



2008



Akron  
Municipal Court  
Annual Report



**Judge Annalisa S. Williams**

*Presiding /Administrative Judge  
for 2008*

**A word from Administrative/Presiding  
Judge Annalisa S. Williams**

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the Administrative/Presiding Judge in 2008. Our court continues to be a national leader in providing progressive, cost effective, and quality alternatives to incarceration and litigation.

Akron Municipal Court has in place a Family Violence Court, Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Driver's License Intervention Program, Mediation Program, Diversion Program and a DUI Court. We operate more specialty courts than any other court in the State of Ohio. Our goal in managing these specialty courts is to aggressively address the needs and problems of the offenders while providing the best possible service and protection to the citizens of the Akron Municipal Court District.

Once again, it was a very busy year for the staff of the court. In 2008, 16,468 criminal cases were filed with the court. There were 16,155 criminal cases disposed. There were 22,806 traffic cases filed. There were 22,485 traffic cases disposed. There were 15,582 civil cases filed with the court. There were 15,357 civil cases disposed. In 2008, \$68,531 in restitution monies were collected by the court an increase of over \$8,000 in restitution monies collected and disbursed.

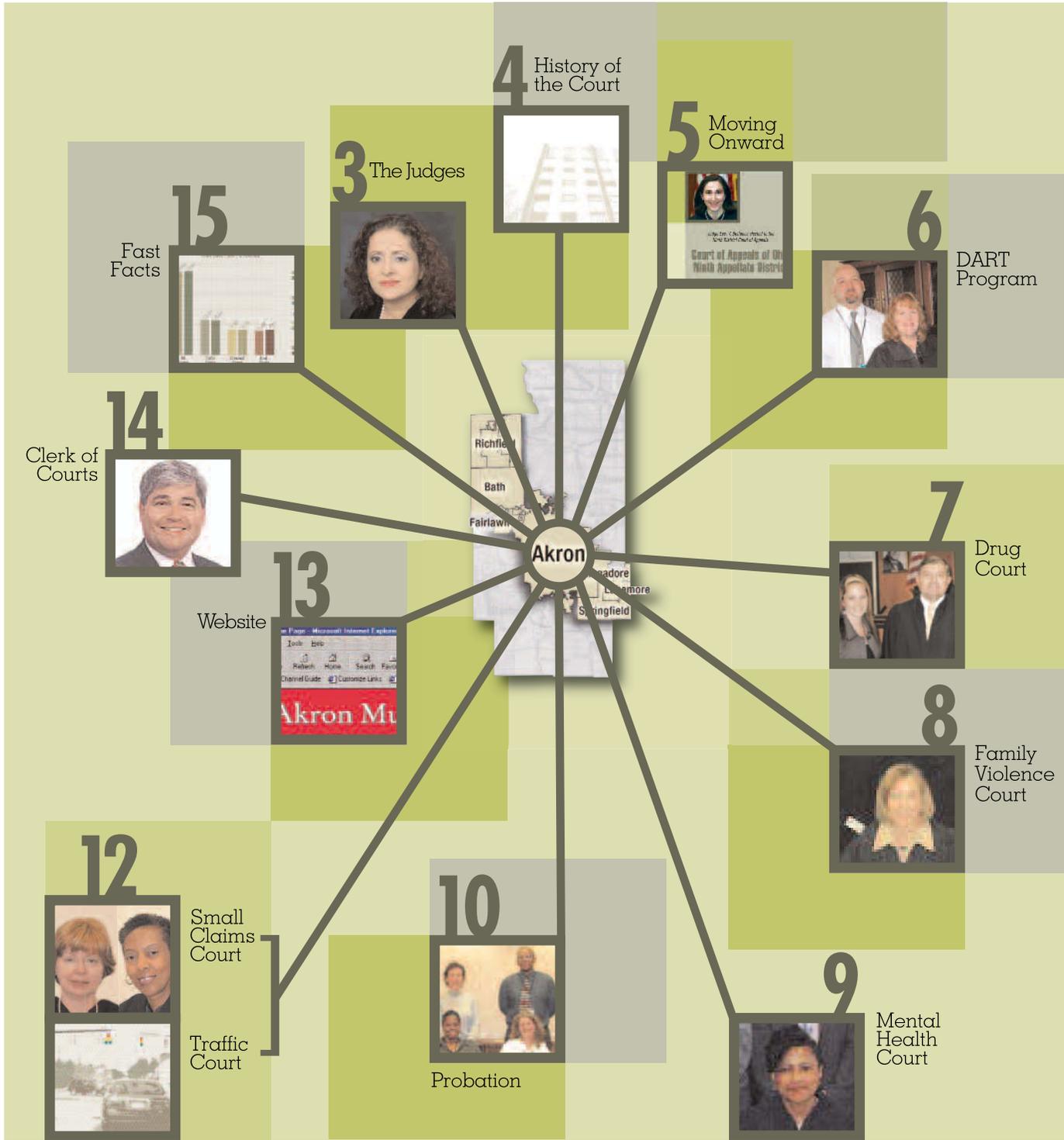
The judges of the court continued their efforts throughout the year to work with council and the city administration to address security and facility issues that negatively impact on the ability of the judges to perform their duties. Our Court Administrator was tasked with working with the Service Director's Office and the Engineers Office to push forward the building of the first ever Akron Municipal Courthouse.

