

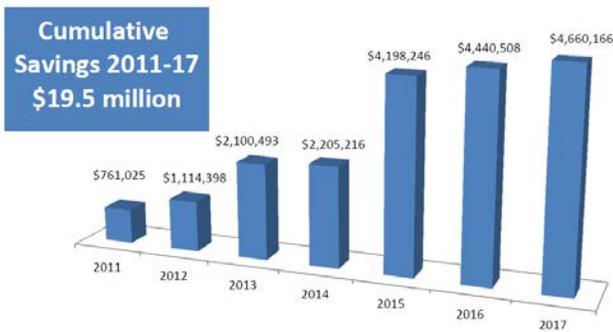
# Michigan Supreme Court Appropriations Review

## REENGINEERING COURTS Efficient Stewards of Tax Dollars

By providing guidance and supervision to Michigan's 242 trial courts, the Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office have focused on making the state judiciary more efficient and accountable. For example:

- The number of judges has been reduced to match the workload. As a result, 31 judgeships have been eliminated, saving taxpayers \$19.5 million since 2011. A total net reduction of 40 judgeships is already approved – representing 6.5% of the entire judiciary – saving taxpayers \$6.6 million annually when completed.

Annual Savings from Judicial Reductions



- Videoconferencing systems in every judge's courtroom are saving money and improving safety. With more than 30,000 "virtual" prisoner transports from FY 2011 thru FY 2017, the Michigan DOC saved more than \$25 million, plus \$2.4 million already saved through January FY 2018. Local law enforcement is saving even more and the public is safer.

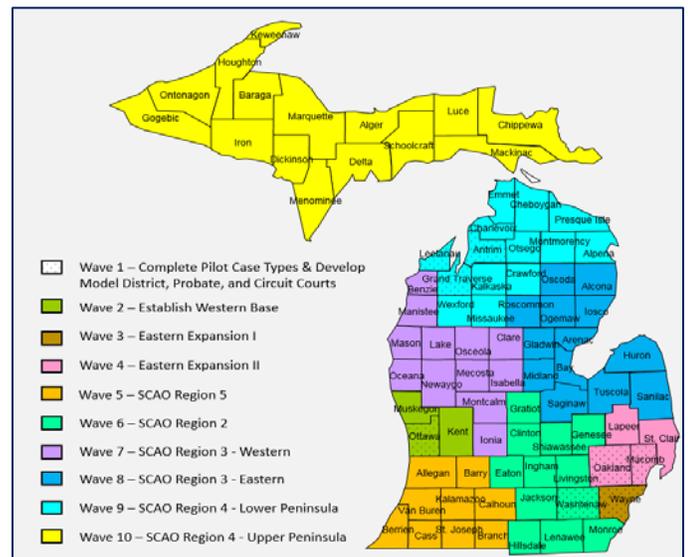
Total Savings  
\$25+ million



## IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY Increasing Efficiency, Improving Public Service

Technology implementation is helping courts statewide become more accessible and efficient. For example:

- Statewide e-filing implementation is making substantial progress, with Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Ottawa, and Grand Traverse circuit courts making the transition to the new system.



- Model district, circuit, and probate courts will be implemented this year.
- Court administrators statewide are participating in a working group to make sure the new system meets their needs while relieving the burden of managing and storing paper files.
- The goal is for the public to be able to file from anywhere at any time without waiting in line.
- Statewide e-filing implementation is the most far-reaching change in how courts do business since the creation of district courts in 1968.



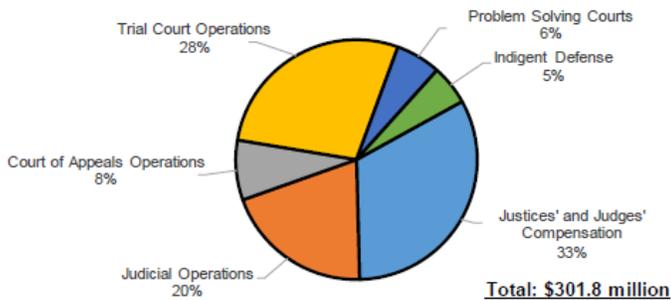
## MICHIGAN'S JUDICIARY

### By the numbers

7 Supreme Court Justices  
27 Court of Appeals Judges  
558 Trial Court Judges

185 Problem-solving Courts  
242 Trial Courts

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19 Executive	% change
GF/GP	192,574,400	193,783,700	0.6
Gross	300,043,000	301,783,300	0.6



## IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY

### Increasing Access

Technology implementation is also helping to increase access to Michigan courts. In particular, the [Michigan Legal Help Program](#) (MLH) is helping state residents address every day legal issues, ranging from divorce and custody to landlord tenant disputes.

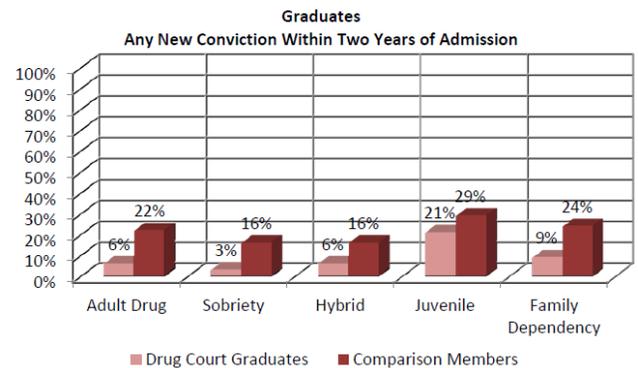
- The MLH website ([www.michiganlegalhelp.org](http://www.michiganlegalhelp.org)) has about 30,000 visitors each week, one of the leading legal self-help sites in the nation. Since its launch in 2012, the MLH website has been accessed 4.6 million times – 1.4 million sessions in 2017 alone.
- The website features 64 topical toolkits and 48 Do-It-Yourself toolkits that generate nearly 150 possible forms. Site users complete more than 300 forms each day.
- MLH also has 18 Self-Help Centers around the state as well as 17 active LiveHelp agents.
- Funding for MLH is \$400,000 annually from the State Court Administrative Office and \$100,000 from other sources.

## MEASURING PERFORMANCE

### Improving Outcomes

Michigan's courts are increasingly data-driven, and SCAO is working with judges and court administrators to improve outcomes and service to the public. The result is lower recidivism rates, reduced costs to taxpayers, and safer communities.

- Data are collected on a wide range of measures ranging from case clearance rates to public satisfaction with service at local courts. Visit [www.courts.mi.gov/performance](http://www.courts.mi.gov/performance) for details.
- For example, SCAO collects and analyzes extensive data regarding performance and outcomes in problem-solving courts. This information is used in a new certification process authorized by the Legislature.
- Recidivism rates for graduates of drug and sobriety courts are dramatically lower than comparison group members. Results are similarly positive for mental health courts.



- Problem-solving court programs build stronger communities by helping graduates get back to work. For example, unemployment among veterans treatment court graduates fell from 29% to 12%. The decline in unemployment for graduates of all treatment courts is remarkable.

