

# 13TH CIRCUIT COURT

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### **ANTRIM COUNTY**

203 E. Cayuga St.  
Bellaire, MI 49615

### **GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY**

328 Washington St.  
Traverse City, MI 49684

### **LEELANAU COUNTY**

8527 E. Government Center Dr.  
Suttons Bay, MI 49682



# HISTORY OF 13TH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

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HON. KEVIN A. ELSENHEIMER	2017 – PRESENT
HON. THOMAS G. POWER	1993 – PRESENT
HON. PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.	1991 – 2016
HON. CHARLES M. FORSTER	1975 – 1992
HON. WILLIAM R. BROWN	1973 – 1990
HON. JAMES M. FITZPATRICK	1969 – 1974
HON. CHARLES L. BROWN	1948 – 1972
HON. PARM C. GILBERT	1924 – 1947
HON. FREDERICK W. MAYNE	1899 – 1923
HON. ROSCOE L. CORBETT	1894 – 1898
HON. REUBEN HATCH, JR.	1875 – 1881
HON. JONATHAN G. RAMSDELL	1866 – 1875 & 1882 – 1893



# JUDGE'S INTRODUCTION

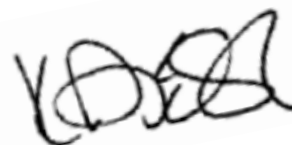
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The Thirteenth Circuit Court for the State of Michigan is pleased to present to you our annual report for 2019. The report is distributed in hard copy to local stakeholders, elected officials, and the State Court Administrative Office. The report is available electronically on the court's website: [www.13thcircuitcourt.org](http://www.13thcircuitcourt.org). Those who review the report will have an understanding of the Court's finances, caseloads, Friend of the Court efforts, and Alternative Dispute Resolution during 2019. The report also notes important staff developments and matters involving the local bar.

During 2019, the Court was able to manage its caseload within the timeframes mandated by the Supreme Court. One reason for the Court's efficiency is the success of the Alternative Dispute Resolution program. In 2019, the Court's civil facilitative mediation process resolved 79% of the cases referred, saving litigants time and money. During that same year, facilitative mediation resolved 78% of the domestic relations matters referred.

The success of the facilitative mediation program is not a new development. What is new is that the Court is taking note of some of the partners who have led to that success over the years. The Court created an award last year honoring the mediator of the year. The inaugural recipient of the award for 2019 is John P. Racine, Jr., who has served as a mediator since 2000. This report provides more details on Mr. Racine's service, along with local attorneys who have received other important honors from the local bar association.

We wish to thank those who have assisted our efforts to provide justice throughout 2019. The Court has many responsibilities that require the collaboration, consideration and support of our partners. We appreciate your assistance in helping us meet our obligations during 2019.



**HON. KEVIN A. ELSENHEIMER**

Chief Circuit Court Judge

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*"Equal Justice  
Under the Law"*



# CASE MANAGEMENT

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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 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 timelines 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

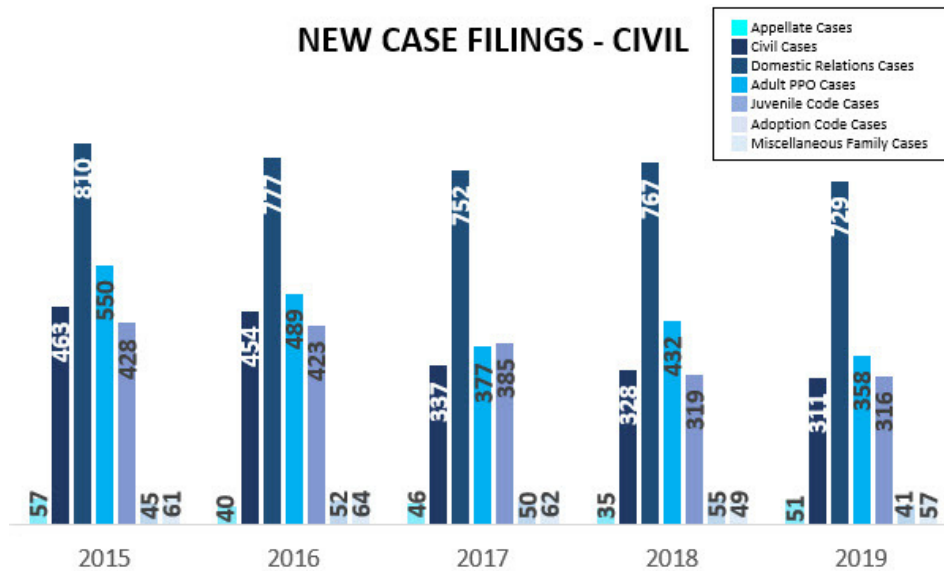
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Circuit Court cases are separated into the following categories: Appellate, Civil, Domestic Relations, Adult Personal Protection, Proceedings Under the Juvenile Code, Proceedings Under the Adoption Code, Miscellaneous Family/Ancillary. The Appellate category includes Criminal Appeals, Civil Appeals, Agency Appeals (Administrative Agency, Employment Security Commission, Secretary of State, and Parole Board decisions), and Other Appeals (habeas corpus, superintending control and writs).

The Civil category includes General Civil (business claims, condemnation, employment discrimination, environments, forfeiture claims, housing & real estate, contracts, labor relations, antitrust/franchising/trade regulations, corporate receivership and general civil), Auto Negligence (property damage, no-fault insurance and personal injury), Other Civil Damage (medical malpractice, other professional malpractice, other personal injury, products liability, dramship act and other damage suits), and Other Civil (proceedings to restore/establish/correct records, claim & delivery, receivers in supplemental proceedings, supplemental proceedings and miscellaneous proceedings). The Domestic Relations category includes Divorce with Minor Children, Divorce Without Children, Paternity, UIFSA (assist with discovery and establishment), Support, and Other Domestic (custody and other domestic relations matters). The Adult Personal Protection category includes Domestic Relations and Non-Domestic Relations. The Juvenile Code category include Designated Juvenile Offenses, Delinquency Proceedings, Traffic and Local Ordinance, Child Protective Proceedings and Juvenile Personal Protection Actions. The Adoption Code category includes Petitions for Adoptions (adult, agency international, direct placement, relative, safe delivery of newborn, non-relative guardian, step-parent and other). The Miscellaneous Family/Ancillary category includes emancipation of a minor, infectious disease, safe delivery of newborn child, name change, young adult voluntary foster care, violation proceedings on out-of-county personal protection orders, adult conservatorship, minor conservatorship, developmental disability guardianship, adult guardianship, limited guardianship of adult, minor guardianship, limited guardianship of minor, protective orders, judicial admission and mental commitment.

