

55th District Court Annual Report

2009



State of Michigan
Ingham County
Mason, MI

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55th Judicial District Court

Ingham County Board of Commissioners
Mason, MI 48854

Dear Commissioners:

This is the court's Annual Report for the period January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. This report should provide a general overview of case filing activity and revenue in the three divisions (civil, traffic, criminal) and the probation department.

The pending total caseload at the beginning of 2009 was approximately 8,190 cases. In addition, we processed 27,151 new cases and disposed of 29,212 cases. Despite a busy year and the extra effort involved in learning and converting to the Justice Information System (JIS) case management software, the court was able to maintain our responsibilities because of our outstanding staff!

Thanks to the support of the Commissioners, we were able to transition from a case management system that did not work for us to JIS, the Michigan Supreme Court's case management program. This project is one of the most important undertaken by the district court in many years. The fourth quarter of 2009 was full of change and rich with opportunity. We remain excited about this transition and the efficiencies to be realized as a result.

We experienced many changes in 2009. Judge Don Allen has been a tremendous addition to the district court, serving his first year on the bench. We also started the year with a new court administrator, Mike Dillon. During the year we named a new chief probation officer and felt the full effects of the decision not to replace a chief clerk due to budgetary constraints. The current administrative team meets regularly to establish court policy and manage the business of the court. This level of change and coordination is noteworthy in the recent history of the district court. We look forward to working together for the foreseeable future to maximize efficiency and effectiveness on behalf of the people of Ingham County.



Honorable Thomas P. Boyd
Chief Judge

Honorable Thomas P. Boyd

Chief Judge



The Honorable Thomas P. Boyd was born and raised in Kalamazoo MI. He graduated from James Madison College at Michigan State University in 1985 and Wayne State University Law School in 1990. After being admitted to the bar, he was engaged in the private practice of law, working with no-fault traffic crash issues and general litigation. He was appointed Assistant Attorney General in 1995 by Attorney General Frank Kelley.

His responsibilities within the Department of Attorney General included criminal, civil, administrative and legislative law.

The Honorable Thomas P. Boyd was appointed to the bench by Governor Jennifer Granholm on June 29, 2005, to fill the vacancy created upon the retirement of the Honorable Pamela McCabe. Judge Boyd was elected in 2006 to serve the remainder of Judge McCabe's term. He was reelected in 2008 for a six year term. His current term expires 1/1/15. Judge Boyd was appointed chief judge of the 55th District Court by the Michigan Supreme Court effective January 1, 2008.

The Honorable Thomas P. Boyd created the Fast Track for Domestic Violence to protect women and children. Judge Boyd has also remained active in our community serving on the boards of the Mason Area Community Fund (an advisory of the Capital Area United Way) and the Oak Park YMCA as well as volunteering for the Holt-Dimondale School Business Alliance and the Lansing Area Teen Court.

55th District Court Judges

Honorable Donald L. Allen. Jr.

Chief Judge Pro Tem



The Honorable Donald L. Allen Jr. was appointed judge of the 55th District Court by Governor Jennifer Granholm on December 22, 2008. Judge Allen's term expires January 1, 2011.

Prior to being appointed to the District Court, Judge Allen served as the director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP). Judge Allen assumed the directorship of ODCP on June 5, 2006, after serving as deputy legal counsel for the Governor on her legal staff. Judge Allen's duties for the executive office included serving as a member of the Governor's senior staff with responsibilities for emergency management and homeland security, civil rights and criminal justice.

The Honorable Donald L. Allen Jr. is a 1983 graduate of Wayne State University Law School and spent most of his professional career as an Assistant Attorney General in the Michigan Department of Attorney General. He served at the Department of Attorney General from February 1988 through September 2005. His assignments included the Social Services, Revenue, Corrections, and Health Care Fraud divisions where he specialized in litigation. While at the Attorney General's Office, he also served as a member on the Attorney General's Litigation Advisory Board. In his last assignment at the Health Care Fraud Division he served as a prosecutor of high profile criminal and civil defendants.

