



THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT ANNUAL REPORT

2011 EDITION



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 Photographs Page 1 (from left): Larry Page, Ashley Kostrzewska, Brooke Bearup & Andrew McFarlane/Absolute Michigan

INTRODUCTION

The Thirteenth Circuit Court's theme for the past several years has been finding ways to do more with fewer resources. We continue to meet the demands of our caseload in an age of declining resources largely through the implementation of new technology. We readily acknowledge that we could not have done so without the support of those County Commissions which constitute our funding unit.

During 2011, this Court's goal of becoming a digital, paperless environment took a major step toward completion. We selected a vendor, ImageSoft Inc., to provide e-file services and to install a document management system. The summer of 2011 was spent mapping workflow. By fall, we were testing the document management system and a group of volunteer attorneys were testing the e-file program which allows them to send their documents in commercial and negligence cases to the Court over the internet.

The document management system went live in November 2011 and the e-file system was scheduled to go live in January 2012. We completed this phase of the project and kept our promise to leave a vacant staff position open, as we believed the efficiencies created by paperless workflow would allow us to continue to process cases with less staff.

Overall, 13th Circuit Court family and non-family caseloads have declined slightly over the last two years. We continue to process cases well within the time management guidelines established by the Michigan Supreme Court, and we continue to collect significant funds from criminal felons to reimburse each County for the cost of processing their cases and victims for the losses they sustained.

Times continue to be challenging, but with an excellent staff and support from our County Commissioners, we are moving forward. By the end of 2012, we contemplate that all civil and divorce cases will be electronically filed with the Court and digitally managed by Court staff. At some point in 2013, all criminal cases will follow suit and our Court will be functionally paperless. We are seeing meaningful cost savings from this change as well as an increase in public transparency and productivity.

In addition to thanking the County Commissioners who have supported us in our technological effort, we wish to thank the members of the Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Bar Association and the representatives of the three county Information Technologies departments for their support. We look forward to completing this project and updating you on our efforts in next year's report.

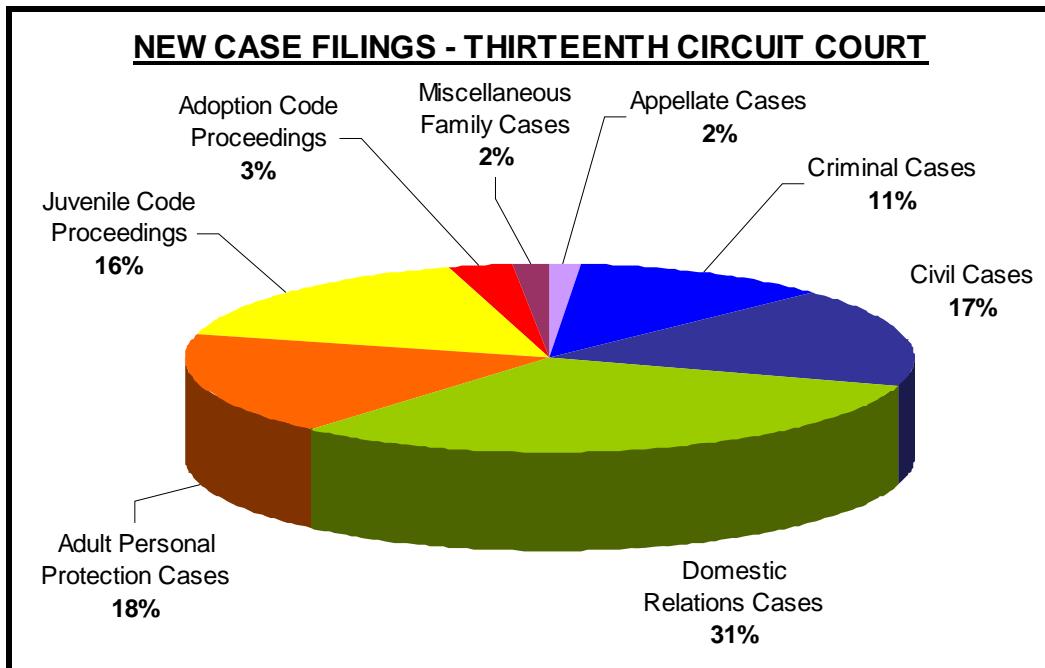
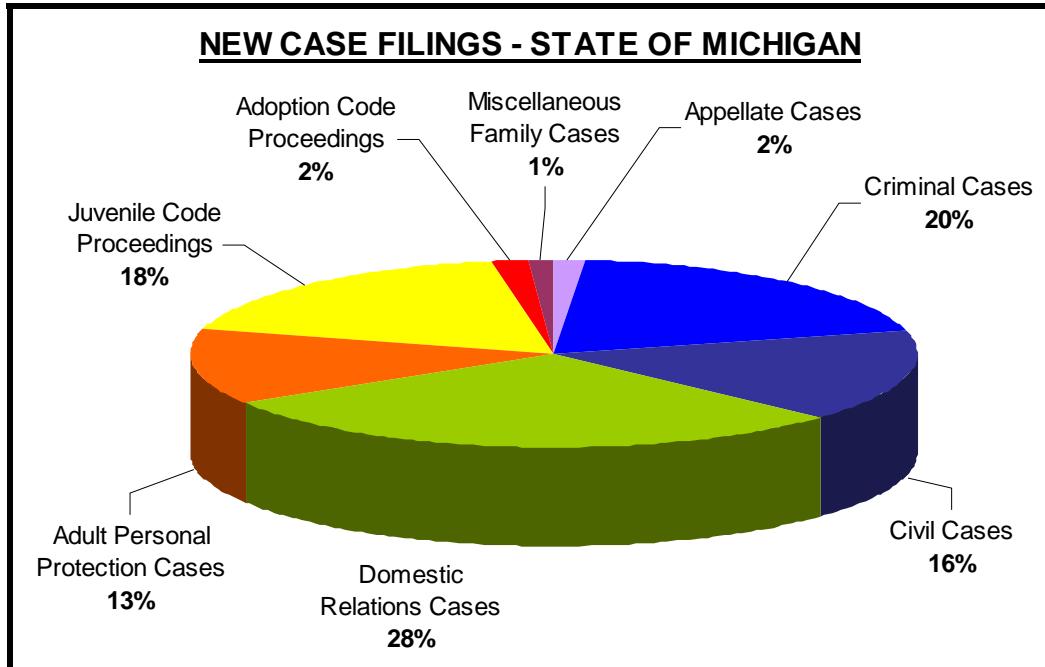
Honorable Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.



CASE MANAGEMENT

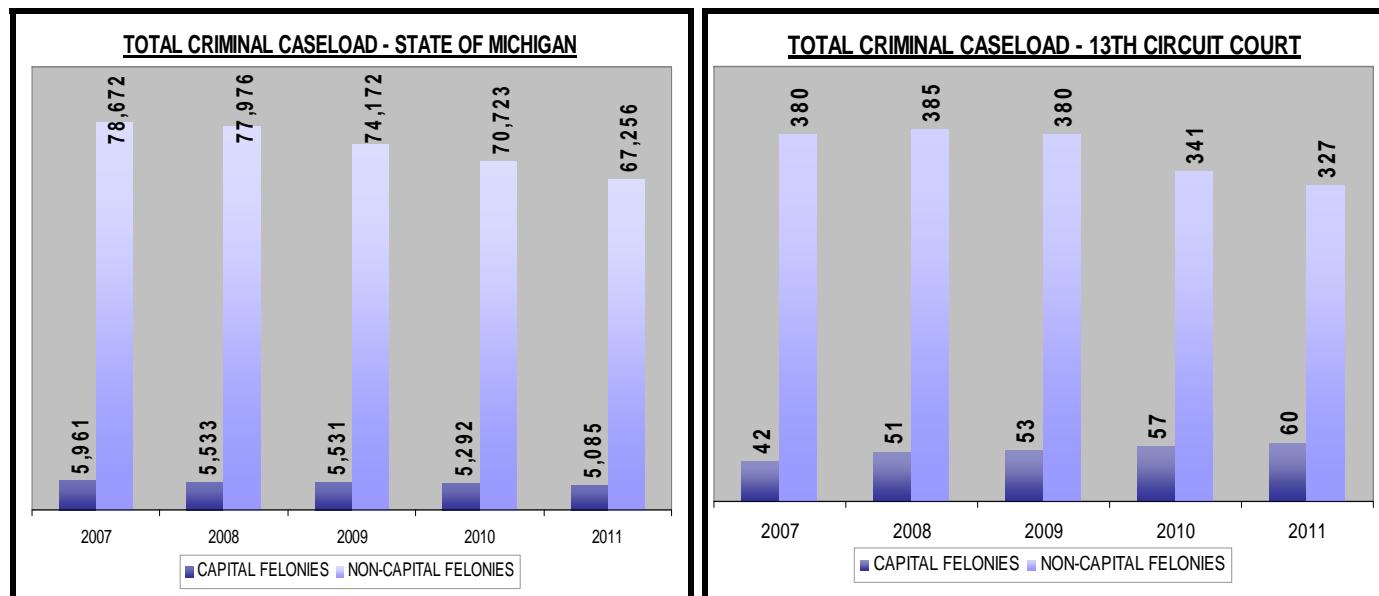
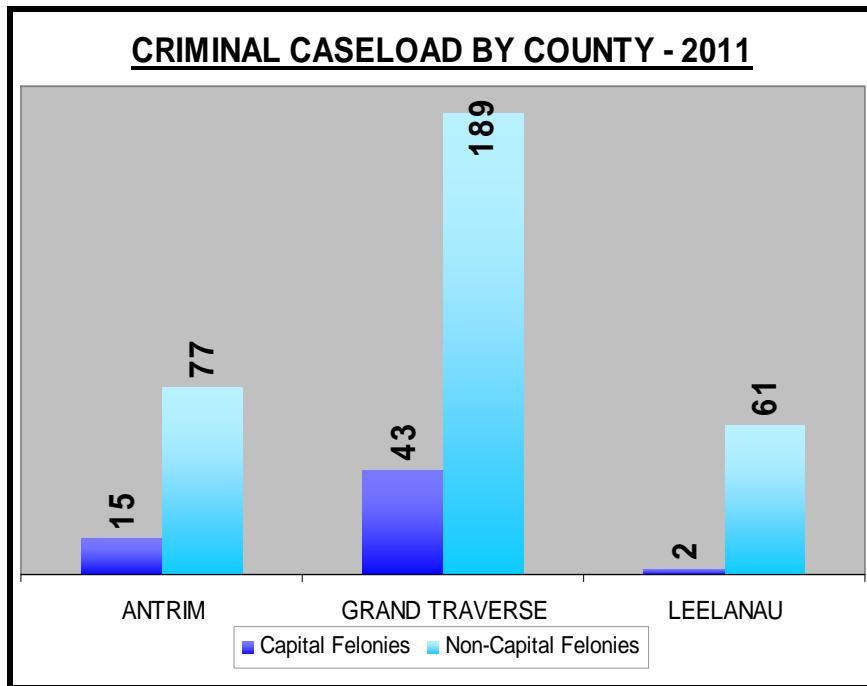
The Circuit Court follows the mandated time schedule as delineated in the Michigan Court Rules and Administrative Orders to efficiently manage and dispose of its cases. Once a new case has been opened, the Court issues a Scheduling Order providing time limitations for the processing of the case and establishing 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

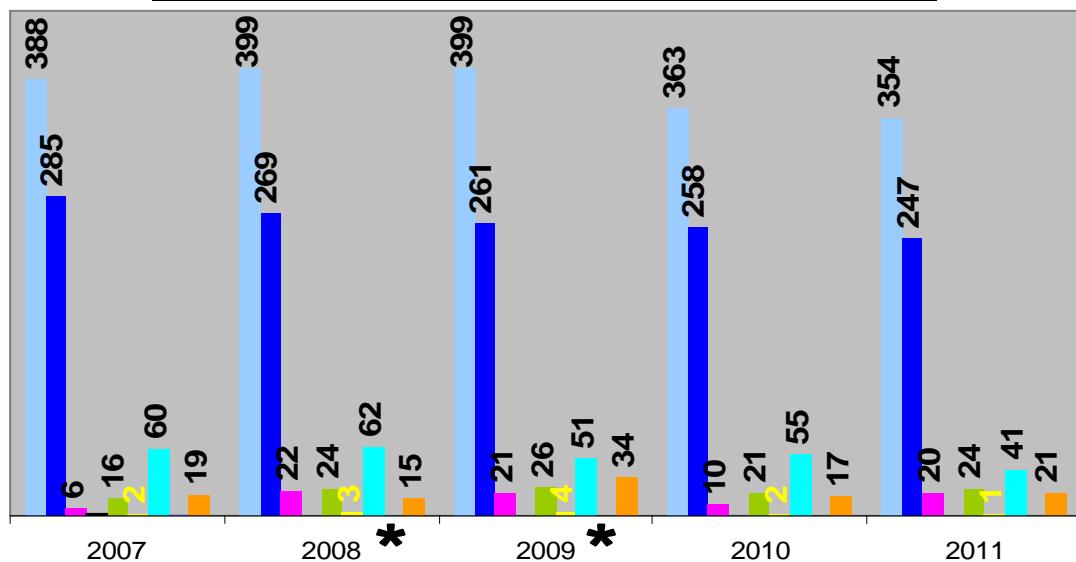
In 2011, there were 42 new capital felony cases and 272 new non-capital felony cases filed in the Thirteenth Circuit Court. There were no new extradition/detainer or juvenile felony cases filed. The total caseloads for both the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit decreased in 2011.



In 2011, the Court received jury verdicts in 20 criminal trials, including 4 verdicts in Antrim County, 13 verdicts in Grand Traverse County and 3 verdicts in Leelanau County. The Court accepted 52 guilty pleas in Antrim County and disposed of 83 criminal cases, accepted 157 pleas in Grand Traverse County and disposed of 213 cases and accepted 38 pleas in Leelanau County and disposed of 58 cases.

The first chart below depicts disposition trends for the Thirteenth Circuit Court. The second chart compares disposition rates, by method, for the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit Court.

