



THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT ANNUAL REPORT

2010 EDITION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Case Management	2
Criminal Caseload	3
Probation Department	6
Civil Caseload	7
Case Filing Trends	9
Personal Protection Orders	10
Case Dispositions	11
Alternative Dispute Resolution	13
Facilitative Mediation	13
Case Evaluation	14
Domestic Relations Mediation	15
Court Finances	16
Collections	16
Revenue and Expenditures	17
Friend of the Court	18
New Cases	18
Child Support Enforcement	19
Child Support Charges and Collections	20
Activities Summary for 2010	22
Juries	23
Law Library	23
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court	24
Judges	24
Circuit Court Administration Office	26
Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees	27
Court Reporters	27
Judicial Assistants	27
Divisions	28
Antrim Family Division	28
Grand Traverse Family Division	28
Grand Traverse Juvenile Probation	29
Leelanau Family Division	29
Grand Traverse Truancy.....	30
Grand Traverse Volunteer Services	30
Grand Traverse Administrative Assistants.....	31
Recognitions	31

INTRODUCTION

Looking back on the year 2010, we are able to report some bright spots amidst the continuing gloom of the economic recession. While divorce filings were stable, criminal cases and residential foreclosures declined. Unlike most of the rest of Michigan, Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties gained population in the last census. Grand Traverse County alone grew by 12 percent, with Leelanau and Antrim Counties increasing by 2.8 percent and 2 percent, respectively. The decrease in crime then, is not due to a general decrease in population as it may be in other parts of the state.

All parts of Michigan continue to struggle financially. The Thirteenth Circuit Court has been sensitive to this struggle and reduced its budget in the past year and for calendar year 2011. This reduction has allowed a portion of authorized funds to be returned to the general fund.

Consistent with the need to maximize efficiency and reduce costs, the Court left a staff position unfilled and has embarked on a program of technological upgrading. Specifically, the Court contracted for and is in the process of installing an online document management system which, among other things, will receive e-filed submissions from attorneys and other litigants through the County Clerks' Offices in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties, respectively. This task is complex. Implementation of the online document management system involves the Circuit Court judges and representatives of the County Clerks' offices and internet technicians from all three counties. A number of attorneys have graciously volunteered to test the system. The Court believes the inaugural system, to be unveiled in 2011, will reflect the significant time, effort and expense involved in its establishment. We continue to thank the Commissioners from our three constituent counties for their continuing support and recognition of our efforts to utilize technology to its fullest.

The Court also focused on significantly reconstructing and upgrading its website, www.13thcircuitcourt.org. We believe that lawyers and litigants will find it of great assistance. Drop down menus include useful and informative topics such as, jury duty, motion days and motion practice and the alternative dispute resolution process. The Friend of the Court section has a wealth of information regarding Friend of the Court services, while the Department of Corrections section includes links to the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Sex Offender Registry and the Offender Tracking Information system. This is merely a superficial highlight of the types of information provided on the Court's website.

We will continue to expand the fund of available information and hope that users will contact the Court with suggestions for additions, corrections or deletions.

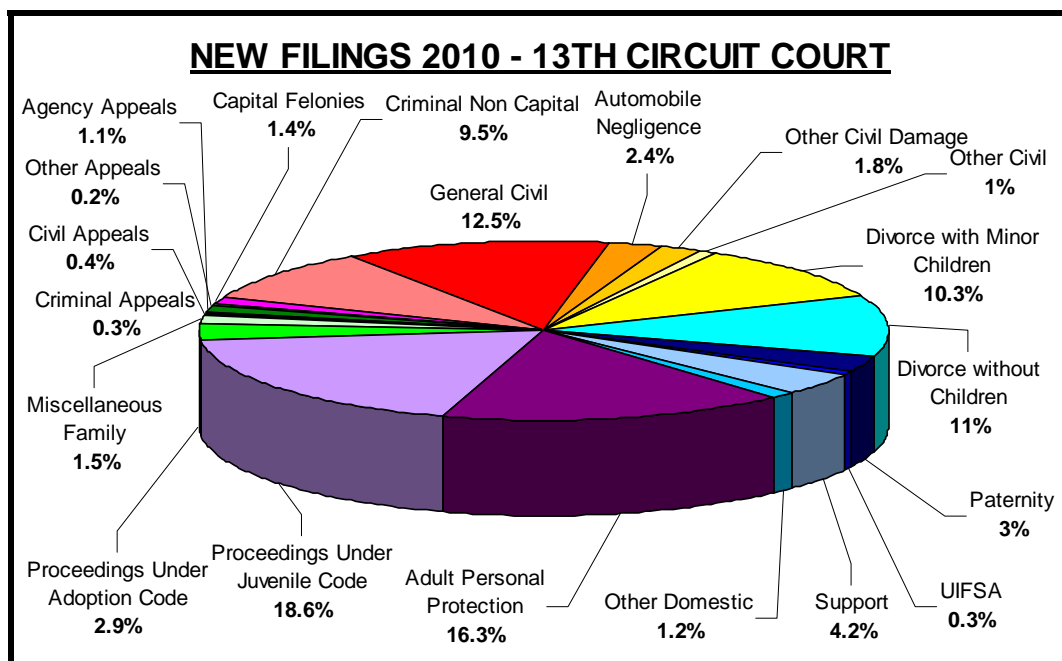
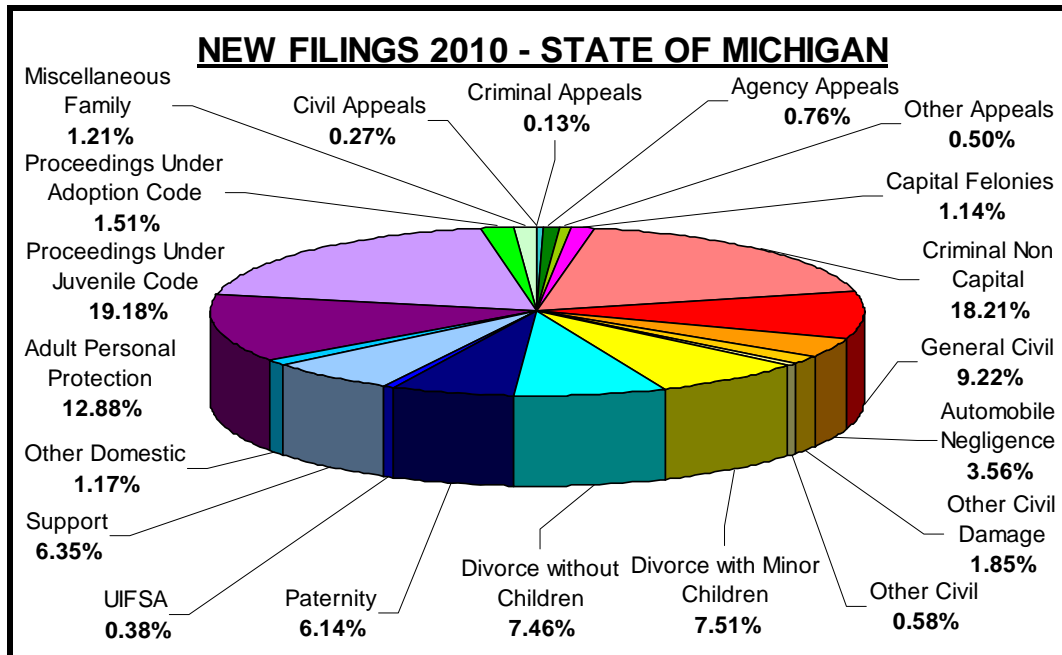
Honorable Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.



CASE MANAGEMENT

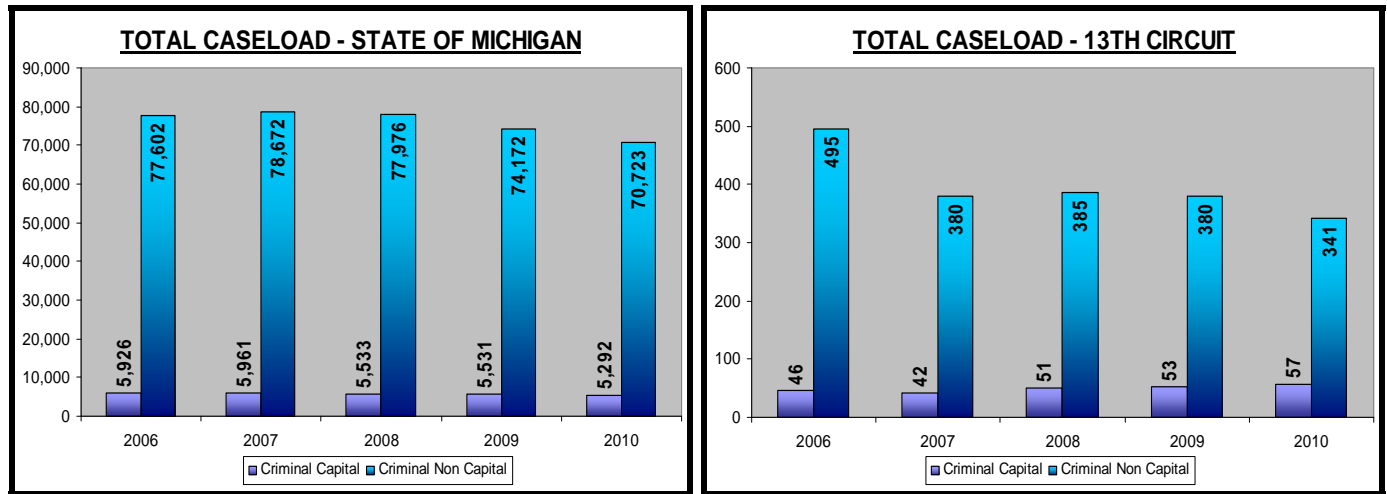
The Circuit Court follows the mandated time schedule as delineated in the Michigan Court Rules and Administrative Orders to efficiently manage and dispose of its cases. Once a new case has been opened, the Court issues a Scheduling Order providing time limitations for the processing of the case and establishing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

The number and types of new cases that are filed annually vary by location. The following charts compare the types of new cases filed in the entire State of Michigan with the Thirteenth Circuit.

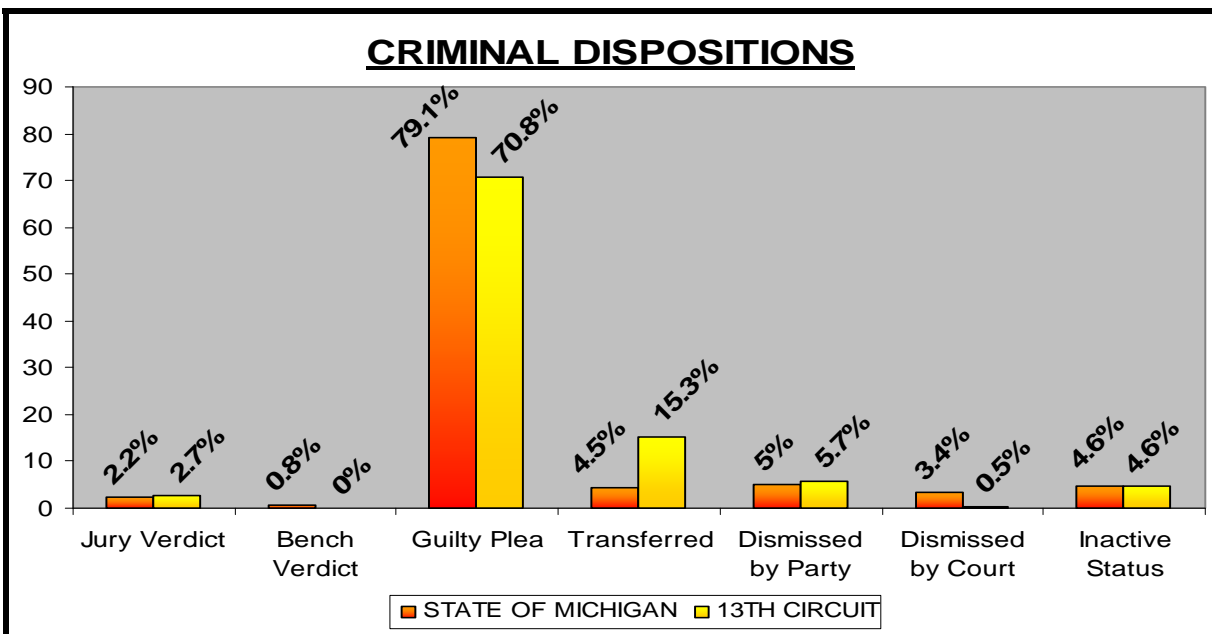


CRIMINAL CASELOAD

In 2010, there were ten criminal trials held before juries in Thirteenth Circuit, including 9 trials in Grand Traverse County and one trial in Leelanau County. The Court accepted 258 guilty pleas, which was a slight decrease from the 261 pleas taken in 2009 and the 269 taken in 2008.



In total, the Court disposed of 364 criminal cases in 2010. The following chart depicts the rates of varying disposition methods used by the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit Court.

