

2015 CLERK'S OFFICE YEAR IN REVIEW

Providing quality service in support of justice.



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**



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A Message from the Chief Judge

Friday, June 19, 2015, was a gorgeous summer day in Michigan. The Court family gathered on the lawn of the Gerald R. Ford Federal Building in the warm afternoon sunshine to mark the "passing of the gavel" from Chief Judge Maloney upon the expiration of his 7-year term of office to Judge Jonker as the incoming Chief. Chief Judge Maloney had guided the Court with aplomb through unusually difficult budget cycles disrupted by political turbulence and even a nearly unprecedented government shutdown. He had also seen the Court through the retirement of two Magistrate Judges that had served the Court for a combined 60 years of service!

Chief Judge Maloney's experience, wisdom and good judgment (in all things but college football!) provided a sense of calm security in what could have been very troubled waters. Transitions in leadership, like transitions in rivers, are often marked with mild rapids as systems adjust their levels to deal with the "before" and "after" times. And in the midst of the warm sunshine that afternoon, a few butterflies were no doubt fluttering inside at least the incoming Chief, and probably others, too, as the Court family wondered what was in store. But former Chief Judge Bell was there at the ceremony with both the outgoing and incoming Chiefs, lending as Judge Bell always does, a sense of ballast and optimism that all would be well.

But we all know that a beautiful summer day in Michigan can give way to thunderstorms without warning, and that mild rapids sometimes lead to precipitous waterfalls. And within a few weeks, the incoming Chief was beginning to wonder—perhaps with some others in the Court family too—whether thunderstorms and waterfalls were in store for our District! Things started out well enough with my first official act as Chief Judge being the appointment of Ray Kent as the Court's second new Magistrate Judge in two years to fill the position from which Magistrate Judge Brenneman retired after 35 years of service to the Court. A good start, no doubt, but still another big transition for the Court, in the midst of so many others.

What I learned during those first six months as Chief Judge, is that transitions—expected and unexpected — are as normal for our Court as they are in the rest of life. And what I also learned is that we, as a Court, have nothing to fear from them because of the depth and quality of our people. In the wake of all our recent transitions, expected and unexpected, people throughout the Court stepped up to do not only their own work but the extra work needed to cover the gaps. And people throughout the Court embraced the process for finding and welcoming new and highly qualified people to fill the roles that others had left.



A Message from the Chief Judge

I could literally list every single one of the Court's employees as examples here because that is what I saw day after day. But I will single out just one person, Michelle Benham, as a perfect example of what I saw throughout the Court. Michelle held her breath and stepped up to Acting Clerk of Court in a seamless and fearless transition. She not only kept everything on track, but also helped guide the process of selecting our new Clerk of Court—a position she decided not to seek for herself—knowing she would upon the arrival of that person step back into her former role. That kind of skilled and unselfish leadership was just the inspiration we all needed to carry on in the finest tradition of the Western District of Michigan.

So thanks to all of you for a truly wonderful year, and in particular, for making my transition into the new role of Chief Judge as smooth as it could possibly be. I am excited for the new year with the arrival of Tom Dorwin as our new Clerk of Court. I continue to appreciate the leadership that Chief Howell brings to Probation as she moves through her second year of service with us. With each new person joining the Court, I marvel at our ability to find the talented, skilled and dedicated people we need to maintain the legacy of public service our long-time employees have created. Transitions are inevitable, but I look forward to sharing them all with you because I'd feel safe going over Niagara Falls with the people who serve this Court!

Robert J. Jonker
Chief Judge



A Message from the Clerk of Court

Although new to the Western District of Michigan Court family, I can appreciate Chief Judge Jonker's comments on transition, and I can certainly relate to the magic of a warm summer day in Michigan! Transition has been a constant theme in my life. Born in Grand Rapids, I left home and family for the adventures and trials of a Navy career that took me around the world in times of peace and war. It is nice to have finally returned.

Like the Navy, this Court family is a group of dedicated men and women who willingly serve a cause greater than themselves. Steeped in traditions that harken back to the establishment of the nation, bound by a high ethical code, the Judges and staff of this Court work tirelessly to support, defend and preserve the Constitution of the United States by providing an impartial forum for the just and timely resolution of disputes.

The 2015 Year in Review merely captures "snap shots" of this Court's many good works and the staff member's efforts to improve service and access to the public. Courts (and Judges) are often remembered for the "big cases," but the important day-to-day life and work of the court is also cause for celebration. For example, in 2015, our Judges swore in 1,569 new citizens from 125 countries; another 957 citizens reported for service as petit jurors in 28 jury trials; 620 attorney admission petitions were processed; our CM/ECF system operated seamlessly; and many facts were gathered to prepare this report that captures a "snap shot" of our work.

What is not captured in the Year in Review is how our staff members coordinate and oversee those ceremonies; how they help our jurors navigate through the process; how they ensure our processes and systems run smoothly for members of the public; how they cheerfully greet and assist the public every day; how they, at times, work through thorny issues, provide excellent customer service to other internal staff members, as well as our external customers, treating all with kindness and respect. While these acts are not the stuff of headlines, they are acts that give life to our oaths of allegiance, and they are acts that have a positive impact in the lives of others. In truth, I could probably call out every member of the Court's staff for their extraordinary diligence and random acts of kindness. I have worked with many staffs over the years. This is a special group. They are uniformly as kind and generous as they are industrious and persevering.

So I am thankful to be a part of this Court family. I join Chief Judge Jonker in anticipation of the challenges to come, and look forward to celebrating the achievements of our Judge's and staff in the coming year.

Thomas Dorwin
Clerk of Court



Court History¹

Congress created the District Court of Michigan with the Act of July 1, 1836.² At the time, Michigan was one Judicial District and the court was to hold two sessions at the seat of the government which was then in Detroit. The Act of February 24, 1863,³ divided Michigan into two districts, with Grand Rapids designated as the judicial center of the Western District and Detroit as the center for the Eastern District. In 1878, the Western District of Michigan was divided into two divisions, Southern and Northern. The Act of June 19, 1878,⁴ designated Grand Rapids as the court seat of the Southern Division and Marquette as the court seat of the Northern Division. Grand Rapids held the term of court for the Southern Division of the Western District until 1954, when court was authorized to be held in Kalamazoo and Mason.⁵ The Act of May 19, 1961,⁶ authorized a session of court to be held in the state capital, Lansing, and eliminated the term in Mason.

Who Appointed the Western District of Michigan Article III Judges? (listed chronologically)

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Appointing President</u>
Solomon L. Withey	Abraham Lincoln
Henry F. Severens	Grover Cleveland
George P. Wanty	William McKinley
Loyal E. Knappen	Theodore Roosevelt
Arthur C. Denison	William Howard Taft
Clarence W. Sessions	William Howard Taft
Fred M. Raymond	Calvin Coolidge
Raymond W. Starr	Harry S. Truman
W. Wallace Kent	Dwight D. Eisenhower
Noel P. Fox	John F. Kennedy
Albert J. Engel, Jr.	Richard M. Nixon
Wendell A. Miles	Richard M. Nixon

¹ Adapted from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals website.

² 5 Stat. 62.

³ Act of February 24, 1863, 12 Stat. 660.

⁴ Act of June 19, 1878, 20 Stat. 177.

⁵ Act of February 10, 1954, 68 Stat. 11.

⁶ Act of May 19, 1961, 75 Stat. 81.



Judge

Douglas W. Hillman
Benjamin F. Gibson
Richard Alan Enslin
Robert Holmes Bell
David W. McKeague
Gordon J. Quist
Paul L. Maloney
Robert J. Jonker
Janet T. Neff

Appointing President

Jimmy Carter
Jimmy Carter
Jimmy Carter
Ronald Reagan
George H.W. Bush
George H.W. Bush
George W. Bush
George W. Bush
George W. Bush



Succession of Article III Judges

First Seat

Solomon L. Withey
Henry Franklin Severens
George Proctor Wanty
Loyal Edwin Knappen
Arthur Carter Denison
Clarence William Sessions ¹

Second Seat

Fred Morton Raymond
Raymond Wesley Starr
Noel P. Fox
Richard Alan Enslin
Paul L. Maloney

Third Seat

W. Wallace Kent
Albert J. Engel, Jr.
Wendell A. Miles
Robert Holmes Bell

Fourth Seat

Benjamin F. Gibson ²

Fifth Seat

Douglas W. Hillman
David W. McKeague
Janet T. Neff

Sixth Seat

Gordon J. Quist
Robert J. Jonker

¹Clarence W. Sessions' death on April 1, 1931, created the first vacancy following the expiration of the temporary judgeship authorized by the act of February 17, 1925, 43 Stat. 949, and accordingly no successor was appointed.

