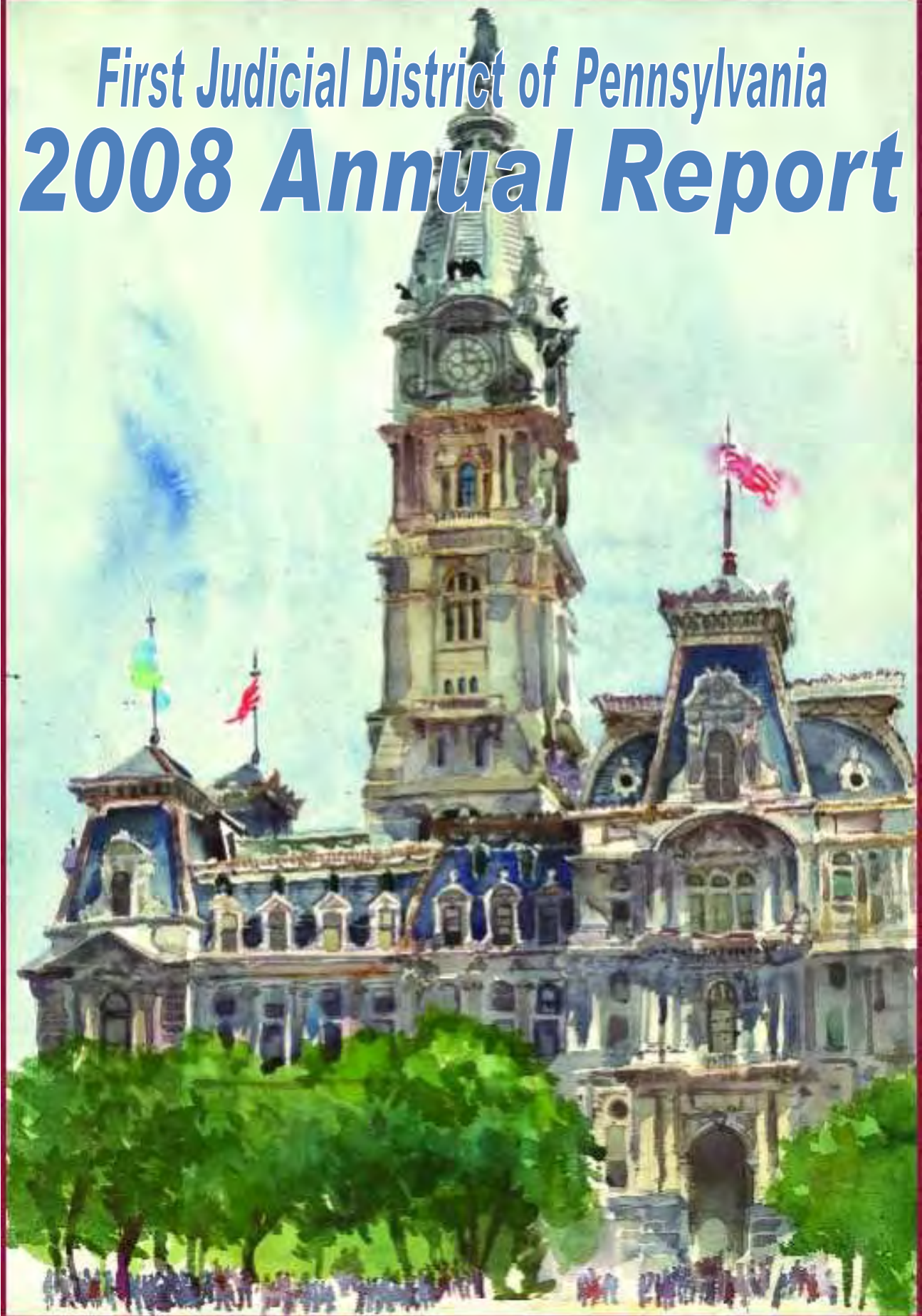
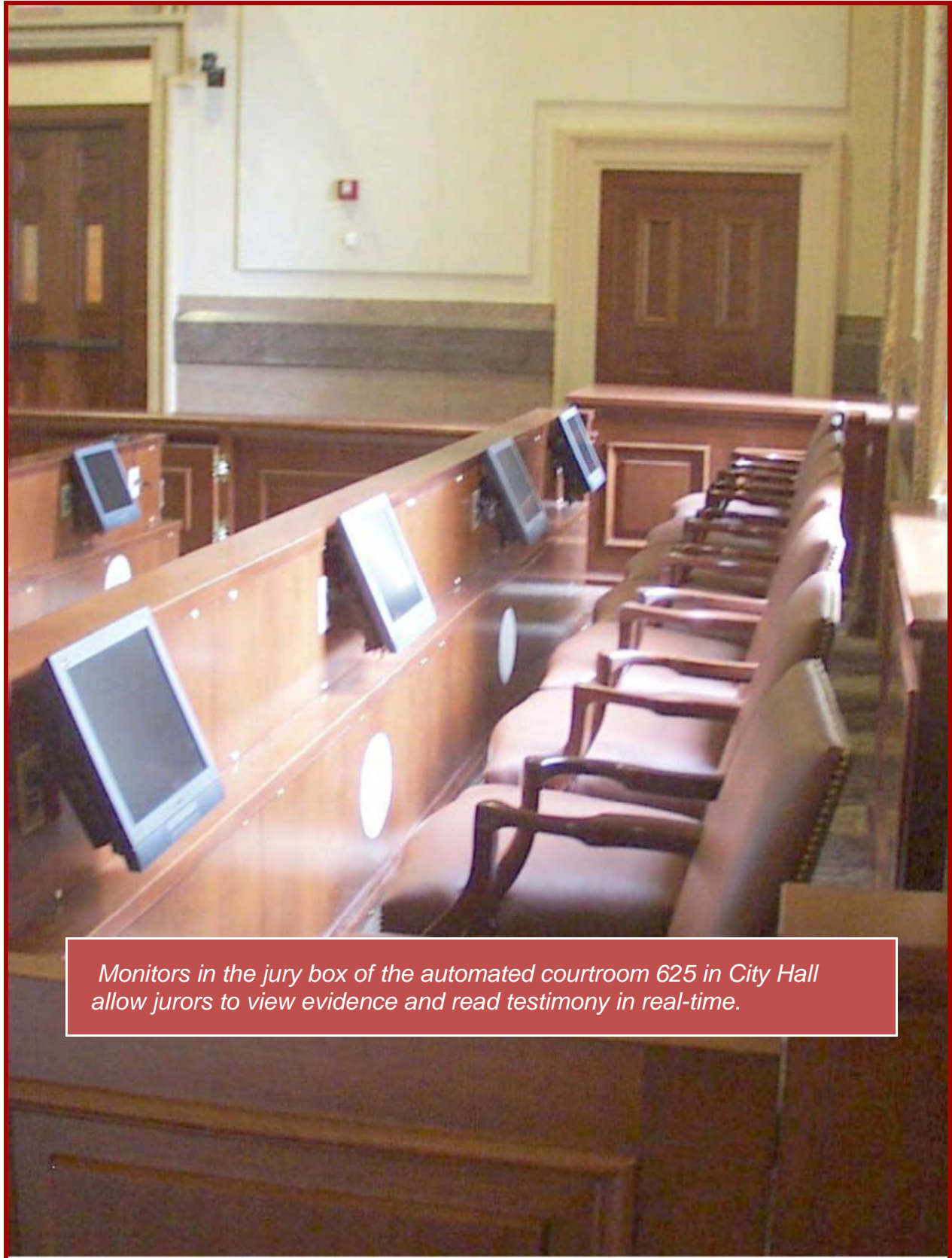


First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
2008 Annual Report



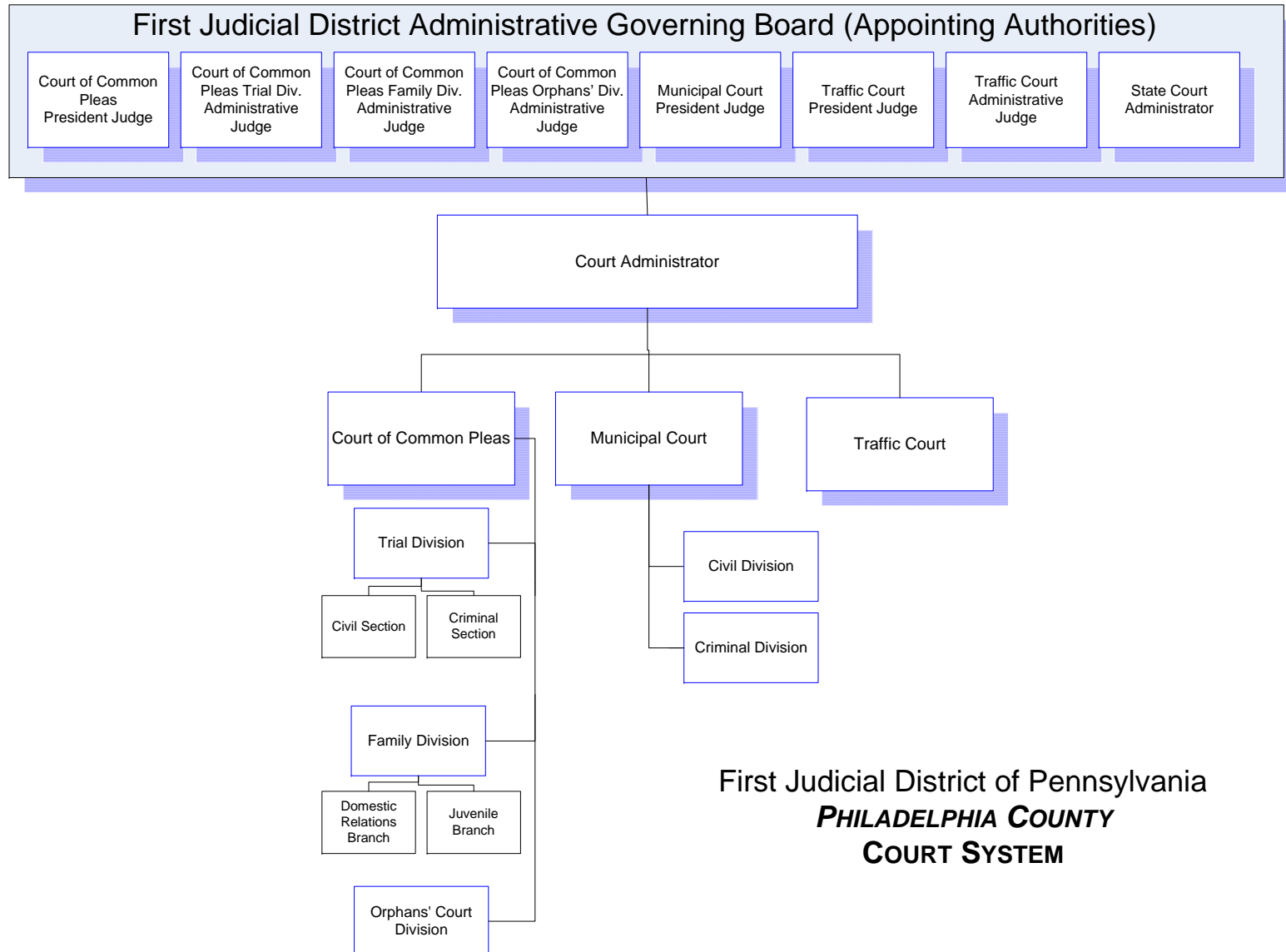


Monitors in the jury box of the automated courtroom 625 in City Hall allow jurors to view evidence and read testimony in real-time.

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First Judicial District Organization



First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Organization and Leadership

The state trial courts of the City and County of Philadelphia are collectively known as the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania (FJD). The first level of the organizational structure of the FJD comprises three courts. In turn, the constituent courts are composed of divisions which are themselves further subdivided into branches and sections. The three FJD constituent courts are 1) the Court of Common Pleas; 2) the Philadelphia Municipal Court; and 3) the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Common Pleas and Municipal Courts are each headed by a President Judge elected from among their peers on their respective benches. The Traffic Court President Judge is appointed by the governor. Four Administrative Judges appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court also help to direct the three divisions of the Common Pleas Court (*See below*) and the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

The judges in those leadership positions – the three President Judges and four Administrative Judges – together with the State Court Administrator, sit together as the First Judicial District Administrative Governing Board. The Board represents the highest echelon of management and leadership of the Philadelphia court system. (*More information about the Administrative Governing Board, including the professional biographies of its members, follows beginning on page 8.*)

Court of Common Pleas

Led by President Judge Pamela P. Dembe since December of 2008, the Court of Common Pleas is a general jurisdiction court of record with three divisions: 1) the Trial Division; 2) the Family Division; and 3) the Orphans' Court Division. Each division is led by an Administrative Judge appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Descriptions of the three Common Pleas Court Divisions and the case types over which they have jurisdiction are summarized below.

Trial Division

The Court of Common Pleas Trial Division Administrative Judge is D. Webster Keogh. The Trial Division is subdivided into Criminal and Civil Sections. The Criminal Section is the jurisdiction for all felony trials in the City of Philadelphia and the site for appeals from Municipal and Traffic Court decisions. The Trial Division Civil Section generally has jurisdiction over civil cases with an amount of \$10,000 or more in dispute. Each section is also directed by a Supervising Judge. (*See the Municipal Court description on the next page for details on jurisdictions and linkages with the Common Pleas Court Trial Division.*)

Family Division

Led by Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty, the Family Division is composed of the Juvenile Branch and the Domestic Relations Branch. The Juvenile Branch has jurisdiction over cases involving juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency, truancy, incorrigibility, and adoptions. The Domestic Relations Branch is the jurisdiction for divorce, child custody, child and spousal support, and protection from abuse (domestic violence).

Orphans' Court Division

The Orphans' Court Division is so-named from the sense that an orphan is an individual who needs the help of the court in seeing to their affairs and safeguarding their best interests. The Division is headed by Administrative Judge Joseph D. O'Keefe. Cases involving probate and the estates of decedents, minors, and incapacitated persons are heard in Orphans' Court.

Philadelphia Municipal Court

Philadelphia Municipal Court is a court of record divided into the Criminal and Civil Divisions. There is no right to jury trial but an appeal from Municipal Court decisions are heard as a *trial de novo* in the Common Pleas Court. The appeal rate is very low at less than 3%.

Criminal Division

The Municipal Court Criminal Division is the court for summary and misdemeanor trials. Felony case preliminary hearings are also conducted there. All arrests made in Philadelphia County must at least initially be processed through Municipal Court. In criminal cases, this is the beginning of the court's involvement even if final disposition is not reached there. Many felony cases are eventually tried in Common Pleas Court following their preliminary hearings in Municipal Court.

Civil Division

The Municipal Court Civil Division is the jurisdiction for civil cases where the amount in controversy is \$10,000 or less for Small Claims; unlimited dollar amounts in Landlord and Tenant cases; and \$15,000 in real estate and school tax cases.

Philadelphia Traffic Court

While not a court of record, the Philadelphia Traffic Court is the trial venue for all summary violations of the motor vehicle code in Philadelphia.

Leadership Overview

The Administrative Governing Board: Composed of the three President and four Administrative Judges along with the State Court Administrator, the Administrative Governing Board oversees the management of the Courts of Philadelphia with the help of the FJD Court Administrator.

The Office of the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas: Services overseen by this office affect the judiciary throughout the courts and divisions of the District. While the President Judge for most of 2008 was C. Darnell Jones II, upon his appointment to the federal bench, he was replaced by President Judge Pamela P. Dembe in December, 2008.

The Office of the Court Administrator: This position was created by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1996. David C. Lawrence was appointed as the FJD Court Administrator on July 10, 2006 and remained in the office throughout 2008. The Office of the Court Administrator oversees many of the FJD administrative and management services such as Data Processing, Human Resources, Management Analysis, Facilities, Financial, and Administrative Services. The Court Administrator attends meetings of the Governing Board, develops solutions to problems, and conceives and implements improvement measures throughout the District.

Greetings from the Court Administrator

Philadelphia is both a city and a county and that is an important factor in administering the court system. As a city, Philadelphia must pay for all the services normally required to run a city under the mayoral system, such as the Police, Streets, and other departments of the Executive Branch. As a county, Philadelphia must also fund those services of a separate but co-equal Judicial Branch – the courts. The combination of costs puts a strain on limited local finances. While intense budget talks with city representatives about annual court appropriations have been common throughout the years, the closing months of calendar 2008 began to reveal financial problems locally and around the world that would ultimately test the ability of both the court, and the city, to survive.



*David C. Lawrence
Court Administrator*

Recognizing the fiscal challenges looming on the horizon, court leaders early on opted for strategies to improve results and lower costs by better utilizing decreasing resources to actually improve efficiency and working conditions. They made a decision not merely to survive, but to *thrive* despite this time of dire need.

Moving forward, the judges and administrators continued to work hard, find efficiencies, and produce the best results possible under the growing constraints of an ever-worsening budgetary environment. Employees too, showed their mettle by recognizing the need and working harder and more efficiently. Importantly, the FJD workforce began to think of new ideas and new ways to do things by utilizing their unique perspective from the front lines. These are the people charged with carrying out judges' orders; the people actually getting the job done. They've been more deeply engaged in the effort to further improve the court's services through several means, and with their help, justice is indeed thriving.

This report will show that improvements on all fronts are having a profound effect on the quality of justice in Philadelphia. More people are being helped in more ways than ever before. This is due to the efforts of *all* the people working for the court system on all levels. They serve the citizens and ensure that justice will continue to thrive in the City, the County, and the Commonwealth, through the continuing work of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

"Don't Just Survive – Thrive"

Administrative Governing Board

2008 Administrative Governing Board

The First Judicial District Administrative Governing Board (AGB) is the “Board of Directors” for the Philadelphia Courts. The membership includes three President Judges, four Administrative Judges, and the State Court Administrator. The President Judges are from the District’s three constituent courts: the Court of Common Pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court, and the Philadelphia Traffic Court. The Administrative Judges are from the three divisions of the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia (the Trial, Family, and Orphans’ Court Divisions) and the Philadelphia Traffic Court. The State Court Administrator rounds out the membership of the AGB. Together, they work with the FJD District Court Administrator to conceive, develop, and approve, and carry out the operations of the First Judicial District.

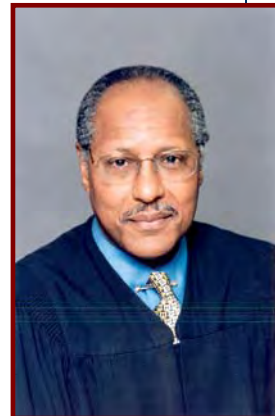
Late in 2008, Court of Common Pleas President Judge C. Darnell Jones, II, was appointed and confirmed to the federal bench. His successor, Judge Pamela P. Dembe, was elected as President Judge and assumed the office of President Judge in December, 2008.

Honorable C. Darnell Jones, II

Chair, Administrative Governing Board (Through October, 2008)

President Judge Court of Common Pleas

C. Darnell Jones, II was elected President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in December 2005 and took office on January 10, 2006. He was appointed Chair of the Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District by the Supreme Court shortly after his election as President Judge. That body is the coordinating body for all of the FJD courts: Common Pleas, Municipal and Traffic. Judge Jones has been a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since 1987. He has held various positions on the court, including: managing judge of the Adult Probation and Parole Department, member of the Judicial Education Committee, presiding judge and Co-Coordinating Judge of the Homicide Division, presiding judge in the Major Civil Trial Division. He served as a presiding judge in the Commerce Case Management Program (Business Court), and also has served as a Supervising Judge of the Philadelphia County Grand Jury. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced law at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where among other responsibilities; he served as chief of the Family Court Division. Immediately prior to becoming a judge, he worked for the Citizens’ Crime Commission. Judge Jones obtained his bachelor’s degree from Southwestern College in French, and his J.D. degree from American University, Washington College of Law.



He is a member of University of Pennsylvania American Inn of Court. He has been teaching since 1991 in law school, graduate school, and continuing legal and judicial education. Judge Jones instructs in the areas of trial advocacy, court administration, jury selection, evidence, capital cases and juvenile law. He has previously served as an adjunct professor at St. Joseph’s University’s Graduate School, Temple University School of Law and The National

Institute for Trial Advocacy, and has been an adjunct professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School since 1993. Judge Jones is an alumnus of The National Judicial College and joined the faculty in 1998. Judge Jones is a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Commission on Capital Education. He currently teaches Handling Capital Cases for the National Judicial College, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Capital Case Initiative program, and Criminal Evidence for the National Judicial College.

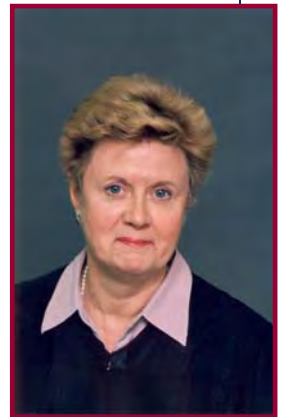
Judge Jones has received the distinguished Thurgood Marshall Award for excellence, the Brandeis Law Society Award for Community Service, and Judge Jones was named one of the 500 leading judges in America by Lawdragon magazine in 2005. In October 2006, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the American College of Business Court Judges at their annual meeting at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC. President Judge Jones is married, the father of five children, and a member of Zion Baptist Church.

Honorable Pamela Pryor Dembe

President Judge Court of Common Pleas (As of December 9, 2008)

Judge Pamela Pryor Dembe has been a Common Pleas judge for 20 years and is the President Judge of the Common Pleas Court. She is a graduate of Temple University School of Law and has lived in Philadelphia for approximately 40 years.

Judge Dembe is the Past President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Criminal Law Section, the Brehon Law Society; and the Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Presently, she is Secretary of the Board of the Free Library of Philadelphia as well as an officer of the Temple Inn of Court and a member of the Board of the Lawyers' Club of Philadelphia.



She is a member of the Union League of Philadelphia, Corinthian Yacht Club, the Athenaeum, and the Forum of Executive Women.

Honorable Louis J. Presenza

President Judge Philadelphia Municipal Court

Louis J. Presenza has been a Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court since 1982. He was retained for office in 1989, 1995, and 2001 with a better than ninety-five percent approval rating from plebiscites conducted by the Philadelphia Bar Association. In 1996 he was appointed the first Supervising Judge of the Court's Criminal Division during which time he formulated and chaired the Philadelphia Treatment Court Planning and Implementation Committee, which established the first drug treatment court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1999, his colleagues elected him President Judge and in 2004 he was unanimously re-elected to a second term.



During his twenty-four years on the bench, Judge Presenza has chaired or co-chaired many committees, panels, commissions, and boards addressing issues such as preliminary arraignment, prison population management, and alternatives to incarceration. He has

participated in panel discussions on Driving under the Influence, Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act, and Domestic Violence. He has lectured at Continuing Legal Education seminars on Municipal Court practices and procedures and has been a guest speaker at many national symposiums lecturing on drug court policies and initiatives. Judge Presenza has served as a peer reviewer for the United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs and Caliber Associates. He has also served as a faculty member for the Justice Management Institute and provided technical assistance for The American University Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project. He serves as a faculty member for the United States Department of Justice and the National Drug Court Institute conducting workshops and training programs for drug court professionals. Judge Presenza is a founding member of the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals and served consecutive two-year terms as its inaugural president. He is the immediate past Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

Judge Presenza has received awards from the Philadelphia Coalition for Victim Advocacy, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, the Justinian Society, the Lawyers' Club of Philadelphia, and the Caron Foundation. He was recently inducted into the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' Stanley M. Goldstein Drug Court Hall of Fame in recognition of his leadership, service, and preeminent contributions to the drug court field. Also, in 2006 Judge Presenza was the recipient of the Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Distinguished Jurist Award, reserved for Judges who have made a significant, positive impact to the quality of Justice in Philadelphia.

Honorable Thomasine Tynes

President Judge Philadelphia Traffic Court

Judge Thomasine Tynes was born and educated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1989 she was appointed by Governor Robert Casey to serve as a judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. She was subsequently elected by the voters. In March of 2005, Governor Edward G. Rendell appointed her as President Judge of Traffic Court. Judge Tynes has eighteen years of distinguished service as the longest sitting judge of this Court. She also has the distinction of being the first African-American female ever to serve as a Traffic Court Judge and to be subsequently appointed as the first female President Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court – both unprecedented milestones. Her reputation as a fair and dedicated jurist has prevailed throughout her career.



She achieved a degree in Minor Judiciary Law from Wilson Law College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Roosevelt University.

Before serving in the judiciary, Judge Tynes was Director of the Congregate Housing Services Program from 1983 to 1989. This federal pilot program was funded through the Philadelphia Housing Authority and provided seniors with medical, nutritional and legal services, along with homemaker skills to facilitate independent living within a controlled environment. She was Controller of a multi-million dollar sportswear conglomerate in New York City. She was proprietor and CEO of a successful automobile retail business, and earned a single-engine pilot's license. She has been an honored host of WHAT-AM (1340) Radio-talk entitled "Rappin' with the Judge", a program with an informational format describing the Traffic Court Process and the public's rights.

Memberships: As President Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court she is currently a member of the Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. She was Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Clifford Scott Green Judicial Council (a chapter of the National Bar Association), a member of the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

The President Judge has amassed a large number of accommodations, citations, and awards in a variety of areas: she was featured on the Comcast Newsmakers Program in January 2008; in the Jackson Advocate Newspaper from Jackson, Mississippi in September 21-27, 2006; Jet Magazine - December 2005; and in the Atlanta Voice of Atlanta Georgia publications of July 26 through August 2, 2006. In addition, she won the Community Service Award from the Gadangme Educational & Cultural Foundation of Pennsylvania in December of 2006; recognition as A Living American History Maker at the Berean Institute 107th Founders Celebration in 2006; and the "Making a Difference Award" from the Philadelphia Comprehensive Center for Fathers – Life Changing Moments celebration in 2005. Judge Tynes also received the Madame C.J. Walker Award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National American's Heritage Society in 2000; the African American Movers and Shakers Award in 1998 and 2005; and a Certificate of Appreciation from Sisters in Touch, a Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project in April 2002. She was recognized as one of Philadelphia's Most Influential Leaders by the Tribune Magazine in January 2002 and January 2008. Further, the President Judge was honored as the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Spokesperson for the "67 Women – 67 Counties: Facing Breast Cancer in Pennsylvania" exhibit, that toured the Commonwealth in 1999; she received the WDAS-FM Women's History Month Honor in 1999; and she was inducted into the African American Legends Hall of Fame.

Judge Tynes resides in West Philadelphia and is active in the community. She was previously president and currently serves as treasurer of the condominium council where she lives. She was also the 2004 president of the River Park House Chapter of Deborah Hospital. Judge Tynes has served the Philadelphia public since 1968 and will maintain her commitment and dedication to build a better environment in the community and in her work as a judge.

Honorable D. Webster Keogh

Administrative Judge, Common Pleas Court Trial Division

On March 30, 2007, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania named Hon. D. Webster Keogh Administrative Judge of the Trial Division, Court of Common Pleas. As Administrative Judge, he is the approving authority for all administrative matters associated with the Trial Division.

After spending seven years in the District Attorney's Office and thirteen years in private practice, Administrative Judge Keogh was appointed to the bench of the Court of Common Pleas by then Governor Casey in 1991. Judge Keogh was later elected to the bench in 1993 and retained for a second term in November, 2003. He served as a section leader for major felony prosecutions before being assigned to the major trial section of the Civil Trial Division in 2000. Judge Keogh was named Supervising Judge of the Criminal Trial Division in 2001.



A graduate of St. Joseph's Prep ('64) and LaSalle University ('68), Judge Keogh received his Juris Doctor in 1971 from Mercer University Law School. He is a member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations as well as the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia; the Brehon Law Society, the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Irish Society, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Alumni Association, and the LaSalle University Law Alumni Association. He has been elected three times to the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. In 1985 and again in 1996, he was appointed to the House of Delegates for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He has served as the Governor's appointee to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Deputy Sheriff's Education and Training Board since 1996 and as the Chief Justice's representative on the Governor's Commission to Address Gun Violence.

Administrative Judge Keogh has been a continuing legal education presenter on the "Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence," an instructor for Temple University on "Ethics and the Law," and a PBI faculty presenter at the Philadelphia Bar Association's Bench-Bar Conferences, and multi-presenter on Civil E-Filing in Philadelphia Courts.

Judge Keogh has been the recipient of distinguished and outstanding Judicial Service Awards by the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia; the John Peter Zenger Society and the Brehon Law Society.

Judge Keogh is married with three sons.

Honorable Kevin M. Dougherty

Administrative Judge, Common Pleas Court Family Division

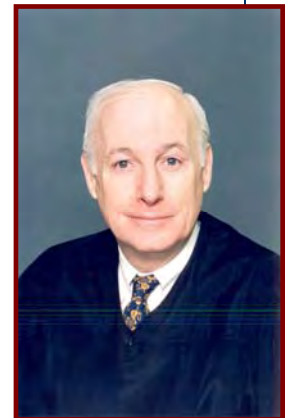
Judge Kevin M. Dougherty was appointed Administrative Judge of Philadelphia Family Court by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on December 31, 2005. As Administrative Judge, his responsibilities include overseeing the Juvenile Branch, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Domestic Relations Branch and the population of the Youth Study Center. Judge Dougherty was appointed a Common Pleas Judge in 2001 by Governor Thomas Ridge and was subsequently elected in 2002. His original assignment was and continues to be Family Court. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a Philadelphia Assistant District Attorney, worked in private practice, and served as a Special Master to the Philadelphia Family Court Truancy Program. In addition to his Administrative duties, Judge Dougherty is Vice-Chair of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission, Vice-Chair of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee; Co-Chair of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Children's Behavioral Health; a member of the Mayor's Children's Commission of Distinguished Leaders in Philadelphia; the Mayor's Educational Task Force; the Board of Judges Committee for Glen Mills Schools and the Youth Study Center, the Gender Bias Implementation Committee, and the Pro Bono Committee.



Honorable Joseph D. O'Keefe

Administrative Judge, Common Pleas Court Orphans' Court Division

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed Judge Joseph D. O'Keefe as Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division in December, 2000. He was elected to the Court of Common Pleas in November of 1983 and re-elected for a second ten-year term in 1993 and a third ten-year term in 2003. Judge O'Keefe previously served as Supervising Judge of the Complex Litigation Center from January of 1999 to December of 2000 overseeing all Mass Tort programs, Asbestos, Major Non-Jury, Arbitration Appeals, Landlord Tenant Appeals and the Penn-DOT Appeal cases. Judge O'Keefe was the Team Leader of the Day Forward 1995 Program from January, 1997 to December, 1998. Judge O'Keefe has also served as the Civil Motion Judge for a three year period and spent ten years in the Criminal Section of the Trial Division.



As Administrative Judge of the Orphans' Court Division, Judge O'Keefe worked to modernize court processes through technology and the Internet. He implemented a new case management and docketing system and improved access to the court through the addition of forms, materials and references to the Orphans' Court website. The Judge has sought out the assistance of, and improved relations between, the Probate Bar and the court. Judge O'Keefe received his B.S. from St. Joseph's University in 1966 and his J.D. from Duquesne University in 1973. The Judge sat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Orphans' Court Rules Committee from 2002 to 2004 and has been a regular participant in continuing legal education seminars.

Honorable Bernice Ann DeAngelis

Administrative Judge, Traffic Court

In 1991, Judge Bernice DeAngelis was elected Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court and assumed office on January 6, 1992. In May of 1996, she was appointed by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania as Administrative Judge of the Traffic Court and a Member of the First Judicial District Administrative Governing Board. She served in this capacity until December, 2000. In February of 2005, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court again appointed Judge DeAngelis as Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court and as a Member of the Administrative Governing Board.



Judge DeAngelis studied and was certified as Judge of the Philadelphia Traffic Court at Wilson College, Chambersburg. In 1992, she attended the American Bar Association Seminar at Georgia State University of Law. In 1993 and 1999, she attended classes at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada; also in 1999, she attended the American Bar Association Seminar at Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2000, she attended the American Bar Association Seminar at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

Zygmunt A. Pines, Esquire

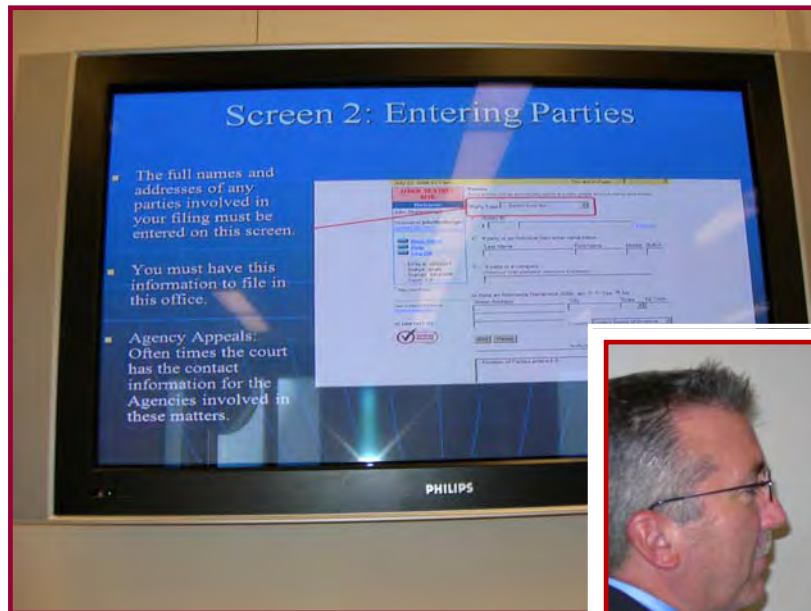
Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

Zygmunt A. Pines, Esquire was appointed Court Administrator of Pennsylvania on October 18, 2000; Acting Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, January - October, 2000. Chief Legal Counsel, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, 1991-99; Assistant Chief Attorney, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 1978-91; Chief Legal Counsel to Governor's Commission on Judicial Reform, 1987-88; Adjunct professor, University of Pennsylvania, 1986-91; Adjunct professor Villanova Law School, 1984-85; Private practice, 1975-78. Mr. Pines is the author of various publications on criminal justice, appellate procedures, ethics, and court security. *Member:* Judicial Council of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Judicial Council's security and strategic planning sub-committees; Governor's Pandemic Advisory Council; Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; Pennsylvania Association of Court Management; Administrative Governing Board of Pennsylvania's First Judicial District (Philadelphia); Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Investment Advisory Board; U.S. Department of Justice-Sponsored National Advisory Board/Judicial Education Project on Victims' Rights; Co-chair of Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators Joint Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness; member of CDC/DOJ Taskforce on Public Health Emergency Preparedness; Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) Board of Directors; COSCA Regional Mid-Atlantic Committee; National Association for Court Management; B.A., Wilkes College, 1970; J.D., Cleveland State University College of Law, 1974 (cum laude); LL.M., University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1978.

First Judicial District Summary of 2008 Opportunities and Responses

What some might view as concerns, District leaders see as opportunities and ways to capitalize upon them.