Two longtime judges of our court Judge Lynne S. Callahan and Judge Alison McCarty were elected to the Court of Common Pleas and left us at the end of the year. Judge Eve V. Belfance who joined our court in 2005 was elected to the Court of Appeals and she left us in February of 2009.

Our court learned that the city will again host Fugitive Safe Surrender in 2009, the first city in the country to host this program twice. Planning for this event began this year and will continue into 2009. Court staff are working with the US Marshal's Office, State Attorney General's Office, BMV, local law enforcement and our local church officials to make this a successful event.

It is my hope that this annual report gives you a quick view of the court and our activity for the last year. If you want additional information please do not hesitate to visit our web site or call us for additional information.

# Table of Contents



# 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

## Moving Onward



*Judge Eve V. Belfance elected to the  
Ninth District Court of Appeals.*

### Court of Appeals of Ohio Ninth Appellate District



*Judges Lynne S. Callahan and Alison McCarty elected to the Court of Common Pleas*

### Summit County Common Pleas General Division

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

“Discovering Abstinence through Responsibility and Treatment”



*Akron DART Probation Officers Andrew Rudgers and Matt Esterle with Judge Alison McCarty.*

On, May 13, 2008, Judge Alison McCarty began presiding over the DART Program, 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



*Judge McCarty presides over a DART Program court session.*

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 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, rewards and intensive supervision. In addition to having multiple OVI convictions, eligible participants must be a resident of Summit County, express a desire to change their 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 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, The Summit County Sheriff's Office, The Akron Prosecutor's Office and the Summit County Legal Defender' Office.

The DART Program team includes Judge Alison McCarty, Tony Ingram, Jeff Sturmi, Jill Forster, Matt Esterle and Andrew Rudgers. In 2008 the DART Program served 41 participants and has been consistently increasing in numbers, with the capacity to serve 75.

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

**“We target repeat offenders because we want to save lives.”**

— Judge Alison McCarty  
Presiding Judge DART Program

# Drug Court



*Judge Holcomb and Drug Court team.*

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 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.



*Judges Holcomb and McCarty.*

# 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



*Judge Callahan and Family Violence team*

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, case management, one year of probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling if needed, 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.

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.,

# 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



*Judge Williams and Mental Health Court team.*

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.

# The Akron Municipal Court Probation Staff



*Members of the  
Probation Department.*

## Listed below are some important departmental statistics for 2008

- 5,796 offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.
- 48 Presentence Investigation referrals were received.
- 298 Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.
- 517 persons were placed on traditional probation.
- \$68,531 was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.
- 2,713 community service placements were made.
- 114 defendants entered the Family Violence Court.
- 44 defendants entered the Drug Court.
- 64 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.*

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.

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,

**Chief Service Bailiff**  
*Helen Hurlburt*

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330-375-2592

# 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*

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330-375-2285

# Traffic Division

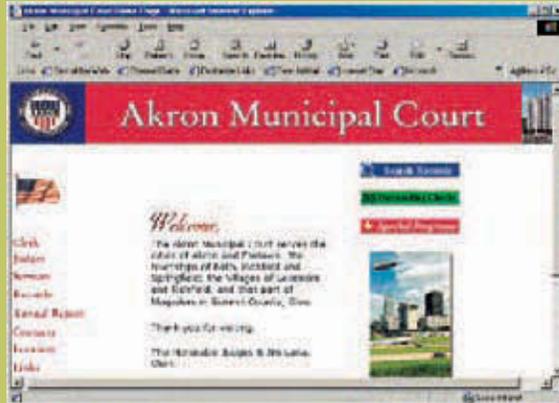


In 2008 the traffic court staff handled 5,907 cases. Of those 129 cases were for DUI offenses, 1,647 were for DUS offenses, 2,485 MM, and 873 M1-M4 cases.

