

46th
District
Court

2011 Annual Report



25th Anniversary Edition



26000 Evergreen Road
Southfield MI 48076
www.46thdistrictcourt.com



STATE OF MICHIGAN
46th DISTRICT COURT

Dear Citizens:

We are very pleased to announce the 25th anniversary of the 46th District Court's Annual Report. An annual report has been published every year since 1987, providing important public information and transparency on our operation and performance. For 25 years, we have documented the activities and accomplishments of the Court. We understand our responsibility to be accountable to those we serve and have found our annual report to be an excellent way to improve the public's understanding and appreciation for the administration of justice.

This year also represents another milestone for the 46th District Court as we celebrate 20 years of a continuous partnership with the Oakland Mediation Center (OMC), offering community dispute resolution services as an alternative to litigation. This is the longest continuous district court partnership with the OMC in Oakland County. The program has been, and continues to be, an excellent example of public-private collaboration, providing a valuable community resource. It is estimated that over 10,000 cases have been mediated since the program began.

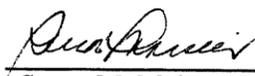
There are many other accomplishments included in this report. In terms of case flow management, the Court continues to operate in a highly efficient manner with a 102% clearance rate and effectively meeting or exceeding most of the Supreme Court's case processing time guidelines. Our collections program generated \$564,551 from unpaid tickets, bringing the total collected since the program began to just under \$5 million in nine years. We implemented three new collaborative efforts with other governmental agencies: partnering with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office to provide a facility for their on-site drug testing services for probationers; restructuring our procedures for emergency response reimbursements, which has made more efficient use of both court and police resources and notifying the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office of surety bond forfeitures to follow up on collection. There was a 55% increase in the number of hours completed on various municipal projects such as collecting trash on community streets under our Community Work Program, providing much needed assistance in an environment of shrinking public resources.

However, perhaps our most significant accomplishment over the years has been our unwavering commitment to the efficient use of public resources. Over the years, the Judges and staff of the 46th District Court have focused on maintaining a high standard of public service by increasing productivity through internal operational and procedural improvements. These improvements allowed us to handle significant increases in caseload and workload over the years without increasing the number of judges and staff. Compared to 34 years ago, the 46th District Court is handling more than twice the number of cases per year with the same number of judges and the same number of total court staff. Once again, we feel this level of performance is extraordinary for any organization--public or private.

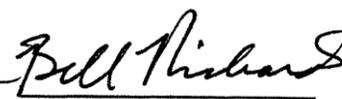
As always, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire staff of the 46th District Court. Their commitment to public service, professionalism and teamwork has created an organizational culture that supports continuous improvements and allows us to function as a high-performing court.

We fully understand and accept our responsibility to uphold the highest standard of public service, ensure the efficient and effective use of public funds and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the administration of justice. We look forward to working together for the continued fair, efficient and effective administration of justice in our community.

Very truly yours,


Susan M. Moiseev
Chief Judge


Shelia R. Johnson
District Judge


William J. Richards
District Judge

Judges of the 46th District Court



Chief Judge of the 46th District Court, the **Honorable Susan M. Moiseev** first took the bench in 1986 and has been re-elected by the voters of the 46th district four times.

A longtime Southfield resident, over the years Judge Moiseev has been involved in a wide range of community activities. Among the organizations and causes she has supported are Relay for Life, the American Heart Association Walk, Battle of the Books, Southfield Community Foundation Women's Fund, Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Relay for Special Olympics, DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), and Friends of the Southfield Library and others. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Aging Services Committee of Jewish Senior Life.

In addition to her activities in the community Judge Moiseev has also been actively involved in legal organizations on the local, state and national level. In 2009 she served as President of the Michigan District Judges Association. She represents the State Bar of Michigan in the American Bar Association House of Delegates. She was a member of The Judicial Crossroads Taskforce of the State Bar of Michigan; she chaired the Access to Justice subcommittee. She served on the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics from 1992 until 2008, and in 1995 authored the "Ethics" chapter of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education's *State of the Law* publication. As a member of that committee, she served on its Ethics 2000 subcommittee and as a presenter at the Judicial Campaign Seminar for potential judicial candidates. At the county level, she has been president of the Oakland County District Judges Association. In addition, she is on the board of the Oakland County Bar Association, the largest voluntary bar association in the State. She serves on the board of the ABA National Conference of Specialized Court Judges and has served in many capacities on the board of the National Association of Women Judges; most recently as NAWJ's liaison to the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession.

