



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Kalamazoo County Courts

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT
KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT



**KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS
2018 ANNUAL REPORT
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STATE OF MICHIGAN



KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

Alexander C. Lipsey,
Chief Circuit/Probate Judge
9th Circuit Court/Kalamazoo County Probate Court
150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: 269-384-8190
Fax: 269-385-6095

Christopher T. Haenicke,
Chief District Judge
8th District Court
227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: 269-384-8103
Fax: 269-384-8047

September 2019

Citizens of the State of Michigan and Kalamazoo County

Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48933

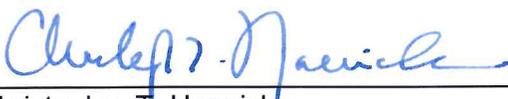
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners
201 West Kalamazoo Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

On behalf of our judges, administrators, and court staff, we are pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Ninth Circuit Court, Eighth District Court and Kalamazoo County Probate Court. The Annual Report is designed to show the organization of the courts, describe jurisdictions and caseloads, highlight accomplishments and challenges, and to provide statistical data to measure court activity. The Annual Report has been collaboratively produced by the three courts since 2001.

With the dedication of the elected officials and staff of the courts, we continue to administer justice through difficult budget times. We feel this report clearly displays our efforts in providing effective services and programs to the citizens of Kalamazoo County. We hope you find the information useful, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.



Alexander C. Lipsey,
Chief Circuit/Probate Judge



Christopher T. Haenicke,
Chief District Judge

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

JURISDICTION OF COURTS

Circuit Court Authority

The Ninth Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Kalamazoo County and has county-wide jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The court's jurisdiction includes:

- criminal matters in which the potential sentence is incarceration of one year or more
- domestic relations matters
- personal protection orders
- juvenile matters pertaining to delinquency or criminal activity
- juvenile guardianships
- child protective proceedings
- parental consent waivers
- adoptions
- name changes
- emancipations
- infectious disease
- general civil actions involving claims of \$25,000 or more
- cases appealed from another court or by an administrative agency
- superintending control over other courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court
- final decisions of the Circuit Court may be appealed to the Court of Appeals

District Court Authority

The District Court has exclusive jurisdiction of:

- misdemeanors where potential punishment does not exceed one year in jail
- arraignments, setting and acceptance of bail, and conducting preliminary examinations in felony cases
- traffic offenses
- civil litigation up to \$25,000
- garnishments
- eviction proceedings, land contracts and mortgage foreclosures
- small claims for civil cases up to \$3,000 . . . litigants agree to waive their right to a jury, rules of evidence, representation by a lawyer, and the right to appeal the District judge's decision
- District Court decisions may be appealed to the Circuit Court

Probate Court Authority

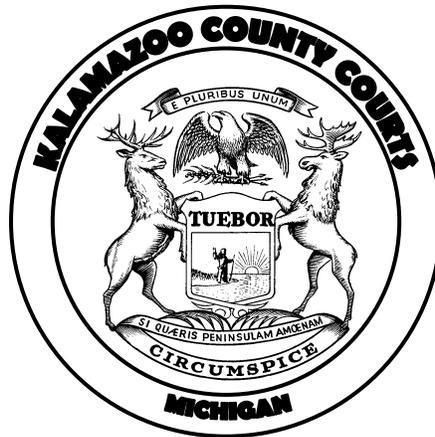
The Constitution of 1963 provided that "The jurisdiction, powers and duties of the Probate Court and of the judges thereof shall be provided by law." With the creation of the Family Division of the Circuit Court (January 1, 1998), many former Probate Court matters, such as juvenile delinquency, juvenile guardianships, child protective proceedings, parental consent waivers, adoptions, name changes and infectious disease, were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. The law currently provides that the Probate Court has jurisdiction over the administration of:

- decedents' estates and trusts
- guardianships
- conservatorships
- involuntary commitment of mentally ill persons
- final decisions resulting from a Probate Court hearing may be appealed to the Court of Appeals

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

CORE VALUES:

Just
User-Friendly
Service
Timely
Integrity
Collaborative
Effective



MISSION OF THE COURTS OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY:

Uphold the law and provide justice for all.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

As a leading and innovative court system, our vision is to:

- ...Enhance public trust, respect, and safety.
- ...Resolve legal matters in a fair and timely manner.
- ...Promote the success of individuals, families, and youth.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

COURT FACILITIES



Michigan Avenue Courthouse
227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Circuit Court – Trial Division - Criminal
District Court – Criminal



Juvenile Home
1424 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Circuit Court – Juvenile Home



Gull Road Justice Complex
1536 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Circuit Court – Family Division
Circuit Court – Friend of the Court
Kalamazoo County Probate Court



Crosstown Center
150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Circuit Court – Trial Division – Civil
District Court – Civil, Traffic

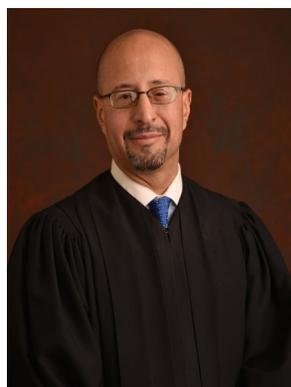
KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

2018 JUDGES OF THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS



HONORABLE
TIFFANY A. ANKLEY

Judge of Probate Court since 2015
Serving in District Court since 2015
Appointed Chief District Court Judge Pro-Tempore in 2018



HONORABLE
CURTIS J. BELL

Judge of Probate Court since 2005
Served in Circuit Court Family Division 2005-2014
Serving in Probate Court since 2014
Appointed Chief Circuit/Probate Court Judge Pro-Tempore in 2018



HONORABLE
ANNE E. BLATCHFORD

Judge of District Court since 2004
Serving in District Court since 2004



HONORABLE
PAUL J. BRIDENSTINE

Judge of District Court 2000-2015
Judge of Circuit Court since 2015
Serving in Circuit Court Trial Division since 2015
Presiding Judge of Trial Division since 2015



HONORABLE
GARY C. GIGUERE, JR.

Judge of Circuit Court since 2007
Serving in Circuit Court Trial Division since 2007



HONORABLE
STEPHEN D. GORSALITZ

Judge of Circuit Court since 1999
Serving in Circuit Court Family Division since 1999
Presiding Judge of Family Division since 2014



HONORABLE
CHRISTOPHER T. HAENICKE, JR.

Judge of District Court since 2015
Serving in District Court since 2015
Appointed Chief District Court Judge in 2018



HONORABLE
KATHLEEN P. HEMINGWAY

Judge of District Court since 2017
Serving in District Court since summer 2017

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

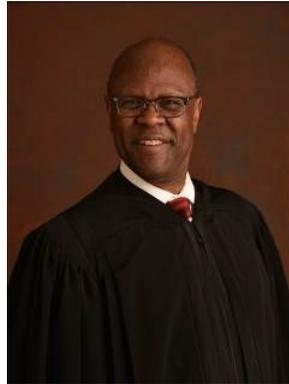
2018 JUDGES OF THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS



HONORABLE
PAMELA L. LIGHTVOET

Judge of Circuit Court since 2007

Serving in Circuit Court Trial Division since 2007



HONORABLE
ALEXANDER C. LIPSEY

Judge of Circuit Court since 2007

Serving in Circuit Court Trial Division since 2007

Appointed Chief Circuit/Probate Judge in 2018



HONORABLE
JULIE K. PHILLIPS

Judge of District Court since 2009

Serving in Circuit Court Family Division since 2014



HONORABLE
G. SCOTT PIERANGELI

Judge of Probate Court since 2013

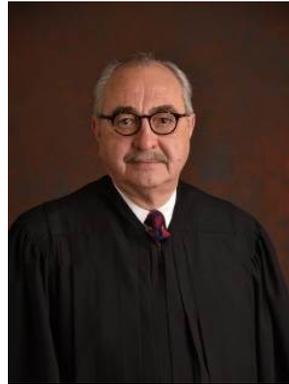
Serving in Circuit Court Family Division since 2013



HONORABLE
RICHARD A. SANTONI

Judge of District Court since 1997

Serving in District Court since 1997



HONORABLE
VINCENT C. WESTRA

Judge of District Court since 1992

Serving in District Court since 1992

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

2018 COURT ADMINISTRATORS, REFEREES, AND MAGISTRATES

Court Administrators



Thomas M. Canny

Circuit Court/Probate Court
Administrator since October 2017



Ann E. Filkins

District Court Administrator



Steven E. Burnham

Probate Register
Family Division Referee

Circuit Court Referees Serving the Courts



Douglas S. Cameron

Circuit Court
Family Division Referee



Robin V. King

Circuit Court
Family Division Referee



Dori K. Leo

Circuit Court
Family Division Referee



Denise E. Noble

Circuit Court
Family Division Referee



Kate M. Procnier

Circuit Court
Family Division Referee

District Court Magistrate Serving



Nicholas J. Schaberg

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

4-H

Participating Juvenile Home male youths are introduced to different facets of agriculture and farming. A facilitator meets with youths on a weekly basis, educating them about self substantiality and perseverance. The youths are also taught how to build radios, wind turbines, kinetic cars, and other projects.

Active Citizenship Program

Western Michigan University School of Medicine collaborates with the Probate Court to send medical students into the community and to conduct reviews of guardianships of legally incapacitated individuals, minors and individuals with developmental disabilities. The students have the unique opportunity to “learn by doing” in actual real life settings.

Alternatives

This program provides a safe environment for participating Juvenile Home females to discuss positive relationships, self-confidence, reproduction and abstinence.

CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate

CASA volunteers are matched with children who are under the court’s jurisdiction as a result of neglect and/or abuse by family. The CASA volunteer maintains close contact with the child while advocating for the child’s best interest.

CrossFit 269

Participating Juvenile Home youths are allowed to workout at CrossFit 269 weekly with individualized training. Youths learn about the importance of taking care of their bodies through proper exercise.

Dental Clinic

Several dentists and dental hygienists from the Kalamazoo community provide “pro bono” dental care to our detained youthful offenders.

Dispute Resolution Services of Gryphon Place

Probate Court and Dispute Resolution Services of Gryphon Place Center provide mediators for guardianships and conservatorships. Eighth District Court uses mediators for general civil and landlord/tenant, as well as small claims matters.

Family Law Assistance Clinic

Family law attorneys volunteer at the Family Law Assistance Clinic to assist and answer questions regarding family law matters.

Foster Care Review Board

Volunteers, serving on the Foster Care Review Board, review the cases of neglected children in foster care and make recommendations to the court.

Genealogy Research

Probate Court, in collaboration with volunteers from the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogy Society, assists individuals with researching their ancestry.

Girl Scouts

After participating in the Juvenile Home’s Kalamazoo Empowers Youth for Success (KEYS) program, participating female youths are offered the opportunity to join an organization that will last beyond their KEYS involvement. Each girl in the program is considered an active member of Girl Scouts with the possibility of accessing additional resources. A facilitator meets with the girls on a biweekly basis.

Kalamazoo Lawyers Auxiliary

This organization presents the Juvenile Home Late Show, an annual Holiday Party, and financial assistances for special needs. The ongoing commitment of the Kalamazoo Lawyers Auxiliary continues to provide a great service to many young people in our community.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURTS

KYD Network (Kalamazoo Youth Development Network)

This program provides KEYS staff with training to enhance participation and outcomes of the program. KYD also provides the program with assessment tools for both the youth and the overall program. All the information collected is used as a tool for professional development and to improve social and emotional learning strategies.

The Late Show

The Kalamazoo Lawyers Auxiliary recruits community individuals who pledge their time to read face-to-face or through a microphone directly into the rooms of young offenders during sensitive bedtime hours. Comforting stories create a drowsy atmosphere for a good night's rest.

Michigan Works!

Staff from Michigan Works! provides weekly vocational and employment readiness skills to participating Juvenile Home male youths. Youths are able to write resumes and participate in mock interviewing with constructive feedback. They also learn about various career fields.

Open Roads

Participating Juvenile Home male youths meet off site weekly at Open Roads and receive hands-on work experience. Each youth is taught how to build and maintain a bike. Youths are also required to apply life skills taught by staff and model positive behavior. Each youth that completes the program receives a bike and is eligible for employment (summer internship) through Open Roads.

Probate Clinic

Probate attorneys volunteer for the Probate Clinic to assist and answer questions regarding probate law matters.

R.A.W.K. (Read And Write Kalamazoo)

This program provides weekly literacy programming to participating Juvenile Home male and female youths. Staff from R.A.W.K. work hands-on and on location with each youth in the program. Youths are given opportunities for self expression while learning literacy skills. Articles created by the youths are compiled in a book for each participant.

Student Interns

The Ninth Circuit Court annually collaborates with colleges and universities by providing field placements for student interns. Students gain a practical learning experience as well as serve as a resource to various departments in the system. The District, Circuit and Probate Courts use college interns in judicial offices, probation services and court services offices.

United Chef Federation

Volunteers from the Kalamazoo Chapter of the United Chef Federation (UCF) work with residents of the On-Trac Program. For six weeks, two chefs team up and prepare a meal with the residents. The chefs come from area restaurants such as Millennium Group, Bronson Hospital, One Well Brewing, Gorilla Gourmet and more. Prior to the start of a session the residents participate in menu planning with the UCF President. The residents learn valuable skills such as team work, kitchen safety and etiquette, as well as learning to make new foods.

Youth for Christ

Non-denominational spiritual guidance is offered to Juvenile Home residents by Youth for Christ. Services are held regularly, volunteers provide friendship to detained youths, and nationally known resources (musical bands, athletes and drama troupes) share the power of spiritual development.