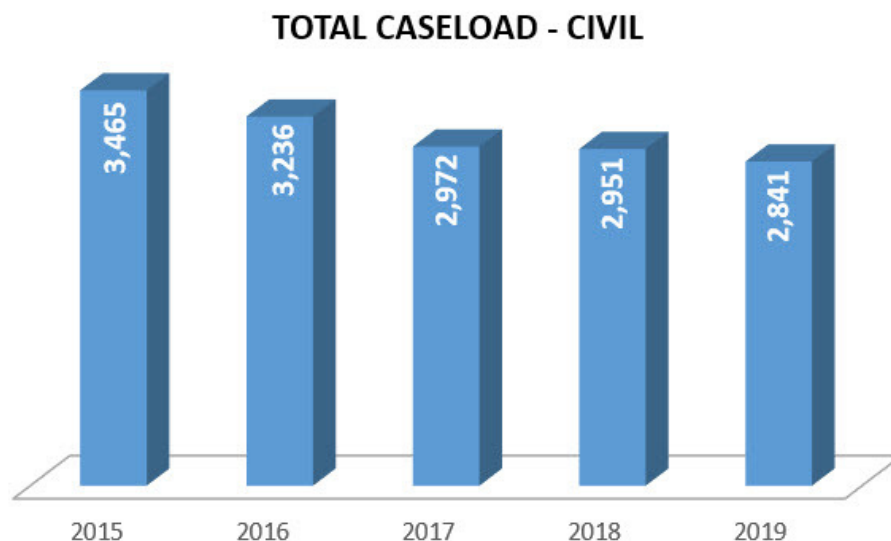
# NEW CIVIL CASE FILINGS

The following bar graph depicts the total civil caseload in the Thirteenth Circuit Court for the previous five-year period.



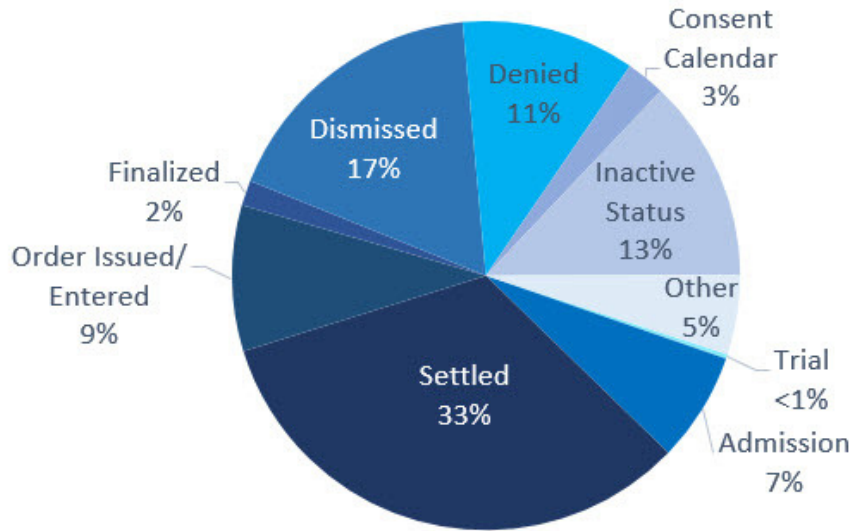
# TOTAL CIVIL CASELOAD

In 2019, there were a total of 1,863 new civil case filings in the Thirteenth Circuit Court. This is a decrease from the number of new civil cases filed in the previous year.



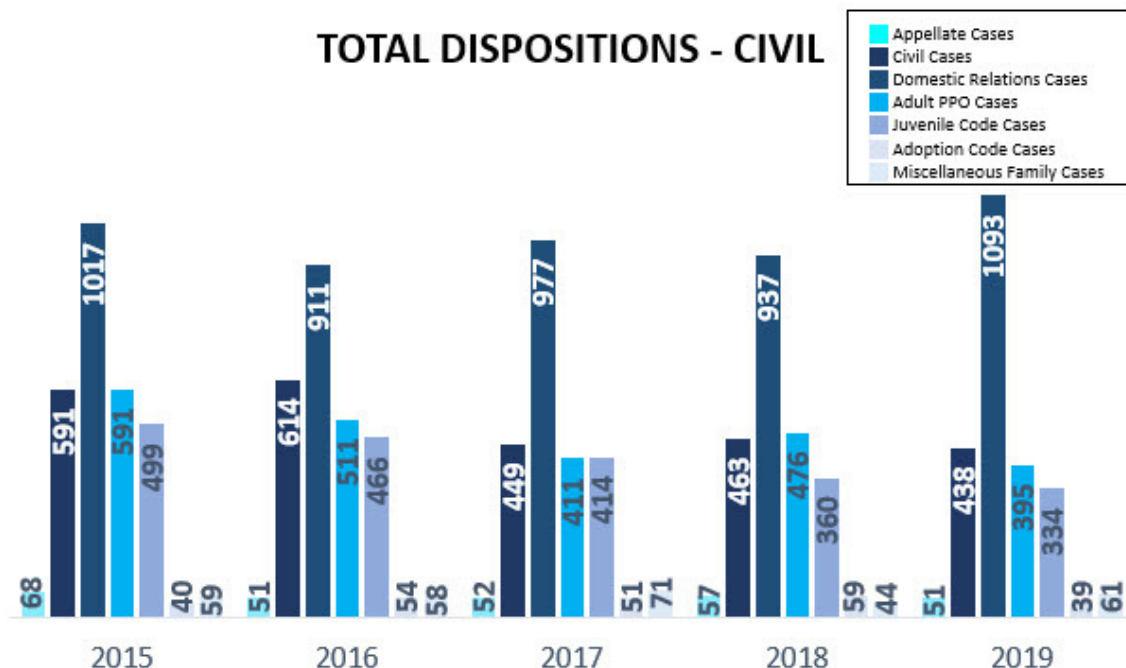
# CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

**CIVIL DISPOSITIONS - BY METHOD**



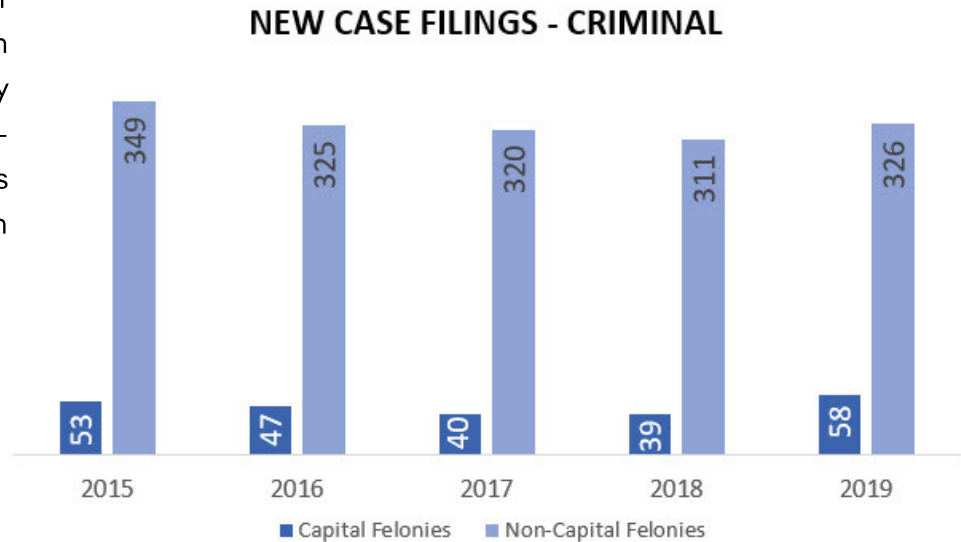
The above chart compares disposition methods for appellate, civil, domestic relations, adult personal protection orders, juvenile code, adoption code and miscellaneous family/ancillary cases in 2019. The term “Settled” includes cases that were defaulted, uncontested or settled. “Trial” includes both jury and bench trials. The term “Order Entered” includes cases where orders were entered ex parte, after a hearing and after a denial. The term “Dismissed” includes cases that were dismissed or withdrawn by the party or dismissed by the Court. The term “Denied” includes cases where the request was denied either ex parte or after a hearing. Finally, the “Other” category includes cases that were transferred, withdrawn by the petitioner, not authorized, deferred, the case type was changed or the manner of disposition was not reported.

