



*The Akron
Municipal Court*



2007 Annual Report



JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB

*Presiding /Administrative
Judge for 2007*

A word from Administrative/Presiding Judge John E. Holcomb

The Akron Municipal Court serves the residents of Akron, Fairlawn, Bath, Richfield, Springfield, Lakemore, and the Summit County portion of Mogadore. A total of 54,291 new cases were filed in 2007. The total number of criminal cases filed was 16,084. The total number of new civil cases filed was 15,411. The total number of new traffic cases filed was 22,796.

I want to take a moment and talk about four days in July and the impact they had on the court and on our community. After over a year of planning by the US Marshall Peter Elliot, local law enforcement, local churches, our own court administration, and others, Operation Fugitive Safe Surrender was launched on July 11, 2007. I would like to thank Bishop Johnson and his staff at The House of the Lord which allowed fugitives in our community to voluntarily and peacefully surrender. By the evening of Saturday, July 14, 2007, over 1,125 people had peacefully surrendered at the church. Court staff worked late into the night that Saturday to process as many of those defendants as they could. Those they could not process that night, came to court later. The bond that was

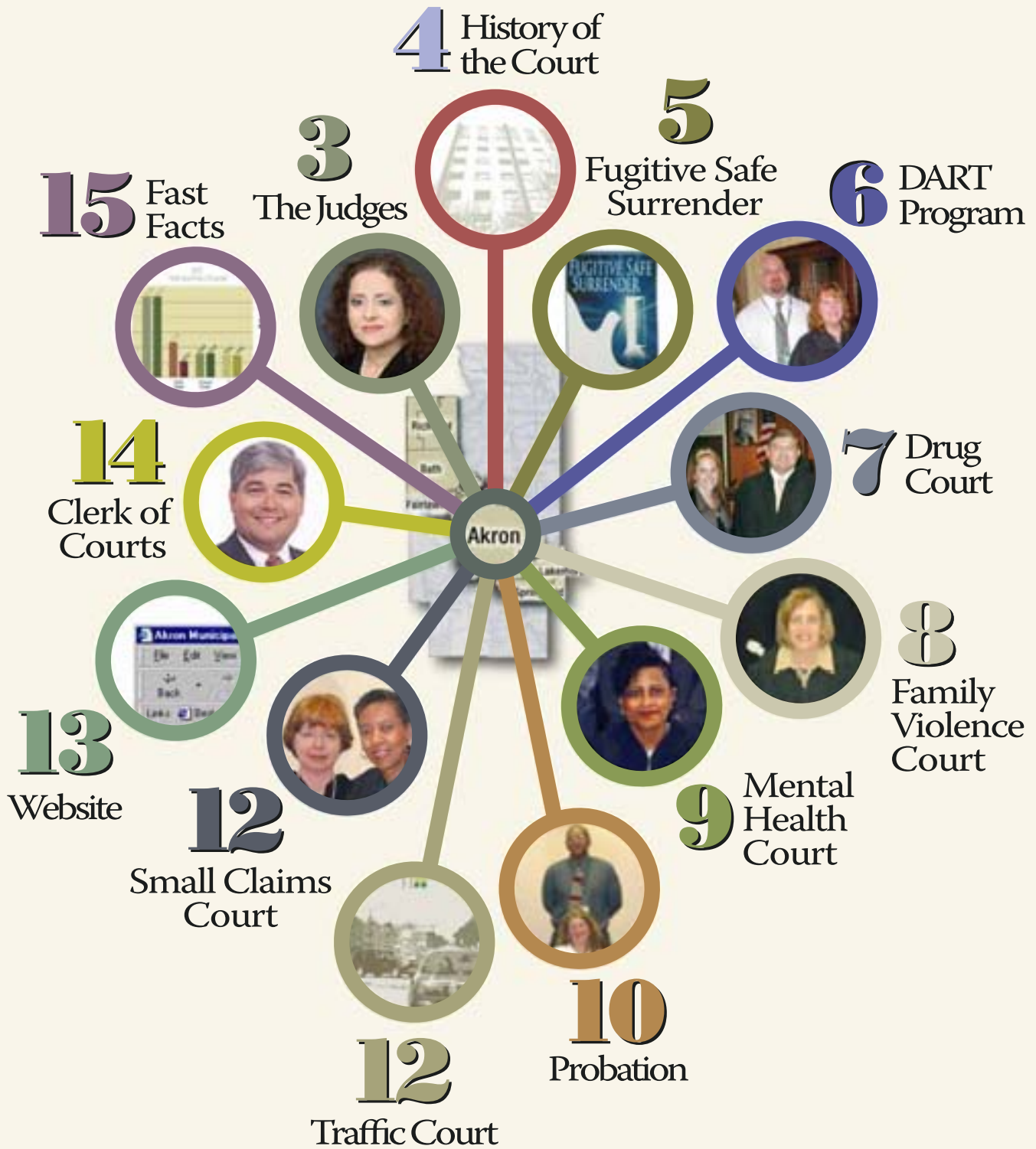
formed between the judges of the court, local community and church leaders and local law enforcement officers has lasted well past the program itself. It was one of the most incredible experiences that I have seen in my 13 years as a judge. Later in the annual report you will be able to see some of the images from this event.

