to improve the public’s access to the justice system and promote public education. For the first time, the Court’s administrative conferences, at which the Court considers court rule changes and other administrative issues, were opened to the public. The Court also made video of all its public proceedings, including oral arguments, available online for the first time through the State Bar of Michigan website. And I created the Office of Access and Fairness within the Supreme Court to promote access to justice and a more open, fair legal system in Michigan.

As we continue these and other efforts in 2010, I would share Will Rogers’ optimism, but for a different reason: Things will get better precisely *because* of the efforts of the good people who work in our judicial branch. I am proud to serve with them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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HIGHLIGHTS

BUDGET ISSUES

In 2009, Michigan's struggling economy continued to put pressure on state government, including Michigan courts. A report issued in November 2009 by the Pew Center on the States, "Beyond California—States in Fiscal Peril," includes the following description of Michigan's economy:

In 2001, the famed automobile capital of the world fell into recession with the rest of the country, but it was the only state never to emerge. By the end of 2010, approximately a quarter of its jobs will have vanished. The Great Recession accelerated drops in state revenues and has left Michigan's government trying to deal with today's problems on a 1960s-sized budget.



Although the original FY 2009 budget was essentially a continuation budget, rapidly deteriorating economic conditions resulted in a negative supplemental in the spring that cut the judicial branch's original general fund budget by 4 percent; the judicial branch was required to deal with an additional 6 percent cut for FY 2010.

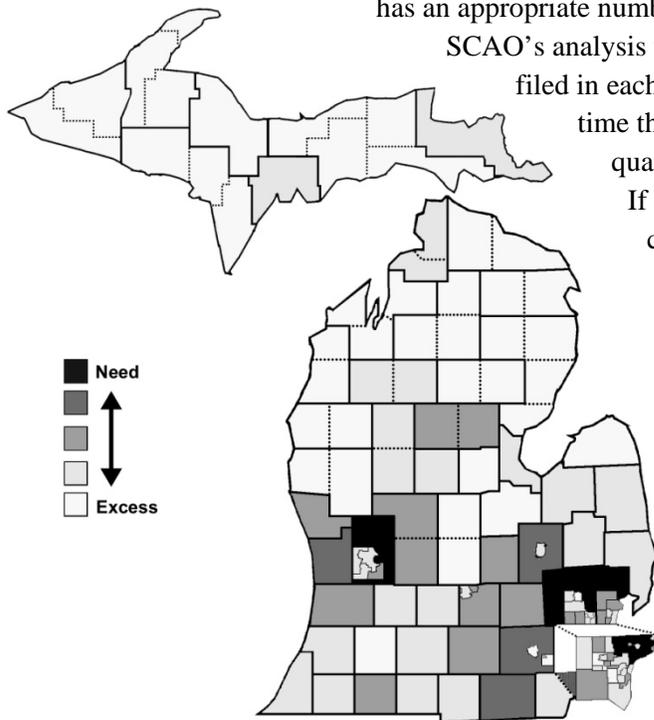
These budget reductions continue a multi-year downsizing trend for the judicial branch. The judicial branch currently has 95 fewer employees than it did at the beginning of FY 2001, a drop of almost 18 percent. The general fund budget, excluding judicial salaries, has been reduced by almost 28 percent. In order to address structural deficits in the state budget, the State Budget Office has asked state agencies to develop plans to reduce their general fund budgets even more for FY 2011, which will further strain judicial branch operations.

In FY 2009, the judicial branch laid off employees, left positions open as they became vacant, and required employees to take six unpaid furlough days. These cutbacks challenged the judicial branch's ability to continue delivering mandated services to the public on a timely basis.

The judicial branch will persist in addressing its economic challenges while striving to maintain the highest possible level of public service. The narratives that follow illustrate how the judicial branch continued to serve the public in 2009, despite serious budget setbacks.

JUDICIAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

The Michigan Constitution provides that the Legislature shall, on the recommendation of the Michigan Supreme Court, increase or reduce the number of state trial court judgeships based on changes in judicial activity (Const 1963, art. 6, §11). Every odd-numbered year, the State Court Administrative Office assesses the judicial needs of our state courts to determine whether each court



has an appropriate number of judges to handle that court’s workload.

SCAO’s analysis takes into account not only the number of cases filed in each court, but also the average amount of a judge’s time that various types of cases require. The result is a quantitative estimate of each court’s judicial needs.

If there is a significant discrepancy between a court’s estimated judicial need and the number of judges it actually has, SCAO reviews additional, primarily qualitative, factors that affect judicial workload and need. The resulting report is published on the Supreme Court’s website and shared with the Governor and Legislature. Any changes in the number of state judgeships must be implemented by legislation and approved by the Governor.

The 2009 Judicial Resources Recommendations report, released in September, proposed that the Legislature

add one trial court judgeship and eliminate 15 others. The SCAO report also recommended that the Legislature convert one probate judgeship to a circuit judgeship. In addition, SCAO determined that the Michigan Court of Appeals could run as efficiently, and at less cost, with four fewer judgeships and additional research attorneys—a recommendation that SCAO also made in 2007. SCAO’s analysis focused on the decline in Court of Appeals filings. SCAO recommended that judgeships be eliminated only by attrition, i.e., when a judge dies or leaves office.

In 2009, SCAO continued to meet with the Ad Hoc Judicial Resources Committee, comprised of members of the Michigan Judges Association, Michigan Probate Judges Association, and Michigan District Judges Association. The committee and SCAO discussed specific ideas for modifying the assessment methodology.

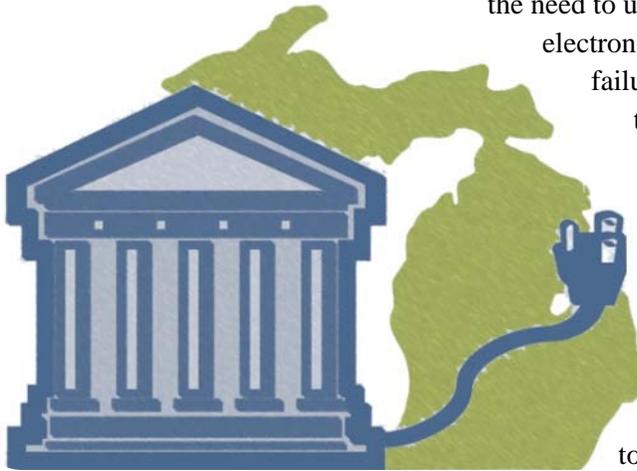
The 2009 Judicial Resources Recommendations report is available on the web at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/JRRSummary2009.pdf>.

COURT TECHNOLOGY

Statewide Trial Court Case Management System

Judicial Information Systems, SCAO’s information technology division, assists state courts with technology issues. A case in point is the statewide case management system being developed by Judicial Information Systems in collaboration with Unisys, a technology consulting firm.

Case management is one of a trial court’s most critical functions, keeping cases on track for timely disposition. In the past, each trial court selected a system that best met that court’s needs within its financial limitations, resulting in a patchwork of many different case management systems



deployed on various decentralized servers. A number of factors—the need to upgrade applications, an increase in mandated electronic reporting requirements, costly conversion failures, cutbacks in local funding, vendors’ termination of support services—led courts to seek better alternatives to their current case management systems. In 2008, JIS began working with Unisys on a new case management system that will be available to all state trial courts. The project includes pilot courts in Berrien and Washtenaw counties.

In 2009, the pilot project moved into Phase I to develop core functions that are basic to all types of cases. This phase also includes system functions for civil cases. Completion of Phase I, which will culminate in the pilot courts’ use of the case management system in civil cases, is slated for July 2010.

Phases II, III, and IV of the project will develop criminal, juvenile, and probate case management systems respectively. Phase II began in November 2009. All phases are expected to be completed by July 2012.

The project is funded in part by user fees from courts that use case management technology that was previously developed by Judicial Information Systems. Funding is also provided through the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund, an annual funding source in the Supreme Court’s budget supported by court fees and contributions by the pilot counties. Funding provided by the pilot counties will be credited toward those courts’ future user fees.

Traffic Tickets Paid Online

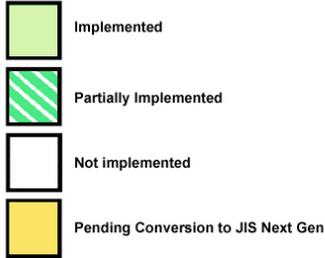
Thanks to another Judicial Information Systems project, thousands of Michigan citizens paid traffic tickets online in 2009. Five courts—62A District Court in Wyoming, 38th District Court in Eastpointe, 36th District Court in Detroit, 15th District Court in Ann Arbor and the 54B District Court in East Lansing—offered this service in 2009, with over 2,100 online ticket payments being made each month. In addition to providing a service for ticket payers, the online payment system automatically posts transactions without involving court staff, which frees court employees for other duties.

In 2009, the ticket payment application was updated to provide wider connectivity to the trial courts, allowing more courts to offer this service. The 46th District Court in Southfield, the 47th District Court in Farmington, and the 51st District Court in Waterford will offer online ticket payment in the first quarter of 2010.

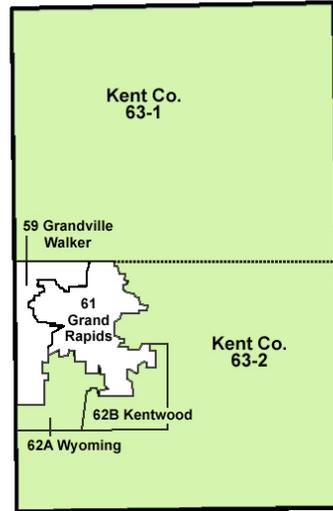
Judicial Data Warehouse

Containing approximately 36 million case records, the Judicial Data Warehouse allows the judiciary and law enforcement to obtain information about pending and closed cases throughout

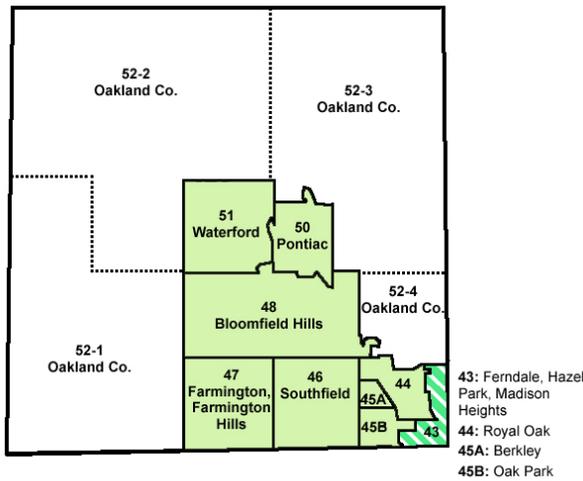
REGIONAL DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL DATA WAREHOUSE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS MAP



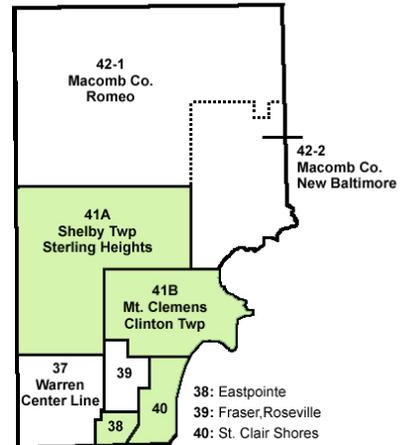
Kent



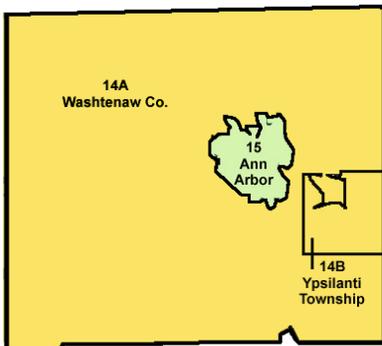
Oakland



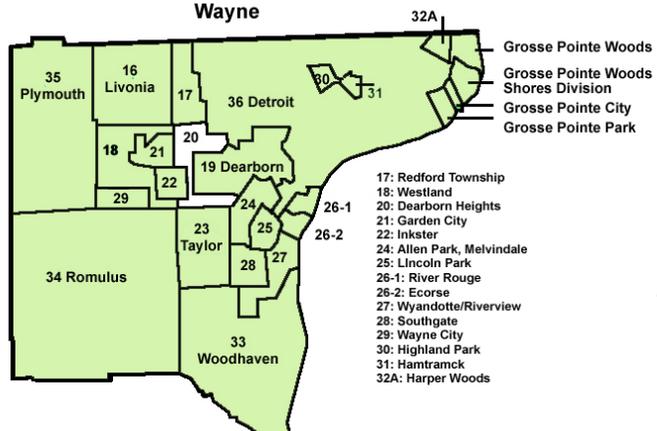
Macomb



Washtenaw



Wayne



Judicial Network

In 2009, law enforcement continued to benefit from the Judicial Network, an effort headed by Judicial Information Systems with assistance from the Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Information Technology, SCAO's Trial Court Services division, county and municipal governments, and private contractors. The network allows Michigan trial courts to report felony and misdemeanor dispositions electronically to a state law enforcement database. As of December 2009, over 95 percent of all felony and misdemeanor dispositions were reported electronically from the courts to the Michigan State Police and Secretary of State.

The network is expected to receive a major upgrade in 2010. Using federal stimulus funds, the state will collaborate with private sector telecommunications vendors and local governments to reach areas of Michigan that are under served or not served. Applications like the Statewide Trial Court Case Management System will take advantage of this upgrade, as the increased functionality associated with new applications places greater demands on the existing network.



Video Conferencing

In 2009, Judicial Information Systems expanded a video conferencing project with the Department of Corrections to include the State Police Forensic Lab and state mental health facilities. Through this project, prisoners and mental health patients can participate in court hearings without the risks and costs involved in transporting them to court. Michigan State Police technicians can also use video conferencing to participate in arraignments, pretrial conferences, and other court hearings without the time and expense of travel.

Using a grant from the State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning and funding from the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund, Judicial Information Systems began the planning process for implementing videoconferencing in 15 pilot courts.

Plans for 2010 include site visits to determine hardware and network connectivity requirements, followed by installation of the video conferencing equipment and connection to the Department of Corrections, the State Police Forensic Lab, and state mental health facilities. Every step of the project will be documented and evaluated to establish guidelines for trial courts.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES DIVISION

SCAO's Child Welfare Services division serves as a central resource for Michigan courts on child protection, foster care, and adoption issues. The division has two major units: the Court Improvement Program and the Foster Care Review Board. Both units provide a wide range of guidance and technical support services to family division courts, and also act as liaisons between family courts and the executive and legislative branches.

Key 2009 accomplishments include:

- A 14 percent reduction in the number of children in state foster care since 2008. As of September 30, 2009, Michigan had 16,189 children in state care, down from 18,812 children in 2008.
- An increase of over 14 percent in the number of adoptions finalized in 2009 compared to 2008, following a 9.3 percent increase between 2007 and 2008. The new "Adoption and Permanency Forums" sponsored by Child Welfare Services and attended by county-level child welfare personnel accounted for much of those increases.
- Reunification of 50 percent of the children in the Temporary Court Ward backlog cohort (children who had been awaiting permanent placement for at least one year) with their biological families, a requirement of the recent settlement in *Dwayne B. v Granholm* (the *Children's Rights* federal lawsuit).



Grand Traverse County Probate Judge David Stowe exchanges a "high five" with one of the young children adopted in his courtroom during Adoption Day 2009. Photo courtesy of Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

Federal Child and Family Services Review

The Child and Family Services Review is a comprehensive federal evaluation of each state's management of its child abuse and neglect cases. The U.S Department of Health and Human Services (Administration for Children and Families—Children's Bureau) conducts these reviews to determine whether states are in substantial conformity with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA), PL 105-89, 111 Stat 211. This law requires states to achieve more timely permanency decisions and establish stronger safety guarantees for abused and neglected children. Substantial compliance with the ASFA is a condition of states' eligibility for federal funding of their public child welfare agencies.

Child Welfare Services worked with the Department of Human Services to prepare Michigan's courts for this review, which was conducted September 21-25, 2009. Preparations included a statewide self-assessment and training for court personnel about the ASFA requirements and review process. During the actual review, Child Welfare Services staff served on local review teams and participated in state stakeholder interviews conducted by federal reviewers. The federal auditors' report is expected in 2010.



In 2010, Child Welfare Services will collaborate with DHS on a state "Program Improvement Plan," to address systemic problems identified by the federal review. A successful implementation of that plan will reduce or eliminate federal financial penalties that Michigan would otherwise incur. In addition, Child Welfare Services will facilitate local court involvement in this process.

Federal Performance Review: Title IV-E

In 2009, Child Welfare Services began preparing courts for the Title IV-E eligibility audit, which is scheduled for June 2010. That review's outcome will determine the extent of federal funding for foster care in Michigan. Child Welfare Services collaborated with DHS in conducting regional training programs that included 570 participants representing over 75 counties. Participants included judges, referees, court administrators, other court staff, private attorneys, prosecutors, DHS management and caseworkers, and caseworkers from private agencies. Training topics included the on-the-record findings that courts must make, how DHS determines eligibility for Title IV-E funding, and how to appeal eligibility determinations.

Child Welfare Services also began collaborating with DHS to prepare for the DHS Funding Specialist Training program. This collaborative training ensures that DHS funding specialists and the courts receive the same accurate information. Child Welfare Services continues to participate in monthly meetings with DHS to review Title IV-E questions and plan for the June 2010 audit.

Court Improvement Program

Child Welfare Services administers three federal Court Improvement Program grants: Main Grant, Training Grant, and Data Collection and Analysis Grant. Throughout 2009, Child Welfare Services used these grants to improve Michigan courts' handling of cases that involve at-risk families with children. Much attention continues to be devoted to training and special projects.

MAIN GRANT ACTIVITIES

Adoption and Permanency Forums

In 2009, Child Welfare Services held two Adoption and Permanency Forums, designed to encourage interagency and interbranch collaboration on expediting permanency for children who have remained in foster care for longer than one year. This initiative, previously called the "Adoption Forum," began in 2008 with the 13 Michigan counties having the largest numbers of children in foster care; this initial forum focused solely on increasing the number of adoptions in those counties. The 2009 forums, held on March 13 and October 30, added 10

more counties and expanded the focus to include all permanency goals, including permanent guardianships and reunification of children with their biological parents. The 23 counties account for approximately 85 percent of the state's total foster care caseload. A judge from each county formed a multidisciplinary "county team" that developed innovative ways to expedite permanency in targeted cases. The teams' efforts resulted in a 14 percent increase in adoptions from the previous year. More forums are planned for March and October 2010.



Tribal Collaboration

In 2009, Child Welfare Services initiated a partnership with Michigan's 12 federally recognized tribes to identify problems with state courts' implementation of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and propose solutions. This collaborative effort opened the lines of communication between the tribes and state courts, and produced an ICWA Court Resource Guide with ICWA-compliance practice tips for Michigan jurists. From the same ICWA committee, a special subcommittee emerged that made recommendations to incorporate the ICWA into specific sections of the Michigan Court Rules. This state-tribe collaboration was so positive and productive that the Court Improvement Program Statewide Task Force created a new permanent committee called the Tribal Court Relations Committee. This committee will continue to address common interests of state and tribal courts.



TRAINING GRANT ACTIVITIES

Child Welfare Services administers training through the Court Improvement Program Training Grant and special-purpose grants from the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice (http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5452_7119_7195-15589--,00.html). Each training program is planned by a cross-disciplinary committee and offered to judges, court staff, attorneys, private and public caseworkers, and Michigan’s 12 federally recognized tribes. Child Welfare Services selects the topics and plans the training programs based on recommendations from the Court Improvement Program statewide taskforce, DHS, various stakeholder community agencies, and the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice.

In 2009, the Child Welfare Services training division administered or co-sponsored 31 trainings around the state, including its first annual judicial training for family court judges and referees. Child Welfare Services also initiated quarterly training for new family division judges. These and other Child Welfare Services offerings covered a broad array of child welfare topics, such as the “invisible injuries” of neglect and emotional abuse, legal representation of parents and children, concurrent planning, legal updates, special education issues, and racial/ethnic issues. Child Welfare Services also conducted three regional trainings on the child welfare resource guide known as “the Yellow Book,” and trainings about Michigan’s 2009 Child and Family Services Review. The full 2009 training schedule can be found at <http://courts.mi.gov/scao/services/cws/TrainingDevelopment/2009TrainingSchedule.pdf>.



On October 22, 2009, Child Welfare Services collaborated with the American Bar Association and Casey Family Programs to offer the *Lawyers for Families Symposium: Strengthening Legal Representation for Families in Child Welfare Proceedings*. The symposium addressed the need to improve legal representation for parents in child abuse and neglect cases. Several judges have already begun to implement plans for raising the parent-representation standards in their courts.



The Court Improvement Program training website became fully operational in 2009. The site now offers online training registration, training materials and other resources, live webcasts, and access to archived off-site live training webcasts. All webcasts are archived.

DATA GRANT ACTIVITIES

In 2009, Child Welfare Services collaborated with DHS on major improvements in data sharing between the courts and DHS. Child Welfare Services and DHS modified their data sharing agreement to advance the goals established after the 2009 federal Child and Family Services Review and the consent decree in *Dwayne B. v Granholm*, and other goals identified by the Court Improvement Program Data Grant's steering committee. Currently, the following data are shared, or will be shared in the near future:

- DHS permanency backlog cohort (temporary and permanent court wards awaiting permanency for more than one year).
- DHS reunification alerts (reminders to focus on children who have been in care for six to nine months).
- Children's location, date of placement, and Title IV-E eligibility.
- Court hearing dates.

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

The Foster Care Review Board Program was established by the Michigan Legislature and placed within SCAO by 1984 PA 422. The board supports the local courts and child placement agencies in their efforts to ensure the safety and well being of children in the state's foster care system. By



conducting third-party reviews in randomly selected cases or by request, the board helps to ensure that children move toward permanency in a timely and efficient manner. Thirty local review boards, comprised of citizen volunteers, conduct these reviews. The program also investigates appeals by foster parents who challenge the removal of a child from the foster home.

The Foster Care Review Board provides an annual report of its activities to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Court Administrative Office. The report analyzes key statewide systemic problems, which the board identifies through individual case reviews, and recommends strategies to address those problems. This report is developed by a statewide advisory committee including local board members, child welfare professionals, and child welfare advocates from throughout the state.

In May 2009, the Foster Care Review Board lost two full-time positions due to budget cuts. As a result, the board has had to reduce the number of reviews each month. Nonetheless, in 2009, local boards conducted over 800 reviews affecting approximately 1,400 children. The board also received 110 phone requests for appeals by foster parents; local boards formally investigated over 70 of those appeals, with several investigations pending through the end of 2009. Program representatives reconciled the remaining appeals without investigation.

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: THE FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU

Much of the work of Michigan's family courts involves ordering and enforcing child support, parenting time, and child custody. Each circuit court's Friend of the Court office assists the court with those duties. The Friend of the Court Bureau, a SCAO division created by the Legislature in 1982, supports the Friend of the Court offices in various ways, including helping them meet all federal funding requirements.

Federal Funding for Child Support Services

Almost two-thirds of the funding for Michigan's child support enforcement programs comes from the federal government through Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. To continue receiving those federal IV-D funds, the state must meet federal performance standards, most notably those related to collecting court-ordered child support payments. Much of the Friend of the Court Bureau's work involves staying abreast of the federal requirements and helping local Friend of the Court offices meet them.

In FY 2009, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act reinstated the former practice of allowing states to use federal child support incentive money to qualify for the federal two-for-one funding match. As a result, in FY 2009 Michigan's general fund appropriation was reduced by over \$16 million. The reinstatement is temporary and will expire in FY 2011.

Customer Service Unit

Another Friend of the Court Bureau function is the Customer Service Unit, which is staffed by Lansing-area law school students. Under the supervision of bureau staff, these customer service clerks respond to inquiries from parents, Friend of the Court offices, and others. In 2009, these student clerks handled 3,158 phone calls and 871 letters and e-mails. In addition, clerks assist full-time bureau staff with special projects. They also research and write articles for a newsletter that is distributed to all Friend of the Court offices. The student interns, many of whom plan to pursue careers in family law, gain real-world experience while providing a valuable public service.

