

2008 STATE OF THE OREGON COURTS



Justice in the 21st Century



Lady Justice, Supreme Court Building

"In the 21st century, Oregon's courts lead the nation in providing fair, accessible, and timely justice to promote the rule of law, protect individual rights, and resolve conflicts. We respect, reflect, and respond to the diverse people we serve. We earn public trust, build partnerships, and promote safe, caring and engaged communities."

*Justice 2020: A Vision for Oregon's Courts (2001)*

# Message from the Chief Justice

I am pleased to share with you the 2008 Annual Report for the Oregon Judicial Branch. This report reflects the past year of achievements, accomplishments, and activities for the Oregon Judicial Department performed through a vision focused on five long term goals to:

- Protect public access to court services
- Maintain the public's trust and confidence
- Provide quality and timely ways for people to resolve their disputes
- Build strong partnerships with our justice system partners and in our communities
- Effectively administer our courts so they work for people

In that regard, I want to express my profound thanks and respect to those judges and employees of the Judicial Branch for their daily commitment to justice and their service to every person who enters our courthouses.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008

**Building a Statewide Electronic Courthouse.** We have successfully initiated Oregon's eCourt project. Oregon eCourt will expand and simplify access to courts, allow electronic document filing and electronic payment of court fees, provide better information to judges and managers for decision-making, make court work processes more efficient, and improve the availability of information that courts share with our justice partners and stakeholders.

**eFiling in the Supreme Court.** In September 2008, successful implementation of eFiling began in the Supreme Court. This process addresses the growing needs of a geographically dispersed legal community, and provides a convenient and secure system to allow users to eFile at any time, from any location with Internet access. The Court of Appeals launched eFiling in early 2009.

**Court Facilities.** In partnership with the legislature, the counties, and the Oregon State Bar, we have taken important first steps to address glaring deficiencies in Oregon's court facilities. The 2007 legislature created an interim Committee on Court



Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz



Facilities, which, in 2008, identified the seismic, safety, and other improvements needed in Oregon's 48 state court facilities. The committee's final report was presented to the 2009 Legislative Assembly.

As I write these words, our state and our nation are facing an economic crisis sure to frame the court's budget for several years. Even though these economic times continue to be among the biggest challenges for the Judicial Branch, we will endeavor to sustain and adapt our courts to meet these challenges and the real world needs of the public we serve. The mission and commitment of Oregon's state courts is to provide fair and accessible justice services that protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare, and maintain the public's confidence in our justice system. With the continued support of our partners in the Legislative and Executive branches, we will succeed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Paul J. De Muniz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul J. De Muniz  
Chief Justice

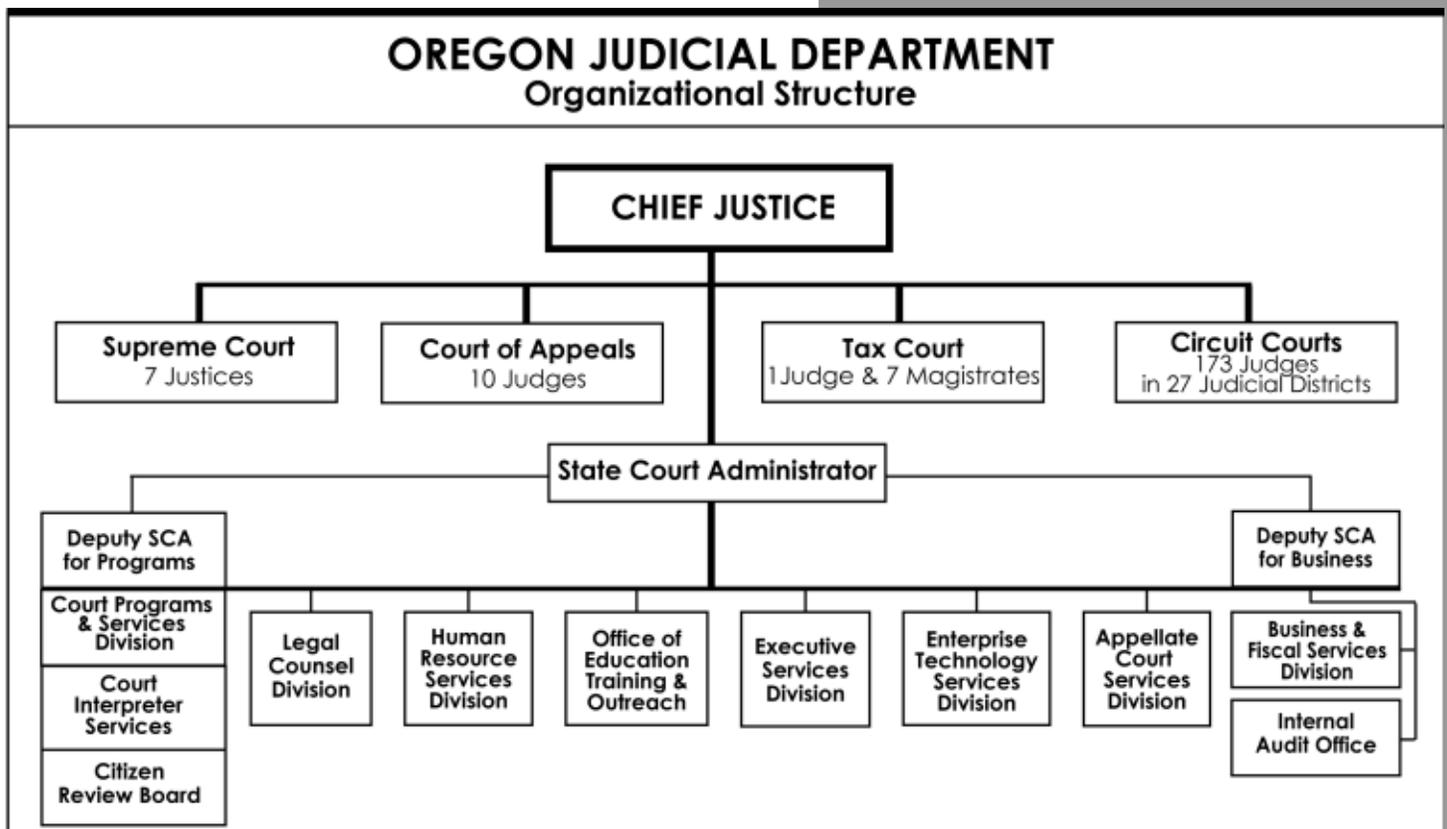
# Overview of the Department

## History

The Oregon Constitution states that “The judicial power of the state shall be vested in one supreme court and in such other courts as may from time to time be created by law.” In 1981, the Legislative Assembly consolidated Oregon’s district courts (which have since been abolished), circuit courts, tax court, and appellate courts into a unified, state-funded court system. The system we now know as the Oregon Judicial Department became effective on January 1, 1983.

The State of Oregon’s Judicial Branch of government and its state court system, the Oregon Judicial Department remain committed to being good stewards of the resources provided, excellent producers of the work assigned, and to protect and enhance public access to the courts.

## Organization





Ceiling Detail, Oregon Supreme Court Building

The Department is comprised of a Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Tax Court, and 36 circuit courts in 27 judicial districts. An Office of the State Court Administrator, comprised of eight divisions and the Internal Auditing Program, provides centralized services in support of the court system.

The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Department. Among other responsibilities, the Chief Justice appoints a presiding judge for each judicial district, the Tax Court, and the Court of Appeals. The Chief Justice also appoints the State Court Administrator, the Department's chief operating officer.

### Funding

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) receives its funding from one primary source: Legislative appropriations from the state General Fund. A small amount of Federal Funds for specific grants and program improvement projects, along with Other Funds (various fees, proceeds from the sale of court publications, and grants) make up the rest of the OJD operating budget.

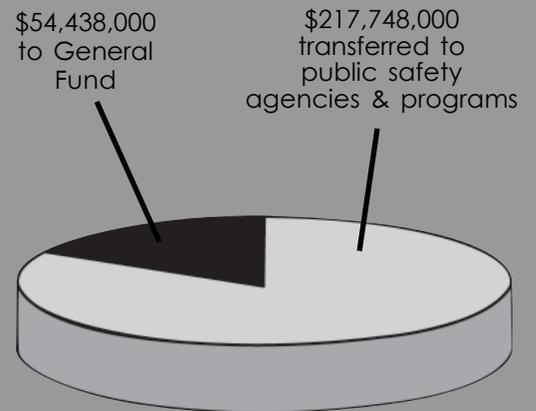
The Judicial Department's total budget for the 2007-09 biennium is approximately \$360 million. This amount is less than 0.8% of the overall state budget. General Funds support approximately 88% – or \$315 million – of the Department's biennial budget. Federal and other funds make up the 12% balance. Personnel expenditures account for more than 90% of the OJD budget. In the circuit courts, personnel costs make up approximately 95% of the court's operating budget.

| <b>OJD BUDGET<br/>2007-2009 Biennium</b> |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>General Fund</b>                      | <b>\$315,000,000</b> |
| <b>Federal &amp; Other Funds</b>         | <b>\$45,000,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                      | <b>\$360,000,000</b> |

The Judicial Department is on track to collect nearly \$272 million dollars during the 2007-09 biennium from court users and criminal defendants. These funds support agencies and programs that aid victims of crime, police training, and other valuable services including \$54 million that is returned to the state General Fund. Statewide, the Oregon Judicial Department is projected to collect \$25 million in restitution and compensatory fines for victims of crime and their families.

| <b>DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTED FEES, FINES, RESTITUTION, &amp; ASSESSMENTS COLLECTED</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>\$54,438,000</b>  | General Fund  |
| <b>\$25,301,000</b>  | Restitution & Compensatory Fines to Domestic Violence Victims |
| <b>\$2,910,000</b>   | Dispute Resolution (GF)                                       |
| <b>\$94,340,000</b>  | Department of Revenue (CFAA)                                  |
| <b>\$3,551,000</b>   | Public Defense Services Commission (ACP)                      |
| <b>\$134,000</b>   | Judicial Department (Appellate Mediation)                     |
| <b>\$25,096,000</b>  | Judicial Department (Collections Acct)                        |
| <b>\$134,000</b>   | Judicial Department (Operating Acct)                          |
| <b>\$105,000</b>   | Oregon State Police   |
| <b>\$613,000</b>   | Department of Human Services (Mental Health DUII)             |
| <b>\$29,000</b>  | Department of Human Services (Children's Ombudsman)           |
| <b>\$720,000</b>   | Department of Human Services (LEML)                           |
| <b>\$10,047,000</b>  | Oregon State Bar (Legal Aid)                                  |
| <b>\$454,000</b>   | Housing & Community Services                                  |
| <b>\$150,000</b>   | Department of Agriculture                                     |
| <b>\$319,000</b>   | Court Forms   |
| <b>\$3,487,000</b>   | State Court Facilities Security                               |
| <b>\$332,000</b>   | Oregon University System                                      |
| <b>\$17,509,000</b>  | Transfer to Cities  |
| <b>\$32,017,000</b>  | Transfer to Counties  |
| <b>\$500,000</b>   | Transfer Out - Other  |
| <b>\$272,186,000</b>   | <b>TOTAL ALL OJD COLLECTED REVENUES</b>                       |

**\$272,186,000 in OJD Collected Revenues**



# Oregon's Supreme Court

| Oregon Supreme Court<br>2008 |
|------------------------------|
| 7 Justices                   |
| 1,352 Cases Filed            |
| 75 Opinions                  |

The Supreme Court is Oregon's highest court and exists by virtue of Article VII (Amended) of the Oregon Constitution. The Supreme Court has the ultimate responsibility for announcing and interpreting Oregon law.