YMCA

Staff from the YMCA provides physical education to male and female youths in the Juvenile Home facility.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

2018 LOCATIONS AND JUDICIARY

Circuit Court & Probate Court Locations

Michigan Avenue Courthouse

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Trial Division – Criminal
P: (269) 383-8837
Problem Solving Courts
P: (269) 383-6468
Finance Services
P: (269) 383-8831

Gull Road Justice Complex

1536 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
Family Division
P: (269) 385-6000
Friend of the Court
P: (877) 543-2660
Finance Services
P: (269) 383-6051
Probate Court
P: (269) 383-8666

Crosstown Center

150 E. Crosstown Pkwy
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Trial Division – Civil
P: (269) 383-8837

Juvenile Home

1424 Gull Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
P: (269) 385-8550

Circuit Court & Probate Court Judges

Hon. Curtis J. Bell

Chief Circuit/Probate Judge Pro Tempore
Probate Judge
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 383-8669

Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine

Trial Division Presiding Judge
Trial Division – Criminal
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-8682

Hon. Gary C. Giguere

Trial Division – Criminal
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-8947

Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz

Family Division Presiding Judge
Family Division
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 385-6079

Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet

Trial Division – Criminal
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-8916

Hon. Alexander C. Lipsey

Chief Circuit/Probate Judge
Trial Division – Civil
Crosstown Parkway
(269) 384-8190

Hon. Julie K. Phillips

Family Division
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 385-6003

Hon. Scott G. Pierangeli

Family Division
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 385-6001

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

2018 ADMINISTRATION

Circuit Court & Probate Court Administrators

Thomas M. Canny

Circuit Court/Probate Court Administrator
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-8928

Chad A. Kewish

Deputy Court Administrator/
Trial Division Administrator
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 384-8253

Suzette L. Joseph

Family Division Administrator
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 385-6039

K. Nigel Crum

Friend of the Court Administrator
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 384-8172

Sara A Green

Problem Solving Courts Administrator
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-6469

Steven E. Burnham

Probate Register
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 383-8678

Mary Haskamp

Deputy Probate Court Administrator/
Chief Deputy Register
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 383-8664

Peter D. Holt

Juvenile Home Administrator
Juvenile Home
(269) 385-8577

Ruth A. Gruizenga

Automation & Technology Administrator/
Chief Court Clerk
Michigan Avenue Courthouse
(269) 383-8839

Susan M. Sayles

Finance Administrator
Gull Road Justice Complex
(269) 383-6415

Circuit Court & Probate Court Websites

Circuit Court: www.kalcounty.com/courts/circuit

Probate Court: www.kalcounty.com/courts/probate

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT PERSONNEL

2018 Circuit Court Retirements



Willie Carson retired from the 9th Circuit Court – Family Division on April 20, 2018 with 15 years of service to the Court. Willie’s service to the Court includes nine years as a Family Interventionist and six years as a Juvenile Probation Officer.



Kay Budas retired from the 9th Circuit Court – Family Division on December 7, 2018 with 25 years of service to the County. Kay’s service to the County and Court included 19 years with the Health & Community Services Department before transferring to the Circuit Court – Family Division to serve as an Administrative Assistant for 6 years.

MICHIGAN JUVENILE DETENTION ASSOCIATION – 2018 AWARD WINNERS

**Treatment Worker
of the Year**
Gordon Bryant

**Youth Specialist
of the Year**
Chr’Shelle Quarles

**Support Worker
of the Year**
Reginald Ferguson

On Trac Program



In February 2018 Jai Khatri, On Trac Program Manager, was awarded the Food Systems Leader of the Year Award in the Youth Category for her work with the youth on a garden project over the last two years. The garden project was funded by the Women Who Care and the Lawyers Auxiliary. Over the past two years the On Trac residents have spent their summers planting seeds, transplanting seedlings, weeding, and learning about composting and soil types, and working together to water and care for their garden. The Juvenile Home also partnered with the 4H MSU Extension who talked with participants about food sustainability and the world food trade. The produce from the garden was sold at an in house farmer’s market for court and juvenile home employees. The proceeds were split amongst the residents who participated in the garden project and will be given to the residents when they leave. Some food was also donated to Loaves and Fishes.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT/PROBATE COURT MAJOR EVENTS

The **2018 Take Your Child to Work Day** was held on Thursday, April 26 at the GRJC. The kids participated in a mock trial, *People v Cruella Deville*, which was presided over by Judge Phillips. Kids 11+ years old toured the Juvenile home, while the younger kids participated in activities.



The **Circuit/Probate Annual Adoption Day** was held on **November 14, 2018**. There were 23 kids who walked into the Gull Road Justice Complex that day having only the State of Michigan as their parents. The ages ranged from 2 years old to 3 weeks passed their 18th birthday. The average amount of days the children had been in foster care was 693. Seven of the adoptees had been in foster care for over 1000 days. The most being a 16 year old boy that had been in care for over 2500 days. They walked through the balloon towers and saw that there was a balloon arch welcoming them into the day that was going to change their lives. The arch contained the words "Adoption Day 2018". The families flocked to it to take pictures. Smiling, goofy, and elated the

adoptees all used the silly props to show that through all of their adversity, they were still just kids at heart. Today was the day that they were going to be legally accepted into a forever home. They had the comfort of knowing that after they left the court they would remain with their siblings. They knew that they would be sleeping in the same bed, and going to the same school. After twelve joy filled hearings, some cake, and family pictures, the families drove off to start their holiday season finally feeling complete. Thank you to the Western Michigan Basketball team for coming out and taking pictures with the kids.



NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

2018 CIRCUIT COURT HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A combined Circuit/Probate budget was submitted in 2018 for the Circuit and Probate Courts. The court came in under budget for 2018.
- Childcare grant was approved by the State.
- Secured over \$566,683 in grant dollars for the Problem-Solving Courts.
 - Received grant awarded funds in the amount of \$55,826 for Swift and Sure Sanctions Program.
 - Received grant award funds of \$79,045 for the Juvenile Mental Health Treatment and Recovery Court.
 - Received grant funds of \$17,385 for the newly created Veterans Court.
- Received Medical Incentive for 2018 of \$45,923.
- Collected and distributed over \$21 million in child support, including over \$7 million in back support.
- Participated in future planning for the new downtown court facility.
- A Court Security Committee was formed between Circuit/Probate Court, District Court, Sheriff's Office transport and holding unit, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, and Building and Grounds.
- In Collaboration with Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Authority, implemented and established the Multisystemic Therapy Program.
- The Problem Solving Courts was awarded a grant from the Stryker/Johnston Foundation.
- The Problem Solving Courts was awarded a three year grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Family Dependency Court.
- Established a Human Trafficking Task Force.
- Conducted the Michigan courts' biennial Public Satisfaction Survey at all three Court locations.
- Secured contingent funding/approval for an additional Sheriff's Deputy to be assigned to the GRJC - final budgetary approval to be granted in 2019.
- Created a Security Office within the GRJC for the Sheriff Deputy assigned to the facility.
- Secured contingent funding/approval for an additional \$50,000 for Indigent Defense Services provided in the Family Division.

2018 CIRCUIT COURT TECHNOLOGY

- Purchased new counsel tables for Courtroom B.
- Juvenile Home Security System was updated.
- Installed push-bar emergency exit alarms and call ups for emergency door exits at GRJC.
- Installed 6 new cameras and a video monitoring system at Crosstown Center Security desk.
- The Juvenile Home JAVS system was replaced.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

The Drug Treatment Court Programs continue to be an effective alternative that diverts incarceration for non-violent felons and juvenile offenders with substance abuse and/or mental health problems. Program components include frequent drug testing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, intense court supervision, attendance at status review hearings and support groups, payment of restitution, community service, and education/employment requirements.



Judges Presiding Over Problem-Solving Courts in 2018

Circuit Judge Paul J. Bridenstine

Men's Drug Treatment Court Program

Women's Drug Treatment Court Program

Circuit Judge G. Scott Pierangeli

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program

Circuit Judge Stephen D. Gorsalitz

Family Dependency Treatment Court Program

Circuit Judge Gary C. Giguere

Swift and Sure Sanctions Program

Probate Judge Curtis J. Bell

Juvenile Mental Health Treatment & Recovery Court Program

Circuit Judge Pamela L. Lightvoet

Veterans Treatment Court Program

Adult Men and Women's Drug Treatment Court

The Men's and Women's Drug Treatment Court Programs divert nonviolent felons, with substance abuse problems, from incarceration in jail and/or prison. Participants also include Department of Corrections' probationers who are sentenced to the program as a condition of probation or as probation violators, or as parole violators. Participants are given an opportunity to become involved in substance abuse treatment and to comply with other requirements such as attending bi-weekly court sessions, submitting random urinalysis samples, and reporting to program staff. They must also follow up on referrals made to other community agencies, which may include the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Housing Resources, Maternal Support Services, the YWCA Sexual and Domestic Assault Programs, Goodwill Industries, and others. In order for a defendant to participate in the Men's or Women's Drug Treatment Court Programs, the defendant must enter a guilty plea to the charge(s). The defendant is represented by counsel during the plea process and may file a motion to set aside and dismiss the plea upon successful completion of the program. Defendants may also be sentenced to the program for a new offense, or upon a probation or parole violation. The Women's Drug Treatment Court Program, one of the first in the nation, was established in 1992. The Men's Drug Treatment Court Program was established in 1997. To date, the programs have graduated nearly 1000 participants.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Family Dependency Treatment Court Program

The Family Dependency Treatment Court Program is located within the Family Division of the 9th Circuit Court, 1536 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048. The Family Dependency Treatment Court is a court devoted to cases of child abuse and neglect that involve substance abuse by the child's parents or other caregivers. Its purpose is to protect the safety and welfare of children while giving parents the tools they need to become sober, responsible caregivers. To accomplish this, the court draws together an interdisciplinary team that works collaboratively to assess the family's situation and to devise a comprehensive case plan that addresses the needs of both the children and the parents. In this way, the court team provides children with quick access to permanency and offers parents a viable chance to achieve sobriety, provide a safe and nurturing home, and hold their families together. The program welcomed its first participant in February 2009.



Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program

The Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program (SSSPP) is an intensive probation supervision program that targets high-risk felony offenders with a history of probation violations or failures. Governed by MCL 771A.1 et seq., SSSPP is modeled on Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) Program, which studies have shown to be very successful in improving the rate of successful completion of probation among high-risk probationers. SSSPP participants are closely monitored, including being subjected to frequent random testing for drug and alcohol use and being required to attend frequent meetings with probation and case management staff. SSSPP aims to improve probationer success by promptly imposing graduated sanctions, including small amounts of jail time, for probation violations. The 9th Circuit Court implemented the SSSPP in May of 2013.

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program is a post-adjudication program for non-violent juvenile offenders who have been assessed with substance abuse problems contributing to delinquent behavior. The program is located within the Family Division of the 9th Circuit Court and program components include frequent drug testing, substance abuse and mental health treatment, intense court supervision, attendance at bi-weekly status review hearings and support groups, payment of restitution, community service and education/employment requirements. Participants progress through four phases of incrementally reduced program requirements and supervision, as sobriety and engagement in drug free activities is maintained. The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court is a family focused program, which requires parental involvement in the juvenile's treatment and recovery. Sanctions and incentives are applied to encourage, motivate and support drug free and crime free behavior.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Juvenile Mental Health Treatment and Recovery Court Program

In May 2016 9th Circuit Court welcomed the first participant into the Treatment & Recovery Court which is located within the Family Division of the 9th Circuit Court. Mental health courts were modeled after drug treatment court and developed in response to the overrepresentation of individuals with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system. Kalamazoo recognized this overrepresentation in the juvenile population and the need to serve juveniles with serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or a developmental disability. A team of court staff and a mental health professional's work together to develop treatment plans and supervise the juvenile in the community. Juveniles appear at regular status hearings during which incentives are offered to encourage adherence to court conditions, sanctions for nonadherence are handed down, and treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness. The 9th Circuit Court Treatment & Recovery Court is one of only 6 juvenile mental health courts in the State of Michigan.



Veterans Treatment Court Program

Veterans Treatment Court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles to serve military veterans, and sometimes active-duty personnel. It promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with a defense advisor, judge, APA, VTC case manager, MDOC probation officer, mentor coordinator, problem-solving court administrator, a representative from the VA, and a representative from the Kalamazoo County Veteran Service Office. The 9th Circuit Court implemented the Veterans Treatment Court in February 2017 and has the funding and capacity to serve ten Kalamazoo County veterans.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT DIVERSION

Court ordered guardianship is a process that takes away the rights of individuals and should only be necessary if other alternatives are not available. In order to divert unnecessary court ordered guardians if alternatives are available the Court has consistently and effectively accomplished this mandate through the diversion and educational programs the Court has developed.

This Court's diversionary efforts have reduced the number of Court ordered guardianships for minors and adults. Two primary mechanisms are in place to divert cases from the formal court action. Intake appointments are offered to any person in the community wishing to discuss concerns regarding guardianship, power of attorney, child custody, mental commitments, and accessing services for those with special needs. Over 600 intake appointments took place in the year 2018.

We only take those filing fees that are likely to result in appointments of guardianships. Consumers are receiving immediate attention from court staff without unnecessary filings and without the stress of appearing in a formal court proceeding. Many of these consumers receive referral services helping them access resources, which are available but may be little known or little utilized. Through contacting local agencies, the public schools, and other court ordered systems the court is able to align consumers with those resources, which best meet their needs. Although we still consider our court to be one of last resort, our intake services are made available to anyone needing assistance.

The other mechanisms used to divert cases involves telephone calls seeking information, presenting emergency circumstances, and seeking input on current and possible future Probate Court matters, often resulting in matters being diverted.

Further, the Probate Court staff provided numerous trainings throughout the year to educate our community partners on court procedures.

The most important goal of the Probate Court is to efficiently meet the present needs of the public while anticipating future needs. This will continue to be the primary focus in 2019.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

THE PROBATE CLINIC

The Probate Clinic is a service that offers pro bono consultations with attorneys to the public regarding probate issues. The clinic is staffed on the first and third Tuesday of each month and is located at the Crosstown Center.

