



**Sixth Judicial
Circuit Court**

**Oakland County
Probate Court**

Lady
Justice

**Annual Report
2016**

"The administration of justice is the firmest pillar of government"
George Washington

Oakland County
2009

Sixth Judicial Circuit Court and Oakland County Probate Court

1200 North Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
248-858-1000 Circuit Court
248-858-0260 Probate Court



To learn more about the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court and the
Oakland County Probate Court, please visit their websites at:

www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit or

www.oakgov.com/courts/probate

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUDGES



Hon. Nanci Grant
Chief Judge Circuit Court



Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Chief Judge Probate Court

Elected Officials and Citizens of Oakland County:

We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report of the Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts. The report includes information, statistics, and data regarding various aspects of court operations. It has been assembled through the joint efforts of the judges and staff members throughout the courts in an effort to assist members of the public in understanding how the courts operate.

The central mission of the courts is to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. The accomplishments detailed in this report would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the judges and court employees that believe so strongly in that mission. We thank them for their efforts to overcome multiple challenges that have resulted in an efficient, innovative and responsive court system in Oakland County.

Throughout the report, you will find links to the courts' websites where additional information may be obtained on topics such as procedures, forms, court times and online services. The websites are designed to help the public navigate areas that may be unfamiliar to them when they need to access the courts. We hope you will take advantage of the information and in learning more about the Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nanci Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nanci J. Grant
Chief Judge –Circuit Court

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda S. Hallmark". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Linda S. Hallmark
Chief Judge-Probate Court

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RETIREMENTS

Honorable Joan E. Young

Judge Joan E. Young retired at the end of 2016 after 37 years of service with Oakland County Circuit Court, first as deputy court administrator, then court administrator, probate judge, and finally 20 years as circuit judge.

Judge Young graduated from Michigan State University and began her professional career in the field of social work. She went on to complete her law degree at Wayne State University Law School and worked as an attorney in private practice, specializing in domestic, criminal, and landlord/tenant law, before joining the court. During her years on the bench, she served at various times as chief judge, chief judge pro tempore, and presiding judge of the Family Division. While chief judge of the probate bench, she was appointed to the same position at the 52nd District Court and maintained both roles simultaneously. She presided over the Adult Treatment Court docket from 2002 until her retirement.

After a long and distinguished career with the courts, Judge Young plans to spend more time with her family, including her five grandchildren. The Circuit Court community congratulates her on her retirement.



*Hon. Joan E. Young
Circuit Court Judge*

Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti

The court was sorry to bid farewell to Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti who completed her final term on the bench in 2016.

Judge Pezzetti studied for her bachelor of science in biology degree at Drake University (Des Moines, IA) and Wayne State University. Nearly twenty years later, she decided to pursue a law degree, graduated from Wayne State University Law School, and was named a partner at the firm Dickinson Wright where she specialized in employment law, media law, school law, and commercial litigation. She was appointed to the Oakland County Probate Court bench in 2001 and presided over a docket comprised of both probate and family division cases. During her tenure on the bench, she fulfilled terms as chief probate judge, probate judge pro tempore, and presiding judge of the Family Division. She has been the recipient of numerous professional legal awards and is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

A proud mother and grandmother, Judge Pezzetti intends to enjoy retirement while visiting with family, traveling, and engaging in volunteer work.



*Hon. Elizabeth Pezzetti
Probate Court Judge*

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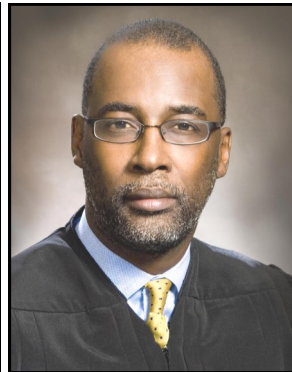
JUDGES OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Hon. James Alexander
Civil/Criminal Division
Business Court
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/alexander-james.aspx>



Hon. Martha D. Anderson
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/anderson-martha.aspx>



Hon. Leo Bowman
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/bowman-leo.aspx>



Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan
Family Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/brennan-mary-e.aspx>



Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/chabot-rae.aspx>



Hon. Lisa Gorcyca
Presiding Judge of the
Family Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/gorcyca-lisa.aspx>



Hon. Nanci Grant
Chief Judge Circuit Court
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/grant-nanci.aspx>



Hon. Hala Jarbou
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/jarbou-hala.aspx>



Hon. Shalina D. Kumar
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/kumar-shalina.aspx>



Hon. Denise Langford Morris
Civil/Criminal Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/langford-morris.aspx>



Hon. Lisa Langton
Family Division
https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/langton_lisa.aspx



Hon. Jeffery S. Matis
Family Division
https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/matis_jeffery.aspx

JUDGES OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews
Civil/Criminal Division

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/matthews-cheryl.aspx>



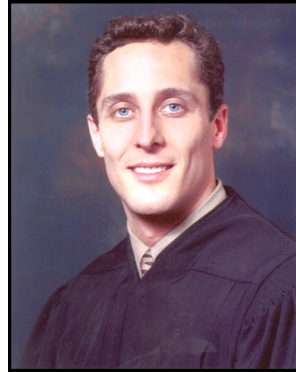
Hon. Karen McDonald
Family Division

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/mcdonald-karen.aspx>



Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen
Civil/Criminal Division

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/mcmillen-phyllis-pro.aspx>



Hon. Daniel P. O'Brien
Civil/Criminal Division

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/obrien-daniel.aspx>



Hon. Wendy Potts
Civil Criminal Division
Business Court

https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/potts_wendy.aspx



Hon. Michael Warren
Presiding Judge of the
Civil/Criminal Division

<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/circuit/Pages/judges/warren-michael.aspx>



Hon. Joan E. Young
Chief Judge Pro Tempore
Family Division

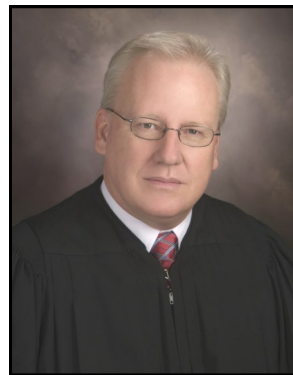


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JUDGES OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT



Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Chief Judge Probate Court
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/probate/Pages/judges/hallmark-linda.aspx>



Hon. Daniel A. O'Brien
Presiding Judge of the
Guardianship/
Conservatorship/Mental
Health Division
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/probate/Pages/judges/obrien-daniel.aspx>



Hon. Elizabeth Pezzetti
Presiding Judge of the
Estates/Trusts Division



Hon. Kathleen Ryan
Chief Judge Pro Tem
Probate Court
<https://www.oakgov.com/courts/probate/Pages/judges/ryan-kathleen.aspx>

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HISTORICAL ROSTER OF THE COURTS

