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## Huron County Clerk of Courts 2010 Year In Review

Thanks to cost-cutting efforts by Huron County offices, operating budgets were slashed and the 2010 year-end showed an increase in financial reserves for the County General Fund. The Clerk's Legal Division joined most other Huron County offices in reducing office and staff work hours by 10% for the first 9 months of 2010. Clerk of Courts, Susan Hazel again voluntarily joined her staff in taking a reduction in salary.

While the Common Pleas Court and Clerk's office closed at noon on Fridays, FAX filing of cases continued to provide 24 hours service to attorneys and the public.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> of 2010, the Common Pleas Court and the Clerk's Office returned to full office hours of 8:00 – 4:30 Monday through Friday, to better serve the public.

The State BMV opted not to reissue a contract for the Willard License Office in 2010. Therefore, on June 26<sup>th</sup> when the license contract with the state expired, the Willard Title Branch also closed. Customers were encouraged to travel to Norwalk to complete their vehicle license and title work at the county's one-stop facility located on Shady Lane. Focused on public service, the Norwalk License and Title offices continue to offer Saturday morning hours.

As a result of fee adjustments, the 2010 **Title** revenue saw a 25% increase from the previous year. Monies sent to the Department of Tax rebounded from 2009 with an 8% increase. The number of titles issued was consistent with the 10 year average. Water craft title work declined the past 2 years but cross-county title work or titling for non-Huron County residents remained positive. Over the past decade, more than \$480,000 has been transferred from the Certificate of Title Fund to assist the county's General Fund.

**Legal** revenue distributed to the county was down by 7% from 2009 figures. This was in part due to the reduction in hours of operation. New cases filed were down 2% and passport applications were also down by 3% from the previous year.

The **1201 new cases** filed in 2010 represented a 23% increase from the start of this decade. There was a 20% one-year increase in new **criminal cases**. **Domestic cases** were almost 15% below the previous 5-year average. New **civil cases** filed were 9% less than 2009.

31% of the new cases filed in 2010 were **foreclosures**. While there was a one-year 9% decline in the number of foreclosures filed; the 2010 foreclosures were still 35% greater than the previous 10-year average. Garnishments and liens continued to reflect the challenging economy.

History was made for Huron County when the Ohio Supreme Court heard appeals in the courtrooms of

Huron County Common Pleas Court on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The courts worked with area schools and attorneys to provide this educational experience. During 2010, Ohio honored the passing of Chief Justice Moyer and Norwalk's Justice Clifford Brown.

**The clerk's legal and title offices continued to work cooperatively  
with the other Huron County offices.**

- Work with Children's Services over the past 7 years has brought in almost \$88,000 of federal monies to the county general fund.
- The clerk's office worked daily with the Common Pleas Court staff, magistrate and judge and the 6<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals to assure proper handling of records, advancement of technology and assistance to the public.
- County office holders participated together in the sixth successful year at the county fair booth.
- Once again, the clerk joined with the Senior Service Center to offer an evening passport clinic.
- Clerk Hazel also served on the Records Commission, Data Processing Board, Save Our Homes Task Force, County InterAgency, Hispanic Task Force, Ohio Clerk of Courts Association legislative, executive and education committees.

◇ 781 passports were processed by the Clerk of Courts - a 3% decrease from the previous year.

◇ 251 domestic cases were filed in 2010. This was more than 25% below the previous 10-year average.

◇ 273 new criminal cases were filed in 2010 – That figure increased 20% in one year.

◇ The 677 new civil cases filed in 2010 represented a 20% jump over the decade average. 375 of those civil cases were foreclosures. That total was a 9% less than 2009.

◇ 29 cases from the county were filed in the 6<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals. That number was almost 35% less than the ten year average.

◇ 2010 Title local revenue was more than \$385,000. The Huron County Title Office distributed \$94,000 to the state BMV and more than 8.6 million dollars to the Ohio Department of Taxation.

With the efforts of local volunteers and community donations the courthouse clock and bell tower repairs were completed.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Susan S. Hazel*

<b>2010 Clerk of Courts Yearly Summary</b>		
	<b><u>2010</u></b>	<b><u>2000-2009</u></b>
		<b><u>10 year ave</u></b>
Legal	\$155,914	\$159,114
Titles	\$385,116	\$255,336
B.M.V.	\$94,055	\$88,732
Dept. Taxation	\$8,646,450	\$7,555,270
Passports	781	652
Cert. of Title	29188	29299
Notations of Lien	7137	7249
Memos	6865	6149
Duplicates	1339	1453
W/C Cert of Title	387	483
W/C Notations	11	58
Salvage	291	204
Divorces Granted	87	144
Dissolutions Granted	75	99
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>1201</b>	<b>1176</b>
Civil	677	564
Domestic	251	346
Criminal	273	262
Court of Appeals	29	44
<b>Foreclosures</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>278</b>