



# THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT ANNUAL REPORT

2016 EDITION



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# INTRODUCTION

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court has issued an Annual Report for the past 20 years in an ongoing effort to provide taxpayers, litigants, counsel and government officials with current caseload data and information regarding the Court's operations. We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.

For the first time in many years, the Court experienced a decline in both the criminal and civil caseloads. However, while the overall criminal caseload decreased, the number of sentencing for drug-related matters increased from 2015. Heroin and methamphetamine remained the most prevalent drugs. Fortunately, in 2016, a grant from the State Court Administrator's Office allowed for the creation of a local drug recovery court. Offenders who plead guilty to felonies have the opportunity to get their charges reduced after intensive supervisory and long term probation. The goal of the drug court is to provide addicts with intensive treatment, to break the cycle of incarceration, to reduce recidivism and ultimately to make them productive citizens in our community.

Otherwise, the Court continued to resolve its cases well within the Supreme Court's mandated time disposition guidelines and was aided in this endeavor by a hardworking and highly efficient staff, the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Referees and the family court divisions. Alternative dispute resolution, using facilitative mediators and the Conflict Resolution Service, also assisted in the resolution of cases throughout the past year. As a result, the Court presided over fewer jury trials than in 2015.

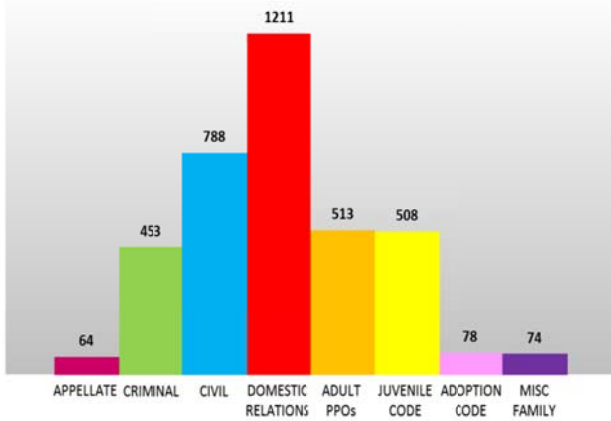
In 2016, the Grand Traverse County Commissioners continued to evaluate proposals for resolving the outstanding pension debt obligation and we remain hopeful that rational business decisions can still be made by those entrusted with the public welfare. To the Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau County Commissioners, we wish to express our appreciation for your service and your support.

The Court's website, located at [www.13thcircuitcourt.org](http://www.13thcircuitcourt.org), provides a variety of information (on topics such as jury duty, motion practice, and the alternative resolution process), commonly used forms for download and links to assist the public and legal community. Further, the Court's civil jury verdict summaries are accessible through the website. Jury verdict summaries are available from 1995 through the present. Comments regarding how the Court may improve its services are always welcome and we look forward to hearing from you.

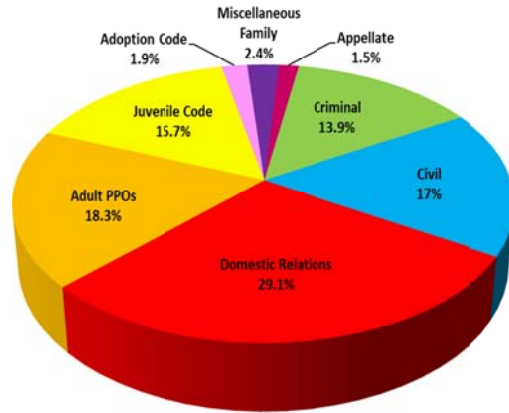


# AT A GLANCE: 2016

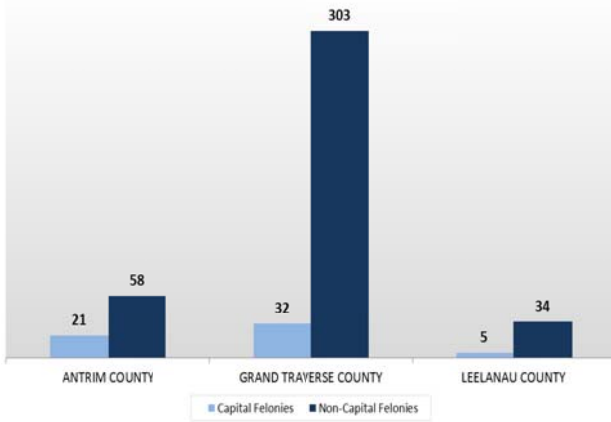
13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT - TOTAL CASELOAD



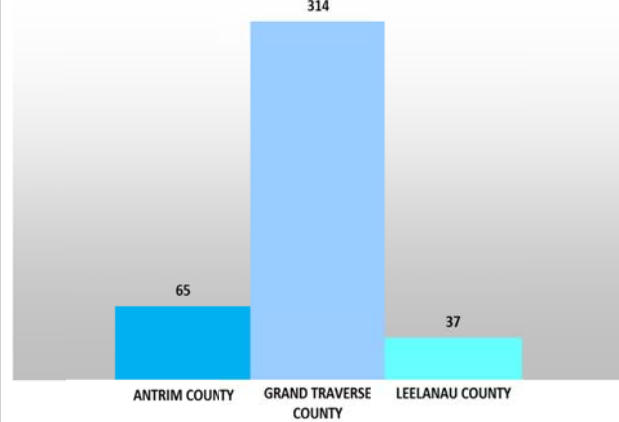
13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT COURT - NEW CASE FILINGS



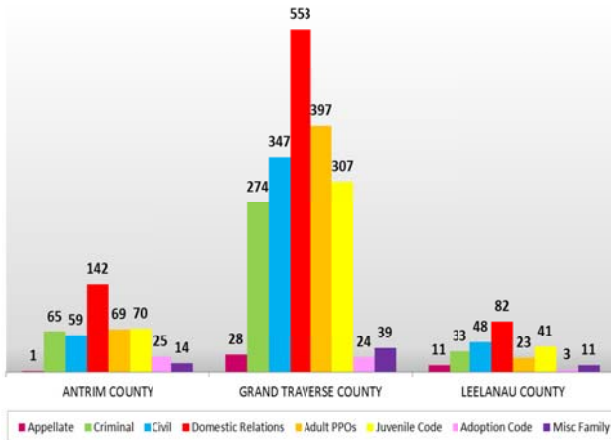
TOTAL CRIMINAL CASELOAD - BY COUNTY



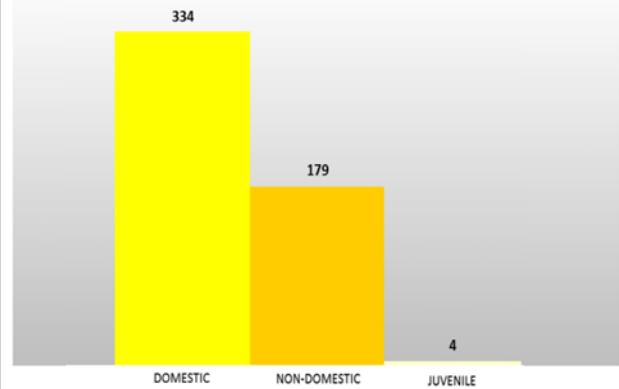
SENTENCINGS - BY COUNTY

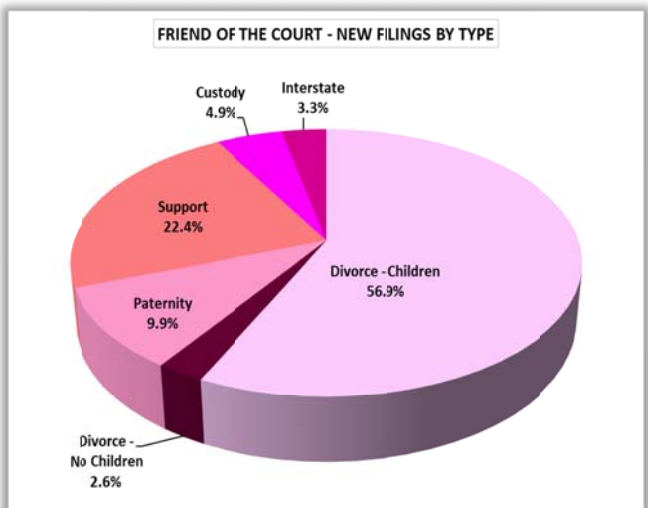
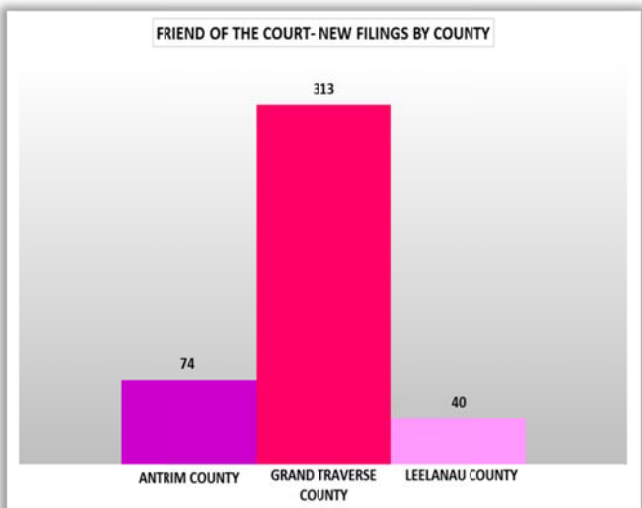
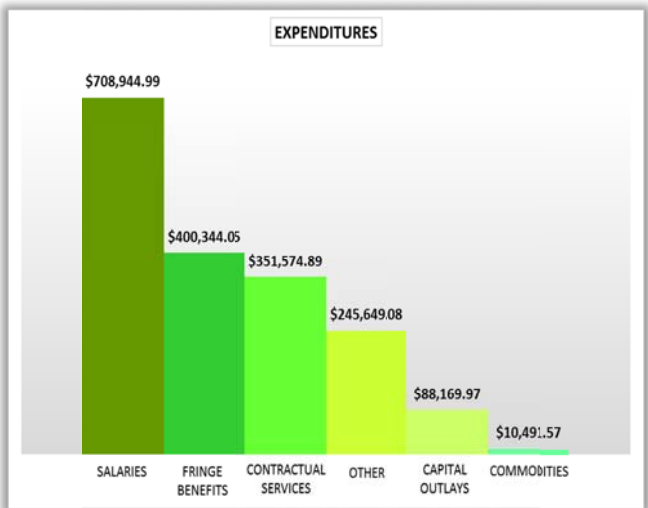
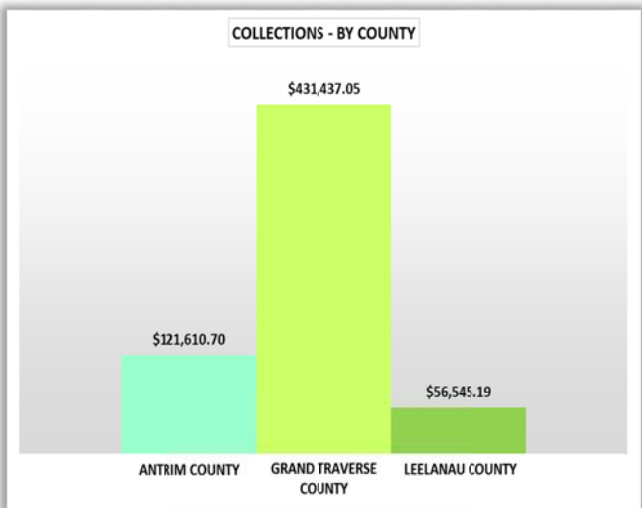
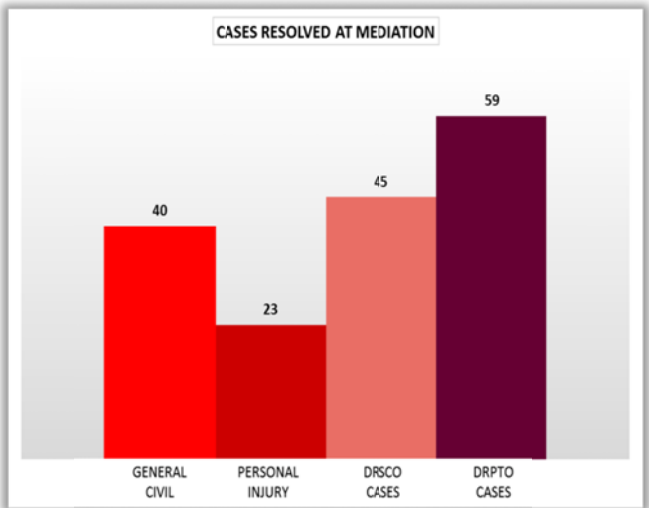
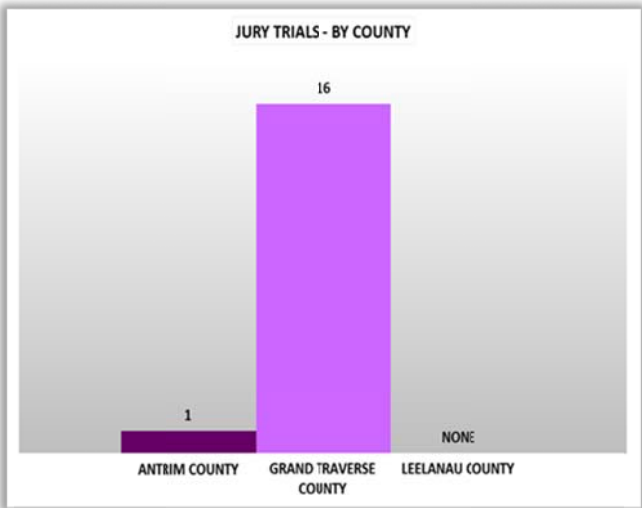


NEW CASE FILINGS - BY COUNTY



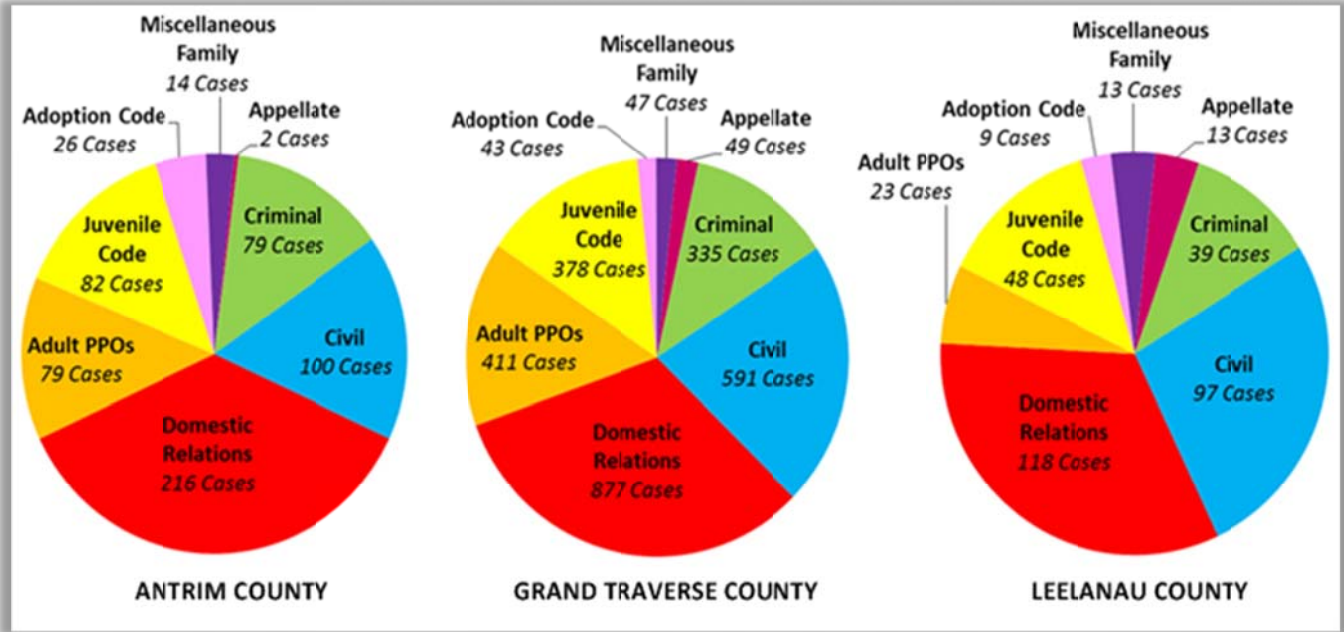
PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS - TOTAL CASELOAD