55th District Court Judges

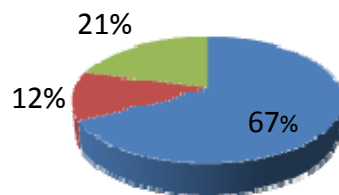
NEW CASE FILINGS

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>2009 Filings</u>	<u>2008 Filings</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Felony	674	661	13
Misdemeanor	1,989	1,850	139
Drunk Driving	611	654	-43
Traffic **	17,598	19,494	-1,896
Civil Infraction - Non Traffic	360	409	-49
General Civil	3,062	3,312	-250
Small Claims	672	750	-78
Summary Proceedings	1,858	2,058	-200
Parking	327	402	-75
Totals	27,151	29,590	-2,439

** includes traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions

Percentage of New Filings

■ Traffic ■ Criminal ■ Civil



Caseload - New Filings

NEW CASE FILINGS

TOTAL NEW FILINGS - REGION II COMPARISONS

Court		Filings *	Rank	Judges	Cases/Judge
54B	Ingham Co (<i>East Lansing</i>) **	77,876	1	2	38,938
63rd	Kent Co. (<i>Rockford/Cascades</i>)	41,814	2	2	20,907
62B	Kent Co. (<i>Kentwood</i>)	16,788	3	1	16,788
58th	Ottawa Co.	57,669	4	4	14,417
12th	Jackson Co.	55,144	5	4	13,786
55th	Ingham Co	27,151	6	2	13,576
3A	Branch Co.	13,572	7	1	13,572
2A	Lenawee Co.	26,378	8	2	13,189
10th	Calhoun Co.	51,133	9	4	12,783
53rd	Livingston Co.	37,680	10	3	12,560
59th	Kent Co. (<i>Grandville</i>)	11,767	11	1	11,767
8th	Kalamazoo Co.	78,423	12	7	11,203
56A	Eaton Co.	22,331	13	2	11,166
60th	Muskegon Co.	41,562	14	4	10,391
57th	Allegan Co.	20,274	15	2	10,137
5th	Berrien Co.	50,226	16	5	10,045
62A	Kent Co. (<i>Wyoming</i>)	19,536	17	2	9,768
61st	Kent Co. (<i>Grand Rapids</i>)	58,049	18	6	9,675
54A	Ingham Co. (<i>Lansing</i>) ***	47,592	19	5	9,518
2B	Hillsdale Co.	9,514	20	1	9,514
3B	St. Joseph Co.	18,118	21	2	9,059
7th	Van Buren Co.	17,475	22	2	8,738
4th	Cass Co.	8,394	23	1	8,394
56B	Barry Co.	7,653	24	1	7,653

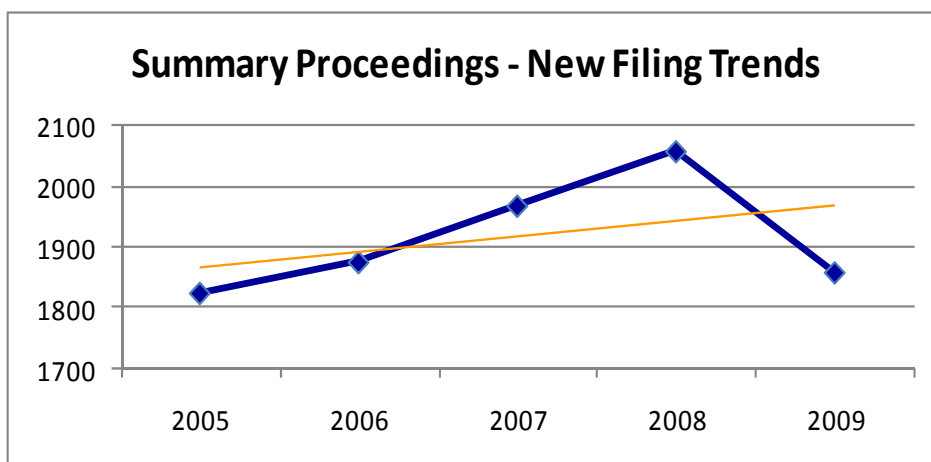
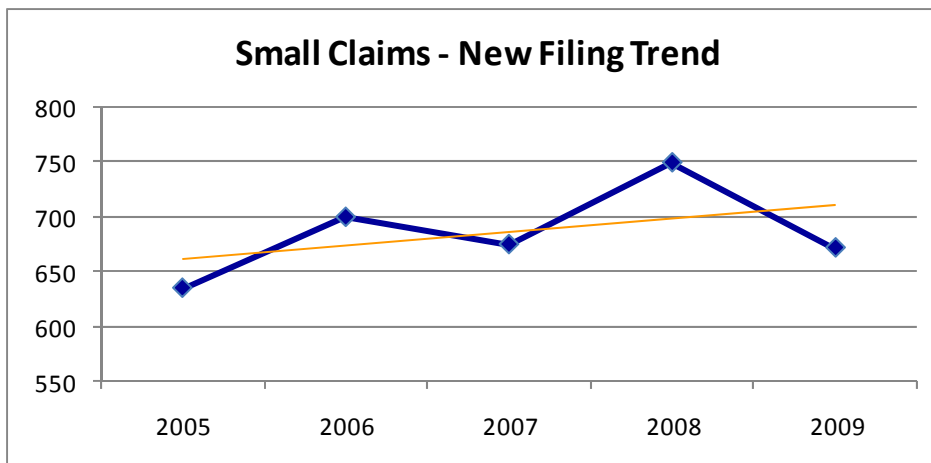
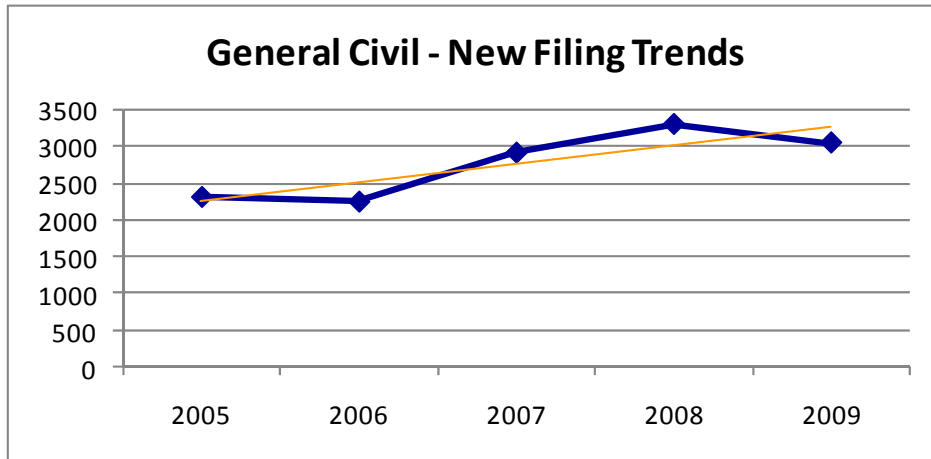
* *Filings include parking violations*

