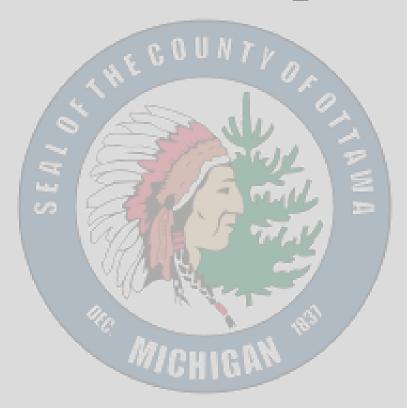
# 2014 Annual Report



# 58th District Court

http://miottawa.org/Courts/58thDistrict

Honorable Bradley S. Knoll, Chief Judge

Honorable Kenneth D. Post

Honorable Susan A. Jonas

Honorable Craig E. Bunce

# A Note from the Chief Judge

The 58<sup>th</sup> District Court continued to meet high expectations in 2014. Those expectations at the state and local level involve more than prompt processing of cases and providing just resolutions in accordance with the law. Additional areas of accountability for the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court involve proper financial procedures, timely and accurate reporting of case dispositions and consistent efforts to collect assessments for fines, costs and restitution. Additionally, the court works closely with the county to operate within a reasonable budget including the careful review and implementation of suggested technology updates and replacement of obsolescent equipment. All of these responsibilities must be undertaken within the context of a dedication to customer service and providing a healthy and satisfactory working environment for staff. As appears from the information that follows, the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court successfully met these many challenges.

A ten year audit of court operations conducted by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) in 2014 showed that the court's financial operations adhere to appropriate practices and offered only minor suggestions for improvement. Cases were disposed of and reported in a timely basis, often exceeding the state recommended guidelines as confirmed by SCAO during their annual performance measure visit with the Court in the fall of 2014.

The Court continues to operate efficiently and produce revenue for state and local governmental units. Challenges to court collection processes came in June from the Michigan Supreme Court and from heightened media interest in collecting assessments from persons with limited financial means. The Court was able to work with local government officials to produce a legislative response to assure continued assessment of court costs and to closely monitor the financial circumstances of people owing outstanding court assessments.

The 58<sup>th</sup> District Court also implemented two additional treatment courts in 2014; the Sobriety Treatment Program in Grand Haven and the Mental Health Treatment Court in Holland. Efforts were also made to refer eligible participants to the regional Veteran's Treatment Court operating in Allegan County. The growing body of evaluations show that properly operated treatment courts significantly reduce the risks of recidivism by successful participants.

Perhaps the most satisfying reflection of the court's operation comes from a statewide survey of court users that was conducted in 2014. The results showed an overwhelming level of satisfaction with court services by litigants, attorneys, witnesses and other users.

Obviously the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court will continue to face challenges moving forward. I am confident the Court will meet those challenges given the efforts of our dedicated and knowledgeable staff when coupled with the assistance and support of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners and executive departments.

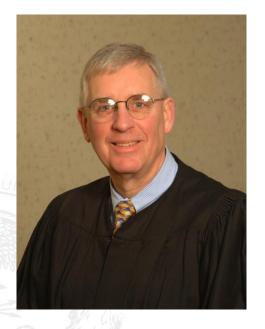
Respectfully submitted,

Bradley S. Knoll

Chief Judge for the 58th District Court

# The Judges of the 58th District Court





Honorable Bradley S. Knoll, Chief Judge

Honorable Kenneth D. Post



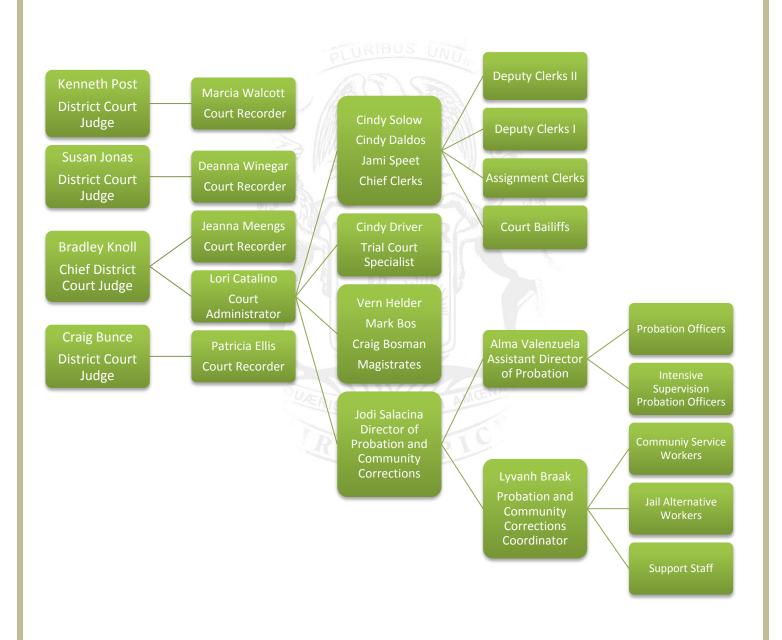
**Honorable Susan A. Jonas** 



**Honorable Craig E. Bunce** 

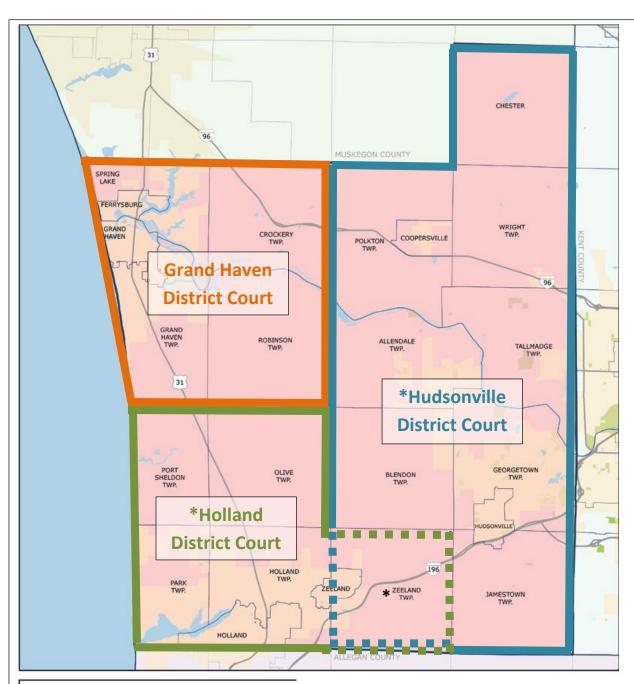
# Our Staff

# 58th District Court Organizational Chart



The three locations of the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court operate under a Local Administrative Order (LAO) approved by SCAO. Pursuant to that LAO, cases arising in Ottawa County are filed either in Grand Haven, Holland or Hudsonville based on the city, village or township where the incident occurred or cause of action arose.

