



# Annual Report 2006

20th Judicial Circuit Court  
and Probate Courts

Ottawa County, Michigan

[www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org)

# The Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts 2006 Annual Report

Many Annual Reports are organized similar to a Court's organizational chart, offering information on each court division. This report is different. The judges and staff of the 20th Circuit Court and the Ottawa County Probate Court have been working hard to implement the 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Strategic Plan in an effort to improve the courts and to better serve the public. Although there is some trend, caseload and basic financial data in this Annual Report, most of the information reflects the rigorous work and progress on the Strategic Plan's priority projects, which is vital to the Court's goal of excellence



## 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 to know our destination, and we need plans, maps and directions to guide us along the way.

The Circuit and Probate Courts are determining their destination and map through the strategic planning process. The 2006 Annual Report is a reminder why the destination and plan are important.

The Court, judges and staff are in the business of pursuing justice – once case at a time. By doing so, we make life better for our community, state, nation and world. Lofty goals, perhaps; but to do less would be a disservice to the rule of law our nation is built upon and to our own potential.

**Mission:** To administer justice, provide restorative services and apply the law with equality, integrity and timeliness through trained, courteous staff in a manner that inspires public trust.

**Vision:** Through strong leadership and skilled staff, the Court will consistently provide exemplary service by:

- Assuring accessibility to innovative, restorative, continually improving and efficient, professional service.
- Using state-of-art technology to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.
- Providing comprehensive, public education, about Court functions.
- Developing and nurturing strong, positive, collaborative partnerships.

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## Welcome to the 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts... Your Courts!

### *Dear Friends,*

The year of 2006 was a year filled with many learning opportunities. Through many of the Court initiatives, we have met court users, stakeholders, supporters in new and unique circumstances. We ventured for the first time into the world of opinion polls and asked the community how we are doing as courts! You taught us many lessons – the value of our excellent staff, the importance of prompt, courteous, knowledgeable public service and the improved use of technology offering more services via the Internet.

It was also a year of transition, as veteran judge Wes Nykamp retired and judge Jon Hulsing joined the Circuit Court. Several docket changes were made in an effort to efficiently handle increasing caseloads. Innovative programs like Drug Treatment Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Journey Mentoring, Mediation and Adoption Day were continued and in some cases, expanded.

Improving court technology is an ongoing effort. We appreciate the excellent, professional relationship with the County's IT Department - who provide a variety of services; Webtecs, Inc. - who design and support the County website ([www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org)); and BizStream - who is working with Court staff to design a web-based, case management system.

In the midst of this activity, however, we are ever mindful of the Courts' priority... "To administer justice". That is why our Mission Statement begins with this phrase and inspires all we do for you - the public - whom we are charged to serve.

Sincerely,

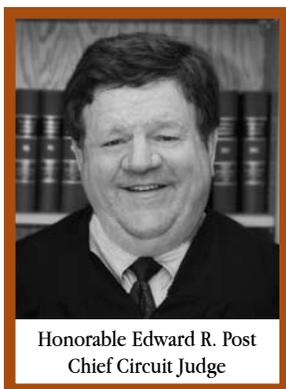
*Edward R. Post*

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

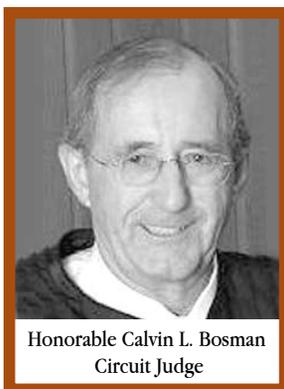
*Mark A. Feyen*

Honorable Mark A. Feyen  
Chief Judge, Probate Court

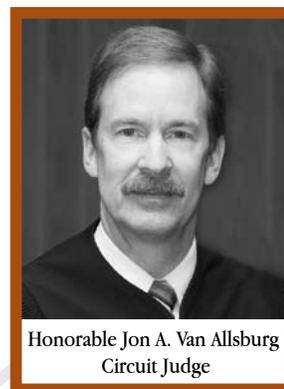
# 20th Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts' Judges



