

*The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court*

*Oakland County Probate Court*

## 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



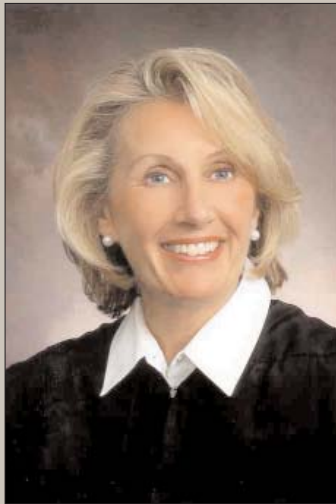
WE THE PEOPLE OF  
THE UNITED STATES  
IN ORDER TO FORM  
A MORE PERFECT  
UNION, ESTABLISH  
JUSTICE, INSURE  
DOMESTIC TRANQU



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# Message from the Chief Judges



Wendy Potts  
Chief Circuit Judge



Barry M. Grant  
Chief Probate Judge

Oakland County Circuit Court and Probate Court Judges and Staff:

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2005 Annual Report of the Circuit and Probate Courts. This has been a productive year for the Courts as new initiatives were launched in an effort to reform court operations and develop more efficient methods of conducting business.

The Probate Court converted nearly 4.5 million records from the county's Mainframe computer system to the State Court Administrative Office's new Trial Court System (TCS). This was a culmination of hundreds of hours of preparation and training time from the probate staff. The TCS system was designed specifically for Michigan probate courts and has proven to be a user friendly data entry system and a great improvement from the old system.

In the Circuit Court Civil/Criminal Division, a pilot program was launched enabling criminal defendants to enter felony pleas on the record at district court in accordance with newly enacted Michigan Court Rule 6.111(A). Eliminating the need for a circuit court arraignment reduces the length of jail time by two weeks or more and shortens the time frame between plea and sentence, thereby moving inmates out of the jail faster.

Furthermore, the Friend of the Court implemented Public Acts 564, 567, and 568 of 2004 and offered amnesty to parents who owed back child support. This program provided a unique opportunity for parents to resolve past arrearages and get back on track with their child support payments.

Our highest calling is to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. Within that context, it is important to provide the citizens of Oakland County with a judicial system that is accessible, responsive, and well-managed. For that reason, we will continue to develop more efficient methods of managing caseloads and the administration of the courts.

We hope you find this report informative and useful. We take pleasure in reporting our achievements in 2005 and look forward to a productive year ahead.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Potts".

Wendy L. Potts  
Circuit Chief Judge

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry M. Grant".

Barry M. Grant  
Probate Chief Judge

## Judges of the Circuit Court



*(Front row, left to right): Judges Nanci J. Grant, Denise Langford Morris, Deborah G. Tyner, Gene Schnelz, Steven N. Andrews, Fred M. Mester, Edward Sosnick, Rudy Nichols, and John J. McDonald. (Back row, left to right): Judges Cheryl A. Matthews, Martha D. Anderson, Wendy Potts, James M. Alexander, Daniel Patrick O'Brien, Michael Warren, Joan E. Young, Mark A. Goldsmith, Rae Lee Chabot, and Colleen A. O'Brien.*

## Judges of the Probate Court



*(Front row, left to right): Judges Elizabeth Pezzetti and Eugene Arthur Moore. (Back row, left to right): Judges Barry M. Grant and Linda S. Hallmark.*

# Circuit Court Judicial Administration



Kevin M. Oeffner  
Circuit Court Administrator

*"The price of success  
is dedication, hard  
work, and an  
unremitting devotion  
to the things you  
want to see happen."*

Frank Lloyd Wright  
American Architect

Elected Officials and Citizens of Oakland County:

The pages that follow will provide you with general information about the Courts, programs, projects, and accomplishments as well as statistical information on caseload volume and trends. I hope you will find it both informative and useful to your understanding of the judicial system. I welcome your comments and invite you to make suggestions regarding other information you would like to see available here.

The year 2005 was a productive year for the Circuit and Probate Courts. The judges and employees of the Courts deserve recognition for the accomplishments of the year. The dedication, ingenuity, and hard work that led to last year's achievements will enable the Circuit and Probate Courts to meet the challenges that lay ahead with poise and professionalism.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin M. Oeffner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

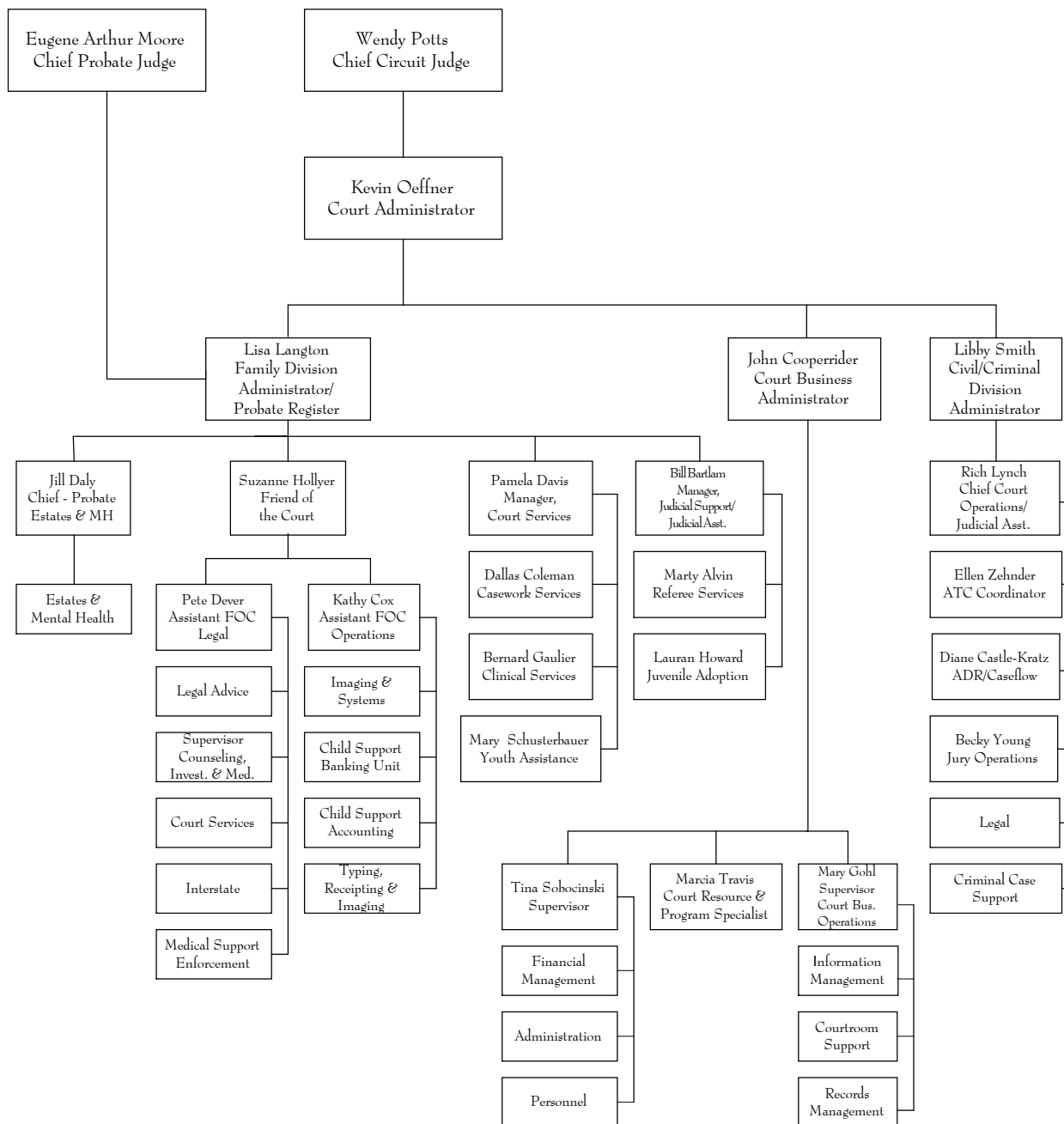
Kevin M. Oeffner  
Circuit Court Administrator



*Courtroom of the Oakland County Circuit Court*

# Circuit Court Judicial Administration

## CIRCUIT / PROBATE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# Circuit Court - Civil/Criminal Division



Elizabeth A. Smith  
Civil/Criminal Division Administrator

*"We are told never to cross a bridge until we come to it, but this world is owned by men who have 'crossed bridges' in their imagination far ahead of the crowd."*

Anon  
Greek Philosopher

## *Civil/Criminal Division Overview*

The Civil/Criminal Division of the Circuit Court, formerly known as the General Jurisdiction Division, manages civil cases over \$25,000 and criminal cases involving felonies and high misdemeanors. In addition, Civil/Criminal judges are assigned appeals from courts of lesser jurisdiction and administrative agencies. There are 14 judges within the Civil/Criminal Division who are elected for six-year terms in non-partisan elections.