During 2018, attorneys assisted with issues concerning guardianships and conservatorships, assignments, estates, real estate and many other probate issues. Valuable information was given to all participants in the Clinic. The Probate Court will continue to publicize the Clinic as a valuable resource to those in the community who need legal assistance regarding probate issues. Expansion of the program will be given consideration as the Court looks to future needs and trends.

The Court would like to give special thanks to the following attorneys who volunteered their time and expertise in 2018:

- Annelore Cannizzaro
- Ryan Conboy
- Michael A. Dombos
- Benjamin J. Herbert
- Oliver Howell
- William K. Kriekard
- Catherine C. Metzler
- W. Joseph Mills
- Sarah Nicholson
- Kelly J. M. Quardokus
- Staci Salisbury
- Donald M. Thinschmidt

PROBATE COURT AND WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP COLLABORATION

Kalamazoo County Probate Court continued its partnership with the Western Michigan University School of Medicine **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** program. The program is designed to place medical students in community programs to enhance their educational opportunities in a non-academic setting.

Historically, the Court was able to complete many of the non-mandated reviews of guardianships through the Probate Advocate Program. That program was highly successful and productive. The new Active Citizenship program allows the Court to build on the principles and success of the Probate Advocate Program.

After appropriate training by Court staff medical students assigned to the Court have taken on the task of going into the community and conducting reviews of guardianships of the legally incapacitated individuals, of minors and of individuals with a developmental disability.

The reviews provide an invaluable service, not only to the Court but to those that are under guardianship. The students have the unique opportunity to “learn” by “doing” in actual real life settings – not simply in a classroom

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT/PROBATE COURT FINANCES

The Circuit Court continued to remain fiscally responsible in its actions for 2018. With the help of everyone in the court, the court operated within its 2018 budget. Expenses were closely monitored. New projects and grants were either started or continued, generating additional revenue. Grant funds and fundraisers included the following:

- **Kalamazoo Community Foundation:**

- \$85,077 towards the Men's Drug Treatment Court Program.
- \$15,741 towards the Women's Drug Treatment Court Program.
- \$13,331 towards Family Dependency Treatment Court.

- **Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health:**

- \$41,617 for Men's Drug Treatment Court Program.
- \$25,032 for Women's Drug Treatment Court.

- **Byrne Grant through SCAO:**

- \$197,924 for Men's Drug Treatment Court Program.
- \$135,411 for Women's Drug Treatment Court Program

- **Michigan Drug Court Grant through SCAO:**

- \$35,587 to be used for Men's Drug Treatment Court.
- \$17,791 for Juvenile Drug Court
- \$20,981 Juvenile Mental Grant.
- \$7,361 towards Family Dependency Treatment Court.

- **Veterans Treatment Court Grant through SCAO:** \$23,812 towards Veterans Treatment Court.

- **Swift and Sure Sanction Program through SCAO:** \$61,144 for Swift and Sure Sanctions Program.

- **Federal Incentives through the State of Michigan:** \$342,669 for Friend of the Court.

- **Medical Incentives through the State of Michigan:** \$73,503 for Friend of the Court.

- **IV-D Funding through the State of Michigan:** \$1,812,256 for Friend of the Court.

- **Deficit Reduction Act through the State of Michigan:** \$109,397 for Friend of the Court.

- **Access and Visitation Grant through SCAO:** \$12,555 for supervised parenting time.

- **Child Care Grant through the State of Michigan:** \$5,214,211 for Juvenile Home; In-Home Care; Child Placements.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

- In addition to staff continuously exploring availability of new grants, the Circuit Court continued working on various strategies to increase collections of money owed to the court.
- The state tax interception program continued in 2018. The filing in November 2018 was the eleventh year that tax interception was used and 1,146 cases were sent to the State of Michigan. The money from these filings will be received in 2019.
- In 2018 the court collected \$166,229 in social security and reimbursements for child protective cases where the child(ren) resided outside the home.

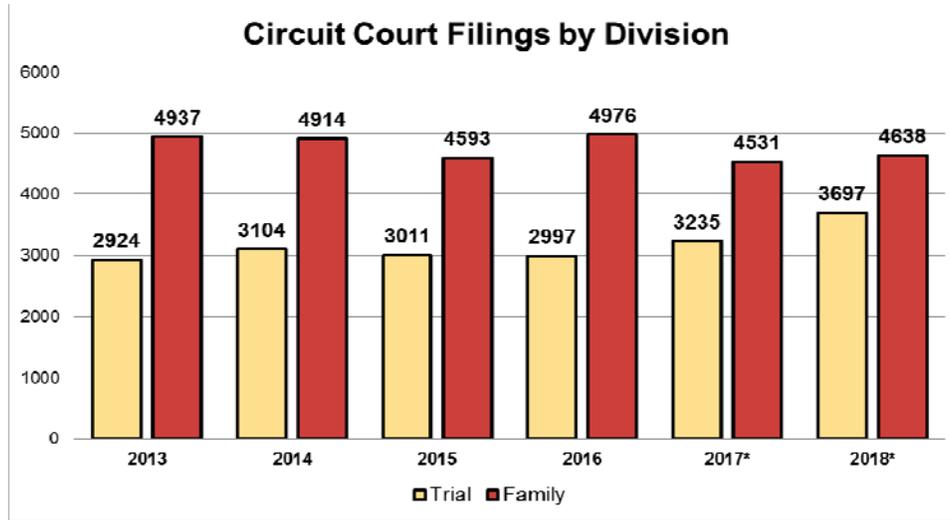
State Tax Interception Program

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
522 individuals	1,583 individuals	1,202 individuals	824 individuals	1,264 cases	1,146 Cases
\$29,598	\$57,287	\$55,423	\$31,769	\$64,972	To be received in 2019

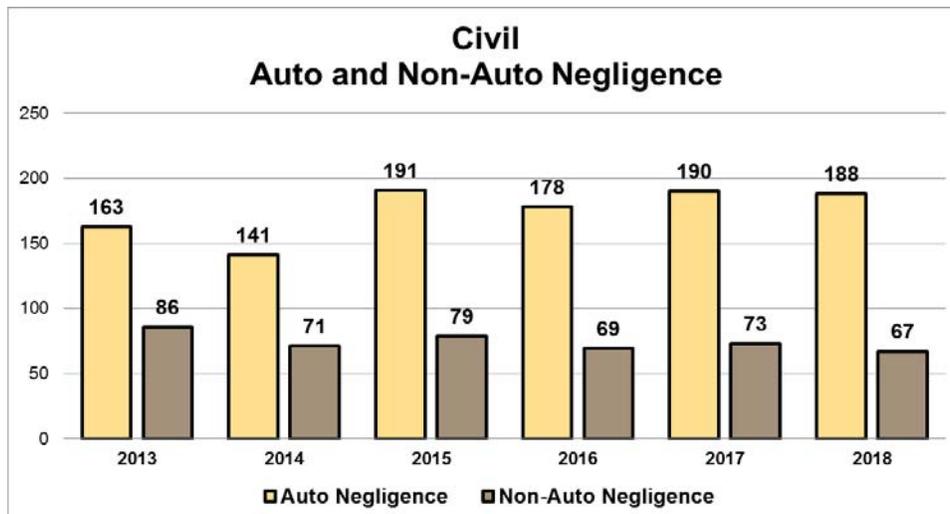
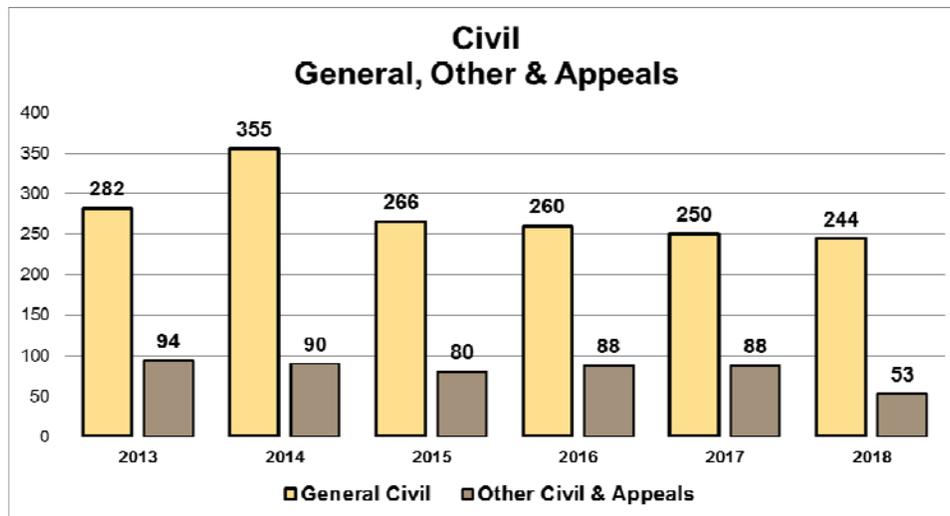


NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS

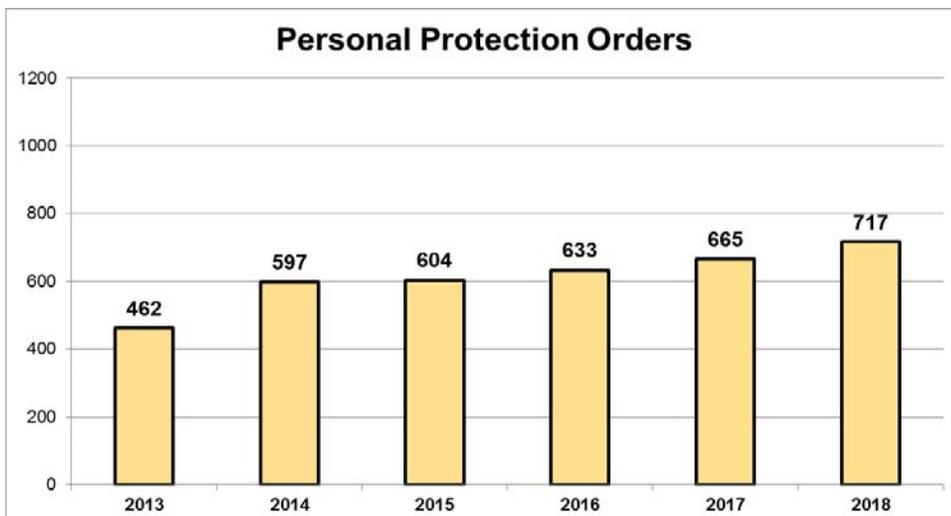
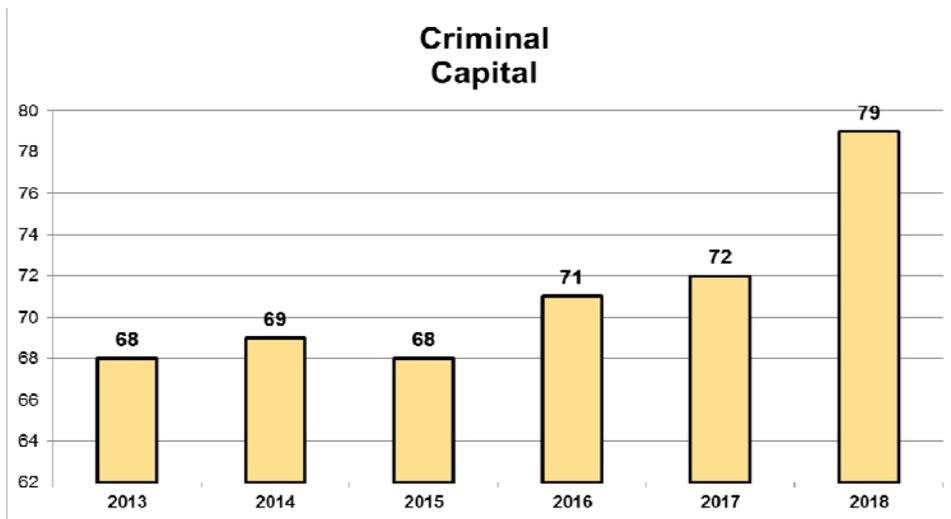
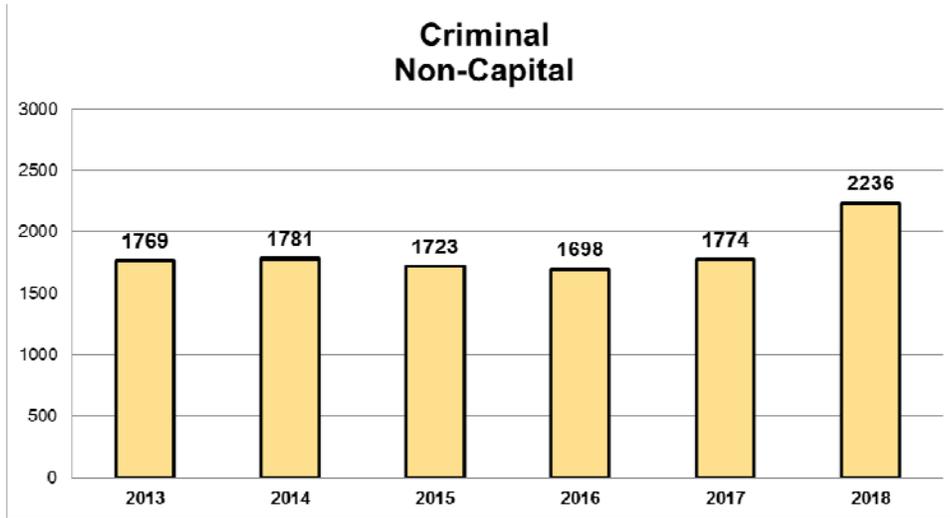


*In 2017 name change cases were moved from the Family Division to the Trial Division.