Oakland County Circuit Judges

Sanford M. Green	1848–1852	William R. Beasley	1966–1976	Denise Langford Morris	1992–Present
Joseph Copeland	1852–1858	Farrell E. Roberts	1967–1982	John J. McDonald	1993–2010
Sanford M. Green	1858–1870	Daniel C. Devine	1966–1966	Nanci J. Grant	1997–Present
James S. Dewey	1870–1874	Robert L. Templin	1967–1996	Joan E. Young	1997–2016
Levi B. Taft	1873–1876	William P. Hampton	1970–1976	Wendy L. Potts	1998–Present
Aug C. Baldwin	1876–1880	Richard D. Kuhn	1973–2004	Colleen A. O'Brien	1998–2015
Silas B. Gaskill	1880–1882	John N. O'Brien	1973–1993	Patrick J. Brennan	2001–2004
William Stickney	1882–1888	Robert B. Webster	1973–1982	Rae Lee Chabot	2001–Present
Joseph B. Moore	1888–1896	Steven N. Andrews	1976–2008	James M. Alexander	2001–Present
George W. Smith	1896–1917	Alice L. Gilbert	1978–1992	Michael Warren	2002–Present
Kleber P. Rockwell	1916–1921	Alice L. Gilbert	1995–2002	Daniel P. O'Brien	2003–Present
Frank L. Covert	1919–1933	Francis X. O'Brien	1977–1997	Martha D. Anderson	2003–Present
Glenn C. Gillespie	1922–1934	Hilda R. Gage	1978–1996	Mark A. Goldsmith	2004–2010
Frank L. Doty	1927–1960	Bernard L. Kaufman	1979–1979	Cheryl A. Matthews	2005–Present
Goodloe H. Rogers	1935–1935	Gene Schnelz	1979–2007	Leo Bowman	2007–Present
George B. Hartrick	1935–1958	George LaPlata	1979–1985	Shalina D. Kumar	2007–Present
H. Russel Holland	1935–1963	Robert C. Anderson	1981–1998	Lisa Gorcyca	2009–Present
Clark J. Adams	1956–1973	David F. Breck	1981–2000	Mary Ellen Brennan	2009–Present
William J. Beer	1958–1980	Fred M. Mester	1982–2008	Phyllis C. McMillen	2010–Present
Theodore Hughes	1959–1959	Norman L. Lippitt	1985–1989	Karen McDonald	2013–Present
Stanton G. Dondero	1959–1965	Jessica R. Cooper	1987–2000	Lisa Langton	2015–Present
Frederick C. Ziem	1959–1986	Edward Sosnick	1989–2012	Hala Jarbou	2015–Present
Arthur E. Moore	1963–1976	Barry L. Howard	1989–2001	Jeffery S. Matis	2015–Present
Philip Pratt	1963–1970	Deborah G. Tyner	1991–2006		
James S. Thorburn	1963–1988	Rudy J. Nichols	1991–2015		

Oakland County Probate Judges

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	1967–2010
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	1909–1917	Wendy L. Potts	1997–1997
Michael E. Crofoot	1849–1856	Ross Stockwell	1917–1928	Linda S. Hallmark	1998–Present
Oscar F. North	1857–1861	Dan A. McGaffey	1928–1937	Elizabeth Pezzetti	2001–2016
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

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CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION



*Kevin Oeffner
Circuit Court
Court Administrator*



*David Bilson
Deputy Court Administrator*

Headed by Circuit Court Administrator Kevin Oeffner and Deputy Court Administrator David Bilson, Circuit Court Administration is the office that keeps all the plates spinning. Circuit Court Administration oversees all facets of court operations and acts as a liaison to local and state government offices and district courts to provide the public with efficient access to justice within Oakland County. In 2016, a public satisfaction survey revealed that Oakland County Circuit Court is meeting its goals concerning public service. Each year brings new challenges to providing efficient court services. The following are a few highlights of Court Administration's response to procedural and legal changes during 2016:

Public Satisfaction Survey

The Michigan Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office direct every Michigan trial court to conduct a public satisfaction survey once per calendar year. On three days in September, volunteers from several departments joined Court Administration staff to administer the 2016 survey to members of the public conducting business with Oakland Circuit and Probate Courts. Over 900 members of the public, attorneys, litigants, and agency representatives were surveyed, and the results reflect that users are highly satisfied with the Circuit and Probate Courts.

- 83% said that they were able to conduct their business in a timely fashion
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff
- 82% felt they were able to get their court business done in a reasonable amount of time
- 81% stated they were treated with courtesy and respect by the Court

Electronic District Court Returns

In efforts to have district court bond conditions to the Circuit Court judges quickly and accurately, Court Administration staff conducted an in-depth study of the criminal bindover process. In conjunction with the Clerk's Office and Data Technology Unit, an electronic, paperless system was developed for transmitting and processing district court returns. The Court Administrator and staff met individually with 14 district courts to introduce the new system and provided support throughout the implementation process. Eighty-five percent of all criminal returns are now sent electronically, and transitioning to electronic returns has reduced the time necessary for receipt and processing of district court returns by an average of nine business days. As a result, 100% of electronic returns are available to view in time for circuit arraignment.

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Criminal Bond Forfeitures

In February of 2016, Court Administration assumed the administration of criminal bond forfeitures, which includes drafting judgments, scheduling hearings before the Court, notifying parties and sureties of forfeiture proceedings, and completing the finalization of bond judgments. By year end, Court Administration staff had processed 208 bond forfeiture cases, with judgments totaling over \$729,000.

Life Without Parole Sentences Revisited for Juveniles

When juveniles commit serious crimes such as murder or other felonies, which if committed by an adult would result in a prison sentence for more than one year, the prosecutor has the right to ask that the juvenile be tried and **sentenced** as an adult. Previously, there were no particular rules in place for sentencing such juveniles resulting in over 350 teenagers being sentenced to life without parole in Michigan. Fifty of those cases were in this court's jurisdiction. The United States Supreme Court ruled that sentencing juveniles to life without parole constitutes cruel and unusual punishment which violate their constitutional rights. In March of 2014, Michigan law was enacted to provide for resentencing of such individuals. However, resentencing efforts languished as the law continued to be challenged into 2016, when the decision in the *Montgomery* case forced Prosecutor Offices across the state to take affirmative action as to resentencing on these "juvenile lifer cases."



In February of 2016, Chief Judge Nanci Grant received notice that the Prosecutor's Office would be seeking resentencing for 49 "juvenile lifer cases" in Oakland County Circuit Court. Many of these cases were more than twenty years old with the oldest sentencing year of 1962.

These legal changes prompted Court Administration to develop procedures in conjunction with the Clerk's Office to access the old court files, some of which had been converted to microfiche several decades ago. Because of the complexity and ages of the cases, Court Administration, along with the Circuit Court bench, developed specific attorney fee schedules which would compensate defense attorneys for the time, effort, and expense necessary to dig into old case files and to provide appropriate, relevant, and current information for the resentencing process. Many of the cases are currently stayed pending further appellate review; however, it is expected by summer of 2017 resentencing hearings will commence.



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CIRCUIT COURT— FAMILY DIVISION



*Hon. Lisa Gorcyca
Presiding Judge of the
Family Division*

Judge Lisa Gorcyca is the presiding judge of the Family Division and is responsible for managing this division. The Family Division is composed of eight judges who hear domestic relations cases involving divorce, child support, and paternity matters. Judges in this division 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.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

Administered by Friend of the Court Suzanne Hollyer, this office is responsible for investigating and enforcing issues involving custody, support, and parenting time on the court's domestic relations caseload. The Friend of the Court (FOC) also assists parties with the registration of their court orders as they are moving into and out of the state of Michigan. Further, it is also responsible for enforcement of medical provisions in court orders. Both unpaid medical bills and requirements that parents insure their children are handled by the FOC. The 19 FOC referees hold hearings to enforce and modify Family Division orders regarding support, custody, and parenting time, and hold early intervention conference to help divorcing clients understand the process. There are 18 family counselors who provide the SMILE (Start Making It Livable for Everyone) program to help parents understand the impact of divorce on their children.



