

# PEND OREILLE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 2011 REPORT



Seated left: Margi Porter, civil clerk; Judge Philip Van de Veer; Brandy Hofstee, deputy clerk & probation; Standing: T.J. Keogh, court administrator; Mia Harper, criminal clerk; Rich Jennings, bailiff; Scott Cornwell, probation director.

In 2011, the District Court lost a full time clerk due to county-wide budget reductions. Amongst other changes, the court now must close during the lunch hour. Additional budget reductions are projected for 2012 which may further impact the ability of the court to fulfill all of its judicial requirements.

## CASELOAD OF THE COURT

Criminal and civil filings have remained constant over the last few years. However, traffic infraction filings dropped substantially in 2011, probably caused by a reduced law enforcement presence as a result of budget.

<b>CRIMINAL FILINGS</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>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
DUI & PHYSICAL CONTROL	160	111	91	91	87	108	75	104	104	95	73	<b>63</b>
OTHER TRAFFIC	180	238	203	203	146	130	196	238	210	154	199	<b>213</b>
OTHER MISDEMEANORS	414	380	354	341	325	477	360	328	327	323	366	<b>334</b>
FELONY COMPLAINTS	6	6	2	5	8	5	0	0	0	6	6	<b>8</b>
FELONY IN-CUSTODY	52	69	71	63	68	78	96	74	57	69	80	<b>85</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL</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>	<b>647</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>703</b>
CIVIL	193	196	187	189	169	175	181	187	147	126	176	<b>173</b>
SMALL CLAIMS	81	49	62	56	34	43	34	38	20	27	8	<b>24</b>
TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	1569	2034	1615	1472	1756	1412	1573	1625	1240	1398	945	<b>867</b>
NON-TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS	183	93	65	125	160	128	155	164	157	145	155	<b>110</b>
PARKING INFRACTIONS	8	2	4	2	7	5	11	8	4	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL CIVIL/CRIMINAL</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>	<b>2343</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>1882</b>

A major success story over the last decade has been the dramatic reduction in the use of methamphetamine and associated crimes. The citizens of Pend Oreille continue to benefit from the combined efforts of community, law enforcement, prosecutors, treatment providers and the judiciary in this regard.

## DISTRICT COURT PROBATION

Probation director, Scott Cornwell, has streamlined the probation process. Individuals on “monitored” probation who successfully complete treatment and comply with all requirements may be transferred to “unsupervised” probation. This allows for increased supervision of monitored probationers who continue to present a risk to the community. The superior court judges use the district court probation department to supervise of defendants originally charged with felonies because of the effective level of supervision and prompt response to violations. In addition, the probation department is verifying all DUI probationers to make sure they have installed a DUI interlock in their vehicle.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
District Ct. Probatione	488	463	354	434	389	307	342
Compliance Review Hearings	199	220	175	207	202	273	180
In Compliance	72	91	73	89	101	146	102
Reset Compliance Review	47	43	37	52	64	71	27
Not In Compliance	39	64	43	55	27	34	30
Warrant Issued	41	22	19	11	10	22	21

## COURTROOM VIDEO-CONFERENCE SYSTEM



The Kalispel Tribal Court and the Pend Oreille District Court have installed a video-conferencing system in the district court courtroom. The video-conference system uses Skype and other free internet connections to allow witnesses, lawyers, and judges to participate in court proceedings from long distances. The Kalispel Tribe obtained a federal grant to cover the cost of the system.

This partnership benefits all involved. The tribal court can now conduct video hearings involving tribal court inmates being held in the Pend Oreille County jail. The District Court Judge can now conduct hearings while away, and the county saves on the cost of pro tem judge, witness and other fees. The system is also available for web trainings and other educational presentations.

