

# Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan



2008 Annual Report



Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Civil Division  
Family Division-Domestic Relations  
2 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226

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

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

Lincoln Hall of Justice  
Family Division-Juvenile  
1025 E. Forest Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48207

Penobscot Building  
Friend of the Court  
645 Griswold  
Detroit, MI 48226

## **2009 Administration**

Virgil C. Smith  
Chief Judge

Ronald R. Ruffin  
Executive Court Administrator



## THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN

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

RONALD R. RUFFIN  
Executive Court Administrator

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September 9, 2009

Honorable Virgil C. Smith  
Chief Judge  
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan  
701 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Judge Smith:

I have had the privilege of recently coming to serve the Court and am pleased to present to you the 2008 Annual Report. This report consists of descriptions, bench lists, caseload statistics, and accomplishments for the Civil, Criminal, Family-Domestic Relations, and Family-Juvenile Divisions. Department overviews, employee retirements and recognition, and overall Court activities are also included.

I would like to thank the judges and management for guiding the Court through a challenging year. In planning for our future, we have recently gone through significant budget decreases in order to meet our upcoming goals. Thanks to our superior employees, I am filled with a sincere optimism that the Court will continue to meet these goals with fewer staff and funding.

This year will be another successful year as we continue to fine tune and streamline our services. As we reach these targets, the Court will continue to serve the public in the most efficient and professional way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald R. Ruffin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ronald R. Ruffin  
Executive Court Administrator

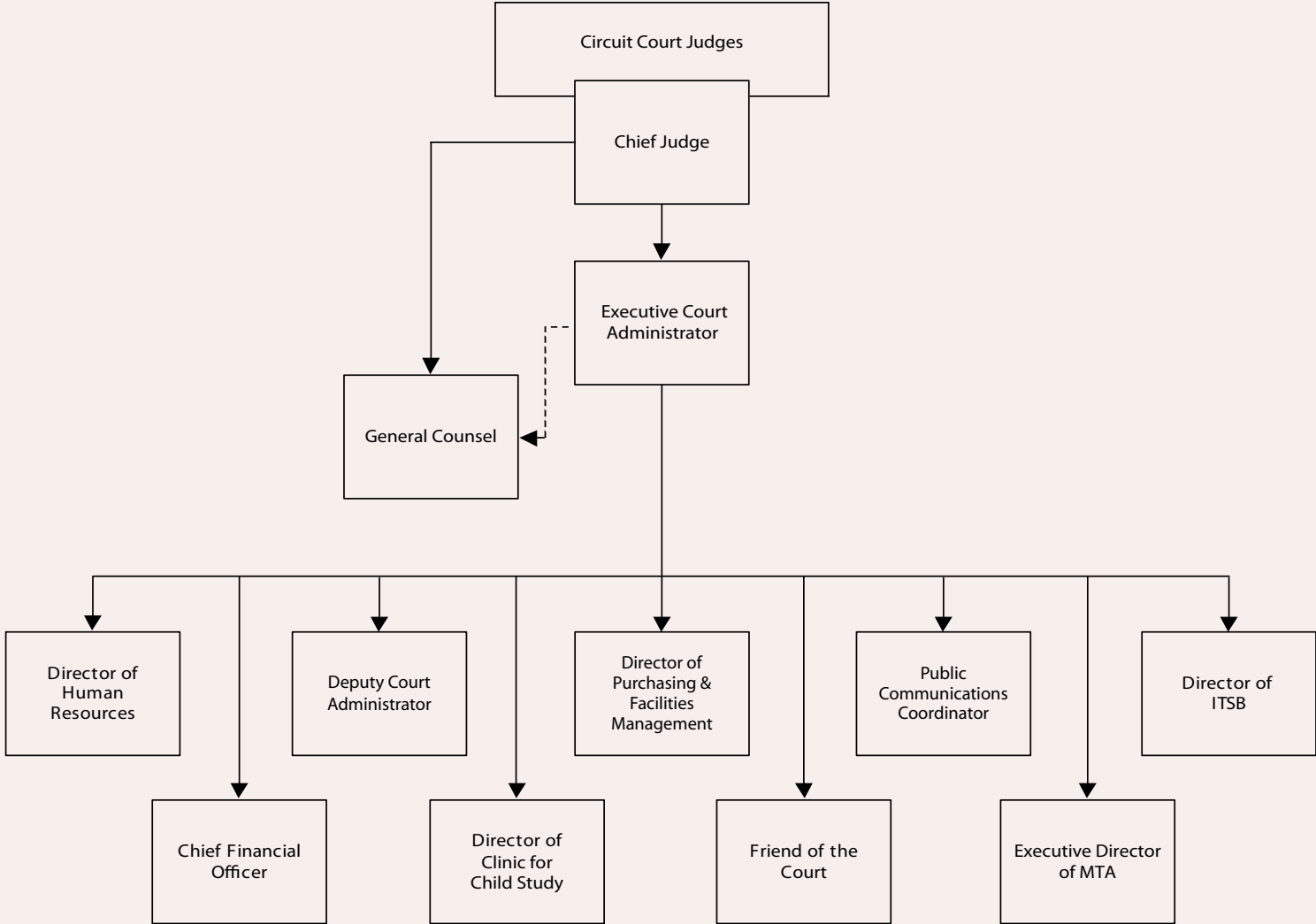




# Table of Contents

Organization Chart .....	1
Bench Photograph .....	2
Financial Information .....	3
Court Administration .....	4
Civil Division .....	8
Criminal Division .....	9
Family Division-Domestic Relations .....	14
Family Division-Juvenile .....	19
Judges Leaving the Bench .....	25
Employee Retirements .....	26
Employee Recognition.....	27

# THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN 2008 ORGANIZATION CHART



## 2008 Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan



Bottom row from left to right: John H. Gillis, Jr., Megan Maher Brennan, Vera Massey Jones, Annette J. Berry, Amy P. Hathaway, Susan D. Borman, Muriel D. Hughes, Kathleen Macdonald (Chief Judge Pro Tem), William J. Giovan (Chief Judge), Maria L. Oxholm, Deborah Ross Adams, Sheila Ann Gibson, Kathleen M. McCarthy, Leslie Kim Smith, Judy Hartsfield (Presiding-Family Division-Juvenile), Vonda R. Evans, and Patricia S. Fresard.