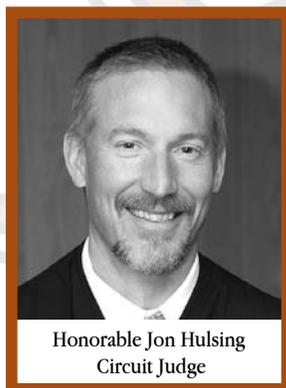
Honorable Edward R. Post  
Chief Circuit Judge



Honorable Calvin L. Bosman  
Circuit Judge



Honorable Jon A. Van Allsburg  
Circuit Judge

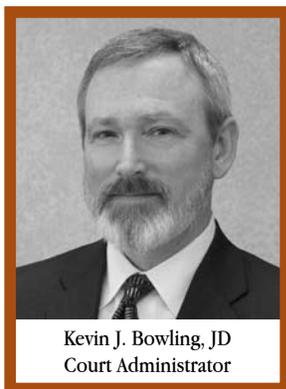


Honorable Jon Hulsing  
Circuit Judge



Honorable Mark A. Feyen  
Chief Probate Judge

The Circuit Court has four (4) elected judges who preside over the courtrooms, trials and a variety of civil and criminal hearings. The Probate Court has one (1) elected judge that handles all Probate matters and assists in the Family Division of the Circuit Court. The Chief Judges are selected by the Supreme Court for two year terms.



Kevin J. Bowling, JD  
Court Administrator

## ***20th Circuit and Probate Courts Administrator***

The Court Administrator is responsible for the traditional, administrative functions, strategic planning, caseload, personnel and financial management of the Courts and is directly accountable to the Chief Judges.

*The Courts are guided by their Strategic Plan — which includes the Mission Statement — ...to administer justice, provide restorative services and apply the law with equality, integrity and timeliness... This is the story told by the 2006 Judicial Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts' Annual Report.*

## ***Strategic Planning***

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The Strategic Plan for the 20th Judicial Circuit and the Ottawa County Probate Courts represents a comprehensive planning process by all divisions of the Courts in an effort to improve public service, increase efficiency and establish a “blueprint” for the future. Implementation of this Plan includes the projects described in this report and integrates critical evaluation points to assess progress and effectively update the Strategic Plan – reflecting current goals, objectives and priority projects.

The following are outcomes of the 2006 Strategic Planning process performed by dedicated Court staff: extended hours to better serve the public; special signage to assist the public in the navigation of the Grand Haven building; extensive court user survey to gather public input about court operations; a master technology plan to improve organization and use of limited technology resources; training sessions with the Ottawa Bar Association and an educational DVD about the courts to better educate the public; and much more.

Many years ago, author and philosopher Anatole France stated, “To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also, believe.” Our Strategic Plan contains many goals and projects to improve the Courts; however, for many of us it also represents dreams of a continually improving system of justice in which we believe.

## ***...to administer justice...***

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### ***Our Children, Our Future — Streamlined Custody Investigations***

What is more important than determining the “best interests” of our children? Our well trained custody team does this each time the Court orders an investigation of the current family situation and requests a recommendation regarding who should have custody of a child.



The Michigan Court Rules require custody hearings to be scheduled within 56 days of an order for investigation; that sets the timeline for completing all custody reports. In past years few reports were completed on time. However, our new team and their streamlined protocols have insured timely, professional investigations and reports. The Court’s expedited custody process has been fully functional since January 1, 2005 and has produced excellent results. In 2005, there were 236 new orders for custody assessment. Two hundred thirty five (235) cases were completed within 56 days; one case was slightly delayed due to a notice issue. During 2006, 258 custody assessments were completed (an 8.5% increase over 2005) and all were completed within the 56 day time limit.

## ***Court Collections Program – “ZERO BALANCE” Goal***

“Collections” for the 20th Circuit and the Ottawa County Probate Courts mean many things to different people; but for all, the goal is the same – to achieve a “zero balance” as quickly as possible.