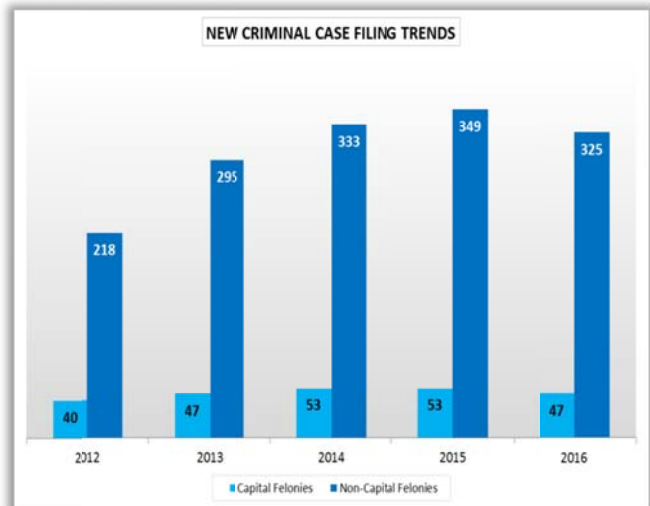
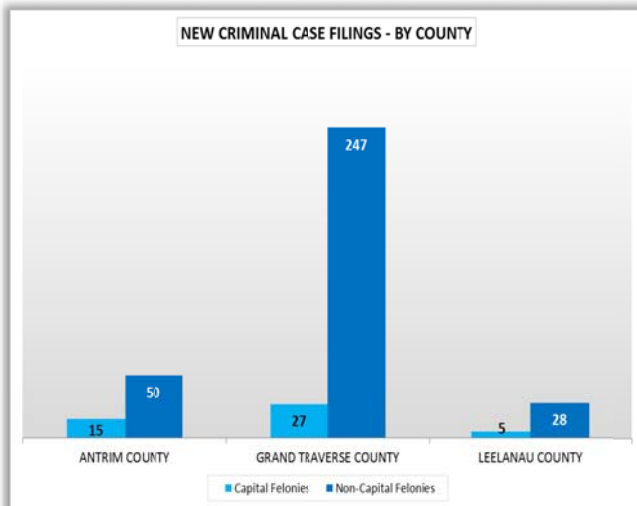
# CASE MANAGEMENT

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 guidelines for the processing of the case and establishing dates when future actions should begin or be completed with regard to the case. The primary goal of the Court's administrative staff is to ensure that cases are kept current and the docket remains up-to-date. The following chart demonstrates the 2016 total caseload by category for each county.



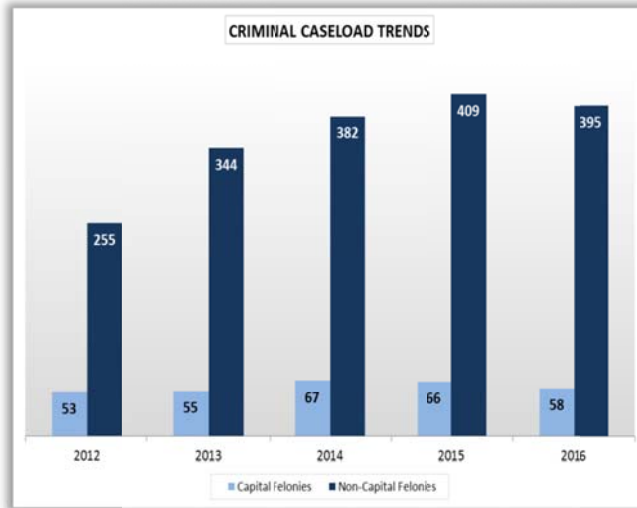
## CRIMINAL CASELOAD NEW CASE FILINGS

Capital felonies are cases in which a life sentence is possible and a larger number of peremptory jury challenges are provided during trial. In non-capital felony cases, a defendant is subject to prison time, but generally for a period less than life. In 2016, the number of newly filed capital and non-capital felony cases decreased in the Thirteenth Circuit. Conversely, the State of Michigan saw an increase the number of newly filed non-capital felony cases and a decrease in the number of newly filed capital felony cases.



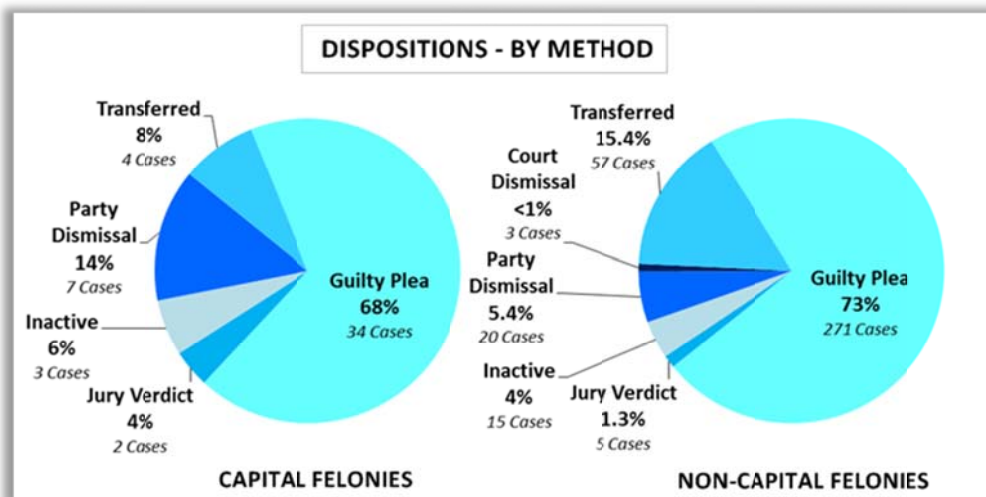
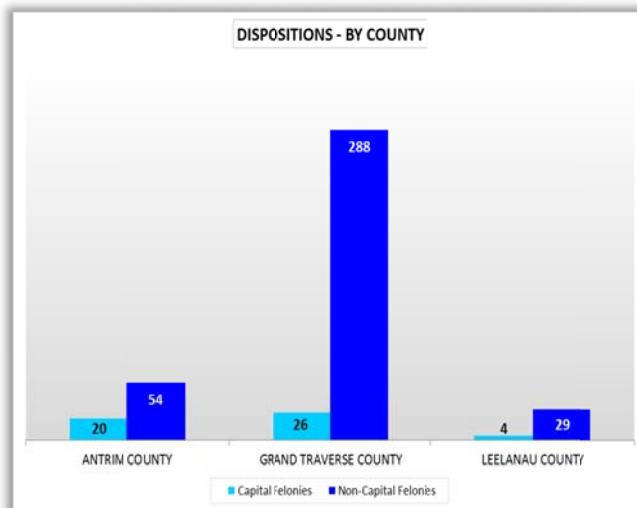
## TOTAL CASELOAD

The Circuit Court's total caseload consists of cases that were still pending when the year began, cases that were re-opened, and all newly filed cases. In 2016, the Thirteenth Circuit Court's total criminal caseload for both capital felonies and non-capital felonies decreased. The State of Michigan's total caseload for capital felonies decreased, while the total caseload for non-capital felonies increased.



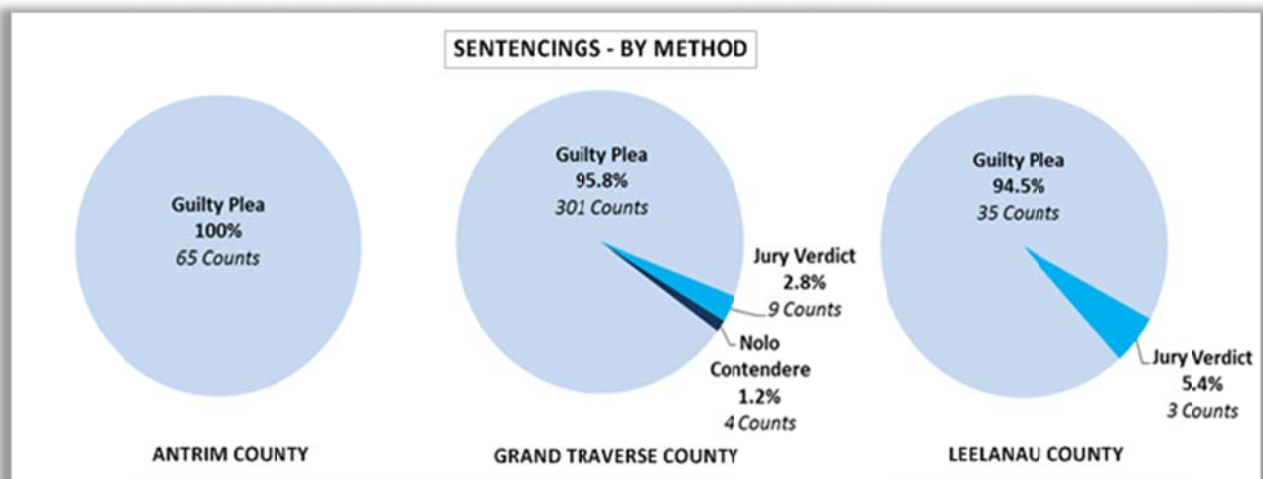
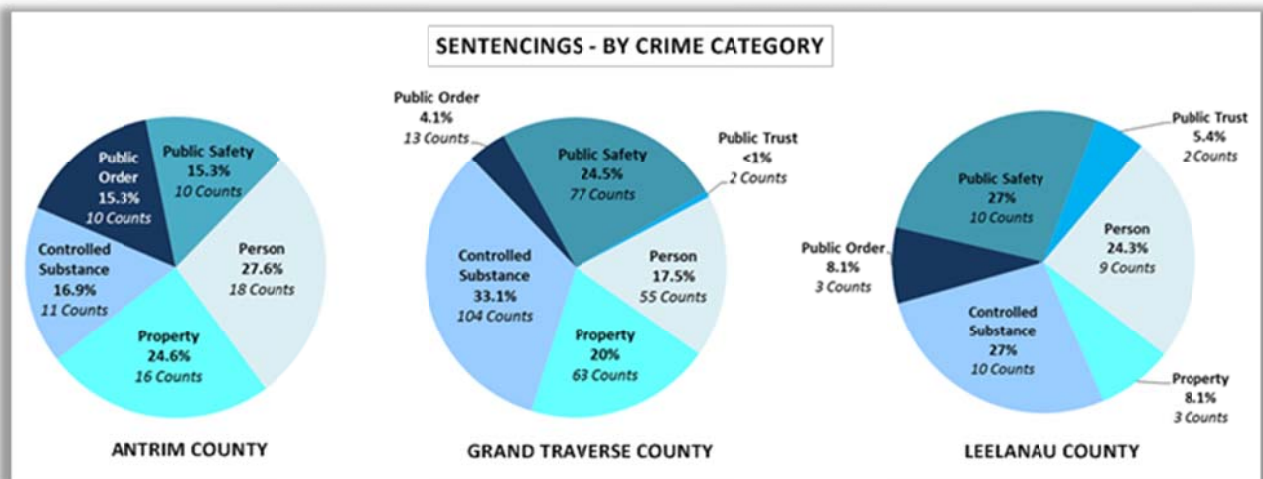
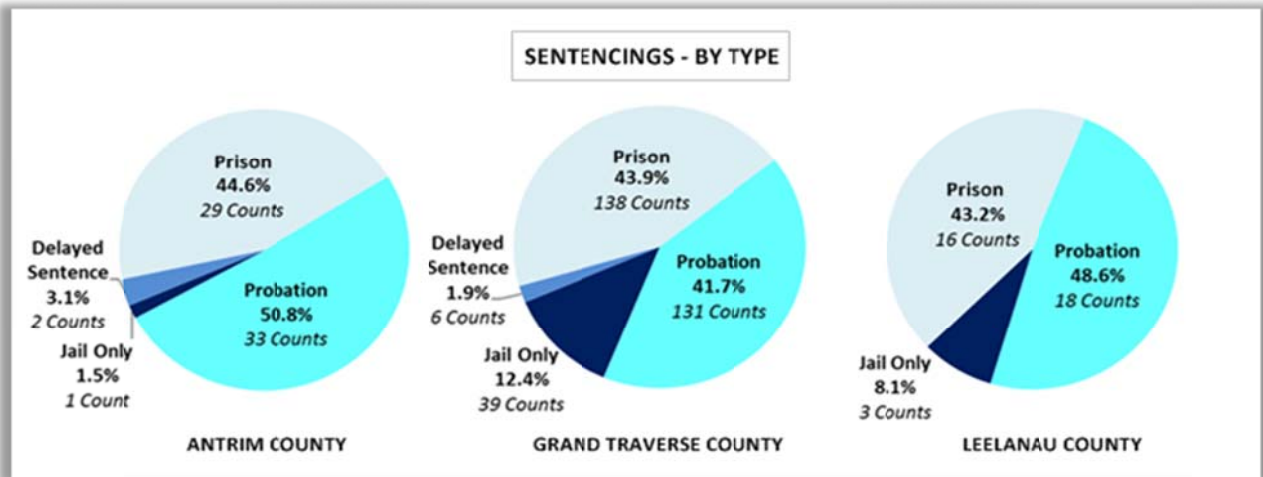
## DISPOSITIONS

In 2016, the Court disposed of 421 criminal cases. Guilty pleas resulted in the greatest number of dispositions, with the Court receiving 54 guilty pleas in Antrim County, 232 in Grand Traverse County and 19 in Leelanau County.