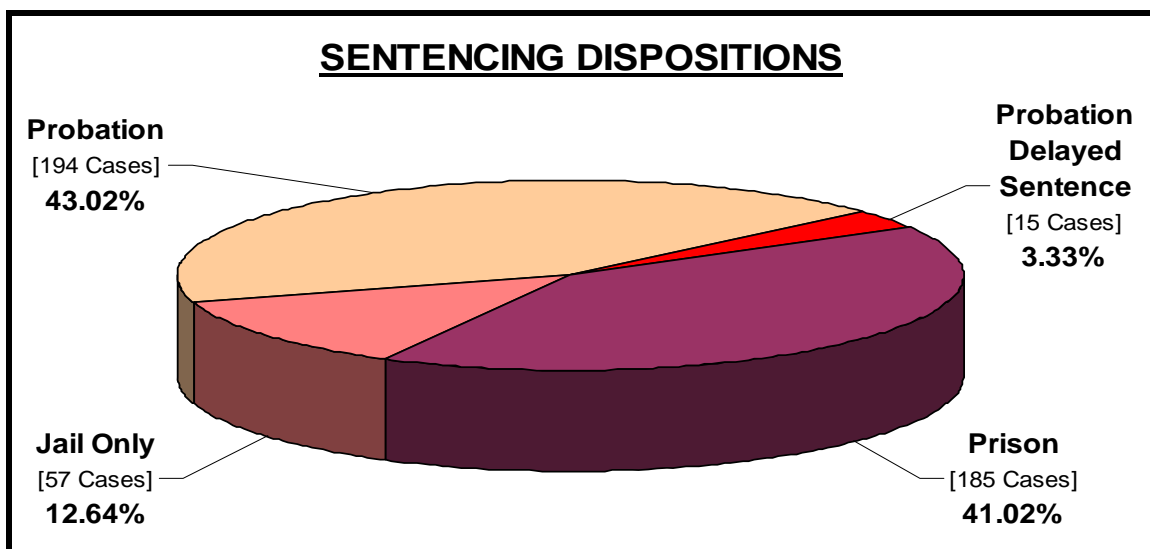


Guilty defendants received sentences including commitment to prison, commitment to jail, probation, costs and fines, delayed sentence or a combination of penalties. The chart below displays how defendants were sentenced for various categories of crimes. In 2010, the Court sentenced 334 defendants on 451 separate 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.

CATEGORY	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	TOTAL
CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON				
Assault	1	1		2
Assault-Dangerous Weapon	4	2	5	11
Assault-Felonious		1		1
Child Abuse-2 nd	1			1
Child-Concealing Death		1		1
Child-Sexually Abusive Material	7		2	9
CSC-1 st	12			12
CSC-2 nd	5			5
CSC-3 rd	9			9
CSC-4 th	11	1	11	23
Domestic Violence		3		3
Domestic Violence-3 rd	1		2	3
Home Invasion	2			2
Home Invasion-2 nd	7		2	9
Home Invasion-3 rd	4		5	9
Manslaughter	1			1
Murder-2 nd	1			1
Robbery-Armed	3		1	4
Robbery-Unarmed	2			2
Stalking	4		3	7
Unlawful Imprisonment	1			1
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY				
Breaking & Entering	7	3	11	21
Checks-Without Account	4		4	8
Checks-Violation of Law	1			1
Embezzlement	1		2	3
False Pretenses	1		1	2
Financial Transaction Device-Steal/Possess/Use	3	2	2	7
Larceny-Building	4	3	14	21
Larceny-Person	1		3	4
Property Destruction	3	3		6
Receiving/Concealing-Stolen Property	2			2
Receiving/Concealing-Weapons	1			1
UDAA	2		2	4
Uttering & Publishing	3	2	3	8
Welfare Fraud			1	1
CRIMES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE				
Maintaining Drug House	5		10	15
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver-Cocaine	6	1	12	19
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver-Marijuana	7	6	32	45
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver-Methamphetamine	2		1	3
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver-Other	3	2	1	6
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER				
Absconding/Forfeiting Bond			1	1

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	TOTAL
Evidence Tampering			1	1
Failure to Pay Child Support	5	1	8	14
Failure to Register as Sex Offender	1			1
False Felony Report	1	1	1	3
Gross Indecency	3		3	6
Obstruction of Justice	1			1
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY				
Concealed Weapon	2		3	5
Criminal Enterprise	1			1
Escape-Jail	1	1		2
Felony Firearm		1		1
Fleeing/Eluding/Resisting/Obstructing Police Officer	9	10	12	31
OWI		5		5
OWI-2 nd			2	2
OWI-3 rd	21	1	40	62
OWI Causing Death	1			1
Prisoner-Furnishing/Possessing Contraband	3		1	4
Unlawful Use Vehicle/Operating with Suspended License	3	6	5	14
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST				
Contempt/Perjury	1		2	3
TOTAL	185	57	209	451

Judges may also 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 1st/3rd degree criminal sexual conduct. The above chart includes defendants who received delayed sentences in the Probation column.



PROBATION/PAROLE DEPARTMENT

In 2010, staffing levels for the Thirteenth Circuit Court Probation Department and Michigan Department of Corrections Parole Department remained stable with nine agents and three clerical assistants covering the three-county region. 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 maintains close working relations with local court personnel, law enforcement, Community Corrections and many other area partners to ensure offenders are persistently 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 addition to supervision of MDOC clients, Probation and Parole staff members complete Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports (PSIRs) for each Circuit Court conviction, as well as supplemental reports for formal violations. The PSIRs include 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 2010, 268 new PSIRs were compiled for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



Standing (from left): James Monette [GTC], Charles Welch [Field Agent/Supervisor], Jo Meyers [GTC], William Fleming [GTC], Steven Brett [GTC & LC]
Seated (from left): Thomas Chapman [GTC], Joleen Peck [GTC] Melanie Catinella [GTC], James Ribby [GTC]
Not pictured: Marti Harmon and Christa Gaugler



Dawn Bard [AC]



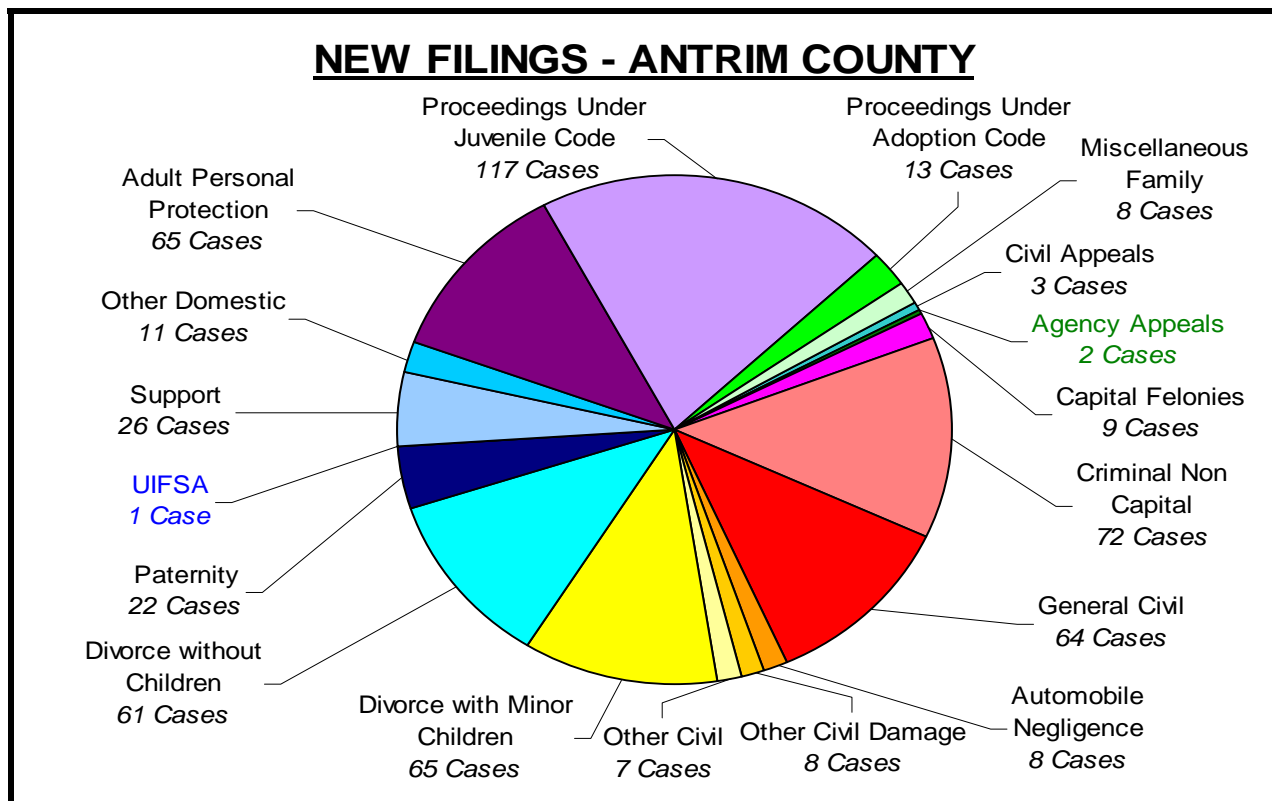
Daryl Reinsch [AC]

CIVIL CASELOAD

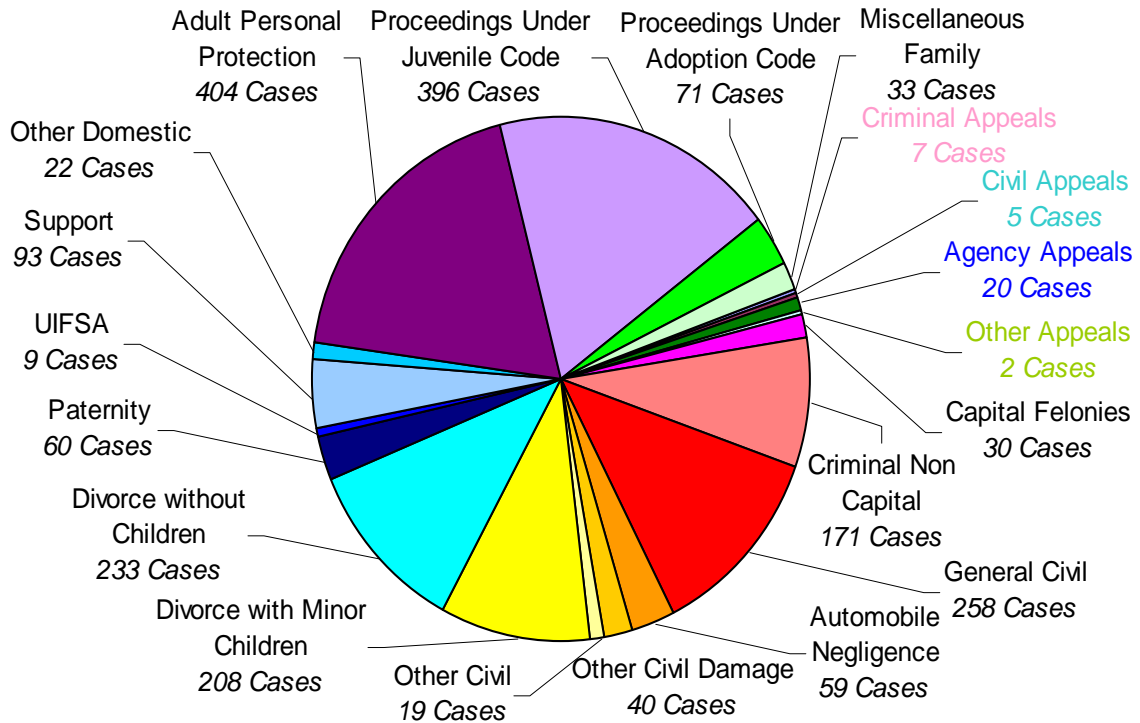
Circuit Court cases are separated into the following categories: appeals, capital felonies, criminal non-capital, general civil, automobile negligence, other civil damage, other civil, divorce with and without minor children, paternity, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), support, other domestic, 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' types of 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. 'Proceedings under the juvenile code' cases include designated juvenile offenses, delinquency proceedings, traffic and local ordinance, child protective proceedings and juvenile personal protection actions. '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.

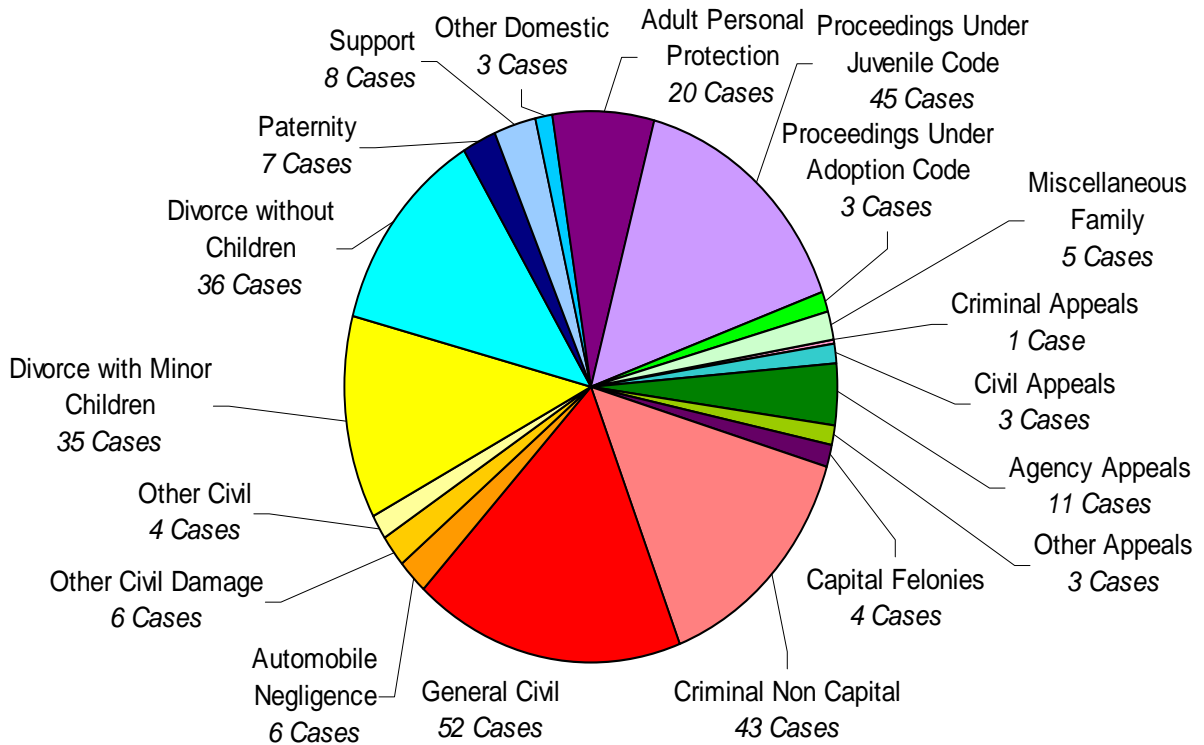
The following charts depict the types of new cases filed in 2010 in Antrim County, Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County.