## District Court Venues



# OTTAWA COUNTY

\*Holland District Court's venue includes the portion of Holland City located in Allegan County as well. Hudsonville District Court's venue includes criminal cases from Zeeland Township while Holland District Court's venue includes civil cases and tickets from Zeeland Township.

# 58th District Court

#### **OUR VISION**

Be sensitive and responsive to the needs of a diverse community.

Develop and maintain the highest level of services to the public and legal community to effectively and efficiently use public resources.

Utilize technology that will assist court personnel to increase citizen access and convenience to the court.

Promote a safe community, identify areas where intervention is necessary, network with other departments and agencies to persuade behavior change.

Recruit and maintain the highest quality staff, provide training, resources and support to meet the needs of internal and external customers.

Insure that court procedures and structures best facilitate the expedient and economical resolution of matters before the court.

Share important management information with staff through quality communication.

Refine procedures and facilities that provide a secure environment for public and staff.

Promote innovative ways of resolving problematic issues facing the courts service to the public.

Continue to promote and investigate therapeutic and problem solving techniques for defendants and litigants.



#### **Our Mission**

The mission of the 58th

District Court is to

interpret and apply the

law with fairness,

equality and integrity

and promote public

accountability for

improved quality of life

in Ottawa County.

# [OUR COURT]

The 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Judges and staff are committed to serving the Ottawa community with pride and sincerity. The Court is equally committed to continuous improvement through organizational and process review and implementation of innovative ideas. This mission is accomplished through regularly scheduled Judges meetings, staff meetings and Court Management Team meetings. Our Court Management Team is comprised of the Court Administrator, Trial Court Specialist, Chief Clerks, Director of Probation/Community Corrections, Assistant Director of Probation and the Court Services Coordinator. This team's purpose is to review personnel and budget issues, ensure proper case file

In 2014, our Court staff opened and processed over 52,000 cases entered over 49,000 dispositions and receipted for over 6.8 million dollars. management standards are observed, research and develop court policies and procedures, track and implement legislative and administrative mandates and participate in the necessary strategic planning efforts to move the Court forward. The Court also has a presence on various Justice related committees all aimed at improving processes, improving information and knowledge sharing and developing lasting professional relationships.

Each of our three court locations is staffed by a Chief Clerk, Court Recorders and staff assigned to one of four divisions: Criminal, Traffic, Civil and Probation. Court staff is charged with immense task each day of processing documents, receipting for and disbursing payments, scheduling hearings and essentially tracking every case filed in the Court from beginning to end. In 2014, our Court staff opened

and processed over 52,000 cases, entered over 49,000 dispositions and receipted for over 6.8 million dollars. The Court also employs one full time attorney magistrate and two part time magistrates. The magistrates are appointed by the Chief Judge and are authorized under statute to conduct informal hearings on traffic tickets, issue search and arrest warrants, conduct arraignments, set bonds, accept misdemeanor pleas that have a maximum penalty of 93 days, perform weddings and conduct small claims hearings. Along with all four Judges, the magistrates also serve nights and weekends on a rotating basis to review and sign after hour warrants.

In 2014, the Magistrates performed 452 marriages.

As a whole, over 50,000 citizens come through our courthouse doors or are served in some way by our Court staff. The Court would like to express gratitude and appreciation to all of the District Court staff for their dedication and hard work. Without them, the Court would not be able to provide the quality service and exceptional services to our community. Our Judges and staff are proud to serve the citizens of Ottawa County and consistently receive positive feedback about our service and responsiveness.

# **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**



# Holland Sobriety Treatment Program

In May of 2014, the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Treatment Program in Holland celebrated 10 years of operation. The first review session was held on May 4, 2004.



The Sobriety Court has had numerous successes

during the program's ten years of operation. These successes include supporting and helping participants receive treatment to maintain a drug and alcohol free life, seeing hundreds of participants successfully complete the program and reduction in recidivism rates. The program was also designated as a National Academy Court for three years by the National Center for DWI Courts, in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## **Grand Haven Sobriety Treatment Program**

In 2014, Judge Bunce started a Sobriety Treatment Program in Grand Haven. Judge Bunce previously served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Holland where he was an integral part of the Holland District Court's Sobriety Treatment Program. Upon becoming the Grand Haven District Court Judge in 2013, Judge Bunce began planning to bring a treatment program to Grand Haven to serve the number of northern Ottawa County residents who were not able to travel to the Holland Program. Joe Legatz serves as the criminal defense attorney, John Scheuerle serves as Ottawa County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Alma Valenzuela serves as the program director of the Grand Haven Program.



To date, there are 26 participants who have completed 384 hours of community service. The Grand Haven Program also graduated their first successful participant in late 2014.





The MHTC facilitates participant engagement in individualized treatment to culminate in positive legal outcomes while promoting public safety, wellness and recovery through collaboration in a highly structured specialty court setting.

# **Community**

#### 58<sup>Th</sup> District Court Mental Health Treatment Court

On July 1, 2014, the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court established a Mental Health Treatment Court (MHTC) with SCAO grant funds. The goal of this treatment court is to balance criminal justice goals, due process rights of the offender and mental health treatment and services. This balance is achieved through the use of court

and community resources

to connect participants with the appropriate and individualized treatment options while maintaining accountability for the crime committed and improving the overall community and public safety.

One of the primary reasons for creating the MHTC was to offer mentally ill offenders more effective alternatives than they currently face in the criminal justice system such as having to remain in jail, potentially unable to post even minimal bail while their mental health issues are not being addressed. Participants who are accepted into the MHTC



are CMH consumers who have a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance or a developmental disability which significantly impacts their ability to function independently, are over age 17 and are charged with a non-violent offense.

Once admitted into the program, participants are connected to comprehensive and individualized treatment support and services that are evidenced based. Participant progress is closely monitored through active and

engaged case management in order to maximize the benefits of being involved in the program.

In terms of operation, the MHTC has observed successes in the following categories:

- 80% program capacity in the first 6 months of operation (21 participants with a capacity of 25)
- 100% of participants were linked to mental health services within 21 days of screening
- 95% of participants have established stable living arrangements since the program's inception, averaging 19 out of 20 active participants in the program
- 90% of participants are complaint with mental health treatment services

"I see the primary role of the mental health court as providing a better connection between the criminal justice system and mental health treatment providers. A mental health court participant has access to mental health therapy and other life skills resources while maintaining his or her accountability to the court's compliance requirements. The benefits of a successful mental health court include not only a healthier law abiding individual but also a reduced strain on probation, jail and law enforcement resources," - Judge Knoll

Ottawa County CMH Clinician Kelly Boeve acts as the Mental Health Court Coordinator, Brian Pudney serves as the Peer Support Specialist, Lori Catalino serves as

program director, Kevin Rahn serves as the probation officer, Jennifer Kuiper serves as the Prosecutor and Jane Patterson serves as defense counsel.



The All RISE! Committee formed in 2014 and is comprised of District Court management and staff for the purpose of improving Court operations and creating a unified vision for the future. The Committee works to help bring change and innovation to ensure sustained operational

excellence in our Court by assisting the Judges and Court Management Team in overseeing various initiatives aimed at improving personnel resources, technology and community outreach in the Court.

