

THE AKRON
**MUNICIPAL
COURT**



2004 Annual Report





JUDGE CARLA MOORE
*Presiding /Administrative
Judge for 2004*

A word from Administrative/Presiding Judge Carla Moore

The Akron Municipal Court serves the people of Akron, Fairlawn, Bath, Richfield, Springfield, Lakemore, and the Summit County portion of Mogadore. A total of 56,808 new cases were filed in 2004. The total number of criminal cases filed was 16,833, an increase of 1,427 from the previous year. The total number of civil cases filed was 12,002, plus 1,649 small claims cases. 26,324 new traffic cases were filed with the court. The court disposed of 56,881 cases in 2004.

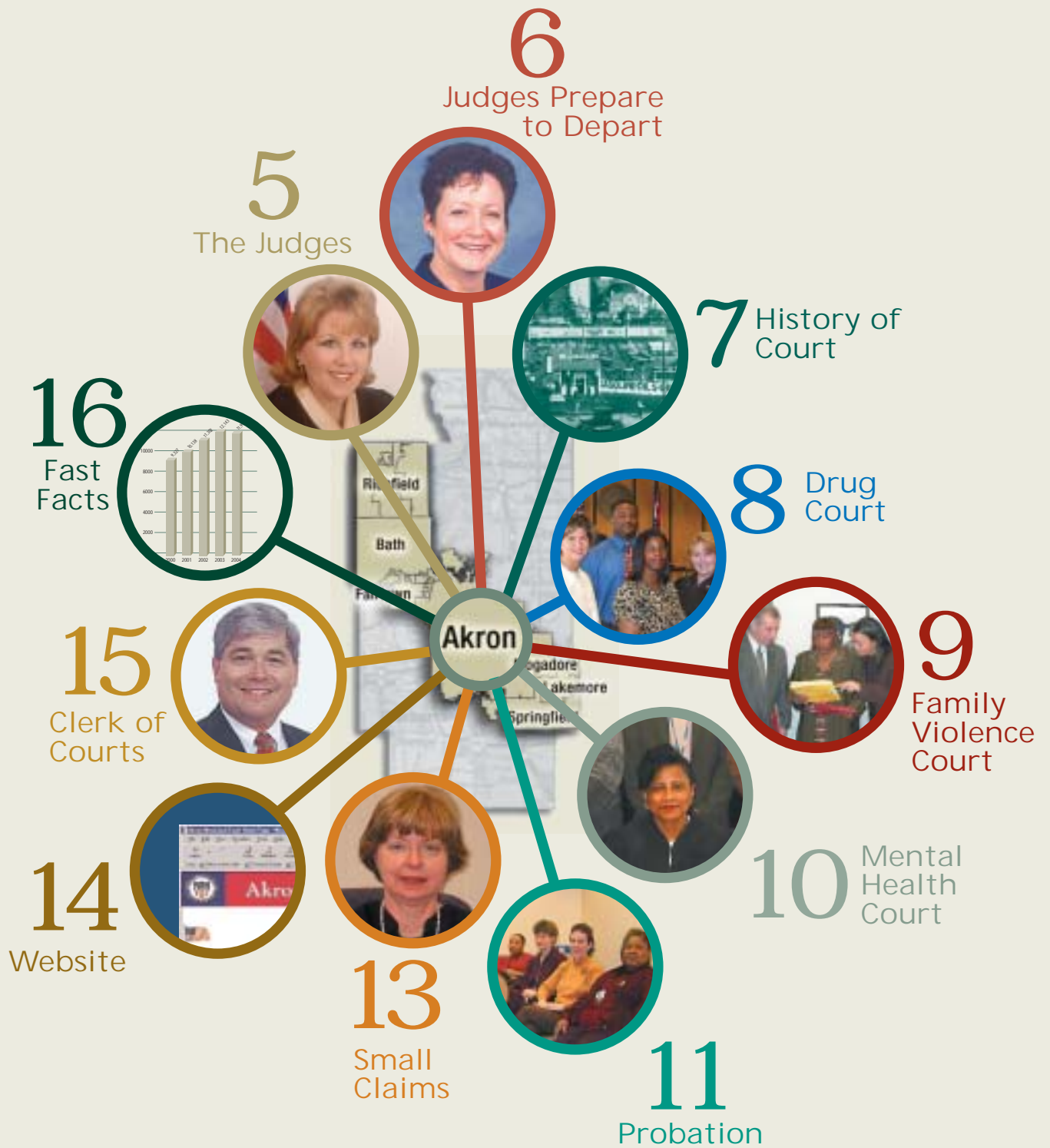
The court web site which was unveiled in 2001, has become a valuable tool for the users of the court. By the close of the year over 650,000 visitors had viewed the court's website. As we look to our future needs, upgrading the court's main computer system and adding features to the court website were in the planning stages in 2004. We are making substantial progress towards completing our goals.

