

Michigan Judicial Council

2022 Year in Review

Michigan Supreme Court State of the Judiciary Report

April 2023



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Message from the Chief Justice

Elizabeth T. Clement, *Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court
& Chair, Michigan Judicial Council*



Michigan's Constitution charges the Supreme Court with administrative supervision of the state's trial courts, and 2022 was a year of innovation and progress toward increasing access and efficiency while improving data management to strengthen decision-making.

The highlight of the year was achieving consensus across all three branches of government in support of the investment needed to launch a statewide case management system. With an initial \$150 million in the FY 2023 state budget to build out the infrastructure, much effort was devoted to planning for implementation of this transformational project. Combined with the continued expansion of e-filing statewide, courts are making huge strides to both become more efficient and user friendly. Just as important, real time statewide data collection will provide information needed for policy decisions on issues ranging from juvenile justice reform to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Another key development in 2022 was the work of the Michigan Judicial Council to develop a statewide strategic agenda and related operational plan. As the year ended, several work groups were busy tackling key issues, including court funding, public trust and understanding, and workforce excellence.

Meanwhile, the Justice for All Commission made considerable progress toward implementing their plans to achieve 100 percent access to Michigan's civil justice system. This work included a report on the social return to investment in civil legal aid and a detailed study of how debt collection cases are flooding district courts. The Court looks forward to reviewing recommendations from the Commission to provide better navigation of our judicial system.

The past year was another year of saving lives in Michigan's more than 200 problem-solving courts. Personally, I was thrilled to once again be able to attend graduations of these courts that engage local communities and provide participants with the support they needed to get their lives back on the right track.

While 2022 was a year of great accomplishment, the dedicated planning undertaken during the year laid the foundation for even more achievements in 2023. For example, I am especially interested in the process of implementing the recommendations of the Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform. In particular, this includes a coordinating and advisory role for a new division at the State Court Administrative Office.

Finally, for most of 2022, Chief Justice Bridget McCormack was leading the way, building partnerships and making access to justice a priority. I am committed to continuing that effort to make Michigan a national leader with a justice system that works for everyone.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eliz. T. C." with a stylized flourish at the end.



2022 Council Members

Hon. Martha Anderson,
Michigan Judges Association

Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
Michigan District Judges Association

Hon. William Baillargeon
At-Large Judge

Hon. Mary Barglind
At-Large Judge

Mr. Tom Boyd
State Court Administrator

Ms. Zenell Brown
Trial Court Administrator/Probate Register

Ms. Tamara Brubaker-Salcedo
Member of the Public

Hon. Demetria Brue
Michigan District Judges Association

Chief Justice Elizabeth T. Clement
Michigan Supreme Court Justice

Mr. Thomas Cranmer
Attorney

Ms. Marilena David
Attorney

Hon. Susan Dobrich
Michigan Judicial Council Project Director

Hon. Helal Farhat
At-Large Judge

Hon. Kameshia Gant
Association of Black Judges of Michigan

Hon. Aaron Gauthier
At-Large Judge

Mr. James Heath
President, State Bar of Michigan

Hon. Elizabeth Gleicher
Chief Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

Hon. Michael Jaconette
Michigan Probate Judges Association

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak
Member of the Public

Hon. Herman Marable Jr.
Association of Black Judges of Michigan

Mr. James McGrail
Trial Court Administrator/Probate Court Register

Hon. Elizabeth Gleicher (2022)
Chief Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals

Ms. Lindsay Oswald
St. Joseph County Clerk

Hon. Melissa Pope
Michigan Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum

Ms. Valerie Robbins
Trial Court Administrator/Probate Register

Mr. Justin Roebuck
Ottawa County Clerk

Ms. Ines Straub
Trial Court Administrator/ Probate Register

Hon. John Tomlinson
Michigan Probate Judges Association

Ms. Angela Tripp
Justice for All Commission Member

Hon. Jon Van Allsburg
Michigan Judges Association



Michigan Judicial Council Year in Review

Creating a judicial council and developing a strategic plan for Michigan’s Judicial Branch has been discussed for several years, but in 2021, the Michigan Supreme Court made it a reality. On April 14, 2021, the Supreme Court adopted Michigan Court Rule 8.128, thereby creating the Michigan Judicial Council (MJC) with the responsibility to make recommendations on matters pertinent to the administration of justice, strategic planning, and suggestions to enhance the work of the courts.

The Supreme Court appointed 29 members to the MJC representing Michigan’s diverse regions and population. The MJC is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Former Chief Justice Bridget McCormack led the MJC through its first initial strategic planning cycle before transitioning leadership to current Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice, Elizabeth Clement in November 2022. The remaining members of the MJC include Justice Megan Cavanagh, Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge Elizabeth Gleicher, trial court judges, court administrators, county clerks, attorneys, and members of the public.

The MJC convened virtually for its first strategic planning meeting on July 22, 2021 and continued its strategic planning meetings through early April 2022. At the April meeting, the MJC finalized the [2022-2025 Strategic Agenda: Planning for the Future of the Michigan Judicial Branch](#). With grant support from the State Justice Institute (SJI), Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey of PRAXIS Consulting, Inc facilitated the MJC meetings and assisted in drafting the Strategic Agenda. The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) staff worked closely with Dr. Wagenknecht-Ivey and supported the MJC’s planning process.

