

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

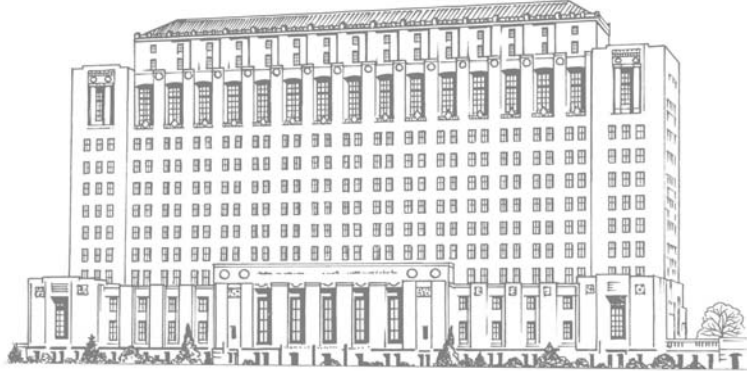
# Ohio Courts Summary



2004



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
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OHIO COURTS SUMMARY



**THOMAS J. MOYER**

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**STEVEN C. HOLLON**

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES DIVISION

**DOUGLAS R. STEPHENS**

DIRECTOR

CASE MANAGEMENT SECTION

**F. DIANE HATCHER**

MANAGER

REPORT PRODUCTION AND GRAPHICS

**GRETCHEN BEAM**

**DEBI FAGAN**

**BRIAN FARRINGTON**

**REGINA KOEHLER**

COMPUTER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

**MARK DUTTON**

*On the Cover:*

Van Wert County Courthouse, Van Wert.  
Detail of the Mercer County Courthouse cupola, Celina.

The Supreme Court of Ohio is pleased to issue the 48<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Ohio Courts Summary*, which provides a statistical picture of the Ohio court system. The 2004 *Ohio Courts Summary* provides a valuable overview of the work of Ohio's courts.

A total of 3,077,361 cases were filed in Ohio courts in 2004: 2,178 in the Supreme Court; 10,713 in the courts of appeals; 216,020 in the courts of common pleas, general division; 80,389 in the domestic relations courts; 94,996 in the probate courts; 254,506 in the juvenile courts; 2,211,078 in the municipal courts; 206,457 in the county courts; and 1,024 in the Ohio Court of Claims.

Statewide the total filings decreased by 8 percent from the previous year. The last time new case filings were this low was in 1995 with 3,023,722 filings. The most significant decrease in new case filings was experienced in the municipal and county courts. Municipal courts experienced a 9 percent decrease in filings and the county courts experienced a 19 percent drop in filings. The juvenile division of the courts of common pleas continued to experience a decrease in new case filings. Juvenile filings dropped by 4 percent. The filings in the other divisions of the courts of common pleas remained steady. Other notable changes from the previous year include:

Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division

- 8 percent increase in domestic violence filings

Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division

- 10 percent increase in change of custody/visitation filings
- 10 percent increase in support enforcement/modification filings

Municipal Court

- 4 percent decrease in O.V.I. filings
- 18 percent decrease in other traffic filings
- 15 percent decrease in personal injury and property damage filings
- 8 percent increase in other civil filings

County Court

- 7 percent increase in felony filings
- 6 percent decrease in O.V.I. filings
- 27 percent decrease in other traffic filings

The *Ohio Courts Summary* will be useful to the bench, the bar, court personnel and others involved in Ohio's judicial system. It also will inform Ohioans as to how their court system is serving them.

The *Ohio Courts Summary* is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of our judges and court personnel. We appreciate their assistance in preparing this report. Together, we will continue to maintain excellence in the administration of justice in Ohio.



Thomas J. Moyer