Supporting the judges within this division are 60 judicial staff, including staff attorneys, judicial secretaries, law clerks, and court reporters, as well as the following departments:

Administrative Support Staff – Under the direction of the Civil/Criminal Division Administrator Elizabeth Smith, Richard Lynch serves as the Chief-Court Operations/Judicial Assistant. In this capacity, he manages the division's legal support and criminal case support staff and advises the Court on legal matters. Rich also oversees case management and jury operations for the Court.

Case Management Office – This office schedules and tracks cases through disposition and coordinates alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for the Circuit and Probate Courts. Diane Castle-Kratz serves as the Caseflow/ADR Supervisor and is assisted by Andrea Bayer, Caseflow Coordinator, and Lisa Czyz, ADR Coordinator, as well as nine additional full-time staff.

Jury Office – The Jury Office is responsible for coordinating jury operations and obtaining jurors for the Circuit and Probate Courts. Becky Young serves as the Supervisor and is assisted by Deborah Fahr, Office Leader, and three additional full-time staff.

Adult Treatment Court – This court offers alternative sentencing for non-violent adult felony offenders who have a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse or dependence. Judge Joan Young presides over the male participants of the Adult Treatment Court and Judge Colleen O'Brien presides over the female participants of the program. Elizabeth Smith serves as the program manager and Ellen Zehnder is the court coordinator.



October was a time of celebration for three ATC participants who graduated after successfully completing the program. The program is a four-phase intervention plan for non-violent, adult felony offenders, who are chemically abusing or dependent. In 2005, there were 15 graduates and 80 participants at the end of the year.

# Circuit Court - Civil/Criminal Division

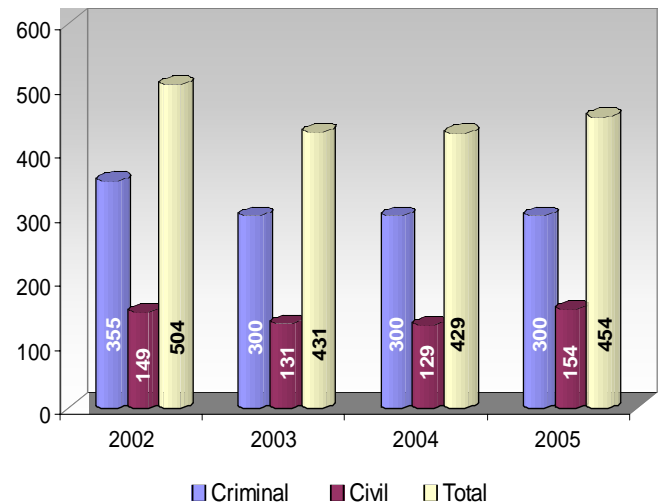
## Jury Office

The Jury Office is responsible for obtaining jurors for the Circuit and Probate Courts in Oakland County. Jurors are mailed a summons/questionnaire scheduling them for jury selection. In accordance with the one day/one trial jury system, jurors must be available for selection for one day. If selected to serve as a juror, a juror's jury service is finished when the trial is completed.

Except for persons exempted from jury service by statute, the courts expect all persons, regardless of status or occupation, to serve when summoned. The only persons legally exempt from jury service are those who do not reside in Oakland County, are not a citizen of the U.S., have served as a juror within the past 12 months, are not physically able to serve, have been convicted of a felony, or are not conversant in the English language. Persons over the age of 70 are exempt upon request.

An orientation is conducted each morning for new jurors explaining what to expect throughout their stay. Several of the judges participate in juror orientation by welcoming the jurors and explaining courtroom procedures.

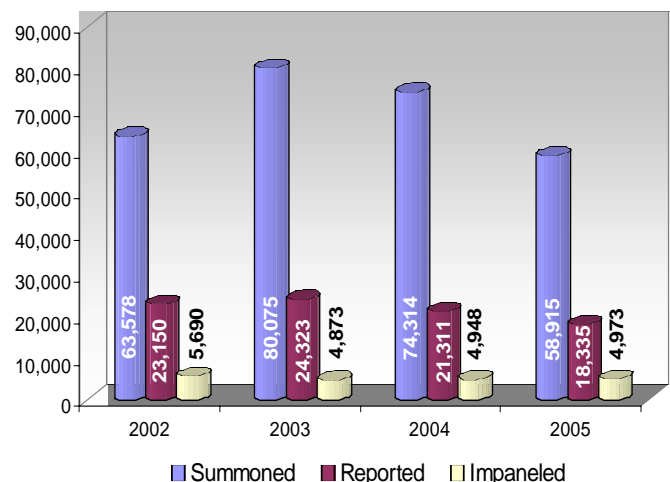
JURIES SELECTED



## Accomplishments

- ◆ Processed all jury functions and provided jurors to courts for 154 civil trials, with an average trial duration of 2.9 days.
- ◆ Processed all jury functions and provided jurors to courts for 300 criminal trials with an average trial duration of 2.6 days. Of those trials, 79 were capital offenses.
- ◆ Summoned 58,915 citizens for jury duty. That number was reduced after excusals for legal exemptions. After determining the number needed to accommodate the daily requirements of the courts, 18,335 jurors were required to report for jury service.
- ◆ Reduced the number of jurors summoned to report, due to a change in business processes approved by the Bench. This translates to a 22% reduction in juror fees paid by the Court.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT



# Circuit Court - Civil/Criminal Division

## Case Management Office

The Case Management Office is comprised of the Caseflow unit and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) unit. The office is responsible for scheduling court dates, monitoring cases, and analyzing trends of civil and criminal court dockets. It also reviews and distributes weekly docket sheets and monthly pending caseload reports for the Circuit Court judges.

The Caseflow unit tracks cases from the initial filing of the lawsuit through final disposition of the case. Within that function, cases are scheduled for pretrial hearings, motion calls, Civil Early Intervention Conferences, settlement conferences, trials, and sentencings.

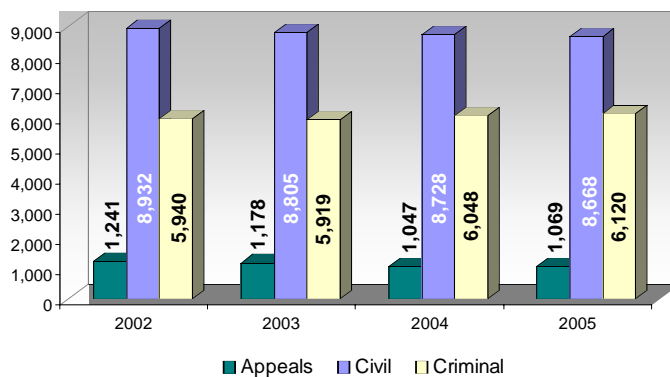
Civil Early Intervention Conferences were introduced by the Caseflow office in late 2004 as a way to encourage early communication among the parties. Specific civil cases that were at least 120 days post-filing were selected for the program. Volunteer facilitators work with the parties and discuss different types of ADR processes in an effort to resolve the dispute early in the process.

The ADR unit is responsible for case evaluations and mediations, both of which are methods used to settle disputes at different time periods prior to the case proceeding to trial.

