STATE OF MICHIGAN
46th DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT JUDGES

The Honorable
STEPHEN C. COOPER
248-796-5830

The Honorable
SHELIA R. JOHNSON
248-796-5810

The Honorable
SUSAN M. MOISEEV
248-796-5820

ADMINISTRATOR
DONNA BEAUDET
248-796-5800

CIVIL DIVISION
248-796-5870

CIVIL INFRACTION/
PARKING DIVISION
248-796-5860

MISDEMEANOR/
FELONY DIVISION
248-796-5880

PROBATION
DEPARTMENT
248-796-5850

TDD
248-354-3329

Dear Citizens:

We are pleased to submit the 46th District Court's 2005 *Annual Report*. It documents the activities and accomplishments of the Court during the past year and, more importantly, provides you with information about the administration and operation of your local court system.

The Court is committed to improving the administration of justice and ensuring the efficient and effective use of limited public resources. During the past year, the Court caseload increased 21%. Despite this significant increase, we are pleased to report that compared to 27 years ago, we are handling more than twice the number of cases with the same number of judges, less probation staff and effectively the same number of total staff. We believe these numbers reflect our long-term commitment to continuous improvements.

We have also expanded several highly successful special programs that have a positive impact on our community. Recovery Court is providing services to a growing number of participants trying to maintain a drug-free life. Over $630,000 was collected in 2005 under the Court's Collection Program, which notifies defendants of unpaid traffic and parking tickets. Finally, the Community Work Program is now operational ten months of the year with probationers performing a variety of clean-up projects in the community.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire staff of the 46th District Court. Their dedication and professionalism continue to set high standards of public service and their teamwork and cooperation make the 46th District Court an enjoyable place to work.

The continued improvement of the administration of justice has been a challenge which we have found immensely rewarding. We look forward to working together for the continued improvement of our system of justice.

Stephen C. Cooper
Chief Judge

Shelia R. Johnson
District Judge

Susan M. Moiseev
District Judge

26000 Evergreen Road ◆ P.O. Box 2055 ◆ Southfield, Michigan 48037-2055

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Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-0128

Carl L. Gromek, Chief of Staff
State Court Administrator

March 31, 2006

The Honorable Stephen C. Cooper
The Honorable Shelia R. Johnson
The Honorable Susan M. Moiseev
46th District Court
26000 Evergreen
P.O. Box 2055
Southfield, Michigan 48076

Dear Chief Judge Cooper, Judge Johnson, and Judge Moiseev:

Congratulations on the success of your collections program, which has collected over $1.7 million in the last 3 years. This program helps increase the public's trust and confidence in the administration of justice by increasing compliance with court orders. The additional revenue for local and state government is also an important benefit during difficult economic times and recognizes the Court's responsibility for fiscal accountability.

Equally impressive is the fact that you have accomplished this without any additional staff. This is a reflection of the caliber and dedication of your staff as well as your commitment to the efficient and effective use of limited public resources.

The 46th District Court Collections Program is a model for courts across the state. The Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court join me in congratulating you on your achievements and your continued leadership in improving the administration of justice.

Very truly yours,

Carl L. Gromek

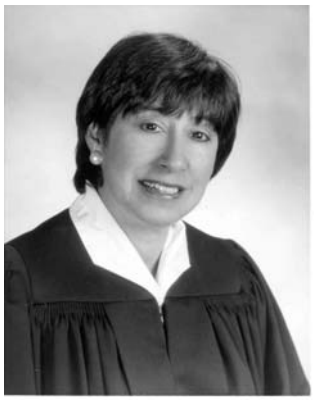
Judges of the 46th District Court

Chief Judge Stephen C. Cooper first took the bench in 1987 and was re-elected in 1992, 1998 and 2004. Currently in his fourth term as Chief Judge, Judge Cooper received the 2004 Legal Aid and Defenders Society Pro Bono Award in honor of his many contributions. He has received numerous other awards and recognitions, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, which is given to a local citizen whose life exemplifies the ideals espoused by Dr. King; Honoree-of-the-Year of the Women's Bar Association; Governor's Award for Volunteer Service; Southfield Schools' Alumnus of the Year and Toastmasters International Annual Leadership Award. He has also won recognition as a "triple distinguished president" of the Southfield-Lathrup A.M. Optimist Club, received the Distinguished Service Award of the Oakland County Bar Association; "Michigan's Optimist of the Year" and national awards for LAWFAIR from the American Bar Association. His work with students includes the award-winning video, "The Trial of Jack, the Alleged Giant Killer."

