



**16th Judicial Circuit
and Macomb County
Probate Courts**

2013 Annual Report

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and departments for their contributions to this report:

The Judges and Administrators of the 16th Judicial Circuit and Macomb County Probate Courts.

Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development, especially Carol Pihaylic, for producing this annual report and supplying various photographs that appear throughout the report.

The Macomb County Executive, Board of Commissioners and the Macomb County Clerk's Office for their support with this annual report.

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to serve the public by providing a fair, expeditious, and impartial forum for the resolution of civil and criminal matters through the rule of law.”

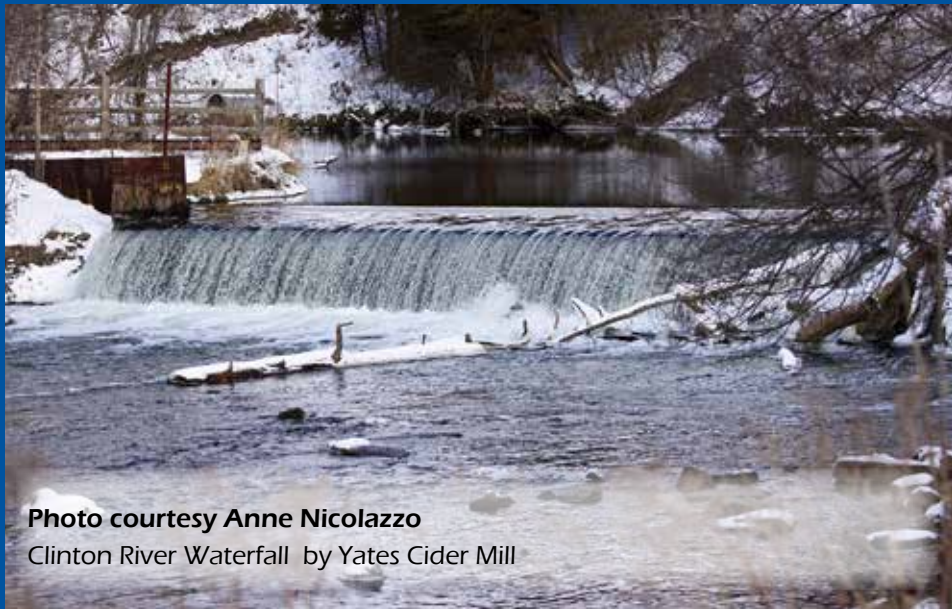


Photo courtesy Anne Nicolazzo
Clinton River Waterfall by Yates Cider Mill

A Message from the Chief

We are pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report for the Macomb County Circuit and Probate Courts, which provides an overview of the Courts' structure, offers updates on many of the exciting developments of 2013, and presents statistical information relating to Court cases and finances. We continue to be leaders in innovative approaches and ideas regarding the issues which face all state trial courts. We are constantly striving to improve access to justice, eliminate inefficiencies, institute economies of scale, and better serve the public.

With the guidance of our judges and the commitment of dedicated staff, your Courts have begun many exciting initiatives during 2013. Many of these efforts not only save money for taxpayers, but also strengthen families and community bonds in the process. We formed a Mental Health Court, which began accepting applications in October of 2013, with a goal of giving assistance and guidance to those individuals often shunned and ignored in the normal criminal process. We have rolled out a new web-based court information access panel called "eAccess", which will make our actions more transparent and available to our citizens.

Previous initiatives have also enjoyed continued success in 2013. The Veterans' Treatment Court held its first graduation in November of 2013 and is enjoying numerous plaudits and successes in helping those who served our nation. The Business Court continues to expand its efforts to streamline the resolution of business disputes, and received a National Association of Counties ("NACo") Achievement Award for its "exceptional results and unique innovations."

As Chief Judge, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our newest member, Judge Jennifer Faunce, who was appointed following Justice David Viviano's elevation to the Michigan Supreme Court. Judge Faunce is a tremendous asset to the Macomb County Bench, and the citizens of Macomb County have reason to be proud of this addition.

I also want to thank the invaluable staff employed by the Macomb County Circuit and Probate Courts. These dedicated employees often go above and beyond mere job descriptions to implement new initiatives while ensuring the smooth functioning of daily operations. We could never remain at the forefront of progress and innovation without their hard work and dedication.

Finally, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the other branches of Macomb County government. The County Executive and the Board of Commissioners have been instrumental and supportive in facilitating Court initiatives, and together, we have been able to show Macomb County as a model of good government. I thank the Executive and the Board for their continued support and look forward to strengthening the relationships as together we serve the citizens of Macomb County.

Sincerely,



John C. Foster
Chief Judge 16th Judicial Circuit,
42nd District, and Macomb
Probate Courts

Circuit Court Overview

The Macomb County Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction, which means that it handles all types of cases except those given by state law to another court. The Civil Division handles civil cases involving more than \$25,000 and cases in which parties seek equitable relief. The Criminal Division handles all Macomb County felony cases and some serious misdemeanor cases. The Family Division handles all domestic relations and juvenile matters including delinquency, abuse, neglect and adoption cases. Circuit Court judges are elected to six-year terms on the non-partisan ballot.



Paddleboarding is one of the fastest growing sports on the water. It's easy, fun and anyone can do it. Look for information on yoga classes, paddleboard rentals and kiteboarding at Lake St. Clair Metro Park, Walter and Mary Burke Park in New Baltimore and other area parks.

40 North Main Street, Mount Clemens, MI 48043
www.circuitcourt.macombgov.org



Circuit Court

Photo courtesy Anne Nicolazzo

The 2nd annual "Run the Plank" 5k race took place in Macomb Township along Romeo Plank in June of 2013. The event is hosted by several area churches and is a fundraiser for twelve different charities.

Circuit Court Judges



**Judge
John C. Foster**

Chief Judge, 16th Judicial
Circuit & Macomb Probate
Courts

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-JohnFoster>



**Judge
James M. Biernat, Jr.**

Chief Judge Pro Tempore,
Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-JamesBiernatJr>



**Judge
Richard L. Caretti**

Presiding Judge,
Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-RichardCaretti>



**Judge
Kathryn A. Viviano**

Presiding Judge,
Family Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-KathrynViviano>



**Judge
Peter J. Maceroni**

Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-PeterMaceroni>



**Judge
Mary A. Chrzanowski**

Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-MaryChrzanowski>

Circuit Court Judges



**Judge
Mark S. Switalski**

Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-MarkSwitalski>



**Judge
Edward A. Servitto, Jr.**

Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-EdwardServittoJr>



**Judge
Diane M. Druzinski**

Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-DianeDruzinski>



**Judge
Matthew S. Switalski**

Family Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-MatthewSwitalski>



**Judge
Tracey A. Yokich**

Family Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-TraceyYokich>



**Judge
Jennifer M. Faunce**

Civil/Criminal Division

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-JenniferFaunce>

16th Judicial Circuit Court Bench



Top Row Judges: Mary A. Chrzanowski, Tracey A. Yokich, Diane M. Druzinski, Mark S. Switalski, Peter J. Maceroni, Jennifer M. Faunce, Kathryn A. Viviano and Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
Bottom Row Judges: Matthew S. Switalski, John C. Foster, Richard L. Caretti, James M. Biernat, Jr.

Core Values of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court

- Honesty and integrity - telling the truth and fulfilling promises
- Principled decision making - guided by the rule of law and due process
- Independence of the judiciary
- Impartiality of the tribunal - free from bias and discrimination
- Reasonable access to justice - reasonable schedules, promptness and continuously striving to improve processes
- Courtesy and consideration for all
- Openness - our processes are open to public scrutiny and critical analysis
- Cost effectiveness



Congratulations

Photo courtesy Anne Nicolazzo

New Baltimore's Historical Fair took place in September of 2013 and highlighted the Native American Indians from Walpole Island. Events were storytelling, songs, drum and dance interpretations and more.