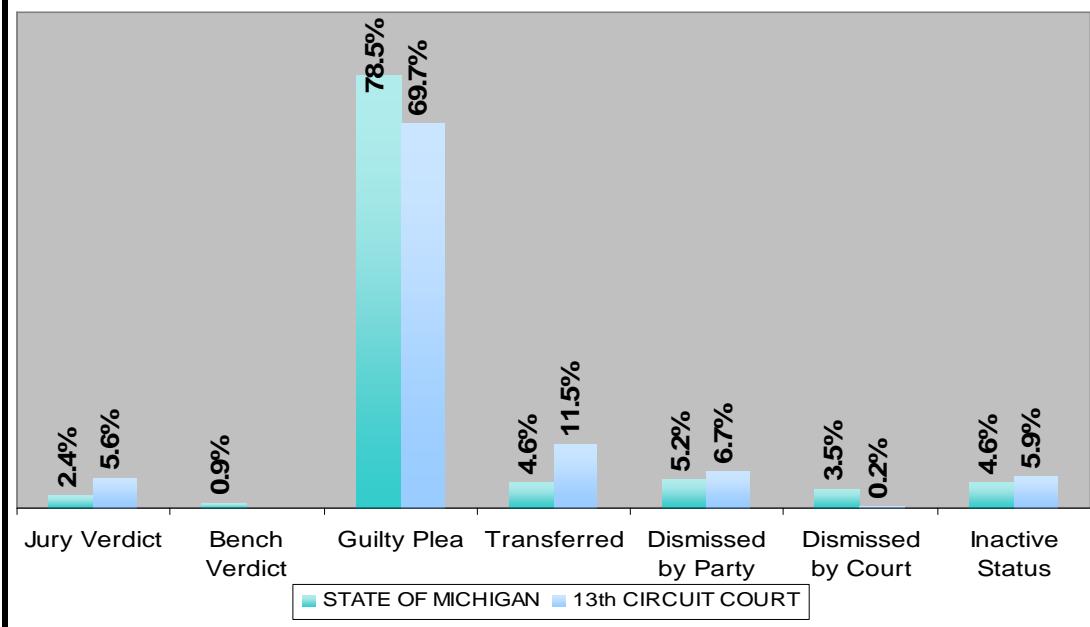
DISPOSITION TRENDS - 13TH CIRCUIT COURT



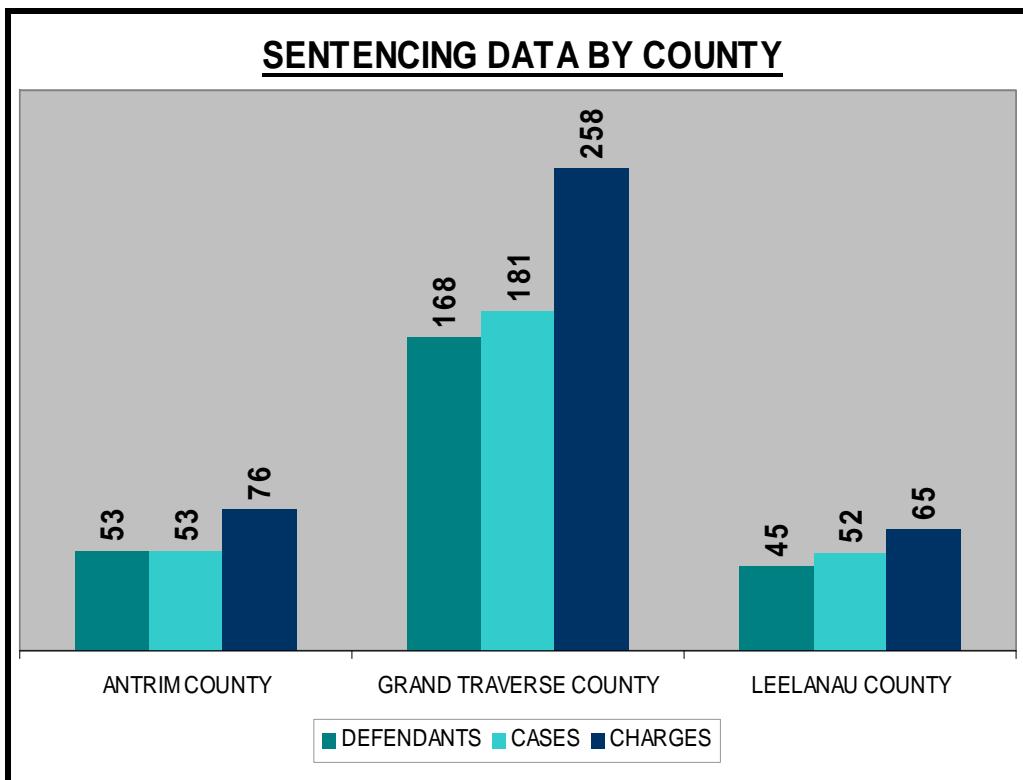
◊ TOTAL DISPOSITIONS ◊ GUILTY PLEAS ◊ JURY VERDICTS ◊ DISMISSED BY PARTY
◊ DISMISSED BY COURT ◊ TRANSFERRED ◊ INACTIVE STATUS

* In 2008, there were 4 bench verdicts and 2 case-type change dispositions in 2009.

DISPOSITIONS BY METHOD - 2011



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 2011, the Court sentenced 266 defendants. The Court issued sentences on 399 total charges in 286 cases. There were more total sentencing 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.

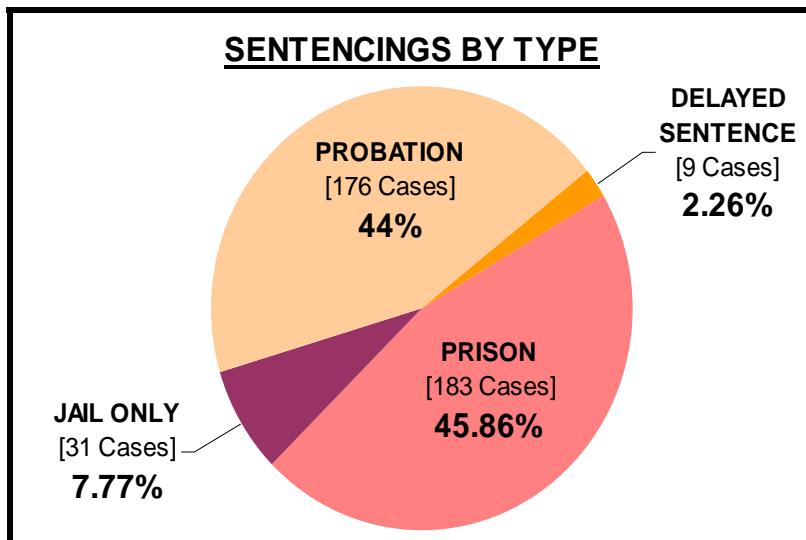
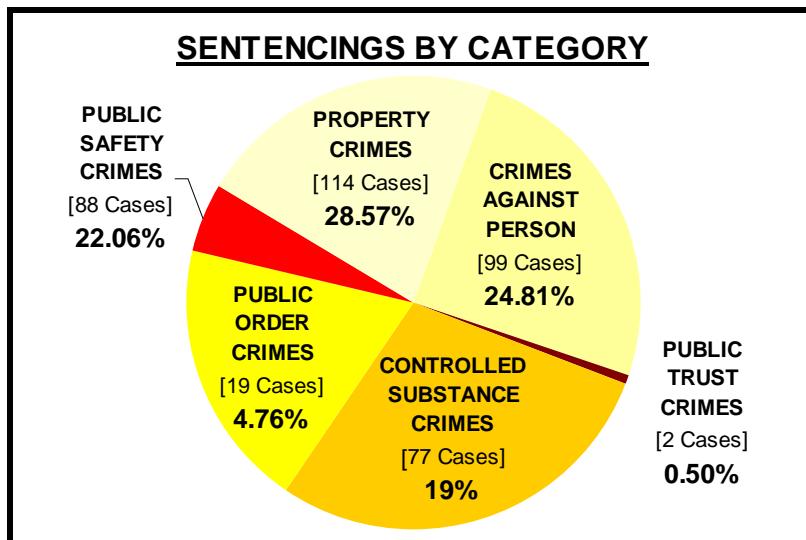


Judges may also delay a defendant's sentence in order to give the defendant an opportunity to prove to the Court his or her eligibility for probation or other leniency compatible with the ends of justice and rehabilitation of the defendant. Sentences may be delayed for crimes except murder, treason, armed robbery, major controlled substance offenses and 1st/3rd degree criminal sexual conduct. The following chart displays sentencing disposition by crime category and case type.

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	DELAYED SENTENCE	TOTAL
CRIMES AGAINST A PERSON					
Aggravated Stalking	1				1
Assault/Battery	2	2			4
Assault – Dangerous Weapon	9		4		13
Assault – Felonious	2				2
Car Jacking	1				1
Child Abuse – 3 rd Degree			1		1
Child Sexually Abusive Material	7		3		10
Criminal Sexual Conduct – 1 st Degree	13				13
Criminal Sexual Conduct – 2 nd Degree	5				5
Criminal Sexual Conduct – 3 rd Degree	9				9
Criminal Sexual Conduct – 4 th Degree	4		2		6

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	DELAYED SENTENCE	TOTAL
Domestic Violence		3	1		4
Domestic Violence – 3 rd	2		2		4
Home Invasion – 1 st	3				3
Home Invasion – 2 nd	5				5
Home Invasion – 3 rd	1		3		4
Kidnapping	1				1
Larceny – Person	2		1		3
Murder – 2 nd Degree	1				1
Reckless Driving Causing Death			1		1
Robbery – Armed	4				4
Robbery – Unarmed	4				4
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY					
Breaking/Entering	11		12		23
Computer Crime	2		1		3
Embezzlement	1		6		7
False Pretenses	1		2		3
Forgery	2				2
Larceny	1		2		3
Larceny – Building	10	3	23		36
Larceny – Vehicle		1			1
Malicious Destruction of Property		1			1
No Account Checks		1	3		4
Receiving/Concealing Stolen Property			2		2
Receiving/Concealing Weapons	1				1
Retail Fraud			1		1
Steal/Possess/Unauthorized Use FTD	1		5		6
Torture/Kill Animal	1		1		2
Uttering/Publishing	4	1	6		11
Unlawful Use Motor Vehicle	1	2	2		5
Violation Check Law			2		2
Welfare Fraud				1	1
CRIMES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE					
Drugs – Fraud	2				2
Maintaining Drug House	6		4		10
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Analogues	1	1	6	2	10
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine	12	3	27		42
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Marijuana	2	1	7	2	12
Possess/Manufacture/Deliver Methamphetamine	1				1
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER					
Abandonment/Desertion/Non Support	1				1
Common Law Offense	1				1
Failure to Pay Child Support	2			3	5
Gross Indecency	2		3		5
Interference Electronic Communication			1		1
Obstruction of Justice			2		2
Sex Offender – Failure to Register	1	1	1		3
Unlawful Image Distribution		1			1

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	DELAYED SENTENCE	TOTAL
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY					
Fleeing/Eluding/Resisting/Obstructing Police Officer	8	4	5		17
Operating with Suspended License		1	1		2
OWI		2	1		3
OWI – 3 rd	21	2	27		50
OWI – Causing Injury	4				4
Prisoner Contraband	1	1	1	1	4
Possession of Firearm by Felon	2				2
Trespass	1				1
Weapons/Firearms	1		4		5
CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST					
Failure to Stop at Accident			1		1
UDAA		1			1
TOTAL					399



PROBATION/PAROLE DEPARTMENT

For the majority of 2011, the Thirteenth Circuit Court Probation Department and Michigan Department of Corrections Parole Department consisted of 9 agents and 3 clerical assistants covering Antrim County (AC), Grand Traverse County (GTC) and Leelanau County (LC). In August 2011, assistant Marti Harmon transferred to the Kalkaska County Circuit Court Probation/MDOC Parole Office. 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 2011, 247 new PSIRs were compiled for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



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



DAWN BARD [AC]



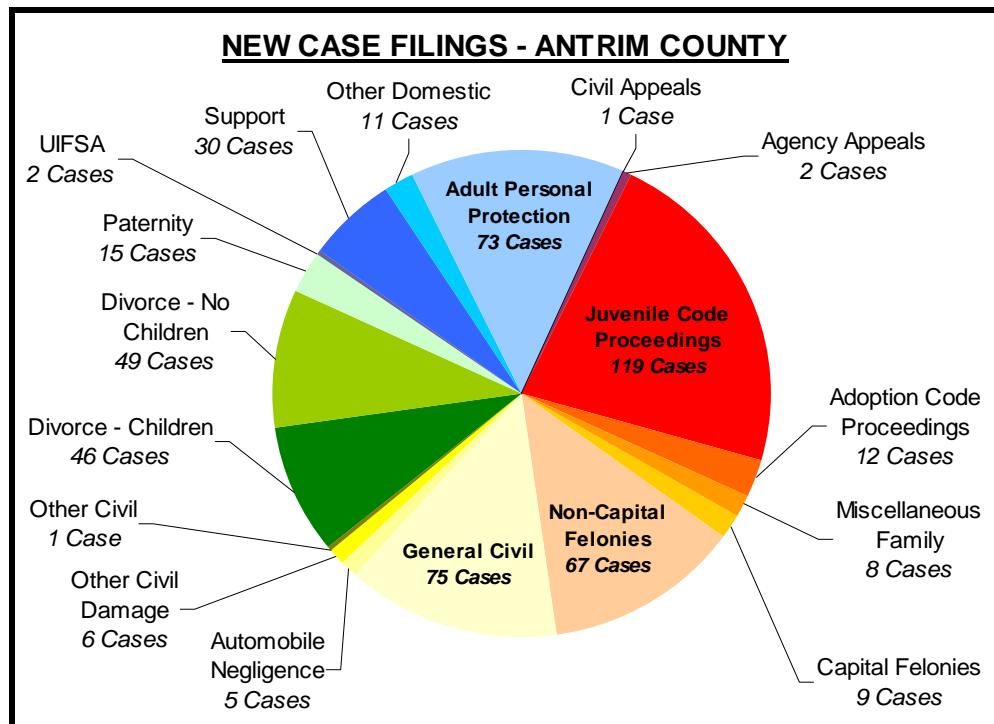
DARYL REINSCH [AC]

