



Annual Report 2011

20th Judicial Circuit and
Ottawa County Probate Courts
Ottawa County, Michigan

www.miottawa.org/Courts

The 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts 2011 Annual Report

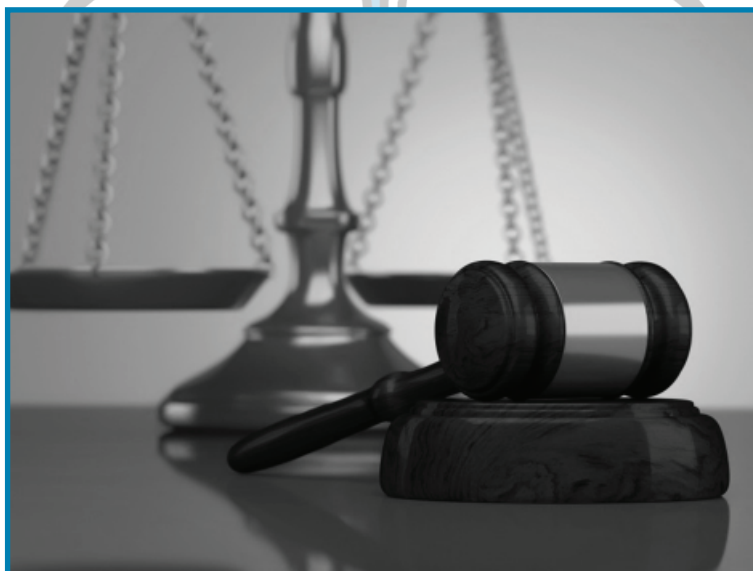
Reengineering the Courts...

In 2011, the non partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (<http://www.cbpp.org>) estimated the courts throughout the nation would continue to face deficits equal to or greater than 2010. Confronted with the worst recession the nation has faced in more than six decades, funding forecasting for courts and all public services continues to be bleak.

As the 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts consistently have embraced and “worked” the strategic planning process for the past eight years, they were well positioned to address yet, another challenge. In response, the Courts moved toward deliberate reengineering efforts in order to reinvent themselves in ways that preserve the quality of justice and level of services, while significantly cutting budgets.

Reengineering the courts was no small task as it involved looking inward and evaluating everything in which the Courts were involved, including processes, staffing patterns and policy. In essence, the Courts’ administration and staff joined together to develop a “new normal” for the Courts and preserve the best things the Courts’ had to offer the Ottawa County community.

During 2011, the Courts’ administration reviewed policy, organizational structure and processes. Ultimately, the Courts’ administration and staff turned their focus upon reimbursement methods, expansion of partnerships, technology, innovative and cost effective programs/services, grants and the generation of revenue as means to thrive during a time where challenges could have immobilized. Through ongoing, consistent and thoughtful planning, the “new normal” resulted in positive outcomes and a determination that quality service and the administration of justice can prevail in the midst of adversity.



EDWARD R. POST
CHIEF CIRCUIT JUDGE – TRIAL DIVISION

JON HULSING
CIRCUIT JUDGE – TRIAL DIVISION

JON A. VAN ALLSBURG
CIRCUIT JUDGE – FAMILY DIVISION

KENT D. ENGLE
CIRCUIT JUDGE – FAMILY DIVISION

MARK A. FEYEN
CHIEF PROBATE JUDGE – FAMILY DIVISION

STATE OF MICHIGAN



**TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
OTTAWA COUNTY**

KEVIN J. BOWLING, JD
CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

April 22, 2012

Ottawa County Board of Commissioners
12220 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460

Dear Commissioners:

As the most brutal recession of more than six decades continues to challenge us, it is clear the courts must partner with the County and work together to embrace the challenges of the “new normal.” In 2011, the 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts have relentlessly sought to provide excellence in governance and fiscal stewardship through the reengineering of the courts to preserve quality services, refine and improve practices and generate new funding opportunities.

Reengineering of the courts means everything must be examined to ensure a positive return on the investment when possible. Review of policies, practices and the implementation of the administration of justice is imperative and must be approached with deliberate thought. Since 2004, the Courts have been actively working the Strategic Plan process. This allowed the Courts to be positioned, with staff support, to establish performance measures that illustrate outcomes, to challenge the “typical, and to refine the Courts’ processes to increase performance. Using technology to support such refinements has been critical to a variety of improvements including many collections initiatives. Preparing the staff for the positions vacated by the anticipated retirements of many leadership positions through the Building Bench Strength program is also essential to prevent the potential loss of valued institutional knowledge. Developing cost-effective programs to meet the needs of the client and protect the interests of the community consistent with the Courts’ mission statement – “To administer justice and restore wholeness in a manner that inspires public trust” – is paramount to the attainment of excellence in the face of fiscal adversity.

It is a pleasure to present to you the 2011 Annual Report for the 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts. Through the many cooperative and collaborative efforts of the Ottawa County elected officials, County administration and departments, and the courts, the Circuit and Probate Courts are honored to share with you some of the good news the reengineering of the Courts has revealed, representing positive outcomes, fiscal prudence, creative thought and new hope.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Post

Mark A. Feyen

Hon. Edward R. Post
Chief Judge, 20th Circuit Court

Hon. Mark A. Feyen
Chief Judge, Ottawa County Probate Court

Ottawa County Courthouse • 414 Washington Street, Suite 303 • Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
Phone: 616-846-8320 • Fax: 616-846-8179 Website: www.miottawa.org

20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Court Judges

“Justice does not depend upon legal dialectics so much as upon the atmosphere of the court room, and that in the end depends primarily upon the judge.”

Judge Learned Hand

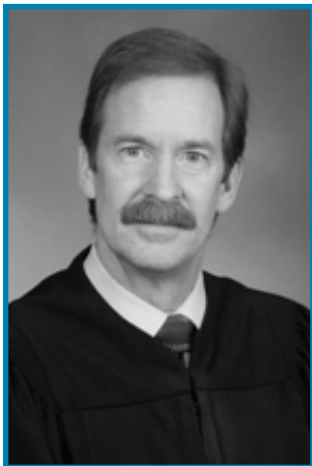
The Circuit and Probate courts in Ottawa County are fortunate to have a learned and collegial group of elected judges. The 20th Circuit Court has four judges presiding over the courtrooms, handling a variety of criminal, civil, family, juvenile and appellate cases. The Probate Court has one judge who handles all probate cases and assists the Circuit Court with Family Division cases, as well as the Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts. The Hon. Edward R. Post and the Hon. Mark A. Feyen have been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to serve as Chief Judge of the Circuit Court and Probate Court, respectively. The Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg serves as Chief Judge Pro Tempore of the Circuit Court.



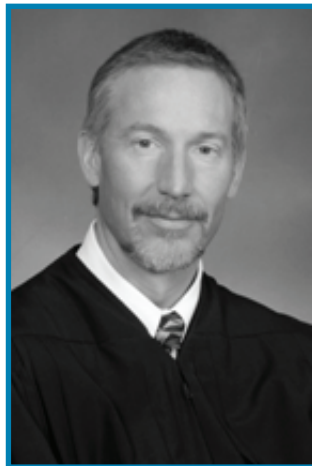
Hon. Edward R. Post
Chief Judge, Circuit



Hon. Mark A. Feyen
Chief Judge, Probate



Hon. Jon A. Van Allsburg
Circuit Judge



Hon. Jon H. Hulsing
Circuit Judge



Hon. Kent D. Engle
Circuit Judge

Court Administration



Kevin J. Bowling, JD, MSJA
Court Administrator

In August 1969, soon after he became chief justice of the United States, Warren E. Burger observed, “The courts of this country need management, which busy overworked judges, with drastically increased caseloads, cannot give. We need a corps of trained administrators or managers to manage and direct the machinery so that judges can concentrate on their primary duty of judging. Such managers do not now exist, except for a handful who are almost entirely confined to state court systems. We must literally create a corps of court administrators or managers and do it at once.” As a result of Chief Justice Burger’s efforts, and those of other leaders in the field, court administrators have become an important part of the federal, state and local levels. (Excerpt from *The Court Administrator: A Guide and Manual*, National Association for Court Management, 2011).

In the Circuit and Probate courts, the Court Administrator provides a clear vision and leadership for the Courts. He is responsible for all administrative functions including strategic planning initiatives, caseload management, personnel and financial management, succession planning and more. There is direct accountability to the chief judges of the Circuit and Probate courts. Daily operational management and oversight of the courts is conducted by the Court Leadership Team, including the Court Administrator, Director of Juvenile Services, Friend of the Court, Trial Division Director and Probate Register.

Reengineering the Courts

Court reengineering is a process aimed at creating sustainable changes, efficiencies and savings throughout the courts. The process varies by jurisdiction and may include reorganizing staff, changing business processes through technology, and restructuring the court system through the legislative process. The articles contained in this 2011 Annual Report are exemplars of court reengineering in Ottawa County and demonstrate how recent efforts within the judicial branch move the courts closer to achieving their mission of “Administering justice and restoring wholeness in a manner which inspires public trust.” The following summary of 2011 Major Initiatives begins with select court-wide efforts, followed by examples of division specific reengineering projects.

