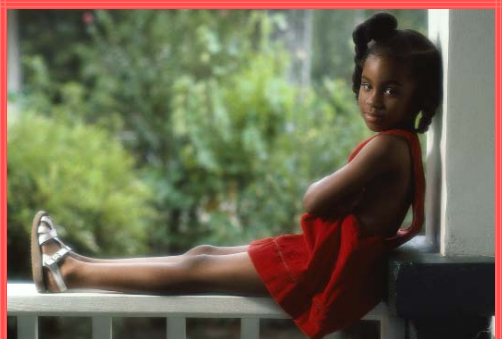
MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ANNUAL REPORT 2005



A MESSAGE FROM

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor

Chief Justice
Clifford W. Taylor

In reviewing the judicial branch's achievements of 2005, I am reminded of the words of Francis Bacon: "He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator." In the same spirit, Michigan's courts not only addressed the concerns of 2005, but anticipated future challenges.

In June, for example, the Supreme Court hired the first Trial Court Security Specialist. A generation ago—pre-September 11 and pre-Hurricane Katrina—it would have seemed unnecessary to do so. Today, our branch of government knows that it must be prepared for everything from natural disasters to terrorist attacks. Accordingly, through this new position, the Supreme Court offers trial courts services ranging from analyzing courthouse security to safety training for judges and court staff. For the first time, trial court security and emergency services coordinators could communicate quickly and effectively through an e-mail Listserv. Initial planning began on a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which is aimed at helping courts function in disasters.

The judicial branch also looked to the future through a number of technology initiatives, including the Judicial Network Project, a four-year effort which was completed in 2005. Through this project, nearly all felony dispositions in Michigan are now reported electronically from the courts to the Michigan State Police and Secretary of State. Law enforcement benefits by this reporting, which allows courts to update criminal history information daily and often immediately. Another statewide project, the Judicial Data Warehouse, is in process; the data warehouse would collect information about all pending and closed cases in state courts. Still other projects explored electronic filing of court documents and online payment of traffic tickets.

Educating the public about the judicial branch remained a top priority, as did continuing education for judges and court staff. But technology added a new twist, as the Internet played an ever more dominant role in communications. So, for example, the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Court's educational division, expanded its use of web-based training, while the "Michigan Courts" website was redesigned to make it easier for the public to use.

These and other achievements of Michigan's judicial branch are highlighted in this annual report, which I invite you to read. We have also included statistics about our courts' activities and caseloads. More detailed information is available at http://www.courts.mi.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/statistics.htm#annual.

Clifford W. Taylor
Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court

SEAL OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
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HIGHLIGHTS

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

As of December 2005, there were almost 19,000 children in Michigan's child welfare system due to abuse or neglect. Child Welfare Services (CWS), a division of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), helps courts address the needs of these children and their families. The division's responsibilities include training judges and court staff, helping courts expedite permanent placements for children, and monitoring a special court docket for missing foster children. CWS also supports events that educate the public about child welfare issues, such as Michigan Adoption Day.

Michigan Adoption Day

In Michigan, thousands of foster children lack permanent homes. As of December 31, 2005, there were 12,316 children who were temporary court wards in Michigan as a result of child protective proceedings. As of the same date, there were 18,959 children in foster care in Michigan. For most children in foster care, the goal is returning to a safe and stable home. But a significant number of children (4,455 as of December 31, 2005) are permanent court wards with a goal of adoption. To draw attention to their plight, and to educate the public about the adoption process, the Michigan Supreme Court co-sponsored the third annual Michigan Adoption Day on November 22, 2005. According to National Adoption Day organizers, Michigan Adoption Day was the largest such event in the nation for the third straight year. Forty-four counties participated and 276 children were adopted. The adoption ceremonies included parties for the adopted children and their families, gifts for the children, and informational sessions for the public.

Children's Community Support Network

Unfortunately, statistics indicate that, after age 11, the likelihood that a foster child will be adopted drops dramatically. As of December 2005, there were 3,402 children aged 16 and older in foster care. Most of these children will simply "age out" of the foster care system. Over half of "aged-out" former foster children will find themselves back in the court system within two years, and they are at high risk for substance abuse, teen pregnancy, poverty, and other negative outcomes.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK CONTINUED

To address this problem, the Children's Community Support Network (CCSN) was launched on Michigan Adoption Day 2004. Throughout 2005, CCSN identified volunteers and matched them with the needs of various organizations, such as the Department of Human Services (DHS, formerly known as the Family Independence Agency), private child service organizations, and the courts. The CCSN pilot provided useful information, and CWS, the Michigan Supreme Court, and DHS continue to collaborate on resources for youth aging out of the foster care system.

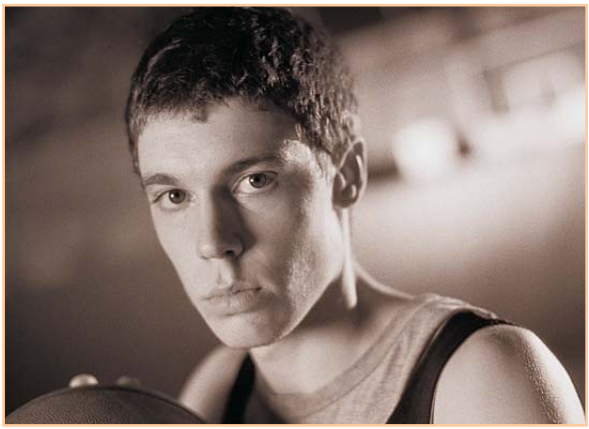
Federal Reviews

Michigan could lose millions of dollars in foster care funding, depending on the outcome of federal reviews. In March 2004, Michigan underwent a federal audit regarding administration of the Title IV-E Program, which provides states with federal funding for foster care programs for abused or neglected children. In 2004, Michigan received approximately $248 million in Title IV-E funds; the state received a similar amount in 2005. Michigan failed both the March 2004 audit and a 2002 audit performed by the federal Department of Child and Family Services. The state is appealing those audit findings, but could lose a significant amount of foster care funding if it does not pass the next round of reviews.

Since 2004, CWS has collaborated with DHS to address issues raised in the federal reviews and on the appeal of the audits. CWS and DHS have also worked together on training court staff and others to meet federal foster care requirements. In 2005, CWS provided statewide training to over 2,500 people to improve the state's compliance with federal requirements. The Michigan Supreme Court and CWS also met regularly with DHS throughout 2005 regarding their pending appeal of some federal audit findings.

In 2004, Governor Granholm signed legislation that addresses requirements in the Title IV-E regulations. In 2005, a workgroup that included a CWS representative focused on drafting court order forms to comport with the language in federal regulations and the new legislation. The revised court order forms will be distributed in January 2006.

Children Absent Without Legal Permission



Circuit courts throughout Michigan have special dockets for foster children who are missing from their court-ordered placements, often referred to as Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOLP). In 2005, 753 children were reported missing, including 89 who were missing twice and 13 who were missing three times. In 78 percent of the cases, the child was located. Several courts have been especially innovative in locating missing children

and addressing their needs, including the reasons they run away from foster care. In 2005, CWS began collecting information about locating these missing children and will provide best practices resources in 2006 to assist the courts.

Foster Care Review Board

CWS oversees the Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB), which the Legislature created in 1985 to review cases of abused or neglected children in foster care. FCRB volunteers provide an objective look at the roles that the courts, DHS, and private agencies play in the system. FCRB also makes findings and recommendations about permanency planning and presents these recommendations to the judicial, executive, and legislative branches. In addition, local boards hold appeal hearings when foster parents object to removal of children from the foster home.

In 2005, FCRB conducted approximately 2,400 reviews affecting 1,900 children. Also in 2005, FCRB received 120 phone requests for appeals and conducted 83 appeals. Program representatives reconciled the remaining appeals without hearings. FCRB volunteers in Wayne County also conducted over 250 permanency reviews of judicial compliance with the Adoptions and Safe Families Act and federal funding regulations. Reviews will continue through January 2006.

Court Improvement Program

In child protective cases, the goal is to either reunite the child with the family or find the child another permanent home. If courts are not functioning properly, children simply languish in the system. The Court Improvement Program, which is supported by federal funds, assesses Michigan courts' handling of child protection cases. An initial assessment of the courts was completed in 1997; the reassessment was completed in June 2005. As a result of these assessments, the Michigan Supreme Court, CWS, and DHS have formed work groups to address key issues, such as barriers to adoption, the role of the lawyer-guardian ad litem (attorney representing the child in child protection proceedings), permanency plans for older children, and child welfare training.

Absent Parent Protocol

The Absent Parent Protocol was developed in 2003 to address the large number of child protection cases where only one parent is involved in the court proceedings. The protocol, which was developed through collaboration with the Michigan Judicial Institute,

ABSENT PARENT PROTOCOL CONTINUED

CWS, and the Friend of the Court Bureau, was updated in 2004 and 2005 to clarify issues related to the definition of legal fathers, formalize a new partnership with the Office of Child Support, and address concerns raised by DHS. The updated protocol was distributed to courts and service providers throughout Michigan in late 2005; training will take place through 2006.

Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem Training

In 2005, CWS continued to offer training to lawyer guardians ad litem (L-GAL); 2005 topics included federal foster care funding regulations and educational issues for foster care children. The 2005 training grew out of a 2003 protocol created by SCAO and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice; the protocol shaped the L-GAL curriculum created by CWS and the Michigan Judicial Institute in 2004. CWS has trained over 700 L-GALs from 60 counties.

FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU

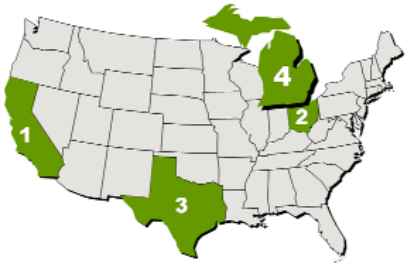
Michigan's Friend of the Court (FOC) offices enforce court orders regarding custody, parenting time, and support. The Friend of the Court Bureau (FOCB), a division of SCAO, works with and on behalf of the 65 FOC offices in Michigan's 83 counties. Some FOC offices serve two or more counties in the same judicial circuit.

Michigan's Child Support Collection Performance

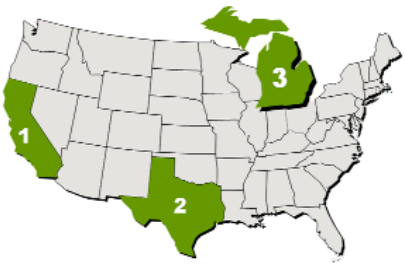
The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, which reviewed all states' child support collections for FY 2004, reported in 2005 that Michigan's 2004 distributed child support collections totaled $1,414,387,902, placing Michigan fourth highest in the United States behind California, Ohio, and Texas. Michigan also ranked third in the collection and distribution of past due child support (the child support arrearage), trailing only California and Texas.

In 2005, thanks to a collaboration between the courts and the Michigan Office of Child Support (a division of DHS), the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program collected $12,554,652.99 in past due support, significantly reducing Michigan's child support arrearage. FIDM uses a statewide computer system, known as the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES), to locate the bank accounts of parents who have failed to pay support. FIDM not only

Child Support Collections Distributed



Collection/Distribution of Past Due Child Support



helps custodial parents and children; it also increases Michigan's share of federal "incentive" funding, which is awarded on the basis of each state's overall success in child support collections.

The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES)

As reported in the 2004 Annual Report, a major goal for FY 2005 was improving MiCSES to better serve its users' needs. There was no funding for this effort, however. In fact, the FY 2005 appropriation for MiCSES was cut to a level that permitted nothing more than maintenance of the system and compliance with new legislative requirements. FOCB was actively involved in the software releases that did occur in 2005.

The Michigan Child Support Program Leadership Group makes major decisions regarding MiCSES. FOCB has two representatives on the Program Leadership Group, and the FOCB Director rotates as its Chair. FOCB also occupied leadership positions on various work improvement teams, which provide suggestions to the Program Leadership Group for MiCSES improvements. However, without a larger appropriation for FY 2006, the program would be unable to pay for these necessary improvements of the system. To overcome this obstacle, FOCB helped to identify potential sources of additional revenue and worked with the child support partnership to obtain a $17.8 million increase in the MiCSES budget for FY 2006. This money will support a two-year project to improve MiCSES. FOCB also helped set priorities for the system "fixes" that must be undertaken in the next two years. By continued participation in the planning and design of the system, FOCB will help the child support program achieve many of the long-awaited improvements to MiCSES. However, the success of the two-year project will depend, in part, on whether federal and state governments impose new functional requirements on the system.

Prisoner Support Adjustment Project

Most incarcerated parents are unable to pay child support. In addition, being confined makes it difficult for these parents to obtain court orders modifying their support obligations. As a result, many prisoners accumulate significant child support arrearages. Confronted with arrearages that they cannot pay, many prisoners simply give up trying to pay child support—and abandon their children.

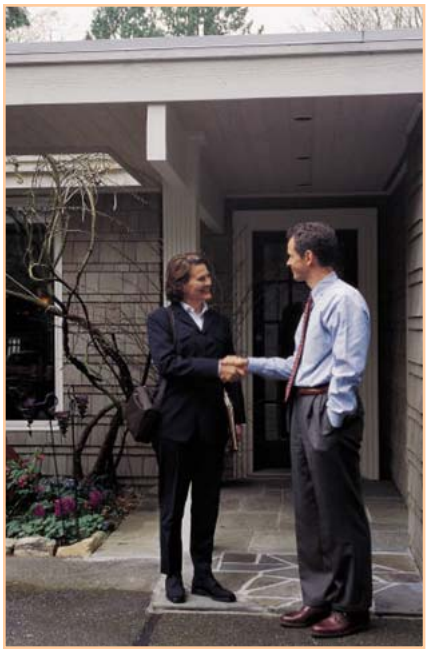
In late 2004, with a $100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FOCB launched the Prisoner Support Adjustment Project. Pilot projects include

PRISONER SUPPORT ADJUSTMENT PROJECT CONTINUED

the family divisions of Ingham, Kent, Saginaw and Wayne County Circuit Courts. In 2005, the pilot courts tried various methods of assisting prisoners with filing motions and making court appearances by telephone or video. In addition, students from the Michigan State University and Wayne State University law schools provided pro bono representation for some prisoners. In 2005, FOCB, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections (DOC), developed recommended procedures for prisoner-payers whose cases qualified for the project.

Through this project, support orders for hundreds of incarcerated parents were modified to reflect their ability to pay. Building on this experience, FOCB will continue to work with DOC and Michigan's family courts to improve imprisoned parents' access to courts, so that judges can set realistic support amounts.

Mediation



The Supreme Court recognizes that domestic relations litigation can cause families to suffer extreme emotional trauma. In 2005, under the direction of Justice Maura Corrigan, the Supreme Court continued to pursue projects that help families resolve conflict through means other than litigation.

The Postjudgment Parenting Time Pilot Project, which was initiated by SCAO's Office of Dispute Resolution in 2004, became very successful in 2005. This pilot project helps parents resolve their conflicts and encourages cooperative parenting. In 2005, two more counties were added to the original five counties that began the pilot project. In addition, the project's mediation services were expanded to include custody issues as well as parenting time. In 2005, the pilot counties mediated 227 domestic relations cases and had a settlement rate of 54.7 percent.

Other FOCB Activities

- **Customer Service Unit**: In 2005, FOCB established a Customer Service Unit staffed by outstanding law students from Lansing area law schools. These customer service clerks assist FOCB by responding to telephone calls from litigants, government officials, and county Friend of the Court offices. The clerks also assist with correspondence, data collection, grievance audits, and research. Moreover, the students have demonstrated an interest in family law as a career.

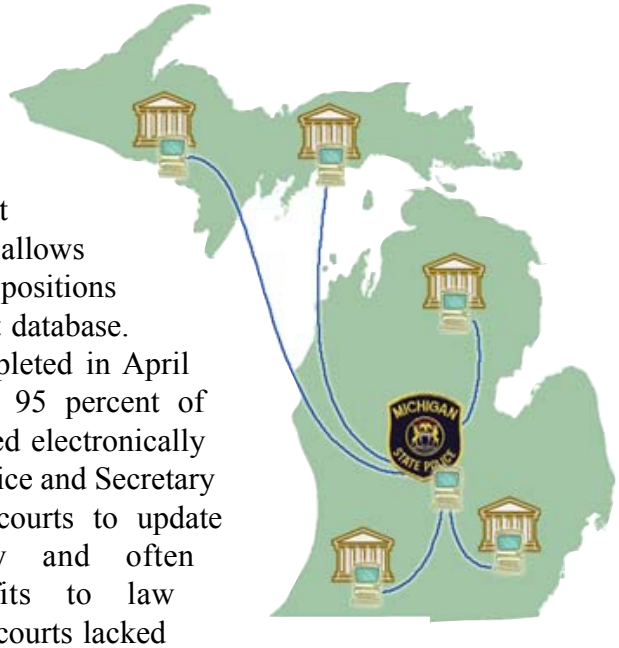
OTHER FOCB ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

- **Legislative Training**: In 2005, FOCB provided training sessions for Michigan legislators and their aides. The attendees learned about FOC office operations, the FOC grievance procedure, and how best to deal with their constituents' complaints about FOC matters.

- **Special Federal Grants**: In 2005, SCAO/Office of Dispute Resolution administered the federal "Access and Visitation" grant that provided federal funding for state programs to improve noncustodial parents' access to their children. Twenty-one Michigan FOC offices shared a total of $205,792 in Access and Visitation grant funding. As a result of this grant, 857 individuals received services from county Access and Visitation programs. Many of the counties used the grant funding to combine a supervised parenting-time program with family counseling and/or parent education programs.

COURT TECHNOLOGY

Judicial Network Project



In 2005, law enforcement got a boost from the Judicial Network Project, which allows Michigan trial courts to report felony dispositions electronically to a state law enforcement database. Thanks to this project, which was completed in April 2005, 96 percent of adult felony and 95 percent of juvenile felony dispositions were reported electronically from the courts to the Michigan State Police and Secretary of State. Electronic reporting allows courts to update criminal history information daily and often immediately, with resulting benefits to law enforcement. In the past, because many courts lacked the necessary technology, Michigan State Police staff had to enter criminal history information manually, a process which could take a week or more.

The annual budget for the four-year project averaged $2.3 million. Funding came from National Criminal History Improvement Program grants and the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund (JTIF), an annual funding source in the Supreme Court's budget supported by court fees. SCAO's Judicial Information Systems Division (JIS) led the project, assisted by the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Information Technology, SCAO's Trial Court Services Division, county and municipal governments, and private contractors.

JUDICIAL NETWORK PROJECT CONTINUED

The State Police have an October 2006 deadline for trial courts to submit misdemeanor dispositions electronically. Accordingly, since April 2005, the project has focused on automating courts for electronic submission of misdemeanor dispositions.

JTIF will be used primarily to fund the ongoing support of the network. The fund will also expand into other applications for data warehousing, payment of traffic tickets, electronic filing of court documents over the Internet, and a new court case management system.

Judicial Data Warehouse

In 2005, SCAO continued the implementation of the Judicial Data Warehouse, which will allow the judiciary to collect information about pending and closed cases throughout Michigan.

The state's 251 trial court locations use 41 different case management systems distributed on 150 different hardware platforms. As a result, courts have difficulty sharing case information with each other and with other branches of government. This inability to communicate creates an information void about defendants in criminal cases and others involved in the Michigan justice system.

Starting in 2002, SCAO began using JTIF money to add judicial information to the state's data warehouse. The data warehouse will give state trial judges and staff access to a statewide name index with associated detail data to identify pending and closed cases in other courts. SCAO will be able to generate statistical and trend information.

In 2005, data from the warehouse was integrated with the State Police I-Services Gateway application, a pilot project funded by a Homeland Security Grant. Also interested in data sharing projects are the Department of Natural Resources, the State Police's Office of Highway Safety Planning, and the Department of Corrections.

The map on page 9 illustrates the 89 courts in 34 counties participating in the warehouse project as of 2005.

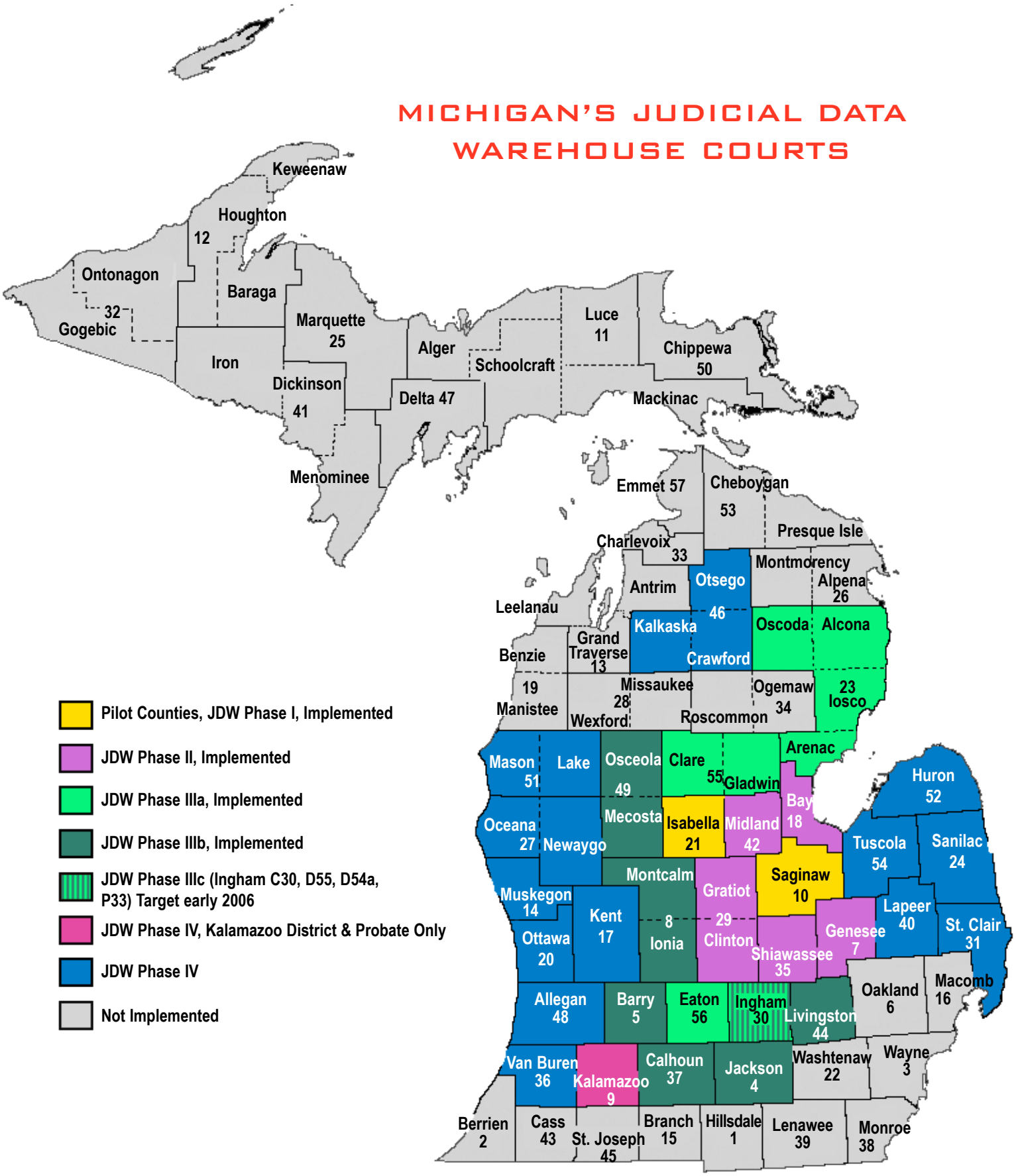
Electronic Ticket Payment

In 2005, the 38th District Court in Eastpointe was added to a JTIF pilot project that allows users to pay traffic tickets online. The 62A District Court in Wyoming was the first pilot site for the e-ticket project and has been in operation since February 2004. By going to https://e.courts.michigan.gov, which is part of the Michigan.gov website, users can:

- post payments to a court's case management system;
- use the state's secure credit card processing application; and
- pay multiple tickets to different courts with one credit card transaction.

