

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN



2007 ANNUAL REPORT

2007 Annual Report Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

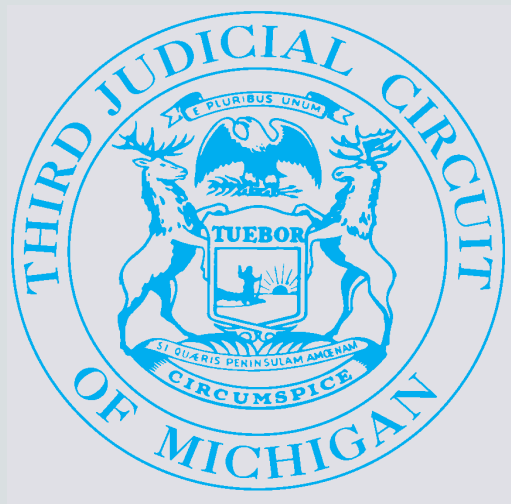
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
2 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

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

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

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

Penobscot Building
645 Griswold
Detroit, MI 48226



Mary Beth Kelly
Chief Judge

Bernard J. Kost
Executive Court Administrator

Kelli D. Moore
Deputy Court Administrator



THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN

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Detroit, Michigan 48226-3413

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Executive Court Administrator

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March 31, 2008

Honorable William J. Giovan
Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan
701 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Judge Giovan:

I am pleased to transmit the 2007 Annual Report of the Third Circuit Court for your review. This report includes a brief narrative, a summary of the twelve employees selected for the employee of the month award, a compilation of caseload and other workload statistics, and an overview of the Court's principal activities, programs and accomplishments in 2007. I would like to highlight one important accomplishment that will stand out in the history of this organization.

As you know, the Court began a multi-year project in 2005 to replace its three 25-year old legacy computers with a state-of-the-art case management system (*Odyssey*). On October 15, 2007, the Court successfully implemented *Odyssey* in the Criminal Division. This represents the completion of a major milestone for this project. Implementation of the new system in the Civil Division and Family Division-Domestic Relations Section will be completed in 2008, while the Family Division-Juvenile Section will be implemented in 2009. The *Odyssey* Case Management System provides the technology platform necessary for the Court to ultimately create an electronic, paperless environment.

In closing, I believe this Annual Report identifies many noteworthy accomplishments of the judges and employees in 2007. Please join me in commending them for their dedication to serving the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernard J. Kost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bernard J. Kost
Executive Court Administrator

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Third Circuit Court Judges

Mary Beth Kelly, Chief Judge

CIVIL DIVISION

William J. Giovan, Chief Judge Pro Tempore and Presiding

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

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

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

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Edward Ewell, Jr., Presiding

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

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

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

FAMILY DIVISION-DOMESTIC RELATIONS

Lita M. Popke, Presiding

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

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

Arthur J. Lombard
Kathleen M. McCarthy
Maria L. Oxholm
Richard M. Skutt

FAMILY DIVISION-JUVENILE

Judy A. Hartsfield, Presiding, Probate Judge

Jerome C. Cavanagh
Christopher D. Dingell
Sheila Ann Gibson

Mark T. Slavens
Leslie Kim Smith
Virgil C. Smith, Jr.

Judge of Probate
Frank S. Szymanski

Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan 2008



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

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

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

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

Judges Leaving the Bench in 2007

James E. Lacey

Judge James E. Lacey retired on January 1, 2007 after 28 years as a member of the Wayne County Probate Bench. Governor William G. Milliken appointed Judge Lacey to the Wayne County Probate Court on January 5, 1978. Judge Lacey was cross-assigned in 1997 as a Third Circuit Court Judge and served in the Family Division-Juvenile Section.

Mary M. Waterstone

Judge Mary M. Waterstone retired on January 1, 2007 after 10 years as a member of the Third Circuit Bench. Governor John Engler appointed Judge Waterstone to the Third Judicial Circuit in October 1997. During Judge Waterstone's tenure, she served in the Family and Criminal Divisions. Judge Waterstone was a member of the Criminal Docket Review Committee. Prior to her appointment to the Third Circuit, she served as a 36th District Court judge.

Judges Joining the Bench in 2007

Jerome C. Cavanagh

Judge Jerome C. Cavanagh was elected to the Third Judicial Circuit in November 2006. In January 2007, Judge Cavanagh was assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section. Prior to this election, Judge Cavanagh served as a private practice attorney handling a wide range of civil and criminal matters, including serving as assigned legal counsel in the Third Circuit and Wayne County Probate Court. Before private practice, Judge Cavanagh served for seven years as an Assistant Attorney General in the Transportation Division of the Michigan Attorney General's Office. Judge Cavanagh worked in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and served as a court officer and legal intern at the Michigan Court of Appeals, before becoming an attorney. Judge Cavanagh graduated from Wayne State University (B.A. 1989) and the Detroit College of Law (J.D. 1996).

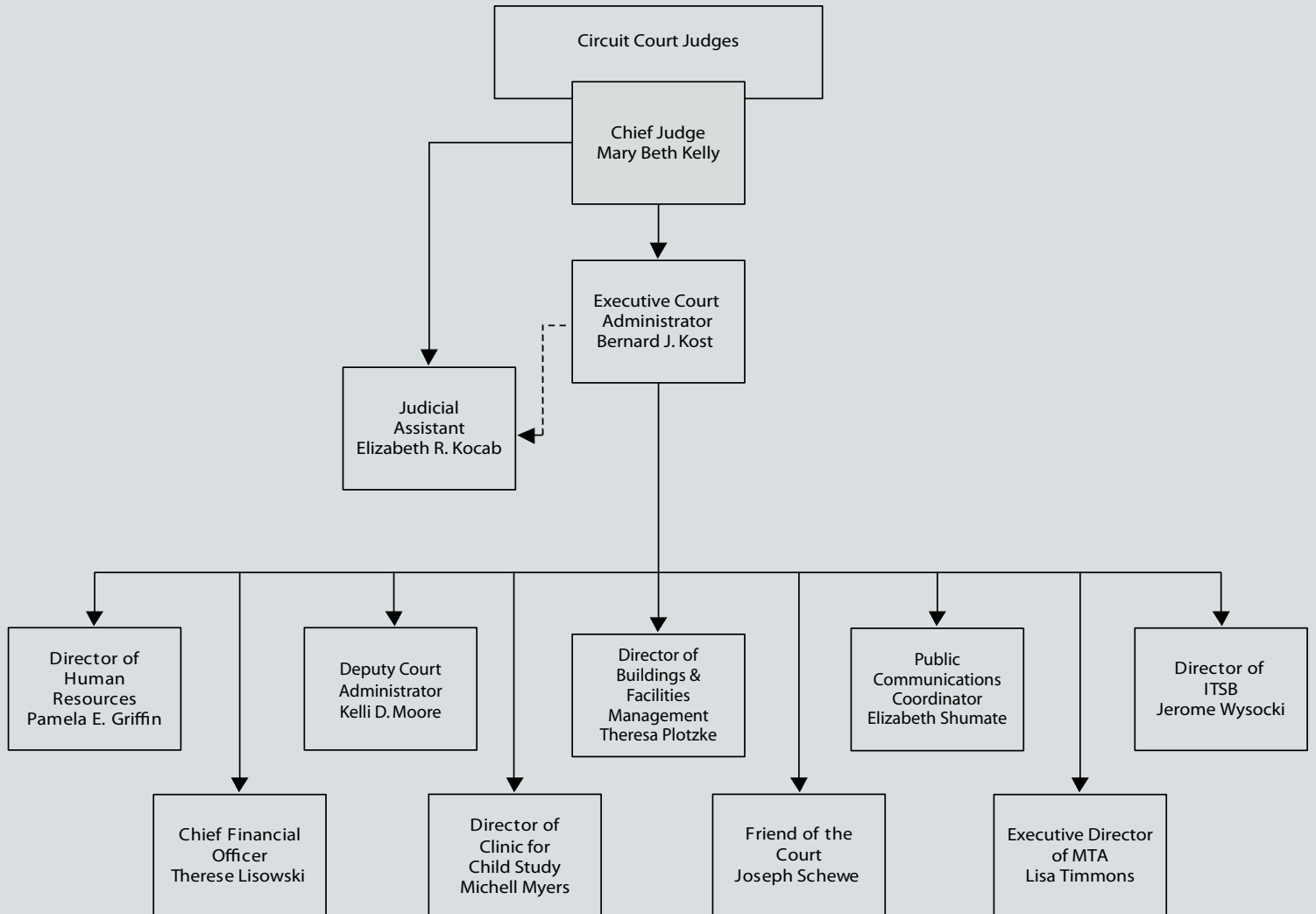
Mark T. Slavens

Judge Mark T. Slavens was appointed to the Third Judicial Circuit by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in May 2007. Judge Slavens was assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section. Prior to this appointment, Judge Slavens served for as a private practice attorney handling personal injury cases for 27 years. Judge Slavens also served as an instructor who taught law school for Oakland University. Judge Slavens graduated from the University of Michigan (B.A. 1977) and the University of Toledo Law School (J.D. 1980).

