

Michigan Supreme Court Annual Report 2012



Our reform plan
can be summed up
with three words:
performance,
technology,
efficiency.

-Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.

FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



Michigan's judicial branch is becoming a model for the nation.

Michigan received national attention in 2012 when Gov. Snyder signed bills eliminating 36 trial judgeships that were no longer justified by the workload. That unprecedented downsizing – proposed and advocated by the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office – started discussions in other states about whether they, too, could right-size their judiciaries.

But judicial right-sizing is just the beginning for Michigan. We are moving ahead with the rest of our reform plan, which can be summed up with three words: performance, technology, efficiency.

Performance. Performance measurement has long been used by the private sector to improve products and services. While the quality of justice may elude measurement, many aspects of courts' work – timeliness, access, cost-effectiveness, and much more – can be measured. In 2012, SCAO launched ***Courts working smarter for a better Michigan***, a statewide initiative in which trial courts will track and report their progress on performance measures. In keeping with our responsibility to the public, these performance measures will be posted online.

Technology. Electronic filing, paperless courts, videoconferencing. These and other technological innovations are making it possible for courts to be more efficient, and accessible to the public, than ever before. Our NextGen technology project, now in the pilot stage, will bring Michigan closer to the ideal of a single statewide case information system.

Efficiency. Historically, the three levels of trial court – circuit, probate, and district – have operated separately, meaning that trial courts within the same judicial circuit did not share resources and workload. The Supreme Court and SCAO continue to break down the silos among the trial courts and promote greater consolidation and streamlining.

These three words – performance, technology, efficiency – would be merely high-sounding mottos if not tied to the ultimate goal, public service. I invite you to see, in this report, how well Michigan courts served the public in 2012 – and are poised to do so for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert P. Young, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert P. Young, Jr.
Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court



"A Day in Court" exhibit in the Learning Center on the first floor of the Hall of Justice.
Justin Maconochie Photography

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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"Lady Justice" at the entrance to the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center. *Photo courtesy of Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center.*



Marquette County Probate Court Judge Michael Anderegg, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., and a young boy whose adoption was finalized on Michigan Adoption Day 2012. The adoptive family traveled from Marquette to Lansing to finalize their adoption in the Supreme Court courtroom. *Photo by Rick Browne.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Michigan Courts 2012: Performance, Technology, Efficiency

Performance. How can courts assess how well they are working and serving the public? By adopting performance measures that show courts where they are doing well and where they need to improve. Performance measures include timeliness, access and fairness, drug and alcohol court recidivism, court collection rates, and others. In 2012, the State Court Administrative Office launched ***Courts working smarter for a better Michigan*** to implement performance measures for all Michigan trial courts. The trial courts will start tracking performance measures in 2013 and sharing that information online. See page 10.

- **Most Michigan cases resolved within time guidelines.** Michigan’s trial courts already track the time from the filing of a case to its disposition, an important performance measure. Case clearance rates – the number of case dispositions compared to number of case filings – will be posted online in May 2013. See page 11.
- **Child support collections among best in nation.** Another performance measurement, child support collections, will be reported online by county, starting in May 2013. Michigan’s friend of the court offices collected 71 percent of support in the month due, qualifying Michigan for federal incentive funds. See page 12.
- **Problem-solving courts reduce crime.** Michigan’s drug and alcohol courts address offenders’ underlying addictions as a way to prevent future crimes. Data indicates that participants in drug and alcohol court are significantly less likely to reoffend compared to nonparticipants. Recidivism rates for problem-solving courts are another performance measure that will be available online in May 2013. See page 14.

Technology. With the right tools, courts can receive files electronically, “go paperless,” contribute court records to an electronic warehouse, conduct hearings through videoconferencing technology, and accept payment of tickets online. Technology saves time and money, and improves public access to courts. A particularly critical effort is the “NextGen” project, aimed at moving the state’s trial courts off aging mainframe systems and onto a Windows-based case information system. The NextGen project is a necessary step toward moving all the state’s trial courts onto a single case information system that could be accessed not only by courts and other state agencies, but by the public. See page 15.

- **“Video transports” save time and money, reduce security risks.** In 2012, Michigan’s courts continued to use technology to enhance public access and service. Especially noteworthy is the surging use of videoconferencing to hold hearings with incarcerated offenders without the risks and expense associated with transporting them to court. There were 14 times more “video transports” in January 2013 than in January 2010. See page 16.
- **New “One Court of Justice” site offers more resources, improved access.** The redesigned “One Court of Justice” website offers live streaming of Supreme Court arguments, a search feature for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, self-help resources for pro se litigants, an interactive trial court directory, and much more. The site is used by about 43,000 viewers per week. See page 17.

Efficiency. The Supreme Court encourages trial courts within a judicial circuit to share resources and consolidate their operations for better public service. In some circuits, the circuit, probate, and district courts operate as a single unified “trial court” in which judges and court staff can share workload more efficiently. As of 2012, 78 courts share workload among all the judges in a circuit. The Supreme Court promoted greater efficiency and consolidation by appointing 36 chief judges to oversee two or more courts. *See page 20.*



The interior of the sixth floor rotunda in the Hall of Justice. *Justin Maconochie Photography.*

Supreme Court



Chief Justice
Robert P. Young, Jr.



Justice
Michael F. Cavanagh



Justice
Stephen J. Markman



Justice
Mary Beth Kelly



Justice
Brian K. Zahra



Justice
Bridget Mary McCormack



Justice
David F. Viviano

The Michigan Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort, with authority over all state courts. Each year, the Court receives and adjudicates about 2,000 cases, most of them applications for leave to appeal from Michigan Court of Appeals decisions. Over two-thirds of the filings the Supreme Court receives are in criminal cases. The Court's clearance rate has met or exceeded 100 percent since 2005.

The Court's recent opinions are online:

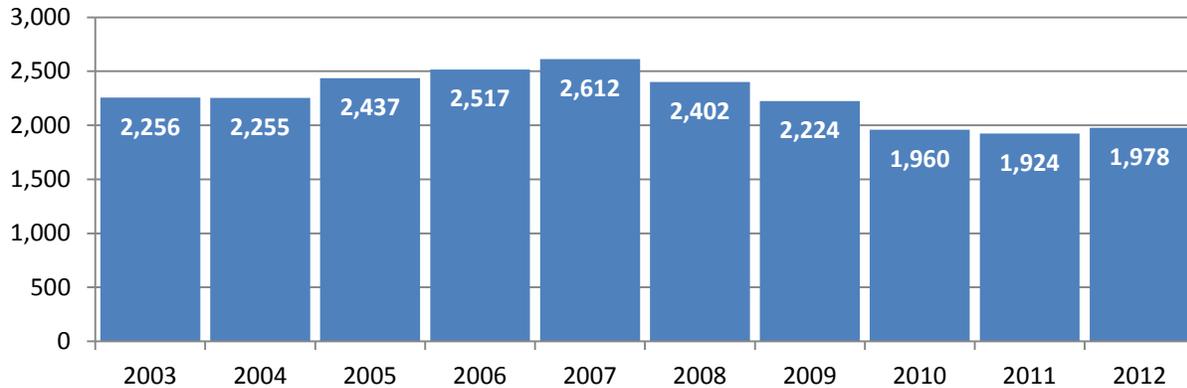
http://courts.mi.gov/opinions_orders/Pages/default.aspx.

The Supreme Court also has general administrative oversight of the state’s courts. For example, the Court establishes the Michigan Court Rules, which govern practice and procedure for all state courts. The court rules are available at

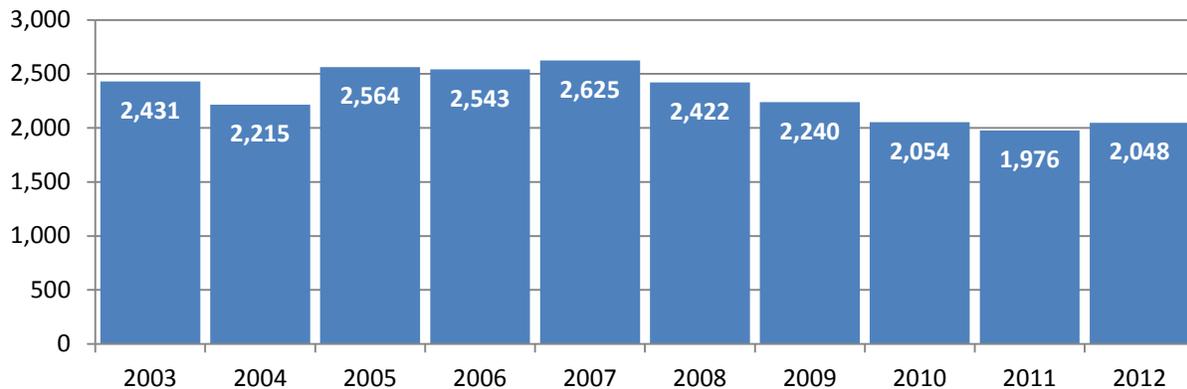
<http://courts.mi.gov/courts/michigansupremecourt/rules/pages/current-court-rules.aspx>.

The Court recently began offering live streaming of its oral arguments and other hearings on the Court’s website at <http://courts.mi.gov/courts/michigansupremecourt/clerks/oral-arguments/pages/live-streaming.aspx>.

