

86th District Court Annual Report 2018

**Leelanau County
8527 E. Government Center Dr.
Suttons Bay MI 49682**

**Grand Traverse County
280 Washington Street
Traverse City MI 49684**

**Antrim County
205 E. Cayuga
Bellaire MI 49615**

Mission Statement

Ensure justice to all those involved in cases that come before the 86th District Court.

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Foreword

By Michael S. Stepka, Chief Judge

Michigan District Courts celebrated their 50 year anniversary in 2018. The creation of the Michigan District Courts has its inception in the 1963 Michigan Constitution which provided that the legislature could decide to replace Justice of the Peace courts with District Courts. Justice of the Peace courts were funded primarily through court costs and fines of criminal defendants and allowed non-lawyers to act as a justice of the peace. The district court requires elected or appointed lawyers to serve as district court judges and the courts are funded through the local funding units of Michigan's 83 counties and municipalities.

The 86th District Court celebrated its 50 year anniversary by dedicating portraits of former 86th District Court judges who have served Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties and who are now retired. In Antrim County, we honored those District Court judges who served both the 85th and 86th District Court with a commemorative plaque.

The 86th District Court also recognized Judge Thomas Phillips who retired on December 31, 2018 with a ceremony at the Hall of Justice attended by members of Judge Phillips family and many friends.

The sobriety court continues to successfully treat and supervise offenders convicted of multiple drunk driving offenses, and the drug court continues to treat defendants convicted of felony controlled substance offenses. Both courts closely monitor the participants, conduct frequent review hearings in court, and require frequent counseling and drug and alcohol testing. All of which have been shown to treat the participant's substance use issues, protect the public and reduce recidivism.

Our community outreach court continues to assist individuals experiencing homelessness or who are on the verge of homelessness by rewarding them for making improvements in their lives through counselling and substance use treatment, obtaining job training skills and volunteering among other improvements and then cancelling any collection bench warrants and any accrued fines and costs that have been preventing them from being able to afford housing and otherwise succeeding in their lives.

We are very fortunate to have many local agencies, therapists, probation and community corrections agents, attorneys, court staff and volunteers who provide support and assistance to participants in these problem solving courts.

In 2018 the court's criminal case files began to be stored and accessed using the OnBase electronic filing system which has been used by the civil division for several years. Eventually, the court will employ a complete electronic filing system.

Also in 2018, the three counties comprising the 86th District Court finalized agreements with the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission to provide appointed attorneys for criminal defendants at arraignment making defendants better prepared at their first appearance before the court.

In closing, I want to thank Court Administrator Carol Stocking and Deputy Court Administrator, Dawn Wagoner, and Chief Magistrate Tammi Rodgers for all of their support, professionalism and abilities as administrators and leaders in the 86th District Court. Finally, I want to thank Judge Thomas J. Phillips for his dedication to the 86th District, and the communities and citizens it serves.

Judges

Judge Thomas J. Phillips was elected in 2000 and reelected in 2006 and 2012 to serve Antrim, Leelanau and Grand Traverse. Prior to election, Judge Phillips was the managing partner for Running, Wise, Ford and Phillips. He joined the firm in 1975 and



became a partner in 1977. Judge Phillips grew up in the Detroit area and graduated from the University of Detroit High School. After graduating cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelors in Business Administration, he went on to complete his law degree at the University of Michigan Law School. After law school, Judge Phillips served in the Naval Judge Advocate's General Corps as a lieutenant during the

Vietnam War. While a Navy Jag, he was awarded the Freedom Award from the NAACP for his work with black sailors. Judge Phillips has four children: Ann, Meghan, Katie and Tom. The children have undergraduate degrees from University of Michigan and Notre Dame and graduate degrees from Wayne State, DePaul, Western Michigan and University of Michigan.

Judge Michael S. Stepka was elected to the 86th District Court in November 2010 and reelected in November 2016. He grew up in Traverse City and graduated from Traverse City Central High School, Northwestern Michigan College, Central Michigan



University, Cum Laude, and the University of Detroit School of Law. After graduating from law school, Judge Stepka returned to Traverse City to practice law until being elected to the bench. He also served as a Grand Traverse County Commissioner from 2009-2010, served on the Board of the Women's Resource Center, and the Third Level Legal Aid volunteer clinic for many years. He also served as the Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim County Bar

Association President, and was the Annual Law Day Chair for many years. Judge Stepka currently presides over the 86th District Court Sobriety Court. His interests include road and mountain biking, running and downhill skiing. Judge Stepka has two children, Michael and Betsie.



Dawn Wagoner and Carol Stocking

COURT ADMINISTRATION

By Dawn Wagoner, Deputy District Court Administrator

First and foremost, the Court Administrator and I wanted to give a heartfelt thank you to the boards of all three counties which make up the 86th District Court. Without your foresight, the position of Deputy District Court Administrator would not have been created and it is with great pleasure that I am able to address everyone with this report.

Since this was a newly created position, we have all been learning just what my role is here with the Court. At the beginning of the year, the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners approved my appointment as a magistrate and in March, I completed the necessary training. Currently, one of my duties is that I function as a “back up” to our full time magistrate. As Deputy District Court Administrator, I assist the Court Administrator by overseeing the Probation Department and any other project that the Court Administrator and/or the Judges ask me to do. Without hesitation, I can say that since my promotion, it has been a nonstop battle to keep on top of all of our projects.

The Michigan Court Administration Association arranged to host the National Center for State Courts Institute for Court Management - Certified Court Managers Program. In June, I applied for and was selected to be a part of this first group of court administrators to go through the program.

At the spring court managers conference, the Secretary of State’s Office recognized those counties who had a 99% Timely Submission of Abstracts with a Certificate of Excellence. This year due to the diligence and hard work of our staff, Antrim and Grand Traverse Counties received this award.

In July, we requested that the Court Security Specialist for the Michigan Supreme Court conduct a security review of the Courts in Antrim and Grand Traverse. As a recent review had already been done in Leelanau, the Security Specialist didn’t do a full report on Leelanau, but he did do a follow up site visit. As a result of the security review, a report was generated with

recommendations to improve court security. With these recommendations in mind, we partnered with the Family and Probate Division of the 13th Circuit Court in Grand Traverse and wrote a grant requesting funds to purchase an X-ray machine and to begin replacing the out of date cameras in all of our courtrooms at the Hall of Justice. In November, we were notified that we were awarded a RAP grant from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

The Michigan Legislature instituted the MIDC (Michigan Indigent Defense Council) which has made it a requirement for defendants to be represented by counsel at first appearance in court. Carol Stocking has been working closely with County Administration in all three counties on this project.

Now that our civil and probation divisions are utilizing OnBase, the Court Administrator is beginning the process of getting our criminal division to go paperless/electronic. This is a huge undertaking but we are excited to be in the final phase of going electronic with our file management system.

