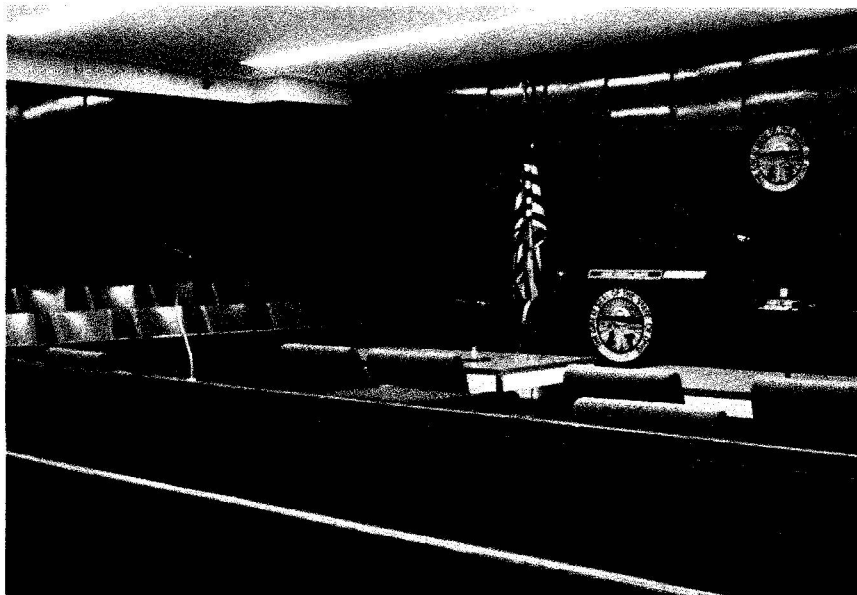


EAST CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**WILLIAM L. DAWSON
PRESIDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE**



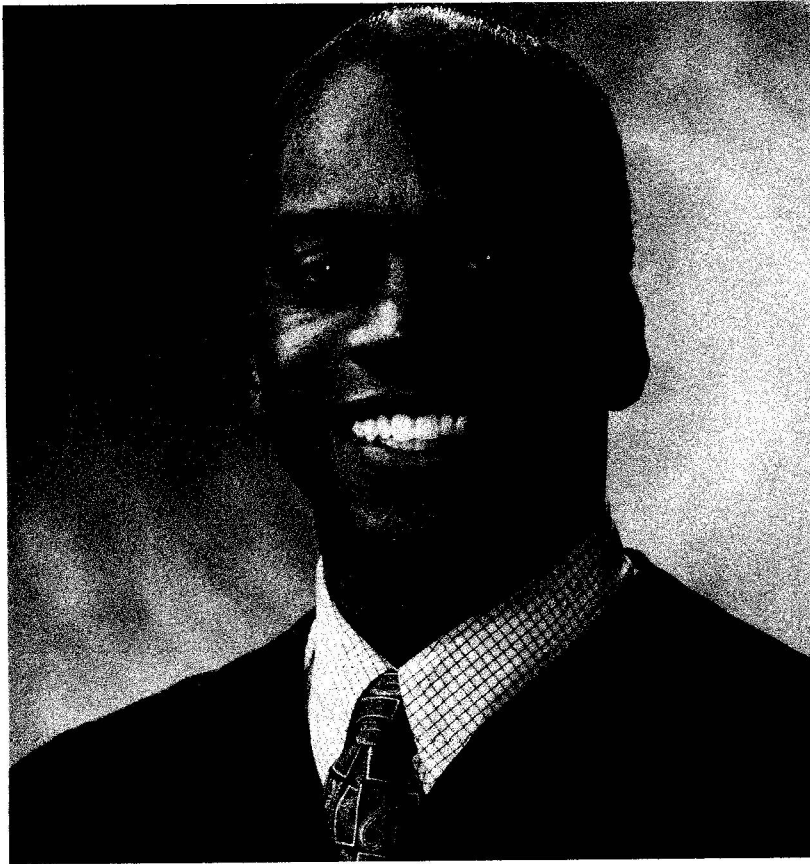
SERVING:

THE CITY OF EAST CLEVELAND

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Presiding & Administrative Judge William L. Dawson

The East Cleveland Municipal Court gratefully
acknowledges the service of its former judges:

Honorable Stanton Addams

Honorable James M. DeVinne

Honorable Fred M. Mosely

Honorable Una H.R. Keenon

Honorable Sandra L. Walker

The East Cleveland Municipal Court

The Cuyahoga County Executive
The Cuyahoga County Council
The Cuyahoga County Council Member Julian Rogers, for District 10
The Mayor and Council of the City of East Cleveland

Re: East Cleveland Municipal Court's 2012 Annual Report

Dear Cuyahoga County Executive, County Council, Mayor and Council Members:

Enclosed is the 2012 Annual Report of the East Cleveland Municipal Court which summarizes the court's finances and caseload as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 1901.14(A)(4). This report also describes the daily operations of the Clerk of Court (which includes the small claims/civil division and the traffic/criminal division), the Bailiff Department and the Probation Department.

Over the past seven years the Court has functioned efficiently, effectively and within its budget. It is my goal to ensure that the Court operates efficiently while increasing the productivity and outreach provided to the community. The court has continued to maintain an effective and efficient lean staff consisting of 15 full-time employees which include the Judge and 2 part-time magistrates which equals 1 full-time position. The employees' names and biographical information are listed later in this report. During 2012 over 32,000 visitors to the city hall and the court were screened and searched which resulted in the confiscation of over 100 weapons and/or potential weapons.

During 2012, 8,883 cases were filed. There were 137 cases reactivated and 1,173 cases were pending from 2011 for a total of 10,193 cases. The reduction in cases being filed was due in part to the decrease in police officers and the continued Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Felony Pilot Program that went into effect in the City of East Cleveland on December 15, 2008. This Pilot Program transported all defendants charged with felonies on and after December 15, 2008 directly to the county jail to be immediately processed by the county assistant prosecutors. The resolved cases resulted in a total collection of \$1,577,078.87 in fines, fees and costs. Although there was a slight decrease in the number of cases filed, there was an increase in the amount of collections. This increase is due partly to the Court Amnesty Program which allows offenders with unresolved cases to present themselves to East Cleveland in consideration of a lower bond and possibly a lower fine. Enclosed are comparison charts for 2010, 2011, 20012 finances.

The court renewed the contract with the collection agency, Capital Recovery, Inc., in order to continue increasing the collection of outstanding fines and costs. Recent laws permit collection companies to recover 100% of delinquent fines, fees and costs owed to courts. Only after all of the moneys are recovered does Capital Recovery collect the costs of its services as an additional charge to the debtor. Therefore, there is no cost to the court or loss of outstanding revenue. The court allowed defendants to enter into a payment plan which gave the defendants additional time to pay the fines and costs. The defendants that failed to honor the payment agreements were referred to the collection agency and warrant blocks and license forfeitures

were issued. Defendants that were unable to pay their fines and costs were referred to the Community Service Work Program (CSWP) and were assigned to the Court, various departments in the City, churches and nonprofit organizations. Even though this has increased the workload of the court's staff, it was necessary to increase collections during the sluggish economy in northeast Ohio.

The physical conditions of the areas assigned to the court are in need of plastering and painting, new or repaired ceiling lights, new carpet and/or floor tile, replacement of furniture, signage, file room and storage space and etc. A few of these physical conditions were corrected and improved in 2012. These physical conditions are throughout the city hall and other city buildings. There was no building security except for the security of the courtroom by the bailiffs. The security of the building was evaluated by the Ohio Supreme Court's Security Services Manager in August 2006 with many recommendations including the building a new facility. Some of the recommendations have been completed.

The court continued to improve its computer technology. The court computers were rotated and/or replaced in accordance with the maintenance schedule. The court docket went online September, 2009. The defendants and/or parties can review their cases and pay traffic tickets online. In 2010, the case management system (CourtMaster/2000) was upgraded to include the E-ticket integration with the police department for criminal/traffic clerk office and the Pitney/Bowes Certified Mailer and Civil Bench Processing integration with the civil/small claim clerk office. These upgrades will reduce manual labor and human errors, which will increase efficiency and overall satisfaction.

The court continued to develop and update forms and procedures to increase the court's efficiency. The court continued to find solutions to address the issue of storage of court files, since the recent laws require that the court files be retained for 50 years. Currently, the court is paying to have the old court files stored offsite. The newer court case files are stored in a converted file room in the Criminal Clerk's office which has increased the court's efficiency and reduced the number of misplaced court files. A new filing system was installed in the criminal and civil clerk office, December, 2010. There is significantly more filing space but the storage of files will remain a problem.