² Benjamin F. Gibson's retirement on January 31, 1999, created the first vacancy following the expiration of the temporary judgeship authorized by the act of December 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 5089, and accordingly no successor was appointed.



Magistrate Judges

<u>Magistrate Judge</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Location</u>
Stephen W. Karr	July 20, 1971 - October 1, 1973 (part-time) October 2, 1973 - December 31, 1987	Grand Rapids
Lloyd R. Fayling	July 26, 1971 - November 8, 1982 (part-time)	Kalamazoo
John R. Weber	March 13, 1972 - January 10, 1988 (part-time)	Marquette
Stuart D. Hubbell	June 13, 1972 - October 23, 1973 (part-time) January 30, 1974 - July 31, 1979 (part-time)	Grand Rapids
Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.	April 1, 1980 - July 31, 2015	Grand Rapids
Doyle A. Rowland	July 23, 1984 - January 15, 1985 (part-time) January 16, 1985 - February 29, 2000	Kalamazoo
Timothy P. Greeley	January 11, 1988 - December 20, 1989 (part-time) December 21, 1989 - present	Marquette
Joseph G. Scoville	January 28, 1988 - July 31, 2014	Grand Rapids
Ellen S. Carmody	October 10, 2000 - present	Grand Rapids
Phillip J. Green	August 1, 2014 - present	Grand Rapids
Ray Kent	August 1, 2015 - present	Grand Rapids



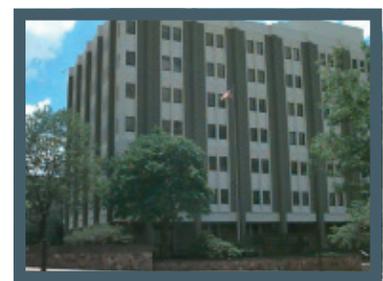
Grand Rapids Federal Courthouses



1879 - 1909



1909 - 1973

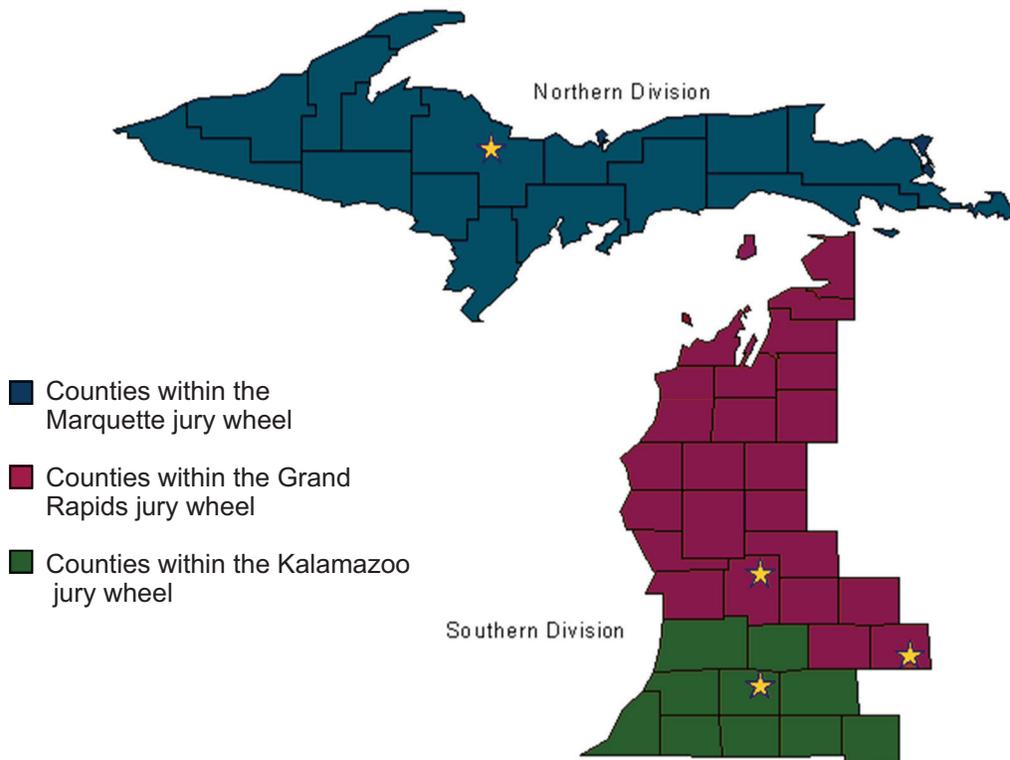


1973 - present



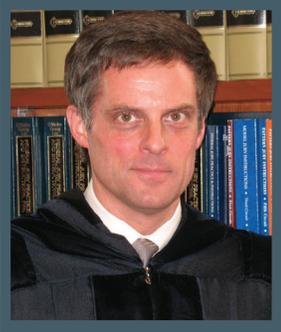
The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan is one of two federal district courts in the state of Michigan. The district includes the entire Upper Peninsula and the western half of the Lower Peninsula, covering over 35,000 square miles. The district is divided into two divisions, the Northern Division and the Southern Division. There are 49 counties in the Western District — 15 counties in the Northern Division and 34 counties in the Southern Division. The Court's main office is in Grand Rapids and there are divisional offices in Marquette, Kalamazoo and Lansing.





District Judges and Staff



Chief Judge Robert J. Jonker

Chief Judge: July 18, 2015-Present

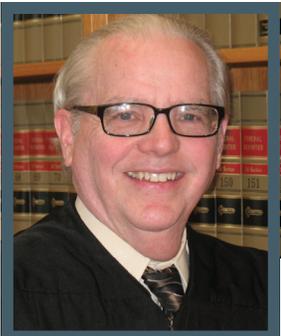
Judicial Assistant: Yvonne Carpenter
Case Manager: Melva Ludge
Court Reporter: Glenda Trexler
Law Clerks: Margaret Khayat Bratt;
Rachel Ezzell / Successor: Jacob Byl



Judge Robert Holmes Bell

Chief Judge: July 1, 2001-July 17, 2008

Judicial Assistant: Kim Briggs
Case Manager: Sue Bourque
Court Reporter: Kevin Gaugier
Law Clerks: Julie Clough; Todd Broberg; Elizabeth Homan / Successor: Kyle Asher



Judge Paul L. Maloney

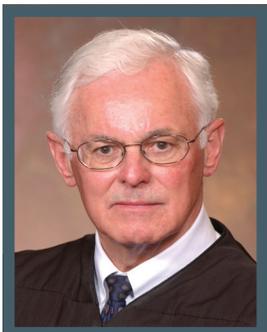
Chief Judge: July 18, 2008-July 17, 2015

Judicial Assistant: Christina Cavazos
Case Manager: Amy Redmond
Court Reporter: Kathleen Thomas
Law Clerks: Rod Phares;
Laura Danielson / Successor: Andrew Clopton



Judge Janet T. Neff

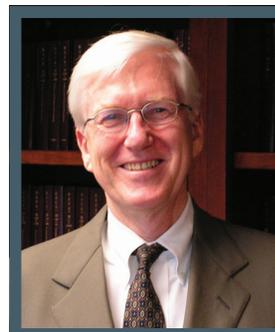
Judicial Assistant: Chris Bockheim
Case Manager: Rick Wolters
Court Reporter: Kathy Anderson
Law Clerks: Kathleen Geiger;
Rita Buitendorp



Judge Gordon J. Quist

Senior Status: January 1, 2006

Judicial Assistant: Jane Tepper
Law Clerks: Phil Henderson;
Elizabeth Geary



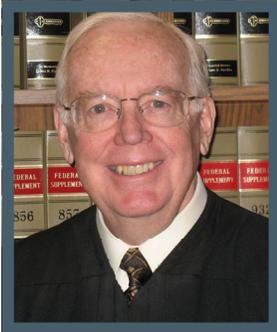
Judge R. Allan Edgar

Senior Status/Designated to WDMI:
October 7, 2005

Law Clerks: A.J. Peterman;
Christine Bohn



Magistrate Judges and Staff



**Magistrate Judge
Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.**

Judicial Assistant: Faith Webb
Courtroom Deputy: Jennifer Manders
Law Clerk: James Dion