Adult defendants who have been sentenced on criminal cases, are often ordered to pay restitution to crime victims, fines, court costs, probation oversight fees, etc. Juvenile defendants may also be required to pay restitution, fines, court costs, program fees, foster care, detention reimbursement, etc. In Probate Court, court costs and partial reimbursement of attorney fees may be court ordered in some cases.

Throughout 2006, the Courts have worked on various payment options to make collections more accessible to the public. Credit card capability has been added to allow flexibility of payments in person or by telephone. The Court section of the website, [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org), has been expanded so the public can make court payments from the comfort of their homes or offices. Currently, the Courts are working on an expanded collections module through the use of the Court, web-based case management system. When completed, this will allow greater flexibility with payment records and allow staff to be more responsive to court users as they strive toward a “zero balance”.

## ***On The Horizon... The Grand Haven Courthouse Building Project***

The Courts have been busy working with the County on the planning and design work following the decision of the County Board of Commissioners to approve an \$18 million, 120 thousand square foot courthouse building project. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber of Grand Rapids, MI are the primary architects on the projects and Owen-Ames-Kimball of Grand Rapids, MI is the construction manager.



Offices for many of the elected officials currently residing in the Grand Haven County building will relocate to the Fillmore campus; so the new Grand Haven facility will serve as a courthouse. Security will be upgraded; an assembly room will be added for jurors; courtrooms and hearing rooms will be sized to accommodate the needs of court users, staff and judges; and upgraded technology will be available to improve efficiency and public services.

Although much progress has been made, there is still much to do. Early in 2007, construction drawings will be completed; the bidding process will move forward and demolition will begin. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2007 and project completion in September, 2009.

## *...to provide restorative services...*

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### ***Drug Treatment Courts Work!***

In a recent review of Sheriff's Department statistics, more than 28% of arrests involved drugs or alcohol and many who are tested show a need for an intensive out-patient program (IOP) level of treatment. The 20th Circuit Court operates adult and juvenile drug treatment courts (DTC). Although program requirements and treatment components are different for adults and juveniles, the overall mission of DTCs is to eliminate the abuse of alcohol, other drugs and criminal activity. The foundation of the program is built on abstinence and participants are required to live substance free.

All participants are carefully screened prior to being admitted to the program and tremendous efforts are made to provide the support and treatment essential for them to successfully complete each phase of the program. DTC requires commitment, honesty, frequent drug testing, regular judicial involvement, effective treatment, payment of restitution and court costs. Participants also need a strong desire to stay sober. The program may not work for everyone, but read below... it is helping to improve lives – one day at a time. (Note: The names in these articles have been changed to protect individual privacy.)

### ***Jennifer's Story (Juvenile Drug Treatment Court)***

When Jennifer was presented to the Drug Treatment Court team, she was already at her second school - skipping and failing all of her classes. At her previous school she had been suspended at least 20 times for fighting. She had failed all her classes and was on the road to receiving no credit for the year. Jennifer's home life was not much different. She was constantly fighting with her mother and sister. The police had been called to the home on several occasions for domestic violence and late night parties.

Jennifer started using drugs and alcohol at the age of 13. Her history includes regular use of alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and prescription drugs - Vicodin, Adderall, and Concerta. She found in the beginning these made her feel better and helped her deal with her



depression, anger and suicidal thoughts. Not long after she started using drugs, the legal problems started. Jennifer ran with a tough crowd and was arrested for multiple assaults, breaking and entering, stealing and drug possession.

Jennifer has been in the Drug Treatment Court program for 6 months. She has been participating in intensive individual, group and family therapy. Jennifer was challenged to learn about drugs and alcohol and their impact on her whole life. She relapsed after 1 month in the program and with that came a rude awakening - either she got

herself together or she would end-up on a merry-go-round to nowhere. Since then, Jennifer started to evaluate how she was spending her free-time and through the Court, she started attending vocational camps at Hope College (a grant-funded program through Michigan Works!), Holland Arts Council, and started guitar lessons. In addition, she consistently attends aftercare and support meetings to work on relapse prevention skills.

When it comes to school, Jennifer has only missed 5 days. She has made up all her homework and past assignments and was recently named the top student. Her grade point average is a 3.8.