** *Filings includes 55,877 parking violations*

*** *Filings includes 5,132 parking violations*

Region 2 - New Case Filings

CIVIL DIVISION



Civil Case Filing Trends

CIVIL DIVISION

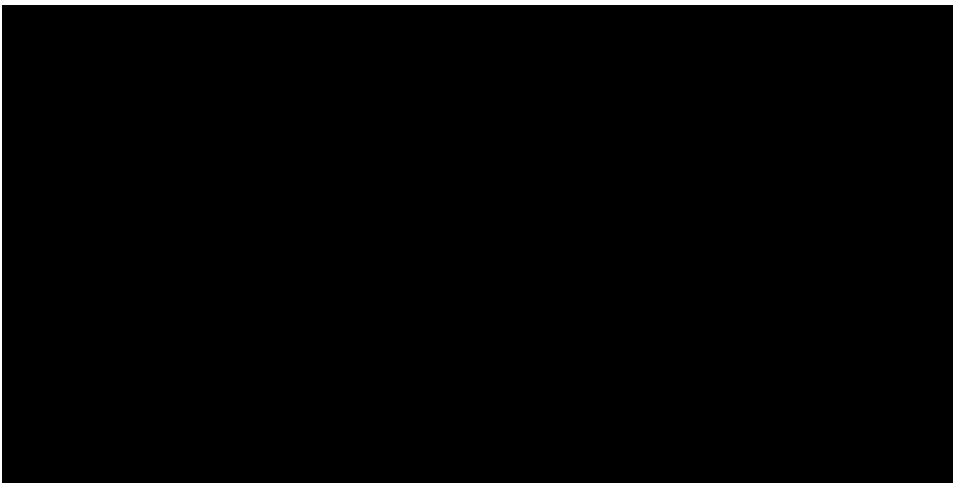
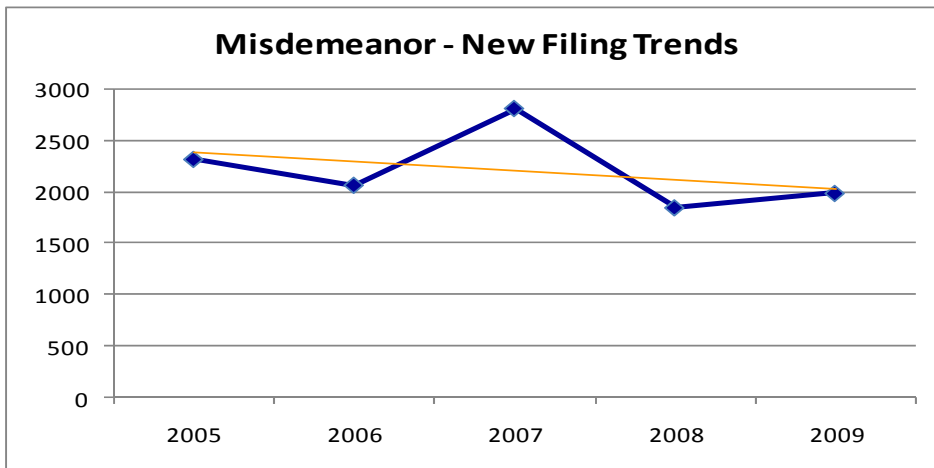
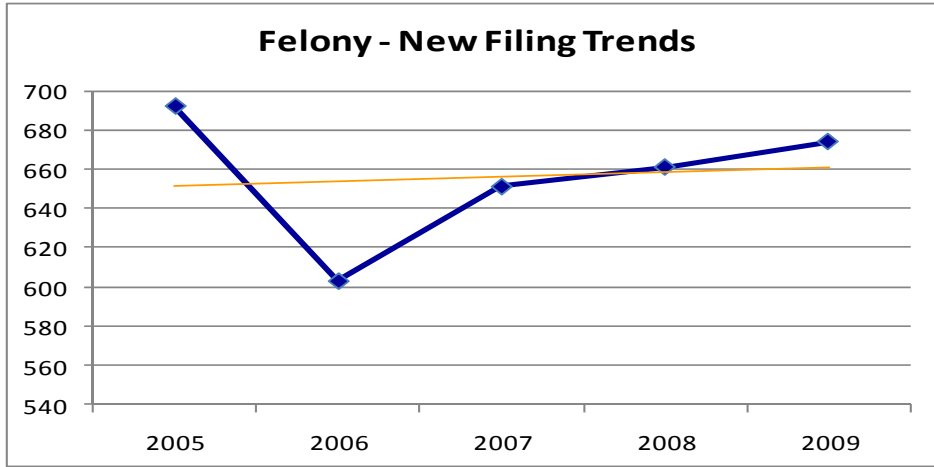
DISPOSITIONAL INFORMATION