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



# Akron Municipal Court Website



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

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*



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](http://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.*

*Judge McNulty*

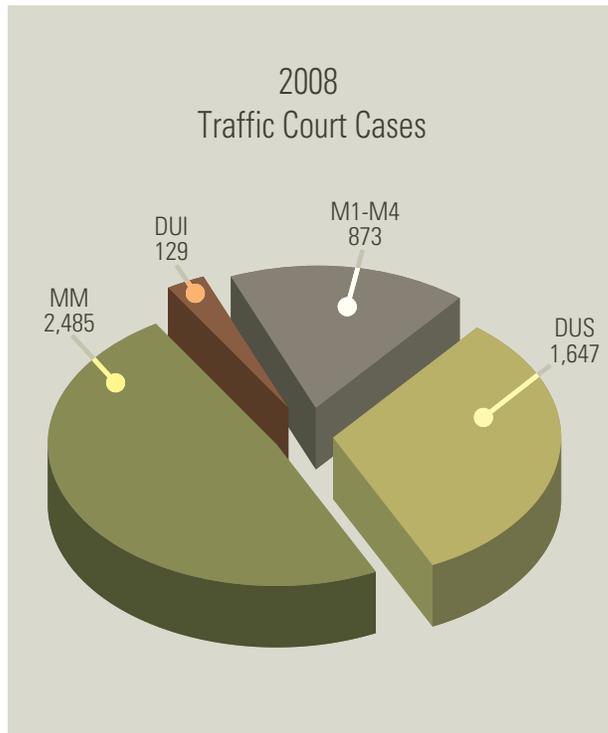
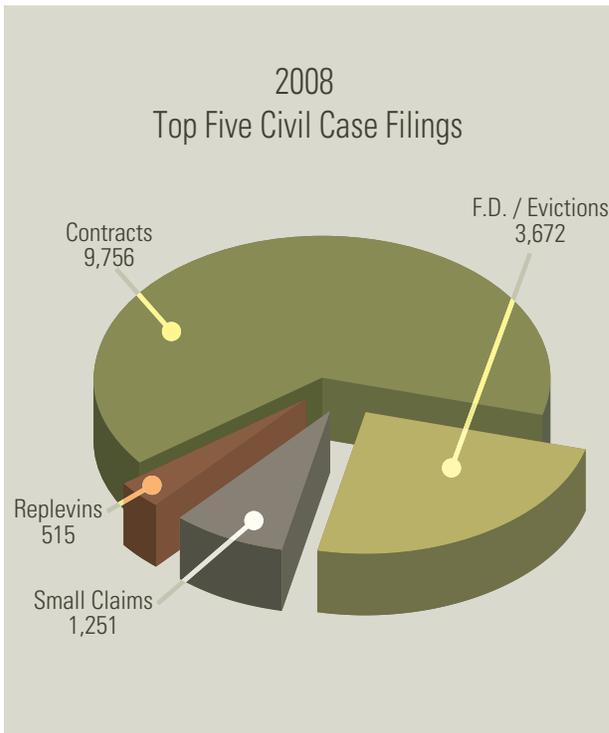
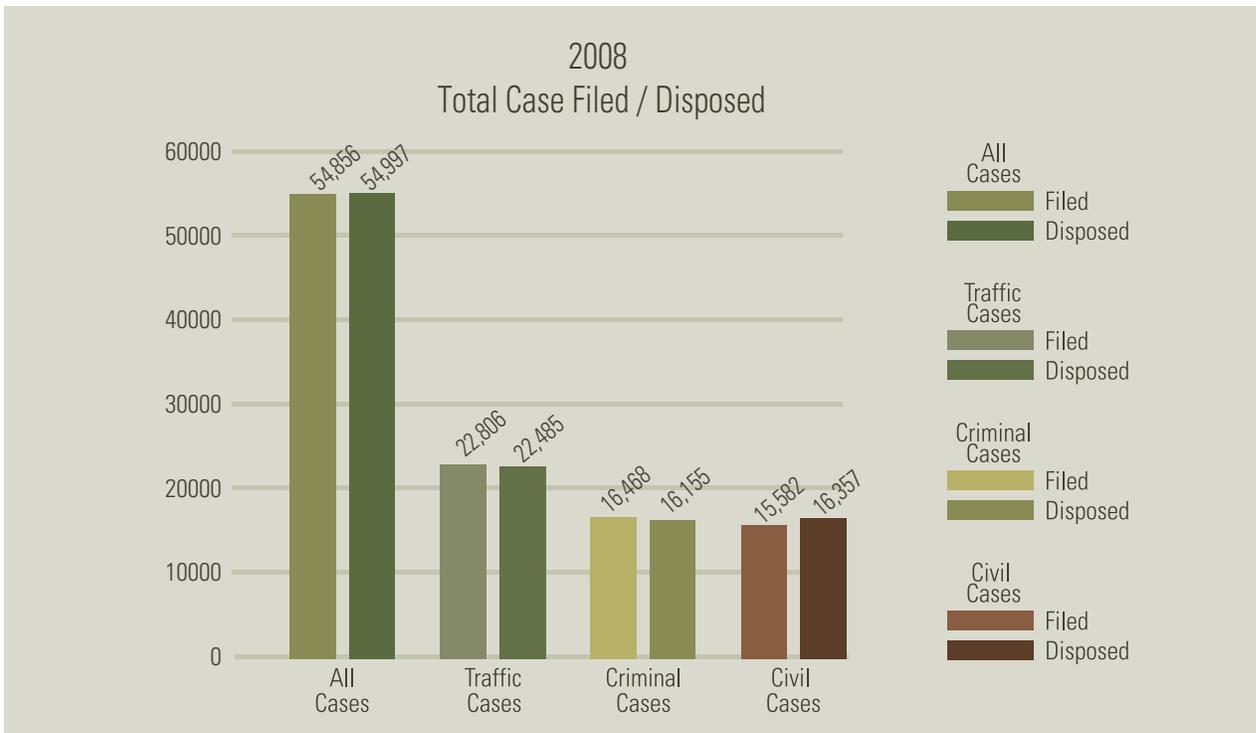
## Visiting Judges