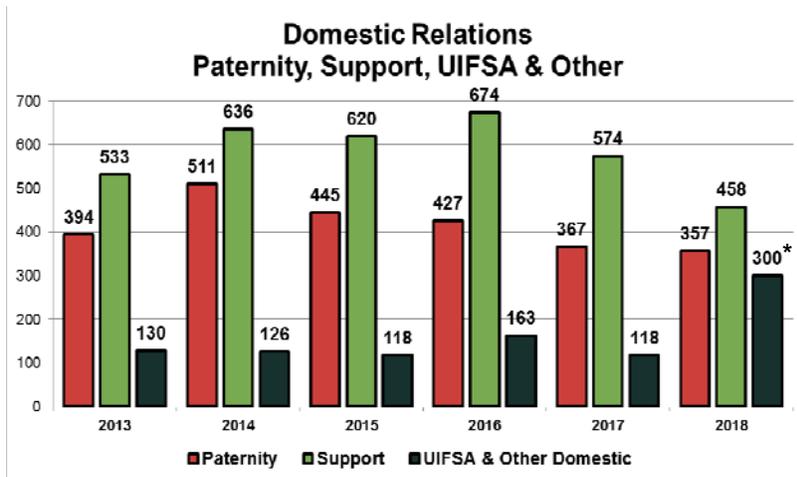
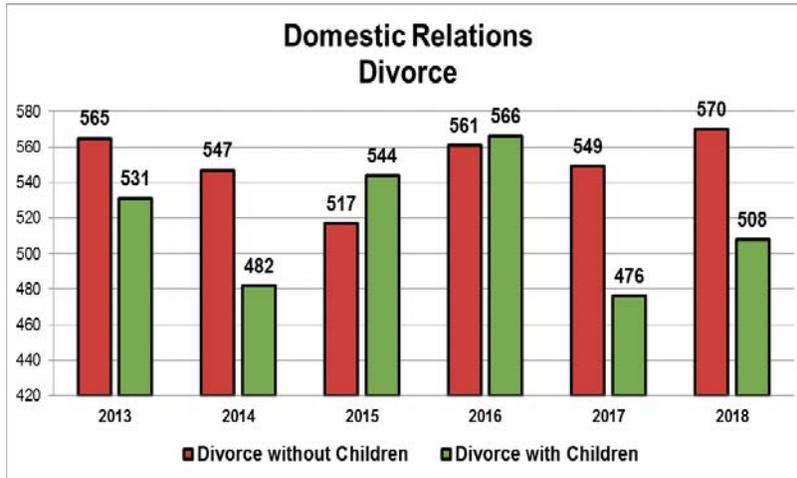
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS

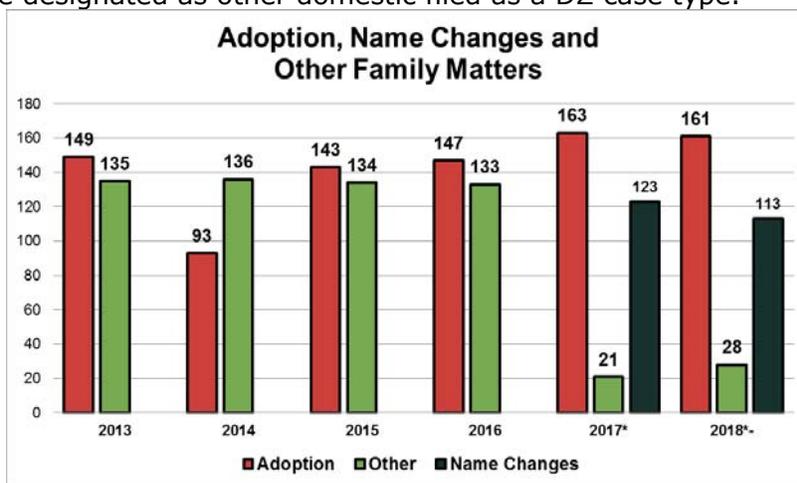


NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS



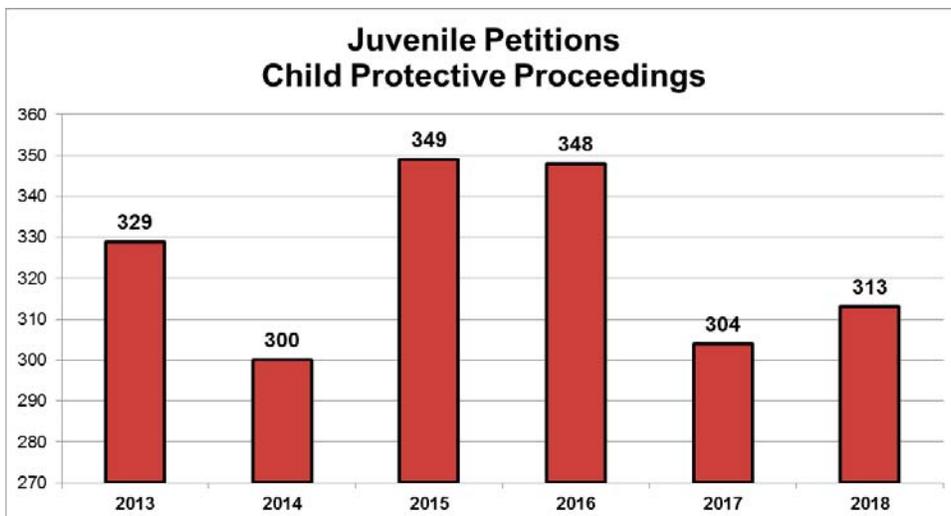
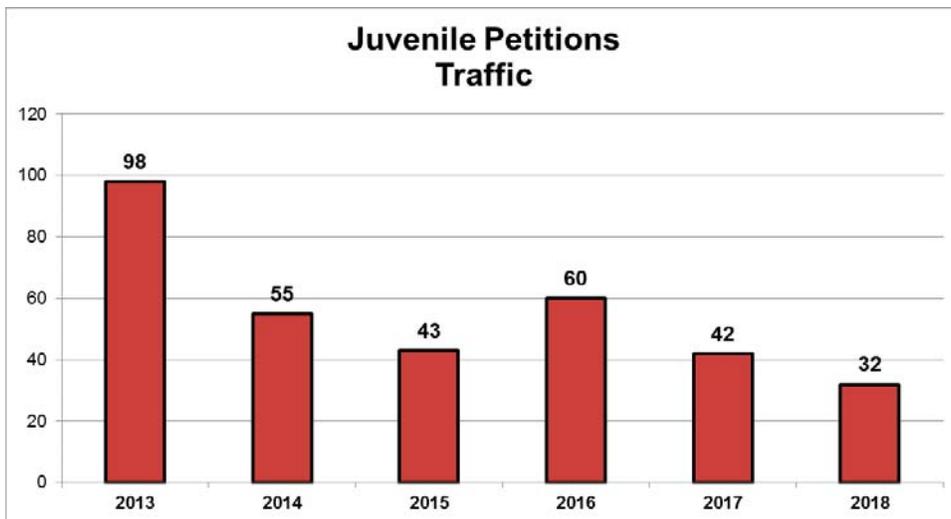
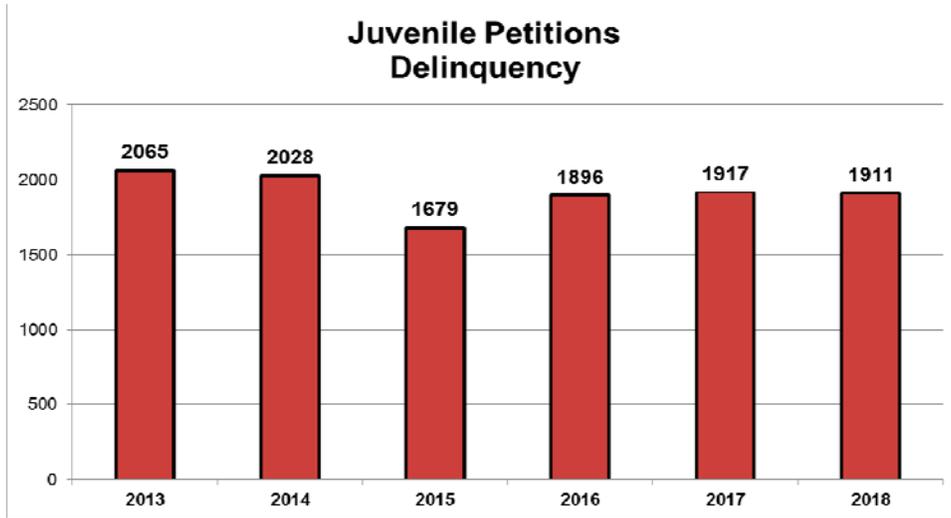
*Third party custodian and/or foster care placement cases were filed as support cases in previous years. In 2018 these cases are designated as other domestic filed as a DZ case type.



*In 2017 name change case filings were removed to the Trial Division.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS



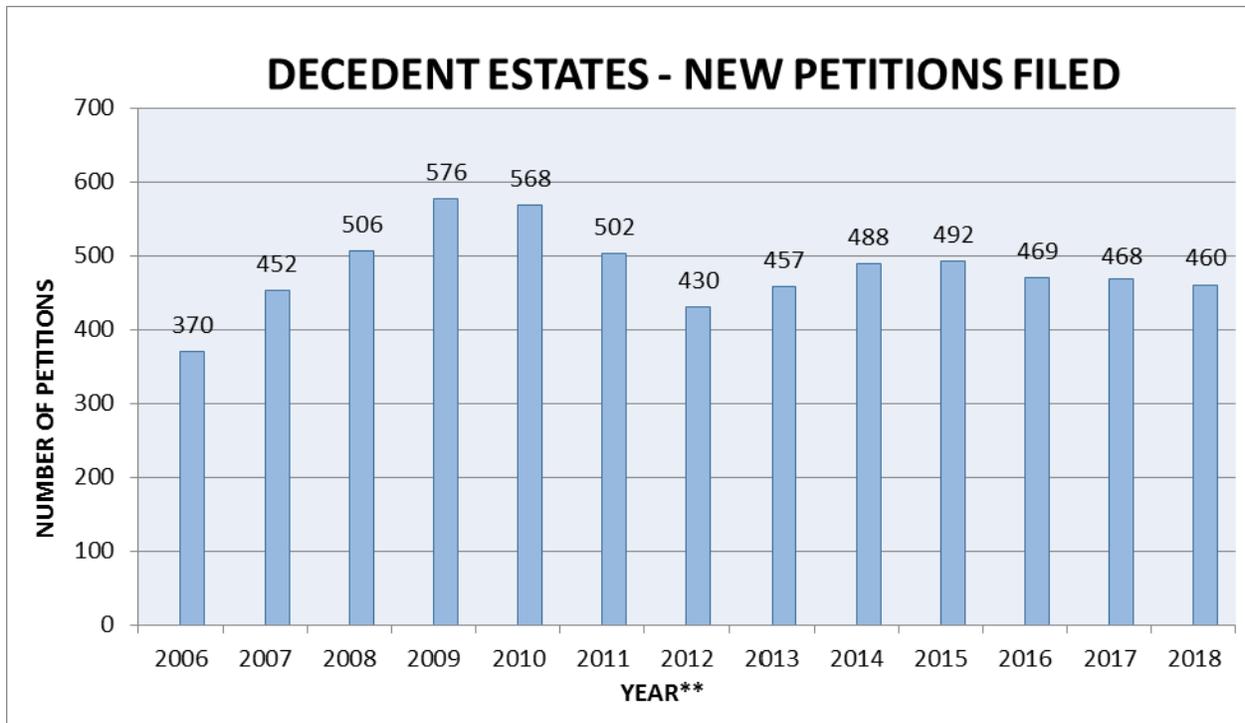
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT FILINGS

Decedent Estates

The Probate Court has exclusive jurisdiction of matters regarding the settlement of the estate of a deceased person who was at the time of death domiciled either in the county or out of state leaving an estate within the county to be administered.

Prior to April 1, 2000, decedent’s estates were administered pursuant to the Revised Probate Code (RPC). That changed on April 1, 2000, with the adoption of the Estates and Protected Individual’s Code (EPIC), which now governs the administration of the estates of deceased individuals.



TRUSTS

The Michigan Trust Code was completely revised in 2010. The new code governs the administration and creation of the various trusts used in estate planning. The court is seeing an increase of cases involving trusts and ancillary matters. Trust matters tend to be more involved and take longer to resolve.

2018 Cases	
New Filings (Inter Vivos and Testamentary Trusts).....	39
Active Cases.....	32

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT FILINGS

Guardians of Legally Incapacitated Individuals

The court may appoint a guardian if it finds by clear and convincing evidence both that the individual for whom a guardian is sought is an incapacitated individual and that the appointment is necessary as a means of providing continuing care and supervision of the incapacitated individual. These cases are reviewed after the first year that a guardian is appointed and every three years thereafter. These on site reviews are conducted by a caseworker. The court also reviews the annual report on condition of ward that is filed by the guardian each year. As questions or concerns arise, the caseworker will investigate. The cases are reviewed by the WMU medical students through the Active Citizenship Program when a caseworker is not required by statute to conduct a review.

2018 Cases*	
2018 New Filings	109
Active Cases	359

Guardians of Minors

The court may appoint a guardian for a minor if the parental rights of both parents or the surviving parent are terminated or suspended by prior court order, by judgment of divorce or separate maintenance, by death, by judicial determination of mental incompetency, by disappearance, or by confinement in a place of detention, or if the parents permit the minor to reside with another person and do not provide legal authority for the other person for the minor’s care and maintenance, or the minor’s biological parents have never been married to one another and the minor’s parent who has custody dies or is missing and the other parent has not been granted legal custody and the proposed guardian is related to the minor within the fifth degree. Investigations are completed by court caseworkers or Michigan Department of Health and Human Services workers for every minor guardianship. These cases are required to be reviewed by statute every year while the minor is under six years of age. The court continues to annually review these cases after the minors are over six years of age with the assistance of the WMU medical students through the Active Citizenship Program.

