

Lane County Circuit Court

2008 Annual Report



True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



Lane County Circuit Court 2008 Annual Report

Message From Presiding Judge Mary Ann Bearden



Lane County Circuit Court ended 2008 with many extraordinary achievements. We are a well-managed and forward-thinking court and are proud of our capability to provide open and equal access to justice in our community. Lane County Circuit Court is pleased to carry out the strategic goals set forth by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Judicial Department. In this annual report, you will see a description of how the Lane County Circuit Court's

work reflected administration of the Chief Justice's goals in 2008. The report provides information about our work to protect access to justice, maintain public trust and confidence, provide quality and timely dispute resolution, collaborate with our justice system partners and enhance judicial administration.

Our pride in the important work accomplished in 2008 is mixed with anxiety over how we will deal with the looming budget crisis. Already in early 2009, the Chief Justice closed all state courts one day per week due to a budget reduction requiring that all staff take extensive furlough days before June 30. That closure was rescinded when another fiscal solution was found, however, that closure was a forewarning of the extreme challenges that face all the courts of Oregon as we head into the 2009-2011 budget cycle.

As we face the looming fiscal crisis, despite the many challenges that presents, we will continue to focus on providing an open forum for dispute resolution, delivering excellent customer service, and protecting the welfare of the citizens of Lane County. I present the following 2008 annual report and look forward to ongoing collaboration with the public, our justice system partners, and other branches of government as we work toward preserving and improving judicial services in 2009 and into the future.

We are a well-managed and forward-thinking court and are proud of our capability to provide open and equal access to justice in our community.

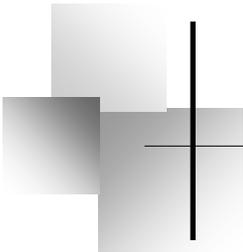
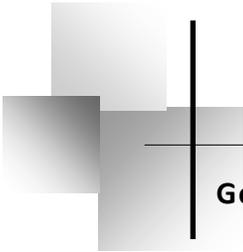


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Goal: Protect Public Access to Justice

Lane County Circuit Court is steadfast in its dedication to protecting and improving the public's access to justice. By taking steps to create courts that are user-friendly to all members of the public that the courts serve, Lane County Circuit Court endeavors to form an environment where processes are easily understood by our customers and business is conducted in an expedient and respectful manner.

Expanding the languages available in translation, increasing the number of bilingual staff available to assist non-native English speakers, improving courthouse brochures and signage, and updating the website are ways in which the court strives to meet and exceed this goal. For pro-se litigants—those who are representing themselves in family court and are not represented by a lawyer—services are available daily from the Family Court Assistance Office.

Access to Justice: Family Court Assistance Office



Staff in this office provide guidance in both English and Spanish on court processes and available forms, review documents, and provide information about legal services and other resources available in Lane County.

The Family Court Assistance Office completed another successful year in 2008. The Office managed the challenge of increasing numbers of customers, seeing a record number of almost 400 people per month while continuing to re-

Goal: Protect Public Access to Justice



ceive positive feedback about the invaluable service provided.

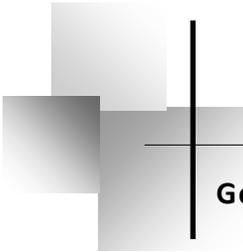
One highlight resulting from collaboration with the Court's technical department and Analyst was the development of a client database which helped tremendously to increase staff organization and communication as well as ability to track customers and statistics.

The Family Court Assistance office can also boast being the first facilitation service in Oregon to have its own database.

The Family Court Assistance Office is now entering its 9th year of operation and looking forward to the changes that 2009 has in store. On April 1st,

the office expanded and moved to a new location in the basement of the Courthouse. The Office will be staffed by a full-time facilitator and the addition of a Family Court Coordinator who will be responsible for increasing outreach with other agencies working with families in the court system and expanding services to self-representing litigants. These are welcome changes to help the Office meet the increasing demand for services.

The Family Court Assistance Office aided nearly 400 people per month in 2008.



