



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

2005 Annual Report

Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

Lincoln Hall of Justice
1025 E. Forest Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Frank Murphy Hall of Justice
1441 St. Antoine
Detroit, MI 48226

Penobscot Building
645 Griswold
Detroit, MI 48226

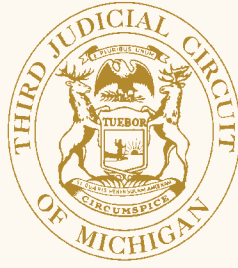
Mediation Tribunal Association
333 W. Fort Street
Detroit, MI 48226



Mary Beth Kelly
Chief Judge

Bernard J. Kost
Executive Court Administrator

Kelli D. Moore
Deputy Court Administrator



THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN

711 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3413

BERNARD J. KOST
Executive Court Administrator

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April 28, 2006

Honorable Mary Beth Kelly
Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan
701 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Judge Kelly:

With this letter I am pleased to transmit the 2005 Annual Report of the Third Circuit Court for your review. This report includes a brief narrative, a compilation of summary statistics, and an overview of the Court's principal activities and programs in 2005. I would like to highlight two important accomplishments in 2005:

- the August transition of entrance and perimeter security at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice from a private provider to the Wayne County Sheriff, and
- the successful migration of guardianship cases to the Court's new case management system.

In the first instance, the presence of uniformed law enforcement officers has clearly created a more secure courthouse facility. In the second instance, the migration of guardianship cases represents an important first step in the multi-year project to convert the Court's three legacy systems to a single state-of-the-art system by 2008.

This Annual Report documents many noteworthy accomplishments of the judges and employees last year. Please join me in commending them for their dedication to serving the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard J. Kost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Bernard J. Kost
Executive Court Administrator

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Third Circuit Court Judges

Mary Beth Kelly, Chief Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

William J. Giovan, Chief Judge Pro Tempore and Presiding

Wendy M. Baxter
Susan D. Borman
Michael James Callahan
Robert J. Colombo, Jr.
Daphne Means Curtis

Gershwin A. Drain
John H. Gillis, Jr.
Kathleen Macdonald
Warfield Moore, Jr.
John A. Murphy

Michael F. Sapala
Cynthia D. Stephens
Edward M. Thomas
Isidore Torres
Robert L. Ziolkowski

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Edward Ewell, Jr., Presiding

David J. Allen
Annette J. Berry
Gregory Dean Bill
Ulysses W. Boykin
Margie R. Braxton
James R. Chylinski
Sean F. Cox
Maggie W. Drake

Prentis Edwards
Vonda R. Evans
Patricia S. Fresard
David A. Groner
Cynthia Gray Hathaway
Diane Marie Hathaway
Michael Hathaway
Thomas E. Jackson
Vera Massey Jones

Timothy M. Kenny
Wade Harper McCree
Bruce U. Morrow
Daniel P. Ryan
Craig S. Strong
Brian R. Sullivan, Jr.
Deborah A. Thomas
Mary M. Waterstone

FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Lita M. Popke, Presiding

Helen E. Brown
Bill Callahan
William Leo Cahalan
Charlene M. Elder

Richard B. Halloran, Jr.
Amy P. Hathaway
Arthur J. Lombard
Kathleen M. McCarthy

Maria L. Oxholm
Richard M. Skutt
Jeanne Stempien
Carole F. Youngblood

FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

Virgil C. Smith, Jr., Presiding

Megan Maher Brennan
James A. Callahan
Christopher D. Dingell
Sheila Ann Gibson
Leslie Kim Smith

Judges of Probate
Judy A. Hartsfield
James E. Lacey

Third Circuit Court Judges

Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan 2005



Bottom row from left to right: Amy P. Hathaway, Mary M. Waterstone, Maria L. Oxholm, John A. Murphy, Sheila Ann Gibson, Susan D. Borman, Carole Youngblood, Daphne Means Curtis, Patricia S. Fresard, Mary Beth Kelly (Chief Judge), Diane Marie Hathaway, Kathleen M. McCarthy, Vera Massey Jones, Annette J. Berry, Jeanne Stempien, Brian R. Sullivan, Judy Hartsfield, and Charlene Elder.

Middle row from left to right: Megan Maher Brennan, Vonda R. Evans, Wendy M. Baxter, William J. Giovan (Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding-Civil Division), Cynthia D. Stephens, Thomas E. Jackson, Robert L. Ziolkowski, Christopher D. Dingell, Bruce U. Morrow, Richard B. Halloran, Jr., James R. Chylinski, Warfield Moore, Jr., Timothy M. Kenny, Bill Callahan, John H. Gillis, Jr., and Richard M. Skutt.

Top row from left to right: Craig S. Strong, Michael F. Sapala, Isidore Torres, Prentis Edwards, James A. Callahan, Michael Hathaway, Lita M. Popke (Presiding-Family Division-Domestic Relations), Deborah A. Thomas, Ulysses Boykin, Edward Ewell, Jr. (Presiding-Criminal Division), Gregory Dean Bill, Wade H. McCree, Virgil C. Smith, Jr. (Presiding-Family Division-Juvenile), Robert J. Colombo, Jr., David A. Groner, Sean F. Cox, David J. Allen, and Kathleen Macdonald.

Not Pictured: Margie R. Braxton, Helen E. Brown, William Leo Cahalan, Michael J. Callahan, Gershwin A. Drain, Maggie W. Drake, Cynthia Gray Hathaway, James E. Lacey, Arthur J. Lombard, Daniel P. Ryan, Leslie Kim Smith, and Edward M. Thomas.

A Special Dedication to the Honorable Susan Bieke Neilson 1956 - 2005



Judge Susan Bieke Neilson, who served on the Third Judicial Circuit Bench for 14 years, lost her life to cancer on January 25, 2006 at the age of 50. She is survived by her husband, Jeff and her two daughters, Lizzie and Mary.

Born in Ann Arbor on August 27, 1956, Judge Neilson was a life-long resident of Michigan. She received her bachelor's degree in 1977 from the honors college at the University of Michigan, and her J.D. in 1980 from Wayne State University. From 1980 until 1991, Judge Neilson practiced law, first as an associate and later as a partner, with the prestigious Detroit firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, VanDusen & Freeman. She specialized in products liability claims, medical malpractice claims, and commercial litigation.

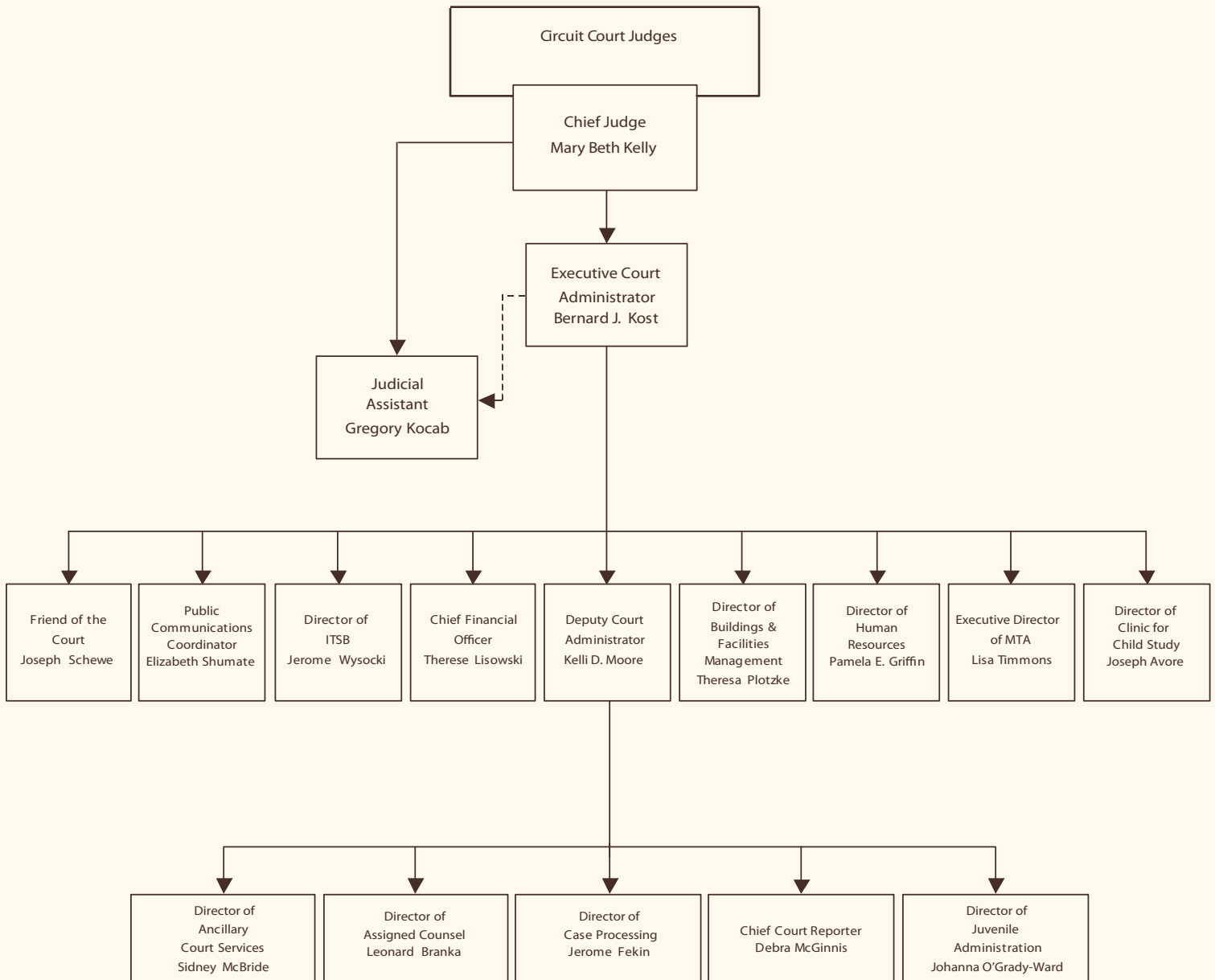
After Judge Neilson's initial appointment to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor John Engler on July 15, 1991, she was re-elected three times. Having significant experience on Michigan's largest state trial court bench, serving in both the civil and criminal divisions, Judge Neilson resigned from the Third Judicial Circuit on November 16, 2005, and was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Judge Neilson wrote numerous articles and was co-editor and author of *Michigan Civil Procedure*, a two-volume treatise on all areas of Michigan civil practice. The Michigan Judicial Institute selected the treatise to purchase for every trial court judge in the state.