Appointments



Welcome Judge Jennifer Faunce

The Macomb County Circuit Court welcomes the Hon. Jennifer Faunce to the Circuit Court Bench. Judge Faunce was appointed to the Circuit Court on July 3, 2013, to fill the vacancy left by the appointment of Justice David Viviano to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Prior to her appointment to the Circuit Court Bench, Judge Faunce served as a judge of the 37th District Court. She was elected to office and began serving her first term on January 1, 2003. Before her terms on the bench, Judge Faunce served as State Representative for Warren and Sterling Heights for four years. During her time at the State House, she chaired the Committee on Criminal Justice. One of the most important laws she passed was a bill that cleared the way for General Motors to invest \$1 billion in the GM Tech Center in Warren. Prior to her election to the State House, Judge Faunce served as an Assistant Macomb County Prosecutor for seven years.

Judge Faunce has devoted her time to charity throughout her community. In 2001, she was recognized for her work as the recipient of the March of Dimes Macomb Alexander Citizen of the Year. She also served as Chairman of the Board for the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan, and is active with the organization Families Exploring Down Syndrome (FEDS).

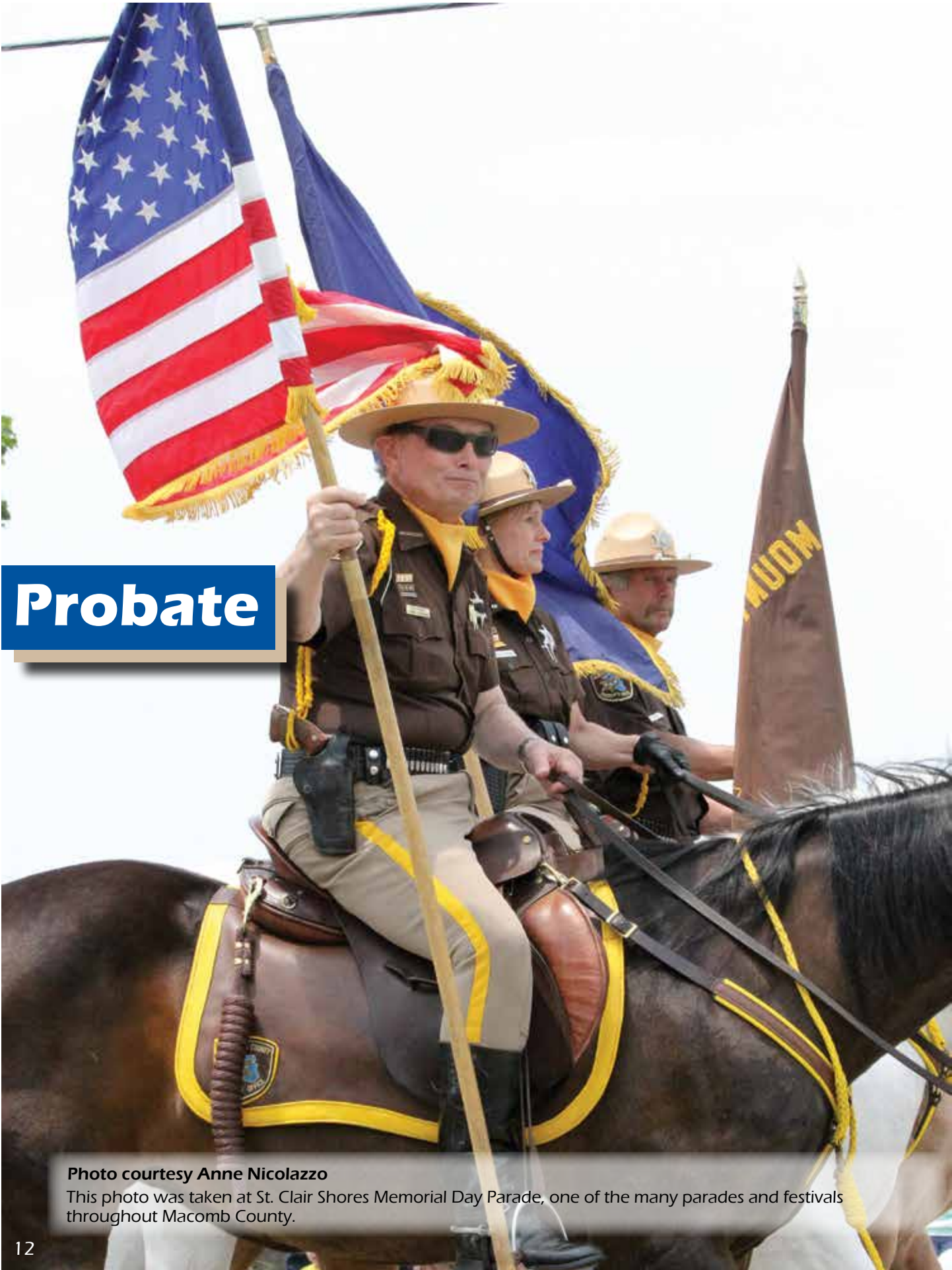
Judge Faunce was born and raised in the City of Warren. She received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a juris doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law. Judge Faunce and her family are members of St. Martin de Porres Church in Warren and St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Utica. She and her husband live in Warren with their two children.

We are very pleased to welcome such a well-respected jurist to the Macomb County Circuit Court Bench.



Farewell to Justice David Viviano

Justice David Viviano was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court on February 27, 2013. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Viviano was elected to the Macomb County Circuit Court and began serving his term on January 1, 2006. Justice Viviano served as Chief Judge of the Macomb County Circuit Court and the Macomb County Probate Court from January 1, 2012 until his elevation to the Michigan Supreme Court. We extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Justice Viviano in his new role!



Probate

Photo courtesy Anne Nicolazzo

This photo was taken at St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade, one of the many parades and festivals throughout Macomb County.

Probate Court Judges



**Judge
Carl J. Marlinga**

Presiding Judge,
Probate

<http://probatecourt.macombgov.org/ProbateCourt-CarlMarlinga>



**Judge
Kathryn A. George**

Assigned to Family
Division of Circuit Court

<http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-KathrynGeorge>

The Macomb County Probate Court handles two main areas of law: the Wills & Estates Division and the Mental Division.

The Wills & Estates Division has jurisdiction over matters relating to the settlement of decedents' estates; proceedings concerning the validity, internal affairs and settlement of trusts; the administration, distribution, modification, and termination of trusts; the declaration of rights involving trusts, trustees and beneficiaries of trusts; and matters involving guardianships and conservatorships.

The Mental Division has jurisdiction over proceedings under the Mental Health Code. It handles matters relating to involuntary commitments for psychiatric treatment and guardianships of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Photo courtesy of Anne Nicolazzo
Bridge at Stony Creek Nature Center

A photograph of a person kiteboarding on a large body of water. The person is in the foreground, wearing a black top and patterned shorts, holding onto the control bar of a kite. The kite is a red and white design, flying high in the sky. Other kites in various colors (yellow, blue, red) are also visible in the background. The shoreline is lined with green trees, and a crowd of people can be seen in the distance. A blue banner with the word 'Summary' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Summary

Photo courtesy Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development

Kiteboarding is a great way to spend a summer day. Rentals and lessons will now be available this year at your very own Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Department Summary



Jennifer Phillips

Court Administrator

Court Administration manages the 16th Judicial Circuit and Probate Courts' personnel and business operations, including public relations and court policy issues. Court Administration departments include the Caseload Division, ADR/Case Evaluation, Specialty Court Services, Finance, Family Counseling Service, Friend of the Court, Research Department, Juvenile Division and Information Services Division. For more information visit: <http://circuitcourt.macombgov.org/?q=CircuitCourt-Departments>

Caseload Division

The Caseload Division manages and tracks the progress of a case from case initiation through disposition. The staff is responsible for event scheduling, docket management, notice generation, dismissals for lack of progress, adjournment processing, tracking actions taken by each judge, disposal of cases pursuant to the State Court Administration Office (SCAO) caseload reporting requirements, and answering questions from the public. The Caseload Division is also responsible for reporting statistical caseload information to SCAO.