Judge Cooper was elected by Michigan's judges to the Board of Governors of the American Judges Association. He is the Vice-President of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals and is an active member of the American, Michigan, Wolverine, National, Oakland County and Straker Bar Associations and served on the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Ethics.

He was elected to City Council and served as Southfield City Council President pro-tem. He was also elected as President of the Michigan District Judges Association, the Southfield Bar Association and the B'nai Brith Barrister Associations and was Vice-President of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce. He served on numerous boards including the Salvation Army, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation league, Southfield-Lathrup PTA Council and the Easter Seals Society. He represented Michigan's District Judges at the State Bar Judicial Conference and was elected to three terms on the Michigan Stat Bar Representative Assembly.

Judge Cooper has authored numerous legal articles and is a periodic theme editor of the *Michigan Bar Journal*. He is a faculty member of the Michigan Judicial Institute, was awarded a scholarship to the National Judicial College and participated in a federal judges' educational program at Princeton University. Judge Cooper lives in Southfield with his wife of 35 years. Their sons have now graduated college. He was a trial lawyer from 1969 to 1986.



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

Judge Moiseev has served on the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics since 1992 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 is a presenter at the Judicial Campaign Seminar for potential judicial candidates. A member of the Michigan District Judges Association, she was editor of its newsletter, BENCHMARKS and currently serves as Secretary. She is immediate Past President of the Southfield Bar Association and serves on the Board of the Oakland County Bar Association, the ABA National Conference of Special Court Judges and the National Association of Women Judges. Past President of the Women Lawyers Foundation and a Past President of the Oakland County District Judges Association, she is a former Vice Chair of the Michigan Women's Commission. Currently on the Policy Board of the Legal Aid and Defender Association, she serves on the boards of the Anti-Defamation League, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the Jewish Home and Aging Services, and the Advisory Council for the Oakland University Paralegal Program.

A longtime Southfield resident, Judge Moiseev's community activities include Friends of the Southfield Library, the Southfield Community Foundation and the United Way.

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

Judge Shelia R. Johnson was elected in November 2002 and is the first African American to serve as Judge in the 46th District Court. 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.

Prior to going into private practice in 1990, Judge Johnson was a practicing attorney at the prominent Detroit law firm of Jaffe, Snider, Raitt & Heuer, where she specialized in commercial litigation. Before that, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Benjamin F. Gibson, United States District Court, Western District of Michigan. Her tenure at the District Court also included time spent at the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Johnson also worked as a small claims mediator in the 46th District Court and as an arbitrator in insurance cases. She further served as a legal analyst on the radio talk show program, "Speaking of Sports," where she addressed legal issues concerning professional athletes.

Among her community and civil affiliations is the South Oakland Chapter of the NAACP, where she serves as an Executive Board member and Integrative Human Services, a non-profit organization which helps at-risk youth and families, where she also serves on the Board. Judge Johnson is also a member of the Women's Committee of the Charles H. Wright Museum for African American History and an honorary committee member for the James M. Tatum Foundation for the Arts. She is a former Board member of the Horizons Upward Bound Program and she formerly participated in the Oakland/Livingston Legal Aid Pro Bono Program.

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, American Judges Association and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. She currently serves on the Board of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan. Judge Johnson 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. Born and raised in Detroit, she has been a resident of Southfield for 18 years.

Magistrate Eugene S. Friedman

Prior to his appointment by the Judges of the 46th District Court in January 1984, Magistrate Friedman served for 13 years as Senior Trial Attorney for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office in the Felony and Misdemeanor Trials and Warrants Division. He was also formerly employed by the State of Michigan as Special Assistant Attorney General to the Organized Crime Division. Magistrate Friedman is a graduate of Wayne State University Law School and is a member of several professional organizations including the State Bar of Michigan and the Oakland County Bar Association.