Take Responsibility for getting involved

B: Innovative by being creative and proactive

Excel in internal and external Service

Strive for operational Excellence

#### Reinstating driver's licenses in real time

In 2014, the District court began submitting abstracts to the Michigan Secretary of State's Office electronically online. This capability allows court staff to reinstate citizens' driver's licenses in real time with the Secretary of State's Office after their court obligations are paid in full.

# [HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR]

#### **Video Conferencing in all Courtrooms**

All judicial courtrooms in the District Court now have state of the art video conferencing systems. These systems were provided by SCAO at no charge to the Court and allow for testimony to be taken remotely resulting in significant taxpayer savings.

#### **Successful Financial Audit**

All three court locations underwent financial audits by the State Court Administrative Office in 2014. The auditors thoroughly examined all of the Court's revenue and trust accounts, internal control policies and procedures and cashiering practices. All three Courts' received excellent ratings in the final audit reports due to the hard work, dedication and level of excellence of our staff and Chief Clerks.

#### **Significant Legislative Changes Impacting District Court**

Assessment of Court Costs - In September 2014, the Legislature amended MCL 769.1k to specifically allow trial courts to assess any cost reasonably related to the actual costs incurred by the court upon criminal convictions. This legislative clarification came upon the heels of a Michigan Supreme Court opinion issued in June 2014 prohibiting trial courts from assessing a reasonable portion of the court's operating expenses pursuant to MCL 769.1k that was previously authorized by case law. After the legislative change, the Court worked closely with SCAO to determine an appropriate cost per case given the new statutory language and will continue to work with SCAO since there is a 3 year sunset provision in the statute.



The Michigan Secretary of State awarded a Certificate of Excellence to both the Hudsonville and Holland District Courts for 99% abstract timeliness in 2014. Grand Haven District Court earned an impressive 98% for abstract timeliness as well. Pursuant to Michigan Law, certain motor vehicle offenses and other convictions must be timely reported and abstracted to the Secretary of State.

Sunset of Driver's Responsibility Fees - The Legislature amended PA 250 in 2014 to gradually phase out driver responsibility fees beginning in the fall of 2015. The Legislature also passed legislation authorizing community service in lieu of paying responsibility fees for qualifying assessments. These changes will help reduce the large financial burdens and significant confusion many citizens face when trying to reinstate their license after paying their court ordered assessments.

**Felony Pleas in District Court** - The Legislature also enacted a series of laws allowing District Court Judges to accept pleas on felony cases. In late 2014, Ottawa Circuit and District Judges and court staff worked closely with the Prosecutor's Office, MDOC, police agencies and the defense bar to put proper policies and procedures in place to effectuate the necessary changes. This change has been beneficial in streamlining cases between the courts, especially with felony FOC failure pay child support cases in Grand Haven.



# Public Satisfaction Survey Results

As part of the Michigan Supreme Court "Courts working smarter for a better Michigan" initiative, each year the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court conducts a

public satisfaction survey. The public satisfaction survey allows court users to rate the court's accessibility, treatment of the public in terms of fairness, equality, and respect and whether the court's decision-making process seemed fair. By listening to those who use our courts, we can utilize the important feedback to improve public trust and

confidence in the courts.

# Who responded to our survey?

| our surve     | · <b>y</b> : |
|---------------|--------------|
| Party         | 61%          |
| Family/Friend | 15%          |
| Attorney      | 12%          |
| Witness/Other | 12%          |

# Reasons for visiting our courthouses:

| Criminal/Probation           | 32% |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Civil Case                   | 21% |
| Traffic/Ticket               | 20% |
| Other                        | 10% |
| Drug/Sobriety Court          | 9%  |
| Get Information/File/Payment | 8%  |

I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today.

|           | -   |
|-----------|-----|
| Agreed    | 83% |
| Neutral   | 12% |
| Disagreed | 5%  |

II was treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.

| arra respect by court stajj. |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Agreed                       | 94% |
| Neutral                      | 3%  |
| Disagreed                    | 3%  |

The way the case was handled was fair.

|           | <u> </u> |
|-----------|----------|
| Agreed    | 72%      |
| Neutral   | 19%      |
| Disagreed | 9%       |

The outcome in my case was favorable to me.

| was javorable to like | -• |
|-----------------------|----|
| Agreed 59%            | ó  |
| Neutral 22%           | ó  |
| Disagreed 19%         | ó  |

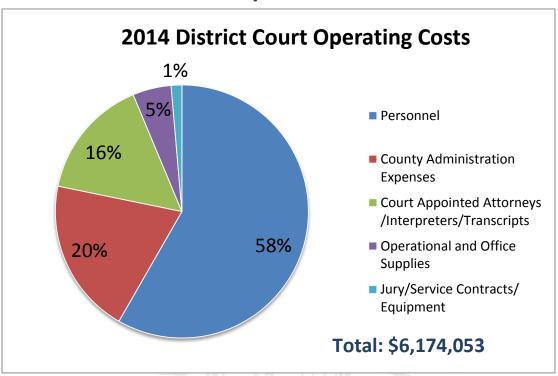
The judge/magistrate treated everyone with courtesy and respect.

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Agreed                                | 84% |
| Neutral                               | 9%  |
| Disagreed                             | 7%  |

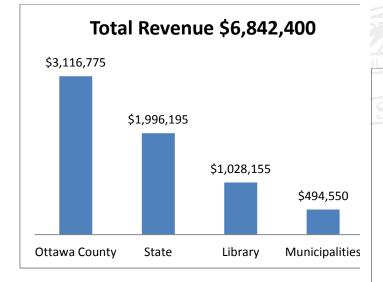
As I left the court, I understood what happened in my case.

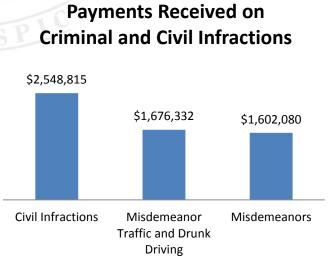
| Title Cital period III III y calcul |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Agreed                              | 82% |
| Neutral                             | 9%  |
| Disagreed                           | 9%  |
|                                     |     |

**Expenses** 



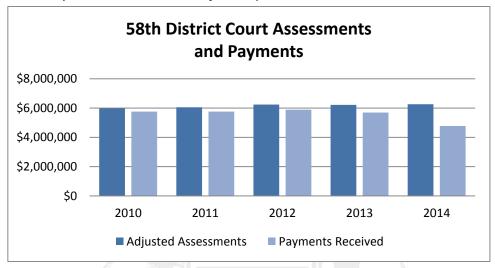
## Revenue





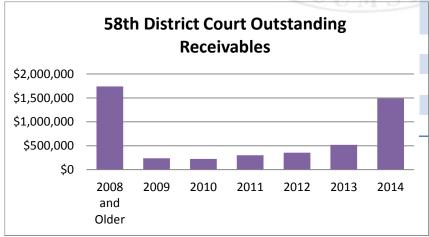
#### Assessments and Collections

The 58th District Court takes pride in our efforts to collect assessed fines, costs and restitution and continues to lead District Courts in the state in high collection rates. Diligently enforcing the financial sanctions imposed by the Court is vital to maintaining the Court's integrity and credibility by insuring appropriate compliance with the Court's orders. Moreover, successful collection efforts increase County revenue while also providing restorative justice to victims and increasing citizens' sense of security and public trust in County services and the entire judicial process.