ADR/Case Evaluation

Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") is a process in which the judge refers the parties to a mediator to help them resolve their dispute. Case Evaluation is a form of alternative dispute resolution, which requires most civil cases be evaluated by a panel of three experienced attorney evaluators who review written and oral presentations and evaluate the monetary value of each case. The Case Evaluation/ADR clerks are responsible for implementing the court rules, scheduling hearings, receiving written case summaries, and tracking and following up on evaluations.

Specialty Court Services

Specialty Court Services oversees the Adult Felony Drug Court, the Veterans' Treatment Court, Mental Health Court and the Business Court. Additionally, the department provides substance abuse assessments to the Bench for all drinking and driving convictions as mandated.



Photo courtesy of Anne Nicolazzo
Freedom Hill reopens

Department Summary

Finance Department

- **Judicial Aide Division**

Judicial Aide is responsible for the coordination of attorney appointments for defendants in felony cases, parents and children in neglect/abuse cases, and juveniles in delinquency cases. Judicial Aide is also responsible for collecting money from defendants ordered to repay fees assessed for court-appointed counsel, foreign language interpreters, transcripts, and expert witnesses; working with defendants on payment arrangements, wage assignments, processing requests for information and return of cash bonds; performing financial reviews and making recommendations to the Court at sentencing and/or hearings; cashiering and remitting restitution funds; and processing show cause hearings, income tax garnishments, driver's license suspensions, bench warrants and order to remit prisoner funds. Additionally, Judicial Aide is the official point of contact for Court patrons requiring accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **Reimbursement Division**

The Reimbursement Division assists the Juvenile Division in reimbursement of court ordered assessments and the cost of care and service for youth in juvenile cases. The Reimbursement Division is responsible for interviewing responsible parties, reviewing financial information, preparing recommendations, preparing court orders, inputting costs, processing payments and reviewing delinquent accounts for further collection action.

Family Counseling Service

The Family Counseling Service assists in the assessment of domestic cases in which issues of custody and parenting time of minor children have been brought before the Court. Services are rendered upon referral order of the Court and provided by an independent contractor. Services include evaluation, parental coordination evaluation, counseling and mediation.

Friend of the Court

The Friend of the Court ("FOC") assists the Family Division of the Court. The FOC provides enforcement of Court orders relating to child support, health care, spousal support, parenting time and custody; and investigates, evaluates and submits recommendations to the Court on any contested domestic relation matter. Additionally, The FOC provides alternative dispute resolution opportunities for litigants and the Court.



Photo courtesy of Anne Nicolazzo
Heritage days are one of the many events held at the Chesterfield Historical Society

Department Summary

Research Department

The Research Department provides research and writing as requested by the judges of the Court. The Research Department also provides support for Court Administration, assists in the training of law clerks, operates the Court's law library and provides ancillary legal support services as directed.

Juvenile Division

The Juvenile Division handles cases related to juvenile delinquency, juvenile traffic matters, parental abuse/neglect, adoption, emancipations, juvenile guardianships and parental waivers and oversees the juvenile drug court. The Juvenile Division consists of a legal department, diversion unit, probation department, psychology and counseling unit, adoptions department and clerical services.

Information Services Division

The Information Services Division ("IS Division") is responsible for managing and utilizing new technology initiatives to develop and maintain a state-of-the-art communication system for the Macomb County Circuit and Probate Courts. The IS Division acts as a liaison with the Macomb County Information Technology Department, technology vendors and other state and local government agencies to identify, advocate and implement court technology projects to enhance the operations of the Courts.

The IS Division assists both staff and litigants with court information systems such as case management, e-Filing and video conferencing. The IS Division prepares training and procedure manuals and other materials for Court staff and provides instruction regarding technology policies and procedures.

The IS Division utilizes the Court's case management system and other resources to collect information and prepare reports internally and for the Michigan Supreme Court, State Court Administrative Office, State of Michigan and Macomb County. The IS Division also maintains and updates the Court websites, produces multimedia presentations, coordinates mobile equipment and creates court forms. The IS Division's goal is to develop initiatives which will increase accuracy and efficiency while expanding the public's access to court programs and information.



At Lake St. Clair Metropark, cruisers ages 6-106 have an educational opportunity to learn many things about Lake St. Clair with more than 20 theme cruises to choose from.



Highlights

Photo courtesy of Anne Nicolazzo

There was plenty of treasure to be found for young pirates at the St. Clair Shores Pirate Festival where there were games, vendors and entertainment.

2013 Highlights

Juvenile Division

In 2013, the Juvenile Division opened 2,034 delinquency petitions, 485 neglect and abuse petitions, 214 adoption petitions, 27 juvenile guardianship petitions, 22 voluntary foster care petitions, 3 parental waivers, and 1 petition for emancipation. The Juvenile Division continues to effectively utilize diversion in delinquency cases. The use of diversion for first time offenders prevents the creation of a criminal file. Youth placed in a diversionary program must accomplish specific goals within a time frame in order to have their charges diverted from formal court processing. Youth receive intensive monitoring and are referred to community support services to address their specific needs. Not only does the diversion process provide an intervention aimed at preventing recidivism, it protects the youth from having a criminal record. All of this is done at a lower cost than formal Court proceedings, which results in a savings to taxpayers. In 2013, 813 of the delinquency petitions filed were placed in the diversion/consent calendar process.

E-Filing

Macomb County Circuit Court launched an electronic document filing (“e-filing”) pilot project on August 15, 2011. The Court’s e-filing program now covers all “C” and “N” case-types pending before Chief Judge John Foster and Judge Jennifer Faunce. In 2013, 1,284 new e-filing cases were filed. On November 4, 2013, the Court implemented a new e-filing system called “TrueFiling,” developed by ImageSoft, Inc. The new system utilizes “OnBase,” a document and process management solution developed by Hyland Software, Inc. ImageSoft’s TrueFiling is a web-based e-filing and service system that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. TrueFiling features a built-in payment processor, allows law firms to administer their own accounts and create different user types (with different levels of access), provides date-stamped copies of court filings, and provides an improved transaction history that allows users to review their case filings and the status of service on the other parties. TrueFiling can be accessed at www.truefiling.com.

“In 2013, the Juvenile Division opened 2,034 delinquency petitions, 485 neglect and abuse petitions, 214 adoption petitions, 27 juvenile guardianship petitions, 22 voluntary foster care petitions, 3 parental waivers, and 1 petition for emancipation.”

“On November 4, 2013, the Court implemented a new e-filing system called ‘TrueFiling,’ developed by ImageSoft, Inc.”

2013 Highlights

eAccess

On September 6, 2013, the Court launched a new web-based Court information access portal called "eAccess." eAccess is part of a new line of services offered by CourtView Justice Solutions, the Court's case management system provider. eAccess is compatible with current web browser technology and can be accessed through mobile devices. eAccess users can search by Case Number, Case-Type, File Date, Party/Company Name, Date of Birth, Party Type, Case Status, or Attorney Name and Bar Number. Once a case has been located, general case information and case details such as dockets, parties, charges, events, financials, and receipts are available. Users can see all information on a case at once, or isolate information by subject matter tabs. Sealed cases, confidential information, and images of documents will not be available. The new application can be accessed at <http://macombcountymi.gov/pa>.

"eAccess is compatible with current web browser technology and can be accessed through mobile devices."