Frank S. Szymanski

Judge Frank S. Szymanski was elected to the Wayne County Probate Court in November 2006. In January 2007, Judge Szymanski was cross-assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section of Third Judicial Circuit. Prior to this election, Judge Szymanski was in private practice for 26 years serving as a general practitioner with an emphasis in probate law and as a probate mediator. Judge Szymanski also served as President of the Wayne County Probate Bar Association where he instituted a probate bar referral service for the County. Prior to law school, Judge Szymanski taught high school history and social studies. Judge Szymanski graduated from the University of Notre Dame (B.A. 1974) and the University of Detroit School of Law (J.D. 1980).

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN ORGANIZATION CHART



2007 Employee Recognition

Employee of the Month

The 2007 Employee Recognition Selection Committee included Winston Brewster, Kevin Martin, Shirley Mitsunaga, Nicole Parsons, Javonne Ransom, Janis Saunders, John Tchorz, Kathleen Walton-Allen, and Deborah Wilson. The 2007 awards went to:

Joanna Maio

Joanna Maio was the January Employee of the Month. Ms. Maio is a Senior Domestic Relations Specialist assigned to the Felony Non-Support program at the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 21 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Maio received this award for consistently maintaining a high level of professionalism, excellent customer service, and being a creative innovator.

Denise Pike

Denise Pike was the February Employee of the Month. Ms. Pike is a Typist II assigned to the Legal Services Department, Litigation Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 15 years. Nominated by a co-worker, Ms. Pike received this award for going the extra mile, superior customer service, and always staying focused on doing the best job possible.

Yvonne Barnett-Greene

Yvonne Barnett-Greene was the March Employee of the Month. Ms. Barnett-Greene is a Domestic Relations Specialist assigned to the Information Services Department, Medical Enforcement Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 12 years. Nominated by a co-worker, Ms. Barnett-Greene received this award for going the extra mile in streamlining processes, superior customer service, boosting morale through positive encouragement, and being a creative innovator.

Barbara Jackson

Barbara Jackson was the April Employee of the Month. Ms. Jackson is a Systems Analyst II in the Case Processing Department assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section and has been an employee for 27 years. Nominated by two juvenile referees, Ms. Jackson received this award for her hard work and dedication, going "above and beyond the call of duty", ability to streamline processes, and exceptional positive attitude.

Andree Tarrant

Andree Tarrant was the May Employee of the Month. Ms. Tarrant is a Clinical Probation Officer in the Clinic for Child Study, Juvenile Social Assessment Unit and has been an employee for 22 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Tarrant received this award for going the extra mile, high performance, strong work ethic, and commitment to her clients.

Shawn Perry

Shawn Perry was the June Employee of the Month. Ms. Perry is a Personnel Payroll Clerk in the Office of Human Resources and has been an employee for 2 years. Nominated by a co-worker, Ms. Perry received this award for being "the epitome of a dedicated employee", going the extra mile, boosting morale, and being a team player that is always the first to volunteer when help is needed.

Rayetta Griffith

Rayetta Griffith was the July Employee of the Month. Ms. Griffith is a Psychologist in the Clinic for Child Study Treatment Unit and has been an employee for 2 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Griffith received this award for going the extra mile in her thoroughness and attention to detail, dedication, and excellent work ethic.

2007 Employee Recognition

Employee of the Month Continued

Okey Eanes

Okey Eanes was the August Employee of the Month. Mr. Eanes is a Probation Officer IV (Supervisor) in the Intensive Probation East Unit and has been an employee for 8 years. Nominated by several of his co-workers and members of his staff, Mr. Eanes received this award for going the extra mile, boosting the morale of the Unit and his youth clientele, and being a creative innovator by organizing an annual youth basketball tournament.

Cardarrine Jenkins

Cardarrine Jenkins was the September Employee of the Month. Ms. Jenkins is a Probation Officer IV (Supervisor) in the Intensive Probation West Unit and has been an employee for 20 years. Nominated by several of her co-workers and members of her staff, Ms. Jenkins received this award for going the extra mile, creatively motivating her team, and successfully developing and implementing special youth programs.

Priscilla Wells

Priscilla Wells was the October Employee of the Month. Ms. Wells is a Domestic Relations Supervisor in the Family Assessment, Mediation and Education Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 20 years. Nominated by her supervisor and a co-worker, Ms. Wells received this award for her years of hard work, exceptional customer service, boosting morale, and being a creative innovator by developing a new statistical model for the department.

Cheri Holland

Cheri Holland was the November Employee of the Month. Ms. Holland is a Clerical Services Supervisor II in the Adoptions Unit of the Family Division-Juvenile Section and has been an employee for 20 years. Ms. Holland is on a temporary assignment as a member of the *Odyssey* Case Management project team and was nominated by her team supervisor. Ms. Holland received this award for consistently exceeding team member expectations, superior customer service, and continually displaying a positive attitude.

Peggy Boudreau

Peggy Boudreau was the December Employee of the Month. Ms. Boudreau is a Domestic Relations Specialist in the Divorce Investigations Unit of the Friend of the Court and has been an employee for 34 years. Nominated by her supervisor, Ms. Boudreau received this award for her superior quality of work, going the extra mile in assisting with the caseloads of others, and being a "wealth of knowledge" to her co-workers.



From left to right: Barbara Jackson, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly, Peggy Boudreau, Priscilla Wells, Shawn Perry, Joanna Maio, Yvonne Barnett-Greene, Rayetta Griffith, Andree Tarrant, Cheri Holland, Denise Pike, Executive Court Administrator, Bernard J. Kost, and Okey Eanes. Not pictured: Cardarrine Jenkins

2007 Highlights

March

Outstanding Judge of the Year Award

Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr. was recognized by his peers as the Third Circuit Court Outstanding Judge of the Year. This recognition and award was presented to him by the Executive Committee for his commitment and dedication in implementing reforms in the Family Division-Juvenile Section; chairing the Docket Review Committee for each Division of the Court; and for being a member of the Executive Committee.



Title IV-E Audit

Michigan successfully passed a federal audit regarding the administration of the Title IV-E program. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides the states with federal funding to pay for foster care programs for abused and neglected children. This audit examined Michigan's use of Title IV-E foster care funds, which account for more than 50% of the dollars spent on foster care in Michigan. This outstanding accomplishment could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of the judges and referees in the Family Division-Juvenile Section. Both judges and referees attended several hours of training to prepare for this audit. In addition, the Court's IT staff spent hours programming modifications to required court forms.

Auditors from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Families and Children reviewed 150 cases finding errors in only four. None of these errors were attributable to court orders. The federal reviewers found the fact that Michigan had no errors on court forms even more impressive than the small number of overall errors.

The results of this audit are a major accomplishment for DHS, the Family Services Division of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), and most importantly, the children who are provided services in Wayne County. The Third Circuit-Family Division has jurisdiction over the largest population of abused and neglected children in Michigan and has the largest new filings of the 83 counties in Michigan. Failure to pass this audit could have resulted in a potential loss of nearly \$40 million dollars in federal funding to the State of Michigan.