In November and December of 2018, the 86th District Court held celebrations in each of the counties that we serve in order to commemorate the district courts 50th anniversary. In Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties, we unveiled framed portraits of all of the Judges who have served the 86th district and who are retired. In Antrim we honored all of the past district court Judges of both the 85th and 86th districts with a beautifully framed plaque. The celebrations were well attended by the public, staff, partner agencies, and family members of the former judges.

The district courts in all three of our counties are arguably the busiest courts. We have amazing staff at all of our locations and it is the staff that makes the chaos functional for the public. This year was marked by many staffing changes. In 2018, the following people left the Court for other opportunities:

- Anna Dituri
- Shannon Johnson
- Andrea Cooper
- Kevin Gay
- Bailee Kuhn
- Damon Herman

With these vacancies, we were able to promote current staff and hire new employees:

- Amanda Webster was promoted to Court Recorder
- Ben Sleder was laterally transferred to Community Corrections
- Beth Lajko was promoted to Probation Officer
- Maryann Bratcher was promoted as a part time Compliance Officer in Grand Traverse
- Sarah Lorigan was hired as a full time Compliance Officer in Antrim County
- Kelsie Williams was hired as a full time Office Specialist assigned to Probation
- Debra Stevens was hired as a full time Office Specialist assigned to Probation
- Susan Womack was hired as a full time Office Specialist assigned to the Civil Division

At the end of 2018, after almost nineteen (19) years of dedicated service to the people of Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties, Judge Thomas J. Phillips retired. Judge Phillips will be missed greatly both by the employees of the Court and the people and communities that he served.

General Overview

The 86th District Court is part of the judicial branch of government as provided for by the Michigan Constitution in 1963 and created by the Michigan Legislature in Public Act 154 of 1968. The purpose of the District Court is to provide a system of justice for the citizens of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau Counties. The District Court has jurisdiction over all civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less and all criminal misdemeanors. The District Court also handles all arraignments and preliminary examinations in felony matters.

Judges hold court in Traverse City five days per week. In Leelanau County, Court is held every Friday. In Antrim County, our District Court Judges hold Court every Wednesday. Judges travel to Antrim and Leelanau on a rotating schedule. In Antrim County, the Probate Judge assists by handling a third of the caseload every week on Thursday mornings.

Our Court has three divisions: criminal/traffic, civil and probation.

The criminal/traffic division handles any violation of the State's Criminal Code and local ordinance violations. It is responsible for scheduling all matters, opening and closing cases, communicating with the jail regarding sentenced inmates and notifying the Department of State Police Records Division of case dispositions. In addition, they are responsible for entering traffic tickets into the computer system, taking payments for both traffic and criminal cases, receiving and disbursing bonds and notifying the Secretary of State of case dispositions. This division also handles weddings that are performed by the court.

The civil division processes all general civil, small claims and summary proceeding (landlord-tenant) cases. They schedule civil hearings and trials, process civil writs, garnishments and receive filing fees for cases filings.

The probation department performs two (2) functions: (1) Pre-sentence investigation reports (PSI) and (2) Supervises defendants sentenced to probation. The PSI starts with a meeting with criminal defendants prior to sentencing and culminates in a probation officer preparing a report that aids the Judge at sentencing. Once a criminal defendant is sentenced to probation, the probation department takes over supervision of the case. This includes monitoring a defendant to ensure compliance with Court ordered requirements, scheduling any court dates and on the Judges docket, entering and processing any paperwork, and entering any required LEIN information.

Our staffing level in 2018 included 35 full-time employees and six (6) part-time employees.

86th District Court Staff

Court Administrator - Carol Stocking
Deputy Court Administrator - Dawn Wagoner

Grand Traverse County Staff

Tammi Rodgers – Chief Magistrate
Tina Lehn – Office Coordinator
Pam Blue – Chief Probation Officer

Criminal/Traffic Division/Cashiers

Sara Deschler
Sue Schaub
Kaley Liske
Kelsie Williams

Civil Division Clerks

Ella Dreves
Tammie McLain
Claudette Tarr
Amanda Webster

Court Recorders

Mary Wenger-Townsend
Anna Dituri
Tammy Odom

Probation Clerks

Kevin Gay
Kristy Helmreich *
Suzy Barsheff **

Collections

Suzy Barsheff */**
Dawn Rector *

Accounting

Marissa Switalski

Community Corrections

Sherise Shively, Manager
Pat Prevo – Community Correction Officer
Margaret Drury - Community Correction Officer
Lynn Hildebrand - Community Correction Officer
Ben Sleder - Community Correction Officer
Courtne Smus –Compliance Officer

Probation/Compliance Officers

Beth Lajko – Probation Officer
Heidi Gilde – Probation Officer *
Jana Morton – Probation Officer
Trisha Moore – Probation Officer *
Gwen Taylor - Probation Officer
Maryann Bratcher – Compliance Officer *

Leelanau County Staff

Norene Kastys – Magistrate/Office Coordinator
Cindy Schaub – Traffic/Civil Clerk
Mike Cochran – Probation Officer

Antrim County Staff

Ashley Justice – Attorney Magistrate *
Shirley Dewitt –Office Coordinator
Cindy Visnaw – Civil Clerk
Jerri White – Traffic Clerk
Elizabeth Stanichuk – Probation Officer
Sarah Lorigan – Compliance Officer

* Part-time employee

** Split position

Magistrate Activity

The 86th District Court employs one full-time magistrate in Grand Traverse County who serves as our Chief Magistrate and our Deputy Court Administrator was appointed to serve in a backup magistrate capacity. Leelanau County is served by a half time magistrate and Antrim County by a .6 FTE magistrate. Magistrates conduct informal hearings on traffic tickets, perform weddings, issue arrest warrants, conduct arraignments and probable cause conferences, set bonds and accept pleas for misdemeanors that have a maximum penalty of 93 days in jail. All magistrates are appointed by the Chief Judge.



Grand Traverse County Magistrate Activity - Tammi Rodgers

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Informal Hearings	301	267	197	172
Search Warrants	154	126	135	109
Marriages	101	60	51	69



Leelanau County Magistrate Activity - Norene Kastys

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Informal Hearings	36	36	29	36
Search Warrants	44	61	54	47
Marriages	19	11	9	14