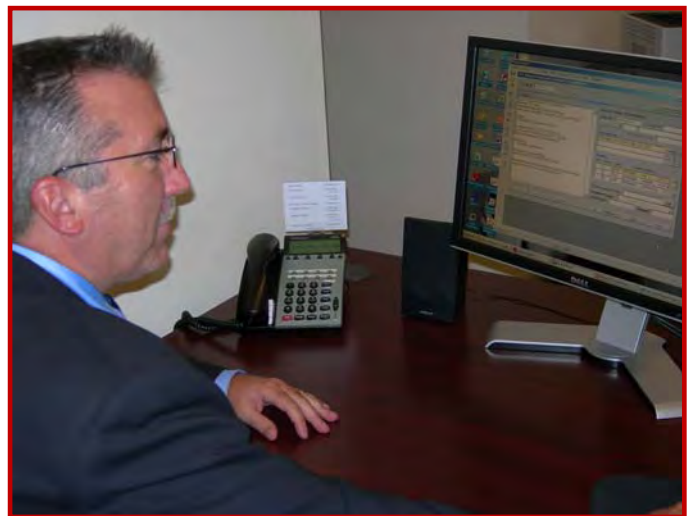
Opportunity: Dramatically Improve and Update Civil Court Services, Reduce Costs – E-Filing Instituted



Following earlier progress in the field of electronic filing made in Philadelphia Municipal Court and Common Pleas Orphans' Court Division projects, one of the most important advances in court history occurred in 2008. The massive task of converting to e-filing for the many

thousands of Common Pleas civil cases filed every year became a reality in the summer of 2008. This was a landmark occasion that will continue to affect the conduct of the business of the civil courts in the District long into the future.

The savings realized on the reduction of paper and the costs of storage are impressive. In addition, access to justice is widely improved as attorneys and *pro se* participants can file, track cases and do more from their offices and homes through the Internet.



(Above Left) A screen for entering names of parties to a civil suit in a case filed through the Internet. (Bottom) Kevin Daly from the Prothonotary's Office takes the first E-Filing at 5:40 AM on August 8, 2008.

Opportunity: Address the Local Effects of the World-Wide Financial Breakdown that Began Late in 2008 – the FJD Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Project Opened in October, 2008

“Philadelphia's effort to forestall mortgage foreclosures before they happen could serve as a model for a national program to soften the effects of the subprime lending crisis on homeowners, cities and the nation's economy, U.S. Sens. Arlen Specter and Robert P. Casey Jr. said Friday in a Senate Judiciary Committee field hearing at City Hall.”¹



Senator Casey (Left) and Senator Specter conducted meetings and hearings in Philadelphia about the financial crisis and the FJD Foreclosure Diversion Project touted as a national model.

The architects and users of Philadelphia's Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program laid out the successes and challenges they've encountered since the city placed a moratorium on foreclosures last April. The Program temporarily diverts mortgage foreclosure proceedings by scheduling conferences between lenders, homeowners, counselors and others, providing opportunities for people to arrange new mortgage terms and thereby stay in their homes.

Opportunity: How to Engage Employees and Distribute Information Quickly – Intranet Continues to Expand and Improve

Utilizing the SharePoint platform installed last year, the FJD Intranet has expanded to allow for the formation of several new web pages by the various courts and subdivisions now listed along the left side of the Intranet display. The marquee display and the bulletin board below it have also undergone improvements.

A great many new features are available by exploring beyond the initial Intranet display and employees are encouraged to use the Intranet Document Center and other features to learn more about the system. The screen above features the Employee Incentive Program that continues to elicit innovative ideas for improvements from the FJD workforce, rewarding employees for their contributions.



¹ Phila. Anti-Foreclosure Program Touted as National Model, The Legal Intelligencer, October 27, 2008

Opportunity: A Need to Acknowledge Employees' Performance and Encourage Others – Trial Division Civil Section Employee of the Year Awards

The Civil Division acknowledged four employees as the 2008 Employees of the Year. They were Debbie Teti, Janet Donohue, and Roy Caraan from Data Processing; and Evelyn Thompson from Civil Administration for their outstanding efforts to making the FJD civil courts nationally recognized for their excellence.



(Top photo, left to right) Debbie Teti, Roy Caraan, and Janet Donohue hold their Employee of the Year awards for 2008. (Right) 2008 Civil Employee of the Year Evelyn Thompson poses with President Judae C. Darnell Jones II.



Opportunity: How Can We Foster Employee Communication – Employee Appreciation Day

In an important nod to the FJD workforce, the District conducted an Employee Appreciation Day by giving out awards based on employee voting for several candidates in a dozen "Best of the FJD" categories.

Joe Martucci gets his Best of the FJD "Best Dressed" award.

Opportunity: Court-Community Communications – Law Day Celebration

Each year, the FJD works with the Philadelphia Bar association to put together programming for the celebration of Law Day and Week. One of the programs, sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar Association in cooperation with the court, involves community outreach with young students from Philadelphia area schools.



(Left) Each year on Law Day in May, the court invites more than 100 schoolchildren to participate as jurors in mock trials. They are met and addressed by various dignitaries.

(Below) In 2008, Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh joined Mayor Nutter (right) to speak with the children.



Opportunity: Build Public Trust & Confidence – Juror Appreciation Day

The First Judicial District annually recognizes the citizens who contribute their valuable time and effort to participate in the judicial process by serving as jurors. Their roles are absolutely necessary to the conduct of many trials, and the importance of their assistance is acknowledged every spring.

(Left) City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown reads from a City Council proclamation commemorating Juror Appreciation Day.

Opportunity: Community Outreach in Support of a Good Cause

In 2008 “The Philadelphia Courts” team along with family and friends participated again in the “Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure”. They raised several hundred dollars for this worthy cause. Whether walking, running or pledging, participants enjoyed doing their part.



Team members Donna Brodzinski, Alberta James-McCargo, Nancy Diaz-Pollis with her sister Daisy Soto, Barbara Zarsky, and team captain, Judge Flora Barth Wolf, her daughters, Abigail and Susannah Wolf, and her grandchildren, Benjamin, Ned, Amalya and Samuel.



Opportunity: Clear Up Hundreds of Outstanding Warrants, and Give Citizens Peace of Mind – Fugitive Safe Surrender

In September of 2008, the FJD moved some Criminal Justice Center operations to establish several working courtrooms at a satellite location to participate in a major initiative here in Philadelphia known as Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS), sponsored by the United States Marshals Service, where men & women with outstanding warrants were encouraged to turn themselves in voluntarily in the sanctuary of True Gospel Tabernacle church. The FSS program resulted in 1,249 people surrendering safely and peacefully on outstanding warrants.

(Left) One of the more than 1,200 people with warrants who surrendered with the help of local volunteers wearing shirts with the FSS logo. They worked together with ministers, FJD employees, and judges.





According to the United States Marshal Service:

“Fugitive Safe Surrender is a unique, creative, and highly successful, initiative that encourages persons wanted for **non-violent felony** or **misdemeanor** crimes to voluntarily surrender to the law in a faith-based or other neutral setting.



*Managed by the United States Marshals Service as a community re-entry program for wanted non-violent offenders, **Fugitive Safe Surrender** offers individuals with felony and misdemeanor warrants the ability to turn themselves in to law enforcement and have their cases adjudicated in a safe and non-violent environment.*

*The goal of **Fugitive Safe Surrender** is to reduce the risk to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives, to the neighborhoods in which they hide, and to the fugitives themselves. Authorized by Congress in July 2006, **Fugitive Safe Surrender** is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation.”²*

In conjunction with Common Pleas Court, Municipal Court participated in the collaborative effort. After months of Oversight Planning meetings, staff worked extended hours over four days to process over 1,200 fugitives in Philadelphia. As of September 2008, Philadelphia recorded the highest number of felony fugitives to turn themselves in to FSS. Overall, all branches of government worked together with the faith-based community in this positive and highly successful endeavor. The table below on the next page identifies Philadelphia’s comparison to the other cities conducting similar programs as of September, 2008.



Some of the many FJD employees, who, along with the church ministers and several judges, made the 2009 Fugitive Safe Surrender Program a success.

² Excerpt extracted directly from US Marshal Website: www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender/index.html

FSS Site	Number of individuals who voluntarily surrendered	Number of Felony Warrants (percent)	Number arrested (percent of total)
Cleveland, OH	838	266 (32%)	6 (<1%)
Phoenix, AZ	1,320	311 (23%)	45 (3.4%)
Indianapolis, IN	531	165 (31%)	42 (8%)
Akron, OH	1,125	96 (8.5%)	5 (< 1%)
Nashville, TN	561	123 (22%)	38 (6.7%)
Memphis, TN	1,570	211 (13.4%)	45 (2.8%)
Washington, DC	530	53 (10%)	15 (2.8%)
Rochester, NY	209	13 (5.8%)	4 (1.9%)
Detroit, MI ³	6,578	663 (10.1%)	3 (<1%)
Columbia, SC	382	38 (10%)	15 (4%)
Philadelphia, PA	1,248	424 (34%)	35 (2.8%)
Totals	14,892	2,363 (15.9%)	253 (2.0%)

As of September 2008, a total of 14,892 individuals, 2,363 of them with an outstanding felony warrant (**15.9%**), have voluntarily surrendered as part of the FSS program. To date, a total of 253 individuals have been arrested, for an aggregate average rate of arrest of 2.0% of all participants.⁴

³ US Marshal advised Detroit, MI numbers were primarily traffic violations.

⁴ Data provided by Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal John Patrignani, United States Marshal Service, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, October, 2008.

Court of Common Pleas

The Courts of Common Pleas are Pennsylvania's courts of general trial jurisdiction. They have existed since the colonial charter of Pennsylvania, and are incorporated in the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. The complement of judges for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County is set at 93 full-time judges. In 2007, those full-time judges were generally assigned along the following proportions: Trial Division (67), Family Division (23), and Orphans' Court Division (3). Thirteen Senior Judges augmented the services of their colleagues by presiding in Trial Division (11), and Family Division (2).

The Court of Common Pleas is supervised by a President Judge who is elected for a five year term by the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. The Honorable C. Darnell Jones, II was the 2007 President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. He was also appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to serve as Chair of the FJD Administrative Governing Board. The AGB is the coordinating board for the three courts of the First Judicial District with a total of 124 judges in the Court of Common Pleas, Municipal Court and Traffic Court. Judge C. Darnel Jones II was elected by the other members of the Common Pleas Bench as President Judge for a term which commenced on January 10, 2006.

Office of the President Judge

The President Judge:

- initially assigns all newly appointed or elected Judges to one of the divisions of the court, and may request from the Supreme Court the assignment of Senior Judges to help dispose of Philadelphia County's case-inventory, and the appointment of out-of-county Judges to assist the Court in conflict cases;
- directs space allocation within the Court of Common Pleas and assigns judicial chambers;
- is responsible for the implementation of local rules as adopted by the Board of Judges, and for the initiation of administrative orders, directives, or general court regulations as may be mandated or authorized by various court rules and directives, as well as legislative enactments;
- is responsible for preparing an Emergency Judge Schedule assigning a Court of Common Pleas Judge to act on emergency matters during off-court hours, as well as ensuring that Election Court, with numerous satellite locations, is judicially staffed during the primary and general elections in order to enable all citizens to exercise their right to vote;
- supervises the Office of the Prothonotary, the Court Law Library (all locations), and the Court Messenger Service;
- supervises the Mental Health Review Officer(s) who act on behalf of the court in hearings pursuant to the Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, as amended;

- entertains all petitions which seek to modify monetary judgments issued against defendants accused of criminal offenses, and their sureties, when defendants violate the terms of their bail and fail to appear for court hearings; and
- maintains a Disbarment Docket of local attorneys who are suspended or disbarred by the Supreme Court.

Civil Mental Health Program

The Office of the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas oversees the Civil Mental Health Program. State law requires the President Judge to appoint Mental Health Review Officers who hear civil petitions involving involuntary civil commitments. The hearings are held for the purpose of authorizing involuntary mental health treatment to individuals who suffer from mental illness and pose a clear and imminent danger to themselves or others. Mental Health Review Officers are required to be lawyers with experience in Mental Health matters.

The Mental Health Procedures Act of 1976, as amended, provides that individuals who have been involuntarily committed under Section 302 of the Act (which does **not** require a court order) must be released within 120 hours unless a petition is filed with the Prothonotary, is heard by a Mental Health Review Officer before the expiration of the 120 hour period, and additional involuntary treatment is authorized by the Mental Health Review Officer. Ordinarily, when Section 303 petitions are filed, they must be scheduled, heard, and decided within a 24-hour period.

To assist in the filing, scheduling, and disposition of mental health petitions, the Office of the President Judge, with the support of the Prothonotary and the Office of the FJD Court Administrator, developed and implemented an innovative FJD web-based Civil Mental Health Electronic Filing Program and Case Management System that is accessible through the FJD website: <http://courts.phila.gov>. Fully implemented in Calendar Year 2001, the Civil Mental Health Electronic Filing Program provides for the secure filing of all mental health petitions through the Internet by more than thirty mental health providers throughout the Philadelphia area, and a State Correction Institute at Waymart. All communication with the Mental Health Electronic Filing website occurs over a secure encrypted communications channel (SSL), equipped with a firewall. To log on, a First Judicial District-issued User Name and Password must be utilized by every authorized user. Different user profiles have been created, and each profile has different access rights to the system functionality and the data stored within the system.

Counsel for the parties, the Mental Health Review Officers, and the treatment facilities' representatives are able to view petitions on-line, on a real-time basis. Moreover, each of the Mental Health Review Officers is able to log-on and access their assigned daily hearing lists and pleadings filed in each case. As each case is heard, applicable orders are prepared and filed with the Prothonotary on-line. Service of the pleading and orders issued is accomplished via e-mail which is automatically sent to the interested parties in compliance with the notice requirements of Pa. R.C.P. No. 236. All parties are able to comply with the time-sensitive requirements of the Mental Health Act and provide the required mental health services to the citizens of Philadelphia County. All Civil Mental Health participants have benefited from this very important initiative completed by the Offices of the President Judge and Court Administrator.

Mental health hearings are recorded utilizing state-of-the-art digital systems that meet the strict requirements imposed by the Court. The digital audio files are stored and maintained as required by record retention policies, and are available for transcription as needed.

Office of the Prothonotary

The Office of the Prothonotary of Philadelphia is responsible for processing and maintaining the millions of documents that directly and materially affect the legal relationships and legal commerce of the citizens of Philadelphia. It is our goal to improve the art and science of record keeping through innovation and technology.

Working under the direction of the Court of Common Pleas President Judge and the Board of Judges, the role of the Prothonotary includes the daily operation of various units and departments that include: the Electronic Filing Unit; Appeals/Certifications; Civil Commencement; Second Filing Unit; Current Records; Finance; Judgment Index; Liens; United States Passport services; Older Records; Public Information; Quality Assurance; Adoption Unit; and, Family Court Filings.

Filings and Revenue

During calendar year 2008, the Prothonotary's Office received in excess of 145,000 initial filings, of which 31% require judicial action. In addition, the Prothonotary's Office received in excess of 200,000 supplemental filings. These filings generated approximately \$33 million in fees and escrow, which is disbursed in accordance with schedules established by appropriate statutes. This office is responsible for the receipt, management, and accounting of these filings and their associated funds.

First Judicial District's Civil Electronic Filing Program

On August 4, 2008, the Office of the Prothonotary and the Trial Division—Civil court rolled out the discretionary phase of the Civil Electronic Filing System. The team successfully designed and implemented an outstanding web-based system that fully integrates electronic filing and an electronic document management system with the court's existing case management system. The electronic filing system contains an electronic service and notification component. Through this process, the registered parties in a case are electronically notified whenever a pleading, motion, or supplemental document has been filed with the court.

Today, users are able to send and receive documents, pay filing fees, notify other parties, retrieve court information, and review case inventories and electronic filing histories electronically. The parties to an action save time and the costs of transporting materials to the courthouse. In addition, users have improved access to pleadings and other documents.

A reliable and accurate case file system is fundamental to the effectiveness of day-to-day court operations and fairness of judicial decisions and outcomes. The maintenance of case records directly affects the timeliness and integrity of case processing. The Electronic Filing System meets these measures.

Extensive training sessions were conducted at nearly every major law firm in the City of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia and Montgomery County Bar Associations, and within the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania in order to educate the public, employees, and the bar on the use of the electronic filing system.

Electronic Filing Statistics for 2008

August 2008 – December 2008 Electronic Filing Statistics	
E-Filings Accepted Electronically	Over 46,000
Documents E-Filed	Over 75,000
Documents Scanned	Over 173,000
Attorneys Assigned Profiles	Over 3,000
Credit Card Transactions Processed	\$2,635,357

Specialized Services Provided

Employees of the Prothonotary's Office continue to serve the public and the bar on a daily basis providing personalized and specialized assistance in various capacities. Some of these services include:

E-Filing Center

The E-Filing Center was established to ensure access to justice for all filers including those who lack access to a personal computer. The center was opened in Room 127 City Hall and equipped with six personal computers, each with Internet access to allow users to register for e-mail accounts and/or to register and access the First Judicial District E-Filing System. Highly skilled and knowledgeable staff are assigned to the center to assist the public with these processes. Center staff will guide filers through the E-Filing process, scan their documents for attachment to E-Filing submissions, and provide any other assistance or procedural information possible. Staff in the E-Filing Center are also responsible for monitoring the E-Filing Support E-Mailbox and the E-Filing Support Hotline. Mailboxes are checked and cleared on a daily basis.

Judgment Unit

The Judgment Unit of the Prothonotary's Office is equipped with public access terminals for the public to search liens from the Water Department. Members of the public may also review the official docket, and with the implementation of electronic filing, they may also view electronic documents. Customers use this office to search for Common Pleas and Municipal Court judgments and liens via the locality index and judgment books provided on a monthly basis by the court's Data Processing Department. The Judgment Unit is responsible for providing copies of liens and judgments, certifications of motor vehicle judgments and judgment searches for name-change petitions. This office conducts name and judgment searches for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Sexual Offenders Assessment Board, and is also responsible for housing and maintaining the records of Internal Revenue Service Liens, Philadelphia Gas Works Liens, Mechanics Liens, and Waivers of Mechanics Liens.

United States Passports

The Office of the Prothonotary is an official acceptance agency of the United States Passport Agency. Passport applications and renewals of passports are processed on a daily basis in Room 284 City Hall. From time to time, Prothonotary employees conduct community service drives by visiting senior-citizen centers, colleges, and universities to process passport and renewal applications on site. In 2008, more than 600 passports were processed for the citizens of Philadelphia. These activities generated revenue in excess of \$13,000.

Certifications/Appeals Unit

The Certifications Unit is responsible for certifying various documents, including, but not limited to, records, judgments, civil docket reports, civil orders, satisfactions and discontinuances, letters rogatory, commissions for out-of-state depositions, adoption and divorce decrees, and charters. This office is also responsible for maintaining the notary registry for Philadelphia, which was automated to include electronic signatures of all notaries. In addition to these services, this office is responsible for processing all appeals to the Superior, Commonwealth, and Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania, as well as transfers and removals to other courts or jurisdictions. Additionally, the Certifications/Appeals Unit processes in excess of 90,000 subpoenas annually, generating revenue in excess of \$600,000.

Records & Scanning Unit

In anticipation of the implementation of electronic filing, the Prothonotary's Office commenced the process of scanning all documents and linking them to the court's Case Management System in March of 2008. Additionally, all orders and notices issued by the court are scanned by this office and linked to the court Case Management System.

The Records Unit is responsible for maintaining all records created prior to the implementation of mandatory electronic filing. During the discretionary phase of electronic filing, the Prothonotary's Office continued to maintain paper files of all filings submitted electronically. This unit is also responsible for the review and destruction of disposed cases in accordance with the Philadelphia County Record Retention Schedule. The Arbitration Hearing list is generated on a weekly basis by the Record Room and the records are pulled and delivered to the Arbitration Center prior to the following week's scheduled hearings.

Copies of records, including printed electronic documents available in the court's Case Management System as well as other documents, are provided on a daily basis to the public.

Training

Throughout 2008, the Office of the Prothonotary and the Quality Assurance Unit conducted extensive training sessions in almost every major law firm in the City of Philadelphia. The First Judicial District also conducted several training programs for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the training arm of the Bar Association, during 2007 and 2008. First Judicial District staff received extensive training in order to learn how to review and accept filings electronically. Judges and their staffs received personal training on the use of the electronic filing system and how to review their inventories of cases and motions electronically.

Goals and Challenges for 2009

- Implementation of Mandatory Electronic Filing in Civil court.
- Continue to provide outstanding customer service to the public and the bar and internal customers.
- Continue to operate as a high-performance office by providing as much information and assisting the public as is procedurally permissible.

- Continue to maintain immediate review and approval of all filings.
- Monitor and enhance the Civil Electronic filing system process and procedures to include electronic notification of all judicial orders and notices of court events.
- Provide continued training to members of the bar and the public on the use of the electronic filing system, including providing Continuing Legal Education credits for attorneys in substantive law.
- Provide adequate resources and continued training and cross-training to staff of the Office of the Prothonotary in order to meet the growing demand for the Court's services.
- Continue with the process of back-scanning all documents filed with the court prior to the implementation of electronic filing.

Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas

Criminal Section

Calendar year 2008 brought many challenges to the Court of Common Pleas as it met its goal of service and justice to the citizens of Philadelphia. While the influx of new criminal cases remained steady, the court has been steadfast in hearing and disposing criminal cases efficiently and timely while at the same time taking on new projects and programs.

Overview

The Court of Common Pleas disposed of 6,959 cases in the List Program (including 1,072 in Gun Court) and 6,314 cases in Majors. The Homicide Program disposed of 218 Homicide cases and 431 Major cases. Special programs also took on their share by disposing 550 ARD cases and 14,384 Traffic Court appeals. Throughout the year, 580 miscellaneous cases were also disposed by various other means. These included cases assigned to out of town judges and those heard by non-criminal assigned judges. In addition, the active consolidation practices of the Court of Common Pleas Judges and staff added 2,644 Municipal Court cases to the mix for a total of 32,080 cases processed. These achievements were reached despite shrinking resources, increasingly complex cases, and the now-common mandate to do more with less.

On top of managing and disposing a staggering volume of cases, Court of Common Pleas Criminal Division Judges and employees were able to collaborate with their justice partners in a Federal program known as Fugitive Safe Surrender. This four-day program recreated a microcosm of the criminal justice system and the criminal justice center in a small local church in South Philadelphia in order to bring justice to the community. At the site, the program allowed people with criminal case issues to dispose of any outstanding cases or warrants, all at once and in an atmosphere of relative safety and comfort. This widely-praised and successful program had never been tried in a city of the first class before and the hard work and dedication of the judiciary, the Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court staff, and the rest of the Criminal Justice Partners was a tribute to everyone involved. The program served over 1,200 individuals in a four-day period. Workers and clients alike maintained a calm, professional, and courteous manner. The Fugitive Safe Surrender Program was considered to be an outstanding accomplishment for the First Judicial District.

All of these achievements could not have been attained without the hard work and dedication of the staff of the various units of the Court of Common Pleas Criminal Division that are outlined in the following pages.

Trial Division – Criminal – Pre-Trial Service Division

Among many responsibilities, the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Pretrial Service Division, operates a full-service bail agency. Pretrial Service employees oversee many of the components of the criminal justice process, from arrest to adjudication. The Pre-Trial Service Division acts as the informational gatekeeper for all arrested and charged individuals. The Division is responsible for monitoring, supervising, and enforcing the conditions under which individuals are released.

The mission of the agency is to serve the judiciary, the administration, the employees of the First Judicial District, and the public by providing a responsible program of pretrial release alternatives and enforcement mechanisms. The agency has four main units:

Arraignment/Accounting, Electronic Monitoring, Supervision, and the Warrant Unit. A brief description of each unit is provided below.

Arraignment/Accounting

Arraignment Interviewing operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1401 Arch Street. Interviewing staff gather information from all arrested adults about their personal history, references, employment, family ties, financial history, and their criminal history. This information is then used to calculate release guidelines. The entire package is presented to an Arraignment Court Magistrate for a bail determination.

The role of the unit is to facilitate judicial decision makers by providing detailed personal information, charge severity and the likelihood for pretrial misconduct to help decision makers to arrive at a bail determination. In Philadelphia, all adults held at six Detective Divisions and Police Headquarters who are charged with misdemeanors or felonies are interviewed by employees of the Arraignment Interviewing Unit via video located at 1401 Arch Street. During Calendar Year 2008, the unit interviewed and processed 57,027 individual defendants prior to their Preliminary Arraignment.

In addition to the above, the unit is also responsible for accepting and processing bail and fines. Payments are also accepted for Domestic Relation Matters and Traffic Court Scofflaws if the payment will permit a release from custody. There is a bail acceptance cashier window located at the Criminal Justice Center and a remote site in the lobby of the County Jail in the Northeast. The prison site allows sureties to post bail at the incarceration site expediting the release process.

The Prison site is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM while the Criminal Justice Center location is staffed 24 hours a day including weekends and holidays. Below are the bail acceptance statistics for 2008:

Total Bails Accepted	26,669
Total Bail Posted Amount	\$21,440,085.70

The Accounting Unit, which has been reassigned here in the past year, is the third component of this operation. Accounting is responsible for receiving and processing all payments made by offenders under the supervision of the Adult Probation and Parole Department. The unit has established a voice mail box and e-mail address to respond to payment inquiries and contracted with a collection agency to increase revenue. The Unit receives payments for restitution, fines and costs, and supervision fees. Payments are collected in person at 1401 Arch Street during traditional business hours or can be mailed to the payment center. Payments can be accepted by cash, check, money order or credit card. In 2008, the unit collected over \$7 million.

Electronic Monitoring Unit

At the end of 2008, the Electronic Monitoring Program was supervising 765 defendants on active electronic monitoring. The caseload consists of all Pretrial and Post-Trial cases that have been ordered by the Judiciary to undergo Electronic Monitoring. Active electronic monitoring involves the installation of an ankle bracelet on an individual and a monitoring device attached to the residential phone line. The active system transmits a continuous signal via the transmitter worn by the defendant to the field monitoring device (FMD) attached to the phone. The

defendant is monitored 24 hours a day as signals are sent to the host computer located at 1401 Arch Street, 4th floor. Schedules are arranged to accommodate employment, court or attorney visits, and other verifiable and judicially-approved appointments. The process is on-going as defendants are added or removed daily.

Through the Pretrial Service Division, the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania operates Electronic Monitoring 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Employees assigned to the monitoring room are responsible for processing alerts, data entry, enrollments, notification to the Warrant Unit on all confirmed alerts, and maintaining the daily inventory of all electronic monitoring equipment. The staff must respond to each and every alert from the field monitoring devices. These alerts range from trivial where a defendant is a few minutes late returning home to the more serious willful violations. Regardless, each alert must be checked, logged, and cleared by staff. Approximately 2,500 alerts occur weekly. The office of the Electronic Monitoring Coordinator and support staff are responsible for all the administrative functions related to the Electronic Monitoring Program.

In 2008, the Electronic Monitoring Unit assumed responsibility for monitoring defendants released through the Special Release Program sponsored by the City of Philadelphia. During this same year, unit personnel were also given responsibility for monitoring defendants that are participating in the DUI Treatment Court Program. DUI Treatment Court participants are equipped with monitor to gauge alcohol consumption. The staff in the Electronic Monitoring room monitors Blood Alcohol Content (B.A.C.) readings received throughout the day. Supervising this population has also required Electronic Monitoring Unit and Warrant Unit personnel to received specialized training. The unit also continues to monitor participants in the Drug Treatment Court Program and employees have been actively involved with this population for the past five years. They continue to monitor defendants for several Adult Probation Department initiatives which include Intermediate Punishment (IP) and Gun Court supervision. A new population assigned in 2008 was Traffic Court appeal cases that stipulated house arrest supervision. These cases are also supervised by Pretrial Officers.

A major accomplishment in 2008 was the replacement of a manual scheduling procedure with a fully automated process to transfer schedules to the monitoring room from Pretrial and Probation Officers. This new system reduces scheduling errors and allows staff to focus on other duties that need to be performed daily in the Electronic Monitoring Room.

The Electronic Monitoring Unit has been very proactive during the past year testing G.P.S. (Global Positioning Systems) monitoring. Seven vendors have been tested for one- and two-piece units. A goal for 2009 is to continue testing products as they are improved and to provide the latest information to the judiciary should electronic monitoring expand to include GPS monitoring. As technology continues to advance, the growth and success of the program will depend on the ability to evaluate new trends and incorporate them into the system.

Electronic Monitoring responsibilities include:

1. Interpretation of all court orders received for defendants being placed on active Electronic Monitoring. The unit receives approximately 50 orders weekly or approximately 2,600 per year.
2. Conduct phone interviews on all contacts that have been provided to the court for possible placement on Electronic Monitoring.

3. Coordination of all home investigations and installations with the Warrant Service Unit.
4. Initiate and respond to telephone communication from the judiciary, attorneys, prison officials and family members.
5. Preparation of the daily prison release list for all defendants in custody who have been ordered to undergo Electronic Monitoring.
6. Upkeep of daily statistical information for all defendants that are on Electronic Monitoring and the method of their release.
7. Communicate daily with the Electronic Monitoring Unit and all Pretrial Officers and Probation Officers that supervise defendants on Electronic Monitoring.
8. Provide daily arrest activity to Pretrial Officers and Probation Officers on all assigned defendants under Unit supervision.

Supervision Unit

The Records and Notification Unit is responsible for interviewing defendants required to report to the Pretrial office after preliminary arraignment. These are defendants who receive a bail of ROSC (Release on Special Condition) Type I or II at Preliminary Arraignment. During calendar year 2008, a total of 8,365 defendants were required to report for orientation and assignment to a Pretrial Officer for supervision and monitoring. A total of 3,150 defendants were also sent to this unit by the court for financial interviews and investigation to determine eligibility for appointment of counsel from the Defender Association or the pool of court-appointed counsel. A total of 1,139 defendants were found to be eligible for court-appointed counsel or the Defender Association.

In addition to defendants who report in person, this unit fields numerous daily phone calls from defendants, family members, and attorneys requesting information about court appearance dates, how and where to surrender for a bench warrant, and how to avail themselves of other services. These include requests for continuances based on absolute verification of serious hospitalization or incarceration in other jurisdictions. Other requests involve financial interviews for Traffic Court and inquiries and bail processing using real estate that has been investigated and certified for that purpose. This unit also provides pretrial history information for the City's Emergency Release Hearings that are scheduled at least two times per week. All division records regarding intake interviews and other related court events are maintained in the file room of this unit.

The Supervision Unit monitors and supervises defendants ordered to adhere to specific conditions of release including ROSC Type I and II, Intensive Direct Supervision, and Electronic Monitoring House Arrest. Each defendant is assigned a Pretrial Officer. Defendants ordered to ROSC bail are typically medium risk in terms of charge severity and court/social history. During calendar year 2008, there was an average daily caseload of 4,094 in both active and violation status. These defendants must report for initial orientation and thereafter in conjunction with each court appearance. In-person reporting can be increased by order of the court or at the discretion of the assigned Pretrial Officers. These defendants report by phone once or twice a

week to the division Interactive Voice System that records their check-in and is relayed to the supervising officer.

Pretrial Officers assigned to monitor defendants ordered to EM House Arrest and Direct Supervision are the most experienced employees of the unit due to the high charge and flight risk associated to this type of defendant. A great deal of communication between the assigned Judge, the attorneys and other related agencies is required. Accountability through record keeping is a vital responsibility of this position. During calendar year 2008, there was an average daily caseload of 600 for Electronic Monitoring, House Arrest, and Direct Supervision.

Warrant Unit

The Warrant Unit is responsible for enforcing adult criminal bench warrant and adult probation and parole violation warrants for the First Judicial District. The Unit is also responsible for the enforcement of all Traffic Court and Domestic Relation warrants related to child support and custody. This unit also operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week which includes administrative staff and investigative personnel who perform fugitive investigations for individuals wanted on these warrants. Through an agreement with the Pennsylvania State Police, the administrative staff processes correspondence from Law Enforcement Agencies and Departments throughout the Commonwealth as part of the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Assistance Network (CLEAN) in order to confirm the validity of criminal bench and probation violation warrants for individuals detained in other jurisdictions. Warrants are lodged for defendants who are being held on new charges and are being remanded to the County Prison for inmates who are already incarcerated. Warrant Unit investigative personnel are dispatched to accept custody of fugitives wanted on First Judicial District warrants who are not being held on any other criminal charges. Due to time-response requirements mandated by law, the staff must continually monitor the "CLEAN" terminal for hit requests from other counties.

The Warrant Unit has a major role in the First Judicial District House Arrest Program starting with the home investigation prior to installation of the home device. Transportation from the prison to the residence along with the installation and maintenance of the electronic monitoring equipment is also part of their duties. Violations of house arrest are reported to the unit and arrest procedures are initiated. Specific alerts identified as "high priority" require the unit to respond immediately. There is a zero tolerance policy for violations in these cases. The Warrant Unit maintains an office at the Criminal Justice Center manned by investigators and administrative staff to facilitate individuals who surrender on criminal bench warrants in order to safely have the warrant lifted, establish a new court date and, in most instances, avoid arrest. In calendar year 2008 the unit processed 16,698 individuals who surrendered peacefully and at a minimum cost to the courts and the City of Philadelphia.

The Warrant Unit has established excellent working relationships with the Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Communities and has participated in a number of cooperative initiatives. The United States Marshal Service conducted sweeps for known fugitives as part of Operation Falcon I and II and Warrant Unit Investigators played a key role in the operation. The Federal Bureau of Investigations developed a mapping program called "Pinpoint" that utilizes Police and Warrant Unit data in order to identify fugitives wanted in the vicinity of known F.B.I. informants. The Warrant Unit provided manpower for city-wide manhunts related to the murder of Philadelphia Police Officers and other high profile homicides utilizing Pinpoint.

The Philadelphia Police Department has requested Warrant Unit participation in a number of Police District or Detective Division efforts to address violent crime in specific areas.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Bethel has submitted the names of Warrant Unit Lieutenants, Sergeants and Investigators for Police Commendations for their efforts in the 17th Police District in 2008. The Warrant Unit was a major participant in the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Safe Surrender Program and the subsequent fugitive sweeps in the 1st and 17th Districts.

Unit members continue to participate in the F.B.I. Violent Offenders Task Force and the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force. In 2008, the Warrant Unit arrested 4,113 individuals wanted on Traffic Court warrants owing fines in excess of \$8 million. About 5,989 individuals were arrested on Criminal Bench warrants and/or Probation warrants. In addition to the criminal matters, the unit arrested 821 individuals on Domestic Relation matters and 805 individuals surrendered to the Domestic Relation Unit due to their active notification and intervention.

