



OAKLAND
COUNTY

MICHIGAN

CIRCUIT & PROBATE COURTS

2020-2022

Annual Report

*Sixth Judicial Circuit Court &
Oakland County Probate Court*



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

Telephone: (248) 858-1000

Website: OakGov.com/circuit

OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Telephone: (248) 858-1000

Website: OakGov.com/probate

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief Judges	1
2020—2022 In Review	2
Judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit—2022	3
Judges of the Oakland County Probate Court—2022	4
Judges in Transition—2020-2022	4
In Memorium—2020-2022	6
Historical Roster of the Courts	5
Court Administration	7
Clerk Support	7
Circuit Court—Civil/Criminal Division	9
Administrative Attorney Support Unit.....	9
Case Management Office.....	9
Jury Office	10
Business Court	11
Adult Treatment Court.....	11
Combat Veterans Treatment Court	11
Circuit Court—Family Division	13
Friend of the Court.....	13
Judicial Support Services.....	14
Juvenile Court Referees.....	14
Clinical Services Unit.....	14
Juvenile Support Services	15
Juvenile Intake Unit.....	15
Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit.....	15
Personal Protection Order Office	15
Adoption Services Unit	15
Court Services	16
Casework Services	16
Youth Problem Solving Courts	16
Youth Assistance	17
Probate Court Administration	19
Probate Court—Estates and Mental Health	21
Mental Health Unit	21
Guardianship and Conservatorship Unit.....	22
Estates and Trusts Unit	22
Business Division of the Courts	24
Administrative/Financial Unit.....	24
Data Technology Unit	25
Court Resource and Program Support Unit	25
Retirements	29
2020-2022 Highlights	27
Acknowledgments	29

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUDGES



Hon. Jeffery S. Matis
*Chief Judge of the
Circuit Court*



Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
*Chief Judge of the
Probate Court*

Elected Officials and Citizens of Oakland County:

It is our genuine pleasure to present to you the 2020-2022 Annual Report for the Circuit and Probate Courts which outlines the accomplishments and challenges of the pandemic years 2020-2022. Annual reports, while a point of pride for the courts, serve more purposes than just a way for us to highlight the courts' many accomplishments. The reports create a roadmap of where we have been, illustrate our current progress, and indicate the exciting upward trajectory of the courts and judicial system as a whole. In these reports, the information also helps the reader better understand the judicial system and how to navigate through the courts so that the user finds the overall judicial system accessible and convenient.

As judges and employees, it is imperative that we never lose focus of our foundational mission – to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. Our annual report keeps this mission front and center and gives us yet another means to reflect on how well we carried out that mission. It is a window of transparency into the service our dedicated staff tirelessly provides to those whom we serve.

The past three years presented many unexpected challenges as the Courts responded to the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining already lofty expectations of exemplary service and an unwavering impartial commitment to the rule of law. These challenges, for all courts, but especially large, high-volume courts, are often complex with far-reaching consequences. Our colleagues' and employees' ability and eagerness to seize these challenges and turn them into opportunities for innovation and improvement have never been more evident than it was over the past three years. We offer our endless gratitude to the judges and employees who made these accomplishments possible.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission and to do all that can be done to advance the administration of justice in Oakland County. We are proud of our accomplishments but refuse to rest on our laurels. "Good enough" is not good enough. We hope that this report enhances your understanding of how the courts serve the citizens of Oakland County.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery S. Matis".

Jeffery S. Matis
Chief Judge of the Circuit Court

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda S. Hallmark".

Linda S. Hallmark
Chief Judge of the Probate Court

Oakland County turned 200 years old in 2020. Instead of celebrating history, history was made. The year that was supposed to celebrate the county's bicentennial turned into a year that will forever be memorialized in historical books. The "COVID-19 pandemic," quickly shortened to "the pandemic" or "Covid" or simply "the virus," not only rocked Oakland County but the world as well.

Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Oakland County Health Department, the Courts moved from a traditional courtroom setting to a virtual one. Operational restrictions led to the temporary furlough of some employees, while the Courts implemented various remote work options. Probate Court faced the unique situation of dealing with emergency guardianships, conservatorships, burial, and mental health petitions with limited staff in place. The Friend of the Court office adjusted their operations quickly to provide for the safety of their court users and staff. Court filings were limited to eFilings, faxes, mail, and a drop box. Simultaneously, courtroom and support proceedings mushroomed on videoconferencing and teleconferencing platforms as the Courts shifted gears to ensure that access continued to court users.

Zoom, a word routinely used as "fast," became the new way of conducting court hearings and meetings through video conferencing. Phrases like "Does everyone consent to having this proceeding via Zoom," or "Can you hear me," and "You are on mute," all became too frequent refrains. Masks, face shields, plexiglass barriers, and stickers indicating six-foot spacing were the new attire and décor in the courthouse.

By late-2020, more staff returned to the building working split shifts. Several employees remained remote to meet the social distancing requirements implemented by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Oakland County Health Department. The Court reinstated in-person hearings in 2021. Many offices operated with hybrid staffing schedules, while others returned to pre-Covid schedules. Implementing "virtual counters" gave the public an opportunity to speak directly with staff without entering the building. Plans and policies for conducting jury trials under the new norm were enacted only to be cancelled on two occasions due to rising positive Covid statistics. Finally, on June 21, 2021, the first group of jurors reported for jury service. Although many hearings continued by Zoom, by early 2022, court operations began to normalize with more in-person hearings, criminal calls, and jury trials. In August of 2022, jury trial operations returned to pre-Covid levels.

The pandemic initially interrupted the work of the courts. Department heads and court staff rapidly implemented new policies and procedures to keep "business as usual." Technology advances were quickly put into action. Zoom use expanded. Secure methods for remote access for the workforce were established. eFiling was expanded to include criminal and domestic cases. Remote access fees and eFiling fees were suspended to remove barriers for citizens to access the court. The Probate Court began accepting faxes and mail for court filings. The voucher digitizing process for court-appointed attorneys in juvenile, criminal, and probate matters was added. Many of these advances continue to be used throughout the court as a new way of doing business.

The year 2020 will not go down in history as the celebration of Oakland County's bicentennial, but will be remembered as the year the Courts implemented enhanced technology for the efficiency of justice.

