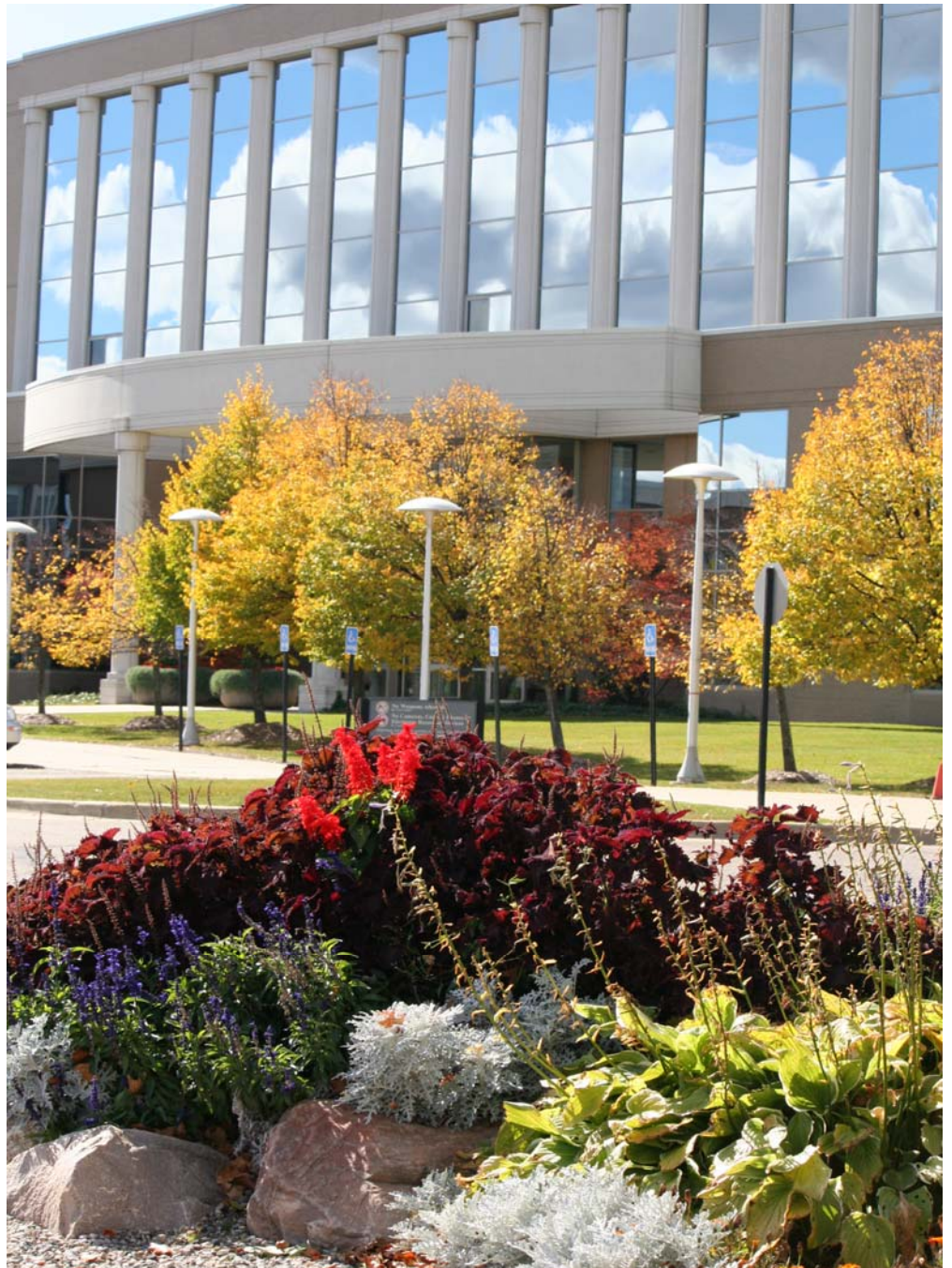




2012 Annual Report

Oakland County Sixth Judicial Circuit Court Oakland County Probate Court

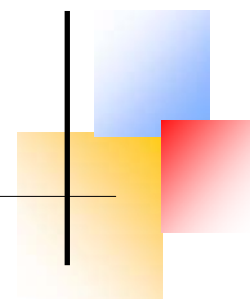


***Oakland County
Sixth Judicial Circuit Court
Oakland County Probate Court***

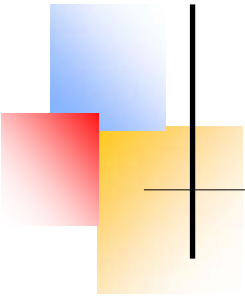


1200 North Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
248-858-1000 Circuit Court
248-858-0260 Probate Court
www.oakgov.com/circuit
www.oakgov.com/probate

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Message from the Chief Judges

“Innovation” has an entrepreneurial bent and is traditionally associated with the corporate world. We think the word aptly describes our 2012, so pardon us if we conscript it for purposes of this introductory letter. Here are but a few examples of why we think “innovation” and the Courts go together.



*The Honorable
Nanci J. Grant
Circuit Court Chief Judge*

The Court developed a method for electronically routing petitions and orders between Department of Human Services and the Court so that children in harm’s way may be promptly taken into protective custody 24/7. This was done in response to new legislation that requires a Court order to take children into protective custody, even during non-business hours.

The Adoption Permanency Docket was initiated to remove barriers to adoption faced by children who find themselves “legal orphans” because their parents’ parental rights were terminated due to abuse or neglect. Using a case manager approach, this program reduces the time to adoption by more than 60 days and saves taxpayers \$80,000 annually.

Those familiar with the Courts know that the entire civil docket and a portion of the probate docket are included in the eFiling program. In 2012, the program was expanded to include all divorce cases not involving children. Case initiating documents for civil cases, previously filed by paper, are now able to be eFiled.

The functionality of the Probate Court’s public terminal was expanded to allow users to electronically search through case records and gain immediate access to the Register of Actions. Users can now view eFiled documents and retrieve imaged documents that are included in public case records.



*The Honorable
Linda S. Hallmark
Probate Court Chief Judge*

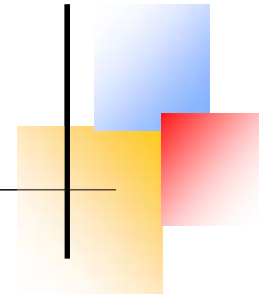
A Business Court was established as a pilot program aimed at developing a specialized track for the resolution of business disputes. Given the adoption of new legislation in 2012, the pilot program will evolve into a permanent Business Court in which all business disputes will be heard involving damages of \$25,000 or more.

The upgrade of video recording systems in all probate and circuit courtrooms to digital recording technology was completed in 2012. Digital video and audio files for all proceedings are uploaded and backed up every day to secure servers. Transcription agencies are given controlled access to the server, enabling them to have next-day access to video recordings for the timely production of court transcripts.

Kiosks were installed at the Friend of the Court building enabling parties to locate, complete and print forms. In addition, the website was revamped to provide a “forms solution” for Friend of the Court clients.

The Courts experienced a lot of innovation in 2012 and there is more to come in 2013. Some might choose to rest on their laurels – but not our judges and employees. They embrace challenges and hold dear the goals of improving the administration of justice and the delivery of exceptional public service. We hope that this annual report will convey our sense of duty in achieving these goals daily.

Historical Roster of the Courts



Circuit Judges of Oakland County

Sanford M. Green	1848–1852	James S. Thorburn	1963–1988	Barry L. Howard	1989–2001
Joseph Copeland	1852–1858	William R. Beasley	1966–1976	Deborah G. Tyner	1991–2007
James S. Dewey	1870–1874	Farrell E. Roberts	1967–1982	Rudy J. Nichols	1991–Present
Levi B. Taft	1873–1876	Daniel C. Devine	1966–1966	Denise Langford Morris	1992–Present
Aug C. Baldwin	1876–1880	Robert L. Templin	1967–1996	John J. McDonald	1993–2010
Silas B. Gaskill	1880–1882	William P. Hampton	1970–1976	Nanci J. Grant	1997–Present
William Stickney	1882–1888	Richard D. Kuhn	1973–2004	Joan E. Young	1997–Present
Joseph B. Moore	1888–1896	John N. O'Brien	1973–1993	Wendy L. Potts	1998–Present
George W. Smith	1896–1908	Robert B. Webster	1973–1982	Colleen A. O'Brien	1998–Present
Kleber P. Rockwell	1917–1921	Steven N. Andrews	1976–2008	Patrick J. Brennan	2001–2004
Frank L. Covert	1919–1933	Alice L. Gilbert	1978–1992	Rae Lee Chabot	2001–Present
Glenn C. Gillespie	1923–1934	Alice L. Gilbert	1995–2002	James M. Alexander	2001–Present
Frank L. Doty	1928–1965	Francis X. O'Brien	1976–1997	Michael Warren	2002–Present
Goodloe H. Rogers	1935–1935	Hilda R. Gage	1978–1996	Daniel P. O'Brien	2003–Present
George B. Hartrick	1935–1958	Bernard L. Kaufman	1979–1979	Martha D. Anderson	2003–Present
H. Russel Holland	1935–1963	Gene Schnelz	1979–2007	Mark A. Goldsmith	2004–2010
Clark J. Adams	1956–1973	George LaPlata	1979–1985	Cheryl A. Matthews	2005–Present
William J. Beer	1958–1980	Robert C. Anderson	1981–1998	Leo Bowman	2007–Present
Theodore Hughes	1959–1959	David F. Breck	1982–2000	Shalina D. Kumar	2007–Present
Stanton G. Dondero	1959–1965	Fred M. Mester	1982–2008	Lisa Gorcyca	2009–Present
Frederick C. Ziem	1959–1986	Norman L. Lippitt	1985–1989	Mary Ellen Brennan	2009–Present
Arthur E. Moore	1963–1976	Jessica R. Cooper	1987–2000	Phyllis C. McMillen	2010–Present
Philip Pratt	1963–1970	Edward Sosnick	1989–2012		

