

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2017 EDITION



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## INTRODUCTION

The year of 2017 brought with it notable changes to the Thirteenth Circuit Court. Among them was the appointment of a judge to replace the Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. after his 26-years of dedicated judicial service. Governor Synder appointed your writer to the bench in January of 2017. When I arrived, on my desk was a folder Judge Rodgers had compiled detailing several matters that remained outstanding after his retirement. The one that caught my attention was *People v Jorge Vasquez-Antonio*.

Jorge was born in Mexico and was brought to the United States illegally by his parents as a child. He had a difficult childhood and as a juvenile was involved with some older males in the robbery of a known drug dealer. During the robbery there was a scrap and Jorge wound up stabbing the drug dealer. He was charged and prosecuted as an adult. After working with the prosecutor and defense attorney, Judge Rodgers sentenced Jorge to placement at Camp Shawano, a secure facility for minors, until his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

With the proper structure, Jorge thrived. He returned to Court over the years for periodic assessments and proved to be an exceptional student and leader. At the end of his eighteenth year, Jorge came before me to request release from his sentence. He was earning A's in his community college courses and was roundly described by his counselors as a success story for which Shawano had nothing further to offer.

I knew that if Jorge was released from Shawano he was likely to be deported and I asked him what he thought about that. He responded that he respected the laws of this county and that if he was deported, he would work in Mexico to continue his education and would hopefully someday regain lawful residence in the United States.

The hearing was on a busy criminal day and the courtroom was full of lawyers and defendants recently transported from the county jail. After asking permission to address the defendants, Jorge turned to these men and women and told his story. He encouraged them to avoid making the same bad decisions he had made and reassured them that they could rebuild their lives like he had if they so chose. When he finished, I noticed that several of the defendants – some of whom were veterans of the system – were crying. Then something happened that I have never seen before in Court – the entire room rose and gave Jorge a standing ovation.

I released Jorge that day. He finished his classes and was subsequently deported back to Mexico. But before he left, Camp Shawano threw him a 19<sup>th</sup> birthday party. His defense attorney Phil Settles was there. And so was Judge Rodgers.

Cicero is said to have stated that, "The People's good is the highest law." Examples of Judge Rodgers' good works are numerous and will not soon be forgotten. Join me in thanking Judge Rodgers for 26-years of serving the People's good.

*Hon. Kevin A. Elsenheimer*



## CASE MANAGEMENT

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court serves Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. The Circuit Court handles all civil cases with claims in excess of \$25,000, all felony criminal cases, requests for injunctive relief and domestic relations matters. Additionally, the Judges hear cases appealed from other trial courts or from administrative agencies. The Circuit Court Judges travel monthly to Bellaire and Suttons Bay to preside over matters in Antrim and Leelanau Counties. Judge Power and Judge Elsenheimer will alternate as the Thirteenth Circuit Court's Chief Judge.

The Family Divisions of the Thirteenth Circuit Court handle all juvenile criminal cases, child abuse and neglect cases, guardianships of juveniles and adoption proceedings. The Probate Judge for each County is also the presiding judge of the Family Division in the county where he or she was elected.

The Circuit Court follows the mandated time schedule as delineated in the Michigan Court Rules and Administrative Orders to efficiently manage and dispose of its cases. Once a new case has been opened, the Court issues a Scheduling Order providing time guidelines for the processing of the case and establishing dates when future actions should begin or be completed with regard to the case. The primary goal of the Court Administrator's staff is to ensure that cases are kept current and the docket remains up-to-date.

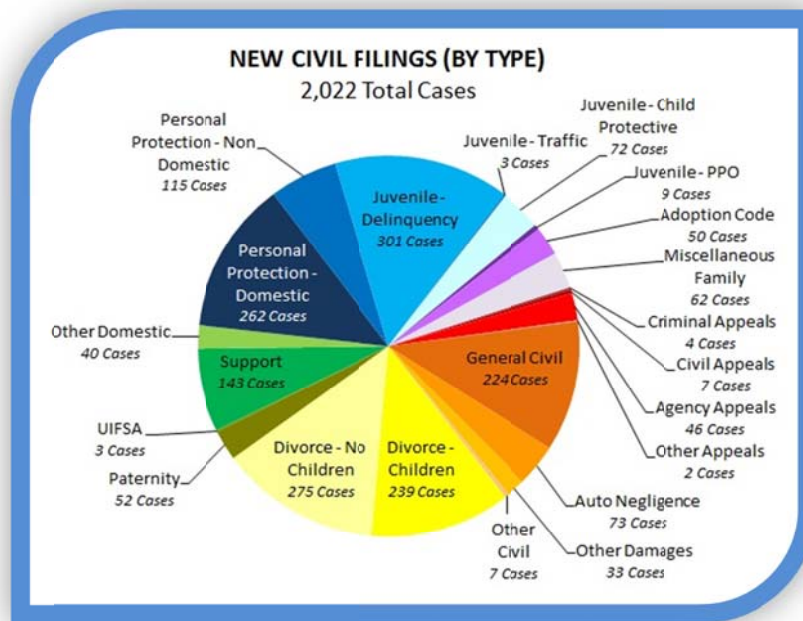
## CIVIL CASELOAD

Circuit Court civil cases are separated into the following categories: appeals, general civil, automobile negligence, other civil damage, other civil, divorce with and without minor children, paternity, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), support, other domestic, adult personal protection, proceedings under the juvenile code, proceedings under the adoption code and miscellaneous family.

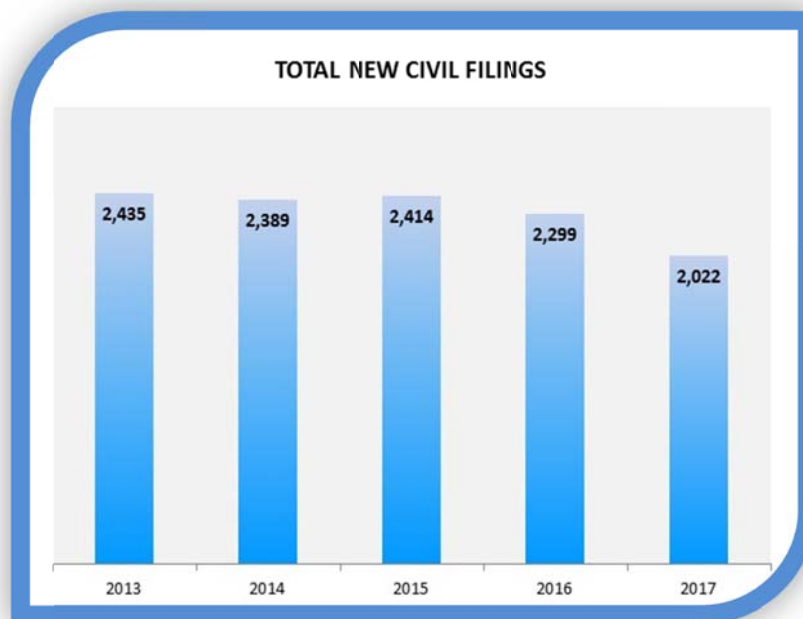
The *General Civil* category includes business claims, condemnation, employment discrimination, environment, forfeiture claims, housing and real estate, contracts, labor relations, antitrust, franchising and trade regulation, corporate receivership and any miscellaneous/general civil. The *Automobile Negligence* category includes property damage, no-fault insurance and personal injury. The *Other Civil Damages* category includes medical malpractice, other professional malpractice, other personal injury, products liability, dramshop act and other damage suits. *Other Civil* cases include proceedings to restore, establish or correct records, claim and delivery, receivers in supplemental proceedings, supplemental proceedings and miscellaneous proceedings. The *UIFSA* category includes proceedings to assist with or compel discovery and all support and paternity establishment proceedings incoming from other states. *Adoption Code* proceedings include adult adoptions, agency international adoptions, direct placement adoptions, relative adoptions, safe delivery of newborn adoptions, permanent ward adoptions, non-relative guardian adoptions and step-parent adoptions. *Miscellaneous Family* cases include emancipation of minor, infectious disease, safe delivery of newborn child, name change, violation proceedings on out-of-county personal protection order, adult and minor conservatorships, adult, limited adult, minor, limited minor and developmental disability guardianships, protective orders and mental commitments.