*Suzanne Hollyer
Friend of the Court*

In early 2016, FOC staff undertook a bench warrant resolution program allowing delinquent child support obligors to make payment toward current and past-due support in return for the dismissal of their outstanding warrant without the necessity of appearing in court. Out of the 3,669 cases selected for participation in the program, over \$77,000 in lump sum payments was collected.

Clinician Jane Kessler joined the Friend of the Court in 2016. For the first time, the FOC can offer no-cost psychological evaluations when needed by the Court for consideration in resolving a custody or parenting time dispute.

FOC Accomplishments:

- Over \$193 million in support was distributed by FOC in 2016
- 5,813 investigations and recommendations regarding custody, parenting time, change of domicile or residence, and child support were completed by FOC staff
- 27,454 hearings were held to enforce custody, parenting time, and support

SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS ACTIVITY

New Filing Activity

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Domestic Relations			
Without Children	2,345	2,276	2,404
With Children	2,063	2,078	2,060
Paternity	910	835	688
Interstate	58	57	49
Support	1,242	1,152	1,199
Other	339	324	336

Total New Filings 6,957 6,722 6,736

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JUDICIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Headed by William Bartlam, Manager of Judicial Support/Judicial Assistant, this area consists of the Juvenile Court referees, Clinical Services, and Juvenile Support Services, which includes Juvenile Intake Unit, Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit, the Personal Protection Order Office, and the Adoption Unit. In Mr. Bartlam's role as Judicial Assistant, he is also the lead legal advisor for the Family Division.

Juvenile Court Referees —

Martin Alvin, Senior Referee, oversees the eight Juvenile Court referees who assist Family Division judges by conducting hearings and recommending decisions following the hearings. The referees represent the court 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. They act on requests for detention of juveniles and placement of children who are at substantial risk of harm. Referees act as the gatekeeper to Juvenile Court by evaluating each complaint or petition filed and then making the decision whether to grant or deny authorization, divert the matter, or use informal resolution methods. When a judge is not demanded for the trial, referees serve as fact finders in delinquency or neglect and abuse cases. Referees recommend the appropriate disposition for cases, including the recommendation for termination of parental rights in certain instances.



*Bill Bartlam
Manager—Judicial
Support Services/Judicial
Assistant*

Clinical Services Unit—

The Clinical Services Unit, also known as the Psychological Clinic, operates under the direction of Melissa Sulfaro-Rodriguez. This unit is responsible for aiding jurists in making informed decisions by providing forensic evaluations of children and families who are involved with the court. Clinicians are available for case consultation with court staff and others.

In 2016, eight full-time and part-time clinicians performed 478 clinical evaluations on behalf of the courts, and included in that number were 28 competency and criminal responsibility evaluations.

JUVENILE SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Juvenile Intake Unit —

Headed by Jerri Decker, Juvenile Intake Supervisor, the support staff process all incoming requests for action, perform record checks to identify prior court involvement, forward documents to the Prosecutor's Office, and schedule preliminary hearings, diversion conferences, traffic hearings, and other matters for the four referees assigned to Juvenile Intake.

Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit —

Under the direction of Carmen Janik, Supervisor - Juvenile Court Legal Processing Unit, the support staff, which includes the deputy registers, order clerks, typists, and file room assistants, prepare files for hearings as well as create, maintain, and update the physical and electronic records for each case, the court schedule, confidential files, and transcripts and exhibits. They also assist the public and parties in cases before the Juvenile Court. The staff prepare court orders for all hearings heard by referees and distribute all court orders after they have been processed by the County Clerk's Office.

Nicole Rude, Attorney Appointment Specialist, maintains a data base of attorneys qualified by education and experience to represent indigent parties who request a lawyer. In 2016, there were 2,827 requests for court-appointed attorneys.

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Personal Protection Order Office —

Melissa Hoppe is the Personal Protection Order Office Liaison and provides legal expertise in both the issuance and enforcement of Personal Protection Orders (PPOs). This office assists petitioners in completing the application process and works with Pre-Trial Services, a unit of the Oakland County Community Corrections Division, in developing bond recommendations for incarcerated respondents. Office staff also work with petitioners who have requested show cause orders. The PPO Office processed a total of 2,348 domestic, non-domestic and juvenile personal protection orders in 2016.



Adoption Unit—

The Adoption 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 department is responsible for the Annual Adoption Day program which is held in conjunction with a statewide event celebrating children and their new families. In fiscal year 2016, more than 2,000 children were adopted through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and private adoption agencies, and of these, 233 were finalized in Oakland County.

Permanency coordinators work with two judges and two referees who handle a specialized Adoption Permanency Docket and monitor the progress toward adoption permanency for each child. The coordinators also monitor both foster care and adoption caseworker performance to eliminate barriers to a child's adoption.



On November 22, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Joan L. Larsen, along with Chief Judge Nanci Grant and several Family Division judges, participated in the Court's 14th Annual Adoption Day and finalized the adoptions of 13 children with nine families.



In conjunction with Adoption Day, The Arthur Eugene Moore Champion of Children Award was presented to Charles Ludwig (far left), from CARE House, and Julia Rizzi (second from right), of the MDHHS. Attorneys John K. Maloney (far right) and J. Douglas Otlewski (second from left) were presented with the Sandra Silver Advocate for Children Award.

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Juvenile Court Legal Processing received a Court Improvement grant from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) for two new scanners. The Juvenile Court Legal Processing and Adoption Units began scanning juvenile social files and adoption legal and social files. The scanner now permits file room staff to scan, encrypt, and route all incoming documents which enables multiple individuals to see documents electronically and eliminated the need for a paper file. The addition of the scanners has resulted in fewer paper files, less shelf space required, and no need to move paper files around the courthouse. The imaging system and scanners have provided for instantaneous retrieval of electronic images and have allowed for a safe preservation of court records. Hearing officers are able to access documents within 24 hours after scanning. Norma Bell, Office Assistant in the Adoption Unit, demonstrates the capabilities of the new scanner.

SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL COURT ACTIVITY				
New Filing Activity	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Juvenile/Adoptions				
Delinquency	2,036	1,585	1,568	1,614
Child Protective Proceedings	405	395	374	431
Juvenile Traffic Tickets	73	49	61	47
Adoption Petitions	351	323	410	291
Subtotal	2,865	2,352	2,413	2,383
Personal Protection Orders				
Domestic	1,666	1,549	1,674	1,558
Non-Domestic	746	696	716	754
Juvenile	57	24	47	36
Subtotal	2,469	2,269	2,437	2,348
Miscellaneous Family				
Name Change	462	482	505	504
Other	34	31	29	30
Subtotal	496	513	534	534
Total New Filings	5,830	5,134	5,384	5,265

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COURT SERVICES

Court Services includes Casework Services, Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, and Youth Assistance. William Hamilton is the Chief of Casework Services and oversees the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, and Mary Schusterbauer is the Chief of Youth Assistance.

Casework Services —

This unit is responsible for juvenile probation, including regular and intensive-probation with community-based and residential services. It also handles 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 monitoring of probation, restitution, community service, restorative justice, parent education, and counseling.

In 2016, Casework Services opened 892 new cases and closed 922 case files. In addition, court wards completed 7,917 hours of Youth Community Service.