Magistrate A. Kay Stanfield Spinks

Magistrate Stanfield Spinks was appointed by the Judges of the 46th District Court in May 1987. She has been a private practitioner in the areas of civil and criminal law since 1981 and serves as an arbitrator and mediator. She was also formerly employed as Senior Assistant General Counsel for the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority in Detroit and is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law. Magistrate Stanfield Spinks is a member and a Past President of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the D. Augustus Straker Bar Foundation and is an active member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates.

Court Administrator Donna Beaudet

Appointed Court Administrator/Clerk of the 46th District Court in 1987, Ms. Beaudet has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. In 2002 she received the Court Administrator of the Year Award from the Michigan Association of Court Administrators. Ms. Beaudet currently serves on numerous state and local committees and is a member of various national, state and local court administrator associations. In 1998, Ms. Beaudet accepted the National Association for Court Management's Justice Achievement Award for the development of a statewide legal advice training program. In 1994, she was presented with a resolution from the Michigan State Court Administrative Office for her efforts to improve garnishment procedures. She also received the Michigan Court Administration Association's 1992 Outstanding Achievement Award. She has published nationally and has presented training on a national, state and local level. She is also a Past President of the Michigan Court Administration Association and the Southeastern Michigan Court Administrator's Association.

Deputy Court Administrator Brian M. Smith

Deputy Court Administrator Brian Smith was appointed to the 46th District Court staff in October 1987. He has over 25 years experience with state courts and was formerly the Assistant Court Administrator-Director of Probation with the 53rd Judicial District Court. Mr. Smith has a Master of Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University and is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Certified Social Worker. He has been active in many professional organizations.

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, decision-making and management strategies 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.

Jurisdiction

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

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

- **Civil** lawsuits in which the amount in controversy does not exceed $25,000 (a civil lawsuit is a non-criminal case which involves the claim of one party against another).
- **Criminal misdemeanors** punishable by fine or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both
- **Non-traffic 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 probably cause to believe a crime has been committed and that the defendant committed the crime. If the Judge determines that there is probably cause, the case is "bound over" to the Circuit Court for trial.
- **Traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions**, including parking violations.
- **Small claims** cases in which the amount claimed does not exceed $3,000.
- **Landlord-tenant disputes**, land contract and mortgage forfeitures and eviction proceedings.

Special Programs and Services

Court Website – The 46th District Court's website was developed to give 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.

Recovery Court – Drug Court programs are being implemented across the country to more effectively address the problem of substance abuse. The 46th District Court's drug court program, "Recovery Court," is an intensive and highly coordinated community-based response aimed at breaking the cycle of substance abuse and its related costs. Participants undergo intensive supervision, drug testing and treatment and are required to meet with the Judge and Recovery Court staff on a weekly basis during the early stages of the Program. Representatives from the police, prosecutor, court, probation and treatment providers are part of the "Recovery Court Team" and make decisions regarding the participant's progress. Grant monies contribute to covering case management staffing costs, treatment and drug testing for indigent offenders and special monitoring programs such as ignition interlock and in-home tether programs.

Small Claims Mediation Program – The Court provides a Small Claims Mediation Program to assist the Court and the public in resolving small claims disputes. Unlike litigation, where one party wins and one loses, mediation helps parties reach their own mutually-satisfactory resolution in a non-adversarial manner. The Court uses trained community volunteers from the Oakland Mediation Center to provide mediation services. The 46th District Court's Program has been a model for other courts across the state. In 2005, the Oakland Mediation Center handled 576 small claims cases and resolved 334 of them, which represents a resolution rate of 58%.

General Civil In Pro Per Mediation Program – The Court also utilizes the Oakland Mediation Center's mediation services in general civil cases where one or both parties are not represented by an attorney. In 2005, mediators from the Center handled 274 general civil cases and resolved 102 of them. This represents a resolution rate of 37%. The Oakland Mediation Center also mediated 67 landlord-tenant cases referred to them by the Court.