The primary work of the Supreme Court is to review decisions of the Oregon Court of Appeals. The court devotes substantial resources toward considering whether a particular petition seeking the court's review presents an important question for adjudication. These cases fall under the court's discretionary jurisdiction. The court's discretionary jurisdiction competes with a substantial number of cases that fall under the court's mandatory jurisdiction—cases that, if filed, the Supreme Court has no choice but to accept. The court's mandatory caseload is a growing portion of its total caseload and includes:

1. Automatic reviews in death penalty cases
2. Appeals from the Oregon Tax Court
3. Appeals involving certain types of labor disputes
4. Administrative reviews of prison, energy facility, and waste disposal site decisions
5. Reviews in lawyer discipline and admissions matters
6. Reviews involving questions of judicial fitness and disability
7. Specific cases or issues that the legislature has directed the Supreme Court to consider
8. A variety of election-related petitions, including ballot title review proceedings and challenges to explanatory and fiscal impact statements

Mandatory cases account for between 30 to 40 percent of the court's annual decisions.



**Justices of the Supreme Court of Oregon**  
Standing, left to right: Justice Rives Kistler, Justice Martha Lee Walters, Justice Virginia L. Linder. Seated, left to right: Justice W. Michael Gillette, Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz, Justice Robert D. Durham, and Justice Thomas A. Balmer

## Accomplishments of the Last Year

Supreme Court eFiling Up and Running. In September 2008, the Oregon Supreme Court became the first court in the state to begin accepting court documents via electronic filing. Members of the Oregon State Bar authorized to practice law in Oregon are able to file documents from their own computers, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, freeing them of the burden of submitting paper copies of case documents to the court. eFilers have the added convenience of paying any filing fees, copy charges, and transaction charges using an electronic payment system. Attorneys who wish to use the eFiling system must have a valid email address on file with the Oregon State Bar, register with the Oregon Judicial Department, obtain a user name, and complete training through online tutorials. In addition to completing the tutorials, users should familiarize themselves with Chapter 16 of the Oregon Rules of Appellate Procedure available at <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/Rules.htm>. In the future, users will also be able to access court documents and case information via the Internet. This Supreme Court eFiling project has served as a successful pilot for the Oregon Judicial Department's Oregon eCourt Program.

A Digital Collection of Legal Resources. The State of Oregon Law Library is the principal resource for legal research in state government, and provides public access to information on the law. The library is currently in transition from a traditional library to one that also provides digital resources for legal research online. The library is adopting emerging technologies to make its unique collection of Oregon legal material accessible from anywhere in the state as well as on the Internet.

Throughout 2008, the library worked aggressively to enhance its online research tools by giving patrons access to online databases like PACER, BarBooks, and Westlaw Patron Access. The library also added Webster's Third New International Dictionary online, for use by the courts, and expects to have wireless Internet access available in the library soon.



Law Library, Supreme Court Building

# Oregon's Intermediate Appellate Court

## Oregon Court of Appeals 2008

10 Judges

3,220 Cases Filed

436 Opinions



### Court of Appeals Judges

Left to right: Judge Timothy J. Sercombe, Judge Darlene Ortega, Judge David Schuman, Judge Rick T. Haselton, Judge Walter Edmonds, Chief Judge David V. Brewer, Judge Jack L. Landau, Judge Rex Armstrong, Judge Robert Wollheim, and Judge Ellen F. Rosenblum

The Court of Appeals is Oregon's intermediate appellate court. By statute, the Court of Appeals is charged with deciding nearly all of the civil and criminal appeals taken from the circuit courts, and nearly all judicial reviews taken from administrative contested cases. Created by statute in 1969, the Court of Appeals does not exercise jurisdiction under the constitution. Its jurisdiction is set by the legislature.

The Oregon Court of Appeals consistently ranks as one of the busiest appellate courts in the nation. Over the past decade, the Court of Appeals has received in the range of 3,300 to 4,000 filings per year. To meet the demands of that workload, the court is divided into three departments or "panels" (each comprised of three judges), which consider cases. A fourth three-judge panel made up of one judge taken from each of the first three panels, sits separately to consider substantive motions filed in appeals or judicial reviews.

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals sits as a non-voting member on each of the court's four departments and participates in their deliberations. This permits the Chief Judge to act as a substitute voting member on any panel when one of the other judges cannot participate, helping to maintain consistency in the decision making process.

Before a panel releases an opinion in a case, the proposed opinion is circulated to all the court's judges. Any one of the judges may disagree with the opinion and refer the case to the full 10-judge court. This happens in approximately three percent of the court's cases.

The Court of Appeals typically issues between 350 and 400 written opinions each year, or 35 to 40 opinions per judge. Each judge usually has an active list of between 25 and 30 cases that have been assigned to that judge for a written opinion.

## Appellate Case Management System

The Court of Appeals has implemented a new automated Appellate Case Management System, which is a key component of Oregon eCourt, the Chief Justice's vision for an "electronic courthouse." The Appellate Case Management System is now up and running, allowing automated case tracking and data entry, document generation, automated statistical report generation, and providing a shared system used by both the Court of Appeals and the Appellate Court Records Section.

## Appellate Performance Measures

The Court of Appeals Performance Measures design team, which began meeting in the fall of 2005, developed three success factors for the court to focus on to improve the appellate court process: Quality, Timeliness & Efficiency, and Public Trust & Confidence. The court's progress toward achievement of these success factors will be measured by an accompanying set of core performance measures:

1. Appellate Bar and Trial Bench Survey. The percentage of members of the Oregon appellate bar and trial bench who believe that the Oregon Court of Appeals is delivering quality justice, both in its adjudicative and other functions
2. On-Time Case Processing. Percentage of cases resolved within established time frames
3. Clearance Rate. The ratio of outgoing to incoming cases by type (civil, criminal, collateral criminal, juvenile, agency, or board)
4. Productivity. The number of cases resolved by the Court of Appeals by type (signed opinions, opinions of the whole court, affirmances without opinion, dispositive orders)

Periodic standard reports will provide appellate case data to help the court evaluate outcomes and progress toward meeting the performance measures.



Oregon Supreme Court Building Spiral Staircase



Supreme Court Building Interior Light

The design team also functions in an advisory capacity, guiding the court's management and leadership in the integration of performance measurement throughout the court, its offices, divisions, and programs. Management and leadership are responsible for monitoring and analysis of the integration by looking at:

- The court's progress over time
- What the court is doing to improve or maintain good performance
- What performance targets and goals should be set for the future

### Appellate Commissioner Program

In 2008, the court reorganized the Office of Appellate Legal Counsel, renaming it the Appellate Commissioner's Office. The goal of the appellate commissioner is to decrease the amount of time it takes for substantive motions to be decided by the Court of Appeals.

The commissioner has authority to consider and decide motions, motion procedural matters (such as orders to show cause as to why a case should not be dismissed), and any other matter that the Court of Appeals or Chief Judge may delegate for a decision. Parties may request reconsideration of a ruling made by the appellate commissioner. The commissioner may review and modify or reverse the result, or may, upon denying the request or affirming the original ruling, forward the request to either the Chief Judge or the Motions Department of the Court of Appeals for a decision. A complete description of the Appellate Commissioner's decisional authority can be read at: [www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/CJOrder0804.pdf](http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/CJOrder0804.pdf).

# The Oregon Tax Court

| Oregon Tax Court<br>2008 |
|--------------------------|
| 1 Judge, 3 Magistrates   |
| 1,307 Cases Filed        |
| 1,011 Cases Closed       |

Created by statute in 1961, the Oregon Tax Court is one of only three state tax courts in the United States and as of 1995, the only tax court that has two divisions: a Magistrate Division and a Regular Division. The Tax Court has exclusive statewide jurisdiction over cases that involve Oregon's tax laws.

Currently, it takes an average of only seven months from the date of filing for a magistrate to complete a written decision. Litigants who disagree with a magistrate's decision may seek a new trial at the Tax Court's Regular Division level. More than 90 percent of litigants involved in tax dispute reviews at the Magistrate level are satisfied with the decision, and do not seek a new trial.

**A Commitment to Sharing Resources.** The court has continued to make appropriate reductions in magistrate and operations staff relative to a decline in caseload. Also in proportion to caseload decline in the Regular Division, the Tax Court Judge has continued to volunteer a partial re-allocation of his services by sitting as a temporary judge on the Court of Appeals.

**Access to Justice.** In 2007 and 2008, public outreach efforts included three roundtable meetings with representatives of state and local tax offices and taxpayers. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the procedures of the Tax Court, and to address questions or comments from people who have appeared, or plan to appear in the court.

The Tax Court's litigant handbook, *Tax Appeals*, which is available to parties filing a tax dispute review with the Magistrate Division, has been translated into Spanish for easier access by Spanish speaking taxpayers. The information in the handbook is designed to help litigants, including government agencies, who are not represented by attorneys, prepare an appeal to the court.



Oregon Supreme Court Building Detail

# Building A Statewide Electronic Courthouse

Oregon e-Court. The Oregon Judicial Department launched the Oregon eCourt program to build a virtual courthouse on the web. When complete, it will allow users to electronically file documents, pay fees and fines, gain access to court documents, dockets, and related content from anywhere, at anytime.