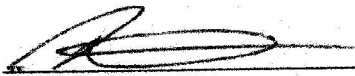
The court continued a partnership with the Cleveland Municipal Court's "Get on Track Program" (GOT). This program allows probationers to attain High School diploma, G.E.D. or occupational training, find and maintain employment, attain and maintain valid driver's license and insurance, complete a community service project and increase self esteem through group motivational sessions. This program makes it more efficient for the probation officers to carry-out the orders of the court.

The court continued a partnership with Shaw High School for students in the Criminal Justice Program and the Street Law Program to get court experience in the J.U.S.T.I.C.E. Program which stands for Junior Understudy Simulation Training Internship for Court Experience. The students in the Criminal Justice Program received court experience as a junior bailiff on Wednesday and Thursdays during the school year. Due to budgetary restraints the

court was not able to hire any students in the fall. The Court opened the courtroom on weekends and evenings for practice sessions.

The East Cleveland Municipal Court thanks Mayor Gary Norton, Chief Ralph Spotts, and Law Director Ronald Riley along with their capable staffs. Without their dedication and professionalism this court would not be able to accomplish its goals of continued high quality judicial service. The Court also thanks the East Cleveland City Council Members for the passage of important legislations that have a direct effect upon the court.

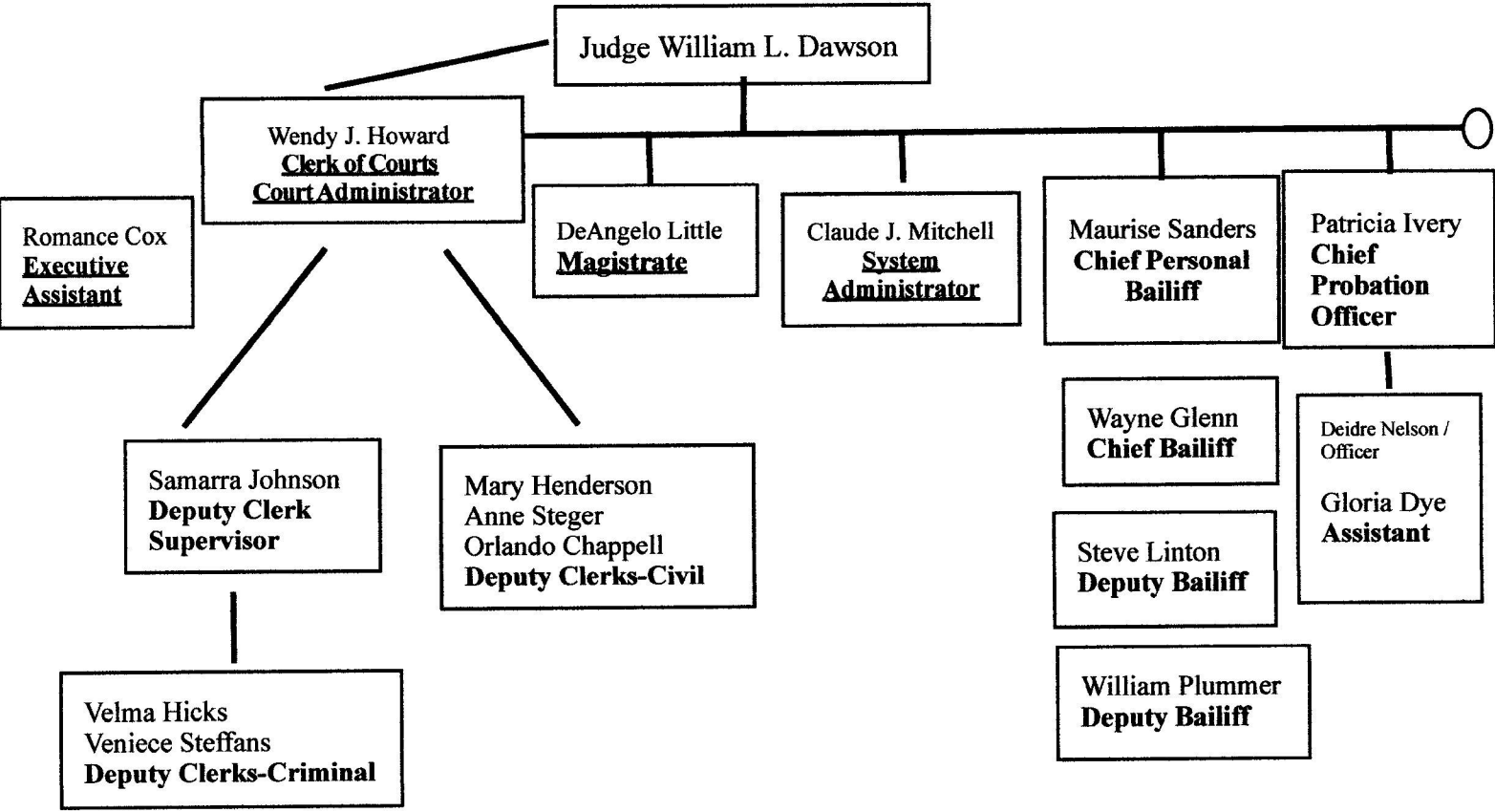
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Dawson', written over a horizontal line.