Probate Judges of Oakland County

Dr. William Thompson	1821–1823	Alfred Crawford	1869–1872	Donald E. Adams	1960–1977
Nathaniel Millerd	1823–1826	Junius Ten Eyck	1872–1873	Norman R. Barnard	1963–1988
Smith Weeks	1826–1827	Joseph C. Powell	1873–1876	Eugene A. Moore	1966–2010
Gideon O. Whittemore	1827–1828	James A. Jacokes	1877–1880	John J. O'Brien	1975–1988
Williams F. Mosely	1828	Joseph C. Powell	1881–1884	Barry M. Grant	1977–2008
Ogden Clarke	1828–1832	Thomas L. Patterson	1885–1900	Sandra G. Silver	1988–2000
Stephen Reeves	1832–1844	Joseph S. Stockwell	1901–1909	Joan E. Young	1989–1997
M. LaMont Bagg	1845–1848	Kleber P. Rockwell	1909–1918	Wendy L. Potts	1997–1998
Michael E. Crofoot	1849–1856	Ross Stockwell	1917–1928	Linda S. Hallmark	1997–Present
Oscar F. North	1857–1861	Dan A. McGaffey	1928–1937	Elizabeth Pezzetti	2001–Present
Harry C. Andrews	1861–1863	James H. Lynch	1937–1938	Daniel A. O'Brien	2009–Present
Zephaniah B. Knight	1863–1868	Arthur E. Moore	1938–1963	Kathleen A. Ryan	2011–Present

Judges of the Circuit Court

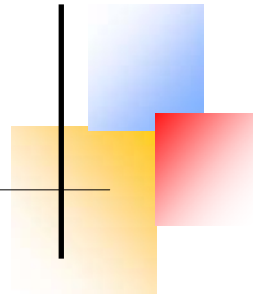


Front row (left to right): Judges Nanci J. Grant (Circuit Court Chief Judge), Rudy J. Nichols, Edward Sosnick, Denise Langford Morris and Joan E. Young

Middle row: Judges Wendy Potts, Cheryl A. Matthews, Mary Ellen Brennan, Colleen A. O'Brien, Phyllis C. McMillen and Martha D. Anderson

Back row: Judges Rae Lee Chabot, Michael Warren (Presiding Judge - Civil/Criminal Division), Daniel Patrick O'Brien, Lisa Gorcyca, Leo Bowman, James M. Alexander and Shalina D. Kumar (Circuit Court Chief Judge Pro Tempore)

Judges of the Probate Court



*Front row (left to right): Judges Linda S. Hallmark
(Probate Court Chief Judge) and
Elizabeth Pezzetti (Presiding Judge - Family Division)*

*Back Row: Judges Kathleen A. Ryan and
Daniel A. O'Brien (Probate Court Chief Judge Pro Tempore)*

Judicial Retirement



*The Honorable
Edward Sosnick*

After 24 years on the Oakland County Circuit Court bench, Judge Edward Sosnick ended his very successful and distinguished career as a Circuit Court judge at the end of 2012.

Judge Sosnick was elected as an Oakland County Circuit Court judge in 1988 and took the bench on January 1, 1989. He was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as chief judge of the Sixth Circuit Court for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1996, and was re-appointed for an additional two-year term beginning January 1, 1998. He was the presiding judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division from 1998-2000.

In his role as chief judge, Judge Sosnick oversaw the creation of the Oakland County Family Division, a specialized court where all matters regarding a single family are assigned to a single judge. In 1989, Judge Sosnick also co-founded the SMILE (Start Making it Livable for Everyone) program, the first parent education program for divorcing parents in the state of Michigan.

Since his days as camp counselor at Camp Sea-Gull, Judge Sosnick has enjoyed working with youth and in 2001 he helped create the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, which he presided over for ten years. He was also co-founder of the SAVE (Serving Adults who are Vulnerable and/or Elderly) Task Force, which has been a model for elder abuse awareness and prevention throughout Michigan.

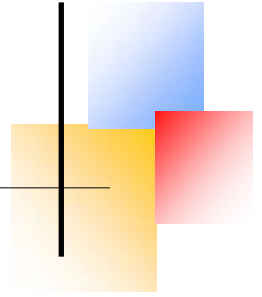
Over the years, Judge Sosnick has been the recipient of several distinguished awards and honors, including the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award, the Distinguished Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association, voted one of Michigan's Most Respected Judges by a Michigan Lawyers Weekly Poll and received the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Award for Meritorious Service to the Children of America.

In the area of domestic violence, Judge Sosnick received the Certificate of Appreciation Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy from HAVEN and the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County Award of Merit for Contribution Toward Improving the Lives of Women. Just prior to his retirement Judge Sosnick was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence.



Celebrating Judge Sosnick's retirement with him is his judicial staff (left to right): Tim Crawford, judicial clerk; Bruce Brakel, research attorney; Karen Koshen, judicial secretary; and Rose Lewis, judicial clerk.

Letter from the Court Administrators



Elected Officials and Citizens of Oakland County:

The pages of the annual report that follow are designed to provide the public with general information about the Courts and their programs, projects and accomplishments. Also included is statistical information on caseload volume and trends. We welcome your comments and invite you to make suggestions regarding other information you would like to see available here.

The 2012 calendar year brought continued changes and challenges to the Courts. While many of these challenges were budgetary in nature, there were many reporting requirement changes, new statutes and other non-economic changes to accommodate as well.

The judges and employees of the Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts were committed to meeting each challenge with dedication and hard work to ensure a standard of excellence within the Courts that will benefit all court users. We look forward to continuing this effort in 2013.

Very truly yours

Kevin M. Oeffner
Circuit Court Administrator

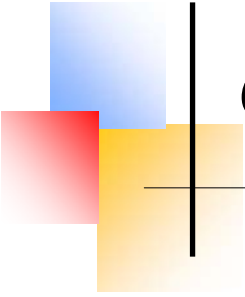
Rebecca A. Schnelz
Probate Court Administrator



Kevin M. Oeffner
Circuit Court
Administrator



Rebecca A. Schnelz
Probate Court
Administrator



Circuit Court — Civil/Criminal Division



*The Honorable
Michael Warren
Presiding Judge -
Civil/Criminal Division*

Judge Michael Warren is the Presiding Judge of the Civil/Criminal Division of the Sixth Circuit Court which is composed of 13 judges who are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. The judges hear civil cases with damages in excess of \$25,000 and criminal cases involving felony charges. Civil/Criminal Division judges also preside over appeals from the district courts and administrative agencies as well as some appeals from the Probate Court. Assisting the judges within the division are judicial staff attorneys, judicial secretaries and judicial clerks.

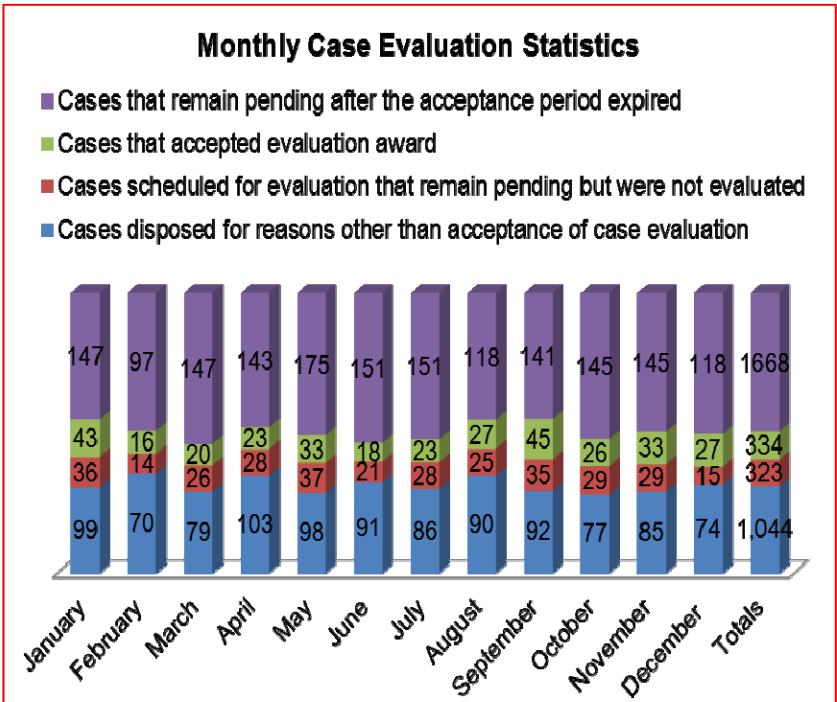
Richard Lynch, Manager of the Civil/Criminal Division, and Gwynne Starkey, Chief of the Civil/Criminal Division, oversee support staff from Administrative Support, the Case Management Office, Criminal Case Support, Clerk Support and the Jury Office.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Administrative Support staff offer legal and administrative support to the Court. Addressing issues as diverse as legal support, court interpreters and bar liaison, staff work to ensure access to the Court and effective and timely resolution of cases. Critically, staff offer direct support to the Court on unique issues that require extensive research or study issues that have court-wide implications. The existence of this resource permits the Court to operate more efficiently for court-users, the bar and internal stakeholders.

CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Case Management Office (CMO) is primarily responsible for coordinating Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs for the Circuit and Probate Courts. The office works closely with the State Court Administrative Office, Oakland County Bar Association and Oakland Mediation Center on program development and implementation. Case evaluation and mediation are two common ADR processes used by the Court to settle cases prior to trial. The CMO schedules cases and evaluators at the appropriate time in the life of the case for cases ordered into case evaluation.



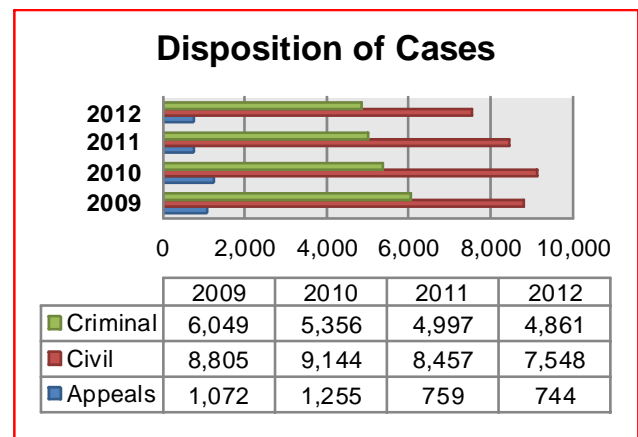
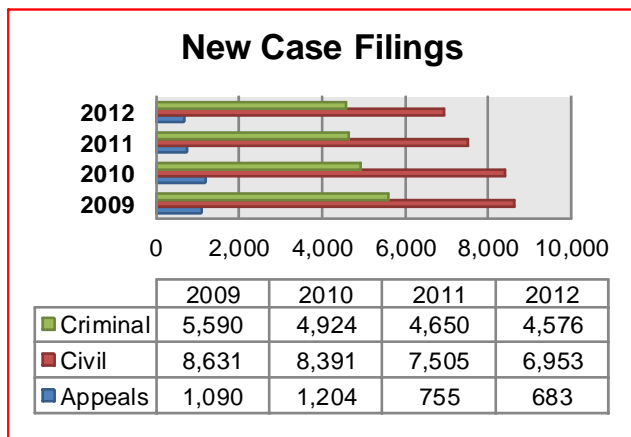
Circuit Court — Civil/Criminal Division



The CMO also supports the Discovery Facilitator program. Discovery Facilitators are volunteer facilitators who meet with attorneys during the miscellaneous motion call to assist counsel in working through discovery disputes.

