

2013

STATE OF THE COURT
LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene OR 97401
Presiding Judge - Karsten H. Rasmussen
Trial Court Administrator - Elizabeth Rambo

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STATE OF THE COURT - INTRODUCTION

Officially established in 1905 as part of a larger circuit, Oregon's 2nd Judicial District, comprising all of Lane County, sits in the southern Willamette Valley and is the fourth largest population center in Oregon.¹ The Lane County Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction, processing cases regardless of the subject matter, amount of money involved, or the severity of the crime alleged. The court has jurisdiction over:

- All state offense cases from violations to felonies
- Civil matters and small claims matters
- Forcible entry and detainer (eviction) cases
- Divorces, custody cases, adoptions, and all other family law matters
- Probate proceedings
- Juvenile proceedings
- Mental health and commitment proceedings
- Appeals from limited jurisdiction courts located in Lane County

Our mission is set forth in the Oregon Judicial Department Mission statement:

As a separate and independent branch of government, we provide fair and accessible justice services that protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare and inspire public confidence.

In the spirit of that mission, the Lane County Circuit Court presents the 2013 State of the Court Report. This report is intended to inform the public of current programs offered in the Court, statistical presentations of Court trials and filing statistics, as well as present a report on the 2012-2013 legislative budgets for the Oregon Judicial Department, Lane County Circuit Court.



LANE COUNTY 1898 COURTHOUSE

¹ According to US Census Data from 2011, Lane County population sits at 353,416

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE



The year 2013 has been one of evolution for the Lane County Circuit Court. On the horizon is Oregon eCourt, the Oregon Judicial Department's transition to an electronic courthouse that will "go live" in the Lane County Circuit Court in 2015. Oregon eCourt promises to improve access to all court proceedings as well as transition the court to a more modern technology for the management of court records and information. While not without its challenges, Oregon eCourt will usher in a new way of doing business and our court is preparing for its arrival. Documentation of current court procedures has already helped the court become more efficient in its endeavors, and ePayments have collected \$643,861 in online transactions. Read on in the report to see the timeline for Oregon eCourt implementation.

In May, Lane County voters approved a property tax levy to fund an additional 166 beds at the Lane County Adult Correctional Facility, bringing the total bed availability up to 255. The first levy of its kind to pass after several attempts dating back to 1998, the funds will also open beds at the Juvenile Justice Center at the John Serbu Youth Campus. This levy helps ease the burden of forced releases that the jail faced, assures that offenders sentenced to local incarceration will serve a greater portion of their sentence, and assists keeping the community safe.

Lane County Circuit Court is proud of the service that it offers the community in upholding the pursuit of justice for all of its citizens. Of particular note within the Lane County Circuit Court is our speedy time to disposition; in fact, we are one of the most effective courts in the state in meeting the statewide disposition standards.² This means that when cases are filed in Lane County Circuit Court, the parties will see action on that case in an efficient and effective manner and justice will not be denied through delay. This high standard of performance is due to the tireless efforts of the judges, staff and administration, and to our efficient case management philosophy. In the face of budget crises, decreased resources and increased need, the Court continues to ensure that cases are scheduled, data is tracked and inputted and cases proceed efficiently.

The court looks forward to the rollout of Oregon eCourt with the hope of further improving its track record of efficiency and organization in meeting the needs of the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Karsten H. Rasmussen

Presiding Judge, Lane County Circuit Court

² Statistics were compiled from OJIN Statewide Database, and statewide numbers published by the Oregon Judicial Departments Office of Administration.

The Oregon Judicial Department is looking forward to its transition to an electronic courthouse, and Lane County Circuit Court is eagerly anticipating the rollout of Oregon eCourt. Oregon eCourt is a business transformation program that will align people, processes, and new technology initiatives with business strategy and the future of Oregon's state courts.³ The rollout for Lane County Circuit Court will begin in August 2014 with a preimplementation assessment. Efforts will continue throughout the following months to prepare, train, and implement necessary changes prior to the Odyssey Oregon eCourt "Go Live" in March 2015.

Odyssey Oregon eCourt is a complete business transformation for the Oregon Courts. Replacing 50 million pieces of paper each year, Oregon eCourt is an electronic courthouse system that gives ready, 24/7 access to customers and partners on case information. Oregon eCourt will also replace an aging Oregon Judicial Information Network (OJIN) with a more technologically advanced, easy to use, platform.