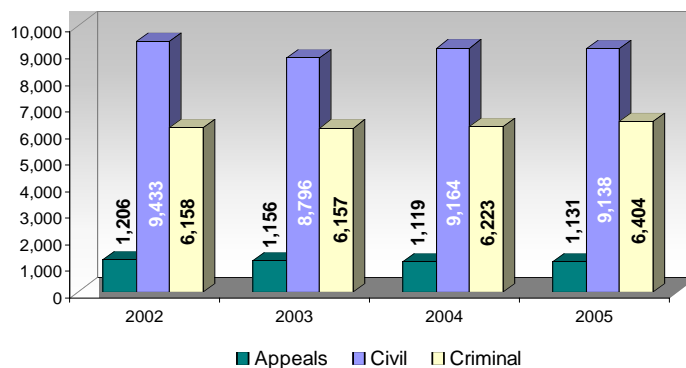
Case evaluation is used as a method of settling disputes shortly before trial. During case evaluation, a panel of three attorneys is selected to review case summaries, discuss the merits of the case with the attorneys, and place a dollar value on the case. The parties have 28 days to accept the case evaluation award. If the award is not accepted by all parties, the case proceeds to trial.

Mediation is another form of settling cases. Upon a case being selected for mediation, the parties and their attorneys meet with independent mediators to discuss their conflicts. With the assistance of the mediator and the attorneys, the parties work to fashion a possible settlement to the dispute.

### NEW FILINGS



### DISPOSITIONS



# Circuit Court - Civil/Criminal Division

## Caseflow Management Plan

Oakland County Circuit Court recently adopted a new Caseflow Management Plan, in conjunction with Supreme Court Administrative Order 2003-7, setting standards for case management and case age reporting.

Under the direction of the Honorable James Alexander, Circuit Court Chief Judge Pro Tem, a committee of judges and administrative staff developed a plan establishing the Supreme Court's timelines necessary for managing the disposition of cases, incorporating requirements for events to occur when scheduled, and encouraging the use of alternative dispute resolution to resolve cases. An emphasis was placed on ensuring that the resolution of matters is guided by what is permissible under law by defined standards of service and by balancing the needs of the individual and society.

One of the most noticeable changes in the Court's practices is the adoption of a firm but fair adjournment policy limited to unforeseen and exceptional circumstances. As a result, a "Motion and Order Re: Adjournment" form was adopted by the Circuit Court Bench. The form is currently available in chambers and through the Oakland County website. Any person requesting an adjournment must provide the required information. For stipulated orders or motions that do not include the information, a stamp will be made available in individual chambers and courtrooms, the Clerk's Office, and the Case Management Office to assist requesting parties in their completion of the required information before filing.

In addition, the Court plans to increase its use of technology to generate internal reports which will allow judges, administrators, and case management personnel to track the number and type of adjournments on each case and facilitate timely dispositions by monitoring case activity and scheduling practices. The Court will provide the public with user-friendly access to case information, thereby upholding trust and confidence in the Court.

At present, a committee of the Court's administrative personnel is being established to monitor the progress of the Caseflow Management Plan. The committee's duties will include reviewing reports to assure that the most efficient caseflow management strategy continues to be developed and making recommendations to further compliance with the Supreme Court's Case Management Guidelines.

To read more about Oakland County's new Caseflow Management Plan, go to the Court's website at [http://www.oakgov.com/circuit/info\\_pub/](http://www.oakgov.com/circuit/info_pub/) and click on "Administrative Orders 2000 - current."

## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ Processed over 18,600 scheduling orders on civil cases.
- ◆ Settled 58% of the 641 cases that were submitted to the civil mediation program.
- ◆ Distributed \$174,225 to the Law Library from late fees assessed at case evaluation.
- ◆ Scheduled approximately 39,600 motion praecipes to be heard on Wednesday motion calls.
- ◆ Settled 38% of the 876 cases submitted to the Civil Early Intervention Conference Pilot Program.

# Circuit Court - Family Division



Lisa Langton  
Family Division Administrator  
Probate/Juvenile Register

*"To accomplish  
great things, we  
must not only act,  
but also dream;  
not only plan, but  
also believe."*

Anatole France  
Nobel Prize French Writer

## *Family Division Overview*

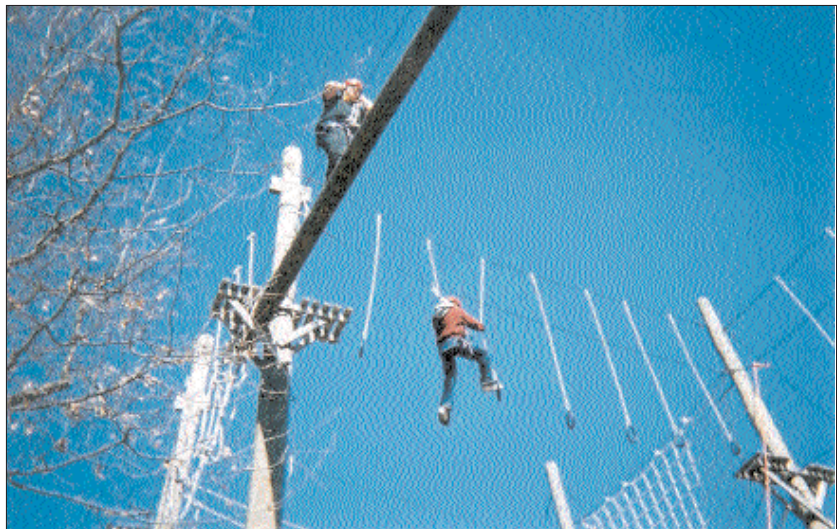
The Circuit Court Family Division, under the direction of Lisa Langton, includes the Judicial Support unit, Court Services unit, Friend of the Court operation, and the administration of the Probate Court.

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

Court Services – The Court Services unit, which is headed by Pamela Davis, Deputy Court Administrator, provides casework and intensive casework services, clinical services through the Psychological Clinic, and community diversion efforts through the Youth Assistance unit.

Judicial Support – This unit is headed by William Bartlam, Deputy Court Administrator and Judicial Assistant, and consists of Juvenile Referees, Juvenile Intake, and Juvenile Adoption areas. In Mr. Bartlam's role as Judicial Assistant, he is also the lead legal advisor for the Probate and Family Division areas.

Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court – Also known as OPTIONS (Owning the Problem - Trusting In Our New Skills), this court integrates drug treatment services with the justice system case processing by including treatment providers on the drug court team. Prosecutor and defense counsel work together using a non-adversarial approach. In 2005, the drug court was awarded approximately \$519,512 in renewed grant funding, which was used to serve a total of 237 youth and family members.



*Every Juvenile Drug Court participant is expected to take part in the summer "High Ropes" activity. This event features a challenging course of ropes 25 feet in the air, which is designed to bring families together in a joint project and help young people understand that they can do more than they think.*

# Circuit Court - Family Division

## *Friend of the Court*

The Friend of the Court is responsible for assisting in domestic relations cases by investigating and enforcing issues involving custody, support, and parenting time.

The Friend of the Court has been on the statewide child support computer system since July 1, 2003. Three major system upgrades occurred in 2005. Although the Friend of the Court continues to accept cash payments on site, all checks are forwarded to the Michigan State Disbursement Unit. Due to a recent change, payers of support may now make online payments at [www.misdu.com](http://www.misdu.com).

Oakland County works in close partnership with the state child support program. Through that partnership, this year Oakland County participated in an amnesty program, which resulted in collections of nearly \$50,000 in delinquent payments. Additionally, the county provided technical assistance in a debit card pilot program. This participation in the debit card pilot program has set the stage for

2006 when Oakland County will work with the state to convert all child support payments to an electronic disbursement process that has been mandated due to a change in state law.

Friend of the Court referees hold hearings to enforce and modify Family Division orders regarding child support, custody, and parenting time. Early Intervention Conferences conducted by Friend of the Court referees offer divorcing clients an opportunity to meet with the referee assigned to their case early in the divorce process. This service is unique to the county.

Additionally, the award-winning SMILE program provides information to parents on creating a conflict-free zone for their children during and after a divorce. Work was started in 2005 to revise the SMILE video used in the program, which will be released in 2006.

## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ Resolved 407 medical support issues, including 37 through the referee hearing process. Answered 54,116 telephone calls at the FOC switchboard in addition to calls taken directly by FOC case workers and served 43,667 customers at the front desk.
- ◆ Reviewed 1,675 support obligations for modification of the support obligation and enforced 180 support obligations through the use of the license suspension remedy.
- ◆ Resolved 16,398 requests for the enforcement of support, custody, and parenting time, 14,946 of which were resolved with referee hearings. Held 4,319 evidentiary hearings by FOC referees.
- ◆ Held 2,496 Early Intervention Conferences with parties who filed for divorce in 2004. These conferences assist in the settlement process and provide information to parties about services available at the Friend of the Court.
- ◆ Interviewed 1,226 non-custodial parents for Job Placement/Work First referrals. Job placement services are available to all non-custodial parents who are ordered to pay support and who are unemployed or under employed.
- ◆ Addressed 23,151 custody and parenting time concerns through FOC family counselors, who also provided information and services to parents involved in a domestic relations case. Services included mediation, negotiation of make up parenting time agreements, scheduling contempt-of-court hearings, and preparation of consent orders to modify parenting time.