Prior to taking the bench, she specialized in family law and was Chief Counsel of the Civil Division of the Legal Aid and Defender Association of Detroit. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit Law School.



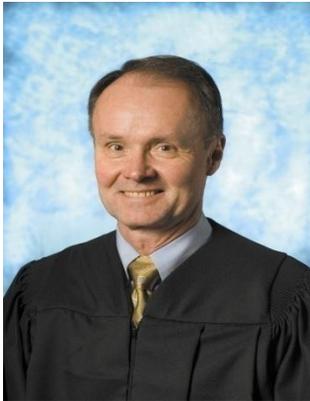
Judge Shelia R. Johnson was elected in November 2002 and is the first African American to serve as Judge in the 46th District Court. In November 2008, she was re-elected for an unopposed second term. Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Johnson was an attorney with over 18 years of legal experience in both State and Federal Courts. Judge Johnson was in private practice in Southfield where she specialized in both civil and criminal litigation.

Among her community and civic affiliations are: the Southern Oakland Chapter of the NAACP, where she serves as an Executive Committee member; founding member, Southfield Community Foundation Women's Fund; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.; Southfield Lathrup Optimist Club; Western International Optimist Club and Integrative Human Services, a non-profit organization which helps at-risk youth and families, where she also served on the board. Additionally she is a member of Hope United Methodist Church where she has served as vice-chair and chair of the "Church and Society Ministry." Judge Johnson has also established a "Court in Schools" Program, where court sessions are held at local schools with the goal of deterring youth from criminal behavior and inspiring them toward positive career choices. Judge Johnson is the recipient of numerous community service awards, including the 2005 Phenomenal Woman "Torch Award" for outstanding legal leadership and community service by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Southfield Alumnae Chapter, the 2006 "Member of the Year" award from the Southern Oakland County NAACP for her work as chair of the "Health Committee," the 2008 Powerful Woman of Purpose Award in the Legal Profession from the Rhonda Walker Foundation and most recently the 2009 Mattie Belle Davis Award from the National of Women Judges. She has also been recognized in Who's Who Publishing Company's volume of "Black Judges in America."

Judges of the 46th District

Judge Johnson is a member of the State Bar, Oakland County District Judges Association, Association of Black Judges of Michigan, D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges and the American Judges Association. She is also a member and board member of the Michigan District Judges Association. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association and the Equal Access Initiative of the Committee on Justice Initiatives of the State Bar of Michigan. Judge Johnson is a former President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and former Vice President of Publications and board Member of the National Association of Women Judges, where she was editor of the national newsletter "Counterbalance."

Judge Johnson is a former law clerk to the Honorable Benjamin F. Gibson, United States District Court, Western District of Michigan. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Michigan Law School, where she was the first African American elected President of the Law School Senate and delivered the commencement address to her graduating class. She has been a resident of Southfield for 25 years.



Judge Bill Richards was appointed to the 46th District Court in 2007 by Governor Jennifer Granholm. In 2008, voters elected him to a two-year term. In 2010, voters re-elected him to a full six-year term.

Judge Richards is a longtime local resident with a distinguished career in government, teaching and private practice. He is the former Deputy Attorney General, the principal deputy to the Michigan Attorney General (1999-2002), and former Assistant U.S. Attorney (1989-1998), where he prosecuted public corruption and drug crimes. In the U.S. Attorney's Office, he served as ethics officer for nine years. Earlier, he was a staff attorney in the Federal Defender Office and law clerk to U.S. District Judge Cornelia Kennedy.

Judge Richards has taught advanced criminal procedure at Cooley Law School. He is the former President of Oakland-Livingston Legal Aid, where he helped provide free legal aid to the poor and seniors. Judge Richards is a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, a Judge in the National Black Law Students Association Annual Moot Court competition, and a mentor in the Volunteers in Prevention – VIP – program for youth. He was a volunteer fundraiser for the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. He serves on the boards for the Southfield Centers for Youth, Inc. (the 'field Zone) and GreenPath, a non-profit credit counseling agency. He is a member of First Congregational Church.

Bill Richards earned both his bachelor's degree and his law degree from the University of Michigan. Judge Richards and his wife Joan have been married for 42 years and have two daughters, Jennifer and Kristin, and two grandchildren.

Jurisdiction

Geographical Jurisdiction – The 46th District Court serves the cities of Southfield and Lathrup Village, the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin and the Township of Southfield.