Community Dispute Resolution – 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 pro per 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 2005, the Oakland Mediation Center mediated a total of 886 cases and resolved 587 or 66% for the 46th District Court. These are cases that would otherwise be filed in court. It should also be noted that, as a result of the Center's efforts, 1,719 county residents were served and $706,725 was distributed, based on the agreements reached through mediation. Oakland Mediation Center provides a valuable resource to our community by providing alternative dispute resolution services at a reasonable cost.

Community Work Program – 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. One hundred eleven (111) defendants participated in the Work Program in 2005, completing 2,616 hours of work. This represents a 38% increase in the number of hours worked over 2004.

Special Programs and Services

Community Service Program – This sentencing alternative provides Judges with the opportunity to order offenders to work in the community as part of their sentence or 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 71,429 hours of community service completed in 2005. This represents a 6% increase over 2004. Volunteer Al Cliette is the Community Service Coordinator and is responsible for interviewing, placing and monitoring approximately 1,692 probationers performing community service.

Law Day Program – Each year, May 1st is proclaimed "Law Day" to encourage citizens to learn about their rights and our legal system. Each year, the Court hosts a special event such as a Lawfair, Law Day Open House, Juror Appreciation Day or a Junior Judges Program. During the year, 46th District Court Judges speak at schools and community organizations and participate in a variety of programs, including Bar Association events and educational programs for attorneys and the general public.

Security/Weapons Screening – A Security/Weapons Screening Program checks individuals entering the Court. Services are provided by Wackenhut, Inc. During 2005, 77,652 people (315 per day) went through the Court's security screening system and a total of over 250,000 people are estimated to have visited the Court to file cases, pay tickets, attend hearings, appear as witnesses or serve as jurors.

Probation Automated Monitoring System – The Probation Automated Monitoring System (PAM) allows more effective and efficient use of probation resources. Probationers use the kiosk, located in the lobby of the Public Safety Building, to meet their reporting requirements. 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 1,105 probationers using the PAM system.

Community Education Program – The Court encourages the community to learn more about its operation and jurisdiction through special educational tours and visits. Visiting groups receive an orientation on local court operations, take a tour of the facility, observe courtroom proceedings and meet with the Judges, if time allows. Numerous community groups visited the Court in 2004, ranging from students in kindergarten through high school as well as various community and civic organizations. (For more information, call 248.796.5800.)

46th District Court employees get healthy by participating in Southfield Mayor Lawrence's "100 Days to Health" program. Pictured (left to right) are Paula Vibert, Joe Goodrid, Carolyn Clifton, Chief Judge Stephen C. Cooper, Judene Bald, Janet Brown, Jim Caldwell and Jan Gross.

Caseload/Workload Overview

Filings – There were 52,832 new cases filed in the 46th District Court in 2005. This represents a 21% increase from 2004. There have been significant increases in civil infractions, general civil and landlord-tenant cases over the past five years.

Number of Type of Cases Filed

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1 Year Change		5 Year Change	
Civil Infractions	17,472	16,001	16,528	16,877	23,106	6,229	37%	5,634	32%
Misdemeanor Drunk Driving	381	325	331	352	337	-15	-4%	-44	-12%
Misdemeanor Other Traffic	4,462	4,141	4,792	3,692	4,614	922	25%	152	3%
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	1,732	1,564	1,313	1,391	1,466	75	5%	-266	-15%
Felonies	690	639	705	761	741	-20	-3%	51	7%
Parking	10,104	8,632	7,518	6,876	8,893	2,017	29%	-1,211	-12%
General Civil	3,738	4,494	5,022	4,715	4,854	139	3%	1,116	30%
Landlord-Tenant, Summary Proceedings	5,762	6,649	7,389	7,237	7,019	-218	-3%	1,257	22%
Small Claims	1,942	1,968	1,836	1,732	1,802	70	4%	-140	7%
TOTALS	**46,283**	**44,413**	**45,434**	**43,633**	**52,832**	**9,199**	**21%**	**6,549**	**14%**

Pending and Disposed Cases – As of January 1, 2005, there were 9,364 cases pending. During the year, there were 52,832 new cases filed, 1,050 cases reopened and 52,201 cases disposed, resulting in an ending pending caseload of 11,045 as of December 31, 2005.