The ultimate mission of the Warrant Unit is to reduce the warrant inventory and to maintain the integrity of the Judicial Process. The Unit continues to participate in the Law Enforcement Network which creates a cooperative effort to locate and apprehend fugitives. The Internet and other computer technologies have provided new techniques which are just beginning to be utilized. A fugitive was located and arrested by the Warrant Unit through his Face book account. Satellite tracking of cellular phones is another tool being utilized through the cooperation of the F.B.I. and U.S. Marshal's Service. A streamlined procedure for processing and hearing cases for individuals who surrender on bench warrants at the Criminal Justice Center could double or even triple the number of warrants adjudicated on a daily basis, as illustrated by the success of the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program. Utilizing the program, the Warrant Unit created an efficient and effective way to accomplish enforcement that created a "One Stop Shop" for warrant service.

2008 Accomplishments

- Maintained continual 24 hour a day, 7 day per week coverage in the Warrant Unit, Bail Acceptance Unit, Electronic Monitoring and Arraignment operations.
- Interviewed and process 57,027 clients for arraignment.
- Bail Acceptance processed 26,669 bonds for a total of \$21,440,085.70 in bail fees collected.
- The Accounting Unit collected \$7,048,313.63 in payments.
- Electronic monitoring continues to monitor 765 pre/post trial electronic monitoring defendants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- During 2008, 8,365 clients reported for Type I and Type II pretrial orientation as a condition of release; 3,150 clients were interviewed for appointment of counsel, and on average, 4,094 pretrial defendants were supervised daily by pretrial officers.
- The Warrant Unit processed 16,698 defendants who surrendered peacefully on Warrants in the Intake Unit of the CJC.
- There were 4,113 defendants arrested on Traffic Court Warrants who had a total of \$8,202, 583.75 outstanding fines and cost owed.
- The Unit arrested 5,989 defendants on bench warrants and probation detainers and 821 defendants on Domestic Relation Warrants. An additional 805 defendants surrendered peacefully on their Domestic Relation Warrant due to intervention and notification practices.

2009 Goals

- Continue 24/7 coverage for major departments.
- Increase automation and streamline specific functions.
- Increase collections.

- Decrease outstanding warrants through arrest or surrender.
- Streamline the bench warrant surrender function to allow more defendants to surrender safely on outstanding warrants.
- Enhance and grow the Electronic Monitoring Program to include more defendants to help reduce prison overcrowding and costs. In addition, technical upgrades of the software and hardware for this system will allow better and more accurate reporting to reduce the number of false alerts that must be responded to each time.
- Implement a set GPS monitoring system to track defendants in real-time using fewer staff and lowering costs.
- Increase Traffic Court and Family Court warrant service to increase revenue collection for the First Judicial District.
- Continue to improve training and knowledge transfer and law enforcement techniques to better equip and enable Warrant Officers serving potentially life threatening warrants to better carry out dangerous and unpredictable tasks.
- Expanded Bail Intake hours at the Prison to increase bail revenue.
- Creation and implementation of a new program to assist pregnant female inmates by providing structured EM Release before child birth in order to allow interaction between mother and child at a much lower cost to the prison system.
- Develop better DUI Detection equipment used in monitoring DUI defendants.
- Continue to provide professional and courteous customer service to the public.

Trial Division – Criminal – Active Criminal Records

Like many other agencies, this department is confronted and challenged by ongoing reductions in staff. While “Do more with less” has become a standard refrain, Active Criminal Records has done just that. Entering 2008, the Department had 74 employees. By the end of the year, that number fell to 66. Staff reduction has been a challenge in the effort to accomplish the unit's mission. This enterprise is driven by the dedication and hard work of the people that make it up. However, the department has looked at this challenge as an opportunity to innovate. They compensated for the loss of staff by increasing the use of technology and improving the organizational design with positive results.

This Department also experienced a change in administration last year. In June 2008, the longtime Director of Active Criminal Records, Joseph LanzaLotti, ended a productive and successful tenure to assume the role of Common Pleas Court Trial Division Criminal Deputy Court Administrator. Mr. LanzaLotti was Director for over 20 years. He has been replaced as Director by Keith Smith, the former Supervising Trial Commissioner. This personnel change further bolsters the merge of Active Criminal Records and Criminal Listings – formerly two separate departments.

Active Criminal Records Units (ACR)

Active Criminal Records (ACR) comprises five units: Data Entry, Criminal Listings, File Security, Post Trials Unit, and Criminal Motions. All units are located on the second floor of the Criminal Justice Center, 1301 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA.

The mission of Active Criminal Records is to contribute to the smooth and efficient operation of the Criminal Courts of the First Judicial District by executing administrative tasks in close coordination with other judicial partners.

Data Entry

The Data Entry Unit has many daily responsibilities in the First Judicial District. Since the Common Pleas Cases Management System (CPCMS) has been integrated throughout the state of Pennsylvania, the tasks involved with validating defendant criminal case information have become more numerous and critical. Incorrect identifiers or other erroneous data entered into CPCMS could affect employment, sentencing, prior records scores, legal issues, and might cause various other hardships for individuals.

The unit performs high level of quality control assurance for all new arrests, migration issues and participant identifiers. They work in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office in the creation of bills of information. They also staff special program courtrooms in the Criminal Justice Center such as the Section Calendar Pre-Trial program and Homicide Pre-Trial program, where we randomly assign judicial authority. Additionally, unit personnel staff the Motion Court, List Track Program, and Bench Warrant hearing courtrooms.

There are approximately 150 new arrests daily that are passed electronically from PARS (Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System) to CPCMS. In PARS, data is entered by law enforcement agencies, District Attorney's Charging Unit, Pre-Trial Services Bail Interview Unit, and the Municipal Court Data Clerk. The Data Entry Unit reviews each individual file to assure that identifier information such as state identifier (SID), address, offenses, bail, offense tracking number (OTN), date of birth, attorney, district control number and calendaring information has been passed correctly into CPCMS. If any of the above identifying information such as the SID

has not been passed data entry employees conduct further research using the CLEAN system for information to update CPCMS accordingly.

This Unit performs the task of reviewing a daily transfer queue of approximately 100-120 Municipal Court cases that have been held for court, certified from juvenile court, or appealed from Municipal Court to Common Pleas Court, all of which require a Common Pleas Court case docket number to be created. After the creation of the docket number the information is electronically passed via the "DA Link" interface to the District Attorney's Office for their review. After the DA's Pre-Trial Unit reviews, approves, and submits the Bills of Information, it is sent back to a queue in CPCMS. Between 75 and 50 Bills of Information are accepted and printed daily.

In Motion Court, a typical day list consists of an average of 75 Motion Court cases and about 100 Traffic Court cases that require updating in CPCMS. In the Bench Warrant Hearing room, approximately 70 to 80 bench warrants for both Common Pleas and Municipal Court are lifted daily. In the Track Room List Program, 30 to 40 cases are scheduled for trial listings using the "find a date search" in CPCMS. In the Section Calendar and Homicide Pre-Trial Program courtrooms, staff are responsible for the random assignment of the judicial authorities and event track management, as well as scheduling the calendar events into CPCMS. This important function of random judicial assignment allows the First Judicial District to avoid the appearance of judge shopping and avoids any conflict scheduling issues among the judges over case assignment.

Case management reports are produced through CPCMS and reviewed daily to ensure data integrity and judicial accountability. These various reports also help with the conduct of quality control exercises inside CPCMS by updating, maintaining, and monitoring specific case information, case processing status, case status, dispositions, event tracks, and scheduling issues.

Data Entry unit personnel are spread throughout the Criminal Justice Center (CJC), manning courtrooms and conducting quality control and data entry in the main records area on the second floor. Constant training helps the employees of this unit learn about changes in technology and ongoing changes in CPCMS. Their duties are far from limited. New challenges and programs arise continuously. This Unit takes on these new challenges and performs many ancillary duties, some of which are listed below:

- Photo number/change-back corrections.
- SID number changes.
- Merge and Unmerge data in CPCMS for court records.
- Public Defender court appointments.
- Address migration issues.
- Process Municipal Court Appeals.
- Process Juvenile Certified Adult Petitions.
- Administrative Closures.
- Update yearly police schedules.
- Process ARD expungement eligibility list.
- Docket early parole petitions.
- Community Court – update all court proceeding data into CPCMS.
- Update all court proceedings from Family Court at 34 S. 11th street into CPCMS.
- Create Common Pleas Court files.

- Provide customer service at the information counter and through telephone inquiries.
- Prepare and schedule Crash Court list for Prison hearings.

2008 Accomplishments

- Corrected over 1,000 defendant identifiers including State Identification numbers (SID) and Local Identification Numbers (PID).
- Merged/Unmerged approximately 1,680 participant account records.
- Played an integral part in the Philadelphia Fugitive Safe Surrender Project (FSS) by processing more than 1,200 fugitive bench warrant hearings and guilty pleas at a makeshift offsite location.
- Processed and conducted quality control for 63,571 new arrests.
- Reviewed, consolidated and transferred 18,000 Municipal Court cases to Common Pleas Court.
- Created 16,775 Common Pleas Court docket numbers.
- Processed 22,000 Traffic Court tickets from summary appeals.
- Assigned Judicial authority to approximately 5,889 major cases
- Updated 117 Philadelphia Police squad schedules into CPCMS to help reduce police overtime.
- Coordinated with the 311 Call Center by validating correct telephone number information for 3,092 court employees.
- Provided training in CPCMS for Family Court, Civil Employees and Judicial staff.

2009 Goals

- Development of an FJD CPCMS training module for FJD employees to receive training in information systems applications.
- Development of new CPCMS applications for the FJD.

Criminal Listings

Employees from the Common Pleas Criminal Listings Unit are responsible for overseeing all case inventory management for the Criminal Trial Division. In addition, they are also responsible for providing support and assistance to the judiciary and their staff, attorneys, defendants, witnesses, court employees, criminal justice partners, and the public. This Unit is comprised of three sub Units: trial commissioners, court appointments, and scheduling.

Trial Commissioners

Trial Commissioners assist the criminal court judiciary by performing some administrative court functions and assignments. Trial commissioners preside in courtrooms in the Criminal Justice Center and at the Curran-Frumhold Correctional Facility (CFCF) where criminal cases are assigned for court or administrative proceedings including bench warrant hearings, Gagnon I hearings; Traffic Court appeals pre-trial conferences, special release hearings, probation/parole payment plan hearings and formal arraignments. In addition, they review and assign criminal cases to judges. Trial Commissioners are also responsible for case management and administrative functions, including statistical report generation, which assure the proper case flow in the Criminal Division.

Appointment Unit

The Appointment Unit is responsible for processing counsel appointments to ensure that indigent defendants are represented at scheduled court events. Appointments for homicide and non-homicide criminal cases and appeals are processed in accordance with Local Rule 406. This Unit also maintains each Municipal and Common Pleas Court judges' list of certified court appointed attorneys for misdemeanors, felonies, homicides and non-homicide PCRA. Appointments processed by this Unit include representation to be provided at cases to be heard in Common Pleas, Municipal and Family Court (Domestic Relations and Adult Preliminary Hearings in Juvenile Court). This Unit also processes relief of counsel due to conflicts and performs all CPCMS data entry and related clerical functions associated with the appointment process including close interaction with the FJD Fiscal Department, the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Post Trial Scheduling Unit

This Unit is responsible for scheduling Common Pleas Court and Municipal Court violation of probation hearings, GAGNON I and II hearings, sentencing and post trial motions. These matters are scheduled in conjunction with the Probation/Parole Department, judges and judicial staff. This unit is also responsible for the reassignment of cases where the sentence exceeds the tenure of the judicial authority.

2008 Accomplishments

- Presided at 16,000 arraignment hearings and 20,000 Traffic Court Appeal hearings
- Presided at over 500 Payment Plan Conferences collecting over \$20,000
- Participation in the Philadelphia FSS by conducting several hundred bench warrant hearings
- Processed appointments of counsel for over 12,000 felony and misdemeanor trials and appeals plus over 500 homicide trials and appeals
- Applying new processes by which violation of probation/parole cases are listed, consolidating them by judge

2009 Goals

- Institution of the Advanced Review and Consolidation program, a review process that will increase the number of non-trial dispositions and reduce court costs
- Installation of the Accelerated Violation of Probation Program (AVOPP), an innovative way to conduct technical violation of probation hearings by 1) focusing attention on technical violators to prevent direct violations and 2) concentrating these hearings before one judge to enhance judicial economy

Common Pleas Court Criminal Trial Division Notable Information For 2008

Fugitive Safe Surrender – September 17 through September 20, 2008

- Criminal Section employees and judges played an integral part in the Philadelphia fugitive safe surrender program (FSS) in assisting in the processing of:

Total Number of Defendants:	1, 207
Total Warrants Processed:	1,515
Total Warrants Associated With Warrants:	2,720
Total Violation of Probation Matters Addressed: (Terminated, Surrendered, New Probation Cases)	422
Total Disposed Cases:	374

- Of the total defendants processed 35 were remanded to custody.

311 Call Center

Criminal Section employees coordinated with the city 311 call center by validating first judicial district departments and phone numbers.

Miscellaneous

V.O.P. Hearings 2008	19, 600
Appellate Appeals 2008	1,900
Criminal Motions and Appeals Filed 2008 (\$55,600 Collected)	41,000
P.C.R.A. – Filed 2008	1,000

Video Program: 2008

Extradition Hearings	973
Extradition Waivers	410
VOP's	308
State Intermediate Punishment	119
PCRA	101
Sentencing	67
Grazier Hearings	41
Post Sentence Motions	6
<u>Other (pleas, witnesses, etc.)</u>	<u>45</u>

2,070 Video Hearings

Traffic Court Appeal – Status Listings

Total Violations Reviewed:	22,000
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Payment Plan Conferences

Total Payment Plan Conferences (Collected \$ 20,000)	500
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Appointment of Counsel

Total Cases Processed (MC and CP)	12,500
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Criminal Case Quality Control

Quality Controlled New Arrest Through PARS (Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System)	63,000
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CJC Information Center

Number of Calls and Counter Requests	150,000
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Adult Probation and Parole

CASE-RESPONSIBLE PROBATION OFFICERS	264
AVERAGE CASE LOAD PER OFFICER	223
TOTAL OFFENDERS	49,000
TOTAL CASES	59,000
TOTAL PROBATION OFFICERS	264

20 are non-case carrying (example PSI and court officers)

264 are case-carrying officers

77 (of 282) officers are paid by grants, leaving 205 paid by general fund.

Specialized Units and Functions

- ALCOHOL HIGHWAY SAFE DRIVING UNIT (AHSD) – This unit supervises 2,200 offenders and coordinates and monitors the completion of all statutorily mandated conditions for D.U.I. offenders. This unit is also responsible for DUI Treatment Court, which began in 2007. By the end of 2008, 50 offenders had gone through the program. One hundred DUI offenders were on electronic monitoring.
- ACCELERATED REHABILITATIVE DISPOSITION (ARD) – This is a diversionary program available to certain first time non-violent offenders at the discretion of the District Attorney's Office. This unit supervises 2,850 offenders.
- CENTER FOR ADULT EDUCATION – This program is a joint effort between APPD and The Center for Literacy (CFL), a private, non-profit philanthropic organization. APPD provides office space and supplies. CFL provides on-site evaluations and referrals to educational programs, which consist of instruction from basic literacy through GED preparation. In 2008, 1,022 offenders were referred for help.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE – This program arranges all Court-ordered community service for offenders so conditioned. APPD has developed well-monitored site placements with responsible organizations. APPD receives reports on hours of service by offender and maintains

computerized records of completion. Last year 706 offenders were referred with 464 offenders completing the program.

- **COURT MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC** – In 2008, 1,966 Mental Health Evaluations were ordered by the judiciary to determine the offenders' competency to stand trial and assist in their own defense. Evaluations are also ordered for involuntary commitment cases, amenability to treatment determinations, and special requests from trial Judges. The clinic honors APPD requests for mental health evaluations on supervised offenders and provides training for the judiciary regarding mental health issues.

- **DNA** – 2,042 samples were collected from offenders convicted of felonies in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 185-2004. Testing is conducted in accordance with State Police Standards by a technician from Compliance Oversight Solutions Ideal, LLC, a contracted vendor. The Pennsylvania State Police supplies collection kits and receives the results.

- **DOMESTIC INTERVENTION SUPERVISION** – Specially trained, experienced officers supervise offenders involved in family violence, diagnosed with mental retardation, or afflicted with a serious physical illness which interferes with traditional supervision. Domestically violent offenders are visited at home by teams of Probation and Police Officers during non-traditional hours in a program known as Targeted Patrol. In 2008, 577 offenders are supervised by this unit.

- **DRUG DETECTION CENTER** – APPD operates an on-site drug detection laboratory which is staffed by a contracted vendor. The lab uses two testing methods: urinalysis and eye scan. Last year, 61,213 drug tests using the urinalysis method were taken.

- **FACILITIES AND GRANT MANAGEMENT** – Several staff who have other duties share this responsibility which consist of:

- Building Management – 1401 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

- Vehicle Fleet Management

- Equipment and Supplies – ordering, storing, inventory, distribution and repair.

- Criminal record checks on supervised offenders for compliance with DPW standards.

- Supervision of part-time clerical employees

- Ensure compliance with federal, state, and local grants

- Maintain messenger service

- Management of Service Contracts

- **FORENSIC INTENSIVE RECOVERY (FIR)** – This program was developed in conjunction with the District Attorney, Public Defender and Philadelphia Health Management Corporation. Offenders in this program have the dual diagnosis of drug/mental health problems. The APPD FIR unit supervises 1,020 such offenders.

- **FRAUD UNIT** – Supervises offenders convicted of defrauding the Department of Public Welfare, Insurance Companies and Unemployment Compensation. This unit is funded by the District Attorney's Office. There are 5,550 offenders in this unit.

- **FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER** – A faith-based initiative in which a fully-functioning component of every criminal justice agency in Philadelphia was assembled in a church for the purpose of receiving and processing offenders wishing to turn themselves in to clear

outstanding warrants. Over a 4 day period, 1,200 offenders turned themselves in to the highly-advertised program. The offenders represented all manner of legal status's and situations. Most matters were disposed of on site, including violation of probation hearings and Municipal and Common Pleas open criminal matters.

- **GENERAL SUPERVISION** – The vast majority of offenders supervised by APPD are allocated to non-specialized caseloads based on offender residence location. While specialized caseloads are smaller, caseloads in general supervision are large by any standard, averaging at least 160 offenders per officer.

- **GUN COURT PROGRAM** – This initiative began on January 10, 2005. APPD provides strict supervision for offenders convicted of Violation of the Uniform Firearms Act (VUFA). All must perform community service and participate in violence awareness programs. Gun Court Probation Officers participate in targeted patrols of high crime areas with the Philadelphia Police Department. The research department conducts an on-going Evaluation. A total of 877 offenders are supervised by this unit.

- **INTAKE UNIT** – responsible for probation case initiation for all offenders so sentenced, numbering 23,634 annually. Technicians use the Monitor program to accomplish this process, which involves entering docket information and interviewing the offender, collecting and entering demographic information. All new Probation Officers do a rotation in this unit as it is the best training ground for understanding the business of probation. Student interns and externs are also assigned there. Unit staff works closely with the Clerk of Quarter Sessions.

- **INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT (I.P.) UNIT** – A probation sentence established by statute. Supervision is restrictive. Offenders have substance abuse problems and scored in the upper range of the Sentencing Guideline calculation. Supervision for some 950 offenders includes:

1. Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Treatment
2. House Arrest with Electronic Monitoring – 166 of the total.

- **MENTAL HEALTH UNIT** – Offenders in this unit are stipulated by the sentencing judge or referred by Probation Officers. Offenders have documented psychiatric difficulties and require mental health treatment. This unit works closely with the Court Mental Health Clinic to identify treatment options and develop supervision plans for the offenders. The unit supervises 1,121 offenders.

- **MONITORED SUPERVISION UNIT** –This unit provides a structured alternative to incarceration for 250 offenders who are monitored electronically and referred for needed treatment. Offenders who violate their monitoring conditions are subject to arrest by the Warrant Unit of Pre-Trial Services.

- **OPERATIONS SUPPORT** – These specialized technical staff handle the administrative transactions generated by certain frequently-occurring case events.

- **RECORDS MANAGEMENT** – Maintains and catalogs approximately 100,000 master files, each of which contains all documents accumulated for any offender supervised by APPD whose cases have expired.

- Creates new cases via the Monitor caseload management computer application resulting from parole petitions and requests for courtesy supervision from other jurisdictions.
- Responds to subpoenas for archived case information.
- Responds to requests from other agencies for information on active and expired cases.
- Processes a number of Monitor transactions, including case transfers, expirations and quality control printouts.
- Microfilms expired cases on an aging schedule.
- Created 5,323 dockets and expired 31,436 dockets.
- VIOLATION OF PROBATION MANAGEMENT
 - Generate and track arrest warrants requested by officers for offenders who have violated or absconded from supervision.
 - Schedule and attend daily warrant hearings for arrested and incarcerated offenders.
 - Track potential open-bill violations through the trial phase, identify direct violations and request violation hearing on 'ready' cases as determined by our assessment of offenders' legal profile.
 - Field inquiries from agencies nation-wide regarding our offenders apprehended in other jurisdictions.
 - Issue and track warrants requested by State Parole agents on certain shared-supervision cases; schedule and attend warrant hearing.
 - 14,531 warrants were issued with 10,857 warrants lifted.
 - 19,616 in violation status were submitted for hearings of which 23% were disposed.
- OUT OF COUNTY/STATE – Caseloads consist of residents of other jurisdictions who are convicted of criminal offenses in Philadelphia. Such offenders are supervised by the Probation Department in the county of residence, with administrative monitoring by officers in this unit. The process for transferring supervision to other states is particularly complex. APPD

receives reports from the supervising jurisdiction, which sometimes requires intervention by our officer. Cases are returned to APPD for cause. This unit monitors 545 offenders.

- **PAROLE UNIT** – Responsible for the timely issuance of petitions to sentencing Judges based on local parole eligibility rules. The Release Information Network (RIN) is a networked computer application used by APPD and the Public Defender to support the paroling process. The PD submits parole petitions for cause to sentencing Judges independent of APPD. The Parole Unit receives and acts on both approved and denied petitions received from sentencing Judges. The pernicious problem of prison overcrowding mandates that the Parole Unit stays current in these matters. RIN imports a daily electronic download of the prison population. The Parole Unit conducts prison interviews. 5,690 parole petitions were submitted to the judiciary for approval.
- **PENN VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (PVRP)**: PVRP is a collaborative effort of Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, Pre-trial Services, and the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania. The overall goal of the partnership is to use a data-driven, evidence-based approach to more effectively manage persons under supervision by the First Judicial District. This process will initially focus on the identification of offenders at highest risk for committing homicide.
- **PRESENTENCE UNIT** – staffed by experienced Probation Officers, this unit conducts background investigations examining and evaluating the offender's criminal and psycho-social history. Investigators compose reports for requesting Judges to assist in sentencing. In 2008, 2,242 pre-sentence reports were completed and 2,146 sentencing guidelines.
- **PROBATION CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PCMS)** – a broad system centered on Monitor, a networked software application to which most employees have some level of access. Monitor is used by Probation Officers to enter data on all aspects of case supervision and by many supporting units as well. Managers use Monitor to audit cases and otherwise oversee the operation of their units. Technically proficient staff maintain liaison with the vendor and conduct ongoing weekly and ad hoc phone conferences to support and improve the program.
- **PROB-START** (Probation Supervision Through Analysis, Research and Training) – An overarching management construct built on Monitor; started after Monitor had been in use long enough to yield informative results to targeted queries. Management identifies reviews, and acts on trends. The Chief Probation Officer selects a topic of importance in case supervision which is analyzed by the research team. Concurrently, Managers, Supervisors and Officers audit cases for instances of the PROBSTART topic. Group case conferences are held and management and line staff present and explain pertinent cases. Identified practices are lauded or remediated. They serve as the basis for policy development and department-wide training.
- **REENTRY INITIATIVES** – The Mayor's Office for the Reentry of Ex-Offenders (M.O.R.E.) offers reentry services to offenders at all stages of the criminal justice system. APPD staff participates in this Office's standing committees and refers offenders to their job training and placement services.
- **SEX OFFENDERS UNIT** – Supervises all offenders convicted of sexual offenses through intensive supervision, urinalysis, counseling referrals, and monitoring stay away orders and inappropriate living arrangements. The officers initiate Megan's Law registration for those offenders convicted of designated sex offenses. Officers in this Unit participate in targeted patrols with the Philadelphia Police Department. Additionally, 103 female sexual offenders are

assigned to one officer to specifically address their issues. Computer technology monitors and blocks internet usage by sex offenders. There are 975 offenders in this unit.

- **SPECIAL PROJECTS AND RESEARCH** – Provides APPD with operational and evaluative information not otherwise available. Two degreed professionals conduct fruitful studies and receive support and liaison with the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. With U of P we have developed a validated statistical model which we will use to assess the relative risk of each offender we supervise.

- **STATISTICS** – Responsible for the collection, research, interpretation and distribution of monthly department figures.

- **STRATEGIC ANTI-VIOLENCE UNIT (SAV-U)** This initiative was undertaken in 2006 in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania Jerry Lee Center for Criminology that developed a statistical model for identifying, in the aggregate, perpetrators and victims of homicide or attempted homicide within the APPD offender population. The SAV-U pilot project became operational in January, 2007. Two (2) of the officers were trained in group Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). They facilitated a twelve (12) week program focusing on emotional and life skills for a sample of the unit's offenders. Currently, 97 offenders are supervised in this unit.

- **TRAINING UNIT** – This multifaceted unit arranges for and conducts training which, among other things, complies with the Pennsylvania Board of Parole and Probation mandate of 40 hours for professional staff and 16 hours for support staff. FJD subsidizes, through APPD, certain graduate studies for which training hours are credited. The Training Unit studies and develops policy for the department and is writing a new Operations Manual by which APPD will document, manage and teach the change in work practices flowing from myriad new administrative and technical systems.

In 2008, the unit established the Armed Officer Program, a pilot project which fully armed 10 Probation Officers and their Supervisor after extensive screening and training. These Officers supervise high-risk offenders placed under our supervision for firearm-related charges by the Philadelphia Gun Court. The Project Manager is the Director of Training.

- **VICTIM SERVICES UNIT** – Two probation officers are dedicated to assisting victims of crime. These officers reach out to all victims of sexual offenses and survivors of homicide attempts. They compose victim impact statements which are a part of the presentence report and coordinate services with support agencies.

- **WEAPONS RELATED INJURY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (WRISS)** – APPD identifies offenders who have been victims of shootings. The Philadelphia Police Department receives information from physicians and hospitals on injuries by firearms. APPD uses it to impact the number of offender-involved shootings; there were 233 in 2008.

- **YOUTH VIOLENCE REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP (YVRP)** – A multi-agency effort to reduce violent crimes among high-risk/at-risk juveniles and adults age 24 or younger. Probation Officers conduct Targeted Patrol with Police Officers, visiting homes between 4:00 p.m. and midnight in the 12th, 19th, 22nd, 24th, 25th and 39th Police Districts. Currently the unit supervises 914 offenders. The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) presented its Distinguished Annual Program Award to APPD in 2007 in recognition of the success of YVRP.

Highlights of 2008

- YVRP AWARD – The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) presented its Annual Distinguished Program Award to the FJD APPD in 2008 in recognition of the success of this program.
- ARMED OFFICER PROGRAM – A pilot project which fully trained and armed 10 Probation Officers and their Supervisor.
- RISK MODEL – Working with the University of Pennsylvania, a validated statistical model was developed to assess the relative risk of each offender, enabling stratification of the entire APPD offender cohort.
- SEX OFFENDERS – Training in and implementation of new computer technology which monitors and blocks internet usage by sex offenders
- PROB-START – An overarching management construct built on Monitor allowing management to review to identify and act on trends which were previously transparent. Group case conferences are held and management and line staff present and explain pertinent cases. Identified practices are lauded or remediated. They serve as the basis for policy development and department-wide training.
- FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER – A faith-based initiative in which a fully-functioning component of every criminal justice agency in Philadelphia was assembled in a church for the purpose of receiving and processing offenders wishing to turn themselves in to clear outstanding warrants. 1,200 offenders turned themselves in over 4 days in the highly-advertised program. The offenders represented all manner of legal status's and situations. Most matters were disposed of on site, including violation of probation hearings and Municipal and Common Pleas open criminal matters
- COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL PROGRAM – Offered to offenders in the Strategic Anti-Violence Unit.
- LOW RISK STUDY – Random trial study of Penn Risk Model which further validated the model

Please see more Criminal Section statistics on page 98.

Civil Section

During calendar year 2008, the Trial Division-Civil continued to administer justice in Philadelphia in an efficient and productive manner. The Civil Section continues to provide access to justice by the implementation of innovative and progressive caseflow management systems, continuous education for support staff, creation of appropriate pre-trial forums and technology utilization advancements.

Civil Case Management Programs

The key to the success of the Trial Division - Civil is the intense management of cases. Civil cases are categorized and placed into case management programs specifically designed for effective handling and prompt disposition. Significant court events are scheduled and deadlines are enforced. These programs and centers include Complex Litigation, Day Forward Major Jury, Commerce Case Management, Arbitration, Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program, Motions, Class Actions, Governmental and Administrative Agency Appeals, Forfeiture, Code Enforcement and Discovery, as well as the Civil Case Management and Dispute Resolution Centers.

Civil Electronic Filing System

The success of our civil court automation efforts has encouraged us to explore better ways to conduct the court's business through the use of technology and through the internet.

The most significant highlight of calendar year 2008 is the implementation of Electronic Filing. After much anticipation, the Civil Electronic Filing System (EFS) was put into operation on August 4, 2008. We are pleased to report that the system has performed extremely well and with little or no interruption in performance.

Electronic Filing, which is the process of transmitting documents and other court information to the court through an electronic medium, rather than on paper, has increased the access, convenience and ease of use of the courts for all citizens.

The Civil Electronic Filing System, which was completely designed and built in-house, is fully compliant with the Court's Case Management practices and procedures. The system allows the filer to electronically submit pleadings, motions, documents and exhibits to the court; provide for the payment of filing fees; generate an acknowledgement of the court's receipt of the filing; and notification after review of the pleading by the court either confirming that the pleading has been accepted for filing or setting forth reasons why the pleading was rejected – all in an electronic setting.

The electronic filing of all civil matters, legal papers, and documents within the Trial Division - Civil became mandatory on Monday, January 5, 2009. During the month of January 2009, seventy percent (70%) of the courts filings, which represent approximately 34,000 documents, were filed electronically and 3,196 attorneys and eighty-five (85) self-represented parties filed documents electronically.

Electronic filing promises greater productivity and effectiveness along with dramatic savings and improvements in the work of the courts and the practice of law.

The parties to civil actions are now recognizing savings - in the areas of time and the costs – and they are realizing and appreciating improved electronic access to court records.

Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program

The Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program is designed to provide early Court intervention in residential owner occupied mortgage foreclosure cases.

In 2008 there were 7,508 mortgage foreclosure complaints filed in the city of Philadelphia. This number was indicative of the nationwide epidemic facing Americans everywhere. We are living in extraordinary times which require extraordinary measures, and the Trial Division - Civil has taken the necessary measures to address this crisis.

In April of 2008 the Sheriff of Philadelphia County announced that he would not proceed with the Sheriff's Sale list for that month. With the support of City Officials, Court leaders developed the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Pilot Program. The program was developed in less than seven (7) weeks with the assistance of the Mortgage Foreclosure Steering Committee which has been in operation since 2004. The Committee, comprised of representatives from the City of Philadelphia; the Sheriff's Office; the Philadelphia Bar Association; the Office of Housing and Community Development; the lender and consumer bars; and community outreach agencies were primed to assist the Trial Division – Civil in developing the current Pilot Program. Thanks to these major stakeholders, by June of 2008 the program was up and running and the goal was simple: save homes in Philadelphia, one address at a time.

The Court's pilot program rests on the theory that if you bring homeowners and lenders face to face, deals can be struck. This is exactly what takes place each Thursday in Courtroom 676 City Hall. Court regulations require all cases involving residential owner-occupied properties to be noticed for a conciliation conference before any property can be put up for Sheriff's Sale. When the complaint for foreclosure is filed it must be served on the defendant homeowner (as in any civil proceeding) and with that complaint is a case management order scheduling a conciliation conference for the homeowner. Attached to that order are instructions that direct the homeowner to contact the Save Your Home Philly Hotline to schedule an appointment with a housing counselor. The homeowner then meets with the housing counselor before their conference to gather all necessary financial information to hand over to the attorney for the plaintiff before the conference. Both parties then attend the conciliation conference on a designated Thursday where they attempt to negotiate a resolution with the assistance of a housing counselor, volunteer attorney for the homeowner, and if necessary, a Judge Pro Tempore (JPT).

The program is simply a case management tool which is similar to those used in other areas of the Trial Division – Civil. The conference is mandatory and takes place before the Sheriff Sale with the hope that the Sheriff Sale never takes place. In order to make sure these homeowners are attending conferences to receive the assistance of the program there has been coordination with the Mayor and various city housing counseling agencies for community outreach to notify troubled homeowners.

Once in Courtroom 676, the homeowner is entitled to a *pro bono* attorney for their conference if they meet eligibility requirements. Over 200 volunteer attorneys have volunteered their time, thanks to the efforts of Philadelphia's Volunteers for the Indigent Program (Philly

VIP), a non-profit legal organization. Other senior members of the local bar have also volunteered their time to serve as JPT's in these cases. These attorneys are some of the best and brightest in this industry and have donated hundreds of hours in an effort to resolve these cases. Additionally Philadelphia has an outstanding group of housing counselors who do the initial intake of these homeowners and get them properly situated before the conference takes place. Without them, our program would cease to exist.

At the conclusion of the conference, a court order is issued setting forth the resolution reached. Resolutions can be forbearance; a stay of sale; settlement of the entire action; loan modification; loan reinstatement; payment plans; and in some instances "graceful exit." The latter refers to times when the homeowner simply cannot remain in the house and thus instead of enduring a Sheriff Sale, the lender and homeowner agree upon a date which to exit the property. In a good deal of those cases, the lender will also provide some additional funds to give the homeowner so that they are able to find an alternative living situation. With Day Forward cases (filed after September 9, 2008) there is often no Sheriff Sale scheduled at this time and so resolution can also result in delaying default judgments in order to reach a resolution without scheduling a Sale.

During calendar year 2008, over 3000 cases were scheduled for conciliation conferences. Of that number approximately 2,100 homeowners have come through the conference program with varied resolutions. The majority of homeowners either resolved the matter outright or was permitted postponement of sheriff sale so agreements could be made. The Court is in the process of developing the means to examine current data to most efficiently track our results to date.

In October 2008, the Mortgage Foreclosure Program was the subject of a U.S. Senate Judiciary Hearing called by Senator Arlen Specter and presided over by him and Senator Casey, wherein representatives from all sides of the issue were able to testify. This hearing also included testimony from homeowners who benefited from participation in our program.

Philadelphia has been touted as the first jurisdiction in the country to establish a program of this nature to address the financial crisis we are currently experiencing. As a result, the Mortgage Foreclosure Program has become a national model which other jurisdictions are following.