Also in 2007 the court launched the DART program that focused on DUI offenders. The DUI Court models itself on the drug court model. This specialized docket is presided over by Judge Alison McCarty and was made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Highway Safety and with the assistance of the Ohio Supreme Court. The DART program is one of many tools available to the judges of the court to deal with alcohol and drug addicted offenders.

Some of the other programs that our court runs include the Drug Court, Family Violence Court, and the Mental Health Court. The court also runs a Mediation Program, a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP), and a License Intervention Program. The Akron Municipal Court runs more programs, with fewer staff, than any other court in the state of Ohio.

Finally I would like to thank all of the other Judges for their work this past year. They are Judge Callahan, Judge Michael, Judge Williams, Judge Belfance and Judge McCarty.

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The Judges

The Court's six judges are attorneys and are required by Ohio law to have practiced law at least six years prior to becoming a judge. The judges are elected on a nonpartisan basis and serve six-year terms. Their role is to supervise the administration of justice in their respective courts and insure that all trials, court hearings, and administrative procedures are fair and just.



JUDGE LYNNE S. CALLAHAN

is a graduate of University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. She has served as an Akron police officer, an Assistant Director of Law and an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor. She was appointed Judge in May 1997, and elected to the bench in November 1997.



JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB

is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Akron School of Law. In the past, Judge Holcomb served as Director of Law for the City of Akron and also served as a member of the Ohio State Board of Education as well as the Akron Board of Education.



JUDGE ALISON McCARTY

graduated from Wheaton College and Wake Forest University School of Law. She served as an Assistant Summit County prosecutor handling felony criminal cases. She was appointed Judge in May, 1999, and elected to the bench in November, 1999.



JUDGE EVE V. BELFANCE

is a native of Akron. Judge Belfance attended the Akron Public Schools and graduated from Firestone High School. She is a graduate of Yale University and Case Western Reserve School of Law, where she served as an associate editor on the Law Review. Judge Belfance began the practice of law in 1990. Prior to taking the bench, she served as a federal judicial clerk in Washington, D.C. and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Belfance currently serves on the Ohio Judicial Conference Specialized Dockets Committee and the Ohio Judicial Conference Library of Reasoned Orders Editorial Committee. She was elected to the bench in November, 2005.



JUDGE ANNALISA S. WILLIAMS

graduated from Kent State University with an undergraduate degree in political science, and received her masters degree in urban studies. She received her law degree from the University of Akron Law School. The judge has served on the bench since December 2003.



JUDGE KATHRYN MICHAEL

graduated from the University of Akron in 1982 and The University of Akron School of Law in 1986. She has served our community as a trial attorney, representing individuals and small businesses, as a trained mediator, and as part-time magistrate. Judge Michael is committed to our community, serving on many non-profit boards. She was elected as judge in November of 2005.

History of Court

In 1910 the legislature established a police court in Akron vested with jurisdiction over offenses under the ordinances of the city and all misdemeanors committed within the limits of Summit County. It was made a court of record and was presided over by an attorney duly admitted to practice in this state.

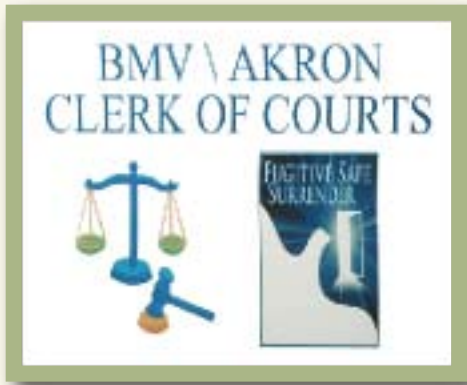
In 1919 the legislature established the Akron Municipal Court with three sitting judges elected for four-year terms. In 1930 two judgeships were added to the court. In 1939 the legislature reduced the number of judges from five to four. A fifth judge was again made a member of the court in 1967 and the sixth judgeship was created in 1975. The judges now serve six-year terms.

The court now serves a jurisdiction which includes the cities of Akron and Fairlawn; the townships of Bath, Richfield, and Springfield; the villages of Lakemore and Richfield; and that part of Mogadore in Summit County.

In 1966 the court moved into the City-County Safety Building which was renamed the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center in 1991 located in downtown Akron. The sitting judges are Judge John E. Holcomb, Lynne S. Callahan, Eve V. Belfance, Alison McCarty, Kathryn Michael, and Annalisa S. Williams.