Legal Jurisdiction – District Courts were established by the Michigan Legislature in 1968 and are considered “Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.” The legal jurisdiction of the 46th District Court is determined by statute and includes:

- **Civil** lawsuits in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000 (a civil lawsuit is a non-criminal case which involves the claim of one party against another).
- **Criminal misdemeanors** punishable by fine or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.
- **Arraignments:** the setting and acceptance of bail.
- **Preliminary examinations** in all felony cases. A preliminary examination is a hearing at which the District Court Judge determines if there is probable cause to believe a crime has been committed and that the defendant committed the crime. If the Judge determines that there is probable cause, the case is “bound over” to the Circuit Court for trial.
- **Traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions**, including parking violations.
- **Small claims** cases in which the amount claimed does not exceed \$3,000.
- **Landlord-tenant disputes**, land contract and mortgage forfeitures and eviction proceedings.

Special Programs and Services

Court Website – The 46th District Court’s website gives citizens a closer look at the Court and the services it provides. The website provides information on hours and location; judges, magistrates and staff; jury duty; fine and costs; filing a small claims case; special programs offered by the Court and copies of our Annual Report. Please visit us on the web at www.46thdistrictcourt.com.

Small Claims Mediation Program – The Court provides a Small Claims Mediation Program to assist the Court and the public in resolving small claims disputes. Unlike litigation, where one party wins and one loses, mediation helps parties reach their own mutually-satisfactory resolution in a non-adversarial manner. The Court uses trained community volunteers from the Oakland Mediation Center to provide mediation services. The 46th District Court’s Mediation Program has been a model for other courts across the state. In 2011, the Oakland Mediation Center handled 290 small claims cases and resolved 137, or 47% of them.

General Civil In Pro Per Mediation Program – The Court also utilizes the Oakland Mediation Center’s mediation services in general civil cases where one or both parties are not represented by an attorney. In 2011, mediators from the Center handled 268 general civil cases and resolved 107, or 40% of them. The Oakland Mediation Center also mediated landlord-tenant cases referred to them by the Court.

Community Work Program – The Work Program provides the Judges with a sentencing alternative. The Program allows low-risk misdemeanor offenders to perform manual labor instead of incarceration. The offenders pay the Court’s cost for supervision and are assigned to work projects in the City of Southfield’s Public Works, Code Compliance and Parks and Recreation Departments. Specific work projects include collecting trash on our community’s streets and highways and general maintenance projects. Thirty-nine (39) defendants participated in the Work Program in 2011, completing 1,328 hours of work—a 55% increase over 2010.

Special Programs and Services

Community Service Program – This sentencing alternative provides Judges with the opportunity to order offenders to work in the community as part of their sentence or instead of fines and costs, if they are indigent. Placements are found in governmental or community non-profit agencies and are supervised by the Probation Department. There were 37,059 hours of community service completed in 2011. Lutrell Coleman is the Community Service Coordinator and is responsible for interviewing, placing and monitoring approximately 415 probationers performing community service.

Law Day Program – Each year, May 1st is proclaimed “Law Day” to encourage citizens to learn about their rights and our legal system. During the year, 46th District Court Judges speak at schools and community organizations and participate in a variety of programs, including Bar Association events and educational programs for attorneys and the general public.

Security/Weapons Screening – A Security/Weapons Screening Program checks individuals entering the Court. Services are provided by Wackenhut, Inc. During 2011, 111,454 people (453 per day) went through the Court’s security screening system.

Probation Automated Monitoring System – The Probation Automated Monitoring System (PAM) allows more effective and efficient use of probation resources and makes reporting more convenient for probationers, as it available 24/7. To satisfy reporting requirements, probationers use the kiosk, located in the lobby of the Public Safety Building. The Program is used for probationers with minimal reporting requirements, as well as to supplement the reporting of offenders needing additional supervision and monitoring. There are currently 1,000 probationers using the PAM system.

Community Education Program – The Court encourages the community to learn more about its operation and jurisdiction through special educational tours and visits. Visiting groups receive an orientation on local court operations, take a tour of the facility, observe courtroom proceedings and meet with the Judges, if time allows. Numerous community groups visited the Court in 2011, ranging from students in kindergarten through high school as well as various community and civic organizations. (For more information, call 248-796-5800.)

Caseload/Workload Overview

Pending and Disposed Cases – As of January 1, 2011, there were 9,239 cases pending. During the year, there were 54,936 new cases filed, 3,468 cases reopened and 59,477 cases disposed, resulting in an ending pending caseload of 8,166 as of December 31, 2011.