Friend of the Court

In 2013, the Friend of the Court ("FOC") opened 4,582 new cases and closed 2,376 cases. The FOC completed final recommendations in 1,895 domestic cases. The activities of the FOC enforcement team resulted in the arrest of 1,255 individuals. During 2013, 28,594 members of the public checked in for services. FOC referees conducted 721 hearings in 2013. The referees heard 2,781 motions and conducted 1,356 status conferences. Referees completed 1,695 referrals for child support and related issues, spousal support, and parenting time. 80% of the referrals were completed in less than 60 days. The Custody Investigation Department completed 822 investigations in 2013. Additionally, the FOC conducted 7,358 show cause hearings. A total of \$117,597,083.78 in support was distributed by the FOC. Net investigative fees in 2013 totaled \$135,125.41. The FOC is continuing the process of imaging its paper files in order to conserve space and other resources. Finally, the FOC received State of Michigan grant monies to continue a supervised parenting time program to allow a non-custodial parent who has been court-ordered to participate in supervised parenting time an opportunity to do so in a safe and friendly environment.

"The activities of the FOC enforcement team resulted in the arrest of 1,255 individuals."

"A total of \$117,597,083.78 in support was distributed by the FOC."

2013 Highlights

Business Court

Macomb County began the State of Michigan's first specialized business docket in 2011. Following the success of this pilot project in Macomb and a few other select areas, new legislation took effect on January 1, 2013, making business dockets mandatory in the entire state. Macomb County Circuit Court has amended its Local Administrative Order ("LAO") concerning the Macomb County Business Court in order to reflect the requirements of the new state law. Please refer to Macomb County Circuit Court LAO 2013-2 for more information. The Supreme Court has appointed Chief Judge John Foster to continue presiding over the Macomb County Business Court. In 2013, 145 cases were placed on the Business Court docket. The National Association of Counties ("NACo") awarded the Macomb County Circuit Court a 2013 Achievement Award in the Court Administration and Management category for its "exceptional results and unique innovations" in establishment of the Business Court.

Veterans' Treatment Court

On November 7, 2013, the Veterans' Treatment Court held its first graduation ceremony. Six graduates were honored for their hard work and successful completion of the program. Four were from Judge Mark Switalski's Circuit Court docket and two were from Judge Carrie Fuca's District Court docket. Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham and Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith were also honored for their outstanding contributions to the Veterans' Treatment Court program in its inaugural year.

Mental Health Court

In late October 2013, the newly formed Mental Health Court began accepting applications. This new docket is presided over by Judge Carl Marlinga and sessions are held at Circuit Court on Wednesday afternoons. Criminal defendants who have a primary diagnosis of a serious and persistent mental health disorder may apply to have their cases placed on this docket. In collaboration with Community Mental Health, the Court refers these defendants to various community resources and treatment programs to address their mental health issues, with the ultimate goal of reducing or eliminating recidivism.

"In 2013, 145 cases were placed on the Business Court docket."

"The National Association of Counties ("NACo") awarded the Macomb County Circuit Court a 2013 Achievement Award in the Court Administration and Management category for its 'exceptional results and unique innovations' in establishment of the Business Court."



MCEP Law Program

Photo courtesy Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development
Take a break and enjoy one of the many amenities found at the Stony Creek Metropark.

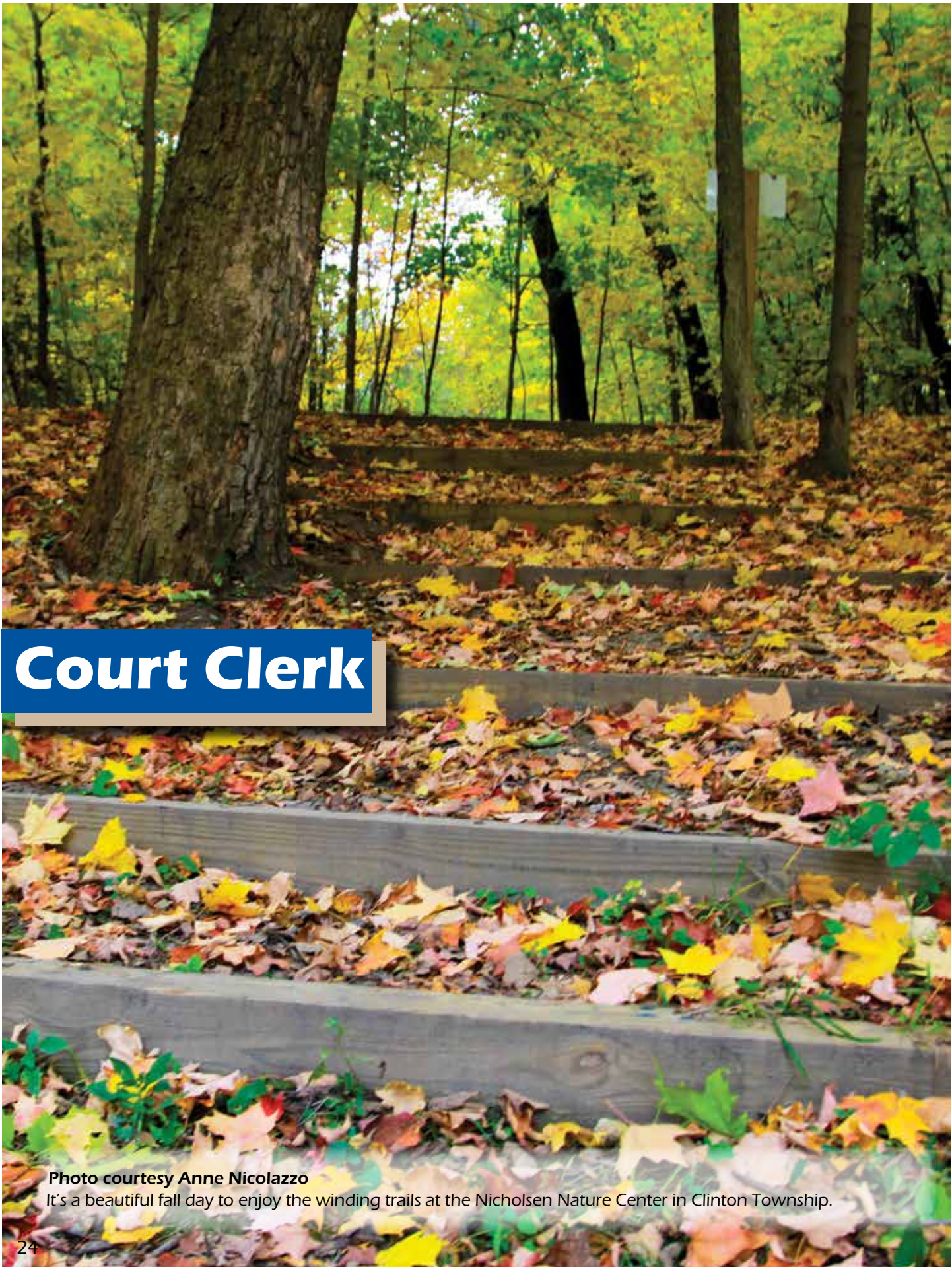
MCEP Law Program

The Macomb County Circuit Court was pleased to work with the Macomb Cultural and Economic Partnership ("MCEP") throughout the course of 2013. MCEP arranged an exchange program with law students from several prestigious Chinese law schools in 2013. The law students had the opportunity to meet and interact with Circuit Court judges, observe Court proceedings, and enjoy a "behind the scenes" look at various aspects of Court Administration. Several law students even worked in temporary clerkships for the Court. We would like to thank MCEP Secretary of the Board Ed Bruley, the Circuit Court Bench, the Clerk's Office and the Court employees who made this enriching experience a success!

"She is a different kind of Judge. She says things loudly. She says things straight. I like her."