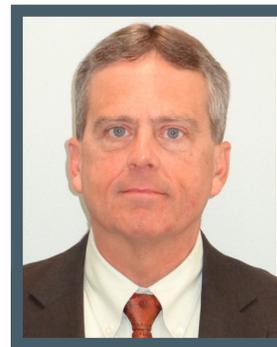
**Magistrate Judge
Timothy P. Greeley**

Judicial Assistant: Cathy Patten /
Successor: Pam Chant
Courtroom Deputy: Pam Chant /
Successor: Cathy Moore
Law Clerk: Rodney Kurzawa



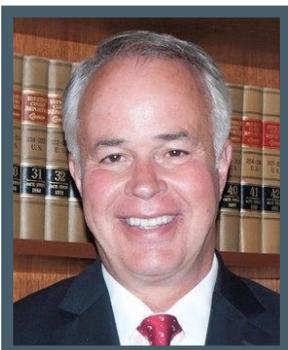
**Magistrate Judge
Ellen S. Carmody**

Judicial Assistant: Cynthia Hosner
Courtroom Deputy: Julie Lenon
Law Clerk: Russ Ambrose



**Magistrate Judge
Phillip J. Green**

Judicial Assistant: Jessica Wright
Courtroom Deputy: Diane Hand /
Successor: Angie Doezema
Law Clerk: Christopher Williams



**Magistrate Judge
Ray Kent**

Judicial Assistant: Faith Webb
Courtroom Deputy: Jennifer Manders
Law Clerk: James Dion

Staff Attorneys:

Anne Bartish
Todd Broberg
Lisa DeFerrari
Catherine Halverson
Suzanne Royce
Kristin Vandenberg

Staff Attorneys' Administrative Assistant:

Stephanie Carpenter



Grand Rapids Clerk's Office Staff



The Gerald R. Ford Federal Building
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Administration

Operations

Clerk of Court	Tracey Cordes / Successor: Michelle Benham, Acting Clerk of Court
Chief Deputy Clerk	Michelle Benham
Administrative Analyst	Michelle Rush
Administrative Assistant	Ashley Mankin
CM/ECF Administrator	Kelly Van Dyke
Jury Administrator	Diane Hopkins
Jury Specialist	Melissa Spriggs
Personnel Specialist	Melanie Vugteveen
Special Projects Manager	Kim Foster

Resident Deputy	Kristi Taylor
Case Administrators	Angie Doezema Cathy Patten Nermana Stimec
Court Programs/ Training Coordinator	Lauren Packard
Data Quality Analysts	Matt Allen Cindy Idema
Intake Clerk	Mary Clapp
Scanning Technician	Trevor Shaw

Information Technology

Finance and Procurement

IT Manager	Deloy Johnson
Assistant IT Manager	Mitch Van Dyke
IT HelpDesk Specialist	Amy Jensen
IT Specialists	Bill Simaz Ed Van Portfliet

Financial Administrator	Mike Polkowski / Successor: Claire Hogan
Procurement and Financial Specialist	Katie Campbell
Procurement Specialist	Nicki Gleeson



Marquette Clerk's Office Staff

Resident Deputy

Carole Poggi

Case Administrators

Michele Carlson
Sandy Kivela



Federal Building
Marquette, Michigan



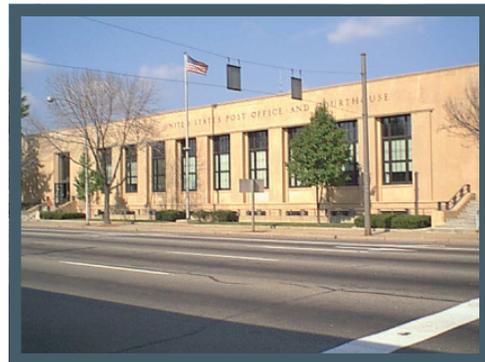
Kalamazoo Clerk's Office Staff

Resident Deputy

Jodi Gerona

Case Administrators

Barb Dowdle
Kathy Wright
Martha Stong /
Successor: Eric Siskind
Maggie Garcia



Federal Building
Kalamazoo, Michigan



Lansing Clerk's Office Staff

Resident Deputy

Jodi Gerona

Case Administrator

Paula Woods



Charles E. Chamberlain Federal Building
Lansing, Michigan



Service to the Judiciary and Our Community

Chief Judge Robert J. Jonker attended the Seminar for Incoming Chiefs and the Chief District Judges' Conference in Washington, D.C. As Chief Judge, he is a member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council and continues to serve on the United States Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. He also serves as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Attorney Conduct and Healthcare and is a member of the Subcommittee on Business Issues.

Judge Robert Holmes Bell sat by designation in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in November.

Judge Paul L. Maloney continued his term on the Judicial Conference as the Sixth Circuit's District Judge Representative until mid-July when he passed the duties of Chief Judge on to the Honorable Robert J. Jonker. As a member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Council, Judge Maloney's committee work included the Judicial Investigation Committee and he also chaired the Circuit's Employment Dispute Resolution Ad Hoc Committee. Judge Maloney remains an Ex Officio Member of the Western District of Michigan Historical Society.

Judge Gordon J. Quist sat by designation as a visiting judge in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - San Francisco and Pasadena. Judge Quist once again spoke with several student groups, including one visiting from Strasbourg, France, and also served as a luncheon speaker to the Intellectual Property Section of the Grand Rapids Bar Association.

Jury Administrator **Diane Hopkins** continued her work with the national eJuror/Jury Management System (JMS) Working Group. Members

of this group provide advice, guidance and assistance to the Administrative Office relating to eJuror and JMS issues. In 2015, the group focused on addressing modification requests to JMS.

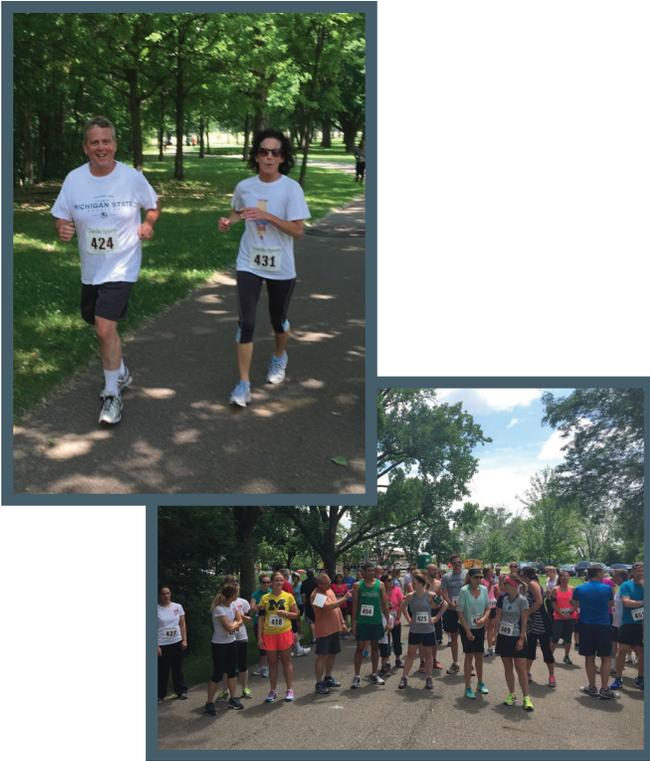
The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. In the fall of 2015, Clerk's office and chambers' staff collectively raised nearly \$13,000 to benefit various local, national and international agencies.

The Leave Share Program allows employees to donate annual leave to other court staff across the country who risk financial hardship because of absences due to illness or injury. In 2015, the generosity of Clerk's office and chambers' staff was demonstrated through donations of over two weeks of annual leave to several recipients from other courts.

In December, many employees from the court came together to provide gifts to families in need identified through local service organizations. Grand Rapids staff and judicial officers donated to two families through D.A. Blodgett-St. John's Christmas Match program and the Marquette judges and staff donated to a family through the Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Christmas program. Donations included winter gear, clothing, grocery and fuel gift cards, laundry and cleaning supplies, toys and other need-

ed household items. Staff members enjoy helping to create memorable holidays for others.





Staff members from the District Court partnered with staff members from the Probation and Pretrial Services office to participate in a friendly competition for healthier lifestyle habits. The Healthy Habits 2015 occurred over the course of six months and included various healthy lifestyle “challenges” for participants to join. The program culminated with our inaugural 5K walk/run and a potluck to celebrate the healthy successes of all involved.