2016 accomplishments include:

- Hired, oriented, and trained three new Youth and Family Caseworkers
- Continued to expand the use and utility of the Casework Database to include electronic transmission of contact notes to the official file and expanded access for hearing officers
- Created a “Best Practices” committee to research best practices in juvenile justice and organize staff trainings to address the changing population and scope of work in juvenile justice

Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court —

Judge Mary Ellen Brennan presides over the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court which has been in existence since 2001. The Mission of the Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) is to promote public safety and reduce juvenile drug crime rates by helping substance abusing youthful offenders and their families achieve drug-free lifestyles and healthy family relationships. Jacqueline Howes-Evanson oversees the day-to-day operations of the JDC. Tasha Hanson joined the JDC team as a probation officer, replacing Megan Wentz who transferred to juvenile casework.

JDC highlights for 2016 include:

- Served 34 participants and 55 family members for a total of 318 participants and 530 family members since program's inception in June of 2001
- To date, have had 149 graduates from the program with a 47% rate of successful completion of the program
- JDC graduates have averaged 242 sobriety days at the time of their commencement
- 98% of the graduates improved their level of education and 86% improved their employment status by graduation
- Average number of days to complete the program: 392 days or 13 months

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Youth Assistance —

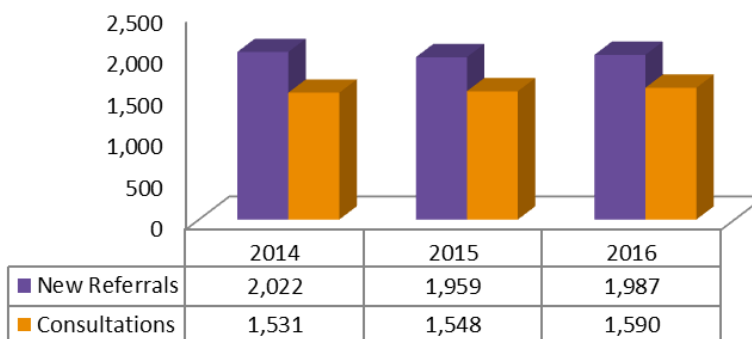
Youth Assistance is the prevention arm of the court’s continuum of services and uses a two-pronged approach to strengthen youth and families. Professional staff in 26 field offices countywide provide family-focused casework to at-risk youth referred by police departments, schools, and the Intake Department of the court. Volunteer boards of directors in each community identify needs, raise funds, and plan and implement 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.

In 2016, Youth Assistance was able to secure grant funding totaling \$41,000 from a small family foundation and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in order to offer additional support to Caseload youth and families served in all 26 of the Youth Assistance Offices throughout Oakland County. A portion of these funds will be used to support educational and skill building experiences for youth and to help families with emergency needs.



This year the Youth Assistance Mentors Plus Program has offered young people the opportunity to explore many career paths through the “Plug In To Your Future” program. On one of many field trips, Mentors and Mentees were excited to visit Fox 2 News where they learned about many behind-the-scenes careers as well as visiting with popular news anchor, Charlie Langton.

Youth Assistance Casework Referrals by Year



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CIRCUIT COURT— CIVIL/CRIMINAL DIVISION



Hon. Michael Warren
*Presiding Judge of the
 Civil/Criminal Division*

Judge Michael Warren is the presiding judge of the civil/criminal bench who assists Chief Judge Nanci Grant in providing leadership goals and directives for matters affecting the civil/criminal bench. The Civil/Criminal Division is composed of 13 judges, a manager, a chief, four supervisors, and several administrative support staff who provide services for civil cases with alleged damages over \$25,000, criminal cases involving felonies or high misdemeanors, appeals from the 14 district courts, as well as, judicial oversight and administrative support for the four specialty courts within the Civil/Criminal Division.

Pamela Monville is the manager of the division who coordinates administrative support and information to assist in implementing goals as identified by the civil/criminal bench, to update staff on changes in the laws as promulgated by the governor and legislature, and to follow procedures as established by the State Court Administrative Office. The Civil/Criminal Division Manager also oversees the Case Management Office, Jury Office, and Urban Drug Court and provides administrative support regarding access to court records and transcripts, foreign language interpreters, ADA accommodations, court reimbursement issues, and case evaluation show cause hearings.



Pamela Monville
*Manager—Civil/Criminal
 Division/Judicial Assistant*

The Civil/Criminal Division experienced the following legal changes and departmental accomplishments during 2016:

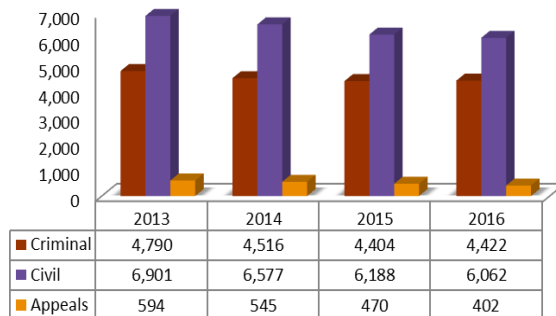
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Within the Civil/Criminal Division are two judicial staff attorneys who assist the 13 civil/criminal division judges with legal and administrative matters. The judicial staff attorneys provide support to chamber staff attorneys in drafting proposed opinions on complex appeals and criminal appellate motions. Over 60 matters were referred to Administrative Support during 2016 and a total of 77 opinions were finalized during the year. In addition to writing, support staff provide assistance to chambers when a staff attorney is out on extended leave.

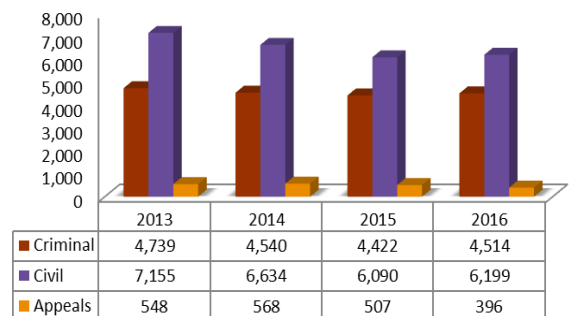
CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Headed by Gwynne Starkey and supervised by Michelle Kase, the civil/criminal division case management office is the hub for case flow and has eleven specialized support staff to administer the daily case operations for civil, criminal, and probate dockets, including specialized programs such as case evaluation and Judge On-Line.

New Filings and Reopened Cases



Disposition of Cases



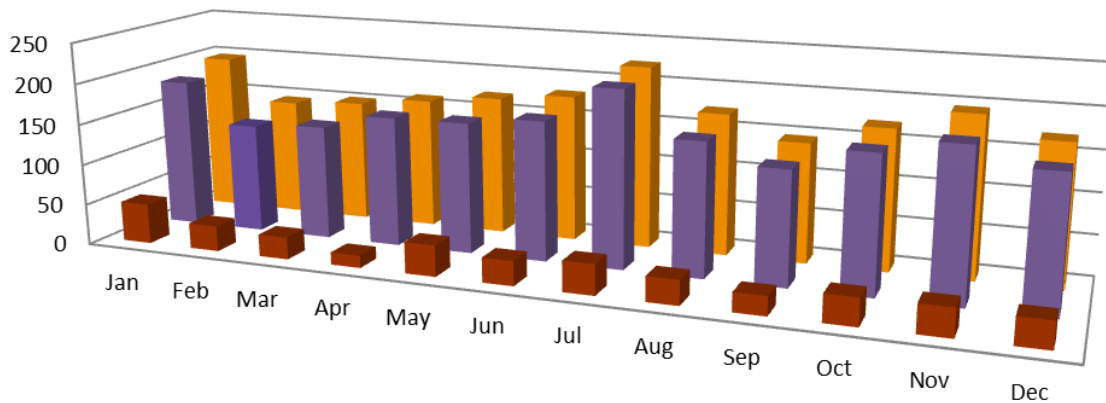
CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICE (continued)

The civil case support area maintains statistics and is responsible for assigning, reassigning, and consolidating cases; processing Judge On-Line requests; managing praecipes; preparing and distributing scheduling orders; logging and directing mail; and adjusting docket entries. The Criminal Case Support area is responsible for assigning criminal cases; involved with appointing trial counsel, processing scheduling, and testing orders; and compiles information used for pre-sentence investigations. Staff also track and maintain criminal assignment data and monitor daily inmate population.