Thanks to the implementation of this successful program, thousands of homeowners in Philadelphia who face foreclosure will have an opportunity to save their homes

Day Forward Major Jury Program

The nationally recognized Day Forward Major Jury Program encompasses all major civil jury cases with the exception of Commerce and Mass Tort cases. Day Forward Case Management is a system that has been created to coordinate and schedule major jury cases for trial. It provides for early intervention and continuous control of the major jury cases.

To manage these cases more effectively, judges assigned to this program are divided into teams. To maintain consistent oversight of each case, each Team is led by a Judicial Team Leader. The Judicial Team Leader along with the assigned team of judges rule upon all motions (including discovery motions), conduct status conferences, settlement conferences, pretrial conferences and trials.

To assure effective case management, every case in the Day Forward Program is scheduled for a case management conference before a Civil Case Manager approximately ninety (90) days after its initial filing. The main objective of the Case Management Conference is to obtain early disclosure of basic information about each case so that it can be managed more effectively. Based on this information, the Civil Case Manager prepares a Case Management Order that establishes the schedule for each case. The Case Management Order sets deadlines for discovery, the exchange of expert reports, and the filing of motions. Also, a presumptive month is set for a settlement conference, pretrial conference and trial.

Another important task at the Case Management Conference is the assignment of all cases to an appropriate “track.” At the Case Management Conference all cases are classified into one of three case management tracks: expedited, standard, and complex. Expedited track cases are resolved within 13 months of filing; standard track cases are resolved within 19 months; and complex track cases are resolved within 25 months.

During calendar year 2008, the judges and staff assigned to the Day Forward Major Jury Program disposed of 5,545 cases.

Commerce Program

The Commerce Case Management Program continues to be successful and well received by the Bar and litigants. This success can be attributed, in part, to early intervention, mediation and the close monitoring of cases by both Commerce Program Judges and volunteer Judges Pro Tempore.

Over the past two years, Commerce Program’s inventory has been refined so as to concentrate its resources on purely commercial and business matters. In 2008, the Commerce Program received 595 new filings and the Commerce Judges disposed of 683 cases.

The Commerce Program continues to provide guidance regarding the commercial law of Pennsylvania, with many substantive opinions published in 2008. The Program also continues to experience a very low reversal rate. Commerce Program opinions, rules and procedures are published on the FJD’s website for the public’s ease of reference.

Complex Litigation Center

When it opened in 1992, the Complex Litigation Center (CLC) was the first courthouse in the United States designed exclusively for complex, multi-filed Mass Tort cases. The Mass Tort, Asbestos, Major Non-Jury, Equity, Class Action, Arbitration Appeals, Lead Contamination, and Penn-Dot Appeals Programs are managed within the Complex Litigation Center. The National Center for State Courts noted, “the creation and operation of the Complex Litigation Center is clearly one of the Court’s major achievements and a substantial service to the citizens of Philadelphia, the Bar and the nation, given the scope of mass tort litigation and class actions.”

As reported last year, the Mass Tort Section of the Complex Litigation Center continues to be the focal point of major drug company litigation. The Trial Division-Civil reports that twenty-five (25) Mass Tort Programs have been successfully completed since the program’s inception.

The Hormone Replacement Therapy Program has become the Complex Litigation Center’s largest Mass Tort Program, making up 52% of the mass tort case inventory. There

were 1,542 Hormone Replacement Therapy cases in the inventory at the end of 2008. The Hormone Replacement Therapy Program is on track and many cases have already been scheduled for trial for 2009.

New Mass Tort Programs have been created for “Avandia,” which is an oral anti-diabetic medication; and for “Trasylol,” which is a drug that was used to limit bleeding in heart surgery.

A newly created Case Management Order is now issued in major non-jury cases through an efficient, automated process. These cases are placed in trial pools 11 months from the date of filing. The new process provides flexibility in the use of our judicial resources.

During calendar year 2008, the judges assigned to the Complex Litigation Center disposed of 5,968 cases.

Compulsory Arbitration Program

The Compulsory Arbitration Program in Philadelphia County is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the nation. All civil actions filed in the Court of Common Pleas with an amount in controversy of \$50,000 or less, excluding equitable actions and claims to real estate, must first proceed to a compulsory arbitration hearing before a panel of three attorneys who have been certified by the Court to serve as arbitrators. Arbitration cases are scheduled for hearings eight (8) months from the date of commencement.

The Compulsory Arbitration Program received 20,069 new filings in 2008.

The program was able to successfully resolve 18,646 cases in 2008.

Only eleven percent (11%) of the arbitration cases were appealed during calendar year 2008.

Office of Civil Administration

Civil Motions Program

The Office of Civil Administration/Civil Motions Program is an integral part of the civil court process. Most civil cases never make it to the courtroom. Once a civil action is commenced, motions and petitions are filed and ruled on prior to trial. While trial dates are set, many cases are often disposed through the motions process and settlement.

The Motions Program is responsible for processing and assignment of over 50,000 yearly filings including motions, petitions, preliminary objections, and stipulations requiring court approval.

Many changes occurred within the Office of Civil Administration in 2008. Most notable was the integration of the electronic filing system into the motions program. Employee training for implementation of this enormous change began in early 2008 and continues daily. Commencing August 4, 2008, and continuing through the end of December 2008, these filings were processed manually and electronically simultaneously. August 4, 2008, also marks the day when the electronic assignment of motions to the civil judges successfully occurred. This success is attributed to the judges, their support staff, Data Processing, Quality Assurance and the staff of the Office of Civil Administration.

The Office of Civil Administration is also responsible for the management of the Motion Program Argument List; Forfeiture Program; Lead Contamination Program; Code Enforcement Cases; Municipal Court Landlord/Tenant Appeals; Statutory Appeals; Civil Tax Petitions; Civil Tax Complaints; Non-Commerce Class Actions; and the High Technology Courtroom's Technical Operations and Scheduling.

Dispute Resolution Center

The Dispute Resolution Center provides a centralized location for mandatory settlement conferences. In so doing, it encourages uniform procedures for these conferences while offering litigants comfortable modernized facilities for the disposition of civil cases within historic City Hall.

Mandatory settlement conferences are conducted in every major jury case after the close of discovery. The settlement conferences are scheduled in accordance with a case management order that is issued in all major jury cases approximately ninety (90) days after the commencement of the action. All counsel and unrepresented parties are directed to file a settlement memorandum at least ten days before the mandatory settlement conference and they must appear with full settlement authority.

The Trial Division – Civil recruits Judges Pro Tempore (JPTs) to preside over the mandatory conferences in our Dispute Resolution Center. The JPTs are experienced members of the major jury Bar. In preparation for the conference, the JPT reviews the case file in order to effectively discuss all issues with the parties. In the event a case does not settle at the conference, the JPT is available by telephone or for follow-up conferences. However, these follow-up conferences and calls will not delay the court's schedule for the case. At the conclusion of each settlement conference, the JPT must complete a settlement conference report. This report is provided to the trial Judge along with the case file in preparation for the next scheduled event, which is the final pretrial conference.

During calendar year 2008:

- With the help of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel, the Dispute Resolution Center recruited more than 200 new volunteers for the Judge Pro Tempore Program;
- An e-mail server list was designed and implemented to enhance communication between the DRC, counsel of record and the Judges Pro Tempore regarding scheduling and any emergency issues that may arise;
- A Judge Pro Tempore Biographical Data Sheet was designed in order to quickly match and confirm the qualifications of the Judges Pro Tempore with various case types, i.e., medical malpractice, product liability, construction, motor vehicle and premise liability matters; and
- Settlement conferences in cases involving the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) were scheduled on dates certain in order to guarantee full settlement authority at the time of the conference; to encourage meaningful negotiations; and to accommodate counsel's schedules.

It is important to note that during calendar year 2008, over 3,775 settlement conferences were conducted within the Dispute Resolution Center, of which twenty-four percent (24%) of the cases were amicably resolved.

2008 Civil Inventory

New Filings: Including arbitration matters, the Trial Division – Civil received a total of 34,827 new filings during calendar year 2008.

Dispositions: Total civil dispositions for 2008 equaled 35,094. Excluding arbitration matters, the Court disposed of 16,448 civil cases.

Dispositions Per Trial Judge: Considering the fact that there were twenty-six (26) commissioned judges and six (6) part-time senior judges assigned to the Trial Division – Civil during calendar year 2008, it is fair to say that, on average, each judge disposed of approximately forty-three (43) non-arbitration cases per month. This statistical analysis supports and confirms the strong judicial leadership, the high level of judicial productivity and the commitment of the judges to the goals of the various case management programs.

Records Pending: Civil records pending as of December 31, 2008, totaled 28,393:

Program	Civil Records Pending	Percent of Inventory
Arbitration	11,730	41%
Major Jury	6,469	23%
Complex Litigation	5,882	21%
Programs Assigned to Motions Judges	2,495	9%
Governmental and Administrative Agencies	1,119	4%
Commerce	698	2%
Total	28,393	100%

Please see more Civil Section statistics on Page 94.

Family Court Division

The Family Court Division is the second of the three Divisions that together, constitute the Common pleas Court of the First Judicial District. Kevin M. Dougherty is the Administrative Judge of the Family Division. The Family Division is separated into two components: 1) the Juvenile Branch and 2) the Domestic Relations Branch. The Juvenile Branch has jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency cases, juvenile dependency cases, truancy, and adoptions. The descriptions of the Domestic Relations Branch organization and overview begin after the Juvenile Branch Section below.

Juvenile Branch

Overview and Organization

The Juvenile Branch is located at 1801 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA., 19103. The workforce consists of approximately 411 professional and support staff. The Juvenile Branch consists of twelve judges, including Kevin M. Dougherty, the Administrative Judge. Juvenile Branch Judges preside over delinquency and dependency matters. Six commissioned judges and two full-time Masters are assigned to dependency proceedings. Five commissioned judges and one full-time Master are assigned to delinquency proceedings. One senior judge is assigned to “B” Court, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article V, Section 16(q) (ii) and (r) (iii).

Juvenile Probation

2008 Delinquent Court Outcomes

Juvenile Delinquency-Disposition by Proceeding Type 2008

Adjudicatory Hearing.....	7,749
Pre-Trial Hearings	908
Certification	75
Detention	<u>889</u>
Total	9,621

Juvenile Delinquency – New Case Disposition Outcomes – 2008

Referred Elsewhere	56
Dismissed / Withdrawn	4,646
Probation.....	2,954
Committed.....	1,680
Certified.....	6
Other	<u>279</u>
Total	9,621

JCJC Juvenile Probation Statewide Case Closing Outcomes

As part of the Juvenile Court Judges Commissions State Wide Probation Outcomes Initiative, the Philadelphia Juvenile Probation recidivism rate for cases closed out of the system in 2008 continued to show positive outcomes. Of the 3,156 delinquency cases that were closed out, 81% of those youth successfully completed probation supervision without a new arrest. This recidivism number closely matches the effort for the Department in 2007.

- The median length of supervision was 18 months in 2008, an increase from 16 months in 2007. The increase is indicative of efforts by the Probation Department and the court to ensure greater accountability from probation youth to meet the supervision and Court requirements.
- The average length a child spends in out of home placement was 11.6 months in 2008 and remained relatively stable from 2007 average of 11.5 months.

Balanced and Restorative Justice Outcomes BARJ

The probationers in Philadelphia completed nearly 53,000 hours of community service to the City of Philadelphia in 2008. This figure has remained stable since 2006. At minimum wage scales, this correlates to approximately \$310,000 in free services to the neighborhoods and citizens of Philadelphia.

The Juvenile Probation department collected \$324,917 in restitution payments and dispersed \$347,400 to victims of juvenile crime in 2008. These amounts reflect a 30% increase from 2007. Philadelphia continues to be the statewide leader in restitution collection and payments to victims.

The Juvenile Probation Department collected \$117,000 in Court ordered fines and costs that were sent and distributed through the Pennsylvania Crime Victims Compensation Fund to victims of juvenile crime. This was a 10% increase over 2007 collections.

Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

In September of 2004, the Philadelphia Family Court introduced the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court. This program is an alternative to the juvenile facing an adjudication of delinquency. Our mission is to eliminate substance abuse and reduce crime among non-violent, substance abusing juveniles by coordinating strength-based intervention and treatment with intensive judicial and interdisciplinary oversight. In 2007, there were over 188 participants in the program. Although the program piloted in the Southwest section of Philadelphia, in July of this year the program expanded to serve youth from the entire city as three additional sites in Northwest, Central and Northeast Philadelphia were added to the continuum of services. The treatment component provided by the West Philadelphia Mental Health Consortium, Men and Women for Human Excellence, and 2 PHMC sites takes approximately 9 months to complete. Thereafter, if the juvenile remains drug free for one year, their criminal record will be expunged.

In 2008, approximately 220 cases were disposed by way of admissions without requiring the appearance of a single police officer in the courtroom. In this current fiscal crisis, the savings from reduced police over-time translates to additional police officers on the street. These benefits augmented those arising from the increased potential for saving juveniles from life-altering adjudications of delinquency upon their successful completion of the program. Also, the Juvenile Treatment Court permits case management and in-patient placement to be provided in private treatment facilities using funds from the Department of Behavioral Health or private

insurance. This is significant considering the high volume of cases and the wide array of services provided through the juvenile justice system despite the limited and dwindling resources available.

Graduated Sanctions Court

In an attempt to maintain greater control of the population of detained youth – primarily those delinquent youth in violation of probation – the Philadelphia Family Court teamed with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office and the Defender Association to pilot the first Juvenile Graduated Sanctions Court. In 2008, this court proposed a system of graduated sanctions that would be part of a continuum of care. The options provide prevention, intervention and treatment. Although the model of service delivery would be a departure from current practice, the project is aimed at reducing the number of out-of-home placements.

The sanction team includes representatives from collaborating agencies, counsel for the Commonwealth, and counsel for the youth, and probation officers. Together, all will intervene to develop appropriate dispositional recommendations to the court.

Juvenile Enforcement Team (Jet)

In December of 2007, Philadelphia Family Court and the Philadelphia Police Department announced the implementation of their collaborative effort to combat and prevent significant juvenile violence in South Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Family Court Juvenile Probation Department and the Philadelphia Police Department 17th District developed a collaborative, intensive-gang intervention targeting identified groups of youth involved in violent criminal activities. The goal of the initiative is to provide supervision, surveillance, and community protection to the 17th District region of the city by utilizing the joint resources of both departments to address the juvenile violence in this sector. A Juvenile Probation Unit was created and named the Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET). Seasoned probation officers were selected to work closely with the Philadelphia Police Department Criminal Intelligence Unit and the 17th District in a balanced, proactive, approach necessary to maintain the integrity of the philosophy of restorative justice.

The cooperative effort has been well received and recognized for its successes. In 2008, juvenile victims of guns shots dropped from 30 in 2007 to only 9 in 2008, a reduction of over 200%. Although operating for only a relatively short time period, JET assisted in removing, guns, drugs, and violent offenders from the streets. The Philadelphia Police Department has requested that the Court consider expanding the unit to other high-crime areas within Philadelphia.

Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP)

The Youth Violence Reduction Partnership continues to be the one of the most progressive and successful collaborations in Philadelphia's mission to address the most violent offenders in the Juvenile and Adult systems. Their motto of "Alive at 25" and annual report findings have yielded effective results in addressing this population's re-arrest rate and improved the safety of the clients and the community. As part of the State and Federal Blue Print for Violence Program, the YVRP initiative continues to fight the growing problems of guns and youth violence in the City. The Juvenile Probation Department participates in the Steering and Management and Operations Committees of this joint effort between the Philadelphia Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Philadelphia Anti-Violence/Anti-Drug Network (PAAN). The courts and agencies work collectively to provide supervision, surveillance, and competency development to our City's most at-risk youth.

Probation Firearms Pilot

In 2008, the Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments joined to develop a firearms program within their respective departments. The programs are targeted at units who work with our most violent gun offenders. The pilot required all officers to pass the rigorous Pennsylvania Firearms Education and Training program in Harrisburg and to maintain certification and qualification annually. In Juvenile Probation, the Officers selected were from the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership (YVRP) and the Juvenile Enforcement Team (JET) units.

Youth Study Center

In 2008, the Youth Study Center Intake Unit processed 8,665 juvenile petitions including the diversion of nearly 500 cases through the YSC Diversion Program. Almost 800 were diverted through the District Attorney's Youth Aid Panel (YAP) program.

Aftercare/Reintegration Program

The Philadelphia Reintegration Initiative is an unprecedented shared effort between Juvenile Probation and the Department of Human Services. The Aftercare Reintegration Program began on February 1, 2005. This program teams Probation Officers, residential providers, and the Philadelphia Youth Network to provide integrated services for families and youth while the juveniles are in placement. It also provides a wide range of vocational, educational, therapeutic, and community-based services after juveniles are discharged from placement facilities.

In 2008, the Aftercare Reintegration program was helped by the implementation of the *Pennsylvania Academic and Technical/ Career Advancement Alliance*. This mutual effort between the Philadelphia and Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Departments is aimed at the improvement of academic and technical training programs for those facilities that accept our children for placement. This three-year project, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chief Probation Officers Council, is supported by grants from the MacArthur Foundation, the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency and the Stone Leigh Foundation. During the first year, strategic plans were developed with all nine placement providers in the Alliance, and the number of accredited technical trade programs increased by 30% in the first year.

To ensure that the educational needs of youth in placement are met, and to make certain that their academic achievements while in placement are accepted by their home school districts upon their return to the community, the PACTT Alliance relied on the assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the individual school districts in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Together they addressed the process of school credit recovery, standardized academic and technical curricula for all schools in Pennsylvania, and improved the transition of academic, technical, and job placement programming in the home counties of returning juveniles. This effort guarantees a comprehensive academic experience for youth while they are in placement, and further ensures that it will continue after their return to the community.

Parent Orientation to Probation Program

This monthly program serves as an orientation to parents whose children have been adjudicated delinquent in Family Court. The program provides protocols, standards, and expectations of the youth and parents as they relate to probation, while strengthening the collaboration between the Probation Department and the families to accomplish successful probationary periods for their children. In 2008, 737 families were trained and serviced through this initiative.

Probation Department Strategic Planning

The Juvenile Probation department continues to employ a Strategic Planning model for probation to address certain areas in order to provide a comprehensive roadmap for departmental organizational matters. The strategic visions for this year included:

- Youth Study Center Population Reductions
- Graduate Sanctions Court
- Global Positioning Technology Pilot for Community-Based Monitoring
- Probation Officer Safety
- Community Field Probation Supervision and Accountability
- Probation Training Unit

The strategy group members include Probation Officers and their Supervisors. The group's leadership and guidance are provided by the administrative oversight committee. The Vision Initiatives that have been developed are outlined below.

Case Management and Probation Officer Supervision Accountability

The Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department typically supervises an average of 6,000 cases at any moment in time, and to ensure the integrity of the mission, the Department has developed the JACS Supervision report that outlines probation officer supervision contact for each probation officer each month. This evaluation tool, developed through the JACS computer system, is a monthly report for field probation officers that captures all client contacts and also outlines where the visits occurred, and with whom. This data helps to ensure effective and efficient supervision for probation cases. The report has become a critical tool for auditing and maintaining accountability helping staff to review work productivity toward meeting departmental supervision standards.

In 2008, the Probation Department averaged about 7,250 successful client contacts per month. Over the course of this year, successful client contacts totaled 87,100. This effort surpassed the 2007 total of 85,050 successful contacts.

Probation Officer Safety in the Field

Probation Officer safety continues to be a major focus for the strategic planning group. The development of the Safety Committee has enabled the Department and Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty to meaningfully address the concerns and issues of probation officer safety. Through the work of the Safety Committee, the Probation Department has made protective body armor available for all probation officers. Badges, safety training, Priority Corner notifications, timely revision of field and building safety protocols, and the development of Probation Officer critical incident reporting also address the issues of field safety for staff. All Probation Staff were trained in gang identification and a protocol was implemented whereby all youth with tattoos are identified, photographed and cataloged in our system. The Probation Officer Field Safety curriculum was also expanded to include a new "Street Safety", handcuffing and defensive tactics training

Community Field Probation Initiative

Implemented in 2007, this initiative continues to join Probation Officers' field supervision as an integrated process within the community, school, families, and a wide range of community-based providers to ensure a more global approach to supervision and treatment services for youth under probation supervision, and to benefit their families. The court has teamed with the

Philadelphia Recreation Department, Philadelphia School District, Philadelphia Youth Network and a host of community providers. These linkages provide more comprehensive and intensive services to youth. The intent is to integrate the Probation Officers and their clients into the fabric of the community, during non-traditional working/school hours. This fosters increased youth competency and accountability and promotes community safety.

Probation Officer Training

In 2008, the Juvenile Probation Department completed more than 10,338 hours of training. Policies and enhanced field supervision techniques were emphasized. Other topics included field safety, JNET, aftercare reintegration, training in basic operations, case file maintenance, and participation in statewide JCJC training conferences.

Random Moment in Time Study

Since October 2003, the probation department has been involved in a State/Federal program to research the operational functioning of probation departments across the Country. Participation in this program provides access to funds for probation department services. The income generated through participation in this program goes toward programmatic and departmental needs. Last year, this program generated \$1.2 million for the City and probation services.

DNA Testing

As part of Act 57, DNA testing of all youth adjudicated of a felony offense is mandated. The Probation Department-Youth Study Center Intake and private providers conducted 1,080 DNA tests for 2008.

Children and Youth Services

Adoption Branch

The Adoption Branch staff is responsible for filing, processing and listing termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings. Final Adoption decrees are sometimes granted during these hearings. However, some cases in which the terminations are filed and completed in Philadelphia County, are eventually finalized elsewhere, in other jurisdictions.

The Adoption Branch staff processes Petitions for Registration of Foreign Births and Gestational Carrier cases. In addition, a search coordinator assists adoptees seeking to locate their biological parents.

From January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, 491 Adoption Petitions were granted.

Accelerated Adoption Review Court (AARC)

AARC is a specialized program with a specific courtroom dedicated to examining cases where parental rights have been terminated but an adoption has not yet been filed. The purpose of this courtroom is to aggressively assist with case management and, when possible, expedite the adoption process or other permanency option. Usually in attendance at these hearings are the city solicitor, a child advocate, and a social worker from the provider agency. All parties to the proceedings are required to appear in order to resolve issues that could present impediments to the adoption. This courtroom is staffed by a full time permanent Master, who manages case flow and is familiar with the procedures and problems that can be presented in adoption proceedings. All parties are required to follow the directives of the court master. If cases do not proceed appropriately, they are listed before the Administrative Judge for review.

Court Nursery

Each Sunday, court-ordered supervised visitation is conducted in the Court Nursery located at 1801 Vine Street. The court orders are generated from both the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branches. Three sessions are held: 9:30-11:30 A.M.; 12:00-2:00 P.M.; and 2:30-4:30 P.M. Families are screened through metal detectors and security guards and/or deputy sheriffs are in attendance. Two nursery aides facilitate sign-in procedures and monitor visitations.

This year, new procedures and regulations were implemented to enhance the reporting component of the Supervised Visitation Initiative. Comprehensive sign-in sheets were developed for each session. These contain the names of the custodial parent or guardian, the child, and the visiting person. Parties are required to bring a copy of the court order and identification. Nursery workers check identification and record attendance on the sheets. Since uniformity is so important, the visit will not take place if identification is not provided. The nursery visitation computer program is now operational. Visitation case data is recorded into the computer program on the Monday following the visit. The date of the visit, which parties appeared, and the session times are recorded. Any serious incidents are logged. Judges have this program on their computers and can access the information whenever needed. This new function allows visitation incidents to be immediately addressed by the court.

An innovative component of Sunday visitation is the collaboration between Creative Arts Therapists, The Please Touch Museum, the Department of Human Services, and Family Court to provide art, music, and dance-movement therapy to involved families. This adds an engaging modality to the nursery program and helps develop stronger relationships. In an effort to provide the best service possible, it was determined that masters' level therapists are best suited to assist with this initiative.

As a result of Administrative Judge Dougherty's community contacts, the Court sought, participated in the interview process, and was successfully selected by the Leadership Philadelphia "*Pay It Forward*" program for renovation to the nursery space. Other improvements included tables, chairs, games, changing tables, and much more. The team constructed a new wall and relocated a door to make what was once a closet into more new play space. They also painted two beautiful child-friendly murals on the walls in two of the spaces used for visits and play, art and music therapy. Founded in 1959, Leadership Philadelphia is a non-profit organization that mobilizes the talent of the private sector to work on behalf of the community. The *Pay It Forward Program* is based on the book by Catherine Ryan Hyde and was developed to encourage spontaneous good deeds.

PREVENTION SERVICES UNIT

The Prevention Services Unit (PSU) which was previously known as Reasonable Efforts in Assessment, Access and Prevention (REAAP) seeks to prevent involvement or placement in the dependent or delinquent systems. It is a valuable resource in our probation continuum.⁵ This is the court system's front line effort to divert children from court-ordered programs, in part by providing them with Community Services. The PSU facilitates services to parents who contact Family Court directly saying that their child is incorrigible, truant, using drugs, or any of a host of negative behaviors. Often, the parents are of the mistaken opinion that their only avenue

⁵ Even though Prevention Services Unit is not an official part of the delinquent system it is currently staffed by probation officers. The work that these officers do is invaluable to this continued effort.

to obtain services is to have their child arrested or to leave them on the doorstep of the Department of Human Services. The PSU makes every effort to avoid supervision or commitment to the Department of Human Services by offering services with direct supervision by court staff along with community and social service providers.

In addition, the Prevention Services Unit is able to provide services to juveniles who are placed on deferred adjudication, interim probation, or those who have been referred through Truancy court for more intensive supervision. The benefit of utilizing PSU in this fashion is the easily accessible referral process that opens immediate access to community based services. Judges may utilize this service when adjudication is deferred to determine how the juvenile would respond to intervention prior to making an adjudication of delinquency.

Cases commence with assessments conducted by Family Court social workers. Upon completion of the assessments, the parent and child are linked with the agency that will best address their particular problem. The agencies that provide services to our clients are: Girls, Inc., Vision Quest, Caring People's Alliance (CPA), Congreso de Latino Unidos, Inc., Counseling or Referral Assistance (CORA) and George Junior Republic Preventive After-care. This year, with the assistance of DHS- Community Based Prevention Unit, standards of service were developed for workers and social service providers. This was a necessary first step to ensure quality service, accountability and measureable data.

ACT 53 cases, "Under Ten" Petitions, Incurrigibility Petitions, and Emancipation Petitions are also handled by this unit. ACT 53 cases involve the treatment of children with drug abuse issues and allow a commitment to a drug treatment center without an adjudication of delinquency. The Under Ten Petitions involve children under the age of ten who commit delinquent acts but due to their age cannot by law be charged in the delinquent system. Incurrigibility Petitions are filed to obtain a court hearing only after all other efforts have been exhausted. Emancipation petitions are filed by youth between the ages of 16½ -17½ who receive no financial assistance from parents or legal guardians and who live separately from their parents or legal guardians. There were twenty-four (24) Incurrigibility Petitions and sixteen (16) Act 53 Petitions filed in the year 2008.

The thousands of calls received by Prevention Services in 2008 resulted in 1,558 scheduled appointments. During the course of the year it was determined that families were not always seen in a timely manner. A new protocol was established whereby parents were given appointments within either 24 hours or one week based on the severity of the problem. Of those scheduled appointments, 700 families appeared. Of that number, approximately 650 families received either direct or indirect service through Prevention Services, the community, or a provider agency. We were able to successfully divert 241 cases from the court system to other community based services. There were 432 cases assigned to a probation officer and agency for service. The remaining number did not keep their scheduled appointments

In 2008, with the encouragement of Justice Baer and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, along with the Pennsylvania Office of Children, Youth, and Families, the court engaged in a partnership with an agency called *It Takes a Village, Inc* to further empower families through the **Family Group Conference** program. This practice is a strength-based approach to help children and families identify and interact with all available family members to work together as a unit for the safety for their children. It also assures that all family members recognize they have a voice and that that voice will be heard. Their Mission Statement reads:

Family Group Conferencing focuses on the strengths and

*encourages youth and families to work together to find solutions
and achieve family unity in a way that respects their culture.*

Family Group Conference is about families taking charge of their own lives. In 2008, there were 24 referrals. The first referral packet was completed on September 24, 2008. The conference was scheduled and then re-scheduled to a date in 2009. Out of the 24 referrals, 5 conferences were completed. At least one agreement reached at the conference was entered as an Order of the Court in an existing dependency matter. By design, there are several steps and several meetings to appropriately prepare for each conference. At least seven conferences were scheduled for January, 2009, and the court will continue to move this practice forward.

In April, 2001, the dynamic component called **Functional Family Therapy** was added to the Prevention Services Unit. Family Court and the Temple University School of Psychiatry provided multi-systemic therapy to families in their homes. While grant funding was not renewed, an agency called The Consortium Inc. partnered with Family Court to offer this valuable service to children and families. In 2008, these connections for families in need continue.

Project START (Stop Truancy and Recommend Treatment)

Introduced into the Philadelphia Family Court in 1998, Project START has encouraged schools, communities, and the court to take a more active role in truancy reduction through appropriate intervention measures.

In 2008, expansion of Project START continued. The expansion targets juveniles ages 10-16 who have 8 or more unexcused absences. With the collaboration of the Mayor's Office, the Department of Human Services and the School District of Philadelphia, Project START has been able to increase the number of truant children and their families seen in our Truancy Court's from 6,500 to almost 25,000. Court hearings are conducted at eight different sites, known as "cluster courts" throughout the City. They are initially presided over by a facilitator who is usually a trained social worker with dependency and delinquency court experience. The facilitator tries to identify issues in order to provide truancy prevention services within the community. Cases are reviewed within 60 days by a Truancy Master. The Truancy Master then determines if the family and child have complied with the services or if the child remains truant, and if further court intervention is necessary.

The various locations of the "cluster courts" are usually classrooms within designated High Schools that have been redesigned as courtrooms. Should the child or family remain resistant to attending school, the matter is referred for formal court proceedings at 1801 Vine Street. A formal review occurs and the court determines the reason for the failure to correct the truant behavior. The Court may decide that more intensive services are required, may assess a fine to the parent, or may require community service pursuant to the applicable law. In certain cases, the Court may determine the child is habitually truant or truant without justification requiring the filing of a dependent petition.

This school year Truancy Court entertained 13,969 new cases and reviewed 10,700 cases for a total of 24,669.

Parent Resources

Parent Resources employees seek to continue providing valuable family-strengthening supports by meeting specific familial needs. Workers strive to provide quality services with better

efficiency. The goal is to provide each family with the comfort of knowing that their particular family concerns will be addressed. Parent Resources introduced a new project this year. The services seek to re-establish and support young men (15-25) in various social roles. In addition, Parent Resource is currently exploring a service that will assist in educating and supporting non-custodial parents. The goal is to establish at least ten different types of cooperative relationships with other agencies in the areas of Arts, Education, Recreation/health, and employment. Parent Resources has made several efforts to provide parenting services and workshops within the community for families. Also, the program has made several changes to increase retention efforts and will continue to explore new options. It strives to assure that every parent can gain more valuable skills at parenting.

Parent Project®

Parent Project is a 10-16 week parental skills-building workshop designed to better equip parents to effectively change destructive adolescent behaviors. Parents with children in two groups, those aged 9 to 12, and those between the ages of 13 to 18 are targeted. The number of participants per group ranges from 15-25 with 3 facilitators. The workshop addresses the following questions: What do you do when your child refuses to help around the house?; What should I do when my child runs away?; What should I do if my kid is a drug user and possibly addicted?; and What can I do if my child is a truant?; or a gang member? Parent Project® is offered to mothers, fathers, grandparents, step parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, and guardians. The referral sources include court-ordered truancy, dependency, and delinquency referrals, word-of-mouth referrals, agency referrals, family (self-referred), and others. All workshops are currently held at 1801 Vine Street. However, these resources can be provided within the surrounding communities. This past session (Fall-Winter 2008) 49 families responded (to receive services); of the 49 responses 27 families enrolled.

Loving Solutions

Loving Solutions is a 7-10 week parental skills-building workshop designed to teach parents how to recognize early warning signs and to redirect the behavior of children ages 8 and younger. In this workshop, parents learn to reduce family conflict, help their children develop self-discipline; improve the enjoyment of parenting and family life, and to help their children grow up safe, strong, and capable. In addition, parents are provided with special applications to ADD and ADHD issues. The number of participants allowed per group ranges from 15-25 with 3 facilitators. As parents gain valuable skills in a non-threatening, highly supportive, learning environment, their children are supervised inside the courthouse. While supervised, children are taught and practice the necessary social skills for positive development. This past session (Fall-Winter 2008) 18 families responded and enrolled.

Teen Support

Teen support is a 10-13 week workshop for 13 to 18 year old youth who may be experiencing feelings of low self-esteem, uncontrollable anger, hopelessness, and a lack of direction (academically or socially). Teen Support facilitators accept intakes throughout the session in an effort to engage youth and help meet their immediate needs. Facilitators and participants in this workshop explore topics such as Anger Management, Truancy and Poor School Performance, Love and Power, Conflict, Stress Management, Choosing Success, and Feelings. In this workshop, teens are encouraged to verbalize their feelings and thoughts. Facilitators share techniques on effective communication based upon the individual's levels of self-expression. In this workshop, the facilitators schedule trips and other outings based upon the various topics being discussed. The facilitator's ability to improvise keeps the workshops energetic and

exciting for the teens. This past session (Fall-Winter 2008) 16 teens responded to receive services. Unfortunately, only 7 teens enrolled.

Parent Resources

Parent Resources provides services via *Education Communities for Parenting* (ECP) and *Daddy Universe City* (a/k/a Men's Group). ECP is a ten-week teen parent training program whose purpose is to provide young parents with skills in the following areas: Personal Expectations, Effective Communication, Wants and Needs, Effects of Words, Child Development, Self-Esteem, Family Violence/Conflict Resolution, and Sharing and Caring. The enrollment per workshop ranges from 15-25 participants with two staff and two to three support staff. ECP Director Olivia Campbell has been providing services to teen parents for over 10 years. ECP provides services to teen parents (and parents in their early twenties) that have children or may be pregnant. For the Fall-Winter 2008 session, 18 families responded and enrolled.

Daddy Universe City (DU), also known as *Men's Group* (MG), is a ten to twelve-week development initiative designed to reintegrate young men of various ages into their respective social roles. President/CEO Joel Austin brings years of experience in the area of effective and productive development of young men. The Men's Group explores topics such as Child/Teen Development, Healthy Communication, Managing Feelings, Coping Skills, Money Management, Positive Parenting, Conflict Resolution, and Decision Making. The Fall-Winter 2008 session had 8 families respond and enroll.

FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE BRANCH – DEPENDENCY

Case Administration

Dependent Court subscribes to the practice of One Family / One Judge. In accordance, the offices of both the City Solicitor and the Defender Child Advocate have formed attorney-teams for each courtroom. This enables the judges and attorneys to have a greater depth of understanding and commitment as a result of the lateral progress of the each child's case from the initial filing of the petition until ultimate discharge. Also, Dependent Court uses Time Certain / Block Scheduling to facilitate an efficient operation. Cases are divided among four time blocks, staggered throughout the day. Attorneys and social workers are expected to commit to only one courtroom during each time block, to assure their availability and reduce the number of continuances due to failure to appear.

Dependent Court-Court Listings Unit monitors individual judicial caseloads and case flow. The assessment and oversight this provides allows for an equitable distribution of cases in the courtrooms. It allows for judges to dedicate quality time on the specific issues of each case in the adjudicatory, reunification, permanency, and termination of parental rights stages of dependency proceedings.

Pre-Hearing Conferences

To better serve all of the dependent courtrooms, Family Court utilizes two full-time Pre-Hearing Conference Rooms. In the Philadelphia Frontloaded Dependency Court Model, most new court cases begin with a Pre-Hearing Conference that involves all parties and is moderated by a facilitator. Initially, an assessment of the problems causing the child abuse or neglect is made, expectations of the court are explained, and responsibilities are delineated. A representative from Behavioral Health is present to assess BH/DA needs. Of 1109 Pre-Hearing Conferences held in 2008, 773 resulted in full agreements, which addressed placements, visitation, behavioral health evaluations, and services. Resolving these issues at the outset creates hope

for family preservation or reunification. Additionally, in the interest of judicial economy, none of the cases with agreements required a full adjudicatory hearing.

The Pre-Hearing Conference Coordinator assures that conferences are scheduled in a timely manner, that counsel is appointed for all relevant parties and that conference cases are distributed evenly to the courtrooms. The Coordinator also notifies Behavioral Health of upcoming listings so they can prepare for each case. Besides the parent(s), legal guardian(s) and witnesses, conference participants include representatives from the Department of Human Services, the Office of the City Solicitor, the Defender Association Child Advocate Unit (or Court Appointed Private Counsel for Child(ren)), Private or Court Appointed Counsel for parent(s), legal guardian(s), Behavioral Health Professionals, and a Good Shepherd Mediation Facilitator.

Frontloaded Dependent Court Process

Philadelphia's Dependent Court has successfully implemented the elements of the Frontloaded Model of Case Processing. Prior to the initial hearing all attorneys are appointed, all parties are provided with a copy of the petition, and the parents and children are contacted by their counsel. Immediately prior to the initial hearing, the aforementioned Pre-Hearing Conference is conducted. As a result, approximately 70% of cases arrive at the first adjudicatory hearing as agreements, thus cutting down on court time. Additionally, by front-loading services, children proceed towards permanency at a faster rate.

On Site Behavioral Health Services

Behavioral Health and Drug and Alcohol services assist all dependency courtrooms. Master's level clinicians from the Behavioral Health System Family Court Unit staff the Pre-Hearing Conferences. Prior to the conference, they research the treatment histories of family members named in the Dependent Petition. At the Pre-Hearing Conference, they are then able to identify behavioral health needs, arrange for evaluations and treatment for family members and make informed recommendations to the Court, avoiding unnecessary duplication of services. From the Pre-Hearing Conferences, clinicians arranged for 796 psychological, psychiatric and family evaluations. An additional 1273 evaluations were ordered at court hearings, for a total of 2069 for the year.

On Site Clinical Evaluation Unit

Through the support of Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, Dependent Court has on-site a Clinical Evaluation Unit that assesses family members for drug and alcohol problems, refers them to treatment, and provides the Court with progress reports for subsequent hearings. In 2008, they conducted 1562 substance abuse assessments. Currently, they are managing the cases of 1258 people in drug treatment. Although frontloading is always preferable, referrals for evaluation and treatment also come from judges in subsequent hearings and the Behavioral Health and Clinical Evaluation units respond accordingly.

The Philadelphia Court Model of providing early access to treatment services has drawn the praise of national child welfare experts, as one of the most promising programs in the field.

Permanency

The court is concentrating efforts to comply with the guidelines set forth in the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). ASFA recommends, for children who have been in placement for at least 15 of 22 months, a need to evaluate the designated goal. Should reunification not be a viable option, the Court is to proceed expeditiously with either Termination of Parental Rights or Permanent Legal Custody. If children cannot be returned to their parents, they should have an alternative permanent home. Permanency reports are distributed to inform the judges of which

children, on their caseloads, have or have not achieved permanency within the previous month. Newly implemented in 2008, in addition to the permanency reports distributed to the judges, Masters conduct two different types of conferences to ensure that permanency is achieved in a timely manner. At the time the Court has decided to schedule a Goal Change/Termination Hearing, it also schedules a Case Management Conference within 30 days. At the Case Management Conference, a Court Order is issued which sets a timetable for the Solicitor to have filed the petitions and for all parties to exchange Discovery. Also provided is a Pre-Trial Conference date which complies with all attorneys' schedules.

Pre-Trial Conferences are held approximately 45 days before the scheduled Goal Change/Termination Hearing. At the Pre-Trial Conference, it is determined whether the petitions have been timely filed and discovery completed. Efforts are made to obtain stipulations regarding evidence which will be presented, as well as, witnesses to be called. It is also determined whether or not all parties have been properly served and whether arrangements have been made for incarcerated parties to participate. Holding the Pre-Trial Conferences has improved case readiness and allowed the judges' calendars to be cleared if a case will not be ready for trial so that a ready matter is heard.

Dependent Court Special Programs and Projects

The Court works closely with the Department of Human Services in developing programs to respond to identified needs. Through the Court Improvement Project (CIP) Committee, the Court also invites collaboration from provider social service agencies, legal service agencies, and private court-appointed attorneys in raising standards and practices for the representation of children and parents in Dependent Court. Some of the 2008 topics were: Aged Out and Homeless Youth, Educational Success for Children in Foster Care, presentations by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the DHS Central Referral Unit (CRU), and field trips to the Achieving Reunification Center (ARC) and the Achieving Independence Center (AIC).

The Older Youth Protocol is a guide for practitioners to better serve older youth and to ensure their successful transition from dependent foster care to independent adulthood. All parties involved in the child's care and legal proceedings work as a team prior to appearing in court to investigate and resolve the issues contained in the protocol. They look at issues such as employment, housing, budgeting, health insurance and any problem areas where Court intervention would be most helpful. The Older Youth Sub-committee of the CIP meets regularly to assess the use and practicality of the protocol and to update it as necessary. Topics at those meetings have included: the Guardianship of Older MR Youth presented by the Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation and obtaining training and employment for disabled youth presented by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Dependency court operates two specialized review courtrooms: "O" Court, where a judge has been designated to hear APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement) cases, and "L" Court, where a Master oversees AARC (Accelerated Adoption Review Court) cases to expedite the adoption finalization for children whose parents have had their parental rights terminated.

Filings of Dependency Petitions

During 2008, 3259 new petitions were filed and 27,559 court hearings took place.

Domestic Relations Branch

Overview and Organization

Under the leadership of Family Division Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty and Domestic Relations Branch Supervising Judge Margaret T. Murphy, 12 Court of Common Pleas judges have jurisdiction over cases involving child support, spousal support, custody, divorce, and domestic violence. The Domestic Relations Branch is responsible for managing over 30 units and approximately 400 professional and support staff.

Mission Statement

The mission of the First Judicial District (FJD) Court of Common Pleas Family Division Domestic Relations Branch is to efficiently administer cases involving paternity establishment, child and spousal support, divorce, child custody and domestic violence. The Domestic Relations Branch utilizes state of the art case management techniques that enhance timely case processing, increase performance measures, collect child support, establish paternity and secure medical support for children. Most importantly, the Domestic Relations Branch is devoted to bringing justice to the public it serves.

Responsibilities

The Domestic Relations Branch has varied responsibilities in responding to complaints and petitions that can be broadly categorized as: Divorce, Child Custody, Domestic Violence, and Child and Spousal Support.

DIVORCE

The Domestic Relations Branch has jurisdiction over all facets of divorce proceedings. These include the entry of decrees in divorce and annulments and resolutions of all economic claims arising from divorce actions. Domestic Relations Judges hear divorce motions including motions for discovery, substituted service, and specific relief, and they enter orders approving grounds for divorce. Economic claims arising from divorce actions, such as equitable distribution, alimony, counsel fees, and costs are initially heard by Divorce Masters, who conduct hearings that are not of record. When agreements are not reached before Masters, proposed Orders and Decrees are issued and parties may file for *trials de novo* before Domestic Relations Judges.

In 2008, there were 1,903 new Complaints in Divorce filed and 1,539 Divorce Decrees entered. In addition to the new Divorce Complaints, there were an additional 11,810 divorce-related pleadings (contested and uncontested) filed within the Domestic Relations Branch.

CUSTODY

Resolution of child custody disputes is one of the more sensitive and emotionally charged functions of the Domestic Relations Branch. Custody complaints are initially referred to the Custody Unit and conferences or hearings are conducted by Custody Masters. Mediation is available to parties who are seeking an opportunity to amicably resolve their custody disputes. Domestic Relations Judges conduct hearings in claims for primary physical custody, contempt

of custody orders, expedited and emergency matters, and exceptions to proposed orders for partial custody and visitation orders. In 2008, custody petitions totaled 21,407 including 10,833 new Complaints in Custody, plus petitions for modifications, contempt and interim relief. The number of individual custody cases processed totaled 13,546, with almost 24,000 custody events being conducted in Domestic Relations.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Domestic Violence Unit is a pro se filing unit designed to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Unit conducts interviews with petitioners and prepares Protection from Abuse (PFA) Petitions, which are then submitted to Domestic Relations Judges for review and, if appropriate, the entry of a Temporary PFA Order. Domestic Relations Branch Judges hear cases involving domestic violence between family members, or between parties who have had an intimate relationship. Domestic Relations Judges also conduct hearings to vacate or extend both restraining orders and in contempt of PFA orders, criminal and civil. In 2008, PFA petitions seeking the entry of an order totaled 11,082. 11,246 cases were processed in addition to the contempt cases and modifications filed.

SUPPORT

Child and spousal support cases have three components: 1) establishment of paternity; 2) determination of the support obligation; and 3) enforcement.

Paternity

For children born out of wedlock, establishment of paternity is the first step toward determining the child support obligation. Paternity can be established in one of four ways: 1) voluntary acknowledgement of paternity (AOP); 2) genetic testing; 3) default paternity establishment; and 4) in-hospital paternity establishment. As of December 31, 2008, there were more than 88,000 children associated with a Philadelphia County IV-D Child Support case that were born out of wedlock. Of this figure, more than 77,000 children (nearly 88%) had paternity established.

Determination of the Support Obligation

When there is an obligation to provide child support, spousal support, or alimony *pendente lite*,⁶ the amount of the support award is determined pursuant to the Pennsylvania Support Guidelines, as set forth in the PA Rules of Civil Procedure. Support Conference Officers and Support Masters conduct conferences and hearings about the entry of support orders. Domestic Relations Judges conduct Exceptions hearings and Contempt hearings and enter final orders for support. In 2008, there were 56,292 support filings, including 23,306 new complaints in support.

Enforcement and Support Collections

Domestic Relations child support collections totaled \$203,410,069 in 2008. Of the total collections, \$16,936,799 represented welfare collections on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

⁶ Alimony *pendente lite* is alimony paid after a couple separates until the divorce is final. It is designed to provide support during the divorce process so each spouse can maintain his or her standard of living. Alimony *pendente lite* is also referred to as temporary alimony or temporary spousal support.

Improved Performance Measures Resulting in Increased Child Support Enforcement Funding

With assistance from the Department of Public Welfare Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, the Domestic Relations Branch has taken great strides to improve federal child support performance standards and now exceeds federal standards in three of the five measures. In two key performance measures, Philadelphia increased current collections by 3.24 points to 74.28% (as of December 2008) and increased arrears collections by 8.28 points to 75.23% (as of federal fiscal year 2008).

Recommendation 75

The Domestic Relations Branch successfully completed a series of case management projects, with the partnership of the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, in which over 8,000 cases were identified for modification or closure. These projects improved the Domestic Relations Branch's ability to establish, enforce and collect child support.

Inter-divisional Memorandum of Understanding

As outlined in an Inter-divisional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Domestic Relations Branch, Pre Trial Services of the Criminal Division, and the Bureau of Child Support Enforcement demonstrated continued success executing Domestic Relations bench warrants. The combination of the MOU and the administrative bench warrant review process has enabled the Domestic Relations Branch to successfully dispose of outstanding bench warrants. During 2008, 7,640 bench warrants were issued by the Domestic Relations Branch and 6,747 (over 88%) bench warrants were disposed.

Training Day

On July 17, 2008, the Domestic Relations Branch conducted an in-house training day for all staff. Throughout the course of the day, staff members representing all areas of the Domestic Relations Branch conducted a series of workshops that were designed to educate all staff on the operational duties of all units.

Consolidated Case Processing

In 2008, the Domestic Relations Branch initiated a Consolidated Case Processing (CCP) unit. Unlike other specialized units in Domestic Relations, the CCP unit was designed to do comprehensive case processing, including paternity and order establishment, order modification and order enforcement, on a dedicated portion of the IV-D caseload. This unit was staffed with a supervisor, conference officers and support staff. The staff received training in all areas of case processing.

Early Intervention Initiative

In 2008, the Domestic Relations Branch established an Early Intervention Enforcement Initiative. The objective of the program is to monitor the payment patterns in newly established orders and to get the case into compliance as quickly as possible. Newly established orders are aggressively tracked for compliance. Obligor and employers are contacted via mail, fax and phone in an effort to encourage compliance soon after the establishment of the order. Enforcement and contempt conferences are scheduled and conducted if the obligor fails to meet the support obligation.

First Payment Exit Interviews

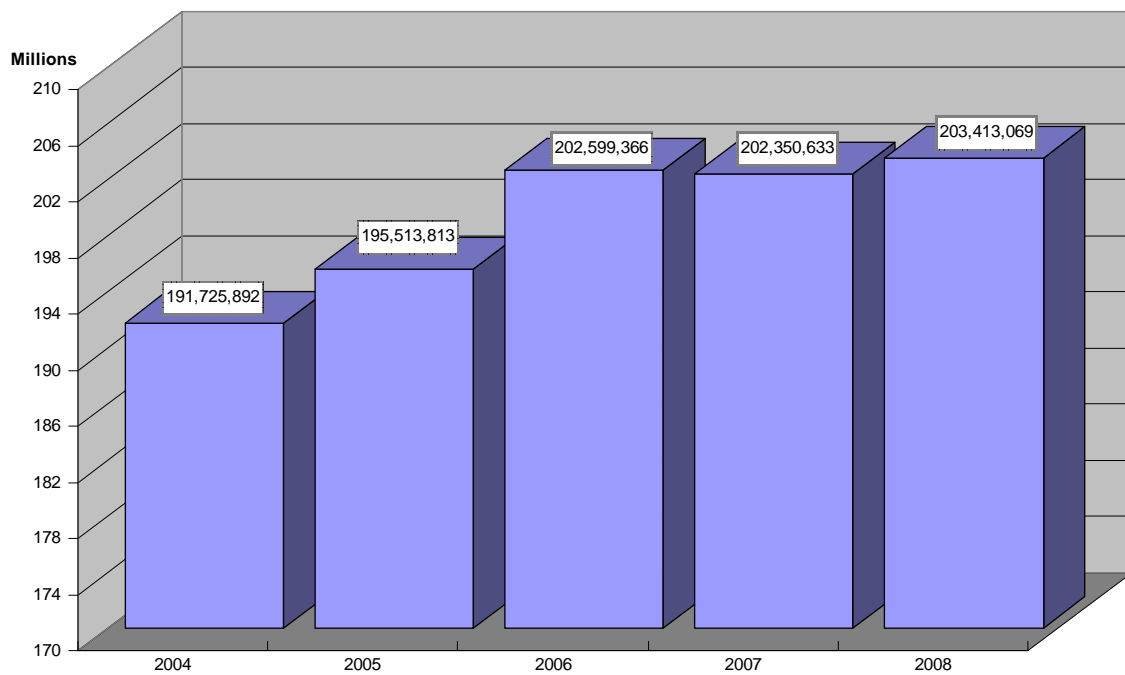
In 2008, in conjunction with the Early Intervention Initiative, the Support Establishment Units established a First Payment Initiative and encouraged obligors to make a support payment at the time that the support order is established. Several days before their scheduled establishment conference, potential obligors receive a letter reminding them that they will be expected to make a payment on the day their order is established. If a support order is established during the establishment conference, the defendant is immediately referred to a conference officer who is well versed and trained in the enforcement process. During this exit interview, the defendant is asked to make his/her first payment, and the ramifications of delinquency are thoroughly explained. Since initiating this program, over \$50,000 in new support payments has been paid on the date of the establishment conference.

**Philadelphia Family Court
Domestic Relations Division
Calendar Years 2006-2008**

Total DR Filings		2006	2007	2008
Custody Filings	Custody/Confirm Custody	8,099	7,177	6,966
	Partial Custody/Visitation	725	610	495
	Modify Custody	3,854	4,027	3,924
	Contempt of Custody	1,917	1,950	2,002
	Subtotal	14,595	13,764	13,387
	Custody Exceptions	255	153	103
	Motions & Other Filings	6,460	8,563	7,917
	Total Custody Filings	21,310	22,480	21,407
Support Filings	New Complaints	27,110	22,333	23,306
	Modifications	13,940	12,483	13,100
	Contempt Petitions	22,111	14,994	17,045
	Support Exceptions	904	1,106	1,134
	Support Motions	2,477	2,161	1,707
	Total Support Filings	66,542	53,077	56,292
Domestic Violence New Petitions		12,402	11,301	11,082
Divorce	New Petitions	2,028	1,895	1,903
	Misc. Filings (Contested & Uncontested)	13,710	12,608	11,810
	Total Divorce Filings	15,738	14,503	13,713
Total DR Filings		115,992	101,361	102,494

Total DR Petitions Processed		2006	2007	2008
Custody Support	Interim, Master and Judicial Establishment only. Disposition of contempt and motion hearings are not counted on state child support system	27,076	29,102	29,601
		44,013	40,963	33,769
Domestic Violence Divorce	Interim & Final	32,304	29,798	31,173
	Final & Interim Orders only	4,646	4,326	4,235
Total DR Dispositions		108,039	104,189	98,778

Domestic Relations Support Collections 2004 - 2008



Orphans' Court Division

The year 2008 was an industrious year for the Orphans' Court Division. The increased efficiency of Electronic Filing System and the accessibility of state-wide forms have created a capable and well organized system that will be effective for years to come.

The Orphans' Court Electronic Filing System allows attorneys and *pro se* parties to electronically apply through the Court's web site (<http://courts.phila.gov>) for a User Name, Password, and PIN to access the E-filing system. The User Name, Password and PIN will be sent, immediately upon submission, to the email address provided by the registered user.

The Orphans' Court initiated the use of the Electronic Filing system on January 1, 2005. Since then, a total of 10,586 persons (6,701 attorneys and 4,165 *pro se* parties) have applied for and been granted access to initiate a new case or file a pleading in an existing Orphans' Court case. Of the 6,701 attorneys who have registered, 1,084 (or 16%) have electronically filed at least one pleading. Conversely, only 125 of the 3,885 registered *pro se* parties (or 3.2%) have filed an electronic pleading.

During this time period, from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2008, approximately 17,013 Orphans Court pleadings have been filed. Of these, 4,327 (25% of all pleadings filed) were filed in a paper format and then converted by the Orphans' Court Clerk into an electronic document. A majority, 12,686 (75% of all pleadings filed), were filed electronically.

Also during this time, 4,294 Orphans' Court pleadings were filed. Of these, 748 (18% of all pleadings filed) were filed in a paper format, to be scanned into the E-filing system by the Clerk, and 3,546 (82% of all pleadings filed) were filed electronically. Thus, although the bulk of the documents filed in Orphans' Court are filed electronically, the Court continues to allow the filing of documents in paper format for those who do not have the access or the ability to file by electronic means. The documents originally filed in paper format are later scanned into the E-filing system by the Clerk's office.

The Orphans' Court E-filing system allows attorneys and *pro se* parties to review the dockets for their particular cases, and attorneys are able to review the dockets of any case in which they are the attorney of record. The system is further expedited by allowing for the payment of filing fees by credit card, and nearly eighty percent (80%) of all users have taken advantage of this feature.

As a result, the E-filing system has dramatically reduced the waiting time for filings to be approved. Measuring from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2008, the review time for pleadings filed during court hours (a total of 8,465 pleadings) averaged at a mere 8 minutes; and the average review time for pleadings filed after regular court hours (a total of 4,221 pleadings) was 59.96 hours. In 2008 alone, electronic filings made during court hours (a total of 2,507 pleadings) were reviewed within 24 minutes after they were filed. Pleadings filed after regular court hours (a total of 1,039 pleadings) were reviewed within 34.03 hours of the electronic filing.⁷

⁷ This average includes all delays after the filing, including overnight, holiday and week-end delays, as well as delays occasioned by the in-person or mail payment of the filing fees.

The Orphans' Court E-filing system is also available to the general public. Access to electronically filed documents in redacted form is available through computer terminals in the clerk's office. Outside the clerk's office, however, the public can only access docket lists. The following five data fields are redacted as required by local rule: (1) the name of the minor (in cases of a minor's estate); (2) social security numbers; (3) dates of birth; (4) financial account numbers; and (5) home addresses. The redaction of such information provides both financial and identity security to the parties. Original versions of the documents are accessible to attorneys of record and *pro se* parties.

Following the implementation of the Orphans' Court Electronic Filing system in 2005, attorneys and court staff were thoroughly trained on how to utilize the new system. To further assist the users of the Orphans' Court E-filing system, a training video and a user manual are available online at the Court's web site (<http://Courts.phila.gov>). The user manual provides instructions on how to employ the Orphans' Court Electronic Filing System to file documents, view information, or retrieve docket reports.

Noting the success of the Orphans' Court Division E-filing program, in 2006 the Honorable Ronald Donatucci instituted a compatible E-filing system for the Register of Wills, which has also been well received by its users. Following suit, the Civil Division also implemented a comprehensible E-filing program.

Additional Orphans' Court information is available on the internet as well. Since November 15, 2006, "fill-in" format state-wide forms have been accessible on the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Court's web site (<http://www.pacourts.us/Forms/OrphansCourtForms.htm>). The site contains Audit and Administration forms, Guardianship forms, Register of Wills forms, Foreign Adoption Registration Forms Pursuant to New Pa. O. C. Rule 15.8, and Model Forms of Account, among others. These state-wide forms promote uniformity and efficiency in the judicial system.

Furthermore, the Philadelphia Estate Practitioner Handbook can now be retrieved on the internet (<http://www.peph.com>). The website, www.peph.com, contains links to the different Practitioner Handbooks: the Blue Book (*Register of Wills of Philadelphia County Manual*), the Green Book (*Forms for Use Before the Register of Wills and the Orphans' Court Division in Philadelphia*) and the Red Book (*Practice and Procedure Before the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County*). Downloads for a variety of forms and checklists are also available on the website.

The availability of online forms and information, combined with the effectiveness of the Electronic Filing System, expedites handling of increasing Orphans' Court filings, and will continue to do so in the future.

Of the ten largest United States cities, Philadelphia has one of the highest proportions of people aged sixty-five-years and over. In fact, Pennsylvania has the second largest senior population after Florida. The older Pennsylvanian population represents 15.6% of all ages in Pennsylvania. According to the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, the older adult population in Philadelphia has increased the most (by 4,000) among those aged 85 or older. With higher life expectancy rates, the number of incapacity hearings will likely grow as a direct result of this aging population. In just the past year, the number of incapacity hearings before the Orphans' Court increased by 134; from only 344 in 2007 to 478 in 2008.

Philadelphia as the sixth largest city in the United States has established itself as one of the major culture and economic hubs on the east coast. Philadelphia's economic strength derives from its niche as a circulator of money, people, goods, ideas, and data bytes. Moreover, Philadelphia has many attractive amenities. These include renowned theatres, orchestra, ballet, opera, museums as well as beautiful parks and access to both the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. The city has several first class venues for the arts, such as the Kimmel Center, the Wilma Theatre, the Walnut Street Theatre, the Miriam Theatre, the Academy of Music and the Forrest Theatre.

Philadelphia boasts several top-ranking medical, law and business schools, which continue to draw individuals into the city. These medical schools include the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine and The Temple University Medical School. Philadelphia is also home to the first pharmaceutical school in the country, the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, formerly known as the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Philadelphia possesses some of the finest law schools in the nation, including the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law and Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law. The undergraduate institutions in Philadelphia consist of Saint Joseph's University, La Salle University, Strayer University, Philadelphia University, Messiah College, Pierce College, Chestnut Hill College, Community College of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Temple University and the Holy Family University. Several specialty schools and business schools are also located in Philadelphia, among them are the JNA Institute of the Culinary Arts, the Restaurant School, the University of the Arts, the Curtis Institute of Music, DeVry University, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, the LeBow College of Business at Drexel University and the Fox School of Business at Temple University.

The city is home to the Philadelphia Stock Exchange and several Fortune 500 companies, including cable television and internet provider Comcast, insurance companies CIGNA and Lincoln Financial Group, energy company Sunoco, food services company Aramark, Crown Holdings Incorporated, chemical makers Rohm and Haas Company and FMC Corporation, pharmaceutical companies Wyeth and GlaxoSmithKline, Boeing helicopters division, and automotive parts retailer Pep Boys. The above cited are only a few of the reasons why many people are choosing to move into the city of Philadelphia.

Despite Philadelphia's demanding economy, the city has suffered some repercussions as a result of the current financial recession. The Orphans' Court, however, has continued to bring revenue into the city and the state, in spite of this economic crisis. In 2008 alone, the Orphans' Court collected \$14,839,155 from Inheritance Tax collections. Moreover, the Orphans' Court has been able to continue its high level of service to the judicial system while working within a tighter budget and without the need for personnel reductions. This situation, however, may radically change in the near future. There is ongoing, intensive discussion as to alternative solutions this court may have to implement to live within budget constraints, including layoffs and furloughs.

As a direct result of the city's aging population and busy economy, the workload of the Orphans' Court is expected to continue to dramatically increase in the years to come. By making the electronic filing system more user-friendly, advancing the use of state-wide "fill-in" forms, and continuing its tradition of service, the Orphans' Court has positioned itself to deal more efficiently with increased future demands.

See the next page for Orphans' Court 2008 statistics.

Statistics

The Orphans' Court Division processed the following during calendar year 2008:

Type of Filing	Carry-Over from 2007	New Filings in 2008	Total Disposed of in CY 2008	Total Open Matters as of 01- Jan-2009
Accounts (for all case types)	193	158	195	156
Exceptions to Adjudications	19	5	17	72
Schedule of Distribution	16	19	33	
Appeal from Register of Wills	2	15	13	4
Petitions to Appoint Guardians: for Incapacitated Persons for Minors	139 23	383 58	478 69	44 12
Approvals: Minors Comp., WD/S Orphans' Court +Civil Division	125 63	462 911	558 912	29 62
Petitions for Allowances: Minors & Incapacitated Persons	74	300	349	25
Scheduling Orders	0	3254	3254	0
Inheritance Tax Matters	121	59	140	40
Citations	0	728	728	0
"Other" Petitions*	928	1592	2328	192
Report of Exam of Trust Assets	0	21	21	0
Marriage License Matters	0	138	138	0
Report of Cemetery Assets	0	965	965	0
Miscellaneous Matters	0	1110	1110	0
TOTAL	1,703	10,178	11,308	636

*Other Petitions include petitions for sale of real estate, approval to act as corporate fiduciary, letters after 21 years, and non-profits.

Total Inheritance Tax Collections

Fiscal Year	Collection Amount
2004	12,423,553
2005	12,848,922
2006	16,589,003
2007	15,280,423
2008	14,839,155

Philadelphia Municipal Court

Civil Division

Philadelphia Municipal Court Civil Division Initiatives (2008)

Civil Litigation Automated Information Municipal Court System (CLAIMS)

Introduced in 2002, CLAIMS was the first integrated, web-based electronic filing, document and case management system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All Municipal Court civil cases are filed electronically using electronic documents, and facilitating electronic commerce, online docketing, scheduling, online forms processing, and electronic transmission of documents to myriad agencies. All dispositions are electronically entered in real time directly into the system. Currently, the system is 90 % paperless.

Over, **1,896** attorneys have been trained to file electronically using this system. All the City of Philadelphia code enforcement cases are filed and disposed of electronically.

The civil filings and dispositions for 2008 are as follows:

Case Type	Filed Electronically	Disposed Electronically
Code Enforcement	55,321	60,794
Small Claims	58,141	52,827
Landlord/Tenant	28,381	24,974
Total	141,843	138,595

Civil Administration continues to provide ongoing training for new users, attorneys, and Judges on the applications and enhancements of the system. To improve accessibility to the Court, a training video is available on the Municipal Court website along with access to a **New Training Manual for the Claims system** and access to the case management system. <http://fjd.phila.gov/municipal>.

Attorneys may download the manual and request usernames and passwords via email. Municipal Court staff is available daily to offer assistance as needed. Currently, the court averages over **4,500** electronic filings per month. We anticipate steady increases.

In addition to attorneys filing original pleadings and petitions electronically, they now have the ability to control and manage their calendars by choosing their own hearing dates, tracking cases from inception to satisfaction and managing their billing online.

System enhancements Achieved in 2008

- Attorneys have the ability to file Administrative Continuance Requests electronically.
- Electronic Judgment by Agreements
- Electronic Subpoena implemented
- New Event-Driven Docket
- Colorized Calendar for easier recognition of open spots on calendar
- City Agencies given the ability to file petitions and writs
- Equipment Upgrades in courtrooms
- A running chronological history of when and why filings were rejected
- Notation on the docket as to the type of service which was selected
- The ability to assign petitions dates by utilizing a drop-down screen giving the first available petition hearing slot (similar to selecting a date on case initiation)
- Created a simpler way to correct a hearing date on a petition
- Ability to edit an electronically filed petition which has been submitted as an emergency but in actuality is not an emergency
- Edit the judgment notices to delete the \$5.00 satisfaction fee
- Because there is no significant lag between the time that the dispositions are entered and when they are reflected on the system, real-time dispositions on CLAIMS were markedly improved
- Now electronically filed: Claims for Exemption, Petition to Intervene, Objections to the Sheriff's Determination, and Objections to Breach of Agreements

Future Enhancements for 2009 in CLAIMS

- Complete Automation of Private Criminal Complaints
- Automation of the Arbitration Program
- Add a feature to allow garnishees to be satisfied and dissolved attachments
- Ability to file electronic Praecipes to Enter Judgment against the Garnishee based on answers to interrogatories received
- Electronically filed Writs of Execution automatically sent to the Sheriff's office
- Ability for Attorneys for garnishee to electronically file answers to interrogatories
- Ability for Attorneys for garnishee to file Bills Of Costs
- Electronic filing Bills of Cost
- Link to the User's Manual from the attorney home page
- FAQ – page added to the Attorney Home Page
- A date certain for mandatory electronic filing for all attorneys
- ADA Statistical Accommodations

Philadelphia Municipal Court offers several options to expeditiously accommodate individuals with disabilities. In 2008, the court received **1,302** calls through a dedicated phone line for all ADA requests. The court assisted **258** individuals with wheelchairs to and from courtrooms; the court ordered and paid for **12** sign language translators; and continued **406** cases in order to provide more time for clients to make special arrangements. The court conducted **378** telephonic hearings during this period and mailed over **745** ADA forms and **93** sets of various instructions to individuals. The total number of individual accommodations was **1,892**.

Satellite Small Claims Court

Municipal Court facilitates access to justice through the 8th Police District Civil Night Court Program. This program has been in existence since January 1, 2004 and continues to expand. For litigants from the Northeast section of Philadelphia, this program the option of having their cases heard by a Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge or settled with the assistance of a Certified Court Mediator during evening hours. In 2008, **577** Small Claims Cases were scheduled and **503** were disposed. With the anticipated success of this program, the court enhanced its case management system to electronically file these cases in CLAIMS and enter dispositions off-site.

Wage Attachments in Landlord/Tenant Matters

Section 8127 of Title 42 was amended on December 9, 2002, to allow wage attachments in Landlord/Tenant cases. Municipal Court staff implemented a procedure on April 22, 2003 to administer this process. During 2008, the court filed **33** praecipes, resulting in the collection and dispersal of **\$73,445** from attorney filings along with **\$28,470** in *pro se* filings totaling **\$101,914**. The CLAIMS system was enhanced to have all wage attachments and payments scanned and docketed

Dispute Resolution Program

This Program has continued to expand for greater participation by local law schools. Temple University Beasley School of Law gave an award to Program Director Joseph A. McDermott, Jr. for his more than 15 years of service to the law school as a Clinical Adjunct Professor. The plaque reads "In recognition of outstanding clinical teaching and extraordinary service to the Law School." At the presentation it was stated that the Philadelphia Municipal Court clinical program is the most popular in the law school and is always filled to capacity.

Customer Service

The Court has designated two on-site areas for customers and attorneys to access civil dockets in a "View only" mode. In addition, public access is provided through the FJD Website to search for cases on the CLAIMS system. These features should assist in the reduction of case status inquiries. The court initiated a tracking system at the information counters to calculate the number of clients who were serviced by Civil Division staff on the 5th floor of 34 South 11th Street. This single area recorded **40,124** walk-in customers in **2008**. This number doesn't include litigants who have utilized the Dispute Resolution Unit and civil courtrooms.

Internship Programs

The Civil Division has utilized students on work study from the following programs:

- CITE Business School Internship Program
- Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition
- PATH, Inc.
- Liberty Resources
- PHEAA Student Interns
- Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School (PE & T)
- Credits Student Interns
- Volunteer Student Interns
- Externship Program

Students continue to work successfully in the Civil Division, gaining experience and helping with the shortage of staff due to budgetary constraints. As a result, some have received part- and full-time employment within the FJD. These programs are a tremendous boon to the court.

Municipal Court Criminal Division

Philadelphia Municipal Court Criminal Division Initiatives (2008)

The initiatives below were new to 2008, or when continued from previous years, achieved sufficiently notable achievements in 2008 to merit highlighting here.

Philadelphia Municipal Court Statistics

Misdemeanor/Trial Filings

Since 1996, Philadelphia Municipal Court successfully administered significant increases in misdemeanor trial and felony preliminary hearing filings. The largest volume of new cases occurred in 2001 (64,994) and 2002 (62,695) and then leveled off to a fairly consistent average of 58,000 filings from 2003 through 2006. Trends for 2007 showed an upward swing to 59,972 new cases and 2008 filings increased 5% to almost 63,000 felony and misdemeanor cases.