Overview of Pending Cases

	Beginning Pending	New Filings	Reopened Cases	Disposed Cases	Pending
Total Caseload	9,364	52,832	1,050	52,201	11,045

Probation – A summary of the Probation Department's 2005 activity is provided below.

- 1,313 new clients were placed on probation, which represents an 13% decrease in the past year.
- 1,105 cases were pending on Probation Officer caseloads, which represent a 13% decrease in the past year.
- 437 investigative reports were completed which represents a 13% increase in the past year.
- 11,623 appointments were held (estimated), which represents a 30% increase in the past five years.

Probation Caseload and Workload Overview

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% Change 1 year	% Change 5 year
Cases Pending	1,255	1,112	1,116	1,277	1,105	-13%	-12%
Number of Probation Officers	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	0%	0%
Average Caseload per Probation Officer	358	318	319	365	316	-13%	-12%
New Cases	1,424	1,328	1,282	1,513	1,313	-13%	-8%
Investigative Reports	492	402	402	388	437	13%	-11%
Appointments	8,957	10,429	*10,455	10,988	11,623	6%	30%
Violation of Probation Hearings Conducted	1,164	1,067	825	876	865	-1%	-26%

*Estimate based on 11 months actual

Workload Issues - The following factors have placed an additional workload on the Judges and staff of the 46th 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), 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. In 2005, there were 647 cases filed over $10,000, which represents a 34% increase since 1998. In addition, there has been a 93% increase in civil post-judgment activity over the same period with 10,498 writs filed in 2005.
- **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. In the past five years there has been approximately a 30% increase in probation appointments held.
- **More Legislative and Court Rule Requirements** – This year there were several new reporting requirements announced by the State Court Administrative Office as well as new legislative requirements.
- **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 30% increase in general civil cases and the 22% caseload increase in landlord-tenant 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 recent jail overcrowding issues, courts have been asked to more closely monitor their pretrial and sentenced jail populations. Many procedures used by the 46th District Court have been identified as best practices for other courts to consider.

Judge Shelia R. Johnson, Judicial Clerk Karen Smith and Court Officer Don Baldwin review the day's docket.

Major Accomplishments

The 46th District Court had many accomplishments in 2005, 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.

Increased Productivity Offsets Need for Additional Staff – 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 27 years ago, the Court is handling almost twice the number of cases per year with the same number of judges and effectively the same number of total court staff. This is remarkable, considering the significant increases in caseload and workload over the past two decades due to new legislation, more complex procedures and new programs and services.

	Fiscal Year 1977/78	Fiscal Year 2004/05	Fiscal Year % of Change
New Cases Filed	24,324	46,403	91%
Judges	3	3	0%
Magistrates	.5	1	100%
Administrative Support Staff	19.5	20	2%
Probation Officers	5.5	3.5	-36%
Total Court Staff	39.5	40	1%

Case Flow Management Accomplishments –The 46th 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 46th District Court is meeting or exceeding the time guidelines specified by the Michigan Supreme Court. For example, in 2005, 96% of misdemeanor traffic cases were disposed within 63 days; 86% of civil infractions were disposed within 35 days; and 98% of general civil cases were disposed within 273 days.
- **Effective Monitoring of In-Custody Prisoners -** Jail overcrowding has become a major issue. The 46th District Court does an excellent job of monitoring in-custody prisoners through the use of expedited pre-trials as discussed above and the use of bond review hearings.
- **Outstanding Performance in Secretary of State Conviction Reporting** – The 46th District Court continues to have an exemplary record in this area.

Major Accomplishments

New or Exceptional Programs, Services and Projects – The Court continues to operate several highly successful programs, services and projects.

- **Collections Program** – This program increases compliance with court orders while increasing revenues on the state and local level. In 2005, the Court collected additional revenues of $631,506. The 46th District Court program has been identified as a model program by the State Court Administrative Office.
- **Recovery Court** – The program is a five phase intervention program for adults who have pled guilty to a non-violent drug/alcohol offense. It provides intensive community support and supervision for those trying to maintain a drug-free life. The first commencement ceremony was conducted in July 2005. There are currently 25 participants.
- **Community Work Program** – The Southfield Community Work Program continues to grow. In 2005, it was expanded to be operational from March through December. The Southfield Code Compliance Department conducted its largest and most extensive cleanup project ever with participants picking up more than 100 bags of trash along the Lodge Freeway.