Jennifer has remained drug free for 80 days. She has learned to deal with her emotions in healthy ways. Due to her sobriety, Jennifer found she has a love of music and the arts and is looking at graphic arts as a career. The biggest change we see...is a young lady who never stops smiling!

### ***Changing Behaviors, Changing Lives (Adult Drug Treatment Court)***

Tina started drinking when she was 18 years old, “I worked as a bartender and partied through the next 18 years”. At age 49, Tina was referred to Drug Treatment Court following her 3rd OUIL conviction. Tina was highly motivated; she was employed full-time, went to treatment, attended AA meetings and found a sponsor. Her daughter, now 13, was proud of her, but Tina had tried to stop before...would this time be different?! Tina enrolled in college; she was committed to successfully completing Drug Treatment Court.

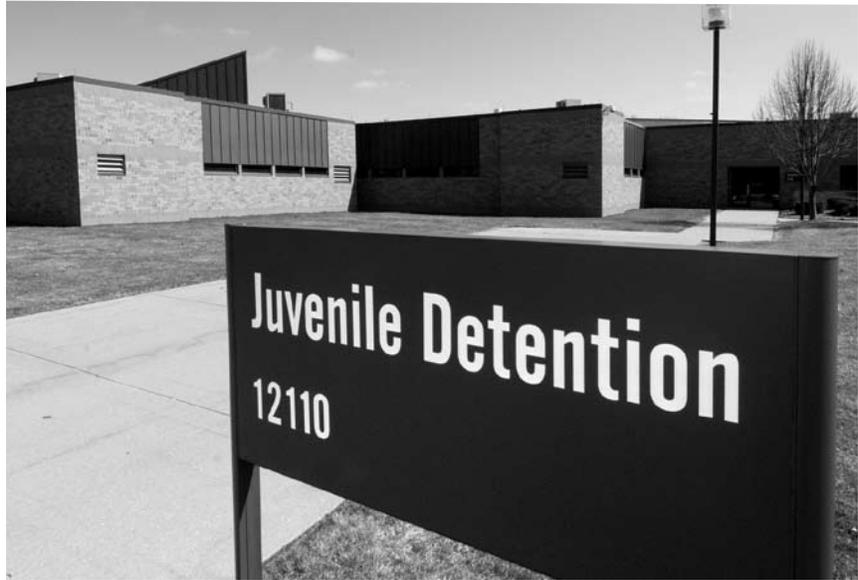


Several months into Drug Treatment Court, Tina was ill, hospitalized and close to death; her liver was failing. Tina had been “clean” almost 6 months; she had a close relationship with her daughter and was beginning to be trusted again by family and friends. Tina continued to put forth her positive attitude and underwent testing to reveal she would need a liver transplant.

Tina continues to go to AA meetings, do volunteer work and care for her daughter while participating in Drug Treatment Court. For now, college has been put on hold, “I will go back and I will finish.” Tina believes “sobriety and Drug Court saved my life”. Even now, Tina waits for “the call” to report and receive the lifesaving liver. She will celebrate her first year of sobriety in April 2007.

## *Juvenile Detention Center Awarded National Accreditation*

American Correctional Association (ACA) standards reflect practical, up-to-date policies and procedures and function as a management tool for facilities throughout the world. The accreditation process represents a professional peer review process based on national standards that have evolved since the founding of the Association in 1870. The 20th Circuit Court Juvenile Detention Center was recently awarded accreditation by the ACA.



The ACA standards address services, programs and operations essential to effective correctional management. Through accreditation, the Center maintains a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and juveniles.

The 20th Circuit Court passed the audit with a 98.4% rate. The Center was found to be in full compliance with the 30 mandatory standards and 375 of the 383 regular standards. The auditors offered accolades for staff, saying they were very passionate about their work, and the quality of programming.

## *Juvenile Detention Center Art Auction*

Innovation and learning often go hand in hand at the 20th Circuit Court. In 2006 several Detention Center residents learned some valuable life lessons in their Art class and decided it would be valuable to “give back” to the community. With help from the Court staff, residents created vibrant pieces of art and conducted a silent auction to raise money for the Harbor Humane Society. For a first effort, all involved were pleased with the good will the project created and the \$200.00 donation that resulted toward the important work of the Humane Society. The Detention Center is pleased with its long and positive relationship with the Society and thankful for the volunteers who periodically bring in dogs for the Detention residents to cuddle and pet.



