



THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT



2005 Annual Report





**JUDGE ALISON
McCARTY**

*Presiding /Administrative
Judge for 2005*

A word from Administrative/Presiding Judge Alison McCarty

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as Presiding Judge of your Akron Municipal Court this year. Our Court continues to be a national leader in providing progressive, cost effective, and quality alternatives to incarceration and litigation. In addition to the Drug Court, (which celebrated its 11th anniversary this year), the Family Violence Court, and the Mental Health Court, we also run a Mediation program, a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP) and a Drivers' License Intervention Program (LIP). We are one of the few Municipal Courts in this state that have three specialty courts running dockets that intensively address the needs and problems of offenders. Our goal in managing these programs is to provide the best possible service and protection to the citizens of the Akron Municipal District as we address the criminal justice issues that come before us.

In conjunction with our Clerk of Courts, Jim Laria, the Court established a web site in 2001 that continues to be a valuable tool for users of our court. This year the Clerk has begun computer imaging of all of our civil cases on the website. Lawyers and citizens can now go online to receive updates on their cases without having to come down to the courthouse. By the close of this year, over 1,000,000 visitors have viewed the court's website.

As our court becomes more sophisticated and its programs grow, our need for an appropriate facility becomes more apparent. Quite frankly, we have run out of room! We simply cannot continue to meet the needs of our constituents in this current location. Technological advances and a rise in caseloads make it very difficult for this court to maintain its reputation for progressive approaches to crime and its causes without a building to suit our needs. This report includes photos that illustrate our problem. Therefore, our judges have unanimously agreed to begin the process of seeking a new building. We will be working with our local community leaders to make that happen in the next few years.

Alison McCarty



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Push for Needed Improvements



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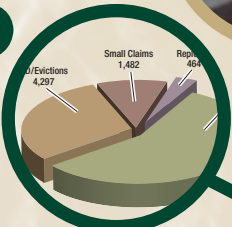
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Akron

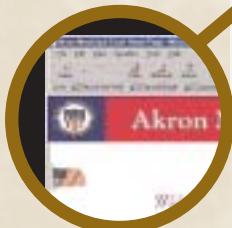
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The Judges

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 non-partisan 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. She was re-elected to the bench in 2003.



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. She was re-elected to the bench in 2005.



JUDGE EDNA J. BOYLE

graduated from the University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. She served as an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor, Juvenile and Probate

Court Magistrate and Judge on the Ninth District Court of Appeals. She was appointed Municipal Court Judge in January 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 E. CULVER

is a graduate of Youngstown State University and the University of Akron School of Law. She has served as Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Police Legal Advisor, Assistant Director

of Law for the City of Akron and also served as a Hearing Examiner for the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. She has served as Judge since her appointment to the bench in February 2005.



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



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, Edna Boyle, Alison McCarty, Kathryn F. Culver, and Annalisa S. Williams.

Push for Needed Improvements

Municipal court judges want new Akron building

They cite structural, security issues in council presentation

By John Higgins

Beacon Journal staff writer

Akron Municipal Court judges say they want a new stand-alone court building because the 1967 High Street building they share with the police department is too cramped, dangerous and in need of improvements.

There are the slow and unreliable elevators - one had a hole in the floor that had to be covered with a steel plate.

The judges say the building has an

inadequate and aging electrical system and water leaks that drip on jurors' heads and damage the judges' cars in the basement garage. And there are the rats that feed at overflowing trash cans and the swarms of cluster flies that burrow into the building and emerge in courtrooms at the first sign of spring.

Akron City Council members heard about all those problems at the Harold

Please see **Court, B3**



Akron Municipal Judge Alison McCarty displays a photo of a dead rodent as part of a presentation to Akron City Council on conditions in the court building.

www.ohio.com

Akron Beacon Journal • Saturday, October 8, 2005

Court

Councilman tells judges to prioritize

Continued from Page B1

K. Stubbs Justice Center during a slide show that the judges presented on Wednesday in one of only two jury rooms - yet another complaint.