William Dawson
Presiding and Administrative Judge

***A complete copy of the 2012 Annual Report is available on the Court's website at
WWW.ECCOURT.COM**

COURT'S ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2012



2012 CLERK OF COURT

**WENDY J. HOWARD
CLERK**

CLERK OF COURT'S REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the public of the operations of the Clerk's departments in 2012, and communicate its future plans. State law mandates that this department collect and disburse moneys and maintain the records of the court. This department responds to the State Auditor, the Ohio Supreme Court, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the City of East Cleveland, attorneys, prosecutors, litigants and law enforcement agencies.

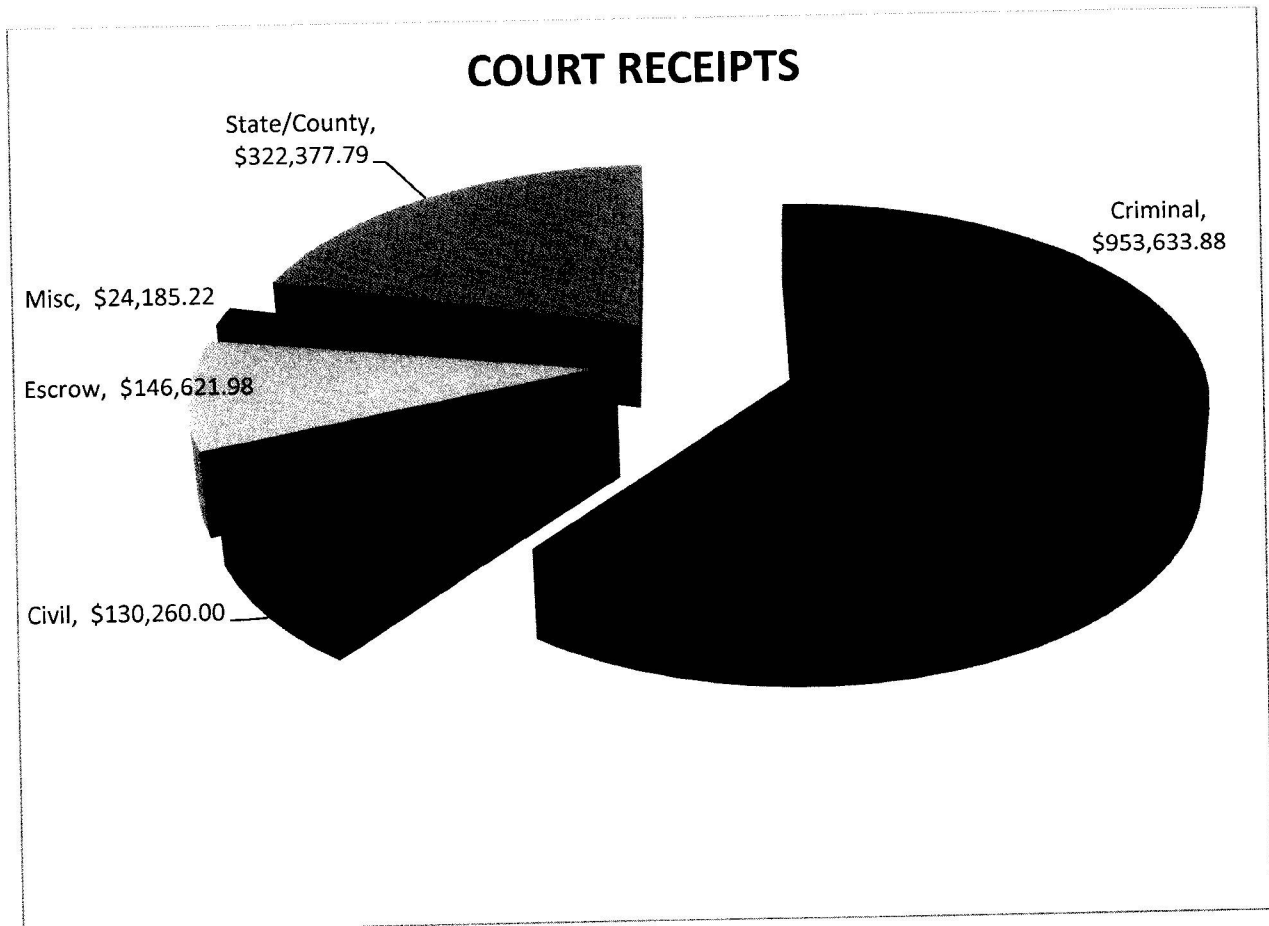
FISCAL MATTERS

The Clerk's department is responsible by law for receiving and collecting all moneys payable to the court. Moneys payable to the court are received as fines on traffic and criminal cases, judgment payments, garnishment payments on civil cases, eviction cases, small claim cases, contract cases, state fees and court costs on all types of cases. The court is a mere repository that receives the funds and subsequently disburses them to the city, the county, the state and the proper individuals according to law.

FUNDS COLLECTED

In 2012, the court collected \$1,577,078.87 in court costs, fines, county and state fees. This includes \$130,260.00 in court costs from civil and small claims actions, \$953,633.88 in court costs and fines from traffic and criminal case, \$322,377.79 in county and state fees. The court collected \$146,621.98 in garnishment and judgment payments associated with civil cases. The court also collected \$24,185.22 in miscellaneous fees for weddings, probation fees, and confiscated cell phones. A chart is shown on the next page with the funds collected in year 2012.