The following tables display the percentage of sanctions collected by the Court as of December 31, 2014, the year the sanctions were imposed and amounts of outstanding receivables. The collection rate for sanctions imposed in 2014 is lower than sanctions imposed in previous years because the debt assessed by the Court in late 2014 will be adjusted and collected within the first few months of 2014. The Court anticipates the 2014 collection rate by mid-2015 will be comparable to previous years' rates.

#### Collection Rates



| Sanctions | Sanctions Collected     |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Assessed  | as of December 31, 2014 |
| 2010      | 96.9%                   |
| 2011      | 95.9%                   |
| 2012      | 95.4%                   |
| 2013      | 93%                     |
| 2014      | 76%                     |
|           |                         |

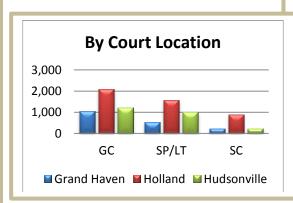
#### CIVIL CASES IN THE 58<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT

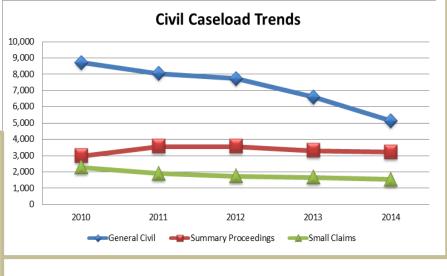
The district court's general civil jurisdiction covers disputes where money judgments are sought in an amount not exceeding \$25,000 for conduct alleged to be tortious, in breach of contract or otherwise in violation of the law. Parties may also file claim and delivery actions in the district court seeking to recover personal property.

The district court's jurisdiction includes cases brought under the Summary Proceedings Act. These special proceedings provide for the prompt resolution of disputes between landlords and tenants relating to the payment of rent or other terms of the rental agreement. Parties seeking the repossession of real property following mortgage foreclosure or forfeiture of land contracts will also normally employ the expedited procedures set forth in the summary proceedings statutes. The district court exercises both legal and equitable powers in adjudicating and enforcing the rights of parties to these actions.

Small claims proceedings also fall within the district court's exclusive jurisdiction. In civil actions where money judgments are sought for no more than \$5,000 (\$5,500 beginning January 1, 2015), the parties may agree to the more informal procedures under the Small Claims Act. Small claims trials made be held before the judge or magistrate. There is no right to a trial by jury, representation by an attorney or appeal of a judgment entered by the judge. A party sued in small claims court may elect to remove the case to the general civil docket to preserve those rights. A trial in small claims court is a more informal procedure with relaxed rules of pleading and evidence. The goal of the judge or magistrate is to arrive at a prompt decision that provides "substantial justice" for the litigants.

In many civil cases brought in the district court, one or more parties are not represented by an attorney. The district court staff is well trained to provide courteous procedural assistance to these unrepresented litigants without giving legal advice. Additionally, small claims and summary proceedings actions require a higher degree of staff time in preparing and processing, summons, arranging for service of process and preparation of judgments than in cases brought in the regular civil docket where more of the responsibilities fall on the parties or their attorneys.





58<sup>th</sup> District Court 2014 Annual Report 13 | P a g e

#### Criminal Cases in the District Court

#### **Search and Arrest Warrants:**

All criminal cases originate in the district court in Michigan. Moreover, the district court is often involved early in the criminal investigation process since all search warrants are issued by district court magistrates or judges. Search warrants are commonly issued after business hours to obtain a blood sample from a person suspected of operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs who have refused to voluntarily submit to a field test. Thus, assigned judges and magistrates are available on a 24/7 basis, 365 days a year to receive and rule on search warrant requests. All judges and magistrates are equipped to review and issue search warrants electronically from various locations in the county. This procedure avoids the delay and inconvenience of requiring law enforcement personnel to travel to the judge's or magistrate's home to obtain an afterhours warrant. Search warrants are also issued to assist law enforcement in the investigation of drug, sex and other offenses by authorizing the search of homes, vehicles, computers and mobile electronic devices.

Arrest warrants are issued by district court judges and magistrates if authorized by the prosecuting official and upon sworn testimony establishing probable cause. Such warrants may be issued prior to an arrest or following a warrantless arrest by police where the prosecution authorizes the complaint. When issuing an arrest warrant, the judge or magistrate may allow a defendant to post bond and be released prior to his or her first court date. Alternatively, the judge may require that no release take place prior to the initial court appearance.

#### Arraignment:

Following a warrantless arrest, an arrest warrant must be issued by the district court after being sworn to by law enforcement and authorized by the prosecutor. The defendant will then be arraigned before a district court judge or magistrate or bond will be set within 24 hours of the arrest. If a warrant is authorized prior to arrest, arraignment is required in the district court following the defendant being taken into custody. In most misdemeanor cases, a criminal charge can also be initiated by law enforcement without an arrest warrant by issuance of a citation to the defendant with instructions to appear in court on the next regularly scheduled arraignment day. In any of these situations, defendants appear in the district court in person or by video for purposes of arraignment where they are notified of the nature of the charges and possible penalty along with their constitutional trial rights. The defendant is also advised of the right to counsel including, where appropriate, the right to a court appointed attorney.

The court will also consider whether a defendant qualifies for pre-trial release and what type of bond or bond conditions may apply. In felony or domestic violence misdemeanor cases, the courts' probation department completes a bond screen for the judges' review before arraignment. The bond screen process provides the court with a detailed history of the defendant including past criminal behavior, employment and family information, mental health and substance abuse history. The judge uses this information to balance the general right of an incarcerated defendant to be free on bail with the risk of flight or criminal activity if released on bail.