The program transforms court business processes with the use of updated technology, and results in open access to the courts for the general public and legal community. Oregon eCourt will also give courts and judges better tools they need to provide just, prompt, and safe resolution of civil disputes; to improve public safety and the quality of life in our communities; and to improve lives of children and families in crisis.

The Oregon Judicial Department has spent the past year planning and designing Oregon eCourt for the circuit courts. Several projects are underway, such as a redesigned website to provide a consistent look and feel across the web pages of all the courts, and a plan to implement electronic content management (ECM), which allows the public and members of the legal community to access case information and documents. Building from the successful implementation of electronic filing (eFiling) and electronic payment services for the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals launched eFiling in early 2009. Implementation of ECM in several pilot trial courts will begin late 2009.

In late 2008, the Chief Justice revised the Oregon eCourt implementation strategy in response to reduced revenue forecasts for the 2009 - 2011 biennium. The original vision is maintained, but activities are re-focused to maximize their value under the forecasted budget challenges.



When fully implemented, Oregon eCourt will make Oregon the first state in the country to have a statewide electronic courthouse.

# The Condition of Our Court Facilities

Numerous courthouses throughout the state are overcrowded, inaccessible to citizens with disabilities, and are in need of repair. Many have deteriorating electrical wiring that does not support modern technology, inadequate heating and plumbing systems, and are at structural risk in the event of an earthquake.

To study facility conditions and recommend possible solutions, the Oregon Judicial Department assembled a task force in partnership with the Association of Oregon Counties and the Oregon State Bar. In December of 2006, the task force released a *Report on Oregon Court Facilities* that included proposals to the 2007 Legislature to establish facility standards and secure revenues through state-guaranteed bonding for court renovation and construction projects. The task force's 2007 legislation efforts led to passage of House Bill 2331, Section 18, which established an interim Legislative Committee on Court Facilities to:

1. Evaluate the status of the state's court facilities
2. Make recommendations on standards for reasonable and sufficient court facilities
3. Make recommendations on the cost of meeting those standards
4. Develop a proposal ensuring needed improvements are made

In 2008, the Interim Committee on Court Facilities hired a consultant to assess the condition of state court facilities and estimate an overall cost relative to the *Draft Guidelines to Oregon Court Facilities*, previously adopted by the committee. In September 2008, the Oregon Court Facilities Assessment Summary Report was published addressing items one and three from the above list. The report evaluates the status of the state's court facilities including building condition, code issues, systems, and infrastructure, as well as courtroom size and configuration – based on the type of proceedings to be held there. The report also provides the estimated cost for meeting recommended standards.



Oregon Supreme Court Building



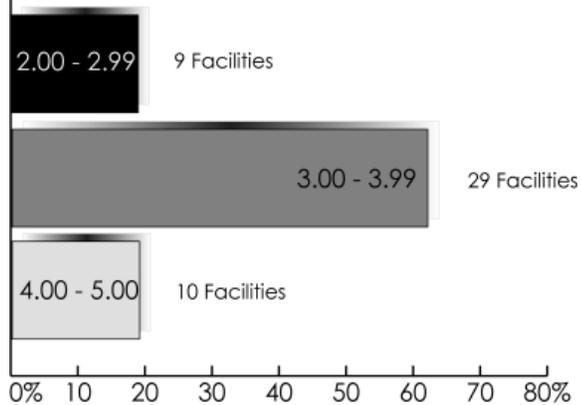
Multnomah County Courthouse

The Interim Committee on Court Facilities is scheduled to meet in January 2009 to determine reasonable and sufficient standards for court facilities, develop a proposal for ensuring that needed improvements will be made, and to adopt the final committee report to provide to the 2009 Legislative Assembly.

**Highlights of the Oregon Court Facilities Assessment Summary Report.** Oregon's circuit court facilities are diverse, ranging in size from 8,900 to 569,000 square feet, and in age from two to 120 years old. The buildings themselves are of various structure types, from renovated hospitals to recently built courthouses. All 48 circuit court facilities were evaluated subject to the committee's adopted guidelines. The courthouses were ranked from best to worst as a result of their individual condition assessments and overall cost estimates.

**Oregon's Courthouse Ratings.** The courthouses were rated on a scale of one to five. A rating of 1, 2, or 3 was designated as "Does Not Meet" and a rating of 4 or 5 was designated as "Meets." The overall ratings for 38 courts fell into the "Does Not Meet" category while the remaining 10 facilities fell into the "Meets" category. See [Graph 1](#) below.

**STATEWIDE RATINGS OF OREGON COURT FACILITIES**



| Ratings Key |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1           | Doesn't Meet: excessive upgrade required;  |
| 2           | Doesn't Meet: significant upgrade required |
| 3           | Doesn't Meet: modest upgrade required      |
| 4           | Nearly Meets: minor upgrade required       |
| 5           | Meets: meets intent                        |

**Graph 1.** Overall statewide ratings of Oregon's court facilities.

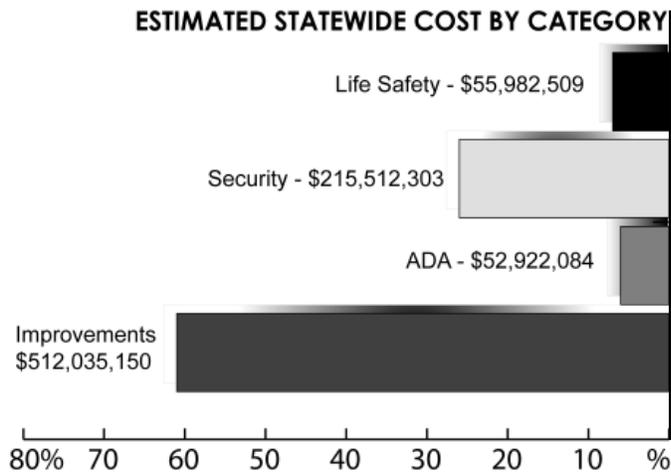
**Projected Cost of Bringing Courthouses into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

In 2008, the estimated total cost to upgrade all of the courthouses to meet adopted guidelines amounts to \$843,452,046. This overall cost is broken down into the following cost categories (see Graph 2 below):

1. **Life Safety:** Life safety in courthouses (building and fire codes) and seismic performance (\$55,982,509 - 7%)
2. **Security:** Physical security of the courthouses and security systems (\$215,512,303 - 26%)
3. **Americans with Disabilities Act:** Accessibility for public entries, court areas, jury areas, and staff locations (\$52,922,084 - 6%)
4. **Improvements:** Functional performance (courtroom size, judicial officer's spaces, jury assembly and deliberation, court administration), overall building condition and infrastructure of courthouses (\$519,035,150 - 61%)

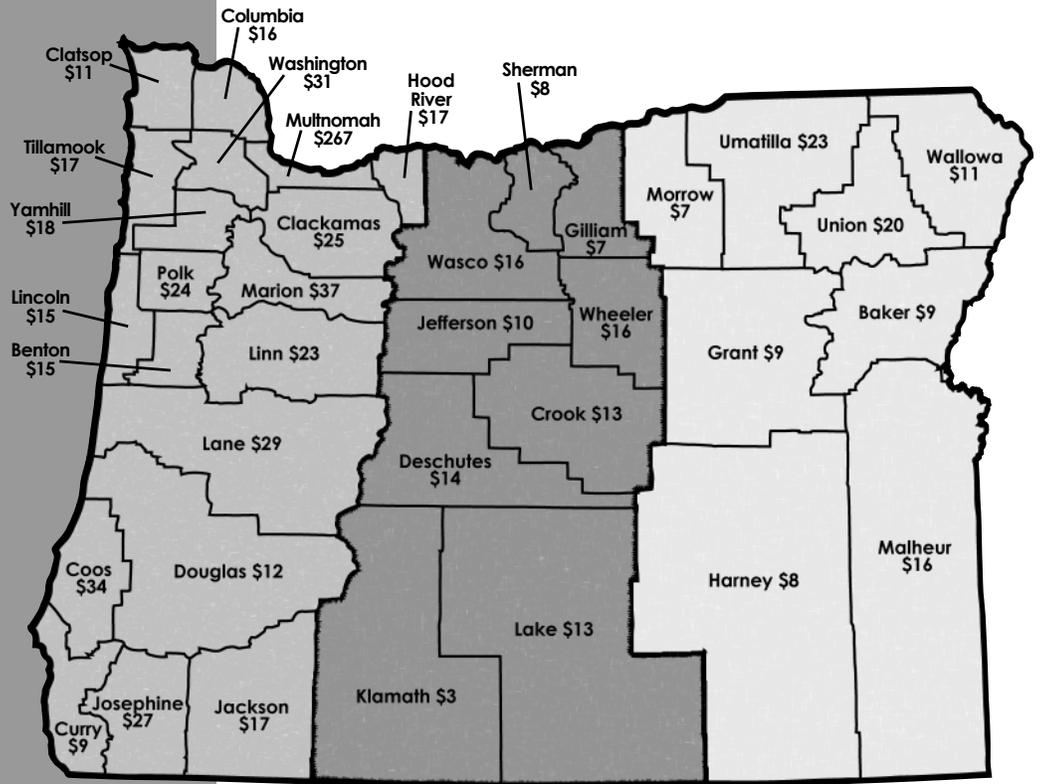


Wasco County Courthouse



**Graph 2.** Overall statewide estimated cost by category to bring Oregon's courthouses into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Projected Cost by County.** Comparing cost by county, the greatest expense is in Multnomah County at \$267,068,927 - this includes the courthouse at \$209,933,611, justice center at \$49,848,844, and juvenile justice center at \$7,286,472. The lowest expense is in Klamath County at \$3,120,642. The average county cost is \$23,429,224 with the median at roughly \$15,718,809. When Multnomah County is removed from the analysis, the average drops almost \$7 million to roughly \$16,468,089. See [Graph 3](#) for a breakdown of the projected



[Graph 3.](#) Projected overall cost by county. These costs are rounded to the nearest million.

Improving court facilities around the state is an essential goal of the Judicial Department's Strategic Plan. In the next five years, the Judicial Department, in association with the legislature, governor, counties, and Oregon State Bar, must develop and implement a long-term, statewide, court facilities funding system that will pay for the upgrade of deteriorating court facilities throughout the state.