DISPOSITION	General Civil	Small Claims	Summary Proceedings
Jury Verdict	1	0	0
Bench Verdict	14	52	12
Uncontested/Default/Settled	2,035	185	1,244
Transferred	13	12	0
Dismissed by Party	441	104	504
Dismissed by Court	513	203	133
Inactive	1	0	1
Other Disposition	3	0	0
Case Type Changed	1	12	0
TOTALS	3,022	568	1,894
New Filings	3,062	672	1,858
Reopened	29	15	2
Total Cases	3,091	687	1,860
Less Dispositions	3,022	568	1,894
Clearance Rate	97.8%	82.7%	101.8%

Civil Case Dispositions

Clearance rate above 100% indicates a reduction in backlog
 Clearance rate at 100% indicates no change in backlog
 Clearance rate below 100% indicates an increase in backlog

CRIMINAL DIVISION



Criminal Case Filing Trends

CRIMINAL DIVISION

DISPOSITIONAL INFORMATION

DISPOSITION	Felony	Misdemeanor	Drunk Driving
Jury Verdict	0	14	4
Bench Verdict	2	5	1
Guilty Plea/Admission/Waive	180	943	489
Bindover/Transferred	378	0	54
Dismissed by Party	89	425	50
Dismissed by Court	5	631	11
Inactive/Bench Warrant	410	215	58
Other Disposition	0	0	0
Case Type Changed	5	711	8
TOTALS	1,069	2,944	675
New Filings	674	1,989	611
Reopened	397	979	119
Total Cases	1,071	2,968	730
Less Dispositions	1,069	2,944	675
Clearance Rate	99.8%	99.2%	92.5%

