



E PLURIBUS UNUM

# THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

TUEBOR *2015 Annual Report*





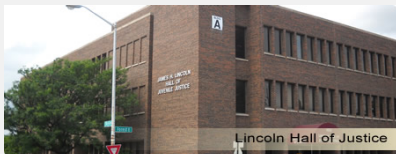
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Civil Division  
Family Division – Domestic Relations  
Two Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226



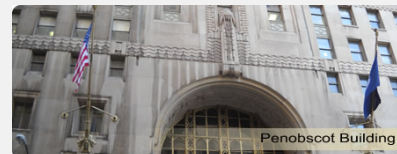
Frank Murphy Hall of Justice  
Criminal Division  
1441 St. Antoine  
Detroit, MI 48226



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

## 2015 Administration

**Robert J. Colombo, Jr.**  
Chief Judge

**Zenell B. Brown**  
Executive Court Administrator



**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
OF MICHIGAN

ZENELL B. BROWN  
EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

711 COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
TWO WOODWARD AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3413

(313) 224-5261

January 26, 2016

Dear Judge Colombo:

In the Michigan Supreme Court's 2013 Annual Report, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young charged "Efficiency. Access. Transparency. And above all, Public Service. These will be our watch words and our goals, for 2013, and all the years ahead." To that end, our mission is to be a high performing, innovative trial court that delivers timely and quality public service. Our annual report highlights the strides that our judges, administrators, and staff have made towards accomplishing that.

Our Court resolved over 66,000 case filings. In addition to their adjudicative roles, our judges championed specialty courts, dockets, and initiatives addressing truancy, substance abuse, and mental health issues. Both the Criminal and Family Divisions offered specialty services for Veterans, acknowledging through coordinated services Veterans are more likely to be able to lead productive law-abiding lives. The Family-Juvenile Division also created the Keeping Kids In School (KKIS) initiative, and at its debut press conference highlighted the model programs at Crestwood and Cody High Schools.

Our administrators provided the critical instrumental support enabling the seamless delivery of justice. In 2015, amidst internal and external demands, our administrators managed the Court's budget, information technology, personnel, jurors, caseload, and facilities. They interacted with our governmental partners, vendors, and the public. At the end of the year, we had a surplus, more efficiency, and a solid foundation on which to build for the future. The administrators are the behind the scene innovators and leaders.

In 2015, the Court employed over 600 clerical, human services, technical, and legal staff. Approximately one-third of the staff was acknowledged for 20 or more years of service to Third Circuit Court. Many of these are leaders and masters in their respective fields and the Court is blessed and indebted to them. The Court is equally appreciative of the new talent who joined us in 2015 and welcomes the fresh perspectives they bring. With a diverse, committed workforce, the Court has been able to expand its outreach programming, offering a radio presentation in Spanish and building presence and partnerships in the Arabic community. Our staff is on the front line. They are the face and voice of the Court and are representing us well.

Third Circuit Court has had a productive year, and it is my honor to present our 2015 annual report. I look forward to a productive 2016.

"You can make a difference! You may be only one person, but one is all it takes to bring change. We call this the Power of One. When you have zeros, you have nothing; but when you put the number one before the zeros, you have millions and billions. It is always the inspiration of one person that starts great movements of change in this world, whether these changes are social, political, or spiritual." ~Christie Blaze & Gary Blaze

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zenell B. Brown", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Zenell B. Brown  
Executive Court Administrator



## THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

### OF MICHIGAN

ROBERT J. COLOMBO, JR.  
CHIEF JUDGE

701 COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
TWO WOODWARD AVENUE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-3413

(313) 224-5430

(Excerpt)

In 2015, the Third Judicial Circuit Court had another successful year and improved operations in meaningful ways.

As in any organization, there were changes in personnel. Judge Shannon Walker was elected to the bench and assumed a position in the Criminal Division. The Hon. Daniel P. Ryan, a Business Court and Civil Division judge, retired. Governor Rick Snyder appointed Judge Adel A. Harb to the Court and he assumed a position in the Family Division – Domestic Relations. Violet Leonard took over as Chief Financial Officer. Richard Smart became the Deputy Court Administrator in the Family Division – Juvenile.

The 2015 Performance Measures Data Packet prepared by the State Court Administrator Office (SCAO) demonstrated that the Court's four divisions are doing an excellent job of timely disposing of cases. The SCAO Public Satisfaction Survey also disclosed that the Court is performing well. Court users and visitors agreed or strongly agreed that 74% of the time their court business was done in a reasonable amount of time.

Specialty courts were a point of emphasis. A Juvenile Mental Health Court treating delinquent youth on Medicaid was established and began on January 11, 2016. The Veterans Court was expanded beyond treating only veterans with substance abuse issues to include mental health issues. Both the juvenile and adult Drug Court participants had less recidivism rates when compared with similar cases involving defendants who did not participate in drug court. The success of the specialty courts were celebrated with graduations.

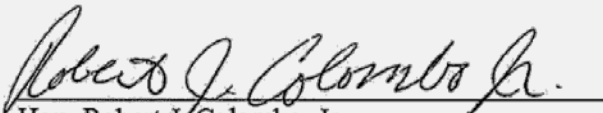
The Court in partnership with the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association celebrated Law Day on May 7, 2015 at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. Three hundred Detroit High School students were treated by Mayor Mike Duggan to an inspirational keynote address and then participated in mock appellant argument on a First Amendment issue.

On August 26, 2015, the Clinic for Child Study hosted "Back to School", and provided backpacks with school supplies and clothing. On September 30, 2015, the Clinic for Child Study celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On December 4, 2015, the Court celebrated the loyalty, dedication, and commitment of employees who had served 20 or more years. Close to 200 employees were honored. A reception was hosted by the Court at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Although much was accomplished in 2015, much more needs to be done. The Court plans to proceed with adding asbestos cases and criminal cases to eFiling. The Odyssey Case Management System will be implemented in the Family Division – Juvenile. The Court desires to pursue a contract with a vendor to move electronically internal documents within the Friend of the Court and the State of Michigan.

The Third Judicial Circuit Court looks forward to a productive year in 2016 and to improved services for all court users.

  
Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.  
Chief Judge, Third Judicial Circuit Court

For a full version of Chief Judge Colombo's State of the Court Address on March 4, 2016, please use the QR code to watch the video.

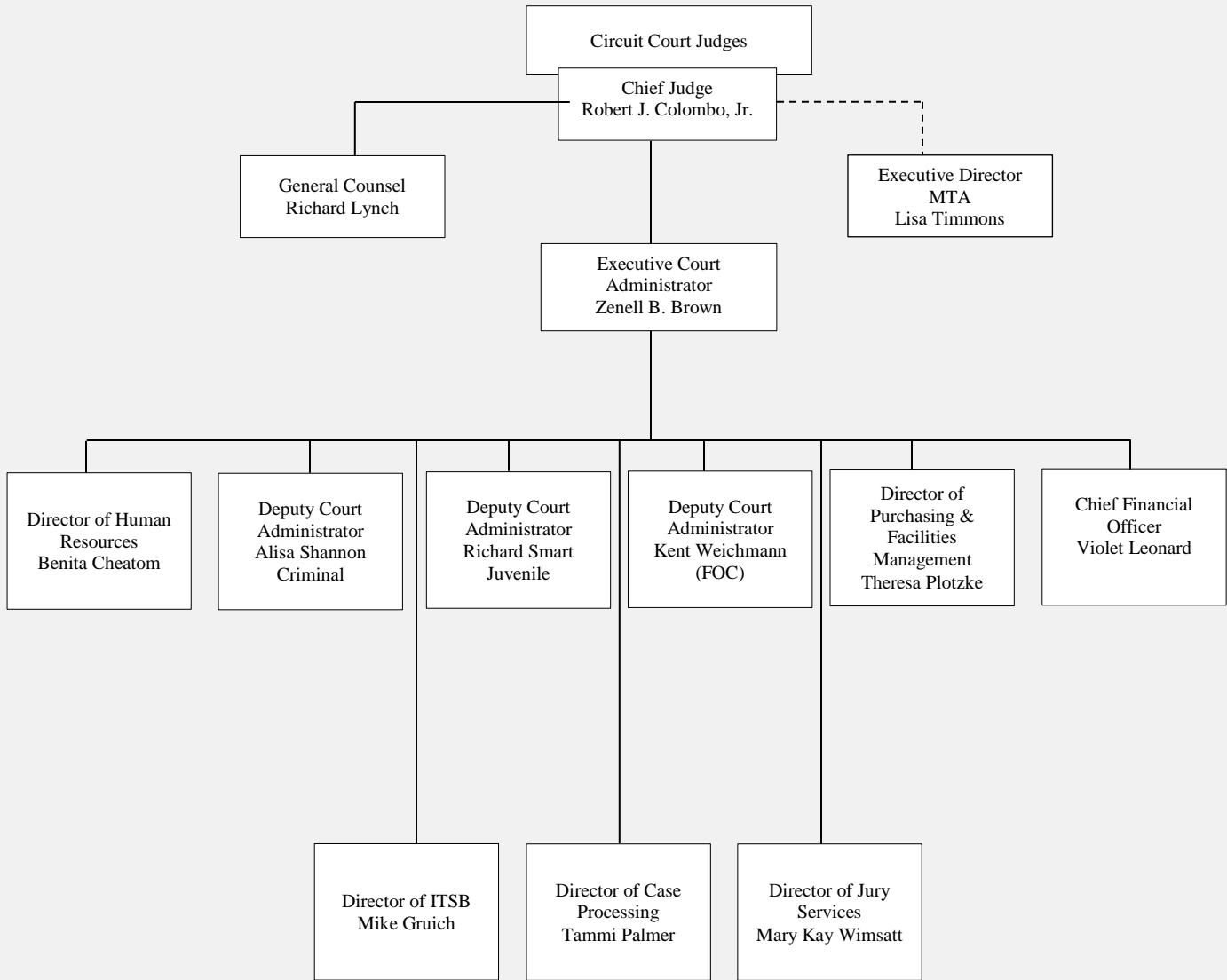


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# THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## **THIRD CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES**

Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chief Judge

### **CIVIL DIVISION**

Maria L. Oxholm, Presiding

David J. Allen  
Annette J. Berry  
Daphne Means Curtis  
Edward Ewell, Jr.  
Patricia Perez Fresard

Sheila Ann Gibson  
John H. Gillis, Jr.  
Daniel A. Hathaway  
Susan L. Hubbard  
Muriel D. Hughes

Kathleen Macdonald  
John A. Murphy  
Lita M. Popke  
Leslie Kim Smith  
Brian R. Sullivan

### **CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding

Gregory Dean Bill  
Ulysses W. Boykin  
Margie R. Braxton  
Megan Maher Brennan  
James A. Callahan  
Thomas C. Cameron  
James R. Chylinski  
Kevin J. Cox

Vonda R. Evans  
David A. Groner  
Cynthia Gray Hathaway  
Dana Margaret Hathaway  
Michael Hathaway  
Catherine L. Heise  
Qiana Denise Lillard  
Bruce U. Morrow

Richard M. Skutt  
Mark T. Slavens  
Craig S. Strong  
Lawrence S. Talon  
Deborah A. Thomas  
Margaret M. Van Houten  
Shannon N. Walker

### **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Kathleen M. McCarthy, Presiding

Eric Cholack  
Charlene M. Elder  
Alexis A. Glendening  
Richard B. Halloran

Adel A. Harb  
Charles S. Hegarty  
Connie Marie Kelley

Lisa M. Neilson  
Lynne A. Pierce  
Martha M. Snow

### **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE**

Virgil C. Smith, Presiding

Karen Y. Braxton  
Jerome C. Cavanagh

Christopher D. Dingell  
Edward J. Joseph

Frank S. Szymanski



## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT REFEREES

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Diane Biggar  
Eric Gloudemans  
Shannon Haneline  
Rosanne Hostnik

Stephanie Witucki, Senior Referee  
Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy  
Susan Owen  
Lynn Ruhlman  
Anita Scott-Meisel

Hulen Simpson  
Katherine Strickfaden  
Edrick Thompson  
Jessica Walker



### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE

Kathleen Allen  
Nicholas J. Bobak  
James A. Catchings, Jr.  
Anthony Crutchfield

Charles W. Wilson, III, Chief Referee  
Raeigen Evans  
Leslie Graves  
Viola King

Daniel M. McGuire  
Peter J. Schummer, Jr.  
Brandi Taylor  
Mona M. Youssef



## JUDGES JOINING THE BENCH IN 2015

The Third Circuit Court welcomed the following Judges to the Bench in 2015:



**Hon. Shannon Nicol Walker**

Judge Shannon Nicol Walker was elected to the Third Judicial Circuit Court in November 2014 and is assigned to the Criminal Division. Judge Walker is originally from Columbus, Ohio. She graduated from Wilberforce University in 1994 and Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2002. Judge Walker began her legal career as a public defender at Legal Aid & Defenders Association, Inc., and prior to being elected, she served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. As an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, she was assigned to specialized units such as the Child and Family Abuse Unit and the Special Operations/Community Prosecution. Judge Walker is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Black Women Lawyers Association, Association of Black Judges, Wolverine Bar Association, NAACP Grosse Pointe Harper Woods Branch, Michigan Judges Association, and American Judges Association, as well as the supervising judge for the Swift & Sure Sanction Probation Program.



