



# Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

## ARTICLE VI JUDICIAL BRANCH

### American Law Reports

Constitutional restrictions on nonattorney acting as judge in criminal proceeding, 71 ALR3d 569.  
Inherent power of court to compel appropriation or expenditure of funds for judicial purposes, 59 ALR3d 569.  
Power of state or state court to decline jurisdiction of action under Federal Employers' Liability Act, 43 ALR2d 774.  
Validity and construction of constitutional or statutory provision making legal knowledge or experience a condition of eligibility for judicial office, 71 ALR3d 498.

### Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Black judges and black judicial experience. Michigan Constitution of 1963. Melvin Hood, 10 Wayne L.Rev. 309 (1964).  
George W. Crockett, Jr., 19 Wayne L.Rev. 61 (1972).  
Courts, can they be saved? Wade Van Valkenburg, 50 Mich.St.B.J. 75 (1971).  
Judicial reorganization in Michigan. James A. Gazzell, 54 Mich.St.B.J. 113 (1975).  
Mediation: New dimension in decision-making. George E. Bowles, 51 Mich.St.B.J. 176 (1972).

### Library References

Mich Civ Jur, Constitutional Law §§ 48, 49, 56, 58, 60, 61, 61.5, 62, 63, 64, 65, 21A, 275, 284.  
Mich Civ Jur, Counties §§ 56, 59.  
Mich Civ Jur, Elections §§ 25, 59.  
Mich Civ Jur, Municipal Corporations § 116.  
Mich Civ Jur, Officers and Public Employees §§ 7, 8, 38, 43, 46, 48, 127, 132, 135, 134, 139.  
Mich Civ Jur, Statutes §§ 10, 21, 26.  
Mich Civ Jur, Taxes § 330.

**§ 1. Judicial power in court of justice; divisions**  
Sec. 1. The judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may, by its vote of the members elected to and serving in each division.

Convention Commentaries  
revision of Sec. 1, Article VII, of  
the basic changes in the existing  
a "court of justice", in  
several divisions  
administration.

# 2006 Annual Report

## Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

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

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

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

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 5, 2007

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

Dear Judge Kelly:

I am pleased to transmit the 2006 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 2006. I would like to highlight two important accomplishments in 2006:

- the blending of neglect and delinquency dockets for referees assigned to the Family Division – Juvenile Section, and
- the successful implementation of a new attorney assignment system for juvenile representation in the Family Division – Juvenile Section.

These accomplishments represent major reforms in the way the Court processes juvenile cases and will ultimately assist us in meeting the Michigan Supreme Court's case processing time guidelines.

I would also like to note that last year we implemented a courtwide Employee of the Month program. This program gives Court management the opportunity to recognize employee excellence in the workplace.

In closing, I believe 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, flowing style.

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  
Prentis Edwards  
John H. Gillis, Jr.  
Kathleen Macdonald  
Warfield Moore, Jr.

John A. Murphy  
Michael F. Sapala  
Cynthia D. Stephens  
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  
Helen E. Brown  
James A. Callahan  
James R. Chylinski  
Maggie W. Drake

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  
Deborah A. Thomas  
Mary M. Waterstone  
Carole F. Youngblood

### **FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Lita M. Popke, Presiding

Deborah Ross Adams  
Megan Maher Brennan  
Bill Callahan  
Charlene M. Elder

Richard B. Halloran, Jr.  
Amy P. Hathaway  
Muriel D. Hughes  
Arthur J. Lombard

Kathleen M. McCarthy  
Maria L. Oxholm  
Richard M. Skutt  
Jeanne Stempien

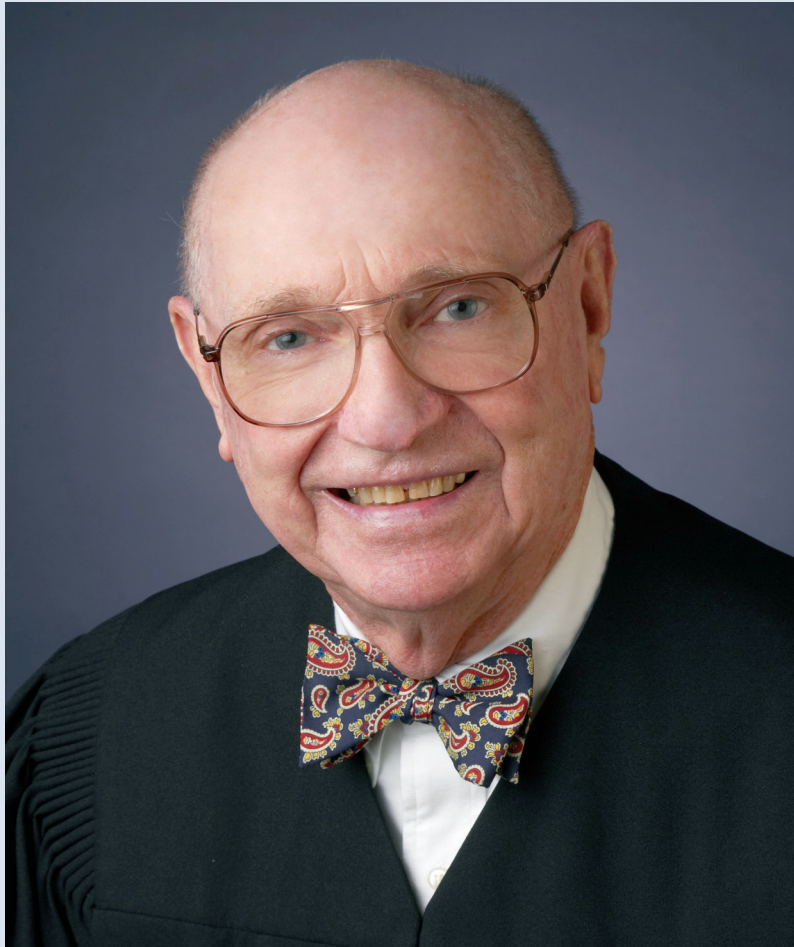
### **FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE**

Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly, Presiding

Christopher D. Dingell  
Sheila Ann Gibson  
Leslie Kim Smith  
Virgil C. Smith, Jr.

Judges of Probate  
Judy A. Hartsfield  
James E. Lacey

# A Special Dedication to the Honorable William Leo Cahalan 1932 - 2007



Judge William Leo Cahalan, who served on the Third Judicial Circuit Bench for 31 years, lost his life to lung disease following open-heart surgery on January 31, 2007 at the age of 75. He is survived by his wife, Valina, and his children Leo, David, Carol, and Beth.

