

**YOUTH ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS** contributed 37,000 hours in 1997 – from sending 1,150 children and youth to summer camp, to plugging 7,200 youth and adults into family education classes, to providing skill building, self-esteem building experiences to close to 500 youths, to involving 9,000 youths in after school, weekend and summer recreation programs. The estimated 930 County-wide Youth Assistance volunteers accomplished great things in 1997. These 930 volunteers, working with one of the 26 local Youth Assistance Boards (one at work in every school district in Oakland County) contributed 37,000 hours of service. These volunteers provided a wide range of community services to close to 29,000 persons (20,000 children and youth and 9,000 adults). Other highlights of the 1997 Youth Assistance volunteer effort included:

- ❑ 95 youth were matched with a caring adult through the YA Mentor PLUS Program.
- ❑ 1,090 youth were honored at local YA sponsored youth recognition events for their outstanding contributions to their respective communities.
- ❑ 640 youth received instruction in shoplifting prevention education.
- ❑ 3,300 youth participated in a wide-range of YA sponsored youth involvement, youth community service projects.
- ❑ Culminating 1997 for Youth Assistance was another outstanding service product produced with strong YA volunteer participation: the production of an educational video: “Got Caught? Now What?,” which is intended to be shown to students as a way to reduce the incidents of retail fraud. The project was based on a previous educational program created by Waterford Youth Assistance. The new video has won second place in the national “Vision Award” competition for non-broadcast educational films. The video project was produced through Target Stores and received substantial YA volunteer and staff assistance from the communities of Waterford, Birmingham, Novi, Southfield, Bloomfield Hills, and Farmington (see photo).
- ❑ Another outstanding accomplishment of volunteers affiliated with the Youth Assistance Program was the production of the 1997-98 Oakland County Directory of Human Resources. A task force of 30 County-wide volunteers contributed over 1,000 hours to help research, gather data and edit the directory, which during 1997 was distributed free to over 7,000 caregivers throughout Oakland County and Metro Detroit.



*Target Stores and the Waterford Police Department were presented with Certificates of Recognition at a General Staff meeting. Pictured (from left): Annette Collins, Karen MacKenzie, Doug Richter (Target Stores), Dave Woolet (Target Stores), Lieutenant Larry Ivery (Waterford), Lorie Willing, and Julie Blackett-Garza.*

**GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES VOLUNTEERS:** The Probate Court is mandated by law to periodically review guardianships of adults and of children under 6 years. Each review consists of visiting the residence of the ward, interviewing the ward and the guardian and submitting a written report to the Court, containing the findings of the evaluator and recommendation as to the need for continuing the guardianship. A dedicated group of over 50 volunteers were instrumental in helping the court realize its mandate. During 1997, these volunteers reviewed over 600 adults and minor guardianships. This creative use of volunteers represents a cost savings of over \$60,000.

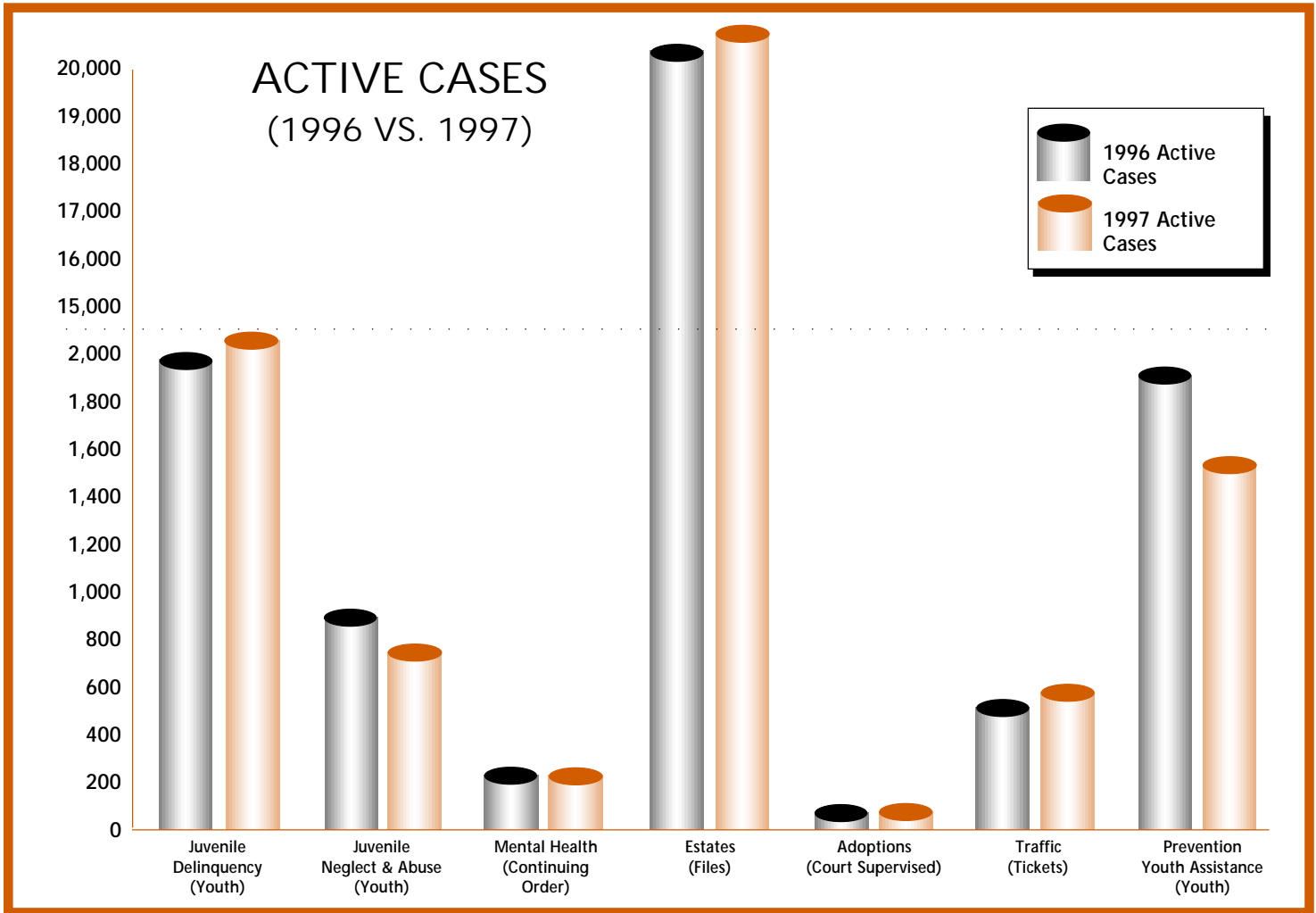
**CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS):** These very special volunteers comprise the Legal Guardianship Committee of the local chapter – National Council of Jewish Women. These dedicated volunteers, working in pairs, review guardianship cases, both adult and minor, as required by law. Also, they conduct home studies in minor guardianship cases, do follow-up investigations and often appear in Court. Sixty CASA volunteers worked with the Probate Court during 1997. CASA has been assisting the Court since 1980.