Middle row from left to right: Gershwin A. Drain, Lita M. Popke, Cynthia D. Stephens, James R. Chylinski, Richard M. Skutt (Presiding-Family Division-Domestic Relations), Warfield Moore, Jr., Christopher D. Dingell, Robert L. Ziolkowski, Frank S. Szymanski, Bill Callahan, Richard B. Halloran, Jr., Timothy M. Kenny, Margie R. Braxton, Mark T. Slavens.

Top row from left to right: Craig S. Strong, John A. Murphy (Presiding-Civil Division), Wendy M. Baxter, Isidore Torres, Jerome C. Cavanagh, Ulysses W. Boykin, Michael Hathaway, Virgil C. Smith, Wade H. McCree, Gregory Dean Bill, James A. Callahan, Robert J. Colombo, Jr., David A. Groner, Arthur J. Lombard, Edward Ewell, Jr. (Presiding-Criminal Division), Daphne Means Curtis, David J. Allen, and Charlene M. Elder.

Not Pictured: Helen E. Brown, Michael J. Callahan, Prentis Edwards, Cynthia Gray Hathaway, Diane Marie Hathaway, Thomas E. Jackson, Mary Beth Kelly, Bruce U. Morrow, Daniel P. Ryan, Michael F. Sapala, Jeanne Stempien, Brian R. Sullivan, Deborah A. Thomas, and Carole F. Youngblood.

## Financial information

The Third Circuit Court is the largest circuit court in Michigan with 61 judges and three operating divisions which have jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and family matters arising in the County of Wayne. Court operations are funded from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. Major revenue sources include an appropriation from Wayne County for general operations; federal and state grants to fund the Friend of the Court's Cooperative Reimbursement Program and Drug Court Programs; and grant revenue from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency to fund the operations of the Court's Clinic for Child Study. The Court also receives a reimbursement for juror fees and judges' salaries from the State, as well as the repayment of court costs, attorney fees, and other service fees from individuals.

### FY 2008 Expenditures (Unaudited)

Salaries & Wages	33,648,953
Judges' Salaries	2,795,812
Retirement, FICA, & Insurance	19,219,794
Supplies & Materials	1,502,463
Other Operating Expenses	547,125
Contractual Services	5,381,500
Contractual Professional Services	1,997,470
Security Guard Services	826,914
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	1,328,181
Equipment & Furniture Purchases	518,511
Travel, Conventions, Mileage	323,562
Building Rental & Maintenance	4,311,296
Attorney Fees for Indigent Defense	18,709,244
Juror & Witness Fees	2,609,738
Transcript Fees	866,143
County Chargebacks	9,007,992
Sheriff Protection	14,699,900
County Clerk Services	14,322,550
Child Care Fund	558,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,175,324</b>

### FY 2008 Revenues (Unaudited)

Federal Grant, FOC & Drug Court Programs	19,115,286
State Reimbursement, Judges' Salaries	2,789,164
State Reimbursement, Juror Fees	599,921
State Grant Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Officers	1,759,455
State Grants, FOC & Drug Court Programs	2,304,681
Grant from Mental Health Agency	5,400,000
Grant from Wayne County	83,623,700
Grant from Circuit Court for Child Care Fund	558,175
Family Counseling	123,750
FOC Service, Mediation, Processing Fees	2,100,838
Civil & Domestic Court Fees	1,084,769
Court Costs & Attorney Fee Reimbursement	3,017,399
Diversion Cost Reimbursement	20,335
Miscellaneous Receipts	358,647
Interest on Investments	(1,579,504)
Appropriation from County General Fund	4,999,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,276,314</b>

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

Several departments within Court Administration provide support to the Court. A brief description of each department is provided below.



## Assigned Counsel Services

The Office of Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) is responsible for providing counsel to represent indigent parties appearing before the Court. There are ACS offices in the Criminal Division and Family Division-Juvenile Section. The Case Processing Department performs many of the ACS functions for the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section.

## Budget and Finance

The Office of Budget and Finance is responsible for the processing and recording of accounting and financial information for the Court. The office's responsibilities include budget and accounting services, accounts receivable and accounts payable processing, fiduciary accounting and reporting services, and financial reporting.

## Case Processing

The Case Processing Department maintains an effective case management plan for all litigation filed in the Court. The department provides central support to the Bench through the development and distribution of statistical and management reports, oversight and maintenance of automated caseflow management programs, training of judicial staff members, and the scheduling and noticing of hearings.

## Court Collections

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

## Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for the Court's sixty-one judges and 645 employees. These activities include recruitment, timekeeping, payroll, benefits, training and development, and negotiating and administering labor agreements.

## Information Technology Systems Bureau

The Information Technology Systems Bureau provides reliable, cost effective information systems solutions that meet the Court's evolving business needs. The department provides the application and technical operating environment necessary to meet the operating and administrative business objectives of the Court.





## COURT ADMINISTRATION

### Mediation Tribunal Association

The Mediation Tribunal Association (MTA) is a non-profit agency established in 1979 that provides alternative dispute resolution services for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and many district courts in the County of Wayne.

#### Case Evaluation 2008 Caseload

Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	7,143
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	581
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	122
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	240
Cases Adjourned by the Court	2,110
<b>Total Cases Evaluated</b>	<b>4,090</b>

#### Case Evaluation 2008 Dispositions

Total Cases Evaluated	4,090
Cases Accepted	838
<b>Total Cases Rejected and Continuing to Disposition</b>	<b>3,252</b>

### Office of the General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel, serves as the official legal advisor to the Court and provides legal services to members of the Bench and Court department managers. The Office of the General Counsel was created to replace the Office of the Judicial Assistant and assumes all the duties and responsibilities of the Office as delineated by statute MCL 600.1481, §2.