Pardee, L.S.	1920 - 1923
Marsh, F.G.	1920 - 1923
O'Neil, A.F.	1920 - 1925
Zesiger, E.E.	1924 - 1927
Underwood, A.B.	1924 - 1925
Davies, G.	1926 - 1931
Hoyt, C.C.	1926 - 1931
Cox, J.E.	1928 - 1931
Emmons, C.V.D.	1931 - 1942
Roderick, O.M.	1931 - 1961
Colopy, S.	1932 - 1937
Werner, H.	1932 - 1935
Harvey, F.H.	1932 - 1935
Isham, D.P.	1935 - 1943
Watters, R.B.	1936 - 1937
Davies, G.	1938 - 1939
Kelly, C.M.	1938 - 1950
Powers, T.M.	1939 - 1971
Sacks, C.	1943 - 1949
Zook, A.D.	1944 - 1959
McRae, C.B.	1951 - 1963
Victor, W.H.	1950 - 1959
Price, T.R.	1960 - 1969
Koplin, N.	1960 - 1963
Riddle, J.P.	1962 - 1969
Reed, E.J.	1964 - 1967
VanBerg, H.N.	1964 - 1975
Roulhac, J.D.	1968 - 1987
Hartnett, R.B.	1970 - 1981
McFadden, D.B.	1970 - 1978
Colopy, R.H.	1972 - 1995
Winter, J.P.	1976 - 1983
George, J.J.	1976 - 1983
Spicer, W.F.	1979 - 1981
Murphy, J.E.	1980 - 1982
Schneiderman, T.	1981 - 1991
Mack, M.	1983 - 1997
Williams, J.R.	1983 - 1989
Maxson, R.	1983 - 1993
Stubbs, H.K.	1987 - 1989
Bond, J.	1989 - 1991
Moore, C.D.	1989 - 2004
Bayer, E.	1991 - 1991
Shapiro, M.A.	1991 - 2003
Stormer, E.M.	1991 - 2004
Callahan, M.	1993 - 1995
Carr, D.	1995 - 1998
Holcomb, J.E.	1996 - present
Callahan, L.S.	1997 - present
Unruh, B.	1998 - 1999
McCarty, A.	1998 - present
Stormer, B.	2003 - 2003
Williams, A. S.	2003 - present
Culver, K.	2005 - 2005
Boyle, E.	2005 - 2005
Belfance, E.V.	2005 - present
Michael, K.	2006 - present

Fugitive Safe Surrender



The Akron Municipal Court D.A.R.T. Program

“Discovering Abstinence through Responsibility and Treatment”

On May 13, 2007, the DART program became the 4th specialty court program to be implemented in the Akron Municipal



Court. The program targets individuals who have been arrested for a 2nd or 3rd OVI offense within a 6-year period along with individuals who have multiple OVI convictions in their past. The Akron DART program is one of three OVI Court pilot programs in Ohio and was awarded a three-year grant by the Ohio Department of Public Safety Governor’s Highway Safety Office. The Akron DART program is a collaboration between the Akron Municipal Court, The Governor’s Highway Safety Office, The



Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Dockets, ODADIS, The Summit County ADM Board and subsidiary agencies: The Summit County Sheriff’s Office, The Akron Prosecutor’s Office, and Summit County Legal Defender’s Office.

The goals of the DART program include: enhancing public safety, reducing jail overcrowding and recidivism along with encouraging program participants to obtain gainful employment, a valid driver’s license and abstinence from drugs and alcohol. The DART program utilizes the principles and philosophies of the nationally recognized “Drug Court Model” which includes regular appearances before the judge, random drug and alcohol screens, successful completion of treatment programming, graduated sanctions and rewards and intensive supervision. In addition to having multiple OVI conviction, eligible participants must be resident of Summit County, express a desire to change drinking and driving behavior, have a non-violent criminal past and have the ability to get to-and-from required treatment programs and court appearances.

The DART program team includes Judge Alison McCarty, Tony Ingram, Jeff Sturm, Jill Forster, Matt Esterle, and Andrew Rudgers all with the Akron Probation Department. The Akron DART program current serves 41 participants and has the capacity to serve as many as 75. For additional information or

comments please contact the Akron Probation Department at: 217 South High Street: Mezzanine, Akron, Ohio 44308 or (330) 375-2760.



Drug Court

Judge John Holcomb is the Akron Municipal Drug Court Judge. The Akron Municipal Drug Court began in 1995 and is the longest running specialty court in Akron. Akron's Drug Court continues to serve as a model program for many Drug Courts across the state. It is a collaborative effort between the Akron Municipal Court, Akron Police Department, Akron City Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Akron Municipal Probation Department, Summit County Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Board, and Oriana House, Inc.

The Drug Court philosophy promotes court-ordered, judicially supervised treatment. The participants are male and female offenders originally charged with felonies, either possession of cocaine or methamphetamine.