# SUMMARY OF PROBATE COURT ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY/DIVISION	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg '93-'97
<b>PETITIONS/FILES OPENED</b>						
Decedent Estates	2,583	2,601	2,653	2,613	2,564	
Guardianships	1,716	1,477	1,489	1,445	1,361	
Acknowledgment of Paternity	1,363	1,876	1,982	1,975	881	
Conservatorships	699	647	669	639	691	
Change of Names	652	513	507	503	484	
*Other Estates Division Matters	925	386	1,015	245	274	
Mental Health Commitments	1,396	1,300	1,288	1,288	1,231	
Developmentally Disabled Person Guardianships	220	221	344	249	281	
Delinquency	4,916	5,415	5,345	5,437	5,412	
Neglect	435	386	350	320	305	
Emancipation	22	15	11	13	10	
Adoptions	510	437	361	396	487	
Traffic Tickets	1,208	1,302	1,081	930	800	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,645</b>	<b>16,571</b>	<b>17,095</b>	<b>16,053</b>	<b>14,781</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>
<b>HEARINGS HELD</b>						
Estates	11,147	10,113	10,397	10,729	9,978	
Mental Health	1,426	1,345	1,284	1,080	993	
Juvenile	9,352	8,415	8,475	8,542	7,868	
Adoptions	580	573	540	542	621	
Traffic	730	740	560	629	553	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,242</b>	<b>21,186</b>	<b>21,256</b>	<b>21,522</b>	<b>20,013</b>	<b>-13.9%</b>
<b>JURY TRIALS</b>						
Estates	1	1	2	2	1	
Mental Health	13	3	8	8	9	
Juvenile	28	13	12	23	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-52.4%</b>
<b>BENCH TRIALS</b>						
Neglect	271	256	250	230	200	
Delinquent	488	344	333	268	274	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>-37.5%</b>
<b>OTHER ACTIVITY</b>						
Estates-Persons Serviced at Counter	51,543	47,573	54,753	79,077	82,021	+59.1%
Estates-Adult Guardianship Reviews	703	1,298	819	807	1,287	+83.1%
Estates-Minor Guardianship Reviews	427	473	523	454	453	+6.1%
Mental Health-Persons Serviced at Counter	5,199	7,618	8,536	8,738	9,164	+76.3%
Mental Health Transport Orders	270	302	255	291	281	+4.1%
Juvenile-Diversion Records	669	817	827	1,055	853	+27.5%
Youth Assistance-Referrals Received	2,691	3,035	2,969	3,404	3,332	+23.8%
Adoptions-Requests for Information	269	286	408	336	403	+49.8%

\*Reduction is explained by the transfer of filings for Escheated Property to County Clerk.

# SUMMARY OF PROBATE COURT ACTIVITY



## ACTIVE CASES UNDER CONTINUING COURT JURISDICTION

CASE TYPE	JAN. 1, 1997 ACTIVE CASES	CASES OPENED	CASES CLOSED	DEC. 31, 1997 ACTIVE CASES
Juvenile Delinquency (Youth)	1,938	3,089	2,871	2,156
Juvenile Neglect & Abuse (Youth)	880	358	477	761
Mental Health (Continuing Order)	208	1,231	1,235	204
Estates (Files)	20,120	6,255	5,901	20,474
Adoptions (Court Supervised)	60	167	162	65
Traffic (Tickets)	532	800	734	598
<b>SUBTOTAL ACTIVE CASES UNDER COURT JURISDICTION</b>	<b>23,738</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,380</b>	<b>24,258</b>
Youth Assistance	1,909	3,332	3,697	1,544
<b>ACTIVE CASES COURTWIDE</b>	<b>25,647</b>	<b>15,232</b>	<b>15,077</b>	<b>25,802</b>

# JUVENILE REFERRALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT & COUNTY

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEG	DEL	YA	UNCL	DIV	1997 TOTAL	1996 TOTAL	% Chg '96-'97
Pontiac	94	367	625	229	157	1,472	1,265	16.4
Waterford	7	166	222	140	62	597	576	3.6
Other (***)	17	409	0	156	13	595	591	.7
Walled Lake	9	123	204	173	45	554	625	-11.3
Southfield	13	142	138	92	59	444	423	4.9
Farmington	9	95	114	198	29	435	441	-1.4
Huron Valley	3	89	156	118	12	378	382	-1.0
Holly	6	82	141	44	37	310	300	3.3
Hazel Park	5	102	115	67	20	309	374	-17.4
Ferndale	13	79	101	69	42	304	304	0
Troy	2	63	131	69	32	297	397	-25.2
West Bloomfield	1	52	83	104	30	270	335	-19.4
Royal Oak	10	50	103	73	22	258	207	24.6
Clarkston	2	53	110	58	27	250	273	-8.4
Oak Park	1	90	75	36	35	237	263	-9.9
Novi	4	63	84	56	23	230	260	-11.5
Bloomfield Hills	3	51	82	59	33	228	244	-6.6
South Lyon	1	34	139	30	22	226	275	-17.8
Lake Orion	0	43	97	72	11	223	186	19.9
Rochester	7	41	93	50	8	199	275	-27.6
Oxford	4	27	121	28	12	192	204	-5.9
Madison	0	30	97	29	36	192	175	9.7
Berkley	1	21	59	51	21	153	135	13.3
Birmingham	2	32	79	22	14	149	148	.7
Avondale	1	33	63	28	12	137	141	-5.9
Brandon	1	23	61	22	10	117	137	-14.6
Clawson	2	20	39	31	18	110	136	-19.1
Clarenceville	1	18	0	11	4	34	28	21.4
Northville	4	4	0	8	1	17	16	6.2
Lamphere	3	5	0	2	6	16	5	220.0
Misc	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>3,332</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>8,933</b>	<b>9,125</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

## KEY:

- NEG - Authorized Neglect Petitions
- UNCL - Unauthorized Complaints Handled Unofficially
- DEL - Authorized Delinquency Petitions
- DIV - Unauthorized Complaints Diverted to Other Agencies
- YA - Total Referrals to Youth Assistance
- \*\*\* - Petition or Complaint Transferred to Resident County

# JUVENILE REFERRALS BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

ACTIVITY/DIVISION	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg '93-'97
<b>AUTHORIZED CHILD PROTECTION PETITIONS</b>						
Neglect, Care, Support and Maintenance	140	146	200	159	133	
Child Abuse	70	44	40	53	41	
Abandonment	26	22	23	18	36	
Failure to Provide Education	11	12	3	4	9	
Home Environment	39	14	3	3	3	
Dependency	3	3	6	2	3	
Medical Care	3	7	1	2	1	
Others	0	1	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>-22.6%</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED DELINQUENCY/ CONSENT PETITIONS</b>						
Retail Fraud	316	237	352	364	432	
Assaults	385	444	393	340	391	
Larceny	203	226	234	260	225	
Breaking and Entering	245	229	212	231	233	
Vandalism	154	167	182	190	142	
Auto Theft	122	108	139	155	89	
Controlled Substance Violation	47	88	151	145	182	
Receiving and Concealing (Stolen Property)	110	91	129	133	141	
Traffic/Driving Offenses**					82	
All Other Adult Offenses	116	103	97	114	82	
Criminal Sexual Conduct	99	71	50	55	72	
Weapons	105	89	79	53	37	
Alcohol Related	18	18	23	46	104	
School Truancy	48	34	42	38	33	
Runaway (Home and Institutions)	70	58	44	32	29	
Arson	23	23	29	25	20	
Home Incurribility	18	11	38	24	29	
Robbery	50	52	40	23	24	
Embezzlement	11	8	13	22	27	
Forgery	4	7	11	14	15	
School Incurribility	6	3	7	7	8	
Disorderly Conduct	10	20	5	7	3	
Curfew	5	12	2	7	5	
Homicide	6	2	2	2	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,171</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>+10.9%</b>
<b>UNAUTHORIZED COMPLAINTS*</b>						
Delinquency/Consent	3,172	3,784	3,642	3,887	3,567	
Neglect	83	85	50	39	31	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>3,869</b>	<b>3,692</b>	<b>3,920</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>+10.5%</b>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL PETITIONS</b>						
Delinquency/Consent	242	257	255	319	291	
Neglect	60	52	24	40	48	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>+12.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL REFERRALS</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>6,618</b>	<b>6,521</b>	<b>6,812</b>	<b>6,570</b>	<b>+9.1%</b>