2012 COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL FINES, STATE FINES, FEES, & COURT COSTS



\$1,577,078.87 Total Receipts

*Escrow: Garnishments, Trusteeships, Rent Deposits

**Misc: Weddings, Probation Fees, Confiscated Cell Phones

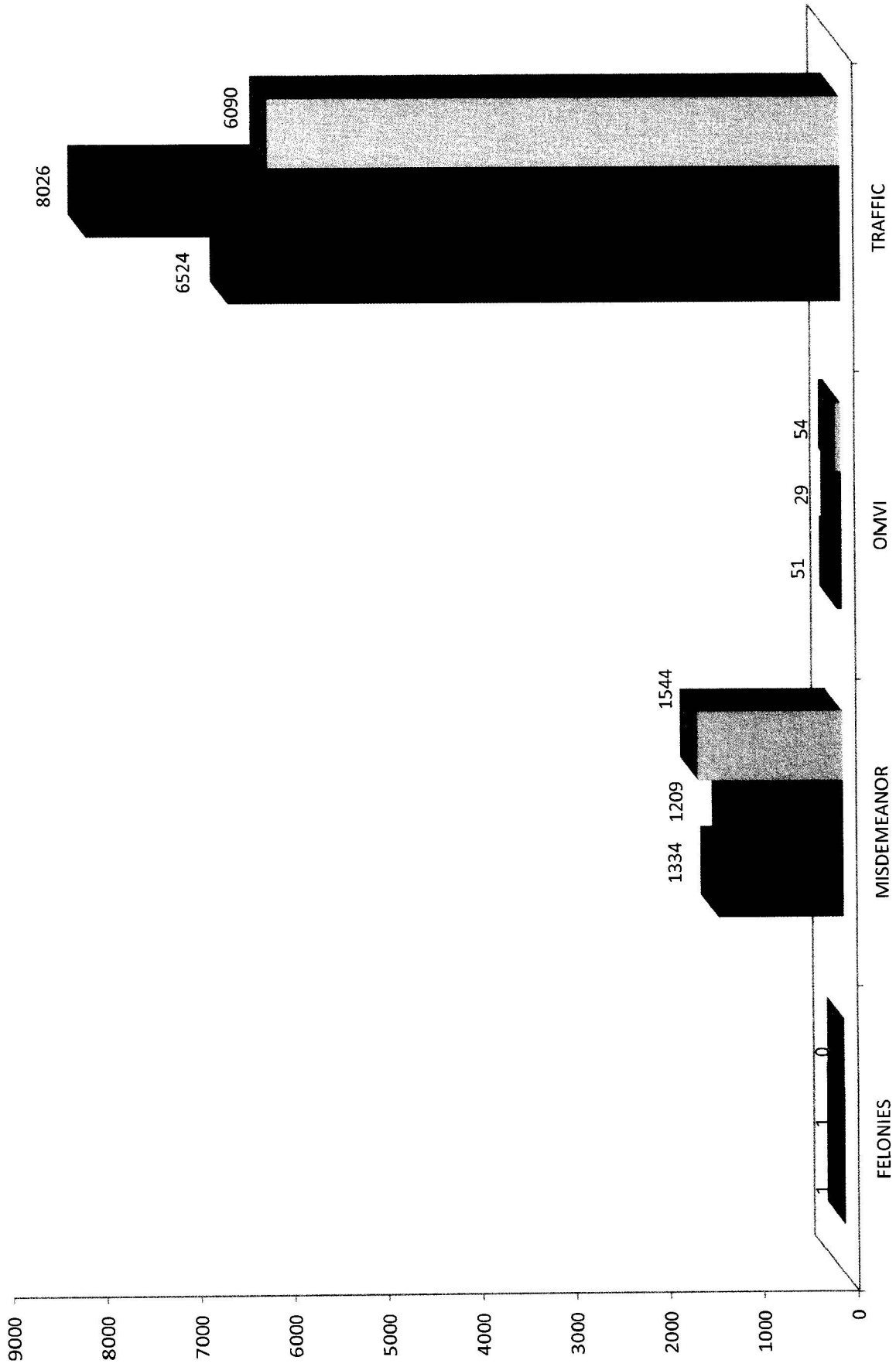
CASES FILED

The amount of money which comes into the court is usually directly related to the number of cases filed. For example, the court collects fines and associated costs only on criminal and traffic cases that are filed in the court. The court also collects civil and small claims costs.

The total number of cases filed in 2012 was 8,883 which was a decrease of 1,721 cases from 2011. There were 137 cases reactivated and 1,173 cases pending from 2011 for a total of 10,193 cases. The decrease in criminal cases was partly due to the decrease of citations issued. There was also a decrease in eviction and small claim filings causing the decrease in civil cases.