**Hon. Adel A. Harb**

Judge Adel A. Harb was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit Court by Governor Rick D. Snyder in October 2015 and is assigned to the Family Division – Domestic Section. Judge Harb was the Magistrate of the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court in Dearborn for the last five years. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1986 and Thomas Cooley Law School in 1990. Judge Harb began his career as a Judicial Attorney in 54-A District Court. He then opened his Law Office in Dearborn where he practiced in Civil, Criminal, and Family Court, and also served as Public Defender for the 19<sup>th</sup> District Court.

## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION TEAM JOINING THE COURT IN 2015

*If you find a path with no obstacles – it is probably a path that doesn't lead anywhere.*  
*Robert C. Savage*



**Violet Leonard**

Violet Leonard began her accounting career at Detroit Bank and Trust in the Internal Audit Department. In 1984, she started with the Third Circuit Court in the Friend of the Court (FOC) Division. During 1987, she moved into the Budget and Finance Department where she served in various positions including Accountant, Supervisor of Accounting, Director of Internal Audit, and Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Violet currently sits on the Michigan Office of Child Support (OCS) Incentive Funding Work Group and the OCS Performance Management Workgroup. She served as a financial expert in both the FOC conversion to Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) and the Odyssey implementation in the Criminal Division. She is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants and the National Grant Management Association. Violet is a Wayne State University alumna, and in her spare time, she enjoys volunteering for her son's travel AAU and high school basketball teams.



**Walter Jaczkowski**

Walter Jaczkowski, an alumnus of Walsh College of Accountancy and Business, began his accounting career as an Accounting Assistant at the Federal Mogul Corporation. He began employment with the Third Circuit Court in 1989 as an Account Clerk in the FOC Division. In 25 years of employment with the Court, he has progressively served in the financial positions of an Accountant, Senior Accountant, Supervising Accountant, and Assistant Manager of Fiduciary Services. He has assisted in the conversion and implementation of several of the Court's financial systems. Most recently, he has worked extensively with the Court's grant funded programs. Walter enjoys art, music, and collecting. Through the years, he has amassed an impressive collection of vinyl records and city of Detroit related memorabilia. He is a very proud father of two children who are pursuing their dreams in New York. He loves to visit them.



**2015 Court Executive Team**

# **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

## **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 for general fund accounts, grants and contracts, and fiduciary accounts; accounts receivable and accounts payable processing; financial reporting; and collections.

## **Accounts Payable**

The Accounts Payable Unit, which is responsible for establishing an accounts payable record and the timely payment to vendors, continues to work with the Criminal and Juvenile Divisions and IT Department to process attorney payments using an online system. During 2015, in addition to processing vendor and contractual payments, this unit processed over 20,000 manual attorney payment service vouchers. Implementing this online attorney payment process has been a significant technological improvement.

## **Court Collections**

The Collections Unit, which is responsible for the collection of court-imposed costs, fines, and fees, is one of the top priorities of the Court. The Collections Unit in the Juvenile Division was established at the start of fiscal year 2014. During fiscal year 2015, \$154,731 was collected in court costs and attorney fees. In addition, the unit serviced 5,273 walk-ins, sent 10,769 delinquency notices, and established 527 payment agreements; of which 359 have been paid in full. In February 2015, the Collections Unit devoted staff to the Criminal Division in order to increase collection efforts. During fiscal year 2015, \$2,131,993 was collected in court costs and attorney fees in the Criminal Division.

## **Budget and Grants Accounting**

The Budget Unit and Grants Accounting Unit are responsible for managing and analyzing performance of the Court's general fund, capital fund, and grant-funded programs for short and long-term planning. This includes preparing and submitting annual budgets, annual five-year capital improvement plans, and quarterly revenue and expenditure projections to Wayne County in accordance with deadlines required by the County. The Grants Unit is responsible for all financial requirements set forth in the terms and conditions of all Court grant awards, which includes adherence to applicable federal and state laws, guidelines, and regulations. In fiscal year 2015, the Grants Unit provided financial support for the Court to obtain grants for three new Court Programs: a Michigan Veteran's Treatment Court Grant program in the Criminal Division, a Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program in the Juvenile Division, and a Specialized Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotic Dependency Grant Program in the Juvenile Division.

## **Case Processing**

Case Processing provides central support to the bench, gathers and reports required data to the State Court Administrative Office, serves as a primary resource to judges and their staff on caseflow methods and procedures, and provides information to the public. Support to the bench includes scheduling and noticing hearings, maintenance of the party/attorney records, development and distribution of statistical and management reports, maintenance of automated caseflow management programs, and training judicial staff members. Case Processing prints and mails over 80,000 notices of court events to attorneys and parties and answers over 13,000 phone calls annually. Case Processing also performs many assigned counsel functions for the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section. Case Processing assists with caseflow management at Friend of the Court and provides weekly reports to assist with the timely processing of paternity cases.

## **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

### **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, and acts as the liaison between the Court of Appeals and the Third Circuit Court. The Department also processes all transcript requests in each division, maintains archival storage of all records of court reporters and recorders, provides staff support to video courtrooms, and orders interpreters for proceedings. In 2015, video court reporting technology was added to two courtrooms. This technology reduces personnel costs and produces a video that is accessible to the public. New transcript production monitoring software, reports, and standards were also implemented. These newly developed checks and balances have increased the number of transcripts timely filed in the Court of Appeals.

### **Human Resources**

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for the Court's 58 Judges and 549 employees. These activities include recruitment, timekeeping, payroll, benefits, interpretation of workplace laws and regulations, training and development, support for management staff, and negotiating and administering labor agreements. The Court filled 101 vacancies through the recruitment and promotional processes, conducted five desk audits, and updated 10 job descriptions. A collective bargaining agreement was reached with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

In collaboration with the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), all Court employees attended an Ethics presentation by Region 1 Director Deborah Green that was designed to clarify the canons of the Code of Conduct. Plans are in the works to update the Employee Handbook and to engage in negotiations for future collective bargaining agreements with the Government Administrators Association (GAA) and the Judicial Attorneys Association (JAA).

### **Information Technology Systems Bureau**

The Information Technology Systems Bureau (ITSB) provides reliable, cost-effective information systems solutions that meet the Court's evolving business needs. The department provides the application and technical operating environment necessary to meet the operating and administrative business objectives of the Court. ITSB has upgraded the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center for public Wi-Fi in court locations. Public Kiosks for payments have been added to Lincoln Hall of Justice, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, and the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center. The Court has expanded its reach into the area of Social Media and now has a presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

### **Odyssey Case Management System Implementation**

The Court has implemented the Odyssey system in the Adoptions and Guardianships, Criminal, Civil, and Family-Domestic Divisions. The programming and conversion for the Juvenile Division is currently on-going with an anticipated go-live date of April 2016. These steps will allow all court divisions the ability to use a single case management system – Odyssey.

The current Odyssey system has over 2.5 million current and historical cases. The Court has converted over 8 million historical images to cases. The Odyssey system has over 2,000 users, including staff from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Michigan Department of Corrections, Wayne County Sheriff, and local district courts. The public can access the court register of actions through our main court website [www.3rdcc.org](http://www.3rdcc.org).

## COURT ADMINISTRATION

### Electronic Filing (eFiling) Implementation

In November 2011, the Court implemented eFiling for contract cases (CK) in the Civil Division. eFiling allows the electronic submission and processing of court documents electronically. The electronically filed documents are then moved throughout the court system without the need for a paper case file. eFiling allows the Court to make significant progress towards a paperless environment.

The Civil Division of the Court, except for asbestos cases, is completely electronic. In 2015, the Court processed 3.6 million pages of documents electronically, saving the costs of paper and printing. The court records are now available to court staff electronically, no more standing in line searching for a case file.

#### eFiling Project Submissions

Total Submissions eFiling Project 2015*	357,412
Total Submissions eFiling Project 2014	326,460
Total Submissions eFiling Project 2013	291,350
Total Submissions eFiling Project 2012	125,585
Total Submissions eFiling Project 2011	5,758
<b>Cumulative Total Submissions eFiling Project</b>	<b>1,106,565</b>

**\*Less than 8% of the total submissions for 2015 were rejected.**

### Social Media

The court has a presence on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Twitter: 3rdccorg

Facebook: Third Judicial Circuit Court

Linked In: Wayne County Third Circuit Court

Website: 3rdcc.org



Through social media, the Court publishes holiday closings, emergency closings, and press releases for upcoming events, performance measure data, and accomplishments. The court staff and the public are welcome to visit, follow, and like the Court on social media.

To receive Third Judicial Circuit Court's monthly eNewsletter and stay informed, court staff and the public may join by sending contact information (name and e-mail address) to [3CCE-News@3rdcc.org](mailto:3CCE-News@3rdcc.org).

## **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

### **Jury Services**

The Jury Services Department coordinates jury operations and obtains jurors for the Third Judicial Circuit and Probate Court, as well as provides qualification services for all district courts in Wayne County.

The Department's responsibilities include developing processes and procedures for regularly collecting and analyzing information regarding the performance of the jury system to ensure fair representation and inclusiveness; the effectiveness of qualification and summoning procedures; the responsiveness of individual citizens to jury duty summonses; the efficient and effective usage of citizens called to serve on jury duty; and the cost effectiveness of the jury system. In 2015, there were 190,184 jury questionnaires/summons mailed and 1,012 jury panels requested.

#### **Jury Services 2015 Statistics**

Total Jurors Called to Appear for Service	65,942
Total Jurors Who Appeared	35,404
Total Jurors Who Failed to Appear	30,538

### **Purchasing and Facilities Management**

The Purchasing and Facilities Management Department is responsible for the procurement of goods and services for all Divisions of the Court. The Department also oversees building services and renovations, organizes staff moves, processes metered mail and interoffice court mail, reports equipment repairs, and transports employees between court locations.

The goals accomplished in fiscal year 2014-2015 include the installation of approximately 100 copy machines Courtwide, that replaced copiers with expired leases; the replacement of three mail machines; and various courtroom, conference rooms, jury rooms, and office updates at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, and Lincoln Hall of Justice.

## COURT ADMINISTRATION

### Japanese Judge Program

Japanese judges have been coming to study in the Third Circuit Court since 1972. 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 of Michigan trial courts.