Odyssey eCourt has 6 major components⁴

1. Electronic Content Management and eFiling (ECM)
 - a. ECM allows concurrent document processing, access from any location, and standardizes document management processes
2. Partner Integration
 - a. Partner Integration creates interfaces that allow data exchanges between the Oregon eCourt Case Management system and our partner agencies. The goal is to maintain the current existing interfaces and gradually replace them with Odyssey Oregon eCourt interfaces
3. Financial Management System
 - a. The FMS component of Odyssey replaces the current financial system that supports court financial management and is integrated into the state's accounting system. It is the OJD revenue journal and fiduciary trust system. Some of the components include cashiering, electronic payment, funds distribution, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and general ledger
4. Web Portal
 - a. The Web Portal allows stakeholders, case participants, and the public to conduct a significant portion of their court business online without requiring them to travel to a courthouse
5. Decision Support System (DSS)
 - a. Data management functions that collect, transform, analyze, access and report information kept in Odyssey that supports the court, as well as select information available from public and private stakeholders and providers
6. Case Management System (CMS)
 - a. Odyssey will replace the existing OJIN system in all of the trial courts across the state and the Tax Court. The new solution is a person-based system, meaning the information is organized around parties in a case, rather than the case itself. This improves tracking of individuals across cases, improves the ability to search for information, and improves the safety of the court by tracking warrants and other information across county and case boundaries

³ Organizational Change Management Strategy for implementation of Oregon eCourt, Oregon Judicial Department OETO

⁴ http://www.courts.oregon.gov/OJD/docs/OSCA/2013RecommendedBudget/Oregon_Oregon_eCourt.pdf

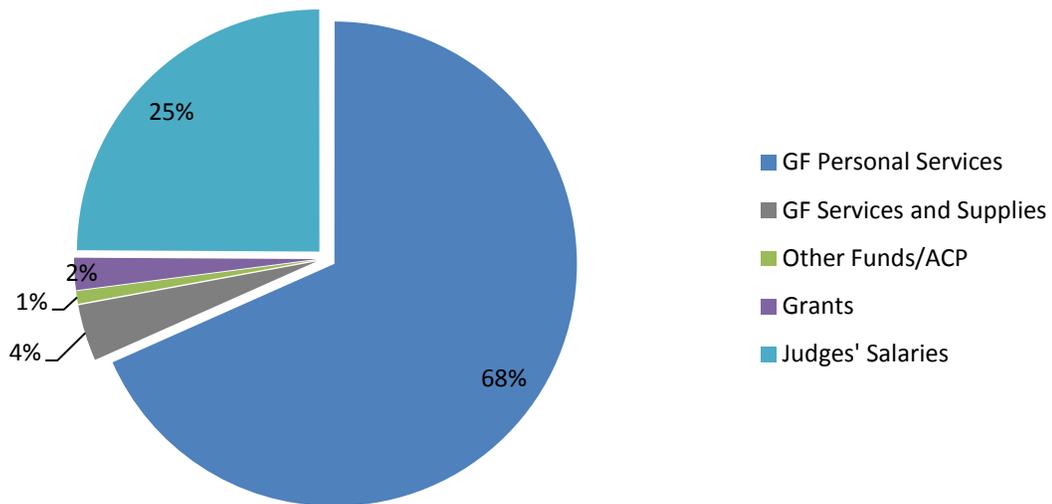
LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT'S OREGON ECOURT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

	August-14				Sep-14				Nov-14				Dec-14				Jan-15			
TASK	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4
Preimplementation Assessment	█	█	█	█																
Tyler Environmental Assessment					█	█	█	█												
Training Planning Begins									█	█	█	█								
Odyssey Training plan & logistics													█	█	█	█				
Tyler comes onsite for training													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Feb-15				Mar-15				Apr-15				May-15				Jun-15			
	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4	wk 1	wk 2	wk 3	wk 4
OCM Begins training implementation	█	█	█	█																
Odyssey Training (3 weeks)					█	█	█													
Odyssey Go Live					█	█	█	█												
After Action Review									█	█	█	█								
60-Day Post training Eval													█	█	█	█				
90 Day post training eval																	█	█	█	█

LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET

2013-2015 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

2013-2015 Legislative Budget



2013-2015 Legislative Budget	
GF Personal Services	\$ 14,404,183.00
GF Services and Supplies	\$ 792,256.00
Other Funds/ACP	\$ 182,019.00
Grants	\$ 449,809.00
Subtotal	\$15,828,267.00
Judges' Salaries ⁵	\$5,251,305.00
Grand Total	\$21,079,572.00

General fund dollars made up 96% of the budget for the 2013-2015 biennium. Grant dollars from the Office on Violence Against Women - Domestic Violence Pretrial Monitoring Grant and the Community Corrections Act make up 3% of the budget, and the remaining 1% comes from the Application and Contribution Program.