	Beginning Pending	New Filings	Reopened Cases	Disposed Cases	Pending
Total Caseload	9,239	54,936	3,468	59,477	8,166

Caseload/Workload Overview

Filings – There were 54,936 new cases filed in the 46th District Court in 2011. This represents a 9% decrease in the past five years, and a 2% decrease in the last year. Please note this chart was revised to correspond to the State Court Administrative Office’s Caseload Report and provides additional caseload detail.

Felonies	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011				
Criminal	862	743	658	593	490				
Traffic	15	14	31	25	29				
Drunk Driving	33	32	26	47	24				
Total	910	789	715	665	543	-122	-18%	-367	-40%

Misdemeanors	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011				
Criminal	1,629	1,739	1,613	1,569	1,352				
Traffic	4,617	4,052	3,422	3,692	3,004				
Drunk Driving	249	253	292	433	324				
Total	6,495	6,044	5,327	5,694	4,680	-1,014	-18%	-1,815	-28%

Civil Infractions	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011				
Traffic	26,975	21,697	21,042	22,487	17,780				
Non-Traffic	733	469	742	1,159	1,775				
Total	27,708	22,166	21,784	23,646	19,555	-4,091	-17%	-8,153	-29%

Parking	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	<i>1 Year Change</i>	<i>5 Year Change</i>		
	10,809	8,946	8,056	14,256	17,598	3,342	23%	6,789	63%

Civil	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011				
General Civil & Miscellaneous	5,872	5,920	5,388	5,269	4,985				
Landlord Tenant/ Land Contract	6,768	7,184	6,028	5,735	6,638				
Small Claims	1,537	1,313	1,036	899	937				
Total	14,177	14,417	12,452	11,903	12,560	657	5%	-1,617	-11%

Grand Total	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	<i>1 Year Change</i>	<i>5 Year Change</i>		
	60,099	52,362	48,334	56,164	54,936	-1,228	-2%	-5,163	-9%

Probation – A summary of the Probation Department’s 2011 activity is provided below.

- 1,319 new clients were placed on probation, which represent a 6% decrease in the past year.
- 1,135 cases were pending on Probation Officer caseloads, an increase of 7% in the last year.
- 399 investigative reports were completed, which represent a 7% decrease in the past year.
- 12,521 appointments were held.
- 1,036 Violation of Probation hearings were conducted, an increase of 15% over the past year and a 48% increase over the past five years.

Probation Caseload and Workload Overview	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change	
						1 year	5 year
Cases Pending	1,116	1,063	1,070	1,063	1,135	7%	2%
Number of Probation Officers	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	0%	0%
Average Caseload per Probation Officer	319	303	306	304	324	7%	2%
New Cases	1,268	1,357	1,297	1,373	1,319	-4%	4%
Investigative Reports	390	307	342	430	399	7%	2%
Appointments	13,816	13,330	12,893	12,633	12,521	-1%	-9%
Violation of Probation Hearings Conducted	699	859	858	900	1,036	15%	48%

Major Accomplishments

The 46th District Court had many accomplishments in 2011, which have significantly improved the Court's overall operation, increased the public's understanding of the Court system and resulted in improved service to the public. A summary is provided below.

Commitment to Efficient Use of Public Resources - The Court has long recognized its responsibility for the efficient use of public resources. Judges and staff have focused on maintaining a high standard of public service by increasing productivity through internal operational and procedural improvements. This has allowed us to handle significant increases in caseload and workload without increasing staff.

Compared to 34 years ago, the Court is handling more than twice the number of cases per year with the same number of judges and court staff. This is remarkable, considering the significant increases in caseload and workload over the past 34 years due to new legislation, more complex procedures and new programs and services.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
New Cases Filed	24,324	54,926	126%
Judges	3	3	0%
Court Staff	36.50	36.75	½ %
Average # of Cases Per Judge	8,108	18,312	126%