The Japanese Judge will be in residence for two semesters at the Law School of the Court. The judge will study all the divisions of the Court by observing proceedings, trials, and the operations of Court departments including Jury Services, Case Processing, and the Mediation Tribunal Association. Additionally, the judge 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 the research.

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



**Hon. Hirokazu Kayawake**

Judge Kayawake finished his training with the Court in June 2015. Hon. Hirokazu is interested in the management of civil cases and bankruptcy cases. Since 2011, he has served as an associate judge hearing civil and criminal matters. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Law, completed the course of Chiba University Law School, and passed the National Bar Examination in 2009. On November 14, 2014, Judge Kayawake lectured at Wayne State University Law School. His lecture, "Japanese Jury System" discussed the Japanese jury system and how it differs from the American system.



**Hon. Yuta Maeda**

Judge Maeda began his training with the Court in September 2015. Hon. Maeda is interested in the administration of judicial proceedings in Michigan (especially criminal jury trial and the civil case in which the judge needs expert knowledge to give a decision). He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Law in 2008 and graduated from the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics School of Law of the University of Tokyo, receiving the degree of Juris Doctor in 2010.



# JUDGES' LAW CLERKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS



Civil Division



Criminal Division



Family Division – Domestic



Family Division – Juvenile

## 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 Court of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and many district courts in the County of Wayne. The MTA is led by its Executive Director and governed by a Board of Directors. The MTA Board consists of two judges from the Civil Division and one judge from the Family Division of Wayne County Circuit Court, one judge from the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and two attorney directors, representing both the Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) and the Association of Defense Trial Counsel (ADTC).

The MTA maintains a roster of over 1,500 attorneys that serve as case evaluators under MCR 2.403. In 2015, there were 11,684 cases set for case evaluation. Those case types include general civil, employment, medical malpractice, commercial, and business court. Dispositions for 2015 are as follows:

### Case Evaluation 2015 Caseload

Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	11,684
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	606
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	2
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	267
Cases Adjourned by the Court	4,073
<b>Total Cases Evaluated</b>	<b>6,736</b>

### Case Evaluation 2015 Dispositions

Total Awards	11,262
Awards Accepted (15.22% of total)	1,999
<b>Total Awards Rejected and Continuing to Disposition</b>	<b>9,263</b>

## **MICHIGAN LEGAL HELP SELF-HELP CENTER OF WAYNE COUNTY**

The mission of the Michigan Legal Help Self-Help Center of Wayne County (“SHC”) is to help Michigan residents solve their legal problems. The SHC offers free and accurate legal information, as well as referrals for other available legal services. Currently, the Center offers help with the following legal issues: Family, Protection from Abuse (PPO), Housing, Consumer, Expungement, Employment, Estates and Guardianships.

There were 2,868 individuals that visited the SHC in 2015. In 2014, there were 425 individuals that visited the SHC. This was a 675% increase in one year. Over a two-year period, of the three main areas of law covered, 1,807 people came in with divorce issues. 423 people came in with custody issues and 287 people came in with child support issues. In 2014, 108 people completed automated online interviews at the SHC. In 2015, 1,043 individuals completed automated online interviews at the SHC. This was a 925% increase in the number of people actually utilizing the SHC and its resources.

The goal for 2016 is to continue to increase traffic to the SHC, offer services at Lincoln Hall Juvenile Court, and expand its outreach efforts.



**Pamela Copeland**

Pamela Copeland serves as the SHC Navigator, helping visitors find what they need on the website, answering questions about court practices and processes, and answering simple questions about forms available on the website. Court Administration provides administrative oversight. Judge Kathleen McCarthy provides judicial leadership and support. The Court wishes to express its gratitude to the Michigan Legal Help program for training and other support, and to the Michigan State Bar Foundation for grants funds that supported the creation and the ongoing operations of the Michigan Legal Help Self-Help Center of Wayne County.

**Self-Help Center (SHC)  
Summary Report for Year-End 2014 and 2015**

<b>Purpose of Visit/Issue</b>	<b>Year-to-date 2014</b>	<b>Percentage of visitors for specific legal issues Year-to-date 2014</b>	<b>Year-to-date 2015</b>	<b>Percentage of visitors for specific legal issues Year-to-date 2015</b>
Needed an Attorney	160	37.6%	340	11.9%
Probate Issue not covered by the SHC	15	3.5%	37	1.3%
Bankruptcy	0	0%	2	.07%
Bench Warrant	1	.24%	1	.03%
Expungement	16	3.8%	71	2.5%
Issues not covered by the SHC	58	13.6%	131	4.6%
Protection From Abuse (PPO)	3	.71%	7	.24%
Divorce Issues	149	35.1%	1658	57.8%
Housing	10	2.4%	34	1.2%
FOC Issues not covered by the SHC	5	1.2%	16	.56%
Information	11	2.6%	170	6%
Paperwork for Judges/Referees	1	.24%	1	.03%
Child Support Issues	56	13.2%	231	8.1%
Paternity Issues	6	1.4%	34	1.2%
Child Custody/PT Issues	71	16.7%	352	12.3%
Need Forms	8	1.9%	97	3.4%
Consumer	9	2.1%	18	.63%
Public Benefits	6	1.4%	8	.28%
<b>Total Visitors To The SHC</b>	<b>425</b>		<b>2868</b>	
	<b>Year-to-date 2014</b>	<b>Percentage of People that completed Interviews at the SHC Year-to-date 2014</b>	<b>Year-to-date 2015</b>	<b>Percentage of People that completed Interviews at the SHC Year- to-date 2015</b>
Completed Interviews at the SHC	<b>108</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>36.4%</b>
People that completed or said they were completing an interview on their own computers	<b>16</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>9.7%</b>

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

The Office of the General Counsel serves as the official legal advisor to the Court. To assist in this role, the Office added two new attorneys, Anne Newcomer and Brittany Jones. The Office staff consists of twelve attorneys, a librarian, and an administrative assistant. It is divided into three divisions that are overseen by the General Counsel: Civil with five attorneys, Criminal with four attorneys and an administrative assistant, and Family with two attorneys.

The Office provides a host of services, including legal representation for the Court, its judges and staff, or the coordination of the representation with outside counsel when claims are brought against them. It also provides a number of other legal services to members of the bench and department managers for the Court. The Office researches legal issues for the Court and either prepares formal proposed opinions, orders, and memoranda of law or provides informal briefings. It drafts or reviews proposed local court rules, local administrative orders, and docket directives. The Office prepares, negotiates, and reviews requests for proposals, contracts, and memoranda of understanding between the Court and vendors, outside agencies, and other governmental entities. It serves as a liaison between the Court and other agencies, such as the State Court Administrative Office, Wayne County Corporation Counsel, and the Attorney General's Office. The Office prepares analyses or provides summaries of newly released Michigan Supreme Court and published Court of Appeals opinions and the syllabi of U.S. Supreme Court decisions for the Court. It also maintains a legislative tracking service for noteworthy recent legislation. Finally, the Office provides a full range of law library services. This includes a traditional library at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center campus, assisting chambers with the maintenance of subject specific collections, and the coordination of electronic legal research resources.

In 2015, the Office of General Counsel participated in the Court's successful extension of the Consent Agreement with Wayne County. It also assisted in the development or expansion of various specialty court programs in the Criminal and Juvenile Divisions. The Office assumed the Business Court case screening to ensure proper case assignment. Attorneys in the Office also continued to oversee the court officer program and assisted the Court in the enforcement of orders through various show cause programs and the review of subpoenas and FOIA requests directed to the Court. In addition, the Office continued its integral role in the Court's summer law school intern program. Attorneys for the Office hosted brownbag lunches exposing the interns to the confidentiality requirements of working in the Court and various areas of law handled by the Court's divisions. Finally, the Office participated in the internal and external review required to move forward with the statewide implementation of the proposals of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission regarding indigent criminal defense.



## **CIVIL DIVISION**

The Civil Division is comprised of 17 Circuit Court Judges, including the Chief Judge. The Civil Division has original jurisdiction in all general civil cases initiated in Wayne County where the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000. The Civil Division serves as the appellate court for civil appeals from every district court in Wayne County, and for administrative agency decisions.

Throughout the years, the Civil Division has pioneered best practices to increase efficiency and productivity. Under the leadership of then Chief Judge Richard C. Kaufmann and Court Administrator K. Kent Batty, the Court reduced the size of its pending civil caseload from over 31,000 at the beginning of 1985 to less than 16,000 as of June 30, 1991. The number of civil cases pending that were over two years old was reduced from 6,987 at the end of 1985 to 920 as of June 30, 1991.

The centerpiece of the program was the incremental conversion of the entire court from a hybrid master calendar system to an individual assignment system. As part of the conversion, the Court established a four track differential case processing system, made substantial changes in its management information system, and used civil backlog reduction techniques to assist the judges to gain control of their individual dockets. The Court also established a peer review group entitled the Docket Review Committee that sits and reviews productivity goals and monitors the performance of the judges in accomplishing the goals.

A copy of the monograph describing the implementation of the program by the judges and staff of Court entitled "Toward Excellence in Caseflow Management" is available through the Court and can be viewed by using the QR code.



The Civil Division also includes the Business Court. Effective October 17, 2012, Public Act 333 required circuit courts with three or more judges to create a specialized Business Court docket. Business Courts provide a case management structure to ensure more timely, effective, and predictable resolution of complex business cases. Currently, Michigan has 17 Business Courts. The Business Court docket began in the Wayne County Circuit Court on July 1, 2013. Judge Maria Oxholm, Judge Lita M. Popke, and Judge Brian Sullivan have been appointed by the Supreme Court and currently preside over the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan's Business Court. In June 2015, Business Court cases received a special case type suffix, and 715 Business Court cases have been filed between June 1 and December 31, 2015 calendar year.

Requiring eFiling for all case types except asbestos and using video court reporting, the Civil Division continues to leverage technology. As a result, Tyler Technologies, Inc. announced the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan as a national recipient of its 2015 Tyler Public Sector Excellence Award for the Odyssey courts and justice solution at its national user conference, Connect, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Court is indebted for Judge Daniel Ryan who nominated this Court for this honor and served on the Business Court until August 2015.

### **CIVIL DIVISION**

Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chief Judge

Maria L. Oxholm, Presiding

David J. Allen

Annette J. Berry

Daphne Means Curtis

Edward Ewell, Jr.

Patricia Perez Fresard

Sheila Ann Gibson

John H. Gillis, Jr.

Daniel A. Hathaway

Susan L. Hubbard

Muriel D. Hughes

Kathleen Macdonald

John A. Murphy

Lita M. Popke

Leslie Kim Smith

Brian R. Sullivan

# CIVIL DIVISION

## Civil and Tort Case 2015 Statistics

	General Civil*	Auto Negligence and No Fault	Other Civil Damage**	Other Civil***	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2,545	8,914	1,827	105	90	74	46	13,601
New Filings	5,063	9,088	1,863	451	236	234	197	17,132
Reopened Cases	349	643	140	13	13	2	1	1,161
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>7,957</b>	<b>18,645</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>31,894</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>								
Jury Verdicts	9	34	17	0	0	0	0	60
Bench Verdicts	29	9	4	0	0	0	0	42
Orders Entered	0	0	0	0	66	130	37	233
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,463	4,717	812	94	0	0	0	8,086
Transferred	183	196	76	1	16	18	1	491
Dismissed	0	0	0	0	172	102	173	447
Dismissed by Party	1,782	3,327	871	319	0	0	0	6,299
Dismissed by Court	529	488	82	41	0	0	0	1,140
Inactive Status	34	55	36	1	5	2	0	133
Other Dispositions	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>5,033</b>	<b>8,826</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>16,936</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2,924</b>	<b>9,819</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14,958</b>

\*General Civil cases are business claims, partnership termination, condemnation, employment discrimination, environmental matters, forfeiture, housing and real estate, foreclosure, land contracts, contractual obligations, labor relations, antitrust, franchising, trade regulation, and corporation receivership.