## NEW CIVIL CASE FILINGS

The following chart depicts the types of new civil cases filed in 2017 in the Thirteenth Circuit Court. The number and types of new civil cases that are filed annually vary by location.

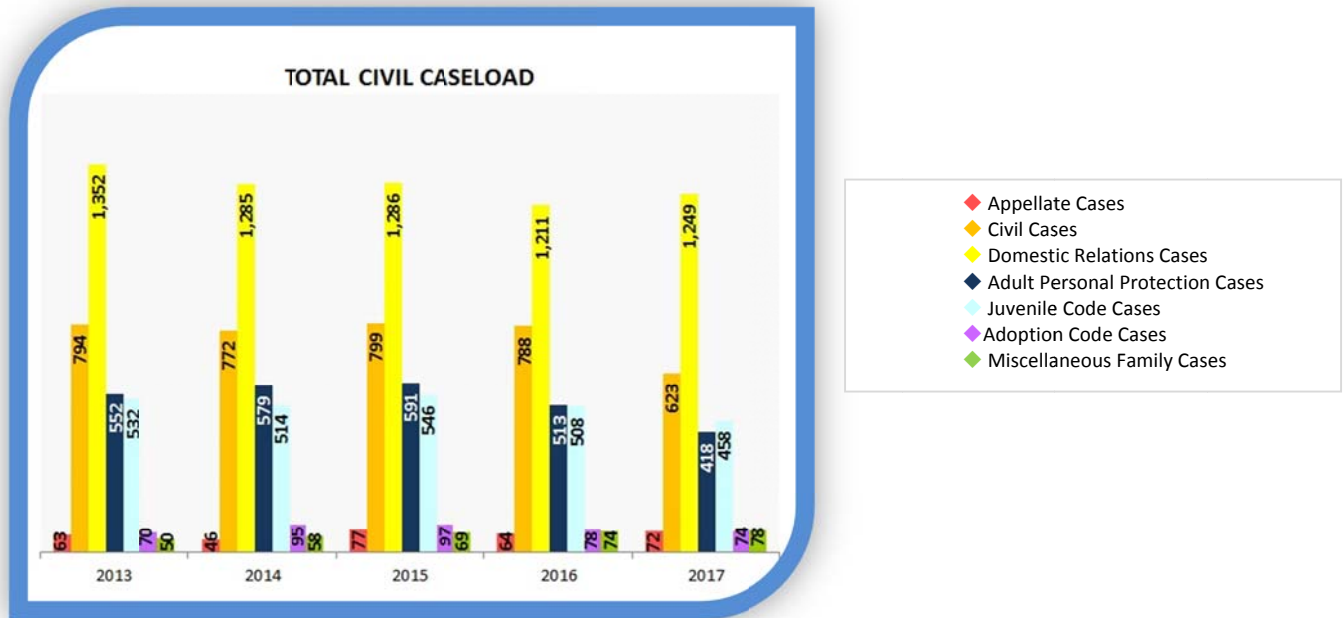


The following chart depicts the annual new civil case filings for the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the previous five-years.



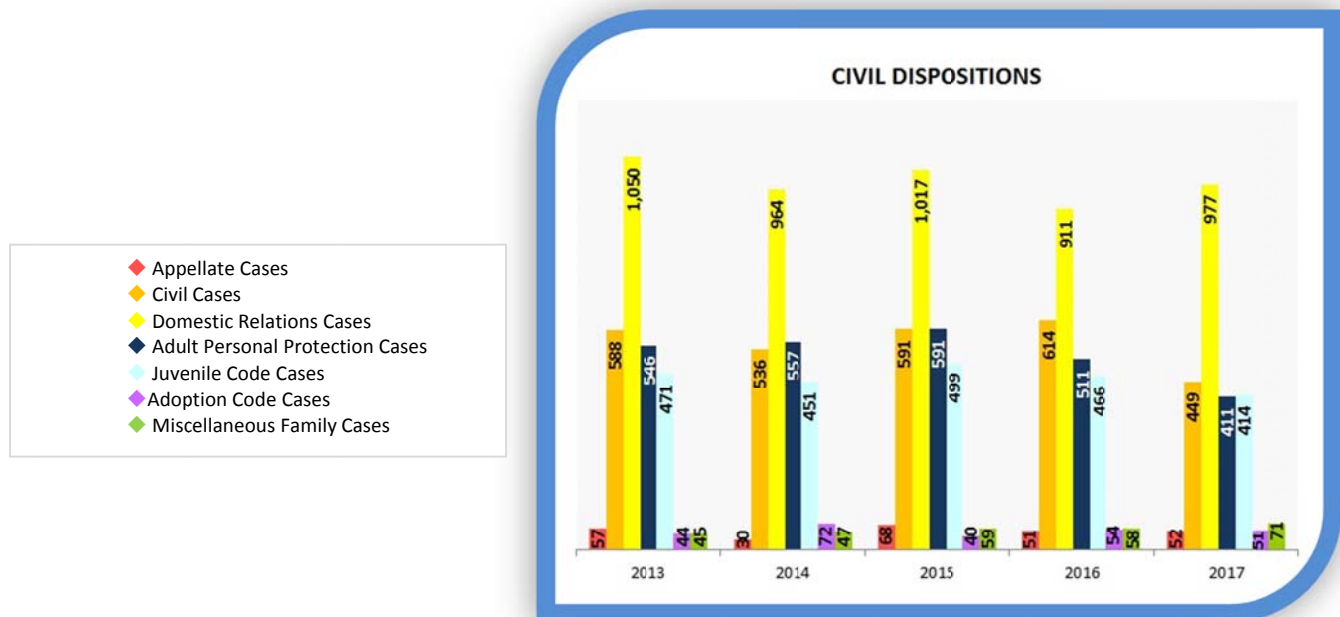
## TOTAL CIVIL CASELOAD

The Court's total caseload consists of cases that begin the year pending, newly filed cases and cases that have been reopened during the year. The following chart depicts the total caseload for the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the previous 5 years.



## CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

Annual disposition percentages are calculated by dividing the categories' total dispositions by the same categories' total caseload. There is typically a gap period between the time a new case is filed and when that case is disposed of by the Court; therefore, disposition percentages naturally fluctuate above and below 100%. Disposition percentages are representative of case-flow management and indicate the extent to which a court is attending to its total caseload. The following chart depicts the total dispositions for the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the previous 5 years.