All prospective offenders are initially screened by the Oriana House admissions Department to determine eligibility. Police and prosecutors must also approve the offender for admission into the Drug Court program.

The program requires that the offender come to court and plead guilty to a reduced, misdemeanor charge of attempted drug abuse. A six-month jail sentence is then imposed, but suspended. During the course of the next year, the participant will undergo assessment and treatment. The level of



Judge Holcomb and Drug Court team.

treatment is determined by the seriousness of the offender's addiction. At a minimum, each offender will meet with a caseworker at least once a week, must attend AA meetings and undergo frequent drug testing.

The program is based on a reward. Sanctions begin model: if a participant stays sober and performs well in the program, he or she will receive rewards. If the offender relapses with new drug use, or fails to comply with other aspects of the program, he or she will face graduated sanctions. Beginning with courtroom observation or a few days in jail, leading up to the final sanction for noncompliance, is termination from the program and six months in the Summit County Jail.

The Drug Court is a successful method of treatment for offenders, and a major component of its success is the close supervision and involvement of the judge.

Family Violence Court

The family Violence Court was implemented in April of 1998, in response to the growing number of domestic violence cases. The need to provide a sanctioning option to reduce jail crowding, the desire to address both victim and offender needs, and the desire to enhance probation supervision and to protect the public safety.

Akron's Family Violence Court is a domestic violence diversion program, the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of very few throughout the country. The actual program is the combined brain-child of the Oriana House, Inc., the Akron Municipal Court and its probation



Judge Callahan and Family Violence team

department, Akron's prosecutor's office and police department, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Assistance, the Battered Women's Shelter, and the Public Defender's Office. The program provides

and employment counseling if needed. Victims are urged to attend the Early intervention Program and Stop the Cycle at the Battered Women's Shelter. They have access to a victim advocate through every step of the proceedings.

increased supervision of the offender as well as increased coordination of services. Judge Lynne S. Callahan presides over the Family Violence Court. Offenders who enter the Family Violence Court Program are required to complete a twenty-six week violence cessation program, case management, one year of probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling if needed,

Mental Health Court

The Akron Mental Health Court was the first of its kind in Ohio and remains one of a handful in the United States. The Mental Health Court was formed, in part, as a response to the overwhelming number of mentally ill offenders being seen by the Akron Municipal Court.

This program is a collaborative effort between the Summit County ADM Board, Community Support Services, and the Akron Municipal Court. Residential treatment is provided by Oriana House, Inc., Sharp Program. The program is envisioned as a diversion program with a significant jail

reduction component in the short and long term. The model follows the drug court model with early intervention and stable release into the community with multi-year intensive probation and frequent court appearances. Prior to the Mental Health Court, mentally ill offenders who were not stable on medications, were waiting in jail for up to six weeks before a competency evaluation was completed. This diversion court reduces the time spent in jail to less than two weeks. One of the goals of the Mental Health Court is to end the cycling of the mentally ill offender through the local jail and the state hospital.



Judge Williams and Mental Health Court team.

The Akron Municipal Court Probation Staff



Members of the Probation Department.

Listed below are some important departmental statistics for 2007

6545 offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.

65 Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

273 Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

484 persons were placed on traditional probation.

\$72,239 was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.

3,161 community service placements were made.

88 defendants entered the Family Violence Court.

19 defendants entered the Drug Court.

504 defendants entered the Mental Health Court.

Chief Probation Officer
Tony Ingram

Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Jeff Sturmi

**Director of Specialty Courts
and Programs**
Jill Forster

To Contact: 330-375-2760

The Akron Municipal Court Service Bailiff's Staff



Some members of the Service Bailiff's Office.

The Service Bailiffs' Office is comprised of 6 Service Bailiffs, 1 Court Secretary/ Court Records Officer, and the Chief Bailiff. This office is charged with the responsibility to perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, remove clubs, and provide personal service of all court documents generated by The Akron Municipal Court

that require individual service. Unlike the courtroom bailiffs who perform their duties in the courtroom, the Service Bailiffs go out into the community to do their job.

The Outside Bailiffs travel throughout Summit County, into virtually every segment of society to serve Bank Aids, F&D's, Garnishments, Mandatory Orders, Show

Causes, Small Claims, Subpoenas, and Summons. They also perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, and remove clubs from vehicles immobilized by Akron, Richfield, Bath, Fairlawn, Lakemore, Springfield and Cuyahoga Falls Police Departments.

Chief Service Bailiff
Helen Hurlburt

330-375-2592

Small Claims Division



Sophie Albrecht

Small claims magistrates handle many different types of cases. They hear evictions, small claims, rent deposits, garnishments/executions, mandatory orders, contempt/show cause, replevin and revivor hearings.