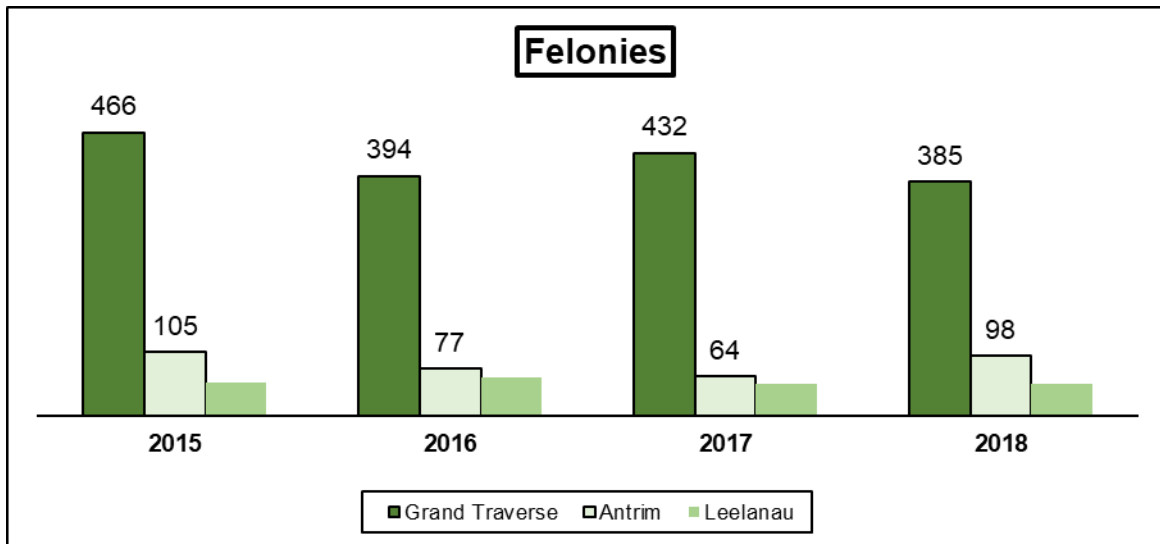
Antrim County Magistrate Activity - Ashley Justice

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Informal Hearings	54	147	61	42
Search Warrants	84	105	95	90
Marriages	21	24	25	20

Criminal Division

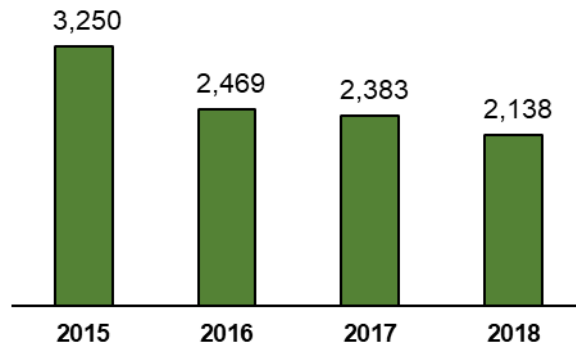
In Grand Traverse County four full time court clerks and the office coordinator share the work in the criminal and traffic divisions. In Antrim and Leelanau the criminal case load is processed mainly by the half time office coordinator. Their tasks involve tracking from beginning to end, every criminal case filed in the District Court. This job requires a thorough understanding of the court system, knowledge of hundreds of codes, and requires data entry, accuracy and attention to detail. Customer service is a big part of these positions as they have constant interaction with defendants, attorneys, law enforcement and the public, both face-to-face and on the telephone. Our court is proud of the fact that we consistently meet the required time guidelines for case disposition. The Michigan Secretary of State awarded a Certificate of Excellence to both Antrim County and Grand Traverse County for 99% abstract timeliness in 2016.

Felonies - The first court appearance for each defendant charged with a felony is the District Court arraignment. The preliminary exam that follows must be held within 21 days after the arraignment. If probable cause is established then the defendant is bound over for further proceedings in the Circuit Court.

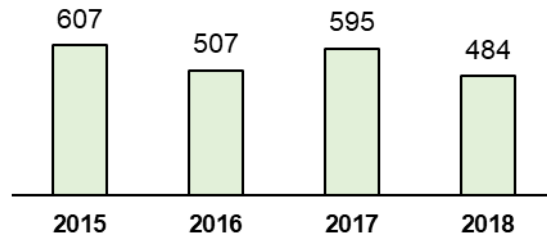


Misdemeanors - The District Court has jurisdiction over all crimes that are punishable by not more than one year in jail. The following statistics include all misdemeanor offenses; traffic and criminal, including Operating While Intoxicated. Indigent defendants are entitled to a court appointed attorney if their crime could result in a jail sentence. The following graphs demonstrate the trend in each county as it pertains to these assignments.

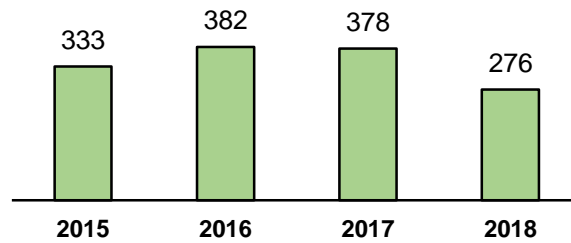
**Grand Traverse County
Misdemeanors**



Antrim County Misdemeanors



Leelanau County Misdemeanors



Sobriety Court – Since 2001, the 86th District Court has had a successful Sobriety Court. The main focus of the program is 2nd and 3rd offense drunk drivers. Currently, over 60% of the cases in Sobriety Court are felony 3^d offense drunk drivers. This docket follows a nationally developed model of Drug Treatment Courts and is designed to provide treatment alternatives to repeat drunk drivers in order to promote rehabilitation and recovery in lieu of jail. With intensive supervision by a case manager and judicial monitoring throughout probation, these chemically dependent offenders may avoid incarceration by pleading guilty and successfully completing probation. The felons must complete a 30-36 month probation, while the misdemeanants complete a 24 month probation.

One of the many successes of Recovery Court can be shown in the recidivism rates.

Any New Conviction

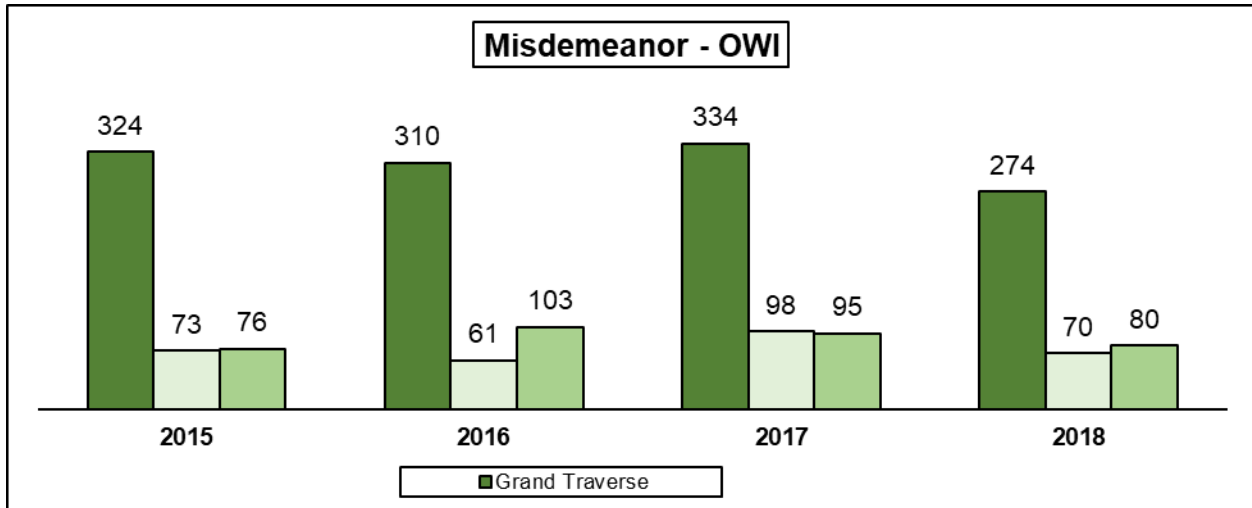
	Two Years	Four Years
	Recidivism Rate	Recidivism Rate
86 th District Court	1.0%	6.0%
Statewide Average	5.0%	23%

Alcohol or Drug Conviction

	Two Years	Four Years
	Recidivism Rate	Recidivism Rate
86 th District Court	.2%	3.0%
Statewide Average	3.0%	19.0%

On the Supreme Court website under Problem Solving Courts, an annual report is available with details about all Problem Solving Courts. This report about Michigan's problem-solving courts tells stories of judges, court staff, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and treatment professionals working together, case by case, to make a positive difference in the lives of participants.