Because the Council’s meetings were all held virtually, Dr. Ivey and the SCAO staff adapted the planning process for a virtual environment. The group met monthly to prepare detailed agendas and supporting materials for council meetings. The Council’s meetings were engaging and included large group discussions, focused and structured breakout group discussions, and real-time polling, to gather suggestions, comments, and concerns from Council members. Open and frank discussions were encouraged, diverse perspectives were solicited and discussed, and members participated actively. Council members reviewed external and internal trends affecting the judicial system, survey data from both the strategic planning survey as well as the SCAO court user satisfaction

MISSION

Michigan’s One Court of Justice delivers justice for all by providing access, protecting rights, resolving disputes, and applying the law under the Constitution.

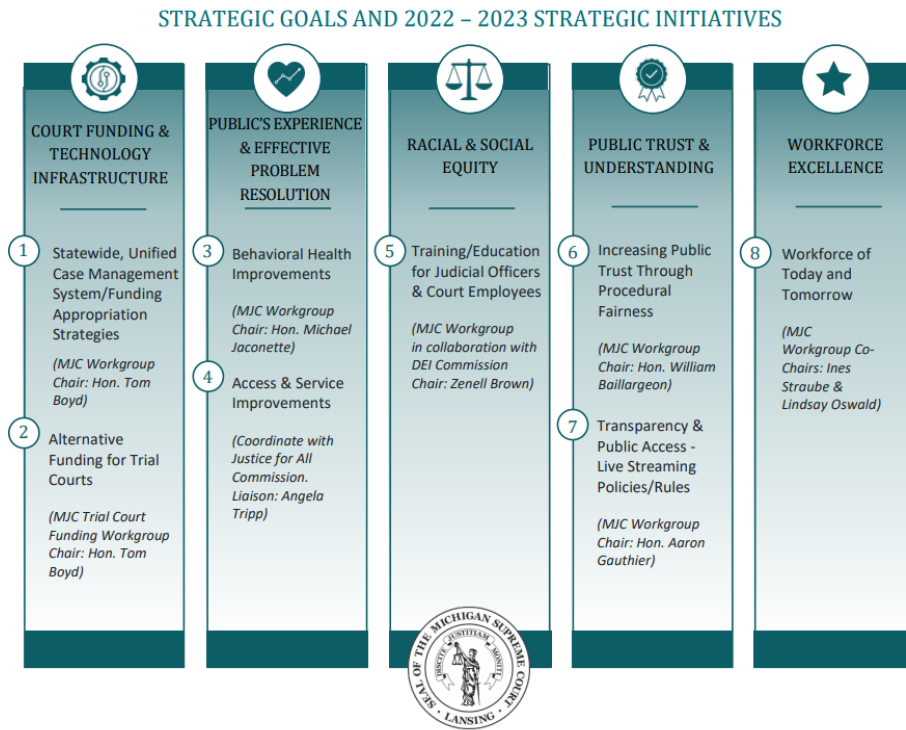
VISION

Michigan’s Judicial System is accessible to all and trusted by all.



survey, and reviewed recommendations put forth by other existing councils and commissions. The Council’s strategic planning activities resulted in the final 2022-2025 Strategic Agenda.

The Strategic Agenda includes the mission, vision, and core values, as well as the goals and strategies for making improvements across the judicial branch. With the finalization of the Strategic Agenda, the MJC began to work on identifying the strategic initiatives for each of the five identified strategic goals, which are outlined in the [2022-2023 Operational Plan](#)



With these substantial planning and organizational steps undertaken in 2022, the MJC has transitioned into the implementation phase by forming workgroups to carry out each of the eight initiatives outlined in the operational plan (noted in the above graphic). The workgroups began meeting in September of 2022 to develop their workplans which served as their road map for carrying out their work. Workgroups are made up of council members and judicial system stakeholders who meet regularly to examine current issues, conduct research, and develop recommendations for improving the judiciary.

The executive committee meets regularly to track the progress of the workgroups and plan for upcoming council meetings. The MJC will continue to hold meetings three times per year with one additional meeting to receive public comments. In 2023, the MJC will begin planning for the 2023-2024 Operational Plan by examining new and continued trends within the judiciary, reviewing the work of the workgroups, and ongoing collaboration with other judicial councils and commissions, including the Justice for All Commission and the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

**STATE OF THE
JUDICIARY REPORT
2022**

Judicial Statistics

Current Composition of Michigan’s Judiciary

Michigan Supreme Court	7
Court of Appeals	25
Circuit Court	217
Probate Court	103
District Court	232
Municipal Court	4
Total Judges	588

At the end of 2022, a total of 588 judges were serving statewide, including 32 at the appellate level and 556 at the trial court level.