# Circuit Court - Family Division

## Court Services

The Court Services operation is comprised of the Casework Services Unit (Juvenile Probation), Psychological Clinic, Youth Assistance, and the Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court Program. Over 100 employees are responsible for providing direct services to clients, performing case management, conducting research and program development, providing education, developing community resources through volunteer coordination, and promoting public awareness.

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

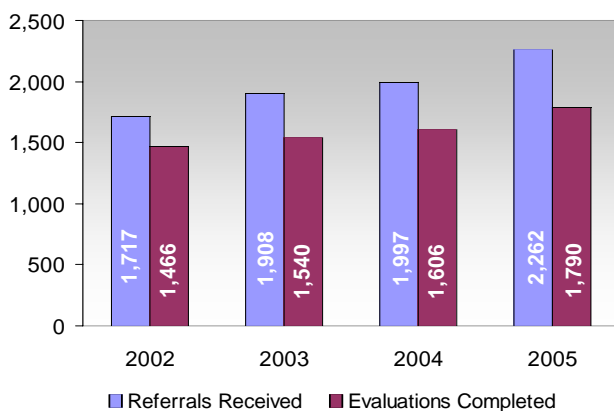
Psychological Clinic - The Clinical Services Unit, or Psychological Clinic, is responsible for aiding Judges in making informed decisions by providing forensic evaluations on many children and families who are involved with the Court. In addition, the clinic offers specialized treatment services to clients, and clinicians are available for case consultation with Court staff and others. The clinic also conducts and coordinates training and

research, including but not limited to program evaluations and staff development.

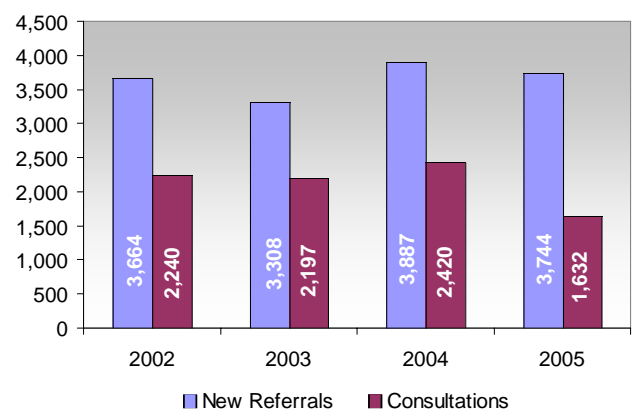
Youth Assistance - As the primary prevention segment of the Court's continuum of services, the mission of Youth Assistance is to strengthen youth and families and to prevent and reduce delinquency, abuse, and neglect through community involvement. Using a decentralized approach, staff work with a board of volunteers to identify and address each community's needs. Community-based programs include parenting and family education, skill and self-esteem building, mentoring, recreation programs, and youth recognition. Each of the 26 local Youth Assistance programs is co-sponsored by the school districts and municipalities therein, and the Court.

Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court Program - The Juvenile Drug Court program, also known as OPTIONS, is a joint effort between the justice and public health treatment systems in an effort to promote public safety by reducing juvenile criminal recidivism, assisting substance abusing juvenile offenders and their families in achieving drug-free lifestyles, and supporting families as they formulate healthy relationships. The program is comprised of four phases of intensive court supervision and various treatment tools, followed by aftercare of six to twelve weeks. Various incentives and sanctions (penalties) are utilized to ensure compliance with program guidelines.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL CLINIC



### YOUTH ASSISTANCE



# Circuit Court - Family Division

## Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

The Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Treatment Court provides intensive substance abuse treatment for eligible non-violent, repeat juvenile offenders who present with moderate to severe substance abuse problems. The goals of the program are to network prompt and appropriate treatment, to reduce juvenile drug-related crimes, to help participants and their families achieve and maintain sobriety, and to strengthen family ties. The program is able to serve 35 to 40 youthful offenders annually.

Following assessment, youthful offenders and their families are teamed with a group of specially-trained professionals, which includes a judge, referee, project director, program coordinator, assistant prosecutor, defense attorney, two probation officers, interns, representative from the Office of Substance Abuse Services, and treatment providers. Under weekly judicial supervision, program participants undergo intensive drug treatment, submit to frequent random drug testing, and participate in regular meetings with Probation Officers. Participants are expected to attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings. In addition, participants are required to obtain and maintain employment, and/or to stay enrolled and perform well in school.

The program is premised on a system of consequences and rewards. Non-compliance with court expectations is swiftly sanctioned through the imposition of curfews, community service, loss of privileges, home detention and, in some cases, short-term detention. Progress in the program is encouraged through incentives such as increased freedom, gift and food certificates, treats, field trips, and public praise. By confronting various challenges, participants gain self-discipline and realize personal improvement in behavior and performance.

## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ The Casework Unit successfully developed a process and obtained equipment to provide identification for youth who would otherwise have no proper identification for drug screenings.
- ◆ The Casework Unit created a supervisory workgroup that successfully modified the unit's "Policy & Procedures Manual." This manual will be used to train new caseworkers and serve as a reference to those who are experienced.
- ◆ The Juvenile Drug Court boasts 49 graduates to date. In collaboration with Oakland Family Services, the drug court will benefit from a \$465,000.00 partnership grant awarded in October 2005. The Juvenile Drug Court plans to expand its program services to include sibling groups, transportation, gender-specific programming, etc., and to create a re-entry program to benefit substance abusing youth exiting from treatment programs.
- ◆ The Psychological Clinic's S.T.A.R. (Social Training for Adolescent Relationships) program was modified to a 12-week program to facilitate the admission of new referrals, increase program stability and cohesiveness, increase attendance rates, and reduce the likelihood of recidivism for adolescents placed on intensive probation.
- ◆ The Psychological Clinic increased its efficiency by equipping each clinician with a hand-held digital dictation device. Once dictated, reports are downloaded directly into the computer system and edited online before final print. This process eliminated several steps and greatly reduced the cost of supplies.
- ◆ Youth Assistance provided casework services to 3,744 families referred by police, schools, and parents, and reduced the average age of children referred from 13.1 to 12.8.

# Circuit Court - Family Division

## Judicial Support Services

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

- ◆ Adoptions and confidential intermediary services;
- ◆ Child abuse and neglect cases;
- ◆ Juvenile delinquency and juvenile traffic cases;
- ◆ Juvenile Court intake;
- ◆ Personal Protection Orders;
- ◆ Safe delivery of newborns; and
- ◆ Waiver of parental consent to abortion.

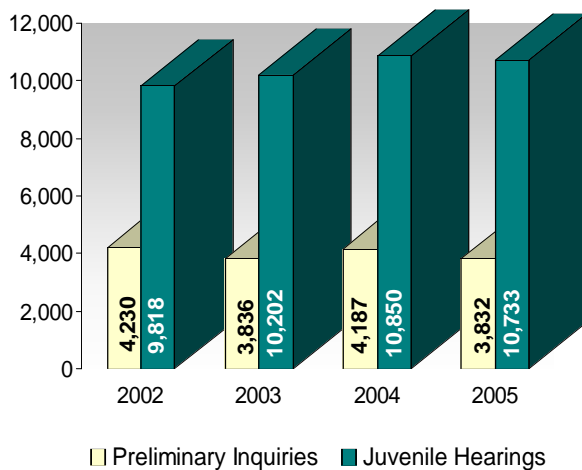
In these areas, support staff schedule cases, prepare files, create documents, maintain both public and confidential records, serve summons and other process, and distribute court orders and other materials.

Juvenile referees assist the judges by conducting many of the hearings and recommending decisions to the judges in these actions. Personal Protection Order attorney-interviewers have face-to-face meetings with petitioners and then make confidential recommendations to judges.