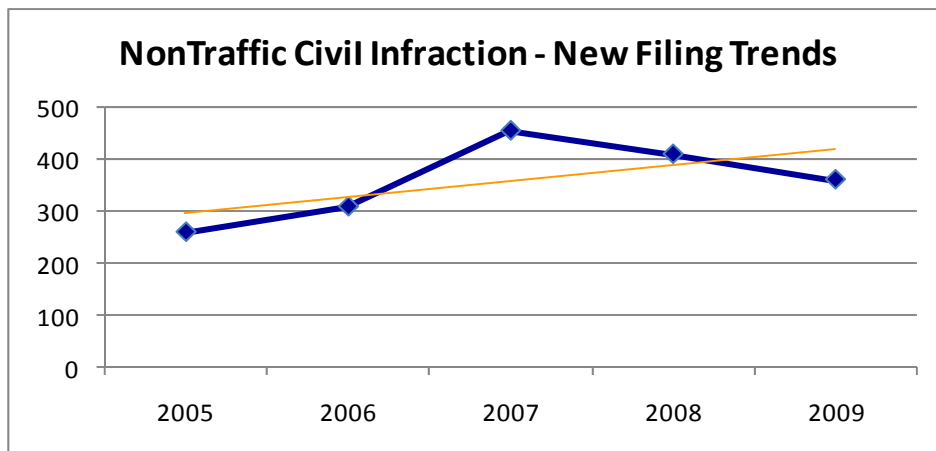
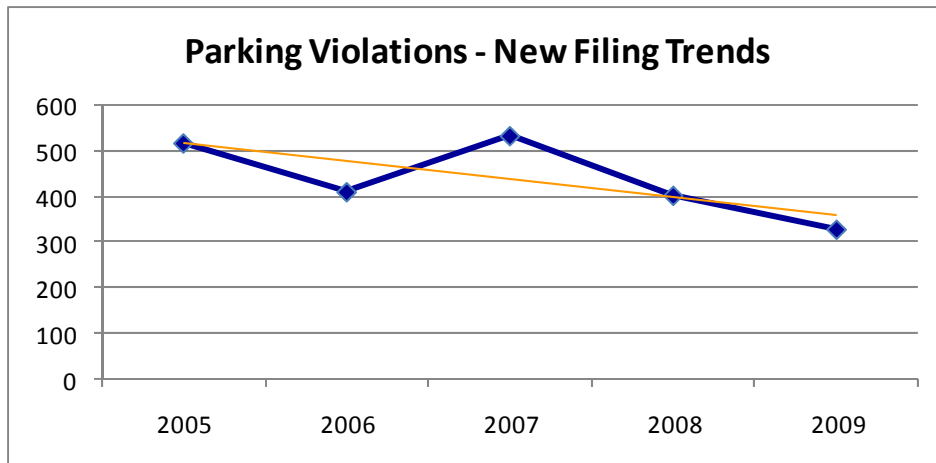
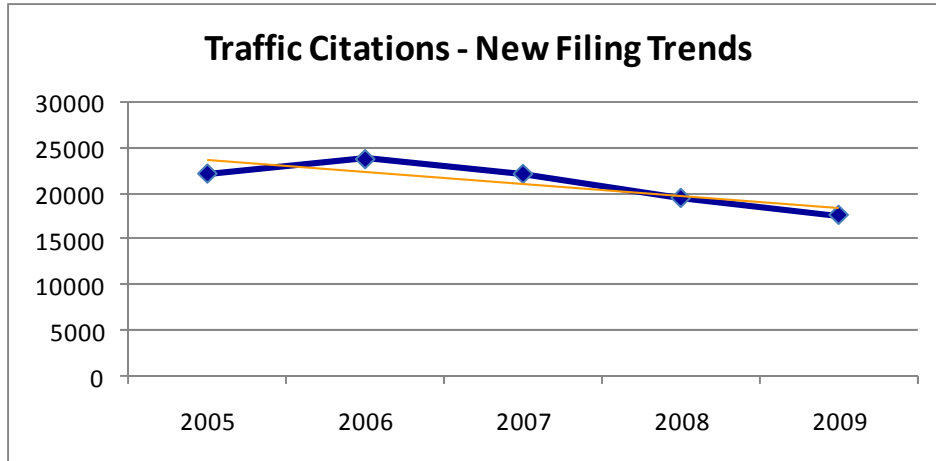
Criminal Case Dispositions

Clearance rate above 100% indicates a reduction in backlog

Clearance rate at 100% indicates no change in backlog

Clearance rate below 100% indicates an increase in backlog

TRAFFIC DIVISION



Traffic Case Filing Trends

TRAFFIC DIVISION

DISPOSITIONAL INFORMATION

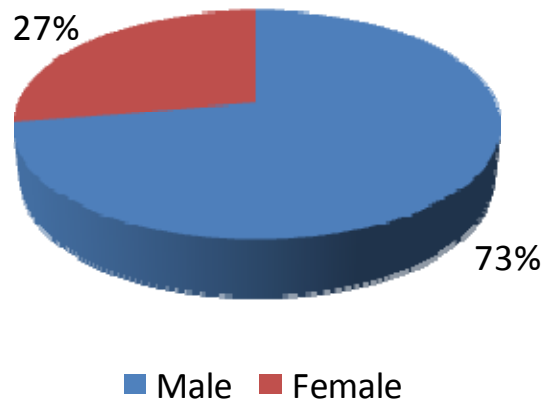
DISPOSITION	Civ Infraction	Nontraffic	Parking
	Misdemeanor	Civ Infraction	
Jury Verdict	1	0	0
Bench Verdict	1,131	43	19
Guilty Plea/Admission/Waive	12,743	197	149
Bindover/Transferred	0	0	0
Dismissed by Party	760	37	8
Dismissed by Court	465	10	8
Default	2,953	58	111
Inactive/Bench Warrant	330	9	0
Case Type Changed	7	1	0
TOTALS	18,390	355	295
New Filings	17,598	360	327
Reopened	904	1	119
Total Cases	18,502	361	446
Less Dispositions	18,390	355	295
Clearance Rate	99.4%	98.3%	66.1%