\*\*Other Civil Damage cases include Medical malpractice, other professional malpractice, other personal injury, product liability, dram-shop act and all other claims for damages not otherwise included.

\*\*\*Other Civil cases are proceedings to restore, establish or correct record; claim and delivery to recover personal property; receivers in supplemental proceedings; supplemental proceedings; and, miscellaneous proceedings.

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Criminal Division is comprised of 24 Circuit Court Judges, including the Chief Judge Pro Tem, and has sole jurisdiction over all felony and high misdemeanor offenses committed in Wayne County. The Criminal Division's mission is to administer criminal justice in a fair, professional, and efficient manner. The Criminal Division serves as the appellate court for criminal appeals filed from every district court in Wayne County. The Criminal Division manages various ancillary services and departments throughout the Court, including Pretrial Services, Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program, and Adult Drug Treatment Court. In 2015, there were 11,086 new case filings in the Criminal Division.

### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Timothy M. Kenny, Chief Judge Pro Tem and Presiding

Gregory Dean Bill

Ulysses W. Boykin

Margie R. Braxton

Megan Maher Brennan

James A. Callahan

Thomas C. Cameron

James R. Chylinski

Kevin J. Cox

Vonda R. Evans

David A. Groner

Cynthia Gray Hathaway

Dana Margaret Hathaway

Michael Hathaway

Catherine L. Heise

Qiana Denise Lillard

Bruce U. Morrow

Richard M. Skutt

Mark T. Slavens

Craig S. Strong

Lawrence S. Talon

Deborah A. Thomas

Margaret M. Van Houten

Shannon N. Walker

### Criminal 2015 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	417	1,456	7	26	1,906
New Filings	1,187	9,830	27	42	11,086
Reopened Cases	136	992	3	0	1,131
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>12,278</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14,123</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>					
Jury Verdicts	239	197	4	0	440
Bench Verdicts	75	207	1	0	283
Orders Entered	0	0	0	39	39
Guilty Pleas	732	8,288	19	0	9,039
Transferred	7	332	0	0	339
Dismissed	0	0	0	9	9
Dismissed by Party	3	45	0	0	48
Dismissed by Court	169	1,066	1	0	1,236
Inactive Status	134	735	3	1	873
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>10,870</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>12,306</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,817</b>



## CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Court Administration Office of the Criminal Division manages the following Court Departments: Assigned Counsel Services, Specialty Court 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 Administrative Office, as well as other circuit and district courts.

### Assigned Counsel Services

The Office of Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) is responsible for coordinating the assignment of counsel in criminal matters for indigent defendants pursuant to the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and *Gideon v. Wainwright*. Additionally, ACS coordinates the assignment of counsel in criminal cases for the various district courts in the county.

### Specialty Court Services

The Office of Specialty Court Services oversees the following operations in the Criminal Division:

- **Adult Drug Treatment Program and Urban Drug Court Initiative (ADT/UDCI)**
- **Mental Health Court (MHC)**
- **Veterans Treatment Court (VTC)**
- **Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP)**

Throughout the year, the Office of the Specialty Court Services partnered with various organizations and events:

- **Detroit Central City 5K Walk/Run**
- **Greening of Detroit Program**
- **Community Health Fair**
- **Specialty Court Services Outreach**
- **Detroit Rescue Mission Veteran's Community Event**
- **Holiday Toys**

### Adult Drug Treatment Program and Urban Drug Court Initiative

The Adult Drug Treatment Program and Urban Drug Court Initiative (ADT/UDCI) are two drug treatment court programs with very similar treatment components. They both provide a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders whose criminal justice involvement stem from alcohol and/or drug abuse. Court staff and community service providers 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.

#### Adult Drug Treatment/Court Urban Drug Court Initiative

	ADTC	UDCI
Participants from previous year	59	33
New Participants Accepted	7	17
Discharged Participants	21	13
<b>2015 Graduated Participants</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Active Participants 2015</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

### Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court (MHC) is designed to provide comprehensive, judicially monitored, psychiatric treatment for individuals who have non-violent criminal backgrounds and are severely and persistently mentally ill. Many clients also have co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Defendants are given an opportunity to voluntarily participate through conditional release in community treatment and court approved service plans as an alternative to incarceration and the normal criminal prosecution process and punishment. The goals of the program are to provide reduced recidivism, quicker and less costly case resolution, jail bed space savings, and more consistent mental health treatment.

#### Mental Health Court

	MHC
Participants from previous year	56
New Participants Accepted	52
Discharged Participants	35
<b>2015 Graduated Participants</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Active Participants 2015</b>	<b>52</b>

### Veterans Treatment Court

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program is designated for criminal justice involved Veterans whose criminogenic behavior is linked to their military service and who have underlying issues; such as mental health and substance abuse. Candidates must have a discharge other than dishonorable to be eligible for VTC. Like our other treatment programs, VTC provides a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders. The court staff, the Veterans Administration, and our community service partners work together to address the various needs of our participants. Successful program completion may result in the dismissal or reduction of the original charge, a reduced sentence, no jail or prison time, or a combination of the above.

#### Veterans Treatment Court

	VTC
Participants from previous year	12
New Participants Accepted	14
Discharged Participants	5
<b>2015 Graduated Participants</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Active Participants 2015</b>	<b>20</b>

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

### Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program

The Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP) is an intensive probation compliance program modeled after Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. SSSPP is designed to provide an immediate response to non-compliance. Any proven violation will result in a swift and certain response from the court. SSSPP works closely with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) to provide supervision of all probationers. Probationers are required to undergo frequent, scheduled, and random drug screenings while under supervision. They are also subjected to face-to-face monitoring by the court and MDOC to ensure probation compliance. Although our main goal is to increase compliance, we also strive to address any other needs of the probationer to help them to be successful and productive citizens once off probation.

#### Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program SSSPP

Participants from previous year	7
New Participants Accepted	33
Discharged Participants	4
<b>2015 Graduated Participants</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Active Participants 2015</b>	<b>34</b>

### Pretrial Services

The Office of Pretrial Services monitors defendants released on bond and submits oral and written bond recommendations to the circuit court bench and to judges and magistrates in the district courts throughout Wayne County. Pretrial Services also calculates Preliminary Sentencing Guideline Reports for the Circuit Court Judges. These reports are used to assist 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 2015 Statistics

<b>BONDS</b>	
Written Bond Recommendations	1,784
Oral Bond Recommendations	6,956
<b>Total Bond Recommendations</b>	<b>8,740</b>
<b>SUPERVISION (Yearly Averages)</b>	
Total Defendants Monitored	1,133
Cumulative Total of Defendants Monitored	3,516
Compliance Rate	92%
Failure to Appear Rate	8%
<b>SENTENCING GUIDELINES</b>	
Sentencing Guidelines Processed	10,204
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	88%
<b>LEIN QUERIES</b>	<b>19,528</b>

## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

The Family Division – Domestic Relations is comprised of 10 Circuit Court Judges and one Probate Judge. Judge Lombard retired at the end of 2014, and his seat was eliminated by legislative allocation. Judge Alexis Glendening replaced Judge Susan Hubbard, who transferred to the Civil Division, and Judge Adel Harb replaced Judge Kevin Cox, who transferred to the Criminal Division. 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 23,624 new case filings in the Family Division – Domestic Relations Section in 2015. Judge McCarthy spoke about all the wonderful things happening in Family Division in her Friend of the Court Address. For a full version of Judge McCarthy’s Friend of the Court Address on March 4, 2016, please use the QR code to watch the video.



### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Kathleen M. McCarthy, Presiding

Eric Cholack  
Charlene M. Elder  
Alexis A. Glendening  
Richard B. Halloran

Adel A. Harb  
Charles S. Hegarty  
Connie Marie Kelley

Lisa M. Neilson  
Lynne A. Pierce  
Martha M. Snow

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS REFEREES

Stephanie Witucki, Senior Referee

Diane Biggar  
Eric Gloudemans  
Shannon Haneline  
Rosanne Hostnik

Michelle Letourneau-McAvoy  
Susan Owen  
Lynn Ruhlman  
Anita Scott-Meisel

Hulen Simpson  
Katherine Strickfaden  
Edrick Thompson  
Jessica Walker

### Domestic Relations 2015 Statistics

	Divorce w/Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	UIFSA*	Support	Other Domestic**	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	1,390	1,100	4,936	171	3,329	173	11,099
New Filings	2,859	3,300	9,534	237	7,291	403	23,624
Reopened Cases	135	102	76	5	63	14	395
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>4,502</b>	<b>14,546</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>10,683</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>35,118</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>							
Bench Verdicts	96	58	0	0	0	7	161
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,173	2,504	4,376	114	4,962	266	14,395
Transferred	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
Dismissed by Party	420	531	1,458	139	672	119	3,339
Dismissed by Court	301	240	4,004	43	2,831	22	7,441
Inactive Status	5	4	1	0	0	1	11
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>9,839</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>8,467</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>25,352</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>4,707</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>9,766</b>

\*These cases were filed under the Uniform Interstate Support Family Support Act and the Court was asked to establish paternity, or to establish or modify child support in matters where the custodial party and the child lived outside of Michigan.

\*\*These matters are custody actions and other family matters.

## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### Domestic Violence Program



**Michael Kwaranski**

Michael Kwaranski was appointed as the Legal Director of the Domestic Violence Program.

### Personal Protection Order (PPO)

The Family Division – Domestic Relations has a Personal Protection Order (PPO) docket, meant to serve the civil personal protection order needs of domestic abuse, violence, and stalking victims. In 2015, the PPO docket processed 7,587 new cases.

#### Personal Protection Order (PPO) 2015 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	11	4	0	15
New Filings	5,162	2,318	107	7,587
Reopened Cases	6	2	0	8
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>5,179</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7,610</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	3,719	1,034	48	4,801
Orders Issued after Hearing	12	1	0	13
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	1,374	1,264	56	2,694
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	10	4	0	14
Dismissed by Party	40	13	3	56
Orders Issued after Denial	2	2	0	4
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7,582</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

### Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court (SODVPC)

The Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court (SODVPC) is a specialized docket dedicated to those cases in the Family Division – Domestic Relations with the most severe allegations of domestic abuse between intimate partners.

By giving litigants access to a trained and dedicated domestic abuse and violence prevention staff, SODVPC provides resources for extended judicial monitoring and increased access to a coordinated community response.

## FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### Friend of the Court

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court (FOC) is the largest FOC in Michigan, with over 260,000 active domestic relations cases. The FOC is an administrative arm of the Court and has as its primary responsibilities investigating, reporting, enforcing, and making recommendations on matters of custody, parenting time, and child support.

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 Referee Department (13 referees); the Case Establishment Department; the Legal Division; Information Services Department; the FOC Scheduling Office; the Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Department; and Administrative Operations.

Friend of the Court 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 FOC continues to collaborate with community partners and conduct outreach programs to raise public awareness and provide direct support to child support parties.

Once support is established, the departments work in concert to ensure collections. Over 13,000 hearings were scheduled to make certain there was child support compliance. In 2015, the Friend of the Court reestablished the Parenting Time docket to expedite the resolution of parenting time conflicts and to provide mediation services in appropriate cases.

### FOC Fiscal Year 2015 Statistics

Caseload-Open FOC Dockets	260,203
Medical Support Notices Issued	88,422
Custody and Child Support Reports and Recommendations	20,500
Hearing Held by Referees	25,722
Child Support Show Cause Hearings	13,431
Bench Warrant Issued	7,052
Bench Warrant Arrests	5,130
Custody and Parenting Time Enforcement Requests Processed	4,644
Amount of Child Support Collected for the Year	\$281,941,896

### FOC Child Support Outreach

Community Partners	Number of Participants
Salvation Army William Booth Legal Aid Clinic	464
Focus Hope	169
United Auto Workers Vote Center	138
Wayne County Legal Resource Consortium	102
Resource Network	31
ACCESS	19
Detroit Public Library Every Day Legal Issues (April & Oct. 2015)	199
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,122</b>

## **FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

### **Friend of the Court**

The Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education Department (FAME) is a Department of Third Circuit Court-Family Division. It is comprised of two units. The Family Evaluation, Mediation, and Counseling Unit (FEMC) provides court-ordered evaluations and mediations for families where the parents are in conflict regarding custody and/or parenting time. Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU) partners with Wayne Mediation Center and serves the increasing need for mediation and alternative dispute services in Domestic Relations. DRU also coordinates both Court-funded and grant-funded family education programs.