The Akron Municipal Court continues to be a national leader in providing cost effective, quality alternatives to incarceration and litigation. In addition to the Drug Court, Family Violence Court, and the Mental Health Court, the court also runs a Mediation Program, a Discretionary Rehabilitation Program (DRP), and a License Intervention Program (LIP). The Municipal Court has been able to provide this wide variety of dispositional alternatives while decreasing staffing levels by one employee and not raising programmatic costs.

Judge Carla Moore



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THE JUDGES

The Court's six judges are attorneys and are required by Ohio law to have practiced law at least six years prior to becoming a judge. The judges are elected on a nonpartisan basis and serve six-year terms. Their role is to supervise the administration of justice in their respective courts and insure that all trials, court hearings, and administrative procedures are fair and just.



JUDGE LYNNE S. CALLAHAN

is a graduate of University of Akron and the University of Akron School of Law. She has served as an Akron police officer, an Assistant Director of Law and an Assistant Summit County Prosecutor. She was

appointed Judge in May 1997, and elected to the bench in November 1997.



JUDGE JOHN E. HOLCOMB

is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Akron School of Law. In the past, Judge Holcomb served as Director of Law for the City of Akron and also served as a member of the

Ohio State Board of Education as well as the Akron Board of Education.



JUDGE ALISON McCARTY

graduated from Wheaton College and Wake Forest University School of Law. She served as an Assistant Summit County prosecutor handling felony criminal cases. She was appointed Judge in May, 1999, and elected to the bench in November, 1999.



JUDGE CARIA D. MOORE

an Akron native, earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and her law degree from the Ohio State University College of Law. She has served as Municipal Court Judge since her appointment in June of 1989.



JUDGE ANNALISA S. WILLIAMS

graduated from Kent State University with an undergraduate degree in political science, and received her masters degree in urban studies. She received her law degree from the University of Akron Law School. The judge has

served on the bench since December 2003.



JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER

graduated from Davidson College with an undergraduate degree in history. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Akron graduating in the top of her class. She was

elected to the bench in 1991, re-elected in 1993 and 1999.

JUDGES PREPARE TO DEPART



Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer who was elected to the bench in 1991 was elected judge in the Court of Common Pleas in November of 2004.



Judge Carla D. Moore was first appointed to the bench in 1989. Judge Moore was elected to the 9th District Court of Appeals in November of 2004.

As the Harold K. Stubbs Building nears its 40th birthday, the judges of the court and the court's administrative office began to look to the future needs of the municipal judges, court staff and the people served by the court.



City-County Safety Building constructed around the existing Summit County Sheriff's Office and Jail, which was torn down after the new building was completed.



The City-County Safety Building was dedicated October 1966 and was renamed the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center in 1991 after the late Harold K. Stubbs.



HISTORY OF COURT

In 1910 the legislature established a police court in Akron vested with jurisdiction over offenses under the ordinances of the city and all misdemeanors committed within the limits of Summit County. It was made a court of record and was presided over by an attorney duly admitted to practice in this state.

In 1919 the legislature established the Akron Municipal Court with three sitting judges elected for four-year terms. In 1930 two judgeships were added to the court. In 1939 the legislature reduced the number of judges from five to four. A fifth judge was again made a member of the court in 1967 and the sixth judgeship was created in 1975. The judges now serve six-year terms.