Application development focused on security issues and the various operational environments of local trial court systems. These changes are slated for completion at the end of the first quarter of 2006. The project will then expand to include other courts.

MICHIGAN'S JUDICIAL DATA WAREHOUSE COURTS



Electronic Filing

Lawyers and lay people will be able to file court documents from their computers under another judicial branch technology project, known as e-Filing. In 2005, six courts in Michigan offered e-Filing on a limited basis for selective case types.

In Ottawa Circuit, attorneys subscribe to an e-Filing service. Documents submitted to the service are printed by the court clerk and then manually processed. Only attorney subscribers and designated court staff have access to the electronic file. In Wayne County, a private vendor provides electronic service of pleadings for the court's asbestos docket. This electronic service has eliminated paper copies of court documents and improved service for all asbestos docket participants.

To make it possible for all state courts to offer e-Filing, in 2004 the Supreme Court began work on an Enterprise e-Filing Manager (EFM). The EFM will interface with executive branch agencies and vendors that already provide electronic service of pleadings. In addition to importing data from those sources, the EFM will interact and exchange information with all state courts' case and docket management systems. In June 2005, the Michigan Court of Appeals implemented e-Filing for Michigan Public Service Commission cases. In addition, in the last quarter of 2005, the Eaton and Oakland County Circuit Courts implemented e-Filing for a select group of civil cases.

JIS will continue to evaluate these pilot projects in 2006 to determine whether and how to expand e-Filing.

State-wide Trial Court Case Management System

The backbone of every Michigan trial court is its case management system. In the past, each trial court selected a system that best met the court's needs within the court's financial limits. As a result, trial courts are supported by many different case management systems, which are deployed on different and decentralized servers. Recently, however, many courts are seeking alternatives to their existing case management systems, spurred by a number of factors: The need to upgrade applications, an increase in mandated electronic reporting requirements, costly conversion failures, cutbacks in local funding, and vendors' termination of support services.

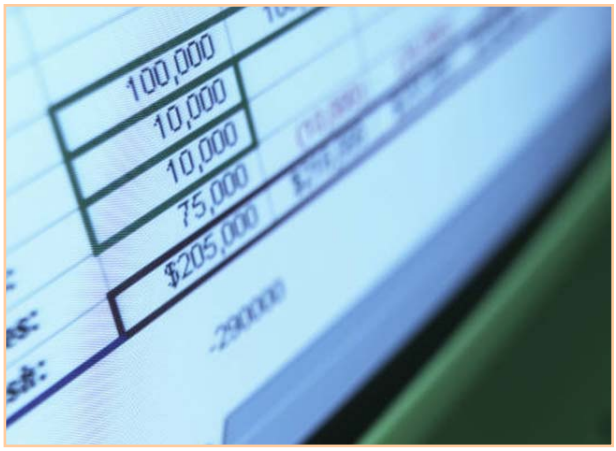
In 2005, the judiciary began investigating alternatives that would provide a case management system similar to other applications found on the user's desktop. JIS and Trial Court Services are leading this effort.

COLLECTIONS

Collecting court-ordered financial sanctions is a top priority for the Michigan judiciary. Enforcing court orders, including financial sanctions, enhances courts' integrity and credibility. In addition, the judiciary is responsible by statute for collecting court fines, fees, and costs. These funds support law enforcement, libraries, the Crime Victims Rights Fund, and local governments. To improve collections, SCAO convened a Collections Advisory Committee in 2004. The Supreme Court approved the committee's recommended collections strategy on June 5, 2005. When this three-phase strategy is complete—in approximately June 2009—all state trial courts will have a SCAO-mandated collections program. Features include training, data collection, and best practices.

In 2005, SCAO took additional steps to improve court collections:

- On-site collections reviews. SCAO and the reviewed courts will use the data to assess the courts' success with collections.
- Improved audit procedures to identify courts for on-site technical assistance.
- New reporting requirements for the courts and case management system providers. Starting on July 15, 2006, courts will provide annual standard receivables and collections reports, which will help SCAO monitor court collections.
- Software enhancements and related training. The software generates mailings to defendants with outstanding balances.



- Prisoner account collections. SCAO matched circuit court cases with non-restitution balances to a Department of Corrections prisoner file. As a result, circuit courts in 29 counties issued orders to remit prisoner funds.
- Legislation that enhances courts' ability to enforce payment. The legislation, which SCAO supported, also gives courts authority to collect funds from prisoner accounts.
- Development of a simplified process for collecting outstanding fines and costs through the Michigan Department of Treasury, including intercepting state tax refunds.
- Use of the State Data Warehouse to enhance collections.

THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Drug Treatment Courts

Criminal offenders who are addicted to alcohol or drugs frequently cycle in and out of the justice system. Drug treatment courts seek to break that cycle by treating the offender's addiction. This approach, often described as "therapeutic jurisprudence," focuses on treatment.

Michigan had 56 operational drug treatment courts with an additional seven courts in planning stages in 2005. Both operational courts and those in planning are eligible for federal and state grant funding. Federal funding for these courts is available through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program (formerly known as the Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant). JAG funds are administered by the Office of Drug Control Policy.

State funding is administered by SCAO through the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program (MDCGP). In fiscal year 2005, $2 million was appropriated to the MDCGP, which funded 42 drug treatment courts. Michigan drug courts are comprised of programs for adults, juveniles, families, and drivers arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Drug treatment courts that receive federal or state funding must comply with standards set by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

In 2005, SCAO continued to collaborate with the Office of Drug Control Policy and the Department of Corrections in funding drug treatment courts that target prison-bound, nonviolent felony offenders and probation violators. By focusing on this population, selected drug courts help reduce prison overcrowding and address the cycle of addiction and criminal activity in this priority population.

Drug Treatment Court Legislation

On January 1, 2005, 2004 PA 224 went into effect; the legislation governs Michigan drug treatment court criteria and operations. In addition to other features, the legislation:

- Defines a "drug treatment court" as a court-supervised treatment program for offenders who abuse or are dependent upon any controlled substance or alcohol.
- Establishes essential characteristics for drug treatment courts, including integration of alcohol treatment or other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT LEGISLATION CONTINUED

- Sets conditions for participants—for example, a "violent offender" is not eligible.
- Provides for screening of potential participants, including a complete review of the offender's criminal and substance use/abuse history, dependency on drugs or alcohol, and danger to the community.
- Provides that a participant's statements or other information obtained through drug treatment court participation are confidential.
- Sets requirements for services that drug treatment courts must provide to participants.

Drug Court Case Management Information System (DCCMIS)

2004 PA 224 also called for SCAO to gauge the effectiveness of Michigan's drug treatment courts. Accordingly, in 2005, SCAO entered into a contract to develop an automated case management information system, known as the Drug Court Case Management Information System (DCCMIS). Using DCCMIS, drug courts will manage their caseloads, as well as provide individual data on each drug court applicant and participant as required by the legislation. In addition, the application will help courts and SCAO evaluate drug courts' effectiveness. Drug treatment courts who receive MDCGP funding will be required to use DCCMIS; in addition, DCCMIS will be available to all drug treatment courts, regardless of whether they receive state funding. The system will be maintained by SCAO, and there will be no local cost to use the application. DCCMIS will be implemented statewide, beginning early in 2006.

Family Dependency Drug Treatment Courts

Parental substance abuse has long been acknowledged as either the primary reason or a significant contributing factor in many child welfare cases. Family dependency courts, a fairly new concept, help protect children in neglect and abuse cases by coordinating the efforts of child welfare services, the court system, and community treatment providers. These agencies help provide substance abuse assistance and other services for parents. In 2005, Michigan had two operational family drug treatment courts and another three in the planning stage.

Sobriety Courts

Sobriety courts, also known as DWI courts, work with offenders who have been charged with driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. DWI courts make up approximately 25 percent of the total number of drug treatment courts in the state of Michigan. In 2005, SCAO continued a joint effort with the Office of Highway Safety Planning to evaluate whether DWI courts are effective in reducing repeat alcohol-related driving offenses.

Court Security

Since March 11, 2005, when a defendant grabbed a gun from a sheriff's deputy and went on a shooting rampage in an Atlanta courthouse, court officials throughout the country have focused on improving security. On June 20, 2005, the Michigan Supreme Court hired the first Trial Court Security Specialist to help trial courts address their security concerns. The specialist's responsibilities include developing security protocols for Michigan trial courts and advising judges and court staff on security issues. The position also includes applying for grant applications for federal and state funds for security programs.

In 2005, trial court security achievements included creating an e-mail Listserv (CT-SECURITY-L) for trial court security and emergency services coordinators. Other accomplishments included training about security issues for judges' families, as well as a survey of court security and emergency management. In 2006, security initiatives will include developing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the Michigan Hall of Justice that will include a plan template for use by trial courts. Also planned for 2006: a secure trial court security website using the Michigan Court Applications Portal; revision of the Michigan Court Security Manual; and the development of other security tools and aids for trial courts.

2005 WEB PRESENCE

"One Court of Justice" Website

In November 2005, the redesigned "Michigan Courts" website debuted. The site, which links to websites for the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, and many state courts, was reorganized to make information more accessible to the public. The redesigned site contains the categories "Court and Public Resources," "Legal Community" and "Press and Media," with a number of features under each category. "Press and Media," for example, includes links to Supreme Court press releases and compilations of legal news items. "Court and Public Resources" lists many features, including links to Michigan laws and court statistics. Educational resources featured on the website include the Supreme Court Learning Center, which offers special programs for children studying the justice system.

The site retains direct links to sites for the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, a legal self-help center, and others. The site also offers a Google search engine.

"ONE COURT OF JUSTICE" WEBSITE CONTINUED

A wide variety of materials are available via the "One Court of Justice" website at no charge, including Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, court forms, Michigan Court Rules, and ethics rules for attorneys and judges. In 2005, the website received an average of 7,732 visits per day. A total of 1,300,862 users visited the website 58,869,987 times in 2005.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS AVAILABLE VIA E-MAIL

In October 2005, the Supreme Court introduced a new service: free e-mail delivery of Supreme Court orders.

Most appeals come to the Supreme Court on applications for leave to appeal, meaning that the Supreme Court must decide whether to take the case. The Court's response to these applications has significance for the parties and can also have implications for Michigan law. For example, if the Supreme Court denies leave to appeal from a published decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals, the statements of law in that Court of Appeals decision will not be altered on a direct appeal to the Supreme Court.

The e-mail service is a joint effort by the Supreme Court Clerk's Office and information technology staff from the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. The Court's orders are sent by e-mail every morning at 9:30 a.m.

Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions are also available via a free e-mail service, which was offered for the first time in 2003.

HTTP://COURTS.MI.GOV

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, welcomed 11,579 visitors in 2005. Hands-on exhibits and special programs educate visitors about basic principles of law and Michigan's judicial branch, including the judiciary's history. Visitors included students from fourth grade through high school, college and law students, community organizations, and the general public. Most visitors are Michigan residents, but the Learning Center also welcomed travelers from across the United States, Europe, and Asia. Trained volunteers guide tours and assist with special projects.

On May 3, the Learning Center celebrated Law Day 2005, following the national theme of "We the People in Action: The American Jury." Visitors learned about the importance of the jury through special tours and the opportunity to meet with Supreme Court justices, judges of the Court of Appeals and the 30th Circuit Court, lawyers, and a circuit court jury clerk.

WWW.KNOWTHECONSEQUENCES.NET/

In June, the computer interactive entitled "Drinking & Driving: Know the Consequences" became available online through the Learning Center's "educational resources" page, http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/resources.htm. The interactive, aimed primarily at middle school and high school students, illustrates the consequences of drinking and driving. This project was made possible through funding from the Office of Highway Safety Planning.

In July, a group of 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students attended "Exploring Careers in the Law," a week-long program at the Hall of Justice. The students explored a variety of careers in the court system while meeting with justices, judges, lawyers, law professors, and court staff. A visit to a Lansing district court was also included.

In August, K–12 teachers came to the Hall of Justice for a seminar on how to incorporate the Learning Center into classroom curricula. Seminar presenters included representatives from the Department of Education, the Hall of Justice, the Office of Highway Safety Planning, the State Bar of Michigan, and 54-A District Court in Lansing.

The Learning Center also completed "Oral Arguments in the Michigan Supreme Court," a video aimed at middle school and high school audiences. The video, and a companion discussion guide, were produced in cooperation with the Michigan Supreme Court Clerk and the Public Information Office. The resource examines the role of oral arguments in the Michigan Supreme Court's appellate process.

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) is the educational office of the State Court Administrative Office, dedicated to providing quality, timely education for Michigan judges and judicial branch staff. In 2005, MJI held over 40 seminars focusing on substantive, procedural, and practical issues. Several of those seminars involved collaboration with outside agencies, such as "Safe Havens" trainings for family division judges and judicial staff, held with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. MJI also collaborated with judicial and professional associations to provide educational sessions during the associations' annual conferences. MJI continued to provide court support staff with on-site training opportunities to minimize staff time away from work.

In 2005, the State Justice Institute, the Center for Effective Public Policy, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges selected Michigan as one of three states in which to test a judicial education curriculum on juvenile sex offense cases. The seminar and webcast will be held on February 23, 2006.

MJI continued to offer educational opportunities via internet webcast. Court staff throughout Michigan may view educational seminars by connecting to http://www.courts.mi.gov/mji. Webcasts can be viewed as the seminar takes place or later in an archived format. MJI held 16 seminars that were simultaneously webcast, during which 279 participants "attended" those seminars via the internet. In 2005, 2,152 people viewed MJI's archived webcasts.

Also in 2005, MJI's Publications Team produced a new publication, *Criminal Procedure Monograph 8: Felony Sentencing*, and new editions of three existing titles: the *Contempt of Court Benchbook*, the *Crime Victim Rights Manual*, and the *Traffic Benchbook*. MJI and the Institute for Continuing Legal Education agreed to provide free copies of ICLE's *Michigan Probate Benchbook* and *Michigan Family Law Benchbook,* and free access to biweekly updates to these publications, to Michigan probate and family court judges and family court referees. The Institute for Continuing Legal Education will bear all costs of this joint endeavor; no state funds will be used to provide these publications to the judges and referees.

MJI webcasts and publications, including monthly publication updates, are available at http://courts.mi.gov/mji.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION/COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the past, litigation was the traditional forum for resolving legal disputes. But increasingly, courts and litigants alike are recognizing that there are many costs associated with this adversarial approach. Litigation can be time-consuming and expensive; in addition, it can destroy the underlying relationships between the parties, especially in domestic disputes.

Alternative dispute resolution, known as ADR, offers a quicker and less adversarial way to resolve legal disputes. Mediation, the most commonly used ADR procedure in Michigan, involves a trained neutral party who helps the parties to a dispute reach their own resolution. Matters ranging from small claims cases to domestic relations to complex civil cases are resolved through mediation. Mediation is also used with juvenile truancy cases, child welfare cases, and contested adult guardianship matters.

With the rise of ADR, mediation is being used in an increasing number of legal arenas. In 2005, SCAO began using mediation in postjudgment parenting time disputes referred by the Friend of the Court. SCAO will evaluate this pilot project in late 2006.

In addition, a growing number of courts are encouraging—and in some cases ordering—parties to enter into mediation. Eighty-three Michigan courts have a formal procedure for referring cases to ADR. A list of SCAO-approved court ADR plans is available on the "One Court of Justice" website at http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/localadrlist3.pdf.

SCAO also provides funding to Michigan's 20 Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers. In some jurisdictions, CDRP centers mediate small claims and landlord tenant cases; in others, parties in contested adult guardianship matters resolve their disputes informally. In addition, Michigan courts are increasingly using CDRP centers to help resolve complex cases, including contested probate actions, and general civil cases in both district and circuit courts.

In 2005, CDRP centers achieved a resolution rate of 73 percent when all parties agreed to use a center's services. Of the 14,116 cases disposed of by centers in 2005, 79 percent were referred by courts.

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **Michigan Supreme Court** is Michigan's court of last resort, with final authority over all state courts. In 2005, 2,437 cases were filed with the Supreme Court. Civil cases accounted for 35 percent of the filings and criminal cases accounted for 65 percent. The Court disposed of 2,564 cases. More Supreme Court information can be found on pages 20 and 21 of this report.
- The **Court of Appeals** is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. In 2005, 7,629 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals; the court disposed of 7,853 cases. Of those dispositions, 57 percent were by order and 43 percent were by opinion. More Court of Appeals information can be found on pages 22 through 24 of this report.
- The **Circuit Court** is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than $25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions. In addition, circuit courts hear appeals from other courts and from administrative agencies. In 2005, 334,964 cases were filed in circuit court. More circuit court information can be found on pages 25 through 42 of this report.
- The **Probate Court** has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. In 2005, 62,620 cases were filed in probate court. Over 40 percent of these filings pertained to the administration of estates. An additional 36 percent were guardianships and conservatorships. More probate court information can be found on pages 43 through 50 of this report.
- The **District Court** has jurisdiction over all civil litigation up to $25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, civil infractions, most traffic violations, and a range of criminal cases. In 2005, over 3.8 million cases were filed in district court; over 2 million of those filings were traffic and drunk driving cases. In 2005, misdemeanor cases remained at the relatively low levels reported in 2004. More district court information can be found on pages 51 through 64 of this report.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Michigan's court of last resort, consisting of seven justices. Cases come before the Court during a term that starts August 1 and runs through July 31 of the following year. The Court hears oral arguments in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term.

Michigan Supreme Court justices are elected for eight-year terms. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan for at least five years, and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The justices' salaries are fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state of Michigan. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices elect a member of the Court as Chief Justice.

Each year, the Michigan Supreme Court receives over 2,000 new case filings. In most cases, the litigants seek review of Michigan Court of Appeals decisions, but the Court also hears cases involving charges of professional misconduct by attorneys and judges and a small number of matters as to which it has original jurisdiction. All cases are reviewed and considered by the entire Court. The justices are assisted by the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent research staff. The Court issues a decision by order or opinion in all cases filed. The Court may affirm or reverse the decision below, or remand the case to a lower court for further proceedings.

In 2005, 2,437 cases were filed with the Michigan Supreme Court; the Court disposed of 2,564 cases. Of the 2,437 new filings, 854 (35 percent) were civil cases and 1,583 (65 percent) were criminal cases. As of December 31, 2005, the total number of cases pending was 946.

2005 BENCH

Chief Justice

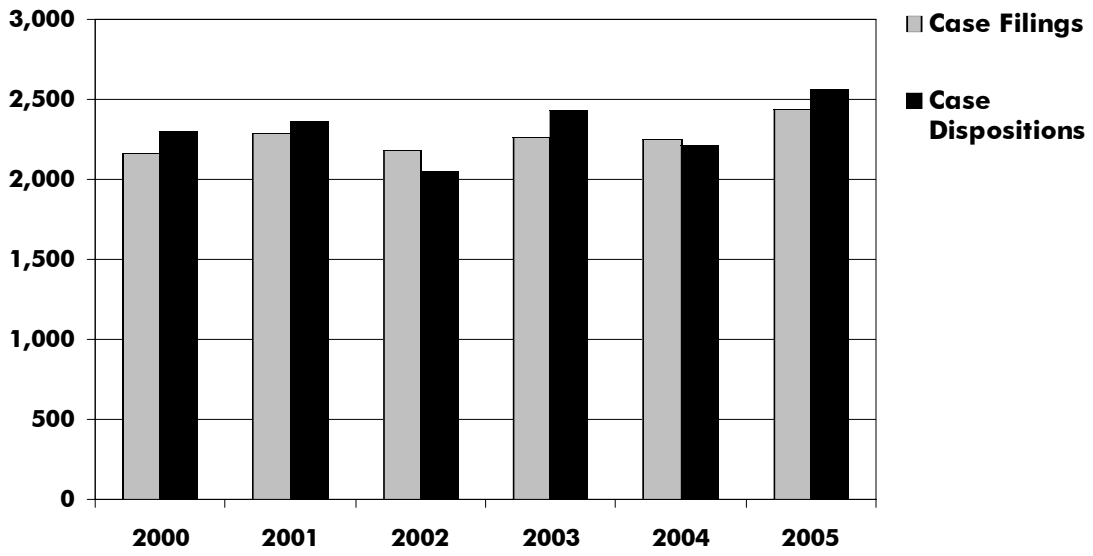
Clifford W. Taylor

Justices

Michael F. Cavanagh
Elizabeth A. Weaver
Marilyn Kelly
Maura D. Corrigan
Robert P. Young, Jr.
Stephen J. Markman

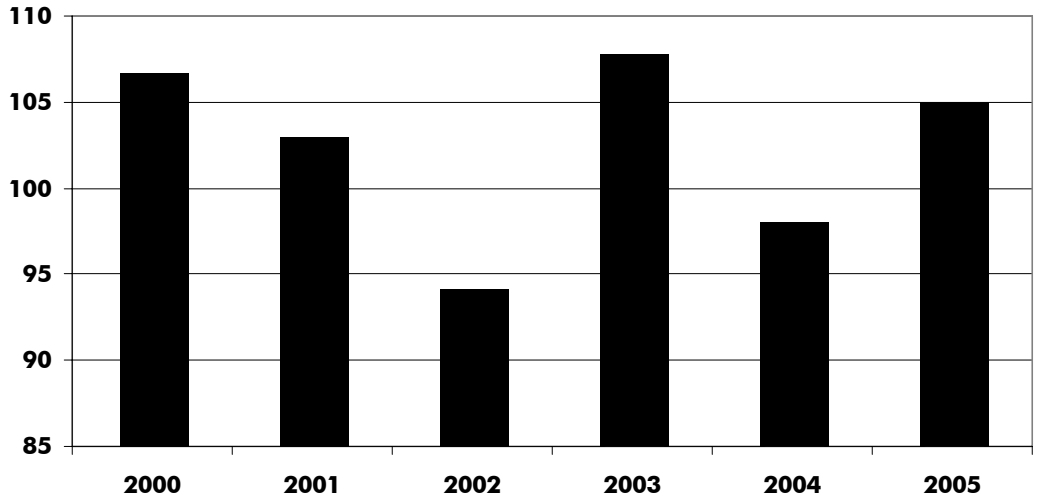
Supreme Court Case Filings and Dispositions

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cases Filed	2,159	2,291	2,180	2,256	2,255	2,437
Cases Disposed	2,302	2,359	2,052	2,431	2,215	2,564



Supreme Court Disposition Rate

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Disposition Rate	107	103	94	108	98	105



Disposition Rate: Case Dispositions Per 100 New Filings

COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The practices and procedures of the Court of Appeals are governed by Michigan Court Rules set by the Supreme Court. Court of Appeals judges' salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer admitted to practice for at least five years, under 70 years of age at the time of election, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Judges are elected from four districts, which are drawn by the Legislature along county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may change the number of judges and alter the districts in which they are elected by changing state law.