Goal: Protect Public Access to Justice

Access to Justice: Interpreters

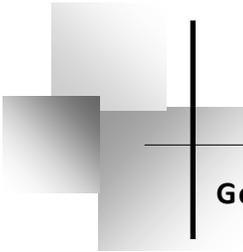
Spanish speakers make up the majority of court clients using English as a second language. Lane County Circuit Court contracts five certified Spanish court interpreters to be available every day of the week to provide ethically-bound, highly skilled in-court interpretation services to Spanish speaking litigants who have limited or no English proficiency. Through the Oregon Judicial Department, interpreters are available either in-person or via a special telephonic interpreter service for such languages as Arabic, Korean, Russian, Mandarin and Vietnamese.

Access to Justice: Bilingual Certified Staff

With Lane County Circuit Court's ongoing commitment to providing equal access to justice, the court is proud to employ five certified bilingual staff who facilitate communication for non-native English speakers navigating court processes. Although not official court interpreters, the bilingual staff are required to pass a rigorous court vocabulary interpretation exam.



Once certified, they assist court customers every day by breaking down language barriers that might otherwise prevent someone from seeking the services of the court.



Goal: Protect Public Access to Justice

Access to Justice: On the Web

2008 brought a comprehensive update to the Lane County Circuit Court website, improving the public's access to helpful information. A committee made up of representatives from each department at the court made a commitment to upgrading the information available and expanding ease of use in preparation for the E-Court initiative being brought forth by the Chief Justice of the State of Oregon.

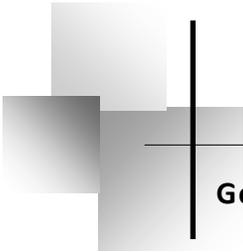
See us on the web at
www.ojd.state.or.us/lan

The Court website contains continuously updated information on court processes, judges, records and jury service. There are resources for self-represented litigants including numerous forms for download. There is also detailed information about court processes on civil, domestic relations, traffic and criminal cases. This information includes answers to frequently asked questions. This resource is available to the public at www.ojd.state.or.us/lan.

Access to Justice: Jury Trials

2008 saw 107 jury trials held at Lane County Circuit Court, the fewest in over ten years. Although the number of trials requiring jury service can vary greatly from year to year, Lane County's trend follows a national trend of decreasing numbers of jury trials. Better access to mediation and sharper divides among economic strata are two reasons thought to contribute to this trend.





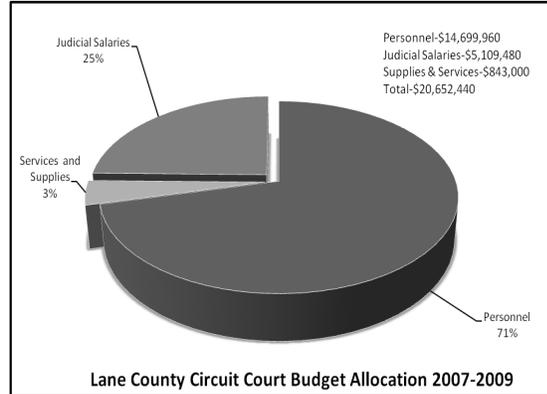
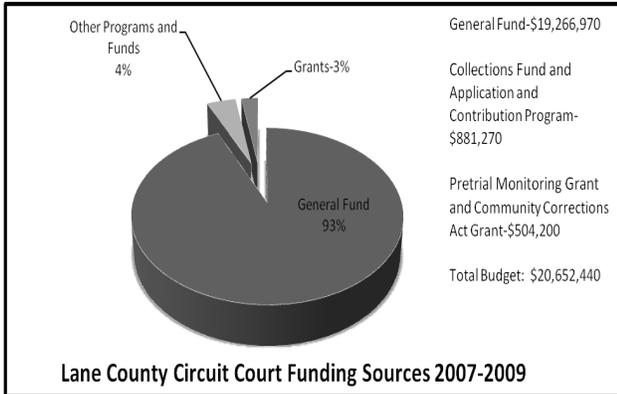
Goal: Protect Public Access to Justice

Lane County Circuit Court has a vested interest in continuing a high jury satisfaction and reporting rate, and has been actively working to increase juror comfort, understanding and efficiency. A series of public service announcements are planned for 2009 as part of this effort to bring greater awareness to the public.