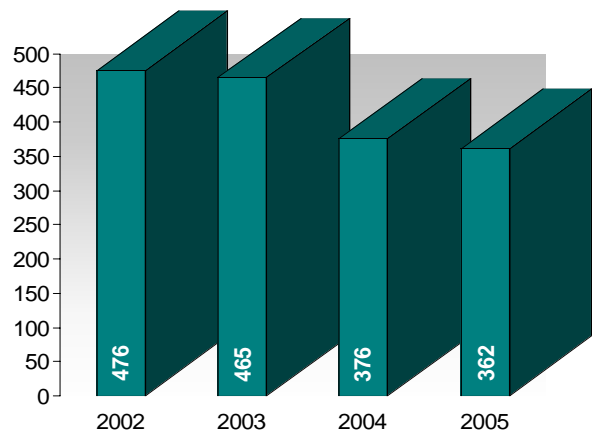
Juvenile Court referees represent the court 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. They authorize the detention of juveniles and removal of children due to risk of harm. Referees review all complaints and petitions referred to the Court. They evaluate each matter and make decisions involving diversions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

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

JUVENILE HEARINGS vs  
PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES HELD



JUVENILE TRAFFIC  
HEARINGS HELD



# Circuit Court - Family Division

## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ Implemented the State of Michigan's Trial Court System (TCS) in the adoptions unit, which allows Oakland County's computerized adoption records to be maintained in the same manner as adoption records throughout Michigan.
- ◆ Planned, developed, and delivered training on law, court procedures and processes to hundreds of representatives of major stakeholders, including: Department of Human Services (DHS) foster care workers, DHS Children's Protective Services case workers, police representatives from many departments across Oakland County, and adoption agency representatives.
- ◆ Worked collaboratively with DHS Juvenile Justice personnel and Court Services staff to monitor the planned commitment of youth under the Youth Rehabilitation Services Act, MCL 803.301 et seq., and to ensure that new commitments were made only after other resources had been exhausted thereby potentially saving several hundred thousand dollars in juvenile maintenance costs. To this end, court personnel and DHS staff provided a series of in-service training sessions to judges and judicial staffs and met at least quarterly to review commitment activity and case specifics.
- ◆ Assisted in the planning and operation of "Michigan Adoption Day," which included the finalization of 16 adoptions by the various judges of the court and the recognition of the Honorable Eugene Arthur Moore as a "Champion of Children" for nearly four decades of service on behalf of children.
- ◆ Streamlined the process of transferring juvenile cases from Oakland County to other counties, thereby reducing paperwork, computer entry, case processing time, and opportunity for error.

### SUMMARY OF FAMILY DIVISION ACTIVITY

#### New Filing Activity

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
<b>Juvenile/Adoptions</b>				
Delinquency	3,465	3,526	3,891	3,918
Child Protective Proceedings	268	527	517	603
Juvenile Traffic Tickets	482	409	394	320
Adoption Petitions	504	436	424	413
Subtotal	4,719	4,898	5,226	5,254
<b>Domestic Relations</b>				
No Children	2,646	2,651	2,595	2,496
With Children	2,732	2,584	2,520	2,570
Paternity	830	531	825	938
URESAs	275	272	379	372
Support	843	604	1,056	1,127
Other	274	273	272	236
Subtotal	7,600	6,915	7,647	7,739
<b>Personal Protection Orders</b>				
Domestic	2,599	2,561	2,366	2,119
Non Domestic	1,094	1,162	1,279	1,015
Juvenile	97	85	107	77
Subtotal	3,790	3,808	3,752	3,211
<b>Miscellaneous Family</b>				
Name Change	481	464	452	409
Other	153	140	78	75
Subtotal	634	604	530	484
<b>Total New Filings</b>	<b>16,743</b>	<b>16,225</b>	<b>17,155</b>	<b>16,688</b>

# Probate Court - Estates and Mental Health

## *Estates and Mental Health Overview*

The Oakland County Probate Court, under the direction of Lisa Langton, Probate Register, maintains jurisdiction over estates, which includes the probating of wills and the administration of testate estates (with a will) and intestate estates (without a will) by personal representatives. The Court interprets wills and trusts in the event of uncertainty or conflict and determines the heirs in intestate estates. The Court also handles trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and mental health proceedings.

In 2005, the Probate Bench included: The Honorable Eugene Arthur Moore, Chief Judge; the Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti, Chief Judge Pro Tem; the Honorable Barry M. Grant, Presiding Judge of Estates Division; and the Honorable Linda S. Hallmark.

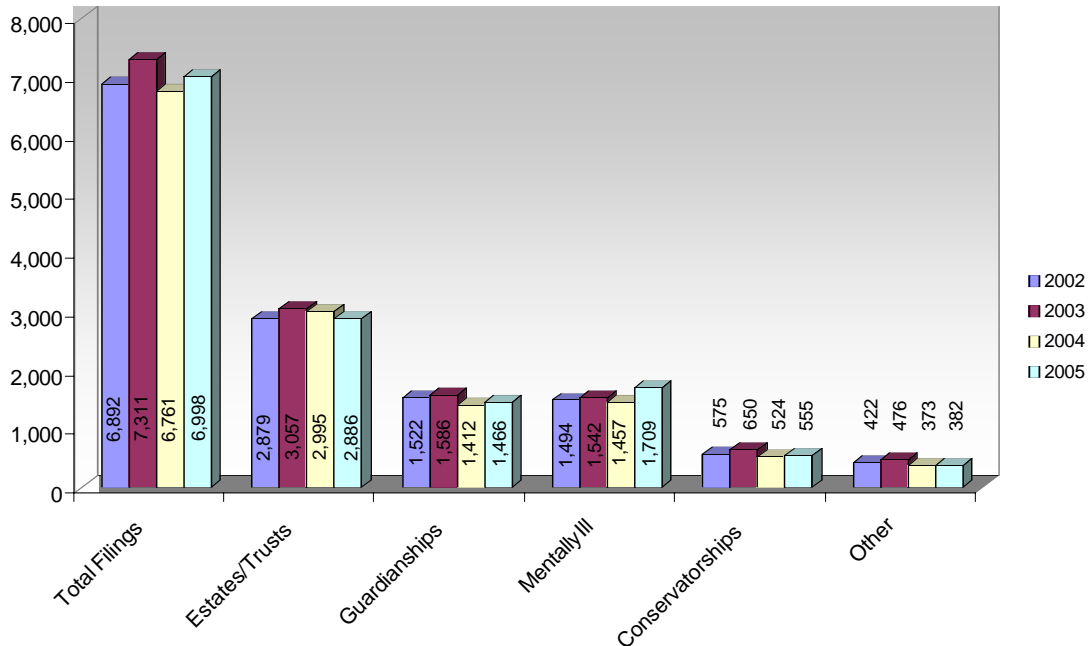
The Probate Estates counter is a bustling center of activity as staff process the necessary paperwork, set court hearings as necessary, and direct files into court for hearings.

Besides decedent estate and trust matters, this department also handles the paperwork and oversight of guardianships and conservatorships of adults and minors, manages the guardianship review process, and files wills for safekeeping. All legal records of the department are a matter of public record and are available for review by the general public.

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

<b>NEW FILES OPENED</b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Small Estates	678	671	692	611
Supervised Estates	53	53	32	36
Unsupervised Estates	1,942	2,028	1,909	1,886
Trust-Intervivos	185	193	195	185
Adult Guardianships	877	870	755	773
Minor Guardianships	645	716	657	693
Adult Conservatorships	399	444	363	378
Minor Conservatorships	176	206	161	177
Mentally Ill	1,494	1,542	1,457	1,709
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	155	258	230	270
Reopened Estates and Trusts	21	112	167	168
Protective Orders	38	30	43	47
Civil and Other	229	188	100	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,892</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>6,998</b>
<b>ACTIVE CASES</b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>
Pre-EPIC-Supervised Estates	1	5	2	0
Pre-EPIC-Independent Estates	0	0	1	0
Supervised Estates	484	337	228	285
Unsupervised Estates	3,381	3,224	3,265	3,439
Guardianships (Legally Incapacitated)	3,144	3,168	3,119	3,128
Guardianship (Developmentally Disabled)	1,451	1,480	1,521	1,699
Minor Guardianships	2,723	2,793	2,750	2,775
Adult Conservatorships	1,559	1,514	1,459	1,370
Minor Conservatorships	1,626	1,567	1,461	1,428
Other	208	219	190	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,577</b>	<b>14,307</b>	<b>13,996</b>	<b>14,305</b>