On the Parenting Time Docket, 347 cases were mediated resulting in 207 agreements placed on the record. The In-Court Mediation Project (ICMP) received 219 referrals, 188 matters were mediated and 90 of the mediations reached agreements.

FAME offers parent education for divorcing and never married parents who live apart from each other. The program, Kids First, continues to benefit the children in our community with 1,655 parents served in 2015. Additionally FAME has approved two online four hour parent education programs: Children in Between and Online Parenting Programs.com. The Co-Parenting, Communication, and Coaching (3C) Program is a more intensive eight hour live parent education program. In 2015, 439 parents completed the 3C program. Participant satisfaction surveys consistently indicate very high satisfaction and parents wish they would have “had this information sooner.”

FAME also coordinates supervised visitation. Through the State Court Administrative Office – Access and Visitation Grant, the Court has contracted with Growth Works, Inc. to conduct supervised parenting time. In 2015, Growth Works, Inc. served 120 families.

FAME continues to foster an active internship program by offering master level social work students from area universities hands-on training in family evaluation, psychological testing, mediation, and a host of other valuable assessment and mental health tools. Wayne State University, Eastern Michigan University, and other universities utilize FAME as a field placement for their students.

**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**20**





**RCUIT OF MICHIGAN**  
**16**



## FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE

The Family Division – Juvenile is comprised of five Circuit Court Judges and one Probate Judge. Twelve Referees assist the judges by conducting hearings and preparing written recommendations and findings of fact, as well as conducting informal hearings, which include traffic and ordinance violations, school truancy, and consent matters. There were 5,267 new case filings in the Family Division – Juvenile in 2015. The judges and referees of the Juvenile Division continue to meet and exceed stringent time guidelines set by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) in Permanency Indicator Reporting (PIR).

### FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

	Virgil C. Smith, Presiding	
Karen Y. Braxton	Christopher D. Dingell	Frank S. Szymanski
Jerome C. Cavanagh	Edward J. Joseph	

### FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC – JUVENILE

	Charles W. Wilson, III, Chief Referee	
Kathleen Allen	Raeigen Evans	Peter J. Schummer, Jr.
Nicholas J. Bobak	Leslie Graves	Brandi Taylor
James A. Catchings	Viola King	Mona M. Youssef
Anthony Crutchfield	Daniel M. McGuire	

### Juvenile 2015 Statistics

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2	601	1,634	143	2,380
New Filings	18	3,669	717	863	5,267
Reopened Cases	1	210	0	0	211
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>7,858</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>					
Jury Verdicts	0	3	0	1	4
Bench Verdicts	1	199	0	392	592
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	10	1,395	338	254	1,997
Prosecutor Waiver	0	4	0	0	4
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed Incompetent	0	5	0	0	5
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Court	3	821	317	0	1,141
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	92	92
Consent Calendar	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred	0	111	0	42	153
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	1,114	35	0	1,149
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	0	247	0	0	247
Not Charged	0	0	0	36	36
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hearing	0	0	0	0	0

## FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

### Juvenile 2015 Statistics (Cont'd)

	Designated*	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Denial	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3,899</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>5,420</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>2,438</b>

\*These are criminal matters in which the juvenile has been designated as an adult.

### Adoptions

The Adoptions Unit is responsible for processing all adoptions for Wayne County residents. The Unit handled a total of 413 new filings in 2015. 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. In addition to the adoption petitions that were filed, 64 voluntary releases of Parental Rights and 197 requests for release of post-adoption information was processed.

### Adoptions 2015 Statistics

2015 Filings	417
Voluntary Release of Parental Rights	64
Requests for Release of Post-Adoption Information	197
Pending Adoption Petitions as of January 1, 2015	116
New Filings	413
Reopened Cases	0
Total Caseload	529
Adoptions Finalized	409
Adoption Petitions Withdrawn	8
Adoption Petitions Dismissed	21
Adoption Petitions Transferred	0
Total Dispositions	438
Pending Adoption Petitions as of December 31 <sup>st</sup>	98

### Assigned Counsel Services

The Assigned Counsel Services (ACS) Unit processes assignments and scheduling of House Counsel for attorneys representing indigent parties. The Unit also addresses attorney payment inquiries and is responsible for ensuring that attorneys are available and dispatched to courtrooms when needed.

### Assigned Counsel Services (ACS)

Attorney Assignment Scheduled	2,572
Orders of Appointment/Updated Petitions	847
Request for Emergency House Counsel Assignments	1,618
Notice of Removal of Assigned Counsel	375
Appearances	113
Attorney Payment Inquiries	408

## FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE

### Court Appointed Special Advocates Program

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) plays a valuable role in child protective proceedings and services children in out-of-home placement. Volunteers are trained to serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Juvenile Jurists when making a decision regarding placement. By reviewing records, interviewing parents, talking to teachers, neighbors, and the children, the CASA volunteers make recommendations regarding what is best for the children. Fourteen new volunteer staff were trained in 2015. The total number of children served in the courtroom by CASA volunteers was 144. In addition, the CASA program maintains a donation-driven clothing room, which has benefited hundreds of disadvantaged families. Donations made are through the Friends of CASA and are tax deductible.

#### CASA Program 2015 Statistics

	Number of Cases	Number of children involved
New Cases Assigned	14	36
Cases Closed	8	17

#### CASA Volunteers sworn in in 2015:

Dolores Cecilia Archibald  
 Terry Edwards, Jr.  
 Maha Amin Ezzeddine  
 Jennifer Lynn Hill  
 David Pizzimenti

Loron Neshel Polk  
 Dawn Colleen Vandosen  
 Lenise Miller Whitefield  
 Linda Harp

Pamela Trammell-Gilliam  
 Jennifer Saad  
 Heidi Hendricks  
 India Davis  
 Jacqueline Russell



### Intake

The Intake Unit provides services for certain youth on probation, as well as diverted youth whose petitions have not been made official. The Unit also provides services to families in which a parent is seeking help for a youth's incorrigible behavior. The Unit also interviews, screens, and processes all youth admitted in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility. The Unit's 24-Hour Desk assists police agencies, DHS, and the public outside of regular court business hours. The Unit also provides presentence and resentencing reports to the Court on Designated cases.

#### Intake 2015 Statistics

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	1,717
Family Interviews	829
Probation (Consent, Diversion, Incorrigible)	23
Designated Cases	18
Out County/Plea Under Advisement/Truancy	58

## **FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE**

### **Juvenile Drug Court**

The Supervised Treatment for Alcohol and Narcotic Dependency (S.T.A.N.D.) Program is a juvenile drug court program that was designed to eliminate a juvenile's substance use and abuse and delinquent behavior. The program utilizes a non-adversarial approach, therapeutic jurisprudence, and case management to develop, coordinate and monitor the juvenile's treatment. It forges partnerships with other public agencies and community based organizations to enhance the program's effectiveness. The S.T.A.N.D. Program is supervised by Judge Karen Braxton.

Participants in the S.T.A.N.D. Program are provided access to a continuum of alcohol and drug-related treatment services. The program also provides many other services such as family therapy, a parent group, tutoring, and mental health services. While the program uses various sanctions for failure to comply with the terms of a juvenile's treatment plan, the Court focuses on incentives as rewards for the progress that a juvenile has made. Additionally, the program promotes participation in the pro-social activity by hosting annual baseball games, basketball games, and bowling tournaments for the participants and their families and friends.

The program lasts approximately one year, but the actual length of the program depends upon the juvenile's progress. In some circumstances, if the juvenile successfully completes the program, the original charge will be dismissed, allowing the juvenile to maintain a clean juvenile record. After successful completion of the program, the youths participate in a formal graduation ceremony sharing their successes with family, friends, and other participants still enrolled in the program.

The S.T.A.N.D. Program is a very intense program; however, the benefits to the participants and their families are extraordinary. Not only are the youth substance free after completion of the program, but they are well prepared for a productive life without any further court involvement.

#### **Juvenile Drug Court Statistics**

##### **2015 Program Participants**

Returning Participants	45
New Admissions	48
<b>Total Participants in Program for the Year</b>	<b>93</b>

##### **2015 Outcomes**

Total Participants	93
Removed Participants	26
Graduating	17
<b>Active Participants at the end of 2015</b>	<b>50</b>

## **FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE**

### **Juvenile Services**

The Truancy Intervention Project (TIP) was launched during the 2013-2014 school year to address the rise of chronic absenteeism amongst students in the Detroit Public School district while attempting to avoid formal court involvement. Juvenile Court Referees conduct informal sessions with at-risk students, their parents, school officials, law enforcement agencies, social services agencies, and mental health providers to develop viable intervention plans for each student. While each case is unique, TIP always seeks to improve student attendance, promote academic achievement, facilitate greater parental involvement, and build strong partnerships with and between schools and local service providers.

TIP was expanded as a community outreach model for school districts across Wayne County during the 2014-2015 school year. It was utilized by fifty-six (56) schools from eight different school districts including Detroit, the Educational Achievement Authority, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Lincoln Park, Wayne-Westland, Woodhaven-Brownstown Township, and Lincoln Consolidated, as well as two charter schools. Seven law enforcement agencies and twenty-three community agencies actively provided support for the project. 880 truancy cases were referred to TIP during the 2014-2015 school year. Interventions were held for 649 of those cases.

### **The Clinic for Child Study**

The Third Circuit Court Clinic for Child Study fosters relationships that empower court-involved youth and families to build healthy futures in their communities by providing an array of family-centered therapeutic services. The Clinic extends the continuum of care of the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency (D-WCCMHA) by providing mental health services to a population that is traditionally underserved: juveniles who have the dual concerns of delinquency and mental health. Given our unique focus, the Clinic has been able to utilize therapeutic jurisprudence to motivate youth and families to comply with mental health treatment. The accreditation body, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), has repeatedly recognized the Clinic's success in balancing the needs of both mental health and the Court systems:

“Since 1915, Clinic for Child Study has successfully merged the services of a mental health clinic with meeting the legal demands of the Third Circuit Court. Given its unique focus, the organization has been able to utilize therapeutic jurisprudence to motivate youths and their families to comply with mental health treatment and the conditions of the court. All of this is achieved with a traditionally underserved population where it is more acceptable to be delinquent than to receive services for a treatable mental health concern.”

The following Clinic programs are accredited under the mental health umbrella of CARF: Assessment and Referral (adults, children and adolescents); Case Management/Services Coordination (children and adolescents); Outpatient Treatment (children and adolescents); and Intensive Family-Based Services (children and adolescents).

In 2015, the Clinic was primarily funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority (D-WMHA) with additional funding received from the Third Circuit Court and Department of Health and Human Services. The Home-Based Unit is funded entirely through contracts with Gateway Community Health and CareLink Network, Inc. The Clinic is responsible for complying with the rules and regulations of the Third Circuit Court, Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Mental Health Code, Gateway Community Health, Inc., CareLink Network, Inc., and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

## FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

### The Clinic for Child Study

Assessment services include mental health assessments, psychological assessments, and psychiatric assessments for delinquency, protective hearings and treatment planning. Specialized assessments for delinquency include competency and criminal responsibility.