NEW FILINGS - GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

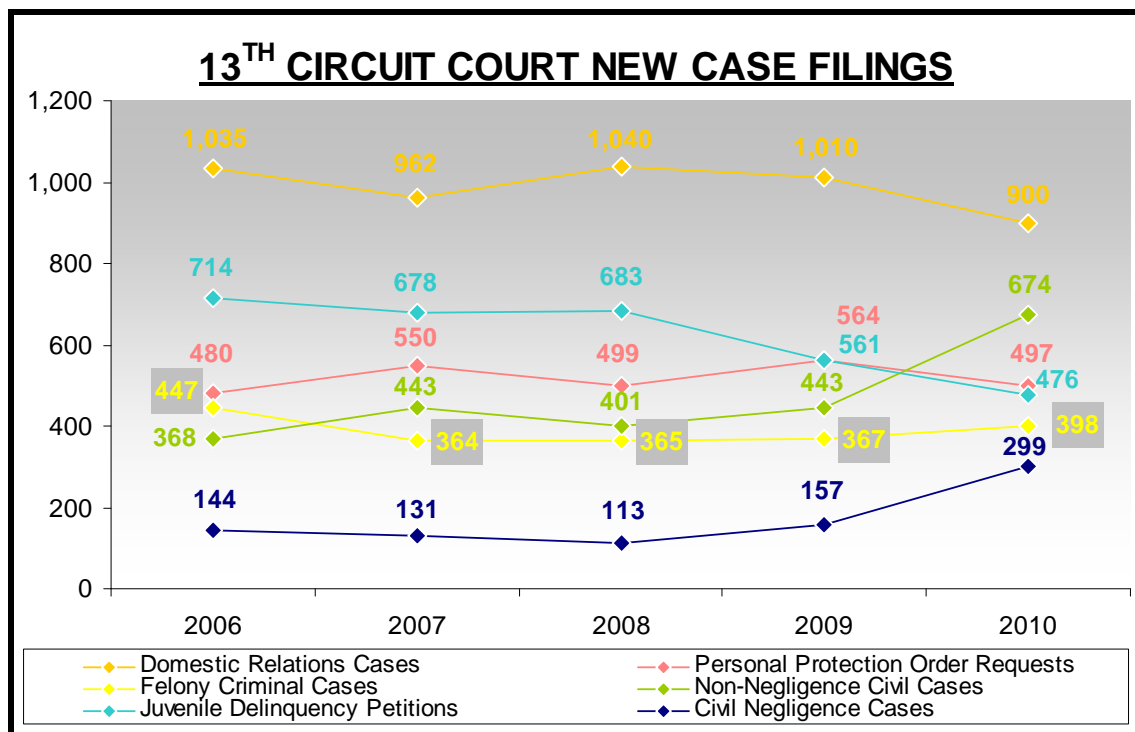
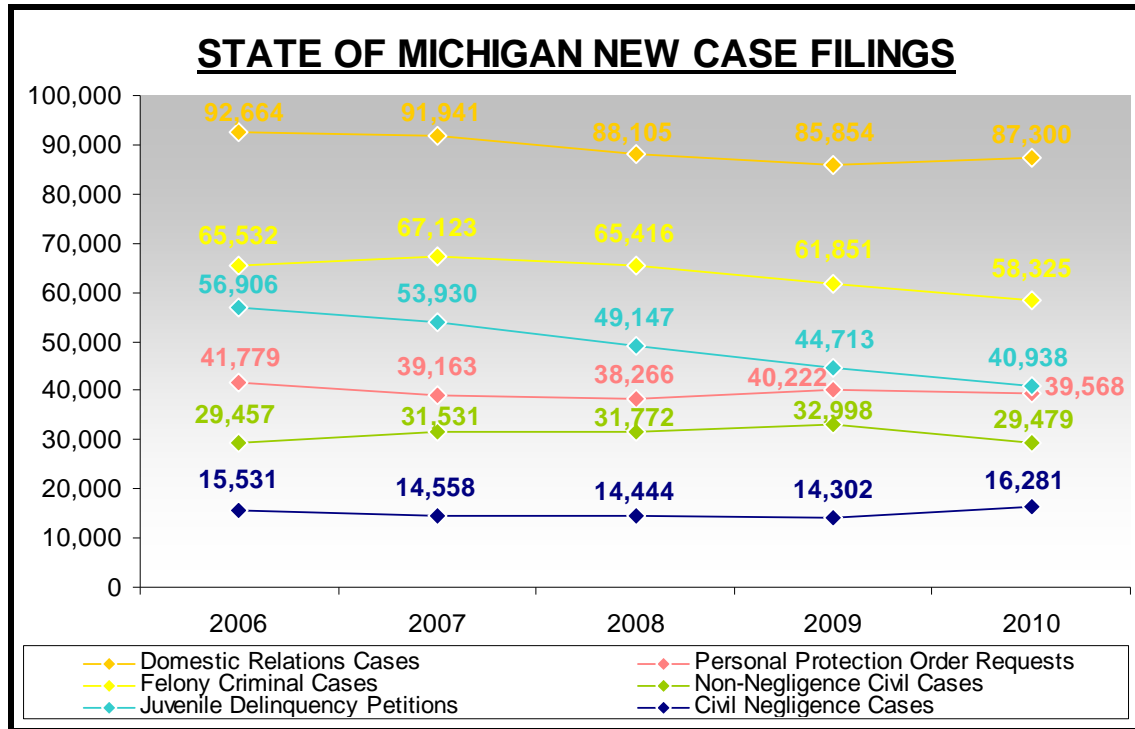


NEW FILINGS - LEELANAU COUNTY



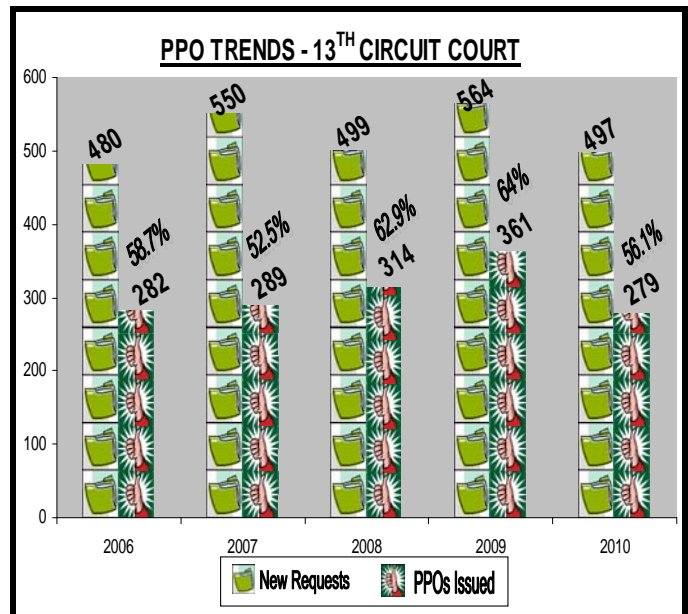
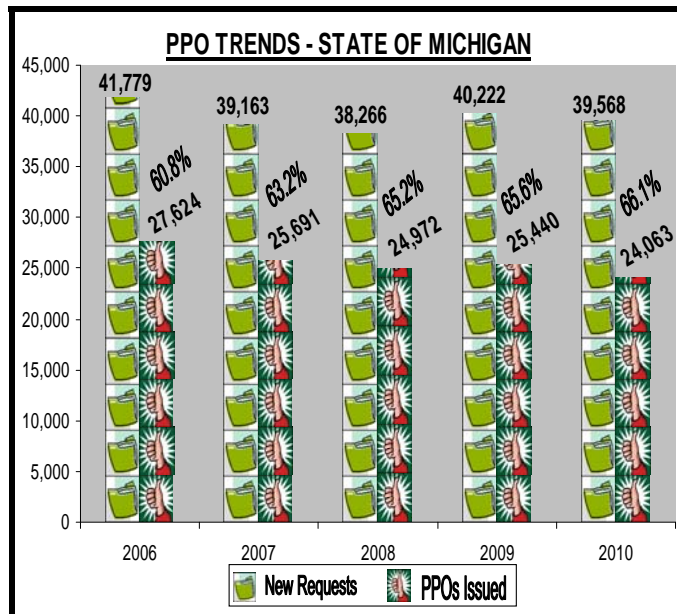
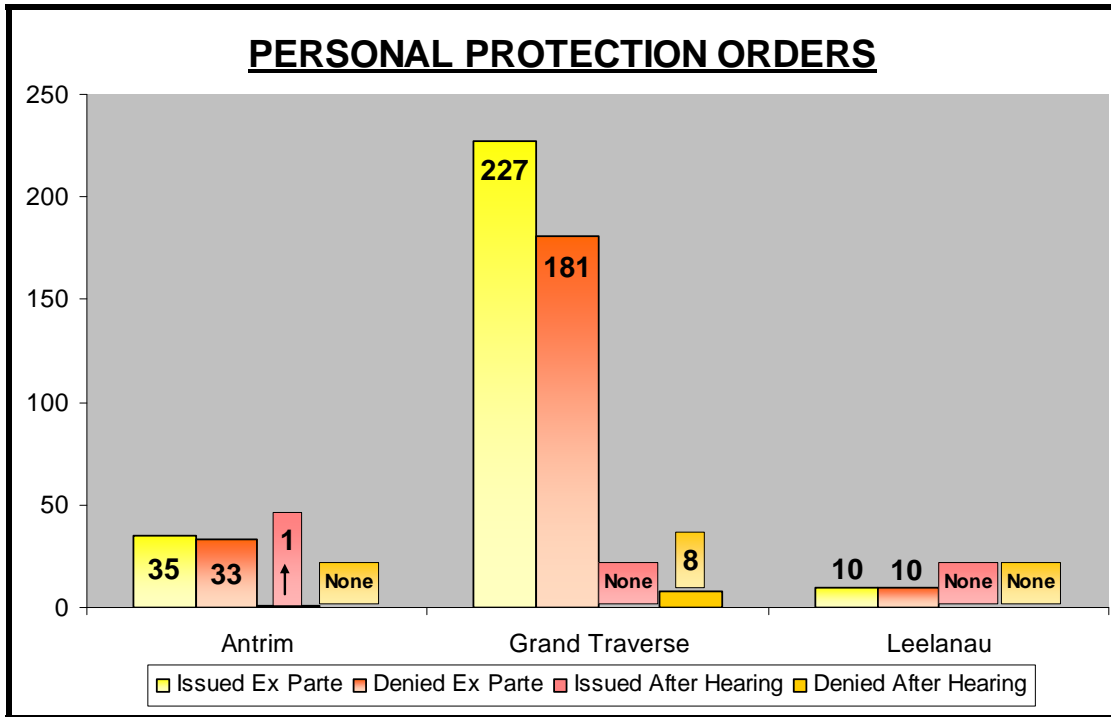
CASE FILING TRENDS

The following charts compare annual new case filing for the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit Court during the previous 5 years. Statewide the number of domestic relations cases filed increased from 2009, while new domestic relations cases filed decreased in the Thirteenth Circuit. Conversely, new filings for other civil cases decreased statewide, while other civil case filings increased in this Circuit.



PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

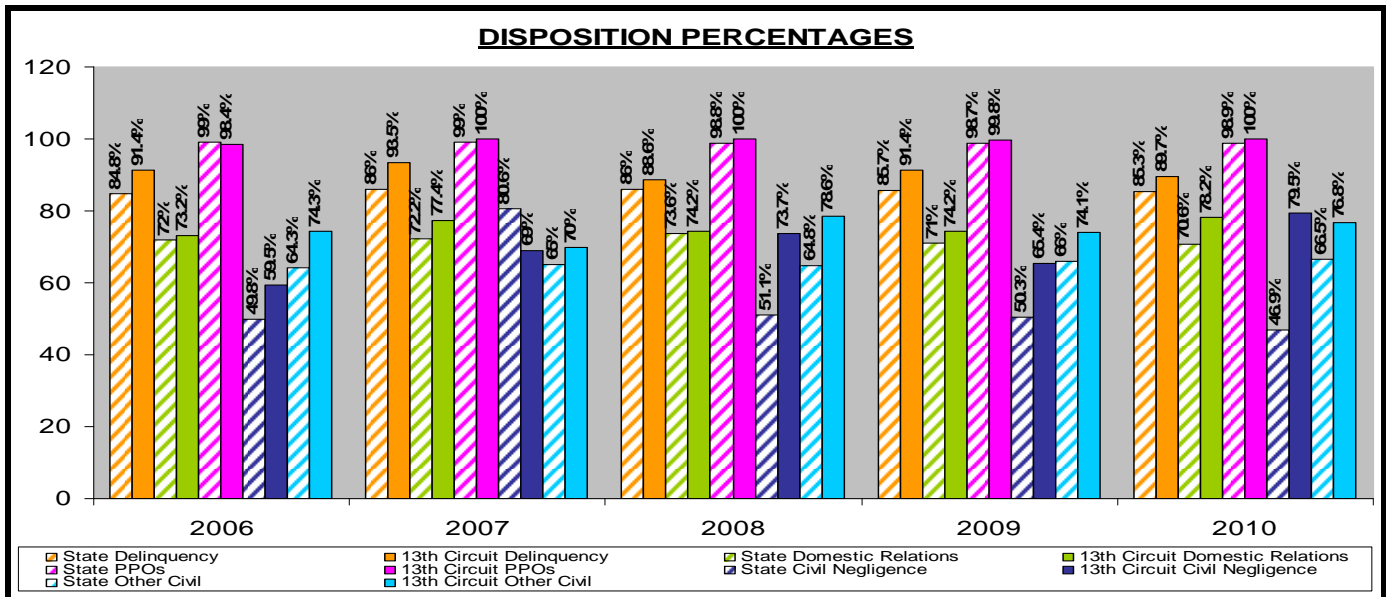
In 2010, there were 497 newly filed requests for personal protection orders. This total reflects all domestic and non-domestic adult personal protection orders and all juvenile personal protection orders. The chart below depicts how requests for personal protection orders were processed by county. The following charts demonstrate recent trends in the number of requests for personal protection orders, the number of orders issued and the actual percentage of orders issued. For both the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit, Court requests for and personal protection orders issued are down from previous years.



CASE DISPOSITIONS

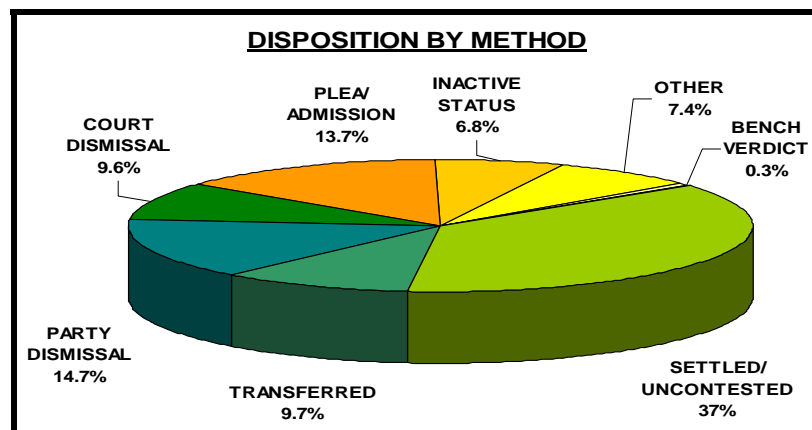
Annual disposition percentages are calculated by dividing the annual number of outgoing cases, cases disposed of or made inactive, by the total caseload, which includes cases that begin the year period as pending, new filings, and re-opened cases. There is generally a lag in time between when cases are filed and when they are disposed of, therefore, disposition percentages naturally fluctuate above and below 100%.

The following chart compares the disposition rates, by percentage, for the State of Michigan (averaging dispositions for Circuit Courts statewide) and the disposition rates of the Thirteenth Circuit Court for the previous 5 years.



On average, the Thirteenth Circuit Court disposes of a larger percentage of cases annually than the State of Michigan for criminal cases, delinquency cases, domestic relations cases, civil negligence cases and other civil cases. The Thirteenth Circuit Court's efficiency, via case-flow management and responsiveness, is illustrated by its elevated disposition percentages.

Methods of disposition include jury verdicts, bench verdicts, uncontested, defaulted or settled cases, case dismissals by parties or the Court, transferred cases or changing of case type. Disposition percentages are representative of case-flow management and indicate the extent to which a court is attending to its total caseload. The chart below displays the methods of case disposition, by percentage, for the Thirteenth Circuit Court in 2010.



The tables below provide the actual number of cases, civil, domestic relations and juvenile, disposed of by each method.

CIVIL CASE TYPE	JURY VERDICT	BENCH VERDICT	SETTLED*	TRANSFERRED	PARTY DISMISSAL	COURT DISMISSAL	INACTIVE STATUS	OTHER
Business Claims			1		3			2
Condemnation					1			
Employment Discrimination			1	1	2			2
Environment			1					
Housing & Real Estate		2	29	6	28	11	3	17
Contracts	1		84	1	65	24	17	30
Labor Relations					1	1		
Antitrust	1				1			1
General Civil	1	1	68	2	29	21	4	20
Auto Negligence – Property					1			2
No-Fault Insurance			3	1	37	1	4	25
Auto Negligence – Injury	4		5		38	2		26
Medical Malpractice	4		1		4	1		2
Other Malpractice			1		4	1		2
Other Personal Injury			3		25	1	1	17
Products Liability					1			
Other Damages			2		9	2		6
Claim & Delivery			7		6	2	3	4
Receivers							1	1
Miscellaneous			6		1	1	2	2

CASE TYPE	JURY VERDICT	BENCH VERDICT	PLEA/ADMISSION	SETTLED*	TRANSFERRED	PARTY DISMISSAL	COURT DISMISSAL	INACTIVE STATUS	OTHER
Divorce – Children		1		270	1	34	49	76	1
Divorce – No Children		1		273		23	31	50	
Paternity				72	2	12	9		1
UIFSA				1	4		2		1
Support				34	88		8		
Other Domestic				13	16	1	2		1
Juvenile Delinquency	1	4	273		104	23	54		
Juvenile Traffic			3		1		5		
Child Protective			48		5				12

* The term “Settled” collectively includes cases that were defaulted, uncontested or settled.

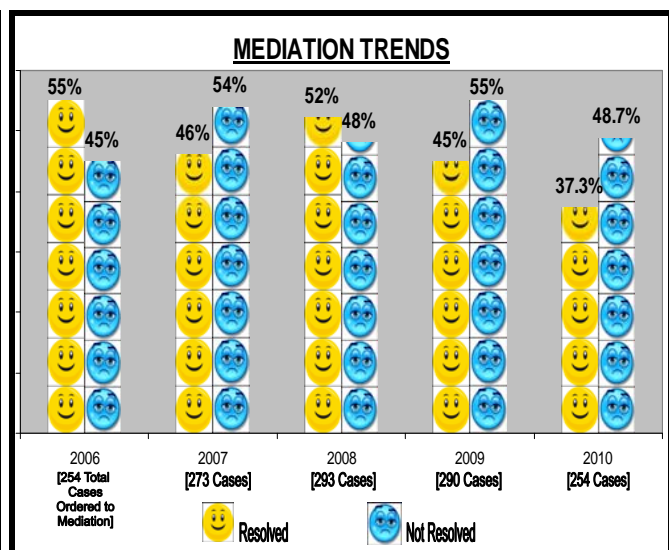
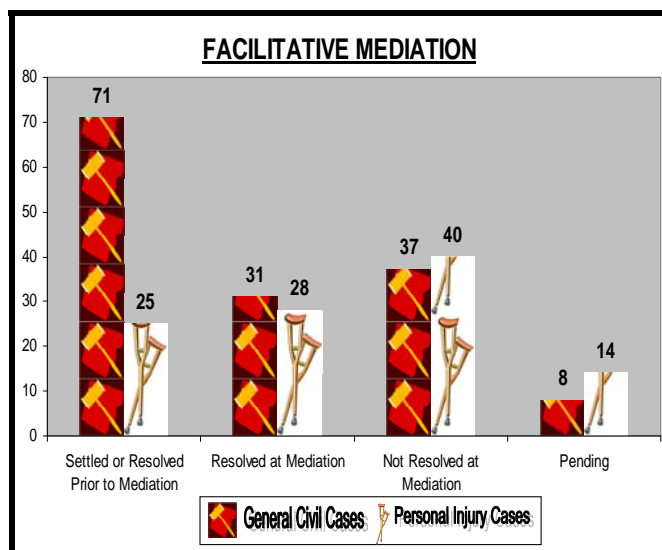
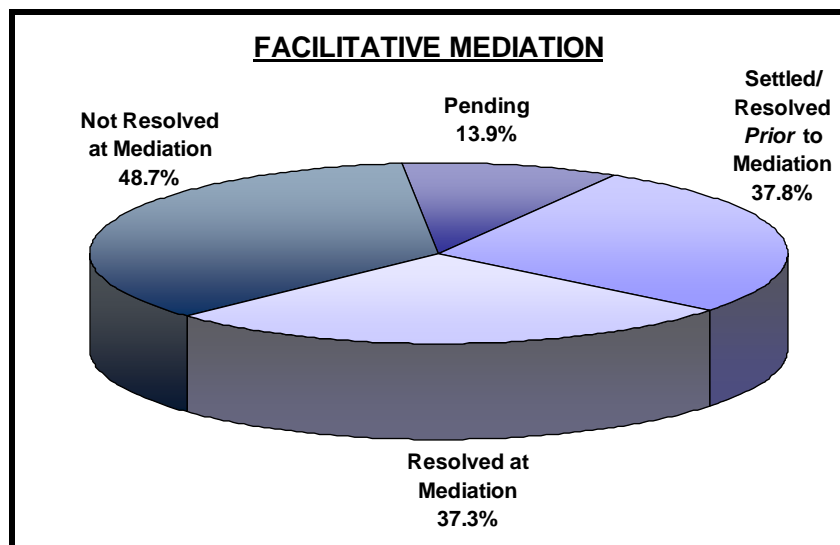
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is any process designed to resolve a legal dispute in the place of court adjudication. ADR includes facilitative mediation, domestic relations mediation, settlement conferences and may also include case evaluation.

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 reducing the overall need for jurors, compensation for lay and expert witnesses and further, limits the need for additional judges and/or courtrooms.

FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

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



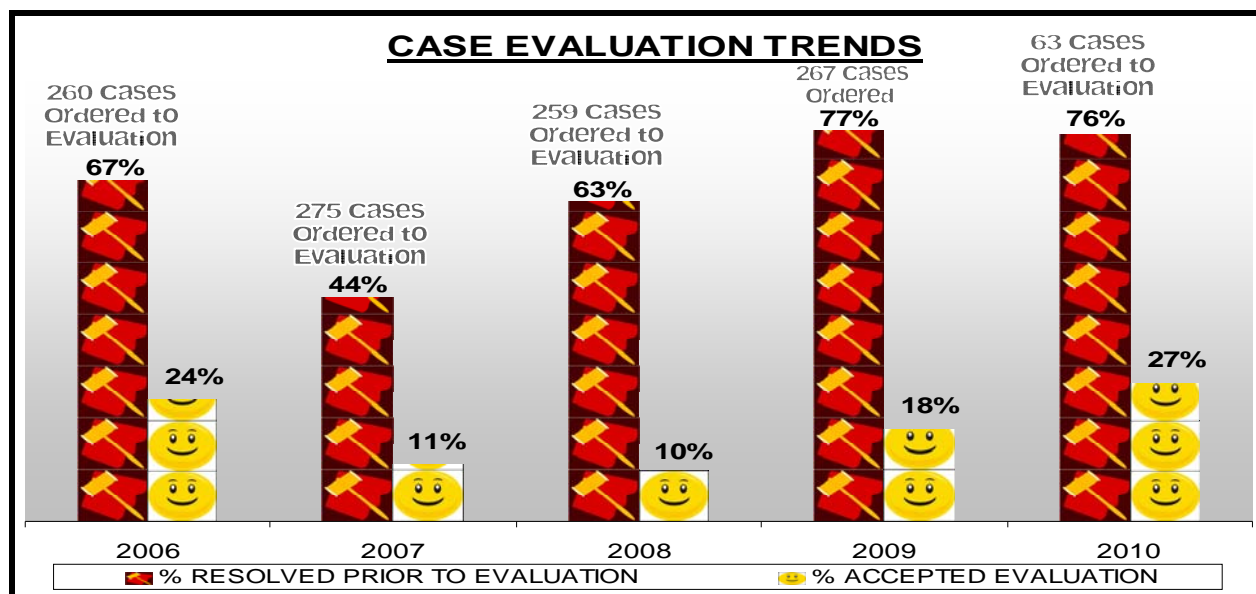
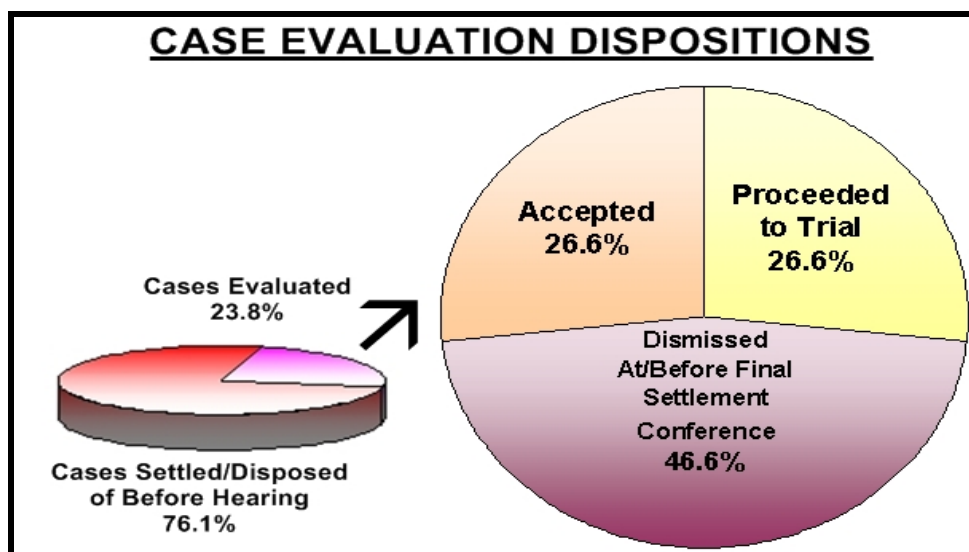
CASE EVALUATION

Case evaluation is a non-binding, alternative dispute resolution 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. Rejection of a case evaluation may result in a subsequent assessment of monetary sanctions.

