

2002

Milwaukee Municipal Court

ANNUAL REPORT



Judge Vincent J. Bobot
Branch One
1999 - 8/5/03



Judge David R. Halbrooks
Branch One
8/6/03 - Present



Judge Louis B. Butler, Jr.
Branch Two
1992-July 31, 2002



Judge Derek C. Mosley
Branch Two
8/1/02 - Present



Judge James A. Gramling, Jr.
Branch Three
1986 - Present

Message from the Presiding Judge

The Year 2002 found the Milwaukee Municipal Court at the top of the recent roller coaster of annual case filings. New cases filed exceeded 168,000, making it the third highest year in the history of the court.

Some of the case totals reflected what is occurring in the larger community. For example, the number of first offense drunk driving cases resumed what has been a stunning seven-year decline after a slight increase in 2001. From 1,104 new cases in 1996, the number has shrunk year-by-year to a total of 492 in 2002. There certainly are many factors contributing to this decline and much credit to be distributed. Headed in the other direction are parking cases. The City's new emphasis on parking enforcement resulted in a doubling of cases in which citizens sought to challenge tickets or work out a plan to pay them off. The court worked closely with the City Attorney's office and the Dept. of Public Works to set up a new system to manage the huge increase which resulted in the hiring of one of our administrative staff, Carmen Falson, to serve as Parking Citation Review Manager.

A significant change took place in the ever-challenging area of suspended drivers. Beginning on May 1st, all drivers caught operating on a revoked driving privilege were charged with a criminal offense in the state court system. This was the final piece in the overhaul of the driving while suspended/revoked laws and was designed to provide a higher level of accountability for repeat and serious violators. This will likely result in a slight reduction in cases for our court but we remain deluged with similar charges which demand increasing attention.

The court was instrumental in helping to set up the Youth Development Boot Camp. Run by retired Marine Sgt. Gilbert Rivera, the boot camp provides a rigorous 13-week regimen of physical labor and academic instruction. It is designed as an alternative for juveniles who are repeat violators or who present extreme discipline problems. The first class will graduate in 2003.

A changing of the guard occurred in August. Presiding Judge Louis B. Butler Jr. was elected to the circuit court after serving in our court for ten years; we wish him well and thank him for his dedication to his work here. Assistant District Attorney Derek Mosley was appointed by the Common Council to replace Judge Butler and now presides as Judge Mosley in Branch 2.

The year ended on a very solvent note with the court collecting over \$9 million, of which over \$6.7 million was sent to the city treasury after distribution of other costs and fees to the state and county.

The court could not continue to adjudicate the increasing numbers of cases that come before us without the hard work and dedication of court staff. On behalf of the judges and court management, I thank them for their work.

Vincent J. Bobot

CASE FILINGS, 2001 - 2002

	2001	2002
Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)	583	492
Parking	933	1,994
Other Traffic Violations	105,352	123,350
Neighborhood Services	3,152	2,312
Health	361	253
Other Non-Traffic	35,890	39,671
Total	146,271	168,072

The Case Filings Report shows the year-to-date totals of cases added to the system during 2001 and 2002, respectively.

CASE DISPOSITIONS 2001 - 2002

	Guilty Sentence		Suspended Sentence		Dismissed/ Not Guilty		Appeals to Circuit Court	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
OWI	550	456	3	2	13	18	0*	0
Parking	774	1,595	50	136	49	152	0	2
Other Traffic	92,690	116,520	1,677	1,640	6,632	8,258	20	30
Neighborhood Services	1,767	1,673	110	86	753	755	6	2
Health	207	290	10	12	95	123	1	0
Other Non-Traffic	27,574	33,217	1,020	1,022	5,286	6,491	11	16
Total	123,562	153,751	2,870	2,898	12,828	15,776	38	51

*Transfers that are included in "Other Traffic"

The Case Dispositions Report includes cases that were added to the system prior to 2001 and 2002 and shows accumulated counts based on the most current adjudication for each case type. Therefore, the totals on the Case Filings and Case Dispositions Reports do not match.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2001 - 2002

	2001	2002
REVENUES	\$8,030,333	\$9,752,368
Retained by City of Milwaukee	\$5,570,353	\$6,767,981
Sent to Milwaukee County		
Jail Assessment	\$697,603	\$866,890
Driver Improvement	77,853	72,204
Total to Milwaukee County	\$775,456	\$939,094
Sent to the State of Wisconsin		
Driver Improvement	\$48,738	\$45,201
State Clerk Fee	354,046	\$446,516
State Tax	972,777	\$1,149,704
State Crime Lab Fee	308,963	\$403,870
Total to State of Wisconsin	\$1,684,524	\$2,045,291
COURT EXPENDITURES	\$2,459,980	\$2,984,385
CITY REVENUES NET OF COURT EXPENDITURES	\$3,110,373	\$3,783,596

2002 Accomplishments and Challenges to Strategic Objectives

Mission Statement

The mission of the municipal court is to impartially adjudicate ordinance violation cases such that legal rights of individuals are safeguarded and public interest is protected.