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

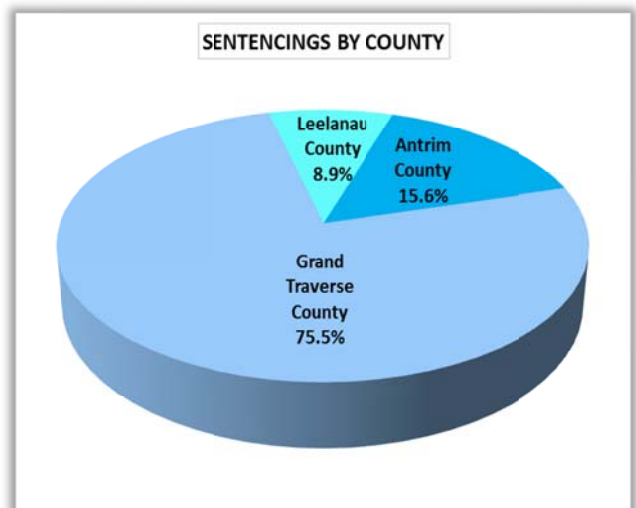
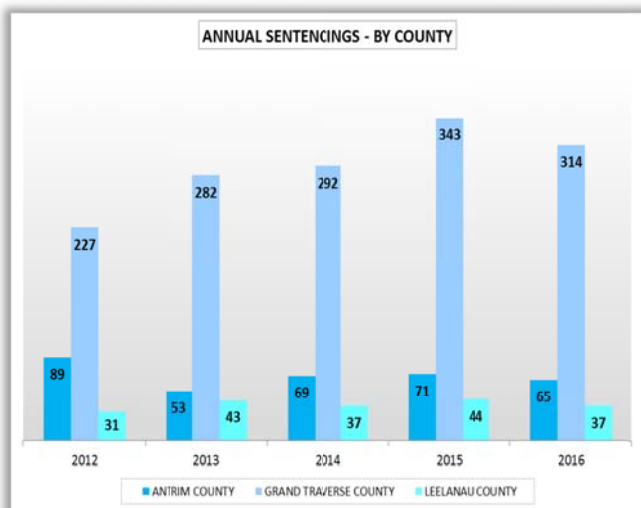




In 2016, the Court sentenced 320 defendants, issuing sentences on 416 total counts in 338 cases. There were more total sentencings than total cases and/or defendants because certain defendants were charged with several counts in a single case and some defendants were charged in multiple cases. The following table displays sentencing and re-sentencing dispositions for 2016 by crime category and case type.

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	DELAYED SENTENCE	TOTAL
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSON</b>					
Assault – Dangerous Weapon	4		2		6
Assault – Felonious	2				2
Assault – Intent to Commit Criminal Sexual Conduct	7				7
Assault - Strangulation	1		2		3
Child Abuse - Third			2		2
Child Sexually Abusive Material			2		2
Criminal Sexual Conduct – First	2				2
Criminal Sexual Conduct – Second	5		1		6
Criminal Sexual Conduct – Third	6				6
Criminal Sexual Conduct – Fourth	2	2	6		10
Domestic Violence			1		1
Domestic Violence - Second		1			1
Domestic Violence – Third	3	1			4
Extortion			1		1
Home Invasion – First	1				1
Home Invasion – Second	3	1	3		7
Home Invasion – Third	2	1	9		12
Indecent Exposure			3		3
Larceny - Person	2				2
Reckless Driving			1		1
Robbery - Armed	1				1
Robbery – Unarmed	1				1
Surveilling			1		1
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>					
Arson - Third			1		1
Arson – Fourth			1		1
Breaking & Entering	2		3		5
Embezzlement	1		3		4
Entering Without Breaking		2	1		3
False Pretenses	3				3
Forgery			1		1
Housing - MSHDA				1	1
Larceny – Building	6	4	15		25
Larceny - Firearms	1	1			2
Larceny - Vehicle	1		3		4
Malicious Destruction of Property			5		5
Receiving/Concealing Stolen Property	2		2		4
Receiving/Concealing Weapons	1				1
Retail Fraud	2		2	1	5
Stealing/Possessing/Unauthorized Use of FTD			7		7
Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle		1	1		2
Uttering & Publishing	3		5		8

	PRISON	JAIL ONLY	PROBATION	DELAYED SENTENCE	TOTAL
<b>CRIMES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE</b>					
Counterfeit/Fraud			1		1
Maintaining a Drug House	8	2	8		18
Manufacture/Delivery Controlled Substance	35	6	13		54
Possession/Use Controlled Substance	17	4	21	1	43
Purchase/Possession Ephedrine/Pseudoephedrine	1		7	1	9
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER</b>					
Failure to Pay Child Support	2		1	3	6
Failure to Register as Sex Offender	2	2			4
False Report of Bomb	1				1
Gross Indecency			4		4
Identity Theft			2		2
Interference with Electronic Communication	2		1		3
Maintaining a House of Prostitution	1				1
Neglect of Duty		1			1
Tampering with Electronic Monitoring Device	1		1		2
Unlawful Image Distribution		1	1		2
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC SAFETY</b>					
Concealed Weapon		1	2		3
Criminal Enterprise	1				1
Escape from Custody	1				1
Felony Firearm			1		1
Fleeing/Eluding/Resisting/Obstructing Law Enforcement	5	4	6		15
OWI		2			2
OWI – Second	1		4		5
OWI – Third	20	2	21	1	44
OWI – Causing Injury			1		1
Prisoner Contraband/Weapon	20	3			23
Trespass – Airport Property			1		1
<b>CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC TRUST</b>					
Failure to Stop/Report Accident	1		1		2
Perjury/Inciting Perjury			1		1
UDAA		1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>416</b>



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS-PROBATION & PAROLE

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

The Probation Department and Michigan Department of Corrections Parole Department experienced some staff changes during 2016. After adding some new faces to the team, the Department was fully staffed with nine agents and three secretaries covering the three-county area.

The Department of Corrections and Probation Department's caseload averaged 464 persons per month for 2016, with approximately 80 per month in Antrim County, 346 per month in Grand Traverse County and 38 per month in Leelanau County. In addition to supervision of MDOC clients, Probation and Parole staff members complete a PSIR for each Circuit Court conviction, as well as supplemental reports for formal violations. The PSIR includes the scoring of Sentencing Guidelines and a detailed summary of the individual's history including economic and social background, prior criminal record, current offense details and any victim impact statements. The PSIRs are used by the Judges as a tool to assist in determining the appropriate sentence for the crime and for the individual offender. In 2016, 279 new PSIRs (51 for Antrim County, 209 for Grand Traverse County and 19 for Leelanau County) were compiled for the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



Back Row: Heather Lucynski [Leelanau], Daryl Reinsch [Antrim], Charles Welch [Supervisor], Andrew Moeggenborg [Antrim ], Jaimie Kurtz [Grand Traverse], Jo Meyers [Grand Traverse & Leelanau]

Front Row: James Monette [Grand Traverse], James Ribby [Grand Traverse], Melanie Catinella [Grand Traverse], Amanda Flynn [Grand Traverse], Thomas Chapman [Grand Traverse]

Not pictured: Kathy Clem [Grand Traverse], Deanna Wilson [Grand Traverse] and Christa Gaugler [Antrim]



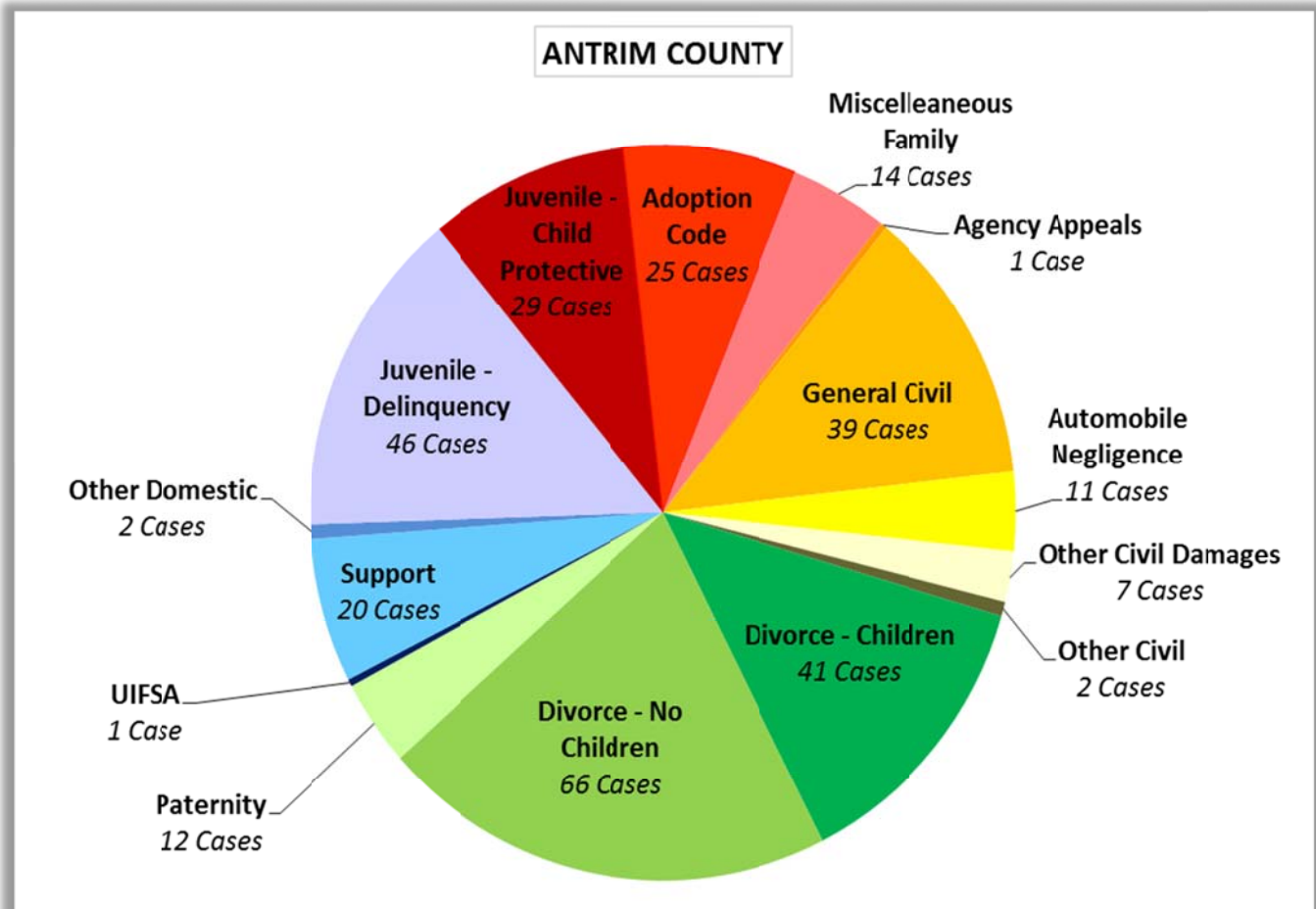
## CIVIL CASELOAD

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

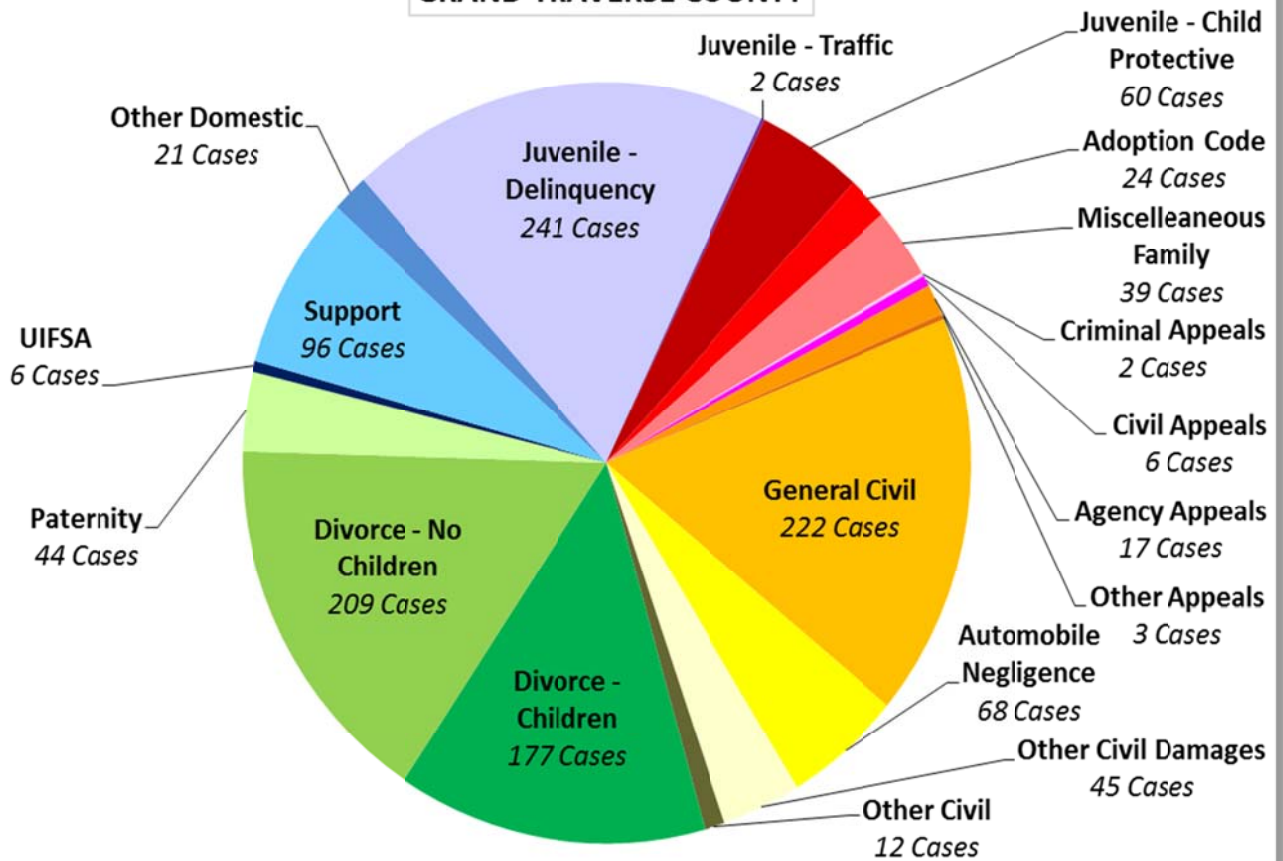
The *General Civil* category includes business claims, condemnation, employment discrimination, environment, forfeiture claims, housing and real estate, contracts, labor relations, antitrust, franchising and trade regulation, corporate receivership and any miscellaneous/general civil. The *Automobile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