CMO personnel, overseen by Michelle Kase, perform a number of administrative duties to ensure the efficient processing of cases. Duties include reassignment of cases, receipt and processing of praecipes for the weekly miscellaneous motion call and requests for the Judge On-Line program. In addition, staff track caseloads, prepare docket and program reports and assist as needed with special dockets.

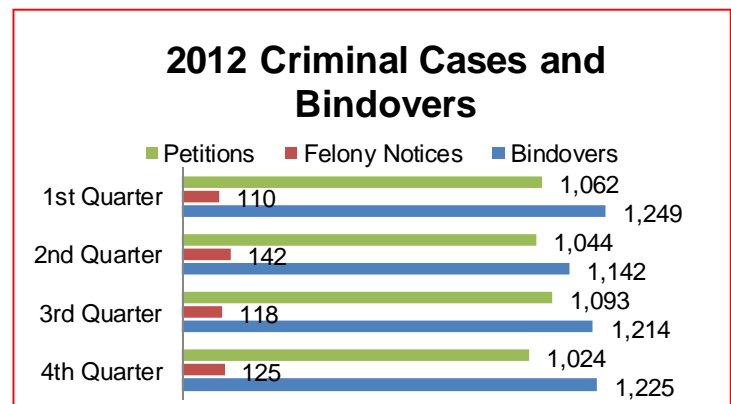
Despite the loss of a judge position at the end of 2010, the Bench continues to aggressively work to resolve cases. The Court entered 13,153 dispositions on civil and criminal cases during the course of 2012. By timely and effectively resolving pending cases, the Court reduced the average docket size by nearly nine cases per judge. This permits judges to spend more time on the matters pending before them to the benefit of the attorneys and parties associated with those cases and the general public which benefits from an efficient system of justice.

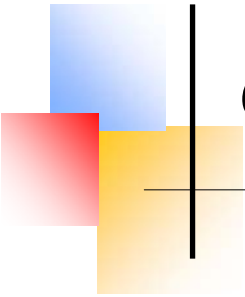


CRIMINAL CASE SUPPORT

The Criminal Case Support unit handles the assignment of judges on all felony criminal cases. It is responsible for the appointment of counsel for indigent defendants at case initiation and for post-conviction or appellate matters.

The unit also works with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and other county and state agencies on effective management of the Oakland County Jail's inmate population. This unit also works with the Michigan Department of Corrections to ensure the timely processing and receipt of pre-sentence referrals and with the Reimbursement Division regarding the payment of fines, fees and costs.





Circuit Court — Civil/Criminal Division

CLERK SUPPORT

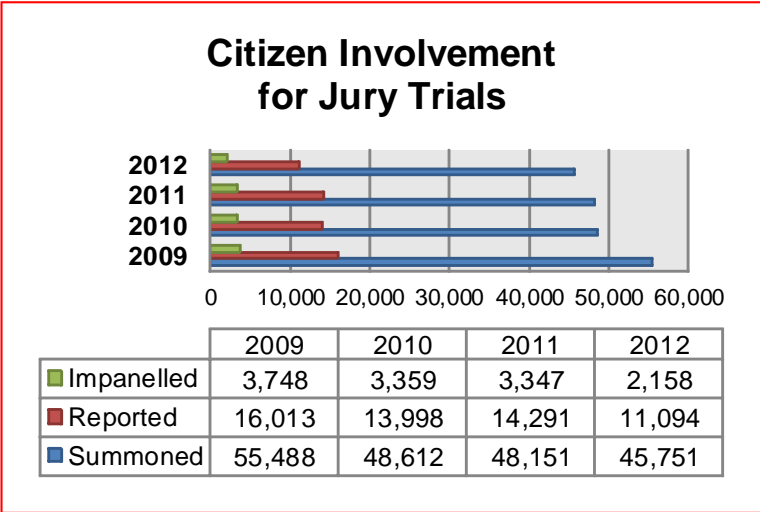
This unit oversees the training and development of the judicial and floating clerks. In addition to assisting court staff, Brenda Beiter and Katherine Siebenaler work closely with area law schools and paralegal programs to offer internships that provide valuable experience for the students.

JURY OFFICE

The Jury Office coordinates jury operations and obtains jurors for the Circuit and Probate Courts. Rebecca Young serves as the supervisor of the office and is assisted by Deborah Fahr. The Jury Office tracks juror utilization rates to ensure a sufficient number of jurors are available for trials while imposing the least hardship on those summoned for jury duty. All persons not legally excused from jury duty, regardless of status or occupation, are expected to serve when summoned.

Citizens that are exempted from jury service by statute include those who do not reside in Oakland County, have served as a juror within the past twelve months, are not physically able to serve, have been convicted of a felony or are not conversant in the English language. Persons over the age of 70 or women who are breastfeeding are exempt from juror service upon request.

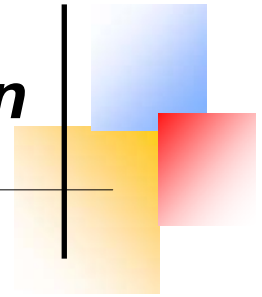
Orientations are conducted in the morning for new jurors outlining what can be expected during the course of their service. Several of the judges participate in this orientation to welcome the jurors and explain courtroom procedures.



HIGHLIGHT — CIVIL/CRIMINAL DIVISION *“Business Court Pilot Program”*

The Civil/Criminal Division participated in a Business Court Pilot Program through the Michigan Supreme Court. The pilot, which arose out of the State Bar of Michigan’s Judicial Crossroads report recommendation regarding a specialized business docket, was implemented by a local administrative order issued on March 7, 2012. In conjunction with pilots in three other circuit courts, attorneys were given the opportunity to litigate business cases under a set of rules based upon the recommendations of the Judicial Crossroad’s report. While the initial response was lighter than anticipated, the Court may report that all of the referred cases were resolved within the nine-month operational period of the pilot program. With the passage of 2012 PA 333, the term of the pilot was cut short, as the Court began developing a Business Court that will begin operations in July 2013.

Circuit Court — Civil/Criminal Division



CIRCUIT COURT — CIVIL/CRIMINAL DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Processed jury functions and provided jurors to courts for 62 civil trials, with an average duration of 3.42 days. The office also provided jurors to courts for 133 criminal trials, with an average duration of 2.54 days. Of the criminal trials, 50 were capital offenses and 10 of the capital trials were homicide cases.
- ◆ The Jury Office summoned 45,751 citizens for jury duty. The number of prospective jurors summoned was then reduced after excusals for legal exemptions. The Jury Office required 11,094 prospective jurors to report for service to meet the daily needs of the trial courts. Ultimately, 2,158 citizens sat as jurors for 2012.
- ◆ There were 144 bench and jury trials for felony cases.
- ◆ The total number of bench and jury civil trials was 116.
- ◆ The total juror fees and mileage paid to jurors and prospective jurors required to appear at court was \$421,286.60, which was a reduction of \$183,025.40 from 2011.
- ◆ The average cost of a jury panel was \$2,160.44, an increase of \$179.44 per jury over last year.
- ◆ The Court scheduled 3,369 cases for case evaluation. Of those cases, 2,203 cases completed the evaluation process before 202 panels. Of the cases evaluated, 334 cases accepted the evaluation award within the 28-day acceptance/rejection period. An additional 478 cases that rejected evaluation awards of \$25,000 or less were ordered to mediation. Of the cases referred to mediation, 70 cases resolved without mediation. An additional 20 cases resolved at mediation.
- ◆ The Court appointed trial counsel for indigent or partially-indigent defendants in 4,223 cases.
- ◆ There were 4,830 felony cases bound over for trial from the district courts.
- ◆ There were 4,809 petitions for pre-sentence investigation reports prepared.
- ◆ The Court appointed appellate counsel for criminal defendants in 283 cases.
- ◆ The Court appointed 357 foreign language interpreters for individuals with limited English proficiency, including 264 Spanish interpreters.
- ◆ The Court appointed 95 interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.



Circuit Court — Family Division



*The Honorable
Elizabeth Pezzetti
Presiding Judge -
Family Division*

Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti is the Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court — Family Division. This division, overseen by Deputy Court Administrator Lisa Langton, includes the Friend of the Court operations, the Judicial Support unit and the Court Services unit.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

Administered by Friend of the Court Suzanne Hollyer, this operation provides case management and enforcement services on domestic relations matters. Referees, family counselors and investigators work in teams to assist the litigants in the management and enforcement of complex family law matters.

JUDICIAL SUPPORT

Headed by William Bartlam, Manager of Judicial Support/Judicial Assistant, this unit consists of the Juvenile Referees, Juvenile Intake, Juvenile Adoption and the Personal Protection Order office. In Mr. Bartlam's role as Judicial Assistant, he is also the lead legal advisor for the Family Division.

COURT SERVICES

This unit provides juvenile probation, casework services, clinical services through the Court Psychological Clinic, community diversion and re-entry services through the Youth Assistance program and also includes both the Juvenile and Adult Drug Treatment Court programs.

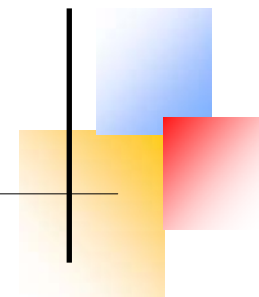
FAMILY-FOCUSED JUVENILE DRUG COURT

Also known as OPTIONS (Owning the Problem - Trusting in Our New Skills), this court integrates drug treatment services with juvenile justice system case processing by including therapeutic intervention to substance-using youth and their families. The team, comprised of Presiding Judge Mary Ellen Brennan, court staff, defense counsel and substance abuse and mental health professionals, works together using a non-adversarial approach. As of December 2012, 122 youth had graduated from the program and 252 youth and 429 family members had been served.