State Continues to Rank High in Child Support Collections

In 2009, the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, which monitors states' child support collections, released preliminary data that ranked Michigan sixth in the country for child support distributions in FY 2008. Michigan distributed \$1,455,720,695 in child support collections to custodial parents. That represented a \$40 million increase over the previous year. Further, Michigan ranks third in the country in the number of child support cases in which medical support for children was ordered and provided.



In FY 2009, thanks to collaboration between the courts and DHS's Office of Child Support, the Financial Institution Data Match program collected about \$9 million in past-due support. The program uses a statewide computer system, known as the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, to locate bank accounts of parents who have failed to pay support. The data match program not only helps custodial parents and children, but also increases Michigan's share of federal "incentive" funding, which is awarded on the basis of a state's overall success in child support collections.

Mediation in Domestic Relations Cases

In 2009, more than 1,000 Kent County divorce cases were selected for a pilot project aimed at fostering greater cooperation between divorcing parents. This project, which emphasizes good parenting and the children's best interests, was designed by the Friend of the Court Bureau and Kent County Circuit Court. The project requires parents to use special parenting-time planning forms during court-ordered informal negotiations, and mandates the use of "nonadversarial" language in court documents and orders. Data from the pilot cases will be compared to data from a control group. The evaluator for this project will submit a final report to SCAO in February 2011.

THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Commonly known as "specialty courts," problem-solving courts work to address an underlying problem that contributes to an offender's criminal behavior, such as drug addiction or alcohol abuse. Key features include treatment, intensive supervision, frequent judicial review hearings, and graduated incentives and sanctions. These programs are generally limited to nonviolent offenders. Because rehabilitation is the primary goal, problem-solving courts are often described as providing "therapeutic jurisprudence." Participants are held accountable and face sanctions for noncompliance with program rules. Studies indicate that these programs reduce recidivism and are less costly over the long term than incarceration.



Judge Vincent C. Westra of the 8th District Court in Kalamazoo congratulates a sobriety court graduate. Photo by Jonathon Gruenke/Kalamazoo Gazette. No reprints or other use without permission of the Kalamazoo Gazette.

SCAO's Trial Court Services Division supports Michigan's problem-solving courts with training, education, planning, evaluation, monitoring, funding opportunities, and technical assistance.

Expansion of Problem-Solving Courts

Despite formidable economic pressures, the number of problem-solving courts in Michigan increased in 2009. As of December 2009, Michigan had 37 adult drug treatment courts, 23 sobriety or "DWI" courts, 15 juvenile drug treatment courts, 10 family dependency treatment courts, 3 tribal

drug treatment courts (also known as “healing to wellness”), 12 mental health courts, 3 child support specialty courts, and 3 veterans treatment courts.

In 2009, two new mental health courts became operational: the 60th District Court in Muskegon County and the 57th District Court in Allegan County.

SCAO began working with Ingham County courts (54A District Court, 54B District Court, 55th District Court, and 30th Circuit Court) to plan a Veterans Treatment Court in 2009, for veterans who suffer from substance abuse, mental illness, and related disorders. This program, a collaborative effort that includes the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will be housed at the 54B District Court. Features will include mentoring of participants by other military veterans.

In April 2009, SCAO launched the Child Support Specialty Court Grant pilot program. This program helps to fund three new child support specialty courts located in Genesee, Kent, and Grand Traverse counties. The goal of these new problem-solving courts is to help noncustodial parents find work and provide financial support for their children.

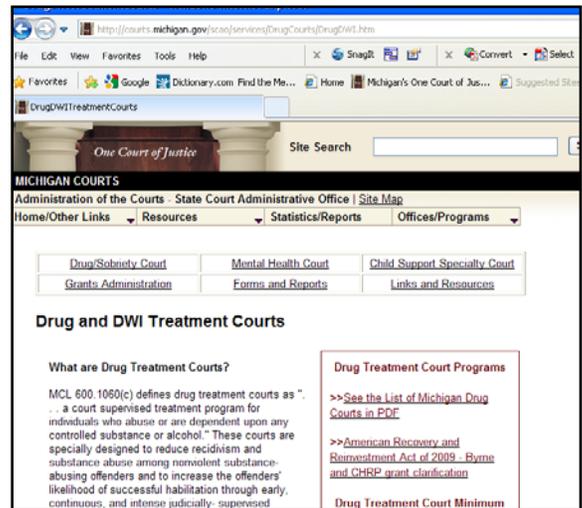
Information Technology and Performance Measurement

By enlarging the scope of its website content in 2009, SCAO enhanced technical support services for problem-solving courts. Additions included state and federal grant funding opportunities, mandatory grant report forms, annual specialty court reports, research and publications, resources for the Drug Court Case Management System and the Specialty Courts Case Management system, and a new SCAO publication, “Developing and Implementing a Drug Treatment Court.” The results: improved reporting, better communications, and enhanced planning, implementing, and evaluating problem-solving courts.

In 2009, using funds from a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant, SCAO completed and began piloting the Drug Court Cost Analysis Tool, which will allow drug courts to determine the cost of their programs for the court and others involved, such as a public defender or prosecutor’s office. This computer program will also allow drug courts to compare their costs to the costs of standard probation, using comparison groups generated by the Judicial Data Warehouse. SCAO anticipates that all adult drug court and DWI court programs will be able to use DCCAT by April 2010.

Evaluations and performance measurement allow problem-solving courts to assess their effectiveness. In 2009, the average success rate for Michigan drug treatment courts was 51.4 percent.

DWI treatment courts had an average success rate of 60 percent. Compared to standard probationers, successful DWI court participants received 3 times as many treatment contact hours, were 15 times less likely to test positive for an illegal drug, and were 24 times less likely to test positive for alcohol.



In 2009, Michigan's 9 mental health court pilot programs accepted 240 mentally ill offenders into their programs and enrolled them in treatment. Nearly half (40 percent) were felony offenders, 47 percent of whom were prison-bound. Bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia comprised 77 percent of the participants' diagnoses with more than half (53 percent) of the mental health court participants living with a co-occurring substance use disorder diagnosis. Seventy-two percent of participants have not spent a single day in jail since they were admitted to this program.

These statistics and data analysis were completed using information from the Specialty Courts Case Management System.

Funding Specialty Courts

Each year, Michigan's drug treatment courts rely more on both federal and state grant funding. In FY 2010, 70 drug court programs sought a total of more than \$4 million from the Michigan Drug



Court Grant Program, which is administered by SCAO. Only \$1.5 million was available. In FY 2009, 62 applicants requested a total of about \$3.9 million in funding, with only \$1.7 million available. SCAO made 55 awards in FY 2010 and 52 awards in FY 2009.

In FY 2010, 11 programs received approximately \$1.8 million in federal funds from the Office of Drug Control Policy through the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. These programs target priority populations, consisting of prison-bound offenders, nonviolent felony offenders, and probation violators.

For the third consecutive year, Michigan's DWI treatment courts received funding from the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program, the Office of Drug Control Policy (Byrne JAG grant), and the Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning grant. In FY 2010, 18 of Michigan's 23 DWI treatment courts received some funding from these grant programs. Ten courts received grant awards totaling \$490,000 from the Office of Highway Safety Planning grant program. One program received \$180,000 from the Office of Drug Control Policy, and 18 others received a total of \$474,900 from the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program. Twenty-two of the DWI treatment courts were operational by the end of 2009, and one was still in the planning stage.

The Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program has been in operation for two years. SCAO and the Michigan Department of Community Health jointly fund eight mental health courts using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 dollars. With this funding source, which is secure through 2012, SCAO reimburses program operation expenses such as personnel, supplies, and travel, while MDCH reimburses courts for treatment expenditures

The Child Support Specialty Courts Grant pilot program utilized Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts funds, which are collected by the State Bar of Michigan, to provide grant awards to Genesee County (\$40,000), Kent County (\$100,000), and Grand Traverse County (\$60,000) for their child support specialty courts. This funding covers the period from May 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010.

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

The Michigan Judicial Institute is SCAO's educational division dedicated to providing quality, timely education for Michigan judges and judicial branch staff.

In 2009, the Institute held 40 seminars, several of which were multiday programs, which focused on substantive, procedural, and practical issues. The Institute also designed and coordinated the Supreme Court's Judicial Conference, and provided educational sessions at the meetings of various judicial and court professional associations.

In 2009, the Michigan Judicial Institute again offered educational opportunities via the Internet. Several seminars were simultaneously delivered as live programs and webcasts, as well as archived for future viewing. In 2009, more



A seminar at the Hall of Justice.

than 1,400 participants "attended" live and archived seminar sessions via the Internet. The Institute also created a new online training: "Providing Quality Public Service," and updated two additional online learning resources: "Legal Advice" and the "Juvenile Probation Officer Web-Based Training."

In February 2009, the Michigan Judicial Institute updated each benchbook in its core library and posted them on its website. The updates included completely revised benchbooks on civil and criminal procedure in circuit courts, and on adoptions. These new versions include hyperlinks to statutes, court rules, other Michigan Judicial Institute publications, and direct links to cross-references. Links to published Michigan caselaw will be added in the future. All benchbooks were made available online and on CD-ROMs distributed to all Michigan judges.

In July, the Institute also updated and posted to the website an electronic version of the Sentencing Guidelines Manual. A printed version was produced in collaboration with West Publishing, which bore the entire cost of printing and distribution.

Michigan Judicial Institute webcasts and publications, including publication updates, are available at <http://courts.mi.gov/mji>.

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, is a key component of the Michigan Supreme Court's educational mission. Founded in 2002, the Learning Center teaches visitors about basic principles of law and Michigan's judicial branch of government through a combination of hands-on exhibits and special programs. It is overseen by the Michigan Judicial Institute.

In 2009, the Learning Center's more than 10,400 visitors included students at all levels of study, as well as community organizations and the general public. While the Learning Center serves largely a Michigan audience, it has also hosted travelers from across the United States and throughout the world. International visitors included new refugees settling in Michigan and legal professionals from other countries, who toured the Learning Center to learn more about American democracy and government.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, and Justice Diane M. Hathaway gather with the docents of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center on Volunteer Recognition Day. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center.



Participants in the "Exploring Careers in the Law" program. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

In June and July, the Learning Center offered "Exploring Careers in the Law" for junior high and high school students who are interested in legal careers. In the high school program, students played the roles of Supreme Court justices and attorneys, with the week-long program culminating in an oral argument, followed by a ruling from the "justices." The junior high school program allowed students to explore a variety of law-related careers. Both groups met with Michigan Supreme Court justices, judges, and representatives of Lansing's 54A District Court. The programs also featured Lansing's Teen Court participants, the Ingham County Prosecutor, and faculty, staff, and students of Thomas M. Cooley College of Law and Michigan State University College of Law.

Numerous free online resources, including lesson plans, research materials, and educational activities, are available on the Learning Center's website at <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/>. The Learning Center also offers *Justitia*, a free e-newsletter for educators, at <http://courts.mi.gov/plc/educatorNews/>.

The Learning Center's 2009 activities also included Law Day and Constitution Day. These annual civic education events are aimed primarily at students.

CONSTITUTION DAY 2009

Federal law requires that all schools that receive federal funding must teach about the U.S. Constitution on or near September 17, the date the Constitution was signed in 1787.

For Constitution Day 2009, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly provided a new webcast resource for elementary school students and teachers that can be used as the basis for classroom discussions on Constitution Day, as well as at any time, year-round. Taped in the Learning Center, the webcast features the chief justice reading *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl to a group of third through fifth-grade students and leading a discussion about the need for rule and law. The webcast provides an overview of the Constitution as the “law of the land” and answers questions about why the Constitution is important. The archived webcast also includes curriculum materials designed for use with elementary students in grades K-5 and can be accessed on the Learning Center website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc>; click on “Constitution Day webcast.”



Justice Markman meets with Michigan State University College of Law students on Constitution Day. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

LAW DAY 2009

“A Legacy of Liberty—Celebrating Lincoln’s Bicentennial” was the theme of Law Day 2009. On Friday, May 1, 2009, a group of about 200 students and adults celebrated the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth with a visit to the Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice. Docents, representatives of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, judges, and Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly highlighted Lincoln’s dedication to the law and civic education. Tours emphasized his support of core democratic values, and students read quotes from Lincoln on topics including freedom, equality, and the common good.



Chief Justice Kelly addresses a Law Day audience at the Hall of Justice. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

COURT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The “Court Community Connections” program takes the Supreme Court’s oral arguments on the road twice a year, each time to a different community. This educational program is aimed principally at high school students, although middle school, college, and law students have also participated. The hosting community provides a site for the oral argument, and area students discuss the case in advance with the help of local attorneys, who volunteer their time. After hearing the argument, students are debriefed by the attorneys who argued the case, and also have an opportunity to meet with justices and court staff. When the Court makes its ruling, copies of the decision go to the students, who then have another opportunity for study and discussion.

In May 2009, the program took the Court to the historic 1899 courthouse in Centreville, St. Joseph County, where the Court's visit was the centerpiece of the county's Law Day celebration. Before the Court's hearing, students from nine area schools joined the justices at a luncheon hosted by the St. Joseph County Bar Association; the argument was followed by an afternoon reception attended by justices, students, local judges and lawyers, and others from the community.

The October 2009 program took place at Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus and included students from Pontiac High School. Members of the Black Judges Association of Michigan worked with the students before the oral argument; other sponsors included the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the bar associations of Oakland



Attorneys Mark Granzotto and Mark Bendure debriefed students following oral argument in the historic Centreville courthouse in May. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

County, Ingham County, and Grand Rapids. The oral argument was simulcast to Cooley's Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Lansing campuses, where Cooley professors and students hosted high school students from their respective communities.

For more information about Court Community Connections, see <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/SpecialFeaturesIndex.htm>.

JUROR APPRECIATION MONTH

The Michigan Supreme Court instituted Juror Appreciation Month in July 2005 to emphasize the importance of jury service in American democracy. The 2009 event was marked by a Supreme Court resolution and a public service announcement by Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly; in addition, the chief justice's guest editorial on the importance of jury service appeared in the July 2, 2009, *Detroit Free Press*. Trial courts expressed their gratitude to jurors through activities and tokens, including certificates of appreciation, bookmarks with juror information, and musical performances. In 2009, Detroit's 36th District Court's activities included a walking tour of the GM Renaissance Center.



For more information about Juror Appreciation Month, see <http://courts.mi.gov/supremecourt/Press/Juror/index.htm>. To see the chief justice's guest editorial in the *Detroit Free Press*, visit <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009907020360>.

MEDIA OUTREACH

In 2009, the Supreme Court Office of Public Information co-sponsored “Law School for Journalists” with the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The workshop “faculty” included Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, other judges, attorneys, and veteran reporters. Hosted by WXYZ-TV at its Southfield studios, the “law school” covered such topics as criminal procedure, access to courts, and the roles of various courts in the state justice system. More information about the workshop is available at http://spjdetroit.org/Law_school_layout_1.pdf.

Also in 2009, the Office of Public Information published *A Journalist’s Guide to Covering Michigan Courts*. Topics include an overview of Michigan courts, a glossary of legal terms, tips for journalists, rules about access to court proceedings and files, and more. *A Journalist’s Guide* is available at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/press/JournalistsGuide/>.

Michigan Adoption Day

In 2009, the Supreme Court co-sponsored the seventh annual Michigan Adoption Day. Held each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, this event brings attention to the adoption process and to the many Michigan children who need permanent homes. Other co-sponsors include the Department of Human Services, the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, and SCAO’s Child Welfare Services division.

Thirty-three Michigan counties, in communities ranging from St. Ignace to St. Joseph, participated in the 2009 Adoption Day; about 250 adoptions were finalized. As in past years, the Supreme Court marked the occasion with a resolution signed by the justices; the Court also hosted the “Heart Gallery,” a photographic exhibit of children awaiting adoption, throughout November in the Michigan Hall of Justice. Most participating courts opened adoption finalizations, which are usually private, to the public. These local celebrations received extensive media coverage. For more information about Michigan Adoption Day, see <http://courts.mi.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm>.



Timothy Baughman, chief of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Appeals and Research division, addresses reporters as part of the Office of Public Information's “law school for journalists,” co-sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists. Photo courtesy of SPJ Detroit.



Parents with their adopted children provide information for families during an open house in Alpena on Adoption Day 2009. Photo courtesy of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.



ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSPARENCY

Most people know that the Michigan Supreme Court is the highest state court, and has the final say (unless a party appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court) in all cases that arise in Michigan. But few are aware that the Court also has a significant administrative docket. In 2009, that decision-making process became more open to the public.

Before 2009, the Court's only public administrative forum consisted of quarterly public administrative hearings. Those hearings, which the Court continues to hold, are a forum for members of the public to address the Court on

court rule amendments or administrative orders that the Court has published for comment. In 2009, in the interest of greater transparency, the Court began conducting its administrative discussions and decision-making in public as well. Now all the Court's administrative conferences are open to the public. These conferences, which usually occur once per month, take place in the Supreme Court courtroom on the sixth floor of the Hall of Justice. Two weeks before the conference, an agenda is posted on the Court's website, which lists the items the Court will consider. For those who are unable to attend the conference, the State Bar of Michigan posts the DVD recordings on its website for view within 48 hours after the conference is held. The state bar's "Virtual Court" page, <http://www.michbar.org/courts/virtualcourt.cfm>, provides video of the Court's public administrative conferences, public administrative hearings, and oral arguments.

COLLECTIONS

Court collections continue to be a high priority for Michigan's judicial branch. Effective enforcement of court orders, including financial sanctions, improves courts' credibility and enhances respect for the courts and their orders. Courts collect restitution to help make crime victims whole; court-imposed financial sanctions also support law enforcement, libraries, and local governments.

In 2009, the Michigan Supreme Court's Collections Advisory Committee submitted its final report to the Michigan Supreme Court. The report includes a proposed statewide plan to implement court collections programs and collections-related reporting requirements. As recommended by the committee, the Michigan Supreme Court published for comment a proposed administrative order that directs trial courts to comply with court collections program requirements and to submit annual collections reports to SCAO. The Court approved this proposal in January 2010.

Also in 2009, courts began submitting annual collections reports to SCAO through the Collections Data System, a secure application on the Michigan Court Applications Portal website. This data, which in past years was submitted in hard copy, will be used to assess the effectiveness of courts' collections programs.

In 2009, SCAO continued to refine software to help courts manage litigants' payment plans. The software generates mailings to litigants with outstanding balances. It also generates wage assignments and state income tax garnishments, and extracts cases to refer to a third party for collection.

SCAO collections projects for 2010 will include developing and piloting software for juvenile cases. The software will generate monthly account statements and delinquency notices.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT SECURITY DIVISION

With the safety of court personnel and the public at stake, courthouse security has never been a higher priority for Michigan state courts than it is today. In addition to providing security and emergency management for the state's appellate courts and SCAO's four regional offices, the Michigan Supreme Court Security Division counsels and supports Michigan's 246 trial courts on security and emergency management issues.

In 2009, the security division assessed security measures at a number of trial court facilities and friend of the court offices. The division provided technical support to several courts in drafting local administrative orders regarding weapons, contraband, and electronic device screening policies.

The security division also trains judges and court staff. In 2009, training sessions included "Disgruntled Litigant vs. Real Threat" for district and circuit court judges, "Personal and Office Safety" for the Friend of the Court Association and the Michigan Family Support Council, "Courtroom Security" for the Electronic Court Reporters Association, "Trial Court Security" for court security officers and administrators, and "Surviving an Active Shooter Situation" for the Michigan Judges Association. The division also presented "Campaign Safety" and "Practices for Enhancing Personal Safety" for various judges' meetings and seminars.

In 2009, the security division launched its first Trial Court Security and Emergency Management website on the Michigan Court Application Portal. The website covers such topics as pandemic influenza planning, continuity of operations plans, fraudulent uniform commercial code filings, and weapons laws and policy for judges and courthouses. Many other security and emergency management resources are continually updated and posted on the site.

The Hall of Justice's 25,987 visitors in 2009 were screened by lobby security under the security division's supervision. Hall of Justice security personnel responded to 63 incidents in 2009, including fugitive arrest, larceny, damage to property, disorderly persons, and employee medical emergencies. Security staff also covered special events and hearings, such as the Supreme Court's "Court Community Connections" programs in St. Joseph and Oakland counties and the 2009 Michigan Judicial Conference in Lansing.

In 2009, as a component of the Michigan Hall of Justice's Continuity of Operations Plan, the security division developed and published "Pandemic Influenza Safe Work Practices" for all employees of the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals. The plan identifies at-risk employees and recommends employee practices based on the severity and impact of influenza in the workplace. The plan also includes administrative actions that court leaders can take to deal with a pandemic's impact on the work place.



CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT AND TIME GUIDELINES



Through effective, prompt caseload management, courts reduce unreasonable delays for litigants and the general public. For over 20 years, the Michigan Supreme Court has supported caseload management improvements. To this end, the Court requires each trial court to maintain a caseload management plan. The Court has also established time guidelines for processing different types of cases. Through these guidelines, the Court identifies clear goals for moving cases from filing to disposition.

In 2008 and 2009, SCAO conducted a statewide review of caseload management and time guidelines. In addition to conducting site visits, SCAO convened workgroups comprised of judges, court administrators, registers, referees, magistrates, practicing attorneys, human services personnel, and law enforcement representatives. Workgroup members discussed their experiences with caseload management and the time guidelines. The review resulted in recommendations to modify certain time guidelines; the Court published these proposed changes for comment in March, 2010.

TRIAL COURT PERFORMANCE MEASURES COMMITTEE

The Trial Court Performance Measures Committee, comprised of experienced judges and court administrators from all areas of the state, was established in 2009 to promote trial courts' use of valid and reliable performance measures. Courts can use these measures to assess their performance, operating costs, caseload management, public access, case file reliability and integrity, and other court functions. With objective information and a solid understanding of court operations, court leaders can more effectively direct resources and continue to provide quality services, particularly during these difficult economic times.

In 2010, SCAO will promote performance measures through statewide seminars offered by the Michigan Judicial Institute. SCAO also plans to meet with other interested organizations, including the Michigan Association of Counties, to get more feedback on the performance measures.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION/COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

SCAO's Office of Dispute Resolution funds and oversees the state's 20 Community Dispute Resolution Program centers, which provide alternative dispute resolution for parties wishing to resolve their disputes without a trial. In 2009, the centers disposed of 7,179 cases—the highest level since the program began in 1990—and resolved 68 percent of cases in which all parties agreed to use a center's services. Of the cases disposed of by centers in 2009, 81 percent were referred by courts. Volunteer mediators, all of whom have completed a 40-hour SCAO-approved training program,

provided 17,724 hours of service. This program's annual report is available at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm#arss>.

Youth and Family Issues

In 2009, the Community Dispute Resolution Program saw increased demand for mediation services in the following areas:

Truancy. Mediation services allow parents, school officials, truancy officers, and others to develop a plan for children to return to and stay in school.

Restorative justice in juvenile cases. In cases involving juvenile infractions, such as minor assaults at school, mediation helps students resolve underlying conflicts that lead to ongoing confrontation. Through mediation, adult crime victims can meet with a juvenile offender to express the victim's response to the crime.



Parenting time and custody complaints. Thirteen Community Dispute Resolution centers assist parents referred by Friend of the Court offices to resolve parenting time and custody disputes. In 2009, centers disposed of 559 cases, reaching an agreement rate of 73 percent when parties used the mediation process.

Child welfare mediation. In child abuse and neglect cases, mediation helps parties collaborate on a plan that leads to expedited permanent placements for children. Six Community Dispute Resolution centers are engaged in this work.

Marital dissolution. Divorcing couples and parents are increasingly resolving their differences through mediation. Through the Marital Dissolution Mediation Program, supported in part by the Michigan State Bar Foundation, low-income parties who do not have an attorney have access to specially trained mediators. Seven Community Dispute Resolution centers offer this service.

Evaluation and Rules Update

In 2009, two SCAO committees studied various aspects of Michigan's mediation practice. The Mediation Confidentiality and Standards of Conduct Committee continued its assessment of possible revisions to the mediation confidentiality provisions of MCR 2.411 and MCR 3.216. The Statewide Mediator Roster Committee began assessing whether the current process for qualifying mediators at the local trial court level should be consolidated at the state level. Reports from both committees are expected in 2010.



The Michigan Supreme Court, in reviewing a number of proposed amendments to case evaluation and mediation court rules, has directed SCAO to conduct a study of the efficacy of case evaluation practice. SCAO began reviewing case evaluation practices in late 2009, and will conduct a formal comparative study of case evaluation and mediation in 2010.

