

The Latest Caseload Numbers Are In

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Once every couple of years I like to provide readers with updated caseload information. The numbers of cases filed and disposed in 2010 are in but they haven't yet been verified or posted to the Supreme Court's Web site as of the date this article was written. Given that these unverified numbers are likely to be reliable, they are presented now for your information rather than delayed a couple of months until the verification process is complete.

Included with the 2010 caseload information are new filings and dispositions in 2008 and 2009. Three consecutive years' worth of caseload information provides a measure of meaning and relevance as trends can be observed.

On page 30 there is a table showing the number of new cases and petitions filed and disposed for the years 2008-2010. The information is presented for the Family and Civil/Criminal Divisions.

Some of the case types listed are obvious; others less so. "Other Civil" are contract cases that include business claims, condemnation, environment, forfeiture and labor relations. "General Civil" includes attachment proceedings; proceedings to restore, establish or correct records; claim and delivery matters; and garnishments.

"Interstate" cases generally involve child support issues (i.e., enforcement or modification of a court order) where one party is not in Michigan or an order was issued in another state.

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

The Family Division handles thousands of post-judgment matters annually, none of which are shown in the table.

The Circuit Court conducted 499 trials in 2010 – 296 jury and 203 non-jury. Trial numbers for 2008 and 2009 were 578 and 559, respectively.

The average length of time to complete a jury trial in 2010 was 2.7 days. For bench trials the average length of time was 1.0 days. For comparative purposes, the average length of time for jury and non-jury trials in 2009 was 2.8

days and 1.2 days, respectively. Time needed to seat juries is not included in these numbers.

For more information about caseload in this Circuit Court or any of Michigan's trial courts, please contact my office or visit the Supreme Court's Web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/summaries.htm#cir>.

Until next time...

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On the Circuit

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Case/Petition Type	Number Filed			Number Disposed		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
1. Appeals	1,073	1,090	1,204	1,084	1,072	1,257
2. Civil	7,909	8,631	8,391	8,302	8,805	9,144
a. Auto Negligence	573	622	770	598	583	636
b. Medical Malpractice	144	137	144	189	166	146
c. Contracts	3,142	3,502	3,071	3,103	3,600	3,604
d. Housing & Real Estate	948	1,122	1,035	983	1,085	1,238
e. Personal Injury (non-auto)	500	489	526	508	522	543
f. General Civil	1,466	1,581	1,819	1,585	1,649	1,838
g. Other Civil	1,136	1,178	1,026	1,336	1,200	1,139
3. Criminal	6,057	5,511	4,924	6,446	6,049	5,351
a. Non-Capital	5,787	5,225	4,654	6,151	5,720	5,059
b. Capital	267	281	270	292	328	288
c. Felony Juvenile	3	5	0	3	1	4
4. Reopened Cases	1,101	1,111	1,091	–	–	–
Subtotal Civil/Criminal	16,140	16,343	15,610	15,832	15,926	15,752
5. Domestic	7,740	7,667	8,140	8,398	7,596	8,384
a. Divorce with children	2,268	2,428	2,495	2,502	2,342	2,663
b. Divorce with no children	2,357	2,520	2,544	2,516	2,428	2,655
c. Paternity	1,019	978	1,058	1,144	1,022	999
d. Custody	175	229	239	186	223	230
e. Interstate	353	74	401	353	74	401
f. Other Support	1,554	1,415	1,387	1,679	1,488	1,417
g. Other Domestic	14	23	16	18	19	19
6. Juvenile	4,325	3,679	3,148	4,328	3,767	3,219
a. Delinquency	3,574	3,167	2,711	3,509	3,202	2,737
b. Abuse & Neglect	483	299	325	531	330	330
c. Juvenile Traffic	268	213	112	288	235	152
7. Adoptions	435	428	419	452	455	424
8. Person Protection Order	2,750	2,734	2,757	3,147	3,352	3,612
9. Miscellaneous Family	452	505	509	485	482	528
10. Reopened Cases	665	777	1,094	–	–	–
Subtotal Family	16,367	15,790	16,067	16,810	15,652	16,167
Total Circuit Court	32,507	32,133	31,677	32,642	31,578	31,919