ADULT TREATMENT COURT

This court offers alternative sentencing for non-violent adult felony offenders who have a history of drug and/or alcohol dependence. Judge Joan Young presides over the male participants in the program and Judge Colleen O'Brien presides over the female participants. As of December 2012, 128 participants had graduated from the Adult Treatment Court. In 2009, the Adult Treatment Court incorporated a mental health component (MHC) into the programming to better serve those who have both an Axis I diagnosis and a Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Jacqueline Howes-Evanson serves as the supervisor for both the Adult and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court programs. Created in 2008, the RESTORE Foundation was established to financially support the Oakland County Circuit Court drug court programs.

Circuit Court — Family Division



FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Friend of the Court (FOC) is responsible for assisting in domestic relations cases by investigating and enforcing issues involving custody, support and parenting time. The Friend of the Court also assists parties with the registration of their court orders as they are moving into and out of the state of Michigan. Further, the Friend of the Court is responsible for enforcement of medical provisions in court orders. Both unpaid medical bills and requirements that parents insure their children are handled by the Friend of the Court.

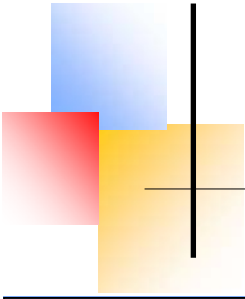
Friend of the Court referees hold hearings to enforce and modify Family Division orders regarding support, custody and parenting time. Referees conduct early intervention conferences when a divorce is initiated to help divorcing clients understand the FOC and the divorce process. FOC family counselors provide the SMILE program (Start Making it Livable for Everyone) to help parents understand the impact of divorce on their children. Forms to assist parties in making requests for assistance by the Friend of the Court are available on the website at www.oakgov.com/foc.

Friend of the Court staff continue to serve on many statewide committees and workgroups to improve the child support program in Michigan.



Suzanne Hollyer, Friend of the Court, and staff participate in an emergency evacuation drill at the FOC. Pictured (left to right): Peter Dever, Sarah Wickham, Shannon Fler, Suzanne Hollyer, Christina Conlon, Arthur Settle, James Krebs, Claudia Martello and Craig Eaton.

SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTIVITY				
New Filing Activity				
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Domestic Relations				
Without Children	2,520	2,544	2,425	2,496
With Children	2,428	2,495	2,356	2,411
Paternity	978	1,058	986	905
Interstate	74	77	94	73
Support	1,415	1,387	1,095	1,123
Other	252	255	256	294
Total New Filings	7,667	7,816	7,212	7,302



Circuit Court — Family Division

HIGHLIGHT — FRIEND OF THE COURT

“Oakland County’s Unique Child Support Program”

Parenting time, custody enforcement and case management are important functions of the Friend of the Court, but many are unaware that this is unique to Michigan. In other states, the child support enforcement agency does only that — child support enforcement. The federal government funds child support enforcement throughout the country and U.S. territories. However, parenting time and custody is not funded and, therefore, is not a part of the program in other areas.

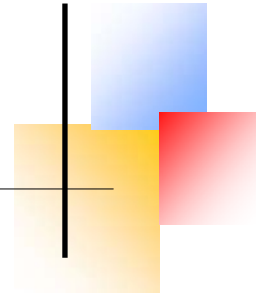
Michigan has been providing a broad range of services to families involved in domestic relations cases dating back to 1919. When the federal government became involved in the program in the 1970s, Michigan’s law provided a model for framing the new program. However, the federal government’s objective in funding the child support program was to provide a mechanism to recover the costs of public assistance. As a result, the national program was developed to recover these costs by focusing on child support collections. Parenting time, custody enforcement and case management were not included. Michigan has continued to provide these services because the leaders in the program feel strongly that parenting time and custody are important components to the work they do. Oakland County leads the way in this effort statewide with 18 masters degree-level staff members assigned to support families in resolving custody and parenting time disputes.

Today, others are looking to the state, and especially to Oakland County, to see how this important task is managed. In an exciting turn of events, the President has proposed that parenting time be included in child support orders entered by workers funded through the federal budget. Federal child support workers are now looking to Michigan, and specifically to Oakland County, to see how things are done. Two contractors from the federal government visited Oakland County to meet with the FOC referees and family counselors and several of the community partner organizations. The hope is that if the President’s proposals are enacted into law, through these “focus group” type sessions they will be able to develop some best practices to bring to the rest of the country. The Friend of the Court director will be serving on a round-table panel in 2013 to further discuss how this work is managed in Oakland County now without federal funding. The FOC is excited to see where this process takes the country and hopeful that Oakland County will be able to assist in the development of this important work all across the country.

FRIEND OF THE COURT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ The FOC held 2,550 Early Intervention Conferences (EIC). These conferences allow parties to a divorce access to the Friend of the Court referee early in the divorce process. The referee uses the EIC to assist in the settlement of a divorce and provide information about services available at the Friend of the Court.
- ◆ The Friend of the Court switchboard answered 72,152 calls.
- ◆ The front desk provided case specific information to 28,188 customers.
- ◆ FOC Family Counselors addressed 162 complaints regarding parenting time.

Circuit Court — Family Division



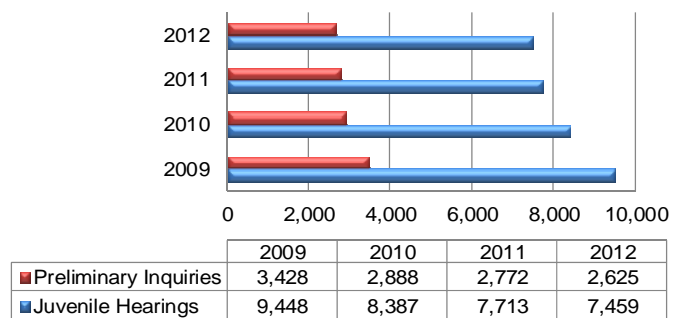
JUDICIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The Judicial Support Services staff assists the judges of the Family Division in the following areas:

- ◆ Adoption services
- ◆ Child abuse and neglect cases
- ◆ Juvenile delinquency and juvenile traffic cases
- ◆ Juvenile Court intake
- ◆ Personal Protection Orders
- ◆ Safe delivery of newborns
- ◆ Waiver of parental consent to abortion
- ◆ Adoption permanency coordination
- ◆ Attorney appointments
- ◆ AWOLP docket

In these areas, support staff schedule cases, prepare files, create documents, maintain both public and confidential records and distribute court orders and other materials.

Juvenile Hearings vs Preliminary Inquiries Held



Juvenile referees assist judges by conducting hearings and recommending decisions in these actions. Juvenile referees represent the court 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. They authorize the detention of juveniles and removal of children due to risk of harm. Referees review all complaints and petitions referred to the Court. They evaluate each matter and make decisions involving diversions or authorizations of petitions. Referees act as the trier of fact in cases involving delinquency and involving abuse and neglect of children. They recommend treatment plans for children and parents and monitor delinquents and children in foster care, which may include recommendations for the termination of parental rights.

The attorney appointment specialist maintains a database of attorneys qualified by education and experience for representing indigent parties. The specialist matches eligible attorneys to requests made for appointed counsel in Family Division and probate cases and then processes all pertinent documents relating to the appointment.

The permanency coordinators also maintain a database to track those children whose parents' legal rights have been terminated but who have not yet been adopted. They coordinate four special dockets and work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and private agencies to expedite permanency for children, review the progress of each child's case, provide expert advice and identify resources for adoption and foster care caseworkers for these children. They draft scheduling orders and case summaries for the judges and referees and assist in the distribution of real-time orders. They meet with agency and DHS executives to review overall performance and court concerns.

Circuit Court — Family Division

HIGHLIGHT — JUDICIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

“Mobile Court - Technological Solutions to Change Legal Requirements”

On June 12, 2012, Michigan’s Public Act 163 took effect. Among its many provisions, PA 163 required courts to be available 24 hours per day, every day of the year, to receive pleadings, make findings of fact and issue orders when abused or neglected children were in imminent harm and required removal from parental custody and placement into foster care. The legislation permitted referees to enter an ex parte interim placement order when all of the circumstances listed in the law were found to be true. Prior to PA 163, requests for removal were handled by telephone calls to an on-call referee. No documents were exchanged nor was any record made. The challenge for the Court was to find a means by which petitions could be presented, a record created and a court order written and distributed when the courthouse was closed.

The solution to this challenge was jointly developed by the Court’s Data Technology unit and the referees of Judicial Support Services together with staff members of the Oakland County office of the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS). The technical solution used an iPad™ with special applications, along with dedicated mailboxes for the Court and DHS. The on-call referee used one application on the iPad™ to view the petition (which the DHS worker had placed in an electronic mailbox), a second application to make an audio recording of the worker’s testimony on the case (which was then uploaded to multiple servers where it was preserved) and a third application to complete and sign the court order (which had the referee’s specific findings). The completed court order was then electronically delivered to the DHS mailbox where it could be retrieved by the DHS worker. Appropriate security and passcode protection was designed into the process.

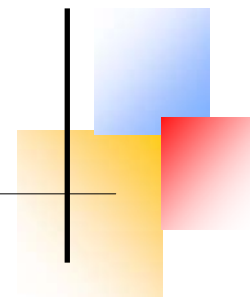


The Honorable Robert E. Weiss Award for Excellence in Creative Solutions was presented to the Circuit Court. Pictured above (left to right): Bill Bartlam, Manager - Judicial Support Services; David Bilson, Juvenile Referee; Judge Joan E. Young; Chris Bujak, Supervisor - Data Technology Unit; Sue Hull, Child Welfare Services Director for DHS and Maura Corrigan, Director, Michigan DHS.

Referee David Bilson and Christina Bujak, Supervisor of the Data Technology unit, took the lead on this project. In addition to perfecting the design, they trained all the Juvenile Referees, the DHS Protective Services Workers and DHS Supervisors on the mobile technology. They developed reference cards for users and, along with Oakland County DHS Child Welfare Services Director Susan Hull, presented this solution to representatives from many counties and courts at two statewide Permanency Forums in April and October.