May

Reducing Paternity Defaults With E's

Reducing Paternity Defaults with E's is a two-year Special Improvement Project grant awarded by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Third Judicial Circuit's Friend of the Court in its role as Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. The Project's title emphasizes three E's to improve paternity establishment by reducing the number of defaults: **explaining** the process to fathers; **educating** them on the importance of participation and the consequences of non-participation; and **encouraging** future participation.

The Project's objective is based on the premise that accessing justice begins with understanding the nature of the proceedings. The grant's approach is to seek personal contact with paternity defendants to overcome the barriers that prevent them from appearing on their cases. Approximately 33% of paternity defendants typically show up in court. The purpose of the grant is to increase that percentage. Evidence of the Program's success is that 79% of the fathers who came in contact with a representative appeared on their cases.

The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan presented a Certificate of Achievement to the FOC for "Innovative Practices by an Office" based upon the Project's design and efforts to reduce paternity defaults.

2007 Highlights

May Continued

Law Day

The Court celebrated its 21st Annual Law Day and “Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy” was this year’s theme. Criminal Division Presiding Judge Edward Ewell, Jr., served as the emcee of the event and Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly delivered the opening remarks. Best selling author, Marianne Williamson, delivered the keynote address. Since the future of our Country is in their hands, Williamson encouraged students to educate and empower themselves by focusing on the privileges of being a United States citizen. Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly selected and presented the winner of the art contest award. After trial observation, the students from ten Wayne County participating schools had an informal lunch with the judges. Students had a first-hand experience with the challenges of witnessing and accurately reporting a crime during the lunchtime robbery skit.



From left to right: Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Marianne Williamson, Criminal Division Presiding Judge Edward Ewell, Jr., and Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly.

This year’s theme challenged the students to play a role in assuring America’s future by addressing the needs of youth and focusing on the issues affecting them today. Many young people will come into contact with the legal system, whether through the Family Division of the Court, foster care, or the juvenile system. All youth need to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law to become effective participants in our Nation’s civic life.

July

Not-in-Custody Delinquency Docket

The Court implemented a designated docket at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) to address the backlog of not-in-custody delinquency petitions. The creation of this docket has eliminated the backlog and allows the initial proceeding to be scheduled within three weeks of receiving the petition rather than the past scheduling practice of ten to twelve weeks. There is one referee assigned to hear this docket instead of rotating it among the various referees. This docket was moved to JDF despite the mindset that only in-custody juvenile matters should be held at that facility. Creative thinking, along with a designated referee, has not only met the goal of having these matters addressed expeditiously, but also assists in the plea rate at an earlier stage of the case. This new docket allows the other referees to concentrate on their remaining cases and enables them to devote more time to neglect petitions.

2007 Highlights

September

Japanese Judge Program

The Third Circuit Court, Wayne State University Law School, and the Supreme Court of Japan have announced that a judge from the Japanese judicial system will visit Michigan each year to research and study the American judicial system, with a special emphasis on Michigan trial courts.

Japanese judges have been coming to study in the Third Circuit Court since the early 1980s. This additional partnership with Wayne State will further formalize the program thus ensuring that each visiting judge will return home with a wealth of knowledge concerning America's judicial system.

The Supreme Court of Japan selects one judge through a competitive process. That judge will be in residence in the fall and winter semesters at the Law School and the Court.

This 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 interact 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.

The judge will lecture in one of the courses at the Law School and be available to students and faculty to discuss their research.

It is anticipated that this partnership will be on-going, enhancing the judicial systems of both cultures as well as the curriculum at Wayne State University.

August

LifeSkills & Supportive Parenting Sessions

The Clinic For Child Study assists juveniles who have the dual concerns of delinquency and mental health. The Clinic's newly created LifeSkills Program is an evidence-based training program developed at Cornell University by Dr. Gilbert Botvin. Designed to equip youth with skills to successfully navigate through life, youth participate in groups that focus on self-image, self-improvement, decision-making, substance abuse, violence, communication, media influence, social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution, anger and anxiety management. The Clinic is one of several organizations trained by the Youth Development Commission to facilitate the LifeSkills curriculum and was the recipient of a grant from that organization.

LifeSkills will provide an opportunity for youth to grow within a positively created peer environment where they will learn how to resist substance use and delinquent behaviors while gaining skills that will allow them to interact with their environment favorably. LifeSkills will increase the success rate with a population that is at risk of experiencing increased sanctions for risky behaviors and poor decisions. Thus far, thirty-six youth have completed the LifeSkills Program. While youth are participating in LifeSkills, parents have the option of attending supportive parenting sessions. Parents learn new skills, talk with others about concerns, receive suggestions from peers, and provide support to each other. Given the positive response of youth and parents, expansion in 2008 is expected.

2007 Highlights

August Continued

Court Collections Committee

In conjunction with the Michigan Supreme Court's Collections Initiative, the Court established a Collections Best Practices Oversight Committee whose members include: Chair, Judge Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Criminal Presiding Judge Edward Ewell, Jr., Judge Helen E. Brown, Judge James R. Chylinski, Judge David A. Groner, Executive Court Administrator, Bernard J. Kost, Director of Ancillary Court Services, Sidney McBride, and Collections Coordinator, Elena Kerasiotis. The Committee's mission is to ensure that clear and consistent collections practices are used throughout all Third Circuit Court Divisions that are involved in court imposed costs and fees and establishing initiatives to obtain these assessments earlier in the judicial process.

The Committee drafted a Collections Policy & Procedures Plan to document the processes to be followed so that collections activities are conducted consistently within the Criminal Division. The Plan describes the responsibilities of judges, courtroom clerks, cashier's office staff, the Court's collection unit, and the Michigan Department of Corrections in the collections process. In addition, the Judicial Assistant's Office provided the Committee with legal research regarding the determination of a defendant's "ability to pay" based upon recent Michigan Court of Appeals decisions on this matter.

October

For Our Children

October marked the first year anniversary of the "For Our Children" initiative. The Friend of the Court reached out to a cross section of representatives from community agencies and organizations, government, and media to increase public awareness of Friend of the Court programs and operations and to help the Friend of the Court better understand and meet the goals of the public. Wayne County Head Start, National Family Justice Association, the Detroit Urban League, and Mariner's Inn are just a few of the participating organizations.

The consortium's mission is "to educate and inform the community about the Court and family law issues (child support, custody and parenting) that affect families and provide a forum for dialogue as we, the Court and community leaders, build a partnership to increase public awareness and education."

The consortium helped the Friend of the Court design processes, customer service surveys, advertisements, and sponsored training for service providers on Friend of the Court enforcement issues. At a conference attended by over 75

service providers, Family Division-Domestic Presiding Judge Lita M. Popke, Friend of the Court, Joseph A. Schewe, Assistant Friend of Court, Doris Ryans, and various directors of the Friend of the Court presented current information about child support enforcement, addressing arrears, and instructions on filing various in pro per motions.



2007 Highlights

October Continued

Odyssey Case Management System Implementation

The Court successfully implemented the new *Odyssey* Case Management System in the Criminal Division on October 15, 2007. This endeavor culminated 18 months of effort not only by the *Odyssey* project team, but also by staff members of the Court, County Clerk's Office, County Prosecutor's Office, and the Sheriff's Department. The achievement of this major milestone represents the conversion of twenty percent of the Court's total caseload.

To prepare for this implementation, the Court established an *Odyssey* User Advisory Board consisting of Court and Clerk's Office staff to make recommendations concerning business practices and data conversion issues. The Court also upgraded its information technology infrastructure, installing 10 new file servers, 162 new PCs, and 71 new printers, and created technological environments for program development, testing, practice, and production.

In early June, the Court embarked on an extensive *Odyssey* instructional program. It constructed permanent training rooms in FMHJ, CAYMC and the Penobscot Building, revised business processes, and documented the proper handling of criminal cases in the new system. Using this documentation, 168 Court and County Clerk employees completed eleven basic, advanced, and functional learning modules. In addition, the Court provided training to approximately 200 employees of outside agencies, including the Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, and local police agencies.

Several weeks before the scheduled implementation date, the project team and Court staff participated in two separate dress rehearsals. These exercises simulated data preparation and migration activities prior to actual implementation. Each practice drill provided valuable information that resulted in the successful implementation of the *Odyssey* system in the Criminal Division. During the weekend of October 13th, the Court migrated 256,000 criminal cases from its legacy system to the *Odyssey* Case Management System.