#### Misdemeanor Cases:

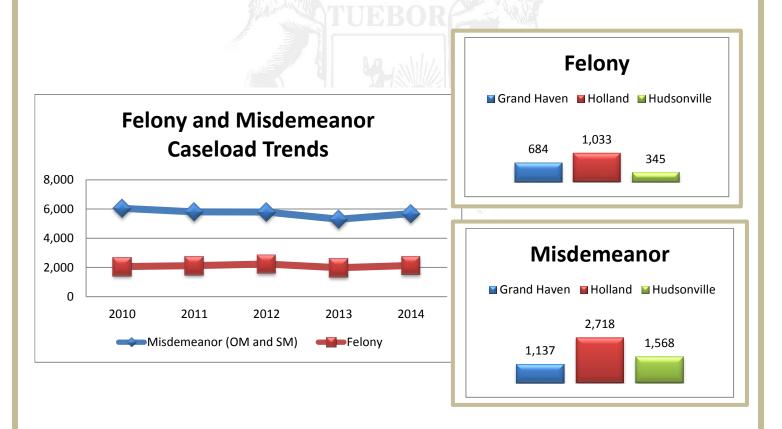
Misdemeanor cases will then proceed to trial or sentencing in the district court following entry of a plea by the defendant. Defendants convicted of misdemeanor charges following trial or guilty plea may be sentenced

immediately. However, in many cases constitutionally guaranteed victims' rights will require an adjournment so that the victim will have an opportunity to appear and make a statement at sentence. The court must order restitution to a victim as part of its sentence. Sentencing options include the imposition of jail, fines, court costs, restitution, substance abuse or mental health counseling, community service, vehicle immobilization, driver's license suspension, deferred sentencing and/or participation in a treatment court.

#### **Felony Cases:**

The ultimate disposition of any offense that carries a minimum incarceration of more than one year occurs in the circuit court. Prior to such a case being transferred or "bound over" to the circuit court, however, arraignment and preliminary examination are scheduled in the district court. At a preliminary examination the prosecutor is required to submit evidence that convinces a district court judge that "probable cause" exists to believe the defendant has committed a felony before the case will be sent to the circuit court for trial. Changes enacted by the Michigan Legislature in 2014 added a requirement of a "probable cause conference" prior to the preliminary examination and also broadened the authority of a district court judge to accept felony pleas of guilty before a case is sent to circuit court for sentencing. Both of these procedures were already in place in the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court but are now mandated on a state basis.

In 2014, the Court experienced a slight increase in the number of misdemeanor and felony cases. The number of criminal cases filed in each of the Court's three locations is also separately outlined below.

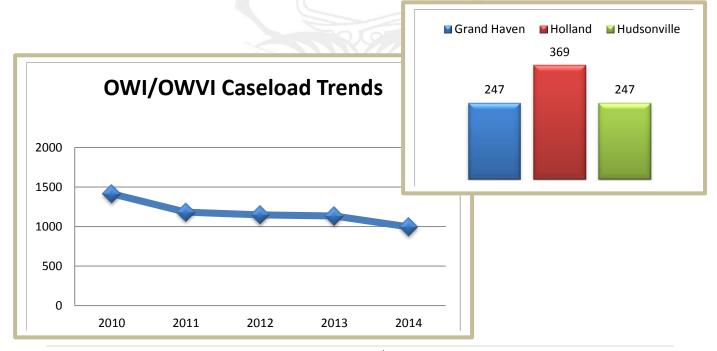


# Operating While Intoxicated

Operating while intoxicated offenses involve a broad range of offenses brought under state statutes or municipal ordinances. Traditional charges of "drunk driving" involve allegations that a person has operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while visibly impaired by alcohol. Operating while intoxicated offenses now include charges of operating with an unlawful blood alcohol (.08%), operating with a high blood alcohol level (.17%) or a minor operating with an unlawful blood alcohol level (.02-.07%). The statutes also prohibit operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance or operation of a motor vehicle with any level of an illegal controlled substance in a person's body. Operating while intoxicated charges may involve aggravating circumstances which include operating with a minor passenger, offenses charged as a second or third offense, or operating while intoxicated causing death or serious injury. Some of these aggravating circumstances may elevate the offense from a misdemeanor to a felony level offense.

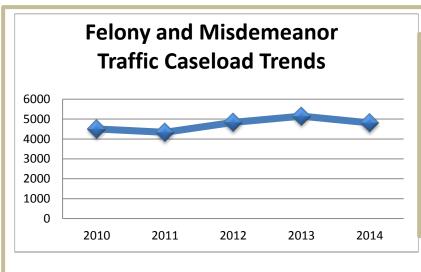
Despite the expansion of offenses chargeable as operating while intoxicated, the court has seen a general downward trend in charged offenses.

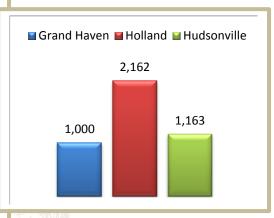
Given the danger to the community posed by persons who operate while intoxicated, the court and probation department diligently monitor these people through various levels of intervention including the Sobriety Treatment Court, Intensive Supervised Probation and use of alcohol detection technology. This technology includes the use a automobile interlock devices, 24 hour alcohol monitoring devices which are used to monitor abstinence along with the traditional techniques involving random home checks and mandatory drug and alcohol testing at the court. The court also oversees referral to substance abuse therapy including 12 step programs. Violations of court mandated abstinence or therapy will result in probation violation complaints with the violator facing jail time and potential revocation of probation.



# Criminal Traffic Docket

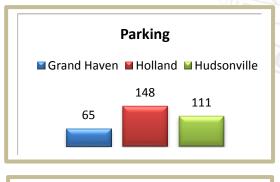
Criminal traffic offenses include such offenses as reckless driving, open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, driving while your license is suspended, no insurance, expired plates and failing to stop after involvement in a motor vehicle accident. In 2014, the Court noticed a slight decrease in these types of offenses from 5,150 in 2013 to 4,811 in 2014.

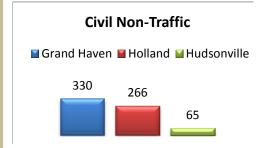


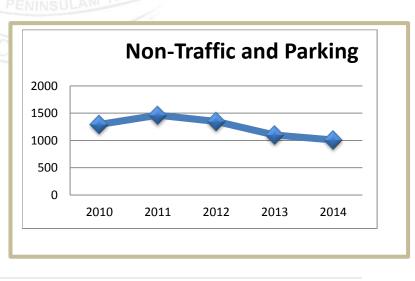


#### NON TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS

District Court also processes and receipts for payments on many parking violations and other non-traffic offenses. Some of the most common non-traffic offenses include barking dog, dog at large, property code violations, noise/nuisance violations, watercraft offenses and state park offenses.