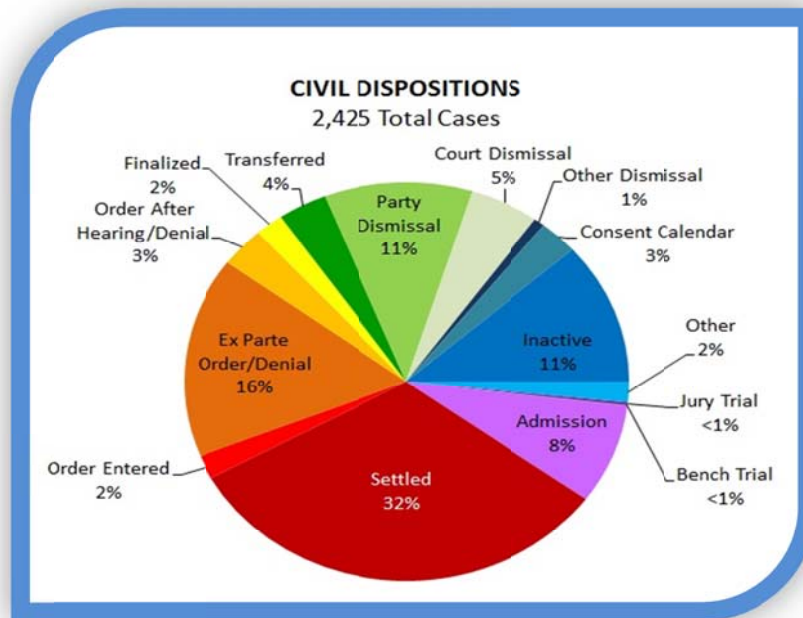


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*In 2017, the Thirteenth Circuit Court's disposition rate for civil cases was 82%, while the State of Michigan had a disposition rate of 74%.*

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The following chart compares disposition methods for appellate, civil, domestic relations, adult personal protection orders, juvenile code, adoption code and miscellaneous family cases in 2017. The term "Settled" collectively includes cases that were defaulted, uncontested or settled.



## CRIMINAL CASELOAD

Capital felonies are cases in which a life sentence is possible and a larger number of peremptory jury challenges are provided during trial. In non-capital felony cases, a defendant is subject to prison time, but generally for a period less than life.

## NEW CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS

In 2017, the number of newly filed capital and non-capital felony cases decreased in the Thirteenth Circuit.

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*In 2017, Grand Traverse County cases accounted for 79.1% of new criminal case filings.*

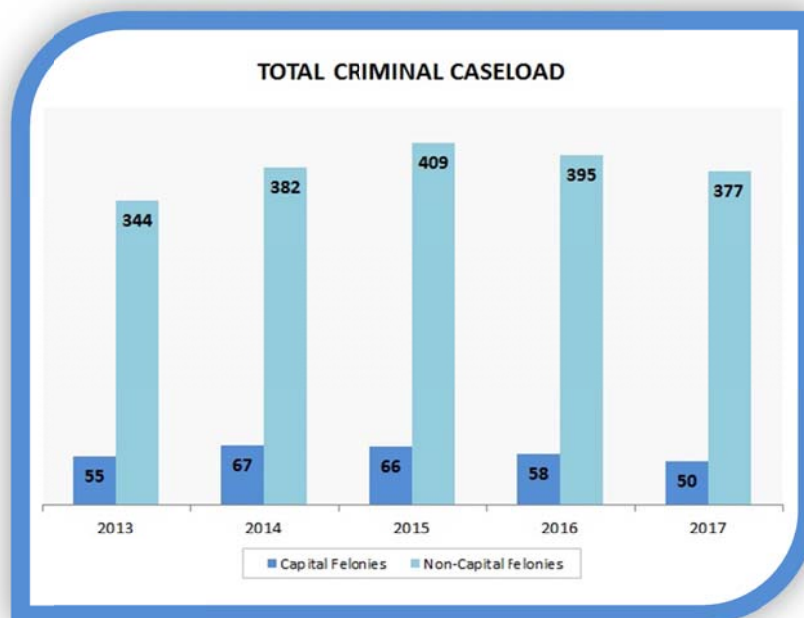
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### TOTAL CRIMINAL CASELOAD

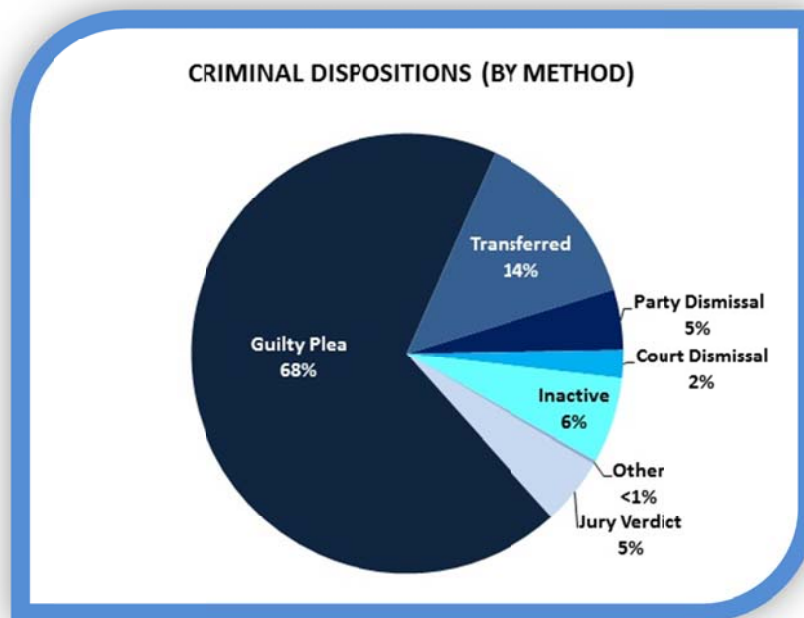
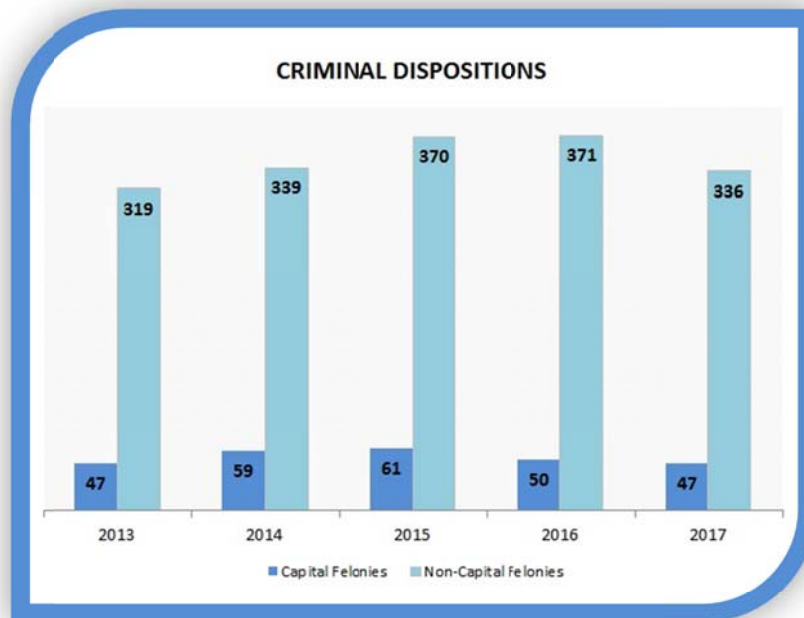
The Circuit Court's total caseload consists of cases that were still pending when the year began, cases that were re-opened, and all newly filed cases. In 2017, the Thirteenth Circuit Court's total criminal caseload for both capital felonies and non-capital felonies decreased.



### CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS

In 2017, the Court disposed of 383 criminal cases. Guilty pleas resulted in the greatest number of dispositions, with the Court receiving 26 guilty pleas in Antrim County, 212 in Grand Traverse County and 24 in Leelanau County.