In-District Committees

Long range planning and policy development are collaborative efforts in our court, driven by oversight committees in key operational areas. Our judges, court unit executives and staff work together to ensure that we bring the best tools and work processes to meet the demands of our judicial function. Our committees include:

Information Technology (IT)

Chaired by Judge Jonker, and comprised of another District Judge, a Magistrate Judge, the Information Technology Managers from both the District Court and the Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the Clerk of Court and the Chief Probation Officer, this committee sets broad policy direction for the court’s IT function. This includes consideration of such issues as server centralization, word processing systems, and identification of current and future IT tools needed to accomplish our mission.

Case Management / Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF)

Chaired by Magistrate Judge Carmody, this committee is comprised of representatives from all areas of the Court. Given the enormous capacity of the CM/ECF system and the many demands to develop and apply its capacity, this committee oversees selection and prioritization of the numerous projects suggested by users.

Forms

Chaired by Magistrate Judge Greeley, this committee includes staff from various chambers’ and the Clerk’s office. Together, committee members oversee the updating, revision and creation of the many forms that are integral to processing the Court’s work every day. Because the Court’s work is largely done electronically, the work of this committee is closely coordinated with the priorities set by the CM/ECF Committee.

Space and Facilities

Judge Maloney and Judge Bell co-chair this committee comprised of two Magistrate Judges, the Clerk of Court, the Chief Probation Officer and the Special Projects Manager. This group oversees long range planning to ensure that adequate space remains available and is most effectively utilized. In 2015, this committee continued to oversee the space reduction plan for this District, thus participating in the nationwide cost reduction effort.



Voluntary Facilitative Mediation/Alternative Dispute Resolution (VFM)

This group is chaired by a member of our Federal Bar, in partnership with Judge Neff and Magistrate Judge Carmody, and includes the Clerk of Court, the Chief Deputy Clerk, the Court Programs/Training Coordinator, and members of the local bar who serve as program mediators. The committee advises our District Judges on policy for the court's VFM program, including composition of the mediator panel, case referrals, and additional ways in which the potential might be maximized for resolving cases without trial.

Criminal Law and Probation

Chaired by Judge Bell and comprised of another District Court Judge, two Magistrate Judges and the Chief Probation Officer, this committee closely confers with the United States Attorney and Federal Public Defender to ensure the most effective use of system resources and to reduce barriers to the most effective, efficient and fair processing of criminal cases in our court.

Court Security

Chaired by Chief Judge Jonker, this committee includes representatives from the District Court, U.S. Marshal Service, Bankruptcy Court, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Public Defender's Office, Probation and Pretrial Services, U.S. Trustee's Office, General Services Administration and Federal Protective Services. This committee reviews the status of existing and new projects and also resolves conflicting or competing requirements for the security resources of the district.

Training Advisory

This committee is comprised of staff members from the Clerk's office, various chambers' and the Probation and Pretrial Services Office. The committee oversees training initiatives and assesses training needs, resources and priorities.

Ceremonial/Social

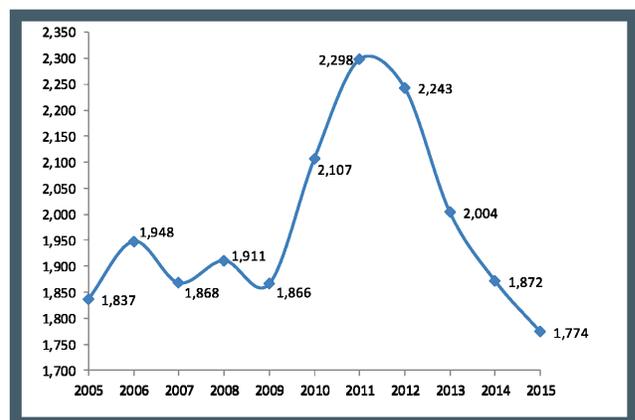
Magistrate Judge Carmody chairs this committee comprised of various chambers' and Clerk's Office staff. The committee oversees the scheduling, planning and all arrangements for ceremonial and social events in our Court. Some of these events include investitures, portrait hanging ceremonies, our December holiday gathering, and other occasions as they arise.



Case Filing Statistics

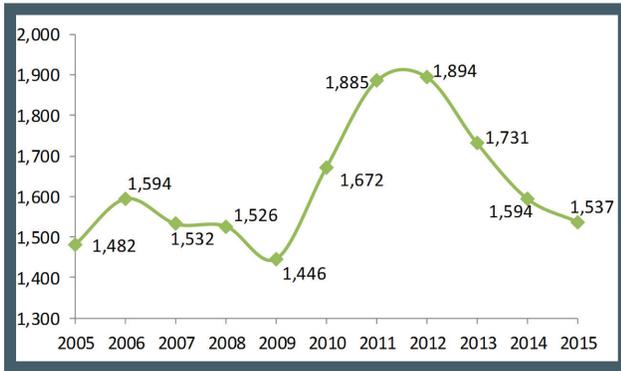
In 2015, parties filed 1,774 civil and criminal cases in the Western District of Michigan, a five percent decrease overall from 2014. Case filings have been steadily declining since 2011, with criminal case filings at their lowest in the last decade.

Total Case Filings

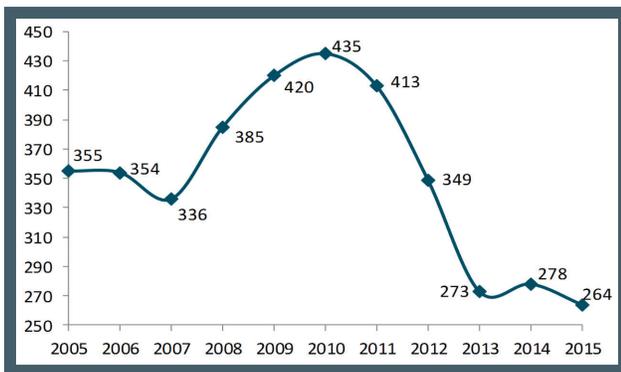




Civil Case Filings

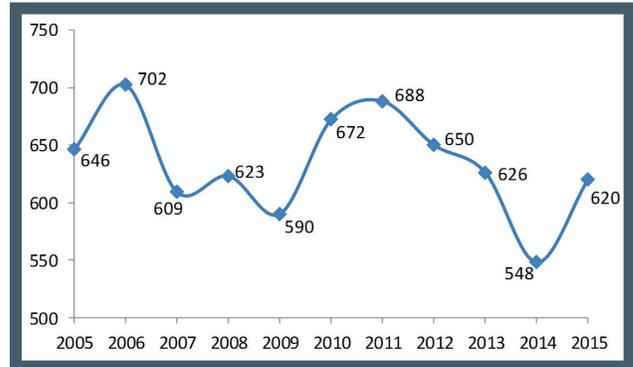


Criminal Case Filings



During 2015, 620 attorneys were admitted to practice in the Western District of Michigan. As of the end of the year, a total of 23,714 attorneys have been admitted since the Court was created in 1863. Numbers of admissions vary from year to year, as shown below.

Attorney Admission Petitions



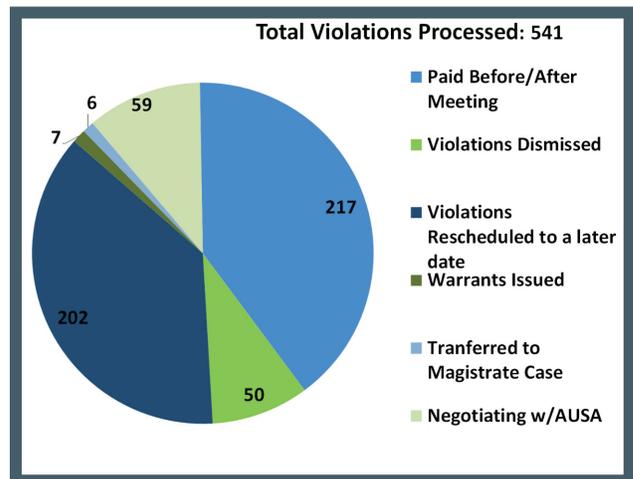
Central Violations Bureau (CVB)

The Central Violations Bureau is tasked with processing violation notices (citations) issued and payments received for petty offenses committed on federal property. In 2015, the Court processed 541 violations, an 11 percent decrease from the 606 violations processed in 2014.