Recognition not only goes to David Bilson and Christina Bujak, but to all of the Data Technology and referee colleagues who have made this mobile technology a model for all of Michigan.

Circuit Court — Family Division



JUDICIAL SUPPORT SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ In October 2012, the Michigan Supreme Court awarded the Honorable Robert E. Weiss Award for Excellence in Creative Solutions to the Court for the design and implementation of the mobile court technology, which met the changed requirements of Michigan law. Representatives of the Court's team, together with Circuit Judge Joan E. Young, accepted the award at the Permanency Forum in Jackson. This particular solution was one of several technological accomplishments that helped streamline the Court's internal processing of cases.

- ◆ All agency and DHS reports for child abuse and neglect cases are submitted electronically using Microsoft's SharePoint™ application software. This electronic receipt became fully implemented on January 1, 2012.

- ◆ Since October 1, 2012, all internal casework reports for juvenile delinquency cases are submitted electronically using the SharePoint™ application. This replicates the process used in child abuse and neglect cases. Once the report is submitted for filing, it immediately is available to the judge or referee hearing the case.

- ◆ Beginning in December 2012, implemented a modified workflow for the transfer of referee reports.

This electronic transfer will permit the online editing, approval and e-signature for referee reports. Once the report is submitted for filing, it will be scanned and immediately available as a public record.

- ◆ Utilizing Federal Adoption Incentive Grant funds, the Court administered the Adoption Permanency program. Two Permanency Coordinators, Lisa Westphal and Annette Liike, worked with Probate Court Chief Judge Linda S. Hallmark, Judge Cheryl Matthews and Referees Martin Alvin and Scott Hamilton to continuously focus on adoption permanency for children who became permanent state wards due to parental neglect or abuse. During 2012, 107 children in this group were adopted by their new families. Despite new children entering the group, the number of children awaiting adoption was reduced from 137 to 100.

- ◆ Together with the DHS, the department reviewed agency performance with 10 of the 19 agencies representing nearly 90 percent of the children and defined specific areas where the agency needed to improve its efforts for these children. On December 31, federal funding for this program ended. By redeploying Court resources from other operations, the unit was able to continue the Adoption Permanency program into 2013 and beyond.

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY				
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Juvenile/Adoptions				
Delinquency	3,179	2,714	2,611	2,443
Child Protective Proceedings	299	325	314	335
Juvenile Traffic Tickets	213	112	100	72
Adoption Petitions	428	419	407	340
Subtotal	4,119	3,570	3,432	3,190
Personal Protection Orders				
Domestic	1,886	1,892	1,692	1,763
Non-Domestic	791	830	682	945
Juvenile	57	35	40	55
Subtotal	2,734	2,757	2,414	2,763
Miscellaneous Family				
Name Change	486	478	509	488
Other	47	31	50	30
Subtotal	533	509	559	518
Total New Filings	7,386	6,836	6,405	6,471

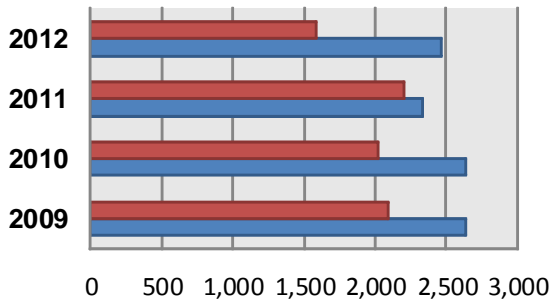
Circuit Court — Family Division

COURT SERVICES

The Court Services operation is comprised of the Casework Services unit (Juvenile Probation), Psychological Clinic, Youth Assistance, the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court Program and the Adult Treatment Court. Employees are responsible for providing direct services to clients, performing case management, conducting research and program development, providing education, developing community resources through volunteer coordination and promoting public awareness.

CASEWORK SERVICES — The Casework Services Juvenile Probation unit is responsible for all delinquency cases authorized for the Court by the Intake Department and assists cases through the adjudication process when necessary. Upon adjudication, the Casework unit is responsible for making recommendations regarding disposition. During post-disposition, it assists in implementing court orders, including the monitoring of probation, restitution, community service, restorative justice, parent education and counseling.

Youth Assistance



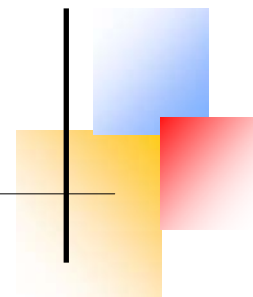
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Consultations	2,091	2,024	2,201	1,582
New Referrals	2,633	2,632	2,336	2,466

YOUTH ASSISTANCE — As the prevention arm of the Court's continuum of service, Youth Assistance uses a two-pronged approach to strengthen youth and families. Professional staff placed in 26 field offices throughout the county provide family-focused casework to at-risk youth referred by the police, schools and the Intake Department of the Court. Staff also work with a volunteer board of directors in each community that identifies needs, raises funds and then plans and implements primary prevention programs. Youth Assistance has a unique tri-sponsorship structure where staff is hired by the Court, but each local program is also sponsored by the school district and municipalities.

Mentors and mentees in the Youth Assistance Mentors Plus program celebrated National Mentoring Month by participating in a service project. In collaboration with Kroger and Gleaners, the participants were able to collect many shopping carts full of nonperishable food and over \$2,000. They then gathered for a well-deserved pizza party. Congratulations to all of the participants for a job well done!



Circuit Court — Family Division



PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC — The Clinical Services unit, also known as the Psychological Clinic, is responsible for aiding jurists in making informed decisions by providing forensic evaluations of children and families who are involved with the Court. The clinic offers specialized treatment services to clients and clinicians are available for case consultation with Court staff and others. It also conducts and coordinates training and research, including program evaluations and staff development. Clinicians often testify for court hearings in neglect cases.

FAMILY-FOCUSED JUVENILE DRUG COURT — The Juvenile Drug Court program is also known as “OPTIONS,” an acronym for “Owning the Problem, Trusting In Our New Skills.” The program’s mission is to “promote public safety and reduce juvenile drug crime rates by helping substance abusing juvenile offenders and their families achieve drug-free lifestyles and healthy family relationships.” The OPTIONS program is a joint effort between the justice and public health treatment systems. Various incentives and sanctions (penalties) and frequent random drug screening are utilized to ensure compliance with program rules.

ADULT TREATMENT COURT — Like the Juvenile Drug Court program, the Adult Treatment Court (ATC) is a positive alternative of intensive probation and substance abuse treatment instead of long terms of incarceration for non-violent felony offenders whose substance abuse leads them to commit crimes. The ATC seeks to break the cycle of recidivism and enhance public safety and the lives of its participants.



The Adult Treatment Court team members (left to right): Karen Peterson, Rachel Jarnagin, Jackie Howes-Evanson, Susan Butler, Judy Johnson, Judge Colleen A. O'Brien, Alexander Hadazagas, Judge Joan E. Young, Jack Holmes, Janice Tharpe, Carly Willis, James Frankel and Stephanie Drury.



Circuit Court — Family Division

HIGHLIGHT — CASEWORK SERVICES

“Changes in Casework Services”

For Casework Services, 2012 proved to be another year of significant change and progress.

The unit had a long-term open youth and family caseworker position, which was eventually filled in May. Almost immediately thereafter, three veteran caseworkers, whose years of service totaled over 100 years, indicated their intention to retire at the end of the year. In September, a Casework supervisor announced her intention to retire at the end of November. These retirements resulted in the promotion of a caseworker to supervisor, the hiring of three new youth and family caseworkers and the transfer of a Youth Assistance caseworker into Casework Services.

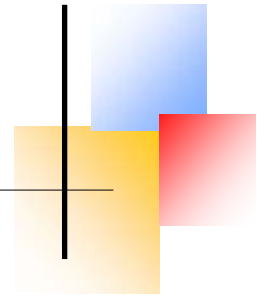
Casework Services also moved forward technologically and in February went live with an on-line Casework database, which has automated many of the reporting and statistical responsibilities of the unit. This database was conceived and designed by Casework staff and supervisors and has proven to be a very helpful tool in case management.

Casework Services continued its close working relationship with Children’s Village and Crossroads for Youth. Both Children’s Village and Crossroads for Youth participate in the Out-Of-Home Screening Committee and provide valuable input to treatment planning for those children who are placed in day treatment or residential placement.

Late in 2012 Casework Services, along with Youth Assistance, Children’s Village and Crossroads for Youth, cooperated in the creation of a sustainable re-entry model for children completing residential treatment at Children’s Village and Crossroads for Youth.

Once again the Child Care Fund audit in June of this year confirmed that Casework Services fully complies with the requirements of this funding and continues to utilize the funds in an effective manner to reduce the incidence of recidivism and the need for out-of-home placement.

Circuit Court — Family Division



COURT SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ The volunteers of the 26 local Youth Assistance Boards are proud of the various programs they implement each year. In addition to many other programs, this year volunteer funds were dedicated to involving 3,221 at-risk youth in camp and skill-building activities.
- ◆ For the second consecutive year, one of the mentors in the Mentors Plus program was recognized as one of the top five mentors in the state and was presented with a Governor's Service Award.
- ◆ Over 100 professionals from across Oakland County attended a workshop hosted by the Youth Assistance Coordinating Council. The half-day training was designed to enhance understanding of the impact of trauma and loss experienced by our clients. The session was led by Pat Crum-Lubben, a nationally recognized trainer/consultant and director and co-founder of the Family Nurturing Center of Michigan. She is also a parent counselor with the Child Protection Team at DeVos Children's Hospital.
- ◆ In July of 2012, the Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) was able to re-establish the second JDC probation officer position, which was previously eliminated by a budget task in 2011. With the unwavering support of the RESTORE Foundation, the JDC was able to hire Ms. Ellen Hagerman, L.M.S.W., C.A.A.D.C. Ms. Hagerman came to the Circuit Court with a great deal of experience serving youth and families. She has held the position of treatment clinician at Children's Village and was the navigator in the Re-Entry program for a period. She was a therapist at Oakland Family Services. Finally, Ms. Hagerman came to the JDC very familiar with the program as she previously interned with the JDC in 2002. With her addition to the program, the JDC is again able to serve an additional 15 youth and their families for Oakland County.
- ◆ In September of 2012, the Adult Treatment Court (ATC) received the results of the Statewide Mental Health Court Outcome Evaluation prepared for the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Oakland County CMH Authority. Most notably, the report indicated that when comparing pre-involvement with the ATC/MHC and post-involvement, there was a decrease in 2,640 jail days for the 61 individuals that were studied. Furthermore, the study examined new criminal activity and found that only three ATC/MHC participants (5 percent of total admitted) were charged and convicted of a new offense after their admission to the program (and a year thereafter). This was below the average for the MHC participants statewide (14 percent) for both charges and convictions.
- ◆ The Clinical Services unit is an active participant in the Oakland County Wraparound program and the Oakland County Human Services Collaborative Council.