# Probate Court - Estates and Mental Health



## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ Converted 4.5 million records from the county Mainframe system to the State Court Administrative Office Trial Court System on September 12, 2005. This included extensive staff involvement in data translation, new policy development, consultation with programmers, education, and training of all probate staff.
- ◆ Aligned the Estates and Mental Health office into three main units: Guardianship and Conservatorship, Estates and Trusts, and Mental Health, and divided the counter into these units to provide specialized and efficient service.
- ◆ Joined the Mental Health office staff with the Estates unit staff in the main probate area so that all public service components were united. As a result, the public will be better served and will be provided more efficient service. In addition, some non-public probate functions were moved to the "probate annex" (formerly known as the mental health office).
- ◆ Collaborated with Corporation Counsel, Community Mental Health, Common Ground Sanctuary, court service officers, and local attorneys to implement the major new mental health proceeding called "Kevin's Law," which became effective in March 2005. With the help of these collaborators, the Court was able to implement this new initiative quickly, effectively, and with the spirit of the law in mind. Petitions for Assisted Outpatient Treatment are now filed and set for hearing to address the needs of certain mental health consumers whose needs may not have been addressed by previous law.
- ◆ Implemented new court rule amendments which were approved on November 15, 2005 and became effective that same day. New requirements include: copies of death certificates to start decedent estates, verifications of deposit and financial statements on conservatorships, and the subtraction of secured loans for purposes of determining inventory fees.
- ◆ Selected as one of the "Top Ten Probate Court Websites" by the National College of Probate Judges.

# Business Division of the Courts



*John L. Cooperrider*  
*Court Business Administrator*

*“Great works are  
performed, not by  
strength, but by  
perseverance.”*

Samuel Johnson  
English writer

## *Business Division Overview*

The Business Division is responsible for the development and delivery of business and administrative support services for both the Circuit and Probate Courts. In order to effectively manage its diverse and complex responsibilities, this division is divided into two primary units of operation.

The Administrative/Financial unit, under the supervision of Tina Sobocinski, is responsible for developing and monitoring the Courts' \$60 million budget, processing all payments for services, including court appointed attorney payments and personnel transactions, recording attendance and mileage, managing courthouse and satellite office facilities, handling capital improvement and special project requests, and managing the equipment needs of the courts.

Mary Gohl oversees the Data/Technology unit. The responsibilities of this unit include the advancement of court automation, managing day-to-day computer and network issues, and implementing new court technology initiatives. This unit also provides word processing support, including the typing of court documents necessary for the functioning of the court (i.e., court, psychological, and referee reports). In addition, this unit provides court reporter services for the Court's juvenile referees, creating records of courtroom proceedings, and producing transcripts.

In 2005, the duties of the Court Operations Analyst position was combined with the Resource and Program Specialist position as a cost-saving measure. Efforts in this regard are now directed by Marcia Travis whose responsibilities include: coordinating special projects and events, grant writing, public information management, and finding alternative ways to perform court functions more efficiently and effectively by conducting improvement studies on all aspects of court operations.



*Bridget Haicas, office assistant in the Business Office, is responsible for scheduling and conducting courthouse tours. Students observe civil, adult criminal, and juvenile court proceedings. More than 1,000 students participate in courthouse tours each year.*

# Business Division of the Courts

## Court Tours

Court employees are involved in public relations on a daily basis. As an office assistant in the Business Division, Bridget Haicas conducts courthouse tours which have a long-term impact on the public's impression of the court.

Groups expressing an interest in touring the courthouse are sent a packet of material explaining the different options available, courthouse rules and procedures, and expected conduct while on the tour. The packet also includes a glossary of terms that may be used in a trial, as well as an Oakland County fact sheet. For groups of school children, the packet includes games and quizzes that may be used as a classroom teaching tool following the tour.

The Business Division schedules tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, averaging eight tours a month. A tour may include attending a trial, listening to a presentation by the Prosecutor's Office, touring the law library, or watching videos concerning juvenile court. Students are also given an opportunity to participate in a mock trial.

Based on current trends, it is expected that more than 1,000 students will tour the courthouse in 2006. By touring the courthouse, students gain an understanding and personal appreciation of the judicial system and Oakland County government in general. Based on participant feedback, the tours have become a very positive public relations tool.

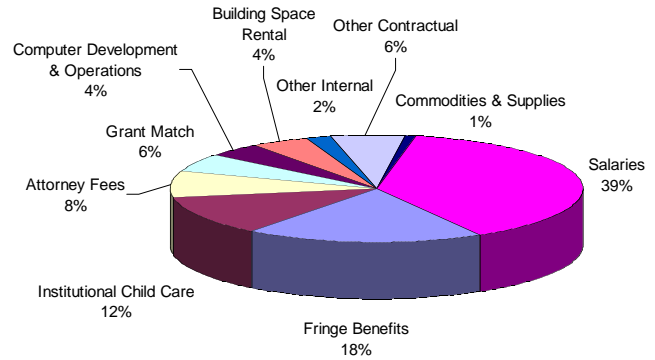
## *Accomplishments*

- ◆ Continued improvements to the website, making it more service oriented and interactive for the legal community and citizens of Oakland County.
- ◆ Continued implementation of new caseload reporting requirements mandated by the Michigan Supreme Court, including identifying and programming information related to reporting pending case age and case age at disposition.
- ◆ Added a third video transcription agency via the RFP (Request for Proposal) process to assist administration and judges in the preparation of video transcripts.
- ◆ Prepared all video courtrooms for moving to digital storage of courtroom proceedings on CDs and networking all video courtrooms to begin January 1, 2006.
- ◆ Established and monitored six drug court grant contracts for more than \$900,000.
- ◆ Established new Judicial Brown Bag training for judges on various aspects of technology available throughout the Court.
- ◆ Developed cost saving measures to meet FY 2006 and FY 2007 budget tasks of \$391,914 and \$719,830 respectively.
- ◆ Prepared for a county-wide switch from Performance Series to the new Peoplesoft Financial System.
- ◆ Developed and submitted FY 2006 Circuit and Probate Court's budget as well as Child Care Fund budget.