At a special ceremony held on November 14th, Chief Judge Kelly and Executive Court Administrator Bernard J. Kost presented the *Odyssey* team members with plaques in recognition of their dedication and hard work.

Odyssey Project Team



From left to right: Eric Ferguson, Walter Jaczkowski, Chris Magusin, Violet Leonard, Ernie Wegrecki, Mark Rencher, John Bernshausen, Cheri Holland, Dave Vigna, Shirley McClain, Todd Kidwell, Catherine Hammond, Larry Rowe, and Daniel Rucker. Seated: Executive Court Administrator Bernard J. Kost and Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly.

2007 Highlights

November

Michigan Adoption Day

Significantly growing each year, the 2007 National Adoption Day was celebrated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico on November 20th. In total, more than 250 events were held throughout the Country to finalize the adoptions of more than 3,300 children.

In Michigan, there are 19,000 children in the foster care system. Some will eventually return to their homes. But for others, returning to their birth family simply is not an option. There are more than 4,300 children in Michigan with parental rights terminated; for these children, adoption by a permanent loving family is the goal. National Adoption Day celebrates the families that choose to adopt and draws attention to the fact that thousands of children are in foster care still waiting for their “forever family.”

The Court joined with 33 other counties, making Michigan’s Adoption Day the largest and most celebrated Adoption Day event in the entire Nation.

Supreme Court Justice, Maura D. Corrigan, delivered the keynote address. While finalizing fourteen adoptions, Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly told of each child’s interests and passions, and how grateful all of the attendees were to have created their wonderful family.



The Sudorowski family celebrates the adoption of their daughter Elizabeth.

December

Court Collections

After issuing a Request for Proposal and conducting an extensive review process, the Third Circuit Court selected an independent collections vendor, Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) to provide supplemental collection enforcement services for delinquent court costs, attorney fees, and court imposed fines. The MSB selection was based on many variables including their service credentials and client references. MSB is a leading provider of revenue recovery products and services for governmental entities nationwide with 400 government sector clients. This MSB affiliation adds a much needed enforcement component and will significantly expand the Court’s existing collections efforts.

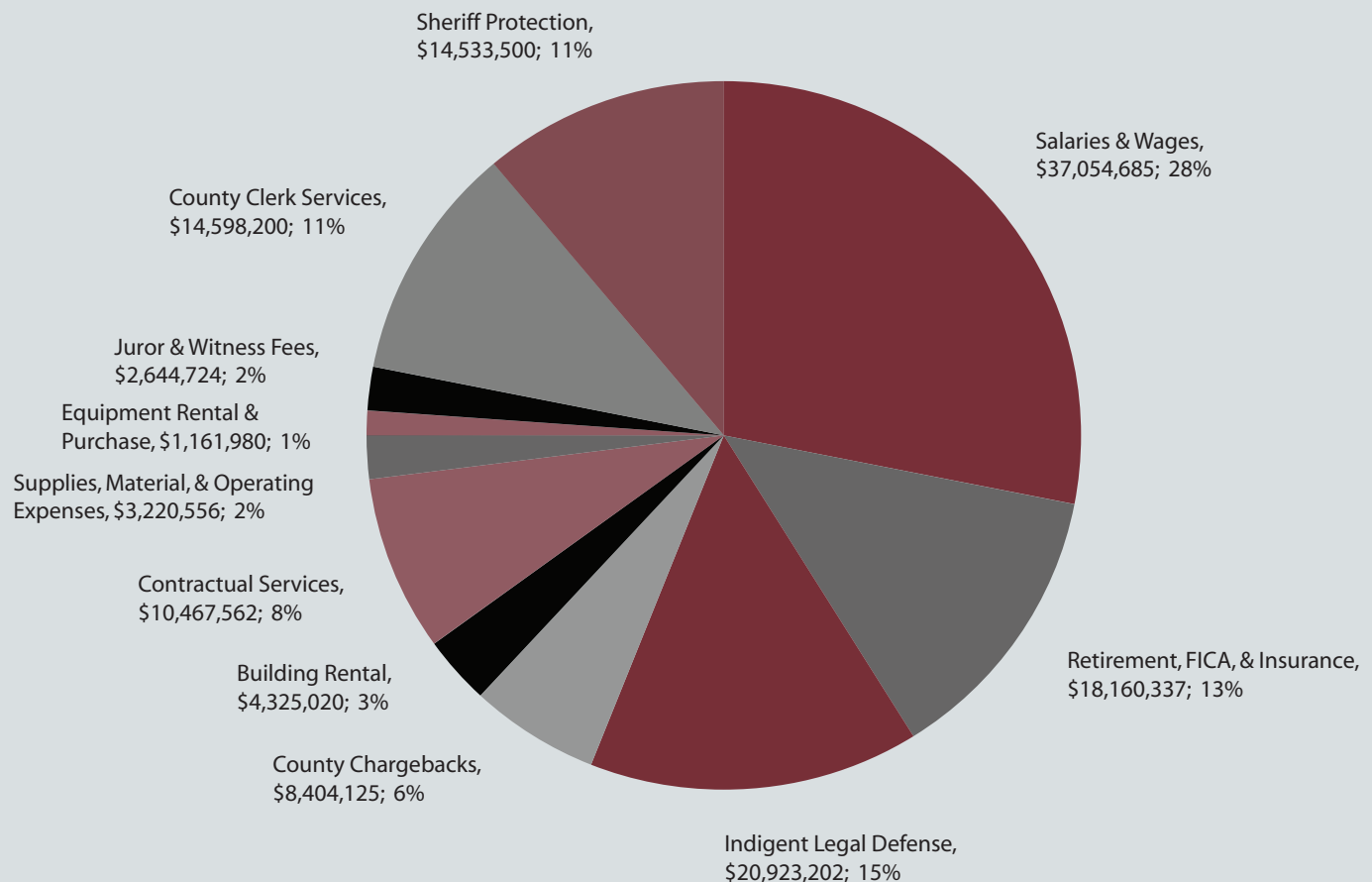
Expansion Of Services For Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court, formally known as Supervised Treatment for Alcohol Narcotics Dependency Program (STAND), expanded its services to include an on-site tutorial center, as well as psychiatric and psychological testing for the youth who participate in the program. The tutorial center aids the youth in preparation towards a General Equivalency Diploma. The psychological testing element assists in assessing proper placement for educational purposes, while the psychiatric examination component is vital in determining the mental health and medication needs of the youth. The expansion of services would not have been possible without the strong commitment and passion of the late Judge William Leo Cahalan, former Director of Drug and Problem Solving Courts. Judge Cahalan was instrumental in securing grant funds for these services and additional staffing which includes two doctors that administer the psychiatric and psychological tests.

Financial Information

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

FY 2007 Expenditures



Expenditures for Third Circuit Court operations totaled approximately \$135.5 million in FY 2007. Employee salaries and fringe benefits accounted for approximately \$55.3 million (41%); services from the Wayne County Sheriff, County Clerk, and other County charge-backs accounted for approximately \$37.5 million (28%); indigent attorney fees accounted for approximately \$20.9 million (15%); building rental approximately \$4.3 million (3%); jury and witness fees approximately \$2.6 million (2%); and, contractual services, equipment, and operating expenses totaled \$14.9 million (11%).

Caseload Trends

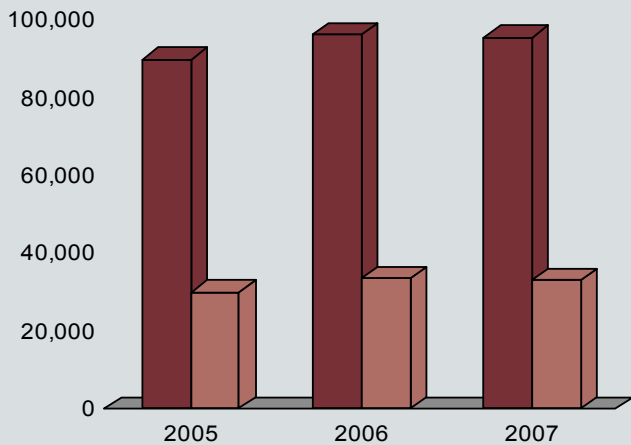
Over the past three years (2005 – 2007), the Court experienced a 6% increase in new case filings and an increase of 10% in the number of pending cases at year-end. Despite this increase, only 7% of the pending cases are outside the case processing time guidelines established by the Michigan Supreme Court. It is important to note that toxic tort/asbestos cases account for a majority of the pending cases outside the time guidelines. Difficulties arise in disposing of these cases within the recommended time due to the complexity of this litigation.