## NEW CASE FILINGS

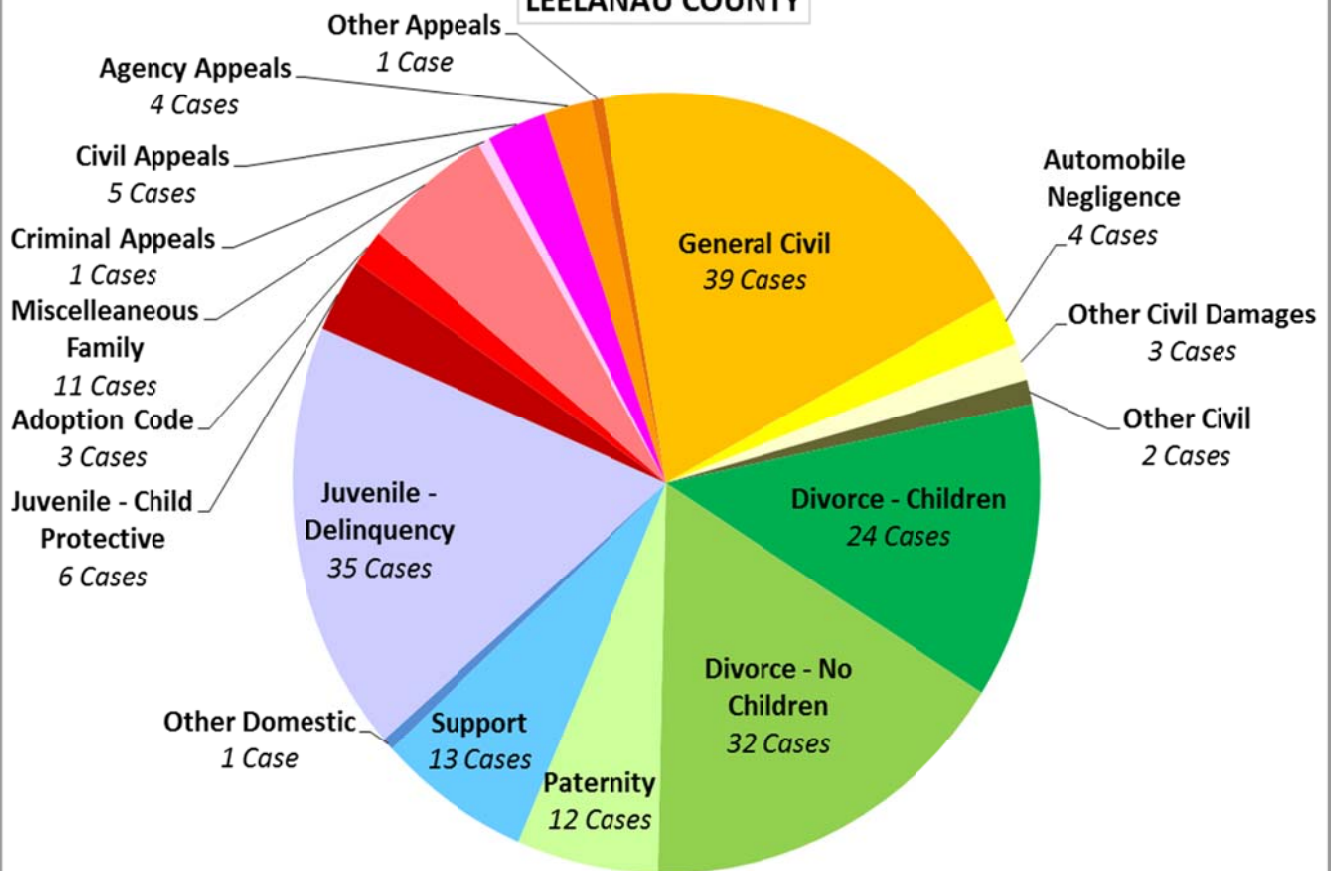
The following pie charts depict the types of new cases filed in 2016 in Antrim County, Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County. The number and types of new cases that are filed annually vary by location.



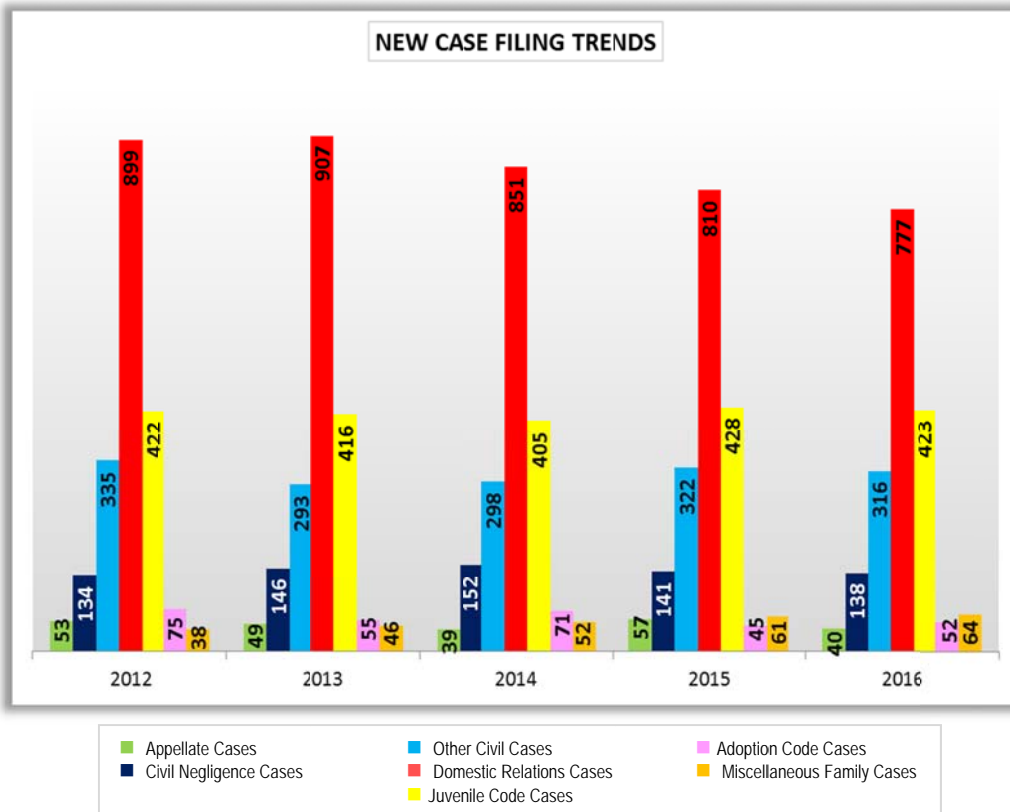
### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



### LEELANAU COUNTY

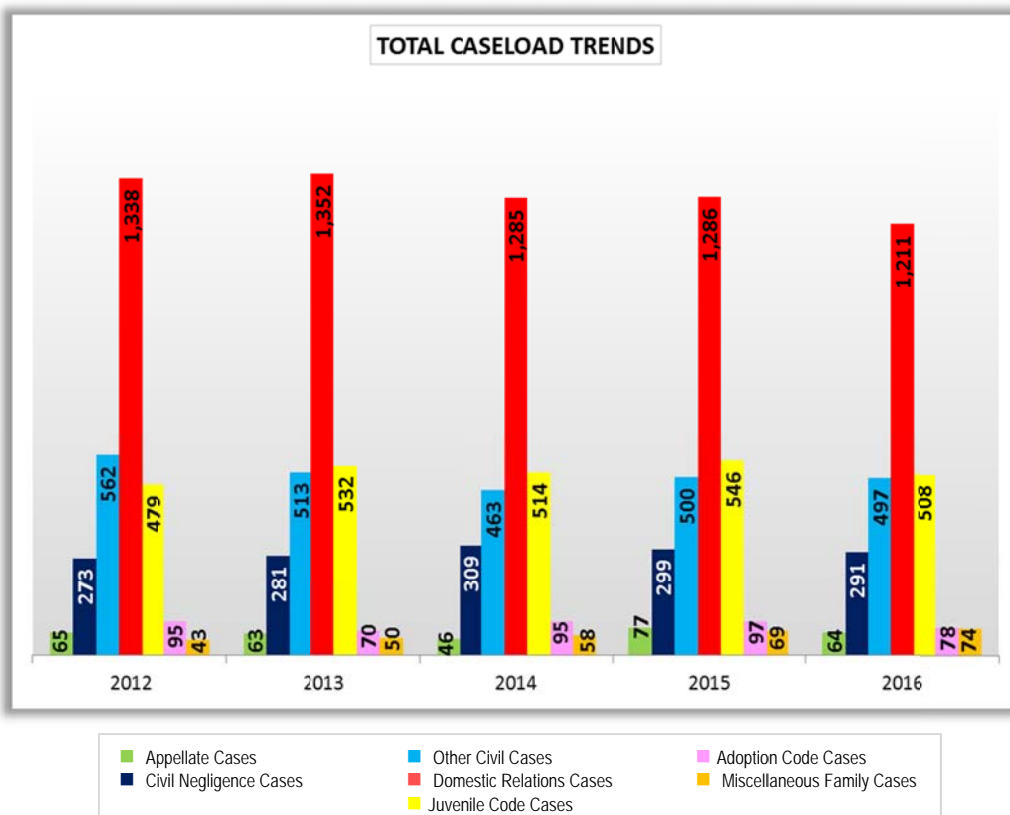


The following chart depicts the annual new case filings for the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the previous 5 years. The State of Michigan saw an increase in new filings for civil negligence and adoption code cases and decreased in all remaining categories.



## TOTAL CASELOAD

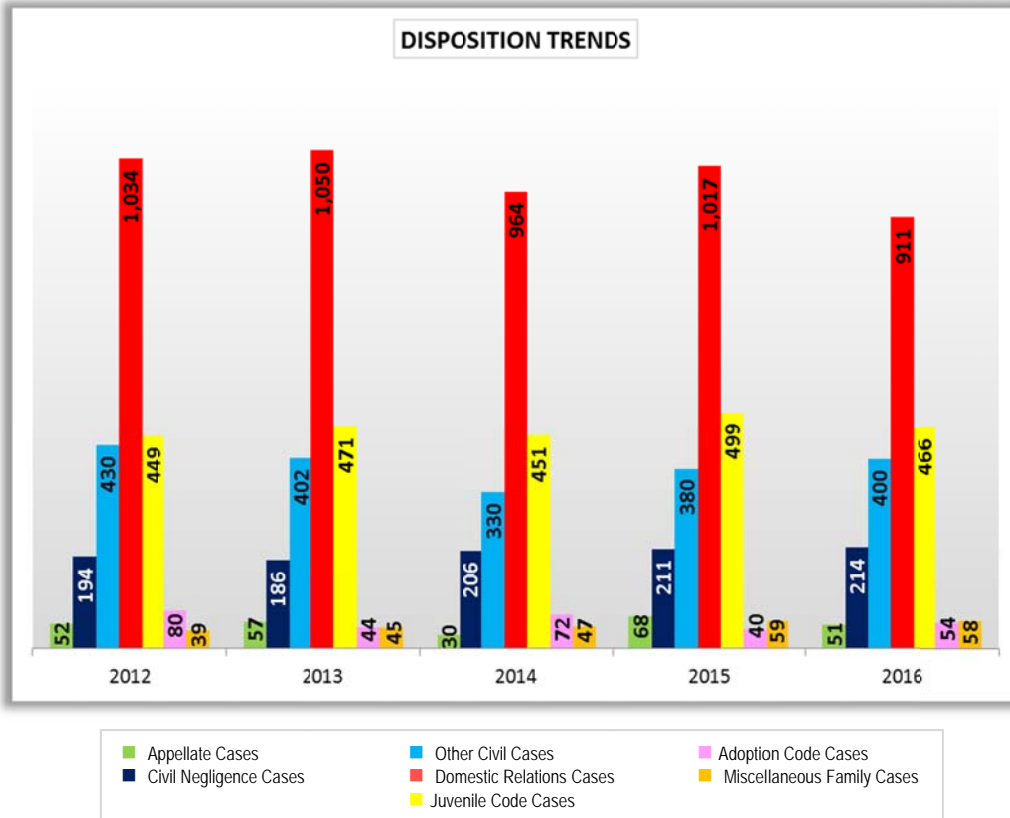
The Court's total caseload consists of cases that begin the year pending, newly filed cases and cases that have been reopened during the year. The State of Michigan's total caseload increased for civil negligence and adoption code cases, but decreased for appellate, general civil, domestic relations, juvenile code and miscellaneous family cases.



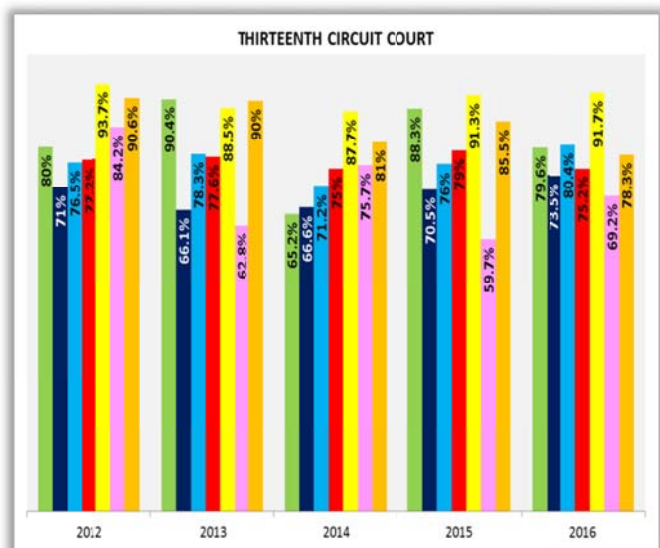
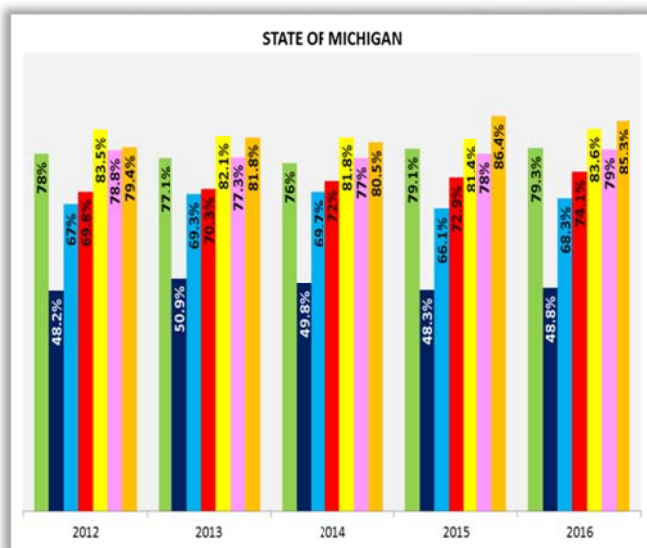