# Business Division of the Courts

## CIRCUIT COURT AND PROBATE COURT FINANCIAL REPORT

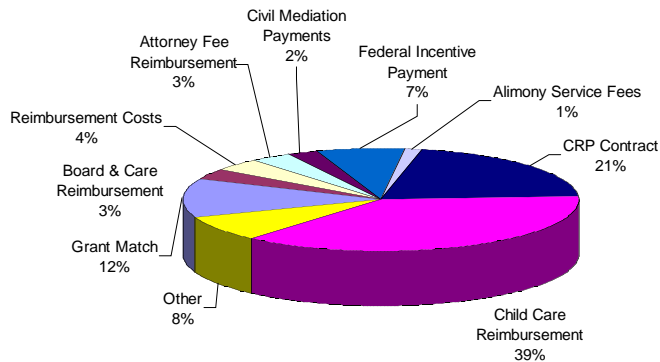
2005 Expenditures: \$68,468,170



<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004-05</u> <u>% Chg</u>
Salaries	\$24,150,153	\$24,979,529	\$26,350,042	5.5%
Fringe Benefits	\$9,539,814	\$11,548,299	\$12,656,264	9.6%
Institutional Child Care	\$7,966,648	\$9,032,372	\$8,337,027	-7.7%
Attorney Fees	\$4,784,065	\$5,419,799	\$5,371,712	-0.9%
Grant Match	\$5,005,332	\$3,068,152	\$3,823,830	24.6%
Building Space Rental	\$3,107,504	\$3,015,136	\$3,076,692	2.0%
Computer Development & Operations	\$2,724,512	\$3,155,536	\$2,913,072	-7.7%
Indirect Costs	\$914,632	\$932,016	\$1,149,509	23.3%
Professional Services	\$693,782	\$785,729	\$747,445	-4.9%
Mediator Fees	\$707,000	\$695,200	\$654,250	-5.9%
Jury Fees & Mileage	\$588,945	\$859,080	\$724,791	-15.6%
Other	\$407,324	\$178,890	\$204,876	14.5%
Postage	\$358,554	\$229,989	\$219,945	-4.4%
Telephone Communications	\$438,121	\$553,084	\$533,192	-3.6%
Visiting Judges	\$112,088	\$50,767	\$84,631	66.7%
Overtime	\$145,312	\$123,709	\$51,305	-58.5%
Commodities/Supplies	\$204,621	\$194,633	\$226,153	16.2%
Mileage/Leased Vehicles	\$213,081	\$177,874	\$144,966	-18.5%
Transcripts	\$189,528	\$234,713	\$222,777	-5.1%
Furniture/Equipment Purchase	\$254,272	\$81,746	\$112,585	37.7%
Printing	\$187,887	\$181,203	\$174,773	-3.5%
Copiers	\$93,574	\$92,820	\$74,947	-19.3%
Equipment Rental	\$121,920	\$115,366	\$107,659	-6.7%
Insurance	\$56,785	\$81,186	\$81,186	0.0%
Court Reporter Services	\$75,825	\$32,938	\$27,160	-17.5%
Maintenance Charges	\$38,679	\$60,417	\$92,105	52.4%
Operating Transfer/Adjust Prior Yrs Rev	\$651,123	(\$211,567)	\$34,845	0.0%
Interpreter Services	\$65,234	\$67,816	\$86,781	28.0%
Micrographics/Reproductions	\$21,351	\$19,550	\$11,004	-43.7%
Computer Legal Research	\$48,900	\$50,608	\$52,952	4.6%
Library Materials	\$0	\$91,967	\$119,319	29.7%
Software Rental/Lease	\$0	\$0	\$375	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$63,866,566</b>	<b>\$65,898,557</b>	<b>\$68,468,170</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

# Business Division of the Courts

## CIRCUIT COURT AND PROBATE COURT FINANCIAL REPORT



2005 Revenues: \$30,761,424

<u>Revenues/Sources of Funds</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004-05 % Chg</u>
Child Care Reimbursement	\$9,228,533	\$11,427,258	\$11,601,880	1.5%
CRP Contract	\$6,301,803	\$6,756,994	\$6,286,565	-7.0%
Grant Match	\$5,005,332	\$3,046,727	\$3,760,525	23.4%
Costs	\$1,286,022	\$1,194,636	\$1,183,198	-1.0%
Federal Incentive Payment	\$1,522,260	\$2,083,179	\$2,164,488	3.9%
Board & Care Reimbursement	\$912,147	\$959,536	\$1,036,098	8.0%
Attorney Fee Reimbursement	\$939,452	\$1,008,308	\$1,061,511	5.3%
Civil Mediation Payments	\$883,050	\$803,060	\$763,500	-4.9%
State Grants	\$145,039	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Alimony Service Fees	\$473,579	\$507,107	\$457,348	-9.8%
Transfer - In	\$609,193	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Grants - Federal	\$478,595	\$0	\$0	0.0%
CRP State Supplement	\$383,863	\$369,545	\$211,372	-42.8%
Probate Estate Fees	\$282,054	\$274,798	\$250,403	-8.9%
Probation Service Fees	\$163,314	\$175,901	\$178,178	1.3%
Mediation Fines	\$171,400	\$168,300	\$171,375	1.8%
Reimbursement State County Agent	\$180,533	\$135,400	\$225,666	66.7%
Reimbursement - Salaries	\$67,199	\$35,525	\$1,861	-94.8%
Family Counseling Fees	\$0	\$228,495	\$110,535	-51.6%
Psychological Clinical Eval Fees	\$133,570	\$97,185	\$98,710	1.6%
Other	\$82,895	\$85,272	\$150,999	77.1%
Probate Certified Copies	\$84,505	\$91,483	\$125,391	37.1%
FOC Filing Fees	\$93,870	\$111,150	\$1,860	-98.3%
Other Probate Filing Fees	\$70,504	\$83,499	\$76,445	-8.4%
Processing Fees	\$57,753	\$64,176	\$57,237	-10.8%
*FOC Judgment Fees	\$28,880	\$26,000	\$301,800	1060.8%
Jury Fees	N/A	\$218,267	\$405,992	86.0%
Probate Will Deposits	\$17,925	\$18,075	\$16,500	-8.7%
Prior Years Revenue	\$1,375	\$1,711	\$61,987	3522.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,727,926</b>	<b>\$29,604,645</b>	<b>\$30,761,424</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

\* Increase was due to statutory requirements that changed the way 2005 fees were handled.

# Awards and Honors

## 2005 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



*Employee of the Year awards were presented in December to representatives from various areas of court operations acknowledging their contributions to the Circuit Court and Probate Court. Congratulating the employees were (back row, left to right): The Honorable Wendy Potts, Chief Circuit Judge, and the Honorable Eugene Arthur Moore, Chief Probate Judge. Those recognized were (front row, left to right): Sheila Russ, Circuit Court Judicial Secretary; Colleen Bagazinski, Deputy Probate Register I; Terry Castiglione, User Support Specialist II; Sandra Grubbs, Circuit Court Secretary I; and Joe Rzepecki, Friend of the Court Family Counselor.*

## 2005 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



*Employee of the Year nominees also recognized for their service and dedication to the Court were (front row, left to right): Sue Bennington, Mary Schusterbauer, Vicki Shelton, Jeanette Leshan, Cass Morgan, Charlene Woods, Barbara Felder, Porferia Mellado, and Bill Hamilton. (Back row, left to right): Laura Roman-Christman, Lisa Czyz, Kim Voss, Barbara Pickens, Claudia Martello, Pat Hays, Bridget Haicas, Dave Dunsmore, and Lori Morrison. Not pictured: Roberta Dunn, Jim Windell, Sue McCoy, and Shari Toth.*

# Court Employees Make A Difference

The Courts' talented and committed staff make every effort to provide service in a knowledgeable, efficient, and caring manner. The outstanding reputation of the Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts is a reflection of this philosophy and the Courts' commitment to service. Throughout the year, unsolicited testimonials recognizing Court employees for service excellence were received from citizens and users of the Courts' services. What follows is a sampling of the recognition received.

## **Patrina Anthony**

Deputy Register I  
Probate Estates

"It was wonderful to hear your pleasant voice on the other end of the telephone. I am going through the process of retiring, filing for benefits, and recently moved. I have so many forms to fill out and have talked to so many different agencies and their representatives -- you stand out among them all.

Thank you for doing your job with such helpfulness, kindness, and efficiency -- you rate an A+ from me."

## **Lisa Czyz**

ADR Coordinator  
Civil/Criminal Division

*"Thank you for all of your hard work and effort in working with the committee to draft and finalize the Probate Court's ADR Plan and your continued work in receiving the applications with the ultimate goal of the completion of the new Probate Mediators List. You do an excellent job and we are lucky to have county employees such as yourself."*

## **Edward Jones**

Youth & Family Caseworker I  
Circuit Court Family Division

*"What a great job Mr. Jones is doing. Mr. Jones was only in my son's life for a short time, but he has left a lasting impression on him."*

*It has been awhile now and my son still tells me what Mr. Jones said or did. I can honestly say my son is doing great now and a lot of the credit goes to Mr. Jones. I am very thankful there are people who take the time to get to know the children and give them great advice. Thank you, Mr. Jones!"*

## **Edna Williams**

Youth Assistance Caseworker II  
Oak Park Youth Assistance  
Circuit Court Family Division

*"I would like to thank you for showing care and concern for my family down through the years. Thank you for taking time to teach my children how to love and respect other people. My daughters still share with me some of the things you taught them in 'Girl Power' meetings at your home. Thank you again for showing kindness and being very considerate and being able to see hurting people and being able to reach out to them."*

## **Joe Racey**

Juvenile Court Referee  
Circuit Court Family Division

*"While we review hundreds of cases each year across the state, this case stands out among them in terms of timely and efficient court proceedings and decisiveness. This case exemplifies your obvious understanding of the impact that protracted proceedings have on the development of very young children and their need for timely permanency. Your reports and recommendations illustrated a high degree of fairness and a nuanced understanding of the children's needs and best interests."*

*We commend you for your commitment to ensuring justice for the children of Oakland County."*

## **Kim Voss**

Probation Specialist  
Probate Estates  
and Mental Health

*"I had a very difficult estate which required significant assistance in resolving many issues. Ms. Voss went way above the normal course of duty and assisted me on several occasions in addressing very complicated matters. Ms. Voss' assistance was greatly appreciated, answering many questions, and allowing the widow of the decedent to bring closure to an emotional matter."*

# A Year In Review



Judge Richard D. Kuhn was honored by the OCBA for his 31 years of service to the Court with a tree planting ceremony on the north lawn of the courthouse. Judge Kuhn, shown with his family, was a Circuit Court judge from 1973 - 2004.