SCAO also completed a national study of diversity practices at community mediation centers. This effort, focused on how mediators are trained in diversity competencies, will be used to develop a model diversity training curriculum in 2010.

OFFICE OF ACCESS AND FAIRNESS

In 2009, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly created the position of the Director of the Office of Access and Fairness for the Michigan Supreme Court. The office's goal is to support and promote statewide programming that advances access to justice and an open and fair legal system in Michigan. The director's position is fully funded through the Michigan State Bar Foundation Income on Lawyer's Trust Account monies.

The office has adopted an agenda that was approved by the Chief Justice in early December 2009 and will guide the office's mission into 2010. That agenda includes:

Judicial leadership and education. In conjunction with the 2009 Judicial Conference held in September, the office created and distributed to all Michigan judges a pro bono toolkit. This toolkit is part of a long-range plan to create resources and training for courts on access and fairness issues.

Collaboration between courts and external groups. Promote collaboration among all stakeholders on access and fairness issues, with a special emphasis on promoting a relationship between the courts and groups that are deeply interested in those issues.

Public resources and communications. Promote awareness of access to justice issues through on-line information, print and electronic publications, and other information sources.

Court interpreters. Determine whether new legislation and court rules are needed to revise current interpreter standards for Michigan, and clarify the rights and responsibilities attached to them. Assist the Supreme Court and SCAO in identifying financial resources to address issues related to language interpretation and limited English proficiency.

Jury representation. Help develop and promote programs to encourage participation in the jury process, with particular focus on potential jurors in under-represented communities.

Uniform standards for indigent representation. Draft a court rule that will establish and enforce uniform standards for indigent representation in both civil and criminal matters. Topics will include determining indigency, waiver practices and policies, fees, costs and fines, and penalties for failure to pay.

Access for self-represented litigants. Help develop statewide programming that provides direct services for the self-represented.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Michigan Supreme Court is Michigan's court of last resort, with final authority over all state courts. In 2009, 2,224 cases were filed with the Supreme Court, which disposed of 2,240 cases. Civil cases accounted for 31 percent of filings and criminal cases accounted for 69 percent. More Supreme Court information can be found on pages 28 and 29 of this report.

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. In 2009, 6,257 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals; the Court disposed of 6,810 cases. More Court of Appeals information can be found on pages 30 through 32 of this report.

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases, such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions. In addition, circuit courts hear appeals from other courts and from administrative agencies. In 2009, 309,920 cases were filed in circuit courts, which disposed of 314,493 cases. More circuit court information can be found on pages 33 through 49 of this report.

The probate court has jurisdiction over cases involving the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. In 2009, 62,128 cases were filed in probate courts, which disposed of 63,053 cases. More probate court information can be found on pages 50 through 57 of this report.

The district court has jurisdiction over all civil litigation up to \$25,000, small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, civil infractions, most traffic violations, and a range of criminal cases. In 2009, 2.9 million cases and nearly half a million parking tickets were filed in and disposed of by district courts. More district court information can be found on pages 58 through 71 of this report.

In addition to filings and dispositions, this report provides clearance rates, which measure the extent to which courts are keeping up with incoming caseload. Clearance rates are calculated by dividing the number of outgoing cases (cases disposed of or made inactive) by the number of incoming cases (cases filed or reopened) during the year. Because of the passage of time between case filing and disposition, clearance rates naturally fluctuate to a small extent above and below 100 percent. A clearance rate over 100 percent indicates that more cases were disposed of than were filed or reopened during the year; similarly, a clearance rate under 100 percent shows that there were more incoming cases than outgoing cases.

SUPREME COURT

The Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan's court of last resort, consists of seven justices who are elected for eight-year terms. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan for at least 5 years, and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The justices' salaries are fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state of Michigan. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices elect a member of the Court as chief justice.

Each year, the Michigan Supreme Court receives over 2,000 new case filings. Most are applications for leave to appeal from Michigan Court of Appeals decisions, but the Court also hears cases involving charges of professional misconduct by attorneys and judges and a small number of matters in which it has original jurisdiction. All cases are reviewed and considered by the entire Court. The justices are assisted by the Supreme Court commissioners, the Court's permanent research staff. The Court issues a decision by order or opinion in all cases filed. The Court may deny leave to appeal, enter a final order based upon the application, or hear oral argument before issuing an opinion or order. By court rule, all leave granted cases orally argued in a term (which begins August 1 and runs through July 31 of the following year) must be decided by the end of the term.

In 2009, 2,224 cases were filed in the Supreme Court; the Court disposed of 2,240 cases, resulting in a clearance rate of 101 percent. Filings and dispositions were relatively high in 2007; by 2009, both decreased by 15 percent. As of December 31, 2009, the number of cases pending was 855.

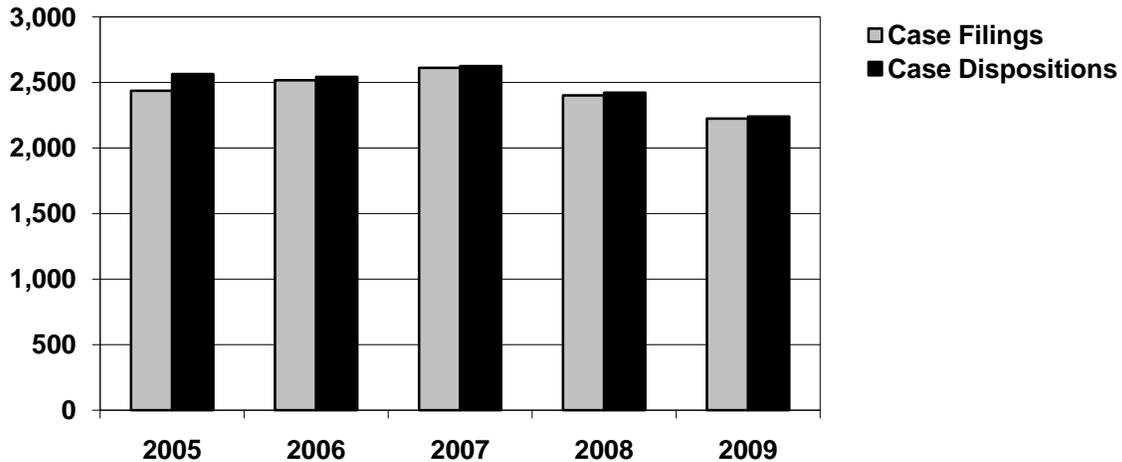
Of the 2,224 filings, criminal cases accounted for 69 percent, civil cases accounted for 29 percent, and civil suits brought by prisoners accounted for 2 percent. Of the new cases in 2009, 55 percent were filed by self-represented litigants and 45 percent were filed by an attorney.



Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. Seated, left to right: Justice Michael F. Cavanagh, Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, Justice Elizabeth A. Weaver. Standing, left to right: Justice Stephen J. Markman, Justice Maura D. Corrigan, Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., Justice Diane M. Hathaway. Photo by Doug Elbinger, Elbinger Studios.

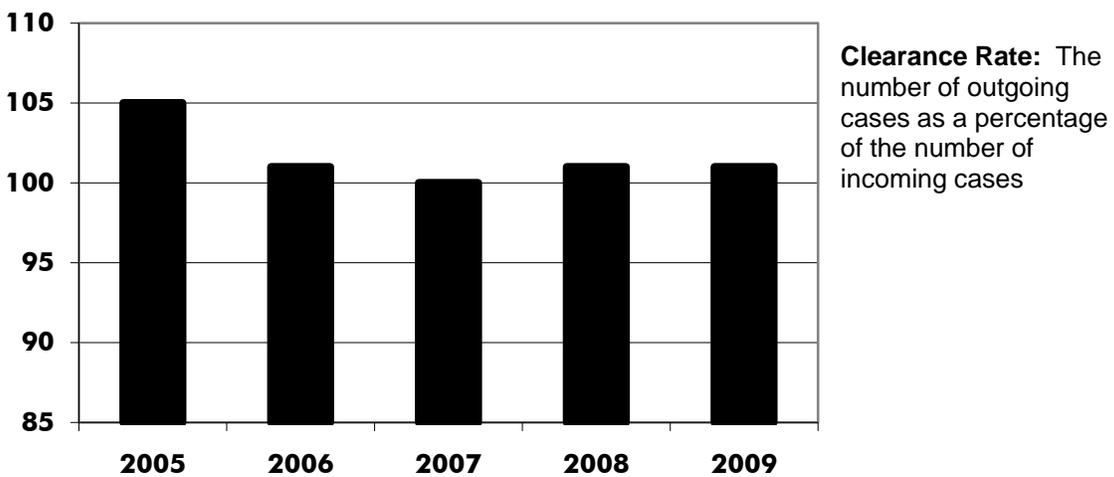
SUPREME COURT CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Case Filings	2,437	2,517	2,612	2,402	2,224
Case Dispositions	2,564	2,543	2,625	2,422	2,240



SUPREME COURT CLEARANCE RATE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Clearance Rate	105	101	100	101	101



COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The Court of Appeals' practices and procedures are governed by the Michigan Court Rules, which are established by the Supreme Court. Court of Appeals judges' salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer admitted to practice for at least 5 years, under 70 years of age at the time of election, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Judges are elected from four districts, which are drawn by the Legislature along county lines. The districts are, as nearly as possible, of equal population. The Legislature may change state law to increase the number of judges and alter the districts from which they are elected.

Each Court of Appeals panel is composed of three judges. Panels generally hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Marquette, or another place the chief judge designates. Judges are rotated so that each judge sits with every other judge with equal frequency and panels are rotated geographically so that all judges hear cases in each of the Court's locations.

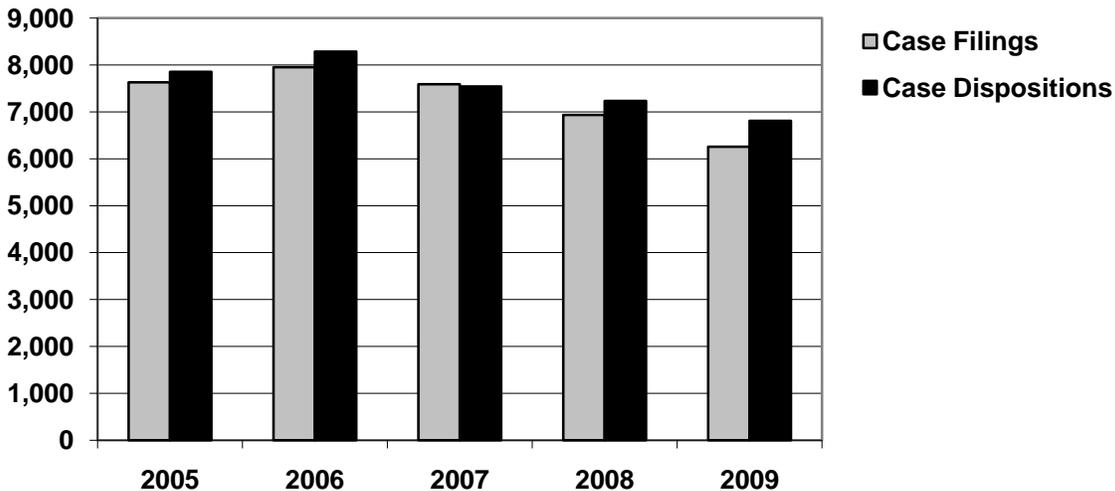
The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense other than by a guilty plea have an appeal by right under the state constitution.



Front row, left to right: Judge Jane E. Markey, Judge Richard A. Bandstra, Judge E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Chief Judge Pro Tem David H. Sawyer, Chief Judge William B. Murphy, Judge Mark J. Cavanagh, Judge Henry William Saad, Judge Joel P. Hoekstra. Middle row, left to right: Judge Christopher M. Murray, Judge Donald S. Owens, Judge Kurtis T. Wilder, Judge Peter D. O'Connell, Judge Michael J. Talbot, Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly, Judge Brian K. Zahra, Judge Pat M. Donofrio, Judge William C. Whitbeck. Last row, left to right: Judge Cynthia D. Stephens, Judge Douglas B. Shapiro, Judge Jane M. Beckering, Judge Stephen L. Borrello, Judge Karen M. Fort Hood, Judge Alton T. Davis, Judge Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Judge Michael J. Kelly. Missing: Judge Kathleen Jansen, Judge Patrick M. Meter, and Judge Deborah A. Servitto. *Photo by Dave Trumpie, Trumpie Photography.*

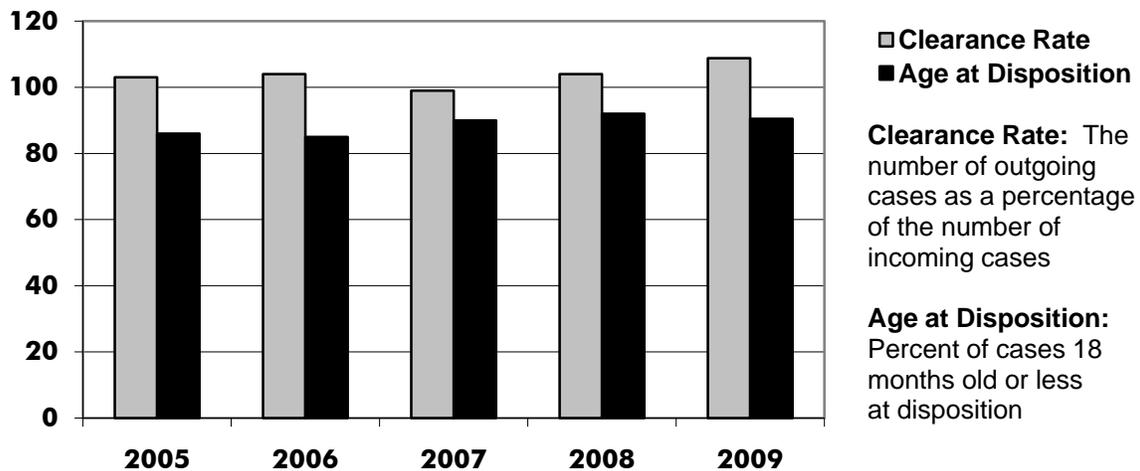
COURT OF APPEALS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Case Filings	7,629	7,951	7,590	6,936	6,257
Case Dispositions	7,853	8,283	7,543	7,232	6,810



COURT OF APPEALS CLEARANCE RATE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Clearance Rate	103	104	99	104	109
Age at Disposition	86	85	90	92	90



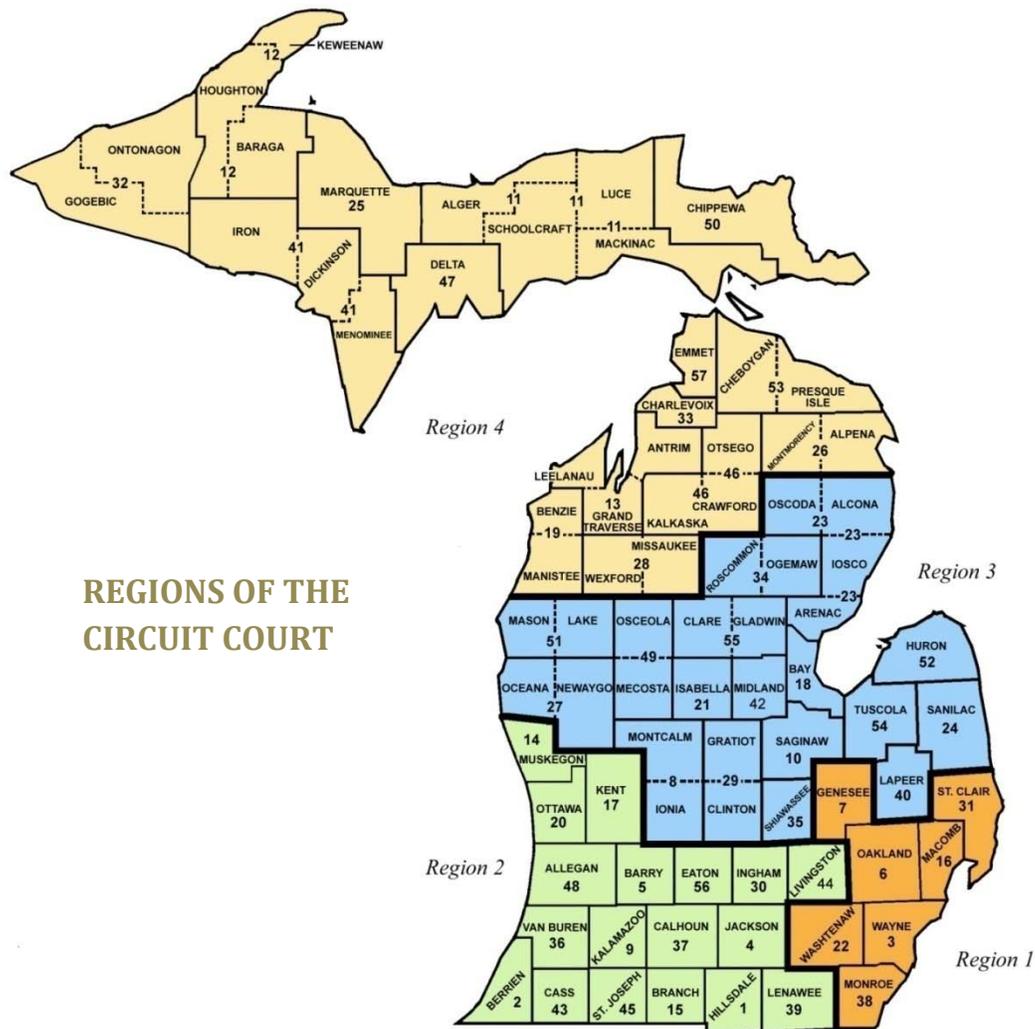
CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan, presiding in all actions except those given by state law to another court.

The circuit court's original jurisdiction over criminal cases includes felonies and certain serious misdemeanors, as well as civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or more. The court also handles family division matters, cases where a party seeks an equitable remedy, and appeals from other courts and administrative agencies

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate the circuit's workload. In multicounty circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

Circuit judges are elected to six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer admitted to practice for 5 years, and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The Legislature sets circuit judges' salaries.



CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

C01

Hon. Michael R. Smith

C02

Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh

Hon. John E. Dewane

Hon. John M. Donahue

Hon. Charles T. LaSata

C03

Hon. Deborah Ross Adams

Hon. David J. Allen

Hon. Wendy M. Baxter

Hon. Annette J. Berry

Hon. Gregory D. Bill

Hon. Susan D. Borman

Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin

Hon. Margie R. Braxton

Hon. Megan M. Brennan

Hon. Bill Callahan

Hon. James A. Callahan

Hon. Michael J. Callahan

Hon. Jerome C. Cavanagh

Hon. Eric W. Cholack

Hon. James R. Chylinski

Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.

Hon. Daphne Means Curtis

Hon. Christopher D. Dingell

Hon. Gershwin Allen Drain

Hon. Prentis Edwards

Hon. Charlene M. Elder

Hon. Vonda R. Evans

Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.

Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard

Hon. Sheila Ann Gibson

Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr.

Hon. David Alan Groner

Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr.

Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway

Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway

Hon. Daniel A. Hathaway

Hon. Michael M. Hathaway

Hon. Muriel D. Hughes

Hon. Thomas Edward Jackson

Hon. Vera Massey Jones

Hon. Connie M. Kelley

Hon. Mary Beth Kelly

Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny

Hon. Arthur J. Lombard

Hon. Kathleen I. Macdonald

Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy

Hon. Wade H. McCree

Hon. Bruce U. Morrow

Hon. John A. Murphy

Hon. Maria L. Oxholm

C03 (continued)

Hon. Linda V. Parker

Hon. Lynne A. Pierce

Hon. Lita Masini Popke

Hon. Daniel P. Ryan

Hon. Michael F. Sapala

Hon. Richard M. Skutt

Hon. Mark T. Slavens

Hon. Leslie Kim Smith

Hon. Virgil C. Smith

Hon. Jeanne Stempien

Hon. Craig S. Strong

Hon. Brian R. Sullivan

Hon. Deborah A. Thomas

Hon. Isidore B. Torres

Hon. Carole F. Youngblood

Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski

C04

Hon. Susan E. Beebe

Hon. John G. McBain, Jr.

Hon. Chad C. Schmucker

Hon. Thomas D. Wilson

C05

Hon. James H. Fisher

C06

Hon. James M. Alexander

Hon. Martha Anderson

Hon. Leo Bowman

Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan

Hon. Rae Lee Chabot

Hon. Mark A. Goldsmith

Hon. Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca

Hon. Nanci J. Grant

Hon. Shalina D. Kumar

Hon. Denise Langford-Morris

Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews

Hon. John James McDonald

Hon. Rudy J. Nichols

Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien

Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien

Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts

Hon. Edward Sosnick

Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr.

Hon. Joan E. Young

C07

Hon. Duncan M. Beagle

Hon. Joseph J. Farah

Hon. Judith A. Fullerton

Hon. John A. Gadola

Hon. Archie L. Hayman

Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut

Hon. David J. Newblatt

C07 (continued)

Hon. Michael J. Theile

Hon. Richard B. Yuille

C08

Hon. David A. Hoort

Hon. Suzanne Kreeger

C09

Hon. Gary C. Giguere, Jr.

Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz

Hon. J. Richardson Johnson

Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet

Hon. Alexander C. Lipsey

C10

Hon. Janet M. Boes

Hon. Fred L. Borchard

Hon. William A. Crane

Hon. Darnell Jackson

Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek

C11

Hon. William W. Carmody

C12

Hon. Charles R. Goodman

C13

Hon. Thomas G. Power

Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

C14

Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.

Hon. Timothy G. Hicks

Hon. William C. Marietti

Hon. John C. Ruck

C15

Hon. Patrick W. O'Grady

C16

Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr.

Hon. Richard L. Caretti

Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski

Hon. Diane M. Druzinski

Hon. John C. Foster

Hon. Peter J. Maceroni

Hon. Donald G. Miller

Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.