Departmental statistics were as follows:

- Processed 4,245 bindovers from the district courts
- Appointed appellate counsel for criminal defendants in 290 cases
- Prepared 4,178 pre-sentence investigation reports
- Scheduled 2,084 cases for case evaluation
- Determined that the overall acceptance rate for case evaluation was 17%, which is a 2% decrease over 2015
- 367 no-fault cases were referred to case evaluation with a 19% acceptance rate
- Processed 679 requests for individuals to participate in hearings via telephone through the Judge On-Line program
- Maintained an interpreter list with 36 different languages
- Processed over 180 case evaluation show cause orders
- Sought case evaluation show cause judgments on 23 cases totaling \$6,900

Monthly Case Evaluation Statistics



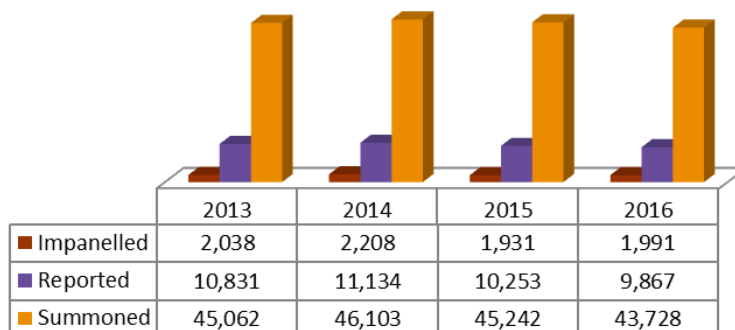
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dispositions and Acceptances	49	31	27	15	38	30	37	30	23	33	34	32
Total Cases Evaluated	183	134	140	159	160	170	215	162	138	165	182	161
Total Cases Set	197	145	151	161	171	180	223	173	146	171	195	171

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JURY OFFICE

The Jury Office maintains operations to support jury requests from both Circuit and Probate Courts. Jurors report for duty on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Jurors are randomly selected, using an electronic process, to go to assigned courtrooms as needed throughout the day. If jurors are not selected, they are dismissed for the day and have completed their service. Pursuant to Michigan law, jurors are paid \$12.50 for half day of service, \$25 for first full day, and \$20 for half day and \$40 for full day of service per day thereafter. In addition, jurors receive ten cents per mile round trip for mileage. During 2016, RFPs for a new juror management system were solicited. It is anticipated the new system will go live in the Fall of 2017.

Citizen Involvement for Jury Trials



Overseen by Supervisor Deb Fahr, the Jury Office had the following statistics for 2016:

- Summoned 43,728 prospective jurors, of which 9,867 were required to report for service
- Ultimately 1,991 citizens were actually selected to sit as jurors
- Jurors served for an average 2.92 days for civil trials and an average of 2.45 days for criminal trials
- Processed four juror requests for American Sign Language Interpretation, 25 requests for hearing impaired individuals, and two requests for visually impaired jurors
- Paid \$324,837 in juror fees and \$38,017 in total mileage for jurors required to appear
- Average cost of a jury panel was \$2,016



Orientations are conducted in the morning for new jurors, outlining what can be expected during the course of their service. Judge Hala Jarbou (pictured above) is one of several judges who participate in this orientation to welcome jurors and explain the jury selection process.

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BUSINESS COURT

Judge James Alexander and Judge Wendy Potts preside over the Oakland County Business Court which was established in 2013, pursuant to MCL 600.8031. Its purpose is to establish the best practices for the resolution of business cases; to improve the efficiency of the courts and to utilize technology in managing Business Court cases; and to enhance the accuracy, consistency, and predictability of decisions in business and commercial cases. In 2016, the Business Court had 928 new filings and 979 dispositions.



Judge James M. Alexander (second from right) and Judge Wendy Potts (second from left), along with their staffs, hosted a breakfast meeting in November for the members of the Business Court Advisory Committee of the Oakland County Business Court. The Business Court Advisory Committee meets semi-annually to identify, discuss, and collaborate on “best practices” within the Business Court.

ADULT TREATMENT COURT

The Adult Treatment Court (ATC) began in 2001 helping participants who have serious substance abuse problems and have committed non-violent felonies within Oakland County. Judges Hala Jarbou and Shalina Kumar preside over the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court. Program supervision is administered by Jackie Howes-Evanson.

ATC statistics for 2016 are as follows:

- 70 participants in the program: 52 males and 19 females
- 33 individuals had co-occurring disorders and were in the Mental Health Component of the program
- 671 participants have been admitted to the program since its inception in August of 2001
- 233 participants have graduated from the program
- 93% of the graduates were employed full time at discharge
- Average number of days to complete the program is 515 days or 17 months
- Although most graduates enter program with either a high school diploma or GED, 15% improve their education level while in the program
- Judge Young retired at the end of 2016, and Judge Hala Jarbou took over as presiding judge of the male participants



Judge Young (far left) presided over her last ATC graduation in October. During her 14 years with the program, she presided over 365 sessions of the Adult Treatment Court and saw 230 participants graduate from the program. Judge Young felt very strongly that treatment courts improved the chances for substance abuse offenders to overcome their addiction. Judge Kumar (far right) presides over the female participants of the ATC.

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COMBAT VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

The Combat Veterans Treatment Court, the State's only Combat Veterans Court, was created in 2013 with the goal of reaching Oakland County veterans who have been charged with offenses related to residual traumatic experiences suffered in combat, conflict or search and rescue or recovery missions while serving our country. Chief Judge Nanci Grant presides over the Oakland County Combat Veterans Treatment Court.

In 2016, the Combat Veterans Treatment Court had six participants who were progressing through the five phases of the program. Two veterans were near completion of the program by the end of 2016 with anticipated graduation in early 2017.



The Combat Veterans Treatment Court team, consisting of Chief Judge Grant, representatives from the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Veterans Administration, and volunteer veteran mentors, meets prior to each monthly court session to review progress of the participants and make recommendations for phase advancements. Veterans are accepted into the program because their service, and the effects of their service, whether physical or emotional, led directly to their involvement with the criminal justice system.

URBAN DRUG COURT

The Oakland County Urban Drug Court was established in 2013 as one of four pilot projects in the State of Michigan targeting the urban areas of Pontiac, Detroit, Flint, and Saginaw. Judges Phyllis McMillen, Daniel P. O'Brien, and Michael Warren preside over the Oakland County Urban Drug Court. Program coordination is administered by Ebony McCann.

The Oakland County Urban Drug Court held its first graduation ceremony on Wednesday, August 31, 2016, in the Board of Commissioners Auditorium. Twenty-three participants were recognized as successfully completing the program from autumn of 2013 through summer of 2016.

In 2016, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) completed its three-year pilot study which tracked and analyzed per participant costs of each of the four Urban Drug Courts. Oakland County Urban Drug Court had the lowest per participant cost at \$6,879.97. The three other urban drug courts in the study yielded per participant costs of \$7,720.99 – Flint; \$15,012.23 – Saginaw; and \$11,490.19 – Detroit.¹



Program Coordinator, Ebony McCann, and Technical Assistant, Rebekah Willis, welcomed graduates and guests to the ceremony.