Belinda Hinton

The office is staffed by two part-time magistrates and support staff. The magistrates are Sophie Albrecht and Belinda Hinton. The support staff is Melissa Briggs.

Small Claims Magistrates

Sophie Albrecht
Belinda Hinton

330-375-2285

Traffic Division



Traffic Magistrate
Katarina Cook

330-375-2005

In 2007 the traffic court staff handled 5,907 cases. Of those 129 cases were for DUI offenses, 1,647 were for DUS offenses, 2,485 MM, and 873 M1-M4 cases.

Pictured left are Mick Williams, Traffic Safety Officer, Kathy Wheeler, Jim Conti and seated is Katarina Cook Traffic Magistrate.



Akron Municipal Court Website



The Akron Municipal Court website offers another means of providing additional information for the people it serves.

Arraignment Court

Arraignments of misdemeanor and felony prisoners are heard in the mornings in the arraignment room. This courtroom is usually one of the busiest courtrooms on any given day. Video equipment allows the Judge to see and hear the defendant while the defendant remains in the county jail.



Clerk of Courts



Jim Laria has been elected municipal Clerk of Courts since 1997, being re-elected in 1999 and 2005. With 26 years of court management experience, Jim Laria's court career started as a bailiff in 1979 when all court records were done by hand. Today, the Akron Municipal Court is a modern computer network providing immediate on-line services at: courts.ci.akron.oh.us. More than 1 million visitors have accessed court information.

Mediation Program



Judicial Associate Laura Killian (center), heads the mediation program.