Born and raised in Detroit, Judge Cahalan spent three years as an assistant judge advocate while serving in the Army. He practiced private law and served in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office before being elected judge in 1974. After Judge Cahalan's initial election to the Third Judicial Circuit, he was re-elected four times, serving in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions.

Judge Cahalan forged a reputation for helping felons overcome their addictions to drugs and alcohol during his three decades on the bench. Judge Cahalan was strongly committed to the idea that those who commit criminal acts because they are addicted to drugs or alcohol should be treated for those addictions outside the criminal justice system. Third Circuit's Drug Court today is the work of Judge Cahalan's hands; he was instrumental in creating and turning it into a very successful program.

After retiring from the bench in 2006, Judge Cahalan served as Director of Drug and Problem Solving Courts.

Judge Cahalan's passion and commitment to helping others will be greatly missed, as his Drug Court legacy continues.

## Judges Leaving the Bench in 2006

### William Leo Cahalan

Judge William Leo Cahalan retired on February 1, 2006 after 31 years as a member of the Bench. Judge Cahalan was originally elected to the Third Judicial Circuit in November 1974. Judge Cahalan, after his initial election, was re-elected by voters four times. Judge Cahalan served in the Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions during his tenure with the Court. Judge Cahalan was appointed by Chief Judge Kelly as Director of Drug and Problem Solving Courts for the Third Circuit Court.

### Sean F. Cox

Judge Sean F. Cox resigned on June 15, 2006 after 10 years as a member of the Bench. Governor John Engler appointed Judge Cox to the Third Circuit bench on March 25, 1996. During Judge Cox's tenure he served in the Criminal Division. Judge Cox was a member of the Court's Executive Committee and served as Chair of the Security Committee for Frank Murphy Hall of Justice. Judge Cox was appointed by President George W. Bush to the United States Eastern District Court of Michigan.

## Judges Leaving the Bench in 2006

### Deborah Ross Adams

Judge Deborah Ross Adams was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in April 2006. Judge Adams was assigned to the Domestic Relations Section of the Family Division. Prior to this appointment, Judge Adams served as a magistrate and then judge of the 36th District Court. Judge Adams also served as Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit Law Department. Judge Adams graduated from the University of Michigan (B.A. 1975) and Georgetown University Law Center (J.D. 1979).

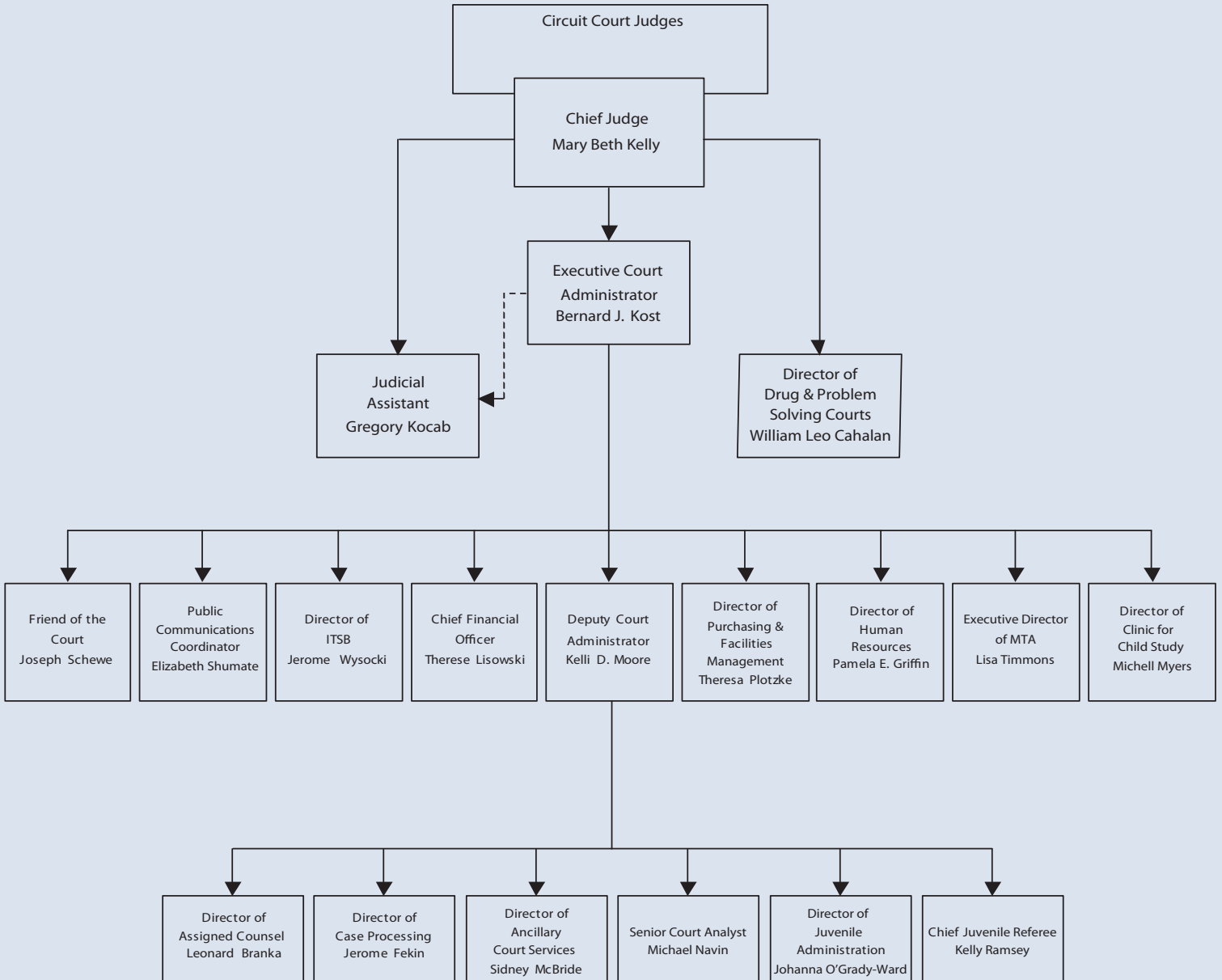
### Muriel D. Hughes

Muriel D. Hughes was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in December 2006. Judge Hughes was assigned to the Domestic Relations Section of the Family Division. Prior to this appointment, Judge Hughes was a partner and litigation attorney with Hughes & Hughes P.C. for 22 years specializing in probate, real estate, and general litigation. Judge Hughes was appointed by Attorney General Frank Kelly, as a Wayne County Public Administrator and served in this capacity from 1987 to 2006. While in law school, Judge Hughes served as a law clerk for Judge Thomas Brennan of the Third Circuit Court. In addition to being a mediator for the Mediation Tribunal Association, Judge Hughes served as a case evaluator for the Wayne County Probate Court. Judge Hughes graduated from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame (B.A. 1980) and the University of Detroit Law School (J.D. 1983).