- MCEP student regarding Judge Chrzanowski





Court Clerk

Photo courtesy Anne Nicolazzo
It's a beautiful fall day to enjoy the winding trails at the Nicholzen Nature Center in Clinton Township.

Clerk of the Court



Carmella Sabaugh has been Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds since 1993 and is credited with modernizing the office.

Skip the Wait in Line

Make an appointment and be called next in line at your appointment time with the clerk's FastPass system: fastpass.macombgov.org

Paying is Easy with Credit Cards

Our offices accept credit card payments for fees, making it easier to pay when you don't know the exact cost ahead of time.

Request Documents via Fax or Internet

We accept fax or Internet requests for deeds and other documents. The request form is available on the Internet or through our 24-hour fax-on-demand system (800-514-0451 request document #7010).

Hours

For current hours visit the web site. A drop box is available for court customers inside the court building lobby. Circuit court fax filing and e-filing are available 24x7.

Overnight Delivery

When you need documents in a hurry, you may get them via next day delivery as long as you pay the delivery fee.

Circuit Court E-filing

For C and N case types and cases assigned to the specialized business docket for Chief Judge John Foster and Judge Jennifer Faunce go to: macombcountymi.gov/circuitcourt/efile.htm

Wireless Internet

Free wireless Internet service is currently available throughout the entire county court building.

Indexes Available Online

The Macomb County Circuit Court case index and docket information are on the Internet in real time. Also, the public county business registration list and public death records index is searchable on the Internet.

PPO Assistance Center

With the help of Turning Point, a Personal Protection Order Assistance Center was opened to help people with court forms and the legal process. It is located on the first floor of the county court building.

One-Day / One-Trial

Jurors are fresh thanks to our new one-day/one-trial system. New jurors arrive every day and serve whichever is longer (one day or one trial). Jurors and attorneys are happier and the county saves money.

Bus Rides, Books and Pagers for Jurors

Free bus rides, free library books and pagers are provided to jurors.

Register of Deeds SuperIndex

Search all the text of real estate documents, and not just what is indexed, through this amazing fraud-detection service! Documents are available online within 24 hours of filing. Go to: deeds.macombgov.org

42 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards



Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Carmella Sabaugh has received national "good government" recognition for establishing efficient and effective programs that assist the public.

For more information visit: www.macombgov.org/clerksoffice



Statistics

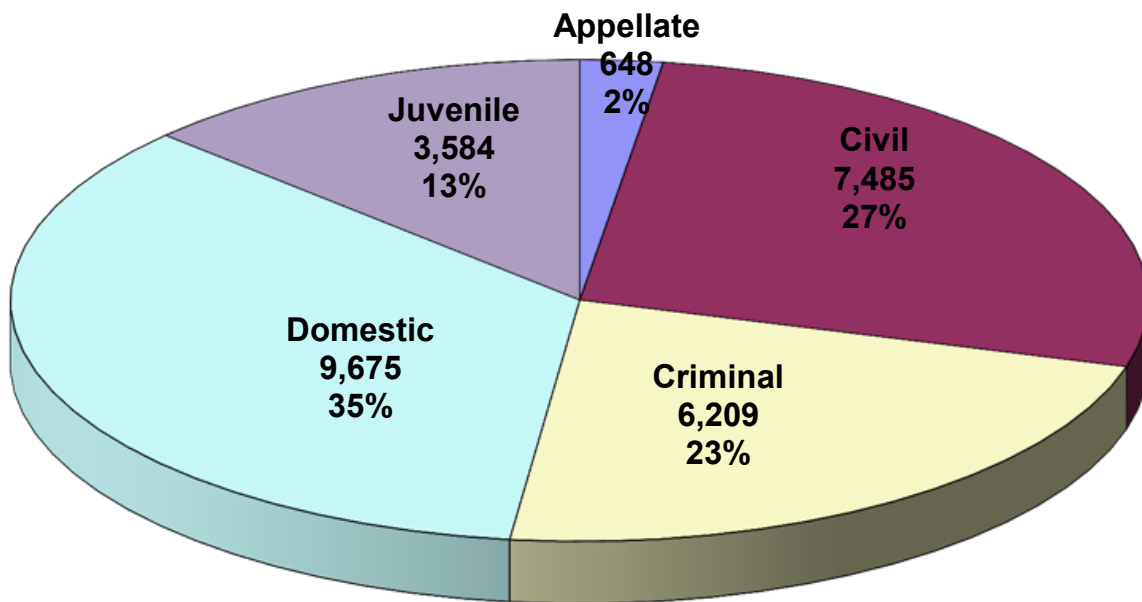
Photo courtesy Macomb County Planning and Economic Development

Explore Macomb County's back country while getting that "up north" feeling. Rentals are now available along the Clinton River in Utica, Clinton Township and Mount Clemens or coastal paddling at Lake St. Clair Metropark and New Baltimore Beach.

Caseload Information

16th Judicial Circuit Court

Caseload by Category for 2013



New case filings for 2013 totaled 19,375 cases, which is 647 cases less than 2012, representing a 3.2% decrease. The overall caseload for 2013, including existing cases and new filings totaled 27,601. [See chart above.]

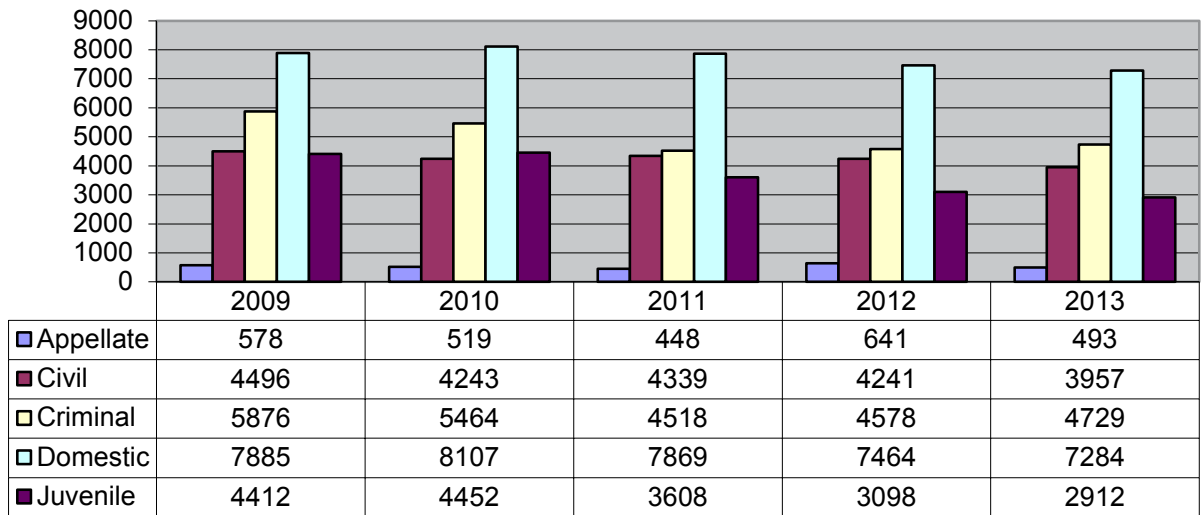
The one category representing an increase in new filings is criminal. New criminal filings in 2013 were 151 more than 2012, representing a 3.3% increase. New civil filings in 2013 were 284 less than 2012, representing a 6.7% decrease. [See chart on next page.]

In 2013, there were 431 fewer dispositions than in 2012. The domestic category represented the most significant decrease of 502 fewer dispositions than 2012, a decrease of 6.3%. The criminal category represented the most significant increase, with 294 more dispositions than 2012, an increase of 6.1%. [See chart on next page.]