Visiting Judges

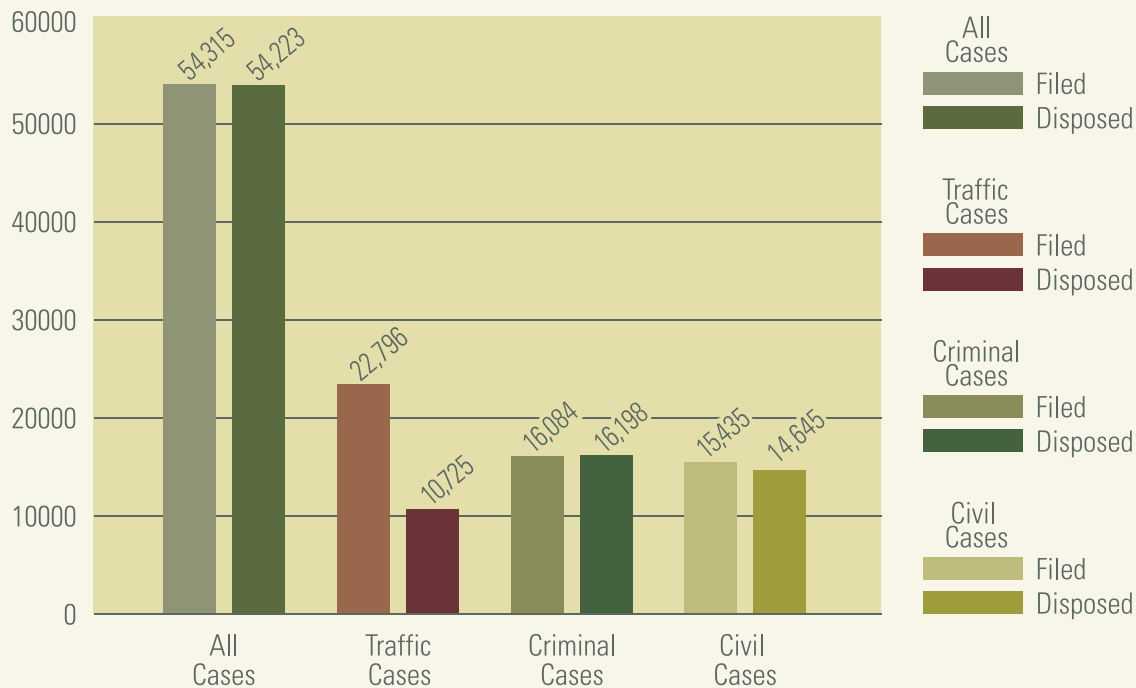


Judge McNulty

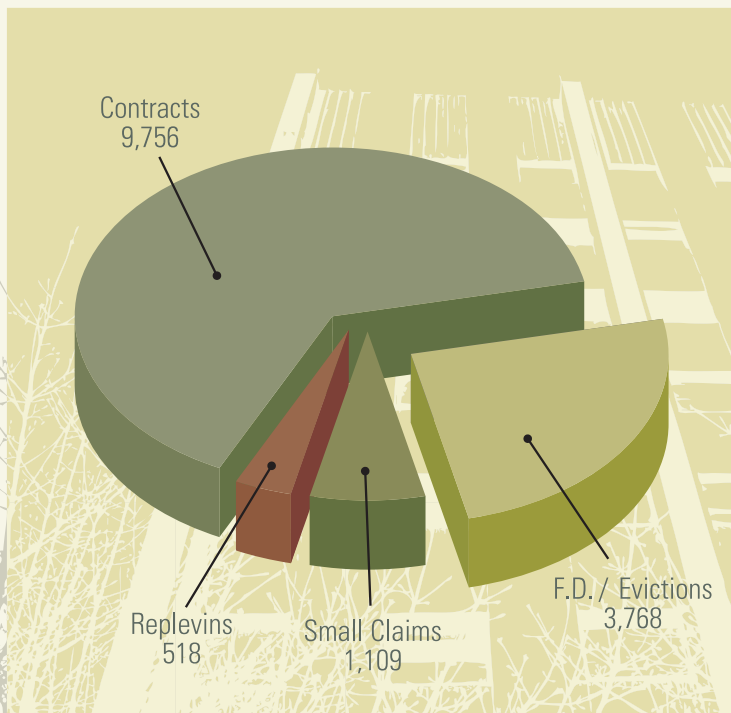
The Court is fortunate to have several retired judges available to sit when a conflict arises. The municipal judges maybe attending a training seminar, conference, or need a vacation day. Currently, Judge William Pike, Judge Perry Dickinson, Judge Monte Mack, Judge Ted Schneiderman, Judge Joyce George, Judge Michael McNulty, Judge Jerry Hayes, Judge Michael Weigand and Judge James Williams serve the court as visiting judges.