Probate Court — Estates and Mental Health



*The Honorable
Daniel A. O'Brien
Chief Judge Pro
Tempore*

The Oakland County Probate Court maintains jurisdiction over estates, which includes the probating of wills and the administration of testate estates (with a will) and intestate estates (without a will) by personal representatives. The Court resolves issues regarding wills and trusts in the event of uncertainty or conflict and determines the heirs in intestate estates. The Court also handles trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, mental health proceedings and civil matters related to estates.

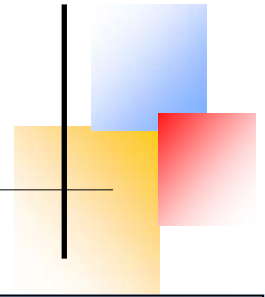
In 2012, the Probate Bench included: the Honorable Linda S. Hallmark, Chief Judge; the Honorable Daniel A. O'Brien, Chief Judge Pro Tempore; the Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti; and the Honorable Kathleen A. Ryan.

Within the Probate Court, much of the activity takes place in the register's office as staff processes paperwork, sets court hearings and directs files into court for hearings. In addition to documents for court hearings, the Probate Court staff also handles the paperwork and management of the reporting and accounting processes for guardianships and conservatorships, manages the guardianship review process and files wills for safekeeping. Legal records of the Probate Court are a matter of public record and are available for review by the general public.

Another important function performed by the Probate Court is the handling of proceedings under the Mental Health Code, including involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill persons and petitions for assisted outpatient treatment (also known as "Kevin's Law"). The Mental Health unit also handles cases involving minors in need of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services. Staff is frequently called upon to assist petitioners requesting emergency court orders for immediate transport of an individual to a preadmission screening unit for examination and possible hospitalization for mental health treatment.

The Probate Court provides informational brochures that explain basic information regarding guardianships, conservatorships, decedent estates and mental health petitions, as well as information on some of the required duties for fiduciaries. Information and forms are available online at www.oakgov.com/probate. The Oakland County Probate Court is the second largest probate court in the state of Michigan, staffed by Probate Court Administrator Rebecca A. Schnelz, Probate Register Jill Koney Daly, and approximately fifty employees.

Probate Court — Estates and Mental Health



HIGHLIGHT — PROBATE COURT ***“Changes in the Probate Court”***

During 2012, the Probate Court made a number of changes to the organization of its staff and its basic workflow procedures. The changes were made as part of the Court’s continual effort to review and improve services in response to changing work needs and budget reductions.

Changes were made to provide specific unit supervision in the register’s office to improve workflow management, staff training and quality control. In addition, an existing position was modified to include daily management responsibilities of the Court’s file room and document management tasks. Modifications were also made to document processing in an effort to speed the entry of all documents onto the court’s case management system.

Additional changes included the transfer of certain file responsibilities from the register’s staff to the chambers’ staff. Tasks such as preparing files for hearing, processing adjournments and routine orders are now regularly handled by chambers.

Together, these changes have not only improved processing times and the accuracy of information about a case available to court users, they have also streamlined and simplified steps throughout the court process.

PROBATE COURT — ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Completed the first full year of the Court’s eFiling pilot project which required continued adaption of workflow, procedures and public education.
- ◆ Successfully reorganized the structure of the Probate register’s office staff to better adapt to work needs and staff reductions. Workflow between the judges’ chambers and the register’s office was also reorganized to provide better service to the public.
- ◆ With the support of the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts, the Court updated and continued to present free monthly Basic Training classes for guardians and conservators. The classes focus on teaching the basic statutory responsibilities and allow the attendees the opportunity to ask questions about issues they will face. The classes are taught by volunteer attorneys and public administrators.



Probate Court — Estates and Mental Health

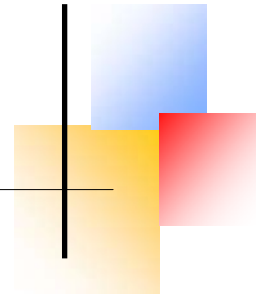
SUMMARY OF PROBATE COURT ACTIVITY

NEW FILES OPENED	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Small Estates	611	638	651	667
Supervised Estates	21	17	21	33
Unsupervised Estates	1,713	1,762	1,767	1,876
Trust - Inter Vivos	270	206	228	241
Adult Guardianships	873	939	969	972
Minor Guardianships	607	671	612	540
Adult Conservatorships	351	392	396	386
Minor Conservatorships	134	127	100	128
Mentally Ill	2,733	2,802	3,058	2,793
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	329	353	352	287
Reopened Estates	217	217	205	195
Protective Orders	39	39	47	55
Civil and Other Matters	94	86	87	107
Total	7,992	8,249	8,493	8,280

ACTIVE CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31

Estates & Trust Cases	4,063	4,124	4,463	4,683
Adult Guardianships	3,497	3,666	3,869	3,981
Adult Conservatorships	1,620	1,669	1,733	1,755
Minor Guardianships	2,571	2,521	2,459	2,335
Minor Conservatorships	1,436	1,266	1,138	1,087
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	1,682	1,728	1,729	1,747
Civil & Other Matters	57	61	63	54
Total	14,926	15,035	15,454	15,642

Business Division of the Courts



The Business Division, under the supervision of John Cooperrider, is responsible for the development and delivery of business and administrative support services for the Circuit and Probate Courts. This division is divided into two primary units of operation in order to effectively manage its diverse and complex responsibilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL

Under the supervision of Tina Sobocinski, the Administrative/Financial unit is responsible for developing and monitoring the Courts' \$60 million budget, processing payments for services (such as court-appointed attorney payments), processing personnel transactions, recording attendance and mileage, managing courthouse and satellite office facilities, handling capital improvements, special project requests and processing supply requests and equipment needs of the Courts.

DATA TECHNOLOGY

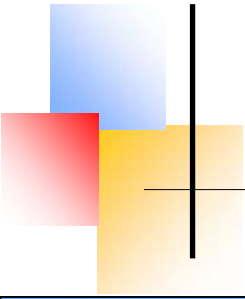
The Data Technology unit is responsible for all aspects of court technology and automation, acting as the Circuit and Probate Courts' liaison to Oakland County's Department of Information Technology, various vendors, as well as other state and local government agencies. Christina Bujak oversees the team who assists both staff and litigants with court programs such as eFiling, Judge On-Line and video conferencing initiatives. The unit manages 23 video courtrooms and eight video referee hearing rooms, overseeing viewing and long-term storage of court records in compliance with state requirements. They also support specialized software, produce statistical reports for the State Court Administrative Office, manage the content of the Courts' websites, produce multimedia presentations, coordinate mobile equipment and create court forms. The unit's goal is to assist departments with initiatives that increase accuracy and efficiency while expanding citizens' access to court programs and information.

COURT RESOURCE AND PROGRAM SPECIALIST

An area of general responsibility in the Business Division is that of the court resource and program specialist. Karen Koshen directs the Circuit and Probate Courts' efforts in this regard. Responsibilities include coordinating special projects and events, public information management, grant writing and improvement studies on all aspects of court operations to find alternative ways to perform court functions more efficiently and effectively.

The Administrative/Financial unit of the Business Division is responsible for handling the financial functions of the Courts as well as personnel transactions, procuring supplies and processing equipment requests. Pictured (left to right): Amy Vinyard, Angela Garrett, Yvonne Goryca, Tina Sobocinski (supervisor) and Pam Ferguson. Not pictured - Donna Riley and Sherry Macias.





Business Division of the Court

HIGHLIGHT — BUSINESS DIVISION ***“Technological Advancements”***

The Data Technology unit continues to play a primary role in effectively advancing technology throughout the Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts. In so doing, the Courts continue to be viewed as a technological leader throughout the state of Michigan.

This specialized unit works collaboratively with the county’s Information Technology (IT) Department to service the automation needs of the courts. They have become an extension of IT for the courts with assisting in various software and hardware deployments as well as managing the vast array of applications used throughout the courts. The courts have become so dependent on automation over the years that many day-to-day applications and programs have become mission critical, which makes this functional responsibility invaluable to the operations of both Courts.

The Courts have implemented and expanded many more Information Technology programs over recent years including: Electronic Document Management System (EDMS), eFiling, Judge On-Line, ePraecipes, eNotices, several statewide and internal data warehouses and a new program using iPads and technology to implement an overnight removal process of children mandated by the state.

Data Technology staff is responsible for maintaining 23 video courtrooms and eight video referee hearing rooms, which includes uploading video files to a networked server, providing video access to staff as well as outside transcription agencies and maintaining these systems so that they function properly. Staff is also making extensive use of video conferencing throughout both the Circuit and Probate Courts, which involves working with IT staff and various other agencies and parties in scheduling and implementing video conferences.

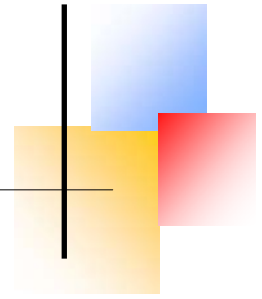
Data Technology staff is currently working on replacing the Juvenile Mainframe Case Management System, creating a mobile application for smartphone users to access Court Explorer, several courtroom technology enhancement initiatives and various document shared access initiatives using SharePoint™.

The opportunities for providing improved access and more effective service to the court staff and public through means of technology is endless and the Data Technology staff is doing its best to achieve these ends.



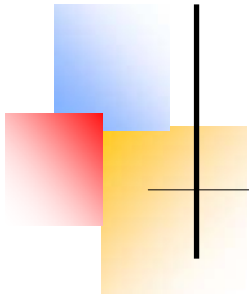
The Data Technology unit is responsible for the technological needs and advancements of the Circuit and Probate Courts. The Data Technology team includes (left to right): Julie Fabrizio, Lisa Czyz, Phill DeBarr, Terry Castiglione, Bobby McLaughlin and Christina Bujak - Data Technology Supervisor.