Special Programs

Attorney Admissions

Beginning in June 2015, attorneys had the option to submit their petitions for admission to practice in our court and their electronic filing registration forms electronically. The pertinent forms are submitted to the Court through e-mail and the admission fee is paid through Pay.gov. Additionally, attorneys who are already members of the bar of this Court can request and pay for certificates of good standing and duplicate certificates of admission via Pay.gov. The optional electronic processes were overwhelmingly successful and became mandatory in October, which has reduced paper processing and response time, offering efficiencies to attorneys as well as the Court.





Naturalization

In 2015, our judges presided over 22 naturalization ceremonies at which 1,569 new citizens from 125 countries were represented. The countries of origin are listed as identified by the naturalized citizens.

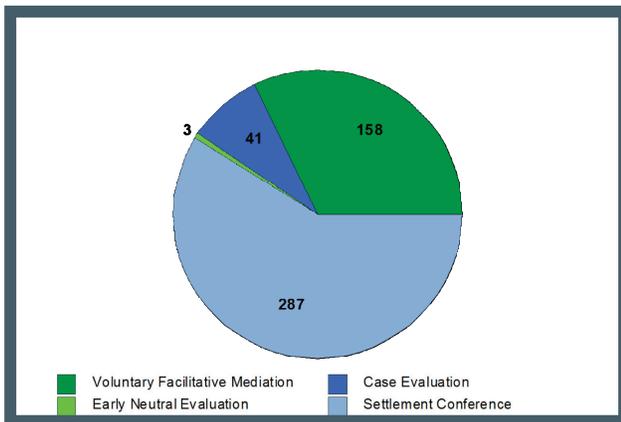
Afghanistan	Dominican Republic	Kenya	Serbia
Albania	Ecuador	Kosovo	Sierra Leone
Algeria	Egypt	Kuwait	Singapore
Argentina	El Salvador	Kyrgyzstan	Somalia
Australia	Eritrea	Laos	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Latvia	South Sudan
Bangladesh	Fiji	Lebanon	Spain
Belgium	Finland	Liberia	Sri Lanka
Belize	France	Macedonia	Sudan
Bhutan	Gambia	Malawi	Switzerland
Bolivia	Georgia	Malaysia	Syria
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Germany	Mali	Taiwan
Brazil	Ghana	Mexico	Tanzania
Bulgaria	Grenada	Moldova	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Guatemala	Morocco	Togo
Burma	Guinea	Nepal	Trinidad & Tobago
Burundi	Guyana	Netherlands	Tunisia
Cambodia	Haiti	New Zealand	Turkey
Canada	Honduras	Nicaragua	Uganda
Chile	Hong Kong	Nigeria	Ukraine
Central African Republic	Hungary	Norway	United Kingdom
China	Iceland	Pakistan	Uruguay
Colombia	India	Panama	USSR
Congo	Indonesia	Peru	Venezuela
Congo-Kinshasa	Iran	Philippines	Vietnam
Costa Rica	Iraq	Poland	Yemen
Cote d' Ivoire	Ireland	Romania	Yugoslavia
Croatia	Israel	Russia	Zambia
Cuba	Italy	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Czech Republic	Jamaica	Saudi Arabia	
Dominica	Jordan	Senegal	



Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

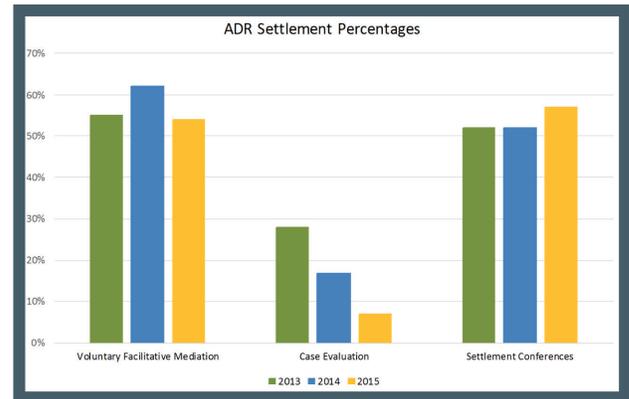
The Judges of the Western District of Michigan offer five alternative methods for resolving disputes, including Voluntary Facilitative Mediation (VFM), Case Evaluation, Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE), Summary Jury and Bench Trials, and Settlement Conferences.

Of the 1,537 civil case filings in 2015, 782 cases were eligible for referral to some form of ADR.¹ Of the eligible cases, 62 percent were referred:² 158 cases to VFM, 41 cases to Case Evaluation, three cases to ENE, and 287 cases to a Settlement Conference.



In 2015, 54 percent of cases completing VFM settled; seven percent of cases completing Case Evaluation settled; and 57 percent of cases completing a Settlement Conference settled.

What follows is a three-year comparison of the settlement percentages for cases completing the three most common forms of ADR.



Jury Statistics

In 2015, 957 petit jurors reported for service in 28 scheduled trials. This marked an increase from the 916 petit jurors present and available for 27 scheduled trials in 2014. Of those present for selection, 316 were selected and sat as jurors and 324 were challenged and excused. There were 317 jurors (33.12%) called to our Court for service who were not ultimately impaneled, which is a slight increase from the 27.41 percent in 2014. A total of 1,851 grand jurors convened in 2015 for 499 hours in session over 88 days.

Jury Conference

Several Clerk's office staff members attended a jury conference hosted by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in December 2015. Staff from various districts were invited to attend the conference, which provided focused training opportunities for jury personnel, including automation and operational topics, with sessions on JMS, eJuror, Interactive Voice Re-

1. Cases that are exempt from a scheduling/planning order are ineligible for referral to ADR (e.g., § 2255 motions, habeas corpus petitions, prisoner civil rights cases, prisoner petitions, social security appeals, student loan actions and bankruptcy appeals). Refer to Local Civil Rule 16.1(g).
2. Parties must consent to referral to ADR, therefore not all eligible cases are referred to some form of ADR.



response (IVR) and kiosks; legal and best practices discussions, including responding to jury challenges and proper completion of Administrative Office forms; software demonstrations; and discussions on the 2-step to 1-step conversion process. Since our district recently converted from being a 2-step court to a 1-step court, our Jury Administrator was able to participate on the discussion panel and provide first hand experience for other courts attending the conference.



Numerous initiatives and efficiency measures related to CM/ECF were implemented in 2015, including:

E-filing Statement of Reasons

During 2015, the Court decided to allow the e-filing of the Statement of Reasons pages of the Criminal Judgment & Commitment under restricted access. Previously, this portion of the Judgment & Commitment was not a part of the electronic record. Staff from the Clerk's office and the Probation and Pretrial Services office coordinated efforts to implement the new process. The process was initially tested in select cases and was so successful that the Court decided to implement the restricted access filing of the statement of reasons in all criminal cases.

CM/ECF Server Centralization

In February our CM/ECF and JMS systems were moved to a centralized server in a national Judiciary Data Center. The server centralization is a prerequisite to upgrading to the Next Generation of CM/ECF, which is a future release of CM/ECF. While the centralization in-

involved a major move of data and software, it was fairly seamless for all of our users.

Random Magistrate Judge Assignment

Administrative Order 15-047 directs that a magistrate judge is assigned by random draw to new civil cases filed on and after July 1, 2015, with a few exceptions. This replaces the prior practice of pairing individual magistrate judges with designated district judges. Cases that are traditionally referred to a magistrate judge upon filing are assigned a magistrate judge by random selection at the time the case is filed. For general civil matters assigned only to a district judge, the randomly assigned magistrate judge is simply identified for any future matters that may be referred. This change results in a more equitable distribution of these cases and workload among the magistrate judges.

CiteLink

Staff members from our Court partnered with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Technology Division Chief to implement the CiteLink program in our District. CiteLink utilizes the user's search engine to display legal citations, cases, rules and document references as hyperlinks on a copy of certain documents filed in CM/ECF. The program overlays the hyperlink on a copy of the document and the original documents are not altered in any way. Attorneys cite in the traditional manner in their document and the hyperlink is created on the Court's own server and is displayed for the benefit of the court user. Judge Neff and Magistrate Judge Greeley pilot tested the program in October and it was made available to all chambers in November. CiteLink has already made a significant positive impact on the work of chambers and will continue to expand in early 2016. This program is very appealing because there is no additional burden on the attorney, no security risk or potential for link rot is introduced, and the benefit for the Court is substantial. Work on the program continues into 2016, as



we work to develop a standard cite form that will allow CiteLink to also recognize PageID references as hyperlinks for both the District Court and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Social Security Appeal Cases

Our CM/ECF Administrator developed a report to track our Social Security appeal caseload and provide organization of the data necessary for management of these cases. Because of the unique flow of these cases and the lack of tools in CM/ECF to track them efficiently, magistrate judge's chambers previously had to utilize separate databases and manually enter the necessary information to track their cases. Since all of the information needed for management of these cases is already housed in CM/ECF, we saw an opportunity to improve efficiency and eliminate the need for the separate database and all the data entry required to keep it up to date. The new report is accessible in CM/ECF, provides hyperlinks to the docket and pertinent documents (administrative record, briefs), calculates the date by which an Report & Recommendation (or decision) on the matter is "due" and provides sorting of the caseload to identify those cases ready for review and decision. The report is extremely helpful in tracking and prioritizing the work with the increased number of Social Security appeal cases being filed in our Court.