### Purchasing and Facilities Management

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

### Special Projects Unit

The Special Projects Unit performs statistical analysis for the Court. They also review internal processes and provide solutions to enhance efficiency.

# COURT ADMINISTRATION

## Law Day

“The Rule of Law: Foundation for Opportunity and Fairness” was the Court’s 22nd Annual Law Day theme. Chief Judge William J. Giovan delivered the opening remarks and attorney Jeffrey G. Collins, Collins & Collins P.C., delivered the compelling keynote address. Chief Judge William J. Giovan selected and presented the winners of the essay contest award and each winner read their essay to the group. After trial observation, the 10 Wayne County participating schools had an informal lunch where they could discuss their day. During lunch, a robbery skit was performed where students witnessed a crime and the challenges that arose from the varied descriptions of observing the same event.



From left to right: Jeffrey G. Collins, Chief Judge Pro Tempore Kathleen Macdonald, and Chief Judge William J. Giovan.

## Japanese Judge Program

Beginning in the early 1980s, each year a judge from the Japanese judicial system has come to Michigan to research and study the American judicial system. This partnership between the Third Circuit Court, Wayne State University Law School, and the Supreme Court of Japan ensures that each visiting judge will return home with a wealth of knowledge concerning America’s judicial system with an emphasis on Michigan trial courts.

The Supreme Court of Japan selects one judge through a competitive process. That judge will be in residence for two semesters at the Law School and the Court. Judges will study each division of the Court by observing proceedings, trials, and the operations of Court Departments including Jury Services, Case Processing, and the Mediation Tribunal Association. Additionally, judges will network with staff from Pretrial Services, Intake, Drug Court, Probation, and the Clinic for Child Study, while touring both the Wayne County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Facility. To culminate this program, the judge will lecture in one of the courses at the Law School and be available to students and faculty to discuss their research.

This program enhances the judicial systems of both cultures as well as the curriculum at Wayne State University. Each year the Court looks forward to this ongoing partnership.





## COURT ADMINISTRATION

### Odyssey Case Management System Implementation

The application of this entrepreneurial case management system continued to move forward with the implementation of the Third Judicial Circuit's Civil Division in October 2008. The migration of 348,000 civil cases to Odyssey brings the total number of cases on Odyssey to approximately 860,000. This total includes the previously converted Adoption, Criminal, and Guardianship cases.

After diligent consideration of alternatives for the conversion of historical and archived cases in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions, it was determined that all cases would be migrated to Odyssey. The Register of Actions for previously archived cases were converted to portable document formats (pdf) and attached to skeleton party information within Odyssey. This provides the capability of all case information to be retrievable on one case management platform – Odyssey. This methodology will continue to be employed in the future migration of Family Division-Domestic Relations and Family Division-Juvenile cases.

As with the 2007 Criminal Division migration, the successful implementation of the Civil Division was the culmination of the dedicated effort of the staffs of the Wayne County Clerk, Third Judicial Circuit, and the Odyssey project team. The development of new Civil Division business processes, resolving data conversion issues, staff training, and data validation were some of the many challenges that were successfully addressed in the implementation process.

**Odyssey**

- ◆ **Case Manager Home**
- ◆ **Searches**
  - Find a Case
  - Find a Party
  - Find a Judgment
  - Find a Hearing
  - Find a Group
  - Find a Citation
- ◆ **Add a Case**
- ◆ **Add a Case Classic**
- ◆ **Add a Citation**
- ◆ **Protection Orders**
  - Find a Protection Order
  - Add a Protection Order
- ◆ **Court Administration**
  - View Calendar
  - View Resource Scheduling
  - Print Notices
  - Print Resource Letters
  - Move Multiple Case Files
  - Review Electronic Files
  - Set Committal Hearing
  - Judgment Proofing
- ◆ **Fees & Finances**
  - Find an Account
  - Sign On to a Till
  - Take a Misc. Payment
  - Add a Misc. Invoice
  - Find a Receipt

**Case Manager Home** Case Manager

Cases | Warrants | Bonds | Parties | Citations | Judgments | Protection Orders

**Work with Cases**

- Find a Case**
- Add a Case**
- Add a Case Classic**
- Copy a Case**

◆ **Court Administration**  
Go here to schedule hearings, generate notices, and prepare calendars.

◆ **Fees & Finances**  
Go here to assess fees, take payments, post financial corrections and disburse monies collected by your office.

◆ **Forms & Documents**  
Go here to create and update form templates.

◆ **Reporting**  
Go here to produce reports of the various functions of your office including statistical, financial, and monthly reports.

◆ **Administration**  
Go here to perform administrative tasks such as maintenance of codes, users, attorneys, and other special parties.

## CIVIL DIVISION

Fourteen Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Civil Division. Matters that involve claims of more than \$25,000, which include medical malpractice, auto negligence, personal injury, contracts, employment discrimination, and receiverships are heard in the Civil Division. In addition, civil matters appealed from Wayne County district courts and administrative agencies are also handled by the Civil Division Judges. There were approximately 15,800 new case filings in the Civil Division in 2008.

### 2008 CIVIL DIVISION JUDGES

Kathleen Macdonald, Chief Judge Pro Tempore  
John A. Murphy, Presiding

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

Gershwin A. Drain  
Prentis Edwards  
John H. Gillis, Jr.  
Warfield Moore, Jr.

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

### General Civil and Tort Case 2008 Statistics

	General Civil	Auto Negligence	Other Civil Damage	Other Civil	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	4,524	4,021	4,035	224	165	82	38	13,089
New Filings	7,302	4,210	2,356	837	417	409	193	15,724
Reopened Cases	559	264	318	18	24	45	3	1,231
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>12,385</b>	<b>8,495</b>	<b>6,709</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>30,044</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:								
Jury Verdicts	29	48	29	0	0	0	0	106
Bench Verdicts	60	6	6	2	0	0	0	74
Order Entered	0	0	0	0	115	252	10	377
Guilty Pleas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,929	626	297	483	0	0	0	4,335
Transferred	171	107	95	3	8	3	1	388
Dismissed by Party	1,895	1,755	1,574	199	0	0	0	5,423
Dismissed by Court	1,129	265	122	73	371	159	133	2,252
Inactive Status	4	3	11	0	1	0	0	19
Other Dispositions	1,501	1,728	910	82	0	0	0	4,221
Case Type Change	1	3	2	0	0	1	4	11
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>7,719</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>17,206</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>4,666</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>12,838</b>





## CRIMINAL DIVISION

Twenty-seven Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Criminal Division. All felony cases that are bound over from the district courts in Wayne County, as well as district court criminal appeals, are heard in the Criminal Division. There were more than 17,100 felony cases bound over to the Criminal Division in 2008. Some matters are eligible for an expedited docketing process in which all proceedings, except arraignment on warrants, are held at the Circuit Court level to aid with the high volume of cases.