- ★ Staff and telephone interpreter services continued to be available to defendants with language interpretation needs, including defendants in custody who are heard at the Criminal Justice Facility courtroom
- ★ The target maximum time interval for priority cases of 60 days between arraignment date and pre-trial, as well as between arraignment and trial was maintained throughout 2001 and 2002. Assistance from part-time municipal court commissioners made this possible.
- ★ Wisconsin Correctional Services, the court's contracted social service agency, identified indigent defendants, and those with mental health, drug abuse or alcohol problems. Its assistance to the court made possible 91.74% compliance with treatment options, 44.48% compliance with community service alternatives, and 82.99% for AODA program referrals with savings to the City of potential incarceration costs of approximately \$299,880 in 2001 and \$298,357 in 2002.
- ★ Compliance rates of 53% and 100% were achieved in community service referrals to Career Youth Development in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Compliance rates of 45% and 38.28% were achieved in community service referrals to The Social Development Commission in 2001 and 2002, respectively. A limited number of offenders were referred to the Milwaukee Christian Center's Graffiti Abatement Program in the years 2001 and 2002.
- ★ First-time retail theft violators and first-time juvenile offenders continued to be referred to the Second Chance Program classes run by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Criminal Justice Institute as a way to resolve their court cases. Participants report positive changes in their attitudes and understanding of the offenses that brought them before the court. Compliance rate of 64.27% was achieved in 2002.
- ★ In 2001, 1,011 traffic offenders registered for the Defensive Driving Course conducted by Milwaukee Area Technical College. Of the 1,011 offenders 92% or 926 completed the course. In 2002, 1,225 traffic offenders registered for the course. Of 1,225 offenders, 76.71% or 940 completed the course. Forty-one sessions were held.
- ★ In 2001 and 2002, the Court's expenditures were \$2,459,980 and \$2,984,385, respectively, significantly less than total revenues generated for the City.
- ★ The Community Court Initiative was expanded to increase the opportunities for defendants to resolve issues before the court through payment of fines or community service placements. This initiative now involves the following organization/programs:
 - Project REACH
 - Milwaukee Urban League
 - Vet's Stand Down
 - Neighborhood Youth Initiative
 - Youth Development Boot Camp
 - Journey House
 - Kosciuszko Teen Court
 - Better Self Jobs Task Force
- ★ Initiated evening court hours to provide defendants with the option to schedule appearances outside of their regular work or school day dramatically increasing appearance rates for scheduled court session
- ★ Assisted in the development of a Youth Development Boot Camp for high-risk, repeat young offenders with cases before the Court. This program is intended to reinforce acceptable behavior and reduce recidivism.

- ☆ Made the transition to a new collection agency - resulting in increased collections overall. Fully implemented the State of Wisconsin Tax Intercept Program and dramatically increased revenues collected from defendants through the program.
- ☆ Implemented a policy allowing for the acceptance of written stipulations from attorneys at the pre-trial stage of the adjudication process thereby reducing the number of in-person appearances by private attorneys and reducing the need for city attorney appearances on these cases.
- ☆ Implemented a policy to allow walk-in defendants with cases in more than one branch to be seen in one branch. Defendants can now take care of their business with an appearance in one branch rather than being required to check-in and appear in all three branches.
- ☆ Reduction in the scheduled pre-trial calendar for Branch A resulting in savings in court commissioner time, additional time for court clerks to perform office duties, and time for city attorney staff to devote to other duties.
- ☆ Allocated intake calendar slots for the acceptance of defendants with contested parking citations thereby reducing waiting time for defendants who are motivated to resolve outstanding parking fines.
- ☆ Instituted the preparation of the "Top 100 Egregious Defendants" listing provided to the Milwaukee Police Department for follow-up by the warrant squad as a means of enforcing the Court's judgments.
- ☆ Streamlined processes related to the filing of Department of Neighborhood Services summons and complaints thereby reducing staff time allocated to this task and providing for timelier scheduling of court dates.
- ☆ Provided the opportunity for court commissioners to secure the training and experience that can qualify them for other judicial office.

Who We Are

Judges

James A. Gramling, Jr.
Branch 3

Louis B. Butler, Jr. (Until 7/31/02)
Derek C. Mosley (Effective 8/1/02)
Branch 2

Vincent J. Bobot (Until 8/5/03)
David Halbrooks (Effective 8/6/03)
Branch 1

Court Commissioners

David Borowski (Until 8/1/03)

Herman John

Michael Kopp

R. Jeffrey Krill (Effective 7/6/03)

Lynn Hackbarth (Effective 7/6/03)

Earlean Laster (Effective 7/6/03)

Administration

Kristine Hinrichs
Chief Court Administrator

Clarice Hall Moore
Assistant Court Administrator

Elaine Allen
Court Accountant

Timothy Ringle (Effective 7/21/03)
Court Systems Administrator

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