Jury summons are drawn randomly from state driver's license and motor vehicle records, as well as county election records. Lane County historically has enjoyed a high reporting rate and continued to do so this year, with the notable exception of one day in August, when a higher than usual no show rate (42%) forced the court to send Sheriff's Deputies onto the street to summon citizens to immediate jury duty. The average monthly reporting rate for 2008 was 63%, with 6,999 jurors reporting from 11,068 summonses sent January-December.

Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence



Public Trust and Confidence: Budget Management

Lane County Circuit Court makes a top priority of ensuring the funds allocated by the state are managed responsibly. The court, as one judicial district of the Oregon Judicial Department, receives its funding as an apportionment from the State Court Administrator's office. That funding is chiefly from appropriations of the State General Fund, and a much smaller amount from various other funds approved by the state legislature. In addition, the court meets local needs by applying for grants and working collaboratively on funding with local criminal justice partners.

The total budget of Lane County Circuit Court for the 2007-2009 biennium is approximately 20 million dollars. State General Fund money supports 93% of the court's biennial budget, and the other funds make up the balance.

With 96% of the court's budget for personnel, both judicial and support staff, a great deal of budget planning and effort revolves around human resource issues such as hiring, retention, education and training. In addition, to provide for the ever increasing need for staff who are available to focus on new court projects, the court continuously looks for business-process and technological efficiencies. The court has no budget for facilities as the county remains responsible for providing adequate court facilities in all of the judicial districts.

Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence

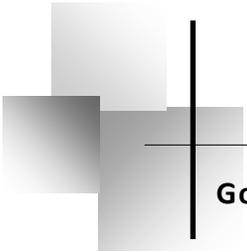
Public Trust and Confidence: Revenue and Collections

The court receives approximately 10 million dollars in general fund revenue each year (one –half of a biennium.) In the same time frame, for 2008, the court generated over 6 million dollars in revenue. Revenue is generated by Lane County Circuit Court through the collection of fines, fees and assessments on civil, criminal, probate and domestic relations cases. Following statutory directives, the revenue is disbursed to the State of Oregon general fund, other state and local departments and agencies, and paid to victims as compensatory fine and restitution.

Lane County Circuit Court generated over six million dollars in revenue in 2008.

Since 2006, Lane County Circuit Court has exceeded the Judicial Department goal for collection of court judgments. In addition, the court is proud of its diligent efforts to work with parties owing money, setting up reasonable payment plans and allowing for flexibility with payment. The court sends automated payment reminders and when necessary, turns debt over to the Department of Revenue and an outside collection agency. As a convenience to the public, Lane County Circuit Court can also accept payment for traffic tickets over the telephone with a credit card.





Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence

2008 Revenue Distribution

Total Revenue Generated	\$6,513,093
Restitution to Victims	\$708,508
State Agencies	
Oregon Bar Association Legal Services	\$463,164
Oregon Dispute Resolution Commission	\$125,007
Oregon Dept. of Revenue (for CFAA Distribution)	\$2,279,870
Oregon Adult and Family Services	\$14,363
Oregon General Fund	\$1,521,013
Oregon General Fund Surcharge 8/05	\$325
General Fund Surcharge HB2331 (07)	\$56,478
Oregon Housing & Community Services	\$19,778
Oregon Department of Higher Education	\$16,118
Oregon Indigent Defense Fund	\$15,818
Oregon Mental Health Dept.	\$15,836
Oregon State Police	\$12,085
Oregon Youth Services Commission	\$1,426
State Agencies Total	\$4,541,281
Lane County Agencies	
Lane County Sheriff	\$122,516
Lane County Liquor Control	\$18,782
Lane County Law Library	\$354,470
Lane County Mediation	\$357,199
Lane County Jail Assessment Fund	\$87,560
Lane County Court Security Fund	\$58,373
Lane County Agencies Total	\$998,900
Cities	
Eugene	\$18,498
Springfield	\$10,793
Cottage Grove	\$1,461
Coburg	\$4,428
Florence	\$1,518
Junction City	\$110
Oakridge	\$3,158
Cities Total	\$39,966
Revenue Retained by the Oregon Judicial Department	
Oregon Court Collection Fund	\$176,048
OJD Operating Account	\$128
Oregon Court Forms Fund	\$5,161
OJD Facility Fund	\$38,587
Drug Court Fund	\$4,514
Revenue Retained by OJD Total	\$224,438

Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence

Public Trust and Confidence: Outreach

The third branch of the government is one that most Americans will interact with at some point in their lives, and yet perhaps know the least about. Whether a person's first experience with the court is stepping in for jury duty or participating in a judicial process, Lane County Circuit Court is available to all citizens in need of conflict resolution, and it is the Court's wish to provide ongoing outreach to the public and school groups to improve the public's understanding of this branch of government.

"I like to decide things too...I'm going to be a judge when I grow up," observed an elementary school student.

and it is the Court's wish to provide ongoing outreach to the public and school groups to improve the public's understanding of this branch of government.

In 2008, Lane County Circuit Court welcomed more than a dozen school groups, ranging from older elementary students to college classes for an instructive day in the life of the courts. Students observed court proceedings such as arraignments, sentencing, and trials, learned about jury service, saw how court files are archived, and had question-and-answer sessions with Judges, Deputy District Attorneys, defense attorneys and other legal staffers. "The judge was actually really nice, like a regular guy," one high school student remarked. "I like to decide things too...I'm going to be a judge when I

grow up," observed an elementary school student. "I liked that the guy from the DA's office said that he wanted to make his parents proud," said another.



Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence

Public Trust and Confidence: Business Continuity and Emergency Preparedness Planning

In 2008, Lane County Circuit Court was recognized for its superior Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity plans.

A special task force convened to participate with members of the Security and Emergency Preparedness department in Salem in performing a tabletop exercise on the execution of the plan, and received high marks for their excellent response. Significant improvements were made to courthouse evacuation procedures and key staff are now equipped with two-way radios to aid communication in the event of an emergency. Lane County Circuit Court undertakes periodic courthouse-wide drills to prepare staff to be highly functional and able to assist the public during a critical situation.

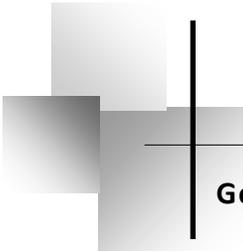
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Public Trust and Confidence: Jury Satisfaction

Lane County Circuit Court participates in statewide juror satisfaction surveys in a continual effort to progress. 2008 results show a continuing trend of receiving very high marks from jurors called to serve on Lane County juries. Over 90% of respondents

were satisfied with their overall jury experience. 95% indicated that judges and staff made them feel valued, and 99% of respondents agreed that staff members were courteous. Slightly over half of the people subpoenaed for jury service were selected for a jury, and for 81% of the respondents, it was their first time serving on a jury. 95% of respondents agreed that the paperwork they received in the mail regarding jury service contained all the infor-





Goal: Maintain Public Trust and Confidence

mation they needed.

Juror satisfaction and comfort is an ongoing priority for Lane County Circuit Court. Recent improvements include new tables and services hutches (for coffee, tea, etc.) in jury deliberation rooms; new, more comfortable chairs and a couch for the jury room; free wireless internet access paid for out of jury funds donated back to the court; and water service paid for out of mandated payments fund. Lane County Circuit Court is pleased to be providing for juror comfort as well as conserving resources by providing the water coolers and paper cups instead of individual bottles of water.

Public Trust and Confidence: Protecting Vulnerable Persons

One of the gravest responsibilities that Lane County Circuit Court is charged with is that of protecting and defending the rights and safety of the most vulnerable people in its jurisdiction. Guardianships, juvenile drug court, elder abuse cases, mental health cases, dependency cases and juvenile cases and are all placed before the court for secure and dignified disposition.