The judges also mentioned these concerns:

- Lack of police protection. Akron police provide 11 officers for court security, with one officer responsible for as many as 15 prisoners. The Summit County Sheriff's Department provides 47 deputies to Common Pleas Court, with two deputies assigned for every six prisoners.

- Lack of accessibility for people with disabilities. The court provides only two, poorly marked handicapped-accessible parking spots directly in front of the building. Getting to a handicapped-accessible elevator installed in 2003 requires pulling open doors, which is not always possible for people with disabilities. No bathrooms in the building are accessible to the handicapped, and many of the courtrooms are not accessible for people who use wheelchairs.

- Tiny offices, narrow hallways and cramped courtrooms that force attorneys, clients and sometimes even judges into the stairwells for semiprivate conferences.

About 2,000 people go in and out of the building every



Sommerville

day. Anyone who is arrested makes a first appearance in municipal court, which keeps misdemeanor cases and passes felonies to common pleas court.

Last year, the municipal court handled 57,000 cases.

The judges noted new buildings have been built for the Summit County Juvenile and Common Pleas courts and said they need a new building.

At-large Councilman Mike Williams, whose wife, Annalisa S. Williams, is an Akron Municipal judge, told them to prioritize their concerns. He said the city would never abandon the justice center and may just as well decide that the police, rather than the judges, need a new home.

"If you start talking about a new building, that's a long process," Williams said.

Council President Marco Sommerville said security and maintenance issues should be addressed immediately.

Judge Alison McCarty said she would like to form a task force to explore the possibility of a new building and said that this week, the court started charging an additional \$10 per case for a building fund.



Waste baskets atop electrical equipment collect dripping water and white plastic sheets cover communications equipment on the 10th floor of the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center.



Trash Piles



Roach Infestation



Peeling Paint



Damaged Records



Rat Poison



Containers Collecting Water from Leaking Roof



Crowded Hallways



Blocked Exit



Falling Ceiling Tile

Drug Court



Judge Alison McCarty 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 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/sanction 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, starting with courtroom observation or a few days in jail, leading up to the final sanction for noncompliance: 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.

"Drug court can truly change lives."

– Judge Alison McCarty

Family Violence Court

*Judge Callahan
and Jill Forster*



*Staff from the Prosecutor's
Office review a file.*



Judge Callahan

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 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 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, as well as case management, one year of probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling, when needed, and employment counseling, also when needed. Victims are urged to attend the Early intervention Program and Stop the Cycle at the Battered Women's Shelter. They also have access to a victim advocate through every step of the proceedings.



Mental Health Court



Judge Williams and Mental Health Court team.

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.

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 numbers 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 talks with a client.

The Akron Municipal Court Probation Staff



Members of the Probation Department.

Chief Probation
Officer
Tony Ingram

Deputy Chief
Probation
Officer
Jeff Sturmi

Director of
Specialty
Courts and
Programs
Jill Forster

To Contact
330-375-2760

Below are listed some important departmental statistics for 2005

5228 offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.

131 Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

356 Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

528 persons were placed on traditional probation.

\$47,187 was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.

2800 community service placements were made.

111 defendants entered the Family Violence Court, with a retention rate of 86%.

99 defendants entered the Drug Court with a retention rate of 83%.

703 defendants were screened for the Discretionary Rehabilitation Program.

553 were found to be eligible and approved, with a retention rate of 76%.

The Akron Municipal Court Service Bailiff's Staff



Some members of the Service Bailiff's Office.

Chief Service
Bailiff
Helen Hurlburt
330-375-2592

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.

Small Claims Division



Sophie Albrecht



Belinda Hinton

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.