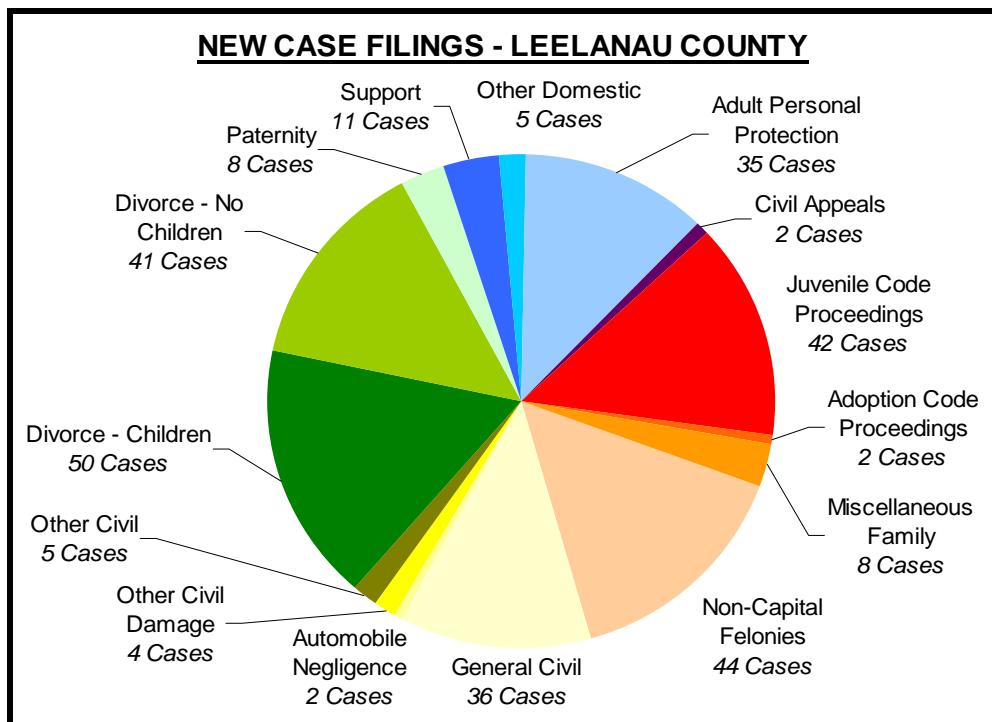
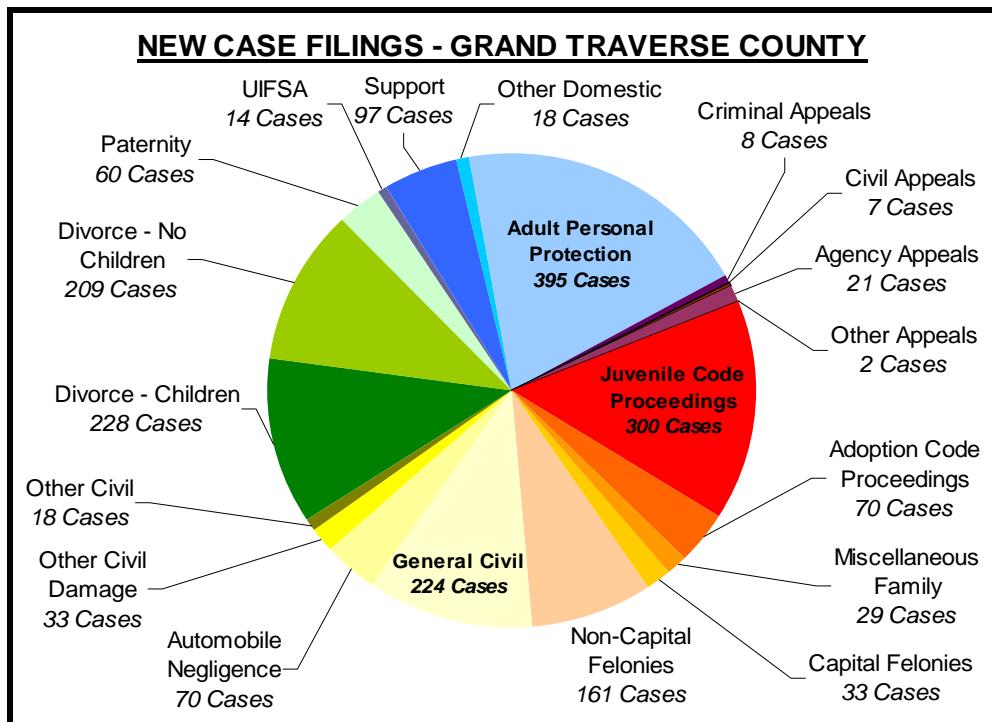
CIVIL CASELOAD

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.

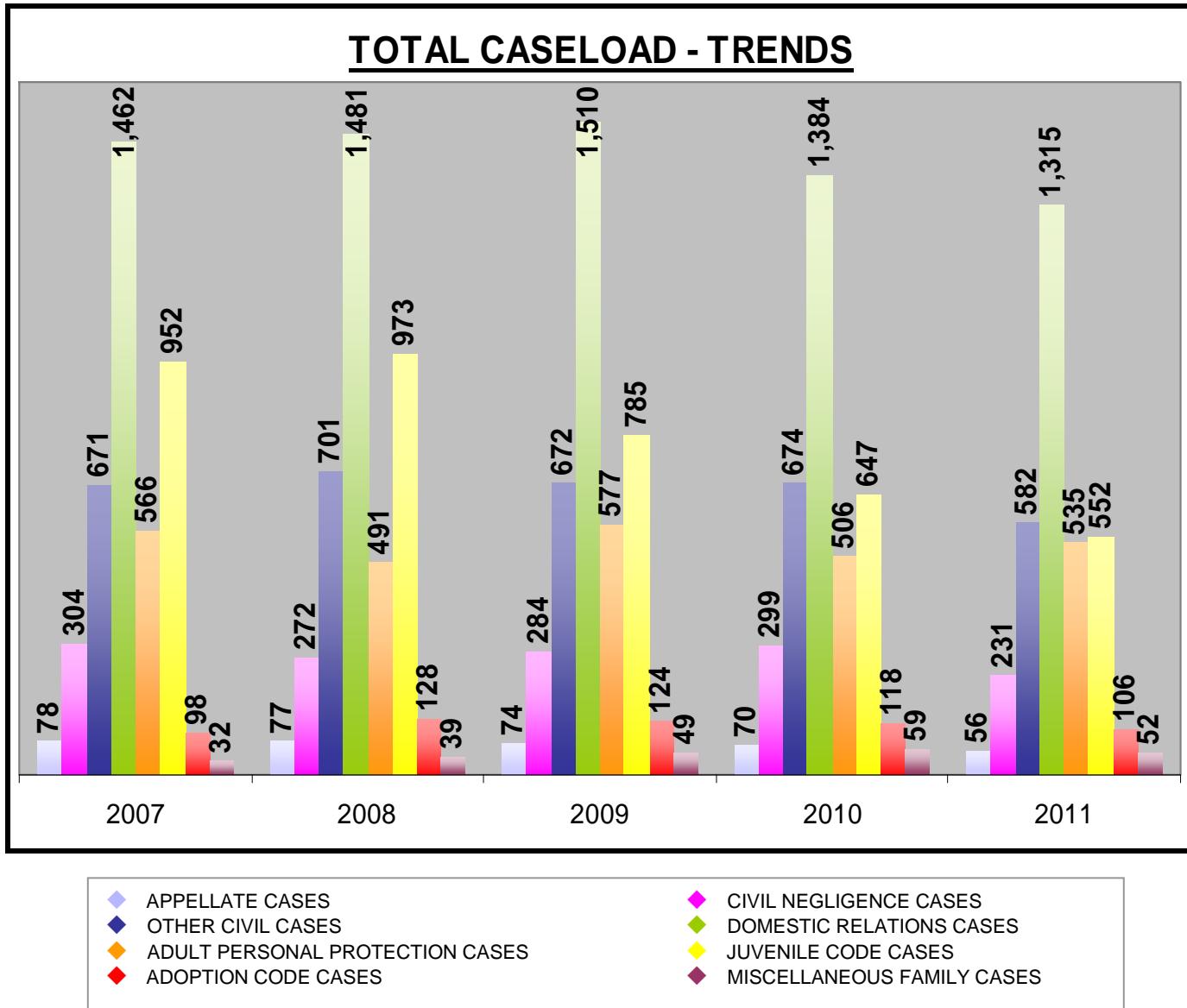
The 'general civil' category includes business claims, condemnation, employment discrimination, environment, forfeiture claims, housing and real estate, contracts, labor relations, antitrust, franchising and trade regulation, corporate receivership and any miscellaneous/general civil. The 'automobile 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 2011 in Antrim County, Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County.





The graph below shows the Court's total caseloads, which includes beginning pending cases, new case filings and reopened cases for the various case categories during the past 5 years. The general trend indicates a decline in the total caseload for most categories, except adult personal protection cases and civil negligence cases.

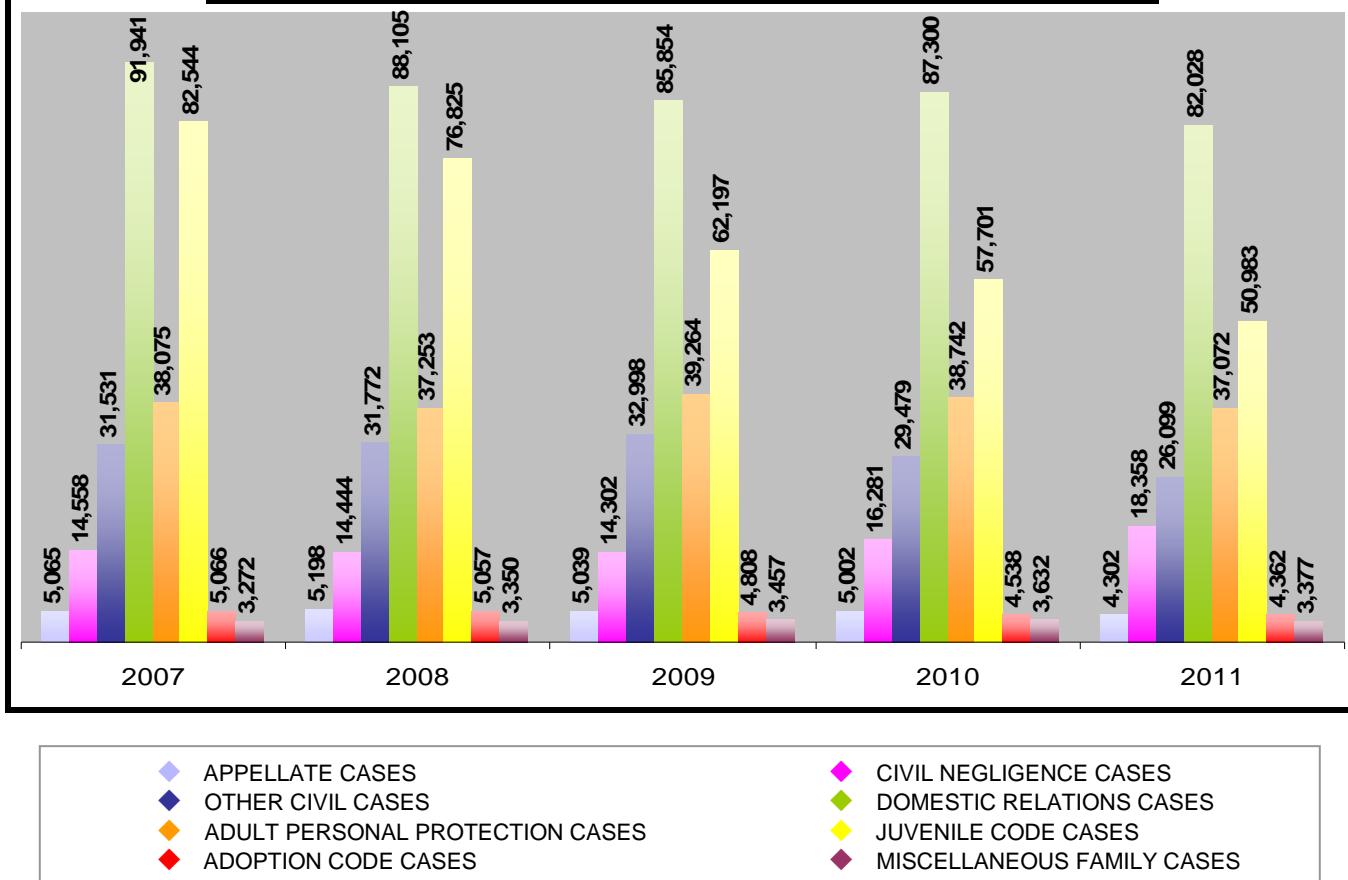


CIVIL CASE FILING TRENDS

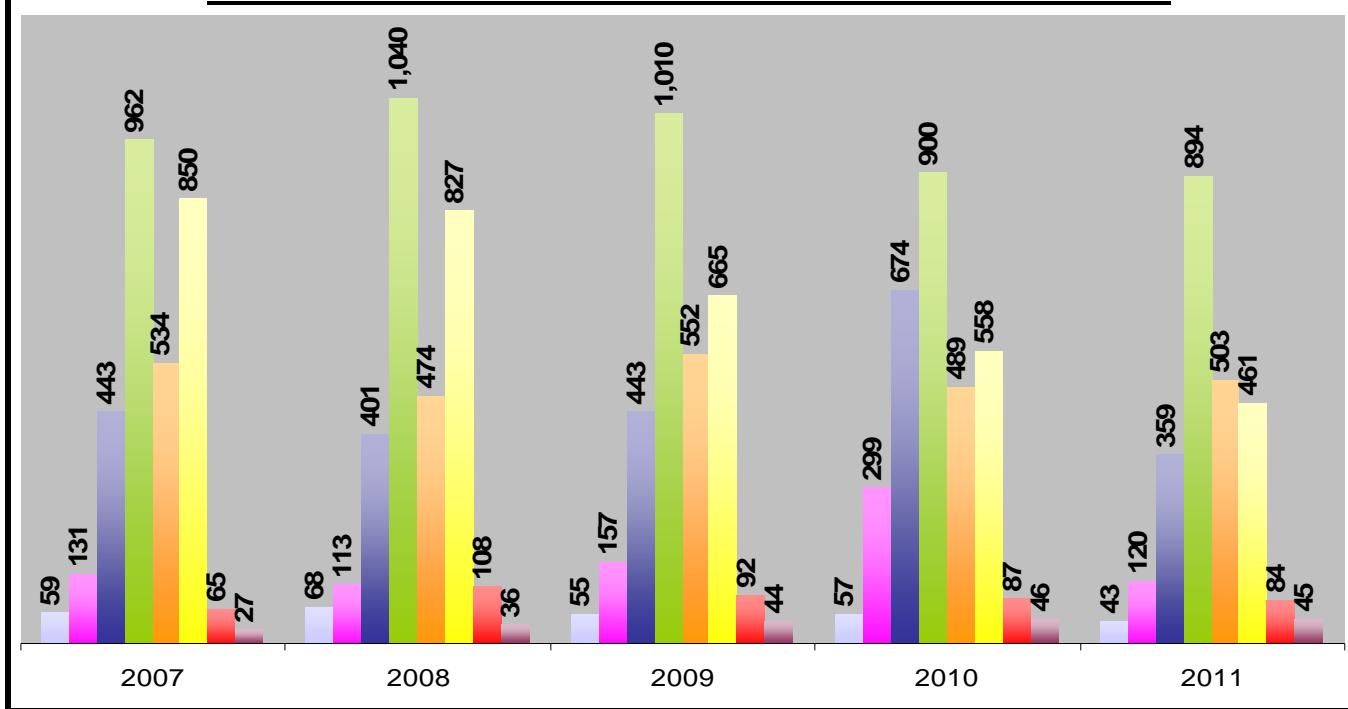
The following charts depict annual new case filings for the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the past 5 years. Statewide, the number of civil negligence cases filed has increased since 2010. However, in all other case categories statewide the number of new case filings decreased in 2011.

In the Thirteenth Circuit, the number of adult personal protection cases increased in 2011 while the number of new case filings decreased in all other case categories.