**TOTAL DISPOSITIONS - CIVIL**



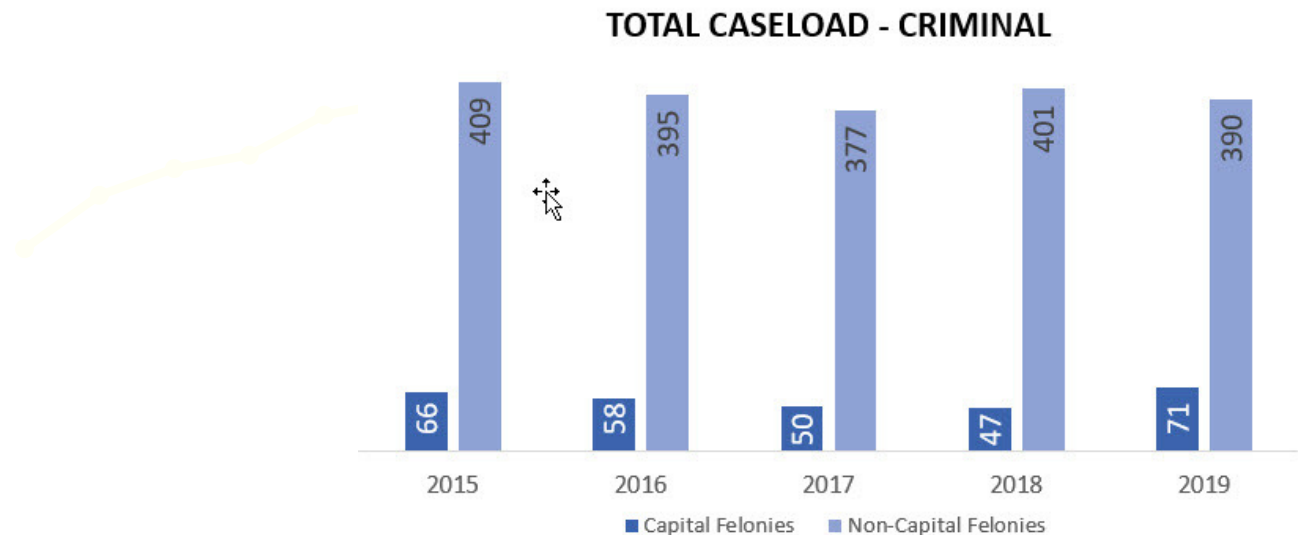
# NEW CRIMINAL FILINGS

Circuit Court criminal cases are separated into two categories: capital felonies and non-capital felonies. Capital felonies are cases in which a life sentence is possible and a larger number of preemptory 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. In 2019, the number of newly filed capital and non-capital felony cases increased in the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



# 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 2019, the Thirteenth Circuit Court's total criminal caseload for capital felonies increased, while the total criminal caseload for non-capital felonies decreased.

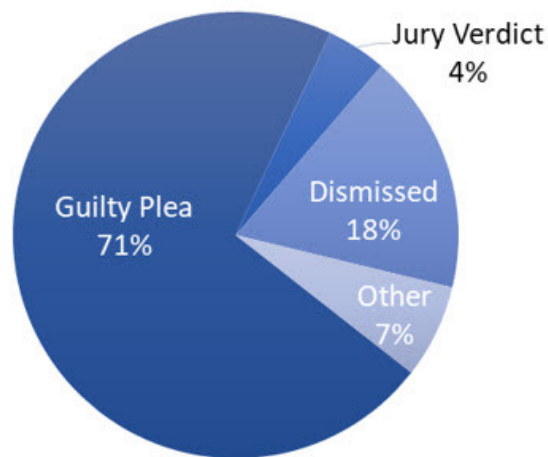


# CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS & SENTENCINGS

In 2019, the Court disposed of 413 criminal cases. Guilty pleas resulted in the greatest number of dispositions, with the Court receiving 65 guilty pleas in Antrim County, 208 in Grand Traverse County and 22 in Leelanau County.

## TOTAL DISPOSITIONS - CRIMINAL

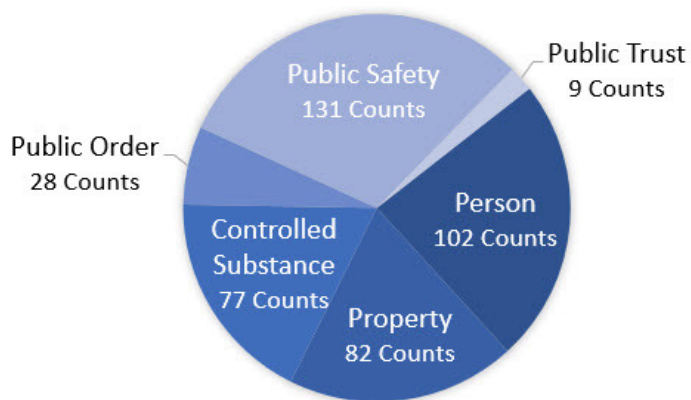
413 Cases



Further, the Court issued sentences on 429 total charges. There were more total sentencings 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. The following chart displays sentencings and re-sentencing dispositions by type and by offense category.