In 2010, case evaluation was removed from the Court's Civil Scheduling Conference Order. Due to diminishing resources, the Court determined it could no longer justify the administrative time to set panels, resolve conflicts, replace evaluators, set hearing dates, collect and disburse regular and late fees, and administer the responses. The number of cases successfully resolved through case evaluation failed to validate the expense.

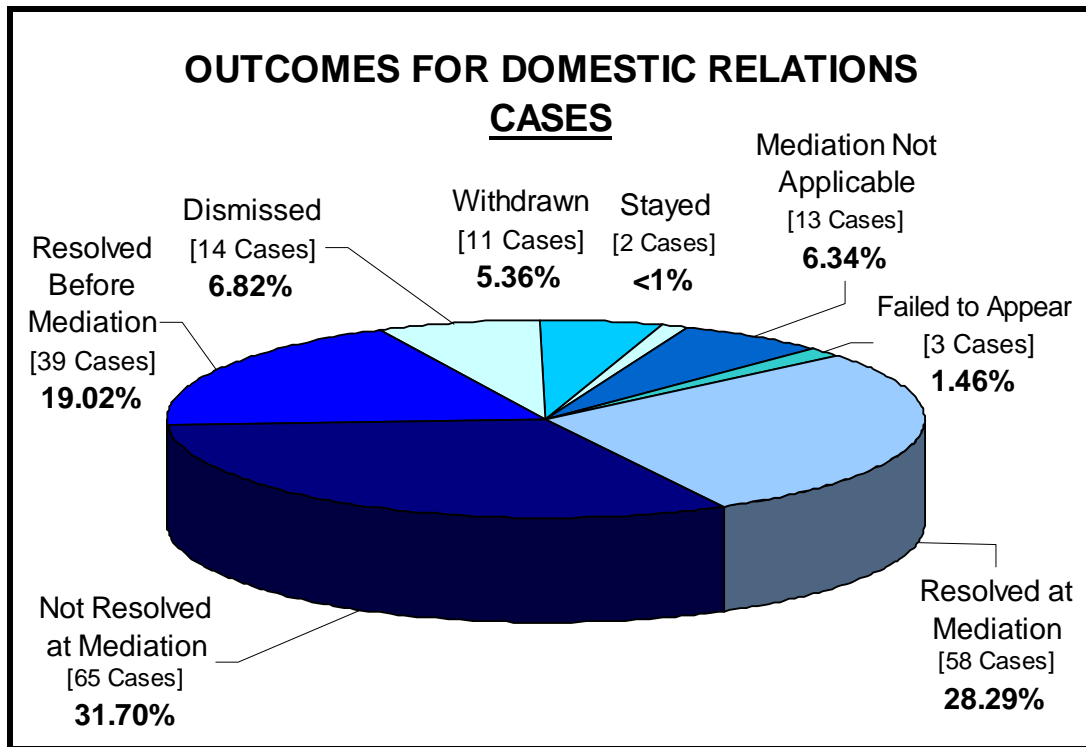
Party litigants who wish to pursue case evaluation are permitted to arrange the proceedings themselves or use the offer of judgment provision pursuant to MCR 2.405.

There were 63 cases ordered to case evaluation prior March 25, 2010, of these cases 48 were dismissed or stayed prior to case evaluation being scheduled. **Only 4 cases were resolved by accepting case valuation.**

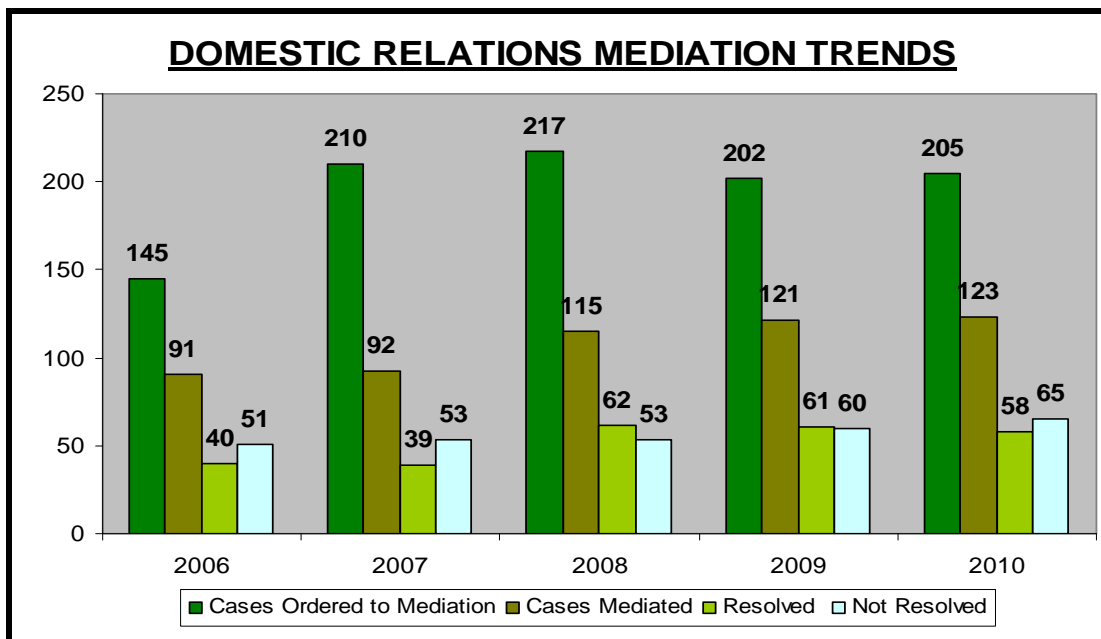


DOMESTIC RELATIONS MEDIATION

In 2010 the Court ordered 205 child-related domestic relations cases and property-related domestic relations cases into facilitative mediation. The following chart represents the results for domestic relations cases ordered to facilitative mediation.



The chart below depicts outcomes, by number of cases, for domestic relations cases ordered to facilitative mediation for the previous 5 years.

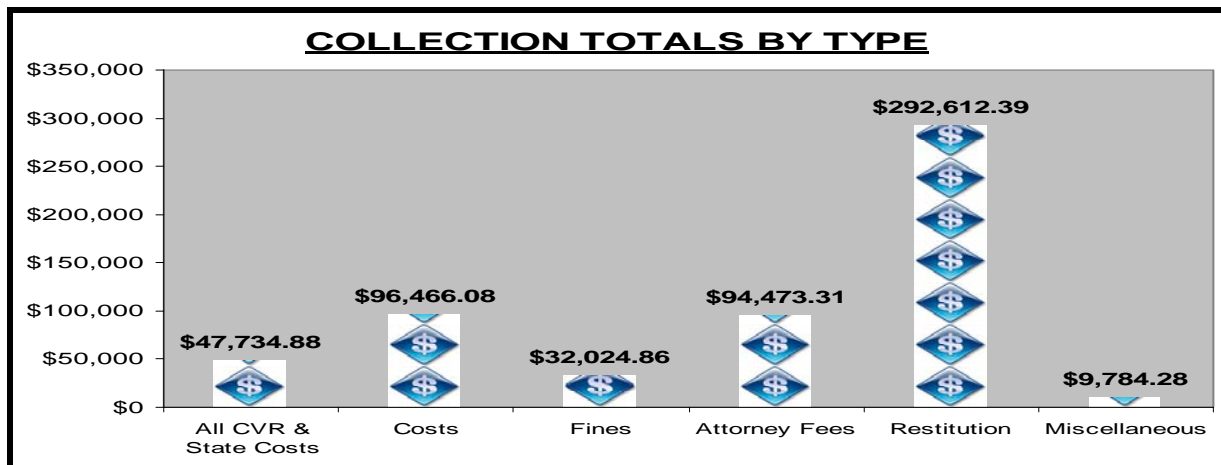
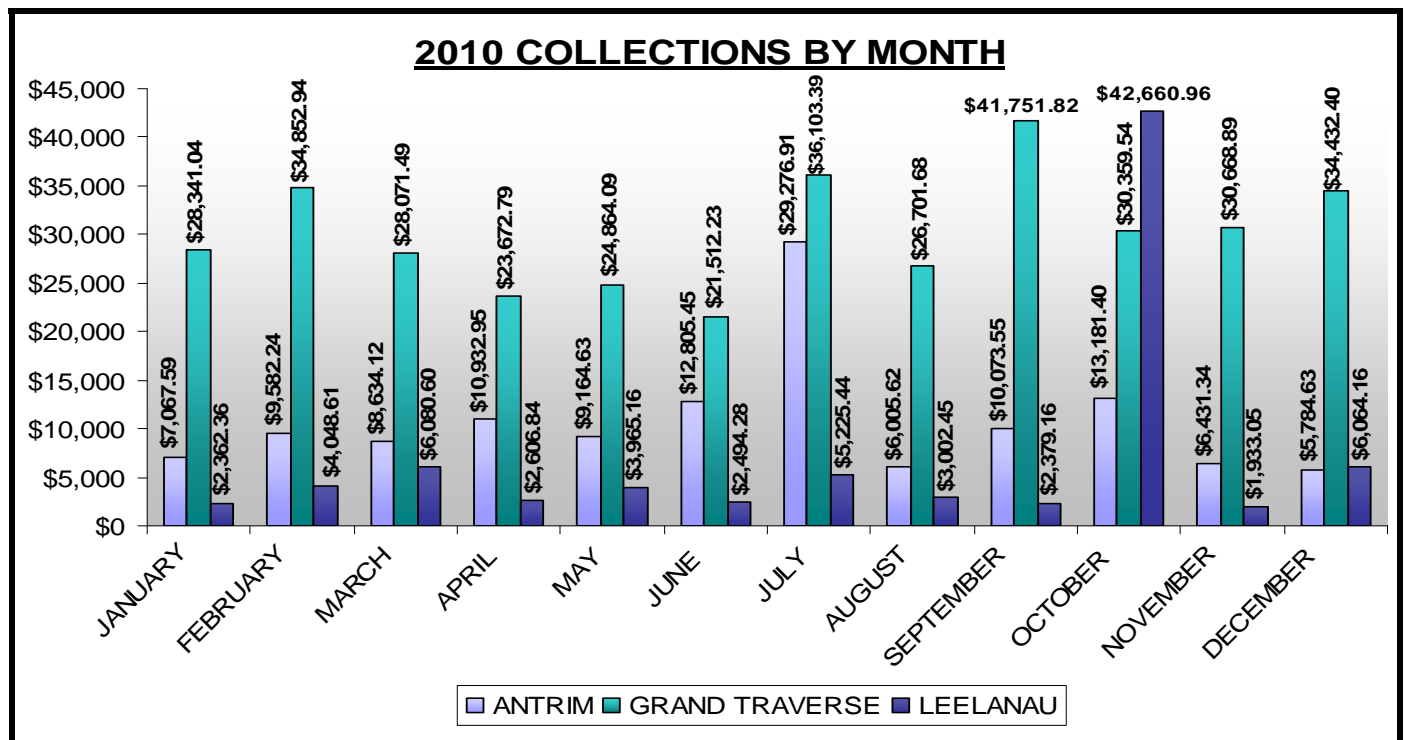


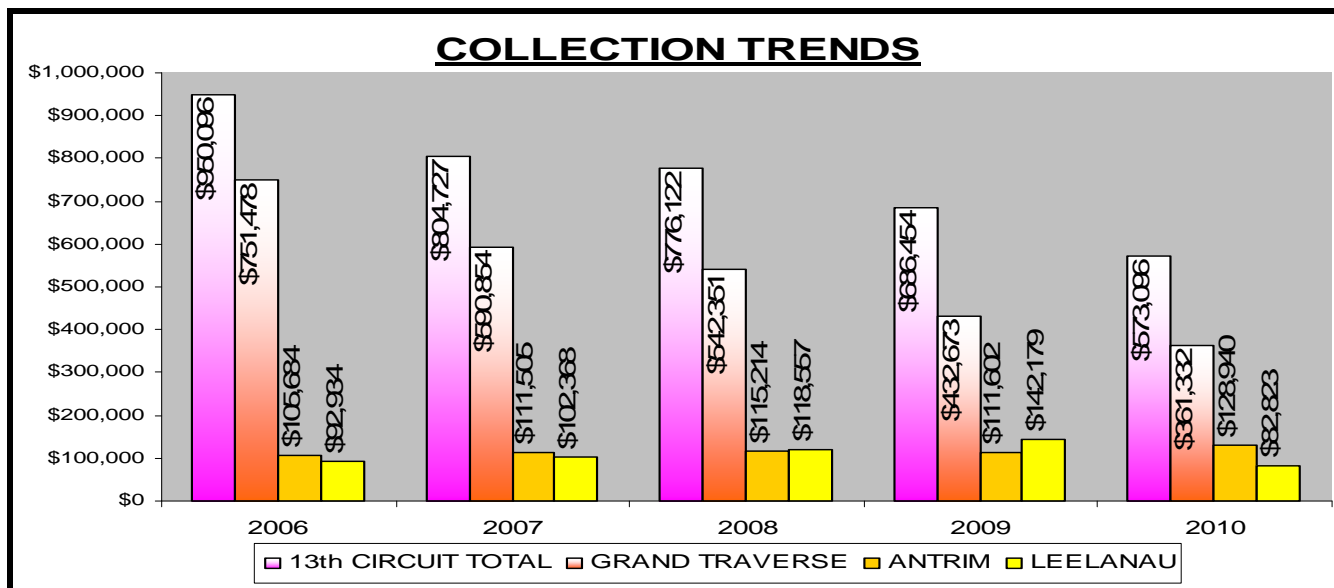
COURT FINANCES

The Joint Judicial Commission, established pursuant to an Inter-County Operating Agreement, acts as a liaison for the Thirteenth Circuit's counties and 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 of the Finance/Ways and Means Committee, County Administrator/Coordinator and the Chief Administrative Fiscal Officers from Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties.