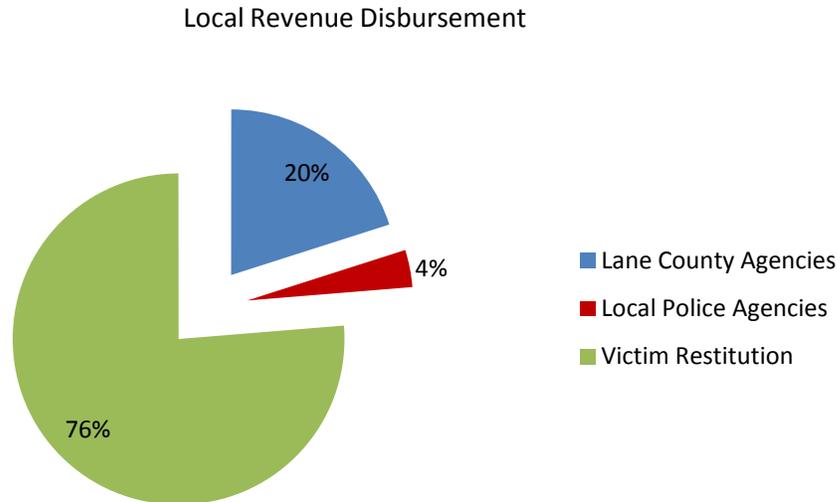
⁵ Judges' salaries are paid for through the central OJD budget.

LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT REVENUE

With the exception of refunds (e.g., base fine on traffic infractions, security refunds) and money in the court's trust account such as security deposit, all funds received by the court are disbursed as revenue. Following statutory directives, the Judicial Department disburses the revenue to the state general fund for a variety of programs and local agencies, or as payment to crime victims as restitution.

2012 Lane County Circuit Court Revenue:	
Total Revenue:	\$ 8,373,643.00
General Fund	\$ 7,291,191.00
Lane County Agencies	\$ 217,336.00
Local Police Agencies	\$ 39,251.00
Victim Restitution	\$ 825,857.00

Of the funds remaining after disbursement to the State General Fund, 76% is paid back as victim restitution and the remaining 24% is paid to local agencies.



COURT STATISTICS⁶

2013 YTD TIME TO DISPOSITION

The Oregon Judicial Conference adopted Oregon standards for timely disposition in 1990. Each case type has benchmarks for timely disposition, with 90% of cases being resolved by the first benchmark, 98% by the second, and 100% expected to be resolved by the final benchmark.

Civil - General	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	12 Months		18 Months		24 Months				
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
		3927	97%	80	99%	15	100%	8	0.2%

Domestic Relations	90% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	9 Months		1 Year				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
		2,882	99%	26	100%	14	0%

Felony	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	120 Days		180 Days		1 Year				
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
		1129	86%	120	95%	51	98%	20	2%