Judge Neilson's dedication to the improvement of the law, in addition to her commitment to the highest ethical standards, will long be remembered.

Organization Chart

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN ORGANIZATION CHART



Judges Elected or Appointed to the Bench in 2005

James A. Callahan

Judge James A. Callahan was elected to the Third Judicial Circuit in November 2004, after practicing as a trial attorney in general civil and criminal matters for 33 years. In January 2005, he was assigned to the Juvenile Section of the Family Division. Judge Callahan is a member of the Bar Associations in Michigan, Illinois, and Florida. Judge Callahan was the Assistant Judge Advocate for the State of Michigan with the American Legion, having served in the United States Navy from 1959 until 1965, and was a member of the Michigan Bar Representative Assembly from 1981 until 1987.

Megan Maher Brennan

Megan Maher Brennan was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in December 2005. Judge Brennan was assigned to the Juvenile Section of the Family Division. Prior to this appointment, Judge Brennan had served, since 2003, as an Assistant Attorney General in the Labor Division of the Michigan Department of Attorney General. Before moving to public practice, Judge Brennan enjoyed a private practice focusing on employment and business law and was also employed as a litigation attorney with Bodman Longley, LLP from 1989 to 1994. Judge Brennan served as law clerk for the late Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley of the Michigan Supreme Court from 1987 to 1989. Judge Brennan graduated from Michigan State University (B.A. 1983) and Wayne State University Law School (J.D. 1987). She is involved in several community and professional organizations and has been an adjunct law professor in the graduate business school at Madonna University.

Charlene M. Elder

Charlene M. Elder was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in December 2005. Judge Elder was assigned to the Domestic Relations Section of the Family Division. Prior to this appointment, Judge Elder had served, since 2003, as a magistrate in the 19th District Court handling traffic offenses, small claims and reviewing police search warrants in criminal investigations. Judge Elder also served as a private practitioner specializing in consumer protection law, commercial transactions, and general litigation. Judge Elder graduated from University of Michigan (B.A. 1991) and the Detroit College of Law in (J.D. 1995).

Judges Retired from the Bench in 2005

Patricia Campbell

Judge Patricia Campbell retired on January 1, 2005 after 14 years as a member of the Wayne County Probate Bench. From October 1, 1997 until her retirement in 2005, Judge Campbell was cross-assigned as a Third Circuit Court Judge and served in the Family Division-Juvenile Section.

Louis F. Simmons

Judge Louis F. Simmons retired on January 1, 2005 after 22 years as a member of the Bench. Judge Simmons was appointed by Governor James A. Blanchard on May 6, 1983. Judge Simmons was a Phase II Individual Calendar Judge and served in the Civil Division until his retirement.

Leonard Townsend

Judge Leonard Townsend retired on January 1, 2005 after 26 years as a member of the Bench. Governor William G. Milliken appointed Judge Townsend to the Recorder's Court Bench on January 1, 1979. During his tenure with the Court, Judge Townsend served in the Criminal Division.

Edward M. Thomas

Judge Edward M. Thomas retired on October 17, 2005 after 27 years as a member of the Bench. Judge Thomas, originally elected to the Recorder's Court in November, 1978, was later appointed by Governor James A. Blanchard on March 22, 1990 to the Third Judicial Circuit. Judge Thomas served in the Criminal and Civil Divisions during his tenure with the Court. Judge Thomas also served on the Court's Docket Review Committee. In October 2005, County Executive Robert A. Ficano appointed Judge Thomas as Wayne County Corporation Counsel.

Susan Bieke Neilson

Judge Susan Bieke Neilson retired on November 15, 2005 after 14 years as a member of the Bench. Governor John Engler appointed Judge Neilson on July 15, 1991. During Judge Neilson's tenure she served in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions. Judge Neilson was a member of the State Bar Standard Jury Instructions Committee and served on the Court's Docket Review Committee.

2005 Highlights

January

New System For Assigned Counsel in the Family Division-Juvenile Section

The Office of Assigned Counsel Services instituted a new administrative process for the selection of attorneys to represent indigent parties appearing before the Juvenile Section of the Family Division. It included the implementation of a web-based computer program that maintains a list of qualified attorneys. The program selects the appropriate number of attorneys to serve as assigned counsel each month based upon the Court's schedule for that month. Selections for assignment are done automatically to ensure that all qualified attorneys receive equal opportunities for service as assigned counsel. Attorneys selected for appointment are notified programmatically by e-mail and indicate their acceptance or rejection of the assignment by return e-mail. The new assigned counsel process represents a significant step forward for the Juvenile Section by improving administrative efficiency and creating fairness and impartiality in the attorney selection process.

February

Friend of the Court Case Establishment Process Improvements

Providing efficient and effective service to the public is an ongoing objective of Third Circuit Court. This goal has been particularly challenging in the Case Establishment Department of the Friend of the Court where paternity, family support and interstate cases are initiated and finalized. Due to limited staffing and a cumbersome statewide computer system, the time standards for case completion were not being met. This, in turn, was having a direct impact on incentive funding for Friend of the Court operations.

A work group chaired by Doris Ryans, Assistant Friend of the Court, was formed in February for the purpose of increasing work productivity and decreasing backlogs in this vital area. The team evaluated departmental processes and job classifications to determine where improvements could be made without increasing staff. Ultimately, Case Establishment's entire workflow from case initiation to entry of the final order was reengineered. Staff assignments and tasks were restructured so that all clerical staff would be cross-trained to become familiar with each step of the process. This allowed for a change in work methodology by having all clerical staff perform the assigned task for that day. Also, clerical staff began pre-screening files for demographic and other case related information, something previously done by domestic relations specialists while interviewing the parties. This change freed up more time for additional interviews to be conducted. In interstate cases, the mailing of pre-interview questionnaires to plaintiffs reduced interview time by over one-half.

The development of management tools and reports has also led to more effective docket scheduling and monitoring. For example, the daily interview schedule and show-up rates are reviewed each week to realistically adjust times, dates and number of interviews for future dockets. Other reports help track cases, such as those involving inventory time standards or case status (whether final, incomplete, or no next action). The performance of the service of process contractor is now closely monitored for compliance and timely return of documents.

In mid-October, a coordinated effort was implemented to eliminate the backlog of cases still pending beyond the six-month time standard. Business hours were extended to 6:00 p.m. for four days a week and three Saturdays were scheduled for additional overtime as well. By the end of the year, the number of cases pending beyond the time standard was reduced by 36%. The expectation is to eliminate this docket backlog in 2006. The restructuring has also drastically reduced the average time to schedule cases. In January 2005, the average time for family support cases to be scheduled for a hearing was eight months and paternity cases three months. Both family and paternity cases are now scheduled immediately.

2005 Highlights

April

Juvenile Docket Task Force

In April 2005, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly convened a task force with the goal of developing a new docket management system in order to meet the applicable time standards of child protective proceeding cases for the Family Division – Juvenile Section of the Court. Members of the task force included judges, court management, referees and representation from the Michigan Supreme Court, the County Clerk's Office, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and members of the private bar. Four committees were formed to identify barriers to the timely disposition of protective proceeding cases. The main recommendations that were approved included assigning a judge at the time the case is filed, creating blended dockets for referees that included both neglect and delinquency cases, requiring a scheduling order at the initiation of the case to keep within applicable time standards, enhancing the process of service procedures, and the creation of a Judicial Docket Review Committee in order to set goals and monitor compliance with case processing time standards. A pilot program to implement blended dockets for referees will begin in April 2006. At that time, three judge teams (each team consisting of one judge and two referees) will allocate 60% of their docket time to process neglect cases and 40% to process delinquency cases.