COLLECTIONS

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

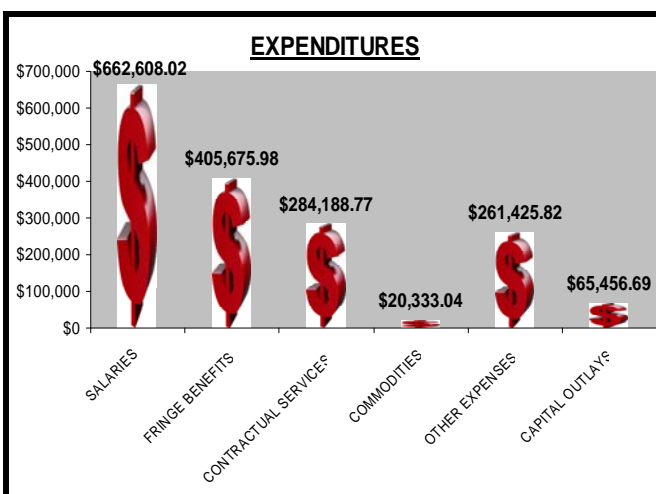
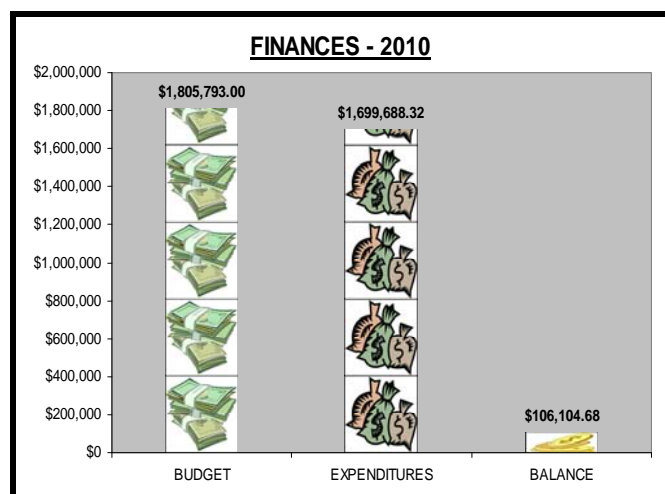




REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Each County within the Circuit maintains their 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. Each individual county separately pays its 'cost direct' expenses, like court appointed attorneys' fees, jury, witness and transcript fees and courthouse security. Additional revenue comes from filing fees, court costs assessed by the County Clerks' Offices and the State of Michigan.

Expenditures are divided into six categories: (1) salaries for judicial, administrative and Friend of the Court staff, (2) fringe benefits for judicial and administrative staff, including FICA, (3) contractual services, which include payments for defense counsel, transcripts, juror payments and mileage, interpreters, professional services and other items necessary for administration and operation of the Courts, (4) commodities such as postage and office supplies, (5) other expenses like equipment rentals, printing, utilities, law books, continuing education and liability insurance, and (6) capital outlays, including legal reference material, office equipment and furniture.



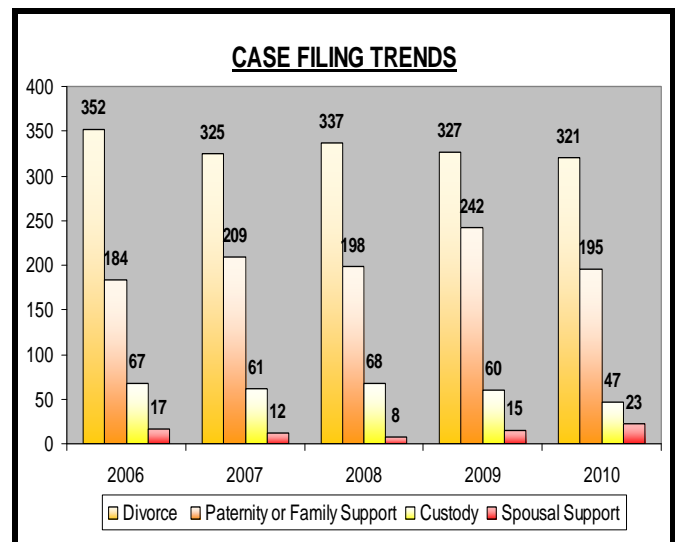
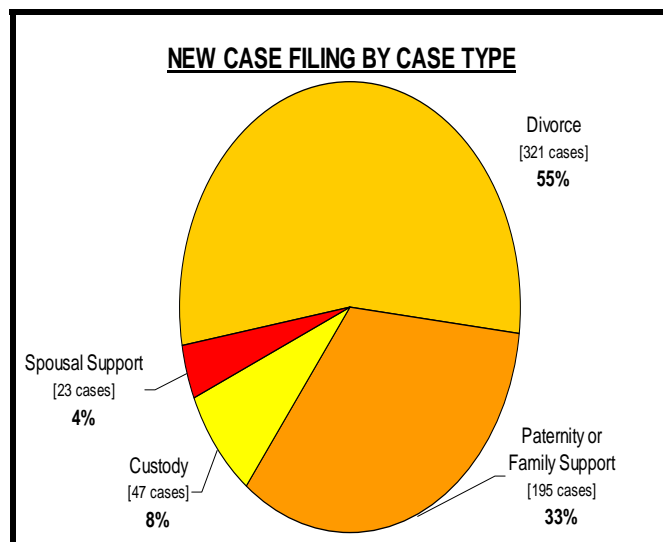
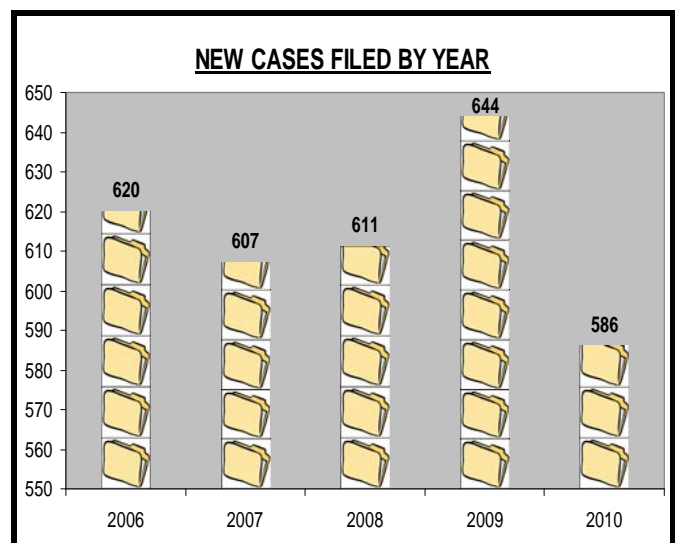
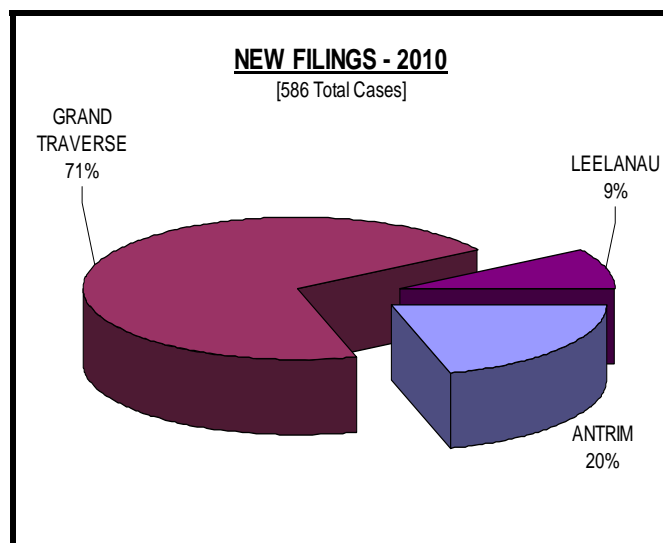
FRIEND OF THE COURT

NEW CASES

During 2010, the Case Management staff conducted investigations and made recommendations for temporary orders in 88% of the cases filed. In 59% of the cases in which initial investigations were conducted, some form of public assistance, primarily Medicaid, was being provided.

Pro Per parties represented 31% of the new cases filed in 2010. In the initial orders generated by the Friend of the Court Office, 55% granted custody to the mother, 6% granted custody to the father and 35% provided for shared physical custody. The remaining cases represent split care, third-party care and cases where custody was reserved initially due to the parties residing in the same household.

The Friend of the Court Office conducted 711 reviews, averaging 59 per month, in 2010. Approximately 82% of the reviews addressed child support, 16% addressed parenting time issues and the remainder addressed issues such as custody and domicile/residence changes.

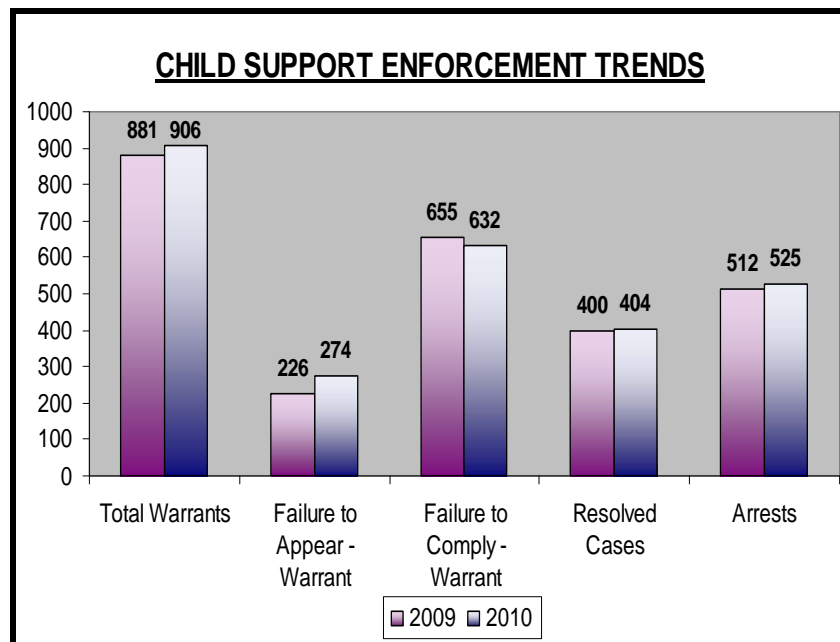
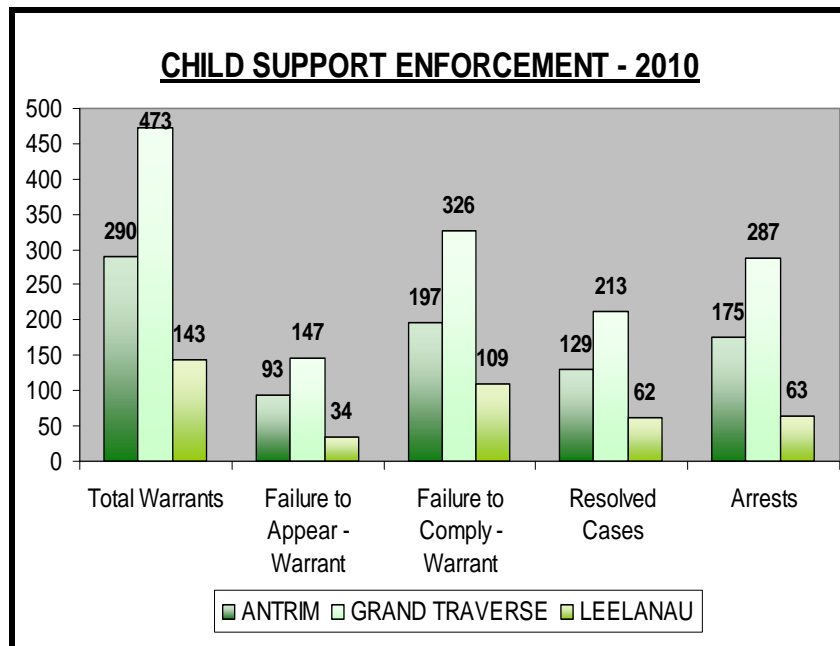


CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Friend of the Court scheduled 1,344 support enforcement hearings in 2010 and conducted 907 hearings. The remaining cases were generally resolved due to payment or establishment of a successful income withholding.