JUDGES OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT—2022



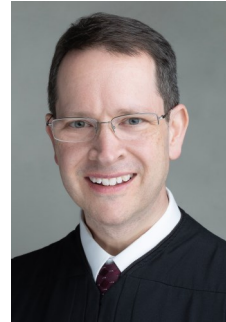
Hon. Martha D. Anderson
Chief Judge Pro Tem
Civil/Criminal Division



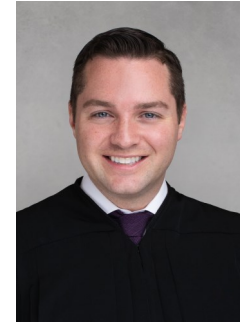
Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan
Presiding Judge of the
Family Division



Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. David M. Cohen
Civil/Criminal Division



Hon. Jacob James Cunningham
Civil/Criminal Division



Hon. Kameshia D. Gant
Family Division



Hon. Lisa Gorcyca
Family Division



Hon. Nanci J. Grant
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Maureen H. Kinsella
Family Division



Hon. Lisa Langton
Family Division



Hon. Jeffery S. Matis
Chief Judge
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Julie A. McDonald
Family Division



Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen
Presiding Judge of the
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Yasmine I. Poles
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Kwamé
Civil/Criminal
Division



Hon. Lorie N. Savin
Family Division



Hon. Victoria A. Valentine
Business Court



Hon. Michael Warren
Business Court

JUDGES OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT—2022



Hon. Jennifer Callaghan
Estates Division



Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Chief Judge

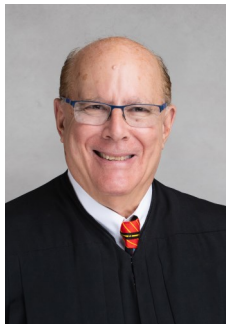


Hon. Daniel A. O'Brien
*Guardianship/
Conservatorship/
Mental Health*

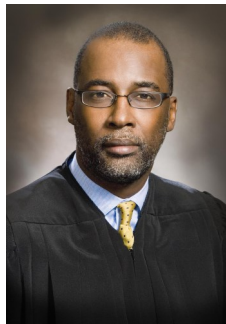


Hon. Kathleen A. Ryan
Chief Judge Pro Tem

JUDGES IN TRANSITION—2020 - 2022



Hon. James Alexander
Retired 2020



Hon. Leo Bowman
Retired 2021



Hon. Denise Langford Morris
Retired 2022



Hon. Hala Jarbou
*Appointed to Federal
Court 2020*



Hon. Shalina D. Kumar
*Appointed to Federal
Court 2021*

IN MEMORIUM—2020 - 2022



Hon. Gene Schnelz
1933-2020



Hon. Alice L. Gilbert
1932-2020



Hon. Norman Lippitt
1936-2021



Hon. Deborah Tyner
1956-2022

HISTORICAL ROSTERS OF THE COURTS

Sixth Judicial Circuit Judges

Sanford M. Green 1848–1852	Robert L. Templin 1967–1996	Patrick J. Brennan 2001–2004
Joseph Copeland 1852–1858	William P. Hampton 1970–1976	Rae Lee Chabot 2001–2022
Sanford M. Green 1858-1870	Richard D. Kuhn 1973–2004	James M. Alexander 2001–2020
James S. Dewey 1870–1873	John N. O'Brien 1973–1993	Michael Warren 2002–Present
Levi B. Taft 1873–1876	Robert B. Webster 1973–1982	Daniel P. O'Brien 2003–Present
Augustus C. Baldwin 1876–1880	Steven N. Andrews 1976–2008	Martha D. Anderson 2003–Present
Silas B. Gaskill 1880–1882	Alice L. Gilbert 1977–1992	Mark A. Goldsmith 2004–2010
William Stickney 1882–1888	Alice L. Gilbert 1995–2002	Cheryl A. Matthews 2005–Present
Joseph B. Moore 1888–1896	Francis X. O'Brien 1977–1997	Leo Bowman 2007–2021
George W. Smith 1896–1917	Hilda R. Gage 1979–1996	Shalina D. Kumar 2007–2021
Kleber P. Rockwell 1918–1921	Bernard L. Kaufman 1979–1979	Lisa Gorcyca 2009–Present
Frank L. Covert 1919–1935	Gene Schnelz 1979–2007	Mary Ellen Brennan 2009–Present
Glenn C. Gillespie 1922–1934	George LaPlata 1979–1985	Phyllis C. McMillen 2010–Present
Frank L. Doty 1927–1959	Robert C. Anderson 1981–1998	Karen McDonald 2013–2019
Goodloe H. Rogers 1935–1935	David F. Breck 1981–2000	Lisa Langton 2015–Present
George B. Hartrick 1936–1958	Fred M. Mester 1982–2008	Hala Jarbou 2015–2020
H. Russel Holland 1936–1963	Norman L. Lippitt 1985–1989	Jeffery S. Matis 2015–Present
Clark J. Adams 1956–1973	Jessica R. Cooper 1987–2000	Victoria A. Valentine 2017–Present
William J. Beer 1958–1980	Edward Sosnick 1989–2012	Julie A. McDonald 2019–Present
Theodore Hughes 1959–1959	Barry L. Howard 1989–2001	Jacob James Cunningham 2019–Present
Stanton G. Dondero 1959–1965	Deborah G. Tyner 1991–2006	Kameshia D. Gant 2019–Present
Frederick C. Ziem 1959–1986	Rudy J. Nichols 1991–2015	Yasmine I. Poles 2020–Present
Arthur E. Moore 1963–1976	Denise Langford Morris 1992–2022	Lorie N. Savin 2021–Present
Philip Pratt 1963–1970	John J. McDonald 1993–2010	Kwamé L. Rowe 2021–Present
James S. Thorburn 1963–1988	Nanci J. Grant 1997–Present	David M. Cohen 2022–Present
William R. Beasley 1966–1976	Joan E. Young 1997–2016	Maureen H. Kinsella 2022–Present
Farrell E. Roberts 1967–1982	Wendy L. Potts 1998–2018	
Daniel C. Devine 1966–1966	Colleen A. O'Brien 1998–2015	

Oakland County Probate Judges

Dr. William Thompson 1821–1824	Junius Ten Eyck 1872–1873	Eugene A. Moore 1967–2010
Nathaniel Millerd 1825–1826	Joseph C. Powell 1873–1876	John J. O'Brien 1975–1988
Smith Weeks 1827	James A. Jacokes 1877–1880	Barry M. Grant 1977–2008
Gideon O. Whittemore 1827–1828	Joseph C. Powell 1881–1884	Sandra G. Silver 1988–2000
Williams F. Mosely 1828	Thomas L. Patterson 1885–1900	Joan E. Young 1989–1997
Ogden Clarke 1828–1832	Joseph S. Stockwell 1901–1909	Wendy L. Potts 1997–1997
Stephen Reeves 1832–1844	Kleber P. Rockwell 1909–1917	Linda S. Hallmark 1998–Present
M. LaMont Bagg 1845–1848	Ross Stockwell 1917–1928	Elizabeth Pezzetti 2001–2016
Michael E. Crofoot 1849–1856	Dan A. McGaffey 1928–1937	Daniel A. O'Brien 2009–Present
Oscar F. North 1857–1861	James H. Lynch 1937–1938	Kathleen A. Ryan 2011–Present
Harry C. Andrews 1861–1863	Arthur E. Moore 1938–1963	Jennifer Callaghan 2017–Present
Zephaniah B. Knight 1863–1868	Donald E. Adams 1960–1977	
Alfred Crawford 1869–1872	Norman R. Barnard 1963–1988	



Circuit Court Administration

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION

The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court is comprised of the Civil/Criminal Division and the Family Division. Within each division are several units and departments that provide needed support services for the court to run smoothly and efficiently. The following pages more fully describe each unit/department's function in the overall running of the Circuit Court.