Hon. Mark S. Switalski

Hon. Matthew S. Switalski

Hon. Antonio P. Viviano

Hon. David Viviano

Hon. Tracey A. Yokich

C17

Hon. George S. Buth

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

C17 *(continued)*

Hon. Kathleen A. Feeny
Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III
Hon. Dennis B. Leiber
Hon. Steven M. Pestka^R
(left the court 7/13/09)
Hon. James R. Redford
Hon. Paul J. Sullivan
Hon. Mark A. Trusock
Hon. Christopher P. Yates
Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis

C18

Hon. William J. Caprathe
Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt
Hon. Joseph K. Sheeran

C19

Hon. James M. Batzer

C20

Hon. Calvin L. Bosman
Hon. Jon H. Hulsing
Hon. Edward R. Post
Hon. Jon Van Allsburg

C21

Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain
Hon. Mark H. Duthie

C22

Hon. Archie Cameron Brown
Hon. Timothy P. Connors
Hon. Melinda Morris
Hon. Donald E. Shelton
Hon. David S. Swartz

C23

Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron
Hon. William F. Myles

C24

Hon. Donald A. Teeple

C25

Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi
Hon. Thomas L. Solka

C26

Hon. Michael G. Mack

C27

Hon. Anthony A. Monton
Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

C28

Hon. William M. Fagerman

C29

Hon. Michelle M. Rick

C29 *(continued)*

Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen

C30

Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina
Hon. Laura Baird
Hon. William E. Collette
Hon. Joyce Draganchuk
Hon. James R. Giddings
Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
Hon. Paula J.M. Manderfield

C31

Hon. James P. Adair
Hon. Peter E. Deegan
Hon. Daniel J. Kelly

C32

Hon. Roy D. Gotham

C33

Hon. Richard M. Pajtas

C34

Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner

C35

Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco

C36

Hon. William C. Buhl
Hon. Paul E. Hamre

C37

Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht
Hon. James C. Kingsley
Hon. Stephen B. Miller
Hon. Conrad J. Sindt

C38

Hon. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
Hon. Michael A. Weipert

C39

Hon. Margaret Murray-Sholz Noe
Hon. Timothy P. Pickard

C40

Hon. Michael P. Higgins
Hon. Nick O. Holowka

C41

Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind
Hon. Richard J. Celeslo

C42

Hon. Michael J. Beale
Hon. Jonathan E. Lauderbach

C43

Hon. Michael E. Dodge

C44

Hon. Michael P. Hatty*
(joined the court 6/18/09)
Hon. Stanley J. Latreille^R
(left the court 4/3/09)
Hon. David Reader

C45

Hon. Paul E. Stutesman

C46

Hon. Janet M. Allen
Hon. Dennis F. Murphy

C47

Hon. Stephen T. Davis

C48

Hon. George R. Corsiglia
Hon. Kevin W. Cronin

C49

Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy
Hon. Ronald C. Nichols

C50

Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros

C51

Hon. Richard I. Cooper

C52

Hon. M. Richard Knoblock

C53

Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich

C54

Hon. Patrick Reed Joslyn

C55

Hon. Thomas R. Evans
Hon. Roy G. Mienk

C56

Hon. Thomas S. Eveland
Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven

C57

Hon. Charles W. Johnson

KEY

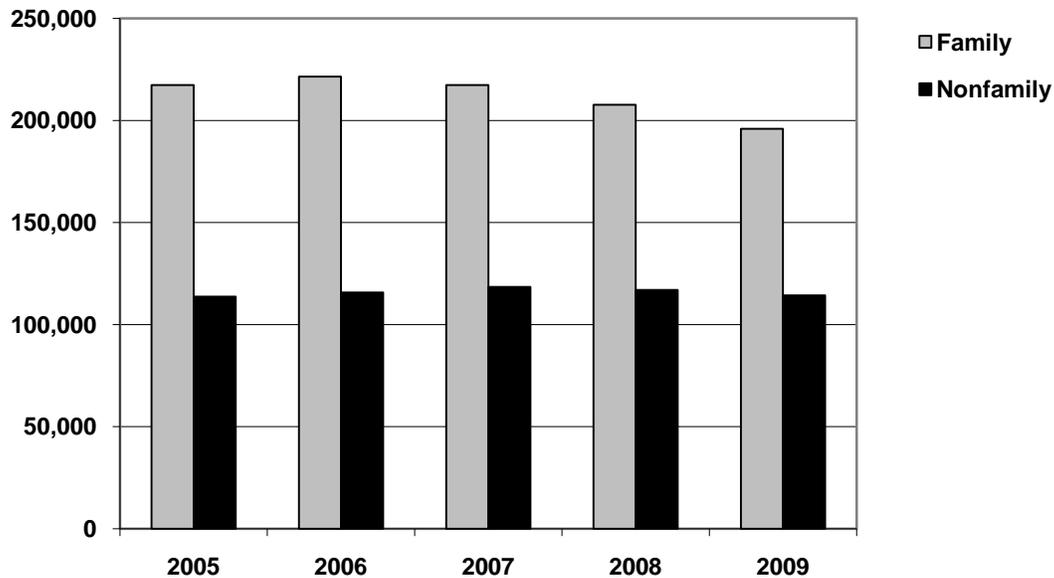
* Appointed to succeed another judge
A Appointed to another court
E Elected
F Deceased
R Retired
V Removed

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY DIVISION

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Family					
Domestic Relations	85,262	88,802	88,022	84,754	85,854
Personal Protection*	43,543	41,779	39,163	38,266	40,222
Juvenile Code*	79,621	82,243	81,456	75,812	61,239
Adoption	5,504	4,874	5,066	5,057	4,808
Miscellaneous Family	3,456	3,788	3,661	3,765	3,772
Total Family	217,386	221,486	217,368	207,654	195,895
Nonfamily					
Civil	44,740	44,988	46,089	46,216	47,300
Criminal	63,575	65,532	67,123	65,416	61,851
Appeals, Administrative Review, Writs	5,150	4,988	5,065	5,198	5,039
Court of Claims	225	186	177	153	150
Total Nonfamily	113,690	115,694	118,454	116,983	114,340
Total Filings	331,076	337,180	335,822	324,637	310,235

*Personal protection orders filed against a juvenile are included with Personal Protection filings, not Juvenile Code.

Circuit Court Filings by Division



In 2009, 310,235 cases were filed in circuit court. Of that total, 195,895 cases, or 63 percent, were family division filings, which include domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile code proceedings, adoption code proceedings, and miscellaneous family proceedings. The remaining 114,340 cases, representing 37 percent of filings, include civil, criminal, appeals, administrative, and court of claims cases, in addition to extraordinary writs. Nonfamily division filings have been

relatively stable; between 1999 and 2009, nonfamily division filings averaged 114,381. These nonfamily division cases, followed by those in the family division, are described in more detail in this section.

CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
General Civil	26,050	27,025	28,797	29,001	30,644
Auto Negligence	9,162	8,525	8,424	8,477	9,067
Nonauto Damage	7,436	7,006	6,134	5,967	5,235
Other Civil*	2,092	2,432	2,734	2,771	2,354
Total Filings	44,740	44,988	46,089	46,216	47,300

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
General Civil	28,162	28,066	29,129	29,505	31,224
Auto Negligence	10,141	9,716	9,184	9,260	8,708
Nonauto Damage	9,184	8,012	7,625	7,143	6,588
Other Civil*	2,045	2,400	2,758	2,720	2,362
Total Dispositions	49,532	48,194	48,696	48,628	48,882

*Other Civil includes proceedings to restore, establish, or correct records; claim and delivery; receivers in supplemental proceedings; supplemental proceedings; and miscellaneous proceedings.

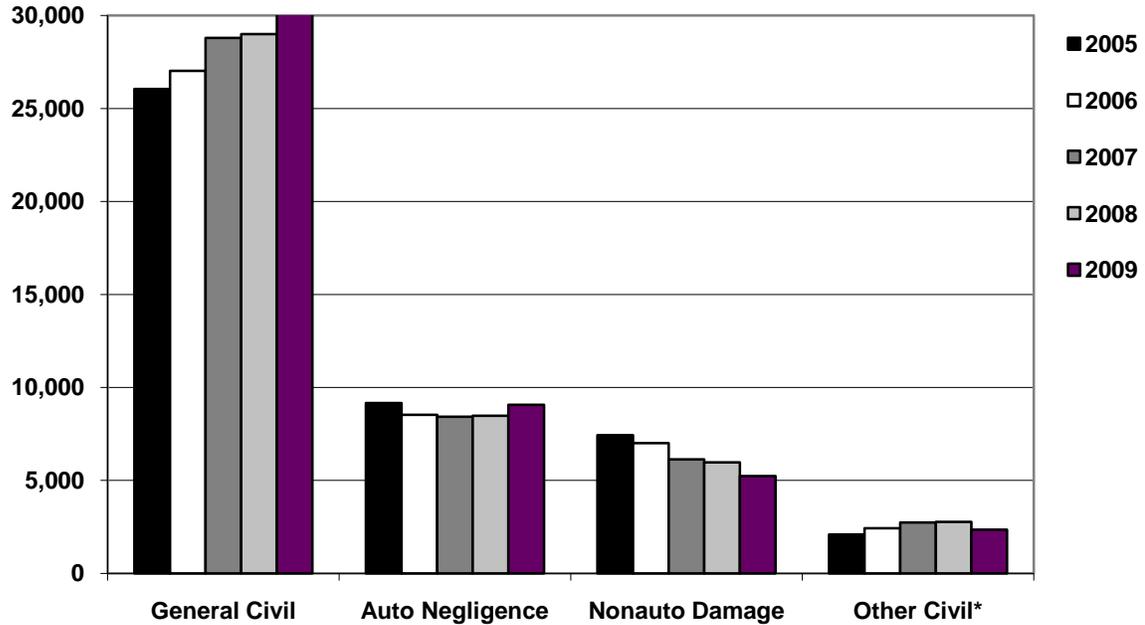
Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jury Verdict	487	525	432	305	369
Bench Verdict	563	419	423	437	383
Uncontested, Default, Settled	19,022	19,466	20,501	20,272	24,254
Dismissal by Party	17,893	17,193	16,276	12,625	13,005
Dismissal by Court	9,779	9,005	9,368	9,160	9,076
Other Dispositions*	1,788	1,586	1,696	5,829	1,795
Total Dispositions	49,532	48,194	48,696	48,628	48,882

*Other Dispositions includes cases transferred, cases that changed case type, and other dispositions not including cases made inactive.

In 2008, 47,300 of the nonfamily division filings in circuit court were general civil, auto negligence, nonauto damage, and other civil cases. Nonauto damage case filings have consistently decreased since 1999, when filings were at 11,464, to 2009, when filings dropped to 5,235.

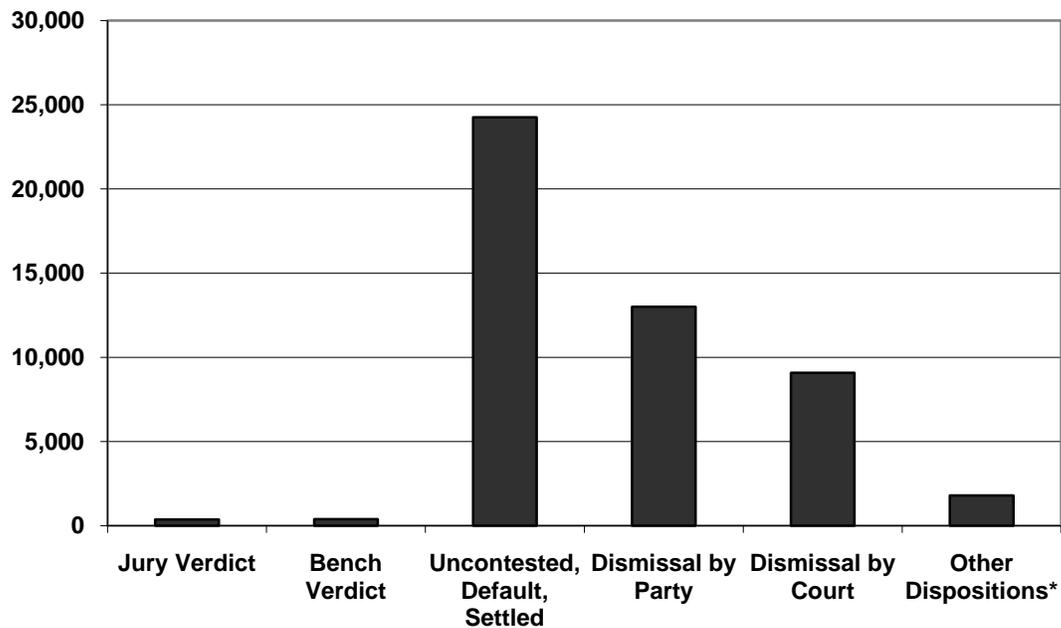
Over 22,000 civil cases were voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff or dismissed by the court for various reasons, including lack of progress, failure of the plaintiff to appear, and payment of an award under MCR 2.403(M). Defaults, consent judgments, settlements, or summary dispositions accounted for 24,254 dispositions. Less than 800 civil cases were resolved by a jury verdict or bench verdict.

Circuit Court Civil Case Filings



**Other Civil includes proceedings to restore, establish, or correct records; claim and delivery; receivers in supplemental proceedings; supplemental proceedings; and miscellaneous proceedings.*

2009 Circuit Court Civil Case Dispositions by Disposition Method



**Other Dispositions includes cases transferred, cases that changed case type, and other dispositions not including cases made inactive.*

CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Noncapital Filings	59,656	61,275	62,866	61,625	58,021
Capital Filings	3,818	4,160	4,158	3,675	3,694
Felony Juvenile	101	97	99	116	136
Total Filings	63,575	65,532	67,123	65,416	61,851

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Noncapital Dispositions	60,880	63,169	63,784	62,296	59,360
Capital Dispositions	3,903	4,298	4,245	3,820	3,788
Felony Juvenile	91	125	82	116	128
Total Dispositions	64,874	67,592	68,111	66,232	63,276

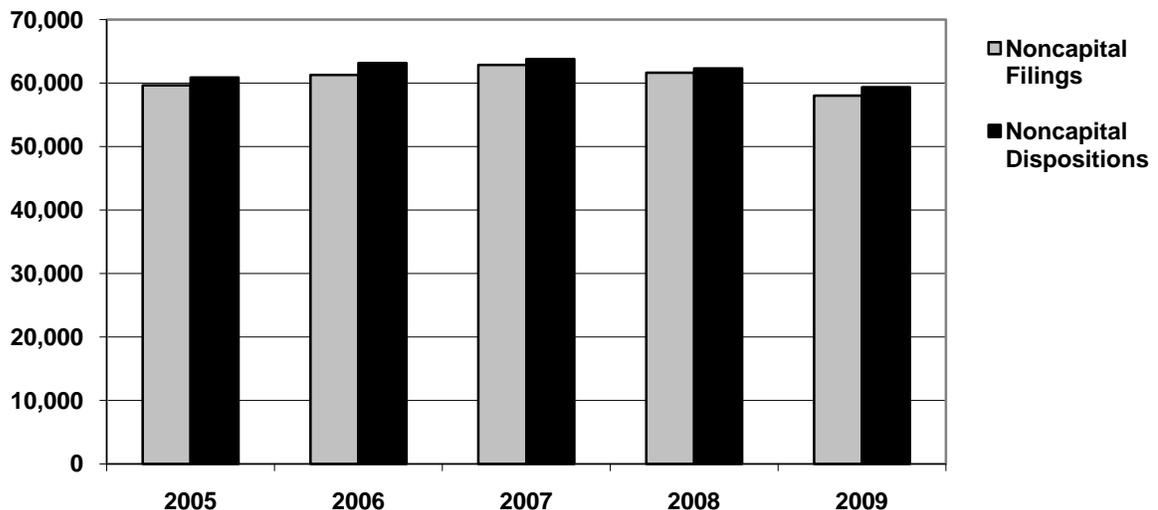
Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jury Verdict	1,858	1,830	1,814	1,588	1,491
Bench Verdict	862	1,075	904	728	592
Guilty Plea	52,498	55,758	56,838	55,111	52,493
Dismissal by Party	3,979	3,772	3,440	3,388	3,466
Dismissal by Court	2,076	2,205	2,228	2,480	2,424
Other Dispositions*	3,601	2,952	2,887	2,937	2,810
Total Dispositions	64,874	67,592	68,111	66,232	63,276

*Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.

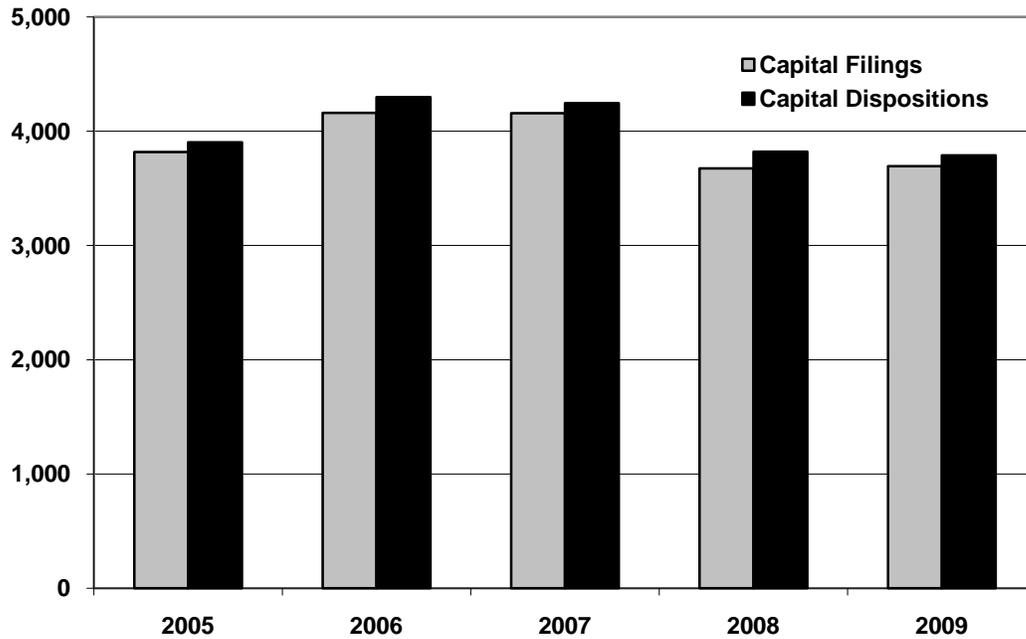
In 2009, 61,851 felony cases were filed in circuit court. Of these, 3,694 were capital felony cases and 58,021 were noncapital felony cases. One hundred thirty-six were felony cases against juvenile defendants.

Over 52,000 felony cases were disposed of by guilty plea. An additional 2,083 cases went to trial and a judge or jury returned a verdict.

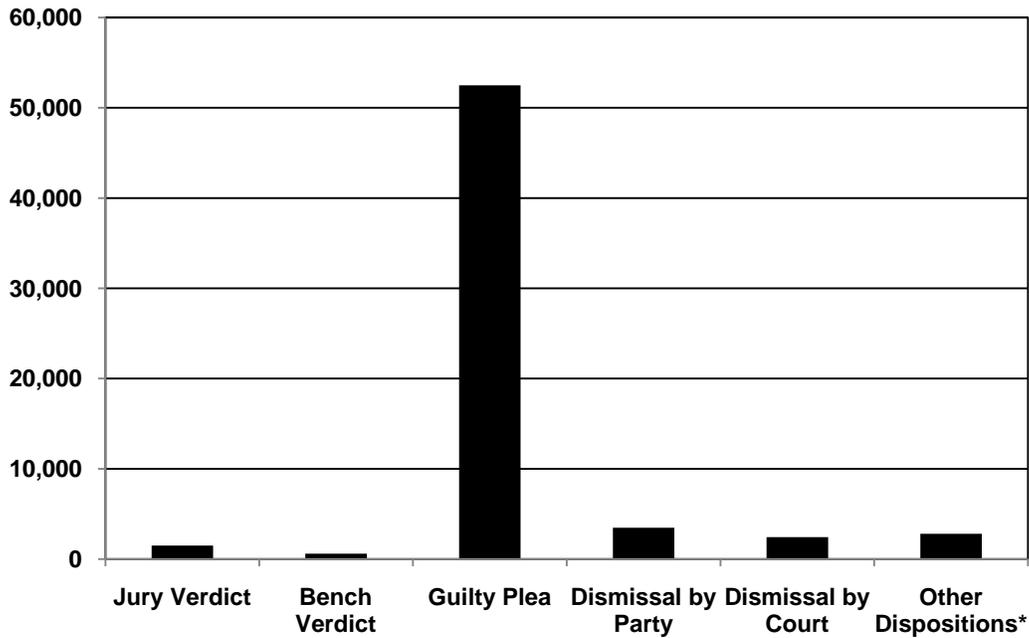
Circuit Court Noncapital Cases Filings and Dispositions



Circuit Court Criminal Capital Cases Filings and Dispositions



2009 Circuit Court Criminal Case Dispositions by Disposition Method



**Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.*

CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS, ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW, AND EXTRAORDINARY WRIT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Criminal Appeals	464	378	369	379	404
Civil Appeals	740	798	847	913	828
Agency Appeals and Reviews	2,609	2,505	2,497	2,525	2,463
Other	1,337	1,307	1,352	1,381	1,344
Total Filings	5,150	4,988	5,065	5,198	5,039

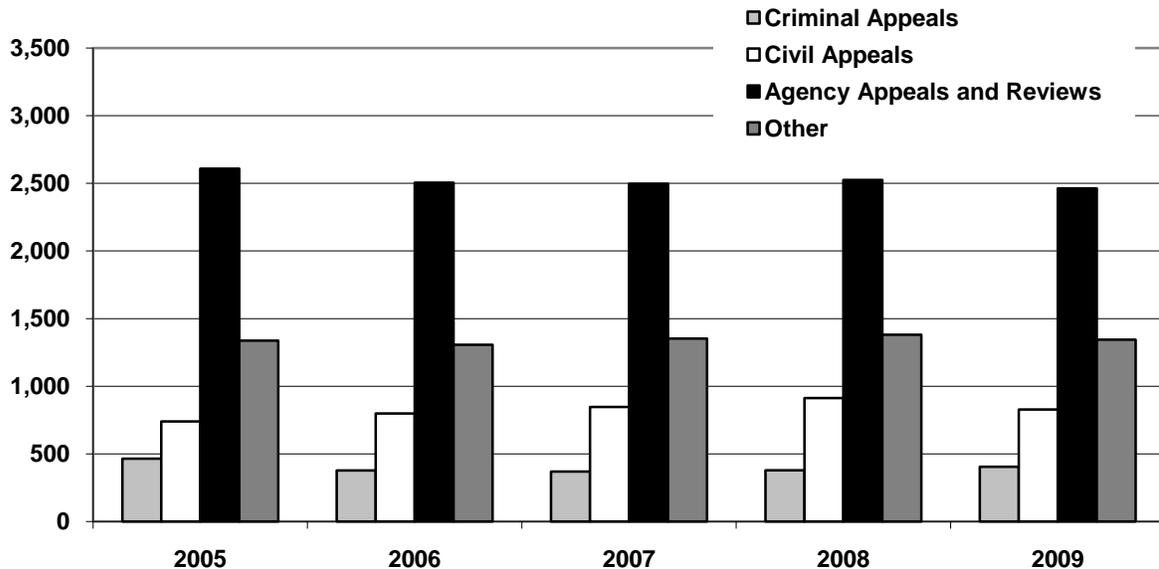
Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Criminal Appeals	436	435	366	342	387
Civil Appeals	794	783	840	1,001	832
Agency Appeals and Reviews	2,513	2,577	2,507	2,563	2,497
Other	1,326	1,337	1,330	1,341	1,378
Total Dispositions	5,069	5,132	5,043	5,247	5,094

Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Order Entered	3,114	3,070	3,058	3,083	2,996
Dismissed/Denied	1,827	1,944	1,882	2,056	1,948
Other Dispositions*	128	118	103	108	150
Total Dispositions	5,069	5,132	5,043	5,247	5,094

*Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.

In 2009, over 5,000 appeals, administrative cases, and extraordinary writs were filed in circuit court. In approximately 3,000 cases, the court entered an order other than dismissal or denial. Courts dismissed or denied almost all of the remaining cases.

Filings of Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs



In 2009, for the first time since 1999, there were fewer than 200,000 family division filings. The 195,895 cases filed in the family division of circuit court represented 63 percent of all circuit court filings. Family division filings include domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, adoption, and miscellaneous family.

CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

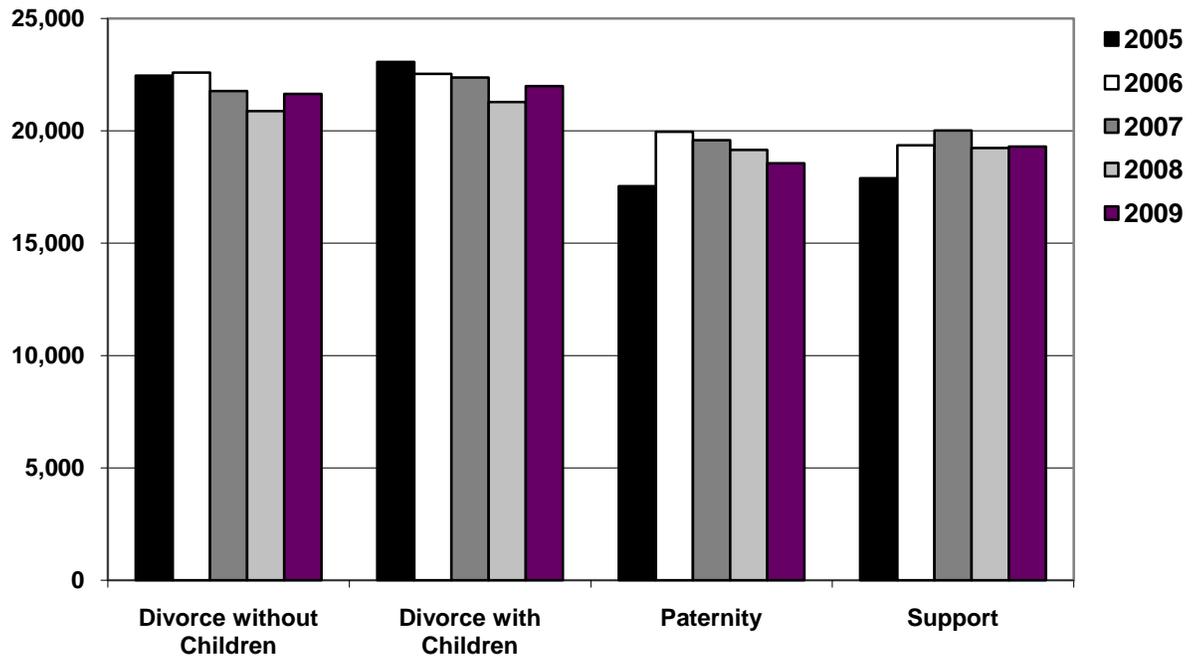
Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Divorce without Children	22,461	22,592	21,773	20,882	21,645
Divorce with Children	23,070	22,538	22,375	21,283	21,994
Paternity	17,541	19,960	19,583	19,149	18,560
Support	17,894	19,356	20,016	19,237	19,298
Other Domestic	3,018	3,119	3,089	3,067	3,161
UIFSA	1,278	1,237	1,186	1,136	1,196
Total Filings	85,262	88,802	88,022	84,754	85,854
Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Divorce without Children	23,126	23,296	22,686	21,958	21,469
Divorce with Children	24,264	24,002	23,511	22,975	22,071
Paternity	18,479	19,069	19,710	20,104	18,097
Support	19,201	18,961	19,600	19,707	18,819
Other Domestic	3,102	3,158	3,064	3,050	3,112
UIFSA	1,359	1,311	1,202	1,178	1,191
Total Dispositions	89,531	89,797	89,773	88,972	84,759
Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bench Verdict	1,339	1,456	1,342	1,139	1,107
Uncontested, Default, Settled	64,372	65,700	66,410	65,972	63,507
Dismissal by Party	6,955	7,292	6,585	6,403	5,847
Dismissal by Court	16,443	15,101	15,201	15,254	14,092
Other Dispositions*	422	248	235	204	206
Total Dispositions	89,531	89,797	89,773	88,972	84,759

*Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.