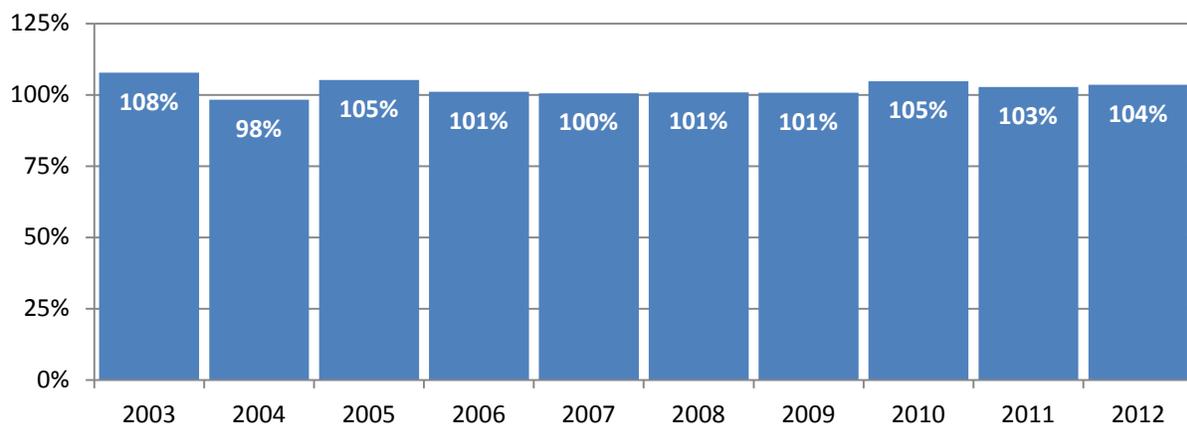
Case Filings



Case Dispositions



Clearance Rates

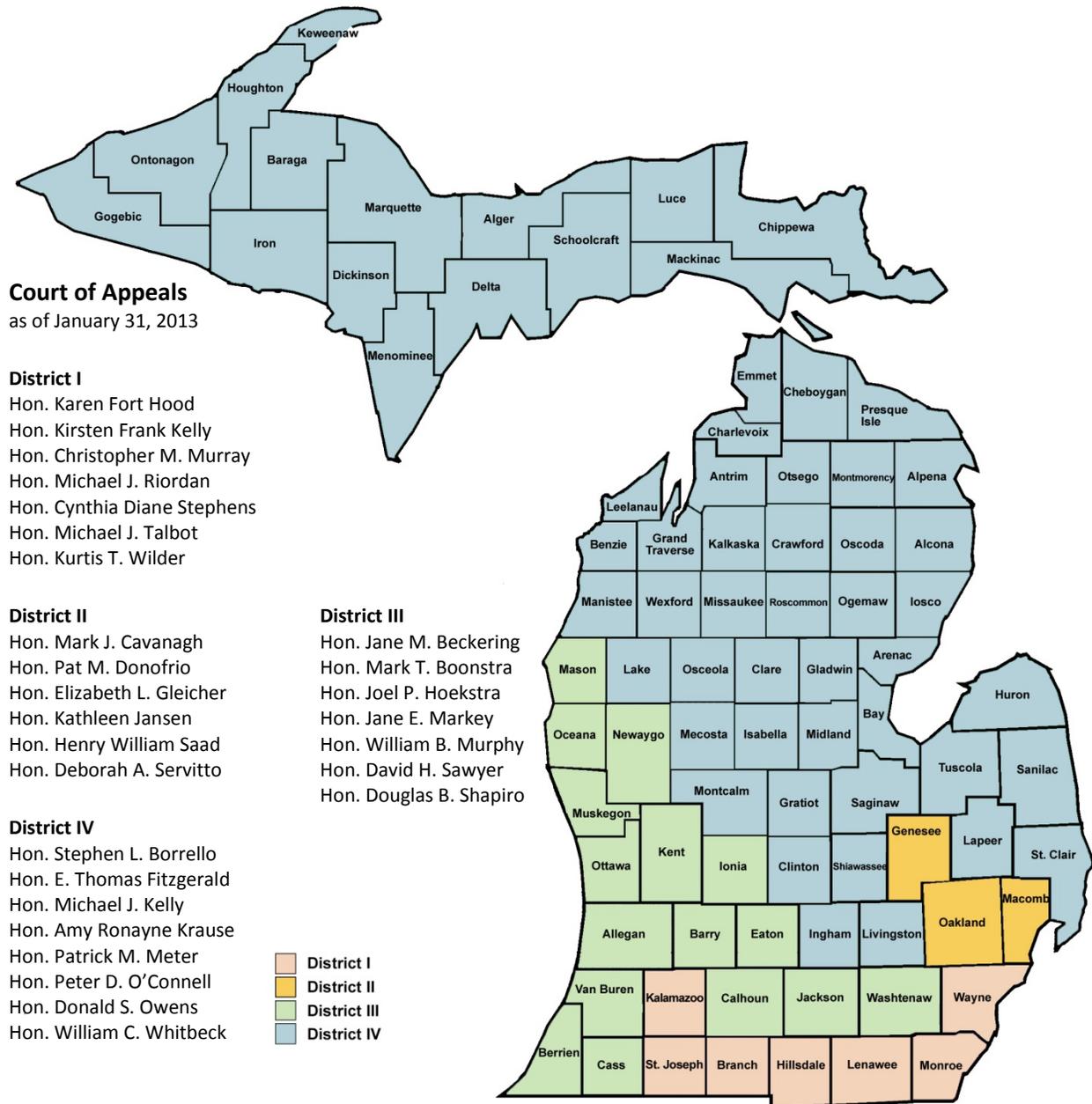


Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals, the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court, receives over 6,000 new case filings each year.

Public Act 40 of 2012 changed the Court of Appeals districts, effective March 25, 2012. Shiawassee County, formerly in District II, is now part of District IV; Mason and Oceana Counties were moved from District IV to District III; Kalamazoo County, from District III to District I; and Branch, Calhoun, and St. Joseph Counties, from District I to District III.

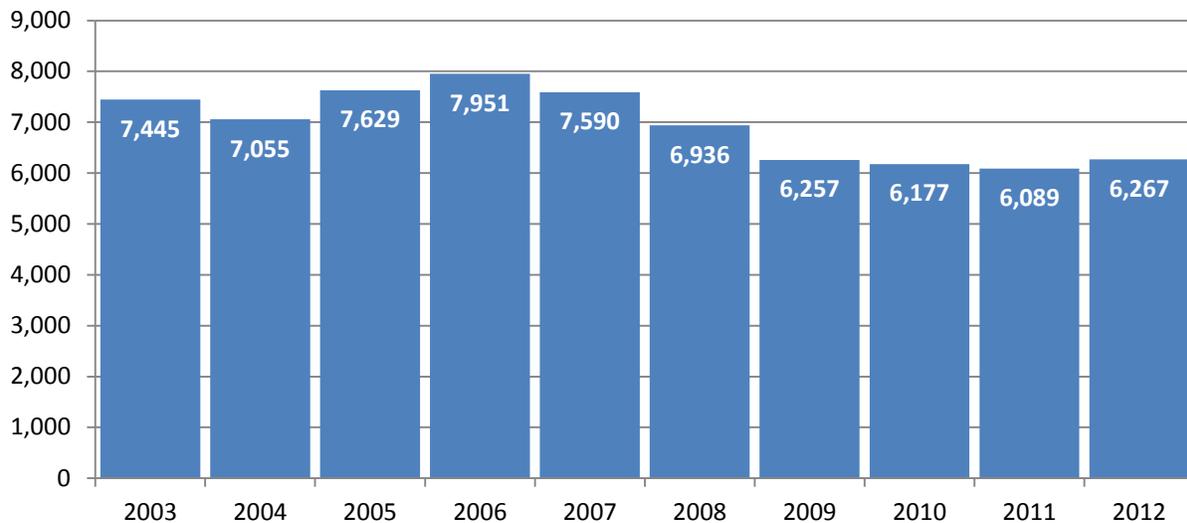
For more about the Court of Appeals, see <http://courts.mi.gov/courts/coa/Pages/default.aspx>.



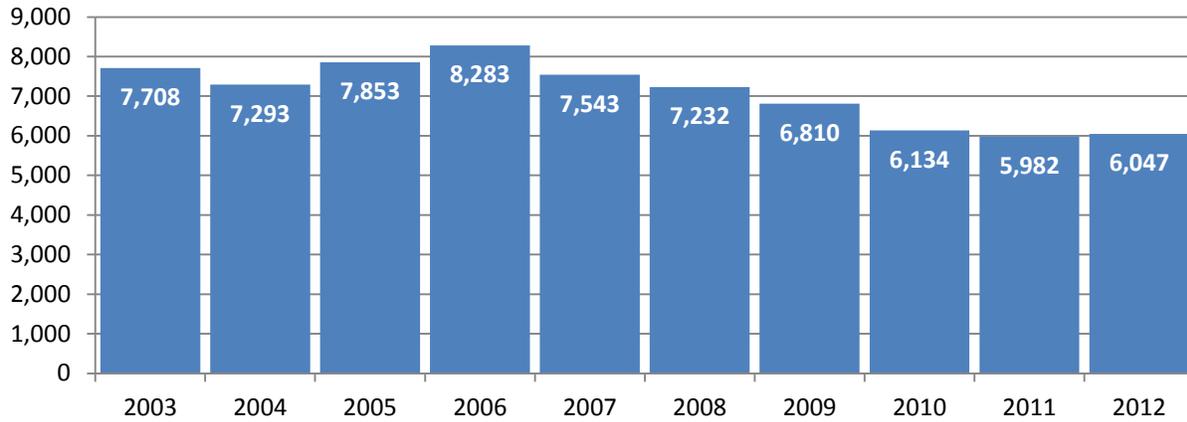


Judges of the Michigan Court of Appeals: FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Jane E. Markey, E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Chief Judge Pro Tem David H. Sawyer, Chief Judge William B. Murphy, Mark J. Cavanagh, Joel P. Hoekstra, Peter D. O’Connell. MIDDLE ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Christopher M. Murray, Kurtis T. Wilder, Stephen L. Borrello, Donald S. Owens, Michael J. Talbot, Jane M. Beckering, Patrick M. Meter, Pat M. Donofrio, William C. Whitbeck. BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Cynthia Diane Stephens, Mark T. Boonstra, Douglas B. Shapiro, Elizabeth L. Gleicher, Amy Ronayne Krause, Michael J. Kelly, Michael J. Riordan. NOT PICTURED: Karen M. Fort Hood, Kathleen Jansen, Kirsten Frank Kelly, Henry William Saad, Deborah A. Servitto. *Photo by David Trumpie, Trumpie Photography.*