The court now serves a jurisdiction which includes the cities of Akron and Fairlawn; the townships of Bath, Richfield, and Springfield; the villages of Lakemore and Richfield; and that part of Mogadore in Summit County.

In 1966 the court moved into the City-County Safety Building which was renamed the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center in 1991 located in downtown Akron. The sitting judges are Judge John E. Holcomb, Lynne S. Callahan, Elinore Marsh Stormer, Alison McCarty, Carla D. Moore, and Annalisa S. Williams.



Pardee, L.S.	1920 - 1923	Sacks, C.	1943 - 1949	Schneiderman, T.	1981 - 1991
Marsh, F.G.	1920 - 1923	Zook, A.D.	1944 - 1959	Mack, M.	1983 - 1997
O'Neil, A.F.	1920 - 1925	McRae, C.B.	1951 - 1963	Williams, J.R.	1983 - 1989
Zesiger, E.E.	1924 - 1927	Victor, W.H.	1950 - 1959	Maxson, R.	1983 - 1993
Underwood, A.B.	1924 - 1925	Price, T.R.	1960 - 1969	Stubbs, H.K.	1987 - 1989
Davies, G.	1926 - 1931	Koplin, N.	1960 - 1963	Bond, J.	1989 - 1991
Hoyt, C.C.	1926 - 1931	Riddle, J.P.	1962 - 1969	Moore, C.D.	1989 - 2004
Cox, J.E.	1928 - 1931	McCarty, A.	1998 - present	Bayer, E.	1991 - 1991
Emmons, C.V.D.	1931 - 1942	Reed, E.J.	1964 - 1967	Shapiro, M.A.	1991 - 2003
Roderick, O.M.	1931 - 1961	VanBerg, H.N.	1964 - 1975	Stormer, E.M.	1991 - 2004
Colopy, S.	1932 - 1937	Roulhac, J.D.	1968 - 1987	Callahan, M.	1993 - 1995
Werner, H.	1932 - 1935	Hartnett, R.B.	1970 - 1981	Carr, D.	1995 - 1998
Harvey, F.H.	1932 - 1935	McFadden, D.B.	1970 - 1978	Holcomb, J.E.	1996 - present
Isham, D.P.	1935 - 1943	Colopy, R.H.	1972 - 1995	Callahan, L.S.	1997 - present
Watters, R.B.	1936 - 1937	Winter, J.P.	1976 - 1983	Unruh, B.	1998 - 1999
Davies, G.	1938 - 1939	George, J.J.	1976 - 1983	McCarty, A.	1998 - present
Kelly, C.M.	1938 - 1950	Spicer, W.F.	1979 - 1981	Stormer, B.	2003 - 2003
Powers, T.M.	1939 - 1971	Murphy, J.E.	1980 - 1982	Williams, A. S.	2003 - present

DRUG COURT



The Drug Court team with Judge McCarty.



Judge McCarty speaks with Drug Court client from the bench.

Judge Alison McCarty is the Akron Municipal Drug Court Judge. The Akron Municipal Drug Court began in 1995 and is the longest running specialty court in Akron. Akron's Drug Court continues to serve as a model program for many Drug Courts across the state. It is a collaborative effort between the Akron Municipal Court, Akron Police Department, Akron City Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, Akron Municipal Probation Department, Summit County Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Board, and Oriana House, Inc.

The Drug Court philosophy promotes court-ordered, judicially supervised treatment. The participants are male and female offenders originally charged with felonies, either possession of cocaine or methamphetamine.

All prospective offenders are initially screened by the Oriana House admissions Department to determine eligibility. Police and prosecutors must also approve the offender for admission into the Drug Court program.

The program requires that the offender come to court and plead guilty to a reduced, misdemeanor charge of

Attempted Drug Abuse. A six-month jail sentence is then imposed, but suspended. During the course of the next year, the participant will undergo assessment and treatment. The level of treatment is determined by the seriousness of the offender's addiction. At a minimum, each offender will meet with a caseworker at least once a week, must attend AA meetings and undergo frequent drug testing.