2008 Mental Commitment Statistics

Involuntary Commitment hearings—commitments	63
Involuntary Commitment hearings—dismissals	15
Diversions	4
Trial Visit Revocation hearings	7
Continued Commitments	3
Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities commitments	7
Cases cancelled by LCMH before hearing	13

Goal: Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: Services Offered by Commercial Court



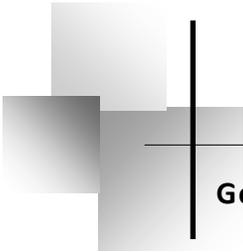
On October 1, 2006, Lane County Circuit Court began a pilot Commercial Court to provide “fair, efficient and expeditious management of commercial and business litigation.” (Lane County Circuit Court Operating Statement.) Commercial Court provides fair and accessible dispute resolution to a broad range of litigants, including those with modest financial means. As business litigation becomes more spe-

cialized, a dedicated commercial court ensures that litigants are provided with a judge with relevant expertise. It also frees these very time-consuming cases from the general jurisdiction dockets. Lane County Commercial Court purposely defined itself more broadly than many commercial courts do, in order to encompass cases with local bearing such as land use cases, product liability, construction defects, or domestic relations cases with complex issues.

Alternative dispute resolution plays an important role in Commercial Court as well, providing an alternative to expensive private arbitration.

Any party or the court can move to have a case assigned to Lane County Commercial Court if the case was originally filed in Lane County. Cases may be transferred from other counties only upon approval from the Presiding Judges of Lane County and the county of origin.

Commercial Court decisions are available on the Lane County Circuit Court website. Commercial Court has heard cases that range from the validity of arbitration agreements to an intergovernmental agreement, municipal contracts, insurance law, medical malpractice and land use issues.



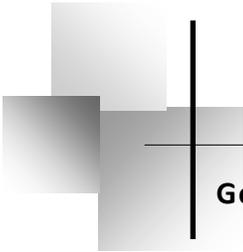
Goal: Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court

Established in 1994, Lane County Drug Court provides an effective intervention in the cycle of drug use and criminal behavior through the coordinated services of the legal system and social services. Lane County Drug Court has forged partnerships between the judiciary, prosecution, public defender's services, alcohol and drug treatment, and parole and probation. Participants are able to receive services including housing, mental health treatment, parenting classes, job search training, and family counseling.

According to the Oregon Judicial Department's Court Programs and Services Division, Lane County's Drug Court graduates experienced only a 5% recidivism rate during the fiscal year 2006-2007 (the most recent year for which data is available.) Recidivism is measured by tracking new misdemeanor or felony charges filed against a participant in the year following their completion of drug court. These numbers are especially impressive when compared to the Oregon state average of 8% from the same study and the national average of 16.4% from a 2003 study commissioned by the National Institute of Justice. Additionally, Lane County had the second highest number of graduates in the state of Oregon for the same time period.

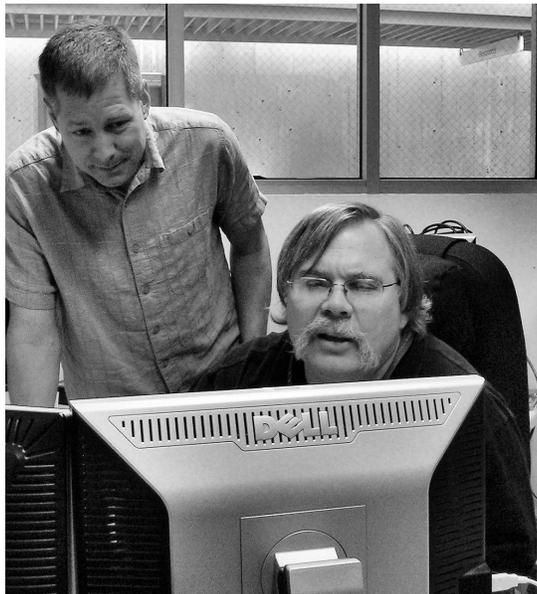
Lane County's Drug Court
Graduates experienced
only a 5% recidivism rate
from 2006-2007.