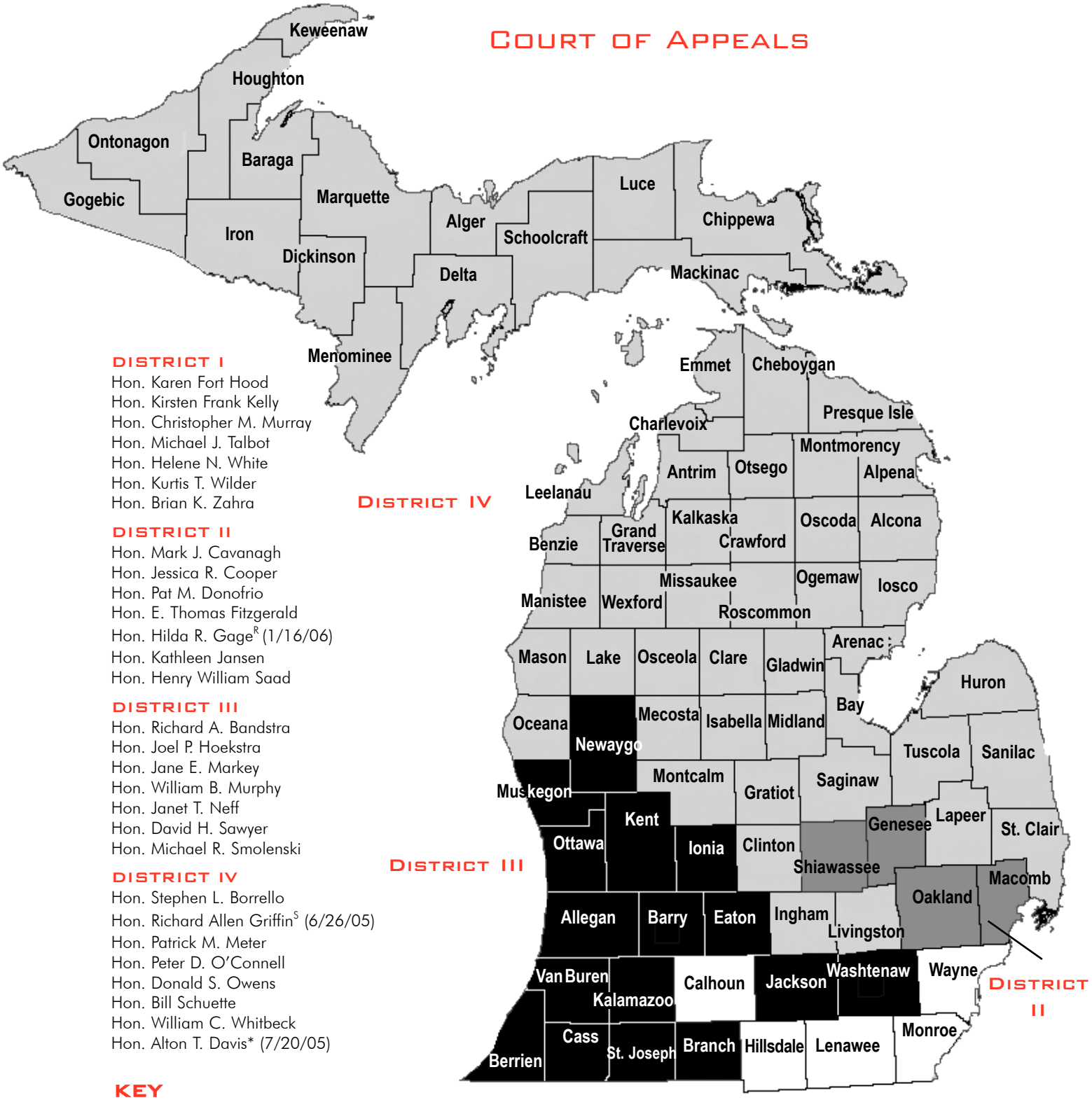
Panels of three Court of Appeals judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Marquette. Panels are rotated geographically so that the judges hear cases in each of the Court's locations.

The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense other than by a guilty plea have an appeal by right under the state constitution.

In 2005, 7,629 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. This represents an increase of slightly more than 8 percent (574 cases) over the 7,055 cases filed in 2004.

In 2005, the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,853 cases, an increase of nearly 8 percent (560 cases) over the 7,293 cases disposed of in 2004. Of the dispositions, 4,444 (56.6 percent) were by order and 3,409 (43.4 percent) were by opinion.

Court of Appeals



District I

Hon. Karen Fort Hood
Hon. Kirsten Frank Kelly
Hon. Christopher M. Murray
Hon. Michael J. Talbot
Hon. Helene N. White
Hon. Kurtis T. Wilder
Hon. Brian K. Zahra

District II

Hon. Mark J. Cavanagh
Hon. Jessica R. Cooper
Hon. Pat M. Donofrio
Hon. E. Thomas Fitzgerald
Hon. Hilda R. Gage[R] (1/16/06)
Hon. Kathleen Jansen
Hon. Henry William Saad

District III

Hon. Richard A. Bandstra
Hon. Joel P. Hoekstra
Hon. Jane E. Markey
Hon. William B. Murphy
Hon. Janet T. Neff
Hon. David H. Sawyer
Hon. Michael R. Smolenski

District IV

Hon. Stephen L. Borrello
Hon. Richard Allen Griffin[S] (6/26/05)
Hon. Patrick M. Meter
Hon. Peter D. O'Connell
Hon. Donald S. Owens
Hon. Bill Schuette
Hon. William C. Whitbeck
Hon. Alton T. Davis* (7/20/05)

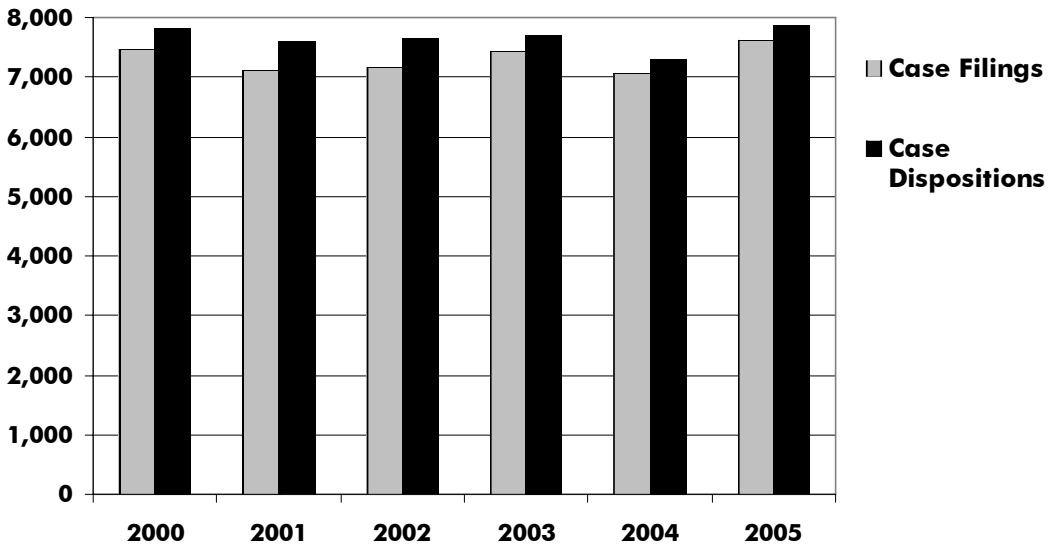
KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge
R Retired
S Resigned

District I
District II
District III
District IV

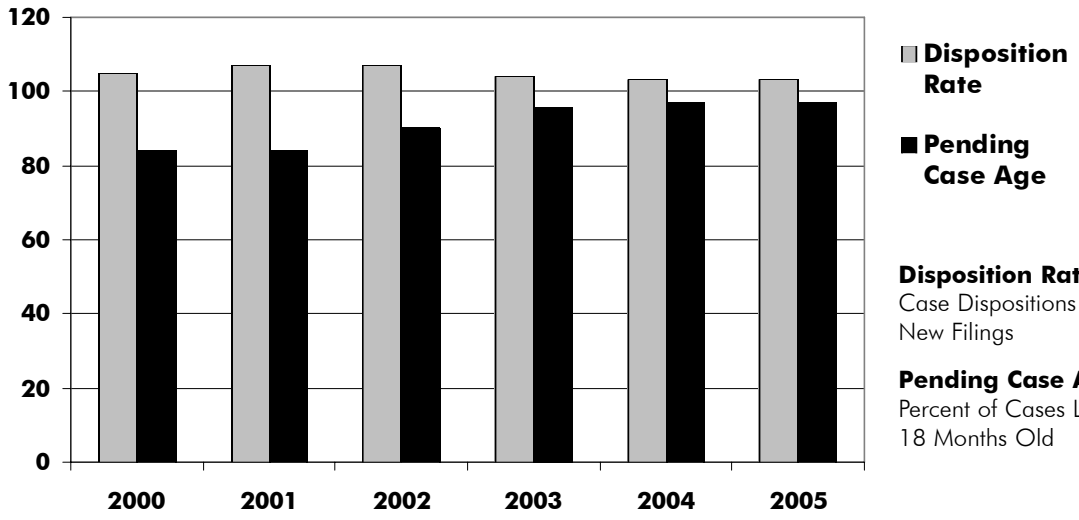
COURT OF APPEALS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Cases Filed	7,460	7,102	7,156	7,445	7,055	7,629
Cases Disposed	7,799	7,606	7,647	7,708	7,293	7,853



COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITION RATE AND PENDING CASE AGE

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Disposition Rate	105	107	107	104	103	103
Pending Case Age	84	84	90	96	97	97



Disposition Rate:
Case Dispositions Per 100 New Filings

Pending Case Age:
Percent of Cases Less Than 18 Months Old

CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. The circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The circuit court's original jurisdiction includes criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors, civil cases over $25,000, family division cases, and appeals from other courts and administrative agencies.

In addition, the circuit court has superintending control over courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

Circuit judges are elected to six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer admitted to practice for five years and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The Legislature sets salaries for circuit judges.

Caseload Trends Analysis

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years.

Before 2002, circuit court caseloads were reported under a number of broad categories: appeals, civil, criminal, domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, and other family division cases. Caseload reporting included a few distinctions in types of proceedings within those categories. By contrast, beginning in 2002, caseloads are now reported by individual case type. These individual case types are combined so that data reported after 2001 may be compared against categories from previous years. The Circuit Court Statistical Supplements for each year, beginning in 2002, provide additional detailed information. These supplements contain both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each circuit court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

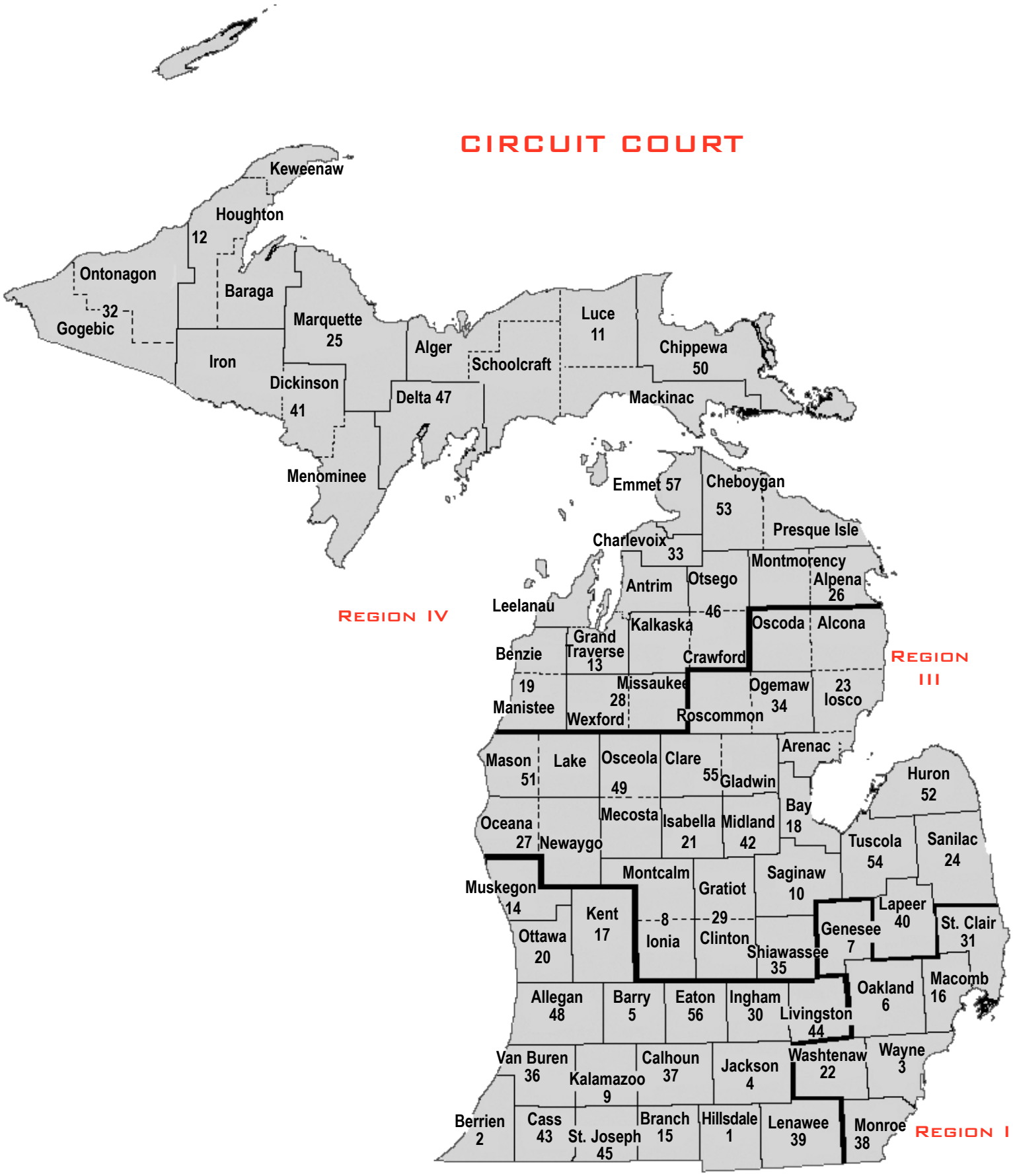
Before 2002, case dispositions were reported when final judgments were filed with the clerk of the court. Beginning in 2002, case dispositions are now reported when cases are adjudicated by a judicial officer, which occurs before a final

judgment is rendered. Case dispositions also now include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, caseload reports provide a more precise pending caseload and accurate measures of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. To compare total dispositions reported after 2001 to numbers reported in previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

Reporting in child protective proceedings also changed in 2002. Before 2002, filings were based on the number of children, regardless of whether a single petition involved more than one child. Starting in 2002, courts report both the number of petitions filed and the number of children associated with those filings. Accordingly, it appears that there were significantly more filings for 2001 and earlier years than for 2002 and following years. As a result, it is more difficult to make comparisons between new filings of child protective proceedings reported after 2001 and those reported for prior years. It is possible, however, to arrive at some conclusions about overall trends by analyzing the number of filings, the number of children associated with those filings, and the number of supplemental petitions for termination proceedings. To help assess the overall juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings caseload, the number of minors in the system may be compared from one year to the next. For other case-related information regarding child protective and adoption proceedings, see the Circuit Court Statistical Supplements.

Starting in 2002, circuit courts began reporting the number of personal protection orders actually issued against adults and minors, as well as the number of personal protection orders that are rescinded each year.

CIRCUIT COURT



1/31/06

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (AS OF 1/31/06)

C01
Hon. Michael R. Smith

C02
Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
Hon. John M. Donahue
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Charles T. LaSata
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Paul L. Maloney

C03
Hon. David J. Allen
Hon. Wendy M. Baxter
Hon. Annette J. Berry
Hon. Gregory D. Bill
Hon. Susan D. Borman
Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin
Hon. Margie R. Braxton
Hon. Megan M. Brennan
(joined the court 1/17/06*)
Hon. Helen E. Brown
Hon. William Leo Cahalan
Hon. Bill Callahan
Hon. Michael J. Callahan
Hon. James A. Callahan
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. James R. Chylinski
Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.
Hon. Sean F. Cox
Hon. Daphne Means Curtis
Hon. Christopher D. Dingell
Hon. Gershwin Allen Drain
Hon. Maggie Drake
Hon. Prentis Edwards
Hon. Charlene M. Elder
(joined the court 1/17/06*)
Hon. Vonda R. Evans
Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.
Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard
Hon. Sheila Ann Gibson
Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr.
Hon. William J. Giovan
Hon. David Alan Groner
Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr.
Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway
Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway
Hon. Diane Marie Hathaway
Hon. Michael M. Hathaway
Hon. Thomas Edward Jackson
Hon. Vera Massey Jones
Hon. Mary Beth Kelly
Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny
Hon. Arthur J. Lombard
Hon. Kathleen I. MacDonald
Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy
Hon. Wade McCree
Hon. Warfield Moore, Jr.
Hon. Bruce A. Morrow
Hon. John A. Murphy
Hon. Susan Bieke Neilson
(left the court 11/16/05S[F])

C03 [CONTINUED]
Hon. Maria L. Oxholm
Hon. Lita Masini Popke
Hon. Daniel P. Ryan
Hon. Michael F. Sapala
Hon. Richard M. Skutt
Hon. Leslie Kim Smith
Hon. Virgil C. Smith
Hon. Jeanne Stempien
Hon. Cynthia Diane Stephens
Hon. Craig S. Strong
Hon. Brian R. Sullivan
Hon. Deborah A. Thomas
Hon. Edward M. Thomas
(left the court 10/14/05[R])
Hon. Isidore B. Torres
Hon. Mary M. Waterstone
Hon. Carole F. Youngblood
Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski

C04
Hon. Edward J. Grant
Hon. John G. McBain, Jr.
Hon. Charles A. Nelson
Hon. Chad C. Schmucker

C05
Hon. James H. Fisher

C06
Hon. James M. Alexander
Hon. Martha Anderson
Hon. Steven N. Andrews
Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
Hon. Mark A. Goldsmith
Hon. Nanci J. Grant
Hon. Denise Langford-Morris
Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. John James McDonald
Hon. Fred M. Mester
Hon. Rudy J. Nichols
Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien
Hon. Daniel Patrick O'Brien
Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts
Hon. Gene Schnelz
Hon. Edward Sosnick
Hon. Deborah G. Tyner
Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr.
Hon. Joan E. Young

C07
Hon. Duncan M. Beagle
Hon. Joseph J. Farah
Hon. Judith A. Fullerton
Hon. John A. Gadola
Hon. Archie L. Hayman
Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut
Hon. David J. Newblatt
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Robert M. Ransom
(left the court 5/31/05[R])
Hon. Richard B. Yuille

C07 [CONTINUED]
Hon. Michael J. Theile
(joined the court 12/5/05*)

C08
Hon. David A. Hoort
Hon. Charles H. Miel

C09
Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz
Hon. J. Richardson Johnson
Hon. Richard Ryan Lamb
Hon. Philip D. Schaefer
Hon. William G. Schma

C10
Hon. Fred L. Borchard
Hon. Leopold P. Borrello
Hon. William A. Crane
Hon. Lynda L. Heathscott
Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek

C11
Hon. Charles H. Stark

C12
Hon. Garfield W. Hood

C13
Hon. Thomas G. Power
Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

C14
Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.
Hon. Timothy G. Hicks
Hon. William C. Marietti
Hon. John C. Ruck

C15
Hon. Michael H. Cherry

C16
Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr.
Hon. Richard L. Caretti
Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski
Hon. Diane M. Druzinski
Hon. Peter J. Maceroni
Hon. Donald G. Miller
Hon. Deborah A. Servitto
Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
Hon. Mark S. Switalski
Hon. Matthew S. Switalski
Hon. Antonio P. Viviano
Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

KEY
- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Newly elected to this court
- F Deceased
- H Reorganization transfer
- N New judgeship
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- V Removed
- Z Position Sunsetted

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (AS OF 1/31/06)

C17
Hon. George S. Buth
Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney
Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III
Hon. Dennis C. Kolenda
Hon. Dennis B. Leiber
Hon. Steven M. Pestka
Hon. James Robert Redford
Hon. Paul J. Sullivan
Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis

C18
Hon. Lawrence M. Bielawski
Hon. William J. Caprathe
Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt

C19
Hon. James M. Batzer

C20
Hon. Calvin L. Bosman
Hon. Wesley J. Nykamp
Hon. Edward R. Post
Hon. Jon Van Allsburg
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

C21
Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain
Hon. Mark H. Duthie
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

C22
Hon. Archie Cameron Brown
Hon. Timothy P. Connors
Hon. Melinda Morris
Hon. Donald E. Shelton
Hon. David S. Swartz

C23
Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron
Hon. William F. Myles

C24
Hon. Donald A. Teeple

C25
Hon. Thomas L. Solka
Hon. John R. Weber

C26
Hon. John F. Kowalski

C27
Hon. Anthony A. Monton
Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

C28
Hon. Charles D. Corwin

C29
Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew
Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen

C30
Hon. Laura Baird
Hon. William E. Collette
Hon. Joyce Draganchuk
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. James R. Giddings
Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
Hon. Paula J. M. Manderfield
Hon. Beverley R. Nettles-Nickerson

C31
Hon. James P. Adair
Hon. Peter E. Deegan
Hon. Daniel J. Kelly

C32
Hon. Roy D. Gotham

C33
Hon. Richard M. Pajtas

C34
Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner

C35
Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco

C36
Hon. William C. Buhl
Hon. Paul E. Hamre

C37
Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht
Hon. James C. Kingsley
Hon. Stephen B. Miller
Hon. Conrad J. Sindt

C38
Hon. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
Hon. Michael A. Weipert
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

C39
Hon. Harvey A. Koselka
Hon. Timothy P. Pickard

C40
Hon. Michael P. Higgins
Hon. Nick O. Holowka

C41
Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind
Hon. Richard J. Celello

C42
Hon. Paul J. Clulo
Hon. Thomas L. Ludington

C43
Hon. Michael E. Dodge

C44
Hon. Stanley J. Latreille

C44 [CONTINUED]
Hon. David Reader
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

C45
Hon. James P. Noecker
(left the court 2/2/05[V])
Hon. Paul E. Stutesman
(joined the court 8/1/05*)

C46
Hon. Janet M. Allen
(joined the court 10/24/05*)
Hon. Alton T. Davis
(left the court 7/19/05[A])
Hon. Dennis F. Murphy

C47
Hon. Stephen T. Davis

C48
Hon. Harry A. Beach
Hon. George R. Corsiglia

C49
Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy
(joined the court 5/31/05*)
Hon. Lawrence C. Root
(left the court 2/11/05[R])

C50
Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros

C51
Hon. Richard I. Cooper

C52
Hon. M. Richard Knoblock

C53
Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich

C54
Hon. Patrick Reed Joslyn

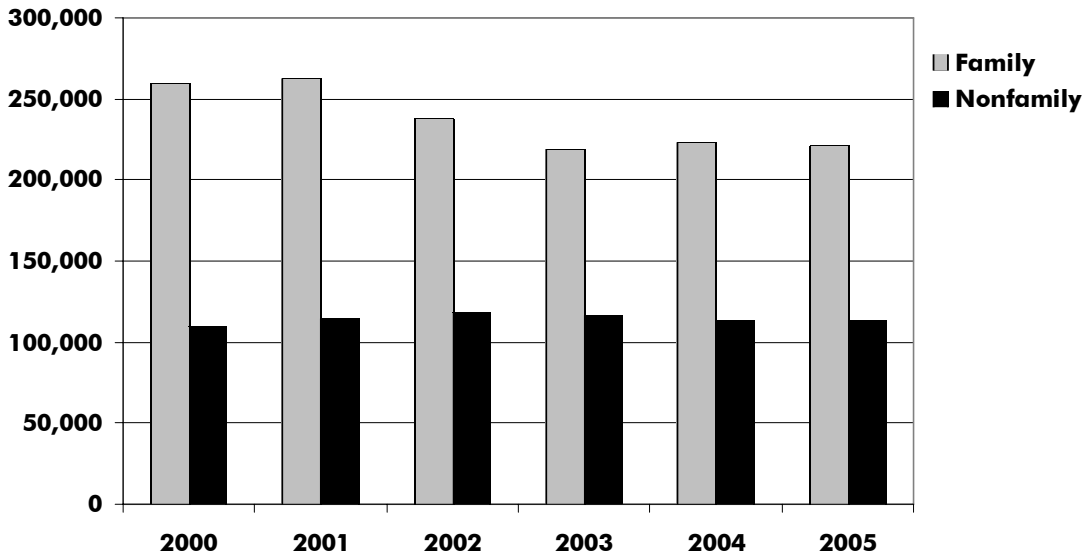
C55
Hon. Thomas R. Evans
(joined the court 10/03/05*)
Hon. Kurt N. Hansen
(left the court 7/05/05[R])

C56
Hon. Thomas S. Eveland
Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven

C57
Hon. Charles W. Johnson

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY DIVISION

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Family	259,821	262,628	237,651	219,330	223,499	221,274
Nonfamily	109,291	114,193	117,941	116,241	113,024	113,690
Total Filings	**369,112**	**376,821**	**355,592**	**335,571**	**336,523**	**334,964**



In 2005, 334,964 cases were filed in the circuit court. Of that total, 221,274 cases, or 66.1 percent, were family division filings and 113,690 cases, or 33.9 percent, were non-family filings.