## CRIMINAL SENTENCINGS

Criminal sentencing occurs after the final disposition in a case. Once there is a guilty verdict or the defendant pleads, the case is referred to the Department of Corrections/Probation Department for a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report (PSIR). As part of the PSIR process, the Department of Corrections/Probation Department meets with and interviews a defendant prior to generating his or her PSIR, which results in a delay between the disposition in a case and the date a defendant is sentenced. Guilty defendants can receive sentences including commitment to prison or jail, probation, costs and fines, delayed sentence or a combination of penalties. The Court may delay a defendant's sentence in order to give the defendant an opportunity to prove to the Court his or her eligibility for probation or other leniency compatible with the ends of justice and rehabilitation of the defendant. Sentences may be delayed for crimes except murder, treason, armed robbery, major controlled substance offenses and First and Third-Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct.

In 2017, the Court sentenced 284 defendants, issuing sentences on 394 total counts/charges in 302 cases. There were more total sentencings, 317, than total cases and/or defendants because certain defendants were charged with several counts in a single case and some defendants were charged in multiple cases. Four defendants had cases in both Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. The following table displays sentencing and re-sentencing dispositions for 2017 by crime category and sentence type.

	PRISON	PROBATION	JAIL ONLY	DELAYED SENTENCE	OTHER	TOTAL
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON	71	48	5			124
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY	29	33	10	3		75
CRIMES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE	39	33	10		1	83
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER	7	6	5			18
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY	28	51	11	3		93
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST		1				1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>317</b>

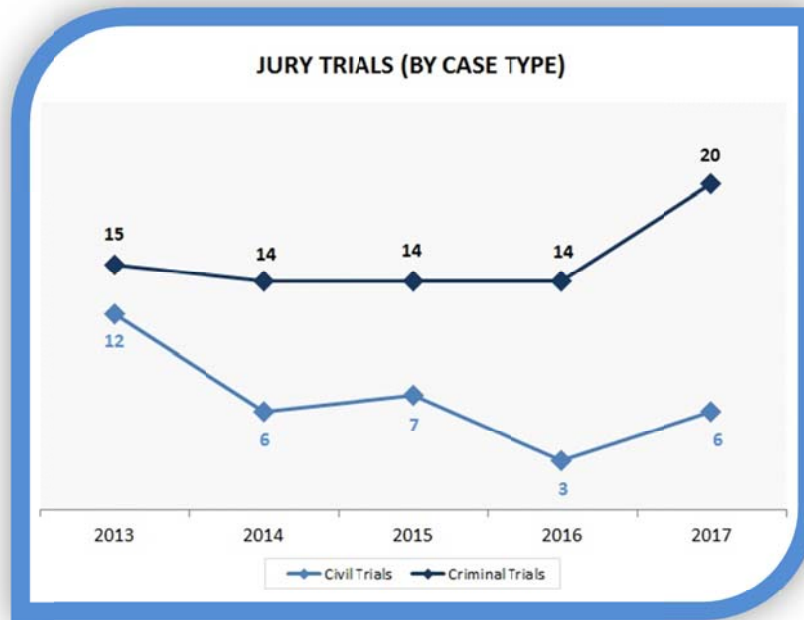
After a defendant is sentenced, agents of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) supervise convicted offenders residing within the Thirteenth Circuit Court's jurisdiction. Each case is individually supervised to assure public safety and compliance with the Court's orders. Highlighted below is the success story of a recent probationer.

***"She is the definition of someone who is taking sobriety and probation seriously."***  
***Agent A. Flynn***

*When the Defendant was sentenced in December of 2016, she had a history of substance abuse and numerous prior criminal convictions. After Defendant had served her time in jail, she was released to an inpatient treatment center. Upon completing her treatment, Defendant moved into a sober living transition home. The Defendant has continued to excel in sobriety and is an important figure in the local recovery community. Additionally, the Defendant has completed Recovery Coach Training with NMSAS, participates in Families Against Narcotics and is working to gain employment with Addiction Treatment Services, Inc. Defendant's MDOC supervising agent is extremely proud of her success and believes that she is the definition of someone who is taking sobriety and probation seriously.*

## JURY TRIALS

To qualify to serve as a juror, an individual must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident of the county issuing the summons, conversant in the English language, physically and mentally able to carry out the functions of a juror and cannot have committed a felony. Anyone with a valid Michigan Driver's license is a potential juror in the County where they reside. The process for selecting potential jurors begins with the Secretary of State providing a list of eligible jurors to the county jury board. Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties each have individual 3-member jury boards, appointed by that County's Board of Commissioners, with members serving 6-year terms. The jury boards then send juror questionnaires to the prospective jurors in their respective counties. Once the questionnaires are returned, the jury board randomly selects prospective jurors for their Circuit Court, District Court and Probate Court cases.





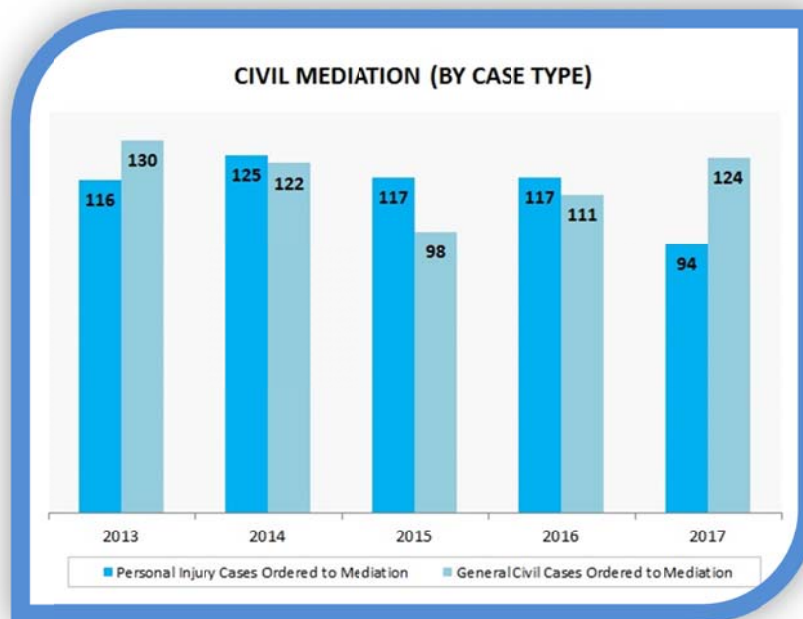
## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), a process designed to resolve a legal dispute in the place of court adjudication, includes facilitative mediation, domestic relations mediation, and settlement conferences. ADR may also include case evaluation, a non-binding process in which a panel of experienced attorneys assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the parties' legal positions and assign a value to the case. All civil cases are subject to the ADR process unless otherwise provided by statute or court rule. ADR helps reduce costs to taxpayers due to a reduction in the overall need for jurors, compensation for lay and expert witnesses and the need for additional judges and/or courtrooms.

### CIVIL FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

Facilitative mediation is an alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party facilitates confidential communications between the parties in an attempt to help them reach a mutually agreeable resolution. In mediation, solutions are generated by the parties; whereas in litigation, the resolution of a conflict is imposed upon the parties by the Court.