The Civil Division experienced a 3% decline in both new case filings and pending cases over the three year period. The Criminal Division experienced a 17% increase in new case filings as well as a 32% increase in pending cases between 2005 and 2007. There was a 25% increase in new case filings and a 32% increase in pending cases in the Family Division- Juvenile Section in the past three years. The Family Division – Domestic Relations Section experienced a large fluctuation in both filings and pending cases between 2005 and 2007. The Domestic Relations Section experienced a 5% increase in new filings between 2005 and 2006, and then experienced a 10% decrease in new filings between 2006 and 2007. The total number of pending cases increased by 21% between 2005 and 2006, and decreased by 5% between 2006 and 2007.

All Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	89,869	96,270	95,475
Pending	29,957	33,592	32,919

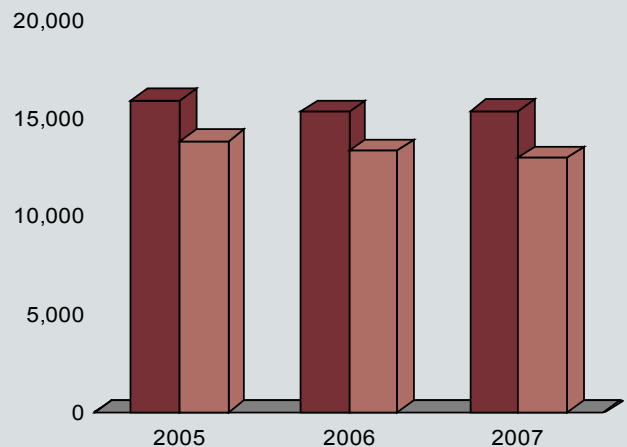
■ New Case Filings ■ Cases Pending



Civil Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	15,908	15,329	15,395
Pending	13,835	13,357	13,001

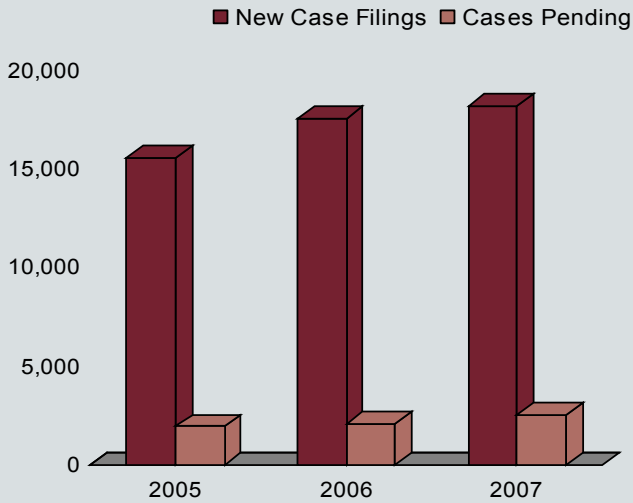
■ New Case Filings ■ Cases Pending



Caseload Trends

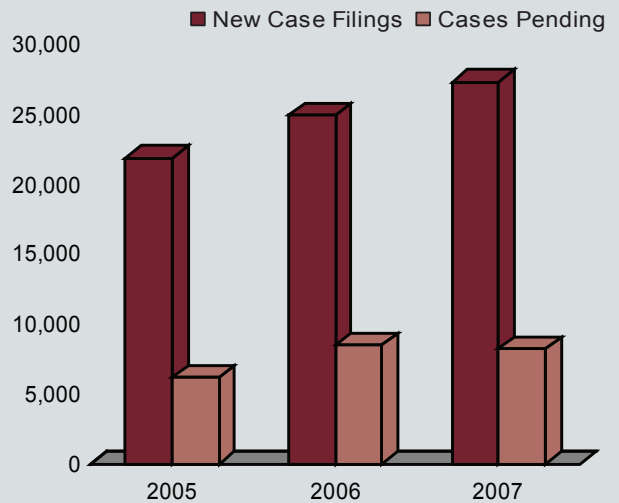
Criminal Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	15,583	17,552	18,179
Pending	1,935	2,101	2,545



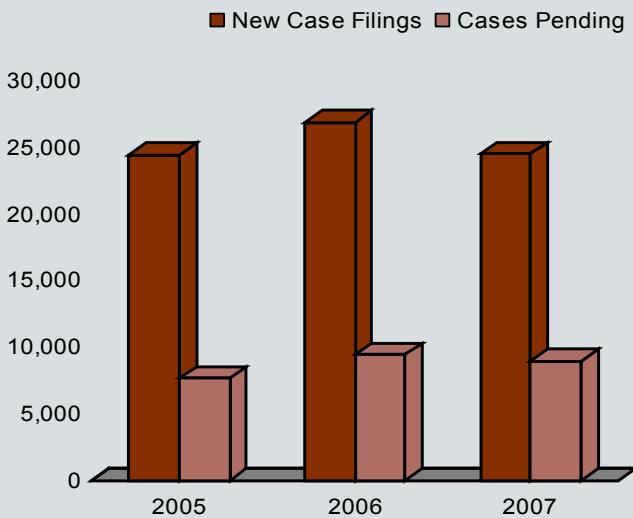
Family-Juvenile Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	21,822	24,909	27,309
Pending	6,190	8,475	8,209



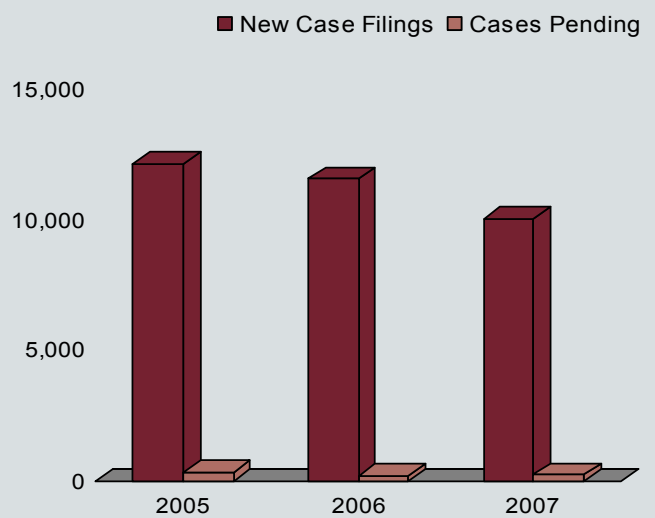
Family-Domestic Relations Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	24,414	26,908	24,537
Pending	7,653	9,448	8,945



Personal Protection Cases

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
New Filings	12,142	11,572	10,055
Pending	344	211	219



Court Divisions and Statistics

Civil Division

Fifteen Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Civil Division. Matters that involve claims of more than \$25,000, which include medical malpractice, auto negligence, personal injury, contracts, employment discrimination, and receiverships are heard in the Civil Division. In addition, civil matters appealed from Wayne County district courts and administrative agencies are also handled by the Civil Division Judges. There were approximately 15,400 new case filings in the Civil Division in 2007, representing 30.1% of the statewide total.