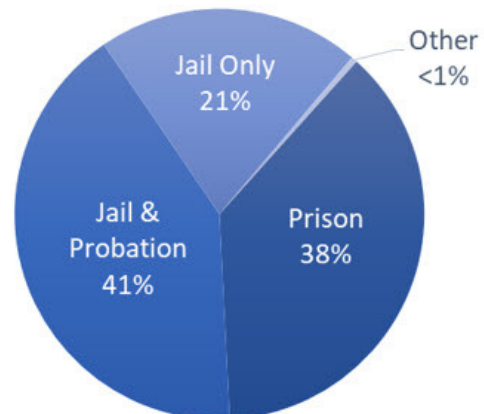
## SENTENCINGS - BY OFFENSE CATEGORY

429 Total Counts



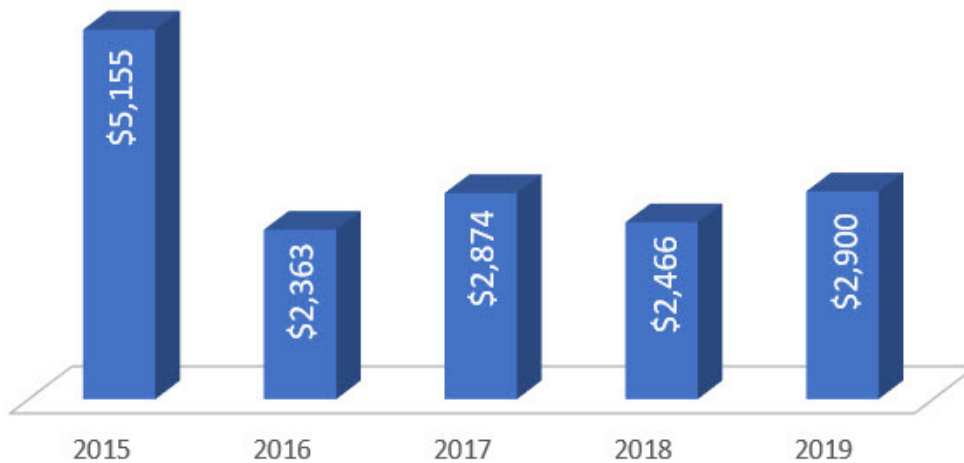
## SENTENCINGS - BY TYPE

429 Total Charges



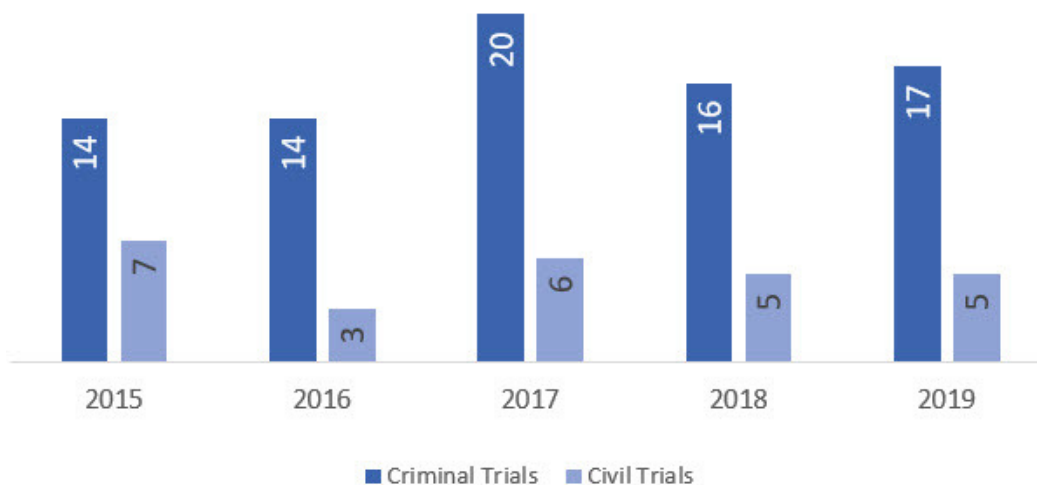
# JURY TRIALS

AVERAGE COST PER TRIAL



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.

JURY TRIALS - BY TYPE

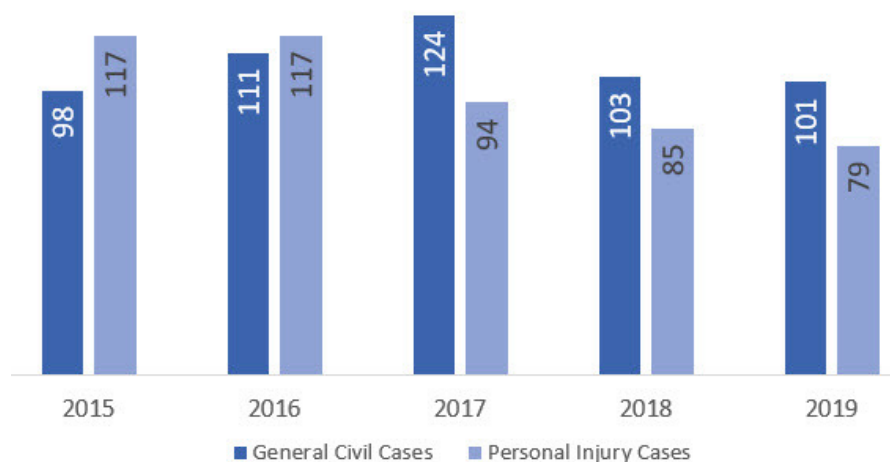




# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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 nonbinding 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.

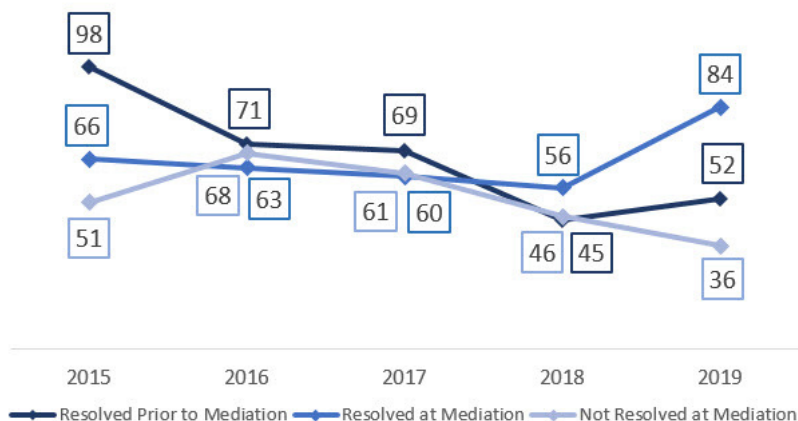
**CASES ORDERED TO MEDIATION - BY TYPE**



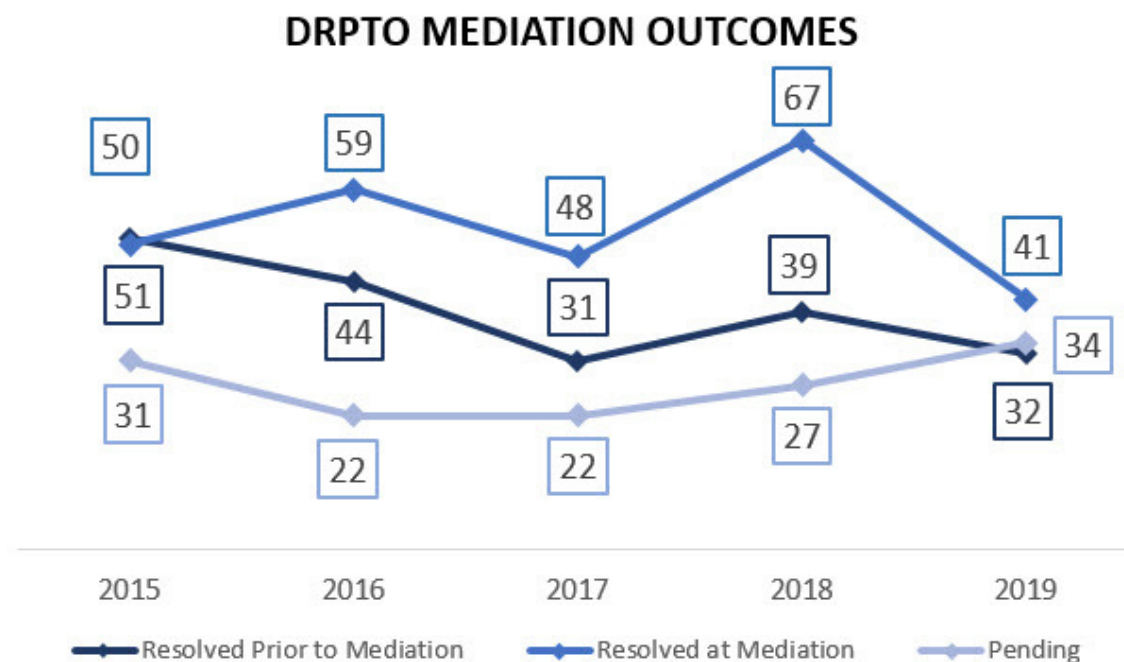
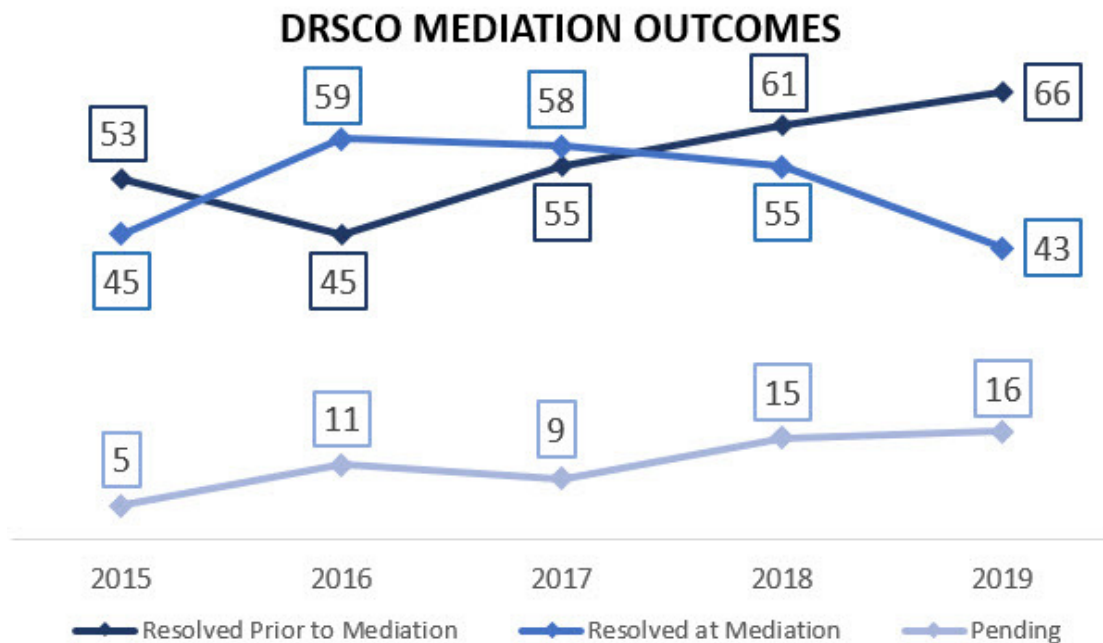
## CIVIL FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