2018 Cases*	
2018 New Filings	71
Active Cases	361

These numbers do not reflect the total effort of the Probate Court in the areas of Guardianship and Conservatorship. A Probate Court Intake Specialist meets with potential filers to assist them with information. This results in over **600 matters each year being handled by the Intake Department and many being diverted to more appropriate community resources.*

**NINTH CIRCUIT COURT
KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

PROBATE COURT FILINES

Guardians of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The court may appoint a guardian for individuals with a developmental disability only as is necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the individual, including protection from neglect, exploitation, and abuse; shall take into account the individual’s abilities; shall be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence in the individual; and shall be ordered only to the extent necessitated by the individual’s actual mental and adaptive behavior. These cases are not required to be reviewed by statute but are reviewed by the WMU medical students through the Active Citizenship Program. The court also reviews all annual reports that are filed by the guardians. The caseworker of the court will investigate as questions or concerns arise.

<i>2018 Cases*</i>	
2018 New Filings	31
Active Cases	447

Conservators

The court may appoint a conservator for an individual if the court determines that the individual is unable to manage property and business affairs effectively for reasons of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, confinement, detention by a foreign power or disappearance and the individual has property that will be wasted or dissipated unless proper management is provided, or money is needed for the individual’s support, care and welfare or for those entitled to the individual’s support, and that protection is necessary to obtain or provide money. The court may also appoint a conservator for an individual who is mentally competent but due to age or physical infirmity is unable to manage his or her property and affairs effectively or for a minor who owns money or property that requires management. Annual accounts are required to be filed in all conservatorships unless the assets are in a restricted account. A verification of funds on deposit is to be filed each year for assets in restricted accounts, which enables the court to verify assets.

<i>2018 Cases*</i>	
2018 New Filings	57
Active Cases	256

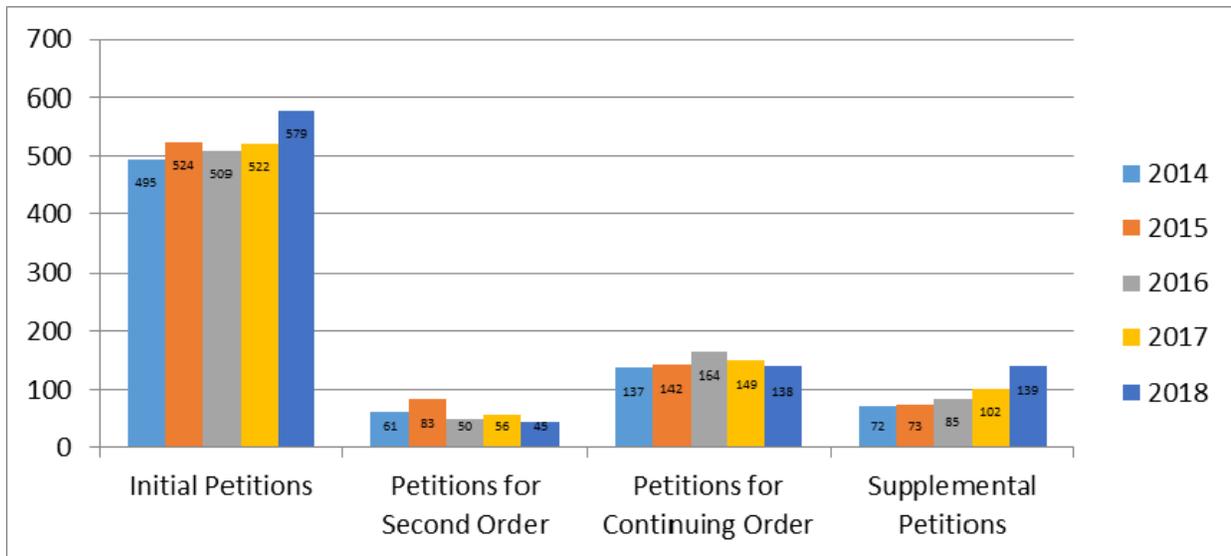
**These numbers do not reflect the total effort of the Probate Court in the areas of Guardianship and Conservatorship. A Probate Court Intake Specialist meets with potential filers to assist them with information. This results in over 600 matters each year being handled by the Intake Department and many being diverted to more appropriate community resources.*

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

PROBATE COURT FILINGS

Mental Commitments

Proceedings under the Mental Health Code, including involuntary hospitalization of minors and adults with a mental illness and judicial admissions of individuals with developmental disabilities. The basis for the ability of the Court to order involuntary hospitalization is outlined in the Mental Health Code along with court rules. The treatment of the person could take place in a public institution or private hospital or in the community in an alternative treatment program.



ADDITIONAL FILINGS IN 2018

Wills	392
Delayed Registration of Foreign Birth	6

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

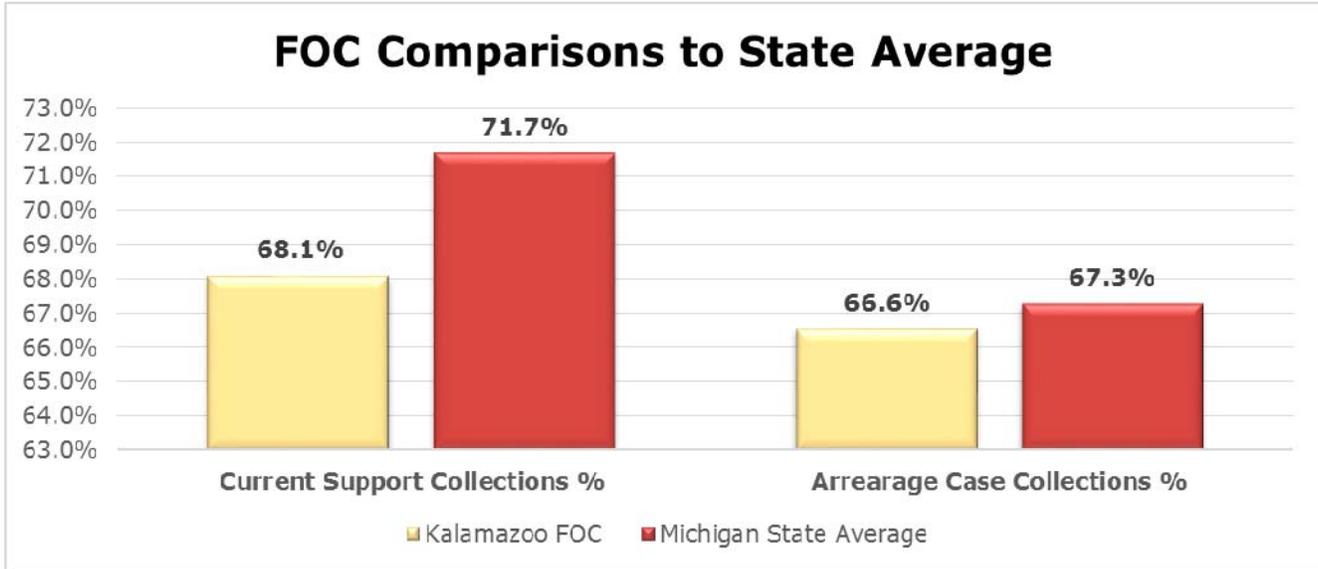
CIRCUIT COURT CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE

Type of Case	Time Guideline	Compliance 2016	Compliance 2017	Compliance 2018
Criminal (Felony)	Adjudicate cases filed within days of bindover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% within 91 days 85% within 154 days 98% within 301 days 	92% 98% 100%	91% 98% 100%	92% 98% 100%
Civil	Adjudicate cases within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% within 364 Days 95% within 728 days 	76% 98%	73% 98%	78% 99%
Personal Protection Orders	Process ex-parte petitions within hours of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% within 24 hours Resolve petitions within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% within 14 days Adjudicate petitions within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% within 21 days 	100% 100% 100%	100% 100% 100%	99% 100% 100%
Appeals	Adjudicate cases within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98% within 182 days 	100%	95%	89%
Domestic (With Children)	Adjudicate cases within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% within 301 95% within 364 	96% 99%	95% 100%	97% 99%
Domestic (No Children)	Adjudicate cases within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% within 182 days 98% within 364 days 	86% 100%	88% 99%	87% 99%
Domestic-Other (Non-support, Paternity, Misc)	Adjudicate cases within days of filing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% within 147 days 95% within 238 days 	93% 98%	94% 98%	93% 98%
Juvenile Delinquency (In-Custody)	Disposition of petitions within days of authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% within 84 days 90% within 98 days 	91% 95%	94% 97%	85% 99%
Juvenile Delinquency (Not in Custody)	Disposition of petitions within days of authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% within 119 days 98% within 210 days 	95% 100%	89% 100%	84% 100%
Child Protective Proceedings (Out-of-Home Placement)	Disposition of petitions within days of authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% within 84 days 85% within 98 days 	89% 93%	89% 94%	82% 98%
Child Protective Proceedings (Not in Out-of-Home Placement)	Disposition of petitions within days of authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% within 119 days 95% within 210 days 	96% 100%	89% 100%	82% 100%
Adoptions	Petitions for Adoption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% within 287 days 98% within 364 days 	95% 100%	99% 100%	96% 99%
Name Changes	Name Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% within 126 days 	100%	100%	99%

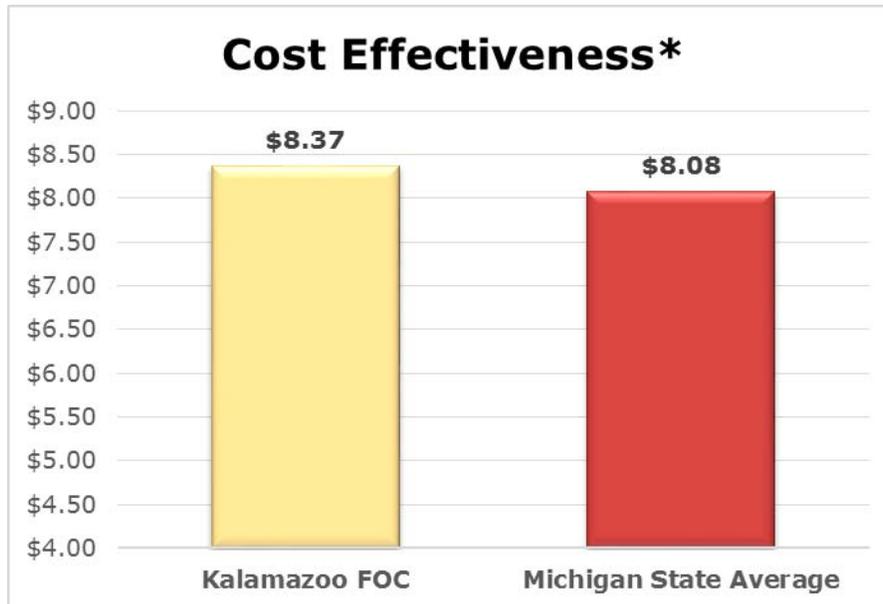
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Friend of the Court Collections

Current Support	\$25,961,363
Arrears	\$7,696,941
TOTAL	\$33,658,304



Overall percentage of current support collected was 68.09%.



Cost effectiveness is reported in terms of dollars collected per dollar spent.

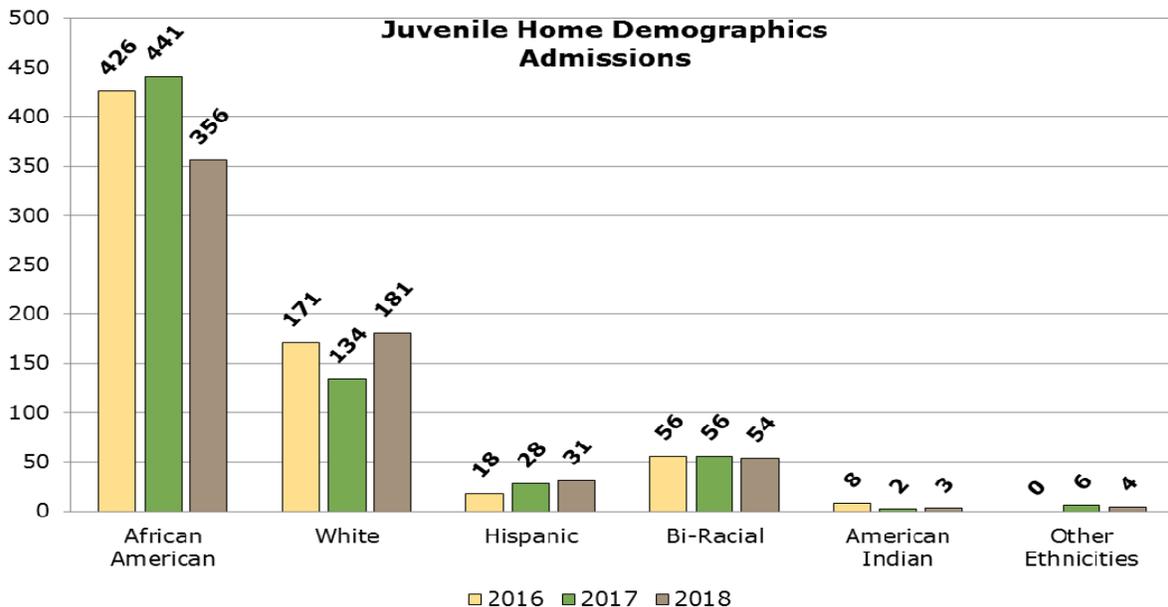
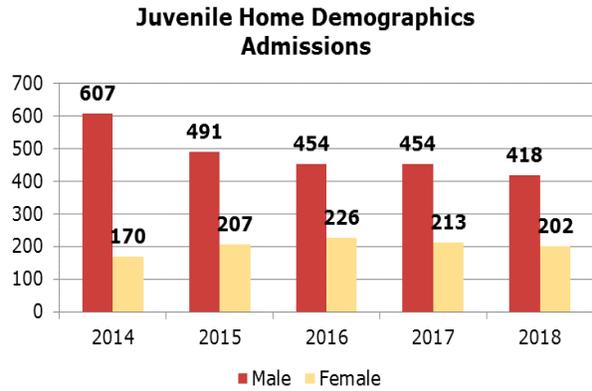
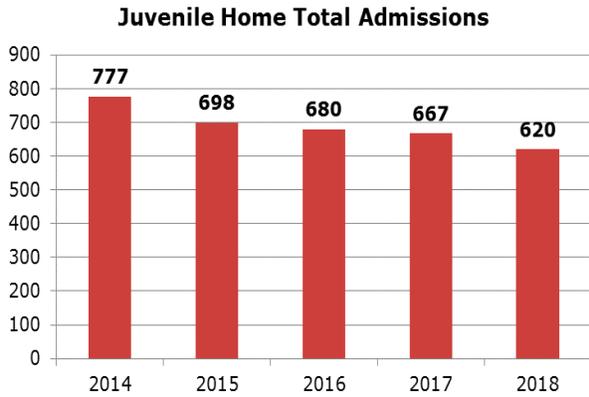
In 2018 the FOC collected \$8.37 for every dollar spent.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