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
Magistrate
Katarina Cook
330-375-2005

Traffic Division

In 2005 the traffic court staff handled 5,907 cases. 116 of those cases were for DUI offenses, 2,131 were for DUS offenses, 3,321 MM, and 2,586 M1-M4 cases. Pictured left are Mick Williams, Traffic Safety Officer, Kathy Wheeler, Jim Conti and seated is Katarina Cook Traffic Magistrate.

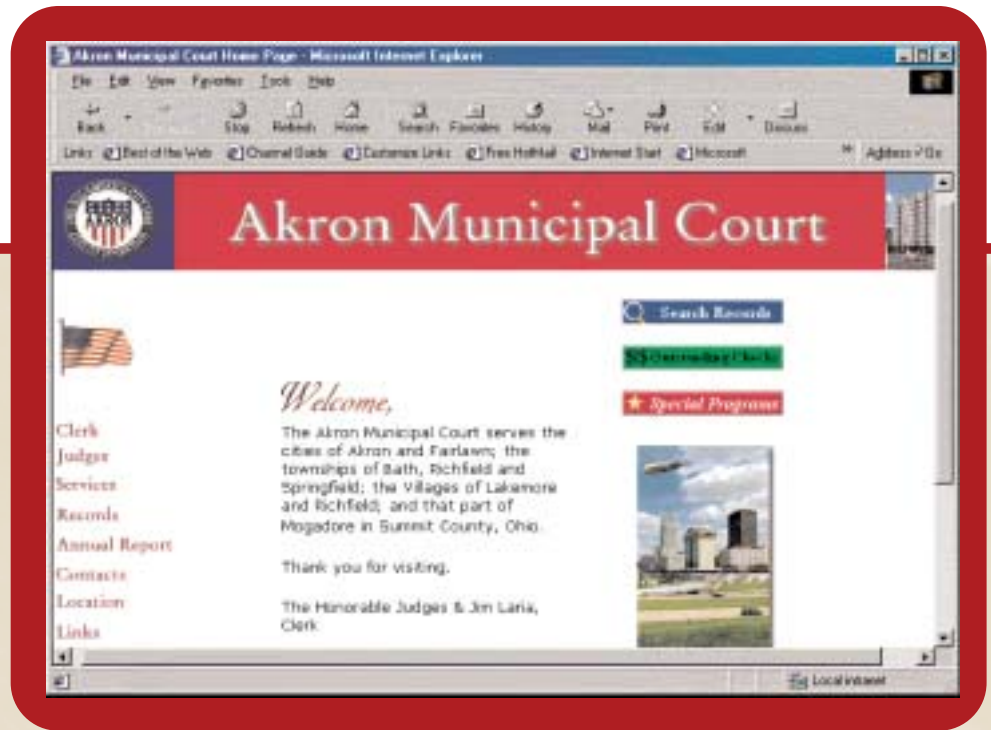


Taffic Magistrate Katarina Cook

Akron Municipal Court Website



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



Visit our web site at: <http://courts.ci.akron.oh.us/>

By the end of 2005 over one million visitors had accessed the court website. In response to user feedback the site was rearranged to provide easier access to the special programs, records search and outstanding check icons.



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 is our 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. Jim Laria provides the essential requirements of protecting the court's annual \$10,000,000 in gross receipts with 8 years of clean audits.

Recognized around Ohio as an innovative leader in court management, Jim Laria is President of the state's municipal clerks association after serving 6 years as Educational Chair. An elected member of the Akron School Board in 1995, Jim is a proud graduate of Akron Public Schools and the University of Akron in Education. Laria additionally graduated from the National Judicial College on Court Management.

Jim Laria and staff were busy in 2005 when they implement House Bill 30, which Laria championed in our General Assembly. Effective March 31, 2005, the bill allows for D.E.T.E.R. holds - preventing renewal of license plates or driver licenses - on all handicap parking tickets. Computer imaging of all civil pleadings began on our website. Deputy clerks work daily with more than fifteen police agencies, prosecutors, judges and citizens to provide the efficient and effective delivery of court services in a unique office that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round.