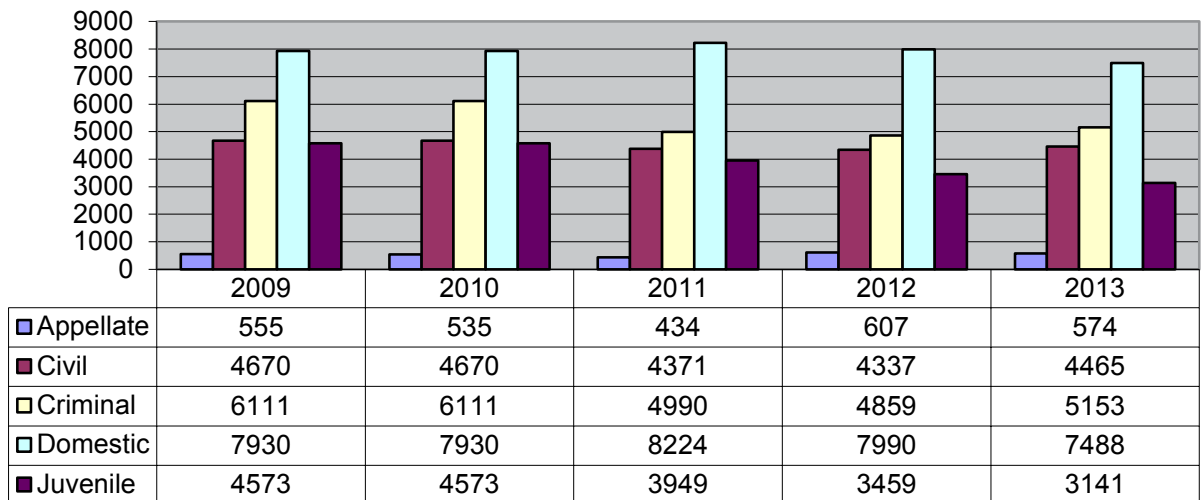
Caseload Information

16th Judicial Circuit Court

New Filings

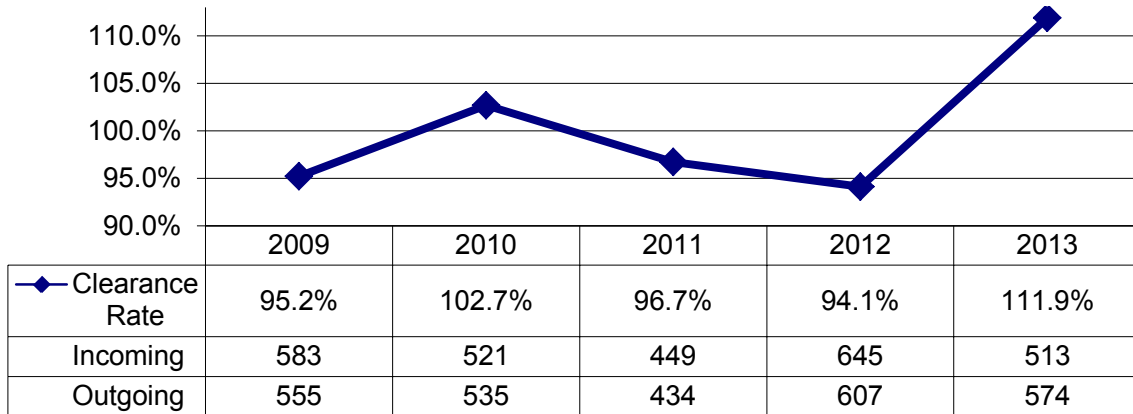


Dispositions

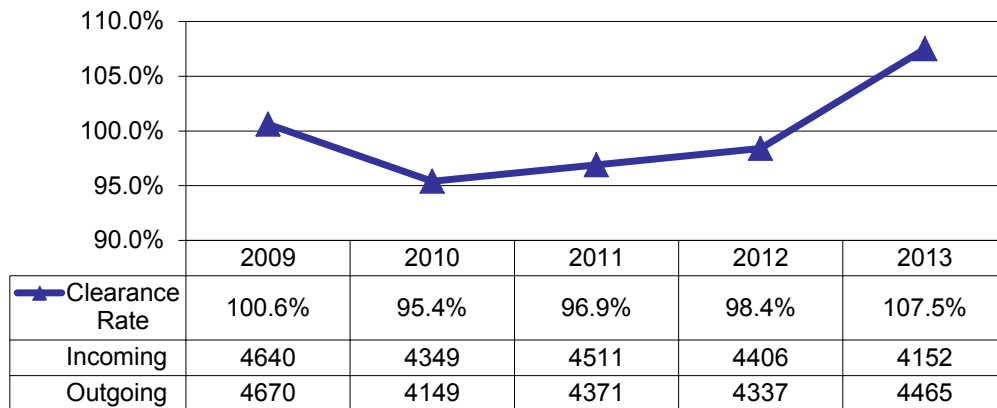


Court Clearance Rates

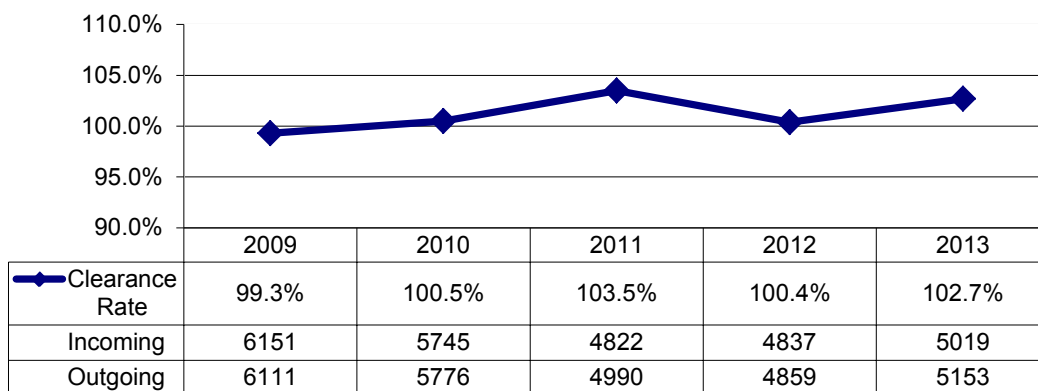
Appellate Cases



Civil Cases

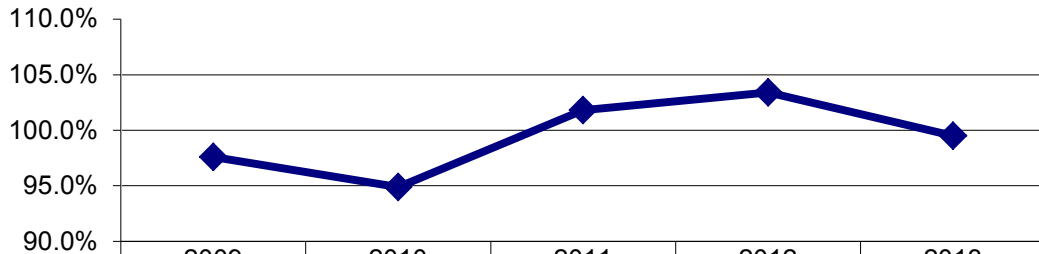


Criminal Cases



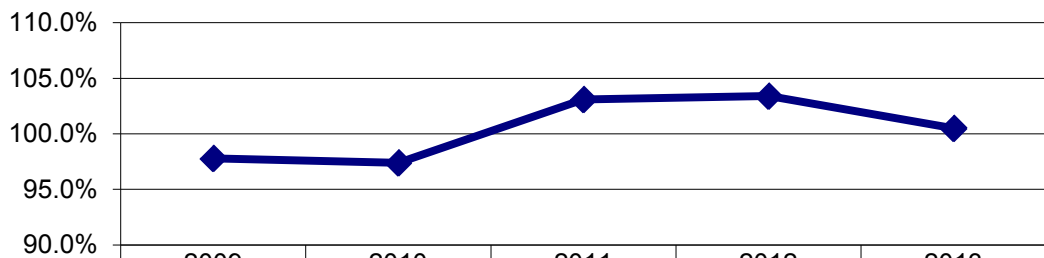
Court Clearance Rates

Domestic Cases



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clearance Rate	97.6%	94.9%	101.8%	103.4%	99.5%
Incoming	8124	8353	8080	7691	7526
Outgoing	7930	7931	8224	7990	7488