\*The figures above do not include YA referrals from outside sources

\*\*Separated from All Other Adult Offenses in 1997

# PROBATE COURT SERVICE STATISTICS

## YOUTH ASSISTANCE AND CASEWORK SERVICES

CASEWORK OFFICIAL CASES HANDLED	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
New Official Cases (referrals)	1,889	1,894	1,968	1,923	1,988	
Cases Returned to Court	242	257	255	319	291	
Cases Carried over from Previous Year	1,235	1,067	1,072	1,091	1,095	
<b>TOTAL CASES HANDLED</b>	<b>3,366</b>	<b>3,218</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>3,333</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>

YOUTH ASSISTANCE CASES HANDLED	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
New Cases (referrals)	2,691	3,033	2,969	3,404	3,332	
Information and Referral (Consultive)	1,550	1,765	1,788	1,505	1,303	
Cases Carried over from Previous Year	899	772	1,532	1,601	1,876	
<b>TOTAL CASES HANDLED</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>6,510</b>	<b>6,511</b>	<b>+26.7%</b>

CASEWORK YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
Completed Youth Community Service Placements	358	358	372	509	389	
Total Hours of Work Completed	28,392	22,029	23,275	23,152	21,295	-25.0%

YOUTH ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY SERVICE	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
Completed Youth Community Service Placements	237	201	251	279	312	
Total Hours of Work Completed	5,564	5,031	5,986	6,898	7,876	+41.6%

## CLINICAL SERVICES

CLINIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
Evaluation Referrals Received	1,430	1,191	1,354	1,203	1,177	-17.7%
Clinical Evaluations Completed	1,209	1,050	1,141	1,090	933	-23.0%
Interested Party Consultations	522	446	562	502	483	-7.5%
Casework Consultations	1,871	1,632	1,639	1,558	1,460	-22.0%
Placement and Screening Consultations	306	307	446	492	466	+52.3%
Group Therapy Clients Receiving Treatment	78	66	47	68	93	+19.2%
Parent Guidance Clients Receiving Treatment	166	111	112	162	100	-39.8%

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION STATISTICS

PROGRAMS	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Chg*
Number of P.L.U.S. & Volunteer Case Aide	226	204	176	153	150	
Family Education	9,808	8,715	9,347	11,181	7,227	
Camp	1,514	1,134	1,659	1,177	1,223	
Youth Involvement/Shoplifting Prevention	3,585	2,296	6,220	2,205	4,188	
Youth Recognition	2,895	2,956	2,741	2,495	2,835	
Recreation (Summer Programs, Teen Centers, etc.)	7,891	8,979	5,356	7,068	10,638	
Special/Other Programs	5,120	5,258	2,335	8,766	8,238	
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>31,039</b>	<b>29,542</b>	<b>27,834</b>	<b>33,045</b>	<b>34,499</b>	<b>+4.4%</b>

\*Percentage change is from 1993-1997.

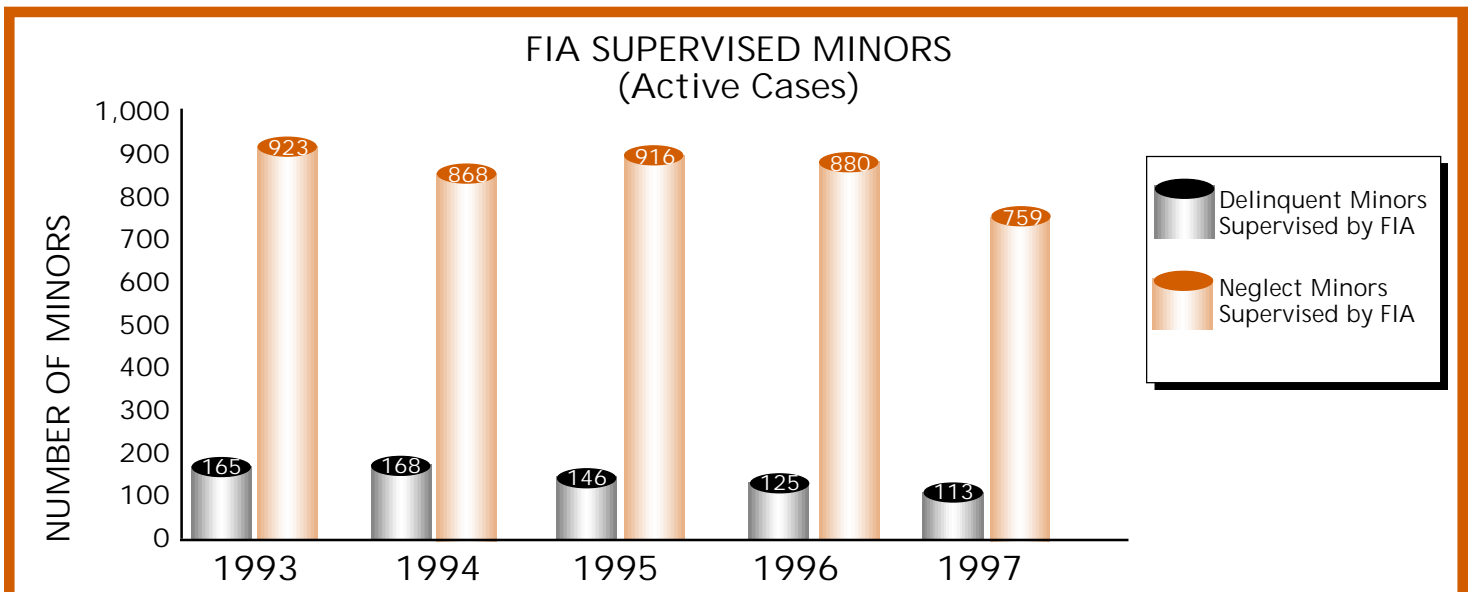
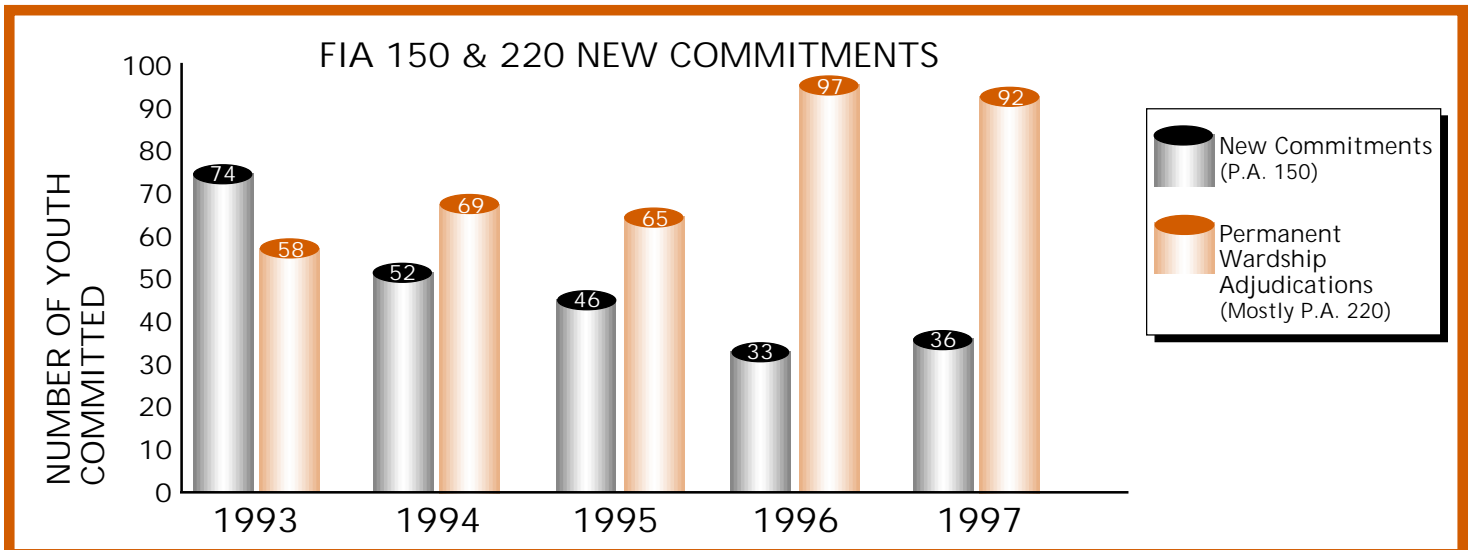
# FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY STATISTICS