Mediation Program



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

Visiting Judges

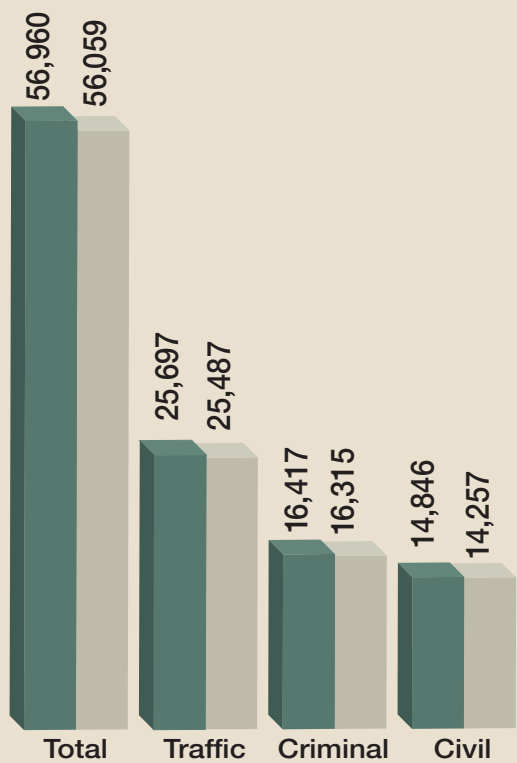


The Court is fortunate to have several retired judges available to sit when a conflict arises, the municipal judges attending a training seminar or conference, or when they just need a vacation day. Currently, Judge William Pike, Judge Perry Dickinson, Judge Monte Mack, Judge Ted Schneiderman, and Judge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

