

# 2009 Annual Report

#### Mission Statement

Uphold the highest standard of public service.

Ensure the efficient and effective use of public funds.

Work toward the continuous improvement of the administration of justice in cooperation and coordination with all stakeholders.

Use problem-solving, decisionmaking and management strategles that focus on planning, consensus and teamwork and to develop Innovative approaches to changing needs.

Encourage employee development through training, education and performance accountability.

Increase the public understanding and appreciation of the administration of justice in our community.



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#### Dear Citizens:

We are pleased to submit the 46th District Court's 2009 Annual Report. It documents the activities and accomplishments of the Court during the past year and provides you with useful information about court operations in general.

During these difficult economic times, it is particularly important that we emphasize our commitment to using taxpayer dollars wisely. Over the years, we have worked continuously to ensure the efficient and effective use of limited public resources. Compared to 32 years ago, the Court is handling twice the number of cases per year with the same number of judges and effectively the same number of staff. We feel this level of performance is extraordinary for any organization—public or private.

We have found one of the best ways to reduce costs or reduce the need for additional resources is to find more efficient ways to administratively handle our duties. For example, we implemented new guidelines for Sunday and holiday arraignments that reduced the need for staff to conduct arraignments by 40%. This resulted in significant savings for both the court and local police departments.

The 46th District Court also played a significant role in improving the statewide administration of justice related to the processing of debt collection cases. Two new court rules proposed by the 46th District Court were finally adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court and took effect January 1, 2010. The court rule changes were proposed to address fundamental problems created by the explosion in debt buying and debt collection practices. In the past, it was sometimes difficult for a debtor to even identify an alleged debt if they were served with a lawsuit because the debt had been purchased. As a result of the 46th District Court's efforts, better information will be provided to identify the debt and monitor judgment balances.

As always, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire staff of the 46th District Court. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and professional staff.

We hope that you are pleased with our efforts during the past year and we look forward to working together for the continued fair, efficient and effective administration of justice in our communities.

Very truly yours.

## Judges of the 46th District Court



Chief Judge of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court, the **Honorable Susan M. Moiseev** first took the bench in 1986 and has been re-elected by the voters of the 46<sup>th</sup> 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 among others. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Jewish Home and Aging Services, and the Advisory Council for the Oakland University Paralegal Program.

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 is currently a member of The Judicial Crossroads Taskforce of the State Bar of Michigan; she chairs 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 46<sup>th</sup> 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 South Oakland Chapter of the NAACP, where she served 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

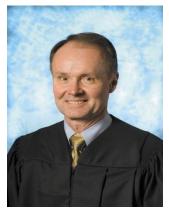
on the board. Additionally she is a member of Hope United Methodist Church where she has served as vice-chair and chair of the "Church and Society Ministry." Judge Johnson has also established a "Court in Schools" Program, where court sessions are held at local schools with the goal of deterring youth 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

## Judges of the 46th District Court

Association of Women Judges. She has also been recognized in Who's Who Publishing Company's volume of "Black Judges in America."

Judge Johnson is a member of the State Bar, the Michigan District Judges Association, 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 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. Last year she served as President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and 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 23 years.



**Judge Bill Richards** is the newest Judge of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court. Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed him to the bench in 2007 to succeed Judge Stephen Cooper. Judge Richards is a longtime local resident with a distinguished career in government, teaching and private practice. As Senior Policy Advisor for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, he was responsible for environmental policy and legal issues. He is the former Deputy Attorney General, the principal deputy to Attorney General Jennifer Granholm (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 teaches 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 is a volunteer fundraiser for the Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and serves on the Board for the Southfield Centers for Youth, Inc. He is a member of First Congregational Church.

In 2008, voters elected Judge Richards to continue to serve on the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court.

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 40 years and have two daughters, Jennifer and Kristin, and two grandchildren.

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

<u>Legal Jurisdiction</u> – District Courts were established by the Michigan Legislature in 1968 and are considered "Courts of Limited Jurisdiction." The legal jurisdiction of the 46<sup>th</sup> 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**

<u>Court Website</u> – The 46<sup>th</sup> 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 46<sup>th</sup> District Court's Mediation Program has been a model for other courts across the state. In 2009, the Oakland Mediation Center handled 308 small claims cases and resolved 163 of them, which represents a resolution rate of 53%.