<i>Criminal Filings</i>	1996	2000	2004	2007	2008
Felony Hearings	21,062	30,819	30,434	34,590	34,667
Misdemeanor Trials	22,641	30,606	27,607	25,382	28,151
Total Criminal Filings	43,703	61,425	58,041	59,972	62,818

Dispositions

Disposition data is supplied by AOPC from coding entries into CPCMS by the Clerk of Quarter Sessions staff.

<i>Criminal Dispositions</i>	1996	2000	2004	2007	2008
Felony Hearings	21,081	30,882	27,934	35,144	36,812
Misdemeanor Trials	22,733	29,150	25,037	27,641	27,987
Total Dispositions	43,814	60,032	52,971	62,785	64,799

Disposition Types⁸

Disposition Types	2007	2008
Dismissed LOP	3,196	2,834
Dismissed LOE	1,592	1,518
Dismissed (Dismissed, Other, 1013, Abatements, etc)	6,431	5,837
Not Guilty	1,114	794
Remands	1,668	3,113
Held for Court	16,068	17,453
ARD	2,879	2,893
GUILTY (Trials, Pleas, Plea & Probation w/o verdict, etc.)	14,210	13,266
<i>Withdrawn</i> (Pros w/d; all withdrawals for community service and diversion program completions)	14,990	16,443
Transfers	637	648
Total Dispositions	62,785	64,799

DUI Treatment Court

According to the Pennsylvania DUI Association, one-third of Philadelphia County DUI offenders are multiple offenders. These offenders are causing the greatest havoc on our highways. According to NHTSA, the repeat offender cause nearly one-half of all DUI fatalities.

Building upon the success of the Philadelphia Drug Treatment Court, the Municipal Court, with the complete support of the Philadelphia District Attorney, the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC), the City of Philadelphia Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs (CODAAP), and the First Judicial District, implemented the DUI Treatment Court initiative in June 2007.

DUI Treatment Court promotes public safety, holds offenders accountable for their actions, and helps offenders to be sober, responsible and productive members of the community. The DUI Treatment Court has over 100 defendants currently enrolled and has conducted several graduation ceremonies for those who have successfully complied with all terms and conditions of the program. A preliminary evaluation was being conducted in 2008 by the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC). The evaluation reviewed quantitative data (e.g., positive number of drug tests) and will incorporate demographic characteristics, progress reviews through phases, and recommendations. As of this writing, there were six graduates and two terminations.

Philadelphia Treatment Court

Since the Court's inception in April 1997, over 2,000 individuals (most charged with Felony Delivery or Possession with Intent to Deliver charges) have participated in the program and 1,642 participants have successfully completed the program while 421 have been terminated.

⁸ Data reports for dispositional categories were received by AOPC from coding entries into CPCMS by the Clerk of Quarter Sessions staff.

Over 92% of successful graduates have remained conviction free for eighteen months after graduation. These defendants represented over 2,000 criminal cases whereby no court-related police overtime was expended, as police officers are never subpoenaed to appear in Drug Court.

The first of its kind in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Treatment Court represents the latest initiative in addressing the drug-involvement of the criminal justice population. It is premised on the notion that the courts need to deal with some of the root causes of criminal activity. Treatment Court is designed as an alternative to and/or to supplement normal case processing to provide treatment to substance abusing defendants. Treatment Court incorporates the dual aim of reducing defendants' involvement in crime (and their return to the criminal caseload) and of increasing the chances that they can function more productively as citizens.

The Treatment Court model represents a structure drawing upon a network of treatment services to respond to the clinically determined needs of participants. It features a new and central role for the Treatment Court judge. This court serves as a hub for delivery of treatment and other supportive services that more fully address the range of treatment, health, housing, literacy, educational and other social service needs often presented by drug-involved defendants. Recognized nationally with numerous awards, Treatment Court was designated as a Mentor Court. In May 2007, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals awarded, for the first time, its Community Transformation Award. It was presented to the Philadelphia Treatment Court in recognition of its tireless efforts to foster community transformation by reducing drug addiction and crime, restoring hope, and reuniting families.

Summary Diversion Programs

Many summary offenses are quality-of-life issues like disorderly conduct; prostitution; graffiti; and underage drinking. Special summary programs are operated within the unit, such as, nuisance night court and the summary diversion program. These programs were the original "problem solving courts" in the Commonwealth, introduced in the late 1990's to address quality of life issues for Pennsylvanians in an attempt to dissuade future criminal behavior. The Quality of Life Diversion Program continues its mission of changing behavior at the forefront of criminal activity. Collections for the Victim Compensation Fund topped \$165,000 for calendar year 2008. A total of 18,177 summary offense cases were handled by the unit. Collections continue to sustain departmental staff operations, nuisance night court, and the summary diversion programs.

Emergency Protection from Abuse

The Emergency Protection from Abuse unit operates during non-traditional hours for emergency petitions only.⁹ The unit is staffed by law-trained Masters, who conduct *ex-parte* hearings and review petitions, to determine if a petition should be granted in accordance with the Protection from Abuse Act. Most applicants are referred to the Abuse Assistance Unit of the Domestic Relations Branch, Court of Common Pleas Family Division. **The Municipal Court unit issued approximately 3,148 emergency petitions in 2008 for review by Family Division Judges.**

Unit staff also worked with advocates from Drexel University Law School and the Women's Law project to allow law students access to voluntarily speak to petitioners upon

⁹ Regular PFA intake is located in the Family Court Domestic Relations building at 34 S. 11th Street during normal business hours.

exiting the EPFA Unit if the petitioner chooses. Staffing by the advocates has been somewhat sporadic and initial statistics did not illustrate an increase in appearances before Domestic Relations judges. The initiative will be monitored in collaboration with the Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations PFA department. We are working with the Honorable Ida Chen and CP Administration to translate the EPFA petition and other documents into various languages for continued enhancements to justice access.

Community Court

The intent of Community Court is to provide alternative sentencing options while addressing underlying behavioral problems associated with quality of life crimes and recidivism. Law enforcement agencies estimate that 80% of offenders arrested for quality of life crimes are involved with either drug or alcohol addictions or both. Others require mental health intervention. The court's goal is to reduce quality of life crimes and develop a system of supervised community service while reducing recidivism.

Community Court sentences emphasize restitution to the community by requiring that offenders perform community service in the neighborhoods where the crimes were committed. Offenders have worked with sidewalk cleaning, landscape maintenance, and graffiti removal crews of the Center City District and the University City District, in the offices of nonprofit organizations that provide services to the homeless, and have assisted with neighborhood clean-ups.

The Court also provides on-site classes in drug treatment readiness and anger management, as well as physical health screenings, continued medical care, and referrals. When appropriate, offenders are placed in drug treatment, health care, education, job training, and other programs, either mandated by the Court or entered voluntarily by the offender, in an effort to break the cycle of crime.

Since 2002, 55,344 cases have been processed (45,318 non-traffic summaries and 10,026 misdemeanors) for the surrounding neighborhoods encompassing the court. Over 407,000 hours of community service have been performed, with \$1.4 million dollars in fines and court costs collected.

DO IT Program (Domestic Violence)

The DO-IT program is offered by the District Attorney, upon agreement of the complainant, for defendants charged with domestic violence misdemeanors. Defendants approved for the program will have their cases held under advisement while they attend treatment programs. Levels of care will be determined after a confidential assessment by a certified CODAAP evaluator in a centralized location within the courthouse. If the defendant complies with the treatment requirements and there are no further problems between the victim and the defendant, prosecution will be withdrawn at the conclusion of the status term (minimum three months to maximum six months). **To date, approximately 1,000 new domestic violence cases are diverted each year. 95% of all offenders who enter the program successfully comply with the terms** (anger management counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, etc.) and are not brought back before the Domestic Violence judge.

Mental Health Initiatives

Many of the Municipal Court cases affected by mental health issues have been centralized and streamlined before President Judge Marsha Neifield. Operationally, the ability to centralize mental health cases for criminal defendants has proven beneficial in dealing with questions of

competency and coordinating orders for mental health evaluations with all parties in one location. The judge also monitors defendants returned to the community at subsequent status hearings.

Technology Enhancement with Law Enforcement (for Non-Traffic Summary Citations)

Municipal Court continues to explore ways to work with law enforcement agencies to utilize electronic filing via our Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System (PARS) and summary citations through existing MDTs or hand-held devices. Rule changes were recently adopted by the Supreme Court which will enhance efforts in Philadelphia for police processing of quality of life offenders.

Linda Anderson Alternative Treatment for Misdemeanor (ATM) Case Program

Named after deceased Philadelphia Municipal Court Judge Linda Anderson, this latest initiative provides, in lieu of formal trial, that the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office may offer eligible defendants the option of a conditional guilty plea resulting in an immediate one-year term of probation without verdict. The offer carries a mandatory requirement to comply with treatment as arranged by the Adult Probation Department. If the defendant complies with treatment and remains arrest free for the one-year period, the case will be withdrawn by the District Attorney's Office. This program is modeled on the Section 17, Probation Without Verdict program, for drug users. If the defendant does not comply, the presiding judge may find the defendant guilty and impose sentence accordingly. Detailed statistics for 2008 are pending from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, but preliminary statistics indicate there are approximately 110 defendants who have opted for the ATM program during the period since its inception (March 26 through December 31, 2008).

Challenges: Volume Continues Up – Funding Continues to Fall

During 2008, Municipal Court had a five percent increase in criminal cases, while at the same time imposing a hiring freeze and a five percent decrease in its budget. The court successfully absorbed these challenges and continued to provide timely access to justice, while maintaining the same quality programs and problem solving court initiatives. The far more significant cuts which are anticipated for 2009 will make it more difficult to process the huge number of new cases entering the system each year. If current trends continue, well over 200,000 new civil and criminal cases will be generated in 2009. While the ability to handle this volume is tested, judges, court leaders, and staff will continue to endeavor to meet the challenges despite further reductions in staffing and resources.

Philadelphia Traffic Court

Renovations of Facility and Addition to the Building:

A major accomplishment for Traffic Court in 2008 was the completion of physical plant improvements through expansion of the courthouse along with major renovations to the existing facility. A 5,000 square-foot, two-story structure was added to the court's existing building. That space houses a newly installed state-of-the-art case filing system for the *Record Retention Department*. In addition, renovations to the court's lobby increased the square footage of the lobby from 1,584 square feet to 3,750 square feet and added 5 customer service windows, for a current total of 18. Moreover, the extension allowed for the construction of a new courtroom, bringing the total number of courtrooms to 8. The expansion of the courthouse has aided the court in processing the more than 3,000 people that come through the facility daily. These renovations, including the case filing system, were completed at no cost to the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania ("FJD") or to the City of Philadelphia.

Fiscal Matters:

The Traffic Court surpassed collections thresholds established in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Traffic Court and City Finance Department. As provided in the MOU, the FJD receives 33% of any revenue collected by Traffic Court that exceeds the MOU baseline collection number. The court exceeded the baseline disbursement number by \$626,073 which provided \$208,691 in profit sharing for the FJD.

In 2008, the Traffic Court continued to monitor impoundments by the Philadelphia and State Police. The court prepares a monthly report listing each vehicle that was issued a qualifying citation under the impoundment law, but not impounded under the "LiveStop" program. Since the court began transmitting this report, the incidence of vehicles not being impounded despite having a qualifier written, has decreased from an average of 1,200 vehicles to only 350 vehicles per month. In addition, the Traffic Court engineered with the Police Department to ensure a smooth transition of authority, while ensuring proper prosecution of citations, as they implemented an organizational change that combined the Police Liaison Units assigned to the Criminal Justice Center and the Philadelphia Traffic Court.

For continuing its cost-saving measures, the Traffic Court changed the credit card clearing house vendor in an effort to reduce the amount taken out of its profit sharing plan with the City Finance Department. The rate dropped from 2.1% to 1.65%, which will translate into annual savings of \$25,000 to \$30,000.

The Traffic Court uncovered errors with ACS money distribution that was *inflating* the vendor's fee and *underestimating* the warrant fee monies paid to the court. This was corrected, and a total of \$450,000 was returned to the Traffic Court Warrant Fee Account. The warrant fee funds the Traffic Court and Family Court Pre-Trial Services Department for the execution and service of warrants.

The Traffic Court planned in 2008 to implement a constable program in the five counties surrounding Philadelphia. This program will utilize constables to serve Traffic Court warrants to defendants that are in default. The total default amount for this specific population is \$5.8

million. However, this program was not implemented due to a limitation with the ACS “eTIMS” case management system.

The Traffic Court discovered discrepancies with ACS-generated financial reports that are used to balance a monthly system reconciliation report. A system service request was submitted to ACS that should change the logic of the reports and reduce the balance discrepancy.

Technology:

Agile court Software

The Traffic Court undertook an extensive review of potential new software that may correct limitations within the current eTIMS system and could revolutionize the way the court processes its cases. As a result, we shared current business rules and processes with a proposed vendor to create a client-specific demonstration scheduled for March, 2009.

State Police Electronic Citations

The Traffic Court worked in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Police to build an electronic citation specific to Philadelphia. This exchange of information included design, logistics, format, protocol, and process. The new electronic citation was scheduled to be rolled out in mid-2009. Once the State Police are issuing electronic citations, the Philadelphia Police Department will use the same application to issue citations electronically. Discussions centered on a pilot program involving a specific District of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Financial Determination Hearings

The Traffic Court developed logic and flow that, for the first time, will systematically schedule defaulted defendants for a financial determination hearing. It will also allow for the review of existing established plans in order to determine the possible need for an adjusted order due to changes in defendants’ financial status.

Updates to the Traffic Court Citation

At the request of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (“PennDoT”), Traffic Court included additional data items on the new citation. Traffic Court added a block on the citation for the police officer to note whether the citation was written to an operator of a 16-passenger vehicle or school bus driver. The addition of these data items will help PennDoT conform to an audit finding.

Automatic Refund Check Process

The Traffic Court processes approximately 1,500 refund checks monthly. In the past, all refund checks had to be *manually* data entered. By creating a flat file out of eTims and uploading it to QuickBooks accounting software, the refund process was automated, thereby expediting the refund process and reducing the waiting period for the return of defendants’ collateral. Defendants are now assured of receiving their refunds within two-to-three weeks after the date of their trial. This is an improvement over the previous wait of 10 weeks.

Imaging and Indexing

As the Traffic Court continued on its mission to eliminate the paper process, Installment Payment Plans were added to the documents that are now electronically imaged and indexed by the court’s Quality Control Unit.

Office of the Court Administrator

The Court Administrator is the highest non-judicial leadership position in the First Judicial District. The position was created in 1996, when the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in reorganizing the FJD established the Administrative Governing Board (AGB). The Office of the Court Administrator was established to complement the Board and carry out their directives, to propose solutions to problems and innovative ideas for improvements, and to oversee the day-to-day management of the District. In July 2006, David C. Lawrence was appointed as the FJD Court Administrator.

There are three groups of individuals reporting directly to the Court Administrator: Deputy Court Administrators; Directors; and Senior Staff Advisors. The Office of the Court Administrator provides centralized management for the major service centers that affect the work of the courts throughout the District, and coordinates the ministerial activities of Deputy Court Administrators (DCA) located in specific courts and divisions of the FJD.

Deputy Court Administrators

One Chief Deputy Court Administrator heads the 12 DCA positions. Four are concerned with cross-court services: 1) Human Resources; 2) Financial Services; 3) Court Reporter and Interpreter Services; and 4) Legal Services. Eight DCA positions have responsibilities focused on the specific divisions of the courts in which they are located, and these are listed below (Two DCAs are assigned to the Juvenile Branch):

- Common Pleas Family Division Juvenile Branch;
- Common Pleas Family Division Domestic Relations Branch;
- Common Pleas Trial Division Civil Section;
- Common Pleas Trial Division Criminal Section;
- Municipal Court Civil Division;
- Municipal Court Criminal Division; and
- Traffic Court.

While the DCAs that are spread throughout the courts report to the Court Administrator, they must also work very closely and respond to the direction of their respective President and Administrative Judges. This dual organizational scheme guarantees individual courts and divisions the benefits of the services of a Deputy Court Administrator and at the same time ensures that their operations are coordinated as key components of the centralized FJD management structure through the Office of the Court Administrator.

Directors

In addition to Deputy Court Administrators, the Court Administrator also employs Directors to oversee operational support services. These include: 1) Data Processing and Management Information Services (MIS) concerned with technology, including the FJD Internet presence and Intranet page; 2) Administrative Services, including Buildings and Facilities; and 3) the Procurement Department with purchasing and contractual services expertise.

Senior Staff Advisors

Management analysis and other special services also originate in the Court Administrator's Office, including the production of the FJD newsletter, *The Courterly*, along with annual reports.

These publications, training presentations, charts, graphs, and statistical research and analyses are the products of Senior Staff Advisors who have extensive experience and a comprehensive knowledge base with respect to most of the FJD systems. Senior Staff Advisors are also used for *ad-hoc* research assignments, analysis of management reports, and in project management teams. They have been involved with bringing technological responses to caseflow and records management, notes of testimony archival and retrieval, and automated electronic filing (E-Filing) applications.

Cross-Court Services

A wide array of services is managed by the Office of the Court Administrator and these are summarized below:

The FJD Human Resources Office serves the leaders and employees of the Courts through the management of positions, policy improvement, testing, training, and employee compensation and benefits. Data Processing manages and maintains the court mainframe and PC information systems, including a Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting about 3,000 PCs. Court Reporting and Interpreter Services are provided throughout the District. The office of Administrative Services is responsible for the requisition of materials and coordination of maintenance and other services, largely through the Building and Facilities Department charged with upkeep, maintenance, and renovations of various court-occupied space. The Financial Services Office provides the Court Administrator and other leaders with valuable information needed to support sound management decisions, offers links with other branches of government and funding sources, and responds to the directives of the Court Administrator. The Senior Staff Advisors conduct studies of large systems and programs, identify problems, and support the Court Administrator and Deputy Court Administrators by implementing projects and solutions to ensure the timely and efficient provision of Court services to the public. The Deputy Court Administrator for Legal Services responds to litigation and all legal matters relevant to the administration of the business of the court.

Administrative Services

Administrative Services provides a variety of support services throughout the First Judicial District. A primary area of concentration is maintenance and facility management. Coordination is provided for maintenance, renovation, construction, and cleaning services. Complete electrical, carpentry, air conditioning, painting, mill shop, cabling and moving services are provided.

Administrative Services provides planning, requisition preparation, and liaison services with the City Communications Department for the telecommunications requirements of the FJD. In addition to the installation and maintenance of telephone equipment, administration is provided for the over 2,000 telephone mail boxes now assigned to the FJD. Administrative Services also performs monthly testing and required maintenance of the duress alarm system.

Under Administrative Services, the Microfilm Unit provides complete filming, developing, and computerized access for court records.

Administrative Services maintains judicial chambers, telephone, vehicle and parking databases and generates reports for management as needed. Additional duties include arranging with garages for judicial parking and maintaining parking records, maintaining the list of City vehicles assigned to the FJD, and performing minor repairs on courtroom sound systems.

The department processes and provides routing documentation for purchase requisitions submitted by the Office of the President Judge and the Trial Division.

Procurement Department

The Procurement Unit, located in 368 City Hall, continually strives to uphold an established and uncompromising Mission Statement to ensure that all *customers'* needs are satisfactorily addressed with congenial and attentive customer service through expeditious delivery of quality goods and services at the most economic prices available. In realizing its objectives, the Procurement Unit administers the First Judicial District's program of purchasing of supplies, equipment, and services as well as monitoring the District's property management through the performance of the Inventory Control Division of the Unit. The Unit is also responsible for the negotiation, implementation, and on-going administration of contracts, licensing, and lease agreements. In addition, throughout 2008, the Procurement Unit routinely extended its established cost saving measures, economical protocol, and expertise to fund on-going technology enhancements, training, and space improvements throughout the FJD. During 2008, the Procurement Unit staff served as active members on various project management teams for many FJD endeavors and/or provided auxiliary services to the respective team(s) including, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Family Court's Truancy Project;
- The Commonwealth's Common Pleas Case Management System ("CPCMS");
- Additional enhancements to Municipal Court's Electronic Filing Case Management system ("CLAIMS");
- Technology enhancements and new equipment courtwide as well as the Court's technology hubs, Data Processing and MIS Departments. Services also included assistance in the fiber optic installation process to various facilities;
- Continued success of the annual Juror Appreciation Day;
- Continued success of the annual Pro Bono Awards Program;
- Feasibility research and investigations related to divisional tenancy needs both presently and projected;
- Assistance to several City agencies for various projects: software enhancements, equipment, supplies, contracting for supplemental manpower, etc.;
- Assistance with transitioning into the new security protocol implemented by the City of Philadelphia to all applicable facilities as well as the purchase and installation of various state of the art x-ray and metal detector machines;
- Updated and improved Video Conferencing System
- Provided assistance with obtaining some requisite materials and supplies for the FJD's participation in the U.S. Marshall's Fugitive Safe Surrender Program;
- Research, recommendations, and purchasing of materials, supplies, and/or services for Civil Division's Mortgage Foreclosure Program and the Civil E-Filing Program.

Court Reporter and Interpreter Services

MISSION STATEMENT

The Court Reporter, Interpreter and Digital Recording Administration is committed to providing the legal community and the public-at-large with service of the highest quality in the areas of court reporting, interpreter services, record reproduction and digital recording. We accept this charge and pledge to perform our duties with courtesy, efficiency and professionalism.

The office of Court Reporter and Interpreter Services comprises five service centers, each of which provides myriad services to the public, the legal community, and internal customers within the court system.

The five service centers are: 1) Court Reporting Services; 2.) Interpreter Services; 3) Record Reproduction Center; 4) the CRS system and 5) Digital Recording Program. Court Reporter, Interpreter and Digital Recording Services employ a total staff of 143 employees.

Court Reporting Services

Court reporters are highly trained and skilled professionals who, through the use of stenographic machines and computer-aided transcription, preserve the verbatim record of all proceedings in the First Judicial District (FJD) except those held in Philadelphia Traffic Court and those preserved through the use of Digital (audio) Recording. Court Reporting Services are provided in the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts and their constituent divisions.

Court of Common Pleas court reporters staff courtrooms housed in Family Court, Orphans' Court, and the various Trial Division Sections. These divisions handle a wide range of matters including Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency, Adoptions, Domestic Relations, Criminal, Civil and Probate cases. Grand jury matters, official ceremonies, and various administrative events also fall in the purview of court reporters' duties whenever the preservation of a record is required. Reporters also record testimony in the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the Municipal Court.

Court Reporter Statistics/Real-time Transcription

As of the month of June 2009, The Court Reporter Division employs a total staff of 105 full-time court reporters compared to 125 in 2008. In July of 2009, that number will decrease to 104. Due to budget constraints, per diem court reporters are not presently utilized in the courtrooms. The official court reporters include Registered Merit Reporters (RMR) and Registered Professional Reporters (RPR) who have achieved excellence in stenographic writing proficiency. Also among the staff are 25 Court Reporter Trainees who have varied levels of experience and have attained, or are working towards attaining, their full certification.

Court Reporters provide services to FJD courtrooms in each of the divisions outlined above on a daily basis. Approximately one-fifth of the court reporter staff are Real-time writers and one out of every ten court reporters is a Certified Real-time reporter.

Real-time transcription involves the simultaneous translation and display of court proceedings utilizing computer-aided transcription. Certified Real-time Reporters are Registered Merit Reporters or Registered Professional Reporters who possess the knowledge, skill and

ability to accurately and immediately translate spoken testimony into the written word that is simultaneously displayed on computer monitors during live proceedings in the courtroom. Real-time Reporters provide a valuable service to the hard-of-hearing and deaf individuals who otherwise would not be able to participate in the judicial process within the courtroom environment. In such instances, the deaf or hard-of-hearing individual utilizes a computer monitor situated in the courtroom so that they can read an accurate written version of the live oral testimony as it occurs (in real-time). Those real-time writers who are not certified continue to work towards their certification.

Digital Recording Program

The Court Reporter and Interpreter Division instituted the Digital Recording Program in 2003 in response to a general shortage of highly-qualified stenographic court reporters. As of May of 2009, the Digital Recording Program employs three administrative staff members, (Supervisor, Transcript Coordinator & Administrative Tech 1) as well as a staff of 10 full-time and 12 part-time Digital Recording Technicians (DRTs). The Digital Recording Technicians (DRTs) monitor the recording of court proceedings through the use of specialized software. Additionally, Digital Recording Technicians create detailed log notes that are utilized by the digital recording transcriptionists to ensure accurate transcription of audio files.

The Digital Recording Program staffs courtrooms within the Domestic Relations Division, Juvenile Division, Youth Study Center, and all Violation of Probation hearings.

As of 2009, all computers used by Digital Recording Technicians are connected to a central server. As the recordings and log notes are being produced, the audio files and log note files are automatically sent to a central server for storage and future retrieval. Prior to this advance, each day's proceedings would be stored on a disk.

The central server technology has greatly reduced costs as well as physical storage needs.

The technology involved in the maintenance of the Digital Recording Program continues to evolve and grow at a quick pace, and has begun to serve functions within the Court Reporter, Interpreter and Digital Recording Administration which are not directly related to digital recording.

A Transcription Technician is charged with the duty of maintaining a central storage server upon which are placed all raw notes created by court reporters. The court reporters transfer their non-transcribed raw notes onto a flash drive. The Technician then transfers these files from the flash drive onto a central server which contains a folder for each court reporter. In the event of a lengthy sickness, death or termination of a court reporter's employment or if for some other reason the court reporter cannot produce the requested notes of testimony, technicians are able to access this raw note storage server, gain access to the reporter's notes and a transcript can then be produced, eliminating the time-consuming and often frustrating job of tracking an unavailable court reporter's raw notes of testimony.

The Administrative Staff of the Digital Recording Program, though not directly responsible for the maintenance of digital recording computers installed in other areas of the City, also voluntarily administers troubleshooting support services to the digital recording programs which have been implemented in other areas of the Philadelphia Court System, including the Civil Administration of the Municipal Courts and the Mental Health Hearing Program as well as offering support to the Berks County Court Administration in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Interpreter Services

The Interpreter Division of the First Judicial District remains in the forefront of the field by ensuring, to the greatest extent possible, equal access to justice for those who are deaf or of Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

Toward that end, a database is maintained to record and track interpreter assignments, and to monitor costs. Accordingly, controls are in place to avoid unnecessary expenses and provide greater scheduling efficiency. As part of these controls, weekly calendars are sent to the District Attorney, the Philadelphia Defender Association, and the Chiefs of Municipal and Common Pleas courtroom operations. They are also sent to MC Civil and Family Court's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Branches. These calendars are provided to confirm hearings for the upcoming week for which an interpreter has been scheduled, and to cancel interpreters for any hearing that will not go forward.

The FJD has been recognized as taking a progressive and proactive stance towards ensuring due process for persons with linguistic or auditory challenges. To further enhance service quality, training seminars have been conducted for interpreters so they can become more familiar with legal terminology specific to each court as well as instruction regarding professional and ethical standards. The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) has set in place a certification roster. All interpreters working in any courtroom within the FJD must have passed certification criteria for confirmation and must appear on this roster.

The Interpreter Division has helped litigants meaningfully participate in the judicial process by providing interpreter services in over 60 languages. For the calendar year 2008, more than \$678,000 was spent for on-site interpretation, in addition to special assignments and text translations.

Court Reporting System (CRS)

The Court Reporting System (CRS) provides electronic archival and retrieval services for transcripts produced by court reporters. ASCII disks that contain completed transcripts are brought to the Record Reproduction Center, date stamped by the staff, and given to the CRS Technicians. The CRS Technicians place the notes of testimony on the CRS system, which is a central transcript storage server. This server is accessible by judges, assistant district attorneys and public defenders who enjoy the ease of retrieving and printing completed transcripts from their own offices. They or their staff may also save copies to utilize for drafting opinions.

Record Reproduction Center

The Record Reproduction Center provides varied services to the Court Reporter Administration as well as all other divisions of the FJD court system. As it relates to Court Reporter Administration, the Center's primary function is to ensure the efficient reproduction of all transcripts produced by court reporters and digital recording transcribers. The Record Reproduction Center also prints notes of testimony for court-appointed counsel and other private parties who do not have access to the CRS system (*See Court Reporting System (CRS) above*).

In addition to the Record Reproduction Center functions, as they relate to court reporting services, the Center also provides the following services to the FJD, generally:

- Printing services to all the constituent divisions and departments of the Common Pleas, Municipal and Traffic Court systems.
- Archival and retrieval of raw steno notes and other court-related materials from the Iron Mountain Storage facility.
- Assisting judges, attorneys and private citizens with printing projects that are directly applicable to the functions of the court system.

Data Processing

During 2007, the Trial Division Civil Section was engaged in developing specifications for implementing an Electronic Filing System. Data Processing translated the specifications into software and designed a hardware environment to support and integrate E-Filing with the existing case management system. This project required an enormous amount of work by many court employees.

In 2008, the Civil E-Filing system was brought fully on-line through the continued work and collaboration of employees in the Data Processing Department, the Prothonotary's Office, and the leaders and workforce of the FJD Civil Courts. Preliminary results have indicated great success with making the civil court system more efficient while reducing costs at the same time.

Office of Human Resources

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Office of Human Resources serves the District through the management of positions; policy review, maintenance, and the enforcement; testing; training; and administration of employee compensation and benefits for the entire FJD personnel compliment of 2,451 full-time and 218 part-time employees. In addition, since Human Resources also has a great deal of contact with the public, the importance of conveying a positive image of the FJD while building and maintaining public trust and confidence continues to remain a priority of this Department.

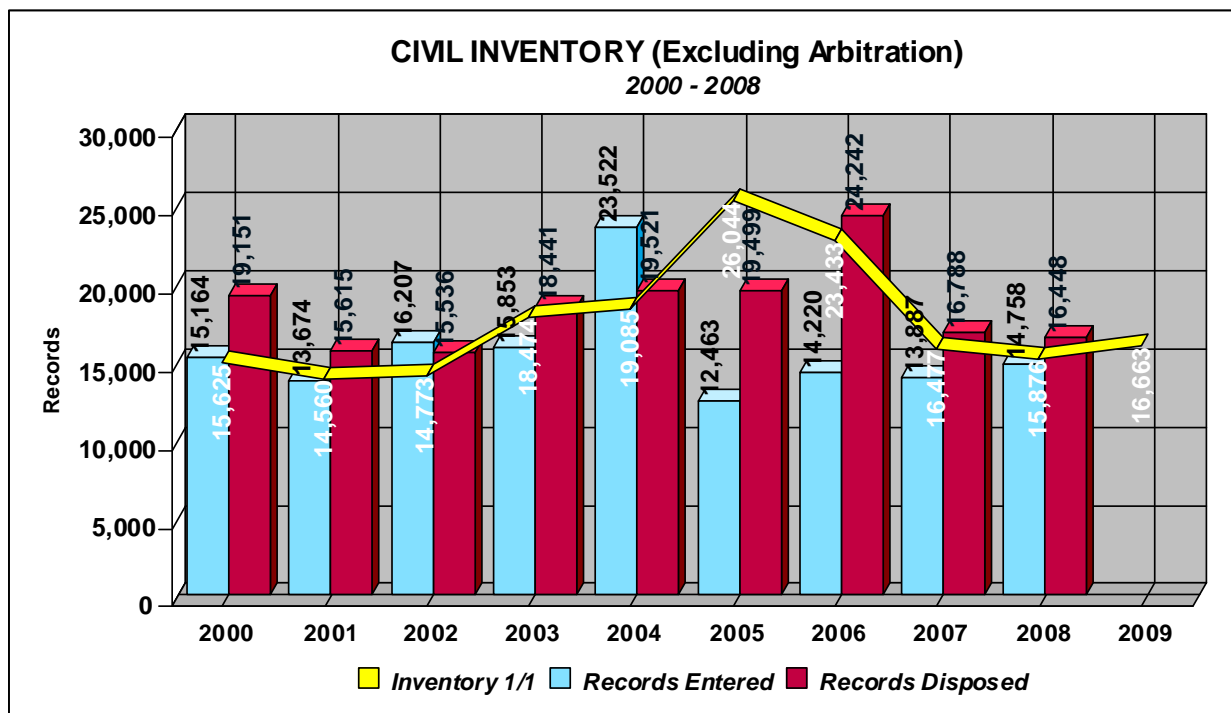
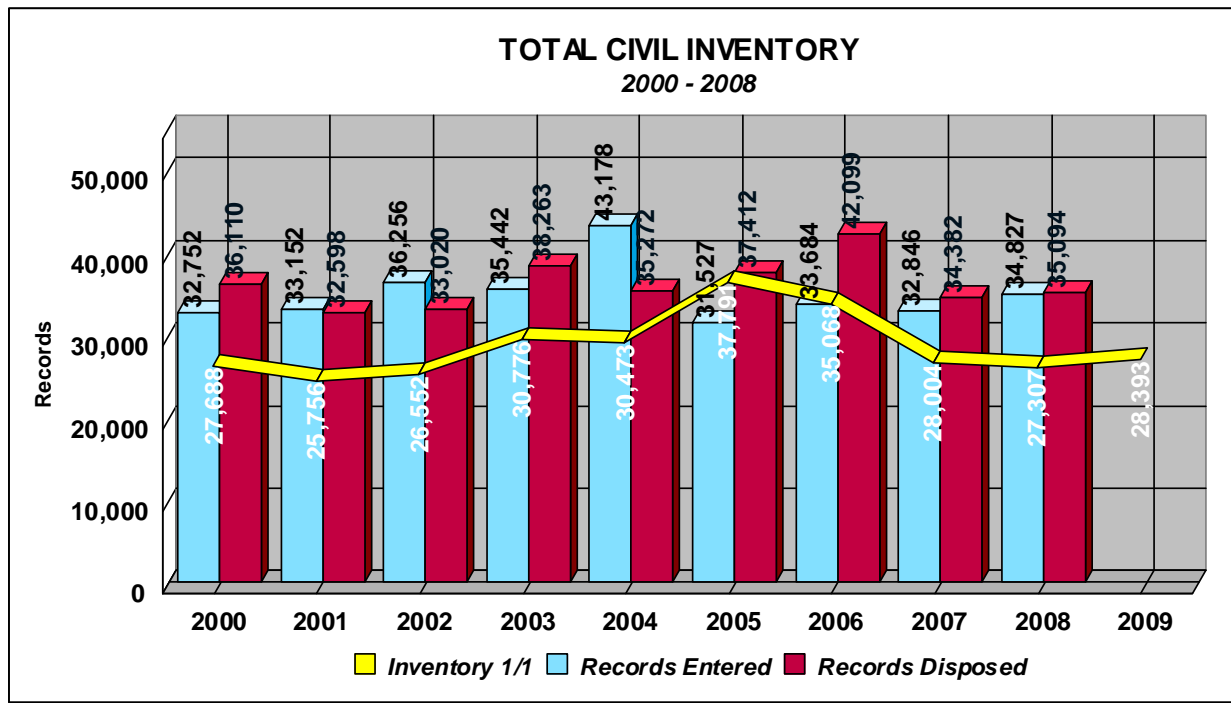
In pursuit of providing exemplary customer service throughout the District, HR functions include, but are not limited to: administering employee and labor relations; recruitment; applicant processing and testing; appointments; transfers; promotions; and reclassifications. In addition, the office manages payroll administration; benefits coordination and processing; time and attendance management; service connected injuries; maintenance of personnel files; performance appraisal management; training and development; and complaint resolution. Human Resources personnel are also responsible for Title VII investigations; disciplinary appeals; monitoring compliance with employment laws; and maintenance of an automated Human Resource Information System.