Operational and Procedural Improvements – The 46th District Court is always looking for ways to be more efficient, effective and productive.

- **Warrant Entry -** The 46th District Court assumed responsibility for the entry of new warrants into the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). This has streamlined the process, reducing paperwork and making the entry of warrant information more timely and efficient. The Court expects to assume additional responsibility in this area in 2006.
- **Eviction Notice** – The Court has asked its court officers to contact the City of Southfield when an eviction is conducted. This allows the City to better identify locations where it may be necessary to remove property after a period of time.
- **DWLS Ticket Procedures** – The Court suggested a change in procedure for charging suspects arrested for first offense Driving While License Suspended, Revoked, Denied. Instead of preparing a complaint and warrant on these cases, the Court suggested that a ticket be issued. This procedure was adopted and resulted in a more efficient and effective use of everyone's time including the Court, Southfield Police Department and the Southfield Legal Department.
- **Daily Submission of Electronic Abstracts of Conviction** – The Court began daily submission of electronic conviction information to the Michigan Department of State in August, three months prior to the required change in reporting requirements.
- **Recommendation to Revise State Form** – The State Court Administrative Office approved the 46th District Court's recommended revision to the Objection to Garnishment form to provide additional information and facilitate processing.
- **New IBM iSeries** – The Court installed a new IBM iSeries computer system in 2005, providing additional capacity and speed for processing.
- **Proposed Court Rule Revisions on Debt Collection** – The 46th District Court proposed numerous changes to the Michigan Court Rules to address the problems identified in the processing of debt collection cases. The proposed court rules are currently under consideration.

Implementation of New Legislation and Court Rules – There were several new major statutory changes in 2005 which required implementation. These included new laws for abandoned vehicles, new reporting of certain crimes for persons employed by schools, new reporting requirements for motor vehicle violations and changes to commercial vehicle laws. In addition, the 46th District Court was instrumental in working with the Legislature to eliminate the $5 sunset on civil filing fees, which resulted in additional monies being retained by local funding units.

Major Accomplishments

Local/State/National Court Contributions – The Judges and staff of the 46th District Court have taken an active role on a local, state and national level to improve the administration of justice.

Chief Judge Stephen Cooper

Presented with the 2005 Brotherhood Award from the Jewish War Veterans
Speaker, Michigan Creditor's Bar Association Fall Meeting
Presented with the Legal Aid and Defenders Society 2004 Pro Bono Award
Presented with the Women's Bar Association Honoree-of-the-Year Award
Elected Michigan Governor of the American Judges Association
Member of the State Bar Standing Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics
Scholarship recipient to Federal Judges Legal Studies program at Princeton University
Vice-President of Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals
Past-President of the Michigan District Judges Association
Editor of issues of the *Michigan Bar Journal* and service on its Advisory Board
Presented various seminars and educational programs for students, civic groups and judges
Author of Bar Journal articles
Elected Fellow of the State Bar Foundation, upon nomination by Federal Judge Julian Cook, Jr.

Judge Susan Moiseev

Elected Secretary, Michigan District Judges Association
Appointed Liaison to the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession
Elected Treasurer, Women Officials Network (WON)
Regional Representative, National Association of Women Judges
District Director, American Bar Association National Conference of Specialized Court Judges
Member of the Oakland County Bar Association Board of Directors
Vice President, Policy Board, Legal Aid and Defender Association
Past-President, Oakland-Livingston Legal Aid
Editor, *BENCHMARKS*, newsletter of the Michigan District Judges Association
Moderator, "Road to the Judiciary", Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Annual Meeting 2002
Presented with Women's Bar Association Honoree-of-the-Year Award
Presenter, State Bar of Michigan bi-annual Judicial Campaign Seminar, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004

