

# PEND OREILLE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

## 2008 REPORT



Seated left: Sheila Stierle, Deputy Clerk; Judge Philip Van de Veer; Margi Porter, Civil Clerk; standing left, Tricia Shanholtzer, Deputy Clerk-Probation; T.J. Keogh, Court Administrator; Scott Cornwell, Probation Director; Mia Harper, Criminal Clerk; Rich Jennings, Bailiff and security).

T.J. Keogh is the new District Court Administrator. Since his appointment, he has drafted a comprehensive manual of court operations for the District Court and improved court operations. He has also recently published his first novel entitled, The City of the Sky.



### CASELOAD OF THE COURT

Civil and criminal filings are down. Criminal filings have been consistently lower than the record filings in 1999. This sustained reduction can be attributed to consistent law enforcement combined with diligent supervision by District Court Probation. Mia Harper is in charge of the criminal caseload.

<b>CRIMINAL FILINGS</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
DUI & PHYSICAL CONTROL	161	160	111	91	91	87	108	75	104	<b>104</b>
OTHER TRAFFIC	372	180	238	203	203	146	130	196	238	<b>210</b>
OTHER MISDEMEANORS	476	414	380	354	341	325	477	360	328	<b>327</b>
FELONY COMPLAINTS	15	6	6	2	5	8	5	0	0	<b>0</b>
FELONY IN-CUSTODY	82	52	69	71	63	68	78	96	74	<b>57</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>698</b>
CIVIL	164	193	196	187	189	169	175	181	187	<b>147</b>
SMALL CLAIMS	59	81	49	62	56	34	43	34	38	<b>20</b>
TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	2107	1569	2034	1615	1472	1756	1412	1573	1625	<b>1240</b>
NON-TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	35	183	93	65	125	160	128	155	164	<b>157</b>
PARKING INFRACTIONS	14	8	2	4	2	7	5	11	8	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL CIVIL/CRIMINAL</b>	<b>3485</b>	<b>2846</b>	<b>3178</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>2523</b>	<b>2126</b>	<b>2561</b>	<b>2681</b>	<b>2766</b>	<b>2266</b>

## DISTRICT COURT PROBATION

Probation Director, Scott Cornwell, supervised 434 individuals during 2008. The Court conducted 207 post-conviction compliance review hearings to monitor

	2005	2006	2007	2008
District Court Probationers	488	463	354	434
Compliance Review Hearings	199	220	175	207
In Compliance	72	91	73	89
Reset Compliance Review	47	43	37	52
Not In Compliance	39	64	43	55
Warrant Issued	41	22	19	11

probationers ordered to undertake drug, alcohol or perpetrator treatment. Eighty-nine probationers fully complied with treatment. Fifty-two probationers made progress, but the Court set a further

compliance review to verify full compliance. Fifty-five failed to comply and were subject to sanctions. A warrant issued after eleven defendants failed to appear.

The Probation Department uses ETG alcohol testing which can indicate whether an individual has consumed alcohol in the prior several days. This has proved an effective tool in enforcing a no consumption requirement, thus enhancing public safety and reducing the cost of incarceration.

Until recently, the Court has tested pre-trial defendants charged with DUI or alcohol related Domestic Violence Assault. This practice reduced the number of subsequent criminal offenses and enhanced public safety. It also helped to reduce the cost to the county of pre-trial incarceration of defendants who, based on significant criminal history, presented a threat to public safety. The District Court has now discontinued pre-trial alcohol/drug testing based on a decision by the Division II Court of Appeals in State v. Rose. Post-conviction defendants, and defendants charged with probation violations are still tested to verify a no drugs or alcohol requirement.

## COURT FINES & COSTS

In 2008, the court recovered \$57,185.66 through collection efforts. The online payment option has been a success, resulting in \$23,955 in online payments. The court is also bringing probationers back to court to monitor financial compliance, with emphasis on victim restitution. Margie Porter is in charge of financial compliance.

## DISTRICT COURT BAILIFF/SECURITY

Rich Jennings, bailiff of the Pend Oreille County Superior Court, is now serving as District Court bailiff for criminal dockets and jury trials. With twenty-five years experience as a Spokane police officer, Mr. Jennings helps to provide security for court operations. This is the first time that District Court has had the benefit of a regular bailiff and a security presence.