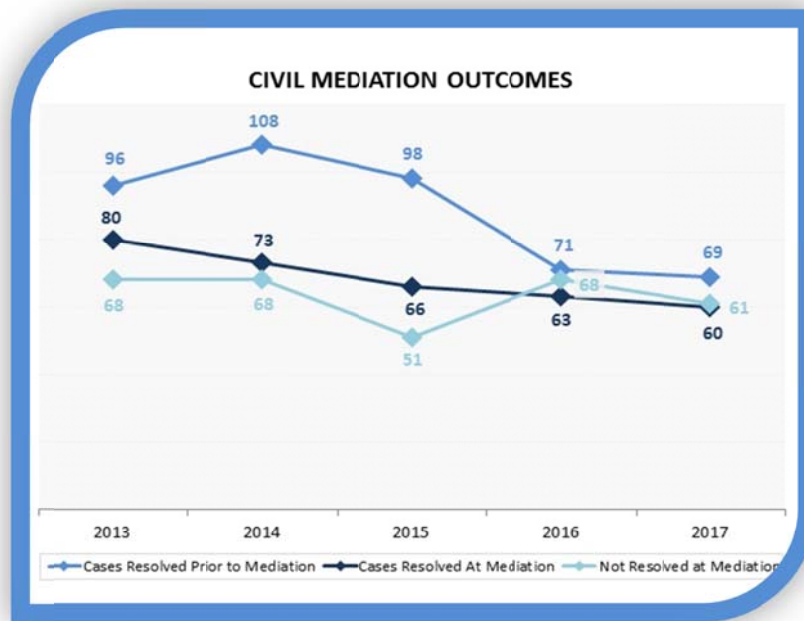
In 2017, 124 General Civil cases and 94 Personal Injury cases were ordered into mediation, with 149 cases actually mediated. The Court selected a mediator for the parties in 9 cases.



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*In 2017, 72% of the civil cases ordered to facilitative mediation were resolved prior to trial.*

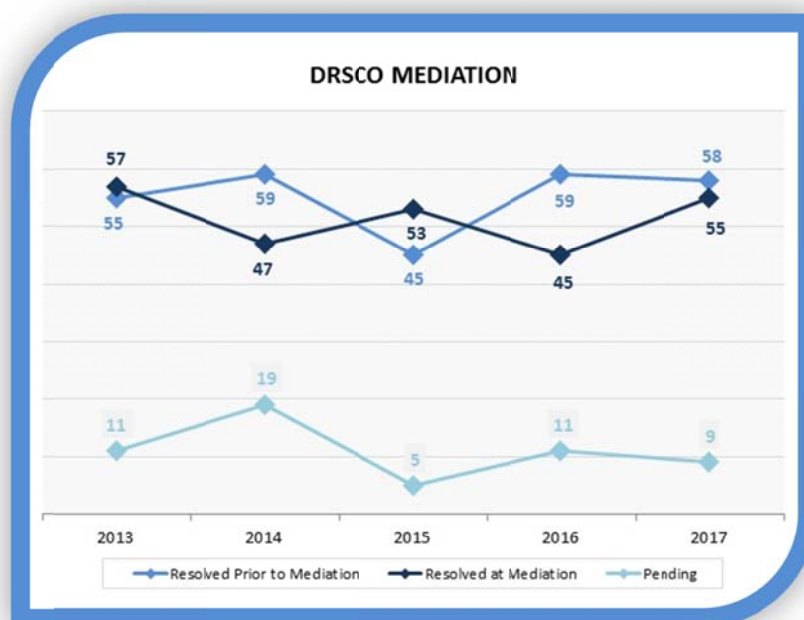
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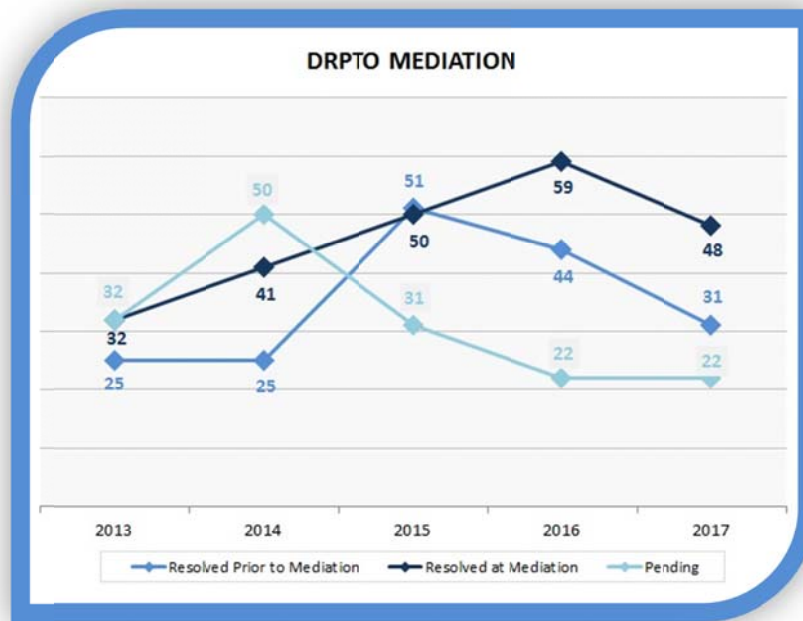


*Facilitative mediation resolved 48% of the cases ordered to mediation by the Court.*

### DOMESTIC RELATIONS FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

In 2017, 323 cases were ordered to facilitative mediation via a Domestic Relations Scheduling Conference Order (DRSCO) or a Domestic Relations Pre-Trial Order (DRPTO). DRSCOs are generated by the Court when a divorce matter is filed, whereas DRPTOs can be generated either before or after a Judgment of Divorce has been entered when there are child related issues, such as paternity, support, custody, and UIFSA registration. In 2017, the Court selected a mediator for the parties in 81 cases.





***Facilitative mediation resolved 31% of the domestic relations cases that were ordered to mediation by the Court.***

## **COURT FINANCES**

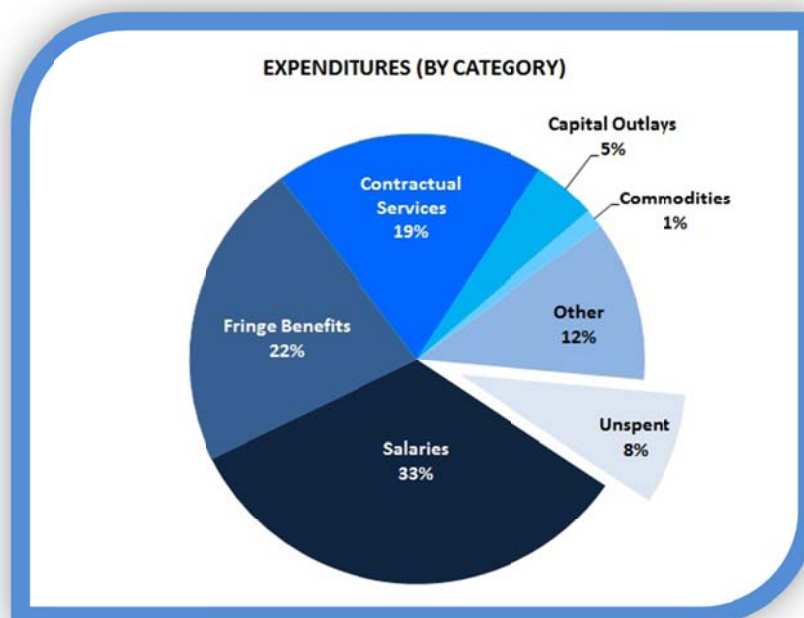
The Joint Judicial Commission, established pursuant to an Inter-County Operating Agreement, acts as a liaison for Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties and the Courts in order to coordinate financial and administrative responsibilities between the Counties and Courts. Members of the Commission include the Circuit Court Judges, Court Administrator, board chairperson, chairperson for the Finance/Ways and Means Committee, County Administrator/Coordinator and the Chief Administrative Fiscal Officers in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

The Court collects fines, costs, court-appointed attorneys' fees, restitution and crime victim fund payments from convicted felons. The funds collected are used to help support the public libraries, assist in defraying the costs of providing court-appointed counsel for indigent defendants and serve as reimbursement to crime victims for losses they may have suffered.