### 2008 CRIMINAL DIVISION JUDGES

Edward Ewell, Jr., Presiding

David J. Allen  
Annette J. Berry  
Gregory Dean Bill  
Ulysses W. Boykin  
Margie R. Braxton  
Helen E. Brown  
James A. Callahan  
Michael James Callahan  
James R. Chylinski

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

Timothy M. Kenny  
Wade Harper McCree  
Bruce U. Morrow  
Daniel P. Ryan  
Jeanne Stempien  
Craig S. Strong  
Brian R. Sullivan  
Deborah A. Thomas  
Carole F. Youngblood

### Criminal 2008 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	518	1,972	0	67	2,557
New Filings	1,467	15,503	32	113	17,115
Reopened Cases	178	1,463	0	0	1,641
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>18,938</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>21,313</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	232	295	1	0	528
Bench Verdicts	102	371	0	0	473
Order Entered	0	0	0	77	77
Guilty Pleas	904	13,320	16	0	14,240
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred	12	245	0	1	258
Dismissed by Party	5	94	0	0	99
Dismissed by Court	251	1,469	2	9	1,731
Inactive Status	157	1,029	2	0	1,188
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	4	24	0	0	28
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>16,847</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>18,622</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>2,691</b>



# CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Office of the Criminal Division manages the following Court Departments: Court Reporting Services, Drug Court, Jury Services, and Pretrial Services. This Office also serves as the liaison for all outside agencies which impact the division including but not limited to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Clerk's Office, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, the State Court Administrator's Office, as well as other circuit and district courts.



## Court Reporting Services

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

### Court Reporting Services 2008 Statistics

Processed Appeals	
Civil/Domestic	598
Criminal	1,023
Juvenile	164
<b>Total Appeals</b>	<b>1,785</b>
Non-English/Sign Language Interpreter Requests	
Civil/Domestic	88
Criminal	100
Juvenile	448
<b>Total</b>	<b>636</b>

## Drug Court

The Drug Treatment Court Program provides a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol and/or drug abuse. A collaboration of professionals work together to break the cycle of addiction and crime. Successful program completion may result in the dismissal of the original charge, a reduced sentence, no jail or prison time, or a combination of the above.

### Drug Court 2008 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	281
New Admissions	84
Returning Participants	197
<b>Graduating Participants</b>	<b>48</b>
Removed Participants	90



# CRIMINAL DIVISION

## Jury Services

The Jury Services Department provides full services for the Circuit and Probate Court in Wayne County, as well as prospective jury selection and qualification services for all district courts in Wayne County. Jury Services, along with Court Administration, develops processes and procedures to efficiently and effectively utilize the services of citizens called to serve on jury duty.

### Jury Services 2008 Statistics

Total Questionnaires Mailed	328,420
Total Summons Mailed	106,832
<b>Total Jury Panels Requested</b>	<b>2,805</b>
Total Jurors Serving in Pool	51,530

## Pretrial Services

The Pretrial Services Department monitors defendants released on bonds, submits oral and written bond recommendations to judges and magistrates throughout Wayne County and calculates preliminary Sentencing Guidelines for the Circuit Court judges, which assists in plea negotiations and management of the dockets. The Court, Wayne County, and the community benefit from the cost savings of decreased pretrial detention by identifying those defendants who can be safely released back to the community pending disposal of felony matters.

### Pretrial Services 2008 Statistics

Defendants Interviewed	13,575
Total Bond Recommendations Submitted	13,400
Written Recommendations	2,075
Oral Recommendations	11,325
Supervision (Yearly Averages)	
Total Defendants Monitored	4,447
Cumulative Total of Def. Monitored	13,822
Compliance Rate	94%
Failure to Appear Rate	6%
Sentencing Guidelines Submitted	15,330
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	93%
LEIN Queries	23,441

# CRIMINAL DIVISION

## Court Collections Committee

Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) was retained by the Third Circuit Court to provide supplemental collection services for delinquent court costs, fees, and fines. MSB began collection services in June 2008. Initially supplied with over 13,000 delinquent records, the agency received accounts that were sentenced from January 1, 2006 through June 1, 2008, with continuing monthly updates. Forty five percent of payments received in 2008 were on accounts submitted to MSB for enforcement; with an overall 12 percent increase in criminal payments.

Implementation of the Court's new case management system, Odyssey, further enhanced collection efforts by enabling the court to increase overall assessments by imposing a 20 percent late fee on delinquent criminal court costs, attorney fees, and fines. Six percent of payments receipted were applied to assessed late fees, allowing late fee payments to fund all collection agency related costs.

The Collections Best Practices Oversight Committee continues to ensure that clear and consistent guidelines are used throughout all of the Court's Divisions. Committee members include: Judges, Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chair, Edward Ewell, Jr., Criminal Division Presiding, Helen E. Brown, James R. Chylinski, and David A. Groner, Executive Court Administrator, Director of Ancillary Court Services, and Collections Coordinator.

## Fugitive Safe Surrender Program

The Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS) Project, conducted in Detroit June 4 through June 7, 2008, was the most successful in the nation. This federal initiative developed by the U.S. Marshals Service, involved fugitives who were asked to surrender to a safe haven, Second Ebenezer Baptist Church, in exchange for favorable consideration. This one-time opportunity allowed fugitives re-entry into the community, while reducing the risk of violence to law enforcement officials, the public, and the fugitives.