General Civil and Tort Case 2007 Statistics

	General Civil	Auto Negligence	Other Civil Damage	Other Civil	Civil Appeals	Agency Appeals	Other Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	4,473	3,803	4,492	239	112	81	27	13,225
New Filings	7,298	3,988	2,305	920	416	373	95	15,395
Reopened Cases	608	315	231	35	30	11	0	1,230
Total Caseload	12,379	8,106	7,028	1,194	558	465	120	29,850
Dispositions Resulting From:								
Jury Verdicts	17	34	44	0	0	0	0	95
Bench Verdicts	20	7	8	0	0	0	0	35
Order Entered	0	0	0	0	90	168	18	276
Guilty Pleas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	3,272	376	343	576	0	0	0	4,567
Transferred	173	103	123	0	10	3	1	413
Dismissed by Party	3,078	3,351	2,303	277	0	0	0	9,009
Dismissed by Court	1,035	249	119	93	288	203	76	2,063
Inactive Status	167	27	56	15	10	10	0	285
Other Dispositions	76	8	6	2	0	0	0	92
Case Type Change	4	5	2	1	1	0	1	14
Total Dispositions	7,842	4,160	3,004	964	399	384	96	16,849
Ending Pending	4,537	3,946	4,024	230	159	81	24	13,001

Court Divisions and Statistics

Criminal Division

Twenty-seven Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Criminal Division. All felony cases that are bound over from the district courts in Wayne County, as well as district court criminal appeals, are heard in the Criminal Division. There were more than 18,100 felony cases bound over to the Criminal Division in 2007, representing 27% of the statewide total. Some matters are eligible for an expedited docketing process in which all proceedings, except arraignment on warrants, are held at the Circuit Court level to aid with the high volume of cases.

Criminal 2007 Statistics

	Capital	Non-Capital	Felony Juvenile	Criminal Appeals	Total
Beginning Pending	484	1,762	0	47	2,293
New Filings	1,688	16,379	0	112	18,179
Reopened Cases	182	1,312	0	0	1,494
Total Caseload	2,354	19,453	0	159	21,966
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	301	309	0	0	610
Bench Verdicts	143	520	0	0	663
Order Entered	0	0	0	110	110
Guilty Pleas	981	14,098	0	0	15,079
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	0	0	0	0	0
Transferred	13	229	0	0	242
Dismissed by Party	4	33	0	0	37
Dismissed by Court	240	1,191	0	0	1,431
Inactive Status	150	1,095	0	0	1,245
Other Dispositions	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	1	3	0	0	4
Total Dispositions	1,833	17,478	0	110	19,421
Ending Pending	521	1,975	0	49	2,545

Court Divisions and Statistics

Family Division-Domestic Relations

Twelve Circuit Court Judges were assigned to the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section. Cases handled include divorce, paternity, personal protection, emancipation of minors, name changes, parental waivers, and infectious disease matters. Each of these case types may include matters concerning custody, support, parenting time, property, and other issues. There were approximately 34,600 new case filings in the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section in 2007, representing 26% of the statewide total.

Domestic Relations 2007 Statistics

	Divorce w/ Child	Divorce No Child	Paternity	Family Support	UIFSA	Other Domestic	Total
Beginning Pending	1,942	1,355	3,589	1,892	4	354	9,136
New Filings	3,533	3,753	8,551	6,425	653	910	23,825
Reopened Cases	376	207	48	37	2	57	727
Total Caseload	5,851	5,315	12,188	8,354	659	1,321	33,688
Dispositions Resulting From:							
Bench Verdicts	43	33	0	0	0	0	76
Defaults, Uncontested, Settled	2,717	2,999	5,194	4,244	0	461	15,615
Transferred	0	2	0	1	0	1	4
Post-Judgment Orders	0	0	0	0	653	0	653
Dismissed by Party	842	742	1,283	561	0	206	3,634
Dismissed by Court	353	181	2,454	1,605	0	240	4,833
Inactive Status	1	1	1	0	0	2	5
Case Type Change	9	15	2	1	0	8	35
Total Dispositions	3,965	3,973	8,934	6,412	653	918	24,855
Ending Pending	1,886	1,342	3,254	1,942	6	403	8,833

Personal Protection 2007 Statistics

	Domestic Relations	Non-Domestic Relations	Juvenile	Total
Beginning Pending	82	69	14	165
New Filings	6,572	3,184	299	10,055
Reopened Cases	3	1	1	5
Total Caseload	6,657	3,254	314	10,225
Dispositions Resulting From:				
Orders Issued Ex Parte	4,516	1,484	88	6,088
Orders Issued after Hrg.	673	332	69	1,074
Transferred	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	435	703	34	1,172
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	401	391	61	853
Dismissed by Party	490	277	52	819
Order Issued after Denial	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	6,515	3,187	304	10,006
Ending Pending	142	67	10	219

Court Divisions and Statistics

Family Division-Juvenile

Eight Circuit Court Judges (including two cross-assigned Probate Judges) were assigned to the Family Division-Juvenile Section. A staff of fourteen referees prepare written recommendations and findings of fact. Cases handled in this Division include juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, adoption, and guardianship. Probation officers conduct hearings on the informal dockets, which include traffic and ordinance violations, and consent matters. There were approximately 27,300 new case filings in the Family Division-Juvenile Section in 2007, representing 31% of the statewide total.

Juvenile 2007 Statistics

	Designated	Delinquency	Traffic	Child Protective	Total
Beginning Pending	8	2,113	5,601	446	8,168
New Filings	29	9,540	15,316	1,447	26,332
Reopened Cases	2	920	0	0	922
Total Caseload	39	12,573	20,917	1,893	35,422
Dispositions Resulting From:					
Jury Verdicts	3	9	0	3	15
Bench Verdicts	8	1,323	2,011	590	3,932
Guilty Pleas/Admissions	17	3,055	471	487	4,030
Prosecutor Waiver	0	30	0	0	30
Traditional Waiver	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed by Court	1	1,782	5,713	0	7,496
Dismissed/Withdrawn	0	0	0	143	143
Consent Calendar	0	811	0	0	811
Transferred	0	175	189	35	399
Diversion/Not Authorized	0	3,002	6,568	173	9,743
Designation Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Inactive Status	0	796	0	0	796
Not Charged	0	0	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	12	0	0	12
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Orders Issued After Hrg.	0	0	0	0	0
Order Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	29	10,995	14,952	1,431	27,407
Ending Pending	10	1,578	5,965	462	8,015

Court Divisions and Statistics

Family Division-Juvenile Continued

Adoptions 2007 Statistics

	Petitions for Adoption
Beginning Pending	191
New Filings	874
Reopened Cases	0
Total Caseload	1,065
Dispositions Resulting From:	
Finalized	835
Withdrawn by Petitioner	4
Dismissed by Court	42
Transferred	0
Recission Granted	0
Recission Denied/Wdrn.	0
Case Type Change	10
Total Dispositions	891
Ending Pending	174

Miscellaneous Family 2007 Statistics

	Other Family	Ancillary	Total
Beginning Pending	126	14	140
New Filings	712	103	815
Reopened Cases	1	0	1
Total Caseload	839	117	956
Dispositions Resulting From:			
Orders Issued Ex Parte	0	0	0
Orders Issued after Hrg.	589	0	589
Petition Granted	0	89	89
Transferred	0	0	0
Dis./Denied Ex Parte	0	0	0
Dis./Denied after Hrg.	79	0	79
Petition Denied	0	6	6
Dismissed by Party	59	0	59
Petition Withdrawn/Dis.	0	2	2
Deferred	0	0	0
Case Type Change	0	0	0
Total Dispositions	727	97	824
Ending Pending	112	20	132

Court Administration

There are several departments within Court Administration that provide support to more than one division of the Court. A brief description of each department is provided below.

Assigned Counsel Services

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

The Court partners with the Institute of Continuing Legal Education to provide annual training for attorneys receiving assignments in the Family Division. The Detroit-Wayne County Criminal Advocacy Program develops and administers training for attorneys receiving appointments in the Criminal Division.

Budget and Finance

The Budget and Finance Office consists of eight operating units:

The Cost Allocation and Audit Unit is responsible for the Court's fiduciary functions, overseeing not only fiscal operational processes and procedures, but also the allocation of shared administrative costs.

The General Fund Budget and Financial Accounting Unit provides budget monitoring and general accounting services related to the funding received from the County.

The Grant Budgets and Financial Accounting Unit provides financial services to courtwide grant programs to ensure program spending compliance including contract management, program budget monitoring and projections, preparation and review of financial reports, and expense billings.

The Grant Program Planning and Evaluation Unit provides assistance in program monitoring and compliance, pursuing grant funding opportunities, and grant proposal/application writing.