May

Law Day

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a proclamation designating May 1st as Law Day USA in 1958. The presidential proclamation stressed the importance of law as the vehicle for the preservation of liberty and individual rights. Now in its 47th year, Law Day serves not only as an opportunity for everyone to reflect on the nation's legal heritage and the role of law, but also to rededicate themselves to the ideals of equality and justice under the law.

The Third Circuit Court welcomed Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, various presenters from the legal community, and guests representing 18 Wayne County schools to its 19th Annual Law Day celebration.

The theme "The American Jury: We the People in Action" served as a reminder that trial by jury is one of the rights Americans fought for in seeking independence. The jury is the embodiment of democracy. Juries are small bodies of ordinary men and women entrusted with decisions that involve the liberties and property of defendants. Entrusting juries to make decisions confirms America's faith in the ability of people to make just and wise decisions, and that is the very definition of democracy.

2005 Highlights

July

ICLE Training

Attorneys practicing in the Family Division, both Juvenile and Domestic Sections, were required to attend mandatory training for the first time at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (I.C.L.E.), in order to remain on the Court's eligibility list for assignments. The training consisted of, but was not limited to, the following topics: Pre-Adjudication Process & What It Takes to Be Ready, The Adjudication Process-Being Prepared!, The Post-Dispositional Process: What You Need to Know, Ethical Responsibilities Representing Juveniles, Understanding the Agencies, Delinquency & Dependency Appeals-What Every Lawyer Should Know, Dealing Effectively with Felony Non-Support Assignments (Anatomy of the Process, What the Court Expects of Counsel, and Friend of the Court & Felony Non-Support Matters), Dealing Effectively with Personal Protection Order Show Cause Hearings, and Dealing Effectively with Show Cause Proceedings.

August

Frank Murphy Hall of Justice Security

The Third Circuit Court and the Wayne County Sheriff reached an agreement in August 2005 for the Sheriff to assume responsibility for entrance and perimeter security at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. Historically, the Sheriff has been responsible for courtroom security, while a private security firm was responsible for building security. The presence of uniformed law enforcement officers at the building entrance has enhanced both the perception and the reality of a secured courthouse facility for the judges, employees, jurors and visitors at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.



In an effort to further improve security, the Court also instituted a ban on cell phones at all of its locations in September 2005. The ban was imposed after several instances of witnesses and jurors being photographed with camera cell phones during court proceedings. Cell phones had also been used to text-message witnesses during criminal trials.

"Thanks to Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly, Deputy County Executive Azzam Elder, and Sheriff Warren Evans for working very hard to come to an agreement", stated Judge Sean Cox, Chair of the FMHJ Security Committee. "Their collaboration allowed the Wayne County Sheriffs to be primarily responsible for security at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. Since the Sheriff's Department has taken over security, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice has become a much safer place for the public and all of the individuals who work at our courthouse".

Juror Show Cause Hearings

"Show Cause" hearing letters were mailed to 132 county residents who failed to appear for jury duty after being summoned more than once during 2004-2005. Each person was instructed to personally appear before Chief Judge Pro Tem William J. Giovan on September 8, 2005.

Prior to the hearing date, several respondents appeared for jury duty. On the hearing date, 32 respondents appeared. The respondents who appeared were provided an opportunity to explain why they had repeatedly failed to report per the jury summons, and why they should not be punished for not appearing for jury service. All 32 respondents were issued new jury service dates. Additionally, 15 persons received monetary fines of up to \$100.00. Bench warrants were issued for 41 persons who did not appear for the scheduled hearing.

2005 Highlights

September

Adult Drug Court Graduation

The Third Circuit Adult Drug Court Program held its first annual graduation ceremony for 124 graduates on September 9, 2005, in the auditorium of the Wayne County Building. Wayne County Executive, Robert A. Ficano, delivered the keynote address. The graduation ceremony represented the conclusion of up to two years of intensive supervision and drug abstinence for the graduates. Current program participants were also invited to attend.

Successful graduation was the result of the collective efforts, support and assistance from several agencies, including:

- The City of Detroit Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
- Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA)
- The Michigan Department of Corrections – Probation Department
- Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office
- Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services
- Wayne County Sheriff’s Department – Case Differentiation Unit
- Wayne County Commission
- Wayne County Constituent Services
- Third Circuit Court

October

Wayne County Regional Justice Complex

County Executive Robert A. Ficano created the Wayne County Regional Justice Complex Commission in 2004, to study the feasibility of consolidating all local law enforcement and court activities into a single criminal justice campus. Co-chairs of the Commission were former Mayor Dennis W. Archer and former State Treasurer Douglas Roberts. The Commission included officials from both the public and the private sectors. Executive Court Administrator Bernard J. Kost represented the Third Circuit Court on the Commission. The Court provided the Commission with potential cost savings that could be realized if court operations currently located in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (CAYMC), Frank Murphy Hall of Justice (FMHJ), Lincoln Hall of Justice (LHJ), and the Penobscot Building were consolidated in a single court facility. In October 2005, the Commission issued its final report. The report identified significant short-term and long-term benefits of a Regional Justice Complex to the County. The Commission recommended that the County hire a Program Consultant to prepare needs studies and cost analyses, configuration of a designated site, and identification of the architectural and engineering services necessary to design and construct the Regional Justice Complex. In October 2005, the County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for these Program Consultant services.

2005 Highlights

October Continued

“Dads from Day One”

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court entered into a partnership with Hutzel Woman’s hospital in 2005, to facilitate a demonstration project called Dads From Day One. This project is a grant-funded collaborative effort with the Michigan Office of Child Support, the Friend of the Court, and the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement. The main objectives of the program are to:

- Increase the number of voluntary acknowledgment of paternity
- Improve parenting behavior by increasing the father’s involvement in a child’s life and provide a variety of social services
- Promote marriage of unwed parents where appropriate
- Decrease the number of paternity default cases.

The Dads From Day One program seeks to ensure that the necessary services are provided to both parents, beginning at childbirth, to enable them to better support the child. This is achieved by providing case management services to low-income families meeting the eligibility requirements. A case manager is assigned to the family and works closely with the family for approximately three to five months. The case manager conducts an assessment of the family, and makes referrals to service provider agencies (on behalf of the family) for GED classes, parenting classes, parent education, job readiness, marriage counseling, and employment skills. The case manager is also instrumental in assisting the family in processing the child support application and monitoring child support payments for three months. This monitoring consists of reminding the father when a payment is due and continuing to assist the family with barriers they may encounter. The Dads From Day One program is unique in that social services are provided at the hospital beginning shortly after childbirth.

November

Michigan Adoption Day

Established in 2003 as a state-sponsored event, National Adoption Day brings attention to those children in need of adoption, as well as honoring those families that have opened their hearts and homes to children through adoption.

The Third Judicial Circuit joined the nation in a collective effort to raise awareness of the 118,000 children in foster homes across the United States who are waiting to be adopted, 4,476 whom reside in Michigan.

The Court’s special guest, national author and spiritual leader Marianne Williamson, delivered the keynote address. Following the address and comments from other guest speakers, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly finalized fourteen adoptions.