As a result of the Human Resources Department wide range of assignments, the Office of Human Resources was invited and participated in the following projects during 2008:

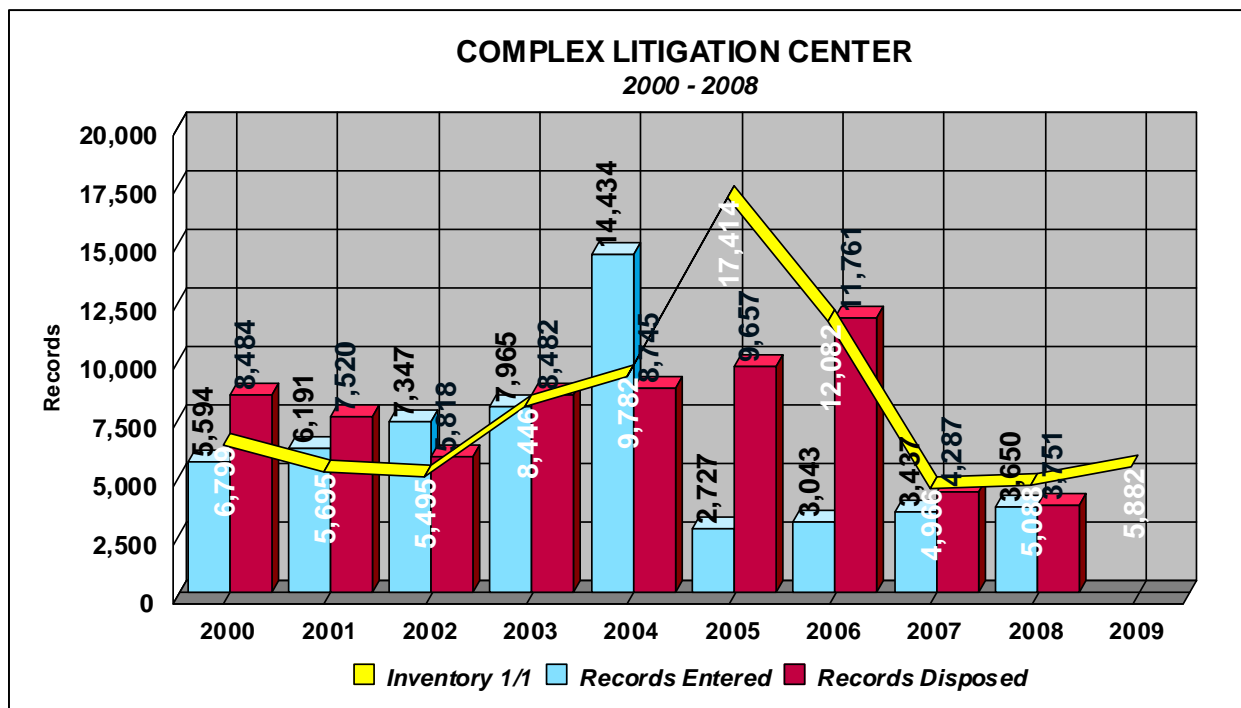
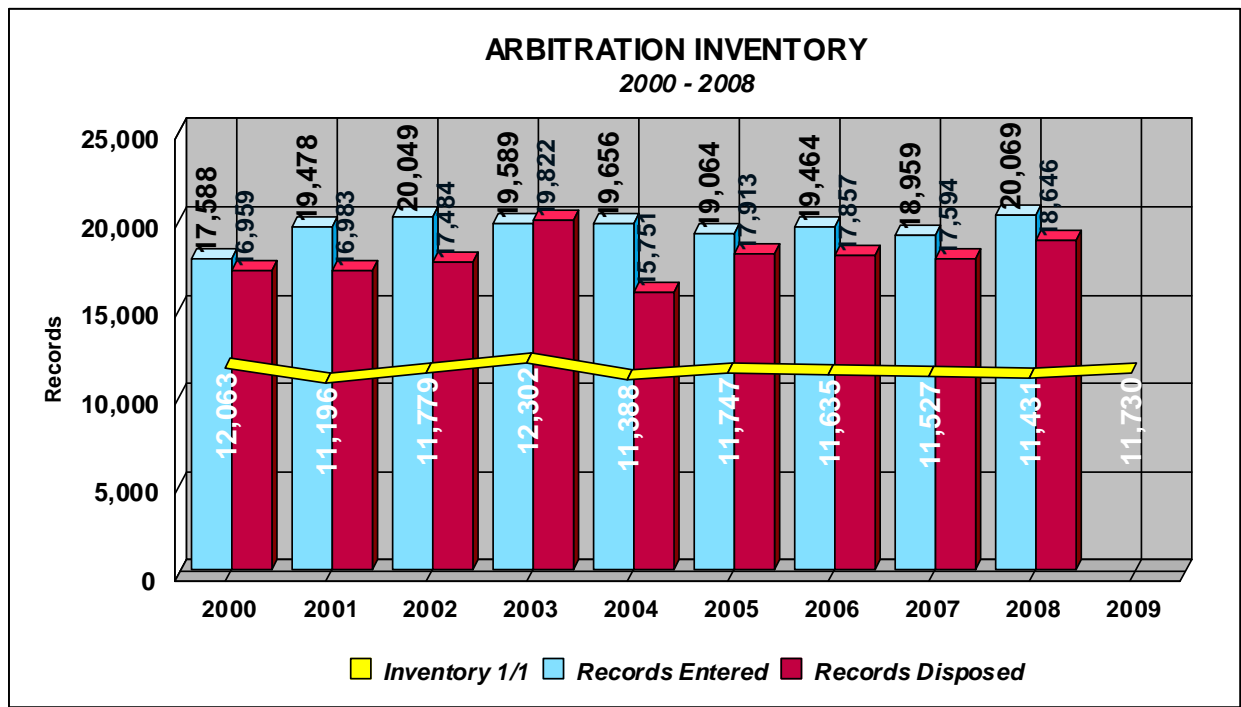
- Reaching out to the public through the expansion of recruitment efforts, including annual attendance at job fairs promoting job candidate diversity;
- Improved employee relations through completion of a legal and procedural review of personnel policies and presentation of proposed policy revisions to the Administrative Governing Board;
- Training sessions for supervisors and employees in the application of personnel policies;
- Supervisory Training Seminars for all supervisors;
- Continued coordination of welfare-to-work and work study programs;
- Continued coordination of CPR/AED certification;
- Coordination of Sensitivity Training seminars;
- Assistance with maintaining the FJD's Intranet;
- Processing of online Flex Open Enrollment forms and information;
- Coordinated processing through the City for online appointments and separations;
- Coordinated processing through the City Administration for online identification cards'
- Implementation of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP);
- Research, recruitment and implementation of New Employee Orientation film;
- Assisting the City Administration with the development and implementation of an online HRIS system;
- Assist the City Administration in implementing and maintaining City Hall security;
- Reviewed and updated Job Code List;
- Reviewed and recommended update to Judicial Staff Policies;
- Training for the FJD ADA coordinators;
- Development, implementation and distribution of a Rapid Run Report Writer throughout the District;
- Development and implementation of 153 new reports for various departments; and
- Completion of a new ABRA operational manual and training.

Statistics

Common Pleas Court Trial Division Civil Section

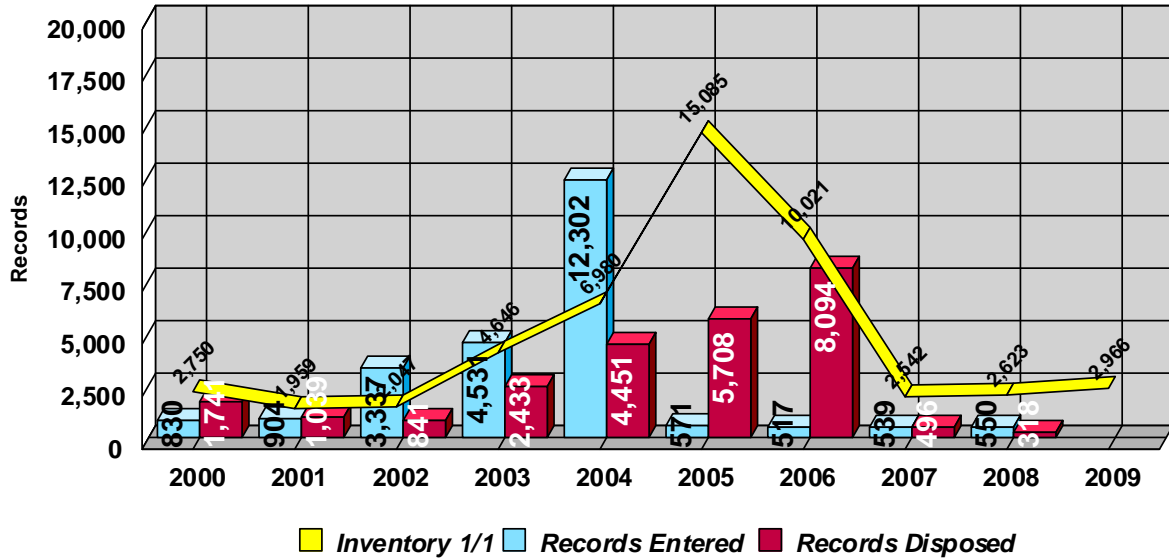


Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti, Data Processing. Re-Opened, Net Deferred and Net Transferred records are not shown on this report. Please see the 2008 Civil Statistical Summary for details

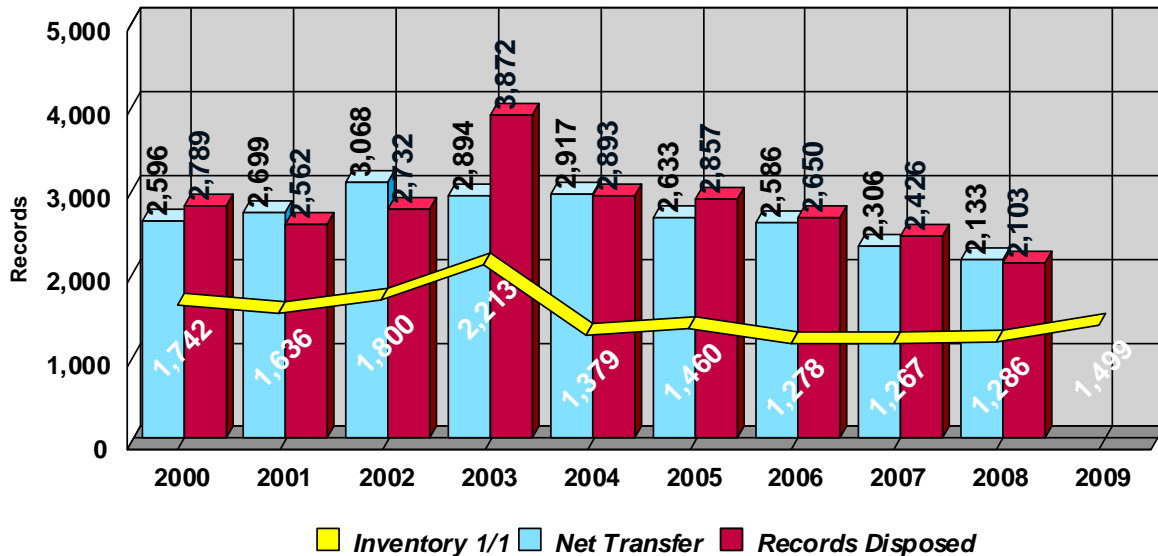


Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti, Data Processing. Re-Opened, Net Deferred and Net Transferred records are not shown on this report. Please see the 2008 Civil Statistical Summary for details

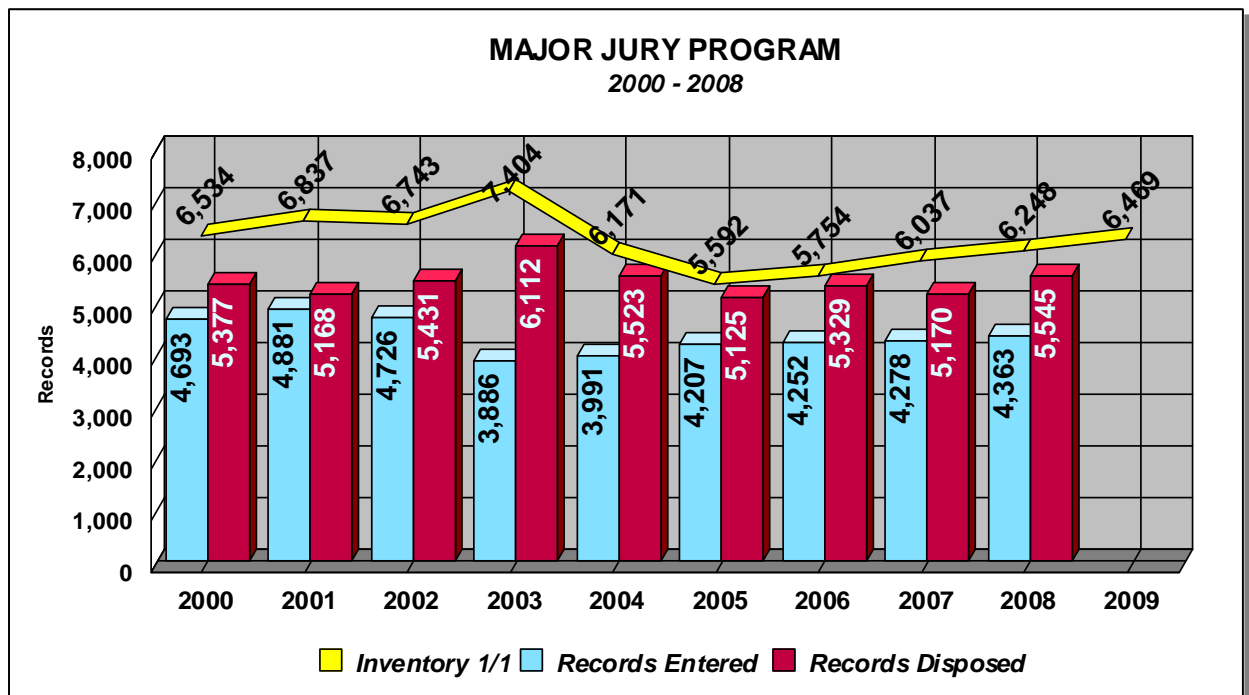
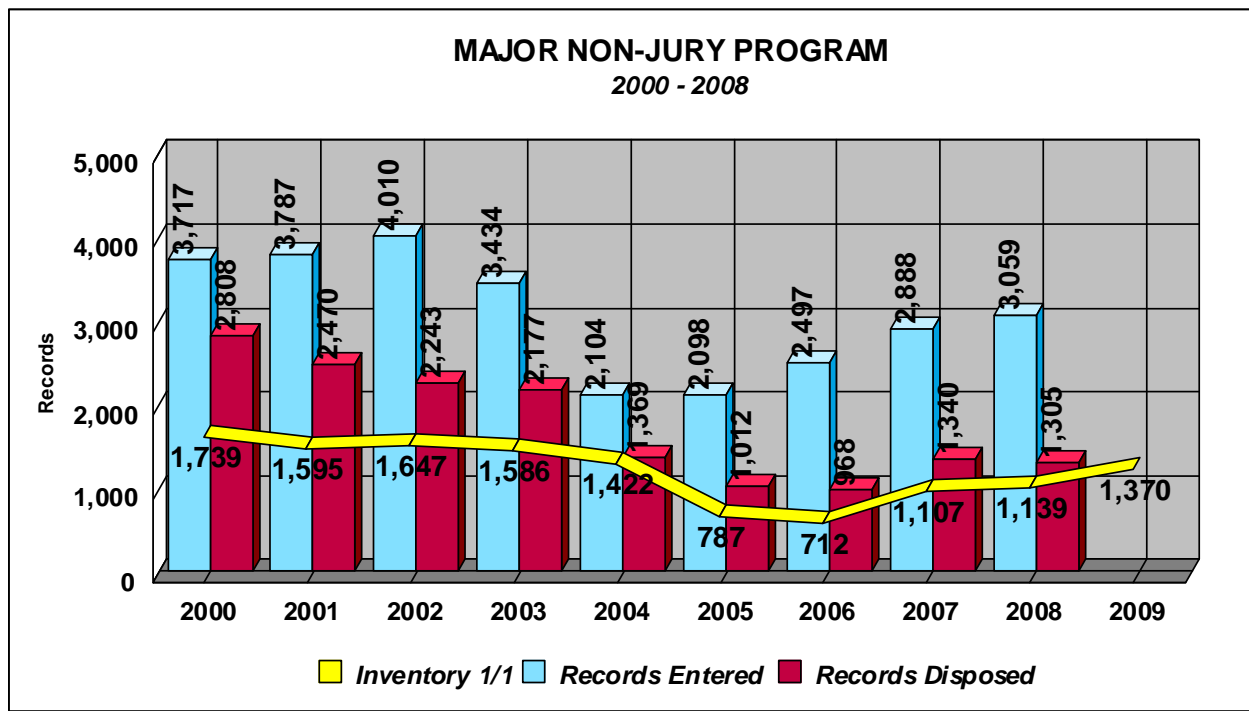
MASS TORT PROGRAM 2000 - 2008



ARBITRATION APPEALS 2000 - 2008



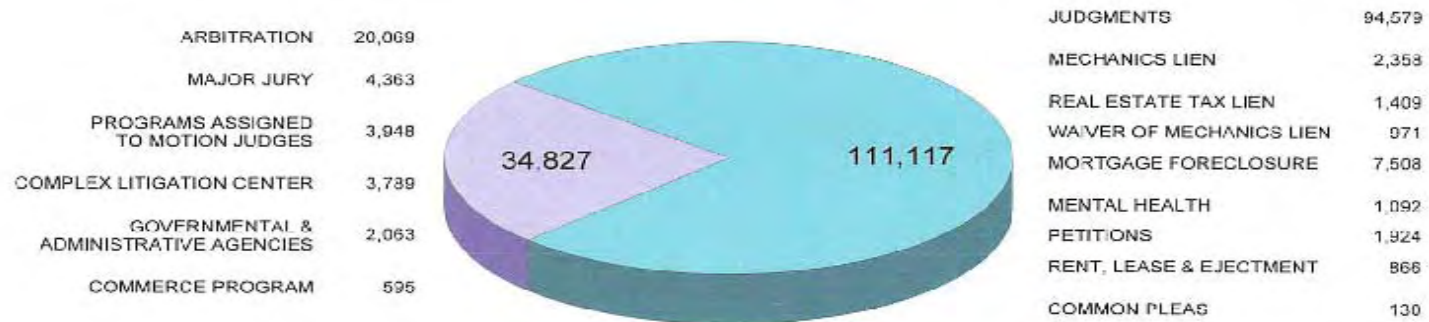
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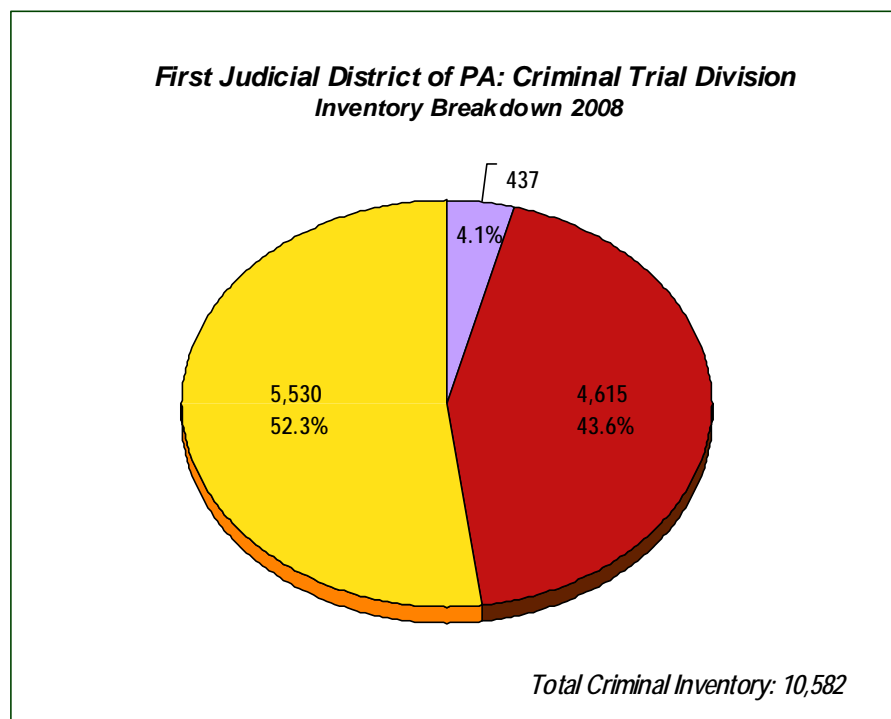
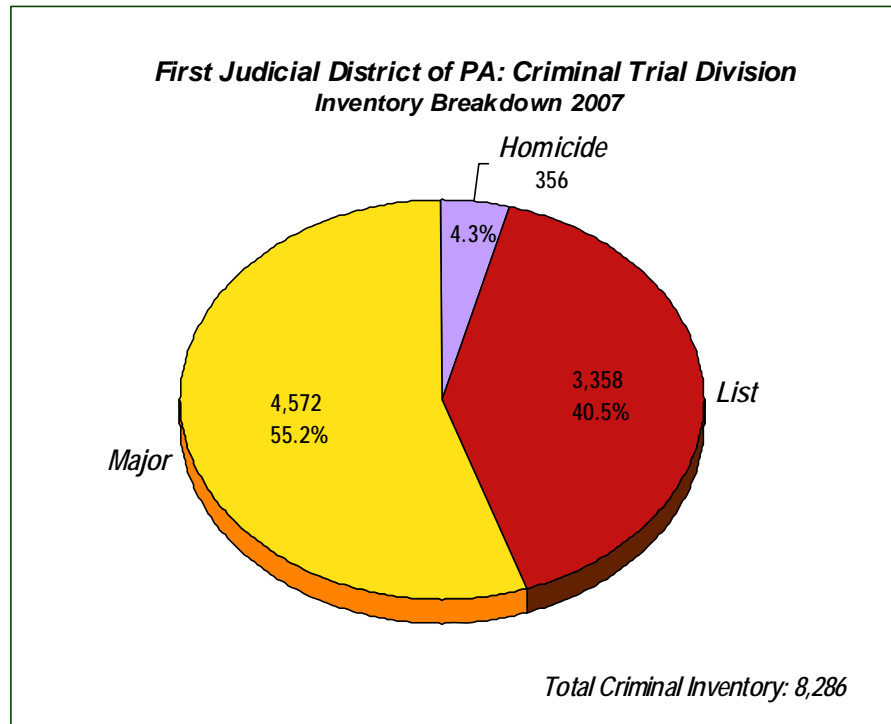
Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti, Data Processing. Re-Opened, Net Deferred and Net Transferred records are not shown on this report. Please see the 2008 Civil Statistical Summary for details

Prothonotary

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania
OFFICE OF THE PROTHONOTARY
FILINGS COMMENCED 2008: 145,944

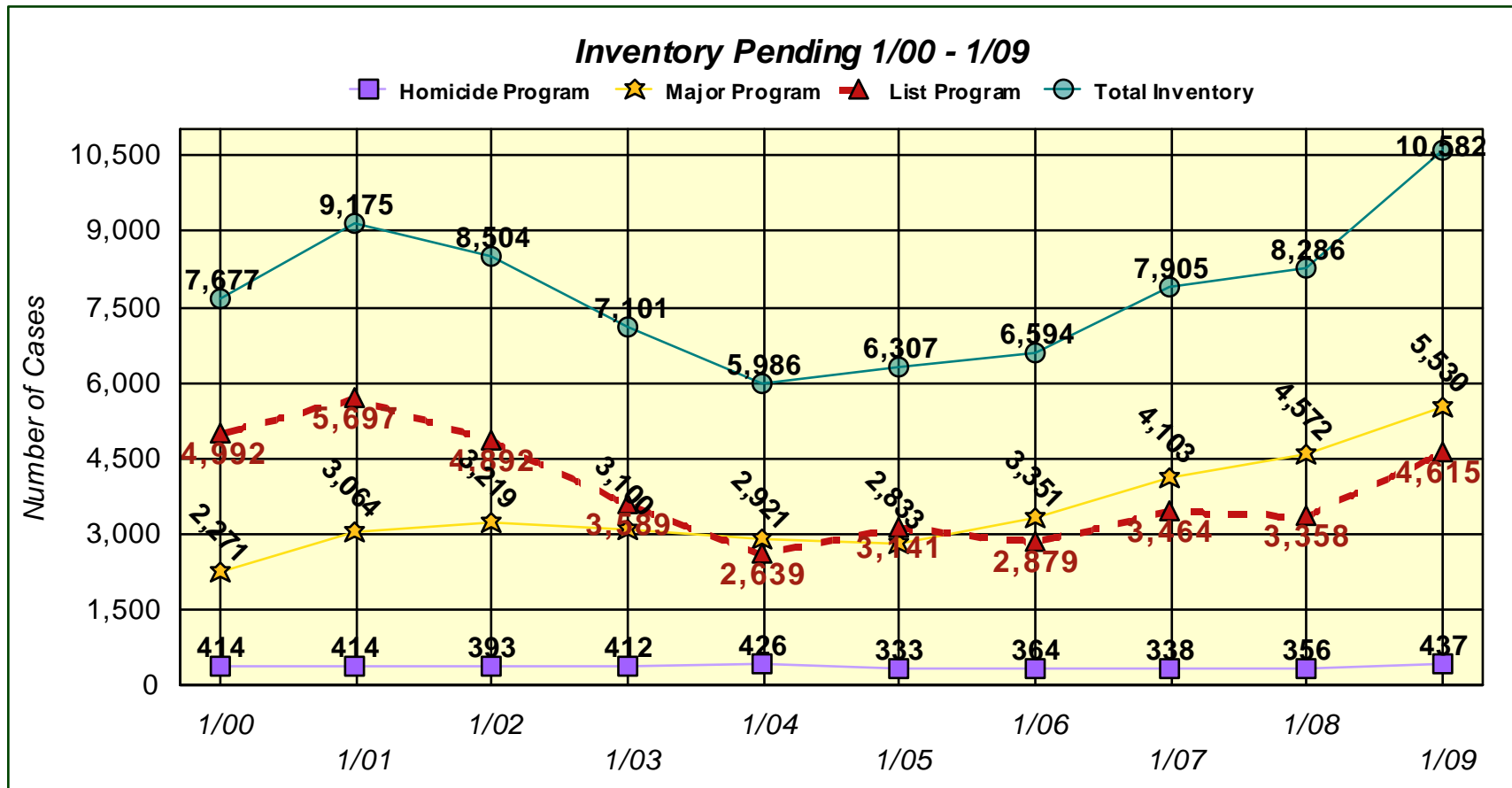


Common Pleas Court Trial Division Criminal Section



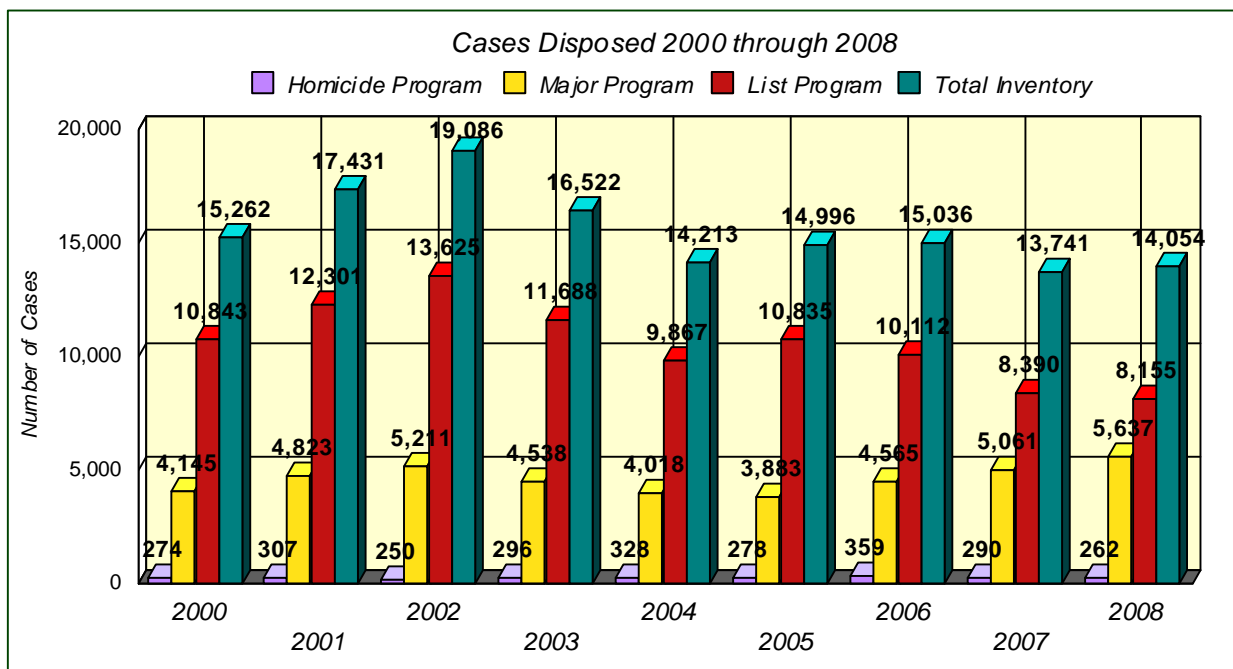
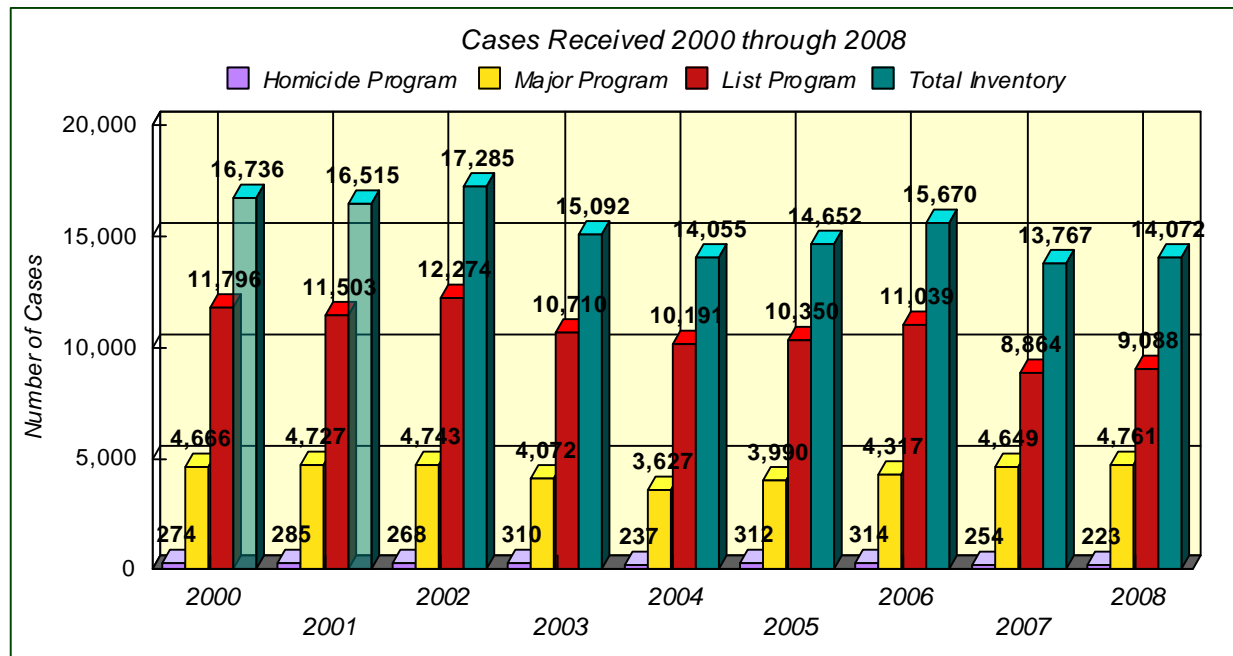
Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti.

Overall Criminal Inventory from 2000 Through 2008



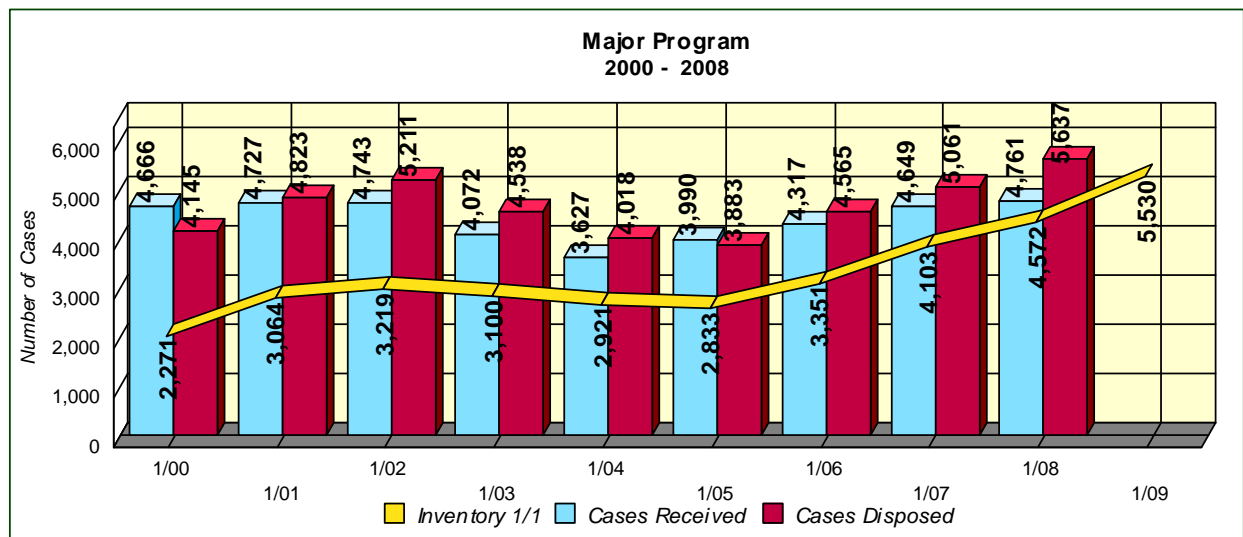
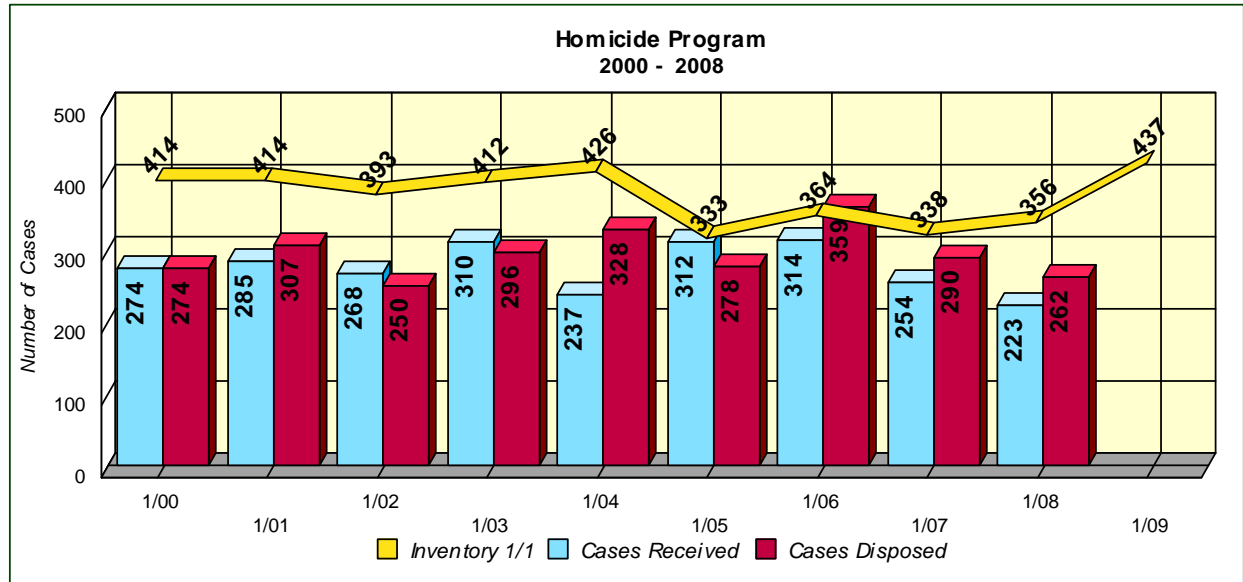
Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti. Cases Received includes Net Bench Warrant Activity and Net Track Changes (not specifically delineated on this report).