Juvenile Cases



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clearance Rate	97.8%	97.4%	103.1%	103.4%	100.5%
Incoming	4674	4709	3829	3332	3121
Outgoing	4573	4587	3949	3459	3141

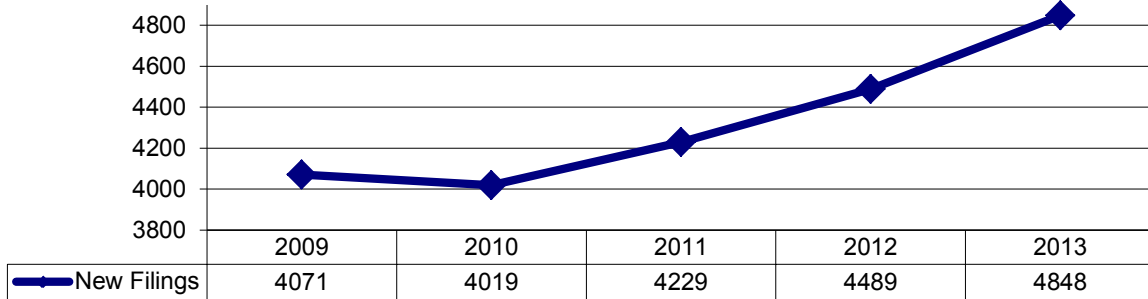
Photo courtesy of
Anne Nicolazzo

A majestic day break in
Macomb County at
Brandenburg Park in
New Baltimore

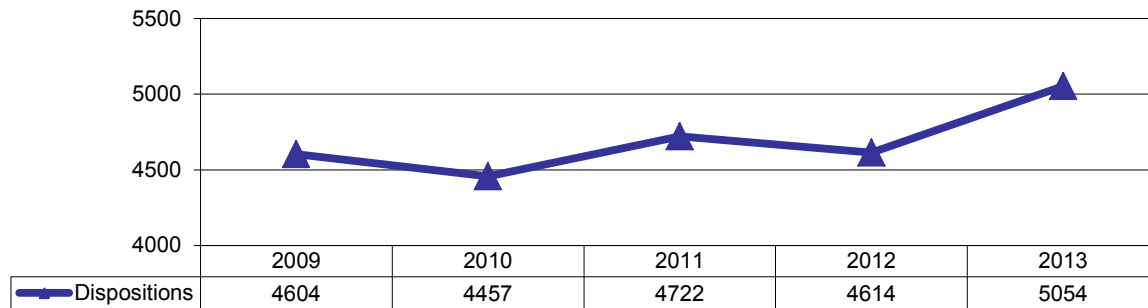


Probate Court Statistics

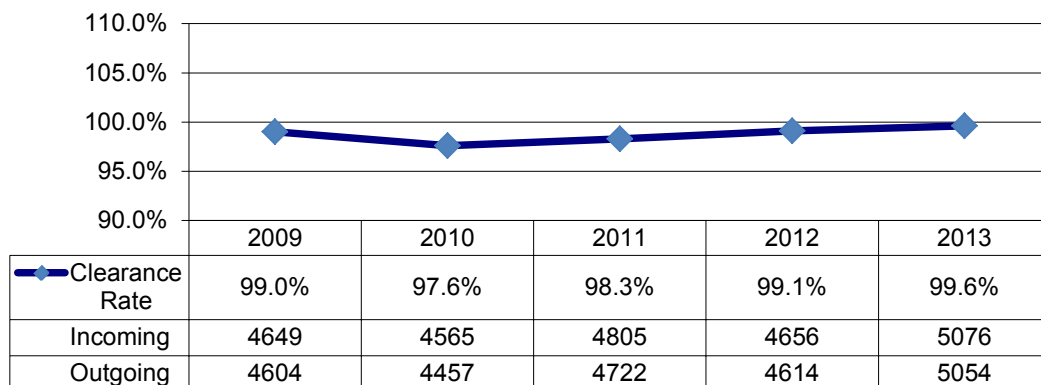
New Filings



Dispositions

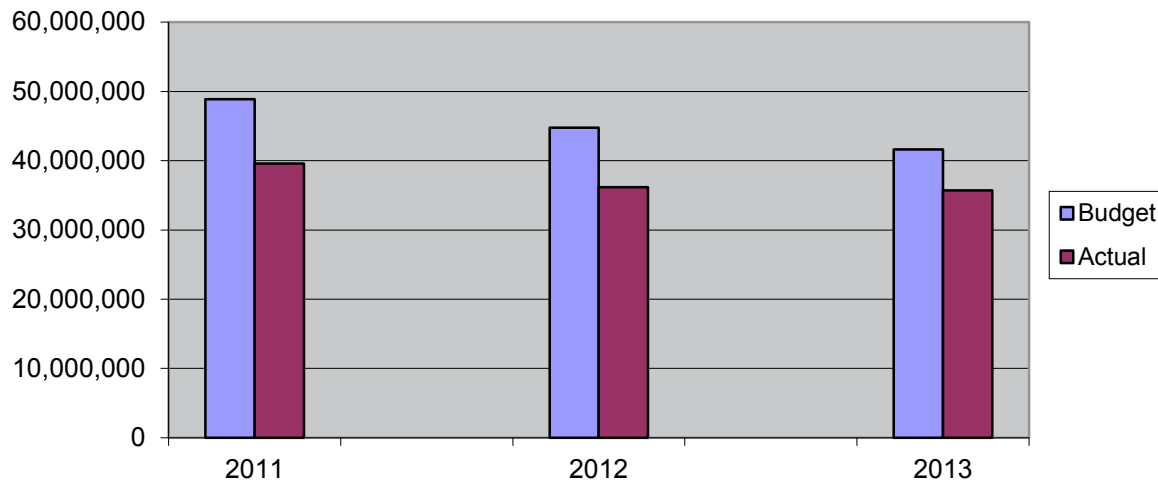


Clearance Rates



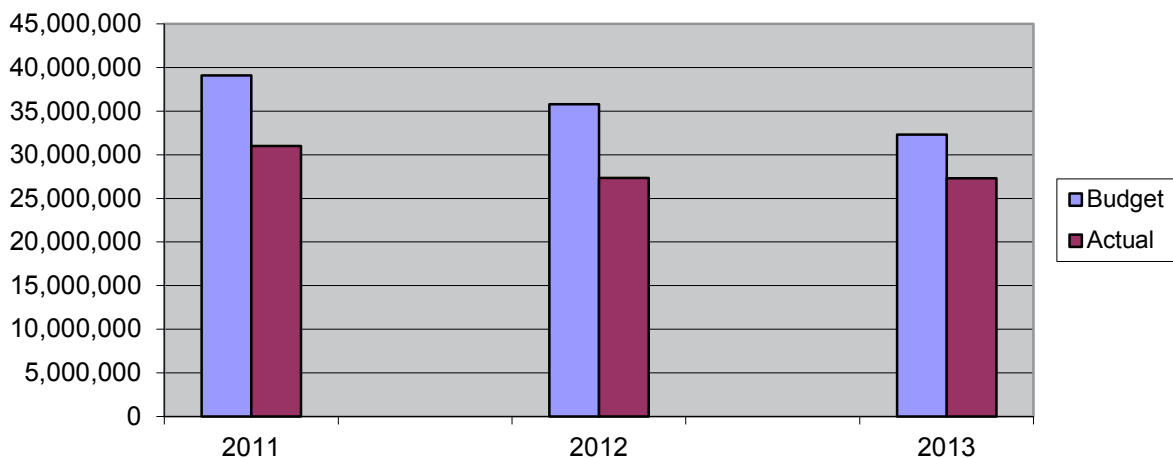
Fiscal Snapshots

Expenditures Budget to Actual



The Court continues to decrease its overall budget each year by increasing efficiencies. The Court also remains well within its budget each year, with an excess budget of over \$500,000 in 2013.