Presiding Judge Edward Ewell, Jr. represented the Third Circuit Court during the planning and implementation phases of the Project. Several Third Circuit Court Judges volunteered to conduct hearings for this Project including Judges Edward Ewell, Jr., Annette J. Berry, Helen E. Brown, Gershwin A. Drain, Vonda R. Evans, Patricia S. Fresard, William J. Giovan, Amy P. Hathaway, Timothy M. Kenny, Kathleen Macdonald, Wade H. McCree, Maria L. Oxholm, Kevin Robbins, Jeanne Stempien, Cynthia D. Stephens, Craig S. Strong, Deborah A. Thomas, and Carole F. Youngblood. Hearings on all 4 days went well past midnight.

The enormous turnout of fugitives and the success of this Project would not have been possible without the cooperation from the following agencies and partners of the Court: 36th District Court, United States Attorney's Office, United States Marshals, Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Michigan State Police, Michigan Department of Corrections, Defense Bar, and Public Defender's Office.







## CRIMINAL DIVISION

### Adult Drug Treatment Court Graduation

The Adult Drug Treatment Court held its 4th Annual Graduation Ceremony on May 2, 2008, in the Chapel of the Salvation Army's recently renovated Adult Rehabilitation Center in Detroit.

This comprehensive program which included frequent drug testing, probation and case manager supervision, judicial monitoring, and court-mandated incentives and sanctions was successfully completed by 48 participants.

In addition to the graduates and their family members, approximately 100 guests attended the ceremony. These guests included current active participants, supervising Drug Court judges, Court Administration, Treatment Providers, and the media.

Dr. Billy Taylor, former University of Michigan football great, was the Keynote Speaker for the event. Each graduate received a Certificate of Completion from their supervising Drug Court judge. Salvation Army counselor and local recording artist Michael Brock performed, and the Salvation Army Food Services provided gifts and a luncheon for all attendees.



Bottom row from left to right: Yvonne Colley, Charlotte Coates, Louise Powell, Michael McCarthy, Timmie Bonner, and Javon Ricky Gaines. Top row from left to right: Robb Williams, Judge Brian R. Sullivan, Judge Wade H. McCree, Frances Fogel-Gibson (Adult Drug Treatment Court Coordinator), Judge Timothy M. Kenny, and Judge Kevin Robbins.

# FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Twelve Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section. Cases handled include divorce, paternity, personal protection, emancipation of minors, name changes, parental waivers, and infectious disease matters. Each of these case types may include matters concerning custody, support, parenting time, property, and other issues. There were approximately 31,500 new case filings in the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2008.



## 2008 FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS JUDGES

Richard M. Skutt, Presiding

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

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

Arthur J. Lombard  
Kathleen M. McCarthy  
Maria L. Oxholm  
Lita M. Popke

### Domestic Relations 2008 Statistics

	Divorce w/ Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	Family Support	UIFSA	Other Domestic	Total
Beginning Pending	1,886	1,351	3,230	1,925	184	228	8,804
New Filings	3,270	3,432	8,310	6,028	921	390	22,351
Reopened Cases	334	165	26	29	10	46	610
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>5,490</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>11,566</b>	<b>7,982</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>31,765</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:							
Bench Verdicts	55	26	0	0	0	1	82
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,565	2,820	4,977	3,968	0	541	14,871
Transferred	1	3	1	0	0	2	7
Post-Judgment Orders	0	0	0	0	539	0	539
Dismissed by Party	708	689	1,287	502	0	199	3,385
Dismissed by Court	332	185	2,472	1,685	0	146	4,820
Inactive Status	12	6	0	0	0	3	21
Case Type Change	6	9	0	1	0	6	22
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>3,738</b>	<b>8,737</b>	<b>6,156</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>23,747</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>1,811</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>8,018</b>





## FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### Personal Protection 2008 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
Beginning Pending	128	62	10	200
New Filings	6,010	2,850	257	9,117
Reopened Cases	1	0	1	2
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>6,139</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>9,319</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	4,017	1,068	64	5,149
Orders Issued after Hrg.	539	350	43	932
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	545	751	57	1,353
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	480	453	56	989
Dismissed by Party	409	202	36	647
Order Issued after Denial	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>5,990</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>9,070</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>249</b>

# FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

## FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court (FOC) is the largest FOC in Michigan, with over 223,000 active domestic relations cases. The FOC is an adjunct of the Circuit Court, which has as its primary responsibilities investigating, reporting, and making recommendations to the Court on matters of custody, parenting time, and support of minor children; and providing mediation as an alternative method of dispute resolution.

The FOC's mission of encouraging positive relations and ensuring financial security for the children and families is accomplished through the collective efforts of the Legal Division, Financial and Public Services Division, and Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Department.

In the Legal Division, the FOC referees, attorneys, and their support staff process referrals to establish paternity and family support obligations. The attorneys assist the Family Division-Domestic Relations Judges at review hearings to ensure that the "best interests of the children" are served. The Legal Division also provides oversight of the FOC Branch Office which assists the Family Division-Domestic Relations Bench and private attorneys by providing specific account information and order entry assistance.

The Financial and Public Service Division includes the customer service area of the FOC. This division handles over 3,000 in-person inquiries each month, collects over \$5 million annually in License Suspension, Passport, and Financial Institution Data Match enforcements, and expeditiously enters and processes orders.

The FOC's Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Department provides court-ordered evaluations, mediations, and psychological assessments to resolve parenting time and custody disputes as well as parent education programs and home assessments for the Court and other jurisdictions.

The FOC staff serve on a multitude of local and state committees and workgroups to continuously improve the child support program. Their hard work and commitment contributed to Michigan's ranking as the fourth highest state in the collection of child support.





## FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### Child Support Enforcement Fiscal Year 2008 Statistics

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

<b>Total</b>	<b>221,090</b>
Active Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	25,195
Non-Active TANF	195,895
<b>Total Support Ordered</b>	<b>\$385,573,527</b>
<b>Total Support Collected</b>	<b>\$352,238,592</b>
Income Withholding	\$248,563,948
Federal Tax Intercepts	36,780,014
Unemployment Compensation	16,536,823
Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM)	4,736,271
Received from Other States	3,274,872
State Tax Intercepts	3,639,813
Receiverships/Worker's Compensation	3,420,172
All Other Payments	35,286,678
<b>Total Support Disbursed</b>	<b>\$348,253,236</b>
Custodial Parents	\$285,301,072
State of Michigan-TANF	43,568,581
State of Michigan-Medicaid	9,666,187
Out-of-State Agencies	7,943,951
Other Recipients	1,773,446

# FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

## For Our Children

Friend of the Court and Assistant Friend of the Court led the “For Our Children” initiative into its second successful year. This consortium continues to reach out to a cross section of representatives from community agencies and organizations, governmental agencies, and the media to increase public awareness of Friend of the Court (FOC) programs and operations and to help the FOC better understand and meet the needs of the public. Wayne County Head Start, Mariner’s Inn, and the Legal Aid and Defender’s Association are a few of the participating organizations.

In keeping with its mission “to educate and inform the community about the Court and family law issues that affect families and provide a forum for dialogue as we, the Court and community leaders, build a partnership to increase public awareness and education,” the course was set for a successful and impactful year.

The consortium assisted the FOC in sharing important information such as the \$25 Child Support Federal Fee and the Michigan Child Support Formula changes with the public. A resource guide was created which all members now have available for clients. Speakers were provided by consortium members for the Friend of the Court’s “Parent Awareness Month” Seminars. These seminars were held during National Parent Awareness Month in March during the lunch hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the FOC Penobscot Building Waiting Room. Attendees received information on parenting skills, providing healthy meals, United Way and Head Start services, home foreclosures, resume writing, and time management. Recognizing the impact of the economic changes in the Wayne County area, the consortium also supported a public service announcement regarding the right to have child support obligations reviewed.

The Friend of the Court is looking forward to continuing this endeavor in 2009, ensuring that public needs will be addressed.

## In-Court Mediation Project

In May, the Friend of the Court’s Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education (FAME) Department launched an In-Court Mediation Project. A mix of FAME staff and volunteer mediators are available two times monthly to deliver brief, high-quality mediation services to litigants of five Family Division-Domestic Relations Judges.

Preliminary results show a 65% agreement rate. After reaching an agreement, often times the parties are able to go directly back to court and put the agreement on record, without delays. Litigants also benefit from this on-the-spot mediation as they are given the opportunity to craft their own court orders and their cases are resolved more quickly.

The Family Division-Domestic Relations judges are confident that the In-Court Mediation Project gives the parties an immediate forum to discuss and resolve custody and parenting issues before they start the adversarial court hearings. Custody or parenting time disputes that have gone through In-Court Mediation were able to reach a resolution on the same day and leave with a consent order. This is a great service to the Court and the Families of Wayne County.

FAME’s goal is to extend this project to the entire Family Division-Domestic Relations Bench.



## FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

Nine Circuit Court Judges (including two cross-assigned Probate Judges) were assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section. A staff of fourteen referees prepare written recommendations and findings of fact. Cases handled in this Division include juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, adoption, and guardianship. Probation officers conduct hearings on the informal dockets, which include traffic and ordinance violations, and consent matters. There were approximately 25,700 new case filings in the Family Division-Juvenile Section in 2008.

### 2008 FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE JUDGES

Judy Hartsfield, Judge of Probate and Presiding

Jerome C. Cavanagh  
Christopher D. Dingell  
Sheila Ann Gibson

Mary Beth Kelly  
Mark T. Slavens  
Leslie Kim Smith  
Virgil C. Smith

Judge of Probate  
Frank S. Szymanski

### Juvenile 2008 Statistics

	Designated	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Beginning Pending	7	1,465	5,787	451	7,710
New Filings	24	7,942	14,893	1,258	24,117
Reopened Cases	7	676	0	0	683
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>20,680</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>32,510</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	0	4	0	6	10
Bench Verdicts	5	1,052	1,817	546	3,420
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	14	2,538	317	424	3,293
Prosecutor Waiver	0	10	0	0	10
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Court	5	1,303	9,540	0	10,848
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	162	162
Consent Calendar	0	578	0	0	578
Transferred	0	165	219	35	419
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	2,476	3,095	128	5,699
Designation Granted	0	1	0	0	1
Inactive Status	0	571	0	0	571
Not Charged	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	1	0	0	1
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued After Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Order Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8,699</b>	<b>14,988</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>25,012</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>5,692</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>7,498</b>



# FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE



## Adoptions 2008 Statistics

	Petitions for Adoption
Beginning Pending	179
New Filings	786
Reopened Cases	1
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>966</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:	
Finalized	745
Withdrawn by Petitioner	1
Dismissed by Court	21
Transferred	0
Recission Granted	1
Recission Denied/Wdrn.	0
Case Type Change	5
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>773</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>193</b>

## Miscellaneous Family 2008 Statistics

	Other Family	Ancillary	Total
Beginning Pending	127	20	147
New Filings	696	103	799
Reopened Cases	0	0	0
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>946</b>
Dispositions Resulting From:			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hrg.	560	0	560
Petition Granted	0	112	112
Transferred	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	85	0	85
Petition Denied	0	10	10
Dismissed by Party	51	0	51
Petition Withdrawn/Dis.	0	0	0
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	1	0	1
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>819</b>
<b>Ending Pending</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>127</b>



## **FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE**

The Office of the Family Division-Juvenile Section manages the following Court Departments: Adoptions, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Intake, Juvenile Drug Court, and Juvenile Services.

### **Adoptions**

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

### **Court Appointed Special Advocate Program**

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) plays a valuable role in child protective proceedings and services children in out-of-home placement in Wayne County by training volunteers to serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Juvenile Jurists when making a decision regarding placement. Through gathering information by reviewing records, interviewing parents, talking to teachers, neighbors, and the children, the volunteers make recommendations regarding what is best for the children.

