

# 2008 Caseload Report

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The Circuit Court's 2008 caseload information has recently been submitted to the State Court Administrative Office. This seems like an opportune time to provide the readers of LACHES with a perspective about the volume of cases filed with and resolved by the Circuit Court last year.

Readers may recall that caseload information has been provided in past years. To provide some meaning and relevance to the numbers presented below, caseload information for 2006 and 2007 is also included so that trends, if any, can be identified.

Our caseload information may now be viewed on the Supreme Court's Web site at [www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/statistics.htm#annual](http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/statistics.htm#annual). In addition to caseload information for our court, you will find current and historical caseload information for each circuit, probate and district court in Michigan.

On the opposite page, you will find a table showing the number of new cases and petitions filed and disposed for the years 2006-2008. The information is presented for the Family and Civil/Criminal divisions.

One note before you look at the caseload numbers: the data for 2008 only has not yet been verified. The Supreme Court requires caseload data to be verified by February 28. This article is being written prior to the deadline. My office will verify the data in the weeks ahead, a process that requires us to reconcile the annual caseload data with our monthly and quarterly caseload reports. The verified case-

load data will likely appear on the Supreme Court's Web site in April.

As to what's included in a couple of the case types listed on the opposite page: "Other Civil" cases include all case numbers wherein the suffix (for those who are familiar with the Circuit Court's case numbering system) begins with a "C." These are contracts cases that include such areas as business claims, condemnation, environment, forfeiture and labor relations. This category is distinguished from "General Civil," which is a catchall for cases that do not fit nicely into the various civil case types listed in the table above. Examples of these cases include attachment proceedings; proceedings to restore, establish or correct records; claim and delivery matters; and garnishments.

Under the "Domestic" category you will see a reference to "Interstate." These cases generally involve child support issues (i.e., enforcement or modification of a court order) where one party is not in Michigan or an order was issued in another state.

"Miscellaneous Family" includes name changes, emancipation, Safe Delivery of Newborn, parental waivers, infectious diseases and violations of personal protection orders.

Keep in mind that the data above does not show post-judgment data. The Family Division alone handles thousands of post-judgment matters annually.

We periodically receive inquiries about the number of trials conducted in Circuit Court. Here's the information: the Circuit Court conducted 578 trials in 2008 – 324 jury and 254 non-jury. Trial numbers for 2006 and 2007 were 749 and 628, respectively.

The average length of time to complete a jury trial in 2008 was 2.7 days. For bench trials the average length of time was 1.5 days. For comparative purposes, the average length of time for jury and non-jury trials in 2007 was 2.4 days and 1.2 days, respectively. Not included in these numbers is the time needed to select juries.

The number of new filings in this Circuit Court has remained relatively constant over the past several years. The number of cases per judge is among the highest in Michigan, meaning that our judges preside over one of the busiest dockets in this state.

For more information about caseload data, please visit the Supreme Court's Web site or call my office at 248-858-0345.

Until next time...

Oakland County Probate Court **Chief Judge Elizabeth M. Pezzetti** announced that she has appointed the 2009 Probate Court Leadership. The **Hon. Linda S. Hallmark** will serve as Chief Judge Pro Tempore of the Probate Court and the **Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore** will continue to serve as Presiding Judge of the Probate Estates Division. Judge Pezzetti says, "the Oakland County Probate Court is very fortunate to have such experienced judges to call on for leadership roles."

## On the Circuit

Case/Petition Type	Number Filed			Number Disposed		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
<b>1. Appeals</b>	1,089	1,059	1,073	1,098	1,080	1,084
<b>2. Civil</b>	7,445	7,544	7,909	8,206	8,350	8,302
a. Auto Negligence	604	568	573	825	646	598
b. Medical Malpractice	187	167	144	248	220	189
c. Contracts	2,503	2,697	3,142	2,603	2,926	3,103
d. Housing & Real Estate	798	903	948	834	952	983
e. Pers. Injury (non-auto)	525	493	500	635	592	508
f. General Civil	1,540	1,506	1,466	1,667	1,615	1,585
g. Other Civil	1,288	1,210	1,136	1,394	1,399	1,336
<b>3. Criminal</b>	6,096	6,159	6,057	6,825	6,670	6,446
a. Non-Capital	5,738	5,824	5,685	6,407	6,306	6,043
b. Capital	352	330	267	411	358	292
c. Felony Juvenile	6	5	3	7	6	3
<b>4. Reopened cases</b>	1,207	1,187	1,101			
<b><i>Subtotal Civil/Criminal</i></b>	<b>15,837</b>	<b>15,949</b>	<b>16,140</b>	<b>16,129</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>15,832</b>
<b>5. Domestic</b>	7,699	8,029	7,740	8,281	7,896	8,398
a. Divorce with children	2,402	2,371	2,268	2,644	2,462	2,502
b. Divorce no children	2,629	2,515	2,357	2,764	2,609	2,516
c. Paternity	1,002	1,007	1,019	1,088	923	1,144
d. Custody	153	168	175	148	164	186
e. Interstate	362	329	353	373	325	353
f. Other Support	1,112	1,583	1,554	1,228	1,357	1,679
g. Other Domestic	39	56	14	36	56	18
<b>6. Juvenile</b>	4,557	4,474	4,373	4,982	4,326	4,328
a. Delinquency	3,660	3,636	3,574	4,041	3,433	3,509
b. Abuse & Neglect	546	490	483	561	517	531
c. Juvenile Traffic	351	348	268	380	376	288
<b>7. Adoptions</b>	425	444	435	411	416	452
<b>8. Pers. Protection Order</b>	3,128	2,828	2,750	3,716	3,375	3,147
<b>9. Miscellaneous Family</b>	487	484	491	456	542	485
<b>10. Reopened cases</b>	793	772	684			
<b><i>Subtotal Family</i></b>	<b>17,089</b>	<b>17,031</b>	<b>16,473</b>	<b>17,846</b>	<b>16,555</b>	<b>16,810</b>
<b><i>Total Circuit Court</i></b>	<b>32,926</b>	<b>32,980</b>	<b>32,613</b>	<b>33,975</b>	<b>32,655</b>	<b>32,642</b>