Bankruptcy Appeal Process Changes

Our CM/ECF Administrator also worked with staff from the Bankruptcy Court to establish a new process for transmitting Bankruptcy appeals to the District Court in response to some Bankruptcy Rule amendments. The new process involves using a bookmarked PDF document, which provides both record assembly efficiencies for Bankruptcy, as well as document navigation efficiencies for the District Court. The "automagic" function within CM/ECF is also utilized to simultaneously e-file and produce the notice regarding filing of briefs issued by the Clerk's Office.



The Judicial Conference mandate for all courts to reduce their space footprints continued to be a focus for our District in 2015. By 2018, the court units in the Western District of Michigan (Probation and Pretrial Services Office, District Court and Bankruptcy Court) are to reduce their space by a total of 8,014 usable square feet (u.s.f.). The first phase was implemented in 2014 with the reduction of approximately 3,500 u.s.f. in leased office space for Probation and Pretrial Services Office and storage space from all divisions for the District Court. In 2015, we underwent various reviews of our space to identify options for additional efficiencies and release of additional space in the future.

The District Court Clerk's Office and the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office merged into shared space on the third floor in the Marquette facility. The space vacated by the District Court Clerk's office staff is planned to be used as Magistrate Judge Chambers in the future to not only address current security concerns, but to also release approximately 1,000 u.s.f. The Sixth Circuit awarded approximately \$84,000.00 toward the design and implementation of this project which will include additional security features for the magistrate judge space in Marquette.

The Grand Rapids District Court Clerk's office also received new carpeting to replace 15 year old carpeting in some of our space. The final outcome was well worth the slight disruptions during the carpet installation.



Personnel

The District Court ended 2015 with a total of 72 staff members (66 full-time and 7 part-time). These employees supported four District Judges, two Senior Judges, four Magistrate Judges and the Clerk of Court.

Budget/Staffing

Although the Court’s budget situation was fairly stable in 2015, the Court experienced a fairly busy year in the personnel department due to staff reassignments, retirements and separations. The Clerk’s office staff demonstrated their hard work and dedication by continuing to keep court operations running smoothly amid the many changes in duties and positions.

Volunteers/Interns

The court is open to qualified individuals seeking work on a volunteer basis and/or as interns as part of their educational program. During the year, several law students served as interns in various judges’ chambers and a couple of volunteers worked in the Clerk’s offices as well. Once again the court was able to benefit from qualified individuals providing important assistance.

- Fund Management & Control
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Internal Controls & Accounting Procedures
- Procurement & Inventory Management

Fund Management and Control

Under the oversight of the Clerk, Chief Probation Officer and Chief Judge, the Finance & Procurement Unit is charged with administering the district’s budget on a day-to-day basis. To accomplish this, the court units’ budgetary requirements are determined and spending plans are defined. Spending is monitored to ensure obligations and expenditures conform to our spending plan, do not exceed our authorized amount, and follow applicable guidelines, rules and regulations.

Accounts Payable

Although the largest volume of disbursements are done for District Court, the Finance & Procurement Unit also processes disbursements for Bankruptcy Court, the Probation & Pretrial Services Office, and the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

Overall, payable disbursements in calendar year 2015 decreased to 10,251 from 10,985 in 2014. However, not all court entities experienced a decrease in payables for calendar year 2015. The following table is an analysis of payments specific to each entity.



Finance & Procurement

The Finance & Procurement Unit supports the administrative functions of the Court in the following areas:

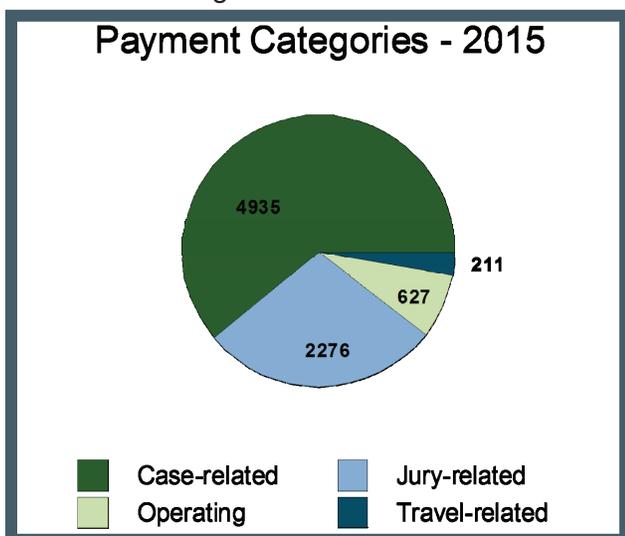
Entity	% of disbursement workload	2015	2014
District Court	78.5%	8,049	8,852
Bankruptcy Court	6.5%	663	632
Probation/ Pretrial Services	10.3%	1,053	1005
Federal Public Defender	4.7%	486	496
Total		10,251	10,985



Within the District Court, payments are divided into four categories:

- **Case-related:** consists of payments to restitution victims in criminal cases, refunds to correctional facilities as a result of the overpayment of Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA)-related civil or appeal case filing fees by inmates in state or federal custody, and other financial activities. This category comprised approximately 61.3 percent of all payments in 2015.
- **Jury-related:** comprises payments to all grand and petit jurors. Approximately 28 percent of all payments in 2015 were jury-related.
- **Operating Expenses:** incorporates all payments revolving around routine court business (i.e., equipment maintenance, telephone/cellular services, office supplies, etc.). Operating expense payments were approximately 7.8 percent of all payments in 2015.
- **Travel-related:** encompasses all payments to chambers and Clerk’s Office staff involving travel. During 2015, approximately 2.6 percent of all payments were travel-related.

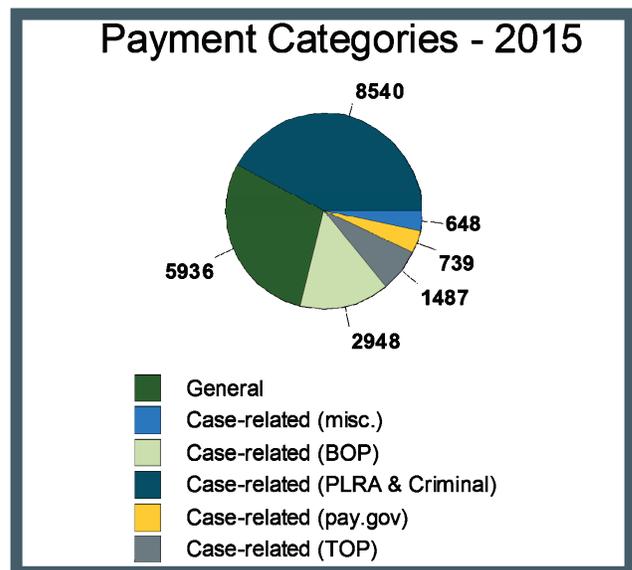
Distribution of payments between the aforementioned categories is shown below:



Accounts Receivable

The Finance & Procurement Unit processes collections for all court units, with the exception of Bankruptcy Court. Within the district, collections are divided into the following categories:

- **General** - Statutory collections, i.e., filing fees
- **Case-related (criminal)** - fines and restitution received via mail/over the counter
- **Case-related (BOP)** - fines and restitution received via the Bureau of Prisons
- **Case-related (PLRA)** - Prisoner Litigation Reform Act collections
- **Case-related (TOP)** - fines and restitution received via Treasury Offset Program
- **Case-related (misc.)** - miscellaneous collections, i.e., attorney admission



Collections are processed in various ways depending on the transaction type and payment method. General collections include civil and appeal filing fees, copy fees, and miscellaneous fees and are typically received through the mail, over the counter, or over the telephone via credit card. Other case-related transactions are processed using a number of Treasury-



directed initiatives, and continue to be the majority of collections. During calendar year 2015, overall collections increased from calendar year 2014 by approximately 6.9 percent. The breakdown of this increase, by collection type, is shown below:

<i>Collection Type</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2013</i>
General	5,936	5,706	6,207
Case Related	14,362	13,197	13,249
Total	20,298	18,903	19,456

Internal Controls and Accounting Procedures

The Administrative Office (AO) carries out cyclical audits in order to ensure the integrity of the District Courts' financial information and internal controls. District Courts are required to conduct additional periodic internal evaluations in the years that a cyclical audit is not scheduled. The 2014 - 2015 review resulted in some minor suggestions for improvement that have since been implemented into current processes and procedures. Reviewing and strengthening internal controls is an ongoing priority for our District.