Kevin Oeffner
*Circuit Court
Administrator*

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION

Kevin Oeffner, Circuit Court Administrator, and Pamela Monville, Deputy Court Administrator, led Circuit Court Administration through the pandemic. Court Administration carries out the directives of the Circuit Court bench, implements policies and procedures, and oversees programs and services for the Circuit Court. It works closely with the 20 Circuit Court judges and advises the judges on court operations, administrative issues, and matters of procedure. This office also is the liaison with the Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office, local and state government offices, and other courts. This office also oversees the Clerk Support Unit that offers support and training to the judicial chambers.

Court Administration became the “headquarters” for everything Covid. It quickly modified courtrooms and offices with plexiglass and partitions to comply with spacing and safety requirements. It worked closely with the Michigan Supreme Court, County Executive, and Oakland County Health Department to ensure proper procedures and protocols were being followed and accurate information was being disseminated to court staff and the public.

This office provided courthouse staff in the building with personal protection equipment (PPE). Support services were made available to the judges and departments requiring additional assistance during the pandemic. It also provided continual updates on the Court's emergency response to the pandemic and updated policies and procedures for employees and the general public. Staff participated in monitoring employee entrances, taking temperature checks, and assisting employees with health questionnaires on a daily basis. Onboarding new judges and judicial staff during the pandemic presented additional challenges for administration building a cohesive bench.



Pamela Monville
*Deputy Court
Administrator*

CLERK SUPPORT UNIT

This unit provides individualized training and onboarding for new judicial clerks and supplementary training for current judicial clerks. Resources and training materials are provided to ensure that judicial staff has the latest procedural changes and updates in the law. Training binders are provided with guides, explanations, and tools for new clerks. The unit assists judicial chambers in recruiting and onboarding judicial staff members. It also provides, trains, and supervises clerks for the visiting judge dockets and provides staffing coverage as needed in judicial chambers. It routinely assists judicial staff in interdepartmental communication, conducts routine needs assessments and, based on findings, provides resources and procedures to improve the efficiency of judicial chambers. The Clerk Support Unit continues to create learning and development opportunities while enhancing training and coverage to chambers staff.



Circuit Court Civil/Criminal Division

CIRCUIT COURT—CIVIL/CRIMINAL DIVISION



**Hon. Phyllis C.
McMillen**
*Presiding Judge of the
Civil/Criminal Division*

CIVIL/CRIMINAL DIVISION

Judge Phyllis C. McMillen presides over the Civil/Criminal Division and assists Chief Judge Matis in providing leadership goals and directives for matters affecting the Civil/Criminal bench. This division, composed of 13 judges, hears civil cases with alleged damages over \$25,000, criminal cases involving felonies or high misdemeanors, and bindovers from the 14 county district courts. This division also has judicial oversight and administrative support for three specialty courts: Business Court, Adult Treatment Court, and the Combat Veterans Treatment Court.

Many Civil/Criminal Division judges were in transition from 2020-2022. In 2020, following President Trump’s appointment of Judge Jarbou to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, Governor Whitmer appointed Judge Yasmine I. Poles to succeed Judge Hala Jarbou. Judge Alexander retired after 19 years of service at the end of 2020. The Michigan Supreme Court appointed Judge Michael Warren to the open Business Court seat created by Judge Alexander’s retirement. In April 2021, after 14 years with the court, Judge Leo Bowman retired and Judge Kwamé Rowe was appointed by Governor Whitmer as his successor. In mid-2021, President Biden appointed Chief Judge Shalina Kumar to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Governor Whitmer appointed Judge David M. Cohen to fill that vacancy in early 2022. The dean of the bench, Judge Denise Langford Morris, retired in 2022 after serving 30 years on the bench, and Judge Jacob James Cunningham transitioned from the Family Division to take her docket. Judge Mary Ellen Brennan moved to the Civil/Criminal Division and acquired Judge Rae Lee Chabot’s docket when Judge Chabot retired after 21 years with the court at the end of the 2022.

In response to Chief Judge Shalina Kumar moving to federal court, in late 2021 the Michigan Supreme Court appointed Judge Jeffery S. Matis as Chief Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court for a term expiring at the end of 2023.

ADMINISTRATIVE ATTORNEY SUPPORT UNIT

This unit is comprised of judicial staff attorneys who provide assistance to chambers’ staff attorneys in drafting proposed opinions on complex appeals and criminal post-conviction motions. In addition, they provide assistance to chambers when a staff attorney is on an extended leave.

CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Case Management Office is comprised of the Civil and Criminal Case Support areas. Gwynne Starkey served as Chief of the Civil/ Criminal Division until her retirement in 2020. Karen Wentz succeeded Ms. Starkey and served as Chief through 2022. This office handles the daily case operations for civil, criminal, and family court dockets. The Civil Case Support area oversees case evaluations and is responsible for assigning, reassigning, and consolidating cases; managing praecipes; preparing and distributing scheduling orders; and logging and directing mail. It also oversees the under \$25,000 mediation program for civil, domestic, and probate cases. The Criminal Case Support area is responsible for assigning criminal cases, processing bindovers from district courts, handling bond forfeitures, and processing paperwork for all criminal appeals.

During 2021, while public access to the building was limited, this office provided a “virtual counter” where the general public could log on during business hours to receive assistance with filing or general questions through Zoom.

CRIMINAL BINDOVERS

2020	2021	2022
2,972	3,350	3,777

NEW FILINGS AND REOPENED CASES

	2020	2021	2022
Criminal	3,099	3,603	4,053
Civil	7,099	6,659	6,404
Appeals	218	282	378

DISPOSITION OF CASES

	2020	2021	2022
Criminal	2,608	3,528	4,145
Civil	6,670	6,837	6,912
Appeals	240	249	344

JURY OFFICE

The Jury Office ensures that a sufficient number of jurors are available for Circuit and Probate Courts, while imposing the least hardship on those summoned for jury service. This office is responsible for tracking detailed juror utilization statistics and juror expenditures that are reported to the State Court Administrative Office. All persons not legally excused from jury service, regardless of status or occupation, are expected to serve when summoned. Through the automated system, prospective jurors have the ability to complete their questionnaires online. Jurors are also able to update personal information, check their juror status, and receive email and text alerts regarding their service through this system. As a result of these enhanced services, there has been an increase in juror participation and positive feedback from jurors regarding their jury service experience.

Since the onset of Covid, the first panel of jurors reported for jury service on June 21, 2021, with only one criminal trial scheduled per day to allow for a safe number of jurors to be present in the courthouse. Courtrooms were designed with plexiglass to provide protection for jurors, witnesses, participants, and courthouse staff. Prospective jurors were provided Personal Protection Equipment kits. As time progressed, more trials were scheduled per day, and on August 25, 2022, the Bench voted to return to the courts' pre-Covid jury trial operations with no restrictions on the number of jury trials.