Major Initiatives

Circuit/Probate

NCSC CourTools – Being responsive and accountable is critical to maintaining the independence courts need to deliver fair and equal justice to the public. During 2011, the Circuit and Probate Courts continued the implementation of performance measures through the use of the CourTools developed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The National Center developed CourTools by integrating the major performance areas defined by the Trial Court Performance Standards with relevant concepts from other successful public and private sector performance measurement systems. This balanced set of court performance measures provides the judiciary with tools to demonstrate effective stewardship of public resources.

Building Bench Strength – Building Bench Strength (BBS), a talent development and talent management initiative that focuses on staff development at every level within the organization, was launched in 2011. As increasing numbers of “baby boomers” retire from the courts, BBS will ensure continued high quality public service by having the right people, with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time.

A Celebration of Law Day 2011: The Citizens Law School – Law Day was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 to raise public awareness of American law and justice and its impact on our lives. In 1961, Congress designated it as an annual, nationwide event.

During Law Week 2011, the Legal Self Help Center offered a Citizen’s Law School in which the public could attend classes instructed by various members of the legal community in Ottawa County. Such topics included: Criminal Law, The Probate Court, Community Resources, Child Custody/Support, Domestic Violence, The American Jury, Estate Planning, Divorce with Children, Landlord/Tenant Disputes, and Foreclosure.

Electronic Judge’s Calendar – In December 2011, the electronic judge’s calendar was implemented for two judges at the Family Division/Probate Courthouse in West Olive. This calendar allowed staff to discontinue keeping a paper scheduling book and integrate the Judge’s calendars with Lotus Notes and automated case management systems. During 2012, e-calendars will be implemented for all judges and referees.

Major Initiatives

Juvenile Services

Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 – Juvenile Services has provided project management and leadership for the Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20, a statewide initiative. In 2011, this initiative performed an evaluation of juvenile justice in Michigan; completed a strategic plan which functions as an action agenda for juvenile justice within Michigan; and launched five strategic action teams that are focused on completion of various, identified strategic projects over the next year.

Collections/Reimbursement – Within Juvenile Services, collections and reimbursement efforts during 2011 led to: (1) increased bed rental fees within the Juvenile Detention Center in excess of \$200,000 due to the valuable services offered within the Lighthouse program; and (2) a significant increase – 127% for court costs and 27% for attorney reimbursement - in overall collections due to revision of reimbursement and intake procedures.

Community Collaboration – The Ropes Course opened to the public and court staff facilitated several experiential events for school administrators, students, church groups, etc.

Friend of the Court

Arrears Forgiveness Program – The State of Michigan has unpaid child support arrears in excess of a billion dollars, the accumulation of which is, in large part, due to a surcharge amount that was assessed for many years to unpaid child support obligations. Legislation was recently passed to eliminate the surcharge. The Ottawa County Friend of the Court (FOC), with the support of the director of the State Office of Child Support, is seeking to reduce arrears owed to the State through the implementation of an “Arrears Forgiveness Program.”

The Arrears Forgiveness Program allows payers to earn credit toward their arrears through volunteering at agencies in their community. Since the program’s inception in late 2011, there have been over 50 participants. Volunteers have worked at agencies including Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill Industries, the Salvation Army, the Holland and Muskegon Rescue Missions, Harbor Humane Society, a soup kitchen in Mount Pleasant and Hope’s Outlet in Muskegon. To date, volunteers have worked an average of 175 hours per month, which calculates to an approximate reduction in State arrears of \$8,800.00 per month. Arrears balances are reduced \$50.00 for each volunteer hour worked. Participation in the program does not alleviate a payer’s obligation to pay current child support to a custodial parent and does not reduce arrears owed to a custodial parent; volunteer hours are credited to State owed arrears obligations only.

Major Initiatives

Trial Division

Michigan Income Tax Intercepts – During 2011, 1,000 writs were submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury for those owing financial obligations to the Court. Due to the added efforts of a second Felony Collections Clerk, this number is up from 100 writs in 2010.

Additional Felony Collections Efforts – Several 2011 initiatives improved collections efforts within the Trial Division. Such projects included: 1) Sending delinquent payment notices in criminal cases (pilot project) – fifty notices were sent, resulting in the collection of \$1,018.00. Also, three new Payment Installment Orders were established; 2) The addition of a second Felony Collections Clerk led to an increase in Payment Installment Orders and assisted in monitoring more than 50% additional cases where financial obligations are owed; 3) Application of Accurint - this software application allows for more in-depth monitoring of defendants who are in contempt of court or who have active bench warrants issued against them; and 4) Over \$400,000 was collected in victim restitution during 2011; these monies were collected on behalf of and distributed to victims of crime within the Ottawa County community.

Adult Drug Treatment Court – In addition to the State of Michigan grant obtained to cover operational costs, a grant awarded by the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven allowed the ADTC to assist with the medical needs of several program participants.

“To administer justice...”

Felony Collections Project Works!

Writ for Garnishment of State Income Tax Refunds

In 2010, the 20th Circuit Court issued 100 Writs to intercept State of Michigan income tax refunds from people who owed outstanding financial obligations to the Court. From those 100 Writs, \$4,835 was collected and paid to crime victims and fines and costs owed to the 20th Circuit Court.

In 2011, through the efforts of a second Felony Collections Clerk, 1,000 Writs were issued for the same purposes. As of March 6, 2012, the Court has received 82 disclosure statements from the State of Michigan resulting in the collection of \$47,979.14. It is anticipated that the total dollar amount collected will far exceed this amount as the deadline for filing State of Michigan 2011 Income Tax Returns is April 17, 2012. Thus, these collection efforts have been a project of significance, making it worthwhile to not only victims but also the Court.

Friend of the Court has Continued Success with the “Booting” Program



Custodial parents and children need the consistency of regular child support. In October 2010, the Friend of the Court Office implemented a project designed to collect past due child support by seeking out and immobilizing (i.e., “booting”) motor vehicles of payers who failed to comply with Circuit Court orders for child support. This program is authorized by the Michigan Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act (MCL 552.631). The main goal of the Booting Program is to

obtain regular payments from those who owe child support. This program continued to serve as a successful enforcement tool throughout 2011.

Since its implementation, Ottawa County Sheriff’s Deputy Matthew VanLiere, has booted 28 vehicles owned by payers with active civil warrants for non-payment of child support. Following the immobilization, 100% of these individuals paid to have the “boot” removed and resolved their outstanding warrants. The resolution of these warrants resulted in a total collection of \$15,342.00. However, the real success of this program is evident in the continued payment of child support by all 28 individuals involved with the program.

As a result of the 20th Circuit Court’s FOC Booting Program accomplishments, Deputy VanLiere and FOC employees Matt Schmid, Josh Wise and Barb Cherry have presented to counties state-wide on the use of the “boot” as an effective tool for use in bench warrant enforcement.

Juvenile Services' New Collection Efforts Pay Off

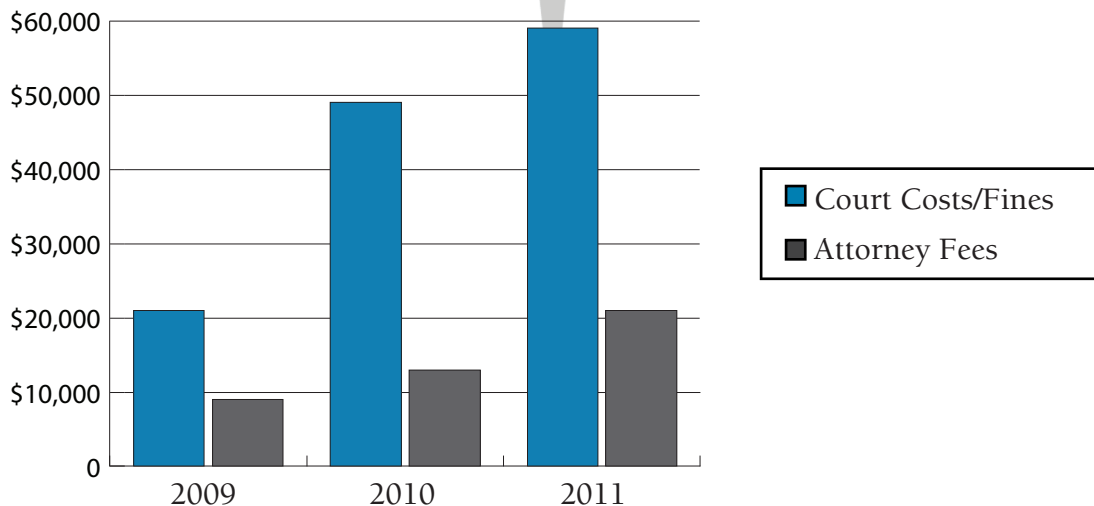
The Juvenile Services Division of the 20th Circuit Court collects a variety of fees and costs; such costs include parental reimbursement, court costs, victim impact fees, attorney fees, restitution, etc. Since early 2000, the Juvenile Services Division of the 20th Circuit Court had experienced a steady decline in collections. In 2009, the Court began to implement new collection improvement strategies, one area at a time, as court cost collections were more than 36% short of the budgeted projection. Given the poor economy, collections were conservatively estimated for the 2010 budget at approximately 40% of the 2009 budgeted projection, and it appeared a similar scenario was playing out with regard to attorney fees and parental billing for placement costs.