Family division filings have decreased since a peak of 262,628 cases in 2001. Family division filings include domestic relations, proceedings under the juvenile code, proceedings under the adoption code, personal protection, other family proceedings, and ancillary proceedings.

Non-family division filings include civil cases, criminal cases, appeals, administrative cases, extraordinary writs, and court of claims cases.

CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
General Civil	21,460	25,194	28,628	28,287	26,064	26,050
Auto Negligence	9,381	9,886	9,998	10,185	9,435	9,162
Non-Auto Damage	11,703	11,311	10,118	9,439	8,789	7,436
Other Civil	3,572	4,054	2,191	2,222	2,292	2,092
Total Filings	**46,116**	**50,445**	**50,935**	**50,133**	**46,580**	**44,740**

Dispositions	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
General Civil	23,141	25,545	27,581	28,789	28,084	28,162
Auto Negligence	10,057	10,594	10,101	10,136	10,313	10,141
Non-Auto Damage	12,851	12,831	10,699	10,112	11,059	9,184
Other Civil	3,724	3,804	2,046	2,130	2,204	2,045
Total Dispositions	**49,773**	**52,774**	**50,427**	**51,167**	**51,660**	**49,532**

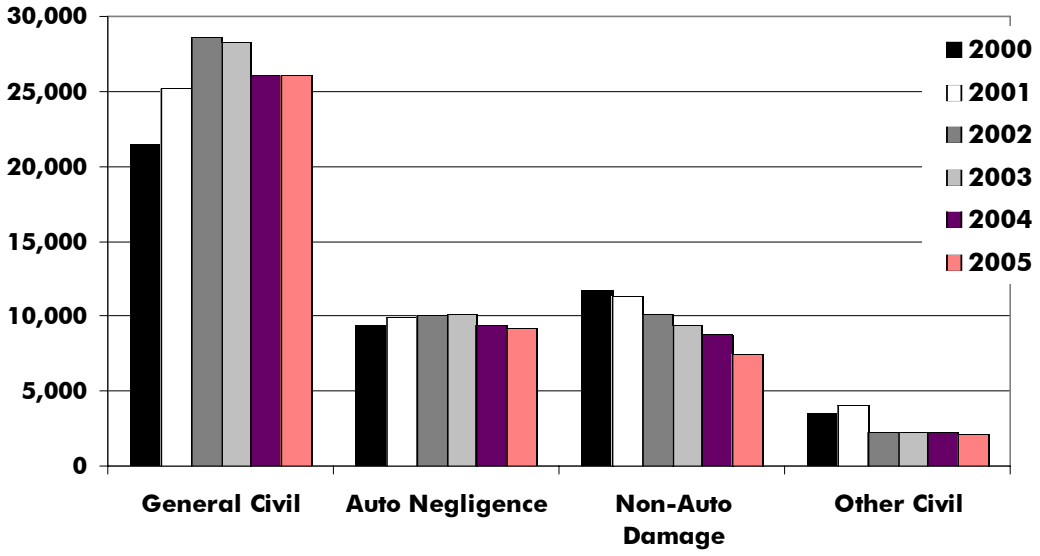
Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2005, 40 percent of the non-family division filings in circuit court were general civil, auto negligence, non-auto damage, and other civil cases. General civil filings decreased by a nominal amount between 2004 and 2005. Fewer auto negligence, non-auto damage, and other civil cases were filed in 2005 than in any year between 1999 and 2005. Overall, fewer civil cases were filed in 2005 than in any year between 1999 and 2005.

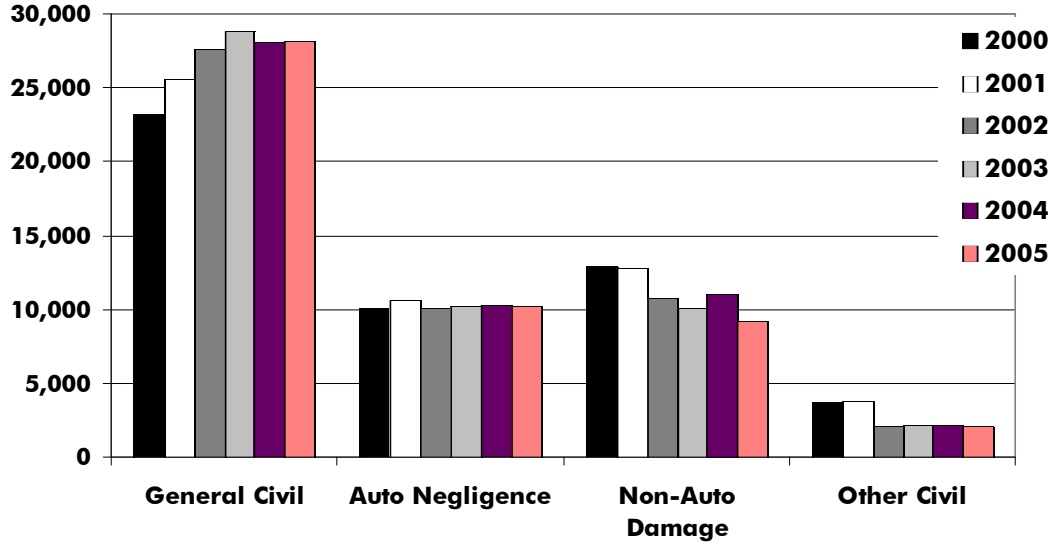
The number of civil cases disposed of or made inactive exceeded the number of civil cases filed or reopened. The statewide clearance rate for civil cases was 106.4 percent.

Over 42 percent of civil cases were disposed by default, consent judgment, settlement, or summary disposition. Almost 40 percent of civil cases were dismissed by the plaintiff. Slightly more than 2 percent were disposed of by a jury verdict or a bench verdict. SCAO does not collect the findings of these verdicts.

Circuit Court Civil Case Filings



Circuit Court Civil Case Dispositions



CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Noncapital	51,686	52,991	56,854	56,414	57,524	59,656
Capital	3,758	3,907	3,468	3,707	3,549	3,818
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	93	87	98	101
Total Filings	**55,444**	**56,898**	**60,415**	**60,208**	**61,171**	**63,575**

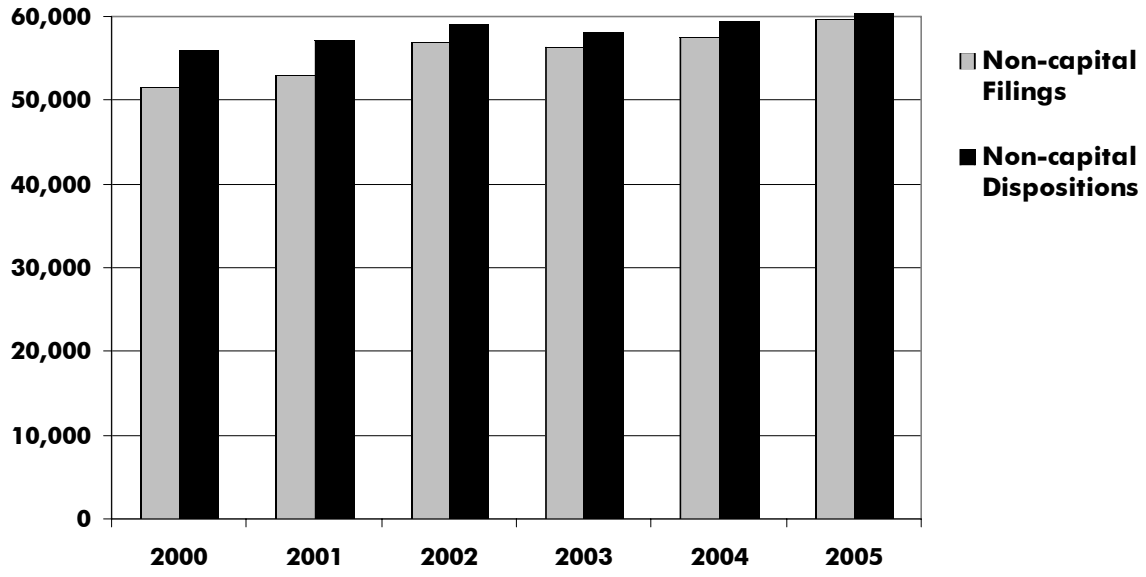
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Noncapital	55,916	57,071	59,116	58,002	59,421	60,880
Capital	3,583	3,846	3,737	3,757	3,661	3,903
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	81	82	99	91
Total Dispositions	**59,499**	**60,917**	**62,934**	**61,841**	**63,181**	**64,874**

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

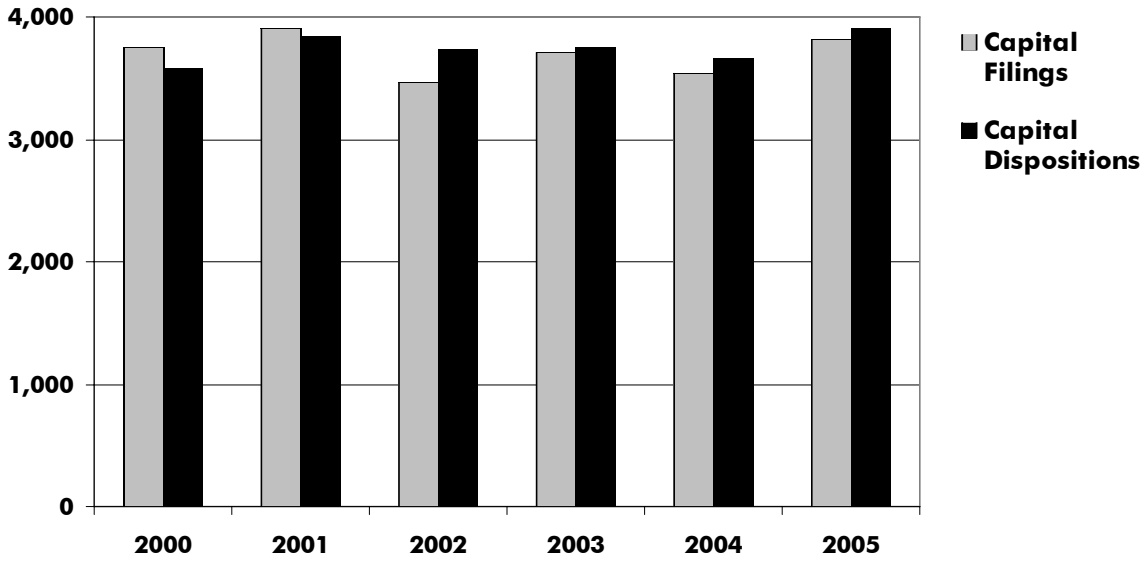
In 2005, 55.9 percent of the non-family division filings in circuit court were felonies. A total of 59,656 noncapital felonies were filed in 2005, a 21 percent increase from 1999. There were 101 juvenile felonies filed in 2005.

Criminal dispositions continued to increase from previous years; 80.9 percent were disposed of by guilty plea, while slightly more than 4 percent were disposed of by jury verdict or bench verdict. SCAO does not collect the findings of these verdicts.

Circuit Court Criminal Non-capital Case Filings and Dispositions



Circuit Court Criminal Capital Case Filings and Dispositions



CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS, ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW, AND EXTRAORDINARY WRIT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

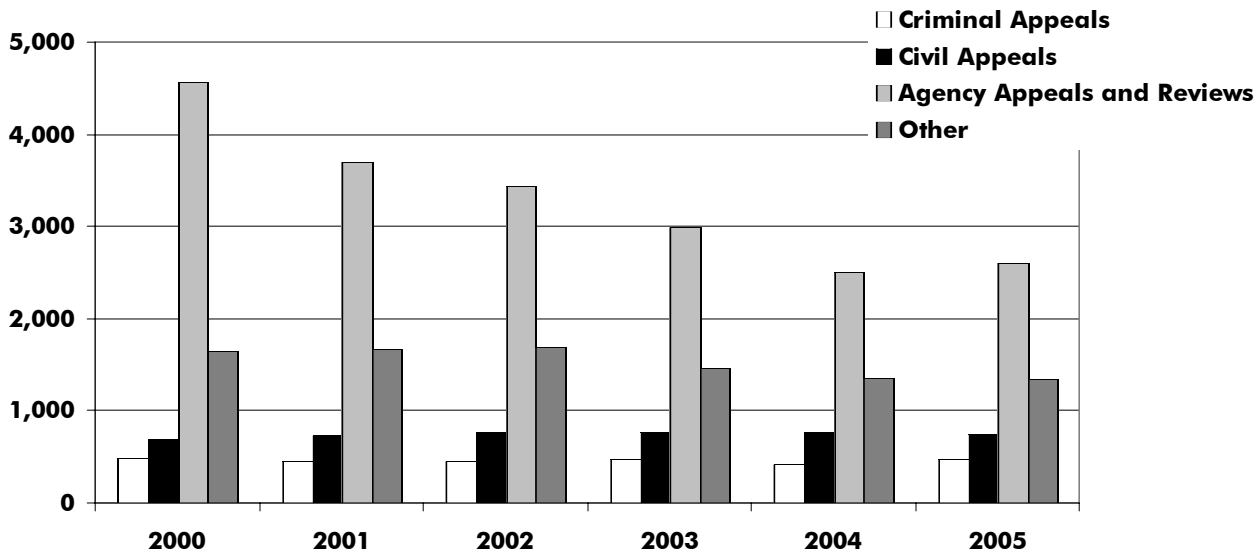
Filings	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Criminal Appeals	484	454	456	475	411	464
Civil Appeals	687	723	765	757	765	740
Agency Appeals and Reviews	4,572	3,701	3,437	2,994	2,499	2,609
Other	1,657	1,662	1,679	1,453	1,354	1,337
Total Filings	**7,400**	**6,540**	**6,337**	**5,679**	**5,029**	**5,150**

Dispositions	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Criminal Appeals	484	459	495	436	407	436
Civil Appeals	747	714	760	793	790	794
Agency Appeals and Reviews	4,927	3,684	3,296	3,272	2,624	2,513
Other	1,711	1,682	1,623	1,506	1,422	1,326
Total Dispositions	**7,869**	**6,539**	**6,174**	**6,007**	**5,243**	**5,069**

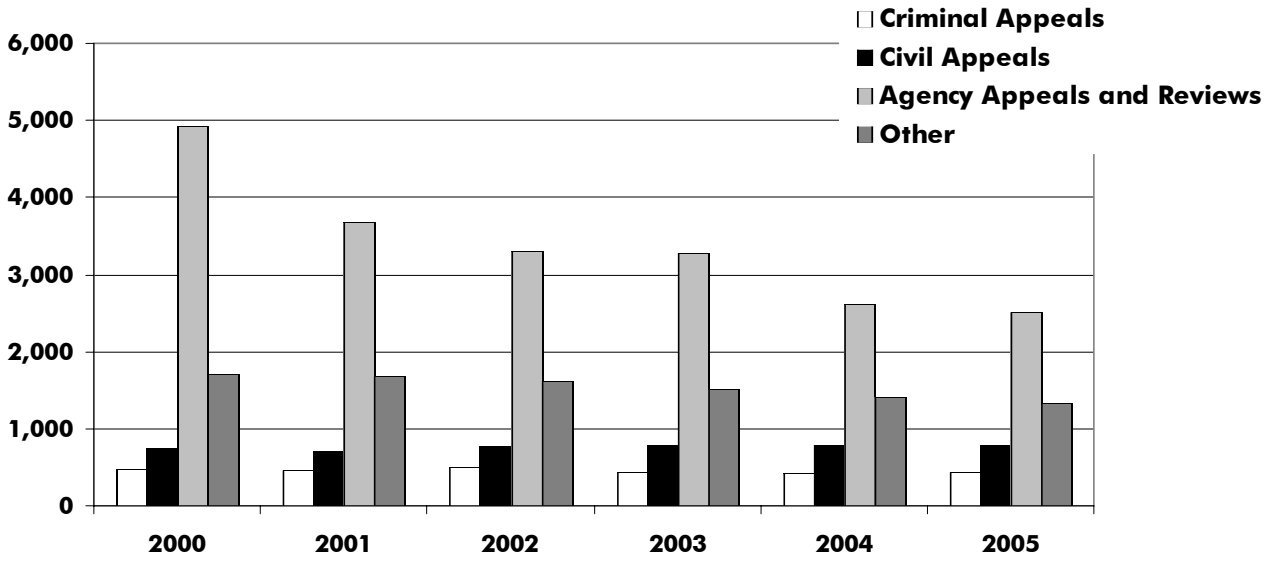
Beginning in 2005, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

Appeals, administrative cases, and extraordinary writs comprise 4.5 percent of the non-family division filings. These filings increased slightly to 5,150 cases.

Filings of Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs



Dispositions of Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs



In 2005, 221,274 cases were filed in the family division of circuit court, representing 66.1 percent of all circuit court filings. Of the family division filings, 20.6 percent were divorce cases. Another 16 percent were paternity and support cases.

There were 89,136 domestic relations cases filed in circuit court in 2005. Family division courts disposed of 93,375 domestic relations cases in 2005. The statewide clearance rate for domestic relations cases was 102.4 percent.

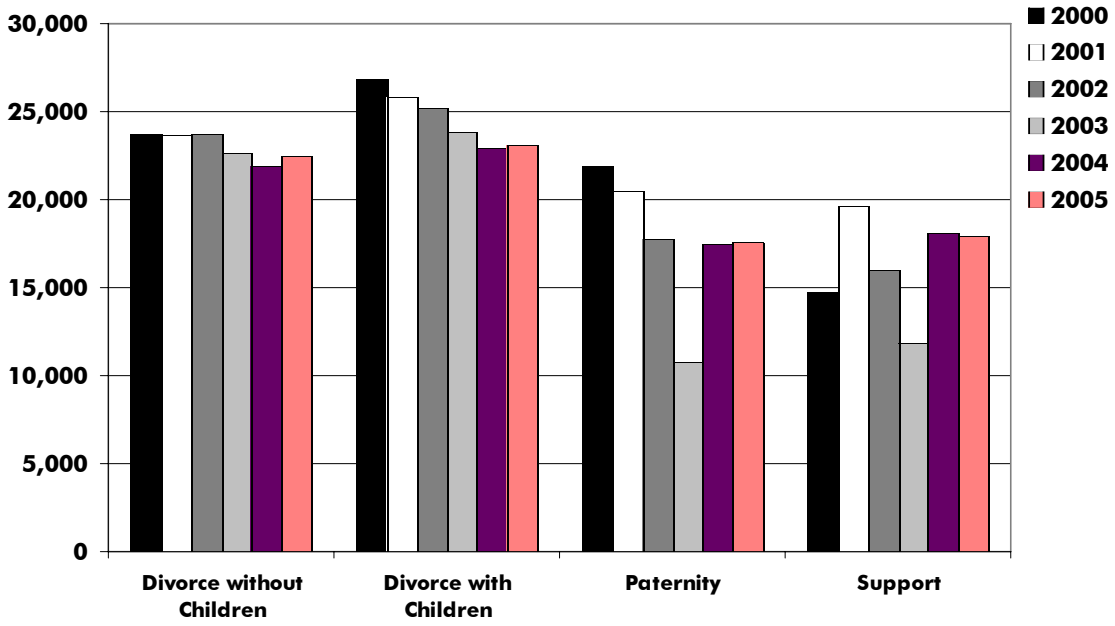
CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Divorce without Children	23,760	23,679	23,760	22,628	21,915	22,461
Divorce with Children	26,799	25,796	25,172	23,802	22,890	23,070
Paternity	21,940	20,493	17,725	10,718	17,458	17,541
Support	14,758	19,595	15,971	11,803	18,095	17,894
Other Domestic	4,903	5,261	3,539	4,456	4,635	4,282
UIFSA	4,043	4,072	5,570	2,833	4,124	3,888
Total Filings	**96,203**	**98,896**	**91,737**	**76,240**	**89,117**	**89,136**

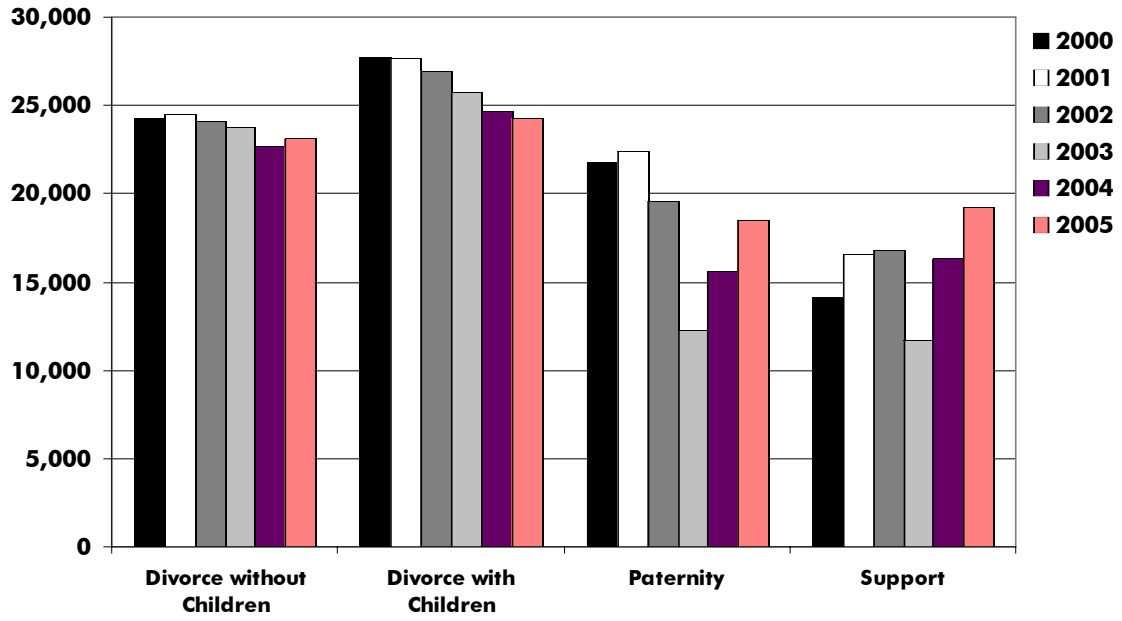
Dispositions	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Divorce without Children	24,323	24,484	24,088	23,759	22,621	23,126
Divorce with Children	27,739	27,650	26,909	25,701	24,632	24,264
Paternity	21,755	22,353	19,554	12,235	15,558	18,479
Support	14,153	16,568	16,767	11,723	16,316	19,201
Other Domestic	4,629	5,003	3,453	5,856	4,629	4,461
UIFSA	3,938	4,018	5,114	1,205	3,713	3,844
Total Dispositions	**96,537**	**100,076**	**95,885**	**80,479**	**87,469**	**93,375**

Assist with Discovery (UD) and UIFSA Establishment (UE) cases are included in the UIFSA category for 2000-2002 and in the Other Domestic category beginning in 2003. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FILINGS