ANNUAL NEW CASE FILINGS - STATE OF MICHIGAN



ANNUAL NEW CASE FILINGS - 13TH CIRCUIT COURT

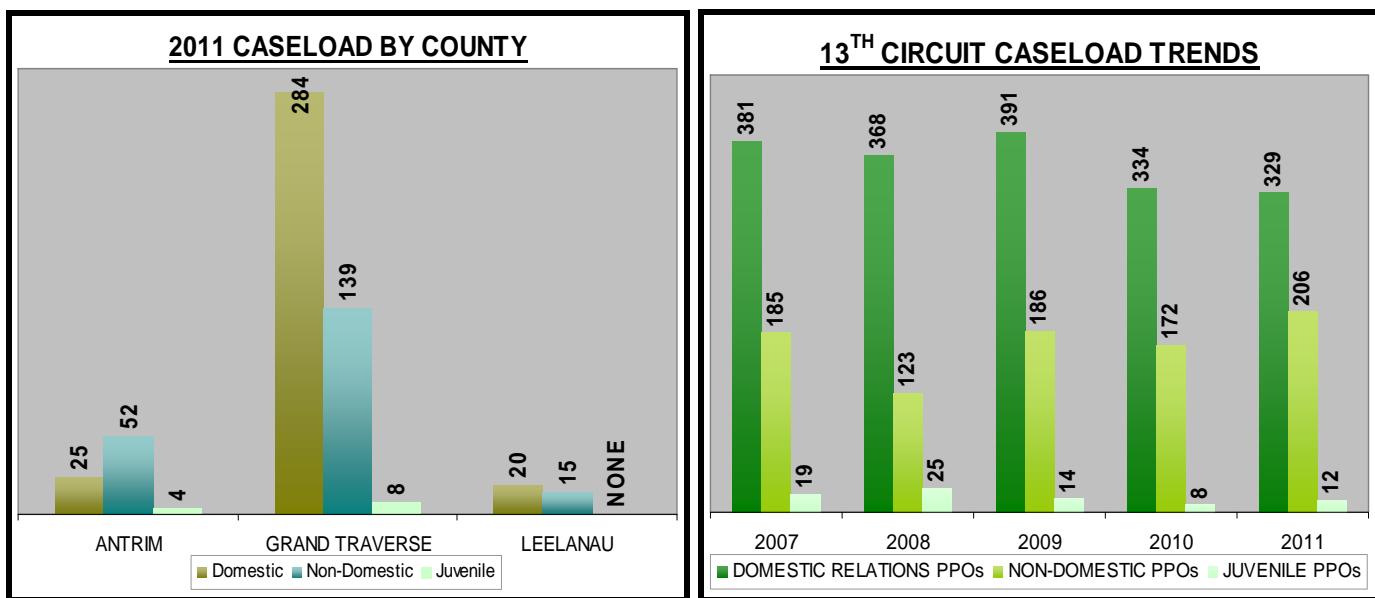


PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

In 2011, there were 513 newly filed requests for personal protection orders in the Thirteenth Circuit. This sum reflects all domestic and non-domestic adult personal protection orders and all juvenile personal protection orders. The Court issued a total of 305 personal protection orders against both adults and juveniles in 2011.

The number of newly filed requests for domestic, non-domestic and juvenile personal protection orders decreased for the State of Michigan in 2011. In addition, the State's total caseload for each category decreased from 2010. Conversely, number of requests in Thirteenth Circuit for domestic, non-domestic and juvenile personal protection orders all increased from 2010. However, the total caseload for domestic personal protection orders, which includes beginning pending, new filings and reopened cases, decreased in 2011.

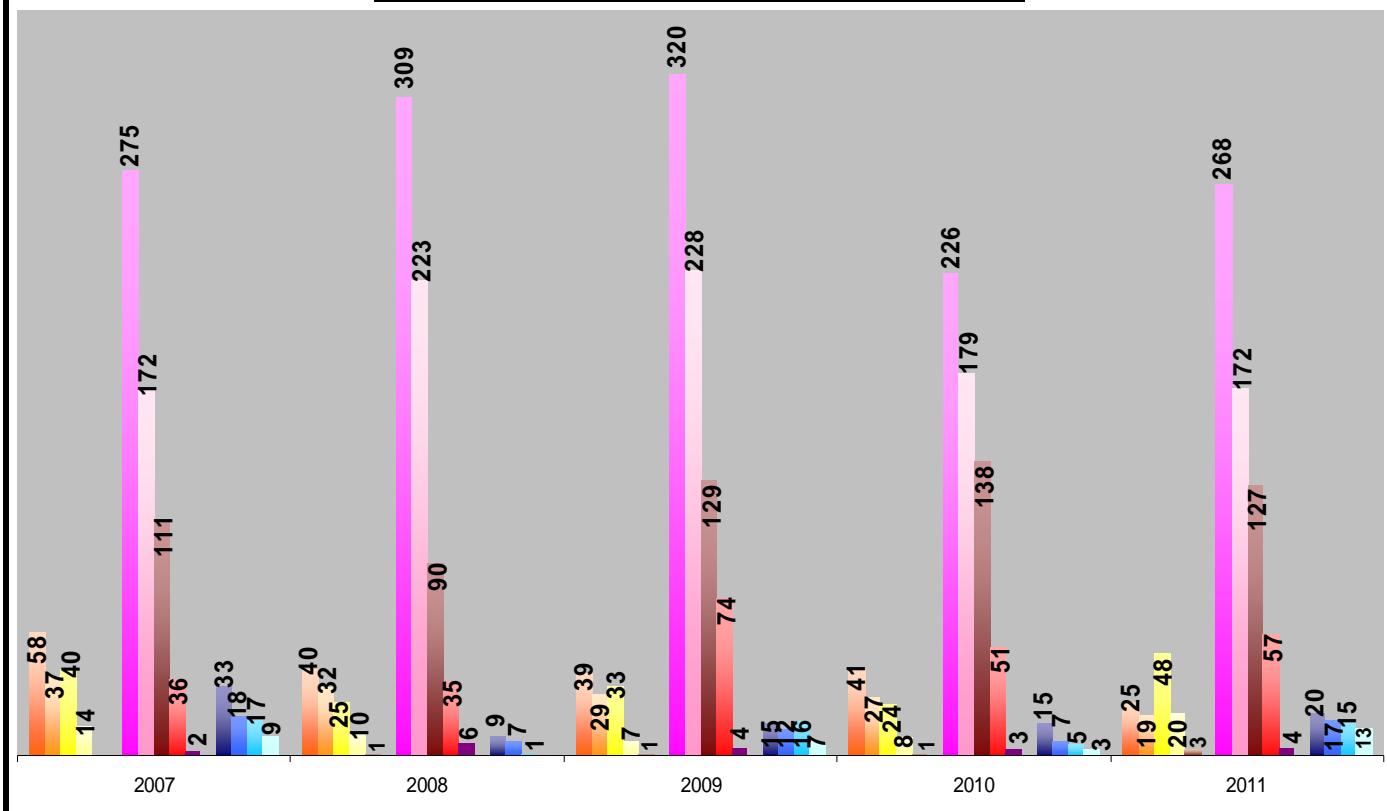
The first chart below depicts the Thirteenth Circuit Court total caseload for personal protection orders by county. The second chart below depicts the total caseloads, by year, for domestic relations personal protection orders, non-domestic relations personal protection orders and juvenile personal protection orders.



In 2007, there were 15 new requests for protection orders against minors in Grand Traverse County. Grand Traverse received 20 new requests for orders against minors in 2008, 9 requests in 2009, 5 requests in 2010 and 7 requests in 2011. Antrim County received 5 new requests for personal protection orders against minors in 2008 and 3 requests in 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively. Leelanau County has not had a newly filed request for a juvenile personal protection order since 2007.

The following graph shows newly filed requests for adult domestic and non-domestic personal protection orders, orders actually issued against adults and orders issued against minors for each county over the previous 5 years.

PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS BY COUNTY



ANTRIM COUNTY

- Domestic PPO Requests
- Domestic PPOs Issued
- Non-Domestic PPO Requests
- Non-Domestic PPOs Issued
- PPO Issued Against Minor

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

- Domestic PPO Requests
- Domestic PPOs Issued
- Non-Domestic PPO Requests
- Non-Domestic PPOs Issued
- PPO Issued Against Minor

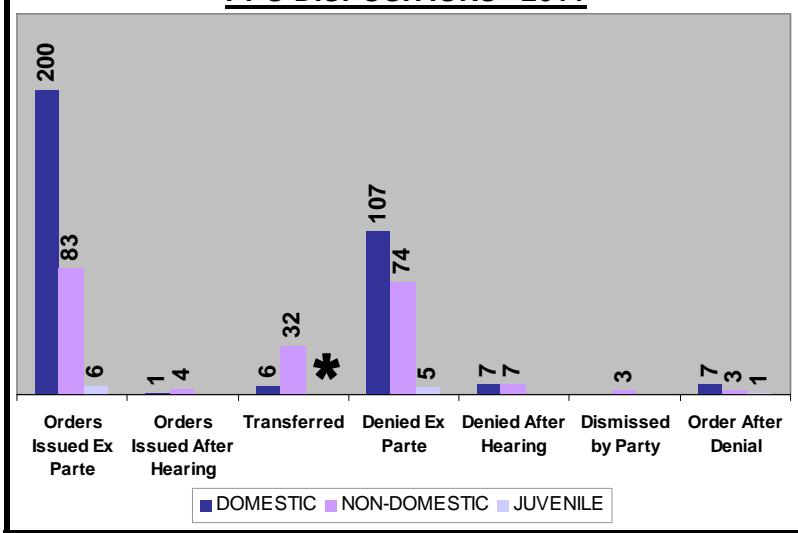
LEELANAU COUNTY

- Domestic PPO Requests
- Domestic PPOs Issued
- Non-Domestic PPO Requests
- Non-Domestic PPOs Issued
- PPO Issued Against Minor

* PPO Issued Against Minor

* Leelanau County did not issue any PPOs against minors from 2008 - 2011 and issued one such PPO in 2007.

PPO DISPOSITIONS - 2011

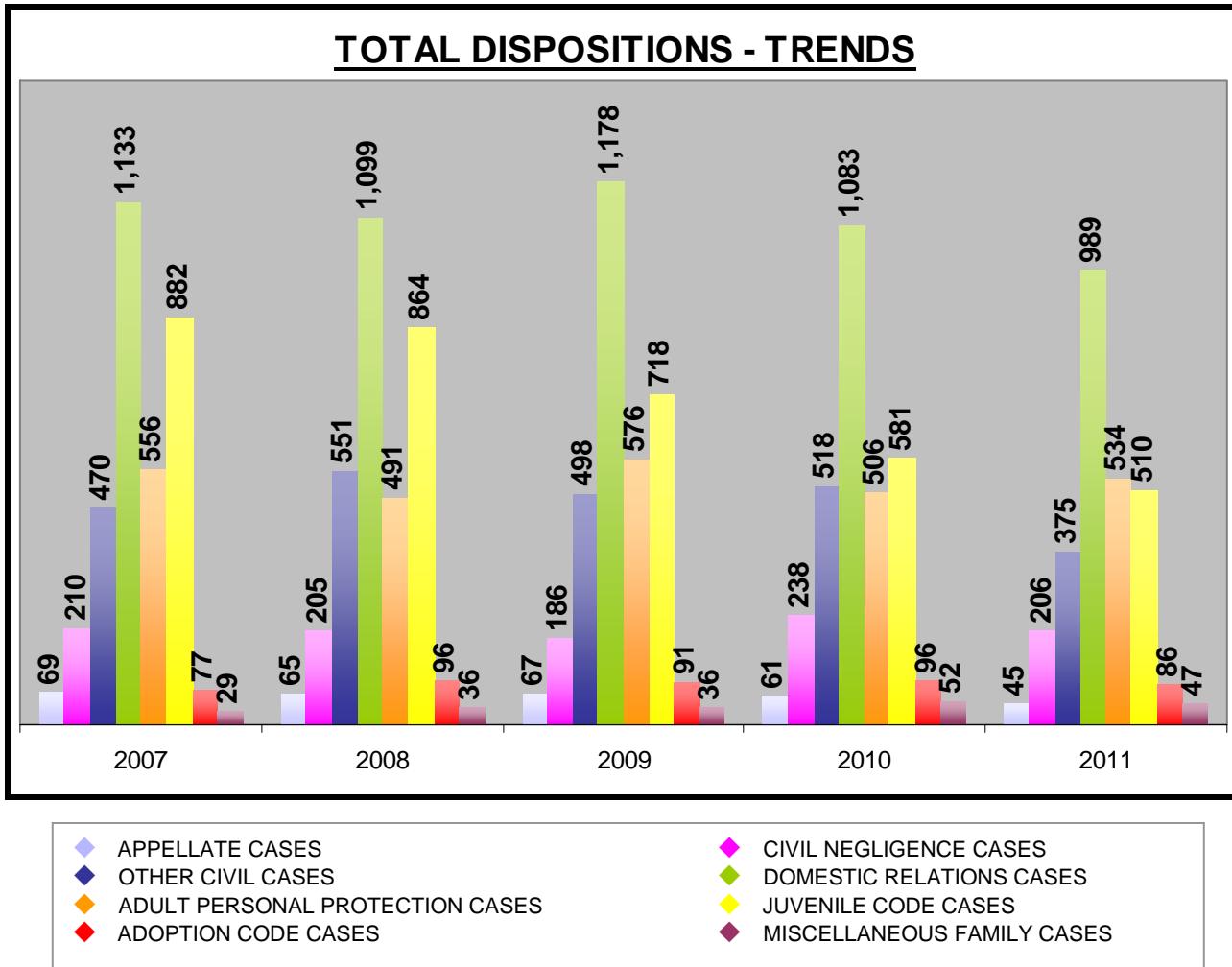


* In 2011, Grand Traverse County processed 3 out-of-county personal protection orders.