In an effort to increase revenue and accountability, a Reimbursement Team was assembled to review the current methods of collection and form recommended changes. The first areas addressed were costs and attorney fees, as these are flat fees assessed and 100% of the revenue remains in the County's general fund. The team met on a monthly basis and made the following strategic recommendations: 1) assess a flat rate attorney fee at the beginning of the case upon appointment; 2) order the \$400 probation fee at the beginning of probation, as opposed to assessing \$25 for each month on probation; and 3) have caseworkers discuss the court costs during every contact with each client to make certain individual accountability is a focus.

The result of these changes in the first year far surpassed expectations. In 2010, court cost revenue increased by 123%, followed by a 27% increase in 2011. Additionally, revenue for attorney fees rose 41% between 2009 and 2010, followed by a 59% increase in 2011.

Given the success of this initiative, the Reimbursement Team continues to meet on a regular basis. The team is committed to increasing revenue in other areas, with the current focus on parental reimbursement.



Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20

An exciting, new statewide initiative – Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 – was launched in August, 2011. Funded by a grant award from the State Justice Institute (SJI), with the support of the Michigan State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and the 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Juvenile Services Division (fiduciary and project management), the primary purpose of the initiative was to evaluate Michigan’s juvenile justice system and develop a strategic plan. The process has resulted in an action agenda and a forum for a collective voice for juvenile justice in Michigan.

Recognizing time is critical, the Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 initiative has been deliberate in its endeavor. The SJI award was received in July, 2011; since that time, the following has occurred:

- August/September – The Planning Committee developed an evaluation survey seeking feedback about the juvenile justice system. The survey was disseminated to over 650 juvenile justice professionals, resulting in a 51% return rate. In addition, a trends analysis and an organizational analysis were conducted.
- September/October – Strategic planning sessions were conducted with broad representation from several juvenile courts, professional associations/organizations and departments within State government, all which work directly within juvenile justice. The strategic planning sessions focused on the establishment of a core tenet/mission, vision, core values, goals, objectives, strategic focus areas and first year priority projects for each focus area.
- October/November – Resulting from the strategic planning process, a juvenile justice Strategic Plan was vetted and finalized. Communication and implementation plans were developed, launching five strategic focus area action teams which work toward completion of the identified priority projects.

The commitment and leadership of juvenile justice professionals to Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 across the State has been remarkable. It is a true statement of the recognized need for such an initiative and has fostered renewed excitement about the future.



Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 is a catalyst for creating a collective vision and voice and for developing a long-term, strategic “roadmap” for the constant improvement of the administration of justice, making juvenile justice and the courts in Michigan stronger, more effective, more efficient and increasingly responsive to all.

For more information, please contact: Sandi Metcalf, M.S., Director of Juvenile Services, 20th Circuit Court, Family Division & the Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Project Manager at smetcalf@miottawa.org or 616.786.4100.

...and restore wholeness...

Friend of the Court Custody Diversion Process Helps Kids & Parents



When parents separate, emotions run high and, unfortunately, children are often caught in the middle of their parents' disputes. Many times, children are used as pawns in an effort to control or retaliate against the other parent. The Friend of the Court (FOC) sees this situation occur in far too many cases and has attempted to circumvent this type of manipulation through the court's custody diversion process.

A review of the FOC custody process demonstrated the office was receiving an increasing number of frivolous and unnecessary requests to conduct custody investigations. FOC estimated that approximately one half of all motions to change custody were unnecessary. To address this problem, the FOC, with input from the Circuit Court Judges, developed a custody investigation model. The underlying theme of the investigation model is to encourage parents to make joint decisions which benefit, and serve in the best interests of, their children.

Upon filing a request for a custody investigation, the parents are scheduled to meet with a FOC custody investigator. This joint appointment is referred to as a "diversion appointment." At this time the investigation process is explained; options other than a custody investigation are discussed; and the investigator examines the reason(s) why the parents are unable to jointly determine what is in their children's best interests.

Custody investigations can be time consuming, intrusive and expensive. Generally speaking, custody investigations are often anxiety producing for the children and parents. At the diversion appointment, the FOC investigator offers alternatives, makes parenting time suggestions and attempts to focus the parents on reaching a custody arrangement in the children's best interests.

FOC staff have experienced significant success in settling cases through the diversion process. In 2011, 212 motions for a change of custody were filed. Diversion appointments were scheduled, and 97, or 46%, of the 212 motions were settled. As a result, full custody investigations were conducted in 115 rather than 220 cases.

Historically, data show a full custody investigation takes an investigator between 40 and 50 hours to complete. By resolving 97 cases during the two hour diversion appointment, it is estimated the FOC not only assisted the parties in avoiding an unnecessary legal dispute but saved the 20th Circuit Court and Ottawa County approximately 4,400 employee work hours estimated at \$100,395. The FOC is extremely proud of the success of the diversion process and believes it serves the Court and Ottawa County families well.

The Challenge Ropes Course Offers a Great Resource to the Court and the Community

Welcome to the Challenge Ropes Course, operated and maintained by the 20th Circuit Court, Family Division – Juvenile Services. The Course, located on several acres of pine and deciduous forest behind the Fillmore Street Complex in West Olive, has been in existence for nearly two decades. It was originally planned and constructed through a unique collaboration of Juvenile Services employees, volunteers, contracted builders, and community resources, and officially opened in the fall of 1995. Over the past 16 years the Challenge Ropes Course has undergone several changes. The entire course underwent a face-lift during 2008 due to heavy tree removal in the forests surrounding the Course, requiring a great deal of repair and improvement to the activities as well as trail reconstruction. While the Course was initially utilized primarily by delinquent teens within the court system, it is now available to community groups for a modest fee which helps maintain the course. Of course, during this time there have been many constants; a commitment to high safety standards, dedicated staff interested in both the idea of experiential learning and respect for our natural resources, and a desire to continually improve and evolve our services.

We are excited about the many possibilities our facilitators have to offer through experiential opportunities. Experiential learning is a process of safely opening up new avenues to participants by allowing them to take healthy risks through designed activities which challenge them individually and as a group to resolve conflicts, open communication, build confidence and trust, and gain mastery in areas that may cause anxiety or fear. This is all done in a non-competitive atmosphere driven by the philosophy of “choose your challenge” where the participant is encouraged to push themselves beyond a particular “comfort zone,” but never beyond what they are willing to do.

While experiential learning can be explored in many directions, two of our most exciting and powerful tools are the low group initiatives and high elements activities which form the Challenge Ropes Course. The staff are annually trained, tested and certified by Experiential Systems, Inc., a local West Michigan company, accredited by several national experiential organizations. The low ropes course is comprised of a dozen permanent elements spaced around the outer trail system of the Challenge Course. With such names as “Special-Ops”, “Nitro Crossing”, and “Blind Maze” these elements are excellent activities for teaching groups about themselves, how they work together, and their strengths and challenges. All low group initiatives are guided by trained facilitators and can be used in conjunction with the high element activities or as a stand alone experience for any group.

The high element activities include our 28’ Pamper Pole, 28’ Climbing wall, and 30’ multiple element High Ropes Course. All three elements were professionally constructed by licensed builders who specialize in high element experientials; both the low group initiatives and high element activities are annually inspected and certified by Experiential Systems, Inc., in accordance with the Association for Challenge Course Technology, the Association for Experiential Education and the Climbing Wall Association. All three of these high element activities are designed to challenge the individual, while allowing a great deal of support from their group. Under the supervision of the facilitators,

participants are incorporated into the process of keeping each other safe through learning how to use the safety equipment, participating with their belay team when ropes are involved, and physically and emotionally supporting them at all times.

As of 2012, the Challenge Ropes Course is entering its third season of working with organizations, groups and schools, as well as continuing to maintain its excellence in working with at risk youth. Each year since 2010 has seen an increase in outings with teaching teams, leadership student groups, adventure clubs, and sports teams from local schools in Ottawa County. State organizations such as the Department of Human Services have utilized our experiential programs for staff retreats and opportunities for learning and sharing with their foster care programs from both Ottawa and Kent County. The variety of challenges and participant groups is virtually endless, and any given program can be designed to specifically meet the needs of the group. We can accommodate a variety of organizations such as schools, churches, businesses and corporations, colleges, and summer programs.

For additional information regarding scheduling, costs, or general questions about the Challenge Ropes Course please contact our program staff at (616) 393-4469 or (616) 393-4451. We are excited to provide this opportunity for the public and look forward to a successful year!