¹*Urban Drug Court Initiative Cost Analysis – Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office*



The first successful graduate of the program, under Judge Warren's supervision and who now resides outside of Michigan, was delighted to participate in the ceremony via video-phone.

PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

Headed by Probate Court Administrator Rebecca Schnelz, the Probate Court provides essential services to Oakland County's most vulnerable citizens and is a vital component of Michigan's legal system. The Probate Court Administrator works with the Chief Judge regarding operations of the Probate Court and serves as liaison to local and state government offices and other courts. A few of the services and updates the Probate Court provided in 2016 are as follows:



*Rebecca Schnelz
Probate Court
Court Administrator*

Mental Health Code Changes

Through the State Court Administrative Office, Chief Judge Pro Tempore Kathleen A. Ryan, Probate Court Administrator Rebecca A. Schnelz, and Probate Register Jill Koney Daly participated in committees that drafted significant changes to the Mental Health Code and resulting revisions to the forms used statewide in the process involving involuntary hospitalization. These changes will take effect in February of 2017.

Guardianship/Conservatorship Basic Training

In partnership with the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts, the Probate Court conducts basic training classes for conservators and guardians on a monthly basis. These training classes are provided at no charge to the participants and were developed in cooperation with the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts. The training provides essential information and tools for handling duties as a conservator and guardian.

Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court Seminars

The Probate Court provides a free seminar entitled "Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court" six to eight times a year at various locations within Oakland County. This program is designed to educate senior citizens and their families so that they can make informed decisions regarding estate planning and understand the probate process. In 2016, over 200 citizens participated in these free seminars held in Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Novi, Royal Oak, Troy, Farmington Hills, and Southfield.

Taking Probate Court to the Community

The Probate Judges, Court Administrator, and the Probate Register have taken an active role in bringing the Probate Court to the community by providing training sessions for attorneys through the Oakland County Bar Association. The court also provides online brochures containing basic information regarding guardianships, conservatorships, decedent estates, and mental health proceedings. These brochures, as well as the necessary forms, are available on the Oakland County Probate Court website at www.oakgov.com/courts/probate.

Crisis Intervention Training

In conjunction with the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, the Probate Court assisted in crisis intervention training for Oakland County public safety officers by providing training on the civil commitment process for involuntary mental health treatment. The overall 40-hour training program is designed to provide officers with the skills and knowledge needed to appropriately intervene in any situation involving a mentally ill person.

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PROBATE COURT—ESTATES AND MENTAL HEALTH



Jill Koney Daly
Probate Court Register

In 2016, the Oakland County Probate Court was comprised of four judges: the Honorable Linda S. Hallmark, Chief Judge; the Honorable Kathleen Ryan, Chief Judge Pro Tempore; the Honorable Daniel A. O'Brien; and the Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti, who retired in December. Judge Hallmark and Judge Pezzetti were also assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court. In November 2016, Judge Jennifer Callaghan was elected to the Probate Court. The Oakland County Probate Court is the second largest Probate Court in Michigan.

Rebecca Schnelz, Probate Court Administrator, and Jill Koney Daly, Probate Court Register, oversee support staff in distinct probate areas including the Mental Health Unit, the Guardianship and Conservatorship Unit, and the Estate and Trusts Unit.

The Probate Court also works with the circuit and Probate Courts' Jury Office to manage probate jury trials and the courts' Case Management Office regarding judicial assignments and case evaluations.

MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

Mental health commitment hearing dockets are held by the Court twice each week. At these hearings, the judge must decide whether the respondent is mentally ill and requires treatment and whether or not hospitalization is the only appropriate treatment. Mental health respondents participate in court hearings by physically appearing in court or through video conferencing.

The Mental Health Unit of the Probate Register's Office manages proceedings under the Mental Health Code. This includes mental health commitment hearings, requests for assisted outpatient treatment (also known as "Kevin's Law"), substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, and emergency requests for mental health examination and possible hospitalization. This unit facilitates jury trials, arranges for transportation of individuals for judicial hearings, and coordinates appointment of counsel and expert medical witnesses. This unit also processes and schedules all motions in mental health cases and prepares the orders after court hearings.

GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP UNIT

The Probate Court hears all petitions to initiate, modify, or terminate guardianships and conservatorships for minors and adults, as well as guardianships for developmentally disabled persons. 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 remain open for years.

This unit manages the court filings for the guardianship and conservatorship cases, including processing annual reports of guardians and the 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. During 2016, 1,654 reviews were performed by court-appointed reviewers, many of them trained volunteers.

ESTATES AND TRUSTS UNIT

The Court resolves issues regarding 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 of the Probate Register's Office manages the 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 fields questions on open files.

COURT RECORDS/VAULT

The staff in the Probate file room is responsible for securing all filings made with the court. This includes documents filed in cases as well as wills filed for safekeeping. Legal records, or filings made in cases, are a matter of public record and are available for review by the general public. On the other hand, wills that are filed with the Probate Court for safekeeping are not public records. In 2016, the Probate Court accepted 886 new wills for safekeeping. They join the tens of thousands of wills already held by the court. The oldest unclaimed will deposited with the court dates back to 1852.

Documents that are part of the public record are filed in their specific court file according to a case number and are electronically scanned. The electronic record aids the Probate Court in providing an efficient customer service experience to the general public as well as to the attorneys and litigants appearing before the Court. Scanning and validating the document data has become an integral part of the court's operations.

SUMMARY OF PROBATE COURT ACTIVITY			
NEW FILES OPENED	2014	2015	2016
Supervised/Unsupervised/Small Estates	2,528	2,585	2,621
Trusts	250	260	286
Adult Guardianships	1,025	1,133	1,170
Minor Guardianships	545	561	504
Adult Conservatorships	354	373	412
Minor Conservatorships	91	111	97
Mentally Ill	2,796	2,292	2,173
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	459	455	441
Reopened Estates	223	212	221
Protective Orders	64	69	94
Civil and Other Matters	99	111	91
Total	8,434	8,162	8,110
ACTIVE CASES AS OF DECEMBER 31			
Estates & Trust Cases	5,070	5,231	5,334
Adult Guardianships	4,168	4,370	4,515
Adult Conservatorships	1,693	1,689	1,486
Minor Guardianships	2,269	2,263	2,139
Minor Conservatorships	972	932	796
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	2,006	2,152	2,241
Civil & Other Matters	38	33	25
Total	16,216	16,670	16,536

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BUSINESS DIVISION OF THE COURTS



John Cooperrider
Business Division Manager

The Business Division, under the leadership 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 responsible for developing and monitoring the courts' \$60 million budget. Chris Bujak, Chief of Court Business Operations, assists in supervising this multifaceted operation. The Business Division is divided into three areas of operation, Administrative/Financial, Data Technology, and Court Resources/Program Support, in order to effectively manage its diverse and complex responsibilities.

Grant Funding

In 2016, the Business Division continued to secure alternative sources of funds for specialty courts, including grants for the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, the Adult Treatment Court, the Adult Mental Health Court, the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), the Urban Drug Court Initiative, and the Court Improvement Program Grant in an amount just over \$400,000.