The program is based on a reward/sanction model: if a participant stays sober and performs well in the program, he or she will receive rewards. If the offender relapses with new drug use, or fails to comply with other aspects of the program, he or she will face graduated sanctions, starting with courtroom observation or a few days in jail, leading up to the final sanction for noncompliance: termination from the program and six months in the Summit County Jail.

The Drug Court is a successful method of treatment for offenders, and a major component of its success is the close supervision and involvement of the judge.

FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT

The Family Violence Court was implemented in April of 1998, in response to the growing number of domestic violence cases, the need to provide a sanctioning option to reduce jail crowding, the desire to address both victim and offender needs, and the desire to enhance probation supervision and to protect the public safety.



Akron's Family Violence Court is a domestic violence diversion program, the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of very few throughout the country. The actual

program is the combined brain-child of the Oriana House, Inc., the Akron Municipal Court and its probation department, Akron's prosecutor's office and police department, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Assistance, the Battered Women's Shelter, and the Public Defender's Office. The program provides increased supervision of the offender as well as increased coordination of services. Judge Lynne S. Callahan presides over the Family Violence Court. Offenders who enter the Family Violence Court Program are required to complete a twenty-six week violence cessation program, as well as case management, one year of probation, drug and alcohol testing and counseling, when needed, and employment counseling, also when needed. Victims are urged to attend



Judge Callahan and program participant.

the Early intervention Program and Stop the Cycle at the Battered Women's Shelter. They also have access to a victim advocate through every step of the proceedings.



Staff from the Prosecutor's Office review a file.





One of the goals of the Mental Health Court is to end the cycling of the mentally ill offender through the local jail and the state hospital.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT



Judge Williams and Mental Health Court team.

The Akron Mental Health Court was the first of its kind in Ohio and remains one of a handful in the United States. The Mental Health Court was formed, in part, as a response to the overwhelming numbers of mentally ill offenders being seen by the Akron Municipal Court.

This program is a collaborative effort between the Summit County ADM Board, Community Support Services, and the Akron Municipal Court. Residential treatment is provided by Oriana House, Inc., Sharp Program. The program is envisioned as a diversion program with a significant jail reduction component in the short and long term. The model follows the drug court model with early intervention and stable release into the community with multi-year intensive probation and frequent court

appearances. Prior to the Mental Health Court, mentally ill offenders who were not stable on medications, were waiting in jail for up to six weeks before a competency evaluation was completed. This diversion court reduces the time spent in jail to less than two weeks. One of the goals of the Mental Health Court is to end the cycling of the mentally ill offender through the local jail and the state hospital.



Judge Williams talks with a client.

THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT PROBATION STAFF



Members of the Probation Department.

Below are listed some important departmental statistics for 2004:

5120 offenders were referred by the judges and the traffic magistrate for various correctional services and specialized court services.

164 Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

422 Summary Presentence Investigation referrals were received.

602 persons were placed on traditional probation.

\$31,014 was collected and disbursed by the Restitution Coordinator.

2790 community service placements were made.

125 defendants entered the Family Violence Court, with a retention rate of 86%.

98 defendants entered the Drug Court with a retention rate of 83%.

703 defendants were screened for the Discretionary Rehabilitation Program...

593 were found to be eligible and approved, with a retention rate of 70%.





THE AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICE BAILIFF'S STAFF



Some members of the Service Bailiff's Office.

The Service Bailiffs' Office is comprised of 6 Service Bailiffs, 1 Court Secretary/ Court Records Officer, and the Chief Bailiff. This office is charged with the responsibility to perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, remove clubs, and provide personal service of all court documents generated by The Akron Municipal Court that require individual service. Unlike the courtroom bailiffs who perform their duties in the courtroom, the Service Bailiffs go out into the community to do their job.