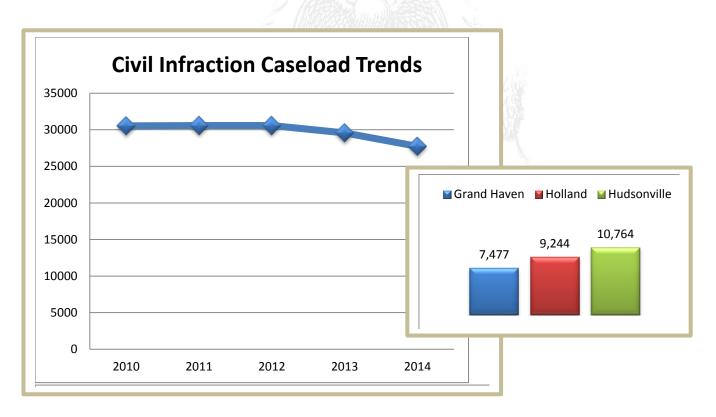




58<sup>th</sup> District Court 2014 Annual Report 17 | P a g e

# Civil Infraction Violations

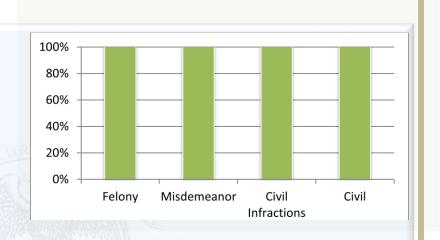
Most violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code are civil infractions which generally do not carry a jail penalty and the most common civil infraction being a speeding ticket. A civil infraction can be charged under state statute or under a local ordinance by a municipality. A person charged with a civil infraction can admit responsibility for the infraction, pay their fine online or mail their fine to the District Court. A person may request an informal or a formal hearing if they deny responsibility for the infraction. At an informal hearing the evidence is presented to a magistrate without a prosecuting attorney present. At a formal hearing the evidence is presented by a prosecuting attorney to a district court judge. The defendant may be represented by an attorney to present the defendant's case. A defendant may appeal their case to a formal hearing if they are found responsible at an informal hearing. The number of civil infractions in Ottawa County have been steadily consistent since 2010 but showed a slight decrease in 2014.



# Case Clearance Rates and Case Age

#### **Clearance Rates**

Clearance rates compare the number of dispositions and the number of cases filed. Clearance rates naturally fluctuate above and below 100% and represent a key performance measure to gauge whether the Court is keeping up with its caseload. In 2014, the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court continued leading District Courts in the state for high clearance rates across all case types.



# General Civil Case Age - Courtwide Adjudicated within 273 days from filing (Guideline is 90%) Adjudicated within 455 days from filing (Guideline is 98%) 100% 100% 98% 96% 96% 96% 96% 96%

2012

2013

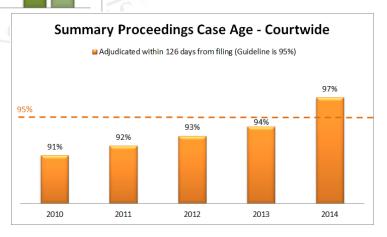
# Age of Caseload

Measuring the age of active pending and disposed cases is fundamental to promote access to justice by ensuring the Court is processing and disposing of cases timely. The 58<sup>th</sup> District Court continues to either meet or exceed the case age guidelines as set by the Michigan Supreme Court for each case type category. Our Judges, management

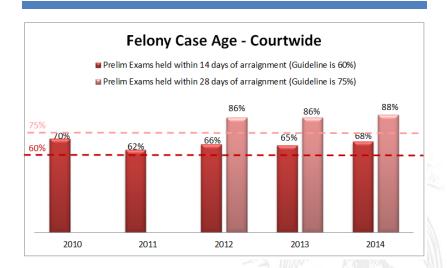
team and clerks continue to engage in process improvement to help insure these guidelines are met when feasible while also giving appropriate consideration necessary to provide procedural and substantive due process in each individual case.

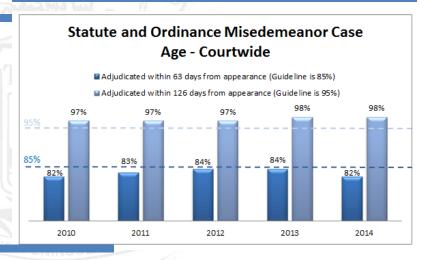
2011

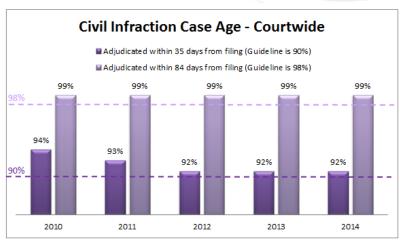
2010



# Case Age Continued







The mission of the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court **Probation and Community Corrections** Department is to enhance public safety by enforcing court orders while holding offenders accountable by utilizing services and resources.

#### 58th District Court Probation

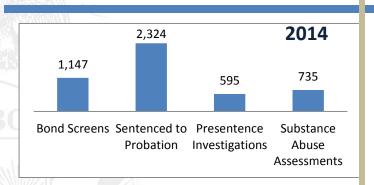
#### Reports, Screens and Assessments:

Bond screens are conducted in order to assist the Court in setting bond at the initial court appearance for an offender. This screening provides information to the judge on factors

such as the defendant's criminal and substance abuse history, mental health, record of court appearances, the seriousness of the offense and ties to the community. The bond screen is then considered by the judge to determine the defendant's threat to the community if released as well as their likelihood of returning to Court for future proceedings. The bond screen also provides information to assist this Court in setting bond conditions including whether no contact with the victim should be ordered and/or drug and alcohol monitoring is needed.

Following conviction, the judge may order a pre-sentence investigation. These are face-to-face interviews that a probation officer conducts with the offender, in order to gain background information. Pre-sentence investigations factor in the severity of the offense, prior criminal history, the possibility of drug or alcohol abuse, mental health issues and the offender's attitude. Additionally, victims of the offense will be contacted and advised of their right to speak at sentence and to have the Court determine proper restitution. The probation officer provides a written pre-sentence report

to the Judge and defendant prior to sentencing.

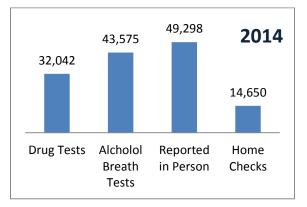


A substance abuse assessment is a normal component of a presentence report. Completed by a trained probation officer or treatment specialist, it helps to determine the offender's suitability for substance abuse treatment and placement into a specific treatment modality/setting. This evaluation includes gathering information on current and past use/abuse of drugs, criminal history, treatment history, and familial and educational histories.

## Testing and Supervision:

A urine dip drug test is administered by a probation officer in the Court's lab to determine if the probationer has used any controlled substances. The results of the test are available within two to five minutes.

Probation supervision involves either the probationer reporting to their probation officer at the office for a regularly scheduled meeting or submitting to a random drug or alcohol test. Field supervision officers will, however, often visit a probationer's residence to determine if the offender is abiding by their probation order, following curfew and to monitor their home environment. The officer may request that the offender submit to a preliminary breath test to check for alcohol, a search of their person or a search of their residence.



# 58th District Court Sobriety Treatment Program

The Sobriety Treatment Program (STP) is a four phase intervention program for adults who have pled guilty to more than one alcohol offense and who are having difficult staying clean and sober. It is a collaborative effort between the District Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the participant's attorney, community and police agencies, case management and treatment programs. By working together, the team seeks to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision geared toward supporting and helping the participant maintain a drug and alcohol free life.