## DISPOSITIONS

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

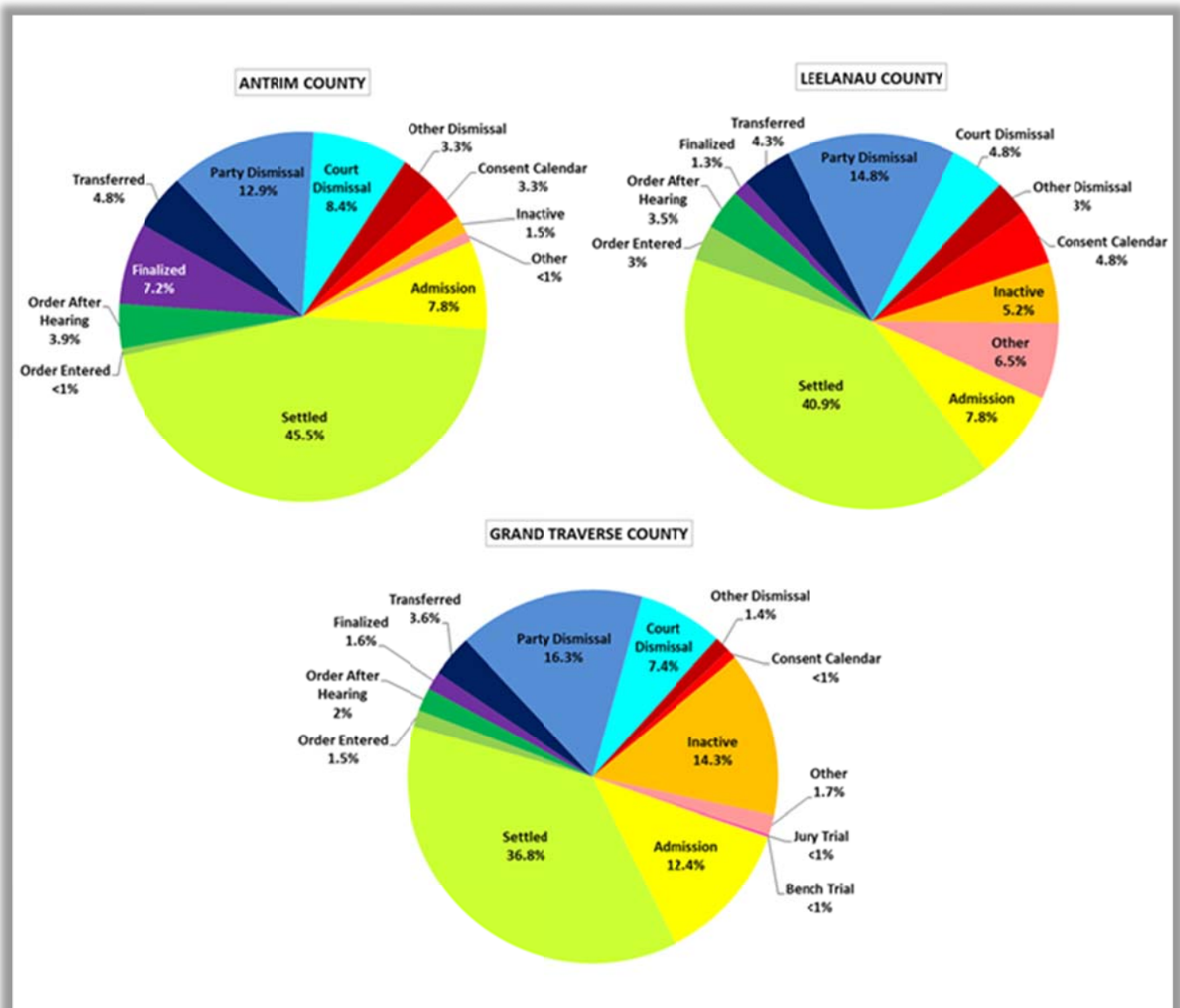


The charts below compare the disposition rates, by percentage, for the State of Michigan and the Thirteenth Circuit Court over the previous 5 years. On average, the Thirteenth Circuit Court disposes of a larger percentage of cases than the State, however, in 2016, the disposition percentage for adoption code cases and miscellaneous family cases Statewide was greater than that of the Thirteenth Circuit Court.



The following charts compare disposition methods for appellate, civil, domestic relations, juvenile code, adoption code and miscellaneous family cases in 2016. The term "Settled" collectively includes cases that were defaulted, uncontested or settled.

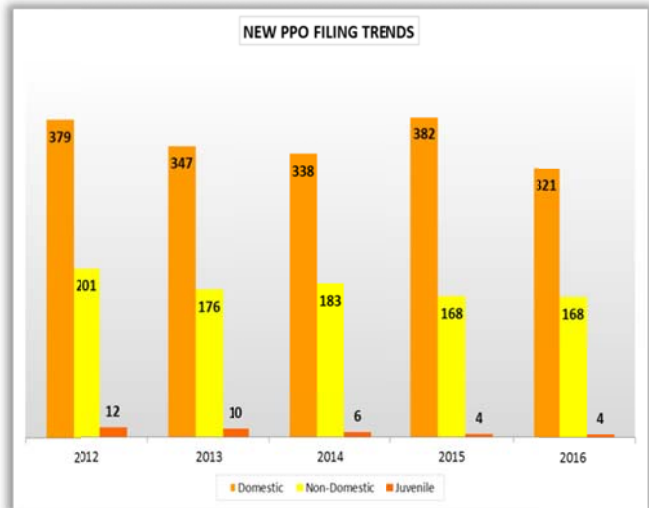
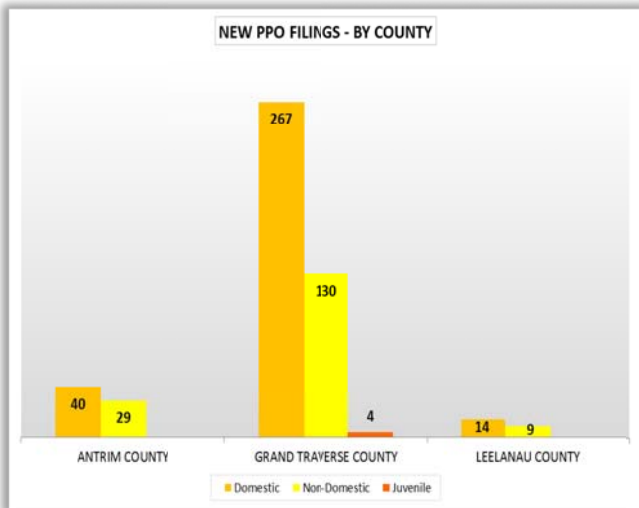
	ANTRIM COUNTY	GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY	LEELANAU COUNTY	TOTAL
Jury Trial		3		3
Bench Trial		1		1
Admission	26	196	18	240
Settled	152	583	94	829
Order Entered	2	23	7	32
Order After Hearing	13	32	8	53
Finalized	24	25	3	52
Transferred	16	57	10	83
Party Dismissal	43	258	34	335
Court Dismissal	28	118	11	157
Other Dismissal	11	22	7	40
Consent Calendar	11	13	11	35
Inactive	5	227	12	244
Other	3	27	15	45
TOTAL	334	1,585	230	2,149



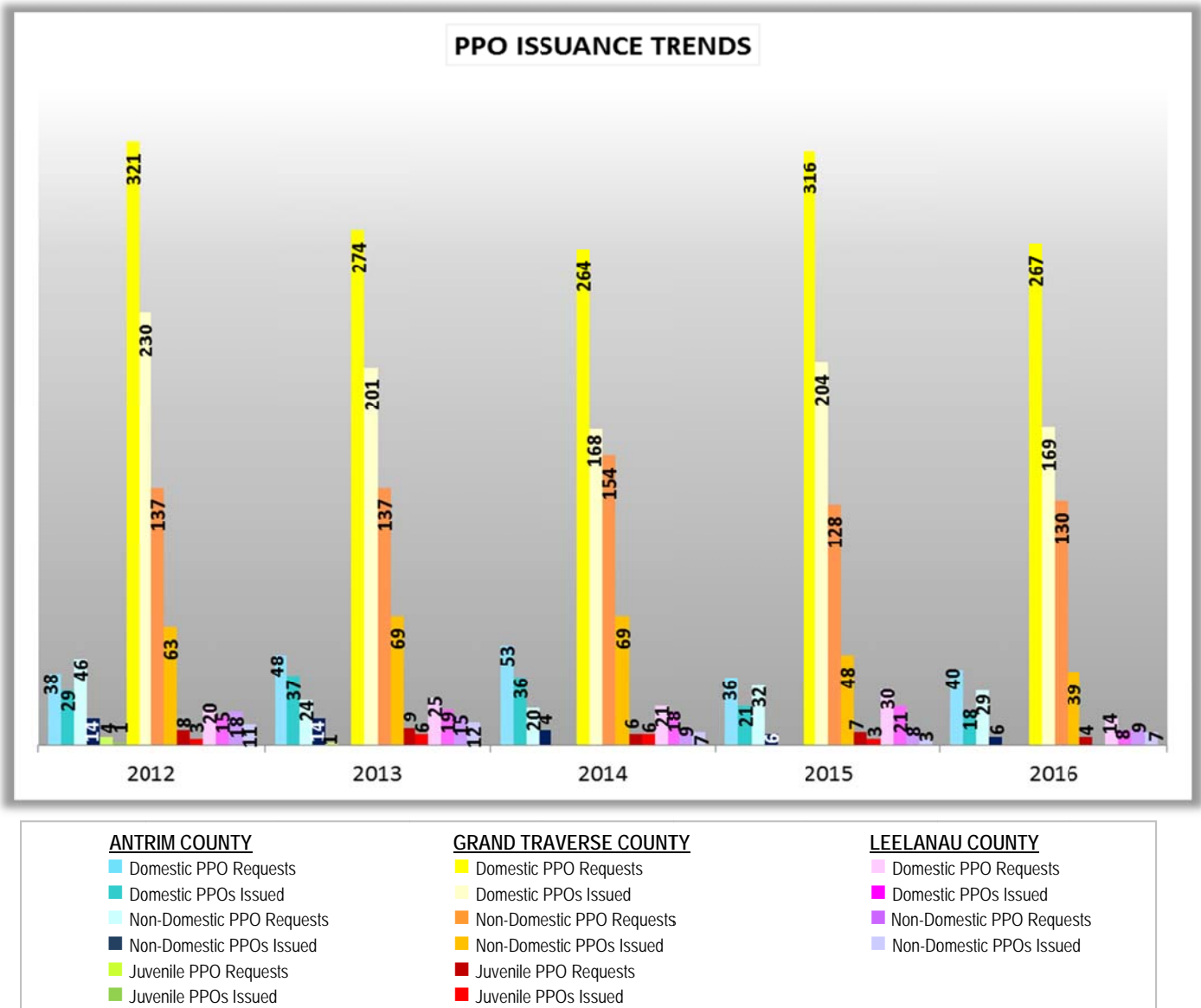
# PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS

## NEW CASE FILINGS

In 2016, the Thirteenth Circuit Court received 493 new requests for personal protection orders (PPOs), which is a decrease from the 557 requests filed in 2015.



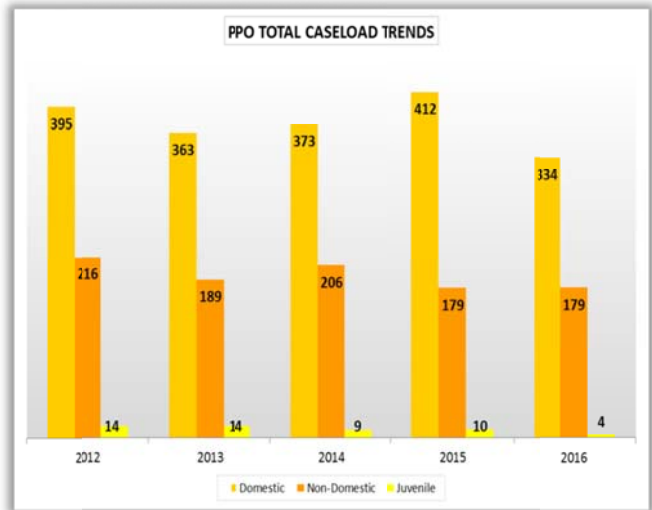
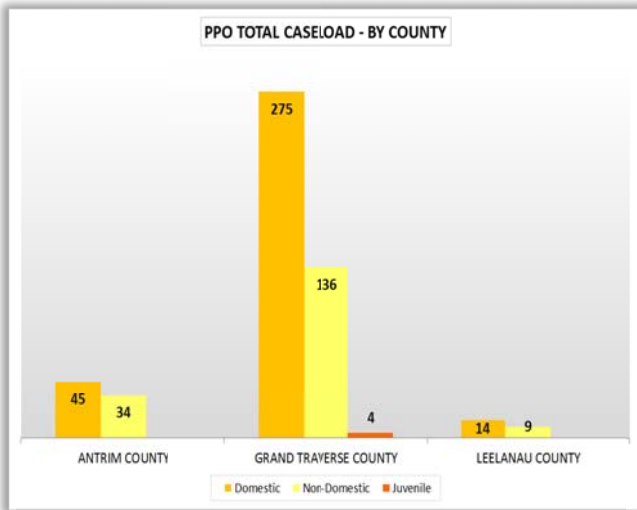
The chart below depicts personal protection order issuance trends for each county over the past 5 years.





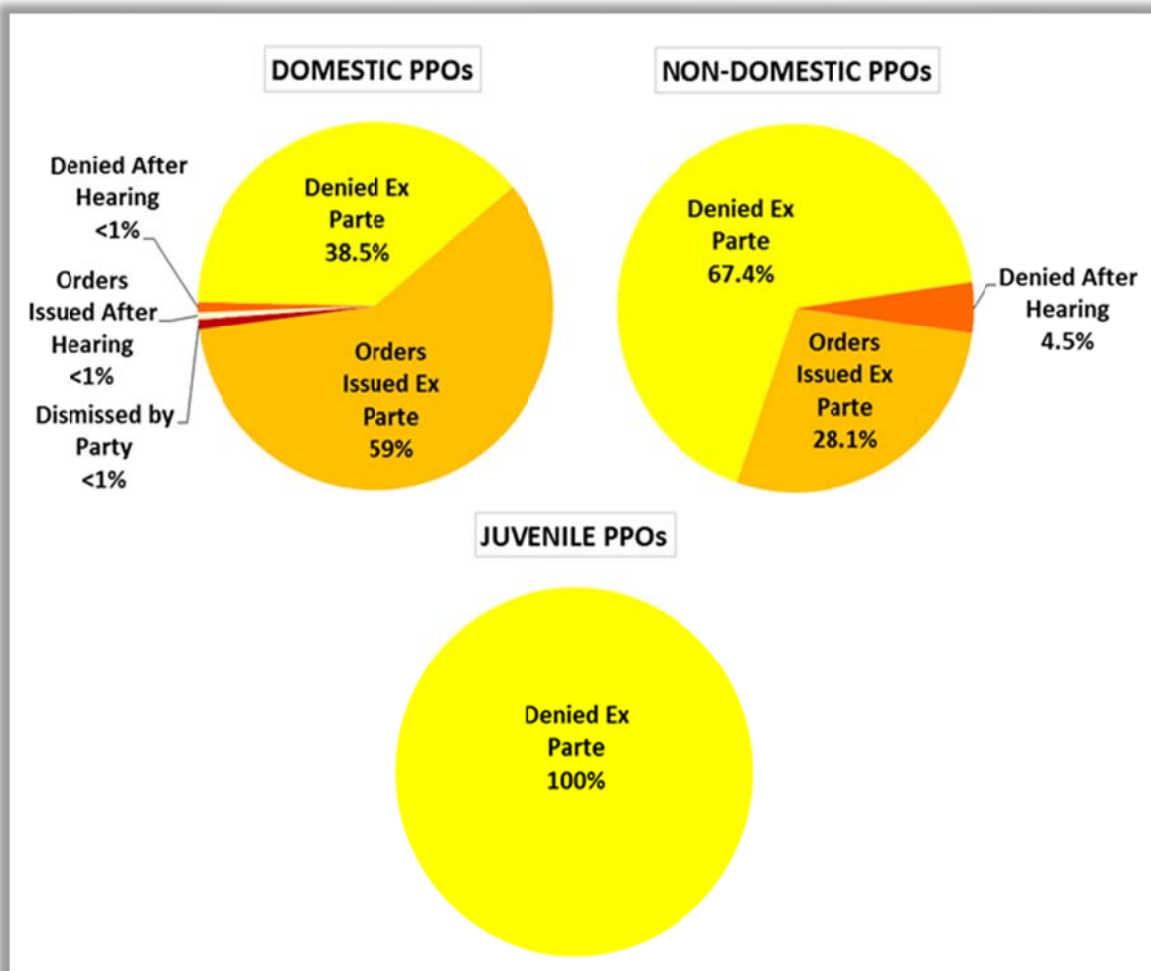
## TOTAL CASELOAD

The following charts depict the total PPO caseload in 2016, by county, and recent trends in the total PPO caseload for the past 5 years. The total Domestic PPO and Juvenile PPO caseloads decreased in 2016, while the Non-Domestic PPO caseload remained static.