Circuit Court Domestic Relations Case Dispositions



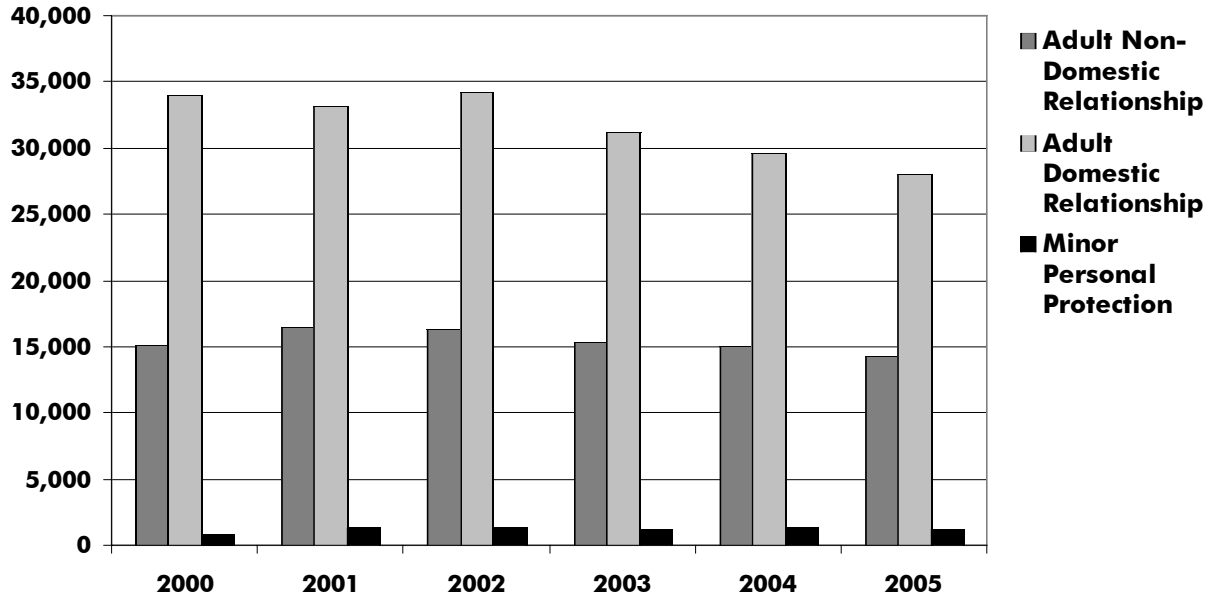
CIRCUIT COURT PERSONAL PROTECTION FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	15,144	16,462	16,287	15,405	15,025	14,233
Adult Domestic Relationship	33,913	33,123	34,206	31,168	29,629	28,053
Minor Personal Protection	875	1,279	1,278	1,235	1,341	1,257
Total Filings	**49,932**	**50,864**	**51,771**	**47,808**	**45,995**	**43,543**

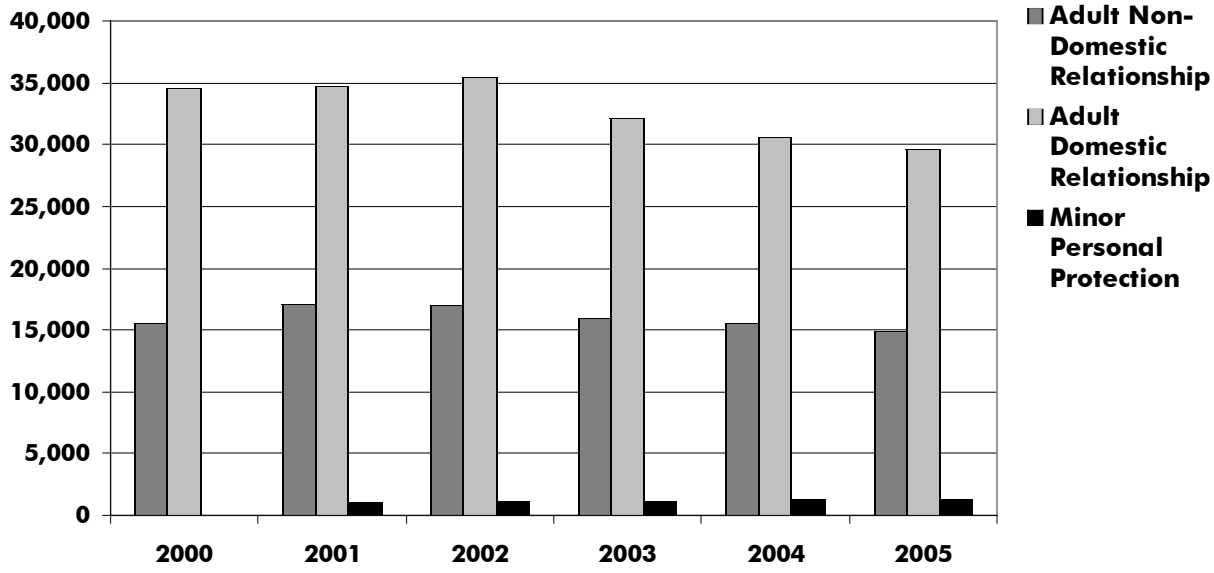
Dispositions	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	15,597	17,092	16,950	15,879	15,586	14,945
Adult Domestic Relationship	34,503	34,633	35,417	32,152	30,546	29,593
Minor Personal Protection	NA	1,079	1,199	1,173	1,352	1,236
Total Dispositions	**50,100**	**51,725**	**53,566**	**49,204**	**47,484**	**45,774**

Fewer petitions for personal protection were filed in 2005 than in any other year since 1999. Of all personal protection filings, 32.7 percent sought protection against stalking by adults, while 64.4 percent were filed to obtain protection against adult domestic partners. The remaining 2.9 percent were filed to obtain protection against minors.

Circuit Court Personal Protection Petition Filings



Circuit Court Personal Protection Petition Dispositions



CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER JUVENILE CODE

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Delinquency	61,410	59,910	59,098	59,298	56,506	56,024
Traffic	17,614	17,127	16,087	17,674	13,629	15,121
Child Protective	12,073	12,582	8,589	8,491	8,490	8,323
Designated	240	180	259	201	191	153
Total Filings	**91,337**	**89,799**	**84,033**	**85,664**	**78,816**	**79,621**

Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Delinquency	NA	NA	59,705	56,849	56,264	56,226
Traffic	NA	NA	15,551	15,901	14,048	13,866
Child Protective	NA	NA	8,313	7,754	7,614	7,583
Designated	NA	NA	206	163	160	7,434
Total Dispositions	**NA**	**NA**	**83,775**	**80,667**	**78,086**	**85,109**

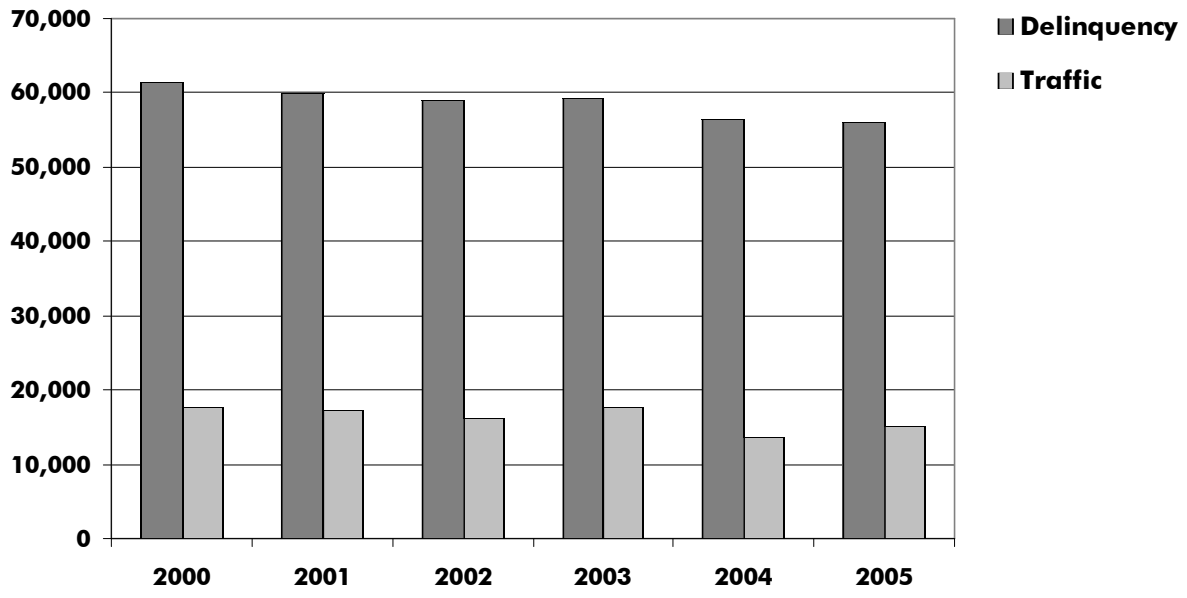
Before 2002, the child protective category reflected the number of children associated with these cases. Beginning in 2002, the courts were instructed to report the number of cases in this category and to report the number of children in another data field. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2005, there were 153 juvenile offense filings in which the minor was to be tried as an adult, fewer than in any other year since 2000. Juvenile delinquency filings also peaked in 2000 and have continued to decrease.

Juvenile traffic filings increased from 2004, when both juvenile traffic and misdemeanor traffic cases in district court were at a low level.

At the close of 2005, 16,789 juveniles were under court jurisdiction as a result of delinquency proceedings. Of those, 12,986 were supervised by the circuit court, 2,632 were supervised by the Department of Community Justice of Wayne County, and 1,171 were supervised by the Department of Human Services. An additional 7,556 juveniles not already under court supervision were awaiting adjudication.

CIRCUIT COURT PETITIONS FILED UNDER JUVENILE CODE



CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH NEW FILINGS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES

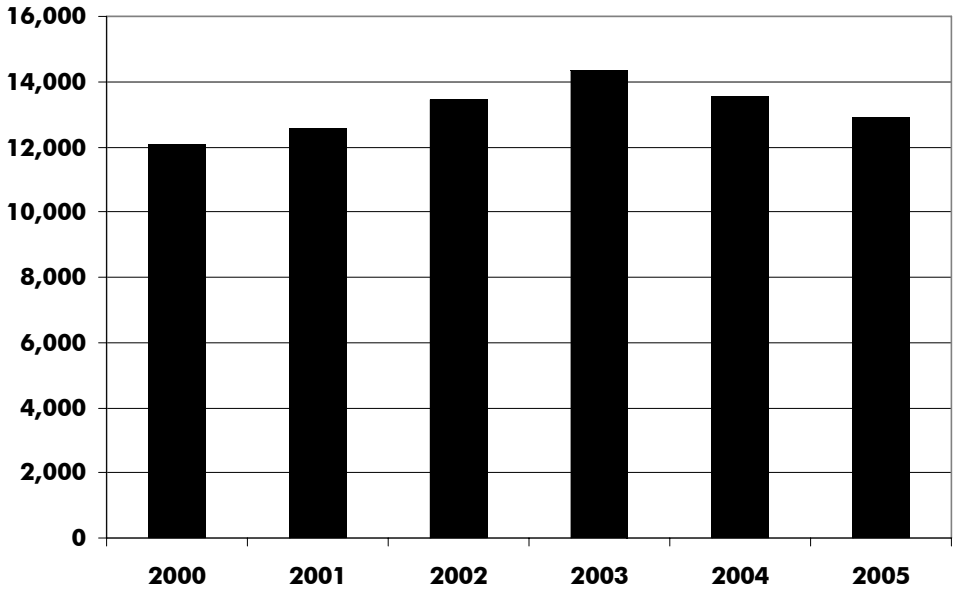
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children Associated with New Filings of Abuse and Neglect	12,073	12,582	13,443	14,349	13,524	12,925

At the close of 2005, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 18,065 children as a result of child protective proceedings. Of that number, 11,423 were temporary wards of the court, 6,242 were permanent wards of the court or the Michigan Children's Institute, and 400 were temporary wards who were ordered to the Michigan Children's Institute for observation. An additional 2,432 children were awaiting adjudication and were not yet under court jurisdiction.

Of the 12,925 children associated with new child protective filings in 2005, 1,108, or 8.6 percent, had previously been under the court's jurisdiction.

Of the 2,692 petitions filed requesting termination of parental rights, 1,224 were filed as part of original or amended petitions, and 1,468 were filed as supplemental petitions. There were an additional 674 supplemental petitions related to child protective cases; these petitions were filed for reasons other than termination.

CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH NEW FILINGS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER ADOPTION CODE

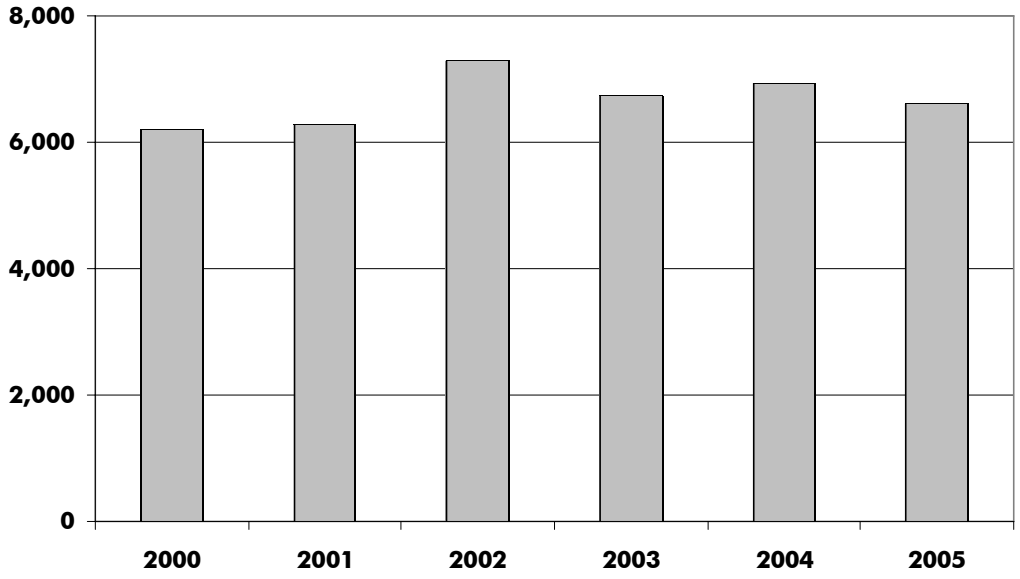
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption Filings	6,190	6,274	6,251	5,659	5,804	5,504
Requests for Release of Adoption Information	NA	NA	648	758	843	773
Petitions for Appointment of Confidential Intermediary	NA	NA	388	323	283	329
Adoptions Finalized	NA	NA	5,456	5,218	5,474	5,383
Adoption Dispositions	NA	NA	5,847	5,541	5,839	5,777

Before 2002, petitions for appointment of confidential intermediary and requests for release of adoption information were included in the adoption filings total.

In 2005, 5,504 petitions for adoption were filed and 5,383 were finalized. Circuit courts received 773 requests for the release of adoption information and 329 petitions for the appointment of a confidential intermediary. These requests and petitions are included in the bar graph.

In addition, since 2002, adoption petitions are reported according to the type of adoption, such as direct adoption, step-parent adoption, agency adoption, etc. For this level of detail, see the 2005 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

Filings Under the Adoption Code



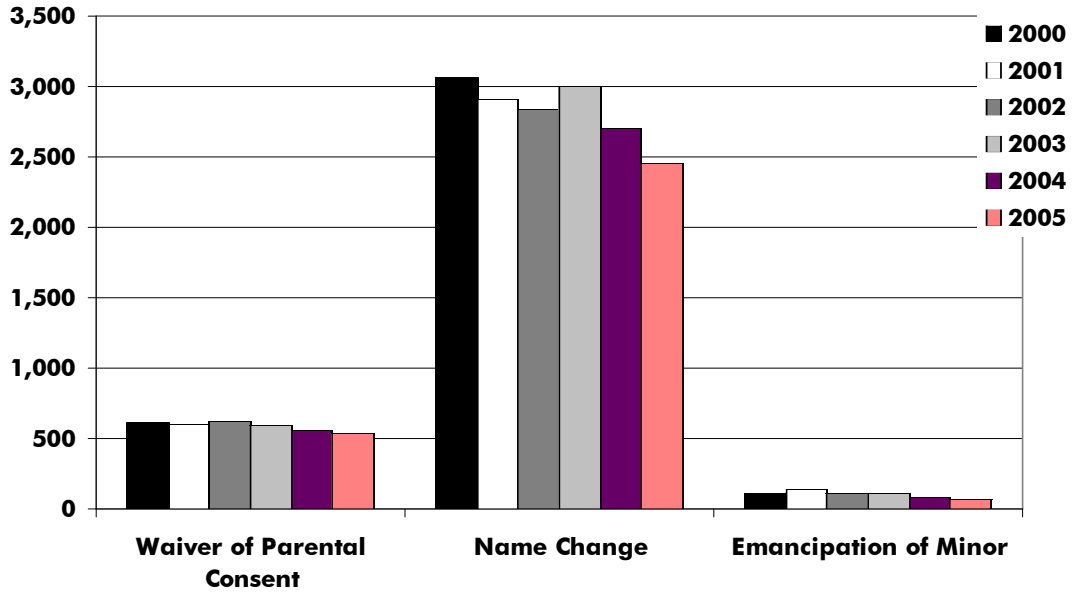
CIRCUIT COURT MISCELLANEOUS FAMILY CASE FILINGS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Waiver of Parental Consent	613	600	628	588	560	535
Name Change	3,066	2,904	2,838	2,999	2,700	2,449
Emancipation of Minor	113	138	108	109	80	69
Infectious Disease	4	6	9	3	10	8
Safe Delivery of New Born	NA	NA	1	2	5	7
Out-of-County Personal Protection Violations Orders	NA	NA	48	49	39	38
Total Filings	**3,796**	**3,648**	**3,632**	**3,750**	**3,394**	**3,106**

Miscellaneous filings in the family division of circuit court include petitions filed for a name change, a waiver of parental consent under the parental rights restoration act, any proceeding under the minors and emancipation act, any proceeding conducted for the violation of personal protection when heard by a county other than the one that issued the order, any proceeding under the public health code for treatment of or testing for infectious disease, and any proceeding involving a newborn child surrendered under the safe delivery of newborns act.

Miscellaneous filings decreased between 2004 and 2005. Of these filings, 78.8 percent were petitions for a name change.

Circuit Court Family Division Miscellaneous Case Filings



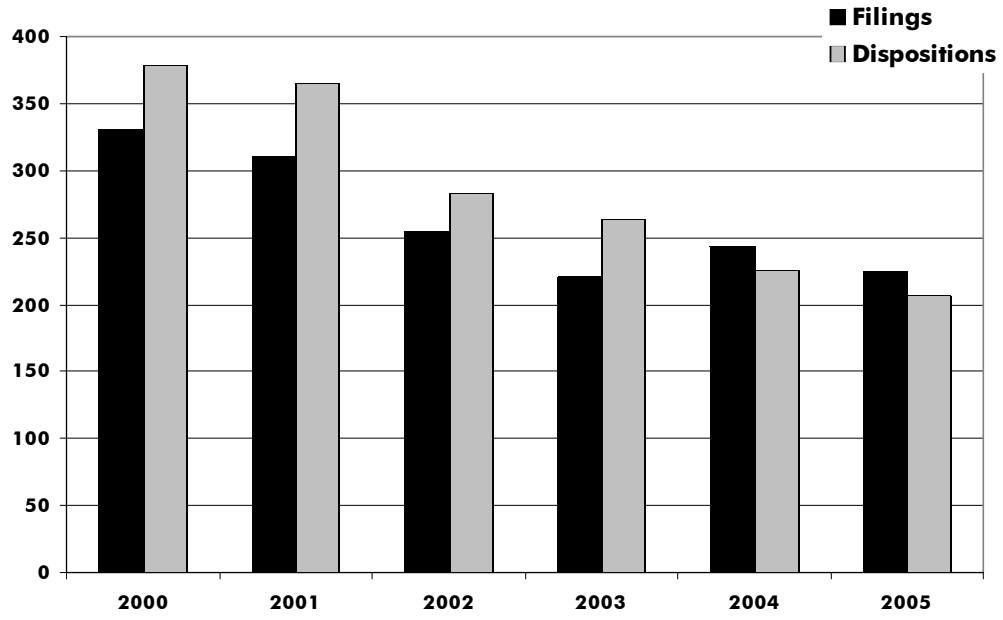
COURT OF CLAIMS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Filings	331	310	254	221	244	225
Dispositions	378	365	283	264	226	207

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

The Court of Claims is a function of the 30th Circuit Court of Ingham County; the Court of Claims has jurisdiction over claims against the state or any of its departments. In 2005, 225 cases were filed with the Court of Claims. Of these, 34.6 percent, or 78 cases, were tax-related. Highway defect, medical malpractice, contracts, constitutional claims, prisoner litigation, and other claims for damages are also heard by the Court of Claims.

COURT OF CLAIMS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS



PROBATE COURT

Each Michigan county has a probate court, with the exception of 10 counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts (see map on page 44). Each probate court district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties have one or more judges depending on the county's weighted caseload.

The probate court has jurisdiction over admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Probate judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for probate judges.

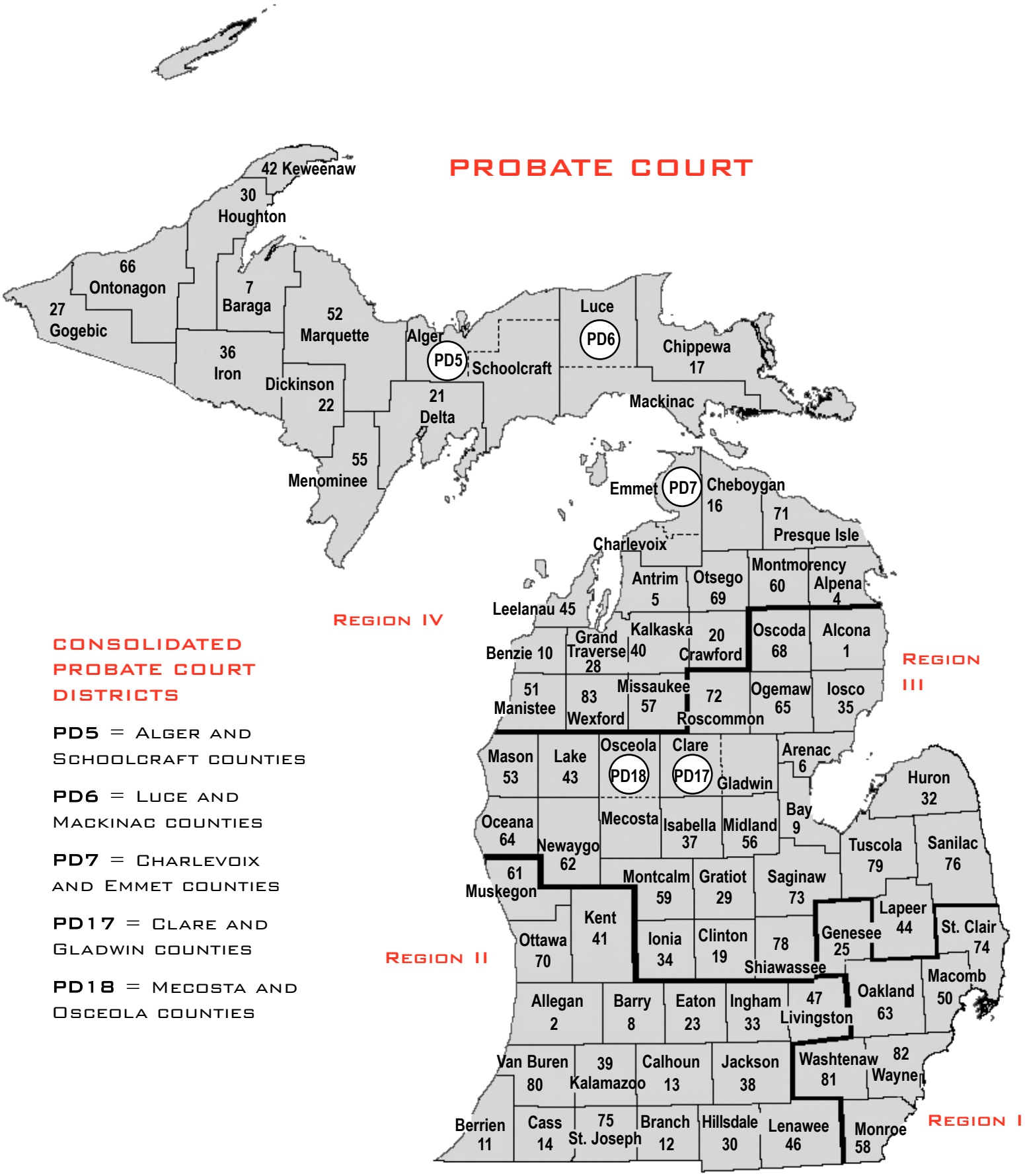
Caseload Trends Analysis

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years. In addition, the number of reported case types increased. These reporting changes provide a more precise view of case processing by presenting new filings and pending caseload separately from the total active caseload. The changes also make comparison with data collected before 2002 more difficult. Comparing the number of open (active) cases from year to year provides some useful information about caseload trends.