<u>General Civil In Pro Per Mediation Program</u> – 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 2009 mediators from the Center handled 291 general civil cases and resolved 110 of them. This represents a resolution rate of 38%. The Oakland Mediation Center also mediated landlord-tenant cases referred to them by the Court.

<u>Community Dispute Resolution</u> – The Community Dispute Resolution Program provides an alternative to the judicial process. The Court has had a representative from the Oakland Mediation Center, Inc., on site since 1990. The Center mediates small claims and general civil in proper cases (see above) as well as landlord-tenant cases. It also mediates cases before a court case is filed. The Program uses mediation and conciliation as a means of solving problems and focuses on resolutions that are satisfactory to both parties. In 2009, the Oakland Mediation Center mediated a total of 617 cases and resolved 300 or 49% for the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court. These are cases that would otherwise be filed in court. The Oakland Mediation Center provides a valuable resource to our community by providing alternative dispute resolution services at a reasonable cost.

#### **Special Programs and Services**

<u>Community Work Program</u> – The Work Program provides the Judges with a sentencing alternative. The Program allows low-risk misdemeanor offenders to perform manual labor in lieu of serving short periods 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. Fifty-four (54) defendants participated in the Work Program in 2009, completing 1,628 hours of work.

<u>Community Service Program</u> – This sentencing alternative provides Judges with the opportunity to order offenders to work in the community as part of their sentence or in lieu of payment 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 40,826 hours of community service completed in 2009. Lutrell Coleman is the Community Service Coordinator and is responsible for interviewing, placing and monitoring approximately 411 probationers performing community service.

<u>Law Day Program</u> – Each year, May 1<sup>st</sup> is proclaimed "Law Day" to encourage citizens to learn about their rights and our legal system. During the year, 46<sup>th</sup> 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.

<u>Security/Weapons Screening</u> – A Security/Weapons Screening Program checks individuals entering the Court. Services are provided by Wackenhut, Inc. During 2009, 112,787 people (459 per day) went through the Court's security screening system, a 3% decrease from 2008.

<u>Probation Automated Monitoring System</u> – 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.

<u>Community Education Program</u> – 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 2009, 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

<u>Filings</u> – There were 48,334 new cases filed in the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court in 2009. This represents a 9% decrease in the past five years, and an 8% decrease in the last year.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	1 Year (	Change	5 Year (	Change
Civil Infractions	23,106	28,499	27,708	22,166	21,784	-382	-2%	-1,322	-6%
Misdemeanor Drunk Driving	337	330	249	253	292	39	15%	-45	-13%
Misdemeanor Other Traffic	4,614	5,286	4,617	4,038	3,422	-616	-15%	-1,192	-26%
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	1,466	1,656	1,629	1,739	1,613	-126	-7%	147	10%
Felonies	741	838	910	803	715	-88	-11%	-26	-4%
Parking	8,893	10,818	10,809	8,946	8,056	-890	-10%	-837	-9%
General Civil	4,854	5,219	5,872	5,920	5,388	-532	-9%	534	11%
Landlord-Tenant,	7,019	7,079	6,768	7,184	6,015	-1,169	-16%	-1,004	-14%
Summary Proceedings									
Small Claims	1,802	1,644	1,537	1,313	1,049	-264	-20%	-753	-42%
TOTALS	52,832	61,369	60,099	52,362	48,334	-4,028	-8%	-4,498	-9%

<u>Pending and Disposed Cases</u> – As of January 1, 2009, there were 10,255 cases pending. During the year, there were 48,334 new cases filed, 3,770 cases reopened and 52,862 cases disposed, resulting in an ending pending caseload of 9,497 as of December 31, 2009.

	Beginning Pending	New Filings	Reopened Cases	Disposed Cases	Pending
Total Caseload	10,255	48,334	3,770	52,862	9,497

During 2009, the Court's clearance rate was 101%. This means that the Court disposed of as many cases as were opened and that the Court does an outstanding job of keeping up with its incoming caseload.

**Probation** – A summary of the Probation Department's 2009 activity is provided below.

- 1,297 new clients were placed on probation, which represent a 7% decrease in the past year.
- 1,070 cases were pending on Probation Officer caseloads, which represent a 1% increase in the past year.
- 342 investigative reports were completed, which represent an 11% increase in the past year.
- 12,893 appointments were held, which represent an 11% increase in the past five years.