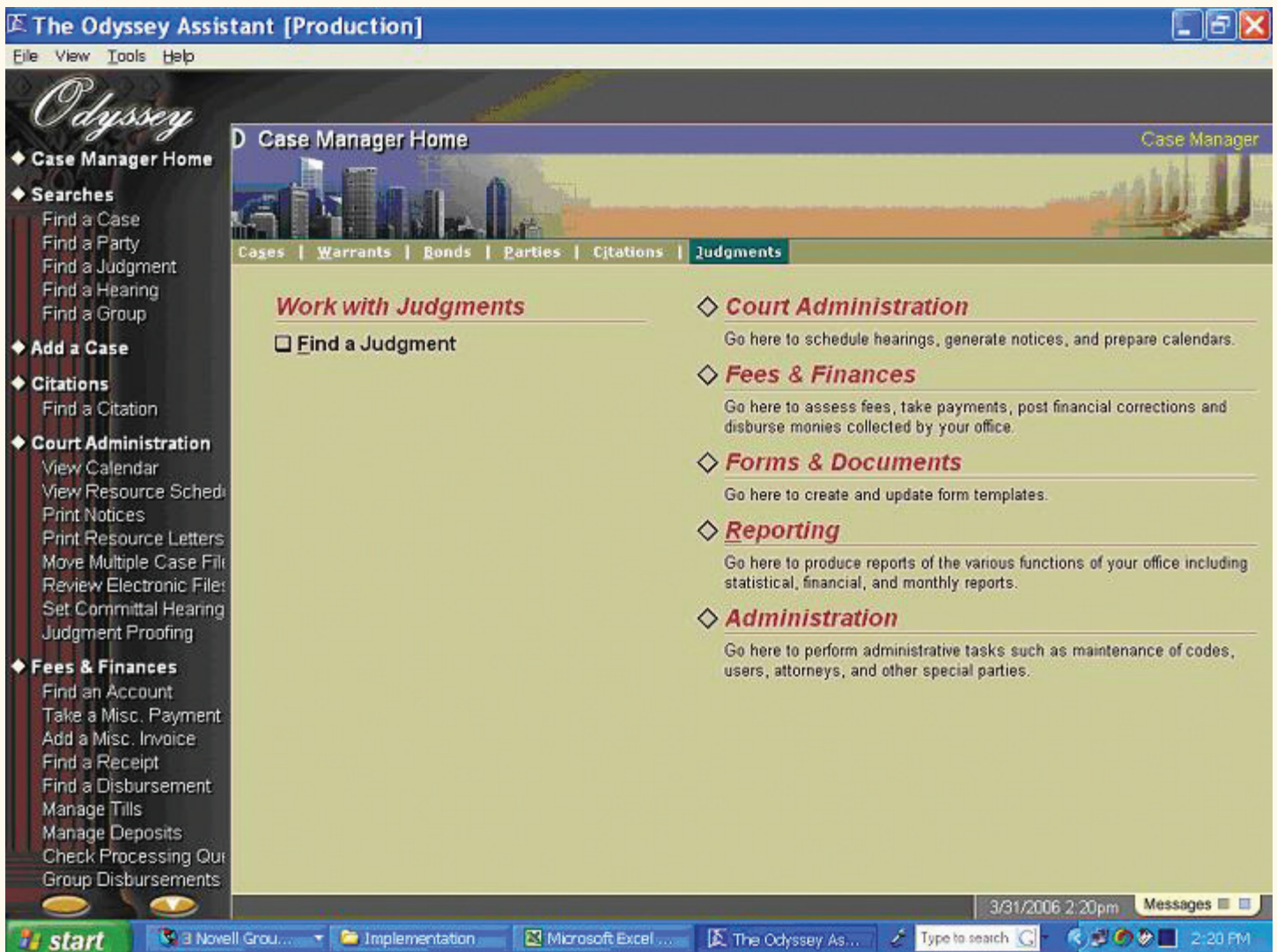
Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly and guest speaker Marianne Williamson (right) congratulate adoptive families.

2005 Highlights

December

New Case Management System Implementation

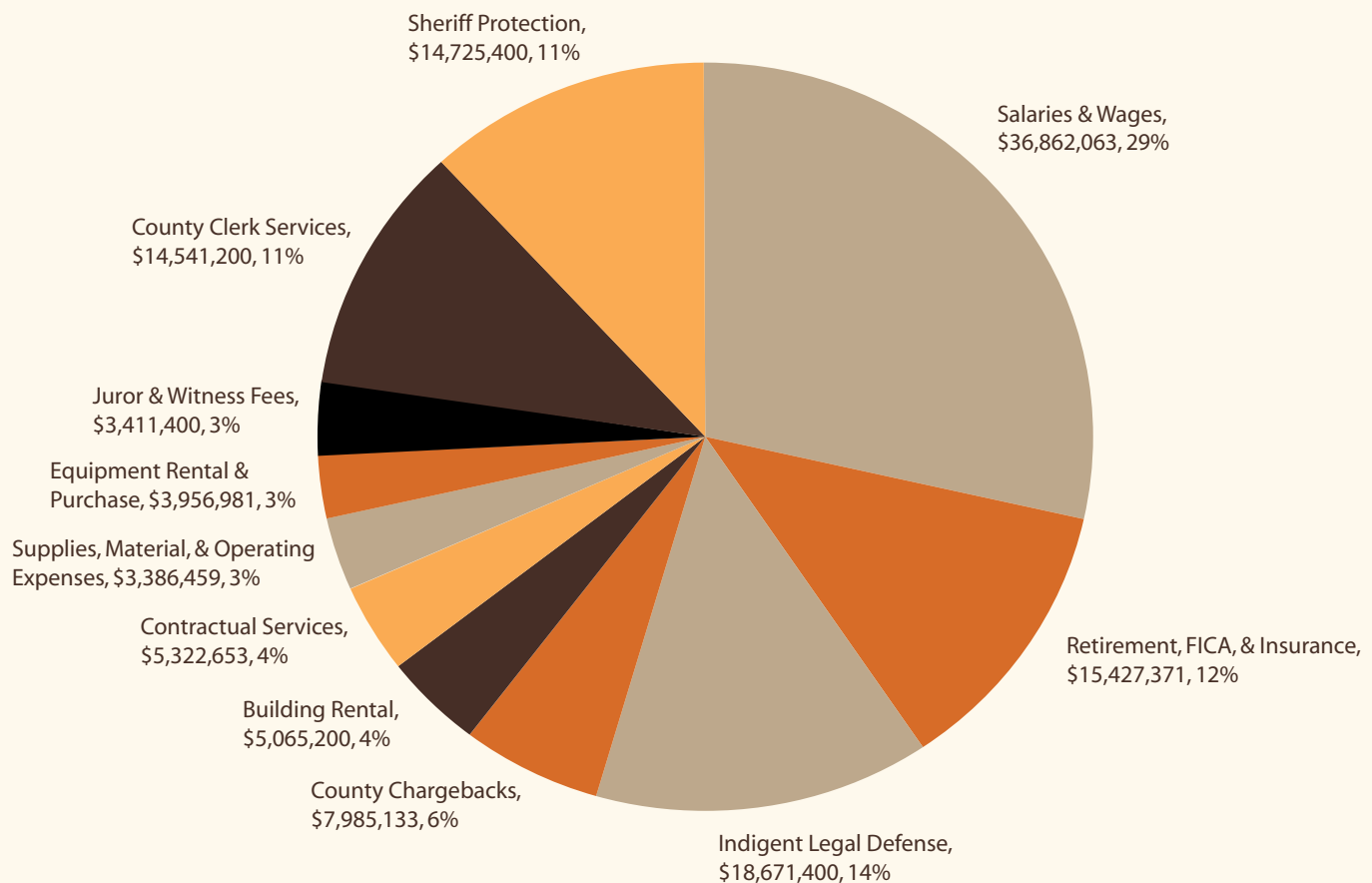
The pilot phase of a multi-year project to implement a new case management system was successfully completed in December. The pilot phase involved the migration of Family Division–Juvenile Section guardianship cases to the Tyler Technologies Odyssey Case Manager software application. Adoption cases are scheduled for implementation in April 2006, criminal cases in February 2007, civil cases in December 2007, domestic relations cases in February 2008, and juvenile cases in May 2008. The Court will be able to take advantage of state-of-the-art technology as each division is migrated to the new case management system.



Financial Information

The Third Circuit Court is the largest circuit court in Michigan with 61 judges and three operating divisions. The Third Circuit Court has jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and family matters arising in the County of Wayne. The National Center for State Courts has cited the Third Circuit Court as one of the model urban courts in the United States for caseflow management and the timely disposition of the Court's docket. Only 5% of the Court's pending cases were outside the Michigan Supreme Court case processing time guidelines in 2005.

FY 2005 Expenditures



Expenditures for Third Circuit Court operations totaled approximately \$129.4 million in FY 2005. Employee salaries and fringe benefits accounted for approximately \$52.3 million (40.4%); services from the Wayne County Sheriff, County Clerk, and other county charge-backs accounted for approximately \$37.3 million (28.8%); indigent attorney fees accounted for approximately \$18.7 million (14.4%); building rental approximately \$5.1 million (3.9%); jury and witness fees approximately \$3.4 million (2.6%); and, contractual services, equipment, and operating expenses totaled \$12.7 million (9.8%).

Caseload Trends

Between 2003 and 2005, the Court maintained approximately the same level of new case filings, while experiencing a significant decrease in the number of pending cases at year-end. While the overall level of new case filings remained the same, there were sizeable changes in the case type mix of new filings. For example, the number of new filings in the Civil Division continued their downward trend (-14%), as did the number of new filings for personal protection orders (-15%). Modest decreases in new case filings occurred in both the Criminal Division and Juvenile Section of the Family Division (- 4% and - 6% respectively). There were large fluctuations in the new case filings in the Domestic Relations Section of the Family Division between 2003 and 2005. New case filings increased by 42% in 2004 and decreased by 5% in 2005. These fluctuations were due primarily to the changing number of paternity and family support referrals from the State’s Department of Human Services.