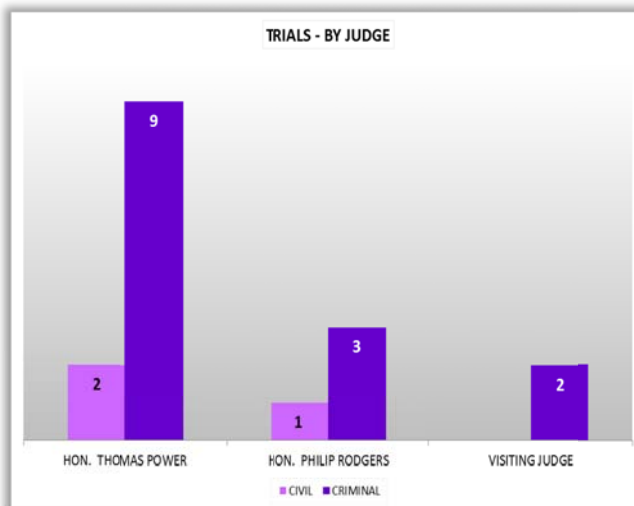
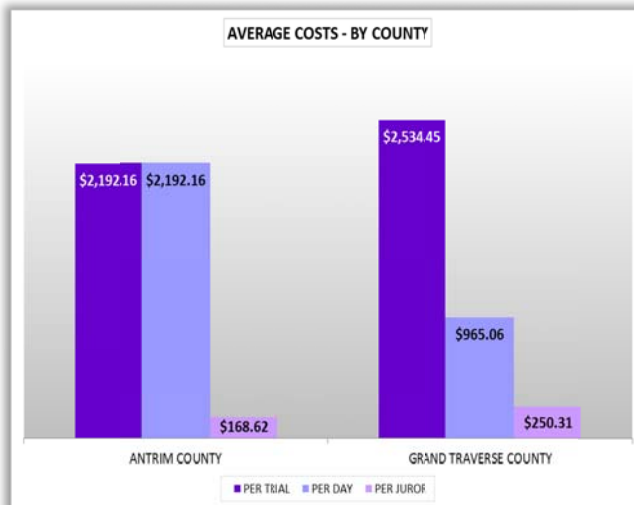
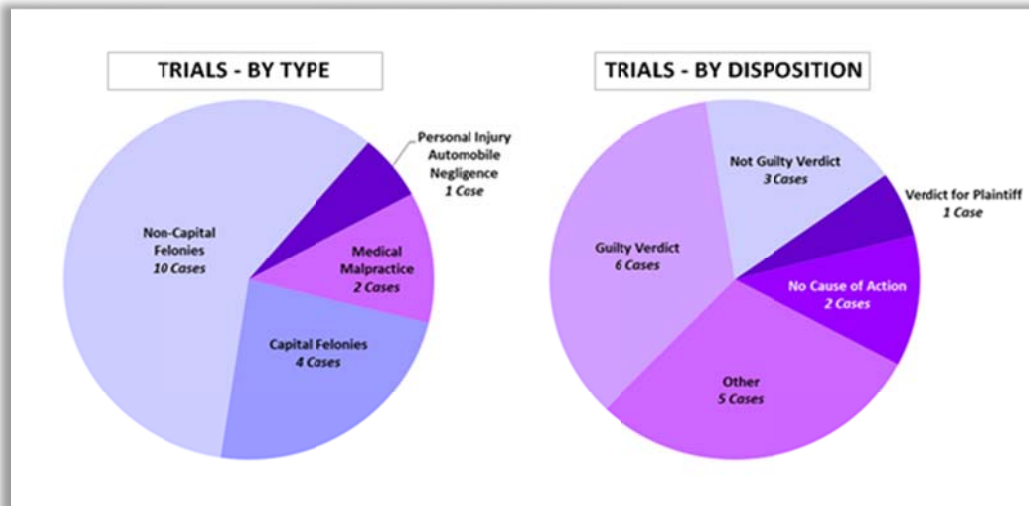
## DISPOSITIONS

Personal protection orders can be disposed of in the following ways: the Court can issue an ex parte order granting or denying the PPO request, the Court may hold a hearing on the matter and either issue an order granting the PPO or issue an order denying the PPO, an order may be issued after a PPO request has been denied, the case may be transferred, or the request may be dismissed by requesting party. The pie charts below illustrate the methods used to dispose of personal protection order actions in 2016.



# JURY TRIALS

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



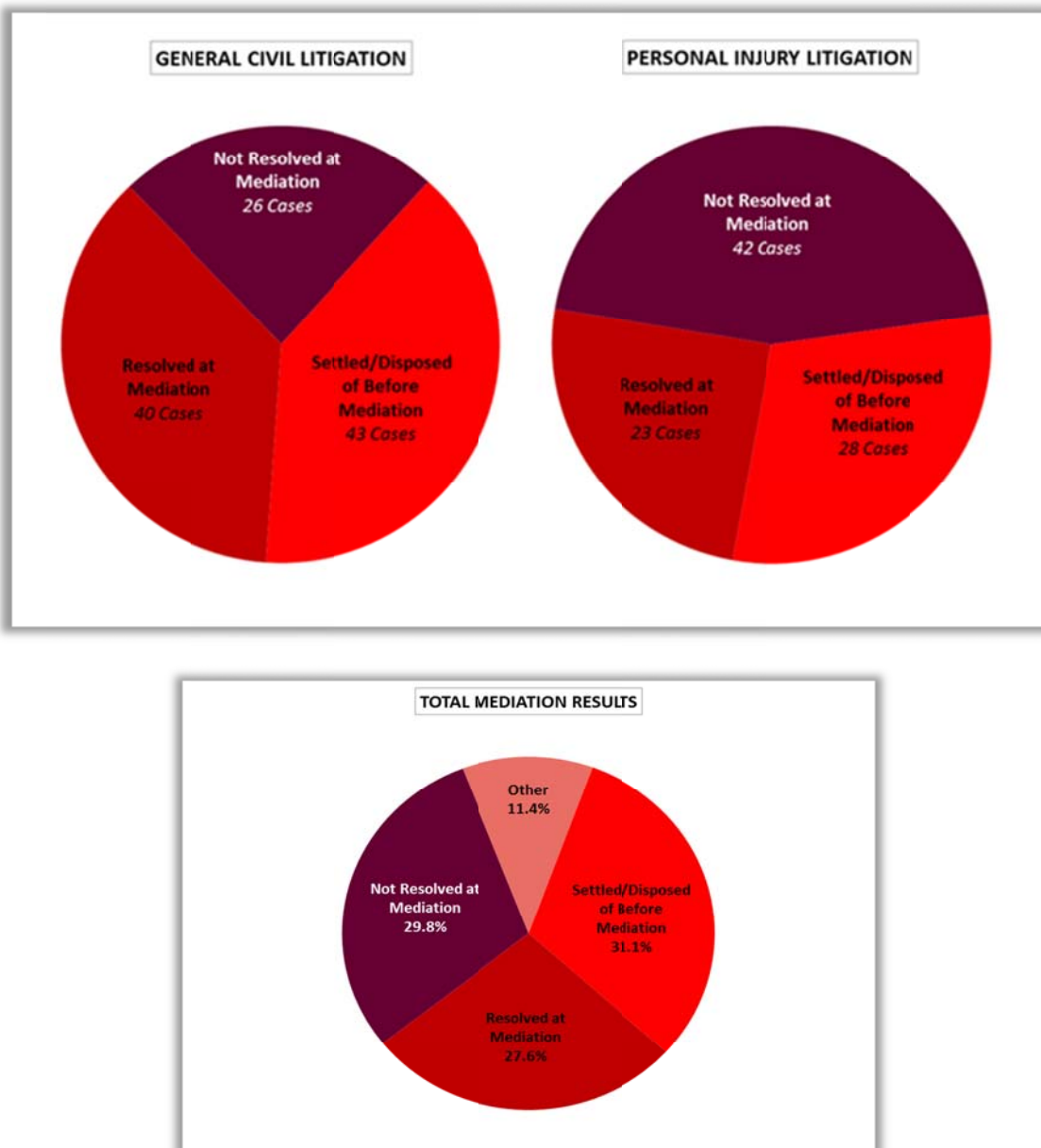
# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is any process designed to resolve a legal dispute in the place of court adjudication. ADR includes facilitative mediation, domestic relations mediation, and settlement conferences. ADR may also include case evaluation, a non-binding process in which a panel of experienced attorneys assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the parties' legal positions and assign a value to the case. 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

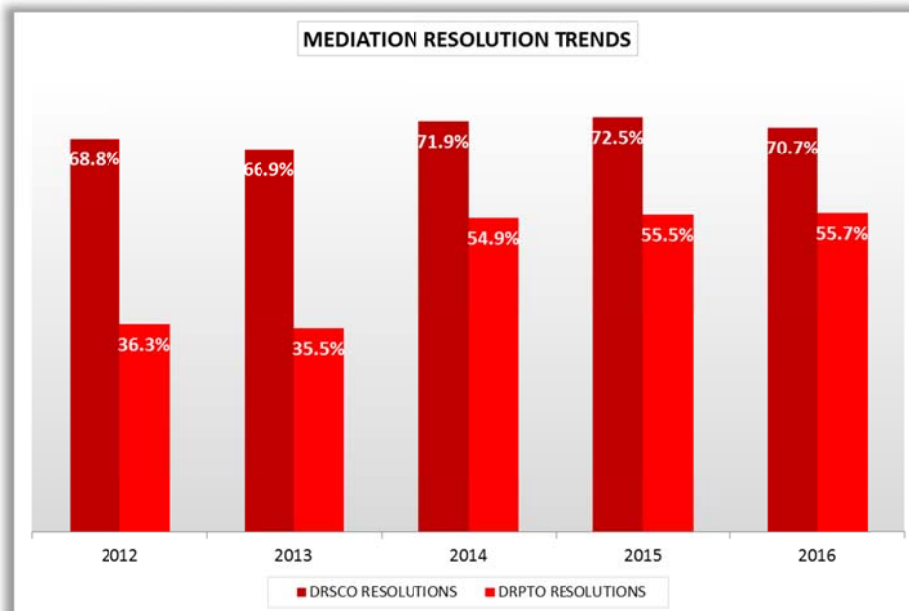
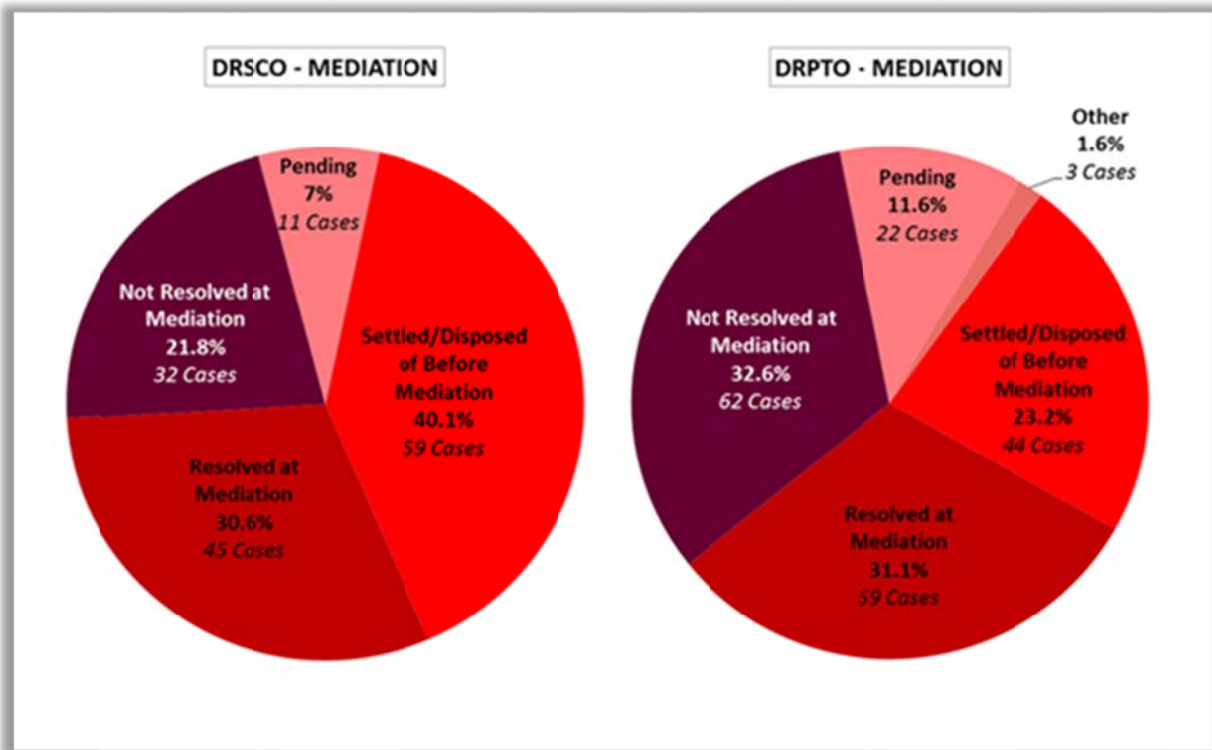
Facilitative mediation is an alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral third party facilitates confidential communications between the parties in an attempt to help them reach a mutually agreeable resolution. In mediation, solutions are generated by the parties; whereas in litigation, the resolution of a conflict is imposed upon the parties by the Court. In 2016, 111 General Civil cases and 117 Personal Injury cases were ordered into mediation, with 157 cases actually being mediated. The Court selected a mediator for the parties in 16 cases.





## DOMESTIC RELATIONS FACILITATIVE MEDIATION

In 2016, 337 cases were ordered to facilitative mediation via a Domestic Relations Scheduling Conference Order (DRSCO) or a Domestic Relations Pre-Trial Order (DRPTO). DRSCOs are generated by the Court when a divorce matter is filed, whereas DRPTOs can be generated either before or after a Judgment of Divorce has been entered when there are child related issues, such as paternity, support, custody, and UIFSA registration. In 2016, the Court selected a mediator for the parties in 75 cases.