STATE WARDSHIP	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Change '93 to '97	% Change '96 to '97
New Commitments (P.A. 150)	74	52	46	33	36	-51.3%	+9.1%
Permanent Wardship Adjudications (primarily P.A. 220)	58	69	65	97	92	+58.6%	-5.2%
Delinquent Minors Supervised by DSS	165	168	146	125	113	-31.5%	-9.6%
Neglect Minors Supervised by DSS	923	868	916	880	759	-17.8%	-13.8%
<b>Total State Placement Costs</b>	<b>\$3,226,457</b>	<b>\$4,032,079</b>	<b>\$3,405,427</b>	<b>\$3,622,890</b>	<b>\$3,220,282*</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-11.1%</b>

\* Estimate

## Factors Influencing Cost:

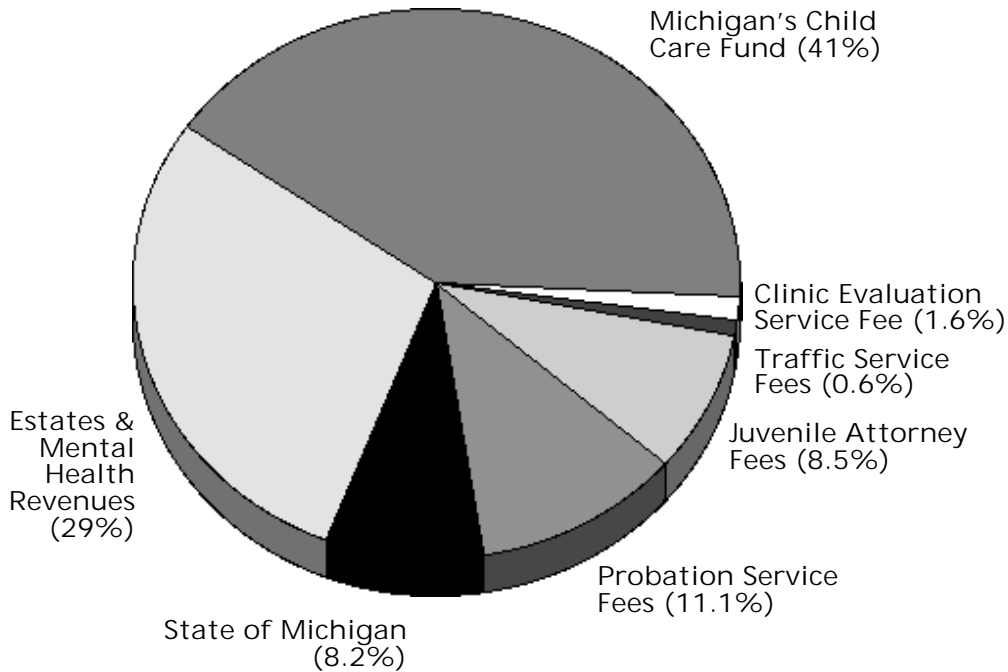
- 1) Increase in new commitments each year, from 1988 - 1993, have steadily declined each year since 1994.
- 2) Training School average length of stay is approximately 22 months.
- 3) Training School per diems have increased 51% since January 1, 1991 (\$148.40 - \$224.22).
- 4) Automatic waiver offenses to Circuit Court, in 1997 (21). Approximately 60-70% of those kids sentenced are to the Family Independence Agency, rather than the Department of Corrections.





# PROBATE COURT BUDGET

## 1997 REVENUES \$1,985,129



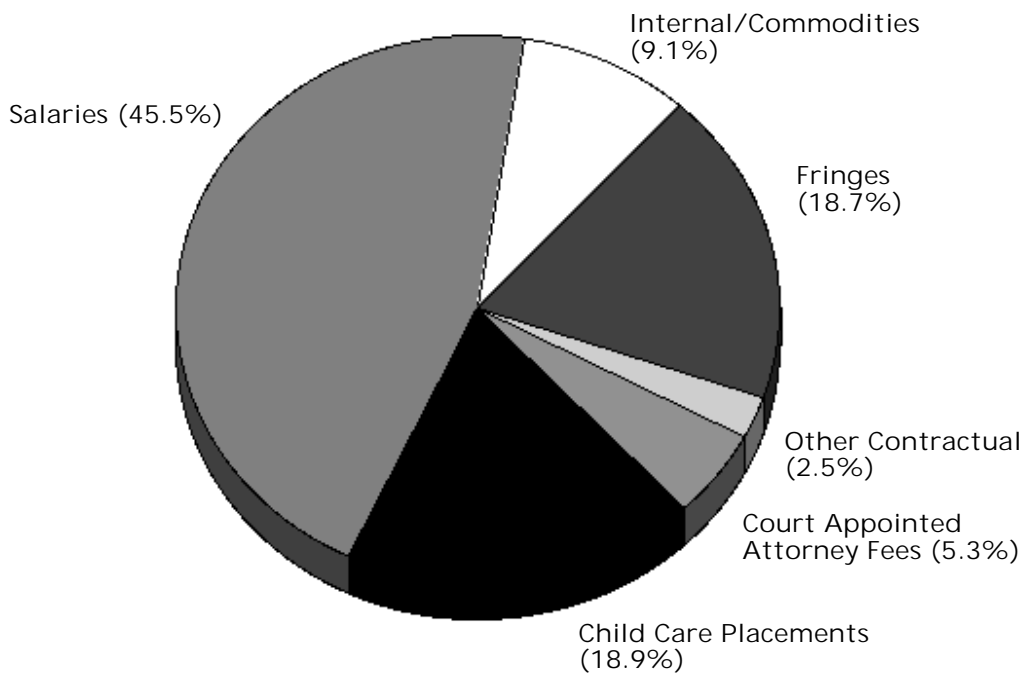
Michigan's Child Care Fund Revenues include: Reimbursement from responsible party for board and care and government benefits.