# Organization Chart

## THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN ORGANIZATION CHART



# 2006 Employee Recognition

## Employee of the Month

This year the Court established a new employee recognition program. Judged by committee members Winston Brewster, Zenell Brown, Denise Fitzhugh, Elena Kerasiotis, John O'Neill, Valencia Robinson, Sonja Steis, and John Tchorz, the 2006 awards went to:

### Curtis Sims

Curtis Sims was the May Employee of the Month. Mr. Sims is a court clerk IV assigned to the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 16 years. Nominated by two of his co-workers, Mr. Sims received this award for going the extra mile and performing his job with a caring and compassionate attitude.

### Robert Geiger

Robert Geiger was the June Employee of the Month. Mr. Geiger is a psychologist in the Clinic for Child Study and has been an employee for 8 years. Nominated by his supervisor, Mr. Geiger received this award for his high performance, boosting morale, and volunteering to take on additional cases.

### Kimberly Archie

Kimberly Archie was the July Employee of the Month. Ms. Archie is a domestic relations specialist in the Medical Unit of the Information Services Department of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 18 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Archie received this award for going the extra mile, boosting morale, being customer service oriented, and assisting in developing new work processing methods.



From left to right: Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly, John Breen, A'Llana Jones, Robert Geiger, Rachel Cook, Christopher Magusin, Kimberly Archie, Curtis Sims, and Executive Court Administrator Bernard J. Kost.

# 2006 Employee Recognition

## Employee of the Month Continued

### A'Llana Jones

A'Llana Jones was the August Employee of the Month. Ms. Jones is a supervising probation officer in the Status Offender Unit, Intensive Court Services, Clinic for Child Study and has been an employee for 10 years. Nominated by her staff, Ms. Jones received this award for her positive attitude, sensitivity towards customers, ability to diffuse difficult situations, and inspiring, motivating, and empowering her employees.

### Rachel Cook

Rachel Cook was the October Employee of the Month. Ms. Cook is a pre-trial services specialist in the Criminal Division and has been an employee for 10 years. Nominated by her co-worker, Ms. Cook received this award for her excellent customer service, diligence and hard work, and willingness to help wherever there is a need.

### Christopher Magusin

Christopher Magusin was the November Employee of the Month. Mr. Magusin is a programmer/analyst in the Information Technology Systems Bureau Department and has been an employee for 7 years. Nominated by the Deputy Court Administrator, Mr. Magusin received this award for his extreme professionalism, problem solving skills, and "I can get it done no matter what" attitude.

### John Breen

John Breen was the December Employee of the Month. Mr. Breen is a senior domestic relations specialist working in the Information Services Department-Support Enforcement Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 8 years. Nominated by his supervisor, Mr. Breen received this award for his consistent high level of performance, exceptional work, innovative ideas, professional attitude, and patience.

# 2006 Highlights

## April

### Odyssey Case Management System Implementation

In April, the Court successfully completed the second phase of a multi-year project to implement Tyler Technologies Odyssey Case Management software application. Adoption cases initiated in the Family Division-Juvenile Section became the second case type to be processed using the new case management system. The Court had successfully migrated guardianship cases in December 2005.

In addition to the migration of adoption cases to the new system, staff from the Court, Prosecutor's Office, County Clerk's Office, and Tyler Technologies conducted a fit assessment for criminal cases in January 2006. The fit

assessment identified necessary business process changes and application modifications required to properly process criminal cases in Odyssey. Modifications to the system will permit electronic data transfers on cases bound-over from the district courts and the automatic payment of attorney fees. Enhancements to the new system will be completed by May 2007 and the Criminal Division implementation is scheduled for October 1, 2007.

Staff from the Court, County Clerk's Office and Tyler Technologies also conducted a fit assessment for civil cases in December 2006. Enhancements required to process civil cases are scheduled for completion in September 2007, and the Civil Division implementation is planned for February 2008.



### Family Division-Juvenile Section Blended Dockets

A pilot program to implement blended case assignments (child protective proceedings and delinquency petitions) in the Family Division - Juvenile Section was initiated in April for six referee dockets. The implementation of blended dockets was based on the recommendations from the 2005 Juvenile Docket Task Force, which included the creation of judicial teams consisting of a judge and two referees to promote equalization of case assignments and a more effective case management process. At case filing, child protective proceedings and delinquency petitions are now assigned to a judge and scheduled before one of the team referees.

The blended docket program requires each referee to devote 60% of their time to hearing child protective proceedings and 40% of their time to hearing delinquency matters. On days when one referee has neglect cases scheduled, the other team referee has scheduled delinquency actions. Because of the higher percentage of docket time allocated to processing child protective proceedings, both team referees schedule neglect cases on Wednesdays. Prior to this time, referee dockets consisted of either all neglect or all delinquency cases. The Court completed the implementation of blended dockets for the remaining juvenile referees in September.

# 2006 Highlights

## May

### Friend of the Court Passes Self-Assessment Audit

The Friend of the Court completed the Self-Assessment Audit which is a federally mandated annual audit that measures eight criteria for actions taken in FY 2005: case closure, disbursements, expedited processes, establishment, interstate, review and adjustment, support enforcement, and medical enforcement.

In total, 4,000 cases were examined; 500 were randomly drawn for each of the eight criteria. Based on caseload size, data samples were drawn statewide and from the nine largest counties in the state. Case reviewers then determined if each case met federal and state regulations.

The Michigan Office of Child Support officials presented the results—the Friend of the Court met the federal benchmark for six of the eight required program compliance criteria. The State presenters were openly impressed with the excellent results.

## Law Day

This year the Court celebrated its 20th Annual Law Day. Presiding Judge Edward Ewell served as the emcee of the event. Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly delivered the opening remarks. The keynote address was given by attorney Jeffrey G. Collins of Foley & Lardner, LLP. Commander Kevin Losen and Alan Bulifant of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, engaged students in an interactive demonstration. Awards were presented to the essay contest winners who were selected by Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly and Presiding Judge Edward Ewell. This year's program was attended by 10 Wayne County schools. After trial observation, students had an informal lunch with the judges where they were encouraged to ask questions about the day's activities.

The Court's theme "Search and Seizure: What are your Rights at Home and at School" taught students about the Fourth Amendment. The Supreme Court maintains that schools, in order to keep an atmosphere of learning, must ease restrictions on search by school officials. The standard is reasonableness under all circumstances, which means that there must be reason to believe a search would turn up evidence, the procedure must be related to the search for evidence (and not for disciplinary purposes), and the search is not intrusive nor discriminatory on the basis of age, sex, or race. The speakers taught students about their individual freedoms and society's needs.