On January 11, 2005, Judge Cheryl A. Matthews was sworn in as the newest Oakland County Circuit Court judge, at an investiture ceremony in the Commissioners Auditorium. Judge Matthews will assume the family division docket formerly held by Judge Michael Warren.



The Circuit Court hosted Judge Donghoon Lee of South Korea as part of the NCSC's Korean Judge Observation Program. Chief Judge Wendy Potts presented Judge Lee with a gavel as a memento of his visit to the Court.



Daryl Derimacker, court clerk to Judge Steven Andrews, was presented in the fall with the "Judge Richard and Sally Kuhn Scholarship," intended to help defray educational expenses for court clerks enrolled in law school.



A plaque in memory of the late Judge Patrick Brennan was dedicated to the Court by the OCBA. Taking part in the ceremony were Chief Judge Wendy Potts, attorney John Brennan (brother), and OCBA President Don McGinnis.



"Wrapping Day" in December was a busy event as several staff gathered to wrap donated Christmas gifts for a needy family and mitten tree donations for 25 additional children. Pictured are Jill Adkins and Debbie Thompson of the Court Administration Office.



Michigan Adoption Day was held in November with seven Family Division Judges finalizing adoptions for 19 families. Following the hearings, adoptive families, along with their families and friends, celebrated with court staff at a reception where each adopted child received a gift bag from the Court.

# A Year In Review



Richard Lynch, Chief - Court Operations, and Kevin Oeffner, Court Administrator, congratulate Becky Young, Jury Clerk, on her 30th anniversary with the Circuit Court. Prior to Becky beginning her career in the Jury Office, she worked in the Assignment Office (now called Caseflow) and the Court Administrator's Office.



New Lawyers Admission ceremonies were held for 78 law school graduates in the Commissioners Auditorium in May and November of this year. After the ceremony, the new lawyers met with Clerk's Office staff to complete paperwork.



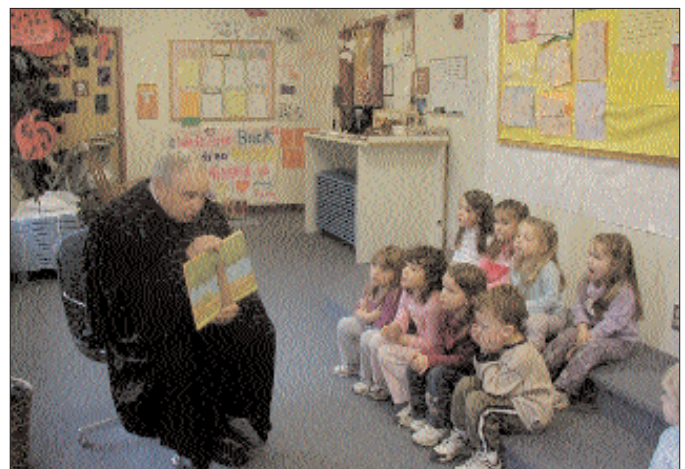
An event entitled "Examining the Rule of Law: Lessons from the Holocaust for America Today" commemorated both Law Day and Holocaust Remembrance Day. Featured were Wayne State University Professor of German History Andrew Port. Commissioner Helene Zack (shown above) gave the proclamation.



The Picnic Committee got rave reviews for its planning of this year's picnic. The September 16 event, attended by 140 court employees, included a dessert contest and drawings for gift certificates from various restaurant vendors.



As part of Michigan Adoption Day, Presiding Family Division Judge James Alexander presents Judge Eugene Arthur Moore with the Champion of Children award for his 39 years of work on behalf of children.



Judge Gene Schnelz was the "honorary reader" in November for the pre-school and kindergarten children at Little Oaks. Stories are read each month by county employees who graciously volunteer their time.

# In Memoriam



## The Honorable James S. Thorburn

On October 26, 2005, Circuit Judge James S. Thorburn passed away at the age of 87. Judge Thorburn was appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor George Romney in 1963 and served until his retirement in 1988. He was the Court's first chief judge when that position was created and the first chairman of the Judicial Conference in the State Bar of Michigan. In addition, he served as a member of the Special Commission to Review the Judicial Article of the Constitution of Michigan.

In his 25 years as judge, he was considered to be one of the most respected and powerful members of the Oakland County Bench. Circuit Judge Steven N. Andrews knew him to be a "creative judge, who imparted a lot of knowledge and wisdom to young lawyers."

Judge Thorburn was a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and the National Judicial College. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, he was engaged in a private law practice in Royal Oak for 16 years. He served as a trustee of William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak for more than 20 years and was a former president of the Royal Oak Board of Education.



## The Honorable Sandra G. Silver

Judge Sandra Silver served the Oakland County Probate Court from 1988 through 2000. Judge Silver graduated from the University of Michigan and received her Juris Doctor from the Detroit College of Law. Prior to her appointment to the Bench by Governor James J. Blanchard in 1988, she was a public administrator for 10 years and a labor arbitrator. Judge Silver, known as a very dedicated and hard working judge with a commitment to people, passed away on April 4, 2005 at the age of 70.

"She was well versed in the law, but she had an enormous amount of compassion," commented Probate Judge Barry Grant. "Sandy cared about people, and that's what made her such a great judge." One of her favorite times was on Adoption Day when, after the hearings, she would throw lemonade and cookie parties in her chambers for the new families.

Judge Silver was a member of the Discipline Panel for the Attorney Grievance Commission, the Women Lawyers Association, the National Association of Women Judges, and the Probate and Mental Health Committees of the Michigan Probate Judges Association. In addition, Judge Silver was honored by the Salvation Army and HAVEN for her dedication and commitment to community issues.

# Historical Roster of the Circuit Court Bench

Sanford M. Green	1848–1852	Arthur E. Moore	1963–1976	Fred M. Mester	1982–Present
Joseph Copeland	1852–1858	Philip Pratt	1963–1970	Norman L. Lippitt	1985–1989
James S. Dewey	1870–1874	James S. Thorburn	1963–1988	Jessica R. Cooper	1987–2000
Levi B. Taft	1873–1876	William R. Beasley	1966–1976	Edward Sosnick	1989–Present
Aug C. Baldwin	1876–1880	Farrell E. Roberts	1967–1982	Barry L. Howard	1989–2001
Silas B. Gaskill	1880–1882	Daniel C. Devine	1966–1966	Deborah G. Tyner	1991–Present
William Stickney	1882–1888	Robert L. Templin	1967–1996	Rudy J. Nichols	1991–Present
Joseph B. Moore	1888–1896	William P. Hampton	1970–1976	Denise Langford Morris	1992–Present
George W. Smith	1896–1908	Richard D. Kuhn	1973–2004	John J. McDonald	1993–Present
Kleber P. Rockwell	1917–1921	John N. O'Brien	1973–1993	Nanci J. Grant	1997–Present
Frank L. Covert	1919–1933	Robert B. Webster	1973–1982	Joan E. Young	1997–Present
Glenn C. Gillespie	1923–1934	Steven N. Andrews	1976–Present	Wendy L. Potts	1998–Present
Frank L. Doty	1928–1959	Alice L. Gilbert	1977–1992	Colleen A. O'Brien	1998–Present
Goodloe H. Rogers	1935–1935	Alice L. Gilbert	1995–2002	Patrick J. Brennan	2000–2004
George B. Hartrick	1935–1958	Francis X. O'Brien	1977–1997	Rae Lee Chabot	2001–Present
H. Russel Holland	1935–1965	Hilda R. Gage	1978–1996	James M. Alexander	2001–Present
Clark J. Adams	1956–1973	Bernard L. Kaufman	1979–1979	Michael Warren	2002–Present
William J. Beer	1958–1980	Gene Schnelz	1979–Present	Daniel P. O'Brien	2003–Present
Theodore Hughes	1959–1959	George LaPlata	1979–1985	Martha D. Anderson	2003–Present
Stanton G. Dondero	1959–1965	Robert C. Anderson	1981–1998	Mark A. Goldsmith	2004–Present
Frederick C. Ziem	1959–1986	David F. Breck	1982–2000	Cheryl A. Matthews	2005–Present

# Historical Roster of the Probate Court Bench

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

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