#### **Probation Caseload and Workload Overview**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% C	% Change	
	2003	2000	2007	2008	2009	1 year	5 year	
Cases Pending	1,105	1,147	1,116	1,063	1,070	0%	-3%	
Number of Probation Officers	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	0%	0%	
Average Caseload per Probation Officer	316	328	319	303	306	0%	-3%	
New Cases	1,313	1,359	1,268	1,357	1,297	-7%	-1%	
Investigative Reports	437	369	390	307	342	10%	-22%	
Appointments	11,623	13,928	13,816	13,330	12,893	-3%	11%	
Violation of Probation Hearings Conducted	865	745	699	859	858	0%	0%	

#### Caseload/Workload Overview

<u>Workload Issues</u> - The following factors continue to place an additional workload on the Judges and staff of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court:

- More Complex Civil Cases Due to the significant increase in district courts' general civil jurisdiction in 1998 (from \$10,000 to \$25,000) and the difficult economic times, the nature of the civil cases filed in district court has become more complex. More cases involve multiple litigants, cross claims, counter claims, etc., with more hearings and more paperwork to process as a result. Since 1998, the number of civil cases filed for damages over \$10,000 increased 95%; the number of garnishments increased 188% and the number of writs increased 58%. There has been a significant increase in the complexity of cases as well as pre- and post-judgment activity levels.
- More Serious Offenders As a result of the significant increase in district courts' criminal jurisdiction in 2000 (from \$100 to \$1,000), more serious offenders are adjudicated in the district court. This has placed an additional burden on the Probation Department, as these cases require higher levels of supervision.
- More Legislative and Court Rule Requirements There were several new legislative requirements that required implementation.
- More Unrepresented Litigants Consistent with the national trend, more people are representing themselves. As the number of people who are unfamiliar with the court system increases, there is an increased demand placed on staff to provide assistance. The increase in civil cases over the last five years has placed a much greater burden on staff to answer questions and provide assistance.
- More Intensive Monitoring of Jail Population Due to continuing jail overcrowding issues, courts have been asked to more closely monitor their pretrial and sentenced jail populations. Many procedures used by the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court have been identified as best practices for other courts to consider.

## **Major Accomplishments**

The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court had many accomplishments in 2009, 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.

<u>Commitment to Efficient Use of Public Resources</u> - The Court recognizes 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, which have allowed us to handle significant increases in caseload and workload without increasing staff.

Compared to 32 years ago, the Court is handling twice the number of cases per year with the <u>same</u> number of judges and effectively the <u>same</u> number of total court staff. This is remarkable, considering the significant increases in caseload and workload over the past 32 years due to new legislation, more complex procedures and new programs and services.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>2009</u>	% of Change
New Cases Filed	24,324	48,334	99%
Judges	3	3	0%
Magistrates	.5	1	100%
Administrative Support Staff	19.5	20.5	5%
Probation Officers	5.5	3.5	-36%
Other	11	12.5	14%
Total Court Staff	39.5	40.5	2%
Average # of Cases Per Judge	8,108	16,111	98%
Average # of Cases Per Admin Support Staff	1,247	2,358	89%

#### **Special Programs and Projects** – This year, there were several areas of note:

- Collections Program Under this Program, the Court sends out reminder notices to violators with unpaid traffic tickets to increase compliance with court orders. In 2009, a total of \$691,475 in additional revenues were collected which is an increase of \$92,911 or 16% over 2008. This brings the total amount collected since the program began in 2003 to \$3,990,888. This year, additional staff was trained to perform the noticing functions providing additional flexibility.
- **Electronic Payment Program** The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court will be one of the first five (5) courts in the state to receive the Judicial Information Systems new electronic payment system scheduled for implementation in early 2010. This will provide violators with the option of paying their traffic tickets over the internet and will reduce staff time necessary to handle these payments. Preparation is underway to establish the necessary financial arrangements.
- **Video Conferencing Project** The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court was selected as one of a few courts across the state to receive state of the art video conferencing equipment for one courtroom and one attorney's conference room. We will be piloting use of this equipment beginning in 2010. Preliminary work was begun on this project.
- **Bench Warrant Project** Procedures were implemented to incorporate the 2008 special bench warrant project into the Probation Department's assigned duties. Letters are now sent out on an ongoing basis to those with outstanding warrants for violating their probation giving them an opportunity to resolve their warrant. This gives defendants the opportunity to resolve these matters and generates some additional revenue.

<u>Improvements to the Administration of Justice in Consumer Debt and Collection Cases</u> – Over the past several years, the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court has been actively involved in proposing statewide court rule changes that would improve the administration of justice by addressing fundamental problems created by the explosion in debt buying and collection practices.

