



2017 ANNUAL REPORT
presented at the
State of the Court Luncheon
October 4, 2017

Chief Judge Denise Page Hood

STATE OF THE COURT MESSAGE

October 4, 2017

“The United States Courts are an independent, national judiciary providing fair and impartial justice within the jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and Congress. As an equal branch of government, the federal judiciary preserves and enhances its core value as the courts meet changing national and local needs.” The core values are: the rule of law; equal justice; judicial independence; accountability; excellence and service. Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary, September 2015, Judicial Conference of the United States.

I. Judicial Officers

As of today’s date, the Eastern District of Michigan has 14 active district judges and eight senior judges with caseloads. The active district judges are Chief Judge Denise Page Hood, Judges Paul D. Borman, Victoria A. Roberts, David M. Lawson, Thomas L. Ludington, Sean F. Cox, Stephen J. Murphy, III, Mark A. Goldsmith, Gershwin A. Drain, Terrence G. Berg, Judith E. Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, Matthew F. Leitman and Linda V. Parker. The senior judges are Judge Avern Cohn, Bernard A. Friedman, Robert H. Cleland, Nancy G. Edmunds, John Corbett O’Meara, Arthur J. Tarnow, George Caram Steeh and Marianne O. Battani. There is one vacancy that was created when Judge Gerald E. Rosen took senior status on October 26, 2016.

Judge Rosen formally retired from the Court on February 1, 2017. He was appointed as a district judge by President George H.W. Bush on March 12, 1990. He was Chief Judge for seven years from January 1, 2009 until December 31, 2015, and also served as Acting Chief Judge for a period of time prior to that.

Judge Charles W. Joiner died on March 10, 2017. He was appointed by President Richard Nixon on June 9, 1972 and took senior status on August 15, 1984. He served as a district judge at the Court’s Ann Arbor location for much of his career.

Judge Julian Abele Cook, Jr. died on May 16, 2017. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter on September 23, 1978 and took senior status on December 30, 1996. He also served as Chief Judge for seven years beginning on December 31, 1989.

Eight senior judges continue to contribute substantially to the work of the Court. Judges Avern Cohn, Bernard A. Friedman, Robert H. Cleland, Nancy G. Edmunds, John Corbett O’Meara, Arthur J. Tarnow, George Caram Steeh and Marianne O. Battani receive cases at substantially the same rate as district judges in active service.

As of this writing there are seven magistrate judges serving in the Eastern District of Michigan – Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen, Mona K. Majzoub, David R. Grand, Patricia T. Morris, Elizabeth A. Stafford, Anthony P. Patti and Stephanie Dawkins Davis. Magistrate Judge Whalen continues to serve as Executive Magistrate Judge for the Court.

Bankruptcy Judge Phillip J. Shefferly continues to serve as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court. Chief Judge Shefferly was first appointed as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court in April 2009, and is now in the first year of his current term, which will end on April 24, 2020. There are currently six bankruptcy judges serving in the Eastern District of Michigan – Chief Judge Phillip J. Shefferly, Judges Marci B. McIvor, Thomas J. Tucker, Daniel S. Opperman, Mark A. Randon and Maria Oxholm.

II. Clerk’s Office Statistical Information

A. Civil and Criminal Case Information – Calendar Years 2015 and 2016

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Circuit %</u>	<u>National %</u>
Civil Cases Filed	4,659	4,574	-1.8	1.7	5.4
Civil Cases Terminated	4,948	4,434	-10.4	3.7	2.1
Criminal Cases Filed	662	643	-2.9	-1.8	-3.3
Criminal Cases Terminated	605	635	5.0	-3.5	-3.9
Criminal Defendants Filed	955	916	-4.1	-9.9	-4.0
Criminal Defendants Terminated	962	939	-2.4	-5.3	-4.1

The 4,574 civil filings for 2016 rank the district 1st in the Sixth Circuit and 18th nationally, and the 4,434 civil terminations rank the district 2nd in the Sixth Circuit and 19th nationally¹. On the criminal side, our 643 filings and 635 terminations rank the district 1st in the Sixth Circuit, and 17th nationally in cases filed and 18th nationally in cases terminated.