Before 2002, probate court caseloads were reported by individual case type. However, case filings were reported based on the number of fiduciaries rather than the number of petitions. Beginning in 2002, probate courts continued to report their caseloads by individual case type, but now the new filings represent the number of petitions. The Probate Court Statistical Supplements provide additional detailed information. These supplements contain a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each probate court. The summary report presents caseload in broad categories, while the detail report presents caseload data by each case type code.

Before 2002, probate courts reported only the number of new filings and the number of active cases. Beginning in 2002, probate courts began reporting reopened cases and the dispositions associated with new filings and reopened cases. As with circuit and district courts, probate courts now report dispositions in cases that have been adjudicated. In many probate court cases, adjudication occurs relatively early; however, once a case is adjudicated, it often remains active for years and the court continues to monitor it. Therefore, in addition to reporting filings, the probate courts provide the number of active estate and trust cases and the number of individuals who have a guardian or conservator. Probate courts also report the number of estate cases for which they provide supervised administration during a given year. These numbers give a more complete picture of the probate courts' total caseload in a given year.

PROBATE COURT



CONSOLIDATED PROBATE COURT DISTRICTS

PD5 = Alger and Schoolcraft counties

PD6 = Luce and Mackinac counties

PD7 = Charlevoix and Emmet counties

PD17 = Clare and Gladwin counties

PD18 = Mecosta and Osceola counties

1/31/06

Probate Court Judges
(as of 1/31/05)

P01 Alcona County
Hon. James H. Cook

PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties
Hon. William W. Carmody

P03 Allegan County
Hon. Michael L. Buck

P04 Alpena County
Hon. Douglas A. Pugh

P05 Antrim County
Hon. Norman R. Hayes

P06 Arenac County
Hon. Jack William Scully

P07 Baraga County
Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

P08 Barry County
Hon. William M. Doherty
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

P09 Bay County
Hon. Karen Tighe

P10 Benzie County
Hon. Nancy A. Kida

P11 Berrien County
Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield
Hon. Thomas E. Nelson

P12 Branch County
Hon. Frederick L. Wood

P13 Calhoun County
Hon. Phillip E. Harter
Hon. Gary K. Reed

P14 Cass County
Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties
Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

P16 Cheboygan County
Hon. Robert John Butts

P17 Chippewa County
Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties
Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

P19 Clinton County
Hon. Lisa Sullivan

P20 Crawford County
Hon. John G. Hunter

P21 Delta County
Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

P22 Dickinson County
Hon. Thomas D. Slagle

P23 Eaton County
Hon. Michael F. Skinner

P25 Genesee County
Hon. Allen J. Nelson
(left the court 1/31/06[R])
Hon. Robert E. Weiss

P27 Gogebic County
Hon. Joel L. Massie

P28 Grand Traverse County
Hon. David L. Stowe

P29 Gratiot County
Hon. Jack T. Arnold

P30 Hillsdale County
Hon. Michael E. Nye

P31 Houghton County
Hon. Charles R. Goodman

P32 Huron County
Hon. David L. Clabuesch

P33 Ingham County
Hon. R. George Economy
Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia

P34 Ionia County
Hon. Robert Sykes, Jr.
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

P35 Iosco County
Hon. John D. Hamilton

P36 Iron County
Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

P37 Isabella County
Hon. William T. Ervin

P38 Jackson County
Hon. Susan E. Vandercook

P39 Kalamazoo County
Hon. Curtis J. Bell
(joined the court 2/28/05*)
Hon. Patricia N. Conlon
Hon. Donald R. Halstead

P40 Kalkaska County
Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

P41 Kent County
Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter
Hon. Patricia D. Gardner
Hon. Janet A. Haynes
Hon. G. Patrick Hillary

P42 Keweenaw County
Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

P43 Lake County
Hon. Mark S. Wickens

P44 Lapeer County
Hon. Justus C. Scott

P45 Leelanau County
Hon. Joseph E. Deegan

P46 Lenawee County
Hon. Charles W. Jameson
(left the court 7/8/05[R])
Hon. Margaret Murray-Scholz Noe
(joined the court 12/19/05*)

P47 Livingston County
Hon. Susan L. Reck

PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties
Hon. Thomas B. North

P50 Macomb County
Hon. Kathryn A. George
Hon. Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan
Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
(left the court 12/31/04[Z])

P51 Manistee County
Hon. John R. DeVries

P52 Marquette County
Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

P53 Mason County
Hon. Mark D. Raven

PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties
Hon. LaVail E. Hull

P55 Menominee County
Hon. William A. Hupy

P56 Midland County
Hon. Dorene S. Allen

P57 Missaukee County
Hon. Charles R. Parsons

P58 Monroe County
Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.
Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

P59 Montcalm County
Hon. Edward L. Skinner

P60 Montmorency County
Hon. Michael G. Mack

P61 Muskegon County
Hon. Neil G. Mullally
Hon. Gregory C. Pittman

P62 Newaygo County
Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

P63 Oakland County
Hon. Barry M. Grant
Hon. Linda S. Hallmark
Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore
Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti

P64 Oceana County
Hon. Walter A. Urick

P65 Ogemaw County
Hon. Eugene I. Turkelson

P66 Ontonagon County
Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik

P68 Oscoda County
Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

P69 Otsego County
Hon. Michael K. Cooper

P70 Ottawa County
Hon. Mark A. Feyen

P71 Presque Isle County
Hon. Kenneth A. Radzibon

P72 Roscommon County
Hon. Douglas C. Dosson

P73 Saginaw County
Hon. Faye M. Harrison
Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

P74 St. Clair County
Hon. Elwood L. Brown
Hon. John R. Monaghan

P75 St. Joseph County
Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

P76 Sanilac County
Hon. R. Terry Maltby

P78 Shiawassee County
Hon. James R. Clatterbaugh

P79 Tuscola County
Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr.

P80 Van Buren County
Hon. Frank D. Willis

P81 Washtenaw County
Hon. Nancy Cornelia Francis
Hon. John N. Kirkendall
(left the court 12/31/05[R])

P82 Wayne County
Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher
Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr.
Hon. Judy A. Hartsfield
Hon. James E. Lacey
Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.
Hon. Cathie B. Maher
Hon. Martin T. Maher
Hon. David J. Szymanski

P83 Wexford County
Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma

KEY
- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Newly elected to this court
- F Deceased
- H Reorganization transfer
- N New judgeship
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- V Removed
- Z Position Sunsetted

PROBATE COURT ESTATE AND TRUST FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Supervised Administration	2,269	644	665	672	641	661
Unsupervised Administration	16,453	18,625	18,448	18,130	17,728	17,417
Small Estates	7,568	7,656	7,401	6,897	6,828	6,371
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts Testamentary	825	788	920	916	991	1,008
Determination of Heirs	50	43	24	20	25	19
Total Filings	**27,165**	**27,756**	**27,458**	**26,635**	**26,213**	**25,476**

Dispositions	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**
Supervised Administration	NA	NA	696	707	685	733
Unsupervised Administration	NA	NA	18,470	18,175	17,569	17,840
Small Estates	NA	NA	7,430	6,973	6,846	6,607
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts Testamentary	NA	NA	604	739	734	822
Determination of Heirs	NA	NA	18	14	17	16
Total Dispositions	**NA**	**NA**	**27,218**	**26,608**	**25,851**	**26,018**

Before 2001, Small Estates were referred to as Assignment of Property.

In 1998, the Legislature enacted the Estates and Protected Individuals Code, effective April 1, 2000. Since then, the number of estates requesting supervised administration has decreased, while the number of estates requesting unsupervised administration has increased. Between 2001 and 2005, an average of 657 estates per year requested supervised administration in the initial petition. By contrast, the number of estates requesting unsupervised administration in the initial petition rose to an average of 18,070 per year for the same period.

In addition to new filings, probate courts' active pending caseload is used to assess the courts' judicial and administrative workload. Of the 38,512 active estates and trusts at the end of 2005, 3,743 were supervised at some point during the year. In 661 of these estates, supervision was requested when the case was filed. Probate courts also conducted follow-up procedures associated with the administration of these open estates.

PROBATE COURT TRUST REGISTRATIONS AND WILLS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Trust Registrations and Wills	9,826	8,982	13,211	13,195	12,543	11,457

Before 2002, these numbers included trusts registered and wills filed for safekeeping. Beginning in 2002, these numbers also included wills delivered after the death of a testator.

In 2005, the courts reported 11,348 wills filed for safekeeping and wills delivered after the death of the testator. The courts also registered 109 trusts.

PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP, CONSERVATORSHIP, AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Guardianships	18,166	17,301	17,704	17,176	16,322	16,624
Conservatorships	7,492	6,552	6,375	6,084	5,441	5,255
Protective Proceedings	381	478	465	425	427	478
Total Filings	**26,039**	**24,331**	**24,544**	**23,685**	**22,190**	**22,357**

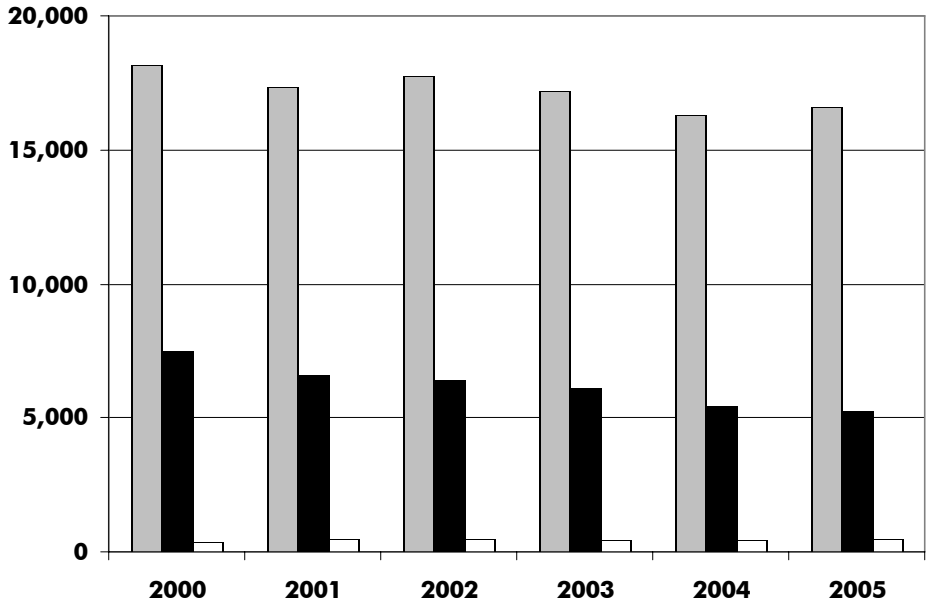
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Guardianships	NA	NA	16,970	17,521	15,785	16,303
Conservatorships	NA	NA	5,930	5,744	5,207	5,179
Protective Proceedings	NA	NA	358	380	374	434
Total Dispositions	**NA**	**NA**	**23,258**	**23,645**	**21,366**	**21,916**

Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships. Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.

In 2005, 16,624 guardianship and 5,255 conservatorship petitions were filed. There were 478 new protective proceedings filings.

At the end of 2005, there were 29,187 adults with a full or limited guardian, 32,326 minors with a guardian, and 19,725 developmentally disabled persons with a guardian. At the end of 2005, there were 15,099 adults and 15,624 minors with a conservator.

Filings for Probate Court Guardianships, Conservatorships, and Protective Proceedings



PROBATE COURT MENTAL HEALTH FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mental Health	14,819	14,914	13,660	13,707	13,893	13,758
Judicial Admission	57	85	96	74	90	119
Total Filings	**14,876**	**14,999**	**13,756**	**13,781**	**13,983**	**13,877**

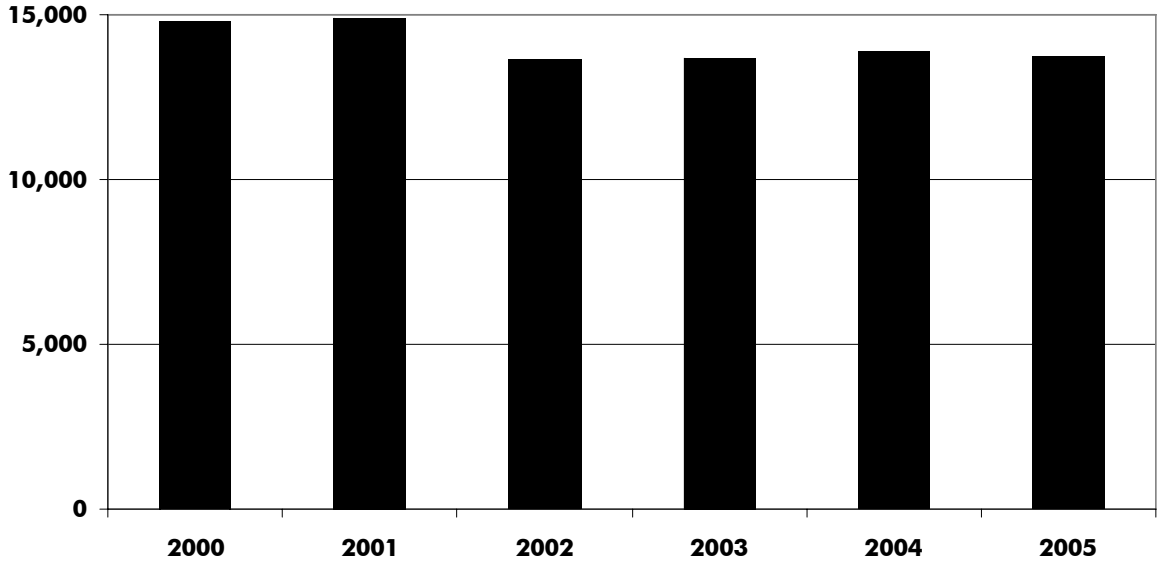
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mental Health	NA	NA	12,753	13,136	13,366	14,244
Judicial Admission	NA	NA	61	46	68	112
Total Dispositions	**NA**	**NA**	**12,814**	**13,182**	**13,434**	**14,356**

Between 1999 and 2005, an annual average of 14,140 petitions were filed seeking commitment of persons with a mental illness. In 2005, in addition to petitions for new commitments, probate courts received 488 petitions for a second order of commitment and 1,666 petitions for a continuing order of commitment. The courts granted 468 petitions for a second order and 1,516 petitions for a continuing order.

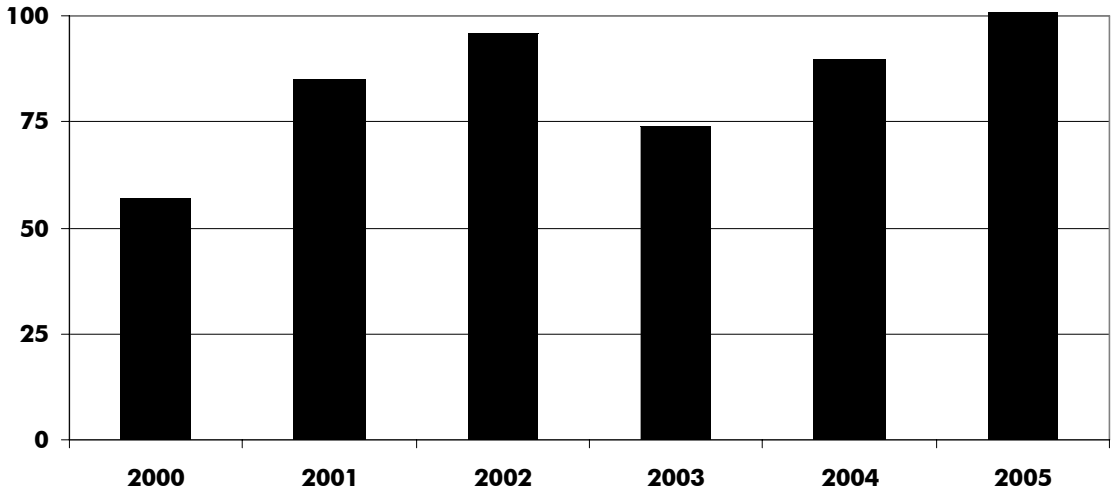
The number of supplemental petitions presented to the court for court-ordered examination on an application for hospitalization and the number of petitions presented to the court for court-ordered transportation of a minor totaled 3,122.

There were 119 matters filed involving judicial admission of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Probate Court Mental Illness Petition Filings



Probate Court Judicial Admission Petition Filings



PROBATE COURT CIVIL AND MISCELLANEOUS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

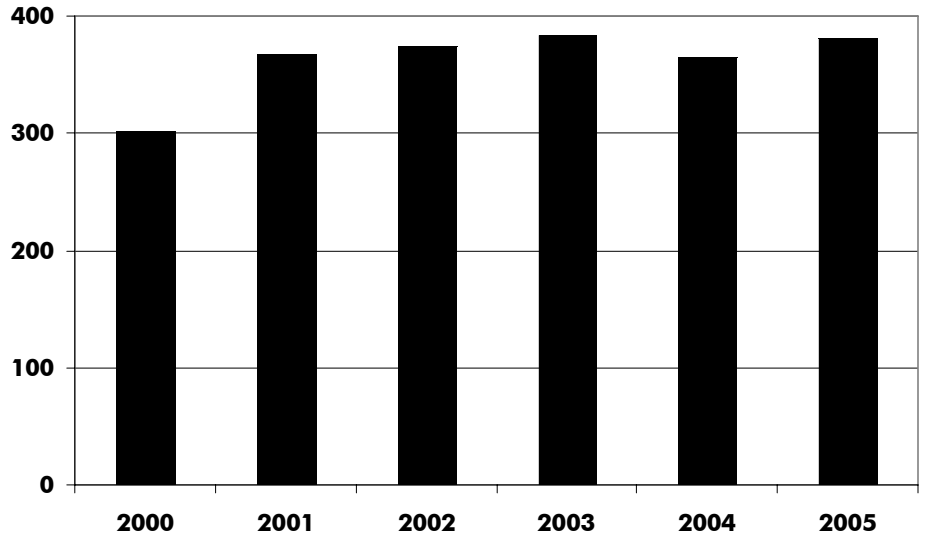
Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civil	302	367	374	384	365	381
Miscellaneous	NA	NA	533	479	511	519
Total Filings	**302**	**367**	**907**	**863**	**876**	**900**

Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civil	NA	NA	389	260	260	390
Miscellaneous	NA	NA	471	409	429	496
Total Dispositions	**NA**	**NA**	**860**	**669**	**689**	**886**

Miscellaneous filings include death by accident/disaster, filings of letters by foreign personal representative, kidney transplants, review of drain commissioner, review of mental health financial liability, etc. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2005, 381 civil actions were filed in probate court. There were also 519 filings for miscellaneous matters, including petitions seeking judicial decisions regarding death by accident or disaster, kidney transplants, review of drain commission proceedings, review of mental health financial liability, secret marriages, etc. Before 2002, these matters were not reported or they were reported separately.

PROBATE COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS



DISTRICT COURT

The district court is often referred to as "The People's Court," in part because citizens have more contact with the district court than any other court in the state, and in part because many citizens go to district court without an attorney. The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims up to $25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court small claims division handles cases up to $3,000. In these cases, the litigants waive their right to a jury and attorney representation. They also waive rules of evidence and any right to appeal the district judge's decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the general civil division of the court where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the case may be appealed to the district judge.

Civil infractions are offenses formerly considered criminal, but decriminalized by statute or local ordinance, with no jail penalty associated with the offense. The most common civil infractions are minor traffic matters, such as speeding, failure to stop or yield, careless driving, and equipment and parking violations. Some other violations in state law or local ordinance may be decriminalized, such as land-use rules enforced by the Department of Natural Resources and blight or junk violations. No jury trial is allowed on a civil infraction, and the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence instead of beyond a reasonable doubt. Most of these cases are handled in an informal hearing before a district court magistrate, although by request or on appeal the case will be heard by a judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors where the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In these cases, the court conducts the initial arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. The district courts also handle extradition to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who are likely to go to jail if convicted and cannot afford legal counsel.

District court judges may allow clerks to accept admissions of responsibility to civil infractions, guilty pleas to certain misdemeanor violations, and payments to satisfy judgments. For little or no cost, clerks have a variety of district court forms for the public. Clerks may not give parties legal advice. Many citizens interact most frequently with clerical staff, particularly on traffic civil infractions when no hearing is requested. Clerical staff are required by law to provide information to various state agencies, such

as the Department of State on motor vehicle violations and the Department of State Police on criminal convictions.

Most district courts have a probation department to follow up with persons who are on probation for an offense. A judge can order a defendant to fulfill various conditions, including fines, classes, and treatment or counseling. With some exceptions, probation cannot exceed two years.

District judges have statutory authority to appoint a district court magistrate. Magistrates may issue search warrants and arrest warrants when authorized by the county prosecutor or municipal attorney. They may also conduct arraignments and set bail, accept guilty pleas to some offenses, and sentence most traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations, as well as animal, game, and marine violations. If the district court magistrate is an attorney licensed in Michigan, the magistrate may hear small claims cases. At the direction of the chief judge, the magistrate may also perform other duties as specified in state law.

District judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

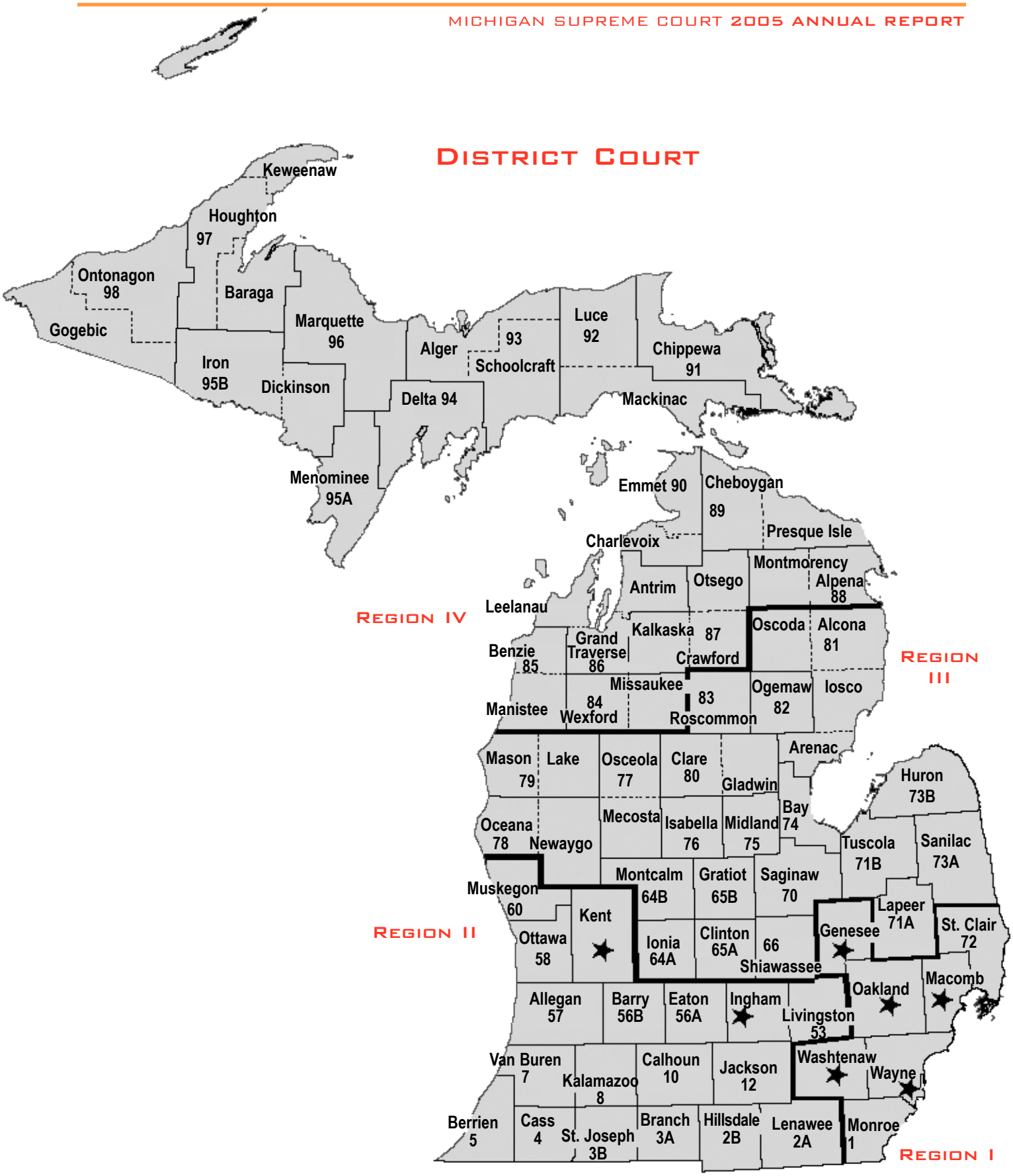
CASELOAD TRENDS ANALYSIS

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years. In addition, the number of reported case types increased.