• Two New Court Rules Proposed by the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court Adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court – The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court proposed several court rule amendments for consideration by the Michigan Supreme Court to address the problems created by the explosion in consumer debt buying and debt collection. Effective January 1, 2010, Michigan Court Rule 2.112 was amended to require plaintiffs to identify the original creditor and original account number if the debt had been reassigned.

### **Major Accomplishments**

In addition, Michigan Court Rule 3.101 was also amended based on the 46<sup>th</sup> District Courts proposal to require those seeking a garnishment to provide specific information regarding interest, costs and payments related to the judgment. As a result of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court's efforts, information that is provided to litigants in these matters has been significantly increased and improved and will provide the necessary information for them to identify and monitor their debt. These court rule changes have statewide impact.

• Implementation of Pilot Project Pursuant to Michigan Supreme Court Order – The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court also proposed a revision to Michigan Court Rule 8.119 which would formalize established statewide practice for returning non-conforming documents. In October 2009, the Michigan Supreme Court authorized the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court to study the effects of the proposed rule change and a pilot project has been implemented.

#### **Operational and Procedural Improvements**

The judges, administrators and staff of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Court understand the serious budget issues and challenges facing us for the foreseeable future in Michigan. One of the best ways to reduce costs and/or reduce the need for additional resources is to find more efficient ways to perform duties. This year, there were numerous operational and procedural improvements.

- **Sunday Arraignment Project** The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court implemented new Sunday Arraignment procedures in late 2008 to minimize Sunday and holiday arraignments and their associated costs for the Court and local police departments. During the first full year of operation, the new procedure eliminated 40% of Sunday and holiday arraignments resulting in significant savings.
- Notice to Victims on Procedures for Collecting Restitution Letters are now being sent to victims with information on how to collect restitution after a defendant's term of probation has ended.
- Development of a Landlord Tenant Pro Per Advice of Rights Form This new form provides a
  comprehensive explanation of the rights and procedures pertaining to landlord tenant consent
  judgments.

<u>Case Flow Management Accomplishments</u> –The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court has a reputation for sound case flow management policies and procedures.

- Timely Case Scheduling Most traffic, criminal and civil cases are scheduled and held within three weeks. Informal and formal hearings are scheduled two to three weeks from the date a hearing is requested; criminal pre-trials are scheduled in three weeks, unless the defendant is in custody and then an expedited hearing is held within three to five days; landlord-tenant cases are scheduled within three weeks of the case being filed; small claims hearings are scheduled within two to three weeks of mediation and general civil pre-trials are scheduled within 30 days of the answer being filed.
- **Timely Case Disposition** The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court is effectively meeting or exceeding the time guidelines specified by the Michigan Supreme Court. For example, in 2009, 99% of general civil cases were adjudicated within 365 days of filing; 93% of civil infractions were adjudicated within 56 days of filing and 90% of misdemeanors were disposed within 91 days from the first appearance.
- Effective Monitoring of In-Custody Prisoners Jail overcrowding has become a major issue. The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court does an excellent job of monitoring in-custody prisoners through the use of expedited pre-trials and the use of bond review hearings.
- Outstanding Performance in Secretary of State Conviction Reporting The 46<sup>th</sup> District Court continues to have an exemplary record in this area.

## 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 applicable branch of government.

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

REVENUES	2008	2009
Judicial Salary Reimbursement <sup>1</sup>	\$138,272	138,272
Fines, Costs, Fees <sup>2</sup>	\$6,648,456	\$5,915,929
Total Revenues	\$6,786,728	\$6,054,201
DISTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup>		
State of Michigan	\$1,936,523	\$1,724,009
County of Oakland	\$126,506	\$122,435
City of Southfield	\$4,500,990	\$4,002,215
City of Lathrup Village	\$139,060	\$119,654
Village of Beverly Hills	\$56,969	\$61,084
Village of Bingham Farms	\$11,969	\$14,074
Village of Franklin	\$14,711	\$10,730
Township of Southfield	\$0	\$0
Total Distributions	\$6,786,728	\$6,054,201
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES <sup>4</sup>	2007	2008
For Direct Operational Costs	\$3,521,113	\$3,562,444

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Amount paid to the City of Southfield by the State of Michigan to totally reimburse the City for payment of judicial salaries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Based on actual expenditures for fiscal years ending in 2007 and 2008. 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.