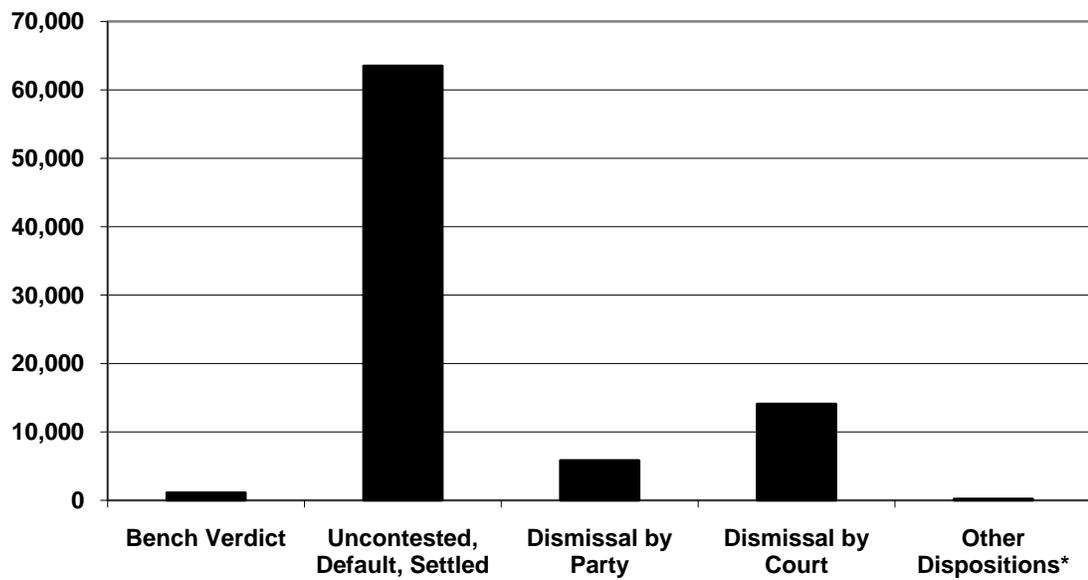
Domestic relations cases comprise 44 percent of the family division and include divorce, paternity, support, custody, and intrastate domestic relations filings.

In 2009, 63,507 domestic relations cases were disposed of by default, consent judgment, or settlement during trial; 1,107 were disposed of by a judge's verdict.

Circuit Court Domestic Relations Case Filings



2009 Circuit Court Domestic Relations Case Dispositions by Disposition Method



**Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.*

CIRCUIT COURT PERSONAL PROTECTION FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

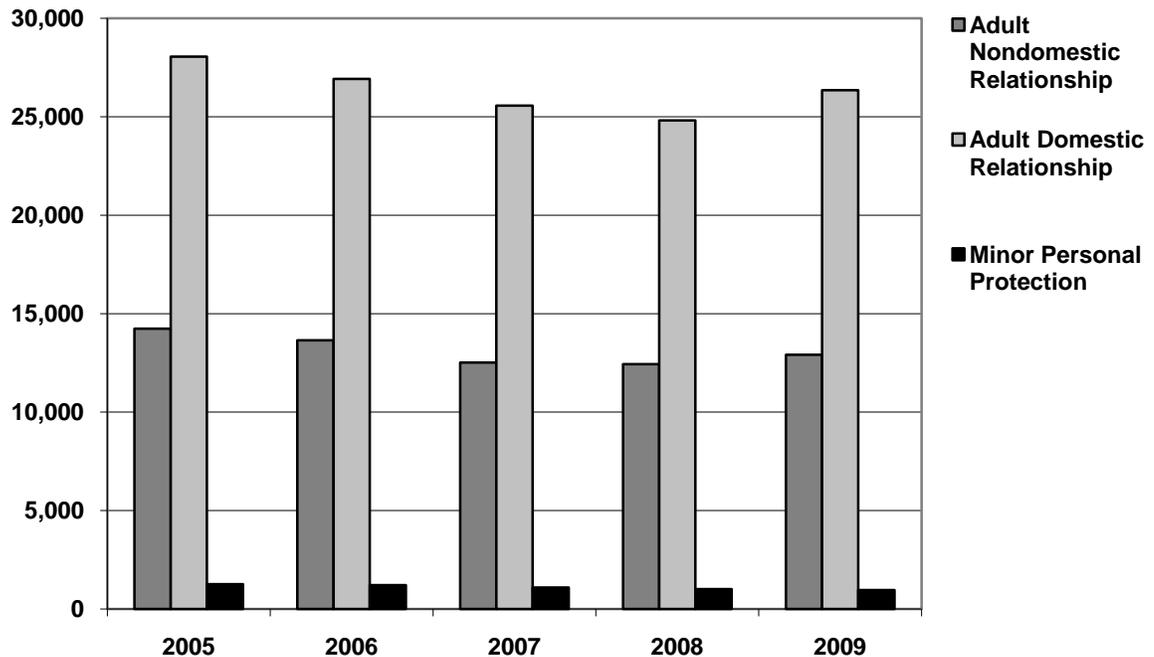
Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adult Nondomestic Relationship	14,233	13,647	12,513	12,437	12,914
Adult Domestic Relationship	28,053	26,921	25,562	24,816	26,350
Minor Personal Protection	1,257	1,211	1,088	1,013	958
Total Filings	43,543	41,779	39,163	38,266	40,222

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adult Nondomestic Relationship	14,945	14,206	13,061	12,969	13,516
Adult Domestic Relationship	29,593	28,062	26,581	25,743	27,534
Minor Personal Protection	1,236	1,237	1,115	1,028	989
Total Dispositions	45,774	43,505	40,757	39,740	42,039

In 2009, 40,222 petitions for personal protection were filed in circuit court. The filing party sought protection against adult domestic partners in 26,350 of these petitions; 12,914 were filed for protection against stalking by other adults. The remaining 989 were filed to obtain protection against minors.

In 22,680 petitions filed against adults, the court issued orders without a hearing; in 1,798 petitions, the court issued orders after a hearing. The court dismissed or denied 13,319 petitions without a hearing and 2,055 petitions after a hearing.

Circuit Court Personal Protection Petition Filings



CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER JUVENILE CODE

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Delinquency	56,024	56,906	53,930	49,147	44,713
Traffic	15,121	16,869	19,380	18,636	9,398
Child Protective	8,323	8,306	7,988	7,824	6,975
Designated	153	162	158	205	153
Total Filings	79,621	82,243	81,456	75,812	61,239

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Delinquency	56,226	56,911	55,735	51,569	46,756
Traffic	13,866	15,230	18,932	18,332	8,830
Child Protective	7,583	8,012	7,935	7,773	6,830
Designated	135	162	151	179	145
Total Dispositions	77,810	80,315	82,753	77,853	62,561

Juveniles Under Supervision	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Supervised by the Court	12,986	13,172	12,799	12,475	11,386
Supervised by DCJ of Wayne County	2,632	3,193	3,050	2,890	2,493
Supervised by DHS	1,171	1,199	938	764	687
Total Juveniles	16,789	17,564	16,787	16,129	14,566

DCJ: Department of Community Justice

DHS: Michigan Department of Human Services

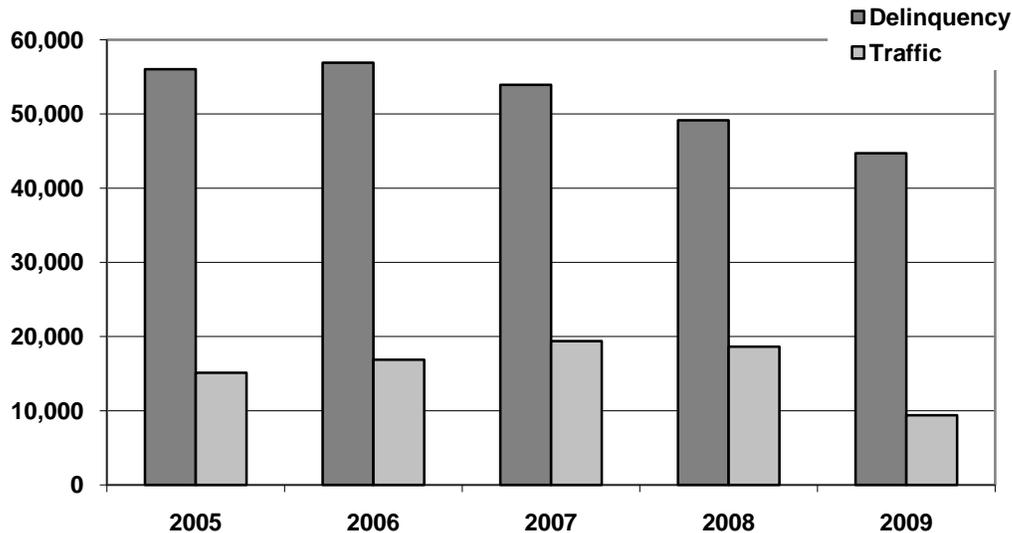
In 2009, 153 new juvenile offense cases were designated to be heard in the same manner as adult criminal cases. In 100 of the cases disposed, the court accepted the juvenile's plea; seven cases went to trial and a judge or jury returned a verdict; 20 were dismissed upon a prosecutor's motion; and 17 were dismissed by the court.

Delinquency case filings continued to decrease. In 2009, 44,713 delinquency cases were filed, compared to 60,743 in 1999. In 15,167 cases, the court accepted the juvenile's plea; 1,102 cases went to trial and a judge or jury returned a verdict.

At the close of 2009, 14,566 juveniles were under court jurisdiction because of delinquency proceedings. Of those, 11,386 were supervised by the circuit court, 2,493 were supervised by the Wayne County Department of Community Justice, and 687 were supervised by the Department of Human Services. An additional 7,982 juveniles not already under court supervision were awaiting adjudication.

A total of 9,398 juvenile traffic tickets were filed in 2009. The court dismissed 3,244 of these tickets and accepted the juvenile's guilty plea in 3,081 cases. An additional 2,334 were not authorized by the court or referred for alternative services.

Circuit Court Petitions Filed Under Juvenile Code



CIRCUIT COURT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH NEW FILINGS

<u>Filings</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Cases	8,323	8,306	7,988	7,824	6,975
Children	12,925	13,080	12,493	11,859	10,653

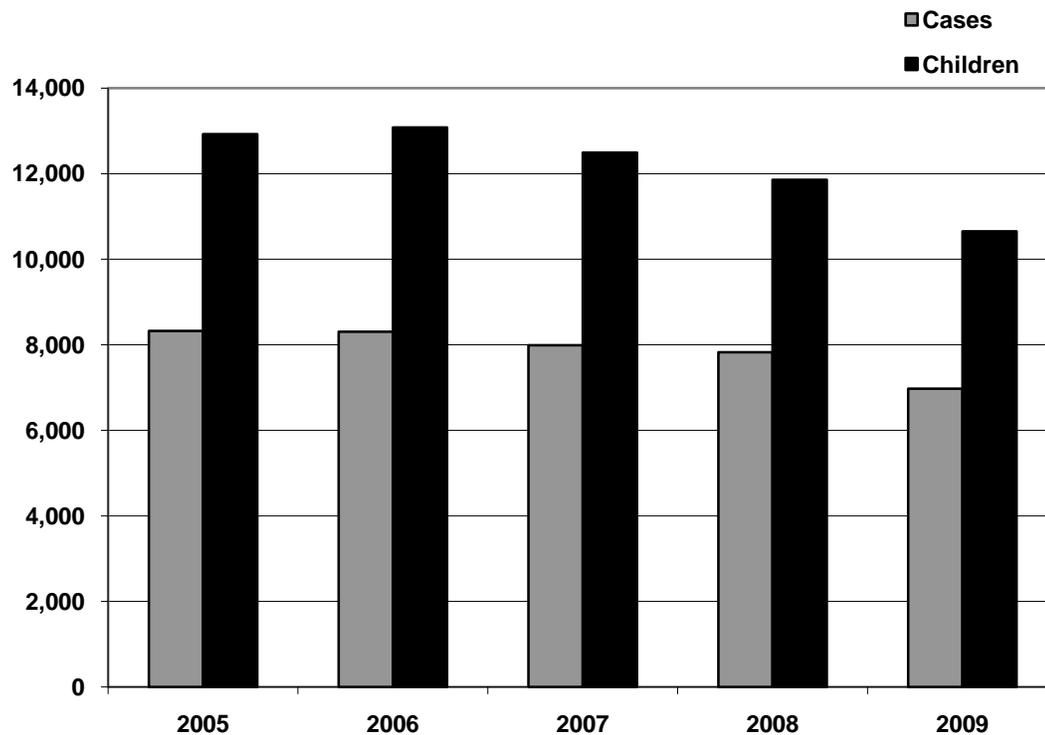
In 2009, 6,975 child abuse and neglect petitions were filed with the circuit court, fewer than in any year since 1999. In 3,982 cases, the court accepted a plea of admission. In 1,099 cases, a trial was held and a judge or jury returned a verdict. An additional 1,172 cases were dismissed by the court or withdrawn by the petitioner.

Of the 10,653 children associated with new child protective filings in 2009, 870 had previously been under court jurisdiction.

Termination of parental rights petitions totaled 2,618 and involved 4,319 children. Of these, 1,157 were filed as part of original or amended petitions and 1,461 were filed as supplemental petitions. There were an additional 873 supplemental petitions, involving 1,167 children, related to child protective cases; these petitions were filed for reasons other than termination.

At the close of 2009, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 16,602 children as a result of child protective proceedings. Of that number, 11,080 were temporary wards of the court, 5,426 were permanent wards of the court or the Michigan Children's Institute, and 96 were temporary wards who were ordered to the Michigan Children's Institute for observation. An additional 2,274 children were awaiting adjudication and were not yet under court jurisdiction.

Circuit Court Child Protective Case Filings and Children Associated with New Filings



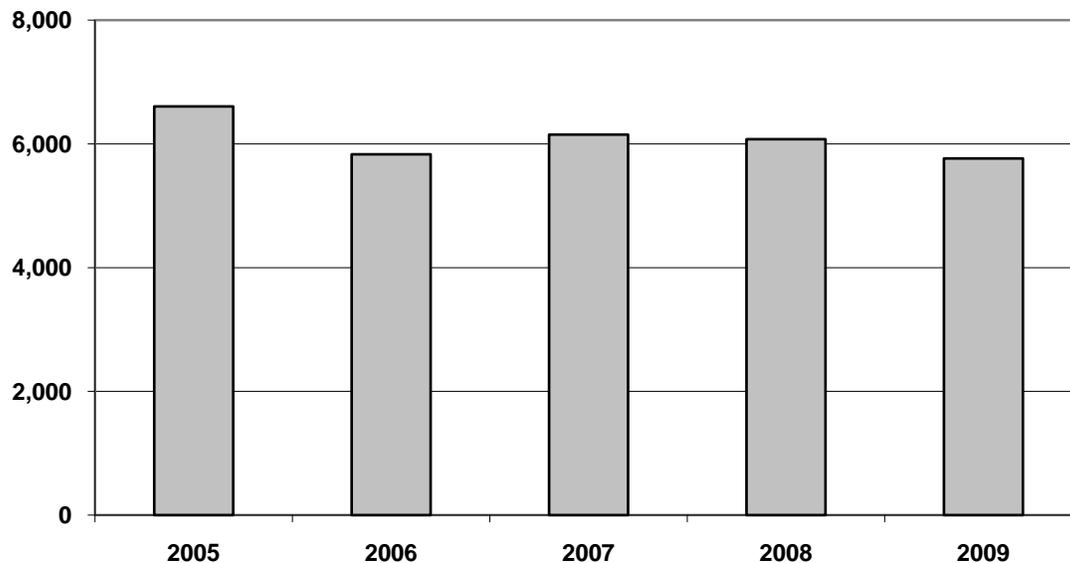
CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER ADOPTION CODE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adoption Filings	5,504	4,874	5,066	5,057	4,808
Requests for Release of Adoption Information	773	734	853	780	760
Petitions for Appointment of Confidential Intermediary	329	226	234	240	199
Adoptions Finalized	5,383	4,595	4,632	4,806	4,462
Adoption Dispositions	5,777	4,937	4,982	5,129	4,768

In 2009, 4,808 petitions for adoption were filed and 4,462 were finalized. Circuit courts received 760 requests for the release of adoption information and 199 petitions for the appointment of a confidential intermediary. These requests and petitions are included in the bar graph.

Note: The statistics provided in the Chief Justice's letter on Page 1 and the Child Welfare Services Division on Page 8 are specific to adoptions through the child welfare system. The statistics on this page pertain to all types of adoptions, including adult adoptions, international agency adoptions, step-parent adoptions, and other private adoptions.

Circuit Court Petitions Filed Under the Adoption Code



CIRCUIT COURT MISCELLANEOUS FAMILY CASE FILINGS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Waiver of Parental Consent	535	381	389	415	315
Name Change	2,449	2,845	2,665	2,779	2,732
Emancipation of Minor	69	83	55	54	52
Infectious Disease	8	11	4	4	2
Safe Delivery of New Born	7	7	13	12	14
Out-of-County Personal Protection Violations Orders	38	34	43	42	33
Ancillary	350	427	492	459	624
Total Filings	3,456	3,788	3,661	3,765	3,772

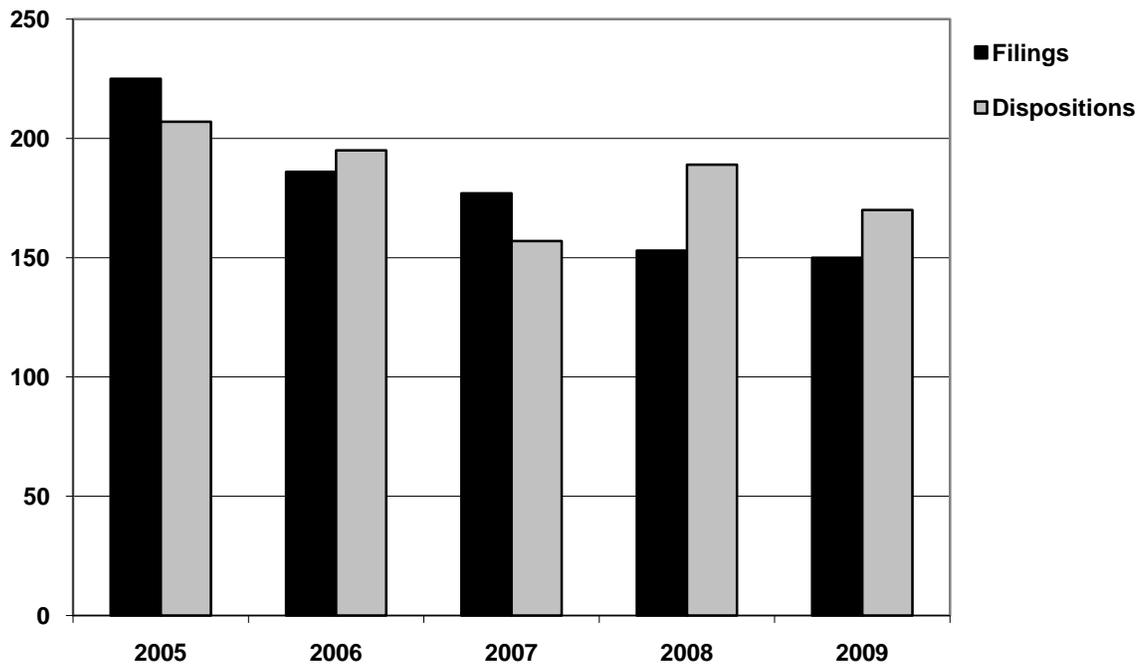
Miscellaneous family division filings include name change petitions, proceedings under the Minors and Emancipation Act, and proceedings under the Safe Delivery of Newborns Act. Also included are Public Health Code proceedings for treating or testing for infectious diseases, and personal protection order violations heard by a court in a different county than the one that issued the order.

COURT OF CLAIMS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Filings	225	186	177	153	150
Dispositions	207	195	157	189	170

The Court of Claims, a function of the 30th Circuit Court of Ingham County, has jurisdiction over claims against the state or any of its departments. In 2009, 150 cases were filed with the Court of Claims. Of these cases, 58 were related to state taxes. The Court of Claims also hears highway defect, medical malpractice, contracts, constitutional claims, prisoner litigation, and other claims for damages.

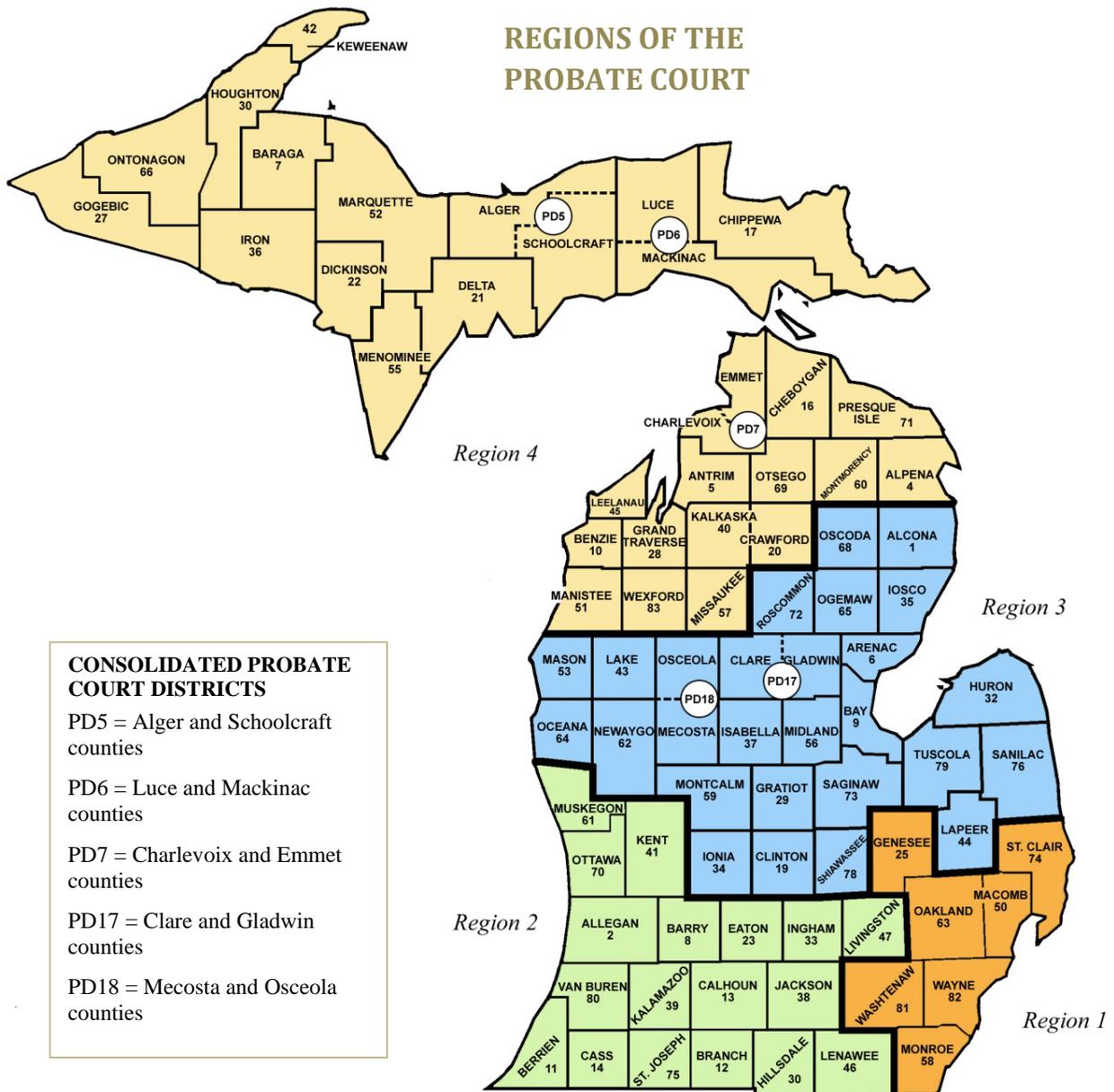
Court of Claims Case Filings and Dispositions



PROBATE COURT

The probate court has jurisdiction over cases that involve the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Each county has its own probate court, with the exception of 10 northern counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts. Each of those probate court districts has one judge. Other probate courts have one or more judges. Probate judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets probate judges' salaries.