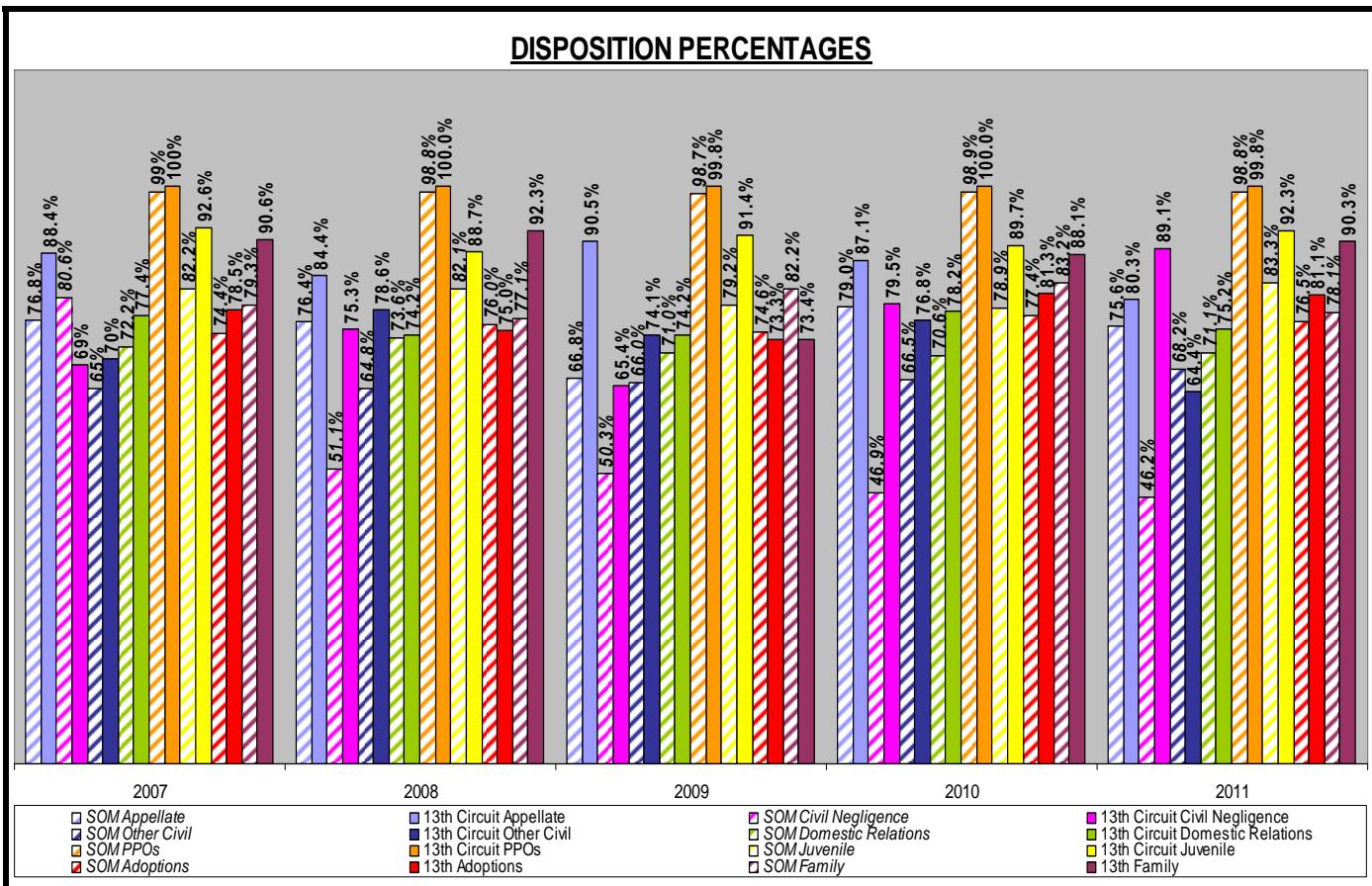
CIVIL CASE DISPOSITIONS

Annual disposition percentages are calculated by dividing the annual number of ongoing cases, cases disposed of or made inactive, by the total caseload, which includes cases that begin the year pending, new filings and reopened cases. There is typically a gap period between the time a new case is filed and when that case is disposed of by the Court. Therefore, disposition percentages naturally fluctuate above and below 100%.

The following chart displays the total dispositions by the Thirteenth Circuit Court for the various civil case categories during the past 5 years. Generally, the number of total dispositions decreased in each category, except for adult personal protection cases, in 2011.

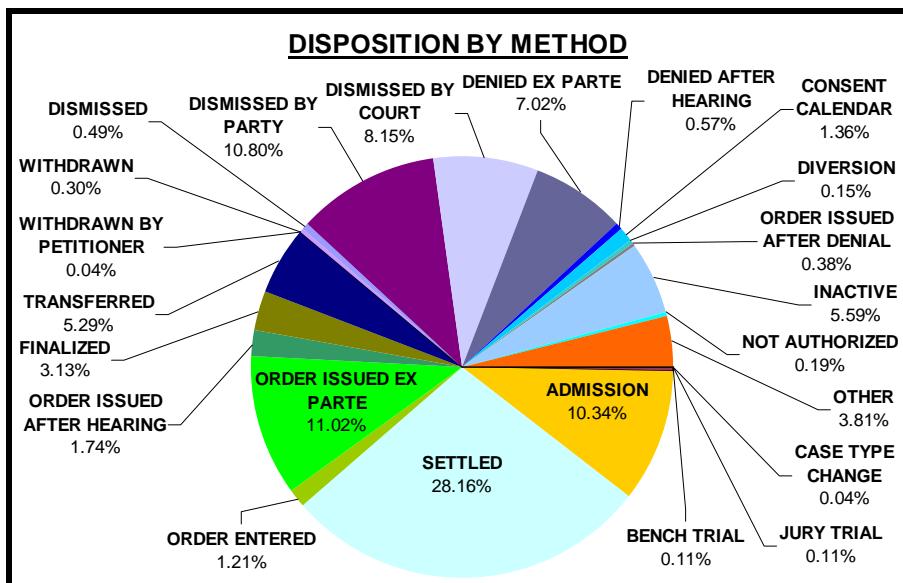


The following chart compares the disposition rates, by percentage, for the State of Michigan (SOM) and the disposition rates of the Thirteenth Circuit Court for the previous 5 years. On average, the Thirteenth Circuit Court disposes of a larger percentage of cases annually than the State of Michigan for appellate cases, civil negligence cases, other civil cases, domestic relations cases, personal protection cases, juvenile code cases, adoption code cases and miscellaneous family cases. However, in 2011, the State of Michigan averaged a higher rate of dispositions for other civil cases than the Thirteenth Circuit.



Methods by disposition include: jury verdicts, bench verdicts, cases dismissed by the parties or the Court, orders issued or denied ex parte by the Court, party admissions, cases made inactive, cases finalized and cases transferred. The most popular method for disposing of a case in the Thirteenth Circuit Court is agreed upon settlement by the parties.

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 depicts the methods used, by percentage, to dispose of civil cases in 2011.



CASE TYPE	JURY TRIAL	BENCH TRIAL	ADMISSION	GUILTY PLEA	SETTLED*	ORDER ENTERED	EX PARTE ORDER	FINALIZED	TRANSFERRED	WITHDRAWN	W/DRAWN PET.	DISMISSED	DISMISS - PARTY	DISMISS - COURT	EX PARTE DENIAL	DENY AFTER HRG	CONSENT	DIVERSION	ORD AFTER DENY	INACTIVE	UNAUTHORIZED	OTHER	CASE TYPE CHNG
APPELLATE																							
Administrative						2					5												
Criminal						6					2												
Civil						8					3	1											1
Habeas Corpus						1						1											
Secretary of State						15						2											
GENERAL CIVIL																							
Business Claims											4												1
Condemnation																							1
Work Discrimination							1				1												1
Housing/Real Estate						34		2			35	12							5	13			
Contracts						67		6			62	22							10	24			
Labor Relations												1											1
Corp. Receivership											1												
General Civil	1					43		1			19	17							6	9			
AUTO NEG																							
Property Damage																							9
No-Fault Insurance	1					1		2			24	1											
Personal Injury	1					2					29	1											15
OTHER DAMAGES																							
Medical Malpractice						1					7	2											4
Other Malpractice												1											
Other Personal Injury						3					20	1							1	13			
Products Liability																							1
Other Damage Suits						2		2			2												2
MISC CIVIL																							
Records Proceedings																							1
Claim & Delivery						4					11	1								3			
Receivers											1												1
Misc Proceedings						3																	4

CASE TYPE	JURY TRIAL	BENCH TRIAL	ADMISSION	GUILTY PLEA	SETTLED*	ORDER ENTERED	EX PARTE ORDER	FINALIZED	TRANSFERRED	WITHDRAWN	W/DRAWN PET.	DISMISSED	DISMISS - PARTY	DISMISS - COURT	EX PARTE DENIAL	DENY AFTER HRG	CONSENT	DIVERSION	ORD AFTER DENY	INACTIVE	UNAUTHORIZED	OTHER	CASE TYPE CHNG
DOMESTIC																							
Custody			11								2	2							1				
Divorce – Children			256								22	36							70		1		
Divorce – No Minors			259				1				15	24							52				
Paternity			61								4	13											
Support			122								1	11											
Other Proceedings			11								2	1											
UIFSA			9								2												
JUVENILE CODE																							
Delinquency	1	225				3	64				16	66					36	4		3			
Child Protective	2	49					20	8			2								2				
ADOPTION CODE																							
Adult						2																	
Direct Placement						11				1													
Relative						2					2												
Permanent Ward						49																	
Step-Parent						19																	
MISC FAMILY																							
Emancipation											1												
Name Change			41								1	1											

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

The above table provides data on the number and type of civil cases that were disposed of by the Court in 2011.

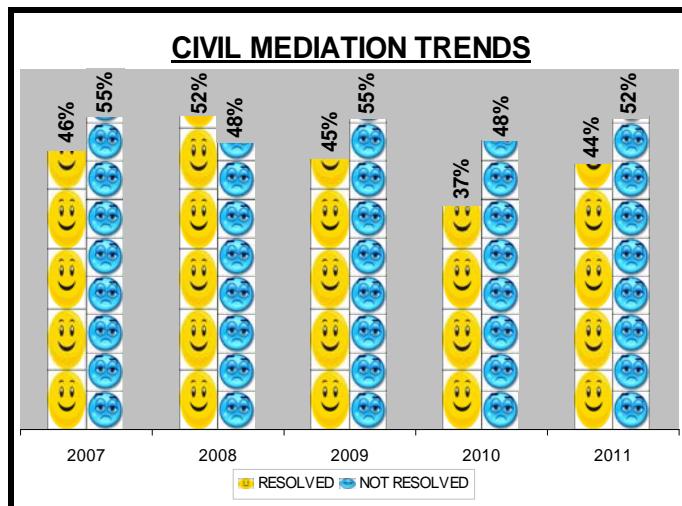
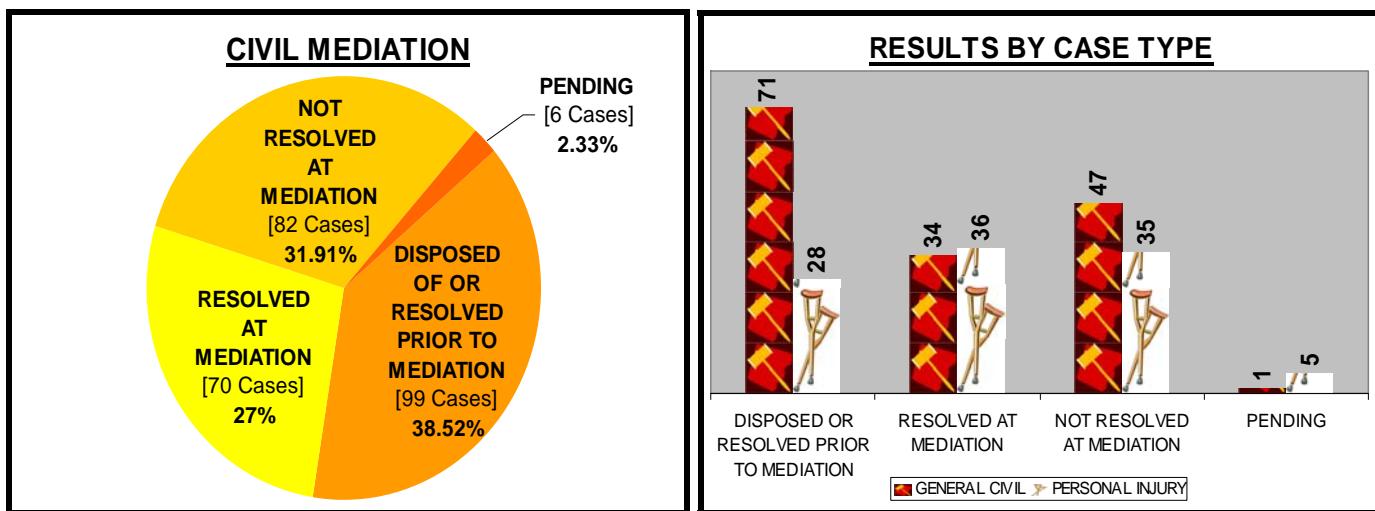
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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. ADR may also include case evaluation, a non-binding process in which a panel of experienced attorneys assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the parties' legal positions and assign a value to the case. 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.

All civil cases are subject to the ADR process unless otherwise provided by statute or court rule. ADR helps reduce costs to taxpayers due to a reduction in the overall need for jurors, compensation for lay and expert witnesses and the need for additional judges and/or courtrooms.

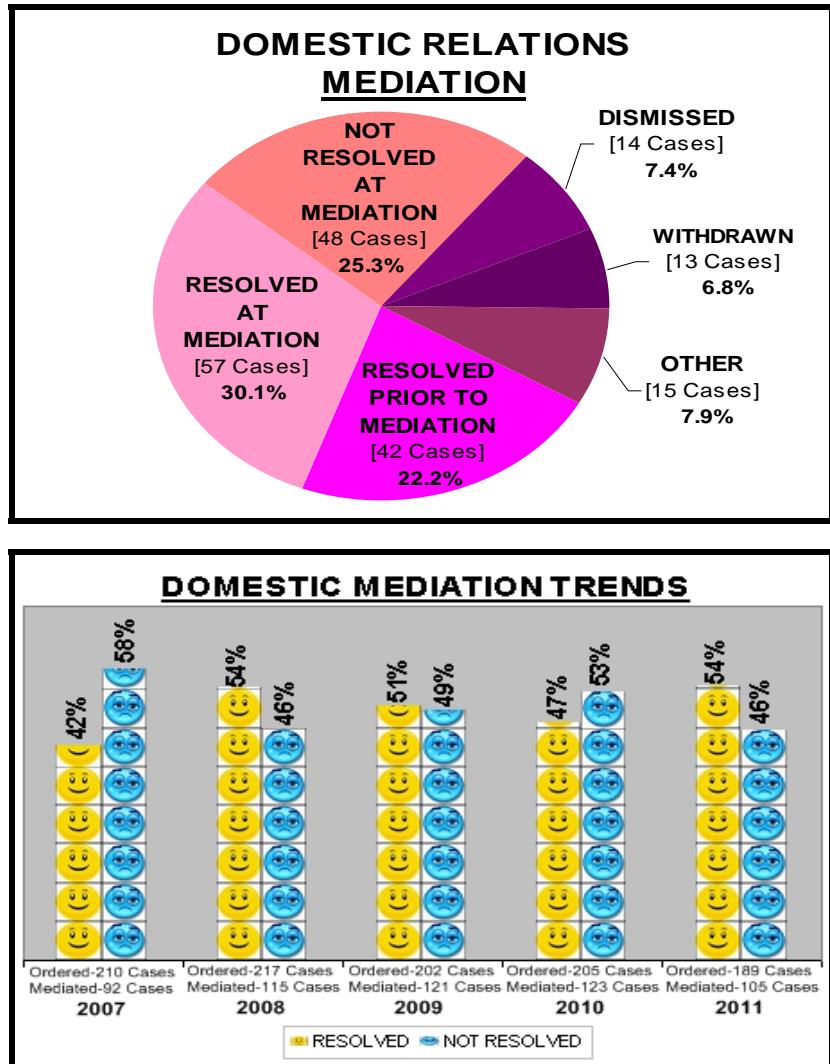
CIVIL FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

Facilitative mediation is an alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party facilitates confidential communications between the parties in an attempt to help them reach a mutually agreeable resolution. In mediation, solutions are generated by the parties, whereas in litigation the resolution of a conflict is imposed upon the parties by the Court. In 2011, 257 cases were ordered into mediation, with 158 cases actually mediated.