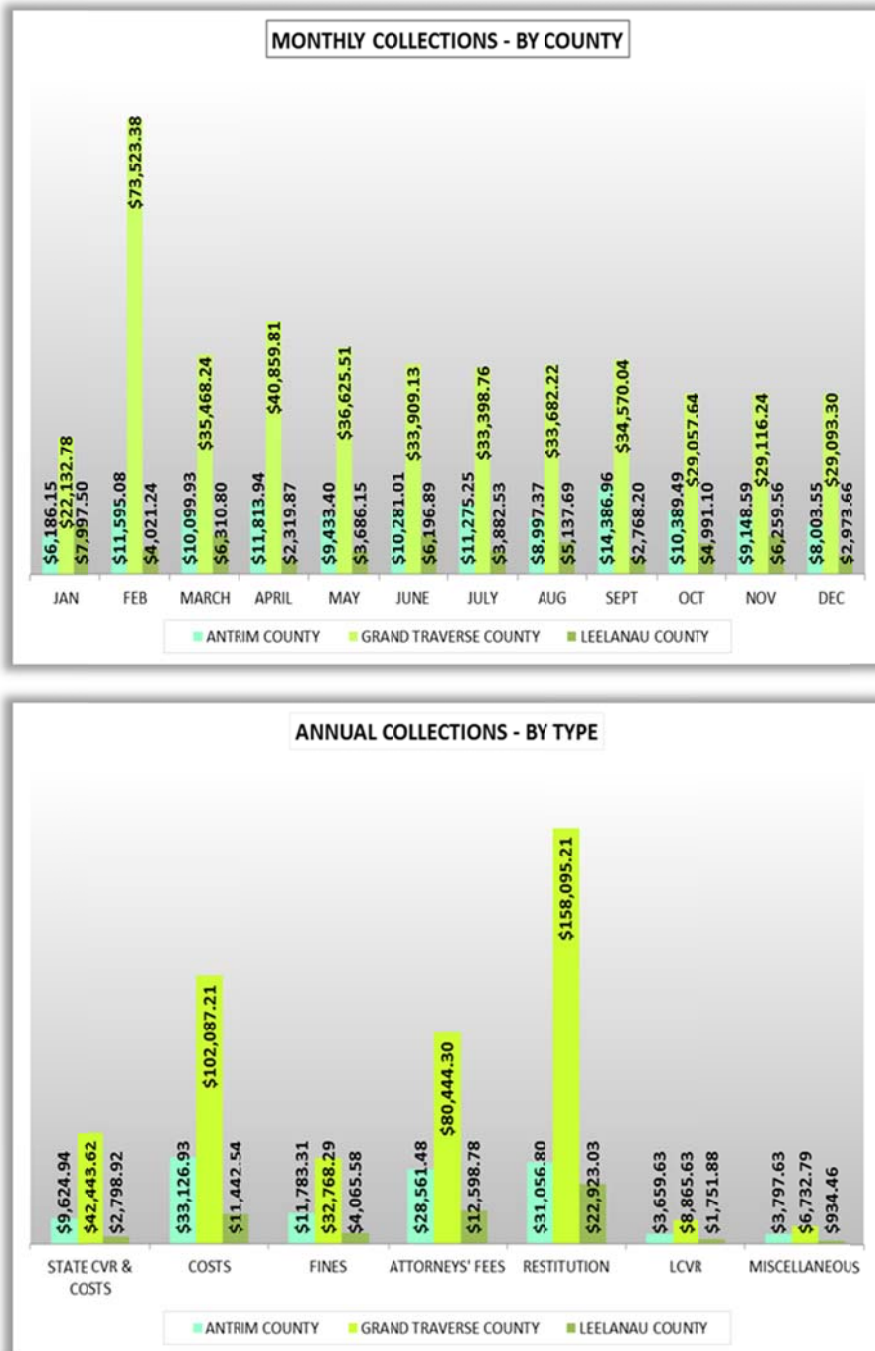


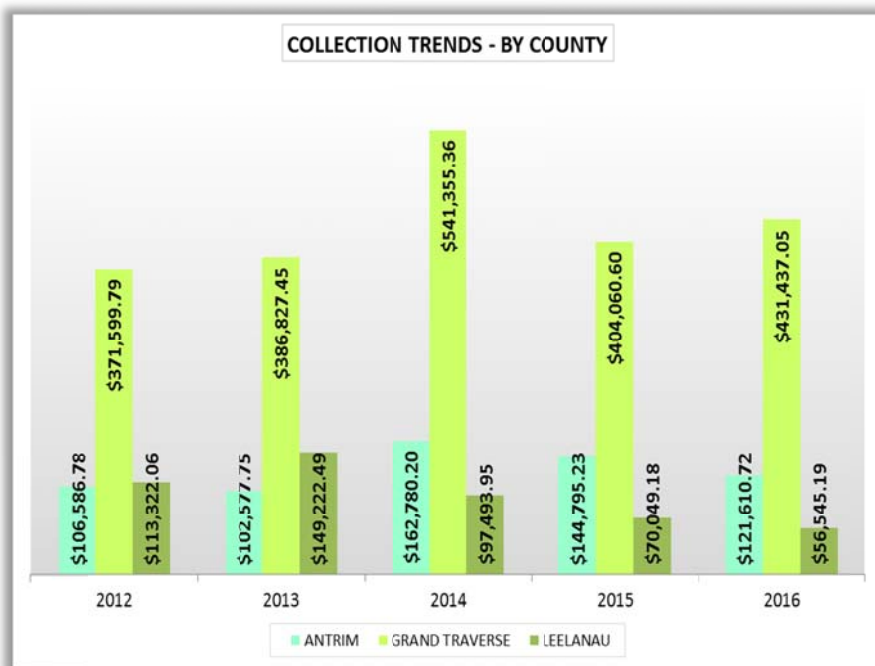
# COURT FINANCES

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

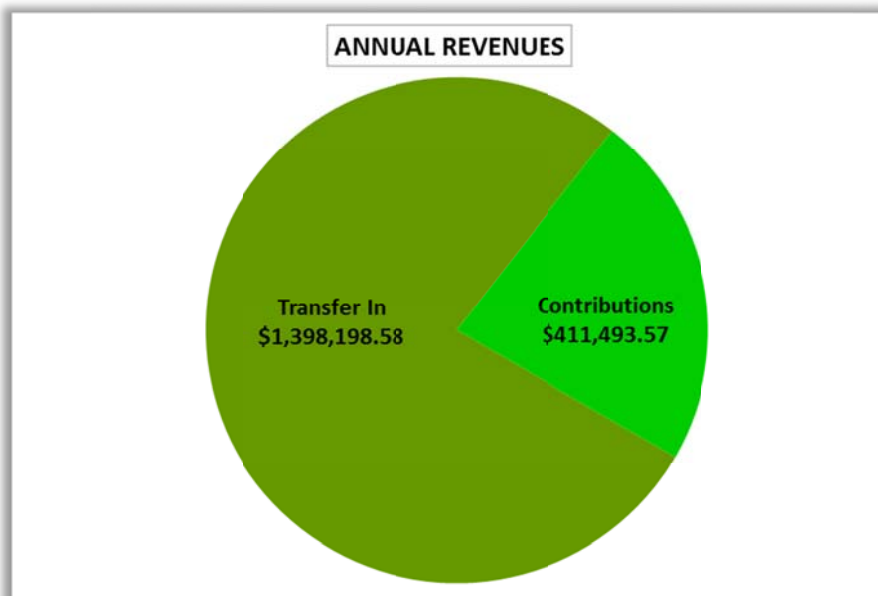
The Court collects fines, costs, court-appointed attorneys' fees, restitution and crime victim fund payments from convicted felons. The funds collected are used to help support the public libraries, assist in defraying the costs of providing court-appointed counsel for indigent defendants and serve as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





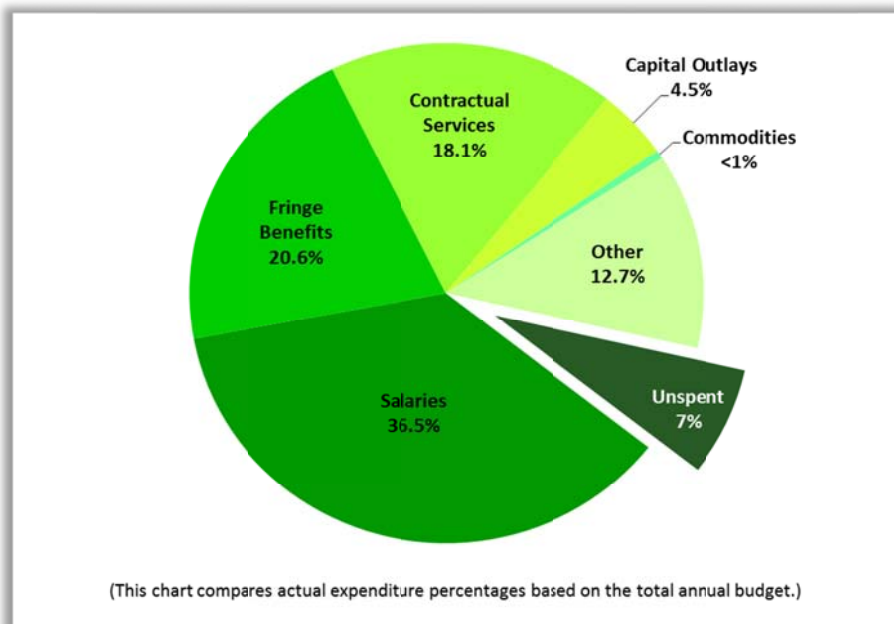
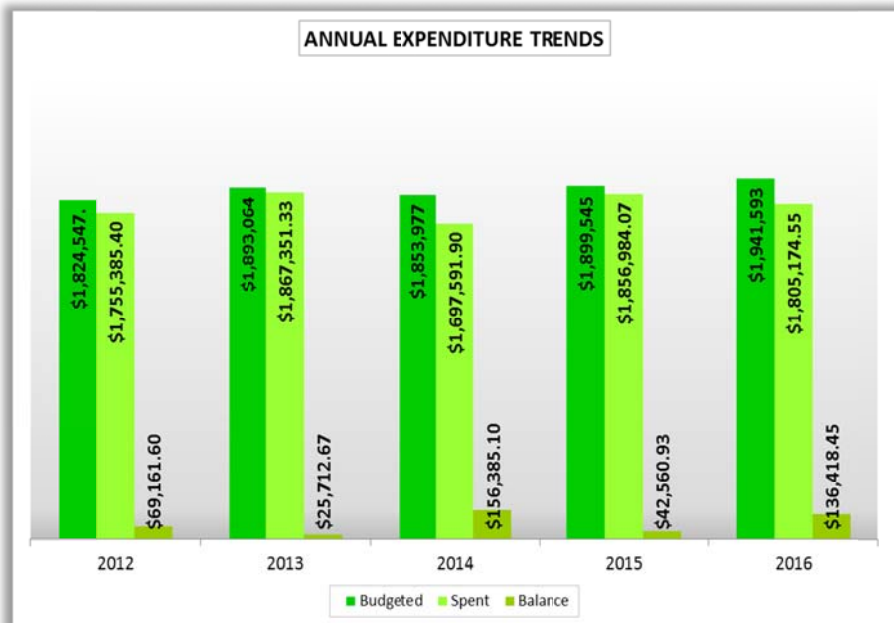
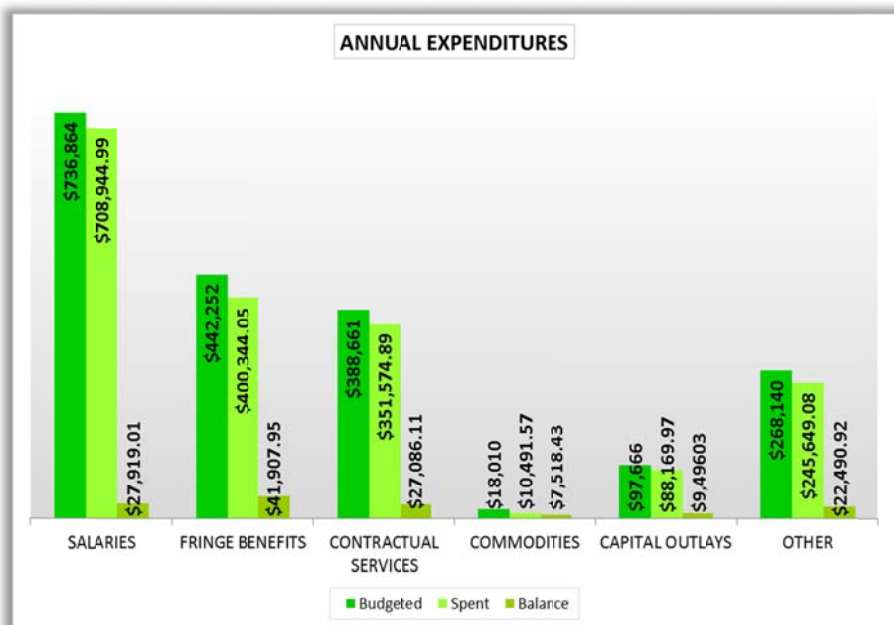
## REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

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.



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.





# FRIEND OF THE COURT

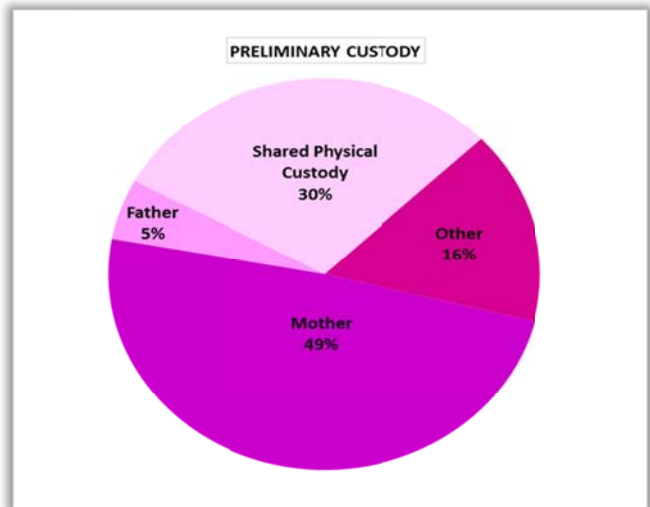
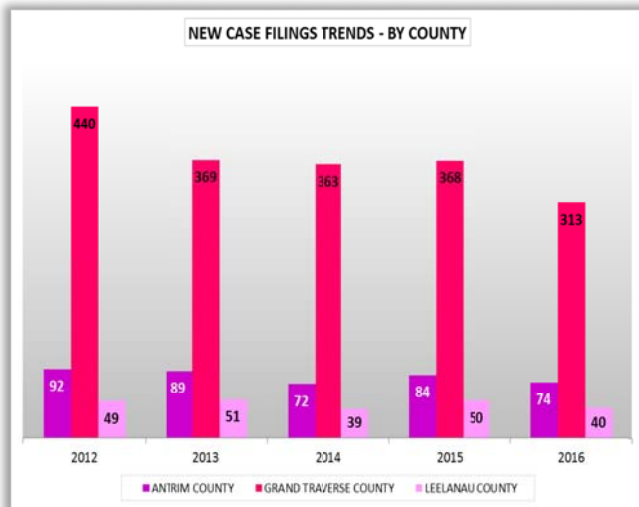
The Friend of the Court (FOC) assists the Circuit Court by providing enforcement of Court Orders relating to child support, health care, spousal support, and parenting time/custody and investigating, evaluating and submitting recommendations to the Court on contested domestic relations matters.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

In 2016, the FOC office administered 5,882 open cases. While the Court granted 22 petitions to “opt out” of Friend of the Court services, 6 cases which had previously “opted out” of services were reopened in 2016. Throughout the year, the FOC staff processed 97 complaints for reimbursement of children’s extraordinary medical expenses, generated 153 stipulated orders for clients, conducted investigations and made recommendations for temporary orders in 343 cases and performed 671 reviews regarding child support and parenting time issues. Approximately 45% of the parenting time reviews resulted in an agreement by the parties.