***In 2017, the Thirteenth Circuit Court collected \$203,549.66 in criminal restitution for distribution to local crime victims.***



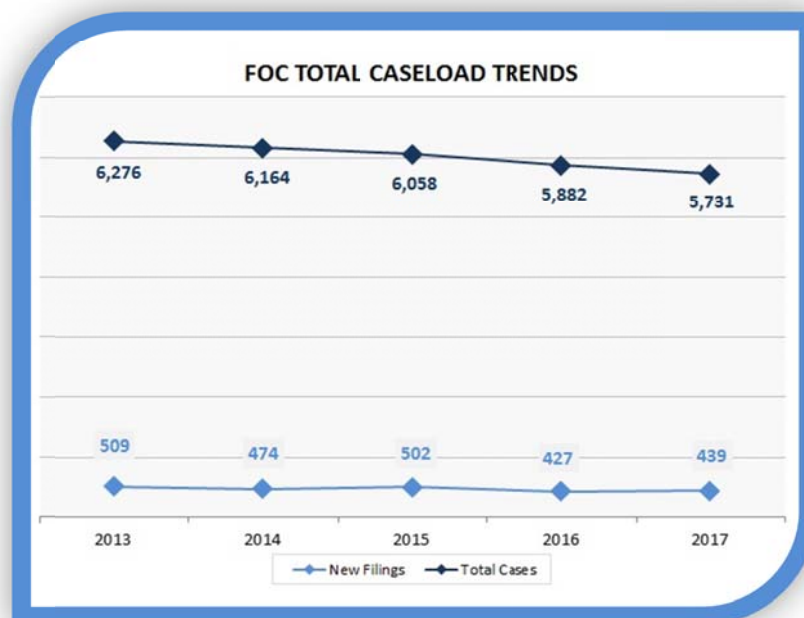
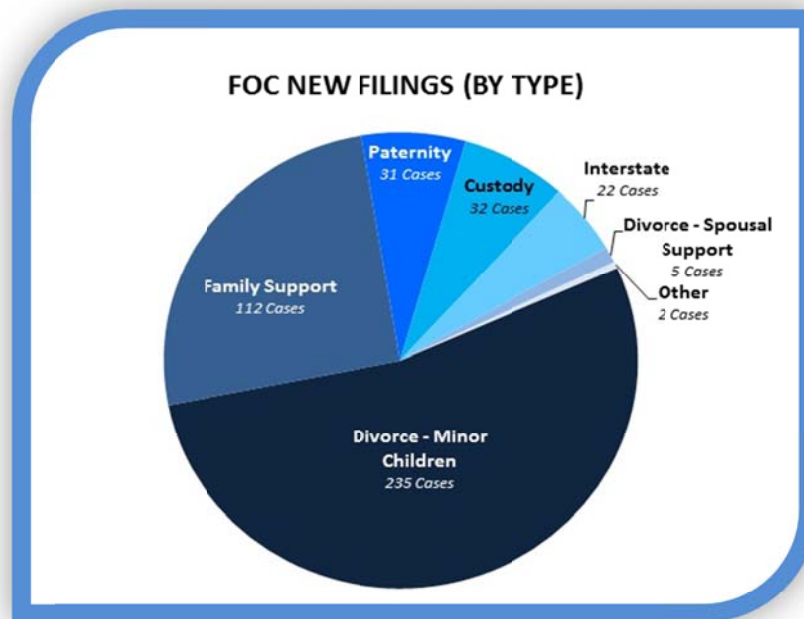
Each county within the Thirteenth Circuit maintains its own budget and is responsible for the processing, auditing, verification and payment of operating expenses. Grand Traverse County is the Fiscal Agent for the Circuit Court billing Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau for 'cost-shared' expenses based on case load. Each individual county separately pays its 'cost-direct' expenses, like court-appointed attorneys' fees, jury fees, witness fees, transcript fees and courthouse security. Additional revenue comes from filing fees, court costs assessed by the County Clerks' Offices and the State of Michigan.



## FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Friend of the Court (FOC) is a division of the Circuit Court providing enforcement of Court Orders relating to child support, health care, spousal support, and parenting time/custody and investigating, evaluating and submitting recommendations to the Court on contested domestic relations matters.

In 2017, the FOC office administered 5,731 open cases. Of the 439 new cases opened with FOC in 2017, 13% were from Antrim County, 76% were from Grand Traverse County and 11% were from Leelanau County. The preliminary custody orders generated by the FOC granted primary custody to the mother in 34% of cases, primary custody to the father in 4% of cases, shared custody in 29% of cases and split care or third-party care in 33% of cases.



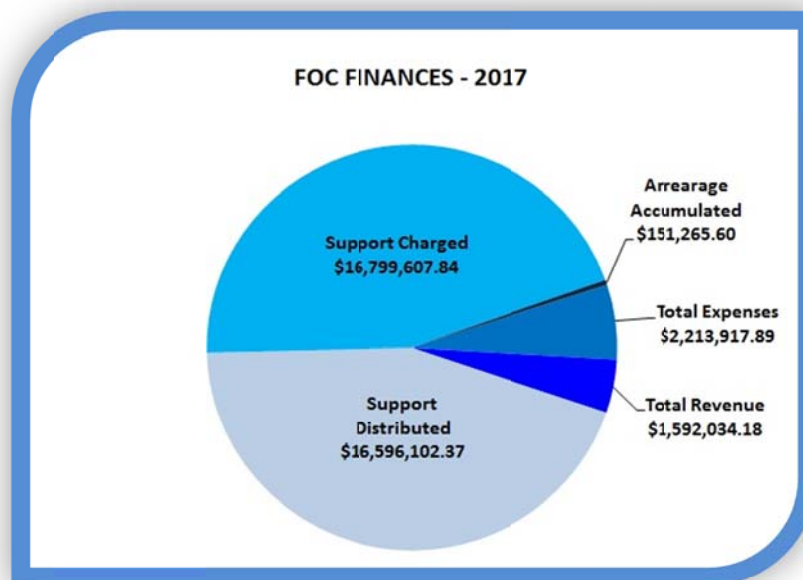
In 2017, the FOC issued: 5,204 income withholding notice; 1,078 enforcement notices; and 619 warrants - 224 for failure to appear and 395 for failure to comply with a previously ordered payment plan. Moreover, the FOC staff processed 146 complaints for reimbursement of children's extraordinary medical expenses, generated 133 stipulated orders for clients, conducted 626 enforcement hearings and made recommendations for temporary orders in 396 cases.

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*"I sincerely thank you for helping me feel like we matter and for helping me believe that the legal system can work and justice will prevail!" FOC Client Kerri S.*

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The FOC's total revenue is composed of support judgment fees, custody and parenting-time judgment fees, license reinstatement fees, support bench warrant fees, statutory service fees, grant funds, incentive payments, returns for IV-D services, program and non-program income. The total amount of support distributed includes child support, spousal support, extraordinary medical expenses and birthing costs.



**Back:** Jeremy Hogue, Julie Dubay, Carole Rose, Carol Bradway, Karen Grant, Jeanne Bredin, Fran Boyle, Devon Holmes, Eric Salani  
**Middle:** Jennifer Berryman, Tracie Mullen, Amber Swift, Tammi Willoughby, Angela Pelletier, Jayne Arnold, Karen Sanchez, Martha Hornbaker  
**Front:** Olivia Adelaine, Alisa Gallo, Amy Tulpa, Sally Rath, Tina Braden **Inset:** Gretchen Osim



## THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

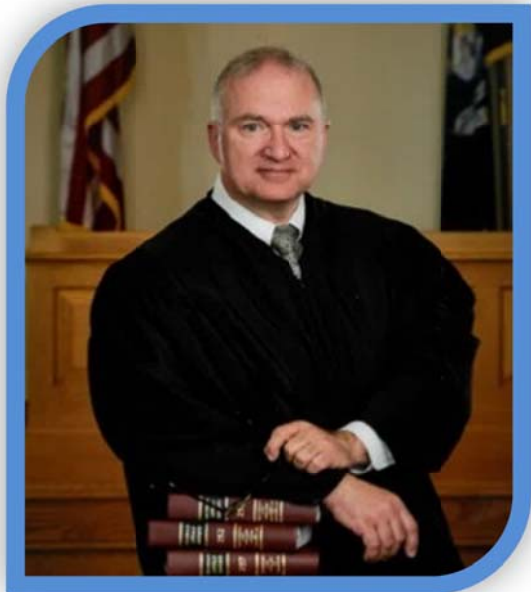


### HONORABLE THOMAS G. POWER

Judge Thomas Power was elected to the bench in 1992 and re-elected, after running unopposed, in 1998, 2004, 2010 and 2016.