Procurement & Inventory Management

Procurement staff are responsible for daily purchases for all divisional offices of the District Court and Probation and Pretrial Services Office. This includes the purchase of office supplies, equipment, furniture, and equipment maintenance. Generally purchases fluctuate from year-to-year based on funding availability and need. During calendar year 2015, procurement staff processed 403 purchase orders, an increase from the prior year's total of 348.



In 2015, the Information Technology (IT) Unit continued its support of both the District Court and the Probation/Pretrial Services Office in all areas of technology until May 1, 2015, when the District Court and the Probation/Pretrial Services Office returned to having separate IT units. The District Court IT Unit provides service consistent with the focus areas identified by the IT Committee, specifically, Infrastructure, Customer Service and Security Awareness.

Infrastructure

Courtroom Technology

The IT staff maintained and enhanced the existing technology in all courtrooms throughout the year. Judge Bell's courtroom in Grand Rapids had new equipment installed to refresh the overall design of the courtroom system and replace the original analog equipment with digital equipment.

Technology Upgrades

Local and wide area networks are the center of the technology infrastructure in the District and security of these systems is critical. Network and security activities included file server upgrades, network switch upgrades and district-wide security awareness training conducted in May 2015 to ensure the networks are protected and meet the demands of the present and the future.

Computers, printers, scanners and other electronic devices are also crucial to the Court's infrastructure. Replacements and upgrades occurred throughout the year and were an important ongoing activity to ensure all District Court staff have the tools they need.



Enterprise applications, which support electronic communication, case management, electronic filing and other mission critical functions, were also upgraded and enhanced throughout the year, thus ensuring court staff have the latest features and capabilities needed for their work.

The Judiciary recognizes time and cost savings available through the use of video teleconferencing and has implemented a national system which provides bridging and administration capabilities for the courts. The District Court continues to use video teleconferencing on a regular basis for witness testimony, interviews of defendants and offenders by Probation Officers, Federal Public Defender and Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorneys, and for court meetings which often involve staff in divisional offices.

All court staff continue to be more mobile and to work remotely. The use of smart phones and tablets by Court staff on a daily basis continued to increase during 2015, providing judges and other staff with additional flexibility whether inside or away from the courthouse.

The Judges also approved a recommendation from the Court's IT Committee in 2015 to transition the district from locally owned/managed telephone systems to the Judiciary's national telephone system. The national telephone system utilizes the existing Judiciary Data Communications Network for voice communications, eliminating the time and expense related to managing local systems. The transition to the national system will be completed by spring of 2016.

Customer Service

During 2015, our IT Unit responded to 2,206 Help Desk requests submitted by staff members. Day to day IT support remains one of the primary functions of the IT team and the Help Desk system continues to enhance IT service delivery by allowing staff a consistent way to

submit their requests and allowing the IT staff to acknowledge, assign and respond to those requests.

To ensure IT efforts continue to focus on providing the infrastructure, equipment and services needed by the court, the Administrative Office conducted a review of the IT Unit in June 2015. This review resulted in some suggestions and recommendations the court is now working to implement.



The Clerk's office continued to emphasize employee training in 2015.

Benefit for Life Webinars

The Court continued to provide staff members access to the Benefit for Life webinars sponsored by the Administrative Office throughout 2015. The webinars provide continuous education on the various Federal Judiciary Benefit Programs and are recorded so staff can view them at their convenience.

IT Security Awareness Training

Recognizing that security awareness is essential for all staff, the Court conducted Security Awareness Training for employees of District Court, Bankruptcy Court and Probation and Pretrial staff. The training focused on increasing awareness of IT security issues and educating users on how to identify and avoid threats.

New Magistrate Judge Orientation

Several staff members participated in an orientation for incoming Magistrate Judge Kent and his staff in August 2015. This provided an op-



portunity for the newest member of our Court family to obtain an overview of the Court and an introduction to how we operate.

Annual Law Clerk Orientation

The Court conducted our annual Law Clerk Orientation in Grand Rapids for new term law clerks and interns again in 2015. The training included presentations on court technology, the library, ethics, personnel, and the role of the Pro Se law clerks.

Structured Writing

Several staff members took advantage of an opportunity to participate in a Structured Writing workshop, which is a reader-focused approach to document design wherein participants learn how to analyze, organize and present text so it can be quickly read and understood. Structured writing addresses some of the common issues in written material, such as organizing large amounts of material and ensuring completeness of presented information.

Social Intelligence Training

Many District Court staff members participated in Social Intelligence training along with members of our Probation and Pretrial Services office. Social Intelligence involves the ability to effectively navigate and negotiate complex social relationships and environments. This training specifically touched on numerous topics, including: an examination of the brain science behind how individuals connect; empathy; organizational awareness; influence; teamwork; and discovering one's own social intelligence.

Operations Department Training

In a continuing effort to strengthen and further develop performance among all offices and function as a single court unit, the Operations Unit participated in many skill-building programs throughout the year. Various internal training courses were also employed to help transition staff members to new positions and/

or duties. Some of these include civil and criminal case administration and verbal customer service training.

Finance Department Training

The Finance & Procurement Department staff took advantage of a couple training opportunities throughout 2015, including: New Year Initialization Process training and New Financial Administrator Mentorship and Training.

IT Department Training

The IT Department staff also took advantage of several training opportunities and conferences throughout 2015, including: Lotus Notes Administration training, Microsoft Server training, Procurement training, and the District and Bankruptcy CM/ECF NextGen Forum.



Chief Judge Transition

On July 18, 2015, the Honorable Robert J. Jonker became Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan. The Honorable Paul L. Maloney's term as Chief Judge, which began on July 18, 2008, ended on July 17, 2015. On June 19, 2015, the Court and community celebrated the passing of the gavel of chief judgeship from Judge Maloney to Judge Jonker with an outdoor reception. At the event, Judge Robert Holmes Bell gave remarks to honor and thank Judge Maloney for his dedication and service to the court as Chief Judge and to welcome Judge Jonker into his new role.



Retirement of Magistrate Judge Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.



On July 31, 2015, the Honorable Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr. retired after 35 years of service to our District. Judge Brenneman was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Michigan in April of 1980. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, and prior to taking the bench, he served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps, as an Assistant United States Attorney, and in private practice. In his 35 years as a Magistrate Judge, Judge Brenneman earned the respect and good will of his judicial colleagues, lawyers, parties, and the community. Judge Brenneman is noted for his legal ability and, especially, for letting all parties who appeared before him know that they would be truly heard by a competent, fair, and courteous judge. His ability to guide the parties through negotiations to reach fair and equitable settlements, without judicial coercion, is well known in our legal community and among all of Judge Brenneman's colleagues.

During his tenure, Judge Brenneman made many significant contributions to this Court and legal practice in Western Michigan, including: co-founder of the West Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the West Michigan Chapter of the Inns of Court; founder and Inaugural President of this Court's Historical

Society and is the key person in preserving this Court's records. Court staff and the community celebrated Judge Brenneman with a reception in his honor on July 24, 2015.