PROBATE COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

P01 Alcona County

Hon. Laura A. Frawley

PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties

Hon. Charles C. Nebel*
(joined the court 3/17/09)

P03 Allegan County

Hon. Michael L. Buck

P04 Alpena County

Hon. Thomas J. LaCross

P05 Antrim County

Hon. Norman R. Hayes

P06 Arenac County

Hon. Jack William Scully^R
(left the court 5/25/09)
Hon. Richard E. Vollbach, Jr.*
(joined the court (12/22/09))

P07 Baraga County

Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

P08 Barry County

Hon. William M. Doherty

P09 Bay County

Hon. Karen Tighe

P10 Benzie County

Hon. Nancy A. Kida

P11 Berrien County

Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield
Hon. Thomas E. Nelson

P12 Branch County

Hon. Frederick L. Wood

P13 Calhoun County

Hon. Phillip E. Harter
Hon. Gary K. Reed

P14 Cass County

Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

P16 Cheboygan County

Hon. Robert John Butts

P17 Chippewa County

Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

P19 Clinton County

Hon. Lisa Sullivan

P20 Crawford County

Hon. Monte Burmeister

P21 Delta County

Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

P22 Dickinson County

Hon. Thomas D. Slagle

P23 Eaton County

Hon. Michael F. Skinner

P25 Genesee County

Hon. Jennie E. Barkey
Hon. F. Kay Behm*
(joined the court 5/11/09)

P27 Gogebic County

Hon. Joel L. Massie

P28 Grand Traverse County

Hon. David L. Stowe

P29 Gratiot County

Hon. Jack T. Arnold

P30 Hillsdale County

Hon. Michael E. Nye

P31 Houghton County

Hon. Fraser T. Strome*
(joined the court 3/20/09)

P32 Huron County

Hon. David L. Clabuesch

P33 Ingham County

Hon. R. George Economy
Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia

P34 Ionia County

Hon. Robert Sykes, Jr.

P35 Iosco County

Hon. John D. Hamilton

P36 Iron County

Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

P37 Isabella County

Hon. William T. Ervin

P38 Jackson County

Hon. Diane M. Rappleye

P39 Kalamazoo County

Hon. Curtis J. Bell
Hon. Patricia N. Conlon
Hon. Donald R. Halstead

P40 Kalkaska County

Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

P41 Kent County

Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter
Hon. Patricia D. Gardner
Hon. G. Patrick Hillary
Hon. David M. Murkowski

P42 Keweenaw County

Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

P43 Lake County

Hon. Mark S. Wickens

P44 Lapeer County

Hon. Justus C. Scott

P45 Leelanau County

Hon. Joseph E. Deegan^F
(left the court 7/23/09)

P46 Lenawee County

Hon. Gregg P. Iddings*
(joined the court 4/13/09)

P47 Livingston County

Hon. Carol Hacket Garagiola

PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties

Hon. W. Clayton Graham

P50 Macomb County

Hon. Kathryn A. George
Hon. Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan

P51 Manistee County

Hon. Thomas N. Brunner

P52 Marquette County

Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

P53 Mason County

Hon. Mark D. Raven

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge

A Appointed to another court

E Elected

F Deceased

R Retired

V Removed

PROBATE COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties

Hon. LaVail E. Hull^R
(left the court 12/31/09)

P55 Menominee County

Hon. William A. Hupy

P56 Midland County

Hon. Dorene S. Allen

P57 Missaukee County

Hon. Charles R. Parsons

P58 Monroe County

Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.
Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

P59 Montcalm County

Hon. Charles W. Simon, III

P60 Montmorency County

Hon. John E. Fitzgerald

P61 Muskegon County

Hon. Neil G. Mullally
Hon. Gregory C. Pittman

P62 Newaygo County

Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

P63 Oakland County

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore
Hon. Daniel A. O'Brien
Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti

P64 Oceana County

Hon. Bradley G. Lambrix

P65 Ogemaw County

Hon. Shana A. Lambourn

P66 Ontonagon County

Hon. Janis M. Burgess*
(joined the court 1/25/10)
Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik^R
(left the court 7/31/09)

P68 Oscoda County

Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

P69 Otsego County

Hon. Michael K. Cooper

P70 Ottawa County

Hon. Mark A. Feyen

P71 Presque Isle County

Hon. Donald J. McLennan

P72 Roscommon County

Hon. Douglas C. Dosson

P73 Saginaw County

Hon. Faye M. Harrison
Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

P74 St. Clair County

Hon. Elwood L. Brown
Hon. John Tomlinson

P75 St. Joseph County

Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

P76 Sanilac County

Hon. R. Terry Maltby

P78 Shiawassee County

Hon. James R. Clatterbaugh

P79 Tuscola County

Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr.

P80 Van Buren County

Hon. Frank D. Willis

P81 Washtenaw County

Hon. Nancy Cornelia Francis
Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien

P82 Wayne County

Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher
Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr.
Hon. Judy A. Hartsfield
Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.
Hon. Cathie B. Maher
Hon. Martin T. Maher
Hon. David J. Szymanski
Hon. Frank S. Szymanski

P83 Wexford County

Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma

KEY

- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Elected
- F Deceased
- R Retired
- V Removed

PROBATE COURT FILINGS BY DIVISION

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Estates and Trusts	25,476	24,391	23,892	23,950	23,997
Guardianships, Conservatorships, and Protective Proceedings	22,357	22,143	21,528	21,593	21,374
Mental Health and Judicial Admission	13,877	14,556	15,265	14,993	15,852
Civil and Miscellaneous	900	1,051	946	923	905
Total Filings	62,610	62,141	61,631	61,459	62,128

In 2009, 62,128 cases were filed in probate courts, which disposed of 63,053 cases. Of the cases filed in 2009, 23,997 were estates and trusts; 21,374 were guardianships, conservatorships, and protective proceedings; 15,852 were mental health and judicial admission cases; and 905 were civil and miscellaneous filings.

PROBATE COURT TRUST AND ESTATE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Supervised Administration	661	535	610	432	620
Unsupervised Administration	17,417	16,687	16,287	16,370	16,115
Small Estates	6,371	6,048	5,942	6,061	6,046
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts					
Testamentary	1,008	1,098	1,034	1,078	1,198
Determination of Heirs	19	23	19	9	18
Total Filings	25,476	24,391	23,892	23,950	23,997
Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Supervised Administration	733	645	581	517	552
Unsupervised Administration	17,840	17,205	16,631	16,704	16,305
Small Estates	6,607	6,335	6,227	6,408	6,372
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts					
Testamentary	822	949	866	953	1,016
Determination of Heirs	16	18	20	5	16
Total Dispositions	26,018	25,152	24,325	24,587	24,261
Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Petition Granted	25,580	24,635	23,862	24,062	23,712
Petition Denied	58	71	66	84	104
Petition Withdrawn, Dismissed	324	393	344	394	381
Other Dispositions*	56	53	53	47	64
Total Dispositions	26,018	25,152	24,325	24,587	24,261

*Other Dispositions includes orders determining testacy or heirs, cases transferred, and cases that changed case type.

In 2009, probate courts were asked to supervise the administration of 620 new decedent estates. New filings of unsupervised and non-administered decedent estates totaled 16,115; new filings of small estates, where the gross estate assets do not exceed \$15,000, totaled 6,046. In 2009, 135 testamentary trusts, which take effect on the settler's death, and 1,063 inter vivos trusts, which are operative during the settler's lifetime, were filed in probate court. Probate courts received and registered 190 trusts. Probate courts also received and filed wills for safekeeping and delivered wills after the testator's death but before the opening of any estate case. These wills totaled 9,440 in 2009.

Over 38,000 estates and trusts were active in 2009. As of December 31, 2009, 39,055 estate and trusts cases were active in probate courts. During the course of 2009, probate courts supervised 2,253 estate cases.

PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP, CONSERVATORSHIP, AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Guardianships*	16,624	16,730	16,434	16,559	16,571
Conservatorships*	5,255	4,983	4,588	4,545	4,355
Protective Proceedings	478	430	506	489	448
Total Filings	22,357	22,143	21,528	21,593	21,374

*Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships. Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Guardianships*	16,303	16,677	16,171	16,613	16,318
Conservatorships*	5,179	4,993	4,545	4,423	4,272
Protective Proceedings	434	391	483	456	413
Total Dispositions	21,916	22,061	21,199	21,492	21,003

*Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships. Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.

Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Petition Granted	17,967	18,054	17,358	17,646	17,053
Petition Denied	270	304	311	346	393
Petition Withdrawn, Dismissed	3,366	3,527	3,400	3,388	3,374
Other Dispositions**	313	176	130	112	183
Total Dispositions	21,916	22,061	21,199	21,492	21,003

**Other Dispositions includes cases transferred and cases that changed case type.

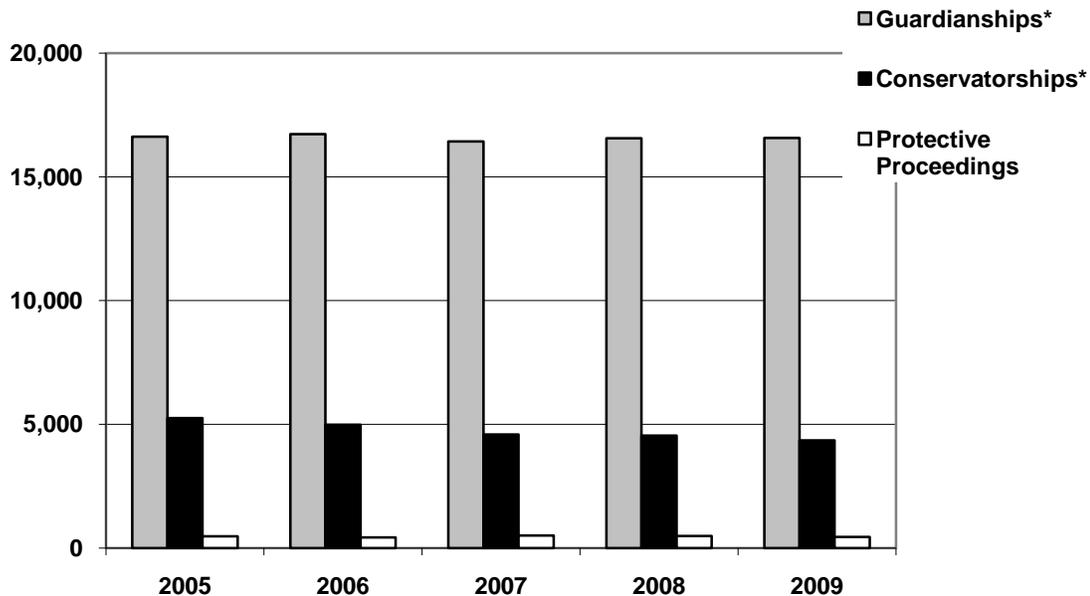
In 2009, probate courts received 7,575 new petitions involving full guardianship and 176 new petitions involving limited guardianship of an incapacitated adult. For minors, 4,514 new petitions were filed in probate court for full guardianship and 1,705 new petitions were filed in probate court for limited guardianship. Probate courts also received 2,601 new petitions for guardianship of an adult or minor with a developmental disability. An additional 476 new petitions for guardianship were filed in the family division of circuit court as ancillary proceedings.

The number of persons under a guardianship exceeded 76,000 in 2009. As of December 31, 2009, those under guardianship included 29,199 adults, 25,173 minors, and 22,627 persons with a developmental disability.

In 2009, probate courts received 3,175 new petitions for adult conservatorship and 1,180 new petitions for minor conservatorship. Filed separately were 448 protective orders requested under the Estates and Protected Individuals Code. An additional 50 new petitions for conservatorships were filed in the family division of circuit court as ancillary proceedings.

The number of persons under a conservatorship in 2009 exceeded 23,000. As of December 31, 2009, there were 13,299 adults and 10,619 minors under a conservatorship.

Filings for Probate Court Guardianships, Conservatorships, and Protective Proceedings



**Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships. Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.*

PROBATE COURT MENTAL HEALTH PROCEEDINGS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

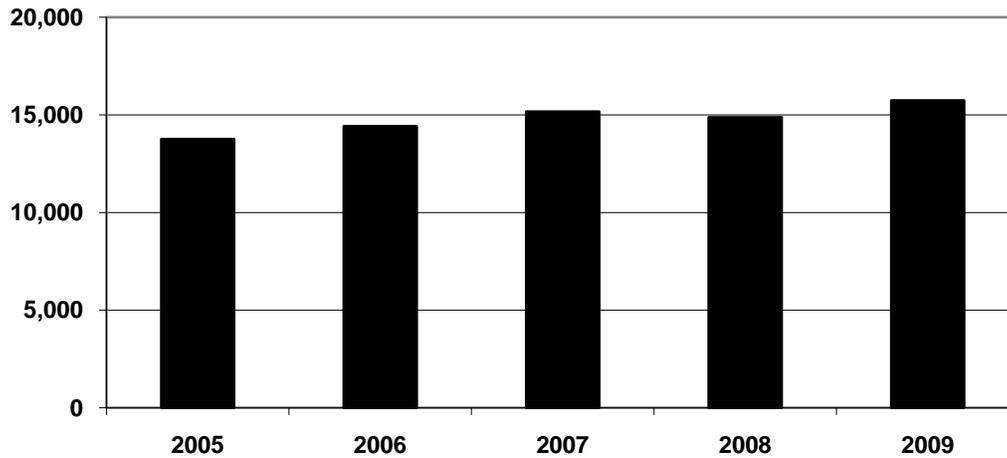
Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mental Illness	13,758	14,421	15,165	14,877	15,740
Judicial Admission	119	135	100	116	112
Total Filings	13,877	14,556	15,265	14,993	15,852

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Mental Illness	14,244	15,399	16,276	15,998	16,819
Judicial Admission	112	122	96	111	102
Total Dispositions	14,356	15,521	16,372	16,109	16,921

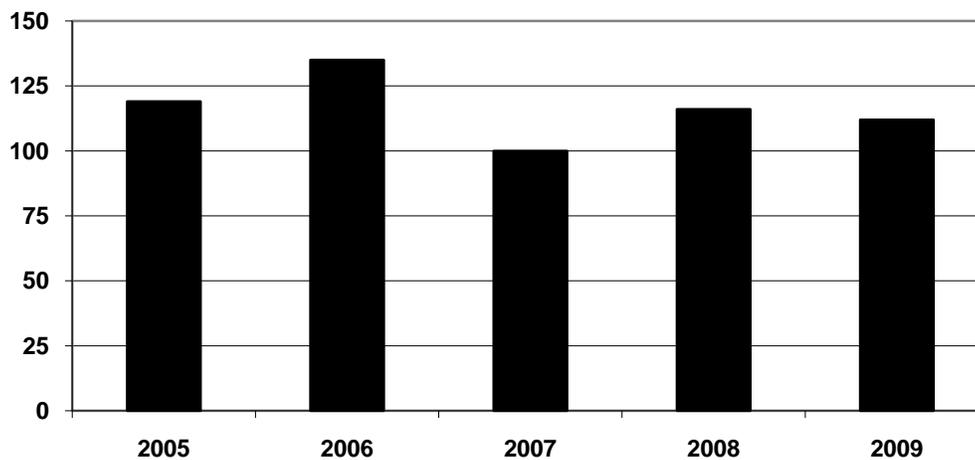
In 2009, 15,740 petitions were filed in probate court under the Mental Health Code. Of these, 88 were for assisted outpatient treatment. An additional 97 petitions under the Mental Health Code were filed in the family division of circuit court as ancillary proceedings. Probate courts also received 600 subsequent petitions for a second order of commitment and 1,862 subsequent petitions for a continuing order of commitment. Supplemental petitions for court-ordered examination on an application for hospitalization and petitions for court-ordered transportation of a minor totaled 2,907.

One hundred and twelve new petitions and objections involving judicial admission of individuals with developmental disabilities were filed in probate court.

Probate Court Mental Illness Petition Filings



Probate Court Judicial Admission Petition Filings



PROBATE COURT CIVIL AND MISCELLANEOUS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Civil	381	457	362	321	329
Miscellaneous*	519	594	584	602	576
Total Filings	900	1,051	946	923	905
Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Civil	390	349	398	373	327
Miscellaneous*	496	576	566	586	541
Total Dispositions	886	925	964	959	868

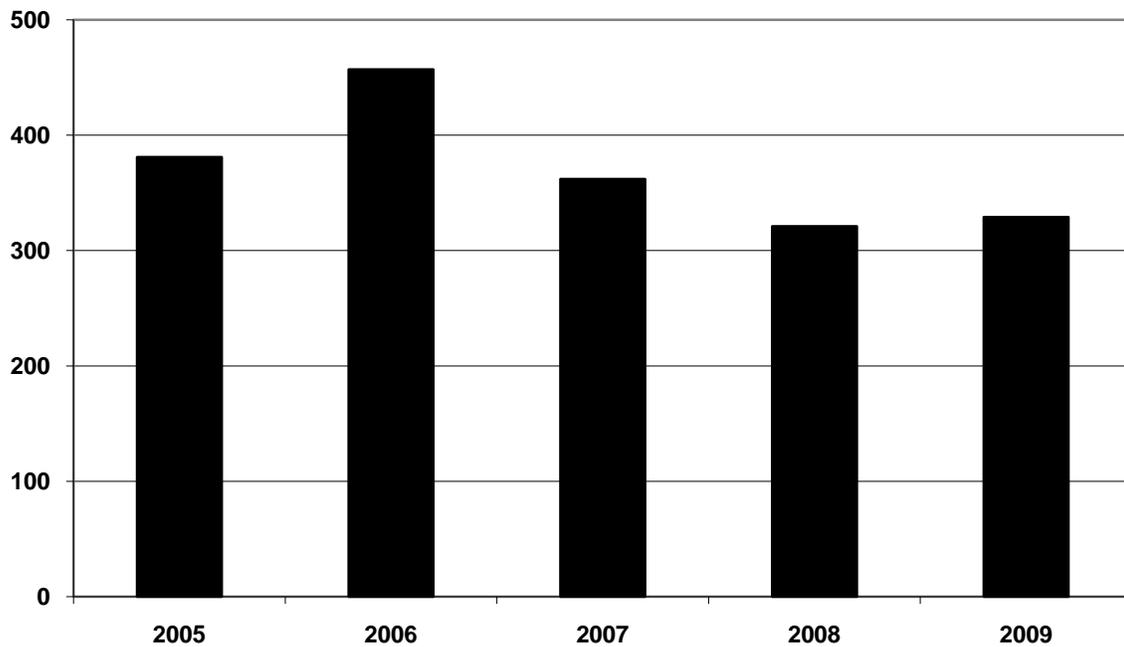
*Miscellaneous includes death by accident/disaster, filings of letters by foreign personal representative, kidney transplants, review of drain commissioner, review of mental health financial liability, etc.

In 2009, 329 civil actions were filed in probate court. These included all actions filed by a fiduciary against another and all actions filed by a claimant after notice that the claim has been disallowed. Probate courts disposed of 327 civil actions, including 128 where the case was resolved by settlement, consent judgment, summary disposition, or default. Seventy-eight civil actions were dismissed by the court and 101 were voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff.

There were also 576 miscellaneous matters for judicial or administrative action filed in probate court. These include appeals, petitions seeking judicial decisions regarding death by accident or disaster, filing of letters by foreign personal representative, kidney transplants, lost instruments, opening of safe deposit box, review of adoption subsidy, review of drain commissioner proceedings, review of mental health financial liability, secret marriage licenses, substance abuse treatment of minor, support of poor persons, and petitions brought under the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act.

Probate courts also received 432 motions to establish delayed registration of foreign birth by court order.

Probate Court Civil Case Filings



DISTRICT COURT

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” because the public has more contact with the district court than with any other court in the state, and because many people go to district court without an attorney.

The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court’s small claims division handles cases in which the amount in controversy is \$3,000 or less. Small claims litigants represent themselves; they waive their right to be represented by an attorney, as well as the right to a jury trial. They also waive evidence rules and any right to appeal the district judge’s decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the court’s general civil division, where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the decision may be appealed to the district judge.

Civil infractions are offenses formerly considered criminal, but decriminalized by statute or local ordinance, with no jail penalty associated with the offense. The most common civil infractions are minor traffic matters, such as speeding, failure to stop or yield, careless driving, and equipment and parking violations. Some other violations in state law or local ordinance may be decriminalized, such as land-use rules enforced by the Department of Natural Resources and blight or junk violations. In contrast to criminal cases, where the burden of proof is “beyond a reasonable doubt,” the burden of proof for a civil infraction is by a preponderance of the evidence. Most civil infractions are handled in an informal hearing before a district court magistrate, although a judge may hear the case by request or on appeal. There is no jury trial for a civil infraction.

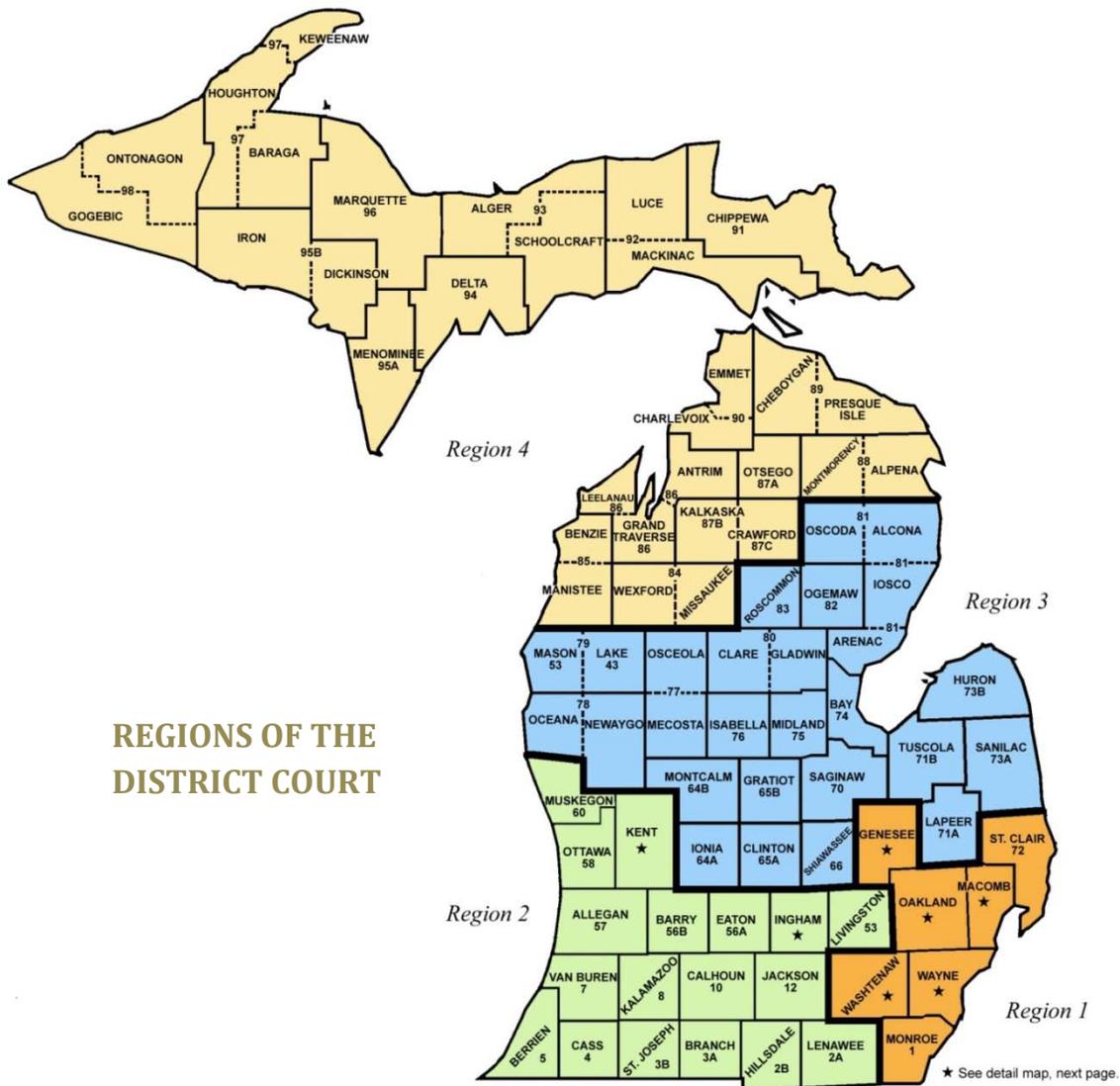
District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors, offenses for which the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In misdemeanor cases, the district court judge arraigns the defendant, sets and accepts bail, presides at the trial, and sentences the defendant. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. The district courts also handle extraditions to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who cannot afford a lawyer and may go to jail if convicted.