Fast Facts

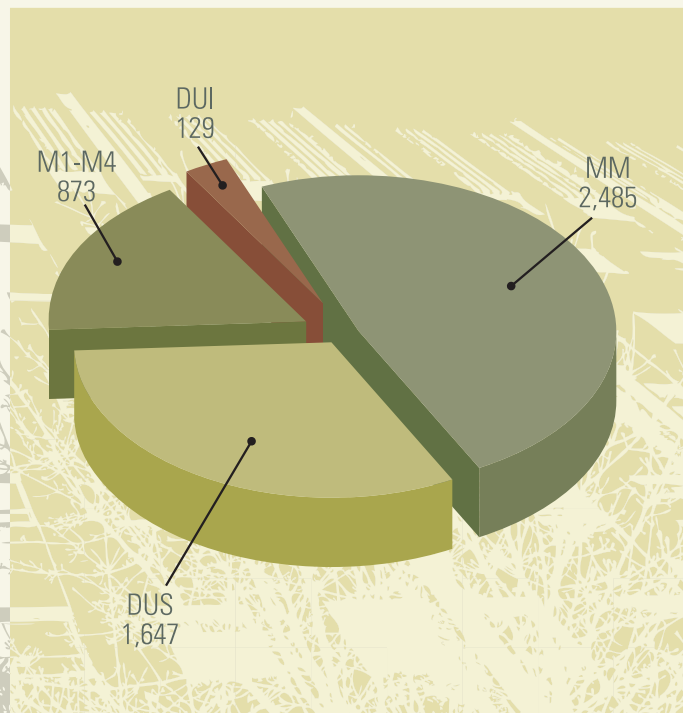
2007
Total Case Filed / Disposed

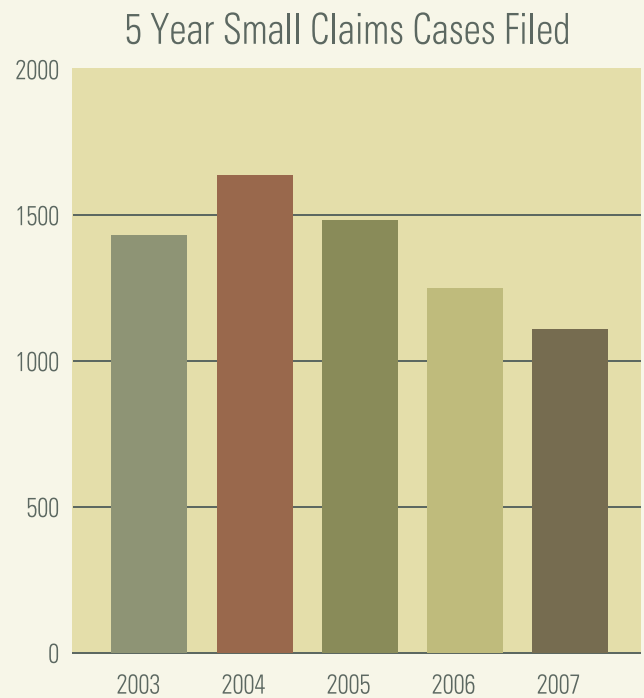
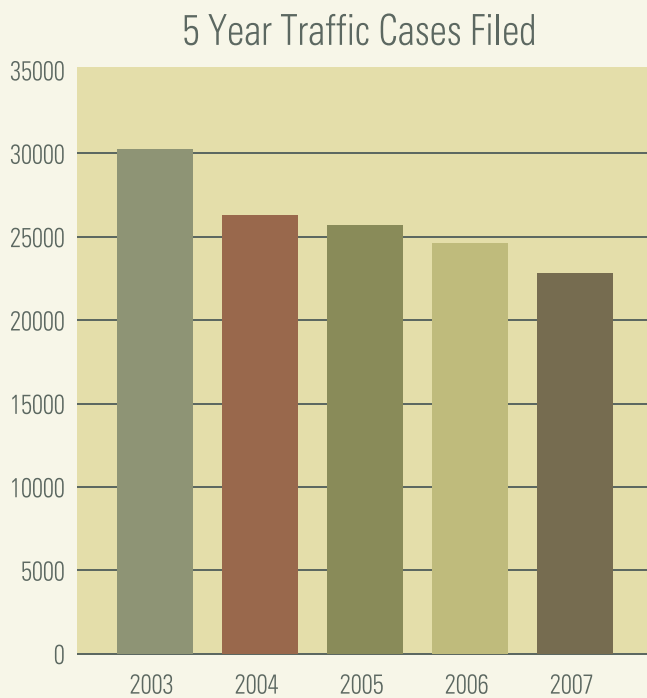
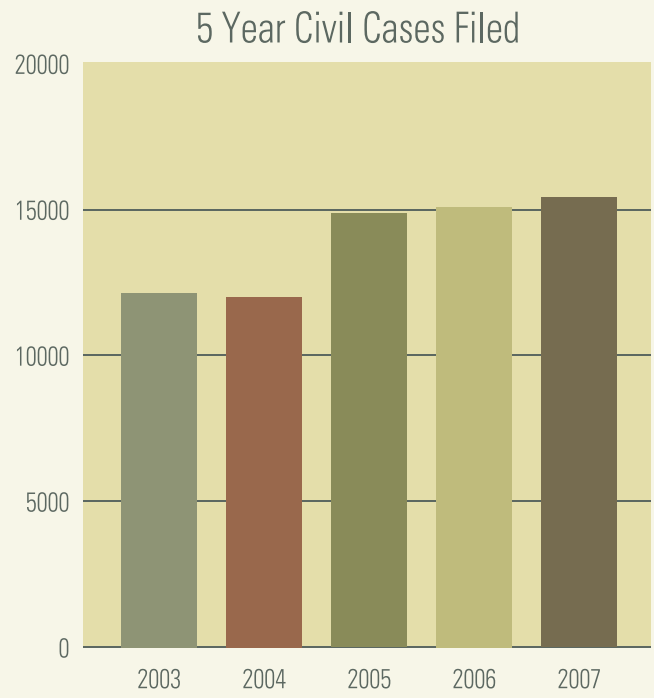
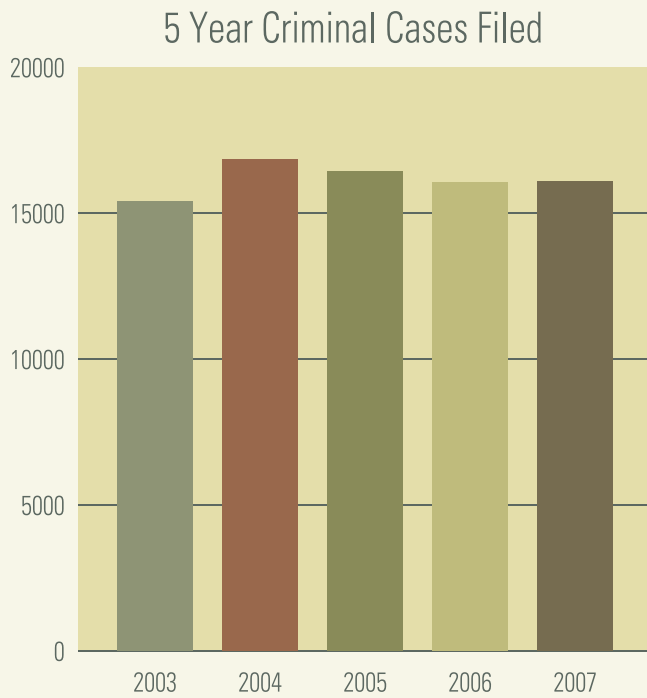


2007
Top Five Civil Case Filings



2007
Traffic Court Cases





Case Filings and Dispositions

CIVIL DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2007**

Property Damages/Personal Injury	265
Contracts	9,757
Transfers & Replevins	513
F.D. And Money (Evictions)	3,768
Small Claims	1,108
Trusteeship Cases	9
# Landlord Tenant Cases	15
Total Civil Cases Filed	15,435