# 2006 Highlights

## August

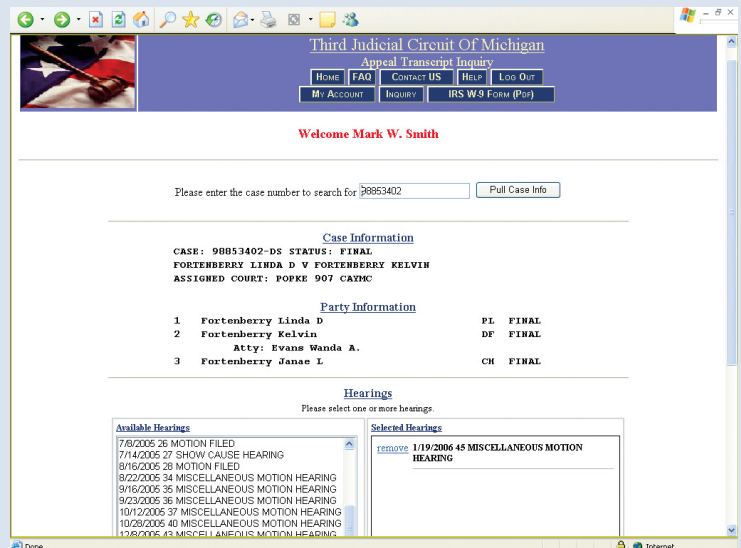
### On-line Transcript Ordering

The Third Judicial Circuit Appeal Transcript Web Site was implemented in August. This technology enables attorneys to order transcripts on-line for civil and domestic proceedings.

Attorneys create their own login to access the application based on their bar number and name. Entering a specific case number will display all of the proceedings for that case and allow the attorney to select which transcripts are needed.

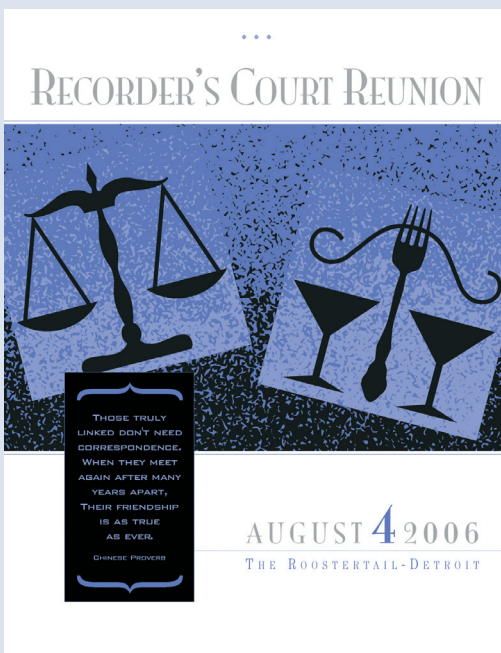
Displaying this case information on-line along with the ordering criteria saves a significant amount of time and reduces costs as well.

The Court also implemented a system to provide criminal appeal transcripts to the Prosecutor's Office in an electronic format. The system significantly reduces the time and materials necessary to produce appeal transcripts.



### Recorder's Court Reunion

Former Recorder's Court judges and employees held a reunion at the Roostertail on August 4, 2006. A committee consisting primarily of former Recorder's Court and current Third Circuit employees, including George Chatman, Lenore Davis, Mike Donikian, Marsha Pickens, Debbie Powell, Theresa Plotzke, John Stovall, and Ann V. Winters planned the event. The program was emceed by Elliott Hall and featured remarks from the Honorable Damon J. Keith, U.S. Court of Appeals Judge. The reunion attendees specifically recognized the unique contributions to the Court by former Recorder's Court Chief Judges Samuel C. Gardner, Dalton A. Roberson, Vera Massey Jones (current Third Circuit judge), along with former Recorder's Court Administrator George L. Gish. While Recorder's Court merged with the Third Circuit Court on October 1, 1997, many of the case processing practices adopted by Recorder's Court remain in effect today. A total of 21 current Third Circuit judges are former Recorder's Court judges and approximately 60 Third Circuit employees are former Recorder's Court employees.



# 2006 Highlights

## September

### For Our Children

The Friend of the Court (FOC) launched a new community-based project—"For Our Children". This consortium brings together representatives from a cross-section of community agencies, community groups, government entities, and the media. The purpose of "For Our Children" is to enhance community awareness of the operation and programs at the FOC, and to better understand and meet the needs of the public that we serve daily.

With over 225,000 open cases at the Friend of the Court, community leaders, representatives, and spokespersons are often faced with questions or comments relating to FOC issues. This consortium affords the chance to share these concerns with the FOC.

Goals of "For Our Children" include:

- Improve the public service image of the FOC.
- Discuss child support, custody, parenting time, and other related issues that affect families.
- Create enhanced public service programs to increase public awareness and efficiency—such as public forums, seminars, workshops, public service announcements, and advertisements.
- Identify and establish FOC resource centers at various community locations.
- Disseminate FOC related legislation.

The "For Our Children" project offers the FOC the opportunity to increase public knowledge of its programs, create a visible presence in the community, and improve public relations and delivery of services.



# 2006 Highlights

## October

### Assigned Counsel Changes in Family Division-Juvenile Section

In October, the Court implemented a new method for appointing attorneys in the Family Division-Juvenile Section. The Court published a request for proposal and received bids from law firms and attorney groups to provide legal representation for all juveniles appearing in a referee's hearing room in both neglect and delinquency cases. This new method ensures that each referee will work with the same attorneys in addressing the issues of juveniles in his or her hearing room. The contractual attorneys will also provide representation for any juvenile whose case is brought before the judge who is teamed with their assigned referee. The private bar will continue to provide legal representation for parents and guardians in neglect cases. This assignment system was designed to aid the Court's goal of achieving the Michigan Supreme Court's case processing time guidelines and provide more consistent legal representation in the Juvenile Section.

### National Center for State Courts Jury Study

The Court requested that a study be conducted due to growing concerns that the countywide jury pool did not reflect the demographic characteristics of Wayne County. The National Center for State Courts, who completed this study, confirmed the Court's belief that there was an under-representation of African-Americans in the jury pool. The study found that the under-representation of African-Americans could be attributed to several factors:

- An outdated and inaccurate source list provided by the Secretary of State.
- Individuals failing to respond to the jury qualification questionnaires were automatically transferred into a "suppression file", which also included those who were deceased, over 70 years of age, convicted felons, and those serving during the previous year. As a result, individuals failing to respond were removed from further consideration for jury service.
- A lower percentage of residents in predominately African-American zip codes actually complete the jury qualification process, due primarily to their failure to return the questionnaires (compared to other county zip codes).