Case management services link Intensive Probation, Diversion, Incurability, and at-risk youth with appropriate community resources. Youth are seen at home, in the school or community, and at the Court. In addition, probation monitoring is provided to those youth placed on Intensive Probation.

Home-based services include intensive in-home family and individual therapy, case management services, and support coordination with schools and community.

Outpatient therapy services for youth and their families include individual, family, group, psychiatric evaluations, and medication monitoring. The Clinic runs a very successful specialized group, Sexual Awareness, Information & Treatment (SAIT, Y-SAIT & DDSAIT) for youth exhibiting inappropriate sexual behaviors. Groups are created with age and development in mind.

Trauma focused interventions are available for moderately to highly traumatized youth utilizing the following evidenced-based modalities: Sensory Interventions for Traumatized Children, Adolescent and Parents: At-Risk Adjudicated Treatment Program (SITCAP-ART), and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).

### 2015 Referrals/Consumers Served

Family Assessments for Protective Hearings	279
Adolescent Assessments for Delinquency Disposition /Probation Planning	692
Adolescent Competency and Criminal Responsibility Assessments	59
Adolescent Competency Assessments	3
Adolescent Criminal Responsibility Assessments	1
Adolescent Assessments for S.T.A.N.D.	38
Case Management (Intensive Probation)	553
Case Management (Diversion)	184
Clinic Treatment Unit	425
Home-Based Unit	81
Ongoing Psychiatric Services	144

### 2015 Outcomes

Satisfaction Surveys (241 surveys completed-satisfaction across all questions)	
Case Management (Intensive Probation) Successful Closures	212/333 <b>64%</b>
No Felony Arrests/Convictions 3-Years Post Successful Termination from IPU (2012 Closures)	250/315 <b>80%</b>
Case Management (Diversion) Successful Closures	92/121 <b>76%</b>
Home-Based Successful Closures	16/23 <b>70%</b>
Treatment Successful Closures (when treatment completed)	72/89 <b>81%</b>

# FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

## Miscellaneous

### Miscellaneous Family 2015 Statistics

	Other Family*	Ancillary**	Total
<b>Pending Cases as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	93	0	93
New Filings	822	0	822
Reopened Cases	0	0	0
<b>Total Caseload</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>915</b>
<b>Dispositions Resulting From:</b>			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hearing	652	0	652
Petition Granted	0	0	0
Transferred	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dismissed: Denied after Hearing	42	0	42
Petition Denied	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	110	0	110
Petition Withdrawn/Dismissed	0	0	0
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>804</b>
<b>Pending Cases as of Dec. 31st</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>

\*Miscellaneous Family includes name change, safe delivery, personal protection filed, emancipation of minors, infectious disease, parental waiver actions, and Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care.

\*\*Ancillary Proceedings includes guardianship and conservatorships, mental illness, as well as judicial admissions matters.



## HISTORY OF THE BENCH – CHIEF JUDGES



1/16/67 – 1/14/75 - Hon. Joseph A. Sullivan



1/15/75 – 12/31/77 - Hon. James N. Canham



1/1/78 – 12/31/85 - Hon. Richard Dunn



1/1/86 – 3/16/86 - Hon. Joseph B. Sullivan



3/17/86 – 3/24/86 - Hon. W. Leo Cahalan



3/25/86 – 12/31/93 - Hon. Richard Kaufman



1/1/94 – 9/30/97 - Hon. James Rashid



10/1/97 – 12/31/01 - Hon. Michael Sapala



1/1/02 – 12/31/03 - Hon. Timothy Kenny (Co-Chief Judge)



1/1/02 – 12/31/07 - Hon. Mary Beth Kelly



1/1/08 – 12/31/08 - Hon. William Giovan



1/1/09 – 12/31/13 - Hon. Virgil C. Smith



1/1/14 – Present - Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015



**Kelvin Banks** – Honored by Michigan State University - The School of Criminal Justice Wall of Fame, which honors a select group of alumni who have distinguished themselves by attaining the highest level of professional accomplishment while demonstrating strong personal integrity and character.

**Kelly Barum** – Assisted in the creation and implementation of the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative.

**Hon. James A. Callahan** – Named one of the Top Circuit Court Judges in Metro Detroit by D-Business Magazine.

**Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.** – Named one of the Top Circuit Court Judges in Metro Detroit by D-Business Magazine. He received the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association President's Award for making a reality the vision of a stronger Bench-Bar relationship.

**Jalona Colvard** – Ran the 5K in the Kona Chocolate Run.

**Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.** – Received the Purple Sport Coat Award for Judicial ability and demeanor at the Sixth Annual Kaye Tertzag Tribute Dinner on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Hon. Richard B. Halloran** – Received an award for 15 years of service in the Family Division, Wayne County Circuit Court from the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and was elected Chair-elect of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

**Jeannette Heacox** – Ran the 5K in the St. Patrick's Parade Corktown Race, the 5K in the Martian Invasion Race, the 5K in the Kona Chocolate Run, the 8K in the Kona Strawberry Run, and ran the Detroit Free Press International Half-Marathon.

**Bruce Howard** – Clinic for Child Study in the Juvenile Division received his PhD on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Hon. Susan L. Hubbard** – Created an instructional video on how to file for divorce for pro se litigants. For a full version of Judge Hubbard's video, please use the QR code to watch the video.



How to File for Divorce



Completing a Divorce w/out Children



Completing a Divorce w/Children

**Vikki Kapanowski** – Assisted in the creation and implementation of the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative.

**Hon. Timothy M. Kenny** – Received the Out-Wayne County Homeless Service Coalition Award for his championing the cause assisting in homelessness for the mentally ill.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015



**Hon. Maria L. Oxholm** – Named one of the Top Circuit Court Judges in Metro Detroit by D-Business Magazine.

**Marsha Philpot** – Administrative Assistant to Hon. Virgil C. Smith, wrote a piece that would fit into a section of music in Symphony in the D. For a full version of Marsha's performance, please use the QR code to watch the video.



**Hon. Lita M. Popke** – Named one of the Top Circuit Court Judges in Metro Detroit by D-Business Magazine. Catholic Central High School Shamrock Bar Association awarded Judge Popke the Richard P. Hathaway Distinguished Jurist Award for coaching the Catholic Central Mock Trial Team.

**Sam Porter** – Assisted in the creation and implementation of the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative.

**Saleem Rizkallah** – Assisted in the creation and implementation of the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative.

**Hon. Daniel Ryan** – The Third Circuit Court received the Tyler Technologies, Inc. National Excellence Award that was submitted by Judge Ryan.

**Hon. Leslie Kim Smith** – Named one of the Top Circuit Court Judges in Metro Detroit by D-Business Magazine.

**Toielynn Smith** – Docket Services Supervisor – FOC Scheduling/Branch Office received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Development from Central Michigan University.

**Hon. Craig S. Strong** – Inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame at the National Bar Association's (NBA) 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Hon. Brian R. Sullivan** – Received the Guardian of Justice Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Hon. Frank S. Szymanski** – Pioneered the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Initiative which kicked off with a press conference at Crestwood High School recognizing the accomplishments of Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights and Cody – Medicine and Community Health Academy in Detroit.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015 – 20+ Year Employee Celebration

Coming together  
is a beginning  
Staying together  
is progress, and  
Working together  
\*\*\*\*\* is\*\*\*\*\*  
SUCCESS



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015



**Law Day**



**Clinic For Child Study**



**CASA – Backpack Drive**



**Kona Chocolate Race  
Jalona Colvard/Jeannette Heacox**



**School of Criminal Justice Wall of Fame  
Kelvin Banks**



**Central Michigan University  
Toielynn Smith**



**Friend of the Court  
Bring Your Child to Work Day**



**Juvenile  
Bring Your Child to Work Day**



**U of M Dearborn  
Employee Scholarship**



**Truancy Court**



**Mass Swearing In – Spring  
Judge Heise and Judge Joseph**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015



Walk For Justice – Detroit Zoo



“What To Do When Stopped by the Police”  
Assembly – Denby High School



Child Support Help Event



Nat'l Assoc. of Negro Business & Professional  
Women's Club – Donating to Clinic for Child Study



Juror Show Cause Hearings



The Clothes Closet - LHJ



Judge Frank Szymanski – Keeping Kids in School (KKIS)



Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni donated 172  
Handmade Scarves to CASA

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

### Grants Awarded in 2015

FY 2016 Michigan Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program Grant Award - \$75,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2016 Michigan Veterans Treatment Court Grant Program Award - \$30,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

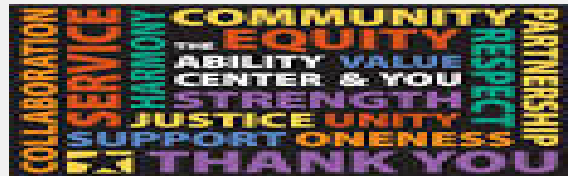
FY 2016 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Mental Health Court - \$188,600  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2016 Michigan Mental Health Court Grant Program Award – Adult Mental Health Court - \$423,900  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2016 Urban Drug Court Initiative Grant Program Award – Adult Circuit Drug Court - \$200,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2016 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Juvenile Drug Court - \$30,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office

FY 2016 Michigan Drug Court Grant Program Award – Adult Circuit Drug Court - \$145,000  
Awarded by the State Court Administrative Office



### Our Community Partners Include:

Abundant Children & Family Services  
**Arab Community Ctr. for Economics & Social Services (ACCESS)**  
Children and Family Services (C.A.F.S.)  
**Children's Trust Fund of MI**  
Circle of Parents (NHMBC)  
**Detroit Parent Network**  
Detroit Public Library  
**Disability Network**  
80 Strong Community Outreach  
**Fifth Third Bank**  
Focus Hope  
**Jehovah Jireh Deliverance**  
Jewish Vocational Services  
**Legal Aid Defenders Association**  
Looking For My Sister  
**Mariner's Inn Shelter & Treatment**  
Matrix Human Services  
**Michigan Veterans Foundation**  
Neighborhood Service Organization  
**New Hope Parenting Ministry**

SCAO Region 1  
**St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center**  
Stakeholder Partnerships, Education & Communications (SPEC)  
**The Children's Center**  
The Guidance Center – Southgate  
**The Salvation Army's William Booth Legal Aid Clinic**  
UAW Vote Center  
**U of D Mercy School of Law**  
U.S. Probation Officer Workforce  
**Development/Community**  
Wayne County Head Start  
**Wayne County Legal Resource Consortium**  
Wayne County Probate Court  
**Wayne Mediation Center**  
Wayne State University Law School  
**Wayne-Westland Head Start**  
Wayne County Community College District  
**Western Wayne County YWCA**  
Young Fathers Standing United

## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS

*It is time for you...To look back with pride and satisfaction on years well-lived...  
And look forward to all the things you've yet to enjoy!  
Author Unknown*



**Wylene N. Abdullah**, 18 years – Official Court Reporter, Administration



**Thomas R. Agacinski**, 29 years – Clerk II, Family Domestic



**Kassandra L. Banks-Nettles**, 17 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic



**Donna S. Bennett**, 34 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic



**Ellen D. Bowen**, 27 years – Probation Officer, Family Juvenile



**Marilyn L. Brinson-Miller**, 35 years – Clerk IV, Family Juvenile



**Gwendolyn M. Butler**, 26 years – Clinical Case Manager, Family Juvenile



**David J. Calandro**, 42 years – Senior Referee, Family Domestic



**Sandra J. Cole**, 23 years – Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal



**Michael Dendrinis**, 36 years – Operations Manager, Administration



**Sharon K. Foster**, 25 years – Psychologist IV, Family Juvenile



**Nancy K. Frazee**, 36 years – Typist III, Family Domestic



**Marilyn Gerwolls**, 23 years – Psychologist IV, Family Domestic



**Linda J. Gilbert**, 27 years – Typist II, Family Domestic



**Lynette Gunn**, 35 years – Official Court Reporter, Administration



**Barbara Jackson**, 35 years – Systems Analyst II, Administration



**Suzanne King**, 42 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic



**Kari V. Komiensky**, 34 years – Clerk III, Administration



## THIRD CIRCUIT COURT RETIREMENTS

*It is time for you...To look back with pride and satisfaction on years well-lived...  
And look forward to all the things you've yet to enjoy!  
Author Unknown*