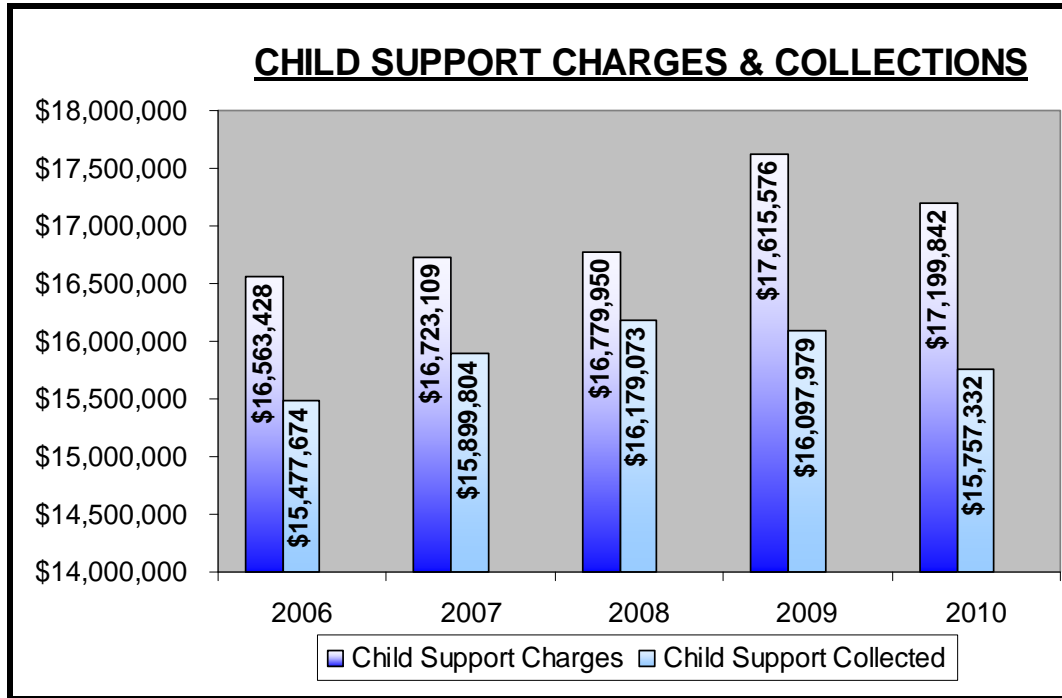
The Friend of the Court Office generated over 3,300 income withholding notices in 2010 and nearly 50 notices of proposed suspension of driver's licenses were sent to non-compliant support obligors during the year. Of the nearly 50 notices sent, 30 driver's licenses were actually suspended.

The Friend of the Court resolved 404 outstanding warrants, primarily through arranging payments, bonds or reduced bonds being posted at the Friend of the Court or establishment of income withholding.



CHILD SUPPORT CHARGES AND COLLECTIONS

The following chart and tables track child support charges, child support distributions and child support collections distributed towards arrears for the previous several years. This information is provided by the State's Department of Human Services' Data Warehouse. The tables reflect the fiscal year (October 1 through September 30) and only pertain to distributions, not collections.



CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ALL COUNTIES					
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year	\$16,563,428.00	\$16,723,109.00	\$16,779,950.00	\$17,615,576.00	\$17,199,842.00
Support Distributed as Current Support	\$12,182,641.00	\$12,354,737.00	\$12,433,790.00	\$12,706,907.00	\$12,357,742.00
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support	\$3,295,033.00	\$3,545,067.00	\$3,745,283.00	\$3,391,072.00	\$15,757,332.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected	73.6%	73.9%	74.1%	72.1%	71.8%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected	93.4%	95.1%	96.4%	91.4%	91.6%

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
ANTRIM COUNTY					
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year	\$2,702,484.00	\$2,788,031.00	\$2,753,005.00	\$2,872,582.69	\$2,841,504.95
Support Distributed as Current Support	\$1,884,829.00	\$1,989,100.00	\$2,024,430.00	\$2,047,334.81	\$2,044,772.47
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support	\$692,557.00	\$713,795.00	\$793,791.00	\$683,358.87	\$655,792.85
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected	69.7%	71.3%	73.5%	71.3%	71.9%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected	95.4%	96.9%	102.4%	95.1%	95%
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY					
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year	\$11,398,374.00	\$11,328,547.00	\$11,493,288.00	\$12,183,297.00	\$11,984,494.89
Support Distributed as Current Support	\$8,398,173.00	\$8,354,401.00	\$8,451,904.00	\$8,701,333.00	\$8,508,419.33
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support	\$2,080,250.00	\$2,266,993.00	\$2,455,921.00	\$2,209,957.00	\$2,284,167.87
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected	73.7%	73.7%	73.5%	71.4%	70.9%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected	93.2%	91.9%	93.8%	94.9%	90%
LEELANAU COUNTY					
Current Support Due for the Fiscal Year	\$2,462,597.00	\$2,606,531.00	\$2,533,656.00	\$2,559,696.00	\$17,199,842.00
Support Distributed as Current Support	\$1,899,639.00	\$2,011,236.00	\$1,957,456.00	\$1,958,239.00	\$12,357,742.00
Support Distributed as Arrearage Support	\$522,226.00	\$564,279.00	\$495,571.00	\$497,756.00	\$15,757,332.00
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Current Collected	77.1%	77.2%	77.3%	76.5%	71.8%
Ratio of Total Current Support Charged to Total Support Collected	98.3%	98.8%	96.8%	95.9%	91.6%

FRIEND OF THE COURT ACTIVITIES SUMMARY – 2010

The Friend of the Court received a renewal of a State Court Administrative Office grant to a pilot problem-solving court for child support. Family Support Court focuses on identifying a child support obligor's impediments to employment, developing and executing a plan to minimize those impediments with the goal of employment and the payment of child support. Constant accountability, frequent review hearings with incentives and/or punishments and utilization of community resources are hallmarks of the program. In 2010, 40 individuals participated in Family Support Court.

The Court's educational program for divorcing parents, entitled SMILE, was re-located to the Hall of Justice in 2010 and is now offered monthly. In addition to evening sessions, there are now SMILE sessions offered during the day. Individuals can sign-up electronically under the Friend of the Court tab at the 13th Circuit Court website. The judicial segment of the program is now available on video for individuals unable to attend the scheduled sessions. In 2010, 289 individuals attended SMILE in the 13th Circuit Court, 138 individuals met the alternate requirement and 5 individuals from other circuits attended SMILE.

The Friend of the Court handbook, last updated in 2006, was rewritten to incorporate statutory, court rule and informational system changes from the previous 4 years.

The Friend of the Court continued receiving Access and Visitation grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office and maintained its relationship with Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan to provide supervised parenting time and safe parenting time exchanges for families. In 2010, 18 families were provided service.

The Friend of the Court continued work in 2010 with the local Community Reconciliation Service. Friend of the Court referred families to Community Reconciliation Service for post-judgment mediation of custody and parenting time disputes. Additionally, Friend of the Court persists in aggressively promoting voluntary mediation as an alternative dispute resolution measure.

Medical support enforcement performance has doubled during the past 3 years. The medical support enforcement processes and procedures were reviewed and updated by the Friend of the Court in 2010 and new forms were generated. Finally, the Friend of the Court bank accounts were transferred, which resulted in a savings of over \$1,850.



Standing (from left): Fran Boyle, Tammi Willoughby, Sandy Schaub, Margaret Mulcahey, Terri Lynn Andresen, Carol Rose, Jayne Arnold
Seated (from left): Esther Cooper, Sally Bergstrom, Alisa Gallo, Martha Hornbaker, Mary Anderson, Laura Burke

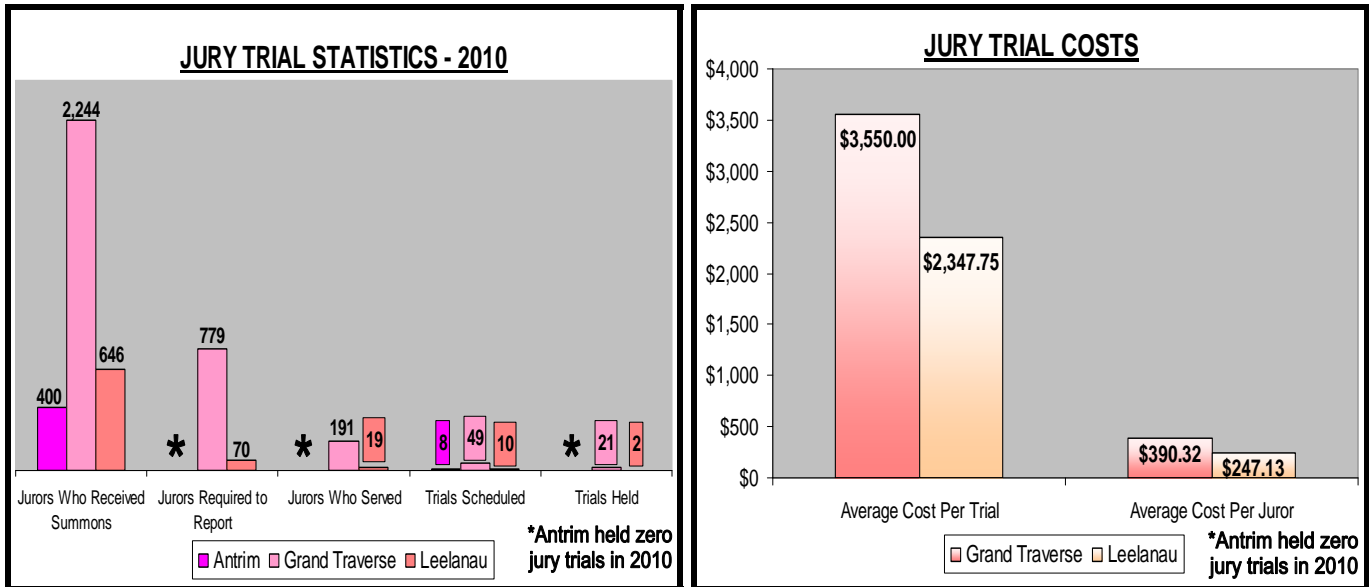


Standing (from left): Dawn Rogers, Pete Walters, Ellene Peters, Jeremy Hogue, Tracie Mullen, Karen Sanchez
Seated (from left): Matt Hawley, Angela Pelletir, Al Crocker, Julie Conway

JURIES

To qualify to serve as a juror, an individual must be a United States citizen, a minimum of 18 years of age, a resident of the county issuing the summons, conversant in the English language, physically and mentally capable of carrying out the functions of a juror, not have served as a petit juror in a court of record during the preceding 365 days and have no felony convictions.

Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties each have individual three-member jury boards as appointed by the respective County's Board of Commissioners. Jury board members serve six-year terms. The process for selecting potential jurors begins with the Secretary of State providing a list of eligible jurors to the jury boards. The jury boards then send juror questionnaires to prospective jurors in their counties. Once the questionnaires are returned, the jury board randomly selects prospective jurors for their Circuit Court, District Court and/or Probate/Family Court cases.

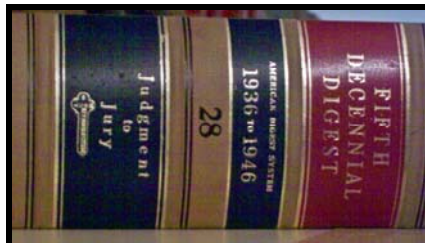


LAW LIBRARY

Each County maintains a Law Library. The Grand Traverse County Law Library is located on the 4th Floor of the Historic Courthouse. The library and staff serve courthouse and county employees, local attorneys, pro se litigants and students from Northwestern Michigan College attending the paralegal program.

The largest and most comprehensive collection of legal materials is located in Grand Traverse County, which is funded by the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association (GTLA) and the Traverse Area District Library. Each library maintains Michigan court opinions, statutes, court rules, jury instructions, digests, legal encyclopedias, legal dictionaries and other authoritative resources.

Jill Porter is the executive Director of the Bar Association and Head Librarian. She is assisted by Christina Beaudrie and April Klingelsmith.



THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

JUDGES

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 Rodgers 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 was elected. In 2010, the Honorable Larry J. Nelson was elected to serve as Leelanau County Family Court/Probate Judge. Judge Nelson will serve the remainder of the current judicial term, which ends January 1, 2013.



HONORABLE THOMAS G. POWER

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

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 masters 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. He is married and has two children.

HONORABLE PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.

Judge Rodgers was elected to the bench in 1990 and ran unopposed in 1996, 2002 and 2008.

Judge Rodgers obtained his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Michigan and later received his law degree from the University's Law School. He also received a Masters of Public Policy Degree from the University. Judge Rodgers was a partner with the law firm of Menmuir, Zimmerman, Rollert and Kuhn prior to taking the bench.