Goal: Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: Technology

This biennium boasted a large number of technological improvements made at Lane County Circuit Court. Additional case-viewing computers were added in archives and the public records room, two additional scanners were brought on-line to speed the transition of paper archived files into electronically stored and accessed files, and the Lane County Circuit Court website was extensively updated. For the benefit of employees, the technology department created a network for internal use only that provides a common location for communication and data storage, rolled out a vastly improved court-wide file tracking system using barcodes and scanners, and made it possible for staff to read courtroom log notes and listen to courtroom audio from their workstations. Additionally, new software was developed in-house for the Family Court Assistance Office. A particularly noteworthy honor was bestowed upon Lead Technical Support Specialist Todd Weeks, as he was elected co-chair of the OJD Technology Advisory Committee.



Goal: Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: Age of Terminated Cases 01/01/2008—12/31/2008

The Oregon Goals for timely case disposition are based on American Bar Association guidelines. How long cases are open before being resolved is one of Lane County Circuit Court's main concerns, and a concentrated effort at timely resolution has made Lane County one of the state's most effective courts at resolving cases to meet the timeliness goals.

	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	12 Months		18 Months		24 Months				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
Civil-General	6,575	97.0%	148	99.2%	40	99.8%	12	0.2%	6,775

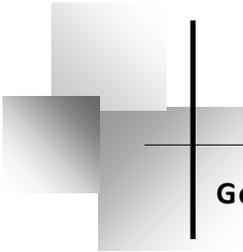
	90% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	9 Months		1 Year				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
Domestic Relations	4,352	97.4%	74	99.0%	43	1.0%	4,469

	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	120 Days		180 Days		1 Year				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
Felony	2,517	86.6%	224	94.3%	128	98.7%	39	1.3%	2,908

	90% Goal		98% Goal		100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	90 Days		180 Days		1 Year				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
Misdemeanor	1,820	89.3%	148	96.6%	50	99.1%	19	90.0%	2,037

	100% Goal		Beyond		Total
	75 Days				
	Count	Pct.	Count	Pct.	
Civil-Summary	6,904	60.0%	4603	40.0%	11,507

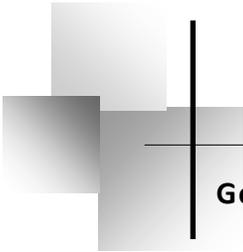
Overall, Lane County Circuit Court saw a 3.9% increase in cases filed between 2007 and 2008.



Goal: Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: 2008 Caseload Statistics

Type of Case	Pending as of 12/31/08	Filed 2008	Terminated 2008	Pending as of 12/31/07	Filed 2007	Terminated 2007
Civil	2,206	6,885	6,775	2,092	5,809	5,464
FED	73	2,138	2,115	50	2,244	2,250
Small Claims	1,963	9,178	9,392	2,172	8,418	8,716
Dissolution	493	1,584	1,605	512	1,636	1,592
FAPA	2	1,022	1,023	3	1,209	1,207
Other Dom Rel	209	1,854	1,842	199	1,872	1,890
Felony	3,862	3,192	3,239	3,907	3,494	3,599
Misdemeanor	2,718	2,130	2,143	2,726	2,073	1,888
Violation	1,241	9,634	9,370	963	9,279	9,315
Juvenile	398	1,098	1,246	446	1,241	1,324
Mental Health	13	103	99	9	108	108
Probate	1,535	830	810	1,514	779	826
Total	14,713	39,648	39,659	14,593	38,162	38,179



Goal: Provide Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution

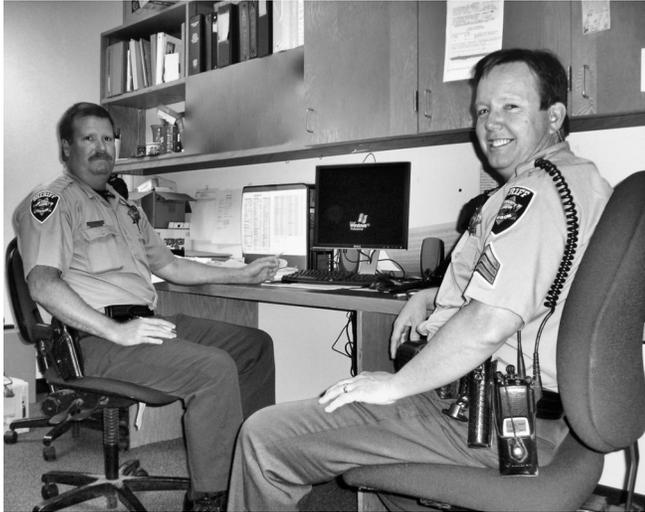
Quality and Timely Dispute Resolution: Age of Pending Cases by Case Type* as of 12/31/08