Before 2002, district court caseloads were reported under the broad categories of felony, misdemeanor, non-traffic civil infraction, traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions, traffic alcohol offenses, general civil, small claims, summary proceedings, and parking. Beginning in 2002, caseloads are now reported by individual case type. These individual case types are combined so that data reported after 2001 may be compared against categories from previous years. The District Court Statistical Supplements provide additional detailed information. These annual supplements contain both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each district court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

Before 2002, cases were reported as disposed by judge, by magistrate, or by clerk. Beginning in 2002, case dispositions are now reported by the method of disposition, such as verdicts, pleas, dismissals, defaults, or other method. Case dispositions also now include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court, or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur, such as arraignment on the warrant. At that point, the case is considered opened. The current time guidelines criteria are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, caseload reports provide a more precise pending caseload, as well as accurate measures of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. To compare total dispositions reported after 2001 to numbers reported in previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

District Court



1/31/06

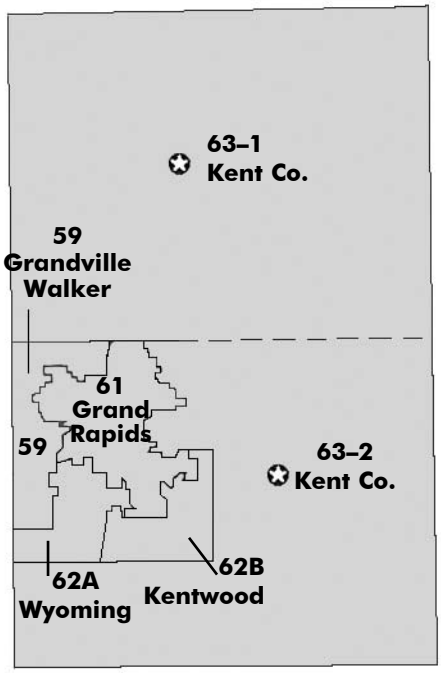
★ See detail maps.

2ND & 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURT

Detail Map for Genesee, Ingham, Kent, and Oakland Counties

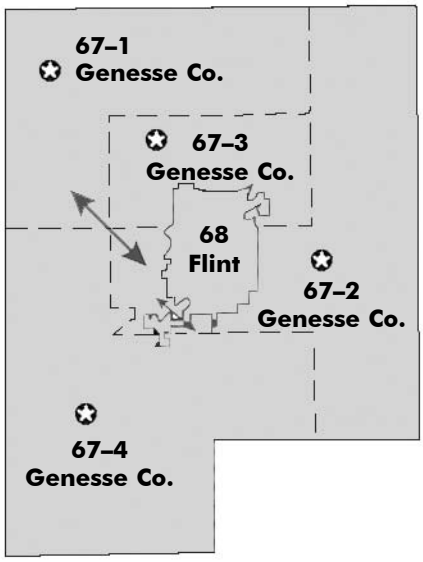
Kent

5 Courts
12 Judges



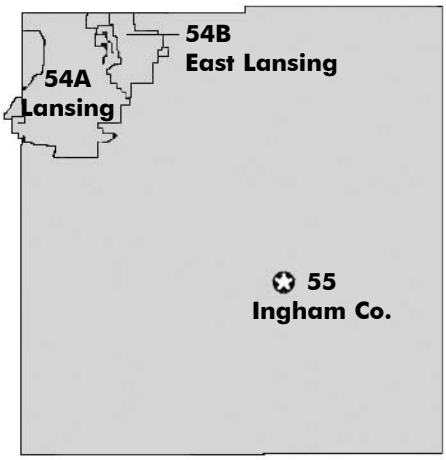
Genesee

2 Courts
12 Judges



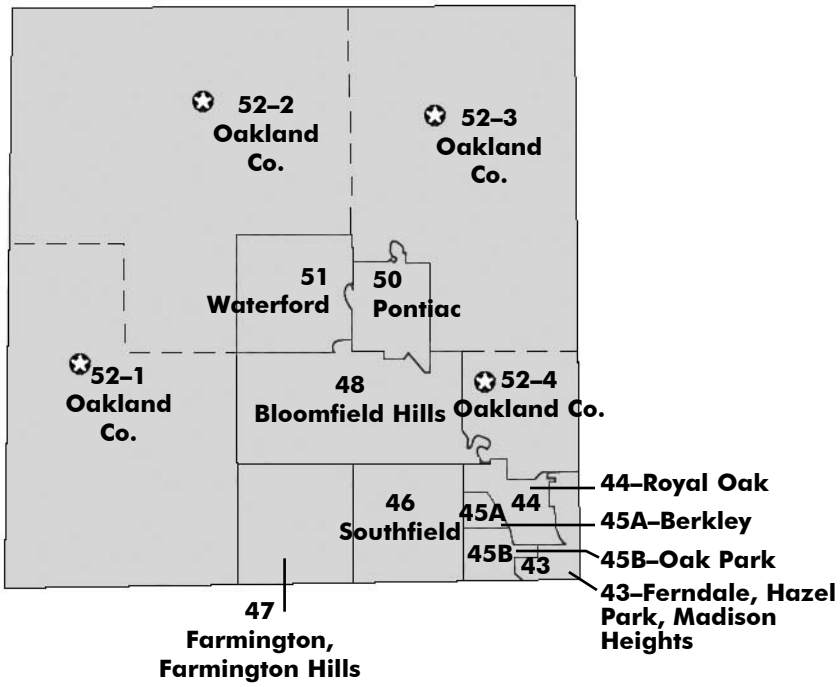
Ingham

3 Courts
9 Judges



Oakland

10 Courts
33 Judges

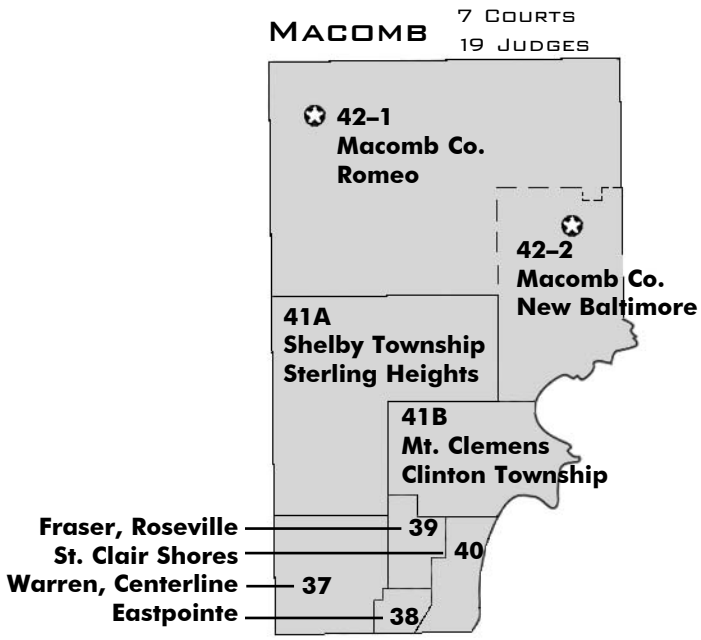


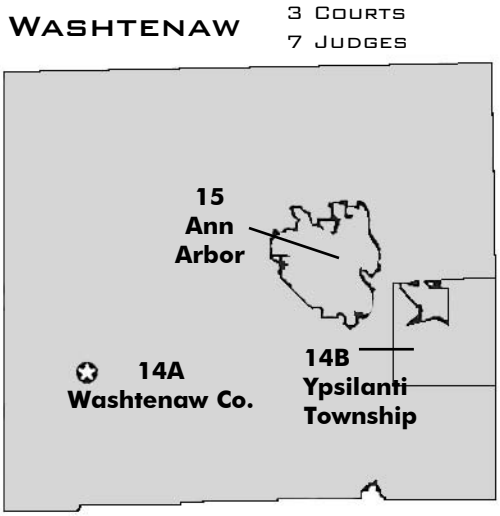
Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

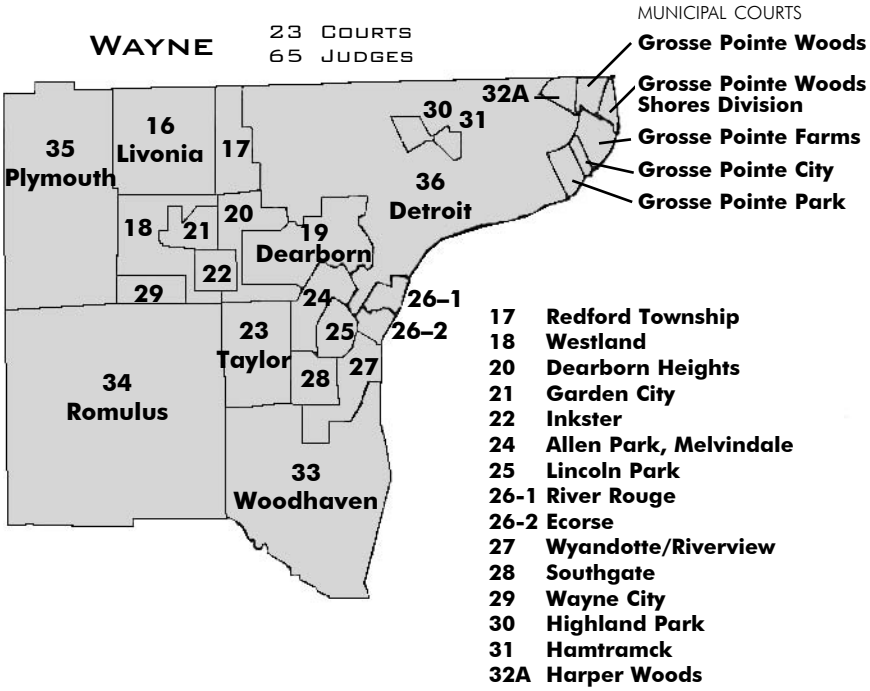
1/31/06

2ND & 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURT

Detail Map for Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties







✪ Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

1/31/06

District Court Judges (as of 1/31/05)

D01
Hon. Mark S. Braunlich
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson
Hon. Jack Vitale

D02A
Hon. Natalia M. Koselka
Hon. James E. Sheridan

D02B
Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

D03A
Hon. David T. Coyle

D03B
Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton
Hon. William D. Welty

D04
Hon. Paul E. Deats

D05
Hon. Gary J. Bruce
Hon. Angela Pasula
Hon. Scott Schofield
Hon. Lynda A. Tolen
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley

D07
Hon. Arthur H. Clarke III
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

D08-1
Hon. Quinn E. Benson
Hon. Anne E. Blatchford (joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine
Hon. Carol A. Husum

D08-2
Hon. Robert C. Kropf

D08-3
Hon. Richard A. Santoni
Hon. Vincent C. Westra

D10
Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.
Hon. John R. Holmes
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.
Hon. Marvin Ratner

D12
Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.
Hon. Joseph S. Filip (joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. James M. Justin
Hon. R. Darryl Mazur

D14A
Hon. Richard E. Conlin
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

D14B
Hon. John B. Collins

D15
Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Ann E. Mattson

D16
Hon. Robert B. Brzezinski
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann

D17
Hon. Karen Khalil
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth

D18
Hon. C. Charles Bokos
Hon. Gail McKnight

D19
Hon. William C. Hultgren
Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka (left the court 1/10/05[R])
Hon. Mark W. Somers
Hon. Richard Wygonik (joined the court 3/14/05*)

D20
Hon. Leo K. Foran
Hon. Mark J. Plawecki

D21
Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.

D22
Hon. Sylvia A. James

D23
Hon. Geno Salomone
Hon. William J. Sutherland

D24
Hon. John T. Courtright
Hon. Richard Page (joined the court 1/1/05[E])

D25
Hon. David A. Bajorek
Hon. David J. Zelenak

D26-1
Hon. Raymond A. Charron

D26-2
Hon. Michael F. Ciungan

D27
Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach

D28
Hon. James A. Kandrevas

D29
Hon. Laura R. Mack

D30
Hon. Brigette R. Officer

D31
Hon. Paul J. Paruk

D32A
Hon. Roger J. La Rose

D33
Hon. James Kurt Kersten
Hon. Michael K. McNally
Hon. Edward J. Nykiel (joined the court 1/1/05[E])

D34
Hon. Tina Brooks Green
Hon. Brian A. Oakley
Hon. David M. Parrott

D35
Hon. Michael J. Gerou
Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
Hon. John E. MacDonald

D36
Hon. Deborah Ross Adams
Hon. Lydia Nance Adams
Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer (left the court 3/1/06[R])
Hon. Marylin E. Atkins
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount
Hon. David Martin Bradfield
Hon. Izetta F. Bright
Hon. Donald Coleman
Hon. Nancy A. Farmer
Hon. Deborah Geraldine Ford (joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett
Hon. Jimmylee Gray
Hon. Katherine L. Hansen
Hon. Beverley J. Hayes-Sipes
Hon. Paula G. Humphries
Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson
Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley
Hon. Deborah L. Langston
Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.
Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd
Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark
Hon. Donna R. Milhouse
Hon. B. Pennie Millender
Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-Owens
Hon. Mark A. Randon
Hon. Kevin F. Robbins
Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.
Hon. C. Lorene Royster
Hon. Rudolph A. Serra
Hon. Ted Wallace (left the court 1/19/06[F])

D37
Hon. John M. Chmura
Hon. Jennifer Faunce
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg
Hon. Walter A. Jakubowski Jr.

D38
Hon. Norene S. Redman

D39
Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker
Hon. Marco A. Santia
Hon. Catherine B. Steenland

D40
Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster

D41A
Hon. Michael S. Maceroni
Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski
Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegand

D41B
Hon. William H. Cannon (left the court 1/31/05[R])
Hon. Linda Davis
Hon. John C. Foster
Hon. Sebastian Lucido (joined the court 7/1/05*)

D42-1
Hon. Denis R. LeDuc

D42-2
Hon. Paul Cassidy

D43
Hon. Keith P. Hunt
Hon. Joseph Longo
Hon. Robert J. Turner

D44
Hon. Terrence H. Brennan
Hon. Daniel Sawicki

D45A
Hon. William R. Sauer

D45B
Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
Hon. David M. Gubow

D46
Hon. Stephen C. Cooper
Hon. Sheila R. Johnson
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev

D47
Hon. James Brady
Hon. Marla E. Parker

D48
Hon. Marc Barron (joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Diane D'Agostini
Hon. Kimberly Small

KEY
- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another court
- E Newly elected to this court
- F Deceased
- H Reorganization transfer
- N New judgeship
- R Retired
- S Resigned
- V Removed
- Z Position Sunsetted

District Court Judges (as of 1/31/05)

D50
Hon. Leo Bowman
Hon. Michael C. Martinez
Hon. Preston G. Thomas
Hon. Cynthia T. Walker

D51
Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

D52-1
Hon. Robert Bondy
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

D52-2
Hon. Dana Fortinberry
Hon. Kelley Renae Kostin
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

D52-3
Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson

D52-4
Hon. William E. Bolle
Hon. Dennis C. Drury
Hon. Michael A. Martone

D53
Hon. Theresa M. Brennan
(joined the court 7/18/05*)
Hon. L. Suzanne Geddis
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Michael K. Hegarty
(left the court 5/11/05[F])
Hon. A. John Pikkarainen

D54A
Hon. Louise Alderson
Hon. Patrick F. Cherry
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca
Hon. Charles F. Filice
Hon. Amy R. Krause

D54B
Hon. Richard D. Ball
Hon. David L. Jordon

D55
Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Thomas P. Boyd
(joined the court 7/25/05*)
Hon. Pamela J. McCabe
(left the court 5/31/05[R])

D56A
Hon. Paul F. Berger
(left the court 10/28/05[R])
Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman
Hon. Julie H. Reincke
(joined the court 1/16/06*)

D56B
Hon. Gary R. Holman

D57
Hon. Stephen E. Sheridan
Hon. Gary A. Stewart
(left the court 1/17/06[R])

D58
Hon. Susan A. Jonas
Hon. Richard J. Kloote
Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

D59
Hon. Peter P. Versluis

D60
Hon. Harold F. Closz III
Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

D61
Hon. Patrick C. Bowler
Hon. David J. Buter
Hon. J. Michael Christensen
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVille
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II
Hon. Donald H. Passenger

D62A
Hon. M. Scott Bowen
(left the court 7/15/05[S])
Hon. Pablo Cortes
(joined the court 10/17/05*)
Hon. Steven M. Timmers

D62B
Hon. William G. Kelly

D63-1
Hon. Steven R. Servaas

D63-2
Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

D64A
Hon. Raymond P. Voet

D64B
Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

D65A
Hon. Richard D. Wells

D65B
Hon. James B. Mackie

D66
Hon. Ward L. Clarkson
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

D67-1
Hon. David J. Goggins

D67-2
Hon. John L. Conover
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

D67-3
Hon. Larry Stecco

D67-4
Hon. Mark C. McCabe
Hon. Christopher Odette

D68
Hon. William H. Crawford, II
Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
Hon. Michael D. McAra
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III
Hon. Ramona M. Roberts

D70-1
Hon. Terry L. Clark
Hon. M. Randall Jurrens
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

D70-2
Hon. Christopher S. Boyd
Hon. Darnell Jackson
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

D71A
Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard
Hon. John T. Connolly

D71B
Hon. Kim David Glaspie

D72
Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
Hon. David C. Nicholson
Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer

D73A
Hon. James A. Marcus

D73B
Hon. Karl E. Kraus

D74
Hon. Craig D. Alston
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

D75
Hon. Robert L. Donoghue
(joined the court 6/23/05*)
Hon. John Henry Hart

D76
Hon. William R. Rush

D77
Hon. Susan H. Grant

D78
Hon. H. Kevin Drake

D79
Hon. Peter J. Wadel

D80
Hon. Gary J. Allen

D81
Hon. Allen C. Yenior

D82
Hon. Richard E. Noble

D83
Hon. Daniel L. Sutton

D84
Hon. David A. Hogg

D85
Hon. Brent V. Danielson

D86
Hon. John D. Foresman
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])
Hon. Michael J. Haley
Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

D87
Hon. Patricia A. Morse

D88
Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

D89
Hon. Harold A. Johnson, Jr.

D90
Hon. Richard W. May

D91
Hon. Michael W. MacDonald

D92
Hon. Beth Gibson
(joined the court 1/1/05[E])

D93
Hon. Mark E. Luoma

D94
Hon. Glen A Pearson

D95A
Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow

D95B
Hon. Michael J. Kusz

D96
Hon. Dennis H. Girard
Hon. Roger W. Kangas

D97
Hon. Phillip L. Kukkonen

D98
Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

DISTRICT COURT NON-TRAFFIC FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Felony and Extradition	71,356	74,991	78,772	78,121	81,535	83,271
Misdemeanor	312,788	333,264	319,721	336,827	264,430	266,871
Civil Infractions	17,649	24,644	32,428	43,798	44,164	51,866
Total Filings	**401,793**	**432,899**	**430,921**	**458,746**	**390,129**	**402,008**

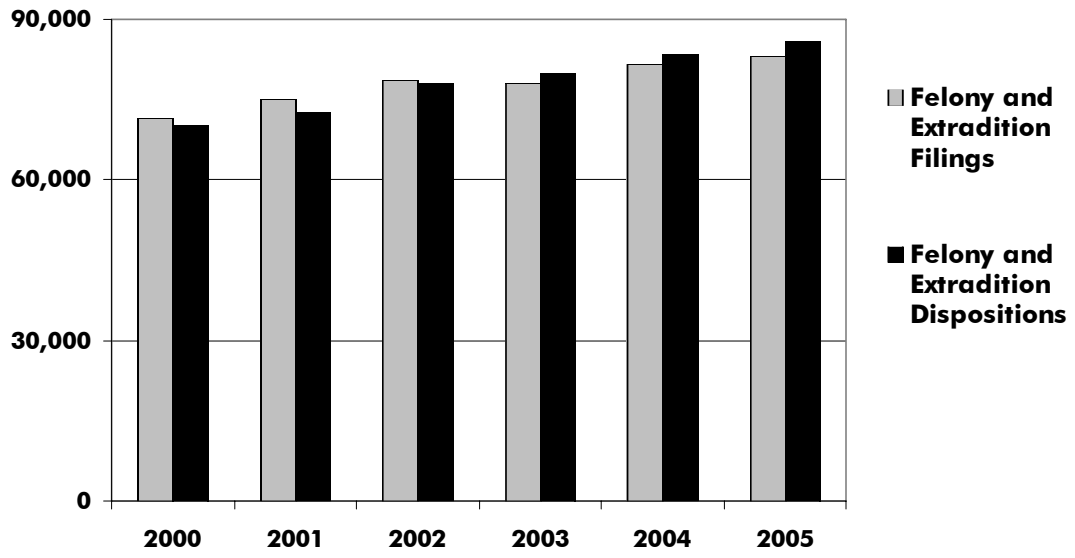
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Felony and Extradition	70,236	72,513	78,061	79,911	83,505	85,707
Misdemeanor	289,701	302,148	323,163	291,309	267,942	268,482
Civil Infractions	17,245	22,692	33,784	42,105	51,076	57,018
Total Dispositions	**377,182**	**397,353**	**435,008**	**413,325**	**402,523**	**411,207**

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

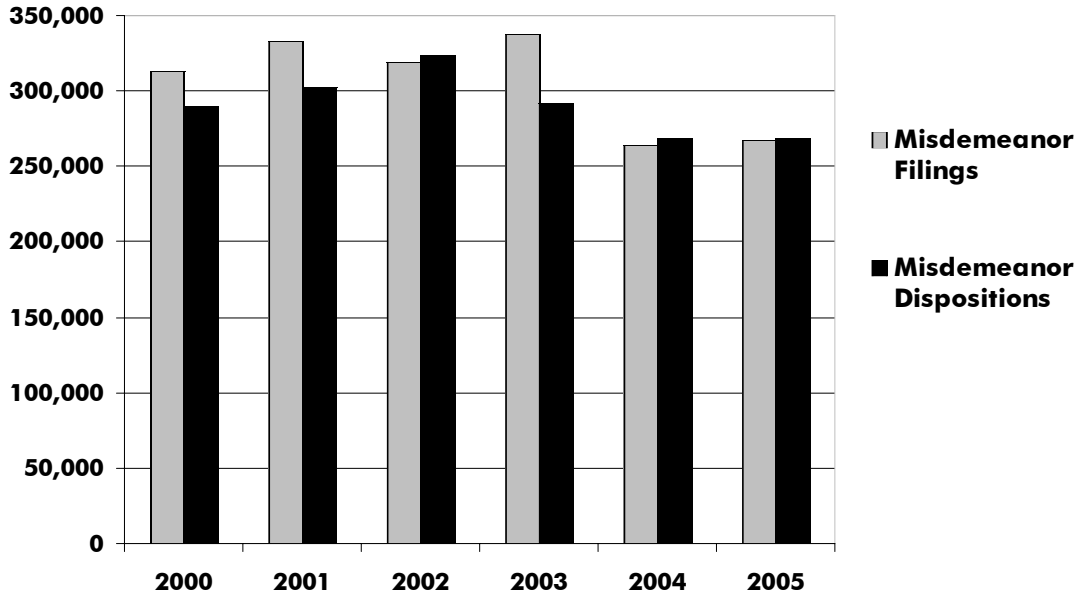
In 2005, district courts received a total of 402,008 non-traffic felony, non-traffic misdemeanor, and non-traffic civil infraction case filings. Non-traffic misdemeanor filings remained relatively low after declining by 21.5 percent between 2003 and 2004. Non-traffic felony filings continued to increase; a total of 83,271 cases were filed in 2005. Non-traffic civil infraction filings increased to 51,866, a 239 percent increase from 1999.