The National Center for State Courts provided eight short, mid, and long-term recommendations to the Court and the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO). Key recommendations included:

- The Court should expand the current practice of over-sampling juror questionnaire mailings in predominately African-American Detroit zip codes to include other predominately African-American zip codes throughout all of Wayne County.
- The Court should discontinue the practice of automatically placing individuals who failed to respond to the qualification questionnaire into the "suppression file".
- The Court should re-implement a follow-up mailing to those who fail to complete and return the initial juror questionnaire.
- SCAO should review and evaluate a means to supplement the source list with other lists that are updated more frequently (i.e. state income tax filers, unemployment compensation recipients, welfare recipients, registered voters, etc.).



# 2006 Highlights

## November

### Michigan Adoption Day

Established in 2003, Michigan joined the nation in a statewide celebration of National Adoption Day. This year local families adopted 235 children in 36 courtrooms throughout the State; making Michigan the nation's top state for the number of locations where adoption celebrations were held.

Currently, 6,200 children in Michigan are waiting to be adopted by permanent, loving families. National Adoption Day raises the public's awareness of the ever-growing need for adoptive homes for these children.

The Court was privileged to again have, for the second consecutive year, best selling author Marianne Williamson, who delivered the keynote address. Following the address and comments from other guest speakers, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly finalized seventeen adoptions.

Michele Redeye, Assistant to Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly, and her husband Martin participated in this year's ceremony by formalizing the adoption of their daughter Chloe. This 6 year old had written an extremely touching letter for the special occasion. She explained that David Kirk's book "Little Miss Spider" was her favorite, because it states, "For finding your mother, there's one certain test. You must look for the creature who loves you the best." Chloe articulated one of the main purposes of Adoption Day; it's fulfilling these children's dreams of finding that loving home.

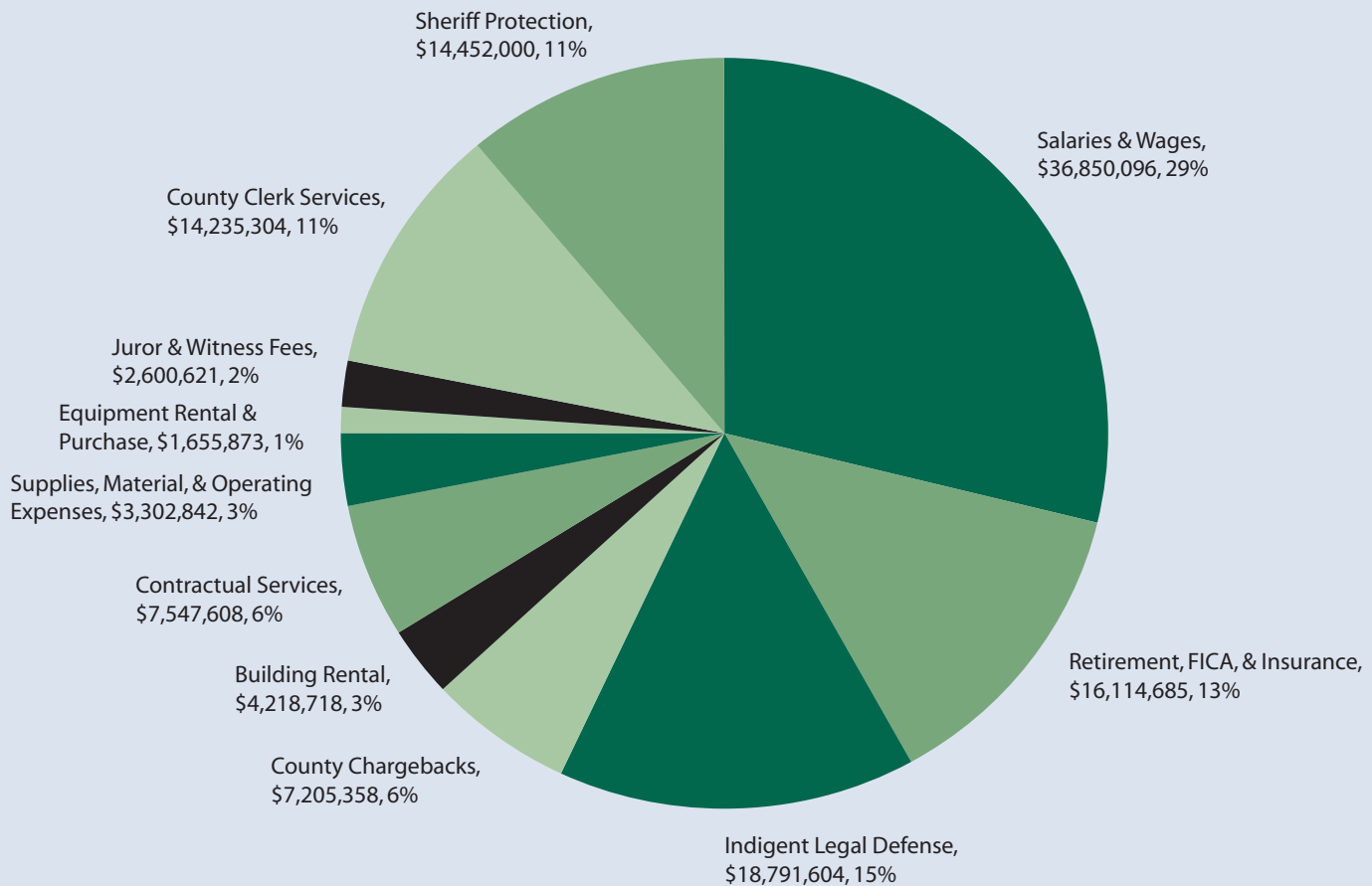


Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly congratulates Chloe Redeye on her adoption.

# 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 caseload management and the timely disposition of the Court's docket. Only 7% of the Court's pending cases were outside the Michigan Supreme Court case processing time guidelines in 2006.

## FY 2006 Expenditures



Expenditures for Third Circuit Court operations totaled approximately \$127.0 million in FY 2006. Employee salaries and fringe benefits accounted for approximately \$53.0 million (41.7%); services from the Wayne County Sheriff, County Clerk, and other county charge-backs accounted for approximately \$35.6 million (28.3%); indigent attorney fees accounted for approximately \$18.8 million (14.8%); building rental approximately \$4.2 million (3.3%); jury and witness fees approximately \$2.6 million (2.0%); and, contractual services, equipment, and operating expenses totaled \$12.5 million (9.9%).