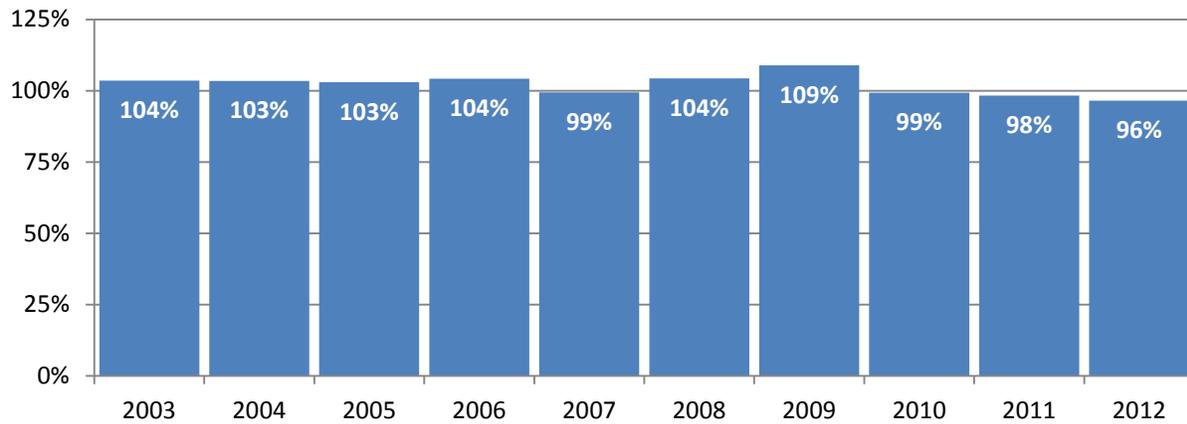
Case Filings



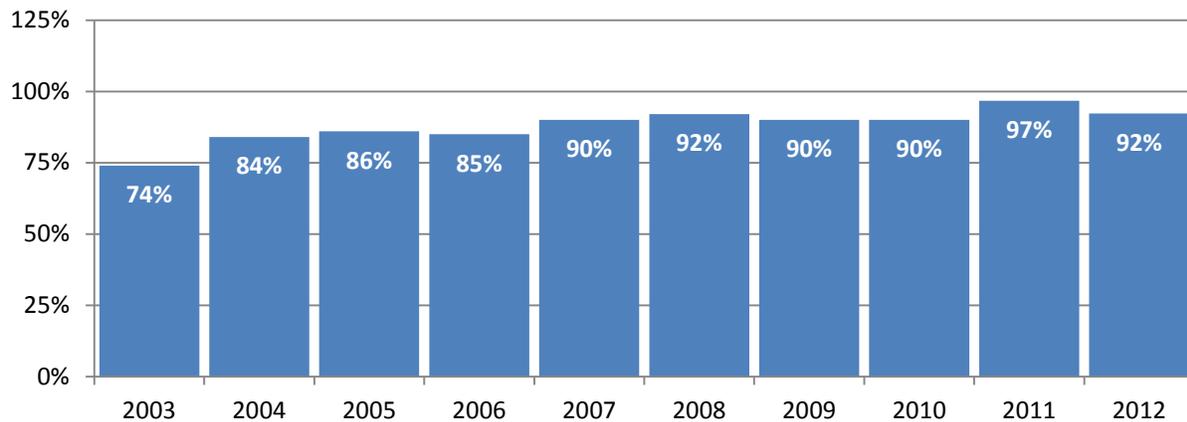
Case Dispositions



Clearance Rates



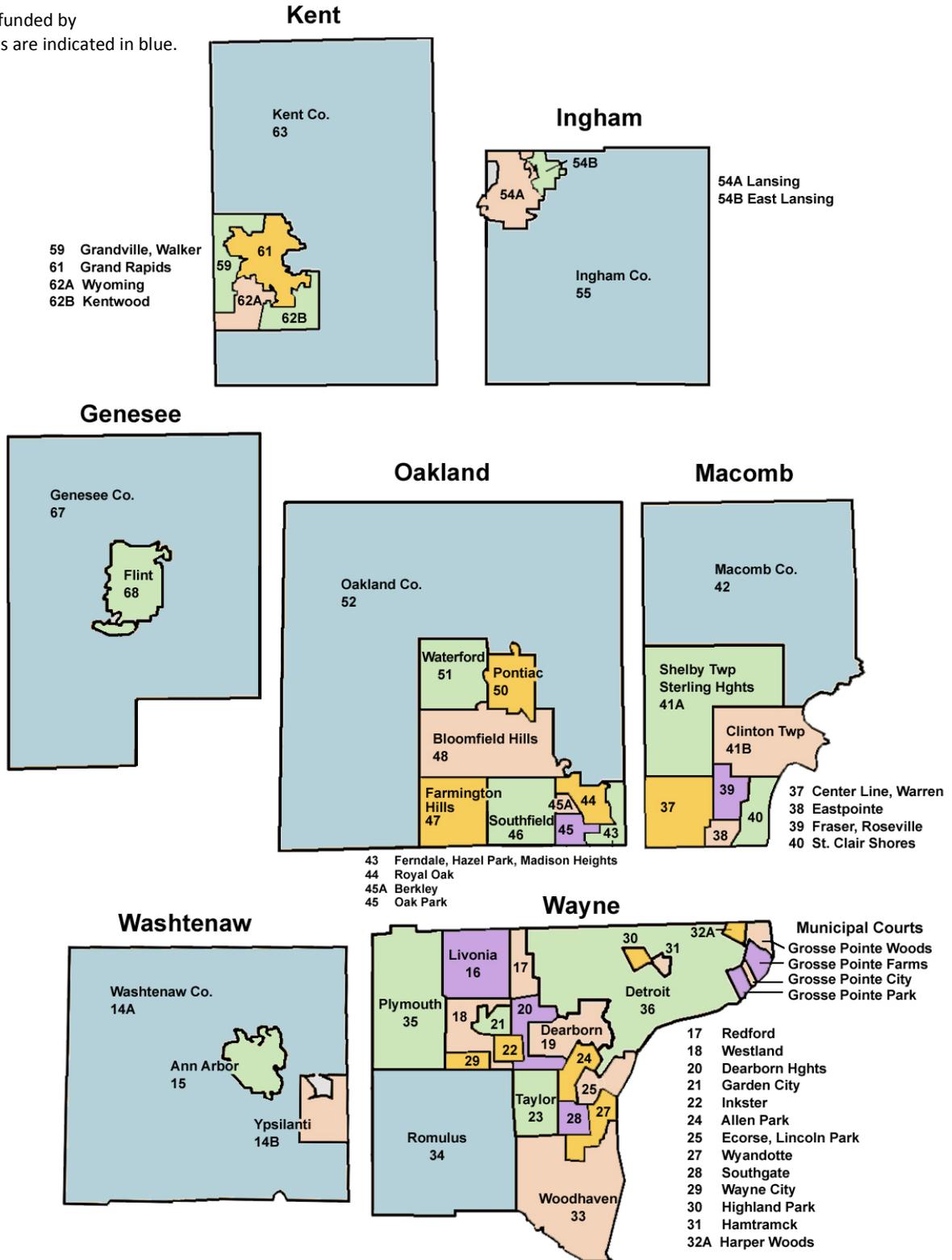
Percent of Cases 18 Months Old or Less at Disposition



District Court Detail Map

as of January 31, 2013

Courts funded by counties are indicated in blue.



Performance

“What you measure, you get more of.” In 2012, Michigan’s courts committed to performance measurement as a way to improve public service.

“Performance measurement” helps organizations - including courts - to focus on the quality of their services. Performance measures for courts include, among others, “access and fairness,” “reliability and integrity of case files,” “trial date certainty,” and “time to disposition.” Indeed, for years Michigan courts have been tracking the timeliness of their case dispositions—an important performance measurement. See “Measuring Timeliness,” p. 11.

In March 2012, the State Court Administrative Office announced a new initiative to promote better public service and more efficient courts: **Courts working smarter for a better Michigan**. SCAO kicked off the “working smarter” initiative at the September 2012 Michigan Judicial Conference, which focused on performance measurement. Throughout 2012, SCAO worked with each trial court to prepare for tracking, and publicly reporting, performance measurement.

The trial courts will begin reporting some performance measures – case clearance rates, child support collections, and drug/alcohol court recidivism – online in May 2013. In 2013, trial courts will also begin asking court users to participate in customer satisfaction surveys.

Each year, additional measures, such as public satisfaction, juror utilization, reliability and integrity of files, and trial date certainty, will be posted to provide a balanced picture of a court’s performance.

In December 2012, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted Administrative Order 2012-5, which requires SCAO to develop a performance measures implementation plan. Trial courts are required to comply. See the current implementation plan at <http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/admin/op/performance/Documents/PMImplementationPlan.pdf>

For more information, visit SCAO’s Performance Measures website at <http://courts.mi.gov/administration/admin/op/performance/pages/default.aspx>

“Courts working smarter” is a double-pronged effort: A court uses metrics – for such items as time to disposition, juror utilization rates, access and fairness – to assess its performance. The court then knows where it’s doing well and where it could improve, and is encouraged to innovate in order to address the weaker areas.

*Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr.
Testimony before the House and
Senate Appropriations
Subcommittees on the Judiciary,
February 2013*

<http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/about-supreme-court/Budget/CJ-Remarks-FY13-Senate-House-Approp.pdf>

Measuring Timeliness: Most Cases Adjudicated Within Guidelines

The Michigan Supreme Court sets time guidelines to help courts adjudicate cases in a timely way without sacrificing quality. These time guidelines are based on recommendations from the National Center for State Courts, as well as Michigan courts' experience and data.

Time guidelines focus on the time needed to dispose of cases from the date of filing to the date of disposition. The NCSC recommends 98 percent compliance with time guidelines as the ideal, both to prevent backlogs and to ensure timely dispositions. Numerous complicating factors beyond the courts' control – bankruptcy in divorces cases, lab delays in criminal cases, hung juries requiring a second trial, retrials ordered by appellate courts, and many others – make 100 percent compliance unrealistic, as the NCSC and SCAO recognize.

In 2012, as in past years, Michigan courts adjudicated the vast majority of cases within the guidelines set by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2003-7 and updated in AO No. 2011-3. See http://courts.mi.gov/Courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/rules/court-rules-admin-matters/Adopted/2010-08_2011-08-17_formatted-order.pdf

SCAO continues to review the guidelines with data from the trial courts. Some guidelines are being considered for adjustment in 2013.