#### **Court Appointed Special Advocate Program 2008 Statistics**

<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>2008</b>
Cases Assigned	86
Cases Closed	27
Active Cases	60
Volunteers Trained	15
<b>Children Served</b>	<b>161</b>
New Children	66
Children Whose Case Closed	73

# FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

## Intake

The Intake Unit is responsible for the initial processing of all delinquency and child protective proceeding matters that come to the attention of the Court including the screening and processing of both admissions to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility, and complaints regarding juveniles who are not in custody. The unit is responsible for conducting Consent Calendar hearings and Traffic and Ordinance hearings, and diverting cases to various agencies within Wayne County.



### Intake 2008 Statistics

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	4,160
Police/Agency Calls for Placement Authorization	370
Interviews with DHS Workers	
Original Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	826
Supplemental Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	123
Original Permanent Custody Petitions	90
Family Interviews	
Consent Probation	4
Consent Cases Heard/Resolved	825
Traffic/Ordinance Citations Heard/Resolved	1,939

## Juvenile Drug Court

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

### Juvenile Drug Court 2008 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	105
New Admissions	70
Returning Participants	35
<b>Graduating Participants</b>	<b>11</b>
Removed Participants	26

## Juvenile Services Unit

The Juvenile Services Unit acts in partnership with governmental and private agencies in Wayne County to develop a comprehensive network of support services for delinquent youth who come to the attention of the Court. This unit assists in developing joint policies and procedures to ensure that these services are delivered in a meaningful and efficient manner.



## **FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE**

### **CLINIC FOR CHILD STUDY**

The Clinic for Child Study fosters relationships that empower court-involved youth and their families to build healthy futures in their communities by providing an array of family-centered therapeutic services. The Clinic for Child Study has seven service delivery units, the

Family Assessment Unit (FAU), Child/Adolescent Assessment Unit (CAAU), Juvenile Social Assessment Unit (JSAU), Clinic Treatment Unit (CTU), Intensive Probation Unit (IPU), Home Based Unit (HBU) and Status Offenders Unit (SOU). Therapists, Clinicians, and Probation Officers also provide the Court with progress reports, recommendations, and expert testimony depending on the services the youth receive.

#### **Clinic for Child Study 2008 Statistics**

<b>Cases Referred to Clinic for Assessment</b>	<b>2008</b>
Family Assessment for Protective Hearings	861
Child/Adolescent Assessment	893
Guardianships	15
Adoption Studies	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,769</b>
Early Intervention (Walk-in Parent Complaints)	1,199
Client Services Management (Intensive Probation)	787
Clinic Treatment Unit	484
Home-Based Unit	28



# **FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE**

## **Brief Strategic Family Therapy Establishes Home Base Unit**

The Clinic for Child Study received a grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice that will provide training on Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) for the Home Based Unit (HBU) therapists. BSFT is a short-term, structured, problem-focused, and practical approach to the treatment of conduct problems, associations with antisocial peers, early drug use, and accompanying maladaptive family interactions. This evidence-based treatment modality works with the whole family and has shown to be an effective intervention for adolescent substance abuse and related behavior problems. The use of specialized engagement techniques and focus on strengthening family relationships has reduced both delinquent behavior and substance abuse.

The HBU was established in late 2008 and is designed to provide intensive at home treatments to intensive probation unit probationers who are at risk of being removed from their home. All referrals to the program meet specific clinical guidelines. Utilizing the BSFT model of therapy, this program provides two to four hours a week of intensive services within the home by a therapist/case manager and clinical probation officer.

HBU clinicians participated in intensive training that started in late November and began use of BSFT with court ordered families. Training and supervision will last for approximately one year. Upon completion of the training, the clinicians will be certified in BSFT, including the supervisors of the units.

## **Specialized Post Termination Review Docket**

In May 2008, the Third Judicial Circuit began participation in a 13-county initiative spearheaded by the State Court Administrative Office and the Department of Human Services. This project created a special docket to accelerate permanency for Wayne County children through adoption.

Dedicating judges to this initiative and special docket has enabled over 50% of these cases to pass through the legal system at a 42% faster rate. This represents a substantial improvement in the rate of children being adopted whose cases have been on hold for more than a year with an identified family.

Supreme Court Justice, Maura D. Corrigan leads this statewide initiative. Judge Judy A. Hartsfield chairs the Wayne County Court Team in this on-going collaboration with Wayne County Department of Human Services and vital stakeholders. Judge Mary Beth Kelly presides over this specialty docket.

Additional counties will be included in this project in 2009 and an additional focus will be permanency for children beyond adoption.



## FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

### Michigan Adoption Day

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the 129,000 children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. For the last eight years, National Adoption Day has made the dreams of thousands of children come true.

Celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, more than 300 events are held throughout the country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children. In total, more than 20,000 children have been adopted from foster care on National Adoption Day.

Michigan currently has 19,000 children in the foster care system. Some will eventually return to their homes, but for others, returning to their birth family is not an option. There are more than 4,000 children in Michigan with parental rights terminated. For these children, adoption by a permanent loving family is the goal. National Adoption Day raises the public's awareness of the ever-growing need for adoptive homes for these waiting children.

Wayne County joined the nation where an unprecedented number of courts and communities coast-to-coast came together to finalize thousands of adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all families that adopt.

Judge Mary Beth Kelly welcomed guest speakers Ismael Ahmed, Director, Michigan Department of Human Services and Margaret Warner, Child Welfare Director, Children's Services Administration, Michigan Department of Human Services–Wayne County. In total, 23 children between the ages of 6 months and 17 years were adopted.



The McClung family children celebrate with a swing of Judge Mary Beth Kelly's gavel, sealing their adoptions.

## Judges Leaving the Bench

### Helen E. Brown

Judge Helen E. Brown retired on November 1, 2008 after 17 years as a member of the Third Circuit Bench. Judge Brown was originally elected to the Recorder's Court Bench on January 1, 1991. During Judge Brown's tenure, she served in the Criminal and Family Divisions. Judge Brown also served on the Court's Collections Committee.

## Employee Retirements

Thank you to the following employees for your many years of faithful service to the Court.