Estates and Mental Health Revenues include fees for: Gross Estate, Certified Copies, Will Deposits, Secret Marriages, Mental Health attorney fee reimbursement, etc.

Probation, Juvenile and Traffic Revenues include fees paid by parents of youth offenders as reimbursement for court appointed attorney costs and costs of providing probation and traffic services.

State of Michigan Revenues are reimbursed costs for County Juvenile Officers and other programs.

## 1997 EXPENDITURES \$19,584,698





# FINANCIAL REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS

## 1996 ALTERNATE SOURCES OF FUNDS GENERATED TO SUPPORT COURT SERVICES

Funds	Amount	Funds	Amount
<u>Volunteer Recognition Event</u>		<u>YA Parenting Project</u>	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	\$1,000	De Roy Testamentary Foundation	6,000
Consumers Energy	1,000	Consumers Energy	2,000
Detroit Edison	2,000	Ford Motor Co.	2,500
Hess Trust	1,500		
Alfred Taubman	300	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$10,500</b>
Ford Motor Co.	2,000		
Elias Brothers Restaurants	500	Waterford Skill Building Project	
		Hess Trust	7,500
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>		
		YA Minority Skill Building Grant	56,000
<u>Art in Court Project</u>			
Ford Motor Co.	2,000	Funds generated from 1997 sale of	
De Roy Testamentary	2,000	Human Resources Directories	3,000
Beaumont Foundation	250		
Meijer's	500		
Community Foundation - S.E. Michigan	1,000	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$102,300</b>
Peterson Foundation	1,000		
Hess Trust			
Quality Pontiac	375		
Auburn Pontiac	375		
Total contributions of Alliance members/volunteers	9,500		
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>		

EXPENDITURES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	% Change 1996-97	% Change 1993-97
Salaries	\$7,984,172	\$7,447,780	\$8,025,879	\$8,629,591	\$8,915,249	3.3%	11.6%
State Institutions	\$3,226,458	\$4,032,079	\$3,405,427	\$3,622,890	\$3,220,282	-11.1%	-2.0%
Fringe Benefits	\$3,250,139	\$3,479,057	\$3,629,571	\$3,637,158	\$3,663,069	7.1%	12.7%
Internal Services	\$1,270,360	\$1,292,977	\$1,479,167	\$1,581,386	\$1,649,719	4.3%	29.8%
Attorney Fees	\$1,256,871	\$1,259,361	\$1,213,698	\$1,169,761	\$1,031,164	-11.8%	-18.0%
Private Institutions	\$427,158	\$510,806	\$518,807	\$465,161	\$489,443	15.2%	14.5%
Professional Services	\$187,002	\$194,807	\$181,224	\$194,225	\$191,842	-1.2%	2.6%
Other Services	\$143,412	\$149,211	\$158,234	\$140,077	\$153,921	19.9%	7.3%
Personal Mileage	\$87,606	\$95,941	\$99,880	\$109,060	\$101,569	-6.8%	15.9%
Commodities	\$75,571	\$81,923	\$83,302	\$137,602	\$126,127	-8.3%	6.7%
Court Transcripts	\$15,044	\$42,169	\$29,417	\$18,917	\$22,725	2.0%	5.1%
Overtime	\$25,186	\$29,614	\$37,043	\$16,649	\$19,588	1.7%	-2.1%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,948,979</b>	<b>\$18,615,725</b>	<b>\$18,861,649</b>	<b>\$19,722,477</b>	<b>\$19,584,698</b>	<b>-.7%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>

NOTE: In 1997, Oakland County changed their financial reporting format from calendar year to fiscal year. Thus, 1997 figures shown on pages 28 and 29 reflect the combined expenditures of FY 1997 (9 months) and the first 3 months of FY 1998 to the extent figures were available.

# PROBATE COURT STAFF RECOGNITION

## PROBATE COURT SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS 1997 AWARDS

### 30 Years

Susan Gorney  
Patricia Peck  
Eugene Arthur Moore

### 25 Years

Deborah Anthony  
Donna Bevington  
Jack Brown  
John Chatley  
Patricia Payton  
Richard Stasy  
Richard Thibodeau  
John Ward

### 20 Years

Mike Amshay  
William Bartlam  
Deborah Bevan  
Teresa Castiglione  
Joan Connelly  
Gerald Coury  
Donald Epperson  
Julie Fabrizio  
Barry M. Grant  
Cynthia Harper  
Carol Ripley

### 15 Years

Pamela Ferguson  
William Hamilton

### 10 Years

James Batchelor  
Carol Esher  
Elizabeth Jamieson  
Debra Line  
Angela Martini  
Shonna Rymar  
Julie Tillotson

## 1997 RETIREES

Ed Gorney 3/28/97  
Robert Coyle 5/16/97  
Melvin Strickland 4/25/97

## 1997 Employee of the Year Robin Zapinski

“Knowledgeable, pleasant, professional, courteous, and one of the most trusted, confidential employees at the court.” These are some of the words used to describe Probate Court’s 1997 Employee of the Year, Ms. Robin Zapinski.

Robin began her work for the court over 13 years ago as a student just out of high school. She has subsequently worked her way up the ladder in a variety of capacities over the years and most recently holds the position of Technical Assistant serving both the Casework Services and Clinical Services units. She is described as a “jack of all trades, and a master of all trades” when it comes to her performance within the Court Services Division.

Specifically, the Employee of the Year award recognizes an employee for outstanding performances in three areas: creativity, dedication, and teamwork. Robin was an exemplary employee in all three areas this past year. In particular, Robin was cited for her dedication to helping the court “efficiently provide services, including arranging for drug screenings, agency placements of youth, and in-home placements.” In addition, Robin was recognized for coordinating many events including jail tours, “her willingness to help other staff members when difficult assignments came up” and “her courtesy and ease in dealing with court clients and the general public.”

Robin, in her typical humble approach said it was “gratifying” to receive the award, but added that she had many people to thank and that the employees of the Probate Court all try to work together “to better serve the public.”



*Employee of the Year, Robin Zapinski, pictured (from left), her husband Michael, Probate Court Judge Barry M. Grant and Court Administrator Robert Bingham.*

### Past Employee of the Year Recipients

1996 Lorie Willing	1992 Paul Scobie	1988 Jack Haynes
1995 Bill Bartlam	1991 Joan Connelly	1987 Helen Andrews
1994 Mary Jo Best	1990 Allen Kaczowski	1986 Ray Sharp
1993 Jill Daly	1989 Ruth Szabo	1985 Thomas (Ed) Gorney

# NOMINEES FOR 1997 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Nearly two dozen employees of Oakland County Probate Court were nominated for awards this year, and court officials handed out plaques to all of the nominees during the annual recognition ceremony on September 5. Pictured left to right are, in the back row: Karen MacKenzie, Chuck Ludwig, Gabe Martinez, Greg Prokopp and Bob Jueckstock. In the second row: Patty Payton, Cindy Harper, Maryann Clark, Len Kleparek, Mary Gohl, Pat Hays and Hilary Kokenos. And in the front row: Victoria Timms Rupert, Marty Alvin, Mary Batchelor, Kimberly Guerrieri, Beth Schrott, Julie Fabrizio, Linda Freeland, Claudia Gooden and Pamela Howitt. Not pictured is Lisa Symula.