MDHHS Child Care Fund Handbook

This division also participated in a workgroup to rewrite the MDHHS Child Care Fund Handbook along with representatives from several other counties across the state, as well as the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Public Access

As part of the Michigan Supreme Court's efforts to improve public access to Michigan courts, as well as ensure that persons with disabilities have equal and full access to the court system, each court was required to adopt and submit a local administrative order conforming to the model developed by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). The Probate and Circuit Courts' Joint Administrative Order can be found on the courts' website at: https://www.oakgov.com/courts/Pages/gen_info/ada_accommodations.aspx, and includes procedures for requesting an accommodation, forms, and grievance procedures. A total of 27 ADA requests for accommodations were documented in 2016.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

As part of the Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan developed by the County's Homeland Security Department, along with Building Safety, the courts are required to test the plan by holding two different types of drills per year over the next four years. A tornado drill was conducted within the entire courthouse, Friend of the Court building, and the Troy satellite office which was successfully completed in September.

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ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL UNIT

Cindy Lingle, supervisor of this unit, oversees a staff consisting of five full-time and two part-time employees. This area reconciles outstanding credit adjustments with the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for youth committed to the State of Michigan as either an MCI ward (abuse or neglect) or a PA 189 ward (delinquent). This unit is involved in processing payments for case-related services such as court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, and interpreters. It also works with the Human Resources Department in processing all court personnel transactions for more than 350 Circuit and Probate Court employees, including new hires and employees leaving the courts, attendance reporting, and mileage and travel expenses. As needs arise in and around the courthouse and the Troy satellite office, requests are made to facilitate capital improvements, special projects, supplies, printing requests, work orders, furniture, and equipment for the courts.

In connection with the change in law for juveniles who were sentenced to life sentences, this unit developed compensation rates and payment vouchers to address all MAACS-appointed and court-appointed defense attorneys who are handling these cases in the Oakland County Circuit Court. Compensation rates and payment forms were also developed to address payments for experts and investigators who were involved in these cases as well.

ATTORNEY PAYMENTS PROCESSED			
Case Types	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Family Division			
Juvenile Delinquency	1,074	1,046	1,052
Neglect and Abuse	4,473	4875	4905
Other	49	25	32
Total	5,596	5,946	5,989
Civil/Criminal Division			
Appeals	225	242	214
Criminal	2,932	2,992	2,911
District Court	663	790	430
Violations of Probation	2,424	2,323	2,142
Trials	68	64	37
Other	274	558	288
Total	6,586	6,969	6,022
Probate Court			
Estates and Mental Health	2,658	3,044	2,625
Grand Total	14,840	15,959	14,636

DATA TECH UNIT

Lisa Czyz oversees the Data Technology Unit which is responsible for all aspects of court technology and automation for the courts, including assisting both staff and litigants with court programs and video conferencing initiatives. This unit is the liaison to the Oakland County's Department of Information Technology, various vendors, and other state and local government agencies.

In 2016, the following initiatives enhanced services through technology:

- In May 2016, facilitated the rollout of a grant-funded project to begin imaging of juvenile confidential files, adoption legal files, and adoption confidential files. This process reduces the need to store paper files and will allow for automated document routing and improve efficiency.
- In cooperation with SOM and Oakland County/CLEMIS OakVideo, completed upgrade and installation of high definition video conferencing equipment in all judges' courtrooms.
- Completed RFP and selection of new Jury Management System in cooperative effort with Genesee County and multiple district courts. The new system, which will be rolled out in 2017, allows for jurors to complete questionnaires online and choose their preferred method of communication.
- Facilitated rollout of digital fax services for district court files bound over to Circuit Court. This will improve timeliness and reduce mailing costs for district courts.

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DATA TECH UNIT (Continued)

- Through grant funding, the court purchased hardware that will allow for transfer of microfiche files to digital images for ease of retrieval and storage.
- Participated in state-wide eFiling needs assessments and subsequent evaluations of vendor proposals.
- Working with other county departments, completed multi-year needs assessment, RFP, and vendor selection of new County enterprise-wide record management system. The system will replace the courts' aging document management system and allow for improved security, efficiency, and record storage.
- In cooperation with Oakland County IT Department, completed the rollout of necessary website improvements and enhancements to online applications to make them mobile friendly.
- Initiated process to expand wireless services in the courthouse.
- Completed first year of gathering statistics in compliance with the SCAO Permanency Indicator Report for juvenile cases.
- Purchased additional assistive listening equipment for use by litigants throughout the courthouse and FOC.
- Rolled out social media communication methods for the courts via Twitter and Facebook.
- Initiated upgrade process to replace aging video recording equipment in courtrooms. This initiative is expected to be completed in 2019.
- Completed court website survey to assist in evaluating current user needs and potential enhancements. This is part of an ongoing effort to improve service to the public by the courts.

COURT RESOURCE/PROGRAM SUPPORT UNIT

The Court Resource/Program Support Unit is an area of general responsibility overseen by Karen Koshen. Responsibilities include providing informational, technical, and administrative support services to the judges, various court departments, and outside agencies. This position includes coordinating and assisting with special projects, events, and media relations. Additional responsibilities include maintaining judicial attendance records, updating and preparing the Bail Bondsman List, updating the BCORP Emergency Plan for the Circuit Court, as well as preparation of the annual report, press releases, historical roster of the courts, and other publications.

Events in 2016 included:

- Judicial investitures for Judge Jeffery Matis and Judge Hala Jarbou
- Assisting with the spring and fall New Lawyer Admission Ceremonies, Adoption Day program, and Constitution Day program
- Overseeing a three-day Public Satisfaction Survey
- Courthouse employee functions, plaque ceremonies, special breakfasts and luncheons, retirements
- Organizing Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court seminars throughout Oakland County

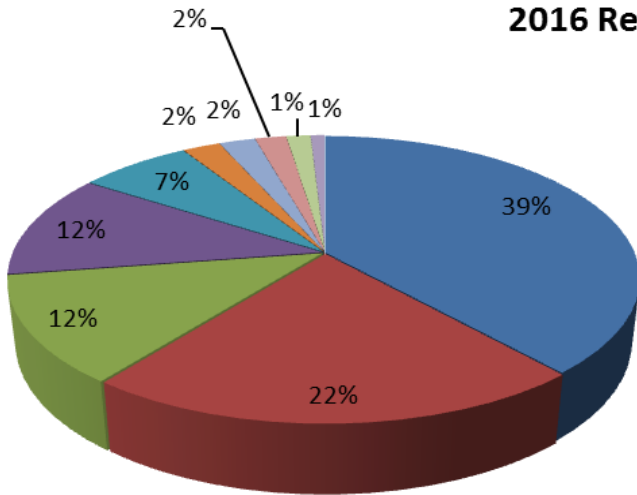


In conjunction with the Facility Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, a tornado drill was conducted in September. Thanks to the efforts of the dedicated emergency leaders, courthouse employees quickly proceeded to their respective shelter areas in a matter of minutes.