Appointment of Magistrate Judge Ray Kent

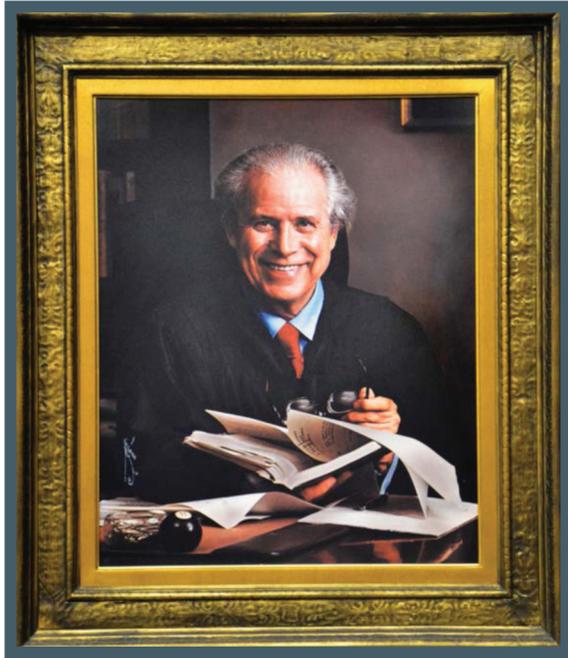
The Honorable Ray Kent was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Western District of Michigan effective August 1, 2015. Judge Kent earned his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Wayne State Law School. He served in private practice for 17 years, handling a variety of complex civil and criminal litigation before being appointed as the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Michigan. As the Federal Public Defender he led the office entrusted with defending persons accused of federal criminal offenses who cannot afford legal counsel for ten years prior to his appointment to the bench.

Judge Kent also served the legal community in leadership roles with the Federal Bar Association, the Hillman Advocacy Program, and the Combined Federal Campaign. The judges held an investiture ceremony to commemorate the occasion on October 29, 2015. Several notable speakers shared memories and remarks including Chief Judge Robert J. Jonker, President-Elect of the Federal Bar Association, Bryan Walters, the Honorable Robert Holmes Bell, Interim Federal Public Defender Sharon A. Turek, and the Honorable Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.





Portrait Dedication Ceremony for Honorable Noel P. Fox



On June 4, 2015, the Court community hosted a portrait dedication ceremony in the Marquette courthouse honoring District Judge Noel P. Fox for his nearly 25 years of service to our court. Many notable speakers shared memories and remarks including the Honorable Paul L. Maloney, Paul T. Sorensen, John F. DeWitt, Donald A. Davis, Robert A. Bunda, Kathryn L. Tierney, Terrance R. Bacon, Thomas M. Anderson and John D. Tully.

President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Fox to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan in July 1962. Judge Fox served as Chief Judge of the district from 1971 to 1979, when he assumed senior status. He also served as a member of the Trial Technique Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States and was president of the District Judges' Association of the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Fox received his Ph.D. and J.D., *cum laude*, from Marquette University and began his legal career practicing law with the firm of Bunker, Rogoski & Dunn. He also served as the Chief Assistant to the Muskegon County Prose-

cutor, was in private practice and was appointed to the State Labor Mediation Board. In 1942, Judge Fox joined the U.S. Navy and served our country during World War II. Following the war, he returned to his legal practice until his appointment as Circuit Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan in 1951, where he remained until his appointment to the federal bench.

34th Annual Hillman Advocacy Program January 21-23, 2015

“Trial lawyers are made, not born.” That’s what Judge Douglas W. Hillman believed and while he was a Judge in our District, he acted on his belief by founding what we now call, in his honor, The Hillman Advocacy Program. In January of 2015, the Hillman Program completed its 34th annual program.



The Hillman Program builds trial skills for both new and novice attorneys in a powerful, learn-by-doing format pioneered by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. The format requires all participants to conduct mock opening statements, closing arguments and direct and cross examination of both lay and expert witnesses. The students receive immediate feedback from master trial advocates. They also receive private, one-on-one feedback with a master advocate who reviews a videotape of the performance with the student. The most experienced students have the opportunity to conduct a full day mock jury trial, and then observe jury deliberations and receive critique from the jurors.

The Hillman Program is unique in the country because of the support it receives from the Bench and Bar. The Federal Courthouse defers regular business and opens its doors to the Program for two full days. Participants not



only learn-by-doing, they do so in the actual courtrooms and with the actual evidence presentation equipment used in regular Court business every day. In addition, our District and Magistrate Judges circulate throughout the program and provide their own critique of student performances. Program faculty are master advocates in the District who have demonstrated success in both the practice and teaching of their craft. They volunteer their time over three days to help students develop the skills they need to carry on a tradition of excellence in advocacy. Very few Bar Associations in the nation are blessed with such generosity. Sixty-two lawyers participated in the Program during 2015.

Several years ago, the Program began a tradition of presenting a Hillman Award to a person who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the Program and contributed in significant ways to its more than 30 years of success. The Program honored Frederick D. Dilley with the Award in January 2015.





Special Recognition

Each year we make a point to offer special recognition to those who join our Court family and those who have achieved landmarks in their length of service to the Court. In addition, we offer special good-byes to those who begin down other paths in their journeys.

Appointments

- Claire Hogan—Financial Administrator
- Eric Siskind—Case Administrator
- Maggie Garcia—Case Administrator
- Ray Kent—Magistrate Judge
- Trevor Shaw—Scanning Technician

Retirements

- Diane Hand—30 years
- Julie Clough—27 years
- Magistrate Judge Hugh W. Brenneman, Jr.
— 35 years
- Martha Strong—23 years
- Mike Polkowski—30 years



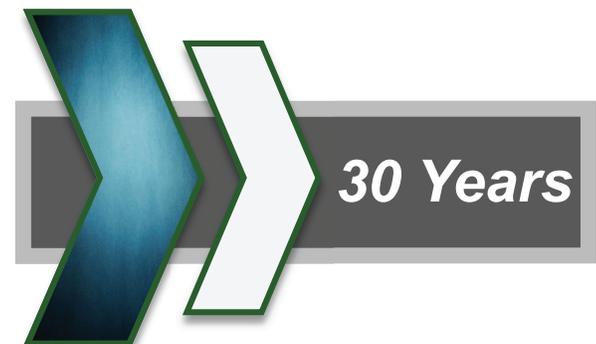
Cynthia Hosner
Jim Dion



Phil Henderson



Sue Bourque



Diane Hand
Mike Polkowski

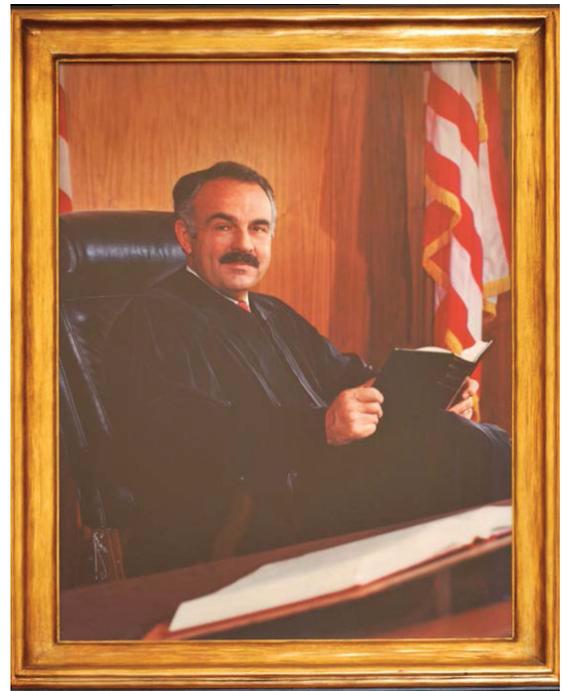


In Memoriam

Richard Alan Enslin

May 28, 1931 — February 17, 2015

Richard Alan Enslin was born the only child of Erhman T. and Pauline (Dragoo) Enslin, in Kalamazoo, Michigan on May 28, 1931. He began his higher education at Kalamazoo College in 1949, but interrupted his education to join the United States Airforce in 1951 and served during the Korean War. Upon his return to Michigan in 1954, he continued his education at Western Michigan University until transferring to Wayne State University in Detroit where he earned his LLB degree in 1958. While at Wayne State, he was chosen as a Lampson McElhone Scholar and a Jewel Corp. Scholar. In May 1986, he received a LL.M. from the University of Virginia.



After admission to the Michigan bar, he practiced law with the firm of Stratton, Wise, Early & Starbuck in Kalamazoo from 1958-1960. From 1960 to 1964, he was a partner in the firm of Bauckham & Enslin. In 1965 he left his law practice to become Director of the U.S. Peace Corps in Costa Rica, where he remained until 1968. He was elected to serve as a Municipal Court Judge from 1968-1969, and as a Michigan District Judge from 1969 - 1970. He returned to private practice until December 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed him United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan. He served as Chief Judge from 1995 - 2001 and took Senior Status in 2005. His family includes his wife, Pamela, his seven children: David, Susan, Sandra, Thomas, Janet, Joseph and Gennady, and ten grandchildren.

The Chief Judge and the Clerk of Court express their appreciation to the many individuals who contributed to the 2015 Year in Review.