Type of Case	Total	Inactives	< 6 Months		6-12 Months		1-2 Years		> 2 Years	
			Number	% of Active	Number	% of Active	Number	% of Active	Number	% of Active
Civil	2,204	118	1,810	86.8%	202	9.7%	69	3.3%	5	0.2%
FED	73	1	72	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Small Claims	1,960	20	1,840	94.8%	53	2.7%	47	2.4%	0	0.0%
Dissolution	493	2	382	77.8%	58	11.8%	37	7.5%	14	2.9%
FAPA	2	0	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Dom Rel	209	1	158	76.0%	33	15.9%	14	6.7%	3	1.4%
Felony	3,862	3,222	593	92.7%	37	5.8%	7	1.1%	3	0.5%
Midemeanor	2,717	2,385	309	93.1%	16	4.8%	6	1.8%	1	0.3%
Violation	1,241	149	955	87.5%	46	4.2%	38	3.5%	53	4.9%
Mental Health	13	3	5	50.0%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%
Probate	1,535	3	329	21.5%	218	14.2%	206	13.4%	779	50.8%
Total	14,309	5,904	6,455	76.8%	663	7.9%	426	5.1%	861	10.2%

*there is no data for age of pending of juvenile

Goal: Collaborate with Justice Systems Stakeholders and Other Partners

Collaboration: Defendant Offender Management Center



The Defendant Offender Management Center (DOMC) is the brainchild of the circuit court judges and managers from the local corrections division and parole and probation. DOMC phase one, implemented in 2005, requires evaluating every offender brought to Lane County Adult Corrections (LCAC) for pretrial release or housing. The

evaluation, occurring within hours of arrest, determines the individual's level of danger to the community, potential to commit a new crime, and potential for failure to appear. Circuit Court pretrial release officers and Lane County Adult Corrections deputies perform the risk assessment cooperatively.

The recent budget crisis around the potential loss of Federal Timber Revenue brought to light just how important such collaboration is in protecting the citizens of Lane County. In anticipation of the expected loss of funding, the county closed many of the available jail beds, leaving just over 125 beds to house local offenders, both pretrial and post sentence. A recent study showed that the county actually requires nearly 600 jail beds to be effective. The work of the DOMC ensures that the extremely limited resource is put to its best use.

Goal: Collaborate with Justice Systems Stakeholders and Other Partners

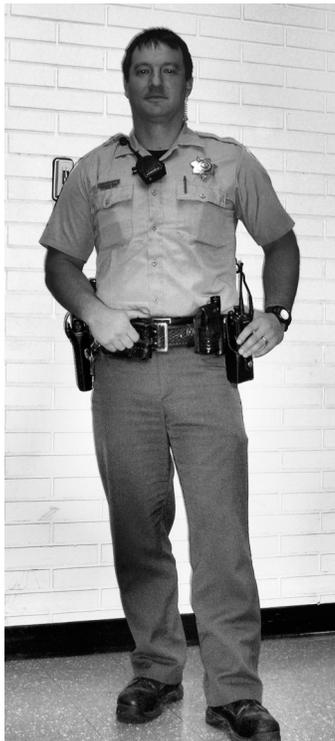
In 2008, the DOMC partners performed 11,531 interviews resulting in 4,656 releases from custody. This equates to 31 interviews and nearly 13 releases for each day of the year. If the county continues to lose funding for jail beds and alternative custody programs, the workload for this partnership and the circuit court staff responsible for release decisions will continue to increase.

Collaboration: Criminal Model Court

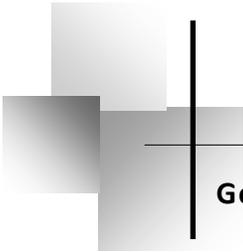
Lane County's early dispute resolution process for criminal cases is beginning to realize enormous benefits. The intensive criminal pretrial settlement and negotiation process, developed by an inter-agency committee, evaluated and implemented strategies to improve management of plea negotiations. The

focus of those strategies is at pretrial hearings scheduled 35 days after arraignment. At that hearing, the following actions occur.

