

BY THE NUMBERS: THE MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS AT 50 YEARS

- A caseload of **365** cases transferred from the Michigan Supreme Court greeted the **9** new Judges and **45** employees of the Court of Appeals at its opening on **January 12, 1965**. By the end of that year, the Court had received **1,235** case filings. Filings increased steadily each year to a high of **13,352** cases in **1992**. As of its **50th** anniversary, over **325,000** cases have been filed with the Court of Appeals.
- The Judges of the Court of Appeals have issued over **151,700** dispositive opinions in the Court's first **50** years. Of those, over **28,300** are published opinions reported in the **306** volumes of the Michigan Appeals Reports.
- **82** Judges have served on the Court of Appeals bench; **41** reached the Court of Appeals initially by election and **41** were by appointment of the Governor. **13** Judges have gone on to serve on the Michigan Supreme Court and **3** others were subsequently appointed to the federal bench.
- The **1st** female member of the Court of Appeals bench was former-Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley; she was appointed by Governor William G. Milliken in **1976**. Since Justice Riley's appointment, **19** more women have been elected or appointed to the Court.
- **28** years by current Judge David H. Sawyer represents the longest term of service as a Judge of the Court of Appeals. The shortest term was **1.5** years by Judge John D. Watts, an original member of the Court who died in office in **June 1966**.
- **3** employees have served the Court of Appeals for more than **40** years. Elizabeth Pyzik was the last of the Court's original employees when she retired in **2009** after nearly **41** years with the Court. In **2015**, current employees Annie Madigan and Barbara Buckley will achieve **41** and **40** years of service respectively.
- The Court of Appeals centralized research staff was a **1st** of its kind when Chief Judge T. John Lesinski introduced it in **1968**, possibly his most lasting legacy to the Court. Since its inception, well over **1,000** young attorneys have started their careers with the Court and have gone on to distinguished careers as practitioners, judges, justices, and court administrators, making a remarkable impact on Michigan jurisprudence.
- Since the Court of Appeals implemented its voluntary electronic filing (e-filing) system in **2006**, over **206,000** documents in roughly **17,500** cases have been electronically filed. E-filings have increased exponentially over the years, from roughly **1,000** filings per year to over **50,000** filings in recent years. In **January 2015**, the Court will take the next step in this technological evolution, partnering with the Michigan Supreme Court in the adoption of a new e-filing solution for both Courts developed by ImageSoft Inc. of Southfield.
- In **2010**, the Court of Appeals began to accept electronic case records from lower courts. Initially filed on compact discs, the e-records are now received by electronic file transfer directly into Court servers. In the first **4** years the Court has received over **1,700** electronic case records from several circuit courts, **1,300** from Oakland Circuit Court alone. Other courts that regularly provide e-records are Macomb, Grand Traverse, and Alpena Circuit Courts.