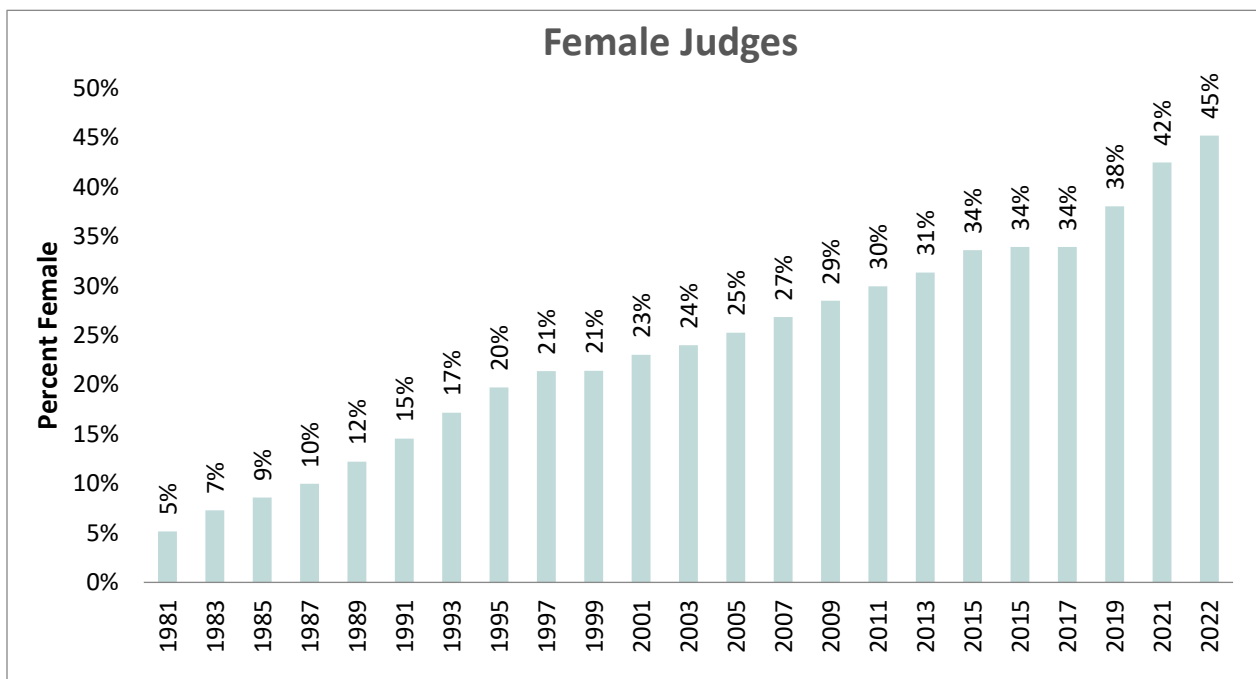
Appointments and Departures in 2022

In 2022, Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed 32 new judges to the bench and also appointed seven incumbent judges to seats on a different bench. During the year, 56 judges left the bench.

New Judges Appointed	32
New Judges Elected	30
Incumbent Judges Appointed to a New Bench	7
Incumbent Judges Elected or Re-Elected	144
Judges Departed	56

Notable Trends

In 2022, the percentage of female judges in Michigan climbed to 45 percent from 42 percent in 2021. Looking back in history, only 5 percent of judges were female in 1981. In addition, there are 51 female chief judges (37 percent). Nearly 16 percent of Michigan’s trial bench is Black (93 judges). Slightly more than one percent are Hispanic while slightly less than one percent are Arab.



Judicial Salaries

During 2022, judges of the Court of Appeals and trial court judges received salary increases equivalent to those received by state government managers. These increases are approved by the Michigan Civil Service Commission and funded by the state budget authorized by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor.

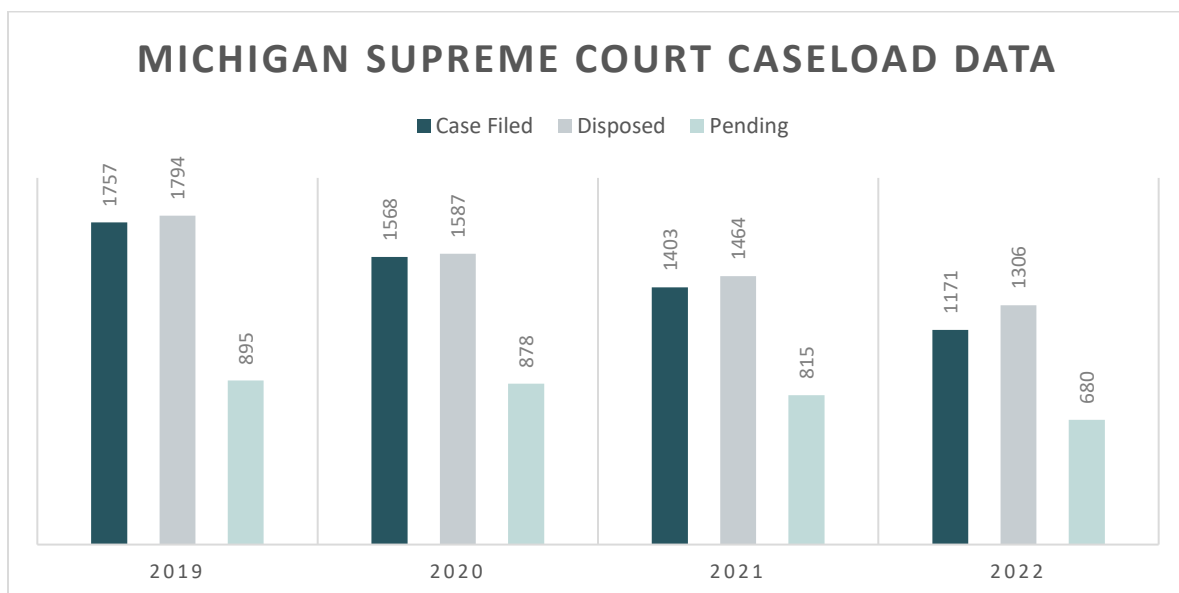
Court Type	Annual Salary Effective 04/03/22	Annual Salary Effective 10/01/22
Supreme Court	\$164,610.00	\$164,610.00
Court of Appeals	\$173,958.45	\$182,656.37
Circuit Court	\$160,723.27	\$168,759.43
District Court	\$158,831.39	\$168,759.43
Probate Court	\$160,723.27	\$168,759.43

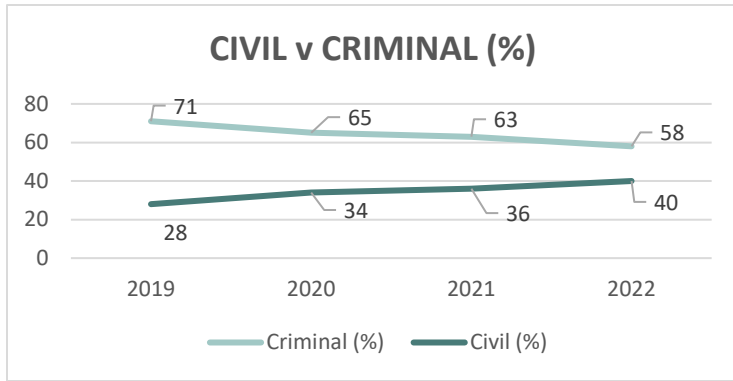
Salaries of Supreme Court Justices did not change during 2022.