JUROR UTILIZATION

	2021	2022
Jurors Summoned	12,803	37,919
Jurors Reported	1,914	6,234
Jurors Seated	307	1,402
Number of Jury Trials	28	124
Number of Civil Jury Days	53.5	166
Number of Criminal Jury Days	37.5	204.5

BUSINESS COURT

The Sixth Circuit Business Court was created in July of 2013 by the Michigan Legislature. The statutory purpose of the Business Court is to establish best practices for the resolution of business disputes; improve efficiency; utilize latest technology in managing Business Court cases; and enhance the accuracy, consistency, and predictability of decisions in business and commercial cases. Upon the retirement of Judge James Alexander at the end of 2019, Judge Michael Warren was appointed as his successor to the Business Court. In July of 2022, Judge Victoria A. Valentine assumed the Business Court docket that was previously assigned to Judge Martha Anderson.

BUSINESS COURT NEW FILINGS/DISPOSITIONS		
	New Filings	Dispositions
2020	996	1,035
2021	769	1,090
2022	806	864

ADULT TREATMENT COURT

The Adult Treatment Court (ATC) began in 2001. It serves adults with substance use disorders which contributed to their criminal convictions. ATC was established to provide both intensive community and judicial supervision to defendants who suffer from serious substance abuse disorders. Three jurists continue to oversee the treatment court. Judge Phyllis McMillen presides over the male participants who have co-occurring mental health disorders. Judge Poles replaced Judge Kumar in 2020 as presiding judge of the female participants. In 2021, Judge Gant joined the team replacing Judge Matis and presides over the male participants who have been diagnosed solely with a substance abuse disorder.

In 2022, 105 participants were admitted to the program, which was nearly double the amount of those admitted two years prior. While the increased enrollment certainly required a creative approach from the team members, the challenge was well received. Each team member stepped up to ensure that everyone entrusted to their care received the proper support in place to aid them in their success on their journey to recovery. In 2022, over 85% of participants were in compliance with their treatment plan which provided them with the tools needed to avoid further risk for recidivism. Furthermore, the team reported that recidivism rates have consistently fallen below state averages when compared to similar problem-solving courts. The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) commended the ATC for its efforts in assisting this population.

In 2021, Jackie Howes-Evanson, who had been the Treatment Court Coordinator since 2009, retired and Nate Gilling was appointed to fill her position.

COMBAT VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Now in its ninth year, the Combat Veterans Treatment Court (CVTC) is the state's only Combat Veterans Treatment Court. Judge Nanci Grant is the founder and presiding judge of this specialty court. The treatment court was created to reach Oakland County combat veterans who have been charged with felony offenses related to traumatic experiences suffered in combat, conflict, search and rescue operations, or recovery missions while serving their country. The program does not give participants special treatment. Instead, it focuses on the unique issues faced by our veterans. The CVTC is supported by a multi-disciplinary team comprised of representatives of Oakland County Veterans Services, the Veteran's Administration, the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, the Defense Bar, and Court Administration. Veteran volunteers serve as mentors to participants.

In 2022, there were 13 veterans participating in the CVTC with six under consideration for entry into the program. To date, 24 participants have successfully completed the program since its inception.



Circuit Court Family Division

CIRCUIT COURT—FAMILY DIVISION

FAMILY DIVISION



Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan
Presiding Judge of the Family Division

Judge Mary Ellen Brennan served as the presiding judge of the Family Division. Judge Lisa Langton succeeded her as presiding judge of the Family Division at the end of 2022. Seven Circuit Judges compose this division. They hear domestic relations cases involving divorce, child support, child custody, and paternity matters. Family Division judges also finalize adoptions; handle name changes and juvenile guardianships; preside over hearings for juvenile offenses, delinquencies, and child abuse and neglect cases; and oversee personal protection orders.

Following her election in 2020, Judge Lorie N. Savin took the bench in 2021 and was assigned the Family Division docket formerly held by Judge Valentine who transitioned to the Civil/Criminal Division. Governor Whitmer appointed Judge Maureen Kinsella to fill the vacancy created by Judge Langford Morris's appointment. Judge Kinsella received the Family Division docket formerly assigned to Judge Jacob James Cunningham who transferred to the Civil/Criminal Division. At the end of 2022, Judge Mary Ellen Brennan transitioned to the Civil/Criminal Division and was assigned retiring Judge Rae Lee Chabot's docket.

FRIEND OF THE COURT



Hon. Lisa Langton
Judge of the Family Division

Under the direction of Suzanne Hollyer, Friend of the Court, this office investigates and enforces issues involving custody, support, and parenting time for the Family Division's domestic relations caseload. The judges of the Family Division are assisted by 19 Friend of the Court referees who hold hearings to enforce and modify Family Division orders regarding support, custody, and parenting time, and hold early intervention conferences to help divorcing clients through this process. Also assisting the judges of this division are 19 Custody and Parenting Time Specialists who provide the SMILE (Start Making it Livable for Everyone) program to help parents understand the impact of divorce on their children. More information about the Friend of the Court can be found at www.oakgov.com/foc.



Suzanne Hollyer
Friend of the Court

The Friend of the Court never closed its doors for business during the COVID 19 pandemic, but their operations were quickly adjusted to provide for the safety of their clients and staff. Referees immediately adapted to using technology to conduct remote hearings at the onset of

the COVID 19 pandemic. The referees did not waste time mastering a virtual hearing process. They developed new ways of conducting every type of hearing, including arraignments on child support bench warrants, which were often conducted out in the community to protect the safety of all parties, while still promoting enforcement of court orders. The public was receptive. Clients appeared for their hearings while on a break from work rather than coming into the building. These technologies improved customer service and remain in place for many hearing types.

The FOC payment processing window likewise converted to a payment drop box. This additional payment method allows for payments to be received during non-traditional hours and remained in place even when the payment window resumed face-to-face.

The SMILE and COPE (Co-Parenting Effectively) programs both expanded to be offered virtually, allowing parents to participate from the comfort of their own home with some sessions being offered in the evening.

Clients and attorneys appreciate virtual hearings. The educational programs are offered virtually for the benefit of clients so they do not need to leave their home. As a result, many of the new protocols adopted during the pandemic were so well received that they remain in place and will continue into the future.



Scott Hamilton
*Manager—Judicial
Support Services/
Judicial Assistant*

JUDICIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Led by Scott Hamilton, Manager of Judicial Support/Judicial Assistant and lead legal advisor for the Family Division, Judicial Support Services consists of the Juvenile Court referees, Clinical Services, and Juvenile Support Services, which includes the Juvenile Intake Unit, Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit, Personal Protection Order Office, and Adoption Unit.

In March 2020, the entire Judicial Support department immediately pivoted to remote hearings in accordance with policies established by the Michigan Supreme Court. As the summer of 2020 progressed, the juvenile court rapidly increased the number and type of remote hearings it conducted to include trials, dispositions, reviews, and adoption hearings. Juvenile court staff used this “opportunity” to move to a fully electronic file processing system, saving the county and the court users the costs and inconvenience of producing and moving paper documents through each stage of the court process. During the COVID pandemic, the Department remodeled the juvenile intake area, expanding both the lobby and the ground floor referee hearing rooms.