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/admin/op/problem-solving-courts>



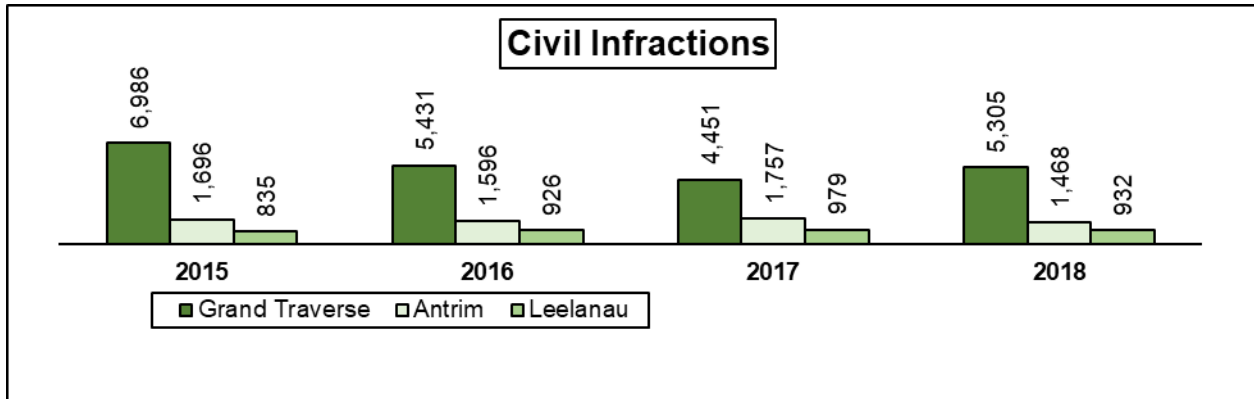
2017	Grand Traverse	Leelanau	Antrim
Jail Alternative-Sobriety Court			
Felony admissions	27	5	5
Misdemeanor admissions	10	3	2
Already opened and involved			
Felony	67	7	4
Misdemeanor	37	4	2
Discharges			
Felony	16	2	0
Misdemeanor	13	2	2
Successful Discharges			
Felony	9	1	0
Misdemeanors	11	1	1
Unsuccessful Discharges			
Felony	7	1	0
Misdemeanors	2	1	1

Jail beds saved:

Felonies only = Average of 8 months savings per Felony Sobriety Court participant. Felony participants serve an average of 30 days and the average sentencing guideline is 0-9 months.

Traffic Division

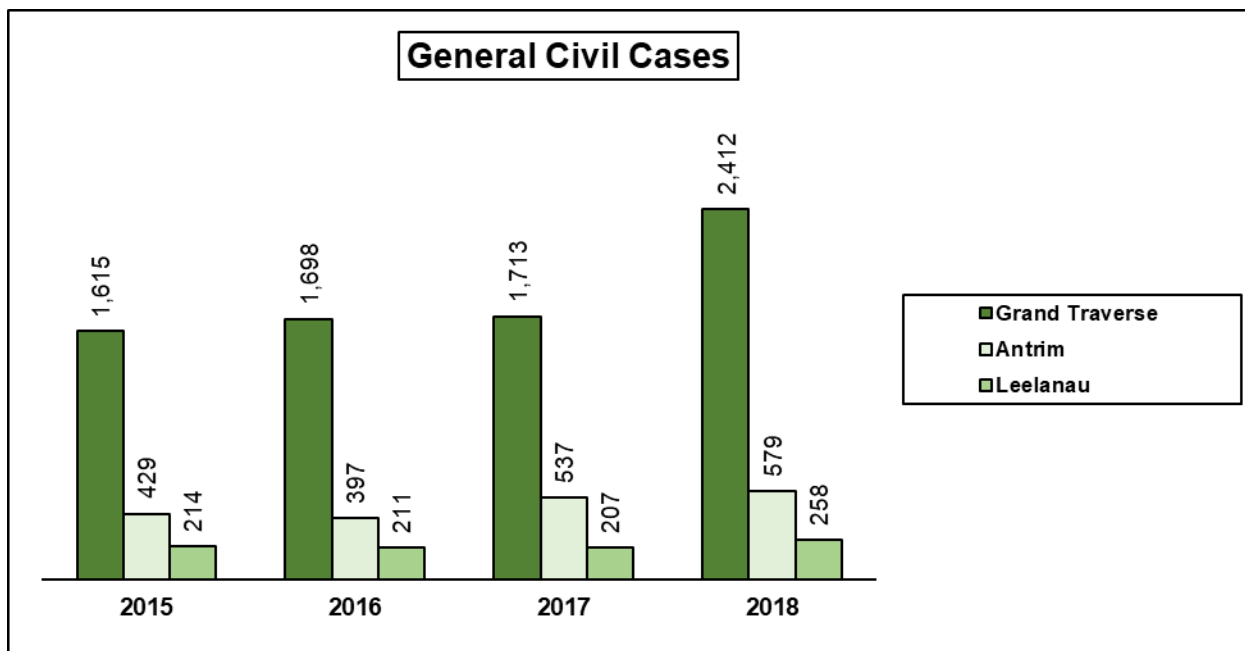
Traffic - Civil Infractions - Most violations of the Michigan Vehicle Code are civil infractions. Probably the most common civil infraction is the speeding ticket. An informal hearing before a magistrate is scheduled if a person denies responsibility for a civil infraction. The decision of the magistrate may be appealed to the District Judge.