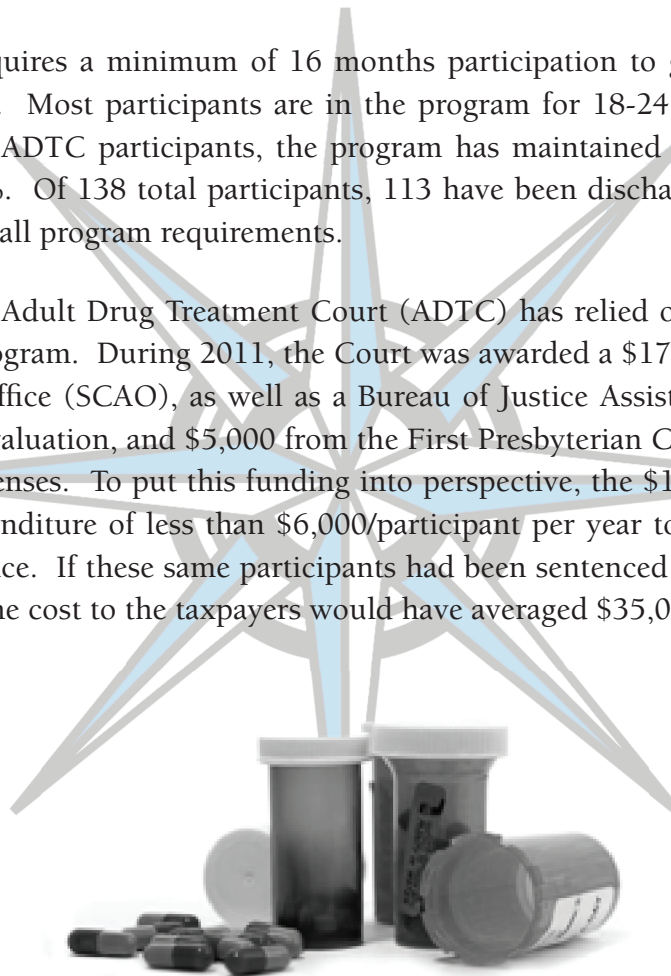


Adult Drug Treatment Court – Still Meeting the Needs of the Community

Since 2005, the 20th Circuit Court Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC) has worked to address the needs of clients struggling with serious issues of substance abuse. It has maintained an active caseload of 30 participants and operates as a “priority population” drug court; this means the Court strives to identify and accept the highest risk and highest need cases on the 20th Circuit Court’s docket, offering drug treatment and rigorously monitoring accountability within the community in lieu of a more costly jail or prison sentence. To date, the ADTC has administered 31,760 drug and alcohol tests on its participants.

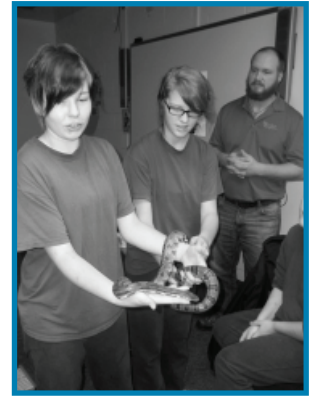
The ADTC program requires a minimum of 16 months participation to graduate, which reflects a significant commitment. Most participants are in the program for 18-24 months. Considering the high risk nature of the ADTC participants, the program has maintained an impressive “successful completion” rate of 64%. Of 138 total participants, 113 have been discharged, with 71 participants successfully completing all program requirements.

The 20th Circuit Court Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC) has relied on the availability of grant funds to operate this program. During 2011, the Court was awarded a \$175,000 grant from the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), as well as a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to conduct an independent program evaluation, and \$5,000 from the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven for participant medical expenses. To put this funding into perspective, the \$175,000 SCAO operational funds represent an expenditure of less than \$6,000/participant per year to cover case management, treatment and surveillance. If these same participants had been sentenced to prison, they would not receive treatment, and the cost to the taxpayers would have averaged \$35,000/participant/year.



20th Circuit Court/Juvenile Detention Center Partners with The Outdoor Discovery Center and Ottawa Area Intermediate School District to Provide Hands-On Education for its Residents

The Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) of Wildlife Unlimited is a non-profit outdoor education center located on a 120-acre preserve. Located south of Holland, Michigan in Allegan County, just one-half mile south of the city limits of Holland, the ODC is a thriving wildlife preserve that is home to hundreds of species of animals and plants. With over 4 miles of trails and boardwalks winding through meadow, prairie, remnant dune, forest, ponds and wetlands, the ODC is the perfect place for walking, jogging, photography, wildlife viewing or simply enjoying the outdoors.



The Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) is a founding partner of the Outdoor Discovery Center which joined efforts with Wildlife Unlimited of Allegan and Ottawa Counties in 1999 to create an outdoor education facility for area school children. The OAISD works collaboratively with schools and communities to meet the educational needs of students in the Ottawa area. The OAISD works with the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway to provide services to students and teachers in their service area.

The Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center has joined this partnership and enjoys having the Outdoor Discovery Center make presentations to its residents once a month in the science classroom. Funding comes from grant money which allows for Ottawa County school districts and the OAISD, to access their programming for free.



The Outdoor Discovery Center has presented on numerous topics. Two of those topics are gardening and worm composting. The gardening presentation culminated with a fantastic garden grown right at the detention center. ODC advised the residents what and how to plant. The vegetables grown were then harvested by the residents, prepared by the kitchen staff at the Ottawa County Jail, and then eaten by the residents for lunch and dinner. Worm composting proved especially interesting to the staff and the residents. As a result of the advice of the ODC, OAISD was able to purchase an actual worm compost bin. The residents took the information presented by ODC and then studied the book, “Worms: Eat My Garbage” by Mary Appelhof. The residents made lists of what food they were served on a daily basis that could or could not be put into the compost bin. Everyone learned a lot and in the process we were able to lighten the amount of waste put into our landfills.

This partnership has been a win-win for everyone involved, especially the residents.

...in a manner that inspires public trust.”

2011 Community Report Card

For a number of years, the court has looked at various methods to measure the efficacy of probation and other court programs. In addition, the court has also sought a way to illustrate the day to day restorative activities utilized with young people under the court’s jurisdiction. The 2011 Community Report Card measures court services used to assess juveniles’ responses to supervision; it also provides a tool for court administration to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and community-based interventions.

	2009	2010	2011
Number of cases closed (<i>some cases moved to diversion in 2011</i>)	753	793	593
COMMUNITY PROTECTION			
Percentage of juveniles who had no adjudications or convictions for offenses while under supervision	91.0%	90.7%	90.7%
Percentage of juveniles who had no positive drug tests while under supervision	87.0%	89.3%	84.4%
ACCOUNTABILITY			
Number of community service hours ordered	5808	5175	4252
Number of community services hours completed	5783	5202	4315
Community services completion rate (<i>some juveniles completed more than ordered</i>)	99.6%	100.5%	101.5%
Percentage of juveniles who were ordered to pay restitution and paid in full	78.0%	74.3%	77.8%
COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT			
Number of juveniles who participated in at least one competency development program	692	584	309*
Percentage of juveniles who successfully completed the competency development program	90.0%	92.1%	86.0%
Percentage of juveniles enrolled in school at time of closure	93.0%	95.8%	97.8%
OVERALL			
Percentage of juveniles discharged from supervision as successful	94.0%	95.2%	95.6%
DIVERSION			
Number of juveniles placed in diversion program			177
Percentage of juveniles in diversion who successfully complied with the program			94.4%

*The reduction in this area is the result of a transition in programming

Lighthouse Girls Give Back with the Mobile Pantry

By Lighthouse Residents

On a cool, sunny morning in November, five girls from Lighthouse, a Residential Treatment Program at the 20th Circuit Court/Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center, went to St. Patrick's church in Grand Haven to volunteer at the Mobile Food Pantry. The girls were told that some people may have arrived in the middle of the night to wait for food; the line that curved around the parking lot had been forming since 5 a.m. Each of the girls was introduced by the Love, INC staff to a waiting "customer." Lighthouse participants initiated friendly conversation with the "customer" while carrying their boxes and bags with their grocery selections from the mobile food pantry to their vehicles. In just an hour's time, the girls were able to meet and help approximately 100 people.

The food distributed was donated by different organizations, including local restaurants such as Jimmy Johns and Little Caesar's; other food was donated by local farmers, including fresh broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, apples, romaine lettuce, milk, and juice. Though the line was long, in the end there was enough food for everyone.

"It was fun!" Tina, a Lighthouse resident, said of her experience. There was agreement among the girls that while we did this to give back to the community, it felt good for us, too.