JUVENILE HOME ADMISSIONS

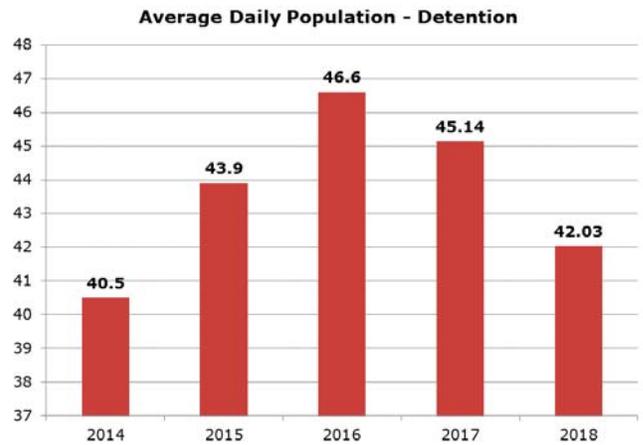
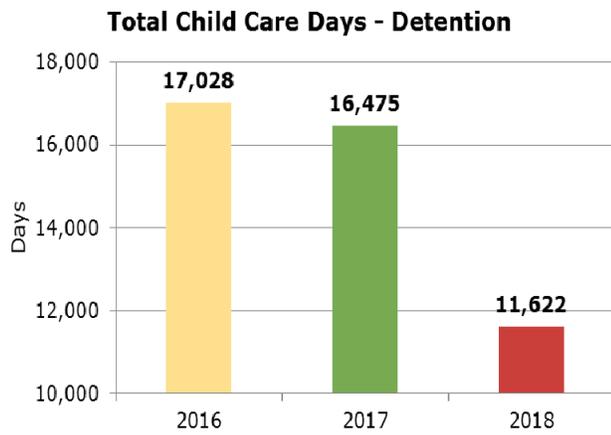
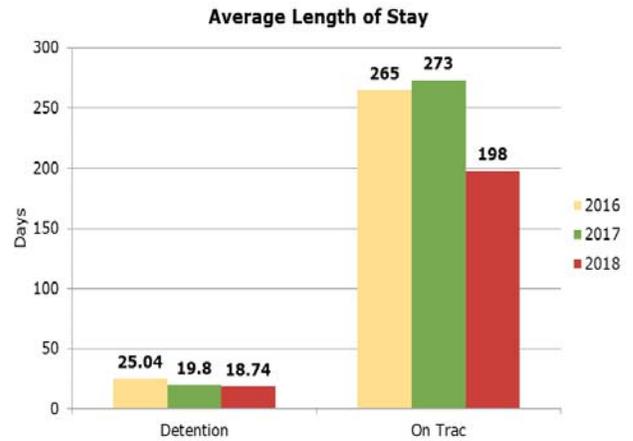
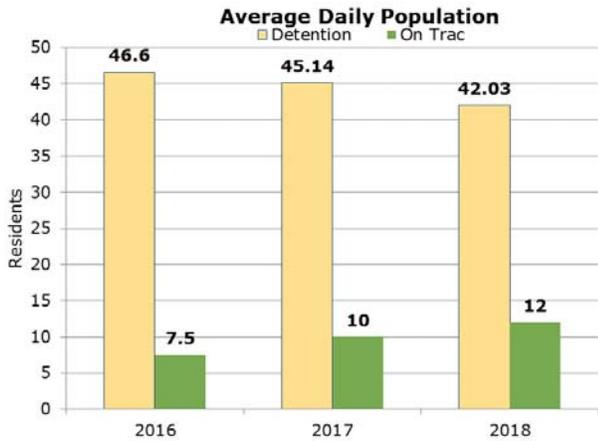
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Male Admissions	502	607	491	454	454	418
Female Admissions	204	170	207	226	213	202
African American Admissions	382	457	432	426	441	356
White Admissions	157	198	169	171	134	181
Hispanic Admissions	46	28	16	18	28	31
Bi-Racial Admissions	39	94	81	56	56	45
American Indian Admissions	0	0	0	8	2	3
Other Ethnic Admissions	82	0	0	0	6	4
Total Number of Admissions	706	777	698	680	667	620

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Child Care Days (detention)	14,340	14,766	12,090	17,028	16,475	11,622
Average Daily Population (detention)	35	40.45	43.9	46.6	45.14	42.03
Average Length of Stay (detention)	15	19	16.4	25.04	19.8	18.74



NINTH CIRCUIT COURT KALAMAZOO COUNTY PROBATE COURT

JUVENILE HOME ADMISSIONS



ON TRAC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

	2017	2018
Male Placement	15	21
Carry Over from previous year	10	6
2017		2018
African American Admissions	11	12
Caucasian Admissions	2	2
Hispanic Admissions	1	0
American Indian Admissions	0	0
Other Ethnic Admissions	0	0
Bi-Racial Admissions	1	1
Total # of youth served	15	15

	2017	2018
Average Daily Population	10	12
Average Length of Stay (months)	9	6.5



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

COURT INFORMATION



District Court – North
Michigan Avenue Courthouse

The **Criminal Division** is located at the Michigan Avenue Courthouse; felony preliminary exams are heard and misdemeanor charges with a maximum penalty of one year in jail are adjudicated.

The District Court Probation Department is located at the Michigan Avenue Courthouse.

The **Civil Division** is located at the Courthouse; civil law suits are handled and civil marriages are performed.

The **Traffic Division** is located at the Crosstown Location; traffic and non-traffic civil infractions are handled.



District Court – Crosstown
Crosstown Courthouse

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

INFORMATION AND KEY CONTACTS (Updated to reflect 2019 changes)

District Court North

Michigan Avenue Courthouse
227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 384-8171 | F: (269) 384-8047

District Court Crosstown

Crosstown Courthouse
150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 384-8171 | F: (269) 383-8899
www.kalcounty.com/courts/district 

District Court Judges

Honorable Christopher T. Haenicke

Chief Judge

150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 383-8103

Honorable Tiffany A. Ankley

Chief Judge Pro Tempore

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 383-8634

Honorable Anne E. Blatchford

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 384-8662

Honorable Kathleen P. Hemingway

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 384-8203

Honorable Richard A. Santoni

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 383-8929

Honorable Vincent C. Westra

150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 383-8903

Court Administrator

Ann E. Filkins

150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 384-8024

Probation Services Director

Lynn Kirkpatrick

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 383-8966

Deputy Court Manager

Linda Garcia

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 384-8075

Deputy Court Manager

Crystal Roberts

227 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
P: (269) 384-8170

Deputy Court Manager

Christina Taylor

150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 384-8033

Financial Services Director

Rebecca May

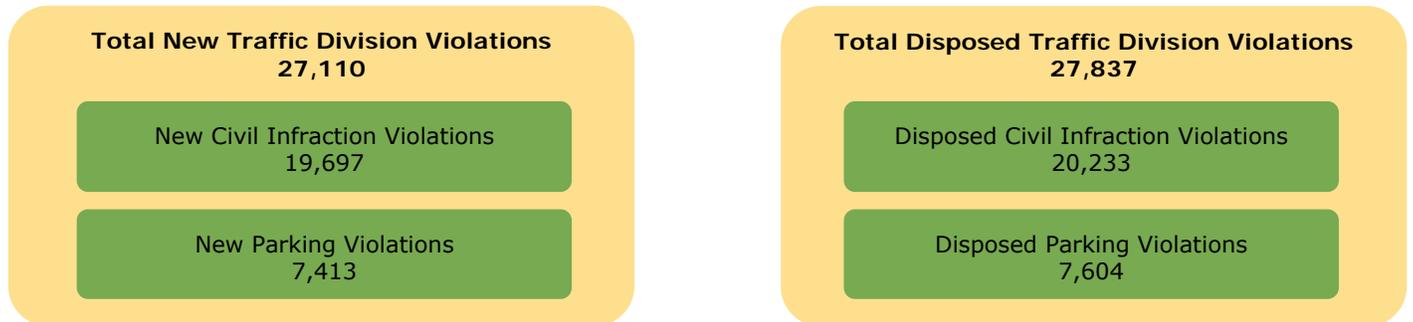
150 E. Crosstown Parkway
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
P: (269) 384-8012

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

DIVISIONS

TRAFFIC

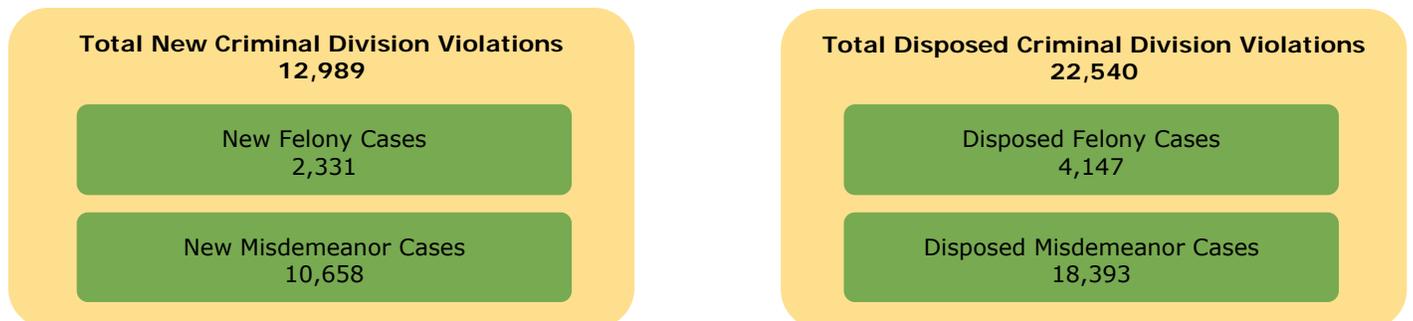
The Traffic Division in the 8th District Court processes a high volume of civil infraction violations and minor misdemeanor violations. The majority of these cases are violations of the Motor Vehicle Code; however, non-traffic civil infractions are also processed by the Traffic Division.



CRIMINAL

The Criminal Division in the 8th District Court processes and adjudicates misdemeanors which have a maximum term of incarceration up to 365 days. Misdemeanor violations include serious violations of the Motor Vehicle Code such as Operating While Intoxicated, Driving While License Suspended, and Reckless Driving. Some examples of misdemeanor offenses are domestic assault, minor property damage and theft offenses.

The Criminal Division also receives all new felony charges. Felonies are violations of the laws of the State of Michigan that have maximum terms of imprisonment greater than one year. District Court Judges determine, by way of a preliminary examination, whether there is sufficient evidence to support the charge against the defendant. Felony matters are moved to Circuit Court for final adjudication if sufficient evidence is found at the preliminary examination to support the charge.



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

DIVISIONS

CIVIL

The Civil Division consists of four sub-divisions:

General Civil encompass all civil cases under a \$25,000 jurisdictional limit, civil cases removed from Circuit Court, limited claim and delivery civil actions, limited writ of attachment and garnishment, and forfeiture or seizure of certain property.

Year 2018

6,584 New General Civil Cases Filed

6,512 General Civil Cases Disposed

Summary Proceedings encompass cases generally brought by a landlord to recover possession of a dwelling when a tenant fails to pay the rent or when the landlord or owner wishes to regain possession of his/her property. Summary proceedings include land contract forfeitures that arise when a purchaser does not pay the amount agreed upon in a contract. A landlord may obtain an Order of Eviction to evict a tenant, or land contract vendee.

Year 2018

5,823 Summary Proceeding Cases Filed

6,080 Summary Proceeding Cases Disposed

Small Claims encompass cases with recoverable maximum monies up to \$5,000 (increased from \$3,000 on September 1, 2012). Actions are filed in the county in which the cause of action arose, or in which the defendant is established, resides or is employed. Small Claims litigants waive their right to a jury trial and cannot be represented by an attorney. Small Claims litigants also have the right to remove a case to General Civil.

Year 2018

1,053 Small Claims Cases Filed

1,065 Small Claims Cases Disposed

Non-Monetary Claims are also handled by the Civil Division. This includes coroner's inquests, claim and delivery without money judgment, drug forfeitures, summary proceedings not relating to landlord-tenant and land contract, and proceedings under the public health code for testing for infectious disease.