## *...to apply the law with equality, integrity and timeliness*

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### *Master Technology Plan – Vision Through Technology*

A goal of the Court Strategic Plan is to review, organize and update the use of technology throughout the Circuit and Probate courts. This required the cataloging of equipment currently in use and close collaboration with the County's Information Technology (IT) department to determine the best plan for future growth.

Document imaging is one aspect of the technology plan, which has captured the attention of staff and judges in Probate Court, the Trial Division and the Friend of the Court. As paper files are reduced to electronic images and workflows are planned, the Courts hope to soon achieve paperless operations which are more efficient and timely for the daily users.

Also, several staff teams have been working on the "CourtStream" - a web-based, case management system. This system connects with the existing AS/400 and provides greater user flexibility to input, search and use case information. In addition, court staff is diligently working on new modules including Detention; Collections; Scheduling; and more. As the system matures, there is potential to not only use it in Ottawa County, but share its benefits with other jurisdictions.

As the Grand Haven Courthouse building plans further solidify in 2007, the Master Technology Plan will be adjusted as appropriate and recommends the facility be configured properly for imaging, video hearings, teleconferences, evidence presentation equipment, appropriate security equipment and more. Plans will be dictated by available resources and funding priorities; however, a strong technology infrastructure is critical to the continued ability of the Courts to efficiently function.



### *Listening to the Public... The Court User Survey*

One of several priority projects identified by the Court's Strategic Plan was a community wide Court User Survey. The purpose of the survey was to assess Court performance in key areas by gathering the opinions of three groups: those arriving at Court to transact court business (e.g., file papers, pay fines, and get information); those coming to Court for a hearing/trial; or attorneys. A total of 656 surveys were completed (323 business users; 256 litigants; 77 attorneys).

Overall satisfaction with their Court experience was scored at 86% for court business respondents; 74% of court hearing respondents; and 96% of attorneys. 63% of all court users gave the Courts and excellent or good overall performance rating.

A primary benefit of conducting the survey, was receiving a number of thoughtful narrative responses to the open-ended questions. These responses identified strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. For instance, it was repeatedly stated Court staff are respectful, professional, courteous and compassionate. Judges and referees were noted to be fair and knowledgeable about the law. Respondents also noted other strengths including court security, good court programs, conscientious caseworkers, timely scheduling and good locations for court facilities.

Even though many comments were positive, there were a number of suggestions for change. For instance, some requested an increase in the availability of walk-in hours to see caseworkers; while others suggested more convenient visitation hours or more careful monitoring of foster care homes and better sound systems in the courtrooms. Still others focused on improving payment locations, convenient parking, better restrooms, larger waiting areas, more vending machines, etc. Attorneys suggested simplifying the child support formula, using more mediation, improving custody procedures, more use of technology, etc.

At this time, various Court divisions are analyzing the survey results and determining what results may be most applicable and possible to implement.

### ***The “You and The Courts” DVD Is Here!***

What does the “man on the street” know about the courts? Now you can find out through a new video produced by the 20th Circuit and Ottawa County Probate Courts! As part of the Strategic Planning process, the Court produced a thirty-five (35) minute, educational and informational DVD entitled “You and The Courts”.

The DVD begins with David Schock, the videographer, interviewing the “man on the street” - paying each person one dollar to tell him what he/she knows about the courts. The responses were stunning yet unfortunately, predictable. In addition to the “man on the street”, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Weaver, graciously agreed to offer her practical knowledge and experience within the



courts in layman’s terms. Her educational tutorials are interwoven throughout and provide a solid, informational foundation. Several staff and judges discuss specifics of each division of the 20th Circuit and Probate Courts with a highlight on Alternative Dispute Resolution, which personalizes the video to the local Courts. Overall, the DVD conveys information through healthy, fun bits of humor combined with a solid sense of reality, information and knowledge. The Courts will strategically disseminate copies of the DVD throughout the local area.