Special Programs and Projects

- **25th Anniversary of the 46th District Court Annual Report** – The 46th District Court has published an annual report every year since 1987, providing important public information and transparency on our operation and performance. For 25 years, we have documented the activities and accomplishments of the Court and have provided the citizens we serve with important public information about the administration of justice and the operation of their local court system. Today, courts across the state are being encouraged, and may soon even be legislatively required, to develop “dashboards” to provide information on a court's performance and best practices. We are proud to report that the 46th District Court has long understood the importance of accountability and transparency in government and have willingly provided information on court performance. We have found our annual report to be an excellent resource in improving the public's understanding and appreciation for the administration of justice.
- **20 Year Partnership with the Oakland County Mediation Center** – In 1992, the 46th District Court began what is now a 20 year partnership with The Settlement Center, now known as the Oakland Mediation Center (OMC). This is the longest continuous district court partnership with the OMC. The program offers community dispute resolution services as an alternative to litigation. The program has been, and continues to be, an excellent community resource using trained mediators who assist parties in arriving at their own solutions in a non-adversarial manner. Although budget cutbacks have eliminated a representative from the Center being on-site at the Court during business hours, the program continues to provide much needed assistance and support to the court and community. It is estimated that over 10,000 cases have been mediated since the program began.

Major Accomplishments

- **New On-Site Drug Testing Program** – This is our most recent collaborative effort with another governmental agency and provides an example of the benefits of sharing resources. The 46th District Court partnered with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) to provide on-site drug testing services at the Court for defendants on probation. The OCSO Results Drug and Alcohol Testing program uses the Court facility to provide convenient, professional, accurate and affordable testing services. Approximately 150 probationers participate in this program monthly.
- **Electronic Ticket Payment Program** – Last year, the 46th District Court was one of four courts in the state to pilot the Judicial Information Systems' (JIS) electronic ticket payment program for traffic and parking tickets. The program provides citizens with a convenient and efficient method for paying tickets on-line so they do not have to come to court. It also provides the Court with a more efficient processing alternative because payments are automatically posted to the Court's case management system, any driver's license suspensions are cleared and the case automatically disposed. This eliminates the need for staff to key the payment, clearance and disposition. In its first full year of operation, the Court had 2,694 electronic payments under this program. It is estimated that this program has saved approximately 450 clerk hours in 2011.
- **Collections Program** - For the past nine years, the Court has sent reminder notices to violators with unpaid traffic tickets to increase compliance with court orders. In 2011, a total of \$564,551 was collected which represents a 29% increase over the prior year. This brings the total amount collected since the program began in 2003 to \$4,992,403.

Operational and Procedural Improvements

- **Emergency Response Reimbursements** – In April 2011, the Court implemented a new flat fee procedure for reimbursing local units of government for expenses incurred in the arrest and prosecution of offenders convicted of various serious driving offenses such as drunk driving, felonious driving etc. In the past, police agencies had to submit a detailed reimbursement form, which was a very time-consuming process. The Court established a flat fee for reimbursement which eliminated the detailed and cumbersome paperwork. In addition, the Court simplified and consolidated how funds were distributed. Instead of sending individual checks each time a payment was made, funds are now transmitted on a monthly basis. This procedure has greatly reduced the amount of paperwork required and makes more efficient use of both police and court resources.
- **Tax Garnishment Processing Improvements** – Each year, during the three month period from August through October, district courts are inundated with tax garnishments. The 46th District Court receives approximately 2,100 additional garnishments per month during this period, which places a significant additional strain on court resources. In 2011, the Court identified a more efficient way of processing multiple cases filed on an individual check using a multi-receipt process in our case management system. The new process greatly simplified and streamlined the process.
- **Improved Surety Bond Forfeiture Procedures** – The Court now notifies the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office after a bond has been forfeited by a surety bond company. The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office then follows up on collection. This holds the surety bond company accountable for the failure of their defendant to appear in court.

Case Flow Management Accomplishments

- **Efficient Case Processing** – Clearance rates measure a court’s case flow management performance and efficiency. It indicates the degree a court is able to keep up with incoming caseload. A clearance rate of less than 100% means that more cases were filed than disposed and a clearance rate of more than 100% means that more cases were disposed than filed. Generally, the higher the percentage, the more efficient the court is in handling its caseload.

In 2011, the 46th District Court’s clearance rate was 102% with 58,404 new or reopened cases and 59,477 disposed cases. Over the past five years, the Court has had a clearance rate of 100% or greater.



- **Timely Case Scheduling** – Most traffic and criminal cases are scheduled for hearing and held within three weeks. Informal and formal hearings are scheduled two to three weeks from the date a hearing is requested and pre-trials are scheduled within three weeks of arraignment, unless the defendant is in-custody. If the defendant is in-custody, an expedited pretrial is scheduled within three to five days.