2012 Average Case Age Rates		Percentage Disposed Within Final Guideline
Circuit Court	Felony	97% within 301 days
Circuit Court	Civil	94% within 728 days
Family Division of Circuit Court	Divorce	
	With Minor Children	90% within 364 days
	Without Minor Children	97% within 364 days
	Child Protective	
	In Foster Care at Disposition	76% within 98 days
	Not In Foster Care at Disposition	91% within 210 days
Probate Court	Delinquency	
	In Detention at Disposition	85% within 98 days
	Not in Detention at Disposition	94% within 210 days
	Contested Matters Within Estate, Trust, Guardianship, Conservatorship, Mental Illness & Judicial Admission	95% within 364 days 98% within 28 days
District Court	Misdemeanor	96% within 126 days
	Civil Infraction	97% within 84 days
	General Civil	99% within 455 days
	Summary Civil Without Jury Demand	95% within 126 days

89 percent of juvenile and child protective cases adjudicated within guidelines

97 percent of felonies adjudicated within guidelines

94 percent of civil cases adjudicated within guidelines

Statewide clearance rates average 100 percent

In May 2013, Michigan’s trial courts will begin reporting case clearance rates – number of case dispositions compared to case filings – on SCAO’s performance measurement webpages.

Clearance rates provide a bird’s-eye view of caseflow management. The clearance rate is the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. Clearance rates measure the extent to which the court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. If cases are not disposed in a timely manner, a backlog of cases awaiting disposition will grow.

Clearance rates will naturally fluctuate slightly above and below 100 percent. Rates significantly lower than 100 percent or consistently lower than 100 percent indicate a backlog is being created. At rates above 100 percent, the court is disposing of more cases than it takes in.

2012 Statewide Clearance Rates

Circuit Court	Felony	100%
	Civil	99%
Family Division of Circuit Court	Divorce	102%
	Delinquency	101%
	Child Protective	97%
Probate Court	Estate & Trust	99%
	Guardianship & Conservatorship	99%
	Mental Illness & Judicial Admission	99%
District Court	Felony	100%
	Misdemeanor	99%
	Civil Infraction	103%
	General Civil	96%

Measuring Child Support Collections: Service to Michigan Families, Basis for Federal Funding

Michigan's friend of the court offices collect and distribute child support, among other duties. Courts measure child support collection rates to assess how well they are doing in collecting monies owed to custodial parents. The percentage of current child support collected is a factor in determining the amount of federal incentive funding Michigan receives.

In 2012, Michigan courts collected an average of 71 percent of the amount of child support owed in the month due – well above the minimum level set by the federal government to receive incentive dollars. States that collect 40 percent or more receive federal incentives for that performance measure; the incentive rate increases as the collection rate increases, from 40 to 80 percent. States that collect more than 80 percent still receive incentives, but the incentive rate does not increase.

Michigan consistently ranks high among the states for total child support collected and distributed. The most recent data from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that Michigan ranks seventh in the country in amounts of child support collected and distributed. Those amounts include past-due support as well as support collected in the same month it is owed. See <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy2011-preliminary-report-table-p-4>.

Friend of the court offices have reported their collections for years. Beginning in May 2013, current support collection percentage by county will be published online as a performance measure.

Michigan's friend of the court offices collected 71 percent of support due in the month owed; state qualifies for federal incentive funding

Michigan ranks 7th among the states in total child support collected and distributed

Sobriety and drug court participants are less likely to reoffend

Measuring Outcomes: Problem-Solving Courts Reduce Crime

Recidivism rates for drug and alcohol courts is another performance measurement that courts will report online in 2013. But what are alcohol and drug courts, and why are recidivism numbers significant?

Drug and alcohol courts are part of the “problem-solving” or “specialty” court movement. The programs focus on addiction to drugs, alcohol, and other destructive behaviors. By using intensive treatment and other services, backed by the threat of court sanctions, these programs address the issues that will otherwise trap the offender in a vicious circle of crime.

Michigan's problem-solving courts include drug, sobriety, family dependency, and juvenile drug, among others. Recent additions include mental health and veterans’ courts.

By measuring recidivism rates, these programs can tell whether they are reducing crime and being cost-effective, compared to traditional sanctions. The data so far indicates that participants in Michigan alcohol and drug courts are less likely to be convicted of a new drug or alcohol crime, or any crime at all, within two to four years after enrollment, compared to a group of similar defendants who were not assigned to the program.

Sobriety Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	10%	3%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	16%	4%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	15%	8%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	18%	10%

District Drug Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	10%	5%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	12%	6%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	16%	11%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	19%	13%

Circuit Drug Court Recidivism Rates

Assessment Period	Conviction Type	Nonparticipants	Participants
2 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	12%	7%
2 Years	Any New Conviction	18%	10%
4 Years	Drug or Alcohol Conviction	20%	16%
4 Years	Any New Conviction	29%	23%

Technology

Statewide Case Information System

The “NextGen” project has the potential to put all Michigan trial courts on a single case information system, as well as provide a much-needed upgrade to trial court technology.

“NextGen” has received high marks from the National Center for State Courts. The new system will replace mainframe-based systems with a modern, Windows-based system for recording and accessing information about court cases. Judicial Information Systems, SCAO’s information technology division, is overseeing the NextGen project.

Berrien County’s Trial Court is piloting NextGen. The civil case module was implemented there in August 2012; the criminal module is scheduled for implementation in January 2014. NextGen will then be rolled out to the 80 percent of trial court locations that now use mainframe-based systems developed by JIS. The goal is to have all state trial courts adopt the NextGen case information system, so that users can easily look up any Michigan trial court case.

More Courts Receive Files Electronically

In 2012, more Michigan courts approached the goal of going “paperless” by accepting documents electronically. “E-filing” bolsters court efficiency – and is a convenience for litigants.

County	Administrative Order	Case Types
Court of Appeals		All
Grand Traverse	2010-4	Circuit Civil, Family, Criminal
Macomb	2010-6	Circuit Civil
Midland	2009-4	Asbestos
Oakland	2007-3, 2009-1	Circuit Civil
	2010-3	Divorce
	2011-6	Estate, Trust Inter Vivos, and Probate Civil
Ottawa	2011-4	Civil and Domestic Relations
Wayne	2011-1	Circuit Civil

Courts continue to expand use of technology

“NextGen” of court technology: a statewide case information system

Courts in 6 counties and the Court of Appeals receive E-files

93 courts can hold
hearings via
videoconference

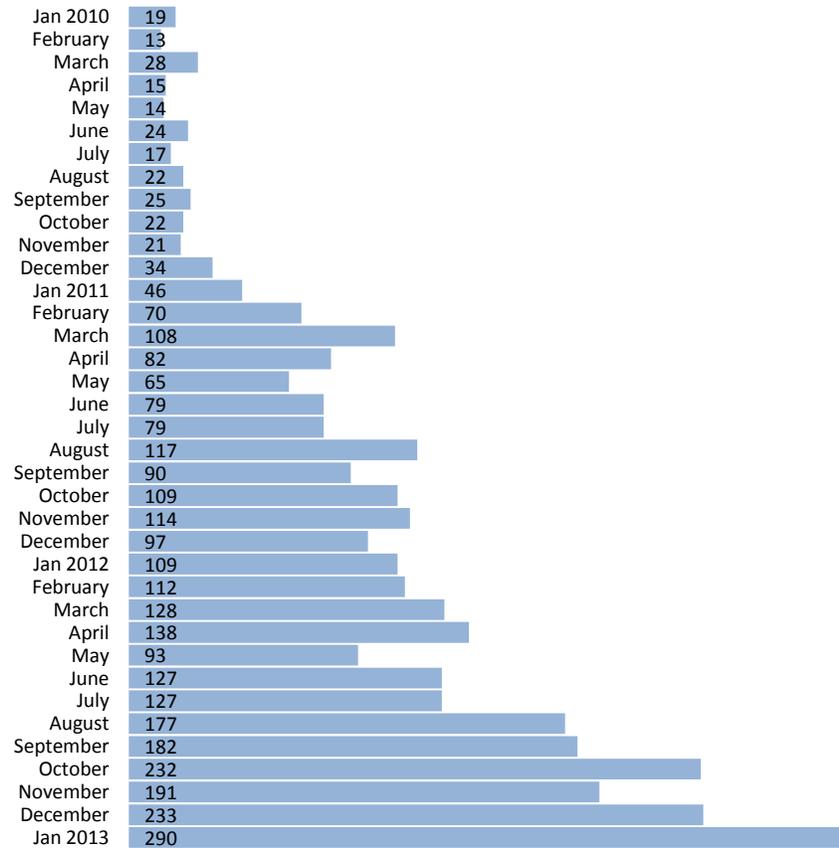
Prisoner “video
transports” surge;
save time, money,
and reduce security
risks

Videoconferencing Surges

In 2012, more Michigan courts took advantage of videoconferencing to cut costs, save time, and reduce security risks.

Videoconferencing allows judges, defendants, officers, experts, witnesses, and others to attend court hearings by video. For example, a defendant can attend a hearing from jail or prison instead of being transported by two armed officers. In 2012, videoconferencing capability expanded to 129 locations that serve 93 courts. In January 2013 alone, 290 corrections inmates participated in hearings by video, representing a significant savings of time and money. This represents a dramatic increase from the 19 “video transports” in January 2010.

Video “Transports” by Michigan Department of Corrections



New “One Court of Justice” Website Offers Improved Access

Live video of Supreme Court hearings, RSS feed subscriptions, a legal self-help center, and an online video series about Michigan courts are just some of the features of the redesigned “One Court of Justice” website.

The 2012 redesign was aimed at making the website easier to navigate, and more serviceable, for a wide audience. Social media, including the Supreme Court’s YouTube channel and Twitter feed, are incorporated into the website. The ADA-compliant site features an improved search engine and offers fresh, useful content organized by audience: “general public,” “legal community,” “media and news,” and “judges and court staff.”

Since the redesigned website debuted in October 2012, it has been used by an average of 43,000 unique visitors viewing 178,000 pages per week.

One feature allows users to search Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions by docket number, party name, or key word. Schedules of court events, such as Supreme Court oral arguments and administrative hearings, are also on the website, as are new and proposed court rules, court forms, case statistics, and press releases. An interactive trial court directory lets users see which courts offer online services, such as e-filing and online payment of court fines.