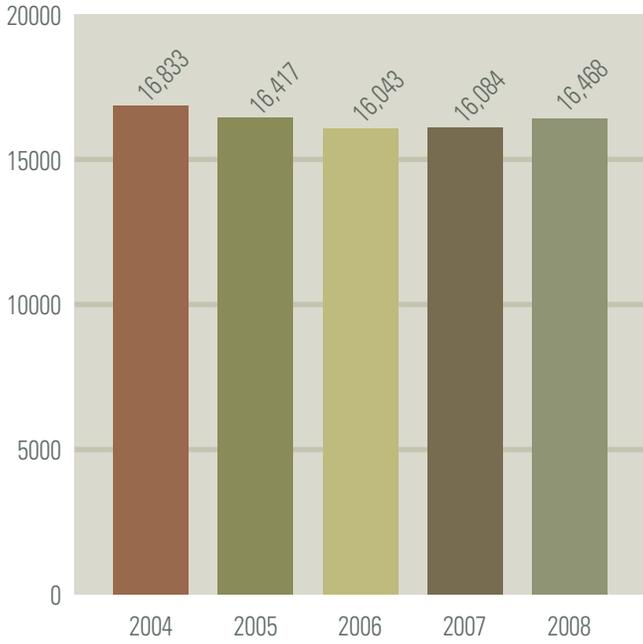
Judge Joyce George, Judge Michael McNulty, Judge Jerry Hayes, Judge Michael Weigand and Judge James Williams serve the court as visiting judges.