The Outside Bailiffs travel throughout Summit County, into virtually every segment of society to serve Bank Aids, F&D's, Garnishments, Mandatory Orders, Show

Causes, Small Claims, Subpoenas, and Summons. They also perform Evictions, Levies, Replevins, conduct Bailiff Sales, and remove clubs from vehicles immobilized by Akron, Richfield, Bath, Fairlawn, Lakemore, Springfield and Cuyahoga Falls Police Departments.



Service Bailiffs assist Judge McCarty with a wedding.

SMALL CLAIMS DIVISION

Small claims magistrates handle many different types of cases. They hear evictions, small claims, rent deposits, garnishments/executions, mandatory orders, contempt/show cause, replevin and revivor hearings. The office is staffed by two part-time magistrates and support staff. The magistrates are Sophie Albrecht and Belinda Hinton. The support staff is Melissa Briggs.



Small Claims Magistrates.



TRAFFIC DIVISION



In 2004 the traffic court staff handled 6,809 cases. 104 of those cases were for DUI offenses, 1,639 were for DUS offenses, 3,703 MM, and 1,361 M1-M4 cases. Pictured left are Mick Williams, Traffic Safety Officer, Kathy Wheeler, Jim Conti and seated is Kathy Culver Traffic Magistrate.

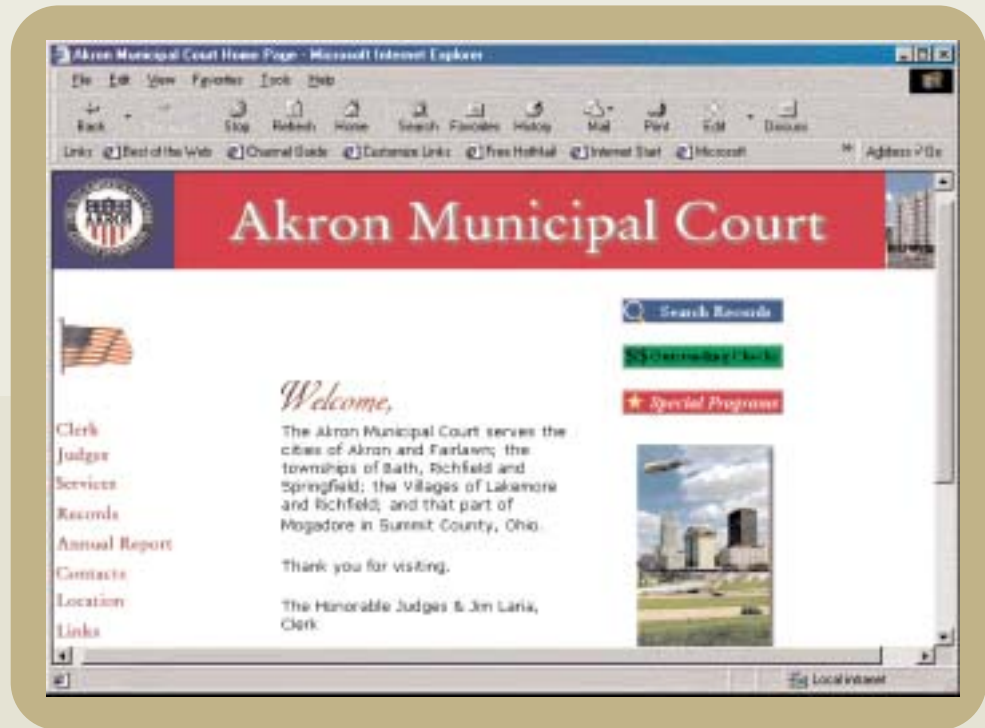


The Akron Municipal Court website offers another means of providing additional information for the people it serves.

AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT WEBSITE

By the end of 2004 over 600,000 visitors had accessed the court website. In response to user feedback the site was rearranged to provide easier access to the special programs, records search and outstanding check icons.

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



ARRAIGNMENT COURT

Arraignments of misdemeanor and felony prisoners are heard in the mornings in the arraignment room. This courtroom is usually one of the busiest courtrooms on any given day. Video equipment allows the Judge to see and hear the defendant while the defendant remains in the county jail.