DOMESTIC RELATIONS FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

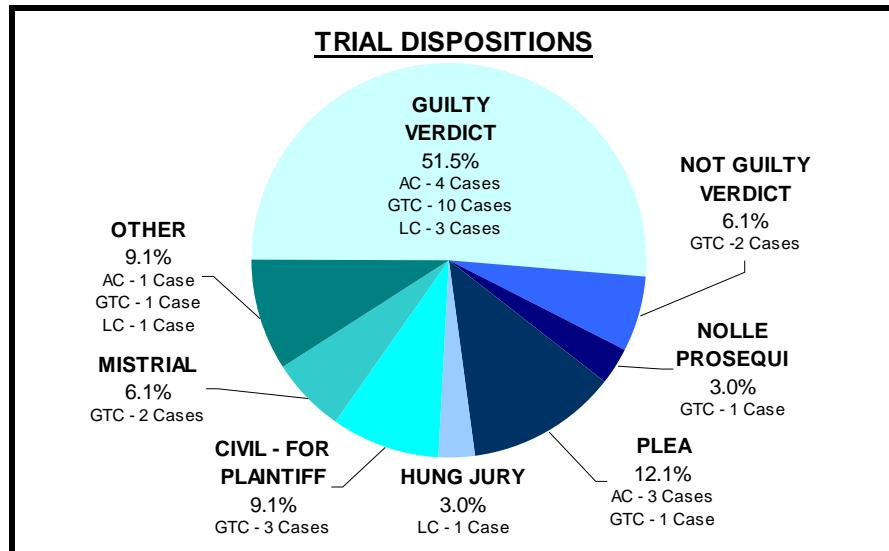
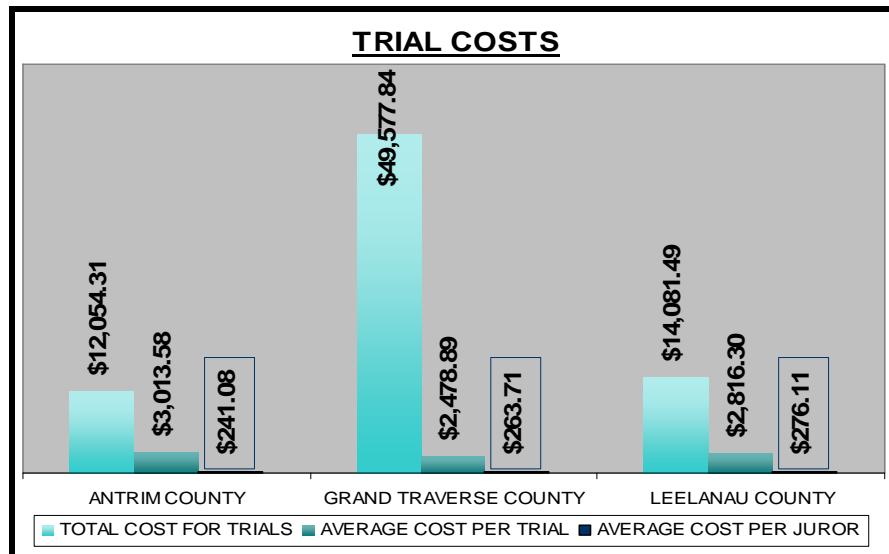
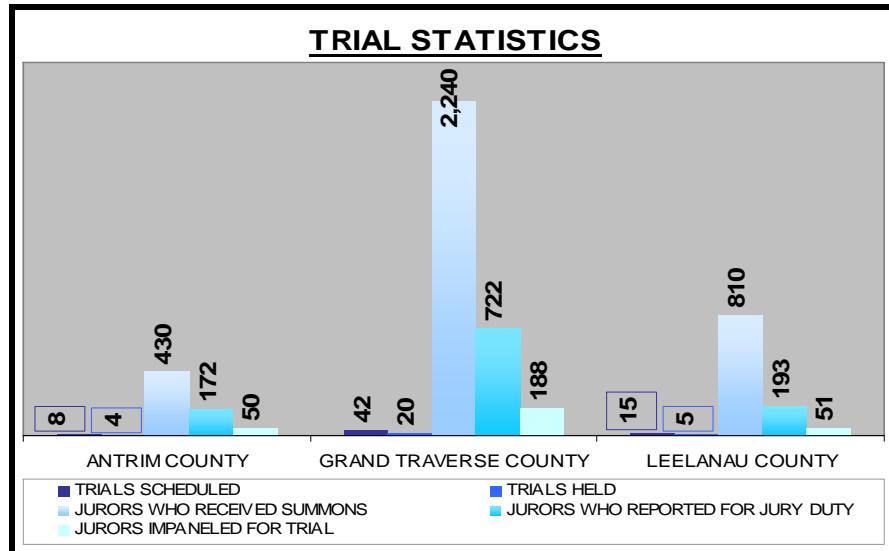
In 2011, the Court ordered 189 child-related domestic relations cases and property-related domestic relations cases into facilitative mediation, with 105 cases actually mediated. The following chart represents the results for domestic relations cases ordered into facilitative mediation.



TRIALS

The Thirteenth Circuit Court presides over all criminal felony trials and civil cases where the damages claimed exceed \$25,000. 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.

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.

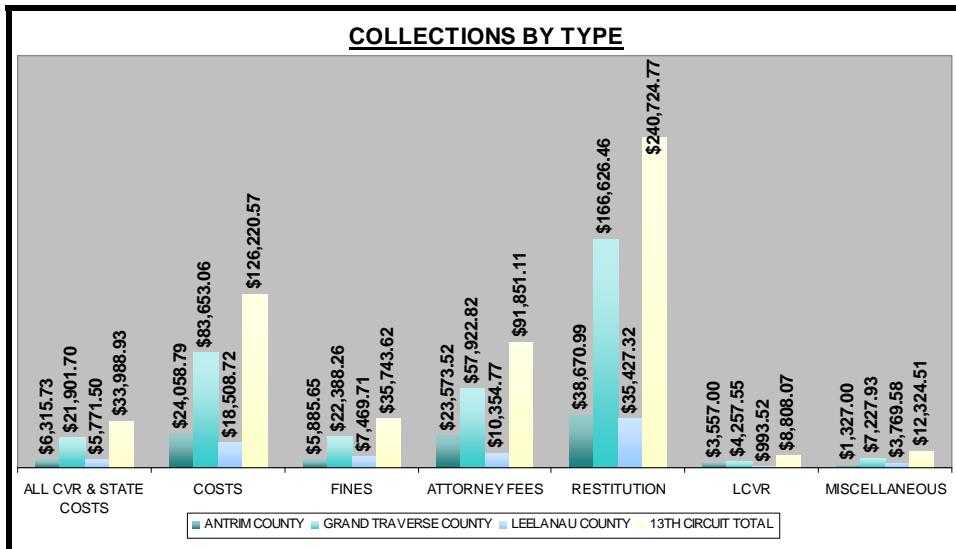
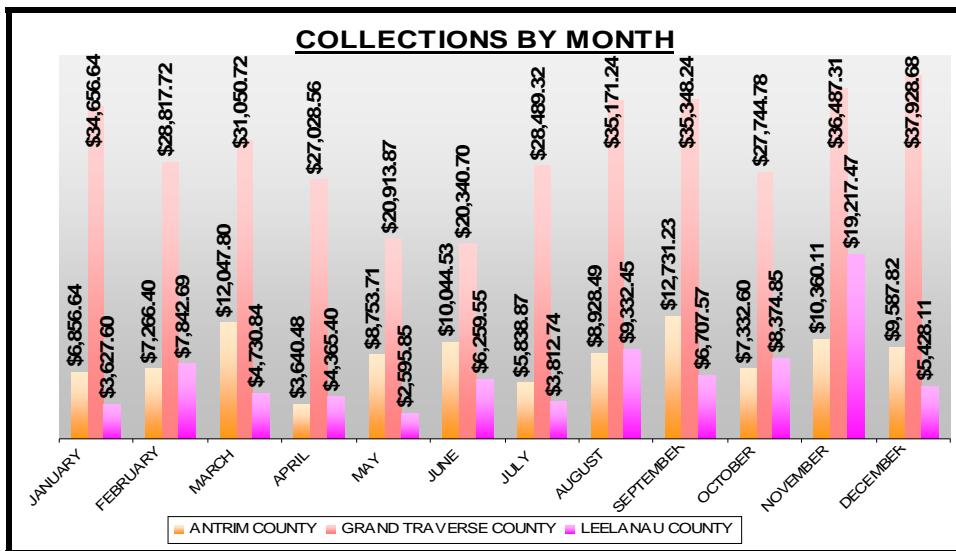


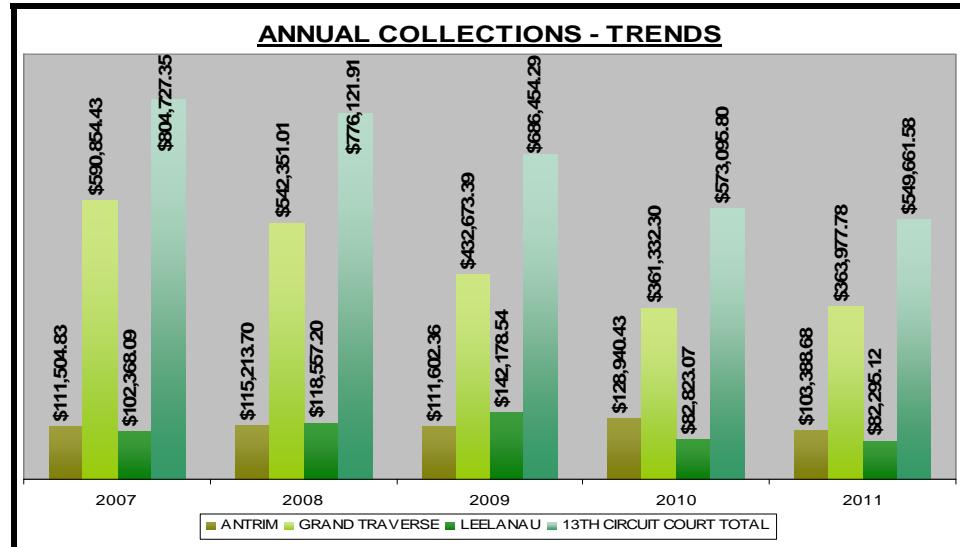
COURT FINANCES

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

COLLECTIONS

The Court collects fines, costs, court-appointed attorney 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 2011, Antrim County collected \$103,388.68, Grand Traverse County collected \$363,977.78 and Leelanau County collected \$82,295.12. In total, the Thirteenth Circuit Court collected \$549,661.58.

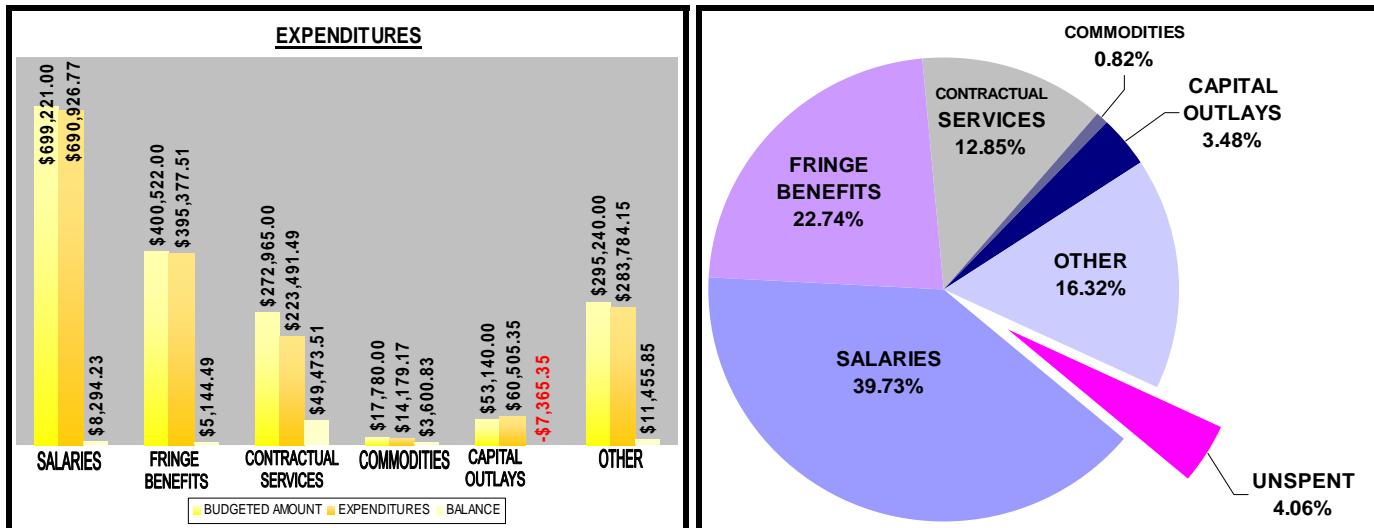




REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

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. Each individual county separately pays its 'cost-direct' expenses, like court-appointed attorneys' fees, jury fees, witness fees, transcript fees and courthouse security. Additional revenue comes from filing fees, court costs assessed by the County Clerks' Offices and the State of Michigan. In 2011, the adjusted budget for the Thirteenth Circuit Court was \$1,738,868. The year's expenditures totaled \$1,668,264.44, resulting in a year-end budget balance of \$70,603.56.

Expenditures are divided into 6 categories: (1) salaries for judicial, administrative and Friend of the Court staffs; (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.



THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

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.

JUDGES

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 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. He is married and has two children.

HONORABLE PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.

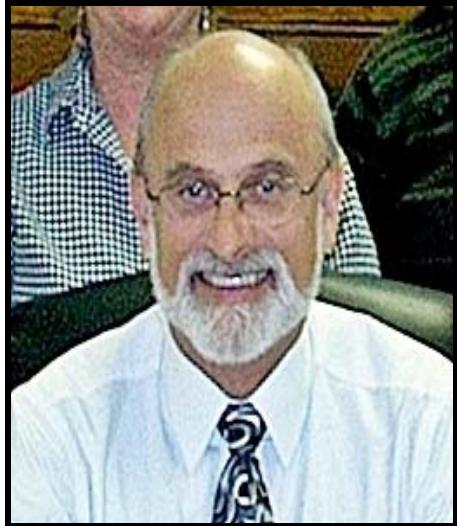
Judge Rodgers was elected to the bench in 1990 and ran unopposed in 1996, 2002 and 2008.

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 Master 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, Oceango 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 oversees the Family/Probate Court for Leelanau County. He will serve the remainder of the current Leelanau County Family Court/Probate judicial term, which ends January 1, 2013. The Judge 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 has two children.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE REFEREES

The Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees for the Thirteenth 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 in Michigan and has been an employee of the Circuit Court for over 10 years. Kirsten Keilitz, also a licensed Michigan attorney, began working for the Court in 2009 after practicing law with a local firm.