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,

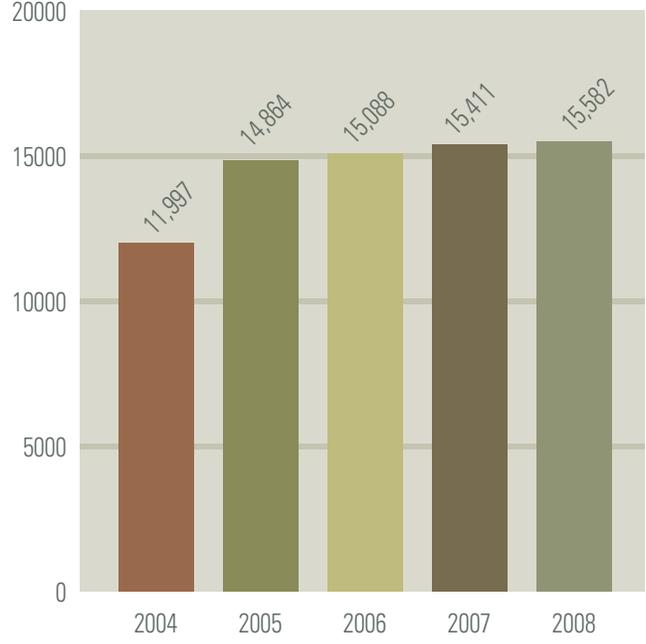
# Fast Facts



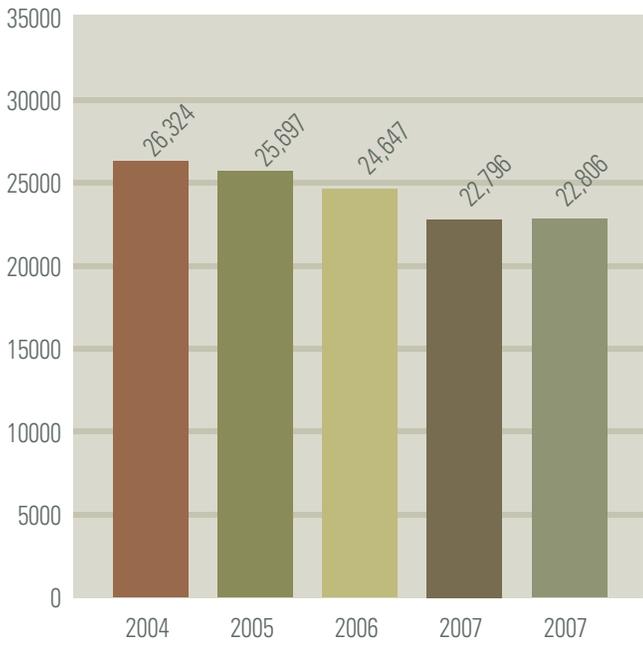
### 5 Year Criminal Cases Filed



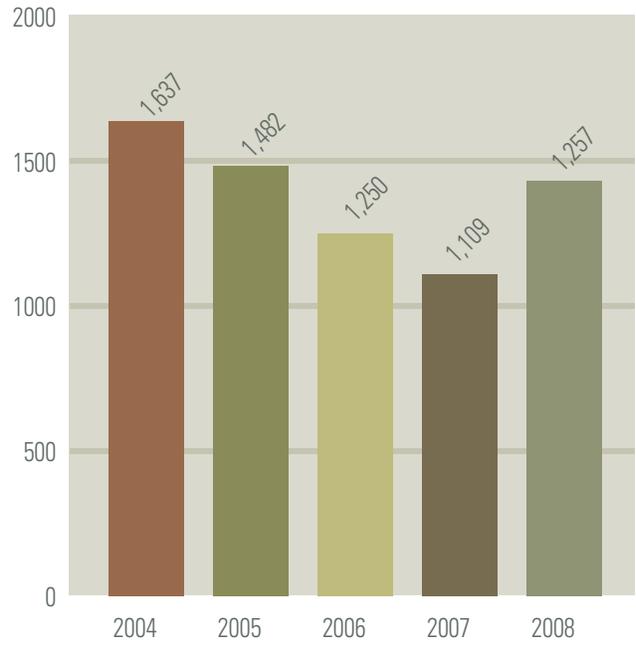
### 5 Year Civil Cases Filed



### 5 Year Traffic Cases Filed



### 5 Year Small Claims Cases Filed



## Case Filings and Dispositions

### CIVIL DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2008\**

Property Damages/Personal Injury	222
Contracts	9,903
Transfers & Replevins	515
F.D. And Money (Evictions)	3,672
Small Claims	1,257
Trusteeship Cases	9
# Landlord Tenant Cases	4
<b>Total Civil Cases Filed</b>	<b>15,582</b>

*Cases Disposed 2008\**

16,357

*Cases Pending December 31, 2008*

5,950

### CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2008\**

Traffic	22,805
Criminal	16,468
<b>Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Filed</b>	<b>39,274</b>

*Cases Disposed 2008\**

Traffic	22,485
Criminal	16,155
<b>Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Disposed</b>	<b>39,578</b>

*Cases Pending December 31, 2008*

Traffic	11,046
Criminal	5,930
<b>Total Criminal/Traffic Cases Pending</b>	<b>16,976</b>