Year 2018

14 Non-Monetary Claim Cases Filed

18 Non-Monetary Claim Cases Disposed

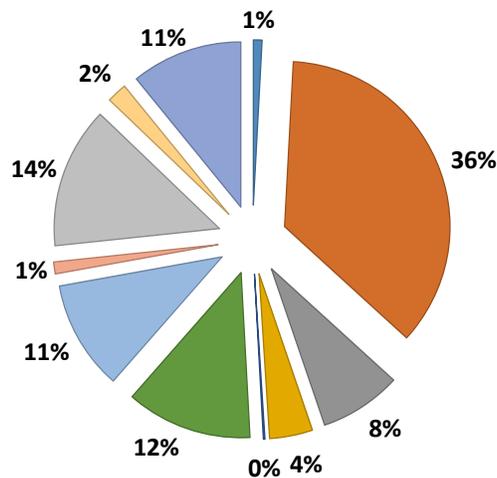
EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

FILINGS

Each year, the District Court prepares and files with the State Court Administrative Office a caseload report of all new cases filed, re-opened cases, warrants, and dispositions in the categories of traffic, criminal and civil cases. The court uploads these numbers to the State Court Administrative Office website.

New Filings by Category

Civil Infraction Non-Traffic	455	Civil Infraction Traffic	19,242
Felony and Misdemeanor Traffic	4,295	Felony Non-Traffic	2,254
Felony OUIL	77	General Civil	6,598
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	5,740	Misdemeanor OUIL	624
Parking	7,413	Small Claims	1,053
Summary Proceedings	5,823		



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

CLEARANCE RATES

Measuring the age of active pending and disposed cases is fundamental to promote access to justice by ensuring the Court is processing and disposing cases timely. The 8th District Court exceeded the case age guidelines set by the Michigan Supreme Court in nearly every category. Our Judges, management team and clerks continue to engage in process improvement to help ensure these guidelines are met while also giving appropriate consideration necessary to provide procedural and substantive due process in each individual case.

General Civil and Miscellaneous Civil Case Filing

98% Adjudicated within 273 days from case filing (State Guideline is 90%)

99% Adjudicated within 455 days from case filing (State Guideline is 98%)

Summary Civil cases without Jury Demand, including small claims, landlord/tenant, and land contract actions

98% Adjudicated within 126 days from case filing (State Guideline is 95%)

Summary Civil cases with Jury Demand, including landlord/tenant and land contract actions

89% Adjudicated within 154 days from case filing (State Guideline is 65%)

Statute and Ordinance Misdemeanor Cases, including misdemeanor drunk driving and misdemeanor traffic

87% Adjudicated within 63 day from first appearance (State Guideline is 85%)

99% Adjudicated within 126 days from first appearance (State Guideline is 95%)

Felony and Extradition/Detainer* Cases

53% Preliminary examinations held within 14 days of arraignment (State Guideline is 60%)

78% Preliminary examinations held within 28 days of arraignment (State Guideline is 75%)

*This percentage includes cases bound over to Circuit Court, reduced to a misdemeanor, or dismissed. Case age of Extradition/Detainer cases is measured from the time of arraignment to the time of the hearing or the time when the hearing was waived.

Civil Infraction Proceedings, including traffic, non-traffic, and parking cases

93% Adjudicated within 35 days from case filing (State Guideline is 90%)

99% Adjudicated within 84 days from case filing (State Guideline is 98%)

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

CLEARANCE RATES

Clearance rates are one measure of caseload management and indicate the extent to which a court is keeping up with incoming caseload. Clearance rates are calculated by dividing the number of outgoing cases (cases disposed or made inactive) by the number of incoming cases (cases filed or re-opened) during a specific time period. Because there is a lag in time between when cases are filed and when they are disposed, clearance rates naturally fluctuate to a small extent above and below 100%.

2014-2017 Clearance Rates by Case Type

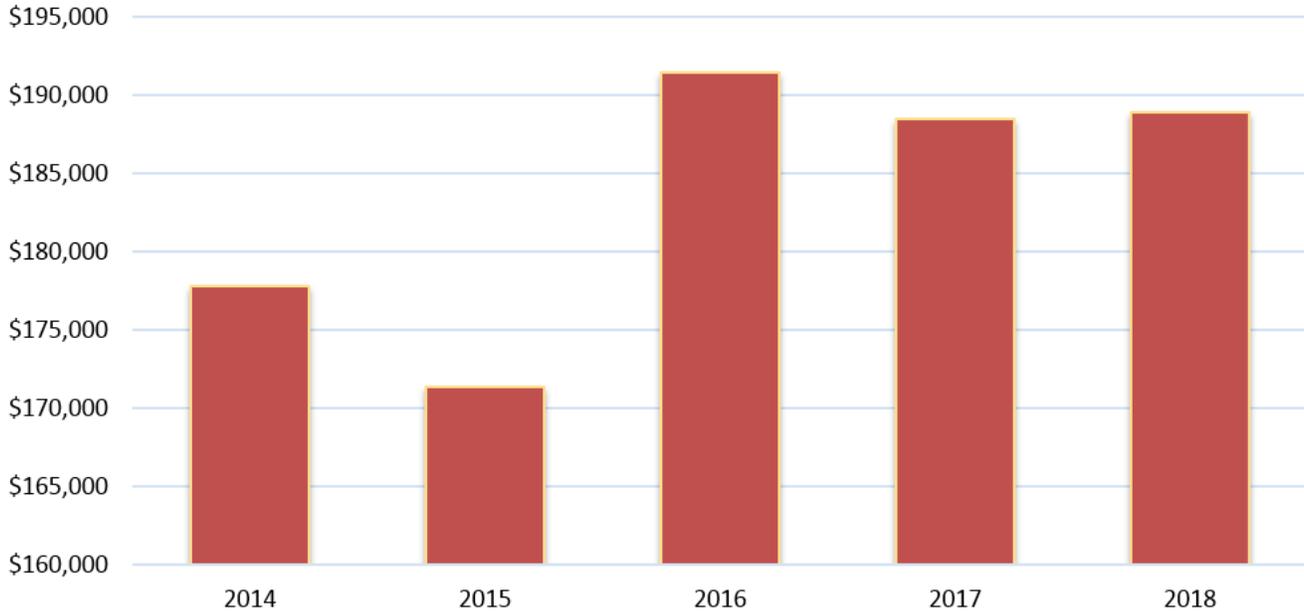
Case Type	2015	2016	2017	2018
Extradition/Detainer	N/A	N/A	67%	150%
Felony Drunk Driving	105%	99%	98%	99%
Felony Traffic	101%	99%	99%	98%
Felony Criminal Cases	99%	101%	99%	99%
Ordinance Misdemeanor Drunk Driving	98%	104%	103%	94%
Statute Misdemeanor Drunk Driving	102%	106%	96%	100%
Ordinance Misdemeanor Criminal	101%	101%	100%	101%
Statute Misdemeanor Criminal Cases	101%	101%	100%	99%
Ordinance Misdemeanor Traffic	101%	102%	97%	101%
Statute Misdemeanor Traffic	100%	102%	98%	100%
Ordinance Civil Infraction Traffic	100%	100%	100%	100%
Statute Civil Infraction Traffic	99%	101%	99%	99%
Ordinance Civil Infraction Non-Traffic	95%	101%	97%	105%
Statute Civil Infractions Non-Traffic	100%	100%	100%	100%
Ordinance Parking	111%	105%	96%	101%
Statute Parking	108%	95%	103%	107%
General Civil	100%	106%	94%	98%
Miscellaneous Civil	123%	67%	100%	120%
Landlord/Tenant Summary Proceedings	100%	100%	99%	99%
Small Claims	96%	105%	98%	98%
Land Contract Summary Proceedings	104%	103%	94%	110%

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

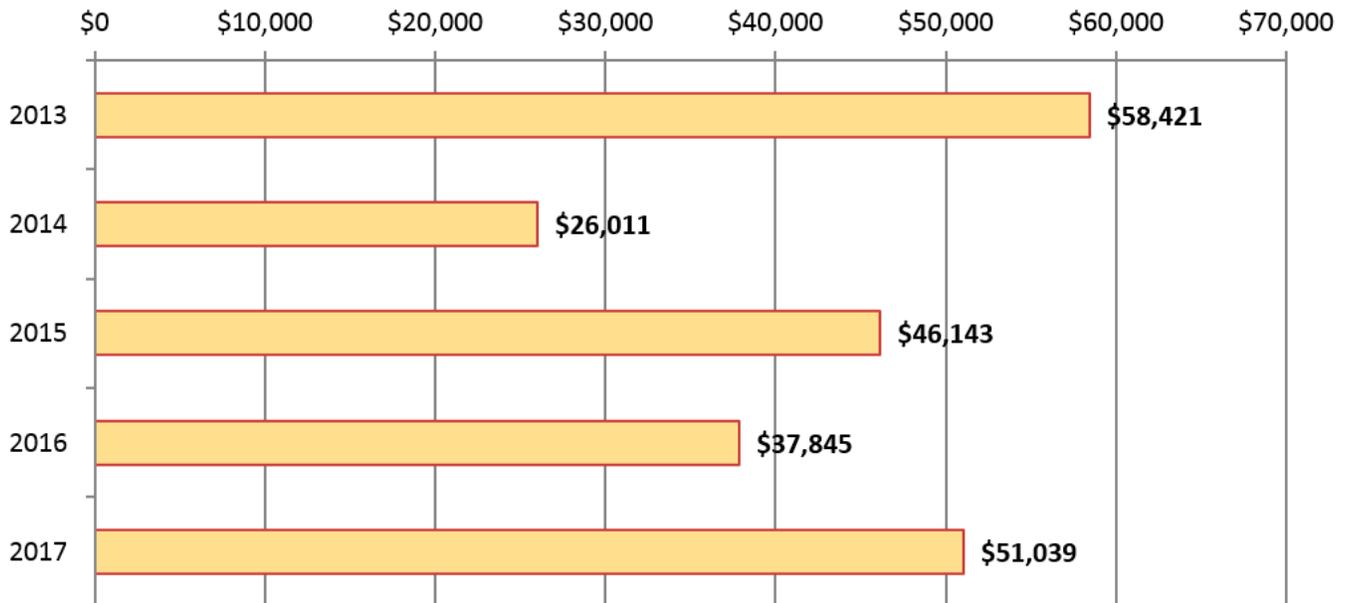
RESTITUTION PAYMENTS

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL	\$177,781	\$171,401	\$191,453	\$188,455	\$188,894

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS



RESTITUTION PAID BY TAX GARNISHMENT

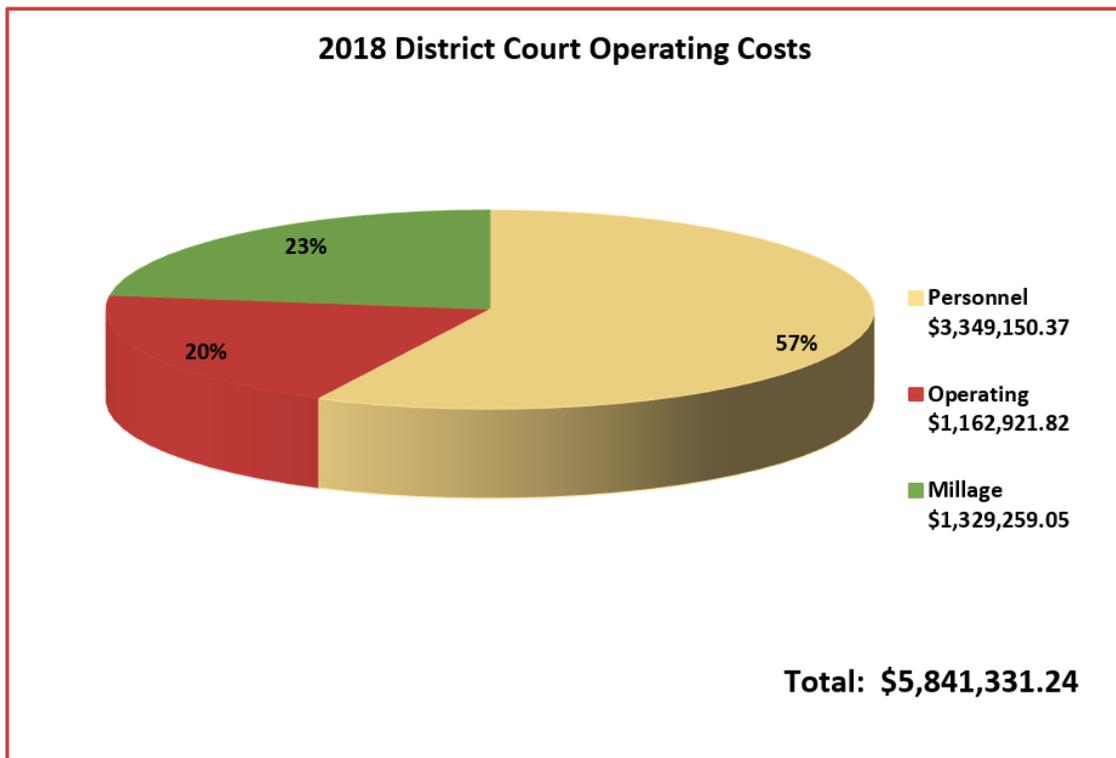
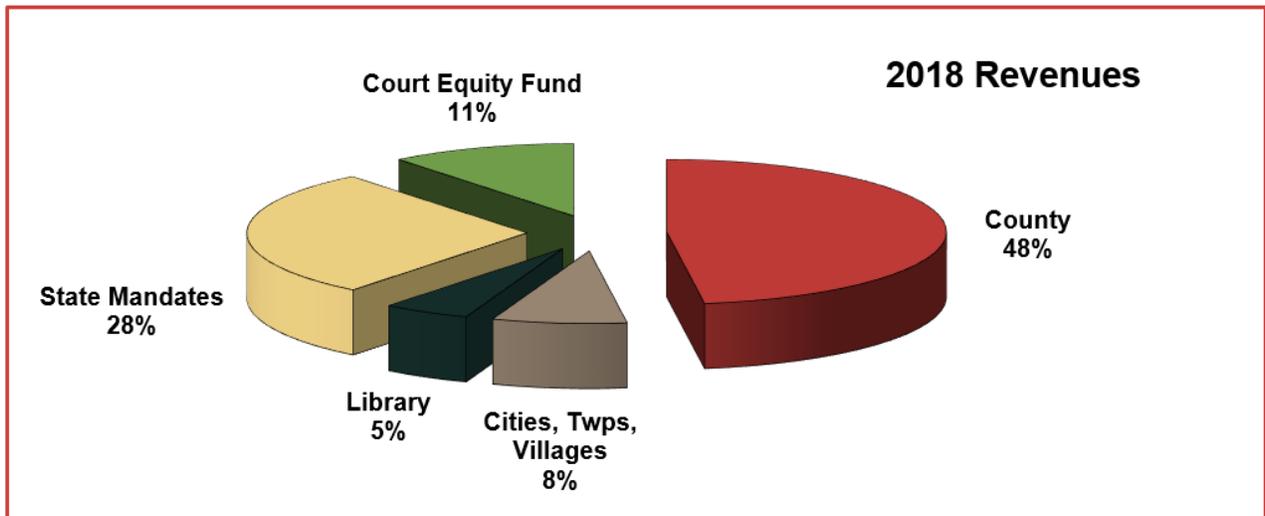


EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

REVENUES

Revenues:	\$ <u>6,126,473.56</u>
County	2,930,828.24
Cities, Twps., Villages.....	474,273.30
Library	309,137.41
State Mandates	1,754,379.11
Court Equity Fund.....	*657,855.50

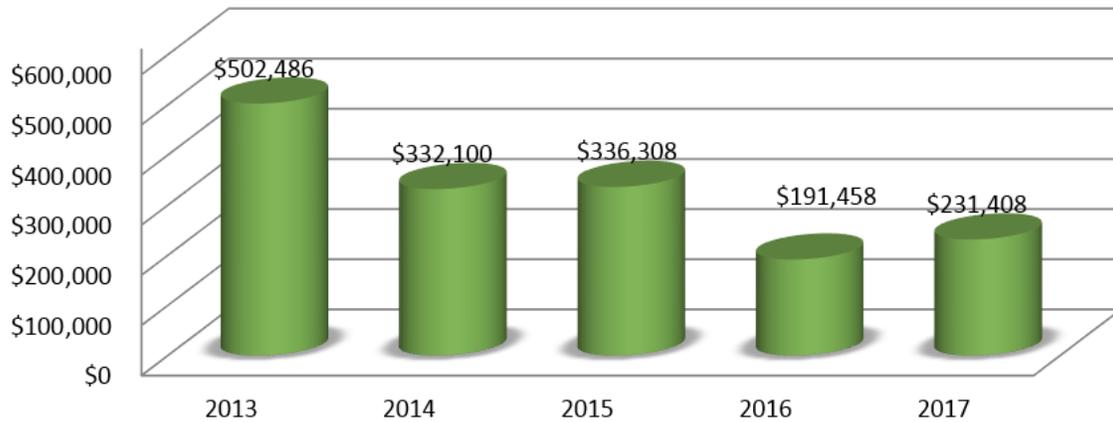
* Estimated District Court portion



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

COLLECTIONS

State of Michigan Tax Garnishments



Tax Garnishments

Intercepting defendants' State of Michigan Income Tax Refund continues to be our largest, single collection project. Nearly 1597 writs of garnishment were filed with the State of Michigan resulting in payments directly to the Court in the amount of \$231,408 for tax year 2017.

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

STATE REIMBURSED FUNDS

Drug Case Information Management Fund

The Drug Case Information Management Fund [MCL 257.323d; MSA 9.2023(4)] was created to promote the timely disposition and reporting of cases in which the defendant is charged with a violation of 333.7401 through 333.7461, and 333.17766a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or a local ordinance substantially corresponding to those sections. The State Court Administrative Office is responsible for disbursement of the funds collected under this Act. For the year 2018, the District Court received reimbursement funds in the amount of \$4,029.49.

Jury Reimbursement Funds

The Jury Reimbursement Fund [MCL 600.151e] was established to reimburse the funding unit the added expense of the October 1, 2003 implementation of MCL 600.1344 which increased juror fees. With this new legislation, jurors are now compensated \$25.00 for their first day (\$12.50 for a half day) of jury service and \$40 for each subsequent day (\$20 for a half day) of jury service. The reimbursement is semi-annual covering the periods October 1 – March 31 and April 1 – September 30. For the budget year 2018, the District Court received \$7,981.20.

Drunk Driving Funds

1991 PA 98 (MCL 257.625h) created the drunk driving case flow assistance fund for the express purpose of defraying costs associated with the processing of drunk driving cases charged as violations under MCL 257.625 or 257.625m, 324.80176, 324.81134, 324.81135, or 324.82127 or substantially corresponding local ordinances. This Act requires the State Court Administrative Office to distribute a portion of these funds to every District Court. The funds are not intended for any other general fund purpose and are not intended to supplant any portion of the District Court's current appropriation. For the year 2018, the District Court received reimbursed funds in the amount of \$47,486.77.

Court Equity Funds

The Court Equity Fund, established by 1996 PA 374, is a state fund created to provide funding to trial court funding units. The fund creation was effective with the state fiscal year beginning October 1, 1996, and funds are distributed to county trial court funding units. The formula for distribution is primarily based on caseload, but includes a county's portion of state wide judgeships as a factor. For the state fiscal year 2018, the Kalamazoo County Funding Unit received a total of \$1,315,711. Trends in this funding for Kalamazoo County are listed below.

FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
\$1,226,541	\$1,233,092	\$1,253,579	\$1,201,457	\$1,213,326	\$1,227,960	\$1,225,560	\$1,315,711

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

PROBATION

Supervision

The Probation Department was assigned 1,328 new cases in 2018, with an average of 111 cases per month. Probationers are monitored at varying levels of supervision with some being placed into OWI Court, Mental Health Recovery Court, Domestic Violence Court Review (DVCR) program or the Young Adult Diversion Program (YADC). Nine Probation Officers supervise general probation cases, two supervise OWI Court, one supervises the DVCR program and two supervise the YADC program.

The 8th District Court Probation Department is committed to the rehabilitation of misdemeanor offenders by overseeing compliance with court orders, as well as addressing individualized areas of improvement to assist the defendant in making permanent changes towards being a positive contributing member of the community.

Assessments

In 2018, 220 screening/assessments were completed by the Probation Department. Substance abuse assessments/screenings are completed by Probation Officers. An assessment is required by statute on all OWI convictions and provides the sentencing judge with background information and a recommendation for treatment intervention. This assessment includes an individual interview with the offender and the collection of a variety of information (i.e. criminal history, current and past substance abuse issues, treatment history, family history, education/employment histories as well as medical history). The risk and need levels of each offender are also assessed in the assessment/screening report.

In-House Screening Services

The Probation Department continues to offer services coordinated through local treatment providers and mental health clinicians who are available on-site on a weekly basis. Services include assessments for substance abuse or mental health issues. Often probationers can see counselors immediately, if needed. These services also allow for immediate feedback between the probation officer and therapist regarding the defendant's needs, progress and referrals for additional counseling.

Drug/Alcohol Testing

Drug and alcohol testing is required in most probation cases. Urinalysis testing is conducted at the Office of Community Corrections and KPEP as well as sites outside Kalamazoo County. Samples are sent to a lab where results are determined and reported back to the Court. Drug testing is done on a random basis.

Ignition Interlock

Some individuals facing license suspension are eligible for an Ignition Interlock system on their vehicle. This unit requires an alcohol-free breath sample to be given before the vehicle will operate. In-home PBT units are also available when court orders require multiple, daily testing for alcohol.

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY COURTS

OWI Court

The Kalamazoo County OWI Court posted another successful year in 2018. Reports released by the State Court Administrative Office revealed that 93% of participants successfully completed the program this year. The court currently operates two OWI Courts presided over by Judges Christopher T. Haenicke and Tiffany A. Ankley. The two courts operate with the same program requirements and procedures. A total of 65 participants were admitted in 2018, with 55 successfully graduating from the program.



Research data for OWI courts in Michigan shows a significant reduction in drinking and driving recidivism by two thirds from 12% for repeat offenders not treated in an OWI court to 4% for those who were. OWI Court participants are 12 times less likely to re-offend when compared to those defendants who have not participated in a Sobriety/OWI program.

The availability of the ignition interlock device for those participating in an OWI Court program continues to show significant impact. Four years of Michigan data recently found that:



-**Recidivism is cut in half.** The data found an OWI recidivism rate of 2.8% among interlock participants who are off probation as compared to nonparticipants who have an OWI recidivism rate of 5.5% once off probation.

-**Nearly Universal Compliance.** More than 97% of people ordered by the OWI/Sobriety Court Judges to install the devices on their vehicles actually did so.

-**Failure rate two-thirds lower.** Less than 12% of interlock participants failed the OWI/Sobriety court program, while nonparticipants had a failure rate of 34%.

Crime is reduced and communities are safer with the interlock devices because participants are much less likely to commit further drinking and driving offenses.

Funding for the OWI Courts is primarily derived from participant fees, grants from the State Court Administrative Office and local PA2 funding. These grants help defray the costs of drug/alcohol testing and treatment for participants in financial need and staff trainings. The OWI Courts continue to be staffed by Lynn Kirkpatrick, Probation Services Director, who oversees the program and Probation Officers, Nick Knollinger, Janet Alatalo and Janet Yeager.



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY COURTS

Young Adult Diversion Court (YADC)

The Young Adult Diversion Program (YADC) is designed to be a problem solving court to address first time offenders, ages 17 through 22, who are sentenced to probation on a misdemeanor charge under either a diversion statute or a delayed sentence.

This diversion program is radically different from traditional probation or any other specialty court programs, in that the 8th District Court is partnering within the County Government with other departments and with community based agencies to create an integrated and comprehensive court review program that focuses on the issues that have led these young adults into the justice system. This paradigm shift is from a traditional system-wide punitive format to a positive, self-actualization model that will address the individual's needs as a whole person.

The Funding for the YADC Program is provided through grants from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health.



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALITY COURTS



Mental Health Recovery Court

Recognizing that the criminal justice system has been unable to adequately respond to those who suffer from a serious and persistent mental illness after they have committed a crime, in 2008 the 8th District Court joined forces with Kalamazoo Community recognizing that the criminal justice system has been unable to adequately respond to those who suffer from a serious and persistent mental illness after they have committed a crime, in 2008 the 8th District Court joined forces with Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to develop a Mental Health Recovery Court (MHRC). Initially supported by state and federal grants, MHRC brings consistency, treatment and education together with understanding and accountability to the participants. Most of the participants have committed non-violent misdemeanors and/or felonies and the MHRC teams with many local support agencies to develop an individualized plan for recovery and help the participants cope with their mental illness, substance abuse and other significant personal problems.

A 2011 independent review concluded that MHRC is enrolling "hard to treat" people who are multiple system users (hospitals, police, jails), many of whom have co-occurring conditions (alcohol/substance abuse and mental illness) and have dysfunctional support systems. Despite these and other obstacles, the success rate is approximately 50%. The completing participants show a significantly reduced number of police contacts, jail days, emergency room visits and expensive psychiatric hospital admissions.

Currently, there are approximately twenty-seven active members in this two-phase, year-long program. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to develop a Mental Health Recovery Court (MHRC). Initially supported by state and federal grants, MHRC brings consistency, treatment and education together with understanding and accountability to the participants. Most of the participants have committed non-violent misdemeanors and/or felonies and the MHRC teams with many local support agencies to develop an individualized plan for recovery and help the participants cope with their mental illness, substance abuse and other significant personal problems.

EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Landlord/Tenant Legal Services Clinic

District Court collaborates with Western Michigan Legal Services, the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo County Bar Association to sponsor a "Landlord/Tenant" Legal Services Clinic at the District Court Crosstown Location. The court provides office space for the Legal Aid attorneys to assist indigent clients involved in landlord/tenant disputes. Expansion to a fully developed clinic program that involves members of the Kalamazoo County Bar Association, as well as law students, remains a primary goal.

Kalamazoo County Eviction Diversion Partnership

The Kalamazoo County Eviction Diversion Partnership (EDP) is a program matching people The Kalamazoo County Eviction Diversion Partnership (EDP) is a program matching people who are in need of assistance and are at risk of becoming homeless with funding from public and private sources.

EDP began with private charitable donations given to help the homeless. These donations were matched with federal stimulus funds. A few of the material elements needed before participants are eligible for rental assistance are:

1. not less than 3 months arrearage in rent;
2. sustainable income.

The target market is to help people, who are not frequently in arrears, but some unexpected event(s) threw them off track and they fell behind.

On every landlord/tenant docket day, the court has two Eviction Diversion Specialists from the Department of Human Services and one Eviction Diversion Specialist from Housing Resources, Inc. along with one attorney from Legal Aid of Western Michigan to address the availability of rental assistance and avoid eviction. The EDP has resolved 2,071 households facing eviction through 8th District Court in the past 6 years. This represents 7,259 individuals served, 3,294 were children and 3,965 were adults. The average amount of assistance provided to clients to assist in resolving an eviction was \$397 in 2018. Funding distributed directly to Landlords was \$1,741,645 over 6 years. Because of the increase in awareness and value of the EDP, the coalition of community partners expects to continue to save money for Kalamazoo County by keeping people in their homes instead of shelters.

Mediation Services

District Court and Dispute Resolution Services of Gryphon Place Center use mediators for general civil, landlord/tenant, and small claims matters. Appropriate cases are selected for referral to the volunteer mediator who then attempts to resolve disputes between litigants. Numerous hearings have been avoided through the use of volunteer mediators.