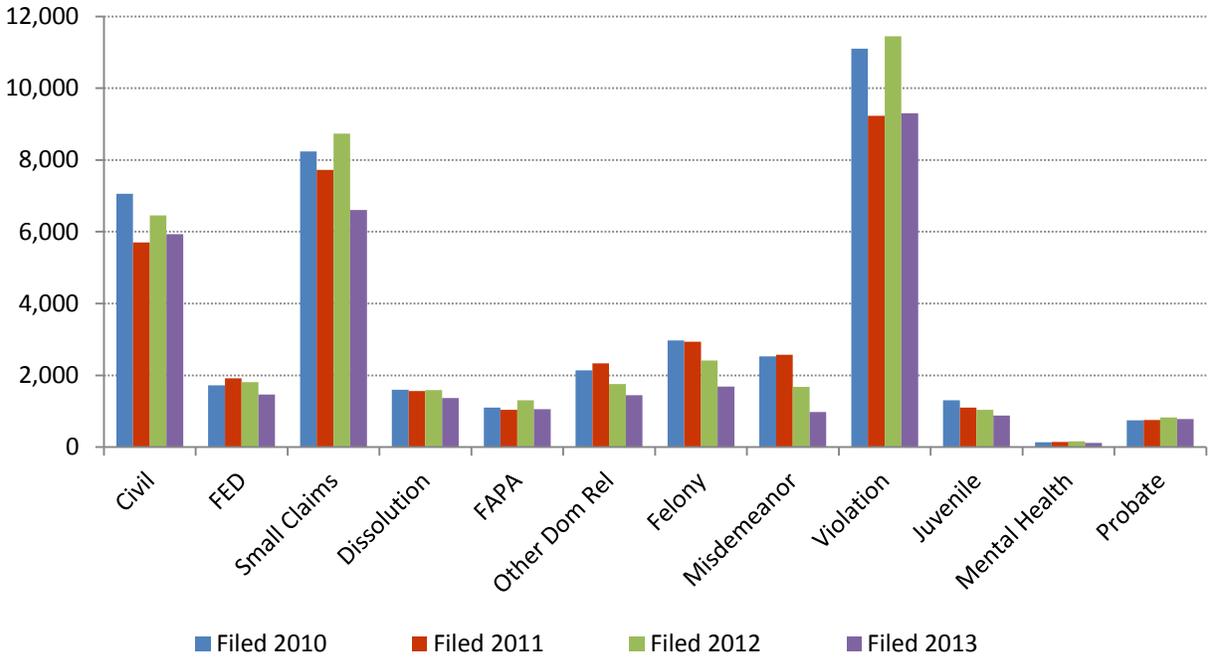
Misdemeanor	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	120 Days		180 Days		1 Year				
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
		746	84%	78	93%	41	98%	18	2%

Civil – Summary	100% Goal		Beyond⁷		Total
	75 Days				
	Count	%	Count	%	
		4195	40%	3187	60%

⁶ All numbers are taken from OJD Statewide Statistical Database

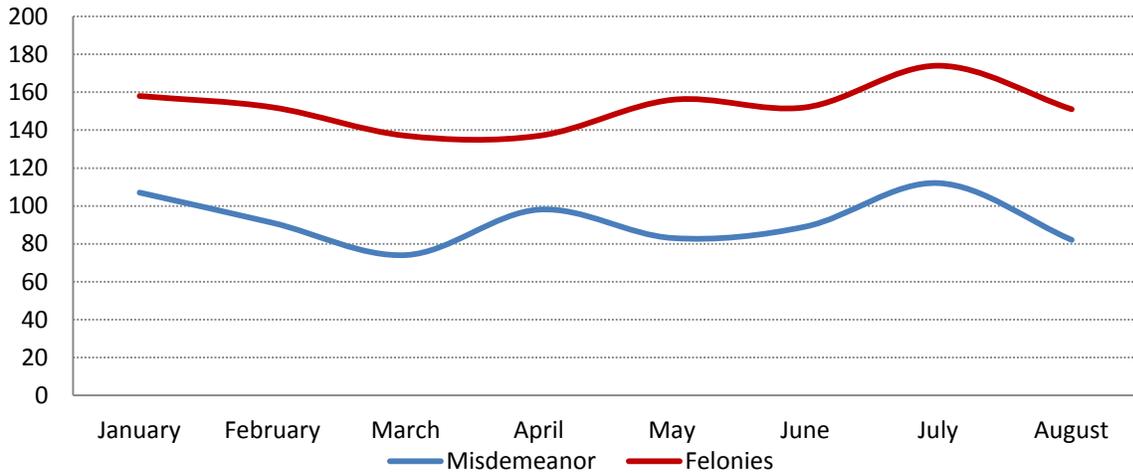
⁷ Due to service timelines meeting the 75 day goal is impracticable

2010-2013* CASE FILINGS IN LANE COUNTY



*2013 Data Annualized

On average, the number of civil cases filed in Lane County dropped 3% between 2010 and 2013. Misdemeanor cases dropped 17%, felony cases dropped 9%, and violation charges increased by 4%. Local budget restrictions limited the ability of the District Attorney to prosecute misdemeanors and felonies. That trend reflected a reduction in cases filed throughout the years.



COURT PROGRAMS



Lane County Circuit Court has a host of programs within its organization to help achieve the mission of preserving community welfare and inspiring public confidence. Working in conjunction with the community in a variety of functions helps to ensure that the interests of our county are being served. From drug court to partnerships with the University of Oregon, the Court is proud of its continued tradition of excellence in community connections.



LANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXTERIOR TODAY

PRETRIAL SERVICES

Pretrial Services is an office of the Lane County Circuit Court located at the Lane County Jail. Pretrial release programs were initiated statewide on January 1, 1974, by legislative mandate, pursuant to Senate Bill 80, Article VIII.⁸ In January 1983, the State of Oregon assumed the responsibility of all court functions that were previously under county funding, thereby transferring pretrial services to the Oregon Judicial Department and making it a state operation.

The Court's release assistance officers and the Lane County Sheriff's Office deputies assigned to work collaboratively with them, interview all defendants and offenders booked into the Lane County Jail using an evidence-based risk assessment tool. The tool generates a risk score, which used along with other factors determine release criteria. When there are enough jail beds, pretrial services uses evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and danger to the community.

The Lane County jail opened more beds in 2013 which reduced the number of Measure 11 defendants released for capacity reasons to zero.

Numerous Lane County budget cuts had reduced the available jail beds to 126 in 2013. The lack of jail beds meant that most defendants who book into custody, even on Measure 11 charges or violent felony charges, were released, as the jail did not have capacity to hold them. The main jail facility has 507 beds at total capacity. In 2011 the jail was operating at 405 beds, and facing budget cuts reduced its capacity to 326. Further cuts through the next few years lowered the operating jail beds to 126.

In May 2013, Lane County voters passed Measure 20-213. The five-year levy provides an additional \$15 million annually for the jail and the juvenile justice center. This money allowed jail beds to open and allowed the county to hire back many deputies who were laid off due to budget cuts. The number of beds available for offenders and defendants at the Lane County Jail has returned to 326. With this number of operating jail beds, the court's pretrial services office can do their job more effectively and either hold defendants charged with violent crimes in custody, or determine the best release conditions for those defendants. Before the levy, pretrial staff were forced to release 18% of Measure 11 defendants because of capacity reasons. Since the return of jail beds, there have been zero forced releases of Measure 11 defendants.

Pretrial services are an invaluable part of the work done in the Lane County Circuit Court. Release assistance officers ensure that defendants are held in custody pending trial, or are released on conditions most suited to ensure community safety and reduce recidivism.

⁸ ORS 135.230 - ORS 135.295 (Appendix 1).

LANE COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT

Lane County Circuit Court's Adult Drug Court program is a diversion program that offers the potential for dismissal of a drug related charge(s) or the possibility of not going to prison upon successful completion of the program's requirements. The program lasts a minimum of one year in order for the offender to achieve recovery and reduce societal and criminal justice system costs. The goal of the program is to graduate a clean and sober, responsible, healthy, productive and self-sufficient member of our community.

Beginning in October 1994, Lane County Circuit Court's Drug Court was one of the first 20 drug courts in the United States. It has a long history of reducing recidivism and restoring families, lives, and the health of its participants. It assists in reducing the rate of "drug-free" babies born to addicted female participants, and provides closer, more comprehensive supervision than other criminal justice programs while also generating savings and cost avoidance in jail and court resources.

*2012-2013 Lane County
Adult Drug Court had 13
drug-free babies born to
clients.*

The average length of time for graduating from the Lane County Drug Court program is 14 months from date of referral. The last 22 months have seen 94 graduates, with only one participant having an instance of recidivism (98% have no instances of recidivism). This places the Lane County Circuit Court Drug Court Program well above the state benchmark of 90%. Recently, Lane County Drug Court received grant money from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (OCJC) for continuing their services, including the funding of an Assistant District Attorney position in order to ensure consistency in its active population.