Michigan Supreme Court Caseload 2022

Overall Caseload

Continuing a trend that began with the pandemic in 2020, new cases filed in the Michigan Supreme Court continued to decline, falling 16 percent in 2022 to 1171. However, dispositions substantially outpaced filings, leading to a substantial drop in the pending caseload. For more details, visit: [Michigan Supreme Court Caseload Data](#)



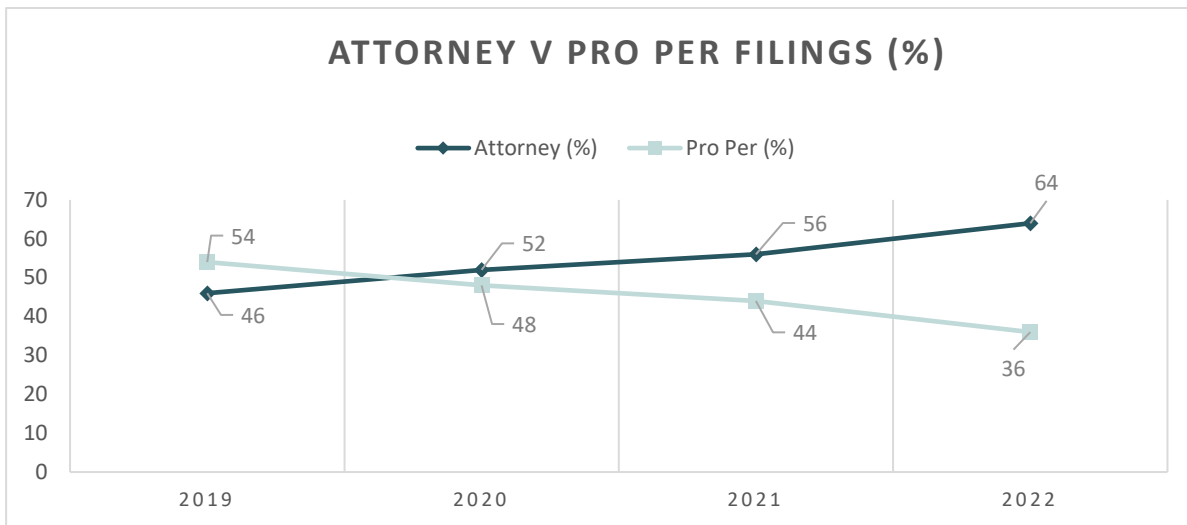


Case Types

In 2022, 58 percent of filings with the Court were criminal cases, a decline from 63 percent in 2021, and continuing a downward trend since 2019 when 71 percent of filings were criminal. Civil filings continued to grow, reaching 40 percent in 2022.

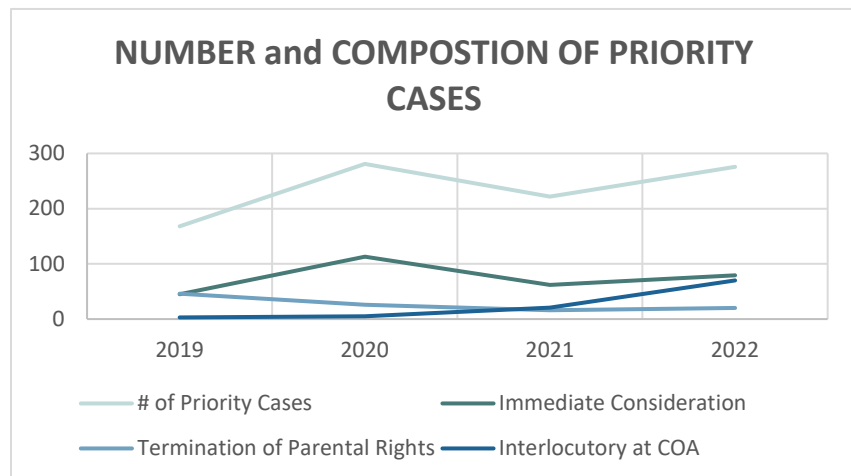
Representation

In 2022, the share of cases filed by attorneys continued to climb, reaching 64 percent, continuing an upward trend since 2019, when attorney filings made up 46 percent of cases. Likewise, the share of cases filed pro per fell to 36 percent in 2022.