# Development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan

In July 2008, Chief Justice DeMuniz assembled a Strategic Plan Leadership Team to develop the Department's first five year strategic plan. In the two months that followed, the Leadership Team developed a proposed plan that identified five major goals derived from the Department's *Justice 2020: A Vision for Oregon's Courts*:

- Protect Public Access to Justice
- Maintain Public Trust and Confidence
- Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution
- Collaborate with Justice System Partners and Other Stakeholders
- Enhance Judicial Administration

The team then compiled a list of action items taken from a broad range of Oregon Judicial Department documents and committee recommendations, that would help accomplish the goals of the strategic plan.

The action items selected addressed the interests and priorities of the entire Judicial Department. They were narrowed down and included in an anonymous survey which was distributed to every employee of the Judicial Department. Eighty-four percent responded, and more than 1,100 of those employees – better than 50 percent – provided feedback which was used to further update and improve the Strategic Plan.

In the best of times, it is helpful to have a plan to guide and prioritize the Oregon Judicial Department's work. Given the severity of current economic conditions under which the OJD must operate today, and into the 2009 - 2011 Biennium, a strategy is crucial. The Strategic Plan provides a roadmap towards meeting the branch's commitment to long held goals. The complete Strategic Plan can be read at <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/docs/AboutUs/OJDStrategicPlan032009.pdf>.



Oregon Supreme Court Entrance Over-Door Window

# Office of the State Court Administrator

The State Court Administrator is appointed by the Chief Justice and is the state court system's chief operating officer. This position, and a number of divisions, assists the Chief Justice in statutory statewide administrative duties such as: delivering infrastructure services to the courts (for example, technology services and security); personnel administration; accounting and revenue; statistics relating to court workloads, caseloads, expenses, and revenues; public information service regarding the courts; education and technical assistance programs for judges and staff; retention schedules and standards for court records, policies, procedures; and many others.

## Public Outreach and Education

In June 2008, the Oregon Judicial Department established the Office of Education, Training, and Outreach as an independent division within the Office of the State Court Administrator. The purpose of the Office of Education, Training, and Outreach is to develop and deliver a broad scope of training and education for all Oregon Judicial Department judges and staff, such as the New Judge Seminar, Judicial Regional Continuing Legal Education, Clerk College, Supervisory C.A.M.P. (Creating Administrative Management Professionals), New Employee Orientation, and other skill improvement programs. Programs offering continuous training at the Oregon Judicial Department are expected to build a knowledgeable work force that is prepared to perform job responsibilities fairly and effectively throughout the state court system.

The practical use of maintaining a division dedicated to judicial and staff education and training, combined with public education and civic outreach, will be further demonstrated through the statewide implementation of Oregon eCourt. Complete implementation of Oregon eCourt will require statewide communication, education, and training so that the courts, divisions, judges, staff, members of the Oregon State Bar, business partners, and the citizens who depend on our courts will have the skills and knowledge necessary to utilize Oregon eCourt's applications and services.



Kingsley W. Click, State Court Administrator

**The Citizen Review Board.** The Citizen Review Board is the Judicial Department's statewide foster care review program. The program is comprised of community boards staffed by qualified volunteers in 35 of 36 counties throughout Oregon. These local boards review the case plans of children in substitute care to ensure that their placements and services are appropriate and timely. Boards issue a findings and recommendations report on case reviews to the Juvenile Court and the Department of Human Services, and also advocate for effective policies, procedures, and laws in the child-welfare and juvenile-justice systems.

A Citizen Review Board practice improvement process started in 2003, took its final step in July 2008 with the statewide implementation of a process called "Review by the Findings." The new process establishes a consistent, standard procedure used in conducting case reviews. It includes a re-ordering of the findings to promote a more sequential review, and to specify early on, what the child's needs are related to safety, well being, and permanence.

**Court Collections.** During the 2008 fiscal year, increased collection efforts in the local courts and successful regional collections programs enabled the Oregon Judicial Department to increase its rate of collection for the eighth consecutive year. A critical factor in this increase was the implementation of an improved tax intercept program. In a joint effort between local courts and the Department of Revenue, facilitated by the Business and Fiscal Services Division of the Office of the State Court Administrator, the Oregon Judicial Department was able to expand the program and take advantage of a large kicker rebate and regular tax offsets. This resulted in an additional collection of \$4,000,000. During fiscal year 2009, the Department will continue using the offset program with a new program feature that refers debtors who have become delinquent to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis.

The Oregon Judicial Department has three regional collection teams located in the circuit courts. Teams take a proactive approach, working with collection partners including community corrections and the district attorney, to hold debtors accountable through restitution collection. In total, regional collection teams service 17 judicial districts in western and



Oregon Supreme Court Building Column Detail



Oregon Supreme Court Gavel

eastern Oregon, and the Clackamas Circuit Court. Restitution courts established in Clackamas and Yamhill courts are serving as a model for other courts that are exploring similar programs.

**Crime Victims Rights in the Circuit Courts.** On May 20, 2008, Oregon voters passed two constitutional amendments that grant crime victims the right to bring enforcement actions (claims) alleging a violation of one or more of the victim's rights granted under Sections 42 and 43, Article I, of the Oregon Constitution. The Chief Justice's Crime Victims Rights Compliance Committee drafted Uniform Trial Court Rule Amendments (UTCRA 4.100 - 4.130) and trial court procedures that instruct victims, courts, and involved parties how to proceed if a claim is made. The committee also developed two printed court guides that outline the court's responsibilities to crime victims and hosted three informational teleconferences to explain the new rules and procedures.

**Dispute Resolution Through Mediation.** The Oregon Judicial Department continues to work with a network of associations and programs across the state, to provide training for volunteer and staff mediators to qualify them as court-connected mediators. In 2008, Court Programs and Services Division staff worked with court staff from Multnomah and Columbia County Circuit Courts to establish a mediator mentorship program. Deschutes and Coos County Circuit Courts developed pilot programs with local community dispute resolution centers, and will work with Central Oregon Mediation to provide a pilot probate mediation program. Coos County Circuit Court will work with Coos-Douglas Mediation to establish a foster parent - foster teen mediation program.

**Job Classification Studies.** In the last year, the Oregon Judicial Department began the largest job classification study in its history. The object of the study was to determine whether job duties need to be updated or revised to provide more operational flexibility in work assignments as the courts complete their move into a technology-based era.

The first part of the study involved the classifications of Court Operations Specialist, Account Clerk, Verification Specialist, and Judicial Assistant, at both the courts and the central administrative offices, amounting to nearly 1,200 positions. After statewide desk audits, focus groups, and employee questionnaires, a decision was made to combine 13 outdated classifications into a new four-level classification series. The new classifications reflect current job duties and technologies, and were implemented on January 1, 2008.

The second part of the study, currently in progress, involves 13 professional, non-management, analyst classifications. This study, scheduled for completion by September 2009, will update approximately 225 positions.

**Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Business Continuity Planning.** In the last year, the Judicial Department hired a Security and Emergency Preparedness Manager and established the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness. The Security and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee developed security standards for the appellate, tax, and circuit courts in Oregon, as well as a five year strategic plan to implement the standards.

During 2008, the department contracted with the National Center for State Courts to perform security assessments of the appellate, tax, circuit, municipal, and justice courts of the state. Enhanced circuit court security, emergency preparedness, and business continuity plan templates were updated and distributed, assisting courts in improving their local plans. To test circuit court security, emergency preparedness, and business continuity plans, three exercises were conducted in 2008, with more planned for the upcoming calendar year. To support emergency communications throughout the Department, satellite telephones were assigned to the appellate, tax, circuit courts, and the Office of State Court Administrator.



Benton County Courthouse



Oregon Supreme Court Building Hallway

**Treatment Courts.** Oregon's treatment courts provide individualized treatment programs that include supervision, support, and community-based treatment services for offenders who have mental health issues or are addicted to drugs or alcohol. In these specialized courts, offenders voluntarily participate in an intense program of treatment, drug testing, and supervision that is closely monitored by a team of representatives from the judiciary, prosecution, defense, probation department, law enforcement, and treatment community. Offenders who are in treatment programs appear regularly before a judge, who may offer recognition for their accomplishments, or order sanctions for noncompliance.

In 2008, two adult drug courts, one juvenile drug court, and one mental health court were added to Oregon's existing roster of 57 treatment courts. About 200 treatment court professionals throughout the state attended a 2008 Treatment Court Symposium, where they received training on key issues that impact treatment courts, including prescription drug abuse, providing treatment to those who live in poverty, and permanent fetal birth defects caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

Also during 2008, the Oregon Judicial Department conducted two process evaluations and one outcome evaluation of treatment courts in Union and Yamhill counties. Information from those studies, in addition to a recidivism study being conducted by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and an evaluation of Oregon's drug courts currently underway by Northwest Professional Consortium Research, will increase the overall effectiveness of treatment courts in Oregon.

# Oregon Judicial Department Statistics for 2008

## Comparison of Circuit Court Filings to Workload

From criminal to probate, case processing requirements vary by case type. Statutory and constitutional requirements dictate the amount of judicial officer and staff resources that are required to process and ultimately complete a case. Chart 1 shows the distribution for the 610,334 cases filed in calendar year 2008. Charts 2 and 3 show the collective percent of judicial officers and staff resources spent processing the various case types during the year. Although criminal cases represent 15.3% (93,433) of all cases filed in calendar year 2008, they represent 33.3% of judicial and 40.3% of court staff time spent during the year. Similarly, juvenile cases represent 2.8% (17,152) of calendar year 2008 cases filed, but required 14.5% of judicial officer and 6.8% of staff resources for the year.

## Comparison of Cases Filed to Cases Closed

While case processing requirements vary by case type, all cases have a distinct cycle that includes initial filing and ultimate completion. Oregon Judicial Department judicial officers and staff work diligently to bring cases to a speedy resolution but cases are not always completed in the same year that they were filed. The graphs on page 22 show the total number of cases filed in each court and the total number of cases that were closed. Depending on the court, case conclusion is called different things. In Oregon Circuit Courts, completed cases are "terminated," in the Oregon Tax Court, cases are "closed." Although all cases filed in the Oregon Court of Appeals and the Oregon Supreme Court are reviewed, only certain cases warrant written opinions.

Chart 1.