In 2011, the Referees conducted 53 custody hearings, 58 parenting time hearings, 57 child support hearings and 182 hearings relating to Personal Protection Orders. Further, the Referees handled 102 other child-related issue hearings including, but not limited to, change of domicile, change of residence, and grandparenting time.



CYNTHIA CONLON AND KIRSTEN KEILITZ

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 specialize in domestic relations and personal protection orders, domestic relations mediation, civil alternative dispute resolution, felony collections and scheduling, among others. The administrative staff members have significant training and experience working for the state judicial system.



TERI QUINN
COURT ADMINISTRATOR



JULIE ARENDTS
DEPUTY COURT
ADMINISTRATOR



STACY OSBORNE
CIRCUIT COURT
SPECIALIST



DEBBIE RUTKOWSKI
CIRCUIT COURT
SPECIALIST



NORMA SANDELIUS
CIRCUIT COURT
SPECIALST



KIM SHERIDAN
CIRCUIT COURT
SPECIALST

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 and Jessica are licensed Certified Shorthand Reporters (CSRs), Registered Professional Reporters (RPRs) and are training to become Certified Realtime Reporters (CRRs). They are both members of the Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters and the National Court Reporter Association.



KAREN CARMODY



JESSICA MATULA

JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS AND STAFF ATTORNEYS



MIKE RADER



BROOKE BEARUP



KATIE HALBERT

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 served as Judge Power's Judicial Assistant until his retirement in February 2012 after over 25 years with the Circuit Court. Prior to employment with the judiciary, Mike 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 is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association and the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association. Brooke also compiles and edits the Court's Annual Reports.

Katie Halbert began working with the Circuit Court in November 2011. She now serves as Judge Power's Staff Attorney. Katie is licensed to practice law in Michigan and, prior to her employment with the Court, she worked at a private practice law firm in Traverse City. Katie is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Grand Traverse-Leelanau-Antrim Bar Association and has participated with the Traverse Board of Zoning Appeals.

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 2011, the Antrim County Family Division received 153 domestic relations new case filings. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 225, with the Court disposing of 169 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 140 cases. There were 119 new case filings: 96 delinquency, 20 child protective and 3 personal protection. The Court supervised 8 juveniles in 2011.

In 2011, there were 41 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian of 4 children and the temporary guardian of 5 children.

The Court disposed of 9 adoption code cases, finalized 8 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 9 individuals and processed 77 adult personal protection cases.

LEELANAU COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION

In 2011, the Leelanau County Family Division received 115 domestic relations new case filings. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 165, with the Court disposing of 115 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 45 cases. There were 42 new case filings: 37 delinquency and 5 child protective. The Court supervised 24 juveniles in 2011.

In 2011, there were 9 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian of 8 children and the temporary guardian of 9 children.

The Court finalized 2 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 6 individuals and processed 35 adult personal protection cases.



Back from Left: 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 FAMILY DIVISION



From Left: 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]

In 2011, the Grand Traverse County Family Division received 626 domestic relations new case filings. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 925, with the Court disposing of 705 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 367 cases. There were 300 new case filings: 248 delinquency, 45 child protective and 7 personal protection. The Court supervised 94 juveniles in 2011.

In 2011, there were 86 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian of 25 children and the temporary guardian of 55 children.

The Court disposed of 75 adoption code cases, finalized 73 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 26 individuals and processed 422 adult personal protection cases.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 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.



From Left: Jeff Burdick [Probation Officer], Eric Salani [Probation Officer], Kate Esckilsen [Probation Officer], Barb Donaldson [Chief Probation Officer], Matt Ferguson [Probation Officer], Joanie Layton [Juvenile Probation]

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY TRUANCY



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

In 2011, the Truancy Intervention Center worked with 308 students, of which 92% were diverted from formal court proceedings and 79% did not commit a second offense.

The Center received 559 prevention service referrals to assist students, held 185 Family Team Intervention Conferences and provided over 840 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 Attorney. The assigned prosecutor then determines if the parent, student or both should be charged.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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.



From Left: Kelly Majszak [Administration], Lindsey Jordan [Administration], Linda Fawcett [Coordinator], Laura Shumate [Learning Partners]

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION SPECIALISTS

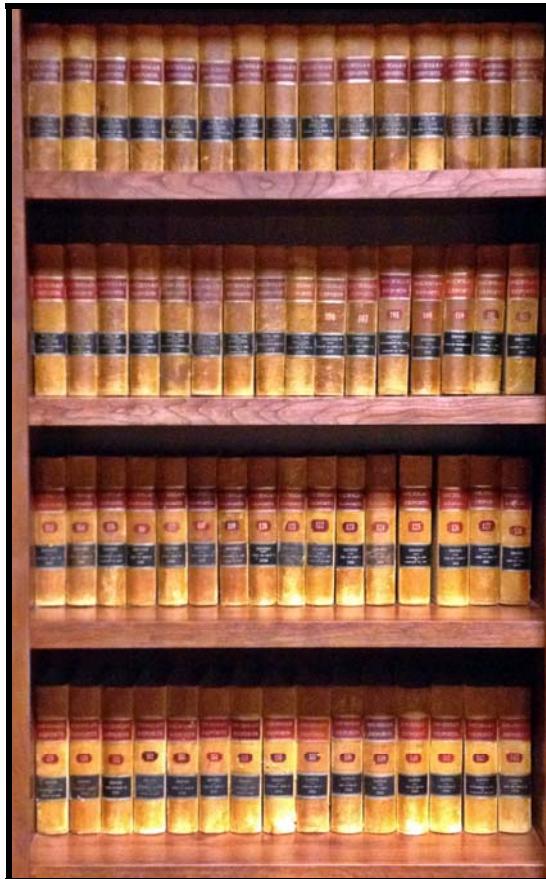
The Family Court Specialists work within various departments of the Thirteenth Circuit Court Family Division. They are responsible for processing data, providing administrative and clerical office support and offering customer service assistance, in addition to many other duties related to the individual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



From Left: Sue Bennett [Civil/Litigation Specialist], Mandi Leer [Collections Specialist], Cindy Edmonson [Juvenile Administration Specialist], Janet Kronk [Neglect/Abuse & Adoptions Specialist]

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.

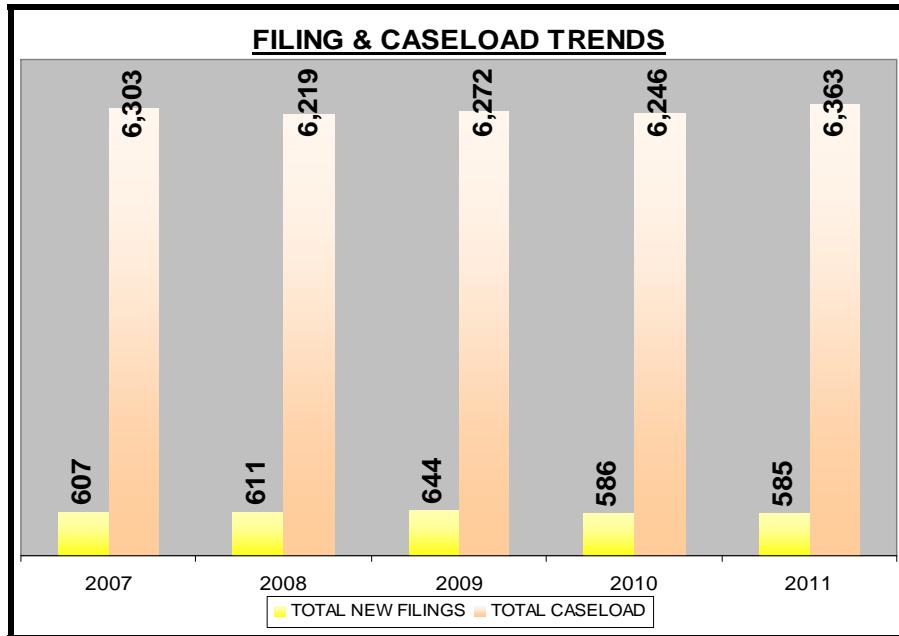
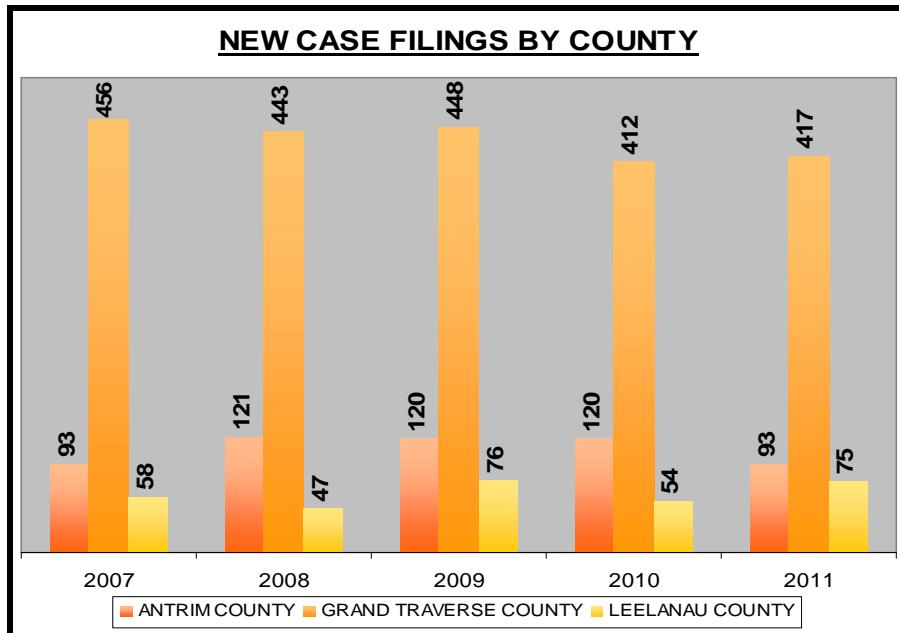
FRIEND OF THE COURT

CASE MANAGEMENT

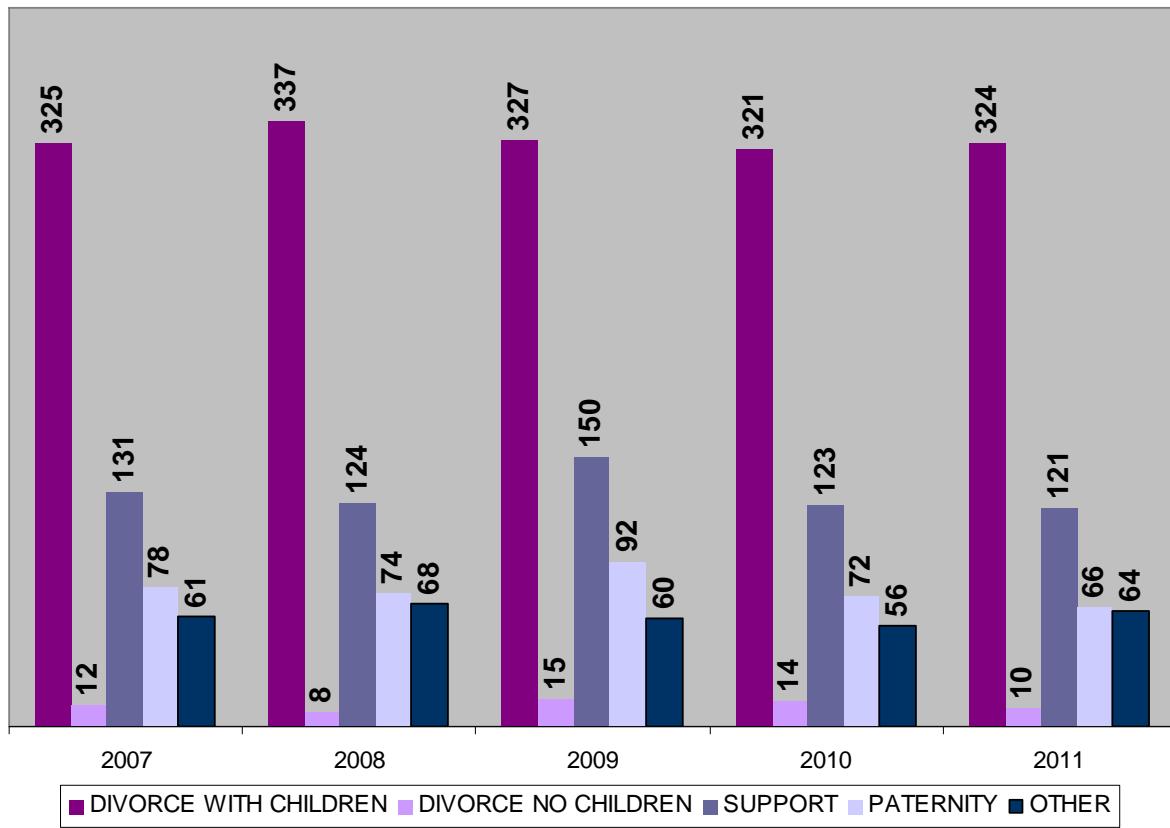
Of the 585 new cases opened in 2011, 16% were from Antrim County, 71% were from Grand Traverse County and 13% were from Leelanau County.

In 2011, the Case Management staff conducted investigations and made recommendations for temporary orders in 529 cases. The Friend of the Court prepared 214 stipulated orders for clients.

There were 45 petitions to “opt out” of Friend of the Court services granted. Fourteen cases where the parties had previously “opted out” of services were reopened in 2011.



NEW CASE FILINGS BY TYPE



CUSTODY AND PARENTING TIME

In 2011, 108 enforcement hearings were held regarding allegations of denied parenting time. In connection with these hearings, 159 days and/or nights of make-up parenting time were ordered.