Friend of the Court - Performance Measures to Assist Children & Families

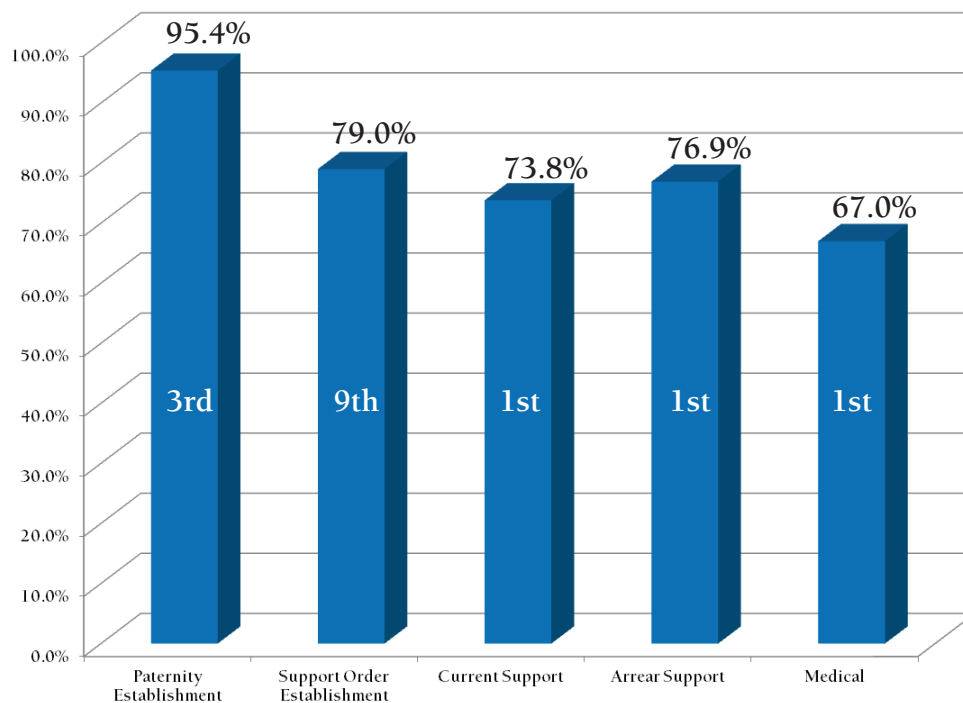
Child support collection falls under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The Friend of the Court office operates as a IV-D agency and a large part of the expense of operating the office (approximately 66%) is reimbursed by Federal funds through a State Cooperative Reimbursement Contract.

The Friend of the Court office also defrays operating costs by earning incentive dollars based on performance. As set forth in the 1998 Child Support Performance and Incentive Act, the performance of each IV-D agency is measured in five key areas. State child support enforcement programs across the country are measured in Paternity Establishment, Support Order Establishment, Collections on Current Support, Collections on Arrears, and Cost Effectiveness. Medical support establishment/enforcement is also measured, although it is not currently a factor that results in earned incentives. It is expected to be included as a performance factor in the future.

When the Friend of the Court office in Ottawa County measures itself against the sixteen (16) largest counties in Michigan, its performance is notable in all areas. This high performance not only helps secure child support for families and children in Ottawa County, but results in earned incentive dollars that reduce the amount of Ottawa County general fund dollars needed to fund the program. In 2011, the total Federal incentive dollars earned was \$311,630.00.

Additionally, the Friend of the Court was ranked as fourth out of the sixteen (16) largest counties in Michigan with respect to cost effectiveness, collecting \$10.50 for every dollar spent.

Ottawa County Comparison to Large County 2011 Performance Levels



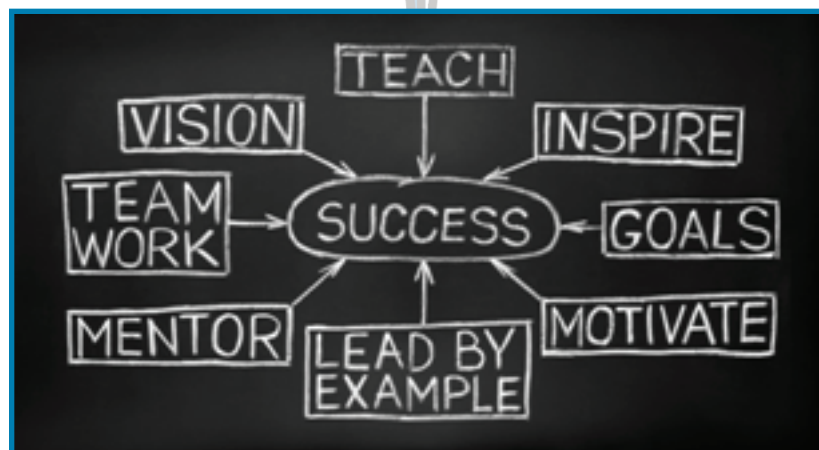
Employee Satisfaction Survey

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) developed ten trial court performance standards known as CourTools, which provide a framework for guiding courts into the future by setting target performance, monitoring, evaluating and learning from the results. CourTool # 9 discusses employee satisfaction, asserting it is a critical process for effectively managing courts. This CourTool also offers an employee satisfaction survey that assists court managers in better understanding and measuring their workforce.

The 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts' administration and staff understand the value of a well-trained, satisfied workforce. Thus, surveying employees helps administration track how employees feel about the workplace, identify areas needing improvement and acknowledge strengths in the organization. Ultimately, satisfied employees result in ensuring better service to the Court's "customers" and the community.

As part of the strategic planning process, which began in 2004, the Courts conducted two previous employee satisfaction surveys – one in 2004 and again in 2007. The survey consisted of twenty-two questions, soliciting information about staff morale, working conditions and internal communication. Again in March 2011, the 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts' Strategic Team 5: Employee Opportunities and Satisfaction, disseminated the bi-annual employee satisfaction survey to all court employees using a modified NCSC survey tool. Approximately seventy percent, or ninety employees, completed the survey. Of the twenty-two questions asked, twenty demonstrated positive increases over the 2007 survey. After compiling the responses, the results were distributed to all employees for review. Team 5 presented the Circuit and Probate Courts' Leadership Team with the results, who provided further analysis and recommendations for identified areas in need of improvement.

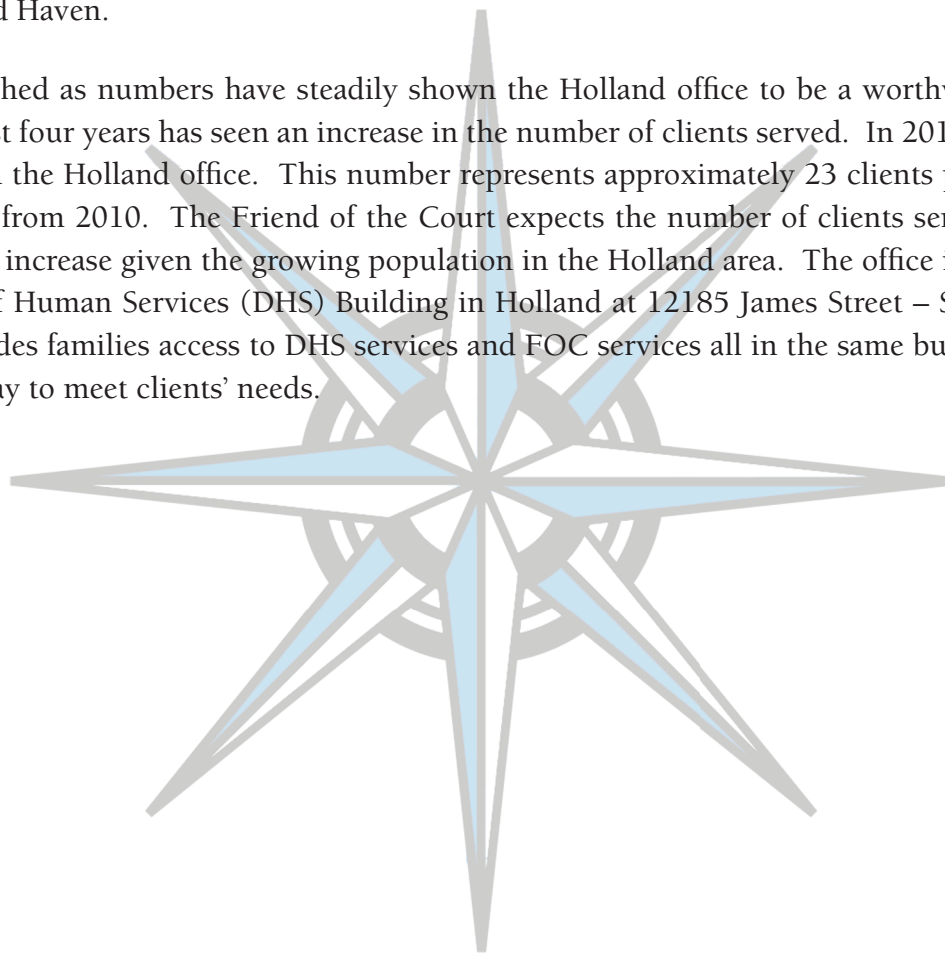
The Court is committed to meeting the needs of its employees and continually improving customer satisfaction. In order to do so, the Court will continue to work with employees to seek out the information necessary to promote a healthy and effective workplace.



Friend of the Court Satellite Office in Holland Benefits Local Residents

The Friend of the Court (FOC) opened a satellite office in Holland in 2007. The office is staffed by an assigned FOC investigator and a clerical support person familiar with FOC policy, procedures and accounting practices. Both employees have access to the statewide child support enforcement system (MiCSES) and forms related to child support and parenting time modification and enforcement. Appointments are not necessary as clients are served on a “walk in” basis every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Holland office’s “walk-in and be served” philosophy has benefited the parents in Holland, many of whom may have difficulty finding transportation to the Friend of the Court main office in Grand Haven.