Civil cases are also scheduled in a timely manner. Landlord tenant cases are scheduled within three weeks of the case being filed; small claims trials are scheduled within two to three weeks of mediation and general civil pre-trials are scheduled within 30 days of the answer being filed.

Major Accomplishments

- **Timely Case Disposition** – The 46th District Court is substantially meeting or exceeding all but one of the guidelines specified by the Michigan Supreme Court.

46th District Court

Michigan Supreme Court Time Guidelines

99%	98% of General Civil cases adjudicated within 364 days of filing
98%	98% of Summary Civil cases without jury demand adjudicated within 126 days from case filing
98%	98% of Civil Infraction cases adjudicated with 56 days from case filing
94%	98% of Misdemeanor cases adjudicated within 91 days of first appearance
47%	100% of preliminary examinations held within 14 days of arraignment. Note: the Guidelines do not take into consideration approximately 50% of defendants waive the 14 Day Rule because defense attorneys need more time for discovery.

- **Outstanding Performance in Secretary of State Conviction Reporting** - The 46th District Court continues to have an exemplary record in this area. Over the past three years, the Court processed and reported 34,558 abstracts of conviction to the Secretary of State, of which 33,982 or 98% have been timely and received in 10 days or less. This clearly demonstrates the Court's ability to process extremely high volumes of cases with a high degree of accuracy and timeliness.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
# Abstracts Reported	11,604	12,253	10,701	34,558
# Abstracts Reported Timely	11,340	12,098	10,544	33,982
Percent Timely	98%	99%	98%	98%

- **Effective Monitoring of In-Custody Prisoners** – The 46th District Court has long established procedures for the effective monitoring of in-custody prisoners. Expedited pre-trials are scheduled for in-custody misdemeanor defendants who do not bond out and bond reviews are conducted by the judge, if the defendant has not bonded out within three days of bond being set.

Monitoring the number of days a defendant is in jail prior to trial not only helps Oakland County and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office deal with jail overcrowding, it is also an important safeguard that helps ensure misdemeanor defendants do not spend more time in jail awaiting trial than they would if they were found guilty and sentenced to jail.

Revenues, Distributions and Expenditures

Most citizens are not familiar with the court system. As a result, there are many widely-held misconceptions about the operation of the courts, particularly in the area of court revenues and budgets. To maintain the public's trust and confidence in our system of justice, it is important to address the most common misunderstandings.

- **Courts are not businesses** – The purpose of our court system is to provide a forum for the resolution of disputes in a “fair, efficient, effective, timely, unbiased and convenient manner.” The judicial branch of government, like all branches of government, exists to maintain order, provide necessary services and to serve the public; not to make a profit.
- **Courts do not keep the revenue they generate** – Courts are prohibited by law from keeping and using the money they collect from fines, costs and fees. All monies collected are distributed to either the state, the county or local units of government, according to statutory requirements. In addition, judges are full-time salaried officials. Their compensation is not linked to fines that are assessed or monies that are collected.
- **The legislative branch of government approves court budgets** – All monies received by courts to maintain their operation are reviewed and approved through a budget process and are authorized by the courts' funding unit.

The following is a summary of the 46th District Court's revenues and expenditures for the past two years.

REVENUES	2010	2011
Judicial Salary Reimbursement ¹	138,272	138,272
Fines, Costs, Fees ²	6,165,346	6,316,775
Total Revenues	6,303,618	6,455,047

DISTRIBUTIONS³		
State of Michigan	1,679,148	1,554,165
County of Oakland	112,392	118,212
City of Southfield	4,264,828	4,554,732
City of Lathrup Village	154,499	140,991
Village of Beverly Hills	60,931	62,166
Village of Bingham Farms	16,043	14,118
Village of Franklin	15,751	10,636
Township of Southfield	26	27
Total Distributions	6,303,618	6,455,047

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES⁴		
For Direct Operational Costs	3,437,687	3,427,506

¹ Amount paid to the City of Southfield by the State of Michigan to totally reimburse the City for payment of judicial salaries.

² Includes interest collected directly by the Court that was offset by bank fees. It does not include interest revenues earned by the City of Southfield on Court distributions.

³ Formula is established by state law. These figures reflect how monies collected by the 46th District Court were distributed between the various governmental agencies and do not reflect actual disbursements for the periods indicated.

⁴ Based on actual expenditures for fiscal years ending in 2010 and 2011. Budgeted expenditures do not represent the total cost of the court. Costs incurred by the City of Southfield for debt service, facility charges, insurance, telephone, printing and postage, etc., are not included.-+