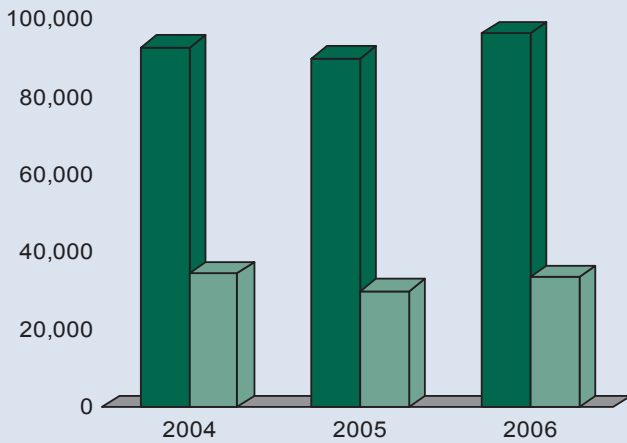
# Caseload Trends

Between 2005 and 2006, the Court experienced a 7% increase in new filings as well as a 12% increase in the number of pending cases. The Civil Division continued a downward trend in new filings, experiencing an 8% decrease in the number of new cases filed, and a 12% decrease in the number of cases pending between 2004 and 2006. Also during that same period, the Family Division-Juvenile Section experienced an 18% increase in the number of new filings and a 44% increase in pending cases. The Criminal Division experienced a significant increase of 12% in new filings as well as a 22% increase in pending cases between 2004 and 2006. The Family Division-Domestic Relations Section experienced large fluctuations in filings and pending cases between 2004 and 2006. The division experienced a 7% decrease in new filings and a 32% decrease in pending cases between 2004 and 2005. In 2006, the division experienced a 5% increase in new filings and a 21% increase in pending cases.

### All Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	92,783	89,869	96,270
Pending	34,525	29,957	33,592

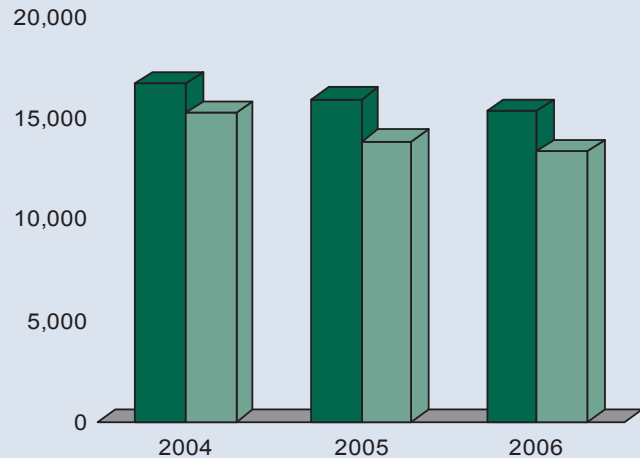
■ New Case Filings ■ Cases Pending



### Civil Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	16,694	15,908	15,329
Pending	15,261	13,835	13,357

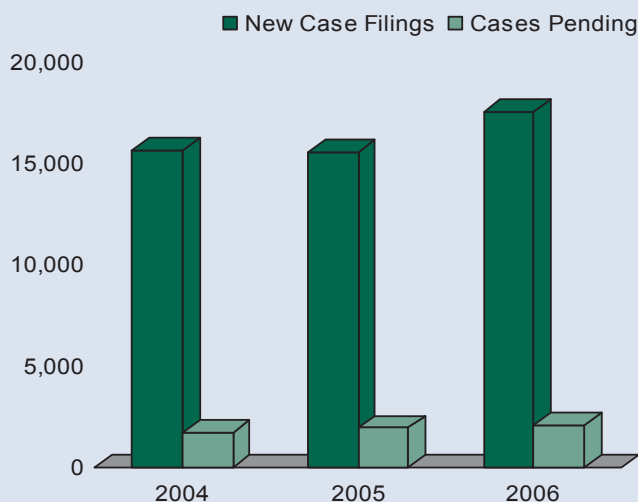
■ New Case Filings ■ Cases Pending



# Caseload Trends

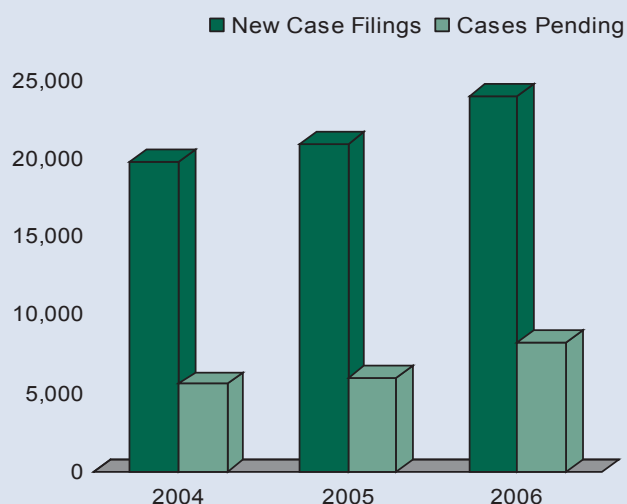
## Criminal Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	15,644	15,583	17,552
Pending	1,722	1,935	2,101



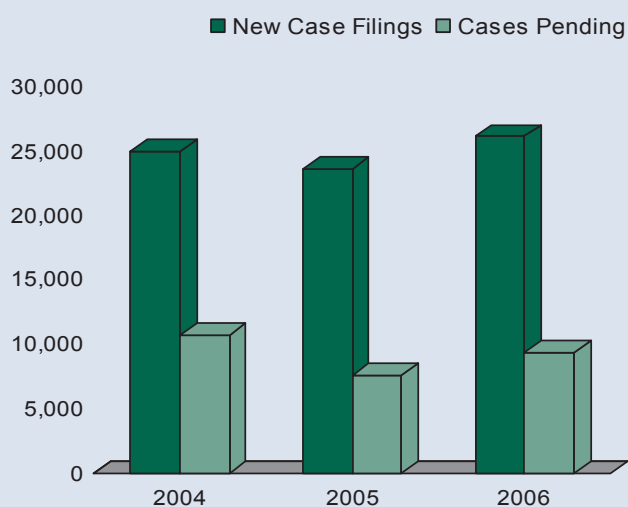
## Family-Juvenile Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	19,832	20,933	23,962
Pending	5,597	5,954	8,288