B. Civil Cases – Median Time Intervals from Filing to Disposition of Civil Cases Terminated During the 12-Month Period Ending June 30, 2017

	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Median Time Interval In Months</u>
Cases Disposed of With No Court Action	526	3.0
Cases Disposed of Before Pretrial	1,199	6.6
Cases Disposed of During or After Pretrial	1,431	13.2
Cases Disposed of By Trial	41	22.3

¹ There are 94 districts in the United States.

The total number of 3,197 civil cases disposed of during this time period, with an overall median time interval of 9.3 months, ranks the district 5th in the Sixth Circuit and 49th nationally.

C. Criminal Defendants – Median Time Intervals from Filing to Disposition of Criminal Defendants During the 12-Month Period Ending June 30, 2017

	<u>Total</u> <u>Defendants</u>	<u>Median Time</u> <u>Interval In Months</u>
Defendants Dismissed	68	21.0
Plea of Guilty	867	10.3
Defendants Disposed of By Trial	29	19.7

The total number of 955 criminal defendants disposed of during this time period, with an overall median time interval of 10.8 months, ranks the district 7th in the Sixth Circuit and 62nd nationally. The national median time interval is 7.2.

The Clerk's Office continues to expand its online functions. This past year, attorneys gained the ability to look up their admission status and admission date on the Court's website. This has already benefitted many members of the Court's bar across the country.

At the beginning of 2017, the magistrate judges and the staff assigned to Duty Court began receiving and reviewing search warrants electronically. This transition has significantly increased efficiency.

The Clerk's Office is in the process of hiring a pro se case administrator to assist pro se filers through the litigation process. This new position is sure to provide measurable long term benefits to both the litigants and the Court.

More than 19,000 attorneys have registered for e-filing and on average, more than 1,850 attorneys e-file each month.

A web-based program to submit, monitor and manage CJA vouchers was launched just over a year ago. The CJA eVoucher system has been well-received by judges, attorneys and court staff. It has dramatically streamlined the voucher process for CJA appointed attorneys and their experts. The majority of vouchers are being processed within 30 days of submission. Since its launch, court staff have processed more than 1,800 vouchers. Everyone involved is looking forward to the day when paper checks will be eliminated and electronic payments will be made available.

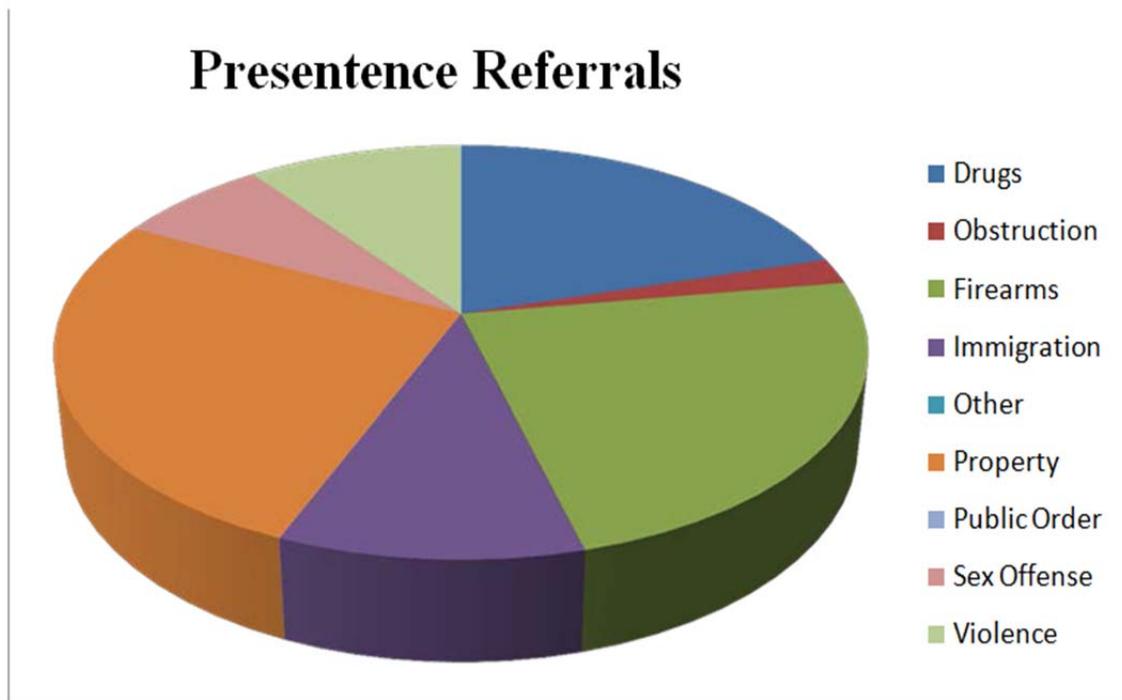
III. Bankruptcy Court Statistical Information