The Data Tech Unit equipped juvenile court employees with laptop computers, cell phones, Zoom rooms, pdf versions of every court form used by staff, and hands-on support needed to keep staff trained and fully functional while working remotely. With the transition to more in-person hearings, several modifications that were made still continue. These include court clerks for referees, electronic document processing, and courtroom video technology to expand parent and child hearing participation.

Juvenile Court Referees

Referee Karla Mallett oversees the eight Juvenile Court referees who assist the Family Division judges. The referees conduct hearings, make recommendations following the hearings, and act as the gatekeeper to the Juvenile Court. A referee evaluates each complaint or petition filed and a decision is made on whether to grant or deny authorization, divert the matter, or use informal resolution methods.

With the use of current technology, Juvenile Court referees represent the Court 24/7, 365 days a year. They view petitions, record testimony, and complete and sign court orders. Referees can immediately act on request for detention of juveniles and placement of children who are at substantial risk of harm.

Clinical Services Unit

The Clinical Services Unit, formerly known as the Psychological Clinic, operates under the direction of Melissa Sulfaro, Psy.D., LP. With the assistance of two full-time and two part-time clinicians, this unit assists the Court in making informed decisions by providing forensic evaluations of children and families who are involved with the court. Between 2020 and 2022, this unit received 524 referrals for psychological evaluations for delinquency and abuse/neglect matters. Of those referrals, 60 were for competency and criminal responsibility evaluations. The Clinic received 97 subpoenas requesting expert testimony during that timeframe.

JUVENILE SUPPORT SERVICES

Erin O'Brien, Chief of Juvenile Support Services, oversees the Juvenile Intake Unit, Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit, Personal Protection Order Office, and Adoption Services Unit. These areas provide essential assistance to the judges of the Family Division as well as to the residents of Oakland County.

Juvenile Intake Unit

Jerri Decker, Juvenile Intake Supervisor, oversees support staff who process all incoming requests for action, perform record checks to identify prior court involvement, and forward documents to the Prosecutor's Office. This unit schedules preliminary hearings, pretrials, diversion conferences, traffic hearings, and other matters for the referees. The unit staff also serve as clerks to the juvenile court referees during court hearings.

Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit

Carmen Janik supervises the Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit which includes the Juvenile Intake Unit, deputy registers, order clerks, typists, and file room assistants. They are responsible for preparing files for hearings as well as creating, maintaining, and updating the physical and electronic records for each case. This unit also oversees the court schedule, confidential juvenile files, transcripts, and exhibits. They assist the public and parties in cases before the Juvenile Court and prepare court orders for all hearings heard by referees and distribute court orders after being processed by the County Clerk's Office.

Nicole Bennett, Attorney Appointment Specialist, maintains the database of attorneys qualified by education and experience to represent indigent parties who request a court-appointed attorney.

Personal Protection Order Office

The Personal Protection Order Office assists petitioners in navigating the application process for personal protection orders. Brittany Harville, Personal Protection Order Liaison, serves as the intermediary between the public and the court. She assists the public in the electronic petition filing process and any motions filed in each case. This office also assists petitioners who have requested personal protection order violation show cause hearings.

Adoption Services Unit

The Adoption Services Unit works with the public and adoption agencies to provide oversight and supervision of adoption petitions and post-adoption information requests. The professional and support staff are charged with ensuring that the confidentiality of information is maintained and that the adoption process is handled expeditiously as required by law.

This unit processes adoption petitions for direct placement, agency, adult, stepparent, and relative adoptions. It also accepts petitions regarding post-adoption matters, including confidential intermediary services. In addition, two permanency coordinators handle a specialized Permanency Docket and monitor the progress toward adoption permanency for foster children. The coordinators also monitor both foster care and adoption caseworker performance to eliminate barriers to a child's adoption. In 2020, the Adoption Unit began accepting digital filings which streamlined the process and allowed the uploading of electronic documents to the Laserfiche document management system, a process that continues today.

ADOPTIONS FINALIZED			
2019	2020	2021	2022
337	275	233	277

In 2022, the Adoption Unit continued participating in the statewide observance of Adoption Day on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. Four families were united with four children before Judge Lorie N. Savin and Judge Kamisha Gant. Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein and Court of Appeals Judge Kristina Robinson Garrett were present to congratulate the families and the adoptees.

COURT SERVICES

Court Services encompasses Casework Services, the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, Juvenile Mental Health Court, and Youth Assistance. Melissa Reid, the Chief of Casework Services, oversees Juvenile Drug Court and Juvenile Mental Health Court. Melissa succeeds Tina Lathers who retired in 2021 after a career of over 34 years with Oakland County.

Casework Services

Jerry Seawright supervises the Intensive Casework Unit. Stacey Doria and Krista Horton supervise the Standard Casework Unit. Casework Services is responsible for preparing dispositional recommendations to the Court, supervising youth in the community on a diversion or probationary order, and monitoring progress in residential placement. Modifications were made within the Intensive Probation Early Offender Program to allow the youngest offenders to avoid a criminal record with successful completion of the Court's orders.

The Casework Services division continues to strengthen the collaborative relationships with community agencies to meet the needs of youth. In addition, the division has formed relationships with several non-profit agencies within the county and led ten community service events allowing court-involved youth to give back to their community.

Despite the pandemic, court-involved youth have completed over 6,000 hours of community service during this period. When efforts to maintain youth in the community are unsuccessful, the department makes connections with multiple private residential treatment programs throughout the state. The residential placement crisis in Michigan has also led to exploration of out-of-state treatment facilities that will meet the needs of youth when out-of-home placement is deemed necessary.

Youth Problem Solving Courts

The Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court was created in 2001. Judge Mary Ellen Brennan served as the presiding judge of the Juvenile Drug Court for over ten years and in 2021 Judge Jacob James Cunningham took over that role. The Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) promotes public safety and reduces juvenile drug crime rates by helping substance-abusing youthful offenders and their families achieve drug-free lives and healthy family relationships.

In 2022, the Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC) was developed to help youth with mental illness remain in the community while connecting them with necessary treatment. The Juvenile Mental Health Court is one of eight problem-solving courts of its kind in the state of Michigan. Judge Julie A. McDonald presides over this new court. It is designed to use alternative legal processes to aid non-violent youth offenders who are challenged with serious mental health needs. The program, which operates similarly to the JDC, provides an opportunity for youth to voluntarily participate and engage in intensive, treatment-focused, community-based probationary services in lieu of other dispositional plans which may have included possible out-of-home placement or hospitalization. Using treatment modalities, the JMHC works with those who participate to reduce their risk for recidivism as well as facilitate the development of skills and supports necessary to live a life in which their mental health needs are properly managed and contribute to a better sense of individual well-being.