OJD FILINGS 2008

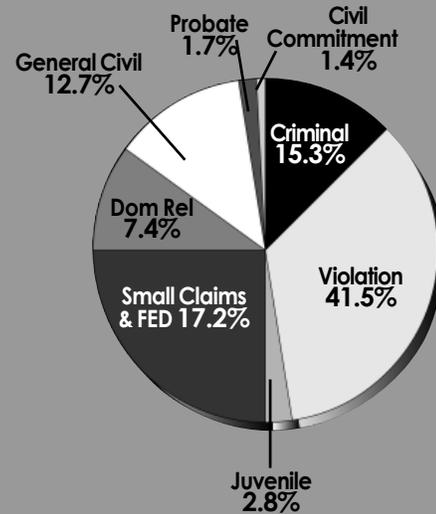


Chart 2.

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD 2008

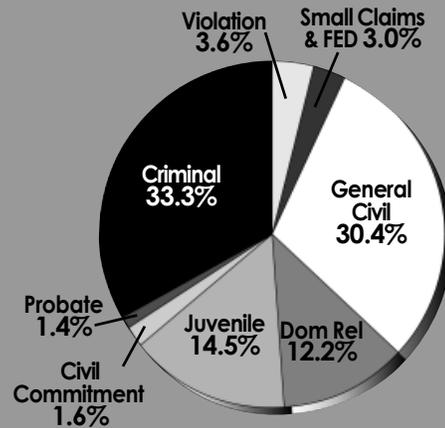
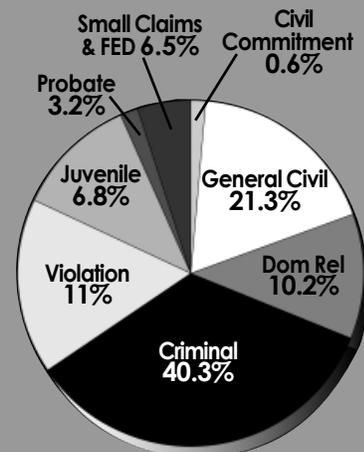
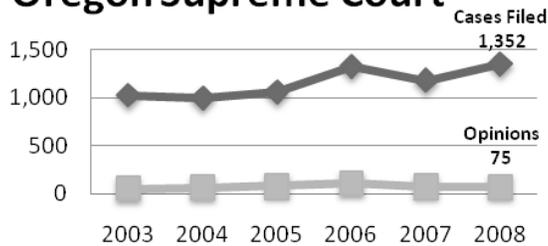


Chart 3.

STAFF WORKLOAD 2008

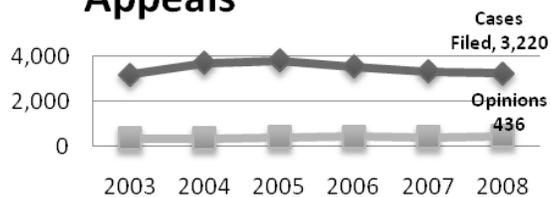


## Oregon Supreme Court



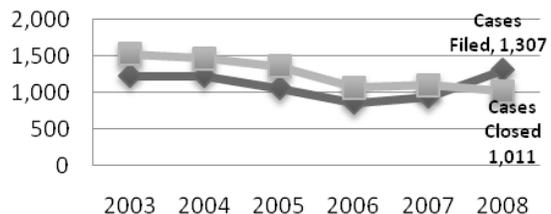
**Oregon Supreme Court.** Cases filed in the Oregon Supreme Court originate from Appellate Court decisions and other case types that require mandatory review. All cases that are filed with the court are reviewed, but only mandatory cases and cases that pose important questions for adjudication are considered for written opinions. Over the last six years, the Oregon Supreme Court has averaged 1,159 filings and 79 opinions per year. During calendar year 2008, there were 1,352 cases filed and 75 opinions issued.

## Oregon Court of Appeals



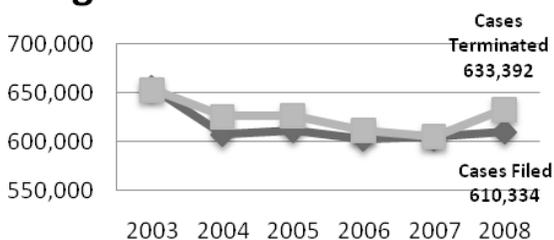
**Oregon Court of Appeals.** Over the past six years, the Oregon Court of Appeals has averaged 3,450 filings per year. Of the 3,450 filings, the Oregon Court of Appeals has averaged 392 opinions per year. In 2008, the Oregon Court of Appeals accepted 3,220 filings and issued 436 opinions. The 10 Oregon Appellate Court judges consider cases in panels of three voting judges and the Chief Judge who sits as a non-voting member.

## Oregon Tax Court



**Oregon Tax Court.** Oregon Tax Court has averaged 1,104 case filings per year and closed an average of 1,251 cases. In 2008, 1,307 cases were filed and 1,011 cases were closed. Cases can be considered by one of the three magistrates in the Magistrate Division by informal hearing, or by the Regular Division's Tax Court Judge through formal court proceedings.

## Oregon Circuit Courts



**Oregon Circuit Courts.** Of the Oregon Judicial Department's four courts, the Oregon Circuit Courts process the most cases. Over the past six years, Oregon Circuit Courts have averaged 615,674 case filings per year. The 173 Oregon Circuit Court judges have terminated an average of 625,992 cases a year. In 2008, 610,334 cases were filed and 633,392 cases were terminated.

# Oregon Circuit Courts - Snapshots

| Oregon Circuit Courts<br>2008 |
|-------------------------------|
| 173 Judges in 27 Districts    |
| 610,334 Cases Filed           |
| 633,392 Cases Terminated      |

The Oregon state court system has one "general" jurisdiction trial court level – the circuit court. "General" jurisdiction means that it can hear all types of cases that state law defines, other than tax issues. These courts hear all types of cases ranging from small claims, to juvenile delinquency/dependency, to property crimes, to felonies and misdemeanors. A few judicial districts include more than one county; however there is a circuit court for each county. Each circuit court has a presiding judge who is the senior administrative authority and a Trial Court Administrator who manages day-to-day operations.

2008 provided Jackson County Circuit Court with an opportunity to pilot a Facilitation User Satisfaction Survey. This anonymous questionnaire was given to individuals who sought assistance from the facilitation program to survey their satisfaction level of services received. As a result of the survey, the court increased its hours of operation for the facilitation program to Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and availability during the noon hour.

As one of the four pilot sites for Oregon eCourt, Jackson County Circuit Court began internal preparation efforts. The court assembled a local court readiness team, reorganized the administrative structure of the court and work units, and created two technology training labs.

The court played a significant role in the application and receipt of a five year grant to improve services and outcomes for dependent children and families. This grant provides resources to assist in: the decrease in the number of children placed in foster care; reduction of time spent in foster care; an increase in reunification rates; a decrease in re-entry rates; and an increase in long term outcomes for dependent children.

## Judicial District: 1

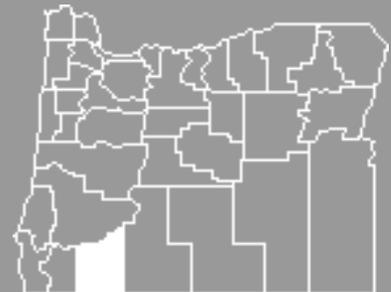
County: Jackson

Presiding Judge: Mark Schiveley

Court Administrator: Jim Adams

Judges: 9

Staff: 81



## Judicial District: 2

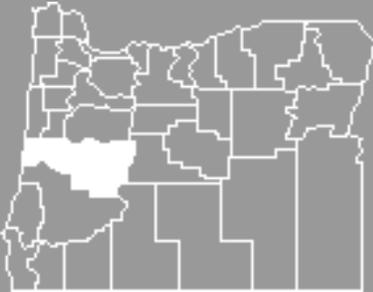
County: Lane

Presiding Judge: Mary Ann Bearden

Court Administrator: Elizabeth Rambo

Judges: 15

Staff: 114



Lane County Circuit Court continues to expand its Commercial Court, which was created in 2006 to expedite resolution of complex civil litigation cases. As of October 2008, 26 cases have closed with an average time to disposition of six months. Resolution of cases in an average of six months after assignment is a notable achievement, given the complexity of the issues involved. The court hopes to reach out to judges and parties in other counties and expand this successful model by providing access to this specialized resource.

The court is collaborating with its public safety partners on two projects to improve criminal caseload management. The first project is the Defendant Offender Management Center, which performs risk assessments on every individual brought into the local jail to determine suitability for pre-trial release or housing. The Center has become increasingly important since loss of Federal Timber Revenue has dramatically reduced the number of available jail beds.

The second project is the court's early dispute resolution process for criminal cases. This intensive pre-trial and negotiation process occurs at a hearing held 35 days after arraignment. At the hearing, pleas are taken on settled pre-trial cases. Cases that are not settled are assigned to a judge for a settlement conference conducted later that day. Cases not settled at the settlement are set for trials to occur within 45-60 days.

## Judicial District: 3

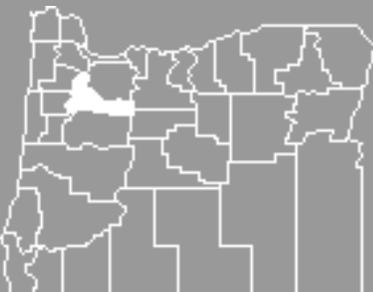
County: Marion

Presiding Judge: James L. Rhoades

Court Administrator: James Murchison

Judges: 14

Staff: 104



To facilitate mediation efforts and move cases toward a more prompt resolution, Marion County Circuit Court has implemented a new orientation program for parties involved in child custody cases. In cases involving unrepresented litigants a track of processing and hearings has been initiated to encourage settlement efforts.

The Marion County Courthouse is still under renovation after a November 2005 security incident. Some court services will continue to be displaced for another year or more due to numerous structural issues. The court is also pursuing courtroom technological installations and upgrades which will enhance audio/video recordings, provide an upgraded system for

evidence presentation technology, and other capabilities as the court moves forward toward a more stable electronic environment.

During 2008, the Multnomah County Circuit Court broke the one million mark on eFiling of parking citations. In addition, the court electronically filed over 150,000 traffic violations since the program began in 2006. In traffic cases the court maintains only an electronic case file; there is no longer a paper case file for these offenses.