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Circuit %</u>	<u>National %</u>
Bankruptcy Filings	25,450	23,712	-6.8	-4.3	-5.9
Bankruptcy Terminations	27,883	26,013	-6.7	-7.4	-7.1

The Bankruptcy Court's 23,712 filings and 26,013 terminations ranks the district 1st in the Sixth Circuit in both categories, and 6th nationally in both categories.

IV. Probation Department Statistical Information

During the 2016 calendar year, the Presentence Unit of the United States Probation Department (Eastern District of Michigan) received a total of 865 presentence investigation referrals from the Court. The referrals were categorized in the following manner: Drugs (20% or 177 cases); Obstruction (2% or 16 cases); Firearms (23% or 195 cases); Immigration (10% or 83 cases); Other (Less than 1% or seven cases); Property (26% or 227 cases); Public Order Crimes (Less than 1% or seven cases); Sex Offenses (7% or 64 cases); and Violence (10% or 89 cases).



In the calendar year 2016, the United States Probation Department in the Eastern District of Michigan opened 966 cases for supervision. The breakdown of the type of cases is as follows: 845 (87%) were supervised release cases, 113 (12%) were probation cases and 1% were either parole, military parole or courtesy supervision cases.

In the calendar year 2016, the United States Probation Department in the Eastern District of Michigan closed 828 cases. The breakdown of the type of cases is as follows: 295 (36%) were discharged early, 131 (16%) cases had supervision revoked and 351 (43%) successfully completed a full term of supervision. The final 5% of cases that closed were comprised of individuals who died or their supervision terminated unsuccessfully.

The reentry court program Helping Offenders Positively Excel (HOPE) program began on January 19, 2012. Judge Paul D. Borman and Judge Gershwin Drain from the Eastern District of Michigan, the United States Probation Department, United States Attorney's Office, Federal Defender's Office and various community resource providers are committed to providing a collaborative reentry court program of moderate to high risk individuals and individuals with reentry needs. A total of 37 participants have voluntarily entered the program. A total of 18 participants have successfully completed the HOPE program. There are a total of 13 candidates scheduled to complete the HOPE program by 2019. This program continues to help individuals on supervision achieve success and integrate into the community with the needed resources and employment opportunities.

V. Pretrial Services Agency Statistical Information

	<u>7/1/2015-6/30/2016</u>	<u>7/1/2016-6/30/2017</u>
Pretrial Initial Appearances	1,108	974
Pre-Bail Reports	959	899

For the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the Eastern District of Michigan received 974 initial appearances and completed 899 pre-bail reports with a 58.2% release rate (excluding immigration cases). The release rate is the highest in the Sixth Circuit and is well above national release rates. The table below represents the distribution of the types of cases that were activated in the district.