The site also offers a self-help center for those who represent themselves in court, as well as information about mediating legal disputes. Families involved with the Friend of the Court will find resources, including information about child support and parenting time.

Judges and court staff can view trial court management and policy standards, contact court systems technology support, and get the most recent communications from SCAO. Lawyers and law school graduates will find information on attorney certification and the Board of Law Examiners.

Other features include live streaming of Supreme Court hearings, a lively interactive online version of the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, and the Supreme Court’s online video series, *Court Stories*. Users can submit feedback and get answers to questions via an e-mail address monitored by a live person.

“One Court of Justice” website redesigned

Site used by 43,000 users per week

Online payments
accepted by 79
courts

Queries to Judicial
Data Warehouse
nearly double in
2012

Featured Links

YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MichiganCourts?feature=plcp>

Opinion Search

http://courts.mi.gov/opinions_orders/opinions_orders/pages/default.aspx

Trial Court Directory

<http://courts.mi.gov/Self-help/Directories/Pages/Trial-Court-Directory.aspx>

Self-Help Center

<http://courts.mi.gov/self-help/center/pages/default.aspx>

Mediating Legal Disputes

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/OfficesPrograms/ODR/Pages/default.aspx>

Friend of the Court

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/OfficesPrograms/FOC/Pages/default.aspx>

Court Stories

<http://courts.mi.gov/news-events/court-stories/pages/default.aspx>

More Courts Accept Online Payments

District and municipal courts handle over two million civil infractions each year; many accept online payment for traffic tickets. In addition to being a convenience for ticket payers, online payment systems can automatically post transactions without involving court staff. Seventy-nine courts currently receive electronic payments through the Internet. To find out a court accepts online payments, visit the directory of state trial courts at <http://courts.mi.gov/self-help/directories/pages/trial-court-directory.aspx>.

More Information Sharing Via Data Warehouse

The Judicial Data Warehouse is a central electronic repository for court records. Courts that contribute records to this repository can access records from other courts; other agencies, including law enforcement and the Secretary of State, can access this information.

In 2012, 239 courts, or 98 percent of all Michigan trial courts, contributed records to the Judicial Data Warehouse on a weekly basis. The number of inquiries from law enforcement and other agencies nearly doubled, from 128,109 in 2011 to 223,223 in 2012.

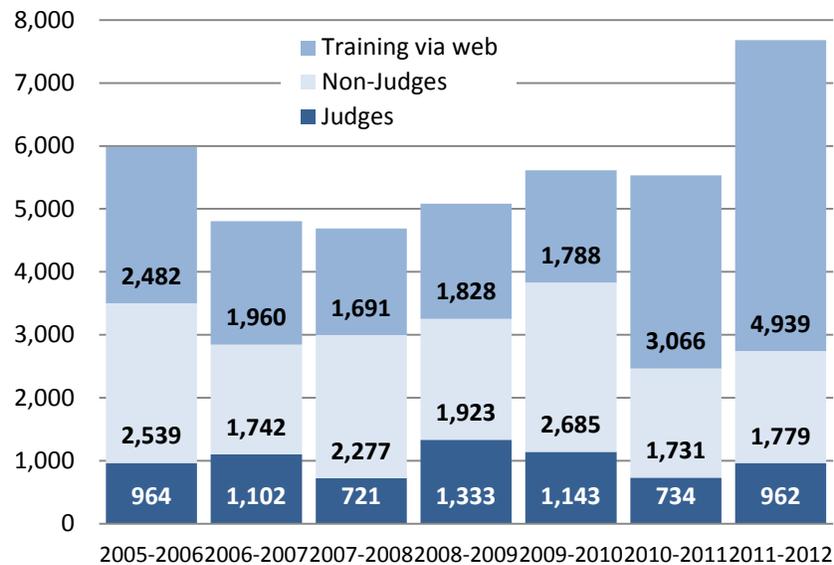
Technology Boosts Continuing Education for Courts

In 2012, online learning came to dominate continuing education for Michigan courts. Nearly twice as many judges, court staff, and others took advantage of web-based training offered by the Michigan Judicial Institute, compared to those who attended MJJ seminars in person.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, 2,741 judges, court staff, and others attended MJJ seminars; an additional 4,939 people participated in web-based training. Although not ideal for all seminars, a webcast is cost-effective when travel is not feasible.

Online learning dominates continuing education for courts

Educational Program Attendance



MJI develops new educational content each year to respond to current issues. Some recent MJI offerings:

Court Reengineering Seminar: Aligning Court Goals with Concurrent Jurisdiction Plan Options

Advanced Customer Service Principles & Practices Seminar

The New Chief Judge & Court Administrator Seminar: Establishing a Relationship & Building Effective Court Management Teams

Effective & Legal Personnel Management Practices Seminar

Urban Drug Court Initiative Seminar

Eighty-eight percent of those who attended MJI seminars in academic year 2011-2012 rated those offerings as “Above Average” or “Excellent.” For more information about MJI, visit <http://courts.mi.gov/education/mji/pages/default.aspx>.

Efficiency

Concurrent jurisdiction plans allow courts to share resources

Courts Coordinate and Consolidate

In 2012, encouraged by the Supreme Court and SCAO, Michigan trial courts continued to share resources and promote efficiency through concurrent jurisdiction plans.

Traditionally, each court within a judicial circuit – circuit, probate, and district – operated independently of each other. Each judge heard only the cases filed in his or her court.

That began to change in 2003 with the passage of legislation that allows courts within a judicial circuit to share judges' time and other resources under what is known as a concurrent jurisdiction plan. For example, all circuit courts have a family division plan; these plans assign some or all family division cases to a probate court judge.

78 Courts Share Judicial Resources

Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties	1 Circuit, 4 Probate, and 1 District
Allegan County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, 1 District
Baraga County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Barry County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Bay County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Berrien County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Calhoun County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Charlevoix and Emmet Counties	2 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties	1 Circuit, 3 Probate, and 3 District
Genesee County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 2 District
Iron County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Isabella County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Lake County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Missaukee and Wexford Counties	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Mecosta and Osceola Counties	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Muskegon	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Ontonagon County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Presque Isle County	1 Circuit and 1 Probate
Saginaw County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
St. Joseph County	1 Circuit and 1 District
Van Buren County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Washtenaw County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 3 District
Wayne County	1 Circuit and 4 District

78 courts share judicial resources

5 counties unify their trial courts

Many circuit and probate courts also share administrative resources, such as clerks, law libraries, court security, and counsel appointment systems. In five judicial circuits, the circuit, probate, and district courts have unified to form a single trial court with one administrative staff.

Unified Trial Courts

Barry County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Berrien County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Iron County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Isabella County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District
Lake County	1 Circuit, 1 Probate, and 1 District

Chief Judges of Multiple Courts

Supporting the drive toward consolidation is the Michigan Supreme Court's appointment of chief judges to oversee more than one court.

Historically, the Supreme Court would appoint a chief judge for each trial court. For example, in Genesee County there were four chief judges: one for circuit court, one for probate court, and one for each of the two district courts.

In 2009, the Supreme Court appointed nine chief judges to each preside over multiple courts. By 2012, 36 judges were presiding over multiple courts, to encourage greater coordination among courts in the same jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court
appointed 36 chief
judges to preside
over 2 or more
courts

Multicourt Chief Judges

as of January 31, 2013

Chief Judge	Courts	County
Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel	D45A, D45	Oakland
Hon. James M. Batzer	Circuit, Probate, District	Benzie/Manistee
Hon. Lynne Marie Buday	Probate, District	Kalkaska
Hon. Monte Burmeister	Probate, District	Crawford
Hon. Thomas K. Byerley	Circuit, Probate, District	Eaton
Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain	Circuit, Probate, District	Isabella
Hon. Elizabeth B. Church	Probate, District	Chippewa
Hon. Stephen T. Davis	Circuit, Probate, District	Delta
Hon. William M. Doherty	Circuit, Probate, District	Barry
Hon. Kim David Glaspie	Circuit, Probate, District	Tuscola
Hon. Charles R. Goodman	Circuit, Probate, District	Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw
Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz	Circuit, Probate	Kalamazoo
Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.	D21, D22	Wayne
Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy	Circuit, Probate, District	Mecosta/Osceola
Hon. Nick O. Holowka	Circuit, Probate, District	Lapeer
Hon. Daniel J. Kelly	Circuit, Probate, District	St. Clair
Hon. M. Richard Knoblock	Circuit, Probate, District	Huron
Hon. Stephen P. Carras	Circuit, Probate, District	Midland
Hon. Thomas E. Nelson	Circuit, Probate, District	Berrien
Hon. P. William O'Grady	Circuit, Probate, District	Branch
Hon. Charles Parsons	Probate, District	Missaukee
	District	Wexford
Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich	Circuit, Probate, District	Cheboygan/Presque Isle
Hon. David Reader	Circuit, Probate, District	Livingston
Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler	Circuit, Probate, District	Iron
Hon. Donald E. Shelton	Circuit, Probate	Washtenaw
Hon. Michael R. Smith	Circuit, Probate, District	Hillsdale
Hon. Paul E. Stutesman	Circuit, Probate, District	St. Joseph
Hon. Donald A. Teeple	Circuit, Probate, District	Sanilac
Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.	Circuit, Probate, District	Gogebic/Ontonagon
Hon. David Viviano	Circuit, Probate	Macomb
Hon. Peter J. Wadel	Circuit, Probate, District	Mason
Hon. Mark S. Wickens	Circuit, Probate, District	Lake
Hon. Frank D. Willis	Circuit, Probate, District	Van Buren
Hon. Thomas D. Wilson	Circuit, Probate	Jackson
Hon. Allen C. Yenior	Circuit, Probate, District	Alcona/Arenac/Iosco/Oscoda
Hon. Richard B. Yuille	Circuit, Probate, and District	Genesee

TRIAL COURT APPENDIX A: Courts and Judges

as of January 31, 2013

*Chief Judge

Alcona, Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties

23rd Circuit	Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron Hon. William F. Myles
Alcona County Probate	Hon. Laura A. Frawley
Arenac County Probate	Hon. Richard E. Vollbach, Jr
Iosco County Probate	Hon. Christopher P. Martin
Oscoda County Probate	Hon. Kathryn Joan Root
81st District	Hon. Allen C. Yenior*