Juvenile and Estates file room staff were recognized for their outstanding efforts in completing a variety of summer projects related to records. Pictured (from left): Christine Vizzini, Ginger Canniff, Jill Needham, Delia Orozco, Sara Lambertson, Julie Ritter, Alisa Canniff and Pam Cowert.



Oakland County Probate Court recognizes outstanding employees every year and the 1997 honors event was held on September 5 in the commissioners auditorium. The top award – Employee of the Year – was bestowed upon Robin Zapinski, who works as a secretary in the offices of clinical services and casework services. Other award winners included James Windell (Creativity Award), Mike Amshay (Dedication Award), and Dallas Coleman (Teamwork Award). Pictured here are (from left): James Windell, Mike Amshay, Robin Zapinski, Dallas Coleman and Judge Barry M. Grant.

# STAFF RECOGNITION

The Judges of the Oakland County Probate Court wish to acknowledge and commend our employees for their dedication to PROVIDE the highest quality of services to the community. Our employees provide legal, clerical, and casework services to affect the lives of many citizens living in and doing business in Oakland County. Our staff is committed TO BE the best functioning Probate Court we can be.

David Ajamy, Caseworker, 10/9/73  
Timothy Albertson, Caseworker, 12/29/75  
Christyn Allard, Clerk III, 3/4/96  
Karen Allen, Clerk III, 2/19/85  
Scott Allen, Senior Psychologist, 11/17/97  
Martin Alvin, Court Referee, 6/2/90  
Michael Amshay, Caseworker, 1/22/77  
Deborah Anthony, Deputy Register, 6/8/72  
Barbara Aubin, Clerk III, 2/28/94  
Ronald Auten, Chief, 11/23/70  
William Bartlam, Deputy Ct. Admin., 12/5/77  
Jim Batchelor, Service Officer, 11/9/87  
Mary Batchelor, Deputy Register, 12/13/76  
Shirley Bauman, Stenographer, 9/15/69  
Deborah Beer, Secretary, 7/10/78  
Nicole Bennett, General Clerical, PTNE  
Julie Berz, Caseworker, 12/4/78  
Mary Jo Best, Office Supervisor, 4/9/84  
Deborah Bevan, Caseworker, 8/1/77  
Donna Bevington, Deputy Register, 3/31/72  
Robert Bingham, Court Administrator, 9/12/94  
Sue Blachura, Production Typist, 2/21/79  
Julie Blackett-Garza, Caseworker, 1/29/96  
Teresa Blundell, Caseworker, 2/22/82  
Cheryl Boyle, Clerk III, 7/23/74  
Patrick Breen, Caseworker, 3/17/75  
Jack Brown, Caseworker, 7/29/72  
Robin Brown-Green, Caseworker, 1/16/93  
Andrew Cain, Caseworker, 1/27/79  
Beth Calder, Caseworker, 10/9/75  
Alisa Canniff, Clerk I, 12/23/96  
Ginger Canniff, General Clerical, PTNE  
Teresa Castiglione, Office Supervisor, 11/21/77  
Jayne Chamarro, Production Typist, 9/8/97  
John Chatley, Caseworker, 2/28/72  
Debra Chmiel, General Clerical, 10/11/97  
Jon Clapp, Caseworker, 1/31/73  
Larry Clarfelt, Caseworker, 4/3/78  
Margo Clarfelt, Caseworker, 4/7/80  
Maryanne Clark, Deputy Register, 3/27/89  
Daniel Cojanu, Caseworker, 6/6/77  
Kathleen Cojanu, Caseworker, 4/19/76  
Dallas Coleman, Casework Supervisor, 9/7/76  
Helen Collias, Caseworker, PTNE  
Lorrie Collom, Typist, 3/3/97  
Carol Compagnoni, Office Supervisor, 10/10/78  
Joan Connelly, Case Coordinator, 10/31/77  
Gary Contesti, Caseworker, 2/16/71  
Christopher Cook, General Clerical, 10/1/97  
Andrea Cooley, Caseworker, 2/18/86  
John Cooperrider, Deputy Ct. Admin., 9/12/88  
Gerald Coury, Caseworker, 4/11/77

Pam Cowart, Clerk I, 6/24/96  
Bob Coyle, Casework Supervisor, 1/9/68  
Amber Crane, Student  
Elizabeth Csizmadia, Caseworker, 5/22/95  
Sharon Cullen, Deputy Register, 12/17/90  
Jill Daly, Legal Analyst, 6/6/88  
Carol Dault, Deputy Register, 8/21/79  
Jerri Decker, Deputy Register, 7/25/88  
Joy Delauter, Caseworker, 5/12/75  
Jennifer DeLisle, Production Typist, 1/6/97  
Marie Dixon, Clerk III, 9/18/95  
Jean Dohanyos, Court Referee, 5/27/97  
Iileen Donnell, Student  
Tracey Donnelly, Clerk III, 5/2/94  
Judy Dorman, Clerk III, 4/22/91  
Cynthia Duggan, Deputy Register, 5/8/78  
Roberta Dunn, Clerk III, 5/30/95  
Nancy Elfes, Caseworker, 11/28/75  
Kalvin Engleberg, Chief-YA, 7/28/69  
Donald Epperson, Caseworker, 11/15/77  
Carol Esher, Deputy Register, 11/23/87  
Julie Fabrizio, Office Supervisor, 6/15/77  
Robert Fachnie, DSS Liaison, 5/27/75  
Colleen Fallscheer, General Clerical, 2/24/97  
Deborah Farwell, Student  
Ivy Ferguson, Court Clerk, 9/9/96  
Pam Ferguson, Employee Rec. Spec., 2/10/82  
Joseph Fisher, Service Officer, 1/15/92  
Dolores Fleming, Production Typist, 2/24/97  
Thomas Fraser, Judicial Staff Atty., 2/27/96  
Linda Freeland, Secretary, 10/1/68

Sue Friedl, Caseworker, 11/18/89  
George Fuksa, Court Clerk, 5/15/95  
Brenda Gagnon, Clerk III, 12/5/94  
Kay Galetto, Clerk, 1/3/94  
Deborah Garwell, Student  
Gary Gasowski, Caseworker, 10/22/73  
Bernard Gaulier, Chief-Clinic, 7/27/92  
Lawrence Ghannam, Judicial Staff Atty., 3/3/97  
Mary Gohl, Operations Analyst, 9/8/70  
Judith Goldner, Psychologist, PTNE  
Claudia Gooden, Acct. Clerk, 9/29/86  
Julian Gordon, Sen. Psych., 9/18/89  
Ed Gorney, Court Referee, 9/21/64  
Susan Gorney, Caseworker, 10/3/67  
Cassandra Goulding, Caseworker, 7/21/97  
John Greenhill, Casework Supervisor, 2/19/69  
Kevin Gross, Caseworker, 7/7/97  
Sandra Grubbs, Clerk III, 5/25/96  
Kim Guerrieri, Deputy Register, 7/12/94  
Alice Hagerman, Caseworker, 9/25/78  
Bonnie Hagewood, Deputy Register, 8/25/86  
Linda Halicek, Deputy Register, 12/10/90  
William Hamilton, Caseworker, 6/30/82  
Michael Hand, Court Referee, 7/31/89  
Cindy Harper, Accountant, 7/5/77  
Cathryn Harrison, Deputy Register, 4/27/70  
Denise Hatter, Clerk III, 2/17/96  
Lorna Hawkins, Typist, 5/2/94  
Larissa Hayden, Caseworker, PTNE  
Pat Hays, Secretary, 2/1/85  
Annette Himmelspach, Caseworker, 03/12/94  
Julie Hirsch, Judicial Staff Atty., 5/12/97  
Peggy Hoffmeyer, Clerk III, 4/18/94  
Pamela Howitt, Deputy Ct. Admin., 3/13/89  
Karlann Hudson, Caseworker, 7/2/87  
Linda Hudson, Court Reporter, 11/15/71  
Deborah Hyde, Caseworker, 8/30/75  
Gail Innis, Caseworker, 10/3/92  
Elizabeth Jamieson, Caseworker, 12/22/87  
Karen Johnson, Caseworker, PTNE  
Ruth Jordan, Caseworker, 1/22/73  
Robert Jueckstock, Caseworker, 4/4/81  
Allen Kaczkowski, Casework Supv., 11/26/71  
Brenda Kelly, Deputy Register, 1/13/89  
Leonard Kleparek, Caseworker, 2/1/78