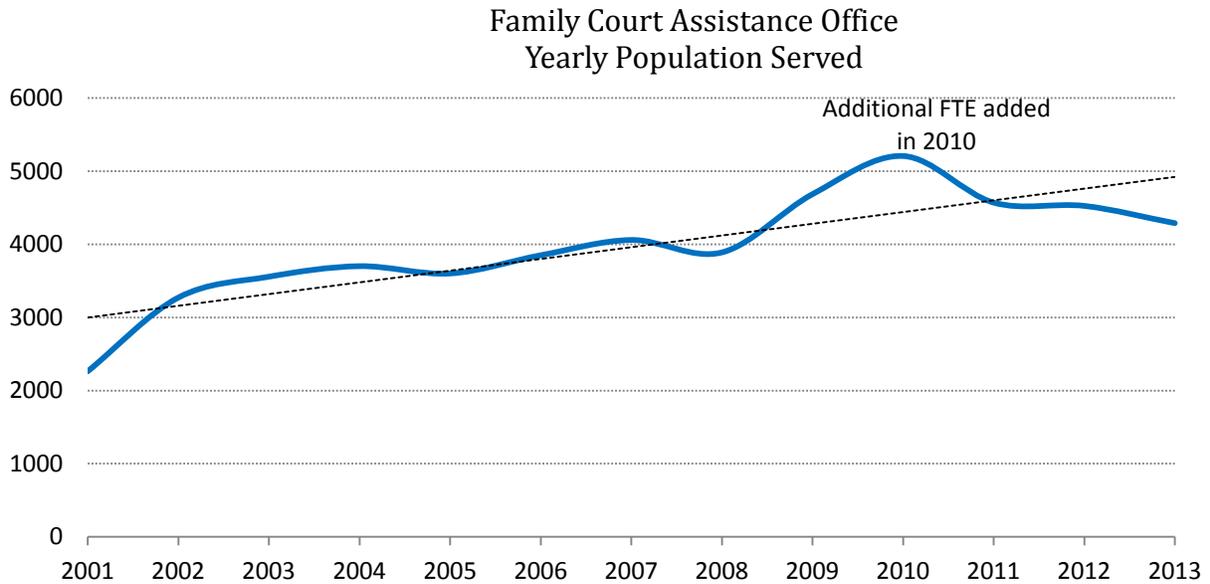
Alongside Adult Drug Court is Veterans Treatment Court, which serves the veteran population of Lane County through collaboration with the Veterans Health Administration.

The Drug Court Team includes the Honorable Suzanne Chanti and Program Administrator Danielle Hanson.

TOTAL GRADUATED PARTICIPANTS	94
(22 months):	
Average time to graduation (months):	14.3
Rate of Recidivism:	1%
Rate of non-recidivism	99%

FAMILY COURT ASSISTANCE OFFICE

The purpose of the Family Court Assistance Office (FCAO) is to assist the increasing number of self-represented litigants in domestic relations cases (divorce, custody, or parenting time proceedings). The program is part of a statewide effort to improve the accessibility of the court system to the public. Office staff can inform self-represented litigants of court procedures and available court forms. The FCAO staff can review documents, and provide information about legal services and other resources available in the community.



The Family Court Assistance Office has steadily grown since its inception in 2001. Adding 0.75FTE in 2009 resulted in peak usage in 2010. The FCAO served a monthly average of 332 people over the last 12 years with a 4% average annual growth in the number of clients served on a yearly basis.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Lane County Circuit Court is very proud of its partnership with the University of Oregon School of Law for the Judicial Externship program that happens each semester at the court. Headed up by The Honorable Mustafa T. Kasubhai, the externship program places students with different chambers in the court to get a first hand understanding of judicial work. Externs are included in all aspects of a judges' work, including settlements, trials, chamber discussions, and daily dockets. Students interface not only with their chambers, but also with other judges, judicial staff, and local practicing attorneys. They enjoy networking opportunities and are able to meet a judge in a more informal environment, perform research and ask questions of judges and staff that can be of great benefit later in their careers.

THE LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT BENCH:



JUDGE CHARLES D. CARLSON

Judge Charles Carlson was appointed to the bench in August 2002. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in 1980. In 1982 he entered private practice as an associate and then as a partner in the civil litigation law firm of Brown, Roseta, Long, McConville, Kilcullen & Carlson where his practice emphasis included forest fire, construction, product and legal malpractice cases. Judge Carlson is a former president of the Lane County Bar Association. In addition to his general trial assignment, he is the Court's Civil Motion Judge, a member of the Ex Parte team, the Rules of Court Judge, and a member of both the 2nd Judicial District Commercial Court and the Oregon Complex Litigation Court. Judge Carlson is generally available for settlement conferences in civil, domestic relations and criminal cases on Monday afternoons.

JUDGE CYNTHIA D. CARLSON

Prior to joining the bench in 1994, Judge Cynthia Carlson spent 15 years as a staff attorney in the office of Public Defender Services of Lane County, Inc. She is a past president of the Lane County Bar Association, past chair of the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs and past chair of the Oregon State Bar's Affirmative Action Committee. The recipient of the 2001 OSB President's Affirmative Action award, the 2003 Eugene Human rights Commissions' MLK Jr. leadership award, and the 2006 City Club of Eugene's Turtle award, Judge Carlson has a long history of service to the Lane County area.