The Fiduciary Funds Accounting and Reconciliation Unit is responsible for the financial accounting of the Court bank accounts, including the fiduciary funds collected by the Friend of the Court (FOC). It also has oversight responsibility for the financial activities of the FOC.

The Financial Services Unit (FSU) processes child support payments into the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES) and manages money in the suspense accounts. The Financial Services staff reviews why the money is not being disbursed and then takes the necessary action to ensure the appropriate disbursement. The FSU conducts research and assists the various agencies in resolving financial issues.

The Payroll Reconciliation and Reporting Unit is responsible for maintaining and reconciling the Court's master payroll and fringe benefit accounting worksheets and records for all areas of the Court. This information is used for a variety of purposes, including grant billings, payments to the State Retirement System, and for general reporting.

The Accounts Payable Unit is responsible for processing payments for goods and services rendered for or on behalf of the Court.

Court Administration

Case Processing

The Case Processing Department maintains an effective case management plan for all litigation filed in the Court. The department provides central support to the Bench through the development and distribution of statistical and management reports, oversight and maintenance of automated caseflow management programs, training of judicial staff members, and the scheduling and noticing of hearings. The department also serves as a primary resource to judges and staff on caseflow methods and procedures, as well as providing general information to litigants, attorneys, and the public on case management issues.

Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources manages all personnel-related activities for the Court's sixty-one judges and 660 employees. The mission of the Office of Human Resources is to ensure that vacancies are filled in compliance with both federal and state laws and prevailing labor agreements. The department works to ensure that employee time records are correct; and that employees are paid accurately and in a timely manner; to administer employee benefits plans; to provide employee training and development; and to negotiate and administer labor agreements that allow the Court to function within a unionized environment. In 2007, Human Resources conducted 6 examinations. There were 39 vacant positions filled: 18 new hires, 19 promotions and 2 lateral transfers.

Information Technology Systems Bureau

The Information Technology Systems Bureau (ITSB) provides reliable, cost effective information systems solutions that meet the Court's evolving business needs. ITSB supports the new *Odyssey* Case Management System, the Court's three legacy mainframe case management systems, the wide-area network connecting the Court's five locations, the Friend of the Court's document imaging system, and the office automation tools on the desktop PCs of all Court employees. The department provides the application and technical operating environment necessary to meet the operating and administrative business objectives of the Court. In order to achieve this, the department is organized into several operating entities. These entities include Network Services, Imaging and Document, Case Management Systems Development, and Operations.

Judicial Assistant

Pursuant to statute, the Office of the Judicial Assistant, serves as the official legal advisor to the Court and provides legal services across all Court divisions to members of the Bench and Court department managers. The office conducts research on legal issues and prepares proposed opinions, orders, and memoranda of law; gives informal oral consultations; drafts, reviews, and/or advises on various vendor and service contracts; serves as liaison between the Court and online legal research vendors; coordinates notification to the Court's professional liability insurer of claims brought against the Court or members of the Bench; generates analyses of any newly released noteworthy appellate court decisions; provides a full range of law library services; maintains a legislative tracking service for current and archived legislation; provides case summaries of recent Michigan Supreme Court and published Court of Appeals opinions, and syllabi of U.S. Supreme Court decisions; edits and provides to the Bench a research topic index on a dedicated network drive.

Court Administration

Mediation Tribunal Association

The Mediation Tribunal Association (MTA) is a non-profit agency established in 1979 that provides alternative dispute resolution services for the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Eastern Division, and many district courts in the County of Wayne. MTA provides case evaluation and mediation services for civil cases under MCR 2.403, MCR 2.410 and MCR 2.411. Mediation of domestic relations cases is provided under MCR 3.216. In 2007, MTA processed 8,039 cases for the combined courts, processing the largest volume of court-ordered cases in the state.

Case Evaluation Caseload

	2007	
Total Cases Set for Case Evaluation	8,039	100%
Cases Settled Prior to Case Evaluation	710	9%
Cases Settled After Case Evaluation	181	2%
Cases Not Evaluated (Removed for Cause)	357	4%
Cases Adjourned by the Court	2,276	28%
Total Cases Evaluated	4,515	56%

Case Evaluation Dispositions

	2007	
Total Cases Evaluated	4,515	100%
Cases Accepted	876	19%
Total Cases Rejected and Continuing to Disposition	3,639	81%

Purchasing and Facilities Management

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

Court Departments and Programs

ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES

The Ancillary Court Services Department coordinates programs and policies involving outside agencies such as the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Clerk's Office, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, Michigan State Police, Attorney General's Office, the State Court Administrator's Office, as well as other circuit and district courts. The Director of Ancillary Court Services also oversees the following departments: Court Collections, Court Reporting Services, Jury Services, and Pretrial Services.

Court Collections

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

Court Reporting Services

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

Jury Services

The Jury Services Department provides full services for the Circuit and Probate Court in Wayne County, as well as prospective jury selection and qualification services for all district courts in Wayne County. Jury Services, along with Court Administration, develops processes and procedures to efficiently and effectively utilize the services of citizens called to serve on jury duty. The department's responsibilities include all aspects of qualifying, evaluating, selecting, summoning, and processing payroll for jurors. The Jury Services Department also reports and records the progress of each jury trial and provides other statistical information to Court Administration.

Jury Services Statistics

	2006	2007
Total Questionnaires Mailed	346,773	499,006
Total Questionnaires Returned	183,780	147,109
Total Summons Mailed	90,195	91,429
Total Jury Panels Requested	2,769	2,976
Total Jurors Serving in Pool	53,368	61,835

Court Departments and Programs

ANCILLARY COURT SERVICES CONTINUED

Pretrial Services

The Pretrial Services Department serves as the pretrial release agency for Wayne County. This department provides pertinent information regarding the defendant's criminal, personal, and employment history to the judicial officer to enhance the Court's decision-making process. Michigan Court Rule 6.106 requires that bond decisions for pretrial release be made independent of political pressures and without discrimination based on race, sex, or economic status. The County and community benefit from the cost savings of decreased pretrial detention by identifying those defendants who can be safely released to the community pending disposal of felony matters. Furthermore, the department provides the Court with preliminary sentencing guideline assessments to identify those defendants eligible for non-jail or non-prison sentences, and to defense counsel and the prosecutor to aid in plea considerations.

Pretrial Services Statistics

	2006	2007
Defendants Interviewed	13,083	14,445
Total Bond Recommendations Submitted	14,426	14,762
Written Recommendations	2,634	2,199
Oral Recommendations	11,792	12,563
Supervision (Yearly Averages)		
Total Defendants Monitored	5,549	4,037
Cumulative Total of Def. Monitored	13,259	14,979
Compliance Rate	90%	94%
Failure to Appear Rate	8%	6%
Sentencing Guidelines Submitted	14,330	16,846
Percentage of Cases Guidelined	88%	91%
LEIN Queries	16,971	19,443

Court Departments and Programs

DRUG AND PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

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

Adult Drug Court

The Adult Drug Treatment Court Program provides a sentencing alternative to non-violent prison-bound felony offenders whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol and/or drug abuse. The Adult Drug Treatment Court is a collaboration of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement, mental health, social service agencies, treatment providers, and Adult Drug Court case managers working together to break the cycle of addiction and crime.