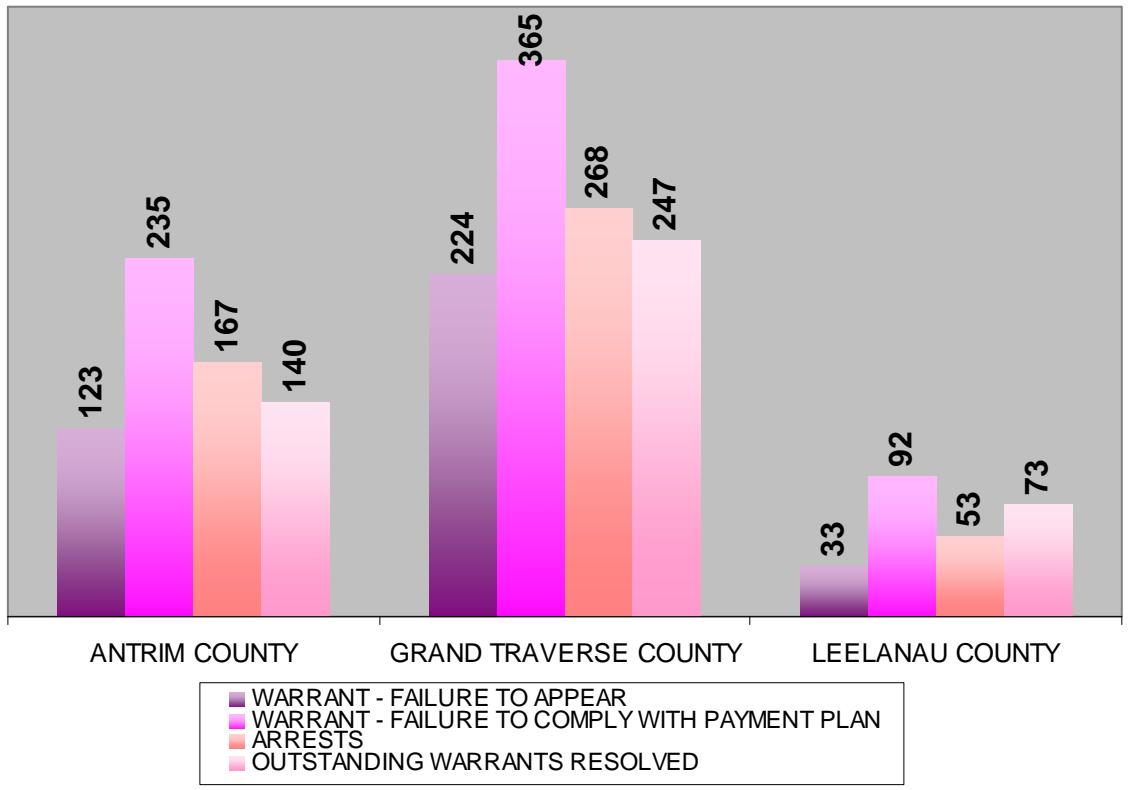
The Friend of the Court conducted approximately 107 reviews addressing parenting time issues and approximately 23 reviews regarding issues such as custody and domicile and residence changes. Of the initial orders generated by the Friend of the Court, 70% of the custody orders were agreed to by the parties. Custody was determined by default in 15% of the cases.

CHILD SUPPORT

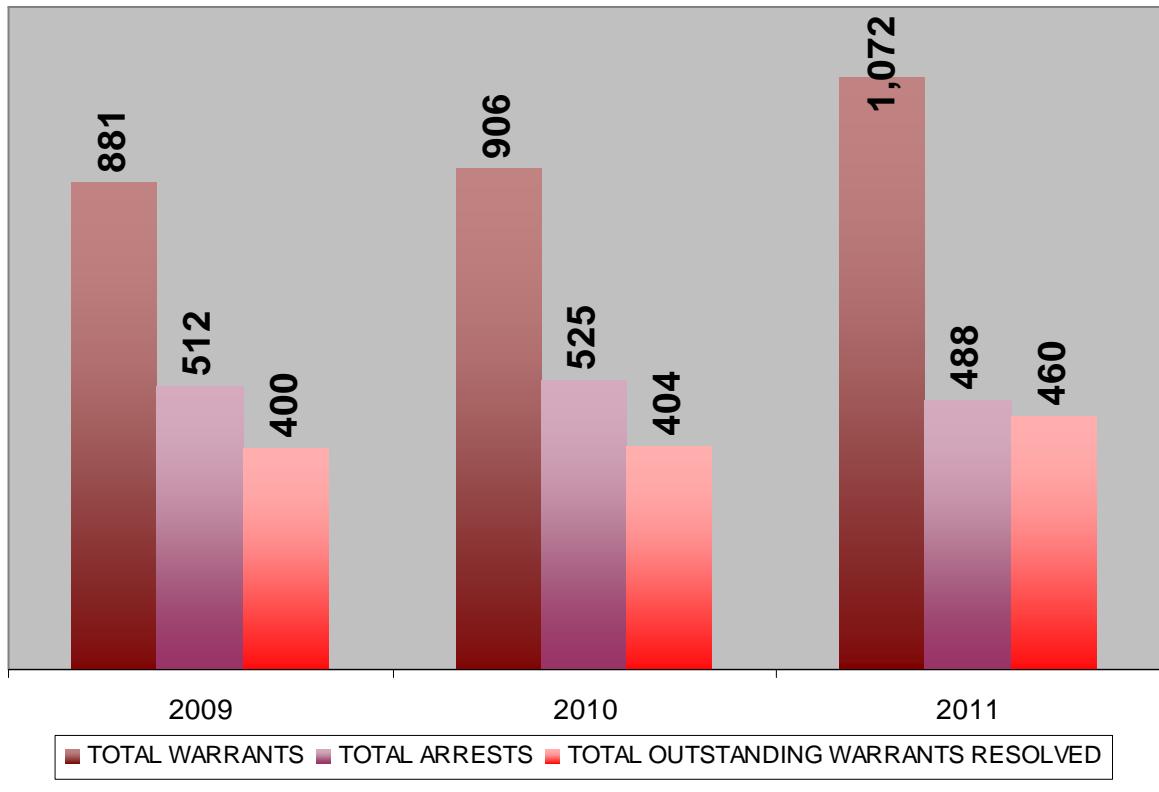
In 2011, the Friend of the Court scheduled 1,548 support enforcement hearings and 1,276 were conducted. The remaining cases were resolved, usually due to payment or establishment of successful income withholding. The 3,800 income withholding notices generated in 2011 was an increase from the 3,300 notices generated in 2010.

Approximately 636 reviews addressing child support were conducted, with more of the reviews resulting in decreases in support rather than increases due to job losses and declining income. The Friend of the Court processed 756 complaints for reimbursement of children's medical expenses in 2011.

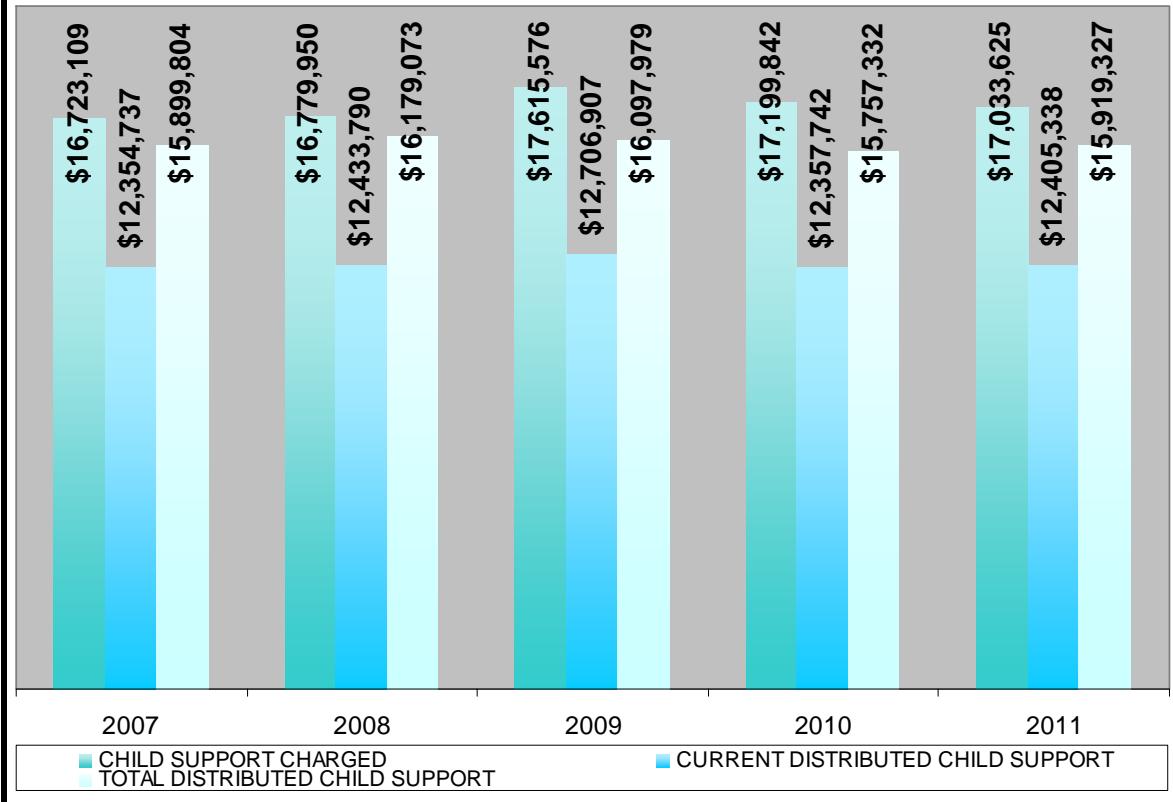
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - 2011



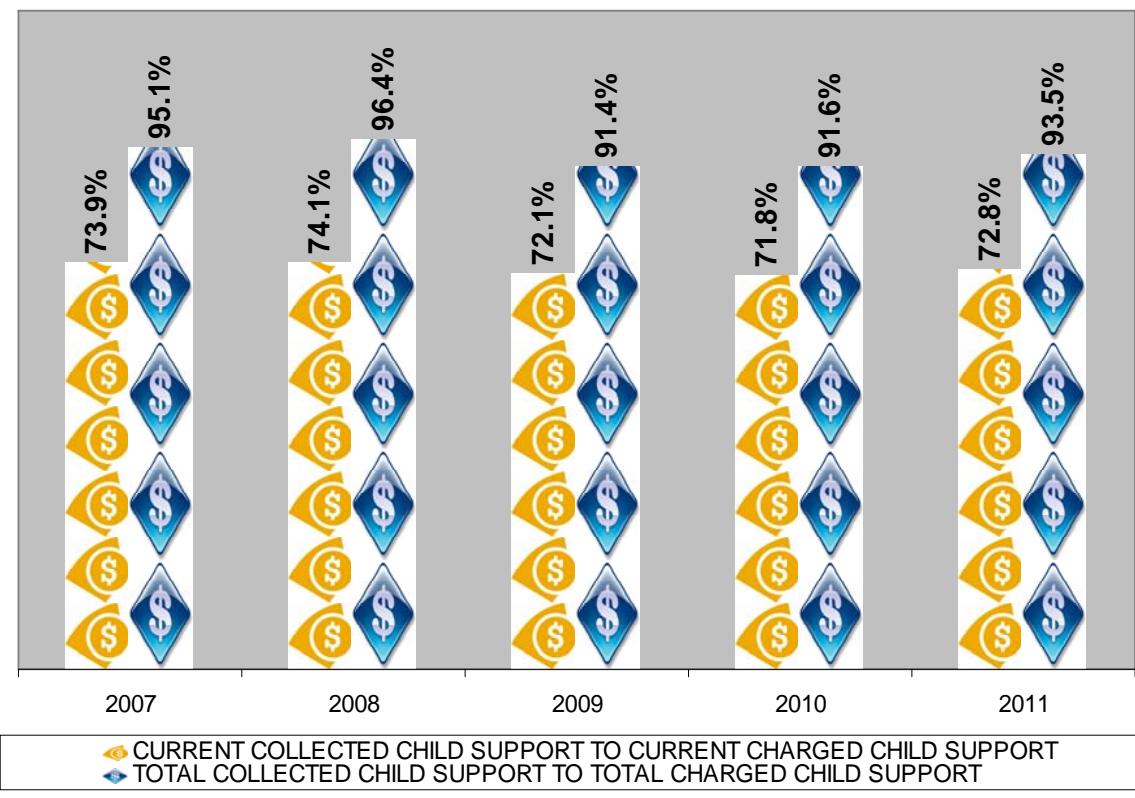
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT - TRENDS



CHILD SUPPORT



COLLECTION RATIOS



FRIEND OF THE COURT SUMMARY – 2011

The Family Support Court, a specialty court, was continued in 2011 and received 17 new referrals. The 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 sanctions and utilization of community resources are hallmarks of the program. The Family Support Court served 28 individuals, representing 39 cases. Of these 39 cases, parties in 22 cases achieved gainful employment resulting in regular support payments. The 17 income withholding orders entered resulted in full payments of current support.

The Court's education program for divorcing parents, SMILE, is offered monthly in the Hall of Justice. There are both day time and evening sessions. Registration for SMILE may be done electronically through the Friend of the Court website, located at www.13thcircuitcourt.org. For individuals unable to attend the scheduled sessions, there is now a complete video program available.

The Friend of the Court continues to receive Access and Visitation grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office and has continued its relationship with Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan to provide supervised parenting time and safe parenting time exchanges for currently serviced families. In 2011, there were 112 supervised visits and 227 supervised exchanges, serving 14 families.

The Friend of the Court continued working with and referring families to the local Community Reconciliation Service (CRS) for post-judgment mediation of custody and parenting time disputes. The Friend of the Court continues to aggressively promote voluntary mediation as an alternative dispute resolution measure.

Also in 2011, the Friend of the Court initiated central printing of its income withholding notices. Centrally printed income withholding notices are generated and sent from Lansing, which saves local postage, paper supplies and staff time. The postage savings is approximately \$400 per month.

The Friend of the Court, with the assistance of Norika Kida, generated a legal research manual on 21 topics pertaining to domestic relations law. Some of the topics discussed include: termination of parental rights, statute of limitations, retroactivity of support orders, paternity issues, liens on real and personal property, emancipation, change of domicile and legal residence, and grandparenting time.



Back from Left: Pete Walters, Alisa Gallo, Tracie Mullen, Jayne Arnold, Angela Pelletier, Karen Sanchez, Carol Rose, Martha Hornbaker, Ellene Peters, Matthew Hawley, Al Crocker, Jeremy Hogue, Fran Boyle
Middle: Dawn Rogers, Tammi Willoughby, Julie Conway, Mary Anderson, Sandy Schaub, Sally Bergstrom, Margaret Mulcahey, Carol Bradway
Front: Laura Burke, Terri Lynn Andresen
Inset Photo: Esther Cooper

THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT NOTES

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Laura Shumate celebrated 5 years with Volunteer Services on July 11, 2011. The following individuals celebrated 10 years of employment: Suzanne Bennett with the Family Court on January 18, 2011; Janet Kronk with the Family Court on January 2, 2011 and Janet McGee with the Family/Probate Court on January 2, 2011. Circuit Court Administrator, Teri Quinn, celebrated 15 years with the Court on October 22, 2011. The Friend of the Court's Esther Cooper and Sandy Schaub, respectively, celebrated 20 years on April 16, 2011 and 25 years on June 16, 2011. Mike Rader celebrated 25 years with the Circuit Court on March 16, 2011.



TERI QUINN



MIKE RADER



CAROL DEE

RETIREMENTS

Carol Dee retired after more than 25 years with the Circuit Court.



From Left: Kim Sheridan, Julie Arends, Carol Dee, Norma Sandelius, Stacy Osborne, Teri Quinn

PROMOTIONS

Julie Arends was promoted to Deputy Circuit Court Administrator.



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 2011 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award was Ann Swaney, a librarian employed at Northwestern Michigan College.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 2011, Al Crocker, a Friend of the Court employee, was the recipient of the YMCA Volunteer of the Year Award. Al has coached for 17 years.

Virginia Watson, who served as County Clerk from 1980 through 1996, was honored by family and community at a reception held in the Grand Traverse County Law Library. Judge Thomas Power presented Ms. Watson with a drawing of the Historical Courthouse done by her niece, Melissa Drake.