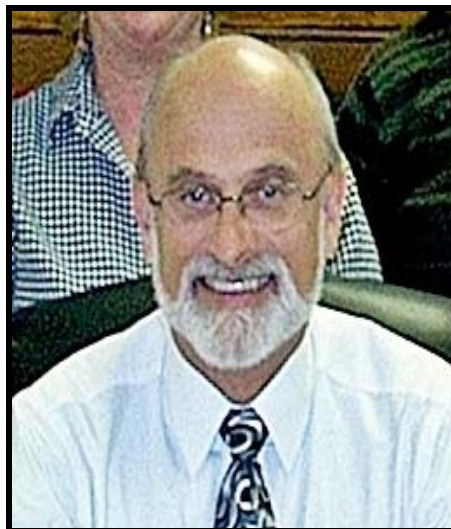
The Judge has served on the Traverse City Board of Directors for Rotary Charities, participated with the City Commission and acted as Mayor of Traverse City in 1989. In 2007, Judge Rodgers was acting President of the Michigan Judge's Association and he presently serves on the Legislative Committee and Executive Committee. Judge Rodgers is married and has four children.



HONORABLE NORMAN R. HAYES

Judge Hayes presides over all litigation involving guardianships, conservatorships and estates in Antrim County. As Judge for the Family Division, he also 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 Nelson serves the Family/Probate Court for Leelanau County. He presides over all litigation involving estates, guardianships, conservatorships and mental health commitments. He also 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 Leelanau County prosecutor and as an assistant prosecutor in Oakland County. Prior to his election in 2010, Judge Nelson was a general practice attorney in Leland. Judge Nelson is married and has two children.



HONORABLE DAVID L. STOWE

Judge Stowe has served as Grand Traverse County Probate Judge since 2001 and is currently serving his second term on the bench.

Judge Stowe received his undergraduate degree in Zoology from Michigan State University. Prior to his legal career, he served as a health department sanitarian, biology teacher and lobbyist in Washington D.C. After receiving his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Judge Stowe was a private law practitioner in Traverse City.

Judge Stowe is a past President of the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and has served on numerous local and state boards involving children, families and seniors. Judge Stowe is married and has two children.



CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The Circuit Court Administration Office is located in the historic Grand Traverse County Courthouse in downtown Traverse City. 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 have significant training and experience working for the state judicial system.



TERI QUINN
^ COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Teri manages the staff and day-to-day operations of the Thirteenth Circuit Court. One of Teri's main goals in 2010 was to solicit bids from local vendors to develop an e-file and document imaging program for the Court. This project is slated to be complete in late 2011.



STACY OSBORNE
^ COURT COURT SPECIALIST

Stacy oversees all of the domestic relations cases, as well as Personal Protection Orders. Stacy works closely with the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees and assists with streamlining their dockets.



JULIE ARENDS
^ ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE
RESOLUTION CLERK

Julie serves as the Circuit Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Clerk and Judicial Secretary. In addition to these duties, Julie was instrumental in the development and maintenance of the Thirteenth Circuit Court's website.



DEBBIE RUTKOWSKI
^ CIRCUIT COURT SPECIALIST

Debbie currently focuses on felony collections. Debbie is instrumental in working with prisoners and probationers as she keeps them on track with their payment plans.



CAROL DEE
^ CIRCUIT COURT SPECIALIST

In 2010, Carol moved from the Administration Office front desk to resume her responsibilities as Scheduling Clerk. Carol works closely with the Judges to ensure their dockets proceed in a timely manner.



KIM SHERIDAN
^ CIRCUIT COURT SPECIALIST

Kim works at the Administration Office front desk where she greets parties and answers their questions. Kim also identifies and distributes all documents submitted to the office.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE REFEREES



Cynthia Conlon and Kirsten Keilitz

The Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees for the 13th Circuit Court preside over abuse/neglect cases, juvenile criminal offenses and all child-related issues in domestic relations cases in Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

Cynthia Conlon is a licensed attorney and has been an employee of the Circuit Court for over 10 years. Kirsten Keilitz, also a licensed attorney, began working for the Court in 2009 after practicing law with a local firm.

In 2010, the Referees conducted 66 custody hearings, 61 parenting time hearings, 73 child support hearings and 200 hearings relating to Personal Protection Orders. Further, the Referees handled 119 other child-related issue hearings including, but not limited to, change of domicile, change of residence, and closure of the Friend of the Court case.

COURT REPORTERS

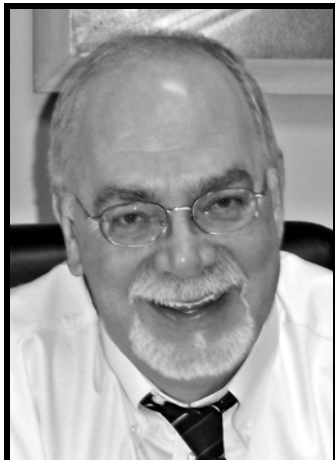
The Michigan Court Rules establish that only certified court reporters may record or prepare transcripts of proceedings held in Michigan Courts or of depositions taken in Michigan. Certification is awarded after completing the testing process administered by the Court Reporting and Recoding Board of Review, with the assistance of the State Court Administrative Office.

Karen Carmody and Jessica Matula are the court reporters for the 13th Circuit Court and work in all three counties, Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau, to report judicial matters. Karen has been an employee of the Court for over 10 years and Jessica celebrated 5 years of employment in 2010.



Karen Carmody and Jessica Matula

JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS



Mike Rader



Brooke Bearup

Each Circuit Court Judge employs a full-time assistant who assists with legal research, drafting opinions and orders and serves as bailiff during jury trials.

Mike Rader serves as Judge Power's Judicial Assistant. Mike has served the Court for over 25 years and prior to employment with the judiciary he worked for a local law firm.

Brooke Bearup is Judge Rodgers' Staff Attorney. Brooke is licensed to practice law in Michigan and previously worked in private practice and as a law clerk with the 1st Circuit Court of Hawaii. She also compiles and edits the Court's Annual Reports.

DIVISIONS

ANTRIM COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION



Standing (from left): Bill Hefferan [Family Division Administrator] Teresa Ankney [Probation Officer] Sandra Davids [Judicial Secretary] Raelene Riley [Juvenile Register] Kim Albert [Deputy Register] Patricia Theobald [Probate Register] Seated: Hon. Norman Hayes [Family Court Judge]

In 2010, continuing economic challenges and demographic changes within Antrim County were reflected by the populations served by the Court. The Court was motivated by these factors, economics and demographics, to re-focus on its mission in promoting justice. The Court considers Antrim County's current social circumstances an opportunity to assist in the protection of vulnerable persons.

In 2010, the Antrim County Family Division presided over 249 domestic relations cases, processed 113 juvenile delinquency matters, supervised the care of 36 neglected/abused children, finalized 14 adoptions and assisted with names changes for 11 individuals.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION

In Grand Traverse County, the Family Division hears more than half of all domestic relations cases and hears all personal protection orders involving minors.

In 2010, there were 71 petitions for adoption filed, 31 releases to adopt as a result of a child protective proceeding, 2 emancipation of minor cases and 30 petitions for legal name change filed.

The Court supervised 128 juveniles and 46 children who are temporary wards of the Court.

In 2010, 38 child protective petitions were filed with the Court.



Left to right: Greg Brainard [Family Division Administrator] Melissa Wheat [Staff Attorney] Cynthia Conlon [Referee] Janet McGee [Court Reporter] Hon. David Stowe [Family Court Judge] Kirsten Keilitz [Referee] Cheryl Goodwin [Therapeutic Programs Coordinator]

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION



Left to right: Jeff Burdick [Probation Officer] Eric Salani [Probation Officer] Kate Eskilsen [Probation Officer] Barb Donaldson [Chief Probation Officer] Matt Ferguson [Probation Officer] Joanie Layton [Juvenile Probation]

The Juvenile Probation Department made over 3,000 probation contacts in 2010. Recent trends reflect ongoing family stress and conflict, increased evidence of mental health issues and continuing impact of substance abuse related offenses.

The Juvenile Probation Department utilized numerous Court based programs, including Juvenile Drug Court, Anger Management and the New Vision Academy. Community resources included boxing and martial arts programs and access to professional youth and family counselors.

The Probation Department focuses on an individual's strengths, while emphasizing accountability. This balance has kept recidivism rates low within the juvenile system and beyond.

LEELANAU COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION

The Leelanau County Probate and Family Courts underwent a few changes in 2010. The Courts are now under the leadership of Judge Larry J. Nelson. Judge Nelson is a welcome addition to the staff and is proving to be an effective and dedicated jurist.

In 2010, a decision was made to eliminate one full-time position from the Court. Susan Richards was named Probate Register /Adoption Specialist and Josephine Lingaur now handles domestic relations scheduling, acts as judicial secretary and financial officer and has assumed much of the Juvenile Register workload. The responsibilities of three positions have been divided between two staff members, with Betsy Fisher managing the administrative duties.

The juvenile staff and probation/diversion services remain intact, while efforts are being made to increase the volunteer roster and expand the program.



Back: Joseph Povolo [Probation Officer] Susan Richards [Probate Register] Therese Hahnenberg-Schaub [Probation Officer] Hon. Larry Nelson [Family Court Judge] Thomas Mayhew [Prevention/Diversion Coordinator] Front: Josephine Lingaur [Juvenile Register] Ryan Douglass [Case Manager] Betsy Fisher [Family Division Administrator]

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY TRUANCY

In 2010, the Truancy Intervention Center worked with 273 students, of which 90% were diverted from formal court proceedings and 79% did not commit a second offense.

The Center received 403 prevention service referrals to assist students, held 154 Family Team Intervention Conferences and provided over 710 actual services to youth and their families.

Upon receiving a referral, an Intervention Conference is held to determine the cause of the student's attendance problem and to develop a plan addressing the truancy. Students processed for second offenses are required to attend prevention service classes or counseling through Catholic Human Services or Third Level Crisis Center. Students with improved attendance can receive various rewards.

When a student commits a third offense the file is then sent to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Office. The assigned prosecutor then determines if the parent, student or both should be charged.



Kathy Keaton [Coordinator] and Kathy Nixon [Administrative Assistant]

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Left to right: Judy Sanders [Administrative Assistant] Kelly Majszak [Administrative Assistant] Laura Shumate [Learning Partners] Linda Fawcett [Coordinator]

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, New Vision Academy, Citizen's Panel, transportation, guardianships and conservatorships.

Learning Partners matches adults as tutors/mentors with at risk children. The Academy 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. Volunteers transport delinquent youth to and from secure and non-secure detention homes and may also act as guardians/conservators for developmentally disabled adults and legally incapacitated individuals.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY COURT SPECIALISTS

The Family Court Specialists work within various departments of the Thirteenth Circuit Court Family Division. They are responsible for processing data, providing administrative and clerical office support and offering customer service assistance, in addition to many other duties related to the individual Court divisions.

Family Division Specialist positions require significant attention to detail and knowledge of office procedures and departmental activities and programs. As essential members of the Court team, the Family Division Specialists are responsible for ensuring that each division meets its goals and objectives.



Left to right: Cindy Edmonson [Delinquency Specialist] Sue Bennett [Domestic Specialist] Janet Kronk [Neglect/Abuse/Adoption Case Manager] Cheryl Church [Collections Specialist]

RECOGNITIONS



Judge Power, Julie Arends and Judge Rodgers

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Jessica Matula celebrated 5 years with the Circuit Court on January 3, 2010.

Julie Arends celebrated 15 years with the Circuit Court on October 30, 2010.

Carol Dee celebrated 25 years with the Circuit Court on July 22, 2010.

Linda Lautner retired from the Probation/Parole Department after serving over 36 years with the State of Michigan and Grand Traverse County.



Jessica Matula



Carol Dee



Linda Lautner



LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The Liberty Bell Award is presented yearly to a non-lawyer member of the community who promotes a better understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, encourages a greater respect for our laws and courts, stimulates a deeper sense of individual responsibility, contributes to the effective functioning of the democratic institutions and government and fosters a better understanding and appreciation for the legal system.

The 2010 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award was Alicja Power, wife of Judge Thomas Power. Alicja is fluent in Russian, Polish and Ukrainian and acts as an interpreter and linguist. Furthermore, she frequently assists non-English speaking community members in understanding and utilizing the legal system.

Alicja served with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Interpreter Corps and has worked locally with Northern Lakes Community Mental Health, the 86th District Court, Legal Services of Northern Michigan, Northwest Michigan Human Services and the Women's Resource Center.

A LOOK BACK...

On September 14, 2010, we were delighted to receive an unanticipated, surprise visit from Lee and Cheryl Corbett, two descendants of the Honorable Roscoe L. Corbett.

Judge Corbett served as the 13th Circuit Court Judge from 1894 to 1898. His untimely demise while hunting in the Upper Peninsula is a Court legend.

Judge Corbett was accidentally shot and killed by an Alpena man, who finally confessed to the deed on his deathbed in 1915.

Mrs. Gerald (Lee) Corbett was married to Judge Corbett's grandson. She was 94 when this photograph was taken. Cheryl Corbett is Judge Corbett's great-granddaughter.

During their visit, the Corbetts graciously presented the Court with a handsome portrait of the late Judge Corbett.



Lee Corbett and Cheryl Corbett



Honorable Roscoe L. Corbett