*Richard G. Thibodeau, Editor of the Court's national award winning Oakland County Directory of Human Resources was one of five finalists to receive a State award from the Michigan Community Services Commission as "Outstanding Community Services Program Manager" for his leadership in the production of the 1997-98 Directory, now in its 7th edition. Pictured are: Dick and his wife, Ilona, flanked by Mrs. Engler and Governor John Engler at the awards ceremony at the Governor's residence in Lansing.*



(Staff Listed by Name,  
Job Classification, Date of Hire)

Hillary Kokenos, Secretary, 2/9/81  
James Lafnear, Service Officer, PTNE  
Sam Lambert, Assistant Chief, 12/6/65  
Sarah Lambertson, Student  
Naomi Leach, Court Reporter, 1/14/85  
Twila Leigh, Court Referee, 3/26/94  
David Leslie, Caseworker, 6/14/78  
Deborah Lindsey, Caseworker, PTNE  
Debra Line, Deputy Register, 12/8/87  
Dyanne Littlejohn, Court Reporter, 12/7/79  
Armethus Lucius, Casework Supervisor, 12/22/86  
Charles Ludwig, Chief, 8/18/69  
John Luke, Caseworker, 10/22/73  
Karen Mackenzie, Caseworker, 4/28/86  
Karla Mallett, Court Referee, 6/2/97  
Terrie Marks, Caseworker, 7/10/95  
Courtney Marshall, Court Clerk, 9/22/97  
Robert Martin, Court Referee, 6/4/88  
Gabriel Martinez, Psychologist, 11/3/75  
Angela Martini, Court Reporter, 4/13/87  
Deborah McAleer, Caseworker, 4/16/94  
Marilyn McAllister, Caseworker, 9/9/63  
Bryan McCaffrey, Caseworker, 1/29/96  
Holly McDonald - Court Clerk (PTE), 12/31/88  
Paula McDonald, Typist, 11/4/96  
Paul McFarland, Caseworker, 9/3/68  
Kari Melkonian, Student  
Sherry Miller, Secretary, 2/4/80  
Fred Morden, Caseworker, 12/18/80  
Rita Morgan, Clerk III, 4/25/89  
Susan Morse, Deputy Register, PTNE  
Corene Munro, Caseworker, 10/31/88  
Sarah Myers, General Clerk, PTNE  
Jill Needham, Student  
Shelley Nelson, Office Supervisor, 7/25/85  
Travis Nester, Student  
Laura Nick, Deputy Register, 9/21/94  
Erin O'Brien, Court Clerk, PTNE  
Fern Ogans, Secretary, 6/13/88  
Delia Orozco, General Clerical, PTNE  
Maria Ortez, Production Typist, 2/10/86  
Gabrielle Osooli, Caseworker, 7/21/97  
Julie Panasuk, Clerk III, 2/19/96  
Joanna Papiez, Clerk III, 4/7/86  
Catherine Parle, Deputy Register, 9/6/83  
Patricia Payson, Caseworker, 2/5/96  
Clyde Payton, Service Officer Supv., 4/11/75  
Patricia Payton, Assignment Clerk, 9/8/72  
Patricia Peck, Office Supervisor, 2/3/67  
Carole Perry-Burrell, Court Reporter, 6/2/81  
Ted Petrill, Student  
Mary Phelps, Office Supervisor, 9/3/68  
Wendy Potts, Probate Judge, 3/17/97  
Gregory Prokopp, Caseworker, 8/5/74  
Robert Proudfoot, Caseworker, 7/7/76  
Gary "Doc" Prudhomme, Caseworker, 11/12/94  
Gary Pullins, Caseworker, 1/28/74  
Sandra Quello, Deputy Register, 8/9/88  
Doug Quinn, Caseworker, 4/21/80  
Joseph Racey, Court Referee, 11/8/79  
Angelina Ramirez, Typist, 12/23/96  
Jamone Randolph, Student  
John Range, Court Reporter, 4/2/84  
Bridgett Ray, Deputy Register, 5/6/91  
Donna Riley, Deputy Register, 3/16/81  
Carol Ripley, Casework Supervisor, 6/3/77

Julie Ritter, General Clerical, 2/1/97  
Rachel Rogers, General Clerical, 9/9/97  
Cindy Romeos, Court Reporter, 3/13/89  
Janice Rowe, Caseworker, 10/12/88  
Vicki Rupert, Clinician, 6/7/93  
Sheila Russ, Jud. Secretary, 3/17/97  
Linda Russell, Secretary, 6/27/94  
Shonna Rymar, Court Reporter, 1/5/87  
Dawn Salswedal, Secretary, PTNE  
Karen Sauro, Deputy Register, 6/10/85  
Mary Schatz, Typist, 8/21/95  
Beth Schrott, Research Atty., 5/12/86  
Kelli Schultz, Deputy Register, PTNE  
Mary Schusterbauer, Caseworker, 2/3/86  
Paul Scobie, Caseworker, 2/3/86  
Palmer Sesti, Caseworker Supervisor, 2/11/75  
Linda Sherman, Caseworker, PTNE  
Kathy Shoemaker, Caseworker, 7/7/97  
James C. Smith, Caseworker 2/24/79  
James R. Smith, Casework Supervisor, 11/28/69  
Vicky Smith, Clerk III, 11/13/95  
Vicky Spicer, Deputy Register, 4/2/90  
Natalie Starkey, Student  
Richard Stasys, Caseworker Supervisor, 5/10/72  
Terrell Stevens, Student  
Alisha Stites, Student  
Pamela Stoddard, Caseworker, 7/21/97  
Melvin Strickland, Caseworker, 1/21/64  
Thomas Swieboda, Caseworker, 7/21/97  
Lisa Symula, Chief-Estates/Mental Health, 4/24/95  
Henry Szlenkier, Caseworker, 2/28/94  
Christine Taylor, General Clerical, 7/28/97  
Cynthia Thebo, Court Clerk, 9/2/95  
Dick Thibodeau, Resource Specialist, 5/8/72  
Deborah Thompson, Deputy Register, 3/24/86  
Kevin Threatt, Caseworker, 4/25/88  
Julie Tillotson, Caseworker, 4/6/87  
Cathy Tomalka, Research Atty., 3/17/97  
Jane True, Caseworker, 12/18/78  
Christine Vizzini, Student  
Claudia Walter, Caseworker, 5/12/97  
John Ward, Court Referee, 11/6/72  
Anna Wendt, Deputy Register, 10/26/92  
Nancy Wenzel, 7/11/94  
Karen Wiater, Psychologist, PTNE  
Ann Wiersma, Psychologist, 2/7/94  
Lori Willing, Caseworker, 5/2/94  
Eugene Willis, Casework Supervisor, 11/15/65  
James Windell, Psychologist, 5/17/93  
Audrey Wirth-Zell, Typist, 8/21/95  
Catherine Womack, CWWI, PTNE  
James Womack, Service Officer, PTNE  
Karen Wonsowicz, Caseworker, 6/19/84  
Amy Woodruff, Clinic Serv. Coord. 11/21/88  
Stella Wozniak, Secretary, PTNE  
Rodney Yeacker, Psychologist, 8/12/91  
Robin Zapinski, Technical Assistant, 6/18/84  
Yvonne Zerba, Deputy Register, 6/5/78