Youth Problem Solving Courts (continued)

The JDC and JMHC utilize a non-adversarial team approach and have the support and assistance of many stakeholders from within the court and from the community. Both treatment courts are certified through the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

A large benefit of both programs, in addition to the intensive casework supervision, are the bi-weekly Status Review Hearings which are held to promote accountability with the youth and allow for frequent judicial interaction with the family. Both programs are returning from virtual hearings to more traditional hearings, as in-person contact has proven beneficial to the success of the participants. It is hoped that within the next year the program participation will increase as information spreads to more hearing officers and attorneys. The Court will continue to explore new funding avenues to allow for expanded services to aid those in need of these treatment courts.

Jackie Howes-Evanson retired from the court in 2021 as the Treatment Court Coordinator for the Adult Treatment Court and the Juvenile Drug Court. Nate Gilling was appointed to fill that position and now oversees the Adult Treatment Court, the Juvenile Drug Court and the Juvenile Mental Health Court.

Youth Assistance

Liz Csizmadia is the Chief of Youth Assistance (YA) and oversees professional staff in the 26 YA countywide field offices. Liz succeeds Mary Schusterbauer who retired in 2022 after a career of 36 years with Family Court.

In March 2020, Youth Assistance Casework and Administrative staff, local Boards of Directors, and task volunteers learned that they would be “strengthening families, reducing juvenile delinquency, and preventing the incidence of child abuse and neglect” from home.

During the pandemic, Youth Assistance, the prevention arm of the Circuit Court Family Division continued to implement its two-pronged approach to strengthening families and communities. Between 2020-2022, 9,350 youth and their families received a combination of direct casework support, information and referral assistance and Re-Entry services. During this time, YA Casework staff met with clients by Zoom and maintained contact with them through email and texts. To make Zoom appointments interactive and more meaningful, many YA Caseworkers crafted and delivered personalized “Mental Health Toolkits” and “Self-Care Toolboxes” to clients that were utilized during sessions. The individualized toolkits were equipped with books, art supplies, feeling stickers, and journals—helpful resources that teach and promote healthy coping skills to reduce anxiety, a recurrent underlying issue in many of the referrals made to YA on behalf of families during the pandemic.

To promote emotional, social, and mental wellbeing, local Boards of Directors and Task Volunteers in all 26 local communities created and implemented a variety of unique and creative programming. Samples include:

- Camp in a Box
- Yoga
- Online Story Time
- Youth Recognition
- Forever Fit
- Family Education Webinars

54,492 youth and families participated in programs sponsored by local YA Boards during 2020-2022. In August 2022, Youth Assistance returned to the office. Face-to-face contact with clients and program participants also resumed during this time.



Probate Court Administration

PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION



Edward A. Hutton III
*Probate Court
Administrator*

The Oakland County Probate Court provides essential services to Oakland County's most vulnerable citizens. The Probate Court is comprised of the Mental Health Unit; Guardianship and Conservatorship Unit; and Estates and Trusts Unit. Each of these units provide needed support services for the court to run smoothly and efficiently. The following pages more fully describe each unit's function in the overall running of the Probate Court.

PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Probate Court Administrator Edward A. Hutton III works in conjunction with the Probate Court Chief Judge and Probate Judges regarding operations and services provided by the Probate Court. The Probate Court Administrator also serves as liaison to the local and state government offices and other probate courts.

The Probate Court was in the unique position of never being fully closed due to the pandemic. The Probate Court provided in-person service necessary to sustain or protect life and, therefore, in-person operations continued throughout the pandemic. They were open for emergency guardianship, conservatorship, burial, and mental health petitions. All non-emergency matters were filed via mail, fax, email, or drop box giving residents greater flexibility to file their court documents.

Initially the court operated with a skeleton crew to meet the social distancing requirements required by the Michigan Supreme Court. Workstations were relocated, plexiglass was added between workstations, and deep cleanings were performed nightly. By the end of May 2020, all staff returned to the court on full-time status.

The probate counter reopened to in-person filing on July 9, 2021. Hearings for mental health and developmentally disabled matters were changed from in-person to Zoom. Due to the convenience for attorneys and litigants, many hearings continue to be held via Zoom videoconferencing.

Other types of hearings were held either in-person or remotely depending on the matter and the assigned judge. Participants were given specific information for each judge's protocol for conducting Zoom hearings which information is available on the probate court's website at www.oakgov.com/probate.



Probate Court Estates & Mental Health

PROBATE COURT—ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH



Barbara Andruccioli
*Probate Court
Register*

PROBATE COURT—ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH

The Oakland County Probate Court is comprised of the Honorable Linda S. Hallmark, Chief Judge; Honorable Kathleen A. Ryan, Chief Judge Pro Tempore; Honorable Daniel A. O'Brien; and Honorable Jennifer Callaghan.

Barbara Andruccioli, Probate Court Register, oversees support staff of the three units comprising the Mental Health Unit, the Guardianship and Conservatorship Unit, and the Estates and Trusts Unit. The Mental Health Unit handles guardianships for individuals with developmental disabilities, transport orders for individuals with a mental illness, and mental health commitment hearings. The Guardianship and Conservatorship Unit handles guardianships/conservatorships for minors and adult guardianships/conservatorships for legally incapacitated individuals. The Estates and Trusts Unit handles matters concerning decedent's estates, trusts, and maintains wills for safe keeping.

The two filing counters are the hub of the Probate Court. During business hours, the main filing counter is staffed by six to eight employees and the Mental Health Annex counter is staffed by two employees. Between the two counters, 41,599 customers were served in 2022. The Probate Court staff also opened 19,089 pieces of mail in the same time period.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the probate counter was staffed by a skeleton crew/split shift and only emergency petitions were processed in person. For the convenience and safety of the citizens and court personnel, the Probate Court accepted filings via mail, fax, email, and a drop box. By July 9, 2021, the counter reopened to all in-person filings. All court hearings may be held either in person or by Zoom depending on the matter and the assigned judge. The judges' protocols for conducting Zoom hearings can be located on the Probate Court website at www.oakgov.com/probate.

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

The Mental Health Unit manages proceedings under the Mental Health Code, which includes guardianships for developmentally disabled individuals and petitions for involuntary mental health treatment. Most hearings for the mental health unit are conducted using video conferencing.

A developmental disability is a range of conditions that affect physical and/or mental functioning which manifest before the age of 22 and are expected to be present for life. The unit schedules all hearings and processes all petitions, orders, and annual reports for developmentally disabled individuals. Hearings involving developmentally disabled individuals are held once a week.

Hearings for involuntary mental health treatment (instead of "mental health commitment") include requests for hospitalization, assisted outpatient treatment and emergency requests for mental health evaluations. This unit facilitates jury trials, coordinates the appointment of counsel and expert medical witnesses, schedules all motions, and processes all petitions and orders for mental health cases. At these hearings, the judge must decide whether the respondent is mentally ill and requires treatment, and if so, whether or not hospitalization and/or assisted outpatient treatment is the appropriate treatment.

GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP UNIT

The Probate Court hears all petitions to initiate, modify, or terminate guardianships and conservatorships for minors and adults. The court also resolves issues that arise during the pendency of a guardianship or conservatorship and monitors many cases through regular review hearings. Unlike many other cases, conservatorship and guardianship cases may remain open for years.

This unit manages court filings for the guardianship and conservatorship cases, including processing annual reports of guardians and annual accounts of conservators. Court staff assigned to this unit also ensure that mandatory reviews of guardianships are performed. Consistent monitoring is required to determine whether fiduciaries have complied with statutory requirements.

The Probate Court conducts Basic Training classes for conservators and guardians on a monthly basis via Zoom. These training classes are provided at no charge to the participants. The training provides essential information and tools for handling duties as a conservator and/or guardian.

ESTATES AND TRUSTS UNIT

The Probate Court resolves issues involving wills and trusts in the event of uncertainty or conflict and determines the heirs in estates where there is no will. If a conflict is present regarding interpretation of a trust or the disposition of property under the terms of a trust, then the court resolves the issues. The court may also render decisions involving conflicts between fiduciaries.

Civil cases involving trust and estate assets are also heard in Probate Court. These cases typically involve claims in which a fiduciary is seeking to preserve or recoup assets.

The Estates and Trusts Unit manages court filings for estates, trusts, and civil cases. Members of this unit are responsible for the authorization of small estates and *Letters of Authority* for personal representatives in certain situations. Staff assigned to this unit also monitor all active cases on a daily basis to ensure required documentation is filed and timelines are met. This unit issues notices of deficiency and suspensions of fiduciaries when necessary and addresses questions on open files.

PROBATE COURT ACTIVITY			
	2020	2021	2022
New Filings	5,992	7,326	7,621
Reopened Cases	200	269	335
Pending Cases	482	647	592
Wills	811	1,238	958
Foreign Births	11	8	0
Total Activity	7,496	9,488	9,506

ACTIVE CASE TOTALS			
	2020	2021	2022
Estates and Trusts Cases	6,193	6,658	7,206
Adult Guardianships	4,600	4,705	4,924
Adult Conservatorships	1,466	1,455	1,468
Minor Guardianships	1,726	1,660	1,659
Minor Conservatorships	731	761	737
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	2,337	2,335	2,243
Mental Health Petitions	1,749	1,876	2,040
Civil and Other Matters	40	54	47
Total Activity	18,842	19,504	20,324



Business Division of the Courts

BUSINESS DIVISION OF THE COURTS

BUSINESS DIVISION

John Cooperrider served as the manager of the Business Division of the Circuit and Probate Courts and oversaw the Administrative/Financial Unit, Data Tech Unit, and Court Resource and Program Support Unit. Christina Bujak served as the Chief of Court Business Operations and assisted in supervising this multifaceted operation.

Following John Cooperrider's retirement in October of 2022, the Court appointed Christina Bujak as Manager of the Business Division. T. J. Tabin was subsequently promoted to the role of Chief of Court Business Operations.

The Business Division is responsible for the development and delivery of business and administrative support services for the Circuit and Probate Courts and is responsible for the Circuit and the Probate Courts' budgets.

When the pandemic hit, this division quickly sprung into action and was instrumental in securing safety equipment for court staff and the general public, including plexiglass and partitions to comply with the necessary spacing and safety requirements outlined by the County. Measurements of each courtroom and office were taken to determine proper seating capacities to align with the state and county protocols. Face masks, disinfecting wipes, sanitizer, and face shields were obtained to protect the courts' employees and those entering the building.

During 2022, the County implemented the new financial system called WorkDay Financials which in time will streamline and automate financial related transactions.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL UNIT

Cindy Lingle is the office leader of the Administrative/Financial Unit (also known as the Business Office) and oversees six full-time and three part-time employees. Cindy Lingle retired in December of 2022 and Iris McCree took over the responsibilities as the office leader for this unit.

Staff in this unit are responsible for the Courts' Workday financial transactions, reconciling state ward and court ward juvenile placements and processing payments for case-related services, such as court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters, delinquent out-of-home care placements, and payments for the Juvenile Drug Court and the Adult Treatment Court. This office assists the Business Division Manager with budget information and financial reporting, capital improvements, special projects, work orders, furniture and equipment requests, as well as ordering supplies and handling printing requisitions.

With the conversion to WorkDay HR in 2020 and more recently the transition from PeopleSoft to WorkDay Financials in 2022, the staff in this unit work closely with the Human Resources Department and Fiscal Services. They process court personnel payroll transactions, monitor attendance records for more than 350 Circuit and Probate Court employees, onboard new employees, and handle benefit enrollments. This office also oversees all court invoices, mileage expenses, travel expenditures, expense reports, and other employee expenses through WorkDay. With the changeover



John Cooperrider
*Business Division
Manager*



Christina Bujak
*Chief of Court
Business Operations*

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL UNIT (continued)

to WorkDay Financials, this office became the liaison with Fiscal Services to help train and update court staff on the new self-service electronic processes.

With the emergence of the pandemic, this office quickly converted juvenile, criminal, and probate court-appointed vouchers to electronic filings which streamlined the attorney-payment process.

DATA TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The Data Technology Unit (Data Tech) is under the supervision of Lisa Czyz, Court Technical Services Supervisor. This unit, which is staffed by seven employees, is responsible for court technology and automation for the Circuit and Probate Courts, including assisting both staff and litigants with court programs and video conference initiatives. This unit is also the liaison to Oakland County's Department of Information Technology, various vendors, and other state and local government agencies.

At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Data Tech quickly put technology advances into action. Video conferencing through Zoom expanded to courtrooms, judges, and their staff, as well as many departments throughout the courts. Zoom hearings became part of a hybrid process, allowing judges the option of conducting hearings in person or remotely. In 2022 alone, Data Tech supported the judges in excess of 171,689 hours of Zoom hearings, which was fewer than the previous year due to more in-person hearings.

With the workforce previously working entirely on-site, this unit assisted employees to work remotely, making equipment available and securing methods for remote access. With the courthouse being briefly shuttered and the general public not allowed in the building for several months, eFiling was expanded to include criminal and juvenile cases. Remote fees were suspended to remove barriers for citizens to submit court filings. This office updated vouchers and forms to assist in the electronic voucher system for court-appointed attorneys. Many of these advancements continue to be used throughout the courts, where appropriate, and reflect the new way of doing business.

In November 2021, a five-year project came to fruition to replace the court's EDMS (Electronic Document Management System), whose outdated platform had reached end-of-life. The new document repository, Laserfiche, stores all of the Circuit, Juvenile, Probate and FOC pleadings. It includes such functionality as routing, forms, and notes to aid in processing cases. The application was successfully rolled out to all court users, despite working remotely. Training was made available via Microsoft Teams.