FOC has watched as numbers have steadily shown the Holland office to be a worthwhile endeavor. Each of the last four years has seen an increase in the number of clients served. In 2011, 1,155 clients were served in the Holland office. This number represents approximately 23 clients per week and is a 5% increase from 2010. The Friend of the Court expects the number of clients served in Holland to continue to increase given the growing population in the Holland area. The office is located in the Department of Human Services (DHS) Building in Holland at 12185 James Street – Suite 170. This location provides families access to DHS services and FOC services all in the same building, which is an effective way to meet clients’ needs.



Caseload Trends...Circuit Court

TRIAL DIVISION	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Appeals	51	45	48	51	53	+3.9
Criminal	1218	1127	1090	1048	918	-12.4
Civil	567	630	600	554	423	-23.6
Total Trial Division Filings	1836	1802	1738	1653	1394	-15.7
FAMILY DIVISION (Includes FOC & Juvenile Services)	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Divorce	975	993	1057	1039	1101	+6.0
Other Domestic Relations	590	625	517	476	423	-11.1
Personal Protection Orders	645	695	836	738	783	+6.1
Delinquency (per SCAO 2008 - 2011; does not include Probation Violations)	2285	1500	1674	1421	1332	-6.3
Traffic	38	27	31	31	20	-35.5
Child Protective	74	101	79	93	83	-10.8
Adoptions	170	163	149	147	142	-3.4
Misc. Family	73	65	50	72	67	-6.9
Total Family Division Filings	4850	4169	4393	4017	3951	-1.6
Grand Total Filings & Reopend Cases	6686	5971	6131	5670	5345	-5.7

For additional caseload information see:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm>

Caseload Facts – Trial Division

The Trial Division (Grand Haven) caseload includes appeals, criminal and civil cases. In addition, the Trial Division handles the domestic relations portion of the Family Division docket.

Chief Judge Post and Judge Hulsing preside over all criminal cases and 80% of the civil cases. Judge Van Allsburg hears 20% of the civil docket, all appellate cases and 50% of the domestic relations case assignments. Judge Engle is assigned 50% of the domestic relations cases, and he shares the personal protection order petitions (adult and juvenile) with Judge Van Allsburg. In addition, Judge Engle conducts court two days per week at the Fillmore Complex with a mixed docket of juvenile and child protective proceedings.

From 2010 to 2011 the appellate caseload increased by 3.9%, while the criminal and civil caseload (new filings and reopened cases) declined significantly by 12.4 % and 23.6% respectively. Overall, the Trial Division experienced a 15.7% reduction in new filings and reopened cases from 2010 to 2011.

In addition to managing a diverse and complex docket, the Trial Division is responsible for the public and judicial law libraries (including new acquisitions and maintenance). The Trial Division also manages an active collections program with defendants who are ordered to pay restitution, court costs, fines, fees, etc. The outcome of the collections program in 2011 was payment of \$916,831 to the Court. This represents a 2.85% increase in collections from 2010, which was anticipated due to the recent addition of a second felony collections clerk. Approximately 44% of these payments are returned to victims of crime as restitution. Other payments cover statutorily mandated fees and partially reimburse the County for funds expended in the daily operation of the Court.

Caseload Facts – Family Division/Friend of the Court (FOC)

Throughout 2011, Friend of the Court staff handled a Title IV-D caseload (child support) of 12,571 cases, representing an 8% increase from 2010. There was also a 6% increase in new divorce filings during 2011. To enforce court orders on these cases, 8,614 show cause hearings were conducted (where parties are ordered to “show cause” why they should not be held in contempt of court for failing to obey a valid court order), 2,038 bench warrants were issued, and \$32.5 million in child support payments were collected and disbursed to families in need. In addition to these enforcement efforts, staff directly assisted clients by scheduling nearly 4,000 appointments and meeting with 1,673 walk-in clients. To help ensure child support orders are updated to reflect significant changes in circumstances, staff conducted 2,146 case reviews and recommended modification where appropriate. These support reviews increased by 6% from 2010 to 2011. Based on federal child support performance measures the 20th Circuit FOC is one of the most effective operations in Michigan, ranking 4th of the 16 largest counties and collecting \$10.50 for every dollar spent.

In addition to the child support enforcement efforts of the Friend of the Court, there were 223 cases in 2011 where the 20th Circuit Court received a petition for a special assessment regarding child custody or parenting time issues. In 67% of these cases, FOC staff conducted an extensive investigation and provided the Court with recommendations. The remaining 33% of these cases were resolved by a diversion conference conducted by FOC staff, thereby saving significant time and resources for all involved. Often, custody investigators are required to appear in court and testify regarding the investigation/recommendations.

Caseload Facts – Family Division/Juvenile Services

Court personnel, like most community leaders, understand children represent the future. As a result, when 1,352 new and reopened juvenile petitions arrived at Juvenile Services throughout 2011, a concerted effort was made to ensure appropriate programming was available for delinquent youth, family, caregivers and related agencies. To professionally assess and manage these delinquency and traffic cases, Juvenile Services staff provided a variety of services within the community. Although the overall number of delinquency and traffic cases decreased from 2010 to 2011 (-6.3% and -35.5% respectively), the complexity of many cases seemed to dramatically increase, thus requiring a customized approach to the provision of services. This slight downward trend in new delinquency filings is being experienced throughout Michigan and may be due in part to the success of existing court programs, as well as the national recession/unemployment situation which may have caused many families to leave the state in search of work.

The relative proportions of the juvenile caseload, however, remained stable with drugs and alcohol continuing to be the largest segment of new juvenile petitions (390 cases). Still the 3% decrease in these cases from 2010 to 2011 represents a positive trend in the community. The next highest number of new petitions was in larceny cases and this category also decreased from 2010 to 2011. The filing of 328 larceny petitions resulted in a 5% downward trend. All the remaining petition categories trended downward except for breaking & entering and assault. The specific petition variations from 2010 to 2011 are as follows: larceny (-5%), probation violations (-9%), breaking & entering (+25%), miscellaneous (-6%), assault (+14%), malicious destruction of property (-1%), ordinance & disorderly (-11%), drugs and alcohol (-3%), traffic (-21%), weapons (0%), criminal sexual conduct (-2%) and arson (-71%). The gender breakdown of the juveniles petitioned to court is 73% male and 27% female, representing a decrease in delinquent activity by females (-5%).

When court-involved youth are on probation or otherwise ordered to receive treatment, there is a continuum of available programs which are designed to assist youth and families in the remediation of offending behaviors. Programs may include community-based treatment, community service, anger management, psycho-social groups addressing specific behaviors or thinking errors, sex offender program, intensive supervision, experiential ropes course, gender-specific groups, individual/group/family counseling and more. In 2011, the Juvenile Services treatment program (Choice) made 1,074 client contacts, providing counseling to 206 youth (-8%) and their families. The court also provided educational services through the Juvenile Justice Institute to 42 youth (+8%); residential placement alternative community support and supervision through the Juvenile Community Justice to 33 youth (+6.5%); and substance abuse treatment through the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court to 29 youth and families (+16%).

During 2011, there were 550 detention admissions to secure detention in the Ottawa County Juvenile

Detention Center (-9.8%), representing 8,271 days of service. Many secure detention beds are occupied by Ottawa County youth; however, beds are also rented to other jurisdictions which have no local, secure placement options. Bed rental agreements accounted for \$564,910 (+49%) of new revenue in 2011. In addition, the Court continued development of the Lighthouse Program, a female-specific residential program to address the needs of the court-involved, female population. Several beds within the Lighthouse Program are rented to other counties, generating additional revenue. Juvenile Services continues to explore methods of increasing revenue through contract and service arrangements with other counties.

2011 Attorney Referee Activity

The Circuit Court Attorney Referees are judicial hearing officers who are cross-trained to conduct hearings in the Family Division, including domestic relations hearings (Grand Haven) and juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings (Fillmore Complex). Based on the assigned docket, Referees hear testimony and recommend orders in cases involving juvenile delinquency, abuse/neglect, child support, parenting time, paternity and more. To further assist the Family Division judges, the Referees began handling Pro Confesso divorce hearings toward the end of 2011. Overall, from 2010 to 2011 Referee hearings increased 1.4%, with a total of 5,471 hearings conducted.

In the domestic relations area, the number of hearings increased 7% (2,351 hearings), with child support and parenting time hearings conducted at the Ottawa County Courthouse in Grand Haven increasing 9.4% and 8.1%, respectively. At the Fillmore Complex in West Olive, the overall increase in Referee activity was 3.2%, increasing from 3,024 hearings in 2010 to 3,120 hearings in 2011.



Delinquency and Child Protective petitions are scheduled shortly after filing. Domestic Relations hearings are typically scheduled within three to five weeks after filing. In 2011, the Court's three Attorney Referees were assisted by four staff attorneys who volunteered to provide coverage as needed. This was done to prevent case delays and provide more convenient service for litigants and attorneys.