**Gail A. Mills**, 27 years – Psychologist – Masters, Family Juvenile



**Roger Moore**, 23 years – Senior Pretrial Services Specialist, Criminal



**Albert L. Pack**, 27 years – Senior Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic



**Jennifer A. Pilette**, 16 years – Family Division Referee, Family Juvenile



**Kelly Ramsey**, 28 years – Family Division Referee, Family Juvenile



**Carolyn T. Rhymes**, 15 years – Management Assistant, Family Domestic



**Kim Smith**, 35 years – Information Specialist II, Family Domestic



**Gary R. Steinetz**, 31 years – Senior Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic



**Brenda Tillman**, 28 years – Domestic Relations Specialist, Family Domestic



**Craig E. Tindle**, 35 years – Information Specialist I, Family Domestic



**Tamera L. Vaughan**, 30 years – Administrative Secretary III, Family Juvenile



**Teresa B. Yerman**, 26 years – Mental Health Therapist, Family Juvenile

## OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

*A workplace filled with and driven by employees with positive attitudes – vibrates continually to the tune of service excellence and passionate team success.*

*Ty Howard*



**Catherine Hammond**, January 2015. Ms. Hammond is a Pretrial Services Specialist in the Criminal Division. She went above and beyond her normal duties to ensure the removal, from the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN), an active warrant that remained in the system erroneously. Her efforts made a significant contribution to the goals and objectives of the Court by ensuring a defendant was not apprehended in error. Ms. Hammond consistently maintains a high level of performance in her normal duties and performs above and beyond the call of duty.



**Doris Richardson**, February 2015. Ms. Richardson is an Individual Docket Clerk II in the Administration Division. Ms. Richardson is the problem-solver in the Case Processing Department. She has innovative and creative solutions for resolving issues. She goes above and beyond to help out in complicated situations, listens to and communicates with her co-workers regarding any changes or problems that may occur, and encourages them to ask for assistance when needed.



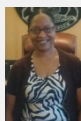
**Tracy Calhoun**, May 2015. Ms. Calhoun is an Information Specialist I in the Family Domestic Division. Despite a staff shortage, Ms. Calhoun understood that it was important for the service documents to make it into the files in a timely manner. She went above and beyond her normal duties by volunteering to file documents and pull files. Her efforts helped the Court to schedule the hearings in a timely manner and ensured better service to the community.



**Rocco Sanfilippo**, June 2015. Mr. Sanfilippo is a Senior Domestic Relations Specialist in the Family Domestic Division. He went above and beyond his normal duties by voluntarily putting together a user-friendly, updated version of the Arrears Management log. He was also able to provide a more succinct and efficient way to send information to DHS Link for our URG Adjustments by compiling a standard spreadsheet for all the pertinent information. These two extraordinary tasks have saved many of us time, effort, and paper.

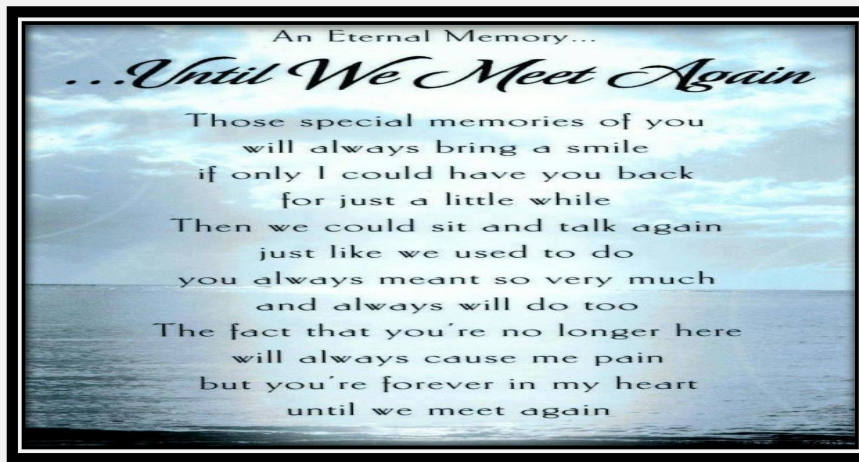


**Theresa Mack**, July 2015. Ms. Mack is a Clerk V in the Administration Division. She went above and beyond what was asked and expected of her during the remodeling of the Budget and Finance Office. She performed tasks that ensured that the majority of the files in the office suite were placed in the designated cabinets for storage, while maintaining and completing her regular job duties. She also assisted whenever needed to ensure her co-workers' items were moved back to where they belonged. She really contributed to making the relocating of the office a smooth transition and her efforts are truly appreciated.



**Cheryl White** is the winner of the Court's 2014 Annual Report Cover Contest. We want to thank Ms. White for helping to create our back cover and making our 2015 Annual Report more unique.

## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



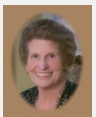
**Hon. Frances Pitts**, Retired Judge. March 27, 1933 – February 12, 2015. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Gordon College in Rhode Island, Judge Pitts went on to receive a Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Connecticut. With a Master's Degree in hand, she pursued her passion of helping the less privileged and oppressed persons. She worked as a parole officer, group therapist, counselor, and college instructor. In 1972, she received her Law Degree from Wayne State Law School. She served as a referee for over 10 years at Wayne County Probate Court Juvenile Division. She was then appointed to a judgeship in that court in 1987.



**Hon. Charles Farmer**, Retired Judge. 1920 – March 10, 2015. After graduating from law school, Judge Farmer became an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, an assistant state attorney general, and director of the Detroit office. In 1961, he was appointed to the Detroit Common Pleas Court bench. He was elected to the Wayne County Circuit bench in 1965, where he spent a quarter-century. He pursued court rule modifications and criminal sentencing guideline reform through the State Bar of Michigan and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.



**Donald J. Broderick**, Retired – Referee – Family Division. March 15, 1934 – April 18, 2015. Don Broderick grew up in Detroit. He graduated from Detroit Catholic Central in 1952, the University of Detroit in 1956, and the University of Detroit - School of Law in 1959. He worked for the Wayne County Friend of the Court for over 30 years.



**Rosemary Cecilia Flanagan**, Retired Court Employee. September 20, 1930 – April 19, 2015. Rosemary Flanagan attended St. Theresa's High School and earned a college degree from Marygrove College in Elementary Education and Social Work, long before most women were earning advanced degrees. She was an elementary teacher early in her marriage and a Wayne County Court Investigator for 30 years. She was an active community member serving Detroit as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner and serving Grosse Pointe Woods on their Senior Citizen Commission.

## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



**Hon. Harold Hood**, Retired Judge. January 14, 1931 – May 5, 2015. A Hamtramck native, Judge Hood earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan before joining the Army and serving in Korea. Upon his discharge from the Army, he attended law school at Wayne State University and graduated at the top six percent of his class. Judge Hood was appointed the first African American to serve as chief assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. His judicial career began with an appointment to the Common Pleas Court for the City of Detroit in 1973. His years of service on the bench included tenures with Detroit Recorder's Court, Wayne County Circuit Court, and the Michigan Court of Appeals.



**Diane P. Martin**, Court Employee – Criminal, passed away on May 15, 2015.



**Paulette Mary LeBost**, Retired – Referee – Juvenile Division. April 3, 1943 – May 16, 2015. Paulette LeBost graduated from Wayne State University Law School. While in private practice, she was an advocate for women's rights. She later served as a Referee for Third Circuit Court, Family Division – Juvenile Section from where she retired.



**Jacqueline Y. Longmire**, Court Reporting Services Supervisor. February 10, 1961 – May 30, 2015.



**Sonya Anne Johnson**, Retired – Probation Officer – Family Juvenile. May 28, 1956 – July 3, 2015. Sonya Johnson was a student of the Detroit Public School system. She graduated from Cooley High School in 1974 and from the University of Detroit in 1978 as an Alpha Kappa Alpha Pearl with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Studies that eventually led her to employment with the Wayne County Probate Court – Juvenile Division.



**Margaret Laurietta Butler**, Retired – Criminal Division. October 28, 1945 – September 29, 2015. Her greatest light was witnessed behind closed doors when she ministered to her family, all of which love her. She has a personal relationship with each of her children who value her dearly. Yet, her greatest joy was being a Grammy.

## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST



**Veronica Pruitt**, Retired – Family Domestic. July 23, 1956 – November 19, 2015.



**Hon. Henry J. Szymanski**, Retired Judge. February 6, 1924 – August 21, 2015. Judge Szymanski graduated from Western High School in 1942, and worked for the Ford Motor Company until he was drafted into the Army in February 1943. After the war, Henry worked on the assembly line at Ford, then attended Wayne University (now Wayne State) and its Law School on the GI Bill. In 1966, Henry was elected to the Detroit Common Pleas Court. He served on that bench until he was elected to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1980.

**Mary Smith**, Retired – Criminal Division. Mary Smith was the Judicial Secretary for Judge Robert Evans.



**Susan Lynn Cole**, Retired Employee – Juvenile Division. August 31, 1949 – December 15, 2015. Susan Cole was a secretary for the Wayne County Juvenile Court. She was a fun loving person, known for her perky personality. She was very family oriented and was a caring person.



**Melvin Curtis Lucas**, Retired Employee – Friend of the Court. September 29, 1962 – December 29, 2015. While in school, Melvin's love of music was born. He played drums and the piano. He could sing all four parts in the choir and at times was the only voice representing a section.

### Public Satisfaction Survey

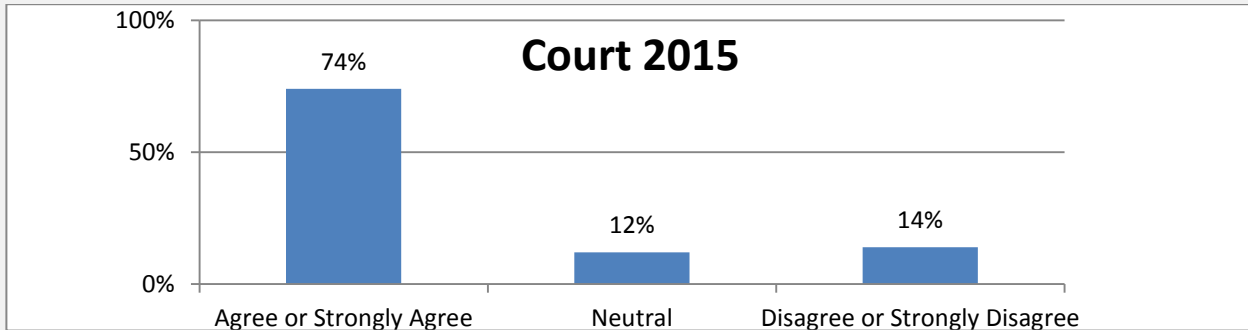
The State Court Administrative Office required all Michigan courts to participate in a Public Satisfaction Survey. The Third Circuit Court of Michigan uses the Public Satisfaction Survey as a tool to identify areas of concern and to make the needed improvements. The results of both the State Court Administrative Office and Third Judicial Circuit Court are on the following five pages.