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 2019, 180 total cases were ordered into mediation, with 128 cases actually mediated. The Court selected a mediator in 10 cases.

**CIVIL MEDIATION OUTCOMES**



# DOMESTIC RELATIONS FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

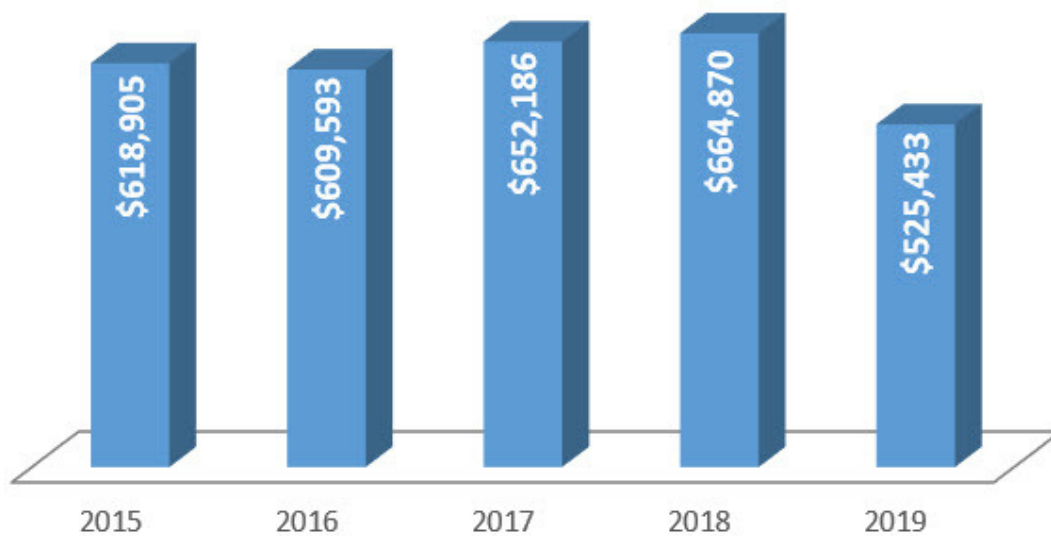


In 2019, 371 cases were ordered to facilitative mediation via a Domestic Relations Scheduling Conference Order (DRSCO) or a Domestic Relations Pre-Trial Order (DRPTO). DRSCOs are generated by the Court when a divorce matter is filed, whereas DRPTOs can be generated either before or after a Judgment of Divorce has been entered when there are child related issues such as, paternity, support, custody and UIFSA registration. In 2019, the Court selected a mediator for the parties in 109 cases.

# COURT FINANCES

The Inter-County Operating Agreement allows financial and administrative responsibilities between the Counties and Courts amongst all three counties - Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau. Members of the joint Judicial 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, & Leelanau Counties.

## COLLECTION TOTALS



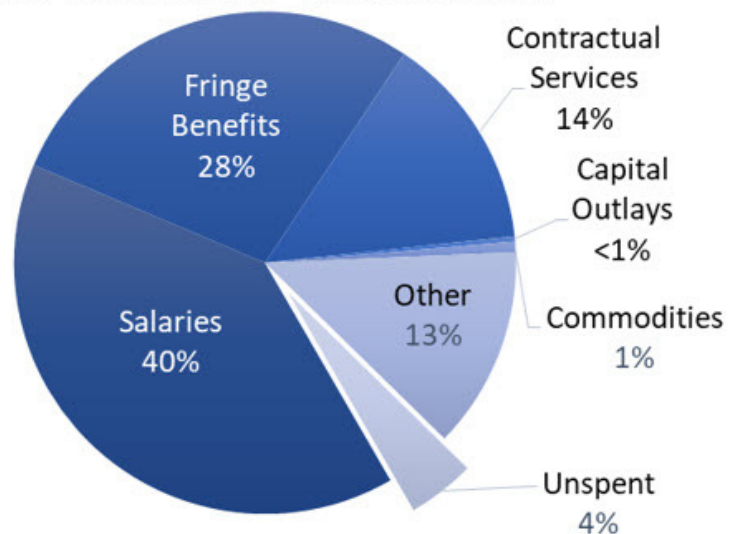
The Court collects fines, costs, court-appointed attorneys' fees, restitution, and crime victim fund payments from convicted felons. The funds collected are used to help support the public libraries, assist in defraying the costs of providing court-appointed counsel for indigent defendants and serve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

In 2019, the Thirteenth Circuit Court collected \$182,595 in criminal restitution for distribution to local crime victims.