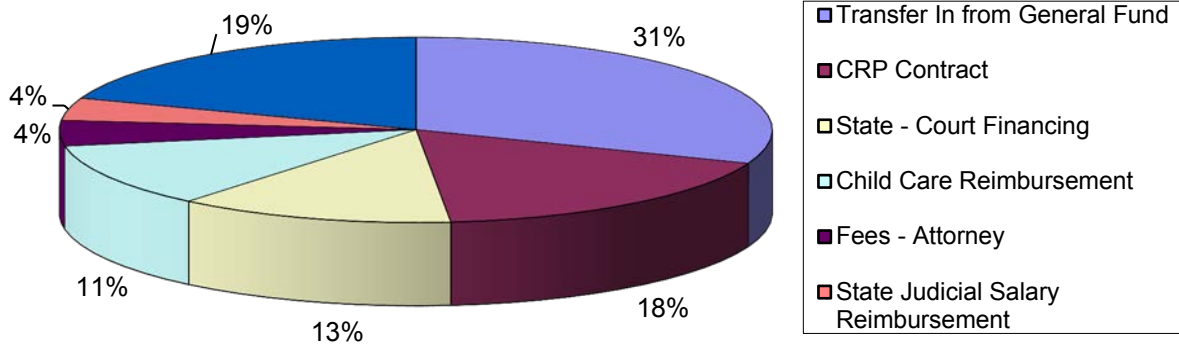
Revenue Budget to Actual



Total revenues from the state were virtually unchanged from 2012 to 2013. However, the contribution from the County General Fund has been declining every year as the Court seeks other sources of revenue and reduces expenses.

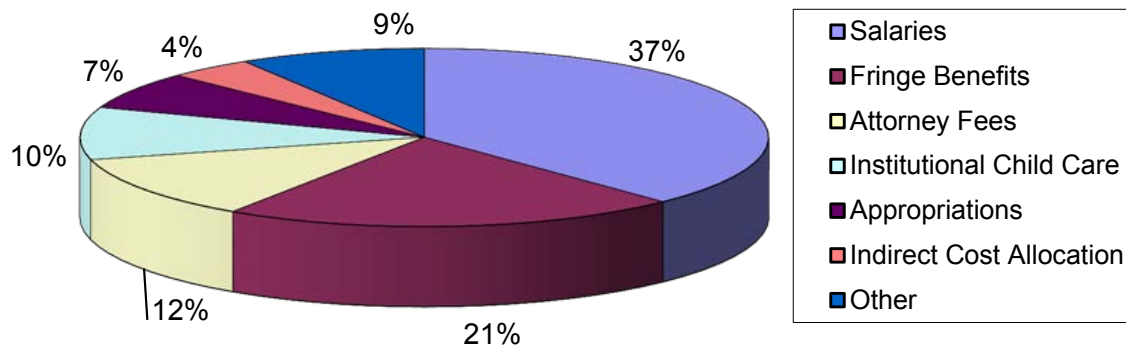
Fiscal Snapshots

Circuit & Probate Courts Financial Report 2013 Revenues: \$27,294,136



The revenue collected by the Courts remained relatively flat from 2012 to 2013, decreasing by less than 1% overall. Increases were seen in both CRP contract revenue in the Friend of the Court Department and in the Child Care revenue collected from the State of Michigan.

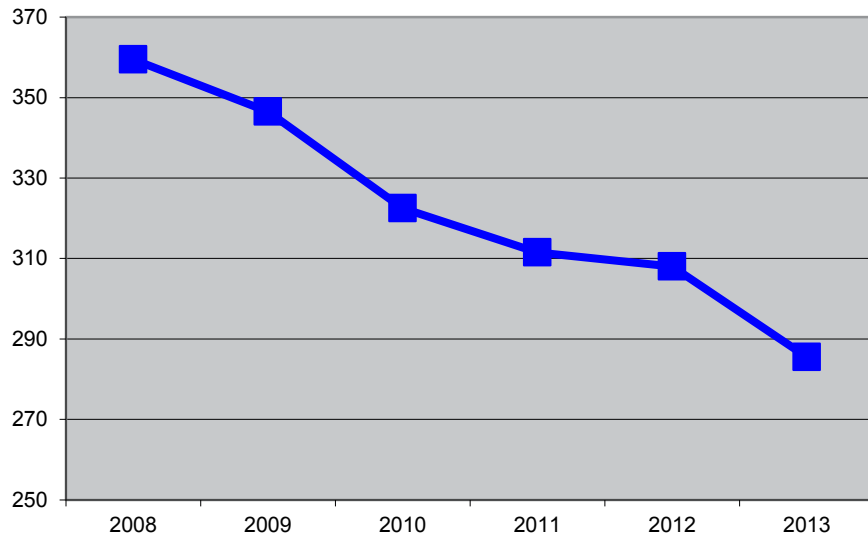
Circuit & Probate Courts Financial Report 2013 Expenditures: \$35,716,158



The Court continues to work on maintaining, and in some cases, decreasing personnel costs. Salary and fringe benefit costs decreased by almost 1% from 2012 to 2013 even though fringe benefit costs continue to rise each year. Fees for court-appointed attorneys have also remained steady and are down almost 20% since 2010.

Personnel

Budgeted Positions



The Court continues to reorganize and increase efficiencies to reduce personnel positions when appropriate. Since 2008, the Court has reduced the overall number of positions by over 20%.



Elected Officials



Mark A. Hackel
Macomb County Executive

Anthony V. Marrocco
Public Works Commissioner

Carmella Sabaugh
Clerk & Register of Deeds

Eric Smith
Prosecuting Attorney

Ted B. Wahby
Treasurer

Anthony Wickersham
Sheriff

Board of Commissioners

David J. Flynn
Board Chair, District 4

Kathy Tocco
Vice-Chair, District 11

Michael Boyle
Sergeant-at-Arms, District 10

Toni Mocerì
District 1

Marvin E. Sauger
District 2

Veronica Klinefelt
District 3

Robert Mijac
District 5

James L. Carabelli
District 6

Don Brown
District 7

Kathy D. Vosburg
District 8

Fred Miller
District 9

Bob Smith
District 12

Joe Sabatini
District 13

16th Judicial Circuit Court

40 North Main Street
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Judge John C. Foster
Chief Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit, 42nd
District and Macomb Probate Courts

Judge James M. Biernat Jr.
Chief Judge Pro Tempore,
Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Richard L. Caretti
Presiding Judge, Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Kathryn A. Viviano
Presiding Judge, Family Division

Judge Peter J. Maceroni
Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Mary A. Chrzanowski
Criminal Division

Judge Mark S. Switalski
Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Diane M. Druzinski
Civil/Criminal Division

Judge Matthew S. Switalski
Family Division

Judge Tracey A. Yokich
Family Division

Judge Jennifer M. Faunce
Civil/Criminal Division

Macomb County Probate Court

21850 Dunham Road
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Judge Carl J. Marlinga
Presiding Probate

Judge Kathryn A. George
Assigned to Family Division of
Circuit Court

Macomb County 42nd District Court

(Division I)

14713 33 Mile Road
Romeo, MI 48065

(Division II)

35071 23 Mile Road
New Baltimore, MI 48047

Judge William H. Hackel
Presiding District Judge

Judge Denis R. LeDuc
District Judge



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