District court clerks may, with a judge’s approval, accept admissions of responsibility to civil infractions, guilty pleas to certain misdemeanor violations, and payments to satisfy judgments. Indeed, as a general rule, people who come to district court are more likely to interact with court staff than with a judge, particularly on traffic civil infractions where the offender does not request a hearing. Clerks provide a variety of district court forms for the public at little to no cost, but may not give legal advice. By law, district courts provide information to various state agencies, such as the Secretary of State (motor vehicle violations) and the Michigan State Police (criminal convictions).

District courts can place offenders on probation; most district courts have a probation department to monitor offenders' compliance with the court-ordered conditions of their probation. Courts can order offenders to pay fines, attend classes, and receive treatment or counseling. With some exceptions, probation cannot exceed two years.

District judges have statutory authority to appoint district court magistrates. Magistrates may issue search warrants and arrest warrants when authorized by the county prosecutor or municipal attorney. They may also conduct arraignments and set bail, accept guilty pleas to some offenses, and sentence most traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations, as well as animal, game, and marine violations. If the district court magistrate is an attorney licensed in Michigan, the magistrate may also hear small claims cases. At the chief judge's direction, the magistrate may perform other duties as provided by state law.

District judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets district judges' salaries.

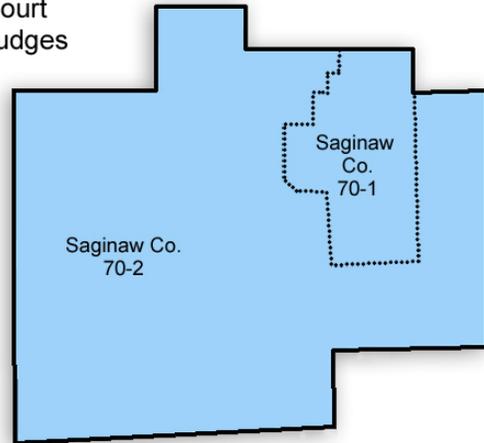


1ST CLASS DISTRICT COURT

Detail map for Saginaw County

Saginaw

1 Court
6 Judges



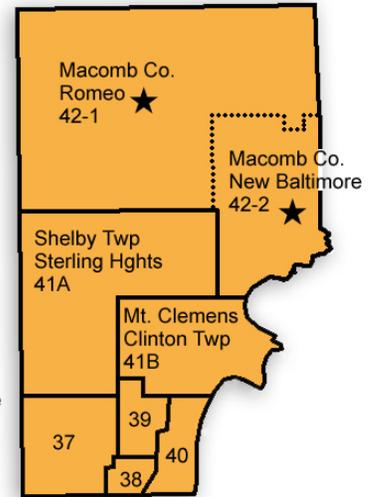
2ND AND 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURTS

Detail map for Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties

★ Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

Macomb

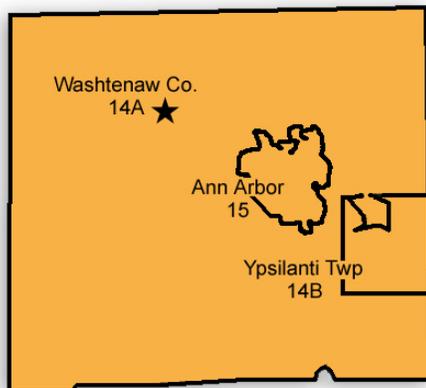
7 Courts
19 Judges



37 Warren, Center Line
38 Eastpointe
39 Fraser, Roseville
40 St. Clair Shores

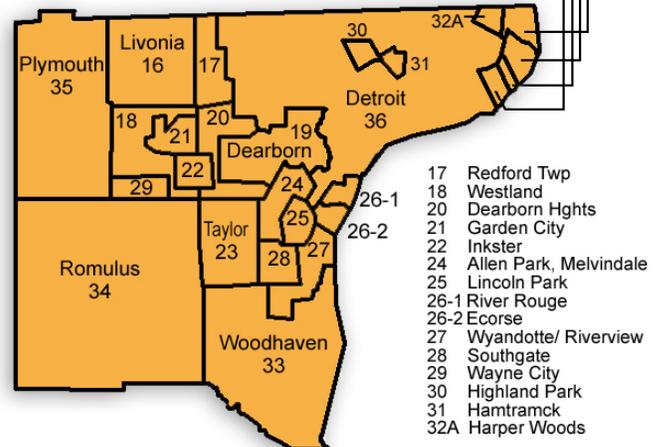
Washtenaw

3 Courts
7 Judges



Wayne

25 Courts
65 Judges



Municipal Courts

Grosse Pointe Woods
Grosse Pointe Farms
Grosse Pointe City
Grosse Pointe Park

17 Redford Twp
18 Westland
20 Dearborn Hghts
21 Garden City
22 Inkster
24 Allen Park, Melvindale
25 Lincoln Park
26-1 River Rouge
26-2 Ecorse
27 Wyandotte/ Riverview
28 Southgate
29 Wayne City
30 Highland Park
31 Hamtramck
32A Harper Woods

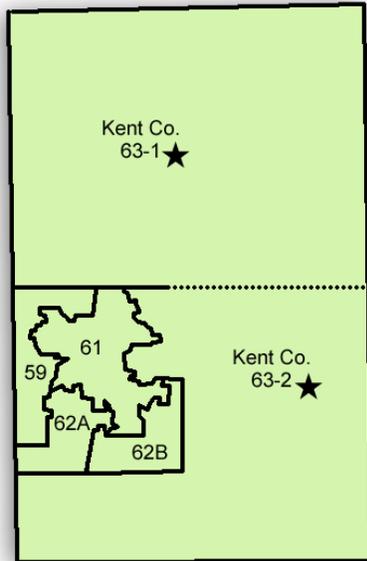
2ND AND 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURTS

Detail map for Genesee, Ingham, Kent, and Oakland counties

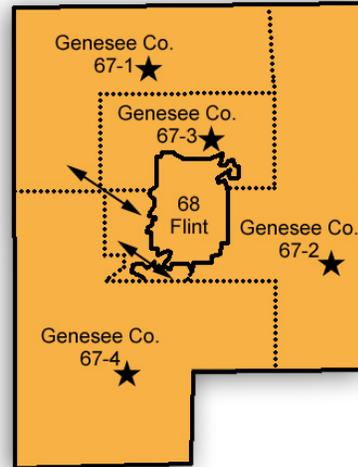
★ Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

Kent
5 Courts
12 Judges

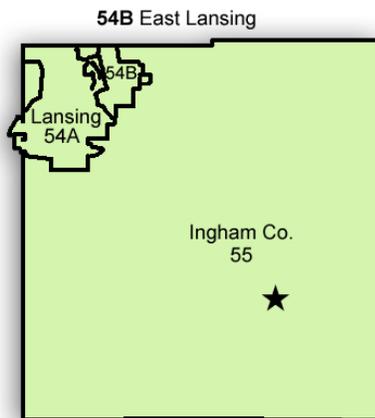
59 Grandville, Walker
61 Grand Rapids
62A Wyoming
62B Kentwood



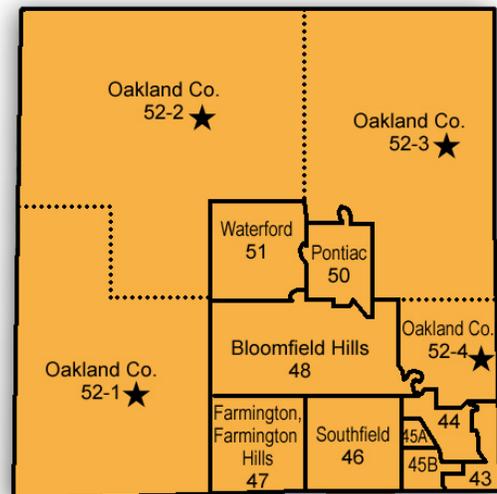
Genesee
2 Courts
12 Judges



Ingham
3 Courts
9 Judges



Oakland
10 Courts
33 Judges



43 Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights
44 Royal Oak
45A Berkley
45B Oak Park

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

D01

Hon. Mark S. Braunlich
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson
Hon. Jack Vitale

D02A

Hon. Natalia M. Koselka
Hon. James E. Sheridan

D02B

Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

D03A

Hon. Brent R. Weigle

D03B

Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton
Hon. William D. Welty

D04

Hon. Stacey A. Rentfrow

D05

Hon. Gary J. Bruce
Hon. Angela Pasula
Hon. Scott Schofield
Hon. Sterling R. Schrock
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley

D07

Hon. Arthur H. Clarke, III
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

D08

Hon. Anne E. Blatchford
Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine
Hon. Carol A. Husum
Hon. Robert C. Kropf
Hon. Julie K. Phillips
Hon. Richard A. Santoni
Hon. Vincent C. Westra

D10

Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.
Hon. John A. Hallacy
Hon. John R. Holmes
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.

D12

Hon. Joseph S. Filip
Hon. James M. Justin
Hon. Michael J. Klaeren
Hon. R. Darryl Mazur

D14A

Hon. Richard E. Conlin
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

D14B

Hon. Charles Pope

D15

Hon. Julie Creal
Hon. Christopher S. Easthope
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines

D16

Hon. Sean P. Kavanagh
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann

D17

Hon. Karen Khalil
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth

D18

Hon. Sandra A. Cicirelli
Hon. Mark A. McConnell

D19

Hon. William C. Hultgren
Hon. Mark W. Somers
Hon. Richard Wygonik

D20

Hon. Mark J. Plawecki
Hon. David Turfe

D21

Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.

D22

Hon. Sylvia A. James

D23

Hon. Geno Salomone
Hon. William J. Sutherland

D24

Hon. John T. Courtright
Hon. Richard A. Page

D25

Hon. David A. Bajorek
Hon. David J. Zelenak

D26-1

Hon. Raymond A. Charron

D26-2

Hon. Michael F. Ciungan

D27

Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach

D28

Hon. James A. Kandrevas

D29

Hon. Laura R. Mack

D30

Hon. Brigette R. Officer

D31

Hon. Paul J. Paruk

D32A

Hon. Roger J. La Rose

D33

Hon. James Kurt Kersten
Hon. Michael K. McNally
Hon. Edward J. Nykiel

D34

Hon. Tina Brooks Green
Hon. Brian A. Oakley
Hon. David M. Parrott

D35

Hon. Michael J. Gerou
Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
Hon. James A. Plakas

D36

Hon. Lydia Nance Adams
Hon. Roberta C. Archer
Hon. Marylin E. Atkins
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount
Hon. Izetta F. Bright
Hon. Esther L. Bryant-Weekes
Hon. Ruth C. Carter
Hon. Donald Coleman
Hon. Nancy A. Farmer
Hon. Deborah Geraldine Ford
Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett
Hon. Ronald Giles
Hon. Katherine Hansen
Hon. Beverley J. Hayes-Sipes
Hon. Paula G. Humphries
Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson
Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley
Hon. Kenneth J. King
Hon. Deborah L. Langston

KEY

- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Elected
- F Deceased
- R Retired
- V Removed

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)**D36 (continued)**

Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.
Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd
Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark
Hon. Donna R. Milhouse
Hon. B. Pennie Millender
Hon. Cylenthia LaToye Miller
Hon. Mark A. Randon^R
(left the court 7/6/09)
Hon. Kevin F. Robbins
Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.
Hon. C. Lorene Royster
Hon. Brenda K. Sanders
Hon. Noceeba Southern*
(joined the court 10/19/09)

D37

Hon. John M. Chmura
Hon. Jennifer Faunce
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg
Hon. Matthew P. Sabaugh

D38

Hon. Carl F. Gerds, III

D39

Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker
Hon. Marco A. Santia
Hon. Catherine B. Steenland

D40

Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster

D41A

Hon. Michael S. Maceroni
Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski
Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegand

D41B

Hon. Linda Davis
Hon. Sebastian Lucido
Hon. Sheila A. Miller

D42-1

Hon. Denis R. LeDuc

D42-2

Hon. Paul Cassidy^R
(left the court 5/29/09)
Hon. William H. Hackel, III*
(joined the court 8/10/09)

D43

Hon. Keith P. Hunt
Hon. Joseph Longo
Hon. Robert J. Turner

D44

Hon. Terrence H. Brennan
Hon. Daniel Sawicki

D45A

Hon. James L. Wittenberg

D45B

Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
Hon. David M. Gubow

D46

Hon. Sheila R. Johnson
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev
Hon. William J. Richards

D47

Hon. James Brady
Hon. Marla E. Parker

D48

Hon. Marc Barron
Hon. Diane D'Agostini
Hon. Kimberly Small

D50

Hon. Ronda Fowlkes Gross
Hon. Michael C. Martinez
Hon. Preston G. Thomas
Hon. Cynthia T. Walker

D51

Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

D52-1

Hon. Robert Bondy
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

D52-2

Hon. Joseph G. Fabrizio
Hon. Kelley Renae Kostin

D52-3

Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson

D52-4

Hon. William E. Bolle
Hon. Dennis C. Drury
Hon. Michael A. Martone

D53

Hon. Theresa M. Brennan
Hon. L. Suzanne Geddis
Hon. Carol Sue Reader

D54A

Hon. Louise Alderson

D54A (continued)

Hon. Patrick F. Cherry
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca
Hon. Charles F. Filice
Hon. Amy Krause

D54B

Hon. Richard D. Ball
Hon. David L. Jordon

D55

Hon. Donald L. Allen
Hon. Thomas P. Boyd

D56A

Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman
Hon. Julie H. Reincke

D56B

Hon. Gary R. Holman

D57

Hon. William A. Baillargeon*
(joined the court 3/9/09)
Hon. Joseph S. Skocelas

D58

Hon. Susan A. Jonas
Hon. Richard J. Kloote
Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

D59

Hon. Peter P. Versluis

D60

Hon. Harold F. Closz, III
Hon. Maria Ladas Hoopes
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

D61

Hon. David J. Buter
Hon. J. Michael Christensen
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVille
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II
Hon. Donald H. Passenger
Hon. Kimberly A. Schaefer

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge
A Appointed to another court
E Elected
F Deceased
R Retired
V Removed

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

D62A

Hon. Pablo Cortes
Hon. Steven M. Timmers

D62B

Hon. William G. Kelly

D63-1

Hon. Steven R. Servaas

D63-2

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

D64A

Hon. Raymond P. Voet

D64B

Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

D65A

Hon. Richard D. Wells

D65B

Hon. Stewart D. McDonald

D66

Hon. Ward L. Clarkson
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

D67-1

Hon. David J. Goggins

D67-2

Hon. John L. Conover
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

D67-3

Hon. Larry Stecco

D67-4

Hon. Mark C. McCabe
Hon. Christopher Odette

D68

Hon. Tracy L. Collier-Nix
Hon. William H. Crawford, II
Hon. Mary C. Dowd
Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III

D70-1

Hon. Terry L. Clark
Hon. M. Randall Jurens
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

D70-2

Hon. Christopher S. Boyd

D70-2 (continued)

Hon. A. T. Frank
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

D71A

Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard
Hon. John T. Connolly

D71B

Hon. Kim David Glaspie

D72

Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
Hon. John D. Monaghan
Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer

D73A

Hon. Gregory S. Ross

D73B

Hon. David B. Herrington

D74

Hon. Craig D. Alston^R
(left the court 11/30/09)
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

D75

Hon. Stephen Carras
Hon. John Henry Hart

D76

Hon. William R. Rush

D77

Hon. Susan H. Grant

D78

Hon. H. Kevin Drake

D79

Hon. Peter J. Wadel

D80

Hon. Joshua M. Farrell

D81

Hon. Allen C. Yenior

D82

Hon. Richard E. Noble

D83

Hon. Daniel L. Sutton

D84

Hon. David A. Hogg

D85

Hon. Brent V. Danielson

D86

Hon. John D. Foresman
Hon. Michael J. Haley
Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

D87A

Hon. Patricia A. Morse

D88

Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

D89

Hon. Maria I. Barton

D90

Hon. Richard W. May

D91

Hon. Elizabeth Church

D92

Hon. Beth Gibson

D93

Hon. Mark E. Luoma

D94

Hon. Glen A. Pearson

D95A

Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow

D95B

Hon. Christopher S. Ninomiya

D96

Hon. Dennis H. Girard
Hon. Roger W. Kangas

D97

Hon. Mark A. Wisti

D98

Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge
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E Elected
F Deceased
R Retired
V Removed

DISTRICT COURT FILINGS BY DIVISION

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Nontraffic					
Felony and Extradition	83,271	83,044	84,258	82,451	76,196
Misdemeanor	266,871	270,588	281,506	262,108	247,626
Civil Infraction	51,866	62,436	69,189	66,508	66,712
Traffic					
Misdemeanor	286,036	306,484	299,800	280,337	267,631
Civil Infraction	1,776,916	1,795,348	1,828,735	1,702,809	1,590,623
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	55,668	54,096	50,916	48,443	46,550
Civil					
General and Miscellaneous Civil	288,536	317,165	379,418	375,895	332,686
Small Claims	90,383	89,167	84,803	78,267	71,828
Summary Proceedings	213,535	222,738	238,591	239,720	218,458
Total Filings	3,113,082	3,201,066	3,317,216	3,136,538	2,918,310

In 2009, 2.9 million cases and nearly half a million parking tickets were filed in, and disposed of, by district courts. Although filings of nontraffic civil infractions, civil cases, and summary proceedings increased, there were fewer district court case filings in 2009 than in any year between 2002 and 2009.

Incoming district court caseload, including cases reopened and parking tickets filed, totaled 3,695,933; outgoing caseload, including cases made inactive and parking tickets disposed, totaled 3,751,128. This results in a statewide clearance rate for district courts of 102 percent. The 2009 clearance rates for each district court case group met or exceeded 100 percent.

The majority of district court filings are traffic civil infractions; a total of 1,590,623 traffic civil infractions were filed in 2009. Traffic filings also included 267,631 misdemeanor and 46,550 drunk driving cases. Of these drunk driving cases, 4,924 involved at least one felony charge and the remaining were misdemeanor charges under ordinance or statute.

District courts received for filing 247,626 nontraffic misdemeanor cases; 76,196 nontraffic felony, extradition, and detainer cases; and 66,712 nontraffic civil infraction cases.

District courts handle civil cases up to \$25,000. In 2009, general and miscellaneous civil case filings totaled 332,686. Small claims, in which the amount is less than \$3,000, totaled 71,828. Landlord-tenant and land contract summary proceedings totaled 218,458.

DISTRICT COURT NONTRAFFIC CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Felony and Extradition	83,271	83,044	84,258	82,451	76,196
Misdemeanor	266,871	270,588	281,506	262,108	247,626
Civil Infraction	51,866	62,436	69,189	66,508	66,712
Total Filings	402,008	416,068	434,953	411,067	390,534

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Felony and Extradition	85,707	86,912	85,106	85,392	77,855
Misdemeanor	268,482	266,086	266,055	255,554	246,403
Civil Infraction	57,018	65,597	71,586	70,599	70,648
Total Dispositions	411,207	418,595	422,747	411,545	394,906

Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jury Verdict	881	824	819	783	779
Bench Verdict	9,938	6,646	4,379	3,278	8,151
Verdict at Hearing	NA	NA	3,382	3,514	3,752
Guilty Plea/Admission/Waiver	201,323	214,202	216,622	207,578	193,919
Bindover/Transfer	54,759	60,293	58,848	61,104	54,600
Dismissal by Party	72,631	65,691	68,412	64,702	64,688
Dismissal by Court	35,130	38,212	38,291	40,714	40,682
Default	23,970	29,591	31,682	29,402	27,269
Other Dispositions	12,575	3,136	312	470	1,066
Total Dispositions	411,207	418,595	422,747	411,545	394,906

In 2009, district courts received 390,534 nontraffic filings. Of those, 76,196 were new filings of felony, extradition, and detainer cases. An additional 33,129 nontraffic felony cases were reopened for various reasons, including arraignments on a preadjudicatory warrant.

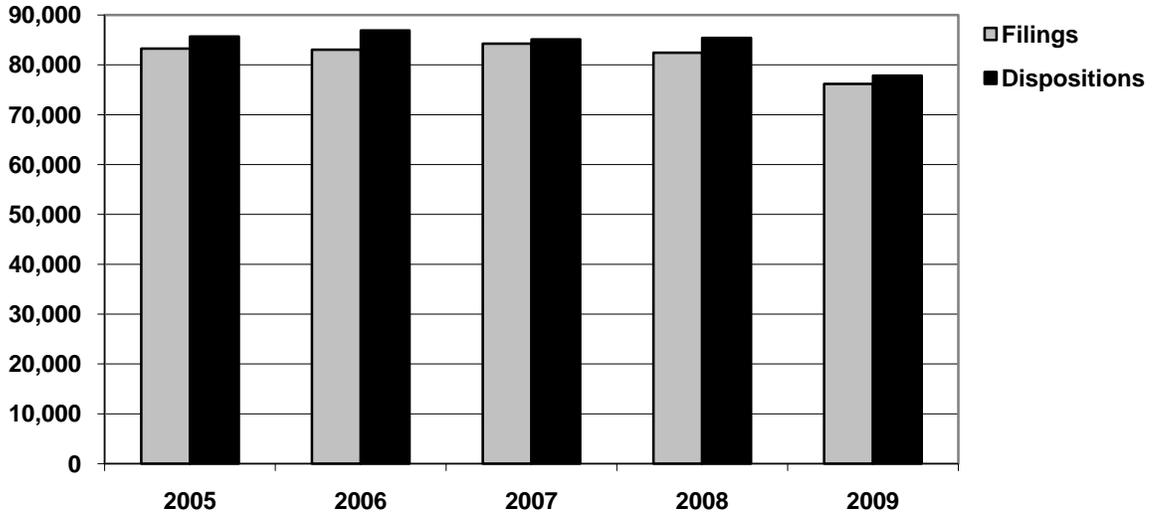
District courts' felony case dispositions included 54,600 cases bound over to circuit court. An additional 31,474 were made inactive when a preadjudicatory warrant was issued when a defendant was referred for evaluation to determine competency to stand trial, or when an order staying the case from an appellate court was entered. Over 14,000 were reduced to only misdemeanor charges and disposed of by verdict or plea. In 5,617 cases, the court accepted the prosecutor's motion to dismiss the case; in an additional 3,092 cases, the court entered a dismissal after preliminary examination.

Nearly a quarter of a million nontraffic misdemeanor cases were filed in 2009, representing a two-year decline of 12 percent. In 2009, 101,355 nontraffic misdemeanor cases were reopened, including cases in which arraignment was held on a preadjudicatory warrant.