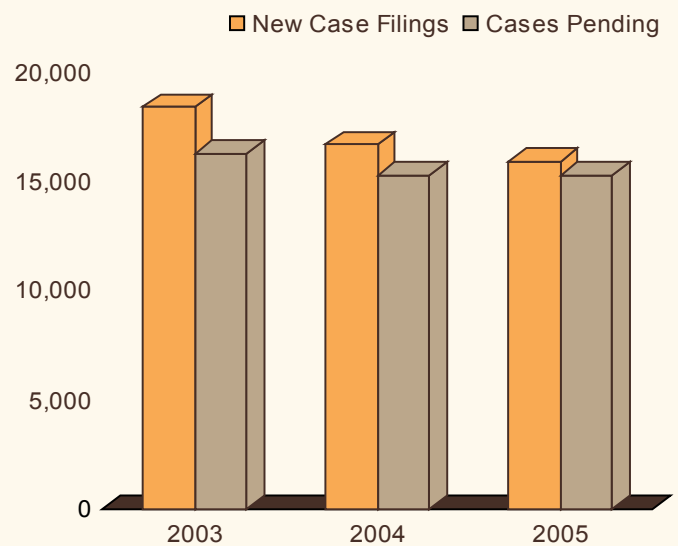
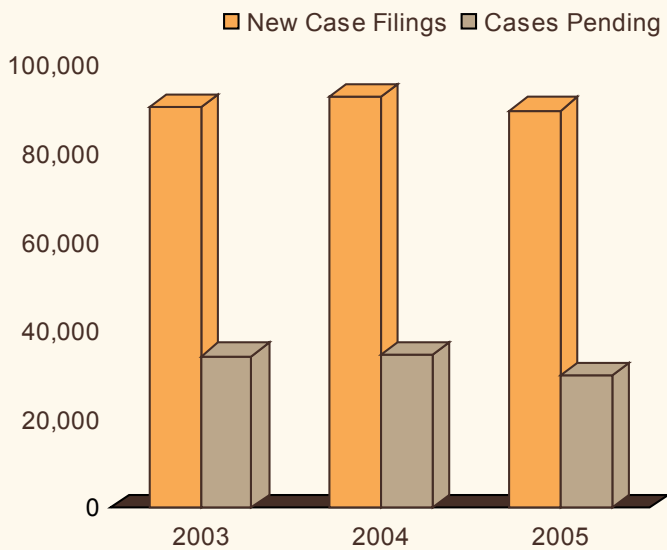
As noted earlier, the total number of pending cases decreased by 13% from 2003 to 2005. The number of pending cases decreased in the Civil Division, Criminal Division and Domestic Relations Section (-14%, -10% and -15% respectively), while the Juvenile Section pending caseload remained unchanged.

All Cases

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	90,673	92,783	89,869
Cases Pending	34,403	34,525	29,957

Civil Cases

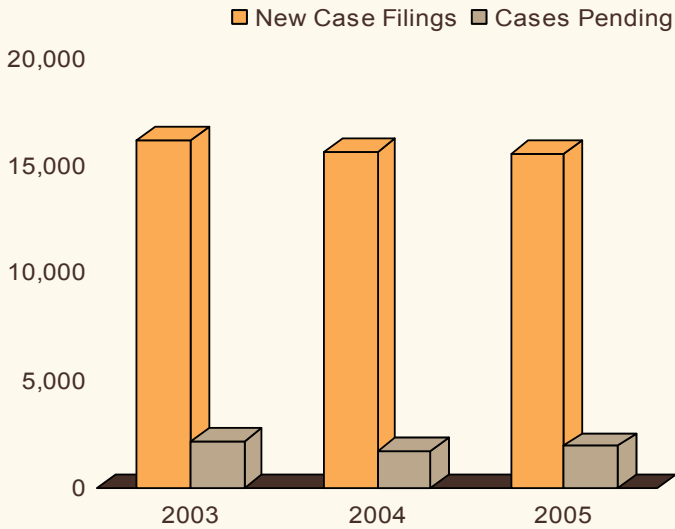
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	18,398	16,694	15,908
Cases Pending	16,245	15,261	13,835



Caseload Trends

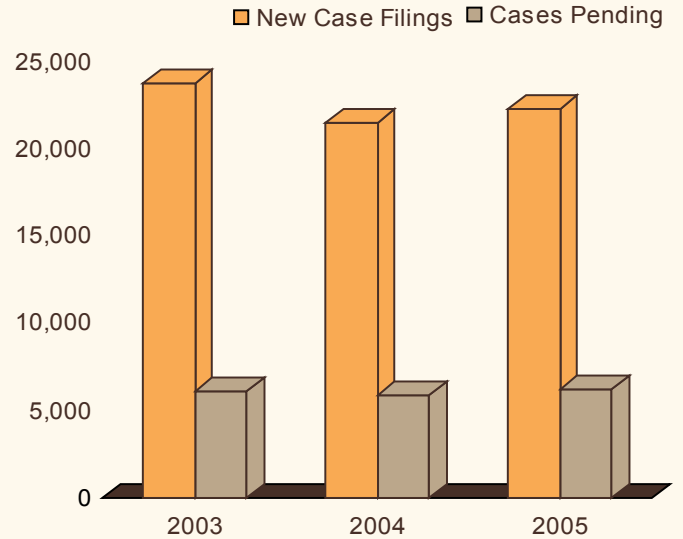
Criminal Cases

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	16,215	15,644	15,583
Cases Pending	2,146	1,722	1,935



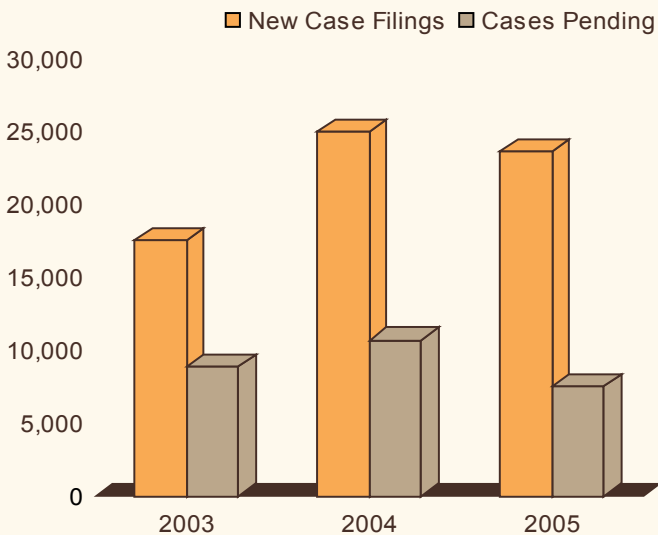
Family-Juvenile Cases

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	23,760	21,444	22,247
Cases Pending	6,162	5,882	6,208



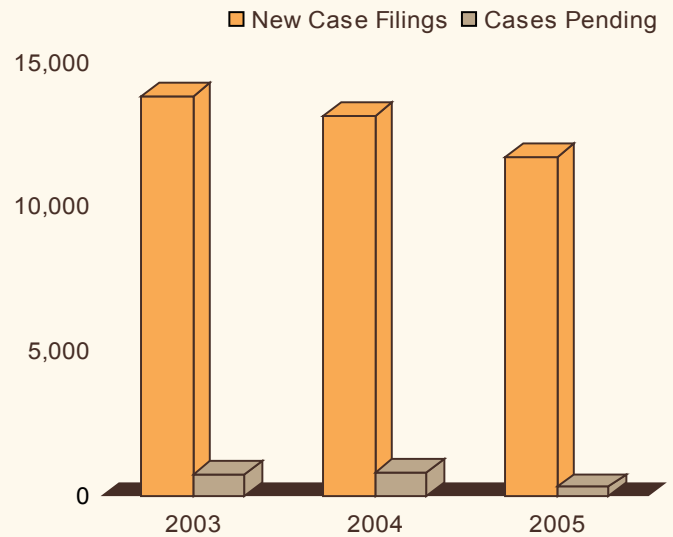
Family-Domestic Relations Cases

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	17,553	25,004	23,646
Cases Pending	8,906	10,704	7,556



Personal Protection Cases

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
New Filings	13,850	13,136	11,711
Cases Pending	755	829	320



Court Divisions and Statistics

Civil Division

Sixteen Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Civil Division in 2005. Matters that involve claims of more than \$25,000, which include medical malpractice, auto negligence, personal injury, contracts, employment discrimination, and receiverships are heard in the Civil Division. In addition, civil matters appealed from Wayne County district courts and administrative agencies are also handled by the Civil Division Judges. There were approximately 15,900 new case filings in the Civil Division in 2005, representing 32% of the statewide total.