JIM LARIA, has been Clerk of Courts since January 1, 1997. Laria is a graduate of The University of Akron with a Bachelor of

Science in Education and the National Judicial College with certification in Court Administration. Jim was an elected member of the Akron School Board and has worked in our court systems for more than 24-years, serving as the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Akron Municipal Courts and Court

Administrator for the Summit County Probate Court. Jim Laria was elected by his peers as the President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association.

MEDIATION PROGRAM



Judicial Associate Laura Killian (center), heads the mediation program.

VISITING JUDGES

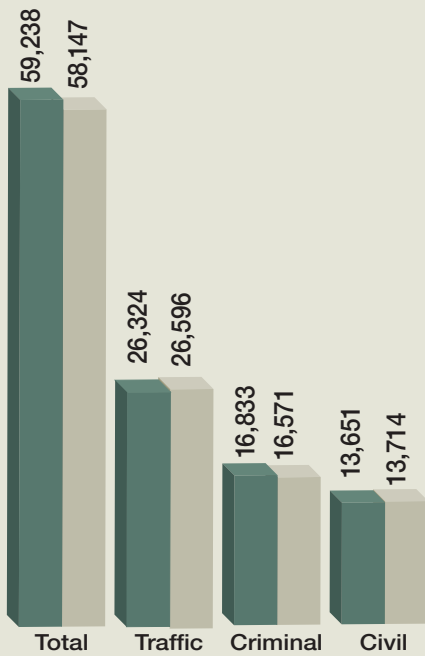
The Court is fortunate to have several retired judges available to sit when a conflict arises, the municipal judges attending a training seminar or conference, or when they just need a vacation day. Currently, Judge William Pike, Judge Perry Dickinson, Judge Monte Mack, Judge Ted Schneiderman, and Judge Joyce George serve the court as visiting judges.