Cases Activated For 12 Months Ending 2017/06/30

Charged Offense	Michigan-Eastern		Circuit 06		National	
	Client Count	% of Total	Client Count	% of Total	Client Count	% of Total
Drugs	274	28.13%	1,744	36.27%	24,067	27.67%
Property	192	19.71%	782	16.26%	9,710	11.16%
Firearms/Weapons	164	16.84%	840	17.47%	8,116	9.33%
Immigration	131	13.45%	320	6.65%	31,177	35.85%
Violence	93	9.55%	280	5.82%	4,050	4.66%
Sex Offenses	68	6.98%	296	6.16%	3,033	3.49%
Escape/Obstruction	30	3.08%	145	3.02%	1,399	1.61%
Other	11	1.13%	263	5.47%	3,782	4.35%
Public Order	11	1.13%	139	2.89%	1,640	1.89%
Total	974	100.0%	4,809	100.0%	86,974	100.0%

A total of 522 defendants were released on bond. The majority of defendants were given special bond conditions by the court. The district maintains an on-site drug testing lab. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016, 4320 drug screens were processed by the lab.

The district released 131 defendants with home confinement conditions. The district has the highest number of defendants with a home confinement condition in the Sixth Circuit and is ranked ninth in the nation with defendants being supervised with a home confinement condition.

The Eastern District of Michigan instituted a Restart Program designed to provide alternatives to incarceration for certain defendants on pretrial supervision. The program was implemented in 2017 and is designed to divert selected defendants from a conviction and lower recidivism rates. Participants appear in court once a month with the Restart team which consists of Judges, United States Attorneys, Federal Defenders, and representatives from the Probation Department and the Pretrial Services Agency. Participants work in conjunction with the team in learning social skills and cognitive restructuring to become successful members in their community. Successful completion in the program leads to diversion from the criminal justice system entirely as the charges against them are ultimately dismissed.

VI. Court Leadership Appointments

The Court appointed Patricia Trevino as Chief Pretrial Services Officer on March 6, 2017. Patty most recently worked for the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts in Washington, DC, and prior to that she was a Supervising Probation Officer in this district. She replaced Alan Murray who retired as Chief Pretrial Services Officer on October 31, 2016, after 29 years of service.

The Court appointed Anthony Merolla as Chief Probation Officer on May 15, 2017, following his stint as Acting Chief Probation Officer beginning on September 19, 2016. Tony has been a long-time employee of the Eastern District of Michigan's Probation Department.

VII. Judicial Assistance with Middle District of Tennessee

The Court was approached by the Sixth Circuit to provide judicial assistance to the Middle District of Tennessee earlier this year for an extended period of time. Due to retirements of three judges and the return to private practice of another judge, the Middle District of Tennessee was left with only two active judges and no senior judges. Eastern District of Michigan judges volunteered to assist with the caseload there, and will continue to do so until those vacancies are filled. As of the end of August, 15 Eastern District of Michigan judicial officers have taken on 23 criminal cases with 90 criminal defendants, and 255 civil cases from the Middle District of Tennessee. This undertaking has involved not only managing the cases, but also travel to Nashville on a regular basis. Thanks to the volunteer judges – Chief Judge Hood, Judges Friedman, Cleland, Steeh, Roberts, Battani, Lawson, Cox, Murphy, Drain, Berg, Levy, Michelson, Leitman and Parker – and their staff, and to Case Manager Julie Owens who coordinates the case management for this effort.

VIII. Pro Bono

The Court's Pro Bono Committee, assisted by the Federal Bar Association Pro Bono Committee, continues the work of the Federal Pro Bono Council, an initiative to increase the number of firms, bar associations, and solo practitioners participating in the Court's Pro Bono Program. Past FBA President Thomas McNeill spearheaded this effort several years ago.

The pro bono attorney participants have accepted assignments in approximately 20 cases over the past year. Volunteers include not only law firms, individual attorneys, and bar associations, but also an ADR organization and a litigation services company. Court staff, including judges' staff members and Clerk's Office managers, have been invaluable in continuing this program. The Court is also grateful to those firms and individuals who have taken on pro bono cases this year. Of course, the need for pro bono lawyers continues to be a concern for the Court.