The court received a grant to establish a pilot mental health court. The program is designed for a capacity of 75 chronic, low level offenders diagnosed with a mental illness. Offenders who successfully complete the program avoid jail sanctions and, in some cases, conviction. The mental health court is staffed with a judge, a qualified mental health professional, and two qualified mental health associates.

In 2008, Multnomah County's Task Force on Civil Jury Trial Practices published *Recommended Practices for Civil Jury Trials in Multnomah County Circuit Court*. This document was created through the efforts of several circuit judges and local attorneys. Available on the court's website, the document is intended to assist attorneys and self-represented parties appearing in civil jury trials.

The court continues to look for new and innovative ways to conduct business and has now scanned over 1.12 million pages of juvenile files into a document imaging system. The system offers electronic search and retrieval tools that enable juvenile and family court judges to access reports, or parts of reports that are critical for upcoming hearings. This process decreases the transport of large files, provides a more efficient way for a judge to search for critical information within a file, and forecasts the benefits of a fully functional electronic court system.

## Judicial District: 4

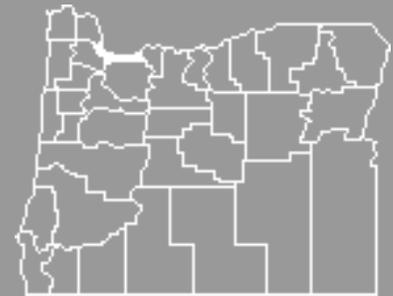
County: Multnomah

Presiding Judge: Jean Kerr Maurer

Court Administrator: Douglas Bray

Judges: 38

Staff: 335



## Judicial District: 5

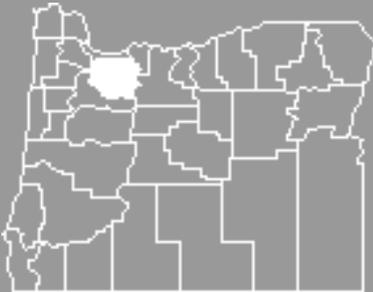
County: Clackamas

Presiding Judge: Steven L. Maurer

Court Administrator: Mari L. Miller

Judges: 11

Staff: 99



In 2008, Clackamas County Circuit Court began to use SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) technology for the DUII Court program. Participants of the DUII Court program are required to wear an ankle bracelet that continuously tests for alcohol use and monitors their location. Previously, sheriff deputies made random surprise visits with breathalyzers to program participant's homes but this did not provide 24/7 coverage. This change to the program has been highly successful.

The court has fully implemented a computerized case file tracking system. This system uses hand-held devices to scan a bar code on a case file jacket and find its location within the courthouse. This saves staff time and resources and has resulted in fewer lost files.

In April 2008, the court added three new collection staff to their restitution court team. These individuals were added to the team to increase collections by integrating sensitive identification and person tracking tools which are normally only available to vendors, into the program. Since the establishment of the restitution court, court collections have increased by 80%.

## Judicial District: 6

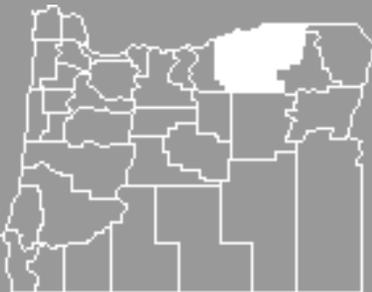
County: Umatilla & Morrow

Presiding Judge: Gary L. Reynolds

Court Administrator: Roy N. Blaine

Judges: 5

Staff: 39



In 2008, the Sixth Judicial District became part of the Eastern Oregon Revenue Recovery Unit, which provides enhanced collection of defaulted court fees, fines, and restitution obligations. In addition, Umatilla County Circuit Court has partnered with community corrections to start a restitution court docket to help improve the rate of recovery on court-ordered restitution.

The Umatilla County Circuit Court provided training and support to Jefferson County Circuit Court, on the use of video technology to process petitions for post-conviction relief and habeas corpus cases. Umatilla County agencies continue to benefit from the reductions in inmate transportation costs through the use of this technology.

Umatilla County Circuit Court has extended its use of technology by scanning all documents related to Pendleton

criminal cases into a digital format that can be viewed by judges from their computers. The system permits more efficient use of judicial resources by assigning short hearings to a judge at the court's Hermiston location, while the defendant and the hard copy file remain in Pendleton. The court, county, and general public have seen a savings in staff time, defendant travel, and other accrued benefits.

The Seventh Judicial District, which is comprised of five counties, continues its work to improve their family law facilitation program. The court strives to make certified interpreters more readily available to all non-English speaking litigants and to increase the pool of qualified domestic relations interpreters.

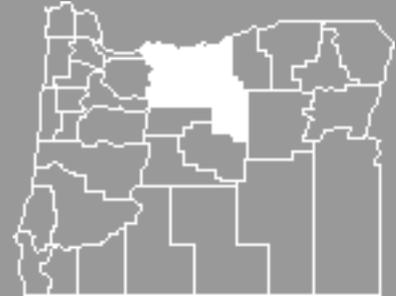
The district has improved its simultaneous television transmission system (video court) which benefits the courts and all communities. Through the use of the system, inmate transportation costs have been reduced and court security has improved.

A Dependency Drug Court has been added to the Wasco County Circuit Court. The Dependency Drug Court supplements the work that is being done by the existing adult drug courts in Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Baker County Circuit Court, with the support and efforts of the presiding judge and a team of counselors, attorneys, and probation officers, has added a juvenile drug court program to its existing adult drug court program. Baker County has had an adult drug court program since 2004, prompting the development of a similar program for juveniles. Through New Directions Northwest, who contributed a \$5,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, the court began its first juvenile drug court sessions in October 2008. The drug court team members have combined the name of these programs into *Journeys – Baker County Family Recovery Court*. The word *Journeys* is an acronym that provides the participants with details of the program's expectations. A new Treatment Court Specialist was hired to work exclusively on the county's two drug court programs.

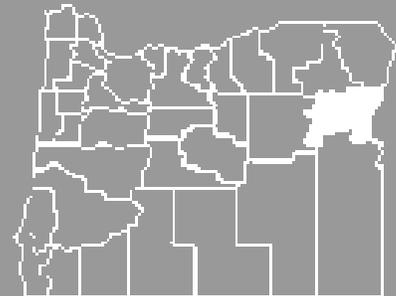
## Judicial District: 7

County: Gilliam, Hood River,  
Sherman, Wasco, & Wheeler  
Presiding Judge: Donald W. Hull  
Court Administrator: Jenifer Lechuga  
Judges: 4  
Staff: 28



## Judicial District: 8

County: Baker  
Presiding Judge: Gregory L. Baxter  
Court Administrator: Elaine Sherwood  
Judges: 1  
Staff: 7.5



## Judicial District: 9

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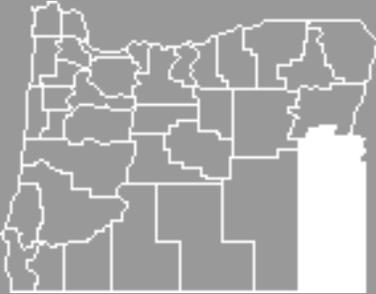
County: Malheur

Presiding Judge: J. Burdette Pratt

Court Administrator: Pamela J. Barton

Judges: 2

Staff: 15



Malheur County Circuit Court has established a juvenile drug court that is managed by the local Juvenile Department. The program can serve up to four juveniles and operates without any additional funding. As of September 2008, one participant has graduated, and two others are in various phases of the program.

A new Mental Health Court is available for non-violent circuit court defendants who suffer from chronic mental illness. As a probation requirement, up to 10 individuals participate in the program following a referral from the District Attorney's Office or a probation officer.

In 2008, Malheur County Circuit Court participated in two regional projects affecting eight Eastern Oregon counties: the Eastern Oregon Revenue Recovery Unit, which has improved collection amounts of defaulted court fees, fines, and restitution obligations; and the Eastern Oregon Technical Support Project, which provides daily technical support to all eight counties.

## Judicial District: 10

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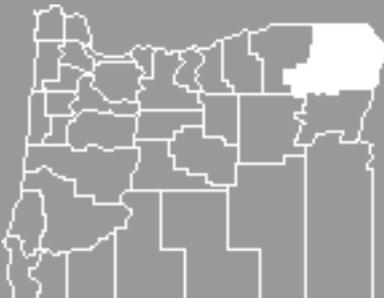
County: Union & Wallowa

Presiding Judge: Russell B. West

Court Administrator: Michelle Leonard

Judges: 2

Staff: 20



The 10th Judicial District has two adult and two juvenile drug courts that provide treatment opportunities for offenders addicted to drugs and who are motivated to change their lives. Graduate success rates are measured at 84%, with no new misdemeanors or felony charges within one year of graduation. The district hopes to expand its adult drug court programs to include an alcohol treatment program for persons convicted of their second or third charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUII).

On August 13, 2008, Chief Justice Paul De Muniz met with the Union County Board of Commissioners regarding the inadequacy of the county's court facilities. Low ceilings and wide pillars make the courtrooms unsuitable, and the building lacks user-friendly access to its various offices. The board has appointed a local commission on court facilities to investigate options for funding a new courthouse.

## Judicial District: 11

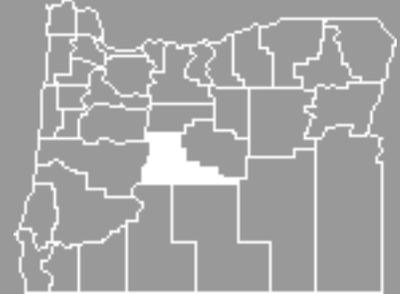
County: Deschutes

Presiding Judge: Michael C. Sullivan

Court Administrator: Ernest Mazorol

Judges: 7

Staff: 56



Deschutes County Circuit Court has started to prepare judges and staff for the eventual change from a paper-based system to an electronic content management (ECM) system. Conversion to ECM will require that all court documents be scanned into digital format; updates and revisions are made to the court website; a room be prepared for the public to access electronic case files from a computer kiosk. These are just some of the steps which are continually being modified in preparation for the statewide electronic court system, Oregon eCourt.

The court continues its involvement with the local community by participating in discussions with the county on: the addition of a courtroom/staff work area at the newly remodeled jail; addressing the improvement of court security and business continuity operations; and continuing to work closely with the county and state in the effort to identify current space allocation and needs of court facilities.

In 2008, the court implemented an electronic jury callout system that has been integrated into the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system. The auto-dialer enables the phone system to automatically dial out to the juror's home phone to let them know if they should report for jury duty the following day.