JUDGE SUZANNE B. CHANTI

Judge Chanti joined the bench by appointment in February of 2010. Her career began in 1988 practicing general civil litigation with an emphasis on employment and personal injury law with the firm of Swanson and Walters. She was appointed by both Governor Roberts and Governor Kitzhaber to serve on the Oregon Disabilities Commission, and at the time of her appointment to the bench, she was a member and chair elect of the Oregon Professional Liability Fund Board of Directors. She is a well-known speaker on topics relating to employment law and civil litigation. Judge Chanti is currently the Vice President of the Oregon Association of Drug Court Professionals and presides over the Lane County Circuit Court Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court. She is available for settlement conferences.

JUDGE CURT R. CONOVER

Judge Conover joined the Lane County bench in 2011 by appointment of Governor Kitzhaber. Judge Conover practiced both criminal and civil litigation for 23 years prior to his appointment. Beginning his legal career at the Marion County District Attorney's office, Judge Conover moved to Eugene to become a prosecutor with Lane County before going onto a career in civil law with the firm of Jaqua & Wheatley, PC. Judge Conover currently serves as the FED, Small Claims and Traffics Judge as well as serving as a Juvenile Court Judge.

JUDGE LAUREN S. HOLLAND

Judge Holland was elected to the Lane County bench in November, 1992. In addition to hearing all manner of civil and criminal cases, she is the Lane County Probate Judge and a member of the Lane County Commercial Court where she presides over complex civil litigation cases. She is also a member of the statewide Commercial Court. Judge Holland is a member of the Task Force on Protective Proceedings; Oregon Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardian Stakeholders; and a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Oregon Association of Family and Conciliation Courts chapter. She also serves on the Lane County Mediation Commission. Judge Holland facilitates a Probate Mediation Clinic with law students from the University of Oregon School of Law on protective proceedings and other probate cases.

JUDGE MUSTAFA T. KASUBHAI

Appointed to the bench by Governor Kulongoski in 2007, Judge Kasubhai previously worked as an active civil trial litigator specializing in tort litigation and worker compensation. In 2003, the governor nominated him to serve on the Workers' Compensation Board, where his opinions of workplace injury litigation are published and available to the public. Currently Judge Kasubhai serves as a commissioner on the Oregon law Commission and is a member of the Oregon Board of Bar Examiners. Currently Judge Kasubhai is assigned to the show cause docket, as well as settlement conferences and general trial assignment.

JUDGE VALERI L. LOVE

Beginning her legal career as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Darryl L. Larson in 1995, Judge Love returned to the Circuit Court to serve on the bench in 2011 by appointment. Prior to her service with the court, she worked as a Deputy District Attorney for the Lane County District Attorney's Office where she primarily handled domestic violence and financial fraud cases. Throughout her career, Judge Love has been involved with numerous organizations and activities including the Lane County Bar Association, Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and Oregon Women lawyers. Judge Love currently serves as the Juvenile Court Judge.

JUDGE JAY A. MCALPIN

Judge McAlpin was appointed to the Circuit Court in 2012. After graduating from law school, Judge McAlpin worked as a law clerk in Lane County Circuit Court, a prosecutor in the Lane County District Attorney's Office and as a civil defense attorney. He has tried numerous cases to juries in various counties throughout Oregon. In addition to his general trial assignments, Judge McAlpin currently is a member of the criminal team.

JUDGE MAURICE K. MERTEN

Lane County's longest sitting Circuit Court judge, Judge Merten has served since 1975. He was a federal prosecutor handling organized crime cases before returning to Oregon to be the Chief Trial Deputy in the Lane County District Attorney's Office. Judge Merten is widely respected as a trial judge. He has been active for many years in new lawyer education programs for local attorneys. In addition to his general trial assignment, Judge Merten hears mental commitment proceedings and adoption matters and is also on the criminal team.

JUDGE JOSEPHINE H. MOONEY

Judge Mooney was appointed to the Bench in 2011. She spent the first 16 years of her legal career in private practice with the Eugene law firm of Calkins & Calkins. Her practice was primarily devoted to the defense of civil litigation with a focus on medical negligence cases. She then worked for 7 years in the private healthcare industry. Judge Mooney served as a member of the Oregon Health Policy Board's Medical Liability Task Force in 2010. She has participated in various written and oral presentations on topics including general tort law concepts, trial tactics and strategy, health law and legal issues specific to members of the GLBT communities. In addition to her general trial assignments, Judge Mooney is also a member of the Ex Parte team. She serves as back-up Civil Motions Judge and hears all expungement motions and non-foreclosure UTCR 7.020 motions.