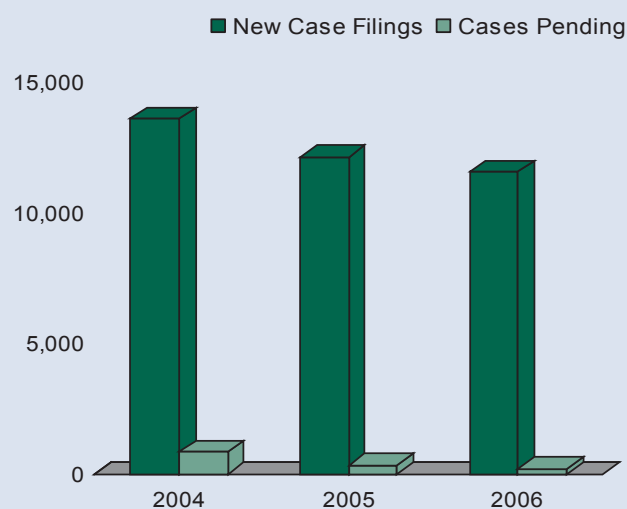
## Family-Domestic Relations Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	25,004	23,646	26,144
Pending	10,704	7,556	9,332



## Personal Protection Cases

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
New Filings	13,609	12,142	11,572
Pending	844	344	211



# Court Divisions and Statistics

## Civil Division

Sixteen Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Civil Division in 2006. 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 from administrative agencies are also handled by the Civil Division Judges. There were more than 15,300 new case filings in the Civil Division in 2006, representing 30.8% of the statewide total.

### General Civil and Tort Case 2006 Statistics

	General Civil	Auto Negligence	Other Civil Damage	Other Civil	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	4,704	3,993	4,733	202	87	48	27	13,794
New Filings	7,263	3,810	2,744	761	314	367	70	15,329
Re-Opened Cases	559	277	218	16	17	10	3	1,100
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>12,526</b>	<b>8,080</b>	<b>7,695</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30,223</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:								
Jury Verdicts	37	46	44	0	0	0	0	127
Bench Verdicts	32	2	5	0	0	0	0	39
Order Entered	0	0	0	0	79	136	12	227
Guilty Pleas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	3,218	375	324	383	0	0	0	4,300
Transferred	178	155	134	0	7	4	2	480
Dismissed by Party	3,362	3,365	2,490	271	0	0	0	9,488
Dismissed by Court	985	269	137	56	215	174	61	1,897
Inactive Status	137	25	52	23	5	0	0	242
Other Dispositions	42	3	2	0	0	0	0	47
Case Type Change	7	4	5	1	1	1	0	19
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>7,998</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>16,866</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>3,836</b>	<b>4,502</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13,357</b>

# Court Divisions and Statistics

## Criminal Division

Twenty-seven Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Criminal Division in 2006. All felony cases that are bound over from the district courts in Wayne County as well as district court criminal appeals are heard in the Criminal Division. There were more than 17,500 new case filings in the Criminal Division in 2006, representing 26.6% 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 warrant are held at the Circuit Court level.

### Criminal 2006 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	417	1,384	0	42	1,843
New Filings	1,612	15,839	0	101	17,552
Re-Opened Cases	134	1,353	0	0	1,487
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>18,576</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>20,882</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	293	310	0	0	603
Bench Verdicts	146	620	0	0	766
Order Entered	0	0	0	71	71
Guilty Pleas	882	13,586	0	0	14,468
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred	12	218	0	0	230
Dismissed by Party	0	23	0	0	23
Dismissed by Court	200	1,158	0	25	1,383
Inactive Status	150	1,087	0	0	1,237
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>17,002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>18,781</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2,101</b>

# Court Divisions and Statistics

## Family Division-Domestic Relations

Twelve Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2006. 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 more than 37,300 new case filings in the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2006, representing 28% of the statewide total.

### Domestic Relations 2006 Statistics

	Divorce w/ Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	Family Support	UIFSA	Other Domestic	Total
Beginning Pending	1,863	1,390	2,516	1,400	0	392	7,561
New Filings	3,743	3,979	9,694	7,074	719	935	26,144
Re-Opened Cases	365	181	45	32	0	52	675
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>5,971</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>12,255</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>34,380</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:							
Bench Verdicts	67	31	0	0	0	1	99
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,660	3,086	4,531	4,042	0	488	14,807
Transferred	2	0	1	1	0	2	6
Post-Judgement Orders	0	0	0	0	719	0	719
Dismissed by Party	977	810	1,406	605	0	240	4,038
Dismissed by Court	214	205	2,714	1,932	0	277	5,342
Inactive Status	3	1	3	0	0	0	7
Case Type Change	7	15	0	0	0	8	30
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>3,930</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>6,580</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>25,048</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>9,332</b>

### Personal Protection 2006 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
Beginning Pending	76	56	11	143
New Filings	7,380	3,788	404	11,572
Re-Opened Cases	3	9	0	12
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>3,853</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>11,727</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	5,067	1,736	129	6,932
Orders Issued after Hrg.	714	415	60	1,189
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	591	817	64	1,472
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	519	532	80	1,131
Dismissed by Party	466	259	66	791
Order Issued after Denial	0	1	0	1
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>11,516</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>211</b>

# 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 2006. A staff of fourteen referees prepare written recommendations and findings of fact. Cases handled in 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 more than 26,000 new case filings in the Family Division-Juvenile Section in 2006, representing 28.3% of the statewide total.

### Juvenile 2006 Statistics

	Designated	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Beginning Pending	6	1,367	4,074	392	5,839
New Filings	35	10,018	12,461	1,448	23,962
Re-Opened Cases	6	877	0	0	883
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>12,262</b>	<b>16,535</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>30,684</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	2	9	0	3	14
Bench Verdicts	6	1,203	1,318	604	3,131
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	21	3,018	322	453	3,814
Prosecutor Waiver	0	28	0	0	28
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Court	6	1,380	3,241	0	4,627
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	123	123
Consent Calendar	0	639	0	0	639
Transferred	0	139	2	30	171
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	2,633	6,157	168	8,958
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	0	878	0	0	878
Not Charged	0	0	0	0	0
Cast Type Change	0	13	0	0	13
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued After Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Order Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>11,040</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>22,396</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,322</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>8,288</b>



# Court Divisions and Statistics

## Family Division-Juvenile Continued

### Adoptions 2006 Statistics

	Petitions for Adoption
Beginning Pending	238
New Filings	837
Re-Opened Cases	0
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>1,075</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:	
Finalized	835
Withdrawn by Petitioner	10
Dismissed by Court	46
Transferred	0
Rescission Granted	0
Rescission Denied/Wdrn.	0
Case Type Change	11
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>902</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>173</b>

### Miscellaneous Family 2006 Statistics

	Other Family	Ancillary	Total
Beginning Pending	97	6	103
New Filings	764	110	874
Re-Opened Cases	0	0	0
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>977</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hrg.	637	0	637
Transferred	1	0	1
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	29	0	29
Petition Denied	0	7	7
Dismissed by Party	78	0	78
Petition Withdrawn/Dis.	0	4	4
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>130</b>

# 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 providing 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 receiving assignments in the Family Division. The Detroit-Wayne County Criminal Advocacy Program develops and administers training for attorneys receiving appointments in the Criminal Division.

## Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Office consists of eight 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 Financial Services Unit (FSU) processes child support 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.

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

## Case Processing

The Case Processing Department maintains an effective 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.

## 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 2006, Human Resources conducted 12 examinations. There were 65 vacant positions filled: 39 new hires, 13 promotions and 13 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 new Odyssey case management system, 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 Court. 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.

## Purchasing and Facilities Management

The Department of Purchasing 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.

# 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

	2006	
Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	7,993	100%
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	702	9%
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	180	2%
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	354	4%
Cases Adjourned by the Court	2,318	29%
<b>Total Cases Evaluated</b>	<b>4,482</b>	<b>56%</b>

### Case Evaluation Dispositions

	2006	
Total Cases Evaluated	4,482	100%
Cases Accepted	575	13%
<b>Total Cases Rejected and Continuing to Disposition</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>87%</b>

# 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: Court Collections, Court Reporting Services, Jury Services, and Pretrial Services.

### 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 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.

### 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 2006 Statistics

Total Questionnaires Mailed	346,773
Total Questionnaires Returned	183,780
Total Summons Mailed	90,195
<b>Total Jury Panels Requested</b>	<b>2,769</b>
Total Jurors Serving in Pool	53,368

# Court Departments and Programs

## ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES CONTINUED

### 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 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 to aid in plea considerations.

#### Pretrial Services 2006 Statistics

	2006
Defendants Interviewed	13,083
Total Bond Recommendations Submitted	14,426
Written Recommendations	2,634
Oral Recommendations	11,792
Supervision (Yearly Averages)	
Total Defendants Monitored	5,549
Cumulative Total of Def. Monitored	13,259
Compliance Rate	90%
Capias Rate	8%
Sentencing Guidelines Submitted	14,330
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	88%
L.E.I.N. Queries	16,971

# Court Departments and Programs

## DRUG AND PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

The Drug and Problem Solving Courts are responsible for administering the existing Drug Court operations in the Criminal Division and the Juvenile Section of the Family Division insuring compliance with federal guidelines. This department collaborates extensively with the State Court Administrative Office, Prosecutor, Defense Bar, Department of Corrections, Department of County Community Mental Health, Department of Children and Family Services, schools, and other state and local partners.

### 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 2006 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	223
New Admissions	119
Returning Participants	139
<b>Graduating Participants</b>	<b>29</b>
Removed Participants	53

### 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 2006 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	92
New Admissions	45
Returning Participants	0
<b>Graduating Participants</b>	<b>10</b>
Removed Participants	38

# Court Departments and Programs

## FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court (FOC) is the largest FOC in Michigan, with over 225,000 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 2006 Fiscal Year Statistics

#### IV-D Cases Open with Support Orders Established

<b>Total</b>	<b>227,706</b>
Active Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	26,678
Non Active TANF	201,028
<b>Total Support Ordered</b>	<b>\$426,173,652</b>
<b>Total Support Collected</b>	<b>\$344,483,306</b>
Income Withholding	\$249,964,158
Federal Tax Intercepts	22,787,241
Unemployment Compensation	9,815,052
Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM)	5,963,717
Received from Other States	3,750,091
State Tax Intercepts	3,662,969
Receiverships/Worker's Compensation	4,097,472
All Other Payments	44,442,606
<b>Total Support Disbursed</b>	<b>\$340,051,189</b>
Custodial Parents	\$283,304,036
State of Michigan-TANF	40,607,084
State of Michigan-Medicaid	9,203,753
Out-of-State Agencies	3,740,127
Other Recipients	3,196,189



# 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.

### 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.

### Information Services Department

The Information Services Department is comprised of three distinct units: Support Enforcement, Medical Enforcement, and Public Service. Support Enforcement is responsible for the various child support collection remedies such as Tax Intercept, License Suspension, Passport Denial, Credit Reporting, Auditing, and Interstate Child Support Enforcement. The Enforcement staff also assists with the Felony Non-Support programs run by the Attorney General and the Wayne County Prosecutor. The Medical Enforcement unit works with parents, employers, and insurance companies to ensure that obligors provide and maintain court-ordered health care coverage. The Public Service unit provides customer service, resolving on average 2,000 in person inquiries each month.

# Court Departments and Programs

## FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

### 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.

### 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, and Juvenile Services.

### 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.

# Court Departments and Programs

## 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 judge or referee. 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 2006 Statistics

Program Activity	2006
Cases Assigned	61
Cases Closed	41
Active Cases	42
Volunteers Trained	7
<b>Children Served</b>	<b>170</b>
New Children	52
Children Whose Case Closed	107

## 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. 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.

### Intake 2006 Statistics

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	4,480
Police/Agency Calls for Placement Authorization	470
Interviews with DHS Workers	
Original Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	787
Supplemental Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	26
Original Permanent Custody Petitions	38
Family Interviews	
Consent Probation	13
Consent Dockets Held	114
Traffic/Ordinance Dockets Held	118

# Court Departments and Programs

## JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

### Juvenile Services

Juvenile Services acts as the Court's liaison to private and non-profit agencies that are under contract to Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services (CAFS).

Juvenile Services works with this large network of providers to ensure that appropriate services are provided to juveniles and their families in a timely manner as mandated by orders of the Third Judicial Circuit. The goal is to remove any barriers that may hamper delivery of effective services to Wayne County youth.

Juvenile Services also assists Administration by monitoring and coordinating activities associated with the guardianship docket.

### CLINIC FOR CHILD STUDY

The Clinic for Child Study provides families who come to the attention of the Third Circuit Court with timely, thorough assessments, effective treatment, and comprehensive case management which assists many youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement. The Clinic for Child Study has six service delivery units which are funded by the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. These units include the Family Assessment Unit (FAU), Child/Adolescent Assessment Unit (CAAU), Juvenile Social Assessment Unit (JSAU), Clinic Treatment Unit (CTU), Intensive Probation Unit (IPU), and Status Offenders Unit (SOU). Therapists, clinicians, and probation officers also provide the Court with progress reports, recommendations, and expert testimony depending on the services provided to the youth. The Clinic is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for all services provided.

#### Clinic for Child Study 2006 Statistics

Cases Referred to Clinic for Assessment	2006
Family Assessment for Protective Hearings	777
Child/Adolescent Assessment	1,123
Guardianships	20
Adoption Studies	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,920</b>
Early Intervention (Walk-in Parent Complaints)	1,452
Client Services Management (Intensive Probation)	754
Clinic Treatment Unit	604
Scheduled Treatment Sessions	4,813



# Court Managers/Acknowledgments

## EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Bernard J. Kost

## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT MANAGERS

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AND EDUCATION  
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