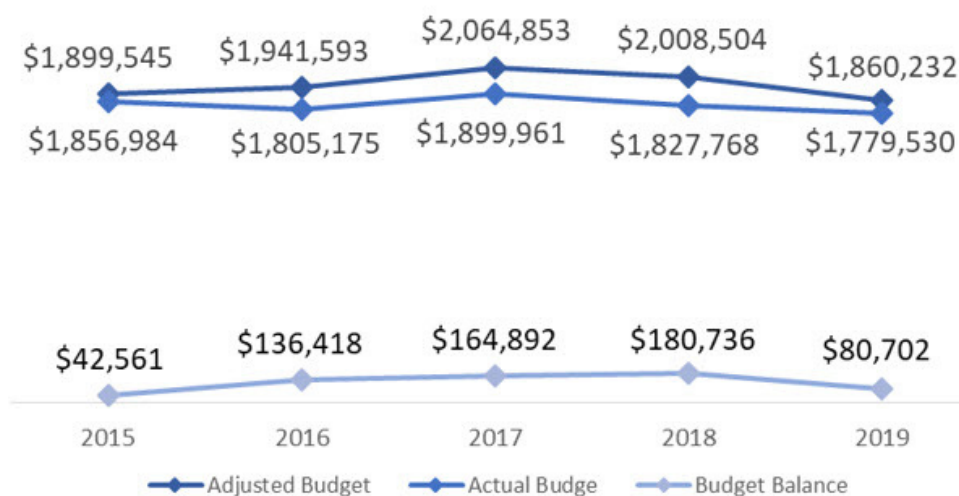
# COURT FINANCES

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 oversees the Circuit Court Operating Fund, which pays for 'cost-shared' expenses, such as salaries, fringe benefits, office space, computer data processing, office supplies and other capital expenditures between all three counties. 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, and court costs assessed by the County Clerks' Offices and the State of Michigan. Expenditures are divided into 6 categories: (1) salaries for Judicial, Administrative and Friend of the Court staff; (2) fringe benefits for judicial and administrative staffs, including FICA; (3) contractual services including payments for defense counsel, transcripts, juror compensation, juror mileage, interpreters, professional services and other items necessary for administration and operation of the Courts; (4) commodities such as postage and office supplies; (5) capital outlays including legal reference material, office equipment and office furniture; and (6) other expenses like equipment rentals, printing, utilities, law books, continuing education, and liability insurance.

**EXPENDITURES - BY CATEGORY**



**ANNUAL EXPENDITURES**





# CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

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## **Hon. Kevin A. Elsenheimer**

Judge Elsenheimer was appointed to the bench in 2017 and was elected to the bench in 2018 after running unopposed. He 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 was elected Assistant Speaker Pro Tem, Assistant Minority Leader, and Minority Leader. He 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.

## **Hon. Thomas G. Power**

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



# FAMILY & PROBATE JUDGES



## Hon. Melanie D. Stanton

Judge Melanie Stanton was elected to serve as the Probate Judge in 2012 and was assigned as the presiding Judge of the Circuit Court Family Division for Grand Traverse County. She was re-elected to the bench in 2018 after running unopposed. 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 one specialty court; the Behavioral Treatment 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.

## Hon. Marian F. Kromkowski

Judge Kromkowski was elected as Probate Court Judge in 2018 and took office on January 1, 2019 in Leelanau County. She also presides over the Circuit Court Family Division for Leelanau County. Judge Kromkowski came to the bench with 39 years of experience as a lawyer. She graduated from Wayne State University Law School in 1979 and from Indiana University in 1975. Prior to her election, she was in private practice with her husband, Matthew Posner, in the firm of Kromkowski & Posner, PC. She specialized in criminal trial and appellate work, family law and domestic relations mediation. She was the first Domestic Relations Referee in the 13th Circuit Court in which she served from 1993 through 1997. In 1998 until 2018, she was a part-time referee in the 28th Circuit Court. Judge Kromkowski was also the first attorney in the 13th Circuit to be trained as a Domestic Relations Mediator. She was a Collaborative Divorce practitioner. Judge Kromkowski and her husband have three daughters.



## Hon. Norman R. Hayes

Judge Norman Hayes presides over 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 served as the Antrim County Probate and Family Court Judge since 2001.



# CIRCUIT COURT REFEREES

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**Stacey L. Truesdell**

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, & Leelanau Counties.

In 2019, the Referees conducted 60 custody hearings, 70 parenting time hearings and 65 child support hearings. Further, the Referees handled 172 other hearings including, but not limited to, change of domicile, change of residence and health care matters.



**Matthew N. Hagen**

# COURT REPORTERS

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**Jessica Jaynes**

The Michigan Court Rules establish that each circuit court must have as many court reporters/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 Recording Board of Review, with the assistance of the State Court Administrative Office. Jessica Jaynes and Karen Copeland are the court reporters for the 13th Circuit Court and work in all three counties - Antrim, Grand Traverse, & Leelanau - to report judicial matters.



**Karen Copeland**

# CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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The Circuit Court Administrator's Office is located in the historic Grand Traverse County Courthouse in downtown Traverse City covering Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Leelanau counties. 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 Circuit Court scheduling. The Court Administrator's staff have significant training and experience working for the state judicial system.



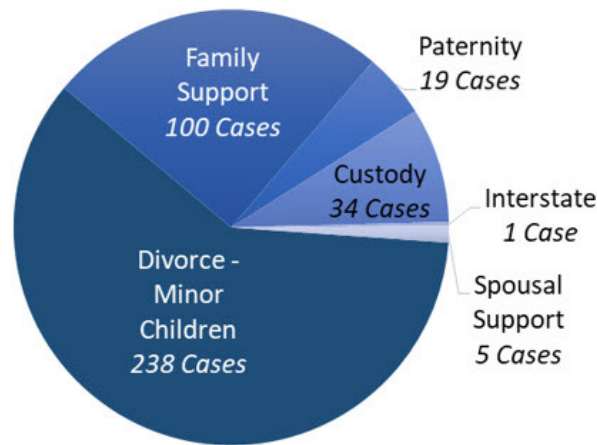
**Left to Right:** Brooke Bearup-DeBoer [Staff Attorney], Norma Sandelius [Circuit Court Specialist], Tabatha VanWingerden [Circuit Court Specialist], Stacy Osborne [Circuit Court Specialist], Ariana Spafford [Circuit Court Specialist], Brandt Waldenmyer [Circuit Court Specialist], Jennifer Gurnoe [Circuit Court Specialist]  
**Seated:** Teri Quinn [Circuit Court Administrator], Trina Girardin [Deputy Circuit Court Administrator].  
**Insert:** Tabatha VanWingerden [Circuit Court Specialist]