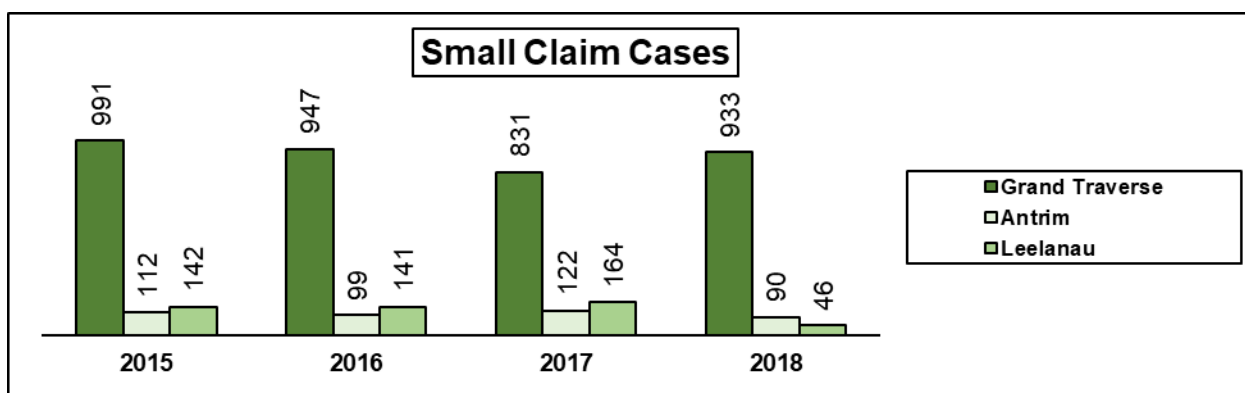
Kaley Liske, Andrea Cooper, Sue Schaub and Sara Deschler

Civil Division

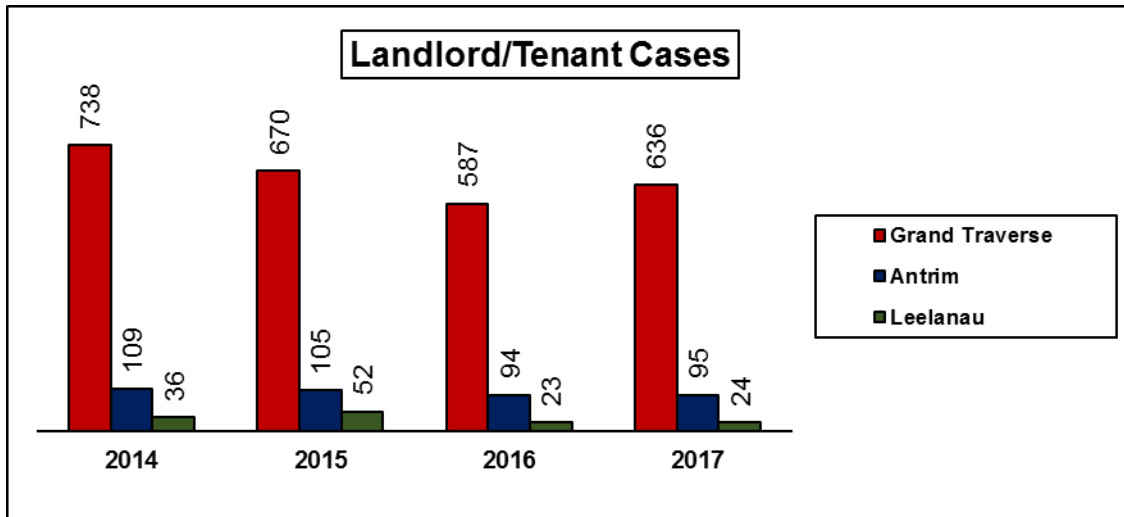
General Civil - The District Court has jurisdiction over disputes involving individuals and businesses where the amount in controversy is \$25,000 or less.



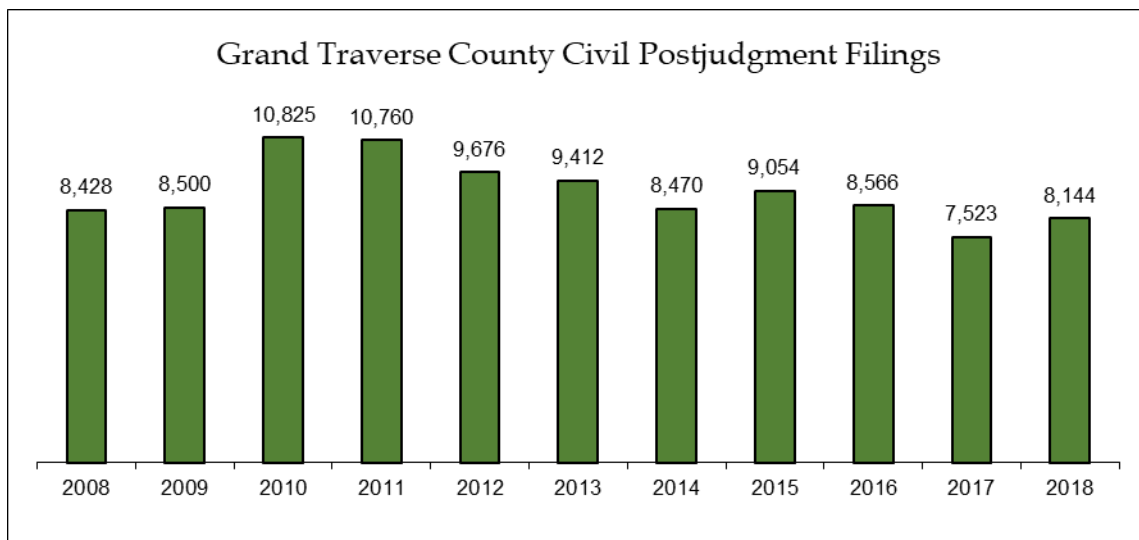
Small Claims - The plaintiff in a case that has an amount in controversy of not more than \$5,000 can elect to file in small claims. Lawyers cannot represent either party in a small claims case and the rules of evidence during a small claims trial are much less formal than in a general civil case trial. The attorney magistrate hears small claims cases in Antrim and Grand Traverse counties.



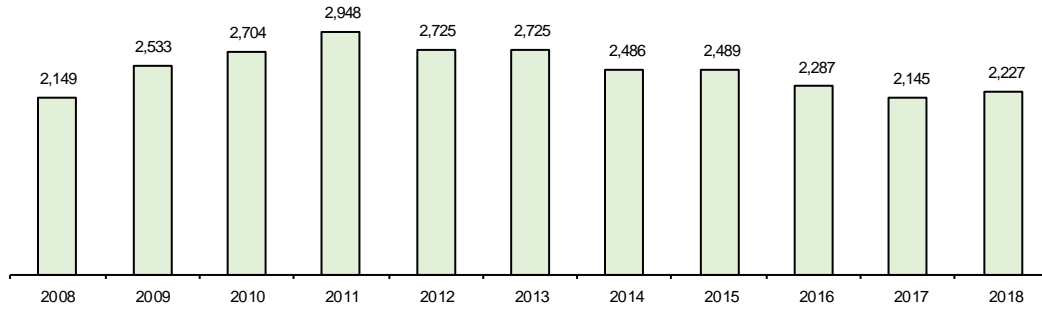
Landlord/Tenant (Summary Proceedings) - Landlord/Tenant cases were created to provide real property owners a quick method to recover their property from a tenant or land contract vendee that is not complying with the terms of the lease or contract. These cases are usually originated by apartment owners, land contract holders, mobile home park operators and even boat slip owners.