## Caseload Trends... Circuit Court

20th Circuit Caseload Trends	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005-2006
Appeals	85	78	68	64	-6%
Criminal	1136	1359	1055	1169	10%
Civil	933	1384	468	512	9%
Divorce	794	925	1026	987	-4%
Other Domestic Relations	684	601	575	652	12%
Personal Protection Orders	695	643	666	661	-1%
Delinquency	2956	2619	2151	2197	2%
Traffic	130	141	63	48	-31%
Child Protective	121	158	115	109	-5%
Adoptions	219	205	234	193	-21%
Misc. Family	75	15	67	66	-2%
Total Non-Family Filings	2154	2821	1591	1745	9%
Total Family Filings	5674	5307	4897	4913	<1%
Grand Total Filings	7828	8128	6488	6658	3%

### Caseload Facts – Trial Division

A significant portion of the caseload flowing through the Trial Division is noted in the caseload trends as “non-family filings” (i.e., appeals, criminal and civil cases). From 2005 to 2006, the overall number of appeals declined slightly, but both criminal and civil cases increased – so there was an overall increase of 9% in this category of cases. Judges Bosman and Post handle the criminal and civil docket, while Judge Van Allsburg hears the appellate cases. Also in the Grand Haven Trial Division, most of the domestic relations cases are handled by the Referees, Judge Van Allsburg or Judge Hulsing. In addition, the Grand Haven judges handle all requests for Personal Protection Orders (juvenile and adult).

In addition to managing a growing docket, the Trial Division oversees the public law library and maintains an active collections program with defendants who owe outstanding restitution, fines, fees, etc. As a direct result of these collections efforts, the Court increased revenues by approximately \$752,000 in 2005 and by \$859,000 in 2006.

### Caseload Facts – Friend of the Court (FOC)

Overall, Domestic Relations caseload increased 2.62% from 2005 to 2006 even though the actual number of divorces filed in Ottawa County declined. The most dramatic increases were in support actions (19.63%) and paternity actions (13.04%). The FOC case count in 2006 was 11,872 with a Title IV –D percentage of 98.08%,

Child support collections amounted to \$33,942,268; including local receipts of \$1,102,724.

Bench warrants were issued in 2,057 cases resulting in support collections of \$39,629 upon arrest by the FOC warrant officer.

Over 8,000 court hearings were initiated by FOC staff to prompt child support payments and enforcement of court orders. 258 Child Custody assessments were conducted and judges were provided with necessary reports/testimony to make difficult custody decisions. Many contentious, family disputes have also been successfully resolved through the FOC’s effective use of Mediation Services.

## ***Caseload Facts – Juvenile Services Division***

Overall, the intake of new petitions in 2006 demonstrate a 2% increase in juvenile delinquency. In 2006 there were 1,302 juveniles petitioned to Court (66% male, 34% female). This represents a 7% decrease in the number of children from 2005 to 2006, but with a 2% increase in petitions it shows some juveniles are involved in more delinquent behavior. Thankfully there has been a marked decrease of certain types of offenses during the same time period, including: larceny, weapons offenses, assault, malicious destruction of property, criminal sexual conduct and some miscellaneous charges. The offenses on the rise include: drugs and alcohol, breaking and entering, probation violations, traffic offenses and arson.

For certain youth who need a secure detention placement, the Juvenile Detention Center offers a nationally ACA accredited alternative. In 2006, the Center admitted 636 youth and provided 9,802 secure detention “child care days”. The average length of stay in detention was 15.4 days. The age of admissions ranged from 10 to 17, but most were 14-16 years old. Within the total 2006 population, 69% were male and 31% were female. During 2006 detention bed space was also made available to neighboring counties when the need arose. This effort generated \$392,384 in revenue for the County.

When youth are not in detention, but on probation or otherwise court ordered to receive treatment, there are numerous available programs designed to assist both the youth and the families. Programs include community service, anger management, habitual offender group, sex offender program, intensive supervision, court appointed special advocate, a ropes course and many more.