The Court is very pleased to announce a joint venture with University of Detroit Mercy Law School to provide a Pro Se Clinic in the Eastern District of Michigan planned to begin in January 2018. Significant efforts have been made to reach out to law firms and bar associations for assistance with the clinic and to reinvigorating the "wheel" of pro bono attorneys willing to accept assignments. Additionally, the Court has hired a Pro Se Case Administrator to assist pro se litigants with the procedural aspects of litigation and to interface with the clinic. Judge Victoria A. Roberts and Anne Yantus of the University of Detroit Mercy

Law School have been invaluable in this process. More information about the clinic will become available as the date draws nearer.

The Law Day “Ask the Lawyer” program sponsored by the Court and the FBA continues to be a success with lawyers, law students, and staff assisting persons who have filed pro se cases in our Court.

The Court looks forward to continued combined efforts to assist those who appear in our court without representation. This service to the community is greatly needed and our program provides a unique opportunity for lawyers and other volunteers to use their skills to fulfill their pro bono commitment to the profession.

IX. Building Renovation Project

A \$140-million project to upgrade mechanical, electrical and other systems within the Theodore Levin United States Courthouse in downtown Detroit has been underway for over a year. The four-year project at the historic courthouse is one of the largest projects the General Services Administration has undertaken in Detroit in many years. The work will be completed without having to relocate building tenants to external space, saving thousands of dollars. The 770,000 square foot building will remain fully occupied through the duration of the project.

The construction work started over the summer of 2016. To date, the contractor is close to completing the 9th floor which will be occupied by the Probation Department. Three new chillers and new switchgear have been installed in the basement, replacing the previous outdated equipment. The renovation of the parking and loading dock area in the basement is well underway. The modernization of the eight passenger elevators has recently begun. Most work will occur outside of normal business hours.

During 2017 the contractor began construction of a new stair and elevator tower, the construction of a new Duty Court on the 1st floor and the start of the infrastructure improvements on the 9th and 10th floors. Floor by floor infrastructure improvements will continue based on a sequencing plan to complete this work while still allowing the District Court to operate without any major interruption to its mission. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019.

The Court has an ad hoc committee consisting of Chief Judge Hood and Judges Cleland, Cox, and Michelson in order to monitor project progress updates and to provide critical design and construction input and feedback throughout the project life cycle.

The Court thanks you in advance for your patience and cooperation through this project. After completion, the building will be greatly improved, and for many

years will continue to house the Court family and will better serve the public and the Bar.

X. Courthouse Kiosks

Another upgrade to the Levin Courthouse is the installation of kiosks on the first floor in the mail windows on the Lafayette Boulevard side of the building. Both kiosks provide information to our guests such as the current day's docket, maps of each floor of the building, an abbreviated court directory, court announcements, and frequently asked questions. The screens are activated and manipulated entirely by touch. Please try them and give us your feedback.

XI. Budget

The fiscal year 2017 budget, which ended on September 30, 2017, remained steady with the funding levels from the prior fiscal year for the Federal Judiciary, including the Eastern District of Michigan. The District Court Fiscal Year 2017 local budget provided an increase of three hundred thousand dollars more than Fiscal Year 2016.

The Court did not receive its final fiscal year 2017 budget until June 2017. The District Clerk's Office, Probation Department and Pretrial Services Agency payroll accounts were funded near their full staffing formulas. In fiscal year 2017, the District Clerk's Office authorized staffing decreased by 2.7 work units, Probation Department increased by 11.1 authorized work units and Pretrial Services Agency increased by 1.4 work units. The operational and information technology accounts were reduced by 2.5% across-the-board for the District Clerk's Office, Probation Department and Pretrial Services Agency.