## Judicial District: 12

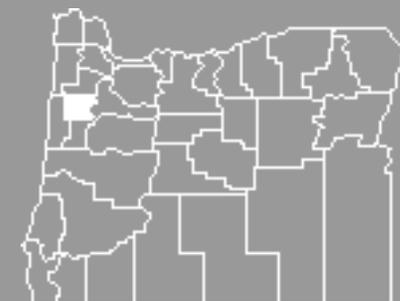
County: Polk

Presiding Judge: William Horner

Court Administrator: Gene Berg

Judges: 3

Staff: 24



The Polk County Circuit Court, various community partners, and other government agencies have continued their collaboration and successfully maintained the Drug Court Treatment Program. Requirements of the 12–18 month treatment program include participant completion of three treatment phases involving frequent court appearances, random drug testing, as well as group and individual counseling. Through the assistance of two Criminal Justice Commission grants received between 2007 and 2008, the program was able to increase its capacity to accommodate 25 participants at a time. To date, 14 individuals have graduated from the program.

Polk County Circuit Court's Family Facilitation Program offers self-help assistance to families and individuals involved in

domestic relations cases. In June of 2008, the program expanded, adding a dedicated part-time facilitator to assist those needing help with legal issues such as divorce, custody, mediation, restraining orders, modifications, and other crises.

## Judicial District: 13

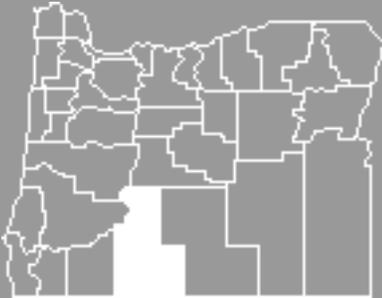
County: Klamath

Presiding Judge: Cameron F. Wogan

Court Administrator: Val Paulson

Judges: 5

Staff: 38



During 2008, Klamath County Circuit Court focused on strengthening and expanding its existing specialty programs, including an adult drug court that serves offenders addicted to drugs; a Youth Success Project that provides treatment to youth with substance abuse issues; a family court that offers treatment to families with multiple matters before the court; a School Expulsion Diversion Program that presents an alternative for students facing expulsion for bringing weapons or drugs into schools; a Tribal Delinquency Cooperative Project that coordinates culturally tailored services for tribal youth; and a Truancy Prevention Project, designed to encourage students to attend school regularly.

Klamath County Circuit Court's family facilitation program offers self-help assistance to families and individuals involved in domestic relations cases. Because the demand for these services is high, and facilitation staff is limited, the court developed a series of group workshops to reduce the wait time for individuals seeking assistance with divorce and in-custody without marriage paperwork.

The court has found that mediation seems to be particularly effective in helping small claims litigants resolve their differences. Since there is no formal mediation organization in the community, the court sent a number of its own staff to mediation training who are now available two days a week to assist the parties before they are scheduled for trial.

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## Judicial District: 14

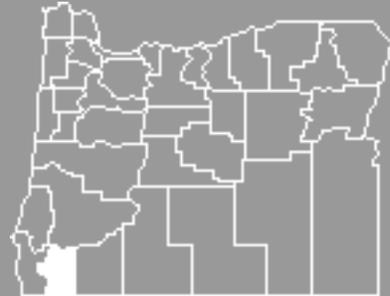
**County:** Josephine

**Presiding Judge:** Lindi L. Baker

**Court Administrator:** Kirk Brust

**Judges:** 4

**Staff:** 39



Josephine County Circuit Court continues to play a significant role in its community through various outreach efforts. During 2008, through a partnership with the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, drug court graduations were broadcast live on local public access television, to allow the community to share in the program's achievements. To date, 233 individuals have graduated from the program and 19 babies have been born drug-free to mothers who participated in the program.

Picture Justice, a successful outreach program, was instituted in 2008 by the court. Two fourth grade classes from a local elementary school were invited to participate in a tour of the courthouse, followed by a presentation made by the presiding judge. The students were given a lesson in courtroom etiquette, the branches of government, the symbolism of Lady Justice, and participated in a brief mock trial.

The court's administrative team participated in a goal setting exercise that resulted in the development of 11 targeted court improvements, which include court security, staff development, jury improvements, and community outreach. The administrative team will work in partnership with staff to strategize how the court can achieve these goals and continue to provide a positive court experience for the community.

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## Judicial District: 15

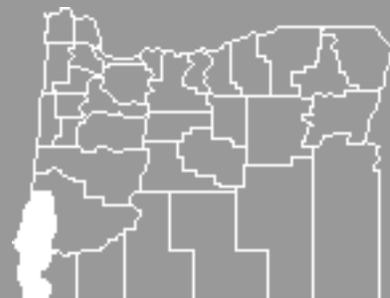
**County:** Coos & Curry

**Presiding Judge:** Richard L. Barron

**Court Administrator:** Ed Jones

**Judges:** 6

**Staff:** 43



Coos County Circuit Court and its community partners initiated the Zero-to-Three Treatment Court. The program is a collaborative pilot project that applies research to court practices to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, and families involved in the child welfare system. It uses existing community resources to provide a variety of wrap-around services for the entire family. The program provides consistency for participants with one judge, one caseworker, and the dedicated people who provide resource services, which has proven very effective for the five pilot families in the program. This early success for the five pilot families has resulted in an agreement to expand the program for up to 10 families at a time.

## Judicial District: 16

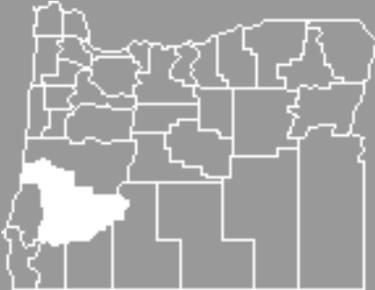
County: Douglas

Presiding Judge: Randolph L. Garrison

Court Administrator: Jessie M. Larner

Judges: 5

Staff: 44



Douglas County Circuit Court continues to be a positive force within the community, not only through implementation of court programs, but also by continuing to refine those programs to meet community needs. The court's Domestic Violence Court Program provides education, support, and an accountability system to perpetrators of domestic violence, giving them the skills to make positive changes and good choices for themselves and their loved ones. The program has had 26 successful graduates.

The court has been able to maintain its Adult Guardianship/Conservatorship Mediation Program and on-staff mediation coordinator. This program provides mediation in adult guardianship and conservatorship cases at no charge to the parties. Approximately 55% of cases that are mediated result in a mutual agreement, which provides the parties an alternative to the expense and emotional stress of going to trial. This is a huge savings of time and expense to the court and the parties report high satisfaction with this process.

## Judicial District: 17

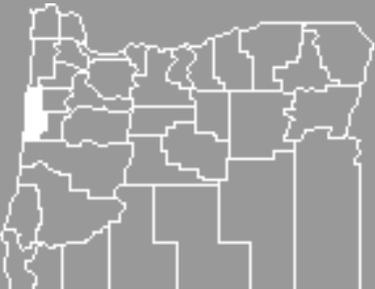
County: Lincoln

Presiding Judge: Charles P. Littlehales

Court Administrator: Nancy Lamvik

Judges: 3

Staff: 27



The Lincoln County Circuit Court replaced its one-month term of jury service with a one-day or one-trial jury term of service. The benefit of shortening the term of service for jurors is that it helps alleviate some of the cost and inconvenience associated with longer terms of service. A further benefit of shortening the term of service is that more citizens are able to serve.

The court, along with four other courts, began a pilot collections program. The emphasis of the program is to recover outstanding debt on court-ordered restitution cases. In-house and field investigations will be conducted to locate offenders and enforce payment agreements on court-ordered money awards.

The court has initiated a local driver license reinstatement program that increased collection rates on court-ordered judgments, and continues its work with community partners to establish a drug court.

## Judicial District: 18

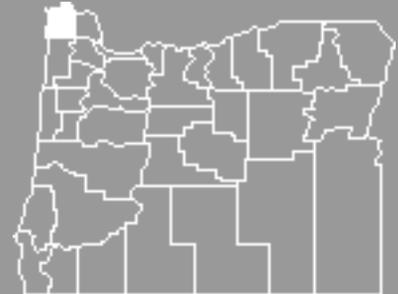
County: Clatsop

Presiding Judge: Phillip L. Nelson

Court Administrator: Bryant J. Baehr

Judges: 3

Staff: 25



Clatsop County Circuit Court, in conjunction with Clatsop County, completed a \$4 million dollar renovation of the historic Clatsop County Courthouse. Upgrades to the courthouse included a new courtroom and jury room, remodeled staff work areas, a new Family Resource Center, and the addition of conference rooms. Court security funds were used to update the duress alarm system for the courthouse, and video cameras were installed to improve court security.

Family and juvenile drug courts were created to provide increased services to families and juveniles. A mental health court is in the planning stages.

## Judicial District: 19

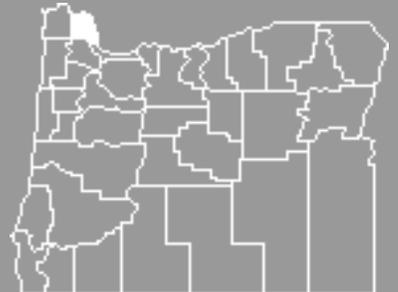
County: Columbia

Presiding Judge: Steven B. Reed

Court Administrator: Susan Hill

Judges: 3

Staff: 20



Columbia County Circuit Court started its adult treatment court in August 2007. Funded through community collaboration, the program has the capacity to serve five participants at a time. The program has served seven participants and is expected to have its first graduate in 2009. The court is in the planning stages of starting a dependency treatment court, scheduled to start in the spring of 2009.

As a result of local news coverage, the court recruited six new volunteers for its Small Claims Mediation Program. After receiving training, the volunteers conducted their first mediations in September 2008. The court hopes to expand its mediation services to assist with eviction cases.

The court, with the assistance of the Local Family Law Advisory Committee, is drafting a new, locally-based, age-specific parenting plan. It is also seeking funding for a supervised parenting time program and custody studies for indigent clients.