Number and Composition of Priority Cases

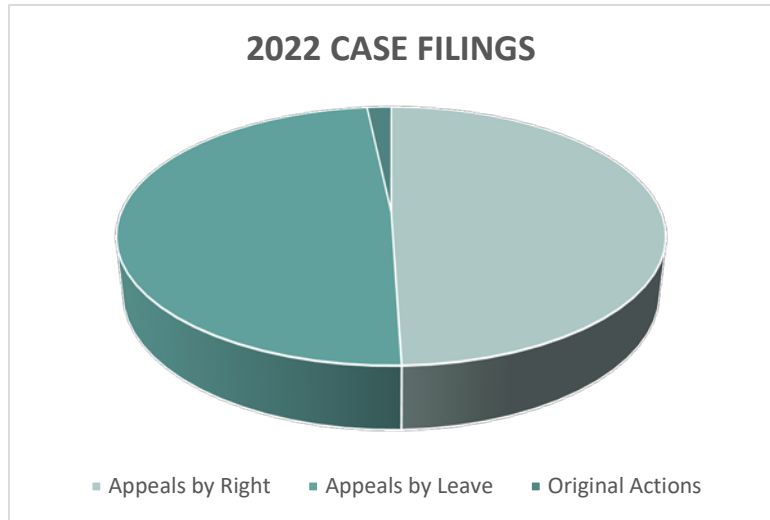
Priority cases continued to fluctuate from year to year. Among trends in priority case filings, notable was the decrease in termination of parental rights cases from 50 in 2019 to 20 in 2022. In contrast, the number of interlocutory appeals at the Court of Appeals have climbed from five in 2020 to 70 in 2022.



Court of Appeals and Court of Claims Caseloads

The [Court of Appeals 2022 Annual Report](#) is available online and includes a message from Chief Judge Elizabeth Gleicher as well as a range of data on overall court performance. For example, the Court issued 1,762 opinions and 2,428 dispositive orders, despite having less than their normal complement of 25 judges.

The Court of Appeals received 4,770 new case filings in 2022, well above the 2021 total of 3,962, but still below pre-pandemic filing totals. Appeals by right made up 49.5% of new filings; appeals by leave accounted for 48.8% of cases, and 1.7% of the new filings were original actions. Appeals from civil matters made up 59.1% of the filings, and 40.9% were appeals in criminal cases. Discretionary appeals from guilty plea convictions accounted for 33.6% of all criminal appeals.

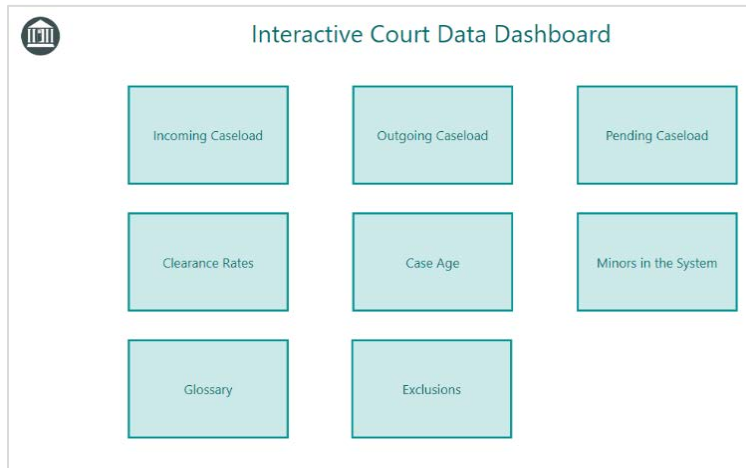


As 2022 began, 142 cases were pending in the Court of Claims. Throughout the year, the Court received 218 new case filings, and 55 cases were reopened. As a result, the total caseload for the Court in 2022 was 415 cases, down from 468 in 2021. The caseload consists of civil actions such as medical malpractice, prisoner litigation, tax-related matters, highway defects, and other damage claims, that are filed against state entities. During the year, the Court disposed of 264 cases. Dividing the 264 dispositions by the 273 new filings and reopened cases, the Court of Claims achieved a clearance rate of 97% for the year. At the close of 2022, the Court's pending caseload was 151 cases.

Also highlighted in the report are initiatives and details from each department with a focus on timeliness and efficiency. Most notably, capitalizing on the experience gained holding remote arguments during the pandemic, in late 2021, the Court installed state-of-the-art video equipment in each courtroom that allows parties to present argument remotely via Zoom to the judges seated in the courtrooms. The Court has been using that system for all case call sessions since early 2022 to great effect. It is one of the few appellate courts in the country that is able to conduct "hybrid" arguments, where some parties appear in person and others remote, before a panel of judges in the courtroom.