General Civil and Tort Case 2005 Statistics

	General Civil	Auto Negligence	Other Civil Damage	Other Civil	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	5,124	4,088	5,032	186	79	57	14	14,580
New Filings	7,573	3,988	2,965	615	322	380	65	15,908
Re-Opened Cases	776	324	316	24	15	13	3	1,471
Total Caseload	13,473	8,400	8,313	825	416	450	82	31,959
Dispositions Resulting From:								
Jury Verdicts	27	39	51	0	0	0	0	117
Bench Verdicts	50	4	7	0	0	0	0	61
Order Entered	0	0	0	0	75	178	11	264
Guilty Pleas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	3,548	410	399	351	0	0	0	4,708
Transferred	199	138	171	1	9	1	2	521
Dismissed by Party	3,861	3,542	2,732	164	0	0	0	10,299
Dismissed by Court	816	225	139	74	240	187	45	1,726
Inactive Status	201	47	61	32	3	1	0	345
Local Diversion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Dispositions	56	2	2	0	0	0	0	60
Case Type Change	9	1	10	1	2	0	0	23
Total Dispositions	8,767	4,408	3,572	623	329	367	58	18,124
Ending Pending	4,706	3,992	4,741	202	87	83	24	13,835

Court Divisions and Statistics

Criminal Division

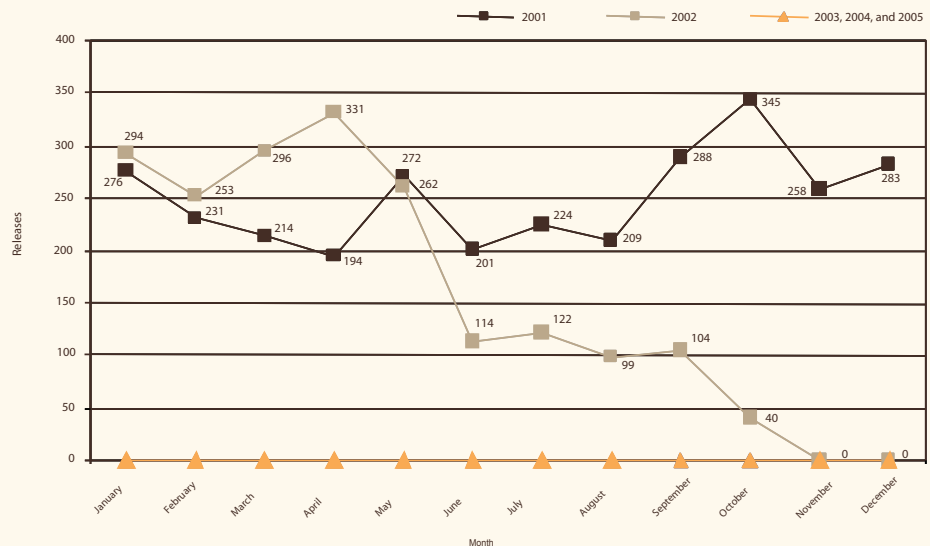
Twenty-seven Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Criminal Division in 2005. All felony cases that are bound over from the district courts in Wayne County, as well as district court criminal appeals, are handled by the Criminal Division Judges. More than 15,500 felony cases were bound over to the Criminal Division in 2005, representing 24.2% of the statewide total. To aid with the high volume of cases, some matters are eligible for an expedited docketing process where all proceedings except arraignment on the warrant are held at the Circuit Court level.

Criminal 2005 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	431	1,148	2	34	1,615
New Filings	1,360	14,099	0	124	15,583
Re-Opened Cases	119	1,508	1	0	1,628
Total Caseload	1,910	16,755	3	158	18,826
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	298	271	0	0	569
Bench Verdicts	134	462	0	0	596
Order Entered	0	0	0	77	77
Guilty Pleas	750	11,635	1	0	12,386
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred	2	187	0	0	189
Dismissed by Party	0	32	0	0	32
Dismissed by Court	151	1,090	0	37	1,278
Inactive Status	132	1,014	1	0	1,147
Local Diversion	0	617	0	0	617
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	1,467	15,308	2	114	16,891
Ending Pending	443	1,447	1	44	1,935

In November 2005, the Court celebrated the three year anniversary of the elimination of early pre-trial jail releases. The Wayne County Jail averaged 100 empty beds daily in 2005. This was achieved by the collective efforts of the Criminal Division Judges, Prosecutor's Office, and Defense Bar in adjudicating cases within the 91-day time standard.

Pre-Trial Felons Released Due to Jail Overcrowding



Court Divisions and Statistics

Family Division-Domestic Relations

Twelve Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2005. Cases handled include divorce, paternity, personal protection, emancipation of minors, name changes, parental waivers, and infectious disease matters. Each of these case types may include matters concerning custody, support, parenting time, property, and other issues. There were approximately 35,300 new case filings in the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2005, representing 26.9% of the statewide total.

Domestic Relations 2005 Statistics

	Divorce w/ Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	Family Support	UIFSA	Other Domestic	Total
Beginning Pending	2,021	1,398	3,412	2,736	1	425	9,993
New Filings	3,747	4,001	7,776	6,433	741	948	23,646
Re-Opened Cases	337	205	89	86	1	61	779
Total Caseload	6,105	5,604	11,277	9,255	743	1,434	34,418
Dispositions Resulting From:							
Bench Verdicts	86	32	0	0	0	1	119
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,935	3,204	4,465	4,560	0	501	15,665
Transferred	4	0	0	0	0	3	7
Post-Judgement Orders	0	0	0	0	740	0	740
Dismissed by Party	999	767	1,040	783	0	348	3,937
Dismissed by Court	202	177	3,253	2,509	0	180	6,321
Inactive Status	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Case Type Change	14	34	3	2	0	17	70
Total Dispositions	4,242	4,214	8,761	7,855	740	1,050	26,862
Ending Pending	1,863	1,390	2,516	1,400	3	384	7,556

Personal Protection 2005 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Total
Beginning Pending	375	272	647
New Filings	7,790	3,921	11,711
Re-Opened Cases	8	6	14
Total Caseload	8,173	4,199	12,372
Dispositions Resulting From:			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	102	30	132
Orders Issued after Hrg.	6,162	2,407	8,569
Transferred	1	0	1
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	2	8	10
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	1,036	1,160	2,196
Dismissed by Party	692	448	1,140
Order Issued after Denial	0	4	4
Case Type Change	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	7,995	4,057	12,052
Ending Pending	178	142	320

Court Divisions and Statistics

Family Division-Juvenile

Seven Circuit Court Judges (including two cross-assigned Probate Judges) were assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section in 2005. A staff of thirteen referees prepare written recommendations and findings of fact. Cases handled by this Division include juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, adoption, and guardianship. Probation officers conduct hearings on the informal dockets, which include traffic and ordinance violations, and consent matters. There were approximately 23,000 new case filings in the Family Division-Juvenile Section in 2005, representing 25.6% of the statewide total.

Juvenile 2005 Statistics

	Designated	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Personal Protection	Total
Beginning Pending	4	1,734	3,331	470	21	5,560
New Filings	32	9,049	10,310	1,542	431	21,364
Re-Opened Cases	2	847	0	0	0	849
Total Caseload	38	11,630	13,641	2,012	452	27,773
Dispositions Resulting From:						
Jury Verdicts	3	23	0	4	0	30
Bench Verdicts	2	1,274	1,423	744	0	3,443
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	12	3,024	258	465	0	3,759
Prosecutor Waiver	0	12	0	0	0	12
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	38	38
Dismissed by Court	2	1,441	2,649	0	0	4,092
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	179	0	179
Consent Calendar	0	423	0	0	0	423
Transferred	0	146	212	26	0	384
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	2,874	5,066	177	0	8,117
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	0	925	0	0	0	925
Not Charged	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cast Type Change	0	3	0	0	0	3
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	0	0	0	0	124	124
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued After Hrg.	0	0	0	0	264	264
Order Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total Dispositions	19	10,145	9,608	1,595	428	21,795
Ending Pending	19	1,485	4,033	417	24	5,978

Court Administration

There are several departments within Court Administration that provide support to more than one division of the Court. A brief description of each department is provided below.

Assigned Counsel Services

The Office of Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) is responsible for appointing counsel to represent indigent parties appearing before the Court. There are ACS offices in the Criminal (Frank Murphy Hall of Justice) and Family-Juvenile (Lincoln Hall of Justice) Divisions. The Case Processing Department in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center performs many of the ACS functions for the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section.

The Court partners with the Institute of Continuing Legal Education to provide the Court's annual training for attorneys practicing in the Family Division. The Detroit-Wayne County Criminal Advocacy Program develops and administers training for attorneys practicing in the Criminal Division.

Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Office consists of seven operating units:

The Cost Allocation and Audit Unit is responsible for the Court's fiduciary functions, overseeing not only fiscal operational processes and procedures, but also the allocation of shared administrative costs.

The General Fund Budget and Financial Accounting Unit provides budget monitoring and general accounting services related to the funding received from the County.

The Grant Budgets and Financial Accounting Unit provides financial services to courtwide grant programs to ensure program spending compliance including contract management, program budget monitoring and projections, preparation and review of financial reports, and expense billings.

The Grant Program Planning and Evaluation Unit provides assistance in program monitoring and compliance, pursuing grant funding opportunities, and grant proposal/application writing.

The Fiduciary Funds Accounting and Reconciliation Unit is responsible for the financial accounting of the Court bank accounts, including the fiduciary funds collected by the Friend of the Court (FOC). It also has oversight responsibility for the financial activities of the FOC.

The Payroll Reconciliation and Reporting Unit is responsible for maintaining and reconciling the Court's master payroll and fringe benefit accounting worksheets and records for all areas of the Court. This information is used for a variety of purposes, including grant billings, payments to the State Retirement System, and for general reporting.

The Accounts Payable Unit is responsible for processing payments for goods and services rendered for or on behalf of the Court.

Court Administration

Building and Facilities Management

The Department of Buildings and Facilities Management is responsible for the procurement of office supplies, office equipment, furniture, and printed material for all divisions of the Third Circuit Court. This department is also responsible for reconfiguration of workspaces, all mail functions including inter-office mail and metered mail, transportation, office equipment repair, and building services.