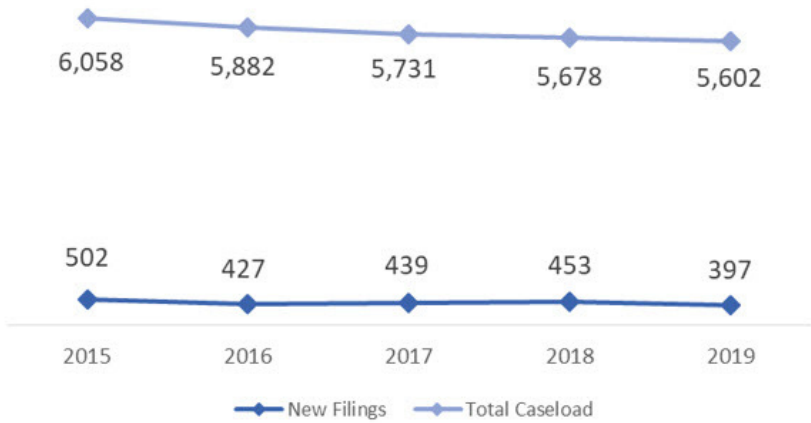
# FRIEND OF THE COURT

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

FOC NEW CASE FILINGS - BY TYPE

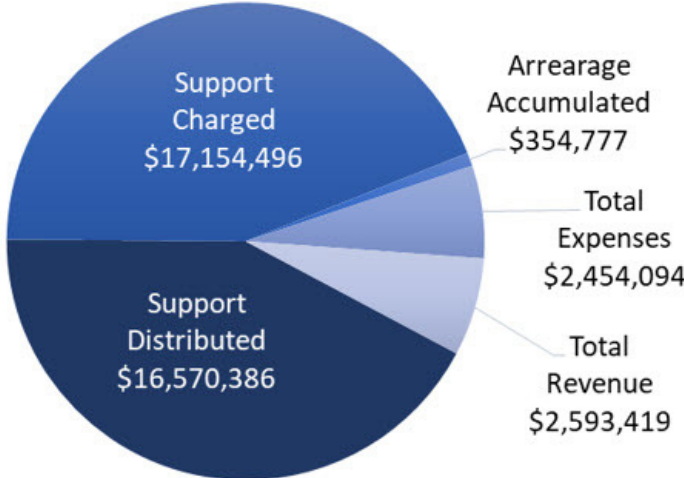


FOC CASELOAD TRENDS



In 2019, the FOC office administered 5,602 open cases. Of the 397 new cases opened with FOC in 2019, 16% were from Antrim County, 76% were from Grand Traverse County and 8% were from Leelanau County. The preliminary custody orders generated by the FOC granted primary custody to the mother in 44% of cases, primary custody to the father in 6% of cases, shared custody in 48% of cases and split or third-party custody in 2% of cases.

FOC FINANCES



In 2019, the FOC issued: 4,970 income withholding notices; 893 enforcement notices and 714 warrants, either for failure to appear or for failure to comply with a previously ordered payment plan. The FOC staff processed 99 complaints for reimbursement of children’s extraordinary medical expenses, generated 114 stipulated orders for clients, conducted 606 enforcement hearings and issued 146 notices of alleged violation of parent time or custody.

# FRIEND OF THE COURT

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 Row:** Steve Greenman [Case Manager/Family Support Court], Karen Sanchez [Case Manager], Angela Pelletier [Case Manager], Carol Rose [Accounting], Gretchen Osim [Accounting], Tamara Birgy [Case Manager] **Middle Row:** Eric Salani [Case Manager], Carol Bradway [Interstate Case Worker], Tammi Willoughby [Case Manager], Karen Grant [Interstate Case Worker], Jeannie Binsfeld [Enforcement Specialist], Julie Dubay [Case Manager], Jeremy Hogue [Friend of the Court] **Front Row:** Alisa Gallo [Office Manager], Tina Braden [Enforcement Case Manager Assistant], Sally Rathes [Enforcement Specialist], Jodi Simpson [Front Desk], Amy Tulpa [Accounting] **Not Pictured:** Danielle Rice [Front Desk], Amber Swift [Case Manager], Fran Boyle [Enforcement Specialist], Tracie Mullen [Enforcement Supervisor], Jessica Schimpf [Case Manager], Jayne Arnold [Case Manager Assistant]

*Congratulations*

**THE 13TH CIRCUIT COURT FRIEND OF THE COURT  
CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2019**



# ANTRIM FAMILY DIVISION

In 2019, 128 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Antrim County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 182 cases, with the Court disposing of 132 cases. The total juvenile caseload consisted of 73 cases. There were 37 new juvenile filings: 21 delinquency cases, 13 child protective cases and 3 personal protection actions. Further, in 2018, there were 17 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the temporary legal guardian for 28 children. The Court also finalized three adoptions, assisted with name changes for six individuals and processed 70 adult personal protection actions.



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

# LEELANAU FAMILY DIVISION



**Left to Right:** Joseph Povolo [Family Court Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator], Josephine Lingaur [Juvenile Register], Rachael LaCross [Deputy Probate Register], John Boonstra [Youth Services Counselor], Therese Larson [Juvenile Probation Officer], Kris Mattis [Probate Register], Ryan Douglass [Substance Abuse Caseworker and Juvenile Probation Officer], Sarah Hubbell [Diversion/Prevention Counselor] **Seated:** Hon. Marian F. Kromkowski

In 2019, 66 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Leelanau County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 103 cases, with the Court disposing of 73 cases. The total juvenile caseload consisted of 24 cases. There were 16 new juvenile filings: 14 delinquency cases and 2 child protective cases. The Court supervised 16 juveniles. Further, in 2019 there were three children associated with new child protective filings. The Court finalized six adoptions, assisted with one name change and processed 41 adult personal protection actions.

# GRAND TRAVERSE FAMILY DIVISION

In 2019, 535 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Grand Traverse County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 1,002 cases, with the Court disposing of 838 cases. The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 305 cases. There were 263 new juvenile filings: 195 delinquency cases, 6 traffic cases, 60 child protective cases and 2 personal protective actions. The Court supervised 70 juveniles. Further, in 2019 there were 102 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as temporary legal guardian for 79 children. The Court also finalized 29 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 43 individuals and processed 284 adult personal protection actions.



**Left to Right:** Kris Randall [Family Division Administrator], Bobbie Sherman [Scheduling], Janet Kronk [Neglect/Abuse], Kristyn Brendel [Judicial Assistant], Jody Barton [Juvenile Administration]  
**Seated:** Holly Davison [Collections]

The Juvenile Probation Department made 2,068 probation contacts in 2019. These contacts included: conferences at the probation office, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Juvenile Drug Court, New Vision 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.



**Left to Right:** Matthew Ferguson [Probation Officer], Jeff Burdick [Probation Officer], John Sabatini, Jr. [Probation Officer], Kelly Sarns [Juvenile Register], Heather Prevo [Probation Officer], Cheryl Goodwin [Chief Probation Officer]

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.



**Left to Right:** Laura Shumate [Learning Partners Coordinator], Kathy Nixon [Volunteer Services Administration], Meghan Schuur [Volunteer Coordinator], Jennifer Weber [Program Manager],



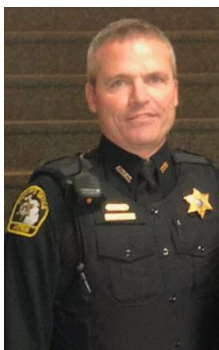
# COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections works in cooperation with local governments to reduce admissions to prison, improve local jail utilization, improve rehabilitative services to offenders. Grants are awarded to help support services such as substance-abuse treatment, and provide residential programs for certain types of offenders. The 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections Department has served Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties since 1991. Services are provided to both the Circuit Court and District Court offenders. The available programs and 23 services they provide enable the offender to become a healthy and productive member of society. Programs offered by 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections include Pretrial Services, felony probation residential services, recovery home supervision, house arrest services, community service work, in-home breathalyzers, and jail alternative programs.

In 2019, the Thirteenth Circuit Court Community Corrections program had an 86% successful completion rate between all three counties it covers.