#### **Program Highlights**

|   | Holland  | Grand<br>Haven                   |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| Active participants   | 50       | 26                               |
| New enrollments in 2014   | 25       | 20                               |
| Days of sobriety for successful participants at the time of discharge   | 481      | NA                               |
| Participants who obtained a restricted driver's license through the Michigan Ignition Interlock project using BAIID | 4.       | 5                                |
| Revenue collected from program participants   | \$58,097 | Collected<br>through<br>ISP Fees |

#### **Employment and Community Service**

| Participants who were employed full time at the time of discharge from the program     | 89%                                       |
|--|---|
| Participants who were employed part time at the time of discharge from the program     | 7%  |
| Participants who were unemployed or disabled at the time of discharge from the program | 4%  |
| Community service hours performed  | 1,275 in Holland<br>384 in Grand<br>Haven |

The STP involves frequent court appearances, random drug and alcohol testing as well as group and individual counseling. The Court awards incentives for compliant

behaviors and imposes sanctions for negative behavior. Participants who do not comply with the rules may be placed in short-term custody, have phase advancement delayed or face a variety of other sanctions.

The STP Team consists of a defense attorney to protect the rights of the participant, a prosecuting attorney who assists in reviewing the cases for legal

eligibility, a case manager who provides direct supervision to the participant, a treatment provider who is responsible for educating and helping the participant and a surveillance officer who conducts home visits.

#### **Continued Success in 2014**

A total of 483 participants have taken part in this program since its inception in May 2004

| Successful completions      | 45 participants<br>(80%) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Unsuccessful/new offense    | 1                        |
| Unsuccessful/non-compliance | 2                        |
| Unsuccessful/absconded      | 1                        |

#### Mission

The mission of the 58th

District Court Sobriety

Treatment Program is to

promote community

safety and reduce

alcohol and drug abuse

through a coordinated

program involving

intensive supervision,

judicial interaction,

treatment, incentives,

sanctions and

accountability.

# 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Court Recidivism Rates

In the fall of 2014, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), a division of the Michigan Supreme Court, provided 2013 recidivism rates on the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Sobriety Treatment Program. To determine recidivism rates, SCAO looked at a two year and four year time frame from when the participant was admitted into the drug

|                       | Any New Conviction |                           |                    |                           |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | Two Years          |                           | Four Years         |                           |
|                       | Recidivism<br>Rate | Number of<br>Participants | Recidivism<br>Rate | Number of<br>Participants |
| 58 <sup>th</sup> DC   | 2.5%               | % 239                     | 8.3%               | 180                       |
| *Statewide<br>Average | 4%                 | NA                        | 10%                | NA                        |

<sup>\*</sup>for Sobriety Courts as reported by the Michigan Supreme Court

court program and defined participant as an individual who was admitted and successfully completed drug court program requirements. SCAO breaks recidivism into two components: 1) any new conviction or 2) a new drug or alcohol conviction.

Any new conviction measures recidivism within the categories of violent offenses, controlled substance use or possession,

controlled substance manufacturing or distribution, other drug offenses, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol first offense, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol second offense, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol third offense, other alcohol offenses, property offenses, breaking and entering or home invasion, nonviolent sex offenses, juvenile status offenses of incorrigible, runaway, truancy, or curfew violations,

neglect and abuse civil, and neglect and abuse criminal. This definition excludes traffic offenses and offenses that fall outside the above categories.

A new drug or alcohol conviction measures recidivism within the categories of controlled substance use or possession, controlled substance manufacturing or distribution, other drug offenses, driving under the

|                       | Alcohol or Drug Conviction |                           |                    |                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | Two Years                  |                           | Four Years         |                           |
| RCI                   | Recidivism<br>Rate         | Number of<br>Participants | Recidivism<br>Rate | Number of<br>Participants |
| 58th DC               | 0.4%                       | 239                       | 5.6%               | 180                       |
| *Statewide<br>Average | 3%                         | NA                        | 8%                 | NA                        |
|                       |                            |                           |                    |                           |

<sup>\*</sup>for Sobriety Courts as reported by the Michigan Supreme Court

influence of drugs or alcohol first offense, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol second offense, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol third offense, and other alcohol offenses.

# Ottawa County Community Corrections Advisory Board

The Michigan Community Corrections Act, Public Act 511 (PA 511) was established in 1988 to ease jail and prison overcrowding by improving and increasing rehabilitative services available to non-violent, adult offenders. Pursuant to PA 511, counties must establish local Community Corrections Advisory Boards (CCABs) to develop and oversee comprehensive corrections plans. These local plans identify and establish local policy framework and practices aimed at initiating and maintaining programs and services that will help achieve measurable goals envisioned by PA 511. This includes identifying linkages with Michigan Works! agencies, local criminal justice officials, substance abuse coordinating agencies, community health departments and other

#### **OTTAWA COUNTY CCAB MEMBERS**

State of Michigan CCAB Appointment

County Commissioner Dennis Van Dam

**Ottawa County CCAB Members** 

County Sheriff Sheriff Gary Rosema
Chief of Police Captain Jack Dykstra for

Chief Matt Messer

Circuit Court Judge Kevin Bowling for Hon.

Edward R. Post

District Court Judge Honorable Susan Jonas
Probate Court Judge Honorable Mark Feyen
County Commissioner Matthew Fenske
County Prosecutor Ronald Frantz
Employment & Training Bill Raymond
Criminal Defense Bar Nichole Derks

Circuit/District Probation Heath White
Business Community Doug Kamphuis

Ottawa County Communication Corrections Program

<u>Director</u> Jodi Salacina

agencies to help provide cost-effective and non-duplicated services to offenders to reduce recidivism and prison commitment rates. In Ottawa County, the 58<sup>th</sup> District Court assists the Ottawa County CCAB by overseeing the programs and applying for state grant funding.

Most of the offenders enrolled in treatment-type programs are sentenced felons. Offenders with higher sentencing guideline scores, probation violators and those who have convictions for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol account for increasing proportions of new enrollees in residential programs. Misdemeanants account for the majority of enrollments in community service programs.

By supporting appropriate use of non-prison sanctions for offenders who might otherwise be committed to prison, local CCABs have helped reduce the state prison commitment rate. The Department of Corrections Statistical Report reflects that the State's prison commitment rate was 34.7% in 1989, decreased to 25% in the mid 1990's and remained

relatively stable since the early 2000's. During 2003, the Department placed a renewed emphasis on the use of community-based sanctions/services for straddle cell offenders, probation violators, and parole violators to control the State's prison growth.

Ottawa County is recognized as a leader in the state with meeting and addressing the goals set forth by PA 511. With appropriate offenders, Ottawa County places an emphasis on treatment and alternative sanctions/sentences, utilizing collaboration of multiple agencies to manage offenders locally. A solid representation of agencies and members of the community prefer to support diverting appropriate offenders from prison and jail. This effort promotes accountability, reduction in criminal/delinquent behavior and supports an environment for change.

The hard work support, and collaboration of the Ottawa County CCAB and community partners establish Ottawa County as a great place to reside. It is a safer community with healthier families.

## Ottawa County Community Correction Programs

Ottawa County Community Corrections has a comprehensive plan designed to improve jail utilization, reduce admissions to prison, and improve the local criminal justice system. Programs include the following:

<u>Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP)</u> Probation Officers and Field Supervision Officers make regular and random home checks and administer PBTs and check curfew times. The offender adheres to a curfew, which will take into consideration the offender's hours of employment, treatment, support groups and educational needs.