Sandra M. Beard, 18 years  
Clerk III, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Assigned Counsel Services

Lessie D. Brown, 19 years  
Information Specialist I, Friend of the Court, Information Services Department

Leona J. Cadariu, 29 years  
Clerical Services Supervisor II, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Adoptions Unit

Michael Ferrara, 36 years  
Family Counselor, Friend of the Court, Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education

Geraldine Holland, 21 years  
Judicial Secretary for Judge Cynthia D. Stephens

George L. Jackson, 25 years  
Probation Officer, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Intake Unit

Catherine M. Johnson, 35 years  
Payments Clerk I, Court Administration, Budget and Finance Department

Shirley Mitsunaga, 27 years  
Court Executive I, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Clinic for Child Study

Peggy Jo Ray, 38 years  
Probation Officer, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Intake Unit

Clara M. Shah, 24 years  
Official Court Reporter, Criminal Division

Alan E. Skrok, 24 years  
Senior Staff Attorney, Friend of the Court, Legal Department

Victoria Solis, 23 years  
Budget Operations Manager, Family Division-Juvenile Section, Assigned Counsel Services

Barbara J. Strauss, 21 years  
Information Specialist II, Friend of the Court, Branch Office

# 2008 Employee Recognition

## Employee of the Month

The 2008 Employee Recognition Selection Committee included LaDonn Banks, Yvonne Barnett-Greene, Paula Blackwell, Leonard Branka, Connie Krasnicki, Glenn Momeyer, Ellen Sharf, and Mary Kay Wimsatt. The 2008 awards went to:

### **Angela Asteriou**

Angela Asteriou was the January Employee of the Month. Ms. Asteriou is a Family Clinician II in the Family Assessment Mediation and Education Department of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 3 years. Nominated by her supervisor and department director, Ms. Asteriou received this award for consistently completing 50 to 75% more than department standards for report completion, maintaining a high level of professionalism, being a creative innovator, and boosting the morale in the department through her willingness to assist the other clinicians.

### **Drenna Henderson**

Drenna Henderson was the February Employee of the Month. Ms. Henderson is a Judicial Support Coordinator in Ancillary Court Services and has been an employee for 22 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Henderson received this award for her exceptional attitude and aptitude for rendering excellent customer service, going the extra mile, and consistently maintaining an extremely high level of productivity.

### **Carmelita Williams**

Carmelita Williams was the March Employee of the Month. Ms. Williams is a Domestic Relations Specialist assigned to the Case Establishment Department of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 2 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Williams received this award for the exceptional quality of her work, regularly exceeding the average number of monthly interviews, consistently maintaining a positive attitude, and being a creative innovator.

### **Susan Owen**

Susan Owen was the April Employee of the Month. Ms. Owen is a Senior Staff Attorney in the Legal Services Department of the Friend of the Court, where she is assigned to the Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Unit. Ms. Owen has been an employee for 10 years. Nominated by a department director, Ms. Owen received this award for her positive presence and staff assistance, high level of professionalism, hard work and dedication, and routinely suggesting changes and improvements for a more effective workflow.

### **David Manville**

David Manville was the May Employee of the Month. Mr. Manville is a Community Liaison and Project Specialist in the Family Assessment Mediation and Education Department of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 19 years. Nominated by his supervisor, Mr. Manville received this award for being a highly productive worker in readily taking on extra cases where needed, providing superior customer service, and successfully mentoring Wayne State University students in their Master of Social Work program.

### **Beryl Fletcher**

Beryl Fletcher was the July Employee of the Month. Ms. Fletcher is the Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator in the Juvenile Division and has been an employee for 3 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Fletcher received this award for stepping up and leading, with minimal guidance, the Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotics Dependency Program (STAND). Ms. Fletcher's many efforts in reaching out to the youth in a variety of ways doubled the number of referrals to the STAND Program within 60 days.



# 2008 Employee Recognition

## Employee of the Month Continued

### Kim LePoudre

Kim LePoudre was the August Employee of the Month. Ms. LePoudre is an Information Specialist II assigned to the Case Establishment Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 23 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. LePoudre received this award for going the extra mile in streamlining the work of the unit, assisting others in resolving issues, and exemplifying the spirit of public service.

### Amanda Cunningham

Amanda Cunningham was the September Employee of the Month. Ms. Cunningham is a Research Law Clerk in the Judicial Assistant's Office and has been an employee for 3 years. Nominated by her director, Ms. Cunningham received this award for her exceptional production rate and remarkable ability to conduct legal research and draft proposed opinions or memoranda of law by transforming complex factual scenarios or legal arguments into a comprehensible, easy-to-read product.

### Samuel Porter

Samuel Porter was the November Employee of the Month. Mr. Porter is a Probation Officer in the Juvenile Intake Unit of the Juvenile Division and has been an employee for 15 years. Nominated by his supervisor, Mr. Porter received this award for excelling as a high performer by taking on additional duties reducing docket backlog and continuously communicating with clients and the public with great success.



From left to right: Executive Court Administrator Ronald R. Ruffin, Carmelita Williams, Drenna Henderson, Amanda Cunningham, Beryl Fletcher, Kim LePoudre, Susan Owen, Samuel Porter, and Chief Judge Virgil C. Smith. Not pictured: Angela Asteriou and David Manville.



## 2008 Court Managers

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
Therese M. Lisowski

DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
Kelli D. Moore

FRIEND OF THE COURT  
Joseph A. Schewe

DIRECTOR  
CLINIC FOR CHILD STUDY  
Michell Myers

GENERAL COUNSEL  
Elizabeth R. Kocab

DIRECTOR  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
Pamela E. Griffin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MEDIATION TRIBUNAL  
ASSOCIATION  
Lisa Timmons

DIRECTOR  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY &  
SYSTEMS BUREAU  
Jerome Wysocki

DIRECTOR  
PURCHASING AND FACILITIES  
MANAGEMENT  
Theresa Plotzke

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR  
Elizabeth Shumate

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Court Administration  
2 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Phone: 313-224-5261  
Fax: 313-224-6070

This report will also be available through the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan's website, [www.3rdcc.org](http://www.3rdcc.org).