A Traverse City native, Judge Power attended Traverse City High School and received a degree in Economics, Phi Beta Kappa, from Carlton College. After attending the University of Michigan Law School, he received a Master's Degree in Taxation from New York University Law School before practicing law with the firm of Elhart & Power.

He represented Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties in the Michigan State Legislature for 10 years and was a member of the Judiciary Committee. Judge Power previously served on the Grand Traverse-Leelanau Mental Health Board and was a member of the Traverse City School Board. Judge Power is a member of the Traverse City Rotary Club and is a pilot for the U.S. Coast Guard Air Auxiliary. Judge Power is married and has two children.



### HONORABLE KEVIN A. ELSENHEIMER

Judge Kevin Elsenheimer was appointed to the bench in 2017 to replace retired Judge Philip Rodgers.

Judge Elsenheimer is a native of Traverse City and now owns the same East Bay Township farm where four generations of his family have lived. After receiving undergraduate degrees from Northwestern Michigan College and Michigan State University, the Judge attended law school at Wayne State University. He then served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Antrim County before forming the firm of Young, Graham, Elsenheimer & Wendling, PC, based in Bellaire.

While serving in the Michigan House of Representatives, Judge Elsenheimer served as Assistant Speaker Pro Tem, Assistant Minority Leader, and Minority Leader, chaired a standing Committee on Tort Reform and served on the Judiciary Committee. The Judge also served as Executive Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Executive Director of the Michigan Worker's Compensation Agency. Judge Elsenheimer is married and has three children.



#### HONORABLE NORMAN R. HAYES

Judge Norman Hayes presides over the Family/Probate Court and all litigation involving guardianships, conservatorships and estates in Antrim County. As Judge for the Family Division, he supervises all divorce actions, personal protection requests, juvenile delinquencies, and neglect and adoption proceedings.

After earning his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1979, Judge Hayes served for 11 years as prosecutor and 10 years as a District Court Judge in Antrim, Ostego and Kalkaska Counties. Judge Hayes has served as a Director of the Michigan District Judges Association and a Director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association. Judge Hayes has three children.



#### HONORABLE LARRY J. NELSON

Judge Larry Nelson oversees the Family/Probate Court for Leelanau County. The Judge presides over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships and mental health commitments. In addition, he supervises all divorce actions, personal protection requests, juvenile delinquencies, and neglect and adoption proceedings.

Judge Nelson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Toledo.

Judge Nelson served as an assistant prosecutor in Oakland County and as a Leelanau County prosecutor. Prior to his election in 2010, Judge Nelson was a general practice attorney in Leland. Judge Nelson is married and has two children.



#### HONORABLE MELANIE D. STANTON

Judge Melanie Stanton was elected to serve as the Grand Traverse County Family Court and Probate Judge in 2012. Judge Stanton presides over all probate cases and, as Family Court Judge, oversees cases involving abuse and neglect of children, juvenile delinquency, adoption, name changes, paternity and support, personal protection orders involving minors and divorces with minor children. Additionally, Judge Stanton presides over two specialty courts; the Behavioral Treatment Court and the Juvenile Sobriety Court.

Judge Stanton attended Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing and received her undergraduate degree in nursing from Wayne State University. She earned her law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1989. Judge Stanton is married and has two children.



Hon. Stacey L. Truesdell & Hon. Kirsten L. Keilitz

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS & JUVENILE REFEREES

The Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees for the Thirteenth Circuit Court are licensed attorneys who preside over abuse/neglect cases, juvenile criminal offenses and all child-related issues in domestic relations cases in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

In 2017, the Referees conducted 45 custody hearings, 75 parenting time hearings and 52 child support hearings. Further, the Referees handled 77 other hearings including, but not limited to, change of domicile, change of residence, and Friend of the Court case closure.



Jessica Jaynes & Karen Copeland

## COURT REPORTERS

The Michigan Court Rules establish that each circuit court must have as many court reporters or certified court recorders as it has judges. Only certified reporters, recorders or voice writers may record or prepare transcripts of proceedings held in Michigan Courts or of depositions taken in Michigan. Certification is awarded after completing the testing process administered by the Court Reporting and Recoding Board of Review, with the assistance of the State Court Administrative Office.

Karen Copeland and Jessica Jaynes are the court reporters for the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and work in all three counties, Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau, to report judicial matters.



## CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

The Circuit Court Administrator's Office is located in the historic Grand Traverse County Courthouse in downtown Traverse City.

Teri Quinn serves as the Circuit Court Administrator for the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and Trina Girardin serves as Deputy Court Administrator. Brooke Bearup-DeBoer serves as the Court's Staff Attorney.

In 2017, Jennifer Gurnoe, Stacy Osborne, Norma Sandelius, Ariana Spafford, Kayla Thompson, and Brandt Waldenmyer served as court specialists in the Administrator's Office.

Administrative team members have specific responsibilities and duties associated with their individual office positions, however, all staff members are cross-trained to assist the public if their colleagues are unavailable. The administrative staff members specialize in domestic relations and personal protection orders, domestic relations mediation, civil alternative dispute resolution, felony collections and scheduling. The administrative staff have significant training and experience working for the state judicial system.



**From Left:** Brooke Bearup-DeBoer, Norma Sandelius, Kayla Thompson, Stacy Osborne, Ariana Spafford, Brandt Waldenmyer, Jennifer Gurnoe  
**Seated:** Teri Quinn & Trina Girardin



## DIVISIONS & DEPARTMENTS



**Back:** William Hefferan [Family Court Administrator], Todd Johnson [Security], Teresa Ankney [Probation Officer], Patricia Theobald [Probate Register], Kim Albert [Juvenile Register]  
**Front:** Sheryl Guy [County Clerk], Donna Rogers [Deputy Register], Melissa Titus [Deputy Clerk], Sandra Davids [Court Reporter/Judicial Secretary]  
**Seated:** Hon. Norman J. Hayes

### ANTRIM FAMILY DIVISION

In 2017, 110 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Antrim County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 169 cases, with the Court disposing of 122 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 67 cases. There were 55 new case filings: 44 delinquency cases and 11 child protective cases. The Court supervised one juvenile.

In 2017, there were 17 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the temporary legal guardian for one child.

The Court finalized 7 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 17 individuals and processed 60 adult personal protection cases.



**From Left:** Joseph Povoio [Family Court Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator], Ryan Douglass [Substance Abuse Caseworker and Juvenile Probation Officer], Susan Richards [Probate Register], Cassidy Fisher [Youth Services Counselor], Josephine Lingaur [Juvenile Register], John Boonstra [Youth Services Counselor], Therese Larson [Juvenile Probation Officer]  
**Seated:** Hon. Larry Nelson

### LEELANAU FAMILY DIVISION

In 2017, 67 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Leelanau County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 108 cases, with the Court disposing of 83 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 51 cases. There were 47 new case filings: 41 delinquency cases and 6 child protective cases. The Court supervised 16 juveniles.