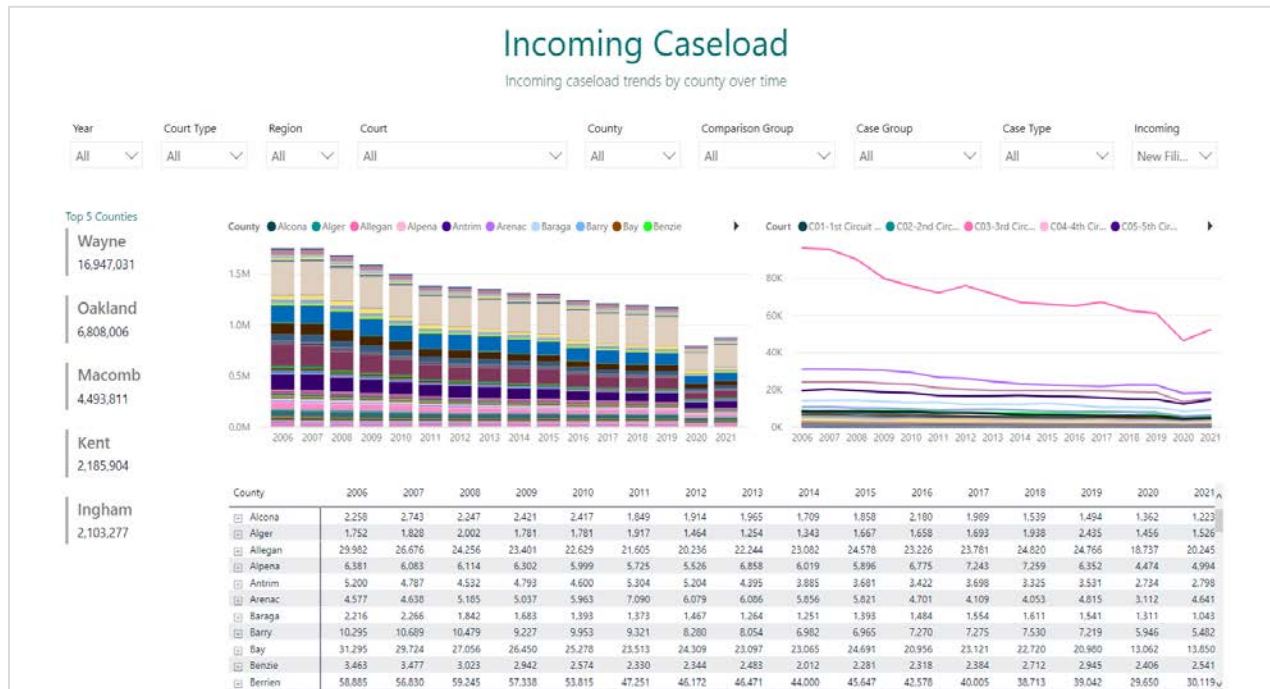
Trial Court Caseloads

With the addition 2022 caseload data, for the first time, Michigan trial court caseload information is now available via an easy-to-use online dashboard. [Interactive Court Data Dashboard](#)



Using the dashboard, the public can access a broad range of trial court statistics by year, by court, by court type, by county, by case type, or other variables. Users can also compare courts of similar size, analyze disposition, and review clearance and case age rates.

A webinar is available on the site with instructions on how to use the interactive court data dashboard.



Administrative Milestones in 2022



Rules Adopted Regarding Online Proceedings Encourage Consistency, Increase Access, and Allow for Judicial Discretion

In 2022, nearly 1,000 court officers continued to hold remote proceedings. By the end of the year, Michigan judges and magistrates had presided over nearly eight million hours of remote proceedings and the Michigan Virtual Courtroom Directory had been used more than 675,000 times, helping the public find and view trial court livestreams. In addition, local trial court YouTube pages had more than 270,000 subscribers and livestreams were viewed millions of times.

Also in 2022, the Court spent considerable time reviewing the [Lessons Learned](#) report detailing findings of a committee of justice system stakeholders as well as more than 2,000 comments from the public regarding remote proceedings. Following this review, the Court rescinded several pandemic-related administrative orders and adopted a [series of court rule amendments](#) designed to balance the goals made clear in public comment—increasing access to justice through predictable use of videoconferencing technology and judicial discretion in setting and holding remote proceedings.

The starting point for these rule changes was the work of the Lessons Learned Committee and the recommendations of the Michigan District Judges Association. Most importantly, their work made clear the fact that these goals are not in conflict. In fact, predictable use of videoconferencing technology and judicial discretion are complimentary factors that together improve the administration of justice. That’s why the key departures from their recommendations were adopted to increase discretion AND predictability.

In every instance where there is a presumption in favor of remote participation, there is an allowance in the rules for judicial discretion, recognizing the fact that local judges know their local communities best. At the same time, the rules adopted in 2022 support both discretion and predictability by requiring the court to state its decision and reasoning, either in writing or on-the-record, when requiring in-person proceedings in each case where there is a presumption for the use of videoconferencing technology. This record allows for appellate review, which is vitally important to maintaining the rule of law.

The new rules are not the end of a process but another step toward making Michigan’s justice system a model for the nation.



Eviction Diversion Program Helps Courts Build Community Partnerships

In 2022, district courts statewide continued participation in an eviction diversion program that helped build partnerships between courts and local stakeholders. In many cases, courts connected with local agencies that had



never been engaged before. Thanks to the hard work of those partners, more than \$1 billion in pandemic rental assistance was distributed all across Michigan, helping more than 250,000 people.

Court rules implemented during the pandemic allowed for the implementation of the program and facilitated parties finding counsel and access to rental assistance so that landlords could get paid. As a result, the eviction rate plunged.

The Court has received input from thousands of state residents and is working to develop court rules that codify the gains in access achieved during the pandemic while responding to the concerns expressed by some members of the public and judiciary.

Eviction Rate by Calendar Year

Year	New Filing Count	Eviction Count	Eviction Rate
2019	147,147	38,592	26%
2020	70,056	11,997	17%
2021	75,257	8,197	11%
2022	122,168	19,483	16%



Justice for All Commission focuses on Access to Michigan’s Civil Justice System

In their [2022 Annual Report](#), the Justice for All Commission (JFAC) highlighted their working implementing steps identified in their strategic plan to achieve 100 percent access to the resources needed to solve civil legal problems (landlord-tenant issues, parenting time or custody disputes, access to benefits). The 2019 Justice for All Task Force Strategic Plan includes innovative technology, common sense procedural improvements, and proven steps to provide more ways for people to solve legal problems with or without a lawyer.