2011 Attorney Referee Activity

Family Division/Juvenile Services (Fillmore Complex)

DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Preliminary Inquiries	1190	938	983	776	674	-13.1
Preliminary Hearings*	202	154	167	169	266	57.4
Pre-Trial Conferences	536	422	462	516	552	+7
Pleas of Admission/No Contest Hearings	177	145	587	533	505	-5.3
Original Disposition Hearings	54	37	211	180	273	51.7
Dispositional Review Hearings	58	56	70	103	162	57.3
Supplemental Dispositional Hearings	504	494	300	169	147	-13.0
Consents/Holds/Other	164	128	501	444	430	-3.2
(*Includes 35 Saturday Hearings)						

CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Preliminary Inquiries	5	16	12	29	14	-51.7
Preliminary Hearings	44	44	28	50	36	-28.0
Release/Consent/Emancipation/ Emergency Removal/Other	83	63	66	55	61	+10.9
Pleas of Admission/No Contest Hearings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fillmore Complex Hearings	3019	2494	3387	3024	3120	+3.2

For additional caseload information see:

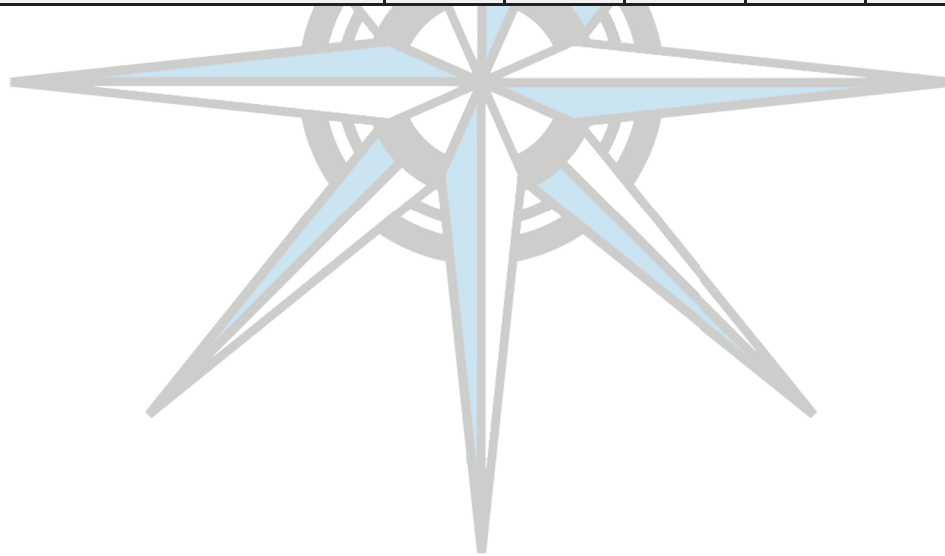
<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm>

2011 Attorney Referee Activity

Family Division (Grand Haven)

DOMESTIC/CIVIL PROCEEDINGS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Support Hearings	1103	1037	1282	1167	1277	+9.4
Parenting Time Hearings	361	336	400	468	506	+8.1
<i>Pro Confesso</i> Divorce Hearings	292	348	105	3	30	+900.0
Paternity Arraignments	681	677	583	559	538	-3.8
Total Grand Haven Hearings	2437	2398	2370	2197	2351	+7.0

ATTORNEY REFEREE HEARINGS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Grand Total	5456	4892	5394	5221	5471	+1.4



Caseload Trends... Probate Court

OTTAWA COUNTY PROBATE COURT CASELOAD TRENDS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change (2010-11)
Estates, Trusts	399	386	366	385	394	+2.3
Civil, Other	9	17	13	14	10	-28.6
Guardians	221	186	205	203	209	+3.0
Conservators	58	58	80	53	47	-11.3
Admissions/Mental Commitments	300	273	242	278	316	+13.6
Grand Total Filings and Reopened Cases	987	920	906	933	976	+4.6

For additional caseload information see:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm>

Caseload Facts – Probate Court

Ottawa County Probate Court provides services to many who need special consideration including the mentally ill, adults and minors in need of guardians or conservators, and families of deceased individuals. The Probate Court has enhanced the Court's effectiveness by the use of mediation, interactive video technology (IVT), document imaging, video court recording, credit card payment capability and on-line case management.

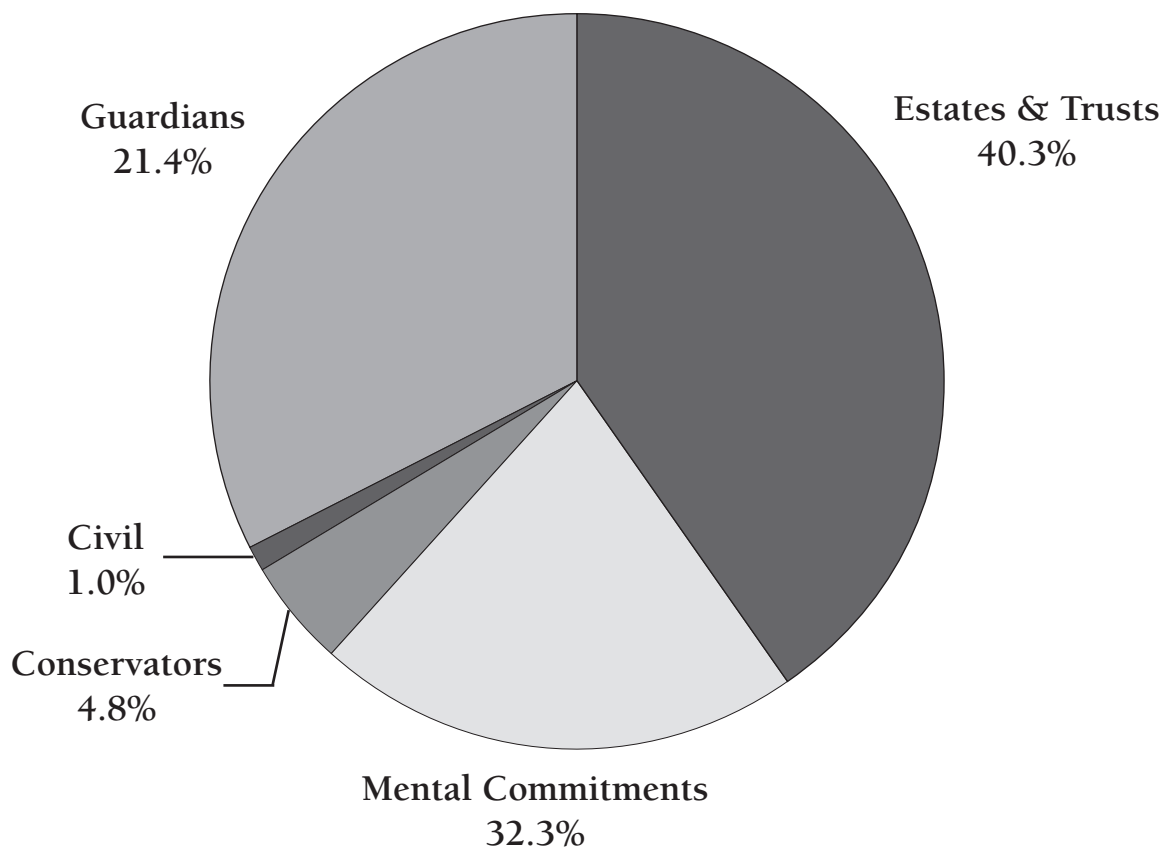
During 2011 the Probate Court experienced a growing caseload trend, with more than 7,500 open files. Among the new and reopened cases, all categories grew in number, with the exception of a slight decrease in civil case filings. Fifty-nine percent of the Probate caseload involves individuals needing the protection of the Court in guardianship, conservatorship and mentally ill cases. At the close of 2011, there were 316 adults and 355 minors with guardians appointed by the Court. In cases where individuals need assistance managing financial assets, there were 130 adults and 149 minors with Court appointed conservators. In addition to the regularly appointed guardians, there were an additional 484 developmentally disabled individuals with guardians supervised by the Court.

The ability of the Probate staff to cope with the influx of new cases is aided by a document imaging system. Immediate electronic access to all 7,500 Probate files has allowed staff to become more efficient

in processing cases. The imaging system also allows for more timely and effective public service for interested parties who are seeking case information. In addition to these case processing efficiencies, the Probate Court strives to be more accessible to the public through its website, <http://www.miottawa.org/CourtsLE/Probate/>, where individuals can locate forms and instructions to guide them through a variety of Probate proceedings.

Ottawa County Probate Judge, Hon. Mark A. Feyen, handles all required Probate matters and assists the 20th Circuit Court by serving as Presiding Judge of the Family Division. He also is the assigned judge for the Adult and Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts.

Probate Court – Caseload Distribution



Financial Information

As an interdependent branch of government, the Courts generate limited revenue but do not operate like a for-profit business. Other than case filing fees established by the state legislature, the public is not charged for many court services. Instead, the Courts rely on the Michigan Supreme Court to pay for judicial salaries through a legislative appropriation and partially reimburse the County for court-specific operating expenses through the Court Equity Fund.

The Court Equity Fund, (MCL 600.151b), was established in October 1996 to provide limited funding for trial court operations. The fund is disbursed quarterly within the state fiscal year to county governments, based on a statutory formula that establishes each county's share. The formula includes two factors: the caseload activity of the circuit and probate courts and the number of judgeships in each county. The first factor, caseload, takes into account new cases filed for the most recent three years in the circuit and probate courts in the county and compares the county's proportion of these filings for the three years to the total filings for the state for the three years. The second factor compares the number of judgeships within the county to total judgeships for the entire state.