### PARKING DIVISION

*Cases Filed 2008\**

Parking Civil	15,630
Parking Criminal	26
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>15,656</b>

*Cases Disposed 2008\**

Parking Civil	17,463
Parking Criminal	37
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>15,500</b>

*\*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	3,217,218.00
	Judicial	3,513,738.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,730,956.00</b>

## 2008 Receipts

### CIVIL DIVISION

	Filing Fees	1,714,183.94
	Amcis **	148,666.14
	Judgments, Deposits	6,334,791.93
	Trusteeship Payments	48,720.13
	Landlord/Tenant Rent Payments	4,470.00
	Special Project Fee	318,712.23
<b>Total Receipts - Civil Division</b>		<b>8,569,544.37</b>

### CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

	Fines, Costs, & Fees	3,327,959.34
	Amcis **	159,346.62
	Bonds Collected	1,446,732.10
	Sweep Account Cd Interest	8,546.52
	Special Project Fee	313,845.94
<b>Total Receipts - Criminal/Traffic Division</b>		<b>5,256,430.52</b>

### PARKING DIVISION

	Parking Penalties-Civil	338,429.30
	Parking Penalties-Criminal	0.00
	Bath	1,010.00
	SCSO	7,163.70
	D.E.T.E.R.	17,700.00
<b>Total Receipts - Parking Division</b>		<b>364,303.00</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$14,190,277.89</b>

## 2008 Disbursements

### TO CITY OF AKRON CIVIL DIVISION

	Filing Fees	1,182,378.03
	AMCIS **	147,392.82
	Trusteeship	1,140.81
	1% Landlord/Tenant Cost	47.20
	Jury Fees	2,100.00
	Unclaimed Checks	2,506.43
	Special Project Fee	315,912.28
<b>Total Disbursed To Akron - Civil Division</b>		<b>1,651,477.57</b>

## CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC DIVISION

Fines, Costs, Fees	1,911,950.04
AMCIS **	156,141.00
Indigent Drivers Training Program	15,306.00
Akron DUI/Drug Fines	52,338.50
10% Bonds- 10% To City	45,795.20
Unclaimed Bonds	7,550.00
Special Project Fee	308,902.26
Probation Supervision	16,825.00
<b>Total Disbursed To Akron-Crim/Traf Division</b>	<b>2,514,808.00</b>

## PARKING DIVISION

Civil Penalties	304,631.01
Criminal Penalties	502.50
Handicap - A.P.D.	16,513.92
Handicap - Education Fund	16,513.92
<b>Total Disbursed To Akron - Parking Division</b>	<b>338,161.35</b>
<b>Total Disbursed To City of Akron</b>	<b>\$4,504,446.92</b>

*\*\*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	10,679.25
Victim's Assistance	181,180.53
Public Defender Fees	299,895.50
State Board of Pharmacy	45,851.50
Legal Aid Fees	358,174.36
D.E.T.E.R	13,235.00
Other Fines & Fees	233,974.43
<b>Total Disbursed To State of Ohio</b>	<b>1,142,990.57</b>

## TO SUMMIT COUNTY

Penalties, Fines, Costs, & Fees	261,564.25
Jail Facility Fees	33,272.00
Law Library Association	45,172.08
Crime Stoppers	4,241.84
<b>Total Disbursed To Summit County</b>	<b>344,250.17</b>

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

City of Fairlawn	22,191.00
Village of Lakemore	2,266.00
Village of Richfield	694.00
Village of Mogadore	573.00
Township of Bath	13,101.57
Township of Richfield	2,243.00
Township of Springfield	22,853.00
<b>Total Disbursed To Other Cities/Vil/Twp</b>	<b>22,853.00</b>

**TO OTHER AGENCIES AND  
INTERESTED PARTIES**

Refunds-Penalties, Fines, & Costs	25,811.12
Outside Law Enforcement Agencies (DUI/Drugs)	19,988.50
Restitution	70,037.55
Civil Judgments	6,307,621.11
Foreign Service/Refunds	8,258.29
Witness Fees/Deposits	14,005.20
Bond Refunds	531,076.40
Bond Transfers To Other Courts	783,653.00
Trusteeship/Creditors	44,406.61
Trusteeship/Others	0.00
Landlords	3,826.30
Refunds to Tenants/3rd Parties	500.00
Legal News Fees	167,183.11
<b>Total Disbursed To Others</b>	<b>7,976,367.19</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$14,031,976.42</b>

# GLIMPSES