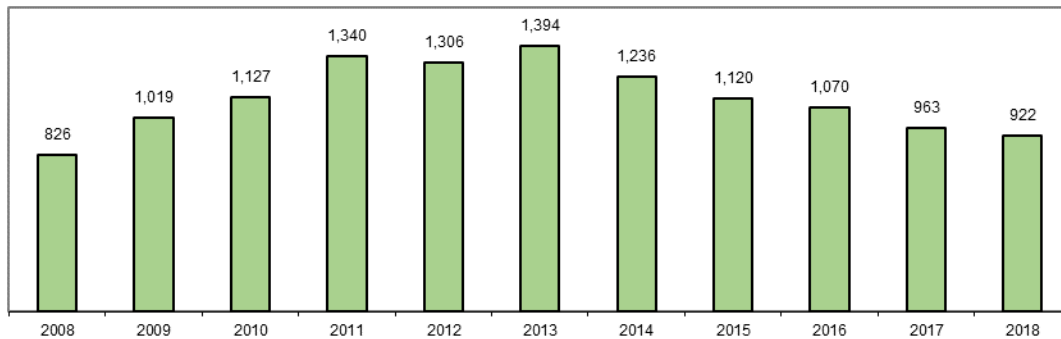
Post Judgment Filings - These filings mean that plaintiffs are filing garnishments, motions, writs of execution or writs of restitution in cases after obtaining a judgment in an effort to collect what is due to them. All of these filings require a fee be paid, a portion which stays local and a portion that goes to the state.



Antrim County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Leelanau County Civil Postjudgment Filings



Probation Department

The mission of the 86th District Court Probation Department is to provide quality services to judges, victims, probationers and the communities of Grand Traverse, Antrim and Leelanau counties. These services include pretrial release programs, pre-sentence investigations, probationer supervision and therapeutic programs. These services are necessary to restore victims and communities, protect the public, promote probationer accountability and create a climate for probationer behavioral change.

Probation Caseload	2015	2016	2017	2018
Grand Traverse	1087	1076	1080	1083
Antrim	225	165	168	169
Leelanau	187	219	219	220

Annual Probation Survey Report between the dates of January 1st to December 31st each listed year. The number used is the total number of adults on probation as of December 31st.

Total number of pre-sentence investigations completed by the probation departments in all three counties:

PSI Totals	2015	2016	2017	2018
All Three Counties	990	1037	1196	1044



Trisha Moore, Pam Blue, Jana Morton, Gwen Taylor, Beth Lajko



Mike Cochran

On December 31st of each year, the number of Probationers had their most serious offense:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Grand Traverse				
Felony	18	11	18	24
Misdemeanor	1066	1061	1050	953
Other	3	4	12	8
Antrim				
Felony	1	1	1	2
Misdemeanor	224	163	165	136
Other	0	1	2	2
Leelanau				
Felony	1	3	1	1
Misdemeanor	184	214	215	191
Other	2	2	3	0

On December 31st of each year, the type of most serious offense:

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Grand Traverse				
Drug law violation	84	83	110	71
Driving under influence	273	266	300	242
Other	730	727	670	672
Antrim				
Drug law violation	36	25	20	13
Driving under influence	54	54	72	48
Other	135	86	76	79
Leelanau				
Drug law violation	23	16	25	8
Driving under influence	82	110	116	104
Other	82	93	78	80



Maryann Bratcher, Suzy Barsheff, Kristi Helmreich and Kevin Gay

13th Circuit Court Community Corrections

The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) within Field Operations Administration of the MDOC administers Public Act 511 passed in 1988. The goal of the Act is to reduce prison commitments through a State grant programs for community-based sanctions and services. OCC works in cooperation with local governments to reduce admissions to prison, improve local jail utilization, improve rehabilitative services to offenders and strengthen offender accountability.

Local governments apply for grants by establishing community corrections advisory boards (CCAB's) which develop comprehensive corrections plans. The plans identify local policies and practices, as well as programs and services which will help achieve their goals. OCC requires each CCAB to identify linkages with Michigan Works! agencies, the local Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, the local community health departments, local school districts and other agencies to help provide cost-effective and non-duplicated services to offenders.

Grants are awarded to help support services such as substance-abuse treatment, and provide residential programs for certain types of offenders. Cognitive restructuring is often a part of treatment in the community.

Most of the offenders enrolled in treatment-type programs are sentenced felons. Offenders with higher sentencing guideline scores, probation violators and those who have convictions for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol account for increasing proportions of new enrollees in residential programs. Misdemeanants account for the majority of enrollments in Community Service Work and House Arrest Programs. By supporting appropriate use of non-prison sanctions for felony offenders who might otherwise come to prison, the department has helped reduce the state prison commitment rate.

The 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections Department has served Antrim, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties since 1991. Services are provided to both the Circuit Court and District Court offenders. The Community Corrections Department is a

recognized leader in providing valuable information to Judges, Probation Agents and Offenders of available programming to assist the offender in addressing their problems that bring them into the Criminal Justice environment. The available programs and services they provide enable the offender to become a healthy and productive member of society.

Programs offered by 13th Circuit Court Community Corrections include the following:

Pre-Trial Services- The process has three primary functions: to collect and analyze defendant information for use in determining risk, to make recommendations to the court concerning conditions of release, and to supervise defendants who are released from secure custody during the pretrial phase.

Probation Residential Services- Comprehensive chemical dependency treatment services offered in a structured treatment environment. Services often include individual and group counseling, structured physical activities, vocational training, relapse prevention support, social skills training, educational services and 12-step recovery programs.

Recovery Home Supervision: Recovery homes (sometimes known as transition houses or T-houses) offer individuals with substance abuse issues a safe and sober living environment and provide a structured opportunity to work toward positive change in their lives. The recovery homes are supervised by Case Managers who offer residents educational, employment and life skills assistance to guide them on their path to getting and staying clean.

House Arrest Services: 24/7 GPS monitoring of offenders in lieu of jail. They must participate in outpatient counseling, drug/alcohol testing when required, 12 step recovery meetings, employed full time and provide proof of their whereabouts at all times.

Community Service Work- In lieu of a jail sentence, offenders are ordered and agree to complete community service work at area non-profit agencies. This provides valuable work to the community, relieves jail overcrowding and allows an offender to give back to the community in which they committed their crime.

In Home Breathalyzer- Rental of portable breathalyzer units allow an offender the option to test at home or work in lieu of traveling to an agency to test. This reduces their need to miss work in order to test, and relieves the cost of travel and time associated with getting to testing.