Business Division of the Courts



BUSINESS DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

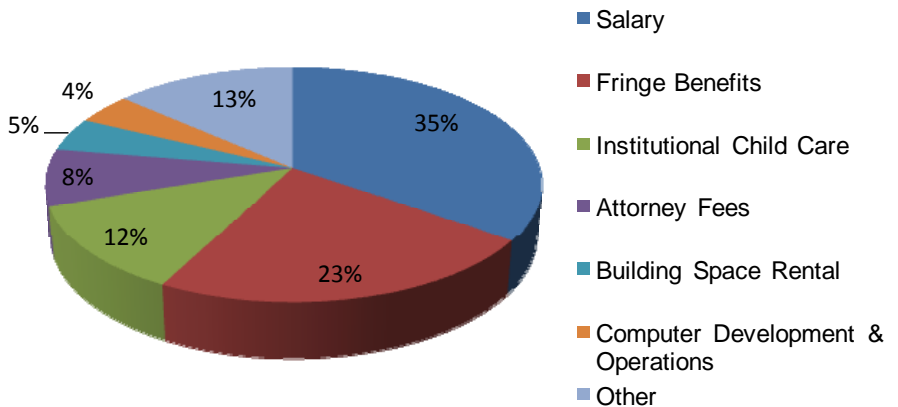
- ◆ Expanded eFiling pilot program so that all seven Family Division judges have eFiling dockets on DO case types (divorce without children). Also expanded the program to include a small sampling of Family Division DM case types (divorce with children). In May of 2012, the eFiling of case initiating documents in civil cases became mandatory, which had been voluntary since November of 2011. Revenue generated for Oakland County from the eFiling pilot program has now surpassed \$1,000,000.
- ◆ Secured and installed a new video system for courtroom 3A. Every courtroom in Circuit Court and Probate Court now uses a video recording system to capture the verbatim record of courtroom proceedings. The Data Technology unit has the responsibility for monitoring and maintaining 23 video courtrooms and eight video referee hearing rooms.
- ◆ Implemented the Court's participation in the statewide Judicial Data Warehouse (JDW). The JDW is a comprehensive electronic information system developed, owned and maintained by the Supreme Court Administrative Office and licensed to local courts with the goal and purpose of creating one source for Michigan court data. Staff worked in conjunction with state and county IT personnel in determining data specifications for transferring to the data warehouse. Implementation was complete in May 2012.
- ◆ Prepared and submitted FY2012 (included additional cuts for FY2011), FY2013 and FY2014 budgets, which included budget tasks of \$100,653, \$126,490, \$140,367 and \$140,367 respectively for a total of \$507,877 in cuts over the next three years.
- ◆ Developed, prepared, submitted and monitored five different grants for the Family Focused Juvenile Drug Court and Adult Treatment Court, including the new Urban Drug Court Initiative, in the amount of over \$377,000.
- ◆ In conjunction with the Juvenile/Adoptions Support Services unit, monitored, maintained and amended the Adoption Incentive Grant program. This grant was approved in August 2011 in the amount of \$191,498 to be used over the next two years to help achieve permanency quicker for adoptive youth. This grant was completed on December 31, 2012.
- ◆ Developed, prepared, submitted and monitored five different JAG grants in an amount of over \$40,000 used for purchasing various equipment for the Courts, including video conferencing equipment and other courtroom equipment used to improve courtroom proceedings.
- ◆ Reconciled outstanding credit adjustments with the State of Michigan Department of Human Services so that Oakland County received a total of \$274,271.55 in state ward chargeback credit adjustments regarding charges for youth committed to the state of Michigan either as an MCI ward (abuse or neglect) or PA189 ward (delinquent).



Business Division of the Courts

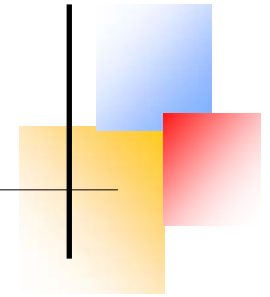
Circuit Court and Probate Court Financial Report

**2012 Expenditures:
\$67,582,763**



<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011-2012 % Change</u>
Salaries	\$25,689,527	\$24,248,356	\$23,460,136	-3.25%
Fringe Benefits	\$15,263,905	\$15,119,562	\$15,539,695	2.78%
Institutional Child Care	\$9,786,889	\$8,136,513	\$8,250,697	1.40%
Attorney Fees	\$4,902,812	\$4,682,832	\$5,216,923	11.41%
Transfers Out	\$4,329,799	\$4,610,691	\$4,606,019	-0.10%
Building Space Rental	\$3,024,365	\$3,225,702	\$3,108,056	-3.65%
Computer Development & Operations	\$2,763,638	\$2,919,818	\$2,836,122	-2.87%
Indirect Costs	\$912,824	\$947,680	\$1,033,423	9.05%
Professional Services	\$852,100	\$694,093	\$583,802	-15.89%
Jury Fees & Mileage	\$632,481	\$638,305	\$434,521	-31.93%
Mediator Fees	\$579,900	\$540,912	\$532,475	-1.56%
Telephone Communications	\$346,360	\$313,159	\$305,063	-2.59%
Postage/Mailroom	\$242,021	\$163,300	\$143,198	-12.31%
Commodities/Supplies	\$208,158	\$189,439	\$210,454	11.09%
Transcripts	\$229,401	\$203,242	\$182,143	-10.38%
Printing	\$130,463	\$94,319	\$46,206	-51.01%
Visiting Judges	\$125,502	\$89,545	\$28,179	-69.65%
Other	\$176,300	\$193,955	\$155,367	-19.90%
Mileage/Leased Vehicles	\$178,919	\$189,483	\$198,667	4.85%
Equipment Rental	\$135,186	\$177,484	\$205,719	15.91%
Library Materials	\$99,785	\$109,780	\$128,074	16.66%
Maintenance Charges	\$71,796	\$80,491	\$48,307	-39.84%
Interpreter Services	\$70,924	\$77,497	\$62,017	-19.97%
Transfers In	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	-100.00%
Furniture/Equipment Purchase	\$20,898	\$45,561	\$45,721	3.50%
Computer Legal Research	\$57,782	\$29,952	\$32,462	8.38%
Copiers	\$58,939	\$53,943	\$52,518	-2.64%
Insurance	\$46,812	\$46,815	\$46,815	0.00%
Overtime	\$52,331	\$63,267	\$86,573	36.84%
Capital Outlay	\$8,199	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Court Reporter Services	\$6,052	\$5,477	\$3,312	-39.52%
Operating Transfer/Adjust Prior Years	\$0	\$1,290	\$99	-92.33%
TOTAL	\$71,004,068	\$67,942,463	\$67,582,763	-0.53%

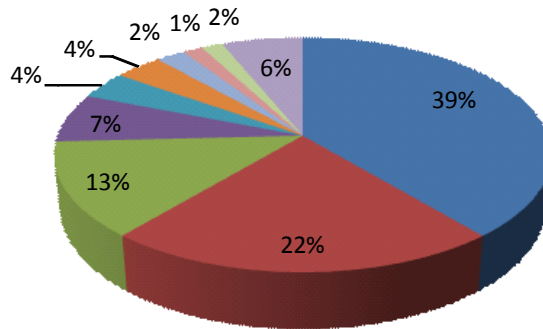
Business Division of the Courts



Circuit Court and Probate Court Financial Report

**2012 Revenues:
\$34,856,307**

- Child Care Reimbursement
- CRP Contract
- Grant Match (Transfer In)
- Federal Incentive Payment
- Attorney Fee Reimbursement
- Board & Care Reimbursement
- Costs
- Civil Mediation Payments
- Alimony Service Fees
- Other



<u>Revenues/Sources of Funds</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011-2012 % Change</u>
Child Care Reimbursement	\$12,551,986	\$13,013,584	\$13,564,818	4.24%
CRP Contract	\$8,120,203	\$8,350,148	\$7,740,019	-7.30%
Grant Match (Transfer In)	\$4,257,269	\$4,400,475	\$4,555,819	3.53%
Federal Incentive Payment	\$1,539,549	\$1,479,384	\$2,361,472	59.63%
Attorney Fee Reimbursement	\$1,385,070	\$1,309,941	\$1,335,141	1.92%
Board & Care Reimbursement	\$1,184,679	\$1,151,062	\$1,273,522	10.64%
Costs	\$948,753	\$772,524	\$769,868	-0.34%
Civil Mediation Payments	\$579,850	\$562,912	\$532,475	-5.40%
Alimony Service Fees	\$530,111	\$552,951	\$567,635	2.66%
Jury Fees	\$342,618	\$286,845	\$283,143	-1.30%
FOC Judgment Fees	\$315,660	\$325,360	\$325,840	0.15%
Probate Estate Fees	\$307,010	\$221,735	\$229,238	3.38%
Reimbursement State County Agent	\$180,533	\$180,533	\$180,533	0.00%
Probation Service Fees	\$177,736	\$187,126	\$171,216	-8.50%
Other	\$201,256	\$195,545	\$226,326	15.74%
Probate Certified Copies	\$121,283	\$124,683	\$125,339	0.53%
Family Counseling Fees	\$99,910	\$102,225	\$101,820	-0.40%
Mediation Fines	\$95,444	\$118,150	\$111,150	-5.92%
Other Probate Filing Fees	\$84,083	\$82,867	\$85,927	3.69%
Psychological Clinical Evaluation Fees	\$51,864	\$66,889	\$54,142	-19.06%
Processing Fees	\$67,887	\$71,360	\$73,261	2.66%
CRP State Supplement	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
eFiling Fees	\$64,969	\$142,349	\$178,903	25.68%
Probate Will Deposits	\$10,775	\$9,500	\$8,700	-8.42%
TOTAL	\$33,218,498	\$33,708,148	\$34,856,307	3.41%

2012 Year In Review

TENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF MICHIGAN ADOPTION DAY



In conjunction with the Tenth Annual Celebration of Michigan Adoption Day, the Sandra Silver Advocate for Children Award was presented to (first row - left): Abbie E. Shuman. The Eugene Arthur Moore Champion of Justice Award was presented to (first row - middle - left to right): Judge Cheryl Matthews, Probate Court Chief Judge Linda Hallmark, (back row - left to right) Referee Martin Alvin and Referee Scott Hamilton.



Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra (center) presents a resolution in recognition of Adoption Day to Presiding Family Division Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti and Circuit Court Chief Judge Nanci Grant.



Judge Lisa Gorcyca finalizes the adoption of Malachi Beland who is pictured with his new parents, Richard and Maria Beland.

LIBERTY TREE PLANTING CEREMONY



Oakland County celebrated Michigan's first "Liberty Tree" at a ceremonial planting on the south side of the courthouse with Judge Michael Warren and his daughter, Leah Warren.

PAMELA DAVIS-DRAKE RETIREMENT PARTY



Colleagues and friends joined Pamela Davis-Drake for a farewell party in her honor celebrating her years of service with the Court. Joining Pamela (second from left) are Tina Slathers, Sherry Macias and Pamela's husband, Christopher Drake.

CONSTITUTION DAY



Students participating in Constitution Day were divided into various courtrooms to give oral arguments on a particular issue. Left: Judge Wendy Potts hears arguments from students from two high schools in Waterford.

The Constitution Day program, created by Judge Michael Warren and Judge Edward Sosnick, is an annual event where students from schools across Oakland County celebrate the signing of the Constitution. Right: Charlie Langton, Talk Radio 120 Morning Host and Fox 2 Legal Analyst, emcees the popular Quiz Bowl.



NEW LAWYER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



In conjunction with the Oakland County Bar Association, over 100 new lawyers were sworn into the practice of law at ceremonies held in the spring and fall in the Board of Commissioners auditorium. Circuit Court Chief Judge Nanci Grant and Probate Court Chief Judge Linda Hallmark presided over the swearing-in ceremonies.

2012 Year In Review

SUMMER LUAU



A Luau was held for court employees celebrating the beginning of summer on the grounds of the courthouse. Some of the employees in attendance were (left to right): Ryan Horvath, Dave Bilson and Cindy Romeos.

TIGERS FAN DAY



Tigers Fever spread throughout the courthouse in October during the Tigers' run for the World Series. (Left) Karen Koshen, John Cooperrider, Lisa Langton and Brenda Beiter from Court Administration and (right) Denise Hatter, John Range and Jean Harroun from Case Management Office show their Tigers spirit.

HOLIDAY PARTY



Enjoying the Holiday luncheon are (top - left to right): Vicki Spicer, Angela Garrett, Kristy Bills, Lisa Czyz, Mary Kaye Neumann and Terry Castiglione; and (bottom - left to right): Judge Matthews and her staff - Michelle Bishop-Endres, Judge Cheryl Matthews, Pam Monville and Laura McLane.

FALL FESTIVAL

Court employees braved the elements and said goodbye to summer and ushered in fall on a chilly October afternoon. The Employee Recognition Committee hosted the Fall Festival with tasty salads and grilled brats and hot dogs. Delicious desserts were provided by the employees.



GO GREEN! GO BLUE!

Court employees were divided in their loyalty to Michigan State and the University of Michigan at a friendly rivalry luncheon sponsored by Judge Mary Ellen Brennan and her staff before the big football game.



Supporting Michigan State are (left to right): Candace Sereno, Jackie Howes-Evanson, Carly Willis and Megan Wentz.

Showing strong loyalty to their schools are (left to right): John Cooperrider, Kevin Oeffner, Judge Mary Ellen Brennan and Judge James Alexander.

Employees Make A Difference

CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS' MOST VALUABLE PERSONS (MVPs)

Employees of the Circuit and Probate Courts who routinely have performed their jobs at a high level of service and have demonstrated service above and beyond their job descriptions are nominated quarterly as MVPs for their invaluable service and commitment to the courts. Although the courts are fortunate to have many hard working and dedicated employees, MVPs are recognized for their exemplary service and commitment that exceeds their written job descriptions.

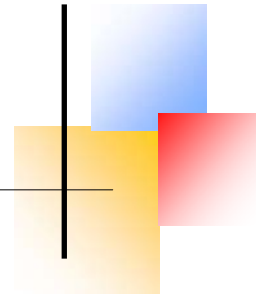
This year, the following employees were recognized as MVPs during the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony held in December:

David Bilson - Juvenile Court Referee
Deborah Fahr - Jury Office Leader
Bonnie Hagewood - Deputy Register II
Diana Meredyk - Case Assistant
Travis Payson - Judicial Clerk
John Range - Circuit Court Records Specialist
Julie Ritter - Office Supervisor II
Tammy Starkey - Office Assistant II



At the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony, Circuit Court Chief Judge Nanci Grant (far left) and Probate Court Chief Judge Linda Hallmark (far right) presented certificates to the following Circuit and Probate Court MVPs (front row - left to right): Deborah Fahr - Jury Office, Bonnie Hagewood - Juvenile Intake, Diana Meredyk - FOC and Tammy Starkey - FOC. Back row (left to right): Travis Payson - Judicial Clerk to Judge Nanci Grant, David Bilson - Juvenile Referee, John Range - Case Management and Julie Ritter - Probate Court.

Employees Make A Difference



STANDING OVATIONS

Coming to court can be an intimidating experience for the general public, however, court employees consistently go out of their way to ease their fears and assist them in navigating the courthouse and the legal system. Court employees are recognized for their dedication to the Courts and the public through Standing Ovation cards that are submitted by an individual who has received exemplary service while conducting business in the courthouse. The following excerpts are just a sampling of Standing Ovation cards that have been submitted throughout 2012 for employees whose work has gone “above and beyond.”

Milly Marion, Case Management — “For being nice and courteous and helping with a pleasant smile and warm welcoming disposition.”

Sherry Macias, Court Administration — “Very kind, helpful and friendly. I very much appreciated her kindness.”

Jerome Becigneul, Probate Court — “He was very patient during a very fragile time.”

Christina Conlon, FOC — “Thank you for all of your help in organizing and processing the medical statements for my children. I really appreciate all of your time, help and understanding.”

Kristy Bills, Juvenile Intake — “Very courteous and helpful.”

Bobby McLaughlin, Data Technology Unit — “Was extra helpful in helping me negotiate the court record system.”

Sarah Craine, Juvenile Intake — “... was incredibly helpful walking us through the steps of this difficult situation.”

Gina Hunt, Probate Court — “Excellent service, very down to earth, listens and tries to understand your needs. Goes above and beyond to help out, very sweet.”

Sandy Frankel, PPO Office — “... for her kindness and help when applying for a PPO for my minor child. She was encouraging, knowledgeable and accurate.”

Lisa Sanfield, FOC — “She made an otherwise unfamiliar process for me go smoothly. Her overall professionalism, information and customer service is a hallmark for your organization.”

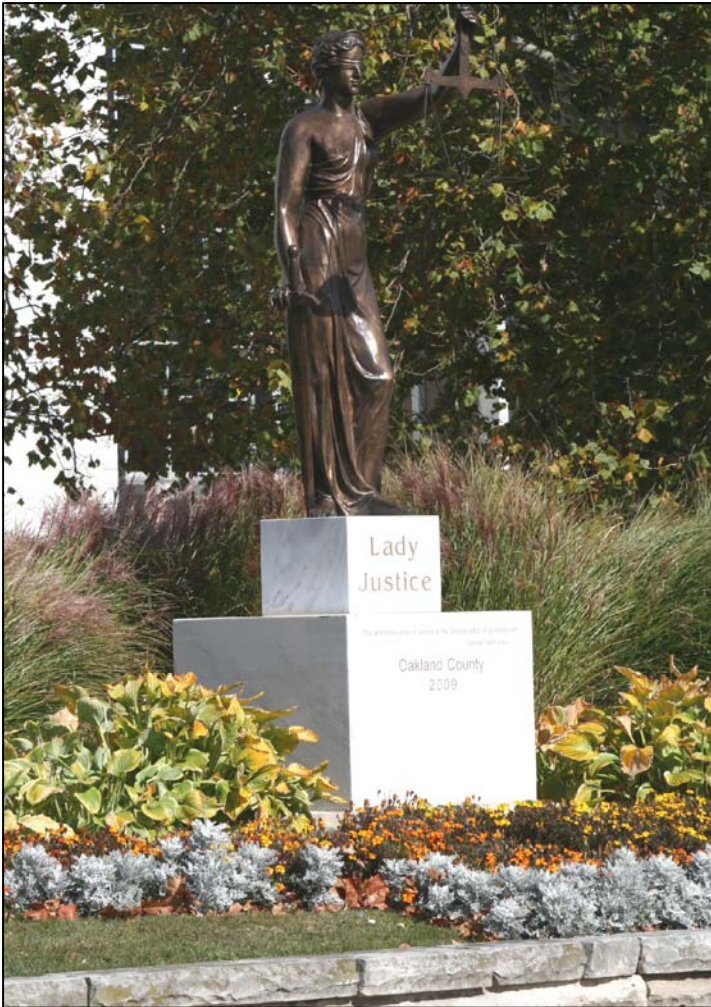
Laurie Hale, Case Management — “Laurie was warm, friendly and helpful in a time I was worried and upset. She is a lovely employee and a valuable asset to your office.”

Andrea Bayer, FOC — “Your support through this process was invaluable. Your words of encouragement kept me strong and validated.”

Hank Szlenkier, Youth Assistance — “Your kindness and generosity from you and your staff meant more to me than words could ever express. I appreciate all of your efforts.”

“LADY JUSTICE”

Balancing the scales of truth and fairness.



Lady Justice once graced the dome of the 1904 Oakland County Courthouse and, after 21 years in storage, was unveiled to the public in front of the current courthouse on April 30, 1983.

She was later restored in 2009 and today gracefully stands outside of the courthouse welcoming visitors as they enter the south entrance of the building.

Lady Justice hold the scales in her left hand, which measure the strengths of a case's support and opposition.

In her right hand is a double-edge sword that symbolizes the power of reason and justice which may be exercised either for or against any party.

Her blindfold represents objectivity, in that justice is blind and impartial and should be apportioned out objectively, without fear or favor, regardless of identity, money, power or weakness.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Circuit Court and Probate Court would like to thank the following persons and organizations for their collaboration in the preparation of this annual report:

The managers and supervisors of the offices highlighted in this report for their input with regard to office functions and accomplishments.

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