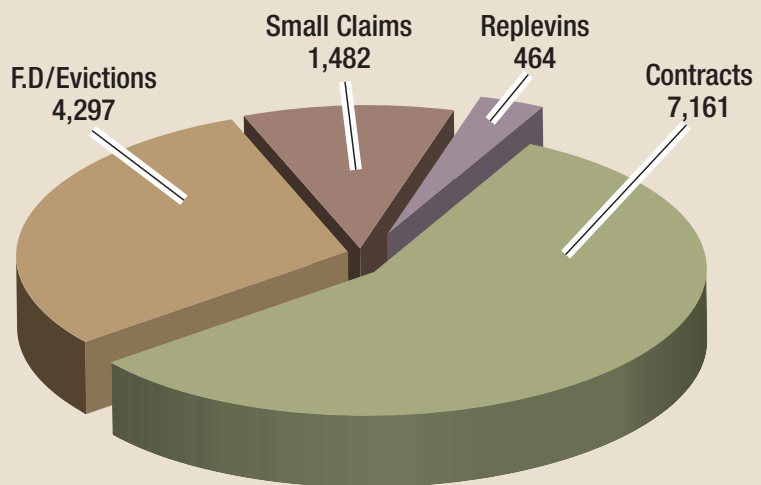


Fast Facts

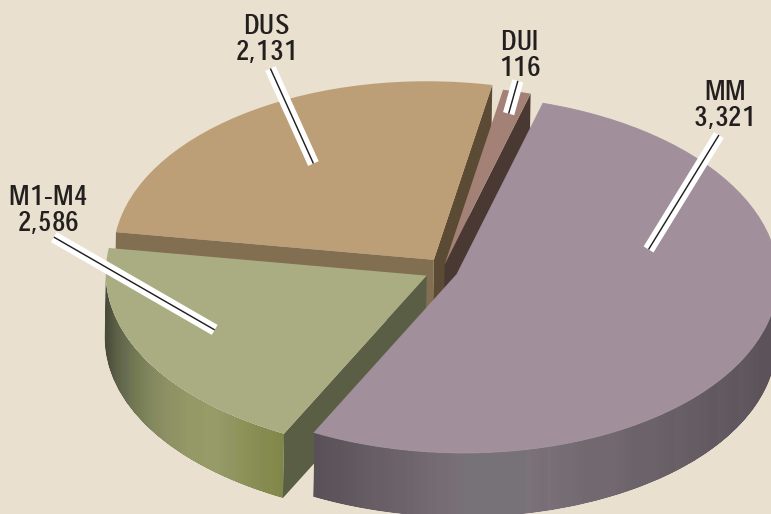
Total Cases Filed / Disposed



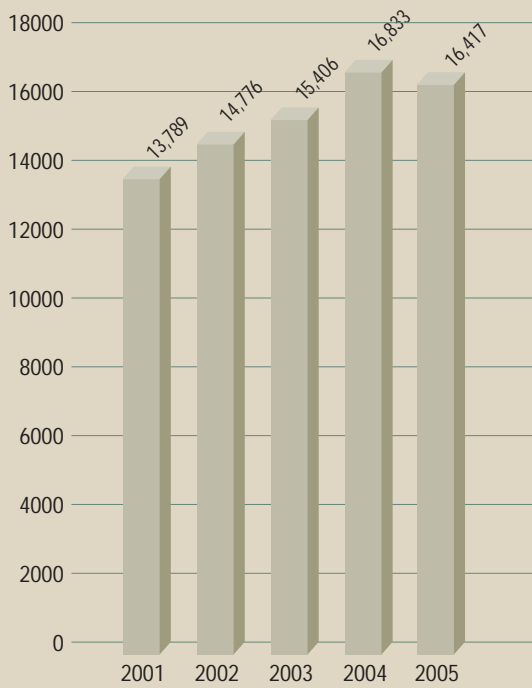
Top Five Civil Case Filings 2005



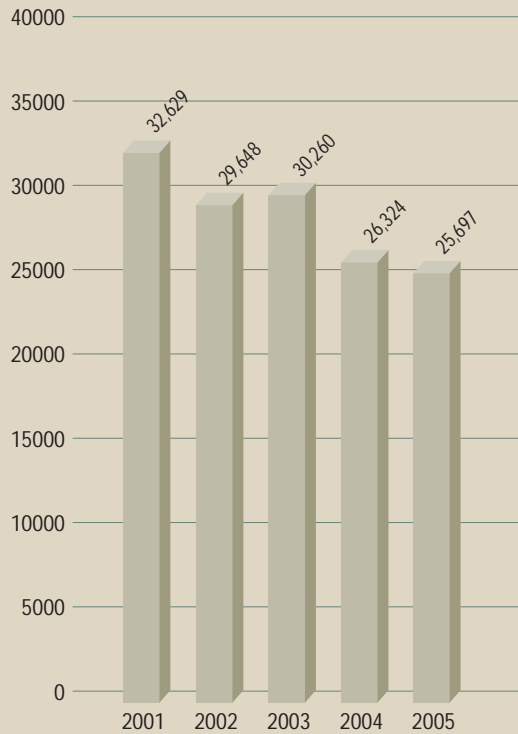
Traffic Court Cases 2005



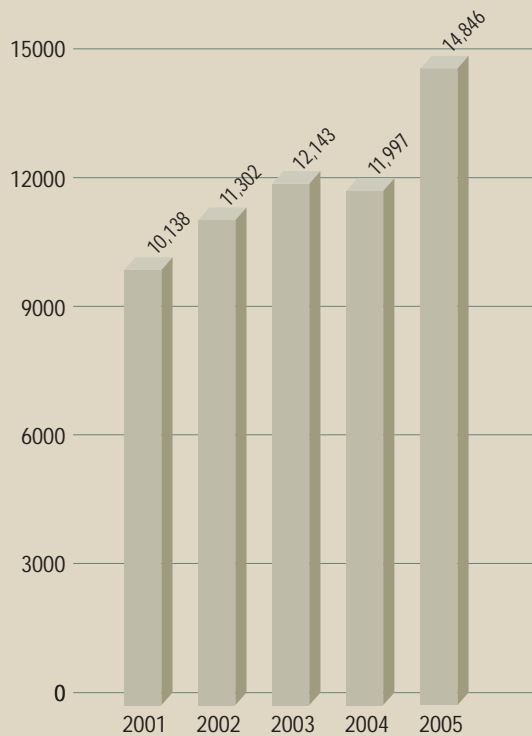
5 Year Criminal Cases Filed