## ***Caseload Trends... Probate Court***

<b>Ottawa County Probate Court Caseload Trends</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>
Estates, Trusts	369	371	408	332	-23%
Civil, Other	6	15	10	19	47%
Guardianships	228	215	208	180	15%
Conservators	109	75	75	65	-15%
Admissions/Mental Commitments	266	282	302	270	-12%
Grand Total Filings	978	743	1003	866	-16%

## ***Caseload Facts – Probate Court***

After experiencing a substantial increase in caseload from 2004 to 2005 (26%), the Ottawa County Probate Court realized a large, but less dramatic decrease of 16% in its caseload from 2005 to 2006. The largest area of decline was in the opening of new estate files (-23%). Other case areas like civil (+47%) and guardianships (+15%) actually increased throughout 2006, but the overall impact on filings was a decline in numbers. As some filing numbers declined, however, both the Judge and staff noticed a rise in workload surrounding certain mental commitment cases. In this category, there was a 12% overall reduction in caseload from 2005 to 2006, but simultaneously there seem to be an increase in the level of challenge in processing many of the cases. Special circumstances may often require additional steps or longer time with parties to accomplish necessary goals.

To whatever extent the decline in caseload may have allowed the one Probate Judge to assist elsewhere, the balance was helpful this year because Judge Feyen also serves as the Drug Treatment Court judge for both adults and juveniles. These dockets require preparation as well as courtroom time, in addition to the Judge's probate duties and his work as Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Circuit Court. Regarding staff impact, this caseload trend may have been helpful in 2006 as the staff began implementing a new imaging system for all court records. Although imaging will eventually be a timesaver and will introduce efficiencies to the Courts, at the outset it is a labor intensive project to implement.

# Financial Information

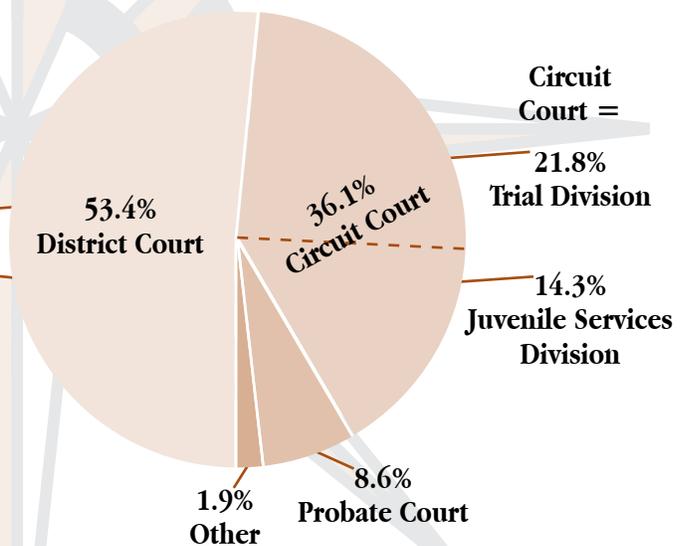
As an interdependent branch of government, the Courts raise revenue but do not operate like a for-profit business. Other than case filing fees established by the state legislature, the public is not charged for many court services. Instead, the Courts rely on the Michigan Supreme Court to cover judicial salaries and partially reimburse the County for Court specific operating expenses through the Court Equity Fund. Other Court expenses are paid in part, by federal Title IV-E funds (for child support collection), the state Child Care Fund (Juvenile Services Division programming) or 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.

In FY 2006, the County general fund expenditure budget as adopted was \$63,393,810; the judicial portion was \$8,783,856 (13.9%). Of the 13.9% expenditure, the Circuit Court Trial Division was reported allocated as 21.8%; Juvenile Services was allotted 14.3%; and Probate Court received 8.6%. The remaining 53.4% went to District Court, with a small 1.9% allocation to “other”.