Highlights from 2022 include:

- Debt Collection Report: Advancing Justice for All in Debt Collection Lawsuits. The strategic plan outlined the need for simplifying and improving the debt collection process in Michigan to make it easier for unrepresented debtors to understand and participate in cases filed against them. [Report findings](#) include:
 - More than half of debt collection cases are brought by five large national companies, and Michigan consumers are on their own to navigate these lawsuits in court. Defendants are sued for an average claim amount of \$1,600.
 - Most debt collection cases in Michigan—68 percent—end in an automatic win for the plaintiff, also known as a default judgment. While fewer than 0.5 percent of Michigan defendants in debt collection cases have formal legal representation, the opposite is true for the litigating companies—a total of 96 percent of plaintiffs in debt collection lawsuits are represented by an attorney. And unlike most Great Lakes states, Michigan does not have a policy requiring claims to be proven



regardless of whether the defendant engages in the lawsuit. As a result, defendants lose more than two out of three cases.

- 3 in 4 debt collection cases that reach a judgment end with a court authorizing the seizure of a debtor’s assets, wages, and even state tax returns.
- Debt collection lawsuits disproportionately target Black and low-income neighborhoods. Consumers living in majority Black communities are twice as likely to have a debt collection lawsuit filed against them and have higher rates of receiving a default judgment or a garnishment than those living in majority White neighborhoods.
- Michigan’s Legal Aid Organizations Social Return on Investment Report. The JFAC Resource Committee evaluated the value and impact of legal aid organizations and [issued a report](#) that examined the social value of legal aid services provided to the people of Michigan in 2019 and 2020. Data shows that for every \$1 invested in Michigan’s civil legal aid services during those years, they delivered \$6.69 in immediate and long-term consequential financial benefits.
- Creation of Forms Committee and Partnership with NCSC, Transcend, and Suffolk LIT Lab. As identified in the Task Force Report, one of the main Commission priorities is to improve the process for self-represented litigants who are trying to solve their legal problems. With limited legal understanding and knowledge, court forms are the core of many litigants’ interactions with the civil justice system, but they can be cumbersome, confusing, and difficult to comprehend. One major step towards advancing access to justice includes translating civil forms into plain language.

In addition, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has launched a new [grant program](#) to award and disburse \$500,000 appropriated by the state legislature in Fiscal Year 2023 to expand legal self-help center services across the state. Additional information on the commission can be found on the [JFA website](#).

Statewide Case Management Leads Innovation Agenda



In July 2022, Governor Whitmer signed a budget bill providing one-time funding of \$150,000,000 for a statewide Judicial Case Management System (CMS), implementing a significant recommendation of the Trial Court Funding Commission. Subsequently, the National Center for State Courts was engaged by the State Court Administrative Office to conduct an independent assessment of its Judicial Information Services Division to validate the current plan and determine how to move forward.

Statewide CMS is a transformational project for Michigan’s judiciary that will be the catalyst for greater efficiency, better decision-making, improved transparency, stronger community engagement, and greater public trust. Michigan’s 242 trial courts currently use 20 different case management systems and 150 different computer systems. To aggregate data, each of the



trial courts must individually gather data and transmit it to SCAO – a cumbersome, time-consuming process. In addition to making data collection more efficient and accurate, a unified case management system will enable broader use of online court services and resource sharing, would eliminate the cost to provide those services, and would reduce demands on staff, resulting in further savings.

In 2022, expansion of statewide e-filing infrastructure continued with the integration of more courts, saving time and money for both courts and filers. Based on planning undertaken in 2022, it is expected that 50 courts statewide will be online with MiFILE by the end of 2023.

Also, JIS continues to provide additional web-based case management tools like integrated calendars, court displays, and automatically generated court forms as well as email and text reminders for the public. (See sample Portal page below.)

The screenshot displays the MiCOURT Portal interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with a menu icon, the word "Portal", a search bar, a help icon, a user profile icon, and a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation bar is a "Add Widget" button. The main content area features several widgets: "Welcome to the new Portal Dashboard!" with a message about customizable widgets; "Web TCS/DCS" with a button; "Case Search" with dropdowns for "Courts" (set to "48th Circuit Court - Allegan 48th Circuit Court") and "Party Name", and a search input field; "Calendar" with a "Hearing Officer" dropdown, a "Date" field (set to "Sat, January 21, 2023"), and a "Today" button; and "Watched Cases" which is currently displaying a "Notice" modal. The notice is titled "Notice: DISTRICT COURTS - ISSUE WITH ASSESSMENTS AND BALANCES DUE" and includes an "Update 12/14/2022" section listing impacted courts: 35th District - Plymouth, 41A District - Shelby Twp, 41B District - Clinton Twp, and 42nd District - Romeo & New Baltimore. It also mentions a change in the DCS Case Management System affecting financial information and public case search. A "Mi RESOURCES" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the dashboard area.

Jail Reform Advisory Council Builds on Success of Pretrial Task Force

Launched by the Governor to continue implementing the recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, in 2022, the Michigan Jail Reform Advisory Council (JRAC):



- Guided courts, law enforcement, attorneys, and other stakeholders on best practices for implementing the reforms. As a result of the new laws, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) made changes to 348,893 driving records, which resulted in 154,326 Michigan residents getting their driver’s licenses back.
- Provided training opportunities on jail reforms to justice system partners throughout the state, including judges and court staff, law enforcement officers, corrections officers, prosecuting attorneys, and criminal defense attorneys.
- Distributed a survey to attorneys across the state that explored the amount of training attorneys received on the reforms, their specific knowledge of the reforms, and their experiences practicing since the reforms took effect. The survey results suggest that attorneys do have at least a very basic understanding of the reforms, but additional training and education would help them more fully understand the impact of the reforms.

Chaired by former Chief Justice Bridget McCormack, the JRAC recommended:

- Establishing unified data and case management systems for courts and jails.
- Further exploring judicial officers and law enforcement’s knowledge of reforms.
- Providing additional training for judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.
- And establishing a new body to review and to act on the findings of the Jail Task Force.