COURT RESOURCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

The Court Resource and Program Support Unit, overseen by Karen Koshen, is an area of general responsibility within the courts. This unit provides informational, technical, and administrative support services to the judges, various court departments, and outside agencies. This unit coordinates and assists with special projects, events, and media relations. Other responsibilities include maintaining judicial attendance records, preparing and maintaining the Bail Bondsman List, assisting with the transition for new judges, and reconciling state ward data. Preparation of the annual report, press releases, historical roster of the courts, and other publications are also handled by this unit.

Even with the pandemic, a few events still continued on a smaller scale through electronic conferencing. By 2022 many events were being held in person including New Lawyers Admission ceremonies, Constitution Day program, Police Orientation Training for the Juvenile Courts, Adoption Day hearings and reception, and several other court events.

CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURT RETIREMENTS

2020

Hon. James Alexander—Circuit Court
 Susan Bennington—Case Management Office
 Carol Esher—Probate Court
 Shari Griesmer Toth—FOC
 Betsy Hysell—Chambers of Judge Jarbou
 Sandra Kusky—FOC
 Donna Labelle—Chambers of Judge Alexander
 Jany Lee—FOC
 Greg Prokopp—Casework
 Pamela Sala—FOC
 Vicki Spicer—Probate Court
 Gwynne Starkey—Case Management Office
 Kenneth Tolbert—FOC

2021

Sandra Binder—FOC
 Hon. Leo Bowman—Circuit Court
 Joanne Bridson—FOC
 Darlene Conklin—FOC
 Karen Evanson—Casework
 Jeanne Gonek—FOC
 Lori Hale—Case Management
 Roma Honer—FOC
 Jackie Howes-Evanson – Casework
 Millie James—Case Management
 Ed Jones—Casework
 Victoria King—Chambers of Judge Bowman
 Tina Lathers—Casework
 Catherine Loveland—FOC
 Bryan McCaffrey—Casework
 Susan McCoy—FOC
 Janise McGehee—FOC
 Susan Morse—FOC
 Vickilynn Mouthaan—FOC
 Tori Petway—FOC
 Linda Renda—FOC
 Mimi Seltzer—Chambers of Judge Warren
 Carol Shaw—FOC

2021 (continued)

Mark Sherbow—FOC
 Kevin Threatt—Casework
 Shelley Tryles—Chambers of Judge Langford Morris
 Mary VanDerworp—Chambers of Judge Chabot

2022

Hon. Rae Lee Chabot—Circuit Court
 Chari Christie—Court Administration
 John Cooperrider—Business Office
 Patricia Croney—FOC
 Denise Cross—Chambers of Judge Langford Morris
 Kevin Gross—Casework
 Pam Hamway – Civil/Criminal Division
 Mike Hand—Juvenile Court Referee
 Hon. Denise Langford Morris—Circuit Court
 Jane McCarron—FOC
 Cheryl McClenic—Chambers of Judge Langford-Morris
 Cindy Morales—Case Management
 Maria Ortez—Juvenile Intake
 Mary Schusterbauer—Youth Assistance

2020-2022 HIGHLIGHTS



2020-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

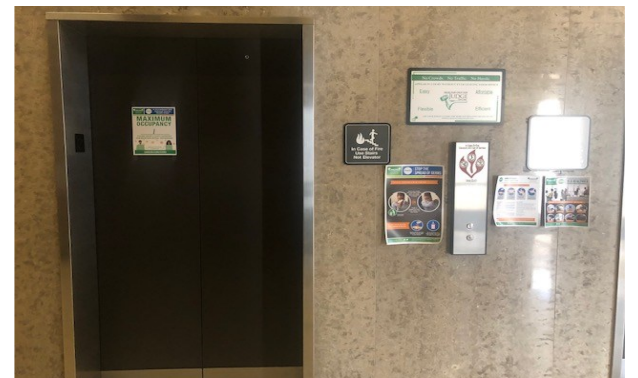
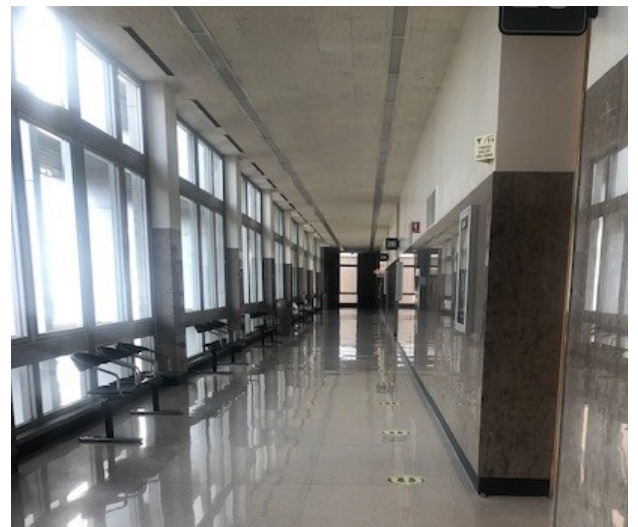
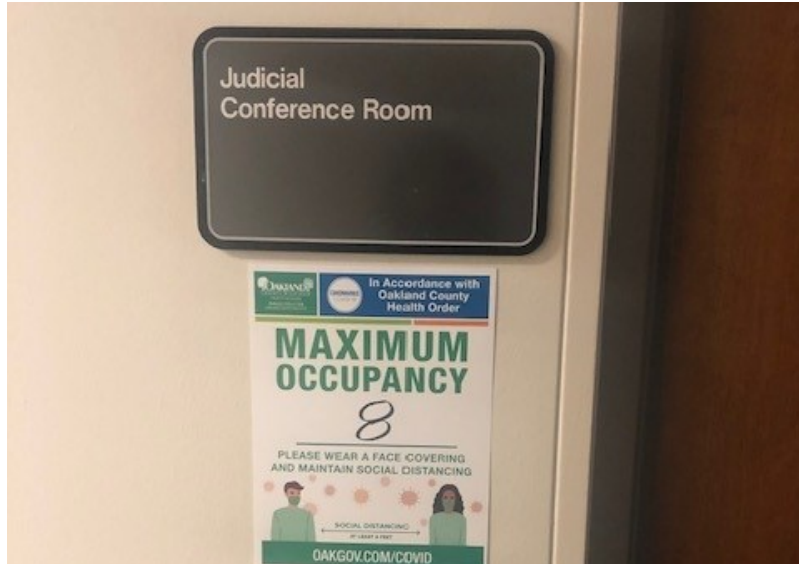


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Annual Report is an historical record to reflect back on the people, events, and successes that have been an integral part of the courts over the past three years. The resiliency, creativity, and expertise of the county employees all came together during these difficult times to keep the courts fully operational for the citizens of Oakland County.

The Courts would like to thank the managers and supervisors of the offices highlighted in this report for their contributions. Also thank you to Phill DeBarr of the Data Tech Unit for pictorial content and Karen Koshen for overseeing and managing this project.

PANDEMIC IN PICTURES





SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

Telephone: (248) 858-1000

Website: OakGov.com/circuit

OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Telephone: (248) 858-1000

Website: OakGov.com/probate