Case Processing

The Case Processing Department maintains an effective and efficient case management plan for all litigation filed in the Court. The department provides central support to the Bench through its development and distribution of statistical and management reports, oversight and maintenance of automated caseflow management programs, training of judicial staff members, and the scheduling and noticing of hearings. The department also serves as a primary resource to judges and staff on caseflow methods and procedures, as well as providing general information to litigants, attorneys, and the public on case management issues.

Court Reporting Services

The Court Reporting Services Department is responsible for coordinating court reporting coverage for all divisions of the Court. The department also processes all transcript requests in each division, schedules reporters and recorders for courtrooms, maintains archival storage of all records of court reporters and recorders, provides staff support to video courtrooms, and orders interpreters for proceedings. In addition, the department is responsible for assigning appellate attorneys and submitting transcripts for criminal appeals.

Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for the Court's sixty-one judges and 660 employees. The mission of the Office of Human Resources is to ensure that vacancies are filled in compliance with both federal and state laws and prevailing labor agreements. The department works to ensure that employee time records are correct; and that employees are paid accurately and in a timely manner; to administer employee benefits plans; to provide employee training and development; and to negotiate and administer labor agreements that allow the Court to function within a unionized environment. In 2005, Human Resources conducted 24 examinations. There were 76 vacant positions filled: 44 new hires, 23 promotions and 9 lateral transfers.

Information Technology Systems Bureau

The Information Technology Systems Bureau (ITSB) provides reliable, cost effective information systems solutions that meet the Court's evolving business needs. ITSB supports the Court's three legacy mainframe case management systems, the wide-area network connecting the Court's five locations, the Friend of the Court's document imaging system, and the office automation tools on the desktop PCs of all Court employees. The department provides the application and technical operating environment necessary to meet the operating and administrative business objectives of the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan. In order to achieve this, the department is organized into several operating entities. These entities include Network Services, Imaging and Document, Case Management Systems Development, and Operations.

Court Administration

Judicial Assistant

The Office of the Judicial Assistant serves as the official legal advisor to the Court and provides services across all Court divisions to members of the Bench and Court department managers. The office conducts research on legal issues and prepares proposed opinions, orders, and memoranda of law; gives informal oral consultations; drafts and/or reviews and advises on various vendor/service contracts; serves as liaison between the Court and "online legal research vendors"; coordinates notification to the Court's professional liability insurer of claims brought against the Court or members of the Bench; generates analyses of any newly released noteworthy appellate court decisions; provides a full range of law library services; maintains a legislative tracking service for current and archived sessions of legislation; provides case summaries of recent Michigan Supreme Court, published Court of Appeals opinions, and syllabi of U.S. Supreme Court decisions; edits and provides to the Bench a research topic index on a dedicated network drive.

Mediation Tribunal Association

The Mediation Tribunal Association (MTA) is a non-profit agency established in 1979 that provides alternative dispute resolution services for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and many district courts in the county of Wayne. MTA provides case evaluation and mediation services for civil cases under MCR 2.403, MCR 2.410 and MCR 2.411. Mediation of domestic relations cases is provided under MCR 3.216. In 2005, MTA evaluated approximately 10,000 cases for the combined courts, processing the largest volume of court-ordered cases in the state.

Case Evaluation Caseload

	2005	
Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	9,090	100%
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	699	8%
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	170	2%
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	399	4%
Cases Adjourned by the Court	2,672	29%
Total Cases Evaluated	5,150	57%

Case Evaluation Dispositions

	2005	
Total Cases Evaluated	5,150	100%
Cases Accepted	699	13%
Total Cases Rejected and Continuing to Disposition	4,463	87%

Court Departments and Programs

ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES

The Ancillary Court Services Department coordinates programs and policies involving outside agencies such as the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, Wayne County Clerk’s Office, Wayne County Sheriff’s Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, Attorney General’s Office, the State Court Administrator’s Office, as well as other circuit and district courts. The Director of Ancillary Court Services also oversees the following departments: Adult Drug Court, Court Collections, Jury Services, and Pretrial Services.

Adult Drug Court

The Adult Drug Court Program curtails drug and alcohol abuse, thereby reducing related criminal activity. The Adult Drug Court offers a sentencing alternative to many otherwise prison-bound, “non-violent”, addicted felons whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol and/or drug use. This comprehensive program provides intensive judicial supervision, frequent and random drug testing, graduated incentives and sanctions, along with access to needed community resources. The successful completion of the program results in the dismissal of the original charge, a reduced sentence, no jail or prison time, or a combination of the above.

Adult Drug Court 2005 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	200
New Admissions	111
Returning Participants	89
Graduating Participants	62
Removed Participants	77

Court Collections

The Collections Unit is responsible for the interaction between the Court and all other outside agencies regarding the collection of court-imposed costs, fines, fees, and restitution. This includes, but is not limited to developing and maintaining collection policies and procedures, coordinating and monitoring collection activities of all accounts assigned to outside agencies, and addressing and resolving complaints from payees and agencies.

Court Departments and Programs

ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES CONTINUED

Jury Services

The Jury Services Department provides full services for the Circuit and Probate Court in Wayne County, as well as prospective jury selection and qualification services for all district courts in Wayne County. Jury Services, along with Court Administration, develops processes and procedures to efficiently and effectively utilize the services of citizens called to serve on jury duty. The department's responsibilities include all aspects of qualifying, evaluating, selecting, summoning, and processing payroll for jurors. The Jury Services Department also reports and records the progress of each jury trial and provides other statistical information to Court Administration.

Jury Services 2005 Statistics

Total Questionnaires Mailed	370,582
Total Questionnaires Returned	186,176
Total Summons Mailed	95,146
Total Jury Panels Requested	2,456
Total Jurors Utilized	53,531
Total Jurors Ordered to Show Cause	132

Pretrial Services

The Pretrial Services Department serves as the pretrial release agency for Wayne County. This department provides pertinent information regarding the defendant's criminal, personal, and employment history to the judicial officer to enhance the Court's decision-making process. Michigan Court Rule 6.106 requires that bond decisions for pretrial release be made independent of political pressures and without discrimination based on race, sex, or economic status. The county and community benefit from the cost savings of decreased pretrial detention by identifying those defendants who can be safely released to the community pending disposal of felony court matters. Furthermore, the department provides the Court with preliminary Sentencing Guideline assessments to identify those defendants eligible for non-jail or non-prison sentences, and to defense counsel and the prosecutor as an aid to plea consideration.

Pretrial Services 2005 Statistics

	2005
Defendants Interviewed	10,083
Total Bond Recommendations Submitted	12,521
Written Recommendations	2,247
Oral Recommendations	10,274
Supervision (Yearly Averages)	
Total Defendants Monitored	9,318
Compliance Rate	85%
Capias Rate	11%
Sentencing Guidelines Submitted	13,360
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	93%
L.E.I.N. Queries	18,755

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court (FOC) is the largest FOC in Michigan, with over 250,000 active domestic relations cases. The FOC is an adjunct of the Circuit Court, which has as its primary responsibilities investigating, reporting, and making recommendations to the Court on matters of custody, parenting time, and support of minor children; and providing mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution.

Child Support Enforcement 2005 Fiscal Year Statistics

IV-D Cases Open with Support Orders Established

Total	230,939
Active Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	27,227
Non Active TANF	203,712
Total Support Ordered	\$440,884,330
Total Support Collected	\$332,628,886
Income Withholding	\$242,436,093
Federal Tax Intercepts	23,255,215
Unemployment Compensation	10,537,668
Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM)	5,079,009
Received from Other States	4,003,240
State Tax Intercepts	2,699,696
Receiverships	1,521
Worker's Compensation	1,112
All Other Payments	44,615,332
Total Support Disbursed	\$331,672,443
Custodial Parents	\$279,544,876
State of Michigan-TANF	37,304,636
State of Michigan-Medicaid	8,561,213
Out-of-State Agencies	2,404,271
Other Recipients	3,857,447

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Case Establishment

The Case Establishment Department is responsible for the initiation of paternity, family support and interstate cases, which result in the establishment of paternity and child support orders. The department is responsible for a variety of tasks including creating documents; recording and docketing events; scheduling all interviews, hearings, and genetic testing appointments; interviewing litigants to assist in determining child support obligations; and appearing at hearings before the Referee and Judge. The department completes its tasks by dividing the responsibilities into three areas, including clerical support, domestic relations, and the Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education

The Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Department is comprised of the Family Evaluation, Mediation, and Counseling (FEMC) Unit and the Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU). The FEMC Unit provides court-ordered evaluations and mediation for families where the parents are in conflict regarding custody and/or parenting time. FEMC also occasionally provides supervised parenting time and courtesy home assessments for other jurisdictions. The DRU serves the increasing need for mediation services in domestic relations. It provides a variety of mediation services to the Friend of the Court and to domestic relations judges. DRU also coordinates both court-funded and grant-funded family education programs.