Ben Sleder, Sherise Shively, Margaret Drury, Lynn Hildebrand, Courtnie Smus, Pat Prevo

ANNUAL STATISTICS

2018	Grand Traverse	Antrim	Leelanau
Jail Alternative programs			
Assessed	177	25	17
Approved & Enrolled	171	25	17
Positive Completion	107	21	7
Failed and returned to jail	28	3	0
Successful Completion %	77%	88%	100%
Average Daily Jail beds saved	31	6	3
Jail Bed Days saved annually	11,133	1643	604
Community Service Work			
Enrolled	291	41	58
Successful	316 (includes carryovers from 2015-16)	36	55
Failures	29	5	3
Jail Bed Days Saved Annually	1,902	234	412
Hours of work provided to nonprofit agencies annually	7,448	2,584	1,648

Court Recorders

Court Recorders have the responsibility of making a permanent record of court proceedings and providing a transcript of these proceedings upon request. Along with the efforts of other clerical staff and a court officer, they assist the judge in providing efficient docket movement. They are also responsible for filling out court disposition sheets as each case is heard, which indicates what transpires during a case from time of arraignment to final conclusion.

With the installation of recording equipment in Antrim County in 2010, all three counties are now equipped with advanced technology allowing for all court proceedings to be captured on video. In addition, each courtroom can do video arraignments, which means that defendants do not have to be physically transported from the jail to the courthouse making this process more efficient and safe.

Each judge has a recorder that is certified by the State of Michigan. The recorders also act as judicial secretary to the judge they serve.



Anna Dituri, Mary Wenger-Townsend and Tammy Odom

Collections

The court has a formal Collections Policy and collection efforts have been implemented in every county. Staff members actively work to set up payment agreements, time is spent working delinquent cases and probation officers have a more active role in collecting with active probationers.



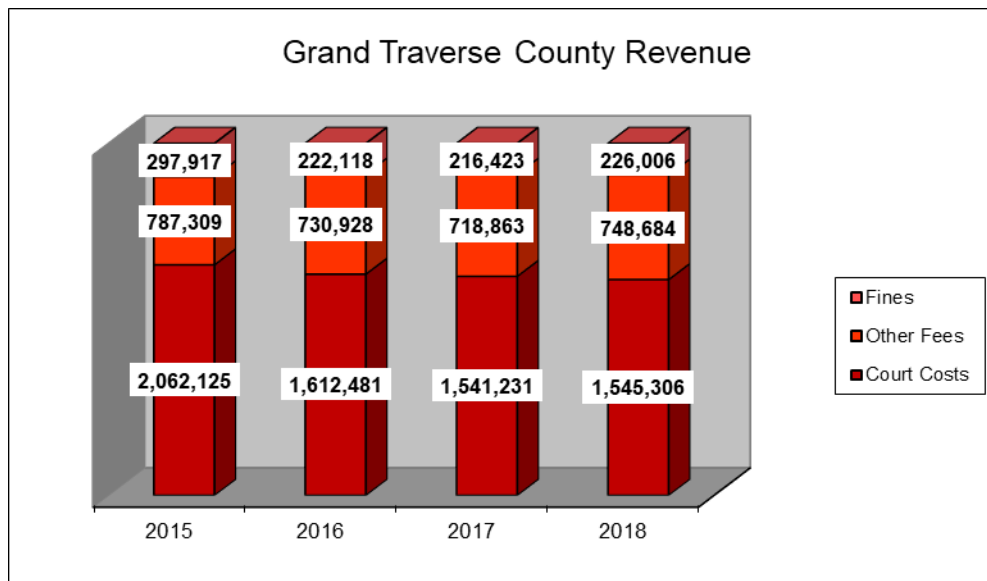
Suzy Barsheff and Dawn Rector

probation officers have a more active role in collecting with active probationers.

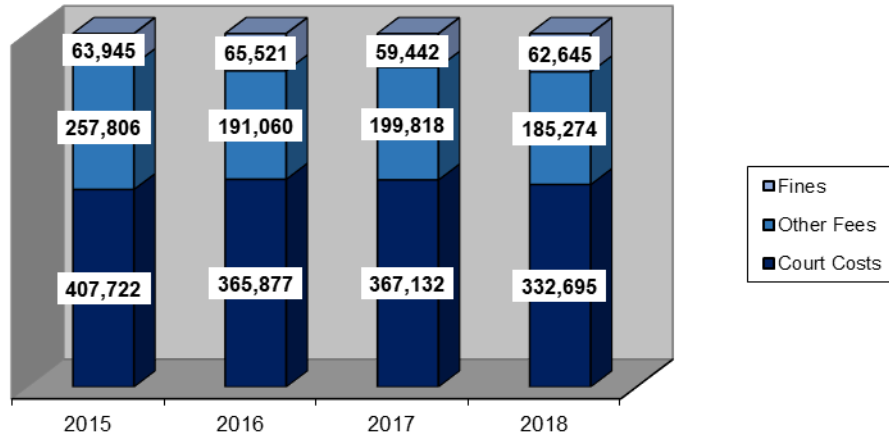
Between 100-150 show cause hearings are set each month on cases with money past due. Additionally, Grand Traverse County alone issued approximately 434 State Income Tax Garnishments. These methods have proven to be very effective.

All money collected is deposited with the County Treasurer and dispersed monthly according to state guidelines. Some money stays with the local county, fines collected go to the local libraries, and other monies are distributed to the State of Michigan, local townships, and victims.

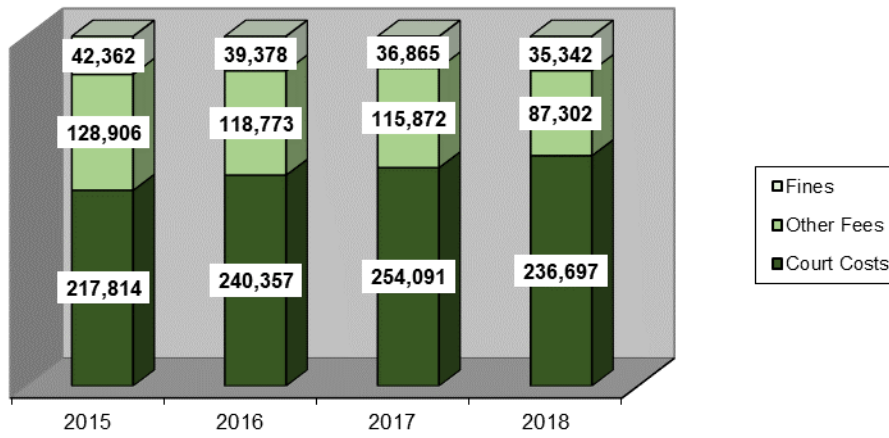
In 2016 the Michigan Supreme Court announced the adoption of amendments to court rules that codify existing case law regarding determination of a defendant's ability to pay fines, fees, and costs. This has made the court review our collections procedures and has ultimately had a negative effect on the amount of money the court is able to collect.