## NEW CASE FILINGS

There were 427 new cases opened with FOC in 2016, with 17.6% from Antrim County, 73.9% from Grand Traverse County and 11.5% from Leelanau County. Parties acting in *propria persona* represented themselves in 35% of the new cases filed. Of the preliminary custody orders generated by the Friend of the Court office, the mother was granted primary custody in nearly half of the cases filed, while 16% of the orders provided for split care, third-party care and cases where custody was reserved initially. Parties agreed to the new custody orders in 61% of the cases, while custody was determined by default in 6% of the cases.



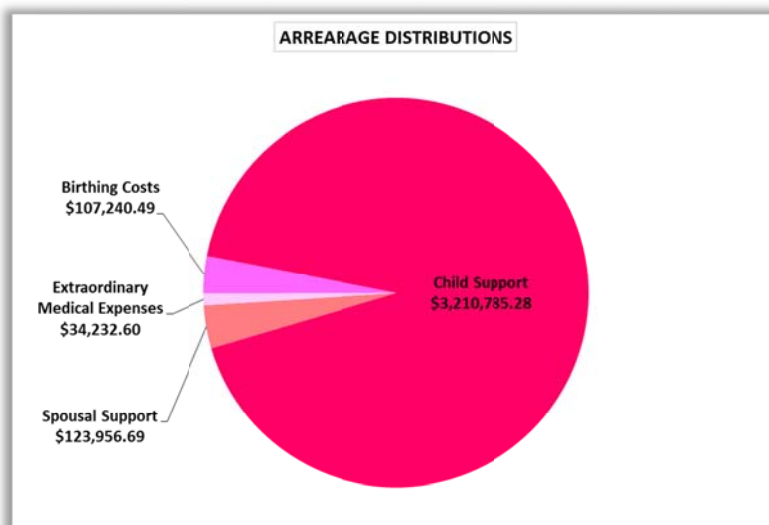
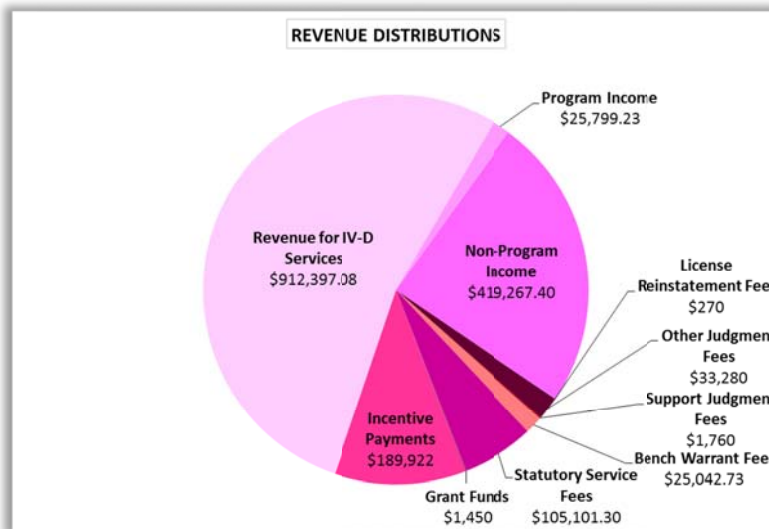
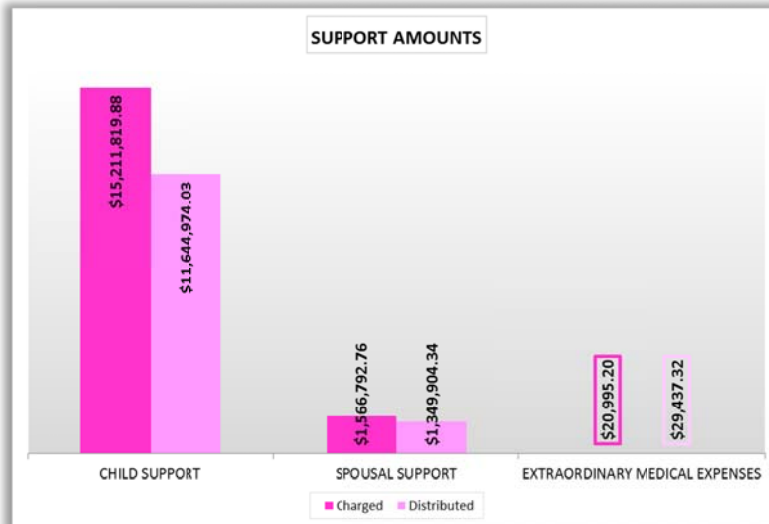
## CHILD SUPPORT & PARENTING-TIME ENFORCEMENT

In 2016, the FOC issued 5,640 income withholding notices and served 1,132 enforcement notices. Enforcement notices advise payers of their delinquency and request they contact the FOC office to discuss their account and make payment arrangements. The FOC office also issued 5 notices of proposed suspension of drivers’ licenses. Drivers’ licenses for 3 non-compliant support obligors were actually suspended. Further, the FOC scheduled 1,204 support enforcement hearings. The office resolved 258 cases due to payment or establishment of successful income withholding and conducted hearings in the remaining 946 cases.

During 2016, a total of 957 warrants were issued in the Thirteenth Circuit. Of the warrants issued, 29% were in Antrim County, 61% were in Grand Traverse County and 10% were in Leelanau County. Failure to comply with a previously Court ordered payment plan led to 646 of the warrants issued and remaining warrants issued were for a party’s failure to appear. In 2016, 554 outstanding warrants were resolved by the FOC, typically due to arrangements for payment of child support, establishment of income withholding or posting of bond with the FOC office.

## EXPENSES, REVENUE & SUPPORT

The Friend of the Court's total expenses for 2016 was \$2,220,558.39. The FOC's total revenue, composed of support judgment fees, custody and parenting-time judgment fees, license reinstatement fees, support bench warrant fees, statutory service fees, grant funds, incentive payments, returns for IV-D services, program and non-program income, was \$1,714,289.74. The total amount of support distributed in 2016 by the FOC, including child support, spousal support, extraordinary medical expenses and birthing costs, was \$16,488,915.23. The total amount of support charged was \$16,799,607.84. The arrearage accumulated for the year was \$151,265.60.



## FRIEND OF THE COURT SUMMARY – 2016

In 2016, the Family Support Court, a specialty court, served 24 individuals. The Family Support Court focuses on identifying a child support obligor's impediments to employment and then develops and executes 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.

"SMILE," the Court's education program for divorcing parents, continued to assist families in 2016. SMILE is offered monthly at the Hall of Justice. There are day and evening sessions and registration for SMILE may be done electronically through the Friend of the Court website, located at [www.13thcircuitcourt.org](http://www.13thcircuitcourt.org). For individuals unable to attend the scheduled sessions, there is now a complete video program available. In 2016, 244 parents attended the SMILE program.

Again in 2016, the Friend of the Court received Access and Visitation grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office. The collaborative and enduring relationship between the Friend of the Court office and Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan allowed for supervised parenting time and safe parenting time exchanges for qualified families. In 2016, there were 70 families referred for supervised visits and exchanges.

The Friend of the Court continued working with and referring families to the local Conflict Resolution Service (CRS) for post-judgment mediation of custody and parenting time disputes, and the office persisted in offering voluntary mediation as an alternative dispute resolution measure.

Recognizing that approximately one-third of incoming cases involved never married parents, FOC developed, initiated and implemented an educational program for parents involved in paternity and family support cases. Cooperative co-parenting, communication and parenting styles are addressed with focus on children's needs, especially the need for both parents. Class size is small and led by an accomplished social worker with ample opportunity for discussions. In 2016, there were 117 parents who participated in the program.



Back Row: Tracie Mullen, Carol Bradway, Karen Sanchez, Jayne Arnold, Ellene Peters, Angela Pelletier, Fran Boyle, Karen Grant, Eric Salani  
Middle Row: Margaret Pierce, Terri Lynn Andresen, Tammi Willoughby, Jeremy Hogue, Alisa Gallo, Amy Tulpa, Julie Dubay  
Front Row: Laura Burke, Sally Rath, Carol Rose, Martha Hornbaker, Amber Swift



# 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 or she was elected.

## JUDGES



HON. THOMAS G. POWER

Judge Thomas 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.



HON. PHILIP E. RODGERS, JR.

Judge Philip Rodgers was elected to the bench in 1990 and ran unopposed in 1996, 2002, 2008 and 2014.

Judge Rodgers obtained his undergraduate degrees in Economics and Political Science 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. The Judge also serves on the Supreme Court's Technical Implementation Committee. Judge Rodgers is married and has four children.

Judge Rodgers retired on October 28, 2016, after 25 years on the bench.



HON. NORMAN R. HAYES

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

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



HON. LARRY J. NELSON

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

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

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



HON. MELANIE D. STANTON

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

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

Prior to her election, Judge Stanton was in private practice in Grand Traverse County. Judge Stanton is married and has two children.

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS & JUVENILE REFEREES



CYNTHIA CONLON



KIRSTEN KEILITZ



STACEY TRUESDELL

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

In 2016, the Referees conducted 53 custody hearings, 73 parenting time hearings and 44 child support hearings. Further, the Referees handled 65 other hearings including, but not limited to, change of domicile, change of residence, and Friend of the Court case closure.

Cindy retired in December 2016 after 17 years with the Court.

## COURT REPORTERS



KAREN COPELAND



JESSICA JAYNES

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

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



## CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



TERI QUINN



TRINA GIRARDIN



JULIE ARENDS



BROOKE BEARUP-DEBOER



JEANNE BREDIN



JENNIFER GURNOE



STACY OSBORNE



ARIANA SPAFFORD



BRANDT WALDENMYER

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

Teri Quinn serves as the Circuit Court Administrator for the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. Trina Girardin was appointed to serve as Deputy Court Administrator after Julie Arends retired from the position in August of 2016. Brooke Bearup-DeBoer serves as the Court's staff attorney.

In 2016, Jeanne Bredin, Jennifer Gurnoe, Stacy Osborne, Ariana Spafford and Brandt Waldenmyer served as court specialists in the Administrator's Office.

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



# DIVISIONS

## ANTRIM COUNTY FAMILY



Standing from Left: Bill Hefferan [Family Division Administrator], Sandra Davids [Judicial Secretary], Donna Rogers [Deputy Register], Kim Albert [Juvenile Register], Patricia Theobald [Probate Register], Teresa Ankney [Probation Officer]  
Seated: Hon. Norman Hayes

In 2016, 142 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Antrim County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 216 cases, with the Court disposing of 156 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 82 cases. There were 75 new case filings: 46 delinquency cases and 29 child protective cases. The Court supervised one juvenile.

In 2016, there were 49 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the temporary legal guardian for 2 children.

The Court finalized 24 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 13 individuals and processed 78 adult personal protection cases.

## LEELANAU COUNTY FAMILY



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

In 2016, 82 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Leelanau County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 118 cases, with the Court disposing of 86 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 48 cases. There were 41 new case filings: 35 delinquency cases and 6 child protective cases. The Court supervised 14 juveniles.

In 2016, there were 12 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian for 3 children and the temporary legal guardian for 11 children.

The Court finalized 3 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 8 individuals and processed 23 adult personal protection cases.

## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY FAMILY, JUVENILE PROBATION & VOLUNTEER SERVICES



Back (from left): John Sabatini [Probation Officer], Cheryl Goodwin [Chief Probation Officer], Jeff Burdick [Probation Officer], Kelly Majszak [Juvenile Register], Matthew Ferguson [Probation Officer], Lindsey Jordan [Volunteer Services Coordinator], Jennifer Weber [Program Manager]  
Middle: Mandi Leer [Collections], Laura Shumate [Learning Partners Coordinator], Kris Randall [Administrator], Jody Barton [Juvenile Administration], Janet Kronk [Neglect/Abuse], Heather Prevo [Probation Officer], Kristyn Brendel [Judicial Assistant]  
Front: Kathy Nixon [Volunteer Services Administration], Sue Bennett [Scheduling]

In 2016, 553 new domestic relations cases were filed with the Grand Traverse County Family Division. The total domestic relations caseload consisted of 877 cases, with the Court disposing of 669 cases.

The total juvenile code caseload consisted of 378 cases. There were 307 new case filings: 241 delinquency cases, 2 traffic cases, 60 child protective cases and 4 personal protection actions. The Court supervised 85 juveniles.

In 2016, there were 100 children associated with new child protective filings. The Court served as the permanent legal guardian for 19 children and the temporary legal guardian for 58 children.

The Court finalized 25 adoptions, assisted with name changes for 28 individuals and processed 410 adult personal protection cases.

The Juvenile Probation Department made 2,449 probation contacts in 2016. These contacts included: conferences at the probation office, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Juvenile Drug

Court, New Vision Academy, home and school visits, tether hookups, Wraparound and community meetings. The Juvenile Probation Department conducts a Risk Assessment for each youth to determine the level of service required to address his or her criminogenic needs – dynamic risk factors for delinquency.

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



# THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT NOTES

## RETIREMENTS

Philip E. Rodgers, Jr. retired after 25 years of serving as a 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge.

Esther Cooper retired from Friend of the Court after 25 years of service.

Barb Donaldson retired as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer after 24 years of service.

Julie Arends retired from Circuit Court Administration after 21 years of service with the Circuit Court.

Dawn Rogers retired from Friend of the Court after 18 years of service.

Cindy Conlon retired from her position as a Domestic Relations & Juvenile Referee after 17 years of service with the Circuit Court.



Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.



Esther Cooper

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Teri Quinn, 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Administrator, celebrated 20 years of service with the County.

Janet Kronk, Janet McGee and Sue Bennett, all with the Family Court, each celebrated their 15 year service anniversaries.

Laura Shumate and Jeff Burdick both celebrated 10 years of service with the Family Court.

Lindsey Jordan and Heather Prevo, also with the Family Court, both celebrated 5 year service anniversaries.



Barb Donaldson



Julie Arends

## RECOGNITIONS

Jeremy Hogue accepted the supervisory role of Friend of the Court.

Stacey Truesdell accepted a position with the Court as Domestic Relations & Juvenile Referee.

Trina Girardin was promoted to Deputy Circuit Court Administrator.



Cindy Conlon & Dawn Rogers