Alger, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft Counties

11th Circuit	Hon. William W. Carmody*
Alger/Schoolcraft Probate District 5	Hon. Charles C. Nebel*
Luce/Mackinac Probate District 6	Hon. W. Clayton Graham*
92nd District	Hon. Beth Gibson*
93rd District	Hon. Mark E. Luoma*

Allegan County

48th Circuit	Hon. Margaret Bakker* Hon. Kevin W. Cronin
Allegan County Probate	Hon. Michael L. Buck*
57th District	Hon. William A. Baillargeon Hon. Joseph S. Skocelas*

Alpena and Montmorency Counties

26th Circuit	Hon. Michael G. Mack*
Alpena County Probate	Hon. Thomas J. LaCross*
Montmorency County Probate	Hon. Benjamin T. Bolser*
88th District	Hon. Theodore O. Johnson*

Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau Counties

13th Circuit	Hon. Thomas G. Power* Hon. Philip E. Rogers, Jr
Antrim County Probate	Hon. Norman R. Hayes*
Grand Traverse County Probate	Hon. Melanie Stanton*
Leelanau County Probate	Hon. Larry J. Nelson*
86th District	Hon. Michael J. Haley Hon. Thomas J. Phillips* Hon. Michael Stepka

Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties

12th Circuit	Hon. Charles R. Goodman*
Baraga County Probate	Hon. Timothy S. Brennan
Houghton County Probate	Hon. Fraser T. Strome
Keweenaw County Probate	Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen
97th District	Hon. Mark A. Wisti

Barry County

5th Circuit	Hon. Amy McDowell
Barry County Probate	Hon. William M. Doherty*
56B District	Hon. Michael Lee Schipper

Bay County

18th Circuit	Hon. Harry P. Gill Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt* Hon. Joseph K. Sheeran
Bay County Probate	Hon. Karen Tighe*
74th District	Hon. Mark E. Janer Hon. Timothy J. Kelly* Hon. Dawn A. Klida

Benzie and Manistee Counties

19th Circuit	Hon. James M. Batzer*
Benzie County Probate	Hon. John Mead
Manistee County Probate	Hon. Thomas N. Brunner
85th District – Benzie County	Hon. John Mead
85th District – Manistee County	Hon. Thomas N. Brunner

Berrien County

2nd Circuit	Hon. John E. Dewane Hon. John M. Donahue Hon. Charles T. LaSata Hon. Angela Pasula
Berrien County Probate	Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield Hon. Thomas E. Nelson*
5th District	Hon. Gary J. Bruce Hon. Scott Schofield Hon. Sterling R. Schrock Hon. Dennis M. Wiley Vacant

Branch County

15th Circuit	Hon. Patrick W. O’Grady*
Branch County Probate	Hon. Kirk A. Kashian
3A District	Hon. Brent R. Weigle

Calhoun County

37th Circuit	Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht Hon. James C. Kingsley* Hon. Stephen B. Miller Hon. Conrad J. Sindt
Calhoun County Probate	Hon. Michael L. Jaconette*
10th District	Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr. Hon. John A. Hallacy Hon. John R. Holmes* Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.

Cass County

43rd Circuit	Hon. Michael E. Dodge*
Cass County Probate	Hon. Susan L. Dobrich*
4th District	Hon. Stacey A. Rentfrow*

Charlevoix and Emmet Counties

33rd Circuit	Hon. Richard M. Pajtas*
57th Circuit	Hon. Charles W. Johnson*
Charlevoix/Emmet Probate District 7	Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser*
90th District	Hon. James N. Erhart*

Cheboygan and Presque Isle Counties

53rd Circuit	Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich*
Cheboygan County Probate	Hon. Robert John Butts
Presque Isle County Probate	Hon. Donald J. McLennan
89th District	Hon. Maria I. Barton

Chippewa County

50th Circuit	Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros*
Chippewa County Probate	Hon. Elizabeth Biolette Church*
91st District	Hon. Elizabeth Biolette Church*

Clare and Gladwin Counties

55th Circuit	Hon. Thomas R. Evans*
	Hon. Roy G. Mienk
Clare/Gladwin Probate District 17	Hon. Marcy A. Klaus*
80th District	Hon. Joshua M. Farrell*

Clinton and Gratiot Counties

29th Circuit	Hon. Michelle M. Rick
	Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen*
Clinton County Probate	Hon. Lisa Sullivan*
Gratiot County Probate	Hon. Kristin M. Bakker*
65A District	Hon. Richard D. Wells*
65B District	Hon. Stewart D. McDonald*

Crawford, Kalkaska, and Otsego Counties

46th Circuit	Hon. Janet M. Allen*
	Hon. George J. Mertz
Crawford County Probate	Hon. Monte Burmeister*
Kalkaska County Probate	Hon. Lynne Marie Buday*
Otsego County Probate	Hon. Michael K. Cooper*
87A District	Hon. Patricia A. Morse*
87B District	Hon. Lynne Marie Buday*
87C District	Hon. Monte Burmeister*

Delta County

47th Circuit	Hon. Stephen T. Davis*
Delta County Probate	Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.
94th District	Hon. Glenn A. Pearson

Dickinson, Iron, and Menominee Counties

41st Circuit	Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind*
	Hon. Richard J. Celeslo
Iron County Probate	Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler*
Dickinson County Probate	Hon. Thomas D. Slagle*
Menominee County Probate	Hon. William A. Hupy*
95A District	Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow*
95B District	Hon. Christopher S. Ninomiya*

Eaton County

56th Circuit	Hon. Janice K. Cunningham
	Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven
Eaton County Probate	Hon. Thomas K. Byerley*
56A District	Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman
	Hon. Julie H. Reincke

Genesee County

7th Circuit	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
	Hon. Michael J. Theile
	Hon. Richard B. Yuille*
Genesee County Probate	Hon. Jennie E. Barkey
	Hon. F. Kay Behm
67th District	Hon. John L. Conover
	Hon. David J. Goggins
	Hon. Mark W. Latchana
	Hon. Mark C. McCabe
	Hon. Christopher Odette
	Hon. Larry Stecco
68th District	Hon. Tracy L. Collier-Nix
	Hon. William H. Crawford, II
	Hon. Mary Catherine Dowd
	Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
	Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III

Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties

32nd Circuit	Hon. Roy D. Gotham
Gogebic County Probate	Hon. Joel L. Massie
Ontonagon County Probate	Hon. Janis M. Burgess
98th District	Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.*

Hillsdale County

1st Circuit	Hon. Michael R. Smith*
Hillsdale County Probate	Hon. Michelle Snell Bianchi
2B District	Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

Huron County

52nd Circuit	Hon. M. Richard Knoblock*
Huron County Probate	Hon. David L. Clabuesch
	Hon. David B. Herrington
73B District	Hon. David B. Herrington

Ingham County

30th Circuit	Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina
	Hon. Laura Baird
	Hon. Clinton Canady, III
	Hon. William E. Collette
	Hon. Joyce Draganchuk
	Hon. James S. Jamo
	Hon. Janelle A. Lawless*

Ingham County, continued

Ingham County Probate	Hon. R. George Economy* Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia
54A District	Hon. Louise Alderson Hon. Patrick F. Cherry Hon. Hugh B. Clarke, Jr. Hon. Frank J. DeLuca* Hon. Charles F. Filice
54B District	Hon. Richard D. Ball* Hon. Andrea Andrews Larkin
55th District	Hon. Donald L. Allen Hon. Thomas P. Boyd*

Ionia and Montcalm Counties

8th Circuit	Hon. David A. Hoort Hon. Suzanne Kreeger*
Ionia County Probate	Hon. Robert S. Sykes, Jr. *
Montcalm County Probate	Hon. Charles W. Simon, III*
64A District	Hon. Raymond P. Voet*
64B District	Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen*

Isabella County

21st Circuit	Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain* Hon. Mark H. Duthie
Isabella County Probate	Hon. William T. Ervin
76th District	Hon. William R. Rush

Jackson County

4th Circuit	Hon. Susan E. Beebe Hon. Richard N. LaFlamme Hon. John G. McBain, Jr. Hon. Thomas D. Wilson*
Jackson County Probate	Hon. Diane M. Rappleye
12th District	Hon. Joseph S. Filip Hon. Daniel A. Goostrey Hon. Michael J. Klaeren Hon. R. Darryl Mazur*

Kalamazoo County

9th Circuit	Hon. Gary C. Giguere, Jr. Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz* Hon. J. Richardson Johnson Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet Hon. Alexander C. Lipsey
Kalamazoo County Probate	Hon. Curtis J. Bell Hon. Patricia N. Conlon Hon. Donald R. Halstead
8th District	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

Kent County

17th Circuit	Hon. George S. Buth Hon. Paul J. Denenfeld Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III* Hon. Dennis B. Leiber Hon. James R. Redford Hon. Paul J. Sullivan Hon. Mark A. Trusock Hon. Christopher P. Yates Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis
Kent County Probate	Hon. Patricia D. Gardner Hon. G. Patrick Hillary Hon. David M. Murkowski* Hon. George Jay Quist
59th District	Hon. Peter P. Versluis*
61st District	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
62A District	Hon. Pablo Cortes Hon. Steven M. Timmers*
62B District	Hon. William G. Kelly*
63rd District	Hon. Steven R. Servaas Hon. Sara J. Smolenski*

Lake and Mason Counties

51st Circuit	Hon. Richard I. Cooper
Lake County Probate	Hon. Mark S. Wickens*
Mason County Probate	Hon. Jeffrey C. Nellis
79th District	Hon. Peter J. Wadel*

Lapeer County

40th Circuit	Hon. Michael P. Higgins Hon. Nick O. Holowka*
Lapeer County Probate	Hon. Justus C. Scott
71A District	Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard

Lenawee County

39th Circuit	Hon. Margaret Murray-Scholz Noe Hon. Timothy P. Pickard*
Lenawee County Probate	Hon. Gregg P. Iddings*
2A District	Hon. Laura J. Schaedler Hon. James E. Sheridan*

Livingston County

44th Circuit	Hon. Michael P. Hatty Hon. David Reader*
Livingston County Probate	Hon. Miriam Cavanaugh
53rd District	Hon. Theresa M. Brennan Hon. L. Suzanne Geddis Hon. Carol Sue Reader