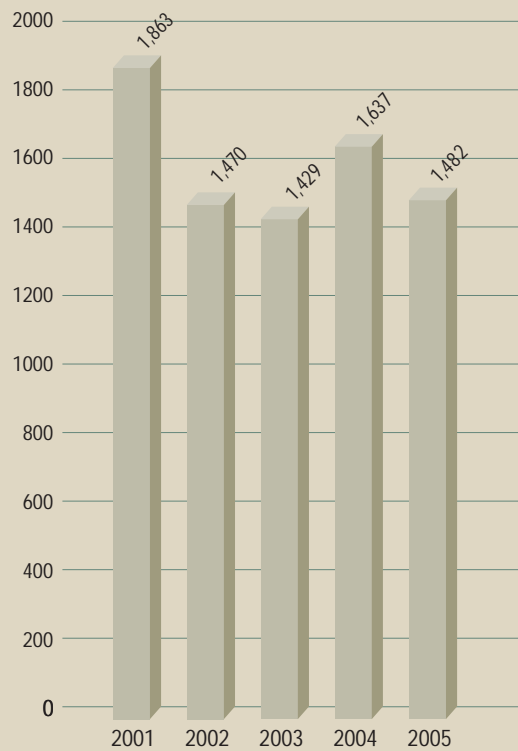
5 Year Traffic Cases Filed



5 Year Civil Cases Filed

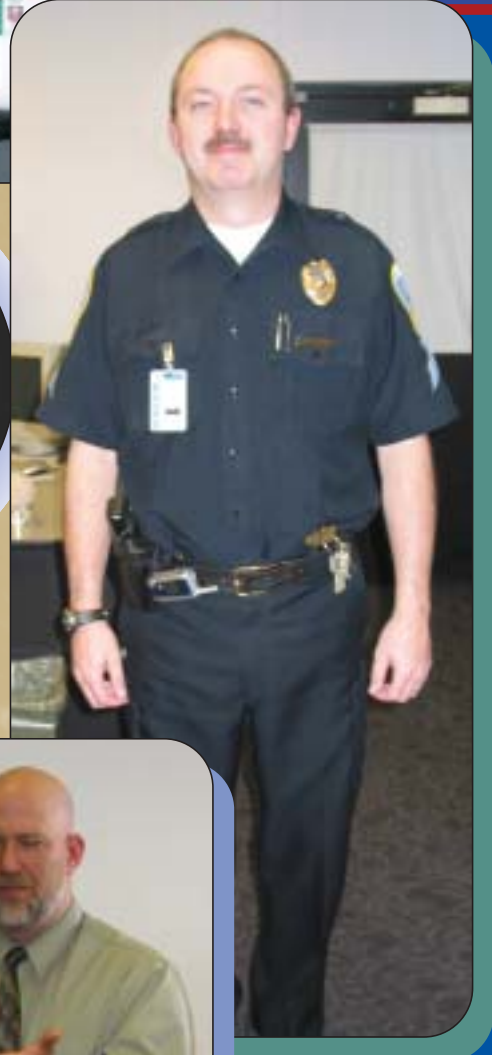


5 Year Small Claims Cases Filed



Glimpses





THE AKRON
MUNICIPAL
COURT

Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center
217 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
(7th, 8th and 9th Floors)