In 2017, there were 11 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian for 3 children and the temporary legal guardian for 9 children.

The Court finalized 4 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 6 individuals and processed 28 adult personal protection cases.

## GRAND TRAVERSE FAMILY DIVISION

In 2017, 575 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Grand Traverse County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 972 cases, with the Court disposing of 772 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 340 cases. There were 283 new case filings: 216 delinquency cases, 3 traffic cases, 55 child protective cases and 9 personal protection actions. The Court supervised 76 juveniles. In 2017, there were 90 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian for 13 children and the temporary legal guardian for 65 children. The Court finalized 38 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 38 individuals and processed 323 adult personal protection cases. The Juvenile Probation Department made 2,261 probation contacts in 2017. These contacts included: conferences at the probation office, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Juvenile Court, New Division Academy, home and school visits, tether hookups, Wraparound and community meetings. The Juvenile Probation Department conducts a Risk Assessment for each youth to determine the level of service required to address his or her criminogenic needs – dynamic risk factors for delinquency.

Volunteer services places community volunteers with children and adults who have come in contact with the Court for a variety of reasons. Programs provided by Volunteer Services include: Learning Partners, which matches adults as tutors/mentors with at-risk children; New Vision Academy, which keeps juvenile offenders busy and engaged during the summer by offering programs in art, drama, cooking and other areas; Citizen's Panel, which diverts first-time shoplifters from the Court, has volunteers monitor offenders and assist them in fulfilling a "Community Promise" over an 8-week period; transportation; guardianships and conservatorships.



**Back:** John Sabatini, Jr. [Probation Officer], Jennifer Weber-Moore [Program Manager], Jeff Burdick [Probation Officer], Cheryl Goodwin [Chief Probation Officer], Matthew Ferguson [Probation Officer], Kris Randall [Family Division Administrator], Janet Kronk [Neglect/Abuse], Todd Bredin [Volunteer Services Coordinator]

**Front:** Kathy Nixon [Volunteer Services Administration], Laura Shumate [Learning Partners Coordinator], Jody Barton [Juvenile Administration], Heather Prevo [Probation Officer], Kelly Sarns [Juvenile Register], Holly Davison [Collections], Kristyn Brendel [Judicial Assistant], Sue Bennett [Scheduling]

**Seated:** Hon. Melanie Stanton



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – PROBATION & PAROLE

As employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) assigned to the local courts, staff supervise convicted offenders residing within the Thirteenth Circuit Court's jurisdiction. The Probation and Parole staff maintain close working relations with local court personnel, law enforcement, Community Corrections and many other area partners to ensure offenders are well supervised and to enhance the potential success of MDOC clients. Each case is individually supervised to assure public safety and compliance with the Court's orders. Supervision is achieved through a community collaborative approach which includes office and field contacts, appropriate treatment referrals, substance abuse screening and a variety of electronic monitoring options.

In 2017, the Department was fully staffed with nine agents and three secretaries covering the three-county area. The Department of Corrections and Probation Department's caseload averaged 451 persons per month for 2017, with approximately 71 per month in Antrim County, 336 per month in Grand Traverse County and 44 per month in Leelanau County. In addition to supervision of MDOC clients, Probation and Parole staff members complete a PSIR for each Circuit Court conviction, as well as supplemental reports for formal violations. The PSIR includes the scoring of Sentencing Guidelines and a detailed summary of the individual's history including economic and social background, prior criminal record, current offense details and any victim impact statements. The PSIRs are used by the Judges as a tool to assist in determining the appropriate sentence for the crime and for the individual offender. In 2017, 260 new PSIRs (31 for Antrim County, 207 for Grand Traverse County and 22 for Leelanau County) were compiled for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



**Back:** Chuck Welch [Field Supervisor], Chris Bearup [Antrim County], Andrew Moeggenborg, [Grand Traverse County], Matt Koenig [Grand Traverse County]

**Middle:** Damon Herman [Grand Traverse County], Cynthia Patrick [Grand Traverse County], Thomas Chapman [Grand Traverse County]

**Seated:** Amanda Flynn [Grand Traverse County], Deanna Wilson [Grand Traverse County], Jo Meyers [Grand Traverse County & Leelanau County]

**Inset:** James Monette [Grand Traverse County] **Not pictured:** Christa Gaugler [Antrim County]

## THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

### RETIREMENTS



Jim Ribby  
~ Retired after 42 years with the Department of Corrections



Terri Lynn Andresen  
~ Retired after 27 years with the Friend of the Court



Ellene Peters  
~ Retired after 16 years with the Friend of the Court



Margaret Pierce  
~ Retired after 15 years with the Friend of the Court

### SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Susan Richards  
~ Celebrated 30 years with the Leelanau Family Division



Julie Dubay  
~ Celebrated 20 years with the Friend of the Court



Angela Pelletier  
~ Celebrated 15 years with the Friend of the Court



Jeff Burdick  
~ Celebrated 10 years with the Grand Traverse Family Division



Hon. Melanie Stanton  
~ Celebrated 5 years with the Grand Traverse Family Division  
Heather Prevo  
~ Celebrated 5 years with the Grand Traverse Family Division



### Madeleine Thomas Award

The GTLA annually presents the Madeleine Thomas Award in recognition of a recipient's exemplary contributions to the cultural, economic and social betterment of the local community. The Award honors Madeleine Thomas, a local attorney who worked tirelessly for various social service agencies, including the Women's Resource Center, United Way, American Cancer Society and the Crooked Tree Girl Scouts Council. Madeleine distinguished herself through her devotion to public service and as an advocate for women and children. The Award serves as a reminder that the practice of law and the pursuit of justice often require more than mere advocacy. The 2017 recipient of the Madeleine Thomas Award was Joseph Fisher. Mr. Fisher is a partner at the law firm of Alward Fisher Rice Rowe & Graf and practices in the areas of commercial litigation, domestic relations, criminal law, real estate and business. Mr. Fisher has been practicing law in northern Michigan since 1974 and is a member of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association.



### Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award

The State Bar of Michigan presents this award to a recognized local or affinity bar association, program or leader for excellence in promoting the ideal of professionalism or equal justice for all, or in responding to a compelling legal need within the community. The Award was established in memory of Kimberly M. Cahill, a previous president of the State Bar of Michigan. Her volunteer leadership efforts in state and local bar organizations included serving as a chair of the Representative Assembly, president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, and president of the Macomb County Bar Association. These roles displayed her commitment to the highest ideals of professionalism and community service, focusing on equal access to justice for all. The 2017 recipient of the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award was Patrick Wilson. Mr. Wilson is Of Counsel at Wilson Kester and practices in the areas of estate planning, probate, real estate, business, health care, labor and school law. Mr. Wilson is a past president of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and has a long history of community service in Northern Michigan.



### Jo Bullis Pro Bono Award

In 2004, the Law Enhancement Access Project (L.E.A.P.) created a Pro Bono Award in an effort to recognize and promote the pro bono work performed by local attorneys. Since 2007, the GTLA has presented the Award, on behalf of L.E.A.P., at its Spring Dinner. In 2015, the Award was renamed the Jo Bullis Pro Bono Award, in honor of a local attorney who was actively involved in pro bono work and who established a partnership with Legal Services of Northern Michigan, the Family Court, the GTLA and the Women Lawyers Association to host free legal clinics. The 2017 recipient of the Jo Bullis Pro Bono Award was Marie Walker. Ms. Walker is owner of Marie Walker, PLLC and practices in the areas of divorce, custody, child support, adoption, state licensing, probate and criminal law. Ms. Fisher is a member of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association, is Co-Chair of the local ADR Committee and the Chair of the local Pro Bono Committee.