The district courts disposed of 411,207 non-traffic felony, non-traffic misdemeanor, and non-traffic civil infractions. The statewide clearance rate for non-traffic cases was 101.9 percent.

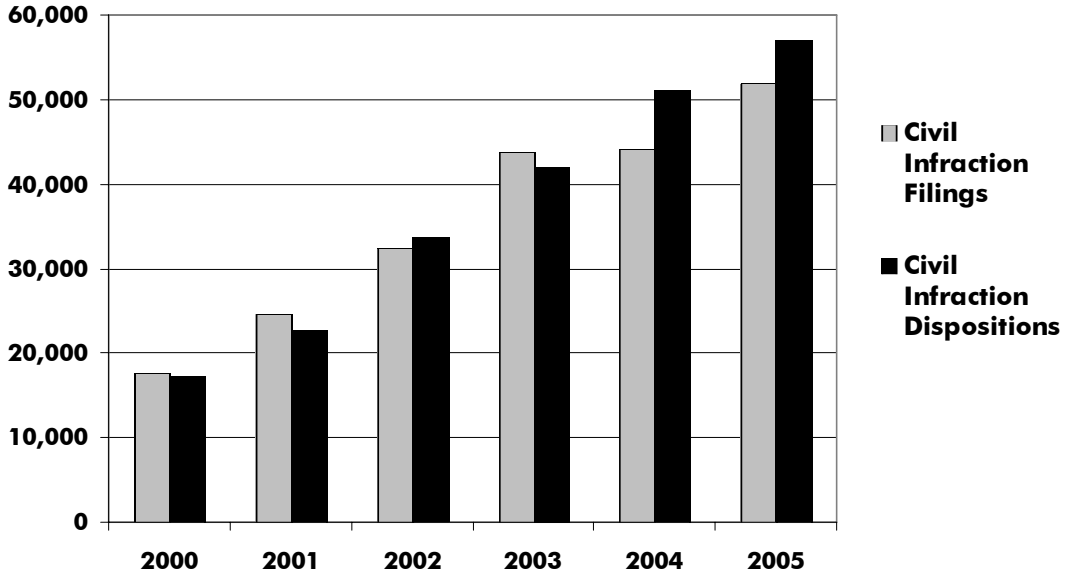
District Court Non-Traffic Felony Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Non-Traffic Civil Infraction Case Filings and Dispositions



DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Misdemeanor	454,974	431,459	437,003	435,042	295,868	286,036
Civil Infraction	1,876,729	1,820,155	1,738,622	1,742,497	1,715,278	1,776,916
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	63,687	60,795	60,572	59,788	56,140	55,668
Total Filings	**2,395,390**	**2,312,409**	**2,236,197**	**2,237,327**	**2,067,286**	**2,118,620**

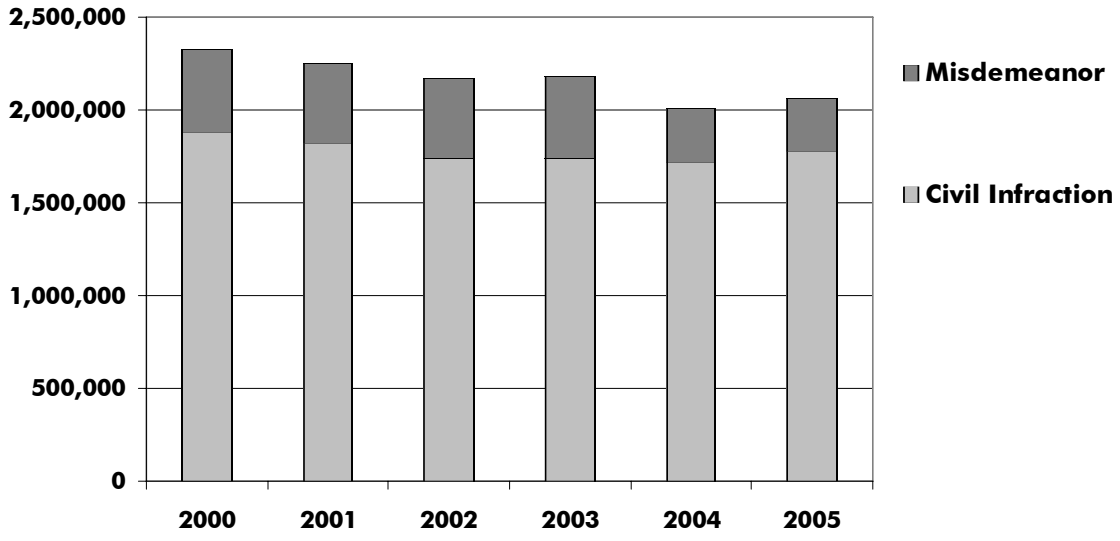
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction	2,355,175	2,258,267	2,190,761	2,193,611	2,144,265	2,152,480
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	61,841	60,751	60,879	58,939	58,161	57,218
Total Dispositions	**2,417,016**	**2,319,018**	**2,251,640**	**2,252,550**	**2,202,426**	**2,209,698**

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

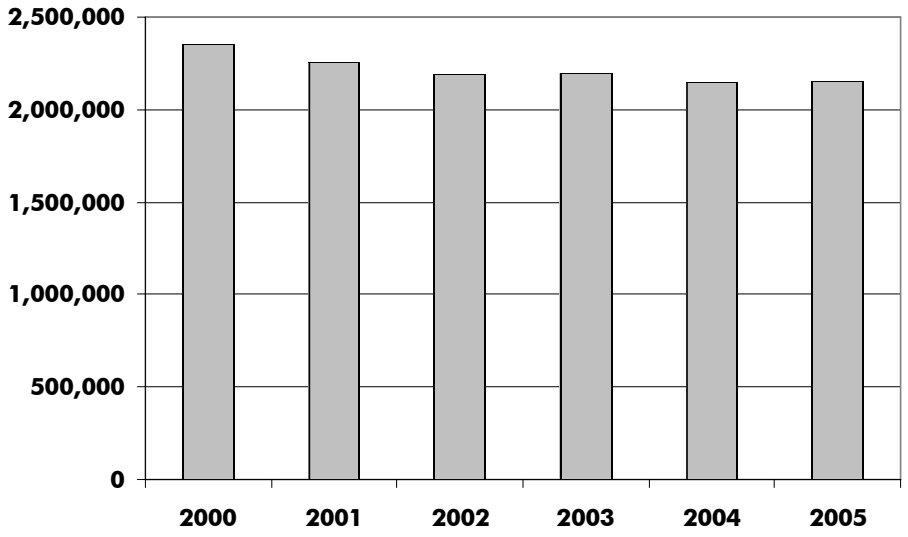
In 2005, 2,118,620 traffic cases were filed. Misdemeanor traffic filings remained relatively low after declining by 32 percent between 2003 and 2004. Civil infraction traffic filings remained relatively stable between 1999 and 2005. Drunk driving cases decreased to 55,668 in 2005, lower than in any year between 1999 and 2005. Of the drunk driving filings, 6.8 percent or 3,786 were felony cases.

The district courts disposed of 2,209,698 traffic cases in 2005. The statewide clearance rate for traffic cases was 103.7 percent.

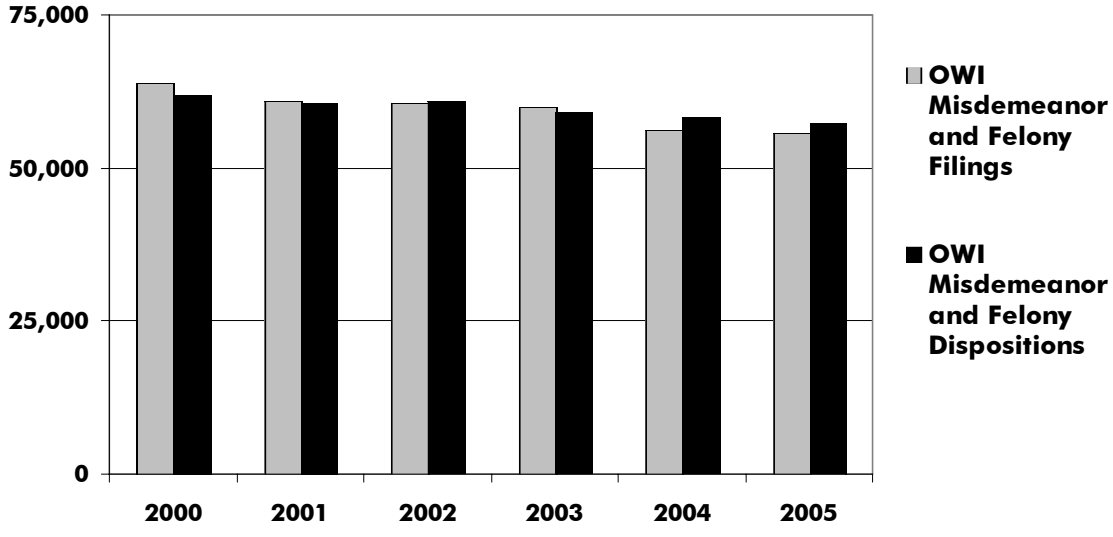
District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction Case Filings



District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction Case Dispositions



District Court OWI Case Filings and Dispositions



DISTRICT COURT CIVIL FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General Civil	185,710	213,486	264,061	298,802	277,855	288,536
Small Claims	98,173	105,971	104,208	101,680	93,935	90,383
Summary Proceedings	183,480	198,861	206,276	217,596	211,213	213,535
Total Filings	**467,363**	**518,318**	**574,545**	**618,078**	**583,003**	**592,454**

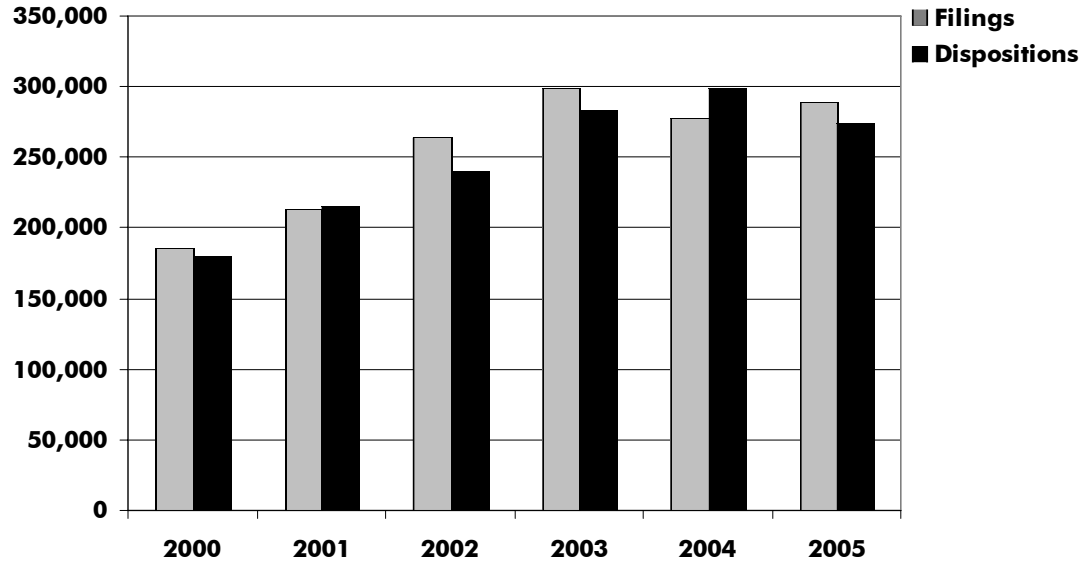
Dispositions	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
General Civil	180,291	215,466	239,577	283,576	299,321	274,435
Small Claims	96,020	105,601	105,711	103,089	97,233	90,629
Summary Proceedings	177,773	193,487	196,504	196,323	193,667	188,222
Total Dispositions	**454,084**	**514,554**	**541,792**	**582,988**	**590,221**	**553,286**

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

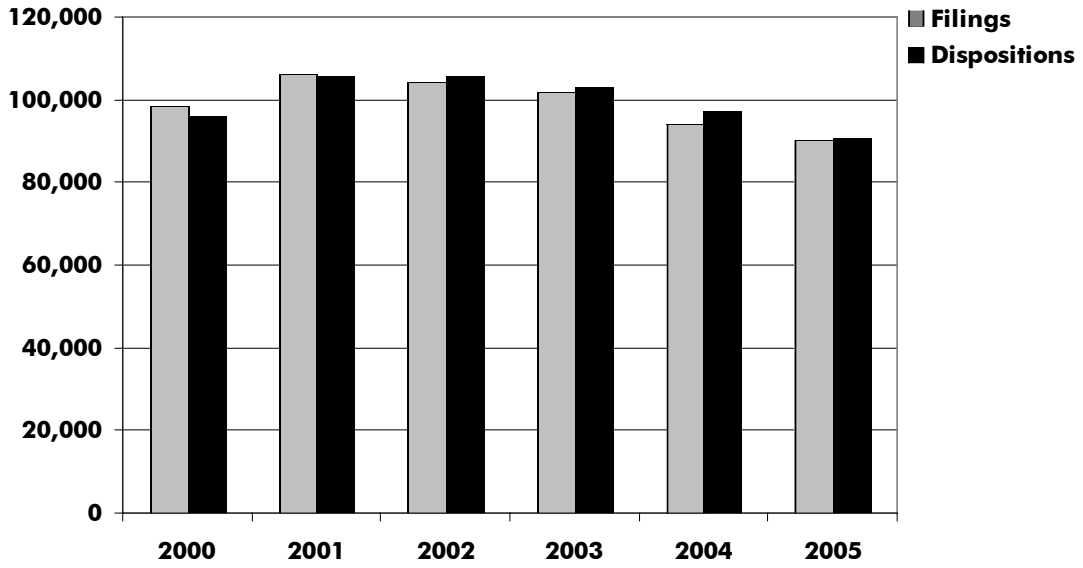
In 2005, 592,454 general civil cases, small claims cases, and summary proceedings were filed. General civil and summary proceedings increased between 2004 and 2005, while small claims decreased.

The district courts disposed of 553,286 general civil cases, small claims cases, and summary proceedings.

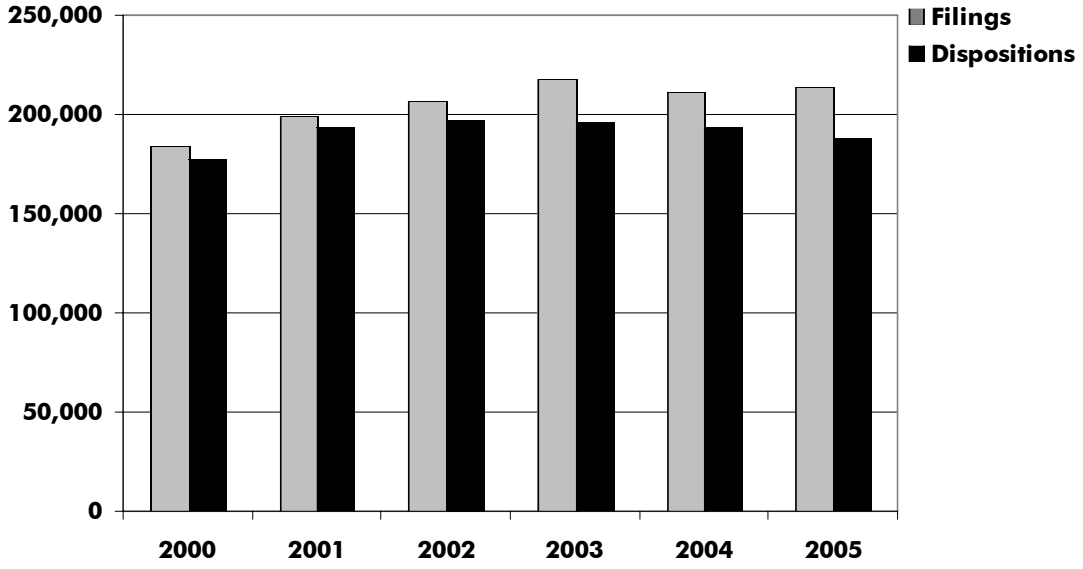
DISTRICT COURT GENERAL CIVIL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS



District Court Small Claims Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Summary Proceeding Case Filings and Dispositions



MUNICIPAL COURTS AND JUDGES

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe (MGP)
Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Farms (MGPF)
Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Park (MGPP)
Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Woods (MGPW) (includes Grosse Pointe Shores division)
Hon. Lynne A. Pierce

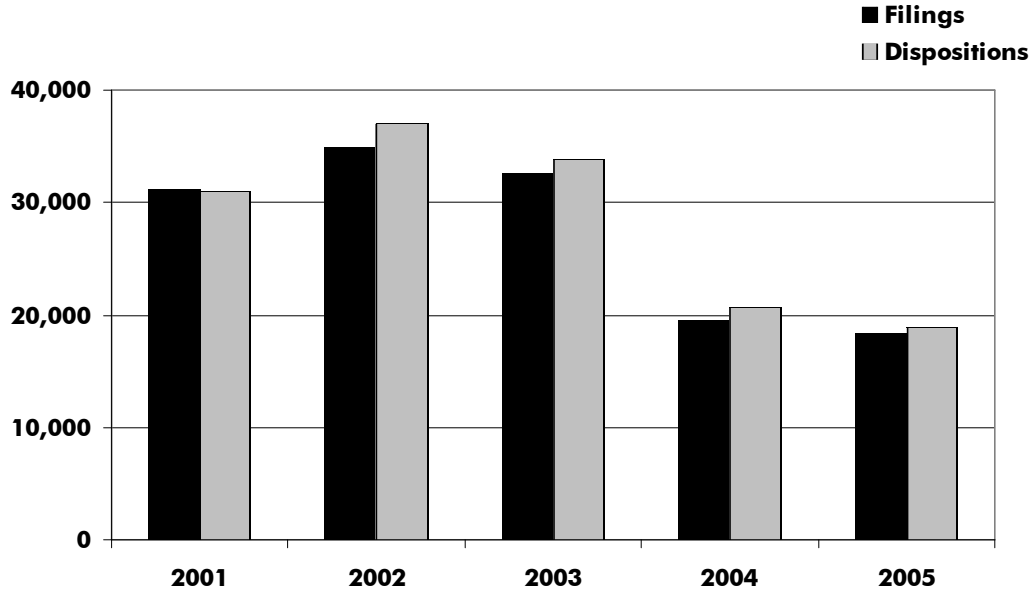
MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Filings	30,027	31,232	34,846	32,533	19,465	18,346
Dispositions	29,537	31,066	37,012	33,905	20,699	18,935

On 1/1/2004, Eastpointe municipal court became a district court. Parking cases were excluded from both filings and dispositions in all years. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2005, 18,346 cases, excluding parking tickets, were filed in municipal court. On January 1, 2004, the Eastpointe Municipal Court became a district court. The caseload for municipal courts, therefore, is lower in 2004 and 2005 than in previous years. The municipal courts disposed of 18,935 cases. The clearance rate for all cases in municipal courts was 101.7 percent.

MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS



Number of Trial Court Judgeships in Michigan

	Circuit Court	Probate Court	District Court	Municipal Court	Total
Region 1	112	22	143	4	281
Region 2	56	27	66	NA	149
Region 3	30	26	30	NA	86
Region 4	19	28	19	NA	66
Statewide	**217**	**103**	**258**	**4**	**582**

Circuit Court (as of 1/31/06)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
C01	2	1	C36	2	2
C02	2	4	C37	2	4
C03	1	61	C38	1	3
C04	2	4	C39	2	2
C05	2	1	C40	3	2
C06	1	19	C41	4	2
C07	1	9	C42	3	2
C08	3	2	C43	2	1
C09	2	5	C44	2	2
C10	3	5	C45	2	1
C11	4	1	C46	4	2
C12	4	1	C47	4	1
C13	4	2	C48	2	2
C14	2	4	C49	3	1
C15	2	1	C50	4	1
C16	I	12	C51	3	1
C17	2	9	C52	3	1
C18	3	3	C53	4	1
C19	4	1	C54	3	1
C20	2	4	C55	3	1
C21	3	2	C56	2	2
C22	1	5	C57	4	1
C23	3	2			
C24	3	1			
C25	4	2			
C26	4	1			
C27	3	2			
C28	4	1			
C29	3	2			
C30	2	7			
C31	1	3			
C32	4	1			
C33	4	1			
C34	3	1			
C35	3	1			

District Court (as of 1/31/06)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
D01	1	3	D47	1	2
D02A	2	2	D48	1	3
D02B	2	1	D50	1	4
D03A	2	1	D51	1	2
D03B	2	2	D52	1	11
D04	2	1	D53	2	3
D05	2	5	D54A	2	5
D07	2	2	D54B	2	2
D08	2	7	D55	2	2
D10	2	4	D56A	2	2
D12	2	4	D56B	2	1
D14A	1	3	D57	2	2
D14B	1	1	D58	2	4
D15	1	3	D59	2	1
D16	1	2	D60	2	4
D17	1	2	D61	2	6
D18	1	2	D62A	2	2
D19	1	3	D62B	2	1
D20	1	2	D63	2	2
D21	1	1	D64A	3	1
D22	1	1	D64B	3	1
D23	1	2	D65A	3	1
D24	1	2	D65B	3	1
D25	1	2	D66	3	2
D26	1	2	D67	1	6
D27	1	1	D68	1	5
D28	1	1	D70	3	6
D29	1	1	D71A	3	2
D30	1	1	D71B	3	1
D31	1	1	D72	1	3
D32A	1	1	D73A	3	1
D33	1	3	D73B	3	1
D34	1	3	D74	3	3
D35	1	3	D75	3	2
D36	1	31	D76	3	1
D37	1	4	D77	3	1
D38	1	1	D78	3	1
D39	1	3	D79	3	1
D40	1	2	D80	3	1
D41A	1	4	D81	3	1
D41B	1	3	D82	3	1
D42	1	2	D83	3	1
D43	1	3	D84	4	1
D44	1	2	D85	4	1
D45A	1	1	D86	4	3
D45B	1	2	D87	4	1
D46	1	3			

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District Court (as of 1/31/06) continued

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
D88	4	1	D94	4	1
D89	4	1	D95A	4	1
D90	4	1	D95B	4	1
D91	4	1	D96	4	2
D92	4	1	D97	4	1
D93	4	1	D98	4	1

Municipal Court (as of 1/31/06)

Court	Region	# of Judges
MGP	1	1
MGPF	1	1
MGPP	1	1
MGPW	1	1

Probate Court (as of 1/31/06)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
P01	3	1	P45	4	1
P03	2	1	P46	2	1
P04	4	1	P47	2	1
P05	4	1	P50	1	2
P06	3	1	P51	4	1
P07	4	1	P52	4	1
P08	2	1	P53	3	1
P09	3	1	P55	4	1
P10	4	1	P56	3	1
P11	2	2	P57	4	1
P12	2	1	P58	1	2
P13	2	2	P59	3	1
P14	2	1	P60	4	1
P16	4	1	P61	2	2
P17	4	1	P62	3	1
P19	3	1	P63	1	4
P20	4	1	P64	3	1
P21	4	1	P65	3	1
P22	4	1	P66	4	1
P23	2	1	P68	3	1
P25	1	2	P69	4	1
P27	4	1	P70	2	1
P28	4	1	P71	4	1
P29	3	1	P72	3	1
P30	2	1	P73	3	2
P31	4	1	P74	1	2
P32	3	1	P75	2	1
P33	2	2	P76	3	1
P34	3	1	P78	3	1
P35	3	1	P79	3	1
P36	4	1	P80	2	1
P37	3	1	P81	1	2
P38	2	1	P82	1	8
P39	2	3	P83	4	1
P40	4	1	PD17	3	1
P41	2	4	PD18	3	1
P42	4	1	PD5	4	1
P43	3	1	PD6	4	1
P44	3	1	PD7	4	1

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MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

ANNUAL REPORT

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