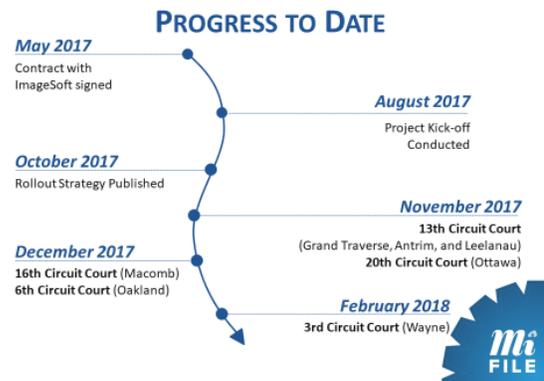


### E-Filing in Michigan: MiFILE Update April 2018

Now that the pilot court implementation of MiFILE is wrapping up we want to publish articles regarding the project to help address more complex topics. One question we get on regular basis concerns what it means to be a pilot or model court and how they were determined. Following is a bit of history.

#### Looking Back

As early as 2007, the Michigan Supreme Court authorized several courts to implement electronic document filing pilot projects under the supervision of the State Court Administrative Office to study the effectiveness of electronically filing court documents in lieu of traditional paper filings. All state courts in Michigan were envisioned to eventually permit electronic filing and, under Supreme Court Administrative Orders, the following courts were authorized to begin testing electronic filing programs: 3rd Circuit (Wayne County), 6th Circuit (Oakland), 13th Circuit (Grand Traverse County), 16th Court (Macomb County), 20th Circuit (Ottawa County), 42nd Circuit (Midland County), 56th Circuit (Eaton County) and the Oakland County Probate Court. The Oakland County Probate Court and both the 42nd and 56th Circuit Courts discontinued their programs when their Supreme Court Administrative Orders expired. Each of those courts was ordered to track the participation and effectiveness of their respective pilot programs and report to and provide information to the State Court Administrative Office. The experiences from those forerunners have been vital to the Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office in embarking on a statewide project to bring electronic filing to Michigan's courts.



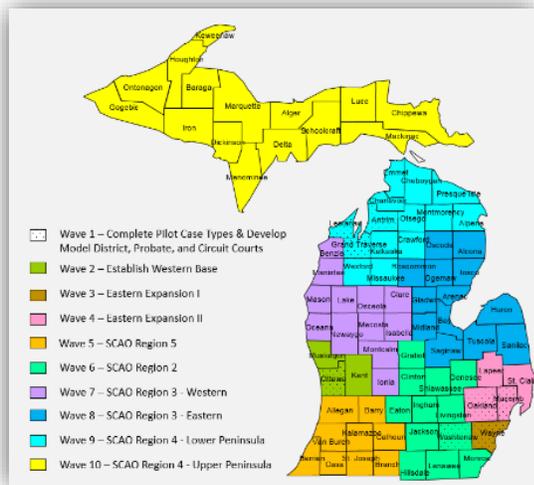
#### Today

The 3rd, 6th, 13th, 16th, and 20th Circuit Courts were recently transitioned from pilot status to the current MiFILE system and they continue to operate under Supreme Court Administrative Order. During transition to the MiFILE system we focused on replacing their prior systems. Each court has differences from the filer perspective, such as filer types, case initiation, and fee waivers; however, our goal for this phase was ensuring that movement to the new platform did not cause loss of functionality. The next step for the pilots will be to expand offerings and make the filer experience more consistent. We appreciate all of the valuable feedback we received from the pilot courts and filers and we hope to use that to provide a standard solution that encompasses all eligible case types, which will be implemented throughout the state. The benefits of such a solution include a consistent user experience, improved service to the public, accessibility to courts, flexibility for litigants, and increased efficiency for the court.

## Looking Forward

Relying on the considerable experience and expertise of the pilot courts, three additional courts (one each to represent the circuit, district, and probate courts) were selected to assist in developing an expanded version of MiFILE that will serve as a standard model for the entire state. A collaborative effort with SCAO, pilot courts, various advisory work groups, and

ImageSoft will develop the business requirements for the standard solution, which will then be implemented at the MiFILE model courts. The 22nd Circuit Court (Washtenaw County), the 37th District Court (Warren), and the Ottawa County Probate Court will work closely with SCAO and ImageSoft to develop and test the functionality and integration of this standard MiFILE model. SCAO conducted its first advisory work group meeting on March 5 to review the preliminary business requirements.



Our goal with the various advisory work groups is to provide a more efficient implementation for the courts, as well as offer a consistent filer experience. Since the rollout will impact every

court, the project team must ensure that we have a solid approach that can be nimble enough to work at each court. Over the next few months, several work groups will be engaged in this effort. More than 250 filers and court employees volunteered their time and our initial group meeting on March 5 included 42 court employees, mainly model court staff. We anticipate reaching out to others with more specialized questions during the upcoming weeks. This is an exciting opportunity to improve the filing process and SCAO looks forward to collaborating with the advisory work groups. As more information about this project becomes available we will update our [website](#) and publish additional articles.

Questions? Contact [efiling@courts.mi.gov](mailto:efiling@courts.mi.gov).