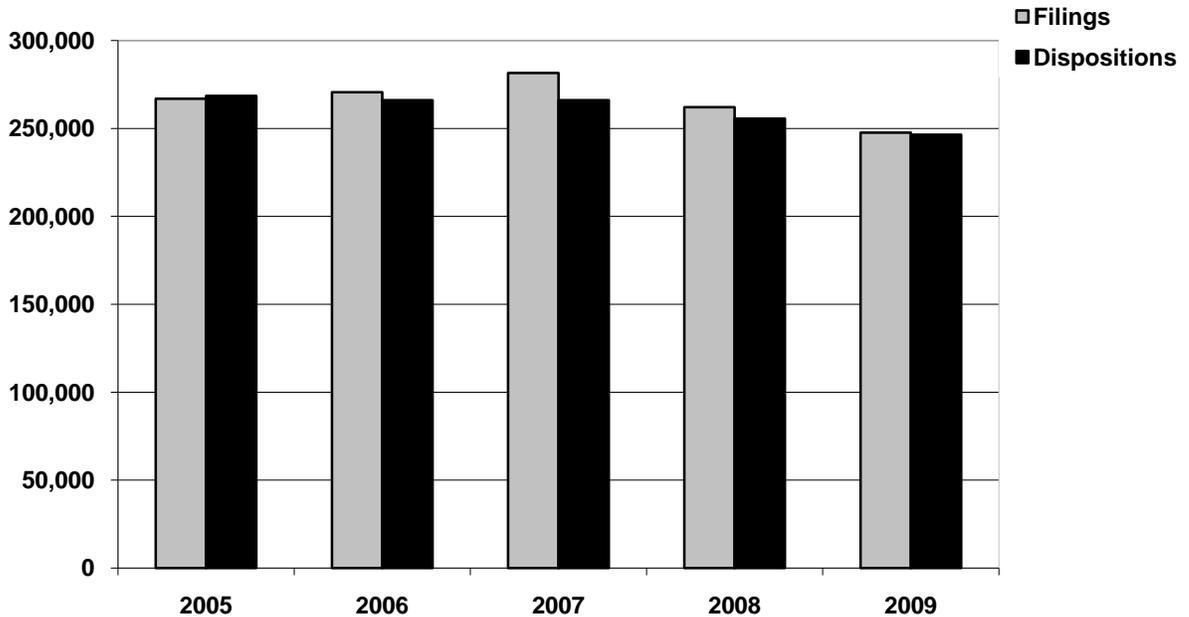
Of the nontraffic misdemeanor cases dispositions, 153,568 were resolved by a guilty plea accepted by the court. Cases placed on inactive status totaled 102,566. In 49,557 cases, the court accepted the prosecutor's or city attorney's motion to dismiss the case. In 34,036 cases, the court dismissed the case. Trials were held and verdicts were issued in 8,316 cases.

In 2009, 66,712 nontraffic civil infraction (both ordinance and statute) cases were filed and 3,618 were reopened. The court entered a default judgment after the respondent failed to appear in 27,269 cases. The court accepted the respondent's admission of responsibility in 26,472 cases. In 9,514 other cases, the court accepted the plaintiff's motion to dismiss. The court dismissed 3,617 cases during trial or after a hearing. A judge or magistrate decided the matter after a formal or informal hearing in 3,752 cases.

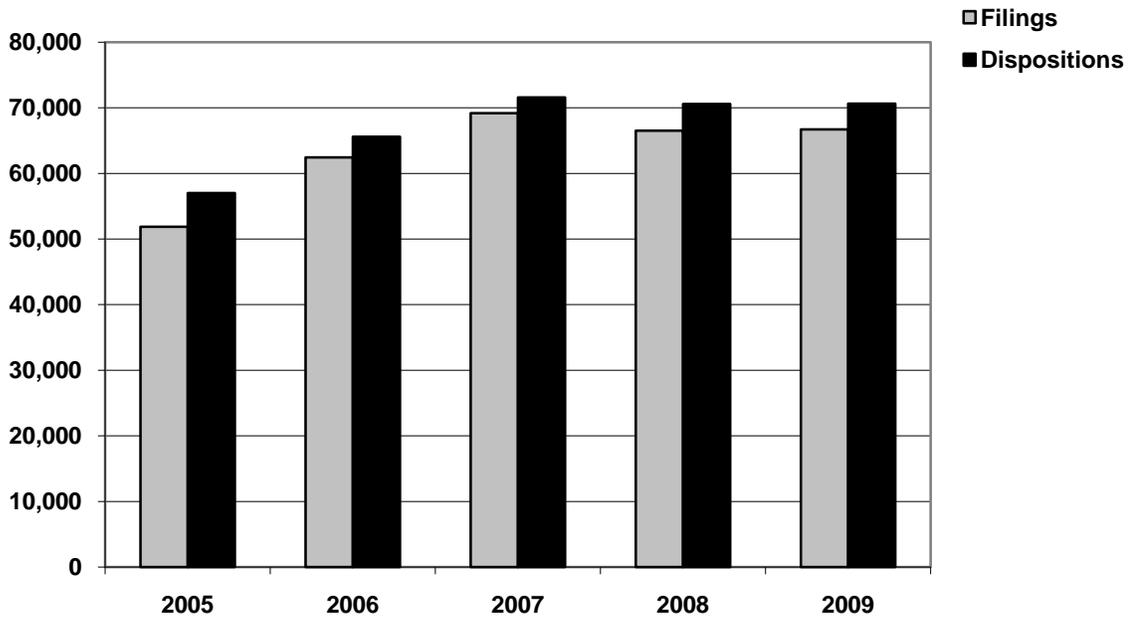
District Court Nontraffic Felony Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Nontaffic Misdemeanor Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Nontraffic Civil Infraction Case Filings and Dispositions



DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Misdemeanor	286,036	306,484	299,800	280,337	267,631
Civil Infraction	1,776,916	1,795,348	1,828,735	1,702,809	1,590,623
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	55,668	54,096	50,916	48,443	46,550
Total Filings	2,118,620	2,155,928	2,179,451	2,031,589	1,904,804

Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Misdemeanor	272,597	288,793	276,694	268,899	256,943
Civil Infraction	1,879,883	1,844,866	1,867,554	1,771,702	1,643,209
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	57,218	54,441	52,395	49,857	47,511
Total Dispositions	2,209,698	2,188,100	2,196,643	2,090,458	1,947,663

Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jury Verdict	414	391	337	331	272
Bench Verdict	135,939	133,516	149,977	140,919	115,892
Guilty Plea/Admission/Waiver	1,254,456	1,289,722	1,287,637	1,212,532	1,177,634
Bindover/Transfer	2,946	2,749	3,969	4,077	3,823
Dismissal by Party	130,383	138,586	142,273	137,151	135,686
Dismissal by Court	128,460	129,622	135,748	143,392	135,428
Default	549,890	492,922	476,260	451,555	378,470
Other Dispositions	7,210	592	442	501	458
Total Dispositions	2,209,698	2,188,100	2,196,643	2,090,458	1,947,663

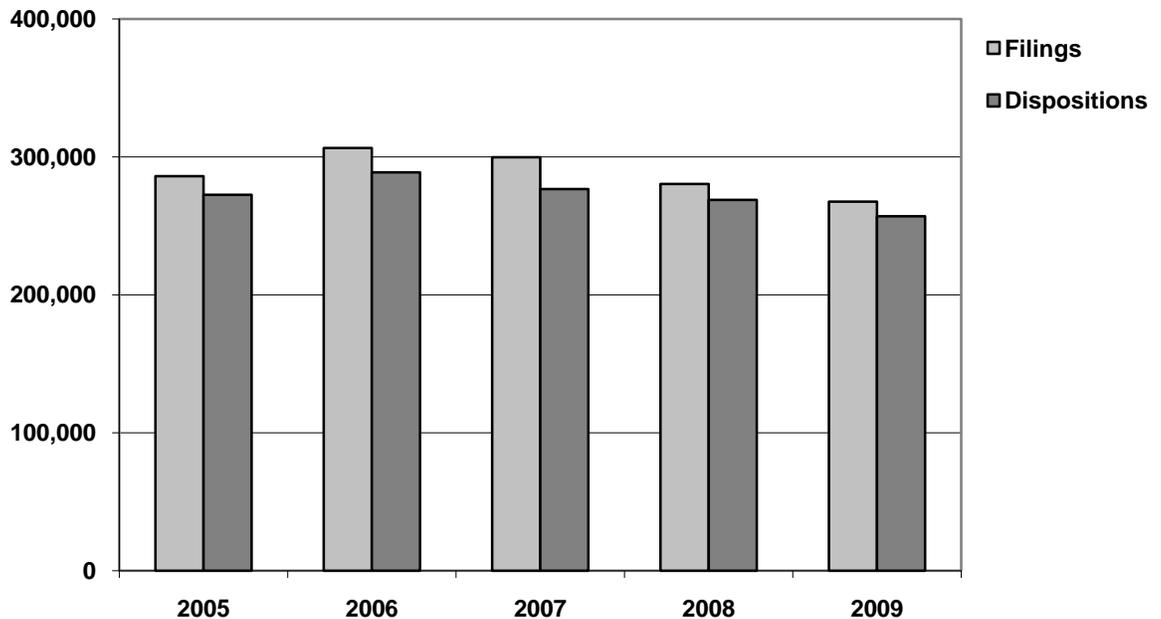
In 2009, 267,631 traffic misdemeanor, 1,590,623 traffic civil infraction, and 46,550 drunk driving (misdemeanor and felony) cases were filed in district courts.

Traffic misdemeanor cases continued to decrease, with 13 percent fewer filings in 2009 than in 2006, when case filings were relatively high. In 172,975 cases, the court accepted the defendant’s guilty plea. The case was made inactive, for preadjudicatory warrants and other reasons, in 119,584 cases. Another 42,671 cases were dismissed on the plaintiff’s motion; 33,884 cases were dismissed by the court.

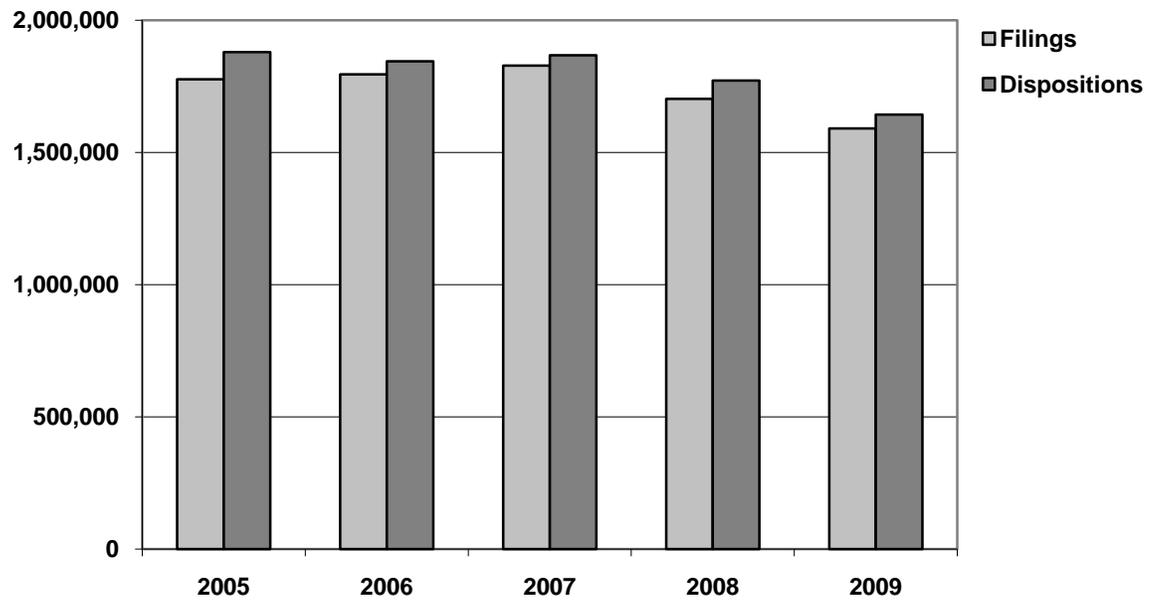
Traffic civil infraction filings decreased by 13 percent between 2007, when case filings were fairly high, and 2009. In 965,602 cases, the court accepted the respondent’s admission of responsibility. In 378,470 cases, the court entered a default judgment after the respondent failed to appear or respond; 191,221 cases were dismissed upon motion by the plaintiff or upon action by the court. In 107,718 cases, a judge or magistrate decided the matter after a formal or informal hearing.

Drunk driving case filings also continued to decrease. Between 2002 and 2009, these filings decreased by 23 percent, from 60,572 to 46,550. Of the drunk driving filings in 2009, 4,924 were felony cases and 41,626 were misdemeanor (statute and ordinance) cases. In 2009, 3,823 felony drunk driving cases were bound over to circuit court and 1,041 were placed on inactive status. In 37,885 misdemeanor drunk driving cases, the court accepted the defendant’s guilty plea; 3,206 were dismissed by the court or by the prosecutor. District courts heard an additional 1,223 cases which resulted in verdicts.

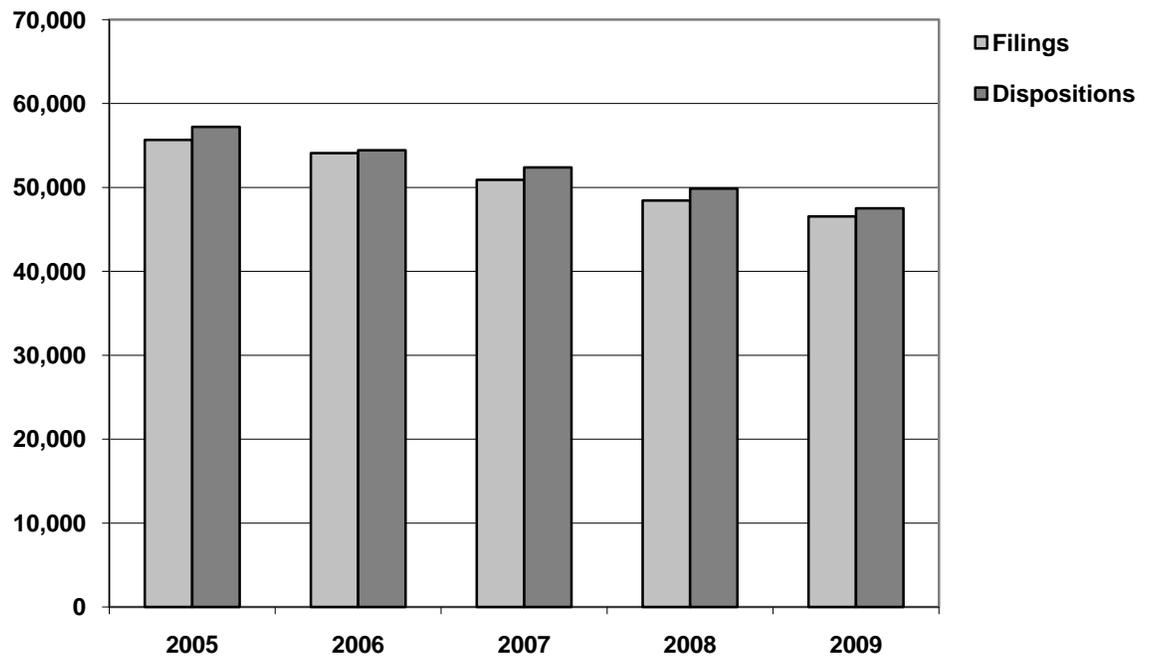
District Court Traffic Misdemeanor Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Traffic Civil Infraction Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court OWI Case Filings and Dispositions



DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
General & Miscellaneous Civil	288,536	317,165	379,418	375,895	332,686
Small Claims	90,383	89,167	84,803	78,267	71,828
Summary Proceedings	213,535	222,738	238,591	239,720	218,458
Total Filings	592,454	629,070	702,812	693,882	622,972
Dispositions	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
General & Miscellaneous Civil	274,435	305,010	358,574	376,957	358,804
Small Claims	90,629	90,129	86,728	80,018	75,336
Summary Proceedings	188,222	219,840	237,537	239,995	220,407
Total Dispositions	553,286	614,979	682,839	696,970	654,547
Method of Disposition	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jury Verdict	154	367	131	64	70
Bench Verdict	32,345	33,593	34,921	30,366	28,959
Uncontested/Default/Settled	344,776	376,113	430,258	450,948	419,157
Bindover/Transfer	4,118	4,029	3,963	3,844	3,895
Dismissal by Party	107,657	118,463	121,314	121,309	117,740
Dismissal by Court	61,793	80,769	90,594	88,527	81,012
Case Type Change	183	104	139	135	107
Other Disposition	2,260	1,541	1,519	1,777	3,607
Total Dispositions	553,286	614,979	682,839	696,970	654,547

In 2009, 332,686 general and miscellaneous civil suits, 71,828 small claims, and 218,458 landlord-tenant and land contract summary proceedings were filed in district courts.

Civil case filings were relatively high in 2007 and decreased by 12 percent by 2009. In 246,857 civil cases, the case was disposed of by default, consent judgment, settlement, or summary disposition. The case was dismissed by the plaintiff or the court in 105,008 cases. A judge or jury decided 3,291 cases.

Small claims filings continued to decline. In 2009, 71,828 cases were filed, representing 31 percent fewer than in 2002, when 104,208 cases were filed. In 2009, 32,495 small claims cases were disposed of by default, consent judgment, settlement, or summary disposition. An additional 31,199 cases were dismissed by the court or voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff.

Summary proceeding filings decreased by 9 percent in one year – from 239,720 in 2008 to 218,458 in 2009. In 2009, 139,805 landlord-tenant and land contract cases were disposed of by default, consent judgment, settlement, or summary disposition. An additional 55,851 were voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiff.

MUNICIPAL COURT

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES (As of 1/31/10)

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe (MGP)

Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Farms (MGPF)

Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Park (MGPP)

Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Woods (MGPW)

Hon. Theodore A. Metry^E (joined the court 1/1/2009)

KEY

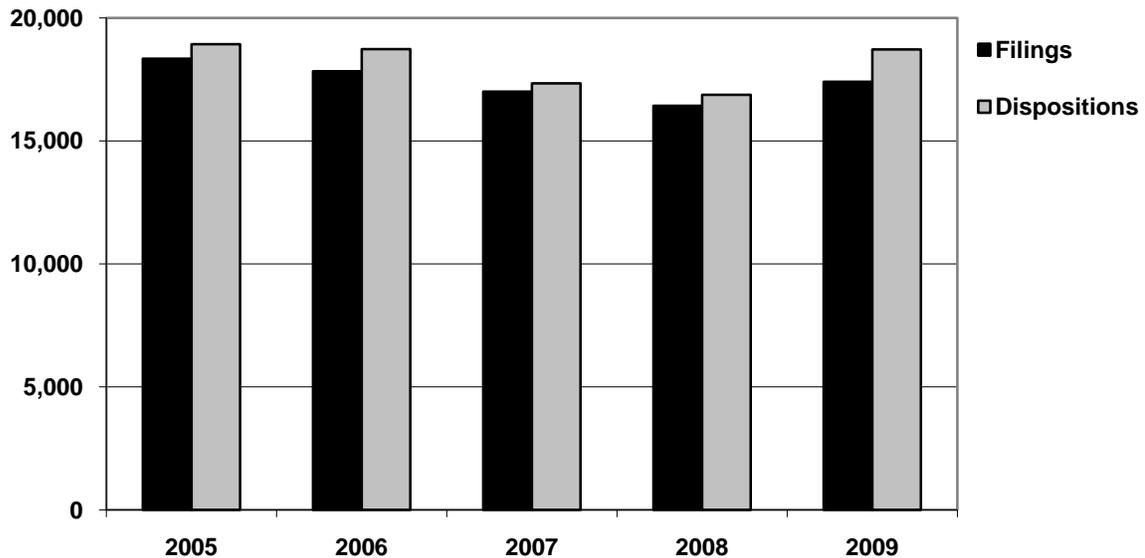
- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Elected
- F Deceased
- R Retired
- V Removed

MUNICIPAL COURT CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Filings	18,346	17,832	17,004	16,427	17,405
Dispositions	18,935	18,729	17,342	16,878	18,717

Parking cases are excluded from both filings and dispositions.

Municipal Court Case Filings and Dispositions



APPENDIX: MICHIGAN TRIAL COURT JUDGESHIPS

Region	Circuit Court	Probate Court	District Court	Municipal Court	Total
Region 1	113	22	143	4	282
Region 2	57	27	66	NA	150
Region 3	32	26	30	NA	88
Region 4	19	28	19	NA	66
Statewide	221	103	258	4	586

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIPS (As of 1/31/2010)

Court	Judges								
C01	1	C13	2	C25	2	C37	4	C49	2
C02	4	C14	4	C26	1	C38	3	C50	1
C03	61	C15	1	C27	2	C39	2	C51	1
C04	4	C16	13	C28	1	C40	2	C52	1
C05	1	C17	10	C29	2	C41	2	C53	1
C06	19	C18	3	C30	7	C42	2	C54	1
C07	9	C19	1	C31	3	C43	1	C55	2
C08	2	C20	4	C32	1	C44	2	C56	2
C09	5	C21	2	C33	1	C45	1	C57	1
C10	5	C22	5	C34	1	C46	2		
C11	1	C23	2	C35	1	C47	1		
C12	1	C24	1	C36	2	C48	2		

PROBATE COURT JUDGESHIPS (As of 1/31/2010)

Court	Judges								
P01	1	P20	1	P38	1	P57	1	P74	2
P03	1	P21	1	P39	3	P58	2	P75	1
P04	1	P22	1	P40	1	P59	1	P76	1
P05	1	P23	1	P41	4	P60	1	P78	1
P06	1	P25	2	P42	1	P61	2	P79	1
P07	1	P27	1	P43	1	P62	1	P80	1
P08	1	P28	1	P44	1	P63	4	P81	2
P09	1	P29	1	P45	1	P64	1	P82	8
P10	1	P30	1	P46	1	P65	1	P83	1
P11	2	P31	1	P47	1	P66	1	PD17	1
P12	1	P32	1	P50	2	P68	1	PD18	1
P13	2	P33	2	P51	1	P69	1	PD5	1
P14	1	P34	1	P52	1	P70	1	PD6	1
P16	1	P35	1	P53	1	P71	1	PD7	1
P17	1	P36	1	P55	1	P72	1		
P19	1	P37	1	P56	1	P73	2		

APPENDIX: MICHIGAN TRIAL COURT JUDGESHIPS *(continued)*

DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGESHIPS (As of 1/31/2010)

Court	Judges								
D01	3	D24	2	D45A	1	D64A	1	D83	1
D02A	2	D25	2	D45B	2	D64B	1	D84	1
D02B	1	D26	2	D46	3	D65A	1	D85	1
D03A	1	D27	1	D47	2	D65B	1	D86	3
D03B	2	D28	1	D48	3	D66	2	D87A	1
D04	1	D29	1	D50	4	D67	6	D87B*	0
D05	5	D30	1	D51	2	D68	5	D87C*	0
D07	2	D31	1	D52	11	D70	6	D88	1
D08	7	D32A	1	D53	3	D71A	2	D89	1
D10	4	D33	3	D54A	5	D71B	1	D90	1
D12	4	D34	3	D54B	2	D72	3	D91	1
D14A	3	D35	3	D55	2	D73A	1	D92	1
D14B	1	D36	31	D56A	2	D73B	1	D93	1
D15	3	D37	4	D56B	1	D74	3	D94	1
D16	2	D38	1	D57	2	D75	2	D95A	1
D17	2	D39	3	D58	4	D76	1	D95B	1
D18	2	D40	2	D59	1	D77	1	D96	2
D19	3	D41A	4	D60	4	D78	1	D97	1
D20	2	D41B	3	D61	6	D79	1	D98	1
D21	1	D42	2	D62A	2	D80	1	MGP	1
D22	1	D43	3	D62B	1	D81	1	MGPF	1
D23	2	D44	2	D63	2	D82	1	MGPP	1
								MGPW	1

**The probate judges in Kalkaska and Crawford counties serve in the respective district court.*

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<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm#annual>



Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court with Pontiac High School students at the October 2009 “Court Community Connections” program. Photo courtesy of Thomas M. Cooley Law School.