Traffic Case Dispositions

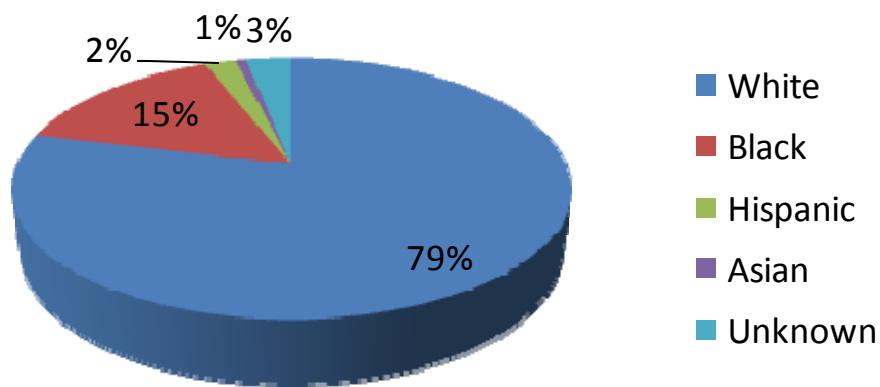
Clearance rate above 100% indicates a reduction in backlog
 Clearance rate at 100% indicates no change in backlog
 Clearance rate below 100% indicates an increase in backlog

PROBATION DIVISION

Percent of Probation Caseload by Gender



Percent of Probation Caseload by Race



Probation Demographics

PROBATION DIVISION

Cases referred to the probation department in 2009 for supervision by a probation officer.

CATERGORY OF OFFENSES	REFERRED to PROBATION	PERCENT of CASELOAD
Drunk Driving	375	38.86%
Controlled Substances	194	20.10%
Theft	142	14.72%
Assaultive	98	10.16%
Alcohol - MIP	57	5.91%
Public Welfare & Safety	32	3.32%
Vehicle Offenses	25	2.59%
Property Offenses	15	1.55%
Obstructing Justice	13	1.35%
Weapons	4	0.41%
Offenses Against Children	2	0.21%
Telecommunications	2	0.21%
Animals	2	0.21%
Sexual Related Offenses	1	0.10%
<i>Other</i>	3	0.31%
TOTAL	965	100.00%

Probation Statistics

OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report General Fund Revenue

REVENUE	2009	2008	DIFF
STATE OF MICHIGAN			
State Judges Supplement	\$91,448	\$91,448	\$0
Drunk/Drugged Driving Asst.	\$42,192	\$38,214	\$3,978
Juror Reimbursement	<u>\$7,505</u>	<u>\$9,398</u>	<u>-\$1,893</u>
	\$141,145	\$139,060	\$2,085
CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC			
Court Costs	\$1,084,050	\$1,217,373	-\$133,323
Ordinance Fines & Costs	\$351,548	\$342,946	\$8,602
Appointed Attorney Fees	\$99,472	\$94,865	\$4,607
No Proof of Insurance Fee	\$45,205	\$48,694	-\$3,489
Bond Forfeitures	\$40,065	\$28,172	\$11,893
Crime Victim Rights Fee	\$10,105	\$9,900	\$205
Online Convenience Fee	<u>\$15,580</u>	<u>\$3,016</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	\$1,646,025	\$1,744,966	-\$111,505
PROBATION			
Probation Oversight	\$238,966	\$244,718	-\$5,752
Screening & Assessment Fee	\$44,835	\$38,010	\$6,825
Sobriety Court Fee	\$42,587	\$36,006	\$6,581
Presentence Fee	<u>\$2,354</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,354</u>
	\$328,742	\$318,734	\$10,008
CIVIL			
Civil Fees	\$252,547	\$249,700	\$2,847
MISCELLENEOUS			
Miscellaneous Fees	\$19,350	\$14,693	\$4,657
TOTALS	\$2,387,809	\$2,467,153	-\$79,344

General Fund Revenue

OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report General Fund Expenses