Macomb County

16th Circuit	Hon. James M. Biernat, Jr. Hon. Richard L. Caretti Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski Hon. Diane M. Druzinski Hon. John C. Foster Hon. Peter J. Maceroni Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr. Hon. Mark S. Switalski Hon. Matthew S. Switalski Hon. David Viviano* Hon. Kathryn A. Viviano Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
Macomb County Probate	Hon. Kathryn A. George Hon. Carl J. Marlinga
37th District	Hon. Dean Ausilio Hon. John M. Chmura* Hon. Jennifer Faunce Hon. Matthew P. Sabaugh
38th District	Hon. Carl F. Gerds, III*
39th District	Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker Hon. Marco A. Santia Hon. Catherine B. Steenland*
40th District	Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli* Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster
41A District	Hon. Michael S. Maceroni* Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegand
41B District	Hon. Linda Davis Hon. Carrie Lynn Fuca Hon. Sebastian Lucido*
42nd District	Hon. William H. Hackel, III Hon. Denis R. LeDuc*

Marquette County

25th Circuit	Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi Hon. Thomas L. Solka*
Marquette County Probate	Hon. Cheryl L. Hill*
96th District	Hon. Dennis H. Girard* Hon. Roger W. Kangas

Mecosta and Osceola Counties

49th Circuit	Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy* Hon. Ronald C. Nichols
Mecosta/Osceola Probate District 18	Hon. Marco S. Menezes
77th District	Hon. Susan H. Grant

Midland County

42nd Circuit	Hon. Michael J. Beale Hon. Jonathan E. Lauderbach*
Midland County Probate	Hon. Doreen S. Allen
75th District	Hon. Stephen Carras Hon. John Henry Hart

Missaukee and Wexford Counties

28th Circuit	Hon. William M. Fagerman*
Missaukee County Probate	Hon. Charles R. Parsons*
Wexford County Probate	Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma*
84th District	Vacant

Monroe County

38th Circuit	Hon. Michael W. LaBeau* Hon. Michael A. Weipert Hon. Daniel White
Monroe County Probate	Hon. Frank L. Arnold Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.*
1st District	Hon. Mark S. Braunlich Hon. Terrence P. Bronson Hon. Jack Vitale*

Muskegon County

14th Circuit	Hon. Timothy G. Hicks Hon. William C. Marietti* Hon. John C. Ruck Hon. Annette R. Smedley
Muskegon County Probate	Hon. Neil G. Mullally* Hon. Gregory C. Pittman
60th District	Hon. Harold F. Closz, III Hon. Maria Ladas Hoopes* Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan Hon. Andrew Wierengo

Newaygo and Oceana Counties

27th Circuit	Hon. Anthony A. Monton* Hon. Terrence R. Thomas
Newaygo County Probate	Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff*
Oceana County Probate	Hon. Bradley G. Lambrix*
78th District	Hon. H. Kevin Drake*

Oakland County

6th Circuit	Hon. James M. Alexander Hon. Martha Anderson Hon. Leo Bowman Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan Hon. Rae Lee Chabot Hon. Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca Hon. Nanci J. Grant* Hon. Shalina D. Kumar Hon. Denise Langford-Morris Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews Hon. Karen D. McDonald Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen Hon. Rudy J. Nichols Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr. Hon. Joan E. Young
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Oakland County, continued

Oakland County Probate	Hon. Linda S. Hallmark* Hon. Daniel A. O'Brien Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti Hon. Kathleen A. Ryan
43rd District	Hon. Charles G. Goedert Hon. Keith P. Hunt Hon. Joseph Longo*
44th District	Hon. Terrence H. Brennan* Hon. Derek W. Meinecke
45A District	Hon. James L. Wittenberg
45B District	Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel* Hon. David M. Gubow
46th District	Hon. Shelia R. Johnson Hon. Debra Nance Hon. William J. Richards*
47th District	Hon. James Brady* Hon. Marla E. Parker
48th District	Hon. Marc Barron Hon. Diane D'Agostini* Hon. Kimberly Small
50th District	Hon. Ronda Fowlkes Gross Hon. Michael C. Martinez Hon. Preston G. Thomas Hon. Cynthia Thomas Walker*
51st District	Hon. Jodi R. Debbrecht Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr. *
52nd District	Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian Hon. William E. Bolle Hon. Robert Bondy Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak Hon. Joseph G. Fabrizio Hon. Kirsten Nielsen Hartig Hon. Kelley Renae Kostin Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie Hon. Julie A. Nicholson* Hon. Dennis N. Powers

Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties

34th Circuit	Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner*
Ogemaw County Probate	Hon. Shana A. Lambourn*
Roscommon County Probate	Hon. Douglas C. Dossan*
82nd District	Hon. Richard E. Noble* Hon. Daniel L. Sutton

Ottawa County

20th Circuit	Hon. Kent D. Engle Hon. Jon H. Hulsing Hon. Edward R. Post* Hon. Jon Van Allsburg
Ottawa County Probate	Hon. Mark A. Feyen*
58th District	Hon. Craig E. Bunce Hon. Susan A. Jonas Hon. Bradley S. Knoll* Hon. Kenneth D. Post

Saginaw County

10th Circuit	Hon. Janet M. Boes Hon. Fred L. Borchard* Hon. James T. Borchard Hon. Darnell Jackson Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek
Saginaw County Probate	Hon. Faye M. Harrison Hon. Patrick J. McGraw*
70th District	Hon. Terry L. Clark Hon. Alfred T. Frank Hon. M. Randall Jurens* Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr. Vacant

Sanilac County

24th Circuit	Hon. Donald A. Teeple*
Sanilac County Probate	Hon. Gregory S. Ross
73A District	Hon. Gregory S. Ross

Shiawassee County

35th Circuit	Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco*
Shiawassee County Probate	Hon. Thomas J. Dignan*
66th District	Hon. Ward L. Clarkson* Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

St. Clair County

31st Circuit	Hon. Daniel J. Kelly* Hon. Cynthia A. Lane Hon. Michael L. West
St. Clair County Probate	Hon. Elwood L. Brown Hon. John D. Tomlinson
72nd District	Hon. Michael L. Hulewicz Hon. John D. Monaghan Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer

St. Joseph County

45th Circuit	Hon. Paul E. Stutesman*
St. Joseph County Probate	Hon. David C. Tomlinson
3B District	Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton Hon. Robert Pattison

Tuscola County

54th Circuit	Hon. Amy G. Gierhart
Tuscola County Probate	Hon. Nancy Thane
71B District	Hon. Kim David Glaspie*

Van Buren County

36th Circuit	Hon. Kathleen Brickley Hon. Paul E. Hamre
Van Buren County Probate	Hon. Frank D. Willis*
7th District	Hon. Arthur H. Clarke, III Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

Washtenaw County

22nd Circuit	Hon. Archie Cameron Brown Hon. Timothy P. Connors Hon. Carol A. Kuhnke Hon. Donald E. Shelton* Hon. David S. Swartz
Washtenaw County Probate	Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien Hon. Nancy Cornelia Wheeler
14A District	Hon. Richard E. Conlin Hon. J. Cedric Simpson Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey*
14B District	Hon. Charles Pope*
15th District	Hon. Joseph F. Burke Hon. Christopher S. Easthope Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines*

Wayne County

3rd Circuit	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. Karen Y. Braxton Hon. Margie R. Braxton Hon. Megan Maher Brennan Hon. James A. Callahan Hon. Michael J. Callahan Hon. Jerome C. Cavanagh Hon. Eric William Cholack Hon. James R. Chylinski Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr. Hon. Kevin J. Cox Hon. Daphne Means Curtis Hon. Christopher D. Dingell 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. Dana Margaret Hathaway Hon. Daniel Arthur Hathaway Hon. Michael M. Hathaway Hon. Susan L. Hubbard Hon. Muriel D. Hughes Hon. Vera Massey Jones Hon. Connie Marie Kelley Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny Hon. Arthur J. Lombard Hon. Kathleen I. Macdonald Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy Hon. Wade H. McCree
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Wayne County, continued

	Hon. Bruce U. Morrow Hon. John A. Murphy Hon. Maria L. Oxholm Hon. Linda V. Parker Hon. Lynne A. Pierce Hon. Lita Masini Popke Hon. Daniel P. Ryan Hon. Richard M. Skutt Hon. Mark T. Slavens Hon. Leslie Kim Smith Hon. Virgil C. Smith* Hon. Martha M. Snow Hon. Jeanne Stempien Hon. Craig S. Strong Hon. Brian R. Sullivan Hon. Lawrence S. Talon Hon. Deborah A. Thomas Hon. Margaret M. Van Houten Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski
Wayne County Probate	Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr. Hon. Judy A. Hartsfield Hon. Terrance A. Keith Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr. * Hon. Martin T. Maher Hon. Lisa Marie Neilson Hon. Frank S. Szymanski
16th District	Hon. Sean P. Kavanagh Hon. Kathleen J. McCann*
17th District	Hon. Karen Khalil* Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth
18th District	Hon. Sandra A. Cicirelli* Hon. Mark A. McConnell
19th District	Hon. William C. Hultgren Hon. Sam A. Salamey* Hon. Mark W. Somers
20th District	Hon. Mark J. Plawecki Hon. David Turfe*
21st District	Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr. *
22nd District	Hon. Sabrina L. Johnson
23rd District	Hon. Geno Salomone* Hon. William J. Sutherland
24th District	Hon. John T. Courtright* Hon. Richard A. Page
25th District	Hon. Michael F. Ciungan Hon. David J. Zelenak
27th District	Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach*
28th District	Hon. James A. Kandreas*
29th District	Hon. Laura Redmond Mack*
30th District	Hon. Brigette R. Officer*
31st District	Hon. Paul J. Paruk*
32A District	Hon. Roger J. La Rose*
33rd District	Hon. Jennifer Coleman Hesson Hon. James Kurt Kersten Hon. Michael K. McNally*

Wayne County, continued

34th District	Hon. Tina Brooks Green* Hon. Brian A. Oakley Hon. David M. Parrott
35th District	Hon. Michael J. Gerou Hon. Ronald W. Lowe* Hon. James A. Plakas
36th District	Hon. Lydia Nance Adams Hon. Roberta C. Archer Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount Hon. Izetta F. Bright Hon. Demetria Brue Hon. Esther Lynise Bryant-Weekes Hon. Ruth C. Carter Hon. Donald Coleman Hon. Prentis Edwards, Jr. Hon. Wanda Evans Hon. Deborah Geraldine Ford Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett Hon. Ronald Giles Hon. Katherine Hansen