## 13TH CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE SECURITY

ANTRIM



Todd Johnson

GRAND TRAVERSE



**Top:** Bob Murdock, John Crampton, Dale Barker, Mark Rocheleau  
**Bottom:** Jared Jenson, Vicki Gleich, Robert Basso, Kim Guadagno

LEELANAU

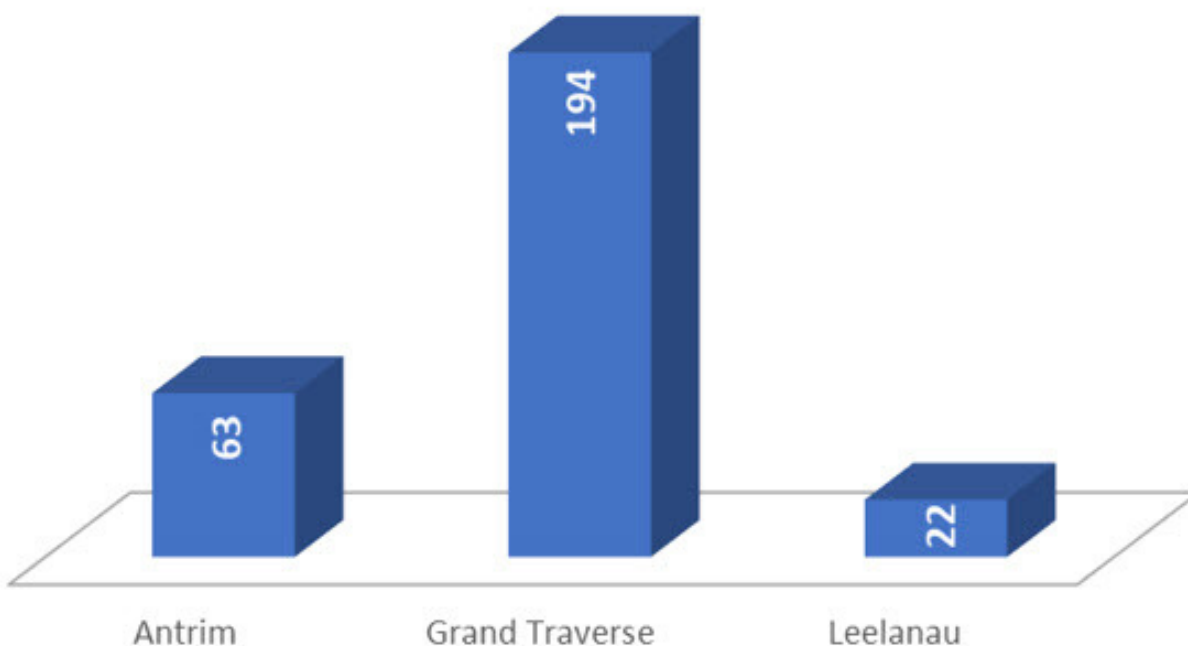


Jim Atkinson

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

As employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) assigned to local courts, staff supervise convicted offenders that fall within the Thirteenth Circuit Court's jurisdiction. The probation/parole staff maintain close working relations with court personnel, law enforcement, Community Corrections and many other area partners to assure public safety and ensure offenders are well supervised. In 2019, the MDOC was partially staffed with nine agents and three secretaries covering the tri-county court area. The MDOC averaged a caseload of 427 cases per month between the three counties in 2019, specifically 75 cases in Antrim County, 319 in Grand Traverse County and 33 in Leelanau County. In addition to supervising MDOC clients, each probation/parole agent must complete a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report (PSIR) for every Circuit Court conviction as well as supplement reports for follow up and re-sentencings. The PSIR includes the scoring from the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines and a detailed summary of the individual's history, which is then used by the Circuit Court judges as a tool to assist in determining the appropriate sentence for the crime committed and the specific offender. In 2019, 279 new PSIRs were written for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.

**PSIRs - BY COUNTY**



# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



**Back Row:** Cynthia Patrick [Grand Traverse County], Andrew Moeggenborg, [Grand Traverse County], Matt Koenig [Grand Traverse County], Chuck Welch [Field Supervisor], Chris Bearup [Antrim County] **Front Row:** Deanna Wilson [Secretary], James Monette [Grand Traverse County], Jo Meyers [Grand Traverse County & Leelanau County], Thomas Chapman [Grand Traverse County], Amanda Flynn [Grand Traverse County] **Inset:** Damon Herman [Grand Traverse County] **Not Pictured:** Christa Gaugler [Antrim County], Damon Herman [Grand Traverse County] **Insert:** Vanessa Filan [Secretary]

My client was sentenced in 2017 for 'Operating While Impaired-3rd Offense' to probation with the first 9 months served in the Antrim County Jail. He was released into Community Corrections prior to completion of the entire 9 month term and entered into substance abuse treatment and programming. He successfully completed this programming along with specialized therapy. During probation, he obtained successful employment quickly after his release from jail and maintained this same job through his entire term of probation. He was residing with his mother during supervision, where he provided her assistance and support. He remained violation free and began chairing AA meetings in the community. This probationer was successfully discharged from probation on 12/12/19. -Agent Chris Bearup

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

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CONGRATULATIONS!

## RECOGNITION

JUDGE MARIAN F. KROMKOWSKI COMPETED HER FIRST YEAR ON THE BENCH AS LEELANAU FAMILY & PROBATE JUDGE

NOELLE MOEGGENBERG COMPLETED HER FIRST YEAR AS GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROSECUTOR

MATTHEW N. HAGEN HIRED AS CIRCUIT COURT REFEREE UPON RETIREMENT OF REFEREE KIRSTEN L. KEILITZ

THANK YOU TO MDOC AGENT DAMON HERMAN FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE MILITARY. HE WAS DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT ALL OF 2019

THE 13TH CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AND FRIEND OF THE COURT CHANGED THEIR EMAIL DOMAIN TO @13THCIRCUITCOURT.ORG TO ENCOMPASS ALL THREE COUNTIES THAT THEY SERVE

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

CAROL BRADWAY, FRIEND OF THE COURT: 30 YEARS  
JOSEPHINE LINGUAR, LEELANAU FAMILY DIVISION: 20 YEARS  
KAREN SANCHEZ, FRIEND OF THE COURT: 20 YEARS  
RYAN DOUGLAS, LEELANAU PROBATION/PAROLE: 20 YEARS  
ERIC SALANI, FRIEND OF THE COURT: 15 YEARS  
FRAN BOYLE, FRIEND OF THE COURT: 15 YEARS  
BROOKE BEARUP, CIRCUIT COURT ADMIN OFFICE: 10 YEARS

## RETIREMENTS

SUSAN RICHARDS, 32 YEARS WITH LEELANAU FAMILY DIVISION  
FRAN BOYLE, 15 YEARS WITH FRIEND OF THE COURT  
KIRSTEN L. KEILITZ, 10 YEARS AS CIRCUIT COURT REFEREE



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

## 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. These roles displayed her commitment to the highest ideals of professionalism and community service, focusing on equal access to justice for all. The 2019 recipient of the Kimberly M. Cahill Bar Leadership Award was *Michael J. Sullivan*.



## 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 2019 recipient of the Jo Bullis Pro Bono Award was *Lawrence LaSusa*.



## MEDIATOR OF THE YEAR

In 2018, the 13th Circuit Court implemented a new award for their very own "Mediator of the Year." The recipient of the 2019 Mediator of the Year award is John P. Racine, Jr., who has served as a mediator since the implementation of the ADR Plan in 2000 and has mediated approximately 1,000 cases for the 13th Circuit Court.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

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## MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

THE MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION, ALSO KNOWN AS MIDC, WAS CREATED BY LEGISLATION IN 2013 AFTER AN ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STATE'S LEGAL SYSTEM. THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE THEN ENFORCED IT IN ALL MICHIGAN COURTS STARTING ON OCTOBER 1, 2019. THE MIDC WILL WORK TO ENSURE THE STATE'S PUBLIC DEFENSE SYSTEM IS FAIR, COST-EFFECTIVE AND CONSTITUTIONAL WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE ENFORCEMENT OF MIDC HAS REQUIRED THE COURTS TO COLLECT MORE DATA AND SUBMIT MORE REPORTING TO THE STATE.



*Dedicated to improving indigent  
defense services statewide.*