The Program offers intensive judicial supervision, frequent and random drug testing, graduated incentives and sanctions, along with access to needed community resources. The successful completion of the program 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 Court 2007 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	154
New Admissions	92
Returning Participants	62
Graduating Participants	27
Removed Participants	30

Juvenile Drug Court

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

Juvenile Drug Court 2007 Statistics

Total Participants in Program	91
New Admissions	47
Returning Participants	0
Graduating Participants	21
Removed Participants	31

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT

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

Child Support Enforcement 2007 Fiscal Year Statistics

IV-D Cases Open with Support Orders Established

Total	223,157
Active Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	25,414
Non-Active TANF	197,743
Total Support Ordered	\$403,811,495
Total Support Collected	\$343,465,377
Income Withholding	\$257,265,682
Federal Tax Intercepts	21,740,161
Unemployment Compensation	12,669,439
Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM)	5,561,512
Received from Other States	3,434,150
State Tax Intercepts	3,381,193
Receiverships/Worker's Compensation	3,309,064
All Other Payments	36,104,175
Total Support Disbursed	\$343,252,057
Custodial Parents	\$285,232,655
State of Michigan-TANF	40,651,728
State of Michigan-Medicaid	9,641,786
Out-of-State Agencies	5,168,186
Other Recipients	2,557,702

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Case Establishment

The Case Establishment Department is responsible for the initiation of paternity, family support and interstate cases, which result in the establishment of paternity and child support orders. The department is responsible for a variety of tasks including creating documents; recording and docketing events; scheduling all interviews, hearings, and genetic testing appointments; interviewing litigants to assist in determining child support obligations; and appearing at hearings before the Referee and Judge. The department completes its tasks by dividing the responsibilities into three areas, including clerical support, domestic relations, and the Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

Family Assessment, Mediation, and Education

The Family Assessment, Mediation and Education Department is comprised of the Family Evaluation, Mediation and Counseling (FEMC) Unit and the Dispute Resolution Unit (DRU). The FEMC Unit provides court-ordered evaluations and mediations for families where parents are in conflict regarding custody and/or parenting time. The FEMC Unit also provides supervised parenting time and home assessments for the Court and other jurisdictions. The DRU serves the increasing need for mediation services in domestic relations. It also provides a variety of mediation services to the Friend of the Court and to domestic relations judges. The DRU coordinates both court-funded and grant-funded family education programs.

Interstate Communications Unit

The Interstate Communications Unit handles all post-judgment requests from interstate and intrastate IV-D agencies. These agencies include Interstate Central Registry, Internal Regional Offices, and Interstate Foreign Offices. The Interstate Communications Unit responds to inquiries concerning case status, certified payment records, arrearage affidavits, interstate payment processing issues, tax intercept credits received by out-of-state agencies, account status including arrears reconciliation, case audits, payment redirects and case closure reviews. The Unit also facilitates telephonic hearings with other states.

Investigation and Modification Review

The Investigation and Modification Review Department issues recommendations to the Court regarding custody, parenting time and child support on pending divorce and child custody matters. The Department also issues recommendations on all post-judgment child support matters. The Friend of the Court is required to review all child support orders once every three years at the request of either party or if the minor child is a recipient of public assistance.

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Legal Department

The Legal Department is responsible for handling all internal legal matters for the Friend of the Court (FOC). The Legal Department is presently comprised of four units. The Litigation Unit includes a team of FOC attorneys and clerical staff responsible for handling workers' compensation claims, litigating court-ordered liens on large sums, employer contempt actions, bankruptcy issues, estates, and property matters. The attorneys are also assigned to judicial dockets in processing show cause proceedings and handling all de novo reviews arising out of FOC referee hearings.

The Bench Warrant Unit handles all bench warrant matters, including contempt hearings held before the Court, processing bond orders, and resolution of bench warrants issued on individuals held as a result of failure to appear at show cause hearings.

The Court Services Unit is responsible for processing all Financial Institution Data Match cases where a payer's bank account is held for payment on arrearages. The Unit also handles transfer cases and assists the Court in motions regarding statute of limitations and cancellation of arrearages.

The Case Establishment Unit has Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys (SAPA) who are responsible for processing those cases that require a hearing before a referee regarding establishment of a paternity or support case. SAPAs are also responsible for handling de novo requests before the Court, and in pro per motions to set aside Orders of Filiation and Support.

Ombudsman Office

The Third Circuit Friend of the Court has an Ombudsman Unit that is responsible for expediting and resolving complex child support issues that may occur as a result of a system or operations error. The office also responds to and resolves all grievances filed by the public with the State Court Administrative Office.

Order Entry Department

The Order Entry Department is responsible for the entry of all domestic relations court orders into the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES). These include temporary orders, judgments, modified orders, and third party orders.

Information Services Department

In addition to providing customer service, Information Services provides support and medical enforcement services. The major activities are initiation of Contempt Proceedings, Special Collections (Tax Intercept, License Suspension, Felony Non-Support), and Financial and Administrative Case Reviews.

Court Departments and Programs

FRIEND OF THE COURT CONTINUED

Referee Department

The Friend of the Court (FOC) Referee Department includes eight referees who hear domestic relations disputes and make recommendations to the judges. The referee dockets consist of in pro per motions, private bar motions, FOC child support modifications, medical show causes, parenting time motions and show causes, license suspensions, and interstate support actions. Referees also hold evidentiary hearings on disputed matters, as well as consent hearings when parties agree on a domestic relations or support matters.

Special Projects Department

The Special Projects Department supports the Friend of the Court operations by serving as the liaison with state partner agencies: Michigan State Disbursement Unit, the Department of Human Services Office of Child Support, and other child support offices within the state. The department is responsible for adding and deleting staff access to the Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, transferring cases from other counties, and ensuring that all staff are assigned the appropriate roles within the system. Conversion to a statewide system has led to data clean-up related projects at the local level. This department is the entry point for all data clean-up projects.

Support Enforcement Department

The Support Enforcement Department's primary focus is to enforce child support obligations. The department monitors and maintains major enforcement remedies with the intention of increasing collections and reimbursements for the Court. Enforcement programs managed by this department are Tax Intercept, License Suspension, Passport Denial, Credit Reporting, Auditing, Interstate Child Support Enforcement, and Medical Support Enforcement. The Medical Enforcement staff ensures that obligors maintain court-ordered health insurance coverage and pay uninsured medical expenses. The Enforcement staff also assists with the Felony Non-Support Program run by the Michigan Attorney General and the Wayne County Prosecutor.

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION

The Office of Juvenile Administration manages the administrative functions of the Family Division-Juvenile Section. The Director of Juvenile Administration oversees the following Court Departments: Adoptions, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Intake, and Juvenile Services.

Adoptions

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

Court Departments and Programs

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) for the Third Circuit Court plays a valuable role in child protective proceedings and services children in out-of-home placement in Wayne County. The Program provides trained community volunteers who are appointed by the judge or referee. Their responsibilities include gathering information on the children by reviewing records, interviewing parents, talking to teachers and neighbors, and most importantly, the children. The volunteers also appear in court to make recommendations regarding what is in the best interest of the children.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program 2007 Statistics

Program Activity	2007
Cases Assigned	71
Cases Closed	15
Active Cases	56
Volunteers Trained	24
Children Served	139
New Children	63
Children Whose Case Closed	45

Intake

The Intake Unit is responsible for the initial processing of all delinquency and child protective proceeding matters that come to the attention of the Court. This includes the screening and processing of both admissions to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility, and complaints regarding juveniles who are not in custody. The unit is responsible for conducting Consent Calendar hearings and Traffic and Ordinance hearings, and diverting cases to various agencies within Wayne County. The unit is also responsible for monitoring Adult Designated cases and Plea Under Advisement cases. The Intake Unit processes and maintains requests for Orders to Take Into Protective Custody, police custody matters, and AWOLP cases involving children who may be truant from their foster care placements.

Intake 2007 Statistics

Interviews on Admittance Into Juvenile Detention Facility	4,539
Police/Agency Calls for Placement Authorization	406
Interviews with DHS Workers	
Original Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	834
Supplemental Petitions w/ Placement Authorizations	126
Original Permanent Custody Petitions	173
Family Interviews	
Consent Probation	13
Consent Cases Heard/Resolved	836
Traffic/Ordinance Citations Heard/Resolved	2,541

Court Departments and Programs

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED

Juvenile Services Unit

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

This unit also has oversight responsibility for the Central Desk Operations to ensure timely distribution of the Court's orders. The Juvenile Services Unit provides oversight for guardianship petitions which stem from underlying abuse and neglect matters heard in the Family Division.

CLINIC FOR CHILD STUDY

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

Clinic for Child Study Statistics

Cases Referred to Clinic for Assessment	2006	2007
Family Assessment for Protective Hearings	777	886
Child/Adolescent Assessment	1,123	1,049
Guardianships	20	16
Adoption Studies	0	0
Total	1,920	1,951
Early Intervention (Walk-in Parent Complaints)	1,452	1,268
Client Services Management (Intensive Probation)	754	786
Clinic Treatment Unit	604	609

Court Managers/Acknowledgments

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THIRD CIRCUIT COURT MANAGERS

DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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