EXPENSES	2009	2008	DIFF
PERSONNEL COSTS			
55th District Court	\$1,728,117	\$1,765,870	-\$37,753
Sobriety Court	\$130,685	\$92,561	\$38,124
	\$1,858,802	\$1,858,431	\$371
OPERATING EXPENSES <i>(controlled by court)</i>			
55th District Court	\$189,982	\$198,787	-\$8,805
Sobriety Court	\$10,071	\$2,036	\$8,035
	\$200,053	\$200,823	-\$770
OPERATING EXPENSES <i>(controlled by other departments)</i>			
55th District Court	\$170,868	\$208,581	-\$37,713
Sobriety Court Fee	<u>\$1,395</u>	<u>\$948</u>	<u>\$447</u>
	\$172,263	\$209,529	-\$37,266
TRIAL EXPENSES <i>(constitutional expenses related to trial)</i>			
Ct Appointed Attorney Expense			
55th District Court	\$136,735	\$128,781	\$7,954
Sobriety Court	\$13,125	\$15,075	-\$1,950
Jury Expense	\$18,381	\$22,612	-\$4,231
Interpreter Expense	<u>\$5,333</u>	<u>\$5,358</u>	<u>-\$25</u>
	\$173,574	\$171,826	\$1,748
TOTAL DISTRICT COURT EXPENSES	\$2,249,416	\$2,329,989	-\$80,573
TOTAL SOBRIETY COURT EXPENSES	\$155,276	\$110,620	\$44,656
TOTALS	\$2,404,692	\$2,440,609	-\$35,917

General Fund Revenue

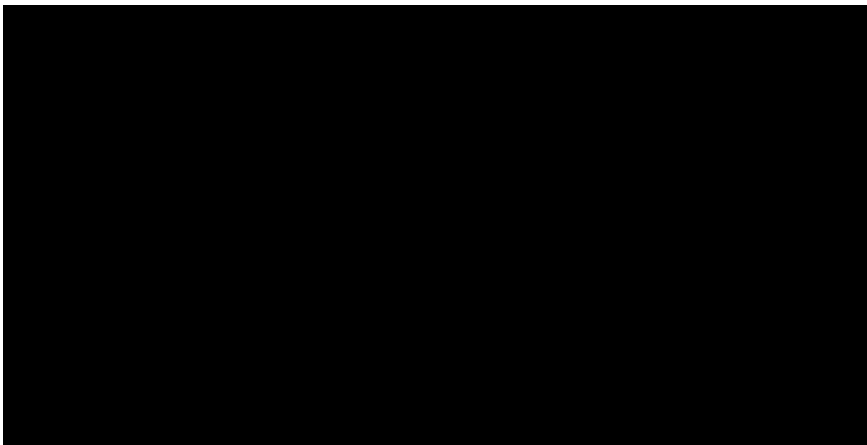
OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report Disbursement of Revenue Collected by the Court

AGENCY

Ingham County Treasurer	\$2,387,809
Ingham Libraries	\$265,769
Local Municipalities	\$291,951
State of Michigan	<u>\$990,488</u>
TOTAL	\$3,936,017

Disbursement of Revenue

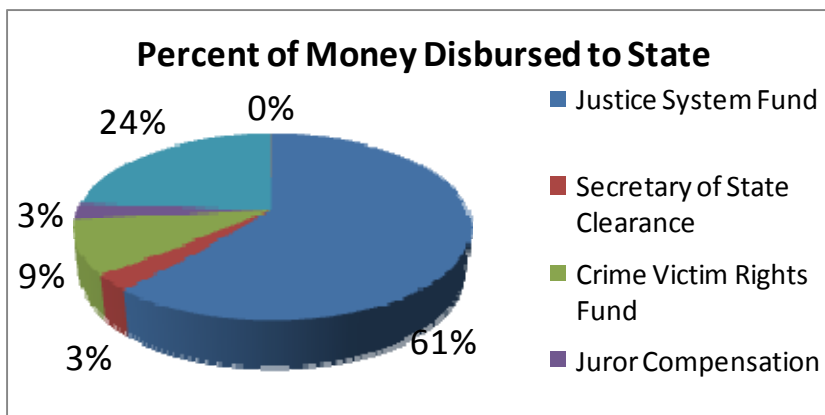


OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report Disbursement of Revenue to the State of Michigan

REVENUE CATEGORY

Justice System Fund	\$606,925
Secretary of State Clearance	\$29,082
Crime Victim Rights Fund	\$90,992
Juror Compensation	\$29,206
Civil Filing Fund	\$233,693
Miscellaneous	\$590
TOTAL	\$990,488