## Judicial District: 20

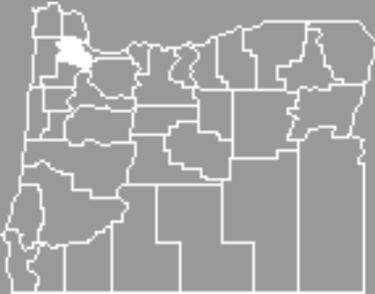
County: Washington

Presiding Judge: Thomas W . Kohl

Court Administrator: Richard Moellmer

Judges: 14

Staff: 109



Washington County Circuit Court continues its Early Case Resolution Program that began in 2007. The program serves cases involving certain misdemeanors and lesser felonies, and has significantly improved the percentage of cases resolved at or within two weeks after arraignment. The program has provided cost savings for the court, the District Attorney's Office, public defense service providers, and has reduced overcrowding in the jail.

The court was the originator of a successful web-based juror excusal and deferral system which is now being used in other Oregon circuit courts. The court has also participated in the statewide effort to provide a Family Law Facilitation Program for members of the community who are self-represented litigants in family law cases.

Since its inception, the Washington County Adult Drug Treatment Court has served 130 participants and has graduated 42 - 13 of those in 2008. The program reached a capacity goal of 55 active participants and established an alumni group. The monthly alumni group meetings assist graduates in their recovery and provide an opportunity for the group to participate in public outreach and fundraising.

## Judicial District: 21

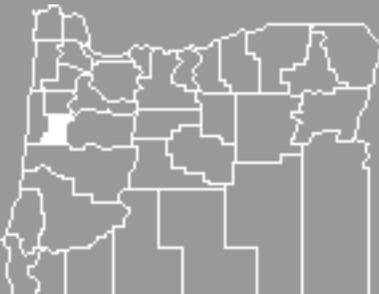
County: Benton

Presiding Judge: Locke A. Williams

Court Administrator: Linda Hukari

Judges: 3

Staff: 26



In 2008, Benton County Circuit Court upgraded the technology in one of its courtrooms with a video-arraignment and video-conferencing system. The system has improved courtroom security and reduced cost with a decrease in the number of courtroom in-custody defendant transports by the Sheriff's Office. The new technology also allows attorneys to make PowerPoint and video presentations from their laptops.

The court, along with four other courts, began a pilot collections program. The emphasis of the program is to recover outstanding debt on court-ordered restitution cases. In-house and field investigations will be conducted to locate offenders and enforce payment agreements on court-ordered money awards.

Benton County treatment courts received two new grants, administered by the county health department, which expand the availability of treatment services for participants. The grant from Zonta International provides resources for female participants to complete their GEDs. Expanded housing, residential treatment, drug testing, and mental health services are resources available to all participants through Good Samaritan Foundation funds.

Crook and Jefferson County Courts are two of five Oregon eCourt pilot sites. Local implementation teams have been actively planning for the rollout. The court continues to raise awareness on the benefits of Oregon eCourt through communication efforts targeted to those who routinely access the courts.

In 2008, both Crook and Jefferson courts implemented a program to verify a defendant's financial eligibility for court-appointed counsel, and to determine any ability to contribute towards representation costs.

The county, through proactive planning, set aside funds to conduct a needs assessment study for all county buildings including a new courthouse. Preparing for collaboration with the county on the study, the Presiding Judge and Trial Court Administrator attended a courthouse construction and design seminar presented by the National Center for State Courts. Information from the seminar supplied them with the knowledge necessary to assess and then communicate to the county, the building design needs specific to the operations of the court.

## Judicial District: 22

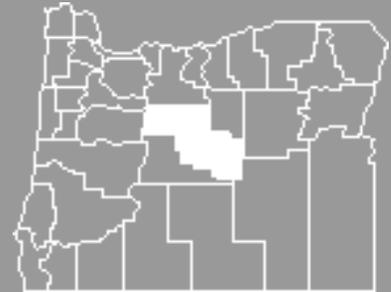
County: Crook & Jefferson

Presiding Judge: George W. Neilson

Court Administrator: Amy Bonkosky

Judges: 3

Staff: 24



## Judicial District: 23

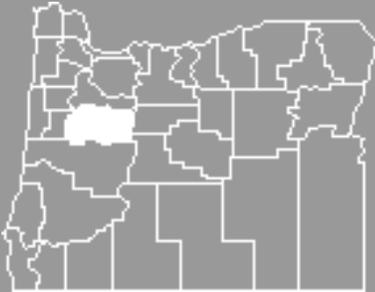
County: Linn

Presiding Judge: Rick J. McCormick

Court Administrator: Donald Smith

Judges: 5

Staff: 37



Linn County Circuit Court implemented a Family Treatment Court in 2008. The aim of the program is to promote the reunification of families through successful substance abuse treatment. There are currently eight parents who participate in the program. The court also started a Domestic Violence Program designed to speed up the resolution of all domestic violence cases to within 45 days from arrest and to improve victim safety. The grant that funded the program received an extension through September 2009.

The court, along with four other courts, began a pilot collections program. The emphasis of the program is to recover outstanding debt on court-ordered restitution cases. In-house and field investigations will be conducted to locate offenders and enforce payment agreements on court-ordered money awards.

Security improvements were made to the courthouse through a recommendation from the local Court Security Advisory Committee. Cameras were installed in the courtrooms, all the hallways, at each of the four entrances of the courthouse, and are monitored by the Linn County Sheriff's Office.

## Judicial District: 24

County: Grant & Harney

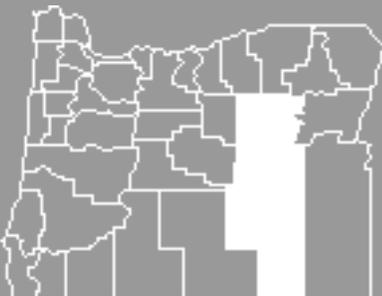
Presiding Judge: William D. Cramer Jr.

Court Administrator: Carol Page (Grant)

Tammy L. Wheeler (Harney)

Judges: 1

Staff: 10



In preparation for Oregon eCourt, Harney County Circuit Court hosted public outreach forums to educate the local legal community and court customers on the benefits and advantages of a statewide electronic courthouse. The court also participated in a statewide effort to identify new workflows and business processes associated with doing business electronically. Both Harney and Grant County Circuit Courts continued their efforts to scan court documents into digital formats which will eventually provide the public online access to court records.

Eastern Oregon circuit courts have embarked on two new regional efforts. The first is an Eastern Oregon regional technical support group that provides daily technical support to the small Eastern Oregon courts. The second is an Eastern Oregon regional collections unit that benefits Eastern Oregon courts with a concentrated focus on collection efforts.

Grant County Circuit Court officially began their first drug court in July 2008. It was established through the year long effort of a local drug court team. Harney County Circuit Court was also able to start a drug court and continued further efforts to assist self-represented litigants through facilitator services, as well as provide better access to legal information and court forms.

Beginning in 2007, Yamhill County Circuit Court hosted a series of meetings to develop a program which would increase the collection of court-ordered restitution for victims. From those meetings, the court and its public safety partners conceived a program where offenders that are identified as needing incentives to pay their debts, make monthly appearances in court allowing judicial monitoring of such cases. As a partner of the project, Yamhill County District Attorney Bradley Berry encouraged up-front payment of restitution to be included in plea negotiations.

In 2008, that effort alone has netted tens of thousands of dollars for victims. The program collected \$238,154 during its first full year of operations. That is an increase of \$103,836 or 77% over the previous four year average. That amount does not include collection of other fines and fees, or the amount collected by the district attorney during plea negotiations.

During 2008, Lake County Circuit Court focused on the training and development of its staff. Of the five court employees, three were new hires and new to circuit court work in general. As a result, experienced staff carried a large part of the workload during the period of training for the new employees.

The court began the process of changing its digital recording system from CourtSmart™ to ForTheRecord® (FTR). The move to FTR will be made in conjunction with Klamath County Circuit Court, which will be adopting the same system.

## Judicial District: 25

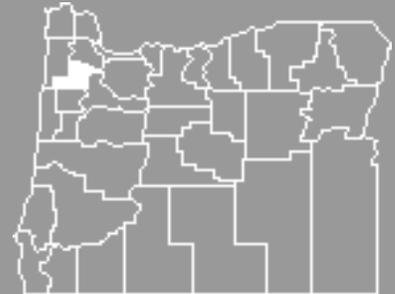
County: Yamhill

Presiding Judge: John L. Collins

Court Administrator: Phil McCollister

Judges: 4

Staff: 36



## Judicial District: 26

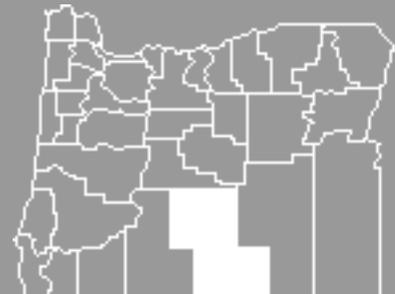
County: Lake

Presiding Judge: Lane W. Simpson

Court Administrator: Val Paulson

Judges: 1

Staff: 5



In May 2008, Chief Justice De Muniz was welcomed by the judge, staff, and community, when he provided judicial coverage to Lake County Circuit Court.

## Judicial District: 27

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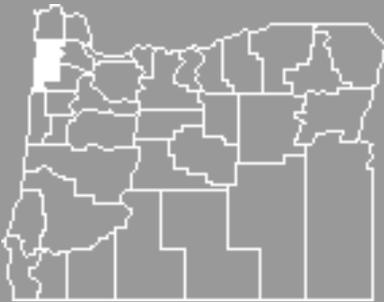
County: Tillamook

Presiding Judge: Richard Roll

Court Administrator: Bev Lutz

Judges: 2

Staff: 12



Tillamook County Circuit Court had the opportunity to test its emergency preparedness and business continuity plans after hurricane force winds knocked out electrical power and phone service to the entire county. The court was closed on the day of the storm, but was able to reopen the following day. Through the experience of responding to this particular emergency, the court identified the need to develop additional protocols for the occurrence of similar events, and designed the “court in a box” toolkit that allows a courtroom to be set up in alternative locations.

In 2008, the court continued its work with the county on improvements to courthouse accessibility. Those improvements include: remodeled witness box and jury box to provide ease of access to persons with limited mobility; upgrades to the audio system in the large courtroom to permit the participation of people with impaired hearing; using video conferencing equipment to allow participants to appear in court by video; and a new ramp to provide entry access to the building.





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Oregon Judicial Department  
1163 State Street, Salem, OR 97301-2563  
503-986-5911

<http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/>

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