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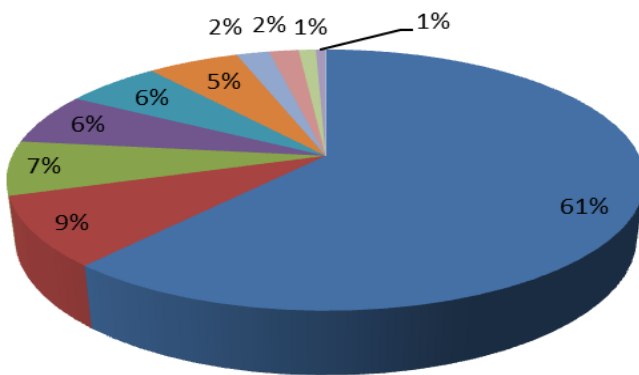
CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS' FINANCIAL REPORTS

2016 Revenues - \$34,147,914



- Child Care Reimbursement - \$13,161,206
- Friend of the Court CRP Contract - \$7,476,966
- Friend of the Court Fees and Revenues - \$4,137,700
- Friend of the Court County Match to Federal Funding - \$4,019,441
- Attorney Fee Reimbursement - \$2,348,399
- Other/Miscellaneous Reimbursement - \$786,283
- Mediation Payments and Fines - \$758,775
- Court Costs Reimbursement - \$655,587
- Probate Court Fees and Revenues - \$503,515
- Jury Fees and Efiling Fees - \$300,042

2016 Expenditures - \$64,668,457



- Personnel Costs - \$39,765,539
- Youth Out-of-Home Care Costs - \$5,594,611
- Court-Appointed Attorneys Costs - \$4,338,923
- Friend of the Court County Match to Federal Funding - \$4,124,582
- Data/Communication Technology Costs - \$3,746,228
- Facility Costs - \$3,587,044
- Other/Miscellaneous Costs - \$1,292,443
- Other Case Related Costs - \$1,157,383
- Supplies/Materials/Furniture Costs - \$677,401
- Professional Services - \$384,303

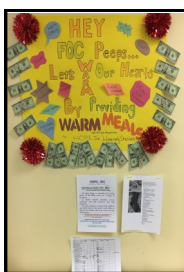
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EMPLOYEES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Circuit and Probate Court employees are very giving and show their generosity throughout the year for various charitable events held in the courthouse and in their own departments. The following are just some of the charitable events that employees participated in 2016:

FOC SUPPORTS HOPE, INC., WARMING SHELTER

In November, Friend of the Court staff delivered three car loads of donated items to feed over 60 homeless guests at Hope, Inc., in Pontiac. Clothing, personal items, and cash were donated by FOC staff. Two evening meals were cooked by FOC employees. An added surprise for the guests came from a class of local second graders who provided everyone at the shelter with a handmade placemat.



COURT ADMINISTRATION DONATES TO LIGHTHOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY

Court Administration, under the volunteer leadership of Pam Hamway, held various charitable giving events in the fall. In November the staff joined up with Lighthouse of Oakland County to adopt a single mother and her four children who had experienced a house fire and lost everything. Employees were able to choose from many gift wishes the children provided that were tagged to a special holiday tree. The mother was showered with many household and personal items as well.

The staff also “decorated” a Mitten Tree with new warm mittens and gloves which were donated to Lighthouse for distribution to families who were not adopted through the Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. On one occasion, a pair of warm gloves was given to a court patron with an immediate need.



OPERATION “AMERICANS THANK OUR TROOPS”

In February, a special casual day was observed to collect donations designated for “Americans Thank Our Troops” (ATOT). ATOT, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, uses donations to purchase much-needed items for our deployed service men and women around the globe.



FOC BRINGS AID TO FLINT



The FOC joined in the statewide effort to bring water and relief to the residents of Flint. Burton-Glen Academy Charter School indicated it had a need for large-size containers of water and hand sanitizer. FOC staff donated 50 three-gallon containers of water, 40 one-gallon containers of water and five large cases of individual-sized bottles of water. Several containers of hand sanitizer and cash donations were made as well. Trevor Leshan, son of Jeanette Leshan, the Assistant FOC – Financials, volunteered to transport this heavy load of supplies to the charter school on one of the coldest days in February.

PUMPKIN AUCTION

The annual Oakland County Employees’ Pumpkin Auction took place in October 2016. “Spiderella” was the creation of Carol Gomez-Bonilla from Probate Court and “Kitty Boo” was decorated and donated by Chari Christie from Circuit Court Administration. They were among more than 40 pumpkins auctioned at the Executive Office Building. Overall, more than \$6,200 was collected for local charities from the auction, bake sale, raffle event, and departmental fundraising efforts.



CIRCUIT AND PROBATE COURTS’ ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

In conjunction with the Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon, Circuit and Probate Court employees participated in the Annual Holiday Food Drive benefiting Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. Over 300 pounds of food and hygiene items were donated in 2016 by the generous employees of the courts.

EMPLOYEES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CASUAL DAY DONATIONS

Court employees have the opportunity to make a donation of \$1 to wear casual attire on Friday casual days and other designated casual days throughout the year. Through the funds collected, charitable donations are distributed through nominations of worthy organizations submitted by employees. Since 2004, almost \$45,000 has been donated to charities.

From the funds collected for casual days in 2016, \$4,000 was donated to eight charities, each receiving \$500. The 2016 benefiting charities were:

*St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
First Baptist Church of Clarkston Food Pantry
ARC of Oakland County
Trail's Edge Camp
American Diabetes Association
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan
Gleaners Food Bank
Open Door Outreach Center of Waterford*

PAST CASUAL DAY RECIPIENTS:

Southfield Community Foundation	Child Abuse and Neglect Council
Grace Centers of Hope	St. John's Episcopal—Open Hands Food Pantry
Gleaners Food Bank	The Mastocytosis Society
USO Operation Care	O.A.T.S. (Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles)
Lighthouse of Oakland County	Waterford Senior Center—Focus Hope
Baldwin Center	Salvation Army
Open Door Food Pantry	Area Agency of the Aging 1-B in Southfield
Forgotten Harvest	Youth Assistance Coordinating Council
Food Bank of Oakland County	Fern Care Free Clinic
Toys for Tots	Susan G. Komen 3-Day Cure
CATCH	Oxford/Iron Fish
THAW	A Space to Dream
American Red Cross	American Cancer Society
South Oakland Shelter	Wounded Warrior
Sandcastles	The Haven
Karmanos Cancer Foundation	Community Housing Network
Common Ground	Faith Ministries-Detroit Outreach
Paws for Life	St. Baldrick's Foundation
Kids First Initiative	The Belinda Sue Fund
Sheriff's Children Benevolence Fund	Make a Wish
Restore Foundation	Takin' It To The Streets
Hospice of Michigan	ARC of Oakland County
Trail's Edge Camp	Alzheimer's Association

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2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Adoption Day



Constitution Day Program



Judge Choueiri from Lebanon Visits Courthouse



Holiday Luncheon



New Lawyer Admission Ceremony

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Employee Book Exchange



Detroit Tiger Day



Employee Holiday Luncheon



U of M / MSU Tailgate Luncheon



Employee Summer Picnic



Candy Land Photo Booth—Employee Holiday Luncheon

2016 MOST VALUABLE PERSONS



At the Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony held in December, Chief Circuit Judge Nanci Grant (back row, second from left) and Chief Probate Judge Linda Hallmark (front row, third from right), thanked all of the court employees for their outstanding service and commitment to the courts and introduced the 2016 Circuit and Probate Courts' Most Valuable Persons.

2016 Most Valuable Persons

Front Row (left to right)-

Charlene Woods—Probate Court Deputy Register II

Kim Covarrubias—FOC Systems Clerk

Sandra Kusky—FOC Office Assistant II

Annette Liike—Adoption Unit Youth and Family Caseworker

Brenda Gagnon—Probate Court Specialist

Back Row (left to right)

Brenda Beiter—Judicial Secretary to Chief Judge Nanci Grant

Karen Wentz—Judicial Secretary to Judge Michael Warren

Karen Wonsowicz—Youth Assistance Caseworker

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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