Financial Services Unit

The Financial Services Unit (FSU) processes payments into the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) and manages money in the suspense accounts. The Financial Services staff reviews why the money is not being disbursed and then takes the necessary action to ensure the appropriate disbursement. The FSU conducts research and assists the various agencies in resolving financial issues.

Interstate Communications Unit

The Interstate Communications Unit handles all post-judgment requests from interstate and intrastate IV-D agencies. These agencies include Interstate Central Registry, Internal Regional Offices, and Interstate Foreign Offices. This unit responds to inquiries concerning case status, certified payment records, arrearage affidavits, interstate payment processing issues, tax intercept credits received by out-of-state agencies, payment redirects, and case closure reviews.

Investigation and Modification Review

The Investigation and Modification Review Department issues recommendations to the Court regarding custody, parenting time and child support on pending divorce and child custody matters. It also issues recommendations on all post-judgment child support matters.

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Legal Department

The Legal Department is responsible for handling all internal legal matters for the Friend of the Court (FOC). The Legal Department is presently comprised of four units. The Litigation Unit includes a team of FOC attorneys and clerical staff responsible for handling issues including workers' compensation claims, litigating court-ordered liens on large sums, employer contempt actions, bankruptcy issues, estates, and property matters. The attorneys are also assigned to judicial dockets in processing show cause proceedings and handling all *de novo* reviews arising out of FOC referee hearings.

The Bench Warrant Unit handles all bench warrant matters, including contempt hearings held before the Court, processing bond orders, and resolution of bench warrants issued on individuals held as a result of failure to appear at show cause hearings.

The Court Services Unit is responsible for processing all Financial Institution Data Match cases where a payer's bank account is held for payment on arrearages. The Court Services Unit also handles transfer cases and assists the Court in motions regarding statute of limitations and cancellation of arrearages.

The Case Establishment Unit has Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys (SAPA) who are responsible for processing those cases that require a hearing before a Referee regarding establishment of a paternity or support case. SAPAs are also responsible for handling *de novo* requests before the Court, and *pro per* motions to set aside Orders of Filiation and Support.

Ombudsman Office

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court has an Ombudsman Unit that is responsible for expediting and resolving complex child support issues that may occur as a result of a system or operations error. The office also responds to and resolves all grievances filed by the public with the State Court Administrative Office.

Order Entry Department

The Order Entry Department is responsible for the entry of all domestic relations court orders into the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES). These include temporary orders, judgments, modified orders, and third party orders.

Referee Department

The Friend of the Court (FOC) Referee Department includes eight referees who hear domestic relations disputes and make recommendations to the judges. The referee dockets consist of *in-pro per* motions, private bar motions, FOC child support modifications, medical show causes, parenting time motions and show causes, license suspensions, and interstate support actions. Referees also hold evidentiary hearings on disputed matters as well as consent hearings when parties agree on a domestic relations or support matters.

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Special Projects Department

The Special Projects Department supports the Friend of the Court operations by serving as the liaison with state partner agencies: Michigan State Disbursement Unit, the Department of Human Services Office of Child Support, and other child support offices within the state. The department is responsible for adding and deleting staff access to the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, transferring cases from other counties, and ensuring that all staff are assigned the appropriate roles within the system. Conversion to a statewide system has led to data clean-up related projects at the local level. This department is the entry point for all data clean-up projects.

Support Enforcement Department

The Support Enforcement Department's primary focus is to enforce child support obligations. The department monitors and maintains major enforcement remedies with the intention of increasing collections and reimbursements for the Court. Enforcement programs managed by this department are Tax Intercept, License Suspension, Passport Denial, Credit Reporting, Auditing, Interstate Child Support Enforcement, and Medical Support Enforcement. The Medical Enforcement staff ensures that obligors maintain court-ordered health insurance coverage and pay uninsured medical expenses. The Enforcement staff also assists with the Felony Non-Support programs run by the Attorney General and the Wayne County Prosecutor.

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Juvenile Administration manages the administrative functions of the Family Division - Juvenile Section. The Director of Juvenile Administration oversees the following Court Departments: Adoptions, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Intake, Juvenile Services and Referees.

Adoptions

The Adoptions Unit is responsible for processing all adoptions for Wayne County residents. The unit helps ensure permanently bonded families through the timely termination of parental rights, formal placement of children into approved homes, adoption finalization, and the delivery of efficient post-adoption services. The unit also processes voluntary releases of parental rights stemming from neglect, abuse, or other cases for the purpose of adoption.

Adoptions 2005 Statistics

	2005
Adoption Petitions Filed	883
Dispositions	940
Releases	149
Consents	186
Reports: Non-Identifying & Identifying Reports	30

Court Departments and Programs

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

Clinic for Child Study

The Clinic for Child Study provides families and youth under the jurisdiction of the Family Division-Juvenile Section with timely comprehensive assessments, effective treatment, early intervention, mediation, and client services management. It also provides the Court with evaluations, recommendations, reports, and expert witness testimony. The Clinic for Child Study has six service delivery units, which are funded by the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. These six units are Family Assessment Unit, Child/Adolescent Assessment Unit, Juvenile Social Assessment Unit, Clinic Treatment Unit, Intensive Probation Unit, and Status Offenders Unit.

Clinic for Child Study 2005 Statistics

Cases Referred to Clinic for Assessment	2005
Family Assessment for Protective Hearings	850
Child/Adolescent Assessment	1,116
Guardianships	46
Adoption Studies	0
Total	2,012
Early Intervention (Walk-in Parent Complaints)	1,508
Client Services Management (Intensive Probation)	760
Clinic Treatment Unit	537
Scheduled Treatment Sessions	3,675

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) for the Third Circuit Court plays a valuable role in child protective proceedings and services children in out-of-home placement in Wayne County. The program provides trained community volunteers who are appointed by the jurists. Their responsibilities include gathering information on the children by reviewing records, interviewing parents, talking to teachers, neighbors, and most importantly the children. The volunteers also appear in court to make recommendations regarding what is in the best interest of the children.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program 2005 Statistics

Program Activity	2005
Cases Assigned	72
Cases Closed	32
Active Cases	48
Volunteers Trained	32
Children Served	203
New Children	119
Children Whose Case Closed	73

Court Departments and Programs

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

Juvenile Intake

The Intake Unit is responsible for the initial processing of all delinquency and child protective proceedings matters that come to the attention of the Court. This includes the screening and processing of both admissions to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility and complaints regarding juveniles who are not in custody. The unit is responsible for conducting Consent Calendar hearings and Traffic and Ordinance hearings, and diverting cases to various agencies within Wayne County. The unit is also responsible for monitoring Adult Designated cases and Plea Under Advisement cases. Regarding Child Protective Proceedings matters, the Intake Unit processes and maintains requests for Orders to Take Into Protective Custody, police custody matters, and AWOLP cases involving children who may be truant from their foster care placements.

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	4,421
Police/Agency Calls for Placement Authorization	534
Interviews with DHS Workers	
Original Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	577
Supplemental Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	77
Original Permanent Custody Petitions	116
Family Interviews	
Consent Probation	16
Consent Dockets Held	104
Traffic/Ordinance Dockets Held	70

Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court is formally named the Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotics Dependency Program (STAND). The program utilizes therapeutic jurisprudence and case management to develop, coordinate, and monitor a juvenile's treatment. STAND uses a system of graduated incentives and sanctions to encourage progress toward compliance, negative drug screens, school attendance or employment, and no additional delinquency petitions. When a juvenile in the program successfully completes all requirements and graduates, the Court dismisses the original charge.

Juvenile Drug Court 2005 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	84
New Admissions	51
Returning Participants	0
Graduating Participants	14
Removed Participants	23

Court Managers/Acknowledgments

EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Bernard J. Kost

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT MANAGERS

DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR
Kelli D. Moore

DIRECTOR
ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES
Sidney McBride

DIRECTOR
ASSIGNED COUNSEL SERVICES
Leonard Branka

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Debra D. McGinnis

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JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION
Johanna O'Grady-Ward

CHIEF REFEREE
Thomas Doetsch

DIRECTOR
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES
Theresa Plotzke

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Therese M. Lisowski

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CLINIC FOR CHILD STUDY
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RETENTION
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DIRECTOR
LEGAL SERVICES
Camille Dennis

SENIOR REFEREE
Nancy Donohue

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the Court's Managers and Supervisors, I would like to thank the following employees for their contribution to the annual report: Michelle A. Esterbrook, Kay Farrell, Kathleen Fleming-Clark, Frances Fogel-Gibson, Cheri J. Holland, Michael R. Navin, Alisa Shannon, Roland Smith and Mary Kay Wimsatt.

I would also like to thank Elizabeth Shumate for the graphics, design and format of the report. Finally, a special thanks to Kelli Moore for assuming responsibility for the content, editing and layout of the report. I truly appreciate her hard work and dedication to the Court.

Bernard J. Kost
Executive Court Administrator



Coleman A. Young Municipal Center



Frank Murphy Hall of Justice



Lincoln Hall of Justice



Penobscot Building