Congress restoring our Fiscal Year 2017 and 2016 local budget levels has allowed the Court to hire additional Clerk's Office staff, Probation Department and Pretrial Services Agency officers. This has allowed the Court to restore all normal operational levels to the public and the Bar that were significantly affected by sequestration in 2013.

The final budget picture for fiscal year 2018 is not yet known. The House Appropriations Committee FY 2018 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations Bill provided the Judiciary with a 2.4% overall increase, respectively, above our 2017 budget level.

The Court expects to be on a Continuing Resolution (CR) starting the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, 2017 until a final budget is passed.

Congressional action in Fiscal Year 2017 and 2016 resulted in very good budget years. To date, the House Committee approved bill for Fiscal Year 2018 falls short of the Judiciary's budget request, however, overall Judiciary appropriations are very encouraging and reflect the hard work of the Judicial Conference's

Budget Committee, and judges around the country involved in Congressional outreach efforts.

I am very encouraged that the last two fiscal years have been extremely good for the Judiciary, and the prospects for 2018 appear to be positive as well.

I want to personally thank our outstanding staff who have been doing more with less for several lean years. I also want to thank Congress for making the Judiciary a funding priority in order to allow us to continue to provide the level of services that the Court historically has provided to the public and the Bar. Thanks are also due to the Judicial Conference Budget Committee.

I will continue to keep you informed on FY 2018 funding for the Judiciary as it progresses through the full Congress and ultimately the President of the United States.

XII. Space & Facilities Projects

The Probation Department initiated a project to consolidate their staff on the 9th floor of the Levin Courthouse, vacating all of their space on the 10th floor. With all of the recent technology improvements, Probation Officers can perform most of their work in the field. The Probation Department will move into its new space in October 2017.

GSA recently completed construction of a Fitness Center in the Flint Courthouse. The new equipment includes treadmills, stationary bikes, and free weights. The fitness center has large screen TVs, changing rooms, and a full bathroom with shower.

The Courthouse in Port Huron has undergone an extensive renovation that includes both the chambers and courtroom. All of the finishes were replaced, as well as upgrades to the lighting and millwork. The courtroom also received new finishes as well as AV upgrades. With this project, the Court now has hi-tech courtrooms in all of our divisional locations within the district. Judge Robert H. Cleland is the resident district judge at the Port Huron Courthouse. An Open House was held on October 2, 2017 to reveal all of the renovations to the District Court space, as well as renovations to the United States Marshals Service space in that facility. A memorial plaque was dedicated in honor of Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff who was stationed at that building for a long period of time prior to his death on January 22, 2015.

XIII. Special Events

On November 7, 2016, the Court hosted a Dedication of The Detroit Room at the Levin Courthouse. The dedication was a celebration of the renovation of the Court's multi-purpose room used for court events on the main floor of the courthouse.

On November 10, 2016, the Court held the Investiture of Bankruptcy Judge Maria Oxholm at the Levin Courthouse. Judge Oxholm was appointed by the Eighth Circuit, but is sitting in Detroit pursuant to an agreement between the Sixth and Eighth Circuits.

On March 14, 2017, the Court held the Portrait Dedication of Judge Gerald E. Rosen in the Levin Courthouse. As mentioned earlier, Judge Rosen retired from the Court on February 1, 2017 after almost 27 years with the Eastern District of Michigan.

On October 2, 2017, the Court held a Ceremony Unveiling the Memorial Plaque of the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff at the Port Huron Federal Building and United States Courthouse. On that same date, the Court held an Open House at that building to celebrate recent extensive renovations.

XIV. Naturalization Ceremonies

In calendar year 2016, the Eastern District of Michigan naturalized 9,114 new citizens, down slightly from 10,328 in 2015. Through the end of July 2017, the Court has sworn in 6,654, which puts the Court on track to meet a similar number this year. The Court continues to hold three or four ceremonies each week in the Detroit Room and in Courtroom 100. In addition to these ceremonies, judicial officers presided over several large off-site ceremonies throughout the Eastern District of Michigan including venues such as Comerica Park, the Macomb Intermediate School District, the USCIS facility on East Jefferson in Detroit, and several local community festivals.