Cases Received and Disposed

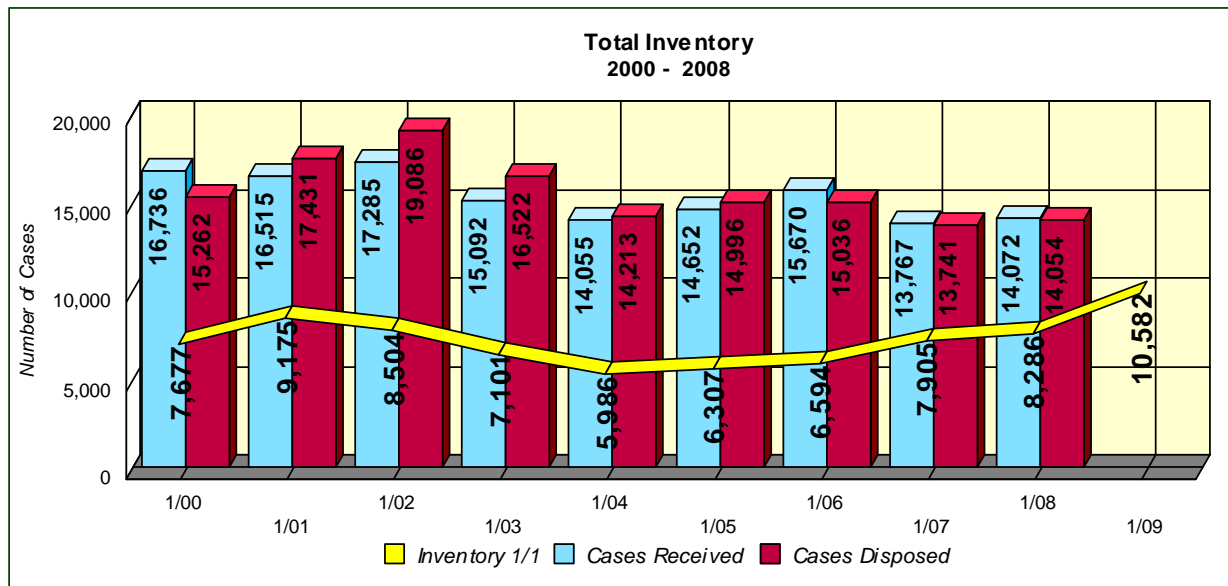
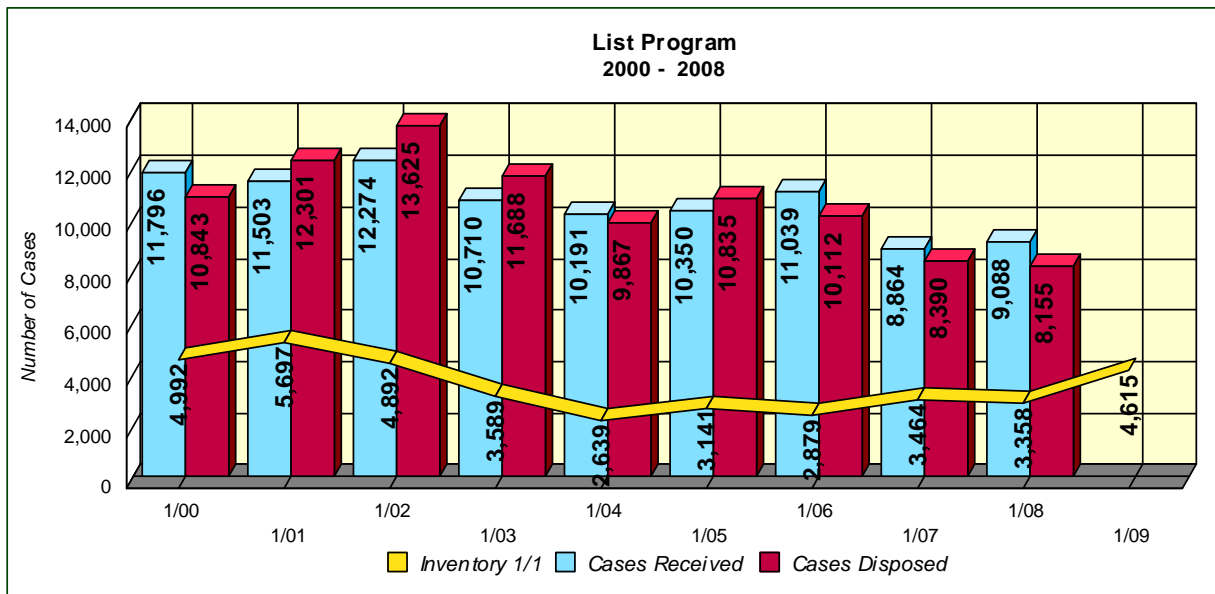


Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti. Cases Received includes Net Bench Warrant Activity and Net Track Changes (not specifically delineated on this report).

Statistics According to Track (Homicide, Major Felony, List Programs)

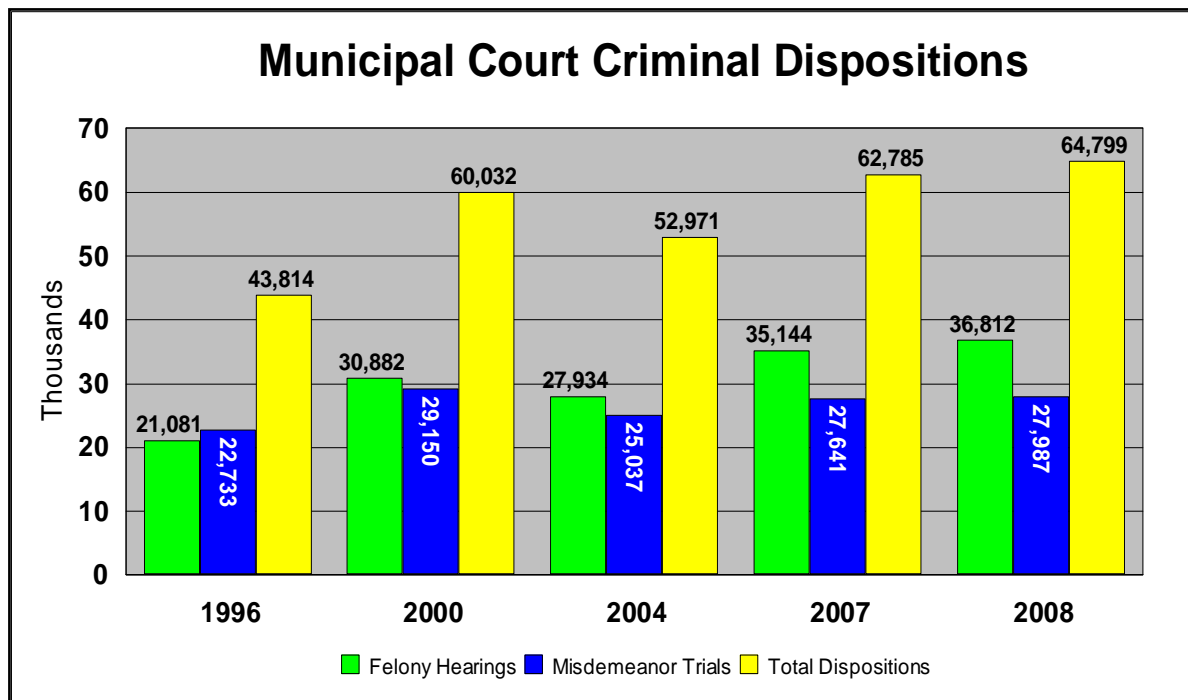
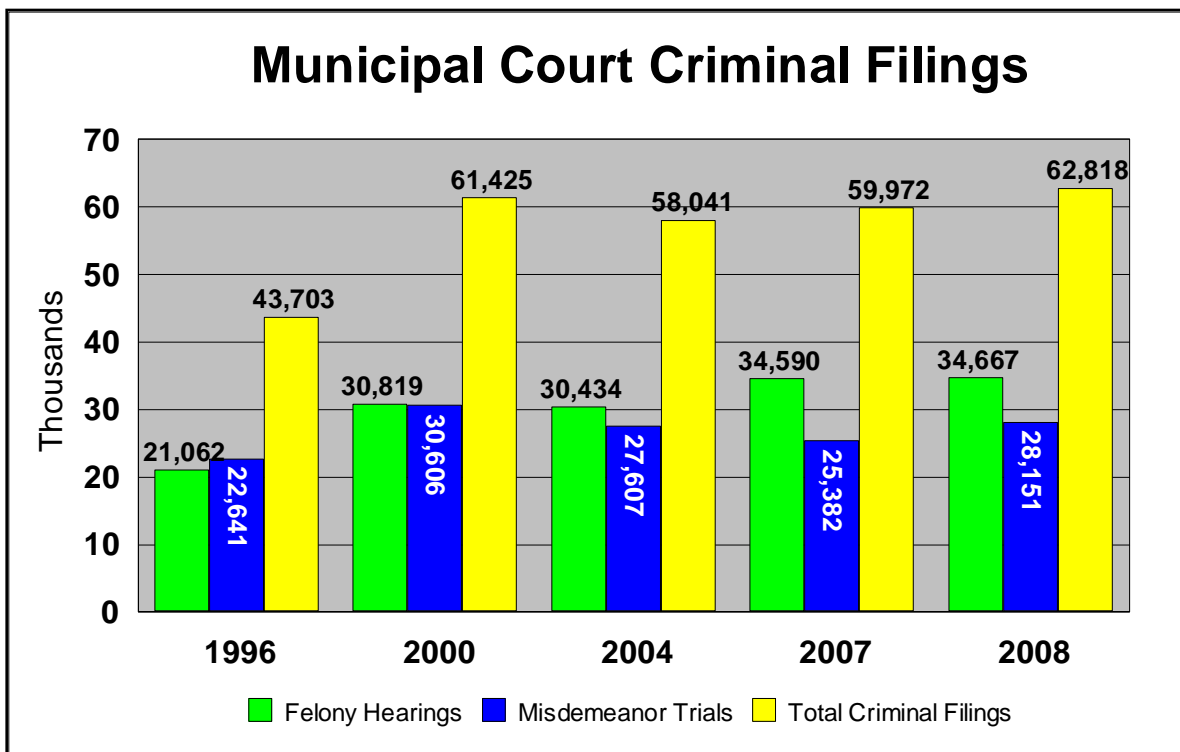


Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti. Cases Received includes Net Bench Warrant Activity and Net Track Changes (not specifically delineated on this report).



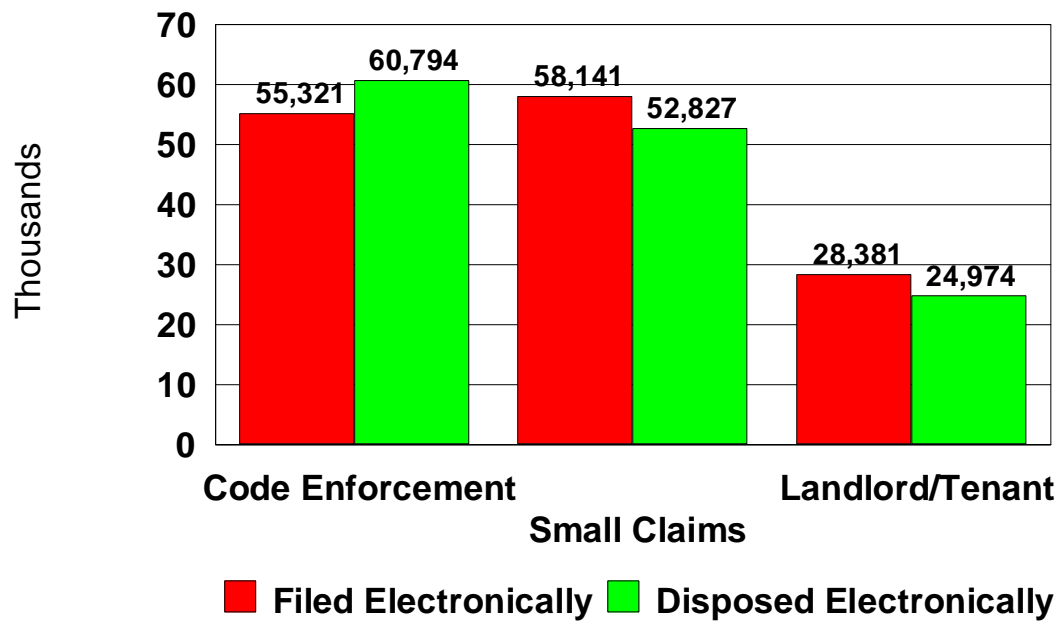
Graphs supplied by Deborah Teti. Cases Received includes Net Bench Warrant Activity and Net Track Changes (not specifically delineated on this report).

Municipal Court Criminal Division



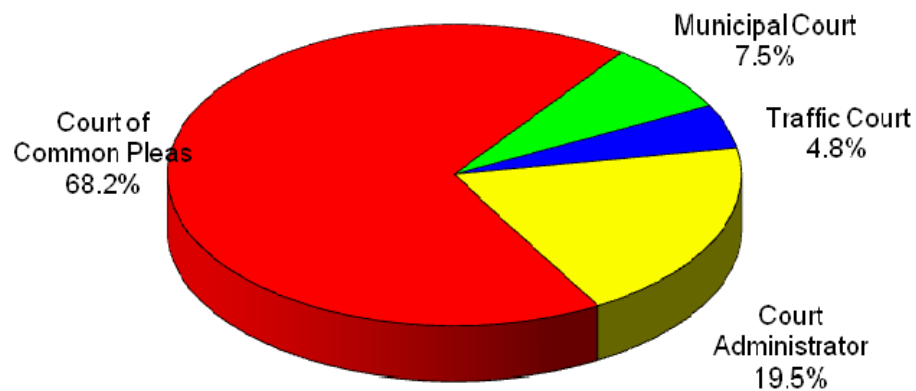
Municipal Court Civil Division

Municipal Court Civil Filings & Dispositions

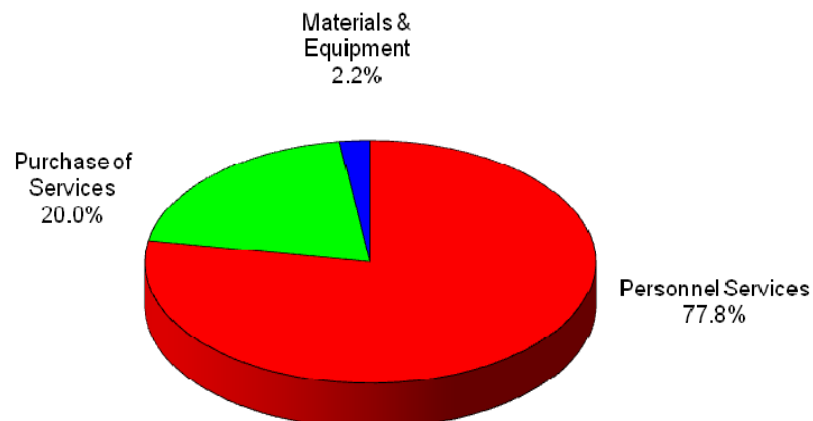


Fiscal & Budget Office

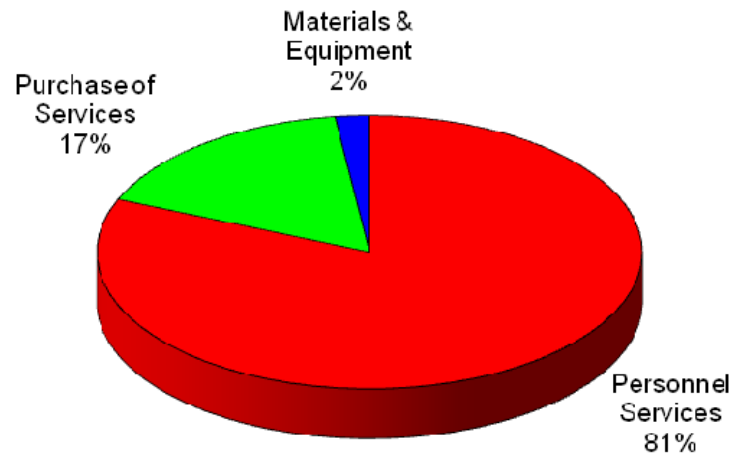
**FY08 First Judicial District
General Fund Appropriation by Court**



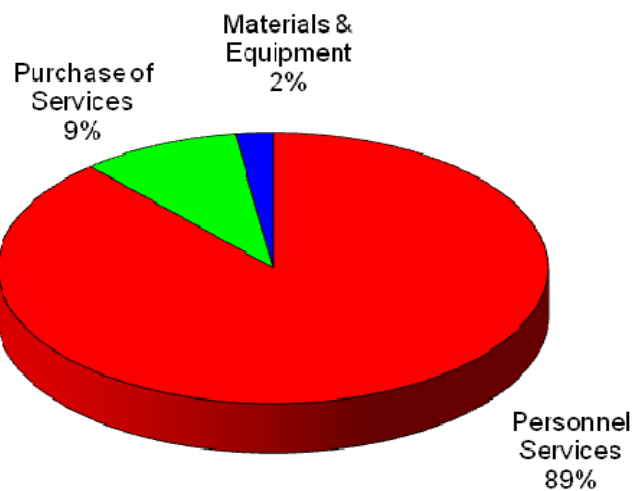
**FY08 First Judicial District
General Fund Appropriation by Class**



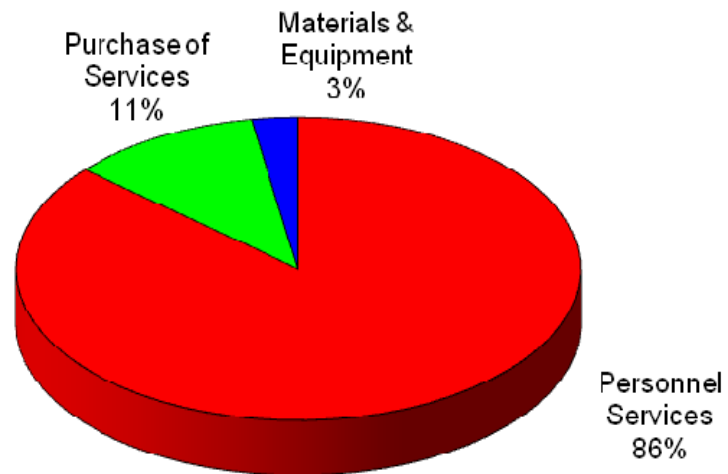
**FY08 Court of Common Pleas
General Fund Appropriation**



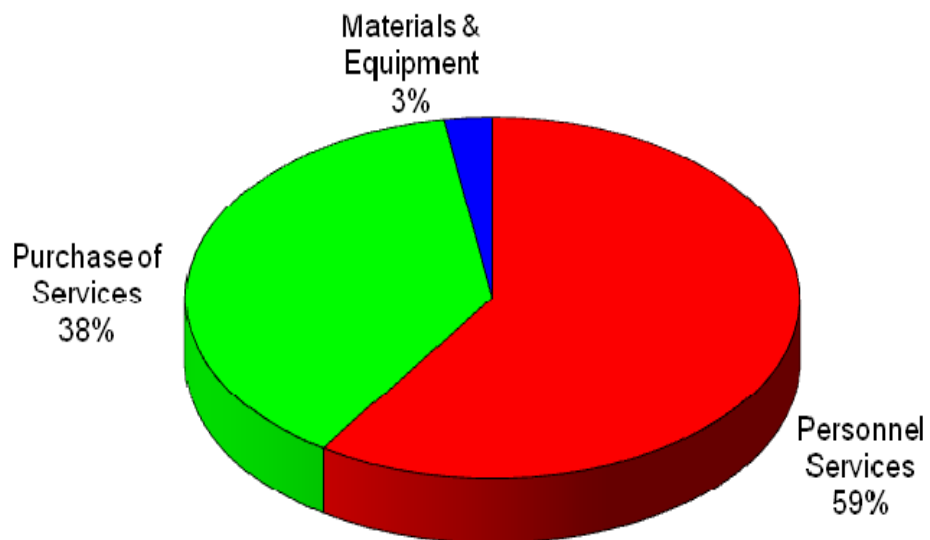
**FY08 Municipal Court
General Fund Appropriation**



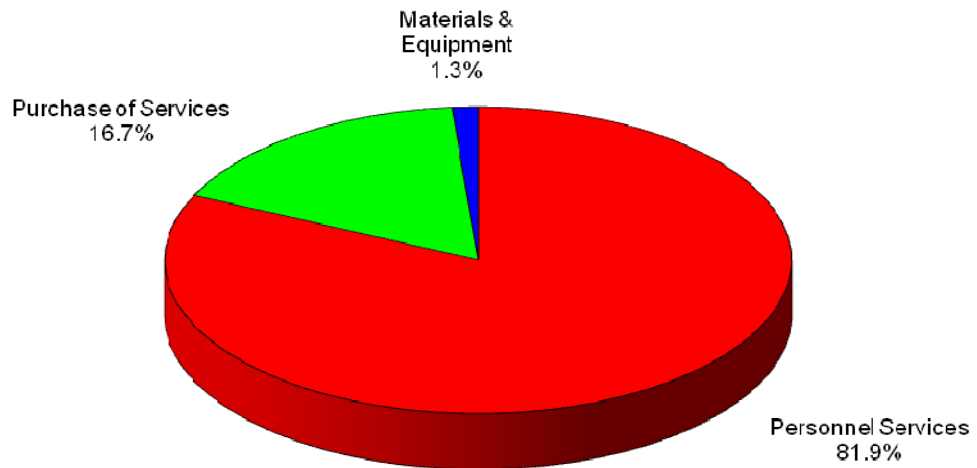
FY08 Traffic Court General Fund Appropriation



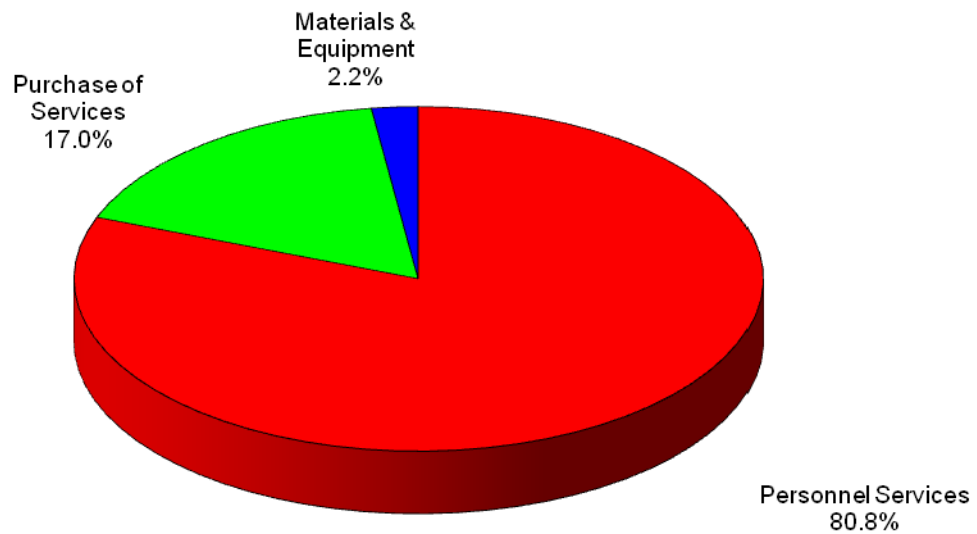
FY08 Office of the Court Administrator General Fund Appropriation



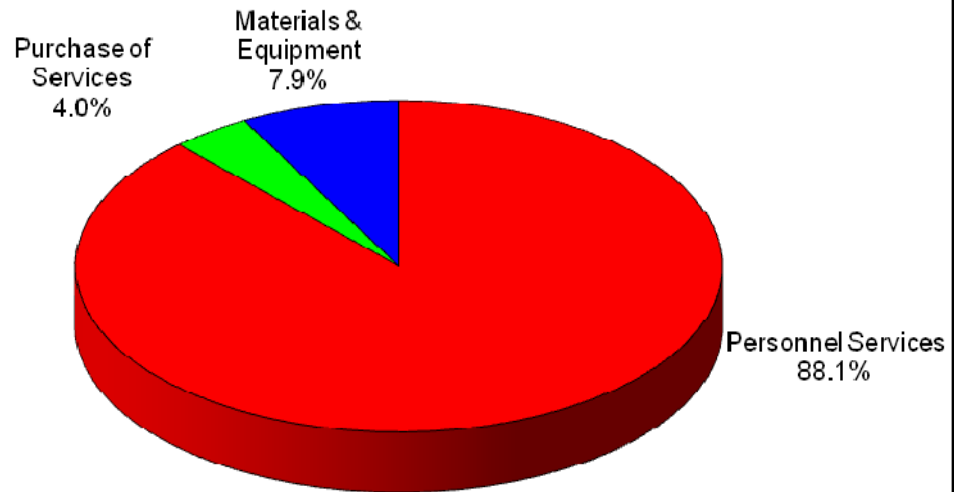
Court of Common Pleas: Trial Division



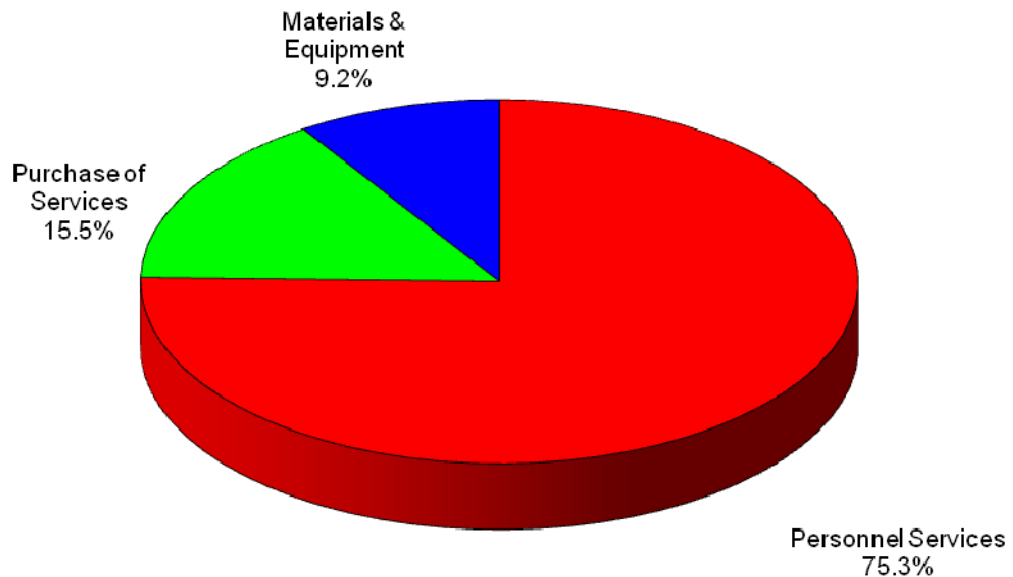
Court of Common Pleas: Family Court

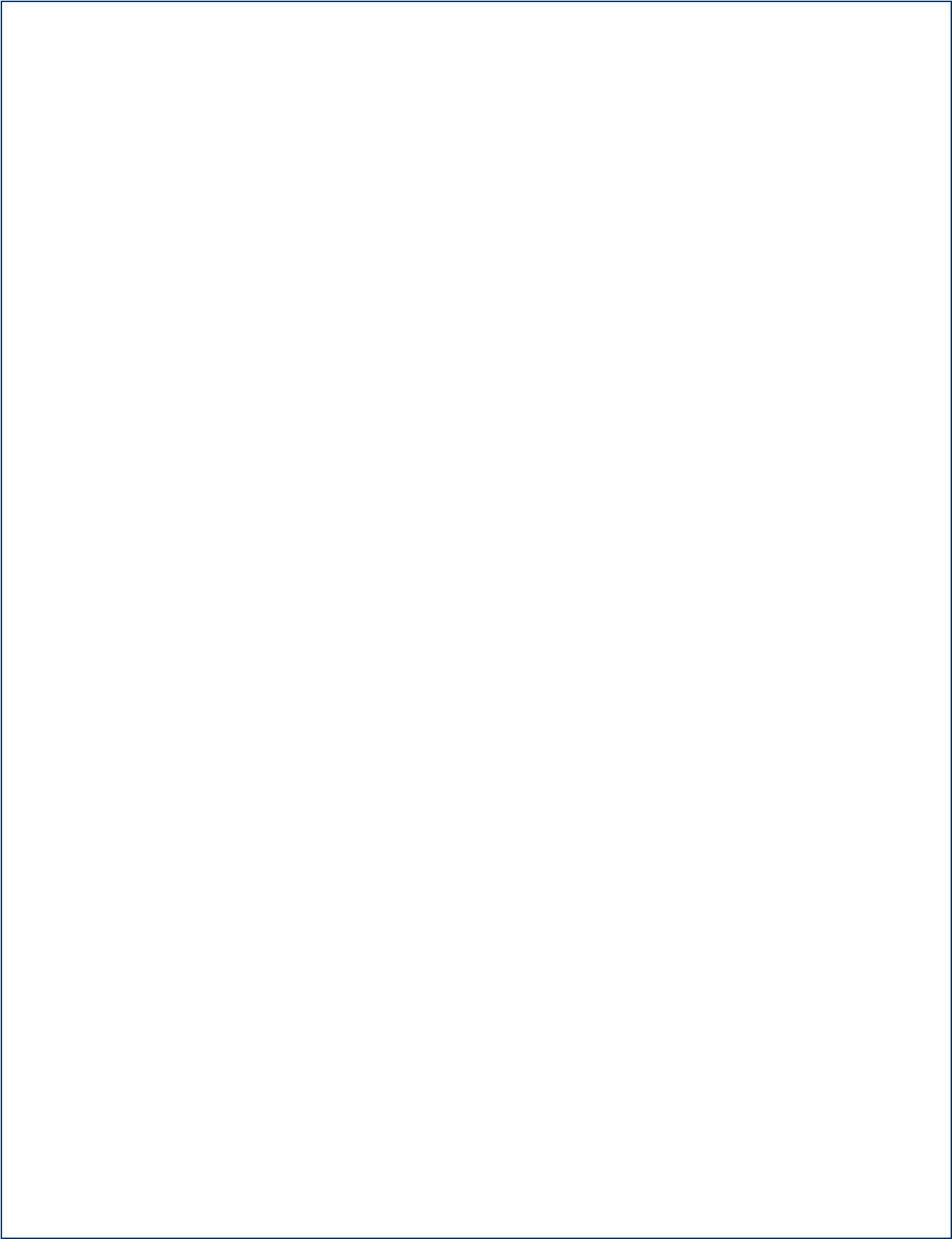


Court of Common Pleas: Orphans' Court



Court of Common Pleas: President Judge





Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation is extended to the following groups and individuals for their dedication to the causes of justice and judicial administration, for their support of the concepts presented in this 2008 Annual Report, and for their assistance in its preparation. The success story told here is one of their making.

◇

To the 2008 Administrative Governing Board of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Common Pleas Court President Judge C. Darnell Jones, II
Common Pleas Court President Judge Pamela P. Dembe (As of December 2008)
Municipal Court President Judge Louis J. Presenza
Traffic Court President Judge Thomasine Tynes
Common Pleas Court Trial Division Administrative Judge D. Webster Keogh
Common Pleas Court Family Division Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty
Common Pleas Court Orphans' Court Division Administrative Judge Joseph D. O'Keefe
Traffic Court Administrative Judge Bernice A. DeAngelis
Zygmunt A. Pines, Esq., Court Administrator of Pennsylvania

◇

To David C. Lawrence, Court Administrator of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, our thanks for his leadership, support, guidance, and dedication of time and resources without which, the production of this report would not have been possible.

◇

Special thanks to the Deputy Court Administrators, each of whom provided prepared materials to describe the accomplishments of the judges, employees, and managers of their respective courts, divisions, and service centers:

David Wasson, Esq., Chief Deputy Court Administrator
Mary Lou Baker, DCA, Common Pleas Court Family Division, Domestic Relations Branch
Glenn Bozzacco, Esq., DCA, Common Pleas Court Family Division, Juvenile Branch
Kevin Cross, DCA, FJD Budget and Financial Services
Mario D'Adamo, Esq., DCA, Common Pleas Court Family Division, Juvenile Branch
Robert DeEmilio, DCA, Traffic Court
Joseph Evers, Common Pleas Court Prothonotary
Marc Flood, Esq., DCA, FJD Human Resources
Joseph Lanzalotti, DCA, Common Pleas Court Trial Division, Criminal Section
Charles A. Mapp, Sr., DCA, Common Pleas Court Trial Division – Civil Section
Patricia McDermott, DCA, Municipal Court, Civil Division
Kathleen Rapone, DCA, Municipal Court, Criminal Division
Dominic Rossi, Esq., DCA, FJD Legal Services

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