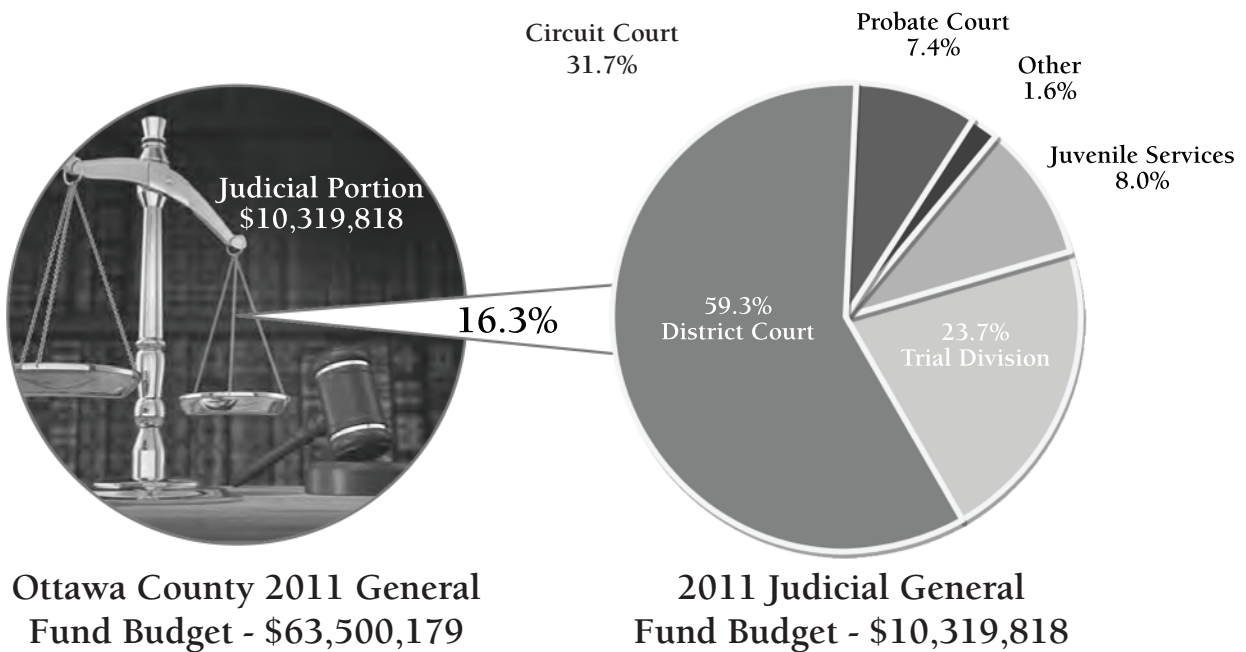
The revenue sources to the Court Equity Fund include state general fund appropriations and multiple sources of restricted revenue that originate from local trial court fees, costs and assessments. Each payment from the fund within the state fiscal year reflects the revenue deposits to the Court Equity Fund for the preceding quarter. Therefore, quarterly payments will vary, reflecting fluctuations in court revenues received. During the past five years, the Court Equity Fund disbursements to Ottawa County exceeded one million dollars per year. In 2011 the Court Equity Fund payment was projected to be \$1.1 million.

The Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund was created as of January 1, 2003 to provide a source of reimbursement funding to trial courts for legislated increases in juror attendance compensation. Beginning October 1, 2003, jurors were compensated at higher rates (see MCL 600.1344) and trial court funding units could claim reimbursement biannually from the fund for the increased expense.

Other Court expenses are paid in part by federal Title IV-D funds (for child support collection); the State's Child Care Fund (Family Division – Juvenile Services programming); and various state and federal grants (e.g., partial Drug Treatment Court funding). The substantial balance is paid through an appropriation from the Ottawa County general fund.

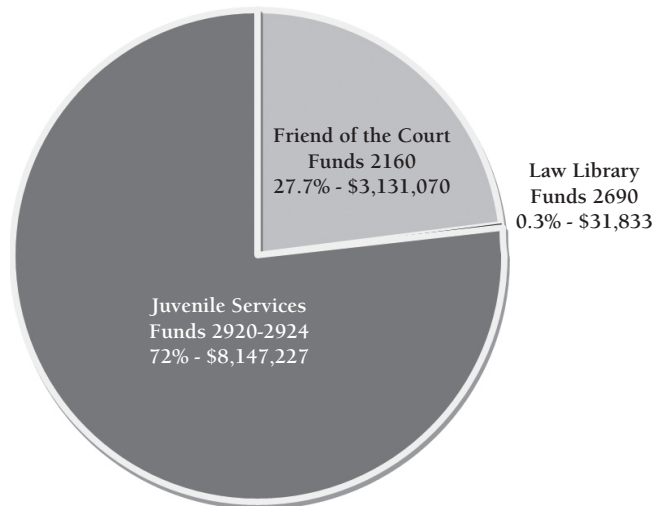
Ottawa County 2011 General Fund Allocation

In FY 2011, the County general fund expenditure budget as adopted was \$63,500,179 (-2.6%); the judicial portion was \$10,319,818 (+2.33) or 16.3% of the GF budget. Of the 16.3% expenditure, the Circuit Court Trial Division was allocated 23.7%; Juvenile Services was allotted 8%; and Probate Court received 7.4%. The remaining 59.3% went to District Court, with a small 1.6% allocation to “other”.



Ottawa County 2011 Special Revenue Funds Transfer

Due to other funding streams, the Friend of the Court (FOC), Law Library and Child Care portion of the Juvenile Services budget are not reflected in the general fund budget allocations. For FY 2011, the 20th Circuit received special revenue funds amounting to \$11,310,130; representing a 0.5% reduction from FY 2010. These allocations were divided as follows: FOC received a revenue operating transfer of \$3,131,070; the law library received funding in the amount of \$31,833 and the Family Division – Juvenile Services received funding for Child Care Fund programs of \$8,147,227.

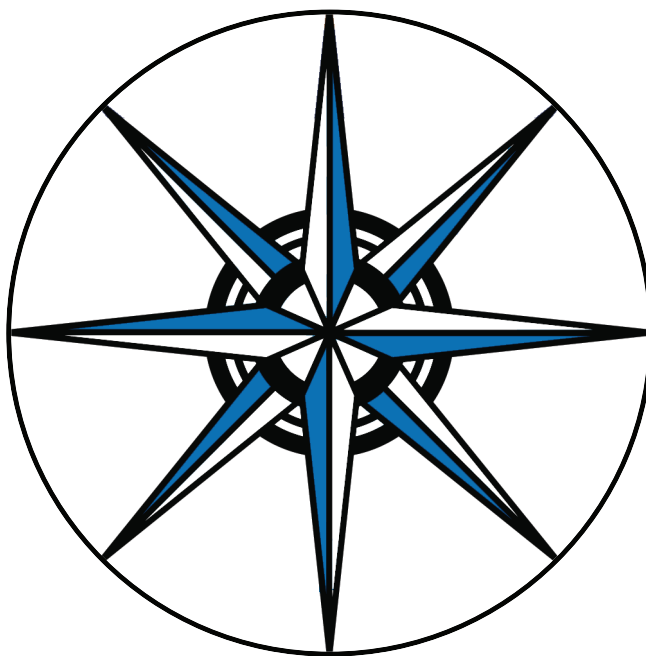


About the Cover.. The Compass Rose

The Compass Rose has been guiding sailors for centuries. Regardless of whether we are seafarers, we still ask, “Where are we going?” We need a clear plan to guide us to our destination.

Through strategic planning, the 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts are determining the best path to their destination. The 2011 Annual Report is a reminder of why the plan and destination are important.

The judges and courts’ staff are in the business of administering justice – one case at a time. By doing so, we contribute to a better life within our community, state, nation and world. Perhaps these are lofty goals, but to do less would be a disservice to the rule of law on which our nation was built and to our own potential.



Quick Guide to the Courts

For Directions to the Courts:
www.miottawa.org/Courts

For General Information:
Call any office listed on this page

For Payment Convenience:

- Make payments online at www.miottawa.org
 - Call any office to pay by credit card
 - Mail payments
 - Pay in person
-

CIRCUIT COURT

Trial Division

414 Washington Ave., Room 300
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: 616.846.8320
Fax: 616.846.8179

Friend of the Court

414 Washington Ave., Room 225
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: 616.846.8210
Fax: 616.846.8128

Juvenile Services Division

12120 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
Phone: 616.786.4100
Fax: 616.786.4154

Holland Satellite Office

12185 James St., Suite 170
Holland, MI 49424

PROBATE COURT

12120 Fillmore Street
West Olive, MI 49460
Phone: 616.786.4110
Fax: 616.738.4624

Staff Facts

20th Judicial Circuit Court

4 Circuit Court Judges
115 Full Time Staff (including 6 vacancies)
3 Part Time Staff
16 Temporary Staff
4.5 Ottawa County Sheriff Deputies
10 Ottawa Area Intermediate School District

152.5 Total

Ottawa County Probate Court

1 Probate Court Judge
5 Full Time Staff

6 Total