Lane County's early dispute resolution process for criminal cases is beginning to realize enormous benefits.



- Change of plea and sentencing (when possible) are held for all cases reported as settled.
- All cases reported as ready for trial are assigned to a judge for a settlement conference that is conducted on that day.
- Cases not settled at the settlement conference are given a trial date within 45-60 days and the trial notice is given to the parties before they leave the courthouse.



Goal: Collaborate with Justice Systems Stakeholders and Other Partners

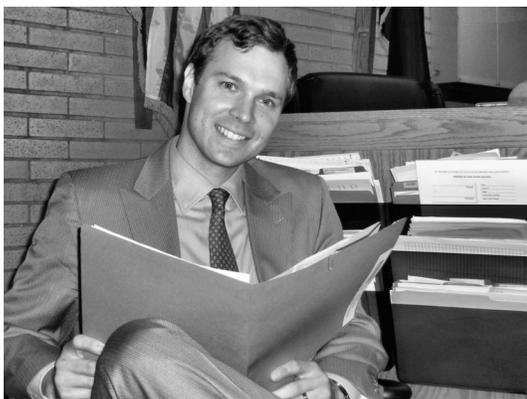
This intensive management has netted several important benefits. Where settlement is an option, cases are settled more expeditiously. Cases ready for trial are given an opportunity to settle and if not settled, given a date certain for trial. Another benefit is that far fewer criminal cases are scheduled on the trial docket. The court has far fewer guilty pleas on the day of trial and as a result, can more accurately assess the number of jurors needed for each trial day.

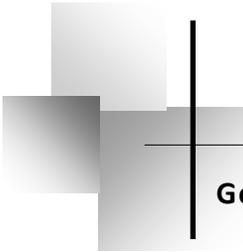
Collaboration : University of Oregon Law School

Lane County Circuit Court is proud of its connection to the University of Oregon Law School and maintains an active role in the education and experience of the next generation of lawyers. Several of the judges are involved in an educational capacity with the law school itself, and many judges hire recent law school graduates as law clerks on an annual basis.



Law Clerks gain invaluable exposure to the legal system and practical procedural knowledge while providing the judges with an extra hand in chambers. Lane County Circuit Court also takes great pride in offering an externship for second and third year law students who wish to spend a semester observing and interacting with Judges, Judicial Assistants and Law Clerks while earning school credits.





Goal: Enhance Judicial Administration

The management of Lane County Circuit Court has worked hard to be the best possible stewards of revenue, and with teamwork, prudent decision making and disciplined planning have provided needed improvements for the court while maintaining staffing levels and operations budgets.

Enhance Judicial Administration: Process Improvements

In 2007, Lane County Circuit Court completed a robust reengineering and remodeling of the clerks' area with an eye toward improving efficiency, communication and access to information. New work stations provide ergonomically correct seating and a more logical layout for data flow for clerks, resulting in improved timeliness in handling cases. The remodel was the result of several years of planning, budget management, and process analysis to ensure surroundings that enhanced clerk comfort and productivity.

Enhance Judicial Administration: Courtroom Recording Technology

Although Lane County Circuit Court employs five full-time stenographic court reporters, other official proceedings use a recording program to create the official court record when a court reporter is not available. Boosts in the recording technology from an elderly analog system to an all-digital format now allows the court to offer audio records of some court proceedings on CD. Lane County Circuit Court's own in



-house tech team has continued to improve reliability, storage and access to these courtroom recording devices and official records. Access to archived proceedings is now available on individual workstations for all staff and judges to review cases dating back as far as 2004.

Goal: Enhance Judicial Administration

Enhance Judicial Administration: Records Management



Lane County Circuit Court is at the forefront of innovative records management in the OJD. Recent acquisition of an additional laser scanner has doubled Lane's input of old court records into a viewable database, which soon will be accessible on the desktops of judges and court staff. Scanning the records into a secure electronic format allows for safeguarding of records (in the event of a fire or natural disaster) as well as creating space for new record storage.