**Ottawa County 2006 General Fund Budget**  
\$63,393,810

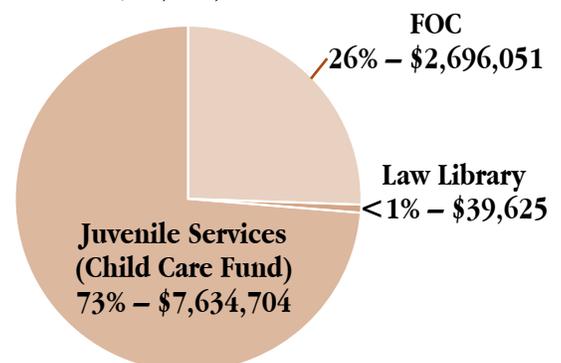


**2006 Judicial General Fund Budget**  
\$8,783,856



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 2006, the 20th Circuit received various allocations amounting to \$10,370,380. These allocations were divided as follows: FOC received a revenue operating transfer of \$2,696,051; the law library received funding in the amount of \$39,625; and the Juvenile Services Division received funding for child care programs of \$7,634,704.

**Ottawa Count 2006 Special Revenue Funds Transferred to Circuit Court**  
\$10,370,380



## 2006 Referee Activity

### Attorney Referees

The Circuit Court Attorney Referees are appointed positions and supervised by the Court Administrator. Each Referee is an independent hearing officer who is cross-trained to conduct hearings in the Juvenile Services Division and the Trial Division of the Court. Based on the assigned docket, a Referee may hear testimony and recommend orders in cases involving juvenile delinquency, abuse/neglect, child support, parenting time, paternity and more.

### Juvenile Services Division (Fillmore Complex)

DELINQUENCY PROCEEDINGS	
Preliminary Inquiries	562
Preliminary Hearings*	188
Pre-Trial Conferences	544
Pleas of Admission/No Contest Hearings	134
Original Disposition Hearings	95
Dispositional Review Hearings	66
Supplemental Dispositional Hearings	446
Consents/Holds/Other	205
Phase I Waiver Hearings	3
(*Includes 32 Saturday Prelims)	

CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS	
Preliminary Inquiries	9
Preliminary Hearings	78
Release/Consent/Emancipation/Emergency Removal/Other	99
Pleas of Admission/No Contest Hearings	10
2006 Fillmore Complex Total Hearings	2439

### Trial Division (Grand Haven)

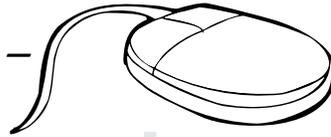
DOMESTIC/CIVIL PROCEEDINGS	
Domestic Relations Hearings	1205
FOC Petitions	151
Pro Con Hearings	456
Paternity Arraignments	676
Review/Modification Objections	76
Pre-Trial Conferences	21
2006 Grand Haven Total Hearings	2585

# Quick Guide to the Courts...

## For Directions to the Courts:

Log onto the County's web site –

[www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org)

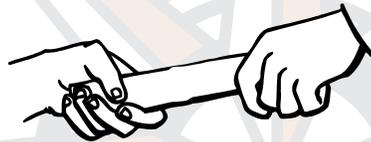


## For General Information:

Call any office listed on this page

## For Payment Convenience:

- Make payments online at [www.miottawa.org](http://www.miottawa.org)
- Call any office to pay by credit card
- Mail payments
- Pay in person



### 20th Circuit Court

414 Washington Ave., Room 303  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
Phone: 616.846.8320  
Fax: 616.846.8179

### Friend of the Court

414 Washington Ave.,  
PO Box 566  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
Phone: 616.846.8210  
Fax: 616.846.8128

### Holland Satellite Office

12185 James St. Suite 150  
Holland, MI 49424

### Family Division/Juvenile Services

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

### Probate Court

12120 Filmore Street  
West Olive, MI 49460  
Phone: 616.786.4110  
Fax: 616.786.4124

## Staff Facts

### 20th Circuit Court

4 Circuit Court Judges  
106 Full Time Staff  
13 Part Time Staff  
38 Temporary Staff  
4 Ottawa County Sheriff Deputies  
(Assigned to the Circuit Court)

**165 Total**

### Ottawa County Probate Court

1 Judge  
5 Full Time Staff  
1 Temporary Staff

**7 Total**