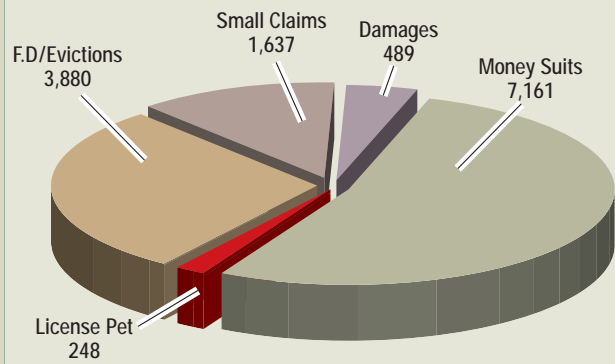


FAST FACTS

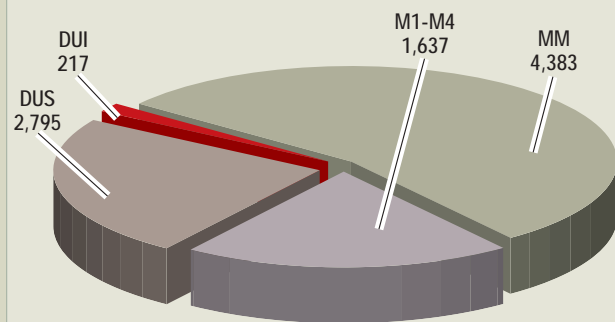
Total Cases Filed / Disposed



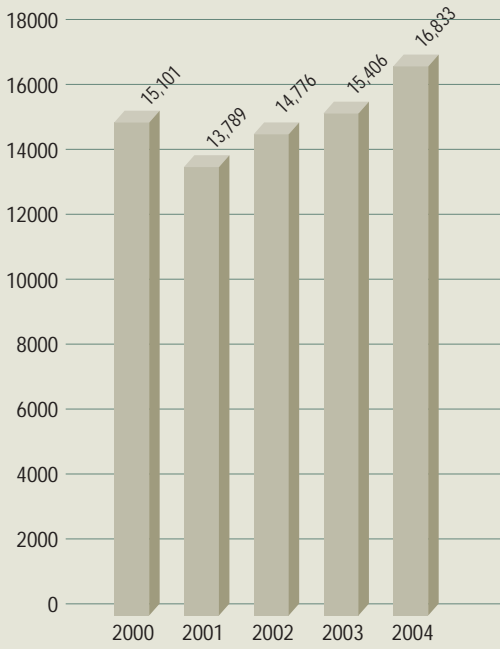
Top Five Civil Case Filings 2004



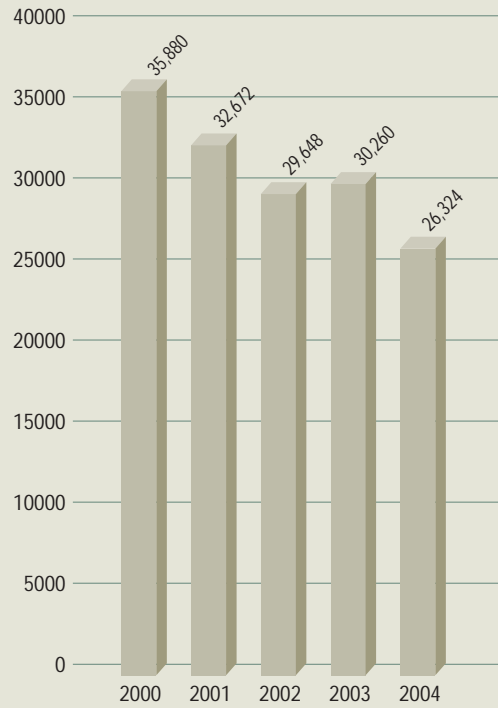
Traffic Court Cases 2004



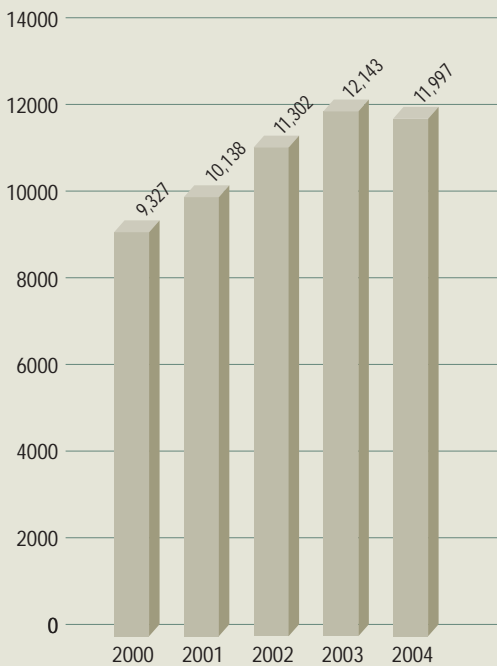
5 Year Criminal Cases Filed



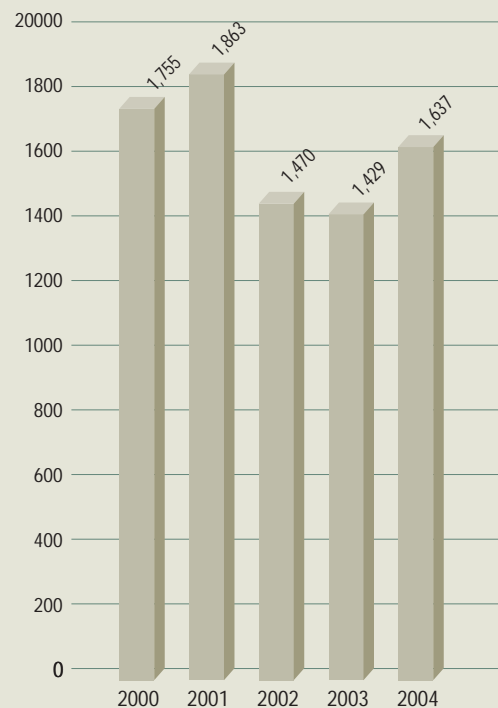
5 Year Traffic Cases Filed



5 Year Civil Cases Filed



5 Year Small Claims Cases Filed





Glimpses





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Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center
217 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308
(7th, 8th and 9th Floors)