JUDGE KARSTEN H. RASMUSSEN

Karsten H. Rasmussen has been a judge with the Lane County Circuit Court since 1999 and Presiding Judge since 2012. Previously, Judge Rasmussen was the Court's Civil Motions Judge, hearing hundreds of civil motions including dispositive motions for summary judgment and motions filed pursuant to ORCP 21. Judge Rasmussen graduated with a B.A. from the University of Oregon in 1978, Phi Beta Kappa, MA University of Chicago *with honors* 1980, and a J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1983. He has been a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1983 and was a member of the Oregon State Senate from 1993 to 1995. Currently Judge Rasmussen chairs the Chief Justice's Work Group on Statewide Commercial Courts, as well as the Chief Justice's Court Re-Engineering and Efficiencies Workgroup. He is a member of the statewide managing panel for the Oregon Complex Litigation Court and co-creator and member of the 2nd Judicial District Commercial Court. Judge Rasmussen is a past president of the Oregon Circuit Court Judges Association. He has adjudicated complex commercial matters in; personal injury, medical malpractice, land use, Indian gaming, mold, business, employment, and construction cases. He has held over 750 formal mediations where parties reached a successful resolution, including multi-million dollar settlements in major neonatal medical malpractice claims, products liability cases,

and personal injury claims. Prior to joining the Circuit Court, he practiced civil litigation for 16 years throughout Oregon. In addition to his many other duties, Judge Rasmussen teaches Oregon Civil Procedure and a legal history course at the University of Oregon School of Law.

JUDGE CLARA L. RIGMAIDEN

Clara L. Rigmaiden is Lane County's newest judge, appointed to the bench by Governor Kitzhaber in 2013. Judge Rigmaiden spent 12 years working with Public Defender Services of Lane County handling thousands of cases with increasingly limited resources. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Boise State University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Oregon School of Law. Judge Rigmaiden has mentored middle school students, volunteered for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and served on the board for the Cascades Raptor Center. Alongside settlement conferences, Judge Rigmaiden is assigned to FED and Small Claims, as well as the Juvenile Court delinquency docket.

JUDGE ILISA ROOKE-LEY

Prior to her appointment and subsequent election to the bench in 2010, Judge Rooke-Ley served as a criminal defense lawyer for sixteen years. She worked as a lawyer for Public Defender Services of Lane County in Eugene for 14 years, representing adult criminal defendants, children in delinquency cases, and parties in dependency cases. She also worked at the Law Offices of Terri Wood in Eugene, and has served as a public defender in Miami, Florida. She currently serves on the board of directors for Relief Nursery and Sponsors, Inc., and has served on the board for a number of other local nonprofits, including Lane County Legal Aid, Eugene Human Rights Commission, and the Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council. She earned her law degree from Nova Southeastern University Law School and her bachelor's degree from William Smith College.

JUDGE DEBRA K. VOGT

Judge Vogt was elected to the bench in November 2006. A graduate of Oregon State University with a philosophy degree, she attended law school at Willamette University College of Law, graduating in 1994. After law school, Judge Vogt served as a judicial clerk before beginning her career with the Lane County District Attorney's office, where she spent over a decade as a Deputy District Attorney. In the DA's office, Judge Vogt handled every type and level of criminal prosecution, ending her career there as a member of the Major Crimes Division, focusing on the prosecution of violent felonies and child sexual abuse. Judge Vogt is a past board member of the Lane County Bar Association as well as the Child Advocacy Center of Lane County. Judge Vogt is a recipient of the Oregon State Bar President's Public Service Award. Currently, Judge Vogt is a member of the Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability, the statewide agency which reviews and investigates complaints of alleged misconduct by Oregon state judges and justices of the peace. In addition to her general trial assignment, Judge Vogt is the Court's Chief Criminal Judge.

JUDGE CHARLES M. ZENNACHE

Judge Zennaché joined the bench in December 2007 after a 19-year legal career in Lane County. During his career, he practiced in a variety of areas, including municipal prosecution, municipal law, commercial litigation, commercial bankruptcy, and civil rights and employment law. Judge Zennaché is currently a member of the Council on Court Procedure. He has served on the executive committees of the Family Law Section and Debtor – Creditor Section of the Oregon State Bar. He was on the 2010 Oregon Judicial Department / Oregon State Bar Task Force on Family Law Forms and Services. He has also served as a member of the Eugene Police Commission and chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution subcommittee of the Lane County Bar Association. In addition to his general trial assignments, Judge Zennaché is a member of the criminal team.