Additional information on the Council can be found on the [JRAC Website](#).



Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform Release Report and Recommendations

Prior to becoming Chief Justice, Justice Elizabeth Clement served on the Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform with the Lt. Governor Gilchrist that consulted experts and partners system wide to identify needed changes in state law, policy, and appropriations to improve youth outcomes. In a [report issued in July 2022](#), the Task Force recommended:

- Expanding diversion opportunities for youth who are not a public safety risk.
- Creating a statewide juvenile public defense system and best practice standards.
- Increasing funding for effective community-based programs, including alternatives to incarceration, and tying funding to evidence-based practices.
- Adopting data-driven tools to guide diversion, court, and detention decisions.
- Strengthening standards and quality assurance for local probation practices and statewide residential programs.
- Expanding and improving data collection to measure system performance, outcomes, and equity.

In particular, the Task Force also recommended establishment of a new Juvenile Justice Services division within the SCAO to coordinate statewide implementation of risk/needs and statewide court policies, funding, data collection, and reporting. Subsequently, the Governor included funding for the new division in both 2023 supplemental and 2024 executive budget.

Problem-Solving Courts Continue to Save Lives

In April 2022, the Michigan Supreme published the [FY 2021 Problem-Solving Courts Annual Report](#), highlighting the success of 203 problem-solving courts (PSCs) across Michigan. The report showed that graduates of adult drug court programs were, on average, more than four times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission to a program. In addition, sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were more than 5 times less likely to be convicted of a new offense within three years of admission.

- 133 drug treatment/DWI sobriety courts
 - 56 hybrid drug treatment/DWI sobriety
 - 36 DWI sobriety
 - 13 adult drug treatment
 - 11 juvenile drug treatment
 - 8 tribal family dependency
 - 9 tribal drug treatment/DWI sobriety
- 42 mental health courts
 - 35 adult and 7 juvenile courts
- 29 veterans treatment courts

Other report findings:

- Within five years of admission, graduates of all types of drug courts were, on average, more than 2 times less likely to reoffend.
- Unemployment dropped by 91 percent for adult drug court graduates, 82 percent for sobriety court graduates, and 79 percent for hybrid court (drug/sobriety) graduates.
- On average, mental health court (MHC) graduates—adult and juvenile—were more than 2 times less likely to commit another crime within three years of admission to a program.
- Unemployment among adult circuit MHC graduates dropped by 78 percent.
- Average 99 percent improvement in mental health and 97 percent quality of life improvement.
- Graduates of veterans treatment courts (VTCs) in FY 2021 were nearly 2 times less likely to reoffend within three years of admission to a program.
- Unemployment dropped by 81 percent among VTC graduates.
- Michigan remains a national leader with 27 VTCs.



Problem-solving courts focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration. These include drug and sobriety, mental health, veterans, and other nontraditional courts. The Supreme Court, through its State Court Administrative Office, assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing training, education, operational standards, monitoring, certification requirements, and funding.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission Begins Work

In January 2021, the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office created a diversity, Equity, and inclusion Committee to explore issues related to the demographics of the workforce that support our judiciary and training within the judicial branches.

In February 2022, the Michigan Supreme Court (MSC) [issued an order](#) creating the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and inclusion in the Michigan judiciary (DEI Commission.) In its announcement, the DEI Commission aimed to identify and eliminate demographic disparities within the Michigan justice system and judiciary.

In June 2022, MSC issued an order appointing 24 members to the new DEI Commission. Commission members represent an interdisciplinary, wide range of stakeholders—Courts, professional associations, advocacy groups, law schools, affinity and special purpose bar associations, and community members who have had contact with the justice system.

The goals of the Commission include:

- Develop policies and standards to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Assist the judicial branch with the elimination of disparities within the justice system;
- Increase participation of members from underrepresented communities in judicial branch leadership;
- Assist local Courts with the implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion plans and processes;
- Collaborate with other judicial branch commissions, governmental entities, and private partners to propose and implement policies aimed at achieving a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive justice system.

The Commission expects to report on its progress biennially. Additional information on the Commission can be found on the [DEI Commission Website](#).



MJC Work Group Members

We want to recognize and extend our gratitude to those individuals who made a significant contribution to the Michigan Judicial Council in 2022—thank you all!

Statewide Unified Case Management System

Tom Boyd (Chair)

Hon. Nicholas Ayoub

Kevin Bowling

Hon. Tina Brooks Green

Rachel Buck

Hon. Michael Carpenter

Cody Gross

Jim Harris

James Heath

Laura Hutzell

Dr. Sheryl Kubiak

Thom Lattig

Hon. Alexander Lipsey

Justin Roebuck

Hon. Valerie Snyder

Hon. Paul Stutesman

Hon. Kirk Tabbey

Jen Thom

Tanya Todd

Michele White

Alternative Funding for Trial Courts

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Matt Saxton

Robert Sheehan

Hon. John Tomlinson

Access & Service Improvements

Angela Tripp (Liaison and Co-Chair of the Justice for All Commission)

The Michigan Judicial Council works in collaboration with and relies on the work of the Justice for All Commission to enhance access and effectuate service improvements within the civil justice system.



Training and Education on Racial and Social Equity

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JDee Brooks

Hon. Demetria Brue

Tamara Brubaker-Salcedo

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Increasing Public Trust Through Procedural Fairness

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Transparency & Public Access – Live Streaming Policies/Rules

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Ines Straube (Co-Chair)

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