<u>Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)</u> Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral counseling program that combines education, group and individual counseling, and structured exercises designed to foster moral development in treatment—resistant clients.

<u>Community Service Work (CSW)</u> Offenders are placed at non-profit organizations and Government agencies to perform community service work.

The number of offenders enrolled in each of the six programs in 2014:

| ISP  | 172 |
|------|-----|
| CBT  | 128 |
| CSW  | 602 |
| JAWS | 474 |
| ICMT | 211 |

<u>Jail Alternative Work Service (JAWS)</u> A supervised community service work crew that generally work Saturday from 8am-3pm.

#### **Inmate Case Management and Treatment (ICMT)**

A treatment plan for incarcerated offenders awaiting sentencing, that includes assessment of mental health and substance abuse.

|   | Ottawa County            | State of Michigan            |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prison Commitment Rate                      | 9.3% or 78 dispositions  | 21.9% or 10,840 dispositions |
| Operating While Intoxicated 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 11.8% or 8 dispositions  | 18.2% or 484 dispositions    |
| Straddle Cell*                              | 13.8% or 19 dispositions | 33.2% or 3,765 dispositions  |

<sup>\*</sup> The sentence guidelines allow the Judge to sentence either to prison or jail

#### Court Services Division

The Community Service Work (CSW) and the Jail Alternative Work Services (JAWS) programs are utilized by the 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and 58<sup>th</sup> District Court as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent felons and misdemeanants, resulting in more effective use of the County jail space. Both programs may also be utilized for the following situations:

- ♦ As a sanction to a probation violation of the court order or administrative sanction
- ♦ When the Judge feels that offenders should be giving something back to the community
- $\blacklozenge$  It is mandatory sentencing for Drunk Driving  $3^{\text{rd}}$  Offense, i.e. 360 hours or 60 days
  - ♦ As an alternative to paying court fines and costs
  - ♦ As motivation for offenders to find a job
  - ♦ For Drug and Sobriety Court participant sanctions.

In 2014, there were a total of 1,075 offenders enrolled in JAWS and CSW programs.

# Jail Alternative Work Services (JAWS) 2014 Program Highlights:

|                                    | 129      |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| New Enrollees                      | 474      |
|                                    | 201      |
| JAWS Crew Worked                   | 105      |
| Saturdays Worked                   | 51       |
| Average Offenders per Crew         | 8.0      |
| Hours Provided                     | 5,579    |
| Value of Service (based on minimum | \$41,280 |
| wage of \$7.40/hour)               |          |

# Community Service Work (CSW) 2014 Program Highlights:

| New Enrollees                 | 602       |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Worksites                     | 80        |
| Completed Hours               | 32,225    |
| Full Time Employee Equivalent | 15        |
| Value of Service (based on    | \$238,465 |
| minimum wage of \$7.40/hour)  |           |

## Types of Community Services Performed in 2014

| Schools, Education and Libraries | 7%  |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Humanitarian Services-General    | 33% |
| Environment                      | 10% |
| Church/Religious                 | 27% |
| Health Issues                    | 6%  |
| Government                       | 11% |
| Culture/Arts                     | 6%  |

#### Northern/Western Ottawa County

American Legion ♦ Conservation District ♦ Grand Haven Township Fire Department ♦ City of Grand Haven ♦ Grand Haven Department of Public Works ♦ Covenant Life Church ♦ First Presbyterian Church ♦ Grand Haven Church of God ♦ Grand Haven State Park ♦ Harbor Humane Society ♦ Hope Reformed ♦ International Aid ♦ Lake Hills Elementary School ♦ Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity ♦ Lakeshore Rescue Mission ♦ Love INC. ♦ Ottawa County Facilities/Maintenance ♦ Ottawa County Parks and Recreation ♦ Rescue Mission Thrift Store ♦ Spring Lake Cemetery ◆ Spring Lake Heritage Festival ♦ Spring Lake Library ♦ Spring Lake Wesleyan ♦ St. Mary's Church ♦ St. Patrick's Catholic Church ♦ United Methodist Church of the Dunes ♦ YMCA

#### Eastern Ottawa County

Allendale Township Library ♦ Allendale Fire
Department ♦ Allendale Goodwill ♦ Berlin Fair
♦ Blendon Township ♦ Bread of Life ♦ Central
Worship Center ♦ Chester Township ♦ City of
Hudsonville ♦ City on a Hill ♦ Coopersville DPW
♦ Coopersville Library ♦ Coopersville VFW ♦
Corpus Christi Catholic Church ♦ Fishers of
Men ♦ Jamestown Township ♦ Jenison
Goodwill ♦ Knights of Columbus ♦ Indian Trails
♦ Laurels ♦ Love, INC. ♦ Marne Cemetery ♦
Mars Hill Church (Grandville) ♦ Polkton
Township ♦ Well Spring ♦ WTLJ Allendale

# Ottawa County Community Service Worksites

#### Southern/Western Ottawa County

70X7 Life Recovery ♦ Africa's Child ♦ African American Museum ♦ Boys and Girls Club ♦ Building Men for Life ♦Casa del Rey ♦ Central Wesleyan Church ♦ City of Holland ♦ Community Action House Food Bank ♦ Community Action House Store ♦ Cornerstone Tabernacle ♦ Eight Day Farm ♦ Evergreen Commons Adult Day Care ♦ Faith Christian Center ♦ Fellowship Reformed Church Herrick District Library ♦ Herrick District Library ♦ First Assembly of God ♦ Fulfilling Life Ministries ♦ Harbor House ♦ Harderwyk Church Herrick District Library ♦ Herrick District Library ♦ Holland Alano Club ♦ Holland City Hall ♦ Holland Civic Center ♦ Holland Community Center ♦ Holland Community Kitchen ♦ Holland Mission ♦ Holland Museum ♦ Holland State Park ♦ Holland VFW ♦ HOME Roller Rink ♦ Lakeshore Habitat Restore ♦ Macatawa Resource Center ♦ Maple Avenue ♦ Moran Park ♦ New Richmond Baptist Church ♦ Northpoint Assembly of God ♦ Ottawa County Fairgrounds ♦ Paradise Bound ♦ Ridgepoint Community Church ◆ Rock ◆ Shelby's Place ♦ St. Francis de Sales ♦ The Bridge (The Mission for Women) ♦ The Critter Barn ♦ The **Outdoors Discovery Center** 



58<sup>th</sup> District Court 85 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street Holland, Michigan 49423 616.392-6991

# 58<sup>th</sup> District Court Contact Information

http://miottawa.org/Courts/58thDistrict



58<sup>th</sup> District Court 414 Washington Avenue Grand Haven, Michigan 49417 616.846-8280



58<sup>th</sup> District Court 3100 Port Sheldon Road Hudsonville, Michigan 49426 616.662.3100



"Equal Justice Under Law"