ANNUAL REPORT  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Robert Bingham  
John Chatley  
John Cooperrider  
Shelley Nelson  
Dick Thibodeau  
Robin Zapinski

**Special Thanks to Karen Cohrs  
of Graphics Unleashed**

**Special Thanks to Jack Smith of  
Oakland County Print Shop**

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TO THE READER

Here, at Oakland County Probate Court, we feel it is very important that our Annual Report address the informational needs and concerns of our community of readers. Therefore, any feedback, comments and input would be greatly appreciated and appropriately reflected in future Annual Report editions. Please direct your comments to Mr. John L. Cooperrider, Deputy Court Administrator, Administrative Support, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341-0449, (248) 858-0256.

# **Your help is needed, welcomed and valued.**

As you've seen in this report, the judges and staff of the Oakland County Probate Court/Circuit Court - Family Division are responsible for a wide array of programs and services for county residents. Their goal is to fulfill those responsibilities as efficiently and effectively as possible, and to do that, they welcome the invaluable assistance of many trusted volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer your time, whether in large amounts or small, read on to learn about some of the interesting possibilities!

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## **Like making things better for kids? Call Youth Assistance today!**

Oakland County Youth Assistance has been around since the 1950s, helping young people and their families in a variety of ways. YA's biggest volunteer opportunity is its youth mentoring program, begun in 1973.

As a Mentors Plus volunteer, you'll become a friend and more, as an adult role model for a youngster aged 5 to 16 in your community — and you'll have a great time in the process! Just a few hours per month of your time can make a lasting difference in a child's life.



Or, depending on your preference, you can provide equally valuable help in other ways, such as serving on a local committee, lending a hand with mailings, or pitching in at a youth-related function.

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## **You'll provide a valuable service as a guardianship volunteer.**

The Court has a critical need for volunteers to review adult and minor guardianship placements. You'll be thoroughly trained, and then will conduct interviews during home visits. You'll share your findings via report forms, which you'll drop in the mail when completed. Your assistance will provide valuable insights in these important matters, and you'll get staff support whenever you need it.

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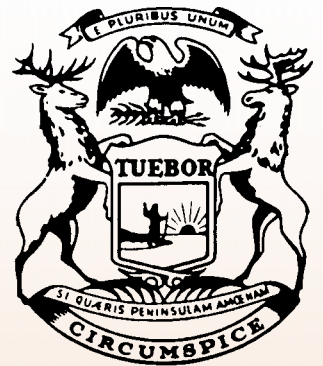
## **Confy with computers? First in filing skills? Estates needs you**

If you or any of your friends can help out with essential record keeping activities, filing, computer work and/or microfilm, the court needs you in the Estates division. Even small amounts of time are much appreciated, both by members of the court and by your fellow citizens of Oakland County. Call now!

**To learn more about these or other volunteer opportunities, call 248/858-0041 today. Your spare time can make a difference!**

# Oakland County Probate Court

ANNUAL REPORT 1997



Honorable Barry M. Grant  
Honorable Wendy Potts

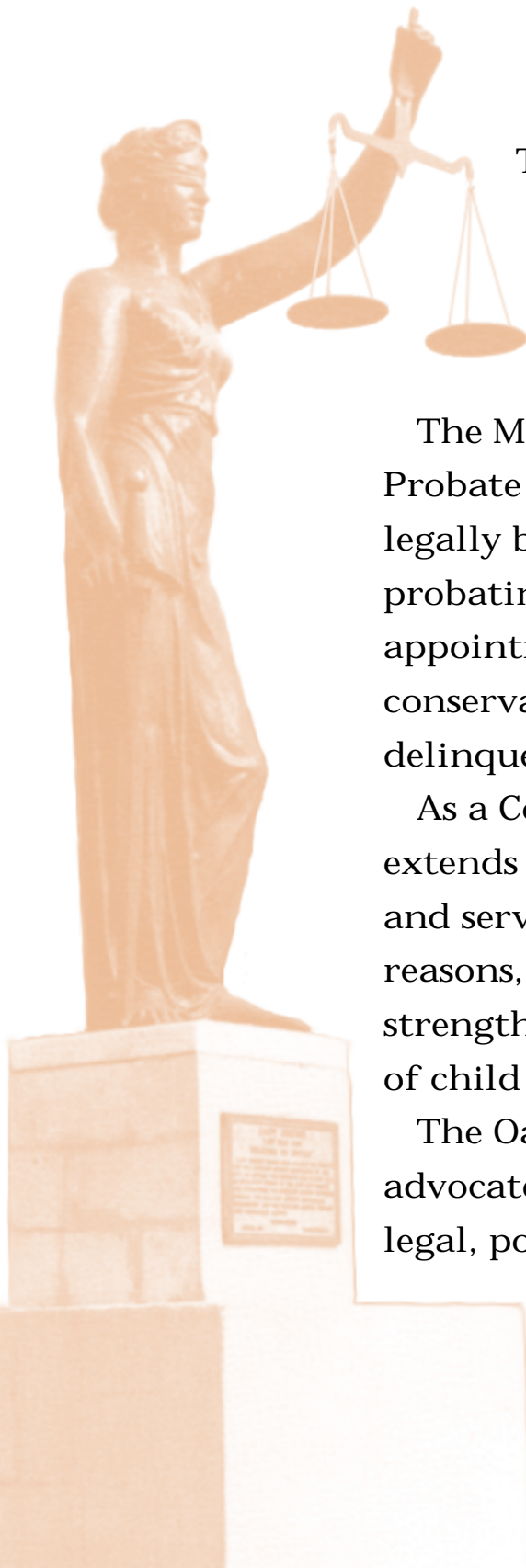
Honorable Linda S. Hallmark  
Honorable Sandra G. Silver

Honorable Eugene Arthur Moore  
Honorable Joan E. Young



# MISSION STATEMENT

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The Oakland County Probate Court is a constitutionally established court. Its statutorily defined jurisdiction spans the entire life experience of an individual from birth to death.

The Mission of the Oakland County Probate Court is to adjudicate matters legally before the Court, including the probating of decedent's estates, appointments of guardians and conservators, adoptions, the mentally ill, delinquency, and abuse and neglect.

As a Court of Civil jurisdiction, its Mission extends to providing protection of rights and services to people who are, for specific reasons, vulnerable. The Court works to strengthen families and reduce the incidence of child abuse, neglect and delinquency.

The Oakland County Probate Court must advocate, work closely and openly with all legal, political, public, and private agencies to provide services to those unable to protect themselves, and on behalf of communities which have a right to be safe.