## Third Circuit Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Questions 1 and 2 were directed to all respondents.

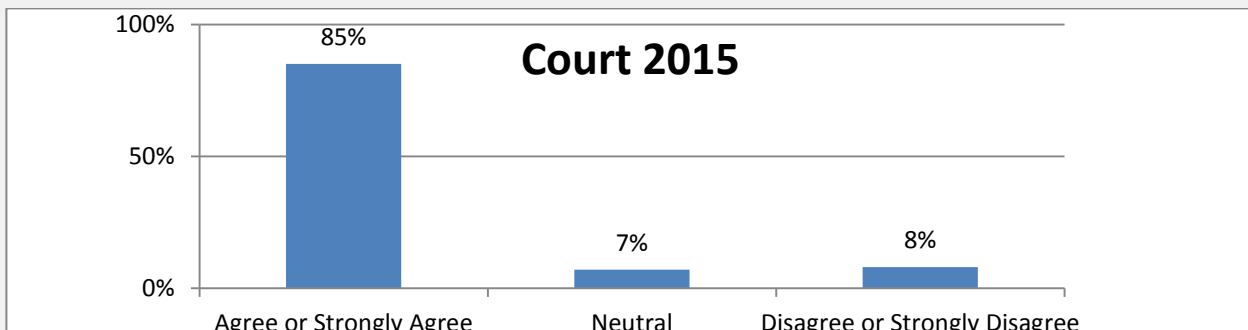
1) I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.

<b>2015</b>	
<b>5 – Strongly Agree</b>	212 42%
<b>4 – Agree</b>	161 32%
<b>3 – Neutral</b>	62 12%
<b>2 – Disagree</b>	33 7%
<b>1 – Strongly Disagree</b>	39 8%
<b>Total Responses</b>	507
<b>Score</b>	3.9
<b>NA – Not Applicable</b>	19
<b>No Response</b>	16



2) I was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.

<b>2015</b>	
<b>5 – Strongly Agree</b>	286 56%
<b>4 – Agree</b>	153 30%
<b>3 – Neutral</b>	35 7%
<b>2 – Disagree</b>	17 3%
<b>1 – Strongly Disagree</b>	24 5%
<b>Total Responses</b>	515
<b>Score</b>	4.3
<b>NA – Not Applicable</b>	7
<b>No Response</b>	20

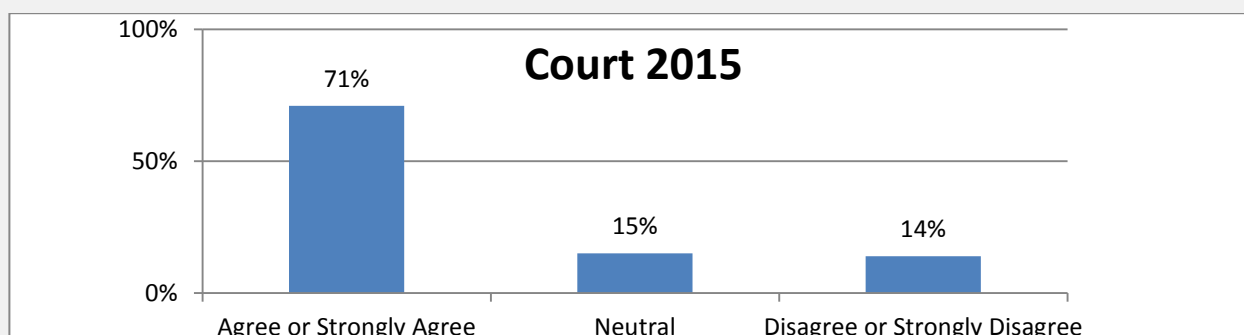


## Third Circuit Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Questions 3 and 4 were directed to persons who attended a hearing or trial.

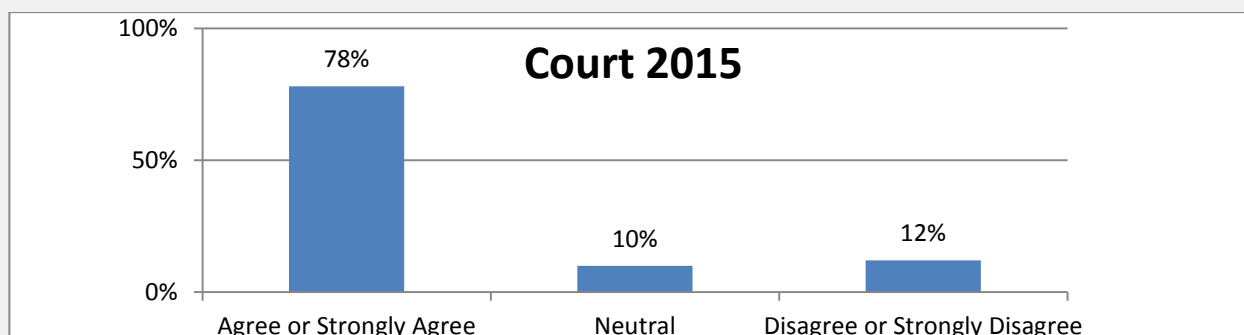
3) The way the case was handled was fair.

2015	
5 – Strongly Agree	132 39%
4 – Agree	110 32%
3 – Neutral	51 15%
2 – Disagree	15 4%
1 – Strongly Disagree	31 9%
Total Responses	339
Score	3.9
NA – Not Applicable	109
No Response	94



4) The judge/magistrate/referee treated everyone with courtesy and respect.

2015	
5 – Strongly Agree	177 52%
4 – Agree	86 25%
3 – Neutral	35 10%
2 – Disagree	20 6%
1 – Strongly Disagree	20 6%
Total Responses	338
Score	4.1
NA – Not Applicable	100
No Response	104

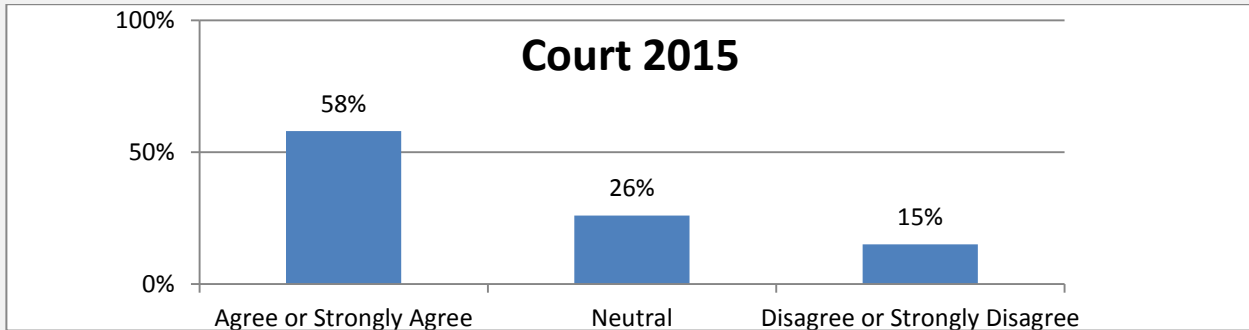


## Third Circuit Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Questions 5 and 6 were directed to persons who were a party to the case.

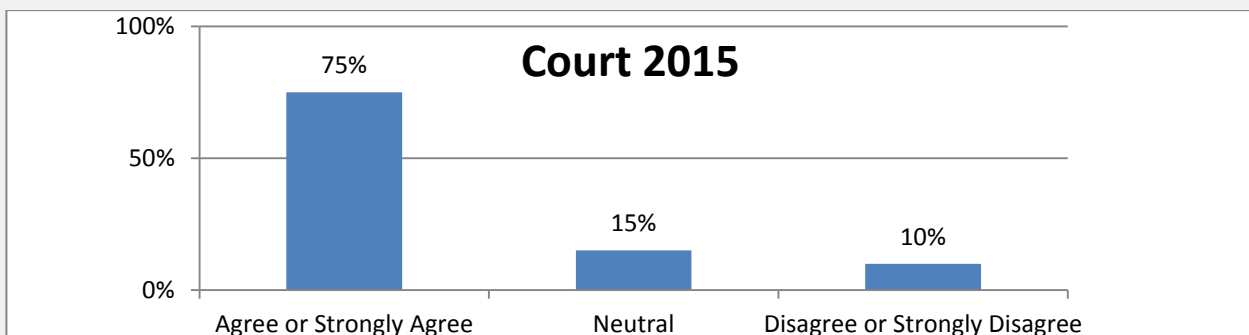
5) The outcome in my case was favorable to me.

2015	
5 – Strongly Agree	91 33%
4 – Agree	68 25%
3 – Neutral	72 26%
2 – Disagree	24 9%
1 – Strongly Disagree	17 6%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>3.7</b>
NA – Not Applicable	137
No Response	133



6) As I leave the court, I understand what happened in my case.

2015	
5 – Strongly Agree	131 47%
4 – Agree	80 29%
3 – Neutral	42 15%
2 – Disagree	10 4%
1 – Strongly Disagree	17 6%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>280</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>4.1</b>
NA – Not Applicable	123
No Response	139





## Third Circuit Court Public Satisfaction Survey

Questions 7-10 were directed to all respondents.

7) What type of case brought you to the courthouse today? (Select ALL that apply.)

	2015	
Child protective	58	12%
Civil matter	30	6%
Criminal/probation	100	20%
Divorce/custody/support	117	24%
Drug/sobriety court	5	1%
Estate/trust	4	1%
File papers	43	9%
Get information	27	5%
Guardianship/conservatorship	10	2%
Juvenile delinquency	14	3%
Landlord/Tenant	0	0%
Make a payment	13	3%
PPO	8	2%
Small claims	0	0%
Traffic/Ticket	0	0%
Other	109	22%
Number of Respondents	496	
No Response	46	

8) Who are you? (Select ALL that apply.)

	2015	
Party (Plaintiff/Defendant)	234	44%
Agency Worker	27	5%
Attorney/prosecutor	68	13%
Family/friend of party to case	81	15%
Juror	60	11%
Witness	11	2%
Other	57	11%
Number of Respondents	528	
No Response	14	

## Third Circuit Court Public Satisfaction Survey

### 9) What is your gender?

	2015	
<b>Male</b>	204	39%
<b>Female</b>	319	61%
<b>Other</b>	4	1%
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	525	
<b>No Response</b>	17	

### 10) How do you identify yourself? (Select ALL that apply.)

	2015	
<b>American Indian/Alaska Nat.</b>	16	3%
<b>Asian</b>	10	2%
<b>Multiracial/biracial</b>	14	3%
<b>Black/African American</b>	295	57%
<b>Hispanic/Latino</b>	17	3%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	171	33%
<b>Other</b>	17	3%
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	517	
<b>No Response</b>	25	

## 2015 LEADERSHIP

### **Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr. CHIEF JUDGE**

Hon. Timothy M. Kenny  
CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEM  
PRESIDING – CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Maria L. Oxholm  
PRESIDING – CIVIL DIVISION

Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy  
PRESIDING – FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Hon. Virgil C. Smith  
PRESIDING – FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

### **Zenell B. Brown EXECUTIVE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

Violet Leonard  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Richard Lynch  
GENERAL COUNSEL

Alisa Shannon, Deputy Court Administrator  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Richard Smart, Deputy Court Administrator  
FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE

Kent Weichmann, Deputy Court Administrator  
FRIEND OF THE COURT  
FAMILY DIVISION – DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Benita Cheatom  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Michael Gruich  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Tammi Palmer  
DIRECTOR OF CASE PROCESSING

Theresa Plotzke  
DIRECTOR OF PURCHASING AND FACILITIES

Lisa Timmons, Executive Director  
MEDIATION TRIBUNAL ASSOCIATION

Mary Kay Wimsatt  
DIRECTOR OF JURY SERVICES

**The Court would like to thank Anthony Hiller for donating the front cover for our 2015 Annual Report and Cheryl White, Supervisor for Court Reporting Services - LHJ, for creating our back cover and being our 2015 Cover Contest winner.**

Copies of this report may be obtained from the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan:  
Court Administration  
Two Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Phone: 313-224-5261  
Fax: 313-224-6070

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



Photo Credit: Big Blue Dot Y'all

"NOW THE LORD IS THAT  
WHERE THE SPIRIT  
S THERE IS LIBERTY.  
CORINTH I 3:17