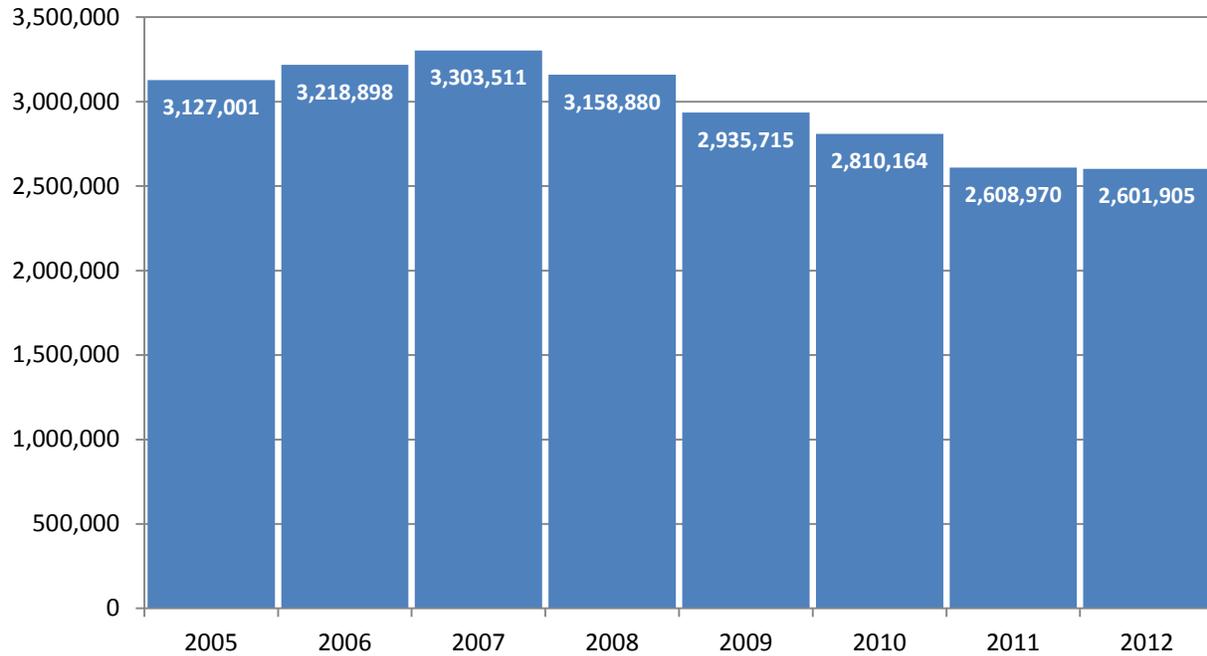
Wayne County, continued

	Hon. Shannon A. Holmes Hon. Paula G. Humphries Hon. Patricia L. Jeffereson Hon. Alicia A. Jones-Coleman Hon. Kenneth J. King* Hon. Deborah L. Langston Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark Hon. William McConico Hon. Donna R. Milhouse Hon. B. Pennie Millender Hon. Cylenthia LaToye Miller Hon. Kevin F. Robbins Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr. Hon. Brenda Karen Sanders Hon. Michael E. Wagner
Grosse Pte. Municipal	Hon. Russell F. Ethridge*
Grosse Pte. Farms Municipal	Hon. Matthew R. Rumora*
Grosse Pte. Park Municipal	Hon. Carl F. Jarboe*
Grosse Pte. Woods Municipal	Hon. Theodore A. Metry*

For a current list of courts and judges, go to the online Trial Court Directory at:
<http://courts.mi.gov/self-help/directories/pages/trial-court-directory.aspx>.

TRIAL COURT APPENDIX B: Cases Filings

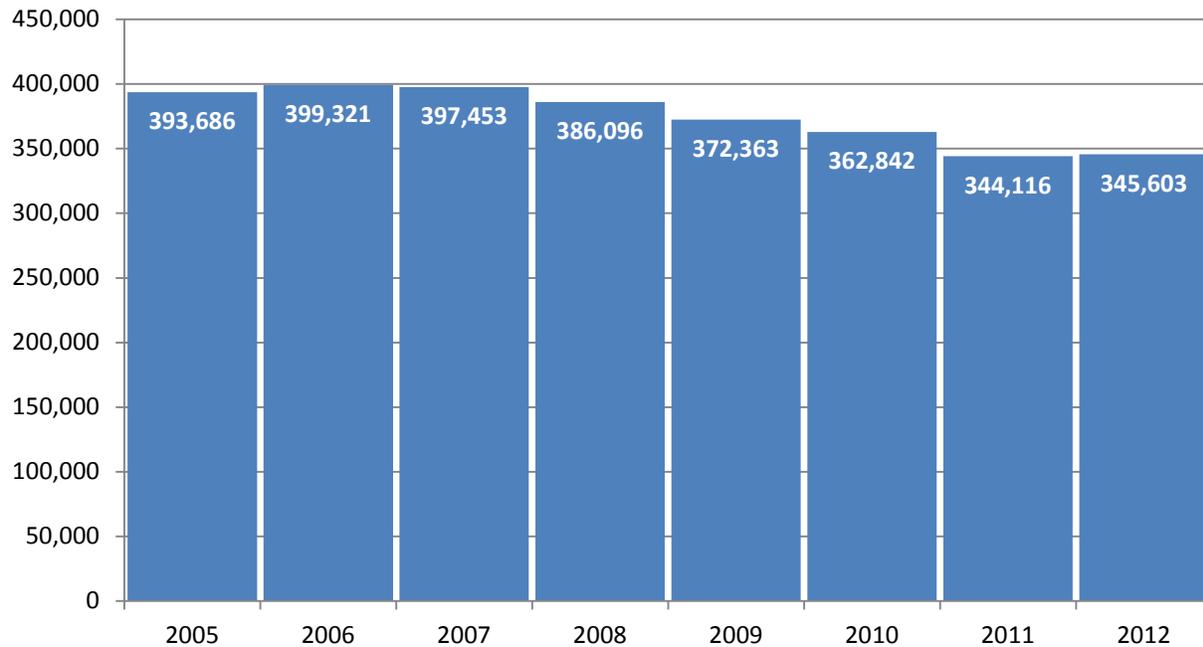
District and Municipal Court Case Filings



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Felony & Extradition	81,372	81,280	82,605	80,728	74,440	70,823	68,891	69,485
Misdemeanor	267,751	271,523	282,341	262,711	248,159	239,230	221,150	220,999
Civil Infraction	51,970	62,501	69,292	66,818	67,395	64,691	62,271	63,436
Nontraffic Subtotal	401,093	415,304	434,238	410,257	389,994	374,744	352,312	353,920
Traffic Felony	2,036	1,917	1,823	1,862	1,881	1,743	1,780	1,731
Traffic Misdemeanor	287,603	307,968	301,504	281,657	269,075	273,458	266,929	269,005
Traffic Civil Infraction	1,791,741	1,809,580	1,841,950	1,715,837	1,604,293	1,523,347	1,379,725	1,357,817
OWI Misd. & Felony	55,980	54,399	51,144	48,632	46,761	41,721	36,671	36,876
Traffic Subtotal	2,137,360	2,173,864	2,196,421	2,047,988	1,922,010	1,840,269	1,685,105	1,665,429
General & Misc Civil	288,923	317,626	379,910	376,445	333,164	318,519	284,620	300,277
Small Claims	90,383	89,167	84,803	78,267	71,828	62,730	58,147	56,081
Summary Proceedings	213,669	222,937	238,848	240,008	218,719	213,902	228,786	226,198
Civil Subtotal	592,975	629,730	703,561	694,720	623,711	595,151	571,553	582,556
Total	3,131,428	3,218,898	3,334,220	3,152,965	2,935,715	2,810,164	2,608,970	2,601,905

<http://courts.mi.gov/education/stats/Caseload/Pages/2012-Statistical-Supplement.aspx>

Circuit and Probate Court Case Filings, including Court of Claims



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Civil	44,740	44,988	46,089	46,216	47,300	45,760	44,457	44,123
Criminal	63,575	65,532	67,123	65,416	61,851	58,325	55,435	52,841
Appeals, Admin. Review, Writs	5,150	4,988	5,065	5,198	5,039	5,002	4,302	4,668
Court of Claims	225	186	177	153	150	118	135	160
Nonfamily Subtotal	113,690	115,694	118,454	116,983	114,340	109,205	104,329	101,792
Domestic Relations	85,262	88,802	88,022	84,754	85,854	87,300	82,028	83,186
Personal Protection	43,543	41,779	39,163	38,266	40,222	39,568	37,725	37,849
Juvenile Code	79,621	82,243	81,456	75,812	61,239	56,875	50,285	51,346
Adoption	5,504	4,874	5,066	5,057	4,808	4,538	4,362	4,249
Misc. Family	3,456	3,788	3,661	3,765	3,772	3,888	3,566	3,594
Family Subtotal	217,386	221,486	217,368	207,654	195,895	192,169	177,966	180,224
Estates & Trusts	25,476	24,391	23,892	23,950	23,997	23,215	23,605	23,807
Guardianships, Conservatorships, & Protective Proceedings	22,357	22,143	21,528	21,593	21,374	21,320	20,791	21,147
Mental Health & Judicial Admission	13,877	14,556	15,265	14,993	15,852	16,036	16,453	17,413
Civil & Miscellaneous	900	1,051	946	923	905	897	972	1,220
Probate Subtotal	62,610	62,141	61,631	61,459	62,128	61,468	61,821	63,587
Total	393,686	399,321	397,453	386,096	372,363	362,842	344,116	345,603

<http://courts.mi.gov/education/stats/Caseload/Pages/2012-Statistical-Supplement.aspx>



The Michigan Supreme Court listens to oral arguments in *People v Smith-Anthony* at the Midland Arts Center. The “Court Community Connections” program takes the Court to different locations throughout the state to hear oral argument; the program is aimed at educating high school students about the rule of law. *Photo by D.J. Cole, Midland*