XV. Court Ombudsman

Retired Judge Fred M. Mester continues to serve as the Ombudsman for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Mester is a former Circuit Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit in Michigan and is currently a certified mediator, arbitrator and facilitator, as well as a visiting judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Michigan. He is an active member of the Federal Bar Association, both locally and nationally, and is a member of several other well-known bar associations.

The Ombudsman's role for the Eastern District of Michigan is as an intermediary between judicial officers of the Eastern District and the Bar. He acts on an informal basis to interface and address those matters lacking an institutional mechanism or forum for redress.

XVI. Security

The Court's Security Committee, chaired by Judge John Corbett O'Meara, continues to meet regularly with the Marshals Service to discuss security concerns and means by which our federal court facilities can remain safe for judges, the Bar, court staff and the public. Additionally, the expanded District-

Wide Security Committee continues to meet twice annually. This expanded committee includes members from the Court, as well as from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Defender Office, General Service Administration and Federal Protective Service.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts has funded as part of the Capital Security Program a study for the Levin Courthouse to evaluate the general security deficiencies that affect court operations within the existing courthouse where physical renovations are viable. The focus of this study is to look at circulation and adjacencies related to the access and movement of the public, defendants (prisoners), jurors, and judges from key entry points into the building and encompass three separate zones: public circulation, restricted circulation and secure circulation.

Recommended solutions include building additional secure or restricted corridors, adding or reconfiguring elevators, building new, or enclosing sally ports, creating visual barriers, adding holding cells, providing secure parking, adding /modifying associate mechanical and electrical systems and reconfiguring security screening stations.

So far the study team has completed existing facility reviews assessing security issues, and identified concept solutions to improve security deficiencies. Court representatives have met with the project team several times, which includes Chief Judge Hood, and Judges Cleland, Cox and Michelson. Judges and court staff have reviewed the recommendations and concept drawings provided to address some of the security deficiencies within the Levin Courthouse and the Court has identified some preferred options. Some of the highlights of this study and review include lobby security upgrades/security screening stations, upgrades to and additional holding cells on courtroom floors, a new sally port in the basement with new vehicle turnaround areas along with improvements to address mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades to enhance security.

XVII. Court History Program

The oral history program of the Court Historical Society is managed by Judy Christie. The oral history program recorded oral interviews with Judges Nancy G. Edmunds and Arthur J. Tarnow this past year.

The oral history publications can be found in the Ralph M. Freeman Memorial Library inside the Levin Courthouse, and are available for on-site viewing only. They are also available for public viewing at the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The Court Historical Society met on August 9, 2017 and accepted the resignation of Alan Harnisch as President. Vice President Matthew Lund has assumed the duties of President of the Court Historical Society. Upcoming for the historical society is a redesign of its website.

XVIII. Law Day 2017

The Court and the FBA co-hosted a Law Day event on May 1, 2017. This year's national theme was "*The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy*", recognizing the importance of the rule of law. Several federal agencies, as well as Court departments set up booths to inform attendees of their purpose and provide demonstrations. Some of these agencies participating included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and many more. Law Day guests included approximately 350 local high school students, college students, and members of the Bar and public.

The Court, in conjunction with the Federal Bar Association and the Wolverine Bar Association, continued with the always popular "Ask the Lawyer" program where attorney volunteers provided free legal advice to people who have cases pending in our Court and do not have lawyers representing them, as well as other persons with legal questions, was a success as well. This year's "Ask the Lawyer" program included 25 volunteer attorneys who provided legal advice to the 27 litigants who attended. Six student volunteers from Cooley Law School and eight court volunteers assisted with the program.

XIX. Conclusion

The Court strives to uphold the mission of the federal judiciary. The Court continues to deliver justice under the law to the public it serves. The Court is mindful of the importance of the Court to the community and ensures that the Court is open and accessible to all.