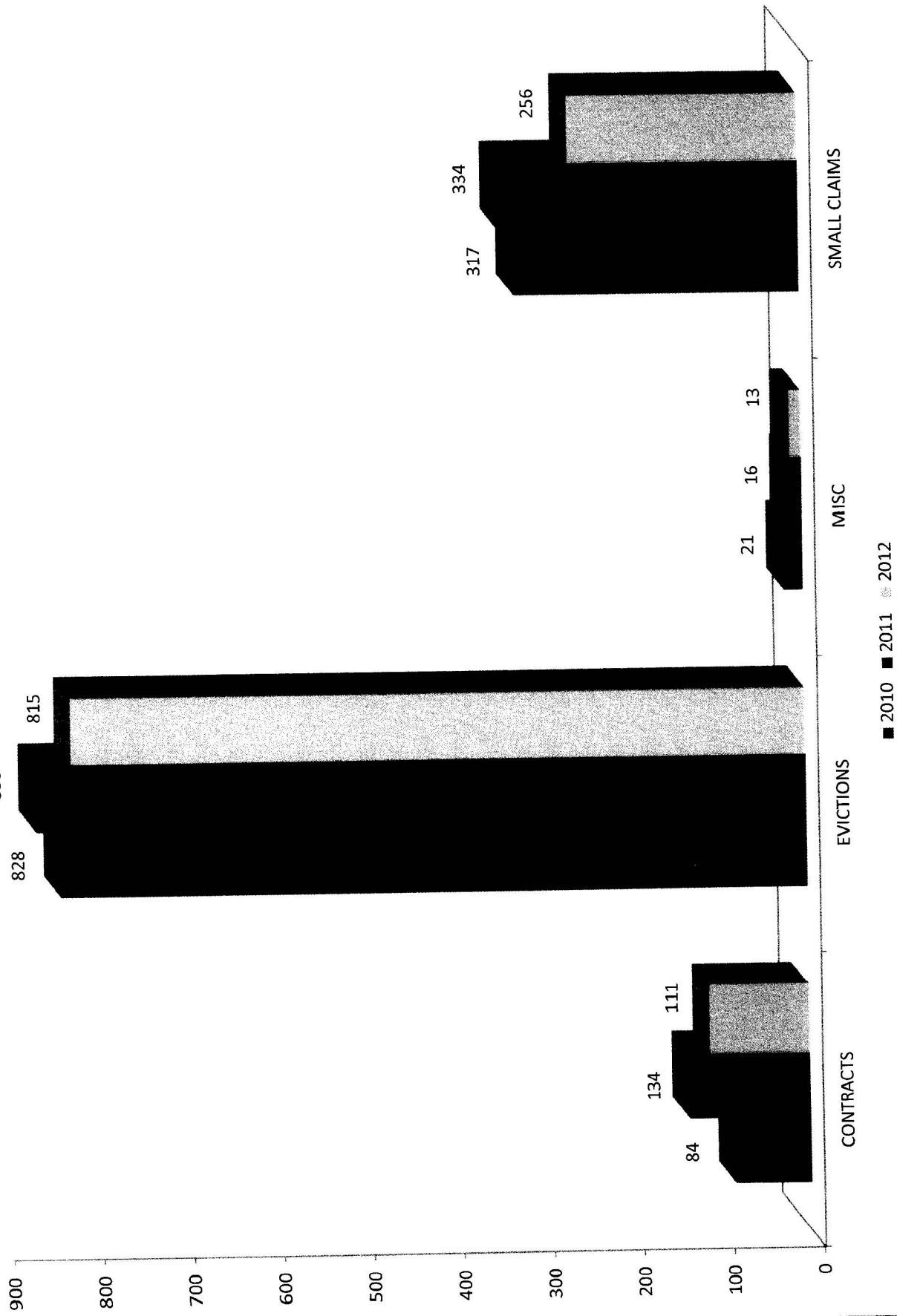
COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF NEW CASES FILED BY YEAR

CRIMINAL CASES



■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012

CIVIL CASES



MONEYS DISTRIBUTED

The manner of disbursement of court moneys as established by statute is followed by this court. Fines and costs were distributed to the City of East Cleveland as well as the miscellaneous income from the Computer Fund; fines and fees were distributed to the State of Ohio and Cuyahoga County. An additional portion of court costs paid by litigants was directed into special Computer Fund. Moneys from civil garnishment or judgment payments were paid to the appropriate judgment creditors.

Moneys were distributed to the City of East Cleveland as follows:

Civil	\$ 115,519.14
Criminal	\$ 654,702.18
Computer Fund	\$ 69,138.35
Bond Forfeitures	\$ 250,731.00
Probation Fees	\$ 7,553.52
Indigent Funds	\$ 7,588.00
Weddings	\$ 300.00
Cell Phones	\$ 340.00
Unclaimed Funds	\$ 491.00

Revenue was distributed to the State of Ohio and the County of Cuyahoga in accordance with law. The sum of \$283,035.30 for fines and state fees were sent to the state to increase Ohio's general fund and to pay for various state programs. Fines were generated from criminal, traffic and seat belt offenses charged under the Ohio Revised Code. This court is mandated to collect and distribute to Ohio various fees which support the state's Victims of Crime and Crime Stoppers programs. An additional sum of \$26,913.00 was collected as required on civil and small claims case filings for the Ohio's Legal Aid program. Unfortunately, East Cleveland Municipal Court receives no benefit from this distribution because Legal Aid does not provide attorneys for defendants charged in Cuyahoga County's suburban municipal courts. The sum of \$39,342.49 was sent to Cuyahoga County for fines and mandatory fees collected from criminal/traffic cases to support the Cuyahoga Regional Information System (CRIS), Crime Stoppers, Criminal/Violations Bureau and the County Law Library.