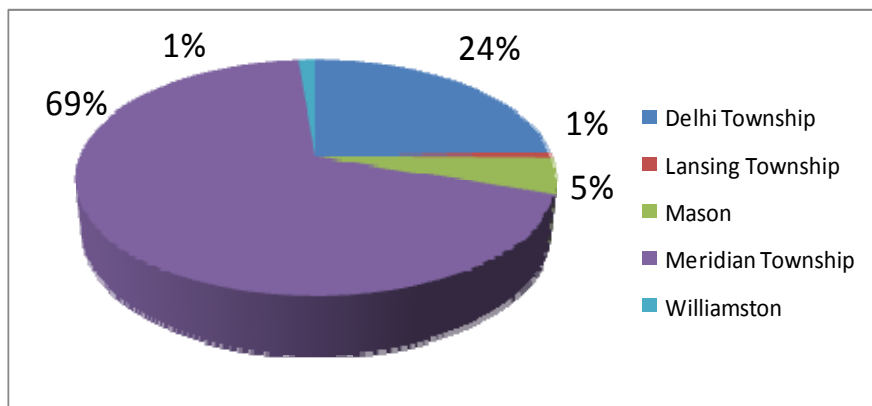
Disbursement To State

OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report Disbursement of Revenue to Municipalities From Fines & Costs

AGENCY

Delhi Township	\$42,559
Lansing Township	\$1,604
Leslie	\$129
Mason	\$8,425
Meridian Township	\$119,991
Stockbridge	\$101
Vevay Township	\$30
Webberville	\$137
Williamston	\$2,260



Disbursement To Municipalities

OFFICE of ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

2009 Financial Report Disbursement of Revenue to Agencies From Cost Recovery Assessments

AGENCY

Delhi Prosecuting Attorney	\$5,473
Ingham Co. Sheriff's Office	\$53,767
Ingham Co. Prosecutor's Office	\$21,632
Lansing Township Police Dept.	\$7,016
Leslie Police Dept.	\$100
Mason City Attorney's Office	\$255
Mason Police Dept.	\$4,599
Meridian Township Prosecutor	\$2,363
Meridian Township Police Dept.	\$17,239
Michigan State Police	\$1,850
MSU Campus Police Dept.	\$1,169
Stockbridge Police Dept.	\$300
Williamston Police Dept.	\$953

Cost recovery is allowable by statute for specified offenses.

Disbursement To Municipalities

COURT DIRECTORY

JUDGES

Honorable Thomas P. Boyd, Chief Judge - Term Expires 1/1/2015
Honorable Donald L. Allen Jr. - Term Expires 1/1/2011

ADMINISTRATION

Michael J. Dillon, Court Administrator (2)
Dianna Emerson, Financial Coordinator (11)

JUDICIAL SUPPORT

James B. Pahl, Magistrate (18)
Elaine Stocking, Judicial Secretary/Court Recorder - Judge Boyd (9)
Robin Kelley, Judicial Secretary/Court Recorder - Judge Allen (31)
Robert Rutledge, Court Officer - Judge Boyd (34)
David Burt, Court Officer - Judge Allen (2)
Alan Spencer, Court/Collection Officer (**)

CIVIL DIVISION

Pamela Pfeifer, Chief Clerk (1)
Renee Smith, Court Clerk (15)
Teresa Ballance, Court Clerk (19)

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Kathy Fajardo, Chief Clerk (34)

Criminal Division

Barb Pasch, Court Clerk (5)
Alana Kelley, Court Clerk (3)
Donald Harper, Court Clerk (1)

Traffic Division

Joan Nelson, Court Clerk (12)
Cindy Smith, Court Clerk (10)
Luann White, Court Clerk (8)

() denotes years of service with the court

** denotes hired in 2010

Court Directory

COURT DIRECTORY

PROBATION DIVISION

Da'Neese Wells, Chief Probation Officer (7)
Linda Burkholder, Probation Officer (17)
Eva Higgins, Probation Officer (6)
Emily Fabry, Probation Officer (3)
Amy Iseler, Probation Officer/Assessment Specialist (2)
Jesse Cory, Probation Officer (**)
Irene Bost, Court Clerk (11)
Marty Waugh, Court Clerk (10)

Court Directory

MICHAEL J. DILLON
COURT ADMINISTRATOR



STATE OF MICHIGAN
55TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
700 BUHL AVENUE MASON, MICHIGAN 48854
517-676-8400
www.ingham.org/dc

To all Interested Parties:

The 55th District Court plays an integral role in the administration of justice in Ingham County. We at the court promote equality and fairness. We acknowledge that public trust and confidence are important aspects in maintaining the integrity of the judicial system. Hence, we continue to focus on the delivery of professional services to all users of the court.

We recognize that an informed public helps to build public trust and confidence in a public entity. Consequently, this report is an attempt to provide our stakeholders with a summary of district court activity during the year of 2009.

The administration of the court recognizes the hard work exemplified by our employees. Their dedication and effort have contributed significantly to the efficient operation of the 55th District Court. The administration of the court would like to express our gratitude to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, and Matthew Myers, County Controller/Administrator, for their continued support of 55th District Court operations.

We at the court will continue to strive to be a model district court in the State of Michigan and would like to thank all who have contributed to our success thus far.

Michael J. Dillon
Court Administrator