Antrim County Revenue

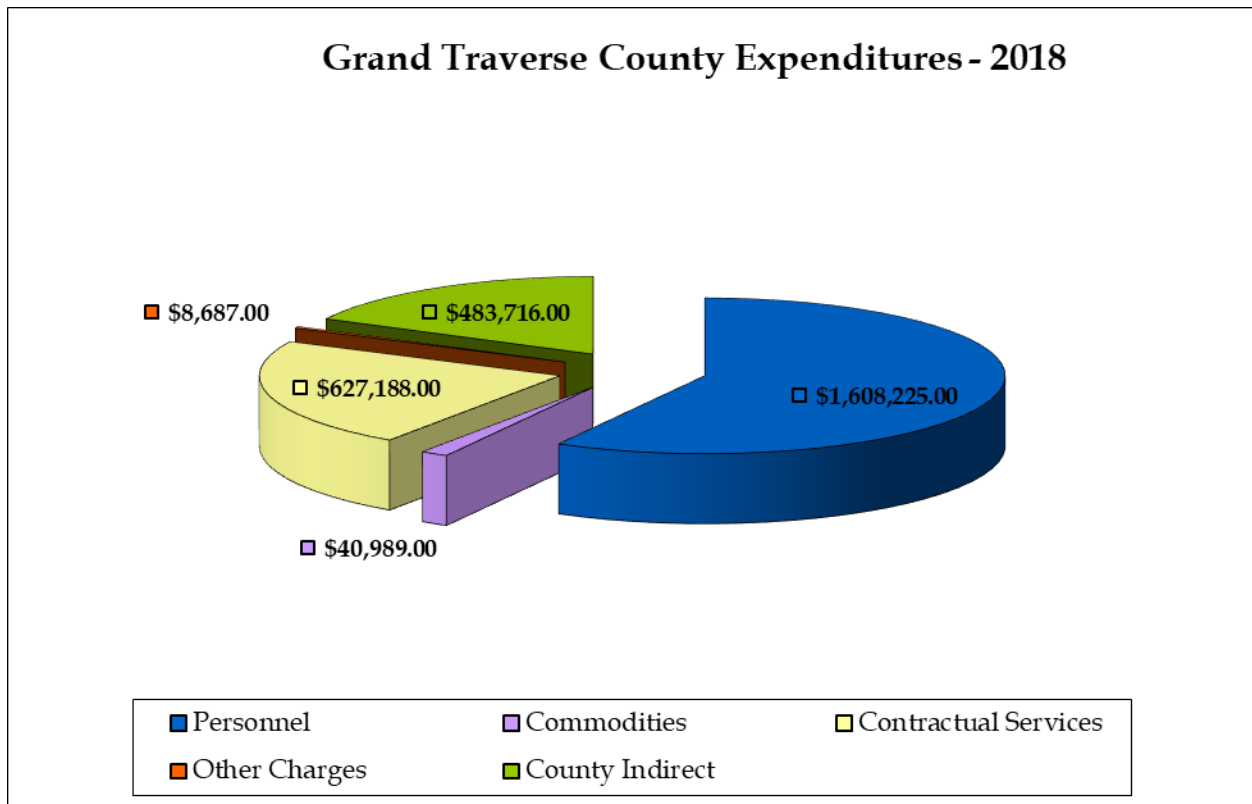


Leelanau County Revenue



Finances

Grand Traverse County is the fiscal agent for the 86th District Court. Grand Traverse County is responsible for the processing, audit, verification, and payment of all operating expenses. The District Court maintains three separate budgets for each of the counties and one shared-cost budget. Separate budgets are also created for the Mental Health Court and Community Corrections.



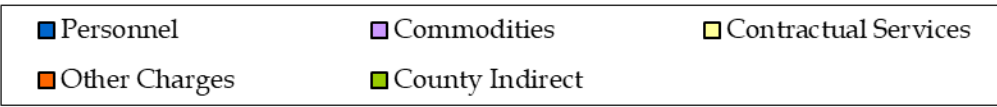
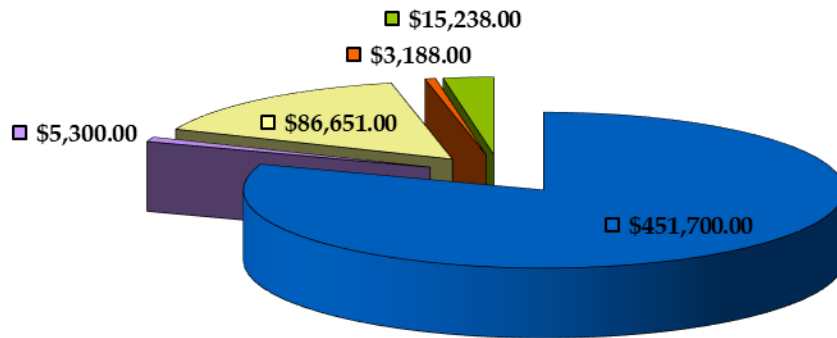
Commodities include office supplies, printing, postage and similar expenses

Contract Services include transcript fees, jury and witness fees, court appointed attorney, interpreter, and IT expenses

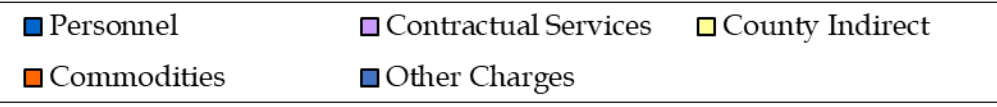
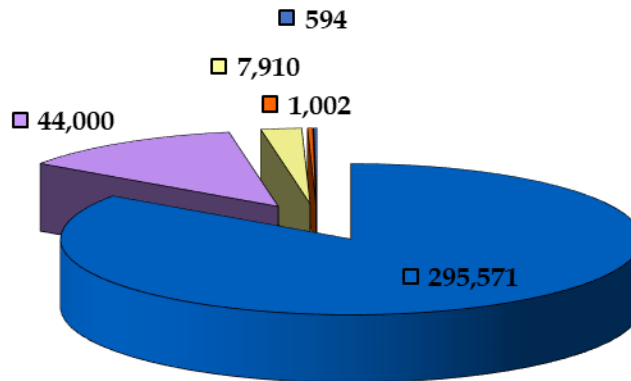
Other Charges include office equipment repair and maintenance, books, tuition reimbursement and employee training

County Indirect is the amount charged by Grand Traverse County for indirect costs such as space, heat, electric, facilities maintenance, finance, human resources, etc.

Antrim County Expenditures - 2018



Leelanau County Expenditures - 2018



Staff Photos



Grand Traverse Civil Division

Tammie McLain, Ella Dreves,, Amanda Webster
Not pictured: Claudette Tarr



Grand Traverse Criminal/Traffic Division

Kaley Liske, Andrea Cooper, Sue Schaub, Sara Deschler



Leelanau Staff

Cindy Schaub, Mike Cochran and Norene Kastys



Marissa Switalski, Accounting Technician
Tina Lehn, Office Coordinator



Antrim Staff

Jerri White, Shirley Dewitt, Cindy Visnaw,
Ashley Justice, Shannon Johnson, Elizabeth Stanichuk