



PEND OREILLE
COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT
2006 REPORT

Seated from left: Claudia Krogh (District Court Clerk); Judge Philip Van de Veer; Margi Porter (Civil Clerk); standing, Rachel Johnson (Asst. Clerk); Scott Cornwell (Probation Director); Mia Harper (Asst. Clerk) and T.J. Keogh (Crim. Clerk)

Pend Oreille District Court continues to provide online information on court procedures. Users can pay fines online using Official Payments Corp which took in \$20,041 in payments in 2006. Online users can also mitigate traffic infractions. The website is www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us/District%20Court/districtcourt-index.htm or log onto the Pend Oreille County website and select “county government” then “courts.”

The District Court has implemented regular review hearings to monitor payment of court fines and costs. In 2006, Valley Empire Collections collected \$53,636.57 in delinquent court fines and costs.

CASELOAD OF THE COURT

CRIMINAL FILINGS	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
DUI & PHYSICAL CONTROL	165	122	129	147	161	160	111	91	91	87	108	75
OTHER TRAFFIC	442	433	272	234	372	180	238	203	203	146	130	196
OTHER MISDEMEANORS	543	523	473	432	476	414	380	354	341	325	477	360
FELONY COMPLAINTS	1	9	6	15	15	6	6	2	5	8	5	0
FELONY IN-CUSTODY					82	52	69	71	63	68	78	96
TOTAL CRIMINAL	1151	1078	880	828	1106	812	804	721	679	634	798	727
CIVIL	179	192	178	135	164	193	196	187	189	169	175	181
SMALL CLAIMS	76	95	49	49	59	81	49	62	56	34	43	34
TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	2140	1830	1658	1550	2107	1569	2034	1615	1472	1756	1412	1573
NON-TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	8	5	7	9	35	183	93	65	125	160	128	155
PARKING INFRACTIONS	104	315	14	8	14	8	2	4	2	7	5	11
TOTAL CIVIL/CRIMINAL	3658	3524	2786	2579	3485	2846	3178	2554	2523	2126	2561	2681

Other Traffic Offenses include negligent/reckless driving, hit & run, driving suspended. Other Misdemeanors include assault (domestic violence), resisting arrest, obstruction, disorderly conduct, trespass, malicious mischief, theft, possession marijuana/paraphernalia, violation of a no-contact order, animal cruelty, fish and game violations.

PROBATION

The District Court requires pretrial drug and alcohol testing for defendants who present a significant risk of re-offending. The court also conducts regular post-conviction review hearings to make sure that probationers comply with treatment and other requirements. The result has been a significant drop in subsequent criminal offenses.

Post-Conviction Monitoring The Court conducted 220 post-conviction compliance review hearings during 2006 to monitor probationers ordered to undertake drug, alcohol or perpetrator treatment as a result of a criminal conviction or deferred prosecution.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Individuals On District Court Probation		440	471	432	488	463
Mandatory Compliance Review Hearings	146	173	188	116	199	220
Probationers In Compliance	96	109	105	56	72	91
Reset Hearing to Monitor Further Improvement	35	25	27	22	47	43
Probationer Not In Compliance	9	20	31	24	39	64
Warrant Issued	6	19	25	14	41	22

District Court probation supervised 463 individuals during 2006. Ninety-one probationers complied with evaluation and treatment requirements. Forty-three defendants made progress, but the Court set a further compliance review to monitor and verify full compliance. Sixty-four defendants failed to demonstrate compliance. A warrant issued after twenty-two defendants failed to appear.

Pre-Trial Testing Sixty-four criminal defendants with significant prior alcohol related convictions were required to test for alcohol several times per day as a condition of release pending trial to compel compliance with a no drugs or alcohol requirement. Defendants are given a choice of wearing a scam bracelet that monitors alcohol consumption or personally reporting several times per day to probation or the jail for alcohol/drug testing. A positive test results in immediate revocation of conditions of release.

Forty-five defendants successfully remained alcohol/drug free during the monitoring process. Nineteen defendants tested positive for alcohol or drugs or failed to test as ordered and were taken into custody until trial in order to insure public safety.

The continued result of the daily testing programs has enhanced public safety and reduced costs of incarceration. For the year 2006, the program resulted in savings in the cost of incarceration of \$39,960 for the City of Newport and \$94,635 for Pend Oreille County (figuring \$45 per day incarceration costs avoided).

COURT EDUCATION

The problem of unserved misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor warrants remains a problem across the state of Washington. Judge Van de Veer has written an editorial regarding the problem that has been published in newspapers around the state including the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the Newport Miner.

Jude Van de Veer has also been appointed to the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association Education Committee. That committee is responsible for providing continuing education and training for district and municipal court judges.

Schools and community are always welcome to visit the District Court. Interested groups or individuals can contact the court at 509-447-2659.