*Cases Disposed 2007**

14,645

Cases Pending December 31, 2007

6,725

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2007**

Traffic	22,796
Criminal	16,084
Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Filed	38,880

*Cases Disposed 2007**

Traffic	23,380
Criminal	16,198
Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Disposed	39,578

Cases Pending December 31, 2007

Traffic	10,725
Criminal	5,617
Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Pending	16,342

PARKING DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2007**

Parking Civil	20,184
Parking Criminal	17
Total Cases Filed	20,201

*Cases Disposed 2007**

Parking Civil	20,684
Parking Criminal	15
Total Cases Disposed	20,699

** filed and disposed figures reflect only new filings & final terminations, and thus do not correspond with figures supplied on supreme court report.*

Expenditures

	Clerk Of Court	3,112,101.20
	Judicial	3,428,878.00
Total		6,540,979.20

2007 Receipts

CIVIL DIVISION

	Filing Fees	1,682,571.67
	Amcis **	142,316.71
	Judgments,Deposits	4,277,891.91
	Trusteeship Payments	31,987.80
	Landlord/Tenant Rent Payments	18,960.90
	Special Project Fee	267,795.42
Total Receipts - Civil Division		6,421,524.41

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

	Fines, Costs, & Fees	3,396,574.75
	Amcis **	158,034.50
	Bonds Collected	1,279,236.43
	Sweep Account Cd Interest	23,843.73
	Special Project Fee	271,358.00
Total Receipts - Criminal/Traffic Division		5,129,047.41

PARKING DIVISION

	Parking Penalties-Civil	294,306.00
	Parking Penalties-Criminal	0.00
	Bath	555.00
	Scso	10,180.60
	D.E.T.E.R.	6,920.00
Total Receipts - Parking Division		311,961.60
Total Receipts		\$11,862,533.42

2007 Disbursements

TO CITY OF AKRON CIVIL DIVISION

	Filing Fees	1,165,962.26
	Amcis **	141,714.27
	Trusteeship	716.92
	1% Landlord/Tenant Cost	213.20
	Jury Fees	2,800.00
	Unclaimed Checks	5,030.27
	Special Project Fee	259,412.58
Total Disbursed To Akron - Civil Division		1,575,849.50

CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Fines, Costs, Fees	2,037,993.87
Amcis **	158,587.50
Indigent Drivers Training Program	12,309.00
Akron Dui/Drug Fines	46,706.25
10% Bonds- 10% To City	47,506.20
Unclaimed Bonds	4,348.00
Special Project Fee	265,578.00
Probation Supervision	19,606.00
Total Disbursed To Akron-Crim/Traf Division	2,592,634.82

PARKING DIVISION

Civil Penalties	272,763.02
Criminal Penalties	240.00
Handicap - A.P.D.	15,124.89
Handicap - Education Fund	15,124.89
Total Disbursed To Akron - Parking Division	303,252.80
Total Disbursed To City of Akron	\$4,471,737.12

***Restricted account: to "computerize the court" and to "computerize the office of the clerk" per O.R.C. 1901.261 (A) (1) And (B) (1)*

TO STATE OF OHIO

Bmv-Olf Fees	13,268.25
Victim's Assistance	192,624.00
Public Defender Fees	318,805.50
State Board of Pharmacy	38,241.25
Legal Aid Fees	346,497.68
D.E.T.E.R	8,185.00
Other Fines & Fees	221,754.46
Total Disbursed To State of Ohio	1,139,376.14

TO SUMMIT COUNTY

Penalties, Fines, Costs, & Fees	269,803.68
Jail Facility Fees	21,835.00
Law Library Association	45,563.50
Crime Stoppers	3,380.00
Total Disbursed To Summit County	340,582.18

**TO OTHER CITIES, VILLAGES, & TOWNSHIPS
IN COURT'S JURISDICTION**

City of Fairlawn	28,067.00
Village of Lakemore	4,150.00
Village of Richfield	2,177.00
Village of Mogadore	153.00
Township of Bath	12,957.50
Township of Richfield	2,342.00
Township of Springfield	23,650.00
Total Disbursed To Other Cities/Vil/Twp	73,496.50

**TO OTHER AGENCIES AND
INTERESTED PARTIES**

Refunds-Penalties, Fines, & Costs	103,029.27
Outside Law Enforcement Agencies (Dui/Drugs)	14,734.00
Restitution	63,911.54
Civil Judgments	4,180,342.99
Foreign Service/Refunds	10,610.96
Witness Fees/Deposits	9,641.60
Bond Refunds	526,848.90
Bond Transfers To Other Courts	630,893.73
Trusteeship/Creditors	28,975.02
Trusteeship/Others	177.50
Landlords	17,179.51
Refunds To Tenants/3rd Parties	4,953.96
Legal News Fees	162,058.22
Total Disbursed To Others	5,753,357.20
Total Disbursements	\$11,778,549.14



Glimpses