Judge Shelia Johnson

Board Member, Association of Black Judges of Michigan
Honoree, Southfield Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Convener, 2004 National Bar Association Conference, "The 21st Century Court and Technology"
First African American elected Judge in the 46th District Court
Executive Board Member, South Oakland Chapter of the NAACP
Board Member for Integrative Human Services
Former Board Member, Horizons Upward Bound Program
Former Federal Law Clerk, Hon. Benjamin F. Gibson, U.S. District Court, Western District Michigan

Court Administrator Donna Beaudet

Presenter, Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management 2005 Conference
Speaker, Michigan Creditor's Bar Association Fall Meeting
Presenter, Southeastern Michigan District Court Administrator's Association Civil Training Seminar
Member, Michigan Court Administrators Association Legislation Committee
Member, Southfield Retiree Health Care Board and Southfield Employees Retirement System Board
Panel Presenter, State Court Administrative Office seminar, "Improving Collections"

Staff of the 46th District Court

Tera Jackson-Davis, Presenter at Southeastern Michigan District Court Administrator's Association Civil Training Seminar

Community Education - The judges of the 46th District Court are committed to increasing the public's understanding and appreciation of the court system and participate in numerous community education activities. All three judges have participated in the Southfield-Lathrup Senior High School Job Shadow Program and the Southfield Public Schools Career Fair. In addition, they have served as presenters for the American Bar Association and the Oakland County Bar Association's program on the 50th anniversary of the *Brown vs. The Board of Education* decision. Judge Cooper and Judge Johnson have also conducted "Court in the Schools" programs in all three high schools.

The judges have also participated in a variety of other educational programs. Chief Judge Cooper has spoken at every elementary and middle school in the district about the importance of reading and administered the Reader's Oath to students. Some of Judge Johnson's many educational activities included serving as keynote speaker for the Betty Shabazz Delta Academy Graduation Program; a moderator for the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference; a presenter at Birney and Thompson Middle School Career Days and as a moderator for the Imani Institute's State of Black Youth in America 2005. Judge Moiseev has also been very active, serving as a celebrity reader at numerous elementary schools, a reader for National Read Across America Day and a guest reader for the Southfield Public Library. She participated in Career Days at Thompson Middle School and at Southfield-Lathrup High School. She has also participated in the Oakland County Bar Association's Youth Law Day.

The 46th District Court team for the American Heart Association Walk—the largest team fielded by the city! Pictured (left to right) are Judene Bald, Kathy Eovaldi, Lorie Henley, Tera Jackson-Davis, Janet Brown, Judge Susan Moiseev, Jan Gross, Debbie Rebh, Cristin Carlson and Mary Zakrzewski.

Revenues, Distributions and Expenditures

Most citizens are not familiar with the court system and do not understand how courts function. 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. As indicated on the following page, all 46th District Court revenues are distributed in this manner. 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.

Please keep the above in mind as you review the following chart on the 46th District Court's revenues, distributions and expenditures.

REVENUES	2004	2005
Judicial Salary Reimbursement[1]	$137,172	$137,172
Fines, Costs, Fees[2]	$5,063,971	$5,628,974
Total Revenues	$5,201,143	$5,766,146

DISTRIBUTIONS[3]	2004	2005
State of Michigan	$1,511,297	$1,655,145
County of Oakland	$114,491	$153,971
City of Southfield	$3,456,310	$3,842,446
City of Lathrup Village	$32,675	$26,228
Village of Beverly Hills	$65,252	$68,314
Village of Bingham Farms	$8,198	$8,139
Village of Franklin	$12,920	$11,903
Township of Southfield	$0	$0
Total Distributions	$5,201,143	$5,766,146

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES[4]	2004	2005
For Direct Operational Costs	$2,897,829	3,072,373

[1] This is the amount paid to the City of Southfield by the State of Michigan to totally reimburse the City for payment of judicial salaries for all three judges.

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

[3] The distribution formula is established by state law. These figures reflect how fines, costs and interest collected by the 46th District Court were distributed between the various governmental agencies. This does not reflect actual disbursements for the periods indicated.

[4] Based on actual expenditures for fiscal years ending in 2004 and 2005 i.e., FY 2003/04 and FY 2004/05. 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.